

*Chartered 1669*



# Inventory of Historic Sites

Compiled by the  
Woodbridge Township Historic Preservation Commission  
January 2013



**W**oodbridge's early history can be traced back to 1664, when Governor of New Jersey Philip Carteret granted settlers the right to establish a plantation in the State. This area of land, which covered nearly 34 miles between the Passaic and Raritan rivers, was purchased from the Lenni Lenape Indians. This purchase included the land upon which Woodbridge was established. In 1666, settlers from Newbury, Massachusetts signed an agreement with Governor Carteret to establish a township. On June 1, 1669, King Charles II of England granted an official Town Charter to the settlers of Woodbridge.

The early settlers of Woodbridge named the town after their pastor, Reverend John Woodbridge. Due to their strong ties to New England, they laid the town out in a fashion similar to that of many towns in New England. The "Kirk Green" served as the town center and the common grounds upon which early settlers worshipped and participated in daily life. It was from this center of Woodbridge, out of which the rest of the township grew. More than three centuries later, the population of Woodbridge Township has grown to nearly 100,000. It is the oldest original township chartered in New Jersey, and the fifth largest municipality in the State.

The mission of the Woodbridge Township Historic Preservation Commission shall be to carry out advisory, educational, and informational functions to promote historic preservation in the Township; prepare a survey of historic sites of the Township; make recommendations to the Planning Board on the historic preservation plan and the implications for preservation of historic sites; advise the Planning Board and the Board of Adjustment on applications for development; and advise the Planning Board of the inclusion of historic sites in the recommended improvement program.

## Sources

Middlesex County Inventory of Historic, Cultural, and Architectural Resources  
1977 – 1979, by Heritage Studies, Princeton NJ

New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places  
10/2012, by NJ DEP – Historic Preservation Office

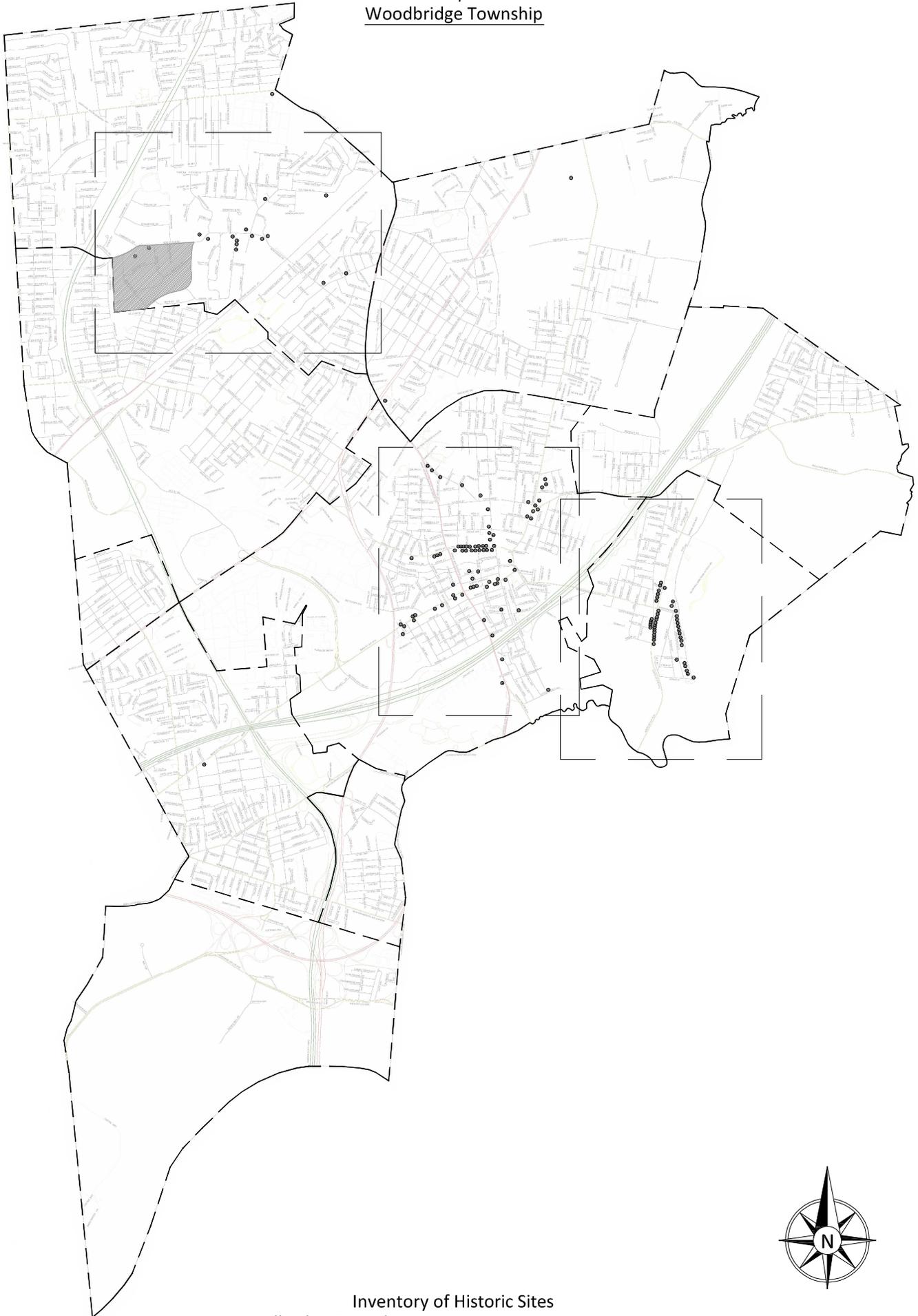
Historic Walking Tour of Woodbridge  
2009, by Woodbridge Township Historic Preservation Commission

Historic Walking Tour of Woodbridge Volume II  
2010, by Woodbridge Township Historic Preservation Commission

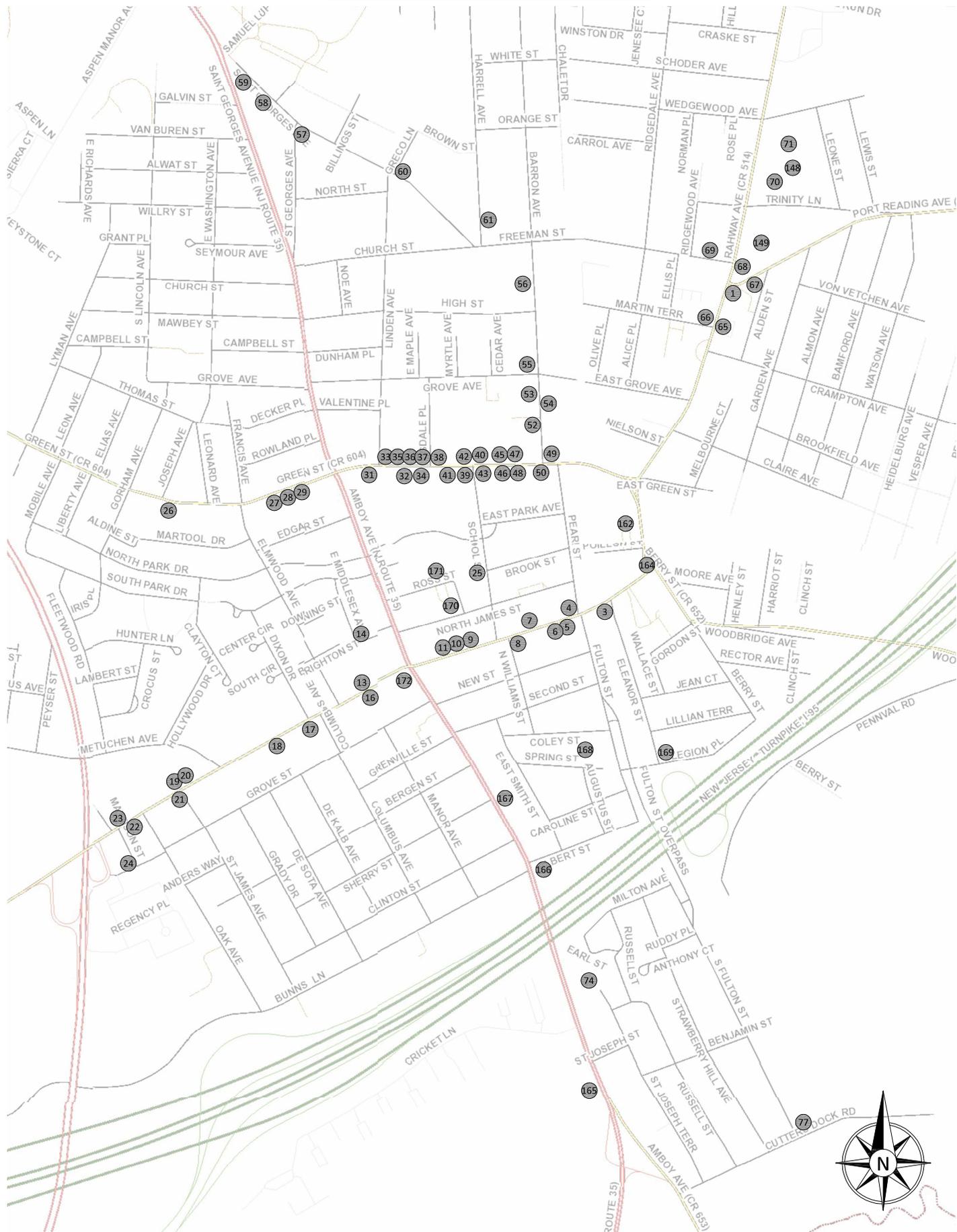
Historic Walking Tour of Woodbridge Volume III, Colonia: The Colony  
2011, by Woodbridge Township Historic Preservation Commission

Historic Walking Tour of Woodbridge Volume IV, Sewaren: Down By The Seashore  
2009, by Woodbridge Township Historic Preservation Commission

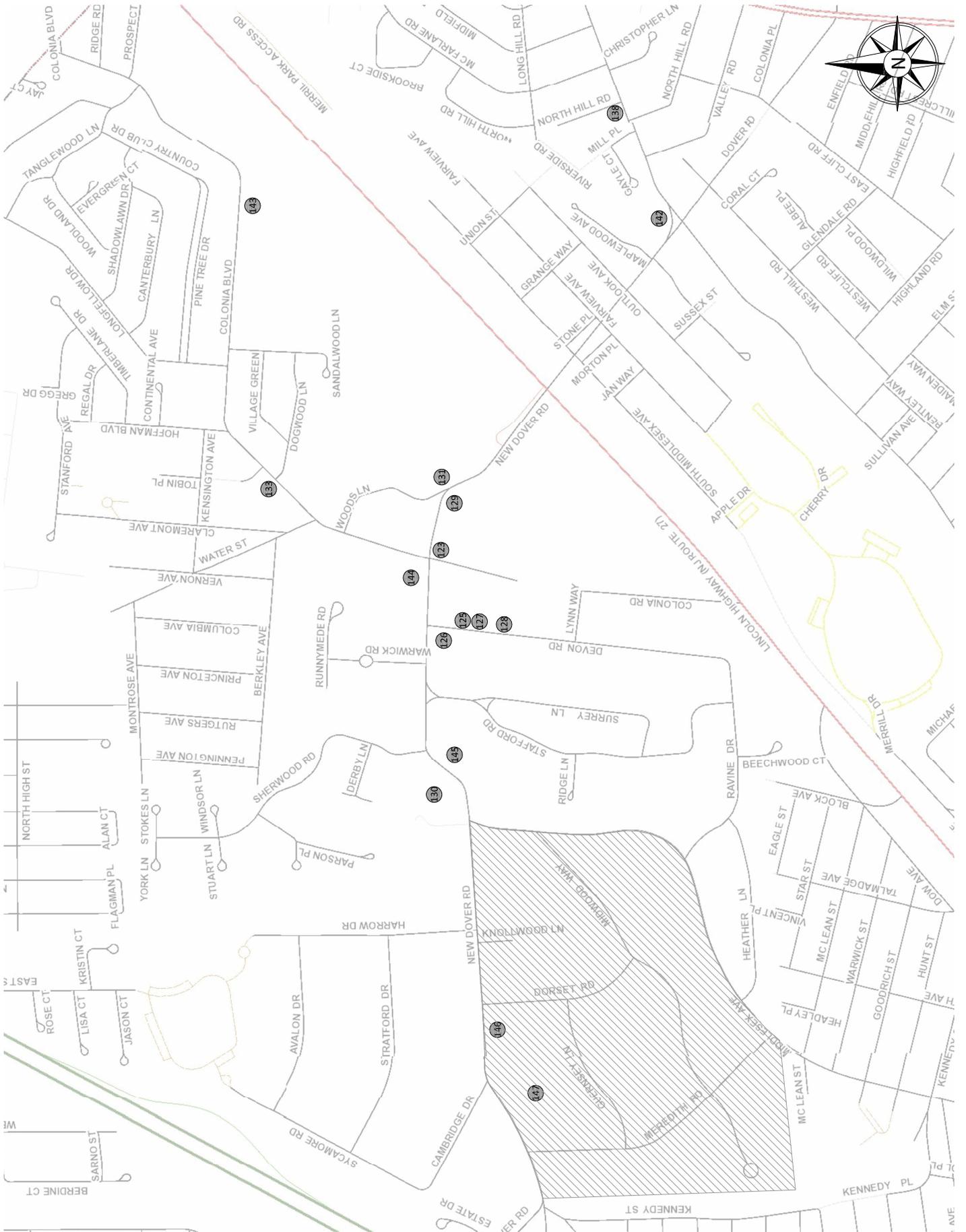
Map I  
Woodbridge Township



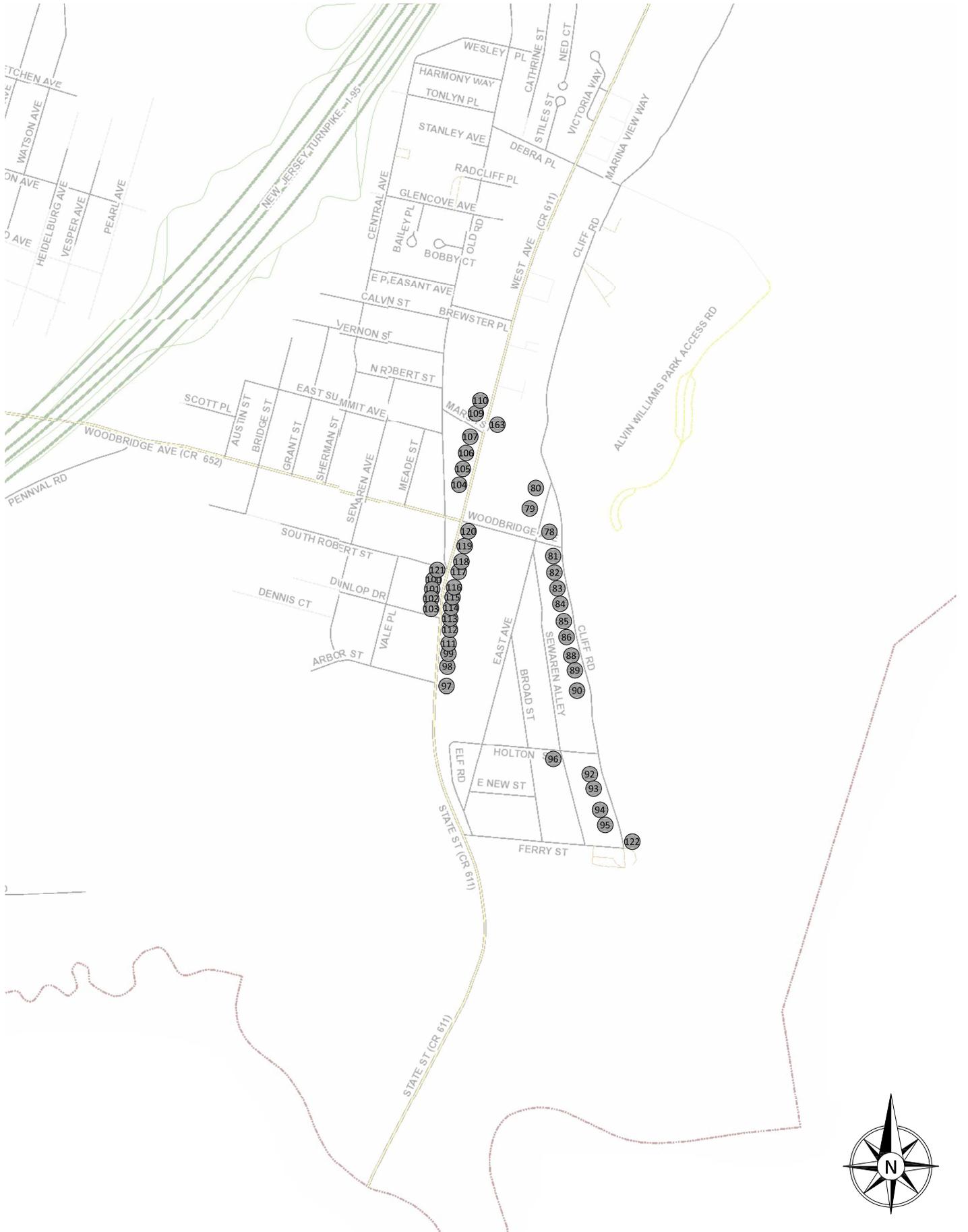
Map II  
Downtown Woodbridge and Greater Area



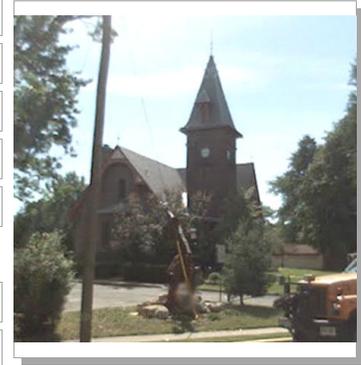
Map III  
Colonia



Map IV  
Sewaren



Historic Name	The Barron Library of Woodbridge, New Jersey		
Common Name	The Barron Arts Center		
582	Rahway Avenue	Woodbridge	
Block	563E-2	Lot	1
Construction Year	1877		
Ownership	Public & Private	Site	Original Site
Present Use	Cultural Center		
County Survey ID		National Reg. ID #	77000886
NJ HPO ID #	1944	On Master Plan	Y
Not Extant			



Perhaps one of the most distinctive buildings in town, the Barron Library was the gift of wealthy merchant and Woodbridge native, Thomas Barron. At his death, Barron bequeathed \$50,000 to establish a free public library, the first of its kind in Middlesex County. Built in the Romanesque Revival style, the library was designed by architect J. Cleveland Cady, famed for his work at Yale University, the Metropolitan Opera House, and the Brooklyn Academy of Design, among many. Among its fine features are its construction of Brown Belleville stone, distinct clock tower, stained glass windows, and imported delft tiles adorning the fireplace mantle, each depicting a scene from the Bible. In 1977, the library's deed was granted to Woodbridge Township for use by the Cultural Arts Commission. Later that same year, it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. At present, it houses the Barron Art Center, which hosts year-round exhibits and events for the public.

#### County Survey:

The Barron Library, Richardsonian Romanesque with earlier Victorian influences, is a 1 ½ story L-form rock-faced brownstone building with a high 3 story clock tower in the inside corner of the L. At the third level of the tower are two clocks on the facades open to view. This tower is capped by a steep hip roof which comes to a point at the peak. The roof of the library is steeply pitched with exposed rounded rafters at the eaves. The north gable end has exposed hammer-beam construction. Below on the first floor is a semi-circular projecting apse with 5 rectangular windows. The west and east facades have heavy timber lattice work in the gable ends; the west façade having pentagonal cut-out panels.

The windows and openings have, save the apse, round arches with heavy stone surrounds.

The east façade has a stone chimney with a corbelled capstone.

The south façade has a small rose window under the interrupting gable.

The Barron Library is currently functioning as one of the nine branch libraries of the Woodbridge Township Library System. It has been maintained in good condition over the past 100 years, and structurally is in excellent condition. However, certain areas of the building have fallen to minor disrepair since maintenance of the Library has been haphazardly performed without major regard for the preservation of the original exterior design.

An early photograph of the Library indicates that the 18" thick brownstone walls were pale sepia and beige in color; the wood trim was painted in two light tones; the main roof was slate and matched the tower roof; finials were set at the ridge of gable ends; stained leaded glass dressed every window frame; and, two

working clocks gave the tower its purpose.

The Library stands on 2,250 square feet of the original 31,000 square feet, described by the "Indenture" as a gift from John C. Barron (1837-1908), nephew of Thomas Barron, the first member of the Barron Library Board. The large front yard was planted with saplings after construction and defined by brownstone fence posts with iron rails which still exist.

A walkway from the front of the site leads to a roofed over porch from which the original arched pair of doors, although presently cut to a rectangular shape, are visible. The foyer within the stone walls of the tower is lined in brick and a decorative floral design of sculptured cut stone beige tiles. A beautifully designed stained glass window in a small rectangular vertical opening dominates the foyer. A round headed brick archway leads to a secondary foyer or hall which acts as the hub of the structure with all rooms radiating outwardly. Passing through the brick archway there is a staff room to the left, a reading room straight away, and a reference room to the right. The Reading Room is highlighted by a mock fireplace which is surrounded by 65 blue and white "Delft" tiles from Holland. Each depicts a scene from the Bible. An apse area at the north wall completes the interesting shaped room, and its windows help to catch available east and west daylight. The Reading Room has direct access to the Reference Room so that it may be closed off for quiet study. Because of its location on the south side on the south side of the building, the Reference Room is treated with a five foot diameter rose window high on the south wall. Four small round headed windows below it separate and illuminate the original bookshelves. At the ends of the space two huge arched windows share the burden for east and west daylight. The high angular vaulted ceiling is divided by four trusses which distribute the roof load to stone wall brackets. The space between the trusses is divided into a rectangular pattern of plastered coffers by oak beams which support the ceiling. Alterations, additions and repairs to the building, as best discerned from the Library records, are enumerated as follows:

1877 – Structure heated by coal furnace using through the floor registers to the main floor of the library. Springfield gas machine furnished fuel for gas lighting fixtures.  
1900 – Steam heating system installed with radiators.  
1903 – Electricity and electric light fixtures installed.  
1912 – Water piped into building plumbing in staff room.  
1938 – Stair installed from reference room to basement. Concrete floor poured in area under reference room.  
1939 – Oil burning furnace and exterior underground oil tank installed. Rear vestibule to basement may have been constructed at this time.  
1947 – New lighting fixtures installed.  
1957 – Slate roof replaced with asphalt shingles. Basement finished for children's reading room.  
1970 – Rest rooms installed in basement.  
1974 – Ceiling in reference room repaired. New acoustic tile ceiling installed in reading room with wood cornice to match design of deteriorating plaster moulding.

The entire cost of the Library including structure, furniture, books, fence, fees, winter coal and grounds was \$19,112.59. The elaborate brick foyer was \$500, and was donated by John C. Barron. The basic structure was bid at \$13,600.

#### Statement of Significance

The Barron Library was the first free public library in Middlesex County and one of the earliest such libraries in New Jersey.

Architecturally, this building, erected in 1877, is one of the first Richardsonian Romanesque edifices in the state.

#### Education

The Barron Library was conceived by Thomas Barron (1790-1875). By his will of 1875, he bequeathed \$50,000 to provide for his gift to Woodbridge. The will read in part as follows: "...herein provided to the purchase of the ground in said Town of Woodbridge and to the erection of a suitable building thereon to be used as a Free Public Reading Room and Library for said town and to the supplying the same with books, magazines, and papers as may be proper and suitable..."

Thus, through the foresight of Thomas Barron and the dedication of the first five members of the Library Board, the first free public library in Middlesex County and approximately the fourth free public library in the State of New Jersey was formed. From its date of origin to 1967 the Library has been supported and maintained by the Woodbridge Township Library System.

The Barron Library, unfortunately, has served its 100th year as its last year as a public library. It will be turned over to the Township of Woodbridge for use as a reading room and cultural center. Since the reading room is being maintained the structure will house at least a partial use for which it was originally intended. The significance of maintaining public awareness of the 100 year old monument to the public library system in American is necessary so that our heritage and education system may be preserved.

#### Architecture

The "Richardsonian Romanesque" structure belonging to the second phase of Romanesque Revival in America, was designed by J. Cleveland Cady, FAIA. The overall design is one of restraint in its purpose to blend a monumental stone building into a rural setting; and, although the wood trimmed gable ends and brackets are vestiges of the "Stick Style" and rural Gothic styles, the blocks of brownstone, incised ornamental stone, and massive tower with copper studded roof peak and sculptured finials at the ends of the gable ridges, all speak loudly for Cady's attempt to begin designing in the new vogue of "Richardsonian Romanesque." The structure significance in design should not be overlooked since Cady grew with the "Richardsonian" movement in parallel with Richardson, whose Trinity Church in Boston was not completed until 1877. Research indicates that the Barron Library probably was Cady's first design in "Richardsonian Romanesque" actually constructed.

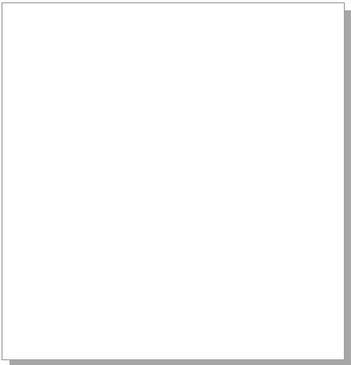
J. Cleveland Cady (1837-1919) was a noted New York architect who had trained as a draftsman for numerous noted architectural firms including that of Town and Davis.

By 1870 Cady had established his own office in New York and subsequently designed numerous landmark public edifices for the region. His most recognized structures were the Metropolitan Opera House (1883), Jarvis Hall of Science, Trinity (1889), Brooklyn Academy of Design, American Museum of Natural History, Hudson Street Hospital (1891), South Presbyterian Church, Morristown, New Jersey, The Webb Memorial Chapel, Madison, New Jersey and the Barron Library in Middlesex County, New Jersey.

While most restrained and with evident vestiges of the Gothic Victorian influence the overall style of the Barron Library is Richardsonian Romanesque making the probably Cady's first building of this type and one the first Richardsonian style edifices in New Jersey.

Finally and as a side note on community planning, the Library is within viewing distance of two very early church structures. The Trinity Episcopal Church, 1702, and the First Presbyterian Church, 1675. The land on which the Library stands is part of the original Barron estate, where the founder Thomas Barron was born on June 10, 1790.

Historic Name	Municipal Building		
Common Name			
	Main Street	Woodbridge	
Block	540F	Lot	1
Construction Year	1924		
Ownership	Public	Site	Original Site
Present Use			
County Survey ID	24-1	National Reg. ID #	
NJ HPO ID #		On Master Plan	N
		Not Extant	X



Just as Georgian Revival became the most popular style for suburban civic buildings during the 1940s and 1950s, neoclassicism was the ideal during the first quarter of the 20th century. This is an archetypical example comparison with the original Woodbridge High School shows different approaches to the style. Similarity to the Carteret Municipal Building suggests a common architect.

Style: Neoclassical

Round-arched first floor windows with decorated tympanums; broad triglyph frieze beneath parapet.

Historic Name	J.J. Bitting Coal & Feed Depot				
Common Name					
33	Main Street			Woodbridge	
Block	540C	Lot	1	Construction Year	1875-1899 c.
Ownership	Private			Site	Original Site
Present Use	Commercial				
County Survey ID	24-2	National Reg. ID #			
NJ HPO ID #		On Master Plan	Y	Not Extant	



Built in 1910, J.J. Bitting Coal and Feed Depot was one of the chief commercial buildings in Woodbridge. The front portion of the structure served as a feed depot, while the rear of the building was a loading area for trucks. In later years, J. J. Bitting housed an oil company at the rear of the building. The rear lot of the site was used by the local government to provide food and supplies to families in need. In 1977, the building was saved from destruction by its current owners. It is a fine example of adaptive reuse. Today, it is a popular restaurant and microbrewery in Woodbridge.

Style: Vernacular

Historic Name			
Common Name	Woodbridge Chamber of Commerce		
52	Main Street	Woodbridge	
Block	543	Lot	1
Construction Year	1910-1920 c.		
Ownership			Site
			Original Site
Present Use	Commercial		
County Survey ID	24-3	National Reg. ID #	
NJ HPO ID #		On Master Plan	N
		Not Extant	



In the latter half of the nineteenth century, Woodbridge was a major center of industry, with many businesses opening and operating in town. Despite its growth of industry and infrastructure, Woodbridge was without a water supply system as late as 1893. Water, still obtained from wells at this time, was very important to businesses. Industrial companies used it by the hundreds of thousands of gallons. In 1894, M.D. Valentine came before the Town Committee, representing the Woodbridge Sewer Company. Valentine petitioned the Committee for permission to lay a sewer system beneath the streets just north of Heard's Brook. While the company was granted permission to do so, it was on the condition that the system be constructed and supervised by the Town, with the latter's ability to purchase it at any time. Several years later, the Middlesex Water Company was incorporated on April 17, 1896. The Middlesex Water Company, represented by W.H. Corbin and H.L. Dudley, intended to lay a sewer system as well. Although the Woodbridge Sewer Company had established a sewer system years earlier, the Town Committee found that they failed to meet the State's incorporation specifications, however. In turn, the Committee awarded a contract to the Middlesex Water Company. The company began selling water to industrial customers along the Arthur Kill, many of them located in Carteret. Between 1900 and 1910, Woodbridge's population grew from 7,681 to 8,948. The fast-paced growth of businesses and residences helped the Middlesex Water Company to grow, as well. The Middlesex Water Company purchased the present building from the First National Bank & Trust Company on June 14, 1930. Today, the Middlesex Water Company is one of the largest water companies in the State, providing water to commercial, municipal, and residential clients in three counties. This building has housed the offices of the Woodbridge Chamber of Commerce for over twenty five years.

Style: Neoclassical  
 Iconic pilasters dentate and bracketed cornice.

Historic Name	Woodbridge United Methodist Church		
Common Name			
69	Main Street	Woodbridge	
Block	538	Lot	6
Construction Year	1861-1876		
Ownership	Public & Private	Site	Original Site
Present Use	Religious		
County Survey ID	24-4	National Reg. ID #	
NJ HPO ID #		On Master Plan	Y
Not Extant			



The history of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States can be traced back to April 23, 1740, when British Methodism co-founder, Reverend George Whitefield preached the Protestant sect's first sermon on American soil. Whitefield was a key figure in the spread of Christian revivals, known as the "Great Awakening," throughout England and British North America. British Methodist co-founders Charles and John Wesley continued to spread Methodism in the American colonies, sending missionaries throughout the region. Reverend Joseph Pilmoor, a Methodist missionary from England, was sent to the colonies by John Wesley to spread further the denomination. He was the first to preach to the Woodbridge Methodists. As Methodism in Woodbridge grew, John Wesley heeded the demand for more missionaries. In March 1772, Reverend Francis Asbury preached to Woodbridge Methodists in Perth Amboy while en route to New Brunswick. Reverend Asbury later founded the Methodist Church in America, and was named Bishop by John Wesley. On July 15, 1784, the first Quakers of East Jersey sold their Meeting House and burial ground (presently the site of the Methodist Episcopal Parsonage) to the Woodbridge Methodists. In June 1832, William Gage Inslee and his wife, Nancy Inslee deeded this property to Methodist trustees. They donated the land at 69 Main Street to be used as a Methodist burial ground. The Meeting House was later dismantled that same year, and a Church was built in its place. By September 8, 1832, the Church, the first of three structures, was dedicated and served by first pastor, Reverend William Granville. To accommodate the growing congregation, the original wooden frame church was moved to 71 Main Street, while a second, larger Church was built in 1870 at the present Church site. Unfortunately, the original frame church was destroyed by a fire in 1876. Like its predecessor, the Victorian Church was ravaged by a series of fires in 1948 and another in 1954, which all but destroyed it. The building was later reconstructed. The headstones of the Methodist graves surrounding the present church were removed to construct the macadam parking lot. Notable burials upon this site include those of patriot Jennet "Janet" Pike Gage and her Loyalist husband, Philip Gage and their young son. The Methodist Episcopal Church became the United Methodist Church in 1967, after many congregational unions. The Woodbridge United Methodist Church is home to one of the earliest Methodist communities in America.

Style: Romanesque/Meeting House  
 Round-arched central window; iron fence in front; spire has been removed.

Historic Name	Methodist Episcopal Church Parsonage		
Common Name			
71	Main Street	Woodbridge	
Block	538	Lot	6
Construction Year	1861-1876		
Ownership			Site
			Original Site
Present Use	Private Residence		
County Survey ID	24-5	National Reg. ID #	
NJ HPO ID #		On Master Plan	N
		Not Extant	



Built in 1882, this structure served as the residence of church pastors until 1965. Although this property holds a rich Methodist history, its roots can be traced back to the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, when the first Quaker families of East Jersey came to Woodbridge. In 1707, the Quakers purchased "half an acre" of land from Mr. John Allen, a former minister at the First Presbyterian Church of Woodbridge. This property was intended for use as a burial ground and the site of worship. In 1709, construction began on a Meeting House, which was completed in 1713. Prior to their establishment in town, the Quakers worshipped in homes in Perth Amboy before moving to Woodbridge where they attended the first services in the private home of Mr. Benjamin Griffith on August 17, 1689. The Quakers resided in Woodbridge until the outbreak of the American Revolution. In 1776, soldiers occupied the Woodbridge Meeting House. Although the Quakers were exempt from military duty by the New Jersey Legislature since 1705, they continued to be persecuted for their pacifist values which conflicted with British martial law. They were driven out of Woodbridge and moved their membership to the Rahway Society of Friends (Quaker) Meeting House. On July 15, 1784, the Woodbridge Quakers sold their Meeting House and burial ground to the Methodists, who worshipped in private Woodbridge homes prior to acquiring this property. Many unmarked Quaker graves (as was Quaker custom) remain around the Parsonage and beneath the macadam parking lot behind it. This site is the final resting place for many of the first Quaker families who settled in East Jersey. The parsonage is a fine example of the Victorian homes that once stood along lower Main Street.

Style: Vernacular Italianate

Bracketed cornice with gable-end returns; cast iron fence in front.

Historic Name

Common Name

76  Main Street  Woodbridge

Block  543  Lot  12  Construction Year  1890-1900 c.

Ownership  Site  Original Site

Present Use  Commercial

County Survey ID  24-6  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  N  Not Extant



Style: Commercial vernacular  
 Pressed metal cornice and pediment.

Historic Name			
Common Name	Il Castello Restaurant		
81	Main Street	Woodbridge	
Block	538	Lot	1
Construction Year	1870 c.		
Ownership	Private	Site	Original Site
Present Use	Commercial		
County Survey ID	24-7	National Reg. ID #	
NJ HPO ID #		On Master Plan	N
Not Extant			



Style: Second empire  
 3 second floor oriels

Historic Name

Common Name

98  Main Street  Woodbridge

Block  544  Lot  92  Construction Year  1900 c.

Ownership  Private  Site  Original Site

Present Use  Commercial

County Survey ID  24-8  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  N  Not Extant



Style: Clay district classical revival  
 Pressed metal neoclassical cornice

Historic Name

Common Name

104  Main Street  Woodbridge

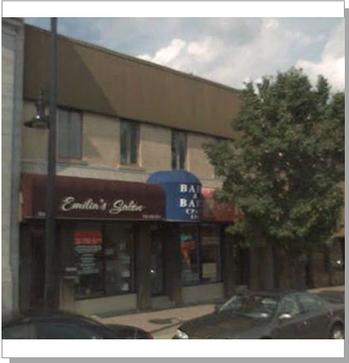
Block  544  Lot  90  Construction Year  1875-1899 c.

Ownership  Private  Site  Original Site

Present Use  Commercial

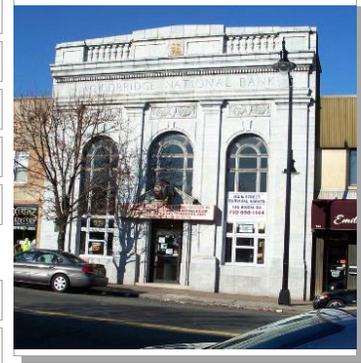
County Survey ID  24-9  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  N  Not Extant



Style: Commercial vernacular

Historic Name	Woodbridge National Bank		
Common Name			
106	Main Street	Woodbridge	
Block	544	Lot	89
Construction Year	1920 c.		
Ownership			Site
			Original Site
Present Use	Bank		
County Survey ID	24-10	National Reg. ID #	
NJ HPO ID #		On Master Plan	N
		Not Extant	



On August 11, 1906, the First National Bank and Trust Company opened at the corner of Pearl and Main Streets with a capital of \$25,000. The bank remained open at its first location, the present site of the Woodbridge Chamber of Commerce, until the growth of Woodbridge industry necessitated a larger financial institution. Further up Main Street, the new Woodbridge National Bank was organized in 1920, with capital shares totaling \$100,000. The building was designed by architect A. Stanley Miller, of Brooklyn, and construction was supervised by Michael Reisz, of Fords. It opened for business on March 14, 1927, with John F. Dyan as president. After a series of mergers with the First National Bank and Trust Company, the bank reassumed its original name in 1931. Much to the dismay of its customers, financial problems plagued the new bank, a common occurrence during the Depression Era. It closed just one hour after its opening on November 30, 1931. The bank, however, was resurrected through the efforts of Perth Amboy banker, Frank Van Syckle, who in 1937 announced his plans to open a bank in Woodbridge. After five and a half years of being closed, the Woodbridge National Bank re-opened its doors on July 1, 1937, with Van Syckle serving as president. The institution continued to operate as the Woodbridge National Bank, and in 1956, moved to a new building at the corner of Moore Avenue and Berry Street, the present site of the Central Jersey Federal Credit Union. In 1964, the Woodbridge National Bank merged with its former partner, the First National Bank and Trust Company, again, taking that institution's name. By the 1960s, it was Middlesex County's largest commercial institution. The Woodbridge National Bank building at 108 Main Street still stands as a reminder of Woodbridge's financial and industrial past. Perhaps the finest features of the building are the terracotta embellishments on its façade, which still bear the name of the Woodbridge National Bank. Owing to the local industry, this terracotta is believed to have come from one of Woodbridge's own clay companies, or from the Federal Seaboard Terracotta Corporation in Perth Amboy. It has housed the Woodbridge Auto Parts and Sporting Goods store since the late 1960s.

Style: Neoclassical

Balustrade and parapet; paneled pilasters; 3 round-arched windows broken pediment tops main door.

Historic Name

Common Name

Main Street  Woodbridge

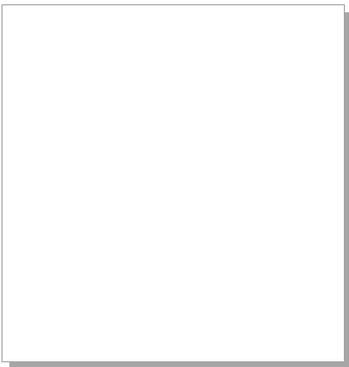
Block  Lot  Construction Year

Ownership  Site

Present Use

County Survey ID  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  Not Extant



Style: Vernacular Greek Revival  
 Guttae beneath eyebrow windows.

Historic Name

Common Name

150  Main Street  Woodbridge

Block  274A  Lot  Construction Year  1876 post

Ownership  Private  Site  Original Site

Present Use  Private Residence

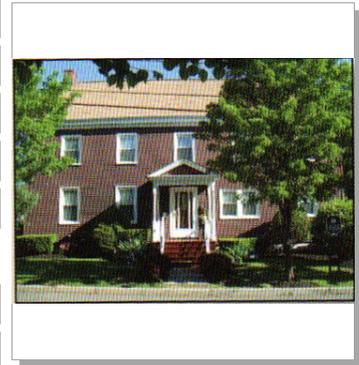
County Survey ID  24-12  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  N  Not Extant



Style: Vernacular Italianate  
 Ground floor obscured by modern addition; a good comparison with its neighbor showing what a radical difference sensitive or insensitive treatment can make.

Historic Name	Cross Keys Tavern				
Common Name					
3	North James Street		Woodbridge		
Block	275A	Lot	26 & 27	Construction Year	1740
Ownership	Private		Site	Moved	
Present Use	Private Residence				
County Survey ID	24-12a	National Reg. ID #			
NJ HPO ID #		On Master Plan	Y	Not Extant	



Built in the early half of the 18th century, the Cross Keys Tavern gets its name from the colonial term “Cross Keys,” which was used to name an important intersection in town. The two most important roads in colonial Woodbridge met at the intersection of Main Street and Perth Amboy Avenue. The Tavern assumed this name, and remained at this original location on the Northwest corner until the 1920s. It was later moved to its present location on North James Street, to make room for the Knights of Columbus building, which currently stands in its place. One of the tavern’s most famous guests was the first President of the United States, General George Washington, who was welcomed by Innkeeper, and first Postmaster of Woodbridge, John Manning. General Washington spent the night of April 22, 1789 at the Cross Keys Tavern, while en route to New York, to take the oath of office as President of the United States. He was escorted to the Tavern by the Woodbridge Cavalry, commanded by Captain Ichabod Potter, and was greeted by the first Governor of New Jersey, William Livingston. Washington was also given a formal reception by both civilians and military officers. Other important figures who received the President included Brigadier General Nathaniel Heard, Dr. Moses Bloomfield, Reverend Azel Roe, Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, and Janet Gage, among many. Gage, sometimes called the “Molly Pitcher of Woodbridge,” is believed to have erected a “Liberty Pole” in front of the Cross Keys Tavern, thus flying the first “Stars and Stripes” over Woodbridge. On September 24, 1824, Woodbridge received another important guest at the Cross Keys Tavern. Gilbert du Motier, the Marquis de Lafayette, the famous French general who helped the Americans during the Revolutionary War, stopped here on his to Philadelphia. The Tavern still stands, although today it is a private apartment building.

County Survey:

Style: Vernacular

19th century photo shows original larger chimneys intact and 1 1/2 story wing with large bake oven.

Like the Presbyterian Church and the Barron House, this building has been denatured architecturally and is now significant primarily for its associational place in the early history of Woodbridge. On April 22, 1789, George Washington, on his way to his first inauguration, stopped overnight at the Cross Keys accompanied by Governor William Livingston.

Moved from corner of Main Street and Georges Avenue.

Historic Name

Common Name

152  Main Street  Woodbridge

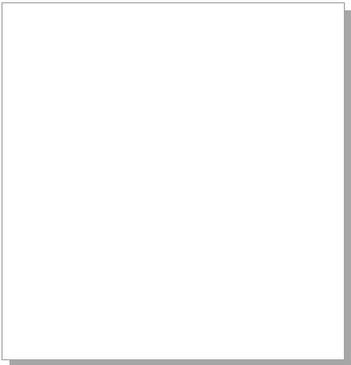
Block  274A  Lot  2A  Construction Year  1876 post

Ownership  Private  Site  Original Site

Present Use  Private Residence

County Survey ID  24-13  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  N  Not Extant



Style: Vernacular Italianate  
 Paired polygonal bays at front; bracketed cornices at bays porch and roof paired center windows beneath jigsaw hood.

No finer example of a wooden vernacular Italianate house of this kind is found in Middlesex County. Its state of preservation is remarkable, inside and out.

Historic Name	William Redman House				
Common Name					
165	Main Street			Woodbridge	
Block	270	Lot	19B	Construction Year	1860 c.
Ownership	Private			Site	Original Site
Present Use	Private Residence				
County Survey ID	24-14	National Reg. ID #			
NJ HPO ID #		On Master Plan	N	Not Extant	



Style: Vernacular  
Center gable

Historic Name

Common Name

193  Main Street  Woodbridge

Block  258B  Lot  15  Construction Year  1860 c.

Ownership  Private  Site  Original Site

Present Use  Private Residence

County Survey ID  24-15  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  N  Not Extant



Style: Vernacular  
 Porch with turned columns (removed).

Historic Name					
Common Name					
209	Main Street			Woodbridge	
Block	258B	Lot	10	Construction Year	1870 c.
Ownership	Private			Site	Original Site
Present Use	Private Residence				
County Survey ID	24-16	National Reg. ID #			
NJ HPO ID #		On Master Plan	N	Not Extant	



Style: Vernacular Italianate  
 Dentate and bracketed cornice.

Historic Name

Common Name

260-A  Main Street  Woodbridge

Block  286  Lot  4  Construction Year  1870 c.

Ownership  Private  Site  Original Site

Present Use  Private Residence

County Survey ID  24-17  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  N  Not Extant



Style: Vernacular

Historic Name

Common Name

260  Main Street  Woodbridge

Block  286  Lot  4  Construction Year  1860 c.

Ownership  Private  Site  Original Site

Present Use  Private Residence

County Survey ID  24-18  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  N  Not Extant



Style: Vernacular

Historic Name

Common Name

277  Main Street  Woodbridge

Block  257  Lot  5  Construction Year  1876 post

Ownership  Private  Site  Original Site

Present Use  Commercial

County Survey ID  24-19  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  N  Not Extant



Style: Vernacular  
Bracketed cornice

Historic Name

Common Name

301  Main Street  Woodbridge

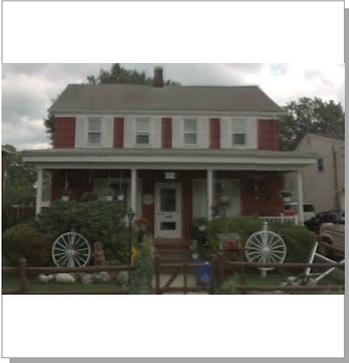
Block  240  Lot  5  Construction Year  1876 post

Ownership  Private  Site  Original Site

Present Use  Private Residence

County Survey ID  24-20  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  N  Not Extant



Style: Vernacular

Historic Name   
 Common Name   
 300-3  Main Street  Woodbridge   
 Block  287B  Lot  1  Construction Year   
 Ownership  Private  Site  Original Site   
 Present Use  Private Residence   
 County Survey ID  24-21  National Reg. ID #   
 NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  N  Not Extant



Fenestration and profile of gable end, smaller wing, suggest 18th century origins. Map identification is unclear.

Historic Name					
Common Name					
312	Grove Street		Woodbridge		
Block	239	Lot	7	Construction Year	1890-1900 c.
Ownership	Private		Site	Original Site	
Present Use	Private Residence				
County Survey ID	24-22	National Reg. ID #			
NJ HPO ID #		On Master Plan	N	Not Extant	



At Northwest corner of Mattison Street

Style: Clay District Vernacular  
Segmentally-arched windows

Historic Name	P.S. School #1		
Common Name			
421	School Street	Woodbridge	
Block	546	Lot	96
Construction Year	1876		
Ownership	Public	Site	Original Site
Present Use	Government		
County Survey ID	24-23	National Reg. ID #	
NJ HPO ID #		On Master Plan	N
Not Extant			



Built in 1876, School No. 1 was the first free school in Woodbridge, designed by architects C. Graham & Son of Elizabeth. It was dedicated by the Board of Education on January 20, 1877. A special ceremony was held, in which the keys of the building were presented by Mr. Howard Valentine to the school's first principal, Mr. Henry Anderson. Valentine was the son of James Valentine, and the brother of the founders of M.D. Valentine and Brothers Co. of Woodbridge. Mr. James Valentine sold the property upon which the school stands for \$2,000.00. Unfortunately, some of the most distinctive features of the old school building can no longer be seen in their former glory, as the building was later altered. The structure was originally constructed with a tall tower which housed a clock and bell. Its clock was purchased from E. Howard & Company of Broadway, New York City for \$600.00. The bell, which rang daily to call students to class, was purchased at a rate of \$0.50 per pound from Meneley & Limberley. It weighed approximately 1500 pounds. This same bell currently stands in front of the Parker Press Memorial Park monument along Rahway Avenue. Its inscription of #24 pertains to School District #24, of which School No. 1 was a part. For over a decade, the school accommodated 400 students from kindergarten to twelfth grades. High school courses were added to the curriculum in 1887 and were taught at the school from 1888-1910. Among the many subjects taught at the school were Chemistry, History, Geography, Rhetoric, Mathematics, English, Literature and Composition. Classes were held at School No. 1 until 1961. Today, it houses the Woodbridge Township Board of Education Administrative Offices, thus continuing the building's legacy as a place of education.

**County Survey:**

Style: Franco-Italianate

Wooden porches and clock tower have been removed; cornice and pediment boxed with synthetic siding.

Built to accommodate 800 students at the "enormous" cost of \$27,300, this was an example of educational consolidation at a time when small wooden neighborhood school buildings were still the rule. Thanks to its imposing size and design and especially to its clock (made by the N.Y. firm of E. Howard) it became a symbol of local pride. The bell, still in existence though not in place, is inscribed with the names of the School District Clerk and trustees, the masons and carpenters, and the motto "Wisdom is better than Gold." Alterations have compromised a good deal of its architectural integrity, but it is still possible to see what an impressive civic ornament this school once was.

Historic Name

Common Name

247  Green Street  Woodbridge

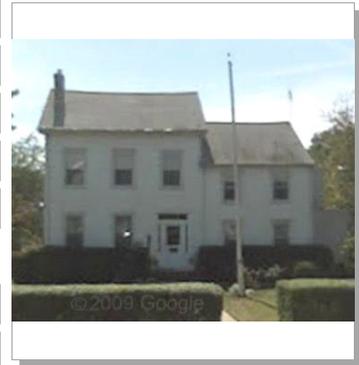
Block  278  Lot  3-A  Construction Year  1850 c.

Ownership  Private  Site  Original Site

Present Use  Private Residence

County Survey ID  24-24  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  N  Not Extant



South side at terminus of Joseph Avenue

Style: Vernacular Greek Revival  
Wide Greek Revival door.

Historic Name

Common Name

189  Green Street  Woodbridge

Block  276A  Lot  13A  Construction Year  1870 c.

Ownership  Private  Site  Original Site

Present Use  Private Residence

County Survey ID  24-25  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  N  Not Extant



Style: Second Empire

Historic Name

Common Name

185  Green Street  Woodbridge

Block  277A  Lot  13  Construction Year  1880 c.

Ownership  Private  Site  Original Site

Present Use  Private Residence

County Survey ID  24-26  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  N  Not Extant



Style: Vernacular

Historic Name

Common Name

181  Green Street  Woodbridge

Block  277A  Lot  14  Construction Year

Ownership  Private  Site

Present Use  Private Residence

County Survey ID  24-27  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  N  Not Extant



cross gables

Historic Name

Common Name

Green Street  Woodbridge

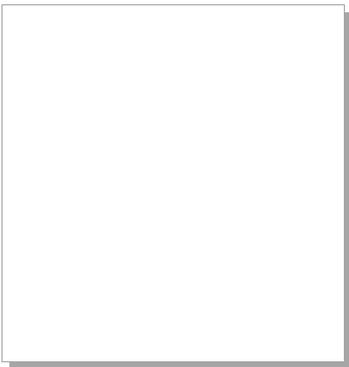
Block  Lot  Construction Year

Ownership  Site

Present Use

County Survey ID  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  Not Extant



Northeast corner

Style: Colonial Revival

Roof cresting

Historic Name

Common Name

129  Green Street  Woodbridge

Block  548  Lot  3  Construction Year  1890 c.

Ownership  Private  Site  Original Site

Present Use  Private Residence

County Survey ID  24-29  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  N  Not Extant



Style: Vernacular Queen Anne  
 Diaper-patterned gable

Historic Name					
Common Name					
123	Green Street			Woodbridge	
Block	548	Lot	5	Construction Year	1861-1876
Ownership	Private			Site	Original Site
Present Use	Private Residence				
County Survey ID	24-30	National Reg. ID #			
NJ HPO ID #		On Master Plan	Y	Not Extant	



Style: Italianate  
Center gable and cupola; large brackets with pendant drops.

Historic Name					
Common Name					
128	Green Street			Woodbridge	
Block	554A	Lot	13A	Construction Year	1870 c.
Ownership	Private			Site	Original Site
Present Use	Private Residence				
County Survey ID	24-31	National Reg. ID #			
NJ HPO ID #		On Master Plan	N	Not Extant	



Style: Vernacular Italianate with later Colonial Revival additions  
 First floor French windows and original double doors.

Historic Name

Common Name

109  Green Street  Woodbridge

Block  548  Lot  6  Construction Year  1870 c.

Ownership  Private  Site  Original Site

Present Use  Commercial

County Survey ID  24-32  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  N  Not Extant



Style: Second Empire  
 Picture windows and modern wing added.

Historic Name

Common Name

120  Green Street  Woodbridge

Block  554A  Lot  12  Construction Year  1890 c.

Ownership  Private  Site  Original Site

Present Use  Private Residence

County Survey ID  24-33  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  N  Not Extant



Style: Vernacular Queen Anne  
 Original double doors remain; synthetic siding probably obscures contrasting wall materials.

Historic Name

Common Name

114  Green Street  Woodbridge

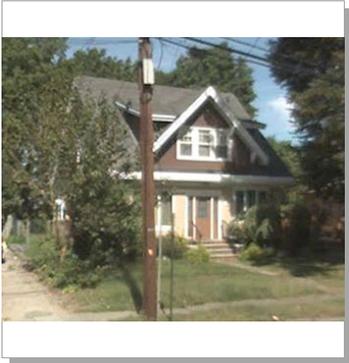
Block  554A  Lot  2  Construction Year  1900-1924 c.

Ownership  Private  Site  Original Site

Present Use  Private Residence

County Survey ID  24-34  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  N  Not Extant



Style: Bungalow  
Gabled dormer.

Historic Name

Common Name

108  Green Street  Woodbridge

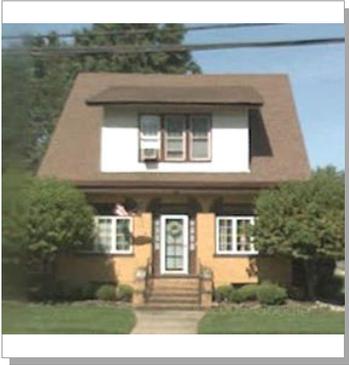
Block  554A  Lot  1  Construction Year  1900-1924 c.

Ownership  Private  Site  Original Site

Present Use  Private Residence

County Survey ID  24-35  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  N  Not Extant



Style: Bungalow  
Shed dormer.

Historic Name					
Common Name					
102	Green Street		Woodbridge		
Block	554	Lot	29	Construction Year	1900-1924 c.
Ownership	Private		Site	Original Site	
Present Use	Private Residence				
County Survey ID	24-36	National Reg. ID #			
NJ HPO ID #		On Master Plan	N	Not Extant	



Style: Bungalow  
 Deep modillion cornice.

Historic Name

Common Name

87  Green Street  Woodbridge

Block  548  Lot  10A  Construction Year  1880 c.

Ownership  Private  Site  Original Site

Present Use  Private Residence

County Survey ID  24-37  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  N  Not Extant



Porch was removed and new vinyl siding

Style: Vernacular

Gable wing projecting at left with 2-story polygonal bay.

Historic Name

Common Name

82  Green Street  Woodbridge

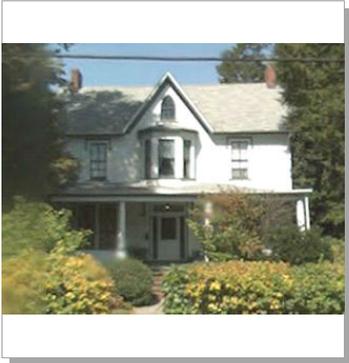
Block  554  Lot  15B  Construction Year  1850 c.

Ownership  Private  Site  Original Site

Present Use  Private Residence

County Survey ID  24-38  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  N  Not Extant



Style: Gothic Revival  
 Center gable; porch post dates house; wooden drip molds.

Historic Name

Common Name

95-97  Green Street  Woodbridge

Block  548  Lot  8.02  Construction Year  1800-1849 c.

Ownership  Private  Site  Original Site

Present Use  Private Residence

County Survey ID  24-39  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  Y  Not Extant



Across from Tisdale Place

Style: Vernacular  
Greek Revival doorway.

Historic Name

Common Name

86  Green Street  Woodbridge

Block  554  Lot  16A  Construction Year  1861-1876

Ownership  Private  Site  Original Site

Present Use  Private Residence

County Survey ID  24-40  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  N  Not Extant



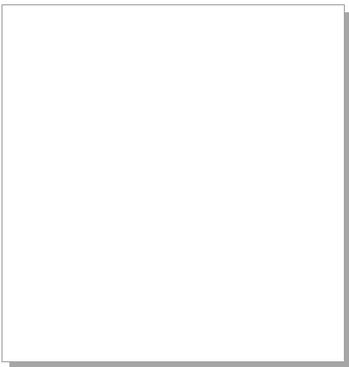
Style: Vernacular Italianate  
 Neoclassical porch with gazebo corner gable gingerbread.

Historic Name					
Common Name					
81	Green Street		Woodbridge		
Block	549	Lot	10A	Construction Year	1861-1876
Ownership	Private		Site	Original Site	
Present Use	Private Residence				
County Survey ID	24-41	National Reg. ID #			
NJ HPO ID #		On Master Plan	N	Not Extant	



Style: Vernacular Italianate  
 Bracketed cornice; segmentally arched windows.

Historic Name   
 Common Name   
 73    
 Block  Lot  Construction Year   
 Ownership  Site   
 Present Use   
 County Survey ID  National Reg. ID #   
 NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  Not Extant



Style: Gothic Revival

Historic Name   
 Common Name   
 70  Green Street  Woodbridge   
 Block 554  Lot 4  Construction Year 1890 c.   
 Ownership Private  Site Original Site   
 Present Use Private Residence   
 County Survey ID 24-43  National Reg. ID #   
 NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan N  Not Extant



Style: Queen Anne/Colonial Revival  
 Palladian window in gable

Historic Name	J.C. Wright House		
Common Name			
67	Green Street	Woodbridge	
Block	549	Lot	8
Construction Year	1850-1861 c.		
Ownership	Private	Site	Original Site
Present Use	Private Residence		
County Survey ID	24-44	National Reg. ID #	
NJ HPO ID #		On Master Plan	N
Not Extant			



Style: Vernacular  
Center gable and later porch.

Historic Name

Common Name

62  Green Street  Woodbridge

Block  554  Lot  3  Construction Year  1920 c.

Ownership  Private  Site  Original Site

Present Use  Private Residence

County Survey ID  24-45  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  N  Not Extant



Second house from northeast corner Barron Street

Style: Tudor  
 Ogee arched door; low stone wall at front of lot.

Historic Name	W. E. Fink House		
Common Name			
65	Green Street	Woodbridge	
Block	549	Lot	7
Construction Year	1850-1861 c.		
Ownership	Private	Site	Original Site
Present Use	Private Residence		
County Survey ID	24-46	National Reg. ID #	
NJ HPO ID #		On Master Plan	Y
Not Extant			



Style: Vernacular Greek Revival  
Center gable and later porch.

Historic Name	Fink House		
Common Name			
44	Green Street	Woodbridge	
Block	553	Lot	2A
Construction Year	1870 c.		
Ownership	Private	Site	Original Site
Present Use	Private Residence		
County Survey ID	24-47	National Reg. ID #	
NJ HPO ID #		On Master Plan	N
Not Extant			



Style: Second Empire

Historic Name					
Common Name					
47	Green Street			Woodbridge	
Block	549	Lot	3A	Construction Year	1880-1890 c.
Ownership	Private			Site	Original Site
Present Use	Private Residence				
County Survey ID	24-48	National Reg. ID #			
NJ HPO ID #		On Master Plan	N	Not Extant	



South side opposite Barron Street

Style: Vernacular/Eastlake Porch

Turned porch columns; gable apex gingerbread.

Historic Name

Common Name

40

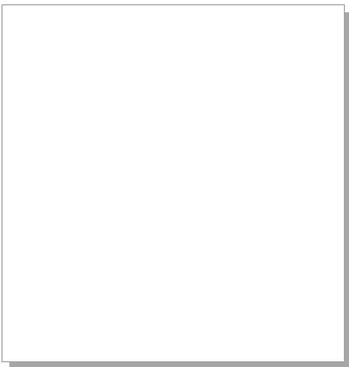
Block  Lot  Construction Year

Ownership  Site

Present Use

County Survey ID  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  Not Extant



Style: Second Empire  
 Modern ground floor addition.

Historic Name

Common Name

507

Block  Lot  Construction Year

Ownership  Site

Present Use

County Survey ID  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  Not Extant



tax map says 509 Barron Avenue

Style: Vernacular  
Jigsaw porch.

Historic Name	Woodbridge High School		
Common Name	Woodbridge Junior High School		
527	Barron Avenue	Woodbridge	
Block	554	Lot	1
Construction Year	1911		
Ownership	Public	Site	Original Site
Present Use	Educational		
County Survey ID	24-51	National Reg. ID #	
NJ HPO ID #		On Master Plan	N
		Not Extant	



Woodbridge Senior High School was completed and first opened to students on September 11, 1911. Prior to 1911, high school classes were held at School No. 1. With the introduction of a four year high school in 1897, a larger building was necessary to accommodate the increase in enrollment. Thus, the building was designed and constructed by architects John Pierson and Son, of Perth Amboy. The cornerstone for Woodbridge Senior High School was laid on October 6, 1910 by Governor of New Jersey, J. Franklin Fort. Dr. John J. Love served as the first Principal of the school. The building was altered in 1925, and again in 1932, when additions were necessary to accommodate an increase of the student body. New classrooms were housed in the Annex. It is believed that school enrollment increased due to the Great Depression, as many people could not find jobs and therefore, returned to school. The school also received permission from the Woodbridge Speedway Company to use their property as an athletic field. The high school football team used this land for their season in 1932. In 1956, the current Woodbridge High School was built. In 1957 and 1959 respectively, eighth and ninth grades were transferred to the former Woodbridge High School on Barron Avenue. Among the most significant features of the school are its WPA (Works Progress Administration) murals adorning both sides of the school's auditorium stage, painted by Carl C. Lella, a resident of the Colonia section of Woodbridge. The murals portray images of slavery, Abraham Lincoln, and freedom symbolized by broken chains. The murals are significant pieces, which show Woodbridge's connection to this period in American History. Today, the building is the home of Woodbridge Middle School.

**County Survey:**

Style: Neoclassical

Neoclassical details include Corinthian column and pilasters; frieze reads "Liberty is the fruit of knowledge." The piano nobile, broad flight of stairs and triple-arched frontespiece are additional allusions to Renaissance models.

Just as School #1 was a local educational milestone for its time, so was the high school, built in response to overcrowding. The \$70,000 cost created a furor, but voters turned out in record numbers to authorize its construction. It is a good example of early 20th century neoclassicism applied to a public building.

Historic Name

Common Name

528  Barron Avenue  Woodbridge

Block  553  Lot  8B  Construction Year  1880-1890 c.

Ownership  Private  Site  Original Site

Present Use  Private Residence

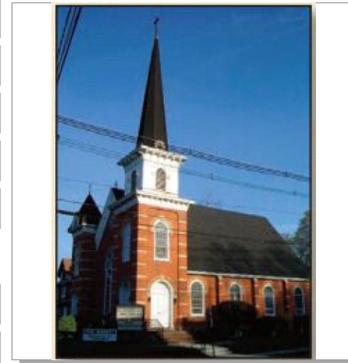
County Survey ID  24-52  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  N  Not Extant



Style: Vernacular with Eastlake

Historic Name	First Congregational Church		
Common Name			
545-5	Barron Avenue	Woodbridge	
Block	560	Lot	13
Construction Year	1876		
Ownership	Public & Private		Site
			Original Site
Present Use	Religious		
County Survey ID	24-53	National Reg. ID #	
NJ HPO ID #		On Master Plan	Y
		Not Extant	



The history of the First Congregational Church of Woodbridge goes back to the late nineteenth century. The parish was first organized on September 30, 1874, at a meeting in the private home of Woodbridge resident Mr. John White. The founding families of the Church are the Boyntons, Coddingtons, Inslees, Harneds, Johnsons, and Noes, among many. In 1875, the Church was incorporated by trustees of the County Clerk, and the first cornerstone was laid in September of that same year. Prior to its completion in 1876, the first Church services were held at the Masonic Temple. The first pastor was Reverend S. Lee Hillyer, invested in 1875. The first sermon was given by Reverend George Hepworth of New York City. Many members of the early congregation included the Dallys, Cutters, Edgars, Campbells, Freemans, Demarests, and Melicks, and Osborns. In 1897, the rear portion of the Church was enlarged to house a Sunday school and other conference rooms for various parish organizations. In the 1930s, the Church interior was decorated by J. & R. Lamb of New York, church artists. The Church is constructed of brick from the Valentine Brick Company of Woodbridge. Among its fine features include its tall 90 foot high steeple, a prominent Good Shepherd stained glass window, and ginger breadding on the Church façade.

County Survey:

Style: Romanesque

Ruskinian High Victorian polychrome brickwork is the principal decoration. Twin towers of unequal height are a hallmark of this phase of the Romanesque Revival. In this instance, the wooden tower details are an anachronistic addition.

Although not a particularly representative example of the Romanesque Revival of its period, this church is interesting for its idiosyncratic combination of details. Comparison with the Barron Library (1877) and P.S. No. 1 (1876) shows the variety of styles popular during the last quarter of the 19th century.

Historic Name

Common Name

589  Barron Avenue  Woodbridge

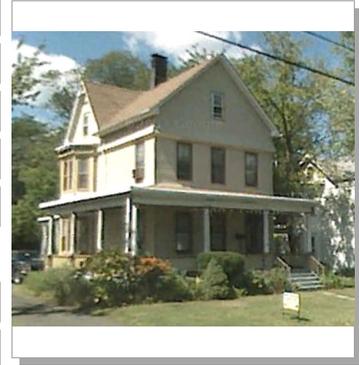
Block  561  Lot  25B  Construction Year  1880-1890 c.

Ownership  Private  Site  Original Site

Present Use  Private Residence

County Survey ID  24-54  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  N  Not Extant



Style: Vernacular  
 2 story projecting polygonal bay to the left; molded window heads

Historic Name

Common Name

686  St. Georges Avenue  Woodbridge

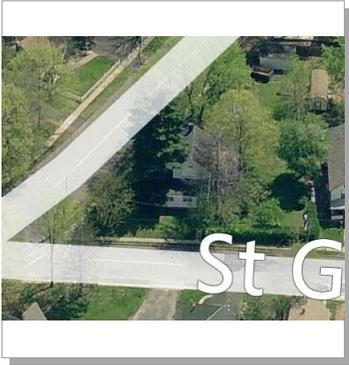
Block  573  Lot  56  Construction Year  1850-1860 c.

Ownership  Private  Site  Original Site

Present Use  Private Residence

County Survey ID  24-55  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  N  Not Extant



Style: Gothic Revival  
 Pendant drops at gables.

Historic Name

Common Name

727  St. Georges Avenue  Woodbridge

Block 406  Lot 3.02  Construction Year 1870-1880 c.

Ownership Private  Site Original Site

Present Use Private Residence

County Survey ID 24-56  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan N  Not Extant



Style: Second Empire  
 Mansarded center gable.

Historic Name

Common Name

737  St. Georges Avenue  Woodbridge

Block 406  Lot 3.03  Construction Year 1800-1849 c.

Ownership Private  Site Original Site

Present Use Private Residence

County Survey ID 24-57  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan N  Not Extant



Style: Vernacular

Historic Name

Common Name

184  Freeman Street  Woodbridge

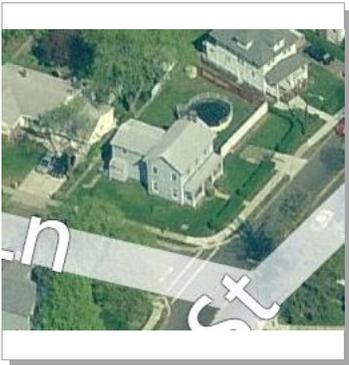
Block  570  Lot  2.02  Construction Year  1800-1849 c.

Ownership  Private  Site  Original Site

Present Use  Private Residence

County Survey ID  24-58  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  N  Not Extant



Style: Vernacular  
 Paired brackets; triangular gable-end windows.

Historic Name	Bloomfield House		
Common Name			
115-1	Harrell Avenue	Woodbridge	
Block	569A	Lot	115-118
Construction Year	1750		
Ownership	Private	Site	Moved
Present Use	Private Residence		
County Survey ID	24-59	National Reg. ID #	
NJ HPO ID #		On Master Plan	Y
		Not Extant	



Built in the latter half of the eighteenth century, this was the home of Dr. Moses Bloomfield, a noted surgeon and physician in Washington's Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War. Dr. Bloomfield, a Woodbridge native, was an original member of the New Jersey Medical Society. He was also a Middlesex County delegate, during which time the Convention of New Jersey adopted its first State Constitution in 1776. Bloomfield was a descendent of Thomas Bloomfield, who served in Oliver Cromwell's army in the English Civil War, and was one of the early settlers of Woodbridge in the late seventeenth century. Dr. Moses Bloomfield was the father of Joseph Bloomfield, who was born in this home in 1753. Joseph Bloomfield served in Third New Jersey Regiment in the Continental Army during the American Revolution. He became a New Jersey Attorney General and later served as the first Governor of New Jersey in 1801 and 1803-1812, being the first New Jersey native to become Governor. He was also a representative for the New Jersey Assembly from 1817-1821. The town of Bloomfield, New Jersey was named in honor of the former Governor. The Bloomfield House holds a significant place in New Jersey history. The structure suffered damages during the American Revolution in 1777, and the family fled from their home for a short while, returning in the latter years of the war. It is believed that the first anti-slavery meeting in Middlesex County occurred on this site. On July 4, 1783, Dr. Moses Bloomfield reportedly freed his slaves in a public declaration. Dr. Bloomfield is interred in the First Presbyterian Church Cemetery. Originally located on Freeman Street, the home was moved in later years to its present location. Today, it is a private residence.

**Style: Vernacular**

Center gable and Greek Revival doorway are the most obvious of a series of 19th century alterations. Cellar exhibits adzed beams. Mantels and first floor woodwork indicate alterations c.1840 and later. Irregular fenestration suggests addition to a 3-bay house which cannot be confirmed because of subsequent alterations and lack of visible construction details.

Home of Dr. Moses Bloomfield, senior physician and surgeon to the Continental Army, and of Joseph Bloomfield, governor of New Jersey from 1803 to 1812. This house is a representative example of the 5-bay center hall plan which probably grew from a 3-bay, side hall house.

Historic Name

Common Name

133  Church Street  Woodbridge

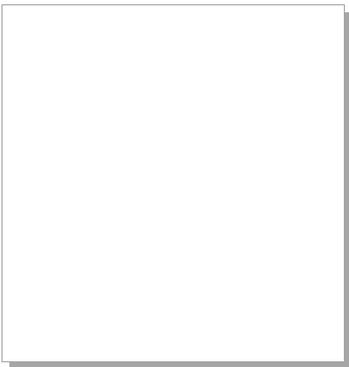
Block  Lot  Construction Year  1850 c.

Ownership  Private  Site  Original Site

Present Use  Private Residence

County Survey ID  24-60  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  N  Not Extant



Style: Vernacular Greek Revival

Historic Name

Common Name

Church Street  Woodbridge

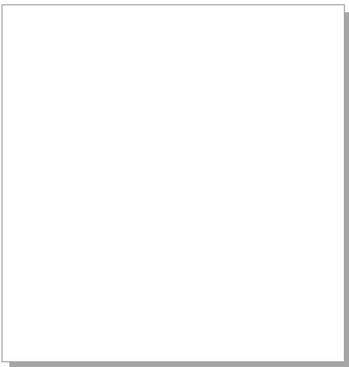
Block  Lot  Construction Year

Ownership  Site

Present Use

County Survey ID  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  Not Extant



Adjacent to 133 Church St.

Style: Vernacular Italianate

Wide frieze and paired brackets; added porches deface an essentially good house.

Historic Name

Common Name

**Woodbridge**

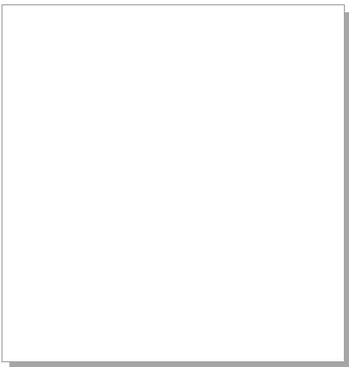
Block  Lot  Construction Year  **1890 c.**

Ownership  **Private** Site  **Original Site**

Present Use  **Private Residence**

County Survey ID  **24-62** National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  **N** Not Extant



Between 119 and 133 Church Street

Style: Queen Anne  
 Probable decorative detail obscured by brick veneer.

Historic Name	Barron House		
Common Name			
574	Rahway Avenue	Woodbridge	
Block	563	Lot	E2
Construction Year	1803		
Ownership	Private		Site
			Original Site
Present Use	Private Residence		
County Survey ID	24-63	National Reg. ID #	
NJ HPO ID #		On Master Plan	Y
		Not Extant	



Built in the early nineteenth century, this was the home of the Barron Family for many years. The Barron name was an important one in town, as the family was one of the first to settle in Woodbridge in the late seventeenth century. Well known for their patriotism and philanthropy, the Barrons made many contributions to their country and native town. This was the home of Joseph Barron, a Deacon of the First Presbyterian Church of Woodbridge. Joseph Barron's sons, Thomas and John, were successful business men who contributed to Woodbridge's commercial and educational enterprises. Thomas C. Barron was a wealthy merchant and philanthropist, who held a partnership in a major house engaged in the West India trade. Upon his death, he bequeathed \$50,000 for the establishment of the neighboring Barron Library. His brother John, who became skilled in cabinet-making, established a manufactory in Woodbridge. Later in life, he tended a farm just beyond the heart of Woodbridge, which stood upon the land through which Barron Avenue runs. His son, Dr. John C. Barron, served as a surgeon in the United States Volunteer Army with the Sixty-ninth New York Regiment. Upon the death of his uncle, Thomas C. Barron, he donated land from the Barron Estate, on which the library still stands. In the late nineteenth century, the Barron House was purchased by the Boynton Family, known for their luxurious summer resort on Boynton Beach in Sewaren. The Colonial home, which stands along Rahway Avenue, is today an apartment house.

Style: Vernacular Federal

Local philanthropist Thomas Barron, who endowed the Barron Library, was living here at his death in 1875. It was built for his ancestor Joseph Barron, one of the subscribers to the Woodbridge Academy in 1793, and a prominent landholder. Many alterations have compromised exterior integrity. Interior merits analysis for evaluation of remaining features.

Historic Name

Common Name

569

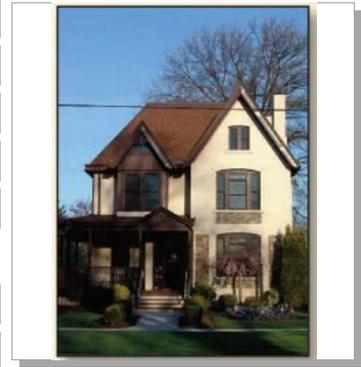
Block  Lot  Construction Year

Ownership  Site

Present Use

County Survey ID  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  Not Extant



At southwest corner Martin Terrace

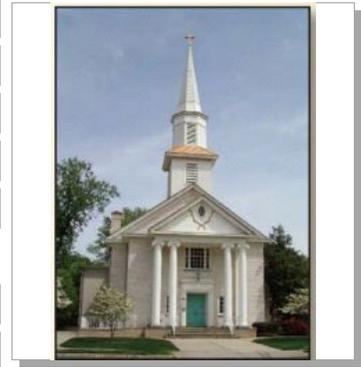
Built in the last decade of the nineteenth century, the FitzRandolph House sits upon the site of one of the earliest special learning institutions of Woodbridge. From 1793 to 1880, this was the site of the Woodbridge Academy. The building was later demolished and the current structure was completed in its place. Between 1915 and 1920, this was the site of Woman's Suffrage Movement meetings. The building was purchased by Asher FitzRandolph in 1923. FitzRandolph was a descendant of Nathaniel FitzRandolph, who came to Woodbridge in 1670. The FitzRandolph family was among the early, prominent settlers of Woodbridge in the late seventeenth century. In 1958, the Csaki family purchased the house from the widow of Mr. Fitz Randolph. Today, it is known as the Csaki Building, which houses professional offices, including those of State Senator Joseph Vitale.

Style: Eclectic Gothic/Queen Anne  
 Double front gables.

Historic Name   
 Common Name   
 8    
 Block  Lot  Construction Year   
 Ownership  Site   
 Present Use   
 County Survey ID  National Reg. ID #   
 NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  Not Extant



Historic Name	First Presbyterian Church		
Common Name			
600	Rahway Avenue	Woodbridge	
Block	564	Lot	1
Construction Year	1803		
Ownership	Public & Private		Site
			Original Site
Present Use	Religious		
County Survey ID	24-66	National Reg. ID #	08000363
NJ HPO ID #	4594	On Master Plan	Y
		Not Extant	



The First Presbyterian Church, or “Old White Church” as it is affectionately known, is home to the oldest congregation in Middlesex County and the sixth oldest in the state. Its first service was conducted on May 27, 1675, in a small wooden structure, the official Meeting House, which served as both a place of worship and the seat of municipal government until the early 18th century. Non-denominational services were conducted until 1710, when a Presbyterian majority within the congregation declared their intentions to make the Meeting House their Church. Former members of the congregation, who wished to maintain their Anglican ties, went on to establish the neighboring Trinity Episcopal Church. The present structure was built in 1803 by Jonathan Freeman. The building was altered in 1875 and 1972. Notable features include the tall Church steeple, as well as the original wooden timbers of the foundation, which still exist in the structure. Many significant members of the congregation helped to shape Woodbridge history. Reverend Azel Roe, patriot and Church pastor for over 50 years, was an ardent supporter of the American Revolution, who preached against the British and encouraged others to enlist in the military an act which resulted in his seizure by the British and short imprisonment in the Old Sugar House Prison in New York. The Church held an important place in the establishment of other area Presbyterian churches, including those in Iselin, Rahway, and Metuchen, among many. It was recently placed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places in 2008.

County Survey:

Style: Georgian

Recent alterations include brick veneer, colossal Ionic pedimented portico and altered fenestration.

The history of the Presbyterian Church is intimately connected with the development of Woodbridge, and this building is the community’s most revered landmark. Unfortunately, a recent “restoration” has rendered it merely a shell of the original structure.

Historic Name	Aaron Dunn House		
Common Name	Jost-Keating Homestead		
12	Freeman Street	Woodbridge	
Block		Lot	Construction Year 1685
Ownership	Private	Site	Original Site
Present Use	Private Residence		
County Survey ID	24-67	National Reg. ID #	
NJ HPO ID #		On Master Plan	N Not Extant

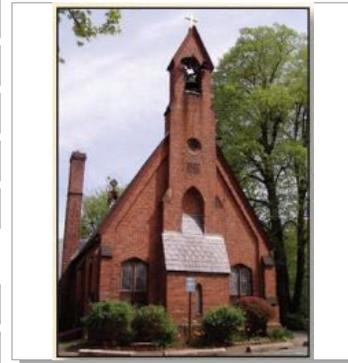


Among the oldest buildings in Woodbridge, the Aaron Dunn house was constructed at the turn of the eighteenth century. Although the home bears the name of one of its original owners, it was called home by many before him. It is believed to have been built as a manse for the first minister of the First Presbyterian Church, Archibald Riddell. The home, however, was not completed, as the minister's wife did not like it much. It was later completed by the town and another minister by the name of Sheppard moved into the home in 1697. Later, a Revolutionary War soldier, Aaron Dunn, called the structure home. Also a one time resident was James Bloodgood, a local tanner who owned thirteen acres of property outside of the "Kirk Green." It is thought that much of this property consisted of the area between Lewis Street and Ridgedale Avenue. The home contains many original features, including four fire places, and two sets of stairways to the second floor and the attic. Many of the doors are believed to be original to the home, fashioned in "Christian style" with a cross shape between the door panels and fastened with "H" and "L" hinges. It is one of the best examples of early Colonial architecture still standing in Woodbridge. Today, it is a private residence.

County Survey:

Claims relating to the 18th century history of this house are repeated by local historians, although thorough research has not been undertaken. Ownership by Aaron Dunn, a Continental soldier, seems certain. It may also have served as the Presbyterian Manse for a time. Further research is merited.

Historic Name	Trinity Episcopal Church		
Common Name			
650	Rahway Avenue	Woodbridge	
Block	587	Lot	1
Construction Year	1859-1860		
Ownership	Public & Private		Site
			Original Site
Present Use	Religious		
County Survey ID	24-68	National Reg. ID #	04000431
NJ HPO ID #	4248	On Master Plan	Y
		Not Extant	



The history of Trinity Episcopal Church has its roots in the late seventeenth century. Its first service was conducted in 1698 by Reverend Edward Portlock, a colonial Anglican missionary sent to New Jersey by the Church of England. Prior to the construction of the first church, services were conducted in private Woodbridge homes, including the home of Benjamin Dunham, which later would become the Trinity Rectory. Members of the congregation also attended the First Church of Woodbridge, later established as the First Presbyterian Church. After a congregational schism at First Church, former members built an Episcopal Church on this site in 1711. The property upon which it was built was part of the original proprietors' allotment for places of worship in the Woodbridge Charter of 1669, granted by King Charles II. This small wooden structure was the site of worship for many years to come, however, it remained unfinished and a larger one was built in its place in 1754. During the American Revolution, "Churches of England" in New Jersey were ordered closed, as many members and clergy were loyal British subjects. Despite its connection to the Church of England, it is known that many other members of the congregation fought for and supported the Revolution, including famous New Jersey printer James Parker, who served as a lay reader. The British occupied Woodbridge from December 2, 1776 to June 22, 1777. It is believed that the army was quartered on the Church's property, with the Church serving as soldiers' barracks and the rectory, a fort. In 1858, a fire destroyed the Church and another was built in 1860. The present Gothic Revival style Church building was dedicated on May 20, 1861. Designed by Richard Upjohn, and later completed by C. Harrison Condit, it is one of the best preserved, finest examples of Upjohn's work still standing. Trinity was placed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places in 2004. It is one of the oldest Episcopal congregations in New Jersey.

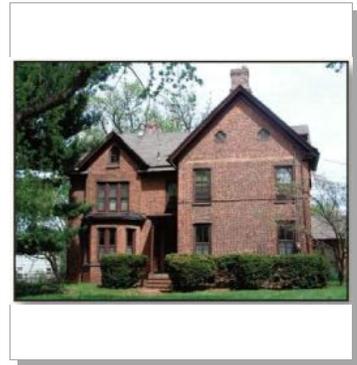
Style: Gothic Revival

Bell cot; simple nave plan with chancel added in 1879.

Trinity is representative of the "correct" English Parish Gothic bell cot type favored by the Ecclesiologists. Condit was a partner of Henry Dudley after Dudley's partnership with the famed Frank Wills was dissolved. Trinity, in fact, is not unlike Will's Chapel of the Holy Cross in Madison County, Mississippi, built in 1852.

Trinity parish predates 1713, when the first church was built. The burial ground was first used in 1714, although the oldest extant stone is dated 1750. The second church, constructed about 1754, burned in 1858. Trinity established four other Episcopal churches in different parts of Woodbridge.

Historic Name	Jonathan Dunham House		
Common Name	Trinity Church Rectory		
650	Rahway Avenue	Woodbridge	
Block	587	Lot	1
Construction Year	1670-1700 c.		
Ownership	Private	Site	Original Site
Present Use	Private Residence		
County Survey ID	24-69	National Reg. ID #	
NJ HPO ID #		On Master Plan	Y
		Not Extant	



Dating to at least the late seventeenth century, this building was once the home of Jonathan Dunham, one of the early settlers and freeholders of Woodbridge, who operated the first gristmill in New Jersey. The mill, a tidal mill, was located just south of the home, at the intersection of the Port Reading Road, along the Woodbridge River, then known as Papiack Creek. During the American Revolution, the building was used as a garrison by American soldiers. Originally a two-story, four room home, the building was later acquired by the family of Samuel Barron, prominent early Woodbridge settlers. In 1870, local donor George C. Hance purchased the historic Dunham House from the Barron family. He commissioned the additions made to both stories, more than doubling the size of the original home. Hance assured that renovations would complement the design of the neighboring Trinity Episcopal Church, to which he granted the home's deed in 1873. Both Colonial and Victorian designs are present in the original and added portions of the house. Among the home's most distinctive features are its Flemish bond brickwork, a type of checkerboard pattern visible on the first and second floors of the façade, as well as its Gothic Revival replacement windows set in the same place of the building. Perhaps the most significant artifact which still exists on the current property is an ancient, circular millstone dating to the Colonial period. It is one of the original stones used by Dunham in his grist mill operations. The Jonathan Dunham House has been continually used as the Trinity Episcopal Church Rectory since 1873. It is the oldest building in Woodbridge Township and one of the oldest buildings in Middlesex County.

County Survey:

Flemish checker brick, with headers glazed blue-black, is the most remarkable feature of this house. A double diamond pattern is found on the west wall. A mid-19th century renovation to Gothicize the house is responsible for the entrance porch, paired windows, altered roofline, center gable and dormers, as well as complete renovations to the interior.

Jonathan Dunham was the first miller in Woodbridge. Traditional sources associate his land holdings with those of the Episcopal Church, and maintain that his mill was in operation by 1670. Because of extensive renovations during the 19th century, it is impossible to determine whether this house is 17th century. Regardless of its precise date of construction, it is one of the earliest houses in Middlesex County with high style features. Its Flemish checker brick is rare in this part of the state.

Historic Name

Common Name

826  Rahway Avenue  Woodbridge

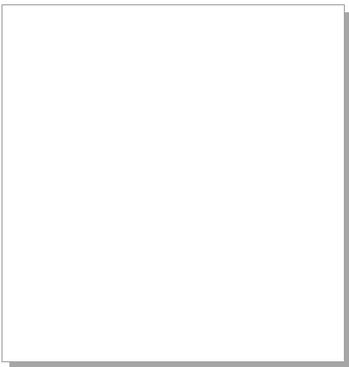
Block  Lot  Construction Year  1860-1870 c.

Ownership  Private  Site  Original Site

Present Use  Private Residence

County Survey ID  24-70  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  N  Not Extant



Style: Vernacular Italianate  
 Projecting center pavilion.

Historic Name	NJ State Reformatory		
Common Name	Rahway State Prison		
	Rahway Avenue		Avenel
Block		Lot	Construction Year 1895-1915
Ownership	Public	Site	Original Site
Present Use	Prison		
County Survey ID	24-71	National Reg. ID #	
NJ HPO ID #	3341	On Master Plan	Y Not Extant

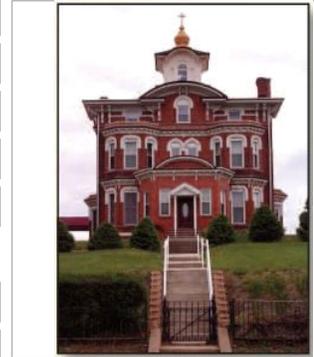


Style: Stripped Neo-classical Revival

An enormous saucer dome spans a circular drum at the center of this building; the original wings are terminated by rounded turrets with conical roofs.

The need for a reformatory or "intermediate prison" was stressed as early as 1869 in the report of the State Commission on Prison Discipline. These recommendations finally resulted in legislation (1895) authorizing creation of the first state reformatory, conceived of as a facility for offenders who fell between the needs of Jamesburg and the state prison.

Historic Name	Prall House		
Common Name	Hampton Cutter Mansion		
	Amboy Avenue		Woodbridge
Block	533A	Lot	4c, 6, 22
Construction Year	1873		
Ownership	Private	Site	Original Site
Present Use	Private Residence		
County Survey ID	24-72	National Reg. ID #	
NJ HPO ID #		On Master Plan	Y
		Not Extant	



One of the most distinctive buildings seen from the New Jersey Turnpike and Route 35 sits upon Strawberry Hill. This landmark Italianate style mansion was the home of Hampton Cutter, Esq., famous clay magnate of Woodbridge. Years after the discovery of kaolin on his farm in 1845, Cutter built this home where he resided until his death in 1882. The home is also known as the Cutter-Prall mansion, as Cutter's daughter Emily resided here with her husband, James Palmer Prall after their marriage in 1883. Hampton Cutter bequeathed the home to Emily upon his death in 1882. The Cutter-Prall family resided here until the 1920s. In 1926, the home was sold to The Little Servant Sisters, a Polish order of religious established in the United States in the 1920s. In 1931, the Sisters acquired the building for use as an orphanage for Polish-speaking children. The orphanage was under the direction of governess, Sister Mary Louise, who was a former resident at the orphanage before joining the Little Servant Sisters. In its prime, the orphanage housed up to fifty children. Due to financial circumstances, however, it closed its doors in 1948. The sisters remained in the home, which also served as a first-aid center for the victims of the Fulton Street train wreck of 1951. The mansion is located near the site of many significant Revolutionary War skirmishes which took place near Strawberry Hill in 1777. The home's notable features include fine red brick construction with wood trimmings and a gilded cupola. It has remained nearly unchanged since its completion in 1873. It presently serves as the convent of The Little Servant Sisters, who administer the adjacent St. Joseph's Care Center.

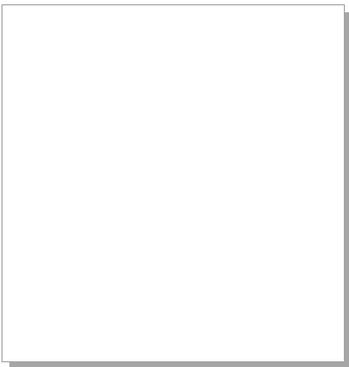
County Survey:

Style: Italianate

The simple rectangular conformation of this house is disguised by two semi-octagonal bays which flank the entrance, a semicircular "pediment" and a large cupola with similarly arched roof line surmounted by a bulbous ornament. The wooden entrance porch has been enclosed with brick.

This is one of the finest Italianate houses of its period in Middlesex County, rivaled only by the Holmes-Tallman House in Monroe. Its location on a rise has made it a prominent sighting point both for the local community and for travelers on the New Jersey Turnpike.

Historic Name   
 Common Name   
 Cutters Dock Road  Woodbridge  
 Block  Lot  Construction Year  1700-1799 c.  
 Ownership  Private Site  Original Site  
 Present Use  Private Residence  
 County Survey ID  24-73 National Reg. ID #   
 NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  N Not Extant



Southeast corner Cutters Dock Road and Amboy Avenue

Style: Vernacular

Historic Name

Common Name

Cutters Dock Road  Woodbridge

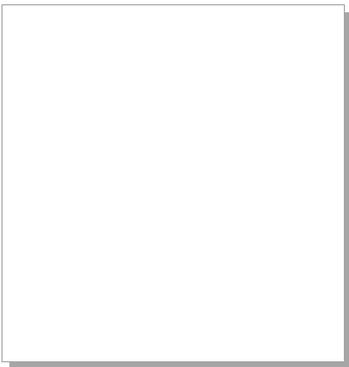
Block  Lot  Construction Year  1900 c.

Ownership  Site  Original Site

Present Use

County Survey ID  24-74 National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  N Not Extant



North side between Hill Avenue and Fulton Street  
 Hill Avenue off of Cutters Dock Road

Style: Sayre and Fisher Vernacular  
 Brick quoining and hood molds

Historic Name					
Common Name					
64	South Fulton Street			Woodbridge	
Block	527	Lot	15	Construction Year	1890-1900 c.
Ownership	Private			Site	Original Site
Present Use	Commercial				
County Survey ID	24-75	National Reg. ID #			
NJ HPO ID #		On Master Plan	N	Not Extant	



Southwest corner Cutters Dock Road and Fulton Street

Rectangular with chamfered corner, 5 bay divisions on Fulton Street

Historic Name	St. John's Episcopal Church		
Common Name			
	Cliff Road		Sewaren
Block	754	Lot	1
		Construction Year	1895
Ownership	Public & Private		Site
			Original Site
Present Use	Religious		
County Survey ID	24-76	National Reg. ID #	
NJ HPO ID #		On Master Plan	Y
		Not Extant	



St John's Episcopal Church, affectionately known as the "Little Brown Church by the Water" is located on the corners of Woodbridge Avenue and Cliff Road. The church is a vernacular shingle style with a central front tower, side piers, and a simple modillion cornice. It is two and a half stories with a square tower and a tent roof. Inside the church there is an unusual feature: a working fireplace still used on occasion. In addition, Laurence Barrett of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad donated a train bell which operates as the church's bell to this day.

Formed as a "chapel of convenience" by Trinity Episcopal Church in Woodbridge for the growing population of Sewaren, it is currently a mission church in the Diocese of New Jersey. In 1891, the Church held its first service in a building located on West Avenue known as the Schoolhouse. The Reverend L.H. Lighthipe of Trinity Church presided over the first service. The congregation continued to meet in the Schoolhouse every Sunday. In October 1891, the congregation relocated from the Schoolhouse to a vacant home belonging to John Taylor Johnston, the president of the Central Railroad of New Jersey and a Sewaren developer who donated the land.

A meeting was held in March, 1892, to organize the congregation into a new parish. The Right Reverend John Scarborough, diocesan bishop, approved of the new parish and an incorporation certificate was filed. Plans for a brand new church building quickly began as this would be the first church in Sewaren. Residents made monetary donations towards the purchase of stained glass windows, altar, pulpit, and lectern. The cornerstone ceremony was celebrated on June 18, 1892. Sunday School began on July 3 of the same year, and the church was formally opened on September 4, 1892.

Despite a promising start, the Church faced difficulties. The beginning years saw a quick succession of leaders in the church—some only lasting a week due to insufficient funds to provide a full time salary for priests. Although there were many congregational efforts to bring in more money, including church sponsored fairs and dinners, no solution seemed to work long term. In 1910, the Church suffered another major blow when twenty-six members of its small congregation left to join the new Christian Science Church in Sewaren.

A fire destroyed the third floor of the parish house in 1955 and the second floor suffered smoke and water damage. The building was repaired and a year later the church began renovations. In 1957, Mrs. Louis Brown willed her home on Cliff Road to the Church which became the new rectory. The Reverend William F. Forrest became priest-in-charge at St. John's Episcopal Church. He and his wife became the first occupants of the new rectory until he departed in 1965.

During the 100th anniversary in 1992 members of the congregation opened the 1892 cornerstone. Items found were faded photos of the original interior of the church, several silver coins, several pages from the May 15, 1892 edition of the New York Daily Tribune which included a story and an architect's rendering of the church. On September 13, 1992, thirty members of the church marched from Johnston's house where services began down Cliff Road to the present-day church to commemorate its 100th year.

Today, St. John's Episcopal Church serves both the spiritual and communal needs of its congregation.

Style: Shingle Style Derivation

Central front tower; side piers; modillion cornice, new addition at rear.

Historic Name					
Common Name	Cowels House				
510	East Avenue			Sewaren	
Block	755	Lot	2	Construction Year	1825-1875 c.
Ownership	Private			Site	Original Site
Present Use	Private Residence				
County Survey ID	24-76A	National Reg. ID #			
NJ HPO ID #		On Master Plan	N	Not Extant	



Located at 510 East Avenue, this Queen Anne home was built in 1896. Among its outstanding features are ten rooms, hipped roof with flared eaves, and a center gable. The home was once surrounded by beautiful rhododendrons. This stately home is also graced by stained glass windows, a curved staircase and five fireplaces. The dining room fireplace is made of white marble with a grape motif.

This was once the home of inventor and ornithologist Alfred Hutchinson Cowles. A chemical engineer, Mr. Cowles was also the vice president of the American Electrochemical Society which held meetings at Columbia University. In addition, Mr. Cowles served as president of the Electric Smelting and Aluminum Company in New York and the Pecos Copper Company in New Mexico.

Edwin Cowles, nephew of Alfred Cowles, also resided in the home at 510 East Avenue. Mr. Edwin Cowles was the founder of Cowles Chemical Company in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1925 and the Cowles Engineering Corporation, Sewaren, 1930. He was the consultant and inventor for the Downingtown Paper Company in Pennsylvania from 1930 to 1938 and for Dits Machine Works in New York from 1938 until his death in 1968. Among his inventions were the "Classifier," a method of pressure screening and processing paper fibers, and the "Cowles Pulper" which later became the "Hydrapulper." Both of these inventions improved the quality and uniformity of paper fibers leading to improved paper machine efficiencies.

Historic Name

Common Name

East Avenue  Sewaren

Block  755  Lot  3  Construction Year  1825-1875 c.

Ownership  Private  Site  Original Site

Present Use  Private Residence

County Survey ID  24-76B  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  N  Not Extant



West side between Woodbridge Avenue and Cliff Road

Style: Vernacular

Historic Name

Common Name

498

Block  Lot  Construction Year

Ownership  Site

Present Use

County Survey ID  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  Not Extant



Style: Queen Anne  
 Project entrance pavilion, engaged octagonal side tower, projecting main gable.

Historic Name

Common Name

494  Cliff Road  Sewaren

Block  752  Lot  14.01  Construction Year  1880 c.

Ownership  Private  Site  Original Site

Present Use  Private Residence

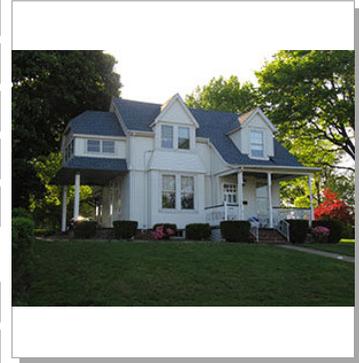
County Survey ID  24-78  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  N  Not Extant



Style: Queen Anne  
 Engaged octagonal tower

Historic Name					
Common Name	Drake-Lloyd House				
490	Cliff Road			Sewaren	
Block	752	Lot	13	Construction Year	1880 c.
Ownership	Private			Site	Original Site
Present Use	Private Residence				
County Survey ID	24-79	National Reg. ID #			
NJ HPO ID #		On Master Plan	N	Not Extant	



Located at 490 Cliff Road, the Drake–Lloyd house was built around 1890. This Queen Anne cottage style home has a front door with eight small lights and vertical panels. Francis M. Drake was born in Woodbridge and was employed at the National Fireproofing Company in Woodbridge. He was a member of the Americus Lodge No. 83, Free and Accepted Masons. Mr. and Mrs. Drake were both active in the Sewaren Land and Water Club and Sewaren Republican Club. Their son, Francis Jr. was a student at Saint Bernard’s School in Gladstone, New Jersey. In 1936, Francis Jr. married Helen Randall Senft, formerly of Avenel.

In February 1931, while living on Cliff Road, Mr. Drake’s Buick coupe slid down the icy driveway, across the road and into the Arthur Kill. The car was discovered by Francis Jr. upright but nearly submerged. It was successfully recovered from the water and returned to its owner.

Mr. Drake died in 1933. He was found lifeless in his car at a traffic light on the corner of Green Street and the “super highway” (Route 1) by Dr. Charles H. Rothfuss, a well-known doctor in Woodbridge. Dr. Rothfuss, was stopped for a traffic light behind Mr. Drake’s car. When the vehicle did not move, the doctor went to check on the driver and discovered Mr. Drake’s motionless body. Dr. Rothfuss determined that Mr. Drake died of heart failure.

Later residents of 490 Cliff Road included Leonard Lloyd and his wife. A longtime resident of Sewaren, Lenny Lloyd grew up on Ferry Street with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Lloyd, and his brother, Earl. Samuel was a member of the Woodbridge Police De

Style: Queen Anne Cottage

Door with eight small lights and vertical panels; 2 wall dormers.

Historic Name

Common Name

486

Block  Lot  Construction Year

Ownership  Site

Present Use

County Survey ID  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  Not Extant



Style: Vernacular  
 Pedimented porch and entrance with large fanlight.

Historic Name

Common Name

472  Cliff Road  Sewaren

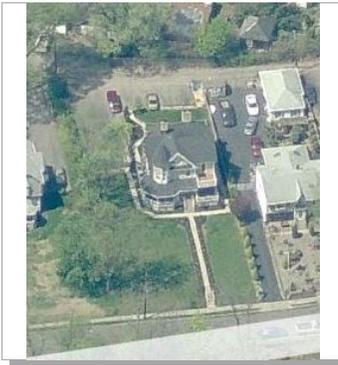
Block  752  Lot  10.01  Construction Year  1880 c.

Ownership  Private  Site  Original Site

Present Use  Private Residence

County Survey ID  24-81  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  N  Not Extant



Style: Queen Anne  
 Engaged octagonal tower, pedimented porch and projecting pedimented gables.

Historic Name

Common Name

464

Block  Lot  Construction Year

Ownership  Site

Present Use

County Survey ID  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  Not Extant



Style: Shingle Style  
 Intersecting gables form an essentially 2-bay structure.

Historic Name

Common Name

454  Cliff Road  Sewaren

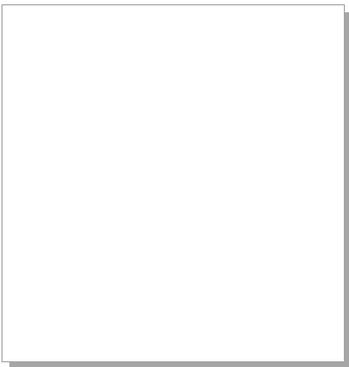
Block  752  Lot  8  Construction Year  1890 c.

Ownership  Private  Site  Original Site

Present Use  Private Residence

County Survey ID  24-83  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  N  Not Extant



Style: Eclectic  
 Center polygonal projecting bay; porte cochere; pedimented porch.

Historic Name

Common Name

448

Block  Lot  Construction Year

Ownership  Site

Present Use

County Survey ID  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  Not Extant



Style: Shingle Style  
 Large lunette in gable; tall chimney.

Historic Name					
Common Name					
440	Cliff Road			Sewaren	
Block	752	Lot	5.02	Construction Year	1890 c.
Ownership	Private			Site	Original Site
Present Use	Private Residence				
County Survey ID	24-85	National Reg. ID #			
NJ HPO ID #		On Master Plan	Y	Not Extant	



Style: Shingle Style  
 Steep, sweeping gable is dominant feature.

Historic Name					
Common Name	Cedar Cliff				
434	Cliff Road			Sewaren	
Block	752	Lot	4	Construction Year	1890 c.
Ownership	Private			Site	Original Site
Present Use	Private Residence				
County Survey ID	24-86	National Reg. ID #			
NJ HPO ID #		On Master Plan	N	Not Extant	



Located at 434 Cliff Road, this three-story home was constructed in 1895. It was the home of the Ballard family, one of the most influential families in Sewaren. The Ballards named the Queen Anne style house, "Cedar Cliff." Mr. Ballard was a banker and his son Lawrence was the only man from Sewaren to die serving in World War I. A second son, Louis, was named the secretary of the Free Public Library Association in 1927. Louis' daughter, Ruth Ballard, was the chairperson of the Women's Club of Woodbridge Township. The Ballard's eventually sold the house to Charles Lewis. Mr. Lewis had a ship repair yard at Boynton Beach.

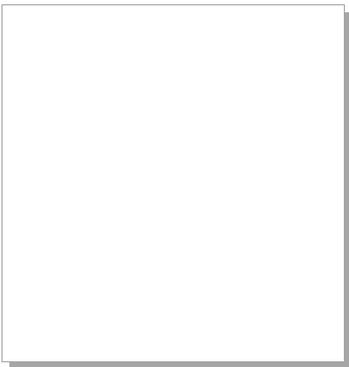
In 1921, Horatio D. Clark purchased the house. Mr. Clark served as executive secretary of the Toy Manufacturers Association of America in New York City. Mr. Clark also led the business sessions of the Sewaren Civic Association for the betterment of the town. According to Mrs. Kay Burns, Mr. Clark, her father, owned a sled with ball bearing wheels and a hand brake. He often allowed the neighborhood children to ride down his driveway in the backyard.

Today "Cedar Cliff" is owned by Catherine "Kay" Clark Burns. The house has a high pyramidal hipped roof, projecting polygonal side bay on the left, garage with jerkin-head gable and dormer at the back of the house. The phrase "Cedar Cliff MDCCCXCV" was written in a small stained glass window on the south façade but was removed when the windows were replaced. The dining room fireplace depicts the three witches from Shakespeare's play Macbeth on the three iron plates.

Style: Shingle Style

Projecting polygonal side bay at left; garage in rear with jerkin-head gable and dormer.

Historic Name   
 Common Name   
 418    
 Block  Lot  Construction Year   
 Ownership  Site   
 Present Use   
 County Survey ID  National Reg. ID #   
 NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  Not Extant



Porte cochere to the right; porch has been enclosed and balustrade removed from polygonal bay.

Historic Name

Common Name

388

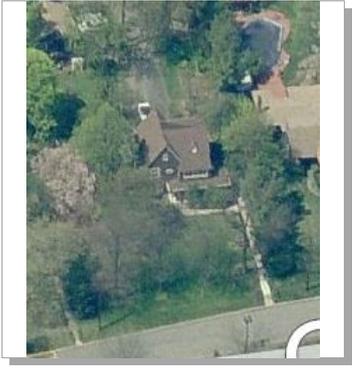
Block  Lot  Construction Year

Ownership  Site

Present Use

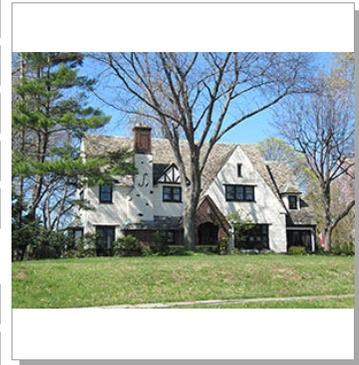
County Survey ID  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  Not Extant



Style: Shingle Style  
 Pedimented porch entrance framed by two polygonal bays.

Historic Name					
Common Name	Cooper-Newburg				
380	Cliff Road			Sewaren	
Block	747	Lot	4	Construction Year	1900-1910 c.
Ownership	Private			Site	Original Site
Present Use	Private Residence				
County Survey ID	24-89	National Reg. ID #			
NJ HPO ID #		On Master Plan	N	Not Extant	



Built in 1911, the Cooper-Neuberg home is an example of early 20th century period revival architecture. Located at 380 Cliff Road, this three story English Tudor Revival style house features a diamond-paned leaded sash, paired and group windows, and French doors and bays. The chimney is a dominant feature of the front façade.

Like many early Sewaren residents, the Coopers began as seasonal visitors. They grew to love the community and eventually moved to the area. An accomplished metal engraver, Mr. Cooper rose to the rank of vice president at a NY printing company. Mrs. Anna Cooper was active in Sewaren society and was a member and hostess of the Auction Bridge Club. Later, she became president of the Sewaren History Club and Sewaren Civic Association.

At one time, Mayor Louis Neuberg also lived in the Cliff Road home. As Republican Committeeman at large, he was Mayor from 1924-1925. According to Mrs. Kay Burns, Woodbridge Township saw many changes under his administration. Mayor Neuberg established two new Township committees: the Zoning and Water Committees. These committees grew and continue to play a role in the Township's government. He reorganized the police department and oversaw the construction of the Memorial Municipal Building which opened on June 14, 1924. Built, in part, as a memorial to honor the sacrifices made by the young men of Woodbridge during World War I, the building was a stately local landmark anchoring the intersection of Main Street and Rahway Avenue for over 70 years. It was replaced in 1996 by the current Town Hall. Sewaren also saw changes during Mayor Neuberg's administration. He was in favor of bringing industry into Sewaren and is partly responsible for the oil refineries on the waterfront.

In 1925, a fire damaged the house while Mayor Neuberg was in residence. It was rebuilt a year later and today it remains a private residence.

Style: Suburban Tudor

Historic Name   
 Common Name   
 368  Cliff Road  Sewaren   
 Block  747  Lot  3  Construction Year  1890 c.   
 Ownership  Private  Site  Original Site   
 Present Use  Private Residence   
 County Survey ID  24-90  National Reg. ID #   
 NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  N  Not Extant



Style: Shingle Style  
 Pedimented with ellipical arch in it, porch.

Historic Name					
Common Name					
360	Cliff Road			Sewaren	
Block	747	Lot	2.01, 1.01,	Construction Year	1880-1890 c.
Ownership	Private		Site Original Site		
Present Use	Private Residence				
County Survey ID	24-91	National Reg. ID #			
NJ HPO ID #		On Master Plan	N	Not Extant	



The Grant-Tombs House was built in 1886 at 360 Cliff Road. Called Stratsphy Hall by its owners, and affectionately called the “Big White House,” it is the largest house on Cliff Road. This Free Classic Queen Anne/Shingle style home has an irregular, gabled and hipped roof. The steeply pitched roof also features a massive center gable and tall chimneys. It was first owned by Frederick Firman Grant and his wife Helen Glidden Grant. A native New Yorker, Mr. Grant made his career with the First National Bank of New York. He led a varied social life both in New York and Sewaren and was a member of many organizations. Mr. Grant also served as a warden of St. John’s Episcopal Church. Helen Glidden Grant, also a native of New York, led an active social life with the Sewaren Land and Water Club. Mrs. Grant founded the Sewaren History Club and co-founded the Sewaren Civic Association which is responsible for the formation of the Sewaren Public Library and Sewaren Memorial Park.

Upon Mr. Grant’s death in Sewaren, Helen married her chauffeur, William H. Tombs of Rahway. At the time, the marriage was considered scandalous as she was in her sixties and he was in his twenties. While they were living on Cliff Road, the Tombs hosted the Sewaren History Club’s annual Christmas party and other cultural events. Mr. Tombs, an inventor, operated the William H. Tombs Lamp and Shade Studio on Ferry Street. Upon his death, the business continued. The Tombs’ home and studio were purchased by Associated Restaurant Supply Company in the 1990s and the house was converted into a five-family dwelling. Unfortunately, during the early morning hours of March 9, 2005, the “Big White House” caught fire. After the tragedy, it was rebuilt by Frank Nedza, recapturing its original splendor. Today, the house is a multi-family home and is located on the corner of Cliff Road and Ferry Street overlooking the water.

Style: Queen Anne/Shingle Style

Steep central gable, round tower with missing roof, round corner porch.

Historic Name

Common Name

24  Holton Street  Sewaren

Block  747  Lot  11  Construction Year  1890 c.

Ownership  Private  Site  Original Site

Present Use  Private Residence

County Survey ID  24-92  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  N  Not Extant



Style: Shingle Style/Colonial Revival  
 Bell cas gambrel roof, rectangle dormer with matching outbuilding.

Historic Name

Common Name

425  West Avenue  Sewaren

Block  719  Lot  12  Construction Year

Ownership  Private  Site  Original Site

Present Use  Private Residence

County Survey ID  24-93  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  N  Not Extant



Shed roof porch with turned columns, plain balustrade.

Historic Name   
 Common Name   
 433  West Avenue  Sewaren   
 Block  719  Lot  11  Construction Year   
 Ownership  Private  Site  Original Site   
 Present Use  Private Residence   
 County Survey ID  24-94  National Reg. ID #   
 NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  N  Not Extant



Historic Name					
Common Name					
437	West Avenue			Sewaren	
Block	719	Lot	11.03	Construction Year	
Ownership	Private			Site	Original Site
Present Use	Private Residence				
County Survey ID	24-95	National Reg. ID #			
NJ HPO ID #		On Master Plan	N	Not Extant	



Porched turned columns.

Historic Name

Common Name

466  West Avenue  Sewaren

Block  718.02  Lot  181  Construction Year  1875-1899 c.

Ownership  Private  Site  Original Site

Present Use  Private Residence

County Survey ID  24-96  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  N  Not Extant



Style: Vernacular  
 Porch on square columns, triple window in the gable.

Historic Name

Common Name

462  West Avenue  Sewaren

Block  718.02  Lot  182  Construction Year  1875-1899 c.

Ownership  Private  Site  Original Site

Present Use  Private Residence

County Survey ID  24-97  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  N  Not Extant



Style: Vernacular

Historic Name

Common Name

458  West Avenue  Sewaren

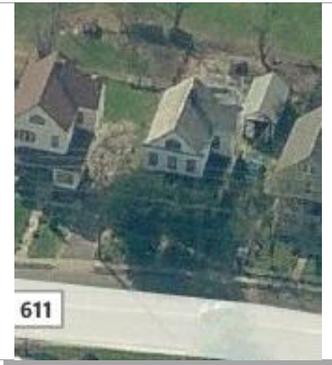
Block  718.02  Lot  183  Construction Year  1875-1899 c.

Ownership  Private  Site  Original Site

Present Use  Private Residence

County Survey ID  24-98  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  N  Not Extant



Palladianesque window in the gable.

Historic Name

Common Name

454  West Avenue  Sewaren

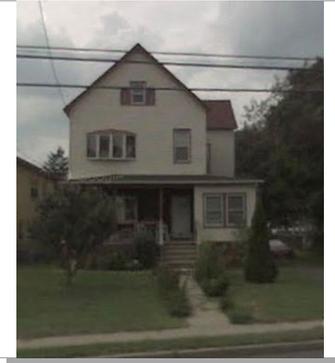
Block  718.02  Lot  184  Construction Year  1875-1899 c.

Ownership  Private  Site  Original Site

Present Use  Private Residence

County Survey ID  24-99  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  N  Not Extant



Badly altered; palladianesque window in the gable.

Historic Name

Common Name

520  West Avenue  Sewaren

Block  712  Lot  3  Construction Year  1825-1874 c.

Ownership  Private  Site  Original Site

Present Use  Private Residence

County Survey ID  24-100  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  N  Not Extant



Style: Vernacular

3-bay rectangle with rectangular projection to the left.

Historic Name

Common Name

530  West Avenue  Sewaren

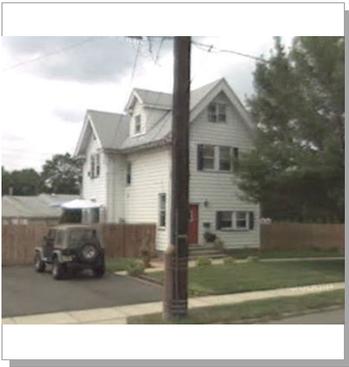
Block  712  Lot  4.01  Construction Year  1875-1899 c.

Ownership  Private  Site  Original Site

Present Use  Private Residence

County Survey ID  24-101  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  N  Not Extant



Hip-roofed porch (removed) with elliptical arch set on squat, truned columns.

Historic Name	Marsh-Smith House		
Common Name			
538	West Avenue	Sewaren	
Block	712	Lot	5.01
Construction Year	1700-1799 c.		
Ownership	Private	Site	Moved
Present Use	Private Residence		
County Survey ID	24-102	National Reg. ID #	
NJ HPO ID #		On Master Plan	Y
Not Extant			



Small gabled entrance porch.

Reputedly used as Governor Philip Carteret's headquarters.

Moved from original site in Port Reading.

Historic Name	Free Public Library of Woodbridge				
Common Name					
546	West Avenue			Sewaren	
Block	712	Lot	6.01	Construction Year	1900-1910 c.
Ownership	Public			Site	Original Site
Present Use	Library				
County Survey ID	24-103	National Reg. ID #			
NJ HPO ID #		On Master Plan	Y	Not Extant	



The cornerstone of the building at 546 West Avenue, Sewaren, was laid at 6 a.m. on April 27, 1920 to begin the construction of a new church for the local Christian Science congregation. Today, the gracious colonial revival style structure, with a pedimented porch supported by Ionic columns, houses the Sewaren Free Public Library. The double entry door features a unique 7 over 7, 14 light transom, making it a recognizable landmark along West Avenue.

The first Christian Science services were held in Sewaren, New Jersey in early 1910 in the homes of local adherents. By December 1910, the membership voted unanimously to organize the Christian Science Society of Sewaren, New Jersey.

In 1920 a building committee was established to acquire land on which the Society could build a church. The building was completed and dedicated on June 5, 1921. The total cost of construction including furnishings was \$11,000. On December 13, 1929 the Society officially changed its name to the First Church of Christ Scientist, Sewaren, New Jersey.

At its inception, the Sewaren Free Public Library was located on Woodbridge Avenue near Meade Street in the original building of Sewaren Improvement Office which had previously been an insurance office. Initially the library was sponsored by the Sewaren History Club. Mrs. Blanche Balfour and the Sewaren Civic Association were also instrumental in its creation. The library began by requesting donations of magazines and books. Sewaren Free Public Library officially opened in December 1913 with approximately 417 volumes in its collection.

Forty years after its construction, the First Church of Christ Scientist sold its building at 546 West Avenue to the Sewaren Free Public Library on May 16, 1960. The library remains at this location to this day. The old library building on Woodbridge Avenue remained abandoned until 1969 when the Township demolished the neglected structure.

In 1964, Woodbridge Township sought to unite the libraries within a municipal system and on December 29, 1964 the Sewaren Free Public Library joined the Woodbridge Township's municipal library system. The Sewaren Free Public Library became a branch library of the Free Public Library of Woodbridge.

When funding for the library was eliminated in 1994, the library's arrangement with the township system ended. Concerned that their main information resource center would be closed forever, the residents of Sewaren took matters into their own hands and formed a small organization that supported the library. Despite a lack of finances, the Sewaren Library Board announced that it would issue library cards and staff the library modestly. Eventually the library reopened as an independent library separate from the Woodbridge Township library system. Today, the Sewaren Free Public Library continues to operate as an independent facility serving the residents of Sewaren.

County Survey:  
 Style: Colonial Revival  
 Ionic-columned pedimented porch.

Historic Name

Common Name

West Avenue  Sewaren

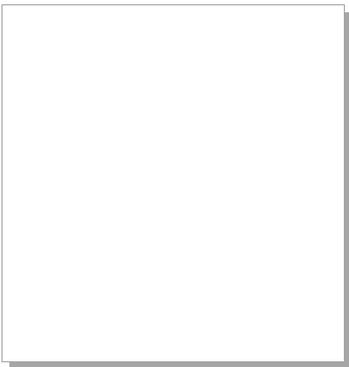
Block  Lot  Construction Year

Ownership  Site

Present Use

County Survey ID  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  Not Extant



Style: Shingle Style Influence  
 Arched porch.

Historic Name

Common Name

550  West Avenue  Sewaren

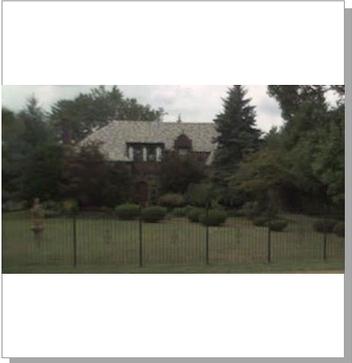
Block  699.01  Lot  1  Construction Year  1930 c.

Ownership  Private  Site  Original Site

Present Use  Private Residence

County Survey ID  24-105  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  N  Not Extant



Style: Tudor Revival  
 4-bay rectangle with round tower to the right and small wing to the left.

Historic Name

Common Name

560  West Avenue  Sewaren

Block  699.01  Lot  2  Construction Year  1890 c.

Ownership  Private  Site  Original Site

Present Use  Private Residence

County Survey ID  24-106  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  N  Not Extant



Style: Shingle Style/Queen Anne Influence  
 Entrance porch on turned columns; original doors with mulpaned lights around perimeter.

Historic Name

Common Name

441  West Avenue  Sewaren

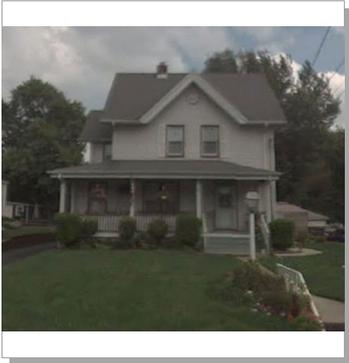
Block  719  Lot  1  Construction Year  1875-1899 c.

Ownership  Private  Site  Original Site

Present Use  Private Residence

County Survey ID  24-107  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  N  Not Extant



Style: Vernacular

Oculus in gable, tile roof, plain cornice and frieze connecting the pair of windows on second floor.

Historic Name

Common Name

443  West Avenue  Sewaren

Block  719  Lot  2  Construction Year  1875-1899 c.

Ownership  Private  Site  Original Site

Present Use  Private Residence

County Survey ID  24-108  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  N  Not Extant



Style: Vernacular  
 Pedimented center wind.

Historic Name					
Common Name					
449	West Avenue		Sewaren		
Block	719	Lot	3	Construction Year	1875-1899 c.
Ownership	Private		Site	Original Site	
Present Use	Private Residence				
County Survey ID	24-109	National Reg. ID #			
NJ HPO ID #		On Master Plan	N	Not Extant	



Style: Vernacular  
 Steeply-gabled porch echos main center gable.

Historic Name

Common Name

457  West Avenue  Sewaren

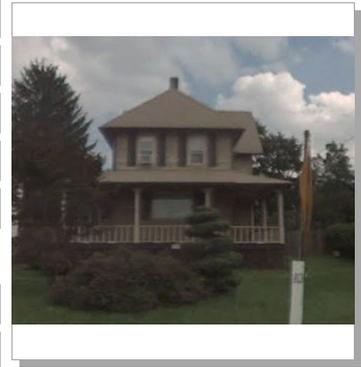
Block  719  Lot  4  Construction Year  1875-1899 c.

Ownership  Private  Site  Original Site

Present Use  Private Residence

County Survey ID  24-110  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  N  Not Extant



Style: Vernacular  
 Shingle gables on the sides remain.

Historic Name

Common Name

467  West Avenue  Sewaren

Block  719  Lot  5.02  Construction Year  1890-1900 c.

Ownership  Private  Site  Original Site

Present Use  Private Residence

County Survey ID  24-111  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  N  Not Extant



Style: Some Bungalow and Shingle Style Influence  
 Central polygonal dormer with projecting gable.

Historic Name

Common Name

469  West Avenue  Sewaren

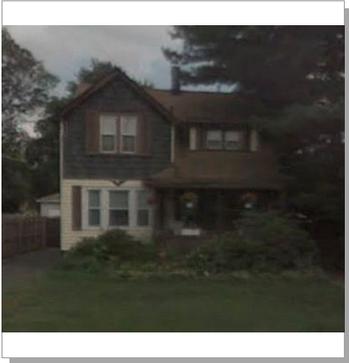
Block  719  Lot  6.01  Construction Year  1875-1899 c.

Ownership  Private  Site  Original Site

Present Use  Private Residence

County Survey ID  24-112  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  N  Not Extant



Shed dormer; porch totally modernized with wrought iron.

Historic Name

Common Name

475  West Avenue  Sewaren

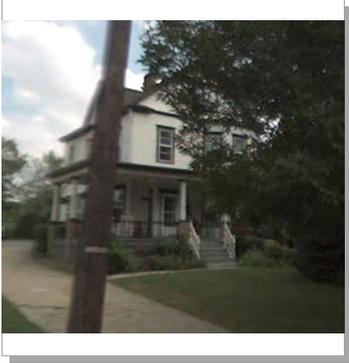
Block  719  Lot  7  Construction Year  1890-1900 c.

Ownership  Private  Site  Original Site

Present Use  Private Residence

County Survey ID  24-113  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  N  Not Extant



Style: Vernacular  
 Polygonal projecting bay; Ionic porch columns.

Historic Name			
Common Name	Boynton House		
483	West Avenue	Sewaren	
Block	719	Lot	8
Construction Year	1890 c.		
Ownership	Private	Site	Original Site
Present Use	Private Residence		
County Survey ID	24-114	National Reg. ID #	
NJ HPO ID #		On Master Plan	N
		Not Extant	



Located at 483 West Avenue, this eclectic Colonial Revival house was built in 1895. The home is sided and has a front gable with an attic Palladian window recessed into a horseshoe arched opening. It also has a wraparound porch with Tuscan columns and a porte-cochere supported by modern brick columns.

This house was the home of Gorham L. Boynton, one of the nine children of Cassimer Whitman Boynton, one of the developers of Sewaren. Gorham was a prominent resident of Sewaren and head of the Boynton Lumber Company, located on State Street where Shell Oil is now situated. Mr. Gorham Boynton was very active in the Sewaren community holding memberships in the Woodbridge Memorial Municipal Building Celebration Committee, Rotary Club of Woodbridge, New Jersey Lumberman's Association, Sons of the American Revolution, and the Society of the Cincinnati, the oldest Revolutionary War historical association in the United States. Gorham was also an honorary member of the Woodbridge Fire Department, president of the Middlesex County Building Material Dealers' Association, chairman of the board of directors of Material Men's Credit Association, and ex-commodore of the Sewaren Land and Water Club.

Gorham died in his home on July 4, 1924 while he and his wife were preparing to attend the Sewaren Land and Water Club Fourth of July dance. He was fifty-three years old. Today the Boynton house remains a private residence.

Style: Eclectic/Colonial Revival elements

Horseshoe arch with Palladian window; porte-cochere supported on modern brick columns.

Historic Name

Common Name

491  West Avenue  Sewaren

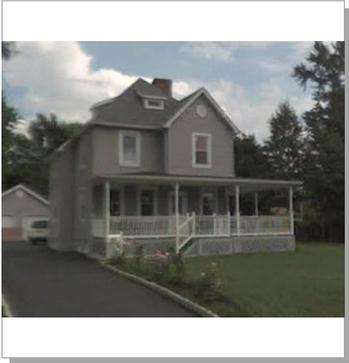
Block  719  Lot  9  Construction Year  1890 c.

Ownership  Private  Site  Original Site

Present Use  Private Residence

County Survey ID  24-115  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  N  Not Extant



Style: Vernacular Colonial Revival  
 Lunette window in gable, projecting bay to the right.

Historic Name

Common Name

499  West Avenue  Sewaren

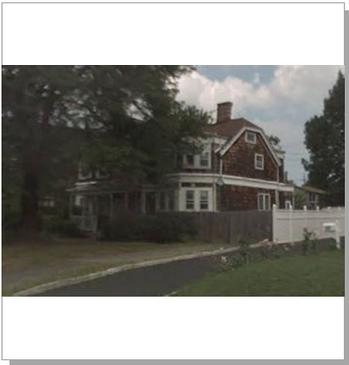
Block  719  Lot  10.01  Construction Year  1880-1890 c.

Ownership  Private  Site  Original Site

Present Use  Private Residence

County Survey ID  24-116  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  N  Not Extant



Style: Queen Anne and Neo-Classical elements nearly obscured by alterations  
 Central gable flanked by polygonal side bays; Queen Anne type perimeter-paned glass windows; jerkin head gables; neoclassical frieze.

Historic Name					
Common Name					
470	West Avenue			Sewaren	
Block	718.02	Lot	180	Construction Year	1876-1899 c.
Ownership	Private			Site	Original Site
Present Use	Private Residence				
County Survey ID	24-117	National Reg. ID #			
NJ HPO ID #		On Master Plan	N	Not Extant	



Style: Vernacular  
 Ionic porch columns, original double doors, 6-paneled and middle two are glass.

Historic Name

Common Name

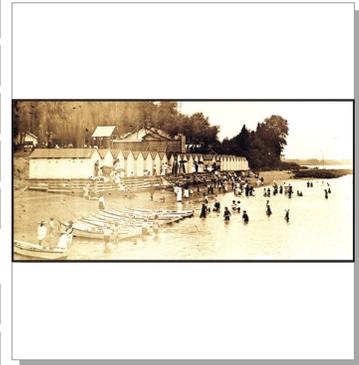
Block  Lot  Construction Year

Ownership  Site

Present Use

County Survey ID  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  Not Extant



First identified as Pierce’s Landing and occasionally Woodbridge Beach, the stretch of sand on the Arthur Kill in Sewaren was best known as Boynton Beach after one of its founders, Cassimer Whitman Boynton. A local manufacturer and activist, Boynton purchased a large tract of waterfront land on the Arthur Kill with the intention of turning the property into a beach resort.

In 1877, the Boynton Beach resort opened, featuring a bathing beach with bath houses, picnic grove, pony rides, hot air balloons, shooting gallery, nickelodeon, bowling alley, skee ball, frequent fireworks displays and amusement rides including a Ferris wheel, merry-go-round, small rollercoaster, and a bamboo slide. Boynton Beach had a fleet of one hundred row boats and many visitors used the boats to fish, relax, or take advantage of excursions the resort offered.

There was also a dance pavilion called Pierce’s Point which hosted a live orchestra band every Saturday evening. Mr. Boynton staffed the resort’s restaurant with New York City chefs. In addition to the restaurant, there were also snack shops, ice cream shops, hot dog and soda stands. One item missing at Boynton Beach was alcohol. Boynton himself was an ardent teetotaler and based his resort on temperance principles. Subsequently, Boynton Beach was thought as a wholesome, family oriented vacation spot. It was also popular for Sunday school excursions, society conventions, and private parties. Boynton boosted his resort’s popularity by arranging steamboat travel from Bayonne and Elizabethport. Trolleys also made Boynton Beach extremely accessible.

One of the most popular days to visit Boynton Beach was “Salt Water Day.” This day has its origins in local Native American customs. Once a year, Native Americans came to the coast to bathe in the Kill and eat oysters. Usually held in August, Salt Water Days highlighted the summer season and celebrated the original customs by inviting visitors to swim and eat various local shellfish.

The Boynton Beach resort was not the only aspect of the area that drew crowds into Sewaren. Around the same time, Henry Acker opened Acker’s Grove, Boat House and Dock near Boynton Beach. Acker’s Grove and Dock was a popular boating, fishing, and picnic spot for both locals and visitors alike; many Sunday schools held their summer picnics there. Mr. Acker also owned a canning factory in the area which hired local women to process and can locally-grown tomatoes.

Incorporated in 1892, The Sewaren Land and Water Club provided social events for permanent residents. Some of the events included regattas, golf games, card games, banquets, casual parties, and formal balls. In addition, the Land and Water Club held yachting competitions at the Sewaren Motor Boat Club on Smiths Creek.

Boynton Beach became less frequented as a result of easier access to beach areas further south. By 1914, the resort completely shut down. Three years later, a fire destroyed the restaurant and dance pavilion. In 1927, the resort was sold to Shell Oil Company. Acker's Grove, Boathouse, and Dock continued to operate after Boynton Beach closed but eventually closed and was sold to Royal Petroleum Company in 1924. Even after the refineries were established, people continued to visit parts of the beach that were still public property.

By the 1940s, pollution from the industries made the beach hazardous for swimming. Over the years, medical debris added to the waste in the Arthur Kill. Despite the pollution, many Sewaren residents living on the waterfront renovated their homes to maintain their original splendor. In addition, residents fought the industries to keep pollution in check. In the early 1990s, New York compensated Woodbridge Township as a penalty for the garbage and pollution in the Arthur Kill. With this money, docks and boat landings were renovated. Today, there is a walking path, marina and the Alvin P. Williams Park overlooking the Kill.

#### County Survey:

The Boynton Beach District includes two non-contiguous areas. The first and principal area is Cliff Road between Woodbridge Avenue and Holton Street, overlooking the Arthur Kill. This area contains a church and 18 houses. A secondary area is West Avenue between Arbor and Brewster Streets, which includes 36 houses and a former church now used as a public library. The separation of the two areas is caused by later or marginal development which occurs between them. With two exceptions, the houses are frame, many of them shingled. Those on Cliff Road and the northern end of West Avenue are substantial, suburban dwellings of the type often associated with shore resorts. The houses at the southern end of West Avenue are smaller, middle-class dwellings. Aside from the fact that the shorefront area is now industrial, there are no intrusions.

At the turn-of-the-century, Boynton Beach was one of the most popular resorts along the Middlesex County coast. An issue of the Central Monthly, c.1900, a promotional publication of the Jersey Central Railroad, is titled, "Boynton Beach, N.J., An Ideal Day Summer Resort," and depicts vacationers arriving by train, trolley, bicycle, and ferry. According to Ludewig, "The Jersey Central Railroad accommodated excursion parties from New York City and before the time of the railroad large ferry boats docked at the landing unloading crowds of folks who had come to spend the day bathing, fishing or just relaxing under the trees on an all day's picnic spree." The same book reproduces a drawing, again c.1900, which depicts all of the houses along Cliff Road. Another illustration pictures the Sewaren House Hotel, built in 1887, now the site of the Shell Oil Refineries. Picnic groves, bath houses, a jetty, dance pavilion, a gently sloping beach and more than 100 rowboats for hire made Boynton Beach popular for decades. All of these facilities have vanished.

The houses along Cliff Road occupied the most fashionable location, and most are built in some variation or modification of the Shingle Style, with eclectic Queen Anne and Colonial Revival elements evident as well. The houses at the northern end of West Avenue are similar but less grandiose, while the houses at the opposite end of that street are modest, working-class dwellings with few high style features.

Although actual intrusions are few, the resort feeling of Boynton Beach has been destroyed by industrialization and pollution. Many of the houses along Cliff Road are poorly maintained and some have lost architectural integrity, largely because of superficial changes. Nevertheless, the district is the only remaining evidence of the once-thriving resort industry along Middlesex coast, and has the largest collection of Shingle Style architecture in the county.

A proposal made some time ago by the Municipal Planning and Development Commission would rehabilitate the area by creation of a marina, beach, and other recreational facilities.

Historic Name	The Bridesmaid House		
Common Name			
345	New Dover Road	Colonia	
Block	469	Lot	3
Construction Year	1912 c.		
Ownership	Private		Site
Present Use	Private Residence		
County Survey ID	24-119	National Reg. ID #	
NJ HPO ID #		On Master Plan	N
Not Extant			



The Hedges Home, more commonly referred to as the Bridesmaid House, stands at the corner of Colonia Boulevard and Kent—now New Dover—Road. The Cones invited many of their friends and society acquaintances into the neighborhood, as is exemplified here. This house was constructed by a bridesmaid of Helen Cone sometime in 1912, as a part of the early “Colony” that Helen’s husband, Ed Cone, had developed. A nearby home, the Hull house, was built around the same time by another of Mrs. Cone’s bridesmaids. This is the white stucco house with French influences located at 550 New Dover Road. By encouraging their friends to build in Colonia and become a part of the Colony, the Cones were able to effectively select the inhabitants of the community and influence the atmosphere around which it grew.

Historic Name

Common Name

402  New Dover Road  Colonia

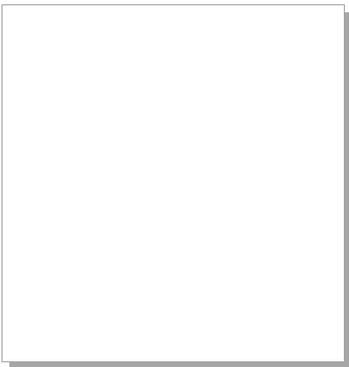
Block  476  Lot  1  Construction Year

Ownership  Private  Site

Present Use  Private Residence

County Survey ID  24-120  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  N  Not Extant



Across from Dorset Road... 1 lot to the west

Historic Name	Pattison House		
Common Name	House of Four Winds		
1	Devon Road	Colonia	
Block	452	Lot	6.01
Construction Year			
Ownership	Private	Site	
Present Use	Private Residence		
County Survey ID	24-122	National Reg. ID #	
NJ HPO ID #		On Master Plan	N
Not Extant			



The first house to be built on the land developed by the Cones known as “The Colony,” the House of Four Winds was purchased by Frank and Mary Pattison. It is the Pattisons, and Mary in particular, who contribute most of the historical significance that is associated with this house. Mary Pattison was born in Brooklyn in 1869 to Diantha Fitch and George William Hart, and spent her childhood in New Brunswick and then Metuchen before marrying Frank Pattison in 1893. Frank, who studied electrical engineering at Rutgers University, was originally from New York City, and the couple spent a short while there while Frank worked alongside his brother Charles as a Consulting Engineer. In 1908, two years after the birth of their second child, the family moved again, this time to Colonia.

Both Frank and Mary Pattison were supporters of the Progressive Party—an early twentieth century movement dedicated to humanitarian causes, women’s rights among them. Mary served on its committee in 1912, and became involved in various other organizations dedicated to women’s suffrage throughout her lifetime. She was the president of the New Jersey Federation of Women’s Clubs, and in June of 1910 opened a State Housekeeping Experiment Station in the building next door to her home, called the “Maisonette,” which still stands beside the main house. The purpose of the experiment station was to alleviate the many and various domestic burdens traditionally encountered by women during that time. To counter the strain of endless housework the women tested different sources of energy, such as electric motors, to power some household appliances. Mary believed that the same principles behind the management of work through the progression of science that existed in the world of industry could be applied to the realm which the traditional woman at that time inhabited. To compensate for the increased workload women faced due to the decline of servants, who had begun to seek other professions, and the higher cost of living, a main objective of the experiment station was to discover the best method of performing a task in the shortest amount of time, and with the least amount of labor required.

In 1949 Mary Pattison wrote a book on Colonia, the earliest written history of the town, entitled Colonia Yesterday.

Historic Name	Devonshire		
Common Name			
2	Devon Road	Colonia	
Block	450	Lot	1.01
Construction Year	1920 c.		
Ownership	Private		Site
Present Use	Private Residence		
County Survey ID	24-122A	National Reg. ID #	
NJ HPO ID #		On Master Plan	Y
		Not Extant	



Number 2 Devon Road is the address of Devonshire, a house built during the first World War, in 1917. The first owners were a couple originally from Rahway, Will and Eva Rollinson, who were looking to build a house in their hometown. They were persuaded, however, by Ed Cone to choose for their new home a location in Colonia instead. They moved into the residence in the summer of 1918, and held a house warming party, during which the name “Devonshire”—literally, a farm on Devon—was selected by way of a contest amongst the guests.

The Rollinsons were well received in the community, and Devonshire became host to annual New Year’s Eve dances for members of the Colony. Will, who was born in New York City, moved to Rahway when his grandfather became the minister of its First Baptist Church. Eva was born in Rahway, and could trace her family there dating back to 1630. The couple moved to Devonshire with their three children, a daughter and two sons, as well as a farmer and his wife who lived in a little house on the farm. They brought with them horses, cows, pigs, chickens, and other livestock, and even had their own automobile and chauffeur.

The Rollinsons eventually gave up farming, however, after a series of events that began when their barn was caught in a terrible fire. The animals inside were saved, but the barn itself burned to the ground. After this, in 1923, Colonia was zoned against farm animals. These restrictions, coupled with the fact that their children had all married and moved away, lessening the need for produce, led to the couple’s decision to retire from their life of farming and focus on the more social activities of the community.

Devonshire remains standing today, attractively nestled among the trees on Devon Road, an elegant reminder of Colonia’s past.

Style: Colonial Revival

Historic Name

Common Name

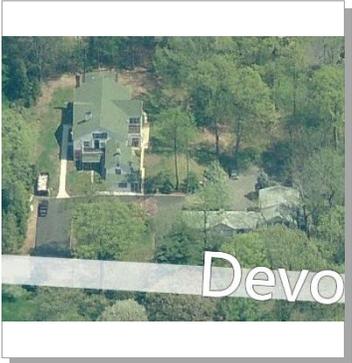
Block  Lot  Construction Year

Ownership  Site

Present Use

County Survey ID  National Reg. ID #

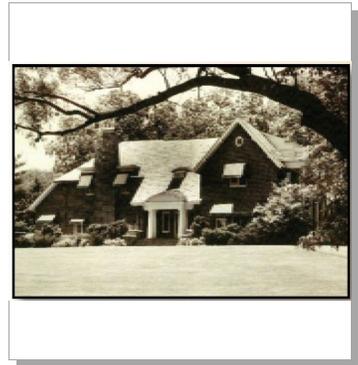
NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  Not Extant



Historic Name   
 Common Name   
 55    
 Block  Lot  Construction Year   
 Ownership  Site   
 Present Use   
 County Survey ID  National Reg. ID #   
 NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  Not Extant



Historic Name	Babbling Brook		
Common Name			
335	New Dover Road	Colonia	
Block	453.01	Lot	1
Construction Year	1920 c.		
Ownership	Private		Site
Present Use	Private Residence		
County Survey ID	24-125	National Reg. ID #	
NJ HPO ID #		On Master Plan	Y
		Not Extant	



Babbling Brook is the name of the picturesque property at 335 New Dover Road. Built as a part of Colonia's Colony in 1925 for Lyle Burrows Reeb, the red brick home stands on over three acres of land that borders the golf course. Following the Reeb's, the house was occupied by the Carims family, and since the early 1960s, by the Zirpolo family. Walter Zirpolo, the father of the current owner, was mayor of Woodbridge from 1962 until 1967. The name Babbling Brook reflects the charm and beauty of the house, which includes a brook, two ponds, a greenhouse, wild garden, and even a waterfall and fishpond. Today it is known for its wonderful gardens, and is a part of the Garden Conservancy program. One day a year the gardens are opened to allow guests inside to explore, attracting enthusiasts regardless of the season. The charming beauty of this house and its lovely gardens exemplify the kind of atmosphere that originally enticed prospective residents to The Colony.

Style: Tudor/Colonial Revival

Historic Name	Cone House		
Common Name	The Trees		
374	New Dover Road	Colonia	
Block	472	Lot	56
Construction Year	1700-1799 c.		
Ownership	Private	Site	Original Site
Present Use	Private Residence		
County Survey ID	24-126	National Reg. ID #	
NJ HPO ID #		On Master Plan	N
Not Extant			



Still standing at 374 New Dover Road, “The Trees” was the name given to this house, which dates back to pre-Revolutionary times, and is rumored to have been the target of a British raid for supplies. Much smaller at the time it was originally built, it was expanded to twice its size by an early owner—a man named James Hora who was in possession of considerable wealth, as well as eight children. The house was then owned by a gentleman by the name of H. S. Moore, and eventually passed into the hands of the Cone family.

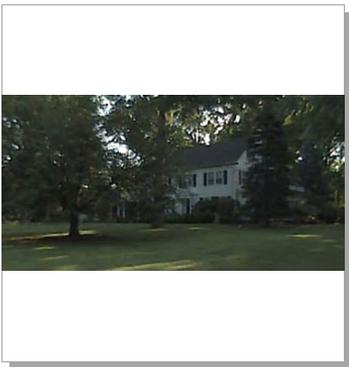
The Cones left their New York City brownstone and came to Colonia in search of a place that would allow them the luxury of the quieter countryside while still remaining close to the city and its society. They found what they were looking for, and in 1890 purchased the sixty-five acre property known as The Trees. The family consisted of Edward G. Cone, who had retired from business in New York, his wife, an ailing woman who died a short while later in 1894, and their four children: Kate, Elizabeth, Grace, and Edward.

The Cone family had a large amount of influence in the development of the community, but perhaps the most important detail that is attributed to them is their involvement in changing the name of the area to Colonia. Formerly called “Houghtenville” after another resident—a farmer named Mr. Houghten—the Cones decided that the name was ill-suited to the community. The middle daughter, Elizabeth, went so far as to liken the sound of it to that of hungry dogs. The current name of Colonia was then selected from a map and, as it was considered more pleasing to the idea of the community that the Cones envisioned, they worked to persuade the Pennsylvania Railroad Company—whose station in the town officially carried the name of Houtenville—to accept the change as well.

It was in this house that the Cone family was introduced to Colonia, the first step that would lead to The Colony’s future, and an important part of the community’s history as a whole.

Style: Vernacular and Vernacular Greek Revival features  
 Greek Revival door; fluted Ionic porch columns.

Historic Name	Wilkerson House				
Common Name					
1	Woods Lane			Colonia	
Block	455.02	Lot	1	Construction Year	1700-1799 c.
Ownership	Private			Site	Original Site
Present Use	Private Residence				
County Survey ID	24-127	National Reg. ID #			
NJ HPO ID #		On Master Plan	Y	Not Extant	



Style: Vernacular

Historic Name

Common Name

425

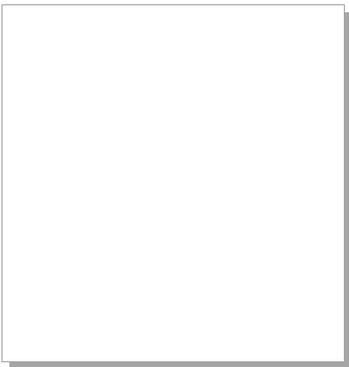
Block  Lot  Construction Year

Ownership  Site

Present Use

County Survey ID  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  Not Extant



Steep Gothic center gable; modern entrance vestibule.

Historic Name	Dr. Jacques House		
Common Name	Colonia Inn		
477	Colonia Boulevard	Colonia	
Block	468.15	Lot	2
Construction Year	1700-1799 c.		
Ownership	Private	Site	Original Site
Present Use	Private Residence		
County Survey ID	24-129	National Reg. ID #	
NJ HPO ID #		On Master Plan	N
Not Extant			



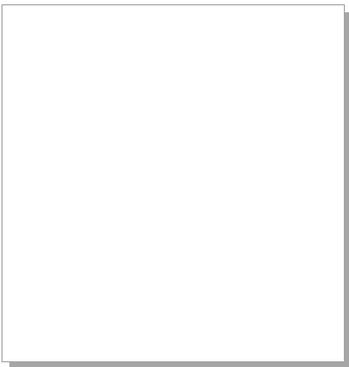
The house at 477 Colonia Boulevard has gone through several transformations, including that from private residence to public roadhouse and back again. The original part of the house—which appears as an addition towards the side and back—is believed to have been built in 1774, with the first addition in 1906.

Former residents of the home include Laura Jean Libby and her father, Dr. Libby. Laura Jean was the author of serial love stories that ran in the New York Ledger and other local papers, with such titles as “When His Love Grew Cold,” and “Lovers Once but Strangers Now.” Born in 1862, she is believed to have begun writing sometime between the ages of fourteen and twenty, and moved to New York City to continue her career, which spanned three decades and resulted in over 80 published novels. The house was turned into a roadhouse called the Colonia Inn by a later owner, and acquired local popularity for its chicken dinners. After being restored to a personal residence, the house was modified several times, at one point having as many as nineteen rooms. Today it remains a private home.

County Survey:

Crosseted window frames; gabled entrance porch and paneled double doors.

Historic Name	James Moore House		
Common Name			
50	Prospect Street Lane	Colonia	
Block		Lot	
		Construction Year	1740 c.
Ownership	Private	Site	Original Site
Present Use	Private Residence		
County Survey ID	24-130	National Reg. ID #	
NJ HPO ID #		On Master Plan	N
		Not Extant	



Style: Dutch Vernacular

This house, though altered throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, is a good example of the Dutch-influenced vernacular style which is uncommon in this area. It merits more careful study.

Historic Name	Peacott House		
Common Name	St. Gertrude Cemetery House		
53	Inman Avenue	Colonia	
Block	464.01	Lot	1
Construction Year	1840-1850 c.		
Ownership	Private	Site	Original Site
Present Use	Private Residence		
County Survey ID	24-131	National Reg. ID #	
NJ HPO ID #		On Master Plan	N
Not Extant			

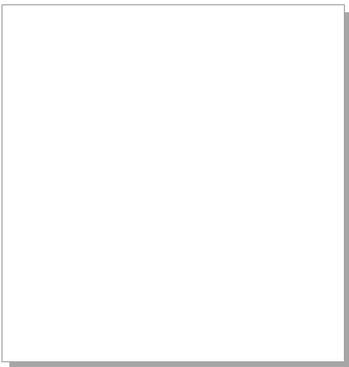


At the corner of Bramhall Road and Inman Avenue is the St. Gertrude Cemetery House, a lasting reminder of Colonia's early roots in agricultural life. Prior to the cemetery's creation in 1933, the house belonged to a tenant farmer by the name of Charles Terzella. Before Mr. Terzella's tenancy in 1876 it was occupied by a man named J.P. Smith Jr., but the name of the original owner and the date that the house was first constructed remain unknown.

The property itself was sold to the Diocese of Newark by a Gertrude McConnell of Jersey City. This is not the Gertrude, however, for which the cemetery is named. The name comes instead from a 13th century Benedictine nun known as "Gertrude the Great." The cemetery, which is now over 136 acres, was opened by Roman Catholic Bishop Thomas Joseph Walsh, who also oversaw the final construction of the Sacred Heart Cathedral in Newark. Catholicism was, in fact, one of the later religions to come to Colonia. The early settlers initially brought Presbyterianism with them in the 1660s, and the Quakers followed soon after in the late 1680s. Methodism arrived during the first half of the 19th century, with Judaism appearing in the beginning to mid 1900s. Although the first Catholic parish was established during 1814 in Trenton, the religion did not take hold in Colonia until 1913. At this time, Irish employees of Charles Freeman threatened to quit if he did not provide church services. Freeman contacted the Diocese headquarters in Trenton, and the first Mass in Colonia was held in a caretaker's cottage on his estate.

The Catholic population has grown over the years in correlation with the influx of European immigrants arriving in Colonia. Today, this former farmhouse is occupied by the offices of the St Gertrude's Cemetery.

Historic Name   
 Common Name   
 419    
 Block  Lot  Construction Year   
 Ownership  Site   
 Present Use   
 County Survey ID  National Reg. ID #   
 NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  Not Extant



Historic Name

Common Name

125  Westhill Road  Colonia

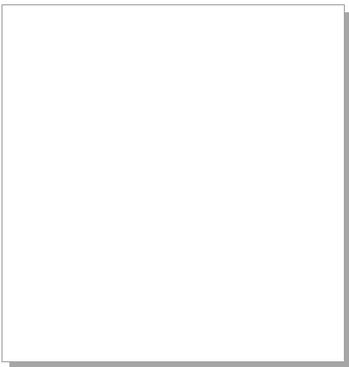
Block  Lot  Construction Year

Ownership  Private  Site

Present Use  Private Residence

County Survey ID  24-133  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  N  Not Extant



9-bay with curved corner tower.

Historic Name

Common Name

512  Chain O'Hills Road  Colonia

Block  421.02  Lot  25.02, 26  Construction Year  1700-1799 c.

Ownership  Private  Site

Present Use  Private Residence

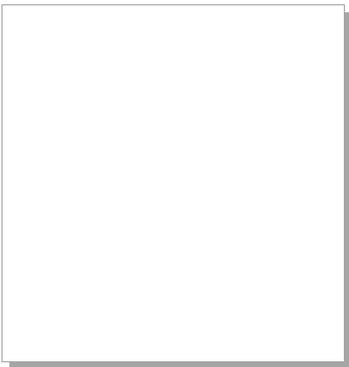
County Survey ID  24-134  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  N  Not Extant



Probable 18th century section.

Historic Name   
 Common Name   
 Green Street   
 Block  Lot  Construction Year   
 Ownership  Site   
 Present Use   
 County Survey ID  National Reg. ID #   
 NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  Not Extant



Style: Vernacularized Neoclassical

Historic Name

Common Name

891

Block  Lot  Construction Year

Ownership  Site

Present Use

County Survey ID  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  Not Extant



Curved entrance portico on doric columns.

Historic Name

Common Name

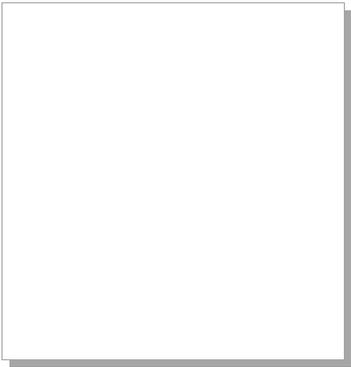
Block  Lot  Construction Year

Ownership  Site

Present Use

County Survey ID  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  Not Extant



Crowsmill and Smith Street

Style: Colonial Revival

Molded brick water table. Egg and anchor molded string course in terra cotta.

Historic Name	Bishop Grist & Sawmill / Library				
Common Name					
					Colonia
Block	422.01	Lot	1.01	Construction Year	
Ownership			Site		
Present Use					
County Survey ID			National Reg. ID #		
NJ HPO ID #			On Master Plan		
			Not Extant		



The original location of the mill is believed to have been behind the site of the first Colonia Library, and a grinding wheel from the late seventeenth century can still be seen on land by the corner of Chain O' Hills Road and New Dover Road. The mill belonged to John Bishop, Sr., and his son, John Bishop, Jr., who together held five hundred and forty seven acres of land, extending from the south branch of the Rahway River, now known as Succor Brook, and approaching the first Colonia Library. The Bishops came to Colonia from Newbury, Massachusetts in the spring of 1667, and are considered to be some of the town's first settlers.

John Bishop built the mill on the southern branch of the Rahway—then called Rahawak—River sometime in the early 1680s, and was admitted as a Freeholder of the township in 1682 due to its construction. It was the second grist mill to have been built in this area of the United States, the first being that which Jonathan Dunham of Woodbridge had erected in 1670. A landing was added to Bishop's mill in 1686 for the purpose of receiving boats and for the shipping out of goods, such as hay, grain, and meal, for sale.

Just in front of the mill site stands what is now the Merrill Park Baseball League Club House, formerly the original Colonia Library. The existence of this first library can be credited to a woman named Margaret Soule, whose husband, Dr. Robert Soule, was the head of orthopedic work at St. Elizabeth Hospital. Margaret is said to have gone around the neighborhood delivering books that she had selected to lend out. At first the books were kept in her own home, until the time came when space for them ran out, at which point they were moved to a hallway in the Colonia School, and from there to the Community Center. Margaret continued to deliver the books herself from each location, until Mary Pattison and her son, Maynicke, drew up a plan for a library, using the land on which four portable schoolrooms stood, and sent it to Dr. Albee for approval. The estimated cost for the building was \$5,000, but the final cost was \$25,000. The building was completed in three years, and opened on Mother's Day in 1939. Unfortunately, Margaret Soule did not live to see its completion, but remains the inspiration behind its construction.

Opposite the former library and grist mill is a small triangle, formed where two historical Indian trails cross—these trails are known now as the roads of New Dover and Chain O' Hills. A plan for a "scout rest" was thought up by Dr. Albee, which would involve a few historic stones from the old mill to be placed at the triangle, but ultimately the idea fell through.

The overlap of these sites is evidence of Colonia's ability to continuously evolve and build upon itself without losing sight of its past. The history of the community lingers today in the present incarnations of roads and buildings that mark older locations and allow us to revisit earlier times.

Historic Name	Colonia Country Club		
Common Name			
300	Colonia Blvd.	Colonia	
Block	457.01	Lot	1
Construction Year			
Ownership			Site
Present Use			
County Survey ID		National Reg. ID #	
NJ HPO ID #		On Master Plan	
		Not Extant	



Off of the Middlesex-Essex Turnpike, now known as Colonia Boulevard, stands the Colonia Country Club, an important landmark around which much of the early community was based. The club is over a hundred years old, and is the 13th oldest golf club in New Jersey.

When, in 1897, Edward G. Cone and Edward Savage became interested in golf, they gathered together a few others who also shared an appreciation for the pastime, and a year later purchased fifty acres of farmland from the Adamses. Twelve and a half acres of the fifty were designated for the golf course, the remaining thirty-eight acres having been deemed unsuitable due to their location south of the railroad. The course was designed by a famous Scottish architect named Thomas Benkelow. Over a thousand courses can be attributed to Benkelow, who designed more than any other architect in history, and in 1899 he laid out nine holes at Colonia. The course was expanded to eighteen holes in 1923 by Robert White, following the acquisition of fifty-three acres of land on the west side of New Dover Road.

Along with the original fifty acres of land purchased for the purpose of creating a golf course, the Adams' house, built in 1852, was also acquired and became the members' clubhouse. This residence was in use until 1966, at which time the clubhouse was moved to its present location. Between 2001 and 2002 it underwent renovations expanding its size to 20,000 square feet, during which the ceiling was raised and extended out, and an executive meeting room was installed.

The club was officially founded in 1898 by its first directors, including Edward Savage, Edward G. Cone, and Frank Pattison from Colonia. In 1901 the club applied for membership to the U.S. Golf Association. Some of the amenities that the club is in possession of today include a driving range, putting green, half-way house, and an Olympic sized swimming pool. It is still host to a variety of functions, and remains a focal point of the community.

Historic Name

Common Name

346

Block  Lot  Construction Year

Ownership  Site

Present Use

County Survey ID  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  Not Extant



Located on the corner of New Dover Road and Colonia Boulevard, the Dutch Colonial house known as Kinnekort (or Kennekort) was built by Edward K. Cone, the name having come from a surname on his mother's side of the family. Edward Cone was the fourth child and only son of the Cone family, who occupied the residence known as "The Trees." A respected member of the New York financial firm E.A. Pierce & Co., as well as the president of the Cotton Exchange, Cone was also a prominent figure in Colonia. He became the driving force behind the development of The Colony, first buying all the available land between Belair, the house owned by the Savage family, and Middlesex Avenue. From this he chose the location for Kinnekort, and in 1904 Cone brought his wife Helen, the daughter of Edward S. Savage of Belair, to live with him there.

Kinnekort served as more than just a family residence during this time. Every Sunday morning before church, Helen would gather the local children and hold Sunday School there. The Cones were known for their hospitality, frequently hosting dinners and other social events for the community. One such event was a carnival that was held in the garden, referred to as "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Originally for the benefit of a club in Rahway that burned down—the Ilderon Outing and Tennis Club—the event was moved to Kinnekort, and is said to have been attended by the entire Colony.

The Cones also employed a school teacher to privately instruct their three daughters. The young woman's name was Miss Edmunds, a trained kindergarten teacher who came each day from New York City. Soon other children from Colonia, as well as some from Rahway, came to attend the lessons, and Kinnekort became known as the first local school, eventually growing to such an extent that it had to be moved into the garage. From the children attending Kinnekort for school was formed the first Girl Scout troop in Colonia, with Miss Edmunds as the leader. They were called the Pine Cone Troop, and started a scout movement in the area, becoming Troop 1 of the Rahway Girl Scouts Council.

Kinnekort played a major part in laying the foundation for the community's strong sense of unity. The house itself was once an important social focal point of The Colony, and stands today as a tangible memory of that time, and of the family that so heavily influenced the shape of the neighborhood around them.

Historic Name

Common Name

365

Block  Lot  Construction Year

Ownership  Site

Present Use

County Survey ID  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  Not Extant



The origins of what is known as the Anderegg home date back to an early owner of the Cone homestead “The Trees,” James Hora, who built this house for one of his five daughters. He went on to build a house for each of his remaining daughters, and is said to have done the same for his two sons in another town.

The home has also been referred to as the Van Wyck farmhouse, after its early owners, formerly of New York. William Van Wyck, who acquired the nickname “Uncle Bill” by the community, gained the adoration of the local children during picking times on the farm, at which time the boys—and sometimes the girls—of the town volunteered to gather tomatoes and beans, and after which were treated by William to ice cream in the market.

After the Van Wycks, the house passed through various families, including the Holtons, the Morgans, the Stuarts, the Andereggs, and the Pecks.

Historic Name	Hauxhurst House		
Common Name			
407	New Dover Road	Colonia	
Block	477.07	Lot	9.03
Construction Year			
Ownership			
Site			
Present Use			
County Survey ID		National Reg. ID #	
NJ HPO ID #		On Master Plan	
Not Extant			



At 407 New Dover Road is the Hauxhurst House, which dates back to at least 1796, and was named for N. Hauxhurst, who owned the house from 1874 to 1890. Afterwards the house passed into the hands of Garrett Du Bois of Plainfield. Two features that remain from the original house are an old fireplace and Dutch oven of earlier times, linking the home to its long-standing history.

Between the years of 1918 and 1919, the edge of the land where the house is located was occupied by the massive army hospital that had been constructed for service during WWI. Although it is unclear what the exact purpose served by the Hauxhurst house was during this time, it is speculated that it was used by one of the several organizations that functioned in collaboration with the hospital. Among these organizations was The Mercy Committee, a group formed by local women and chaired by Mrs. Charles Freeman of the Freeman Estate. During the year of the hospital's existence, the committee used a cottage on the estate named The Mercy House, where relatives of the wounded soldiers were offered a place to visit and even given meals for a moderate cost. It has also been suggested is that the house was used for social gatherings and other events. Dr. Albee, in his book A Surgeon's Fight To Rebuild Men, mentions a Red Cross House, where dances were frequently hosted in order to provide patients with newly fitted artificial legs the opportunity to learn to wear them.

After the war, the Hauxhurst house served as the Red Cross Headquarters, making it an important landmark in the community. At one time it was also used for the Watchung Hunt Club, and included a private race track on the Freeman Estate. It remains standing today near the scattered remnants of the hospital, and is a privately owned residence once again.

Historic Name

Common Name

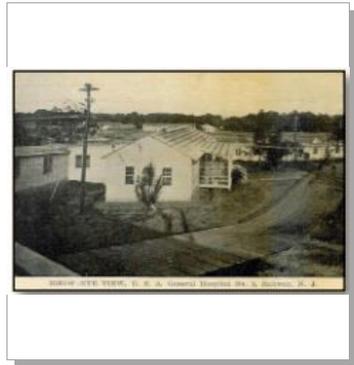
Block  Lot  Construction Year

Ownership  Site

Present Use

County Survey ID  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  Not Extant



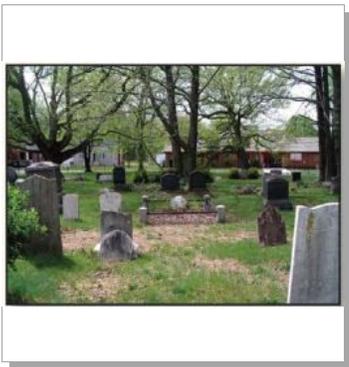
The Old Army Hospital—officially known as General Hospital No. 3—opened in June of 1918 and closed in October of 1919. Although only active for a little over one year, the hospital covered 200 acres and was composed of 110 barracks-style buildings, offering 2,000 beds for U.S. soldiers. In addition to the general surgery the hospital grew to include departments for neurology, anesthesia, orthopedics, and X-rays. There was also a central heating plant, a fire department, a swimming pool, a telephone service with eighty extensions, and an artificial limb manufacturing service. The land on which the hospital was built was a part of the original 300 acre property belonging to Charles D. Freeman, leased to the U.S. government for one dollar per year. Freeman willingly offered his estate and land because he could not serve in the military himself due to his age.

The hospital was designated as an orthopedic facility, and boasted an internationally-renowned orthopedic surgeon, Dr. Fred H. Albee, as its director. Albee performed the first ever bone graft procedure in the medical profession, and in one interview credited his methods to cabinet-making in his youth and his grandfather’s expertise in fruit-tree grafting. He is said to have performed over half of the operations at the hospital, and at the time of his death in 1945, at the age of 68, he had performed more than 30,000. Of the more than 6,000 soldiers treated at the hospital, only seventeen deaths were recorded.

Albee also introduced a service of rehabilitation for wounded soldiers, providing them retraining and re-education for civilian life. The hospital even began printing its own newspaper, entitled *Over Here*, which can now be viewed in the Local History Digital Archive on the website of the Woodbridge Public Library at [www.woodbridgeliibrary.org](http://www.woodbridgeliibrary.org). The newspaper was edited and printed by the patients as a part of their treatment. Albee believed in occupational therapy, which he felt offered the soldiers some distraction from the trauma they suffered. During the time of the hospital’s operation, over a thousand amputations were performed, including sixteen double amputations. As a part of the occupational therapy, many of the patients helped to create their own artificial legs.

The hospital was closed on October 15, 1919, and having no further purpose to the Army, all the buildings were razed. Remnants of the kitchen oven, sewers, rail beds, concrete foundation, and other archaeological detritus are all that remain of its once sprawling existence. Dr. Albee headed the New Jersey Rehabilitation Commission for twenty years, and in 1939 was awarded the New Jersey Distinguished Service Cross.

Historic Name   
 Common Name   
 650    
 Block  Lot  Construction Year   
 Ownership  Site   
 Present Use   
 County Survey ID  National Reg. ID #   
 NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  Not Extant



This land has been used as a burial site since 1714, just after the establishment of the first Church structure. This parcel of land was included in the original Town Charter of 1669. The oldest tombstone dates to 1750, although many burials predate it. This is the final resting place for many early, noteworthy Woodbridge families, including the Barrons, Dunhams, Bunns, Jacques, and Pikes, to name but a few. Other significant graves belong to veterans of each war, beginning with the American Revolution. One of the oldest in New Jersey, the cemetery is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Historic Name

Common Name

600

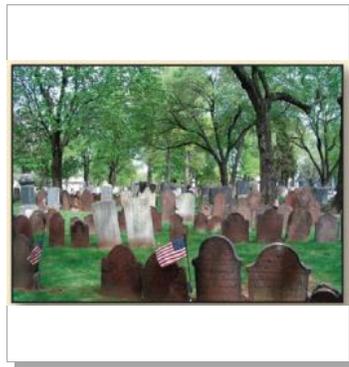
Block  Lot  Construction Year

Ownership  Site

Present Use

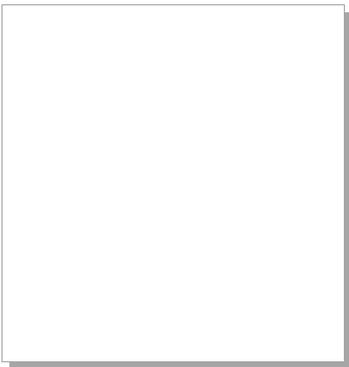
County Survey ID  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  Not Extant

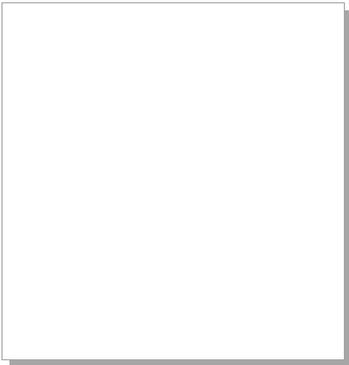


Since the early establishment of the First Town Meeting House on this site in 1675, this land has been used as a graveyard, with the oldest legible tombstone dating to 1690. The land is part of the original Woodbridge Charter granted by King Charles II. This is the final resting place for many early, prominent Woodbridge founders, including the Cutters, Freemans, Pralls, Barrons and Bloomfields, to name but a few. Some notable burials include those of a freed slave, Jack, as well as Mary Compton Campbell, the first white child born in Woodbridge in 1668. Other noteworthy graves include those of Woodbridge native, James Parker, who established the first permanent printing press in New Jersey, as well as American patriot and First Presbyterian Church Pastor, Reverend Azel Roe, and Civil War Brigadier General William Barton, of the 48 New York Volunteers. Also buried here are at least 125 veterans from every conflict of our nation. Among the 75 American Revolutionary soldiers interred here, one of the most famous graves belongs to General Nathaniel Heard, who led the Middlesex County Militia to arrest the last Royal Governor of New Jersey, William Franklin, at his Perth Amboy residence on June 19, 1776. The cemetery is listed on the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places. It is also listed on the American Presbyterian/Reformed Historical Sites Registry. The cemetery contains some of the best preserved examples of eighteenth century Puritan funerary art in New Jersey. With nearly 3,000 graves, it is one of the oldest cemeteries in the United States.

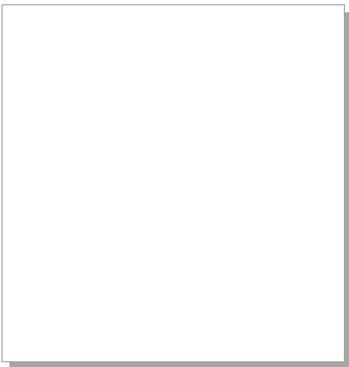
Historic Name   
 Common Name   
   
 Block  Lot  Construction Year   
 Ownership  Site   
 Present Use   
 County Survey ID  National Reg. ID #   
 NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  Not Extant



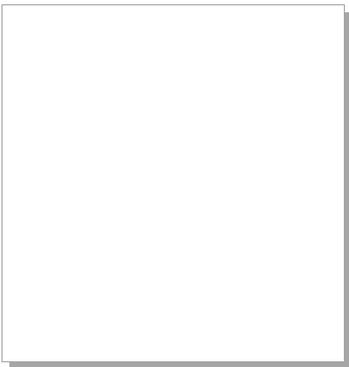
Historic Name   
Common Name   
    
Block  Lot  Construction Year   
Ownership  Site   
Present Use   
County Survey ID  National Reg. ID #   
NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  Not Extant



Historic Name   
 Common Name   
    
 Block  Lot  Construction Year   
 Ownership  Site   
 Present Use   
 County Survey ID  National Reg. ID #   
 NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  Not Extant



Historic Name   
 Common Name   
    
 Block  Lot  Construction Year   
 Ownership  Site   
 Present Use   
 County Survey ID  National Reg. ID #   
 NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  Not Extant



Historic Name

Common Name

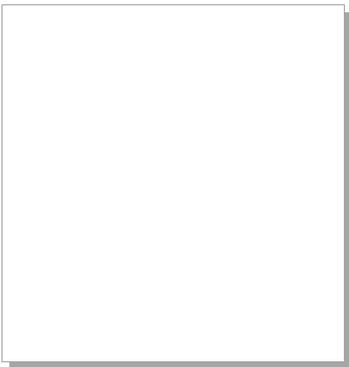
Block  Lot  Construction Year

Ownership  Site

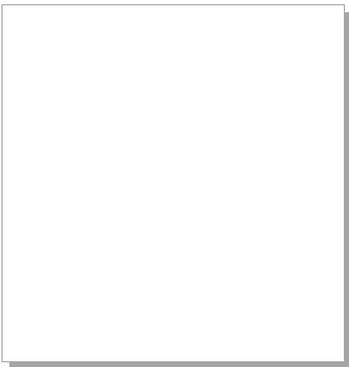
Present Use

County Survey ID  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  Not Extant



Historic Name   
 Common Name   
    
 Block  Lot  Construction Year   
 Ownership  Site   
 Present Use   
 County Survey ID  National Reg. ID #   
 NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  Not Extant



Historic Name

Common Name

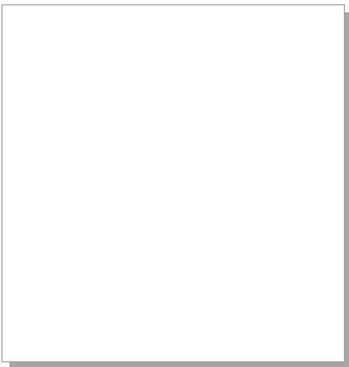
Block  Lot  Construction Year

Ownership  Site

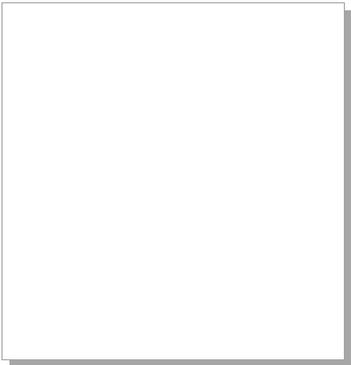
Present Use

County Survey ID  National Reg. ID #

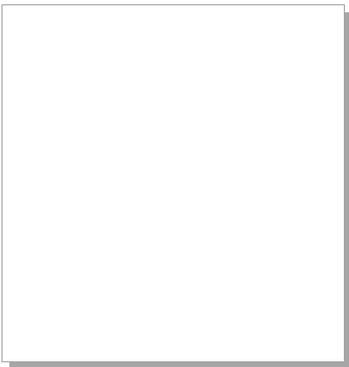
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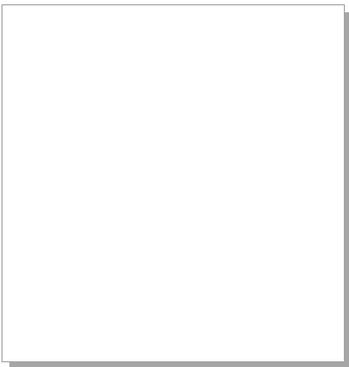
Historic Name   
 Common Name   
    
 Block  Lot  Construction Year   
 Ownership  Site   
 Present Use   
 County Survey ID  National Reg. ID #   
 NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  Not Extant



Historic Name   
 Common Name   
    
 Block  Lot  Construction Year   
 Ownership  Site   
 Present Use   
 County Survey ID  National Reg. ID #   
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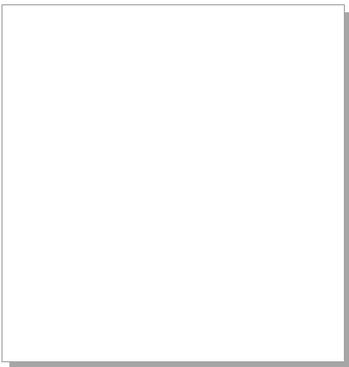


Historic Name   
Common Name   
    
Block  Lot  Construction Year   
Ownership  Site   
Present Use   
County Survey ID  National Reg. ID #   
NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  Not Extant

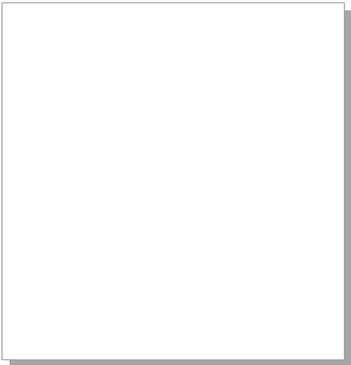


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Historic Name   
 Common Name   
    
 Block  Lot  Construction Year   
 Ownership  Site   
 Present Use   
 County Survey ID  National Reg. ID #   
 NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  Not Extant



Historic Name   
 Common Name   
    
 Block  Lot  Construction Year   
 Ownership  Site   
 Present Use   
 County Survey ID  National Reg. ID #   
 NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  Not Extant



Historic Name

Common Name

Block  Lot  Construction Year

Ownership  Site

Present Use

County Survey ID  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  Not Extant



Historic Name

Common Name

555  West Avenue  Sewaren

Block  687  Lot  3  Construction Year

Ownership  Site

Present Use

County Survey ID  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  Not Extant



Historic Name

Common Name

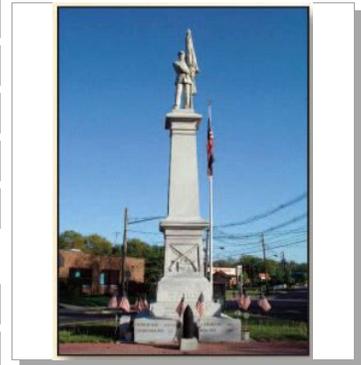
Block  Lot  Construction Year

Ownership  Site

Present Use

County Survey ID  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  Not Extant



In the late nineteenth century, there was much sentiment towards erecting monuments for the soldiers and sailors who had served in the American Civil War. The “Woodbridge boys” served in the Second and Third Corps of the Union Army, as the 28th New Jersey, Company F and the 5th New Jersey, Company H. Both units served valiantly in the war, particularly the 28th New Jersey, who won distinction in the Battles of Chancellorsville and Fredericksburg. The death of one particular veteran, Lieutenant William C. Berry, who was killed at Williamsburg, Virginia on May 5, 1862, gave the Berry family reason enough to erect a monument honoring veterans of the “War of the Rebellion.” The sisters and brothers of Lt. Berry sold certificates to raise the \$2,100 it would cost to purchase the monument. On April 11, 1911, over fifty years after the signing of the surrender of the Confederacy at Appomattox, Virginia, the Soldiers and Sailors Monument was dedicated to the veterans of Woodbridge. The monument, then placed at ground level, was erected at the junction of Main and Berry Streets, so that the Berry family, who lived on this present street, could view it from their front porch. Much symbolism embodies the monument, from the direction it faces, to the man it represents. The plot was later placed on a triangular piece of land, with three points representing the Third Corp, of which the 5th New Jersey was a part. It is believed that the soldier is carved in the image of a Mr. John M. Sutton, who served in Company H with the 5th New Jersey Volunteers. Sutton was honored for saving the regimental colors at Gettysburg and Chancellorsville, but is believed to have unwaveringly denied honors for his actions, including the “Medal of Honor,” which was awarded for such courageous actions. He is portrayed grasping his saber and holding the national colors, and faces south-southwesterly, according to tradition. Although the monument does not bear his name, it is believed that it was placed in this location so that Mr. Sutton, who worked at a local grocery store on Main Street, could view the monument from the porch on his breaks. Within the monument’s foundations is a time capsule containing Civil War artifacts, donated by surviving veterans at the time of its dedication. Over the years, the monument suffered moderate damages due to pollution and weather conditions. In 2006, the Historical Association of Woodbridge Township undertook a project to renovate the monument, cleaning and repairing the structure, as well as updating its inscriptions. Three additional stones were placed to honor veterans of World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. It remains an honorable tribute to those men who selflessly risked and gave their lives for our country.

Historic Name	William Cutter House & Clay Banks				
Common Name					
115	Amboy Avenue			Woodbridge	
Block	252	Lot	1.13	Construction Year	1800
Ownership				Site	
Present Use					
County Survey ID			National Reg. ID #		
NJ HPO ID #			On Master Plan		
			Not Extant		



Built at the end of the eighteenth century, this farm house at 115 Amboy Avenue was the home of William Cutter, the father of successful clay magnate, Hampton Cutter. William Cutter's great-grandfather, Richard, was the first Cutter to settle in Woodbridge at the beginning of the eighteenth century. In 1709, he established a mill in the area of the present Cutter's Dock Road. Among many of the Cutter Family homes that existed in this area of Woodbridge, this home is believed to be the birthplace of Hampton Cutter. Born in Woodbridge on December 25, 1811, Hampton Cutter was educated in the Town's schools and worked his father's land until he married in 1836. Although the Cutters were average farmers in Woodbridge, it was Hampton who brought success to the family name. Hampton Cutter resided in this home, and years after his father's death, while plowing the land, he discovered large deposits of kaolin on this farm in 1845. In turn, he established his own business, supplying this material which was used in the manufacture of firebricks. His sons joined him in a partnership, and Hampton Cutter & Sons continued to amass a great fortune in the shipment of clay to major cities such as New York, Boston, and Albany, among others. By the early 1870s, Cutter planned the construction of the large mansion just a short distance from this home. He lived there until his death in 1882. His son, William H. Cutter, later constructed a large, Italianate villa on Green Street, which still stands today.

The clay banks behind the home were the resources which built the Cutter fortune. The banks or mines consisted of the area located behind this home and extended to the present land on which Woodbridge Center stands. To this day, deposits of clay can still be found around this site, as well as in other parts of Woodbridge. In addition to providing hundreds and thousands of tons of clay, this site holds a place in geological history. In 1929, dinosaur tracks were discovered by miners working in the banks behind this home. Rutgers geologists later revealed that the ninety million year old prints from the Cretaceous Period were the only ones from this era ever discovered east of the Mississippi River.

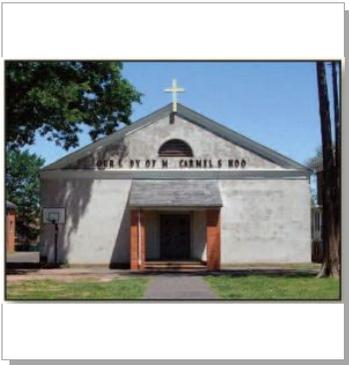
Today, the William Cutter House is a private apartment house, while the clay banks behind it remain a hidden part of Woodbridge's history.

Historic Name	Captain Isaac Inslee House				
Common Name					
254	Amboy Avenue			Woodbridge	
Block	529.09	Lot	4.01	Construction Year	1859
Ownership				Site	
Present Use					
County Survey ID			National Reg. ID #		
NJ HPO ID #			On Master Plan		
			Not Extant		



This Antebellum structure was the home of prominent citizen and Woodbridge native, Captain Isaac Inslee. The Inslee family first came to Massachusetts from Scotland and later settled in New Jersey. His great-grandfather, George Inslee, fought in the American Revolution against the British. Captain Inslee's father, William, was born in Woodbridge and was a member of the Whig Party, and later became a leading figure in the Republican Party. Isaac Inslee was born in Rahway on February 6, 1835. He grew up in Woodbridge and received his education from the Town's schools. Like his father and great-grandfather, Captain Inslee worked as an apprentice in the carriage-making business before taking work in Woodbridge's prosperous clay industry. He enlisted in the United States Volunteer Army during the Civil War, with the New Jersey Volunteers, 28th Regiment, Company F. Inslee was promoted to Captain for his command of many men on the front, and saw action at Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville. He was noted for his heroic actions at Fredericksburg, where he led the 28th Regiment through heavy Rebel fire after their Colonel was killed in action. After the war, Inslee married Sarah M. Ayers, of New Brunswick, and returned to the clay business until his retirement. Captain Inslee was a prominent Republican and Freeholder. He was once a Supervisor of Roads and sat on the Board of Education. He was also a member of several other fraternal organizations, notably the William C. Berry Post, G.A.R., where he served as Commander. After his retirement, he built a second home in the early 1890s, which presently stands on the corner of Barron Avenue and Freeman Street. He is buried in the Alpine Cemetery in Perth Amboy. Today, this home is a private residence.

Historic Name	Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church				
Common Name					
				Woodbridge	
Block	533.01	Lot	6	Construction Year	
Ownership			Site		
Present Use					
County Survey ID			National Reg. ID #		
NJ HPO ID #			On Master Plan		
			Not Extant		



At the end of the nineteenth century, thousands of Hungarians immigrated to the United States. Many came to Woodbridge and settled in the historic neighborhood behind and surrounding this present site. A large number of these immigrants were Catholics, but were without a local Church in which to worship. To meet the needs of Hungarian- speaking Catholics in Woodbridge, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church was established on October 10, 1920 by Bishop Walsh. The first Church structure was dedicated on August 7, 1921. Prior to its construction, Hungarian residents walked nearly four miles along the railroad tracks, then constructed at grade level, to Our Lady of Hungary in Perth Amboy, to attend services and take their children to catechism. The second Church structure, adjacent to this site, was built in 1960. Bishop George W. Ahr blessed the old neighboring Church, which was converted into Our Lady of Mount Carmel School later that same year. Four grade levels were introduced, with a higher grade offered each subsequent year. By 1966, twelve students graduated from the school, which was served by the Daughters of Divine Charity until 1970. This site was an important institution for the Hungarian-speaking Catholic community, many of whom worked in the booming clay industry of Woodbridge, taking jobs in factories like the M.D. Valentine Brick Company, the Salamander Works, James E. Berry Fire Brick Factory, and the clay mines of Hampton Cutter & Sons, among others. Today, the parish serves a diverse Hungarian, Korean, and Filipino congregation. The old Mount Carmel School is presently shared with the Korean-speaking residents of Woodbridge, serving as the quasi parish of Our Lady of Korea.

Historic Name

Common Name

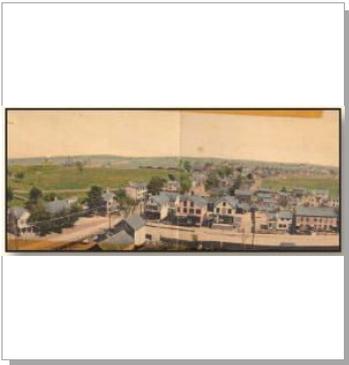
Block  Lot  Construction Year

Ownership  Site

Present Use

County Survey ID  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  Not Extant



The neighborhood of Fulton, Second, Albert and Caroline Streets, as well as the streets they border were first surveyed and mapped in 1840 by Ichabod Potter. This historic section of town was home to the working class residents of Woodbridge. Many living within these homes worked in the illustrious clay industries in town, notably the Salamander Works, M.D. Valentine & Brick Company, and Hampton Cutter & Sons, among others. In the earlier half of the nineteenth century, this section of Woodbridge received many Irish and German immigrants who came to town for job opportunities. The latter half of the nineteenth century saw the influx of many Hungarian immigrants, who worked in the clay mines and factories within the town proper and contributed to Woodbridge's industrial growth and prosperity. The train tracks along Fulton Street, originally constructed at grade level, were later elevated in the late 1940s. Many of the historic homes still standing date from the 1870s to the early 1900s. Residences at 263 and 281 Fulton Street, 60 Caroline Street, 340 North William Street, and 85 Second Street are among the oldest houses in this neighborhood.

Historic Name

Common Name

Block  Lot  Construction Year

Ownership  Site

Present Use

County Survey ID  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  Not Extant



Despite Woodbridge’s rich, prosperous history, the town was not without tragedy. On February 6th, 1951, a crowded steam locomotive carried over thousand passengers heading along the Pennsylvania Railroad Jersey Central rail line, which departed from Exchange Place in Jersey City en route to Bayhead in South Jersey. Many of the passengers were Wall Street employees, which gave that particular express train its nickname, “The Broker.” The rail lines between Woodbridge and Perth Amboy were undergoing construction, and many temporary trestles and tracks were constructed alongside the permanent tracks to allow trains to keep running without disrupting work. One week before the disaster, a directive was issued by the Pennsylvania Railroad, stating that a speed of 25 miles per hour was not to be exceeded for trains traveling from Woodbridge to Perth Amboy. On the following Tuesday evening, “The Broker” was traveling over 50 miles per hour, filled to capacity with commuters. As it approached a sharp turn at the temporary trestle just north of the train bridge at Legion Place, the locomotive and several train cars derailed, plummeting down the embankment, killing 86 people and injuring hundreds more. The horrific sound was reportedly heard from miles away, and the crash shook many homes and shattered the windows of other residences in downtown Woodbridge. Hundreds from all over New Jersey, as well as Woodbridge’s own residents came to the aid of the victims of the disaster. In 2002, a monument was erected under the train pass, dedicated to those who died in the train wreck. It remains one of the worst train wrecks ever recorded in American history.

Historic Name

Common Name

401

Block  Lot  Construction Year

Ownership  Site

Present Use

County Survey ID  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  Not Extant



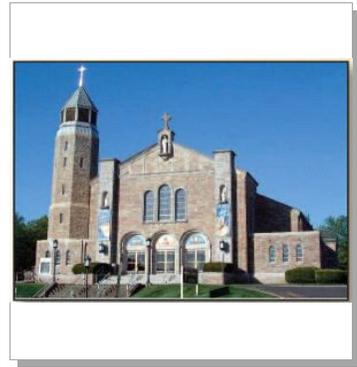
In the latter half of the nineteenth century, thousands of Hungarian immigrants came to the United States after a failed revolution in their country. Many of them settled in New Jersey, and before the turn of the century, many came to Woodbridge to work in the clay industry. Without a place of worship, Hungarian language services were conducted in private Woodbridge homes. They were later held in the "Hungarian Hall," the building located adjacent to the first Church prior to its construction. As early as 1903, the need for a parish to serve the needs of Hungarian speaking Calvinists was addressed by Reverend Gabor Dokus, of South Norwalk, Connecticut, who often traveled to Woodbridge to conduct services. Reverend Dokus called upon his contemporaries to organize a Church with other nearby Hungarian speaking Protestants in Perth Amboy, Port Reading, Carteret, and South River. By 1904, a substantial Hungarian congregation was organized, and Reverend Alexander Vajo, of Hungary, was called to the United States to be the pastor of the new Church. Foundations for a frame church were laid in 1906, and the first church structure was dedicated on May 30, 1907. By 1949, the congregation voted to build a new church to suit the needs of the growing parish. On January 14, 1962, the present Hungarian Reformed Church was dedicated. For over a hundred years, the Hungarian Reformed Church has served the needs of Hungarian-speaking residents, who were so influential in shaping early industrial Woodbridge. The Church continues to serve the descendants of the early Hungarian families who settled in Woodbridge a century ago.

Historic Name	School No. 11		
Common Name	Ross Street School		
Block	546	Lot	17
Construction Year			
Ownership			Site
Present Use			
County Survey ID		National Reg. ID #	
NJ HPO ID #		On Master Plan	
		Not Extant	



School No. 11, or Ross Street School as it is also known, was completed in 1920. Among the oldest schools still standing in Woodbridge proper, School No. 11 offered a diverse curriculum, including reading, writing, arithmetic, as well as the domestic arts and music. Physical education was made compulsory in 1917 by the Board of Education. By 1926, a summer school program was organized. In 1930, Dr. Love, the first Superintendent of Woodbridge schools, proposed an addition to the school, with plans to house grades one through six. It was rejected due to financial hardships posed by the Great Depression, however. Nevertheless, as the years passed, the school's population grew. By 1964, there were nearly 1000 students enrolled in School No. 11. Among its features include the fine terracotta designs on the façade and rear of the building, as well as separate entrances for boys and girls. This design was typical of school buildings constructed in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It was believed to complement seating arrangements, which often segregated boys' and girls' desks within the classroom – a setting which was perhaps intended to secure girls from the supposed rambunctious temperaments of their male peers. Such architectural designs were in place as well, at School No. 1, currently the Board of Education office on School Street, and can still be seen at the present Woodbridge Middle School on Barron Avenue. School No. 11 continues to serve the elementary grades of Woodbridge Proper.

Historic Name	The Parish Community of St. James		
Common Name			
Block	271	Lot	4
Construction Year			
Ownership			Site
Present Use			
County Survey ID		National Reg. ID #	
NJ HPO ID #		On Master Plan	
		Not Extant	



The history of St. James begins in the 1660s and 1670s, when the discovery of a fine type of potter's clay attracted Irish and French immigrants to the young town. As the early Catholic community grew larger, Jesuit priests of St. James Chapel in New York, Reverend Charles Gage and Reverend Henry Harrison, were sent as missionaries to hold mass for Woodbridge Catholics in private homes. Early Catholic residents Hugh Dunn and James Kelly were among those who invited others for services at their homes. St. James Church records date the first celebration of Holy Mass in 1683, held by Reverend Gage or Reverend Harrison, according to tradition. Another record documents the Baptism of a young Robert du Poitiers of Staten Island, by Father Nicholas Gulick of Maryland, who visited Woodbridge to administer the sacrament. As early as the 1850s, Woodbridge Catholics were without a Church. Many traveled to Rahway or to St. Mary's Parish in Perth Amboy for worship, the latter taking on Woodbridge as part of their mission. By 1865, a small wooden frame Church, which would later become the first school, was built along upper Main Street. The Church continued to be served by St. Mary's in Perth Amboy until the 1870s. In 1877, Father Stephen Bettoni was installed as the first resident pastor of St. James. As the congregation grew, a second Church was pushed into construction by Father James Devine. It was dedicated and consecrated in 1888 by Bishop Michael J. O'Farrell. St. James would not be incorporated as a parish until 1893. The Church remained along upper Main Street until 1924, when the building was moved on a tractor a half-mile down to the corner of Main Street and St. George's Avenue by popular house mover, John Meljjs of Perth Amboy. It was the first time a building this large was ever moved in this fashion in the United States. St. James School was established later that same year.

The history of St. James School began in 1890, when Sisters of Mercy converted the original wooden frame Church along upper Main Street into a three-room schoolhouse. In September of that same year, 125 students from grades one through eight were enrolled at the parish school. Much like the public elementary schools in Woodbridge proper, St. James students received a well-rounded education. The Sisters taught academic subjects along with music, painting and drawing, as well as needlework. In 1921, due to the increase in enrollment, a converted hall on Second Street and Amboy Avenue housed kindergarten through grade three, while grades four through eight were taught at the school on upper Main Street. By 1924, the present St. James School was constructed. The St. James graduating class of 1924 was the School's first students to be admitted to Woodbridge High School a successful feat, as Woodbridge High School Principal, Dr. John Love, was reluctant to accept them. Subsequent additions to the School in 1954, as well as development of curriculum and daycare centers contributed to the school's growth. As the school expanded, so did the Church. The second Church structure remained here until dedicated pastors Monsignor Griffin and Monsignor Charles G. McCorristin, the longest serving pastor of the parish, made plans for the modern development and construction of a new Church and facilities. Ground was broken for the present church in 1966. Bishop George W. Ahr dedicated the new Church on June 23, 1968, just months after the old Victorian Church was demolished.

The present Church and School sit upon land which is believed to be near the site of the original Parker Printing Press. In 1751, James Parker established the first printing press in the colonies in Woodbridge. He printed many public documents, including legislative proceedings, newspaper, and The New American Magazine, the first periodical ever to be published in America. Throughout the years, as this land has been cultivated, print type and other materials have been found near the present school site. Some believe that Parker's operations were held in or around the great vicinity of Grove Street and Amboy Avenue. The exact location of Parker's Press remains unknown, however, and is highly questionable.

Today, the Parish Community of St. James holds an important place in the early history of Woodbridge. Over 300 years later, the St. James Parish family continues to serve the community of Woodbridge in the Roman Catholic tradition.

Historic Name

Common Name

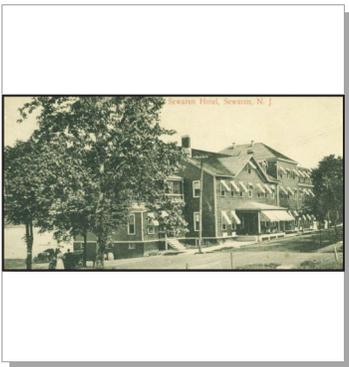
Block  Lot  Construction Year

Ownership  Site

Present Use

County Survey ID  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  Not Extant



Located on the corner of Ferry Street and the beach side of Cliff Road, the Sewaren House Hotel was built by philanthropist John Taylor Johnston's son-in-law, Robert DeForest, in 1887. Acker's Grove and Boat House were next door. The hotel was a grand, luxurious two-tiered building with two rows of wide verandas overlooking Staten Island Sound, now known as the Arthur Kill. From these verandas, guests could enjoy beach views and breezes. Among the Sewaren House's most notable guests were President Grover Cleveland, Thomas Alva Edison, Charlie Chaplin and Maude Adams.

In 1907, DeForest applied for a hotel liquor license. C.W. Boynton opposed the application as he felt that serving liquor would destroy the family-oriented atmosphere of the resort. The Township Council agreed with Mr. Boynton and denied the application on his advice. The Sewaren House Hotel continued to operate alcohol free until its closing in 1913.

After the hotel closed, the building remained vacant for several years. In 1918, the building served as a haven for the refugees of the Morgan Explosion in Sayreville. There, several babies were born in the midst of the tragedy. A year later, the Sewaren House Hotel opened its beach area for the injured World War I soldiers recovering in the Colonia Hospital. The building caught fire a few years later and was torn down in 1923. Today, the Royal Petroleum Company owns the site.

Historic Name

Common Name

Block  Lot  Construction Year

Ownership  Site

Present Use

County Survey ID  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  Not Extant



Built circa 1890, this Free Classic Queen Anne style home is located on 498 Cliff Road at the corner of Cliff Road and Woodbridge Avenue across from St. John's Episcopal Church. The house features polygonal corner towers. The second floors of the towers have five stained glass windows and front and rear façades. The third floor has two stained glass windows. A wraparound porch, several fireplaces, and the variety of windows with different shapes, provide visual interest to the home. There is an old stone wall that wraps around the house and extends from Woodbridge Avenue to Cliff Road.

Louis H. Brown was a coal broker in New York City. His wife was very active in St. John's Episcopal Church and participated in both St. John's Guild and Supper Club. Mrs. Brown lived in the house until her death in 1958. Mrs. Brown willed money to St. John's church and donated the house for use as its rectory. In the late 1960s the rectory was sold by the Church. The former rectory is now a private home, and the current rectory located at 17 Woodbridge Avenue opened in 1967.

Historic Name

Common Name

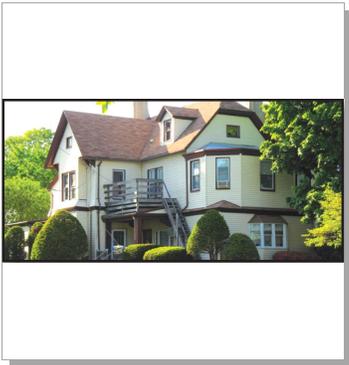
Block  Lot  Construction Year

Ownership  Site

Present Use

County Survey ID  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  Not Extant



William T. Ames, son of William and Sarah Ayres Ames, was born in Woodbridge in 1869. He graduated from Woodbridge High School in 1887. After graduation, Mr. Ames worked for National Park Bank of New York. In 1892, William married Helen Boynton, one of the daughters of C.W. Boynton, and moved to Cliff Road in Sewaren. In 1906, Ames organized the First National Bank of Woodbridge and became its first president. Later the family relocated to 528 East Avenue, a home built in 1877. The house has three stories and several fireplaces. The third floor window has twelve small panels and the roof is both hipped and gabled.

While residing in Sewaren, both Mr. and Mrs. Ames were active in the community. Mr. Ames was a trustee for Sewaren Motor Boat Club, president of the Sewaren Library, and secretary of the Boynton Real Estate Company. Mrs. Ames financially supported various civic activities in Sewaren including the town's National War Fund Drive during World War II.

William Ames died in 1933 and is buried in the First Presbyterian Churchyard, Woodbridge. After his death, his wife, Helen, continued to live in their home on East Avenue. Mrs. Ames eventually moved to Niagara Falls, NY, to live with her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Oliver B. Ames. Mrs. Ames died in 1950 and is buried next to her husband in the First Presbyterian Churchyard, Woodbridge.

Five hundred twenty-eight East Avenue remains a single family home.

Historic Name

Common Name

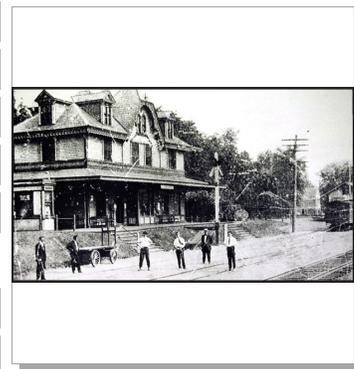
Block  Lot  Construction Year

Ownership  Site

Present Use

County Survey ID  National Reg. ID #

NJ HPO ID #  On Master Plan  Not Extant



In 1875, a contract was awarded to build a “unique” train station between Newark and Perth Amboy. Sewaren was chosen as the location for this station. Originally referred to as East Woodbridge Station, the Sewaren Station was built in 1876 on West Avenue a block from the beach. After buying waterfront property in Sewaren, John Taylor Johnston, president of the Central Railroad of New Jersey, decided to extend the rail line’s service to the area. It became a stop on the Rahway-Carteret line and allowed easy access to Boynton Beach for tourists, especially those from New York. In addition, the station served as a post office for Sewaren locals and tourists alike. Due to its elaborate structure and ornate lawn, filmmakers for the 1921 movie Peacock Alley, starring Monte Blue and Mae Murray, filmed scenes at the Sewaren Station.

Once the Boynton Beach property was sold to the Shell Oil Company, fewer trains went in and out of the Sewaren Station. Within a few years, the train station building was abandoned, neglected and reached a dilapidated state. Sewaren residents expressed concern about the condition of the building leading to an inspection by the Central Railroad of New Jersey. The Sewaren Station burned to the ground in 1957, before the necessary repairs could be made. Today, private homes have been built on the site where Sewaren Station once stood.