the leading firebrick manufacturers in the country and many members of the large, extended clan worked in the family business. Howard modestly described himself as a clay miner - employer.

Howard and his wife, Augusta Warner Valentine moved in along with his nephew Arthur Valentine, son of Howard's oldest brother William, and Arthur's wife, Grace, and their children. Arthur's widow Grace, sold



Once one of seven gracious Valentine family homes that lined Green Street, Robert Newton Valentine

Robert was the third son of James Valentine. A clay merchant, Robert first married Deborah Dally who, sadly, died very young at the age of 19 in 1864. He then married Mary Dell Mercer of Perth Amboy with whom he had nine children. The house was later enhanced with Colonial Revival additions. Robert passed away Dec. 28, 1919 and Mary followed a few short years later in 1925. Her children and heirs sold boy built an expanded \$200,000 two-story new plant. the property to Ferdinand and Anna Wetterberg.

Anna Christina Olesen emigrated from Sweden in 1888 and Ferdinand moved from Denmark in 1893. Married in 1894, they moved to Woodbridge after Ferdinand became a prominent local industrialist with pottery was in less demand, Gerber switched some the New Jersey Wood Finishing Company in Spa of the factory operations to manufacturing decora-Springs. Andrew S. and Marjorie F. Lockie purchased tive ceramics such as lamp bases, vases and art the home from Harold Wetterberg in 1959 and lived pottery. Mr. Gerber named the Woodbridge project there for 34 years.



### 172 Green Street

The lot where 172 Green Street sits was part of the six acre property purchased in 1823 by John Rowland, 1772-1846, at a sheriff's sale as a result of a mortgage forfeited by Henry and Mary Bloodgood Freeman and their daughter Eliza Freeman. At the intersection, once known as Rowland's Corner and now occupied by the gas station, stood The Rowland House, an inn and tavern. Reportedly stage coaches drove up and turned around at the corner of the Inn because of the width of Green Street at that point. After John Roland's death in 1846 (his tombstone is still visible in the graveyard of the First Presbyterian Church of Woodbridge) his son Israel Rowland took over the property and passed it on to his sons, John and I. Freeman Rowland in 1861. Rowland Place, running parallel to Green Street was named for the

In 1917, Freeman Rowland sold the house lot to Claude and Jenny Decker who built this home with a mixture of Colonial Revival and Arts and Crafts de-



**500 Green Street** 

In 1918 William Henry Prall, Nels Peter Jensen and Peter P. Schendorf organized the Woodbridge it was purchased by Peter and Margaret Leahy. Both Ceramic Corporation to deal in fire brick. Mr. Prall was the son of James Palmer Prall and Emily Cutter, daughter of Hampton Cutter. Mr. Jensen and Mr. Schendorf were both Danish immigrants who learned the trade in the clay factories of Perth Amboy and Iano, Peter Leahy's granddaughter, still resides in the Woodbridge, including the Fords Porcelain Works. home her family has lived in for nearly one hundred Later P. P. Schendorf was the Treasurer of Wood- years. bridge Township and N. Peter Jensen was President built this Vernacular Italianate style house around of the Board of Fire Commissions, Attendance Officer for the Board of Education and both were members of many local organizations. Although firebrick featured in the original plans,

> the company soon focused on producing porcelain plumbing supplies, also known as sanitary pottery. After a fire at the plant in 1927, Prall and Schendorf sold their interests in the company in 1928. The new owners, C. M. Peterson and Earl Lake of Perth Am-In the late 1930s, the factory now known as the Woodbridge Sanitary Pottery was purchased by Max Gerber of Chicago as part of his growing sanitary pottery empire. During World War II, when sanitary "Nancy China" after one of his granddaughters and employed a shop full of women designers, artisans and artists, including the well-regarded sculptor, Ursula Meyer. Nancy China produced, now highlycollectible, porcelain and ceramics pieces from 1941 through the early 1950s.

For decades sanitary pottery factories employed thousands across New Jersey but by 2002, Woodbridge Sanitary Pottery Corporation was the only operating factory remaining in the state. The thirdgeneration of Gerbers sold a majority stake in Gerber Industries in 2003. In 2008, KSD Industries, formerly Kessler Sales and Distribution, moved the headquarters of their plumbing supply company to the site of Woodbridge Sanitary Pottery.



Thomas Edgar, born 1681 in Edinburgh, Scotland came with his wife, Janet Knox, to Woodbridge in about 1720. Their eight children and their many descendants spread across the Township.

William P. Edgar, born about 1814, acquired his substantial farm in 1848 from Francis M. Potter whose family roots also went far back in Woodbridge history. The lot where 247 Green Street now stands was actually the entrance to the estate. The main house S. was the youngest of the eight children of Isaac and

was about a quarter of a mile back near what would now be Boscov's at Woodbridge Center. Unoccupied, it burned down sometime shortly after World

Two hundred forty-seven Green Street was built about 1850 although parts of the structure may have been constructed earlier. Reportedly built for one of the daughters of William P. Edgar at the time of her marriage, her father added on to it as her family grew. Built in a Vernacular Greek Revival style with a wide Greek Revival door, the home remained in the Edgar family until it was sold in 1917 by Amelia G. Edgar, the widow of William P.'s son William. In 1921 Irish immigrants, Peter, born about 1865, came to the United States in 1883 and eventually settled in Perth Amboy where he found work as a stationary engineer operating heavy machinery. Today Margaret Cata-



Isaac S. Payne purchased the land from Ellis B. Freeman in 1849 but by 1858 he had forfeited the property. Benjamin F. Vail, farmer, bought the lot at a sheriff's sale in 1859 and sold it to John Thompson in 1863. In 1867 Peter Lawson purchased the acreage and built his family's home in about 1870.

It is a simple mansard Second Empire home with a three-ranked window arrangement. The mansard profile is straight and very steep, providing ample room for ranks of attic story windows with pediment heads. The upper and lower cornice of the mansard roof is very simple and lacks the decorative brackets typically found (though they may have existed at one time.) The home has a covered front porch with decorative spindlework balusters.

Peter Lawson started his career as an engraver but then moved into music publishing in New York City. His family made their home on Green Street for over



14 185 Green Street

Isaac Payne was the grandson of two Revolutionary War heroes. His paternal grandfather, Captain John Payne died in 1781 as a result of injuries suffered in an altercation with refugees, leaving his wife, Mary Freeman Payne, to raise their eight children alone. Isaac's maternal grandfather was Captain Richard Skinner who was killed in 1779 by the British in an



# **Woodbridge Township Historic Preservation Commission**

# **Tour Map of Historic Sites**



Lower Green Street Woodbridge Train Station

44 Green Street

62 Green Street

5. 70 Green Street

6. 86 Green Street

7. 94 Green Street 120 Green Street

128 Green Street 10. 172 Green Street 11. 500 Green Street 12. 247 Green Street

13. 189 Green Street 14. 185 Green Street 15 181 Green Street

19. 81 Green Street

16. 125 Green Street 17. 123 Green Street 18. 95 Green Street

Anna Skinner Payne.

seized as a result of unpaid debts and in 1859 William P. Edgar purchased the property that included the lots now known as 181 and 185 Green Street.

This Colonial Revival Vernacular house was built circa 1880 by William Edgar, son of William P. Edgar. lia, their children, Edith and Frank P, his mother Mary and his brother Peter. His daughter Amanda in 1898 and in 1907 she sold it to Edith Jeanette Fund and the Dunham family have lived there since. Lawson Melick who was married to Willard Payne Melick. Edith's parent's Peter and Rachel Lawson lived next door at 189 Green Street. Willard's parents were Joel Melick and Anne E. Payne, daughter of Isaac Skinner Payne whose property this once was. The Melick children sold the house after the death of their father in 1939. Their mother had al-



181 Green Street Built circa 1890 as part of the Edgar compound, this

is a Queen Anne style cross gabled house. William Edgar, son of William P. Edgar, conveyed the land to his daughter Amanda G. when she married John Breckenridge in 1899. The Breckenridge's were pillars of the community. Both active in the Presbyterian Church, Amanda was a founding member of the Janet Gage Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. John, a chief chemist with American Agricultural Chemical Company, was a charter member, past president and secretary of the Rotary Club and was mayor of the Township during the war years of 1918-1919. He sold the house in 1947, not long after Amanda's December, 1945 death. The Quinn family owned 181 Green Street for nearly fifty years until 1996.



16 125 Green Street

One hundred twenty-five Green Street was built on part of the property that was willed to Nancy Blackeney by Sarah Heard and later acquired by the Cut-

In 1923 Hampton Cutter married Miss Edith Whitney who had been a member of the faculty of the High School on Barron Avenue. The new couple moved into his parents' home at 123 Green Street and in 1924 commissioned plans for their new, Colonial Revival style house to be built next door. Construction took three years and the Cutters moved into 125 Green Street in 1927. The couple became pillars of the community. Hampton served on many local and county civic and charitable boards, was a trustee of

In 1858 the lands and chattel of Isaac S. Payne were rian Church, served on the School Board and the Elizabeth Frazee. Middlesex County Vocational School Board and donated the land at the corner of Convery Boulevard and Florida Grove Road where the Girls Vocational School was built in 1939. The Cutters had no children. Hampton died in 1947. Mrs. Cutter continued In 1890 William Edgar lived there with his wife Amethe Janet Gage chapter of the DAR and other community organizations. She passed away in 1970. Breckenridge lived with her husband next door at In 1971 Byron and Nancy Dunham purchased the 181 Green Street. He deeded the house to Amanda property from the William H. & Sadie R. Cutter Trust



123 Green Street

This beautiful home was built by William H. Cutter n 1870. William was the son of the clay magnate Hampton Cutter who built the palatial mansion on Strawberry Hill. William, who unassumingly described himself as a "clay miner" in the 1880 census, married Sarah (Sadie) R. Barron in 1871 and raised their two children, Hampton and Laura there. Laura L. Cutter lived in the home until her death in 1958. With her passing, the local newspaper noted that "the direct line of the Cutter family long associated with the Township's civic, industrial and social life has died out."

This classic Italianate style building features a centered gable on each of its facades. The roof is hipped with broad overhanging eaves decorated with brackets and a cupola perched at the top. The window crowns feature a unique combination of a simple pediment supported by small brackets.

The house was faithfully restored by the Central Jersey Federal Credit Union which purchased the house in 1993 and later sold it in 2006. In 2015 the Woodbridge Township Historic Preservation Commission's first annual historic house plaque was awarded to the owners in recognition of their continued preservation of this notable building.



18 95 Green Street

Possibly the oldest existing home on Green Street, this beautiful side-gabled Colonial Revival home was most likely constructed circa 1840 by Gilbert

James Stryker (Striker) purchased the land in 1822 from John Barron but was unable to pay his mortgage and Gilbert Heard purchased it at a sheriff's

Gilbert Heard was the son of John Heard, a nephew of General Nathaniel Heard who arrested Royal Governor William Franklin in 1776. After John Heard's death, Gilbert's mother, Elizabeth Moore,

the Barron Free Library and of the First Presbyte- married Ellis Barron, son of Samuel Barron and In 1864, Mary Freeman Heard, Gilbert's widow, sold

> the property to the ministers of Trinity Episcopal Church for use as a parsonage. George C. Hance purchased the Jonathan Dunham House on Rahway Avenue from the Samuel Barron family, renovated and turned the home into a rectory then donated it to Trinity Church. No longer needed by Trinity, 95 Green Street was sold to Susan Arrowsmith in 1872. Susan and her sister Jane Arrowsmith ran a private school for young ladies there. However, unable to sustain their academic efforts, they sold the house in 1874 to Sarah Hance, wife of George C. Hance. In 1877 Mr. Hance ran several ads in the local paper, The Independent Hour: "The subscriber offers for sale or to rent, the well-built house on Green street, formerly occupied by Miss Arrowsmith, containing twelve rooms, with 2 acres adjoining; three minutes' walk from the Railroad station.

William Hance, George and Sarah's son, sold the house to the newly formed First Congregational Church in 1885 who put it to use as a parsonage until 1902. In 1905, 95 Green Street was purchased by John H. Love, Ph. B.

Dr. Love and his wife, Annie, moved to Woodbridge in 1895 when he was hired as the principal of the high school. In 1900 the Woodbridge Board of Education named him supervising principal [Superintendent] of all Woodbridge schools. He served in that capacity until 1933, overseeing the modernization of Township education and tremendous growth in school population and construction. His seminal book An Educational History of the School District of Woodbridge Township, Middlesex County, New Jersey 1666 - 1933 is an important record of Wood-

The house was lovingly restored by Vincent and Dr. Dolores Capraro Gioffre who purchased the house in 1971 and raised their family there for thirty-three



19 81 Green Street

Unique among lower Green Street houses with its brick exterior, this attractive home in a vernacular Italianate style with bracketed cornice and segmentally arched windows was built by Charles F. Newton

In 1832 Alanson Newton moved his family from New York, purchased property from David Voorhees and Abraham C. Vorhees and became one of the many farmers working the land in this section of Woodbridge. In 1861, Alanson's second son, Charles F. Newton enlisted in New York City and served as a First Lieutenant and quartermaster of the 38th Regiment, NY Infantry. He returned to Woodbridge in 1866 and took up residence on Green Street. He became an Associate Judge and often heard cases at the Pike House during the times court was held there. He died in 1899 and was buried in the family plot in the cemetery of Trinity Episcopal Church. His widow, Josephine C. Newton continued to live there until shortly before her death in 1939. Purchased by the Demarests in 1941, the house remained in that to everyone in town, was the son of German immi- born, a stone cutter and longtime resident of Woodgrants, Peter and Louisa Greiner who immigrated in bridge. on lower Green Street, August went into the profession of his uncle Robert A. Hirner and became an The Osborns took up residence and were active parundertaker. After serving during World War I, Greiner ticipants in the community. William was a broker at tion in politics began around that time as well and in 1933 he defeated Mayor Ryan for the top spot in the Township. Mayor Greiner led the Township out of the Depression and through a second World War. After 18 years in office, he chose not to run again in 1951 despite significant public support. For the remainder of his life, until his death in 1965, he focused on his still located at the corner of Barron and Green.



## 49 62 Green Street

Sixty-two Green Street is one of the newer homes on this section of the street however its place in Woodbridge history was established through the efforts of its longest tenant, Dr. Charles Rothfuss. For many years, on land which was once part of the Samuel Barron estate, there was a large colonial house which was occupied by John White, brother-in-law of Mrs. David Demarest who later lived there after her husband's death. Mr. M. Irving Demarest purchased the property and moved a large portion of the house around the corner where now it exists as 505 Barron

In 1928 Mr. Demarest engaged architect George B. Miller to build the current Tudor style home.

Charles Howard Rothfuss acquired the property in 1937. Dr. Rothfuss was a larger-than-life figure around town. He practiced medicine in the Township for over 50 years and also taught in both the Woodbridge and Rahway High Schools and was the school doctor for Woodbridge Township. Renowned as a big game hunter, reports of his safaris in Africa were regularly reported in the local newspaper and the doctor often invited Township residents to view his hunting trophies hung in his home and Rahway Avenue office. Dr. Rothfuss died in 1978 and his second wife, Jean, continued living there until she sold the home in 1993



5 70 Green Street

Charles Anness, proprietor of the successful clay mining operation Charles Anness & Sons, purchased the property from John C. Barron in 1890. In 1893 he sold it to William A. Osborn son of Cortland P. Os-

1884 and settled in Woodbridge shortly thereafter. This Queen Anne Victorian style home was probably Although his father was a popular barber with a shop built sometime in these three years and has all of the classic lines of the style.

took over his uncle's business in 1928. His participa- a New York customs house until his death in 1915. His wife, Hannah Kathleen, known to her family and friends as Kate, was a beloved resident and played a leading role in social and civic activities. Active in the Congregational Church, she taught Sunday school and was a member of the Woodbridge Woman's Club, the Salmagundi Society, the Friday Afternoon Bridge Club and many other organizations until her business, civic and charitable work. His name and passing in 1939. Their daughter Rae, born in 1892, legacy live on in the Costello-Greiner Funeral Home graduated from Woodbridge schools then attended Trenton Normal School, now The College of New Jersey. After graduation she joined the faculty of School No. 1 where she taught for nearly fifty years until her retirement in 1963. Miss Osborn sold the Green



### 86 Green Street

The original owners of the house are not clear. Probably built in the late 1860s on land that was once owned by John Barron, it may have been constructed by Charles A. Campbell born 1836, a native of Woodbridge who identified himself as a mere clay miner but was a prominent and successful businessman with many and varied financial interests.

Campbell purchased the property in 1869. His wife was Susan Lee Clarkson, daughter of Noe and Catherine Frazee Clarkson. However, by 1876, the Campbells moved into their new home on Grove Avenue so their stay on Green Street was short. Constructed in a Vernacular Italianate style, 86 Green Street features a later Colonial Revival/neoclassical porch with a gazebo corner and gable gingerbread.

Frederick F. Anness, of the Anness & Potter Fire Clay Company and his wife Mina Potter Anness acquired the house sometime prior to 1900 when they sold it to Edwin and Emma Valentine. The Valentines lived at 86 Green until Emma, then a widow, sold it to the Kelly family in 1922.

Hugh Williamson Kelly was the publisher of the Woodbridge Publishing Company which produced the Independent Leader, Fords Beacon and Carteret Press. Mr. Kelly's business interests went beyond journalism and he was the owner and president of the United Railway Signal Company in Port Reading. In November, 1940, an enormous explosion at the plant killed eight people. Mr. Kelly passed away in August, 1942 at the age of 64. His wife, Nellie, sold the house in 1943.



94 Green Street

The creation of Americus Lodge, No. 83, F. & A. M. Masonic Order of Woodbridge was authorized by the Grand Lodge in Trenton in January, 1868. The first meeting was convened in a room above Steel's Sash and Blind Factory on upper Main Street. A few months later the Lodge began meeting in the Frank Miller building on Main Street. Six years later, in 1874, the Americus Lodge found more permanent accommodations on the third floor of 20 Green Street, a building that became known as the "Masonic Hall." By 1877 Lodge No. 83 had over fifty members which included many of the most powerful and prominent men in the Township. The success of the Lodge continued to grow and in 1926 the old Brewster place at 94 Green Street was purchased. Construction began in 1927 of a large addition behind the Brewster house. The cornerstone was laid November 9, 1928 and the temple, designed in a Neoclassical Vernacular style, was opened to great acclaim. On the top floor was the lodge room. A banquet hall/auditorium took up the main floor and there were pool (billiards) rooms and bowling alleys in the basement. The front part of the building was for use by the Craftsman's Club of the Lodge. The architect was Alexander Merchant of New Brunswick and Alfred N. Jellyman over-

The Masonic Temple was a social center of the Township. Civic and business leaders networked in its halls and Lodge functions were well attended events. Neighborhood dances were held in the banquet hall and its recreational facilities were enjoyed by many. Woodbridge's chapter of the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls held many social and fundraising events and were known for the white dresses that they wore on formal occasions. By the time Americus Lodge No. 83 celebrated its 100th birthday in 1968, it had over 600 members. However, membership dwindled and the remaining Masons joined the Perth Amboy organization. In 1995 the Woodbridge Masonic Holding Company sold the property.

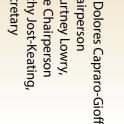
saw the construction.



en 1890 and 1900, on land that was once part of the Samuel Barron estate, Howard Valentine decided to build this Colonial Revival house next door to his brother, Robert.

Howard was the sixth son of James Valentine, the Valentine patriarch. James Valentine, born 1792, moved his wife, eight sons and one daughter to Woodbridge in 1843 after retiring from a successful career as a butcher and meat merchant in the Washington [Square] market in New York City. He purchased a large farm in the area, discovered clay on his property and became one of the pioneers in the Middlesex County clay mining and clay manufacturing industry. His sons Mulford D. and James R. Valentine continued to build the company into one of

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### **Green Street**

It was known as "the road west." Later, as parts of the Township acquired distinct identities, it was called "the road to Uniontown" - today's Iselin. Large swathes of the land on either side of the dusty track were owned by some of Woodbridge's most prominent families. The Heards once owned lots on the south side along what became known as Heard's Brook. Across the street, the members of the Barron family possessed property that included parts of Rahway Avenue and encompassed today's Barron Avenue. The Edgar family plantation included much of upper Green Street. A virtual who's who of early Woodbridge families including the Potters, Dallys, Strykers, Paines/Paynes, Freemans, Coddingtons, Frazees, Dunhams, Pralls, Comptons, Bloomfields and Harneds, owned parcels on the street. Over the centuries, properties were swapped, sold, dowered, forfeited and subdivided as Green Street developed. The origin of the name "Green Street" is unclear but it did not appear in deeds and newspaper references until after 1860. Shortly before his 1863 death, John Barron, father of Dr. John Connor Barron, began to subdivide and sell portions of the family farm. After his father's death, Dr. Barron submitted map plans for a proposed 29 building lots along Green Street and Barron Avenue. It seems possible that the Green Street appellation was selected for marketing purposes, conveying a vision of a verdant, tree-lined avenue - a perfect place to build a luxury home.

Before some of Woodbridge's elite built grand houses in Sewaren and before the Colonia estate section attracted New York socialites, Green Street in Woodbridge Proper was the place to be. From the 1860s through the 1920s, many of the wealthiest Woodbridge families chose Green Street for their homes. Members of what a 1935 newspaper article referred to as "the clayocracy" including the Valentines, the Cutters, the Annesses, Campbells and Melicks built beautiful homes along Green Street. They hosted soirees, club meetings, card parties and salons and were active in all aspects of Woodbridge's civic life. Several mayors made their home on Green Street and the street was among the first sections of town to obtain gas lighting in 1877. In 1919 Green Street residents lobbied the Town Council to improve their road with paving blocks. The quality of life along the road west attracted fine folk desirous of an accessible, cultured and peaceful retreat. In 1899, Professor Fitzgerald Tisdale of New York City built a grand summer residence on the north side of Green Street. Later J. K. Jensen, who was the architect of the Memorial Municipal Building and who had a house near the Tisdale place, purchased the professor's home and other properties and submitted a plan of 21 building plots along Green Street and what became known as Tisdale Place.

Over the years some of the grand homes lining Green Street have been lost to fire, deterioration and development. But many still stand and remind us why Green Street was The Park Avenue of Woodbridge.



# 1 Lower Green Street

The heart of colonial Woodbridge was the village or kirk green where the First Presbyterian and Trinity Episcopal Churches now stand and the town grew around this center. The intersection of Rahway Avenue and Green Street a short block away was prime real estate in the new town.

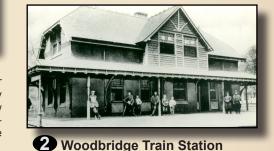
In 1686 Samuel Moore was elected to open an inn served as a post office during the Civil War. Later the and Freeman Streets. building housed a general store. It was torn down in The railroad changed how quickly people could get when the old tavern building came down.

Commercial concerns, some with family apartments At various times there was a millinery shop selling hats and bonnets to Woodbridge's fine ladies, Mr. one of Woodbridge's weekly newspapers, The Indeinstalled at the Main and Green Street crossings. pendent Leader, lower Green Street was a bustling Despite the safety measures, serious accidents still hub of local commerce.

people bartered and sold their wares. In 1715 the renovation of the station in 2007. Pike House was built by Captain Richard Powell on that spot. Whether it was named to honor one of the town's founding families or because it stood at the intersection of the King's post road and a turn-pike is unknown. What is certain is that the Pike House, later called the Woodbridge Hotel, was an important meeting place for citizens and guests alike. Reportedly visited by Benjamin Franklin and the Marquis de Lafayette, the captains and crew of the three-masted schooners who sailed up Heard's Brook, wet their whistles and relaxed at the inn. Town Council meetings, court proceedings and sheriff's sales were held there. Over two hundred years after its construction, it fell into disrepair and was razed in 1930. A sign of changing times, an inn that had stables in the back, hitching posts in the front and served sailors was replaced by an American Oil filling station that occupied the corner for many years.

Just west of the Woodbridge Inn, Krueger Brewing Company took advantage of the quick trip from Newark to bring barrels of beer to Woodbridge for bottling. In 1900 the Gottfried Krueger Brewing Company of Newark, NJ was producing a capacity 182,000 barrels of beer a year and opened a bottling plant on the south side of Green Street opposite the Masonic Hall. The Krueger Brewing Company operated at that location until Prohibition. Kreuger Brewing in Newark weathered the dry spell by producing near beer but

not in enough volume to maintain the Woodbridge facility and the plant came down during the railroad station rebuild of the late 1930s.



2 Woodbridge Train Station

In 1864, the Pennsylvania Railroad heeded local enfor the town. On the north side of what became known treaties and extended their rail lines into the center of as Heard's Corner, Moore's Tavern catered both to lo- town. The railroad had an immediate and dramatic cals and travelers passing through Woodbridge. The impact on Green Street. Not only was the platform Town doctor, Dr. Ellis Barron Freeman, ran the town's stop located on the south side of lower Green Street first drug store there until his death in 1877. It also but grade-level tracks crossed Green, Main, Berry

the 1940s. Woodbridge Auto Sales run by the Lucas to and from Woodbridge. Now well-to-do New Yorkfamily moved on to the corner and in 1931 became ers, some with Woodbridge roots, could build stately an Oldsmobile dealer. They expanded their lot space homes for their families along tree-lined Green Street and still get to work in the City on time. The rail bed also created a physical barrier dividing the commerabove, began to line the north side of the road west. cial end of Green Street from the primarily residential section on the other side of the tracks.

While the railroad brought many economic improve Stevens' School, Bartholomew's Stoves, Ranges ments to town, the grade-level tracks also posed a and Tin-Ware, Franklin Moore's hardware store, danger to the community. Many accidents, some Peter Greiner's barber shop, a confectionery store, fatal, occurred at the crossings. By 1876, flagmen coal yard, upholstery, jeweler, laundry and meat were placed at the Main and Green Street intersecmarket among Green Street's fine establishments. tions. Woodbridge quickly outgrew the simple plat-Anchored by the stately building that became known form station and in 1882 started efforts to have a as the Masonic Hall, which housed, in addition to the larger station built. A new brick depot was completed fraternal temple, a public stage, and was the home to in 1885 and in 1886 gates staffed by gatemen were

occurred and town officials and citizens lobbied the The south side was equally attractive to our Town- Pennsylvania Railroad to elevate the tracks. Finally, ship's business folk. The corner where Walgreens the tracks at Main and Green Streets were raised now stands was the designated village market in in 1940 and the new. WPA financed, station was

was built by William E. Fink. Jr. in 1876.

William E. Fink, Sr. moved his family to Woodbridge from New York in the 1830s. Born in 1837, William Jr. grew up in Woodbridge but worked as a broker in NYC and often lived in the city. In 1876 he, his wife Mary and daughter Carrie took up residence back in Woodbridge where so many of his siblings and nieces and nephews still lived. Moving back to the city, they sold the house in 1907. The Demarests owned it for some twenty years and in 1928 sold it to August Furman Greiner. Augie, as he became known

