

sponsible 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.



4 Cedar Cliff

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.

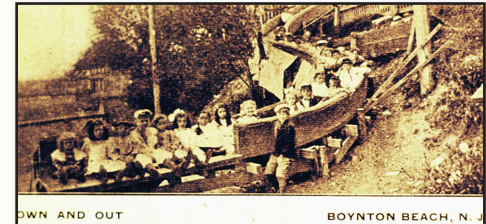
Today "Cedar Cliff" is owned by Catherine "Kay" Clark Burns. The house has a high pyramidal hipped roof, projecting polygonal side bay on the left, garage with jerkin-head gable and dormer at the back of the house. The phrase "Cedar Cliff MCCCCXCV" was written in a small stained glass window on the south 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.



5 Boynton Beach

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.

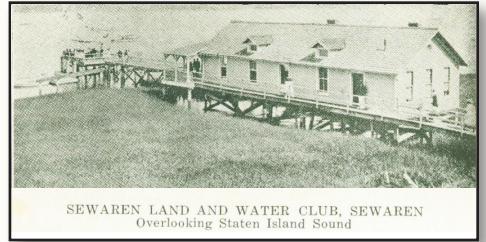
In 1877, the Boynton Beach resort opened, featuring a bathing beach with bath houses, picnic grove, pony rides, hot air balloons, shooting gallery, nickelodeon, bowling alley, skee ball, frequent fireworks displays and amusement rides including a Ferris wheel, merry-go-round, small rollercoaster, and 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.



6 Drake-Lloyd House

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 long time 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-



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"Sailing on the Arthur Kill off Boynton Beach"

1907

Mayor John E. McCormac

**Research Consultants**  
Dana Baldassarre Jane E. Sinnott

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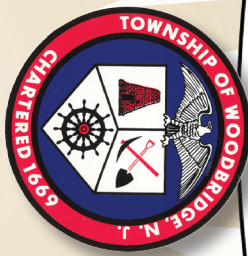
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# Historic Walking Tour of WOODBIDGE Volume IV Sewaren: Down By The Seashore

Compiled by the

Woodbridge Township Historic Preservation Commission

First Edition - 2012



Chartered 1669

Sewaren, one of the ten towns that make up Woodbridge Township, was formerly known as Pierce's Landing, Boynton Beach and occasionally Woodbridge Beach. Located east of the town of Woodbridge, Sewaren covers about one square mile of Woodbridge Township's twenty-three square mile area. It has held an important place in the cultural history of the Township.

There are conflicting stories as to the origin of Sewaren's name. The first rendition is that "Sewaren" is a derivative of the Dutch word "Sewanhacky" meaning "place where fan-shaped shells are found". Fan-shaped oyster and clam shells found on the Arthur Kill's shores support this theory. The second story involves Mr. C.W. Boynton's employee, Mr. Warren. According to the story, Mr. Warren was Mr. Boynton's right hand man at Boynton Beach and frequently responded that he must "See Warren" about various resort decisions. Mrs. Kay Burns, a life long resident of Sewaren, confirmed that Sewaren was named for Mr. John Taylor Johnston's friend S.E. Warren who was interested in building a beach resort. Mr. Johnston was president of the Central New Jersey Railroad and helped in the development of Sewaren.

Sewaren was a popular beach resort for the wealthy in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. One of the reasons for its popularity was its proximity to New York City. Two of the town's most influential people were Cassimer Whitman (C.W.) Boynton and John Taylor Johnston. Through Boynton and Johnston's efforts, visitors could commute by ferry, steamboat, train and trolley to spend the day at Boynton Beach.

In 1892, the Sewaren Land and Water Club was incorporated and immediately began hosting events for residents throughout the year. Although it began as a tourist attraction, people began to permanently relocate to this resort area.

Progress accounted for the downfall of Boynton Beach in the late 1920s. The building of bridges crossing over the Raritan River allowed easy access to beaches further south, now known as the Jersey Shore. By the end of the 1920s, the beach front properties, Acker's Grove, and Boynton Beach were purchased by Shell Oil Company and Public Service Generating. Coal barges, oil freighters, and industrial steamships frequented the Arthur Kill, which became polluted and deemed unfit for swimming by the 1940s. Through environmental preservation efforts, by the turn of the 21st century, water conditions greatly improved.

In the 1960s, Woodbridge Township's Planning and Development Department proposed the restoration of docks, boat landings and the creation of a marina along the Arthur Kill. In addition, Sewaren residents living on the waterfront worked hard to maintain the original splendor of their homes and many new homes were built among those remaining from the days of Boynton Beach. Today, the Boynton Beach area includes a walking path, marinas, a park dedicated to Captain Carlsen and a park dedicated to Alvin P. Williams, a Woodbridge police officer who died in the line of duty. Overlooking the water, public availability to the summer activities at the parks, walking path, and marinas, make Sewaren a favorite spot to visit once again.



1 Grant-Tombs House

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.



2 Sewaren House Hotel

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.



3 Cooper-Neuberg House

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 re-



partment while his wife was very involved in the First Presbyterian Church of Woodbridge (White Church) Guild. They were also active in the Sewaren Republican Club. Growing up, Earl and Leonard raced motor boats competitively. Leonard was also a member of the Sewaren Dock Rats, a yacht club he started with five other graduates of Perth Amboy Vocational School.

Leonard Lloyd and his wife Jolen moved to the home in 1942. Leonard became Cubmaster for Cub Scout Pack #133. His wife was active in the White Church Guild serving as its vice-president, co-hosting several social events including the Guild's Valentine's Day Social and participating in several fundraisers to benefit the Church. She also was a fifth grade class mother for School No. 1.

Today the home continues as a private residence.



7 Louis H. Brown House

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.



8 St John's Episcopal Church

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.

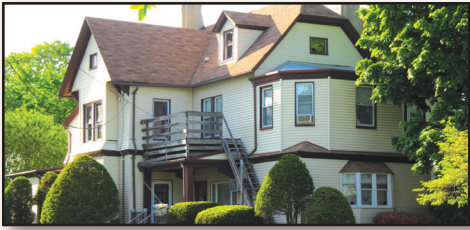
A meeting was held in March, 1892, to organize the congregation into a new parish. The Right Reverend John Scarborough, diocesan bishop, approved of the new parish and an incorporation certificate was filed. Plans for a brand new church building quickly began as this would be the first church in Sewaren. 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.



9 Ames House

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.



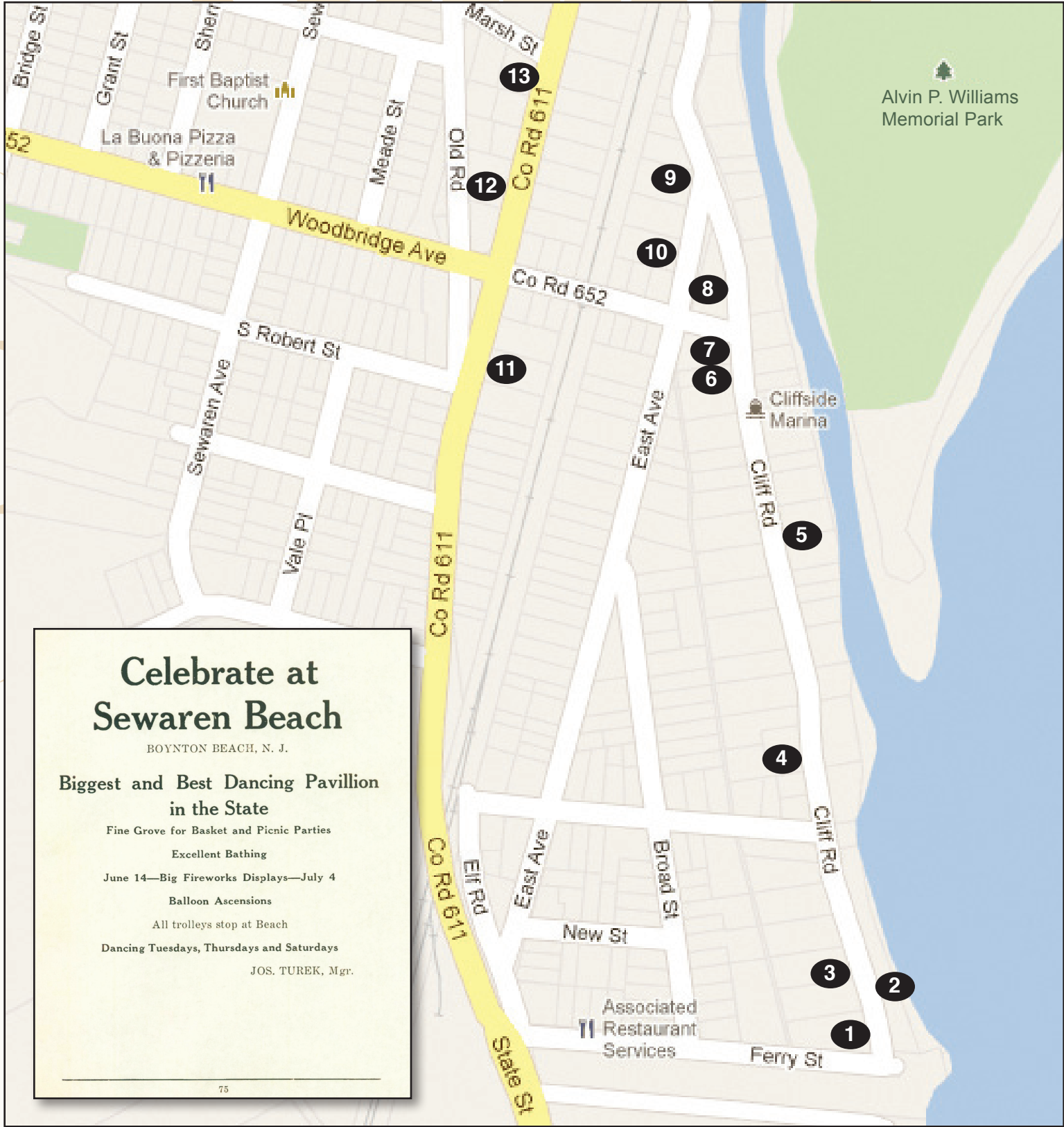
10 Cowles House

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.



## Woodbridge Township Historic Preservation Commission Tour Map of Historic Sites



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.

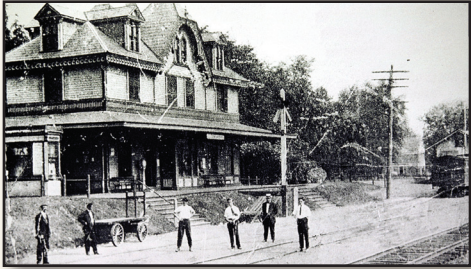


11 Gorham Boynton House

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 horse-shoe 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.



12 Sewaren Station

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.



13 Sewaren Free Public Library

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.



DANCING PAVILION

BOYNTON BEACH, N. J.



BOYNTON BEACH, N. J.