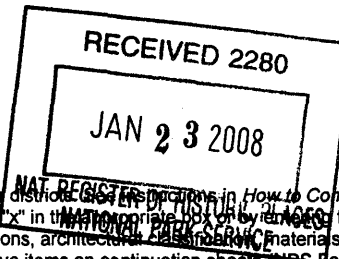


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box on the form. If the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classifications, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name East Trenton Public Library
other names/site number Samuel Dickinson House

2. Location

street & number 701 North Clinton Street not for publication
city or town Trenton vicinity
state New Jersey code NJ county Mercer code 021 zip code 08638-3409

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. See continuation sheet for additional comments.

Amy Cradic 12/20/07
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Amy Cradic, Assistant Commissioner Natural & Historic Resources/DSHPO
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet for additional comments.

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:) _____

Edson H. Beall 3.5.08
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
	0	sites
	0	structures
1	0	objects
2	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- DOMESTIC / Single Dwelling
- DOMESTIC / Institutional Housing
- COMMERCE/TRADE / Restaurant
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- EDUCATION / Library
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

- LATE 19th and 20th CENTURY REVIVALS / Colonial Revival
- _____
- _____

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation Concrete
- walls Stone
- roof Asphalt
- other Cornice - Wood
- _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8 Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria considerations

(mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Social History

Architecture

Period of Significance

1796-1934

Significant Dates

1927

1934

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Primary location of additional data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Trentoniana Collection, Trenton Public Library

10. Geographical DataAcreage of property Less than one acre**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	18	521972	4453687	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2				4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John Hatch

organization Clarke Caton Hintz Architects date 5 November 2007

street & number 400 Sullivan Way telephone 609.883.8383

city or town Trenton state NJ zip code 08628-3407

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets**Maps**

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

PhotographsRepresentative **black and white photographs** of the property.**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Trenton Free Public Library

street & number 120 Academy Street telephone 609.392.7188

city or town Trenton state NJ zip code 08608

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

East Trenton Public Library
Trenton, Mercer County, NJ

Section number 7 Page 1

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The East Trenton Library sits at the rear of a small parcel of land at the corners of Girard Street and North Clinton Avenue with a tall decorative wrought iron fence on two sides; buildings enclose the others. Originally constructed as a house by Samuel Dickinson at the end of the 18th century, the East Trenton Library is 2-1/2 stories consisting of the original four-bay house and a 1933 L-shaped wing constructed at the west end that wraps around and covers a portion of the back of the building. The entire building is parged and painted rubblestone with a bracketed cornice. The roof of both the original and the wing is hipped with asphalt shingle, dating to 1933. The windows are various light patterns and wood double hung with two steel casements on the hidden, east elevation. The 1933 wing houses the entrances to the building.

The former Samuel Dickinson house was constructed ca. 1796 on a tract of land containing 225 acres located over a mile from Trenton. The house, which was named "The Grove," was the heart of a substantial farmstead, with numerous out-buildings, thirty acres of woods and an apple orchard containing over 300 trees. Little is known about the house itself, except that it was Georgian in style with rubblestone masonry walls measuring two feet in thickness, and that it had 13-foot ceilings and two parlors. Except for the exterior walls, very little of that house survives.

In 1859, the house ceased to be a private residence and entered an extended period of mixed usage. Because of its size, the house was no longer viable as a single-family residence in the East Trenton neighborhood; instead, it was used for commercial and public services that supported the surrounding residential population. At various times the building, which was known as "Dickinson House" as late as 1881, served as a home for orphans of Civil War soldiers, a factory, and a school. Maps from 1881 show it at that time as an L-shaped structure with a stone block and a wood-framed wing at the east side. By 1890 the house had acquired a front porch that spanned the length of the façade, and it was being used as a saloon. The earliest photograph of the building dates from 1925 and shows a five-bay structure with a single-story porch across the front. The front entry, consisting of a single door with a transom above, is located at the far west end of the building, in the fifth bay. The house is capped with a wood cornice. Dormer windows, three of which are visible in the picture, are an indication that the attic space was being used. Four tall, four-over-four light, double-hung sash windows are located at the first floor, and five windows, all with closed shutters, are located at the second floor. It is unlikely that the double-height windows are original. The sash configuration and the size of the muntin bars indicates that they were probably installed in the mid- to late-19th century, a period in which the building changed hands and functions numerous times (Historic Photo 1).

In the 1920s the building was being used by the Blue Triangle Club, an organization affiliated with the local YWCA. It served the community as a classroom, library and baby clinic. By 1926 the Trenton Public Library had established a small branch library on the first floor. Two years later, in 1928, the Trenton Public Library board bought the building and completed some repairs to the building which was in poor condition after many years of different uses. Although reopening occurred on October 27, 1927, there were plans for additional, much-needed upgrades. The library made do with what they had until 1933 when with the help of the Civil Works Administration (CWA) the building was completely rehabilitated. The old sagging floor joists were removed and new floors of steel and concrete installed.

In addition to the full remodel of the original Dickinson house, an unsafe frame section that was added between 1908 and 1927 when the building was a community center (Historic Photo 1) was removed and a new stone addition constructed on the west and rear. The renovations were completed in the Colonial Revival style (Historic Photos 4-14).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

East Trenton Public Library
Trenton, Mercer County, NJ

Section number 7 Page 2

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Now used as the East Trenton branch of the Trenton Public Library system, the building sits on a small parcel of land. It is located at the back of the lot and is surrounded by a deep grassy lawn, all that remains of the original 225-acre estate. The lot is surrounded on the west and south by a tall decorative wrought iron fence; the east side and back are enclosed with hurricane fencing and neighboring buildings. The decorative fence was installed soon after the 1933 renovations; the fence is included as a contributing object.

In its present form, the south façade consists of the original four-bay house and the single-bay of the 1933 wing. The cornice has simple brackets that are actually more like over-sized dentils. At the first floor of the original block are four tall, 16/12 double-hung wood windows with segmentally-arched tops. At the second floor four 8/8-light double-hung windows are symmetrically arranged above the lower windows. Besides the original stone walls, all of these features date to the 1933 renovations.

The south façade of the wing, which is recessed slightly from the original block, is the main Library entrance. The entrance consists of double leaf doors with a six-light transom above. The entry is covered with a hipped metal roof carried on reeded brackets supported on shallow pilasters. The bottom portion of each door is paneled, and a large glazed light is located above. Solid wood pocket doors provide an extra measure of security as they can be pulled shut at night. Centered above this is a 6/6 light wood double-hung window (Photos 1-3).

The west elevation of the building along Girard Street consists of two blocks, both constructed in 1933. The northern block is slightly recessed and contains a similar, but smaller, entrance than the main one on the primary façade. This door serves the Children's Reading Room on the second floor and is not currently used. Above this is a 6/3 double-hung window that illuminates the stair well. Centered on the south section of this elevation is a projecting brick parged chimney. This is flanked on either side by a 9/6 window on the first floor and 6/6 window at the second. The cornice of both sections matches that of the south façade (Photo 4).

The east elevation of the building is largely removed from public view and is slightly less "Colonial" in appearance. It is two stories in height and constructed of parged stone with the same bracketed cornice found on the front and west. The east elevation of the Dickinson house matches the west with two 9/6 double-hung wood sash on the first floor and two 6/6 double-hung wood sash at the second. There is a chimney on this end of the roof, although unlike the west, it is internal (Photo 2). The two large multi-light steel casements of the east elevation of the 1933 wing lend this portion of the building a more contemporary air.

The rear of the building, the north elevation, abuts the neighboring property and consists of two blocks. The 1933 wing, to the west, projects from the east elevation of the original house. Because of their proximity to the neighboring buildings, both are blank walls with no fenestration or doors. The bracketed cornice found on the rest of the building continues on Dickinson house but is not found on the 1933 section.

The interior of the library was completely remodeled in 1933-34 when it assumed its current function. At that time, the original structural members were replaced with concrete beams, and portions of the original stone foundations were replaced with concrete. What remains is a largely unaltered Colonial Revival interior, typical of the period.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

East Trenton Public Library
Trenton, Mercer County, NJ

Section number 7 Page 3

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

A shallow entry vestibule contains two swinging doors that lead to the Reading Room. The vestibule is paneled in knotty pine to a height of eight feet; above this the walls and ceiling are plastered. The wall that adjoins the Library is largely glazed and provides daylight for the circulation desk beyond. Still located on the north wall is the original steel umbrella stand.

Located just inside the Library, between the two vestibule doors, is the U-shaped circulation desk. Like all of the interior trim the desk is constructed of knotty pine (Photo 7). A matching notice board hangs on the wall above it. The area that was originally occupied by two parlors is now one large space used as the Adult Reading Room. The walls are plastered and lined with bookshelves, and the plaster ceiling, which is over eleven feet high, is decorated with a shallow plaster cornice. The deep window reveals and the doors and frames are all of varnished pine (Photos 5 and 6).

At the east end of the Reading Room is a massive fireplace measuring 11 feet 7 inches in width. It is decorated with a varnished pine mantelpiece with heavy bolection molding. On either side of the hearth are cabinets with wrought iron HL-hinges and knobs in typical Colonial Revival style.

At the back of the building, in the 1933 wing, are a small office and storage area and the side entry vestibule containing the staircase to the second floor. These rooms retain the Colonial Revival style trim seen in the rest of the building, including rustic peg-like coat racks and pine storage cabinets with wrought iron details. From this area, a door leads to a steel staircase that serves the Basement, which contains three rooms for mechanical and electrical equipment and a single toilet.

At the second floor are a Staff Room and bathroom, as well as the Children's Reading Room, which corresponds in size and location with the reading room below. The floors of both reading rooms were originally covered with alternating squares of red and black linoleum. This material remains intact throughout the second floor; however, the main reading room has subsequently been carpeted. The walls of the Children's Reading Room are plastered and the ceiling is highlighted by a series of deep wood beams spanning both ways across the room. The second floor woodwork includes pine paneling and a built-in circulation desk, as well as elements such as clock shelves and bulletin boards in matching varnished pine. A unique decorative element is the large terra cotta compass set in the reading room floor. Terra cotta tiles, ranging in subject matter from animals to objects and people, outline the fireplace (Photo 8); the maker of the tiles is unknown.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

East Trenton Public Library
Trenton, Mercer County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 1

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary Statement

The East Trenton Library, which was built as the Samuel Dickinson House circa 1796, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, as representative of the broad patterns of development of the East Trenton community. This section of what is now Trenton began as an area of vast country estates in the eighteenth century. In the mid-nineteenth century, following the establishment of the Delaware and Raritan Canal and the Camden and Amboy Railroad, the area became increasingly industrial. Along with potteries and rubber manufacturing came an increase in worker housing, as well as the supplemental services required by the growing population. As a result, the large estates were subdivided into small lots and the area became crowded with rowhouses, shops and saloons. The Dickinson house ceased to be a private residence in the late 1850s and in the subsequent decades served the community in various public and commercial capacities. In 1926 it became the East Trenton Library, which it remains today.

The East Trenton Library is also eligible for listing under Criterion C, as an excellent example of a specific building type. In its organization and layout, which have remained unaltered for over seventy years, the building typifies the early-20th century principles of library design. When the library was remodeled in 1933-34, the goals of the renovation were two-fold. First, on a strictly prosaic level, the existing structure was reconfigured and updated, and a new wing was added so that the library might serve the community safely and efficiently. The second goal, the democratization and Americanization of the local community, was achieved through more symbolic means, primarily the reuse of a Colonial-era structure, remodeled in the Colonial Revival architectural style. The building, which hearkened back to the Revolutionary War period and the birth of the new nation, was intended to inculcate the predominantly immigrant population with the ideas and philosophies on which this nation was founded.

The Development of East Trenton

The village of Trenton was founded by William Trent, Chief Justice of New Jersey, in 1719, five years after the creation of Hunterdon County. The site on the northern side of the Assunpink Creek was chosen for its position on the Maidenhead Road, the artery that connected Trenton to other settlements north and south, because of the falls of the Delaware River as well as the site of an early grist mill. With its strategic location, Trenton soon became the county seat of Hunterdon County.

Development was slow through the eighteenth century and the community remained no more than a small village. With industrialization, however, came immense and immediate growth. This began following the establishment of the Delaware and Raritan Canal in 1832 and exploded in the second half of the nineteenth century with the many industries that located along the banks of the canal, primarily potteries.¹ By the last quarter of the nineteenth century, Trenton was a leader in pottery manufacturing and East Trenton had become the industrial heart of the city.

In the beginning of the eighteenth century, the land that would become East Trenton was owned by Thomas Cadwalader. Cadwalader subsequently sold his land to Samuel Henry who developed a grist mill and apple orchard on the site. Henry then sold his estate to General Philemon Dickinson who further developed it. Dickinson's son, Samuel retained part of his family's

¹ Constance M. Greiff and Robert P. Guter, "Hanover-Academy Streets Historic District" National Register Nomination (April 17, 1978), 7-5-8-4.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

East Trenton Public Library
Trenton, Mercer County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 2

estate and ca. 1796 built his own home, known as "The Grove," on 225 acres. Now the East Trenton Library and the subject of this nomination, the house is the oldest building still standing in East Trenton.

By the first half of the nineteenth century, the industrial revolution began to affect the area around the Dickinson estate. In the early nineteenth century, taking advantage of the Assunpink Creek and the transportation opportunities afforded by the D&R Canal, many mills were built east of the city center. By the 1850s, the area's pottery industry began to emerge, established here because of its proximity to Trenton and the Camden and Amboy Railroad line.² The pottery business expanded through the 1860s and 70s. In the 1880s a visitor to East Trenton reported the condition of the area in *Harper's New Monthly Magazine*. "Reaching the eastern portion of the city, one is surrounded by telling signs of the peculiar activity which has appropriately given this region its title of the Staffordshire of America. On every side may be seen smoking chimneys and kilns looming above tall modern factories or long, low, weather-stained buildings, lumbering carts filled with casks and crates of finished wares."³

Also during this period a number of rubber companies were established. Like the Assunpink Creek before it, the Delaware and Raritan Canal defined the area's western edge and created a corridor along which these industries developed. By the 1880s, the eastern section was the industrial heart of the city, dominated by two- and three-story brick factories interspersed among the growing residential community.⁴

Well into the nineteenth century large eighteenth century estates still could be found in East Trenton. However, by the second half of the century industrial growth and the need for workers' housing led to the break-up these estates. As early as 1850 land developers were subdividing these properties into individual building lots. The first such development, Homestead Place, was created on Hart Avenue and Poplar and Oak Streets. In 1851, 55 lots were carved from the Dickinson estate and sold for \$12-25 each. The incorporation of the East Trenton Land and Building Company on April 6, 1866, led to the first well-developed effort to subdivide the land in the area for residential development. This was followed in 1873 by the Enterprise Land Company. Most of these lots were sold individually; however, in some cases speculative housing was constructed. "Three double frame dwelling houses were erected on Klagg Avenue as an inducement to the buyers of lots, for whoever drew a lucky number found a home already built on the lot."⁵

A survey of the maps from this period clearly depicts the explosive growth of East Trenton. The 1881 Robinson Map shows Lee's Pottery located immediately adjacent to the Dickinson property and a number of larger potteries lining the north side of the nearby D & R Canal. The Hamilton Rubber Company was located about five blocks to the southwest and the Star Rubber Company was across from the house between Millham Road (now North Clinton Avenue) and Assunpink Creek. But the majority of this area, owned by the East Trenton Land Association, was largely undeveloped.⁶ By 1890 several additional rubber companies had been established and the housing stock had increased significantly.⁷ The first quarter of the twentieth century saw the greatest expansion. By 1905 industry had a firm hold on the neighborhood. The Empire Rubber

² Douglas C. McVarish, "Historic American Engineering Record Documentation of the Enterprise Pottery" (HAER No. NJ-105) (1996), 12.

³ Ibid, 42.

⁴ "North Ward Historic Resource Survey, City of Trenton," Volume 1 (1980), 41-42. New Jersey Historic Preservation Office.

⁵ Ibid, 43.

⁶ Elisha Robinson. *Atlas of the City of Trenton and Suburbs, New Jersey* (New York: E. Robinson Company, 1881), Plate R.

⁷ Scarlett and Scarlett, *Fire Map of Mercer County, New Jersey, including Trenton and Suburbs* (Newark: Scarlett & Scarlett, 1890), Plate

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

East Trenton Public Library
Trenton, Mercer County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 3

Manufacturing Company occupied 161 acres directly across Milham Avenue from the future library, and the surrounding blocks were entirely filled with wood-framed rowhouses.⁸ By 1927, East Trenton was almost fully developed.⁹

The growing residential community required services and support facilities, which began to arrive in East Trenton in the mid-nineteenth century. The first religious facility, the Methodist Church, opened its doors in 1852. The first school arrived in 1866. In 1876, the area was connected to downtown Trenton by streetcar, which further affected development.

East Trenton was generally a community of poor immigrants. As in the rest of urban America, the first immigrants to arrive in this area were English, Irish, German and Scottish. Later, when American industry expanded during the 1880s and 90s, many Italians joined the community.¹⁰ Finally, Poles were the dominant immigrant group to arrive in East Trenton during its twentieth century explosion.

The area's first Polish immigrants originally settled in South Trenton in the 1870s; this initial community was relatively small, however. By the turn of the century, the Polish community had greatly expanded and moved into East Trenton. Many of the men worked at the rubber mills, and the women were employed at Fosters Yarns, a woolen mill on Nottingham Way, only a few blocks from the library site. The potteries were also major employers of the immigrant Poles.

On November 1, 1900 the Casimir Pulaski Society for Men was organized; this was the first of many male Polish clubs founded in this part of the city. Their main objective was the education of the children in the East Trenton community. They soon erected a school on the corner of Spruce and Ellis Avenues, north of the library. The first teacher arrived in 1903. On July 16, 1904, the Polish community of East Trenton received permission to organize their own church. The first location of St. Hedwig's Church was in the original school building at Spruce and Ellis Avenues. By 1905, a new church was completed at the corner of Brunswick and Olden Avenues. Twelve lots were purchased here for the establishment of a Polish religious campus with church, school, rectory and convent.¹¹ Between 1900 and 1920, Trenton's Polish community increased fivefold, from 800 to 4,423, with the majority living in the eighth ward, the area surrounding the East Trenton Library.¹²

By the 1920s many potteries had come to be owned by Polish businessmen, creating a new group of influential community leaders. The New Jersey Porcelain Company, located at Pennsylvania Avenue and Plum Street, was purchased by Poles in 1920. The Mercer Porcelain Company at Pennsylvania Avenue and Mulberry Street, and the U.S. Porcelain Company at Princeton Avenue and Tossett Streets, were both founded by Polish immigrants. Poles were similarly involved in the housing market, founding the Economia Building and Loan Association (originally known as Skarb Polski) in 1911, an agency that helped hundreds in the Polish community save for new homes in the first quarter of the twentieth century.¹³

In the mid-twentieth century, the East Trenton Polish community disbanded with the majority of its members moving either to Chambersburg in South Trenton¹⁴ or to suburban Ewing.¹⁵ Following World War II, African-Americans arrived in Trenton,

⁸ A.H. Mueller, *Atlas of Mercer County, New Jersey* (Philadelphia: A. H. Mueller, 1905), Plate 15

⁹ Sanborn Map Company, *Insurance Maps of Trenton, New Jersey* (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1927), Plate 443.

¹⁰ North Ward Survey, 44-45.

¹¹ Joan Markiewicz Bernath, "Ohio and Indiana Never Meet," *The Immigrant in American Life* (May 12, 1977), 1-5. From the Polish-American Vertical File, Trentoniana Collection, Trenton Free Public Library.

¹² Celestine Bohlen, "Trenton Ethnic," *Trenton Times* (Tuesday, October 16, 1977), 91. Trentoniana Collection, Trenton Free Public Library.

¹³ Bernath, 7.

¹⁴ "Trenton Ethnic," *Trenton Times* (Tuesday, October 16, 1977), 90. Trentoniana Collection, Trenton Free Public Library.

¹⁵ Bohlen, 91.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

East Trenton Public Library
Trenton, Mercer County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 4

migrating from the south and finding employment in the local factories.¹⁶ In 1940, they made up 7% of Trenton's population with only 9,300 people; half a century later, in 1990, there were 44,000 African-Americans in Trenton, comprising 49% of the population.¹⁷ Today, East Trenton remains an industrial and residential area. Continuing the nineteenth century precedent, the local population remains low income, immigrant and minority dominated.

History of the East Trenton Library Building

In 1796, Samuel Dickinson married his cousin Ann Meredith. Both were grandchildren of Dr. Thomas Cadwalader, founder of the Trenton Library Company and an associate of Benjamin Franklin's in establishing the Philadelphia Library Company. Dickinson was the son of General Philemon Dickinson, a distinguished Revolutionary officer and the nephew of John Dickinson author of *Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania*, a famous eighteenth century book. Meredith was also from a prominent American family. Her father was General Samuel Meredith, first Treasurer of the United States. Dickinson built the new house for his bride on the 225-acre estate, located over a mile from the center of Trenton. The acreage was a part of a very large tract purchased in 1680 by Thomas Lambert Sr. who was Mary's great-grandfather. The house, which was named "The Grove," was the heart of a substantial farmstead that also included a frame barn, a coach house, stone ice house, smoke house, thirty acres of woods and an apple orchard containing over 300 trees. Little is known about the house itself, except that it was 43 feet by 30, Georgian in style with rubblestone masonry walls and two parlors.¹⁸

With the death of Samuel Dickinson in 1837, the house passed to his elder son, John, who lived there until his death in 1857. In an attempt to initiate silkworm cultivation on the property, John planted many mulberry trees. Although his efforts failed, the impact is still visible in today's Mulberry Street, located to the east and north of the library building.¹⁹

The Dickinson house and property remained in the family until the late 1850s when the trustees of John's estate sold off the lands. In 1859, the "land known as The Grove" was sold to James T. Sherman.²⁰ Sherman did not live at The Grove but instead acquired the land, as well as numerous other parcels in the vicinity, as an investment. He was a landowner with vast holdings throughout Trenton. Because of his widely scattered properties, it is unclear when Sherman sold the Dickinson property, although it appears that he accomplished this in stages. In 1873, for instance, he sold a small part of the parcel for a right-of-way to the United New Jersey Railroad.²¹

Following its purchase by Sherman in 1859, the house ceased to be a private residence and entered an extended period of mixed usage. Because of its size, the house was no longer viable as a single-family residence; instead, it was used for commercial and public services that supported the surrounding residential population. At various times the building, which was known as "Dickinson House" as late as 1881, served as a home for orphans of Civil War soldiers, a factory, and a school.²² In 1890 it was operating, probably quite successfully, as a saloon.²³

¹⁶ "Trenton Ethnic," 90.

¹⁷ <http://www.census.gov/population/documentation/twps0076/NJtab.xls>

¹⁸ Howard L. Hughes, "The East Trenton Branch Library, Trenton, N.J. The CWA and ERA Effect a Transformation." *The Library Journal*, (May 15, 1935), 414.

¹⁹ "North Ward Historic Resource Survey, City of Trenton," Volume 1 (1980), 41.

²⁰ Mercer County Deed Book Volume 44, page 137.

²¹ Mercer County Deed Book Volume 97, page 20.

²² E. Robinson 1881.

²³ 1890 Scarlett & Scarlett

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

East Trenton Public Library
Trenton, Mercer County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 5

In 1905 the building was owned by Bayard Stockton of Princeton.²⁴ Like Sherman before him, Stockton owned vast tracts of land throughout Trenton, which he subdivided and sold as individual building lots throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In 1906 Bayard sold the house and what was left of the property to the Keystone Circle #49 of the Brotherhood of America, a fraternal lodge.²⁵ During World War I the building became a YWCA (Young Women's Christian Association).²⁶ While it was a YWCA, the house was known as the Blue Triangle (because of the YWCA's blue triangle emblem) but previously, it had been known locally as the Old White House. As a YWCA, it offered programs for girls, a baby clinic and a circulating library.²⁷

The decades between 1890 and 1920 constituted a period of vital reform activity in the U.S. that historians have dubbed "the Progressive Era." In this age, millions of Americans organized voluntary associations to devise solutions to the countless problems created by industrialization, urbanization, and immigration. Acting through such organizations as the YWCA, professional associations, and trade unions, the mostly female reformers were at the forefront of the movement against child labor as well as the women's suffrage campaign. They won minimum wage and maximum hour laws for women workers, public health programs for pregnant women and babies, improved educational opportunities for both children and adults, and an array of social welfare measures at the local, state, and federal levels. They even succeeded in creating the Children's Bureau (1912) and the Women's Bureau (1920) in the federal Department of Labor.²⁸ The evolution of the East Trenton building from saloon in the 1890s to YWCA and Public Library in the 1920s is a direct result of this movement to improve the lives of immigrants and urban workers.

In 1925 the Dickinson house became a community center. This conversion extended the programming that had been offered by the YWCA and expanded the target audience from women to the entire community. The planned activities included dances and card parties, a baby clinic and a story hour. Friday nights were devoted to boys' and girls' activities while Saturday night was reserved for the adults.

At the same time that the building was being converted, the residents of East Trenton were petitioning for a library branch to be located in their neighborhood.²⁹ In 1926, the Trenton Public Library rented the first floor of the former house and established a small branch library. Two years later, in 1928, the Trenton Public Library bought the building for \$10,000. An additional \$7,000 was appropriated by the City for necessary repairs and improvements, a sum that proved to be inadequate to the task. In 1933, with the help of the Civil Works Administration, the building was completely rehabilitated. A deteriorated wood-frame addition was removed and replaced with a new stone wing, sagging joists were replaced with new fire-proof concrete structural members and the interior was entirely remodeled.

When the library was established, the surrounding population was heavily Polish but also Italian, Lithuanian and Ukrainian. The library accommodated the immigrants by providing books in their native languages. In 1946 Mrs. Ramsdell, the East Trenton Branch Librarian, reported that "Polish seems to be the most predominant of the foreign strains in the community...Some of the foreign-born residents of East Trenton are learning English by reading a book in their native

²⁴ A.H. Mueller 1905.

²⁵ Mercer County Deed Book 291, page 133.

²⁶ "East Trenton's New Community Center," *Trenton Sunday Times Advertiser*, November 11, 1925. "East Trenton Vertical File," Trentoniana Collection, Trenton Free Public Library.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ <http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/travel/pwwmh/prog.htm>

²⁹ "East Trenton's New Community Center"

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

East Trenton Public Library
Trenton, Mercer County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 6

language and then comparing it as they go along with the English translation."³⁰ While serving as a library, the building continued to double as a community center, being used by county probation officers for consultations, and as a baby clinic.³¹

As it did when first established, the East Trenton Library continues to serve the area residents. As the demographics have changed from Eastern European to African-American and Latino, the library's services and collections have evolved as well.

A Short History Of American Libraries

The first American library systems, which began in the late eighteenth century, were proprietary, subscription based associations established by men of similar backgrounds, incomes and social levels. These early libraries slowly evolved into larger institutions that were supported by taxation and available to all. In 1835, New York recognized that it was the responsibility of the state to provide books for the public and passed a law permitting a tax-supported, free library service in each school district. New Jersey's equivalent law followed in 1871, however, the system proved ineffectual. The taxes raised by school districts were insufficient, with the result that libraries were too small to attract significant number of patrons.

The town of Peterborough, New Hampshire is usually credited with establishing the first municipally supported library in 1833. However, it was not until states began to pass laws enabling towns to establish and maintain libraries that public libraries truly began to be founded. Massachusetts was the first state to pass such a law for Boston in 1848; in 1851, the law was extended to cover all towns. New Jersey established this law in 1879.³²

As the nineteenth century progressed, industrialization, urbanization and rising prosperity contributed to the growth of the library system. Libraries were a largely urban phenomenon. "Urbanization gave rise to new social and moral problems: crime, alcoholism, gambling, prostitution, and juvenile delinquency. The public library was promoted as a continuing means of moral elevation and as an agency that might prevent, or at least reduce, these problems."³³

Perhaps the greatest promoter of the American library system was Andrew Carnegie, the Pittsburgh steel magnate, entrepreneur and self-made millionaire. Carnegie, who came to be known as the "Patron Saint of Libraries", gave over \$55 million dollars of his personal fortune to create more than 2000 libraries in this country, Canada and Europe. As a former immigrant, Carnegie believed that books should be available to all classes of people, not only the wealthy. He attributed much of his later success to the fact that as a poor working boy he had been given access to the personal library of Colonel James Anderson. Years later he wrote, "It was from my own early experience that I decided there was no use to which money could be applied so productive of good to boys and girls who have good within them and ability and ambition to develop it, as the founding of a public library in a community..."³⁴

Carnegie, like many social reformers of the period, believed that the establishment of libraries would create a meritocracy of American society, enabling the capable and hard working to rise to the top of industry, as he himself had done. He also believed that libraries would help in the homogenization of the immigrant workers, proclaiming "Show me the man who

³⁰ "Library Gives East Trenton Lift in Ideals" *Trenton Times* (December 1, 1946).

³¹ Ibid.

³² George S. Bobinski, *Carnegie Libraries: Their History and Impact on American Public Library Development* (Chicago: American Library Association, 1969), 4-6.

³³ Bobinski, 6-7.

³⁴ Bobinski, p. 47.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

East Trenton Public Library
Trenton, Mercer County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 7

speaks English, reads Shakespeare and Bobby Burns and I'll show you a man who has absorbed the American principles. He will most likely read also the Declaration of Independence and Washington's Farewell Address."³⁵

To support these ideals Carnegie established the Carnegie Library Fund whereby any town that applied would be given the funds for a library of their own. The only criterion was that the municipality must provide a sum equal to 10% of the value of the grant to maintain the library, and the sum had to come from taxes.

The spread of free public education and the notion that democracy demanded an enlightened populace contributed, not only to the growth of the Carnegie Library system, but to the strength of municipal library systems through the country at large. The early decades of the 20th century saw the peak of library expansion in this country, as exemplified by the Trenton Public Library system.

The History of the Trenton Library System

The first private library company in America, the Library Company of Philadelphia, was started by Benjamin Franklin in 1731. Dr. Thomas Cadwalader, a surgeon living in Philadelphia at the time, collaborated with Franklin to begin the Philadelphia system. Cadwalader then moved to Trenton and in 1750 he gave £500 to establish the Trenton Library Company, the first such organization in New Jersey and only the second in America. Cadwalader engaged Benjamin Franklin to procure the books. In a letter to William Strolman, a London bookseller, Franklin wrote, "The books for the Trenton Library arrived safe and I believe gave satisfaction."³⁶

The Trenton Library Company was private in the sense that it was supported by membership dues or shareholder contributions. The majority of the members were educated clergy, school men or property owners who could afford to buy books. It is unknown where the library was located but it is assumed that the books were housed in a small rented room, as was the trend. The library prospered for twenty-five years until the Revolutionary War, when the enemy destroyed most of the collection.

The Trenton Library Company was revived after the war in 1798 and by 1804 a published catalogue of the collection listed 700 volumes. Use declined in the nineteenth century, however, and by 1847 only 32 books had been borrowed. This was due to competition from the Apprentice Library Company, founded in 1821, and from the Trenton Library Association begun in 1852. The Trenton Library Company disbanded in 1855.³⁷

In 1821, the Apprentices' Library Company of Trenton was formed for the benefit of the working men in the city. In sharp contrast to the elite Trenton Library Company, the apprentice libraries were designed for use by the working class. Business and community leaders were becoming increasingly concerned with the welfare of young men who left the family farm to seek employment in the factories. "The apprentices' libraries were a part of the broad humanitarian movement which accompanied the expansion of industry and the emergence of a 'working class.' To rescue [workers from temptation], and to form them into useful citizens was the primary purpose of those who founded libraries for them."³⁸ Trenton and Newark formed the first apprentice libraries in New Jersey in 1821.

³⁵ www.lib/niu/edu/ipo

³⁶ Edwin Beckerman, Ed. *A History of New Jersey Libraries 1750-1996* (Lanham, Maryland: The Scarecrow Press, Inc., 1997), 2.

³⁷ Beckerman, 2; "Free Public Library on Academy Street Opened its Doors just 50 Years Ago," *Trenton Sunday Advertiser* (June 22, 1952), 1.

³⁸ Beckerman from Howard L. Hughes' 1965 *Public Libraries in New Jersey 1750-1850*

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

East Trenton Public Library
Trenton, Mercer County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 8

In 1828, the Trenton Literary Society took over the Apprentices' collection although the audience and mission remained the same. In 1845, the Trenton Library Association was formed, assuming the collections of the previous two entities.³⁹ Its reading room was located at South Broad and Front Streets and then moved to Broad just below State Street. This group was active until the late 1860s, when the Young Men's Christian Association formed a library. It was located in rented rooms at 20-22 East State Street; most of their books came from the Apprentices' and Trenton Library Association. The YMCA library disappeared in 1879 when the Trenton Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) took over the books of the YWCA and continued to operate on East State Street. In 1882 the WCTU organized the Union Library Company, and through subscriptions, a new building was erected on East State Street known as the Union Library Building. Dues were \$2 per year, \$1 for six months, 50 cents for three months, 25 cents for one month or 5 cents per book.⁴⁰

Following the passage of New Jersey's 1879 law allowing public support of municipal libraries, John Lambert Cadwalader, a great grandson of Dr. Thomas Cadwalader, offered to buy the books and building of the Union Library Company and give them to the city as the start of its own free public library. The city declined the offer, however, due to its lack of an endowment for building maintenance.

In 1897, Mayor Welling Sickel named a committee to study the free public library situation. Although nothing was finalized under Sickel's tenure, three years later, under mayor Frank Briggs, Trenton developed its system. On April 10, 1900, a referendum was passed by Trenton voters establishing Trenton's Free Public Library system. In May, 1900, Mayor Frank Briggs nominated the first board of trustees for the Trenton Free Library.⁴¹

Immediately, plans were set into place to construct a building. The main branch of the Trenton Public Library, located on Academy Street between Broad and Montgomery, was built in 1901. Designed by Spencer Roberts, it is a Neoclassical white marble building with an Ionic portico.⁴²

As Trenton grew, the Trenton Public Library Trustees planned and built a series of libraries across the city to serve the new, largely-immigrant population. The first branch library within the city was established in 1910 in a rented building at the corner of Hamilton and Chestnut Avenues. This library served residents of the East Ward, primarily immigrants working in Trenton's factories. The second branch was opened in 1914 in a room of the Columbus School on the corner of Brunswick and Mulberry Street. The third branch opened in 1917 in the old Franklin School on the corner of Liberty and William Streets, and in 1926 a new building, the first branch library to be built in Trenton, was constructed for its purposes. It was constructed in the Georgian Style, close to many of the largest factories including the Roebling Wireworks and Horsman Doll Factory.

The fourth branch, the East Trenton Public Library, opened in 1926 to serve the predominantly Eastern European population of the North Ward. It began in a rented portion of the eighteenth century Dickinson House which was being used for community purposes. In 1928, the library board bought the building, and five years later the building was completely rehabilitated in the Colonial Revival style. It remains in use as a library.

A fifth branch opened in 1927 in a rented store at 43 North Hermitage Avenue.⁴³ Today, this is the Cadwalader Branch located at 200 N. Hermitage Avenue in the West Ward of the city. This area was developed later than other parts of Trenton which

³⁹ Beckerman, 6.

⁴⁰ *Trenton Sunday Advertiser* (June 22, 1952), 1.

⁴¹ Free Public Library on Academy Street, 1.

⁴² Greiff and Guter, 7-5.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetEast Trenton Public Library
Trenton, Mercer County, NJSection number 8 Page 9

had few industries and a smaller immigrant population. Construction of the library building did not occur until the second half of the twentieth century.

20th Century Library Design and the East Trenton Library Building

Although the East Trenton Public Library was not part of the Carnegie system, many of the details of its design can be attributed to the Carnegie model. Over a forty-year period Carnegie endowed more than 1600 libraries in the United States and, not surprisingly, their impact was felt in every community. Although there were no precise guidelines for the design of a Carnegie library, over half of the buildings were constructed in Classical Revival style. Two exterior elements were almost invariably found in Carnegie's libraries. The first was a set of steps leading to the entry, a symbol that in entering the library one was taking steps to elevate oneself. The second was the addition of a light or lamp pole outside the entrance, a very clear symbol of the enlightenment to be found within the library walls. Both of these elements were incorporated into the design of the East Trenton branch.

In the Carnegie model the reading room was often visible from the street as an advertisement to the public. Each floor was treated as one large room with an open plan so that only a few staff members were required to oversee the entire space. For this reason, the entrance, which was often pedimented in Classical style, was usually located at the side, rather than in the middle of the building, so that it did not cut the reading room in two. Staircases were usually grouped with auxiliary spaces such as toilets, offices and closets in mezzanines or additions. This assured that as much light as possible was provided for the library uses. The watchwords for the library design were convenience and directness of access, simplicity and obviousness of arrangement. Anyone entering should know exactly how the building was organized and be able to negotiate the collections easily. The adult circulating room was found on the first floor with the children's reading room above. The circulation desk was generally placed close to the entrance. The walls were lined with bookcases, with those in the children's area kept low so that children could help themselves to the books. Floors were of a quiet and durable material such as linoleum⁴⁴ and a tall basement was desirable as a location for heating equipment and auxiliary systems.⁴⁵

Remarkably, each of the above design elements is visible at the East Trenton branch. In fact, this small library is virtually a textbook example of the Carnegie library design philosophy. As designed in 1933-34, the library interior featured large, open reading rooms stacked one above the other, and the stair, office and ancillary spaces were tucked into the new wing. Plentiful daylight was provided by the large windows in the Reading Rooms, and the glazed wall in the entry vestibule supplied natural light to the circulation desk. The front entry was located to one side, in the new addition, and was pedimented in good Carnegie style.

Located in the old stone house of one of New Jersey's founding families, the building itself served as a history lesson for the local immigrant families, and the Colonial Revival style interior continued that lesson. The Classical style details, some original and others installed during the library renovation, recalled the late 18th century and the struggle of the American Revolution. Interior elements such as the oversize mantelpieces, bolection molding, cabinets with wrought iron hinges and latches, peg-style coat racks and knotty pine paneling were the early 20th century's interpretation of a Colonial interior. Their use in the library was intended to call up images of the founding fathers and the democratic principles on which our system of government was based.

⁴³ Edwin Robert Walker, *The Colonial History of Trenton 1679-1929* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1930), 770-771.

⁴⁴ Theodore Wesley Koch, *A Book of Carnegie Libraries* (New York: The H. W. Wilson Company, 1917), 36-76.

⁴⁵ Koch, 210-214.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

East Trenton Public Library
Trenton, Mercer County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 10

In short, the building itself served as much more than a repository for books. In its design and decoration, the building was intended to edify and improve the lives of those who found their way inside its doors. As was written at the time, "In the crowded foreign districts of New York City the...libraries are making American citizens out of the young boys and girls...It is not only a place where books are given out and where men, women and children may come to read where it is bright and light and clean. It has entered into the very life and character of the whole district..."⁴⁶ It was as true of East Trenton as it was of New York City. And like those early 20th century libraries, the East Trenton Public Library continues to function as an intrinsic part of the neighborhood in which it is located.

Summary of Significance

The evolution of the East Trenton Public Library from private country estate to community library is representative of the greater patterns of evolution that affected the entire East Trenton area, an area that underwent a significant change from a rural district bordered by the Assunpink Creek to an industrial area heavily influenced by the development of the D & R Canal. In 1796, when Samuel Dickinson built his house, it was one of many large estates located in close proximity to the Assunpink Creek. "The Grove remained in the Dickinson family through the mid-nineteenth century, by which time the area had begun to industrialize. The Assunpink Creek was an early source of power for many local mills, and with the establishment of the Delaware and Raritan Canal in 1832 and the Trenton Branch of the Camden and Amboy Railroad in 1839, heavy industry arrived in the form of potteries and rubber manufacturing. With industry came residential development and the auxiliary services necessary to sustain the local population. By the time The Grove was sold in 1859, its acreage had been substantially reduced to create residential lots and the building no longer functioned as a private residence. Instead, it served the community in various commercial and public capacities, as an orphanage, a fraternal lodge, a school and a saloon. With the onset of the twentieth century and the birth of the Progressive movement, which aimed to help the urban poor, the building became a community center, first in the form of a YWCA and then as a public library. Providing new immigrants with books in their native languages and community services such as baby clinics, the library was an important resource for the neighborhood.

In 1933 the building was remodeled into a quintessential twentieth century library in its organization, its architectural style, and its goals. Constructed in an eighteenth century Georgian house with a Colonial Revival interior, the library is an excellent example of the use of architectural symbolism as a tool in the education and Americanization of an immigrant community.

⁴⁶ Koch, 54.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

East Trenton Public Library
Trenton, Mercer County, NJ

Section number 9 Page 1

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

East Trenton Public Library
Trenton, Mercer County, NJ

Section number 9 Page 2

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

East Trenton Public Library
Trenton, Mercer County, NJ

Section number 10 Page 1

Boundary Description

The nominated property consists of all of Block 502, Lot 6 in Trenton, Mercer County, New Jersey.

Boundary Justification

Originally a part of a 225-acre tract known as "The Grove," the current land ownership of the East Trenton Public Library is limited to Block 502, Lot 6.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

East Trenton Public Library
Trenton, Mercer County, NJ

Section number Photos Page 1

PHOTOS

All photos were taken by Clarke, Caton, Hintz Architects in January 2006. East Trenton Library holds the negatives.

Photo 1

South Façade

The former Samuel Dickinson house was constructed ca. 1796. By 1926 the Trenton Public Library had established a small branch library on the first floor. In 1933, the building was extensively remodeled to improve and enlarge it as the East Trenton Library.

Photo 2

South Façade

The building sits on a small parcel of land at the corners of Girard Street and North Clinton Avenue. It is located at the back of the lot and is surrounded by a deep grassy lawn, all that remains of the original 225-acre estate. The lot is surrounded on the east and south by a tall decorative wrought iron fence; the west side and back are enclosed with hurricane fencing. In its present form the 2-1/2 story building consists of the original four-bay block and a new L-shaped wing that was constructed at the south end and wraps around the back of the building.

Photo 3

South Façade

At the first floor of the original block are four tall, 16/12 double-hung wood windows with segmentally-arched tops. At the second floor four 8/8-light double-hung windows are symmetrically arranged above the lower windows. In the center of the new wing, which is recessed slightly from the original block, is the main Library entrance. This consists of new double leaf doors with a six-light transom above. The entry is covered with a hipped metal roof carried on reeded brackets supported on shallow pilasters.

Photo 4

West Elevation

A similar, but smaller, entrance as that found on the main façade is located on the south side of the building. This serves the Children's Reading Room on the second floor and is not currently used.

Photo 5

Adult Reading Room looking east

The interior of the library was completely remodeled in 1933-34 when it assumed its current function. At that time, the original structural members were replaced with concrete beams, and portions of the original stone foundations were replaced with concrete. What remains is a largely unaltered Colonial Revival interior, typical of the period. The area that was originally occupied by two parlors is now one large space used as the Adult Reading Room. The walls are plastered and lined with bookshelves, and the plaster ceiling, which is over eleven feet high, is decorated with a shallow plaster cornice. The deep window reveals and the doors and frames are all of varnished pine.

Photo 6

Reading Room looking southwest

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

East Trenton Public Library
Trenton, Mercer County, NJ

Section number Photos Page 2

PHOTOS

Photo 7

Circulation desk, First Floor

Located just inside the Library, between the two vestibule doors, is the U-shaped circulation desk. Like all of the interior trim the desk is constructed of knotty pine.

Photo 8

Children's Reading Room, Second Floor

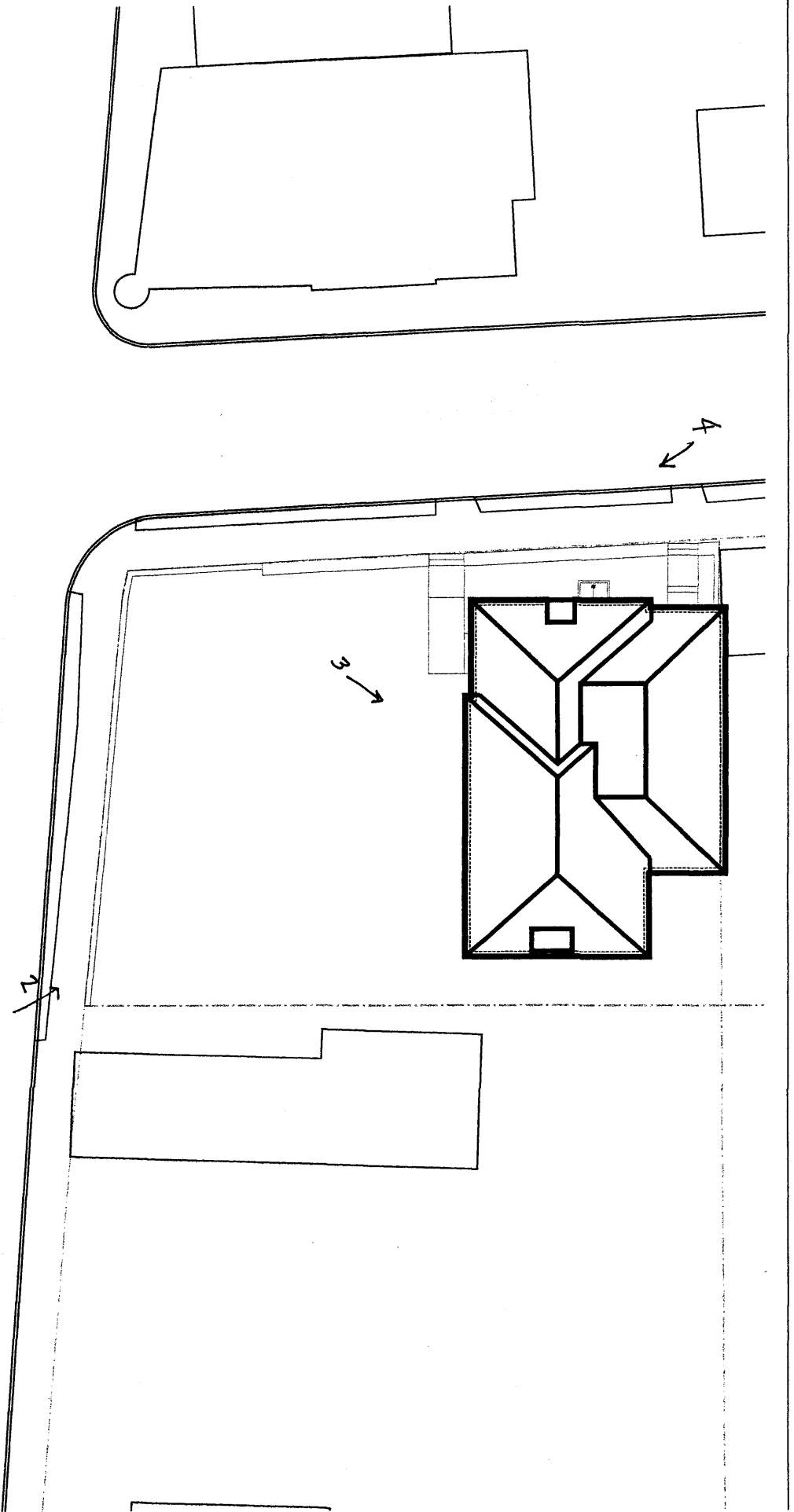
At the second floor is the Children's Reading Room, which corresponds in size and location with the reading room below. The floors of both reading rooms were originally covered with alternating squares of red and black linoleum. This material remains intact throughout the second floor. The walls of the Children's Reading Room are plastered and the ceiling is highlighted by a series of deep wood beams spanning both ways across the room. The second floor woodwork includes pine paneling and a built-in circulation desk, as well as elements such as clock shelves and bulletin boards in matching varnished pine. A unique decorative element is the large terra cotta compass set in the reading room floor (foreground of photo). Terra cotta tiles, ranging in subject matter from animals to objects and people, outline the fireplace.

Turner Free Public Library

10/20/07, 0006

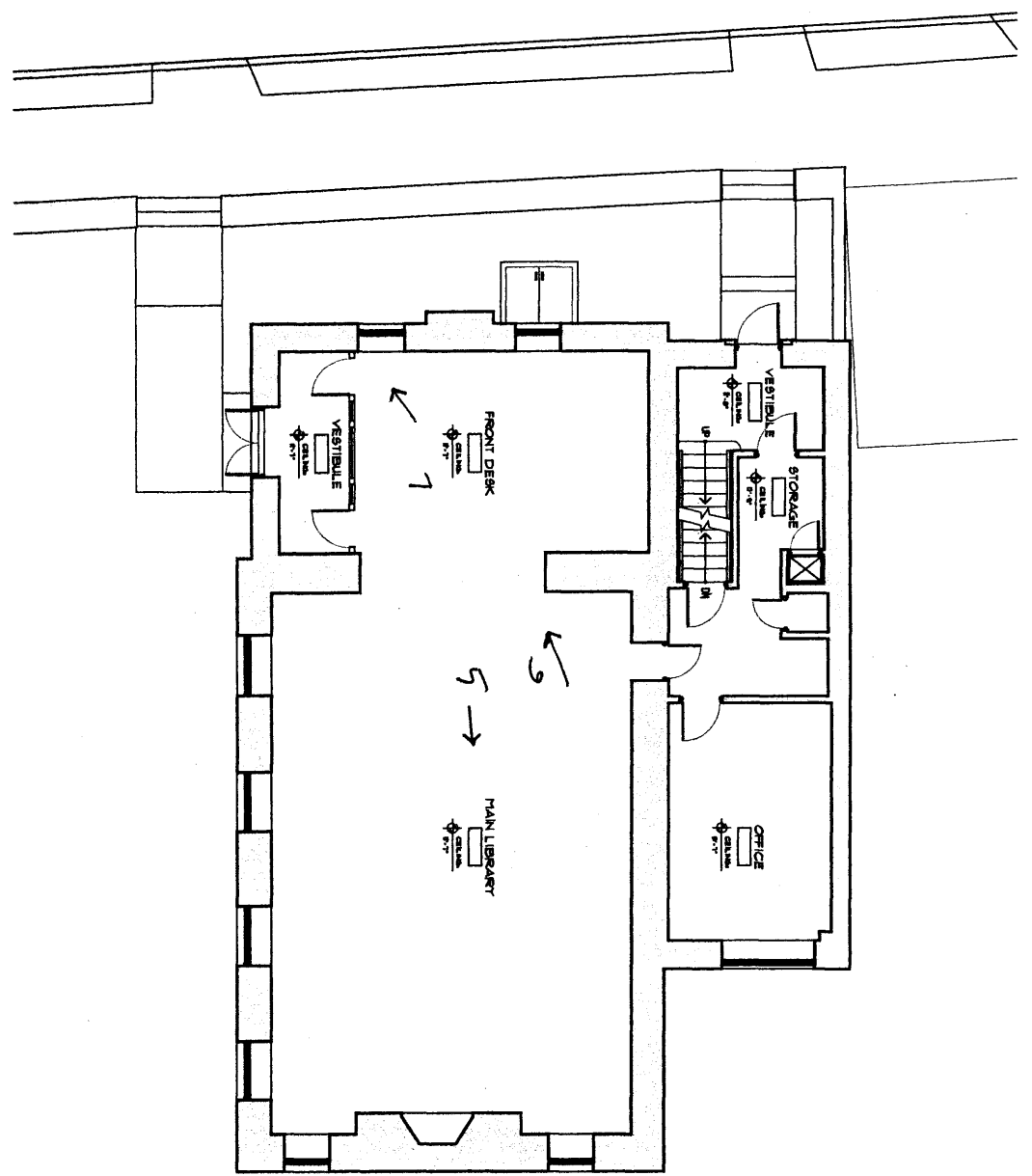
Site
Photo Locations
Scale: NTS 1:0'

Clarke Caon Hintz
Architects
Planners
Landscape Architects



Trenton Free Public Library

February 2006



① First Floor
PHOTO LOCATIONS
Scale: NTS 1/8" = 1'-0"

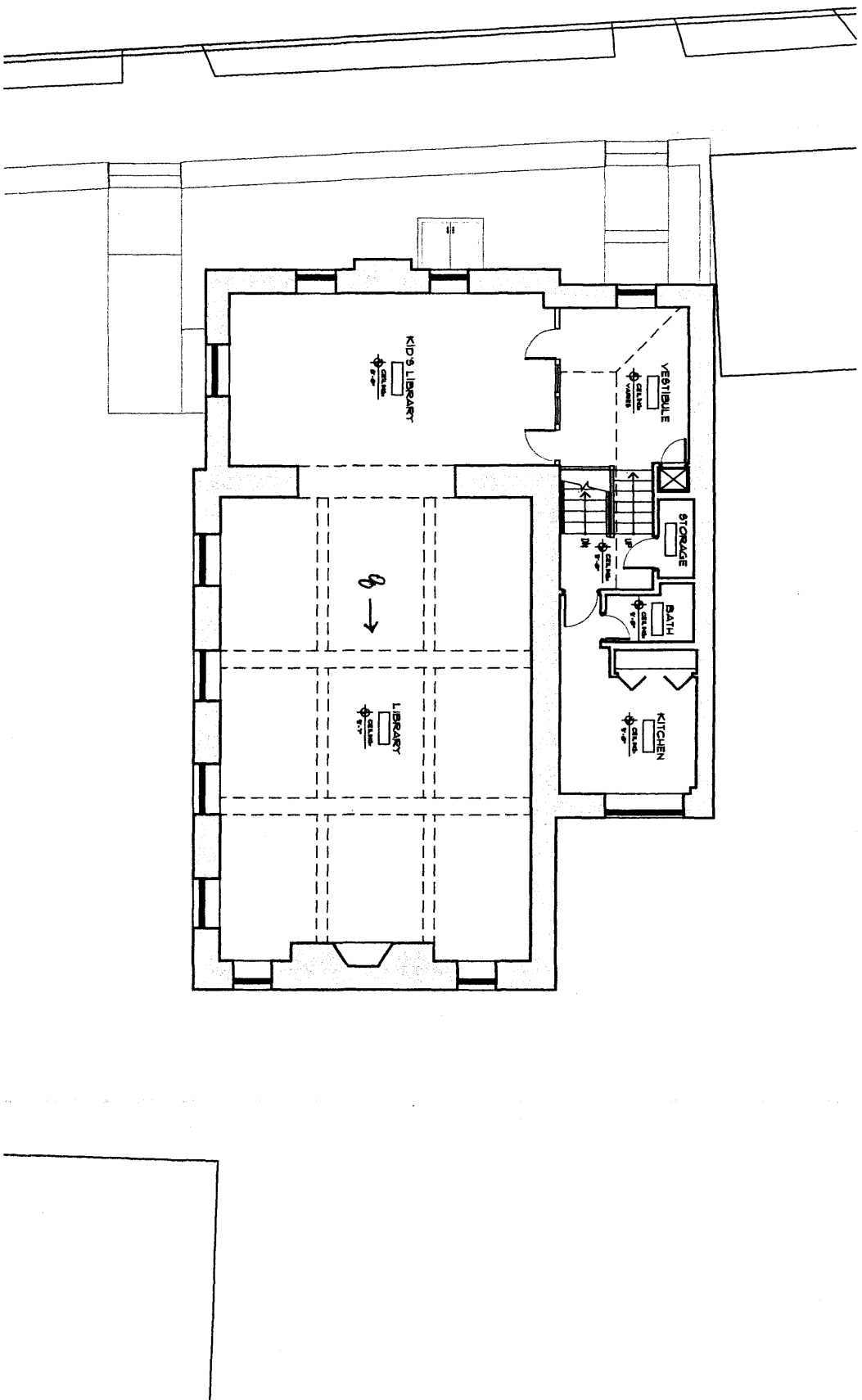
Carla Cohn Hiltz
Architects
Planners
Landscape Architects



Yonkers Free Public Library

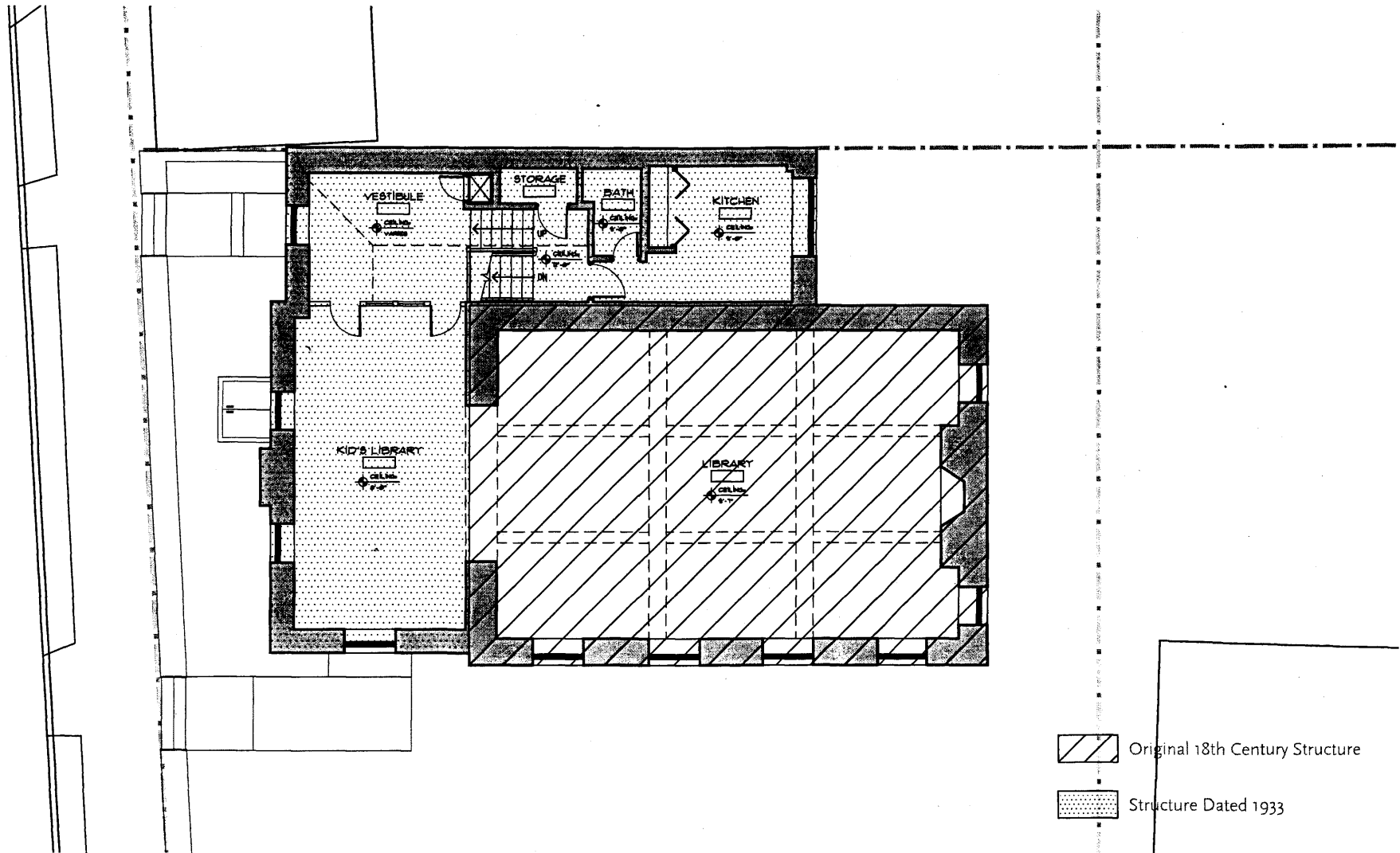
February 2006



Second Floor
PHOTO COORDINATIONS
SCHEDULE




Clark Green Hirtz
Architects
Planners
Landscape Architects





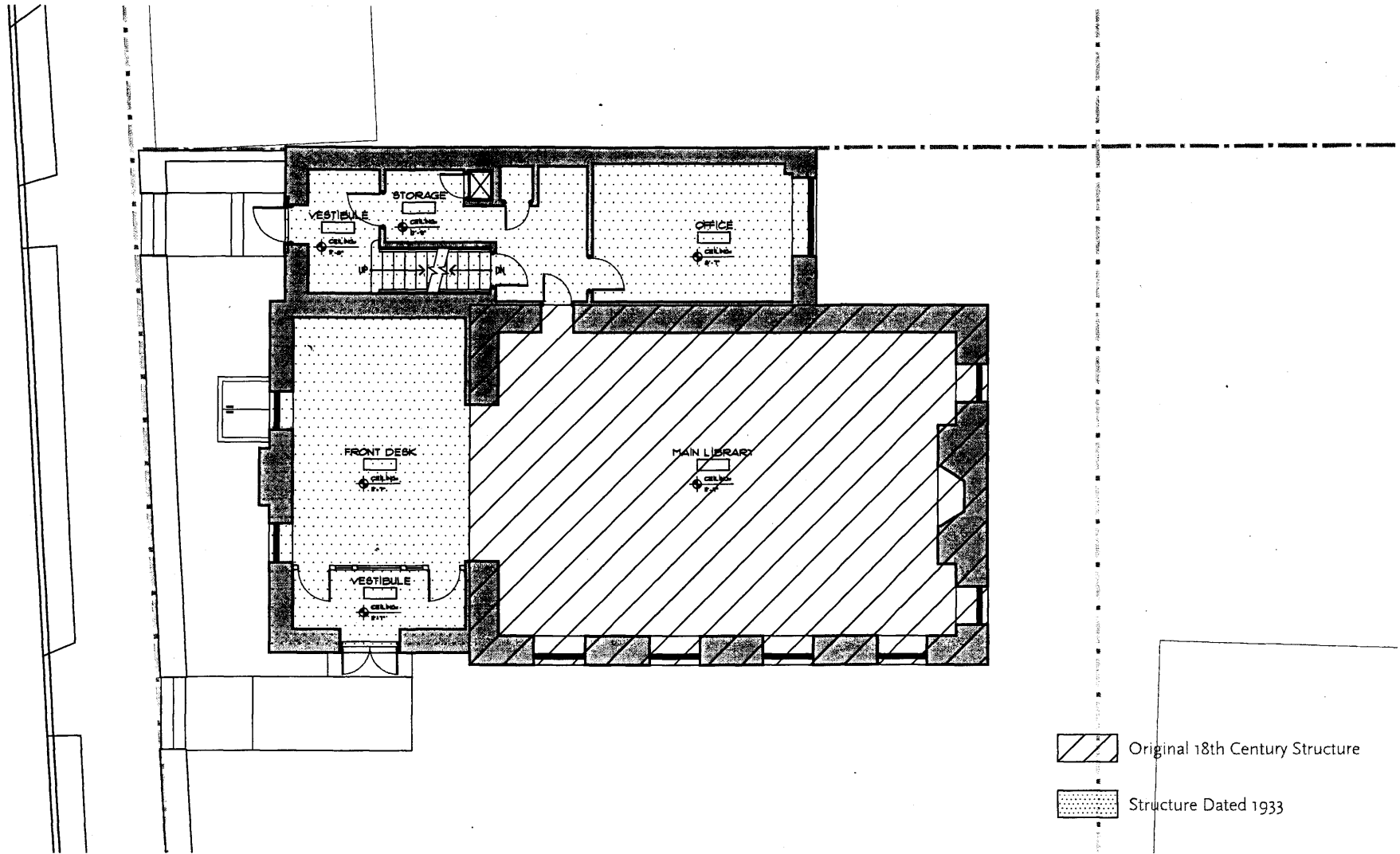
-  Original 18th Century Structure
-  Structure Dated 1933

Trenton Free Public Library

 **Second Floor.**
Existing Conditions
 Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"

Clarke Caton Hintz
 Architects
 Planners
 Landscape Architects



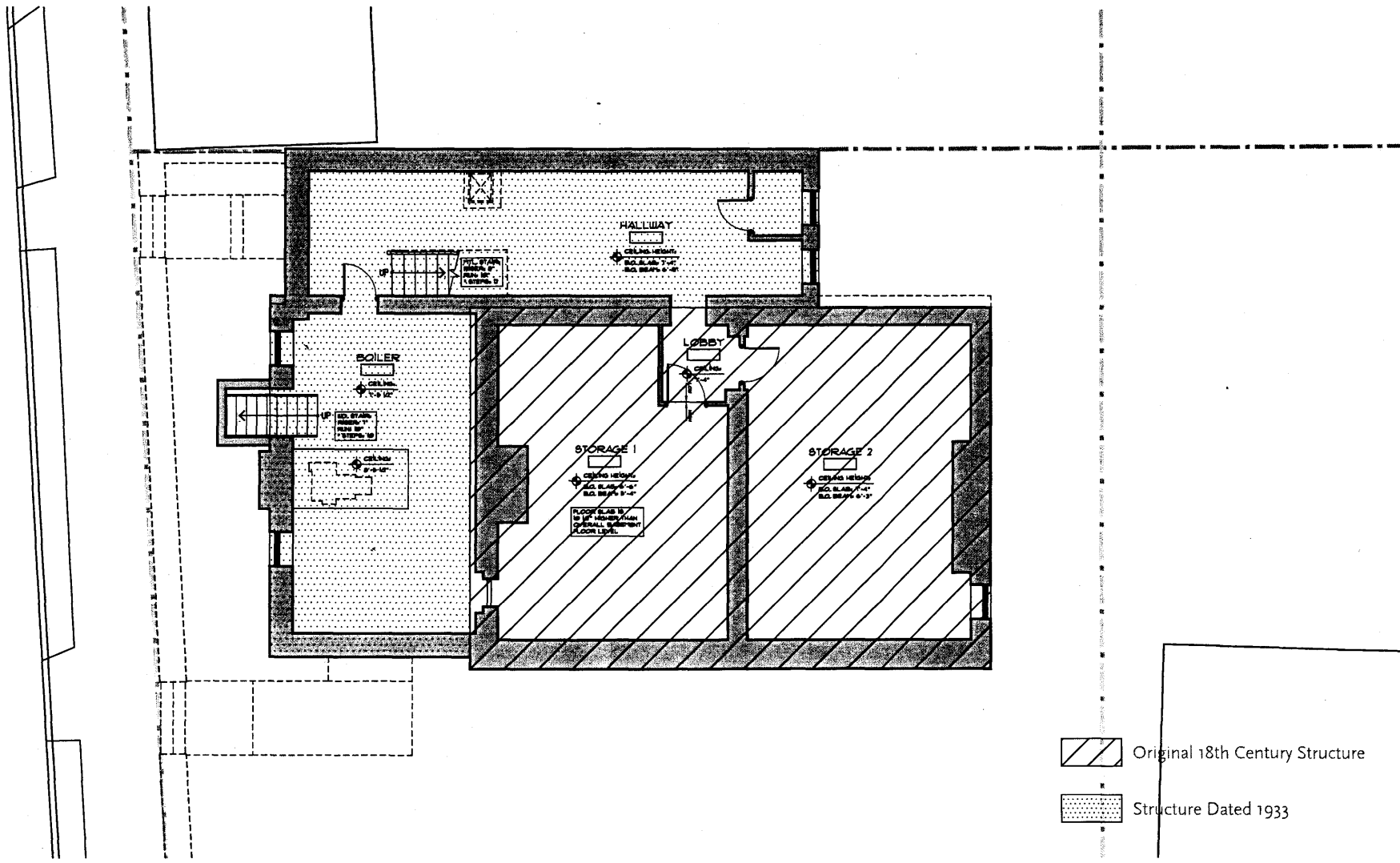




Trenton Free Public Library


First Floor.
Existing Conditions
 Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"


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 Architects
 Planners
 Landscape Architects




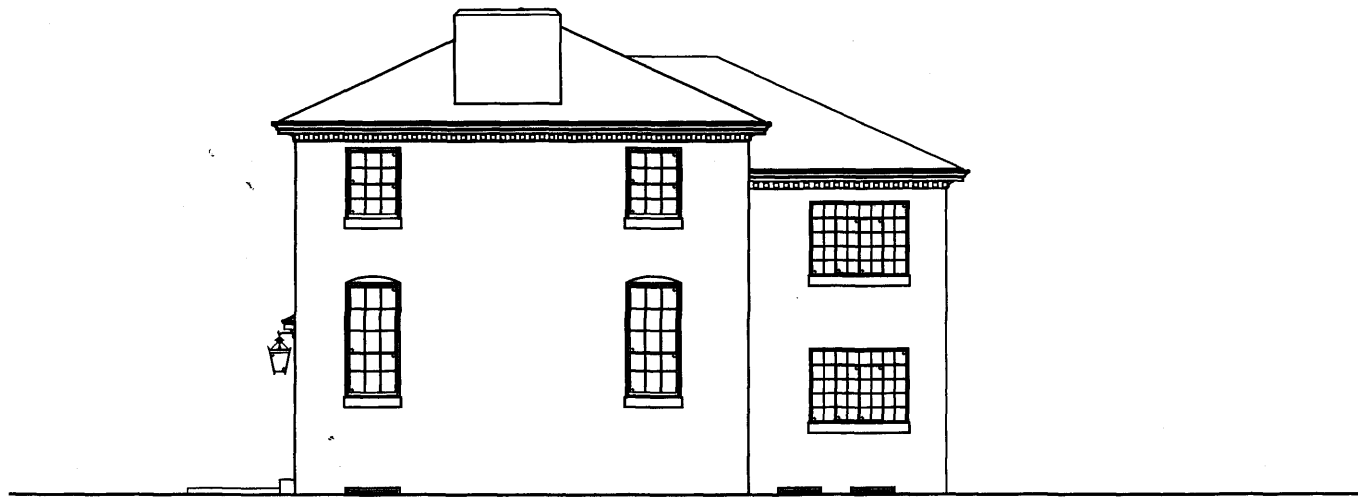


-  Original 18th Century Structure
-  Structure Dated 1933

Trenton Free Public Library

 **Basement Floor.
Existing Conditions**
Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"

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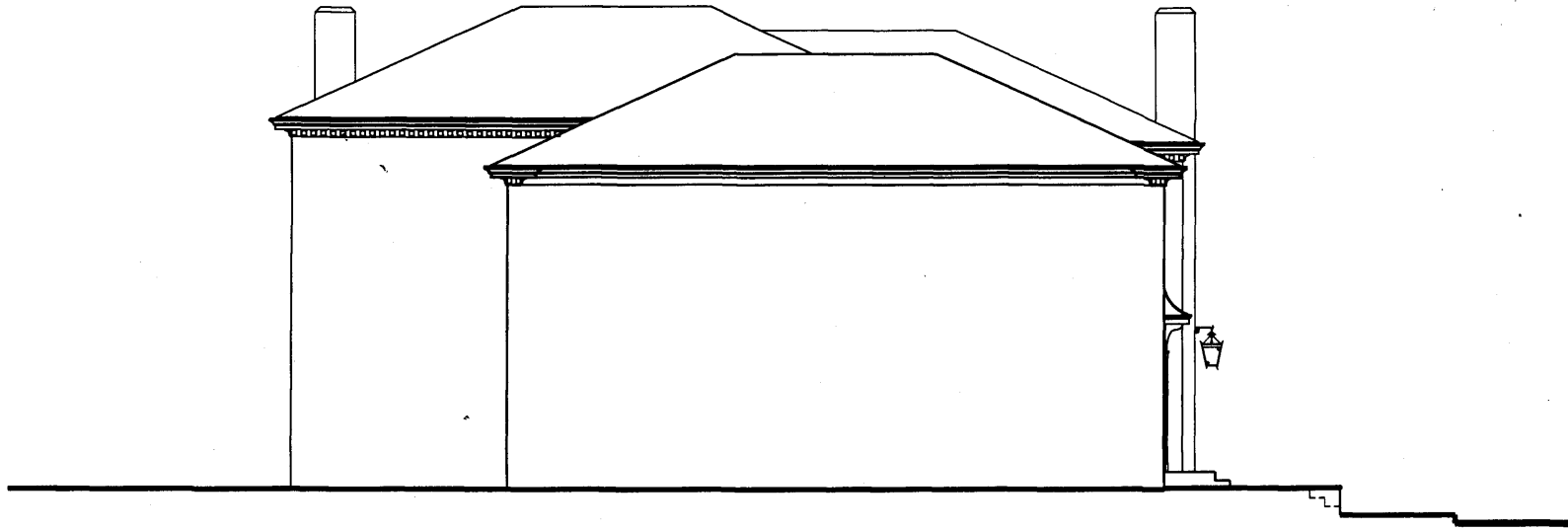


Trenton Free Public Library

○ East Elevation.
Existing Conditions
Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"

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Landscape Architects



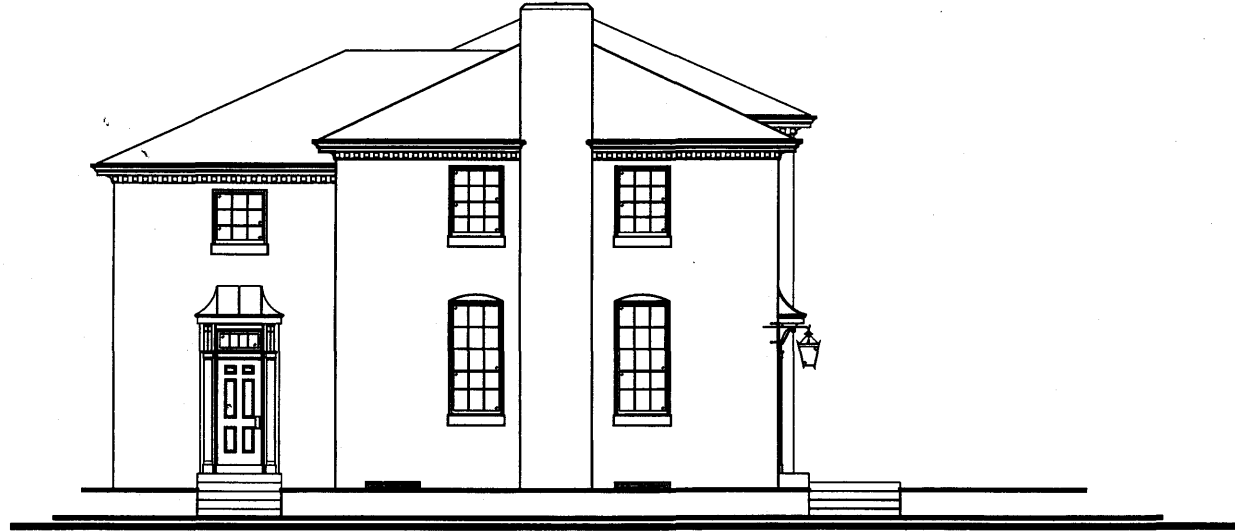


Trenton Free Public Library

○ North Elevation.
Existing Conditions
Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"

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Landscape Architects



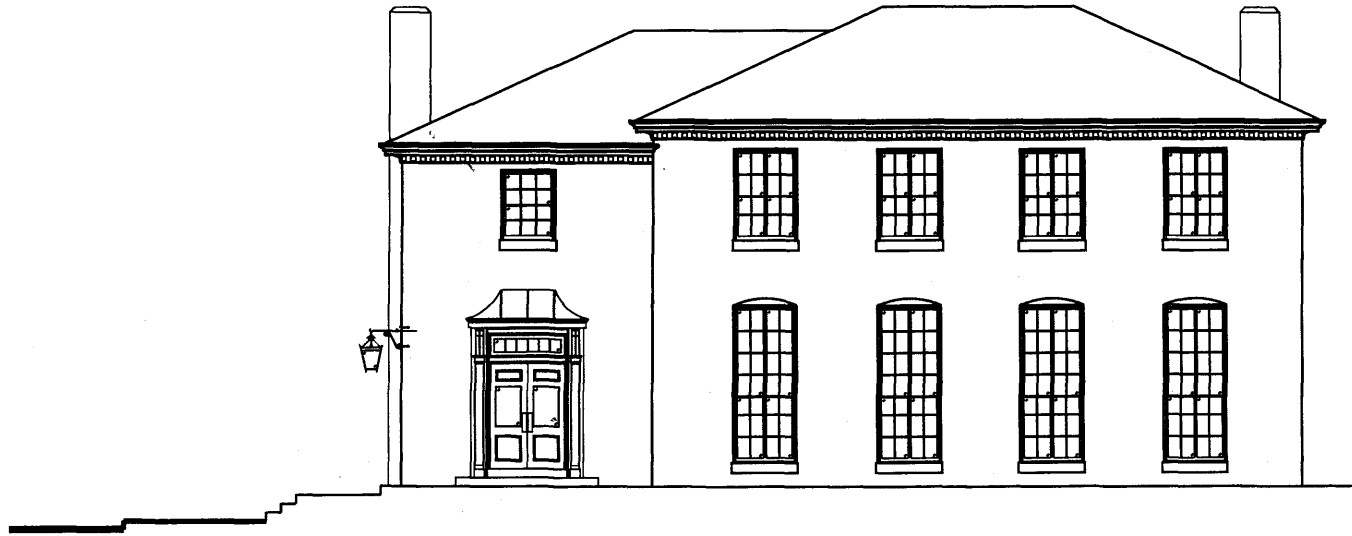


Trenton Free Public Library

○ West Elevation.
Existing Conditions
Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"

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Planners
Landscape Architects



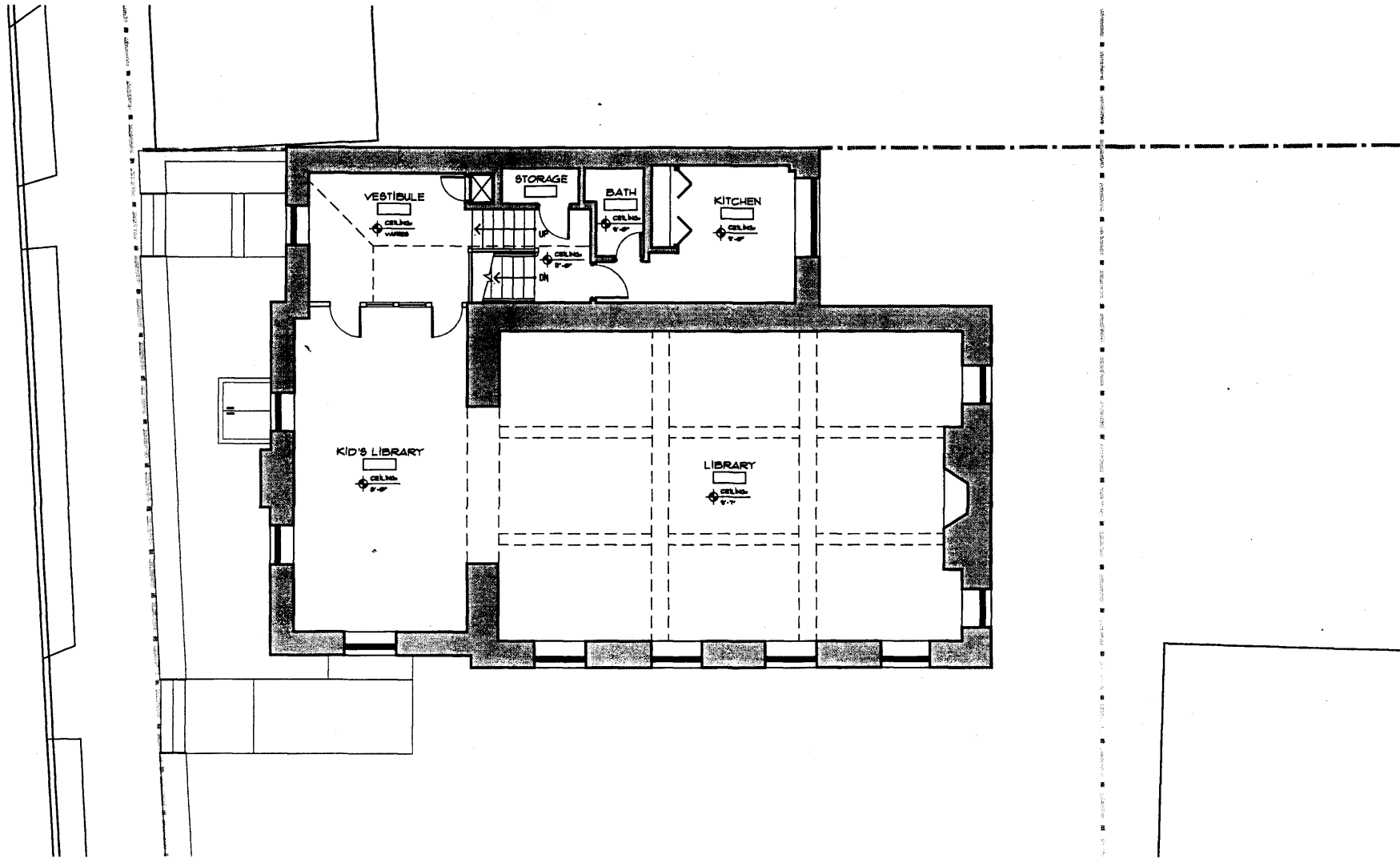


Trenton Free Public Library


○ South Elevation.
Existing Conditions
Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"

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Landscape Architects



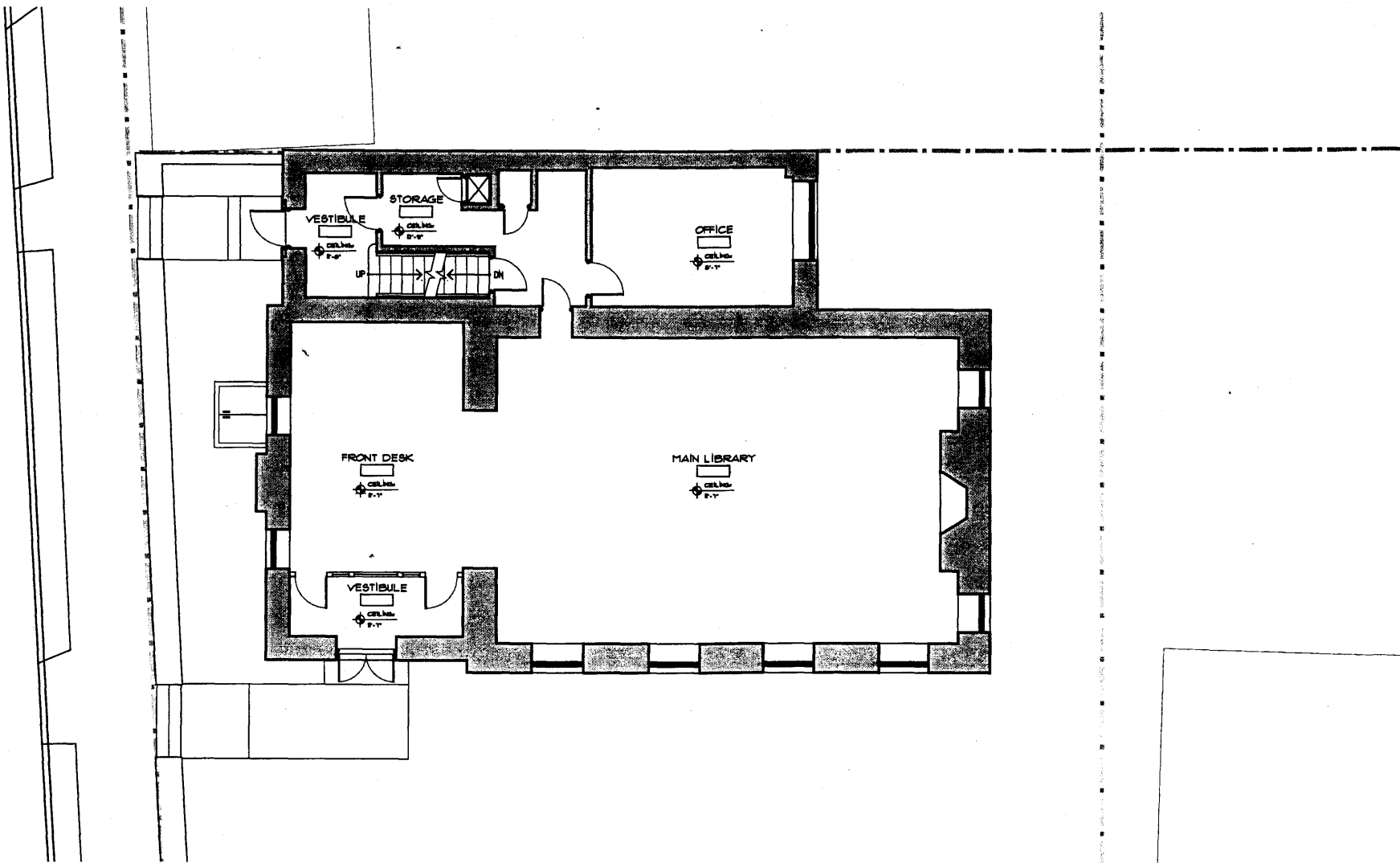


Trenton Free Public Library


**Second Floor,
Existing Conditions**
 Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"

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Trenton Free Public Library


First Floor.
Existing Conditions
 Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"

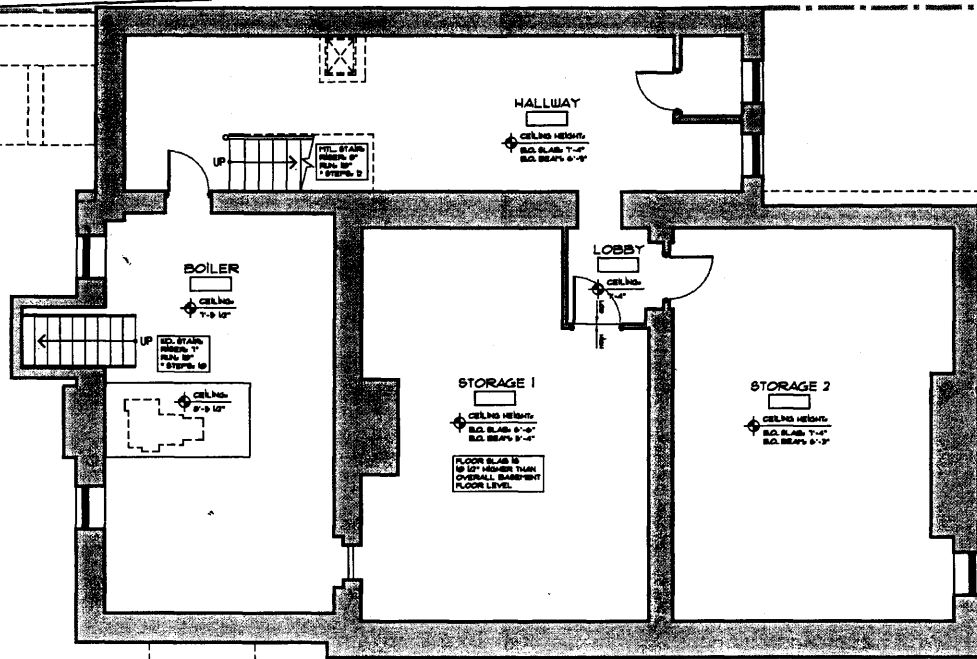
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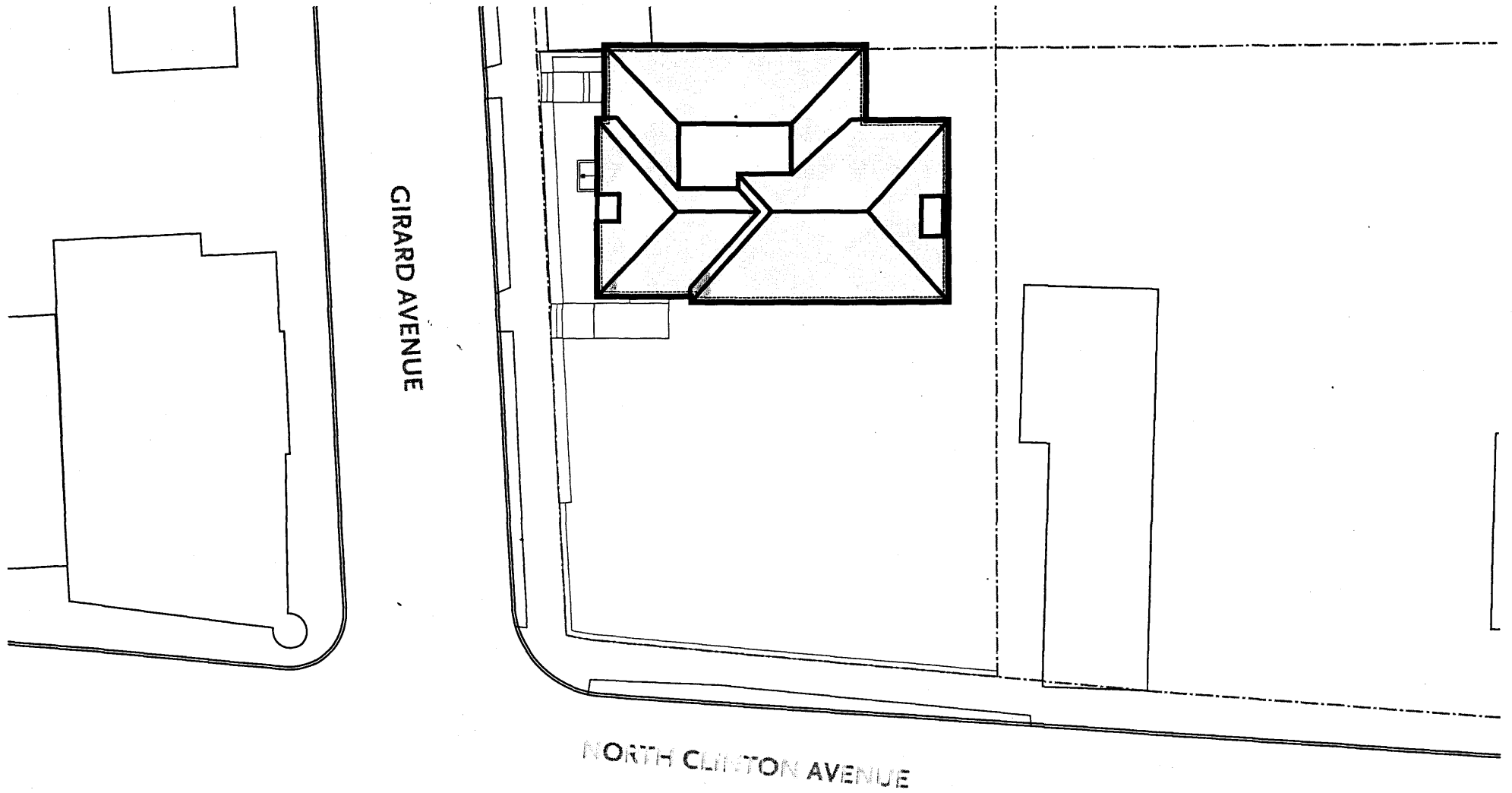


Trenton Free Public Library

Basement Floor.
Existing Conditions
Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"

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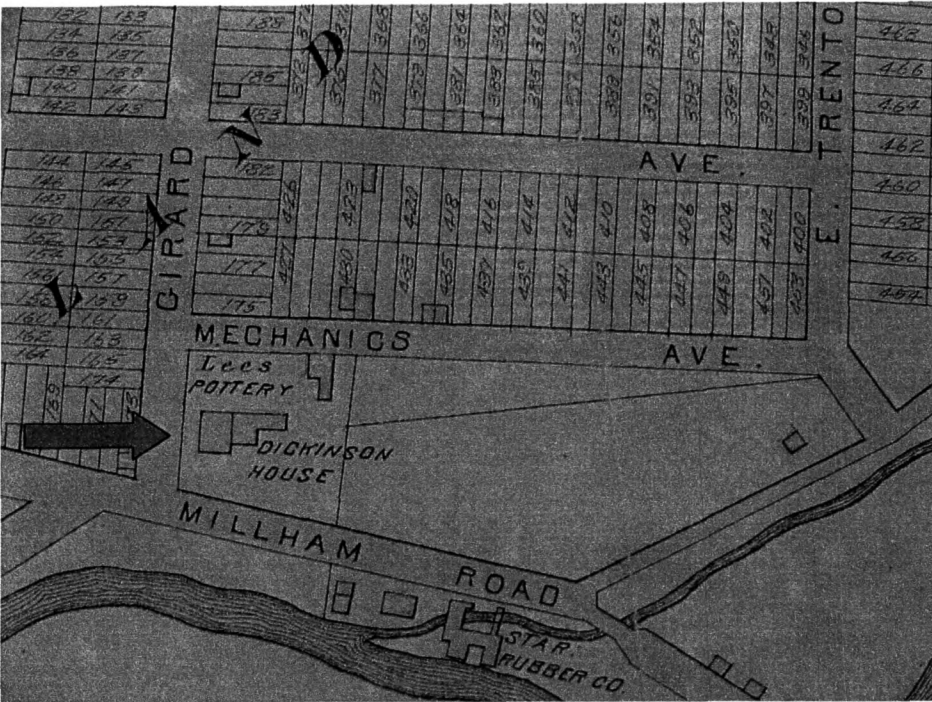


Trenton Free Public Library

Site
Existing Conditions
Scale: 1/16" = 1'-0"

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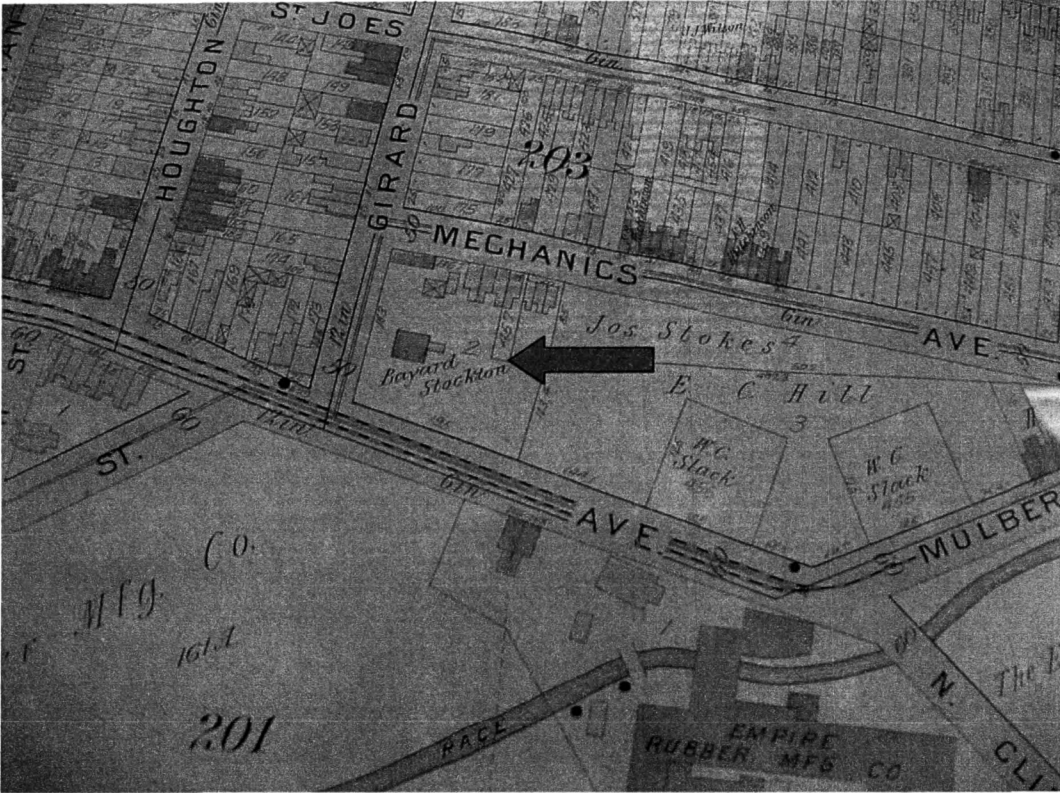




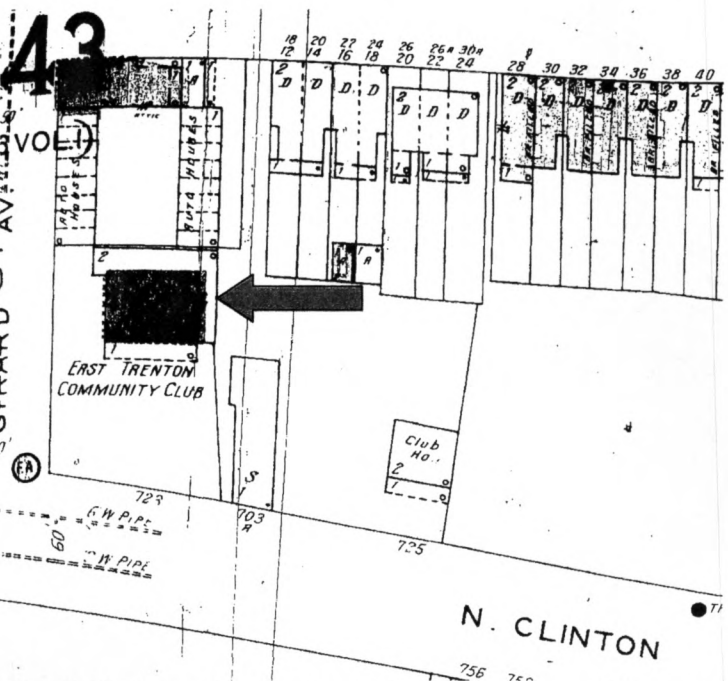
Map 1: Robinson, *Atlas of the City of Trenton and Suburbs, New Jersey, 1881*. Although no longer owned by them, the building is still associated with the Dickinson family. Since the middle of the nineteenth century, the building had a variety of public uses.



Map 2: Scarlett and Scarlett, *Fire Map of Mercer County, New Jersey, including Trenton and Suburbs, 1890*. The building is now a saloon and a porch has been added.

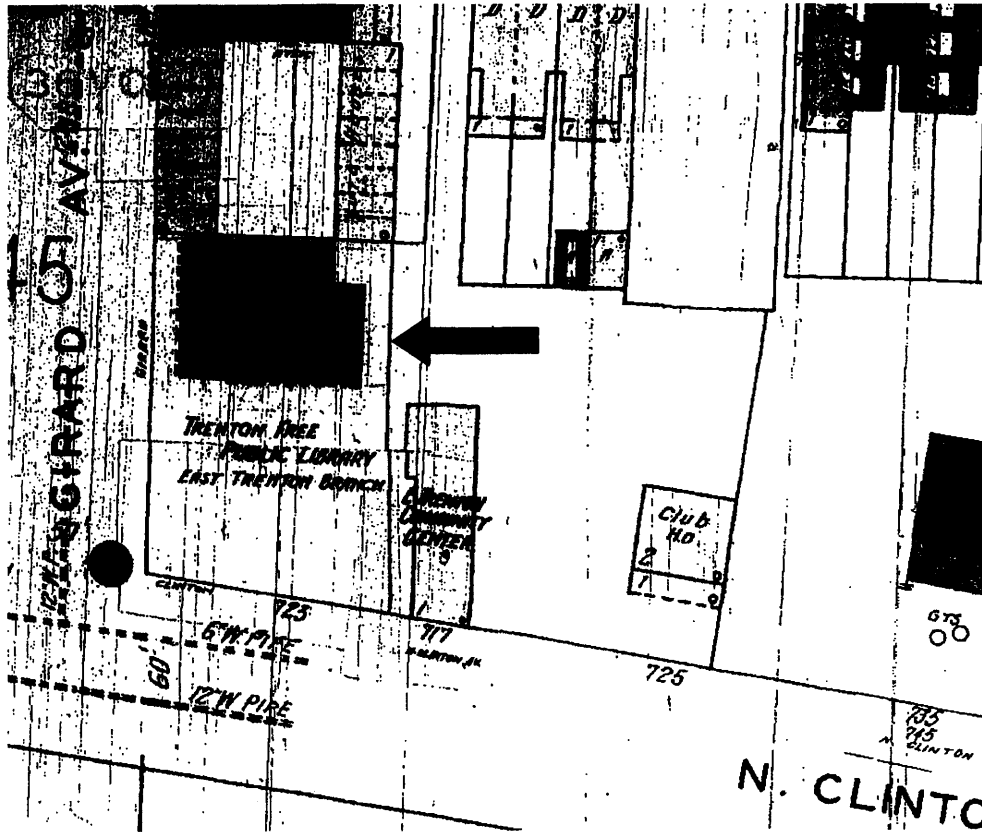


Map 3: A.H. Mueller, *Atlas of Mercer County, New Jersey*, 1905. The building is now owned by Bayard Stockton, a wealthy landowner. Industry has a firm hold on this increasingly dense neighborhood.

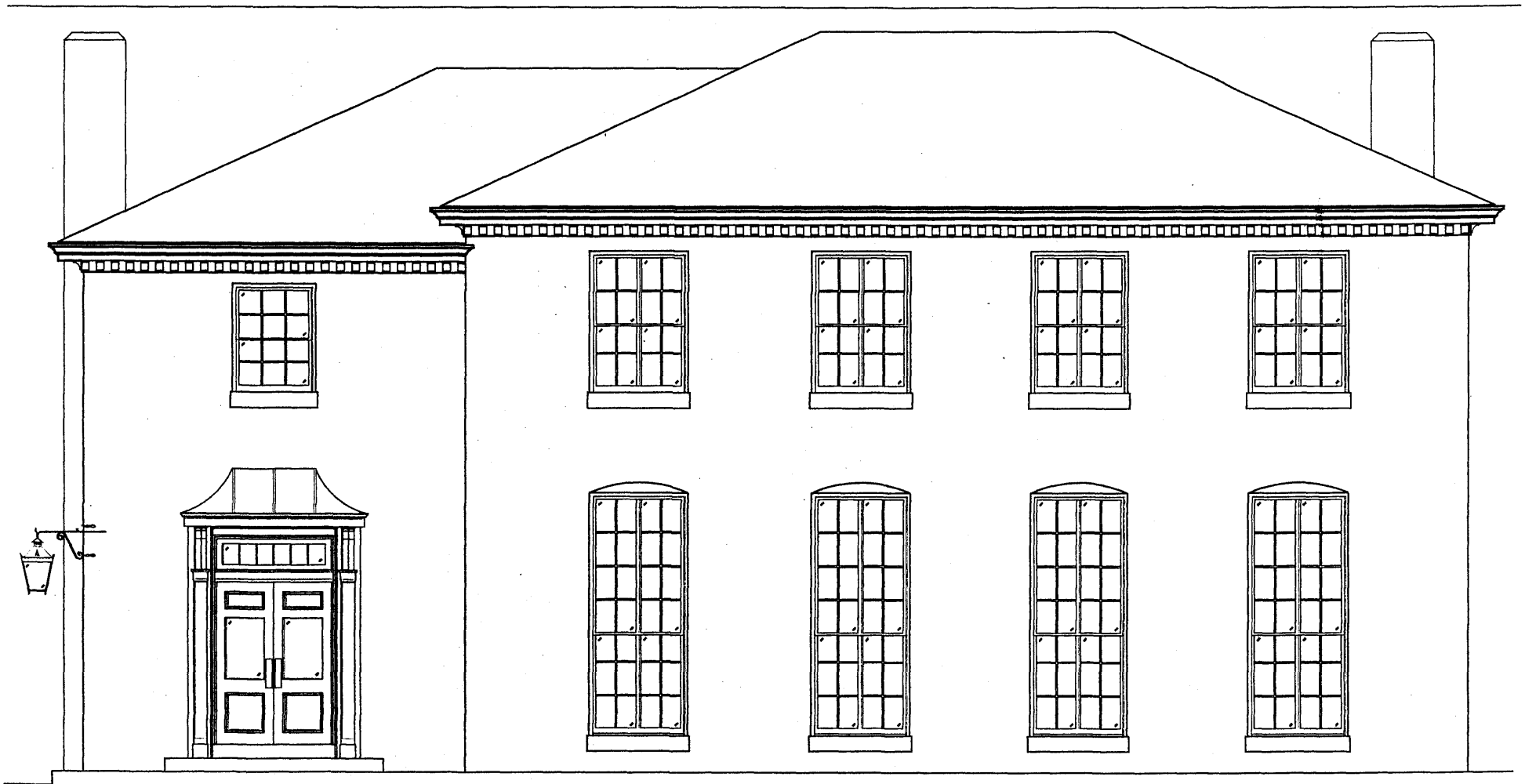


Map 4: Sanborn Map Company, *Insurance Maps of Trenton, New Jersey*, 1927. The building is now being used as the East Trenton Community Club with the Trenton Public Library renting the first floor.

East Trenton Public Library
Trenton, Mercer County, NJ



Map 5: Sanborn, 1949. Following the 1933 rehabilitation, the East Trenton Library is now all stone; the frame sections have been removed.



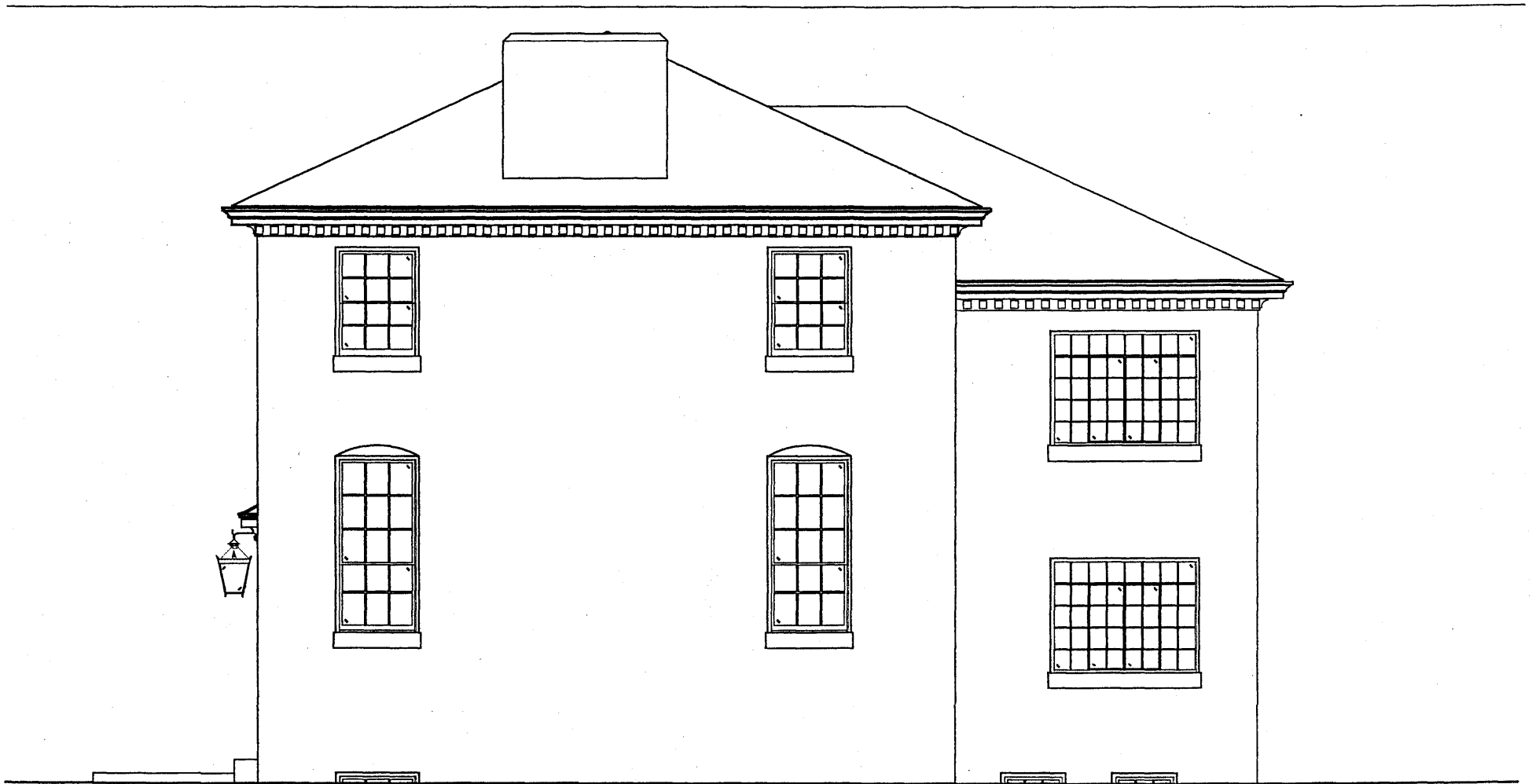
Trenton Free Public Library

February, 2006

○ South Elevation.
Existing Conditions
Scale: N.T.S.

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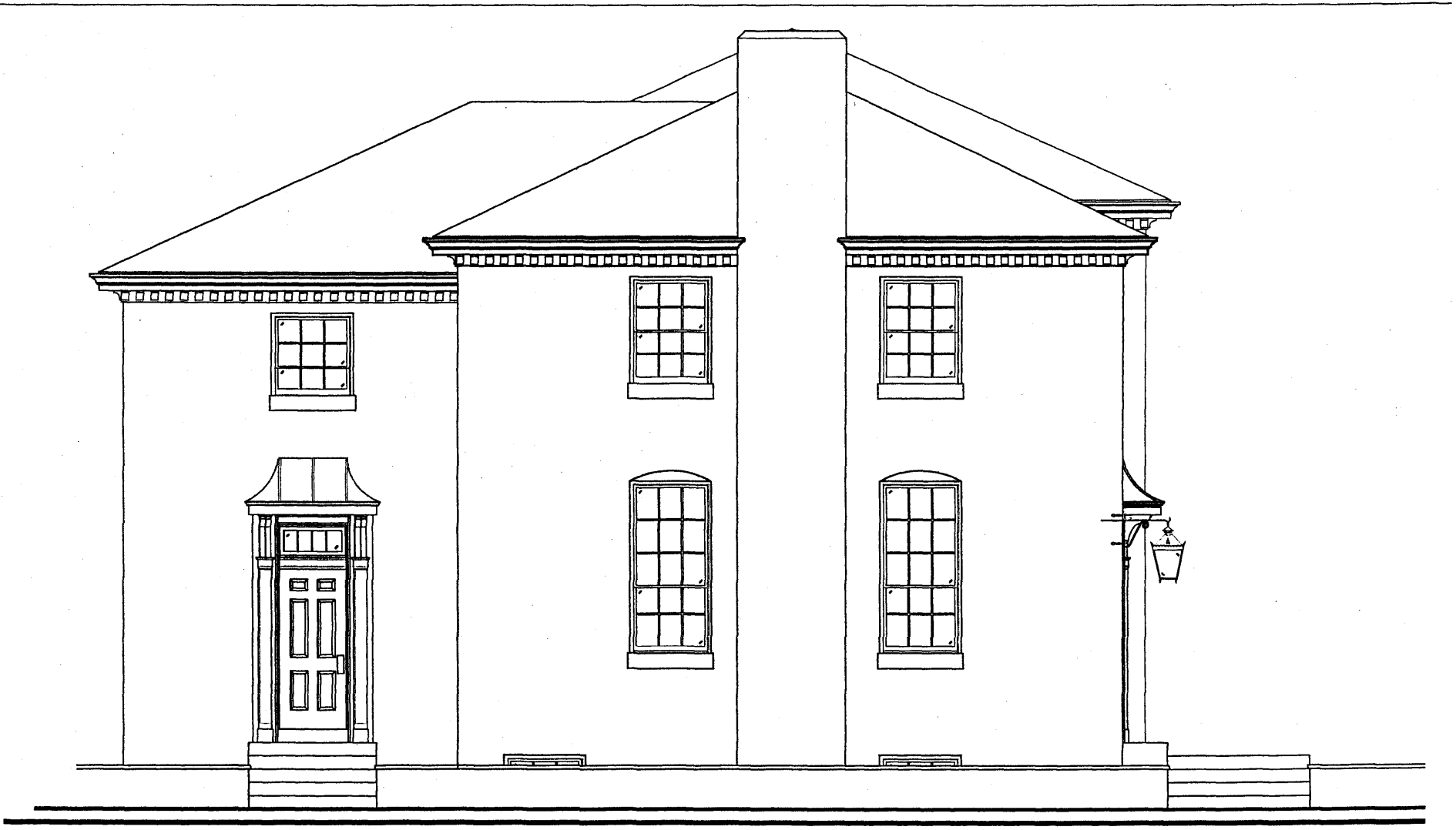
Trenton Free Public Library

February, 2006

○ East Elevation,
Existing Conditions
Scale N.T.S. 1/4" = 1'-0"

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Planners
Landscape Architects





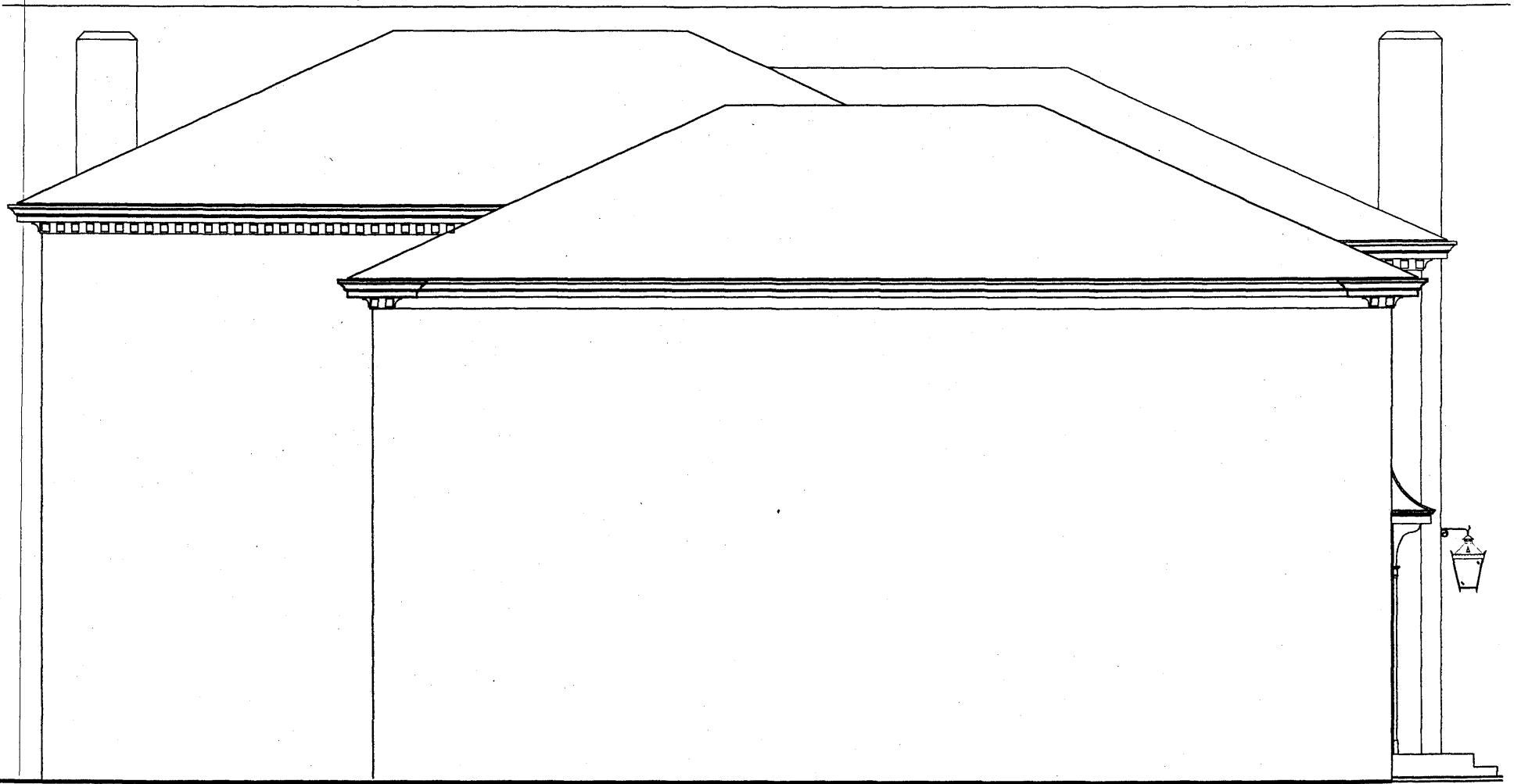
Trenton Free Public Library

February, 2006

○ West Elevation.
Existing Conditions
Scale: NTS 1/8"

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Trenton Free Public Library

February, 2006

○ North Elevation,
Existing Conditions
Scale: N.T.S.

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HISTORIC PHOTOS

All historic photos were obtained from the Trentoniana Collection of the Trenton Public Library.

Historic Photo 1

South façade prior to renovation

Note the two frame sections and the dormers. These were removed during renovation.

Undated

Historic Photo 2

First floor interior prior to renovation

Undated

Historic Photo 3

Second floor interior prior to renovation. Because of the stairs in the foreground and the window on the exterior wall, it would appear that this photo was taken within the frame section that was demolished during the 1933 renovations.

Undated

Historic Photo 4

South façade after demolition

January 25, 1934

Historic Photo 5

West elevation at the beginning of construction of the west addition

March 8, 1934

Historic Photo 6

South façade during construction

April 23, 1934

Historic Photo 7

South façade during construction

May 23, 1934

Historic Photo 8

West elevation just before painting during construction

May 23, 1934

Historic Photo 9

South façade nearing completion

June 26, 1934

Historic Photo 10

South façade at the end of construction

August 7, 1934

Historic Photo 11

North elevation at the end of construction

August 7, 1934

Historic Photo 12

Second floor interior, after construction

Undated

Historic Photo 13

South façade and west elevation, after construction

Undated

Historic Photo 14

South façade and west elevation with the fence that survives today

Undated









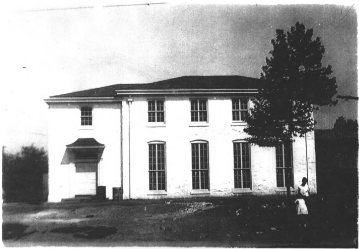


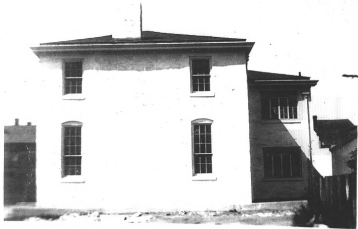


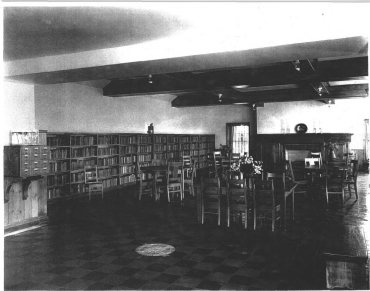


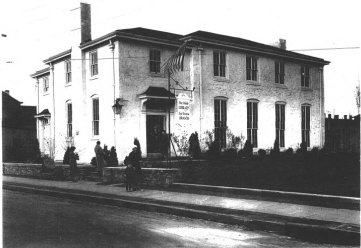


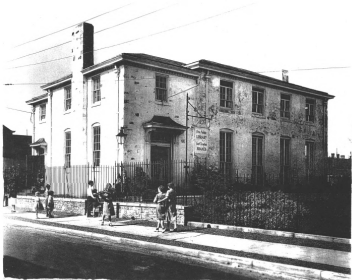












The New
School
Building