National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties of districts is the last for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by manying With the appropriate box on by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "NA" for not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

(Form 10-900a). Type all entries.			
1. Name of Property			
historic name The Fairmount Ar	artments		
	airmount Hotel		
2. Location			
street & number 2595 Kennedy E	oulevard		ot for publication
city, town Jersey City		····	cinity
state New Jersey code	NJ 034 county Hudson	code 017	zip code 07306
3. Classification			
Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources	
X private	X building(s)	, Contributing No	ncontributing
public-local	district		buildings
public-State	site		sites
public-Federal	structure		structures
	object	1	objects 0 Total
			
Name of related multiple property listing N/A			g resources previously
N/A	***************************************	listed in the National F	register
I. State/Federal Agency Certificat	ion		
National Register of Historic Places In my opinion, the property X meets Signature of certifying official Assistant Commissioner State or Federal agency and bureau In my opinion, the property meets	does not meet the National F	Register criteria. See continu	Jation/sheet. 2 4 U Date SHPO
Signature of commenting or other official			Date
State or Federal agency and bureau			
. National Park Service Certificat	ion		
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:)	Elson H. Be	Entered in the National Regist	ter 3/3/95
	(Signature o	of the Keeper	Date of Action

6. Function or Use	
Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions) DOMESTIC/apartment building	Current Functions (enter categories from instructions) VACANT/NOT IN USE
DOMESTIC/hotel	
BOOK T MAK.	
7. Description	
Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)	Materials (enter categories from instructions)
	foundationStucco
LATE 19th & EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN	walls brick
MOVEMENT/arts and crafts	stucco
LATE 19th & 20th CENTURY REVIVALS/	roof <u>asphalt shingle</u>
classical revival	other <u>limestone (trim)</u>

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Fairmount Apartments is a large, four and one-half story structure constructed of brick and stucco with a hipped asphalt roof with jerkinhead dormers that retains a high degree of integrity from its construction in 1909 and 1912. Prominently sited along Kennedy Boulevard (formerly Hudson Boulevard) in the section of Jersey City previously known as Jersey City Heights, the building consists of two distinct yet similarly designed, L-shaped structures, tied together at the first floor by a central, one-story connector. Atypical of early twentieth-century, apartment building design of this period, the Fairmount remains an excellent example of Arts and Crafts design that incorporates the overall exterior design, massing, material and details typical of the Arts and Crafts style with highly articulated, Classical Revival entranceways and interiors.

Detailed Description

As constructed in 1909, the Fairmount consisted only of the eastern tower, that section of the building along Fairmount Avenue and Kennedy Boulevard, including the eastern section of the one-story connector. The roof was originally adorned with a green spanish tile hipped roof with broad overhanging eaves and exposed wooden rafter tails. The 1909 building contained 33 apartments and 87 rooms.

Three hexagonal, textured stucco bays face Kennedy Boulevard and two face Fairmount Avenue. Each bay extends three full stories with the fourth floor above the bays containing multi-light doors that open onto the roof of the bays. These stuccoed bays as well as the fourth story banding are embellished with inlaid brickwork and mosaics arranged in geometric patterns. Along the base of the building is the continued use of stucco, however instead of the textured finish as applied elsewhere, here the stucco was scored to simulate blocks of cut stone in an attempt to unite the base of the building with the classically styled stone entrances.

The primary historic entrance to the 1909 building along Kennedy Boulevard consists of a Classical Revival limestone frontispiece with engaged, fluted Corinthian columns and cornice that frame an arched doorway containing a pair of simple, glazed doors with iron grilles. Above this entrance, is a pedimented window with fluted pilasters and Corinthian capitals. An iron railing sits atop the denticulated doorway cornice.

8. Statement of Significance		
Certifying official has considered the significance of this properties of the properties of the significance of the properties of the prop	perty in relation to other properties: statewide X locally	W
Applicable National Register Criteria XA BXC	□D	
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)	□D □E □F □G N/A	
Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions) Architecture	Period of Significance 1909–1930	Significant Dates
Community Planning and Development		1912
	Cultural Affiliation undefined	
Significant Person N/A	Architect/Builder Newman, Frank Eaton	

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Fairmount Apartments meets criteria C for its architectural significance as a major architectural work by the prominent Philadelphia and New York architectural firm of Newman and Harris and as a distinctive example of the Arts and Crafts movement. In addition, the Fairmount meets Criteria A due to its significant contribution as a model for the growth and development of the multi-story apartment buildings in the West Bergen (formerly Jersey City Heights) section of Jersey City in the early twentieth century.

The Fairmount Apartments was conceived and developed by the Fairmount Company, a real estate development firm composed principally of prominent Jersey City businessmen. Led by Peter F. Redfern, the Fairmount Company promoted the development of the former Jersey City Heights section of the city for apartment/hotels similar to the emerging development of the upper east side of Manhattan. The Jersey City Heights section was particularly prime for development since it was conveniently located near the trolley service which connected to the recently opened McAdoo Tunnel and the downtown business section.

To complete the design for the Fairmount Apartments, The Fairmount Company turned to the Philadelphia-based architectural firm of Newman and Harris, one of the more successful early twentieth-century Philadelphia architectural firms. Frank Eaton Newman started his architectural career in 1898 as an architect in the office of Frank Miles Day, a highly successful Philadelphia architectural firm at that time. In 1900 Newman along with Henry Gillette Woodman and James Russell Harris established the architectural firm of Newman, Woodman and Harris. In 1902, Woodman died of typhoid fever and Newman and Harris carried on the firm's work as Newman and Harris. The firm is listed in the Philadelphia directories through 1910, however as early as 1907, Newman listed his home address as New York.

At the time of the 1909 construction of the Fairmount, the firm of Newman, Woodman and Harris and later Newman and Harris had established itself as a prolific architectural firm capable of a variety of residential and institutional designs. Some of their major projects completed prior to 1909 included the First Troop Philadelphia Calvary Armory in Philadelphia (1900); The Commonwealth Trust Company Building, Philadelphia (1901) where they won the competition over Cope and Stewardson, Herman Miller & Seymour Davis; The Corn Exchange National Bank, Philadelphia (1901); The Tome Institute, Port

The Athenaeum of Philadelphia Magaziner Collection. 'Heights, New Jersey, Newman and Harris Archi 1909."	
"City Assessment Records." City of Jersey City, New J (August 25, 1937).	ersey, Department of Revenue and Finance
"A Country House with an Idea, The Russell Residence. 1913):292-301.	" Architectural Record 34 (October
"House of E.W. Russell, Greenwich, Connecticut." Arc	chitectural Record 42 (October 1917):306-07.
Previous documentation on file (NPS):	X See continuation sheet
x preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)	Primary location of additional data:
has been requested	State historic preservation office
previously listed in the National Register	Other State agency
previously determined eligible by the National Register	Federal agency
designated a National Historic Landmark	X Local government Dept. of Revenue
recorded by Historic American Buildings	X University Univ. of Pennsylvania
Survey #	X Other
recorded by Historic American Engineering	Specify repository:
Record #	The Athenaeum of Philadelphia,
	Jersey City Public Library
10. Geographical Data	octor ord rubite bibling
Acreage of property 62 acres Jersey City.	NT Ouad
Acreage of property 102 acres Dersey Crry,	No Quad
	B
	See continuation sheet
Verbal Boundary Description	
A parcel of land and premises known as The Fairmoun Boulevard in Jersey City, Hudson County, New Jersey 1827 on the assessment map of Jersey City. This parce	, and designated as lots 41B and 45E in block
follows:	X See continuation sheet
Boundary Justification	
The above mentioned boundary description includes the Apartment.	e entire city lot that contains The Fairmount
	See continuation sheet
11. Form Prepared By	
name/titleRobert Powers/Principal	
organization Noble Preservation Services, Inc.	date5/16/94;
street & number 10 Log House Road	telephone(215)_679-5110
city or town Zionsville	state PA zip code 18092
	- ·

9. Major Bibliographical References

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The Fairmount	Apartments,	Hudson	County,	New	Jersey
Section number					•

The prominence of the primary entranceway is further pronounced by the use of diamond patterned brickwork with raised headers on the two bays flanking the entrance along Kennedy Boulevard. The patterned brickwork stands in stark contrast with the regularity of the Flemish-bonded brickwork throughout the rest of the building. An oblong-shaped, glazed, terra cotta plaque with the letters **F** and **A** (Fairmount Apartments) inscribed below a fruit-bearing tree is located above the third floor windows of the entrance bays.

An integral component of the original design was the construction of dining rooms for the serving of meals. The 1909 dining room consisted of the easternmost section of the one-story connector and contained casement windows with arched transoms filled with leaded glass windows. Similar to the base of the main building, the base of the dining room structure is stuccoed with inset panels arranged below the windows.

The primary window type used throughout the building was a one-over-one, wooden, double-hung, single-glazed sash in molded frames. The exception to the use of the one-over-ones is in the multi-light windows with sidelights on the fourth floor, the casement windows with leaded glass transoms in the dining room, the leaded glass windows in the main stairway and the diamond-paned casement windows in the jerkinhead dormers.

In 1912, the western tower was built that largely mirrored the overall design, massing, detail and materials of the original 1909 section. In addition, as part of the new construction, a one-story linkage was created between the 1909 and 1912 buildings by connecting new dining/meeting room facilities to the existing one-story dining room structure. This construction also contained 33 apartments and 76 rooms.

However, despite the clear attempt to duplicate the design of the original building as closely as possible, some minor deviations distinguish the new construction from the original design. For instance, the new construction contained an additional stuccoed floor with stucco bays and large multi-light windows. Secondly, the bays in the new section were not stuccoed but were finished in brick. Thirdly, the primary entrance on the west tower contains a modified version of the 1909 Classical Revival limestone frontispiece although it still contains engaged and fluted pilasters with Corinthian columns and an arched entryway. The window above the entrance has a broken pediment with engaged columns and classical urns flanking the window. An oblong-shaped terra cotta plaque with F and A inscribed below a fruit bearing tree and the date of 1912 is located above the third floor window of the entrance bay.

Although the brickwork throughout the building is laid in a Flemish bond and contains the diamond patterned brick design at the entrance bays, the new section contains further decorative features such as randomly spaced white glazed headers. Also as part of the 1912 construction, a restrained, Classical Revival pedimented limestone entrance with a denticulated cornice was installed along Duncan Avenue.

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Thus by 1912, the Fairmount Apartments consisted of its present configuration, two L-shaped brick and stucco towers unified along the first floor by a one-story connector with dining, meeting and service rooms.

The exterior of the Fairmount Apartments remains essentially intact from 1912, despite years of general neglect. The only major alterations to the exterior occurred in the 1960's when the building was under the ownership of Father Divine. At that time, the green tile roof was removed and replaced with an asphalt shingle roof and the broad overhanging eaves and exposed rafter tails were covered in aluminum to minimize their maintenance. The casement windows were removed from the one-story connector and replaced with jalousie-type windows however, the leaded glass transoms remain intact.

Other minor alterations to the exterior in the 1960's included the insertion of a doorway, exterior vestibule and steps in the eastern bay along Kennedy Boulevard, the removal of a chimney from the southwest corner of the 1909 building and the enclosing of four of the windows along the fourth floor bay windows in aluminum. The cumulative impact of these alterations on the integrity of the Fairmount is minimal, for the structure continues to convey a strong sense of its original design and remains a commanding presence in the former Jersey City Heights.

The interior of the Fairmount Apartments also possesses a high degree of integrity. Distinct from the overall Arts and Crafts influence on the exterior, a strong sense of Classical Revival is carried throughout the interior.

As is typical for apartment building design of the period, the interior of the Fairmount retains its strong hierarchial separation of spaces; the formal public spaces arranged on the first floor and the functional dwelling units found on the upper floors. These spaces are linked through a formal, primary stairway with turned wooden balustrades in both the 1909 and 1912 buildings. The balustrades and newel posts for these two stairways match even though they were built at different times. These primary stairways originate from the intact entry lobbies and each feature leaded glass windows in the stairhall.

The exuberant 1909 lobby contains oak paneled walls (although painted), a beamed ceiling and an arched reception area containing Ionic pilasters and a mural depicting a country scene. As specified in the original drawings, and still extant, the lobby floor and the central corridor floor are composed of eight inch tiles. The 1912 lobby is more restrained in its overall detail than the 1909 lobby, although it too contains a beamed ceiling, oak paneled walls (also painted), a tiled floor and molded doorway trim. Each lobby originally contained an 1800 lb. capacity Otis Elevator for the transporting of the residents throughout the building. In the 1960's the original Otis elevator cabs and decorative grillwork were removed and replaced with an undistinguished 1960's elevator.

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Also of significance on the first floor are the two remaining great dining rooms reflecting the building's two stages of construction. The original 1909 dining room is the more elaborate of the two rooms and contains decorative scagliola Doric columns supporting a denticulated cornice, broad beamed ceilings, decorative window trim and molded baseboards. The 1912 dining room also contains a beamed ceiling with a denticulated cornice, paneled walls and molded baseboard and decorative window trim. Both of these rooms take full advantage of the light and air provided by the numerous leaded glass windows.

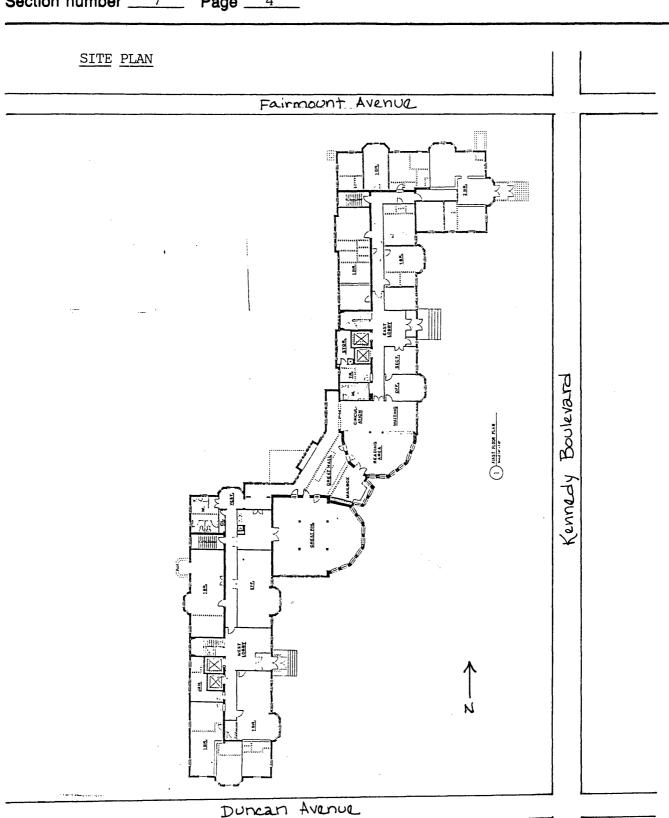
The upper floors are arranged around a central, double-loaded corridor. Although less highly embellished than the major public spaces on the first floor, the corridors on the upper floors retain a high degree of integrity and continue the prominent Classical Revival detailing. These corridors typically contain high ceilings, plaster cornices, molded baseboard, chair railings, door surrounds and wooden pilasters. The original molded and transomed doorways contain some of the original single-panel wooden apartment entrance doors remain.

As originally constructed in both the 1909 and 1912 section, the upstairs apartments were arranged in suites of one room and private bath to four rooms with reception hall and private bath. Although many of the interior apartment plans, spaces and features have been altered, reconfigured and damaged over the years, a surprising number of the apartments remain intact displaying the sense of graciousness typical of upscale, early twentieth-century apartment dwelling design. Typical features within these remaining apartments include plaster walls, hardwood floors, molded baseboard and prominent, molded window and door trim. In addition, in the 1909 section, some of the remaining intact apartments contain beamed ceilings, pocket doors between the living room and bedroom as well as the original glazed and five panel interior doors. In those fourth floor bay locations that have not been altered with the 1960's infill, the French doors with paneled sidelights remain intact.

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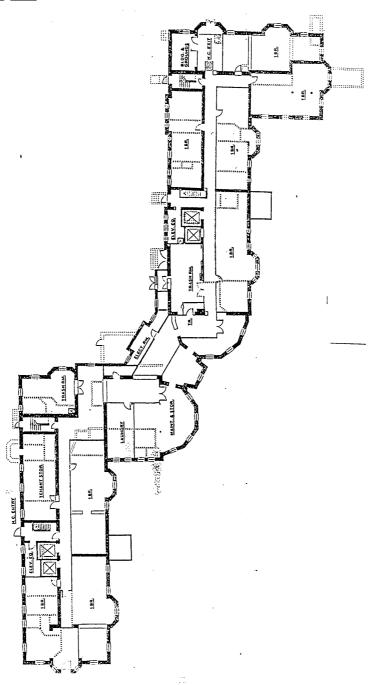


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BASEMENT LEVEL FLOOR PLAN AND PHOTOGRAPH KEY

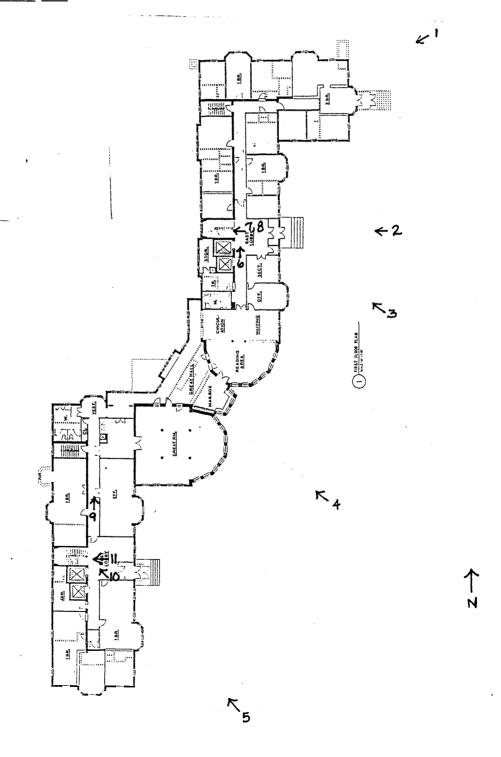


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FIRST FLOOR PLAN
AND PHOTOGRAPH KEY

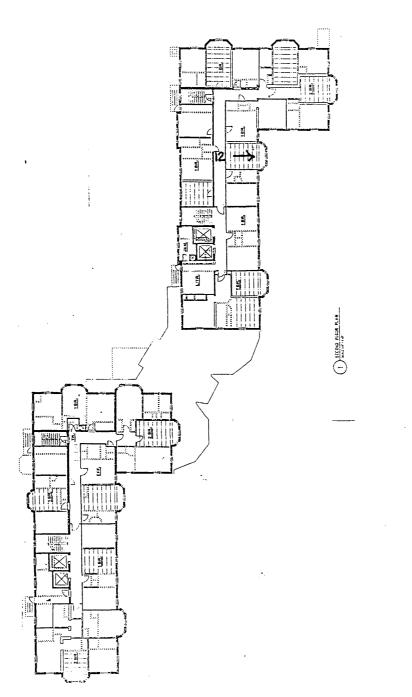


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SECOND FLOOR PLAN
AND PHOTOGRAPH KEY

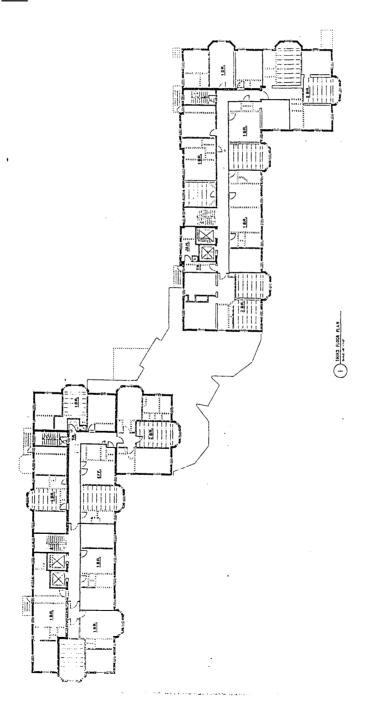


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THIRD FLOOR PLAN
AND PHOTOGRAPH KEY

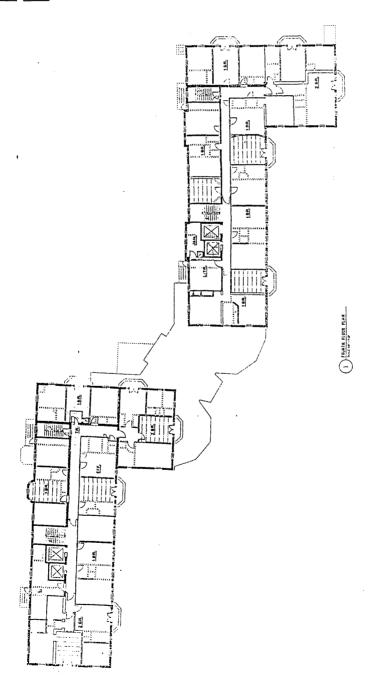


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FOURTH FLOOR PLAN
AND PHOTOGRAPH KEY



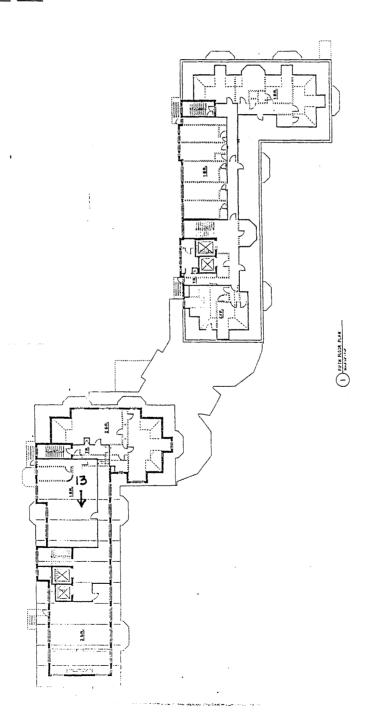


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FIFTH FLOOR PLAN
AND PHOTOGRAPH KEY





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Deposit, MD (1902); the Packard Residence, Philadelphia (1903); The R.R. Quay Residence and Stable, Southampton, L.I. (1905) and the Franklin and Marshall Administration Building, Lancaster, PA (1906).

As of 1910, after the construction of the original Fairmount Apartments, Newman moved his practice north to Manhattan, severed his partnership with Harris and continued practicing in the greater New York area under Frank E. Newman, Architect. The 1912 section of the Fairmount was designed and completed by Frank E. Newman, Architect of Manhattan without the involvement of Harris.

In subsequent years, Frank Newman became well known for his residential design working in the English domestic style. His design for the E.W. Russell Residence in Greenwich, CT, 1913, was widely praised in architectural periodicals of the period including feature articles in the October, 1913 and October, 1917 issues of Architectural Record. His design for the Robert Appleton, Esq. Residence in East Hampton, Long Island, 1919, was also featured in Architectural Record. Also to his credit in later years, in 1921, was the NeoFederal bank building located at 706-08 Madison Avenue, New York City.

The Fairmount Apartments is also significant as one of the earliest examples of large-scale, luxury apartment development in the West Bergen section of Jersey City. Constructed at an original cost of \$150,000, the Fairmount featured "the very highest service and efficiency and on a par with the highest class of Manhattan apartments." In fact, the Fairmount was built in competition with the developing apartment hotel region of the east-side of Manhattan north of Seventy-Second Street. As described in the November 5, 1909 issue of the Jersey Journal:

It is but a block from the Montgomery Street cars, connecting with the McAdoo tunnels, making the actual time to the Hudson Terminal less than twenty-five minutes, and is therefore more accessible to the business portion of New York than is the apartment hotel region north of Seventy-second Street.

The development of the Fairmount was a tremendous success even before construction was completed since seventy-five percent of the apartments were pre-rented. The Jersey Journal prophetically reported in 1909 that:

... it is probable that the Fairmount Company's example will be followed in the near future by other apartment hotels of a similar character.

It was so successful in its own right that just three years after the completion of construction of the original section, the Fairmount was doubled in size from 33 apartments to 66 apartments with the construction of the 1912 section.

¹ The Jersey Journal (November 5, 1909):14.

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However, the overwhelming popularity of the Fairmount established the model for success and set the pattern for development of the great apartment houses in the West Bergen section of the city. Constructed from 1910-1930, these apartment buildings were designed in the eclectic modes of the early twentieth-century and reflected the transition of this section of Jersey City from low-scale residential development to fashionable apartment construction. They represent the continued prosperity of Jersey City at the turn of the century as a viable alternative to the upper east side of Manhattan.

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Ca. 1928 Image of "The Fairmount Hotel." Collection of the Jersey City Public Library

On the Hudson Boulevard A Cown House of Superior Quality



The Fairmount Hotel on the quiet Residential Boulevard

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Bibliography Continued

The Jersey Journal (November 5, 1909):14.

- Mary B. Dierickx Architectural Preservation Consultants. "Phase 2 Survey of Ward B, Jersey City, Recommended List of Sites Eligible for the National Register." (July 1985).
- Mary B. Dierickx Architectural Preservation Consultants. "Phase 2 Survey of Ward C, Jersey City, Recommended List of Sites Eligible for the National Register." (July 1985).
- "Residence of Robert Appleton, Esq., East Hampton, LI." Architectural Record 46 (October 1919):380-82.
- Tatman, Sandra and Roger W. Moss. Biographical Dictionary of Philadelphia Architects, 1700-1930. Boston: G.K. Hall, 1984.

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Verbal Boundary Description Continued:

Beginning at the intersection of the northwesterly line of John F. Kennedy Boulevard with the southwesterly line of Fairmount Avenue, running thence:

- 1. Along said northwesterly line of John F. Kennedy Boulevard, South 53 degrees 40 minutes 36 seconds West 263.91 feet, thence
- 2. Still along the northwesterly line of John F. Kennedy Boulevard, on a curve to the left 60.68 feet to the northeasterly line of Duncan Avenue, said curve having a radius of 300.67 feet, and a chord of South 47 degrees 53 minutes 42 seconds West 60.58 feet, thence
- 3. Along said northeasterly line of Duncan Avenue, North 60 degrees 31 minutes 52 seconds West 67.43 feet, thence
- 4. North 29 degrees 28 minutes 08 seconds East 128.13 feet, thence
- 5. North 60 degrees 55 minutes 56 seconds West 8.54 feet, thence
- 6. North 28 degrees 52 minutes 36 seconds East 30.00 feet, thence
- 7. South 60 degrees 55 minutes 56 seconds East 87.70 feet, thence
- 8. North 63 degrees 48 minutes 18 seconds East 4.02 feet, thence
- 9. North 28 degrees 52 minutes 36 seconds East 135.00 feet to the southwesterly line of Fairmount Avenue, thence
- 10. Along said southwesterly line of Fairmount Avenue, South 61 degrees 07 minutes 24 seconds East 115.08 feet to the point of beginning.

This description is based on a site plan of November 1993 by Hermann K.F. Lange, Land Surveyor in Jersey City.

