

56-1396

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 or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, 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 Middlesex Avenue / Woodwild Park Historic District

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number Middlesex Avenue, Oak Avenue, Linden Avenue, East Chestnut Avenue, Maple Avenue, Elm Avenue, Library Place, Rector Street, Clarendon Court, Highland Avenue, Hillside Avenue, Pleasant Place

not for publication

city or town Borough of Metuchen

vicinity

state New Jersey code NJ county Middlesex code 023 zip code 08840

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.

Signature of certifying official Paul Boony Title Ass't Commissioner Date 6/5/17  
NJ DEP

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:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper Edson H. Beall Date of Action 7.31.17

**5. Classification**

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)		
		Contributing	Noncontributing	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>201</u>	<u>51</u>	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure			structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	objects
		<u>207</u>	<u>53</u>	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 dwellingDOMESTIC/single dwellingSOCIAL/civicEDUCATION/schoolRELIGION/religious facilityLANDSCAPE/parkTRANSPORTATION/road-related**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwellingCOMMERCE/professionalSOCIAL/civicSOCIAL/civicRELIGION/religious facilityLANDSCAPE/parkTRANSPORTATION/road-related**7. Description****Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival, MissionBungalow/CraftsmanLate Gothic Revival, Queen Anne, ItalianateGreek Revival**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone, cast stone, concrete block, brickwalls Clapboard, wood shingle, brick, synthetic sidingroof Asphalt, slate

other \_\_\_\_\_

**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.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Community DevelopmentArchitectureSocial History**Period of Significance**ca.1860-1940**Significant Dates**1900; 1914**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A**Cultural Affiliation**N/A**Architect/Builder**Aylin Pierson (architect)Leimer & Miller (architects)Charles Fitch (architect)Clement W. Fairweather (architect)George K. Parsell (architect)**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  
# NJ-711 (St. Luke's) NJ-226 (BIL/schoolhouse)
- recorded by Historic American Engineering

**Primary location of additional data**

<input type="checkbox"/>	State Historic Preservation Office
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other State agency
<input type="checkbox"/>	Federal agency
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Local government
<input type="checkbox"/>	University
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other

Name of repository: Metuchen Historic Preservation Committee

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property 88.9 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.) 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 Nancy Zerbe, Tyreen Reuter, Margaret Newman

organization Metuchen Historic Preservation Committee date April 2017

street & number 500 Main Street telephone 732-632-8540

city or town Metuchen state NJ zip code 08840

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.

Photographs

Representative 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

street & number telephone

city or town state zip code

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 from 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.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Middlesex Avenue-Woodwild Park Historic District  
Metuchen, Middlesex County, NJ

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## DESCRIPTION NARRATIVE

### *Summary Paragraph*

The overall character of the Middlesex Avenue-Woodwild Park Historic District is a suburban district of houses set amid large lawns with mature trees and plantings. The larger houses set on larger lots are primarily on Middlesex, Hillside, Rector, and Oak. Sidewalks wind through the district, mostly made of concrete although there are some bluestone or slate sidewalks on Middlesex Avenue, Rector Street, and Hillside Avenue. The street signs are wood or concrete posts, approximately 5 feet high.

Middlesex Avenue, which runs east to west through the center of the district, is lined with institutions and professional offices at its western end and residences at the eastern end. The lots and buildings at the institutional end tend to be bigger. On the north side, the buildings are set back farther from the street. There are two parks located along Middlesex Avenue: the 3.6-acre Woodwild Park at the eastern end of the historic district and the small Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Park at the western end between the Borough Hall parking lot and the public library. Woodwild Park has five objects (four stone columns and the cast iron horse trough) and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Park has a small monument.

The buildings within the historic district represent a variety of architectural styles constructed in the affluent suburbs of the United States during the mid-to-late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, with a majority of the buildings constructed between ca. 1890 and 1940. Two of the earliest buildings within the historic district (St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Photo #15, and 52 Elm Avenue, Photo #24) represent the mid-nineteenth century Gothic Revival style with steeply pitched roofs, ornate vergeboards, and lancet arches. There are also several high-style Italianate buildings that reflect the Gothic Revival style influence (455 Middlesex Avenue, Photo #07; 104 and 105 Hillside Avenue; and 376 Middlesex Avenue). The late nineteenth century Queen Anne style is represented by some larger more ornate houses with emphasis on verticality, front gables, prominent porches and architectural embellishments like a mix of exterior cladding, turrets and ornamental woodwork. Several of these houses are located along Middlesex Avenue and Hillside Avenue (387 & 389 Middlesex Avenue, Photo #9; 61 Hillside Avenue, Photo #39). In addition to these more high-style houses, there are several simpler vernacular houses with Queen Anne influences (101 Hillside Avenue, Photo #36, and 125 Hillside Avenue, Photo #35).

The twentieth century buildings within the historic district primarily include the Colonial Revival (54 & 58 Elm Avenue, Photo #24; 300 Middlesex Avenue, Photo #01), Dutch Colonial Revivals (368 Middlesex Avenue, Photo #02; 62 Oak Avenue, Photo #12), as well as numerous Craftsman bungalows (51 & 55 Library Place, Photo #25; 93 Highland Avenue, Photo 33; 93 Hillside Avenue, Photo 36) and Craftsman Foursquare (459 Middlesex Avenue, Photo #07; 45 Elm Avenue, Photo #23; and 72 & 64 Hillside Avenue, Photo #38).

In addition, there are a few unusual examples of revival styles, including the Tudor Revival (83 Linden Avenue, Photo #19; 245 East Chestnut Avenue; Photo #21), and Spanish Mission (100 Hillside Avenue).

About 25% of the district is of masonry construction; there are about 15 brick resources with the rest being stucco, often combined with wood sheathing (typically wood shingle) although stucco with clapboard also

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is fairly common. Wood construction is the dominant building type with wood shingle or clapboard sheathing or commonly, a mixture of the two. There also are some late twentieth century synthetic materials as well: aluminum and vinyl siding and the more recently remodeled houses clad in fiber cement siding. Most of the houses have asphalt shingle roof, replacing original wood shingle. Several resources retain their original slate roofs. While some houses retain their original wood sash, the majority have replacement sash.

### Architectural Resource Inventory

The following is an inventory of all buildings within the Middlesex Avenue-Woodwild Park Historic District, beginning at the northeast end of the historic district. For each street, starting with Middlesex Avenue, the listings proceed down one side of the street and then cross over and go up the other side of the street. Following Middlesex Avenue, the streets on the north side of Middlesex Avenue are described, beginning with the two north-south streets of Oak and Linden avenues, and then proceeding to the east-west streets of East Chestnut, Maple, and Elm avenues, and Library Place. The listings then proceed to the south side of Middlesex Avenue, starting at the northwest end of Rector Street. The buildings on the north-south Rector Street are described, followed by the following east-west streets of Clarendon Court, Hillside Avenue, and Highland Avenue (including one property that sides onto Hillside Avenue and has a Pleasant Place address). Buildings located on multiple lots are listed in the inventory as they appear on the official tax records.

There are a total of 260 resources in the Middlesex Avenue-Woodwild Park Historic District, including 160 houses, 87 outbuildings or garages, 3 buildings used for institutional or professional purposes, the public library, one church, 2 sites, and 6 objects. 207 resources are considered Contributing (140 buildings, 61 outbuildings, 1 site, 5 objects). 53 of the resources are considered Non-Contributing (25 buildings, 26 outbuildings, 1 site, 1 object). A **Contributing (C)** building or structure is one that adds to the historic architectural qualities, historic associations, or archaeological values for which a property is significant because: a) it was present during the period of significance and possesses historic integrity reflecting its character at that time or is capable of yielding important information about the period, or b) it independently meets the National Register Criteria. Buildings and structures independently meeting the National Register criteria are labeled as **Key Contributing (KC)**. A **Non-Contributing (N/C)** building or structure does not add to the historic architectural qualities, historic associations, or archeological values for which a property is significant because: a) it was not present during the period of significance; or b) due to alterations, disturbances, additions or other changes, it no longer possesses historic integrity reflecting its character at the time or is incapable of yielding important information about the period; and c) it does not independently meet the National Register criteria.

**300 Middlesex Avenue**

Block 107/Lot 16

ca. 1910

Corbin House, known as "Woodstock" (K/C)

[See Photograph #01]

Outbuildings: late twentieth century garage (N/C)

2-story, 5-bay center hall Colonial Revival with vinyl siding and a 2-story center porch supported by paired Corinthian columns with a denticulated frieze under a heavy molded cornice. The 2<sup>nd</sup> floor balustrade is adorned with a center shield. The 6/6 windows flanking the front entry porch have square

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window hoods and lintels. The asphalt gable roof is pierced by three dormers: a large central dormer with a broken pediment flanked by two single dormers, each with a pediment. There is a porte cochere on the west elevation crowned by a shield adorned balustrade that matches the porch. Behind the porte cochere is a projecting bay window. On the east elevation, there is a ca. 1965 one-story addition that accesses the basement. Mr. Charles Corbin, the donor of Woodwild Park, built this house between 1907 and 1910, and named it "Woodstock" for an area in Connecticut from which Corbin's ancestors had settled. The property remained in the family until the 1960s, when it was purchased by a local doctor who constructed the offices and exam rooms on the west end of the house.

**312 Middlesex Avenue** Block 107/Lots 21 & 23 ca. 1905

Outbuildings: none

2-story, 3-bay Queen Anne-influenced shingle house (C). The house is situated adjacent to Woodwild Park and set back further from the road than the other homes along Middlesex Avenue. The house has a hipped asphalt roof intersected with cross gables and dormers. A porch with round columns and a square balustrade spans the façade, and bay windows adorn the side elevations. According to information provided by the current homeowner, this house was built by the Corbin family prior to the construction of the larger home at 300 Middlesex Avenue. It was later purchased by Charles Corbin's nephew, Abel Corbin.

**344 Middlesex Avenue** Block 105/Lots 5, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, & 16 ca. 1925

Applegate House (C)

[See Photograph #02]

Outbuildings: original frame saltbox outbuilding with clapboards and slate roof (C)

2-story, 5-bay center hall Colonial Revival with slightly projecting second story, aluminum siding, and slate gable roof. The center entrance has a pedimented portico with fluted columns supporting the gable end returns. The multi-light sash has incised decorative heads. Flanking one-story bays have denticulated cornices topped by a decorative balustrade with oil lamp panels. The east side was originally an open porch; it has been enclosed. A garage has been added on the west side. Constructed ca. 1925 for Arthur J. Applegate, the owner of an automobile dealership in Perth Amboy. He later served president of the Commonwealth Bank of New Jersey.

**360 Middlesex Avenue** Block 105/Lot 18 2017

2½-story, 5-bay contemporary Colonial (N/C) with centered cross gable roof and full width front porch.

**364 Middlesex Avenue** Block 105/Lot 20 ca. 1925

Outbuildings: rear detached garage (C)

[See Photograph #02]

1-story, 3-bay clapboard Craftsman bungalow (C) with an asphalt gable roof with multiple front gables with deep eaves and braced rafter tails. The wraparound porch has paired paneled columns with braced brackets. The sash has been replaced and the piers of the porch have been clad with stone facing.

**368 Middlesex Avenue** Block 105/Lots 22 & 24 ca. 1918

Outbuildings: wood frame garage (C)

[See Photograph #02]

1-story, 3-bay clapboard Dutch Colonial Revival (C) with an asphalt gambrel roof and three multi-sided dormers with original diamond-paned sash at the center and 3/1 at the sides. A porch with simple square

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columns and balustrade spans the façade.

**376 Middlesex Avenue** Block 105/Lots 26 & 28 ca. 1860  
Tait House (C)

Outbuildings: none

2-story, 3-bay side hall Italianate house with a recessed 2-bay side addition. The house is sheathed in clapboard with an asphalt gable roof. The main block has a barrel cross gable with a bracketed cornice with dentils over a paneled frieze. The cornice continues to the recessed bay and is duplicated at the porch which has chamfered posts with elaborated capitals and paneled bases with a low balustrade with square balusters. The 2/2 windows have decorative chamfered surrounds with prominent hoods. An attached garage has been added to the west. This house originally sat on Middlesex Avenue, approximately half a mile southwest from its current location. It appears attributed to G.C. Tait on 1868 and 1876 maps of Metuchen; the 1870 census indicates that Scottish immigrants George Tait and his wife Mary lived in the area at the time. Their three young sons (John, Harvard, and Thorfin) are also included in the census. George Tait passed away at age 70 in 1886. According to municipal records, the house was moved to its current location in 1900, and censuses and directories show that Mary Tait continued to live in the house with her son, John, until sometime between 1910 and 1920, when Mary moved into her son Thorfin's home at 64 Hillside Avenue. The 1920 census indicates that William Fraser, a superintendent in an oil refinery, lived in the house. The 1928 directory shows Howard Wilson, the Borough Clerk, at this address. The current owner purchased the home in 1995; in 1998 he added the 2-story side addition. A screened-in porch was added to the rear in 2005, and the 1-story rear addition was constructed in 2007. In 2010, the single driveway was replaced by a cobblestone courtyard.

**Middlesex Avenue** Block 105/Lots 1 & 58 1897, 1900  
**Woodwild Park (C)** Block 106/Lot 12 [See Photographs #03 & 04]

Woodwild Park is a 3.6-acre natural park and wildlife sanctuary bordered by Middlesex, Oak, and East Chestnut Avenues. The area was originally part of a large residential estate with a mid-nineteenth century house built by Thomas W. Strong; the stone pillars that mark the entrance to the park were part of the estate. In 1897, Charles and Elizabeth Corbin chartered the Woodwild Park Association and donated the land to the Association. Two of the stone markers used to delineate the corner points of the land donated in 1897 are known to be extant. There is a 14-foot difference in elevation between the highest and lowest points in the park. The low point is a "kettle hole," a geologic formation created by a large block of glacial ice that was buried among rocks and debris, leaving a depression which has since become a seasonal pond. The pond is visited by ducks and serves as a watering hole for deer and other wildlife, including a diverse array of resident and migratory birds. The park includes the water fountain located at the corner of Oak and Middlesex Avenues. Locally known as "the horse trough," the monument was originally a fountain that the Woodwild Park Association purchased in 1900 from the Middlesex Water Company. The fountain was originally adjacent to the roadway; in 1961, it was moved back several feet from the street.

**424 Middlesex Avenue** Block 104/Lots 23.03 & 24 ca. 1840  
The Metuchen Inn (N/C) [See Photograph #05]

Outbuildings: 1½-story frame carriage house sheathed in wood shingle with a steeply pitched asphalt gable



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roof with a prominent cross gable. Multi-light wood sash remains with some replacements. (C)  
Heavily altered Second Empire commercial building with fiber cement siding, an asphalt mansard roof, replacement sash, an infilled porch and several additions. The bay window and brick foundations remain. A building on this site appears on both the 1868 and 1876 maps of Metuchen as the residence of David Gilmer, and may be one of the buildings shown on an 1850 map of the area. Oral histories on file in the Metuchen-Edison Historical Society indicate the original building was likely built ca. 1840. The 1870 census indicates that a David Gilmurr, an optician, lived in this area of Metuchen. In the 1880s it was home to the Wilmot family. In the early 20th century, the building became a restaurant and hotel known as the Metuchen Inn. This building was seriously damaged by a fire in 2010. It has been substantially rebuilt, but has lost many of its original architectural features. The outbuilding at the rear does not appear on maps of the area until 1910, but may date to much earlier.

**456 Middlesex Avenue** Block 102/Lot 1 ca. 1932  
1½-story, 3-bay brick commercial building (C) with a projecting central entrance and a recessed 1-bay side addition with a second entrance. The structure has an asphalt gable roof with two hipped dormers. This small brick Cape Cod-style house does not appear on the 1929 Sanborn Fire Insurance map of the area, but does appear in its current configuration in a 1936 photograph on file at the Metuchen-Edison Historical Society. The 1937-1938 directory of Metuchen lists this building as the office of Dr. John D. Witmer, whose residence was nearby at 64 Elm Avenue.

**480 Middlesex Avenue** Block 102/Lots 2 & 25 1937  
Metuchen Public Library (K/C) [See Photograph #06]  
Outbuildings: none  
1-story, 5-bay center hall Colonial Revival brick building with brick quoins, raised basement, oversized dentil cornice, and a slate roof. The arched 10/15 sash flank the raised entrance with an elaborate door surround with heavy pilasters topped by a broken pediment. A public library was established in Metuchen in the 1870s, and after many years of it being housed in various public locations, the first library building was constructed in 1884 on Hillside Avenue. As the circulation grew, it moved into larger quarters in buildings such as Borough Hall, but eventually required a larger, dedicated structure. From 1935 to 1937, donated funds and a W.P.A. grant were used to construct this current building for a cost of \$75,000. Aylin Pierson served as the architect for the project. In the early 1970s, a large addition was constructed under the direction of architect Charles Fitch.

**480 Middlesex Avenue** Block 102/Lot 25 1976  
Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Park (N/C)  
This small municipal park, situated between Metuchen Borough Hall and the Metuchen Free Public Library, contains a bronze and cement bust of Reverend King. The original bust on this site was dedicated in 1976, but was destroyed by vandalism in 1992. The current replacement bust, carved by sculptors John Cobbs, Jr. and William Watson, has a granite base and sits on a brick exedra wall.

**491 Middlesex Avenue** Block 117/Lots 70 & 72 ca. 1807  
Old Franklin Schoolhouse (K/C) [See Photograph #07]  
Outbuildings: shed in rear, ca. 1990 (N/C)

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1-story, 5-bay, center hall Greek Revival building with clapboard siding and an asphalt gable roof adorned with a center bell tower and a denticulated cornice. The building, which in ca. 1842 was rotated on its site 90 degrees, has a 6-panel door and 9/6 sash. This building was constructed ca. 1807 and until the 1870s served as the area's only school. After a larger school building was constructed further west on Middlesex Avenue, this building served a variety of public uses, including religious & civic meeting space and extra library space. For a short period of time it was home to a cobbler and his family and eventually fell into disrepair. In 1908, it was acquired by the Borough Improvement League, a civic society formed with the mission of preserving the old schoolhouse and assisting the newly-formed borough in various improvement projects. The building is still owned by the non-profit Borough Improvement League and serves as a cultural arts community center, art gallery, music venue, and club house for the organization.

**483 Middlesex Avenue** Block 117/Lots 74, 76, 78, 36.02, and 38.02 1899  
Metuchen Club (K/C) [See Photograph #08]

2-story, 3-bay center hall Colonial Revival building with aluminum siding and a hipped asphalt roof topped by a pair of hipped dormers. The center bay is slightly recessed from the end bays. There is a simple center portico with a flat roof supported by round columns with large brick bases. There is a 1-story side addition. This building was originally constructed as a clubhouse for the Metuchen Club, an athletic and social club founded in 1890. Designed by architect George K. Parsell of New Brunswick, the building was completed in 1899. In 1927, the Mt. Zion Masonic Lodge #135 purchased the building and has used it as their headquarters since. In 2009, the YMCA acquired ownership of the building and renovated the rear interior rooms for use as offices, with the Lodge retaining usage rights.

**471 Middlesex Avenue** Block 117/Lot 80 1950  
Outbuildings: none

1-story, 4-bay brick Ranch (N/C) with a pass-through garage.

**467 Middlesex Avenue** Block 117/Lot 84 ca. 1905  
Outbuildings: none

2-story, 3-bay wood shingle Foursquare (C) with a pyramidal asphalt roof pierced by a large central pyramidal dormer. The porch has been enclosed and there is a 1-story side addition. The sash throughout the building are replacements.

**459 Middlesex Avenue** Block 117/Lot 87 ca. 1905  
Outbuildings: none [See Photograph #09]

2-story, 2-over-3 bay Foursquare (C) with vinyl siding and a pyramidal asphalt roof pierced by a pyramidal dormer. The porch has synthetic materials and the sash are replacements. There is a large 2-story rear addition added ca. 2010.

**455 Middlesex Avenue** Block 117/Lot 90 ca. 1849  
Outbuildings: 3-car garage (N/C) [See Photograph #09]

2-story, 5-bay Italianate-influenced house (C) with two large front gables with deep eaves and cornice returns supported by brackets. The roof is asphalt; the siding is fiber cement; the sash are replacements. A full-porch with sawn balusters and square posts runs along the entire facade. Arched windows adorn the

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upper gable ends. There is an original bay window on the east elevation. Historic maps indicate that the original section of this residence dates from at least 1850, when it served as the home of Dr. Dayton Decker. Dr. Hunt's 1870 history of Metuchen references Dr. Decker's arrival in Metuchen in 1849. The 1868 and 1876 maps indicate the home was occupied by S.P. Mockridge. Mockridge is listed in the 1870 & 1880s censuses as a jewelry maker, and earlier records indicate he had previously lived in Newark. An oral history on file in the archives of the Metuchen-Edison Historical Society indicates that this building was associated with the Van Winkle family in 1882, and by 1900 with the Greenwald family. W.H. Greenwald was a carpenter and is shown in various records as residing in the home into the 1930s. According to the Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, the footprint of the building changed very little between 1910 and the present-day, with the exception of a bay window having been added to the eastern side of the house between 1920 and 1929.

**443 Middlesex Avenue** Block 117/Lot 93 1896

Outbuildings: none

2-story, 3-bay center hall Colonial Revival (C). The front façade is ornamented with full-length fluted pilasters at each end of the façade as well as a central decorative entrance door surround with a transom and sidelights. The hipped asphalt roof has a bracketed eave and one large pedimented dormer flanked by two single dormers. Two-story bay windows adorn the side elevations. The house is clad in asbestos siding. Structures associated with Nathan Robins (1848-1929), a prominent property owner in Metuchen, appear on the 1868 and 1876 maps in the area of this building, but an oral history on file in the archives of the Metuchen-Edison Historical Society indicates that there were no residences in this section of Middlesex Avenue in 1882. A building is shown in the area of this property on the ca. 1890 Eggert and 1900 Recorder maps; census records and city directories from 1900 onward indicate this address was the residence of Nathan Robins and his family. According to documentation on file at the Metuchen-Edison Historical Society, Nathan Robins moved into his recently completed house on Thanksgiving 1896. Mr. Robins died in 1929, but members of the family continued to own and live in this house until the early 1970s, at which point it was sold to the current owners. The building currently houses medical offices on the first floor and several apartments on the second floor.

**435 Middlesex Avenue** Block 117/Lot 99 ca. 1930

Outbuildings: rear detached 2-car garage (C)

2-story, 2-bay Dutch Colonial Revival stuccoed building (C) with stucco with a gambrel roof and a pent eave above the first floor of the front façade. The front entrance, located in the westernmost bay, has a pedimented portico, a paneled door, and sidelights. The paired sash are replacements. The one-story side bay was originally an open porch, but is now enclosed.

**431 Middlesex Avenue** Block 117/Lot 100 ca. 1925

Outbuildings: 2-car garage (C)

2-story, 3-bay side hall stucco Colonial Revival (C) with an asphalt gable roof with a center gabled dormer now covered with aluminum siding but originally wood shingle. The paired sash is 4/1. The front entrance is elaborated with a projecting bay with a shallow hipped roof and sidelights.

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**427 Middlesex Avenue**

Block 117/Lots 103 &amp; 105

ca. 1905

Outbuildings: none

1½-story bungalow (C) with asbestos siding and a low-pitched asphalt gable roof with a large central shed dormer. The integrated porch is enclosed with 2/2 sash and paired glass center doors.

**423 Middlesex Avenue**

Block 117/Lot 107

ca. 1924

Outbuildings: none

[See Photograph #10]

2-story, clapboard Dutch Colonial Revival (C) with an asphalt gambrel roof and shed dormers. A one-story projecting bay with 6/6 sash adorns the front gambrel. Many of the historic 6/6 sash remain. The entrance, off the side elevation, is elaborated by pilasters and a portico. The original cast block outbuilding has now been incorporated into the house via an addition.

**419 Middlesex Avenue**

Block 117/Lot 109

ca. 1924

[See Photograph #10]

Outbuildings: original one-car wood shingle garage with asphalt gable roof (C)

2-story, clapboard Dutch Colonial Revival (C) with asphalt gambrel roof and shed dormers. A one-story projecting bay with 6/6 sash adorns the front gambrel. 6/6 sash remain throughout. The entrance, off the side elevation, is elaborated by a portico.

**411 Middlesex Avenue**

Block 117/Lot 111

ca. 1924

Outbuildings: none

[See Photograph #10]

2½-story, 2-over-3 bay clapboard Dutch Colonial Revival (C) with an asphalt gambrel roof with a large cross gambrel on the facade with an integrated porch with round columns, clapboard balustrade and multi-light casements above. Original multi-light wood sash remains as do the awnings.

**407 Middlesex Avenue**

Block 117/Lot 114

ca. 1895

Outbuildings: large garage at rear, ca. 1995 (N/C)

[See Photograph #10]

2-story, 3-bay center hall Colonial Revival (C) with a wraparound porch with Ionic columns. The first floor is stucco; above is composite shingle. The asphalt gable roof has two gable dormers, each with paired windows. The paired wood and glass doors are adorned with a transom and side lights. The sash has been replaced and a one-story side bay has been added. Although this house does not appear on the ca. 1890 or 1900 maps of Metuchen, it appears in its current configuration on the 1910 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map. The census records and city directories indicate that Edward Burroughs, a prominent businessman, pharmacist, and Postmaster, lived in the house by 1900.

**387 Middlesex Avenue**

Block 125.01/Lot 38

ca. 1890

Outbuildings: none

[See Photograph #11]

2-story, 2-over-3 bay Queen Anne (C) with a corner turret above a rounded porch with square balusters, round columns with minimal capital, and a pyramidal asphalt roof. The house is sheathed in wood shingle; the gable roofs are asphalt; the foundation is brick. An arched window adorns the front gable; the other sash is wood, 1/1. According to a 1977 architectural sites survey, this house was constructed between 1876 and 1897. However, an oral history on file in the archives of the Metuchen-Edison Historical Society indicates that there were no residences in this section of Middlesex Avenue in 1882. It may be one of the

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buildings shown on the ca. 1890 Eggert and 1900 maps. By 1909, it was the home of George and Emma Greason.

**379 Middlesex Avenue** Block 125.01/Lots 42.01 & 42.02 ca. 1890

Outbuildings: none [See Photograph #11]

2-story, 3-bay Queen Anne (C) with a front gable with projecting second floor pedimented bay. There is a wraparound porch with turned balusters and columns. The house is sheathed in vinyl siding and rounded shingle; the gable roofs are asphalt. The sash are replacements. The original paneled door remains. According to a 1977 architectural sites survey, this house was constructed ca. 1890 and may be one of the buildings shown on the ca. 1890 and 1900 maps of the area. Edward C. Potter is listed as living in the home in the 1916 and 1919-1920 directories of Metuchen.

**375 Middlesex Avenue** Block 125.01/Lot 46 ca. 1895

Outbuildings: attached garage at rear of property added ca. 1925 [See Photograph #11]

2-story, 2-over-3 bay Foursquare (C) with vinyl siding and a pyramidal asphalt roof pierced by a pyramidal dormer. The sash are replacements. The front portico has a hipped asphalt roof with paired square columns; ca. 2010 the columns bases and façade under the portico were sheathed in rock facing. The original portico was significantly deeper. By the time an early 1930s photograph was taken of the house, a two-story side addition had been added. This house was likely constructed by Herbert C. and Charlotte Richardson, who were married in 1883. He later served as Superintendent of Central Electric Company. Mr. & Mrs. Richardson owned the first automobile in the borough and were photographed ca. 1899 riding in the car in front of what is presumed to be their home.

**367 Middlesex Avenue** Block 125.01/Lot 49 ca. 1910

“Rustic Willows” (C)

Outbuildings: none

2-story, 1-over-3 bay gable-end-to-street Arts & Crafts influenced shingle house. The windows are diamond-paned with decorative sills. A side bay with a shed roof and round arched opening leads to the entrance on the side gable with a gabled dormer above within the asphalt gable roof. Early twentieth century postcard images on file at the Metuchen-Edison Historical Society indicate that this house was known as “Rustic Willows.” The 1909-1910 Directory of Metuchen lists George Hamblin as living on Middlesex Avenue, and later directories that provide address numbers indicate that he lived at this address.

**359 Middlesex Avenue** Block 125.01/Lot 52.03 ca. 1910

John Ciardi House (C)

[See Photograph #12]

Outbuildings: none

2-story, 3-bay center hall Colonial Revival with aluminum siding and an asphalt roof pierced with three gable dormers with prominent cornice returns. A gable center entrance bay is adorned with rounded pilasters, denticulated cornice and rounded pediment. The 6/1 sash remain. There was originally a two-story open porch on the side, but the second story has been enclosed. Deed research indicates that this house was constructed in the early twentieth century by members of the Mundy family on land acquired in 1906 from Edward Clark. Ambrose Mundy is listed in Metuchen directories as having lived in the house from 1910 to 1922, and as serving as a superintendent at the Middlesex Water Company. In 1923, the

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house was sold to members of the Edgar family and remained in the family until 1966, when it was sold to John and Judith (Myra) Ciardi. The Ciardis had moved to Metuchen in the 1950s, first living on Graham Avenue. John Ciardi (1916-1986) was a nationally known poet, critic, professor, editor, host, and translator. He may be best known for his translation of Dante's *The Divine Comedy*.

**349 Middlesex Avenue** Block 125.01/Lot 52.01 ca. 2000  
Outbuildings: none [See Photograph #12]  
2-story, 3-bay brick-faced contemporary (N/C) with attached garage wing.

**345 Middlesex Avenue** Block 125.01/Lot 39.04 Built 1973  
Outbuildings: none [See Photograph #12]  
2-story, 3-bay split level (N/C) with full-height columns supporting wide eaves.

**335 Middlesex Avenue** Block 125.01/Lot 39.05 ca. 1900  
Outbuildings: none [See Photograph #12]  
2-story, 3-bay center hall Colonial Revival (C) with a two-story open portico with Corinthian columns and a denticulated frieze topped by a balustrade. Paired fluted pilasters are located at the two ends of the front façade. Palladian windows crowned by a center fanlight flank the elaborate entrance with sidelights and a fanlight transom topped by a wrought iron balcony. The house is now sheathed in aluminum siding and has replacement sash. The side wing was originally a small one-story projecting bay centered on the west elevation. According to information on file at the Metuchen-Edison Historical Society, this house was constructed ca. 1900 for Edward Burroughs, a business & property owner and borough official. Members of the Edgar Family, known for their Clay companies, later bought the house and hired architect John Noble Pierson to update the home, including the addition of the two-story Corinthian columns along the front façade.

**2 Oak Avenue** Block 105/Lot 30 ca. 1958  
Outbuildings: none  
2-story, 3-bay Colonial (N/C) with broken pediment front porch supported by paired columns and a slightly recessed attached garage. The second story above the garage postdates the original construction.

**18 Oak Avenue** Block 105/Lot 30.01 ca. 1940  
Outbuildings: none  
2-story, 3-bay brick Colonial Revival (C) with side cross gable balanced by a wall dormer. The gable roof is asphalt. The center entrance is elaborated with a brick bay with a shed roof, classically inspired architrave with transom window and pilasters. The sash are replacements. The attached one-story garage at the side is original.

**24 Oak Avenue** Block 105/Lot 45 ca. 1958  
Outbuildings: none  
Split level (N/C) with vinyl and brick cladding and an attached garage.

**28 Oak Avenue** Block 105/Lot 47 ca. 1915  
Outbuildings: none

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2½-story, 3-bay Foursquare (C) with aluminum siding and a slate hipped roof with a pedimented dormer. The sash has been replaced and the front porch enclosed.

**48 Oak Avenue**

Block 105/Lots 49 & 51

ca. 1915

Outbuildings: none

[See Photograph #13]

2-story stucco Spanish Mission-style house (C) with pedimented wall dormers topped with arched windows over a deep porch with square stucco columns and stucco balustrade. The hipped roof is asphalt; the windows are 8/1. Records on file at the Metuchen-Edison Historical Society indicate the lot was purchased by Howard G. Mook in 1908 from the Metuchen Savings and Loan Association, who were responsible for developing the Woodwild Park area. Based on historic maps and directories, it appears that Howard, a member of the large and prominent Mook family in Metuchen, and his wife Ida built the home sometime between 1910 and 1920. After Mr. Mook passed away in 1968, the house was sold out of the family.

**52 Oak Avenue**

Block 105/Lots 53 & 55

ca. 1910

Outbuildings: none

[See Photograph #13]

2-story, 3-bay stucco Spanish Mission-influenced house (C) with asphalt gable roof with deep eaves and brackets. Pedimented dormers top projecting 2<sup>nd</sup> floor bay windows supported by brackets. The 8/1 sash are ganged in groups of three. The Craftsman influenced entrance has a wood and glass door topped by a transom and flanked by skylights. It is sheltered by a shed roof supported by brackets. The enclosed 1-story bay to the north was originally a porch; the southern 1-story bay was always enclosed.

**56 Oak Avenue**

Block 105/Lots 57 & 59

ca. 1905

Outbuildings: none

[See Photograph #14]

2-story oversized front gable Shingle style house (C) with a broad asphalt roof with cross gables and rusticated stone chimneys. A denticulated cornice separates the first and second floors; this ornamentation is continued on the frieze of the gable and is carried by small brackets. Originally, the south side was an open porch; it has been enclosed and the front façade is adorned with a diamond-paned bay window. A balcony also was centered on the façade; it has been removed and a projecting bay above the recessed center entrance constructed. There is another 2<sup>nd</sup> floor projecting bay window on the north elevation.

**62 Oak Avenue**

Block 105/Lots 61 & 63

ca. 1924

[See Photograph #14]

Outbuildings: original frame one-car garage with clapboard, an asphalt gable roof, a window in the upper gable end and a wood and glass door (C)

2-story, 5-over-3-bay, center hall Colonial Revival (C) with a projecting bracketed second floor, clapboard and green tiled roof on top of a denticulated cornice. The main block is flanked by one-story bays; the northern bay was originally an open porch that has been enclosed with the trellised cornice retained. Square bay windows flank the pedimented entrance portico with classical ornamentation including a garland and vase in the tympanum, metopes, fluted pilasters and egg and dart. The paneled door is framed by a transom and sidelights.

**67 Oak Avenue**

Block 103/Lot 1

ca. 1905

[See Photograph #15]

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Outbuildings: original brick garage with asphalt gable roof and shingle in the upper gable end with a 4-light sash and tongue and groove carriage doors (C)

Frame two-car garage closer to house (N/C)

2½-story, 2-bay frame, front gable Queen Anne influenced house (C) with clapboard (possibly fiber cement siding) under wood shingle at the second floor and upper gable ends and dormers with an asphalt gable roof. There is a wraparound porch with columns and a star-lattice balustrade. There is a rear addition; it appears that this house was recently remodeled. The sash might be replacements. The land on which the home now sits was owned by Thomas W. Strong in the late 19th century and was later developed as part of the Woodwild Park section in conjunction with the Metuchen Building and Loan Association, chartered in September 1897. This home was built soon afterwards, and according to directories was home to a real estate executive named Charles E. Williamson in 1910, and to Gerald Fitzgerald in 1928.

**57 Oak Avenue**

Block 103/Lot 4

ca. 1905

Outbuildings: frame two-car garage (N/C)

[See Photograph #15]

2-story, 3-bay frame, front gable Colonial Revival (C) with an asphalt jerkinhead gable roof and exterior chimney running up the façade. The sash has been replaced and the siding might be fiber cement. Originally, there was a one-story side bay. There is a pent eave embellished with a rounded arch.

**55 Oak Avenue**

Block 103/Lot 7

ca. 1905

Outbuildings: rear frame garage built between 1910 and 1920 (C)

1½-story 3-over-4 bay frame Colonial Revival influenced house (C) with asbestos siding and a steeply pitched asphalt gable roof with deep eaves and a large shed dormer accented with two pedimented gables. The windows are diamond pane over a single light; this is a change from the historic photograph when they were 3/1. In addition, a corner porch has been infilled and a classically inspired door with pediment and sidelights constructed, possibly at the same time when the diamond sash was installed. This addition then incorporated the separate 1-story glass enclosed bay that remains.

**51 Oak Avenue**

Block 103/Lot 10

ca. 1905

Outbuildings: none

1½-story, 3-bay frame bungalow (C) with a deep asphalt gable roof pierced by two three-sided dormers with pyramidal asphalt roofs. The integrated porch has large columns. The sash has been replaced.

**43 Oak Avenue**

Block 103/Lots 13 & 15

ca. 1905

Outbuildings: none

2½-story, 3-bay Craftsman influenced house (C) with stucco below wood shingle topped by a hipped asphalt roof with shed dormers capped with pyramidal metal roofs. There is a wraparound porch with broad stucco columns and new stone-clad balustrade and step. This house has recently been renovated; some of the sash may be replacements.

**31 Oak Avenue**

Block 104/Lot 1.03

ca. 1900

[See Photograph #16]

Outbuildings: rear frame garage / guest house (N/C) was built between 2002 and 2007

2½-story, 2-bay asymmetrical Queen Anne (C) with clapboard below shingle in the cross gables and



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dormers of the hipped roof. The paneled corner boards, bay window, and oculus in the cross gable are surviving historic features. The sash has been replaced and several additions constructed. The original wraparound porch is now a square portico supported by round columns and topped with a balustrade. There is an attached 2-car garage built ca. 1965. Although this area of Metuchen is not shown on the 1903 or 1910 Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, the house does appear to be included on the 1900 Recorder map. Information from the homeowner indicates that the home was built for Phyllis Fisher of the Sayre & Fisher brick company.

**17 Oak Avenue** Block 104/Lot 8 1868-1869  
St. Luke's Episcopal Church (K/C) [See Photograph #17]

Outbuildings: none

Board-and-batten Carpenter Gothic church with an emphasis on verticality with vertical board-and-batten surface, pointed arches of doors and windows and decorative bargeboards. A rosette window graces the front façade and is located above the projecting entrance bay, which is flanked by two small stained windows. Completed in the summer of 1869, St. Luke's Episcopal Church was built in the Carpenter Gothic (or Rural Gothic) style which became popular in the 1860s, in part due to the increased affordability of steam powered woodworking and architectural tools that made jig sawn bargeboard a less costly, yet still attractive, alternative to stone. Based on its architectural style and date of construction, St. Luke's has often been attributed to the architect Richard Upjohn (1802-1878). Although no firm connection to Upjohn himself has been established, its design clearly originated from his publications such as *A Book of Plans for Churches and Parsonages*. The Metuchen congregation's budgetary concerns may have also led to the selection of an Upjohn design, as according to his 1852 book, only \$3000 was needed to build one of his "cheap but still substantial buildings." Therefore, the \$4000 raised by the building committee would have been sufficient for one of these designs, but probably wouldn't have covered the originally hoped-for stone edifice with flying buttresses.

Fryer Hall was constructed to serve as a church school and additional service space from 1957 to 1959, and in 1968 the Educational Building, which linked the two buildings, was finished. John MacWilliams was the architect for both projects.

**8 Linden Avenue** Block 104/Lots 25 & 26 ca. 1920

Outbuildings: rear detached garage (C)

1½-story, 2-bay stucco Tudor Revival (C) with an asphalt pyramidal roof, wall dormer, and a deep roof supported by paired square columns at the integrated corner porch. Wood casements survive. There is a one-story enclosed porch on the south side elevation. According to the Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, this house was constructed between 1920 and 1929. However, censuses and city directories indicate that the house may have been constructed prior to 1920, and former homeowners have reported the construction date as 1917.

**32 Linden Avenue** Block 104/Lots 38.01 & 38.02 ca. 1940

Outbuildings: rear 2-car garage with a steeply pitched roof (N/C) [See Photograph #16]

1½-story, 1-over-2 bay Colonial Revival (C) with original asbestos siding and brick face oriented so entrance is on the south side elevation. The front gable has a 1-story bay with flaring asphalt roof and bay

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window. The side gable is 3 bays with a center entrance topped by two dormers within the asphalt gable roof.

**34 Linden Avenue**

Block 104/Lot 39

ca. 1924

[See Photograph #18]

Outbuilding: two-car garage with an asphalt gable roof constructed before 1929 (C)

2½-story, 3-bay Colonial Revival frame house (C) with an asphalt gable roof and a large central cross gable and a 1<sup>st</sup> floor pent roof. The house is clad in vinyl siding and has replacement windows.

**36 Linden Avenue**

Block 104/Lot 42

ca. 1872

[See Photograph #18]

The 1920 Sanborn map shows a simple house on this plot; however, in its current configuration, the building (N/C) appears to have been so greatly altered that it is no longer considered to be contributing. This house appears on the 1876 Dripps Map of Metuchen as attributed to T. Payne. The 1880 census for the area lists Thomas Payne was employed as carpenter and married to Elizabeth. A carpenter's shop appears on the 1876 map, across Linden Avenue at the corner of Elm Avenue. A combination of census records and city directories indicate that their daughter, Willetta, eventually married William Compton, a house painter, and they remained in the house until at least the 1930s.

**40 Linden Avenue**

Block 104/Lot 46

ca. 1898

[See Photograph #18]

Outbuildings: none

2½-story, 2-over-3 bay Queen Anne inspired house (C) with a large front gable with a centered window above a horizontal cornice roofline supporting the steeply pitched asphalt roof with cross gable at side. This house appears to have been modified recently with new sash (the center window at the second floor was removed entirely), new siding, and a new porch with a rounded turret at the corner. The house originally had an open porch across the front; by the historic photograph, this porch had been enclosed by 1910.

**48 Linden Avenue**

Block 104/Lot 48

ca. 1900

Outbuildings: Frame carriage house at rear of property with board and batten siding, and an asphalt gable roof with a small center cross gable. It is labeled an auto house on the 1910 Sanborn map (C).

2½-story, 2-over-3 bay L-shaped, wood shingle Queen Anne-influenced house (C) with a front gable with paired centered 6/6 windows within the rounded shingle upper gable end above a horizontal cornice supporting the asphalt gable roof. The porch wraps around the house infilling the ell; it has turned columns, square balusters, and corner ornaments. A projecting pediment adorns the entrance. There is a bay window at the rear ell. The wood sash is 1/1.

**52 Linden Avenue**

Block 104/Lot 52

ca. 1900

Outbuildings: Frame one-car garage with clapboard and pyramidal asphalt roof. Built between 1910 and 1920 (C).

2½-story, 3-bay Queen Anne-influenced house (C) with front gable with centered window in a projecting upper gable end below the asphalt gable roof. The original classically inspired door surround remains with fluted pilasters supporting a frieze embellished with metopes. The house is now covered with

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aluminum siding and the sash are replacement. The porch has also been modified. The house originally had a side pediment and turned columns. An original projecting bay on the side elevation, still extant in the historic photograph, has been removed.

**64 Linden Avenue** Block 103/Lot 25 ca. 1905

Outbuildings: rear detached garage (C)

1½-story bungalow (C) with asphalt gable roof with broad eaves, exposed rafter tails, and a shed dormer. Originally, the integrated porch wrapped around the house; some of it is now enclosed. This house was recently rehabilitated; there are new sash, new fiber cement siding, new stone veneer, and a large addition to the rear, which has a new entrance.

**68 Linden Avenue** Block 103/Lots 28 & 31 1921

The Carman House (C)

[See Photograph #19]

Outbuildings: garage built in the 1980s (N/C)

2-story, 2-bay Foursquare with a pyramidal asphalt roof pierced by a pyramidal dormer. Above the porch, the siding is wood shingle; below it is clapboard. The porch has cobblestone piers holding square columns with simple capitals and a sawn balustrade. The wood windows are 8/1 with a bay window on the façade. There is an addition at the rear. According to the 1897 Map of the Woodwild Property of the Metuchen Building and Loan Association, the property was vacant land owned by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Corbin. This building does not appear on the 1910 Sanborn Fire Insurance map, but is shown as under construction on the 1920 map. According to records left in the house by the original owner, Major Charles B. Carman, it was completed in 1921. A civil engineer, Carmen designed numerous local projects and buildings.

**70 Linden Avenue** Block 103/Lot 33 ca. 1925

Outbuildings: rear detached garage (C)

[See Photograph #19]

1½-story, 3-bay bungalow (C) with an asphalt gable roof with broad eaves, exposed rafter tails and shed dormer. The shed dormer has wood shingle siding; the first floor is stucco. The center entrance bay projects slightly; to the south, was originally an open corner porch that is now enclosed.

**76 Linden Avenue** Block 103/Lot 37 ca. 1924

[See Photograph #19]

Outbuildings: original frame two-car garage with clapboard and a pyramidal asphalt roof (C)

1½-story, 3-bay Dutch Colonial (C) with an asphalt gambrel roof, shed dormer, and 1-story side bays. The house is sheathed in fiber cement siding and has replacement sash; the original embellished center entrance remains with a fanlight and sidelights and a pediment with rounded pilasters.

**82 Linden Avenue** Block 96/Lot 75.01 1938

The Craig House (C)

[See Photograph #20]

Outbuildings: none

2-story brick and clapboard Colonial Revival with a hipped slate roof with cross gables and walls dormers. There are numerous protruding bays. The entrance has a rounded portico supported by round columns and topped by a metal balustrade. One bay window is topped by a gracefully flaring copper roof. According to architectural & contractor specifications on file in the Metuchen-Edison Historical Society archives, this

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house was designed by Clement W. Fairweather for Percy O. and Edith Mook Craig.

**87 Linden Avenue** Block 95.01/Lots 17.02 & 19 1938

Outbuildings: none

2-story, 2-over-3 bay brick Tudor Revival (C) with a slate roof and a prominent entrance bay with stucco and half timbering in the upper gable end. The original metal windows survive in the main block. The two 1-story bays to the north are original; the deck to the south is added. According to the homeowner's records, this house was constructed in 1938 by Oscar Lamparter.

**85 Linden Avenue** Block 95.01/Lots 21 & 23 ca. 1938

Outbuildings: none

2-story brick side hall Tudor Revival (C) with a prominent front gable with a large chimney, slate roof, and replacement sash.

**83 Linden Avenue** Block 95.01/Lot 34 1927

Arthur R. Clapham House (C)

[See Photograph #21]

Outbuildings: none

2-story, 3-bay brick Tudor Revival oriented with a 1-bay, 1-story lateral extension in the front of the property and an original perpendicular section at the rear. Small wall dormers penetrate the steeply pitched slate roof. The entrance is embellished with a cast stone surround; the windows are the original wood casements. A watercolor of this residence, newly constructed, appears in the February 5, 1927 issue of *The American Architect* and indicates it was designed by Clement W. Fairweather for Arthur R. Clapham. The 1930 census lists Arthur Clapham, Vice President in a surgical business, and his wife, Frances, living in the home.

**81 Linden Avenue** Block 95.01/Lot 30 1971

2-story Colonial built after 1949 (N/C)

**69 Linden Avenue** Block 99/Lot 1.05 1962

2-story Colonial built after 1949 (N/C)

[See Photograph #22]

**51 Linden Avenue** Block 100/Lots 1.02 & 2.02 ca. 1945

Ranch built before 1949 (N/C)

**47 Linden Avenue** Block 100/Lot 3.01 ca. 1952

Cape Cod built after 1949 (N/C)

**43 Linden Avenue** Block 100/Lot 4 ca. 1924

Outbuildings: rear detached garage (C)

2-story, 3-bay, front gable, side hall Victorian (C) with full front porch. Fluted columns support porch. According to directories, during the late 1920s this was the home of Miss Abbie Underwood, an accomplished artist and illustrator who studied under Kenyon Cox and E. H. Blashfield, and who for more than twenty-five years was on the staff of the *New York Sunday Sun*, providing illustrations for a regular fashion feature and numerous children's stories.

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**37 and 39 Linden Avenue** Block 100/Lot 5 ca. 1915

Outbuildings: none

2-story, 5-bay, center hall Colonial Revival (C) with vinyl siding, asphalt roof, and replacement 1/1 sash. The entrance has a gable portico with a curved underside supported by paired square columns and sidelights flanking the door. The side porch was added between 1920 and 1929; the 2-story bay behind the porch was added after 1959.

**35 Linden Avenue** Block 100/Lot 7 ca. 1905

Outbuildings: rear 2-car detached garage (N/C)

1½-story, 3-bay bungalow (C) with stucco on the first floor and wood shingles on the front central shed dormer, and an asphalt gable roof. The full-width front porch, which is now screened in, has large stucco square columns. There is replacement multi-light sash.

**251 East Chestnut Avenue** Block 98/Lot 37 ca. 1924

Outbuildings: none

[See Photograph #23]

2-story, 3-bay, center hall brick Colonial Revival (C) with a slate gable roof. Sidelights flank the center door, which is covered by an entrance portico with a rounded underside supported by round columns at the cornice returns. There is a 2-story western bay; it was originally 1-story. The 1-story eastern bay was added after 1949. The sash has also been replaced.

**245 East Chestnut Avenue** Block 98/Lots 24, 26, 28, & 30 ca. 1924

Fairweather/Mason House (C)

[See Photograph #23]

Outbuildings: rear detached 2-car garage (N/C)

2-story rusticated brick Tudor Revival with a steeply pitched slate gable roof with four pedimented dormers and a steep cross gable. The East Chestnut entrance is along the side gable; there is a rear addition. According to documents on file in the Metuchen-Edison Historical Society archives, this house was designed by Clement W. Fairweather for James Gilbert Mason, Jr. The 1930 census indicates Mr. Mason was living in the house with his wife, children, a servant, and his widowed father, the Rev. Dr. James G. Mason (1841-1937), who was a close friend of Thomas Edison and had run for the offices of President, Governor, and Senator on the Prohibition Ticket.

**241 East Chestnut Avenue** Block 96, Lots 30 & 32 ca. 1932

Outbuildings: none

[See Photograph #24]

2½-story gable frame building (C) with brick on the first floor and wood siding on the second floor. A large 2-story projecting bay and a small projecting dormer frame the front façade. Two porches were added: a small front porch and a larger side porch. There is a large rear addition.

**231 East Chestnut Avenue** Block 96, Lot 77 2004

Outbuildings: none

[See Photograph #24]

3-story contemporary Colonial (N/C) with vinyl siding and rubble stone cladding, wraparound front porch, Palladian window above the front entrance, and attached garage wing.

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**204 East Chestnut Avenue** Block 99/Lot 80.011 1910

The MacLauchlan/Rooke House (C)

Outbuildings: none

2½-story, 5-bay center hall Colonial Revival with a gambrel asphalt roof pierced by pedimented dormers. Corner pilasters frame the façade, supporting a simple frieze. The windows have diamond-paned sash over a single light with some replacement sash. At the ground floor, a bay window flanks the center pedimented portico with a wide frieze supported by round columns. The entrance is embellished with fanlight and sidelights. The 1-story side bay was originally a porch; it has been enclosed. Originally, the portico and dormers were topped with rounded pediments. This house was constructed 1909-1910 for John & Eleanor MacLauchlan according to plans drawn by the architect Frank Aydelott Rooke. Rooke, who was a brother-in-law to John MacLauchlan as their wives (Gertrude and Eleanor, respectively) were sisters, was born in Rye, NY and was a NYC-based architect.

**230 East Chestnut Avenue** Block 103/Lot 37.01 ca. 1942

2-story, 3-bay Colonial Revival (N/C) that post-dates the period of significance.

**205 Maple Avenue** Block 99/Lot 3 ca. 1860

Outbuildings: none

[See Photograph #22]

2-story, 3-bay L-shaped Victorian (C) with a brick foundation, vinyl siding, replacement sash, and an asphalt gable roof. A porch wraps around the eastern front corner. The infilled bay within the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor ell is a later addition; in the historic photograph, it was squarer and had casement windows. This house first appears on maps of the area in 1868 and was indicated as the “Wright Robins, Jr. residence.” The property was owned by members of the Koester Family from the turn of the century until the 1930s. Although much of the decorative woodwork is no longer extant, it retains the same footprint as shown in a 1930s photograph on file at the Metuchen-Edison Historical Society.

**234 Maple Avenue** Block 104/Lots 1.04 & 52.01 ca. 1925

Outbuildings: none

2½-story, 2-bay stuccoed Victorian (C) with an asphalt gable roof; replacement sash; and an enclosed side porch that was originally open.

**59 Elm Avenue** Block 100/Lots 21 & 6 ca. 1960 with later additions

Outbuildings: none

[See Photograph #25]

Although built on the site of a ca. 1925 bungalow, this 2-story house (N/C) was largely reconstructed in the second half of the twentieth century, and with additions, now has a front porch, two cross gables on the main façade of the second story, and a 1-story wing with a dormer.

**55 Elm Avenue** Block 100/Lot 22 ca. 1915

Outbuildings: 1-car rear detached garage (C)

[See Photograph #25]

2½-story, 3-bay, center hall, clapboard Foursquare (C) topped by a pyramidal asphalt roof with a tall pedimented dormer punched by an arched sash topped by a keystone flanked by smaller sash. The full porch is supported by round columns separated by square balusters. The original oak front door is flanked by sidelights and topped by a transom. Bay windows adorn the center of the second floor and side

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elevation. The sash are replacements.

**45 Elm Avenue** Block 100/Lots 23, 24, & 25 ca. 1924  
Outbuildings: rear attached garage that appears original to house (C) [See Photograph #25]  
2-story, 3-bay, center hall, vinyl-sided Dutch Colonial Revival (C) topped by an asphalt gambrel roof with a full-length shed dormer. The sash is paired and are replacements. The center entrance is elaborated with sidelights and a transom. The screened side porch is original, although it was originally fully open.

**39 Elm Avenue** Block 100/Lots 26 & 27 ca. 1933  
Outbuildings: none  
2½-story, 3-bay, center hall, wood shingle Colonial Revival (C) topped by an asphalt gable roof. Bay windows with 6/6 wood sash flank the center entrance with wood pedimented architrave with cornice returns supported by paneled pilasters. The door is flanked by sidelights and topped by a fanlight inset in the wood. The one-story side bay was originally a porch. The attached garage is original.

**31 Elm Avenue** Block 100/Lot 28 1919  
Outbuildings: none  
1-story vinyl-sided bungalow (C) with deep eaves supporting a pyramidal asphalt roof with a pyramidal dormer. Originally, the front porch was open. It was enclosed by glass in the historic photograph. It is now sheathed in composite shingles with a bay window and vinyl casement windows. The dormer has also been enclosed with composite shingles. According to family members, this home was built in 1919 by the Sterling Family, who remained in the home into the 1930s.

**29 Elm Avenue** Block 100/Lots 29 & 30 ca. 1924  
Outbuildings: original one-car garage with wood shingle and asphalt gable roof (C)  
1½-story wood shingle bungalow (C) with a deep asphalt gable roof pierced by a pedimented shed dormer with ganged 6/1 sash. The porch has paired square columns with simple capitals; the multi-light front door and simple architrave are original. The stone facing is new as is the side addition.

**27 Elm Avenue** Block 100/Lots 30.01 & 31 ca. 1925  
Outbuildings: rear detached two-car garage (C)  
2½-story, 2-bay frame house (C) with vinyl siding and an asphalt gable roof. There is a side hall entrance with a Colonial Revival door and sidelights, and a raised brick entry porch with two columns, railing, and a pedimented roof with undercut arch. The second floor has two sets of paired windows. There is a 1-story side addition and a large 2-story rear addition.

**44 Elm Avenue** Block 101/Lot 60 ca. 1905  
Outbuildings: one-car garage with aluminum siding and gable roof, built after 1949 (N/C)  
1½-story, 1-over-3 bay gable-end-to-street vernacular Victorian (C) with a large front porch with square columns and dentils at the frieze. The building is clad with aluminum siding and the roof is asphalt. A shed dormer has been added to each side elevation; a side shed-roof addition replaces earlier bay windows on the east side elevation.

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- 52 Elm Avenue** Block 101/Lots 61.02 & 63 ca 1890  
John Noble Pierson House (C) [See Photograph #26]  
Outbuildings: two-car garage with pyramidal asphalt roof, built before 1920 (C)  
2-story, 3-bay, center hall Gothic Revival influenced clapboard house. The asphalt gable roof has a projecting center cross dormer adorned with a diamond punched verge board flanked by pedimented wall dormers. The corner porch which wraps around part of the side elevation has lattice columns and square balusters. The replacement sash is topped by original window hoods. The entrance door is elaborated by pilasters and topped by a transom. Although this Gothic Revival influenced house would appear to date earlier, it was likely constructed by the architect John Noble Pierson ca. 1890. Pierson was a prolific architect and was responsible for the design of the Metuchen Public Library on Middlesex Avenue. An architecturally similar, and earlier home, was previously located further west on Elm Avenue and had for many years been inhabited by Pierson's son, Aylin. That house, formerly located at 32 Elm Avenue, had been constructed before 1868 on land belong to T.W. Strong.
- 54 Elm Avenue** Block 101/Lot 65 ca. 1924  
Outbuildings: rear detached 1½-story garage (C) [See Photograph #26]  
2-story, 3-bay side hall Colonial Revival (C) with wood shingle with corner boards topped by an asphalt gable roof. The pedimented architrave is adorned with a fanlight topped by a keystone and supported on pilasters. The sash are replacements; originally, they were paired casements. There is a rear two-story shed-roof addition.
- 58 Elm Avenue** Block 101/Lot 65.02 ca. 1924  
Outbuildings: none [See Photograph #26]  
2½-story, 3-bay center hall Colonial Revival (C) with vinyl siding and a slate gable roof. The sash is replacement; the entrance portico is an addition as is the one-bay extension on the west side elevation.
- 64 Elm Avenue** Block 101/Lot 65.01 ca. 1924  
Outbuildings: rear detached 2-car garage (N/C)  
2-story Dutch Colonial (C) with clapboards, asphalt gambrel roof, shed dormer and 1-story side bays. The embellished center entrance has sidelights, a broad architrave and pediment with arched underside and wide cornice returns. The sash are replacements. The 1937-1938 directory of Metuchen lists Dr. John D. Witmer, whose office was located at 456 Middlesex Avenue, as living in this home with his wife, Dorothy. From 1953-1955, Dorothy served as president of the Borough Improvement League, headquartered in the Old Franklin Schoolhouse at 491 Middlesex Avenue. During the 1940s, Dr. Witmer served on the Board of Health in Metuchen.
- 61 Library Place** Block 101/Lot 1.03 ca. 1935  
Outbuildings: none [See Photograph #27]  
2-story bungalow (C) that originally fronted onto Linden Street; the entrance is currently located within a 1-story shed-roof extension on the south elevation. There are three rear dormers; 6/1 windows; vinyl siding; and a fence around the property. The Linden Street elevation is 3-bay center hall with two front dormers and a central brick chimney and vertical board on the second floor. At the northern end of the house is a 2-story recessed addition with a 1<sup>st</sup> floor garage.



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- 59 Library Place** Block 101/Lot 1.02 ca. 1935  
Outbuildings: rear detached garage (C) [See Photograph #27]  
1½-story, 2-over-3 bay bungalow (C) with vinyl siding, a central entrance, a sloping shed roof dormer connecting two individual dormers with gable roofs; central brick chimney. 1-story side enclosed porch.
- 57 Library Place** Block 101/Lot 1.01 ca. 1925  
Outbuildings: rear detached garage (C) [See Photograph #27]  
2½-story, 3-bay frame house (C) with vinyl siding, an asphalt gable roof, a central brick chimney, and an open front porch with a shed roof and pediment and shingles, and turned posts, and a railing. There is a 1-story side addition with a bay window added ca. 1990.
- 55 Library Place** Block 101/Lot 7.10 ca. 1925  
Outbuildings: rear detached garage (C) [See Photograph #27]  
2-story, 2-bay frame house (C) with shingles, an asphalt gable roof, and an open front porch with wood columns and railing. The first floor has three grouped windows; the second floor has a full-length dormer with two sets of paired windows. There is a side entrance with a small pent roof.
- 51 Library Place** Block 101/Lot 7.04 ca. 1925  
Outbuildings: rear detached garage (C) [See Photograph #27]  
2-story, 2-bay frame house (C) with vinyl siding, asphalt gable roof. The first floor has an open front porch with wood steps, columns, and railing, and 3 grouped windows. The second floor has two paired windows in a central full-length dormer with a shed roof.
- 24 Library Place** Block 102/Lots 10 & 11.04 ca. 1940  
Outbuildings: none  
2-story, 3-bay brick Colonial Revival (C) house with an asphalt gable roof with a single dormer, a projecting entrance bay with a gambrel-end-to-street with a shed-roof dormer on each side of the gambrel. The house is set back far from the street in a somewhat isolated location near the St. Francis Church and municipal complexes.
- 85 Rector Street** Block 117/Lot 115 ca. 1910  
The Potter/Lemelson House (C) [See Photograph #28]  
Outbuildings: none  
2½-story, 3-over-2 bay side hall Colonial Revival stucco house with a slate gable roof. The first floor of the front façade consists of a large bay window and the entrance bay with a covered portico supported by square columns and topped by a wrought iron balustrade. The paneled wooden door is flanked by replacement sidelights. The second floor has three single windows with 6/6 sash. There is a one-car garage brick extension on the north end and a 1-bay 2-story brick recessed entrance bay on the south end. The entrance portico dates to 1929-1940; originally there was a front porch at this corner that wrapped around the north elevation. The bay window is post-1949. Although the area where this house is located is not shown on the 1910 Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, the building does appear on the 1920 maps. According to the 1919-1920 directory of Metuchen, at that time this was the home of Francis Marmaduke Potter (1888–1952) and his family. At age 26, Potter was chosen Principal of Voorhees College, at

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Vellore, India. According to telephone directories, they later lived nearby at 129 Hillside Avenue. From the early 1960s until the mid-1980s, the prolific inventor Jerome Lemelson (1923-1997) lived in this house.

**81 Rector Street** Block 117/Lot 122 ca. 1910  
Outbuildings: none [See Photograph #28]

2½-story, 2-over-3 bay stucco Foursquare (C) with a full-length one-story enclosed front porch with a flat roof that was originally capped with a wooden balustrade. The house has replacement windows, a large 2-story rear addition, and an asphalt hipped roof with a front central hipped roof dormer.

**77 Rector Street** Block 117/Lot 124 ca. 1910  
[See Photograph #28]

Outbuildings: late twentieth century 2-car detached stuccoed garage (N/C)  
2½-story, 2-over-3 bay stucco Foursquare (C) with an asphalt gable roof punctuated with a front central cross gable. There is a full-length one-story enclosed front porch with a flat roof that was originally capped with a wooden balustrade. The house has replacement windows and a small 1-story rear addition.

**73 Rector Street** Block 117/Lots 1.02 and 126 ca. 1958  
Outbuildings: none  
Mid-twentieth century split level (N/C) with attached two car garage, bay window, and front porch; renovated ca. 2000.

**61 Rector Street** Block 117/Lot 1.01 ca. 2000  
Outbuildings: none [See Photograph #35]  
2-story, 5-bay brick contemporary Colonial (N/C) with attached 2-car garage.

**49 Rector Street** Block 119/Lot 49 ca. 1924  
[See Photograph #29]

Outbuildings: original two-car clapboard garage with asphalt gable roof (C)  
2-story, 2-bay side hall Dutch Colonial Revival clapboard house (C) with asphalt gambrel roof. There is a full-length shed dormer on the front façade with a pedimented entrance supported by round columns. The sash are replacements. There is a small one-story north side addition.

**47 Rector Street** Block 119/Lot 51 ca. 1925  
[See Photograph #29]

Outbuildings: original two-car clapboard garage with asphalt gable roof (C)  
2-story, 2-bay side hall Colonial Revival clapboard house (C) with corner boards and an asphalt gable roof. There is a rounded portico at the entrance supported by square columns, but the original cresting has been removed. The sash and casings are replacements. The one-story one-bay north side extension is original.

**43 Rector Street** Block 119/Lot 53 ca. 1875  
Outbuildings: none [See Photograph #29]

2½-story, 3-bay Queen Anne (C) with square corner tower topped with a pyramidal roof with eyebrow windows topped by a finial. The house is sheathed in wood shingle above clapboard with an asphalt roof and brick foundation. Brackets set off the cornice. Multi-light wood windows remain. A bracketed bay window

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with decorative panels adorns the south elevation. An internal garage is on the north side. Lattice embellishments are found in the upper gable end and on the shed-roofed entrance including its frieze. The entrance portico also has turned columns and square balusters; it sits in front of the original paired wood panel doors. Although there are no buildings shown in this area on the 1868 map of Metuchen, a building associated with "C. Yingling" is shown on the 1876 Dripps Map. The 1880 census includes a Charles Yingling in the area, employed as a manufacturer of stove grates. The 1901-1902 city directory lists Yingling and his son, Charles, Jr, as businessmen living on Rector Street.

**41 Rector Street** Block 119/Lot 56 ca. 2000

Outbuildings: none

2-story contemporary Victorian (N/C) with a recessed garage wing. The projecting cross gable end of the house has a bay window on the ground level and scalloped shingles in the gable; the wraparound porch extends with a turret on the opposite end.

**39 Rector Street** Block 119/Lot 59 ca. 2000

Outbuildings: none

2-story contemporary Colonial (N/C) with wraparound porch, vinyl siding, and three cross gables on the main façade of the second story.

**35 Rector Street** Block 119/Lots 63 & 64.01 ca. 1885

Outbuildings: Cast block, one-car garage with shingles in the upper gable end. Constructed between 1929 and 1949 (C).

1½-story, 2-bay side hall, side gabled Colonial Revival-influenced stucco house (C) with slate roof pierced by a center gabled dormer with asbestos siding and wood shingles in the upper gable end. A bay window adorns the façade and south elevation. The pedimented entrance has a rounded barrel interior and is supported by paired columns. This building was originally part of the estate at 117 Hillside Avenue. The 1910 Sanborn map shows it as a two-story building, although not in use as a dwelling. Between 1920 and 1929, the building was moved closer to Rector Street and converted for use as a house.

**20 Rector Street** Block 124/Lots 47 & 55 ca. 1910

Outbuildings: two-car clapboard garage with gable roof dates to 1920-1929 (C)

Shed (C) along the driveway is board and batten with standing seam metal roof and small center cupola; it appears to have been moved to this site, possibly in the 1990s when the house next door was demolished.

2½-story, 4-over-5 bay Victorian (C) with brick foundation, wood shingle and clapboard sheathing and asphalt on twin gable roofs. Originally, the porch was only on half the façade; today, it runs the full length with turned balusters and columns. The porch dates to after 1949 and appears to be fairly new. At the second floor, between the two gables, the decorative window and surround is also a recent addition. The asymmetrical windows are original; while there originally was upper gable end ornament, it was more elaborate than what exists today. The 2-story bay window on the north elevation is original.

**34 Rector Street** Block 124/Lots 52.01 & 60 ca. 1910

Outbuildings: none

[See Photograph #30]

2-story, 4-bay frame Colonial Revival house (C) sheathed in fiber cement siding with an asphalt gable roof.

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The two front dormers are a later addition as are the replacement sash. A central portico with a curved underside is supported on round columns. The recessed 2-story bay on the north side was originally only 1 story.

**38 Rector Street** Block 124/Lot 52.031 ca. 1910  
Outbuildings: ca. 1925 2-car wood frame garage (C) [See Photograph #30]  
2-story, 2-over-3 bay shingle Foursquare (C) with a center hall and square entrance portico flanked by three ganged 2/1 sash on the first floor and paired 3/1 on the second. The asphalt roof is supported by deep eaves and is pyramidal pierced by hipped dormers. The portico, supported by fluted columns, originally had a hipped roof; it is now flat and topped with a wrought iron balustrade. The one-story bay and square oriel window to the south are original. The greenhouse was extant in a 1930s historic photograph, but does not appear on any of the Sanborn maps. The 1930 census indicates that Edward Ardolino, an Italian sculptor noted for his work on National Archives in Washington, DC, the Princeton Memorial Chapel, and the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City, lived with his family in the house at the time.

**44 Rector Street** Block 124/Lot 57 ca. 1880  
[See Photograph #31]  
Outbuildings: cast block two-car garage with pyramidal asphalt roof dates from 1920-1929 (C)  
2-story, 3-bay Second Empire (C) sheathed in clapboard with clapboard mansard roof supported by paired brackets. The dormers within the mansard have pedimented heads. The bay window on the north is original while the front porch has been enclosed and an entrance portico added. The porch was enclosed by the 1930s. This building may be the building shown on the ca. 1890 Eggert and 1900 *Metuchen Recorder* maps of the area. Although the area is not shown on the 1910 Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, the building does appear on the 1920 maps. The 1930 census indicates that Anthony DiLorenzo, an Italian sculptor and ornamentalist, lived with his family in the house at the time.

**48 Rector Street** Block 124/Lot 54 1903  
[See Photograph #31]  
Outbuildings: original stucco two-car garage with pyramidal slate roof and 2/2 windows, dates from 1920-1929 (C)  
2-story, 4-over-3 bay clapboard and wood shingle Colonial Revival (C) with front gable, tall cross gable, center hall and porch across most of the façade. The northern end of the porch has been enclosed; this happened after 1949. The southern end has round columns with turned spindle balustrade. Above, a balustrade with square balusters caps the porch. Within the large upper gable end, a window is flanked by paired pilasters topped by an arch crowned by shield at its center. The windows are 1/1; the original door and entrance have a decoratively capped casing and sidelights. The brick south side addition post-dates 1949. According to homeowner records, this home was built in 1903. According to historic directories and census records, Milton C. Mook, a businessman working in New York, and his family lived in the home from its construction into the 1940s.

**60 Rector Street** Block 125.03/Lot 1.03 ca. 1872  
Outbuildings: none  
2-story, 3-bay center hall Colonial Revival house (C) sheathed in vinyl siding with a brick foundation and

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asphalt gable roof pierced by dormers. The center portico has a shallow hipped roof supported by broad square columns. The rear elevation retains its original two-story porch. The denticulated cornice is also an original feature. A building in the current location of this house appears on 1876 maps of the area as attributed to "L.F. Rowland;" Lewis (age 64) was listed as a farmer in the 1880 census. The house was later home to members of the Crowell family for many years.

**68 Rector Street** Block 125.03/Lots 2, 3, 4, & 5 ca. 1905

Outbuildings: none

2-story, 3-bay center hall stucco Colonial Revival house (C) with a two-story porch off the south elevation. The slate gable roof runs the full length of the house including over the porches which are supported by oversized stucco piers. The center portico has a gable roof supported by fluted columns at the cornice returns. There is a fanlight over the door. The wood sash is 9/1. There is an original attached garage off the rear of the house.

**76 Rector Street** Block 125.01/Lot 29 ca. 1905

[See Photograph #32]

Outbuildings: rear detached garage, which was originally 1-story and altered with a 2<sup>nd</sup> story (C)  
2-story, 2-over-3 bay L-shaped stucco Craftsman-influenced house (C) with porch with stucco columns and balustrade wrapped around the southwest corner. The deep eaves have exposed rafter tails supporting the asphalt roof. One gable end has wood ornamentation. The windows are a combination of casement and hung sash.

**80 Rector Street** Block 125.01/Lot 31 ca. 1905

Outbuildings: none

[See Photograph #32]

2-story, 1-over-4 bay gable front Colonial Revival house (C) sheathed in wood shingles with an asphalt roof and prominent cornice returns. On the 1<sup>st</sup> floor there is a central projecting bay with paired windows; this bay is flanked by two single windows. The main entrance is in the northern bay in a recessed open porch. The second floor has 3 centered grouped windows. The south side elevation has an arched entrance with a shed roof.

**84 Rector Street** Block 125.01/Lot 32 ca. 1924

Outbuildings: none

[See Photograph #32]

1½-story, 2-bay wood shingle clad bungalow (C) with a brick foundation and unusual five-sided dormers in the asphalt gable roof. The entrance is elaborated with an arched opening at the side leading to an integrated porch with turned balustrade. The sash is replacement. The shed addition to the south is original, although it was built as an open porch.

**92 Rector Street** Block 125.01/Lot 33 ca. 1905

Outbuildings: two-car wood shingle garage with pyramidal asphalt roof, constructed between 1920 and 1929 (C)

2-story, 3-bay center hall wood shingle Colonial Revival house (C) with brick foundation and a hipped asphalt roof pierced by a pedimented dormer. The pedimented portico is supported by replacement square posts. The front door is paneled with a heavy decorative casement. The windows are diamond paned sash

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over single lights. The central entrance is flanked by three grouped windows and one small rectangular window on each side. Each of the grouped windows is topped by stained glass transoms. Originally a full porch covered the façade. The portico dates to after 1949.

**18 Clarendon Court** Block 125.3/Lots 6, 7, 8, & 9 ca. 1918

Outbuildings: rear detached two-car garage (C)

2-story, 3-bay stuccoed Foursquare (C) with an enclosed one-story front porch covering the two eastern bays. The second story contains a casement window flanked by two paired windows; all windows are 1/1. There is a one-story projecting bay window on the western elevation and a one-story rear addition. The roof is a gently sloping hipped roof with asphalt shingles.

**20 Clarendon Court** Block 125.3/Lots 10 & 11 ca. 1918

Outbuildings: rear detached two-car garage (C)

2-story, 2-over-3 bay masonry building (C) that has been greatly altered ca. 2007 with new stone on the front façade, new windows, a new Colonial Revival porch, and a large dormer across the entire front elevation. Beyond the front elevation, the house retains its basic form, including the gable roof with gable end returns.

**24 Clarendon Court** Block 125.3/Lots 12, 13, 14, & 15 ca. 1918

Outbuildings: rear detached 2-car garage (C)

2-story frame house that has been greatly altered and expanded (N/C)

**30 Clarendon Court** Block 125.3/Lots 16.1, 16.2, 17.1, 17.2, 18.1, 18.2 ca. 1918

Outbuildings: rear detached 1-car garage with a second-story addition (C)

2½-story, 3-bay frame house (C) with a central entrance flanked by two bays of paired 1/1 windows. The central entrance has an open portico with a gable roof with gable end returns supported by two columns and a paneled wooden door flanked by two sidelights. On the eastern end of the house there is an enclosed one-story addition with a gable roof. The house is clad in vinyl siding; the windows throughout the house are 1/1.

**36 Clarendon Court** Block 125.3/Lot 19 ca. 1925

Outbuildings: rear detached two-car garage (C)

[See Photograph #33]

2-story, 3-bay frame house (C) with a central entrance flanked by 2 large single windows. The central entrance has a wooden door flanked by sidelights and is covered with a gable roof supported by two columns. The house is clad in vinyl siding; the windows throughout the house are 1/1.

**38 Clarendon Court** Block 125.3/Lot 20 ca. 1952

[See Photograph #33]

Outbuildings: rear detached one-car garage with brick on the first floor and shingles in the gable end (N/C) 2-story, 3-bay masonry and frame house (N/C) with a central entrance flanked by two single windows. The central entrance has a wooden door and an open portico with a roof and square columns. The first floor is brick; the second floor is frame clad with wood shingles. The gable roof has asphalt shingles and a central peak in the front façade. There is a projecting 2-story bay on the east side elevation.

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- 40 Clarendon Court** Block 125.3/Lot 21 ca. 1935  
Outbuildings: none [See Photograph #33]  
2-story, 2-over-3 bay brick house (C) with a low profile asphalt shingle hipped roof. There is a 2-story recessed lateral garage addition on the western end. The central entrance with a Classical door surround is flanked by two bay windows. The windows are 1/1.
- 42 Clarendon Court** Block 125.3/Lot 22 ca. 1925  
Outbuildings: rear detached two-car garage (C) [See Photograph #33]  
2-story L-shaped frame house (C) with three grouped windows in the western projecting section below two single windows and a semi-circular window at the attic level. The eastern section of the front façade, which is set back, contains a door and a single window. There is a one-story western addition with a shed roof. The roof on the main part of the house is slate; the roof on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor pent roof is asphalt shingle. The house has 1/1 windows and synthetic siding.
- 39 Clarendon Court** Block 125.1/Lot 14 ca. 1928  
Outbuildings: rear detached two-car garage (C)  
2-story, 2-over-3 bay Tudor Revival frame building (C) with a steeply pitched asphalt shingle gable roof with two large side dormers and a prominent exterior front brick chimney. At the eastern end of the front façade the roof slopes out to project over a single open doorway; on the western end there is a one-story side addition. The house is clad in vinyl siding; the windows are wood 6/1.
- 37 Clarendon Court** Block 125.1/Lot 15 ca. 1927  
Outbuildings: none  
2-story, 4-over-3 bay masonry Tudor Revival house (C) with two prominent front gables and one west side gable. all with Tudor cross hatching. The first floor of the entrance bay and the western bay have unpainted variegated brick; the remaining portions of the house are stuccoed. The entrance bay is covered with a small shed roof. Typical of the Tudor Revival style, there are multiple steeply pitched gable roofs and chimneys. Windows throughout the house are wood 6/6.
- 33 Clarendon Court** Block 125.1/Lot 20 ca. 1918  
Outbuildings: rear detached one-car garage (C) [See Photograph #34]  
2-story, 1-over-2 bay frame Dutch Colonial Revival house (C) with an open front porch with wooden columns and railing. On the first floor of the front façade there is a large window in the western bay and a wooden door with a large pane of glass in the upper portion in the eastern bay; on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor there is a central 3-part bay window. There are projecting bay windows on each side elevation. The roof is a gambrel roof with asphalt shingles. The house has a ca. 2000 2-story rear addition that is architecturally in keeping with the main portion of the house.
- 29 Clarendon Court** Block 125.1/Lot 22 ca. 1918  
Outbuildings: rear detached 1-car garage (C) [See Photograph #34]  
2-story, 2-over-3-bay frame Foursquare (C) with a central door with a Colonial Revival door surround flanked by a large single window to the east and three small grouped rectangular windows with diamond patterned lights to the west. The second floor consists of two large single windows with vertical divides in

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the upper sash. The roof is hipped with asphalt shingles, wide overhangs, and a front central hipped roof dormer. On the west side elevation is a two-story bay window; there is a rear addition.

**25 Clarendon Court**

Block 125.1/Lot 25

ca. 1925

Outbuildings: rear detached 1-car garage with vertical siding (C) [See Photograph #34]

2½-story, 2-over-3 bay frame house (C) with an enclosed one-story front porch covering the eastern two bays. The house is clad in asbestos shingles, has 1/1 windows; and a gable roof with overhanging eaves, asphalt shingles, and large brackets.

**21 Clarendon Court**

Block 125.1/Lot 28

ca. 1918

Outbuildings: rear detached two-car garage (C)

1½-story stucco bungalow (C) with an enclosed front porch, 1-story west side addition, 1/1 windows, and a gable roof with a central conical dormer and asphalt shingles.

**1 Clarendon Court**

Block 125/Lot 29.1

ca. 1934

Outbuildings: rear detached two-car garage (C)

2-story, 4-bay brick Tudor Revival house (C) with variegated brick with brick accents and a prominent entrance bay with a large brick chimney and projecting enclosed entrance portico. The entrance bay, which is flanked by two paired 6/1 wood windows, has a wooden arched door and a small rectangular 8-light window. On the western end of the front façade, the main roof slopes to project over a 1-story 1-bay extension with a large arched window. The east side elevation is dominated by a large dormer covered in wood shingles. There is a gable-end-to-street roof on the main house as well as the entrance portico and a sloping shed roof on the dormer, all with asphalt shingles and exposed rafter ends.

**97 Highland Avenue**

Block 117/Lot 6

ca. 1925

[See Photograph #35]

Outbuildings: 1½-story garage with carriage doors and windows at the attic level (C)

2-story, 3-over-4 bay clapboard Colonial Revival (C) with a pent eave, asphalt roof, paired replacement sash and original one-story side bay. The side-hall front entrance bay has elaborated entrance with a pediment with curved underside and slender pilasters. The attic has fan windows on both side elevations. There is a large 2-story rear addition.

**95 Highland Avenue**

Block 117/Lot 7

ca. 1890

Outbuildings: ca. 1955 garage (N/C) with brick facing and asphalt roof [See Photograph #35]

2-story clapboard, L-shaped vernacular Queen Anne (C) with an integrated corner porch with a turned spindle balustrade, fluted columns, and paired brackets. The foundation is brick and the sash are replacements but retain their elaborated wood heads and sills. There is a round oculus window in the front gable, and an eyebrow dormer above the porch.

**93 Highland Avenue**

Block 117/Lot 10

ca. 1910

The Thomas Van Kirk House (C)

[See Photograph #35]

Outbuildings: square, wood shingle two-car garage with asphalt gable roof (C)



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1½-story, 3-bay center entrance, front gable bungalow with wood shingle with an added rear cross gable that was added by 1929. Asphalt roof with exposed rafter tails. Open porch pierced by a chimney with solid shingle balustrade and columns runs across half the façade; this dates from 1920-1929. Originally a full porch graced the façade. Replacement multi-light/one sash. Although the area around this building is not depicted on Sanborn Fire Insurance maps until 1920, census records and city directories indicate the house was constructed by 1910. The owner at the time, Thomas G. Van Kirk, was a principal and later superintendent in the Metuchen School system and was involved in the district's expansion by constructing the Franklin School on Middlesex Avenue and the Edgar School on Brunswick Avenue.

**91 Highland Avenue**

Block 117/Lot 12

ca. 1890

Outbuildings: none

2-story, 3-bay side entrance Foursquare (C) with clapboard on the first floor and wood shingle on the second floor. The wraparound porch has turned spindles, round columns, and river stone steps. The grouped windows included 3-part bay windows on both the first and second stories; the east elevation has a diamond-shaped window on the second story. There is a denticulated frieze above the second story bay window and at the eaves line. The hipped slate roof has exposed rafter ends and a front hipped roof dormer, which also has a slate roof. According to a 1977 architectural sites survey, this building stylistically dates to 1890. It does not appear on the 1876 map of the area, but may be depicted on the ca. 1890 Eggert map. Deeds on file at the Metuchen-Edison Historical Society indicate the house was constructed by at least 1911.

**89 Highland Avenue**

Block 117/Lot 14

ca. 1915

Outbuildings: original one-car garage with carriage doors (C)

1½-story, 3-bay center entrance bungalow (C) with stucco on the first floor and wood shingle on the shed dormer with a low-slung asphalt roof with exposed braced rafter tails. Full open concrete porch with large flaring stucco piers with added paneled balustrade. Replacement 6/6 ganged sash in sets of three. Replacement bay window in dormer. Left elevation has paired windows with diamond-shaped leaded lights.

**87 Highland Avenue**

Block 117/Lot 16

ca. 1915

Outbuildings: ca. 1940 garage (N/C)

1½-story, 3-bay side entrance Dutch Colonial (C) with stucco below with aluminum siding on shed dormer with asphalt gambrel roof. Paired, quarter-round windows in the attic on both side elevations. Full open concrete porch with large rectangular stucco columns. Original wood sash: 10/1 and 6/1 in dormer.

**76 Highland Avenue**

Block 119/Lot 28.01

ca. 1924

[See Photograph #36]

Outbuildings: cast block, gable front one-car garage with shingles and scroll ornamentation in the upper gable end (C)

2-story Colonial Revival (C) with brick face laid in Flemish bond with stucco side elevations topped by a pyramidal slate roof with hipped slate-roof dormer. Original paired 6/1 sash. Pedimented front side-entrance portico supported by squared columns with simplified capitals. 1-story corner bump-out at left rear corner appears to be an addition.

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**80 Highland Avenue** Block 119/ Lot 28.02 ca. 1924  
Outbuildings: none [See Photograph #36]  
2-story, 2-bay Foursquare (C), brick face laid in Flemish bond with shingle side elevations topped by a pyramidal rounded slate roof with hipped rounded-slate roof dormer. Original paired 6/1 sash. Large rear addition dating to ca. 2004.

**84 Highland Avenue** Block 119/Lot 37 ca. 1880  
[See Photograph #36]  
Outbuildings: small garden shed with carriage doors and strap hinges (N/C)  
2-story, 3-bay clapboard, L-shaped asphalt gable roof Victorian (C) with vinyl siding topped by wood shingle in the upper gable end. 2/2 wood sash. Side entrance from full porch across façade with solid vinyl-sided balustrade and simple square columns. Porch originally wrapped around the right elevation but side porch has been infilled. This occurred after 1949. An original brick retaining wall sets this house off from the sidewalk. One-story rear addition. Although the area around this building is not depicted on Sanborn Fire Insurance maps until 1920, it may be the building shown on the ca. 1890 and 1900 maps of Metuchen; city directories and census records indicate it was extant by 1909. A carpenter named Thomas Horan lived in the home during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**88 Highland Avenue** Block 119/Lot 39 ca. 1915  
[See Photograph #36]  
Outbuildings: none  
2-story, 2-bay front gable, stucco Victorian (C) with exposed rafter tails and an asphalt roof. Paired replacement sash with full open porch with original round columns and replacement turned balusters. Porch has denticulated frieze under eaves. In the historic photograph, the porch was enclosed but map research confirms it was originally open.

**96 Highland Avenue** Block 119/Lot 41 ca. 1924  
Outbuildings: small garden shed with carriage doors (N/C)  
2-story, 2-bay front gable, Victorian (C) with vinyl siding, wood shingle in the upper gable end and asphalt roof. The front porch has been enclosed; originally only half of the porch was enclosed; the left entrance is fully glassed with French door-style glass. The windows are replacement sash.

**104 Highland Avenue** Block 119/Lot 43 ca. 1924  
Outbuildings: small shed (N/C)  
2-story, front gable, clapboard Victorian (C) with wood shingle in the upper gable end and slate roof. The front porch runs the full façade with a balustrade, square posts, and a denticulated frieze. The wood sash is 1/1; the door casement is ornamented with corner rosettes.

**106 Highland Avenue** Block 119/Lot 45 ca. 2005  
Outbuildings: none  
Although built on the site of an earlier home and imitating some of the previous home's architectural features, this 2-story house (N/C) was built ca. 2005 with a full-height projecting bay, faux cross gable on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor façade, and a side entrance porch.

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**110 Highland Avenue** Block 119/Lot 47 ca. 1945

Outbuildings: one mid-twentieth century garage (N/C)  
2-story, 3-bay Colonial Revival (N/C) clad with stone and vinyl; one attached garage.

**129 Hillside Avenue** Block 124/Lot 48 ca. 1924

Outbuildings: none [See Photograph #37]  
2-story, 3-bay center hall, stucco Colonial Revival house (C) with pent eave and gable asphalt roof pierced by two gable dormers with shingles in the upper gable ends framed by cornice returns. 6/1 sash grace the second floor while bay windows flank the elaborated entrance with fanlight, sidelights and a gabled portico supported by round columns at the cornice returns. A side porch has matching round columns. According to city directories, during the late 1920s and the 1930s this was the home of Francis Marmaduke Potter, a minister and educator who was one of the “Brainy” to whom Metuchen pointed in its 1914-15 “battle” with Glen Ridge. Potter and his family had previously resided at 85 Rector Street.

**127 Hillside Avenue** Block 124/Lot 44 ca. 1944

1½-story clapboard Colonial Revival Cape (N/C). [See Photograph #37]

**125 Hillside Avenue** Block 124/Lots 43 & 43.01 ca. 1865

The Manning Daniels House (C) [See Photograph #37]  
Outbuildings: none

2½-story, 3-bay clapboard L-shaped Victorian with asphalt roof and wraparound porch. The porch has turned spindles and columns with corner sawn-wood ornamental scrolls. The front gable has bracketed, upper-gable end ornamented bargeboard above an arched window. At the first floor, a metal canopy tops French doors to a Juliet balcony with posts and balustrade. A bay window and projecting portico grace the west elevation and a cross gable graces the east elevation. The roof is pierced by shed dormers. This building was constructed in the mid-nineteenth century, most likely by Manning Daniels, a descendant of one of the original Scots-Irish families who settled in this area during the 1680s. Historic maps of the area indicate the house may have been built between 1861 and 1868 on a large tract of land belonging to Daniels, which also contained the steep rise just west of this house, known as Daniels Hill or Prospect Hill. Dr. Ezra Mundy Hunt refers to Manning Daniels in his 1870 *Metuchen and Her History*, indicating that Manning was one of several who had built houses and opened streets around 1865. By 1876, Manning had moved to another home on Hillside, and a “B.W. Edgar” is shown as living in the home. During the 1920s, DeWitt Price and his wife, Cora, and their daughter lived in the home. Price is listed in directories as employed as a “wire chief.” By 1940, Charles and Melissa Boeddinghaus moved into the home, having relocated from Staten Island. In 1998, the large addition at the rear of the house was constructed.

**117 Hillside Avenue** Block 119/Lot 64.02 ca. 1885

Outbuildings: cast block two-car garage with pyramidal slate roof, built between 1929-1949 (C)  
Small one-story “playhouse” sheathed in shingles with a fleur-de-lis verge board topped with a slate roof, added after 1949 (N/C)  
3-story, 3 bay Queen Anne (C) with a corner turret with clapboard below, shingle above topped by a slate roof. Shingles are of various shapes and patterns; some windows are framed in elaborate woodwork casements. The 3-story turret has a tall witch’s cap with a slate roof. Detailing includes a crescent moon in

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one of the upper cross gable ends and a wave frieze on a bay window. The porch has turned posts, square balusters and elaborated friezes with corner detailing of turned-wood sunbursts; the paired front doors are paneled under a transom window. Above the porch is an elaborate dormer window with a copper cap finial, decorative scrolled corner supports, and slate roof and sides. The left elevation incorporates a 1-story oriel window of stained glass and a 2-story half-turret with a conical, slate-roofed witch's cap. Above the oriel window is a red-glass oculus window. The majority of the sash are 1/1; the upper sash of some of the attic windows are banded by small lights. A 2-story rear addition includes a screened porch; an elaborate arbor and trellis entry graces the right elevation at the rear of the property.

**105 Hillside Avenue**

Block 119/Lot 71.01

ca. 1874

The T.F. Van Sickle House (C)

[See Photograph #38]

Outbuildings: 2-story frame carriage house/barn in rear (C)

2-story, 3-bay center hall, clapboard Italianate-influenced house with a center cross gable adorned with paired brackets. The front gable has an arched window and the rear gable has an oculus window. Deep eaves are bracketed above a cornice board with scrolled ends. The gable roof is asphalt; the foundation brick. The full porch has square, chamfered posts with paneled bases and corner sawn-wood ornamental scrolls, as does a side porch on the left elevation. Paired front doors are paneled under a transom window and fronted by French doors. The 2/2 wood sash are adorned by heavy hoods.

This house appears on the 1876 Fulton map attributed to T.F. Van Sickle. Records on file in the Metuchen-Edison Historical Society archives indicate it was constructed ca. 1874 on land purchased from Manning Daniels.

**101 Hillside Avenue**

Block 119/Lot 74.01

ca. 1880

Outbuildings: none

[See Photograph #38]

2-story, 3-bay side hall, clapboard, Italianate-influenced house (C) with paired brackets at the front gable and deep eaves. The roof is asphalt. The full porch has round columns and paired brackets. The paired front doors are paneled topped by a transom. There is a bay window on the east elevation. The 2/2 wood sash are supported by decorative blocks below the sills. A 2-story turret with witch's cap and balustraded entry porch at the rear corner of the right elevation is a later addition.

**93 Hillside Avenue**

Block 119/Lots 76 & 78

ca. 1905

Outbuildings: 2-bay detached cast block garage (C)

[See Photograph #38]

2-story, 3-bay center hall, stucco bungalow (C) with exposed rafter tails and bracketed rafters on the side elevations and at the porch. The porch under the broad gable roof has a solid stucco balustrade and oversized stucco supports. The casement windows are replacements. The second story is an addition; it was originally a half story with two shed dormers.

**81 Hillside Avenue**

Block 120/Lots 1 & 3

ca. 1900

[See Photograph #39]

Outbuilding: 1½-story carriage house/barn clad in wood shakes with a hipped asphalt roof and wide carriage doors with strap hinges; large projecting dormer with door may have been a hayloft (C)

Glass greenhouse appears to be of late twentieth century construction (N/C)

2-story, 3-bay, side-hall Shingle Style-influenced house (C) with hipped asphalt roof pierced by shed

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dormers. A center band of diamond-shaped shingles separates the first and second floors. A pyramidal portico covers the front side-hall entrance. The sash is 1/1 and appear to be replacements. A screened side porch decorated by round columns is topped by an enclosed room/sleeping porch with leaded-glass windows. This dates to before 1929 when a wraparound porch was reduced leaving the smaller portico and side porch only. A rear addition circa 2015 incorporates an open porch and two entries.

**73 Hillside Avenue**

Block 120/Lots 5, 7, &amp; 8

ca. 1885

Outbuildings: none

[See Photograph #39]

2-story, 3-bay clapboard Foursquare (C) with pyramidal asphalt roof pierced by dormers. This house has recently been remodeled with a rear addition and a large 2-story, 2-bay garage addition on the west elevation. An original oriel window remains on the west elevation; a projecting bay window on the east elevation is currently covered with plastic sheeting. The 8/1 sash are replacements; originally they were 6/1. The porch across the front and its stone facing are new; originally, a curved porch graced the western half of the façade and the front dormer had a curved upper gable.

**61 Hillside Avenue**

Block 120/Lots 9, 10, &amp; 12

ca. 1885

The Weber House (C)

[See Photograph #39]

Outbuildings: none

3½-story clapboard and shingle Queen Anne with corner turret, topped by an asphalt gambrel roof. A swag frieze supports the prominent front gable, which has rounded shingles in the upper gable end above a rounded, recessed Palladian window supported by two columns and set between windows with divided lights. Decorative shingles in a diamond pattern enclose the turret. The wraparound porch has turned spindles with round columns. The sash is 1/1. At the curb is a metal hitching post topped by a horse's head. This building is likely the building shown on the ca. 1890 Eggert and 1900 *Metuchen Recorder* maps of the area. According to homeowner records, the house was built by Charles C. Weber, who was a leader in Metuchen's Mt. Zion Masonic Lodge, and served as the Borough Recorder, Justice of the Peace, and Magistrate. The house remained in the same family until 1954 when it was sold to the Brown family. Although the property originally extended back to Washington Avenue and included a carriage house, in the early 1960s the Browns sold this portion of the property, on which two homes have since been built. The Brown estate sold the house to the Weber-Smith family in 2003 (no relation to the builder), who then sold it to the current owners in 2014.

**55 Hillside Avenue**

Block 120/Lot 18

ca. 1885

White Fathers House (C)

Outbuildings: none

2-story Foursquare-influenced house with elaborated eastern corner. The house is now covered in aluminum siding and hipped asphalt roof pierced by oversized gabled dormers. The front porch was enclosed by 1929; by 1949, an addition had been constructed at the rear. The sash are all replacements. This building is likely shown on the ca. 1890 Eggert and 1900 *Metuchen Recorder* maps of the area. The area is first shown on the Sanborn Fire Insurance maps in 1920, and in 1959 it appears in use by the Society of Missionaries of Africa, commonly known as the "White Fathers" or *Pères Blancs*. During the White Fathers' time in the house, the Library was used for Mass, and sinks were installed in three bedrooms.

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**64 Hillside Avenue** Block 123/Lot 49 ca. 1900  
The Tait House [See Photograph #40]  
Outbuildings: ca. 1984 one-car garage replaced an original small outbuilding (N/C)  
2-story, 3-bay center hall, clapboard, Colonial Revival house (C) with hipped asphalt shingle roof pierced by jerkin head dormers. Two-story bay windows adorn the side elevations. The front porch has a protruding center bay with a replacement wood balustrade. Ionic columns support a 2<sup>nd</sup> floor balcony with a denticulated frieze and a balustrade is similarly adorned with swags. The windows are 1/1; the entrance is elaborated with sidelights and a transom. There is a 1-story addition with an open porch at the rear. This house was built ca. 1900, likely by Thorfin Tait after his marriage in 1895.

**72 Hillside Avenue** Block 123/Lot 51 ca. 1900  
Outbuildings: small garden shed (N/C) [See Photograph #39]  
2-story, 3-bay side hall Foursquare (C) with synthetic siding and a pyramidal asphalt roof pierced by shed dormers at all elevations. The paneled corner boards are capped by a simple capital. This motif continues down to the corners of the full porch which has a paneled balustrade and ionic columns supporting a heavy frieze. The windows are 1/1; the entrance is elaborated with sidelights and a transom. There is a rear 1-story extension.

**74 Hillside Avenue** Block 123/Lot 35 ca. 1924  
[See Photograph #39]  
Outbuildings: one-car stucco garage with pyramidal asphalt roof, built between 1929 and 1949 (C)  
2-story stucco Colonial Revival-influenced house (C) with an asphalt hipped roof with a jerkinhead at the façade and within cross gables, deep eaves and prominent cornice returns, and bay windows on the east and west elevations. The paired sash are replacements. The enclosed front porch was originally a three-season porch enclosed by multi-light wood sash. There is a rear 1-story ca. 1995 addition.

**78 Hillside Avenue** Block 123/Lot 37 ca. 1924  
Outbuildings: none  
2-story, 2-bay rugged brick Colonial Revival (C) with pyramidal asphalt hipped roof. The sash is paired. The front side-hall entrance is adorned by a classical architrave with arched denticulated head supported by fluted pilasters. A bay window and arched windows with arched lights adorn the side elevation. The rear elevation has an entry featuring paired, arched doors with arched lights that match the windows on the side elevation.

**10 Pleasant Place** Block 124.02/Lots 9 & 11.01 ca. 1960  
Outbuildings: none  
1½-story vinyl-sided Cape Cod (N/C) with a dormered asphalt roof and garage attached by a breezeway.

**100 Hillside Avenue** Block 124.02/Lot 16 1907  
The Barwell House (C)  
Outbuildings: none  
2-story, 3-bay center-hall stucco Spanish Mission-style house with half-timbering and broad, bracketed eaves supporting a pyramidal tile roof pierced by pyramidal dormers. A full porch extends across the

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façade with broad stucco columns with rounded spandrels separating lattice balustrades. Above the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor windows, the yellow designs appear to be an addition. The 1-story garage at the left elevation was an original outbuilding that was moved and attached to the house by a short ell; the stucco garage has a pyramidal tile roof and Mission-style carriage doors with strap hinges. The house and garage are roofed in red clay tiles with metal “caps” at the dormer and roof peaks. The sash is 1/1 and appear to be replacements. According to plans in possession of the homeowner, the house was built in 1907 for John W. and Emeline “Lina” Barwell by Leimer & Miller, Architects from Princeton. The 1910 census lists the Barwells and their son, John, Emeline's mother Sarah Lucas, and a maid, Lily Ellsworth, living in the home. A set of glass-plate photographs show the interior and exteriors of the home very shortly after construction, as well as its inhabitants. Mr. Barwell was a master plasterer and responsible for the plasterwork at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston which opened in November 1909. His firm was based in Manhattan but did work regionally; the Naval Academy at Annapolis, West Point's Officers' Quarters, in addition to numerous public and educational buildings around the northeast. The Barwells lived in the house into the 1940s, when their son sold the house to Otto and Julia Hansen, who owned it only for a year before selling it to Edward J. and Marjorie Ardolino. In 1956, the Ardolinos sold the house to Anthony and Agatha Bailey, who owned it until 1988, when it was purchased by David and Aurelia Frizell. The Frizells sold the home to the current owners in 2010.

## 104 Hillside Avenue

Block 124.02/Lot 18

ca. 1860

Ellis F. Ayers House (C)

Outbuildings: ca. 1920 one-car garage appears (C) to be built in front of an original small outbuilding (C) 2-story, 3-bay side hall, clapboard, Italianate house with center cross gable adorned with brackets at the large frieze with an arched window in the upper gable end. The gable roof is asphalt. The full porch has square posts with spindle balusters and corner sawn-wood ornamental scrolls. Paired front doors are paneled under a transom window and fronted by French doors. The sash is 2/2 wood. The 1977 historic sites survey of Metuchen indicates this is the Ellis F. Ayers house, built ca. 1860. The building appears on both the 1868 and 1876 maps of the area as attributed to E.F. Ayers. Deeds on file in the Metuchen-Edison Historical Society archives trace ownership back from the Mundy family to the Kramers (well-known Main Street merchants), Grays, and then to Ellis F. Ayers in 1886.

## 116 Hillside Avenue

Block 124.02/Lots 22, 24, 26, & 27

ca. 1890

The Potter House (C)

Outbuildings: small garden shed (N/C)

2½-story, 3-bay, side-hall Queen Anne-influenced house with rounded shingle above clapboard above flush board within the porch, which has turned spindles, square posts, and corner sawn-wood ornamental scrolls. The double front gables have deep eave and cornice returns supporting an asphalt roof. The sash are replacements with the exception of a rounded, fixed stained-glass window on the east elevation and windows with divided lights on the third, or half, story. The 1977 historic sites survey of Metuchen dated this residence to ca. 1890. This is supported stylistically, as well as the fact that it appears on the ca. 1890 Eggert map and 1900 *Metuchen Recorder* map of Metuchen. It was likely constructed by Dr. Ellis F. Potter, a dentist, and census records and city directories indicate it was his family's home for much of the early twentieth century.

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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### *Summary Paragraph*

The Middlesex Avenue-Woodwild Park Historic District meets National Register Criterion A with local significance for its association with the development of Metuchen during its formative years of the second half of the nineteenth century and the first forty years of the twentieth. During this period, Metuchen developed as an attractive suburban railroad town, the home of growing numbers of railroad commuters to New York City and elsewhere. During these decades, Metuchen incorporated as an independent borough and developed its local cultural institutions while attracting business, artistic, and literary persons and earning the town a nickname as the “Brainy Borough.” The historic district’s residents, including businessmen, artists, attorneys, and doctors, were prominent citizens who built or owned some of the town’s most prestigious houses in a neighborhood described in 1913 as “the high class residential section of town...property there is valued higher than in any other part of town.”<sup>1</sup> In addition, Woodwild Park, the Borough Improvement League, the Metuchen Club, the Metuchen Library, the Metuchen Inn, and St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, all located along Middlesex Avenue at the center of the historic district, were prominent in Metuchen’s social, educational, and religious life. The district also meets Criterion C with local architectural significance for its representation of the major American architectural influences of the mid-to-late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, including Italianate, Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, Craftsman, Tudor Revival, and Foursquare. The period of significance extends from 1860 to include the few extant 1860s homes along Middlesex Avenue and Hillside Avenue, which represent the beginnings of development there, and St. Luke’s Church (1868-9). The period of significance extends to include the early twentieth century residential development up through and including 1940, by which time the character of the district had been firmly established and the district had essentially reached build-out.

### *Metuchen’s Transition from Village to Suburban Community*

Prior to the arrival of the railroads, Metuchen developed slowly. A 1799 map shows a small village of ten buildings centered around the intersection of Main Street and Durham Avenue. Although the construction of the Middlesex and Essex Turnpike (present-day Middlesex Avenue) in 1806 and the Perth Amboy and Bound Brook Turnpike (present-day Amboy Avenue) in 1808 led to some commercial development, Metuchen was still described in 1834 as a small community with a Presbyterian Church, a store, two taverns, and about a dozen dwellings.<sup>2</sup>

The railroad era, which brought significant commercial development followed by residential growth, marked the beginning of Metuchen’s emergence as a suburban community. The 1836

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<sup>1</sup> “E.C. Potter Buys New Home at Metuchen,” *The Daily Home News*, February 7, 1913, 11.

<sup>2</sup> Thomas F. Gordon, *A Gazetteer of the State of New Jersey*, 1834, 174.



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completion of the New Jersey Railroad that linked New Brunswick to Jersey City with a stop in Metuchen solidified Main Street as the commercial center of town and led to Metuchen more than doubling its population in ten years.<sup>3</sup> In 1870, when Raritan Township (today Edison Township) withdrew from the larger Woodbridge and Piscataway Townships and incorporated, Metuchen was the largest village in the new township.<sup>4</sup> The 1876 “Plan of Metuchen” drawn by C. L. Fulton, C.E. shows a burgeoning community crossed by the Pennsylvania Railroad, which had taken over the New Jersey Railroad in 1871, and the Lehigh Valley Railroad Company’s Easton and Amboy Railroad, that had been constructed in 1875.<sup>5</sup> Main Street, with the densest development including several hotels, was predominantly surrounded by large estates with some subdivided land ready for development. In addition to bringing commercial and residential development to Metuchen, the railroads also enabled Metuchen residents to commute to jobs in other towns. At the end of the nineteenth century, there were 26 passenger trains to New York daily: 18 on the Pennsylvania Railroad and 8 on the Lehigh Valley Railroad,<sup>6</sup> with almost one-quarter of Metuchen’s residents commuting.<sup>7</sup>

In the late nineteenth century Metuchen increasingly gained a reputation as an attractive place to live. An 1882 history of Middlesex County described Metuchen as “containing some of the finest villas that have been built within a few years scattered along beautiful avenues. The town has so many desirable points for the convenience of the residents that in a few years the prospects are that it will double its population.”<sup>8</sup> Marketing material, including an 1898 brochure entitled “Why Metuchen is a Desirable Home,” targeted New York businessmen. The 1898 brochure stated that Metuchen was attractive “...to those desiring a home, a dwelling place, among worthy and cultivated people...Display is ridiculed; equality is the rule; and the exclusiveness is directed against bad manners and bad morals.” The brochure also included letters from several notable Metuchen residents, including lawyer Charles Corbin, *Harper’s Magazine* editor and writer Henry Alden, and feminist writer Mrs. Hester M. Poole.<sup>9</sup>

Metuchen’s late nineteenth century commercial and residential development led to deliberations over the benefits of separating from the surrounding rural Raritan Township. In early 1900, a group of residents met in Robins Hall on Main Street to discuss the possibility of Metuchen incorporating as an independent borough. At that meeting, Charles Corbin, the attorney who was instrumental in the development of the Woodwild Park area, was a major advocate for this

<sup>3</sup> Michael Tomkins. *Next Stop, Metuchen: Three Railroads Shape a Crossroads Community* (Trenton: New Jersey Department of Transportation), 2012, 13.

<sup>4</sup> Stacy E. Spies, *Images of America: Metuchen* (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, Inc., 2000), 7-8.

<sup>5</sup> Tomkins, 14.

<sup>6</sup> “Why Metuchen is a Desirable Home” (New York, New York: Rothaker and Schweizer, ca. 1898).

<sup>7</sup> Spies, 8.

<sup>8</sup> W. Woodward Clayton’s *History of Union and Middlesex Counties*, 1882, as cited in Tomkins, 15-16.

<sup>9</sup> Why Metuchen is a Desirable Home” (New York, New York: Rothaker and Schweizer, ca. 1898).

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separation.<sup>10</sup> The effort was successful and on March 20, 1900, Metuchen officially incorporated as an independent borough.<sup>11</sup>

Unlike the largely vernacular development of Metuchen in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the early twentieth century development featured larger lot sizes with larger homes in up-to-date architectural styles. This trend reflected the above-average means of the turn-of-the-century Metuchen community. Commuting professionals and business owners were now the typical Metuchen resident. A 1916 brochure which promoted Metuchen described “growth has been very rapid, which is not surprising considering what Nature has contributed to its resources. Metuchen is strictly a residential Borough, free from factories, and contains about 2,000 people, and is an ideal place for a home for business men in New York, Brooklyn, Jersey City...and it is considered the most attractive place for its beautiful homes its rolling lands with trees and shrubs that grow in unusual luxuriance.” Among other amenities, the pamphlet stated, “Character and Culture are at a premium; only bad manners and bad morals are excluded.”<sup>12</sup>

In the mid-nineteenth century, Metuchen was only sparsely populated. In 1890, Metuchen’s population was less than 2,000; by 1930 it was 5,748, and by 1940 it was 6,557.<sup>13</sup>

### *The Development of the Middlesex Avenue-Woodwild Park District*

Two 1861 maps of Metuchen show scattered development along Main Street and the Essex and Middlesex Turnpike (now Middlesex Avenue), and Grove Avenue, as well as the cross street of Hillside Avenue.<sup>14</sup> By the time of an 1868 map, there were more cross streets shown, including portions of Linden, Belle (now Oak), Chestnut, Maple, Elm, and Walnut (now Library Place), as well as Rector Street.<sup>15</sup> South of Middlesex Avenue, Hillside Avenue was in place by 1861; Rector Street by 1868; and Highland Avenue by 1890. Both the 1868 and the 1876 maps of Metuchen show the area that is now within the Middlesex Avenue-Woodwild Park Historic District as primarily consisting of a series of large tracts of land and estates. Early twentieth century Sanborn fire insurance maps document the area’s division into smaller parcels and the subsequent construction of homes.

Starting in the 1890s, many public improvements were undertaken throughout Metuchen. In 1894, telegraph service began; in 1897 telephone service by the N.Y. and N.J. Telephone Company began and the Midland Water Company supplied water hydrants; in 1899 new street

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<sup>10</sup> “To Borough or Not to Borough,” *Metuchen Recorder*, January 20, 1900, 1.

<sup>11</sup> Spies, 8.

<sup>12</sup> C. C. Campbell, “Why Metuchen is a Desirable Residence,” 1916, 1.

<sup>13</sup> “Table 6. New Jersey Resident Population by Municipality: 1930 – 1990,”  
<http://lwd.dol.state.nj.us/labor/lpa/census/1990/poptrd6.htm>; Spies, 55.

<sup>14</sup> Spies, 37-38.

<sup>15</sup> Spies, 39.

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lights were installed and the Metuchen Wheelmen formed and campaigned for better roads; and in 1900 trolley service began.<sup>16</sup> Newspaper articles in the early twentieth century report on efforts to grade and pave streets and install sidewalks, including Main Street and Oak Avenue having been discussed in 1911,<sup>17</sup> Highland Avenue in 1912,<sup>18</sup> and Rector Street in 1916.<sup>19</sup>

In the late nineteenth century, the section of the historic district north of Middlesex Avenue was largely owned by Thomas W. Strong, an engraver and publisher. Beginning in the 1850s, Strong acquired all the undeveloped land from Main Street to Grove Avenue and from Middlesex Avenue to the Port Reading Railroad.<sup>20</sup> This included today's Woodwild Park, which Strong purchased from Robert R. Freeman in 1855.<sup>21</sup> In 1868, Strong had the land surveyed, dubbed the wooded area in the eastern one-third of the land "Wood Wild Park," and built his house.<sup>22</sup> Although the house is no longer extant, the stone pillars that marked the entrance to Strong's estate now frame the Middlesex Avenue entrance to the park.

Strong subdivided the western two-thirds of his land for development, including the area between Oak and Linden Avenues. This section was anchored by St. Luke's Episcopal Church, which is located at the corner of Middlesex and Oak Avenues and was built in the 1860s. By 1890, 30 years after the land had been subdivided, only a few houses had been built in the northern part of the district. They were in the immediate vicinity of St. Luke's Church.<sup>23</sup>

Following Thomas Strong's death in 1895, Charles Corbin acquired Strong's land and partnered with others to create the Metuchen Building and Loan Association, chartered in September 1897 to develop this section of Metuchen. The land was surveyed and mapped in October 1897, with 3½ acres retained for "Wood Wild Park."<sup>24</sup> In May 1908, eleven years after the Metuchen Building and Loan Association was chartered, the Association held two auction sales: on May 7 to sell 38 lots from the "property known as the Nathaniel A. Benner Estate" in the area bounded by Main Street, Maple Avenue, Linden Avenue, and Elm Avenue,<sup>25</sup> and on May 16 to sell 34

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<sup>16</sup> Heritage Studies, *Metuchen Historic Sites Survey*, 1977, 2-3.

<sup>17</sup> "Metuchen News and Notes," *The Daily Home News*, April 4, 1911, 6.

<sup>18</sup> "Metuchen Wants Lots of Paving," *New Brunswick Times*, October 16, 1912, 2.

<sup>19</sup> "Brainy Borough Council Holds Busy Session," *The Daily Home News*, March 10, 1916.

<sup>20</sup> Erick de Vries, "Thomas W. Strong, Creator of 'Wood Wild,'" *Nannygoats*, Volume 8, Issue 3, Fall 2010, 1.

<sup>21</sup> 1855-04-05 Freeman to Strong. From Erick de Vries unpublished research, 2016.

<sup>22</sup> T. W. Strong, "Wood Wild Middlesex County New Jersey on New Jersey Railroad (May 1868) Map 0257 Filed 1895-06-17; Erick de Vries, "Thomas W. Strong, Creator of 'Wood Wild'" *Nannygoats*, Volume 8, Issue 3 (Fall 2010), 1.

<sup>23</sup> Erick de Vries, "Thomas W. Strong, Creator of 'Wood Wild,'" *Nannygoats*, Volume 8, Issue 3, Fall 2010, 1.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid.

<sup>25</sup> "Absolute Auction Sale," *New Brunswick Home News*, April 24, 1908, 2.

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lots that were described as “the remainder of [the Association’s] ‘Woodwild Park’ lots, situate on Middlesex, Oak, Grove and Chestnut avenues, and Christol street.”<sup>26</sup>

The Woodwild Park Association, which had formed in 1895, received title to the 3½ acre park in three parcels. In 1897, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Corbin donated approximately ¾ of the land that currently comprises the park to the Association for public use. This original part of the park, located in the northeastern portion of the current park, was at that time wooded and somewhat hilly. Stone markers were used to identify the corners of this original parcel; two of these markers are extant. In 1903, the Association received the remainder of the park in two separate donations made only ten days apart: first, a parcel consisting of the southwestern portion of the park from the Metuchen Building & Loan Association; second, a very small parcel of land donated by George W. Litterst. The Metuchen Building and Loan Association’s parcel was in close proximity to St. Luke’s Church and—in contrast to the original park land—was flat and open. This area, with its high elevation overlooking the as-yet-undeveloped town, became a popular spot for community events.<sup>27</sup>

The Middlesex Water Company, also formed in 1897, was founded by William H. Corbin, the brother of Charles Corbin. The company offered to supply free running water to public drinking fountains as a means of generating interest in their service. After Metuchen turned down the offer, the Woodwild Park Association agreed to take on the project and held a series of fundraisers in order to purchase the cast iron fountain for \$351.21.<sup>28</sup> At a special meeting of the Woodwild Park Association on May 31, 1900, it was reported that “The Fountain Committee, reported their work completed. The fountain purchased and set up. They were duly discharged with the thanks of the Association.”<sup>29</sup> The fountain was installed at the edge of Middlesex Avenue so that horses and dogs could use it; a spigot at the back allowed humans to enjoy a cold drink. Later, Stanley Steamers – turn of the last century cars that ran on boilers – would stop at the trough to refill the boiler water. In 1961, when the fountain was no longer needed for horses or Stanley Steamers, it was moved back from Middlesex Avenue and placed in its present location so that it would not be a traffic hazard. When the drinking fountain began to be called a ‘horse trough’ is unknown.<sup>30</sup>

The southern section of the Middlesex Avenue-Woodwild Park Area District, bounded on the north by Middlesex Avenue, was also primarily undeveloped in 1876, with only a few houses shown on large parcels. In 1916, Clarendon Court was described as “a sort of private street, with

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<sup>26</sup> “Auction Sale 34 Lots at Metuchen, N.J.” *New Brunswick Home News*, May 9, 1908, 2.

<sup>27</sup> Erick de Vries, unpublished research, 2016.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid.

<sup>29</sup> “Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Woodwild Park Association,” May 31, 1900 (on file with the Woodwild Park Association).

<sup>30</sup> Erick de Vries, “The Historic Horse Trough,” *Nannygoats*, Volume 8, Issue 3, Fall 2010, 5.

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gardens, and twelve houses sitting back from picturesque lawns near Rector street” that had been built by Edward Clark, a wealthy patent attorney.<sup>31</sup>

Middlesex Avenue, the street at the center of the historic district, was designated part of the Lincoln Highway, the first interstate highway in the United States, established in 1913. Advocates of the “Good Roads Movement” led a campaign to establish a highway system throughout the country. However, because there was no federal funding available, no new roads were constructed. Instead, existing roads were identified and labeled as the Lincoln Highway, which became the first successful, all-weather, coast-to-coast, automobile highway. Middlesex Avenue was a component of this “Main Street across America.”<sup>32</sup>

### *Woodwild Park in the Life of the Community*

Primary source material, including newspaper articles and oral histories, documents the extent to which Woodwild Park was an integral part of Metuchen’s early twentieth century community life. Activities reported in newspapers included annual Fourth of July celebrations, often with a parade leading to the park for a flag-raising ceremony. In June 1919, it was announced that the orator for the Fourth of July ceremony would be Judge Jeremiah B. Sullivan, who had been a Democratic Vice-Presidential candidate and was at that time serving as a New York District Customs Court Judge.<sup>33</sup> In an oral history conducted in November 1977, Mrs. Ruth Eby described the annual Fourth of July parades in the following way:

They were big deals. Every house had bunting around their porch. And up in the park, Woodwild Park, was a grandstand and we had a speaker, a state senator or someone of prominence. Very often it was Dr. Mason, who was the Presbyterian minister for several years, who would make a speech. And one year we even had a band. They played “Poet and Peasant” and what’s that other old song, “Glowworm.” Oh, we thought it was the latest thing! And then at night we had fireworks up on the high hill. There’s a big flagpole up in that park at the top of the hill and at the top of the flagpole the flag could be seen from all over town floating in the breeze. And we had a parade and a band concert one year and speakers and fireworks and then we’d be so exhausted we’d go home at night and have ice cream and cake. That was a very big day, the Fourth of July.<sup>34</sup>

Other regular programs included the public school’s annual end-of-year closing exercises and pageants in the park, described in 1922 as:

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<sup>31</sup> “Edward Clark, 64, Rich Metuchenite, Weds New York Girl of 17,” *The Daily Home News*, March 10, 1916.

<sup>32</sup> Linda McTeague, “Evaluation of Historic District Potential in Metuchen, N.J.” (April 10, 2010), 6-7; <http://www.drivelincolnhighway.com/history.html>; [http://lincolnhighway.jameslin.name/by\\_state/nj.html](http://lincolnhighway.jameslin.name/by_state/nj.html).

<sup>33</sup> “Speaker for July Fourth a True Western,” *The Daily Home News*, June 16, 1919, 9.

<sup>34</sup> Metuchen-Edison Historical Society, Oral history of Ruth Eby, November 22, 1977.

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The holding of a floral pageant in Woodwild Park yesterday afternoon as a feature of the closing exercise of the public schools, was a decidedly pleasing feature witnessed by perhaps 1,000 people. The natural amphitheatre under the big trees was used, the sloping sides for seating the audience and the more level portion for the pageant which was entitled "Choosing a Queen," and was a sequel to the "Midsummer Day" pageant given a year ago....The costumes of the children were many and varied, each one representing a flower, or a pet animal. The groupings were artistic and the performance throughout well carried out...<sup>35</sup>

Two other examples of community life in Woodwild Park include a 1921 march through the streets to Woodwild Park for a Veterans Association presentation of a plaque to Metuchen;<sup>36</sup> and a 1921 Arbor and Bird Day celebration, led by the Woodwild Park Association and Shade Tree Commission.<sup>37</sup>

In addition to these public functions, there are numerous examples of private events or memories associated with the park, a resource described in 1906 by the president of the Woodwild Park Association as "the prettiest spot in Metuchen."<sup>38</sup> A newspaper article in the Metuchen social column described a Thanksgiving 1906 private dinner, where "After dinner there was dancing and music and the young people strolled through beautiful Woodwild Park and along the lake."<sup>39</sup>

Two oral histories provide personal memoirs of Woodwild Park:

As a small child, about 9 or 10 I suppose, on Sunday afternoons my mother and I used to walk over to Woodwild Park, a small hill area about where Mr. Hannisford's house now stands. Just beyond his house, two stone pillars still stand with a metal plate and a name, Woodwild Park. A path went up to the hill between these pillars and at the top, seats were made of boards stretched between trees. There we would sit and watch the infrequent cars go by. On Saturday my mother would have bought a 5 cent bag of peanuts and when a car went by going toward New York, I could have a peanut. And when one went by going toward New Brunswick, she could have one. Needless to say a small bag of peanuts would be more than enough for a couple of hours.<sup>40</sup>

Well it's where there are stone gates over there on Route 27 and a little patch of greenery set aside by the Corbin family for a park and I really think the town does not make enough of it. It's a beautiful little spot. We lived across the street from that. And over in

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<sup>35</sup> "Floral Pagent," *The Daily Home News*, June 20, 1922, 12.

<sup>36</sup> "Metuchen Gets Tablet in Honor of its Kindness," *The Daily Home News*, June 6, 1921, 1.

<sup>37</sup> "Guarantors for Chautauqua Next Year at Metuchen," *The Daily Home News*, January 29, 1921, 7.

<sup>38</sup> "Corey Starts the Campaign," *The Daily Home News*, July 5, 1906, 1.

<sup>39</sup> "Old-Fashioned Dinner Given by John Connor, Jr." *New Brunswick Home News*, December 3, 1906, 6.

<sup>40</sup> Metuchen-Edison Historical Society, Oral History of Grace Halsey, June 28, 1976.

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the park were some small patches of primeval forest trees and of course as a child I played there. It was a beautiful place to play. And I learned about country things, devils, cookboxes, acorns, all the pretty wildflowers, mountain laurel and so forth. And it was very beautiful and interesting in front of the house.<sup>41</sup>

### *Development of an Intellectual Community, the “Brainy Borough”*

In the early twentieth century, Metuchen developed a reputation for its intellectual environment, leading to the town’s reputation as the “Brainy Borough.” Although the most well-known use of this nickname was in the 1914-1915 competition between the newspapers of Metuchen and Glen Ridge to see which town was the “brainiest,” the nickname pre-dated the competition by at least six years and would have alluded to a broader constituency than the small number of “mental celebrities” that each town was able to put forth as part of the competition.

The first documented reference to Metuchen being called the “Brainy Borough” was in a New Brunswick newspaper, *The Daily Home News*, on November 6, 1908:

The ‘Brainy Borough’ is the name by which Metuchen is rapidly becoming famed throughout the entire state and while the fact that it is the center of intellectuality and culture is well known, few realize how extensive is that personnel of that justly renowned aesthetic colony just across the Raritan.<sup>42</sup>

In 1910, the *Metuchen Recorder* indicated that “Metuchen is quite noted for its brains...”<sup>43</sup> and that “The honor we enjoy of being known as ‘the brainy borough’ is principally due to the brilliant women who adorn our community.”<sup>44</sup>

On March 3, 1914, *The Independent Press* of Bloomfield, New Jersey challenged Metuchen to compete against Glen Ridge to prove which borough had the most “mental celebrities” and could thus call itself “The Brainiest Borough.” According to the March 3<sup>rd</sup> article, Metuchen had given itself the title of “Brainy Borough” when the novelist Mary Wilkins Freeman moved to Metuchen. To prove that Glen Ridge went beyond brainy to the brainiest, *The Independent Press* challenged the *Metuchen Recorder* to each week deliver a Metuchen luminary. This would be countered by Glen Ridge; whichever community ran out of names first would be the loser.<sup>45</sup>

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<sup>41</sup> Metuchen-Edison Historical Society, Oral History of Ruth Eby, November 22, 1977.

<sup>42</sup> “For Brains You Cannot Beat Metuchen,” *New Brunswick Home News*, November 6, 1908, 5.

<sup>43</sup> “Contributed,” *Metuchen Recorder*, February 12, 1910, 1.

<sup>44</sup> “Little Locals, Poems,” *Metuchen Recorder*, April 9, 1910, 1.

<sup>45</sup> Metuchen Historic Preservation Committee, *Metuchen, The Brainy Borough*, 2015, 5-6.

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The *Metuchen Recorder* accepted the challenge and opened with Henry M. Alden, the managing editor of *Harper's Weekly* for 50 years who was often referred to as the "Dean of American Magazine Writers." Alden had moved to Metuchen in the 1860s and was often visited by famed figures such as Mark Twain, Mary Wilkins (Freeman), William Dean Howells, Helen Keller, Joyce Kilmer, Ogden Nash, and Joseph Pulitzer. Alden, according to the *Metuchen Recorder*, had "been the friend and associate of the leaders of American literature, but as the author of much that made 'Harper's' dear to the lives of thinking readers and by his own literary works, has contributed largely to the mental and spiritual growth of his time."<sup>46</sup> In 1914, Alden lived just outside the Middlesex Avenue-Woodwild Park District at 153 Chestnut Avenue (house no longer extant).

Over the course of the spring and summer of 1914, the battle continued with Metuchen introducing a name and Glen Ridge responding. Metuchen's second citizen was Charles Volkmar, a ceramic artist. The third Metuchen resident written about, F. Marmaduke Potter, was a graduate of Rutgers and Columbia Universities, a Rhodes Scholar, and Principal of Voorhees College in Vellore, India. In 1920, he lived at 85 Rector Street, within the Middlesex Avenue-Woodwild Park District. The fight continued with Metuchen contributing Gustav Lindenthal, bridge engineer; Walter Williams, the director of the Woolworth Company; S.S. Carvalho, manager of Hearst's Publications; Mary Wilkins Freeman, authoress; William D. Stevens, illustrator; Reverend J. G. Mason, clergyman; Dr. A. Clark Hunt, Sanitation Expert; George S. Silzer, Lawyer and future Governor of New Jersey; Charles McKnight Smith, artist; Annie and William McCullough, artist and poet; William Dinwiddie, war correspondent; William W. Crehore, engineer; Charles Edgar, clay merchant; Lewis Nixon, shipbuilder; Frank O. Thompson, university professor; Aylin Pierson, architect; and John Duffy, publicity agent for the Lehigh Valley Railroad.<sup>47</sup>

Of the 21 names of Metuchen residents offered in the contest, nearly one-third of them lived in or near the Middlesex Avenue-Woodwild Park District in 1910 and/or 1920. In addition to those named as "brainy," the historic district included many other prominent residents. Based on an examination of the United States census data and city directories for 1910 and 1920, historian Dennis Bertland provided a preliminary observation that "Most of the residents of the research area were engaged in professional occupations such as lawyers, architects, engineers, insurance and real estate agents with many working in NYC. There were also a few artists and skilled crafts people."<sup>48</sup> Based on the records of the Metuchen-Edison Historical Society, individuals known to have lived in the historic district during the period of significance include:

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<sup>46</sup> Ibid, 8.

<sup>47</sup> Ibid, 5-7.

<sup>48</sup> Dennis Bertland Associates, *Middlesex Avenue-Woodwild Park Historic District Research Project*, June 2011, 2.



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- Thomas R. Strong, the original owner of the “Woodwild” area and a successful businessman who amassed a large wealth through his engraving and publishing business. He “published a wide variety of items including bibles, valentine’s cards, almanacs, and comic books. ‘Yankee Notions’ was one of his most popular periodicals.” At the time of his death, he owned property in at least five states.
- Charles Corbin, who acquired the Woodwild land following Strong’s death and was a partner in the Jersey City law firm of Collins and Corbin. Specializing in railroad taxation, he was responsible for drafting the state legislation to require railroad companies to pay taxes. He was also instrumental in advocating for Metuchen to incorporate as a municipality. In June 1901, New Jersey Governor Voorhees appointed Corbin as a Commissioner to revise the statutes.<sup>49</sup>
- George W. Litterst, attorney; second mayor of Metuchen; president of the Metuchen Savings and Loan Association
- Francis Marmaduke Potter, Rhodes Scholar; Principal of Voorhees College at Vellore, India; and one of the “mental celebrities” to whom Metuchen pointed in its 1914 “battle” with Glen Ridge
- George H. Benton, inventor
- Edward Ardolino, an Italian sculptor noted for his work on the National Archives in Washington, DC, the Princeton Memorial Chapel, and the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City.
- Anthony DiLorenzo, an Italian sculptor and ornamentalist
- Miss Abbie Underwood, an accomplished artist and illustrator who studied under Kenyon Cox and E. H. Blashfield, and who for more than twenty-five years was on the staff of the *New York Sunday Sun*, providing illustrations for a regular two-page fashion feature and numerous children's stories
- Major Charles B. Carman, architect and engineer who designed many local buildings including 68 Linden Avenue in the historic district, the South Plainfield Rescue Squad, many A&P stores, the Forum Theater, and buildings at Raritan Arsenal
- Arthur J. Applegate, owner of an automobile dealership in Perth Amboy, who later served as president of the Commonwealth Bank of New Jersey
- William Fraser, superintendent in an oil refinery
- Howard Wilson, Borough Clerk
- Dr. and Mrs. John D. Witmer (Mrs. Dorothy Witmer served as president of the Borough Improvement League)
- Edward Burroughs, a prominent businessman, pharmacist, and Postmaster; advocate for Metuchen becoming an independent municipality

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<sup>49</sup> “In and Around Metuchen,” *Metuchen Recorder*, June 29, 1901, 1.

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- Herbert C. Richardson, Superintendent of Central Electric Company, and owner of the first automobile in the borough
- Edgar family, owners of clay companies
- Clement W. Fairweather, architect who designed 82 Linden Avenue and 245 East Chestnut Avenue in the historic district as well as Metuchen's original Borough Hall (demolished)
- Milton C. Mook, a businessman who worked in New York
- Phyllis Fisher of the Sayre & Fisher brick company
- Rev. Dr. James G. Mason, Prohibition Party candidate for President, Governor, and Senator; close friend of Thomas Edison's
- Douglas Hicks, County Prosecutor
- Charles Yingling, manufacturer of stove grates
- Thomas G. Van Kirk, principal and later superintendent in the Metuchen School system; involved in the district's expansion by constructing the new Franklin and Edgar Schools
- Charles C. Weber, a leader in Metuchen's Mt. Zion Masonic Lodge; served as the Borough Recorder, Justice of the Peace, and Magistrate.
- John W. Barwell, a master plasterer and responsible for the plasterwork at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston; worked on the Naval Academy at Annapolis, West Point's Officers' Quarters, in addition to numerous public and educational buildings around the northeast
- Dr. Ellis F. Potter, dentist
- Aylin Pierson, architect; described as "the second largest taxpayer in the town;" ran for Mayor in 1923
- Mr. and Mrs. F.M.P. Pearse, prominent lawyer and secretary to Governor Silzer; garden expert whose articles appear in leading garden magazines
- Edgar Campbell, prominent real estate agent
- Charles McKnight Smith, artist, who in 1916 was sent to Baltimore by the *Scientific American* publication to make a drawing of the German U-Boat docked there

The residents of the Middlesex Avenue-Woodwild Park District during the period of significance certainly include many accomplished professionals in multiple fields, but there were other pockets of professionals or "brainy" residents, primarily on the other side of the railroad tracks and clustered along either Woodbridge Avenue or the area of the two-block-long Graham Avenue. These areas, however, were much smaller and did not have a comparable number of prominent residents living in one area, perhaps because they were not located in close proximity to the center of Metuchen's social sphere along Middlesex Avenue.

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In the late nineteenth century, numerous cultural and literary societies were formed in Metuchen, augmenting the town's reputation as "brainy." These organizations included the Young Men's Literary Society (established in 1879 and re-named as the Annulet Society once women were admitted);<sup>50</sup> the Quiet Hour (founded in 1895 to discuss literature, social matters and feminism by the poet, feminist and literary critic Mrs. Hester M. Poole);<sup>51</sup> the Metuchen Book Club (formed in 1879); the Library (formed in 1885); the Delphic Dramatic Association (established in 1888); the Music Study Club;<sup>52</sup> the Chautauqua Literary Circle; and the Grosvenor's Club.<sup>53</sup> Although these societies were not necessarily housed at a particular location, Middlesex Avenue in the center of the historic district was home to several sites that played an important role in Metuchen society, including the Borough Improvement League, the Metuchen Club, the Metuchen Library, the Metuchen Inn, and St. Luke's Episcopal Church.

*Borough Improvement League*

The Old Franklin Schoolhouse at 491 Middlesex Avenue marks the western end of the district on Middlesex Avenue and is the headquarters of the Borough Improvement League of Metuchen ("BIL"). Originally built ca. 1807, it served as the only school in Metuchen for over 60 years; in 1873 with the construction of a larger school, the Old Franklin Schoolhouse was used for a variety of purposes. This structure is one of the oldest extant school houses in New Jersey. In addition to being used as meeting space for guest speakers, religious groups, and residents, it served as the local library for a short time. Eventually the building became a private residence before being acquired by the BIL.

The BIL was founded in 1901, only a year after Metuchen was incorporated, and has continued to serve as an important center of social, volunteer, and community activities in the Borough, as one of the only buildings identified in New Jersey associated with a ca. 1900 "improvement" association. On June 14, 1901, a group of concerned citizens met in Robins Hall on Main Street to discuss the formation of a Village Improvement Society, which could address quality-of-life issues, such as litter and unsightly structures, associated with the young and growing town.<sup>54</sup> This group originally included both men and women, and focused not just on the problems brought on by progress, but other ills that beset a town as well, such as the poor, mosquitoes, poison ivy, etc. The first president was the mayor's wife, Mrs. William Thornall, who set up the following committees: Sanitary, Poison Ivy, Public Buildings, Natural Beauties, Beneficent,

<sup>50</sup> David Trumbull Marshall, *Recollections of Boyhood Days in Old Metuchen*. Flushing NY: The Case Publishing Co., second edition, ca. 1930, [www.jhalpin.com/metuchen/history/boy62.htm](http://www.jhalpin.com/metuchen/history/boy62.htm).

<sup>51</sup> Presb History, 84-85, records of the Metuchen-Edison Historical Society.

<sup>52</sup> "Metuchen News and Notes," *Daily Home News*, April 4, 1911, 6.

<sup>53</sup> St. Luke's, 28-30. From file provided by Metuchen Historic Preservation Committee.

<sup>54</sup> "Village Improvement," *Metuchen Recorder*, June 26, 1902, 1, as cited in Tyreen Reuter's unpublished research on the history of the Borough Improvement League.

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Outlook, Children's Auxiliary, Humane, Street, and Mosquito. The Outlook committee was charged with "looking out" for any problem that arose in the borough, such as a dead animal that needed to be given a proper burial or a storefront that needed washing.<sup>55</sup>

Along with abolishing unattractive sign boards on Main Street, they taught sewing, home economics, cooking, natural history, and gymnastics to children. During Metuchen's early years, the BIL was instrumental in establishing street signs, setting up garbage collection, forming a Mothers Club (forerunner of the P.T.A.), enlarging the library, numbering borough houses in conjunction with the Middlesex Water Company, and forming a shade tree commission.<sup>56</sup>

In 1906, the BIL began discussions about "plans for preserving the Old Academy building,"<sup>57</sup> and an offer was made to purchase the building for \$800.<sup>58</sup> In addition, in 1906, the BIL incorporated, with the Certificate of Incorporation including the following objectives: To arouse and to develop...a deeper and more active interest in the general growth and material welfare of the Borough; stimulate and encourage effort tending to improve and beautify the Borough; promote neatness and order in the public highways, parks and buildings of the Borough; to improve the condition of the poor, the destitute, the sick, and the infirm; and to school or Schools; and to acquire by purchase or otherwise the building commonly known as the Old Franklin Schoolhouse, with a view to its preservation as an object of historic interest."<sup>59</sup>

It took two years between the initial efforts to purchase the former school building and the final transaction; in 1908 the BIL began to repair the structure. According to local reports, "The BIL are at last in possession of the Old Franklin School House and the contract for remodeling given to Girvin and Rass, the new firm of Scotch carpenters. Everybody is watching the result with interest."<sup>60</sup>

The BIL became an important social center for Metuchen's more influential citizens, although it did not lose focus on its primary, pro-social goals. Mary Wilkins Freeman, a popular writer in the early 1900's, Helen Norris Prickett, an editor and pianist, and Mary Pattison, a suffragist and pioneer in domestic engineering, were among the many influential and accomplished members

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<sup>55</sup> Mabel M. Wright, *Past Presidents of the B.I.L., 1901-1922*, as cited in Tyreen Reuter's unpublished research on the history of the Borough Improvement League.

<sup>56</sup> Mrs. John T. Coleman, *History of the Borough Improvement League*.

<sup>57</sup> "Old Academy," *Metuchen Recorder*, November 17, 1906, 1.

<sup>58</sup> Tyreen Reuter. Unpublished research on the history of the Borough Improvement League.

<sup>59</sup> "Borough Improvement League Certificate of Incorporation," December 3, 1906. Recorded in the Middlesex County Clerk's Office December 6, 1906. Book F, page 491, as cited in Tyreen Reuter's unpublished research on the history of the Borough Improvement League.

<sup>60</sup> *Metuchen Recorder*, March 7, 1908, 1, as cited in Tyreen Reuter's unpublished research on the history of the Borough Improvement League.

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of the BIL at this time.<sup>61</sup> A list of the names of its presidents, officers, and members read like a “who’s who” for the area’s businesses, arts, and government. In 1906, a local newspaper described the organization as being “composed of progressive women of the borough.”<sup>62</sup>

As Metuchen’s borough government became more established, the BIL’s purposes gradually changed from its original intent, and focused more on charitable and social concerns and less on the smooth operations and attractiveness of the Borough. For example, during the first World War, the League house was open to soldiers for one afternoon and evening a week for recreational purposes. Some reports hold that it actually housed soldiers from Camp Kilmer. The men were invited to bring their mending to be done by the BIL ladies.<sup>63</sup> In addition, in 1928 the BIL established a scholarship fund for post-high school studies; this fund is still in existence.<sup>64</sup> In addition to focusing more on charitable causes, the BIL also officially became a women’s organization in May 1936 when it joined the New Jersey Federation of Women’s Clubs.<sup>65</sup>

As the BIL used the schoolhouse not only for their meetings but as a location from which to host speakers and present performances, changes were made over time to its interior, including the addition of an inglenook and loft and the addition of a small stage at the south end of the building. Sometime between 1938 and 1940, the kitchen and lavatory were enlarged and improved by a local contractor, David Ross, for the cost of \$1000.00.<sup>66</sup> Around the same time, the building was surveyed as part of the Historic American Buildings Survey<sup>67</sup>. It was awarded a certificate attesting to its historic interest and associations in January of 1942.<sup>68</sup>

### *Metuchen Club*

Neighboring the BIL/ Old Franklin Schoolhouse is the Metuchen Club at 483 Middlesex Avenue, currently owned by the YMCA. The Metuchen Club was founded in approximately 1890, built the current building in 1899 to replace their first club house that had been destroyed by fire, and remained in that location until 1927 when they sold the building to the Metuchen

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<sup>61</sup> Letter from Mary Wilkins Freeman accepting membership in the Borough Improvement League, circa 1920, as cited in Tyreen Reuter’s unpublished research on the history of the Borough Improvement League.

<sup>62</sup> “May Buy Home of Colonial Ghost,” *The Daily Times*, November 28, 1906, 5.

<sup>63</sup> *History of the Borough Improvement League*, Mrs. John T. Coleman.

<sup>64</sup> Tyreen Reuter. Unpublished research on the history of the Borough Improvement League.

<sup>65</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>66</sup> Augusta D. Martin. *Past Presidents of the B.I.L., 1922-1940*, as cited in Tyreen Reuter, unpublished research on the history of the Borough Improvement League.

<sup>67</sup> HABS Survey # NJ-226, Library of Congress, as cited in Tyreen Reuter, unpublished research on the history of the Borough Improvement League.

<sup>68</sup> *Metuchen Recorder*, January 29, 1942, page 1, as cited in Tyreen Reuter, unpublished research on the history of the Borough Improvement League.

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Masonic Building Association, Inc.<sup>69</sup> During that time, the Metuchen Club served as the social center of the Borough.

The 1899 opening of the new club house was celebrated in the local press:

No event in Metuchen society in years has been looked forward to more eagerly, or more thoroughly enjoyed in the realization than the reception of the Metuchen Club last night to mark the formal opening of the club's new building...

The club house, beautiful from very newness and comfort, superbly furnished and equipped with everything that goes up to make the ideal club home, had its attractiveness enhanced by tasteful decorations combining the club colors, red and sage green.....

...the new club house, a perfect model of its kind, was built from plans drawn by George K. Parsell, of this city (New Brunswick). These plans were offered in competition with those submitted by dozens of other architects.....

The club house is of the colonial style of architecture, the main building covering a space 32 feet deep by 60 feet front, with bowling alleys in the rear 18 feet by 92 feet. The building is entered by a large and commodious porch, with open porches on either side.

As you enter through the Old Dutch front door you find a large and roomy reception hall, with paneled ceiling, and wainscoted side walls, on the right and entrance to the billiard room, in front the card room, passageway to bowling.....<sup>70</sup>

The Club held a wide range of activities including tennis matches; dances, card parties; vaudeville shows; an annual Washington reception and ball; and lectures. Local newspaper accounts provide insight into the range of activities:

- A lecture series that included lectures by Louis Beyler, Jr., Ph.D. and Oliver Wendell Holmes, only nine months before he joined the Supreme Court of the United States. Dr. Beyler's lecture was described as having been "thoroughly enjoyed by lovers of our great American poets and their works."<sup>71</sup>
- A smoker, described as having "a very large attendance of members and guests, visitors being present from Elizabeth, Newark, New York and New Brunswick....Clay pipes, pug cut tobacco, were handed round, while upon a specially erected platform a fine vaudeville entertainment was produced by Metuchen and New York talent...."

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<sup>69</sup> Tyreen Reuter, unpublished research on the history of the Masonic Lodge.

<sup>70</sup> "New Club House Opened," *The Daily Times*, December 27, 1899, 1.

<sup>71</sup> "In and Around the Village," *Metuchen Recorder*, March 15, 1902, 1.

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Michael P. Wilder, the famous entertainer.....told a number of stories and gave characteristic impersonations....After the vaudeville entertainment coffee and sandwiches were served. The whole affair was a grand success.....<sup>72</sup>

- Dancing, enthusiastically described as: “Up-to-date grandmothers are having as much pleasure as some of the recent debutants of the best social set, because the town has literally gone “tango” mad and the enthralling dance has been taken up energetically by the members of the fashionable Metuchen Club....Among the dancing class member are numbered some of the most prominent society folks of the town...Men who are bankers, brokers or prominent in various lines of business in New York, worked as hard as some of the younger chaps.....<sup>73</sup>

### *Library*

The Metuchen Public Library stands at 480 Middlesex Avenue, across from the Metuchen Club. Built in the 1930s, it took the place of an earlier library structure originally located on Hillside Avenue and later moved to Washington Place, where it was later converted to a residence. The library as an institution is rooted in the 1879 founding of the Metuchen Book Club. James Gilbert Mason, pastor of the Metuchen Presbyterian Church from 1877 to 1925, helped found the public library in 1885 with Henry Mills Alden, editor of *Harper's Magazine*.<sup>74</sup>

### *Metuchen Inn*

The Metuchen Inn at 424 Middlesex Avenue is located within a house that dates to the 1840's, although it has been substantially altered, especially due to a fire in 2010. In 1923, Henri Holstein purchased the house and began using it as the Metuchen Inn:

The well-known home of Counselor George W. Litterst on Lincoln Highway, corner Linden avenue in Metuchen, and the adjoining garden with its fine old shade trees has just been sold to Henri Holstein of New York City, who will convert it immediately into a high-class inn, with French restaurant and up-to-date tea room....Mr. Holstein is an experienced chef and hotel man, having spent the last ten years in this country on the executive staff of the cuisines of, among others, the Belle-view Stratford of Philadelphia, and Tacheo Tavern, San Francisco....and thus comes fully equipped to cater to the fine automobile patronage....The place will be known in the future as “The Metuchen Inn.”.....<sup>75</sup>

<sup>72</sup> “Smoker, A Very Successful Affair at the Metuchen Club,” *The Daily Times*, Friday, December 11, 1896, 1.

<sup>73</sup> “Up-to-Date Metuchen Grandmothers do Tango with Debutantes,” *The Daily Home News*, December 22, 1913, 4.

<sup>74</sup> Records of the Metuchen-Edison Historical Society.

<sup>75</sup> “Well-Known Metuchen Property in New Hands; to be Converted into Inn,” *The Daily Home News*, September 6, 1923, 2

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## *St. Luke's*

Until after the Civil War, the only church in Metuchen was the First Presbyterian; however, by 1865 plans were underway to build an Episcopal Church. A site at the intersection of Middlesex and Oak Avenues (17 Oak Avenue) was offered by Thomas W. Strong and selected by the building committee as the location of the church. The cornerstone was laid on December 12, 1868,<sup>76</sup> and the structure was complete by the summer of 1869. According to church records, the head carpenter was a "Mr. Wright" and Reverend Alfred Goldsborough was to serve as the first rector.<sup>77</sup>

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the church gained additional well-known and often wealthy members. Among them were the poet Joyce Kilmer, E. Holden Spear (Business Manager of *New York World* and associate of Joseph Pulitzer, who was also a visitor to St. Luke's),<sup>78</sup> and George Silzer, who became Governor of New Jersey in 1923. Governor Silzer was also a St. Luke's Vestryman.<sup>79</sup> Church records indicate that many of Metuchen's most influential families were members and participants in its various committees, including the Spears, Littersts, Mooks, Robins, Coerrs, and Corbins.<sup>80</sup>

Upper-class leisure activities seem to have dominated the congregation's social life, with many members of the congregation also members of the Metuchen Club and some of Metuchen's other social, charitable, dramatic, and literary organizations. The church itself was adjacent to a golf course: "Parishioners with a view to both God and golf were not adverse to parking their clubs, attending the early service, and then proceeding to drive on to the third hole."<sup>81</sup>

Many of the weddings that took place in St. Luke's were regarded as newsworthy enough to be written about in the New York City newspapers.<sup>82</sup> Governor Silzer was married in St. Luke's as was Joyce Kilmer, to Henry Mills Alden's stepdaughter.<sup>83</sup>

In 1906 a hail storm destroyed some of the stained-glass windows. A prominent parishioner, Mary Stanahan Hart (Mrs. Frank) Pattison, was charged with restoring the windows in a "harmonious manner."<sup>84</sup> Mrs. Pattison was a domestic engineer and opened a domestic engineering station in Colonia in 1910 to study how women could more efficiently run the

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<sup>76</sup> Paul F. Fenton, *St. Luke's 1868 to 1968*. Metuchen: Van Vechten Press, Inc., 1968, 1 - 2.

<sup>77</sup> *Ibid.*, 11 - 12.

<sup>78</sup> *Ibid.*, 24 - 25.

<sup>79</sup> *Ibid.*, 36.

<sup>80</sup> Tyreen A. Reuter. *St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Metuchen*, 2003.

<sup>81</sup> Fenton, 26.

<sup>82</sup> *Ibid.*, 30.

<sup>83</sup> *Ibid.*, 36.

<sup>84</sup> *Ibid.*, 32.



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household.<sup>85</sup> She was extremely active in the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs (NJSFWC) and the women's suffrage movement. She and her husband were instrumental in saving the Old Franklin Schoolhouse and she served as president of the Borough Improvement League from 1906 to 1910.<sup>86</sup>

*The Architectural Significance of the Middlesex Avenue-Woodwild Park District: Criterion C*  
The Middlesex Avenue-Woodwild Park District is also eligible under Criterion C as an intact, cohesive concentration of historic buildings which chronicle the variety of architectural styles constructed in affluent suburbs of the United States during the period between ca. 1860 and 1940. Although there are residential historic districts in other communities with a greater concentration of high-style houses, this historic district includes classic examples of many of the dominant American styles of the period as well as hybrid or vernacular examples that pull from differing architectural traditions. This rich assortment of styles—from Italianate and Victorian-influenced decorative styles of the Queen Anne and the Gothic to the classically-inspired Colonial Revival and the pared-down American Craftsman—is unified by the similar scale of the mostly residential district and its suburban feel with houses set back within broad lawns, mature trees and plantings and winding sidewalks.

The earlier houses in the historic district, which date from the mid-to-late nineteenth century, are found along Middlesex, Oak, and Hillside Avenues. These structures, such as 52 Elm Street and 104-105 Hillside Avenue, represent the Italianate and Gothic Revival styles. The house at 52 Elm Street, known as the John Noble Pierson House, is a particularly noteworthy, but late example of the Gothic Revival style. This small house has rather high-style detailing including the multiple dormers, ornate bargeboard, and porch detailing. A second noteworthy example is St. Luke's Episcopal Church, an excellent intact example of mid-nineteenth century Carpenter Gothic style architecture. (Photograph #17) Although there is no known association to the well-known architect, Richard Upjohn, St. Luke's architecture is very similar to the churches that he designed. At a minimum, it is likely that the design was influenced by his *Rural Architecture* book (see Historic Images, page 4).<sup>87</sup> The Italianate style is represented by two large more high-style homes at 376 and 455 Middlesex Avenue and two smaller and more vernacular homes at 104 and 105 Hillside Avenue, both of which have Gothic Revival influences.

Late nineteenth-century styles represented in the historic district include the Queen Anne and Shingle Style, primarily found on Oak (#56, 62), Middlesex (#379, 387) and Hillside (#61, 81, 117) Avenues. These structures have traditional Victorian features, including an emphasis on

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<sup>85</sup> Spies, 8.

<sup>86</sup> Mook, Ruth R. *A Half Century of the Borough Improvement League*. Metuchen, 1951. (on file at the Borough Improvement League).

<sup>87</sup> Fenton, page 69.

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verticality, front gables, prominent porches and architectural embellishments like a mix of exterior cladding, turrets and ornamental woodwork. The house at 56 Oak Avenue is a fine, intact example of late nineteenth century Shingle Style architecture with its prominent gable-end-to-street, overhanging eave, grouped windows, and stone chimney (Photograph #14).

Early twentieth century styles include the Colonial Revival style (76 Highland Avenue, 129 Hillside Avenue, 204 East Chestnut Avenue, 344 Middlesex Avenue, 62 Oak Avenue); Dutch Colonial Revival (411, 419, and 423 Middlesex Avenue, 49 Rector Street, 87 Highland Avenue, 33 Clarendon Court, 45 and 64 Elm Avenue, 87 and 97 Highland Avenue, 76 Linden Avenue, 368 Middlesex Avenue); Craftsman American Foursquare (18 and 29 Clarendon Court, 28 and 81 Rector Street, 55 Elm Avenue, 76, 80 and 91 Highland Avenue, 55, 64, 72, 73 and 81 Hillside Avenue, 68 Linden Avenue, 459 and 467 Middlesex Avenue); Tudor Revival (83, 85 and 87 Linden Avenue, 245 East Chestnut Avenue, 1, 37, and 39 Clarendon Court); Craftsman Bungalow (21 Clarendon Court, 31 Elm Avenue, 89 and 93 Highland Avenue, 93 Hillside Avenue, 8, 35, 64, and 70 Linden Avenue, 364 and 427 Middlesex Avenue, and 51 Oak Avenue); and Spanish Mission (100 Hillside Avenue, 48 and 52 Oak Avenue).

Architects represented within the historic district included Aylin Pierson, who designed the Metuchen Library; George K. Parsell of New Brunswick, who designed the Metuchen Club; John Noble Pierson, who updated the house at 335 Middlesex Avenue; Major Charles B. Carman who lived in the historic district and designed the house at 68 Linden Avenue; Clement W. Fairweather, who lived in the historic district (house demolished) and designed 82 Linden Avenue and 245 East Chestnut Avenue; Leimer & Miller, Princeton architects who designed 100 Hillside Avenue; and Frank A. Rooke who designed 204 East Chestnut Avenue.

### *Conclusion*

By the 1940s, most of the areas within the historic district had been developed; therefore, few resources post-date 1940. The few houses from a later period generally replaced earlier structures or were built on parcels subdivided from earlier, larger residences.

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National Park Service**

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Middlesex Avenue-Woodwild Park Historic District  
Metuchen, Middlesex County, NJ

Section number 9 Page 2

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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Middlesex Avenue-Woodwild Park Historic District  
Metuchen, Middlesex County, NJ

Section number 10 Page 1

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## GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

### Latitude And Longitude Coordinates

<u>Latitude</u>	<u>Longitude</u>
40.549298	-74.355343
40.543369	-74.355595
40.542280	-74.356044
40.541613	-74.359067
40.546277	-74.364269
40.549635	-74.362475

### Boundary Description

Beginning at the northwest corner of Block 117, Lot 70 (see tax sheet 34) on the south side of Middlesex Avenue, the boundary of the Middlesex Avenue-Woodwild Park Historic District proceeds north across Middlesex Avenue and then proceeds east along the front (south) boundary of Block 102, Lot 25, then turns north and proceeds along the east edge of the Borough Hall parking lot, which is used as a line of convenience within Lot 25 (see tax sheet 28). At the southeast corner of Block 102, Lot 10, the boundary proceeds west along the rear property lines of Block 102, Lots 10 and 11.04, and then north along the west edge of Lot 11.04. At the northwest corner of Lot 11.04, the boundary proceeds north across Library Place and then east along the front property lines of Block 101, Lots 7.05, 7.06, 7.07, and 6. At the southwest corner of Block 101, Lot 7.04, the boundary proceeds north along the west edge of Lot 7.04. At the northwest corner of Lot 7.04, the boundary line turns west and proceeds along the rear property lines of Block 101, Lots 63, 61.02, and 60. At the southwest corner of Lot 60, the boundary line proceeds north along the west property line of Lot 60. At the northwest corner of Lot 60, the boundary line proceeds west along the front of Block 101, Lot 50 until reaching the point opposite the southwest corner of Block 100, Lot 31, at which point the boundary proceeds north to cross Elm Avenue (see tax sheet 27). At the southwest corner of Lot 31, the boundary turns north and proceeds along the west property line of Lot 31. At the northwest corner of Lot 31, the boundary turns east and proceeds along the rear (north) property lines of Block 100, Lots 31, 30.01, 30, 29, 28, 27, 26, 25, 24, 23, 22, and 21. At the northeast corner of Lot 21, the boundary turns north and proceeds along the rear (west) property lines of Block 100, Lots 4, 3.01, 2.02, and 1.02.

At the northwest corner of Lot 1.02, the boundary proceeds west along the front property line of Block 100, Lot 1.03 until reaching the point opposite the southwest corner of Block 99, Lot 3.

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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Middlesex Avenue-Woodwild Park Historic District  
Metuchen, Middlesex County, NJ

Section number 10 Page 2

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The boundary then crosses Maple Avenue and meets up with the southwest corner of Lot 3 and then proceeds north along the west property lines of Block 99, Lots 3, 1.05, and 80.011.

At the northwest corner of Lot 80.011, the boundary crosses East Chestnut Avenue and then proceeds east along the front property line of Block 95.01 Lot 33 until reaching the southwest corner of Block 95.01, Lot 30 (see tax sheet 25). The boundary proceeds along the rear (west) edges of Lots 30, 34, 23, 21, 19, and 17.02. At the northwest corner of Lot 17.02, the boundary turns east and proceeds along the north edge of Lot 17.02 until reaching the northeast corner of Lot 17.02. The boundary then crosses Linden Avenue and proceeds south along the front property lines of Block 96 Lots 76 and 75.02 until reaching the northwest corner of Lot 75.01. At that point, the boundary turns east and follows the north property lines of Block 96, Lots 75.01, 77, 32, and 30. At the northeast corner of Lot 30, the boundary crosses Oak Avenue (see tax sheet 26) and meets the northwest corner of Block 98, Lot 24 and proceeds east along the north property lines of Lots 24 and 37.

At the northeast corner of Lot 37, the boundary turns south and proceeds along the east edge of Lot 37. At the southeast corner of Lot 37, the boundary turns east and proceeds along the front property lines of Block 98, Lots 36.01, 33, 56.03, and 57 until reaching the point opposite the northeast corner of Woodwild Park in Block 106 (see tax sheet 30). At the northeast corner of Block 106, the boundary proceeds south until intersecting with the rear property line of Block 107, Lot 23, at which point the boundary turns east and proceeds along the rear (north) edges of Lots 23, 21, and 16 in Block 107. At the northeast corner of Lot 16, the boundary turns south and proceeds along the east edge of Lot 16 until reaching the southeast corner of Lot 16. The boundary then crosses Middlesex Avenue and proceeds west along the front property lines of Block 125.01, Lots 40.04, 40.03, 40.02, and 40.01 (see tax sheet 36).

At the northeast corner of Block 125.01, Lot 39.05, the boundary proceeds south along the east side boundary of Lot 39.05. At the southeast corner of Lot 39.05, the boundary turns west and proceeds along the south edge of Lots 39.05, 39.04, and 52.01. Upon intersecting with Block 125.01, Lot 52.03, the boundary proceeds southwest on the diagonal line that serves as a boundary for Lot 52.03.

The boundary proceeds south along the east edge of Lot 20 until intersecting with Lot 15 at which point the boundary turns east and proceeds along the rear (north) edge of Lots 15 and 14. At the northeast corner of Lot 14, the boundary turns south and runs along the east edge of Lot 14 until reaching Clarendon Court.

At the southeast corner of Lot 14, the boundary turns east and follows the front property lines of Block 125.01 Lots 13, 12, and 12.01 until reaching the point opposite the northeast corner of Block 125.03 Lot 22. The boundary then crosses Clarendon Court and proceeds south along the

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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Middlesex Avenue-Woodwild Park Historic District  
Metuchen, Middlesex County, NJ

Section number 10 Page 3

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east edge of Lot 22. The boundary then turns west and proceeds along the rear (south) property lines of Lots 22, 21, 20, 19, 18.2, 17.2, 16.2, 14, 13, 12, 11, 10, 9, 8, 7, and 6.

At the southwest corner of Block 125.03, Lot 6, the boundary turns south and runs along the rear (east) property line of Lot 1.03 until reaching Highland Avenue, where it turns east and runs along the front property line of Block 125.03 Lots 34 and 33 until reaching the point opposite the northeast corner of Block 125.05 Lot 54. The boundary proceeds south and crosses Highland Avenue, meeting up with the northeast corner of Block 124, Lot 54 (see tax sheet 37). The boundary then proceeds south along the rear (east) property lines of Lots 54, 57, 52.031, 52.01, 60, 55, and 47. At the southeast corner of Lot 47, the boundary meets up with the rear (north) property line of Lot 48, and then proceeds east and then south to include Lot 48.

The boundary proceeds south and crosses Hillside Avenue. It then proceeds west and runs along the front (north) property line of Block 124.02, Lots 55 and 28. At the northeast corner of Lot 27 (see tax sheet 35), the boundary turns south and proceeds along the east property line of Lot 27. At the southeast corner of Lot 27, the boundary turns west and runs along the rear (south) property lines of Lots 27, 26, 24, 22, 18, 16, 11.01, and 9.

At the southwest corner of Lot 9, the boundary crosses Pleasant Place and meets up with the southeast corner of Block 123, Lot 37. The boundary proceeds west along the rear (south) property lines of Block 123, Lots 37, 35, 51, and 49. At the southwest corner of Lot 49, the boundary proceeds north along the west property line of Lot 49.

At the northwest corner of Lot 49, the boundary proceeds west along the front property lines of Block 123 Lots 38, 22, and 20. At the northwest corner of Lot 20, the boundary crosses Hillside Avenue and meets up with the southwest corner of Block 120, Lot 18. At the southwest corner of Block 120, Lot 18, the boundary turns north along the west property line of Lot 18, until reaching the northwest corner of Lot 18. The boundary then turns east and proceeds along the rear (north) property lines of Lots 18, 12, 10, 9, 8, 7, 5, 3, and 1, until reaching Pleasant Place. The boundary crosses Pleasant Place and follows along the rear (north) property lines of Block 119, Lots 78 and 76. At the northeast corner of Lot 76, the boundary turns north and runs along the west property lines of Block 119, Lots 74.01, 59, 56, and 53, until intersecting with Lot 45. The boundary then turns west and proceeds along the rear (south) property lines of Block 119, Lots 45, 43, 41, 39, 37, 28.02, and 28.01. At the southwest corner of Lot 28.01, the boundary turns north and runs along the west property line of Lot 28.01 until reaching Highland Avenue.

The boundary then proceeds west along the front property line of Block 119, Lot 19.02 until reaching the point opposite the southwest corner of Block 117, Lot 93. The boundary then crosses Highland Avenue and meets up with the southwest corner of Block 117, Lot 93 (see tax sheet 34), and then proceeds north along the west property line of Lot 93 until intersecting with

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Middlesex Avenue-Woodwild Park Historic District  
Metuchen, Middlesex County, NJ

Section number 10 Page 4

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Lot 90, at which point the boundary turns west and runs along the rear (south) property lines of Lots 90, 87, 84, and 80. At the southwest corner of Lot 80, the boundary expands slightly to the south to include Lots 36.02 and 38.02, and then continues west along the rear (south) property lines of Lots 76, 74, 72, and 70. At the southwest corner of Lot 70, the boundary turns north and proceeds along the west property line of Lot 70 until meeting up with the starting point of this boundary description.

### Boundary Justification

The Middlesex Avenue-Woodwild Park Historic District includes the residential and civic / religious institutions along Middlesex Avenue, as well as the residential streets to the north and south of Middlesex Avenue. Starting at the intersection of Middlesex Avenue and Main Street, the district boundaries were delineated to exclude the Borough Hall, which was constructed in 2001-2002, at 500 Main Street on the northeast corner. The district includes the small King Park located between Borough Hall and the Metuchen Public Library and then proceeds east to include all buildings on the north side of Middlesex Avenue until reaching 300 Middlesex Avenue (B 107 / L 16). Buildings further east from this point postdate the district's period of significance. On the south side of Middlesex Avenue, the historic district starts at the Old Franklin Schoolhouse (491 Middlesex Avenue, B 117/ L 70 & 72), excluding the current fire station (B 117 / L 64 & 65) that changes the character of the area from residential to commercial. This building, originally constructed in 1914, was substantially altered for use as a fire station in 1953. The historic district proceeds east along the south side of Middlesex Avenue until reaching the house at 335 Middlesex Avenue, B 125.1 / L 39.05. Past this building, the houses date to the mid-to-late twentieth century.

On the north side of Middlesex Avenue, the historic district includes Woodwild Park, the two main north-south residential streets of Oak Avenue and Linden Avenue, and the cross streets of Library Place, Elm Avenue, Maple Avenue, and East Chestnut Avenue. On all six of these streets, the boundaries were delineated to exclude buildings that are either of a different scale and/or post-date the period of significance. Starting with Library Place, the district includes the small brick residential building on the south side of the street (B 102 / L10 & 11.04) and the five older houses (#51, 55, 57, 59, and 61) on the north side of the street, excluding the St. Francis school and church complex and parking lots on the west ends of Lots 102 and 101. On the south side of Elm Avenue, the historic district includes the older residential buildings, but also ends where the character changes at the St. Francis complex. All of the houses on the north side of the Elm Street are included because they date to the period of significance.

On Maple and East Chestnut Avenues, the character of the area changes very dramatically to the west of Linden Avenue due to a high number of altered or infill houses. Therefore, for both of these streets, the historic district only includes the houses that either front onto or side on Linden Avenue.



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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Middlesex Avenue-Woodwild Park Historic District  
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Section number 10 Page 5

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For Linden Avenue, the historic district boundaries proceed only a short distance north of East Chestnut Avenue and end where the houses postdate the period of significance. On the west side of Linden Avenue, the historic district includes up to and including the house at 87 Linden Avenue (B 95.01, L 17.02 & 19). On the east side of Linden Avenue, the historic district includes up to and including the house at 82 Linden Avenue (B 96 / L 75). The houses beyond this house postdate the district's period of significance.

For Oak Avenue, the historic district boundaries include all of the houses at the intersection of Oak and East Chestnut Avenues. However, the house on the northeast corner (241 East Chestnut Avenue, B 96, L 30 & 32) and the house on the northwest corner (245 East Chestnut Avenue, B 98 / L 24, 26, 28 & 30) are the last buildings within the historic district. All buildings further east on Oak Avenue postdate the district's period of significance. Although Block 98, Lot 25, which contains a built-in swimming pool, is now affiliated with the house at 245 East Chestnut Avenue, it has been excluded from the historic district because it was not historically part of the property.

On the south side of Middlesex Avenue, the district centers around Rector Street, which is included in its entirety within the boundaries, from Middlesex Avenue to Hillside Avenue. Portions of three cross streets that intersect with Rector Street are also included in the district boundaries: Clarendon Court, Highland Avenue, and Hillside Avenue. Similar to the north portion of the district, the district boundaries along each of these three streets end where the age of the houses becomes more recent, thereby postdating the district's period of significance.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Middlesex Avenue-Woodwild Park Historic District  
Metuchen, Middlesex County, NJ

Section number Photographs Page 1

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## PHOTOGRAPHS

For all photographs:

Property Name: Middlesex Avenue-Woodwild Park Historic District  
Property Location: Borough of Metuchen, Middlesex County, New Jersey  
Photographers: Tyreen A. Reuter, Margaret Newman, Nancy L. Zerbe, Michele Clancy  
Date: May, 2013 through November, 2016  
Location of Tyreen A. Reuter  
Negatives: 16 Durham Avenue  
Metuchen, New Jersey 08840

- Photograph #01. 300 Middlesex Avenue. April 5, 2016, Tyreen A. Reuter.  
Photograph #02. 368, 364, and 344 Middlesex Avenue (from left to right). April 5, 2016, Tyreen A. Reuter.  
Photograph #03. Woodwild Park water fountain. November 18, 2016, Michele Clancy.  
Photograph #04. Woodwild Park stone entrance columns. November 18, 2016, Michele Clancy.  
Photograph #05. 424 Middlesex Avenue. April 5, 2016, Tyreen A. Reuter.  
Photograph #06. The Metuchen Public Library at 480 Middlesex Avenue. March 13, 2016, Tyreen A. Reuter.  
Photograph #07. The Old Franklin Schoolhouse at 491 Middlesex Avenue. March 13, 2016, Tyreen A. Reuter.  
Photograph #08. 483 Middlesex Avenue (Block 117, Lots 74, 76, 78, 36-2, and 38-2). Tyreen A. Reuter, March 13, 2016.  
Photograph #09. 455 and 459 Middlesex Avenue (from left to right). April 5, 2016, Tyreen A. Reuter.  
Photograph #10. 407, 411, 419, and 423 Middlesex Avenue (from left to right). April 5, 2016, Tyreen A. Reuter.  
Photograph #11. 387, 379, and 375 Middlesex and 92 Rector Street (from left to right). April 5, 2016, Tyreen A. Reuter.  
Photograph #12. 335, 345, 349, and 359 Middlesex Avenue (from left to right). April 5, 2016, Tyreen A. Reuter.  
Photograph #13. 52 and 48 Oak Avenue (from left to right). April 5, 2016, Tyreen A. Reuter.  
Photograph #14. 62 and 56 Oak Avenue (from left to right). April 5, 2016, Tyreen A. Reuter.  
Photograph #15. 57 and 67 Oak Avenue (from left to right). April 5, 2016, Tyreen A. Reuter.  
Photograph #16. 31 Oak Avenue (Block 103, Lot 1.03). Margaret Newman, May 1, 2013.  
Photograph #17. St. Luke's Episcopal Church at 17 Oak Avenue (Block 104, Lot 8). Tyreen A. Reuter, March 13, 2016.  
Photograph #18. 40, 36, 34, and 32 Linden Avenue (from left to right). April 5, 2016, Tyreen A. Reuter.  
Photograph #19. 76, 70, and 68 Linden Avenue (from left to right). April 5, 2016, Tyreen A. Reuter.  
Photograph #20. 82 Linden Avenue. April 5, 2016, Tyreen A. Reuter.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Middlesex Avenue-Woodwild Park Historic District  
Metuchen, Middlesex County, NJ

Section number Photographs Page 2

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- Photograph #21. 83 Linden Avenue. April 5, 2016, Tyreen A. Reuter.
- Photograph #22. 205 Maple Avenue and 69 Linden Avenue (from left to right). April 5, 2016, Tyreen A. Reuter.
- Photograph #23. 245 and 251 East Chestnut Avenue (from left to right). April 5, 2016, Tyreen A. Reuter.
- Photograph #24. 231 and 241 East Chestnut Avenue (from left to right). April 5, 2016, Tyreen A. Reuter.
- Photograph #25. 45, 55, and 59 Elm Avenue (from left to right). April 5, 2016, Tyreen A. Reuter.
- Photograph #26. 58, 54, and 52 Elm Avenue (from left to right). April 5, 2016, Tyreen A. Reuter.
- Photograph #27. 51, 55, 57, 59, and 61 Library Place (from left to right). April 5, 2016, Tyreen A. Reuter.
- Photograph #28. 77, 81, and 85 Rector Street (from left to right). April 5, 2016, Tyreen A. Reuter.
- Photograph #29. 43, 47, and 49 Rector Street (from left to right). April 5, 2016, Tyreen A. Reuter.
- Photograph #30. 38 and 34 Rector Street (from left to right). April 5, 2016, Tyreen A. Reuter.
- Photograph #31. 48 and 44 Rector Street (from left to right). April 5, 2016, Tyreen A. Reuter.
- Photograph #32. 84, 80, and 76 Rector Street (from left to right). April 5, 2016, Tyreen A. Reuter.
- Photograph #33. 42, 40, 38, and 36 Clarendon Court (from left to right). April 5, 2016, Tyreen A. Reuter.
- Photograph #34. 25, 29, 33 Clarendon Court (from left to right). August 18, 2016, Nancy L. Zerbe.
- Photograph #35. 93, 95, and 97 Highland Avenue and 61 Rector Street (from left to right). April 5, 2016, Tyreen A. Reuter.
- Photograph #36. 88, 84, 80, and 76 Highland Avenue (from left to right). August 17, 2016, Nancy L. Zerbe.
- Photograph #37. 125, 127, and 129 Hillside Avenue (from left to right). April 5, 2016, Tyreen A. Reuter.
- Photograph #38. 93, 101, and 105 Hillside Avenue (from left to right). April 5, 2016, Tyreen A. Reuter.
- Photograph #39. 61, 73, and 81 Hillside Avenue (from left to right). April 5, 2016, Tyreen A. Reuter.
- Photograph #40. 74, 72, and 64 Hillside Avenue (from left to right). April 5, 2016, Tyreen A. Reuter.

Latitude 40.549635  
Longitude -74.362475

Latitude 40.549298  
Longitude -74.355343

Latitude 40.546277  
Longitude -74.364269

Latitude 40.543369  
Longitude -74.355595

Latitude 40.542280  
Longitude -74.356044

# Middlesex Avenue-Woodwild Park Historic District

*Latitude and Longitude Coordinates*

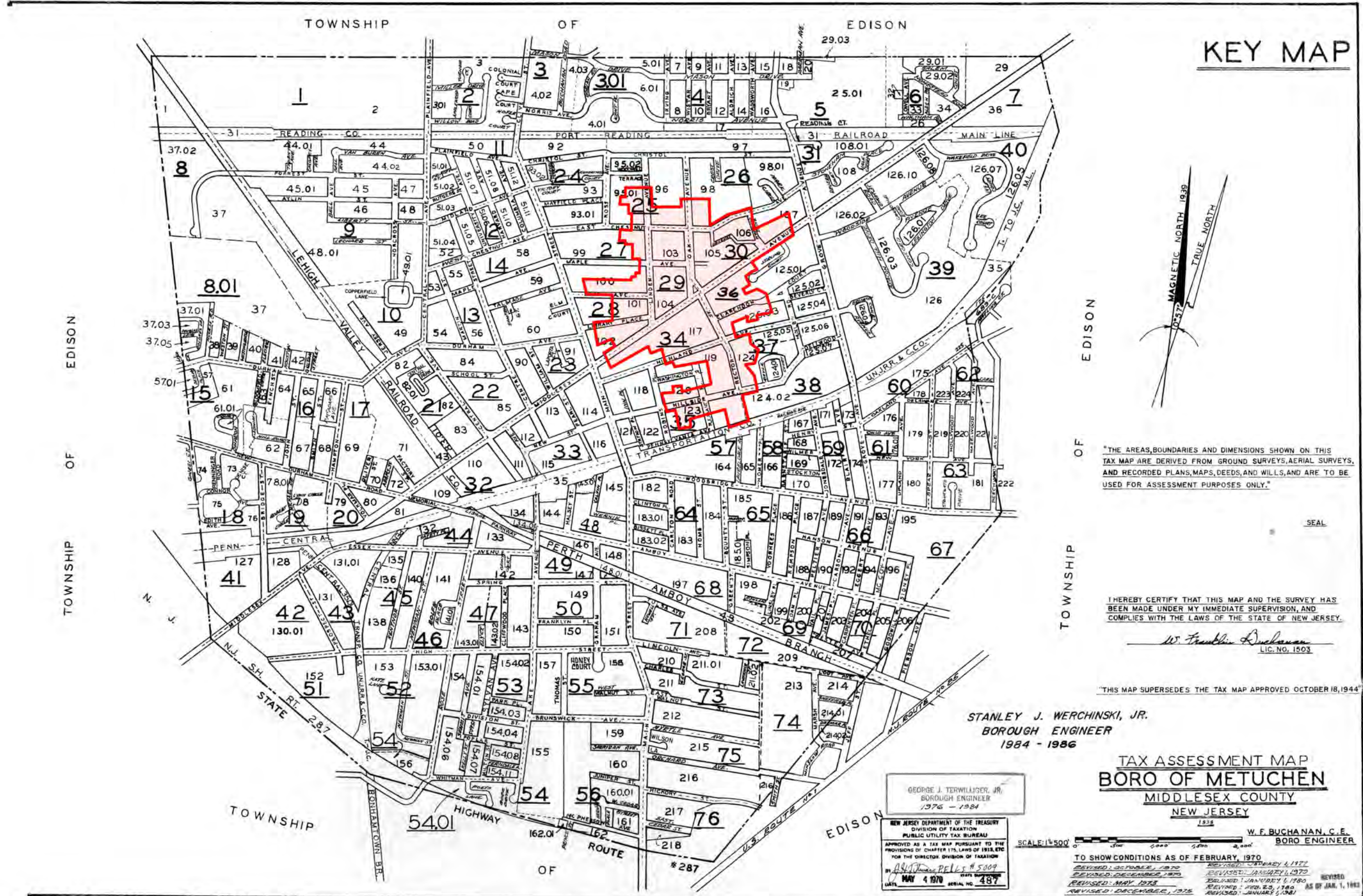
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Longitude -74.359067



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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Middlesex Avenue-Woodwild Park Historic District  
Metuchen, Middlesex County, NJ



"THE AREAS, BOUNDARIES AND DIMENSIONS SHOWN ON THIS TAX MAP ARE DERIVED FROM GROUND SURVEYS, AERIAL SURVEYS, AND RECORDED PLANS, MAPS, DEEDS, AND WILLS, AND ARE TO BE USED FOR ASSESSMENT PURPOSES ONLY."

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS MAP AND THE SURVEY HAS BEEN MADE UNDER MY IMMEDIATE SUPERVISION, AND COMPLIES WITH THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY.

*W. Franklin Dickman*  
LIC. NO. 1503

"THIS MAP SUPERSEDES THE TAX MAP APPROVED OCTOBER 18, 1944"

STANLEY J. WERCHINSKI, JR.  
BOROUGH ENGINEER  
1984 - 1986

TAX ASSESSMENT MAP  
BORO OF METUCHEN  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY  
NEW JERSEY  
1988

GEORGE J. TERWILLIGER, JR.  
BOROUGH ENGINEER  
1976 - 1984

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY  
DIVISION OF TAXATION  
PUBLIC UTILITY TAX BUREAU

APPROVED AS A TAX MAP PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 176, LAWS OF 1984 FOR THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF TAXATION

BY *ALVIN THOMAS* P.E. # 5009  
MAY 1 1970 SERIAL NO. 487

SCALE: 1"=500'

TO SHOW CONDITIONS AS OF FEBRUARY, 1970

REVISED: SEPTEMBER, 1970	REVISED: FEBRUARY 1, 1977
REVISED: DECEMBER, 1970	REVISED: JANUARY 1, 1970
REVISED: MAY 1973	REVISED: JANUARY 1, 1960
REVISED: DECEMBER, 1975	REVISED: FEB. 23, 1960
	REVISED: JANUARY 1, 1961

AS OF JAN. 1, 1988

Revised 06-96  
Revised 02-99

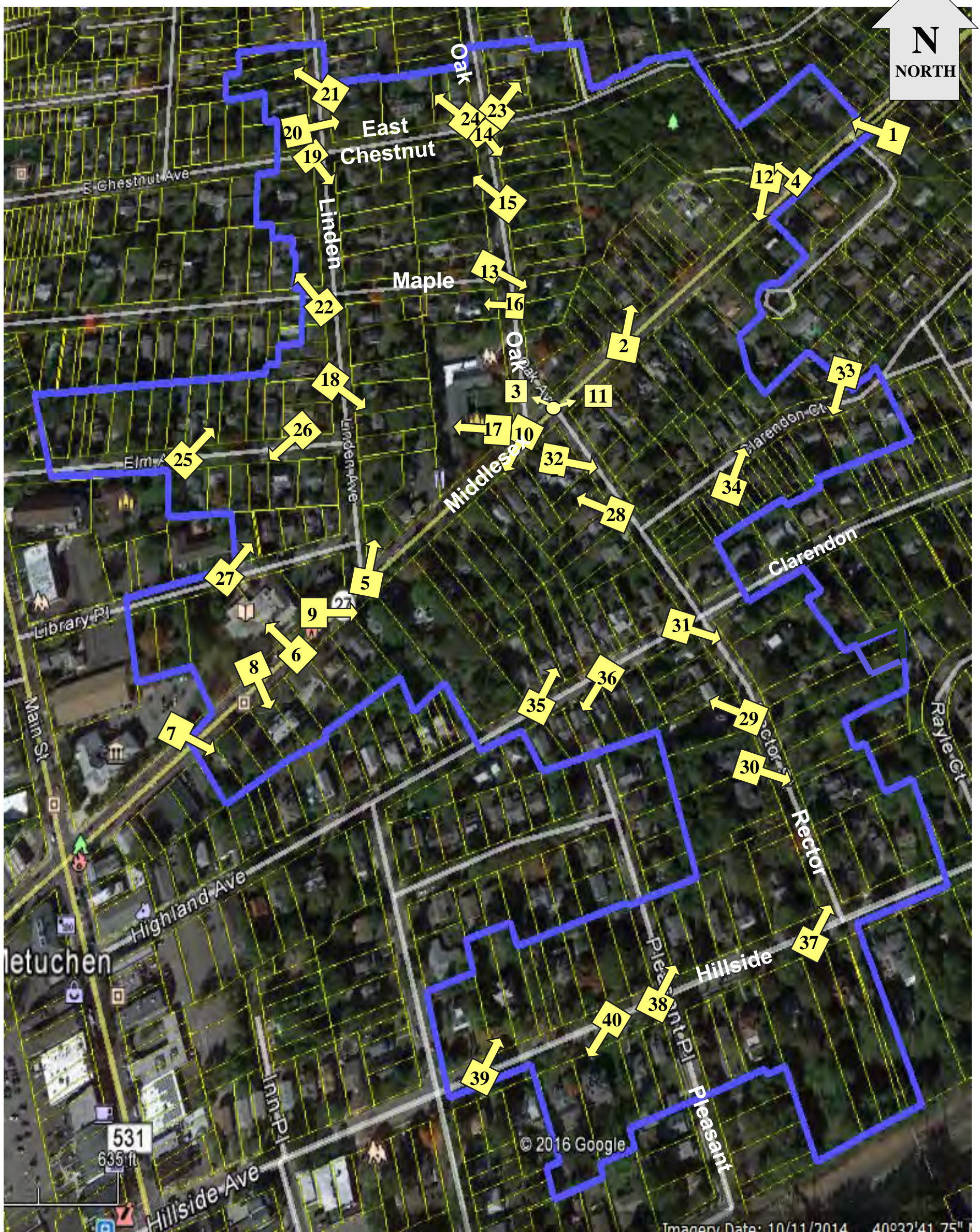
REVISED AS OF JAN. 1, 1984  
REVISED: JAN. 1, 1984  
REVISED JUN. 1985

W. F. BUCHANAN, C. E.  
BOROUGH ENGINEER

## KEY MAP

# Middlesex Avenue-Woodwild Park Historic District

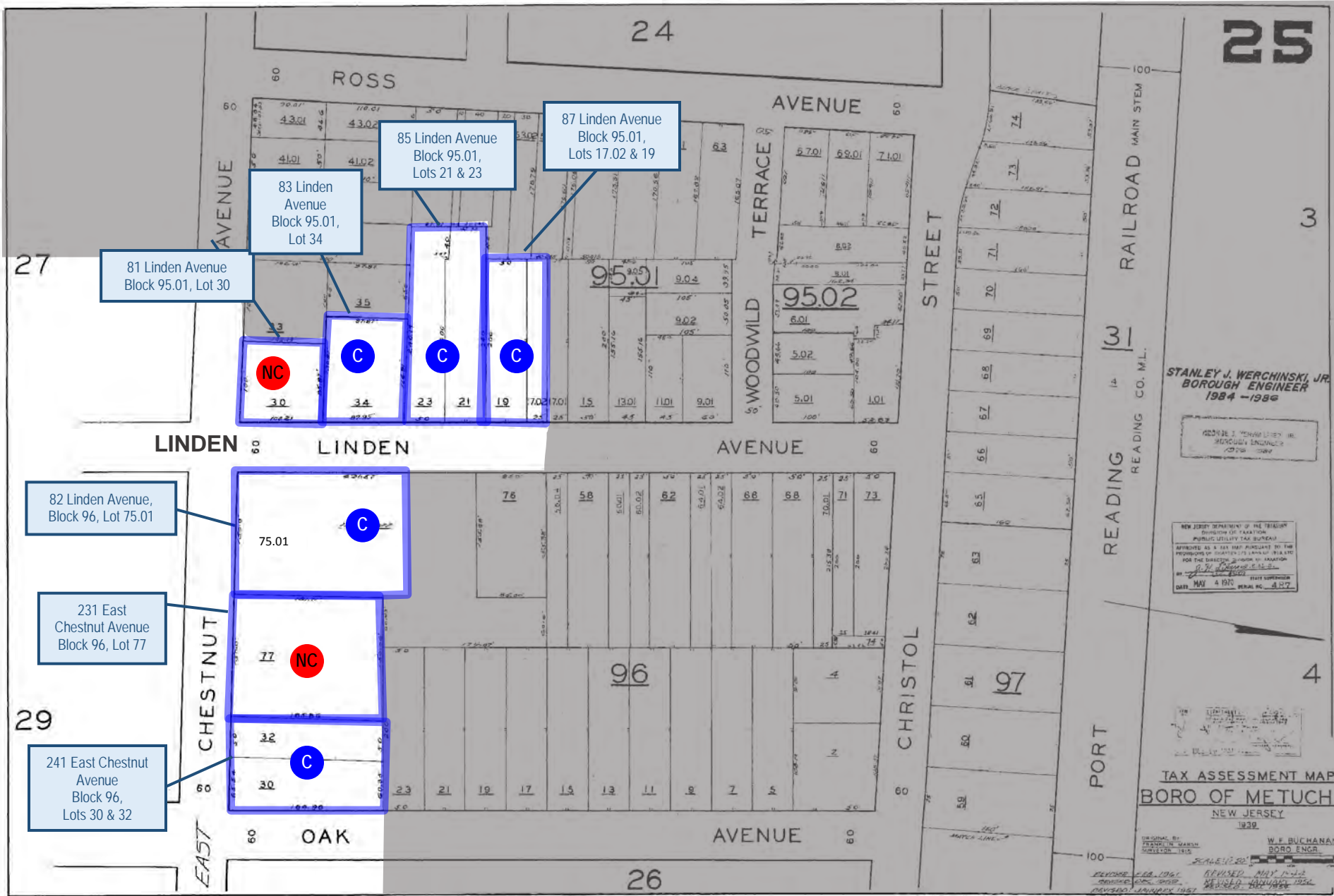
## Streetscape Photograph Key



District Boundary 

Photographs #1 through #40

Clarendon Court, East Chestnut Avenue, Elm Avenue, Highland Avenue, Hillside Avenue, Library Place, Linden Avenue, Maple Avenue, Middlesex Avenue, Oak Avenue, Pleasant Place, and Rector Street.



STANLEY J. WERCHINSKI, JR.  
BOROUGH ENGINEER  
1984 - 1986

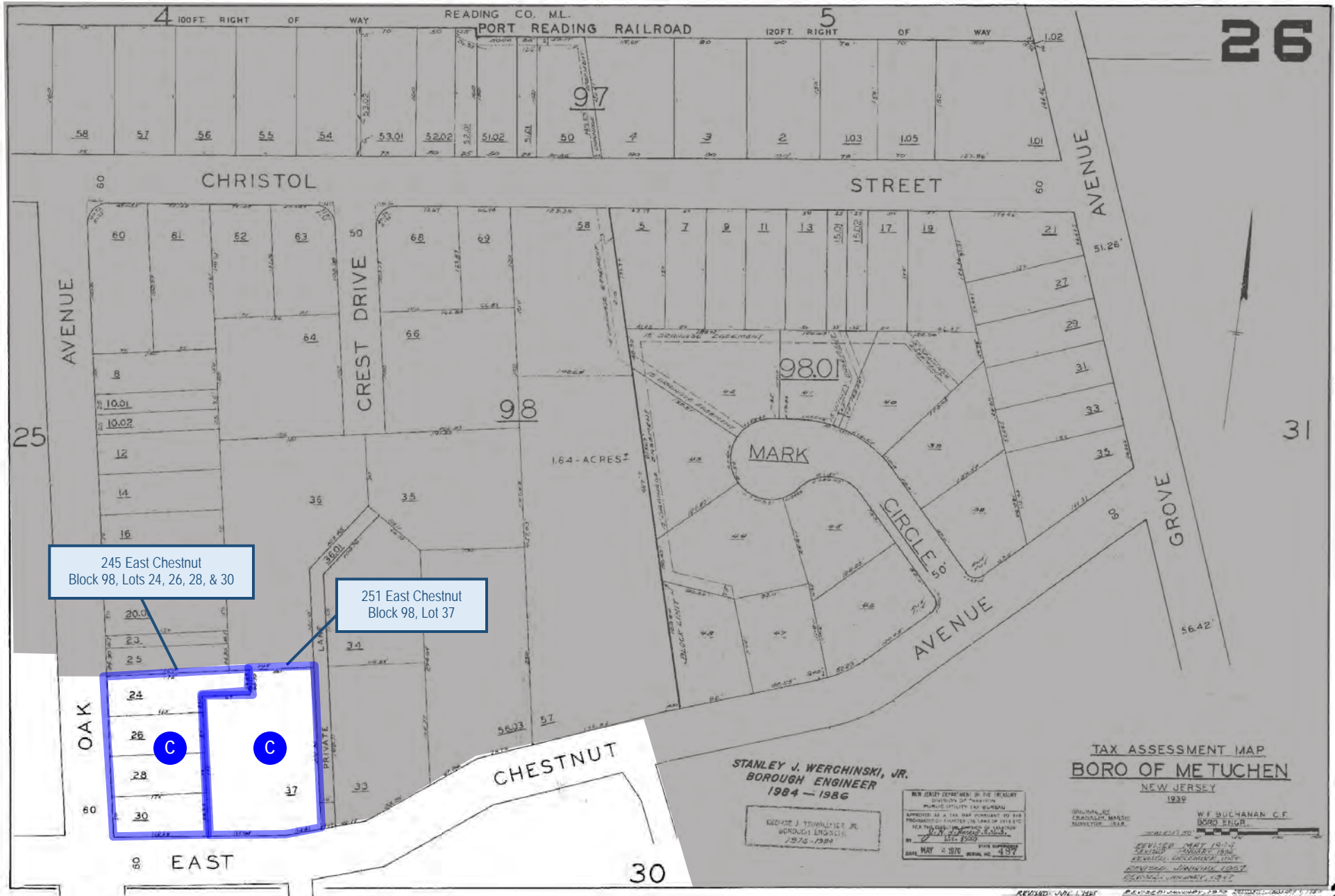
REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER  
BOROUGH ENGINEER  
1984 - 1986

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY  
BUREAU OF TAXATION  
PUBLIC UTILITY TAX SURVEY  
APPROVED AS A SET HERE PURCHASED BY THE  
PROPRIETORS OF QUANTUM LEASING, INC. IN  
FOR THE BOROUGH OF METUCHEN, NEW JERSEY  
BY *[Signature]*  
DATE: MAY 4 1987 PERAL NO. 8-127

TAX ASSESSMENT MAP  
BORO OF METUCHEN  
NEW JERSEY  
1939

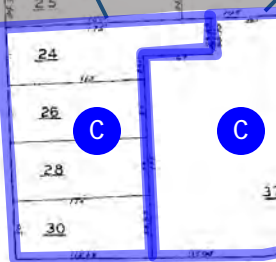
ORIGINAL BY: FRANK W. MARK  
REVISION: THIS  
W. F. BUCHANAN, C.E.  
BORO ENGR.

REVISED: FEB. 1961  
REVISED: APR. 1962  
REVISED: JANUARY 1967  
REVISED: JANUARY 1970  
REVISED: JANUARY 1972  
REVISED: JAN. 1974  
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REVISED: JAN. 2004  
REVISED: JAN. 2006  
REVISED: JAN. 2008  
REVISED: JAN. 2010  
REVISED: JAN. 2012  
REVISED: JAN. 2014  
REVISED: JAN. 2016  
REVISED: JAN. 2018  
REVISED: JAN. 2020



245 East Chestnut  
Block 98, Lots 24, 26, 28, & 30

251 East Chestnut  
Block 98, Lot 37



TAX ASSESSMENT MAP  
BORO OF METUCHEN  
NEW JERSEY  
1939

STANLEY J. WERCHINSKI, JR.  
BOROUGH ENGINEER  
1984 - 1986

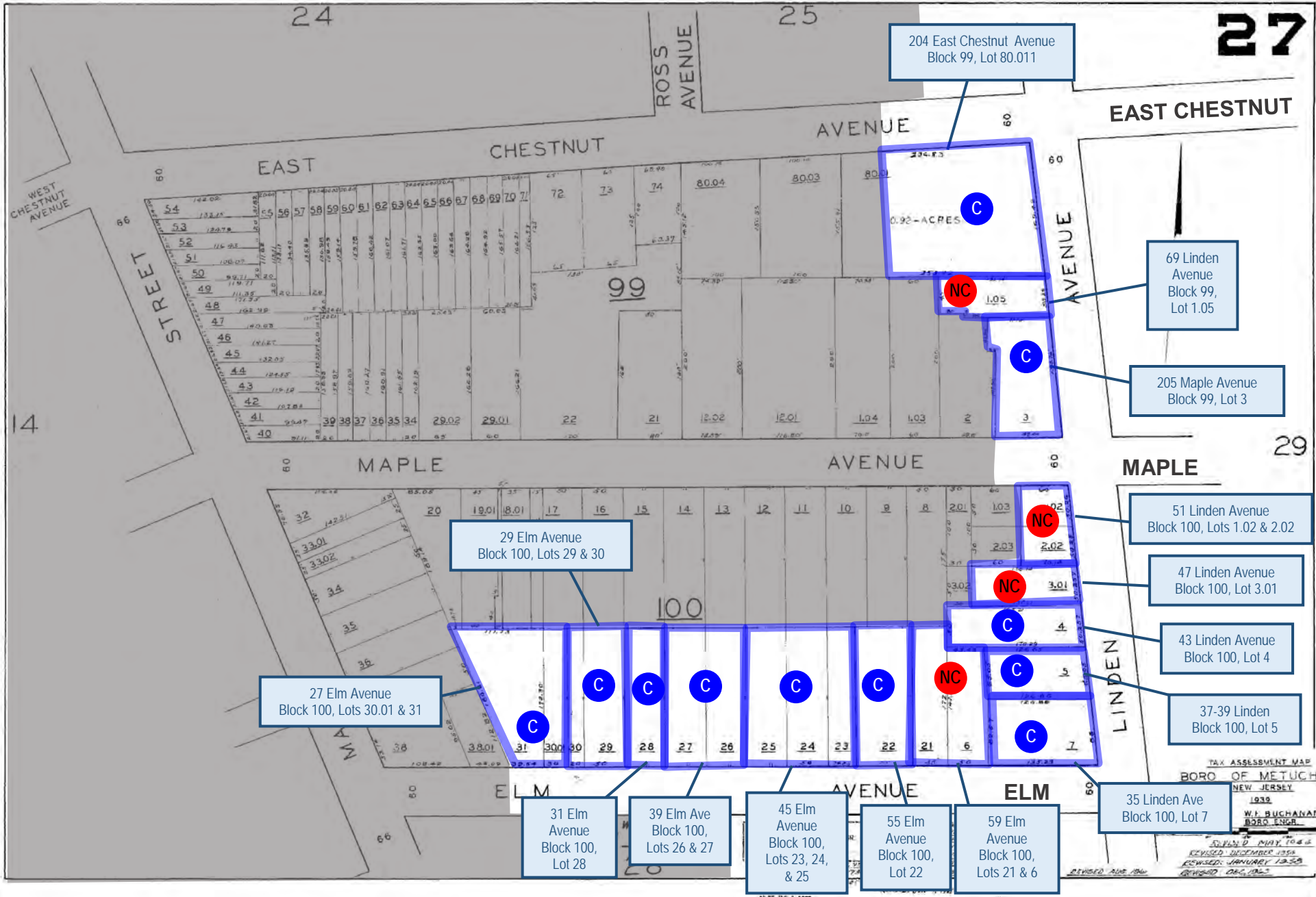
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY  
DIVISION OF TAXATION  
PUBLIC UTILITY TAX BUREAU  
APPROVED AS TO THE MAP PORTION TO BE  
PROPOSED AS CHANGES TO LAND IN 1918 AND  
FOR THE REVISIONS OF 1939  
BY *[Signature]*  
DATE MAY 2 1976 SERIAL NO. 437

W.F. SUTCHMAN, C.E.  
BORO ENGR.

REVISED MAY 1974  
REVISED JANUARY 1981  
REVISED OCTOBER 1987  
REVISED JANUARY 1987  
REVISED JANUARY 1997  
REVISED JANUARY 1997

REVISED - JULY 1, 1987



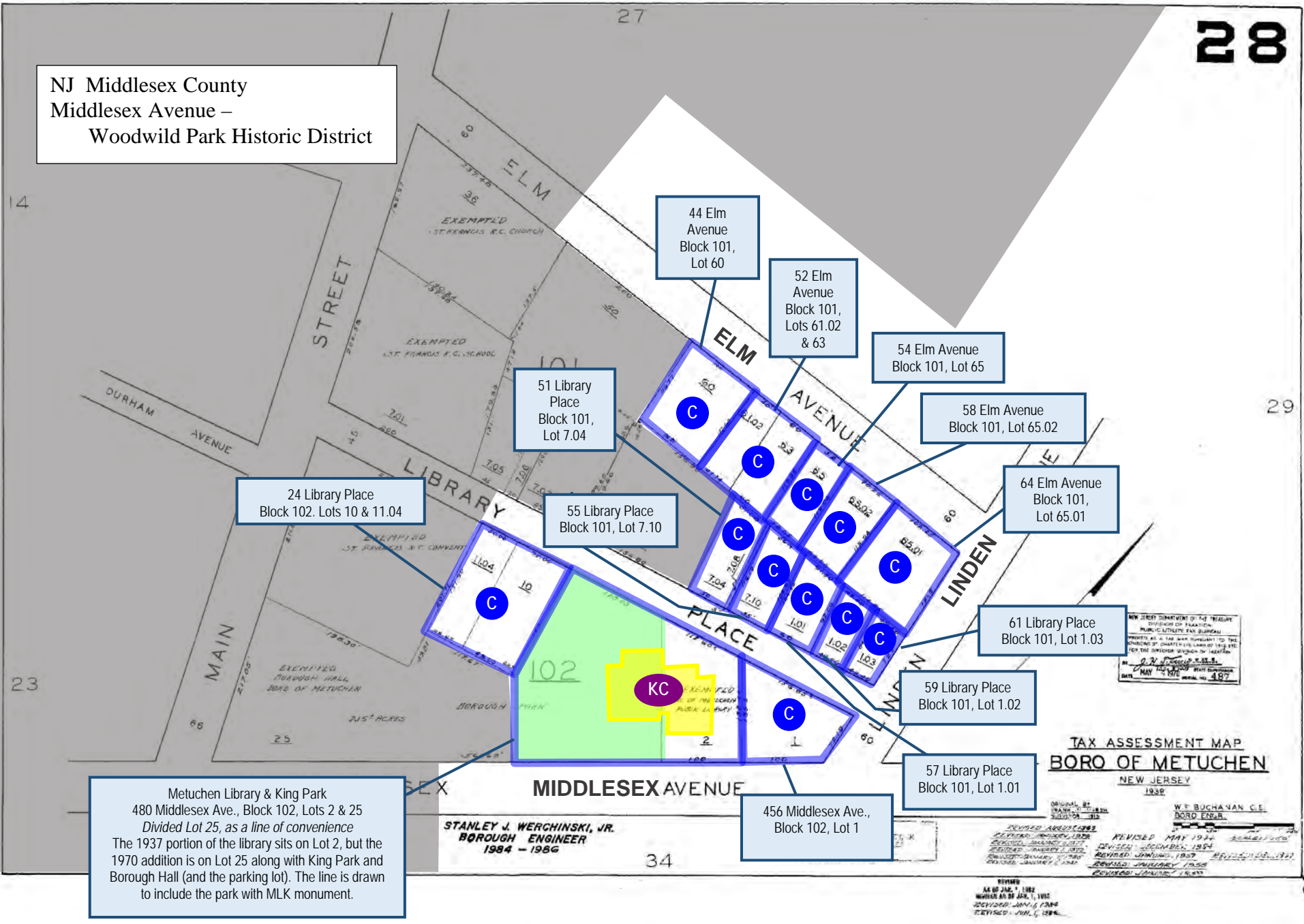


27

29

TAX ASSESSMENT MAP  
 BORO OF METUCHEN  
 NEW JERSEY  
 1939  
 W.F. BUCHANAN C.E.  
 BORO. ENGR.  
 SUPPL'D MAY 1944  
 REVISED DECEMBER 1954  
 REVISED JANUARY 1959  
 REVISED DEC. 1965

NJ Middlesex County  
Middlesex Avenue –  
Woodwild Park Historic District



24 Library Place  
Block 102. Lots 10 & 11.04

51 Library Place  
Block 101,  
Lot 7.04

55 Library Place  
Block 101, Lot 7.10

44 Elm Avenue  
Block 101,  
Lot 60

52 Elm Avenue  
Block 101,  
Lots 61.02  
& 63

54 Elm Avenue  
Block 101, Lot 65

58 Elm Avenue  
Block 101, Lot 65.02

64 Elm Avenue  
Block 101,  
Lot 65.01

61 Library Place  
Block 101, Lot 1.03

59 Library Place  
Block 101, Lot 1.02

57 Library Place  
Block 101, Lot 1.01

456 Middlesex Ave.,  
Block 102, Lot 1

Metuchen Library & King Park  
480 Middlesex Ave., Block 102, Lots 2 & 25  
Divided Lot 25, as a line of convenience  
The 1937 portion of the library sits on Lot 2, but the  
1970 addition is on Lot 25 along with King Park and  
Borough Hall (and the parking lot). The line is drawn  
to include the park with MLK monument.

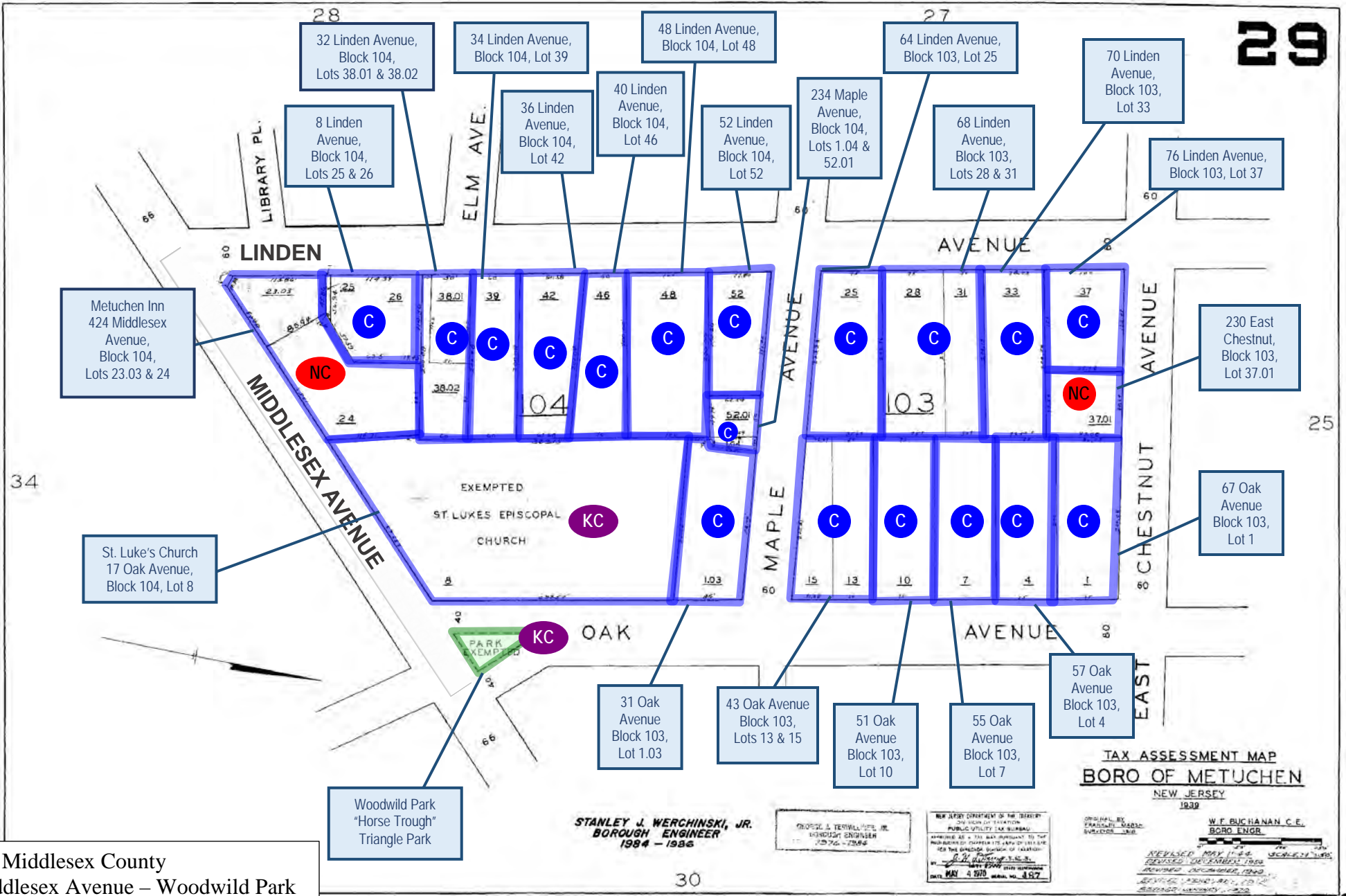
STANLEY J. WERCHINSKI, JR.  
BOROUGH ENGINEER  
1984 - 1986

TAX ASSESSMENT MAP  
BORO OF METUCHEN  
NEW JERSEY  
1932

ORIGINAL BY  
W.F. BOCHANAN C.E.  
BORD EX-13

REVISED APRIL 1932  
REVISED MAY 1934  
REVISED JANUARY 1937  
REVISED DECEMBER 1954  
REVISED JANUARY 1957  
REVISED JANUARY 1958  
REVISED JANUARY 1959

REVISED  
AS OF JAN. 1, 1982  
REVISED AS OF JAN. 1, 1983  
REVISED JAN. 1, 1984  
REVISED JAN. 1, 1985



NJ Middlesex County  
Middlesex Avenue – Woodwild Park  
Historic District

STANLEY J. WERCHINSKI, JR.  
BOROUGH ENGINEER  
1984 - 1986

GROSSE & TERWILLIGER, JR.  
BOROUGH ENGINEER  
1976 - 1984

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY  
PUBLIC UTILITY TAX BUREAU  
APPROVED AS A TAX MAP SUBMITTAL TO THE  
PROBATIONER GENERAL'S OFFICE OF THE STATE  
FOR THE GENERAL PURPOSES OF TAXATION  
BY: [Signature]  
DATE: MAY 4 1989, SERIAL NO. 457

TAX ASSESSMENT MAP  
BORO OF METUCHEN  
NEW JERSEY  
1989

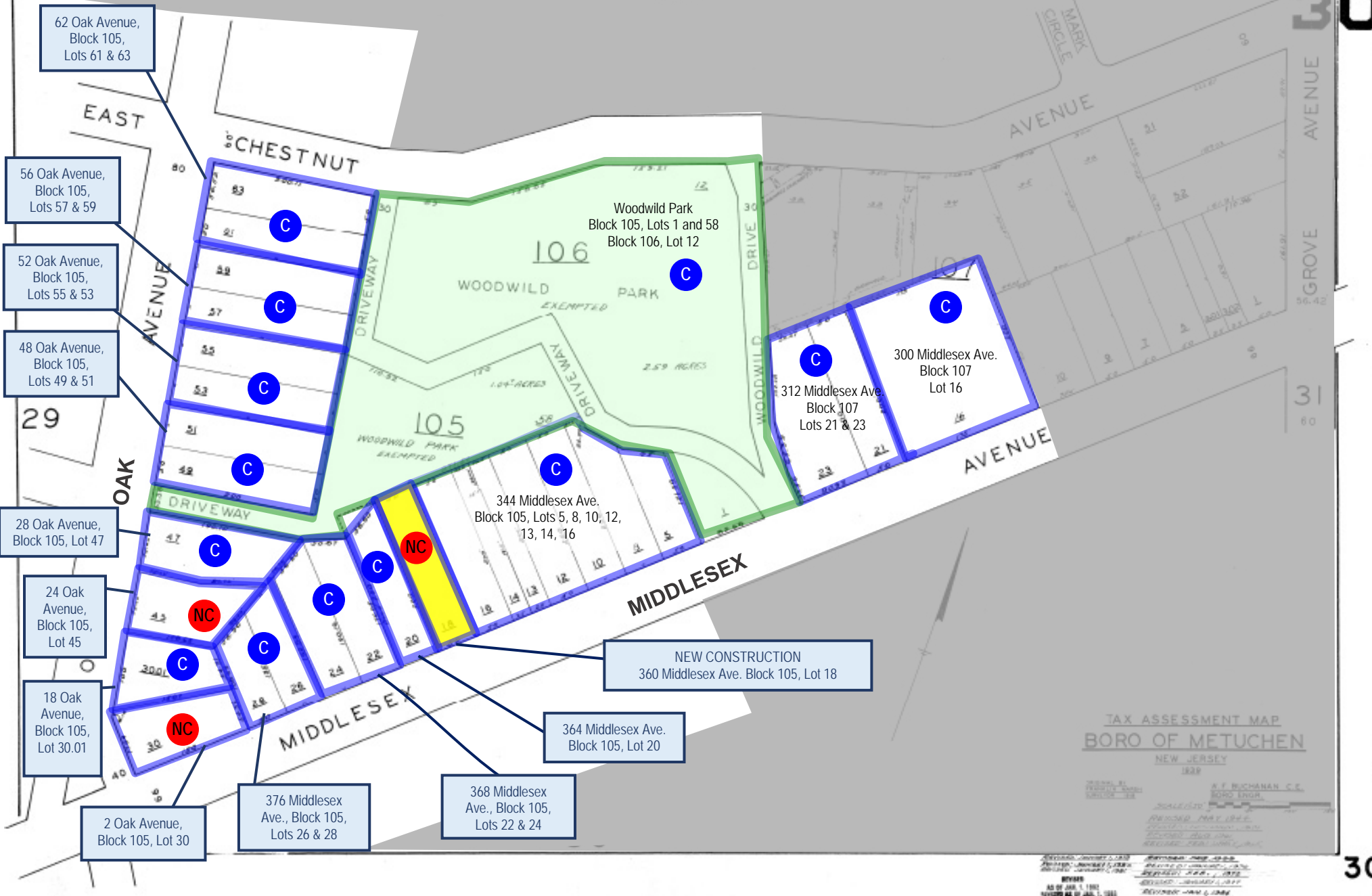
W. F. BUCHANAN, C.E.  
BORO ENGR.

REVIEWED MAY 1988 SCALE: 1" = 200'  
REVISED DECEMBER 1988  
REVISED DECEMBER 1989  
REVISED JANUARY 1990  
REVISED JANUARY 1991  
REVISED JANUARY 1992  
REVISED JANUARY 1993  
REVISED JANUARY 1994  
REVISED JANUARY 1995  
REVISED JANUARY 1996  
REVISED JANUARY 1997  
REVISED JANUARY 1998  
REVISED JANUARY 1999  
REVISED JANUARY 2000  
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REVISED JANUARY 2014  
REVISED JANUARY 2015  
REVISED JANUARY 2016  
REVISED JANUARY 2017  
REVISED JANUARY 2018  
REVISED JANUARY 2019  
REVISED JANUARY 2020  
REVISED JANUARY 2021  
REVISED JANUARY 2022  
REVISED JANUARY 2023  
REVISED JANUARY 2024

MIDDLESEX

26

30



62 Oak Avenue, Block 105, Lots 61 & 63

56 Oak Avenue, Block 105, Lots 57 & 59

52 Oak Avenue, Block 105, Lots 55 & 53

48 Oak Avenue, Block 105, Lots 49 & 51

28 Oak Avenue, Block 105, Lot 47

24 Oak Avenue, Block 105, Lot 45

18 Oak Avenue, Block 105, Lot 30.01

2 Oak Avenue, Block 105, Lot 30

376 Middlesex Ave., Block 105, Lots 26 & 28

368 Middlesex Ave., Block 105, Lots 22 & 24

NEW CONSTRUCTION  
360 Middlesex Ave. Block 105, Lot 18

364 Middlesex Ave. Block 105, Lot 20

344 Middlesex Ave. Block 105, Lots 5, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, 16

312 Middlesex Ave. Block 107, Lots 21 & 23

300 Middlesex Ave. Block 107, Lot 16

Woodwild Park Block 105, Lots 1 and 58 Block 106, Lot 12

TAX ASSESSMENT MAP  
BORO OF METUCHEN  
NEW JERSEY  
1999

RECORD & RETURN TO: A. F. RICHANAN, C.E., BORO ENGINEER, 1000 N. AVENUE, METUCHEN, NJ 08854

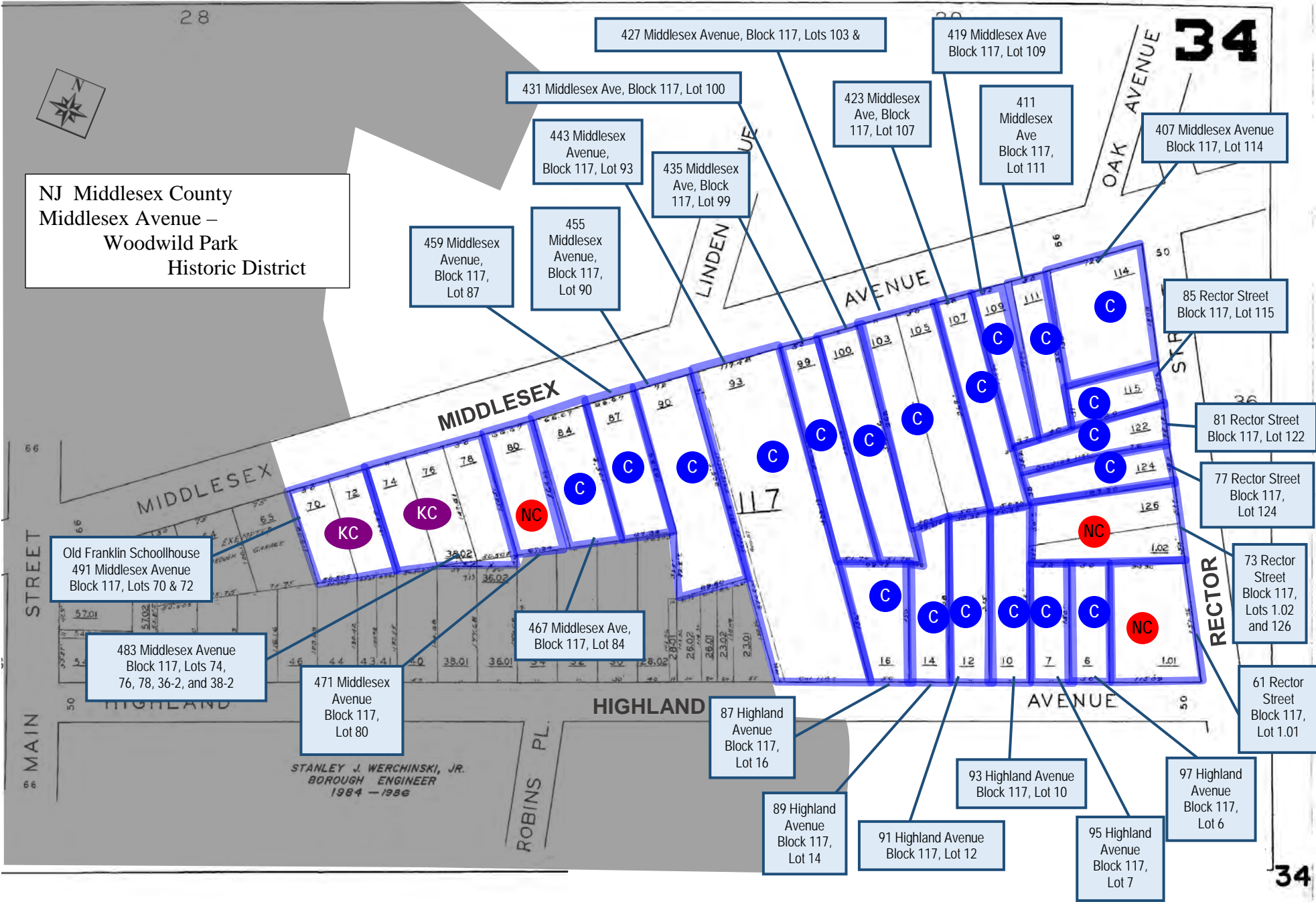
REVISIONS:

REVISION 1	REVISION 2
REVISION 3	REVISION 4
REVISION 5	REVISION 6
REVISION 7	REVISION 8
REVISION 9	REVISION 10
REVISION 11	REVISION 12
REVISION 13	REVISION 14
REVISION 15	REVISION 16
REVISION 17	REVISION 18
REVISION 19	REVISION 20
REVISION 21	REVISION 22
REVISION 23	REVISION 24
REVISION 25	REVISION 26
REVISION 27	REVISION 28
REVISION 29	REVISION 30
REVISION 31	REVISION 32
REVISION 33	REVISION 34
REVISION 35	REVISION 36
REVISION 37	REVISION 38
REVISION 39	REVISION 40
REVISION 41	REVISION 42
REVISION 43	REVISION 44
REVISION 45	REVISION 46
REVISION 47	REVISION 48
REVISION 49	REVISION 50
REVISION 51	REVISION 52
REVISION 53	REVISION 54
REVISION 55	REVISION 56
REVISION 57	REVISION 58
REVISION 59	REVISION 60
REVISION 61	REVISION 62
REVISION 63	REVISION 64
REVISION 65	REVISION 66
REVISION 67	REVISION 68
REVISION 69	REVISION 70
REVISION 71	REVISION 72
REVISION 73	REVISION 74
REVISION 75	REVISION 76
REVISION 77	REVISION 78
REVISION 79	REVISION 80
REVISION 81	REVISION 82
REVISION 83	REVISION 84
REVISION 85	REVISION 86
REVISION 87	REVISION 88
REVISION 89	REVISION 90
REVISION 91	REVISION 92
REVISION 93	REVISION 94
REVISION 95	REVISION 96
REVISION 97	REVISION 98
REVISION 99	REVISION 100

30



NJ Middlesex County  
Middlesex Avenue –  
Woodwild Park  
Historic District



427 Middlesex Avenue, Block 117, Lots 103 &

419 Middlesex Ave  
Block 117, Lot 109

431 Middlesex Ave, Block 117, Lot 100

423 Middlesex  
Ave, Block  
117, Lot 107

411  
Middlesex  
Ave  
Block 117,  
Lot 111

407 Middlesex Avenue  
Block 117, Lot 114

443 Middlesex  
Avenue,  
Block 117, Lot 93

435 Middlesex  
Ave, Block  
117, Lot 99

459 Middlesex  
Avenue,  
Block 117,  
Lot 87

455  
Middlesex  
Avenue,  
Block 117,  
Lot 90

85 Rector Street  
Block 117, Lot 115

Old Franklin Schoolhouse  
491 Middlesex Avenue  
Block 117, Lots 70 & 72

81 Rector Street  
Block 117, Lot 122

77 Rector Street  
Block 117,  
Lot 124

73 Rector  
Street  
Block 117,  
Lots 1.02  
and 126

483 Middlesex Avenue  
Block 117, Lots 74,  
76, 78, 36-2, and 38-2

467 Middlesex Ave,  
Block 117, Lot 84

61 Rector  
Street  
Block 117,  
Lot 1.01

471 Middlesex  
Avenue  
Block 117,  
Lot 80

87 Highland  
Avenue  
Block 117,  
Lot 16

93 Highland Avenue  
Block 117, Lot 10

97 Highland  
Avenue  
Block 117,  
Lot 6

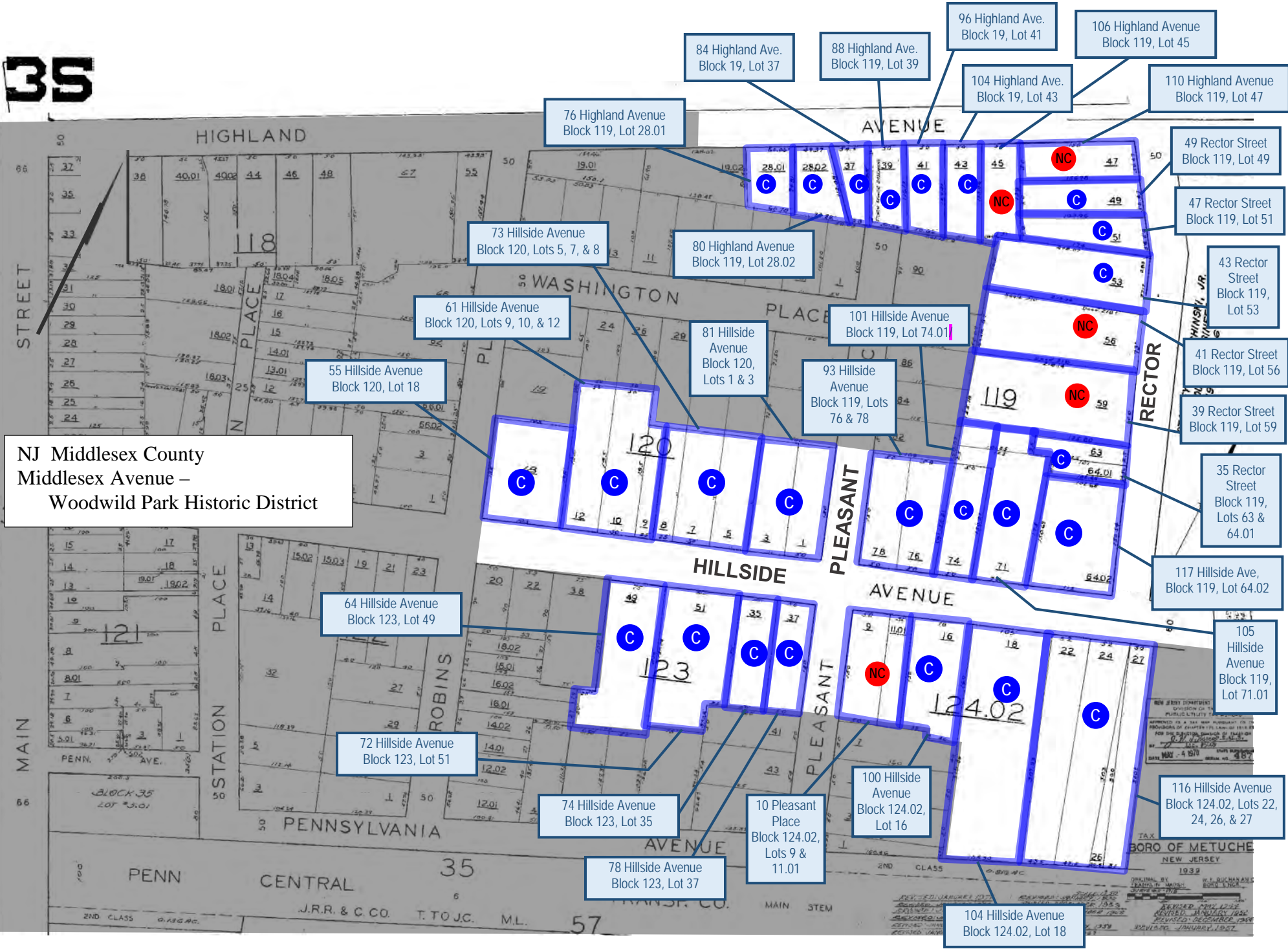
89 Highland  
Avenue  
Block 117,  
Lot 14

91 Highland Avenue  
Block 117, Lot 12

95 Highland  
Avenue  
Block 117,  
Lot 7

STANLEY J. WERCHINSKI, JR.  
BOROUGH ENGINEER  
1984 - 1986

**35**



NJ Middlesex County  
Middlesex Avenue -  
Woodwild Park Historic District

84 Highland Ave.  
Block 19, Lot 37

88 Highland Ave.  
Block 119, Lot 39

96 Highland Ave.  
Block 19, Lot 41

106 Highland Avenue  
Block 119, Lot 45

76 Highland Avenue  
Block 119, Lot 28.01

104 Highland Ave.  
Block 19, Lot 43

110 Highland Avenue  
Block 119, Lot 47

73 Hillside Avenue  
Block 120, Lots 5, 7, & 8

80 Highland Avenue  
Block 119, Lot 28.02

49 Rector Street  
Block 119, Lot 49

47 Rector Street  
Block 119, Lot 51

61 Hillside Avenue  
Block 120, Lots 9, 10, & 12

101 Hillside Avenue  
Block 119, Lot 74.01

43 Rector Street  
Block 119,  
Lot 53

55 Hillside Avenue  
Block 120, Lot 18

81 Hillside Avenue  
Block 120,  
Lots 1 & 3

93 Hillside Avenue  
Block 119, Lots  
76 & 78

41 Rector Street  
Block 119, Lot 56

39 Rector Street  
Block 119, Lot 59

35 Rector Street  
Block 119,  
Lots 63 &  
64.01

117 Hillside Ave,  
Block 119, Lot 64.02

64 Hillside Avenue  
Block 123, Lot 49

72 Hillside Avenue  
Block 123, Lot 51

105 Hillside Avenue  
Block 119,  
Lot 71.01

72 Hillside Avenue  
Block 123, Lot 51

74 Hillside Avenue  
Block 123, Lot 35

10 Pleasant  
Place  
Block 124.02,  
Lots 9 &  
11.01

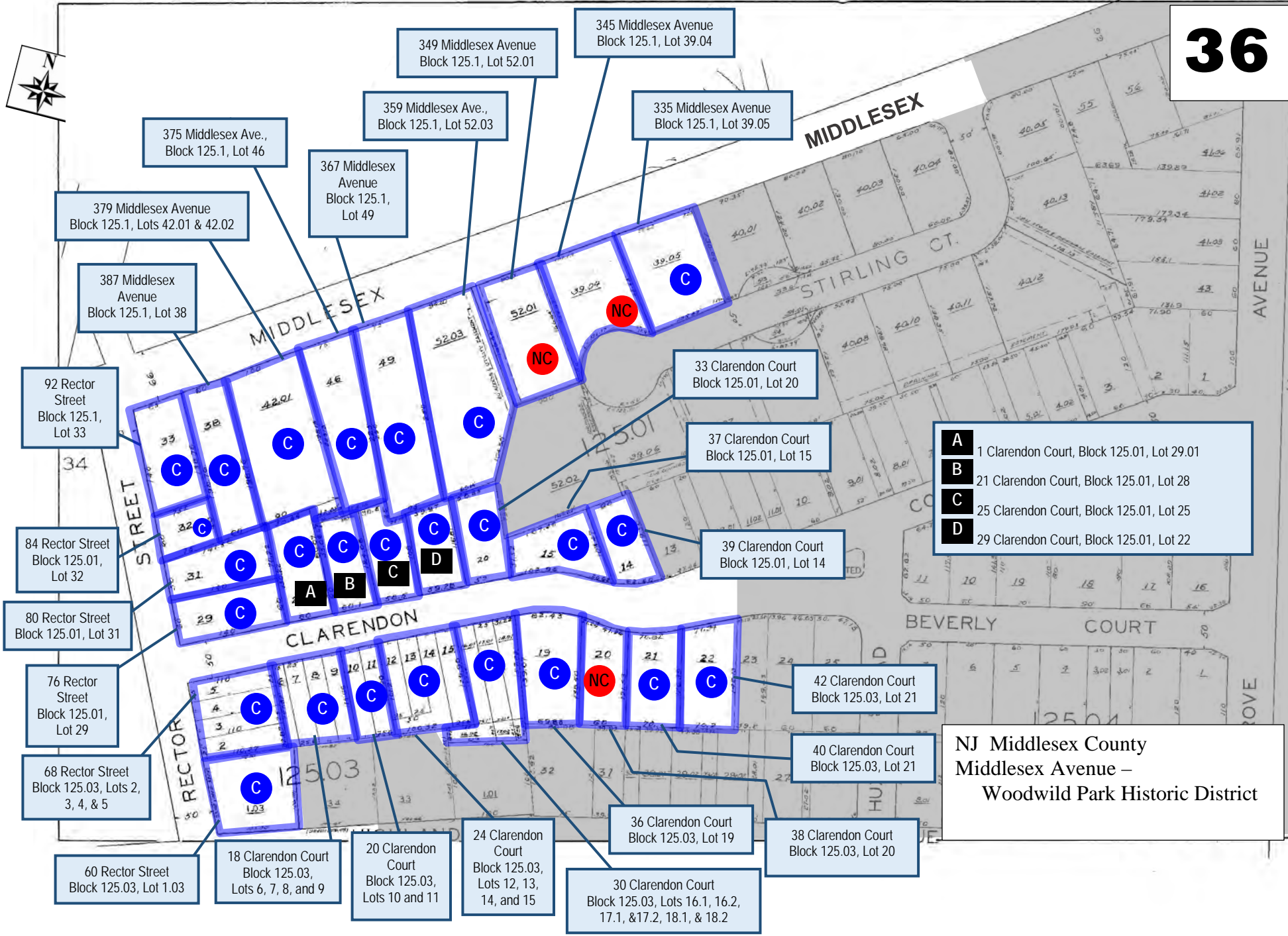
100 Hillside Avenue  
Block 124.02,  
Lot 16

116 Hillside Avenue  
Block 124.02, Lots 22,  
24, 26, & 27

78 Hillside Avenue  
Block 123, Lot 37

104 Hillside Avenue  
Block 124.02, Lot 18

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY  
PROPERTY TAX MAP  
APPROVED AS A TAX MAP PURSUANT TO THE  
PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 127 OF THE PUBLIC  
LAW OF 1975 (N.J.A.C. 17:27)  
FOR THE ELECTION DIVISION OF THE BOARD OF  
TREASURY AND TAXATION  
DATE: MAY 4, 1970  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
TAX MAP  
BORO OF METUCHEN  
NEW JERSEY  
1932  
W. F. RICHMAN &  
COUNTY ENGINEER



375 Middlesex Ave.,  
Block 125.1, Lot 46

349 Middlesex Avenue  
Block 125.1, Lot 52.01

345 Middlesex Avenue  
Block 125.1, Lot 39.04

359 Middlesex Ave.,  
Block 125.1, Lot 52.03

335 Middlesex Avenue  
Block 125.1, Lot 39.05

379 Middlesex Avenue  
Block 125.1, Lots 42.01 & 42.02

367 Middlesex  
Avenue  
Block 125.1,  
Lot 49

387 Middlesex  
Avenue  
Block 125.1, Lot 38

92 Rector  
Street  
Block 125.1,  
Lot 33

33 Clarendon Court  
Block 125.01, Lot 20

- A** 1 Clarendon Court, Block 125.01, Lot 29.01
- B** 21 Clarendon Court, Block 125.01, Lot 28
- C** 25 Clarendon Court, Block 125.01, Lot 25
- D** 29 Clarendon Court, Block 125.01, Lot 22

84 Rector Street  
Block 125.01,  
Lot 32

37 Clarendon Court  
Block 125.01, Lot 15

80 Rector Street  
Block 125.01, Lot 31

39 Clarendon Court  
Block 125.01, Lot 14

76 Rector  
Street  
Block 125.01,  
Lot 29

42 Clarendon Court  
Block 125.03, Lot 21

68 Rector Street  
Block 125.03, Lots 2,  
3, 4, & 5

40 Clarendon Court  
Block 125.03, Lot 21

NJ Middlesex County  
Middlesex Avenue –  
Woodwild Park Historic District

60 Rector Street  
Block 125.03, Lot 1.03

18 Clarendon Court  
Block 125.03,  
Lots 6, 7, 8, and 9

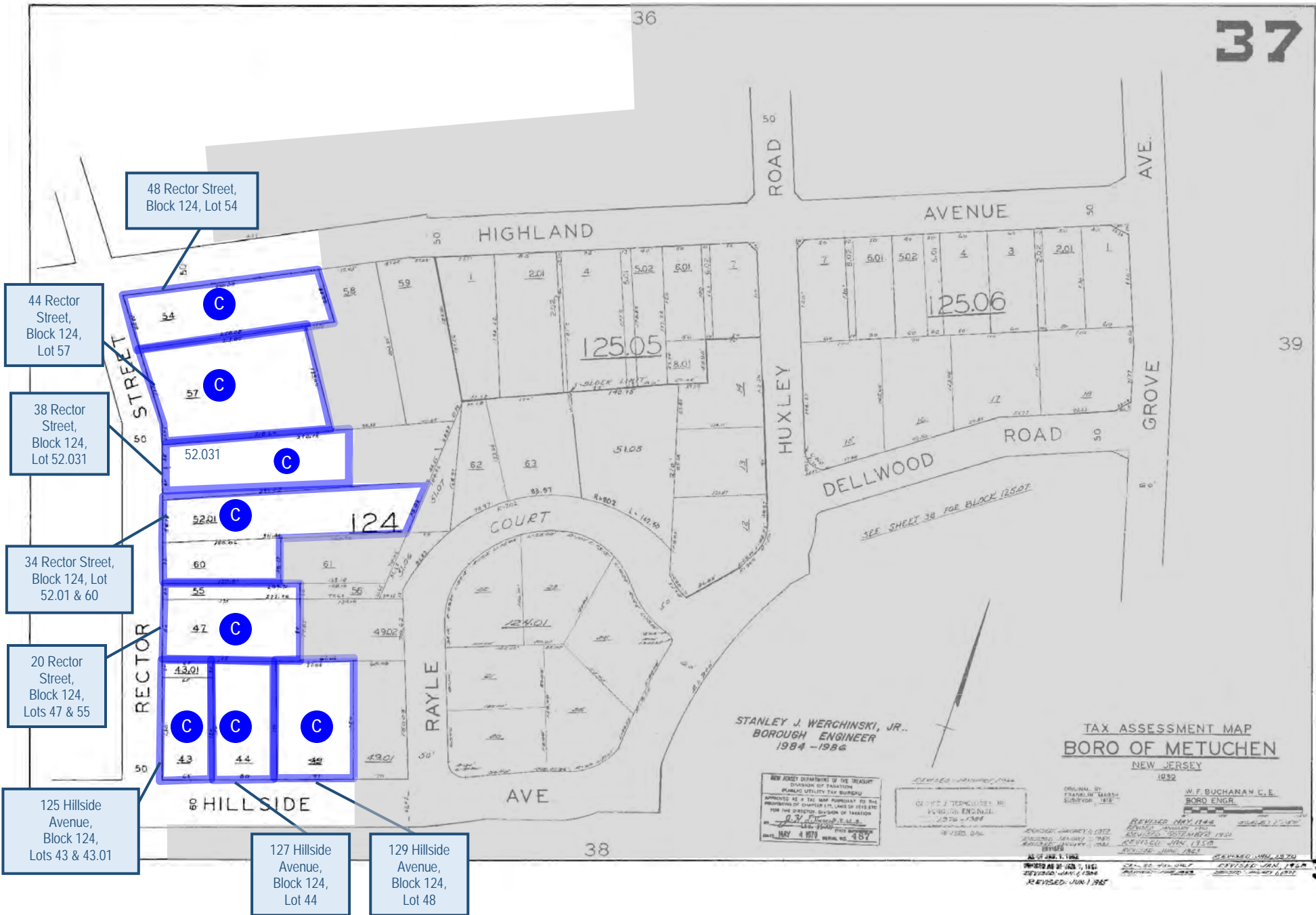
20 Clarendon  
Court  
Block 125.03,  
Lots 10 and 11

24 Clarendon  
Court  
Block 125.03,  
Lots 12, 13,  
14, and 15

30 Clarendon Court  
Block 125.03, Lots 16.1, 16.2,  
17.1, & 17.2, 18.1, & 18.2

36 Clarendon Court  
Block 125.03, Lot 19

38 Clarendon Court  
Block 125.03, Lot 20



48 Rector Street,  
Block 124, Lot 54

44 Rector  
Street,  
Block 124,  
Lot 57

38 Rector  
Street,  
Block 124,  
Lot 52.031

34 Rector Street,  
Block 124, Lot  
52.01 & 60

20 Rector  
Street,  
Block 124,  
Lots 47 & 55

125 Hillside  
Avenue,  
Block 124,  
Lots 43 & 43.01

127 Hillside  
Avenue,  
Block 124,  
Lot 44

129 Hillside  
Avenue,  
Block 124,  
Lot 48

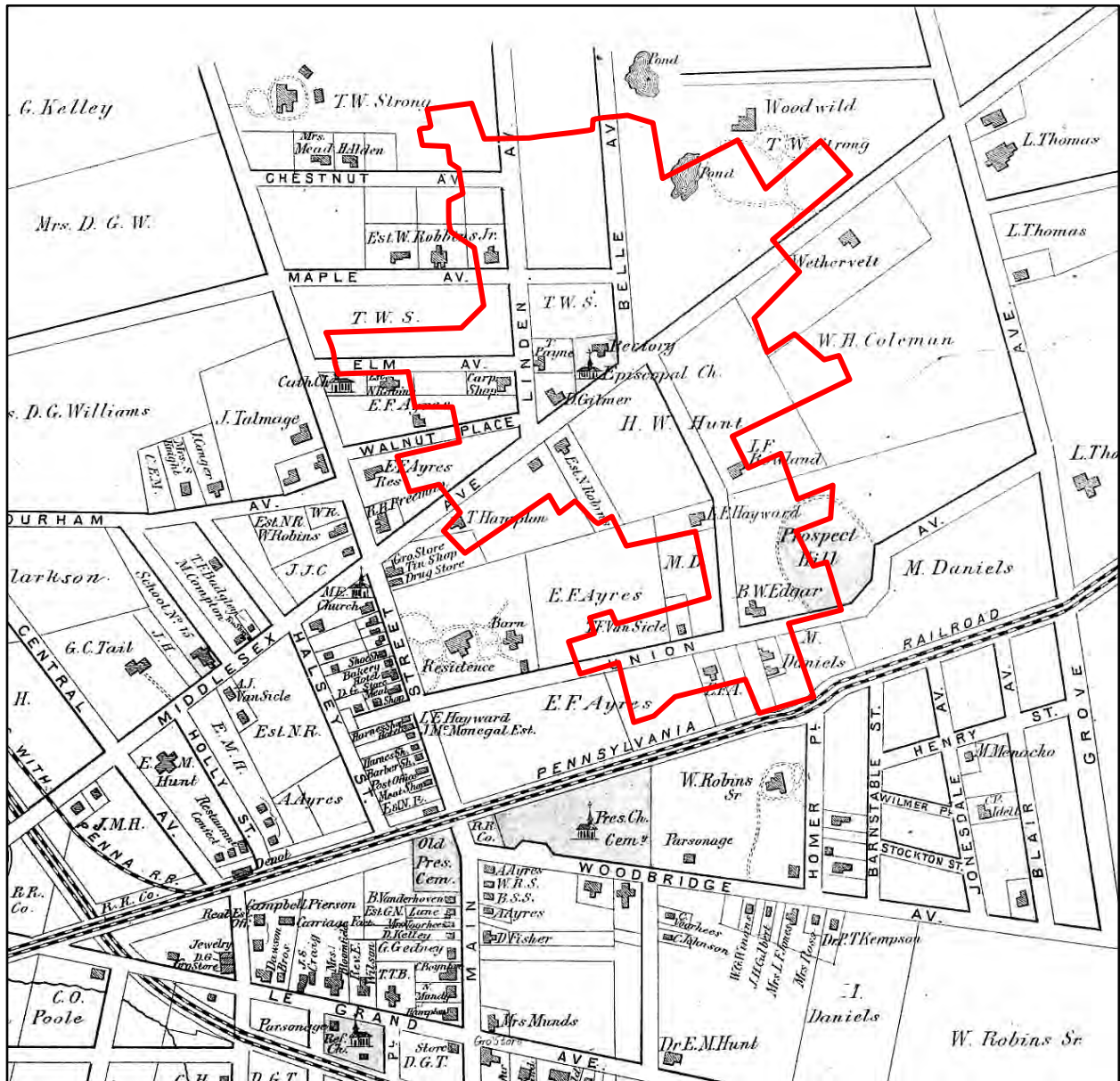


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Middlesex Avenue-Woodwild Park Historic District  
Metuchen, Middlesex County, NJ

Section number          Historic Maps          Page 1



Approximate boundaries of the Middlesex Avenue-Woodwild Park Historic District outlined on the 1876 C. L. Fulton, C E. "Plan of Metuchen." On file in the Metuchen-Edison Historical Society Archives.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Middlesex Avenue-Woodwild Park Historic District  
Metuchen, Middlesex County, NJ

Section number Historic Maps Page 2



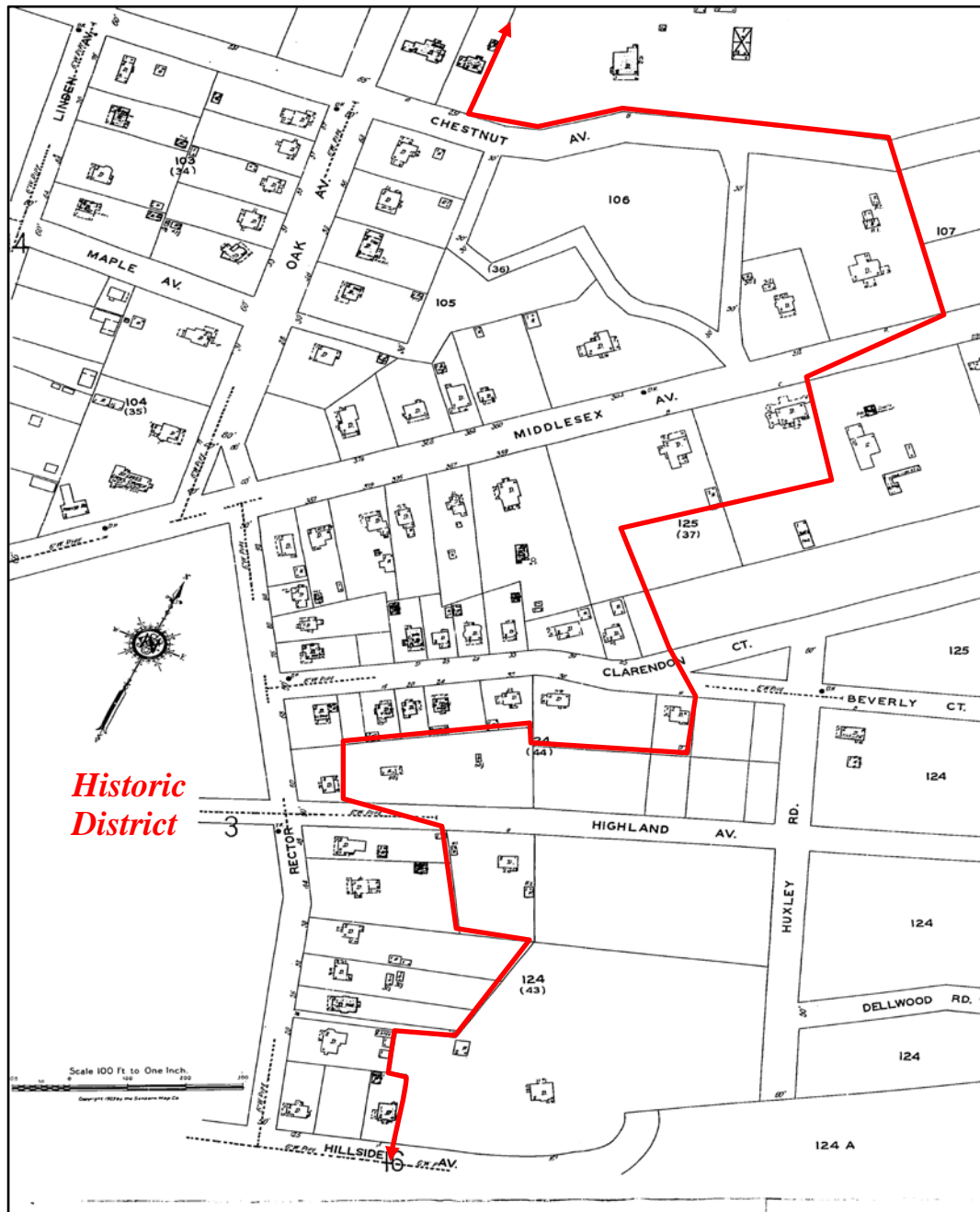
1910 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Metuchen showing a section of Middlesex Avenue-Woodwild Park Historic District.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Middlesex Avenue-Woodwild Park Historic District  
Metuchen, Middlesex County, NJ

Section number Historic Maps Page 3



1929 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of Metuchen. Sanborn Map Company showing a section of Middlesex Avenue-Woodwild Park Historic District.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Middlesex Avenue-Woodwild Park Historic District  
Metuchen, Middlesex County, NJ

Section number Historic Images Page 1

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Ca. 1920 postcard image of the Old Franklin Schoolhouse, 491 Middlesex Avenue, on file in the archives of the Metuchen-Edison Historical Society.



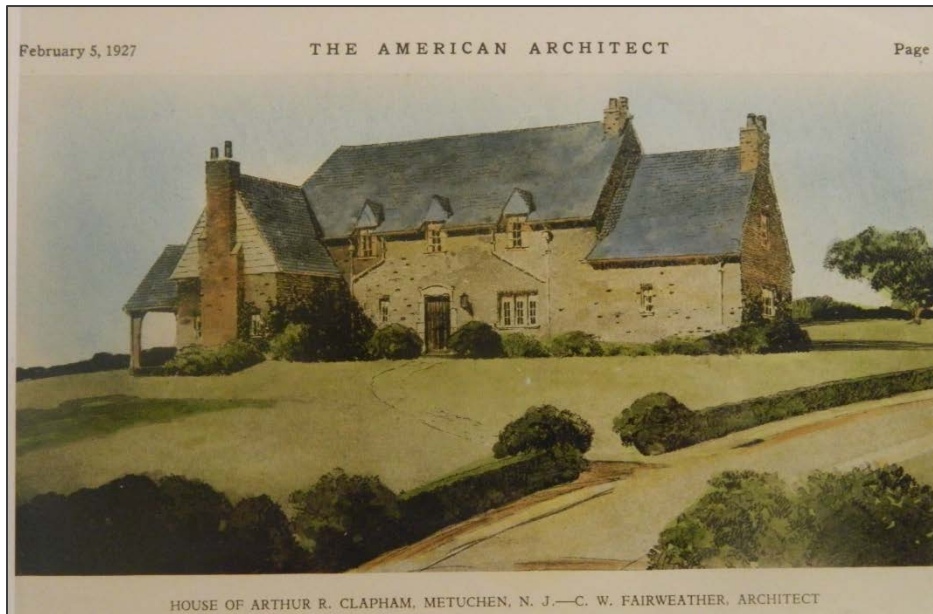
Ca. 1900 image of the Metuchen Club, 483 Middlesex Avenue, on file in the archives of the Metuchen-Edison Historical Society.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Middlesex Avenue-Woodwild Park Historic District  
Metuchen, Middlesex County, NJ

Section number Historic Images Page 2



1927 image of the Clapham House, 83 Linden Avenue, on file in the archives of the Metuchen-Edison Historical Society.



Ca. 1910 postcard image of "Rustic Willows," 367 Middlesex Avenue, on file in the archives of the Metuchen-Edison Historical Society.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Middlesex Avenue-Woodwild Park Historic District  
Metuchen, Middlesex County, NJ

Section number Historic Images Page 3

---



Ca. 1910 postcard image of Hillside Avenue, on file in the archives of the Metuchen-Edison Historical Society.



Ca. 1930 photograph of 39 Clarendon Court, on file in the archives of the Metuchen-Edison Historical Society.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

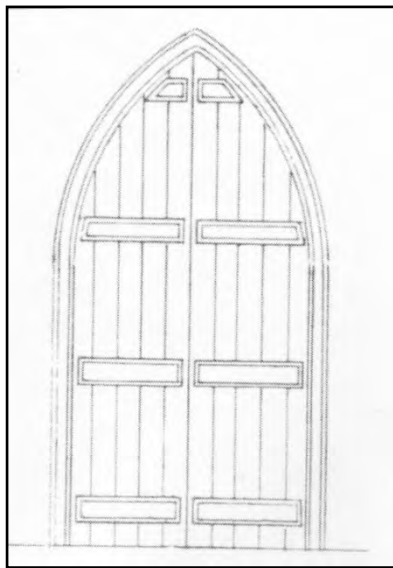
# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Middlesex Avenue-Woodwild Park Historic District  
Metuchen, Middlesex County, NJ

Section number Historic Images Page 4



Sketch from *Upjohn's Rural Architecture; Designs, Working Drawings, and Specifications for a Wooden Church, and Other Rural Structures*, 1852.



Plan for a door from *Upjohn's Rural Architecture; Designs, Working Drawings, and Specifications for a Wooden Church, and Other Rural Structures*, 1852.



Detail of the arched, double front entrance doors to St. Luke's Episcopal Church (Photograph by Tyreen A. Reuter, 2002).











WOODWILD PARK  
METUCHEN

THE GIFT OF  
CHARLES GORIN









G

20  
PRESIDENT















DEAD  
END

















83













FOR SALE  
Call Bob at 781-234-1234



NO  
PARKING  
THIS  
SIDE





























UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 6/16/2017      Date of Pending List: 7/18/2017      Date of 16th Day: 8/2/2017      Date of 45th Day: 7/31/2017      Date of Weekly List: 8/3/2017

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept       Return       Reject      7/31/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria

Reviewer Edson Beall      Discipline Historian

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_      Date \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION:    see attached comments : No    see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.





State of New Jersey

MAIL CODE 501-04B

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

NATURAL & HISTORIC RESOURCES

HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

P.O. Box 420

Trenton, NJ 08625-0420

TEL. (609) 984-0176 FAX (609) 984-0578

Project # 14-2678

HPO-F2017-011



CHRIS CHRISTIE

*Governor*

KIM GUADAGNO

*Lt. Governor*

BOB MARTIN

*Commissioner*

June 2, 2017

Paul Loether, Chief  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the Middlesex Avenue / Woodwild Park Historic District, encompassing Middlesex Avenue, Oak Avenue, Linden Avenue, East Chestnut Avenue, Maple Avenue, Elm Avenue, Library Place, Rector Street, Clarendon Court, Highland Avenue, Hillside Avenue, and Pleasant Place, in the Borough of Metuchen, Middlesex County, New Jersey.

This nomination has received unanimous approval from the New Jersey State Review Board for Historic Sites. All procedures were followed in accordance with regulations published in the Federal Register.

Should you want any further information concerning this application, please feel free to contact Katherine J. Marcopul, Administrator, New Jersey Historic Preservation Office, Mail Code 501-04B, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0420, or call her at (609) 984-5816.

Sincerely,

Rich Boornazian  
Deputy State Historic  
Preservation Officer