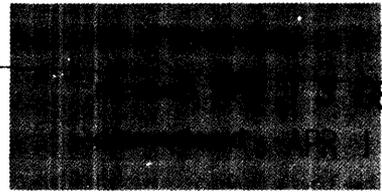


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections



1. Name

historic Whyman House

and/or common Whyman Parish House

2. Location

street & number 705 Newark Avenue

NA not for publication

city, town Elizabeth

vicinity of

congressional district

state New Jersey

code 034

county Union

code 039

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	NA	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Whyman Parish House of the Central Baptist Church

street & number 705 Newark Avenue

city, town Elizabeth

vicinity of

state New Jersey

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Union County Court House

street & number Broad Street

city, town Elizabeth

state New Jersey

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Elizabeth Historic Sites Survey

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1984-1985

federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records ONJH, CN 404

city, town Trenton

state New Jersey 08625

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

## Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Whyman Parish House is a well-preserved, Italianate, cubical villa of frame construction, built sometime between 1860 and 1871. Set back from the street behind a picket fence, it occupies a large, well-landscaped lot and retains a full complement of 19th and early 20th-century outbuildings and appurtenant features, including a carriage house and a cast-iron fountain. The complex has been little altered. Thus, to a remarkable degree it retains the character of a substantial 19th-century suburban residence.

Whyman Parish House (#1 on the site plan) has a nearly square 2½-story main block with low-pitched hip roof and square cupola. Its symmetrical 3-bay front (facing west) incorporates a central gable and a central entry opening from a 3-bay porch. At the rear of the main block, and projecting slightly beyond its south side, is a 2-bay, 2-story, flat-roofed ell. Erected on a stuccoed brick and stone cellar, the frame dwelling has clapboard siding, except on the attic story of the main block, which is clad with horizontal flush boards. The roofs are metal clad. Four brick chimneys with corbelled drip caps are present, one within each side wall of the main block, an interior main block stack, and a fourth with the east end of the rear ell.

Very large, paired brackets support the main block's boxed, overhanging eaves. An arcaded frieze with club-shaped pendants passes behind the brackets, and, unlike them, is carried on the front gable. The boxed eaves of the rear ell are nearly as wide, but have smaller paired brackets. The square cupola, centered on the main block roof, has bands of segmentally-arched windows on each side and bracketed eaves with perforated bargeboards and pendants.

The regular fenestration consists mostly of 2/2 sash windows with architrave trim, end-bracketed sills, and louvered exterior blinds. While the windows of the first story, including french windows opening to the front porch, are flat-headed, those of the second story and the smaller windows of the attic are segmentally arched. The second story windows of the main block have end-bracketed cornices with small pagoda roofs.

Double 1/1 sash windows are centered on the front of the second and third stories. Segmentally-arched on the second floor, they are topped by a pagoda-roofed hood carried on three large brackets. The surround of the round-arched windows on the third floor incorporates a swans neck pediment and heart-shaped cutout. Bay windows on both side facades are glazed with narrow 1/1 sash, and have paneled aprons and bracketed cornices.

The flat-roofed front porch has square posts with chamfered shafts resting on pedestals and simply molded bases and capitals. A perforated railing runs between the posts. There is a bracketed box cornice, beneath which flattened

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Elizabeth, NJ, Union County

arches with ornamental spandrels between the posts create an arcaded effect. The main entry has a wide molded surround that incorporates pilaster-like elements. The upper sections of the double-leafed doors are glazed, while the lower sections are paneled.

The main block's rear entry and porch are much simpler. The flat-roofed porch has square posts, square-spindled railing, and box cornice. The entry to the rear ell is from a small roofless stoop.

The interior is also remarkably well-preserved and retains a number of notable features. Only minor alterations were made during the 1960s conversion of the dwelling into a parish house. Original features include plaster walls and ceilings, plaster cornices and ceiling medallions, molded woodwork, panel doors, hardware, marble mantels with coal grates and the open main staircase.

Floral pattern, wall-to-wall carpeting of considerable age covers many of the floors on the first and second stories. Early 20th-century lighting fixtures are found in the principal rooms, and a late 19th-century cast-iron cooking range in the kitchen. A call-bell system with turn handles survives intact. Victorian fixtures and furnishings, which belonged to the Whyman family, also remain, including gilded mantel and pier mirrors, a piano, several tables and a bedroom suite in the Renaissance Revival style, framed photographs and other personal effects.

The main block has a center hall plan with two flanking rooms on each side. On the first story a small vestibule separates the main entry from the hallway. The open staircase has a bracketed string course, turned balusters, and heavy newel post. Segmentally-arched, double doors connect the hallway to both front rooms; sliding doors connect front and back rooms on both sides. These rooms have heavily molded door and window surrounds, four-panel doors with heavily-molded recessed panels and white porcelain knobs, molded baseboards, picture moldings, molded plaster cornices, and ornate plaster ceiling medallions, from which hang brass and glass chandeliers. The front rooms have white marble mantels; the southeast room has a brown marble mantel. The latter room, the original dining room, features a built-in cupboard with glass doors over drawers, located to one side of the fireplace. A door opposite leads into a small conservatory, which occupies the south bay window.

The detailing of the second floor is simpler, but includes plaster cornices and medallions, molded woodwork, and, in several rooms, mantels. To accommodate an apartment in the 1960s remodeling, the open well of the staircase was enclosed

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Item number 7

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(railing left intact) and one of the bedrooms was converted into a kitchen. The finishes of the third floor are much plainer. No decorative plaster and mantels are present, and the woodwork is quite plain. A ladder stair leads to the cupola, which is provided with built-in seats.

The rear wing contains a kitchen and pantry on the first floor, service stairs, and several small chambers and a remodeled bathroom on the second. The kitchen was extensively remodeled in recent years, but retains a brick hearth fitted with a cast-iron, coal-fired range, marked "Richardson and Bounton Co., 234 Water Street, New York, patented 1886."

The outbuildings and landscape features are almost of as much interest as the house. The lot is enclosed in front and along much of the north side by a picket fence of considerable age with square pickets and posts. Gates at both ends of the front open to a semi-circular driveway. Roughly centered within the front yard is a three-tiered, cast-iron fountain set in a round, brownstone-capped basin (2). Swans with curved necks ornament the squat pedestal of the lowest tier.

A brick-paved service yard is located immediately behind the rear ell. Within this area is a slate-capped well or cistern (3) fitted with a cast-iron pump with hand crank and wooden cover. A narrow slate sidewalk leads to the privy, which is hidden by an L-shaped lattice screen with bracketed box cornice and arched opening, and by a grape arbor. The privy (4) is a rectangular, frame, clapboarded structure with low-pitched hip roof, box cornice, two panel-doored entries on the south side, and a 4/4 sash window on each end wall. It appears to be of 19th-century date.

Beyond the privy stands the large, frame, 2-story, hip-roofed carriage house (5). It has clapboard siding, a small louvered cupola topped by a weathervane, a front gable with hoist above an upper-floor entry, 6/6 sash windows, two wagon entries with panel doors hung on strap hinges, and a side entry with six-panel door. It probably is contemporary with the house, which it resembles stylistically.

The area to the west and south of the carriage house is paved with random slate flagstones. East and south of the carriage house, which also probably served as a stable, is a complex of one-story outbuildings of brick and frame construction, with low-pitched gable roofs. These appear to date to the early 20th century, although they may be earlier. The two of brick construction -- one evidently a garage, the other a workshop -- have stuccoed stone foundations and 6/6 sash windows with segmentally-arched lintels and slate sills. The garage (6) has a

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gable-end entry with paneled double doors hung on strap hinges. The workshop (7) has a gable-end entry with paneled doors, and two batten-doored entries on the north side. The two frame sheds (8) probably were chicken coops and have clapboard siding and 6/6 sash windows. East of these buildings is an enclosed garden and arbor and a small green house (9).

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** ca. 1860-71      **Builder/Architect** Unknown

**Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)**

The Whyman Parish House is the best-preserved example of a cubical Italianate villa in Elizabeth. Although the type was once common in Elizabeth, there are now few, if any, other remaining unaltered examples. With its intact decorative detailing, it is the best local example not only of its type, but of domestic architecture of the mid to late Victorian period. The property achieves added significance because of the preservation of not only the main house, but also the attendant outbuildings and landscape features. The complex is an outstanding illustration of the suburban villa properties that proliferated in growing Elizabeth in the second half of the 19th century.

The property on which Whyman Parish House stands was purchased in 1860 by Edward N. Kellogg, a member of a family that was active in developing the section of Elizabeth in which the house is located. The lot is shown as vacant on a map of Elizabeth published ca. 1860. The property was included in a series of transactions in which Kellogg, his family, and his heirs were involved during the next ten years. Because these transactions involved numerous tracts, it is difficult to determine whether any were occupied by buildings. The last of these transfers took place in 1869, when Kellogg's executors and Augustus C. Kellogg sold a piece of property on Newark Avenue to William W. Crane, George W. Tubbs, and Augustus C. Kellogg. These three then sold the lot on which the Whyman Parish House stands to Peter B. Amory in 1871. At this time the property description includes the term "house and lot."

Amory, however, did not occupy the house, since the directories list him as living on Parker Road. In 1875 the property changed hands again, this time at Sheriff's sale. The purchaser was Mary J.F. Pratt of Brooklyn, NY. She also appears to have been an absentee owner. In 1902 Mrs. Pratt conveyed the property to Thomas Whyman. Members of the Whyman family continued to occupy the house until 1965, when Joseph K. Whyman left it by will to the Central Baptist Church.

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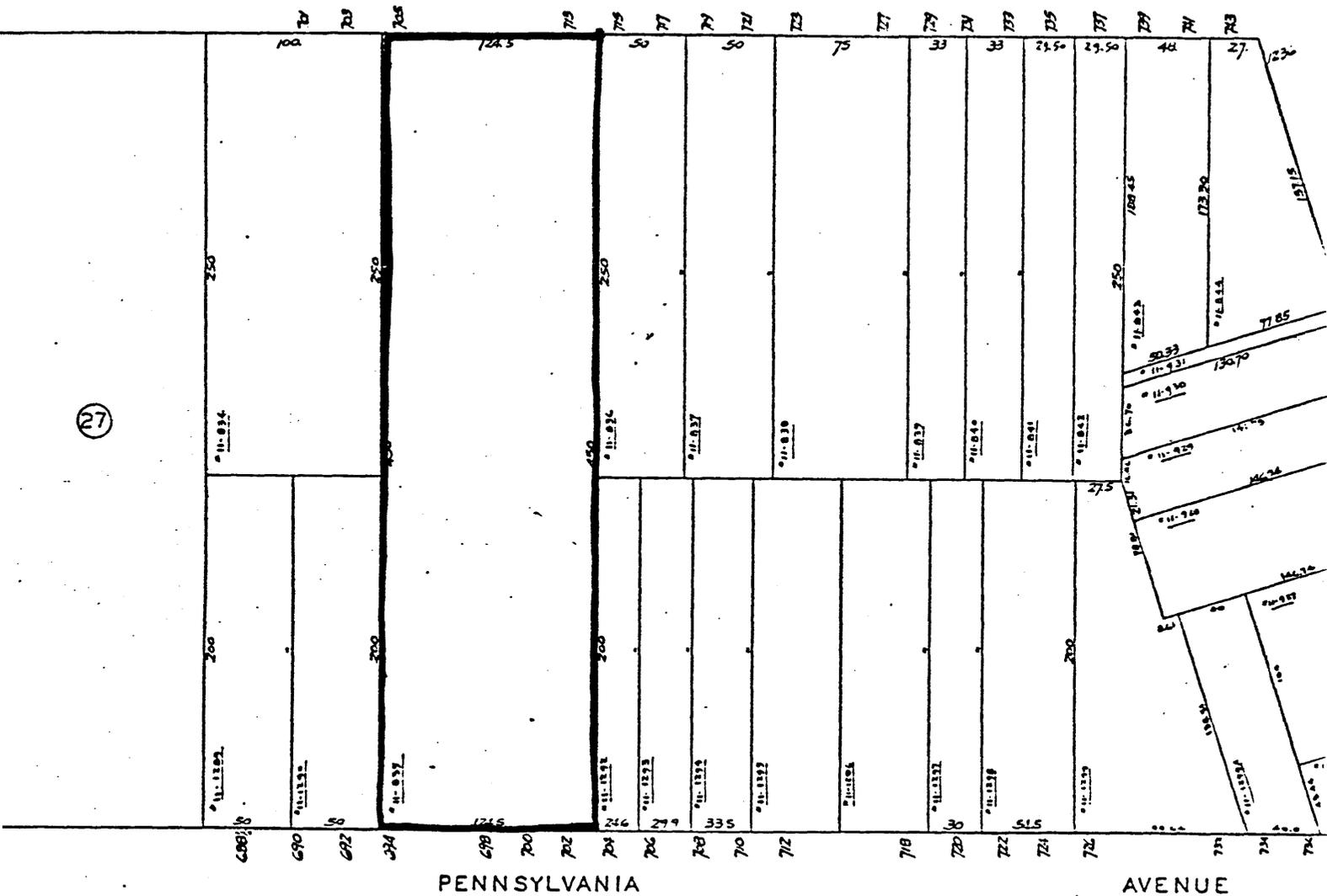
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CLINTON PLACE

NEWARK

AVENUE

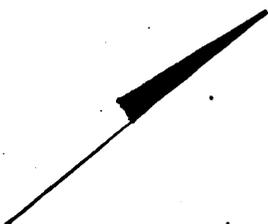
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PENNSYLVANIA

AVENUE

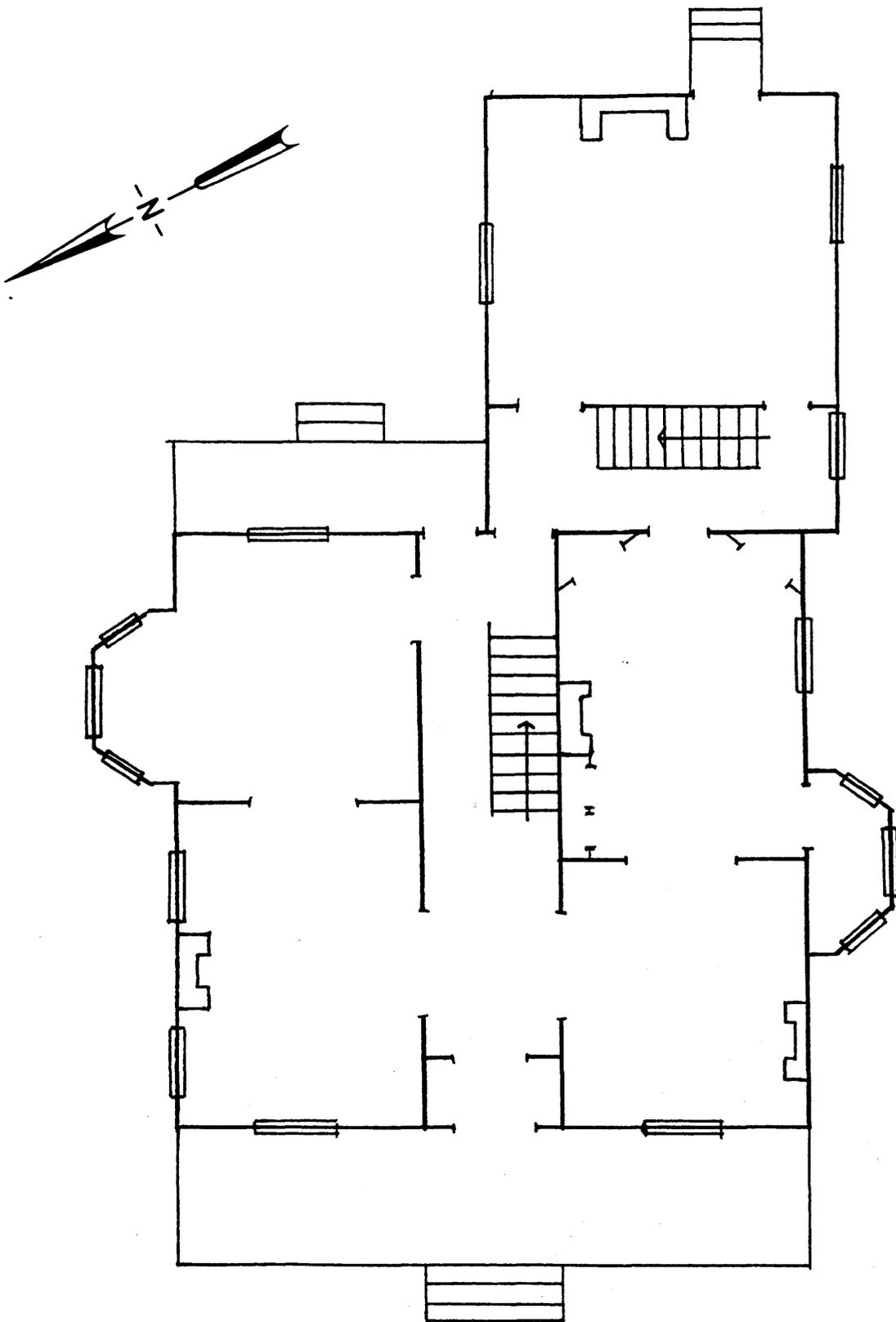
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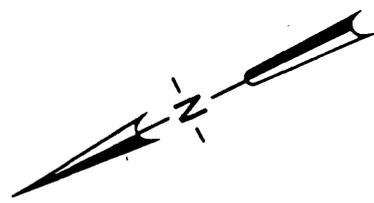
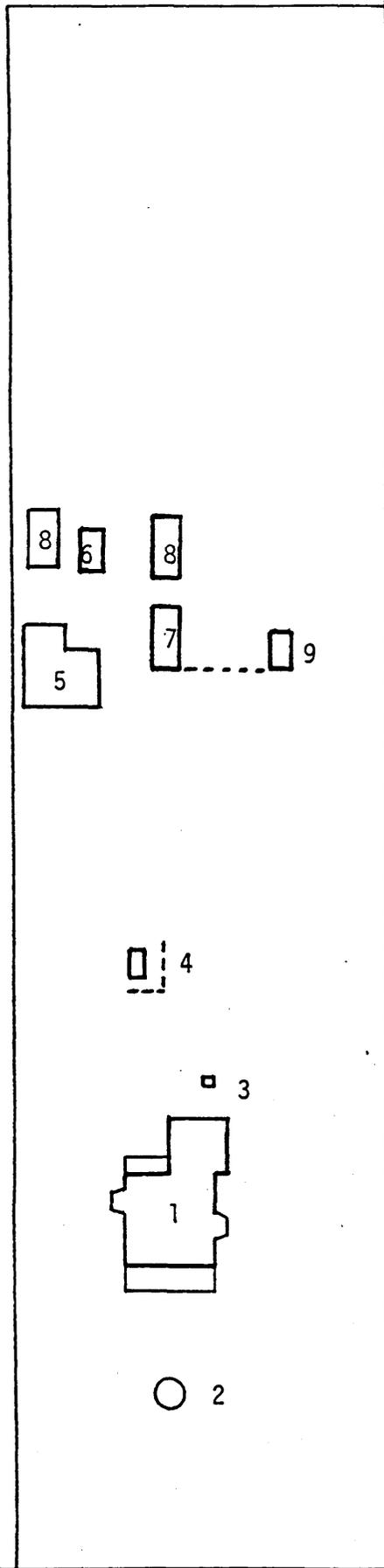


WHYMAN PARISH HOUSE  
ELIZABETH TAX MAP  
Elizabeth, Union County, NJ

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Whyman Parish House, Elizabeth, Union County, NJ  
Floor Plan





Whyman Parish House  
 Site Plan, Elizabeth, Union  
 County, NJ

- 1. house
- 2. fountain
- 3. pump
- 4. privy
- 5. carriage house
- 6. garage
- 7. work shop
- 8. sheds
- 9. green house