

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0678856

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAR 12 1979
DATE ENTERED MAY 14 1979

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 Orville Taylor Waring House (Runyon Funeral Home)
AND/OR COMMON
Runyon Funeral Home

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
900 Park Avenue
CITY, TOWN
Plainfield
STATE
New Jersey
CODE
34
COUNTY
Union
CODE
035

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
A. M. Runyon & Sons, Inc. (Funeral Home) ✓
STREET & NUMBER
900 Park Avenue
CITY, TOWN
Plainfield
STATE
New Jersey

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Union County Court House
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN
Elizabeth
STATE
New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory
DATE
1978
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Office of Historic Preservation
CITY, TOWN
Trenton
STATE
New Jersey

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This Victorian Mansion has been well maintained and is situated on a beautifully landscaped property on a prominent corner in what used to be one of the prime residential areas of Plainfield.

This is a 2 1/2 story brick mansion built in 1881 by Orville Taylor Waring and designed by Charles H. Smith, a local architect who did several mansions in the Plainfield area, including the Bronson - McCutchen home in North Plainfield. He was particularly good in his use of masonry elements. This building is no exception. The featured belt course of diagonally laid brick, corbelled corners and terra cotta frieze give the building characteristics so typical of the late Victorian period.

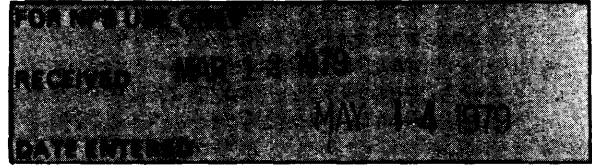
The main front gable is embellished with a large sunburst grillwork made up of heavy turnings which are repeated on a projecting balcony over the side entrance door. There is a heavy wooden curved soffit across the front at the base of the second floor overhang, blending into the built-in gutter housing which runs across and around the building like a hood. The gray slate roof has each shingle shaped with clipped corners and the brick chimneys pilastered, accenting each flue ornamentally and flaring at the top. Dormers have heavy verge boards about 10" wide and peak of gable embellished with a heavy wooden scroll like the ornamentation on a Greek helmet. The porte cochere and "Veranda" which runs across the entire front of the building is constructed of a pinkish gray granite treated with heavy wide smooth courses, giving a rustication effect in contrast to the rock faced even coursed field. Round smooth stone columns with a pseudo corinthian capital of acanthus leaves surround the raised porch. Most of the sash are one over one plate glass windows with a liberal sprinkling of D.H. leaded glass, even to one of the dormer sash.

One enters through a pair of heavy ornamental iron grilled doors with plate glass set into a heavy oak frame into a central hall with 2 parlors or formal rooms on either side. The hall has a wood dado consisting of narrow vertical wood recessed panels and wide vertical fluted molding trim with acanthus leave blocks at the top. The ceiling has a delicate applied stylized floral motif around the edge forming panels in the center of which are concentric ringed medallions for lighting fixtures. The junction of walls and ceiling also have heavy plaster moldings.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Orville Taylor Waring House
Plainfield
Union County New Jersey 034



CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

7 PAGE 1

Description (continued)

The stair rises from the rear portion of the hall separating the service area from the "public" rooms. It is anchored by a massive square newel post and fairly simple turned balusters with pierced wood brackets at the top of each baluster connecting it to the heavy mahogany rail.

There is a fine large stained glass window on the stair landing with a heavy iron grill design in lead. Most of the glass is a hammered glass clear opaque with a canary yellow and black featured border and center medallion. There is much of the Eastlake feeling throughout the house in moldings and trim, with the only constrasting supprises being the delicate floral plaster ceiling moldings.

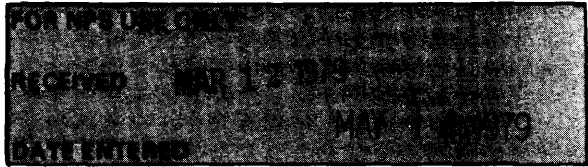
Floors are presently completely covered with carpet, but were originally parquet. The side entrance door has a similar geometric wrought iron and hammered glass panel to that on stair landing, but a little more floral in concept.

The ceiling of the parlor to the right as you enter is a series of 2'0 x 2'0 coffers framed with heavily ornamented moldings and surrounding plaster decorative floral motifs that completely fill the panel. The wood part of the mantelpieces are relatively simple Eastlake in filling and the face of masonry covered with strongly contrasting black and white polished marble. Crystal chandeliers still grace the parlors which all connect through wide pairs of recessed sliding doors.

The second floor has heavy plaster moldings at the ceiling, similar door trim to first floor except for circular Bullseye corner blocks on door trim. Another freestanding massive newel post on stair leading to third floor. Some mantelpieces have been removed, but the remaining are simple Eastlake designs with mosaic tile facings and hearth.

The building is in almost original condition and any changes have been made tastefully and without injuring the overall effect. It is a good example of a house of this period's elaborate taste in architecture.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Orville Taylor Waring House
Plainfield
Union County
New Jersey 034

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

Description (continued)

Site Data

The property is located on the southwest corner of Park Avenue and West Ninth Street. The land rises gently to about 3' above street grade near the frontage, and it remains level at that grade over the balance of the property. It is approximately rectangular in shape. The plot has a frontage of 200.3' on Park Avenue and a frontage of 219+' on Ninth Street. The rear or westerly line is 199.56', and the southerly side line is 232.93'. It comprises a total of approximately 45,000 square feet; just over one acre.

All utilities, including water, gas, electricity, sanitary and storm sewers are available to the subject site. Concrete curbs and sidewalks run along both street frontages and both streets are paved with bituminous penetration.

The building occupies approximately 16% of the land area; while the driveways and parking area occupy approximately 35% of the site. This leaves a balance of 49% of the land area devoted to extensive and attractively landscaped lawns, shrubs, gardens, trees, walks and fountains.

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	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1881 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Charles H. Smith

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Orville Taylor Waring was an important figure in the development of the oil industry during the last quarter of the 19th century. Waring's lifelong home in Plainfield, built in 1881 by local architect Charles H. Smith, is a good example of late Victorian architecture and representative of the substantial houses built in Plainfield in the late 19th - early 20th century. The building has been the Runyon Funeral Home since Waring's death in 1923.

The Orville Taylor Waring House, built ca. 1881, is significant for its historic associations with the development of Plainfield, New Jersey. The house is a good example of Victorian architecture, and is significant for its excellent craftsmanship and detailing so typical of the period.

Orville Taylor Waring (1840-1923) was one of the early settlers of this community and according to deed recorded on April 19, 1872 Waring acquired this property from a Cornelius P. Ross (Union County Deeds page 485, Book 6.). Early records indicate the house was built approximately 1881-1882.

Industry

Waring was a pioneer in the oil industry having been associated with the Standard Oil Co. since its founding in 1874 and was one of those men instrumental in building up the oil industry of the world, along with John D. Rockefeller. Mr. Waring held various posts in the Standard Oil Co. and was considered an authority on lubricating oils. He was also responsible for the formation of the Plainfield Trust Company in 1902, one of the leading banks in Central Jersey, now the United National Bank.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

New York Times. May 19, 1923. Plainfield Courier News. May 19, 1923
Union County Deeds:

- Cornelius P. Ross to Hester Amelia Waring 4/13/1881.
- Orville G. Waring, Trustee to Jennie V. Runyon, et. al. 1/25/1925.
- Elmer Runyon and Claire R. Runyon to Helen Runyon Dodd and Jane Runyon Baker. 6/25/1950. Book 1829, p. 90.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

QUADRANGLE NAME Plainfield

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 549520 4495720
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property occupies City Block 364, Lot 1 and is approximately 200' X 240' in size.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Terry Karschner, Historic Preservation Specialist

ORGANIZATION Office of Historic Preservation

DATE November, 1978

STREET & NUMBER 109 West State Street

TELEPHONE 609-292-2023

CITY OR TOWN Trenton

STATE New Jersey

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

Deputy

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

[Handwritten Signature]

2-15-79

TITLE Deputy Commissioner, Dept. of Environmental Protection DATE February 16, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 5-14-79

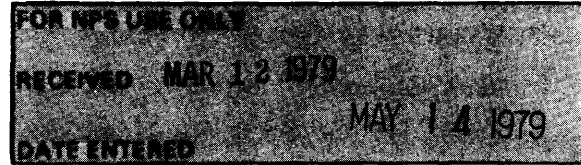
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *[Handwritten Signature]*
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE May 14, 1979

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**



Orville Taylor Waring House
Plainfield
Union County New Jersey 034
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

Significance (continued)

Commerce

After the death of O.T. Waring in 1923, the property transferred title to Jennie V. and Kenneth E. Runyon on January 25, 1926 for a sum of \$42,000. The mansion was bought for the purpose of running a funeral business at this site. The business is at this location to the present day. This is one of the oldest established businesses in the State having been established in 1860. A.M. Runyon & Son, Inc. is owned by Herbert A. Toms Jr. and Jene F. Henershot, the stockholders.

Architecture

The Waring House was built in 1881 by local architect Charles H. Smith for Orville T. Waring, an executive with Standard Oil Company. Smith designed many of the more elaborate late 19th century buildings in Plainfield. Interestingly, it appears that when the building was converted into the Runyon Funeral Home in the 1920's Smith was commissioned to do the alterations assuring a sympathetic changeover from residence to commercial. A good example of late Victorian architecture, the Waring House evidences excellent craftsmanship and fine detailing, inside and out.