

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received **OCT 17 1985**

date entered **NOV 25 1985**

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

1. Name

historic Union County Park Commission Administration Buildings

and/or common Acme Street Buildings

2. Location

street & number Acme Street and Canton Street NA not for publication

city, town Elizabeth _____ vicinity of

state New Jersey code 034 county Union code 039

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" 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
	<u>NA</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name County of Union

street & number Union County Administration Building, Elizabethtown Plaza

city, town Elizabeth _____ vicinity of state New Jersey 07206

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Union County Courthouse, Register of Deeds

street & number Broad Street and Rahway Ave.

city, town Elizabeth _____ vicinity of state New Jersey

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Elizabeth Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1984 _____ federal _____ state _____ county local

depository for survey records Office of New Jersey Heritage

city, town Trenton _____ vicinity of state New Jersey

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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

The former Union County Park Commission Administration Complex consists of two structures, the Administration Building and the Service Building, in the Tudor Revival style. Constructed in 1925/1924, respectively, the buildings are sited on opposite sides of a service courtyard at the northeast corner of Warinanco Park in Elizabeth, New Jersey. Typical of the better Tudor Revival work of the early twentieth century, they utilize a variety of building materials: brick, stucco, rusticated stone, slate, etc. Their setting at the edge of the park enhances the romantic appeal of their design, which is evocative of a small, English manor farm.

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

The Administration Building, completed in 1925, is a 1½ story, assymetrically massed, gable-across structure which has multiple cross gables. It consists of a 3 bay main block (approx. 56' 5" X 43' 6") and an angled, 3 bay, L-shaped west wing (approx. 36' 10" X 47'). The two sections are connected and serviced by a pentagonal entry hall. Primarily brick (Flemish bond) and stucco, the building has decorative half-timbering in a variety of patterns in the gable peaks and the projecting cross gables, including quatrefoil bands under some windows. The irregular multi-gabled roof, with overhanging eaves and wooden vergeboards, is of graduated, textural, multicolored slate and has snowguards. The roofline is punctuated by three chimneys: two exterior (both on the Main Block, front and rear), each with paired octagonal shafts, corbeled caps, and clay chimney pots; and one rectangular, hooded interior (West Wing).

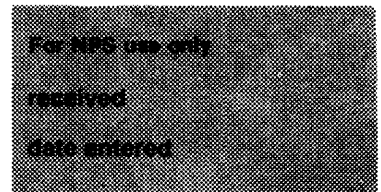
The facade (South Elevation), which faces the park, has a projecting, gabled, Tudor-arched center entrance which has been permanently sealed (1950's) and converted to a window. The original hexagonal iron lamps still flank the former entrance. Indian grinding stones sit on each side of the concrete entrance steps. The brick first story has multi-paned sash set in bands of two (West Wing) to four (Main Block). Those of the Main Block have multi-paned transoms. All have stone table (Gibbs) surrounds. The tri-gabled Main Block has half-timbering and paired sash under the main two gable peaks. The exterior chimney is flanked by lancet windows at the first level. The West Wing has two gabled dormers and an on-ridge center chimney.

A semi-octagonal bay and a cant bay are on the east and west elevations, respectively. The irregular, multi-gabled north (rear) elevation, which faces the courtyard and Service Building, has four entrances. Two of the doors are Tudor-arched with Gibbs surrounds and have 15 light/six panel doors. One (basement) retains the original leaded glass. The other two are 12 light/2 panel doors. The covered entrance which leads to the main hall has been altered (spindlework removed; windows added - 1960's).

The building's foundation is poured concrete, though brickwork extends almost to grade. There are a number of single and paired basement windows (some iron-barred) at grade level. Three Indian grinding stones are located at the east end, and an early nineteenth century stone road marker, thought to be from

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Union County Park Comm. Admin. NJ

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Rahway, is situated a short distance from the southeast corner and reads: "5½ Miles to Elizabeth Town".

The interior, which formerly served as office space for the Union County Park commission (later known as the Department of Parks and Recreation), has remained substantially unaltered. The pentagonal entry hall, previously accessed by both front (closed) and rear entrances, services the two sections. A chestnut staircase with three turned balusters per tread is to the west of the rear entrance. The original cylindrical hanging lamp, which is suspended in the center of the hall, has textured glass in an iron frame. The Main Block (east) contains a hall and five rooms. They are: the General Office, Drafting Room with vault, paneled fireplace, and chestnut staircase to second floor; the Secretary's Room with paneled fireplace; two smaller offices; and a rear entrance hall. The West Wing contains the Board Room, which has a Tudor-arched fireplace with ashlar opening; a smaller office, the Police Department Room; the Emergency Room; and two tiled restrooms (All designations signify original use.). In both sections, fireplaces have classically styled chestnut mantels and paneling. All fireplace openings, with the exception of the Boardroom fireplace, have been temporarily boarded. There is chestnut woodwork and linoleum flooring throughout.

The second floor contains a large Engineering Room (Main Block) with corner fireplace, a corridor, attic storage space, and men's and women's restrooms. All restroom fixtures, with the exception of the vanity-sink in the second floor Ladies' Room, are original and the floors are ceramic tiled. The basement contains three storerooms, one with a fireproof vault; a service vestibule, locker and shower room; janitor's room; boiler room; and coal storage room.

With the exception of the addition of dropped ceilings and several partitions in a few rooms, the closing of fireplaces, and the replacement of some light fixtures, the interior closely resembles its original appearance.

SERVICE BUILDING:

The Service Building, completed in 1924, is a massive, L-shaped (approx. 150' X 32', 88' X 20'), 1½ story building of stucco, with decorative half-timbering and rusticated stone. It has a steep, hipped and gabled, multicolor slate, stepped-down roof, a feature which gives it a Norman flavor. The roof is accented by gabled, hipped, and shed dormers. There is one stuccoed interior (rear) chimney. The projecting, gabled, round-arched main entrance to the Blacksmith Shop is of rusticated stone with half-timbering and a wheel window

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in the gable peak. The double leaf, batten door has strap hinges. The entrance is flanked by bands of multi-pane sash with transoms, and there are stone buttresses at the shop corners. To the east of the entrance is a long bank of wooden garage bays with narrow, vertical windows. The massive end gable, west of the entrance, is half-timbered and has vergeboard. The Shed, at the rear of the ell (West Elevation) has overhead garage doors. The East Elevation has a gabled, multi-pane large window and the North Elevation (rear) is stucco with quatrefoil half-timbering in a partial frieze. The original copper weathervane surmounts the southwest corner of the structure.

The interior of the Main Block was designed to consist of the Storage Room, the Blacksmith and Machine Shop, Garage, and Office, all of which are connected by a series of brick interior arches. The Attic is accessed by an enclosed staircase from the Storage Room. The ell consists of a Carpenter Shop and the Shed (all original designations). This structure, which has no foundation, has a poured concrete floor and steel footings. Although the use of the building's components has changed slightly so that it is now used primarily for storage, it has undergone few alterations and retains its original appearance.

CONCLUSION:

Architecturally, the Administration Buildings have suffered little loss of integrity since they were constructed in the 1920's. There was some loss of landscaping when courtyard parking space was expanded in the 1960's-1970's, and when the Administration Building was vacated by the Department of Parks and Recreation in 1982 and expected to be vacant for a year or two, chain link fencing was installed to protect the vacant building from vandalism. Although not attractive, this recent addition of fencing has not altered the buildings or site in any way, and the two structures remain a fine example of their style, looking much the way they appeared at the time of their construction.

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 checked="" 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics:government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1924/1925 **Builder/Architect** C. Godfrey Poggi, Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Union County Park Commission Administration Buildings complex is the finest civic expression of the picturesque English Tudor Revival style of the early twentieth century to be found within Union County. Designed by C. Godfrey Poggi, a significant local architect who practised for more than fifty years, the two buildings were conceived as an integral part of the Olmsted Brothers' plan for the Union County Park System. Although there are many examples of the Tudor style in residential architecture in the County's municipalities, few public buildings were designed in this style and the complex was obviously intended to imitate the English rural architecture on which the style was based, two factors which make the buildings unique in the area. Set on opposite sides of a courtyard in the northeastern corner of Warinanco Park, the jewel of the park system, they have suffered few alterations since their construction in 1924/1925 and are still able to evoke a vision of a sixteenth century English manor farm. From the time of its construction until recently, the complex was continuously used as headquarters for the Department of Parks and Recreation (formerly the UCPC). The Service Building continues to be utilized for park maintenance purposes. Although the Administration Building is currently being used for office space for another County department, that use is a temporary one, and the Department of Parks plans to house its Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs in the facility by the end of the 1980's, thus returning it to its original department.

Creation of the Park System, Warinanco Park, and the Administration Complex

The Union County Park Commission was appointed November 19, 1921, in accordance with the 1895 "Act to Establish Public Parks in certain Counties of this State and to Regulate the Same..." Following successful passage of a referendum for the creation of a County park system, a preliminary commission hired the Olmsted Brothers firm, established by Frederick Law Olmsted, to report on the opportunities present in the County for the creation of such a system, and that firm was ultimately hired to plan a system which was to consist mainly of a mountain reservation, parkways along both the Elizabeth and Rahway Rivers, and a number of community parks geared to all types of recreation.

Warinanco Park, the park planned for Elizabeth/Roselle, was to compare favorably (approx. 200 Acres) with Weequahic and Branch Brook Parks in Essex County and was to lie, for the most part, in Roselle at the Elizabeth border. Since this was to be the largest of the community parks and was to serve residents of the County Seat, it was only fitting that the Administration Complex should be located in this park, and the original Olmsted Brothers' plans indicate the complex, in its present configuration, in the northeast corner of the park.

9. Major Bibliographical References

"C. Godfrey Poggi, Architect," The Elizabeth Daily Journal, Feb. 15, 1957, p. 16
"C. Godfrey Poggi, 81," The New York Times, Feb. 16, 1957, p. 17

(See Continuation Sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 2.5

Quadrangle name Elizabeth

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	8	5	6	4	4	2	10	4	5	0	10	9	4	10
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary of the Union County Park Commission Administration Buildings is created by the 1102 feet of fencing which encloses the approximately 1.2 acres of Warinanco Park on which the buildings are sited. (Continuation sheet)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries NA

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Linda B. McTeague, Preservation Planner

organization Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs

date March 7, 1985

street & number 300 North Avenue East

telephone (201) 233-7906

city or town Westfield

state New Jersey 07090

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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 [Signature]

title Assistant Commissioner for Natural Resources

date October 7, 1985

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

[Signature]

date 11/25/85

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: [Signature]

date 11-25-85

~~Chief of Registration~~

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The Commission hired C. Godfrey Poggi, one of Union County's most prominent architects, to design the complex. Poggi, who had begun his career in 1898, received much of his early training in the office of New York architect John M. Duncan, the designer of Grant's Tomb. He later became one of New Jersey's earliest licensed architects and served on the State Board of Architects for eight years, including one year as its president. By the time of his retirement in the mid-1950s, Poggi had designed numerous churches, commercial and industrial buildings, schools, and other public and institutional structures.² He had also been honored by being named the first Life Member of the Union County Society of Architects due to his long service in architecture and civic affairs.

The Complex

Poggi designed a complex which was to consist of two 1½ story buildings separated by a service courtyard. He chose the romantic English Tudor style, popular during the "Twenties", an appropriate choice for their setting on beautifully landscaped parkland since that style had been based on the rural architecture of England. The angled, irregular plan Administration Building would face the broad expanse of open parkland, but at the same time would blend with the undulating beds of trees and shrubs at its periphery. The massive, L-shaped Service Building was to face the rear entrances of the other building. To be constructed of stucco with decorative half-timbering and rusticated stone, it would exhibit a slightly more Norman flavor than the Administration Building, which would be built of a variety of materials, including brick, stucco, wood, stone, usually associated with the better executed examples of this style. A newspaper account of the project described the undertaking as follows:

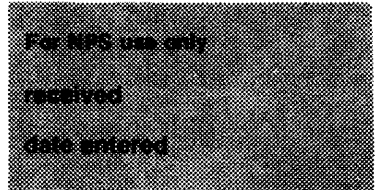
Touch of Old England Will Be Given Layout Of Structures and Grounds at Roselle Line. Nestled in a hollow with sloping approaches, the headquarters of the Union County Park Commission, with quaint English half-timber architecture and ³surrounding shrubbery and flower beds, will be an attractive site...

The Service Building, constructed by the Old Union Construction Company, was completed in March, 1924. The Administration Building, erected by John Lowry, Inc., was completed in February, 1925.⁴

Today, as then, there is no other civic architecture within the County which even remotely resembles this complex, making it truly unique. In addition, the quality of its construction and design allow it to compare favorably with the best examples of the Tudor Revival style to be found in the state. In addition,

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its setting in the park and its relationship to the development of the Union County Park System make it truly worthy of recognition and preservation.

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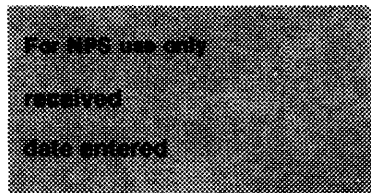
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NOTES

¹ The Preliminary Commission, appointed April 30, 1921, by Justice James J. Bergen of the New Jersey Supreme Court consisted of the following: Henry S. Chatfield, Elizabeth (Pres.); Charles Hansel, Cranford (Vice-Pres.); Arthur R. Wendell, Rahway (Sec.); Caxton Brown, Summit (Treas.); and Percy R. Stewart, Plainfield. Mr. Stewart did not serve. Following passage of a referendum in November, 1921, Justice Bergen appointed a Permanent Commission consisting of the first four members plus Charles A. Reed of Summit.

² Other important structures designed by C. Godfrey are as follows: In Elizabeth: Battin High School, Grover Cleveland Junior High School, Public Schools Nos. 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17; St. Mark's Lutheran Church; Home Memorial Presbyterian Church; Elizabeth Home for Aged Women; Singer Recreation Building and, in collaboration with other architects, the Elizabeth Public Library; St. Elizabeth Hospital; The Elizabeth Daily Journal Building, Elizabeth Y.M.C.A.; Westminster Presbyterian Church; and two housing projects, Pioneer Homes and Mravlag Manor. In other communities, Poggi is known for the design of Cranford High School, Linden School Nos. 2 and 3, Hillside Schools Nos. 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8; and the Cranford Masonic Temple.

³ "Picturesque Site For Park Offices," The Daily Journal, Nov. 20, 1923.

⁴ The construction costs, exclusive of plumbing, electrical, and heating, was \$36,500 for the Service Building and \$80,750 for the Administration Building.

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Bibliography

"Minutes of the Union County Park Commission, 1921-1924"

Olmsted Brothers. "Report to Union County Park Commission," July 5, 1921.

"Picturesque Site For Park Offices," The Daily Journal, Elizabeth, November 20, 1923.

Poggi, C. Godfrey. Plans for Service Building, October, 1923.

Poggi, C. Godfrey. Plans for Administration Building, May 1, 1924.

"Report of Union County Park Commission: 1922"

"Report of Union County Park Commission: 1922-1924-1925"

"Twenty-five Year Report of the Union County Park Commission, 1921-1946"

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National Park Service**

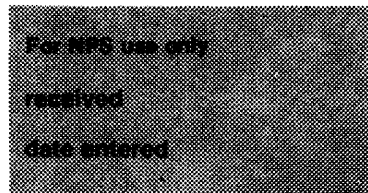
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DESCRIPTION OF BOUNDARIES

Beginning at a point in the westerly right-of-way line of Acme Street, which point is also 50 feet north of the southerly right-of-way line of Canton Street if projected; and running thence the following courses and distances:

- (1) Southerly, a distance of 113 feet to a point on the prolongation of Park Drive and 21 feet offset from the northeast corner of the Administration Building; thence running
- (2) Still southerly, a distance of 33.5 feet to a point of curvature in the edge of Park Drive; running thence
- (3) Along Park Drive southerly and curving to the right, a distance of 200 feet to a point at the beginning of the northeasterly edge of a bituminous path; thence running
- (4) Along the northeasterly edge of the bituminous path on a curve to the right, a distance of 303 feet to a point which is 86 feet offset from the northwest corner of the Administration Building; thence running
- (5) Still along the northeasterly edge of the bituminous path on a curve to the right, a distance of 173 feet to a point of compound curvature; thence running
- (6) On a curve to the right, having a radius of 93 feet for arc length of 70.6 feet to a point of tangency while diverging from the edge of the bituminous path; thence running
- (7) In a generally northerly direction of a straight line, a distance of 134.3 feet to a point of curvature; thence running
- (8) On a curve to the right, having a radius of 75 feet, for an arc distance of 212.1 feet to a point of tangency on the existing park boundary line; thence running
- (9) Along the park boundary line in a southerly direction, a distance of 105 feet to a corner of County Park lands; thence running
- (10) Easterly and at right angles to both the preceding course and to the right-of-way lines of Acme Street, a distance of 120 feet to the point and place of beginning.

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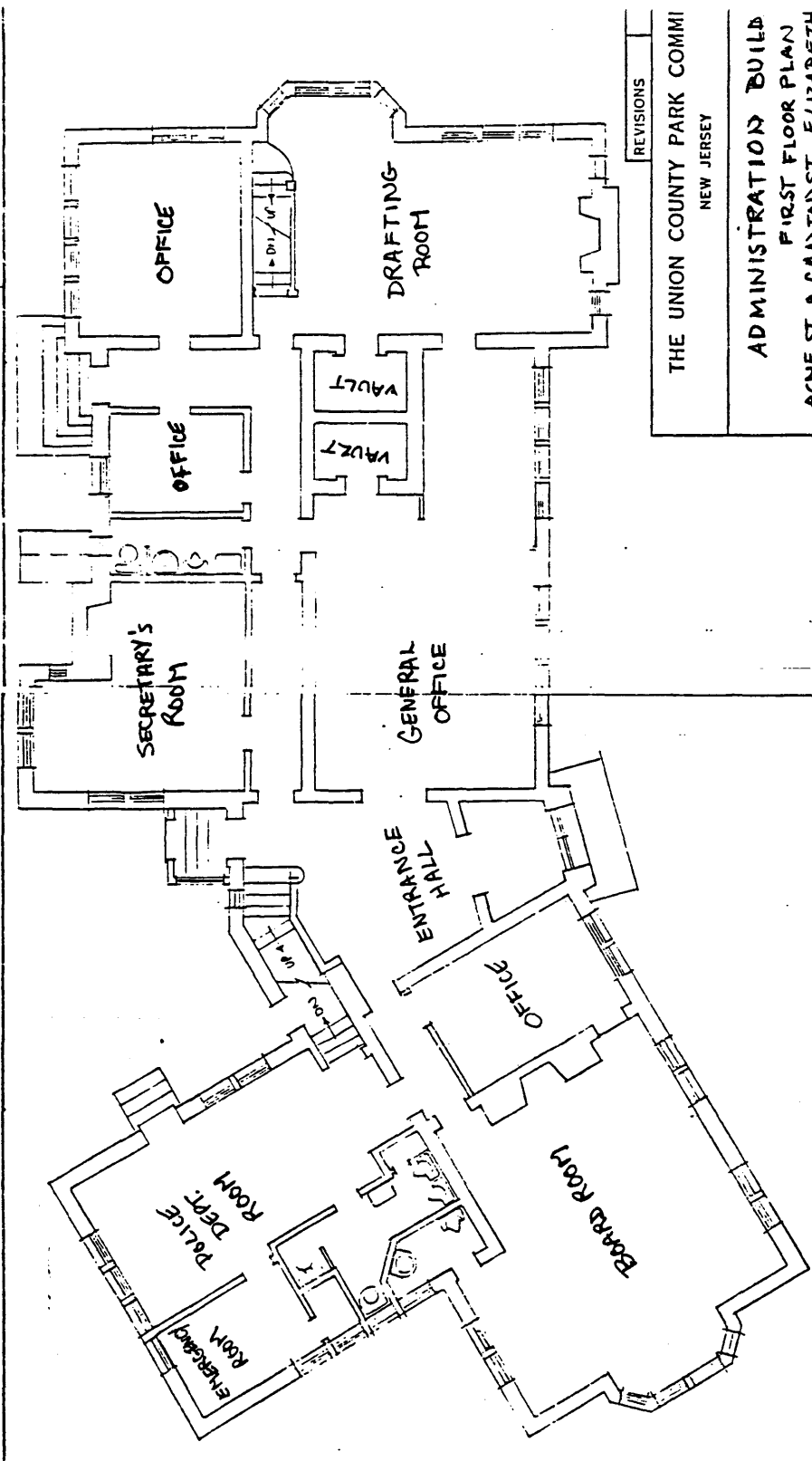
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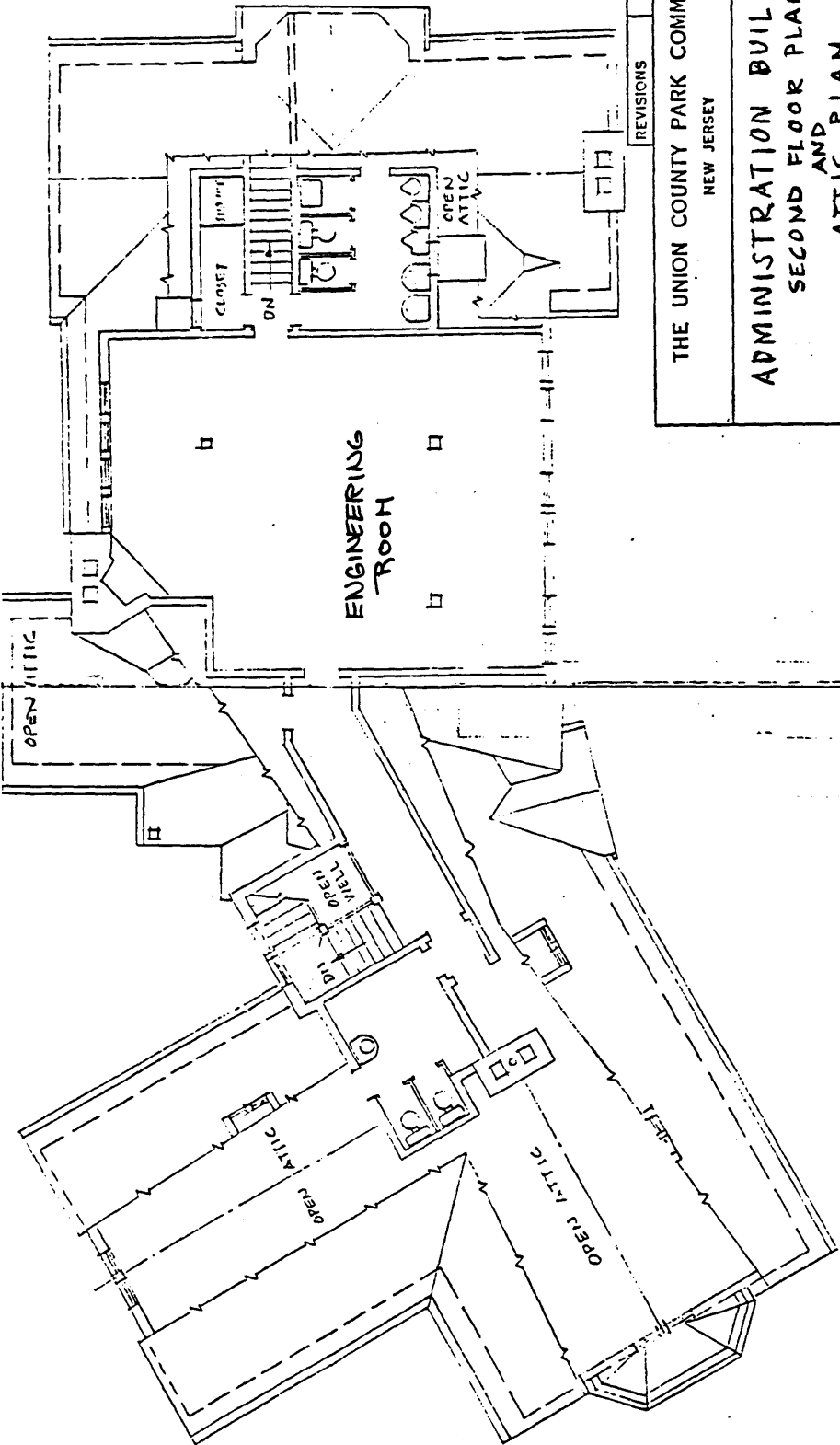
date entered

It is the purpose of the foregoing description to delineate that area of Warinanco Park, situated in Roselle and Elizabeth, New Jersey, which is proposed for inclusion in the New Jersey Register of Historic Places, containing the former Union County Park Commission Administration Building, containing approximately 2.50 acres.

Union County Park Commission
 Administration Building
 Elizabeth
 Union County, New Jersey



REVISIONS	
THE UNION COUNTY PARK COMMI NEW JERSEY	
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING FIRST FLOOR PLAN ACHE ST. & CANTON ST., ELIZABETH	
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"	DRN. BY:
PLAN NO:	DES. BY:
FIELD BK:	APP. BY:



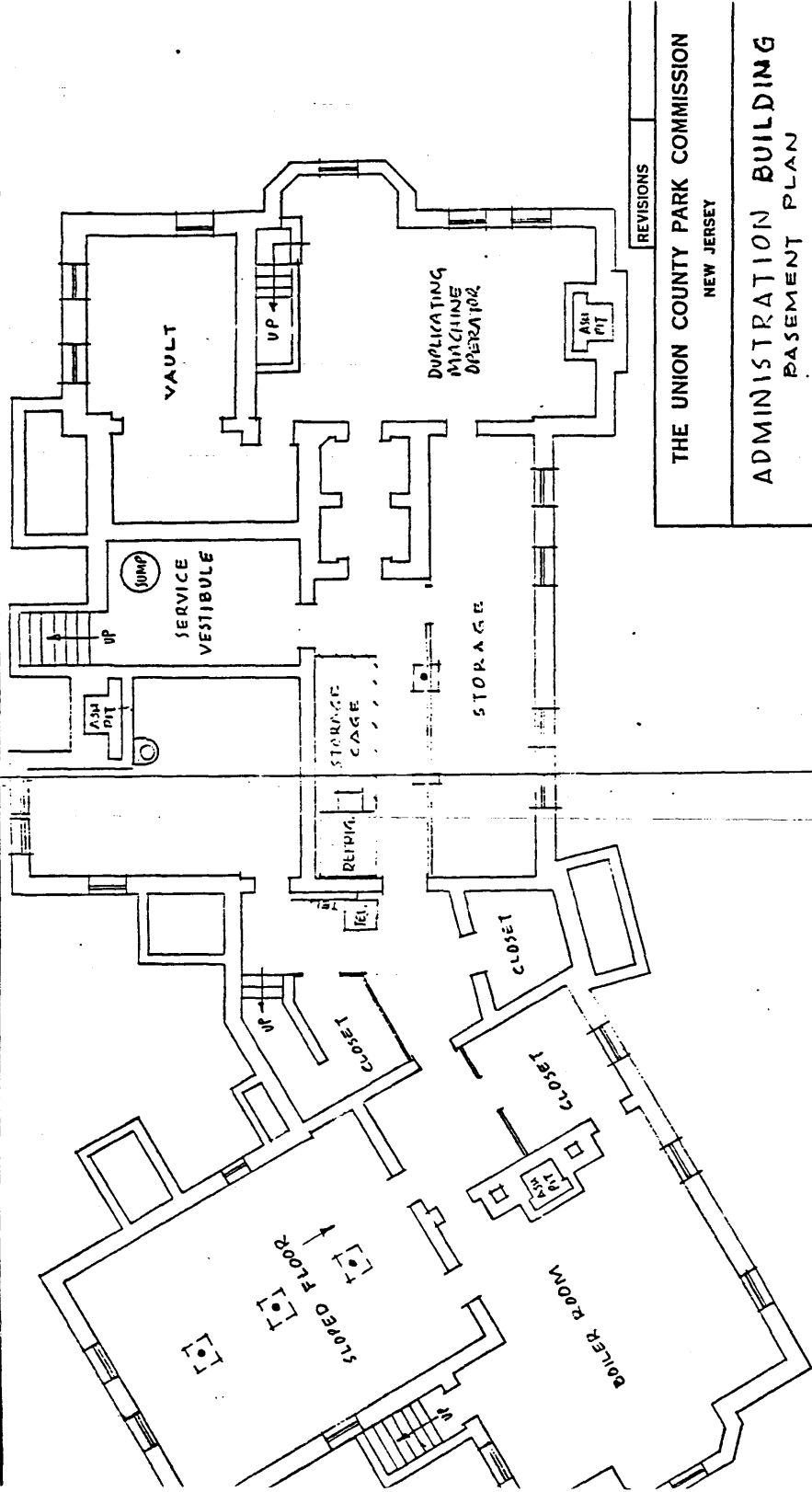
REVISIONS

THE UNION COUNTY PARK COMMIS
NEW JERSEY

ADMINISTRATION BUILD
SECOND FLOOR PLAN
AND
ATTIC PLAN

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"	DRN. BY: PYS
PLAN NO:	DES. BY:
FIELD BK:	APP. BY:

Union County Park Commission Administration
Building
Elizabeth, Union County, New Jersey



REVISIONS	
THE UNION COUNTY PARK COMMISSION NEW JERSEY	
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING BASEMENT PLAN	
SCALE: 1/8" = 1' - 0"	DATE: 4/24
PLAN NO:	DES. BY:
FIELD BK:	APP. BY:

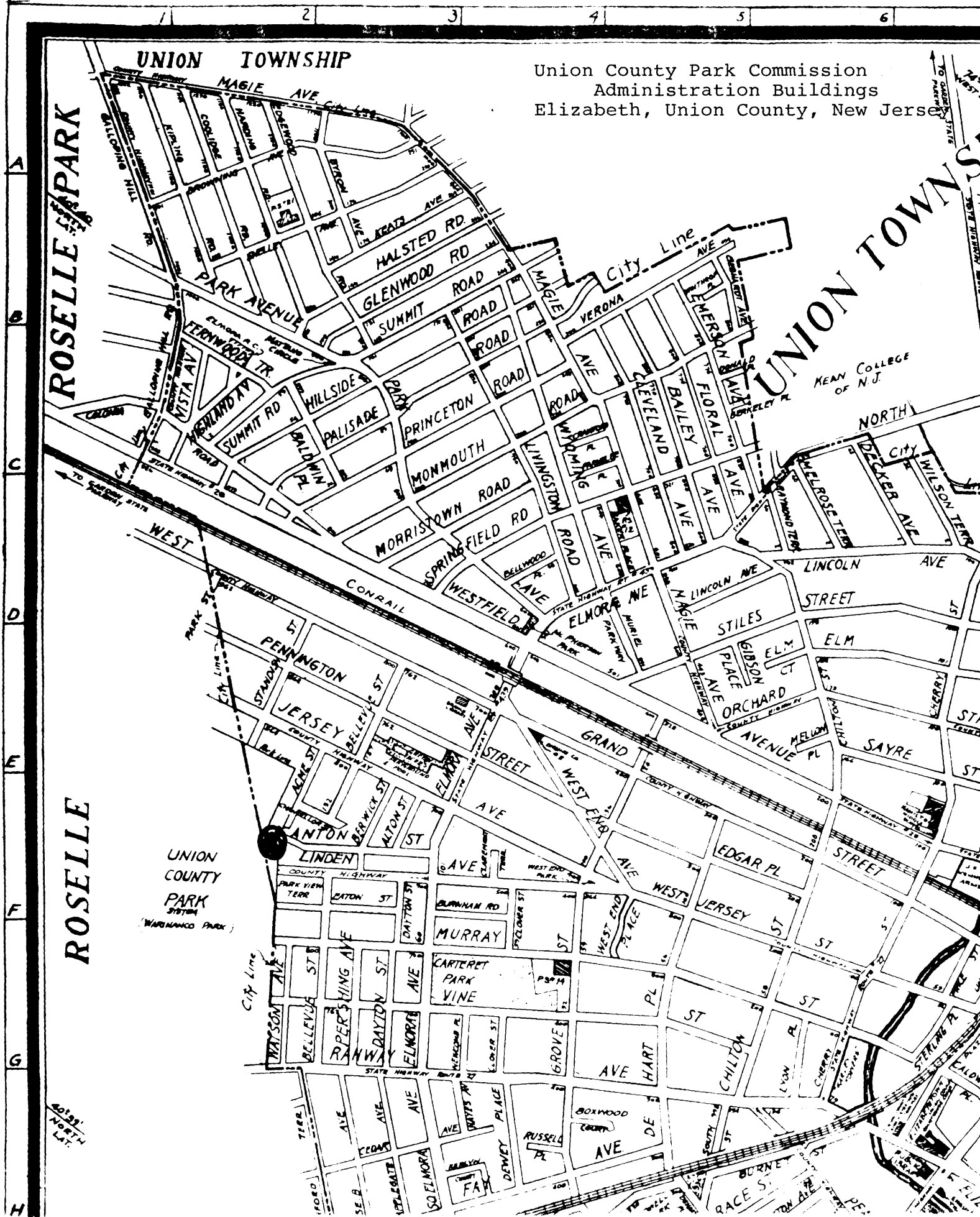
Union County Park Commission Administration Building
Elizabeth, Union County, New Jersey

UNION TOWNSHIP

Union County Park Commission
Administration Buildings
Elizabeth, Union County, New Jersey

ROSELLE PARK

UNION TOWNSHIP



UNION COUNTY
PARK
SYSTEM
(WARHANKO PARK)

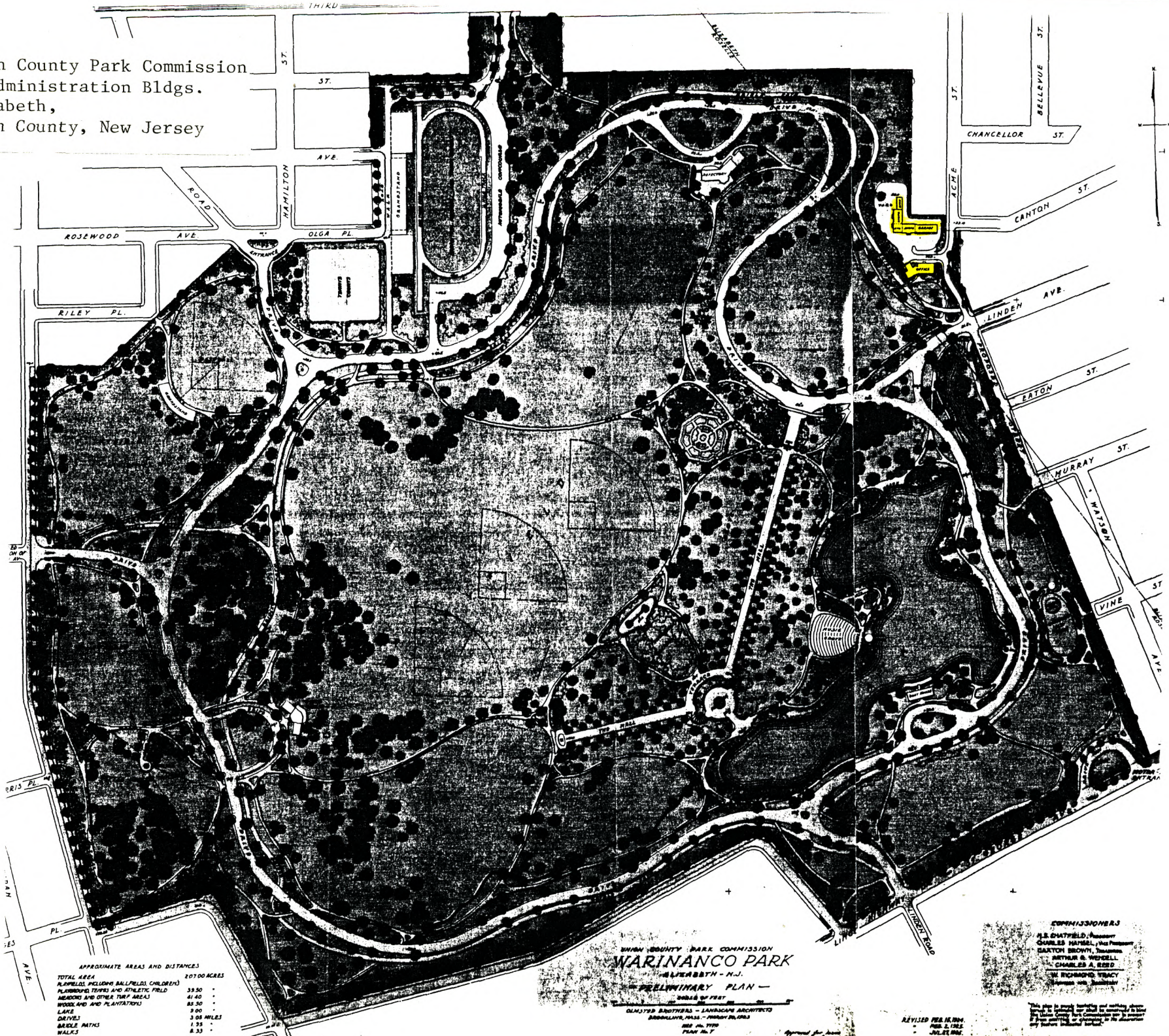
ROSELLE

A
B
C
D
E
F
G
H

2 3 4 5 6

50' 50' North

Union County Park Commission
 Administration Bldgs.
 Elizabeth,
 Union County, New Jersey



APPROXIMATE AREAS AND DISTANCES

TOTAL AREA	207.00 ACRES
PLAYFIELDS INCLUDING BALLFIELDS CHILDREN'S	38.50 "
PLANNED OPEN TOPPING AND ATHLETIC FIELD	41.40 "
Meadow and OTHER TURF AREAS	85.30 "
WOODS AND PLANTATIONS	2.80 "
LAKE	3.00 "
DRIVES	3.05 MILES
BRIDGE PATHS	1.55 "
WALKS	8.35 "

UNION COUNTY PARK COMMISSION
WARINANCO PARK
 ELIZABETH - N. J.

PRELIMINARY PLAN -
 SCALE OF FEET
 CONSULT ARCHITECTS - LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS
 BRIDGEMAN, HALL - FRANKLIN, N. J.
 SEP. 16, 1939
 PLAN No. 1

COMMISSIONERS
 H. S. CHATFIELD, Chairman
 CHARLES HANSEL, Vice Chairman
 GARTON BROWN, Treasurer
 WYLLIE G. WISEWELL
 CHARLES A. REED
 W. RICHARD TISACI

REVISED FEB. 16, 1944
 FEB. 2, 1945
 JULY 1, 1945

This plan is hereby certified and nothing is shown hereon which is in violation of the laws of the State of New Jersey. Approved by the Board of Commissioners of the Union County Park Commission on the 16th day of February, 1944.