

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Renotification/80 Amendments

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED APR 28 1982

DATE ENTERED

**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

Ambrose/Ward Mansion

AND/OR COMMON

Knapp's Colonial Home

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

132 South Harrison St. (original address 92 S. Harrison) NOT FOR PUBLICATION N/A

CITY, TOWN

East Orange

N/A VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

10th

STATE

New Jersey

CODE

034

COUNTY

Essex

CODE

13

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

N/A

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Harold M. Wolsten

STREET & NUMBER

132 South Harrison Street

CITY, TOWN East Orange

N/A VICINITY OF

STATE

New Jersey

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

East Orange Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

South Munn Avenue

CITY, TOWN

East Orange

STATE

New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

East Orange Historical Sites

has this property been determined eligible?

Yes _____

No _____

DATE

February, 1980

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Planning Department, City Hall

CITY, TOWN

East Orange

STATE

New Jersey

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input 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

The Ambrose/Ward Mansion (Knapp's Colonial House) is located at 132 South Harrison Street (originally 92 Harrison Street) in East Orange, New Jersey. The last surviving mansion on a street once lined with estates, the Ambrose/Ward Mansion is now surrounded by hi-rise apartments and 4 story office buildings of the 1930's and 1940's. The building was built in 1898 by Harry T. Ambrose as a single family residence. It remained as such until changed to a funeral home in 1925, at which time an elevator shaft was added in the eastern ell. The house sits on a 182' by 284' lot with a low stone wall and driveway surrounding it, and an asymmetrical landscaping arrangement. Half of a one story garage built in 1898, remains at the SE corner of the property with clapboard and sandstone walls and corner quoins. Land east of the house is the site of an open city parking lot.

Exterior Appearance:

The Ambrose/Ward House is designed in the Second Renaissance Revival Style. Each story is textured differently beginning at the first level with its rock faced coursed limestone walls rising to the rusticated and smooth finished limestone walls at the second level up to the wide smooth faced walls at the attic level. Molded stone belt courses run parallel around the facade bordering smooth finished wall areas between the stories. The belt courses and the joint lines give this 3-story structure a strong horizontal appearance.

The arched front door is covered with an iron gate and recessed under a Tuscan order portico. Unfluted columns support the entablature displaying the house's address and name in its frieze. Small recessed oval windows flank the entrance door and two larger identical windows are at the first level central bays. Above the portico is a window with a Gibbs surround and a triangular pedimented hood. Plain pilasters flank the window and rise to the roof cornice giving the whole portico area a controlled monumental appearance.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 1

*DESCRIPTION (continued)

An arcaded open porch is recessed at the NW corner of the west facade. A stone terrace connects the arcaded porch and the Tuscan portico and has squat stone pedestals with decorative iron rails between. A three story pentagonal bay extends from the southern end of the western facade. Stone voussiors are above the first level windows. Belt courses with keystone designs travel over the windows at the second level and serve as the window hood supported by large stone brackets over a second level, multi-paned, stained glass window. Small stone blocks dot the surrounds of the smaller attic windows. The majority of the house's windows are 1/1 double hung sash.

The south facade walls also display varied wall textures and strong horizontal axes. A stone chimney rises up through the wall in the central bay, cutting through the roof cornice. Stones step up to the shaft from above the cornice and are decorated with scrolls at the rises. The top of the shaft has rusticated stone designs and all details are similar to the other two house chimneys. A two story bay/ell extends south from the east side of the facade.

The east facade is obviously the rear of the house and lacking in the splendid detail that appeared to the west. The varied wall textures continue here, but windows are unadorned. A Tuscan order wooden porch runs along the first level central bays extending from the building with a flat roof. A new iron rail runs between the columns. Lighted double doors enter off the south end of the porch.

At the north end of the facade is an ell that projects eastward. It is three bays wide with wall materials consistent with the rest of the structure. There is a garage at the ground level with a wooden pilastered entrance over its door area. A sun porch is to the north with tall multi-paned windows, door and transom light. The second level is recessed over the garage creating an open terrace on the roof of the garage. There is only one window breaking the heavy second level wall space which seems odd as there is no entry to the terrace. The earlier hipped roof has been quite altered with the addition of a 1-1/2 story concrete elevator tower and adjoining embalming room that cuts into an original hipped dormer. Despite the use of identical windows, the light scoring of the concrete walls and the addition of a molded belt course on the newer tower, the vast amount of relatively smooth wall space gives it an incompatible appearance.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 2

*DESCRIPTION (continued)

The porte-cochere decorates the north facade with its rusticated stone pedestals supporting wooden doric columns and a plain entablature. A decorative iron rail runs around the roof.

The roof at the west facade is a long gently sloping hipped shape while the west facade displays a steeper pyramidal roof line. All is covered with red clay tiles and flashing at the seams.

Interior Appearance:

Main floor - the interior consists of a large entrance hallway with an elegantly carved winding wood stairway, a large parlor with decorative corinthian columns, and a music room with light neo-classical or rococo detailing featuring charming ceiling painting. The former dining room has a panelled and mirrored buffet. A 6' by 6' stained glass window enhances the hall area. Classical details including wood and plaster ornaments, moldings, pilasters, panels and doors are the main characteristics of the first floor.

Second floor - suspended plaster ornaments are used on the walls as well as on the ceilings in different colors for each room. Overmantled fireplaces with wood-finished decorative tops, mirrors, imported Italian marble faces in green, pink or brown hues, and wood cornices are found in this hall.

Third floor - waterproof patterned wallpaper (muslin) covers most of the walls, simple and smooth plaster is on the ceilings, and a fine wood panelled ceiling, built in a hipped-roof style, is found in the game room.

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 checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1889

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

UNKNOWN

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Ambrose/Ward Mansion is the only remaining mansion on Harrison Street, once the City of East Orange's elite residential district. It is an excellent example of a turn-of-the-century urban villa, especially noteworthy for the well-preserved state of its fine interiors.

Built in 1889 by Mr. Harry T. Ambrose, former President of the American Book Co., the Ambrose/Ward Mansion was one of the many imposing residential structures on Harrison Street during the early 20th century. Residents of Harrison Street were mostly business and professional people who worked in nearby Newark or New York City. Mr. Ambrose lived in the house for approximately 2 years after which the house was purchased by Mr. Edgar B. Ward who had resided across the street. Mr. Ward was one of the original founders of the Prudential Insurance Co. In 1925 it was purchased by Mr. W.N. Knapp and the house became known as the Colonial Home, Knapp & Sons Funeral Home, a family business which remained at the mansion for more than half a century.

Although Harrison Street was once a distinguished suburban showplace of East Orange, with the exception of the Ambrose/Ward Mansion, none of the elegant residences remain. The Ambrose/Ward Mansion represents an important period in East Orange's social and architectural history.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hoffman, Frederick F.S.S. History of the Prudential Insurance Company of America
 Encyclopedia of American Biography, Knapp, Harlod DeWitt (N.Y. Historical Co.,
 Inc.) (Newark: Prudential Press, 1900)
 Mr. Ambrose H. Hardwick (Grandson of builder) Orange, New Jersey

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.19

QUADRANGLE NAME Orange, New Jersey

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 565650 4512660
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Block 710, Lot 16 - East Orange Tax Map

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

Revised by the Historic Preservation Section, 9/1980

NAME / TITLE

Dr. James Hsu

ORGANIZATION

Department of Planning and Grants

DATE

8/12/80

STREET & NUMBER

44 City Hall Plaza

TELEPHONE

(201) 266-5140

CITY OR TOWN

East Orange

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

Lauren Schmidt

TITLE Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 11/6/80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

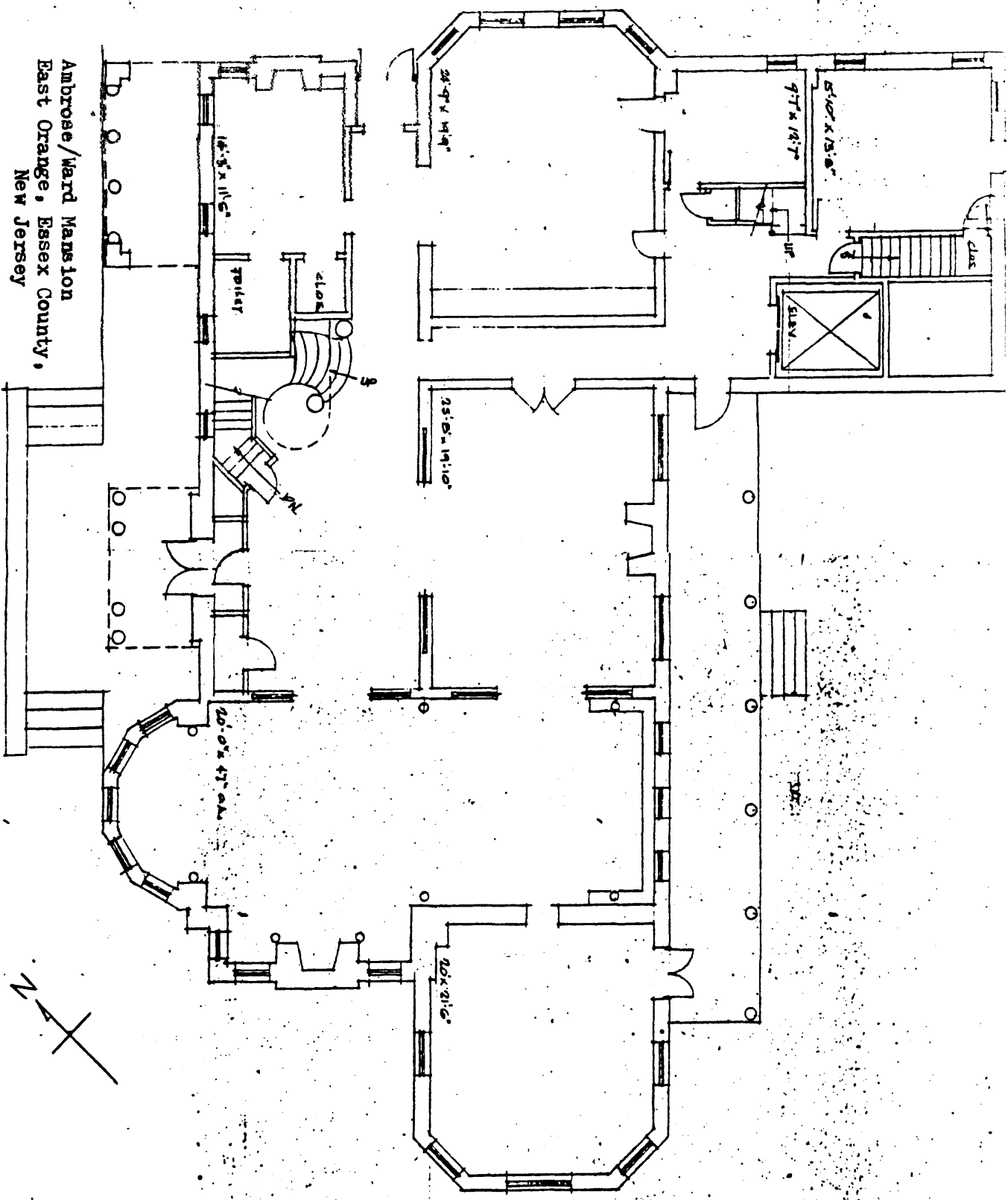
Bruce M. Dwyer

DATE 9/20/82

ATTEST: *Bruce M. Dwyer* KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

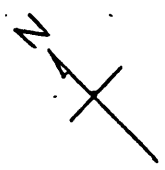
DATE

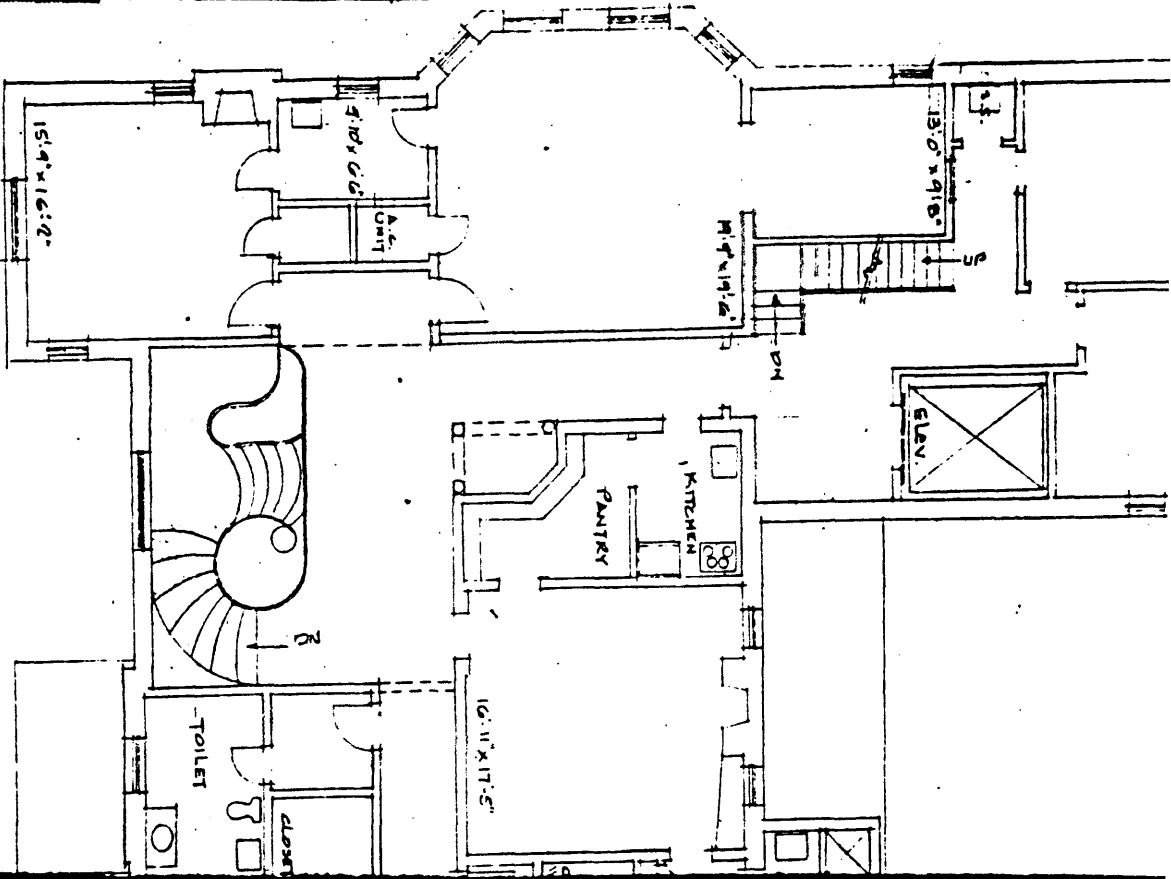
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION



Ambrose/Ward Mansion
 East Orange, Essex County,
 New Jersey

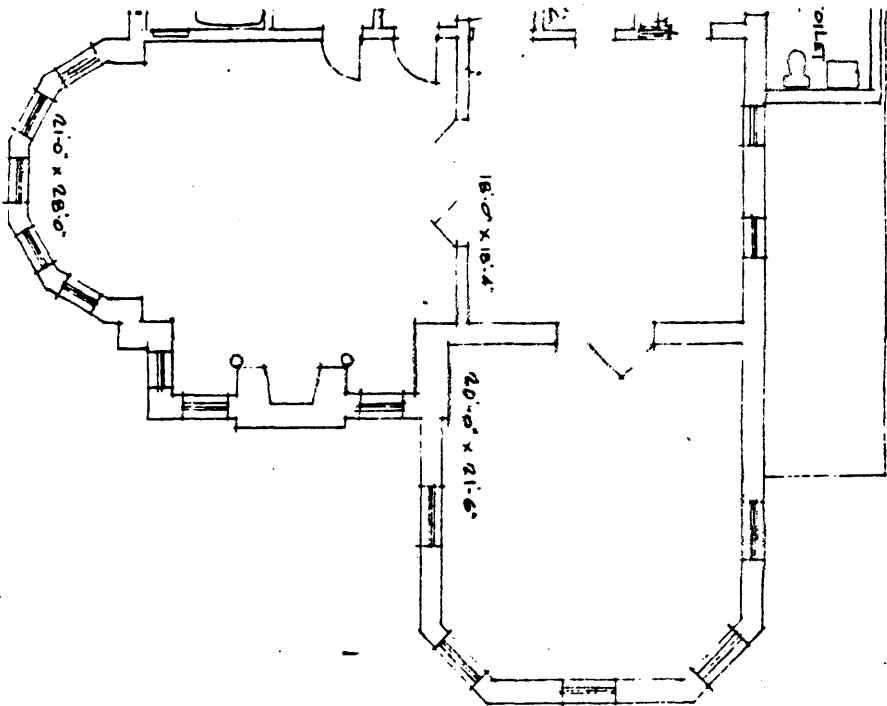
1ST FLOOR PLAN





Ambrose/Ward Mansion
 East Orange, Essex County, NJ

2ND FLOOR PLAN



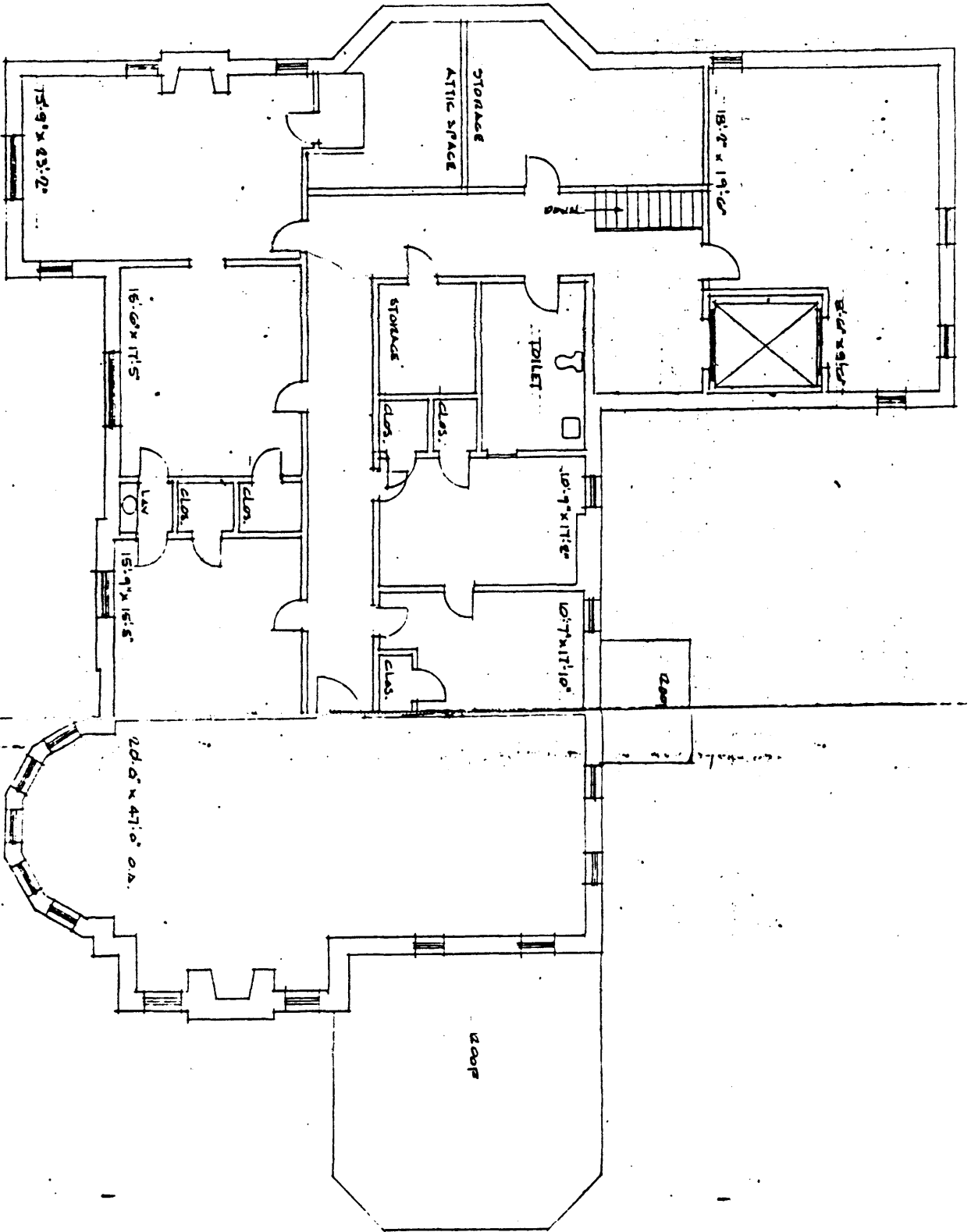
THE KNAPP MANSION

DRAWN BY WALK & KROHN

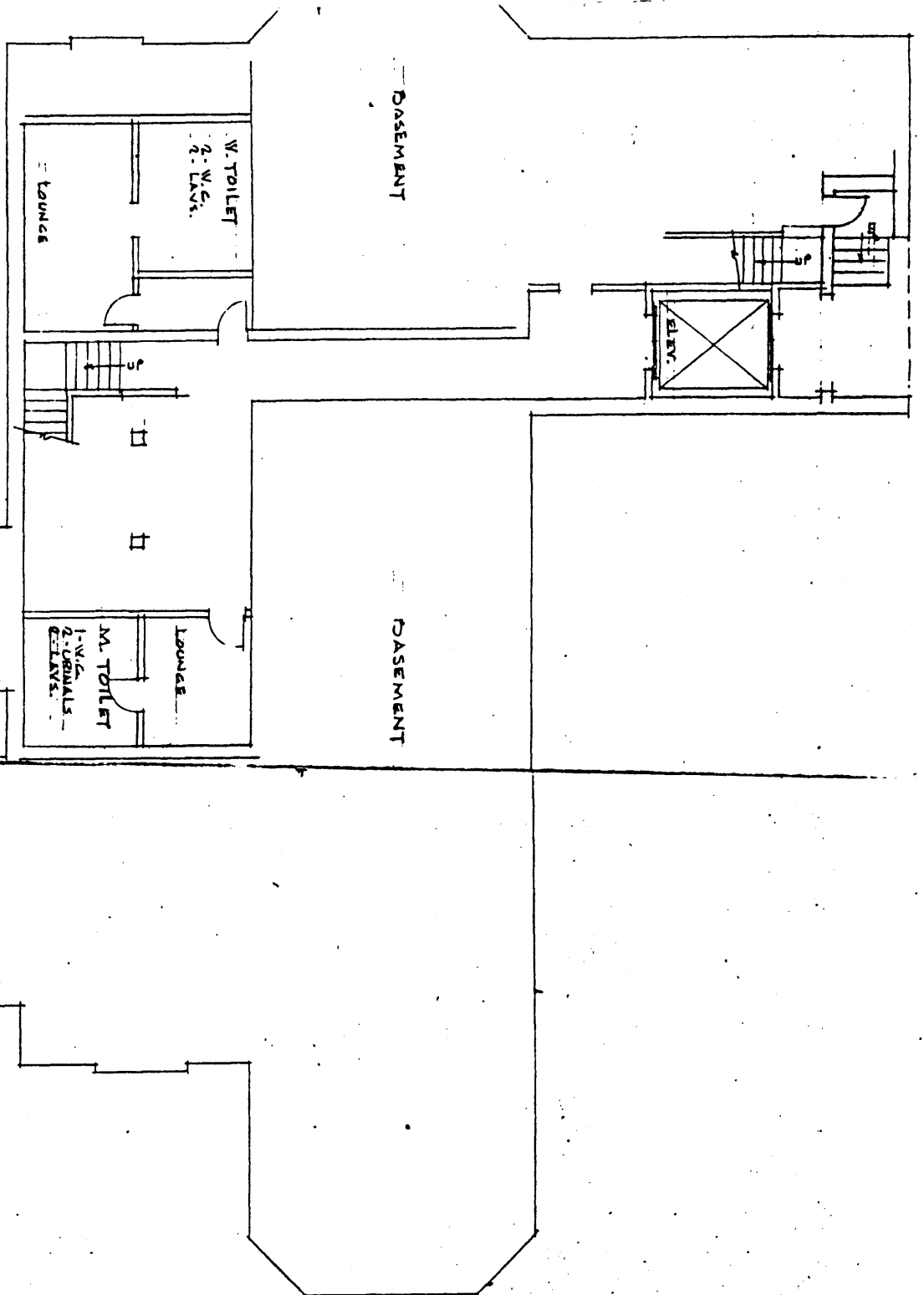
446 Stratford Ave.

Ambrose/Ward Manston
East Orange, Essex County, NJ

3rd FLOOR PLAN



Ambrose/Ward Mansion
East Orange, Essex County, NJ

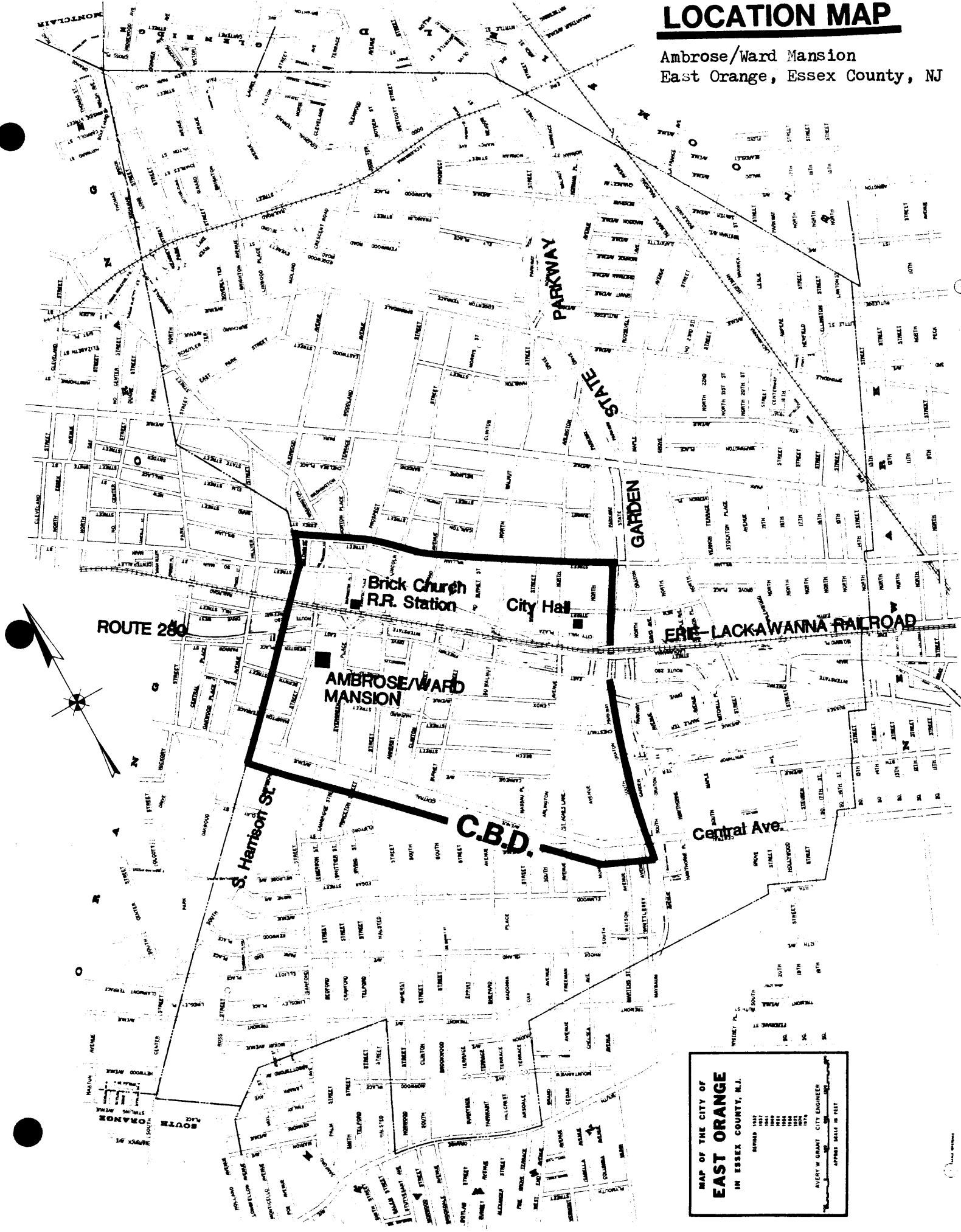


BASEMENT PLAN (PARTIAL)

(NOT TO SCALE)

LOCATION MAP

Ambrose/Ward Mansion
East Orange, Essex County, NJ



ROUTE 280

AMBROSE/WARD MANSION

Brick Church R.R. Station

City Hall

GARDEN

ERIE-LACKAWANNA RAILROAD

C.B.D.

Central Ave.

S. Harrison St

MAP OF THE CITY OF
EAST ORANGE
IN ESSEX COUNTY, N.J.

REVISED 1917
1941
1944
1946
1952
1955
1958
1962
1974

EVERY W. GRANT CITY ENGINEER

APPROVED MAPLE IN FEET

SITE PLAN

Ambrose/Ward Mansion
Essex County, NJ

