

NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF CULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
HISTORIC PRESERVATION SECTION
INDIVIDUAL STRUCTURE SURVEY FORM

HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY NO.

HISTORIC NAME: "Oak Dell"
LOCATION: Franklin Street, NE corner of
Madison Avenue
MUNICIPALITY: Morristown
USGS QUAD: Morristown
OWNER/ADDRESS: Dennis & Evelyn Munger
146 Madison Avenue, Morristown, NJ 07960

COMMON NAME: Dr. Granville M. White House
BLOCK/LOT B51/3
COUNTY: Morris
UTM REFERENCES:
Zone/Northing/Easting

DESCRIPTION

Construction Date: main block 1895-99
north wing c. 1920s

Source of Date: see references

Architect: -

Builder: -

Style: Colonial Revival

Form/Plan Type: 5 bay, main block with double-pil
center hall plan and full-height central front
portico; flat-roofed, one story wing at rear
of north side (the 1920s kitchen wing.)

Number of Stories: 2½

Foundation: Brick

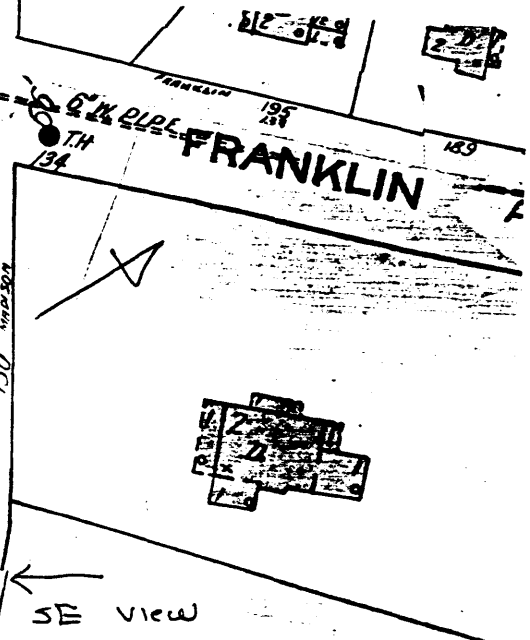
Exterior Wall Fabric: Clapboard

Fenestration: mostly 10/1 sash windows (some 1/1 sash) with architrave trim, with simple
cornices on second floor, with cornices with paneled frieze on first floor; louvered shutters
Roof/Chimneys: Asbestos shingle hip roof/two interior chimneys have paneled yellow brick
stacks with corbelled drip caps.
Additional Architectural Description:

- gabled dormers on all sides have bottom broken pediments, round-headed windows with "Gothic" sash and key blocks, and fluted flanking pilasters.
- Overhanging eaves, large entablature with modillions and dentils.
- Large fluted corner pilasters with elaborate, well-carved Corinthian capitals.
- Large gabled entry portico centered on the front has a triangular pediment and plain round columns with Corinthian capitals; lunette window in pediment has tracery and key block.
- Columns enclose a second floor balcony, supported by plain console brackets, which has a Chinese chippendale railing with urns on the posts; the large Palladian window opening onto the balcony has French doors under a curve mullioned fanlight with key block and a wide architrave surround.
- Large tripart central entry has panel door flanked by narrow sidelights and surmounted by a curve-mullioned transom; this in turn is flanked (continued on attached page)

PHOTO Negative File No.

Map (Indicate North)



SITING, BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION, AND RELATED STRUCTURES: "Oak Dell" is set back from the street in a grove of large, old white oak trees, reached by 1/2-round gravel drive, with yellow brick, stone-capped gate posts. From similar posts around the perimeter of the lot hung chains for fencing behind privet hedges. Its clapboard carriage house (now converted into a dwelling) stands to the northeast on a separate lot.

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT: Urban Suburban Scattered Buildings
Open Space Woodland Residential Agricultural Village
Industrial Downtown Commercial Highway Commercial Other

One of the few surviving large houses of "millionaires row" along Madison Avenue to its north on Franklin are still found single family residences albeit mostly more modest and somewhat later; modern office buildings line Madison Avenue.

SIGNIFICANCE: "Oak Dell" has architectural significance that makes it eligible for the National Register. With its rectangular, hip-roofed form and pedimented, central portico that evoke 18th century Georgian modes, the well-preserved house is a good example of a kind of Colonial Revival dwelling that became fashionable around the turn of the century in Morristown and other wealthy communities. Contemporary Morristown examples on South Streets and Madison Avenue have not survived. "Oak Dell" is important for the carefully executed, classically derived detailing that richly embellish both the exterior and interior. Such features as the portico and entry indicate that the unknown architect adopted the loose, non-academical approach typical of the Colonial Revival's first phase. The house is also of note for the survival of its service quarters including the cellar kitchen and servant's hall, the butler's pantry and small attic chambers that help document how such establishments functioned on a social level.

From at least as early as 1910 until the 1950s, "Oak Dell" was occupied by Dr. Grenville H. White and family. White was active in local social affairs and served as president of the Morris County Golf Club. He also is said to have been an executive of the Mutual Life Insurance Co.

ORIGINAL USE: residence **PRESENT USE:** residence/nursery school
PHYSICAL CONDITION: Excellent Good Fair Poor
REGISTER ELIGIBILITY: Yes Possible No Part of District
THREATS TO SITE: Roads Development ? Zoning Deterioration
No Threat Other

COMMENTS:
The house is in need of paint and repairs which the present owners have begun.

REFERENCES: Rae, John W. & John W., Jr., Morristown's Forgotten Past, "The Gilded Age" Morristown: John W. Raw, 1979, pp. 13 & 194

RECORDED BY: D.N. Bertland
ORGANIZATION:

DATE: Spring 1981, revised
Spring 1984

"Oak Dell"

Additional architectural description (continued):

by larger side-lights and corner lights with curved mullions; they are separated by pilaster-like elements and the whole is surmounted by panels decorated with Classical motifs; all windows have elaborate tracery.

--Railing like that of balcony on the entry portico.

--A glass-enclosed, flat-roofed porch on both ends of house; north porch has a plain entablature, Tuscan columns and multipaned windows; south porch has an elaborate balustrade like that of balcony, Tuscan columns, and "Gothic" window mullions.

--French doors opening onto the latter's roof have transoms; plaque between them has crossetted corners and Classical swags.

--Semi-hexagonal bay window centered on the rear.

Note: The well-preserved interior has suffered very little alteration. Both the first and second stories of the main block feature well executed Colonial Revival detailing that includes molded cornices and paneled dadoes, architrave door and window trim, mahogany panel doors - some double and with tracery fanlights, and brick fireplaces with Adamesque mantels. Of particular note is the entry, its columned dividing archway and open staircase and the dining room fireplace which has delft tiles outlining its opening and mirrored over mantel. More unusual is the survival of the service quarters. They include the first floor butler's pantry with cabinets and dumb waiter, the cellar level bow-windowed servants' hall, adjoining kitchen with brick stove hearth and dark stained cupboards, the brick floored wine cellar, and the attic story servants' chambers and box room.

Alterations include modern bathrooms, the inobtrusive installation of a fire door at the top of the staircase, and fireproof ceiling on the first story carefully installed so as not to damage the decorative plaster work.