UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
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	enue Historic District				
AND/OR COMMON		•			
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STREET & NUMBER		•	Ave. to Martin	ne Ave.	
	of Hillside Ave. from	the corner of Watch			
CITY, TOWN Plainfield	N/A	VICINITY OF	CONGRESSIONAL DISTR	ICT	
STATE		CODE	COUNTY	CODE	
New Jersey		034	Union	039	
CLASSIFIC	ATION				
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRES	ENT USE	
X DISTRICT	PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM	
BUILDING(S)	<u>X</u> PRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK	
STRUCTURE	BOTH	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	XPRIVATE RESIDENCE	
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS	
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC	
	BEING CONSIDERED N/A	X YES: UNRESTRICTED NO	INDUSTRIAL MILITARY	TRANSPORTATIONOTHER:	
OWNER OF	FPROPERTY				
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DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS	New Jersey Office of	Historic Preserva	tion 100 West Sta	ite Stroot	
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CONDITION

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CHECK ONE

XEXCELLENT GOOD

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DATE....

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

7 DESCRIPTION

The area known as the Hillside Avenue Historic District is located in the eastern portion of the city and includes thirty-seven structures, all residences. It extends from the corner of Watchung Avenue, including all four corner houses, south on Hillside Avenue to the corner of Martine Avenue where, once again, all four corner houses are included. The district on both sides of Hillside Avenue is one lot deep except on the corner of Highland Avenue and Hillside Avenue where the district includes a Higland Avenue home which once served as a coach house to 955 Hillside Avenue.

Beginning on the west side of Watchung Avenue;, the district includes 1239 and 1234 Watchung Avenue then extends down Hillside Avenue including all the structures between numbers 920-1070. On the eastern side of Watchung Avenue the district begins with 1303 Watchung Avenue then extends up Hillside to Martine Avenue including all the structures from number 901-1069 and also including 1321 Highland Avenue and 1300 Prospect Avenue, a home with frontage on Hillside Avenue.

The majority of the buildings were built in the first quarter of the 20th century and are excellent examples of or are evocation of the then popular Colonial Revival style. There are three examples of earlier buildings in the district. At 1303 Watchung Avenue is a Queen Anne style structure and at 937 and 950 Hillside are Second Empire houses although 950 has been remodeled into basically a Colonial Revival.

The houses at 970, 975,966, 963, 1070, 915 and 917 Hillside as well as 1239 Watchung Avenue are good examples of or are based on the shingle style in architecture. At 901 Hillside is an appealing little Cottage style house. Three houses, 1060,1046, and 1040 Hillside, are Mission or Spanish style homes built in the second decade of this century. At 1009 Hillside is a home built in 1900 which can best be categorized as a period house, vaguely reminiscent of the Spanish Revival but also displaying other motifs. Three homes at 943, 1025, and 1055 Hillside are contemporary structures which do not contribute to the historic flavor of the street.

The rest of the houses are excellent examples of the Colonial Revival style. One of the handsomest houses is at 980 Hillside, a 2 1/2 story residence with a magnificent columned portico. Another at 999 Hillside is a line for line copy of the Longfellow house in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

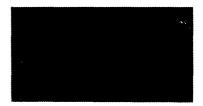
The majority of these homes are large and imposing in scale. Even the smaller homes are considered large by contemporary standards. As can be seen from the city map, the lot sizes are generous. Beyond the set boundaries of the district, many fine homes exist but lot size decreases as does the scale of the dwellings.

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7 DESCRIPTION

The houses are placed in a uniform setback pattern allowing for generous front yards. The width of the street lends an even greater air of spaciousness and luxury to the scene. Although there have been some replacements, the majority of the sidewalks are the original slate and many of these homes still maintain a variety of patterned brick walkways from the street to the house. 1000 Hillside Avenue still has a cast iron horses head hitching post by the curb.

Both sides of the street in the district are lined with large trees and many of the houes have the original gardens and the planting. Even the contemporary structures are handsomely landscaped and one home at 1025 has a very fine old copper beech in the front yard.

Overall, the Hillside Avenue District consists of homes in excellent condition. Those that have been altered still retain their original character and charm.

- 1239 Watchung 2 1/2 story Shingle style house 4 bays wide. In excellent condition, this house has a hipped roof covered with asphalt shingles. A one car detached garage is on the property. The shingles have weathered a natural sienna color.
- 1234 Watchung 3 bay, 2 1/1 story stucco house with one story extensions on either side. The house is in good condition and has a gable roof covered with tile.
- 920 Hillside 4 bay, 2 1/2 story Colonial Revival covered with wood shingles painted gray. Handsome paneled front entrance doors. This home and 930 Hillside were originally part of one house. The owner went bankrupt before completion of the home and it was divided into separate dwellings.
- 922 Hillside A 2 1/2 story stucco house in excellent condition with a hip roof covered with asphalt shingles. Nice porte-cochere with a fanlight in the pediment. A handsome arched window highlights the facade of this house which is placed sideways to the street.
- 930 Hillside Excellent condition. This is a 2 1/2 story, 5 bay home with white painted wood shingles and a gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. A very nice doorway with a leaded glass fanlight and sidelights. An attractive white picket fence surrounds the property. 2 car garage in rear.
- 950 Hillside a two story house plus a mansard roof. The house is 3 bays wide and there is a large 2 story window on the right side. Handsome wooden gates flank the driveway and front walkway. A detailed wooden fence border runs along the mansard roof. A fine Colonial Revival entrance. A large carriage house in excellent condition stands on the rear of the property. Fine gardens.

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- 966 Hillside a 2 1/2 story, 5 bay house with a two story addition on the left. The house is a transitional Shingle/Colonial Revival style. In the rear of the property is a natural wood shingle carriage house with a Chippendale style railing on the roofline. The backyard has a nice arbor with brick terracing.
- 970 Hillside 3 bay, 2 /2 story shingle house with a gambrel roof covered in asphalt shingles. The house was built about 1897 and has fine paneled double front doors.
- 980 Hillside This home built by steel magnate William Garrigues is 2 1/2 stories, brick, and it has 7 bays plus one story porch extensions on either side. The house was built in 1917 for a cost of \$25,000 and it features a handsome columned portico with four fluted ionic columns and a leaded glass fanlight in the pediment. A fine doorway with a leaded glass transom and sidelights. A striking second floor wrought iron balcony. In the rear of the property is a 2 story brick car barn with magnificant wrought iron lamps.
- 996 Hillside Built for the Wallace family in 1909 by architect Alexander Milne. This painted wood shingle house has a gambrel roof with natural wood shingles. The home is 2 1/2 stories and is 5 bays wide with two story wings on either side. A nice dignified doorway with a lion's head door knocker. This Colonial Revival has had some rooms removed from the rear of the building but the facade remains virtually unchanged.
- 1000 Hillside In 1910 architect Alexander Milne built this 2 1/2 story brick home for the Lawrence family. This Colonial Revival has 5 bays plus a two story extension on the right and a one story extension on the left. There are 4 brick end wall chimneys and a gambrel roof with tile. Boasts a fine classical entranceway with a carved pineapple over the front door. On the curb in front of the house is a iron horse's head hitching post.
- 1020 Hillside Built for H.L. Harrison in 1927 for a cost of \$55,000 by builder James Baird Company. This Colonial Revival is 2 1/2 stories with 5 bays and one story porch wings on either end. A slate gambrel roof. Nice formal gardens with brick walks and a semi-circular balcony in the back. The porch extensions are original although they have been modernized recently.
- 1040 Hillside This stucco mission style home was built in 1919 for \$12,000 and is two stories with a hip roof covered with green titles. On the second floor facade over the entrance there is a terra cotta medallion flanked by ceramic tiles. The same tile design is repeated on the entrance gates to the rear driveway. Fine formal gardens in the rear with brick terracing.

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- 1046 Hillside A 5 bay, 2 1/2 story stucco on masonry house done in the mission style. It has a gable roof with asphalt shingles and a two car detached stucco garage. The front door is made up of fifteen beveled glass panes.
- 1060 Hillside A 2 1/2 story, 3 bay masonry house in the mission style. A gable roof with asphalt shingles and a nice walled open front terrace. The house was built by Townsely Brothers in 1912 for \$11,000. Some minor alterations to the original design include the removal of the original tile roof and the removal of railings from around the porch roofs.
- 1070 Hillside Excellent condition. This is a painted wood shingle house 2 1/2 stories high and 3 bays wide. The house has a stone block foundation and a gable roof with asphalt shingles. In rear of property is a detached 2 car garage. Six nice leaded glass windows on the right side of this home.
- 1088 Hillside A 3 bay 2 1/2 story Colonial Revival with detached 1 car garage, gable roof with asphalt shingles, 1 story enclosed porch extension on left, wood shingle. Built in 1912 for a cost of \$7500.
- 1077 Hillside 2 1/2 story, 3 bay white clapboard Colonial Revival with two story extension on left, wood shingle roof, 2 car detached garage. Built in 1920 for a cost of \$10,000.
- 1069 Hillside A 2 1/2 story 3 bay house with stone block on the first floor and composition shingles on the second floor. A wide deep porch extends across the first floor of this house. In back of property is a nice 1 1/2 story 2 car garage.
- 1055 Hillside A 1 1/2 story, 4 bay brick and painted wood shingle house. A comtemporary ranch design about 20 years old.
- 1045 Hillside A 2 1/2 story Colonial Revival house with a painted wood shingle exterior. It is 5 bays wide and has a hip roof with asphalt shingles. An imposing placement on a hill. There is a columned one story roofed veranda on two sides of the house with a fine leaded glass window to the left of the entranceway.
- 1035 Hillside A shingle style Colonial Revival with a clipped gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. 2 1/2 stories, 3 bays, this home was aluminum sided in 1979. It still retains, however, a fine Chippendale style railing with urn finials on the porch roof. In rear of house is a rustic garden house with a wood shingle roof. Presently in very poor condition.
- 1025 Hillside A 15 year old contemporary ranch of brick and clapboard. A fine copper beech tree higlights the property.

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- 1009 Hillside A stucco house in excellent condition with 2 1/2 stories and 4 bays. The house is set sideways to the street and has a hip roof with asphalt shingles. The home was built in 1900 for \$8,000 for Mr. Evarts Tracy. William Pangborn was the builder.
- 1300 Prospect Avenue A Colonial Revival with painted wood shingle and a gambrel roof covered with asphalt shingles. The house is 2 1/2 stories and is 5 bays wide with 2 one story extensions on either side. The house was built in 1904 and has a nicely detailed entranceway with paired slender columns and a delicate fanlighted door with sidelights.
- 999 Hillside In excellent condition, this house is 5 bays wide, is 2 1/2 stories and has one story wings on either side. It was built by architect Alexander Milne in 1907 for Mr. William A. Conner at a cost of \$12,000. A large car barn in the rear of the property was built the same year. The house is white and is a line for line copy of the Longfellow house in Massachusetts. It features matching balustrades on the front lawn, a nicely detailed entranceway, and Ionic pilasters on the house.
- 975 Hillside A natural wood shingle house 2 1/2 stories high and 5 bays wide. A gambrel roof with asphalt shingles and a 2 car detached shingle garage to the rear. Features two nicely detailed leaded windows over the first floor bays. A small Palladian window on the third floor. Fine copper beech trees in the front yard. The house cost \$5,000 and was built in 1905 by builder J.C. Manning for Mr. Frank Vail. In 1918 and 1926 alterations were made which gives the house its transitional shingle style/Colonial Revival look.
- 1321 Highland Avenue A two story stucco house with a gambrel roof covered in natural wood shingle. Originally built as the coach house for Mr. Henry de Forest on 955 Hillside, this building is an excellent example of adaptive reuse. The building sets at the end of a long driveway and has enormous open frontage.
- 963 Hillside A 2 1/2 story 3 bay house with natural wood shingles and a gambrel roof with asphalt shingles. Has a nice fanlighted entranceway with a rustic stone surround. Built in 1898, this house also has a shingle 2 car detached garage in the rear of the property.
- 955 Hillside a white painted wood shingle house 2 1/2 stories with a 5 bays plus two, 2 story wings on either side. A gable roof with asphalt shingles. This house has a fine Colonial Revival doorway with 4 Ionic pilasters and 4 lights with delicate tracery. Broken arched pediment over the front door with a center twisted pineapple finial.

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- 943 Hillside Two stories plus a mansard roof, this 3 bay home in the Second Empire style has the gable end facing the street. The curve of the gable counterpoints the curve of the mansard. Nice window detailing and handsome paired brackets under the eaves. The property is bounded on the Lake Street side by an old stone wall.
- Hillside A 2 1/2 story 3 bay stucco house with a gable roof covered with The house was built in 1921 and has window surrounds asphalt shingles. composed of bricks placed on end. A handsome wrought iron fence is on two sides with nice double gates on the Lake Street side. A detached 2 car garage in rear of property.
- 921 Hillside A white painted clapboard house with 4 bays and 2 1/2 stories. gable roof with asphalt shingles. Garage in the rear of property. Very nice delicate iron tracery around the front door.
- 915 Hillside A white painted shingle house with a gambrel roof with asphalt shingles. The house is 2 1/2 stories and is 2 bays wide. The house is in excellent condition and features an interesting window design as well as nice drop pendants and brackets on the second floor overhang.
- 907 Hillside - A gold painted shingle house identical to 915 Hillside except this house is placed differently to the street. Both homes feature an interesting set of leaded glass windows.
- 901 Hillside - A 1 1/2 story cottage style house three bays wide with 1 1/2 Has a gable roof with asphalt shingles. Facade features a very stories. nice arched window.
- 1303 Watchung A Queen Anne style house of brick and shingle with a hip and gable roof covered with slate. Nicely turned posts on the front porch and the brackets on the eaves feature a star design. The house incorporates some stick elements on the third floor trim and there is an interesting oriel style gable on the roof.

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There are 38 properties in the Hillside Avenue Historic District - of these six are late 19th century; 21 are early 20th century; six are 1920-30; and five are modern (post-1930).

There are 13 buildings of a Classical Revival nature; 10 can be classified Shingle style; and five are restrained examples of the Spanish Colonial Revival style. There is one Queen Anne style structure and a single example of the Second Empire style.

SPECIFIC DAT	es N/A	BUILDER/ARCH	HITECT N/A	
		INVENTION		
1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	_INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)
.1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
.1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
.1600-1699	XX ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
-1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
_1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
_PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
PERIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

8 SIGNIFICANCE

The historical significance of the Hillside Avenue Historic District can be seen by looking briefly at Plainfield's past and the events which brought it to that particular point.

Plainfield began life as a more or less rural village, a Quaker community. Like many towns in New Jersey the advent of the railroad changed the town forever. The city is situated at the foot of the Watchung mountains and has natural springs. These qualities coupled with the town's natural scenic beauty gave Plainfield the reputation as being a healthy place to live. Because of the healthy atmosphere, in the late 19th century Plainfield was dubbed the "Colorado of the East" and called the "Queen City" after Denver. There were several hotels to accommodate the wealthy New Yorkers who came to Plainfield to relax and go boating.

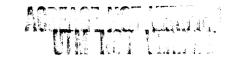
It was during this period that many wealthy New Yorkers built fabulous homes and villas along the wide tree lined streets. Plainfield quickly became, in effect, an early suburban bedroom community. In his autobiography, the well known critic Van Wyck Brooks, a native Plainfielder, described the town at the turn of the century as a full blown wall street suburb.

Even though the advent of seashore popularity did away with Plainfield's attraction as a spa, the city retained its attraction and desirability as place of residence. This continued right up through the 1920's and 30's when magnificant Tudor style mansions were erected in town.

The Hillside Avenue Historic District represents predominantly a period from 1900-1925. Each structure individually could stand on its own merit as a significant example of a building type. As a cohesive unit, a neighborhood, this street has local and statewide singificance. This street is representative of an era in this country, a time of laissez-faire economics and a period of no income tax that made homes and streets like this possible.

The street and all the buildings have undergone little or no change, which in itself makes the street somewhat unique. Where alterations have been done, they have in all cases been very sympathetic to the character and style of the building. Because of the uniform setback and the lot sizes even the contemporary structures serve more to blend in rather than stand out in their surroundings.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

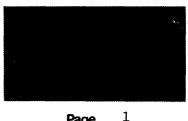


See Continuation Sheet

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Plainfield Herita	age, Inc.		Sept. 18, 1979
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Plainfield			New Jersey
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OR NPS USE ONLY THEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE		tered in the	
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CHIEF OF REGISTRATION			

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8 SIGNIFICANCE

The residents of Hillside Avenue are substantial and caring citizens who maintain their homes and are very such aware of the unique qualities their neighborhood embodies.

In April of 1970 a walking tour was sponsored by Plainfield Heritage Inc. This tour was concentrated in the Hillside Avenue area and was led by Mrs. Sandy Brown, a prominent architectural historian and the New Jersey advisor to the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The tour attracted over 200 people, residents and citizens who came because they cared that this street was a part of their heritage and they wanted to see it saved.

The Hillside Avenue District represents an era and an important piece of local and state history. The fact that these buildings have survived intact replete with plantings, walkways, and gardens in itself makes it special. The future and preservation of this street should be of importance to each and every citizen.

Hillside Avenue Historic District in Plainfield, between Watchung and Martine Avenue, contains a collection of some of the finest turn-of-the-century high style houses built in the county. There are numerous excellent examples of Classical Revival buildings. Completed both in brick and frame, the finest examples in the district are 980, 999, 1000 and 1020 Hillside Avenue and have Georgian influences. Other prominent Colonial Revival buildings are at 950, 955, 996 and 1045 Hillside Avenue.

The Shingle and Spanish Colonial Revival styles are also in evidence within the district.

The finest Shingle style is at 975 Hillside, but good examples also exist at 1239 Watchung Avenue, 907, and 1070 Hillside Avenue.

Spanish Colonial Revival buildings in Plainfield are uncommon and quite restrained and only three of serious note are in the district - 1009 and 1040 Hillside and 1234 Watchung Avenues.

A single example of the Second Empire style is at 937 Hillside Avenue. This building is one of the earliest in the district and relates to an earlier more sprawling period of development in the outer regions of the city.

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Overall, the district is an eclectic composition of elegant buildings portraying the myriad of architectural styles practiced in the early 20th century.

As early as the last quarter of the 19th century, Plainfield was firmly established as a suburban bedroom community. Because of the fine railroad connections with New York City, many prominent New Yorkers chose to work in the city and live in Plainfield. These businessmen provided the strong architectural and cultural base upon which Plainfield developed. The Hillside Avenue Historic District is a representation of this social evolution in Plainfield from 1880 to 1930, the peak of the city's development.

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9 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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NPS Form 10-900-a (7-81)

United States Department of the InteriorNational Park Service

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OMB NO. 1024-0018 EXP. 12/31/84



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Beginning at the SE corner of 1080 Hillside Avenue, proceed West to the SW corner. Thence, proceed North to the NW corner of 1070 Hillside Avenue and project the line to the north curb of Martine Avenue. Thence, proceed to the SW corner of 1060 Hillside. Thence, proceed N along the back property lines of those properties facing Hillside Avenue to the south curb of Watchung Avenue (crossing Evergreen and Prospect in the process). Thence, proceed to the SW corner of 1239 Watchung Avenue, to the NW corner, and to the NE corner. Thence, proceed across Hillside to the NW corner of 1303 Hillside, to the NE corner, and to the SE corner. Thence, proceed south along the back property line of those properties facing Hillside Avenue to the NW corner of 1321 Highland; to the NE corner; and to the SE corner. Thence, proceed to the NE corner of 975 Hillside Avenue. Thence, proceed S again along the back property line facing Hillside to the SE corner of 1055 Hillside (crossing Prospect and Evergreen in the process). Thence, proceed to the NE corner of 1069 Hillside. Thence, proceed to the SE corner of 1077 Hillside and follow said property line to its SW corner. Thence, proceed across Hillside Avenue to the point of beginning.

