### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property

County and State

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 14000810

Date Listed: 10/1/14

Property Name: Maplewood Municipal Building

County: Essex

State: NJ

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

82.

Signature of the Keeper

10/1/14

Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

This SLR is issued to amend the National Register nomination form to drop the area of significance of Community Planning and Development and revise the period of significance to 1931. The nomination documents only the Maplewood Municipal Building and surrounding 1.85 acres and did not include a much larger district that was part of an original plan and development for this civic center space. Therefore, the property is significance under Criterion C for architecture only. The significant date and period of significance is 1931 as indicated on the cornerstone. The building was completed in 1932.

The State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

#### **DISTRIBUTION:**

National Register property file Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

RECEIVED 2280	(Expires 5/31/2012)	810
AUG 1 5 2014	JAN 9 2014	
MAT RECISTER OF HISTORIC P N TEDNAL PARKSEP VID	TAGES	ive.

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

#### 1. Name of Property

1. Name of Froperty		
historic name Maplewood Municipal Building		
other names/site number		
2. Location		
street & number 574 Valley Street		not for publication
city or town Township of Maplewood		vicinity
state New Jersey code 034 county Essex	code013	zip code07040
3. State/Federal Agency Certification		
I hereby certify that this X_nomination request for determinatio for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X_meets does not meet the Nation property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significan national statewide X_local REBUSE ASS F Commission (memory fifcial/Title Date Signature of certifying official/Title Date State or Federal agency/burgau or Tribal Government	d meets the proced	dural and professional
In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.		
Signature of commenting official	Date	-
Title State or Federal agen	cy/bureau or Tribal Gov	vernment
4. National Park Service Certification		
I hereby certify that this property is:		
entered in the National Register determ	nined eligible for the Na	ational Register
determined not eligible for the National Register remov	ed from the National Re	egister
other (explain:)		1
Los Deni	11/14	L
Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action	

Maplewood Municipal Building		(Expires 5/31/2012)		
Maplewood Municipal Building Name of Property			Essex County, N County and State	NJ
5. Classification				
5. Classification				
	Category of Property (Check only one box.)		ources within Prope iously listed resources in t	
		Contributing	Noncontributing	-
private	X building(s)	1		_ buildings
X public - Local	district			sites
public - State	site			_ structures
public - Federal	structure		1	_ objects
	object	1	1	Total
Name of related multiple prope (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a mu	erty listing ultiple property listing)	Number of con listed in the Na	tributing resources tional Register	previously
N/A			0	
6. Function or Use				
Historic Functions		Current Functio		
Historic Functions		Current Function (Enter categories from		
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)	3	(Enter categories fro		
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)	3	(Enter categories fro	m instructions.)	
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)	2	(Enter categories fro	m instructions.)	
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6. Function or Use Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.) GOVERNMENT/government office	<u> </u>	(Enter categories fro	m instructions.)	
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)	2	(Enter categories fro	m instructions.)	
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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.) GOVERNMENT/government office	2	(Enter categories fro	m instructions.)	
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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.) GOVERNMENT/government office 7. Description Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.) Late 19 <sup>th</sup> and Early 20 <sup>th</sup> Century Rev		(Enter categories fro GOVERNMENT/ Materials (Enter categories fro foundation: BI	m instructions.) /government office	
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.) GOVERNMENT/government office 7. Description Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.)		(Enter categories fro GOVERNMENT/ Materials (Enter categories fro foundation: <u>BI</u> walls: <u>BRICK;</u>	m instructions.) (government office	r

#### **Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

See Continuation Sheet.

Maplewood Municipal Building Name of Property

### 8. Statement of Significance

#### (Expires 5/31/2012)

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Essex County, NJ County and State

8. S	tatement of Significance	
Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)		Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions.)
IUI INA	auonai register listing.)	Architecture
A	A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	Community Planning and Development
E	B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	
		Period of Significance
x	C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high	1931-1959
	artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack	
	individual distinction.	Significant Dates
	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	1931, 1932, 1959
Crite	eria Considerations	
(Mark	"x" in all the boxes that apply.)	Significant Person
Drop	orty io:	(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
ΡΙΟΡ	erty is:	N/A
	A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	
		Cultural Affiliation
<sup>1</sup>	B removed from its original location.	N/A
	C a birthplace or grave.	
	D a cemetery.	
		Architect/Builder
	E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	Ernest F. Guilbert & James Oscar Betelle
	F a commemorative property.	
	G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.	
Narr	ative Statement of Significance	
(Exp	lain the significance of the property on one or more con	tinuation sheets.)

#### 9. Major Bibliographical References

<b>Bibliography</b> (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparir	ng this form.) See Continuation Sheet.
Previous documentation on file (NPS):	Primary location of additional data:
preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been	X State Historic Preservation Office
requested)	Other State agency
previously listed in the National Register	Federal agency
designated a National Historic Landmark	Local government
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #	University
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #	Other
recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #	Name of repository:

United States Department of the Interior	
National Park Service / National Register of Historic	Places Registration Form
NPS Form 10-900	OMB No. 1024-0018

(Expires 5/31/2012)

NF31011110-900		OWB NO. 1024-	0018			(Expires 5/31/2012)
Maplewood M Name of Propert	unicipal Building y					Essex County, NJ County and State
assigned):	urces Survey Num	ber (if				
10. Geograp	hical Data					
Acreage of P (Do not include p	Property 1.85 acr					
UTM Referen (Place additional	<b>ICES</b> UTM references on a c	ontinuation sheet.)				
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2 Zone I	Easting	Northing	4 Zone	Easting		Northing
Zone	Luoting	Hordning	20110	Lusting		Northing
		Describe the boundaries of the why the boundaries were select				
11. Form Pre	epared By					
name/title B	rock A. Giordano, A	lison J. Ross, and Andrea B	urk			
organization	Dewberry			date D	ecembe	r 2013
street & numb	per 600 Parsippany	Road, Suite 301		telephor	ne 973	3-576-9699
city or town					NJ	zip code 07054
e-mail ł	ogiordano@dewberry	.com				
dditional D	ocumentation	7				
Submit the fol	llowing items with th	ne completed form:				2
A Ske photo • Conti	etch map for histor graphs to this map inuation Sheets	7.5 or 15 minute series) ir ic districts and properties ck with the SHPO or FPC	having large	acreage o	r nume	
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roperty Ow	ner					
Complete this ite	em at the request of the	SHPO or FPO.)				
ame <u>T</u>	ownship of Maplewo	od				
street & numb	per 574 Valley Stree	et		telephor	ne 973	3-762-8120
city or town	Maplewood			state	NJ	zip code 07040
properties for listi	ing or determine eligibili		nd to amend exist	ting listings.	Respon	egister of Historic Places to nominate use to this request is required to obtain a

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Maplewood Municipal Building
Name of Property

Essex County, New Jersey County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

### NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Maplewood Municipal Building is an excellent example of a Classical Revival style civic building. Designed by the prominent architectural firm of Guilbert & Betelle and constructed in 1932, it embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Classical Revival style as demonstrated in its prominent location in the town's civic center, its symmetrical plan, its imposing façade, the Doric colonnade, and the prominent cupola. The Classical Revival style was a popular choice for civic architecture in the late-19<sup>th</sup> and early-20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The Maplewood Municipal Building occupies a lot with a broad, well-manicured lawn fronting Valley Street on an upland terrace overlooking Memorial Park and is visible from many points around the town (see Photos 1-2). The lot has approximately 400 feet of frontage along Valley Street between Park Road and Oakview Avenue. The eastern boundary of the portion of the lot included in this nomination extends from Park Road to Oakview Avenue, along the curving western curb line of the rear parking lot behind the building. The building is set back approximately 110 feet from Valley Street and is surrounded by a grand lawn to the north, south, and west (front). Residential development is located near the building along Park Road and Oakview Avenue.

The approach to the building has an approximately 40-foot-wide flagstone plaza. Two sets of stairs leading to the building entrance, as well as the floor of the portico, are granite. The building is bordered with low-lying landscape shrubs and taller trees, including spruce and holly variations, at the northern and southern (side) elevations. A flagpole with an ornate metal and granite base is located on the north lawn. A modern pyramidal stone memorial dedicated in 1997 to Vietnam War veterans is located on this lawn just north of the main entrance. The driveways located behind the building are not included in this nomination,

The Maplewood Municipal Building appears today much as it did when constructed. Its historic setting, on a prominent location overlooking Memorial Park, has been retained. Very few alterations have been made to the building's exterior since it was constructed. The exterior entrance door is a replacement and one second-story window at the rear of the building was enclosed to accommodate an interior elevator. A concrete ramp at the northeast (rear) corner of the building also is a later addition. At the upper story of the end walls of the wings that project from the main block, round windows have been replaced with louvered vents. As explained in the sections below, the most significant changes have occurred on the interior.

The location of the municipal building is shown on maps labeled Figures 1-3. Figures 4-7 include site and interior plans, as well as photo locations.

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National Park Service	

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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#### **Exterior Description**

The building's two-story main block is nine bays wide along the front facade (see Photo 4). One-story wings project from both sides of the main block and are five bays wide. A one-and-one-half-story gabled section extends toward the rear and is flanked by one-story sections (see Photos 5, 6, 7 and 8). Exterior walls are red brick veneer laid in Flemish bond. The main block and wings have side-gabled roofs clad with slate shingles with a copper ridge roll. Brick parapets that emulate the appearance of double-end chimneys are located at both ends of the main block. The front façade is dominated by a two-story portico composed of eight Doric limestone columns set on a granite base with a simple entablature that supports a full-width pediment (see Photos 9 and 10). The pediment has dentils and a broad stone frieze bearing bronze letters that form the words "Maplewood Municipal Building." The center of the pediment features a carving of an eagle with governmental staffs mounted on boughs of maple leaves. A round arch marble surround encloses the front entrance, which is centrally located along the front facade. The building has a simple limestone entablature with dentils along the main block. A large wooden cupola projects from the center of the main block and is a dominant feature of the building (see Photo 11). The cupola has an Ionic colonnade and is topped by a full entablature capped by bronze urns. The drum is enhanced by a relief of garlands interspersed with ocular windows topped with a decorative finial. Exterior woodwork at the doors and windows (as well as the cupola) is painted white.

Access to the basement is provided by stairs located at the rear of the building—along the rear elevation of both the north and south wings. Granite stairs provide access to the exterior doors in the rear of the building. A concrete ramp is located at the northeast corner of the building. The building has a limestone water table, and a 1931 cornerstone is located at the northwest corner of the north wing.

The main entrance doors are replacement steel double doors with paired, fixed-glass windows. First floor windows on the front façade of the main block are six-over-six wood sash, with the exception of the first floor windows in the third, fourth, sixth and seventh bays. These windows are narrow, fixed-glass wood sash rectangular windows. Windows on the second floor in the third through seventh bays (within the colonnade) are six-over-nine wood sash and are adorned with delicate wrought-iron balconies with the letter "M" designed within the metalwork (see Photo 12). The remaining second floor windows on the front façade of the main block are six-over-six wood sash. Within each second floor end wall of the main block is one central round arch window. These windows are six-over-six wood sash with an integral fanlight at the upper sash. Each window is flanked by wood sash quarter round windows.

The front façade of each wing that projects from the main block is five bays wide. Windows along the front elevations of the one-story wings are round arch, set in recessed panels (see Photo 13). The windows are six-over-six wood sash with an integral fanlight at the upper sash. Windows set in round arch openings have stone blocks at the spring line of the arches. The end walls of each wing have one central round-arch recessed panel that is blank and flanked by six-over-six wood sash windows set in recessed panels. At the upper story on both end walls, previously round windows have been enclosed and replaced with louvered vents. The rear elevation of the south wing has four round arch windows set

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service	Maplewood Municipal Building         Name of Property         Essex County, New Jersey         County and State	
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in recessed panels and one doorway to the north. The windows are the same as those found on the front elevation of the wing. The door is wood with a fixed-glass window and a fanlight above. The rear elevation of the north wing has five round-arch windows set in recessed panels. The windows are the same as those found on the front elevation of the wing.

The rear of the building has varying window types based on the location in the building. The rear elevation of the gabled projecting section has one central recessed panel that is blank and is flanked by two round arch windows each set in a recessed panel. These windows are wider than windows used throughout the building and are eight-over-eight wood sash with integral fanlights at the upper sash. One round window with stone keystones is located at the center of the upper story. One door is located on the south wall of the rear projecting section. It is a six-panel wood door with a fanlight above. Windows are also located at the second floor along the rear elevation of the main block. One nine-over-nine wood sash window is located on the north end; it appears that a second window was removed and filled in with brick—this was likely done to accommodate an interior elevator shaft (see Photo 14). Two paired six-over-six wood windows are located at the south end of the second floor.

The fenestration on both of the one-story sections that flank the rear projecting block is not identical; the one-story section to the north has four windows and one door while the south one-story section has three windows and one door. Windows in these sections are six-over-six wood sash. Exterior doors in these sections are wood with fixed-glass windows; each has a rectangular transom with a scrolled pattern. One six-over-six window is located on the rear elevation of each one-story section.

At the basement level, windows are three-over-three wood sash, and the doors are steel. Window wells are also located around the building. With a few exceptions noted earlier, all doors and windows appear to be original.

#### **Interior Description**

#### Plan

The north end of the basement level houses public restrooms, a storage area, and break room/kitchen. A steel "Clerk's Vault" is located along the west wall. The south end houses a women's bathroom, a boiler room, and additional storage. A "[Tax] Collector's Vault" is located along the west wall. A general storage area containing various caged spaces is centrally located between the north and south ends of the basement. On the first story, an entrance vestibule leads to the main lobby. Two recessed niches are located on each side of the entrance vestibule along the west side of the lobby. East of the lobby is the committee room. The lobby is flanked by corridors that lead to the Township Clerk and Health Department offices to the north and the Finance Department and associated offices to the south. The Mayor's Office is located north of the lobby leads to a secondary corridor to the east that provides access to an anteroom and a conference room. Two stairways are located at either side of the committee room—the stairs to the north are open and provide access to the basement and second floor

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levels. The stairs to the south are accessible through a doorway and provide access to the basement.

The second floor is smaller in plan than the first since it is located only within the main block of the building. A staircase leads to a small hallway that provides access to two bathrooms and a janitor's closet. Public space and offices for the Engineering and Building Departments are located at the south end of the floor. One elevator is located at the northeast corner of the building and provides access to all three floors.

#### Design

The interior of the Maplewood Municipal Building retains a majority of its original materials. The entrance vestibule has marble floors and walls. It has a plaster ceiling with an ornate cornice adorned with a decorative patterned frieze band. Eight-light double wood doors lead from the entrance vestibule to the lobby. The doorway features a fanlight with ornate lead glass detailing. The lobby and committee room on the first floor are the most architecturally significant spaces within the building. The lobby provides a dramatic entrance to the building by its extensive use of marble. The walls are clad in marble and are adorned with Doric pilasters. The floor has black and white marble laid in a diagonal pattern. The lobby has an intricate coffered ceiling with an ornate cornice with dentils (see Photos 15 and 16). Three symmetrically spaced wood-paneled double doors with round glass windows open from the lobby to the committee room. The committee room is a classically inspired space with mahogany details (see Photos 17 and 18). Full-height round arch windows are located on the rear (east) wall and the symmetry of the round arches continues in a series of round arch niches on the north and south walls that house the Murals of Maplewood (see Photos 19 and 20). The niches are separated by Doric pilasters. The room is a commanding space with an approximately 20-foot tall ceiling. The upper sections of the walls are plaster while the lower sections are wood wainscoting. Rows of mahogany benches are located on both sides of the room and provide seating for approximately 200 people. A rostrum for members of the township committee is located at the front (east end) of the room, separated from the rest of the room by a mahogany spindle railing. Three ornate stained glass windows are located above the niches on the north and south walls. The room has an ornamental plaster ceiling, and the floors are carpeted; however, the original marble floors survive underneath the carpeting. The lobby and committee room also retain their original mahogany window and door surrounds. Both spaces, as well as the entrance vestibule, retain their original light fixtures, except for the small lights that illuminate the murals which were installed ca. 2009.

North and south of the lobby, corridors lead to municipal offices (see Photos 21 and 22). The corridors have terrazzo floors designed in a pattern of diagonal squares that mimic the pattern of the lobby floor. The lower half of the corridor walls is clad with marble while the upper half is of stucco/concrete. Corridor ceilings are plaster. The Township Clerk and Health Department space (to the north) has been altered (see Photo 23). Interior partitions were added at the north corners to create offices, and new counters have been installed. Fluorescent light fixtures illuminate this space, replacing the original light fixtures. Walls and ceilings are plaster while the floors are concrete. The space retains its original window trim and chair rail molding. The Finance Department space to the south has also been altered

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(see Photo 24). A new wood partition has been installed that separates the public space from the worker and office space. The walls are plaster with wood chair rails. Ceilings in this space are drop ceilings with fluorescent lighting; the public space has vinyl flooring while the office space is carpeted. Both spaces have original vaults along the end walls.

The doors on the first floor corridors that lead to offices and storage spaces are wood paneled and retain their original wood surrounds. Aside from the committee chambers and lobby (which have mahogany trim), the remainder of the building has walnut trim. Immediately north of the lobby, a round arch opening leads to a stairwell and an anteroom and small conference room (see Photo 25). Walls and ceilings in the conference room are plaster while the floor is carpeted. The conference room retains its original cornice as well as its wood door and window surrounds and also features double wood chair rail molding (see Photo 26). The anteroom has plaster walls and ceiling. It has a wood chair rail and the floor is carpeted. Both rooms have fluorescent lighting.

The stairs have metal risers with marble treads and a simple balustrade with wrought iron balusters supporting a wood handrail (see Photo 27). On the second floor, the two bathrooms have been renovated. The janitor's closet retains its original tile floor and subway wall tile. The main space for the Building Department is open with offices at the north and south ends (see Photo 28). Walls and ceilings are plaster; doorways and windows retain their original wood surrounds (see Photo 29). The hallway has a terrazzo floor while the Building Department space has a concrete floor. Fluorescent lighting illuminates the second floor.

At the basement level, doorways and windows retain their original wood surrounds (see Photo 30). The basement corridors immediately near the staircase have terrazzo floors. Basement walls are concrete/stucco with exposed pipes in the ceiling. Two steel vaults are located along the west wall, one on the north end (see Photo 31) and the second to the south. The men's and women's bathrooms to the north have been updated and have new tile floors and walls and new bathroom fixtures. The break room/kitchen has updated features including a laminate floor and dropped ceiling. The women's bathroom on the south end retains much of its original materials, including subway wall tile, marble walls separating the stalls, a mosaic tile floor, and porcelain pedestal sinks (see Photo 32). The upper walls and ceilings are plaster. All lighting at the basement level is fluorescent.

#### Maplewood Murals

A key character-defining feature of the interior is the unique collection of nine ca. 1959 murals in the committee room painted by the prominent Newark-based, internationally-known artist, Stephen Juharos (1913-2010). The nine paintings trace the history of Maplewood and adorn the north, south, and east walls and include *1600 Chief Tuscan*; *1779 The Timothy Ball House*; *1840 Asher B. Durand*; *1860 Seth Boyden*; *1875 Pierson's Mill*; *1883 James Ricalton*; *1920 The Period of Expansion*; *1958 The Fourth of July Celebration*; and *1959 Maplewood*.

The east (front) wall features the centrally located 1959 Maplewood mural which is topped in the panel

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National Park Service	

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above by a 36-inch-round bronze cast of the Maplewood town seal, designed in 1958 by Joseph Veach Noble, a local resident and an antiquities expert and Vice-Director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art at the time. The *1959 Maplewood* mural is of a portrait of Maplewood painted in the spring of 1959 as it appeared from the Essex County Reservation on the crest of Orange Mountain. Area landmarks included in the painting are Columbia High School, Maplewood Junior High, the Empire State Building, the Statue of Liberty, the Bayonne Bridge, and the Elizabeth City Hall, among others.

The following murals are located on the north wall:

*1600 Chief Tuscan* – This mural depicts the camp of Chief Tuscan, a Lenni-Lenape Indian, as he and a friend return from a hunt proudly carrying a deer, with his family preparing food along a brook.

*1779 The Timothy Ball H*ouse – In 1666, a group of Englishmen under the leadership of Robert Treat moved from Connecticut and established Newark. Among the group were Edward Ball and his sons, Thomas and Timothy. Timothy Ball died of smallpox in the epidemic of 1758, leaving his house to his wife and family. In the winter of 1779, General George Washington and his troops were stationed near Morristown. The mural illustrates such an occasion in 1779 when it is reported that General Washington slept in the house. The Timothy Ball House still stands today on Ridgewood Road.

1840 Asher B. Durand – Asher B. Durand was born in Jefferson Village (present-day Maplewood) in 1796. He won national acclaim as a landscape artist and member of the Hudson River School of Painting. Durand accepted a three-year partnership with John Trumbull who selected Durand to engrave his famous painting "The Signing of the Declaration of Independence." This single plate assured his success in the art field, and other commissions rapidly followed. The mural shows Durand in the spring of 1840 at work on a characteristic painting. Durand's work is represented in major museums across the country, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, Boston's Museum of Fine Arts, and the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. In 1869 he returned to Maplewood to live out his life.

*1860 Seth Boyden* – Seth Boyden designed and built the first engines for the railroad that ran through Jefferson Village in 1838. While living in the Hilton section during the 1860s, he developed the cultivated strawberry (Noble 1961). The scene of the mural shows Seth Boyden in late June 1860, admiring a bowl of his strawberries picked by a neighbor's boy. In the background, his locomotive, "The Orange," pulls into Maplewood Station, adjoining Baker Street.

The following murals are located on the south wall:

*1875 Pierson's Mill* – Maplewood in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries was an agricultural community, an area of farms and rural industries. In 1831, Lewis Pierson built a dam and a gristmill on his 250-acre farm which belonged since 1776 to his father, Samuel Pierson. In 1843, the prosperous miller, Lewis Pierson, erected a new house which he named Vaux Hall. The scene in the mural is in the fall of 1875 and represents Pierson's Mill and his Greek Revival style house located on Valley Street.

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*1883 James Ricalton*<sup>1</sup> – James Ricalton was Maplewood's first permanent school teacher. In 1871 he was hired for a term of 12 weeks at a salary of \$200 and worked for over 20 years. The scene in the mural is in the late spring of 1883; James Ricalton is holding class under the trees in the schoolyard.

*1920 The Period of Expansion* – The year 1920 marked the beginning of Maplewood's greatest period of building and expansion. Between 1920 and 1930 the population increased from 5,000 to 21,000. The mural scene of an afternoon in the early summer of 1920 typifies this era of growth.

*1958 The Fourth of July Celebration* – The Fourth of July Celebration in Memorial Park represents a civic tradition since 1904. The mural is a montage representing a blending of the principal events that occurred at the celebration over time. The municipal building across from Memorial Park is a key feature of the mural, with fireworks exploding around it.

#### **Non-Contributing Resources**

#### War Veterans Memorial

A pyramidal stone memorial is located on the front lawn, just north of the main entrance to the Municipal Building. The memorial is constructed of black marble and is surrounded by gray paving stones set in a circular pattern. The perimeter of the memorial includes wood benches and low lying bushes. The memorial was dedicated in 1997 by Boy Scout Troop 2 of Maplewood, and the plaque on the memorial reads "This Monument is Dedicated to the Veterans of all Foreign and Domestic Wars." The memorial was constructed after the period of significance, and, therefore, is a non-contributing resource.

#### Integrity

The Maplewood Municipal Building is in excellent condition and retains its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. It is in its original location, and the design of the building reflects the design intent of architects Guilbert & Betelle, as evidenced by its Classical Revival style. The exterior of the building has remained virtually unchanged in architectural design since its completion in 1932. The building has retained its integrity of setting and remains in a prominent location in Maplewood's civic center, across from Maplewood Memorial Park, making it open and accessible to all citizens. The building retains a substantial degree of integrity of materials; the elaborately designed lobby and committee room with marble, mahogany, and ornate plaster details remain intact. In addition, with few exceptions, the building retains all its original windows. A substantial degree of integrity of workmanship is demonstrated in the overall quality of the building

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> While it is remarkable that the mural honors Ricalton as a Maplewood *schoolteacher*, it would be an oversight not to note here that he was better known as a world-famous photographer; see, for example: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James\_Ricalton.

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construction and interior details. The building's integrity of feeling has been retained and is evidenced by its prominent location, set back on a grand lawn overlooking the park, and, in effect, overlooking the civic center. Its integrity of association with the other civic properties surrounding it (such as the park, the Maplewood Country Club, the Maplewood Middle School, the train station, and the fire station) is still very apparent.

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### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The Maplewood Municipal Building is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C at a local level of significance in the areas of **Architecture** and **Community Planning and Development**, for the period of 1931 to 1959, beginning with the year construction began and ending with the year interior murals were painted by the prominent portraitist and muralist artist Stephen Juharos and installed in the committee room of the building.

The municipal building is significant in the area of Architecture for its Classical Revival style that embodies the civic pride that the Township of Maplewood (Maplewood) sought to express. The municipal building was completed in 1932 as an integral component of the new civic center under construction in Maplewood from 1922-1932. The building's Classical Revival style combined with its display of interior artwork is a significant form of architectural expression that had become widespread and emblematic of civic architecture during the City Beautiful movement that followed the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition, when communities were establishing their governing bodies and seeking to add a sense of distinction and importance to their governments.

Maplewood's municipal building is an excellent example of the work of Guilbert & Betelle, a prolific and prominent Newark-based architectural firm. Before forming their partnership, both Ernest Guilbert and James Betelle had worked in the studios of very prominent architectural firms whose commissions included many civic-related projects. Another distinctive feature of the municipal building is its interior artwork. The building's original design included provisions for artwork, a feature common to buildings designed during this period. A unique collection of nine murals were painted in 1959 by the noted portraitist and muralist Stephen Juharos and installed in the building's committee room.

The Maplewood Municipal Building is significant in the area of Community Planning and Development for its association with the City Beautiful Movement that emerged from the 1893 Chicago World's Columbian Exposition. Within the movement "aspiring cities throughout the country were attempting to ennoble their centers with libraries, museums, city halls, and courthouses" (Guter 1993). The concept of the civic center was a product of the City Beautiful Movement, and Maplewood's township leaders quickly embraced the concept with the construction of its own civic center. Maplewood's civic center included Memorial Park at its center and municipal and civic-related buildings surrounding it, one of which was the municipal building. The municipal building's prominent location on an upland terrace overlooking Valley Street and Memorial Park made it visible from many places within the park and town. Upon its completion, the municipal building became an anchor for the civic center and the civic focal point of the community, and it retains its strong relationship to Maplewood's civic center today.

(Expires 5-31-2012)

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### NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

#### Early History and Development of Maplewood

What is today Maplewood began as a rural farming village in the northern New Jersey countryside first inhabited by European settlers in the late-17<sup>th</sup> century and, by the early-20<sup>th</sup> century, had been transformed into a railroad suburb of Newark and New York. Early settlements for Europeans revolved around the Passaic River, which led to the formation of the City of Newark. By the early and mid-1700s, a sprinkling of farms and plantations appeared on the eastern slope of the First Watchung Mountain (also called South Mountain), on the ridge to the east and south (a portion of which is sometimes called Prospect Ridge), and the valley along the East Branch of the Rahway River (Cunningham and Cummings 1995; Maplewood Historic Preservation Commission 2008).

As time progressed, the several outlying farm settlements of Newark Township that ultimately formed Maplewood took on the local names of Jefferson Village, Clinton or Cherry Valley, and North Farms. The river valley to the east of the East Branch of the Rahway River and the lower slopes of Prospect Ridge was known as Clinton or Cherry Valley, and it contained the area where the municipal building is now located. The valley contained not only farms, but several shops, mills, and factories that utilized the river's water power (League of Women Voters (League) n.d.:7). The mill activity in the river valley figured prominently in the town's early history. The Crowell family, who settled in the area in 1728, established a cider mill in the valley, and, in 1841, Aaron Crowell built the Clinton Valley General Store near the site of the municipal building. An 1815 map suggests that Joseph Pierson and family members operated a grist mill on the East Branch of the Rahway River that was known for 150 years as Pierson's Mill, an important community landmark located near the municipal building. Despite the mills, farms, and residences dotting the river valley, most of the land remained agricultural until the second decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Similar to many communities in New Jersey, Maplewood developed around the train station, in this particular case, along the Morris & Essex (M&E) Railroad line. Originally chartered as the M&E Railroad Company by the Legislature of New Jersey on January 29, 1835, the railroad replaced the Morris Canal as the primary mode of transportation through northern New Jersey. Construction of the new railroad line started in 1836, and, by 1837, the railroad company obtained its first steam engine (designed by local resident Seth Boyden). In 1859, a platform was built at the corner of Baker Street and Maplewood Avenue, and, in 1860 a railroad station was built next to the platform. The new station was named "Maplewood (Bates 1948). The advancement of the M&E Railroad through northern New Jersey was pivotal in changing the northern New Jersey landscape. Besides transporting coal and other raw materials, the M&E Railroad provided passenger service between the interior parts of New Jersey and New Jersey's Hudson River waterfront for ferry transport to New York City (Kurshan and Stout 2009). The M&E railroad thus helped to transform Maplewood from a rural village in the early-19<sup>th</sup> century to a landscape containing suburban towns along the railroad line by the century's close.

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South Orange Township (including portions of present-day Maplewood) was incorporated in 1861 from portions of the Townships of Orange and Clinton. In 1904, the Village of South Orange was separated from the Township of South Orange. In 1922, the Township of South Orange adopted the name "Township of Maplewood" (Synder 1969) in order to create a distinct identity for the community that would help define it and elevate its status among Essex County communities. It also adopted this name to avoid confusion resulting from having one part called "Village of South Orange" and the other "Township of South Orange" (Foster 1930).

During the 1860s, Maplewood Avenue was constructed northwest of the railroad tracks and river. As the commercial and municipal center of the town, Maplewood Avenue contained stores, businesses, and a municipal building. A township school was constructed in 1869 on Maplewood Avenue, and in 1904, the school building became the town hall after a new school was constructed on nearby Baker Street. The town hall remained in the school building on Maplewood Avenue and continued to be the center of municipal activity until the civic center was constructed in the 1920s.

Improvements to the M&E Division, as the railroad was know after 1899 when it was permanently acquired by the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western (DL&W) Railroad Company, led to a further increase in commuter passenger service, bringing more people to the Maplewood area. In fact, it was the vision and establishment of the railroad which would create the avenue for prospective residents to choose Maplewood as their home. Starting in 1900, the DL&W Railroad conducted a construction campaign to eliminate dangerous grade crossings by elevating the tracks of the M&E Division in towns all along its line. The tracks at Maplewood were elevated between 1901 and 1903, with a new railroad station constructed at the same time (Lemos 2005; Kurshan and Stout 2009). Other forms of public transit soon came to Maplewood, and, as of 1902, two electric trolley lines ran through Maplewood to Newark, one along Valley Street and the other along Springfield Avenue. The increase in public transit had a direct impact on the rise in population and settlement within Maplewood. In 1868 there were only three commuters to New York from Maplewood with a total population of 1,078. However, by 1900 the population reached 1,630 (51.2% increase between 1898 and 1900) (Pierson 1922).

By 1910 Maplewood was generally still rural with a growing population of 2,979. Population growth between 1900 and 1910 exceeded 82.8%. The land containing the future Memorial Park was largely a meadow for cattle grazing, with a boardwalk running through the meadow from Valley Street to Dunnell Road (Bates 1948). By 1910 much of Baker Street, the future southwestern boundary of the park, had been fully developed, with a row of homes known as the Chapin development on its northeastern side (Kurshan and Stout 2009; McCornack 1935:1). At this time a number of undeveloped lots were located between North Burnett and Dunnell Streets (Newark Evening News 1919). Suburban development soon followed by 1911 as local farm owners with large tracts of land began subdividing their properties into residential building lots. The population of the township also expanded rapidly during the early 20th century as soldiers returned from World War I. The greatest population growth occurred in Maplewood during the 1920s as many Newark and New York residents moved to the suburbs. Between 1920 and 1930 the population increased from 5,283 to 21,321 (303.6% increase). The appeal of the close proximity to New York is illustrated in aggressive real estate campaigns which sought to attract young

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families of all economic status. These campaign advertisements included such headings as "The Choicest of All New Jersey Suburbs," "Thirty Minutes from Broadway," and the "The Ideal in Suburban Towns." Maplewood continued to grow during the mid- and late-20<sup>th</sup> century as a residential suburb, centered on a key railroad transportation network with ease of access to local roadways and highways. Historic maps of Maplewood's 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century development are shown on Figures 8-14. **Community Planning and Development** 

In the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century suburban growth caused many government offices nationwide to outgrow their facilities, including those in present-day Maplewood (at the time South Orange). During this time, the Township of South Orange was governed by the Township Committee (Committee), with John S. De Hart, Jr., as its visionary chairman and mayor. Keeping in step with the prevailing design trends promoted by the City Beautiful movement, the Committee proceeded with planning for a new civic center southeast of the railroad tracks (McCornack 1935). The idea of a civic center had become an important concept to municipalities as a way to beautify a city and unify its citizenry and government and was promoted across the country by adherents of the movement. Mayor DeHart believed in the merits of the civic center as well and ardently pursued its development in Maplewood. The Committee oversaw an aggressive program of improvements that was typical during the City Beautiful movement (McCornack 1935), including community planning measures; the construction of new streets; the extension of public services; the reorganization of the police and fire departments and the public schools; the reconstruction of the municipal administration; and the construction of the new civic center. A zoning committee was formed, and, by June 1922, a zoning ordinance was adopted. The ordinance regulated the land use of specific areas of Maplewood, designating where industrial, residential, and open space areas would be located (Clerk 1922).

Between 1922 and 1932, the Committee worked diligently, planning for and gradually establishing the civic center. With strong support from other community leaders and financial support from bond issues, the civic center was planned with a large public park at its center and civic, municipal, and public-oriented buildings surrounding it. Interestingly, the development of the center proceeded despite the onset of the Great Depression in 1929, giving evidence of the Township's commitment to creating the civic center. The Committee selected the land in the river valley between the railroad tracks and Valley Street as the site for the park and spent \$850,000 in its development (*Daily Courier* 1929). Properties that were constructed as part of the civic center included Memorial Park between Dunnell Road and Valley Street, and Oakland Road and Baker Street; the police building and fire station northwest of the park on Dunnell Road; the Civic House within Memorial Park; and the municipal building on Valley Street (Clerk 1922; *Daily Courier* 1929). The Maplewood Country Club, although privately owned, was constructed across the street from the civic center, and Maplewood Middle School had been constructed earlier across the street. The Maplewood Public Library was later added to the Civic Center.

Early discussions of the Committee focused on a single municipal building that would house both the police and administrative departments; however, the design ultimately changed as concerned citizens applied pressure to officials, citing their concerns for the high costs of a combined municipal building and police department. Additionally, citizens had concerns about locating a jail near other municipal

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functions within a residential district. The Committee decided to keep the buildings separate and hired architect Charles C. Grant to design the new Police Building. Designed in the Classical Revival style, the police building is similar to the municipal building in style, size, and monumentality.

The Committee had desired that other civic-oriented facilities be located in the civic center, further strengthening it as the core of the community and separating itself from the surrounding communities in innovation and planning. Based on drawings on file at the Morristown and Morris Township Library's, Brinley & Holbrook (the designers of Maplewood Memorial Park) may have developed the concept of locating the police, fire and public works facilities together along Dunnell Road. In 1929, as other municipal buildings had already been built, were being constructed, or were in the planning stages, an unsuccessful attempt was made to locate the soon-to-be-built clubhouse of the Woman's Club of Maplewood (Woman's Club) within the civic center. The Woman's Club had already purchased a lot for the building near Maplewood Avenue, and its construction was imminent when the Committee approached the Woman's Club. Mayor DeHart strongly felt that the Woman's Club building belonged in the group of new civic buildings facing Memorial Park and thought the impressive new facility, designed by the master architect of clubhouses, Clifford C. Wendehack, should be located at the southeastern corner of Baker and Valley Streets on land owned by the Maplewood Country Club. Another reason for placing a civic-oriented building at this location was to prevent the country club land from one day being rezoned and developed for multi-family residential or commercial use (Clerk 1922; Daily Courier 1929). The country club declined to sell the parcel to the Woman's Club, and their new clubhouse was constructed elsewhere in the town (Members Chat 1928; Daily Courier 1929).

The importance that the community placed on the construction of the new municipal building and the civic center is illustrated in the August 12, 1932 *Maplewood Record*, which stated that the new building is "the main unit of the civic center and from it radiate[s] Memorial Playground and park with its attractive planting area [that] gives to the visitor a splendid impression of Maplewood." The article further reported that the layout of the building and civic center met the recommendations of the Regional Plan Association on Community Planning, thus demonstrating the desire of the township leaders to comply with the regional association and adopt sound planning principles in the design of the civic center. The April 12, 1932 *Maplewood Record* expressed its gratitude to the township, saying that the benefits of the planning operations were many. The article explained that local planning develops the community in harmony and provides a plan that is dovetailed with larger county and regional plans; the end result "is a developed community that is well planned and protected and therefore a good place in which to live and work and play" (*Maplewood Record* 1932).

The planning of the civic center and the construction of the municipal building was consistent with the national trend to support new development. This new development helped to create jobs and alleviate unemployment during the Great Depression. Instead of being deterred from proceeding with plans for the new municipal building because of the onset of the Great Depression, the Committee was encouraged by the words of President Hoover, who stated that in spite of the difficult economic conditions, municipalities should continue with planned municipal projects, as they would provide work for the unemployed. Following its completion, the President of the Chamber of Commerce and Civics of

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the Oranges and Maplewood praised the new municipal building, saying:

Particularly at this time it is a matter of congratulation that the township building has been completed, since the work has been undertaken at a time when President Hoover urged construction of public buildings for the stimulation of business activity and furnishing of employment to local residents. The undertaking has in consequence been of special benefit to the community during a time when other classes of construction have been below normal volume (*Maplewood Record Supplement* 1932:1).

The magnitude and importance of the opening of the municipal building as a symbol for citizens of the community during the time when the morale of the township was at its lowest point cannot be overlooked. The municipal building was seen as a true sign of inspiration for the community to be a better place to live, and [it was] a building that represented pride as the iconic symbol of the civic center (*Maplewood Record* 1932). The *Maplewood Record* of August 12, 1932, also reported:

A large and imposing structure as another contribution to the Civic Center had been regarded as necessity if the township was to take on an air of greatness and of real progress. That has been accomplished by the Township Committee and some members who have returned to private life by showing they have the courage to lead the way to progress and the determination to overcome all obstacles to give Maplewood a building of which we can be proud.

And the township is proud of this fine structure and will be inspired by it. For some time past the project has been under consideration. It was said that the future progress of the township would be measured from the time the Civic Center development took place. It was said that the section would never be appreciated by ourselves here and many who come from the outside until an imposing municipal building graced the area. In other words it was the general belief that the future progress of the township hinged in part on this improvement.

All that has now been achieved, so it follows that Maplewood is in the making. Not that we can expect overnight changes, but the Civic Center will be an inspiration for the entire township in making our community a better place in which to live.

#### Design and Construction of the Municipal Building

The Classical Revival style chosen for the municipal building was influenced by popular trends of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. A revival of interest in classical architecture resulted from the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition, in which the exposition's planners required a classical theme to the buildings, with many of the best-known architects of the day designing dramatic colonnaded buildings. The exposition was widely photographed, reported, and attended, and soon classically-inspired architecture became the latest fashion in both domestic and municipal architecture throughout the country. The exposition promoted architecture that was grand in scale, monumental, symmetrical, and luxuriously appointed, with a broad and richly pictorial vocabulary of classical ornament. Such architecture was suitable for noble purposes, such as government buildings, because it was the architecture of a society that sought reform, progress, and perfection (Rifkind 1980:217). Urban and suburban examples of

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Classical Revival style architecture arose everywhere, from small towns to large cities, as governments sought to empower themselves and form the identities of the towns that they governed. Maplewood's municipal building is a prime example of this trend.

The turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century brought new waves of construction in towns and cities across the country. Between 1900 and 1936 over two dozen new state capitols were constructed. The trend was inspired by American railroad companies which, beginning with Daniel Burnham's 1908 Union Station in Washington, D.C., adorned American cities with stations of unprecedented grandeur. State governments soon were copying the railroad companies with their construction of monumental buildings to house their offices. In addition to state capitol buildings, smaller government buildings were constructed during this period. The New Jersey cities of Paterson, Trenton, New Brunswick, Newark, Montclair, and Plainfield, to name a few, constructed new halls, firehouses, and other municipal projects. Many of the state's cities and towns had operated out of makeshift or rented quarters in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, including Maplewood (Guter 1992).

On March 5, 1929, the Committee, led by Mayor DeHart, selected the prominent Newark architectural firm of Guilbert & Betelle to design the new municipal building. Betelle chose the Classical Revival style (the prevailing style for government buildings) for the building. In describing his choice of architectural style for the building, in an August 12, 1932, newspaper article, architect James Betelle explained, "The building was designed in [the] Colonial style because the traditions of the neighborhood are Colonial, and this harmonizes with the other public buildings and schools nearby (*Maplewood Record Supplement* August 12, 1932). Original Guilbert & Betelle architectural drawings, dated August 8, 1931, illustrate Betelle's design for the building, including the front elevation (see Figure 15); the detailed cupola (see Figure 16); the northeast, southeast, and rear elevations (see Figure 17); and the first floor framing (see Figure 18).

The land that was chosen for the site of the new municipal building was to the east of Memorial Park, prominently located on the elevated land overlooking the park. The earliest historical images of the location of the municipal building reveal that several residences and a business were located there. To construct the municipal building in this location the township acquired the land, and the buildings were demolished.<sup>1</sup> By 1928, Maplewood acquired its lot for the municipal building as evidenced by the E. Robinson 1928 *Atlas of Essex County,* which clearly defines the municipal lot and remaining buildings at the location (see Figure 14). The final approvals to begin construction of the municipal building came on May 8, 1931 (*Maplewood News* 1931). Later that month, on May 30, 1931, Memorial Park and the new police station were dedicated, while the municipal building was still under construction.

The construction of the municipal building was managed by H.W. Heilman, the township engineer.<sup>2</sup> Reports of the construction costs varied widely, and the exact cost to construct the building and complete its interior and grounds is unknown. According to different newspapers, the cost ranged from \$207,000 to \$375,000. The August 12, 1932, *Maplewood Record* reported that the building was constructed at a cost of \$207,000; the April 14, 1932, article in the *North Jersey Courier* reported that the building was being constructed for \$250,000; and the article in the *South Orange Record* from August 5, 1932,

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reported that the building was constructed for less than \$275,000. On April 19, 1932, the *South Orange Record* reported that \$375,000 had been appropriated for the building, and "Mr. Borden announced that the building had been erected [for] about \$17,000 less than the appropriation even though there are few minor details yet to be completed" (*South Orange Record* April 19, 1932). According to the "Report of the Township Engineer for 1932," additional contracts were issued for \$35,000, covering additional work on the construction of the municipal building that included the embellishments of the grounds; construction of roadways; construction of the plaza steps, sidewalks and paths; planting of shrubbery and lawns; the furnishing of all benches, rail, and rostrum in the committee room; the construction of the grill in the Collector's Office; the furnishing of all furniture and equipment throughout the building; and the installation of clocks (*Maplewood Township Annual Report* 1932:105). The August 12, 1932, *Maplewood Record Supplement* also stated "the appropriation for the building, architects fees, grading, furniture, planning, road, paths, and plazas was \$275,000, but the cost is a little under that figure" (*Maplewood Record Supplement* August 12, 1932:1).

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The construction of the new municipal building was widely reported. An article in *The Maplewood News* dated September 23, 1931, depicted a sketch of the proposed municipal building (see Figure 19) with a circular driveway that ultimately was not constructed. An April 14, 1932, article in the North Jersey Courier reported that the new building was rapidly nearing construction and showed an image of the building showing the final portions of the cupola being installed (see Figure 20). The article noted that the old Town Hall was erected in 1869 as a school, and due to the rapid growth of the township during the preceding years, the building had become too small (North Jersey Courier April 14, 1932). The same article noted that the new building would have the offices of the Maplewood Town Clerk, Board of Health, Treasurer, Assessor, Building Department and Engineer's Department (all of which are still present within the building). The author also noted, "With the completion of the new town hall the township of Maplewood will have a set of public buildings second to none in the state" (North Jersey Courier April 14, 1932). The dedication and opening of the new municipal building occurred on September 17, 1932. It was an important local event attended by local officials of adjacent municipalities, and hundreds of citizens were reported to have attended the dedication ceremony (see Figure 21). Local businesses were closed during the dedication, and homes and stores were decorated for the ceremony (Maplewood News Supplement September 23, 1932:1-6). The municipal building was dedicated to the "promotion of good government and civic consciousness" (Maplewood Record September 23, 1932) (see Figure 21).

During the municipal building's construction, nine large niches were built into the walls of the committee room for the placement of artwork; however, they were left empty for 28 years. Private support for public artwork was unavailable during the Great Depression and World War II. During the 1950s, however, there was a period of great prosperity in the township, and artwork for the municipal building was pursued. Late in the year 1957, Thomas Sweeney, Chairman of the Committee, addressed a meeting for the Civics and Legislation Department of the Woman's Club, during which time he asked if they would take on the task of raising money for filling the long-empty niches within the committee room. Individuals, organizations, and businesses contributed a total of \$12,000 to the mural fund. Ultimately Mr. Sweeney, acting for the Committee, appointed a Municipal Building Mural Committee,

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and the Woman's Club accepted the role as the leading organization for the project (Noble 1961).

The history of Maplewood was the agreed-upon theme for the murals. A commission of \$10,000 was established to be awarded to the artist chosen to render the nine murals. Members of the Art Committee, including Joseph Veach Noble, an antiquities expert and administrator at the Metropolitan Museum of Art at the time, reviewed the work of various artists and visited buildings where their murals were located. By a unanimous vote, the committee chose Stephen Juharos, a successful portrait painter of international reputation living in Newark who was born and trained in Budapest, Hungary, prior to moving to the United States. Other works by Juharos included religious murals in New York City, Pittsburgh, and Texas, and the Eisenhower mural in the Hall of Presidents at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania (Noble 1961).

Juharos' work on the final sketches for the murals started in July 1958, and painting within his studio began in July of that same year. The painting of the murals proceeded for the next year, and the murals were unveiled at a dedication ceremony on Flag Day on Sunday, June 14, 1959. The nine murals portraying *The History of Maplewood* still adorn the committee room within the municipal building, with a bronze plaque, date, and description of each painting. The murals include *1600 Chief Tuscan*; *1779 The Timothy Ball House*; *1840 Asher B. Durand*; *1860 Seth Boyden*; *1875 Pierson's Mill*; *1883 James Ricalton*; *1920 The Period of Expansion*; *1958 The Fourth of July Celebration*; and *1959 Maplewood* (Noble 1961).

#### **Guilbert & Betelle**

The partnership of Guilbert & Betelle was formed in 1910 by Ernest F. Guilbert (1869-1916) and James Oscar Betelle (1879-1954). Both partners had trained in the architectural studios of successful and prominent architects prior to enjoying their success as a firm. Ernest Guilbert was born in Chicago on July 23, 1869. When he was 21 years old, he went to Boston and became associated with the successor firm of Henry Hobson Richardson. Returning to Chicago in 1891, Guilbert worked with Henry Ives Cobb on several of the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition buildings. In 1900, Guilbert entered Cass Gilbert's New York City office with a recommendation from a Minneapolis architect, and, in 1903, he managed the design of the Essex County Courthouse (listed in the National Register in 1975) and the American Insurance Company Building, both of which were in Newark. Guilbert reportedly managed Cass Gilbert's drafting room briefly during Gilbert's European travels (Heilbrun 2000). Later, Guilbert became manager of the office of John Russell Pope, among whose clients were William K. Vanderbilt, Jr., and John R. McLean Washington (Newark Evening News December 1, 1916). In 1908 Guilbert was one of a number of architects who were considered for the head of the construction department of the Newark Board of Education. A conference was held with all the candidates for the position, and Guilbert was named the head of the school of architects' department of the Board of Education (Newark Evening News December 1, 1916).

Guilbert's partner, James O. Betelle, was born in Wilmington, Delaware, in 1879. Betelle trained in the Philadelphia office of Cope & Stewardson, and, when he was 22 years old, he joined Cass Gilbert's firm

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and met Ernest Guilbert (Heilbrun 2000). In 1905, Betelle joined the ranks of other American architects who traveled to Europe to study classical and other historic forms of architecture, and in 1909 he began to manage the drafting room of John Russell Pope, a leader in the American Renaissance architectural movement. In 1910 Guilbert and Betelle established a partnership, with offices in Newark and New York City (Athenaeum of Philadelphia 2011). Guilbert died in 1916, leaving Betelle the sole owner of the company. Betelle, however, retained the name of Guilbert for the duration of the company's existence until 1939 when Betelle retired. In 1954, Betelle died of heart failure while living in Florence, Italy, at the age of 75 (Weintraub 2011).

As the sole owner of Guilbert & Betelle, Betelle set up its policies, controlled its business, obtained the work, and managed the entire organization. For his school designs, he used primarily an American Gothic style of architecture that was influenced by his work in Cope and Stewardson's office. During his career, Betelle was a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, President of the New Jersey Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, a member of the New Jersey Society of Architects, and a member of the T-Square Club. Between 1917 and 1925 he lectured at Columbia University's Teachers College. On August 31, 1922, Betelle was named architect of the City of Newark schools, and in 1932 he was chosen as the regional director of the Middle Atlantic Division of the American Institute of Architects Archives n.d.).

Aside from his professional affiliations, Betelle was active in the local community as a member of the Newark Athletic Club; Essex Club; Essex County Country Club; Players Club of New York; Orange Chapter #23 R.A.M., in Glen Ridge; and Hope Lodge 124 F.&A.M., in East Orange. Likewise, Betelle served on the North Jersey Transit Commission, was a Trustee of the Newark Museum, held Captaincy in the Army Sanitary Corps in World War I, and was president and a member of the Board of Directors of the Newark Chamber of Commerce.

Betelle's architecture was designed and planned with the specific intention of portraying the meaning of the local community both at the time it was constructed and for the future. In an April 1919 edition of *The American School Board Journal* he wrote:

As an example of how environment should affect the style, we can suppose that our new school is to be located across the street or adjoining an important college group or other public buildings. In this case, due consideration should be given to the style used in these existing buildings and the new school made to harmonize with them. In this way each will enhance the beauty of the other, and neither will be a jarring note to detract from the general good effect. Good taste dictates that we should conform in dress and deportment with the habits of the community, and this applies to our buildings as well as to our general behavior.

At the time the Committee chose Guilbert & Betelle to design the municipal building, the firm had already gained a regional reputation as a designer of schools and other civic buildings, many of which were in Maplewood and surrounding communities. The firm's portfolio of schools located in and around Maplewood included Marshall Elementary School, South Orange (1922); First Street School, South Orange (1923); Tuscan Elementary School, Maplewood (1924); Jefferson Elementary School,

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Maplewood (1924); Montrose Elementary School, South Orange (1924); Columbia High School, Maplewood (1927); Clinton Elementary School, Maplewood (1929); South Mountain Elementary School, South Orange (1929); and, additions to the Maplewood Junior High School, Maplewood (ca. 1930). Guilbert & Betelle's prominence in architecture is demonstrated by the number of its buildings that have been listed in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register). These include the Essex Club (presently the New Jersey Historical Society); New Jersey Training and Industrial School for Colored Youth, Bordentown, New Jersey; and Vineland High School (Landis School), located in Vineland, New Jersey. Guilbert & Betelle also designed banks, hotels, office buildings, and various public and quasi-public buildings. Although Guilbert & Betelle's commissions also included schools in Connecticut, Delaware, New York, and Pennsylvania; most of the firm's work was concentrated in New Jersey (Weintraub 2011).

#### Conclusion

The Maplewood Municipal Building is a notable example of the Classical Revival style of civic architecture of the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. As stated above, the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago introduced new concepts in architecture and city planning, including the idea of the civic center. With a combination of public monies and private patronage, aspiring cities throughout the country were attempting to ennoble their cities with civic centers that contained libraries, museums, city halls, and courthouses (Guter 1992). Similar to other growing New Jersey towns and cities, Maplewood sought to create a dignified public image by constructing a building that would represent its increasing size, wealth, and civic pride. The selection of Guilbert & Betelle, a prominent architectural firm of the time, adds to the importance placed on the design of the municipal building. Many other municipalities in close proximity to Maplewood constructed Classical Revival style municipal buildings during the early and mid 20<sup>th</sup> century, such as Plainfield, Madison, Springfield, Union, Chatham, Verona and Glen Ridge. The Maplewood Municipal Building has a similar design, architectural detailing, and integrity of design as compared to the Plainfield Municipal Building, which is listed in the National Register. The Chatham Municipal Building is located in a residential area and is much less architecturally adorned when compared to the Maplewood Municipal Building. The Verona and Union municipal buildings are similar in design, but replacement windows have diminished their integrity of design and materials. Also, both buildings have simpler fenestration details and less architectural ornament than found on the Maplewood Municipal Building.

Noted for its simplicity and beauty, Maplewood's Classical Revival style municipal building became a symbol of Maplewood at a time when population increases and rapid suburbanization left the township's rural nature in the past and transcended it into the future. It became an embodiment of the civic pride that enveloped the newly renamed township, helping to carry it through the uncertain times of the Great Depression. As a part of Maplewood's new civic center, the municipal building possessed architectural distinction as it sat in its prominent location overlooking Memorial Park, and the building immediately became Maplewood's municipal focus and a symbol of the township. The image of the municipal building also became the main element in the center of the town seal, designed by Joseph Veach Noble in 1958, thus demonstrating its importance to the entire community. The municipal building has been

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designated a Maplewood Historic Landmark by the Maplewood Historic Preservation Commission.

#### Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> The 1859 *Map of Essex County and Surrounding Counties*, while the scale is disproportionate, depicts the land as belonging to C.R. Crowell (mentioned previously), Mrs. L. Smith, and a Store and Shoe Manufacture (see Figure 8). The 1871 M. Hughes *Map of Essex County* identifies the area as belonging to Charles Crowell to the north and the estate of Henry Smith to the south. Additional properties to the south of the present-day municipal building property include that of Annie G. Ball and the estate of John Trenchard (see Figure 9). The 1881 E. Robinson *Atlas of Essex County* further delineates the land with clear property boundaries, showing the W.H. Smith Estate, a store, the residences of Fanny G. Freeman, Annie G. Ball, the J. Trenchard Estate, and the residence of M.H. Dare (see Figure 10). The 1904 A.H. Mueller *Map of Orange and Essex County* defines the property and lots surrounding the area, indicating the W.M. Smith & Fannie G. Freeman Estate. To the south is the large property of D.W. Van Iderstine, which shows a main dwelling and outbuilding located on the property (see Figure 11). The same properties appear in the 1910 H.S. Wyllie *Bird's Eye View of Maplewood*, extending along Valley Street between Oakland Road and Oakview Avenue (see Figure 12). The 1911 A.H. Mueller *Map of Orange and Essex County* provides much of the same information as the 1904 illustration (see Figures 11 and 13). The W.M. Smith & Fannie G. Freeman Estate and property of D.W. Van Iderstine are both indicated, with dwellings and outbuildings on each, and the map indicates several lots along Oakview Avenue still undeveloped at this time (see Figure 13). The E. Robinson 1928 *Atlas of Essex County County* clearly defines the municipal lot and remaining buildings at the location (see Figure 14).

<sup>2</sup> In an article posted on September 23, 1931, *The Maplewood News* reported that the Committee awarded the contracts of general construction to Delworthy Construction Company, whose bid was \$153,000; structural steel and ornamental iron to Selbach, Meyer Company, whose bid was \$12,545; plumbing to John E. Joyce for \$8,297; heating and ventilating to John H. Cooney & Son for \$17,291; and the electrical work to A. N. Meister & Company for \$14, 495. The August 12, 1932, Maplewood Record noted the consulting engineers were Eugene Powers & Son, Newark; general contract, Charles E. Doe & Company, Newark; plumbing John E. Joyce, Newark; paint, J.J. Hockenjos Company, Elizabeth; glass, Elizabeth Plate Glass Company, Elizabeth; millwork, the Union Millwork and Supply Company, Cranford; leaded glass, Sharp Brothers, Newark; terrazzo work, A. Del. Turco, Newark; painting and decorating, Albert Pedersen, Irvington; bluestone, American Bluestone Company, New York City; interior marble, New Jersey Tile & Marble Company, Jersey City; stone setting, Kearney & Burger, Arlington; bonded floors, Newark Parquet Floor Company, Newark; plaza work, sidewalks and grading, Samuel Magliaro, South Orange; vault doors Remington Rand Company, Newark; desks and furniture, Baker Printing Company, Newark; architectural cabinet work, William Schwarzwaelder and Company, New York City (Maplewood Record August 12, 1932). Other awarded contracts included Alice Leadbeater for draw curtains, \$119.50; Irvington Window Shade & Awning Company, window shades, \$210; Electric Time Clock Company, seven time clocks, \$395; and the Plainfield Nursery Company, evergreens and shrubs, \$596.90 (South Orange Record June 10, 1932). According to an August 12, 1932 article, the building when constructed had eight concrete vaults with walls, ceilings and floors of reinforced concrete. The vault doors were described as being of the "Severe Exposure Safe-Cabinet" type, manufactured by Remington Rand, Inc. The article reported that the doors would withstand severe heat for at least six hours (Maplewood Record August 12, 1932:4).

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### **Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundaries for the nominated property include that portion of Block 23.04, Lot 235 beginning with a point at the southwesterly corner of the lot, going north along the lot line on Valley Street, going east along the lot line on Park Road until the curb line of the driveway running behind the building, southerly along the curb line of the parking area behind the building until it meets Oakview Avenue, then westerly along the lot line on Oakview Avenue until the point of beginning. The boundary contains 1.85 acres.

#### **Boundary Justification**

The boundary is a partial lot and includes only the site of the historic building and the front lawn facing Memorial Park. The rear portion of the lot is not visible from the neighboring streets and has buildings and uses that are not part of the historic nature of the Maplewood Municipal Building. That section houses greenhouses and community gardens that were constructed after the period of significance of the Maplewood Municipal Building, and, while they serve community functions, are not part of the function of the Maplewood Municipal Building or part of its original design and would otherwise be non-contributing resources. Additionally, this area is not part of the locally designated historic site.

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### PHOTOGRAPH LOG

The following information is the same for all photographs submitted with the nomination:

Name of Prop City or Vicin County: State: Name of Pho Date of Photo Location of N	ity: tographer: ographs:	Maplewood Municipal Building Maplewood Essex NJ Brock A. Giordano June 2, 2011 600 Parsippany Road, Parsippany, NJ 07054
Photo locatio	ns are shown o	n Figures 4-7.
Photo #1:	View of the N View to the e	Maplewood Municipal Building from the ball fields within Memorial Park. ast.
Photo #2:	View of the west (front) elevation of the Maplewood Municipal Building along Valley Street. View to the east.	
Photo #3:	View of the three greenhouse buildings located in the rear of the property. View to the east.	
Photo #4:	View of the west elevation of the Maplewood Municipal Building along Valley Street. View to the east.	
Photo #5:	View of the north and southeastern elevations. View to the southwest.	
Photo #6:	View of the south and east elevations. View to the north.	
Photo #7:	View of the eastern elevations. View to the northwest.	
Photo #8:	View of the western elevation. View to the east.	
Photo #9:	Detail view of the pedimented portico and bronze "Maplewood Municipal Building" lettering. View to the southeast.	
Photo #10:	Detail view of the dentil cornice and Doric limestone columns. View to the north.	
Photo #11:	View of the cupola extending from the central ridgeline of the roof. View to the southwest.	
Photo #12:	Detail view of the wrought-iron balcony with the "W" inscription. Note this window is located above the above the main entry. View to the east.	

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- Photo #13: View of the round-arch windows located on the eastern elevation of the northern wing. View to the west.
- Photo #14: View of the northeastern elevations. View to the southwest.
- Photo #15: View of the lobby on the first floor illustrating the marble walls and flooring, grand entry door, and coffered ceiling. View to the southwest.
- Photo #16: Detail view of the central door leading into the committee room. View to the east.
- Photo #17: Overview of the committee room. View to the east.
- Photo #18: Detail view of the east wall within the committee room illustrating the *1959 Maplewood* mural. View to the east.
- Photo #19: View of the north wall displaying four of the nine murals painted by artist Stephen Juharos. View to the northeast.
- Photo #20: View of the south wall displaying four of the nine murals painted by artist Stephen Juharos. View to the southeast.
- Photo #21: View of the northern hallway along the first floor leading to the Mayor's Office, as well as the Township Clerks and Health Department offices. View to the northwest.
- Photo #22: View towards the Finance Department from the main lobby. View to the south.
- Photo #23: View of the interior of the Township Clerk and Health Department space. View to the north.
- Photo #24: View of the Finance Department interior space. View to the southwest.
- Photo #25: View of arched entry of the northern stairway and hallway. View to the northeast.
- Photo #26: View of the conference room. View to the east.
- Photo #27: Detail view of the north stairwell and hallway. View to the northeast.
- Photo #28: View of the interior space of the Building Department. View to the southwest.
- Photo #29: View of the original doors of the Engineering and Building Departments located on the second floor. View to the south.
- Photo #30: View of the fire door leading to additional storage within the basement floor. Note the northern stairwell on the left. View to the south.

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Photo #31: View of the steel vault used for the Clerk's records located in the basement floor. View to the west.

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Photo #32: View of the Women's Rest Room located in the basement level adjacent to the southern stairwell. Note the original floor tile, subway wall tile, pedestal sinks, and marble partition.



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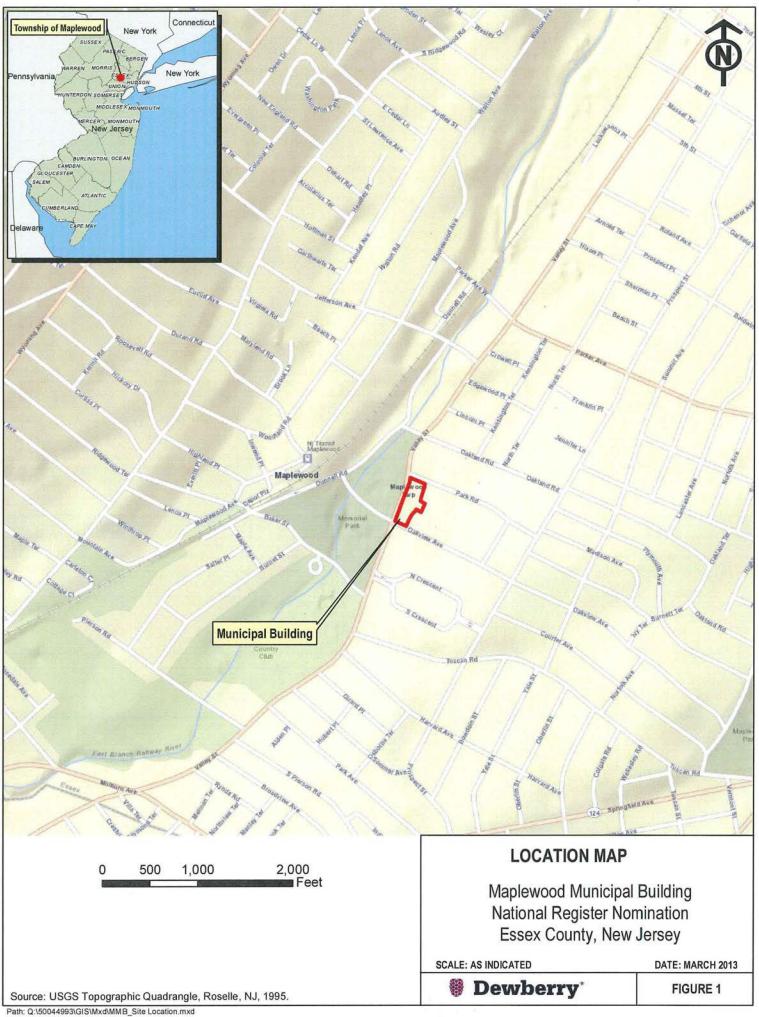
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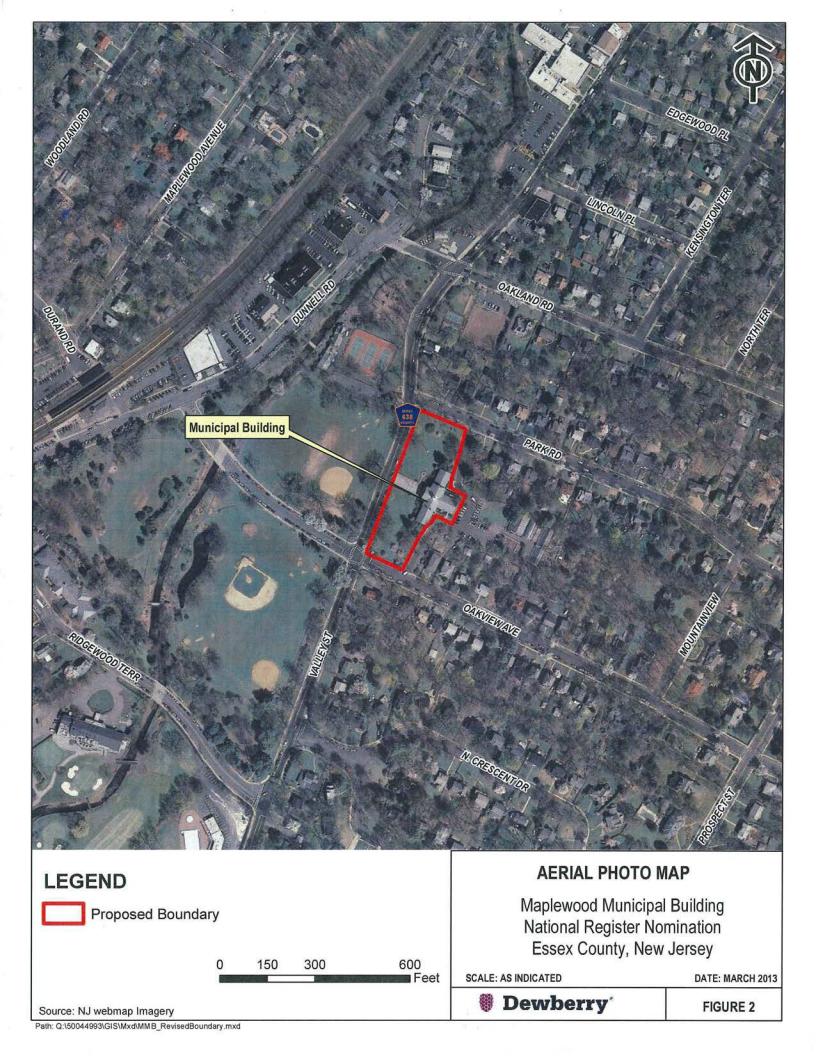
- Figure #1: Location Map
- Figure #2: Aerial Photo Map
- Figure #3: Tax Map
- Figure #4: Site Plan
- Figure #5: Basement Floor Plan
- Figure #6: First Floor Plan
- Figure #7: Second Floor Plan
- Figure #8: 1859 Map of Essex County and Surrounding Counties
- Figure #9: 1871 M. Hughes Map of Essex County, Maplewood
- Figure #10: 1881 E. Robinson's Atlas of Essex County, Maplewood
- Figure #11: 1904 A.H. Mueller, Map of Orange and Essex County
- Figure #12: 1910 H.S. Wyllie, Bird's Eye View of Maplewood
- Figure #13: 1911 A.H. Mueller, Map of Orange and Essex County
- Figure #14: 1928 E. Robinson, Atlas of Essex County, NJ
- Figure #15: Front Elevation
- Figure #16: Cupola Design
- Figure #17: Northeast, Southeast, and Rear Elevations
- Figure #18: First Floor Framing
- Figure #19: Guilbert and Betelle Rendering
- Figure #20: Municipal Building Nearing End of Construction
- Figure #21: 1932 Opening Dedication Ceremony

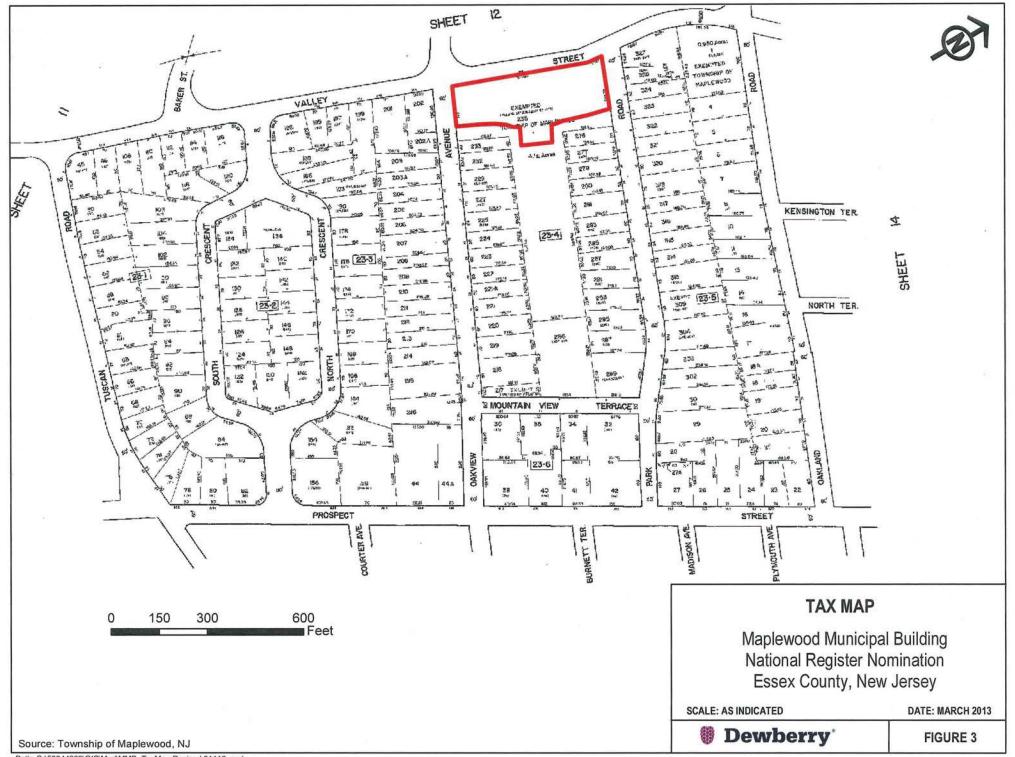
Maplewood Municipal Building Name of Property Essex County, New Jersey

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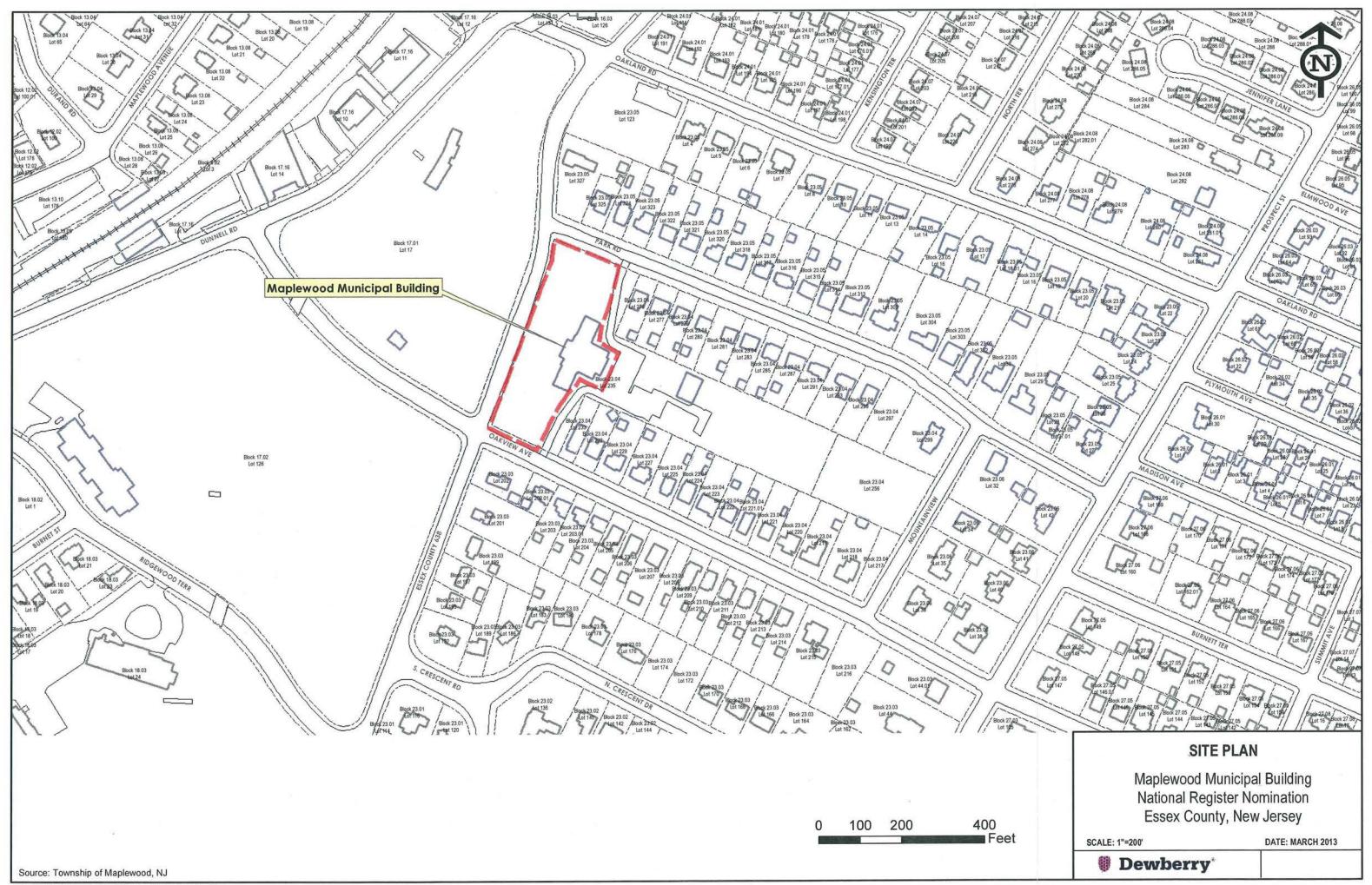
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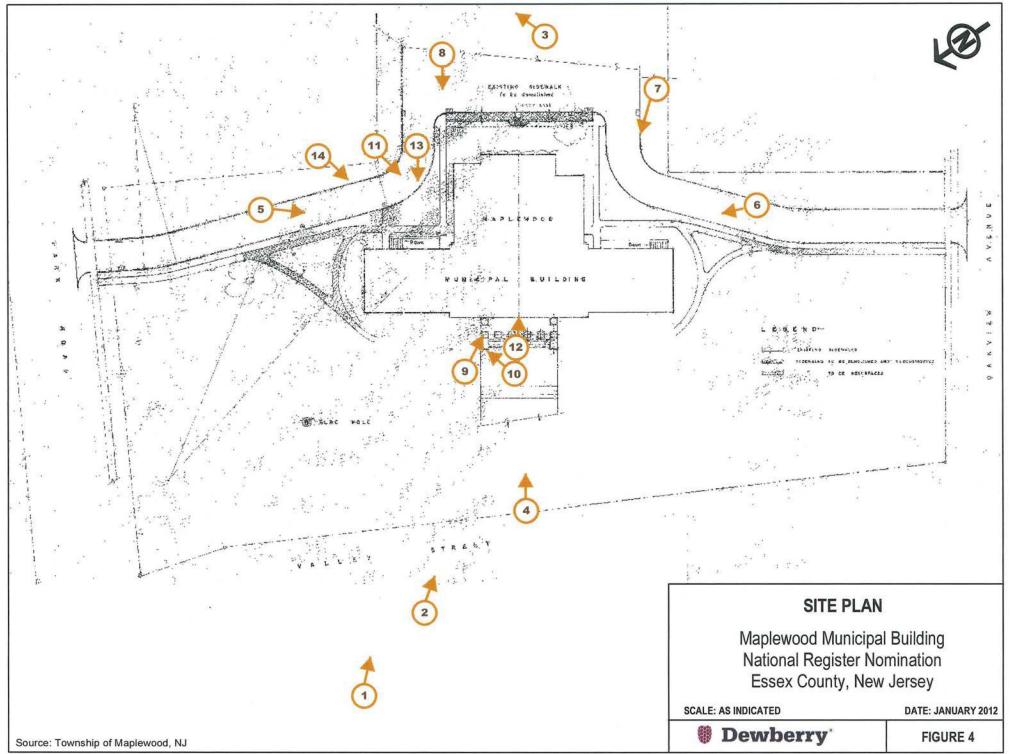




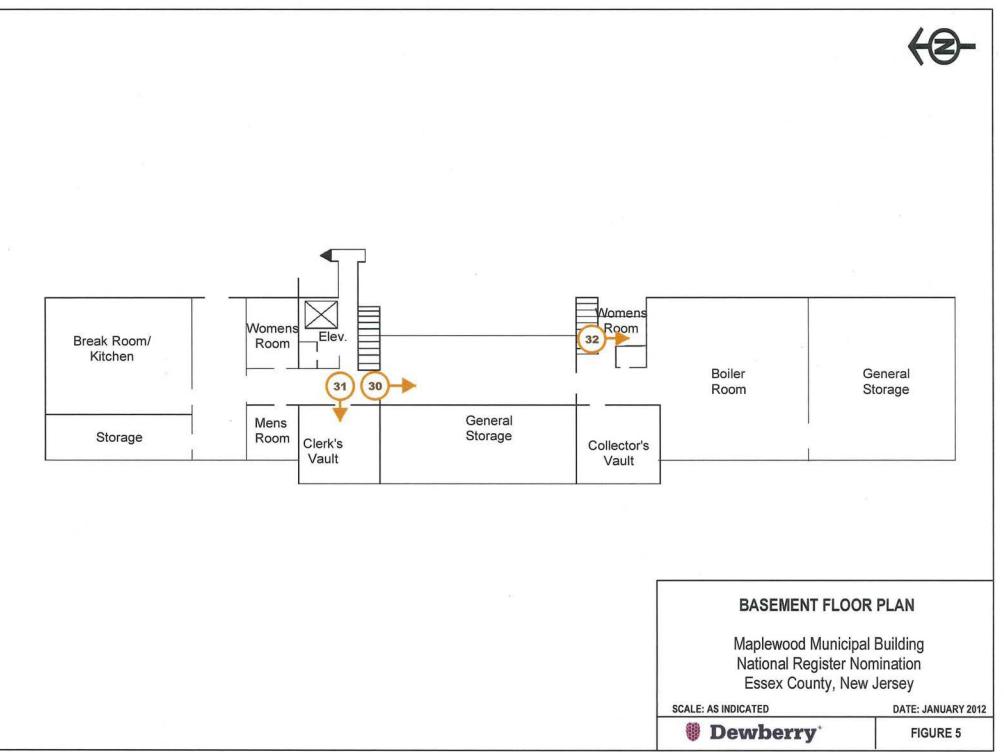


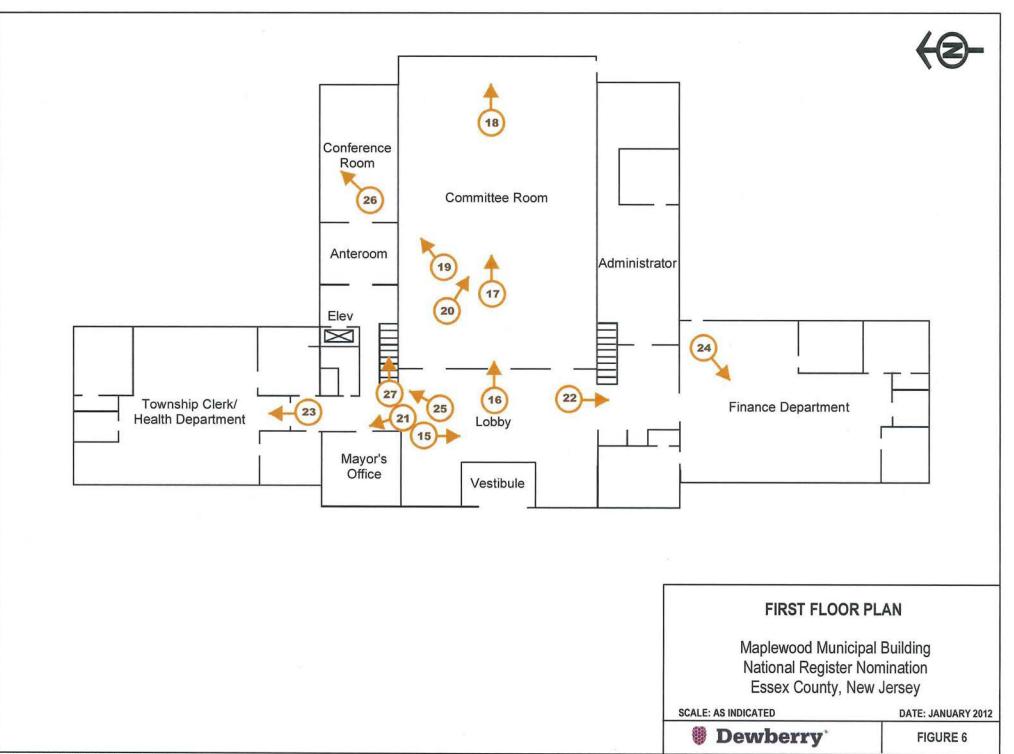
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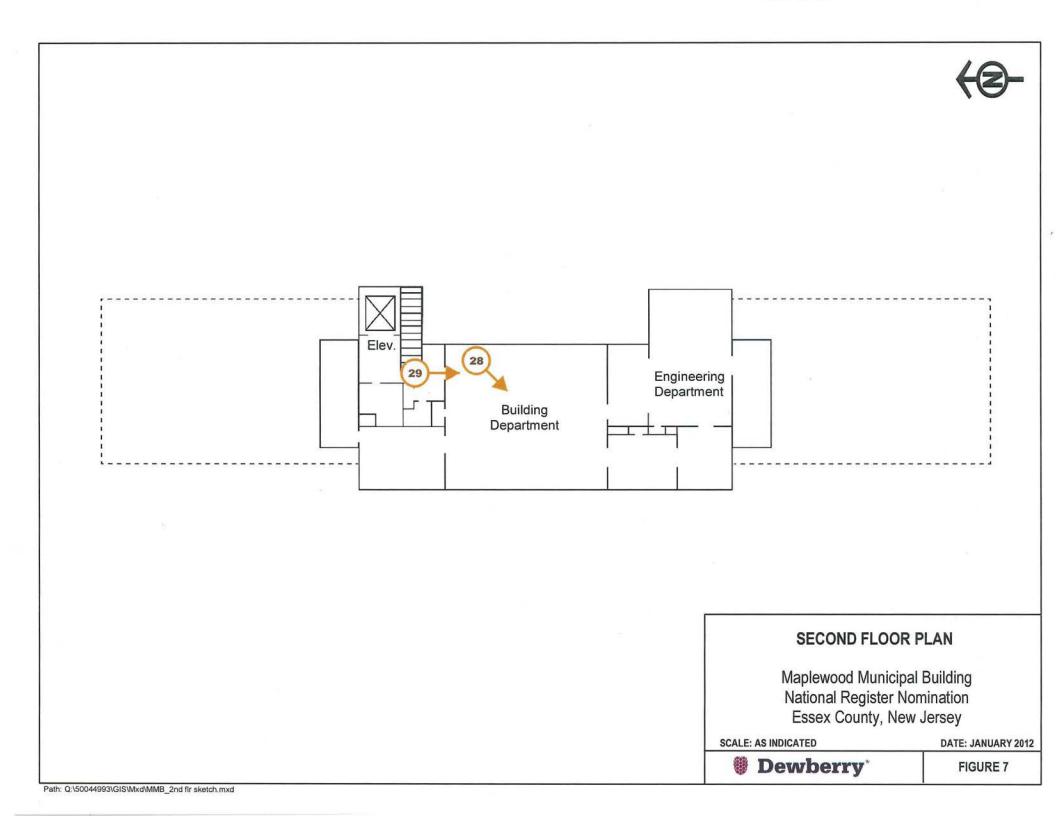




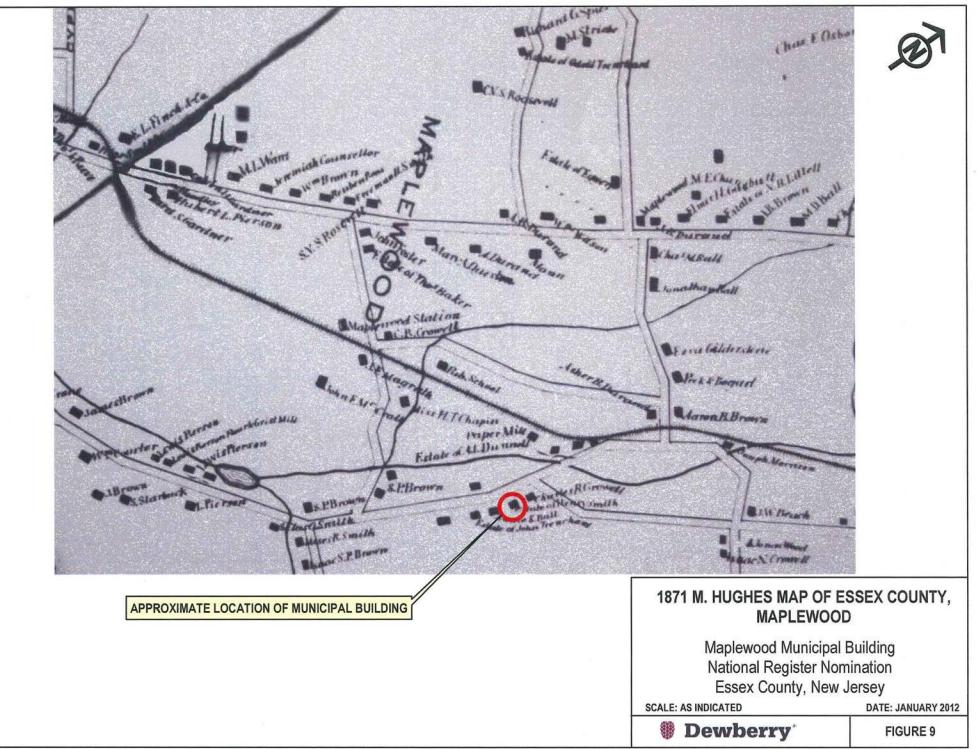
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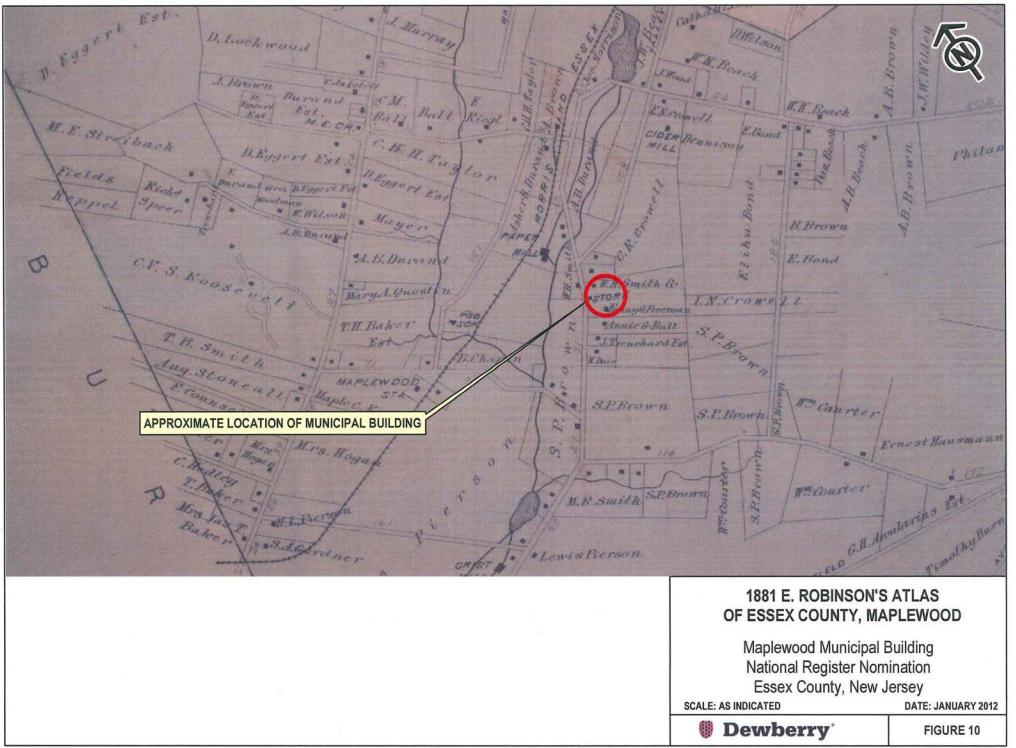


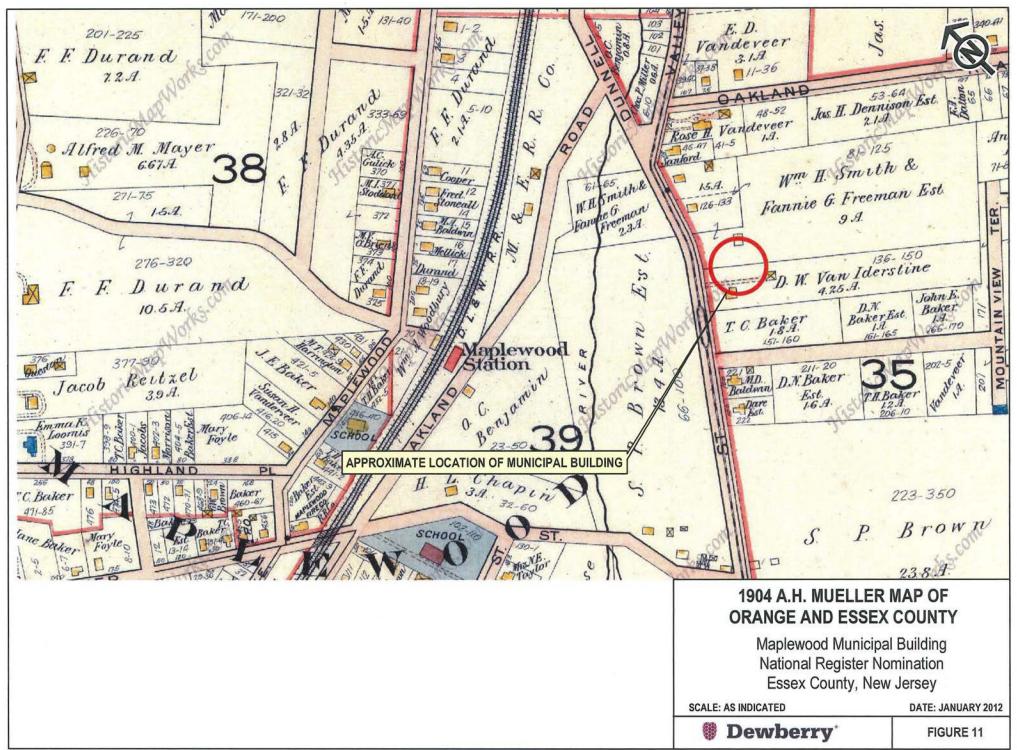


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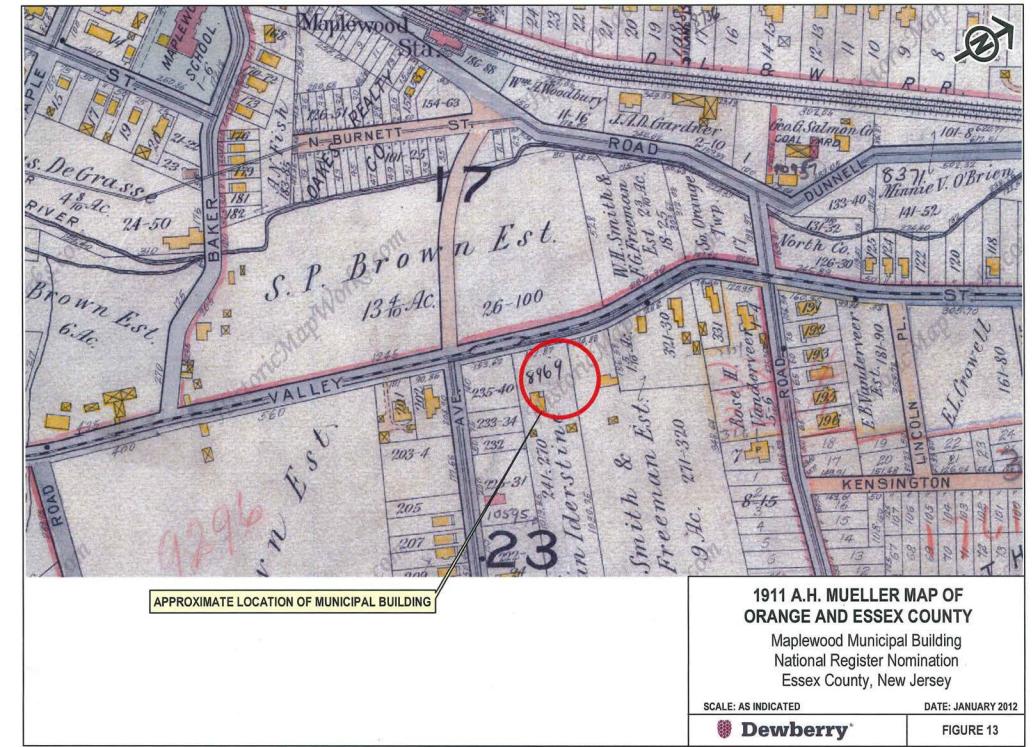


Maplewood Municipal Building National Register Nomination Essex County, New Jersey

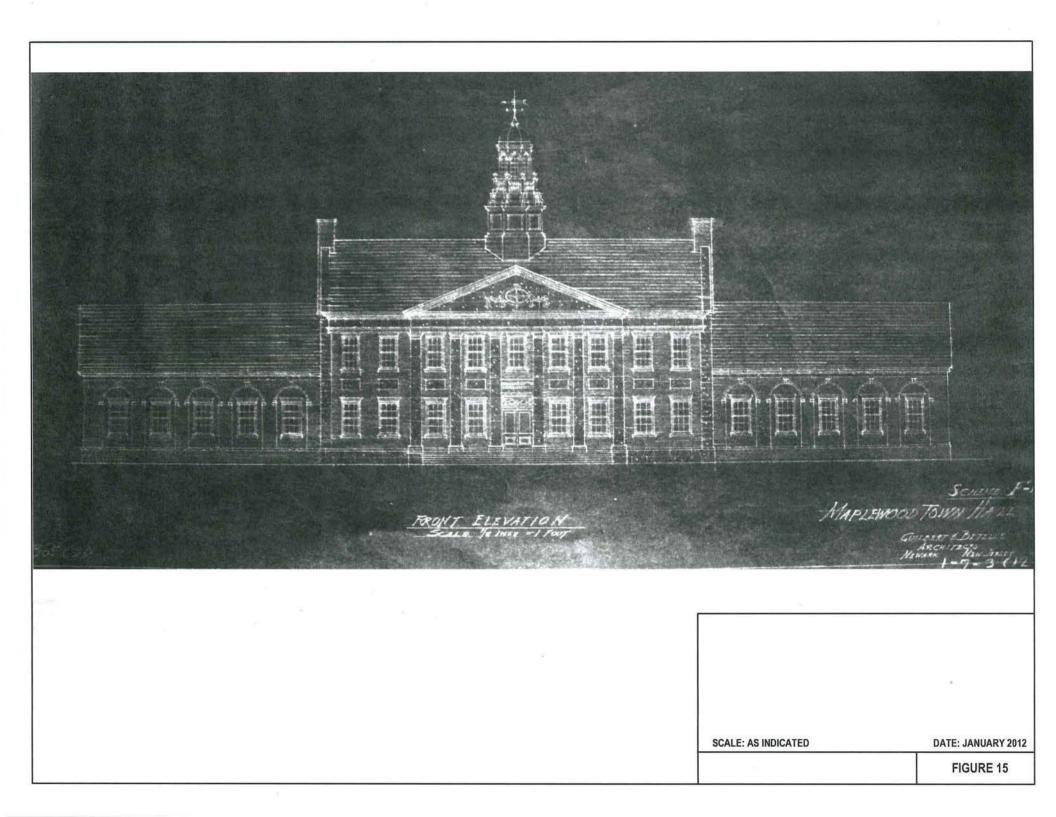
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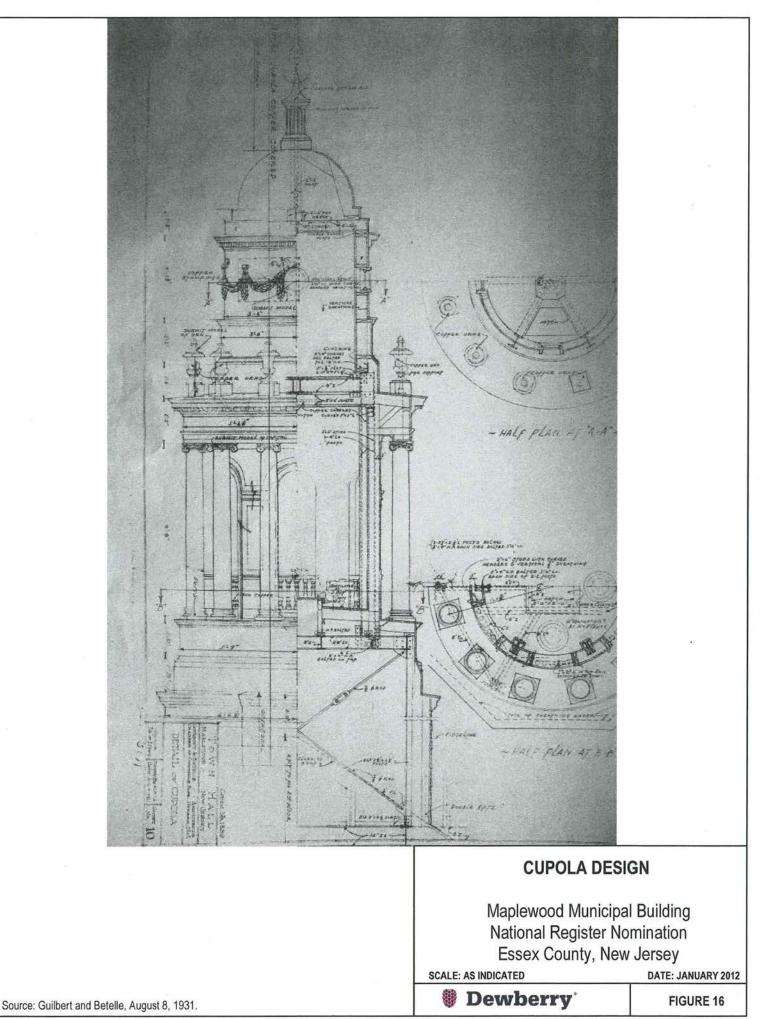
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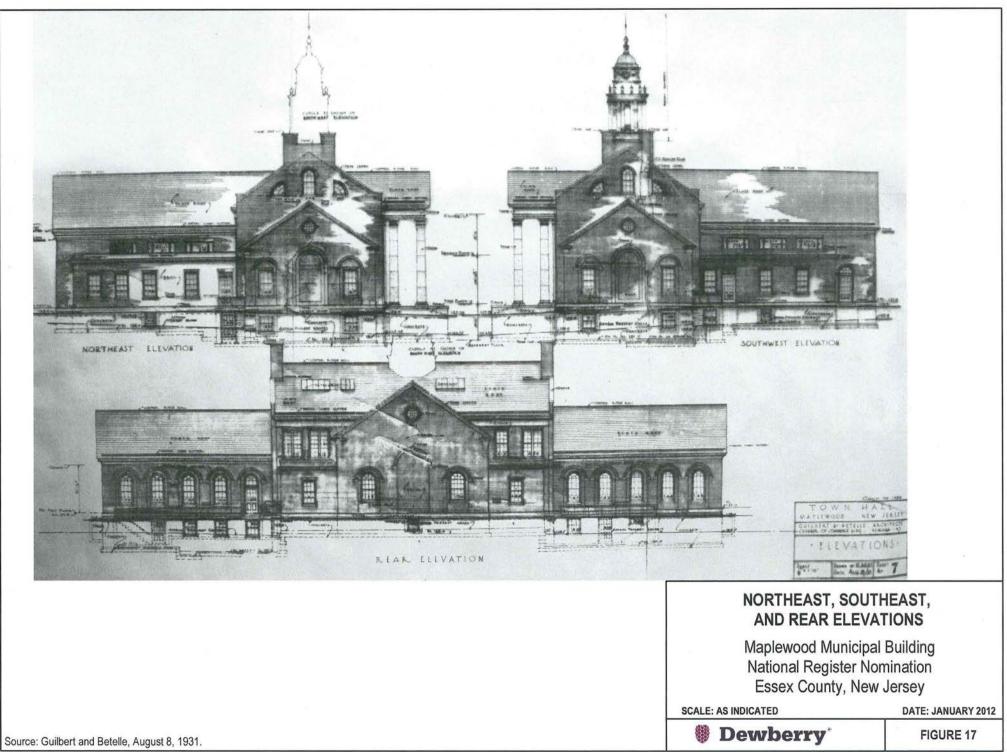




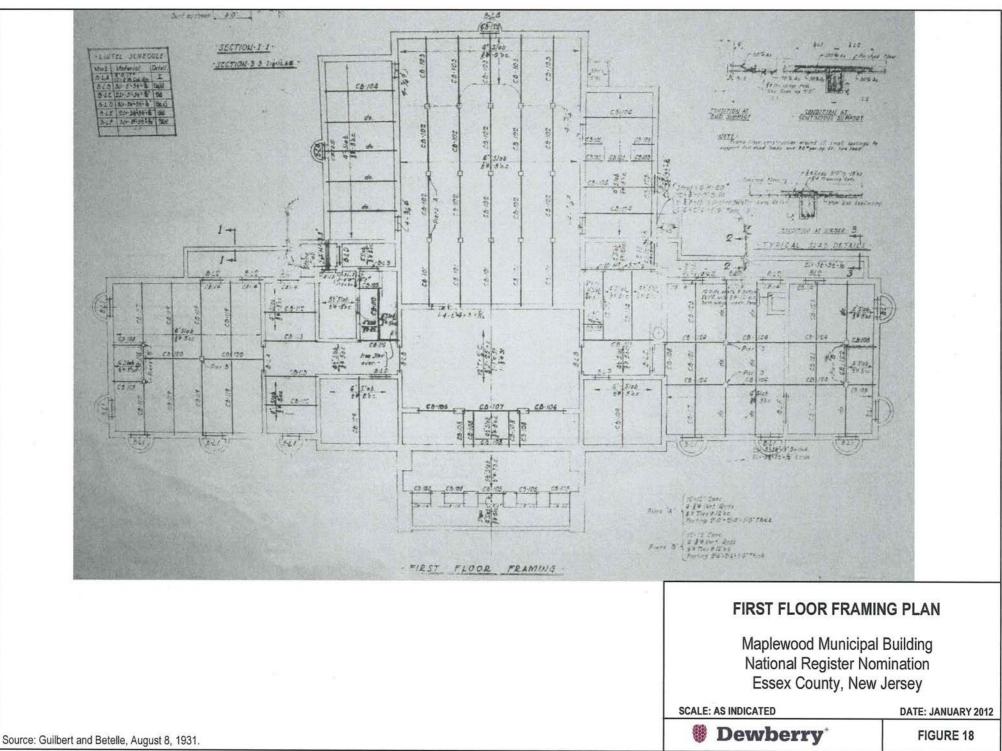




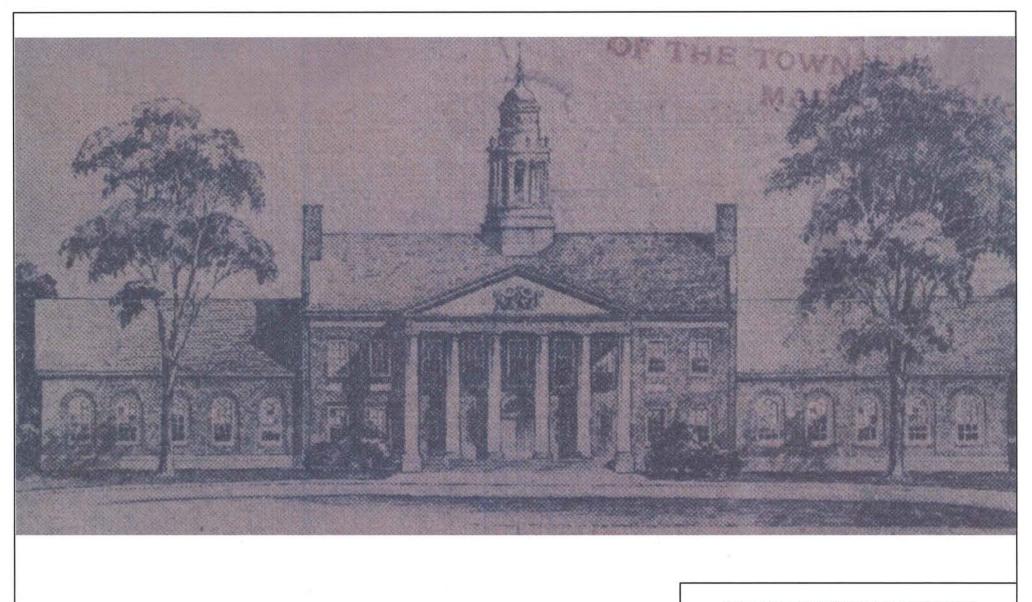
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## **GUILBERT AND BETELLE RENDERING**

Maplewood Municipal Building National Register Nomination Essex County, New Jersey

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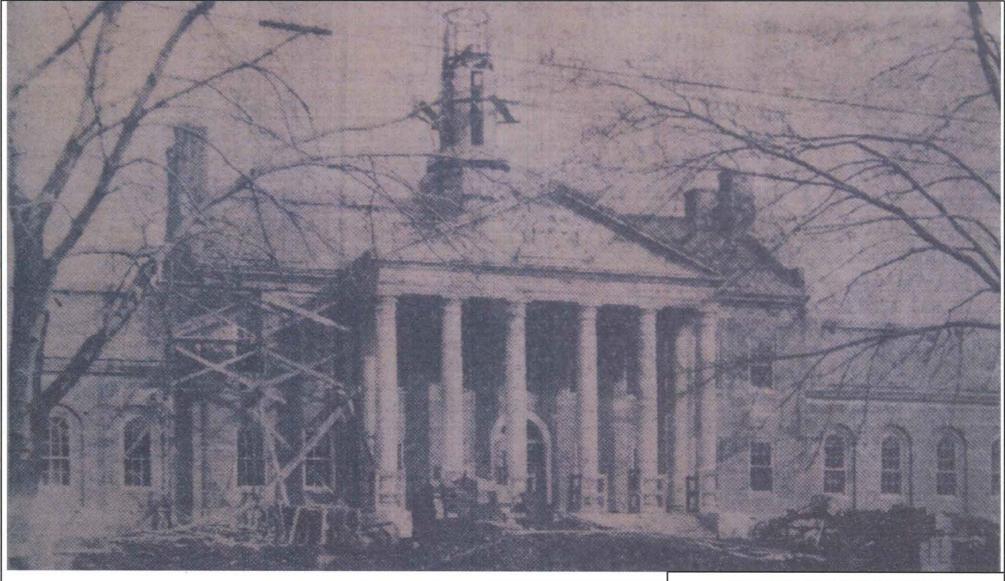
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FIGURE 19

Source: Maplewood News, 1931.

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## MUNICIPAL BUILDING NEARING END OF CONSTRUCTION

Maplewood Municipal Building National Register Nomination Essex County, New Jersey

SCALE: AS INDICATED

DATE: JANUARY 2012

Dewberry

FIGURE 20

Source: North Jersey Courier, April 4, 1932.

Path: Q:\50044993\GIS\Mxd\MMB\_1931 MB Sketch.mxd



Maplewood Municipal Building National Register Nomination Essex County, New Jersey

SCALE: AS INDICATED

DATE: JANUARY 2012

**Dewberry**\* 

**FIGURE 21** 

Source: Maplewood News, N.D.

Path: Q:\50044993\GIS\Mxd\MMB\_1932 Opening Dedication.mxd







































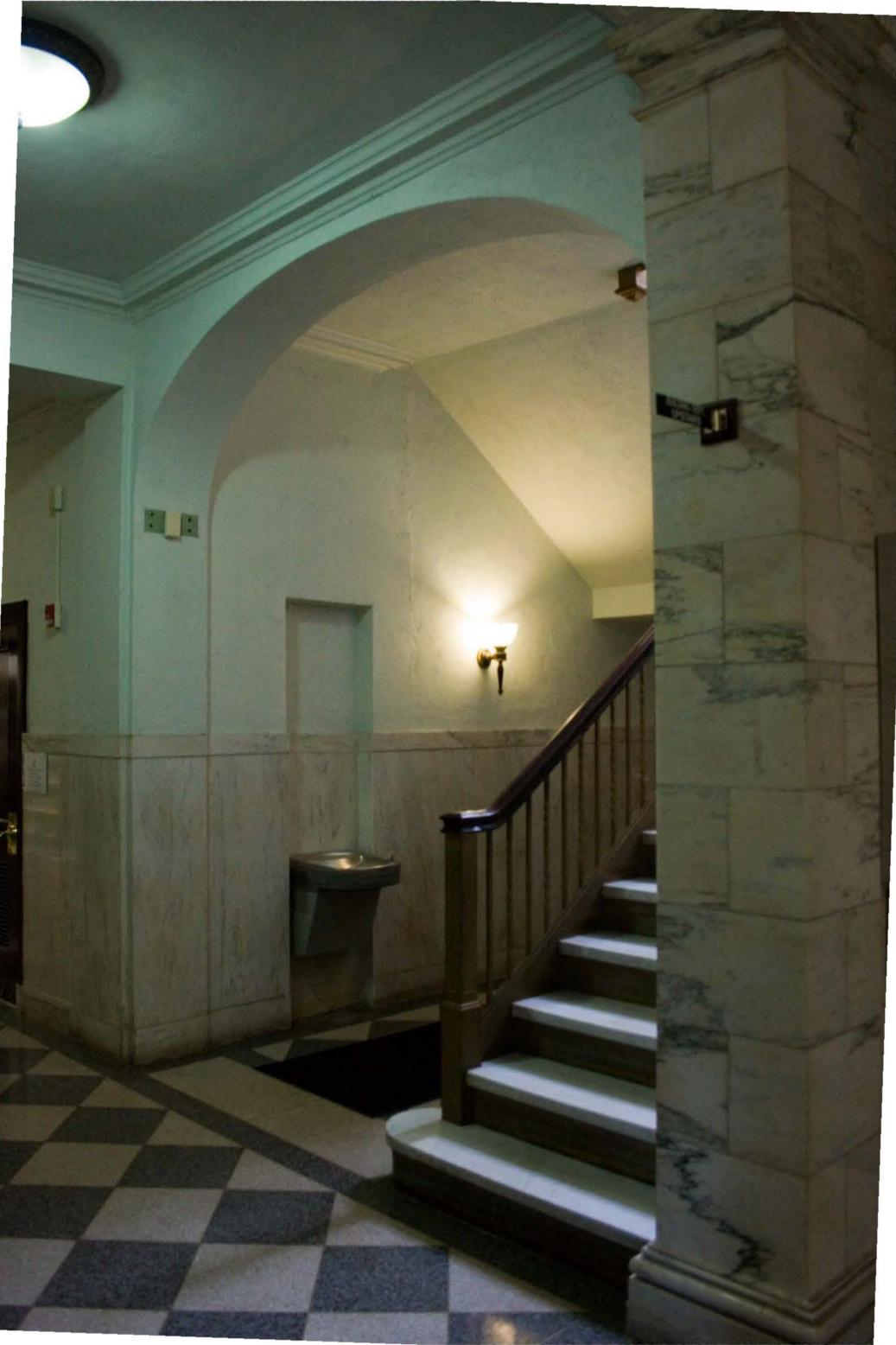


























## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Maplewood Municipal Building NAME :

MULTIPLE NAME :

STATE & COUNTY: NEW JERSEY, Essex

8/15/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/08/14 DATE RECEIVED: DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/23/14 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/01/14 DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 14000810

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL:	Ν	DATA PROBLEM:	N	LANDSCAPE:	Ν	LESS THAN 50 YEARS:	N
OTHER:	N	PDIL:	Ν	PERIOD:	N	PROGRAM UNAPPROVED:	N
<b>REQUEST:</b>	Y	SAMPLE:	Ν	SLR DRAFT:	N	NATIONAL:	N

1

COMMENT WAIVER: N

V	ACCEPT	RETURN	REJECT	10/1/	4 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

architertue may dug CP+D.

Are SLR. comments

RECOM./CRITERIA	
REVIEWER Los Dolini	DISCIPLINE Austain
TELEPHONE	DATE 10/1/14

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLE Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



## State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION RECEIVED 2280 NATURAL & HISTORIC RESOURCES BOB MARTIN Commissioner Office of the Assistant Commissioner AUG 1 5 2014 MAIL CODE 501-03A PO Box 420 AT RECISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES Trenton, New Jersey 08625 N TIONAL PARK SERVICE 609-292-3541/ FAX: 609-984-0836

April 25, 2014

Paul Loether, Chief National Register of Historic Places National Park Service Department of the Interior Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the Maplewood Municipal Building, Township of Maplewood, Essex County, New Jersey.

This nomination received majority approval from the New Jersey State Review Board for Historic Sites. All procedures were followed in accordance with regulations published in the Federal Register.

Should you want any further information concerning this application, please feel free to contact Daniel D. Saunders, Administrator, New Jersey Historic Preservation Office, Mail Code 501-04B, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0420, or call him at (609) 633-2397.

Sincerely,

Rich Boornazian Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

CHRIS CHRISTIE Governor

KIM GUADAGNO Lt. Governor