

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED JAN 4 1980  
DATE ENTERED FEB 8

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Madison Public Library and the James (Mercantile) Building

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

corner of Main Street and Green Village Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Madison Borough

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

5th

STATE

New Jersey

CODE

34

COUNTY

Morris

CODE

027

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

See attached

James Building Corp.  
25 Jackson Ave  
Chatham, NJ 07928

Clark M. Arnold Matthews  
Madison Borough  
Harley Dodge memorial  
Kings Rd  
Madison, NJ

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Hall of Records

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Morristown

STATE

New Jersey

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory (#1867.20)

DATE

1975

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Office of Historic Preservation

CITY, TOWN

Trenton

STATE

New Jersey

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located in the central business district of downtown Madison Borough the two buildings nominated herein are at a very busy intersection (Route 24 and Green Village Road). Directly behind the buildings is an embanked railroad line.

Madison Public Library, Main Street and Green Village Road, 1900. Richardsonian Romanesque structure designed by the Boston architectural firm of Brigham and Adden. This building, physically most impressive, is distinguished by its massive heavy rock-faced block form, round-arched entranceway and windows, and projecting octagonal clock tower with high pitched conical roof. Irregular in form the entire roof is slate and capped at the breaks by tiles. The tower cornice is highlighted at the corners by gargoyle-like stone carvings. The stone is polychrome, an unusually late usage of this technique. Throughout the building it is evident that only the highest quality craftsmen were employed in its construction.

The exterior of the building is distinguished by an arched porch, foliated stonework, and a tower with gargoyle rainspouts. Inside can be found stenciled ceilings and walls, painted imitations of mosaic tile, oak woodwork (including a spiral staircase), homiletic stained glass and custom-made bronze hardware.

The Library is now tenanted by the Museum of Early Trades and Crafts, which provides a much-needed adaptive use to the structure.

James Building. 23-25 Main Street and 2-8 Green Village Road. 1899. An imposing three story orange brick commercial/public building with a curved facade, this structure is Jacobethan Revival in style as reflected by the steep sided gables rising out of the roof (the center gable has segmental stepped Flemish curves while the flanking gables are triangular form). Constructed as a commercial/public building, the rent was to finance the subsequent building of the library and furnish it with a continuing endowment.

The structure is divided into a six bay fenestration on the Green Village Road side and 3 bays on Main Street. Both are brought together by a two bay curving facade at the corner.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1899, 1900

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Brigham and Adden

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Fine examples of Richardsonian Romanesque and Jacobethan Revival architecture the Madison Public Library and the James (Mercantile) Building share an unusual interrelationship between a public facility and a private commercial structure. The rent from the James Building financed construction of the library and furnished an endowment for its operation. The library was an important educational resource in Madison. The James Building was one of the most prominent commercial structures in the town when it was built.

### Architecture.

The Madison Public Library is an excellent example of Richardsonian Romanesque style architecture.

Indeed, this Richardsonian Romanesque public building is one of the best of its style in New Jersey. Suffering from few changes since its erection in 1900, it has a heavy rock-faced massing steep-pitched slate roof capped at the breaks by tiles, arched heavy entranceways, foliated stonework, and an octagonal clock tower with a steep colonial roof highlighted at the cornices by gargoyle rainspouts. The interior is enhanced with stenciled ceilings and walls, painted simulations of mosaic tile, oak woodwork and paneling, homiletic stained glass and custom-made bronze hardware. The polychromatic exterior of the library is an unusually late usage of this technique indicating either the conservative nature of the architects or the traditional demands of their clients.

### Brigham and Adden, architects.

Other than the records of the Madison Public Library there is no verification of the collaboration of Brigham and Adden.

Charles Brigham ( -1925), a F.A.I.A. out of Boston, Massachusetts, primarily worked within the New England region. Early in his career he paired with John Sturgis to build the Boston Museum (e. 1876) at Copley Square (replaced by the Plaza Hotel around 1900). Later Brigham joined with John Spofford to create the firm of Brigham and Spofford which functioned from the 1880's to c. 1900. From 1905-1909 Brigham was associated with the firm of Brigham, Coveney and Bisbee (nee Coveney and Bisbee).

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(see attached)

## UTM NOT VERIFIED

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

## ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1

UTM REFERENCES

A- Library B- James Building

A	18	549160	4512035
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B	18	549200	4512000
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Library - Block 44, Lot 1-A  
James Building - Block 51, Lot 1.

Reference : Madison Borough Tax Assessor

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Terry Karschner, Historic Preservation Specialist

ORGANIZATION

Office of Historic Preservation

DATE

8/1979

STREET & NUMBER

109 West State Street

TELEPHONE

(609) 292-2023

CITY OR TOWN

Trenton

STATE

New Jersey

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

Deputy

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

10-9-79

TITLE

Deputy Commissioner, Dept. of Environmental Protection

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

2-8-80

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: Kristin O'Connell

DATE

2/4/80

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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FEB 8 1980

Madison Public Library and the James (Mercantile) Building  
Morris County, New Jersey

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ITEM NUMBER 4

PAGE

Block 44, Lot 1-A = Library  
Owner: Madison Borough  
Hartley Dodge Memorial  
Kings Road  
Madison, New Jersey 07940

Block 51, Lot 1 = James Building  
Owner: James Building, Inc.  
c/o 25 Jackson Avenue  
Chatham, New Jersey 07928

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## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Madison Public Library and the James Building  
Morris County, New Jersey

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### Significance (continued)

The periodical American Architect and Building News has numerous designs done by Brigham indicating a penchant for Neo-classical, English Tudor, and Romanesque styles.

Two of Brigham's buildings are already on the National Register. The Richardsonian Romanesque Stoughton Railroad Station in Massachusetts (1888) and the Lewiston, Maine City Hall (1890-92) which he collaborated with John Spofford to build.

Little is known of W.P. Adden, architect, save the fact that he at least co-designed the Madison Public Library.

The James Building is an imposing Jacobethan Revival 3 story orange glazed brick commercial structure with a curved facade to fit the contour of the street. The roof with a curved and stepped center Flemish gable is flanked by alternate large and small triangular form gables. The enormous size of this structure made it ideal for public functions. The size and its corner location makes it a focal aesthetic landmark for anyone coming into Madison from Morristown via Route 24. The architect for this structure is unknown, although it was possibly designed also by Brigham.

### EDUCATION

The Madison Public Library when it opened on Memorial Day, 1900, became Madison's first public library. Almost from the start its programs were progressively oriented to providing all area inhabitants with library services. Until 1912 a horse-drawn bookmobile carried library benefits to outlying districts -- an important service not renewed until 1922 by the Morris County Library. From 1900 until 1906 a free public lecture series was sponsored; one each year delivered in Italian. This, together with a substantial collection of the Italian-language books, recognized the importance of Madison's large immigrant community. Bilingual service was in tradition of larger urban libraries and settlement houses of the period, but infrequently available in smaller towns such as Madison.

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Morris County, New Jersey

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Significance (continued)

### SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN

The James Building and the Public Library opposite enjoyed a symbiotic relationship early in the 20th century; an example of speculation for public benefit. The James Building, built in 1899 by Dr. Willis James, was to use its commercial rents to finance construction of the Madison Public Library and furnish an endowment for its continued operation. This visionary plan was successful until the Great Depression which eventually wiped out the commercial revenue.

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Morris County, New Jersey

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Bibliography

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v. 44, p. 67, pl. 959,	5/12/1894
51	46 1048 1/25/1896
53	32 1074 7/25/1896
64	39 1218 4/29/1899
74	56 1351 11/16/1901
79	24 1412 1/17/1901
86	1510 12/3/1904
87	1527 4/1/1905
87	1528 4/8/1906
90	1598 8/11/1906
90	1613 11/24/1906

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### Bibliography (continued)

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Photograph collection. Temporary possession of Madison American  
Revolution Bicentennial Committee.

Additional information supplied by Henry W. Pilch, one-time Attorney  
for Madison.