

HISTORIC NAME: F. L. Wendell Estate and Ward
 LOCATION: Factory Site
 255-261 East Saddle River Road
 MUNICIPALITY: Saddle River
 USGS QUAD: Park Ridge
 OWNER/ADDRESS:
 255: 261 Charles A. and
 David & Georgina ~~Wahl~~ ~~Wahl~~ Becker

COMMON NAME:
 BLOCK/LOT 255: 1102/8
 261: 1102/7
 COUNTY: Bergen
 UTM REFERENCES:
 Zone/Northing/Easting
 SEP 17 1990
 NATIONAL REGISTER

DESCRIPTION: Building #1
 Construction Date: Main house (255): early 20th c., c. 1905-10
 Architect: Builder:
 Style: Bungalow Form/Plan Type: rectangular, with rear wing
 Number of Stories: 1
 Foundation: cobblestone or boulder
 Exterior Wall Fabric: shingles
 Fenestration: 4 bays, some diamond pattern sash
 Roof/Chimneys: hip

Additional Architectural Description:
 Wraparound columnar porch on 3 and W, bay window on east, additions to north. House faces S.
 Building #7 (261): appears mid 19th c., according to tradition built in 1810, vernacular style; ls. boulder foundation as building moved c. 1900; clapboard; 5 bays on 1st story, 6/6; gable roof; 5 bay porch, 3 front (E) wall dormers, doorway with heavy architrave-trim and door with cast-iron grills.

PHOTO Negative File No. 19844-1 Building #1, slide Map (Indicate North)



7/16/90

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, OFFICE OF CULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
 HISTORIC PRESERVATION SECTION, 400 WEST STATE STREET, TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625 (609) 292 - 2023

18 SITING, BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION, AND RELATED STRUCTURES: 255: 9.85 acres. 261: 1. acres.

The main house is set back about 100' from rear near edge of ravine dropping into river valley. There are a number of early 20th c. landscape features such as boulder walls, terracing, paths. A heart shaped fish pond is located south of the main house. To west at a lower elevation is a pond which is part of the Saddle River. This pond is a swimming area with sides partially concrete. A raceway at south leads from the pond and an early 20th c. boulder bridge (structure #2) spans the raceway. On the east shore of the pond is an ice house (building #3) built into the slope. It has a boulder
(continued page 3)

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

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Francis L. Ward^{ell} Estate, the site of the Ward Tool Factory, is of industrial-archeological interest, as the property was the location of several 19th century hydropower industries. It also is of interest in local developmental history as its existing buildings are part of the early 20th century country estate phase of history. The barn, building #6 on map 1, is also of architectural interest as it is a distinguished example of a turn-of-the-century Shingle Style barn.

According to Kathryn P. Dubois in Old Mills of Bergen County, James Post, a farmer owned a spinning mill probably at this site operated by Mr. Hardy. In 1830 a mill for manufacturing cloth was erected on the site of Hardy's ice houses. This mill was later owned by Abram Van Riper (Ryper). The mill burned and was rebuilt. (On June 21, 1841 Charity Achenbach recorded "cotton factory burned of Van Ryper"). The circa 1841 mill became a shingle mill and in the 1850's a basket mill was established. In 1863 the basket factory burn. A cotton or wooden mill was erected by Van Riper and Blessing. In 1868 William Ward owned the mill and manufactured machine tools there. The Ward factory operated until circa 1890.

The 1861 Hopkins map documents the presence of the Van Ryper sawmill and basket factory on this site (See accessory building #5 at 71 East Allendale Road, 0258-D#5

ORIGINAL USE: industrial-residential PRESENT USE: residential
PHYSICAL CONDITION: Excellent Good Fair Poor
REGISTER ELIGIBILITY: Yes Possible No Part of District
THREATS TO SITE: Roads Development Zoning Deterioration
No Threat Other

COMMENTS:

The houses are in excellent condition. Several of the accessory buildings appear to be vacant and are deteriorating.

REFERENCES: NJHSI 0258-19
SRHC files: Cannon notebook, The Landscape.
DuBois, Mills, p. 238.

1861 Hopkins map; Saw mill and Basket Factory, J. Van Ryper.

1876 Walker Atlas; Wm. Ward, E. S. S. Edge Tool Factory.

1902 Robinson's map: Farrill.

1913 Bromley Atlas: Farrell and Maxwell.

1964 Inskeep map: J.V.R. Sawmill + Basket Factory. 1810-1868, Wm. Ward Edge Tool factory. 1868. 261: part of J. Van Ryper-1810 + Wm. Ward residence moved northerly about 1900.

RECORDED BY: TRB
ORGANIZATION: BCOC&HA

DATE: 11-1983

(cont.)

foundation, shingle sheathing, and hip roof with louvered cupola. North of the ice house is a frame shed (building #4) which appears abandoned. On the west side of the pond is a foundation remnant with stone chimney and a shed. On the ridge north of the house is a small Shingle Style carriage house, a 1½ story structure with shingled walls, hip roof with eyebrow dormer, and north^{wing} (building #5). North of it on property of #261 is a handsome, large Shingle Style barn (building #6). This 1½ story shingle structure has a central projecting pavilion with arched motif. It has diamond pattern sash and an octagonal louvered cupola with duck weathervane. All the buildings on the two parcels have generous setbacks from the road except for the house at 261 (building #7) which is about 30' from the road. A loop roadway passes through the 2 parcels.

SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

and Woodruff-Smith House at 170 West Saddle River Road, 0258-D#31, for other buildings associated with the basket making industry in 19th century Saddle River). The 1876 Walker Atlas (map 2) documents the William Ward Edge Tool Factory on the site and locates the principal factory building over the raceway near the south shore of the pond in the vicinity of the current bridge (structure #2 on map 1). A number of other buildings associated with Ward are shown on the property, including several on the east ridge and several located along the east side of West Saddle River Road, including the barn later associated with the Wandell House at 223 West Saddle River Road (0258-24). Ward probably resided in the former Van Ryper House on the site of the house at 255 West Saddle River Road (building #1 on map 1). According to local tradition, the house now at 261 East Saddle River Road (building #7 on map 1) was part of this Van Ryper-Ward residence and was moved northeast to its current site before World War I.

William Ward (1821-1891) was a native of Sheffield, England, who apprenticed there. In 1854 he started manufacturing tools in New York City and subsequently relocated his factory to the Saddle River site (Ward obituary, SRHC file).

The property's post-1891 history needs additional research. Maps of 1902 and 1913 associate with Farrill (Farrell) and Maxwell. Subsequently it was owned by Francis L. Wandell, the ^{son of the} owner of the Second Empire style house at 233 West Saddle River Road (0258-24). According to tradition, Wandell was responsible for moving the Van Ryper-Ward House. Exactly when in the early 20th century the former industrial site was transformed into a country estate is unclear. The architectural style of the buildings suggest they date from circa 1890-1920, with the earlier structures likely the Shingle Style ones. The buildings with cobblestone or boulder walls, or foundations, probably were built in the early 20th century when this type of stone construction was popular. Unfortunately the architects of the buildings are not known. The quality of the large barn's design suggests the involvement of a skillful designer.

It is probable that the improvements around the pond for swimming were made during the Wandell ownership when buildings on West Saddle River Road were used for the YWCA's "Shadyside" Camp (see 0258-24). From 1919 to 1941, the house and barn at 223 and 224 West Saddle River Road housed a vacation resort. During this tenure Emil Matson, the camp's caretaker, built a dam in the Saddle River, increasing its swimming potential.

Today the Ward property has various owners but the two parcels at 255 and 261 East Saddle River Road visually appear to be a single unit and contain the area which was the nucleus of the Ward manufactory and buildings which are remnants of an early 20th century country estate. The boulder-walled ice house (building #3) is of interest as few buildings of this type are found in Bergen County.

SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

The estate's owner, Francis Livingston Wandell, was involved in a contested divorce about 1882 which received newspaper coverage. He practiced law with his brother Townsend in New York and had a summer home here in Saddle River. Probably the property was given to him by his father. About 1913 Francis retired and it is probable that he added to his estate's buildings then when he made it his permanent home. He had remarried and his wife, Juanita Leland, became a member of the Saddle River School Board. In 1917 he presented the architects drawings for a new school for the borough (see 0258-34). Wandell personally paid for this buildings although he died in 1918 before its 1919 completion.

According to Pat Bierbrier, Saddle River Borough Clerk, Dr. William L. Vroom (1866-1966) owned the estate after Wandell. Vroom is an important figure in Bergen County's medical history. He practiced medicine in Ridgewood for about seventy-five years and was an organizer of Ridgewood's first hospital located in the Archibald-Vroom House, a stone house at 162 East Ridgewood Avenue, Ridgewood (BCSHS #139).

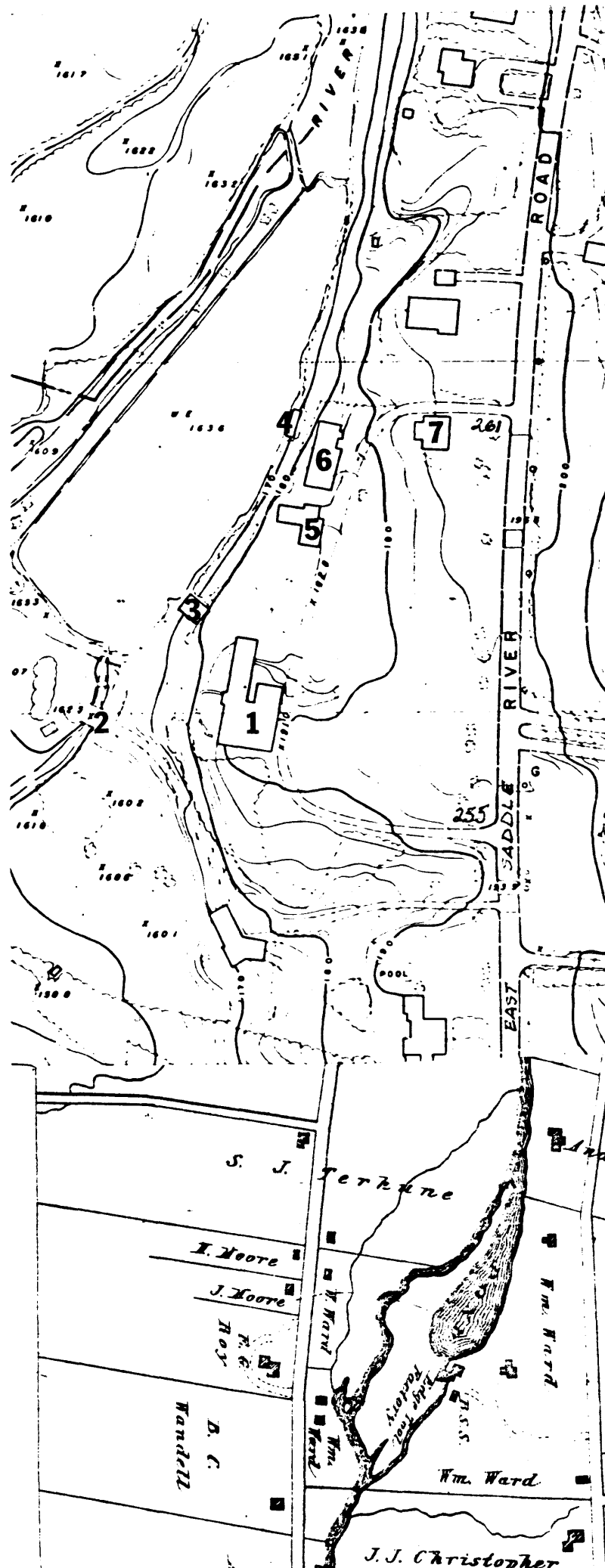
REFERENCES (continued)

- SRHC files, "223 West Saddle River Road";
Bob Sengstacker, "Oldtimer Recalls Days of Saddle River's Resort",
Ridgewood News, N.d. , 1927 brochure.
- SRHC File, "SR: Wandell School";
xerox biography of F.L. Wandell from Holland Society publication,
1918, pp.202-3; other clippings
- Obituary, Francis Livingston Wandell, New York Time, May 9, 1918, 13:5
- Interview with Pat Bierbrier by Ilse Wahle, 1983
- Information from Dorothy Ware, 1983-4
- Michael A. Nevins, Early Physicians of Northeastern Bergen County, Spring Valley, NY,
The Town House Press, 1979, pp. 41-43
- 1887 Driving Map: I.A. Bogert

UTM REFERENCES

- A - 18/575780/4544280
B - 18/575800/4543980
C - 18/575520/4543980
D - 18/575480/4544180

Wandell Estate and Ward Factory
Site 255-24
East Saddle River Road
Saddle River



Site Plan

- 1. F.L. Wandell House at 255
East Saddle River Road
- 2. bridge
- 3. ice house
- 4. shed
- 5. carriage house
- 6. barn
- 7. Van Ryper-Ward House at 261
East Saddle River Road

Map showing Wm. Ward's
Property in 1876
From Walker, Bergen County Atlas,
pp. 120-121.



7/16/16



Wandell Estate and Ward
Factory Site,
255-261 East Saddle River Road
Saddle River

Pond which is part of Saddle
River
255 East Saddle River Road
Looking NW
neg. file # 19844-2



Structure #2
boulder bridge, 255
East Saddle River Road
Looking SE
neg. file # 19844-4
slide



Building #3
1255 East Saddle River Road
ice house, looking NE across
pond.
neg. file # 19844-3
slide



Wandell Estate and Ward
Factory Site
255-261 East Saddle River Road
Saddle River

Building #5,
carriage house
255 East Saddle River Road
and building #6,
261 East Saddle River Rd.,
barn. Looking N.
neg. file # 29844-5
slide.



Building #6
barn, and building #7,
Van Ryper-Ward House,
261 East Saddle River Road,
Looking NW
neg. file # 19844-6



Building #7
Van Ryper-Ward House
261 East Saddle River Road
Looking W.
neg. file # 19844-7
slide