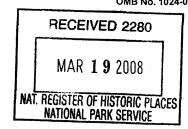
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



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This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 listed in the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or complete all items.

Typerman, more processor, or computer, to compute all norms.	
1. Name of Property	
historic name Golden Swan / True American	·
other names/site number Caola Building	
2. Location	
street & number101-107 South Warren Street	not for publication
city or town Trenton	vicinity
state New Jersey code NJ county Mercer 021 code	zip code08608
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I certify that this request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering propertie of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. X meets	In my opinion, the property idered significant
Signature of certifying official/Title Date	
State or Federal agency and bureau	
4. National Park Service Certification	
I hereby certify that this property is: ventered in the National Register. See continuation sheet. determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.	Date of Action
determined not eligible for the National Register.	•
removed from the National Register.	
other, (explain:)	

County and State	: Mercer	County,	New Jerse	٧
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5. Classification					
Ownership of Property	Category of Property			sources within Prope	
(Check as many boxes as apply)	(Check only one box)		(Do not include p	reviously listed resources	s in the count.)
X private	X building(s)		Contributing	Noncontributing	
public-local	district		3	0	buildings
public-State	site		0	0	sites
public-Federal	structure			0	structures
	object		0	0	objects
			3	0	Total
Name of related multiple property (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a m				itributing resources pational Register	oreviously
N/A			0		
6. Function or Use					
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)			t Functions ategories from inst	tructions)	
DOMESTIC/ Multiple Dwelling		Work	In Progress		
COMMERCE/ Specialty Store					
COMMERCE/ Newspaper Office					

		4.			<u> </u>
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				
7. Description					
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)		Materia (Enter d	als ategories from inst	tructions)	
EARLY REPUBLIC/ Federal		founda	tion <u>Sandstor</u>	ne/ Fieldstone	
		walls	Brick		
					
		roof	Metal		
		other	Wood trim, wo	od and stone lintels	•

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

County and State: Mercer County, New Jersey

8 State	ement of Significance	
(Mark ":	able National Register Criteria x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the y for National Register listing.)	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	Communications Politics/ Government
□ c	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.	Period of Significance 1856-1872
D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	Significant Dates April 1861
	a considerations x" in all the boxes that apply.)	Cimplificant Daman
Proper	ty is:	Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
A	owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	Naar, David
В	removed from its original location.	Cultural Affiliation
c	a birthplace or grave.	N/A
D	a cemetery.	
E	a reconstructed building, object or structure.	Architect/Builder Unknown
F	a commemorative property.	
	less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.	
	ive Statement of Significance n the significance of the property on one or more continuation	n sheets.)
9. Maj	or Bibliographical References	
Biblio	graphy e books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this fo	rm on one or more continuation sheets.)
Previo	preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested previously listed in the National Register previously determined eligible by the National Register designated a National Historic Landmark recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey	Primary location of additional data State Historic Preservation Office Other State agency Federal agency Local government University X Other Name of repository: Trentoniana Collection, Trenton Public Library
	recorded by Historic American Engineering	

10. Geographical Data				
Acreage of property Less than one acre	-			
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)				
1 18 519892 4452104 Zone Easting Northing 2	3 4	Zone	Easting	Northing
		See	continuatio	n sheet
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)				
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)				
11. Form Prepared By				
name/title <u>Ms. Margaret Newman</u>				
organization Clarke Caton Hintz Architects and Planners			date	August 2007
street & number 400 Sullivan Way			telephone	e <u>609.273.7003</u>
city or town Trenton		state	NJ	zip code <u>08628</u>
Additional Documentation				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Submit the following items with the completed form: Continuation Sheets				
Maps				
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the p	roperty	/'s loca	tion.	
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties havir	ng large	e acrea	age or nun	nerous resources.
Photographs				
Representative black and white photographs of the pr	operty.			
Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)				
Property Owner				
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)				
name Woodrose Properties Golden Swan, LLC				
street & number 49 Bridge Street, Suite 2		_ tele	phone	609-773-0335
city or town <u>Lambertville</u>	state	NJ		zip code <u>08530</u>
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collect nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Pestimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is	operties Preserva	s and to ation Ac	amend exi t, as amen	isting listings. Response to this requided (16 U.S.C.470 et seq.)
reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data and completing a				

estimate or any aspect of this from to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

County and State: Mercer County, New Jersey

Name of Property: Golden Swan/ True American

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Section number 7 Page 1

The Golden Swan / True American Trenton, Mercer County, NJ

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

101 to 107 South Warren Street is a group of three early and mid-19th century brick rowhouses in Trenton, Mercer County, New Jersey. Located on South Warren Street south of Front Street, 101 was constructed in 1815. 105 South Warren was constructed ca. 1820 and 107 South Warren Street was built later some time before 1844. Although built as three separate buildings originally divided by brick fire walls, they have been interconnected for many years and, as a group, are known as The Golden Swan / True American (Photos 1-4).

Over the course of their histories, there have been extensive changes made to The Golden Swan / True American and today, the buildings are a combination of original and 1930s fabric blended with new construction. When the current owner purchased 101 to 107 South Warren Street, there had been changes made to all the buildings. A major campaign in the 1930s unified the buildings into a single property and resulted in many changes to the interior. Following this, in the late twentieth century, there were additional alterations. All the windows had been replaced with one-over-one, aluminum, double-hung sash; many had aluminum exterior storm windows. The storefronts, which were installed in the ninteenth and twentieth centuries, and doors were replacement aluminum with large modern plate-glass windows. The roofs had been replaced with asphalt (Historic photos 2-9).

The configuration of the buildings during the period of significance, 1856-1872 when Judge David Naar owned the *True American*, is relatively unknown. Obviously, the original features that remain today were extant during this period including the brick, cornices, upper floor fenestration and dormers on the exterior and the trim at the fourth floor and stair in 107 on the interior. Besides these original materials, the historic fabric that remains dates to the 1930s.

While alterations have been made to The Golden Swan / True American, the overall form, scale, shape and materials of this distinctive group of buildings has remained constant. The brickwork, the window openings, and the gable locations and configurations have not changed. The overall presence of the Golden Swan on this early Trenton street has remained consistent for almost 200 years (Photos 1-4).

Exterior Description

101 South Warren Street stands at the corner of Front and Warren Streets. Since these streets do not meet at right angles, the footprint of the building is trapezoidal. 105 and 107 are adjacent and are both rectangular in plan. All three buildings retain their original 3 ½ stories and have interconnected, sloped, gable roofs. 101 and 105 South Warren Street maintain their original front and rear dormers. The front dormers are gabled and have original arched, nine-over-six wood double hung wood windows. The rear dormers are sheds with original six-over-six double hung wood windows. There are internal chimneys at each party wall and there is an end chimney on the Front Street side of the building. This was once a double chimney, but a portion was removed at least fifty years ago. Besides the front dormers which retain their historic sash, all of the windows have new wood six-over-six double hung sash installed to restore the historic light pattern per historic photographs. The roofs are new standing seam metal, again restoring the original material as identified through investigations and in photos (Historic Photo 1).

The east façade of 101 South Warren Street, along Warren Street, retains its original brick, five-bay configuration with the original rectangular window openings and wood lintels at the second and third floors. The new six-over-six wood sash

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The Golden Swan / True American Trenton, Mercer County, NJ

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION, continued

are new with some remaining original window frames and trim. The front cornice is simple with a recessed gutter and no brackets. The cornice is original with some replaced trim pieces that were beyond repair (Photo 7). The north elevation of 101 South Warren, along Front Street, is four bays with sloped roof and a single chimney at the back slope. This chimney replaced an earlier, large, double chimney at the side (see historic photo 1). The windows are new six-over-six sash with sections of original frame and exterior trim. At the upper gable end is a lunette recessed in the brick, an important original feature (Photo 5).

The east façade of 105 South Warren St. is also the original brick and three bays with the original rectangular window openings, stone lintels at the second floor and brick lintels at the third. Like the others, the sash are new. There is an original brick fire wall visible at the roof that separates 103 and 105. In addition, the front windows of 105 step down by about 12" from the windows on 101 and 103. The front cornice is simple with a recessed gutter and no brackets; most of it is original with some replacement trim, matching the original in material, profile and dimension (Photo 8).

The east façade of 107 South Warren St. retains its original brick, three-bay configuration with the original segmental arched window openings at the second and third floors. Some of the original window frames and trim remain; the rest are reproductions of the original. The sash are new and reconstruct the historic light pattern (Photo 9).

Map research indicates that the west elevations of all of the buildings changed throughout the years with rear ells constructed, enlarged and removed. None of these rear additions survive. At the northern end of the buildings, at the rear of 101 South Warren Street, there is a large opening in the brick wall supported by a steel lintel. There is one small historic window opening at the third floor and several former interior door openings. At the rear of 105 and 107, several ground floor garage-size openings that were broken through in the twentieth century have been infilled with brick. The window openings are all original while the sash are new, wood, six-over-six and frames. Some original trim remains; the rest is new, matching the original in profile, material and dimension. Interestingly, the windows of 105 are different sizes; this appears to be the original configuration and has been maintained with the new sash (Photo 6).

Interior Description

The interior of The Golden Swan / True American has been renovated many times over the years. A major overhaul was undertaken in the 1930s, probably when the buildings were combined into a single property. For the most part when the current owner acquired it, the interior was a combination of modern late-twentieth century materials—like concrete floors, acoustic tile ceilings and faux wood paneling—and 1930s features like tongue and groove strip flooring, plaster, trim and oversized brick mantels. Few features pre-date the 1930s. These include an original stair in 107 South Warren, original attic window trim with corner rosettes in 101 South Warren and attic level plaster and wide wood floor in all the buildings.

Since the 1930s, the buildings were largely connected and functioned on most of the floors as a single building. 101 South Warren Street was an open space with doors at the front, side and rear. The north end floor was 1930s wood strip flooring; the ceiling had been removed, exposing the floor joists above. There was a rear stair connecting three floors; this was installed around 1930. At the southern end of 101, garage doors had been added at the front and back and the floor level dropped to street level. This floor was concrete; the ceiling was 1930s pressed tin; the walls were textured

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The Golden Swan / True American Trenton, Mercer County, NJ

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION, continued

1930's plaster. The first floor of 105 South Warren Street was a single, open space with gypsum drywall walls and an acoustic tile ceiling. The floor was severely damaged wood, strip flooring. The first floor of 107 South Warren Street was also primarily a single space; the walls were covered with paneling and the ceiling had acoustic tiles. The stair to the second and third floors appear to be in their original location with their original features.

Today, the interior of the buildings is currently under construction. The first floor will be commercial with storefronts as seen in the historic photos. In 101, a door will be reinserted into the center bay, as it was historically. In all three buildings, most of the features on the first floor were modern, post-dating the 1930s renovations. However, the character defining features from the 1930s including the rear stair and the floor plan have been retained and will be reused.

The second floor of all three buildings was extensively renovated in the 1930s. This floor had interconnected offices and apartments. Extant 1930s detailing include plaster ceiling, oak strip flooring, wood trim and built-in shelving. Two of the rooms had ceiling coffers and a large brick mantels that also date to the 1930s. The original 1850s stair continued up to the third floor in 107 South Warren Street.

This floor likely will be a mix of residential and office space. The character-defining features from the 1930s including the coffered ceilings, large brick mantels, built-in shelving and trim will be retained. The original stair in 107 also remains. The rest of the finishes will be modern.

The third floor of all three buildings was also extensively renovated around 1930, although several rooms appear to have older trim and doors. The third floor of 101 was two apartments. The third floor of 105 and 107 were joined as one relatively large apartment. The floors were oak strip. Because of an earlier fire, the historic features are more limited on this floor but those that are salvageable will remain.

The fourth floor of all of the buildings was originally attic space. The original floors remained of wide, random-width board planks. The partitions were the original plaster. The gables at the front and rear were apparent from the interior. Original window trim with corner rosettes remained in 101. The attic over 105 was separate, but similar in appearance to 101. The attic over 107 had bare brick walls and exposed structure. This space was never finished.

The fourth floor of all the buildings will be residential apartments. The original trim and corner rosettes have been retained as have areas of plaster. The floors also remain and will be reused.

The future use of these buildings as a mix of commercial and residential spaces continues an almost 200-year history. Because of its central location in the historic heart of Trenton, 101 to 107 South Warren Street has always been a typical mid-nineteenth century row of buildings with a mix of uses. These buildings will continue to be an important anchor to this corner, providing a historic presence to an ever-evolving city.

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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The Golden Swan / True American Trenton, Mercer County, NJ

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary Statement

The three buildings at 101 to 107 South Warren Street, known collectively as the Golden Swan/ True American, were constructed from 1815 through 1844. From 1856 until 1872, the Golden Swan served as the headquarters and publishing house for the *True American* the most important Democratic Party newspaper in the capital city and one of statewide influence. Under the leadership of Judge David Naar, the paper exerted a powerful influence on local and state politics and was the center of controversy, particularly during the Civil War.

Because of its central location in the historic heart of Trenton, 101 to 107 South Warren Street has always been a nineteenth-century commercial row with a mix of uses that changed often. Over the years, the building has served a number of commercial, residential, light industrial and even religious uses, but its essential form and presence on the street, including massing, roof line, gables, window openings and exterior materials, has remained constant. Its first few decades were spent as a tavern. In 1824, it became the Golden Swan Tavern; it remained a tavern until 1856. The building's significance, however lies in its use as the home to an important Trenton newspaper. The neighboring buildings, during this same period, served various residential and commercial uses as was typical through the nineteenth century in an urban area.

101 to 107 South Warren Street are significant under National Register of Historic Places Criterion A for its association with events crucial to Trenton and State history during the Civil War, and under Criterion B, for its association with Judge Naar, who was locally prominent and played an important part in Trenton and state politics for at least forty years. The Golden Swan/ True American's period of significance is defined as beginning in 1856, when Judge Naar purchased the buildings, until 1872, when the publishing house was moved to its new home on North Warren Street (demolished in 1988). This is the last surviving building in Trenton that housed the *True American*.

The Golden Swan and the first half of the nineteenth century

The corner of Front and Warren Streets has been at the center of Trenton since the town's first beginnings. In 1714, William Trent purchased roughly 800 acres from Mahlon Stacy, Jr., one of the Quakers who first settled the area in 1679. In 1719, he established "Trent's Town" and laid out the first streets which included both Front Street and King Street north of Front Street, which established this corner. King Street witnessed important action during the First Battle of Trenton on December 26th, 1776, as the Hessian Commander, Colonel Rall, was housed farther up the street near St. Michael's Church. In 1799, the name King Street was voted out of existence; it became Warren Street, honoring General Joseph Warren of Revolutionary War fame.

Warren Street was extended from Front Street to the Assunpink Creek in 1802. In the road return that documents this extension, this new block of Warren Street is referred to as Abraham Hunt's lumber yard. In 1814, William Hancock purchased two lots of land at the corner of Front and Warren Street from Barzillia Wright. Wright owned the entire block of Warren Street; a March 1814 map shows the land he owned. Hancock purchased Lots 1 and 2³ (which became 101). In 1815, Hancock advertised an "Elegant House and Store For Rent" in the *Trenton Federalist*. Located on the corner, opposite a store, Hancock described the three story brick house as "new and constructed of the very best materials and in the neatest manner." He went on to describe the layout of a quite sizable house with its five rooms and pantry on the first floor, six rooms on the second, nine on the third topped by a finished garret with six rooms. Adjacent to the house was a

¹ Hunterdon County Road Return Book 1, entry 258.

² Hunterdon County Deed Book 22, page 381.

³ West Jersey Deed AV 497.

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The Golden Swan / True American Trenton, Mercer County, NJ

two story kitchen with two rooms on each floor. "The situation of this property is very eligible either for a Dwelling-House or Store, being in the most central part of the city. The subscriber will be willing to rent or lease the above property to a good tenant on moderate terms."

In 1820, the lot known as Lot 3 from the March 1814 map of Barzillia Wright was acquired through a sheriff sale by John Voorhees. Voorhees may have constructed 105 South Warren Street soon after acquiring the land. In 1822, William Hancock, still the proprietor of 101, advertised his "Large Brick Tavern" for let. As before, he described a substantial building which was finished from the cellar to the garret "with a large number of lodging rooms." He listed the kitchen in the rear and also stated that there was, "Stabling and Carriage-house on the Lot." Interestingly, Hancock stated that the building was currently occupied by John Voorhees. Deed research confirms that Voorhees owned the neighboring Lot 3. The fact that he was living at 101 may mean that he hadn't yet built 105 or that 105 was constructed and was already associated with 101, although its description was not included in the leasable space delineated.

Hancock's property on the corner was known as the Golden Swan by 1826. It was run by Joseph Palmer who advertised his move, "Joseph Palmer respectfully informs the public, that he has removed to the spacious and commodious Tavern Stand, at the Sign of the Golden Swan, at the South-West corner of Front and Warren Streets, Trenton, where he will be happy to accommodate travellers and other customers. He will keep constantly on hand an excellent stock of bottled porter, ale and cider, as usual, with which those who desire it, can be supplied to order."

Isaac Pitcher announced in the *True American* in 1835 that he had taken over the Golden Swan Tavern. The front cellar was also for rent; it had been occupied by a bottling establishment. The building remained a tavern for several decades. It was frequented by many members of the New Jersey Legislature. Other owners included Peter Smick, Joel Gordon, Mrs. Pitcher and Samuel Quicksall.⁸ It was known under several names including the Swan Inn and Mechanics Hall. In addition to being a tavern, other businesses used the building. In the summer of 1815, Thomas Barnes, Jr. and William Van Hart opened a shoemaking shop here. It was known as William Van Hart and Company.⁹ By 1844, the entire west side of the block was built up, this includes 107 South Warren Street.¹⁰ An 1849 map shows the corner property as Quickwell's Hotel.¹¹ It likely also remained a tavern.

The True American and the second half of the nineteenth century

In 1856, the stories of Judge David Naar and the Golden Swan converged, leading to the most significant years in the building's life. Three years earlier, in 1853, Judge David Naar purchased the *True American*, one of Trenton's most important newspapers. Trenton had a long history of publishing. Beginning in March 1778, Isaac Collins printed the *New Jersey Gazette* here, Trenton and New Jersey's first newspaper. The *Gazette* was followed in Trenton in 1787 by the *Federal Post or Trenton Weekly Mercury*. The newspaper's office, no longer extant, was on North Warren Street. This was followed by the *New Jersey State Gazette* in 1792 which through many incarnations lasted well into the 1930s; it too was originally housed on Warren Street in an office long demolished. The nineteenth century saw a profusion of papers; most did not last long. The *True American* was an exception. Begun in an office on State Street, its first issue was published on March 10, 1801 by Matthias Day and Jacob Mann. Although it was discontinued for a stretch in the 1840s, it

⁴ Trenton Federalist (May 22, 1815).

⁵ Hunterdon County Deed Book 31, Page 130.

⁶ Trenton Federalist (February 4, 1822).

⁷ True American (April 15, 1826).

⁸ "Trenton in Bygone Days," Sunday Times Advertiser (September 18, 1955).

⁹ Harry J. Podmore, *Trenton Old and New* (Trenton: MacCrellish and Quigley, 1964), 115-16.

¹⁰ United States Coast Survey, Delaware River from Bordentown to Trenton, 1844.

¹¹ J.C. Sidney, Map of the City of Trenton (Philadelphia: M. Dripps, 1849).

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The Golden Swan / True American Trenton, Mercer County, NJ

was reborn on November 13, 1849 when Morris R. Hamilton and William Magill began publishing it from an office on Broad Street. The *True American* and the *Gazette* were rivals. The *Gazette* was a paper that generally supported the Whig Party (and later the Republican Party), while the *True American* represented the Democrats. Their partisanship was evident; both were funded by their respective parties.

"The *True American*'s rise as an influential newspaper of state-wide reputation began with its purchase by David Naar... He was one of the most forceful and dignified writers on public questions that Trenton journalism ever produced. He also was a stump-speaker of quality, becoming known by his virile campaign efforts throughout the State as 'the warhorse for Democracy.' It was as an editor, however, that he exerted the widest influence...He was fearless in the expression of his opinion...'12

David Naar was born in November 1800 on St. Thomas to a Sephardic Jewish family. According to longtime *Trenton Times* journalist Harry J. Podmore, the Naar family "was one of the prominent families in the history of New Jersey whose members, reprensenting several generations, attained public office, and distinguished themselves in the legal and journalistic professions. The honored Naar family line dates back to the time of the discovery of America by Columbus." 13

Naar was educated in New York and then returned to St. Thomas and was in the export-import business. In 1834, he moved his company to New York. Four years later, he gave up his company and became a farmer in Elizabeth, New Jersey. He soon became involved in local Democratic politics. In 1844, Naar was elected a delegate from Essex County to the State Constitutional Convention and campaigned throughout New Jersey for Polk; because of his efforts he was named consul at St. Thomas, his birthplace. He held this post for three years. Naar was elected mayor of Elizabeth in 1849 (according to Naar family genealogy, Naar was the first Jewish mayor of an American town 15) and was clerk of the house of assembly in 1851. He became a judge in Union County. He served as State Treasurer in 1865. 17

In 1853, Naar became the publisher of the *True American*. In 1856, he purchased the Golden Swan ¹⁸ to be his home and offices. By 1857, he had moved the paper from its Broad Street location to the Golden Swan where it was both written and printed. The offices and printing shop were located on the first floor, while the Naar family occupied the upper stories; Naar had a large family with fifteen children. ¹⁹ According to legend, Jewish services were held in the building. ²⁰ The first organization of Trenton Jews was the Har Sinai Cemetery Association formed in 1857 and its outgrowth the Har Sinai Hebrew Congregation. Formal services did not begin until 1860; during that summer they were held at the old Chancery Building on West State Street and Chancery Lane. Prior to this, religious services were held in homes of individuals; Naar, a prominent person in the city with a centrally located residence, was such a host. The first synogogue

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Podmore, 113.

¹⁴ Carl E. Hatch, "Editor David Naar of Trenton: Profile of the Anti-Negro Mind," *New Jersey History*, Volume LXXXVI, Number 2, Summer 1968, 72.

¹⁵ Devin Naar, "Tracing the Origins of the Naars of New Jersey: A Personal Odyssey," Jewish Historical Society of Central Jersey, http://www.jewishgen.org/jhscj/Genealogy.html.

¹⁶ http://famousamericans.net/davidnaar/

¹⁷ Cleary.

¹⁸ Mercer County Deed Book 42, page 209.

¹⁹ Naar.

²⁰ Podmore, 115.

NPS Form 10-900-a

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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The Golden Swan / True American Trenton, Mercer County, NJ

was adapted from a Lutheran chapel on North Montgomery Street. On March 23, 1866, it was dedicated. Judge Naar delivered the address.²¹

As editor of the *True American*, Naar was an important Democratic voice and became, "the unofficial spokesman for New Jersey's Democratic party. Both Democratic press and leaders recognized him time and again as one of the clearest articulators of the party's position." Political life was complicated in New Jersey leading up to and during the Civil War. There were Republicans who supported Lincoln, pro-war Democrats, anti-war Democrats and the vocal minority "Copperheads" who were sympathetic to the Constitutional arguments being made by the South, if not their defense of the institution of slavery. At a national level, the four-candidate 1860 election was indicative of the complex political landscape. Lincoln represented the Republican Party. The Democrats were split: Stephen Douglas represented northern Democrats while Vice President John Breckenridge of Kentucky represented southern Democrats. A new party, the Constitutional Union Party, nominated John Bell of Tennessee for president. The reality of this race was that it was actually two elections, one in the North and one in the South. In the North, the Lincoln and Douglas forces vied for victory; in the South the contest was between Breckinridge and Bell. In New Jersey, a strongly Democratic state, Douglas was the winner, the only northern state to vote this way.

During the 1860 election in New Jersey, there was vocal support for the southern candidates of Breckinridge and Bell. Many of the Democratic newspapers, including the *True American*, supported these candidates. Following Lincoln's election, this support evoked pressure from citizens to show loyalty by flying the Union flag. In mid-April 1861, a mob attacked the *True American* offices at the Golden Swan to protest the paper's and Judge Naar's sympathy with the Southern attitudes. Naar was forced to address the crowd who only agreed to dispurse after he promised to fly the flag in front of his house. Similar attacks occurred in Jersey City and Newark.

The divisions within New Jersey continued to play out in its newspapers throughout the war. Editors criticized each other for not denouncing Lincoln's aggression more forcefully. Naar was a staunch Democrat who nonetheless supported Lincoln's handling of the attack on Fort Sumter, believing that it was futile to negotiate with the South. However, as the war progressed, he regarded Lincoln's approach as coercive, dictatorial and as violating the rights of the states. Because his style was less confrontational than other newspapers, the editor of the pro-Lincoln administration Newark Mercury condemned the True American for trying to "accomplish insidiously what it dare not do openly."²³

Throughout 1861, the *True American* and the other Democratic newspapers continued their pro-states' rights stances and wrote scathing criticisms of the Lincoln administration. The defeat at Bull Run provided fodder for their complaints. In late July of 1861 Judge Naar's editorials critical of the existing political situation and Bull Run, brought his paper under government scrutiny. In August, Judge Naar suspended publication of his paper because of the "positive or implied requirement that we are to yield a hearty support to all measures of the Administration." He issued a statement on August 24, 1861 saying:

It is with profound regret that we find ourselves under the necessity of announcing the intention from this day to suspend the publication of the *True American* until such time (should it ever occur) when we can under the guarantee of the Constitution and laws, publish it without fear of mob law or of governmental dictation...We take pride in saying in defiance of all contradiction that nothing has ever appeared in its columns indicating disloyalty to the Government either of the Nation or the State, or in any way abusing the high privilege of *perfect freedom* accorded by the Constitution to the press....Nevertheless, it is admitted we have expressed our thoughts freely and in

²¹ Harry J. Podmore, "The Jews-1860" Churches and Religious Institutions, Chapter VIII A History of Trenton

²² Hatch, 73.

²³ William Gillette, Jersey Blue: Civil War Politics in New Jersey 1854-1865 (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1995), 142.

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accordance with our honest convictions, but in language tempered by those social and conventionable restrictions intended to guard the intercourse of the members of a civilized community...²⁴

On September 25, 1861, the United States Grand Jury for the District of New Jersey sitting in Trenton brought in a presentment against several New Jersey newspapers for alleged treasonable statements. Although not named in the presentment, the *True American* among others was generally charged with secession proclivities. During this period, Republicans were consistently accusing Democrats of being traitors.

The *True American* finally resumed publication in October of 1861. However, problems persisted for the antiwar paper. Unionists consolidated power within the legislature and ended all patronage including lucrative printing contracts to antiwar editors. Naar lost his patronage; it went instead to pro-war *Jersey City Standard*. The war continued and even without support, the *True American* continued its criticism.

In a March 1862 speech, Naar decried the lives lost during the war and the millions of dollars spent, "We are not now fighting for the Constitution and the Union, but for the freedom of the negro. We are cutting each other's throats for the sake of a few worthless negroes." No issue so greatly divided the parties as the emancipation question. New Jersey's Democrats and its voice the *True American* were against emancipation. They regarded abolition as unconstitutional because it deprived slaveholders of their property without consent and was federal interference in a state issue. According to Naar, "It was not the intentions of the framers of the government to confer upon the National Legislature any authority to deal with the institutions of the States, but that each State reserved the right to regulate its internal institutions independent of any power." 27

During the fall elections of 1862, Democrats tried to rally against the Republicans. Claiming emancipation would divide the north, harden rebel resolve and prolong the war, some papers appealed to the voters to "love the Union more than the negro, Naar went further, "That is the issue---the negro against the white man."²⁸

In January 1863, Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation freeing all slaves in the rebelling states. Many antiwar editors "denounced the declaration as wrong in both principle and law. The *Trenton American* called it the 'most stupendous act of folly and usurpation' ever perpetrated by an American president. In the [Naar's] opinion, Lincoln had changed the war's purpose from preservation of the Union to revolution in the cause of emancipation. If emancipation supposedly was so noble, he asked sarcastically, why did it not apply to the loyal slave states remaining in the Union?"²⁹

Democrats and therefore Naar worried about a mass exodus of former slaves into New Jersey, fearing blacks would take away white jobs. There was a bill introduced in the state legislature to make it illegal for blacks to immigrate into the state. Naar supported it, "Without the least desire to encourage the existing prejudice against the persons of the negro race for whom we have the greatest sympathy, we simply cannot regard without apprehension the accession to the numbers (of Negroes) already in the State of such as may fall to our share from among the runaway slaves of the South."³⁰

²⁴ Samuel S. Armstrong, "Trenton in the Mexican, Civil, and Spanish American Wars" A History of Trenton 1679-1929: Two Hundred and Fifty Years of a Notable Town with Links in Four Centuries (Trenton: The Trenton Historical Society, 1929).

²⁵ Armstrong.

²⁶ Gillette, 211.

²⁷ Hatch 77.

²⁸ Gillette, 202.

²⁹ Ibid., 206.

³⁰ Hatch, 84.

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Democrats also were against blacks having the vote. According to Naar, "give the Republicans the power in New Jersey, and see how soon they will... give the negroes the right to vote, because it would give the power to the Republican party.' It is their object and aim."

While all of this was the official party line of the Democrats, for Naar anyway, much of his beliefs were based on racist feelings. Naar did not believe that blacks were equal to whites. He did not believe that free blacks should be educated. He believed they should be kept out of government jobs and should not be allowed to vote or hold public office. When it was suggested in 1862 that blacks should hold office, Naar reacted, "Thus, this Republican leader has added another plank to the Republican platform, favoring the overthrow of white rule in the (southern) States and the substitution of negro rule in its place. Is the man mad? Is his soul so wrapped up in love for the African that he would make the Anglo-Saxon his slave?" Naar called black equality, "one of the darkest heresies" Naar believed that blacks were "by nature treacherous" and "worthless and imbecilic." He stated, "Leave the negro to himself and he rots." Biographer Rabbi S. Joshua Kohn labeled Naar's views as white supremacist ideology. According to Kohn, "Naar was against Negro suffrage because it would mean that Negroes could hold office. This was too difficult a thought for him to accept."

Judge David Naar remained in control of the paper until 1866, when his son, Joseph L. Naar, took over day-to-day operations. Joseph maintained his father's tradition of Democratic leanings and was an important journalist and Trenton citizen in his own right. "He was private secretary to Governor Ludlow and had much to do with the successful establishment of the Trenton Public Library, serving several years as Trustee." In 1869, Joseph and two partners purchased the building from his father. In 1872, publishing operations for the *True American* were moved to new premises at State and Broad Streets and then in 1893 to its own building on North Warren Street (no longer standing). Judge Naar died in 1880; his son Joseph died in 1905. In 1913, the competing *Trenton Times* acqquired the *True American* and suspended its publication.³⁷

Joseph Naar retained ownership of the building until 1886. After the newspaper left, the building had a number of commercial uses on the first floor. The upper floors continued to be used primarily as residences. Trenton city directories from second half of the nineteenth century confirm this. In 1859 for instance, Theodosia and Charles Kennedy lived at 30 Warren Street (107 South Warren Street). She was a dressmaker and he was a printer. He worked elsewhere.³⁸ An 1874 map listed 101 as a store; 105 was a locksmith.³⁹ In an 1890 map, 105 remained a locksmith; 101 was a tin smith and 107 was a residence.⁴⁰ In the second decade of the twentieth century, J.H. Hearnen began buying the properties.⁴¹ By 1927, the mix uses of the first floor buildings ceased; at this stage, the buildings had been joined (although not in a legal manner) and were being used as an automobile sales and service building, Hearnen's Garage.⁴² The interior of the

³¹ Gillette, 319.

³² Hatch, 74.

³³ Ibid., 75.

³⁴ Ibid., 83.

³⁵ http://www.blacksandjews.com/Jews.of.Black.Holocaust.hn.html

³⁶ Cleary.

³⁷ Cleary.

³⁸ William H. Boyd, Trenton City Directory: Containing the Names of the Citizens, a Business Directory of Mercer and Burlington Counties (New York: W.H. Boyd, 1859).

³⁹ D.A. Sanborn, *Insurance Diagrams of Trenton* (New York: D.A. Sanborn, 1886).

⁴⁰ Sanborn-Perris Map Company, Insurance Maps of the City of Trenton, Mercer County (New York: Sanborn-Perris Map Company, 1890).

⁴¹ Mercer County Deed Books 429, page 231; 392, page 268; 350, page 187.

⁴² Sanborn Map Company, *Insurance Maps of the City of Trenton, Mercer County, New Jersey, Volume 1* (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1927.

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building underwent a number of renovations, reorganizing and interconnecting the adjacent buildings, as well as changing the storefronts and demolishing and building new additions off the rear of the buildings. In 1954, the rear of 101 was being used as a post office.⁴³ Most recently, the Golden Swan was the home of the Caola Locksmith Shop, a historic use of the building since at least 1874. This occupied most of the first floor. It was abandoned for many years; it is currently being rehabilitated to become a mix of commercial and residential units.

101-107 South Warren Street, for the most part, is a typical nineteenth century assemblage of row houses that was used for a variety of purposes over its almost 200-year existence. It housed stores, residences, taverns and hotels. Because it is located in the center of Trenton, an area that has seen significant demolition of its historic buildings, it is remarkable; only a few early taverns survive. The Eagle Tavern on South Broad Street is one example. However, is its association with the *True American* and Judge David Naar that truly sets this building apart. Besides the Golden Swan/True American, there are no structures that remain on Warren Street from the newspaper business, once the heart of the industry in Trenton and therefore the state of New Jersey during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The *True American* under Judge Naar was an important voice, especially during the Civil War. Its opinions caused great controversy as evidenced by the mid-April 1861 riot in front of the building. Judge Naar, an important local person, is not interpreted elsewhere and because it is his work with the *True American* that set him apart, it is this building where his contributions to Trenton history should be acknowledged. It is this moment, therefore, for which this building gained its significance.

⁴³ Sanborn Map Company, *Insurance Maps of the City of Trenton, Mercer County, New Jersey, Volume 1* (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1954.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property included in this nomination consists of all of Block 1-D, Lots 124-126, in Trenton, Mercer County, New Jersey, which comprises the full extent of the Golden Swan/True American site.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION STATEMENT

The lot lines that bound the property today were established in a March 1814 map which delineated Barzillia Wright's land.

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PHOTOS

All of the photographs were taken by Clarke, Caton, Hintz Architects in January 2007.

Photo 1

Looking north on South Warren Street. 101 to 107 South Warren Street is a group of three early and mid-19th century brick rowhouses located on the west side of South Warren Street at the intersection of Front Street. Although built as three separate structures originally divided by brick fire walls, they have been interconnected for many years and, as a group, are known as The Golden Swan / True American.

Photo 2

Looking south on South Warren Street. Since 1939, the building have been connected as a single property.

Photo 3

Looking west on Front Street. 101 to 107 South Warren Street has been an important anchor on the corner since 1815.

Photo 4

101 on the corner was built in 1815. 105, the next building to the south, was constructed ca. 1820. 107 was the last built; it was standing by 1844.

Photo 5

The north elevation of 101 is four bays with sloped roof and a single chimney at the back slope. This chimney replaced an earlier, large, double chimney at the side. The windows are replacement, although some original window frames and exterior trim remain. At the upper gable end is a lunette recessed in the brick, an important original feature.

Photo 6

The rear west elevations of all of the buildings have been altered several times. The original rear wing additions visible in historic map research have been removed. The roof dormers are original.

Photo 7

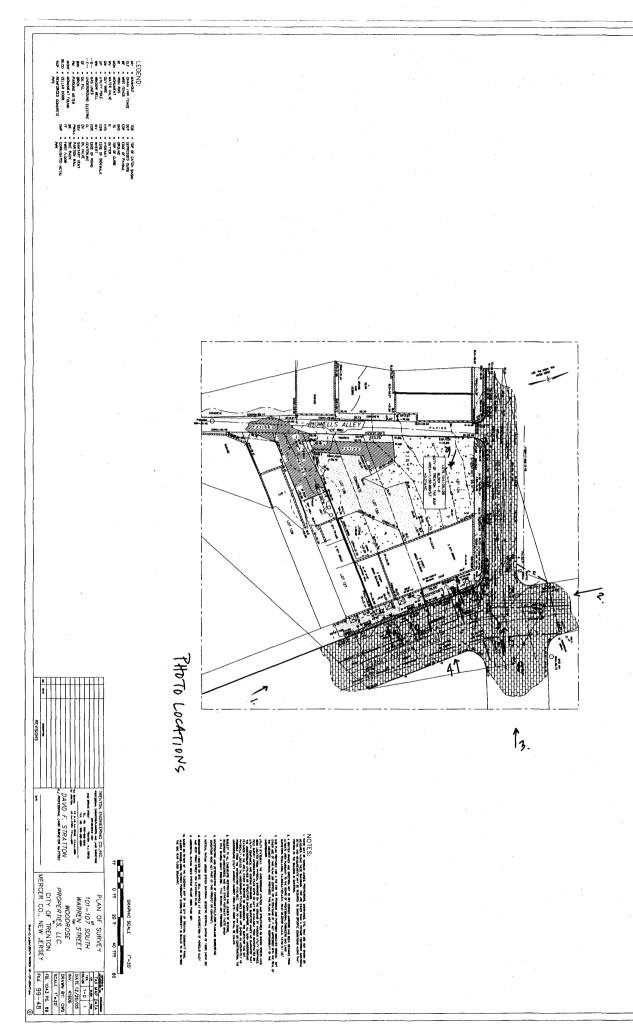
101 South Warren Street stands at the corner of Front and Warren Streets. It was built in 1815 and was used as a tavern in the first few decades of its existence. In 1856, it became the *True American*; its signficance rests in this use.

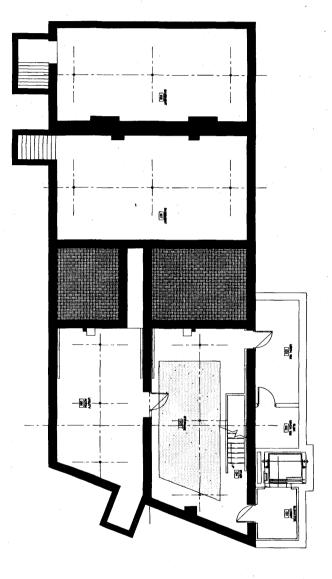
Photo 8

105 South Warren Street was built ca. 1820. Throughout its existence, it has been a mixed-use building with residences on the upper floors and commercial spaces at the first floor.

Photo 9

107 South Warren Street was constructed after the others but before 1844. It remained a residence longer than the 105 but by the 20th century, also had commercial uses on the ground floor.

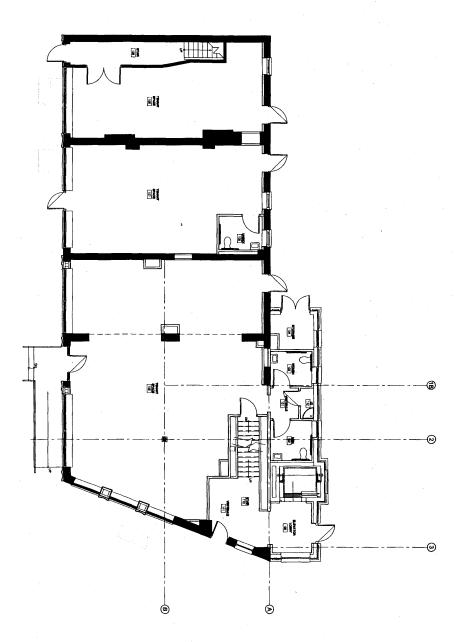




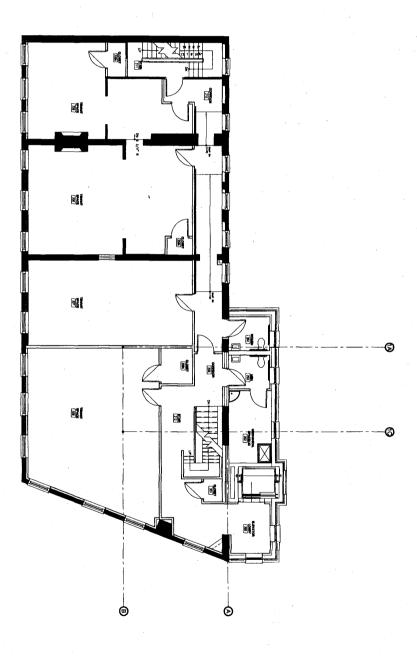
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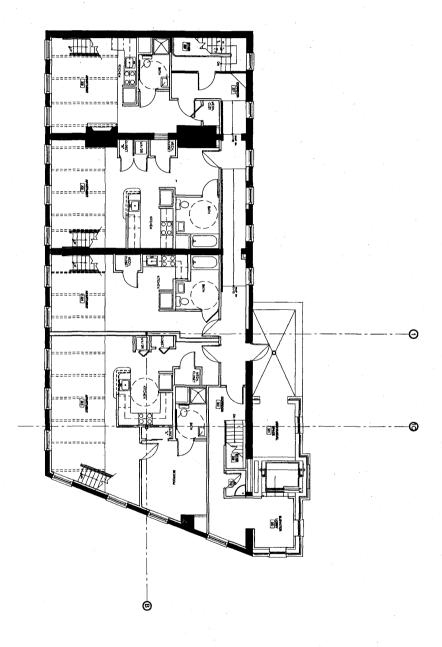
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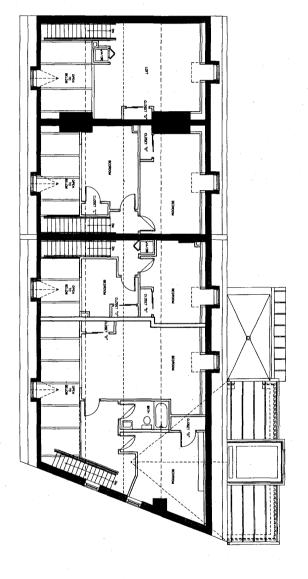


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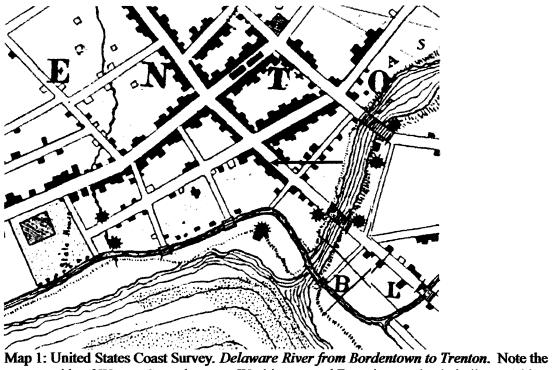




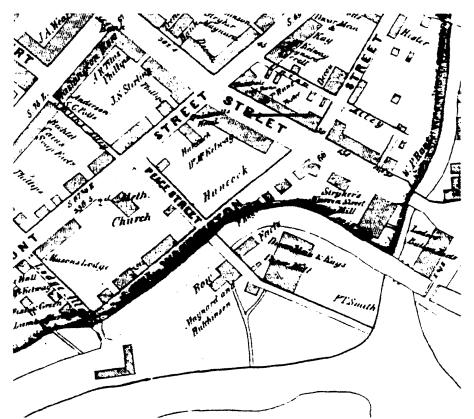
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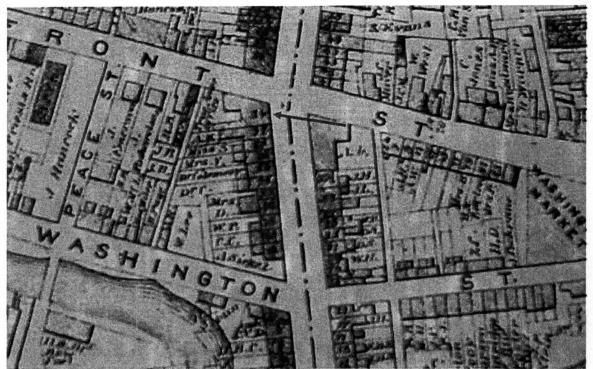
HISTORIC MAPS



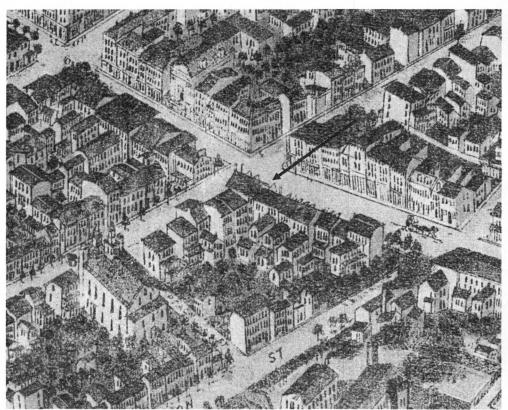
Map 1: United States Coast Survey. Delaware River from Bordentown to Trenton. Note the western side of Warren Street between Washington and Front is completely built up. This means that by 1844 all four buildings had been constructed.



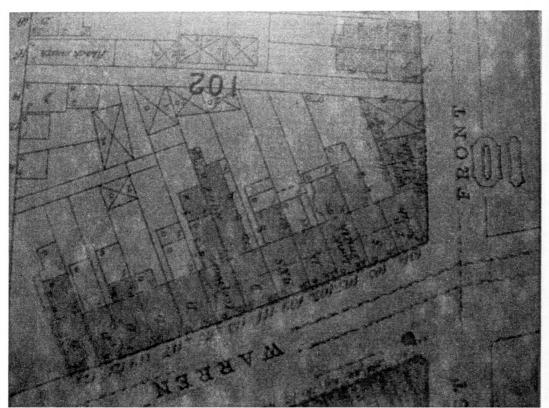
Map 2: J.C. Sidney's 1849 map shows that 101-103 was known as Quickwell's Hotel.



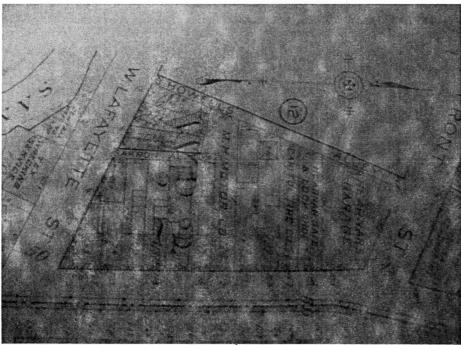
Map 3: 1870 Beers Map shows the True American on the corner; the other buildings appear to be residences.



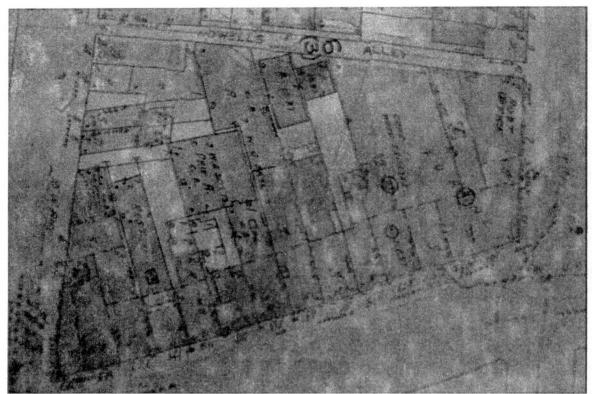
Map 4: Fowler & Bailey's 1874 View of Trenton shows a dense urban neighborhood at Front and Warren Streets.



Map 5: In 1890, 101 was a tinsmith, 103 was a store, 105 was a locksmith and 107 was still a dwelling.



Map 6: By the second decade of the 20th century, J.H. Hearnen (of Hearnen's garage listed above), began buying the buildings. In 1930, all of the buildings are being used in the automotive industry.



Map 7: In 1954, the rear of 101 is being used as a post office. By this time all of the buildings are joined as a single property as can be seen above.

HISTORIC PHOTOS

Historic Photo 1

The Golden Swan/True American Building in the 1880s from Trenton Old and New.

Historic Photo 2

The Golden Swan/True American Building in 1964 from Trenton Old and New.

Historic Photo 3

103 South Warren Street in the 1940s. From the Trentoniana Collection, Trenton Public Library.

Historic Photo 4

105 South Warren Street in the 1940s. From the Trentoniana Collection, Trenton Public Library.

Historic Photo 5

107 South Warren Street in the 1940s. From the Trentoniana Collection, Trenton Public Library.

Historic Photo 6

101-103 South Warren Street in 1957. From the Trentoniana Collection, Trenton Public Library.

Historic Photo 7

105-107 South Warren Street in 1957. From the Trentoniana Collection, Trenton Public Library.

Historic Photo 8

101-103 South Warren Street, date unknown but post-1957. From the Trentoniana Collection, Trenton Public Library.

Historic Photo 9

101-103 South Warren Street, date unknown but likely from the 1970s. From the Trentoniana Collection, Trenton Public Library.

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The Daily True American was published at 40 Greene Street, now Broad Street, one door north of the City Hall, now Broad-State Building, when Judge Naar became its owner and editor.



"THE GOLDEN SWAN" OR TRUE AMERICAN CORNER

In the publishing of this paper, Mr. Naar was assisted by Frank

THE GOLDEN SWAN OR THUE AMERICAN CORNER 113 On the ground floor were located the office and the printing shop while the Nara family lived in the upper stories. At one time, Jewish services were held in the building. In the stirring days

On Monday, April 1, 1872, the Daily True American removed to Trenton's famous literary corner, the southeasterly corner of Broad and State Streets.



THE SAME CORNER TODAY

Years before scribes and publishers located at Warrs and Frant Streets, the building laid its glories as a well-established publish is inceptionical by mention in of the State Legislature and often prominent figures who did business in the street was generally know as The Collent Scan, "all the street is approache ask established in such as street, who did not street and the street of the State," Street has "Street of the State," Street has "Street had been street, and the street of the State," Street has "Street had been still a State and the State," Street had been still a street of the State, "Street had been still a street of the stre

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