

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received JUN 21 1985

date entered JUL 18 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic The Hill Memorial

and/or common Headquarters of the Sussex County Historical Society

2. Location

street & number 82 Main Street NA not for publication

city, town Newton _____ vicinity of

state New Jersey code 34 county Sussex County code 037

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" 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
	NA	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name County of Sussex (use and occupation reserved for S.C.H.S.)

street & number County Administration Building, High Street

city, town Newton _____ vicinity of state New Jersey

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Sussex County Hall of Records

street & number Park Place

city, town Newton _____ vicinity of state New Jersey

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Office of New Jersey Heritage has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 12/1984 federal state county local

depository for survey records CN-402

city, town Trenton _____ vicinity of state New Jersey 08625

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Hill Memorial stands on eighteen hundredths of an acre located at the southwest corner of the intersection of Main and Church Streets in the Town of Newton. It was erected in 1916-1917.

A description of the building, still valid today, was published in the Sussex Register, March 2, 1916, in an article entitled, "Hill Memorial Contract Signed":

"As laid out in the final plans, the new home for the Historical Society will be constructed of two shades of grey tapestry brick, with Indiana limestone window sills, the rest of the trim being made with brick facings at the corner and eave line. The entrance, which will be in the center of the building on the Main Street side, will be covered by a porch supported by two columns, all the detail work of the entrance to be of Terra Cotta, of a color to be selected by the architect and the building committee that will harmonize with the general color scheme.

The building is two stories in height. Its dimensions over all are 53 feet 4 inches by 26 feet, there being a bay in the rear at the center, 7 feet wide by 41 feet long, for the stairway to the second floor. On the first floor there are two exhibition rooms, one on each side of the vestibule, each 17 feet by 23 feet. The Lobby, running from the entrance to the foot of the stairs at the rear, is 18 feet by 19 feet 6 inches.

The stairway rises opposite the entrance, turning at a landing to both right and left, giving two entrances into the large assembly room that occupies the entire second floor.

Under the stairway on the first floor there are two toilets, and at each side of the entrance there is a closet. The whole space under the building is excavated, and there will be a large hot air heater installed. Part of the space under the stairs on the first floor will be used for a small fireproof vault for the safekeeping of the more valuable records of the Society.

The roof is to be of local slate, with wooden trim at the eaves. Over the entrance there will be carved in the Terra Cotta lintel the words: "The Hill Memorial." One of the features of the building will be the grading of the lot, which is included in the contract let to Mr. Farrell. From the highest point in the lot a concrete retaining wall will be built level at the entrance about two feet above the side walk. Behind this wall, the ground will be graded gently up to the building.

The work specified throughout the building is of the highest grade. The trim will be of oak, and the floors laid with maple. The

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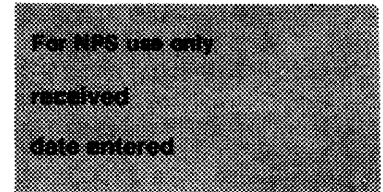
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foundations will be laid up with native stone, uncut, and laid as the stone runs."

Further details of the materials and methods of construction are contained in the original building specifications. Stone and brick from the old foundation of the Johnson building, demolished to make way for the Hill Memorial, were used in the new foundation along with local building stone. The mortar is a mixture of lime, sand and Portland cement. The structure is faced with smoky grey pressed bricks of two shades which measure 2-5/16 " x 4" x 8½". Brick for the first story window arches and the outside corner brick of the watertable are molded and baked to specification. Below the watertable, the face brick was bonded to the backing with a clipped herring bone bond each sixth course; above the watertable course, the headers are real in each fifth course. Other headers are false ones made of half bricks. The joints are raked ¼" deep. The common brickwork is of good hard burned common brick.

The window sills at grade are made of fine axed local stone. Window sills above grade are of Indiana limestone, as are the chimney caps.

The front entrance steps, platform and cheeks up to the bottom of the columns and pilaster bases are rubbed planed or fine axed bluestone as is the rear door sill.

The front entrance trim, including columns with bases and caps, door casings inside or out of the outside doorway, the casings outside of the vestibule doorway, and the entablature above the entrance are made of standard finished terra cotta. The portico has a plaster ceiling and a tin roof.

The Hill Memorial is roofed with Newton Chapman Slate, 8" x 16", with 7" exposure to the weather.

All exterior woodwork was painted except the front entrance doors and frame with white lead and linseed oil, tinted to match the terra cotta.

The first and second floor timbers, the stair landing timbers and the stair horse are made of Savannah long leaf yellow pine as is the plank under the entire first and second story floors except the vault, toilets, vestibule and closets. Reinforced concrete was used for the floors of the closets, vestibule and cellar stair landing and for the fireproof vault.

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Steel lintels, coated with a paint of red lead and linseed oil, were used to span the cellar windows, cellar door, toilet room windows, and interior openings.

Maple was chosen for the finished flooring of the Hall, Exhibit Rooms, and the Committee and Assembly Room.

A woven wire 3/8" mesh underlies the interior ceilings. Wet spruce lath with a 3/8" spacing was used on all stud walls. Three coats of plaster (scratch, brown and white coats) were applied. The plaster walls and ceilings were then painted with a coat of white lead and linseed oil before a final coat of enamel was applied.

The picture moldings, beam finish, and the cornice of the Committee and Assembly Room are fashioned of chestnut or of red or white oak. The remainder of the interior woodwork, including the chair rails, is of red or white oak. Quartered oak was used for the stair newels, treads, risers, and face strings and for all panels and the main front and vestibule doors. The main stair newels are 10" octagons with bases and caps; the other stair newels are square. The balusters are turned. All interior woodwork, except the maple floors, is varnished.

White pine was used for the window frames, sashes and cornices of the double hung windows. The rear door is also made of white pine. Pine was used for the roofers.

The frame windows used steel axle pulleys. Most of the original brass hardware of the building survives as do the cast iron coat hooks in the cloak room.

One of two Adees' "Royal Flush" vitreous ware, silent acting, siphon jet water closets with cabinet finished oak seats and cover has survived (Men's Room).

The great fireplace containing stones of historical and geological significance was built by Mr. George Sharp of Lafayette in 1921. Its mantle, eight feet long and one foot wide, and its arch stones are of rough hewn granite quarried at Glenwood. Samples of florescent ores from the New Jersey Zinc Company's mines at Franklin and Ogdensburg were included. Two large stones, one on either side of the base, were taken from the foundation of the Thomas Anderson House in Newton prior to its removal to Main Street in 1895 from its original

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site on Park Place. Anderson was the county's leading patriot in Revolutionary times. There are also pieces of rock from the Delaware forts of Shipacong, Nomanock, Shapanock and Walpack which were erected by the State in 1755 to protect the northwestern frontier from attack. Stones from the first church at Walpack Bend (1737) and from the first parsonage at Fort Nomanock (1741) also stud the face of the fireplace. The first bridge across the Delaware built at Phillipsburg in 1796, and the first ferry across the river, Walker's Ferry at Shawnee (1732) are also commemorated, as is the Pahaquarry Copper Mine. The millstone of Van Campen's Mill in Walpack Township, considered to be the county's first water-driven mill, is cut in two pieces and set on either side of center above the mantle.

The chimney-breast also incorporates a piece of Moody's Rock; a portion chipped from a mile-marker on the Deckertown-Oswego Turnpike; a stone from the Minisink Trail; a piece of pottery found in the Minisink Burial Ground; and pieces of rock from the highest and lowest points in the State of New Jersey, both of which are in Sussex County - one stone being from the topmost rock at High Point (1,823 feet above sea level) and the other from the bottom of the Ogensburg Mine (1,200 feet below sea level).

The cornerstone of the Hill Memorial, laid on May 23, 1916, contains a copper box inscribed "Made by Charles Grimm, 1916". It contains a portrait of Joshua Hill, a copy of the proceedings of Sussex County's Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary (1903), a copy of the program for the cornerstone laying, a portrait of the Hill Memorial with the names of the architect and contractor and data pertaining to its materials and construction costs, a picture of the Johnson building that had been removed to make way for the Hill Memorial, a list of life and annual members, a brief history of the Chinkchewunsk Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, pictures of the churches, the library and municipal buildings in Newton, copies of the county papers, and a list of the Board of Freeholders for 1916.

The Hill Memorial retains its original architectural character, being substantially unaltered in its interior and exterior appearance. In January of 1946, wooden panels were removed from the entrances to the two rooms on either side of the Lobby and glass was installed. Florescent lighting has also been installed. The original Art Nouveau chandelier, however, still hangs in the Hall.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
..... prehistoric	..... archeology-prehistoric	..... community planning	..... landscape architecture	..... religion
..... 1400-1499	..... archeology-historic	..... conservation	..... law	..... science
..... 1500-1599	..... agriculture	..... economics	..... literature	..... sculpture
..... 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	..... military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
..... 1700-1799	..... art	..... engineering	..... music	..... humanitarian
..... 1800-1899	..... commerce	..... exploration/settlement	..... philosophy	..... theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	..... communications	..... industry	..... politics/government	..... transportation
		..... invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
				..... museum
Specific dates	1916	Builder/Architect	H.T. Stephens, Architect	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Hill Memorial is the oldest museum building in the State of New Jersey. It is an interesting variant and locally rare example of Renaissance Revival architecture. It was the only building erected in Newton for a civic or cultural purpose around the time of the First World War; therefore, it is stylistically unique in a regional context. Since its dedication, the building has provided a meeting place for many community organizations.

The Hill Memorial Building was constructed between April and August of 1916 through a donation of \$15,000 from Joshua Hill. It was dedicated on June 8, 1917, as a memorial to Joshua Hill's father and mother, Luther and Abigail (Dildine) Hill, and to his uncle, Joseph Price Hill, all late residents of Andover Township. It stands upon .18 acre conveyed to the Sussex County Historical Society by Lizzie D. Clark, et. al., by deed dated June 17, 1915, recorded in Sussex County Deed Book I-11, page 480. The Sussex County Board of Freeholders accepted title to the property on September 8, 1920. Their action was based upon "A Supplement to an Act entitled 'An Act Concerning Counties' Approved March 4, 1918". This supplement was approved on April 20, 1920, and recorded in Chapter 269 of the Laws of the State of New Jersey (1920). Transfer of ownership to the County of Sussex included a clause reserving "the use and occupation of said land and premises" to the Sussex County Historical Society. In 1967, the Board of Freeholders designated the Hill Memorial as the official county museum.

The two-story brick building is an interesting variant of Renaissance Revival architecture. The symmetrical arrangement of the facade, accentuated by rusticated quoins and a neo-classical portico, are characteristic of the style. A belt course horizontally divides the two tall stories and the window surrounds differ on either side of this demarcation. The hipped roof, brick bond and highly stylized keystone arches above the first story windows are Colonial Revival elements which emphasize the building's purpose as the home of the county historical society. Embellishment of the Renaissance Revival format with Colonial Revival motifs gives the Hill Memorial a visual exuberance untypical of the generally staid formalism associated with this style. The restrained scale of the building admirably suits its setting on the Main Street of a rural county seat.

H.T. Stephens, whose office was located in the United Bank Building, 152 Market Street, Paterson, New Jersey, was employed as architect for the Hill Memorial. The Building Committee of the Sussex County Historical Society hired Thomas F. Farrell of Newton as contractor on February 29, 1916. In order to enhance the memorial quality of the building, emphasis was placed upon the use of

9. Major Bibliographical References

Sussex County Historical Society Seventy-Fifth Anniversary, 1904-1979, (booklet), compiled by Myra Snook and Barbara L. Waskowich
Sussex Register, March 2, 1916; June 14, 1917.
Building Specifications for the Hill Memorial, 1916. (Collections of the Sussex County Historical Society.)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .18 acre

Quadrangle name Newton West

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	8	5	2	0	6	2	0	4	5	4	4	8	6	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H

Zone				Easting				Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

(See Continuation Page)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries NA

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kevin Wright, Chairman, Historic Preservation Committee,

organization Sussex County Historical Society date November 6, 1984

street & number 82 Main Street telephone (home) 487-1739

city or town Newton, New Jersey 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 *Greg Ashkan*

title Acting Director, Division of Parks & Forestry date 5/13/85

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the National Register

Delores Byer date 7-18-85
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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regional materials and craftsmen. The face brick was furnished by Sloan Company from their kilns in Pennsylvania; the cut stone was supplied by Divers and Davidson of Harrison, New Jersey; the terra cotta came from Corning, New York; roof slates were quarried at Lafayette and Newton; lumber and cement was supplied by Hart and Iliff of Newton; and the plumbing, heating and sheet metalwork were furnished by William Howell of Newton.

The Hill Memorial is the oldest museum building in the State of New Jersey. It was built a decade after the Sesqui-Centennial of Sussex County in 1903. This anniversary celebration encouraged public interest and appreciation of local heritage. As a result, the Sussex County Historical Society was formed in 1904. Both the Society and its museum were established through the efforts of descendants of the area's earliest settlers at a time when their political and economic influence in state politics was beginning to wane. In this sense, the building marks the passing of an era nationally signified by America's entrance into the First World War.

An article appearing in the Sussex Register at the time of the Hill Memorial's dedication on June 8, 1917, reported that "Sentiment favoring a wider use of the Hill Memorial Building, on Main Street, than as a mere show place for relics was expressed at the annual meeting of the Sussex County Historical Society last Friday, when the building was formally opened. The first step toward an increased scope for the structure came when the society granted the use of one of the rooms to the local branch of the National League for Woman's Service, which is engaged in the making of bandages and other hospital supplies for the use of the government forces." (Sussex Register, June 14, 1917). Since its dedication, the Society's building has provided a meeting-place for many community organizations including the Sussex County Council of Churches, the Sussex County Poultry Club, the Sussex County Music Foundation, Sussex County Photographers (who used the basement as a darkroom), The Kittatinny Craftsmen, the American Association of University Women, and Welcome Wagon. Between 1948 and 1972, the Draft Board of the Selective Service System met in the building. The Sussex County Planning Board rented an office there between 1945 and 1950.

As the repository of the museum and library collections of the Sussex County Historical Society, the Hill Memorial continues to serve as an educational and cultural resource center for the area.

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Beginning at stake standing in a line 4' from South side and 4' from East end of the storehouse standing on said lot in Newton and from thence running along street (1) S 40° W, 2 chains, 25 links. (2) N 50° W, 95 links to a line of John Winterbottom's lot (3) N 47° E, 2 chains, 34 links to Church Street (4) along same South 44° 20' East, 65 links, to the beginning, containing eighteen hundredths of an acre of land more or less.



HILL MEMORIAL
NEWTON TOWN, SUSSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH EXEMPTED

701

704

702

STREET

LIBERTY ST

ST

HIGH

710

707

706

AD

STREET

DIVISION

STREET

ST JOSEPH CHURCH EXEMPTED

NEWTON ASSOCIATION CEMETERY EXEMPTED

709

708

CHURCH ST

STREET

STREET

NEWTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH EXEMPTED
TOWN OF NEWTON EXEMPTED
NEWTON ASSOCIATION CEMETERY EXEMPTED

PARK PLACE

SLSEX COUNTY PARK EXEMPTED 721

ON ST

ADAMS ST

STREET

VG

MORAN

716

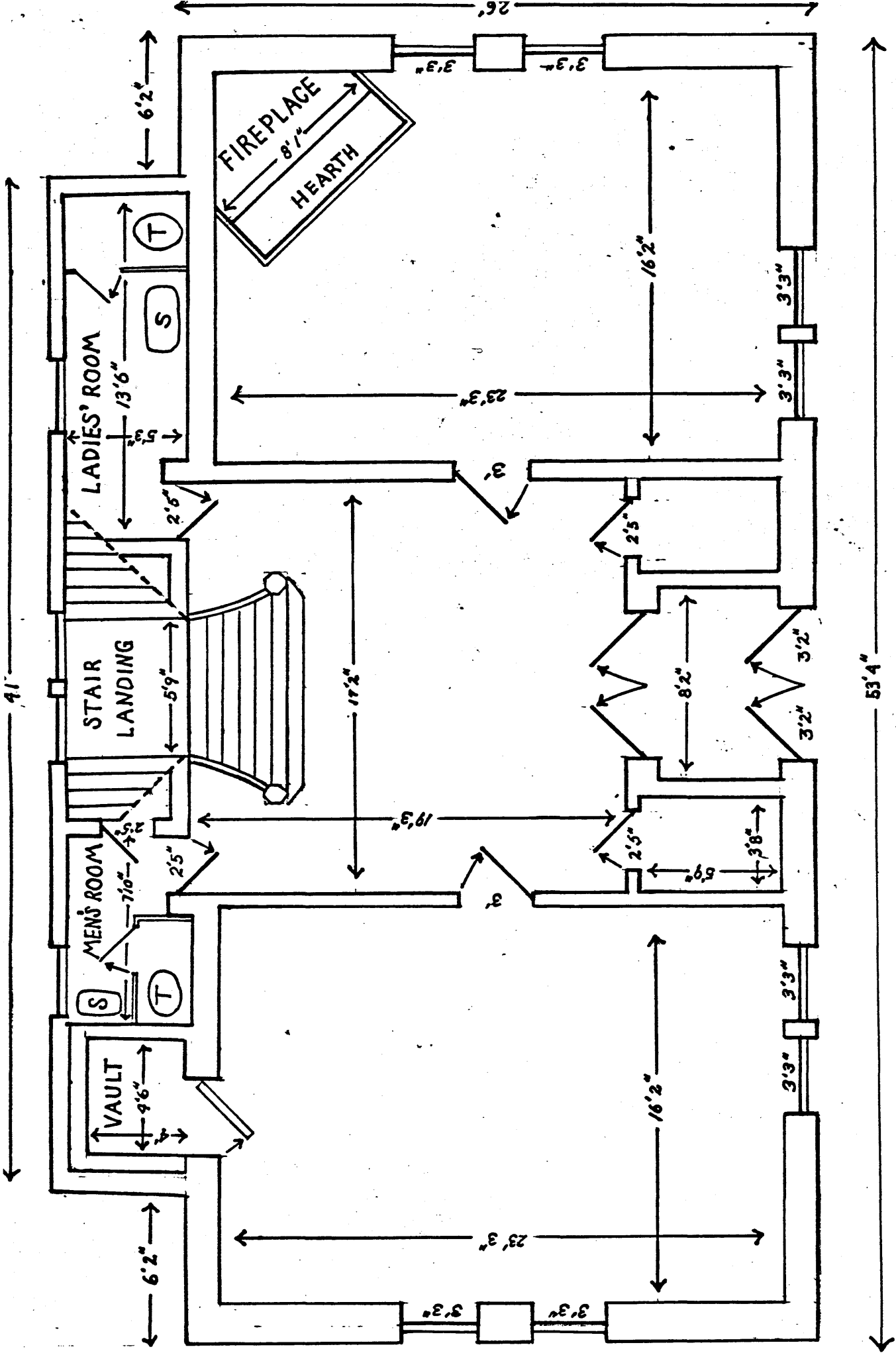
WATER

717

TRINITY

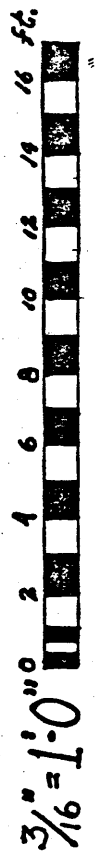
STREET

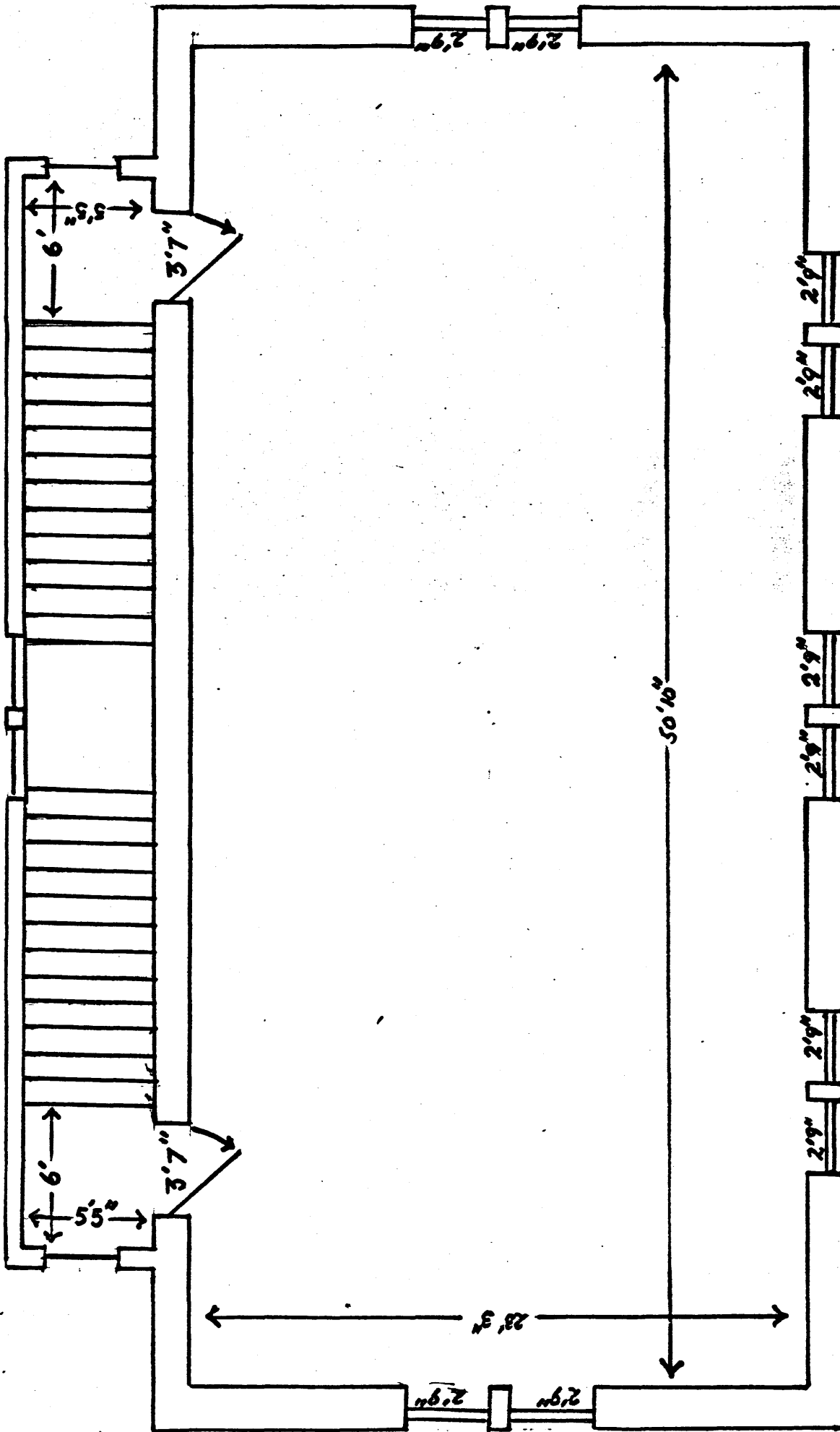
MILL STREET



THE HILL MEMORIAL BUILDING

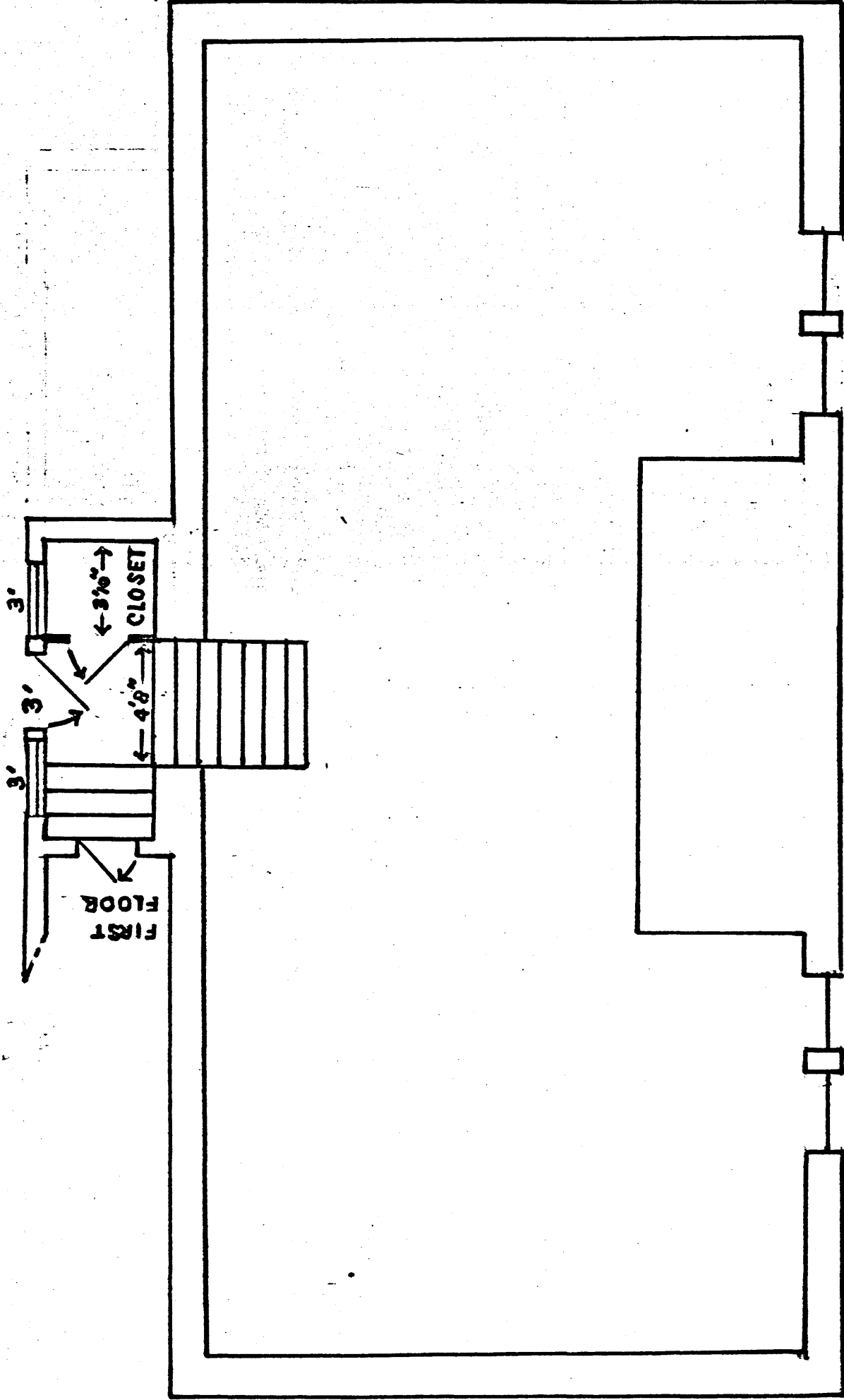
Newton Town, Sussex County, New Jersey





HILL MEMORIAL
 NEWTON TOWN, SUSSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

SECOND FLOOR



HILL MEMORIAL
 NEWTON TOWN, SUSSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

BASEMENT