

PH0368 76

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JAN 26 1976
DATE ENTERED MAY 28 1976

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC *wh*

South Orange Village Hall

Village Hall

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Corner South Orange Avenue and Scotland Road

CITY, TOWN

South Orange Village

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

11th

STATE

New Jersey

CODE
34

COUNTY

Essex

CODE

013

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT
 BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

South Orange Village

STREET & NUMBER

South Orange Avenue

CITY, TOWN

South Orange

VICINITY OF

STATE

New Jersey

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Essex County, Hall of Records

STREET & NUMBER

High Street

CITY, TOWN

Newark

STATE

New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory (#2868.8)

DATE

1970

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Historic Sites Section, Dept. of Environmental Protection

CITY, TOWN

Box 1420, Trenton

STATE

New Jersey

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Original

South Orange Village Hall was to be a building of unique design, fashioned after German half-timber architecture. The first story was to be constructed of molten brick with trimmings of red brick and the upper story with gables and clock tower will be of wood, finished in the interior in red and black plaster and woodwork. "The dome is to be of natural copper, surmounted by a belfry roof with copper and from which the flagstaff will rise. A large town clock and bell will occupy the tower. The roof will be of block slate, with flashings and finishings of copper. The arched main entrance will be trimmed with terra cotta." (New York Times, October 14, 1894).

On the first floor were all the major offices while quarters were provided for the fire department on the east side.

A main hall on the second floor functioned as a meeting room for official functions and social gatherings.

South Orange Village Hall

The Village Hall was built in 1894 using numerous forms. It has brick masonry walls, with stucco walls with wood elements to represent half timber construction on upper levels. The roof is slate. Architecturally it reflects medieval half timber construction. An octagonal clock tower rises at the corner and is topped by a copper dome. The building mass is interrupted by numerous projecting gables, dormers, a tower, second floor overhangs, etc., presenting a continuously changing facade. Patterns are varied from one gable to another; windows vary and walls are on different planes. The intricacy of details gives the building a human scale.

The interior is simple and probably never had much detail or interest. Painting and the addition of modern fixtures have continued to diminish the interior interest. The interest lies in the profusion of medieval details on the exterior.

A color post-card shows the original cupola with bell atop the dome in 1906. This document in comparison with the present edifice shows few other exterior alterations save the enclosure of the three arches at the main entrance.

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 type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1894

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Rossiter and Wright

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Government

The Village Hall in South Orange has functioned as municipal offices for the community since its construction in 1894. (The official village seal is a line drawing of Village Hall.)

Following the Civil War New Jersey witnessed an exodus of people, generally affluent, into the rolling farmlands surrounding Newark. In their vigorous attempt to escape the city these people flowed into the Oranges via the recently developed railroad. By 1869 South Orange Township had developed so rapidly that a separate municipality was formed. Named South Orange Village this is still New Jersey's only incorporated village.

It was not until the late 1800's that South Orange residents seriously considered the construction of a permanent town hall. All of the official offices of the village were housed in the hall as they are presently.

Architecture

Using numerous forms South Orange Village Hall was fashioned after German half-timber architecture in the late 19th century (New York Times, October 14, 1894). It is of unique design reflecting medieval half-timber construction and has maintained its original exterior form to the present.

The building was designed and built by Rossiter and Wright, Architects in 1894. It is a good possibility that the firm was that of Erick K. Rossiter (1854-1941), a New York Architect, who designed a number of public buildings in the Metropolitan New York - New England region. (Biographical Dictionary of American Architects, p. 528-9).

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Municipalities of Essex County, New Jersey 1666-1924. Joseph F. Folsom, Editor. Lewis Historical Publishing Company: N.Y., 1925 (pp. 808-822).
New York Times. October 14, 1894 (p. 24, col.2)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .54

UTM REFERENCES

A	18	516,216,20	4,511,016,20	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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 Charles Tichy, Restoration Architect and Terry Karschner, Historian-Curator March 12, 1975

ORGANIZATION Historic Sites Section, Dept. of Environmental Protection DATE

STREET & NUMBER Box 1420 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 X

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE Commissioner, Dept of Environmental Protection DATE DEC - 8 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 5/28/96

DATE 5-25-76

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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South Orange Village Hall

South Orange Village

Essex County

New Jersey

CONTINUATION SHEET 034

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8. Architecture

Erick K. Rossiter, a native of Paris, France, was educated in the United States and trained at the Cornell University School of Architecture. He began as a draftsman in New York and later was employed as an architect for a number of firms. In the last quarter of the 19th Century he was working independently.

From 1881 to at least 1894 Rossiter and Frank Ayres Wright paired to form the architectural firm of Rossiter and Wright. A number of Rossiter and Wrights' drawings were illustrated in the architectural texts of the period. Most noteworthy texts were Cottages by Arnold William Brunner (New York: 1884, plates I, XV, and XVIII), Modern Architectural Designs and Details by William T. Comstock (New York: 1881, plate 68), and American Cottages also by William T. Comstock (New York: 1883, plates VI, VIII, XVI, XIX, and XLII.)

While almost nothing is known of Frank Ayres Wright, other than his partnership with Rossiter, three books were prepared in the late 19th Century under Wright's name.

Architectural Perspectives for Beginners was written solely by Wright, suggesting a possible educational affiliation.

Another book Architectural Studies (Parts 1-10) was edited by Frank Wright, but is usually catalogued under the publisher and major contributor, William T. Comstock).

The final publication was printed as an advertising agent entitled Rossiter and Wright's Modern House Painting. Selling for \$5.00 this book was advertised in Comstock's 1883 American Cottages.

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South Orange Village
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Continuation SHEET 034

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9. Major Bibliographical References (Continued)

Biographical Dictionary of American Architects. Henry and
Elsie Withey. Hennesey and Imgalls, Inc: L.A.,
1970. (pp 528-9)
Comprehensive Master Plan of South Orange, June,
1965.