NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY #   0713 6 1 2
INDIVIDUAL STRUCTURE SURVEY FORM

Left margin (vertical): DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, BUREAU OF PARKS AND FORESTRY, OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION, 109 WEST STATE STREET, TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625   (609)292-2023

HISTORIC NAME: Carnegie Library
LOCATION: Church Street at corner of
Valley Road

COMMON NAME: Montclair Co-Operative School
BLOCK/LOT   2208/10

MUNICIPALITY: Montclair
USGS QUAD: Orange
OWNER/ADDRESS: Board of Trustees, Unitarian Church
73 Church St., Montclair, N. J. 07042

COUNTY: Essex
UTM REFERENCES:
Zone/Northing/Easting

DESCRIPTION
Construction Date: 1904

Source of Date: Montclair Library archives

Architect: John G. Howard

Builder:

Style: Eclectic w/ elements of Bungalow
& Prairie styles

Form/Plan Type: "L"

Number of Stories: 1 w/ visible basement

Foundation:

Exterior Wall Fabric: Brick

Fenestration: Casement windows

Roof/Chimneys: Hipped w/ asphalt shingling & copper flashing. Massive, rectangular
chimney to rear of a central hexagonal skylight.
Additional Architectural Description:

 Corner siting.
 Broad brick staircase leads to the main entrance.
 Main entrance has double, contemporary doors w/ a 3 light transom set in
a brick trimmed surround.
 Windows alternate w/ stucco panels to form a prominent, wide band course
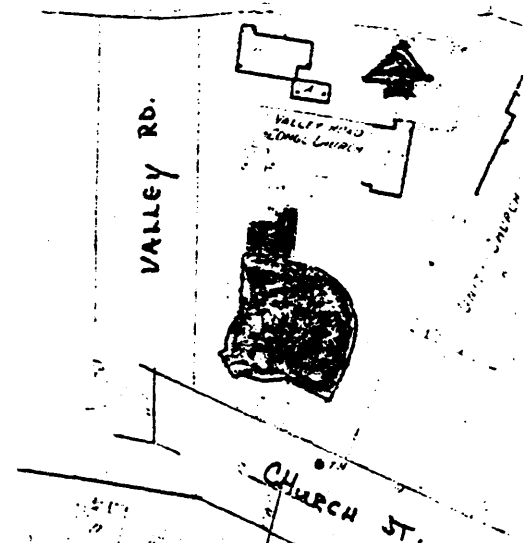which runs the length of both wings of the "L".
 Overhanging eave.
 Brick string course in the form of a fret runs the length of the base.

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PHOTO   Negative File # R38, 14

Map (Indicate North)

SITING, BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION, AND RELATED STRUCTURES:

Building sited close to the corner; occupies west end of 168' property
line along Church St. & 118' property line north on Valley Road.

Less than one acre.

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

SIGNIFICANCE:

One of very few Prairie style buildings in Montclair, this former library
building was well designed to fit its corner site. It seems stylistically
later than its building date and has been successfully adapted to a private
school.

The architect of this building, John G. Howard, was a prominent California
architect. It was called the "Carnegie Library" because of the generous
donation of $40,000 from Andrew Carnegie.

The site was an important corner in local history - the point where the
"Old Road" from Newark turned and the location of the popular public
house, the Munn tavern. This building which also once served as a library
is now located behind the Valley Covenant Church (see #17 Valley Road,
Munn Tavern).

ORIGINAL USE: Library   PRESENT USE: School
PHYSICAL CONDITION: Excellent [x]   Good [ ]   Fair [ ]   Poor [ ]
REGISTER ELIGIBILITY: Yes [x]   Possible [ ]   No [ ]   Part of District [x]
THREATS TO SITE: Roads [ ]   Development [ ]   Zoning [ ]   Deterioration [ ]
No Threat [x]   Other [ ]
COMMENTS:

REFERENCES:

Kiser, Ellis. Atlas of Essex County. Philadelphia: A. H. Mueller, 1906

For bibliography on architect, see: Whithey & Whithey, pp. 302-303.

Water color perspective of this building rendered by J. G. Howard included
in the Architectural League of New York, Annual Exhibition, 1900 (Exhibition
#541).

RECORDED BY: Edward T. Mohylowski   DATE: 4/12/80
ORGANIZATION: Columbia University