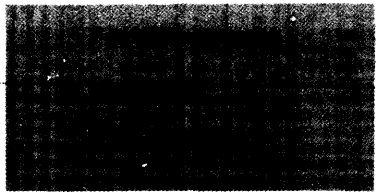


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



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

1. Name

historic the Caldwell Parsonage

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 909 Caldwell Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Union N/A vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state New Jersey code 34 county Union code 039

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Union Township Historical Society

street & number 909 Caldwell Avenue

city, town Union N/A vicinity of state New Jersey

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Union County Courthouse

street & number 2 Broad Street

city, town Elizabeth state New Jersey

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N.J. Historic Sites Inventory: Union County has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1980-81  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Office of Cultural and Environmental Services

city, town Trenton state New Jersey

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Caldwell Parsonage is a two and a half story frame Federal style house constructed in 1782 on the foundations of an earlier building burned by the British in 1780 during their retreat from the Battle of Connecticut Farms. The above-ground portion of the Parsonage's foundation is of sandstone cut into blocks. The house is of post and beam construction with brick and lime mortar nogging in the walls. The house is sided in painted cedar clapboards with beveled edges. Interior walls are finished with hand split wood lathe applied with forged nails, covered with plaster which has goat hair binding.

The gable roof was originally covered with wooden shingles. It is presently overlaid with asphalt strip shingles. There is a large, central, stucco-covered stone chimney in the house, with two fireplace openings on each floor, in addition to a basement cooking fireplace. A box cornice below the roofline has pediment returns on the gable ends of the house.

The Caldwell Parsonage is laid out in a side-hall plan. The house has a three bay facade, with six over six light sash windows and panelled shutters at the windows. The front door is surmounted by a transom light. The pedimented portico over the door appears in an 1860 rendering of the house.

The Parsonage faces south and is at right angles to the present street. A kitchen wing is attached to the east side of the house. It is two stories tall, also of clapboard. Although the interior of this section was not open for investigation, the basement crawl space did indicate heavy hewn beams on a random stone foundation. Certain beams suggest they were reused, possibly from the earlier Parsonage which was destroyed by the British, although they do not appear to have been charred. Windows are six over six sash with simple framing similar to the main unit. Around 1920, the attic was finished into two rooms and a lean-to was added off the east side of the kitchen wing. A flat-roofed porch extends the length of the main block in the rear.

A two and a half story carriage house, built about 1800, is located on the property east of the house. It is a wooden frame building with vertical plank siding. It has a gable roof and three bays across the front. Also on the property is a stonelined well with a large sandstone cap flush to the ground.

The interior is a side hall plan with a front and rear room. The stairway has a late 18th century bannister railing with panelling beneath the stairs. The fireplaces have simple Federal mantels, and a wood panelled wall surrounds a second story fireplace. There are hewn rafters in the attic and hewn joists and plates in the basement.

The Caldwell Parsonage and the carriage house are in good condition, maintained as a house museum by the Union Township Historical Society. Caldwell Parsonage has been recognized as a link with important events of the American Revolution, and displays markers from the Union Township Historical Society, the State of New Jersey (1905), and Union County Bicentennial Last Muster Celebration (1980).

# 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1782 **Builder/Architect** UNKNOWN

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

During the American Revolution the original parsonage of the Connecticut Farms Presbyterian Church on this site was the scene of British army vengeance when the church and parsonage were burned and the Reverend James Caldwell's wife, Hannah, was killed. Hannah Caldwell's death was used by her husband and other patriots as a rallying point for their cause. Along with the death of Jane McCrea during General Burgoyne's campaign in New York, the death of Hannah Caldwell created a legend of British atrocities and a symbol to inspire American troops and militia to revenge and victory.

The Parsonage was rebuilt in 1782 incorporating the foundation of the earlier structure and is a good local expression of late 18th century building crafts.

The original parsonage of the Connecticut Farms Church was the site of an event that marked a turning point for the American cause in the Revolution. The British under command of General Kynphausen marched from their stronghold on Staten Island on June 7, 1780, headed for what would be known as the Battle of Connecticut Farms. They went through Elizabeth and then on toward Morristown, where General George Washington, Continental troops and supplies were located. The path of the British army led them to the settlement of Connecticut Farms, where a pass in the hills would permit access to Morristown.

The settlement of Connecticut Farms formed the core of present-day Union Township. It was established by Reverend Abraham Pierson and a band of Connecticut families in 1667. Connecticut Farms was still quite an agricultural village at the outbreak of the Revolution, and it was to the village that Reverend James Caldwell, pastor of the Elizabethtown Presbyterian Church moved his family. James Caldwell was an ardent patriot, and for his preaching on behalf of the revolutionary cause he earned the name "The Rebel High Priest." He was chaplain of Colonel Elias Dayton's Third New Jersey Regiment. He became deputy quartermaster for the Continental Army. Not surprisingly, Reverend Caldwell was much hated by the Loyalists in Elizabeth and by the British. For the safety of his family, Caldwell moved them to Connecticut Farms in 1780, after his home church in Elizabeth was burned by British sympathizers. James Caldwell was not at Connecticut Farms on June 7, 1790, but his wife, Hannah, and two of their children were in the parsonage, presumably safe from troops.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Edwin F. Hatfield, History of Elizabeth, New Jersey (New York, Carlton and Lanahan, 1868).

Proceedings of the Union County Historical Society of Union County, New Jersey (Published under the direction of the Society, 1938).

## 10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property .3437

Quadrangle name Roselle

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UMT References

A 

1	8	5	6	0	9	4	0	4	5	0	4	9	4	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

Block 41.12, Lot 4 - Township of Union Tax Map

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janet Foster

organization Union County Cultural and Her. Comm. date 12/8/80

street & number 300 North Avenue telephone (201) 233-7906

city or town Westfield 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

title Lauren Schmitt date 8/7/81

For the Secretary  
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register of Historic Places.

Alvin Byer date 8/1/81  
Keeper of the National Register

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

Caldwell Parsonage, Union Township,

Continuation sheet Union County, New Jersey Item number 8

Page 1

As the British reached the village on the afternoon of June 7, Hannah Caldwell and her household went into a back room of the house for safety. The New Jersey militia had been called out and were fighting the British troops, trying only to slow down their march until Washington could assemble his defenses behind them. When the fighting between advancing British troops and the militia reached its height in the village of Connecticut Farms, a bullet entered the back room of the parsonage and killed Hannah Caldwell. British troops stormed the house and began to loot its contents.

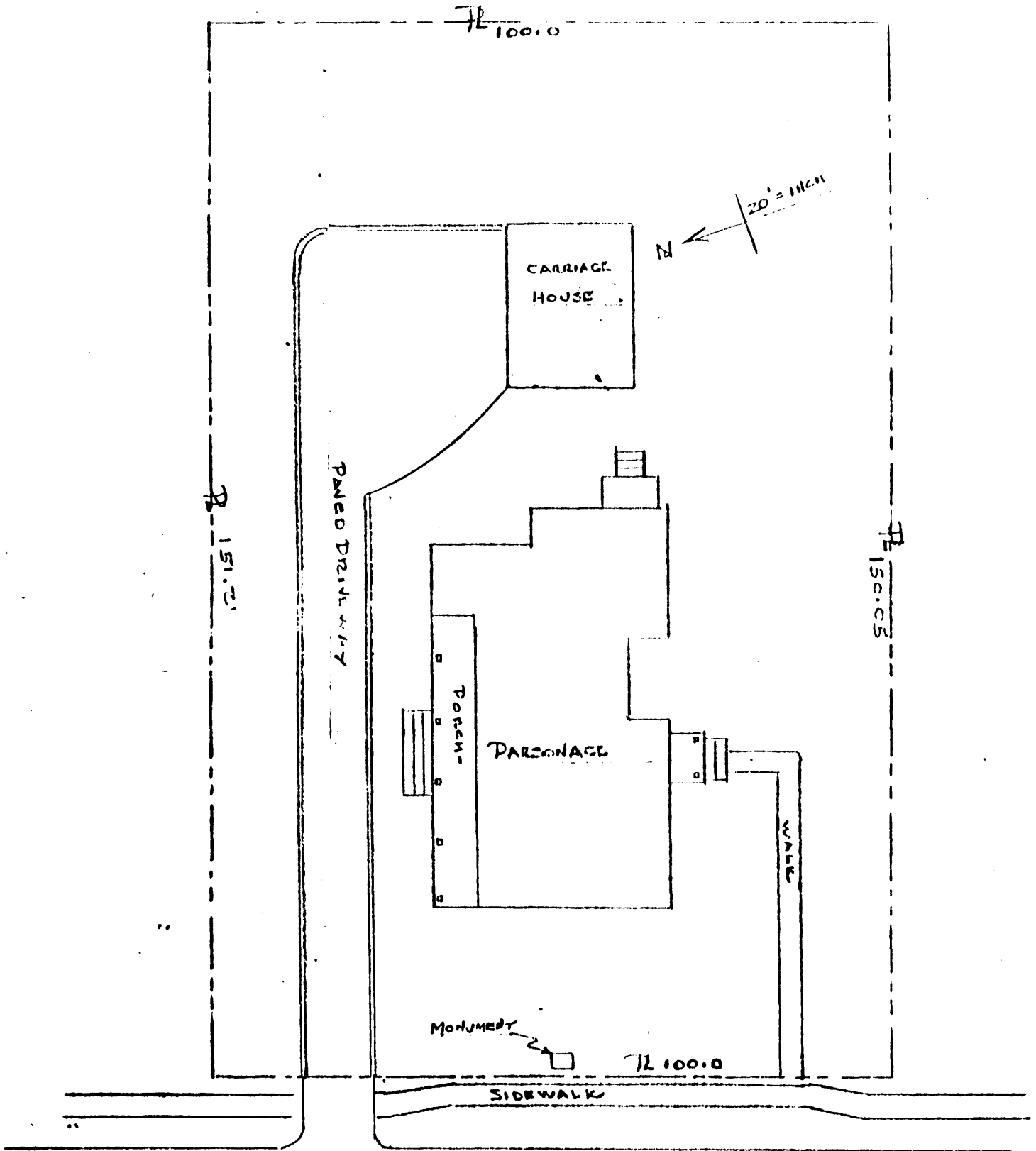
The British army kept pushing north, and the militia was decidedly outnumbered. But their persistence considerably slowed what the British had envisioned as an easy march, and so the British turned back toward Elizabethtown. During the angry retreat of the British, most of the village of Connecticut Farms was burned. The next day, Reverend James Caldwell returned to Connecticut Farms to bury his wife in the cemetery of the burned out church.

The death of Hannah Caldwell was used by her husband and other patriots as a rallying point for their cause. Along with the death of Jane McCrea during General Burgoyne's campaign in New York, the death of Hannah Caldwell became a legend demonstrating the British atrocities (although its was never determined from whose musket came the shot that killed her) and a symbol to inspire American troops and militia to revenge and victory.

This was demonstrated two weeks later, when Knyphausen again pressed an attack toward Morristown on June 23, 1780. The British troops advanced only as far as Springfield before they were forced to retreat. Because of the spirited fighting of the American militia at this battle, the British left New Jersey, ending the Revolution in this state.

The parsonage was rebuilt in 1782, and the Connecticut Farms Presbyterian Church was rebuilt in 1783. The parsonage was used as such until 1895 when a new Presbyterian manse was built closer to the church. After 1895, the Manse was a residence until 1927 when it was bought by the Union Township Historical Society. The house remains intact with no major alterations since 1927. The Connecticut Farms Presbyterian Church was the first site in Union Township included in the National Register of Historic Places.

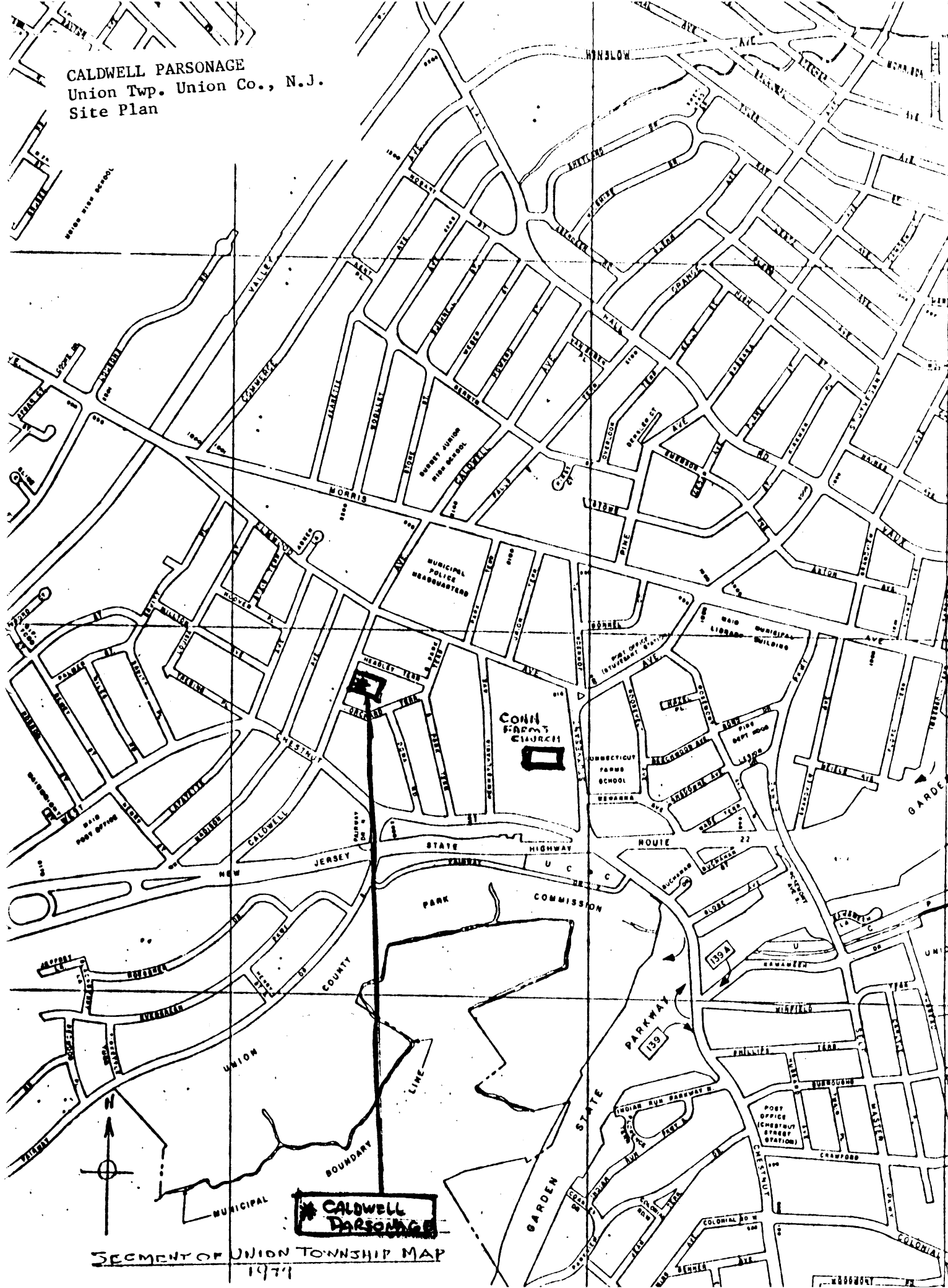
Plot Plan Caldwell Parsonage Scale 20' = 1" INCH  
Block 41-12 Lot 1 Caldwell Ave. Township of Union  
Union New Jersey 07083



CALDWELL AVENUE HOUSE No. 909

CALDWELL PARSONAGE  
Union Twp. Union Co., N.J.  
Site Plan

CALDWELL PARSONAGE  
Union Twp. Union Co., N.J.  
Site Plan

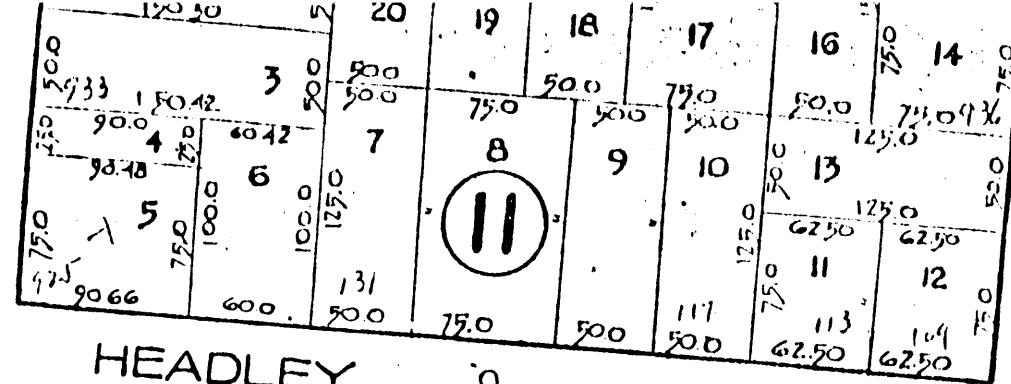


**CALDWELL  
PARSONAGE**

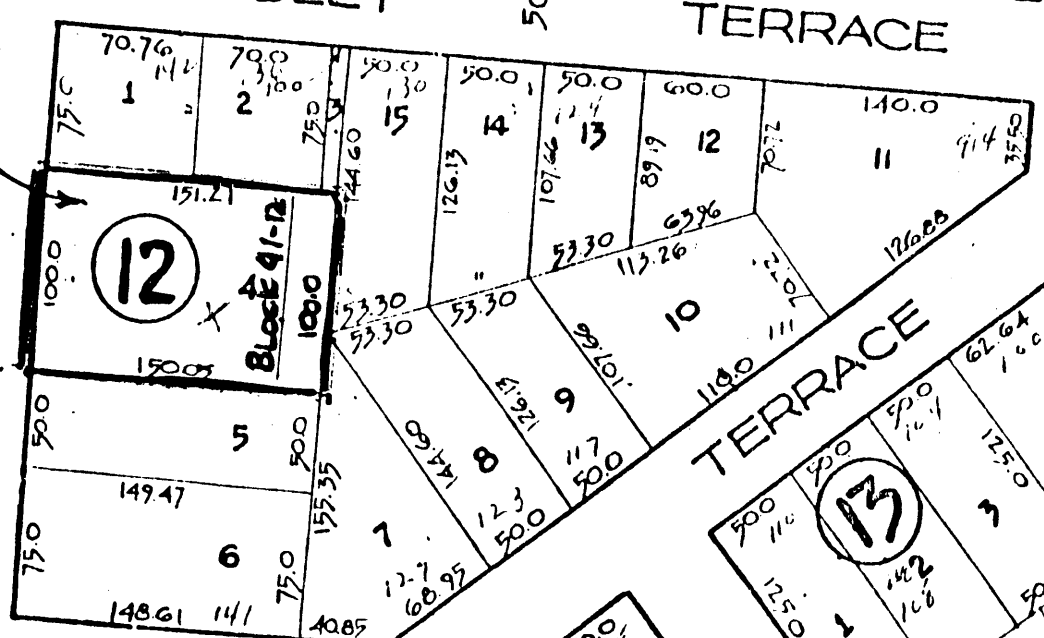
SEGMENT OF UNION TOWNSHIP MAP  
1974

CALDWELL PARSONAGE TAX MAP - Block 41-12 Lot No 4  
UNION TWP. UNION CO. N.J. 07083

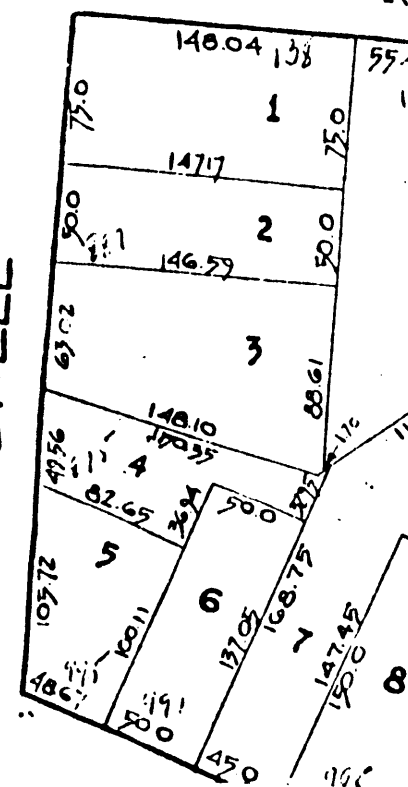
CALDWELL



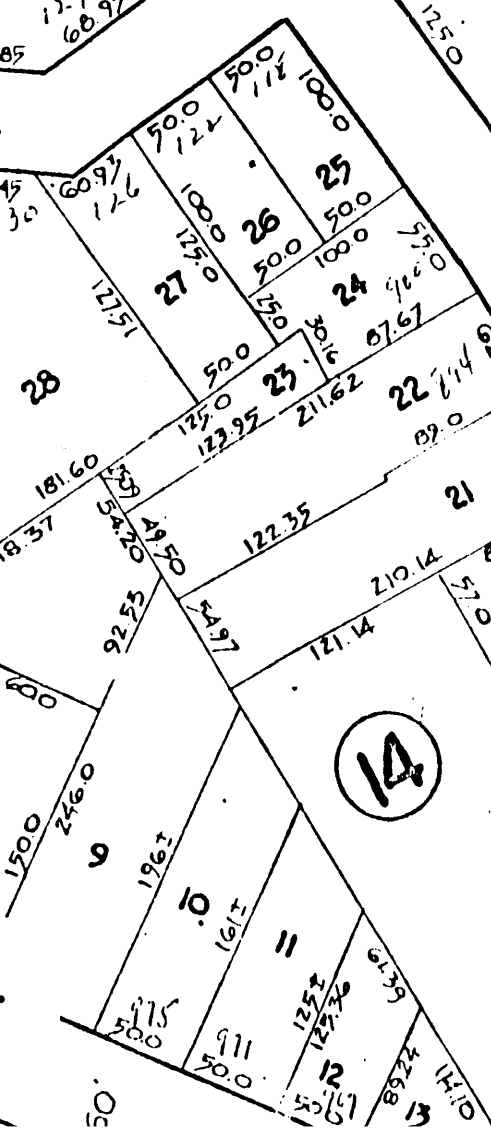
HEADLEY TERRACE



ORCHARD



TERRACE



DONA

SO. PARK

ROAD

CALDWELL PARSONAGE  
Union Twp. Union Co. N.J.  
Site Plan  
Block 41.12 Lot 4