

N.J. Office of Cultural and Environmental Services, 109 W. State Street,  
Trenton, N.J. 08625 609-292-2023  
Prepared by Heritage Studies, Inc. Princeton, N.J. 08540 609-452-1754

RR-0713-  
Survey # 7-10

## NEW JERSEY TRANSIT RAILROAD STATION SURVEY

### 1. IDENTIFICATION

- A. Name:  Common Watchung Avenue <sup>station</sup> Line: Hoboken Div.  
Historic Park Street Boonton Line  
(Erie)
- B. Address or location:  
 Park Street  County: Essex  
 Montclair, N.J. Municipality: Montclair Town  
Block & lot:
- C. Owner's name: NJ Transit  
Address: Newark, N.J.
- D. Location of legal description: Recorder of Deeds, Essex County  
Courthouse, Raymond Boulevard, Newark, N.J.
- E. Representation in existing surveys: (give number, category, etc.,  
as appropriate)

HABS \_\_\_\_\_ HAER \_\_\_\_\_ ELRR Improvement \_\_\_\_\_ NY&LB Improvement \_\_\_\_\_

Plainfield Corridor \_\_\_\_\_ NR(name, if HD) \_\_\_\_\_

NJSR (name, if HD) \_\_\_\_\_

NJHSI (#) \_\_\_\_\_

Northeast Corridor \_\_\_\_\_

Local \_\_\_\_\_ (date \_\_\_\_\_)

Modernization Study: site plan  floor plan  aerial photo \_\_\_\_\_

other views  photos of NR quality?

### 2. EVALUATION

- A. Determination of eligibility: SHPO comment? \_\_\_\_\_ (date \_\_\_\_\_)  
NR det.? \_\_\_\_\_ (date \_\_\_\_\_)
- B. Potentially eligible for NR: yes  possible \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_  
individual \_\_\_\_\_ thematic
- C. Survey Evaluation:  $\frac{110}{120}$  / 130 points

FACILITY NAME: Watchung Avenue

RR-0713-  
Survey # 7-10

## 3. DESCRIPTION--COMPLEX IN GENERAL

Describe the entire railroad complex at this site; mention all buildings and structures, with notation of which are not historic. Check items which apply and discuss in narrative:

Moved buildings (original location, date of and reason for move)  
 Any non-railroad uses in complex (military recruiting, etc.)  
 Any unusual railroad building types, such as crew quarters, etc. (specify)  
 Known threats to complex or individual structures

Surroundings:  urban  suburban  scattered buildings  open space  
 residential  woodland  agricultural  industrial  
 downtown commercial  highway commercial  other (specify)

Relationship of station grade to track grade:

Station and track grade at same level  Station at street grade, track depressed  
 Station spans track  Track elevated above street grade, multi-level station

# of tracks: 2

Pedestrian access across tracks:

Pedestrian bridge:  at street grade  elevated  
 Pedestrian/vehicular bridge:  at street grade  elevated  
 Tunnel  
 None provided

Discuss character of vehicular and pedestrian approaches to complex; landscaping; relationship to parking. Refer to, and key with, site plan.

The Watchung Avenue complex consists of a 1-story frame station with Renaissance Revival elements and platforms on either side of the tracks. Tracks are aligned N-S. The complex is located on a well landscaped site between a small commercial area on the E and a residential area on the W. The station and tracks are both elevated above the street level. Parking is available in a small lot SE of the complex and along neighboring streets. There is a drop-off loop from Park Street, just S of the station. Pedestrian access is unrestricted. There are six stairways to the platform (S: A and B; middle, D and E; and N: F and G). The station is scheduled for refurbishing in mid 1981.

-3

RR-0713-

Survey # 7-10

FACILITY NAME: Watchung Avenue

## 3. DESCRIPTION--PLATFORMS AND CANOPIES

- Inbound 616' asphalt platform, lined with several incan. lighting  
fixtures on iron poles (orig.) and a conc. post and pipe  
 Outbound rail fence. Canopy discussed as part of station  
 Between tracks

Nature and extent of existing original material and alterations: roof type, material, supports; freestanding or attached to building; seating; lighting; signage; other.

FACILITY NAME: Watchung Avenue

Survey # RR-0713-7-10

### 3. DESCRIPTION--PLATFORMS AND CANOPIES

   Inbound

  x Outbound 728' asphalt platform, lined with several incan. lighting fixtures on iron poles (orig.) and a concrete post and  
   Between tracks pipe rail fence. No canopy.

Nature and extent of existing original material and alterations: roof type, material, supports; freestanding or attached to building; seating; lighting; signage; other.

FACILITY NAME Watchung Avenue

Survey # 7-10

## 4. DESCRIPTION - BUILDINGS (EXTERIOR)

Fill out separate sheet for each building at facility. Refer to, and key with, site plan.

Account for original materials and finishes where different from existing.

Station   X   Shelter        Freight House        Other        (specify)

General architectural description, including style, shape, roof type, # stories, # bays, orientation to track, location of entrances, etc.

The Watchung Avenue station, located W of the tracks, consists of a one-story frame block with clapboard and shingle siding, a coursed rubble foundation, and a moderately pitched hipped roof with broad eaves, its main ridge paralleling the tracks. Symmetrically disposed, the E facade contains a central door with transom and sidelights, flanked by 4/1 windows and at either end, a 3-light bay window. The W facade contains (3) central 4/1 windows flanked on either side by 4 smaller windows. The basement contains a door flanked on either side by a small rectangular window. The N and S facades each contain a 4/1 window and a 5-panel door with transom. Adjoining the S facade is a 3-bay canopy with hipped roof supported on a double row of square wood columns with concrete bases. An iron pipe balustrade edges the S and W sides of the platform as well as the W side of a stairway opposite the S facade door. A short rectangular brick chimney rises centrally at the N end of the main block. Roofing is slate with terra cotta ridge cresting and finials. All materials appear to be original.

FACILITY NAME Watchung Avenue

-4A  
RR-0713-  
Survey # 7-10

## 4. DESCRIPTION - BUILDINGS (EXTERIOR) CONTD.

Fill out separate sheet for each building at facility.

Station  X  Shelter \_\_\_\_\_ Freight House \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_ (specify)

## EXTERIOR MATERIALS AND SYSTEMS:

	<u>Original</u>	<u>Existing, if different</u>
Structural system:	<u>wood frame, masonry base</u>	_____
Foundation:	<u>coursed rubble</u>	_____
Base course:	<u>clapboard</u>	<u>paint</u> <u>(red/beige/green)</u>
Walls:	<u>shingle</u>	<u>paint</u> <u>(red/beige/green)</u>
Trim:	<u>wood molded water table, surrounds, cornice, frieze</u>	<u>paint</u> <u>(red/beige/green)</u>
Doors:	<u>(3) 5-panel, (2) with transom; (1) unknown</u>	<u>paint</u> <u>(1) 1/plain (red)</u>
Roofing:	<u>slate, terra cotta ridge cresting, finials</u>	_____
Soffit:	<u>matched boards, coved</u>	<u>paint</u> <u>(red/beige/green)</u>
Windows:	<u>(6) 4 (diamond muntins) /1; (8) single pane with dia. munt. trans; (8) 4-pane (dia. munt.); (2) 6 pane</u>	<u>(1) 2-pane (W)</u>
Lighting:	<u>probably gas fix.</u>	<u>incan. fixt., hanging lantern under canopy</u>
Signage:	<u>(2) board (white, black type)</u>	_____
Drainage:	<u>wood gutters, metal leaders</u>	_____
Other:	<u>short rectangular brick chimney, copper flashing (N)</u>	_____

FACILITY NAME Watchung Avenue

RR-0713-  
Survey # 7-10

#### 4. DESCRIPTION - BUILDINGS (INTERIOR)

Fill out separate sheets for each building at facility. Refer to, and key with, floor plan.

Station  X  Shelter \_\_\_\_\_ Freight House \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_ (specify)

General architectural description of all spaces, including original materials and finishes, if known, any remodeling, etc.

With the exception of the basement, all of the spaces at Watchung Avenue are on one level. The middle half of the block comprises the Waiting Room (1), while the N quarter comprises the Ladies Lounge (5) and Toilet (3 and 4). The S quarter comprises the Ticket Office (2) and Baggage Room (6). All of the spaces have board floors and matched board wainscots, walls, and ceilings. Finishes appear to be original, although most surfaces have been painted.

FACILITY NAME: Watchung Avenue

-5A  
RR-0713-  
Survey # 7-10

## 4. DESCRIPTION - BUILDINGS (INTERIOR) CONTD.

STATION - ROOM AND FINISH SCHEDULE	NUMBER OF ROOMS <u>7</u>
NAME <u>Waiting Room</u>	NUMBER ON FLOOR PLAN <u>1</u>
<u>Original</u>	<u>Existing, if different</u>
Floors: <u>board</u>	<u>paint</u>
Base: <u>molded board, prob. varn.</u>	<u>(burg.)</u>
Wainscot: <u>wood molded panel, prob. varn.</u>	<u>paint</u> <u>(cream)</u>
Walls: <u>horiz. matched bds. to top of windows; vert. matched bds. to molded cornice. Prob. varn.</u>	<u>paint</u> <u>(cream)</u>
Ceiling: <u>matched bds., rectilinear moldings, prob. varn.</u>	<u>paint</u> <u>(cream)</u>
Trim: <u>elaborate diamond cut-out in ceil.; prob. varn. chairrail, string course, sills, surr.</u>	<u>paint</u> <u>(cream)</u>
Doors: <u>(2) 5-panel wood, prob. varn.</u>	<u>paint</u> <u>(burg., cream) paint:</u> <u>(1) 1/plain (red)</u>
Seating: <u>fixed double matched bd. bench, center, prob. varn.</u>	<u>paint</u> <u>(burg.)</u>
Lighting: <u>prob. gas</u>	<u>2 hanging incan. fixt.</u>
Other: <u>iron radiators, E and W. Tkt. window, molded wood ledge (S)</u>	<u>paint</u> <u>(burg.)</u>
<u>window grating with cast inscription: "J.W. Kisal Iron Work" (?)</u>	<u>paint</u> <u>(burg.)</u>
<u>wall mounted drinking fountain, N</u>	



FACILITY NAME: Watchung Avenue

Survey # RR-0713-  
7-10

4. DESCRIPTION - BUILDINGS (INTERIOR) CONTD.

STATION - ROOM AND FINISH SCHEDULE	NUMBER OF ROOMS <u>7</u>
NAME <u>Ticket Office</u>	NUMBER ON FLOOR PLAN <u>2</u>
	<u>Original</u> Existing, if different
Floors: <u>board</u>	
Base: <u>molded board, prob. varn.</u>	<u>paint (burg.)</u>
Wainscot: <u>vert. matched bd., prob. varn.</u>	<u>paint (burg.)</u>
Walls: <u>horiz. matched bd. to top of window; vert. matched bd. above prob. varn.</u>	<u>paint (cream)</u>
Ceiling: <u>matched bds., prob. varn.</u>	<u>paint (cream)</u>
Trim: <u>wood molded chairrail, string course, cornice, surrounds, sills. prob. varn.</u>	<u>paint (cream, burg.)</u>
Doors: <u>5-panel, wood prob. varn.</u>	<u>paint (burg., cream)</u>
Seating: <u>none</u>	
Lighting: <u>(2) wall mounted gas fixts.</u>	<u>converted to incan. 2 fluor. fix. over tkt. win.</u>
Other: <u>Art Nouveau iron floor grating iron radiator, S. Built-in wood desk, cabinets (E) (W).</u>	<u>paint (burg.)</u>

FACILITY NAME: Watchung Avenue

-5A  
RR-0713  
Survey # 7-10

## 4. DESCRIPTION - BUILDINGS (INTERIOR) CONTD.

STATION - ROOM AND FINISH SCHEDULE	NUMBER OF ROOMS <u>7</u>
NAME <u>Ladies Toilet</u>	NUMBER ON FLOOR PLAN <u>3</u>
<u>Original</u>	<u>Existing, if different</u>
Floors: <u>board</u>	
Base: <u>molded board, prob. varn.</u>	<u>paint (burg.)</u>
Wainscot: <u>none</u>	
Walls: <u>horiz. matched bds., prob. varn.</u>	<u>paint (cream)</u>
Ceiling: <u>matched bds., prob. varn.</u>	<u>paint (cream)</u>
Trim: <u>molded surrounds, cornice, sill prob. varn.</u>	<u>paint (cream)</u>
Doors: <u>5 panel, wood, prob. varn.</u>	<u>paint (burg., cream) paint l/l (louvered) (cream)</u>
Seating: <u>none</u>	
Lighting: <u>prob. gas</u>	<u>hanging incan. fix.</u>
Other: <u>vert. match bd. partition with cornice molding, prob. varn.</u>	<u>paint (cream)</u> basin, toilet (N)

-5A  
RR-0713-  
Survey #7-10

FACILITY NAME: Watchung Avenue .

4. DESCRIPTION - BUILDINGS (INTERIOR) CONTD.

STATION - ROOM AND FINISH SCHEDULE

NUMBER OF ROOMS 7

NAME Men's Room

NUMBER ON FLOOR PLAN 4

	<u>Original</u>	<u>Existing, if different</u>
Floors:	<u>NOT ACCESSIBLE</u>	
Base:		
Wainscot:		
Walls:		
Ceiling:		
Trim:		
Doors:		
Seating:		
Lighting:		
Other:		

FACILITY NAME: Watchung Avenue

-5A  
RR-0713-  
Survey # 7-10

## 4. DESCRIPTION - BUILDINGS (INTERIOR) CONTD.

STATION - ROOM AND FINISH SCHEDULE

NUMBER OF ROOMS 7NAME Ladies' LoungeNUMBER ON FLOOR PLAN 5

	<u>Original</u>	<u>Existing, if different</u>
Floors:	<u>board</u>	
Base:	<u>molded board, prob. varn.</u>	<u>paint (burg.)</u>
Wainscot:	<u>wood, molded panel, prob. varn.</u>	<u>paint (cream)</u>
Walls:	<u>horiz. matchbds. to top of win.; vert. matchbds. to molded cornice. prob. varn.</u>	<u>paint (cream)</u>
Ceiling:	<u>matched bds., rectilinear molding, prob. varn.</u>	<u>paint (cream)</u>
Trim:	<u>wood molded chairrail, string course, sills, surrounds prob. varn.</u>	<u>paint (cream)</u>
Doors:	<u>(2) 5 panel, wood, prob. varn. .</u>	<u>paint (burg., cream)</u>
Seating:	<u>4-place built-in bench (N); perforated Erie logo and pressed leaf and berry patt. in back;</u>	
Lighting:	<u>arm rests cut out, acorn and stem patt. Hanging incan. fixt.</u>	
Other:	<u>wall-mounted mirror with carved wooden classical surround iron radiator (E)</u>	<u>paint (cream)</u>

FACILITY NAME: Watchung Avenue

-5A  
RR-0713-  
Survey # -10

4. DESCRIPTION - BUILDINGS (INTERIOR) CONTD.

STATION - ROOM AND FINISH SCHEDULE

NUMBER OF ROOMS 7

NAME Baggage Room

NUMBER ON FLOOR PLAN 6

	<u>Original</u>	<u>NOT ACCESSIBLE</u>	<u>Existing, if different</u>
Floors:	_____	_____	_____
Base:	_____	_____	_____
Wainscot:	_____	_____	_____
Walls:	_____	_____	_____
Ceiling:	_____	_____	_____
Trim:	_____	_____	_____
Doors:	_____	_____	_____
Seating:	_____	_____	_____
Lighting:	_____	_____	_____
Other:	_____	_____	_____

FACILITY NAME: Watchung Avenue

4. DESCRIPTION - BUILDINGS (INTERIOR) CONTD.

STATION - ROOM AND FINISH SCHEDULE

NUMBER OF ROOMS 7

NAME Basement

NUMBER ON FLOOR PLAN 7

Original

Existing, if different

Floors: poured concrete

\_\_\_\_\_

Base: none

\_\_\_\_\_

Wainscot: none

\_\_\_\_\_

Walls: coursed rubble

\_\_\_\_\_

Ceiling: floor bds. (above)

\_\_\_\_\_

Trim: none

\_\_\_\_\_

Doors: 5 panel, wood

paint  
(red)

Seating: none

\_\_\_\_\_

Lighting: hanging incan.

\_\_\_\_\_

Other: boiler (NW cor.)  
ladder to Baggage Rm. (SW cor.)  
board partition to coal bin (NE cor.)

Conc. block and brick,  
NE bay (former coal  
chute?)

FACILITY NAME: Watchung Avenue

RR-0713-  
Survey # 7-10

## 5. SIGNIFICANCE OF COMPLEX (ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORICAL):

Architect prob. Erie Engr. Dept. source \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date 1903-04 Source post card Alteration dates \_\_\_\_\_ Source \_\_\_\_\_  
 Style Renaissance Rev. elements  
 # passenger trains/day (present) 18 Peak (#, Yr.) 43 (1941); 37 (1907)  
no Original station on site (was built 1870, stood 500' north of present station)

The Watchung Avenue Station (originally named Park Street station) is a typical early twentieth century suburban facility in the Erie New York District. Stations in this series included: Arlington (NY&GL, gone), Montclair Heights (gone); Bloomfield (NY&GL, gone); Soho Park (later Belwood Park, NY&GL, gone); Wanaque-Midvale (NY&GL, gone); Caldwell (NY&GL); Mahwah (mainline); Nanuet, NY (NJ&NY), gone; Calicoon, NY (mainline); and Cambridge Springs, PA (mainline). All had similar interior schemes, frame construction with clapboard base course, shingled walls, and a hipped roof with ridge cresting. Of these, only Mahwah is included in this study, and it was altered beyond recognition in 1914.

Watchung Avenue was the first of several stations built to serve the Upper Montclair commuter. Long an important stop, at least one express has always operated between here and the terminal.

The building may have been constructed by Thomas C. Veale of Tenafly.

Specifications may be in the Bergen County Historical Society Collection, Hackensack Public Library.

FACILITY NAME: Watchung Avenue

Survey # <sup>-7</sup>RR-0713-  
7-10

## 6. GEOGRAPHIC DATA

Verbal boundary description (if Block/Lot not available)

The boundary is outlined in red on the attached site plan.

Acreage: c. 1.5

UTM coordinates: Zone: 18 / Easting: 5 6 6 8 6 0 / Northing: 4 5 1 9 9 1 0

USGS Quad Orange Scale 1:24 000

## 7. REFERENCES

## BIBLIOGRAPHIC:

Homes on the Montclair. (Montclair: Montclair Railway, n.d.)

Personal message on reverse of postcard view of Watchung Avenue station, postmarked 1905. (Collection of Montclair Public Library).

## ICONOGRAPHIC:

1- (1910) The Next Station Will Be ..., vol. III, Railroadians of America, 1975.

Post card views of construction. Montclair Public Library.

Gardner, Ed. Erie Railroad: A Pictorial Review (Wilkes Barre: privately printed, n.d., n.p.)

## 8. PHOTO

Hyer and Zec, Railroads of New Jersey, p. 28.  
Line drawing in Homes, n.p.Negative index # unknown or NJT photo # - slide # 7-10  
Date 1978 Photographer Richard Browne Assocs.  
Loc. of negative NJ Transit Direction of view: Station from West



RR-07T3<sup>8</sup>  
Survey # 7-10

FACILITY NAME: Watchung Ave.

## 9. CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

### A. HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

- i. Associated with important events or broad movements  
in history
- |            |       |      |
|------------|-------|------|
| nationally | _____ | (30) |
| state-wide | _____ | (25) |
| locally    | _____ | (20) |
- ii. Representative of significant changes in railroad history  
and/or technology
- |         |       |      |
|---------|-------|------|
| rare    | _____ | (30) |
| unusual | _____ | (25) |
| common  | _____ | (10) |
- iii. Original station on site \_\_\_\_\_(15)
- iv. Representative of a line's standard design   X  (10)
- v. Constructed prior to 1900 \_\_\_\_\_(15)
- vi. Junction station \_\_\_\_\_(10)
- vii. Former long-distance service \_\_\_\_\_(10)
- viii. Other \_\_\_\_\_(10)
- ix. Less than 50 years old \_\_\_\_\_(-30)

10

### B. ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

- i. STYLE Renaissance Revival elements
- a. Example of a particular architectural style (check one)
- |             |              |      |
|-------------|--------------|------|
| Outstanding | _____        | (50) |
| Excellent   | _____        | (40) |
| Very good   | _____        | (30) |
| Good        | <u>  X  </u> | (20) |
| Fair        | _____        | (10) |
- b. Rare survivor of style
- |            |       |      |
|------------|-------|------|
| nationally | _____ | (20) |
| state-wide | _____ | (15) |
| locally    | _____ | (10) |
- c. As example of railroad architecture
- |                  |       |      |
|------------------|-------|------|
| rare             | _____ | (30) |
| unusual or early | _____ | (15) |

FACILITY NAME: Watchung Avenue

RR-0713-  
Survey # 7-10

-9

## CRITERIA CONT.

- ii. ARCHITECT (check one)
- a. building by architect important
- |            |       |      |
|------------|-------|------|
| nationally | _____ | (25) |
| state-wide | _____ | (20) |
| locally    | _____ | (15) |
- b. building designed by railroad and is known or appears to be the work of the supervising architect or engineer or chief designer \_\_\_\_\_(20)
- c. building designed by railroad and is known or appears to be the work of the staff \_\_\_\_\_X ( 5)
- d. architect identified but not considered to be of special importance \_\_\_\_\_( 5)
- iii. OVERALL ARCHITECTURAL QUALITY (check one)
- a. Outstanding composition, siting, or craftsmanship \_\_\_\_\_(40)
- b. Notable composition, siting, or craftsmanship, or possessing especially picturesque or unusual exterior detailing \_\_\_\_\_(25)
- c. Possessing some detail(s) of particular interest and/or quality \_\_\_\_\_X (15) ridge cresting and finials
- d. Average quality or interest \_\_\_\_\_( 5)
- iv. SPECIAL QUALITIES
- a. Noteworthy overall interior design or detailing \_\_\_\_\_(15)
- b. Some noteworthy interior detailing \_\_\_\_\_( 5)  
(\_\_\_\_interior not accessible)
- c. Part of cohesive complex
- |                            |       |      |
|----------------------------|-------|------|
| 1) station and shelter     | _____ | ( 5) |
| 2) more than two buildings | _____ | (10) |
- v. CONSTRUCTION
- a. Noteworthy example of particular construction method \_\_\_\_\_(30)
- b. Rare or early survivor of particular method \_\_\_\_\_(20)
- c. Interesting example of method \_\_\_\_\_( 5)

RR-0713- -10  
Survey # 7-10

FACILITY NAME: Watchung Avenue

## CRITERIA CONT.

## C. CONDITIONS

## i. INTEGRITY

- |   |             |       |
|---|-------------|-------|
| a. Original condition   | <u>X</u>    | (40)  |
| b. Alterations and/or additions,<br>beneficial  | <u>    </u> | (30)  |
| c. Alterations and/or additions, not<br>detrimental                                       | <u>    </u> | (20)  |
| d. Minor detrimental alterations and/<br>or additions, not affecting overall<br>integrity | <u>    </u> | (10)  |
| e. Detrimental alterations and/or<br>additions, reversible at considerable<br>expense     | <u>    </u> | (-25) |
| f. Detrimental alterations and/or additions,<br>essentially irreversible                  | <u>    </u> | (-75) |

## ii. PHYSICAL CONDITION

- |                          |             |       |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------|
| a. Excellent             | <u>    </u> | (10)  |
| b. Good                  | <u>    </u> | ( 5)  |
| c. Fair                  | <u>X</u>    | ( 0)  |
| d. Poor                  | <u>    </u> | (-10) |
| e. Severely deteriorated | <u>    </u> | (-25) |

## iii. RELATIONSHIP TO COMMUNITY

- |                               |             |       |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------|
| a. Pivotal building           | <u>    </u> | (40)  |
| b. Integral part of townscape | <u>    </u> | (30)  |
| c. Compatible with townscape  | <u>X</u>    | (20)  |
| d. Unrelated to townscape     | <u>    </u> | ( 0)  |
| e. Incompatible               | <u>    </u> | (-30) |

## iv. SUITABILITY FOR ADAPTIVE USE

- |                              |             |      |
|------------------------------|-------------|------|
| a. Excellent                 | <u>    </u> | (30) |
| b. Very Good                 | <u>    </u> | (25) |
| c. Good                      | <u>X</u>    | (20) |
| d. Average                   | <u>    </u> | (15) |
| e. Possible, with difficulty | <u>    </u> | (10) |

80

TOTAL

130

FACILITY NAME: Watchung Avenue

Attach copy of site plan

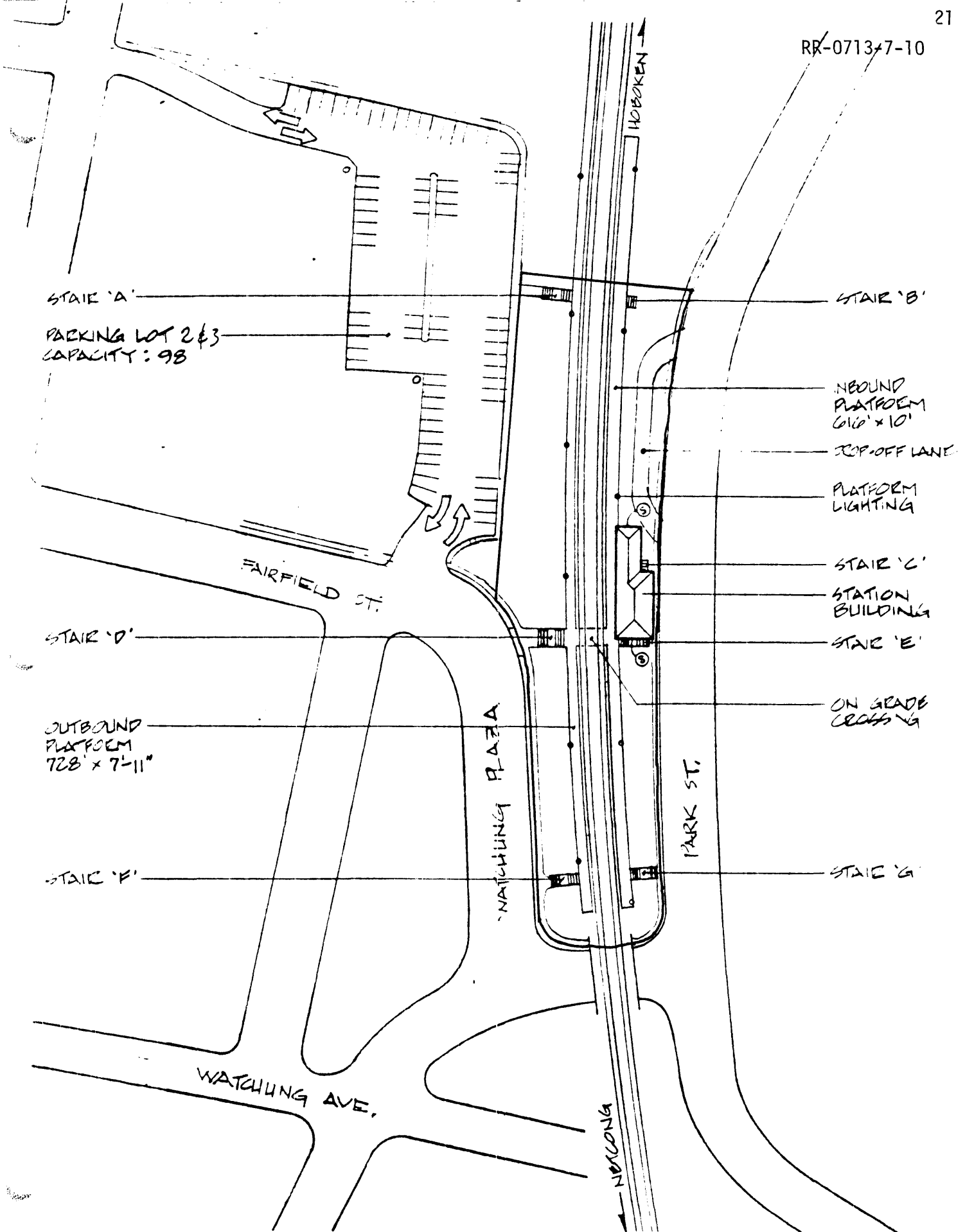
     continuation sheets attached

FORM PREPARED BY: Richard Meyer  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date: May 1981

HERITAGE STUDIES, INC.  
RD 4 Box 864, Mapleton Road  
Princeton, N.J. 08540  
609-452-1754

RR-0713-7-10



STAIR 'A'

PARKING LOT 2 & 3  
CAPACITY: 98

STAIR 'B'

INBOUND PLATFORM  
610' x 10'

TOP-OFF LANE

PLATFORM LIGHTING

STAIR 'C'

STATION BUILDING

STAIR 'E'

ON GRADE CROSSING

STAIR 'G'

STAIR 'D'

OUTBOUND PLATFORM  
728' x 7'-11"

STAIR 'F'

FAIRFIELD ST.

WATCHUNG PLAZA

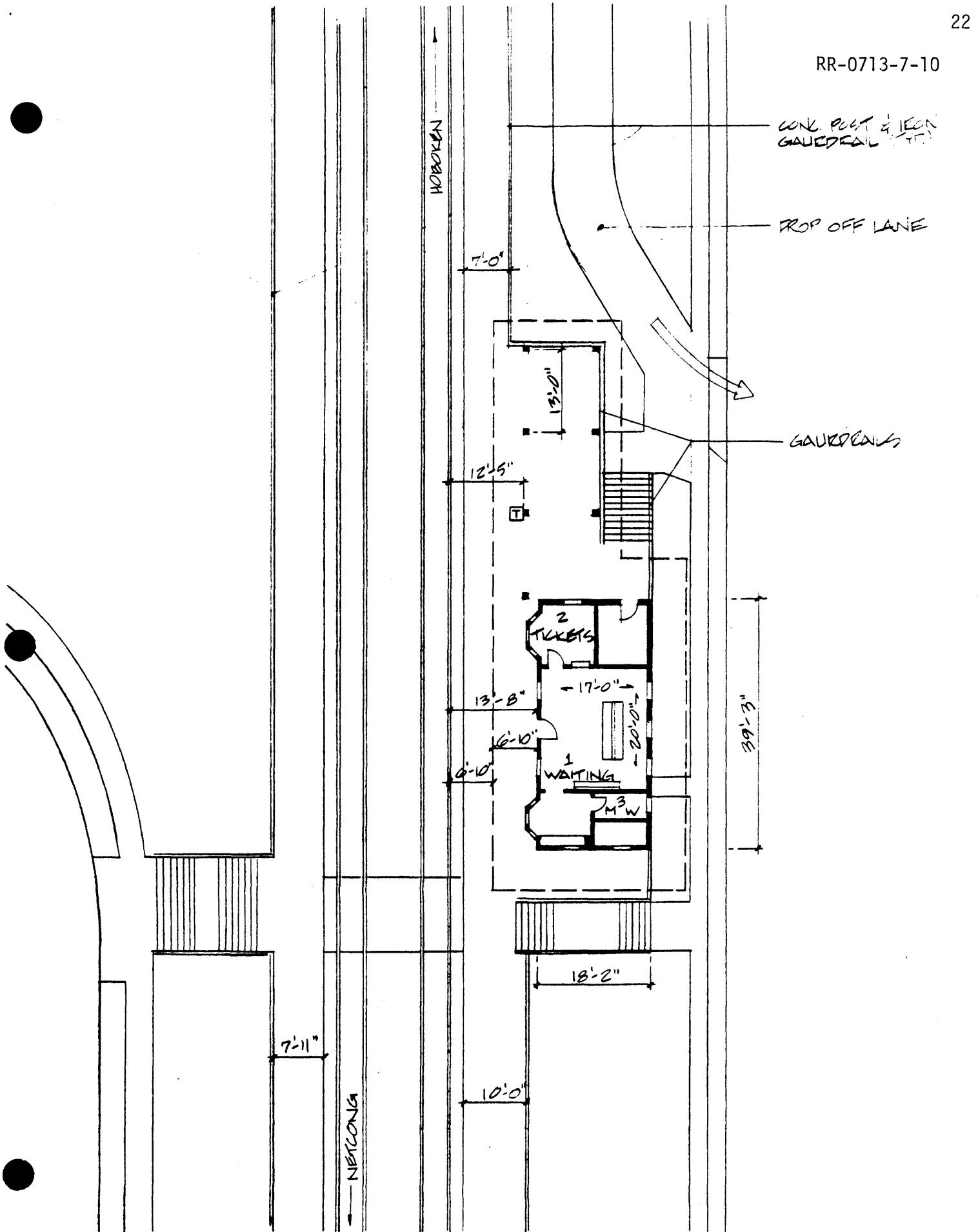
PARK ST.

WATCHUNG AVE.

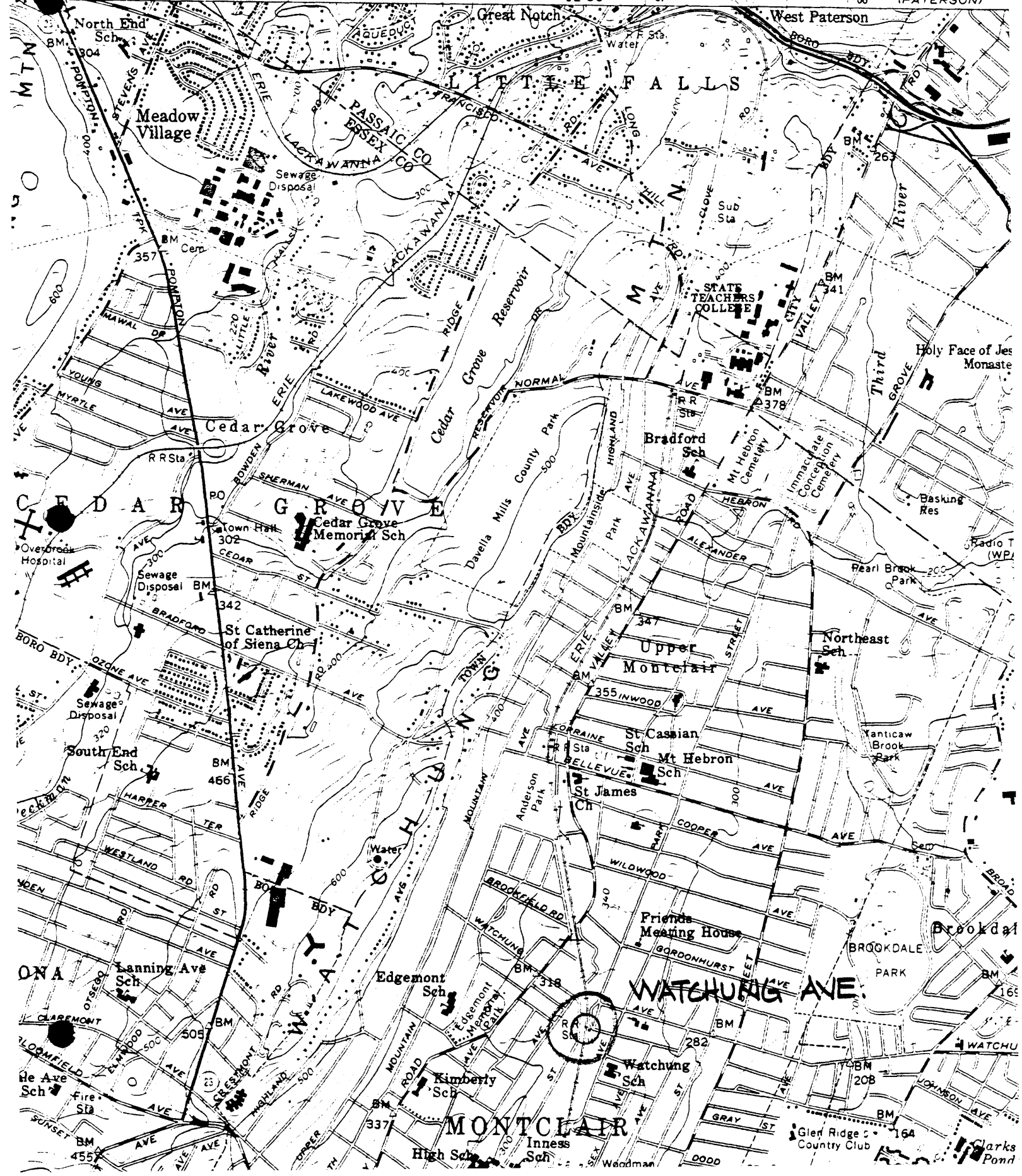
BOONTON

HOBOKEN

RR-0713-7-10



FRANKLIN 25 M  
MOUNTAIN VIEW 2.9 MI  
565 566 12'30" 567 568  
61651 NW (PATERSON)

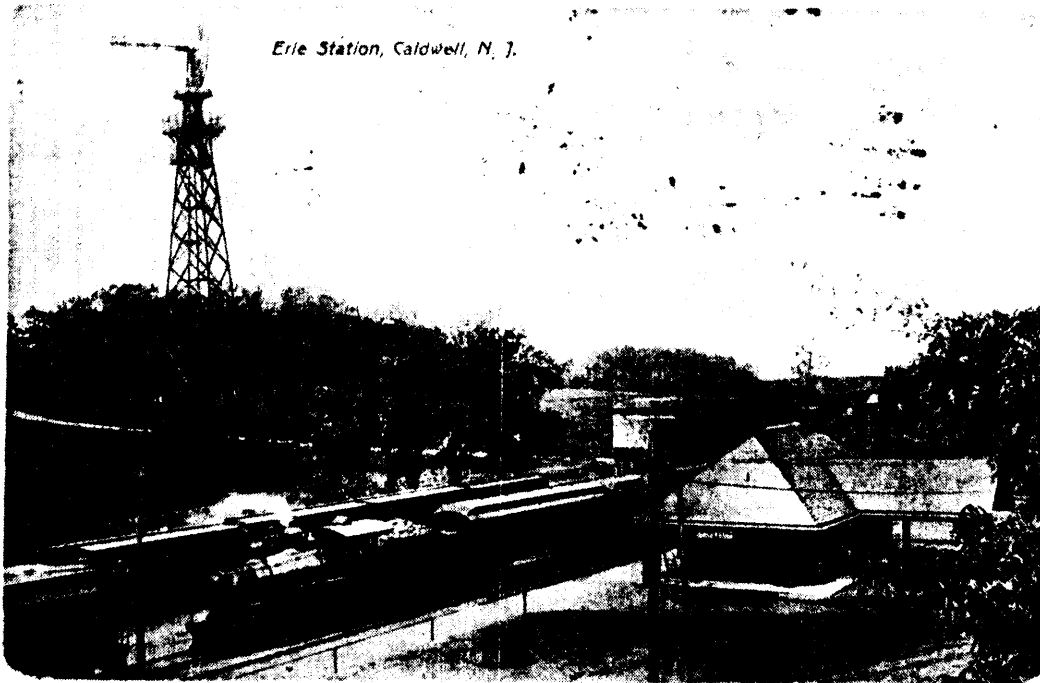


7-10 Watchung Avenue (Park Street) Railroad Station  
(Gardner, Erie, Vol. II)

*Park Street Station, Montclair, N. J.*



*Erie Station, Caldwell, N. J.*





7-10 Watchung Avenue (Park Street) Railroad Station (Next Station, Vol. III)

M.P.-13.8

A guide book of 1873 states that the original PARK STREET station in Montclair was made entirely of iron. Unfortunately, no photographs of the original station have been discovered. Some years ago the name of the station was changed to WATCHUNG AVE. as being more accurately descriptive of its location. Watchung is an Indian word signifying (WAI) FIRST (CHUNG) MOUNTAIN.

# SUMMARY

Station: Watchung Avenue

Line: Boonton

Index:

Field Survey Conducted December, 1978

- X 1. Site Base at 1" = 100'
- X 2. Floor Plan at 1" = 20'
- X 3. Platform and Canopies
- X 4. Station Building        Structural        Mech. & Elec.
- X 5. Track Crossings and Barriers
- X 6. Parking Access and Circulation
- X 7. Information System
- X 8. Notes on Community & Security Aspects
- X 9. Record Photograph of Station   X   Detailed Field Photographs

Information File:

- X Aerial Photograph at 1" = 200'
- X Station Location Plan from USGS maps or Hagstrom Maps
- X Proposed Taking Lines of 900 Day Option Station Parcels
- X Summer 1970 Ground Survey of Rail Parking - NJ DOT
- September 1974 Survey - NJ DOT (Dept. of Commuter Services)
- Tri-State Aerial Photo Survey of Rail Parking 1970
- Conrail Data Survey for Station
- X TOPICS or Traffic Improvements Planned in Station Area
- Community Renewal Plans for Station
- Historical File for Station
- X Schedule of Trains and Buses
- Other

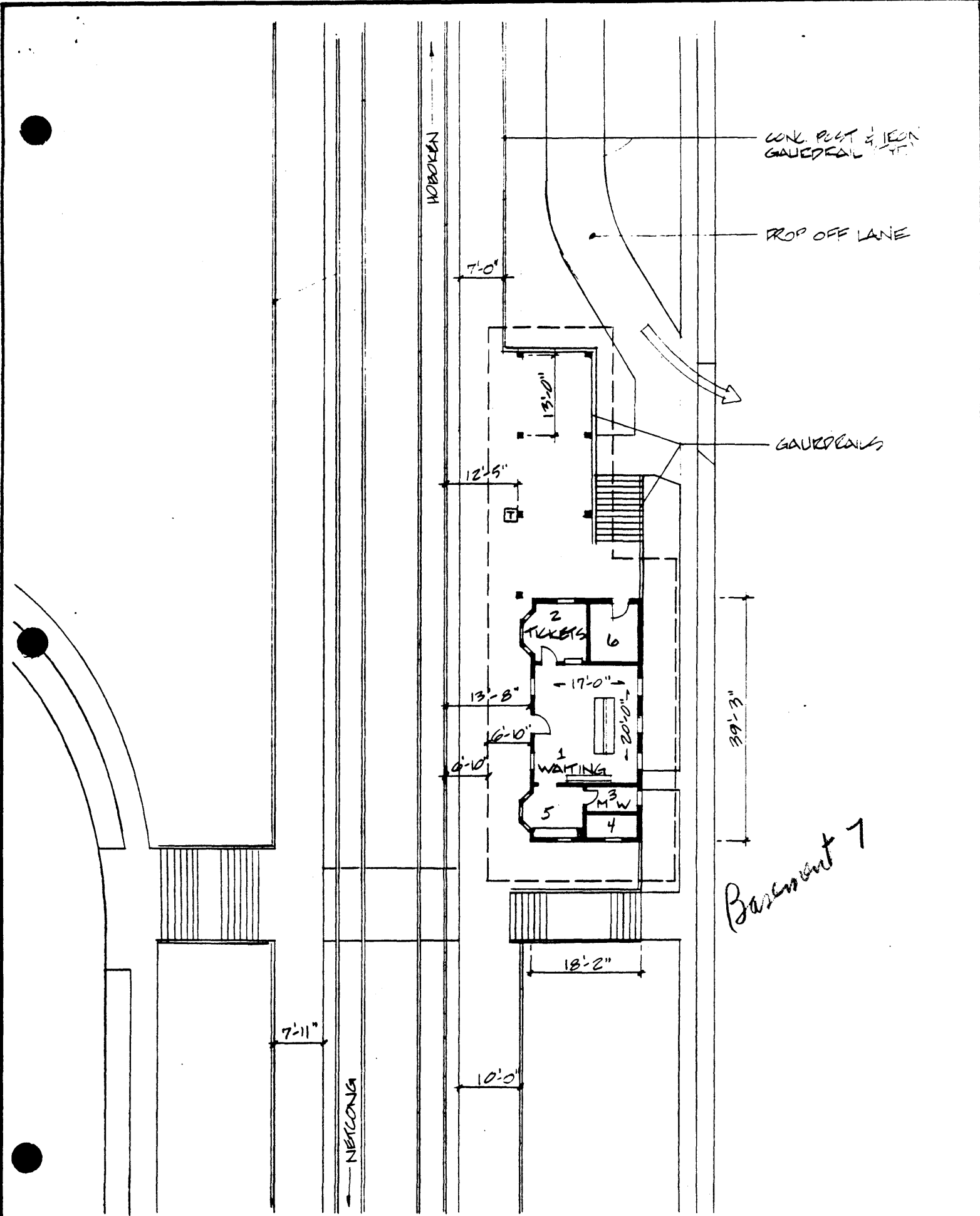
Conrail Count May 1977 - All Day (Week Day) Boarding Passengers       262      

Station Ridership Category:   4   Ownership:   N.J.D.O.T.  

Agent:   Yes   Hrs/Days:   6:40 a.m. - 3:10 p.m. (Lunch 12:00 - 12:30)  

Monday through Friday

Rehabilitated (10 years or less) & Description:



# 3 PLATFORMS & CANOPIES

Station: WATCHUNG AVE.

NO. of TRACKS: 2 In-Bound (NY, H, N)\* 1 Out-Bound 1 By-Pass \_\_\_\_\_ Inactive \_\_\_\_\_ I.B. \_\_\_\_\_ O.B. \_\_\_\_\_  
 at Grade \_\_\_\_\_ In-Cut(Walls) \_\_\_\_\_ Cross Slope \_\_\_\_\_ Elevated \_\_\_\_\_ Embankment Structure  
 Straight \_\_\_\_\_ Curved X Visibility Problem \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  
 To Board must Commuter walk on tracks: X yes \_\_\_\_\_ no (Ask Ticket Agent). Note other obstructions on Platform & setback f/rail:

PLATFORMS	IN-BOUND SIDE	OUT-BOUND SIDE	ISLAND BET'N TRACK
Length X Width	<u>616</u> X <u>10' 8" OUT'S'D END</u> <u>7' 8" INB'D END</u>	<u>728</u> X <u>7"</u>	<u>NA</u> X _____
Height Above Top of Rail	<u>FLUSH</u>	<u>FLUSH</u>	_____
Platform Material	<u>ASPH.</u>	<u>ASPH.</u>	_____
Edge Material	<u>CONC + WOOD</u>	<u>CONC WOOD</u>	_____
Safety Line, Material	<u>yes/no PAINT</u>	<u>yes/no PAINT</u>	yes/no _____
Guardrail (Locate)	<u>yes/no CONC. POSTS w/</u>	<u>yes/no IRON RAILS</u>	yes/no _____
In-cut/Retaining Walls	_____	_____	_____
Lighting - Type,	<u>INCAND</u>	<u>INCAND</u>	_____
O.C., Setback f/rail	_____	_____	_____
Seating-Mat'l & Qty.	<u>NONE</u>	<u>NONE</u>	_____

Stairs: (ramps used: yes / no)	A	vert. rise	width	B	vert. rise	width	C	vert. rise	width
Locate:	<u>A</u>	<u>7'-0"</u>	<u>3'-11"</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>8'-2"</u>	<u>15'-0"</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>9'-11"</u>	<u>2'-0"</u>
	<u>B</u>	<u>2'-11"</u>	<u>5'-2"</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>8'-0"</u>	<u>3'-4"</u>			
	<u>C</u>	<u>3'-0"</u>	<u>7'-8"</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>10'-3"</u>	<u>3'-0"</u>			

CONDITION/LOCATION - (platform, lighting, stairs, guardrails, retaining walls. Note apparent poor conditions only)

PLATFORMS - BOTH NEED RESURFACING - UNEVEN, CRACKED, BROKEN ASPHALT BREAKING DOWN TO GRAVEL.

LIGHTING - POOR CONDITION - POLES RUSTED, LEAKING, BROKEN

STAIRS - SEE INDIVIDUAL SKETCHES

RAILS ALONG OUTER EDGES OF PLATFORMS - RUSTED - BENT, LEAKING

INBOUND END OF OUTBOUND PLATFORM - RAIL LEAKING BADLY

RETAINING WALLS - WOOD, LEAKING, ROTTED - NEED REPLACING.

Continue on back of page \_\_\_\_\_

CANOPY/OVERHANG	IN-BOUND SIDE	OUT-BOUND SIDE	ISLAND BET'N TRACK
Length x Width	_____ X _____	_____ X _____	_____ X _____
Height (Lowest)	_____	_____	_____
Setback from Rail	_____	_____	_____
Structure w/Spacing	_____	_____	_____
Setback-Rail to Support	_____	_____	_____
Deck Material	_____	_____	_____
Roofing	_____	_____	_____
Shape	<u>Slope / Gable / Flat</u>	_____	_____
Drainage	_____	_____	_____
Lighting	_____	_____	_____

CONDITION (Note apparent poor conditions only):

# 4 STATION BUILDING X

# SHELTER \_\_\_\_\_

STATION: WATCHUNG AVE

In-Bound (NY, H, N) X In-Use YES; Out-Bound \_\_\_\_\_ In-Use \_\_\_\_\_; Number of Levels 1 1/2 I.B. \_\_\_\_\_ O.B. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Relation of Main to Track (under, over, level) Relation of Entry to Street UP 1/2 LEVEL I.B. \_\_\_\_\_ O.B. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Roof Overhang - width: YES/SEE PLAN Location: (refer to Floor Plan X) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Interior and Entry Stairs, Ramps, escalators, elevators: (Note vertical rise; locate (refer to Floor Plan & label for cross-reference):  
 a) width \_\_\_\_\_ vertical rise \_\_\_\_\_ b) width \_\_\_\_\_ vertical rise \_\_\_\_\_  
 c) width \_\_\_\_\_ vertical rise \_\_\_\_\_ d) width \_\_\_\_\_ vertical rise \_\_\_\_\_

## EXTERIOR MATERIALS AND SYSTEMS:

Foundation STONE Doors WOOD  
 Base Course \_\_\_\_\_ (photo) \_\_\_\_\_ Roof Deck WOOD  
 Walls WOOD Roofing SLATE  
 Trim WOOD Soffit WOOD  
 Windows - operable - yes / (no)  
 Structural System (consultant: \_\_\_\_\_) MASONRY FOUNDATION - WOOD BEARING WALLS UPPER FLP  
WD. FRAME ROOF  
 Drainage PERIMETER GUTTERS TO MTL. LDRS.

## INTERIOR ROOM AND FINISH SCHEDULE: (Locate on Floor Plan)

Space*	Floor	Base	W/Cot	Walls	Ceiling	Ceiling Hgt.	Lighting
1. Waiting Room <u>340 S.F.</u>	<u>WOOD</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>WOOD 3<sup>6</sup></u>	<u>WOOD</u>	<u>WOOD</u>	<u>12<sup>9</sup></u>	<u>INCANES</u>
2. Ticket Office	<u>WOOD</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>WOOD 3<sup>6</sup></u>	<u>WOOD</u>	<u>WOOD</u>	<u>12<sup>9</sup></u>	<u>FLOOR + INCANES</u>
3. Mens Toilet	<u>WOOD</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>WOOD 3<sup>6</sup></u>	<u>WOOD</u>	<u>WOOD</u>	<u>12<sup>9</sup></u>	<u>INCANES</u>
4. Womens Toilet	<u>WOOD</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>WOOD 3<sup>6</sup></u>	<u>WOOD</u>	<u>WOOD</u>	<u>12<sup>9</sup></u>	<u>INCANES</u>
<u>LOUNGE</u>	<u>WOOD</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>WOOD 3<sup>6</sup></u>	<u>WOOD</u>	<u>WOOD</u>	<u>12<sup>9</sup></u>	<u>INCANES</u>

- A. Concessions and Businesses: Taxi \_\_\_\_\_ Other: Newspaper stand/coin box Pay Toilet \_\_\_\_\_ PAPER Vending Machines  
OUTSIDE
- B. Waiting Room Seating: describe (photo): WD GANG BENCHES Capacity 15
- C. Number of Public Phones and Locations: \_\_\_\_\_
- D. Indicate Visibility of approaching trains from waiting area, and direction of visibility, I.B. POOR O.B. NONE
- E. Describe visibility for surveillance for waiting rooms with and without agents: GOOD
- F. Is passage from the station to platforms sheltered: yes / (no) (photo description \_\_\_\_\_).
- G. Are public toilets, telephones and other station conveniences identified: yes / (no)
- H. Are lockers provided: yes / (no); trash receptacles: (yes) / no, location: waiting room # 1 NEAR TICKET OFFICE  
platform I.B. (NY) # \_\_\_\_\_, platform O.B. # \_\_\_\_\_, pick/up areas: \_\_\_\_\_ (photos)
- I. Mailbox: yes / (no)
- J. Water fountain: yes / (no); location: \_\_\_\_\_
- K. Describe other commuter conveniences: NONE

~~OPEN SHELTER - location: I.B. (NY, H, N) \_\_\_\_\_ O.B. \_\_\_\_\_ (indicate on site plan or aerial; photos or sketch)  
 Size Width \_\_\_\_\_ Length \_\_\_\_\_ Height \_\_\_\_\_  
 Material \_\_\_\_\_  
 Base \_\_\_\_\_  
 Lighting \_\_\_\_\_  
 Condition \_\_\_\_\_~~

## CONDITION: \*

Exterior (indicate board-up areas; locate elements being described using floor plan/photos)  
(Consultant)

Foundations: STONE - CRACKED IN MANY PLACES,  
MORTAR - CRACKED, BROKEN AWAY + MISSING IN MANY PLACES  
PATCHED WITH NEW IN PLACES.

## Walls/Doors/Windows:

WALLS - UPPER LEVEL - WOOD SIDING + SHINGLES OLD + WEATHER  
BEATEN, BROKEN, MISSING, POOR CONDITION, NEEDS  
REPLACING,  
DOORS - OLD + WORN - REPLACE  
WINDOWS - OLD + WORN ALSO, SOME BOARDED + BROKEN - REPLACE.

Stairs: INBOUND STAIRS - POOR CONDITION - LEANING BADLY TOWARD  
TRACKS, TREADS UNEVEN, HANDRAIL MISSING AT TOP, USE  
HAZARDOUS.

OUTBOUND STAIRS - SIMILAR, PLATF. BROKEN + CRACKED

Roof/Drainage: SLATE SHINGLES - BROKEN, MISSING, SOME HAVE BEEN REPLACED  
POOR - CONDITION.

## Other

SOFFIT - OLD + ROTTED NEEDS REPLACEMENT  
GUTTERS - WO. OLD + ROTTED, LOST THEIR CAMBER.  
DOWNSPOUTS - DAMAGED, DENTED, RUSTED - NEED REPLACING.

Interior (locate elements by room; photograph poor conditions)

## Walls/Doors/Windows:

WALLS - HORIZONTAL SIDING - FAIR COND., OLD BUT SOUND. GAPS  
BETWEEN BOARDS.  
DOORS / WINDOWS - ABOVE

Floor: WOOD FLOOR - FLUSH + LEVEL BUT OLD + WORN, COULD USE  
RESURFACING.

Ceiling: WOOD CEILING IN FAIR COND.

Stairs: U.S.

# 4b MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL

STATION: WATCHUNG AVE

## HEATING NO ACCESS

Location of Heating Unit: \_\_\_\_\_  
Type of Unit: \_\_\_\_\_ Output: \_\_\_\_\_ Fuel: \_\_\_\_\_  
Controls: \_\_\_\_\_ Zones: \_\_\_\_\_ Storage Capacity: \_\_\_\_\_  
Burner Size: \_\_\_\_\_ Make of Unit: \_\_\_\_\_ Make of Burner: \_\_\_\_\_  
Distribution System: \_\_\_\_\_

REMARKS:

## AIR CONDITIONING N.A.

Location: \_\_\_\_\_  
Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Capacity: \_\_\_\_\_  
Distribution System: \_\_\_\_\_  
Spaces Handled: \_\_\_\_\_

REMARKS:

## VENTILATION

Windows: Yes / No Door: Yes / No Toilet Rooms: Mechanical Natural  
Is air quality good: Yes / No

## ELECTRIC NO ACCESS

Location of Service Entrance: \_\_\_\_\_  
Location of Main Panel: \_\_\_\_\_  
Characteristics: \_\_\_\_\_ Amps \_\_\_\_\_ Volts \_\_\_\_\_ Wire \_\_\_\_\_ Phase \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Circuit Breakers \_\_\_\_\_ Circuits Fused  
Apparent Major Deficiencies in wiring: Conduit Yes / No

## GENERAL LIGHTING EVALUATION (Interior)

Description / Condition / Quantity:

SINGLE INCAND. IN WAITING AREA. LIGHTING DIM.

Lighting does / does not appear to be adequate; there are are not dark spots; there is / is not glare.

Continue on back of page \_\_\_\_\_

# 8 Community & Security Aspects

Station: Watchung Avenue

1. Describe the setting of the station in terms of the activity in the surrounding area (land use and condition described in section 6). Describe the visibility of the station and site from surrounding areas of streets in terms of security through surveillance. Describe screening and shielding (note #3, page 4) and shadows, nooks and crannies, and other hiding places).

Park Street is heavily travelled by both vehicles and pedestrians; there is also a great deal of activity in the plaza nearby. However, the station appears to be on the outskirts of this activity.

Surveillance of the station site by motorized police patrol is not adequate. The only openly visible side of the station faces Park Street. The track side is not visible at all by motorized police patrol, and requires foot patrol for adequate surveillance. This side of the station is the only real hiding place.

2. Is the station out of the "main stream" of pedestrian/vehicular activity, or is it part of the fabric of life in the community? Do non-commuters walk through the station building or use any part of the station facilities/site to shorten their path to a final destination; to shop; to conduct business such as banking (refer to #4 Station Building/Interior Space \_\_\_\_\_):

The station is somewhat removed from the main stream of vehicular/pedestrian traffic. However, non-commuters do use the platforms and the station site as a short cut to other destinations. Many pedestrians, the majority of whom are school children, walk along Park Street and then either cut across to the platforms or use the station stairs to cut across to the plaza nearby.

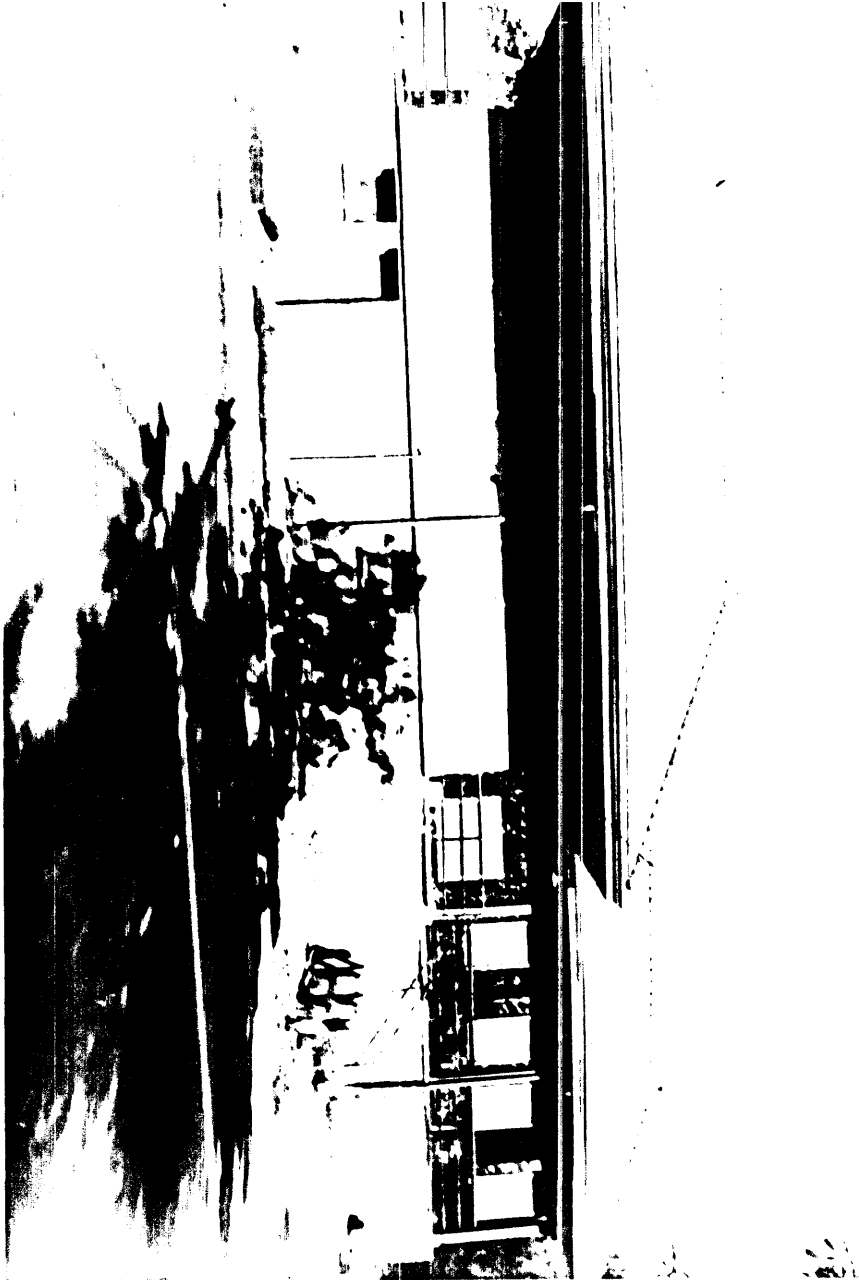
3. Vandalism: Graffiti - none / low / medium / high ; location:

Property damage - none / low / medium / high (describe):

Broken windows

4. Question the ticket agent about vandalism problems.





Thematic Nomination of  
Operating Passenger  
RR Stations in New Jersey

Watchung Avenue RR Station,  
Montclair, Essex County