

OFF-054
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NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF CULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
HISTORIC PRESERVATION SECTION
INDIVIDUAL STRUCTURE SURVEY FORM

HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY NO. 0713 11 6

HISTORIC NAME: Free Public Library,
LOCATION: Upper Montclair Branch
185 Bellevue Ave.
MUNICIPALITY: Montclair
USGS QUAD: Orange
OWNER/ADDRESS: Upper Montclair Library
See above

COMMON NAME: Free Public Library,
BLOCK/LOT Upper Montclair Branch
2602/22; 16-C/40
COUNTY: Essex
UTM REFERENCES:
Zone/Northing/Easting

DESCRIPTION

Construction Date: 1925

Source of Date: Tax Assessor

Architect: F.A. Nelson

Builder:

Style: 20th c. Institutional w/Classical
Form/Plan Type: T-shaped
Features

Number of Stories: 1+partially exposed lower level

Foundation: Brick

Exterior Wall Fabric: Brick

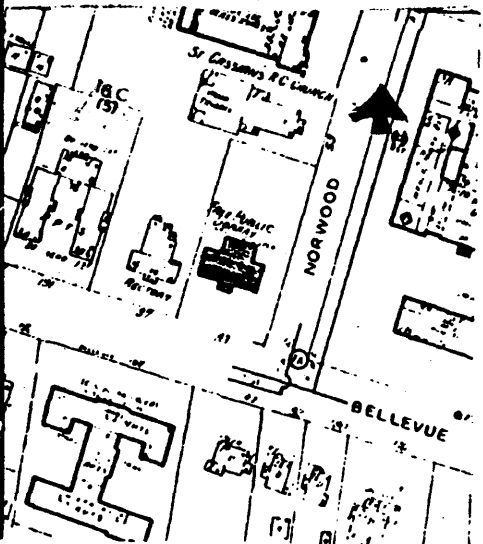
Fenestration: 3 bays, entrance at center; 3/3 awning windows surmounted by transoms

Roof/Chimneys: Hipped Roof sheathed in Copper; one chimney (rear)

Additional Architectural Description: A denticulated cornice with an enriched frieze wraps around the structure ("Free Public Library" inscribed in frieze); fluted pilasters, Corinthian-like in appearance, define the bays; the end pilasters abut rusticated corners which project slightly beyond the wall surface; the single-door entrance - served by a granite-step approach, and framed by a transom, side & corner lights - is set in a decorative surround with an inscribed panel & decorative courses; (this surround is in turn framed by a windowed surround which echoes the elements mentioned above, i.e. a transom, side & corner lights); a water table defines the lower limit of the first level.

PHOTO Negative File No. R8, 32

Map (Indicate North)



NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, OFFICE OF CULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
HISTORIC PRESERVATION SECTION, 109 WEST STATE STREET, TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625 (609) 292-2023

088-1-0886

SITING, BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION, AND RELATED STRUCTURES:

Lot size - 100' x 200'

The library is located in the front or southern half of the lot.

Less than one acre.

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT: Urban Suburban Scattered Buildings
Open Space Woodland Residential Agricultural Village
Industrial Downtown Commercial Highway Commercial Other
(Institutional)

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Upper Montclair branch of the Public Library, designed by F.A. Nelson*, is distinguished by its temple-like austerity & diminutive size. The formal appearance is reinforced by decoration derived from Classical architecture.

*Architect of the Upper Montclair Women's Club, Post Office Bldg. & other prominent buildings in the area.

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

COMMENTS:

REFERENCES:

Clayton, Margaretta Nelson. Fact Sheet on Francis Augustus Nelson; March 12, 1977.

Franklin Survey Company. Atlas of Montclair, Glen Ridge, Cedar Grove & Verona, 1933.

RECORDED BY: Gary Sachau
ORGANIZATION: Preservation Montclair

DATE: 8/6/81