

054

NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF CULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

HISTORIC PRESERVATION SECTION

INDIVIDUAL STRUCTURE SURVEY FORM

HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY NO. 0713 8 2 8

HISTORIC NAME: "Haskell's Bloomfield Villa"	COMMON NAME: Humphreys house
LOCATION: 84 Llewellyn Road	BLOCK/LOT 1208/11; 50-C/40
MUNICIPALITY: Montclair	COUNTY: Essex
USGS QUAD: Orange	UTM REFERENCES:
OWNER/ADDRESS: Humphreys, Linda & George, Jr. See above	Zone/Northing/Easting

DESCRIPTION

Construction Date: circa 1859	Source of Date: Archival Records
Architect: A. J. Davis	Builder:
Style: Italianate	Form/Plan Type: Cruxform
Number of Stories: 2½ + B	
Foundation: Stucco	
Exterior Wall Fabric: Asbestos shingle; staggered on turret wall.	
Fenestration: 5 bays; 1/1 sash (some paired), 2/2 rear section.	
Roof/Chimneys: Gable/ exterior chimney south of central pavillion; interior north wing.	

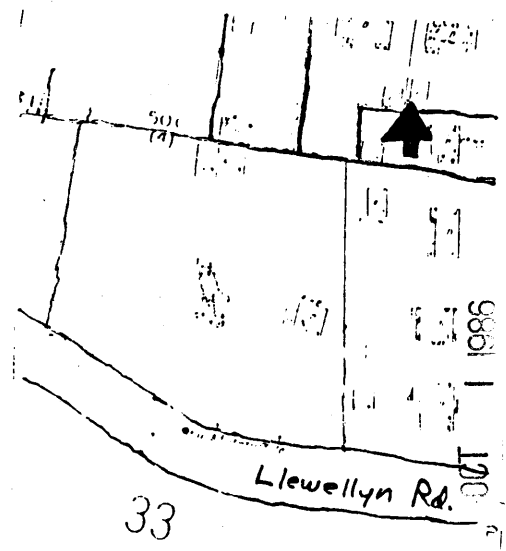
Additional Architectural Description: A 3 story gabled pavillion w/ corner brackets & open bracing below roof dominates the structure at center w/ 2½ story wings extending north & south, & a rounded turret w/ conical roof & ornamental brackets below at rear (east) of central pavillion. Bays 1 & 2 recessed back w/ 1 story polygonal bay window projecting north & paired sash below cornice in 1st floor, 1st bay window; paired smaller windows in the 2nd bay & paired sash above. Panelled entrance door in recessed porch w/ external fanlight & shutters. Bay 4 below projecting pavillion, paired narrow sash in molded arched surround w/ shutters on the 2nd floor & smaller triple sash w/ the same details below gable. A 3 bay open porch w/ rounded Doric columns & open geometric style balustrade above & below extends across the 3 center bays. Two story multi-light enclosed porch w/ flat roof in bay 5. A 3-sided bay window w/ cornice & panels between windows projects south. Circular open porch w/ floor length windows below turret on the 1st floor.

Alterations/modifications: See "Comments" on reverse side.

PHOTO

Negative File No. R83, 29

Map (Indicate North)



HISTORIC PRESERVATION SECTION, 109 WEST STATE STREET, INDEPENDENCE, NEW JERSEY 07033 (202) 272-4042

SITING, BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION, AND RELATED STRUCTURES:

House close to east boundary, circular driveway from Llewellyn Road close to west corner. Large former carriage house on north-east corner. Lot size: 111' x 295'. Less than one acre.

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

Many of the alterations to the house date from the 19th century; probably during the ownership of D. T. Warren. He purchased the house from Samuel Wilde in 1863. Warren asked A. J. Davis for alteration plans, but it is believed that Warren probably had someone else design the enlargement. Although the house has been enlarged and the entire front facade changed, the house still retains many "distinctive original features," especially the four-story round tower, with its encircling veranda. "The cantilevered eaves, the windows, and the bay window of the south wing are all characteristic of Davis's work."

SIGNIFICANCE:

This residence, the first house designed by Alexander Jackson Davis in Montclair, was built for his friend & business associate, Llewellyn S. Haskell, a drug importer from New York. In 1852, Haskell moved to the top of Orange Mountain (now Eagle Rock Reservation) where he remodeled a farm house & began to purchase land for Llewellyn Park. #84 Llewellyn Road was once #12 Eagle Rock Way.

Original drawings show the architecture to be Italianate. Some of the original brackets remain under the tower eaves & those of the south wing. The balustraded balcony over the main entrance was lost in subsequent alterations.

In 1860 Samuel Wilde, a coffee & spice merchant important in the development of Montclair, purchased this home prior to completion from Haskell. Davis later designed a fine Gothic style mansion for Wilde on South Fullerton Avenue c. 1870 (no longer extant).

Building documented in the 1971 survey of the town by the Montclair Historical Society. It was also pictured in the Montclair State College photographic exhibit, Cottages, Villas & Country Residences.

This Italianate style of Architecture was recommended by Andrew Jackson Downing as being both picturesque & practical.

ORIGINAL USE: Residence PRESENT USE: Residence
 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:

Alterations/modifications: The double story enclosed porch, south of the center pavilion, the open front porch & the small 2 story bay north of the entrance are not part of the original structure. The open truss details in the front gable are also later additions. (For further information see above under "Surrounding Environment.")

REFERENCES:

Reproductions from Farm Map of the Townships of Bloomfield and Belleville, Essex County, N. J. Surveyed, drawn & published by James Hughes, 1865.

*"Haskell's Bloomfield Villa," Fact Sheet prepared by Jane B. Davies, Avery Architectural Library, Columbia University, February 2, 1972.

A. J. Davis, "Day Book" and Drawings (Collection II), Avery Library, Columbia University; A. J. Davis, "Journal" and Drawings (Vol. VII), Metropolitan Museum of Art.

RECORDED BY: Eleanor Price DATE: 6/12/81
 ORGANIZATION: Preservation Montclair

*Thematic Histings: Buildings by Prominent Architects
Montclair Multiple Resource Histing*

7-181

*(0713-828)
84 Brewellm Road*

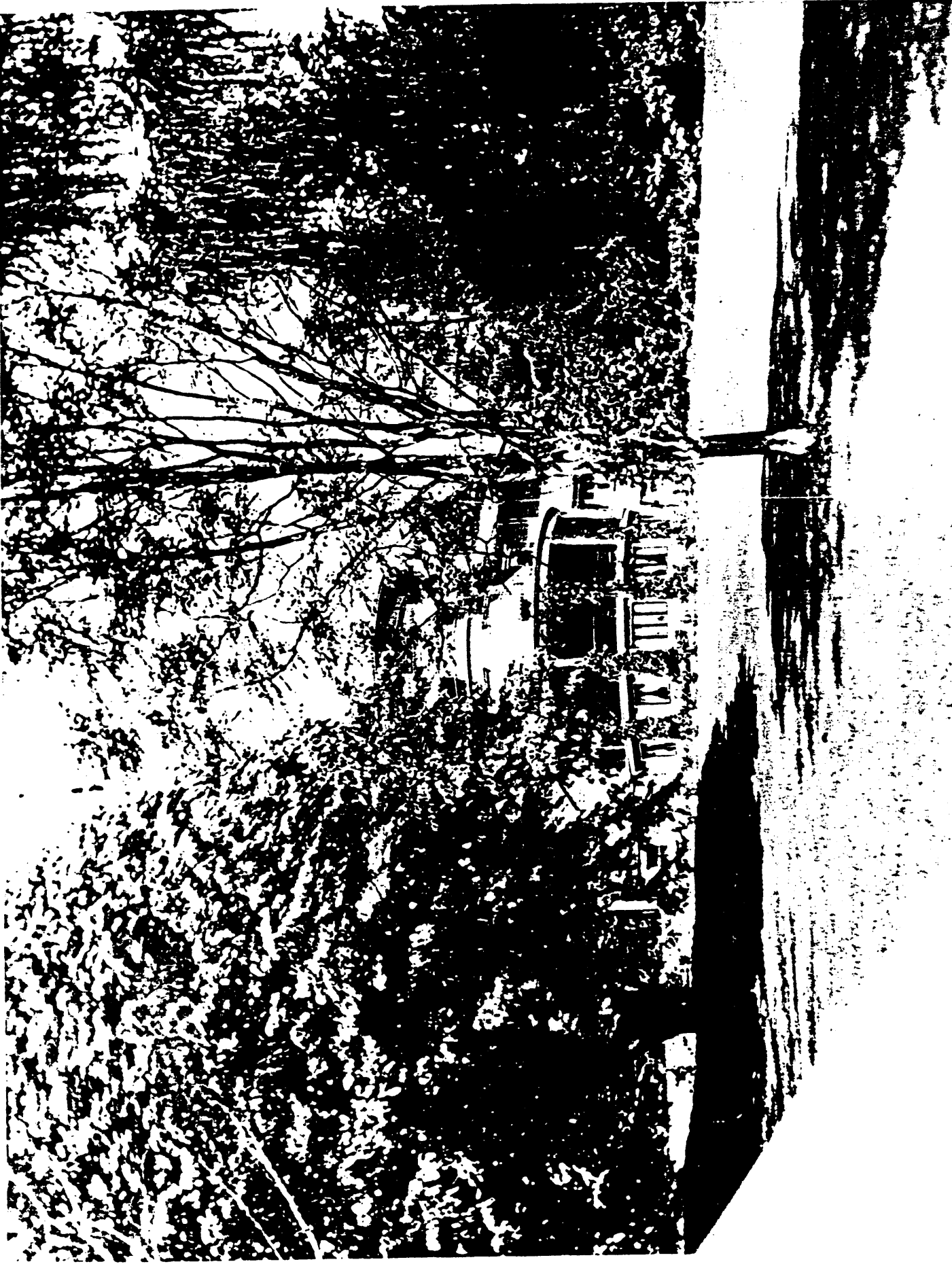


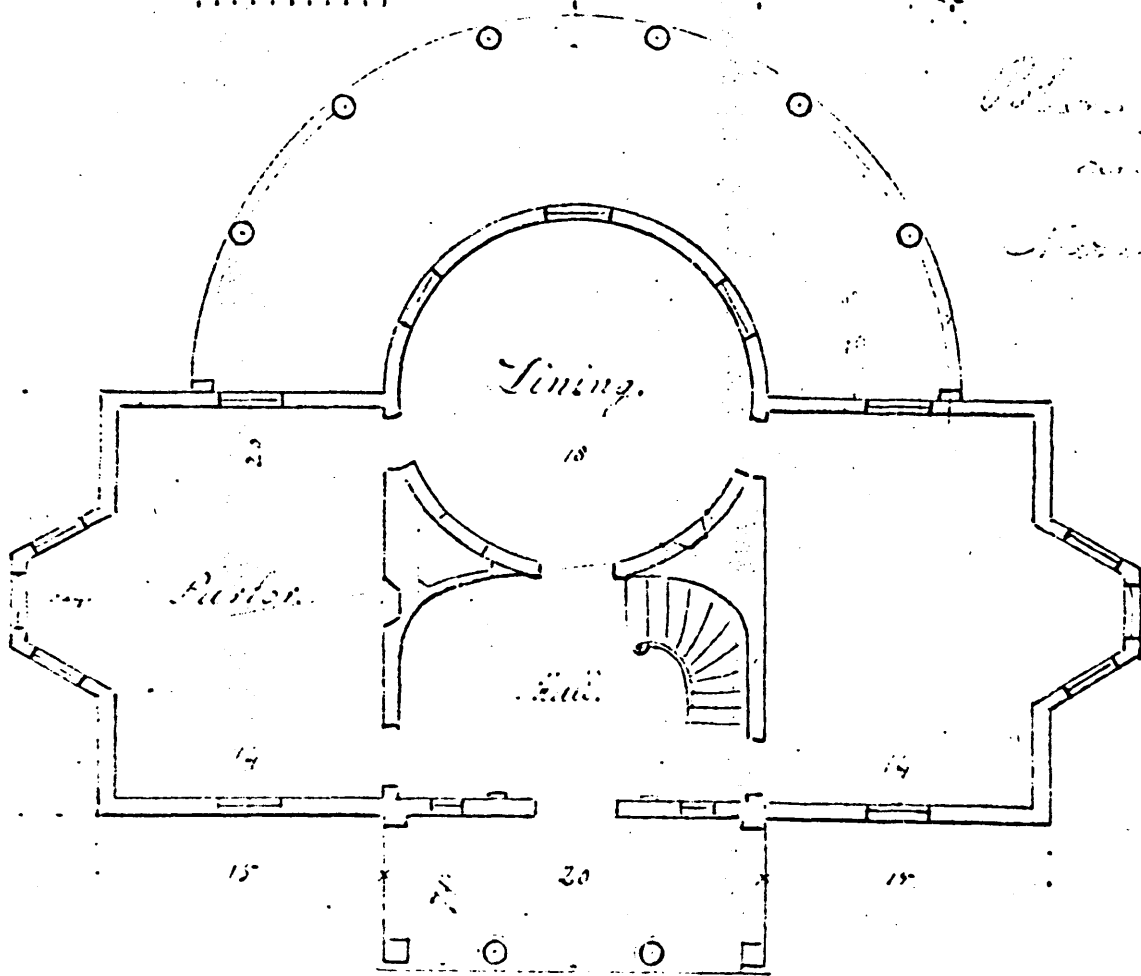
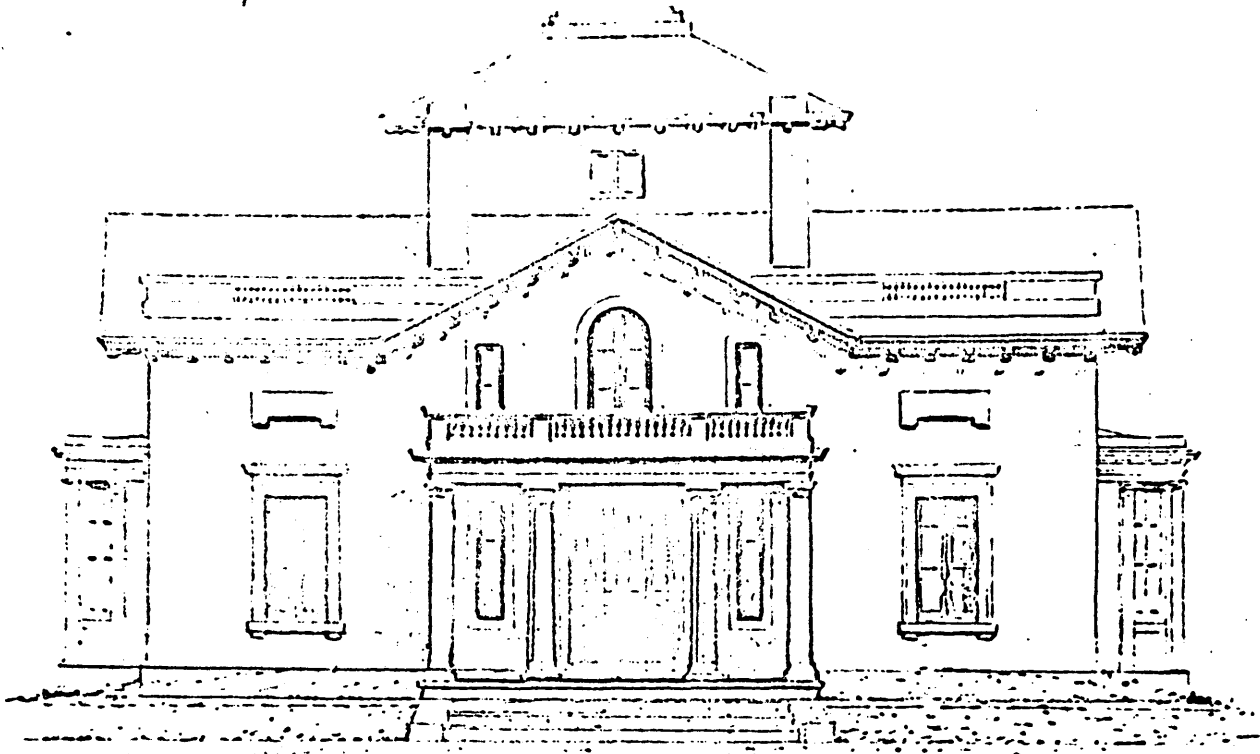
001 1 1985

Thematic Historic Buildings by Prominent Architects
Montclair Multiple Resource District

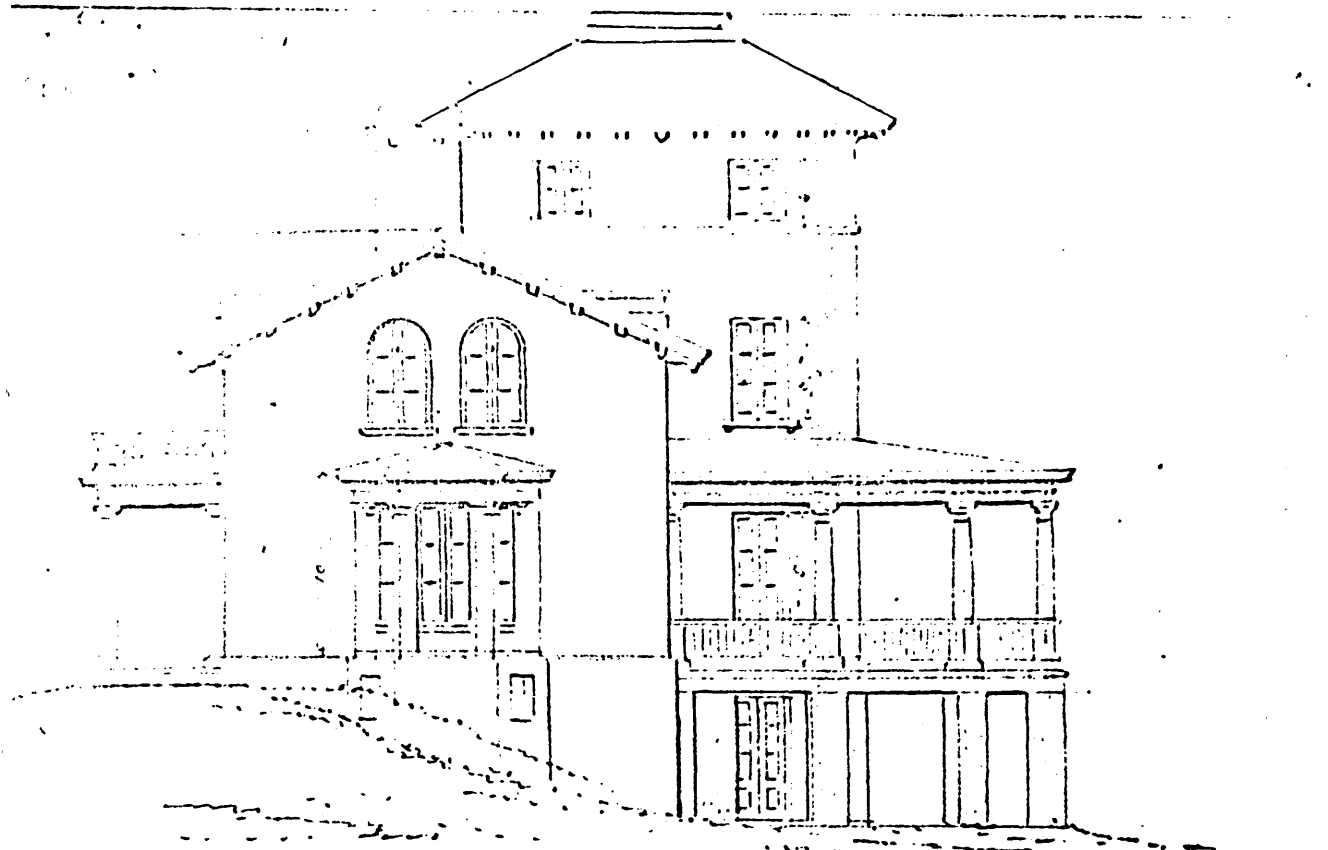
7-182

0113-0100
84 Newellyn Road

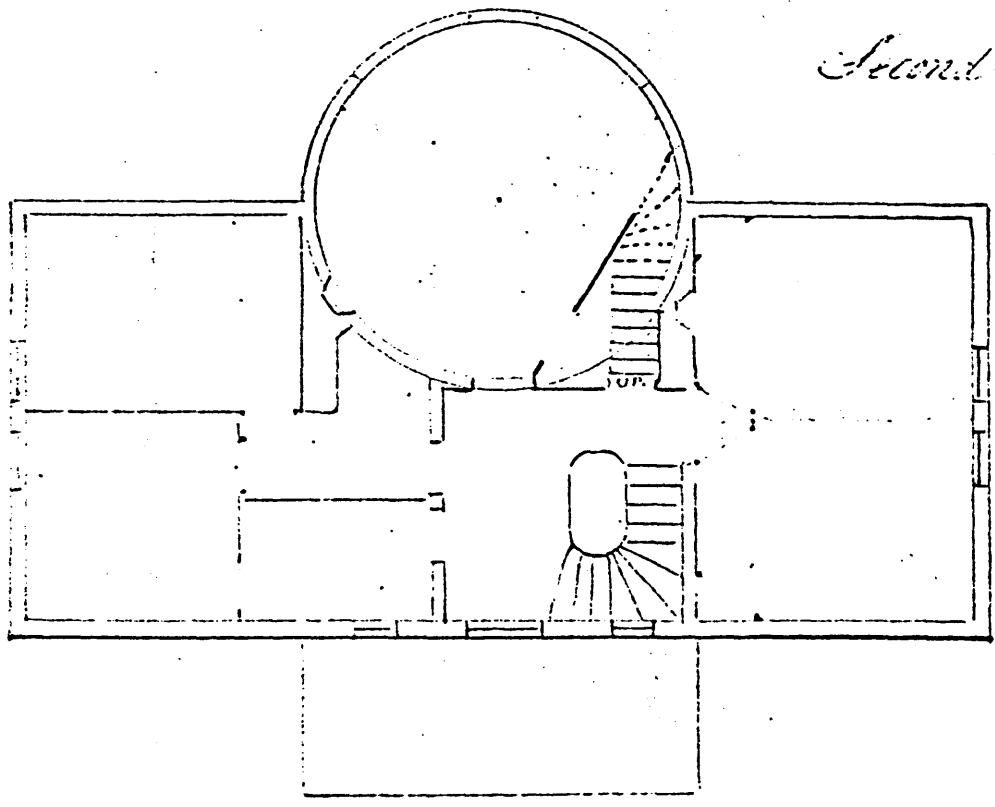
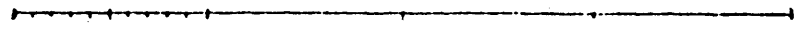




Bloomfield
 and
 Montclair
 and
 Newark



E N D. SOUTH. BLOOMFIELD VILLA.



Second story.

"HASKELL'S BLOOMFIELD VILLA"

Residence, 84 Llewellyn Road, Montclair, New Jersey.

Designed: in 1859-1860 by Alexander Jackson Davis, New York architect, for Llewellyn S. Haskell. Haskell was then developing Llewellyn Park in West Orange, contiguous with property owned by him in West Bloomfield (now Montclair), on which this house was located.

Built: 1860-? . Construction was begun ^{in 1860} by Haskell (builder, William H. Myers), but before the house was completed, it was sold in 1860 to Samuel Wilde, who completed it and improved the grounds*. In 1865 it was sold to D. T. Warren.

Present owner: Parker Reid.

Now much altered (including modern siding), the house still retains distinctive original features, in particular the dominant four-story round tower with encircling veranda (and circular rooms within). The cantilevered eaves and the bay window of the south wing are characteristic of Davis' work. A third story has been added to the central section, which has been projected forward, and the entire front facade is changed.

Original documents:

- A. J. Davis' [Day Book, v. 27], pp. 156, 160, 164, 165 (Avery Architectural Library, Columbia University, A. J. Davis Collection I)
- A. J. Davis' [Journal], p. 188 (Metropolitan Museum of Art, A. J. Davis Collection, no. 24.66.1400)
- A. J. Davis drawings:
 - 2 sheets, showing elevations of front and side and plans of 1st and 2nd floors; entitled "Bloomfield Villa" (Avery Architectural Library, Columbia University, A. J. Davis Collection II, folder 10)
 - 1 sheet, showing plans of 1st and 2nd floors, which differ in details from the preceding, entitled (in Davis' late handwriting) "Bloomfield Villa, Montclair, L. S. Haskell," with two notations "Warren". (Metropolitan Museum of Art, A. J. Davis Collection, vol. VII (no. 24.66.1406), fol. 44)

References:

- Farm Map of the Townships of Bloomfield and Belleville, Essex County, N. J. Surveyed ... and published by James Hughes. Philadelphia, 1865.
- Whittemore, Henry. History of Montclair Township. New York, 1894, p. 218.
- Montclair, the First 100 Years. [Montclair, 1968], pp. 33 and 38 (partially inaccurate)

Date of visit: November 19, 1971.

Prepared by: *Janet B. Davison*
Columbia University

Date: February 2, 1972

* WILDE LATER BUILT ANOTHER HOUSE IN THE ITALIAN STYLE ON GRANTLE ROAD IN MONTCLAIR BEFORE COMMISSIONING DAVIS TO DESIGN A GOTHIC STYLE HOUSE FOR HIS SOUTH FULLERTON HOME. PRESENT IN 1869. THE HOUSE WAS BUILT IN 1870 IN THE DESIGN OF AN ILLUSTRATION IN

DUNNINGS' "ARCHITECTURE OF COUNTRY HOUSES" (FIG. 160, PAGE 358) WHICH WAS
PUBLISHED IN 1856. ~~THESE~~ SOME OF THESE ILLUSTRATIONS, INCLUDING THE
ARBITR, WERE BY DAVIS. WHOSE FINALLY SETTLED DOWN IN THIS WAY HOUSE AND
LIVED THERE UNTIL HIS DEATH

"Haskell's Bloomfield Villa"

7-188

This house (called "Haskell's Bloomfield Villa" by its designer in lieu of a more fanciful name such as "Litchfield" or "Lyndhurst"), was designed between 1859 and 1860 in The Italian Style by New York architect Alexander Jackson Davis for his friend Llewellyn Haskell.* It was built in 1860 on land contiguous with Haskell's picturesque development known as "Llewellyn Park", a considerable portion of which extended into West Bloomfield. Before Haskell completed the house, he sold it to Samuel Wilde, who completed it and improved the grounds. (It is assumed that the house was completed as shown by Davis' original drawings (photo, page one) which are now in the archives of Avery Architectural Library, Columbia University.

At a later date, the house was considerably enlarged. A third story was added to the central section, which was projected forward and the entire facade changed. Around the turn of the century, a classical revival porch was added to the front and it may have been at this time that wood shingles were put on over the original siding. (photo, page two)

The house still retains many of its distinctive original features; in particular the dominant four-story round tower with encircling veranda, the cantilevered eaves, the windows, and the bay window of the South wing are characteristic of Davis' work.

Haskell began to dispose of his West Bloomfield property in the 1870's (which had been within the borders of the new town of Montclair since 1868). The surrounding area began to develop and by 1906 (map, page three) ALL OF HASKELL'S PROPERTY WAS SOLD TO OTHER OWNERS AND Llewellyn Park was wholly within the town of West Orange. Although some property still remained to the West and North, newer houses surround^{ed} the villa and obstruct^{ed} the turn-of-the-century view to Orange Road (photo, page two).

from: Fred Brand
Bloomfield Hill Branch
Montclair Branch of the

-2-

Modern asbestos siding now covers the wooden shingles and the classical porch lacks its original balustrade and some of the columns. (photo, page four) However, the house seems to be appreciated by its present owners who are maintaining it in good condition. They do not have any plans to restore it to its original ~~condition.~~

APPEARANCE

* Davis referred to the building of this house on pages 156, 160, 164 and 165 of volume two of his day book.