

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**FOR NPS USE ONLY**  
RECEIVED JUL 23 1979  
DATE ENTERED SEP 12 1979

**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~~ Newark Female Charitable Society

AND/OR COMMON The Newark Day Center

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 305 Halsey Street

(also off of 13 Hill Street)

CITY, TOWN

Newark

VICINITY OF

10th

STATE

New Jersey

CODE

034

COUNTY

Essex

CODE

013

NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Social

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME The Newark Day Center

STREET & NUMBER 43 Hill Street

CITY, TOWN

Newark

VICINITY OF

STATE

New Jersey

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Essex County Hall of Records

STREET & NUMBER High Street

CITY, TOWN

Newark

STATE

New Jersey

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Personal Files of Donald W. Geyer at Newark Public Library

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED exterior	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED interior	<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 Newark Female Charitable Society can be classified as Victorian Eclectic in style with definite Romanesque features. The structure was completed in the year 1886, about the same time as various other sites of landmark value in Newark (i.e. Ballantine Mansion and Krueger Mansion) which are also of eclectic or mixed styles. There are three major buildings on the site of the present Newark Day Center.

The main building is the most significant and is at 305 Halsey Street. This building is three stories in height with a complete basement. It is three bays across in the front and rear and six bays on the sides. The rectangular structure has a box cornice and a hip roof with a small gable in the front portion. One over one fenestration dominates the building. Trim, however, is quite diversified. On the third floor, fenestration is trimmed with semicircular, rounded arches—two per window. The second floor features brick, flayed lintels and the first floor fenestration has semi-elliptical arches (three centered arches).

The principal construction material is red brick and terra cotta, somewhat typical of the Romanesque Style. An outstanding front entrance, also red brick, includes: a huge romaneseque, semicircular arch flanked by small pilasters with crocketed captials, a fine triangular pediment with the inscripton, "Newark Female Charitable Society, organized 1803", and dentil with beaded trim, surrounding the entrance. Four outside chimneys are very noticeable on the exterior.

The structure is 80 feet long and 40 feet wide in the front but only 35 feet wide in the rear. The building occupies the corner of Halsey and Hill Streets, a site chosen over the corner of Pine and Park Streets, later to become the site of Public Service Electric and Gas Company. The backyard of the main building has been replaced by a one story cafeteria structure constructed of concrete.

The interior lay-out plan in 1886 showed the ground level floor complete with restaurant, kitchen, drying room, ironing and washing rooms, as well as the original 32 feet by 40 feet backyard. The second level of the structure had a reading room, crazy jane room and Mother's meeting room. The upper level had a board room, play room, nursery and piazza. Clearly, for the needs of the society, the building was all-inclusive and efficient.

The Building Committee of the Female Charitable Society in January, 1886 visited institutions in New York and Boston for the purpose of obtaining ideas. After the Committee discussed the requisite needs of each department, the chairman prepared a sketch drawing of what should finally be constructed. A facsimile of that drawing was the working model from which the architect R.H. Rowden made his final plans. With very few exceptions, it was what finally emerged. Three

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
1900- present	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES \_\_\_\_\_ BUILDER/ARCHITECT \_\_\_\_\_

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN

The Newark Female Charitable Society is significant as the oldest existing social agency in the State of New Jersey and rates as the third oldest such agency in the United States. The Society has been dedicated to the betterment of mankind since its founding on January 31, 1803, when a band of women were inspired by a sermon at the Old First Church on Broad Street. They then met at the famous now demolished Boudinot Mansion on Park Street opposite Military Park to "devise some means for caring for the poor and distressed persons in the village". The Society, thus, follows Newark's history from village to town to city.

The Newark Female Charitable Society rates as a significant organization because it is the third oldest social organization in the nation, predated nationally only by two other East Coast societies--the Roxbury Charitable Society (Boston) and the Female Society of Philadelphia .

The Society also deserves consideration statewide as the oldest existing social, voluntary agency in the State of New Jersey. It is obviously Newark's oldest such agency still in operation.

From its founding in 1803 until the construction of the present building's completion in 1886, the Female Charitable Society met regularly at Old First Church and at the homes of its philanthropic women volunteers. The group was finally incorporated in 1878 and the new, multi purpose building completed in 1886.

With the new structure came an ability to increase services to the city's poor. Additional services included; a laundry, kitchen-garden, day nursery, kindergarten, cooking school, mother's meeting and sewing classes, as well as out-service to the suffering poor at home.

With the tremendous influx of poor and eastern European immigrants in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, came an even greater need for caring for the poverty stricken. The Female Charitable again rose to the occasion by implementing new, innovative programs to meet the needs of the "new poor". As private donations continued to increase, services could also be increased as the need materialized. After the turn-of-the-century, some of the new services added were: outright relief aid, Food programs for the hungry, and perhaps the most important addition, the Fresh Air Fund, through which hundreds of inner city youths were able to enjoy and experience Summer Camp life for one or two week intervals.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

All material derived from "Female Charitable Society" Annual Reports,  
Book 1 - 1803 through 1904 Book 2 - 1904 through 1953.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Elizabeth

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1, 8 5, 6, 9 5, 3, 0 4, 5 0, 9 1, 4, 0

B                  

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C                  

D                  

E                  

F                  

G                  

H                  

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Northwest corner of Halsey and Hill Streets, with property extending west along Hill Street for 3 additional lots including numbers 41 and 43 Hill Street. Complex located exactly 1 city block west of Broad Street and less than 1 block from (east) Washington St.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

(Terry Karschner, OHP. DEP,  
Trenton, 609-292-2023)

NAME / TITLE

ORGANIZATION Anthony S. Vacca (material aid provided by Bob Schacter, NDC) DATE

STREET & NUMBER Newark Preservation and Landmarks Committee TELEPHONE May 8, 1978

CITY OR TOWN 35 James Street STATE (201) 622-4910

Newark New Jersey 07102

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL    STATE X 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 [Signature]

DATE 7-5-79

TITLE Deputy Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
<u>[Signature]</u> KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	DATE <u>9-12-79</u>
ATTEST: <u>[Signature]</u> CHIEF OF REGISTRATION	DATE <u>Sept. 11, 1979</u>

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Newark Female Charitable Society

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great Newarkers of the period were on the Advisory Board of the Society, Robert F. Ballantine, William Clark, and Frederick Frelinghuysen. These giants of Industry made certain that a faithful rendering of the plans was met, such important items as: sanitary plumbing, sub-cellar cementing, floor deadening, artistic woodwork, iron and terra cotta decorations. They saw to it that the lovely balcony effect of the main stairway, which preserves the entrance hall from a chilling institutional look, was properly executed. A novel feature of Newark architecture, the "Boston Entrance", which utilized ground room to the utmost by advancing the front of the building so as to partly enclose the entrance steps, was used. It is much in evidence today.

On November 6th, 1886, the cornerstone was laid. Within the stone was a copper box containing a Newark Director of 1886, a Bible, copies of the Newark Daily Advertiser, Newark Evening News, and the Evening Journal. Annual reports, the constitution and By-laws of the society were also enclosed as well as other official material.

The exterior of the Female Charitable Society today appears much as it looked when built 92 years ago. No alteration but for storm windows on the ground level has taken place. The interior, however, has been altered many times over the years to meet specific needs of the group.

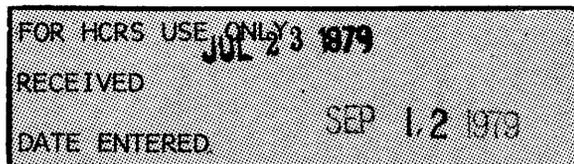
As various programs were phased out and new ones implemented, some changes took place. The interior has kept some of its integrity. The stairway is still intact with high quality newels, balusters and hand-railings. The stairway is an open well, 3 flight system with 2 landings. Throughout the building is moulding with corner blocks and wainscoting. Wood paneling is also plentiful. Fireplaces have also been preserved on the first floor. They are marble with round-arched openings and cartouche and spandrels.

The architect, R.H. Rowden was a local designer who was responsible for, among other works, the Centenary Methodist Church on Summer Avenue and Kearney Street in the North Ward of the City. Not much else is known about him.

41 Hill Street, adjacent to 305 Halsey Street is also part of the Newark Day Center complex.

This building is a 3 story - red brick townhouse - missing cornice - sandstone lintels are somewhat altered. The structure has some nice cast iron railings and a carved entrance. Classic in appearance, the building is especially interesting on the interior, where much of the original plaster work is intact. Unfortunately, altered rooms are missing mantels and workmanship of the period. An unusual skylight and nice workwork are evident in places, including an intact, 3 story railing with curved and carved wood.

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The Newark Female Charitable Society purchased this house in 1912 to help alleviate spacial problems brought on by expansion of various programs. The purchase price was \$20,000. The fire escape was added at the time of purchase to bring the structure up-to fire code standards. In 1917, the building was made adaptable for Nursery Care Service and the 3rd floor was used as the living quarters for the matron of the newly created Nursery School. By 1923, the property became an added expense. High fuel, lighting and maintenance services forced the group to sell the townhouse for \$16,000. Today, the building serves as part of the Geriatric Health Service and Administrative Offices as well as the Senior Center. A one story brick structure was completed in 1977 and it serves as a comprehensive out-patient medical and dental care system for senior citizens. This new center, located at 43 Hill Street, is equipped with the most up-to-date examining and treatment rooms and modern medical and dental equipment.

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During this time of need, philanthropy flourished as such heavy-weight individuals and dedicated Newarkers as William Clark (of Clark Thread Mills), Robert F. Ballantine (of Ballantine Brewing), Robert Symington, Fayette Smith and others donated large amounts of money to the Society. Some of these individuals also served on the Building Committee, overseeing proper construction and detailing.

During both world wars, the Female Charitable Society opened its doors to aid, in whatever way possible, the war effort at home. Various war related programs were housed in the building at 305 Halsey Street in 1917-19 and 1941-44. In 1926, between the wars, an offer to buy the building was made in amount of \$100,000 but was refused by the Society's Board. The structure was deemed irreplaceable at that time.

The Agency as it exists today is the successor to the Newark Female Charitable Society, the Newark Fresh Air Fund (organized in 1883), the Newark Day Center for Older People (organized in 1957), and the Louise D. Shugard Shelter and Day Nursery (organized in 1907). The important and still needed activities of each of these organizations have been continued and the Newark Day Center currently operates a variety of programs for children and adults.

The Newark Day Center is governed by a Board of Trustees having varied professional expertise and social backgrounds necessary to maintain a balance of ideas and serve as a resource for consultation and advice.

Today, as in the past, services provided to the community are vital to the poor. They include: Full Day Kindergarten Care, Before and After School Care, Toddlers Day Care, Pre-School Day Care, Infant Shelter Care, Senior Center Care, Geriatric Health Care Services, and Fresh Air Fund Care.

On the Newark Female Charitable Society's first roll-call in 1803 were such famous Newark names as: Alling, Boudinot, Baldwin, Crane, Camp, Parkhurst, MacWorter, Ogden, and Ward. Some were descendants of Newark's original founders and others were related to the city's future "Captains of Industry". This is evidence of the fact that benevolence and philanthropy was very strong among the well-to-do. Charity was not, in those early years, as institutionalized as today. Charity was a private endeavor and thought to be the responsibility of the wealthy. Andrew Carnegie's "Gospel of Wealth" some years later justified not only his right to the million of dollars he had accumulated, but stated his responsibility to aid the poor everywhere.

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**ARCHITECTURE**

The Newark Female Charitable Society is Romanesque in style and one of the more distinctive examples in the City of Newark. The independent structure in the rear is a representative example of a town house in the Italianate style.

Bob Shacter, Chief Fund raiser for the Newark Day Center, summed-up the significance of the society and the building when he said; "This physical structure and the great ongoing society it represents, is a living, breathing monument to our society, and should be viewed as such. The Female Charitable Society reflects a period in our nation's history when private donations, not government handouts, were responsible for aiding the poor. Our group represents an era in American History when institutionalization was unheard of not only here in Newark or New Jersey, but in the nation. Somehow, this must be preserved and should, indeed, give us perspective for the future."