

PH0356468

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: **New Jersey**  
 COUNTY: **Camden**  
 FOR NPS USE ONLY  
 ENTRY NUMBER: **34** DATE: **JAN 20 1978**



1. NAME  
 COMMON: **Walt Whitman Historic Micro District**  
 AND/OR HISTORIC: **neighborhood**

2. LOCATION  
 STREET AND NUMBER: **332, 330, 328 & 326 Mickle Street**  
 CITY OR TOWN: **Camden**  
 STATE: **New Jersey** CODE: **34** COUNTY: **Camden** CODE: **007**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Buildings <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	<b>borders urban renewal area</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY  
 OWNER'S NAME: **New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (Whitman House)**  
 STREET AND NUMBER: **Box 1390, John Fitch Plaza**  
 CITY OR TOWN: **Trenton** STATE: **New Jersey** CODE: **34**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION  
 COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: **Camden County Court House**  
 STREET AND NUMBER:  
 CITY OR TOWN: **Camden** STATE: **New Jersey** CODE: **34**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS  
 TITLE OF SURVEY: **New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory #587.9**  
 DATE OF SURVEY: **1961**  Federal  State  County  Local  
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: **Office of Historic Preservation**  
 STREET AND NUMBER: **109 West State Street 08625**  
 CITY OR TOWN: **Trenton** STATE: **New Jersey** CODE: **34**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **New Jersey**  
 COUNTY: **Camden**  
 ENTRY NUMBER: **34**  
 DATE:

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The block in which Walt Whitman lived is being reconsidered here as a district. The house is already on the Register as a Registered National Historic Landmark.

The block is bordered by Mickle Street, 3rd and 4th Avenues, and Stevens Street to the south. Most of this block, although in deteriorated condition, contain houses and buildings that were there during Whitman's stay in Camden and are vital in interpreting life in the area as Whitman saw it.

His house, those to either side and those on the rest of the block to the south are remnants of city dwellings of the late nineteenth century, typical row houses, two or three stories high with a long hallway and stairs that went up to two or three bedrooms. Some were built with fireplaces and some without. Most were constructed of brick.

Of the twenty buildings that remain in the block, only fifteen can be reclaimed. The others are very deteriorated.

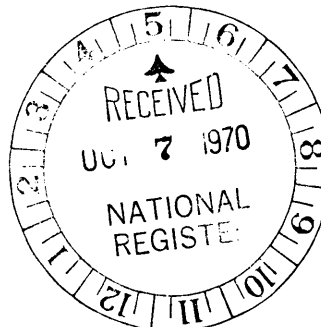
A block plan has been attached to this nomination which shows the configuration of the buildings, where they are located on the block and generally which ones the State of New Jersey hopes to acquire, restore, and use in the development of a Walt Whitman historic district.

Presently the block is bordered by urban renewal projects most of which have not gotten any further than demolition. Several of the buildings adjacent to the Whitman House are falling apart and the area can only be described as an urban slum. The state plan hopes to turn one block into an historic, cultural, and civic area.

*This information  
no longer correct.*

*12-19-70*

*M.S.B.*



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

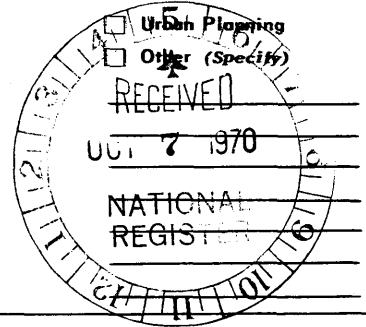
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1884-1892

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education             | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry              | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention             | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture          | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military              |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                 |   |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Walt Whitman is significant as one of the great poets of the nineteenth century. His house already has National Register status.

Because of the industrialization and highway building contemplated for this area, it is vital that the block be considered an historic district in order to maintain the physical appearance of the area as Whitman viewed it.

It is still a good example of the city row-house dwellings that were prevalent during the 19th century.

A master plan prepared by the Department of Environmental Protection has just been completed. It includes land use in the area for an historic house museum, other dwellings to be rented out for commercial or professional use in keeping with the spirit of the plan, open space, park, etc. The plan has a priority list, a cost estimate, and a development plan for the historical, recreational, and cultural development of the block.

A copy of the plan will be sent for examination in the consideration of this nomination if requested. \*

The entire area is on the opposite side of the Delaware River from the Independence Hall complex in Philadelphia and could play a vital role to the expected millions of visitors who will come to the area during the Bicentennial.

\* A copy of the Walt Whitman District Plan has been included in Appendix M of the Preliminary Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan of the State of New Jersey. This plan was delivered to the office of Mr. S. Sydney Bradford

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Keller, Elizabeth Leavitt, Walt Whitman in Mickle Street.  
 Wescott, Ralph W. Walt Whitman in Camden. N.J. Dept. of Conservation  
 and Economic Development and the Walt Whitman Foundation.  
 Trenton, New Jersey, 1952  
 Donaldson, Thomas. Walt Whitman, The Man. New York, Francis P.  
 Harper, 1896

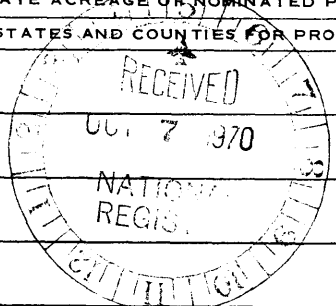
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		39° 56' 32"	75° 07' 27"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Revised: George A. Chidley IV, Research Historian  
Bud I. Wilson, Archaeologist

ORGANIZATION: Office of Historic Preservation, Dept. Env. Prot., N.J. DATE: 8/5/78 12/8/77

STREET AND NUMBER: 109 West State Street 08625

CITY OR TOWN: Trenton STATE: New Jersey CODE: 34

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: *Rudolph Bullman*

Title: Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

Date: September 11, 1970

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

*Wm. Huntz*  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
**KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER**

Date: 1/20/78

ATTEST:

*Charles H. ...*  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 1-18-78

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE New Jersey	
COUNTY Camden	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JAN 20 1978

(Number all entries)

Walt Whitman Historical District

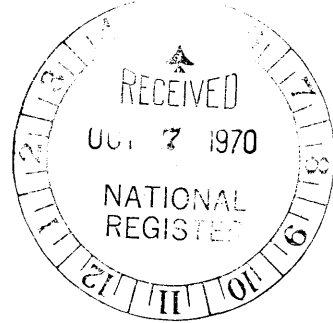
Camden  
 New Jersey 34  
 Camden 007

#6 Historic American Buildings Survey NJ 6-69

1936 Federal

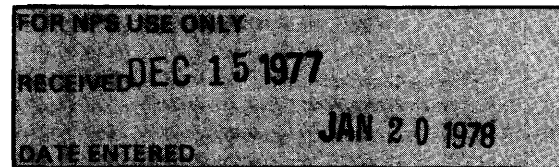
Library of Congress

Washington, D.C. 08



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**CONTINUATION SHEET** Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE

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Contained in the following is a description of the dwellings on Mickle Street, City of Camden, which comprise the Walt Whitman Historic District.

These row houses from east to west are #332, 330, 328 and 326. The Walt Whitman house is the earliest, dating from 1848 and is the only frame building in the row. It originally stood independently as a detached house.

The other three remaining row houses are three story brick. #332 and 328 are similar and were probably built at the same time, c. 1870's. These built on each side of the Walt Whitman house, forming a continuous row. At the time of the construction of the brick row houses, the frame Walt Whitman house was altered to accommodate a walkway to the rear yard. For this the first floor end wall was removed and the second floor was supported by the brick wall of the added row house. These two brick row houses are 17 feet wide with a side hall plan. Each of the three floors has two windows on the front. The low pitched gable roofs have a simple bracketed cornice. The plan for #328 consists of a side hall with a front and rear parlor, and a rear wing. The front parlor has a simple white marble mantel and the room above has a simple wood mantel.

The third brick row house #326 was built shortly after and is tied into the end wall of #328. It is 15 feet wide and has two windows per floor. The third floor is incorporated in a slate mansard roof with two dormers and bracketed cornice.

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CONTINUATION SHEET    Significance    ITEM NUMBER    8    PAGE

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The Walt Whitman Historic District is comprised of those dwellings still extant after the recent urban renewal project, which eliminated most of the district as previously presented.

The remaining dwellings are important to the area for they are the last remnants of the neighborhood in which Walt Whitman lived. In fact, if the buildings adjacent the Walt Whitman House (a National Historic Landmark) were removed, it would leave the dwelling with an unnatural appearance. Also, if removed, the structural soundness of the Whitman House would be itself threatened.

This district is a good representative example of the typical housing of the 1860's and 70's, having incorporated an earlier existing frame house within the row. These were middle income, narrow lot, three story houses and are similar to the many blocks of row houses which once filled the surrounding area.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Geographical Data ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Walt Whitman Historic District is shown as the red line on the accompanying map entitled "Map of the City of Camden, New Jersey, 1976."

The nominated property occupies city lots 18, 17, 15, 14 in block 67 and is approximately one acre in size.

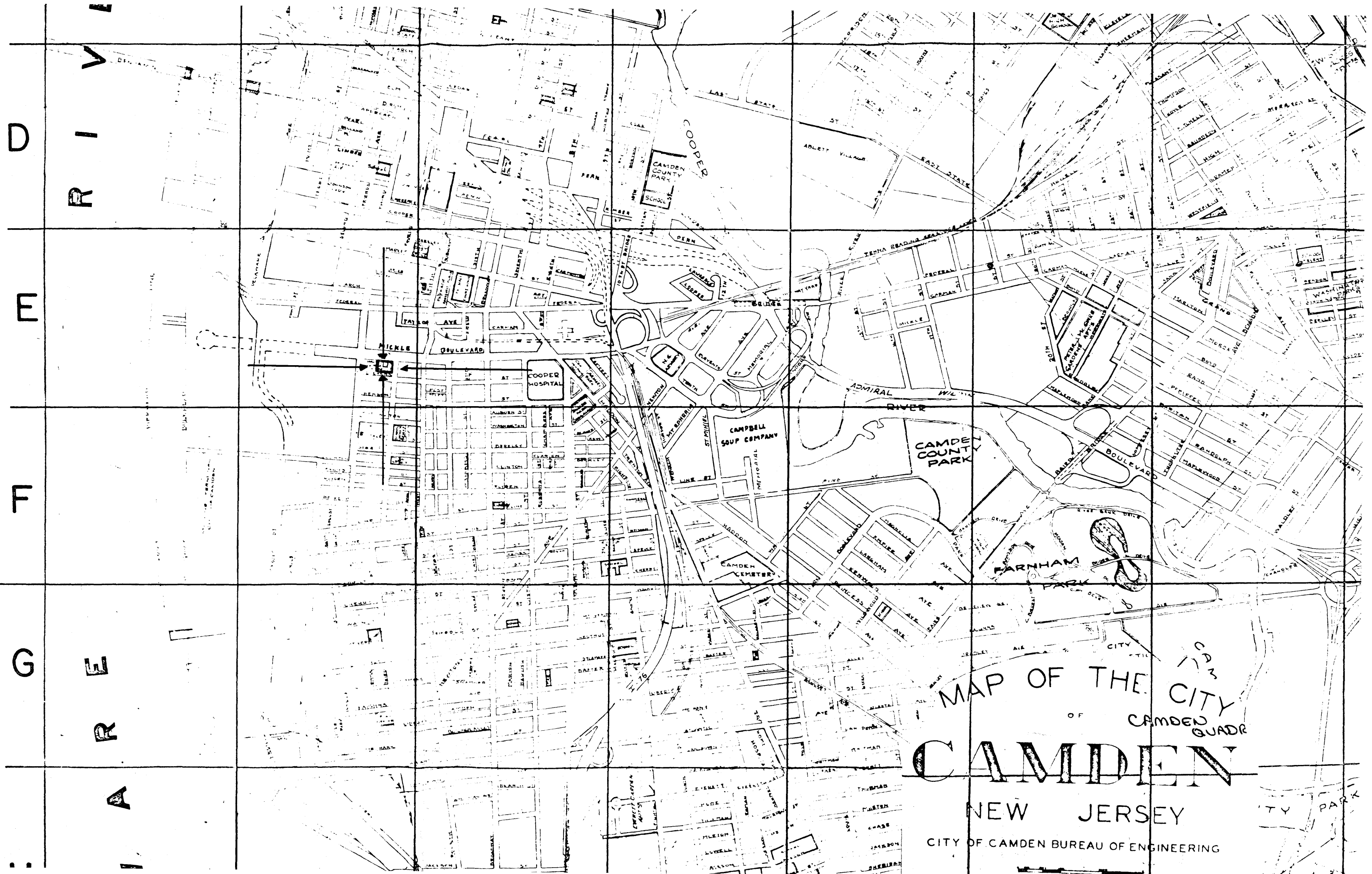
A list of property owners is as follows:

1. 332 (lot #18): T. Ray, 330 Mickle Street, Camden City, Camden County, New Jersey.
2. 330 (lot #17): State of New Jersey, Dept. of Environmental Protection, Box 1390, Trenton, Mercer County, New Jersey.
3. 328 (lot #15): State of New Jersey, Dept. of Environmental Protection, Box 1390, Trenton, Mercer County, New Jersey.
4. 326 (lot #14): name unknown, Box 692, New London, Connecticut.

U.T.M. References:

18 489420 4421140





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T R A V E L

CAMDEN COUNTY PARK SCHOOL

COOPER HOSPITAL

CAMPBELL SOUP COMPANY

CAMDEN COUNTY PARK

FARNHAM PARK

MAP OF THE CITY OF CAMDEN GUADR 1933

NEW JERSEY

CITY OF CAMDEN BUREAU OF ENGINEERING