

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 29 1980

DATE ENTERED AUG 15 1980

**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

G.W. Helme Snuff Mill District

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

Irregular pattern along Main St.

STREET & NUMBER Center of Helmetta Borough, between Helmetta Pond
and Manalapan Brook, Main Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Helmetta

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

4th

STATE

New Jersey

CODE

034

COUNTY

Middlesex

CODE

23

CLASSIFICATION

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

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Multiple (see continuation sheet)

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Middlesex County Administration Building

STREET & NUMBER

John F. Kennedy Square

CITY, TOWN

New Brunswick

STATE

New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Middlesex County Inventory of Historic and Architectural Resources

DATE

1979

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

North Brunswick

STATE

New Jersey

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Helmetta is a small, late nineteenth century company town dominated by the brick snuff factories of the Helme Tobacco Company, still operating today. On the west are the workers' houses - small, narrow two-story frames residences set close together on a grid of streets. On the east, large mansions for the owner and managers sit on landscaped lots. Across the main street, and the railroad tracks which parallel the street, are a number of medium sized dwellings, two churches, a school and a general store. The store, like most of the town, is still owned by the company. One hundred and seventeen buildings are included in the district.

The factory buildings, which loom large along the main street, are brick structures ranging in height from one to six stories (Type V). These utilitarian buildings have segmentally arched openings, and feature simple corbelled cornices or recessed wall panels. One building has white brick letters reading "G. W. Helme 1883." Constructed for the most part in the 1880's and 1890's, these structures house the entire snuff making operation, including spaces originally used for curing, grinding, cutting, storage, packing, labelling, printing, drying and package-making. Enormous frame warehouses once filled the now vacant lots north-west of the factories.

The workers houses, largely built in the 1890's, punctuate John Street and Railroad Avenue with an unrelenting regularity (Type I). Two-story frame structures not more than sixteen feet wide, with gabled roofs and small brick chimneys, they are stark abstract forms arranged in orderly rows. Facades include two windows and a door on the ground floor, two windows on the second floor, and a small window in the gable. Porches with simple posts - sometimes turned - cross the fronts. Variation derives from minor differences at the time of construction - some have side chimneys, some central; some 6/6 sash, some 2/2 and from recent changes such as the enclosure of many porches, or the addition of aluminum siding or shutters. Occasionally, simple ornament appears, such as sawtooth trim or open brackets on the porches, or a pierced triangular panel at the apex of the gable. Among the fifty-four houses there are three buildings different from the norm: a double house at 12-14 John Street and two slightly earlier 4-bay houses at 43 and 49 Railroad Avenue. A large cross-gabled building at 1 Railroad Avenue was formerly the company-operated Avon Inn, a boarding house and hotel (No. 1). A group of early twentieth century workers' cottages is found on Club and Ericson Avenues (Type II).

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

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

SPECIFIC DATES

1883

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Helmetta is a well preserved late nineteenth-century company town which houses one of the three major snuff manufacturers in the United States. The town is the only surviving element of an industry which once flourished in this part of New Jersey, and the Helme Tobacco Company is one of the few nineteenth-century companies still operating in Middlesex County. While the county once housed a variety of corporations and included other company towns such as Sayreville, Milltown and parts of South Amboy, only Helmetta preserves its original form, quality and manufacturing.

New Jersey has been a center of snuff production since the nineteenth century. Plants located in Jersey City, Trenton, New Brunswick, Spotswood and Helmetta once manufactured the tobacco product, which is made from tobacco leaves shipped from the south. Since about 1825, when John Browne converted his distillery two miles southwest of Spotswood to the manufacture of snuff, the site of Helmetta has been associated with this product. In 1850, the factory here was an eight-person operation owned by Leonard Appleby, and there were five buildings scattered over the area now comprising the borough of Helmetta. Several of the snuff brands still manufactured here - Railroad Mills Sweet, Plain and Macciboy - retain the name of Appleby's mid-nineteenth century operation, Railroad Mills.

Helmetta developed as a company town in 1880's and 1890's when the firm was owned by George W. Helme, son-in-law of Leonard Appleby, and most of its architecture dates from that time. Several expansive residences, a number of middle-class dwellings, and long rows of workers' houses accommodated the town's population - 700 in 1897. The factories, church, school and general store comprised the community's other buildings, with the factories dominating the center of town. Established as an independent borough in 1888, named for Helme's daughter Etta, Helmetta was aptly described in the 1890's as a "well-laid-out town." Its image of order and hierarchy was a direct expression of its economic structure.

Helme's survival as a company and its present position as one of the three major snuff manufacturers in the nation resulted from complex business mergers at the turn of the century and the subsequent "trust busting" during Theodore Roosevelt's administration. After becoming a minor part of the American Snuff Company in 1900 - a conglomerate that

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Clayton, W. Woodford. History of Union and Middlesex Counties, New Jersey. Philadelphia, Everts and Peck, 1882.

UTM NOT VERIFIED (see continuation sheet)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 168 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME New Brunswick, Jamesburg NJ Quadrangles QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 8	5 4 8 0 8 0	4 4 6 9 5 0 0	B	1 8	5 4 8 7 0 0	4 4 7 0 3 8 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1 8	5 4 9 4 2 0	4 4 6 9 9 6 0	D	1 8	5 4 9 5 2 0	4 4 6 9 3 8 0
E	1 8	5 4 8 3 6 0	4 4 6 8 8 4 0	F			
G				H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Continuation sheet

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Gary Wolf, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Heritage Studies, Inc.

DATE

February, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

R.D. #4, Box 864, Mapleton Road

TELEPHONE

(609) 452-1754

CITY OR TOWN

Princeton

STATE

New Jersey 08540

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

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

FEB 1 1980

TITLE Deputy Commissioner Department of Environmental Protection

DATE

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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *Sally Goldthorn*
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 8/15/80

ATTEST: *Robert P. ...*
CHIEF OF BUREAU

DATE May 29, 1980

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G.W. Helme Snuff Mill District
Middlesex County, New Jersey

CONTINUATION SHEET Ownership ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 1

<u>Block</u>	<u>Lot</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Owner</u>
14	1	46 John St.	Helme Products Inc., 4 Maple St., 08828
14	2	44 John St.	Mondoker, Emil and Margaret
14	3	42 John St.	Helme
14	4	40 John St.	Helme
14	5	38 John St.	Kloski, Andre and Geneva
14	6	36 John St.	Helme
14	7	34 John St.	Helme
14	8	32 John St.	Poplowski, Mark and Ellen
14	9	30 John St.	Helme
14	10	28 John St.	Helme
14	11	26 John St.	Helme
14	12	23 Railroad Ave.	Speranza, George and Anna
14	13	25 Railroad Ave.	Richards, Weston
14	14	27 Railroad Ave.	Helme (no building)
14	15	29 Railroad Ave.	Ketschek, Raymond
14	16	31 Railroad Ave.	Helme
14	17	33 Railroad Ave.	Skok, S & L & V Plorkowski Life Estate Fresh Ponds Road Jamesburg, N.J. 08831
14	18	35 Railroad Ave.	Helme

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<u>Block</u>	<u>Lot</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Owner</u>
14	19	37 Railroad Ave.	Rose, O.B. and Wanda
14	20	39 Railroad Ave.	Bielat, John and Helen
15	1	39 John St.	Kraska, Stanislaw and Gerlinde, 82 Main Street
15	2	37 John St.	Helme (no building)
15	3	35 John St.	Helme
15	4	33 John St.	Helme
15	5	31 John St.	Helme
15	6	29 John St.	Helme
15	7	19-25 John St.	Helme (no building)
15	8	17 John St.	Helme
15	9-1	9 John St.	Helme
15	9-2	13 John St.	McPherson, Bradley and Denise
15	10-1	15 John St.	Helme
15	10-2	11 John St.	Helme
16	1	24 John St.	Helme
16	2	22 John St.	Pawlowski, Edward and Pawlowski, Rosella
16	3	20 John Street	Vincent, Frances
16	4	18 John Street	Bennett, Doris A.

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<u>Block</u>	<u>Lot</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Owner</u>
16	5	16 John Street	Helme
16	6	14 John Street	Helme
16	8	10 John Street	Helme
16	9	8 John Street	Helme
16	10	6 John St.	Helme
16	11	4 John St.	Csurbak, Stephen and Frances
16	12	2 John St.	Helme
16	13	1 Railroad Ave.	Helme
16	14	3 Railroad Ave.	Helme
16	15	5 Railroad Ave.	Helme
16	16	7 Railroad Ave.	Macewicz, Walter and Theresa
16	17	9 Railroad Ave.	Myers, Jack and Lucille
16	18	11 Railroad Ave.	Helme
16	19	13 Railroad Ave.	Helme
16	20	15 Railroad Ave.	Akers, Vincent
16	21	17 Railroad Ave.	Richards, Robert
16	22	19 Railroad Ave.	Helme
16	23	21 Railroad Ave.	Helme
10	6	49 Railroad Avenue	Maslanka, Walter and Mary

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<u>Block</u>	<u>Lot</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Owner</u>
10	7	45 Railroad Ave.	Valik, Andrew and Stella
10	8	43 Railroad Ave.	Helme
10	10	41 Railroad Ave.	Helme
13	29	100 Main St.	Holy Trinity Church
13	30	98 Main St.	Yamello, William
13	31	96 Main St.	Pali, Mary
13	32-1	92 Main St.	Flannery, R. and wife and W. Flannery
13	32-2	90 Main St.	Helme
13	32-3	88 Main St.	Helme
13	33	84 Main St.	Slezak, Joseph and Josephine
13	34	82 Main St.	Kraska, Stanislaw and Gerlinde
13	35-1	78 Main St.	Kaminski, Joseph and Nellie
13	35-2	76 Main Street	Helme
13	35-3	74 Main Street	Tancredi, Andrew and Rosalie
13	36	64 Main Street	Kulcsar, William and Lillian
13	37	Firestation	Borough of Helmetta
13	38	Pumphouse	Helme
13	39-A1	Legion House	Helme

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<u>Block</u>	<u>Lot</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Owner</u>
13	39-A2	Boiler House	Helme
13	39-A3	Borough Hall	Helme
13	39-A4	Oil Tanks	Helme
13	40	St. George's Church	St. George's Church
13	41	52 Main St.	Rosko, Diane
13	42	School	Borough of Helmetta
13	43	50 Main St.	Pawlowski, Chester and Eleanor
13	44	48 Main St.	Bielat, John A. and Patricia E.
13	45	46 Main St.	Pristavec, William and Judith
20	1	15 Maple Street	Szymanski, Alfred and Rosemary
20	2-A	Ericson Ave.	Helme
20	6	16 Ericson Ave.	Perdoni, John and Eileen
20	7	High St. (2 bldgs)	Helme
20	11	11 High St. (2 bldgs)	Holly Mannor - Leach, John
20	12	High St. (no bldg)	Clemons, Bertha, High St.
20	14	High St.	Clemons, Bertha, High St.
20	29-A	High St. (no bldg)	Helme
20	28	4 High St.	Deuel, Harry and Anne
20	26	3 High St.	Patrick, Clark

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<u>Block</u>	<u>Lot</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Owner</u>
20	25	1 High St.	Franklin, Jennie
19	1-1-1- 11	Factories	Helme
17	H-1-12	Factories	Helme
17	2	Raceway	Helme
34	1, 3, 5	Railroad	Penn Central Railroad, Camden and Amboy Division

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7. DESCRIPTION (Continued)

To the east of the factories, along the lane known as High Street, large residences constructed for the owners and managers sit far back on landscaped lots (Type IV). Two-and-a-half-story structures with complex massing of roofs and towers, the four remaining buildings feature Queen Anne and Shingle Style design, two of the four being of high quality architecturally. Outbuildings include carriage houses and a windmill. A row of cedar trees runs along the end of High Street, and mature trees, both coniferous and deciduous, are planted around the lots. A stone walk leads from the end of the land by the factories to the first house.

On the other side of the railroad tracks, medium-sized middle-class residences and institutional buildings occupy the south side of Main Street (Type II, separate listings). Queen Anne and Colonial Revival elements are typically found among the houses here. One long narrow block (No. 12), however, illustrates some of the earliest workers' housing extant in Helmetta. The plain two story building gains a full basement due to the drop in ground level, and small sheds extend from each of the four units. The school (No. 14) is a three-story brick structure from 1903, a simple building with a large hipped roof and round-arched entry.

The St. Georges Episcopal Church complex (No. 13), on Main Street across from the mansions includes church, parsonage, and lych gate, and was designed by architect William Horatio Day in 1893. A 1960's stone parish house is behind the church. The church, a somewhat awkward, idiosyncratic variation of Queen Anne gothic, features stone gable-end walls, shingled side walls, broadly pointed arched windows set in rectangular wooden panels, and a side tower. Both the parsonage and church are substantial buildings of some quality, despite their eccentricity.

The general store (No. 8), across from the factory buildings, is a good two-story brick Italianate building which predates most of the town. Three bays wide by six bays deep, it features segmental and round-arched windows, brick belt course, bracketed cornice with panelled frieze, and a porch with chamfered columns and jig-saw trim.

Other buildings in the district generally date from the end of the nineteenth century or the early twentieth century, and were built by the company as well. There are relatively few mid-twentieth century buildings in the district - 8 out of the 117 total - the most obvious ones being the one-story post office (No. 16) and fire station (No. 17). The

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7. DESCRIPTION (Continued)

mill-pond, Helmetta Pond, north of the town, is included in the district. Although steam had replaced water as the factory's power source by the 1880's, the period reflected in the town's present physical appearance, the pond has significance as visual evidence of the mill's early location near a source of waterpower. In addition, the pond and its banks are a potential archeological site.

In general, Helmetta retains to a remarkable degree the form and character of a company town from the end of the nineteenth century.

Individual Building-Type Descriptions

- Type I Workers Houses (2-46 John Street, 1-49 Railroad Avenue: 54 buildings): Narrow 2-story frame buildings with gable roofs, porches (often enclosed), occasional trim, clapboarding, 1880's and 1890's.
Exceptions:
12-14 John Street A double house
43, 49 Railroad Avenue 4-bay houses, with gable roofs parallel to road
- Type II Workers' Cottages (1-5 Club Avenue, 10-21 Ericson Avenue: 10 buildings): 1 1/2 story frame buildings, gambrel roofs, shingling, 2-bay porches, 1910's Colonial Revival elements.
- Type III Middle Class Houses (46-100 Main Street, 7-9 Maple Street: 19 buildings): 2-2 1/2 story, frame buildings, gabled or hipped roofs, porches and bay windows common, Queen Anne and Colonial Revival elements in places, late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Main Street

- 46. Vernacular Palladian motif in gable, fluted columns
- 48. Polygonal tower, sunburst in pediment's tympanum
- 50. Shingled, small panes in windows
- 52. Imbricated shingling in gable, polygonal corner tower
- 54. Palladian windows in pediment
- 64. Altered: asbestos shingles
- 74. Turned columns on porch
- 76. Turned columns on porch

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7. DESCRIPTION (Continued)

(Letters assigned for identification)

- A,F,G,H: 1-story brick warehouses, gable roofs, simple
- B,C: Main factory buildings, brick 4-6 stories, connecting bridges and wings, corbelled trim, 1880's and 1890's
- D: 1-story office building 1900's
- E,L: 1-story board and batten warehouses
- I: mid-twentieth century warehouse
- J: 2-story, board and batten pointed arched windows with gable
- K: 1-story, 1920's machine shop

Separate Listings (10 buildings)

- 6. 1 Railroad Avenue Former Avon Inn: 2 1/2 stories, pointed arched window in gable, slate roof, turned columns
- 7. 100 Main Street Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church frame, shingled, gabled roof, 1910
- 8. 66 Main Street General Store Brick, 2 stories, bracketed cornice and paneled frieze, Italianate
- 9. Main Street, by Mill race: Pump house Brick 1 story, segmented arched openings c. 1900
- 10. Main Street, across from company office: Coal trestle 2 stone walls with stone arches, 8 bays long, buttresses between bays, about 8' high, set 8' below level of road
- 11. Main Street, across from Maple Street 2 story frame building with basement behind; now Borough Hall, formerly carpenter's shop
- 12. Main Street, next to Borough Hall 2 story with basement, gabled roof, four entrances, four shed additions in rear; originally workers' tenement

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- 13. 56 Main Street St. Georges Episcopal Church Complex Church, parsonage, lych gate and 1960's parish house, landscaped lot. Church and parsonage 1894 Queen Anne Gothic, shingles and stone. William Horatio Day, architect
- 14. Between 50 and 52 Main Street School 3 story brick, hipped roof, 1903 (datestone)
- 15. Ericson Avenue Carriage House, later movie house. 1 1/2 stories cross-gabled roof, louvered cupola, gambrel-shaped front gable

Recent Buildings (8 buildings)

- 16. 68 main Street Post Office 1-story 1950's tan brick
- 17. Main Street, cross from Building B Fire Station 1-story modern, brick
- 18. Main Street, across from Maple Street Power House c. 20' high concrete or stuccoed, drastic alteration or replacement of 19th century boiler plant.
- 19. 1 High Street 1 1/2-story, gambrel roof, c. 1920's
- 20. 3 High Street 1-story brick, 1950's
- 21. 4 High Street 1-story frame, gabled roof, 1960's
- 22. 14 Ericson Avenue 1950's 1-story residence
- 23. 16 Ericson Avenue 1950's 1-story residence

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- 78. Jigsaw brackets
- 82. Altered
- 84. "Chalet" elements, c. 1920's
- 88. L-shaped, turned columns
- 90. L-shaped, turned columns
- 92. L-shaped, turned columns
- 96. 1-story, later building
- 98. Altered
- 100. Altered with brick veneer

Maple Street

- 7. Pierced brackets on porch with quatrefoil motif
- 8. Pierced brackets on porch with quatrefoil motif

Type IV Owner's and Manager's Houses (along High Street, from behind #4 High Street to the factories: 4 buildings): large frame buildings on landscaped estate; 2 1/2 stories, porches and bay windows common, outbuildings, Queen Anne and Shingle Style.

- A. (number not known) Cross-gabled, exterior brick chimney, 2-story board and batten carriage house
- B. (number not known) Square corner tower, enclosed porch altered
- C. 11 High Street Polygonal corner tower, porte cochere, bay windows, 2 outbuildings; former house of G.W. Helme; fine building
- D. (number not known) Large gambrel-roofed gable, central chimney, imbricated shingling, carriage house, minor alterations; fine buildings

Type V Factory buildings, Helme Tobacco Company (North of Main Street, between Brookside Place and Maple Street: 12 buildings): brick factories and warehouses, 1-6 stories high, simple corbelled trim, connecting bridges, board-and-batten subsidiary buildings

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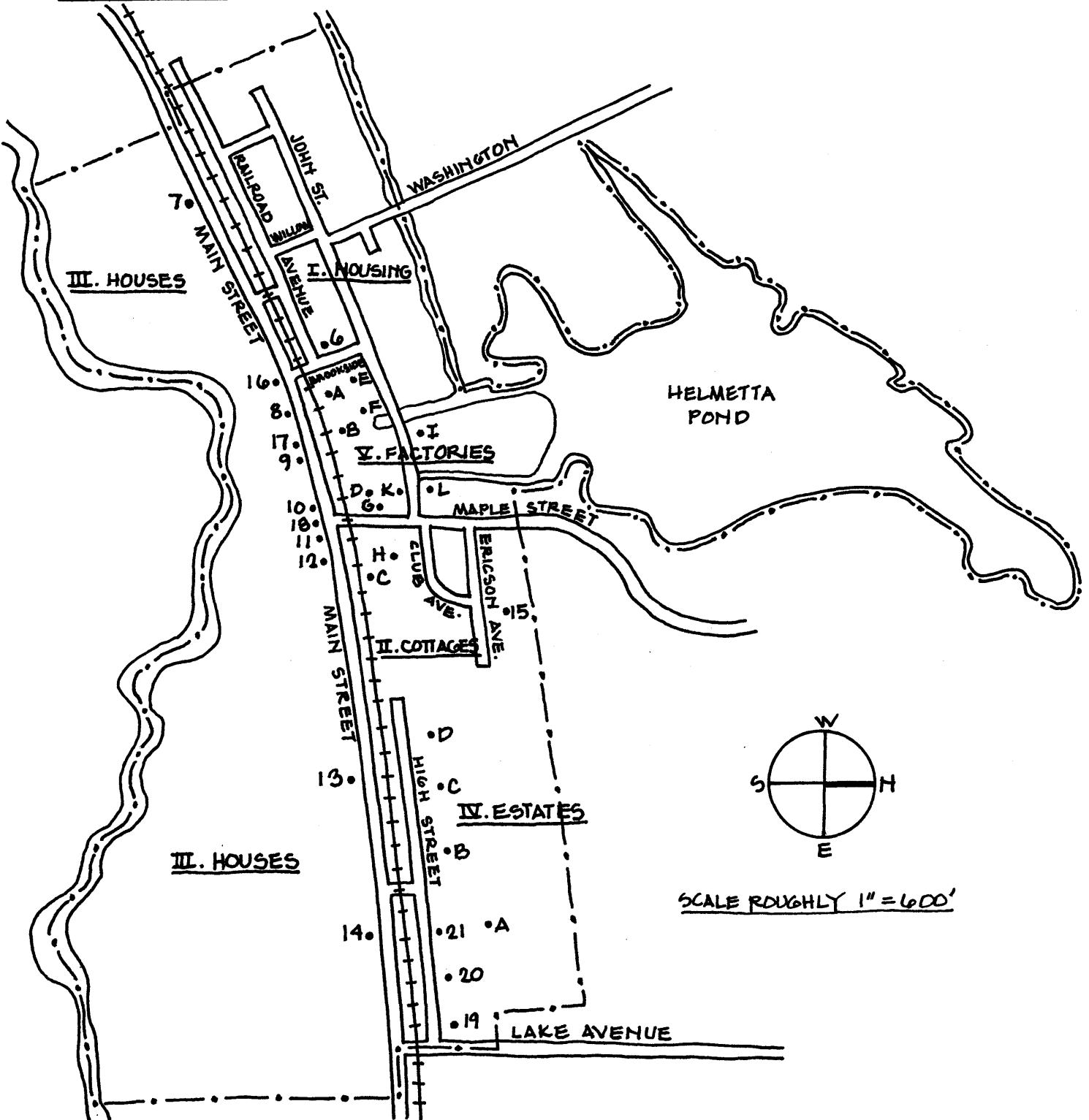
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8. SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

controlled ninety-six percent of the industry by 1906 - Helme was one of three companies to divide the spoils in 1911, when the Supreme Court ordered the dissolution of the monopoly. Helme gained further control of the Lorillard Snuff Company, the oldest snuff manufacturer in the country, established in 1760 by Pierre Lorillard. Although the Lorillard plant in Jersey City was closed and production moved to Helmetta, Helme continues to manufacture Lorillard High Toast snuff.

Helmetta's population was composed largely of immigrants who were brought to Helmetta directly upon their arrival in New York. A 1915 industrial directory listed the non-English-speaking population at that time as 200 Poles, 50 Hungarians, 50 Russian Jews, and 25 Italians, from a population of 663. Today most of the town's residents are descendants of the original workers, but the mechanization of the manufacturing process has reduced the work force to a fraction of the former force - about 60, whereas in 1910 there were 500 employees. Residents, therefore, work elsewhere in the region, the company is gradually selling the houses, and few young people have remained in Helmetta.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Continued)
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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA (Continued)

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The G. W. Helme Snuff Mill District extends on both sides of Main Street through Helmetta. On the south, the boundary runs along the north bank of the Manalapan Brook, beginning below the western property line of Holy Trinity Church and ending between numbers 46 and 48 Main Street on the east. From here the boundary runs north to cross Main Street and the railroad, jogging slightly westward to continue up Lake Avenue to the rear property line of number 1 High Street. From here, the district line runs westward along this property line, at the end of which it turns north once more until it reaches a point 850' north of Main Street. The north boundary of the district then continues along a line running parallel with Main Street 850' north of the street, all the way to a tongue of Helmetta pond. From here it follows the banks of the pond to the Mill Race. After intersecting with the Mill Race, the boundary jogs south along this channel to meet the brook that enters the Race from the west about 500' above Main Street. The district line then turns west once more, following the south bank of the brook, until it reaches an extension of the western property line of 49 Railroad Avenue. Dropping south at this point, this western boundary continues across Railroad Avenue, turns eastward for a short distance along the railroad tracks, and intersects a line extended northward from the western property line of Holy Trinity Church.