

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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received **NOV 7 1985**

date entered **DEC 10 1985**

**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

and/or common **VAN WYCK BROOKS HISTORIC DISTRICT**

2. Location

street & number **See attached map**

NA not for publication

city, town **Plainfield 07060** _____ vicinity of

state **New Jersey** code **034** county **Union** code **039**

3. 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 type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<u>NA</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name **Multiple**

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. **Register of Deeds, Union County Courthouse**

street & number **Elizabethtown Plaza**

city, town **Elizabeth** state **N.J. 07207**

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title **City of Plainfield Historic Sites Inventory** has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date **1984** _____ federal _____ state _____ county local

depository for survey records **Office of New Jersey Heritage, CN 402**

city, town **Trenton** state **New Jersey 08625**

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

The area known as Van Wyck Brooks District is located in the approximate center of the city of Plainfield, New Jersey, which lies thirty miles southwest of New York City and has a population of 45,329. The entire district is residential in character and includes a portion of Park Avenue, West Ninth Street, Stelle Avenue, Central Avenue, Field Avenue, Madison Avenue, Arlington Avenue, and Randolph Road. (SEE DISTRICT MAP). The district is bordered on all sides by residential areas. (SEE BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION).

There are 152 properties in the district. Two of these are open land, including Library Park (#37) and a vacant lot. There are two church properties; one is the First Unitarian Society (#1) and the other is an adaptive re-use of a former residence (#14). In addition, the district includes one house used as a school (#10), two houses converted to funeral homes (#4 and #35), and one dwelling used by the State of New Jersey for foster children. The Plainfield Public Library (#37) is the only public building. All of the other buildings are residential. Of these, six are apartment buildings; one of the apartment buildings was formerly a private school (#38). A number of the large single-family homes have been subdivided into apartments.

Architecturally, the Van Wyck Brooks District represents a cross-section of the residential building history of Plainfield. The oldest structure in the district, the Stelle Farmhouse (#111), is a survivor of Plainfield's earliest days as a rural farming village. The farmhouse property originally covered much of the present-day district. The majority (66%) of the buildings date from the 1875 to 1925 period and are representative of Plainfield's heyday as a wealthy commuter railroad suburb. Substantial 2½ and 3 story single-family residences designed in the Italianate, Second Empire, Queen Anne, Shingle Style, and Colonial Revival styles predominate. Buildings constructed after the district's period of significance include ranch houses, bi-level residences, and apartment buildings. A break down of the age and levels of significance of buildings within the district is provided below, followed by a building-by-building inventory.

The general condition of the buildings within the district is good to excellent. Some of the houses have undergone alterations over the years but in all cases but one (#14), the essential character of the buildings has not been adversely affected.

The lot sizes within the district vary in size, ranging from approximately 50 to 200 feet in width and 100 to 300 feet in depth. The largest lots are generally located along West Eighth Street, which is the principal avenue through the district. Setbacks, which average approximately 35 to 60 feet, also vary from street to street but are typically uniform along a given individual street. Landscaping is a significant visual component of the district with large yard trees and mature shrubbery gracing well-manicured lawns.

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AGE DISTRIBUTION OF BUILDINGS IN THE VAN WYCK BROOKS DISTRICT

<u>Age</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Before 1850	1	.66
1850 - 1875	6	3.94
1875 - 1900	61	40.13
1900 - 1925	39	25.56
1925 - 1950	16	10.53
After 1950	27	17.76
Vacant Lots	2	1.32
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Total -	152	

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LEVELS OF SIGNIFICANCE OF BUILDINGS IN DISTRICT

<u>Category</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage of Total</u>
Key buildings	5	3.3
Contributing buildings	107	70.4
Harmonizing buildings	18	11.84
Non-contributing buildings	22	14.5

Key, contributing and harmonizing buildings comprise 85.5 percent of the total number of buildings in the Van Wyck Brooks District.

The Key structures in the District are:

900 Park Avenue (#4) - The Orville T. Waring House, now the Runyon Funeral Home. Already listed for its individual merit on the National Register of Historic Places, this brick house also is an important focal point to one of the main entry areas of the District.

308 West Eighth Street (#13) - The Craig A. Marsh House, one of the most elaborate and fanciful Queen Anne buildings left in town.

452 West Eighth Street (#18) - The W.B. Wadsworth House, a Romanesque mansion still complete with its original piece of property and out-buildings. Occupying as it does an entire block, this house is one of visual prominence on West Eighth Street.

563 West Eighth Street (#22) - The childhood home of Van Wyck Brooks and the site from which the District derives its name. The house is on one of the largest parcels of land in the district. Its size, fabulous well known interiors, its prominence as a corner property, and its association with a known literary figure make this one of the pivotal buildings in the area.

981 Central Avenue (#111) - The Manning Stelle farmhouse, the oldest dwelling in the district; the present-day VWB District evolved from the farm's original property.

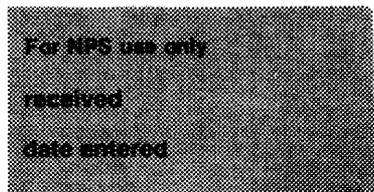
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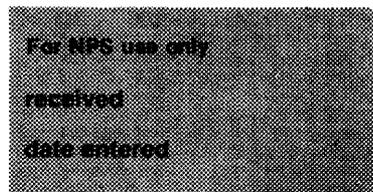
BUILDING-BY-BUILDING INVENTORY

Below is an inventory of all structures located within the Van Wyck Brooks District. Sites (including vacant parcels) are numbered consecutively 1 through 152, followed by street address, block and lot, and brief description/history. Those sites marked with an asterisk are photographed. Buildings within the district are categorized as follows:

- K = KEY = Possess individual architectural or historical significance or serve as landmarks within the district.
- C = CONTRIBUTING Date from period of the district's significance, have some architectural or historical importance, and visually contribute to the cohesiveness of the district.
- H = HARMONIZING Period buildings with major alterations or newer buildings which are compatible with the historic character of the district.
- NC = NON-CONTRIBUTING Detract from the significance of the district.

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Park Avenue North to South

<u>Category</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Block</u>	<u>Lot</u>
1.* C	<u>724 Park Avenue</u>	361	4

The First Unitarian Church, 1891. The one story Gothic Revival building has an L-shaped plan with coursed ashlar exterior. The steeply-pitched gable roof originally had slate tiles, now replaced with asphalt shingles; ornamental wood cornice with dentils. The main facade features a 15' by 20' tracery stained glass pointed arch window which is flanked by tent-roofed octagonal turrets; the front ell is also turreted. Wood-framed shingled rear ell addition was constructed in 1924.

Originally called All Souls Church. The first service was held in the Seventh Day Baptist Church in May of 1889, the sermon being preached by Robert Collyer of New York. The Society organized about that time and held services at 17 East Front Street and at a house belonging to Job Male on 2nd Place. In January of 1890 a committee formed to receive subscriptions for a church edifice. The land was given by Job Male, Plainfield's first Mayor. Ground was broken for the structure on October 2, 1891 and the cornerstone was laid on November 8 of that year. The building was designed by Mr. Oscar S. Teale, a New York architect who resided in 1894 at 67 Mercer Avenue, North Plainfield. Mr. Teale designed many buildings in the immediate area.

2.	H	<u>730 Park Avenue</u>	361	5
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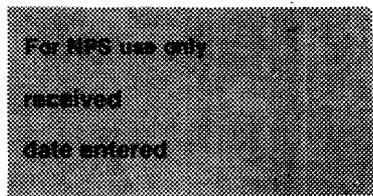
Built 1920's. A five storied brown brick apartment building with a terra cotta belt between the first and second floors. Elaborate decorative terra cotta frieze. Wrought iron lamps flank the entry.

3.	H	<u>734 Park Avenue</u>	361	6
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Built 1920's. A duplicate of 730 Park Avenue. This apartment building and its twin occupy the site of what once was the Albion Hotel, later called the Park Avenue Hotel. A publication of this time states that "The aim of the management is to make the Park Avenue Hotel a select home for refined people, and to that end care is taken to receive only those who are in every way desirable."

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4.* K 900 Park Avenue 364 1

The Orville Taylor Waring Home, 1881. Known today as the Runyon Funeral Home. This site is already on both the State and National Register of Historic Places.

West Eighth Street

<u>Category</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Block</u>	<u>Lot</u>
5.* C	<u>116 West Eighth Street</u>	361	7

Built in April, 1911 for owner-developer Charles H. Hand, a Plainfield real estate businessman. A 2½ story Shingle Style house with a gambrel roof covered with asphalt shingling. Three bays wide; clapboard siding on first floor with painted columns. Palladian window on West Eighth Street frontage, 3rd floor. Entry has a paneled door with 15 small beveled windows, a stained glass fanlight, and sidelights. The house was converted into a two family residence in 1971.

6.* C 120 West Eighth Street 361 8

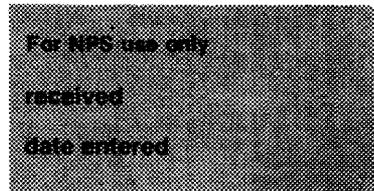
A 2½ story American Foursquare built in May, 1911 for owner-developer Charles H. Hand and designed by architects Oakley and Son of Elizabeth, New Jersey. In 1921 a cement garage was added. This clapboard-sided home is 3 bays wide and has a hip roof with projecting dormers on 3 sides. A one story front porch with stucco and wood columns and a straight spindled railing. Entry with stained glass sidelights. Small, centered open 2nd floor balcony.

7.* C 124 West Eighth Street 361 9

Built in May, 1911 for owner-developer Charles H. Hand by builder George Gildersleeve. A 2½ story American Foursquare with strong Mission overtones, very similar to #120 West Eighth Street. The house is stuccoed and has a red tile roof. Three bays wide and an entry with stained glass sidelights.

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8.* C 128 West Eighth Street 361 10

Built in August, 1902 for owner G. Harry Squires (listed in the city directory as being in sporting goods at 20 Cortlandt, New York) by builder John Abbott (a Plainfield builder and contractor) for a cost of \$7,000. A 2½ story Shingle Style house built on a complex plan with a gambrel roof. Chimneys and foundation of fieldstone. A one story porch with paired Ionic columns. Front door is flanked by sidelights of delicate wood tracery. The original siding (clapboard on the first floor and natural cedar shakes above) is now covered with a composition siding.

Arlington Avenue intersects

<u>Category</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Block</u>	<u>Lot</u>
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9.* C	<u>202 West Eighth Street</u>	359	9
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Built 1880's. A 2½ story Queen Anne house built on a rectangular plan with conical-roof round turret. Painted brick on the first story with painted wood shingles above. Slate-tiled gambrel roof. The house is 3 bays wide and has Queen Anne bordered sash windows on the second floor. In 1894 this was the home of Reverend K.P. Ketcham. The building was converted to a school in 1975, and is now a 3-family residence.

10.*C	<u>210 West Eighth Street</u>	359	10
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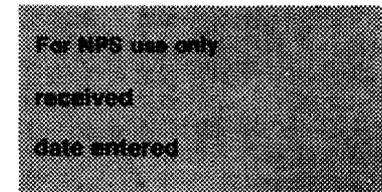
Built 1880's. Queen Anne residence with a 2½ story complex plan and a gable roof with slates. Clapboard siding. Stylized sunburst on third floor. Staggered wood shingles on the third floor gable ends. One story front porch with Doric columns on pedestals. An old photo reveals elaborate cut scrollwork between the 1st and 2nd floors which still exist but has been covered with clapboard siding. I.R. Opdyke is shown as owner on the 1894 atlas. In 1911 owner William M. Clark had builder Charles MacDonald of 720 Richmond Street, Plainfield, add a frame addition. The house is now used as a combination music school and residence.

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11.*C

216 West Eighth Street

359

11

Built in 1893 and featured that year in the Scientific American Building Supplement, this home was constructed for Mr. John V. Beekman for a cost of \$9,175.00 and was designed by the New York architectural firm of Rossiter and Wright. In March of 1902, Beekman hired builder W.H. Pangborn to put on a brick addition for \$3,000.00 Mr. Beekman was a mechanical engineer. He was a member of the firm and superintendent of the Linger-wood Manufacturing Co. of Brooklyn, makers of hoisting machinery. Mr. Beekman died September 12, 1916.

The 3 story Queen Anne house is built on a complex plan with a brick first floor and stained shingles on the upper stories. Gable roof with slates. Doric porch columns on a brick base. Fanciful Palladian window effect in cut shingles on the west facade. A 3 story circular tower with a conical roof accents the southwest corner. Arched stained glass window on the west frontage. Oval lights with wood tracery on the 3rd floor west side. A 1½ story, 3 car carriage barn stands on the Madison Avenue frontage; it still has the natural wood shingles, original hayloft doors and the ventilator on the roof.

According to the article in Scientific American, the dimensions of the house are: Front: 42' 3", Side: 51' 10" exclusive of the piazza and rear porch. Inside ceiling heights are: Cellar: 7', 1st floor: 9' 9", 2nd floor: 9' 3", 3rd floor: 8' 3". Inside the house the vestibule and hall are trimmed with antique oak and with paneled wainscoting. The stairway has a cherry rail and balusters and oak steps. The newel post is formed of a cluster of spindle balusters. The parlour on the right is trimmed with sycamore and the one on the left is poplar. The library is trimmed with cherry and the dining room is done in oak. The 2nd floor is trimmed in white wood contains 5 bedrooms and 1 bath. Two bedrooms have a cherry finish, others are natural. The third floor contains a large guest chamber, 2 servant bedrooms, a conservatory and storage. The article describes the exterior plan of the house saying it "shows a low broad piazza, balcony, tower, and many bay windows."

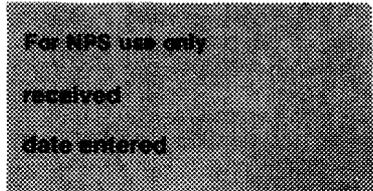
In 1945 this home was converted to a 5 family residence.

Madison Avenue intersects

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12. C	<u>302 West Eighth Street</u>	357	5

Built c. 1900. A 2½ story Shingle Style house with clapboards on the 1st floor frontages and a doubled row of stained shingles above. Gambrel roof and a cut stone foundation. A Palladian window with stained glass panels on the west frontage. A second Palladian window on the third floor.

13.*K	<u>308 West Eighth Street</u>	357	6
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Built in 1893 for the Honorable Craig A. Marsh, a prominent lawyer, by the New York City architect Mr. Charles H. Smith. An elaborate Queen Anne residence constructed on a complex plan with a turret, a tower, and a high pitched slated gable roof. Brick and wood shingle exterior with a variety of cut shingle and a terra cotta dragonback ridge. The central turret encasing the stairway has stained glass lights. One story front porch with stylized Ionic columns. Cut stone lintels and foundations. All the stonework is of serpentine stone from Chester County, Pennsylvania with faces left as they came from the quarry. The chimney on the west frontage has a semi-circular window of stained glass which on the interior is over a mantelpiece.

This home was featured in the April, 1893 issue of Scientific American Building Supplement and it states that "this house is situated on one of the handsomest thoroughfares in the City." The dimensions of the house are as follows: Frontage: 62' 10", Depth: 43' 8" exclusive of the piazza. The first and part of the second floor are built of red brick with stone trimmings. The remainder of the 2nd story and all the third are done in cedar shingles. Inside, the hall and stairway are trimmed with quartered oak and the vestibule has a mosaic floor. The drawing room is done in the Renaissance style and is treated with ivory, white, and gold in a delicate manner. The library is trimmed with mahogany and the dining room with oak. The second floor contains 3 bedrooms, den, a billard room and a bath. The third floor contains three bedrooms.

A biography of Craig Adams Marsh written after his death refers to his home and states: "This home was externally most attractive and within roomy and up-to-date in its appointments." It is today, an enduring monument to his tastes, as well as to his success in his profession."

In 1941 this home was converted into a 2 family residence. In 1956 the home was legally converted into a 4 family.

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Central Avenue intersects

14. H 400 West Eighth Street 356 7

Built c. 1870. 3 story Italian Villa residence with a 1 story brick addition to the rear of the main house. The exterior has been radically altered with the porches being removed and the original siding and trim covered with aluminum. Mrs. D.C. Green was owner on 1878 map, and Sarah A.B. Green was owner on 1894 atlas. For many years the property belonged to S.S. Carvalho, the comptroller for William Randolph Hearst. Mr. Carvalho was a great patron of the arts. In 1912 a brick museum wing costing \$1,000.00 was added to this home by builder George Nolte, a North Plainfield carpenter. In 1955 a frame addition was put on the house in converting it to a church.

15. C 414 West Eighth Street 356 8

Built 1880's. 3 story painted brick Victorian vernacular house with complex plan. Segmental-arch windows. Curved Flemish gables on the south and east sides. Sara A.B. Green is shown as owner on 1894 atlas. In 1922 a frame addition was put on this house for owner Helen Ludlum by builder J. Tatum.

16.*C 424 West Eighth Street 356 9

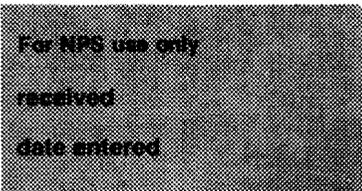
Built c. 1870. 3 story Second Empire residence with a 3 bay facade and a mansard roof. The gable end facing the street counterpoints the curve of the mansard; original slate tiles are now painted. Clapboard siding. Window hoods and eaves brackets still intact. Paired arched windows on the third story. Handsome arched double door entry. Front porch has been removed. J.W. Murray is shown as owner on the 1878 map. In 1894 this is listed as the home of Mr. Eric N. Ericson, an advertising executive in New York.

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17.*C 440 West Eighth Street 356 10

Built c. 1870 for J. Evarts Tracy, a lawyer. 3 story brick Italian Villa residence with a centered four story tower with a hip roof. Wood corbels and elaborate stick and incised line decoration on the gables and eaves. The front porch has been removed, but the porte-cochere is still intact. Elaborately paneled and glazed front door. A 2 story servants' wing to the rear has a patterned slate roof on it. The original carriage house stands to the rear of the property and has been converted to private residential use (see #721 Field Avenue). J.E. Tracy is shown as owner on the 1878 and 1894 maps. During the early 20th Century, the house was part of an estate known as Cranehurst. In 1928 owner J.H. Crane spent \$3,000.00 for a frame alteration done by builder George Nolte. In 1952 the house was converted to a 6 family residence.

Field Avenue intersects

18.*K 452 West Eighth Street 354 3

Built in 1893 for New York broker W.B. Wadsworth Esq. and later the home of Henry C. Irons, Broker. Designed by the Boston architectural firm of Hartwell and Richardson. The home was featured in the May, 1893 issue of Scientific American and is referred to as "a pure example of the Romanesque Style of architecture and the interior is treated in the same style." 2½ story Romanesque residence built on a complex plan with a cross-gabled and turreted hip roof. Constructed of haverhill brick laid up in red mortar with Long Meadow sandstone trim. Woodwork on rear and gables is covered with shingles, originally stained sienna and now painted. There is an out-standing double doored entry with iron grillwork and a first floor solarium with compound red brick arch.

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To the rear of the house is a 2½ story brick and shingle carriage house with the original ventilator which has converted to residential use with no exterior alteration. In 1931 the house was converted to a four family dwelling.

According to the Scientific American, an acanthus leaf design is repeated in the mantels, newel post, and buffet of the interior. It is also part of the decorations of the walls and ceiling. The hall is trimmed with antique oak and there is paneled wainscoting 5' high plus ceiling beams. The hall fireplace is of Tiffany brick with a lintel of rock-faced long meadow sandstone. The drawing room is trimmed with white mahogany and the fireplace has facings and a hearth of Breccia marble. Also paneled wainscoting and ceiling beams. The dining room is trimmed with old English oak and has paneled wainscoting 8' high plus ceiling beams. The butler's pantry and kitchen and rear hall are trimmed with ash and are finished "with the usual fixtures in the best possible manner." The 2nd floor of the dwelling contains five bedrooms, closet and bath. The 3rd floor contains five bedrooms and a trunk room.

Liberty Street intersects

19.*C 506 West Eighth Street 352 4

Built c. 1895-1900 for Ernest R. Ackerman. 2½ story eclectic Victorian mansion with Tudor influences. Complex plan, faced with brick on the first story and shingles above. Bellcast hip roof with curved gables on dormers. A one story wrap-around porch displays elaborate ironwork; recessed second story porch with stylized columns. Stained glass in transoms of first floor windows. To the rear of the property stands the original carriage house with horizontal and diagonal-cut shingles.

In 1903 Ackerman spent \$800.00 on a frame extension to this home. Ackerman, a cement manufacturer, was a prominent figure in Plainfield. He was born in New York on June 17, 1863 and moved to Plainfield at 5 years of age. He was in the high school class of 1880. In 1890 he was elected to the Plainfield Common Council and became Chairman of the Finance Committee. In 1892 he became Chairman of the Republican City Executive Committee. In May of 1911 Senator Ernest Ackerman was Acting Governor of New Jersey during the absence of Governor Wilson. In various capacities Ackerman was connected with railroad, water, and manufacturing enterprises.

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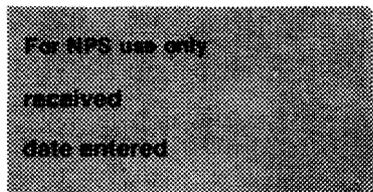
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20.*C 520 West Eighth Street 352 5

The original Tudor style mansion on this site was built in 1899 for Manson W. Tyler, lawyer, by builder John Abbott. The house was extensively altered in 1908 for the Tylers by architects Marsh and Gette of 97 Nassau Street, New York. The home has been demolished. Still on the property is a cut stone 1½ story carriage house, also in the Tudor style, built in 1908 for a cost of \$4,000.00 by the Rimmer, Apgar Co. A formal garden and child's shingled playhouse are also still on the property. In 1983 the carriage house was converted to a single family residence. The property remains open and still contains many mature specimen trees as well as an outstanding and magnificent azalea hedge fronting on west Eighth Street.

21. H 532 West Eighth Street 352 6

A contemporary 1½ story modern ranch house with a doctor's office built in June, 1950 by Dr. Harry Loomar for \$30,000.00 The builder was George Polcanis. Many fine old trees stand on the property which was once the site of formal gardens.

Plainfield Avenue intersects

West Eighth Street- South side - West to East

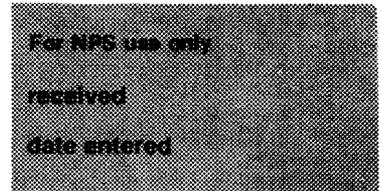
22.*K 563 West Eighth Street 379 1

The original portion of this home (the 3 bay north section) was built in 1893 by a man named Ames listed in the city directory as being in insurance in New York City. Ames died that same year and the home was occupied by Ames' daughter, Sally, and her husband Charles Brooks. One of their two sons, Van Wyck Brooks, became a well known literary critic and a Pulitzer Prize winner, after whom this district is named (See SIGNIFICANCE). In 1902 the home was purchased by Percy Stewart who became a United States Congressman and also a Mayor in Plainfield. Over the years, the Stewarts made many changes eventually doubling the original building in size and installing the panels and doors from an ancient Scottish castle that he purchased from the Duveens. The house in its present form is a 3 story yellow brick Colonial Revival mansion with a flat roof with a corbeled cornice. The original carriage house stands to the rear of the house and

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was built of a buff brick in June of 1902 for a cost of \$3,000. The builder was John Abbott and the Architects were Tracy & Swartwout, 156 5th Avenue, New York City. On the first floor of the carriage house is a stable with four stalls as well as a carriage wash. The 2nd floor contained a grain and oat room, loft area, in addition to one bedroom and one bath. In 1904 for \$2,500.00 a combination garage and laundry was constructed by builder Abbott and Son. This frame building still stands and still contains the original laundry room. In 1913 Mr. Stewart had two brick extensions added to the home which cost a total of \$20,000.00. Also on the property is a small cottage which Mrs. Stewart supposedly used as a writing cottage. The grounds at 563 West Eighth Street are still dotted with the original cast iron corinthian column lamps. The property contains many fine specimen trees and has one of the largest cut leaf silver beech trees in the State.

23.*C 535 West Eighth Street 379 2

Built in May, 1928 for the Kanter family for a cost of \$15,000.00 by builder Mich. Pomponio. The Kanters still own the house. A 2½ story two-toned brown brick Georgian Revival house with gabled green tile roof pierced by three pedimented dormers. Rectangular plan with 3 bay facade and enclosed end porch. The entry has an arched frontispiece and a glazed door covered with elaborate ornamental ironwork. There are leaded glass transoms on the first floor and on the east side are clear leaded glass windows with designs of ships in full sail.

24.*C 531 West Eighth Street 379 3

Built in the 1880's for Mr. H.G. Runkle, treasurer of the Plainfield Gaslight Co. A 2½ story red brick Queen Anne residence of grandiose proportions, built on a complex plan. Stone foundation and trim; decorative terra cotta panels. High hip roof with tall corbeled chimneys and octagonal turret with onion dome roof. Bordered Queen Anne sash windows. Glazed double doorway with iron grillwork. North wing has large leaded windows with bottle glass panels. In 1906 Mr. Runkle had a long brick extension put on the house for a cost of \$12,000.00. Work was done by builder W.H. Pangborn. In 1955 the home was converted to a 3 family and 1 efficiency.

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25.*C 519 West Eighth Street 379 4

Built in September, 1927 for \$15,000.00 by builder and owner, Otranto and Larussi. A 2½ story red brick Colonial Revival house very similar to #535 West Eighth Street. Rectangular plan with 3 bay facade and enclosed end porch. Heavy wood balustrade over arched door entry. Open tile floored veranda across first floor frontage.

26. NC 515 West Eighth Street 379 5

A brick and clapboard split level home built in 1953 for \$18,500.

27.*C 505 West Eighth Street 379 6

Built c. 1890. A 2½ story Shingle Style house with a hipped roof complex plan. Cut stone facing on the first floor with painted wood shingles on the upper stories and stuccoed gable ends. Dentil cornice and paneled frieze speak of the Colonial Revival tradition. Entry has a paneled door surmounted by transom of wood tracery, and a portico with fluted columns. In 1894 this was the home of John F. Harmon, banker (possibly the original owner). In 1953 the house was converted to 2-family and in 1968 it became a 4-family. The original porch has been removed.

28. NC 439 West Eighth Street 378 1

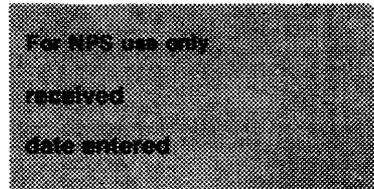
Built in 1953. 1½ story ranch style house. This home is built on the site of the Jacob Kirkner house. Kirkner was a New York stockbroker. In front of the present house is a magnificent copper beech tree.

29.*C 435 West Eighth Street 378 2

Built in 1925 by builders Cohen and Estraelsky for a cost of 12,250.00. 2½ story Colonial Revival residence constructed of two-tone red brick with a green tile roof. Very similar to 535 and 519 West Eighth Street. Dominant feature is arched doorway with ornamental ironwork and large frontispiece. Tile-floored front piazza with urn pedestals. Spectacular azalea hedge fronting on West Eighth Street. In 1934 the house was converted to a 2-family, and in 1975 it became a 3-family residence.

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34.*C

303 West Eighth Street

358

2

Construction date uncertain; not shown on 1878 or 1894 city maps, although stylistically appears to date from the 1870's (moved?). Large 3 story Second Empire residence built on a complex plan with 3 bay facade and mansard roof. Original slate roof, now painted, is still intact as well as the one story porch with paired Doric columns and a 2nd story balustrade. Elaborate leaded glass windows on the east frontage. Paneled and glazed double door entry with original hardware. This home is now used as a 6 family residence.

Madison Avenue intersects

35.*C

209 West Eighth Street

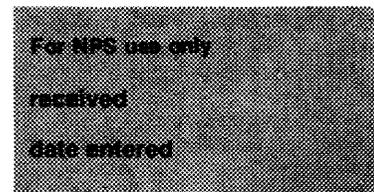
360

1

Built 1908 for George Babcock by builder Ira N. West. Now the Higgins Home for Funerals. 2½ story wood shingled Colonial Revival mansion with a monumental entrance portico supported by fluted Ionic columns. Slated gambrel roof. To the rear of the house is a contemporaneous 2½ story wood shingle and stucco carriage house with a slated gambrel roof. George Babcock was a distinguished inventor and philanthropist. One of the founders of the Babcock and Wilcox firm, he is responsible for patenting a steam boiler designed so that a real explosion could not occur. In 1870 the Babcock family located in Plainfield. Mr. Babcock was an active member of the 7th Day Baptist Church, President of the Board of Trustees for Alfred University, President of the Board of Education in Plainfield, and Director of the Public Library.

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Arlington Avenue intersects

36. C Library Park

A one block square of open green space with many venerable old trees. Owned and maintained by the City of Plainfield.

College Place intersects

37. H 100 West Eighth Street 362 1

The Plainfield Public Library. Built in March 1966 by Essential Construction Co. for a cost \$1,317,487.00. Architectural precast concrete colonnade on all frontages. Bronze tinted glazed (10' X 20') panels on all sides. This building replaces the two original structures that were used as a library. In addition, 10 houses on the block were also demolished. The Public Library in Plainfield was organized in 1881. In 1886 the original building fronting on Park Avenue was constructed. Job Male, Plainfield's first mayor, gave the land and the building provided that \$20,000 be raised for the purchase of books and pictures. Later a new building given by Andrew Carnegie was attached to the old structure.

Arlington Avenue - East side - North to South

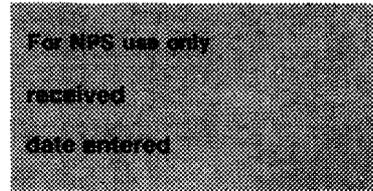
38.*C 717 Arlington Avenue 361 11

Originally the Plainfield Seminary, known for many decades as Miss Kenyon's School for Girls. The school was established in 1855 and headed for many years by Eliza E. Kenyon. F.W. Ricord's History of Union County (1901) states that "the building with its dignified proportions and solid brick walls, is an interesting example of architecture in the Italian Renaissance. The aim of the school is to give girls, without injury to their health, an education which shall make them intelligent women. (p. 420) The complex is composed of three structures, three and four stories high, stucco over brick, with low-pitched gable roofs and pronounced cornices. The earliest section, a four story Italianate structure, dates from the second half of the 19th century; early 20th century additions and alterations. The buildings are now the Arlington Court Apartments.

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West Eighth Street intersects

Library Park - Previously listed

West Ninth Street - intersects

Arlington Avenue - West side - North to South

39.*C 716 Arlington Avenue 359 8

Built c. 1880. 3 story Second Empire house with painted slate mansard roof. Clapboard siding and 2/2 sash windows. Arlington Avenue entry is 20th century alteration; house originally faced W. Seventh Street and was moved closer to Arlington Avenue due to subdivision of the property and conversion to multi-family use. In 1894 this was the home of Charles J. Fisk, banker, of Harvey Fisk's Sons.

West Eighth Street intersects

40.*C 822 Arlington Avenue 360 2

Built c. 1875. 2½ story Italianate house with cross-gabled complex plan. Clapboard siding and slate roof. Pointed arch gable windows. Hooded second story paired windows ornamented with cut scrollwork. H.S. Sterling shown as owner on the 1878 map. In 1900 owner G.H. Squires had a small stable constructed at the rear of the property (demolished 1983).

41.*C 826 Arlington Avenue 360 3

Built c. 1875. 2½ story clapboard-sided house almost identical to 822 Arlington Avenue. O.B. Leonard shown as owner on the 1878 map.

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42.*C

828 Arlington Avenue

360

4

Built 1875 for W.C. Holmes. 3 story Second Empire house with complex plan and slate tile mansard roof. Clapboard siding. Original semi-pavilion shaped porch with cut scrollwork brackets. Three leaded glass windows on the north frontage. The house was sold in 1878 to Harry B. Kaufman, a clerk in New York, and Maria L. Kaufman, widow of the Rev. J.H. Kaufman. In 1894 a family by the name of Fisk purchased the house, selling it in 1907 to W.C. Kinney. That year Kinney spent \$1000.00 for additions made by builder Ira N. West and designed by the architectural firm of Marsh and Gette. The house was extended on the north and south ends, a new entry was added, oak flooring was installed on the first floor, and all the exterior cornice brackets were removed and then regrouped and spaced to conform to the new additions. The house was converted to multi-family use in the 1950's and is today a single family residence again.

West Ninth Street - South side - East to West

43. C

203 West Ninth Street

376

35

Built c. 1875. Second Empire house built on a 3 story rectangular plan, 4 bays by 4 bays, with mansard roof. Bracketed cornice. Clapboard siding. Full porch supported by Doric columns. T.W. Price is shown as owner on the 1878 map.

44. C

205 West Ninth Street

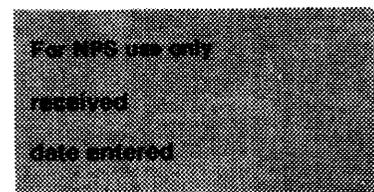
376

34

Built c. 1900. 2½ story Shingle Style house with cross-gambrel roof. Uniform covering of wood shingles on roof and exterior walls. Leaded glass transoms on first story windows. Swan's neck pediment on dormer. Doric order porch.

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Madison Avenue intersects

45. NC 313 West Ninth Street 377 22

Built mid-20th century. 1 story modern ranch style house.

46. NC 323 West Ninth Street 377 21

Built mid-20th century. A split level home with a doctor's office on the lower level.

Central Avenue intersects

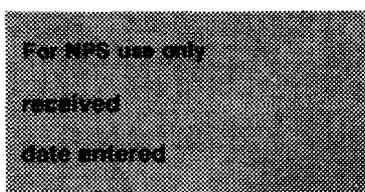
Madison Avenue - West side - north to South

47. C 718 Madison Avenue 357 3

Built in 1894 for George H. Babcock Esq. by Mr. E.L. Hyde architect, 130 Liberty Street, New York City. A 2½ story Victorian Gothic house with a hip roof with two cross gables. Polychromatic brickwork in russets, yellows and blue. The south side displays a second floor balustraded balcony. Tower with a pyramidal profile roof. The original tile roof and the front porch have been removed. Featured in the August, 1894 edition of Scientific American Building Supplement. The article states: "The design is treated in a very odd and picturesque manner. The exterior walls, from foundation to peak, are built of selected burned brick, and accents of terra cotta and Philadelphia pressed brick, laid up at random, without regard to uniformity and with noses protruding.

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The roof is covered with a combination of Celadon Terra Cotta Company's Rhinoceros and Gothic tiling." The reception hall and the lobby are trimmed in oak. There are stained glass windows on the stairway. The parlour and den are trimmed with birch and the dining room is trimmed with oak. The floors are laid with maple in narrow widths. The kitchen, the rear hall and the pantry are trimmed and wainscoted with Georgia pine. The 2nd floor is trimmed with white pine and finished natural. The 2nd floor contains 4 bedrooms, 6 closets, a nook, 2 dressing rooms and a bath. The 3rd floor contains a studio, 2 bedrooms, and storage.

The house serves today as a multi-family dwelling.

48. NC 722 Madison Avenue 357 4

A one story pink aluminum sided ranch house, built mid 20th century.

West Eighth Street intersects

49. C 816 Madison Avenue 358 3

2½ story Queen Anne house built in the 1880's. Gabled slate roof with vergeboard. Clapboard siding on the first floor and bevel cut shingles above. Full porch with turned posts and balustrade.

50.*C 822 Madison Avenue 358 4

2½ story Queen Anne house built in the 1880's. Multiple gable roof with vergeboard. Brick-faced on the first floor and patterned wood shingles above. Decorative beltcourse between the first and second stories. In 1894 this was the home of C.P. Leggett, a manufacturing chemist.

51. H 828 Madison Avenue 358 5

2½ story Queen Anne style house very similar to #822 but altered on the exterior with aluminum siding. Queen Anne style windows throughout and a single wide glazed entry.

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52.*C 832 Madison Avenue 358 6

2½ story Queen Anne residence built in the 1880's. Bracketed cornices and a hip roof with a cross gable. Clapboard on the first floor and alternating horizontal cut shingles on the 2nd and 3rd stories. Veranda with Eastlake trim. Half timbered pediment over paneled double door entry. Modified oriel window gable on the 3rd story.

West Ninth Street intersects

53. H 900 Madison Avenue 377 1

Built in 1936 for owner David Levitz, dentist, for \$8,500.00 by builders Cohn and Esraelsky. The architect was H.V. Trevrnan. 1½ story Period Revival house English cottage motifs. Copper-roofed bay window with clear leaded glass panels.

54. C 906 Madison Avenue 377 2

Builder George Nolte erected this home in 1924 for Howard H. Craig. Cost was \$17,200 2½ story Colonial Revival style house set sideways to the street. Wide wood shingle siding and a gabled roof. Paneled entry flanked by sidelights and paired Ionic pilasters with an arched frontispiece.

55. C 910 Madison Avenue 377 3

2½ story Queen Anne/Romanesque style residence built in the the 1880's. Gable roof with sleepy eye window. Second floor porch with arched opening and squat turned columns. Heavily carved and ornamented frieze on the central round bay. Paneled double doored entry. First floor has composition siding, an obvious later alteration; the upper stories are sided with wood shingles stained a greenish color. The shingles on the gable end are cut in a circular sweep pattern. There are stained and leaded glass windows on the south frontage.

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61. C 938 Madison Avenue 377 9

2½ story shingled Colonial Revival house built in 1923. Gambrel roof. One story porch with latticework between the columns and the balustrade. Paneled entry with sidelights.

62. C 940 Madison Avenue 377 10

2½ story gabled Colonial Revival house built in 1923. Aluminum siding. One story porch on main facade. Paneled entry.

63. C 946 Madison Avenue 377 11

2 story Colonial Revival hipped roof dwelling sided with clapboard on the first story and shingles above. Dentil cornice and wood fan on the south frontage. 6/1 sash windows. Building was originally the carriage house to the Schoemaker Residence, built in 1897, which still stands at 963 Central Avenue. Original carriage house doors are still intact.

Stelle Avenue intersects

64.*C 970 Madison Avenue 3021 1

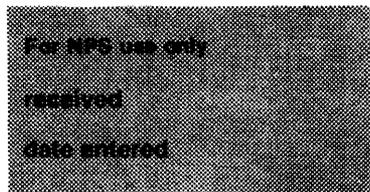
Built in 1932 for \$8,500 by builder Axel Lagstrom. 1½ story cottage style house having a gable roof with flared eaves. The first floor is stone faced; the original wood shingles on the second floor are now aluminum sided.

65.*C 978 Madison Avenue 3021 2

Built 1910 for owner Charles Schamp by builder J.C. Manning. 2½ story Shingle style house with gable roof, rectangular plan, and Doric order balustraded full porch. Palladian dormer window; multiple projecting bays; stained glass windows on north frontage; door with beveled glass panels.

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66. C 982 Madison Avenue 3021 3

Built by J.C. Manning in 1912. 2½ story wood-shingled Colonial Revival house with a gable roof. 8/8 sash windows; round-headed tracery sash in dormers. One story porch has arched openings.

Randolph Road intersects

Madison Avenue - East side - North to South

67.*C 823 Madison Avenue 360 7

Built c.1870. 3 story Second Empire house with mansard roof and 3 bay facade. Roof is concave and has hexagonal slate tiles and dentils along the upper ridge. Paneled frieze with scroll brackets. Clapboard siding. Windows have molded surrounds. Glazed double-leaf entry with pilasters and bracketed overdoor. In 1878 Clark Rogers was the owner; in 1894 this was the home of P. Minturn Smith, iron manufacturer.

68. C 827 Madison Avenue 360 6

Built 1880's. 2½ story Queen Anne style house with a gable roof and a one story porch with turned columns and balustrade. Double-leaf entry with transom. Clapboard on first and second floors; fishscale shingles and half timbering on the upper story.

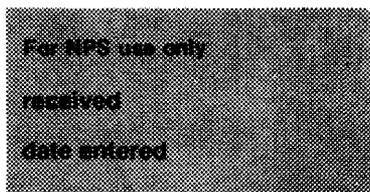
69.*C 831 Madison Avenue 360 5

Clark Rogers House, built c. 1860-1870. 2½ story Victorian Italianate residence with truncated hip roof and highly decorated cross gables. Elaborate bracketed cornice with incised millwork on frieze. Clapboard siding. Windows have pronounced segmental heads and flared surrounds. Leaded glass tripartite window on main facade. Double-leaf oak paneled door with heavily-molded segmental-arch enframingent. Porch on two sides with turned balusters. C. Rogers owned this property during the 1860's and 1870's. In 1909 a compatible 2 bay addition to the north end was built by Ira West for owner Mrs. Crompte.

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West Ninth Street intersects

70.*C 901 Madison Avenue 376 33

Built c. 1875. 2½ story Victorian eclectic house with square plan, double hip roof, 2 over 3 bay facade, and full porch. Roof has pointed gables, dormers, and 2 internal chimneys. Clapboard siding. Windows have incised shaped lintels. Paneled doorway is flanked by leaded sidelights and appears to have been altered. Porch has Gothic arches and square posts. Rev. J. Stockbridge was the owner in 1878; in 1894 this was the home of R.F. Murray, insurance.

71.*C 909 Madison Avenue 376 32

Built 1880's. Stick Style/ Queen Anne residence built on a 2½ story complex plan with asymmetrical fenestration. Slate tile hip/intersecting gable roof with vergeboard. Clapboard and scalloped shingle siding; board and batten frieze band with sawtooth border. Glazed and paneled double-leaf entry. Owned by Marsh in 1894.

72.*C 915 Madison Avenue 376 31

Built c. 1875. 3 story Second Empire house with slate tile mansard roof, 3 bay facade, and central pavilion with hipped-roof tower. Shingle siding. Wide bracketed cornice with dentil molding. Variety of window types, many with incised lintels. Segmental-arch paneled double door. O.B. Leonard was owner in 1878; in 1894 this was the home of Anna O. Marsh, musician, and Frances E. Marsh, Newark lawyer.

73.*C 917 Madison Avenue 376 30

Built 1880's. 2½ story Queen Anne residence with rectangular plan, gable roof, and 2 over 3 bay facade. First and second stories are stucco; gables are sided with patterned wood shingles. 4/4 and bordered sash windows with segmental heads. Full porch has turned posts. Thickstun is shown as owner on the 1894 map.

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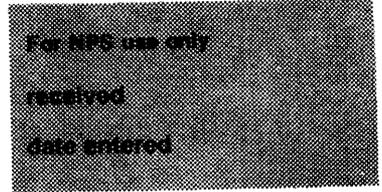
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74. C 919 Madison Avenue 376 29

Built September, 1925 for owner J. Peter Kirch by Alex Lagstrom, builder. 2 story wood-shingled Colonial Revival house with a gambrel roof.

75. C 921 Madison Avenue 376 28

Built c. 1875. 3 story Second Empire house with slate tile mansard roof; similar to 915 Madison Avenue. Painted wood shingle siding. Roof dormers are pedimented and highlighted with a sawtooth molding. Double-leaf doorway with frosted etched glass windows. J. Cameron may be original owner (on 1878 map); in 1894 this was the home of P. L. Phillips.

76.*C 925 Madison Avenue 376 27

Built in September, 1926 for Jacob and Rose Zaller by William Kirch. The architect was C.C. Bell of Cranford, New Jersey. 1 story Spanish Colonial house with white stucco exterior and red tile roof. Gracefully arched windows and an arcaded entry porch with wrought iron gates highlight the main facade. Similarly-designed garage.

77.*C 929 Madison Avenue 376 26

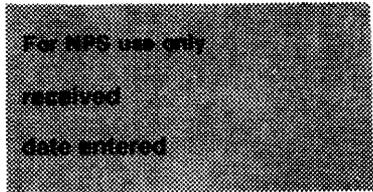
2½ story Shingle Style house built about 1895-1900. Cross gable roof has polygonal dormers and flares over broad full porch. Corbeled end chimney. Stained wood shingle siding. Variety of multi-light sash windows.

78. C 935 Madison Avenue 376 25

Built in 1894. 2½ story Queen Anne house with a slate tile hip and gable roof. North frontage has a fine stained glass window. Double-door entry. Original siding of the house has been covered. Converted to 2-family residence in 1954.

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79.*C 939 Madison Avenue 376 24

2½ story Shingle Style house built about 1895-1900. Rectangular plan with steep gambrel roof, 3 bay facade, and a Doric-columned porch on two sides. Uniform covering of brown-stained wood shingles. Gabled dormers have paired tracery sash with cornices decorated with festoons. One window is flanked with elaborately carved panels topped by leaded glass fixed lights. Round-arch glazed and paneled door has wide enframingent with paired pilasters.

80.*C 943 Madison Avenue 376 23

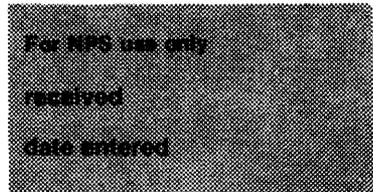
2½ story Colonial Revival house built in 1900 for Howard W. Beebe, whose occupation was listed that year as insurance. The architect was A.L.C. March of New York City, and the builder John Abbott. Rectangular plan with hip roof, wide bracketed cornice, and clapboard siding. The main facade includes a double projecting bay, a central round-arch stairwell window with tracery, wide 12/2 sash, and an off-center paneled door with a Doric-columned pedimented portico. The house was featured in the March 1903 edition of the Scientific American. The article states: "The hall contains a colonial stairway with fluted columns, newel and turned balusters painted white, the rail being of mahogany. The reception room is trimmed in white pine and treated with white enamel. The living room is trimmed with white wood stained a dull black while the walls are covered in red burlap with harmonious effect. The mantel in this room is of dutch tile with a red Welsh tile hearth." The exterior was originally painted gray with white trim, and the roof was covered with wood shingles painted moss green.

81. C 947 Madison Avenue 376 22

Built 1935. 2 story gabled Colonial Revival house, 5 bays wide, with a paired columned entranceway. Brick-faced first story and painted wood shingles above. Shallow pent roof of slate between the first and second stories.

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82. H 951 Madison Avenue 376 21

Built in 1926 for Chris Stahl. Colonial Revival house very similar to 947 Madison Avenue except the exterior has been aluminum-sided. Leaded glass sidelights flank the front door.

Stelle Avenue intersects

83. C 957 Madison Avenue 3022 16

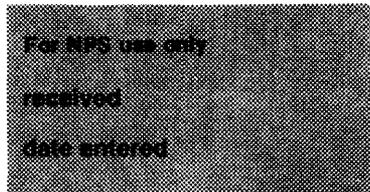
Built 1906 for owner R.G. Newman by builder J.C. Manning. 2½ story Colonial Revival house with a hip roof, wood shingle siding, and an enclosed one story front porch. Arched pedimented dormer with a swag design over the windows.

84.*C 965 Madison Avenue 3022 15

Built c. 1900 for Mrs. J.H. Hallock and featured in the December 1902 edition of Scientific American. 2½ story Shingle Style house with a rectangular plan, gambrel roof with large front cross gable, and 2 over 4 bay facade. The exterior has a uniform covering of cedar shingles, stained brown, with white wood trim. Foundation and chimneys are constructed of vitified brick laid up in an irregular manner. 12/1 sash windows with round-arch pane in upper lights; rectangular fixed light adjacent to doorway repeats same motif. Round gable light. Recessed end porch. Glazed and paneled door has gabled portico with diamond pattern in shingles. According to the Scientific American, "The living room is the principal feature of the interior and it is trimmed with white enamel. The hall contains a ceiling beamed with chestnut and stained a dull brown, an inglenook, with broad seats, leaded glass windows, and an open fireplace with Roman brick facings. The staircase is recessed in an arched alcove and is of an ornamental character in colonial style. Reception room is trimmed with white pine and treated with white enamel. It contains a fireplace with tiled hearth and facings and a mantel of colonial style. Also a dining room and kitchen on the 1st floor. The 2nd floor contains 4 bedrooms and 1 bath. The 3rd floor contains a servant's bedroom and storage."

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85.*C 967 Madison Avenue 3022 14

Built c. 1900-1910. 2½ story Shingle Style house with cross-gambrel roof and 3 over 4 facade. Painted wood shingle siding. Bracketed cornice and wide paneled frieze. 6/2 sash windows; main facade has two tripartite windows with leaded glass in upper lights. Recessed entry with glazed and paneled door.

86. C 971 Madison Avenue 3022 13

Built c. 1900-1910. 2½ story Shingle Style house with bell-cast hip roof and 3 over 4 bay facade. Uniform wood shingle siding. Windows have diamond-shaped panes in upper sashes. Diamond panes repeated in paneled door. 3 bay porch with square posts.

87. C 977 Madison Avenue 3022 12

Built c. 1900-1910. 2½ story Shingle Style/Colonial Revival house with cross-gambrel roof and 3 bay facade. Wood shingle siding. Overstoried end porch.

88.*C 981 Madison Avenue 3022 11

Built c. 1910. 2½ story Period Revival house with overtones of the arts and crafts movement. High hip roof with wide eaves; stucco exterior; 12/1 sash windows, single and grouped; portico with square posts and lattice.

89. C 983 Madison Avenue 3022 10

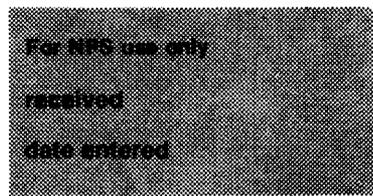
Built c. 1910. 2½ story Shingle Style/Colonial Revival house constructed on a T-plan with cross-gambrel roof. Wood shingle siding is now painted. Wide overhanging eaves. 6/1 sash windows.

Randolph Road intersects

Randolph Road - North Side - East to West

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90. NC 222 Randolph Road 3022 9

Contemporary split level house built mid-20th century.

91. NC 216 Randolph Road 3022 9A

Contemporary split-level house built mid-20th century.

Madison Avenue intersects

Central Avenue intersects

92. C 414 Randolph Road 381 10

Built c. 1890. 1½ story wood-shingled residence with gambrel roof. Originally the carriage house to the DeGraff Residence at 966 Central Avenue (#108).

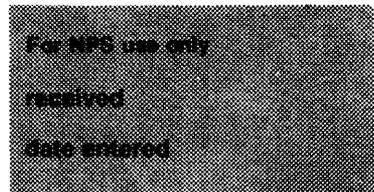
Central Avenue - West Side - North to South

93.*C 718 Central Avenue 356 6

2½ story Italianate residence with some Greek Revival elements. Square plan with two side projecting bays, low hip roof, and asymmetrical 3 bay facade. Corner pilasters. Heavy entablature with large curved brackets and 3-light knee wall windows; frieze was originally wood-paneled. Clapboard exterior was recently re-sided with aluminum. 6/6 and 4/4 sash windows; two tripartite windows. Terra cotta chimneys pots. 2-panel door has Greek Revival enframing with pilasters and tracery sidelights; Ionic columns formerly supported the portico. Handsome wrought iron fence along front of property. Stylistically the house appears to date from the 1860-1870 period but it is not shown on maps prior to 1894 (moved?).

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West Eighth Street intersects

94. H 804 CENTRAL AVENUE 378 5

2 story contemporary home with aluminum siding, built mid 20th century. Built on the site of a second Empire house, now demolished.

95.*C 810 Central Avenue 378 6

Built c. 1890. 2½ story Colonial Revival house built on a complex plan with a hip roof, multiple projecting bays, and a full porch. Slate tile roof is truncated and has tall corbeled chimneys, pedimented dormers, and a modillion cornice. Pressed yellow brick exterior with an elaborate terra cotta frieze on three sides. 1/1 sash with segmental heads; leaded glass windows on south side. Double-leaf pilastered doorway. The porch is bowed over the entry, and has fluted Corinthian columns and an end pavilion. Large 2 story rear addition. 1½ story carriage house at rear of property. In 1894 this was the home of Mrs. O.Y. Van Buren and Edward Van Buren, insurance in New York City. House has been converted to a nursing home.

96.*C 818 Central Avenue 378 7

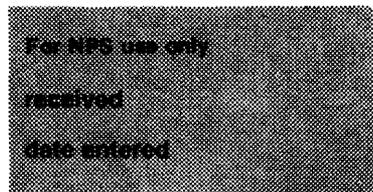
Built c. 1890. 2½ story Queen Anne house built on a complex plan with a hip/intersecting gable roof, hexagonal tower, and 5 bay facade. Brick-faced first story and wood shingles above: elaborately paneled front gable. Magnificent stained glass windows. The wide porch has Doric columns and an end pavilion. The original 1½ story carriage house stands at the rear of the property. In 1894 this was the home of Frederick H. Andrews, produce exchange in New York City.

97. NC 824 Central Avenue 378 8

1½ story brick and wood shingled ranch house, built 1947. Constructed on the site of a small Queen Anne house, now demolished.

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98. NC 900 Central Avenue 378 9

1½ story brick and wood shingled ranch house, built 1947.
Constructed on the site of an earlier house, now demolished.

99.*C 912 Central Avenue 378 10

Thomas H. Pittis House, built c. 1870. 3 story Second Empire dwelling with a complex plan and slate tile mansard roof. Curved cross gable and bracketed cornice. Clapboard siding. Paired round-arch windows with heavy moldings. South facade has a series of projecting bay windows with clear leaded glass. Full porch with square posts. House is visible on 1874 bird's-eye view; Thomas H. Pittis is shown as owner on the 1878 and 1894 maps.

100.*C 922 Central Avenue 378 11

Built c. 1870. 3 story clapboarded Second Empire residence with Georgian Revival alterations. Mansard roof has pedimented tracery sash dormers. Multiple projecting bays; paired 1/1 sash and stylized Palladian window. Sidelighted doorway with elliptical transom. Porch has fluted columns and end pavilion. Owned by S.R. Jackson in 1878 and Clementin Yates in 1894.

101.*C 930 Central Avenue 378 12

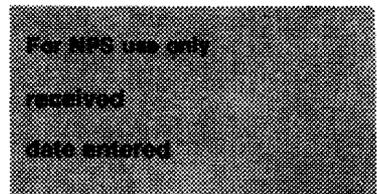
Built c. 1880. 2½ story Italianate residence with complex plan and intersecting gable roof. Clapboard exterior recently re-sided with aluminum. Box cornice with large modillions. 2/2 sash and paired 1/1 sash windows; large projecting bay window with leaded glass. Double door with transom. Doric porch columns. Handsome Victorian cast iron urn in front lawn. Owned by Edward H. Booth in 1894.

102.*C 940 Central Avenue 378 13

Built 1870's. 2½ story 3 bay cross-gabled house with later Queen Anne alterations such as the scalloped shingles in gables, triangular dormers, and projecting bay. Clapboard siding. Double-leaf glass-paneled door. Doric columns on veranda. Owned by T.H. Pittis 1894.

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103.*C 946 Central Avenue 378 14

Built 1880's. 2½ story shingled Queen Anne house with a complex plan and hip/intersecting gable roof. Tall corbeled chimneys. 6/1 and 8/2 sash windows, some with leaded and stained glass. Porch is partially arcaded. Slender Doric columns over entry and on porte-cochere. In 1894 this was the home of Mary L. Brown and Irving H. Brown, book binder, New York.

Stelle Avenue intersects

104.NC 966 Central Avenue 381 5

Contemporary bi-level with wood shingle and stone veneer, built 1959.

105.NC 972 Central Avenue 381 6

1 story ranch house with vertical board siding, built 1963.

106.NC 980 Central Avenue 381 7

Contemporary bi-level with wood siding and stone veneer, built 1957.

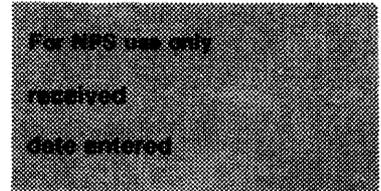
Note: The above three houses are built on the site of an enormous Shingle Style house. The coach house to this estate still stands and has been converted to a private residence on Stelle Avenue (#136). The demolished home was built and owned by Mr. Charles Franklin Abbott who was the manager of the New York office of the Warner Brothers Co., corset manufacturing firm.

107.*C 990 Central Avenue 381 8

Built c. 1900. 2½ story Colonial Revival house with bellcast hip roof, sweeping veranda, and porte-cochere. Dentil cornice. Windows have lattice-like tracery in upper sashes. Wood overlay in dormer is repeated in porch pediment.

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108.*C

996 Central Avenue

381

9

James DeGraff House, built c. 1890; additions/alterations made in 1900 by architect A.L.C. Marsh. 2½ story Shingle Style house with a complex plan and gambrel/truncated hip roof. Painted wood shingle exterior. Leaded and stained glass windows. Sidelighted entry. Doric porch columns rest on a shingled base. Roofline altered as a result of a fire in the mid-1960's. Most of the original open front porch is also gone. A fine specimen copper beech tree stands in the front yard.

Randolph Road intersects

Central Avenue - East side - South to North

109.NC

999 Central Avenue

3021

5

1 story brick-faced ranch house, built 1954..

110.*C

987 Central Avenue

3021

6

Built c. 1905-1910. 2½ story Colonial Revival house with hip roof and 3 bay facade. Clapboard and wood shingle siding. Doorway is flanked by Ionic pilasters and sidelights. Paired Doric porch columns are supported by a rusticated stone base.

111.*K

981 Central Avenue

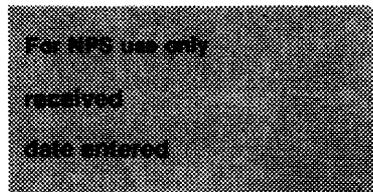
3021

7

Stelle Farmhouse, the oldest house in the district. The original section dates from about 1750 and includes part of the 3 bay east wing, with 9/6 sash windows and a small central doorway. The 2½ story main block is believed to have been built about 1855 and has a 5 bay center-hall plan, gable roof, brick foundation, 6/6 sash windows, and a sidelighted doorway with an elliptical arch. An early 20th century photograph shows the house with 1/1 sash, no shutters, and double-leaf door with rectangular transom light (Plainfield Courier News, Plainfield and Vicinity in Pictures, c. 1921). The farmhouse faces southwest and originally fronted on Randolph Road. It is located on or near the site of the earlier Manning plantation. The Stelle farm originally covered much of the present-day district; Manning Stelle was owner of the property in the mid to late 19th century. As late as 1894 the Stelle farmhouse was still the only structure on this block.

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Stelle Avenue intersects

112.*C 963 Central Avenue 377 13

Built 1897 for E.L. Schoomaker and featured in March 1904 Scientific American Building Supplement. The architect was E.G. Dietrich, 320 Broadway, New York City. Large 2½ story Colonial Revival house, measuring 68' by 55', with a truncated hip roof. A broad Ionic-columned veranda extends across the front and two sides of the house. The foundation is rock-faced red sandstone. The clapboard exterior, now painted white, was originally a deep yellow with white trim; the wood shingle roof was stained dark green. Except for the removal of some balustrades, the house retains its original exterior features, including a variety of sash windows, classical moldings, Palladian windows, and a wide sidelighted entry. Today it is a four-family dwelling.

113.*C 949 Central Avenue 377 14

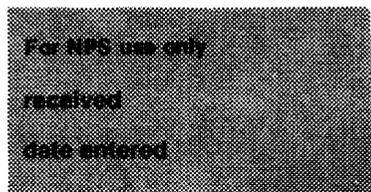
Leal House, c. 1900. 2½ story Queen Anne/Colonial Revival residence with a high-pitched cross gable roof and 2 over 3 bay facade. Yellow brick first story and natural wood shingles above. Dentil cornices; Palladian gable window; Doric porch columns; double-leaf paneled door. The house was owned by John Leal, who was head of the Leal School for Boys, a private school which later became the Wardlaw Country Day School.

114.C 945 Central Avenue 377 15

Built c. 1890. 2½ story Queen Anne house with complex plan and painted brick exterior. Cut shingle work on the gable end. The house has been altered with the removal of the porches, some trim, as well as window changes.

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120.NC 831 Central Avenue 358 7

3 story brick apartment building constructed in 1964. Built on the site of Queen Anne style residence belonging to John Bushnell.

121.NC 821 Central Avenue 358 8

3 story brick apartment building constructed in 1964. Built on the site of a Shingle Style residence belonging to John M. Whiton.

West Eighth Street intersects

122.NC 721 Central Avenue 357 7

"The Williamsburg", a 2 story brick apartment building constructed in 1965 . Built on the site of the imposing Queen Anne residence belonging to Alexander Gilbert, a Vice President to Market and Fulton National Bank of New York. The residence which stood here was featured in the December 1890 edition of Scientific American Building Supplement.

Stelle Avenue - North side - East to West

123.C 222 Stelle Avenue 376 20

Built 1912. 2½ story Colonial Revival house with a gable roof and a one story enclosed porch. Original siding covered with aluminum. Pedimented entrance with Doric columns.

Madison Avenue intersects

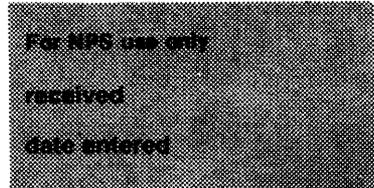
124.NC 308 Stelle Avenue 377 12

Brick-faced ranch house, built 1952.

Central Avenue intersects

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125.C 406 Stelle Avenue 378 15

Built in 1924 by builder Adam Valentine. 2½ story stuccoed Period Revival dwelling with a gable and jerkinhead roof.

126.NC 412 Stelle Avenue 378 16A

1 story ranch-style house with gable roof and wood shingle siding, built in 1963.

127.C 420 Stelle Avenue 378 16

Built in 1911 for Edward S. Holman by local builders John Abbott and Son. 2½ story Colonial Revival house built on a 5 bay rectangular plan with end porches, gable roof, and clapboard siding. Dentil cornices; quarter-round gable lights; paneled door with delicately detailed sidelights. Pedimented entrance porch with dentil molding.

128.C 432 Stelle Avenue 378 17

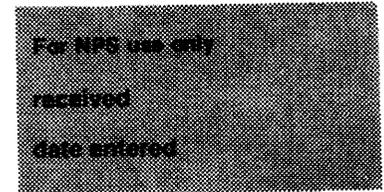
Built in 1922 for Mrs. William A. Warnock. The architect was McIlvain and Roberts, 112 South 16th Street, Philadelphia. 2½ story Colonial Revival house with gable roof and clapboard siding. The sidelighted entry is flanked by octagonal windows. Columned entrance porch.

129.*C 444 Stelle Avenue 378 18

Built in 1906 for J.H. Rowland. A.L.C. Marsh was the architect and Charles M. Wilson was the builder. 2½ story Colonial Revival house built on a 3 bay rectangular plan with a gable roof. Enclosed end porch with Roman Doric columns. Dentil cornice. Various types of multi-light sash windows; two bowed windows on first story of main facade. Sidelighted entry has bracketed elliptical-arch frontispiece.

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Field Avenue intersects

130.*C 500 Stelle Avenue 379 12

Built in 1898 for Adelaide Louise Ladd and Edward H. Ladd, listed in the 1908 city directory as a broker. The architect was A.L.C. Marsh and the builder was John Abbott. 2½ story Colonial Revival house with an L-plan and 4 bay facade. The bellcast hip roof has a wide modillion cornice and pedimented dormers. Stucco exterior with buff-colored brick quoins. 9/1 sash windows with keystone lintels. One story porch with Doric columns and balustrade on the main facade, and screened porch on the east end. Glazed and paneled entry with wide sidelights. In 1902 a brick addition was put on the house by builder B.F. Tallamy, and the barn to the rear of the property was constructed by B.C. Young.

131.*C 512 Stelle Avenue 379 13

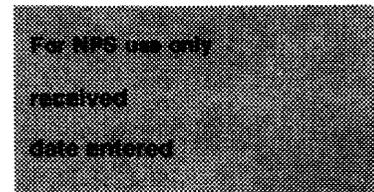
Built c. 1890. 2½ story Queen Anne house with rectangular main block, 2 bay facade, and gambrel roof. Clapboard siding on the first and second stories; cut shingles on the gambrel end and projecting bay. 2/2 sash windows with simple surrounds. Double-leaf paneled entry. One story balustraded wraparound porch with an entrance pediment displaying a stylized sunburst. Owned by Lawrence on the 1894 atlas.

132.*C 520 Stelle Avenue 379 14

Built 1904. 2½ story Colonial Revival house built on a square plan with a truncated hip roof, symmetrical 3 bay facade, and wraparound porch. The slate tile roof has a wide bracketed cornice and a central pedimented gable with an oval light. Clapboard siding. 1/1 sash windows with louvered shutters; stylized Palladian window in upper central bay. The Doric order porch is bowed over the over the entrance and has a second story columned balcony.

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133.*C 524 Stelle Avenue 379 15

Built c. 1890. 2½ story Shingle Style house with a gable/cross gambrel roof and a 3 over 4 bay facade. Clapboard on the first story and wood shingles above. 9/1 and 12/2 sash windows; Palladian gable window; leaded glass transoms in first story windows. 3 bay porch with Ionic columns. A. Venino is shown as owner on the 1894 atlas.

Plainfield Avenue intersects

Stelle Avenue - South side - East to West

134.*C 305 Stelle Avenue 3021 9

Built 1909 for Hugh C. Pierce by builder John Miliken. 2½ story Tudor Revival house constructed on a rectangular plan with a central pavilion and a hip roof covered with slate. Stucco exterior with decorative wood overlay to create half-timbered effect. Grouped leaded glass casement windows; 12/2 sash windows with pent roofs; glass-enclosed porches on the west end, first and second stories. Handsome leaded glass vestibule.

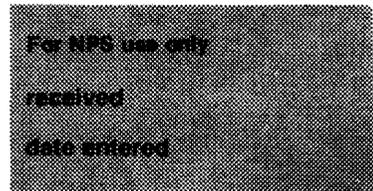
135.*C 315 Stelle Avenue 3021 8

Built in 1910 for Joseph B. White by builders John Abbott and Son. 2½ story Colonial Revival house with a rectangular main block, glass-enclosed one story porches, and a gambrel roof. Wood shingle siding. 12/2 sash windows on the first story and 12/1 sash windows on the second story. Pedimented dormers. To the rear of the property is a 1½ story gambrel-roofed garage with servant's quarters upstairs.

Central Avenue intersects

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136.*C 417 Stelle Avenue 381 4

Abbott Gatehouse, built late 19th century; converted to a private residence in 1959. 1½ story auxiliary building to a Shingle Style mansion. Complex plan and a cross gable roof. Stucco exterior; brick porte-cochere with a compound arch. Variety of window types and sizes; Palladian window in front gable. Original ventilator still on roof. Pilastered doorway. Originally part of the Charles Franklin Abbott estate which faced onto Central Avenue (house demolished); Alice Abbott is shown as owner on the 1894 atlas.

137.NC 419 Stelle Avenue 381 3

Ranch house with wood siding and stone veneer, built in 1961.

138.*C 429 Stelle Avenue 381 2

Built c. 1900-1910. 2½ story Colonial Revival house with a hipped roof and a 3 over 4 bay bowed facade. The roof has a wide modillion cornice with dentils, pedimented dormers, and tall corbeled chimneys. Clapboard on the first story and wood shingles above; wood quoins cut to look like stone. Tracery sash windows; Palladian window in upper central bay; bowed leaded glass windows on first story of main facade. One story balustraded entrance porch with Ionic columns; glazed and paneled entry. Glass-enclosed porch on west end.

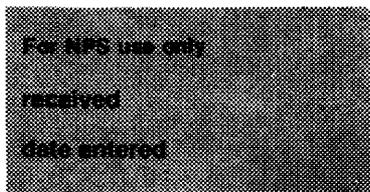
139.*C 443 Stelle Avenue 381 1

Built c. 1890. 2½ story Queen Anne Style house constructed on a complex plan with a multiple gable roof. The first story is faced with coursed brown sandstone; the upper stories display an unusual variety of cut shingle work (fishscale, radiating, and diamond-cut). Grouped windows of various types and sizes; elaborate stained glass panels in selected windows; projecting bay on west side. Pedimented porch has Doric columns.

Field Avenue intersects

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140.C 503 Stelle Avenue 380 4

Built c. 1900; additions 1930 and 1913. 2½ story Shingle Style house constructed on a complex plan with a cross gambrel roof. Clapboard on first story and wood shingles above; fieldstone chimney. Central two story round projecting bay on main facade. 8/8 sash windows with louvered shutters; swan's neck pedimented dormer. The original columned porch has been removed.

Field Avenue - East side - North to South

141.*C 721 Field Avenue 356 11

Late 19th/early 20th century carriage house converted to a private residence. 1½ story Shingle Style/Queen Anne outbuilding with intersecting gable/jerkinhead roof. Red brick on first story and painted wood shingles above. Variety of window types and sizes, most with diamond-shaped panes. Originally the carriage house to "Cranehurst," located at 440 West Eight Street (#17); built after the main house, which dates from about 1870 and is Italian Villa in style.

West Eighth Street intersects

142.C 815 Field Avenue 378 24

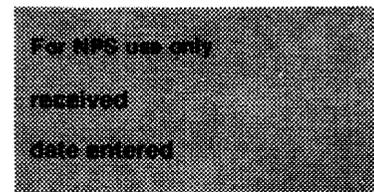
Split level house built in 1953. To the rear of the property is a late 19th century carriage house of 2½ stories with a clipped gable roof; brick-faced first story and cut wood shingles above.

143.C 819 Field Avenue 378 23

Late 19th century outbuilding converted to a private residence. 1½ stories; gable roof; stucco exterior; screened porch across the main facade. Exterior remodelled very well. Building is set sideways to the street; may have been part of the Jacob Kirkner property which faced West Eighth Street (house demolished).

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144.H 825 Field Avenue 378 22

Built 1931. 2 story Period Revival house with a gable roof; brick-faced on the first story with board and batten siding above.

145.H 835 Field Avenue 378 21

Built 1931. Similar to #825 but has a gambrel roof with a dormer.

146.H 841 Field Avenue 378 20

Built 1931. Similar to #825 but with a shingle and stone exterior.

147.H 845 Field Avenue 378 19

Built 1954. 1 story California -styled ranch house with gable roof L-plan and natural wood siding.

Stelle Avenue intersects

Field Avenue - west side - North to South

148.H 828 Field Avenue 379 7

1 story ranch style home with wood shingle siding, built in 1954.

149.H 834 Field Avenue 379 8

Built late 19th century with Colonial Revival alterations. 2 story stuccoed house constructed on a rectangular main block with a gable roof, 4 bay facade, and rear and side ells. House appears on the 1894 atlas but the owner is unidentified.

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150.H 840 Field Avenue 379 9

Built 1929. 2 story Colonial Revival house constructed on a rectangular plan with a hip roof and an end porch. Wood shingled and brick exterior. Entry has swan's neck pediment.

151.H 846 Field Avenue 379 10

Built 1940. 1½ story Colonial Revival house with a 3 bay stone veneer facade and a gable roof. 8/8 and 8/12 sash windows. Central entry with double fluted pilasters.

152.C 854 Field Avenue 379 11

Late 19th/early 20th century carriage house converted to a residence in 1957. 1½ story rectangular plan with hip roof. Stuccoed first story. Former outbuilding to the Ladd Residence at 500 Stelle Avenue (#130).

Stelle Avenue intersects

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1875–1925 Builder/Architect MULTIPLE

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Van Wyck Brooks District is a cohesive neighborhood of early suburban architecture significant in the historical development of Plainfield as a wealthy commuter railroad suburb during the late 19th century. The structures within the district represent fine individual examples of residential buildings from the 1875–1925 period. A number of the residences were designed by New York architects and some, like A.L.C. Marsh, who specialized in "country homes," lived in Plainfield. At least seven houses in the district were featured in the Scientific American between 1893 and 1905. (See #11, #13, #18, #47, #80, and #84). Other homes in the area were singled out in various publications promoting Plainfield. A wide range of late 19th and early 20th century styles is represented in the district, including Italianate, Second Empire, Victorian Gothic, Stick Style, Queen Anne, Shingle Style, Colonial Revival, and Tudor Revival. These are large upper-middle class dwellings, conspicuous symbols of wealth, which are notable for their quality of construction and for their ornamental detailing. The highest overall design quality is exhibited in the Queen Anne and Shingle Style/Colonial Revival houses in the district.

The district is named for the Pulitzer Prize winning author Van Wyck Brooks, who spent his formative years at 563 West Eighth Street (#22), a home built by his Grandfather Ames. In Scenes and Portraits Memories of Childhood and Youth, published in 1954, Brooks refers to Plainfield as the Wall Street Suburb. He goes on to further describe the financial brigands and robber barons who built vast red sandstone castles along the wide tree lined streets. In addition, however, were "the quiet men of money, unobtrusive often to the point of being mousey, whose dwellings lined the street in our corner of the town". In the 1890's Brooks observed there were over one hundred millionaires living in Plainfield.

The Brooks home at 563 West Eighth Street was as Brooks noted "not without some slight architectural pretensions". Later Brooks describes how the home fell at last into more affluent hands and the new owner, Congressman Percy Hamilton Stewart, doubled the house in size and plastered the interior with the panels and doors from an 18th century Scottish manor house that he purchased from the Duveens in London. After the alteration one of Van Wyck Brooks' friends dubbed the house "colonial outside, baronial-inside".

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

During the late 18th and early 19th centuries, the entire land area of the present-day district was farmland and woodland. The Manning Stelle Farm (See #111, the remaining farmhouse), which had developed from one of the earliest

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property ± 99
Quadrangle name Plainfield Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A	<u>118</u>	<u>5419</u>	<u>21810</u>	<u>414</u>	<u>915</u>	<u>91610</u>	B	<u>118</u>	<u>5419</u>	<u>51810</u>	<u>414</u>	<u>915</u>	<u>71410</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing					Zone	Easting	Northing			
C	<u>118</u>	<u>5419</u>	<u>51210</u>	<u>414</u>	<u>914</u>	<u>91810</u>	D	<u>118</u>	<u>5419</u>	<u>21010</u>	<u>414</u>	<u>914</u>	<u>91610</u>
E	<u>118</u>	<u>5418</u>	<u>81810</u>	<u>414</u>	<u>915</u>	<u>01210</u>	F	<u>118</u>	<u>5418</u>	<u>71010</u>	<u>414</u>	<u>915</u>	<u>21410</u>
G	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	H	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John Grady (Photography, Maps, and Clerical Assistance: Plainfield Planning Division)

organization _____ date December 1984

street & number 828 Arlington Avenue telephone (201) 757-2415

city or town Plainfield state N.J. 07060

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 *Shelley A. Jensen*

title Assistant Commissioner for Natural Resources date October 7, 1985

For NPS use only

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

Shelley A. Jensen entered in the National Register date 12-10-85
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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"plantations" established along Cedar Creek in the late 17th century, covered much of the present district. By the 1850's portions of that tract had been sold; development occurred incrementally, with the subdivision of parcels into blocks and lots. On a map of building lots in Plainfield, New Jersey in 1853, sections of Arlington Avenue, Madison Avenue, and West Eighth Street are laid out in paper for subdivision into building lots. The 1862 county map shows scattered houses along what is now West Eighth Street. Plainfield Avenue and Central Avenue are the only other two roads shown in the district.

By the late 1860's and 1870's, many of the projected subdivisions became a reality. The completion of the railroad in 1864, linking the little village of Plainfield and its surrounding farms with metropolitan New York and Philadelphia, coincided with the high point in America's Industrial Revolution when personal fortunes were being amassed with dizzying speed. Wealthy city folk, seeking rural simplicity, began to spend vacations here, either at summer homes or at the five resort hotels built between 1850 and 1878. Vacationers enjoyed such bucolic pleasures as carriage rides through the countryside, croquet on the lawn and boating on Tier's Pond near the millrace. As train transportation improved and travel time fell within the desirable one-hour range, many summer residents returned to build permanent homes in Plainfield, commuting to offices in New York just as many of Plainfield residents do today. With ample funds and space for country estates, these entrepreneurs raised magnificent testimonials to the architectural fashions of the day, and elegant reminders of the Victorian Age still line street after street in Plainfield's older residential neighborhoods.

As early as 1875, E.C. Hussey mentioned Plainfield in his Victorian Home Building, A Transcontinental View of 1875. Hussey says of Plainfield: "This well known city is in the south west corner of Union County, New Jersey, and is one of the most attractive on the line of the Central Railroad of New Jersey". Hussey goes on to say:

Home building in Plainfield has been carried to a degree of perfection highly creditable to the people that abide in the many exceedingly pleasant and attractive-looking houses that stud its shady streets; and, as the place is so short a run from New York, no persons who are awake to the hardships and dangers of 'Home Building' in that or any other great city, and are thinking of retreating to some of the many blessed places of refuge within an hour's ride from New York, should not fail to visit this favored one, on a tour of observation. The people are cultivated, and encourage religious and

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intellectual progress; are social, and foster that degree of fraternal intercourse which blesses a home and endears it to all hearts.

Like many towns in New Jersey the advent of the railroad changed the face of Plainfield forever. Located at the foot of the Watchung Mountains, Plainfield with its natural springs came to be hailed as the 'Colorado of the East' and eventually was dubbed the "Queen City" after Denver. An 1870's newspaper referred to Plainfield as "this popular inland resort". Even after Plainfield's appeal as a resort faded, the City continued to be a desirable place for New York's wealthy to build large and comfortable homes.

An August 26, 1984 article in the New York Times entitled "Plainfield City of Homes" says: "Plainfield is truly the city of homes situated as it is on the line of the New Jersey Central Railroad, only forty-five minutes from New York by express train, it furnishes not only a summer retreat for New York by express train, but an all-the-year-round home for hundreds who do business on Manhattan Island". Further on the article states:

Plainfield is a beautiful city. Situated between the Watchung mountains a portion of the Blue Range and the hills of Netherwood, a pretty suburb, it lies in what was once a plain level field. While it is a level place, the streets are very picturesquely laid out, and its shady drives are the envy of all not fortunate enough to call it their home. Grand old elms touch each other as they overshadow the streets. Fine macadam covers the streets and avenues, making driving a pleasure.

Plainfield became such an active commuter's town that the railroad found it profitable to furnish private club cars just for Plainfielders. A 1965 article entitled "As It Was Years Ago in Plainfield" by Dale Warren refers to commuting from Plainfield: "The fatigue of daily commuting was considerable, in spite of relaxing bridge games in the Club Car".

In 1895 Plainfield New Jersey by Ralph Moreton Hooker appeared promoting the attractiveness of Plainfield as a place of residence. Hooker states: "To-day broad avenues overarched with the intermingling boughs of trees lead past homes which lie with one another in evidences of wealth and refinement".

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In the 1930's Federal Writers' Project Plainfield is described as a "busy commuters' town with smart shops and substantial manufacture. Here are all types of dwellings from the huge, French roofed, high ceiled Victorian mansion of the 1870's to the most modern Cape Cod-type cottage".

There are numerous articles and publications relating to Plainfield's vast architectural treasure trove, a tradition continued today by the Van Wyck Brooks Historic District Committee. Various events, tours and meetings are held to promote the neighborhood and its special quality.

In 1982 the Van Wyck Brooks District was designated by the City of Plainfield as a certified local Historic District subject to the City's Historic Review Ordinance. This designation is part of a continuous trend in recognizing the quality of Plainfield's very special housing stock.

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GOVT. DOCUMENTS AND ARCHIVES

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BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

With the exception of one added parcel (#92), the boundaries of the proposed district correspond to those established in 1982 when the City of Plainfield designated the Van Wyck Brooks District as a certified local historic district. The district boundaries, described below, were delineated on the basis of harmonious age, style, and integrity of buildings in the area.

Using the back property lines of buildings facing West Seventh Street, the district includes all of West Eighth Street between Park and Plainfield Avenues, two major thoroughfares in the City. West Seventh Street was formerly as handsome an avenue as West Eighth, but has undergone many changes with road widenings, commercial intrusions, and demolition of some of the homes. For these reasons, which have significantly altered the character of the area, West Seventh Street was not included.

All of Madison and Central Avenues are included from the back property lines on West Seventh Street to Randolph Road. All of Field Avenue is included from the back property lines on West Seventh Street to Stelle Avenue. The housing stock beyond this point is more contemporary and would have little or no relevance to the historic area.

All of Arlington Avenue is included from the back property lines on West Seventh Street to West Ninth Street where Arlington Avenue ends and Kenyon Avenue begins. Arlington Avenue at one time continued through to Randolph Road but that piece was eliminated for the construction of a football field for the high school. That portion of Kenyon backing up to Madison Avenue was not included because it was felt that the houses, even though of comparable age, did not conform with the character or quality of the rest of the district.

A few buildings on the west side of Park Avenue were also included, one of which is already a National Register site (Orville T. Waring House). The east side of Park Avenue is included within the Crescent Area Historic District (NRHP 1980).

On the west side and southern end of Central Avenue the district follows the back property lines of Central to Stelle with the exception of the property at 414 Randolph Road (#92) which was a carriage house to 996 Central Avenue (#108). The remainder of the area (the blocks bound by Randolph Road, Stelle Avenue, and Plainfield Avenue) was not included because it represents a later development in housing.

THE VAN WYCK BROOKS

HISTORIC DISTRICT

Plainfield, Union County, New Jersey



1982

