

NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF CULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

HISTORIC PRESERVATION SECTION

INDIVIDUAL STRUCTURE SURVEY FORM

HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY NO. 0713 6 8 9

HISTORIC NAME: Montclair Art Museum
 LOCATION: 3 South Mountain Avenue
 MUNICIPALITY: Montclair
 USGS QUAD: Orange
 OWNER/ADDRESS: Montclair Art Museum
 See above

COMMON NAME: Montclair Art Museum
 BLOCK/LOT: 1406/01; 41-A/01
 COUNTY: Essex
 UTM REFERENCES: Zone/Northing/Easting

DESCRIPTION

Construction Date: 1913 Source of Date: Published References
 Architect: Robert Randolph Ross Builder:
 Style: Neo-Classical Form/Plan Type: Extended rectangle

Number of Stories: 2

Foundation: Brick to ground line.

Exterior Wall Fabric: Sand color brick/marble/sandstone.

Fenestration: 7 bays; main section D.H. windows w/ marble infill window openings.
 Additional casement windows; doors have iron grills.

Roof/Chimneys: Hipped; concrete w/ asphalt covering. Addition-copper.

Additional Architectural Description: Delicate Doric pilasters in pairs articulate the corners of the pedimented side pavilions which are united by a light classical cornice & frieze which extends around the entire structure above a recessed porch w/ Ionic columns & marble floor across the 5 center bays of the museum.

Two rectangular niches, elaborately detailed w/ Greek Classical ornament & framed by light Doric pilasters & full entablature above define the center of the side pavilions.

Behind the recessed porch, the entrance door is surmounted by a rectangular pediment supported by console brackets & flanked by two marble faced niches w/2 recessed windows decorated w/ elaborate iron grilles in both outer bays.

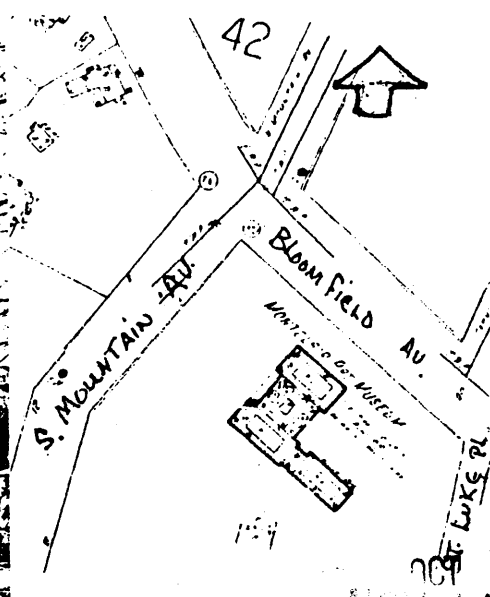
A string course w/ egg & dart molding runs below a band of small 2nd fl. windows.

Alterations: A contemporary glass enclosure w/ revolving door has been added around front entrance. Extension to building subtly executed.

PHOTO

Negative File No R39, 0

Map (Indicate North)



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HISTORIC PRESERVATION SECTION, 109 WEST STATE STREET, INDEPENDENCE, NEW JERSEY

SITING, BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION, AND RELATED STRUCTURES:

Lot size: 2.8 acres.

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

The museum grounds have been developed as an arboretum by Howard Van Vleck, horticulturist and honorary trustee. This property contains about 50 varieties of trees and 20 shrubs which are labeled. The museum publishes a booklet with a walking tour of the grounds, Montclair Art Museum Arboretum.

SIGNIFICANCE:

Classical ornament & delicate relief distinguish this museum building. A good example of fire-proof construction w/ Neo-classical facade.

A natural outgrowth of the flourishing artists colony which existed in Montclair at the end of the 19th century, the museum was founded through the financial support of Mrs. Henry Lang; based on a collection of paintings donated by William P. Evans. It began in 1909 and opened in 1914.

The Montclair Art Museum has a national reputation as an outstanding small museum. It offers an extensive educational program for adults and children. An art reference library is located in a former residence, located near the south-west corner of the property.

This museum was one of the first in New Jersey to open to the public and was the first in the state to be accredited by the Association of American Museums. It was among the first of the very few museums in the country which are devoted exclusively to American Art. Few if any other towns with a population of less than 40,000 have a museum of this quality.

ORIGINAL USE: Museum PRESENT USE: Museum
PHYSICAL CONDITION: Excellent Good Fair Poor
REGISTER ELIGIBILITY: Yes Possible No Part of District
THREATS TO SITE: Roads Development Zoning Deterioration
No Threat Other

COMMENTS:

REFERENCES:

Franklin Survey Company. Atlas of Montclair, Glen Ridge, Cedar Grove & Verona, 1933.

Carlisle, Robert D. B. A Jewel in the Suburbs: The History of the Montclair Art Museum. Montclair: Montclair Art Museum, 1982.

RECORDED BY: Diane Lutters DATE: 4/12/80
ORGANIZATION: Columbia University
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