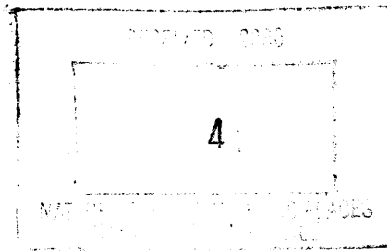


**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**



4

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instruction. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name: Red Dragon Canoe Club
other names/site number: Keyser House, Shipman House

2. Location

street and number: 221 Edgewater Avenue
city or town: Edgewater Park Township
state: New Jersey county: Burlington County zip code: 08010
N/A not for publication
N/A vicinity

3. State/Federal/Tribal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title: *[Signature]*
Date: 12/12/00
Assistant Commissioner, Natural & Historic Resources/DSHPO
State or Federal agency and bureau American Indian Tribe

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____ American Indian Tribe _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other. (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper: *[Signature]*
Edson H. Beall
Date of Action: 2/2/01

5. Classification**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
4	0	buildings
	0	sites
1	0	structures
	0	objects
5	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed**in the National Register**

N/A

6. Function or Use**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation And Culture
 Social

Historic Subfunctions

(Enter subcategories from instructions)

Single Dwelling

Current Subfunctions

(Enter subcategories from instructions)

Clubhouse
 Sport Facility

7. Description**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Second Empire

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation	Brick
	Stone
Walls	Weatherboard
Roof	Slate

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- X A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
X C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is

- A owned by religious institution or used for religious purposes..
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Architecture
Entertainment/Recreation

Period of Significance

1859-1950

Significant Dates

1859

1950

Significant Person

(Complete if criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office

See continuation sheet for additional
HABS/HAER documentation.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 5.68

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	18	508700	4435300	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2				4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10. Geographical Data

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Red Dragon Canoe Club
Burlington County, New Jersey

Verbal Boundary Description

As seen on the Burlington County Tax Map Sheet No. 17, Edgewater Park Township, the house and associated outbuildings and structures occupy Portion 1701, Lots 15 and 15.01, at the corner of Edgewater and Cottage Avenues. The site encompasses 5.68 acres.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the 5.68 ares historically associated with the Red Dragon Canoe Club. (The Club acquired the adjoining lot 14 in 1971, thus adding 2 acres to their current property total of 7.68 acres.)

Red Dragon Canoe Club
Name of Property

Burlington County, New Jersey
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Caroline L. Gavin, Student

organization: Drew Historic Preservation Program

date: 2/20/1999

street & number: 201 South 13th Street Apt. 812

telephone: (215) 735-4621

city or town: Philadelphia

state: Pennsylvania

zip code: 19107-5455

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name: Red Dragon Canoe Club

street & number: 221 Edgewater Avenue

telephone: (609) 387-9847

city or town: Edgewater Park Township

state: New Jersey

zip code: 08010-

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

US GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1993 O - 350-416 QL 3

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Burlington County, NJ

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The nominated property of the Red Dragon Canoe Club is a 4.4 acre lot situated along the Delaware Riverfront (to the north) and along Edgewater Avenue to the east. It features a Second Empire mansion that serves as a clubhouse for the Red Dragon Canoe Club. The furthest outbuilding on the southwest lawn is a guest cabin for the use of the membership of the club. The mansion is on a grassy lawn that sweeps out to the river. On the lawn behind the house and to the southwest there are three outbuildings in a row located about five hundred yards from the house, and then there are a few boats stored on racks and wrapped in tarpaulins beyond that. (photograph 1) This property is located in Edgewater Park Township (originally part of Beverly City), New Jersey, on Edgewater Avenue, midway between Cottage Avenue and the eastern bank of the Delaware River. Edgewater Park Township is located about one mile north of Beverly Township (which also used to be part of Beverly City), just south of the big westward bend in the Delaware River and south of Burlington City.¹ Edgewater Park was originally part of Beverly Township, along with Cooperstown and Delanco.² As Edgewater Park grew too large for the township to service all of its municipal and schooling needs, the State Legislature made Edgewater Park it's own Township in 1924.³

SITE

The main block of the house faces north, toward the river, as do the majority of riverfront dwellings. The driveway comes off of Edgewater Avenue from the east side of the property and curves up to the rear of the house, widening into a small parking area, bordered by three outbuildings on the west, the boats in storage to the south and the house to the north side. Beyond the house, towards the north, is the Delaware River and the boathouse of the club. The boathouse is situated next to Edgewater Avenue at the base of the hill that forms the riverbank. (photograph 2) At the eastern end of the crest of that hill stands a pair of stone gateposts, the only remnants and evidence (on this property) of the foot path which Silvester Keyser and four of his neighbors on the riverfront, George Taylor, Andrew Manderson, James Manderson, and Charles Stokes, "agreed with one another that a foot path extending from Cliff Road to Centre Road (presently Edgewater Ave.) should be opened along the top of the bank of the River Delaware across and through their respective premises to be used for the purpose of passing and repassing ... forever". (photograph 3) This easement was recorded on the 20th of April, 1859.⁴ At present, the house has remarkable integrity as a representative of the Second Empire Style, however, due to the lack of funds available, repairs are being made on an as needed basis. There is much damage due to water entry. The site fares a bit better, as the only care needed is the cutting of the lawn. The outbuildings are in disrepair corresponding with their age; oldest (privy) having the greater damage.

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Burlington County, NJ

HOUSE

The building is an exquisite example of a freestanding, Second Empire dwelling. Three bays wide on the north, south, east and west sides of the main block of the house, it also has a kitchen ell off of the southeast corner which adds three bays to the east and west elevations. The house has an irregular L footprint and is of frame construction with clapboard sheathing that is painted white with contrasting shutters of dark green. The steeply angled mansard roof is of patterned, polychrome slate. Around the cornice of the main mansard roof is a row of diamond-shaped slates of ochre or red which lets the eye know there is a transition ahead. There are rosettes of red slate in between the dormers. The two-over-two windows have slightly arched heads, which the shutters then emulate. The massing of the building is typical of a Second Empire residence, with a central block three stories tall, and a third floor enveloped under the roof. The main stair occupies a full height tower on the east side. In addition to a regular interior door the rooms on the top floor have screen doors.. This arrangement took advantage of breezes coming off of the river as opening the wooden doors let the heat of the building escape through the vacuum effect i.e. heat being drawn out through the top.

The house has a basically L shaped footprint, with a low mansard to gambrel roofed kitchen ell on the southeast corner of the main block, and a pentagonal stair tower on the east facade that extends the full height of the building. There are large two-over-two windows in the first two floors of the building, with the shutters having a slight curve to the tops, thus matching the arch in the window heads. Smaller, two-over-two windows with arched heads are in the dormers, which are placed in the lower slope of the mansard roof. The dormers feature slightly clipped gables and have a concave form to their flanking surrounds, due to the little pilasters that frame the sides of each window. There are three shapes of slate in the polychrome roof, square, fishscale, and hexagonal. It is an excellent example of a slightly sloping mansard roof with a small convex curve to the roof edge. A combination of a lower mansard roof and a steep gambrel roof shelters the kitchen ell, which connects with the main body of the house at the second story level. The kitchen's attic is attached to the house's third floor. The stair tower roof has as many facets as the tower below, five slopes and one connecting to the house. The porthole windows in the tower roof have hood moldings over them that finish in brackets.

NORTH FACADE

The elevation which faces the river is three bays across with one window per bay, except the middle bay, where the front door is located. There is one window per floor in each of the three floors; the third floor being lit by a dormer, as is the case for the entire third floor. (photograph 4) The front porch spans the two western bays, including the front door, which is centered, and the porch extends slightly towards the river, followed by some wooden steps

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Red Dragon Canoe Club
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down to the ground where the slopes of the hills continue down toward the river.

EAST ELEVATION

As one turns the northeastern corner, there are two more fully fenestrated bays, but the third floor has only one dormer, its first bay is blank. This is followed by a five sided stair tower. (photograph 5) Only the center face of the stair tower has openings; a door on the first floor with a window in the next floor, and the third floor possesses an oculus window with an eyebrow molding, thus matching the other two on the north and south faces of the tower roof. (They serve to light the interior of the stairway.) The door is framed with a rectangular surround that covers the entire width of the tower's east wall. The door itself is similar to the other exterior doors on the building in it's having two longer arch-topped panels over two much smaller square panels. All four panels are highlighted with molding. Applied wooden moldings that mimic the shape of the door are on both the first and second floors of the northeast and southeast walls of the tower. These moldings are laid over the clapboarding of the wall. The stair tower marks visually, on the east elevation, where the main block of the house ends and the kitchen ell begins. (photograph 6)

Continuing south along this elevation, on the kitchen ell, there are two more windows on each of the two floors and bays, but as the roof here is a minimal mansard, there are no dormers. There is a half-round arched window in the gambrel dormer roof at the second floor level. (photograph 7) It corresponds to the dormer that faces west.

SOUTH ELEVATION

The gambrel-roofed portion of the ell has two bays on its south end, and only one (the western one) is fenestrated. Below this window is a concrete ramp to the southern basement entrance. Moving further to the west, there is an enclosure which extends to the level of the kitchen porch. It is set back a bit from the main south elevation and possesses an exterior door with stairs leading up to it from the drive. This south end of the house serves as the current entrance, in these days of travel by automobile. The entry drive curves west, in from Edgewater Avenue. (photograph 8)

WEST ELEVATION

Continuing around the southwest corner, there is one bay for the enclosure which precedes the kitchen porch and there are three additional bays for the porch. There is one more on the wall linking the southern end of the main block of the house and before the building steps out to the level of the north facade. The window of the enclosure on the southernmost end of the west elevation, has the top and sides of it's frame, but the window space and sill have been filled by plywood, thus allowing a smaller square, double-hung window to be inserted. Set in the gambrel-roofed ell-extension is a gambrel dormer window in the first bay (matching the gambrel roofed vent on the east elevation), set slightly to the north of the window below it on

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the kitchen porch enclosure. This window has molding which denotes the original size of this window, which matches the others on that floor, but within this molding is a modern, double hung window about half the size of the original, and set in the middle of the space. In the rest of the space within the molding surround are plywood panels, above and below. Above, on the second floor in the next bay to the north, are two windows with applied molding surrounds, giving the effect of half-timbering, set in the enclosed space above the first segment of the arcaded kitchen porch. Over the next two segments towards the north is a screened-in sleeping porch. There is a window which looks out onto the first segment of the kitchen porch below. In the second segment, there is a door to the kitchen that is set to the north side of that segment. The remainder of the wall under the sleeping porch is blank, but when one turns toward the north, and toward the southern end of the main block of the house there is a door to the center hallway of the house. (photograph 9) Above, in the roof of the wall which meets the kitchen ell, there is a dormer. At a right angle to that wall is a one bay wall which faces west. This wall has windows on all three levels.

Facing south, there is another small segment of wall which also has windows on all three levels. Turning another corner, this time to the north with the wall facing west, one comes upon a fenestrated three sided bay one story high. Each of the three sides of this bay is pierced by a window. Its roof is bracketed with scroll sawn brackets, in the same manner as the other roofs of the house. Above this bay is a paired set of windows. As they are paired, each are slimmer than the others on the house. Also, the shutters on this elevation are not as functional as the other shutters on the house. The paired set of windows only has one pair of shutters, and they are of the same width as those that would cover half of a single window. The bay window on the first floor possesses only a single pair of shutters as well. The front porch extends out north towards the Delaware River one more bay. (photograph 10) The brackets on the porch are paired, scroll-sawn, wooden brackets.

The front porch is supported by square box columns and is connected to its roof with simple scroll-sawn brackets with round, simple, three dimensional nubs, a pair of brackets per column face. (photograph 11) The pair that joins two columns is connected by molding, ornamented simply with a single strip of wood halfway between the bottom of the shorter brackets and the edge. The pair that are above each porch column where it meets the porch are approximately three times as long as the others. Regular brackets also appear under the cornice of the main roof, the southwest bay window roof, and the stair tower's roof.

INTERIOR
BASEMENT

One gains access to the basement from the inside via stairs that are located below the main stairs in the stair tower. The interior steps to the basement level descend from east to west. There are two additional entrances via concrete ramps (to facilitate the passage of boats) from the exterior on the north and south sides. A number of historic canoes are stored in racks

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located by the south entrance, which emerges underneath the western window of the kitchen ell extension. By the northern portal are the modern lavatories of the club. This ramp leads one out beneath the northeast room of the main house. Walls are the brick of the foundation, and the ceilings are either the floor joists of the first floor above or are plastered over. (photographs 12 & 13)

FIRST FLOOR

The house is arranged with a hallway at the center, and one room to either side. In the hall are seven doors, three enter the main two rooms, one the kitchen and three are exterior doors, one on the north and one on the south and one out of the stair tower on the east wall. These last three mirror each other in size and style and each has a clear glass fanlight above. Farther along the hallway and on the east side is the grand staircase which ascends into a tower. The presence of the stair hall on the east side necessitates that the eastern rooms be pushed more toward the river, or north, than on the western half. However, a slight extension to the north absorbs this shift. Continuing south past the stairway is the entrance to the kitchen ell.

The main entry hall is floored in wood that is stained a dark walnut color, but it is a little lighter than the color of the trim due to wear. The molded baseboards are of the same walnut color, as are all doors and wood trim in the house. The walls are sheathed in plaster, plain white, and framed by the baseboards, the moldings, window and door frames. The doors in the house have four vertical panels. There are two smaller panels under two that are significantly longer, about three times the length. Service doors have the same formation. The panel molding gets less ornamental as one goes up through the building, the fanciest trim being on the ground floor where the guests and public may see it. There is one window per floor in the west wall, opposite the stair. (photograph 15) Windows are large, double hung two-over-twos with arched heads lifted by small, white ceramic knobs which are miniatures of the ceramic doorknobs throughout the house.

In the main hall, on opposite interior walls, two boat racks are hung near the ceiling⁵. Each holds an historic canoe. About one fourth of the way down the hall from the north are two doors across the hall from one another. Proceeding through the doorway on the west, one enters a large room lit by five windows with three in a bay. The north window is almost floor to ceiling, thus affording access to the front porch, from which one can watch the Delaware, and the boating of the club. (photograph 21) There is a window looking onto the entry drive to the south. The bay window is one story in height, on the west wall of the room.

Across the hall, in the east room (used most often as an assembly or meeting room by the club), there is a fireplace with a paneled surround and mantelpiece both of carved marble.

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(photograph 22) The overmantel decorated with a medallion of scrolls in the center. This is found on the east exterior wall and is flanked by two of the large two-over-two windows that exist throughout the house. Hung over the mantel is the framed charter for the club.

(photograph 23). On the north wall which faces the river there is a third large window. This window which is not used for egress rises to the ceiling, but begins higher on the wall. It is located over the north basement entrance. A second door leads out of this room directly into the staircase. Only the first floor is currently heated.

STAIRCASE

The halfpace stairway ascends from the west to the east side and ends each west-to-east run with a landing in the tower endwall, thereby breaking the flight of stairs in half. (photograph 14). Each subsequent floor runs parallel to the rise of the stair by which one attained that floor (approximately north-south).

The stairs are approximately two feet in width, of walnut colored stained wood with a paneled newel post that is larger at its base. The top newel post panel is curved at top and bottom, the bottom panel has an arched head to it. This is topped with two molded discs, about as wide as the base, separated by about an inch by a turned piece. The steps themselves are deeper than they are tall (risers about half of the tread size), and are set into a molded string. The banister has a slight ridge, like a backbone, following along its center. The landings reflect the shape of the stair tower, having three sides in addition to side walls, which are integral to the building. It is angled on the two corners, the north and southeast. In the center of the landing is a window matching the others of that particular floor. An arch divides the central corridor and the stairway on each floor. These arches terminate on both ends with a large molded plaster ornament (photograph 19). The arch meets the ornament in a flat base which begins with concave molded edging evolving into small leaves at regular intervals. This drops in an acanthus leaf shape with a scrolled element before it finishes the leaf tip. Ceiling medallions, of molded plaster to match the arch ends, are above all ceiling hung light fixtures. (photograph 20) On the south wall ascending with the stairs are photos of the past commodores of the club.

KITCHEN

The kitchen is a large rectangular room with four doors, including its own entry from the hall. The door on the east end of the south wall leads to the adjoining pantry. In here are cabinets featuring paneled doors and drawers with foliated black metal pulls. (photograph 16) Another door on the west end of that same wall leads outside to the entry drive. And finally, one in the middle of the west wall leading outside to the porch. Between the two doors on the south wall, is a fireplace. It has a paneled wooden mantel, which is marbled and ornamented in the center with a lion's head framed with scrolls, which is unlike the other mantels in the house, which simply have scrolled medallions. It is not used any longer, as indicated by it's having been

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filled in with plaster, but it has a foliated metal grate, suggesting that it is still usable for heat (photograph 17) In the north end of the porch wall is a built in beaded-board cupboard (photograph 18) Appliances and cabinets (both modern) line the north and east walls.

SECOND FLOOR

The second floor mimics the first in layout, as does the third. Each floor possesses a window in the west wall, opposite the one in the landing of the stair. The one on the second floor is another large two-over-two window with a slightly arched head, yet the opening is rectilinear in form. (photograph 24) At the north end of the hall, there is a window that aligns with the door which faces the Delaware River.

On the west wall of the hallway is another rack holding a canoe, about four feet above the floor. At the end of this canoe, there is a door into the west room. This room has four windows, the two in the west wall are paired, and the other two are opposite one another in that room. Across the corridor, and next to a built-out corner closet (photograph 25), is a floor to ceiling window which opens onto the roof of the riverfront porch. At a ninety-degree angle to the corner closet is a door leading to the east room. This room is the trophy room of the club. A shelf holding awards and trophy cups runs along the southeast corner of the room, about an inch above a closet door. This closet and an additional one in the southwest corner are quite large. The south western closet is accessed via a small alcove near the second entrance to the room (on the south wall) The southeast closet is a corner closet accessible from the room and features a window. In the middle of the east wall is a small cast iron heating stove, hooked into a chimney. (photograph 26) Behind the stove are two foliated, cast iron grills (presently unused), one to either side, just above the baseboard. Continuing along the north wall past the stove is a window, and another window looks north, out to the river.

The area over the kitchen is an apartment that the club rents out. Before it was a rental, it was used as the club's game room. Adjoining the apartment, to its west, is a screened porch, which is located over the kitchen porch.

THIRD FLOOR

Ascending the stairs to the third floor, one enters a world of paired doors. Wooden doors open onto the rooms, and screen doors are on the hall side, to keep the insects out and let the cooler air in, thus taking advantage of the "chimney effect". A heating stove is located in the hall just across from the midpoint of the staircase's ascent. (photograph 27) A corridor extends toward the river (north to south), as it does each floor. Three alcoves are on the west wall of the third floor corridor. The northernmost alcove is empty save for a chair. The next two are each filled with a large-glass fronted cabinets of wood matching the color of the other wood in the house, and having white ceramic knobs. (photograph 28). The dormer window on the

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north wall (photograph 29) gives a view of the river.

The northeast area is divided into two rooms on this floor. There is a slender room just off the stairway and another of a more square form to the north. The square room has a closet along it's entire east wall and is accessed via the north-south corridor.

At this corridor's southern end, there is a window which looks out over the roof of the sleeping porch below, and on to the south lawn. Across the main corridor, and sharing the wall with the cabinets is the third floor, west room. It too has a closet along it's eastern wall. It is lit by three windows, one each on the north, east and south walls. To the right of the railing separating the hallway and the stairwell is a short door leading to the attic space above the kitchen. (photograph 30) The far southeast end of this space contains two iron cisterns, one to either side of a brick pier. (photograph 31)

OUTBUILDINGS

About 500 yards behind and southwest of the main building, at the western edge of the parking area, there are a group of outbuildings. They consist of a double-sided outhouse, the Quartermaster's shed and a guest cabin.

PRIVY

The first outbuilding to the southwest is a double-sided, clapboarded outhouse. Capping the little building is a hipped roof. One side has two holes and the other side has three, and each side has its own entrance and window. (photograph 32). The very small brass sign over the seats in the three hole side, says "Please use trough outside ->" (photograph 33). There are remnants of the framing for a trough on the west elevation. As the outhouse building is elevated off the ground, a step attains each side of the facility. This building has a pyramidal roof with a truncated peak. It is surrounded with a lattice fence made from wood, which has door size openings on the northeast and southwest sides. (photograph 34)

QUARTERMASTER'S SHED

Behind the outhouse to the south, is the Quartermaster's shed is sheathed in vertical boards. (photograph 35) The shed has a gable roof which rests on wooden rafters that extend out past the walls of the shed. There is a concrete ramp which leads up to the double doors.

GUEST CABIN

Next to the Quartermaster's shed, and separated by a palisade fence, is the one remaining guest cabin having survived the fire which destroyed the other. This is a gable-roofed building with a shed-roofed, enclosed porch attached to its facade. (photographs 1 & 36) It is three bays wide by five bays long. The windows are small and square, with two vertical casements, side

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NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The nominated property of the Red Dragon Canoe Club is a pair of lots totaling 5.68 acres situated along the Delaware Riverfront (to the north) and along Edgewater Avenue to the east. It features a Second Empire mansion that serves as a clubhouse for the Red Dragon Canoe Club. The furthest outbuilding on the southwest lawn is a guest cabin for the use of the membership of the club. The mansion is on a grassy lawn that sweeps out to the river. On the lawn behind the house and to the southwest there are three outbuildings in a row located about five hundred yards from the house, and a few boats stored on racks and wrapped in tarpaulins further to the southwest next to the guest cabin. (photograph 1) This property is located in Edgewater Park Township (originally part of Beverly City), New Jersey, on Edgewater Avenue, midway between Cottage Avenue and the eastern bank of the Delaware River. Edgewater Park Township is located about one mile north of Beverly Township (which also used to be part of Beverly City), just south of the big westward bend in the Delaware River and south of Burlington City.¹ Edgewater Park was originally part of Beverly Township, along with Cooperstown and Delanco.² As Edgewater Park grew too large for the township to service all of its municipal and schooling needs, the State Legislature made Edgewater Park its own Township in 1924.³

SITE

Vegetation on the site is a mix of deciduous and evergreen trees with some evergreen bushes. These bushes are chiefly situated in a formal grouping of four by the concrete steps from the front porch to the lawn; a pair flanking the first cluster of steps, then another pair to either side of the set making the final descent onto the grass. There is a stand of about five deciduous trees and an evergreen tree about two hundred yards to the northwest of the front porch. Closer to the porch is a large stump cluster and two more deciduous trees. To the northeast of the house are two deciduous trees in a "V" and a large evergreen further to the south. Next to the concrete steps leading from the east entrance is a deciduous tree. A smaller evergreen is next to the southeast corner of the house and three deciduous trees line the entrance drive on the north side. A couple more trees, one evergreen and one deciduous, are in the space between the eastern stair, the entry drive, Edgewater Avenue and the house. A single deciduous tree is on the area southwest of the house. Another is between that tree and the outbuildings and a couple are among the outbuildings along with some shrubs. Several bushes are placed along the north side of the guest cabin. North of the outbuildings is a woodpile along with a couple of small evergreen bushes in front of the pile and a couple of large non-evergreen bushes behind the pile. Behind the outbuildings along the property line is a row of large evergreens with a few deciduous trees interspersed. Another such row is along the south edge of the property along Cottage Avenue.

Toward the river, a deciduous tree a stump and a twiggy ornamental are near and to the

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southwest of the gate posts. Two more deciduous trees are next to the boathouse. Yet another shelters the grouping of picnic tables west of the stairs down to the riverfront. A stand of about five deciduous trees and a couple of evergreens are to the west of that. The main block of the house faces north, toward the river, as do the majority of riverfront dwellings. The driveway comes off of Edgewater Avenue from the east side of the property and curves up to the rear of the house, widening into a small parking area, bordered by three outbuildings on the west, the boats in storage to the south and the house to the north side. Beyond the house, towards the north, is the Delaware River and the boathouse of the club. The boathouse is situated next to Edgewater Avenue at the base of the hill that forms the riverbank. (photograph 2) At the eastern end of the crest of that hill stands a pair of stone gateposts, the only remnants and evidence (on this property) of the foot path which Silvester Keyser and four of his neighbors on the riverfront, George Taylor, Andrew Manderson, James Manderson, and Charles Stokes, "agreed with one another that a foot path extending from Cliff Road to Centre Road (presently Edgewater Ave.) should be opened along the top of the bank of the River Delaware across and through their respective premises to be used for the purpose of passing and repassing ... forever". (photograph 3) This easement was recorded on the 20th of April, 1859.⁴ At present, the house has remarkable integrity as a representative of the Second Empire Style, however, due to the lack of funds available, repairs are being made on an as needed basis. There is much damage due to water entry. The site fares a bit better, as the only care needed is the cutting of the lawn and pruning of trees and bushes. The outbuildings are in disrepair corresponding with their age; oldest (privy) having the greater damage.

HOUSE

The building is an exquisite example of a freestanding, Second Empire dwelling. Three bays wide on the north, south, east and west sides of the main block of the house, it also has a kitchen ell off of the southeast corner which adds three bays to the east and west elevations. The house has an irregular L footprint and is of frame construction with clapboard sheathing that is painted white with contrasting shutters of dark green. The steeply angled mansard roof is of patterned, polychrome slate. Around the cornice of the main mansard roof is a row of diamond-shaped slates of ochre or red which lets the eye know there is a transition ahead. There are rosettes of red slate in between the dormers. The two-over-two windows have slightly arched heads, which the shutters then emulate. The massing of the building is typical of a Second Empire residence, with a central block three stories tall, and a third floor enveloped under the roof. The main stair occupies a full height tower on the east side. In addition to a regular interior door the rooms on the top floor have screen doors.. This arrangement took advantage of breezes coming off of the river as opening the wooden doors let the heat of the building escape through the vacuum effect i.e. heat being drawn out

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through the top.

The house has a basically L shaped footprint, with a low mansard to gambrel roofed kitchen ell on the southeast corner of the main block, and a pentagonal stair tower on the east facade that extends the full height of the building. There are large two-over-two windows in the first two floors of the building, with the shutters having a slight curve to the tops, thus matching the arch in the window heads. Smaller, two-over-two windows with arched heads are in the dormers, which are placed in the lower slope of the mansard roof. The dormers feature slightly clipped gables and have a concave form to their flanking surrounds, due to the little pilasters that frame the sides of each window. There are three shapes of slate in the polychrome roof, square, fishscale, and hexagonal. It is an excellent example of a convex mansard with a flare at the eaves. A combination of a lower mansard roof and a steep gambrel roof shelters the kitchen ell, which connects with the main body of the house at the second story level. The kitchen's attic is attached to the house's third floor. The stair tower roof has as many facets as the tower below, five slopes and one connecting to the house. The porthole windows in the tower roof have hood moldings over them that finish in brackets.

NORTH FACADE

The elevation which faces the river is three bays across with one window per bay, except the middle bay, where the front door is located. There is one window per floor in each of the three floors; the third floor being lit by a dormers. (photograph 4) The front porch spans the two western bays, including the front door, which is centered, and the porch extends slightly towards the river, followed by some wooden steps down to the ground where the slopes of the hills continue down toward the river.

EAST ELEVATION

As one turns the northeastern corner, there are two more fully fenestrated bays, but the third floor has only one dormer; its first bay is blank. This is followed by a five sided stair tower. (photograph 5) Only the center face of the stair tower has openings; a door on the first floor with a window in the next floor, and the third floor possesses an oculus window with an eyebrow molding, thus matching the other two on the north and south faces of the tower roof. They serve to light the interior of the stairway. The door is framed with a rectangular surround that covers the entire width of the tower's east wall. The door itself is similar to the other exterior doors on the building in its having two longer arch-topped panels over two much smaller square panels. All four panels are highlighted with molding. Applied wooden moldings that mimic the shape of the door are on both the first and second floors of the northeast and southeast walls of the tower. These moldings are laid over the clapboarding of the wall. The stair tower marks visually, on the east elevation, where the main block of the house ends and the kitchen ell begins. (photograph 6)

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Continuing south along this elevation, on the kitchen ell, there are two more windows on each of the two floors and bays, but as the roof here is a minimal mansard, there are no dormers. There is a half-round arched window in the gambrel dormer roof at the second floor level. (photograph 7) It corresponds to the dormer that faces west.

SOUTHELEVATION

The gambrel-roofed portion of the ell has two bays on its south end, and only one (the western one) is fenestrated. Below this window is a concrete ramp to the southern basement entrance. Moving further to the west, there is an enclosure which extends to the level of the kitchen porch. It is set back a bit from the main south elevation and possesses an exterior door with stairs leading up to it from the drive. This south end of the house serves as the current entrance. The entry drive curves west, in from Edgewater Avenue. (photograph 8)

WEST ELEVATION

Continuing around the southwest corner, there is one bay for the enclosure which precedes the kitchen porch and there are three additional bays for the porch. There is one more on the wall linking the southern end of the main block of the house and before the building extends to the level of the north facade. The window of the enclosure on the southernmost end of the west elevation, has the top and sides of its frame, but the window space and sill have been filled by plywood, thus allowing a smaller square, double-hung window to be inserted. Set in the gambrel-roofed ell-extension is a gambrel dormer window in the first bay (matching the gambrel roofed vent on the east elevation), set slightly to the north of the window below it on the kitchen porch enclosure. This window has molding which denotes the original size of this window, which matches the others on that floor, but within this molding is a modern, double hung window about half the size of the original, and set in the middle of the space. In the rest of the space within the molding surround are plywood panels, above and below. Above, on the second floor in the next bay to the north, are two windows with applied molding surrounds, giving the effect of half-timbering, set in the enclosed space above the first segment of the arcaded kitchen porch. Over the next two segments towards the north is a screened-in sleeping porch. There is a window which looks out onto the first segment of the kitchen porch below. In the second segment, there is a door to the kitchen that is set to the north side of that segment. The remainder of the wall under the sleeping porch is blank, but when one turns toward the north, and toward the southern end of the main block of the house there is a door to the center hallway of the house. (photograph 9) Above, in the roof of the wall which meets the kitchen ell, there is a dormer. At a right angle to that wall is a one bay wall which faces west. This wall has windows on all three levels.

Facing south, there is another small segment of wall which also has windows on all three levels. Turning another corner, this time to the north with the wall facing west, one comes upon a fenestrated three sided bay one story high. Each of the three sides of this bay is

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pierced by a window. Its roof is bracketed with scroll sawn brackets, in the same manner as the other roofs of the house. Above this bay is a paired set of windows. As they are paired, each are slimmer than the others on the house. Also, the shutters on this elevation are not as functional as the other shutters on the house. The paired set of windows only has one pair of shutters, and they are of the same width as those that would cover half of a single window. The bay window on the first floor possesses only a single pair of shutters as well. The front porch extends out north towards the Delaware River one more bay. (photograph 10) The brackets on the porch are paired, scroll-sawn, wooden brackets.

The front porch is supported by square box columns and is connected to it's roof with simple scroll-sawn brackets with round, simple, three dimensional nubs, a pair of brackets per column face. (photograph 11) The pair that joins two columns is connected by molding, ornamented simply with a single strip of wood halfway between the bottom of the shorter brackets and the edge. The pair that are above each porch column where it meets the porch are approximately three times as long as the others. Regular brackets also appear under the cornice of the main roof, the southwest bay window roof, and the stair tower's roof.

INTERIOR
BASEMENT

One gains access to the basement from the inside via stairs that are located below the main stairs in the stair tower. The interior steps to the basement level descend from east to west. There are two additional entrances via concrete ramps (to facilitate the passage of boats) from the exterior on the north and south sides. A number of historic canoes are stored in racks located by the south entrance, which emerges underneath the western window of the kitchen ell extension. By the northern portal are the modern lavatories of the club. This ramp leads one out beneath the northeast room of the main house. Walls are the brick of the foundation, and the ceilings are either the floor joists of the first floor above or are plastered over. (photographs 12 & 13)

FIRST FLOOR

The house is arranged with a hallway at the center, and one room to either side. In the hall are seven doors, three enter the main two rooms, one the kitchen and three are exterior doors, one on the north and one on the south and one out of the stair tower on the east wall. These last three mirror each other in size and style and each has a clear glass fanlight above. Farther along the hallway and on the east side is the grand staircase which ascends into a tower. The presence of the stair hall on the east side necessitates that the eastern rooms be pushed more toward the river, or north, than on the western half. However, a slight extension to the north absorbs this shift. Continuing south past the stairway is the entrance to the kitchen ell.

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The main entry hall is floored in wood that is stained a dark walnut color, but it is a little lighter than the color of the trim due to wear. The molded baseboards are of the same walnut color, as are all doors and wood trim in the house. The walls are sheathed in plaster, plain white, and framed by the baseboards, the moldings, window and door frames. The doors in the house have four vertical panels. There are two smaller panels under two that are significantly longer, about three times the length. Service doors have the same formation. The panel molding gets less ornamental as one goes up through the building, the fanciest trim being on the ground floor where the guests and public may see it. There is one window per floor in the west wall, opposite the stair. (photograph 15) Windows are large, double hung two-over-twos with arched heads lifted by small, white ceramic knobs which are miniatures of the ceramic doorknobs throughout the house.

In the main hall, on opposite interior walls, two boat racks are hung near the ceiling⁵. Each holds a historic canoe. About one fourth of the way down the hall from the north are two doors across the hall from one another. Proceeding through the doorway on the west, one enters a large room lit by five windows with three in a bay. The north window is almost floor to ceiling, thus affording access to the front porch, from which one can watch the Delaware, and the boating of the club. (photograph 21) There is a window looking onto the entry drive to the south. The bay window is one story in height, on the west wall of the room.

Across the hall, in the east room (used most often as an assembly or meeting room by the club), there is a fireplace with a paneled surround and mantelpiece both of carved marble. (photograph 22) The overmantel decorated with a medallion of scrolls in the center. This is found on the east exterior wall and is flanked by two of the large two-over-two windows that exist throughout the house. Hung over the mantel is the framed charter for the club. (photograph 23). On the north wall which faces the river there is a third large window. This window which is not used for egress rises to the ceiling, but begins higher on the wall. It is located over the north basement entrance. A second door leads out of this room directly into the staircase. Only the first floor is currently heated.

STAIRCASE

The halfpace stairway ascends from the west to the east side and ends each west-to-east run with a landing in the tower endwall, thereby breaking the flight of stairs in half. (photograph 14). Each subsequent floor runs parallel to the rise of the stair by which one attained that floor (approximately north-south).

The stairs are approximately two feet in width, of walnut colored stained wood with a paneled newel post that is larger at its base. The top newel post panel is curved at top and bottom, the bottom panel has an arched head to it. This is topped with two molded discs, about as wide as the base, separated by about an inch by a turned piece. The steps themselves are deeper than

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they are tall (risers about half of the tread size), and are set into a molded string. The banister has a slight ridge, like a backbone, following along its center. The landings reflect the shape of the stair tower, having three sides in addition to side walls, which are integral to the building. It is angled on the two corners, the north and southeast. In the center of the landing is a window matching the others of that particular floor. An arch divides the central corridor and the stairway on each floor. These arches terminate on both ends with a large molded plaster ornament (photograph 19). The arch meets the ornament in a flat base which begins with concave molded edging evolving into small leaves at regular intervals. This drops in an acanthus leaf shape with a scrolled element before it finishes the leaf tip. Ceiling medallions, of molded plaster to match the arch ends, are above all ceiling hung light fixtures. (photograph 20) On the south wall ascending with the stairs are photos of the past commodores of the club.

KITCHEN

The kitchen is a large rectangular room with four doors, including its own entry from the hall. The door on the east end of the south wall leads to the adjoining pantry. In here are cabinets featuring paneled doors and drawers with foliated black metal pulls. (photograph 16) Another door on the west end of that same wall leads outside to the entry drive. And finally, one in the middle of the west wall leading outside to the porch. Between the two doors on the south wall, is a fireplace. It has a paneled wooden mantel, which is marbled and ornamented in the center with a lion's head framed with scrolls, which is unlike the other mantels in the house, which simply have scrolled medallions. It is not used any longer, as indicated by its having been filled in with plaster, but it has a foliated metal grate, suggesting that it is still usable for heat (photograph 17) In the north end of the porch wall is a built in beaded-board cupboard (photograph 18) Appliances and cabinets (both modern) line the north and east walls.

SECOND FLOOR

The second floor mimics the first in layout, as does the third. Each floor possesses a window in the west wall, opposite the one in the landing of the stair. The one on the second floor is another large two-over-two window with a slightly arched head, yet the opening is rectilinear in form. (photograph 24) At the north end of the hall, there is a window that aligns with the door which faces the Delaware River.

On the west wall of the hallway is another rack holding a canoe, about four feet above the floor. At the end of this canoe, there is a door into the west room. This room has four windows, the two in the west wall are paired, and the other two are opposite one another in that room. Across the corridor, and next to a built-out corner closet (photograph 25), is a floor to ceiling window which opens onto the roof of the riverfront porch. At a ninety-degree angle to the corner closet is a door leading to the east room. This room is the trophy room of

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the club. A shelf holding awards and trophy cups runs along the southeast corner of the room, about an inch above a closet door. This closet and an additional one in the southwest corner are quite large. The south western closet is accessed via a small alcove near the second entrance to the room (on the south wall) The southeast closet is a corner closet accessible from the room and features a window. In the middle of the east wall is a small cast iron heating stove, hooked into a chimney. (photograph 26) Behind the stove are two foliated, cast iron grills (presently unused), one to either side, just above the baseboard. Continuing along the north wall past the stove is a window, and another window looks north, out to the river.

The area over the kitchen is an apartment that the club rents out. Before it was a rental, it was used as the club's game room. Adjoining the apartment, to its west, is a screened porch, which is located over the kitchen porch.

THIRD FLOOR

Ascending the stairs to the third floor, one enters a world of paired doors. Wooden doors open onto the rooms, and screen doors are on the hall side, to keep the insects out and let the cooler air in, thus taking advantage of the "chimney effect". A heating stove is located in the hall just across from the midpoint of the staircase's ascent. (photograph 27) A corridor extends toward the river (north to south), as it does each floor. Three alcoves are on the west wall of the third floor corridor. The northernmost alcove is empty save for a chair. The next two are each filled with a large-glass fronted cabinets of wood matching the color of the other wood in the house, and having white ceramic knobs. (photograph 28). The dormer window on the north wall (photograph 29) gives a view of the river.

The northeast area is divided into two rooms on this floor. There is a slender room just off the stairway and another of a more square form to the north. The square room has a closet along its entire east wall and is accessed via the north-south corridor.

At this corridor's southern end, there is a window which looks out over the roof of the sleeping porch below, and on to the south lawn. Across the main corridor, and sharing the wall with the cabinets is the third floor, west room. It too has a closet along its eastern wall. It is lit by three windows, one each on the north, east and south walls. To the right of the railing separating the hallway and the stairwell is a short door leading to the attic space above the kitchen. (photograph 30) The far southeast end of this space contains two iron cisterns, one to either side of a brick pier. (photograph 31)

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About 500 yards behind and southwest of the main building, at the western edge of the parking area, there are a group of outbuildings. They consist of a double-sided outhouse, the Quartermaster's shed and a guest cabin.

PRIVY - Contributing

The first outbuilding to the southwest is a double-sided, clapboarded outhouse. As it is believed to have been built along with the house, it is contributing under Criterion C. Capping the little building is a hipped roof. One side has two holes and the other side has three, and each side has its own entrance and window. (photograph 32). The very small brass sign over the seats in the three hole side, says "Please use trough outside ->"(photograph 33). There are remnants of the framing for a trough on the west elevation. As the outhouse building is elevated off the ground, a step attains each side of the facility. This building has a pyramidal roof with a truncated peak. It is surrounded with a lattice fence made from wood, which has door size openings on the northeast and southwest sides. (photograph 34)

QUARTERMASTER'S SHED - Contributing

Behind the outhouse to the south, is the Quartermaster's shed is sheathed in vertical boards. (photograph 35) Built by the Club to maintain their property, it is contributing under Criterion A. The shed has a gable roof which rests on wooden rafters that extend out past the walls of the shed. There is a concrete ramp which leads up to the double doors.

GUEST CABIN - Contributing

Next to the Quartermaster's shed, and separated by a palisade fence, is the one remaining guest cabin having survived the fire which destroyed the other. Also built by the Club to house members and guests, it is contributing under Criterion A. This is a gable-roofed building with a shed-roofed, enclosed porch attached to its facade. (photographs 1 & 36) It is three bays wide by five bays long. The windows are small and square, with two vertical casements, side by side. The front section, under the shed roof, has two large, vertical panes of glass flanking the centered door on the east side. There is also a single dormer on the facade with a window which matches those of the side elevation. Each window is surrounded in white, applied wooden molding. Some boats are stored on racks close by.

RIVERFRONT

Near to the road and at the base of the hill to the riverfront is the boathouse of the club. A gate stands on the top of the hill just above the boathouse. In front of the house, going toward the river, there is a see-saw, and a couple of picnic tables that are used when there are the shad cookouts and other family gatherings at the club. On the crest of the hill sits a cannon

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(purportedly it is from the revolutionary war and was found in the basement of a club member from Haddonfield). (photograph 37) A few more picnic tables are arranged here just before the concrete steps going down to the waterfront. (photograph 38)

At the foot of the steps, there are more boat storage racks. The river is approximately fifteen feet from the base of the slope. The boathouse and one track of the marine railway is to the north of the steps, and the other track is just to the south. The western end of the shore blends into the hill of another property.

GATE- Contributing

On the top of the slope down to Edgewater Avenue sits a gate with square stone posts framing a simple gate of cast iron spindles . These are set about every two inches, and fortified with cross bracing, also of cast iron.

BOATHOUSE - Contributing

The boathouse is situated only a few yards from the northern end of Edgewater Avenue. It is angled from the road slightly to the north, the northwest corner being the closest to the river.(photograph 40) Having been constructed by and very much used by the Club, it is contributing under Criterion A. The boathouse is a gable-roofed rectangular structure covered in wood shingles stained dark brown, with a full length porch. The river side of it has two large, full-wall size sliding doors, occupying the entire northwest wall of the boathouse. On the east side of the south elevation of the boathouse, is a wooden, two panel door, sized for human egress. (photograph 41) In the very top of the gable ends are vents. On the west side of the boathouse are a few floats.

MARINE RAILWAY - Contributing

After World War I and II, in which many of the club members had fought (only one was killed in WWI, W.J.Bonk), they acquired a davit (boat crane) from the scrap yards of the Navy. This is a metal crane used to haul boats out of the water to place them onto the carriage of the marine railway. One set of tracks of the marine railway and its accompanying davit is just to the east, or upriver, of the base of the stairs. (photograph 42) The other set of tracks is perpendicular to the boathouse. Slightly west of this segment of the marine railway, is the club pier. (photograph 43)

A marine railway consists of a small carriage, equipped with the wheels of a train, because it is on railroad tracks on which the carriage rides. The tracks are laid on sleepers and extend half out of the water and half underwater. The carriages have a concave and cushioned bed, on which the boats can rest as they enter or exit the water. (photograph 44)

Edgewater Avenue ends in the Delaware River just northeast of the club's boathouse. This

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facilitates the launching of the Club member's vessels. (photograph 45) If one proceeds southward on Edgewater Avenue, one passes the east elevation of the house. Continuing on, one returns to the entry drive.

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¹ Scott, J.D. *Combination Atlas Map of Burlington Co., NJ* (Philadelphia: J.D. Scott 1876) XVI.

² Paragraph Club and Beverly Bicentennial Committee, *Beverly: A Local History, 2nd ed.* (Cincinnati: The Creative Company, 1993) 21.

³ Snyder, John P. *The Story of New Jersey's Civil Boundaries: 1606-1968* (Trenton: Bureau of Geology and Topography, 1969) 95.

⁴ Deed Footpath, Book I6, p.446

⁵ These were added by the Red Dragon Canoe Club to showcase some of their older canoes.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Red Dragon Canoe Club, formerly the Shipman Mansion, is a majestic house in the Second Empire Style that has served as headquarters for the Club, one of the prominent recreational pleasure boating organizations on the Delaware River since 1926. The house and estate represent the explosion of development in the Beverly Township area in the last half of the nineteenth century. The Club itself highlights the rise in recreational clubs in the same period. It meets Criterion A for entertainment and recreation and Criterion C for its representation of the freestanding, single family dwelling form of the Second Empire style.

ENTERTAINMENT AND RECREATION, CRITERION A

In the mid-nineteenth century, the chief activities in Philadelphia were finance, commerce and industry.¹ With the rise of industrialism came a multitude of lifestyle changes. New mechanical and timesaving household devices freed women from many household tasks, so they had time for leisure. Factory owners, as well as businessmen, bankers, and heads of major enterprises, could afford to build summer houses where they could take their families away from the heat and increased disease of the city. In the late 1800s there were two successive cholera outbreaks in Philadelphia alone, one in 1848 and another in 1866.² Influenza was deadly at that time. It was said of Beverly that "the climactic and sanitary character of the place is unsurpassed"³ In their History of Burlington and Mercer Counties New Jersey, Woodward and Hageman describe the region. "The broad sheet of sparkling water . . . looking more like a lake than a river, dotted here and there with graceful pleasure yachts, gliding along as their snowy sheets fill with the evening breeze, the gayly painted rowboats moving here and there, their merry occupants perchance singing some sweet melody . . . the fleecy clouds painted in all their gorgeous glory by the fast receding sun - all combined make up a scene worthy the pencil of an artist."⁴ Beverly was described thus: "the riverbank rises from ten to thirty feet along the whole front of Beverly and Edgewater, a beautiful little town about a mile farther up the river."⁵

Improved transportation allowed families to get away for shorter periods of time. A summer cottage in close proximity to the city, where much of the wealth was centered, was very desirable as it allowed the men to join their families at the cottage on weekends. Steamboats plied the Delaware, making trips with freight cargoes and passengers from Philadelphia. When the river froze, ice boats were used to break up the ice so the steamboats could navigate.⁶ The area in and around Beverly boomed with activity. Traffic flowed freely between Beverly and Philadelphia. As the act of incorporation of the Camden and Amboy Railroad states "suitable steam and other vessels" are to be made available to make the connection between Philadelphia and New York City.⁷ Its location 15 miles above Philadelphia was its best feature, 50 minutes by rail or by steamboat.⁸ New Jersey served as the

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transportation corridor for people and goods between Philadelphia and New York City. The steamboat landing in Beverly was constructed in the same location as Dunk's Ferry (of Revolutionary War renown). A modern platform and pier were built in 1847 and received a steamboat every few hours.⁹ In 1851 Acts were passed in both Harrisburg and Trenton incorporating the Beverly and the Dunks Ferry Steamboat Company.¹⁰ The Camden & Amboy Railroad, a division of the Pennsylvania Railroad incorporated in February of 1830, traveled one half mile from and parallel to the Delaware River.¹¹ Trains ran to and from Philadelphia 12 to 15 times daily.¹² Samuel Perkins, Sr. and three other early settlers formed Morris, Dantz and Co. when they divided the old Vansciver estate in 1848 and had it surveyed into lots.¹³ Henry Seibert of Philadelphia and Dr. Pettit of Beverly City purchased land along the waterfront and had it surveyed into lots as well.¹⁴ Andrew Manderson, James Manderson, and Silvester Keyser were among these early land speculators in Beverly Township.

In 1854 Silvester Keyser and James Manderson bought the property on which the Red Dragon Canoe Club now stands.¹⁵ Neighboring property owners along the riverfront included the Wall family who specialized in the field of law, counting a clerk of the Supreme Court of New Jersey and two attorneys of the State of New Jersey among them.¹⁶ William C. Stokes was owner of the first boot and shoe store in Beverly, twice Mayor of Beverly (1861 and 1873), and many time City Councilman and City Clerk.¹⁷ He also served a term in 1873 with Francis C. Perkins on the Beverly Township Committee.¹⁸ In 1875 George Heisler and in 1877 Jacob Heisler served on the same Committee.¹⁹ Silvester Keyser and James Manderson had purchased the land on which the Club House sits from John Heisler's estate which was being administered by his son George and John Fenimore. On the 20th of April, 1859, Silvester Keyser, George Taylor, Andrew Manderson, James Manderson, and Charles Stokes drew up a deed to have a "footpath run along the top of the bank of the Delaware River across and through their premises for the purpose of passing and repassing forever."²⁰ The deed for the footpath lists the profession of each person. The property owners listed are: Silvester Keyser, lumber merchant, George Taylor, dealer in metals, and James Manderson, gentleman were all from Philadelphia. Andrew Manderson was a local gentleman from Edgewater Park. (No profession was listed on the deed for Stokes).²¹ A pair of stone gateposts marking the Edgewater Avenue end of the footpath are all that remain of it on this property.

Keyser sold the property in 1869 to Colonel Paul Shipman who immediately transferred the section on which the Canoe Club now stands to James Henning Sr. and Joshua Speed. They were made trustees of the property under the will of a William H. Davidson, for the benefit of Alice Shipman, his wife (and quite possibly Davidson's daughter).²² The Second Empire style was approaching its zenith in 1869, and it may have been at this time that the present Red Dragon Clubhouse was constructed. According to the Club's website, the Shipmans then took a trip around the world.²³ Upon their return, their finances were in ruins, possibly from the

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panic of 1873.²⁴ Henning, Sr. who was predeceased by Speed, owned the property as trustee until 1888. Upon his death, the property was left to James Henning Jr. as trustee.²⁵ The trust was, in all likelihood, set up for the life of Alice Shipman, and upon her death, would continue for the benefit of her daughter Alicia. In 1922, the property reverted to the heirs of William H. Davidson.²⁶ Four of these heirs were located in Missouri, one in Arkansas, and one in Oregon.²⁷ On various dates in December, 1922 the heirs sold their shares in the property to Joseph Edward Murray, agent for the Red Dragon Canoe Club.²⁸ Murray deeded the property to the Red Dragon Colony, Inc. on February 14, 1925.²⁹ After the Red Dragon Colony, Inc. paid off its mortgage on the property in 1947, the Canoe Club took full title to the property under the name "Red Dragon Canoe Club."³⁰

EVOLUTION OF BOAT CLUBS

Leisure brought with it the need for new entertainment and social activities for the summer residents, so clubs sprang up of various types. The most common and popular recreational club in places near the water were boating and yachting clubs. In America it was not until 1860 that intercollegiate rowing was institutionalized. The first regatta was between Harvard, Yale, and Brown, on July 26th at Lake Quinsigamond in Massachusetts. The course was 3 miles long and six oared shells took part in the contest.³¹ In the decades before and after 1890, yacht clubs flourished along the Delaware River.³² The Schuylkill River boasted three boathouses in 1876, one of which (*The Schuylkill Fishing Company of the State in Schuylkill*) moved to the Delaware to escape the disagreeable odors emanating from the Schuylkill.³³

THE RED DRAGON CANOE CLUB

The Red Dragon Canoe Club was part of this early history, originating in Philadelphia as the Keystone Canoe Club in 1883 in Philadelphia.³⁴ The first clubhouse was built at Cooper's Point in Camden, New Jersey.³⁵ Meetings of the Club were split between their clubhouse and the Colonnade Hotel in Philadelphia.³⁶ In 1887 the name of the club was changed to to the Red Dragon Canoe Club.³⁷ Unfortunately the clubhouse at Cooper's Point burned to the ground in 1889.³⁸ Members quickly rented another building on the Camden waterfront, on Second Street, where the minutes refer to the club as the Red Dragon Canoe and Boating Association.³⁹ In 1890, another fire forced the club to move again.⁴⁰

The few members that were left acquired another clubhouse in 1890.⁴¹ This house was located in Bridesburg, Pennsylvania, but was not to be a permanent home.⁴² By 1893, they had moved yet again, this time to a rented facility, the Morris Mansion (entitled Magnolia Grove) a revolutionary era estate, in Wissinoming, Pennsylvania.⁴³ The estate came equipped with boat houses, wagon sheds, a stable, and an ice house.⁴⁴ The Club members soon added a pier with a boat ramp down to the Delaware River, a shooting range and cabins for the members for storage and to sleep.⁴⁵ It was in this house, Magnolia Grove, that the Red Dragon Canoe Club

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incorporated in 1895.⁴⁶ Their charter states the the purpose of the Club as "maintaining a Club and Club House and other proper and requisite facilities for the promotion, encouragement and practice of canoeing and small boat sailing."⁴⁷ Trolleys came to Wissinoming in 1893 and 1903.⁴⁸ This enabled the Club members better access to their recreational facility.

They chose as their "burgee" (symbol of the club), a red dragon on a white background highlighting the dragon. It was created by Sanford Northrup, a club member, and is a cross between the "Jabberwock" of Lewis Carroll and the Chinese Empire's golden dragon.⁴⁹ There may have been some Welsh influence in the design of the dragon, as one of the founding members was of Welsh descent. (His great grandson, Barry Jones, is a current member of the Club.)⁵⁰ A paddle was added to the burgee to show the purpose of the Club.

The Club was forced to move yet again in early 1925 to make way for an abutment for the Tacony Palmyra Bridge, which was to open in 1928.⁵¹ By now the water in the Delaware River was very polluted and they were happy to leave it behind for a cleaner location upstream. A committee was formed to search for their next Clubhouse.⁵² Judge Joseph Edward Murray, a representative of that committee, purchased the property in Edgewater Park Township, further upstream, where they continue to reside today.⁵³ The Red Dragon Canoe Club moved into the old Shipman house in 1925.

A boathouse, the first of several improvements, was made c.1928.⁵⁴ As they were a boating organization and the property that they had purchased lacked the proper facilities, it was up to them to provide those amenities for themselves. The Canoe Club had planned to build twelve cabins, similar to what they had done at the Wissinoming house. They were only able to build two, somewhere between 1925 and 1932.⁵⁵ One of the pair were subsequently lost to fire and only a single guest cabin remains today.⁵⁶ The Great Depression interrupted these plans and the resources of Red Dragon Canoe Club, both the organization and the individual members, were very slim. They would not give up their club, however. Instead they regrouped and formed a holding company, The Red Dragon Colony, Inc.⁵⁷ Shares of this company were sold to members, promising dividends when circumstances improved.⁵⁸ The Depression, however had reduced the scope of some of their plans.

THE MARINE RAILWAY.

The marine railway is thought to be an American adaptation of British technology.⁵⁹ The terminology is all of British derivation, or directly British: the word "railway" itself, "carriage" and "sleepers".⁶⁰ The carriage is what travels on the tracks, and the tracks rest on sleepers. "Marine railways endure as one of the oddest applications of railroad technology to transportation" according to landscape historian John Stilgoe.⁶¹

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The arrival of the first set of tracks at the Red Dragon Canoe Club took place c.1950.⁶² It was laid at the foot of the stairs ascending to the lawn. Four years later they laid a second set upriver, and got a davit for that one as well.⁶³ Now they could haul out twice as many of the larger boats in the fall for wintering and maintenance. In 1967, they bought the riparian rights to their riverfront.⁶⁴

ARCHITECTURE, CRITERION C

The specific year that the present clubhouse was built is not known, though a house existed on the property as early as 1854.⁶⁵ Its current appearance is the mansarded Second Empire style with a polychrome, patterned slate roof, and a low mansard to gambrel roofed kitchen ell. It is an exquisite example of the Second Empire style. The Second Empire style was popular in the United States during the years from 1852 to 1870. Although Parisian in origin, its exposure to Americans came mainly through Great Britain and British architectural magazines.⁶⁶ In addition, since many Americans went to the international exhibitions in 1855 and 1867 and were impressed by the elegance, sophistication and the technological advances of Paris under Napoleon III, everything Parisian was in vogue.⁶⁷ The bourgeois taste had supplanted the aristocratic taste in France, and the effects were reverberating throughout the western world. The Second Empire style is categorized as, "Creative Eclecticism I" by Leland Roth, author of A Concise History of American Architecture. Roth calls it "Second Empire Baroque" and puts it in the period between 1855 and 1880.⁶⁸ He uses as an example Philadelphia's City Hall, which was constructed during the period from 1871 through 1901.⁶⁹ Boston's City Hall, also of this style, preceded Philadelphia's, as it was built over the period from 1862 to 1865.⁷⁰

The house demonstrates many features of the Second Empire style. The most obvious at first glance, is its concave mansard roof, which encompasses the third floor. There are multicolored (ochre, red and charcoal grey) slate tiles, cut in fishscale, octagonal, and rectilinear forms. The long two-over-two windows on the first floor are also very typical of this style. Windows on the entire building are two-over-two with arched heads, slightly arched on the first two floors, and more rounded in the third floor dormers, which are located in the roof. The dormers feature roofs that are both pitched and clipped. Light is supplied to the stair tower on the east (which has a convex mansard roof) via porthole dormers with eyebrow window heads. The building is monumental in scale and is of frame construction, two more features typical of the Second Empire style. It even features a projecting pavilion front.⁷¹

RED DRAGON CANOE CLUB 1926 - 1950

The committee which chose the current location had decided that it would be "amid perfect surroundings, free from the smoke and dust and foul river water of our present location".⁷² They had some good and vigorous years on the property until the Great Depression hit the country, affecting every aspect of life, but especially finances. This brief period reinvigorated

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the club. Small class boats exhibited championship sailing, especially in Crickets and Comets (vessel types).⁷³ In this epoch the Red Dragon were led by former members of the Beverly Yacht Club (now members of the Red Dragon) and became the center for sailing this type of boat.⁷⁴ Four members won Comet national titles and one member won the Thistle National Championship twice and later another won the Celebrity Nationals twice.⁷⁵ When the Canoe Club finally took over again from the Colony in 1947, the members received only sixty percent of their original investment, but the perseverance of the Red Dragon Canoe Club kept the club alive.⁷⁶ In spite of what their name suggests, they offer services to just about any type of vessel: river, creek, lake, pond and even ocean going. As their own brochure states, "Although canoes still make up one of our standing fleets, sailing is the primary activities of the RDCC".⁷⁷ The waterfront area bustles with activity during their class racing series in summer and fall or their three annual regattas.⁷⁸ They feature a sailing school which they claim is the finest in New Jersey. The Red Dragon offers membership to both active boaters and a social membership. The latter participates in the many non-boating events throughout the year, of which cookouts of planked shad and lobster are but one. Shad fishing had been a part time industry in Beverly and the boating clubs would have social gatherings around a cookout of planked shad.⁷⁹ *The Schuylkill Fishing Company of the State in Schuylkill* had them and the Red Dragon Canoe Club joined them in 1889 tradition of planked shad cookouts on the Delaware River.⁸⁰

The Club offers many recreational activities. Among them are the cookouts, parties, and celebrations for special occasions. They offer boats to sail even if the member lacks one and opportunities to crew on a member's boat. Everyone is welcome to watch the regattas held on Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Labor Day.

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- ²⁵ Deed P. Shipman to J. Speed and J. Henning, Sr., Book Z7, p. 151.
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MAPS

USGS map, Beverly quad.

1874 Scott Combination Atlas Map of Burlington County, Township of Edgewater.
(courtesy The Library Company of Philadelphia)

1874 Map of Beverly, New Jersey and Surroundings including Edgewater.

Dec. 23, 1922, Survey and Plan, Shipman Property for the Red Dragon Canoe Club. Framed at the Clubhouse.

HISTORIC ILLUSTRATION

1920, Ward Atlas Philadelphia 1920. Plate 20 .

This map shows the clubhouse in Wissinoming, PA, "Magnolia Grove".

PHOTOGRAPHS

The following is the same for all photographs:

1. Red Dragon Canoe Club
2. Burlington, NJ
3. Caroline Gavin
4. February, 1999
5. Historic Preservation Office, Trenton, NJ

Photo List

Exterior

6. View of the property from Edgewater Avenue looking southwest. The boats that are stored on the south end of the lawn are to the left. The guest cabin is visible near center
7. photo 1
6. North end of the lawn, looking at the Delaware. The boathouse and gate are on the right, a davit is at center, just to the right of the picnic tables.
7. photo 2
6. The gate, looking northwest. To the lower right is the roof and rear of the boathouse.
7. photo 3
6. The northwest corner of the house, looking at the facade and a segment of the west elevation.
7. photo 4
6. View of the northeast corner of the house as seen from Edgewater Avenue. Visible are the facade and the east elevation. At center of the east elevation is the stair tower.
7. photo 5

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6. View of east elevation of the house. The tower entrance is seen, and the kitchen ell is to the left. The steps lead down toward Edgewater Avenue.
7. photo 6
6. The entirety of the east elevation. The front porch is to the right, the stair tower at center, and the kitchen ell is at left.
7. photo 7
6. View of the southeast corner of the house, as seen from Edgewater Avenue. The lattice enclosure of the privy and the Quartermaster's Shed are just visible to the left.
7. photo 8
6. View of the west elevation of the kitchen ell, from its southern end to where it joins the main block of the house.
7. photo 9
6. Looking northeast at the west elevation. The front porch is at left, the main block of the house at center, and the kitchen porches at right. Note the rosettes in the roof slate.
7. photo 10
6. Detail of the scroll sawn brackets and the connection between sets of brackets.
7. photo 11

Interior

6. In the basement, looking west under the northwest room's bay window.
7. photo 12
6. View of the wall of the apartment utility room from the main staircase's south wall.
7. photo 13
6. The main staircase, in this view it leads from the ground floor to the second. At center is the eastern door outside, to the right is the kitchen and the front console. Portraits of the past commodores of the club are displayed on the right wall as one ascends the stairs.
7. photo 14
6. View of kitchen porch entry hall. At right is the window to the southeast yard, center is the door to the kitchen porch, between the door and the archway, is a console table, and at far left is the entrance to the kitchen.
7. photo 15
6. Looking south into the pantry off the southeast corner of the kitchen.
7. photo 16
6. View of the kitchen fireplace, looking southeast. Note the foliated grate piercing the filled-in fireplace, indicating that while the fireplace is no longer used for fires, it is still usable for heat.
7. photo 17

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6. Looking north out of the kitchen. To the right is the door to the meeting room, at center the center corridor is visible, and at the left, behind the kitchen door, is a set of built-in cupboards.
7. photo 18
6. Detail of the stylized acanthus leaf pendant found at the ends of the stair hall arches
7. photo 19
6. View of the riverfront porch entrance. At the far right is the door to the meeting room and the framed property map. At far left, next to the the piano, is the NW front room. Above hangs a historic canoe
7. photo 20
6. Window in front, or northwest room, looking out through the porch to the Delaware River.
7. photo 21
6. Looking east at the fireplace in the meeting room of the Club. The Charter of the Club hangs framed above the mantelpiece.
7. photo 22
6. The Charter of the Red Dragon Canoe Club, dated November 1895.
7. photo 23
6. View of the western window on the second floor with it's slightly arched top and rectangular surround. Visible is the plaster ceiling medallion where the pendant light fixture attaches to the ceiling
7. photo 24
6. Northwest window on the second floor set into an archway. The riverfront porch roof can be seen just outside of the window and a closet is just to the right of the window.
7. photo 25
6. Looking southeast in the trophy room of the Club, which is above the meeting room. Both the stove and the foliated metal grates access the chimney on the east elevation of the house.
7. photo 26
6. View looking east on the third floor. The kitchen attic door can be seen at right and a heating stove and a door with an additional screen door on the corridor side on the left. A circular tower window is behind the suspended light fixture.
7. photo 27
6. To the right of the window is a room, also accessible by the stair hall door. To the left are two glass fronted cabinets set into alcoves .
7. photo 28

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6. The northwest window on the third floor is set into the roof and of a significantly smaller size than the others, yet it has a similar form.
7. photo 29
6. View looking west from the third floor stairs. From the right is the cast iron stove, the door with the interior screen door, a window that looks onto the western lawn and the door to the kitchen attic, where the cisterns are located.
7. photo 30
6. View, looking south, of one of the pair of cisterns located in the kitchen mansarded attic. The other is on the other side of the brick chimney at the left of the photograph.
7. photo 31

Outbuildings

6. The door and window to the two hole side of the privy, looking southwest.
7. photo 32
6. The three hole side of the privy looking south. Note the very small brass sign above the seats. It reads, "Please Use Trough Outside->".
7. photo 33
6. View looking southwest toward the privy (at center, behind fence) and the Quartermaster's Shed (to left).
7. photo 34
6. The Quartermaster's Shed, looking southwest. To the left is a fence between it and the Guest Cabin,
7. photo 35
6. View, looking south, of the Guest Cabin (at left) and the privy (at right). The Quartermaster's shed is behind the tree.
7. photo 36
6. View looking west. The picnic area, cannon, and top of the steps to the riverside are from left to right.
7. photo 37
6. The steps down to the waterfront, with some of the boats on racks to the left or west of the steps.
7. photo 38
6. Looking south up the steps toward the lawn, with the boat racks to the right.
7. photo 39
6. The boathouse with the eastern davit and a track of the marine railway in the background.
7. photo 40

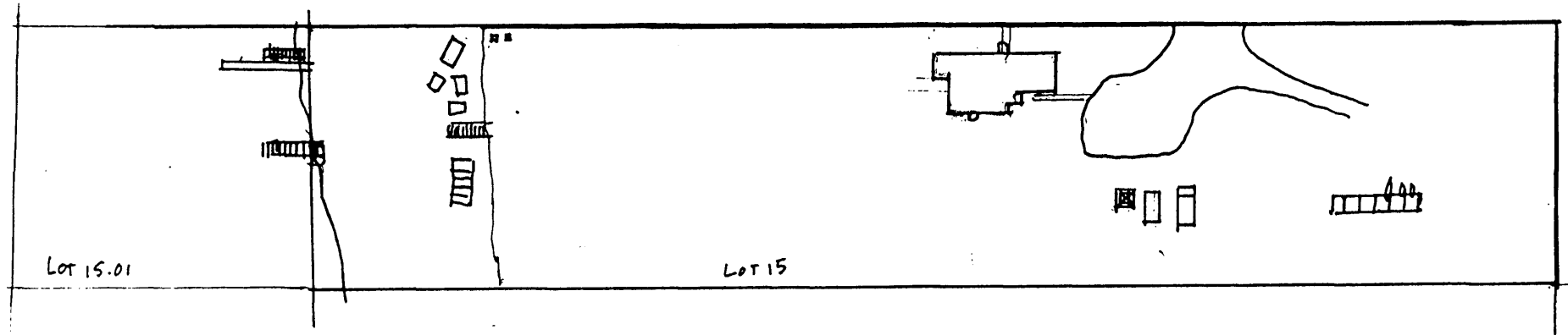
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 12 Page 36

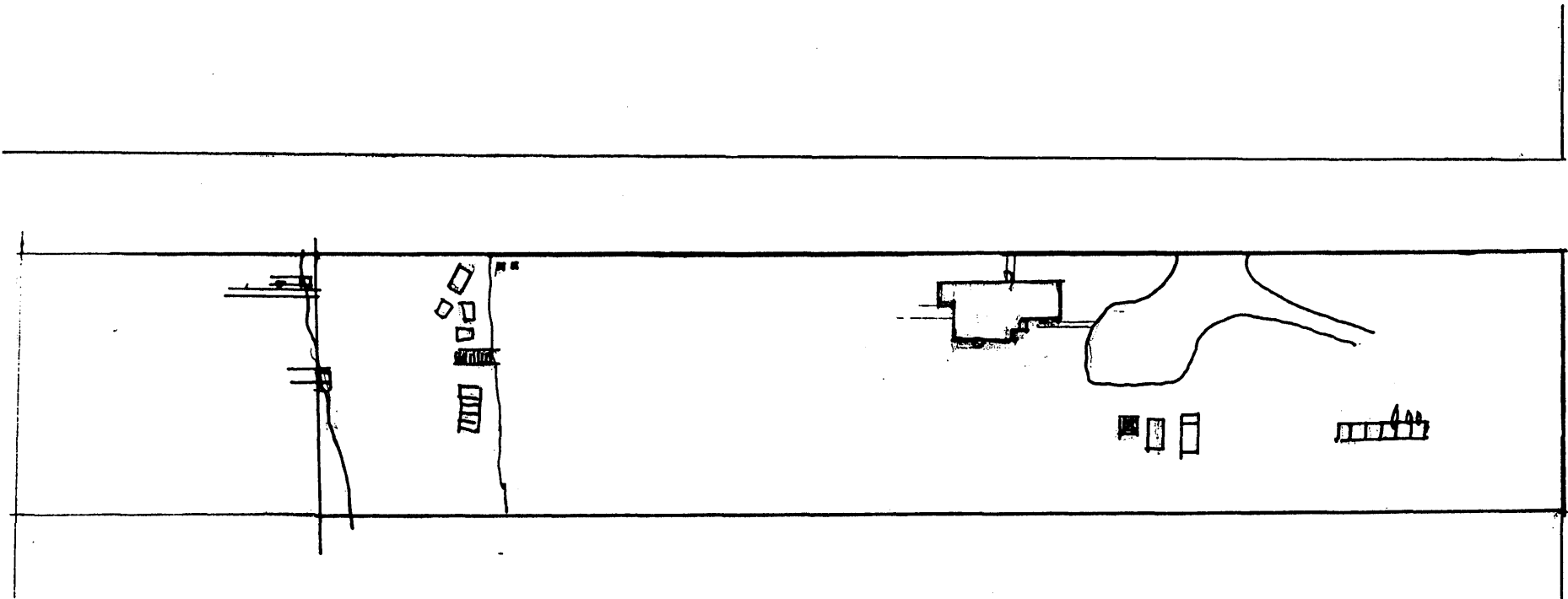
Red Dragon Canoe Club
Burlington County, NJ

6. View of the boathouse looking southeast. The burgee or symbol of the Red Dragon Canoe Club, a red Welsh dragon with a paddle, is on the door to the right.
7. photo 41
6. View of the western, or down river, marine railway
7. photo 42
6. The other track of the marine railway, looking north, with the Club's pier in the foreground. This pier is located in front of the Boathouse.
7. photo 43
6. Detail of one track and carriage, and the base of an accompanying davit of the Marine Railway.
7. photo 44
6. View, looking west, of the rear of the boathouse with the old gate to the path along the crest of the hill, taken from Edgewater Avenue.
7. photo 45



Site Plan
Red Dragon Canoe Club
Burlington County, NJ





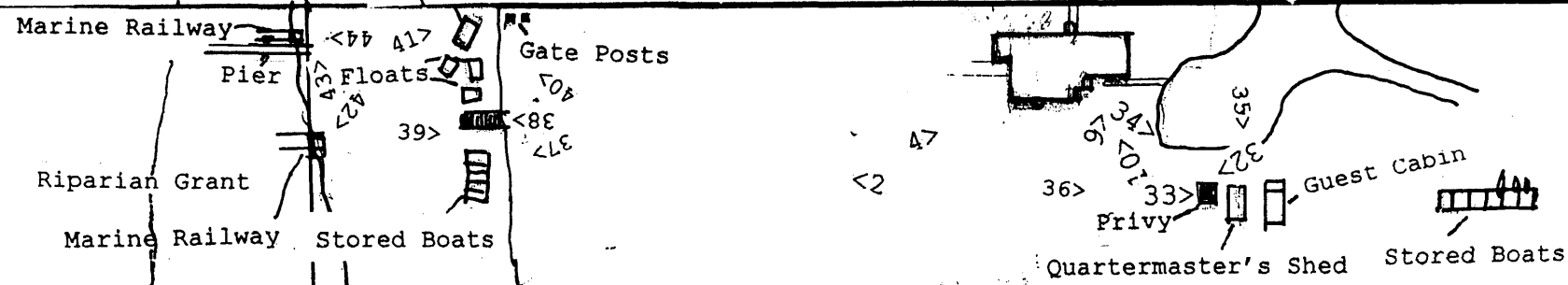
Site Plan
Red Dragon Canoe Club
Burlington County, NJ



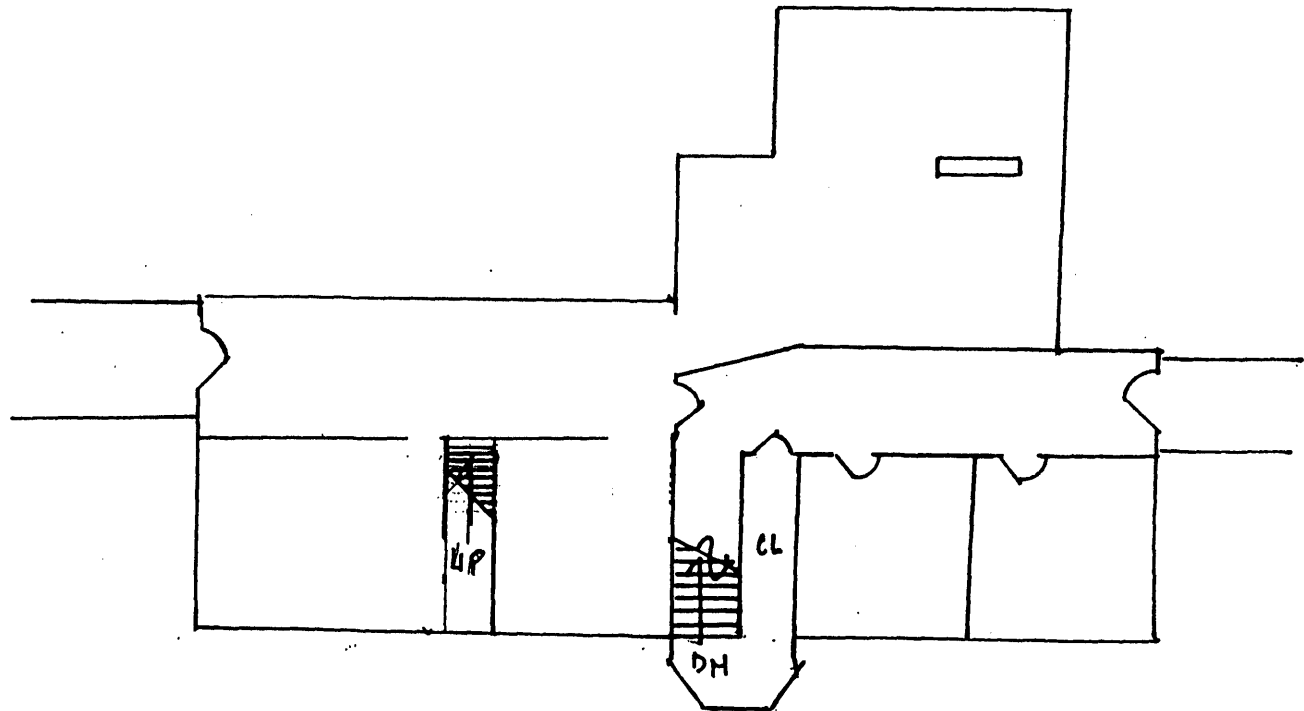
Delaware River

Cottage Avenue

Edgewater Avenue



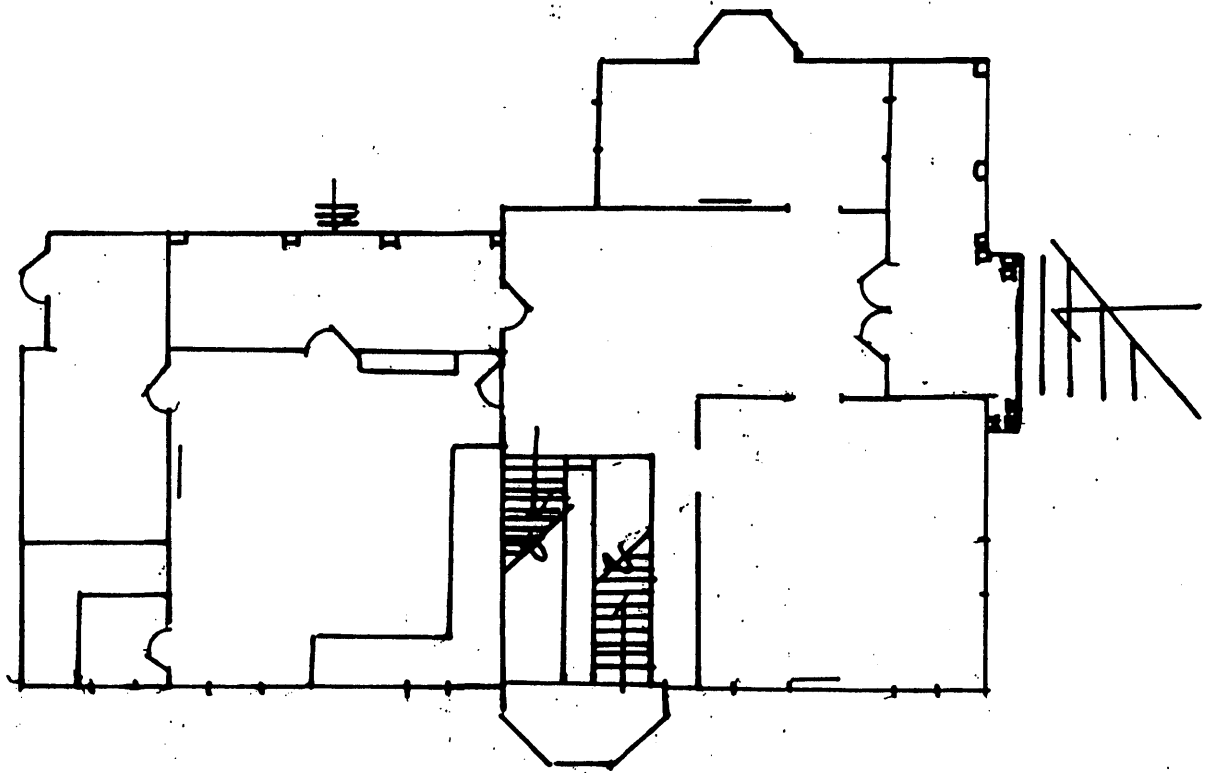
Site Plan
Red Dragon Canoe Club
Burlington County, NJ



Basement Plan
Red Dragon Canoe Club
Burlington County, NJ

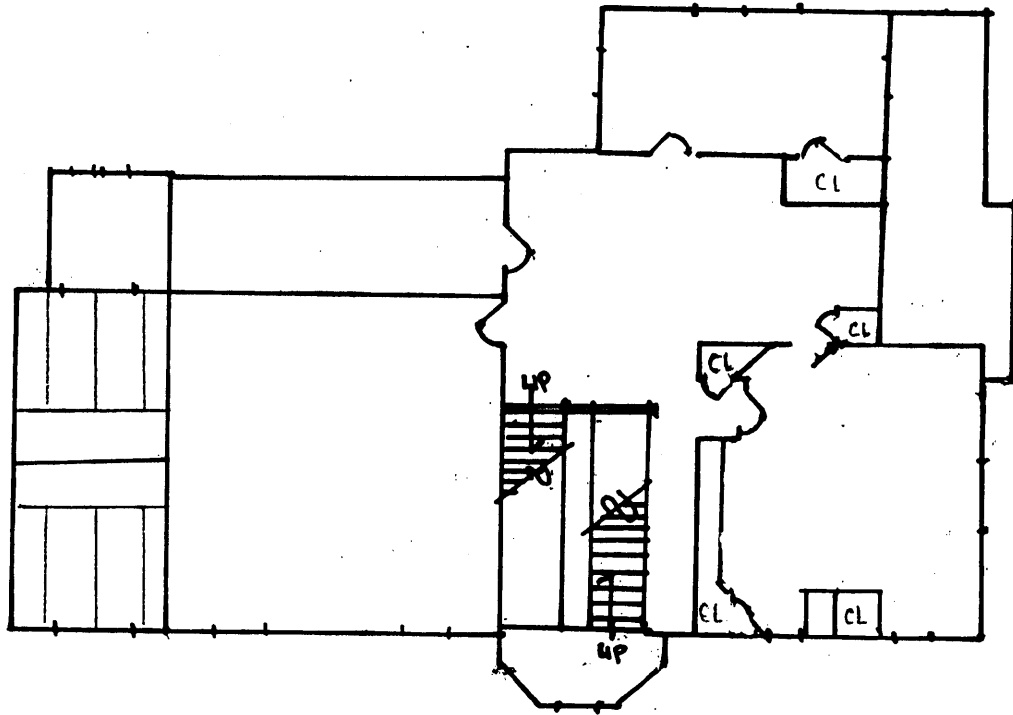


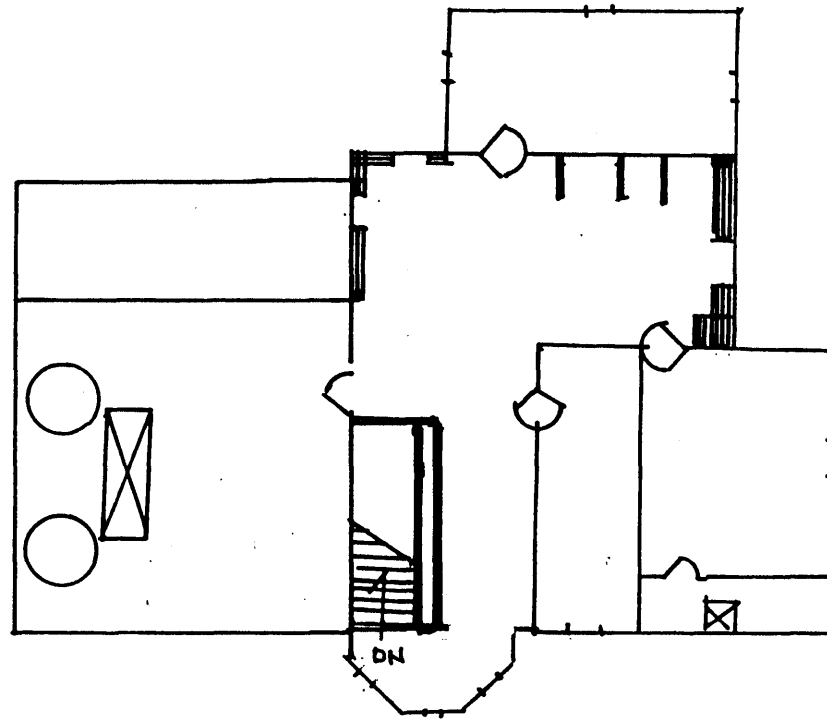
First Floor Plan
Red Dragon Canoe Club
Burlington County, NJ





Second Floor Plan
Red Dragon Canoe Club
Burlington County, NJ

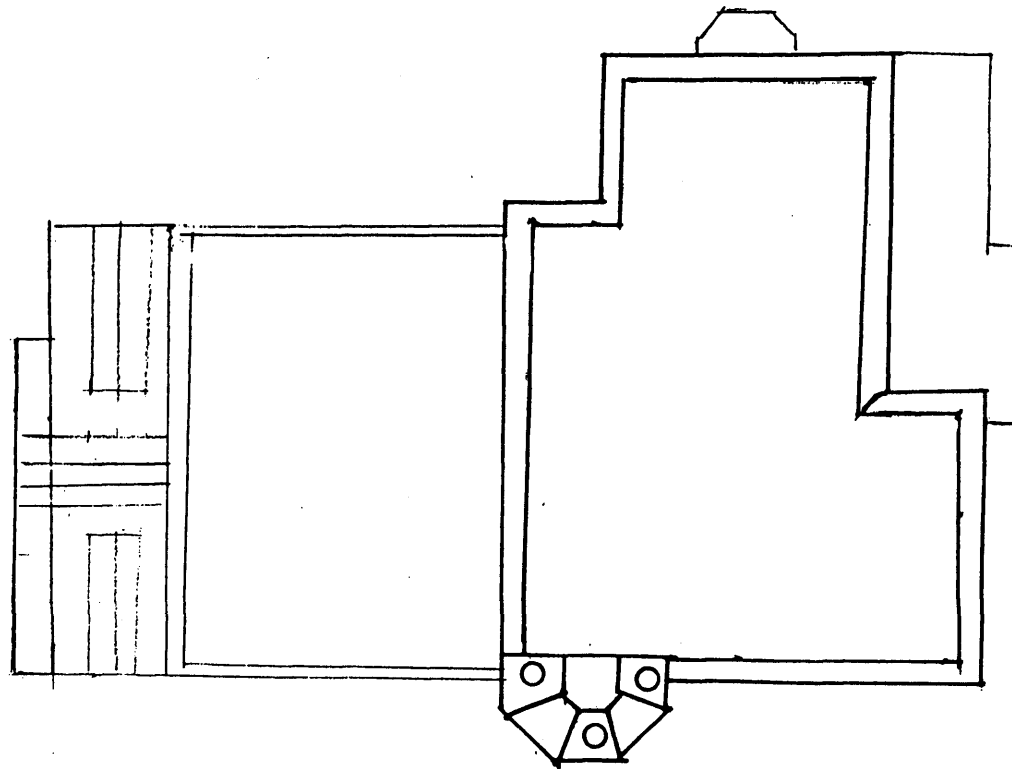


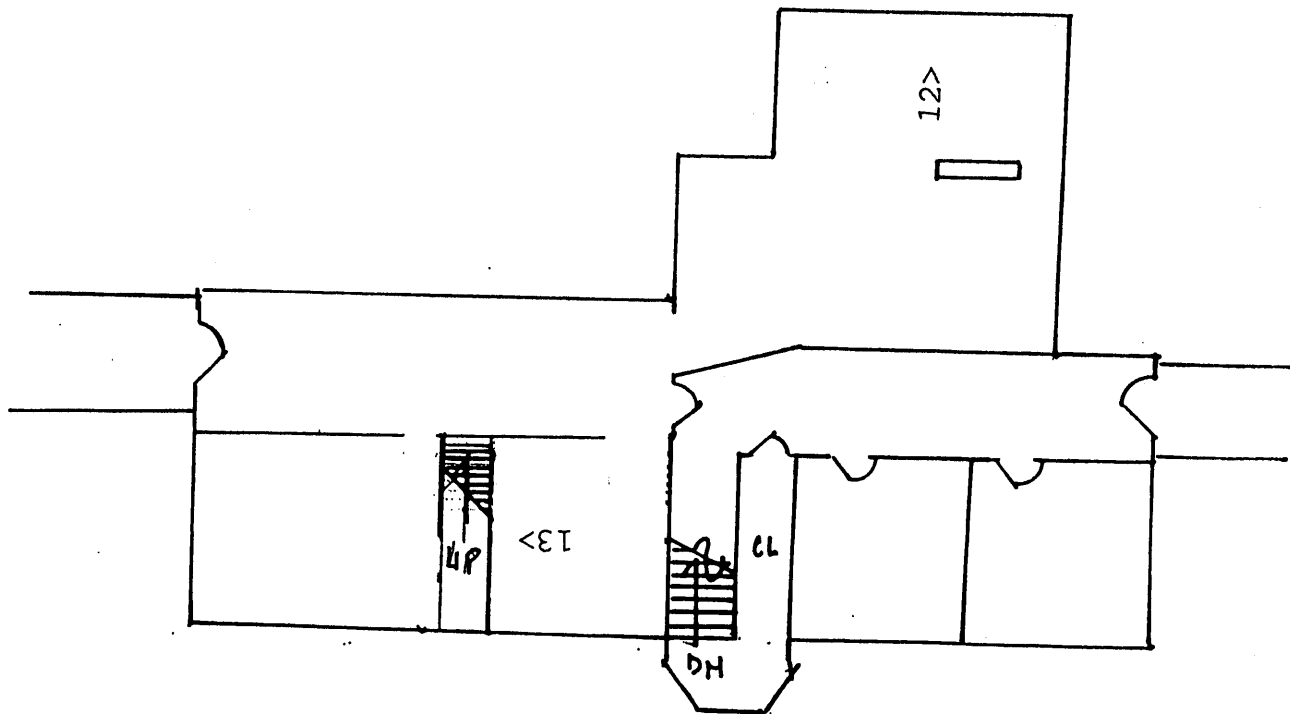
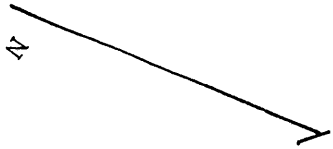


Third Floor Plan
Red Dragon Canoe Club
Burlington County, NJ



Roof Plan
Red Dragon Canoe Club
Burlington County, NJ

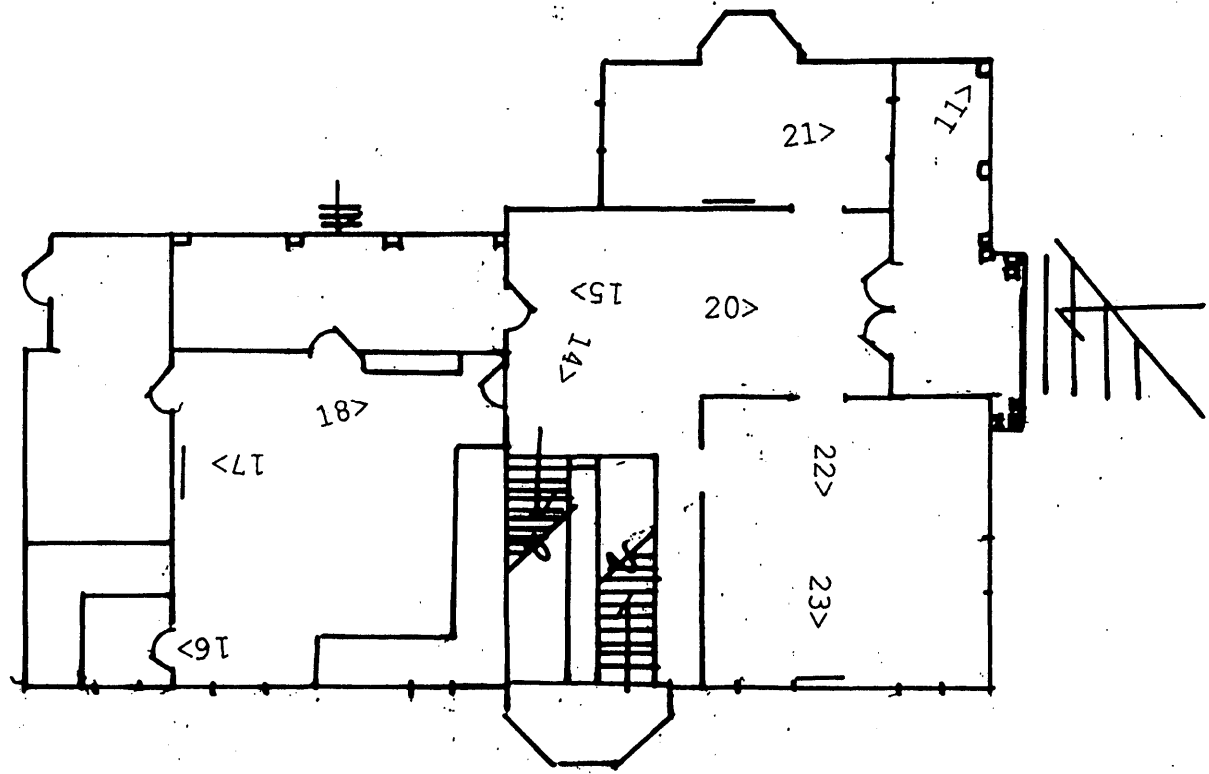




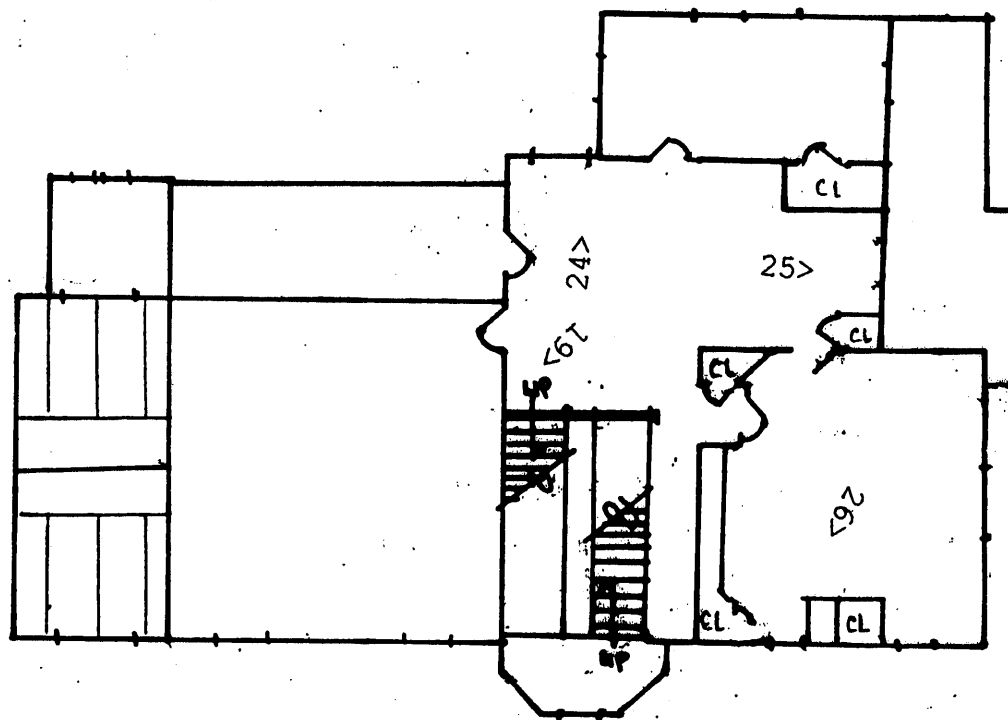
Basement Plan
Red Dragon Canoe Club
Burlington County, NJ

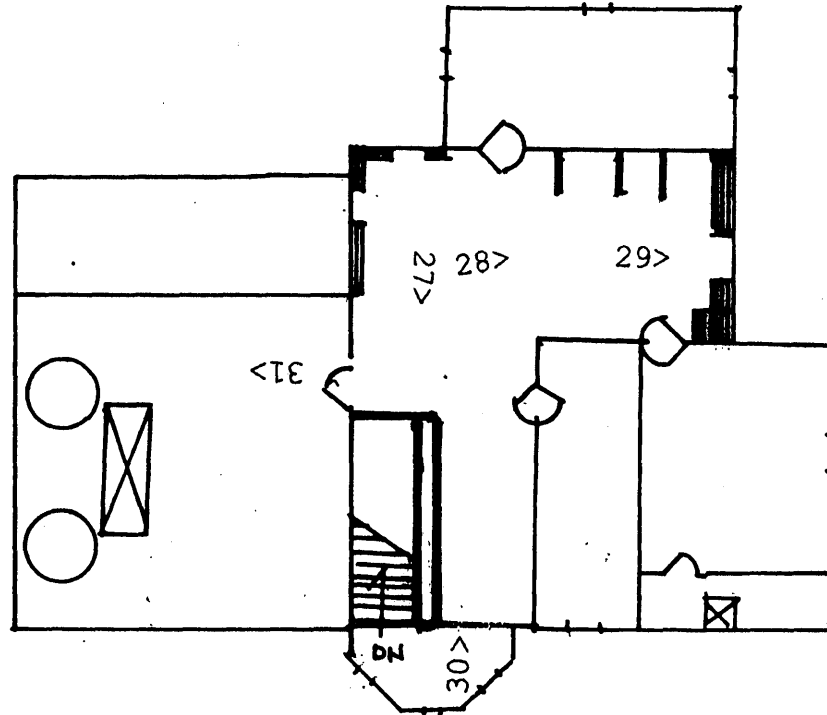


First Floor Plan
Red Dragon Canoe Club
Burlington County, NJ



Second Floor Plan
Red Dragon Canoe Club
Burlington County, NJ

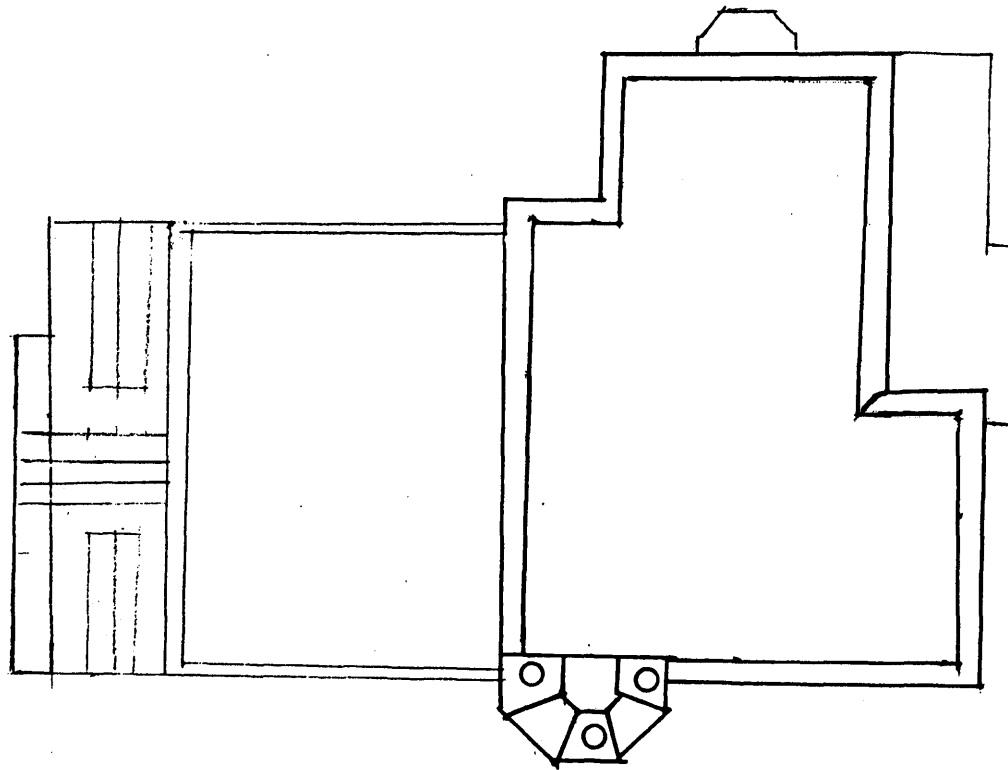


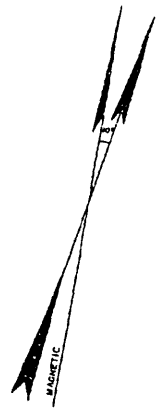


Third Floor Plan
Red Dragon Canoe Club
Burlington County, NJ



Roof Plan
Red Dragon Canoe Club
Burlington County, NJ





REVISED BY	DATE	REVISIONS MADE TO
W. G. WILSON	11-21-58	GENERAL REVISION
W. G. WILSON	1-1-59	UPDATES PER N.J. DIVISION OF TAXATION
W. G. WILSON	1-1-59	REVISIONS PER N.J. DIVISION OF TAXATION
W. G. WILSON	1-1-59	REVISIONS PER N.J. DIVISION OF TAXATION
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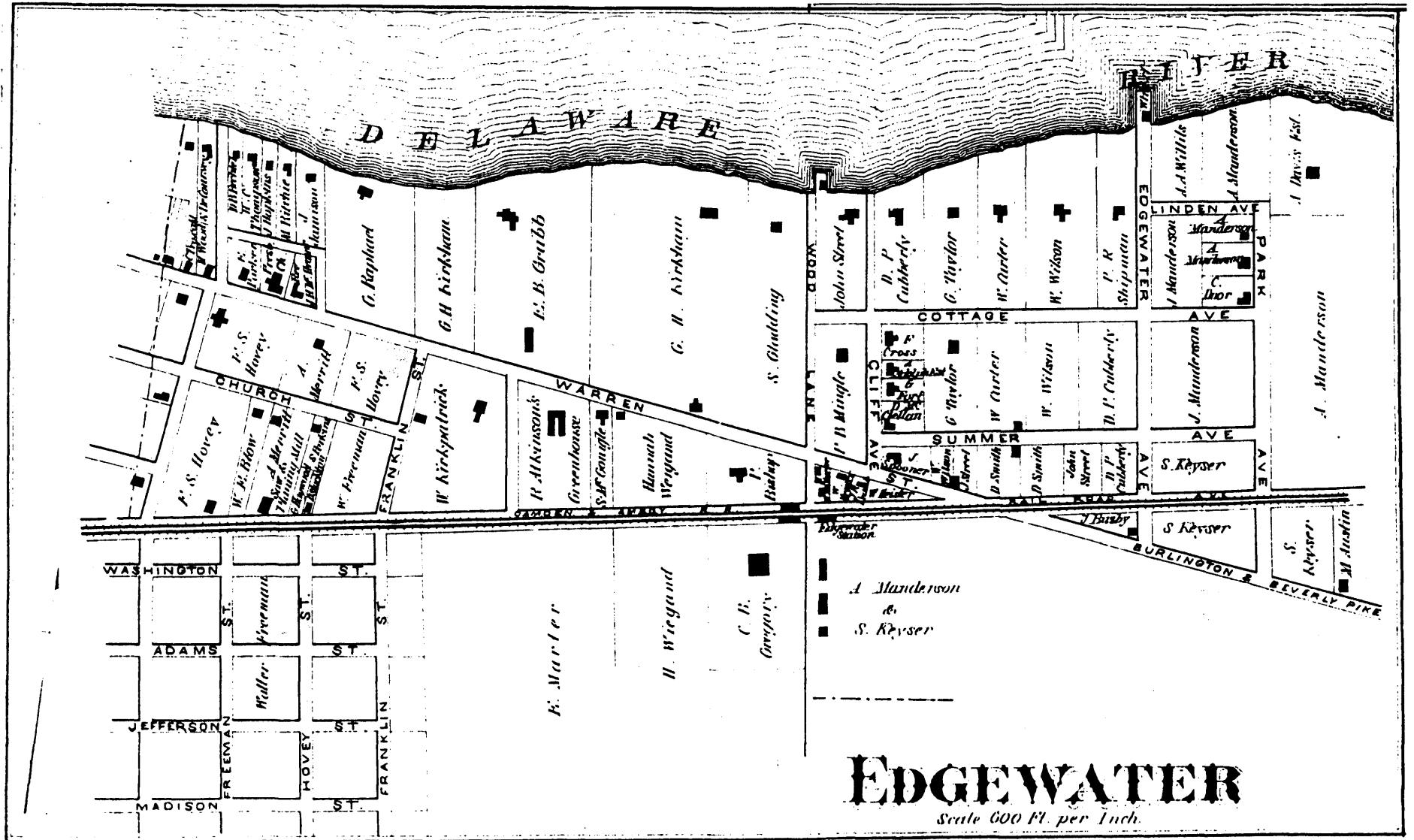
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
 APPROVED AS A TAX MAP PURSUANT TO THE
 PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 125 LAWS OF 1953
 DATE: MAR 21 1960
 SERIAL NO: 275

TAX MAP
 EDGEWATER PARK TOWNSHIP
 BURLINGTON COUNTY, N. J.

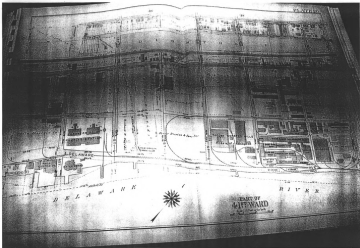
FEB, 1960 SCALE: 1" = 100'
 REVISED: JAN. 1, 1960 M. PAUL AUSTIN, R.E. & L.S.
 OCT. 25, 1959 REVISED BY M. PAUL AUSTIN, R.E. & L.S.
 OCT. 27, 1958 DIST. NO. 1, 1958
 OCT. 15, 1958
 B. HAROLD WILLS, R.E. & L.S.
 MT. HOLLY, N.J. LIC. NO. 178
 REVISED BY M. PAUL AUSTIN NOV. 1958

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1874 Scott Combination Atlas Map of Burlington County, Township of Edgewater.

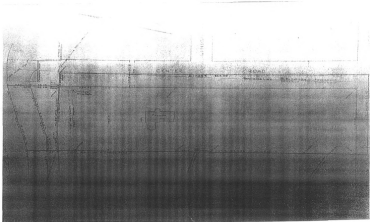


Red Dragon Canoe Club
Burlington County, New Jersey



1830, Ward Atlas, Philadelphia, 1826, Plate 20

Red Dragon Canoe Club
Burlington County, New Jersey



Dec. 21, 1921, "Survey and Plan, Shipman Property for the Red Dragon Canoe Club." Framed at the Clubhouse.

Red Dragon Canoe Club
Burlington County, New Jersey