(Oct. 1990)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Pla Registration Form



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HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

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This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for ... ** **Lactional and structions in **How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by making "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 listed in the instructions. 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 William Edgar Reeve House	
other names/site number Stitt - Reeve House	
2. Location	
street & number 314 Mountain Ave.	not for publication
city or town Westfield Town	vicinity
state New Jersey code NJ county Union code 039	zip code <u>07090</u>
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I certify that this request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering propertie of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. Meets	In my opinion, the property dered significant
In my opinion, the property additional comments. Signature of certifying official/Title State or Federal agency and bureau State or Federal agency and bureau	continuation sheet for
4. National Park Service Certification	
I hereby cartify that this property is: entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.	Date of Action
determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.	
determined not eligible for the National Register.	
removed from the National Register.	
other, (explain:)	

Reeve, William Edgar House			Union Co		
Name of Property			County ar	nd State	
5. Classification					:
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	7		sources within Proporeviously listed resource	
private	X building(s)		Contributing	Noncontributing	
X public-local	district		1	1	_ buildings
public-State	site				_ sites
public-Federal	structure				_ structures
	object				_ objects
			1	1	_ Total
Name of related multiple proper (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a				ntributing resources ational Register	previously
N/A	·		0		
6. Function or Use					
Historic Functions	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Curren	t Functions		
(Enter categories from instructions)		(Enter c	ategories from ins	tructions)	
Domestic/Single Family Dwelling		Vacant/	Not In Use		
					
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	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				
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7. Description					
Architectural Classification		Materia			
(Enter categories from instructions)		(Enter c	ategories from ins	tructions)	
Italianate	11 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 1	foundat	tion Stone m	asonry	
		walls	Clapboard		
		roof	Asphalt Shingle	s	
		other	Brick Chimney		
				, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	•

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

Reeve, William Edgar House	Union Co., NJ
Name of Property	County and State
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.)	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
 A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. X B Property is associated with the lives of persons 	Architecture Landscape Architecture Social Service
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.	Period of Significance c. 1872-1954
Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	Significant Dates c.1872, 1906
Criteria considerations (mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)	Olavida and Danasa
Property is:	Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	Reeve, William Edgar
B removed from its original location.	Cultural Affiliation N/A
C a birthplace or grave.	
D a cemetery.	
E a reconstructed building, object or structure.	Architect/Builder Unknown
F a commemorative property.	
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.	
Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation	on sheets.)
9. Major Bibliographical References	
Bibliography (cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this fo	orm 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	Primary location of additional data State Historic Preservation Office Other State agency Federal agency
previously determined eligible by the National Register	Local government University
designated a National Historic Landmark recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #	X Other Name of repository: Westfield Public Lib. Westfield Historical Society Archives
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #	Westfield Public Lib., Westfield Historical Society Archives

Reeve, William Edgar House	Union Co., NJ
Name of Property	County and State
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of property 1.6 acres	
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)	
1 18 554991 4500935 Zone Easting Northing 2	 Zone Easting Northing 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.)	
11. Form Prepared By	
name/title Anahita Mantri, Preservation Designer	
organization Westfield Architects & Preservation Consultants	date <u>December, 2004</u>
street & number 425 White Horse Pike	telephone <u>856-547-0465</u>
city or town Haddon Heights	state NJ zip code 08035-1706
Additional Documentation	
Submit the following items with the completed form: Continuation Sheets	
Maps	
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the pr	operty's location.
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having	g large acreage or numerous resources.
Photographs	
Representative black and white photographs of the pro-	operty.
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 Town of Westfield	
street & number 425 E. Broad St.	telephone <u>908-789-4055</u>
city or town Westfield	state NJ zip code 07090
Panenuark Paduction Act Statement: This information is being collect	ted for applications to the National Pogistor of Historic Places

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 from 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.

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NJ Union Co. Reeve, William Edgar House

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Summary

The William Edgar Reeve House, located at 314 Mountain Avenue in Westfield, NJ, was constructed circa 1872 in the Italianate style of architecture. The 2½-story, frame house stands today on a 1.62 acre property abutting the Township-owned Mindowaskin Park at the rear. The Reeve House retains its architectural integrity to the Italianate style. The configuration and layout of the house has also largely remained as originally constructed. Exterior features such as broad overhanging eaves, bracketed eared cornices, and door and window trim, and interior elements including the paneled octagonal newel post and turned balustrade, the four-paneled doors with recessed panels and bolection moldings, the Italianate door and window trims, and the running cornice molding along the second floor hallway ceiling are all unaltered. Except for a few alterations from the 1930s (which included removal of a wrap-around porch) and some interior remodeling of the 1950s, the building has not undergone significant changes.

Setting

The Reeve House and its garage are located on an irregularly-shaped plot adjoining Mountain Avenue on the west and Mindowaskin Park on the east (Photo 1). The building is setback about 80' from the Mountain Avenue side property line, about 70' from the north property line and 80' from the south property line. Behind the building the property widens to twice its frontage and is mostly wooded. A portion of the rear yard was dedicated in 1996 as the Claire Brownell Wildflower Garden. A few feet from the rear of the house are three dry-laid stone embankment walls beyond which the site slopes steeply to a bog meadow. The wall farthest to the north could be the stone foundation of an earlier barn, which appears on the 1909 Sanborn Insurance Map. On this map, it was labeled as "dilapidated" and was probably demolished soon thereafter since it is not shown on the 1916 Sanborn Insurance Map. The entrance to the property is from the northern corner of the property line fronting Mountain Avenue. A gravel driveway extends from the entrance, curving slightly to the garage (Photo 2) and a paved pathway made up of large rectangular stones extends to the front entrance of the house and curves further to a pedestrian entrance from Mountain Avenue which is no longer usable due to overgrown vegetation. On either side of the driveway is also overgrown shrubbery. The garage itself is also completely surrounded with overgrown vegetation and shrubbery, leaving no side visible except for the front. The rest of the site around the house is barely accessible and is almost entirely either wooded or covered with overgrown shrubbery. The grade around the house has eroded, leaving some portions of the foundations exposed. The site has some handsome evergreen and deciduous trees and plants which are both native and exotic. It is apparent that the planting of these trees and plants is laid out in the manner of an arboretum meant for the display of the specimens. Some exotic trees appear to have also been removed from the property in the recent past. One unique specimen that still remains is an evergreen English Yew (Taxus Baccata), which is over a hundred years old and is one of the largest specimens of its species in New Jersey and features a crown diameter of about 65 feet. There are also some small landscape elements installed around the property, such as a plaque at the entrance in honor of the Reeve family, and a memorial stone and two teak benches commemorating the dedication of the Claire Brownell Wildflower garden at the rear embankment.

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Building Exterior

Form

The Reeve House is a $2\frac{1}{2}$ -story, wood-framed house with an asymmetrical L-shaped plan (Photo 3). The footprint of the building is about $43^{\circ} \times 50^{\circ}$ with the main ridge running east to west, and the dining room on the south projecting out beyond the rest of the building line. The house rests on a stuccoed stone foundation. The exterior walls are clad in wood clapboard and there is a modern asphalt shingle roof. All the original ornamentation is made of wood and still intact. The windows have retained their original locations and sizes, including the window surrounds and heads, but most of the original 2-over-2 double-hung wood window sashes were replaced in the 1990s with 1-over-1 double-hung aluminum sashes with an applied vertical muntin. Most of the louvered window shutters that still exist are original, although in need of repairs. Overall, the building has retained its salient features of the Italianate style. The original design of the building had a wrap-around porch along the west (front) and south sides of the building. Although the wrap-around porch was replaced by separate porches on the facade and the south elevation in the 1930s, they are compatible in appearance with the historic building. The only incoherent additions are the chimneys on the north and east elevations.

Roof and Water Conduction System

The form of the roof conforms to the footprint to the building but is fashioned like an asymmetrical cruciform with projecting gables on all four sides. The wide projecting eaves end in a decorative bracketed cornice typical of the Italianate style. The original roofing material was gray slate, as there are a number of broken pieces of slate lying about. The roof drainage was carried out by means of built-in gutters leading to downspouts sleeved through the cornices. About ten years ago, the town replaced the slate with asphalt shingles, and installed hang gutters.

West (Front) Facade

The front facade of the building faces Mountain Avenue (Photo 4). This facade has always been asymmetrical in design. Although the main building itself has a 3-bay front, the original porch wrapped only around the west and south elevations and the entrance door was at the southern bay on the first floor, thus making the facade asymmetrical. The roof ends in a gable over the main body of the building with a bracketed cornice return supporting broad projecting eaves (Photo 14). During the 1930s alterations, the wrap-around porch was removed and an open porch (wider than the original porch) was added on the south side and an entrance portico was added at the original location of the entrance door. The open porch on the south side was subsequently enclosed with glazing and made into a sunroom. The Colonial Revival entrance portico blends with the design of the rest of the building, with two columns supporting the small gable-ended roof, the eaves of which resemble but do not mimic that of the original roof, including the cornice return. The roofing surface is flat seam metal. In between the wood columns and the building wall spans a decorative wood balustrade. There is also a later metal railing leading up the steps to the porch. Also seen as part of this facade is the slight projection of the half-hexagonal bay on the north elevation and the projection of the two stories of rooms and the half-hexagonal bay on the south elevation.

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When the entrance porch was added, the entrance door itself was replaced (Photo 13). No evidence was found regarding the design of the original door; although, it seems likely that it would have been a double-leaf door with recessed panels and bolection moldings to match the original interior doors. The existing Colonial Revival door is a single-leaf door with six raised panels and typical, early 20th century hardware. It is flanked on both sides by a narrow sidelight and is topped by a segmental fanlight with clear leaded glass. Over the fanlight is a segmental arch in a plain recessed wood panel with a central keystone. Each sidelight is horizontally divided into two. The top portion has an infill of clear leaded glass while the bottom portion has a raised wood panel. The windows on the first and second floor are rectangular and identical with decorative bracketed window heads and original window shutters. The windows on the third floor feature semicircular arched heads with plain window surrounds and original shutters conforming to the profile of the opening. Most of the original wood window sash has been replaced with aluminum replacement sash.

North Elevation

The north elevation (Photo 5) can be described in two parts. The first section is the original portion of the building, which is a $2\frac{1}{2}$ -story, three-bay, asymmetrical elevation (Photo 6). The east bay is a two story half-hexagonal projecting bay of windows with a corresponding half-hexagonal hipped roof covered with asphalt shingles. The center and the west bays on the first and second floors have rectangular windows similar to those found on the west elevation with original window surrounds, window heads, and louvered shutters. In the center bay is the one third floor window, which is similar to the semicircular arched head windows on the front facade. Over the center bay is the gable end of the roof with a bracketed cornice, also similar to the front. The half-hexagonal projecting bay, although original to the building, has been slightly changed in appearance. A historic image of the building clearly shows the design of this bay as matching that on the south elevation with a bracketed cornice separating the first and second floors with wood paneled spandrels below the windows. Presently, the cornice separating the first and second floors has been removed and the area below the windows has been clad with fishscale shingles. All the windows in this bay are also missing the louvered shutters which were originally present.

Also in the 1930s, a brick chimney was added to this elevation in between the center and west bays to serve the fireplace that was added in the front parlor (Photo 6). The chimney cuts through the cornice as it rises above the roof (Photo 15). On the second floor, the window of the center bay is a blind window with the shutters screwed shut. It appears from both the 1910 drawings and physical evidence that there was never an actual window in this location.

The second portion of this elevation is at the east (Photo 7). Originally this was the setback exterior wall of the dining room on the first floor and bedrooms on the second floor. During the 1930s alterations, a two-story addition was built in this location, bringing the recessed wall forward to be in line with the rest of the building. The addition consisted of a pantry for milk delivery, an open porch, an open wood stoop with steps leading up to the porch at the first floor, and a sleeping porch on the second floor (Photo 7). The open porch has a plain wood railing and wood lattice work above. In a second stage of alterations, the porch was boarded up from within and the sleeping porch was converted into an enclosed room.

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East Elevation

The east elevation is a two and a half story, asymmetrical elevation comprising the original rear of the building to the south, with the 1930s addition to the north (Photo 8). According to the 1910 drawings, there was only one window on each floor of the original rear wall coinciding with the location of the existing second floor window. The original first floor window was removed and two new windows were added at the first floor to accommodate the new brick chimney. This chimney was required to service the cooking area when the kitchen was moved to the first floor from the basement during the 1930s alterations. It is for this reason that only the second floor window has the original shutters while the first floor windows have none. The attic floor window also has a rather odd relationship with the chimney and appears to have been moved to accommodate it. The windows on this elevation do not have decorative window heads like those on the other elevations, although the treatment of the gable end is similar to that on the other elevations with a bracketed, eared cornice.

At the basement level, in line with the second and first floor windows, is an original 2-over-2 wood window. This is the largest window at the basement level in the house as the grade slopes steeply towards the east and also as the kitchen used to be in the basement at that location. Projecting forward from the building line at this elevation is the former service entrance to the basement. This entrance has not been in use for a long time and doors are now not in an operable condition. The 1930s two-story addition (as described on the north elevation) is slightly setback at this elevation. The milk room at the first floor has a small window on this side.

South Elevation

The south elevation is composed of a series of stepped planes (Photo 10). Originally there was a wrap-around porch at the western end of the elevation. This porch was demolished during the 1930s alterations to the building and replaced with the current porch structure. (Photo 12). This porch has decorative wood railings and wood columns supporting a simple cornice and a lean-to roof. The porch was then enclosed with wood-framed glazing, converting it into a sunroom. The wall behind the sunroom is the exterior wall of the stair hall and it has a blind window at the second floor level, which has infill of the same clapboard as the rest of the wall. The dining room on the first floor and the bedroom above it project out beyond the rest of the building and at the center of this projection is the two story half-hexagonal projecting bay of windows with a corresponding half-hexagonal lean-to roof (Photo 11). Unlike its counterpart on the north elevation, this bay has retained its original appearance with the bracketed cornice between the first and second floor levels and the original wood paneled spandrels below the windows. The only original features missing are the window shutters and the wood window sashes. Over this bay at the third floor level is a semicircular arched window with wood shutters similar to those on the west and north elevations. This projecting portion of the building is topped by a cross gable with bracketed cornice, similar to that on all other elevations.

To the east on this elevation and only slightly setback from the projecting facade was originally only a stoop with access to the former dining room in the rear. During the 1930s alteration this stoop was closed in and an upper floor was added to accommodate an internal stair from the basement to the second floor. An additional open stoop was

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built in front of it, to provide access to the yard from the basement. Further east on this elevation is the final setback of the present kitchen and the bedrooms on the second floor. This portion has two windows on the first and second floors each, all of which were added at the time of the 1930s alterations, as they are not drawn on the 1910 drawings but marked in pencil as alterations. The first floor windows are of squatter proportions than the rest of the windows since they had to be accommodated above the level of the kitchen counter. The second floor windows, although added later, have the same proportion shutters as the rest of the building. At the easternmost corner, at the basement level, is one of the original wood-framed windows.

First Floor

Room 101

This is the hallway one enters first from the entrance porch and the entrance doorway. The entrance door is a single-leaf six-paneled door with recessed panels and typical Italianate architrave on the inside. It is flanked on either side by narrow sidelights and topped by a segmental fanlight with clear leaded glass. Entering into the hallway, to the left is a grand double-leaf doorway to the front parlor, with an elegant architrave (type1) in the Italianate style and four-paneled doors with recessed panels and bolection moldings. To the right is a single-leaf, 12-light door, leading into the sunroom. This doorway is a later addition from the time when the porch on the south side was added in the 1930s but on the hallway side it has a similar architrave as the rest of the original doors on this floor and it appears that it may have been made to mimic the original architrave. Typically at all the other doors the same profile of the architrave is present on both sides of the doors but at this door the architrave on the side of the sunroom is plain.

A single flight of stairs from the hallway go up to the second floor (Photo 16). The stairs are original to the building and are in excellent condition. The decorative recessed-panel octagonal wood newel post and turned mahogany balustrade are in pristine condition (Photo 17). Under the stairs is a built-in wood cabinet with recessed paneled doors following the profile of the stair stringer. The stairs, stringer and cabinets are painted. The hallway runs about 18' into the depth of the house ending in two doorways – one to the back parlor (former library) and one to the dining room (former living room). These are single-leaf doorways with the same Italianate architrave (type 1) on both sides of the doors and recessed-panel doors with bolection moldings similar to the doors of the front parlor.

The partition wall between this hallway and the front parlor is a brick wall with wood framing. The walls and ceiling are plastered and painted. The floor is made up of 2" wide stained floor boards. The wood baseboard throughout out the hallway and also running up the stairs along the adjoining wall is about 10" in height with a reeded molding at the top and painted (type a). All the doors and door trim are also painted.

Room 102

This is the front parlor room (Photo 18), a rectangular room about 15' x 20' but with its southeast corner chamfered as a result of the hallway turning to provide access to Room 103. During the 1930's alterations a fireplace was added

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in the middle of the north wall (Photo 18). The fireplace was constructed in straight-range red bricks laid in common bond with struck Portland cement joints (Photo 19). The head of the fireplace was laid as a flat arch and is topped with a painted cavetto mantel shelf with modillions. This room is connected with the back parlor (Room 103), through the east wall, by a grand double-leaf doorway, with an elegant architrave (type1) in the Italianate style and four paneled doors with recessed panels and bolection moldings. There are two windows each on the west and north walls of this room, both with the type 1 architrave but the windows themselves have been replaced. The original spandrels below the windows are recessed wood panels framed with bolection moldings (Photo 20).

The walls are finished with wallpaper and the ceiling is plastered and painted with one 1930s light fixture in the center of the ceiling. The floor is made up of 2" wide stained floorboards. Around the perimeter of the room are 6 concentric bands of floorboards. The wood baseboard is about 10" in height with a reeded molding at the top and painted (type a). All the doors, and the door and window trim are also painted.

Room 103

This is the back parlor room, which was labeled "library" on the 1910 drawings (Photo 21). This is a squarish room, about 13' x 13', but with a projecting half hexagonal bay on the north wall, with a window in each side. This room is connected with the front parlor (Room 102), through the east wall, and the dining room (Room 104), through the south wall by large doorways. The windows in the bay are the only ones for this room and all of them have the type 1 architrave. The windows sashes have been replaced. The original spandrels below the windows are recessed wood panels also with bolection moldings.

The walls are finished with wallpaper and the ceiling is plastered and wallpapered with one 1930s light fixture in the center of the ceiling. A wood molding at the ceiling is not original. The floor is made up of 2" wide stained floorboards. Around the perimeter of the room are 4 concentric bands of floorboards. The wood baseboard is about 10" in height with a reeded molding at the top and painted (type a). All the doors, and the door and window trim are also painted.

Room 104

The dining room (originally the living room as shown on the 1910 drawings) is a squarish room about 15' x 15' but with a projecting half hexagonal bay on the south wall and a window on each side (Photo 22). The northwest corner of this room is slightly chamfered to accommodate the door from the hallway. This room is connected with the back parlor (Room 103), through the north wall. On the west wall is a double-leaf doorway, leading into the sunroom, with 2" x 6" glazing panels.

The walls are finished with wallpaper and the ceiling is plastered and painted with one 1930s light fixture in the center of the ceiling. The wood crown molding at the top of the walls is not original. The floor is made up of 2" wide stained floorboards. Around the perimeter of the room are 19 concentric bands of floorboards. The wood baseboard is about 10" in height with a reeded molding at the top and painted (type a). All the doors, and the door

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and window trim are also painted. The room is in a very poor condition as a result of a frozen plumbing pipe that caused the ceiling to collapse (Photo 23).

Room 105

This sunroom on the south side of the house dates to the 1930s alterations (Photo 24). All the exterior walls have recessed wood spandrels up to the height of the railing outside. Above the railing height are window sash, fixed on the east and west walls and casements on the south. In the center of the south and north walls are two wood columns, which appear to have been added after the porch was built to provide additional support. The ceiling is flush wood panels on painted wood framing. The floor is made up of 3" wide floorboards, painted.

Room 106

This room is the rear hallway accessed through the dining room, which leads into the kitchen and to the stairs to the basement. To the north of this hallway is a small powder room. All the finishes from this room back are plain and modern as this area had undergone a substantial remodeling during the mid-20th century. The walls and ceiling are plastered and painted. The walls are also plastered and painted. The floor is in-situ terrazzo.

Room 107

This is the powder room, which is also a later addition. The finishes are plain and modern with plain solid architraves and baseboards, plastered and painted walls and ceiling and in-situ terrazzo floor. The bathroom fixtures are also modern.

Room 108

This is the pantry. It is rather small room; simple and modern like the other areas at the rear of the house which have been added at a later date. The walls and ceiling are plastered and painted. The floor is in-situ terrazzo. A unique feature of this pantry is that it features 1950s cabinetry with sash doors (Photo 27).

Room 109

This is the part that was the open side porch when first constructed in the 1930s. The east and south walls of this room were originally external walls and still are faced with clapboard. In the east wall is a small door hatch for milk deliveries. The north wall was originally only a railing when it was built with a wood lattice above. When the porch was enclosed at a later date, the railing was covered up wood paneling and the lattice portion above was boarded up. The original newel of the railing with chamfered corners is still visible. On the outside the door has the same lattice as the rest of the porch. The ceiling is stained wood paneling while the floor is made up of 3 ¾" painted floorboards.

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Room 110

This is the milk room, which was a later addition to the building along with the adjacent side porch. This room also has plain and modern finishes similar to the pantry. The south wall of this room is clapboard. All other walls are plastered and painted, with plain solid trim around all openings. The floor is in-situ terrazzo. On the west wall is the small door hatch for milk deliveries.

Room 111

This has been the kitchen since the 1930s alterations to the house took place (Photo 25 & 26). Originally, this room was the dining room when the kitchen was in the basement and the two were connected by a stair (since removed) which ran along the south wall. All the trim and baseboard in this room are plain and painted. The walls and ceiling are plastered and painted and the floor is in-situ terrazzo. The kitchen counters and fixtures are all from the 1950s, including the laminate backsplash. The kitchen has two unique features; one being the glazed ceramic tile on the inside of the chimney on the east wall, and the other being the floor to ceiling cabinetry on the west wall.

Room 112

This is the back stair hall that provides access to the second floor. All the trim and baseboard in this room are plain and painted. The walls and ceiling are plastered and painted and the floor is in-situ terrazzo.

Second Floor

Room 201

This is the main hallway at the second floor (Photo 28). The open stairway from the first floor terminates in this hallway, with the turned balustrade continuing along the stair opening to another straight flight that continues up to the third floor. The second floor's ceiling height at this floor is less than at the first floor's ceiling height. The walls of the hallway are finished with wallpaper and the ceiling is plastered and painted. A decorative cornice molding in plaster runs along the entire perimeter of the hallway along the ceiling. The floor is made up of 2" wide stained floorboards. The wood baseboard throughout the hallway and also running up the stairs along the adjoining wall is about 8" in height with a beaded shoe, flat base, an ogee, a filet and a cyma recta molding at the top all painted (type b). The doors to the various bedrooms are typical recessed-panel with bolection moldings and architraves (type 2) which are composed of a beak, a fillet, a bead, another fillet and a three-quarter bead. At the west end of the hallway is a double-hung window with an Italianate architrave (type 2) typical on this floor and a decorative sill with a torus, a fillet, a bead and another bead. The original wood window sash has been replaced. All the woodwork besides the stained mahogany balustrade is painted.

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Room 202

This bedroom is a squarish room at the west end of the house about 15' x 15' in size. There is one window to this room on the west wall and one on the north wall. The windows are the same size as the ones on the first floor but without the spandrel panel below them. The windows are surrounded by the type 2 architrave as described above and a decorative sill with a torus, a fillet, a cavetto, a fillet, a bead and another bead. The original wood sash have been replaced. There are also two doors in this room, one providing access from the hallway on the south wall and the other leading to walk-in closets on the east wall. Both doors are typical recessed-panel with bolection moldings and have the same type 2 architrave. The walls are finished with wallpaper and type b baseboard. The ceiling is plastered and painted. The floor is made up of $2\frac{1}{2}$ " wide stained floorboards. Around the perimeter of the room are 4 concentric bands of floorboards. All the woodwork is painted.

Room 203

This bedroom originally is about 13' x 15' in size with a projecting bay on the north wall (Photo 29). There are three windows to this room in the bay. The windows are the same size as the ones on the first floor but without the spandrel panels below them. The windows are surrounded by the type 2 architrave as described above and a decorative sill with a torus, a fillet, a cavetto, a fillet, a bead and another bead. The original wood sash have been replaced. There are four doors in this room, one providing access from the hallway on the south wall, two others leading into the walk-in closets on the west wall, and a pocket door on the east wall leading into Room 204. All doors, including the pocket door, are typical recessed panel with bolection moldings and have the same type 2 architrave. The north door on the west wall has a full mirror installed on the bedroom side, covering the original paneling. The walls are finished with wallpaper and type b baseboard. The ceiling is plastered and painted. The floor is made up of 2" wide stained floorboards. All the woodwork is painted.

Room 204

The south half of this 'L'-shaped room was part of the original rear bedroom (Photo 30). The north half of this room is part of the 1930s addition of the porch below and the sleeping porch on this floor. The two windows on the north wall are also part of the addition and therefore modern with narrower proportions, plain trim and aluminum sash. There are four doors in this room, one providing access from the hallway (Room 208) on the south wall, a pocket door on the west wall from Room 203, one on the east wall leading into Room 205 and a fourth is a 12 light modern glazed door with plain trim similar to those in the sunroom on the east wall leading into the sleeping porch. The door from the hallway, the pocket door on this side of the room and the door to Room 205 all feature four recessed panels with bolection moldings and the architrave is a fillet, ½ bead, fillet, cyma recta, fillet and ¼ bead (type 3) (Photo 31). The walls are finished with wallpaper and a baseboard that is 4" high and simple with a ¼ bead shoe, flat base and ¼ bead at the top. The ceiling is plastered and painted. The floor is made up of 2" wide stained floorboards. All the woodwork is painted. On the southwest corner of the room is built-in wood cabinetry and on the southeast corner is a narrow three-tiered radiator from the 1930s (Photo 31). The north and east walls of the

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sleeping porch are glazed with modern aluminum windows (Photo 32). The floor of this room has 3" floorboards a plain baseboard. The ceiling is stained wood paneling.

Room 205

This rear bedroom is a rectilinear room, about 17'x 12' in size. There are three windows on the east and south walls. The windows are the same size as the ones on the first floor but without the spandrel panels below them. The windows are surrounded by the type 2 architrave as described above and a decorative sill with a torus, a fillet, a cavetto, a fillet, a bead and another bead. The original wood sash have been replaced. There are also three doors in this room, one providing access from the hallway on the west wall, one leading to Room 204 and the other opening into the closets on the west wall. The door leading into the hallway is typical recessed panel with bolection moldings and type 2 architrave. Of the other two doors, the door to Room 204 has four recessed panels with bolection moldings and a type 3 architrave. The door to the closet has a single recessed panel with a full-length mirror on the bedroom side and a plain architrave.

The walls are finished with wallpaper and type b baseboard. The ceiling is plastered and painted. The floor is made up of $2\frac{1}{2}$ wide stained floorboards. Around the perimeter of the room are 4 concentric bands of floorboards. All the woodwork is painted.

Room 206

This bathroom was added during the 1930s alterations to replace the original bathroom, which was located further to the north. The bathroom has modern fixtures and vinyl flooring. The walls and ceilings are plastered and papered.

Room 207

This bedroom is a rectilinear room about 11'x 15' in size with a projecting bay on the south wall (Photo 33 & 34). There are three windows to this room, all in the three-sided bay. The windows are the same size as the ones on the first floor but without the spandrel panels below them. The windows are surrounded by the type 2 architrave as described above and a decorative sill with a torus, a fillet, a cavetto, a fillet, a bead and another bead. The original wood sash have been replaced. There are two doors in this room, one providing access from the hallway and the other opening into the closets on the west wall. Both doors are typical recessed panel with bolection moldings and type 2 architraves.

The walls are plastered and painted with type b baseboard. The ceiling is plastered and painted. The floor is made up of original 5 1/4" wide, painted floorboards. All the woodwork is painted. This room suffered substantial damage when a frozen plumbing pipe burst in the ceiling above.

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Room 208

This rear hallway provides access to rooms 204, 205 and 206. The walls are finished with wallpaper and the ceiling is plastered and painted. A decorative cornice molding in plaster runs along the entire perimeter of the hallway at the top of the walls. The floor is made up of 2" wide stained floorboards. The wood baseboard is about 8" in height with a beaded shoe, flat base, an ogee, a filet and a cyma recta molding at the top all painted (type b). The doors to the various bedrooms are typical recessed panel with bolection moldings and architraves (type 2) which are composed of a beak, a fillet, a bead, another fillet and a ¾ bead. All the woodwork is painted.

Third Floor

Room 301

This is the third floor main hallway (Photo 37). The stairs are original to the building and feature a decorative turned mahogany balustrade continuous along the hallway. The ceiling height at this floor level is lower than the first and second floors.

The walls of the hallway are finished with wallpaper. The ceiling is plastered and painted. The floor is made up of $2\frac{1}{2}$ " wide stained floorboards. The wood baseboard throughout out the hallway is $6\frac{1}{2}$ " in height with a beaded shoe, flat base, a bead, and a torus molding at the top all painted (type c). The doors to the various bedrooms are typical recessed panel with bolection moldings and architraves (type 4), which are composed of a beak, a fillet, a bead and another fillet. All the woodwork besides the balustrade is painted.

Room 302

This small room is approximately 9'x 7' in size, and was probably originally a maid's room. On the west wall is a small niche in the wall with a door and an electrical connection probably for a light. The ceiling in this room slopes down to the south. The walls of this room are plastered and wallpapered with a plain baseboard. The ceiling is plastered and painted. The floor of this room is the original $6\frac{1}{2}$ " wide boards.

Room 303

This small room is approximately 10' x 10' in size. On the west wall is a window with architrave (type 5) comprised of a bead, fillet, and bead with the sill being a torus edge on a flat base. Over this room the roof slopes to the north and along the north wall is a continuous closet with a vertical board partition wall and two braced and battened doors (Photo 38). The walls of this room are plastered and papered with a plain baseboard. The ceiling is plastered and painted. The floor of this room is original 6 ½" wide nailed down boards.

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Room 304

This bedroom is approximately 15' x 12' in size. On the north wall is a window with an architrave (type 5) comprised of a bead, fillet, and bead with the sill being a torus edge on a flat base. On the west wall of the room is a closet with a recessed-paneled door with bolection moldings and type 5 architrave. The walls of this room are plastered and papered. The baseboard (type 3) is made up of a $\frac{1}{4}$ bead shoe, a fillet, a bead and an ovolo. The ceiling is plastered and painted. The floor of this room is $2\frac{1}{2}$ " wide stained floor boards.

Room 305

This bedroom is approximately 15' x 10' in size (Photo 39). On the north wall is a window with a type 5 architrave and a torus-edge-on-a-flat base sill. On the south wall of the room is a closet with a typical recessed-panel door with bolection moldings and type 5 architrave. The walls of this room are plastered and papered, with a plain baseboard. The ceiling is plastered and painted. The floor of this room is original $6\frac{1}{2}$ " wide nailed down boards.

Room 306

This is the third floor rear hallway. The walls of the hallway are finished with wallpaper and plain baseboards. The ceiling is plastered and painted. The floor is made up of $2\frac{1}{2}$ wide stained floorboards.

Room 307

This utility closet provides a crawl space around plumbing pipes. The walls and ceiling are plastered and painted.

Room 308

This bathroom was added during the 1950s alterations (Photo 40). The bathroom has modern fixtures and vinyl flooring. The walls and ceilings are plastered and papered. The baseboard features a bead shoe, flat base and a bead. The door is typical recessed panel with a type 5 architrave. In the center of the south wall is a window with a type 5 architrave and the matching sill. In this bathroom is some exquisite floor-to-ceiling cabinetry along the west wall, with 1950s hardware (Photo 41).

Basement

The exterior walls of the basement are masonry with stuccoed stone on the exterior and the brickwork parged with stucco. The floor of the basement is a poured-in-place concrete slab.

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Room 001

This is the basement stair hall with a straight flight of stairs coming down from the first floor (Photo 43). There is a concrete retaining wall on the east and south sides of the stair. On the west side of the stair is a partition wall with vertical wood paneling and an original brass handrail. The west wall of the hallway is a brick wall with a small window looking into Room 003. Also, in the hallway adjacent to the stairs on the west side is a toilet space with vertical wood paneled walls and a glazed panel at the top of the south wall.

Room 002

According to the 1910 drawings, this room originally was the kitchen (Photo 44). The drawings show a chimney over the cooking fireplace that used to be on the west wall, although no visible evidence of the fireplace remains. The walls are painted brick with a wood-paneled wainscot. The windows have been boarded up from the inside and door leading to the service entrance on the east side is jammed shut. There are two other doors on the west wall one leading into Room 003 and the other into Room 004. The door to the service entry and the one to Room 00 are similar to the typical doors in the rest of the house. The door to Room 004 is a vernacular vertical board doo with a small rectangular glazing panel and plain trim. On the west wall is a built-in storage cabinet. The painte ceiling is composed of flush wood panels.

Room 003

This room was originally used for cold storage (Photo 45). The ceiling joists are hidden by applied drywall. The walls are brick, plastered and painted. There are two windows in this room; one on the west wall and the other in the middle of the projecting bay on the south side.

Room 004

This room is exactly below rooms 102 and 103 on the first floor (Photo 46). The 1910 drawings show this room having a coal storage area and possibly a furnace which would have heated the parlor above, although there is no evidence remaining. This room today houses the mechanical equipment. The walls are painted brick. There are two windows on the north wall of this room, one of which is in the middle of the projecting bay. The exposed ceiling in this room shows 2 ¼" x 9 ½" joists at 18" on center.

Room 005

This is small narrow room on the southwest corner. The door to this room from Room 004 is a vernacular vertical-board door with a small rectangular glazing panel and plain trim. The walls are painted brick. There is one small window on the south side.

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Garage

The only ancillary building on the property is the garage. Located to the north of the house, this garage was probably built sometime during the first half of the 20th century. The garage is almost entirely surrounded with overgrown vegetation and shrubbery except for the front, and is in state of disrepair. It is a non-contributing building.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

The William Edgar Reeve House, located at 314 Mountain Avenue in Westfield, NJ, was constructed circa 1872 in the Italianate style. Some of the important residents of the house include: William Stitt, the proprietor of the Westfield Hotel who owned and lived in this house from 1872 to 1898; William Edgar Reeve, a significant figure in the history of Westfield who purchased the property in 1906 and lived there until his death in 1962; and, subsequently his son Edgar Reeve, who occupied this house for 95 years until his death in December 2001. The Reeve House is significant for its association with William Edgar Reeve, a prominent resident of the town who was instrumental in the development of Mindowaskin Park, founding of the Westfield YMCA, founding of the Westfield chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, and many other community projects. The house is also significant as a representative example of the Italianate style in Westfield. Except for the removal of the wrap-around porch and the replacement of the window sash, the building has not undergone any significant alterations to diminish its architectural integrity. The configuration and layout of the house has largely remained as original. Significant features of the exterior, such as the bracketed eared cornice, the door and window trim are all in good condition and interior elements such as the paneled octagonal newel post and turned balustrade, the four-paneled doors with recessed panels and bolection moldings, the Italianate door and window trim, the spandrel panels below the window sills and the running cornice molding along the second floor hallway ceiling are all unaltered. In addition, the Reeve House property is also locally significant in the area of landscape design, holding within its site some rare and exotic evergreen and deciduous trees that have thrived on that land over the last century. An evergreen English Yew (Taxus Baccata) in the garden, more than one hundred years old, has grown to become one of New Jersey's largest specimens of its species with a crown diameter of 65 feet. The Reeve House is significant under criteria B and C in the areas of Social Service for its association with William Edgar Reeve, and in the areas of Architecture and Landscape Architecture as a representative example of both the Italianate style of architecture and informal residential landscape architecture.

History

Westfield

The western portion of the Elizabethtown tract, consisting of present day Westfield, Scotch Plains, Plainfield, Fanwood, Clark, Garwood, Mountainside and part of Cranford was originally known as West Fields. Some settlers formed a rural community near Indian trails (present day Broad Street, Central Avenue, and Mountain Avenue), forming the village of Westfield. Westfield served as a military outpost during the American Revolution. In 1777, British soldiers in pursuit of their American counterparts camped in Westfield for two days and used the Presbyterian meetinghouse as a slaughterhouse for their plundered cattle. The stream that flows behind the Reeve house property provided a source of water for American as well as British troops traveling through Westfield.

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Until the early 19th century, Westfield remained as a rural community. The laying down of the railroad in 1838 brought in some new development in the village and finally the construction of the Newark Bay Bridge transformed Westfield into a suburban commuter community. By 1890 twenty-two trains made daily stops in Westfield and the town was growing by more than two hundred houses per year. One of the new settlers of the town among the hundreds of others was William Edgar Reeve with his family in 1906. The town was highly publicized by the Central Railroad of New Jersey and developers by running numerous ads in the local papers. It was noted as "the town at the highest point of the ground on the main line, has the lowest death rate in the State of New Jersey, is generally recommended by physicians as a healthy place to live in and only 19 miles from New York City.... convenient to do business.... good educational facilities and churches." Numerous turn-of-the-century fashionable homes of sophisticated people from New York were built in Westfield around this time. The town of Westfield was established in 1903. Throughout the early 20th century, public amenities were developed and expanded in Westfield including schools, fire houses, the library, parks, the municipal complex, etc. which serve the community to the present time.

314 Mountain Avenue

The earliest available records of the property that encompasses the present 314 Mountain Avenue, show that on June 20th, 1839, a one-acre property was sold by Ezekiel Ludlum and his wife Mary to Mathias Miller and his wife Elizabeth Acken Miller. The property was then sold/transferred to their daughter Rebecca and her husband James Myrick on March 2nd, 1840. John Rencklin Myrick was the son of Rebecca and James Myrick. At some point the deed was transferred to the names of Samuel S. and Rebecca Myrick. It is not known what the relationship was between Samuel and James Myrick. Rebecca's sister Elizabeth Acken Miller was married to John Ross Miller. Rebecca Myrick died in 1843. John Ross Miller foreclosed the property on February 16, 1857 on the mortgage he had given to Samuel and Rebecca Myrick. James Myrick moved to Cranford and then to Brooklyn where he died in 1860. Elizabeth Acken Miller's sister Phebe Acken was married to John Davis. On February 27, 1857 their children, Joseph A. Davis, Jacob Davis, and Thomas C. Davis purchased the property back from John Ross Miller, at this time substantially enlarged to 12.23 acres. 6

John Rencklin Myrick⁷, an officer in the United States Army, was born on November 4, 1841 and raised in an earlier house that stood on the nominated site from 1841 to 1855. At the age of 14 he moved to Brooklyn and when the Civil War broke out he enlisted with the Thirteenth New York State Militia. He was brevetted to the rank of Captain for gallantry in action in 1866 in the Thirty-eighth United States Infantry Regiment and later remained at that rank. He continued in the Army and rose by promotion to the rank of Brigadier General in 1903 and retired in the same year. He had such a deep attachment to the Westfield property where he grew up that long after he left Westfield, and after he retired, he continued to visit the town. Each time he asked to drink water from the spring that ran at the rear of the Reeve House property. The spring appeared to mean a great deal to him.

His first visit was in August 1907 when he came with his older sister and walked around the property and had a chat with Mr. and Mrs. William Reeve. It was at this time that he told them that he was raised at this property by his grandfather who fought in the Revolutionary War. (Unfortunately, Mr. and Mrs. Reeve did not ask the name of his

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grandfather.) He mentioned that during the war both American and British soldiers often stopped at the spring to refresh themselves while passing through Westfield. He recalled that the house he grew up in was an older dwelling further back from the present Reeve House, closer to the spring and facing Broad Street. According to his account, the spring was just outside the back door of the earlier house and churchgoers often stopped at the house after services, with lunch that they had brought, to drink from the spring and chat with the family. He also stated that the older house existed along with the new one on the property until the very early 20th century when it was torn down. In the fall of 1907, he came to the house again with a daughter and drank water from the spring. His final visit to the house was on August 18, 1909 with two daughters when he reminisced about his childhood at the property.

East Broad Street. On May 1, 1872, William Stitt bought the 12.23 acres of the Mountain Avenue property from the three Davis brothers. At the time of his purchase, most of the area remained farmland. From various historical maps it appears that at some time between 1872 and 1898, Kimball Avenue was extended to the east beyond Mountain Avenue, cutting William Stitt's farmland into two halves. There is no clear indication whether the house was built by William Stitt or the Davis brothers but it is certain that the house was built around this time. William Stitt resided at this house until 1898. Since no records of the exact date of construction of the building have been found, the date of construction can only be approximated from the style, architectural features and some property records. It is not clear if the present Reeve House was built by William Stitt when he bought the property in 1872, or if the building was built by the Davis brothers just prior to selling it to Stitt. One account indicates that Stitt had a farm and he built the house on the property. On the other hand, the records of purchase of the 12.23 acres of property by the Davis brothers and then subsequent sale of the same property from the Davis family to William Stitt within a span of only 15 years show a dramatic increase in the price from \$1,500 to \$10,000 which could suggest the addition of a new home on the property. It is possible that the new house was built by the Davis brothers.

On October 25, 1898 the property was subdivided into three parcels and the present day 314 Mountain Avenue was sold in a Sheriff's sale authorized by the New Jersey Court of Chancery to Hiram L. and Ida Fink and James T. and Kate C. Pierson. ¹¹ Of the two remaining parcels, one was sold separately as farmland and the other (present day 300 Mountain Avenue) was retained as the residence of William H. Stitt (son of William Stitt). This gives rise to the possibility that the old part of the house on 300 Mountain Avenue was the original house in which Brig. John Myrick grew up and when the land was owned by William Stitt there were two houses on the property. The house on 300 Mountain Avenue later became the residence of William H. Stitt (son of William Stitt). On July 13, 1906 the house and lot were purchased by William Edgar Reeve from Hiram L. and Ida Fink and James T. and Kate C. Pierson. ¹²

William Edgar Reeve was born in Springfield, NJ in 1871. His ancestors had lived in Springfield since the 1660s. He began working at the age of 17 in 1888 at the New York Life Insurance Company in New York City as a messenger boy. ¹³ In three years he transferred to the sales field thus launching his selling career. He married Mamie Tichenor of Newark, NJ in 1893. In 1900, the couple moved to Westfield along with hundreds of other working professionals from New York City in search of a better town in which to raise their children. They first lived on Park Street near Carleton Road with their first-born son Ralph, and then their two younger children, Edgar and Grace

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were born while at the same residence. In 1906, the Reeves bought the property of about 2.3 acres at 314 Mountain Avenue for a price of \$8,000. 13

In 1910, Mr. Reeve had an architect draw up plans of the existing building, possibly for the purpose of making alterations and additions to it. He then sketched with pencil over the architect's blueprints, indicating the changes he wanted to make to the building. The alterations didn't actually take place until the 1930s. This is evident from the Sanborn Maps dated 1921 and 1929, which show the original configuration of the house as drawn by the architect in 1910. It is also apparent from this source that the present configuration of the house, the layout of the rooms and main features, has not been significantly modified since its original construction.

Mr. Reeve retired from the New York Life Insurance Company in 1953 after 65 years of service. 14 His active career established a record length of service unequaled by any other person in the company and a sales record of more than \$30 million worth of insurance sold to more than 3,000 people. He was known from coast to coast as a field representative with a high code of business standards and was regarded in high esteem by his clients. In Westfield he was prominently identified with many major community projects. Mindowaskin Park exists today, due to his vision and efforts. He played a pivotal role in acquiring part of the land and Clarks Lake from Patrick Traynor (a local businessman and leading citizen). He personally solicited private contributions from 25 cents to \$25 and collected funds from about 250 citizens to acquire the lake and surrounding land, the total cost of which was \$2,017.30. 15 The land was then turned over to the town in 1907 as the original land for Mindowaskin Park. 16 In 1918, during the second phase of the development of the Park, he even donated part of the Reeve property for the expansion of the Park. Mr. Reeve was a member of the committee that was responsible for the monument in the plaza in the town center, which was a testimonial to the World War I servicemen from Westfield. He was one of the founders of the Westfield YMCA in 1923, and served as a trustee and treasurer until 1956. He was active in collecting funds for the first YMCA building in Westfield. He was also one of the founders of the West Fields chapter of Sons of the American Revolution. He was active as the chairman of the membership committee and was responsible for the induction of 200 members. In 1953, he was elected president and was presented a testimonial and medal for his dedicated service to the society. The State Society of the SAR also presented a medal to Mr. Reeve for his distinguished service. In addition, he was very active in church affairs. He was a member of the First Congregational Church where he not only served in various capacities throughout his lifetime, but he was also the superintendent of the Sunday school for many years. He was also an active member of the New York State Chamber of Commerce, the Echo Lake Country Club of Westfield, the New Jersey Historical Society, and the Westfield Old Guard. Mr. Reeve had been married to Mamie Tichenor Reeve for 70 years when he died at the age of 91, on October 26, 1963 at his home. After the death of William Reeve in 1962, the property was transferred to his sons Ralph and Edgar Reeve. Few alterations were made to the house after that time.

Mamie Tichenor was born in Newark, NJ in 1871. She was a direct descendent of Henry Lyon and Martin Tichenor, two of the original founders of Newark. Like her husband, she was also active in civic affairs in Westfield and New Jersey. She was a member of the New Jersey Historical Society and the Nova Caesarea Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She died at the age of 94, on September 15, 1966, in her home after a long illness. The Reeves' youngest child was a daughter, Grace, who was born around 1902, when the family was

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living on Park Street. She graduated from Westfield High School in 1920 as an honor pupil and later from National Park Seminary and Montclair Normal School. She died at 36 on August 16, 1938 due to pneumonia. ¹⁷

The first born of Mr. and Mrs. Reeve was their son, Ralph, who was born in 1899, just before the Reeves moved to Westfield. He was a graduate of Westfield High School and Wesleyan University and later got a degree in chemical engineering from Cornell University. He was an avid equestrian and fox hunter and also loved sailing. Following in his father's footsteps, he joined the Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company as a sales agent, but in 1941 he decided to establish a business of his own. He joined Bowen Engineering first as a consultant, and soon became a partner with William Spencer Bowen, moving to North Branch. W. S. Bowen was an expert in the spray drying 18 field and he invented and designed all the spray dryers the company manufactured for various purposes. Bowen Engineering was founded in New York and was fast becoming recognized as a leader in the spray-drying field. Ralph was eager to move the laboratories and offices to a larger, rural location in New Jersey. In 1948, after a great deal of research, Bowen Engineering purchased a farm plot of 100 acres in Garwood. In 1965, when Ralph Reeve decided to sell the property, he had to do so by combining the property with the assets of the Reeve Foundation 19 and making Bowen Engineering a subsidiary of Reeve Foundation so as to get the appropriate value for the 100 acres of land. Ralph Reeve was, like his father, very active in civic affairs. He was a Sunday school teacher, secretary of the Congregational church and Vice-president of the Hartford, Connecticut Community Chest. He was also a trustee of the Somerset Medical Center for 20 years. He was a founding member of the College Men's Club of Westfield and the Cornell Club of Union County. He served as the president of the Somerville-Raritan Exchange Club and was director of the George Street Playhouse. He was also the treasurer and director of the Printmaking Council of New Jersey. He was married to Mrs. Margaret Schumacher in the spring of 1971. Ralph Reeve died at the age of 89, on August 13, 1988.

The Reeve's second son, Edgar, was born on January 18, 1901 on Park Street in Westfield. He lived for more than a century in Westfield, mostly in the Reeve House as his home. He worked at the New York Life Insurance Company for about two years when he was in his 20s but soon left to care for his aging parents at home. His inheritance assured him that he didn't have to work for the rest of life. He spent most of his time reading, visiting art museums in New York and New Jersey, and caring for the grounds of the Reeve House. Degar kept mostly to himself. He had developed a great interest in nutrition and horticulture. He admired and took special care of the trees on the grounds of the Reeve estate and planted most of them himself. After the death of his parents in the 1960s he lived alone in the Reeve House. Then in about 1984 his close friend Martin Schmiede arranged for his sister, Christine Backhaus, a nurse in Germany, to move to the Reeve House and take care of Edgar for a year. After learning English with the help of Edgar, Christine stayed on as Edgar Reeve's housekeeper for 16 years. In 1999, at the age of 98, Edgar Reeve was married to Christine Backhaus, 77. Edgar Reeve died at the age of 100 on December 28, 2001.

In 1985, Ralph and Edgar Reeve decided to donate the property to the Town of Westfield with the wish that the house become the permanent home of the Westfield Historical Society office and archives. This donation was made with the condition that the town would be responsible for the exterior maintenance of the property and the house from that point on, and that Edgar Reeve would continue to live at the house for the remainder of his life. The town was also required to never sell the property or put it on tax rolls; instead they would have to use it only for

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charitable or municipal or other public non-profit purposes. If the town failed to do so or did not wish to do so, the property would go back to the Reeve Foundation. 22

In the 1990s, after severe roof leaks had plagued the building, the town replaced the original slate roof with asphalt shingle roofing. At or near the same time, the ivy covering the building was removed and most of the original wood windows were replaced with aluminum windows. Since the death of Edgar Reeve in 2001, the house has been vacant. The property is still owned by the Town of Westfield, and leased to the Westfield Historical Society.

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ENDNOTES

- 1. "Edgar Reeve, Witness to Westfield's History Reaches 100th B-Day Today" Newspaper Source not known. Thursday January 18, 2001, in the collection of the Westfield Historical Society
- 2. The Office of Heritage and Cultural Affairs "Inventory of Historic Sites and Structures in Union County", April 1986
- 3. H. Welch, Real Estate and Insurance Agent Advertisement with letter to William Edgar Reeve, October 24, 1922
- 4. Ezekiel and Mary Ludlum to Matthias Miller. Deed. Union County Deed Register, E5, p. 383, June 20, 1839
- 5. Matthias and Elizabeth Miller to James and Rebecca Myrick. Deed. Union County Deed Register, N5, p. 2, March 2, 1840
- 6. John R. Miller and Wife Eliza A. to Joseph A. Davis, Jacob Davis and Thomas C. Davis. Deed. Union County Deed Register, C10, p. 278, February 16, 1857
- 7. "Brig. General John R. Myrick" New York Herald Tribune, August 31, 1909; "Brig. Gen. J. R. Myrick is dead" New York Times, September 1, 1909. p. 9 col.6
- 8. Account by Mrs. William. E. Reeve given to Sen. Arthur N. Pierson on December 1, 1955, in the collection of the Westfield Historical Society
- 9. Joseph A. Davis, Jacob Davis and Thomas C. Davis to William Stitt. Deed. Union County Deed Register, 69, p. 334, May 1, 1872
- 10. Clayton, "History of Union and Middlesex Counties" 1882, p. 331
- 11. Joseph A. Davis, Jacob Davis and Thomas C. Davis to William Stitt. Deed. Union County Deed Register, 69, p. 334, May 1, 1872
- 12. Sheriff sale to Hiram L. and Ida Fink and James T. and Kate C. Pierson. Deed. Union County Deed Register, 345, 312, October 25, 1898
- 13. Hiram L. and Ida Fink and James T. and Kate C. Pierson to William Edgar Reeve. Deed. Union County Deed Register, 470, 109, July 13, 1906
- 14. "Wed 55 Years" The Courier News, Plainfield, NJ. Tuesday, April 27, 1948, in the collection of the Westfield Historical Society
- 15. Hiram L. and Ida Fink and James T. and Kate C. Pierson to William Edgar Reeve. Deed. Union County Deed Register, 470, 109, July 13, 1906

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- 16. "William E. Reeve; Long A Resident" The Westfield (NJ) Leader. Thursday October 31, 1963
- 17. "Special Ceremonies Sunday To Honor Park Pioneer" The Westfield (NJ) Leader, Thursday November 15, 1984
- 18. "William E. Reeve; Long A Resident"
- 19. "Mrs. W. E. Reeve" The Westfield (NJ) Leader. September 23, 1966
- 20. "Miss Grace Reeve" Newspaper Source not known, August 1938, in the collection of the Westfield Historical Society
- 21. Spray drying is the technology applied to many aspects of the food, pharmaceutical and chemical industries, especially for dehydrating fluid foods such as milk, coffee and egg powders, and food flavorings.
- 22. The Reeve Foundation is a trust fund that was set up by William Edgar Reeve as a means of proper distribution of the family wealth after his death.
- 23. "Edgar Reeve, 100, married at age 99", Star Ledger. Monday December 31, 2001
- 24. Ibid.
- 25. Ralph T. Reeve and the Town of Westfield. Deed. Union County Deed Register, December 23, 1985

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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- "Brig. Gen. J. R. Myrick is Dead" New York Times, September 1, 1909. p. 9 col.6.
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- "Edgar Reeve, 100, Married at Age 99" The Star Ledger. Monday December 31, 2001.
- "Edgar Reeve, 100, Services Today" The Star Ledger. Sunday December 30, 2001.
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- Ludlum, Ezekiel and Mary to Matthias Miller. Deed. Union County Deed Register, E5, p. 383, June 20, 1839.
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- Miller, Matthias and Elizabeth to James and Rebecca Myrick. Deed. Union County Deed Register, N5, p. 2, March 2, 1840.
- "Miss Grace Reeve", Newspaper Source not known, August 1938. In the collection of the Westfield Historical Society.

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- "Mrs. W. E. Reeve" The Westfield (N7) Leader. September 23, 1966.
- The Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, "Inventory of Historic Sites and Structures in Union County", April 1986.
- "Ralph Reeve Plans to Wed Mrs. Margaret Schumacher" Somerset Messenger Gazette, p. 39. February 25, 1971.
- "Ralph T. Reeve" The Westfield (N7) Leader. Thursday August 18, 1988.
- "Ralph Tichenor Reeve Engineering Firm Executive" The Courier News, Plainfield, NJ. Thursday August 18, 1988.
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- "Wed 55 Years" The Courier News, Plainfield, NJ. Tuesday, April 27, 1948.
- Welch, H. Real Estate and Insurance Agent Advertisement with letter to William Edgar Reeve, October 24, 1922.
- "W. E. Reeve, of Westfield" Newark Evening News, Plainfield, NJ. Tuesday, April 27, 1963.
- "William E. Reeve Dies at 91; Long-Time Insurance Man" *The Courier News*, Plainfield, NJ. Saturday October 26, 1963.
- "William E. Reeve; Long A Resident" The Westfield (N7) Leader. Thursday October 31, 1963.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

William Edgar Reeve House, located at 314 Mountain Ave, occupies Block no. 303, Lot no. 2. The entire site encompasses an area of 1.62 acres.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes the entire site historically associated with the William Edgar Reeve House.

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- 1. U. S. Department of the Interior U. S. Geological Survey Roselle Quadrangle, New Jersey 7.5 minute series.
- 2. "Topographical Map of Union County in New Jersey", 1862, from the collection of the Westfield Historical Society
- 3. Map of Westfield, c.1872, from the collection of the Westfield Historical Society
- 4. "Atlas of Union County New Jersey Plan of Westfield Township", 1882, from the collection of the Westfield Historical Society
- 5. "Map of Westfield New Jersey", 1890, from the collection of the Westfield Historical Society
- 6. "Westfield", c.1903, from the collection of the Westfield Historical Society
- 7. "Insurance Maps of Westfield, Garwood, New Jersey (Sanborn Map Company)", 1909, from the collection of the Westfield Historical Society
- 8. "Insurance Maps of Westfield, Garwood, New Jersey (Sanborn Map Company)", 1916, from the collection of the Westfield Historical Society
- 9. "Insurance Maps of Westfield, Garwood, New Jersey (Sanborn Map Company)", 1921, from the collection of the Westfield Historical Society
- 10. "Tax Map Town of Westfield, Union County, New Jersey", 1929, from the collection of the Westfield Historical Society
- 11. "Town of Westfield and Mountainside Borough", no date, from the collection of the Westfield Historical Society
- 12. "Westfield Township", no date, from the collection of the Westfield Historical Society

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

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PHOTOGRAPHS

The following information applies to all photographs:

- 1. William Edgar Reeve House
- 2. Union County, New Jersey
- 3. Anahita Mantri, Photographer
- 4. November, 2004
- 5. Negatives held by:

Westfield Architects & Preservation Consultants

425 White Horse Pike

Haddon Heights, NJ 08035-1706

Tel: 856-547-0465

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

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United States Department of the Interior

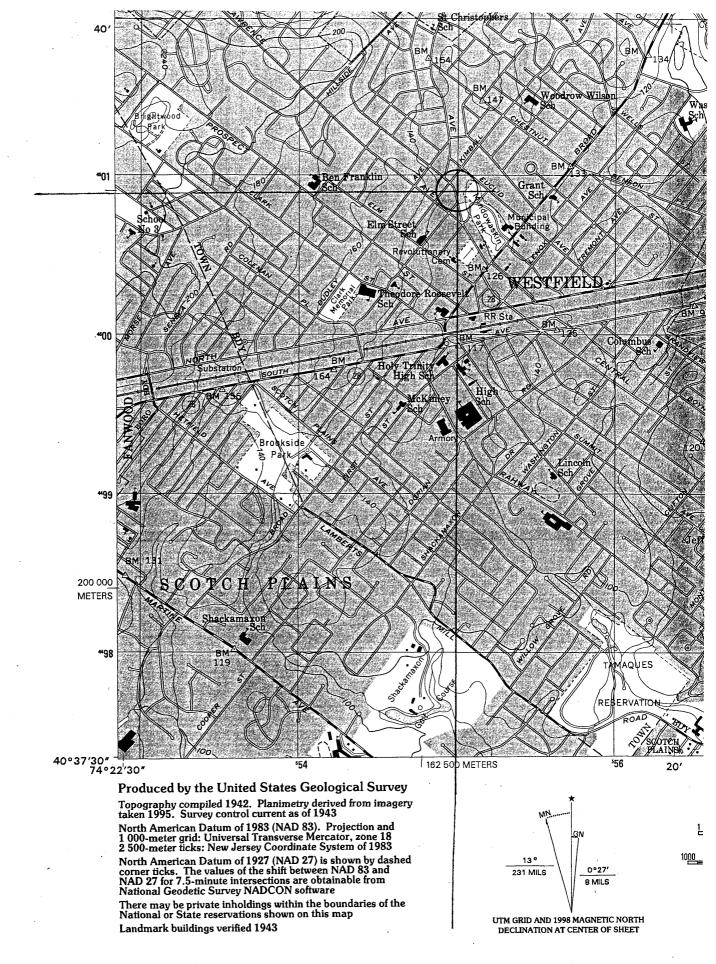
National Park Service

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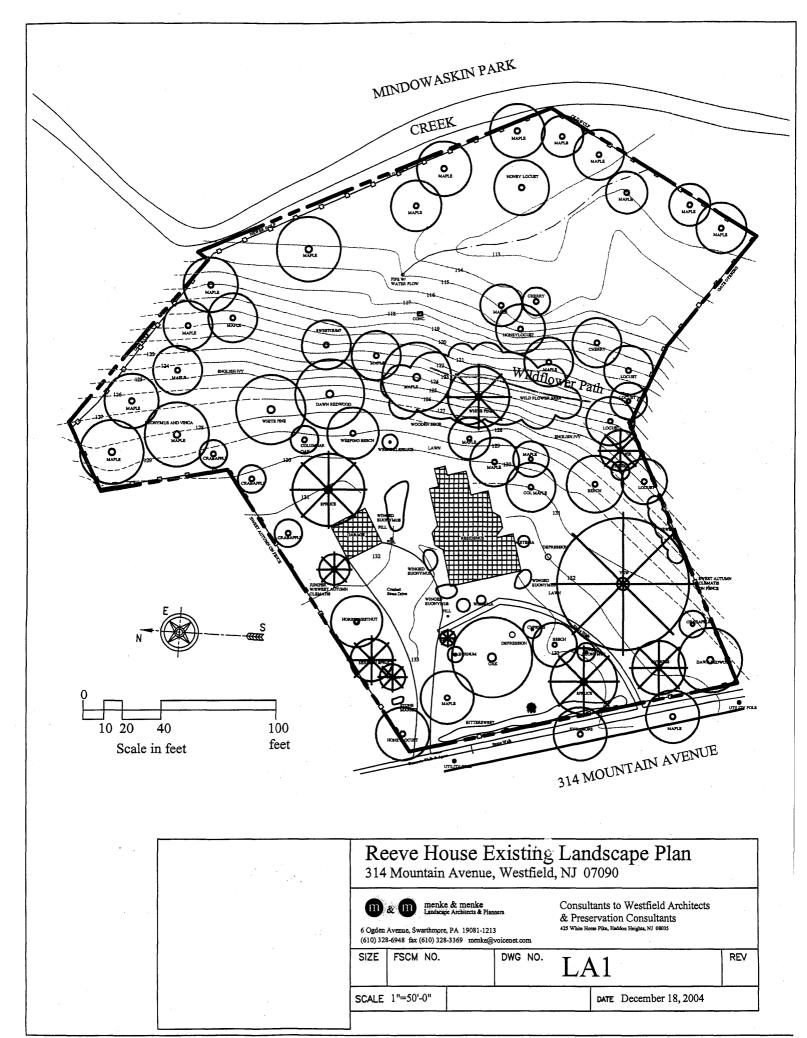
Section number PHOTOS Page 29

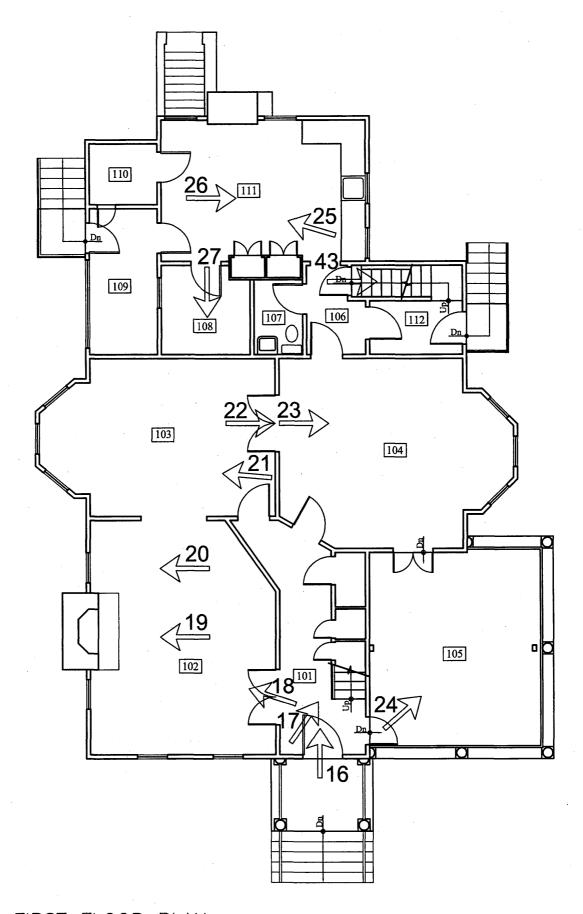
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- 6. View of Room 203 (Bedroom).
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- 6. View of Room 003.
- 7. Photo 45 of 46
- 6. View of Room 004 which originally had a coal storage area and today houses all the building service equipment.
- 7. Photo 46 of 46



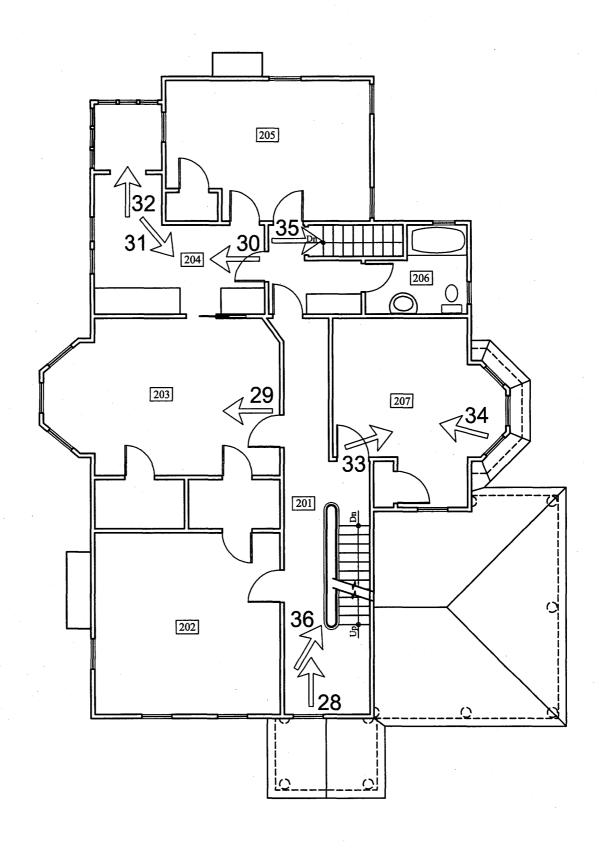
REEVE, WILLIAM EDGAR HOUSE, UNION COUNTY, NJ





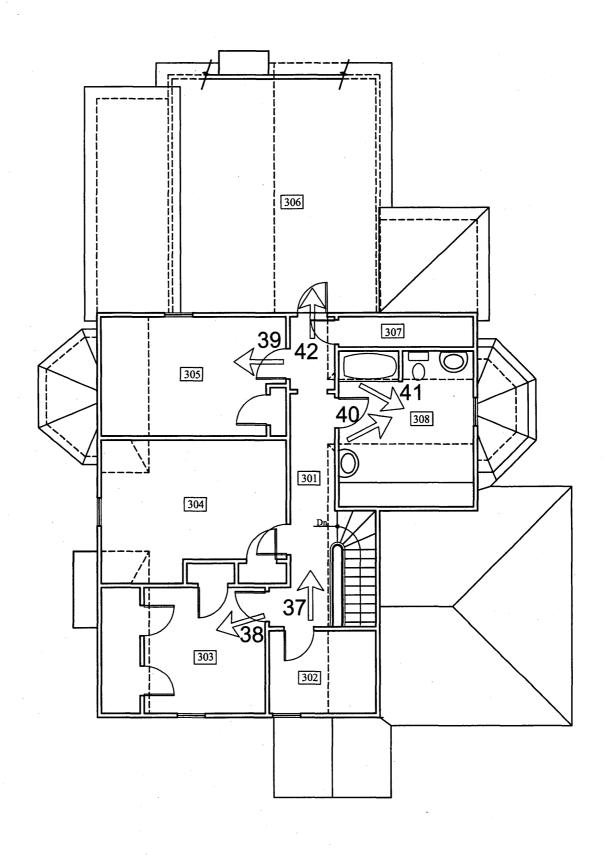
FIRST FLOOR PLAN —
SHOWING PHOTO VIEWS
SCALE: 1/8" =1'-0"





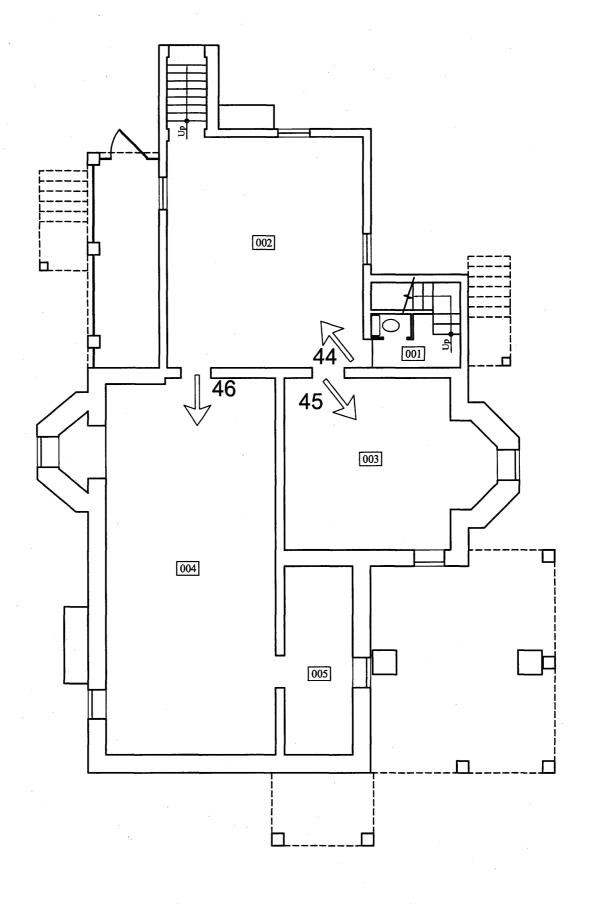
SECOND FLOOR PLAN — SHOWING PHOTO VIEWS SCALE: 1/8" =1'-0"





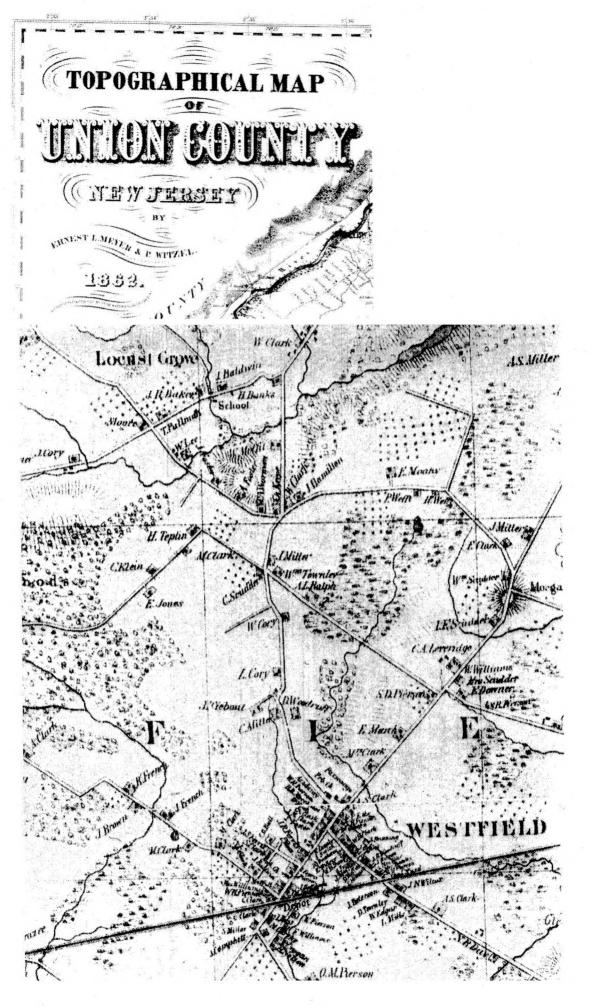
THIRD FLOOR PLAN —
SHOWING PHOTO VIEWS
SCALE: 1/8" =1'-0"

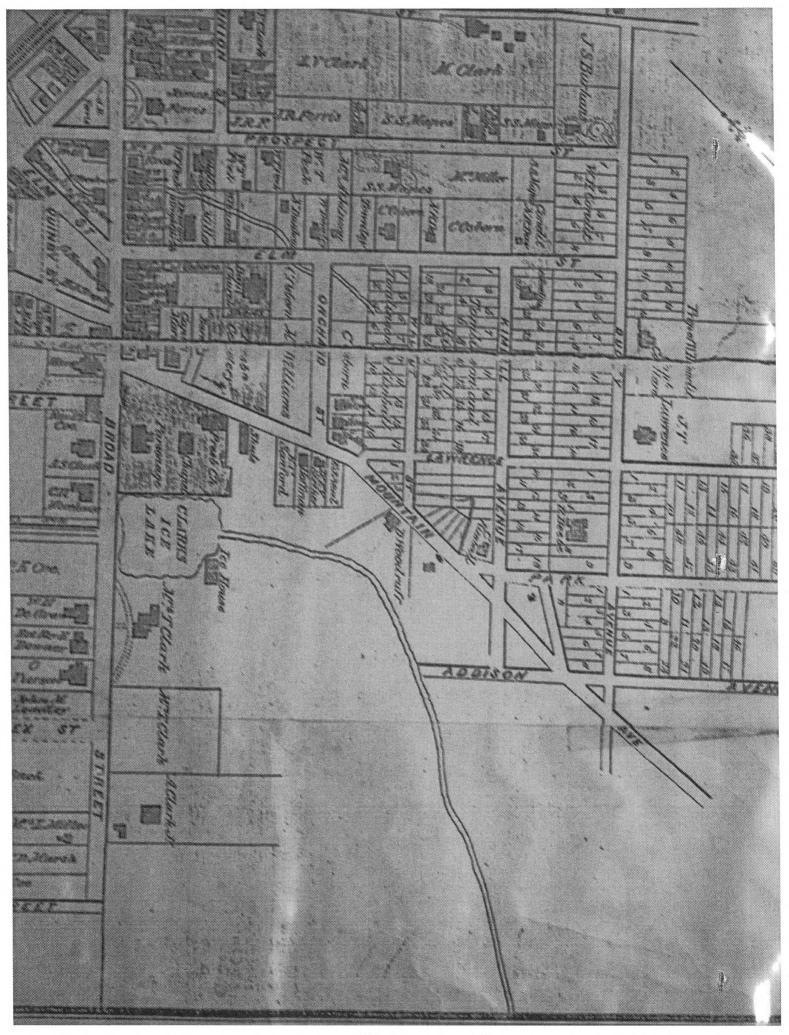


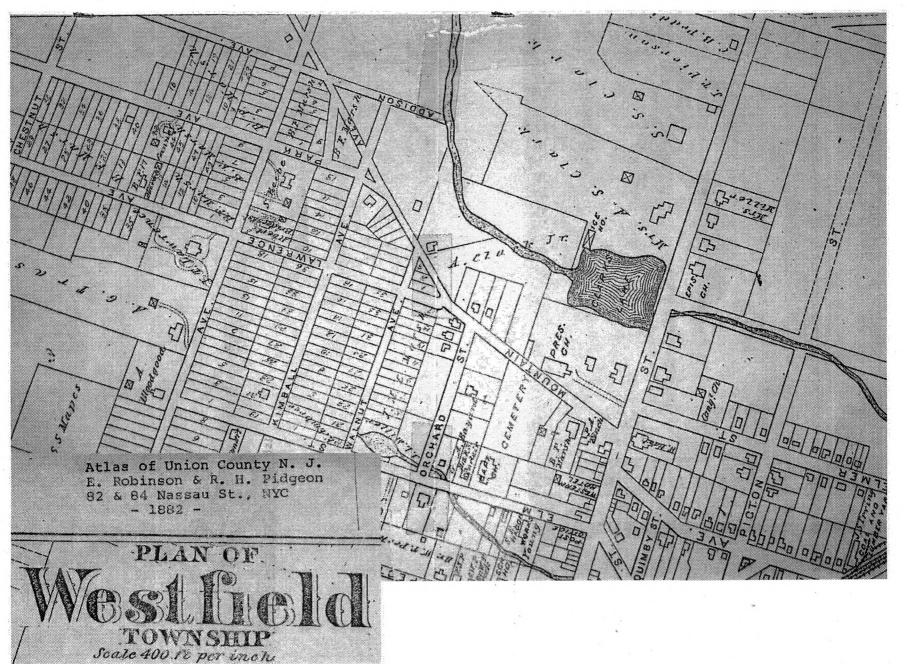


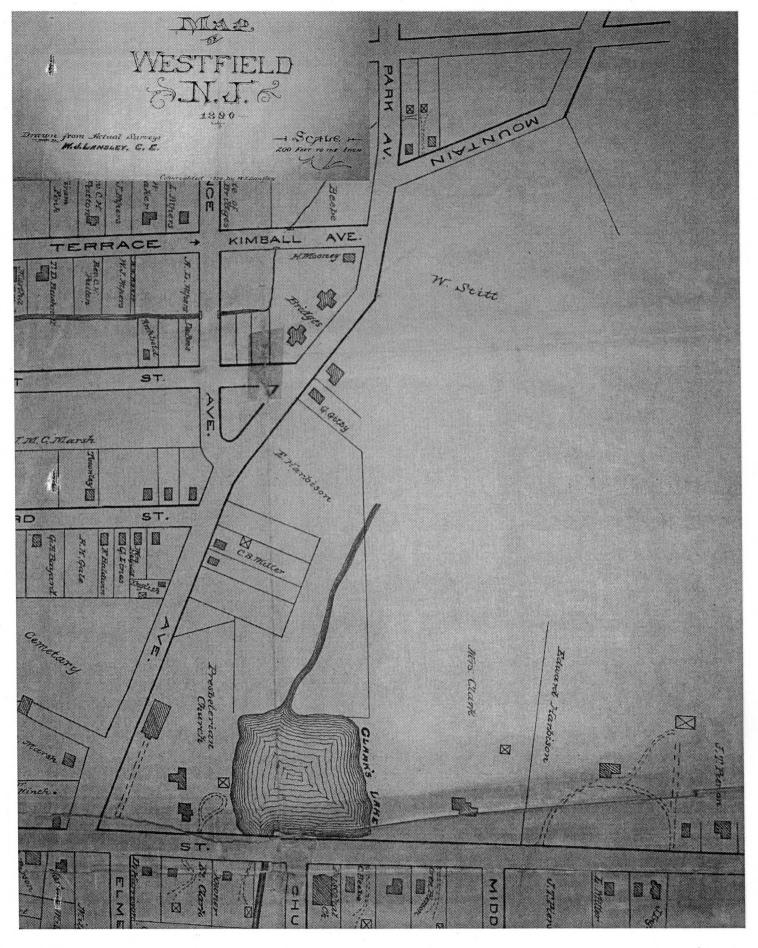
BASEMENT PLAN —
SHOWING PHOTO VIEWS
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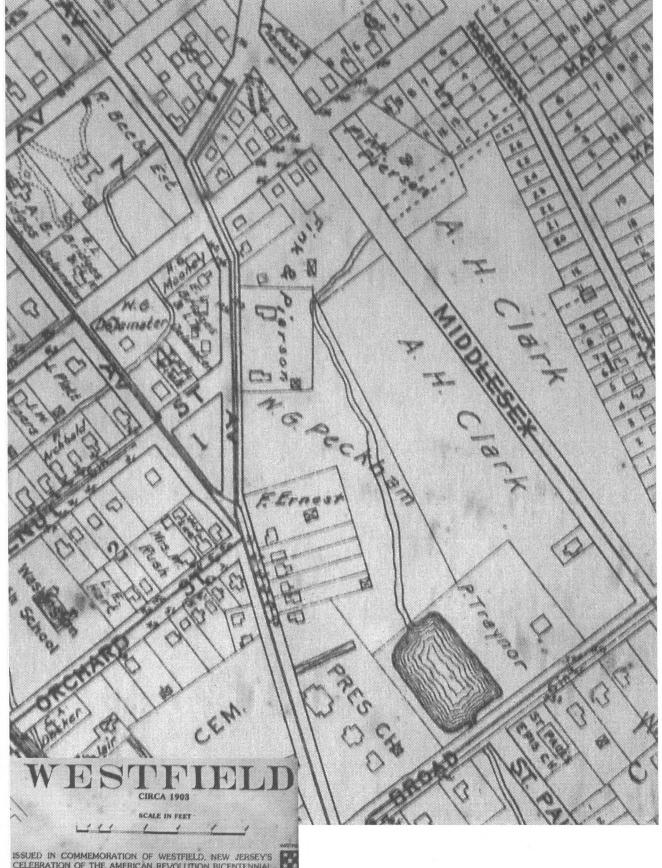






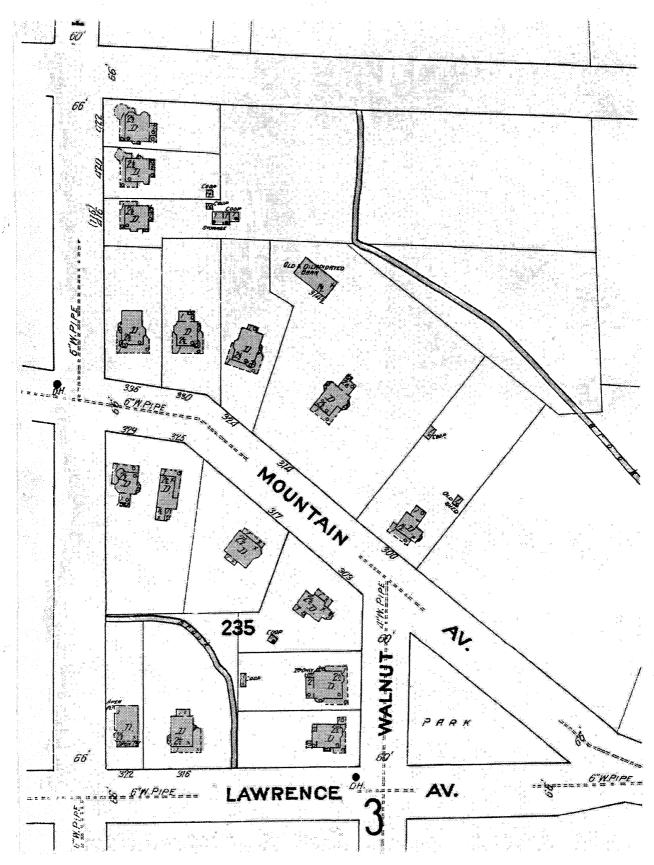




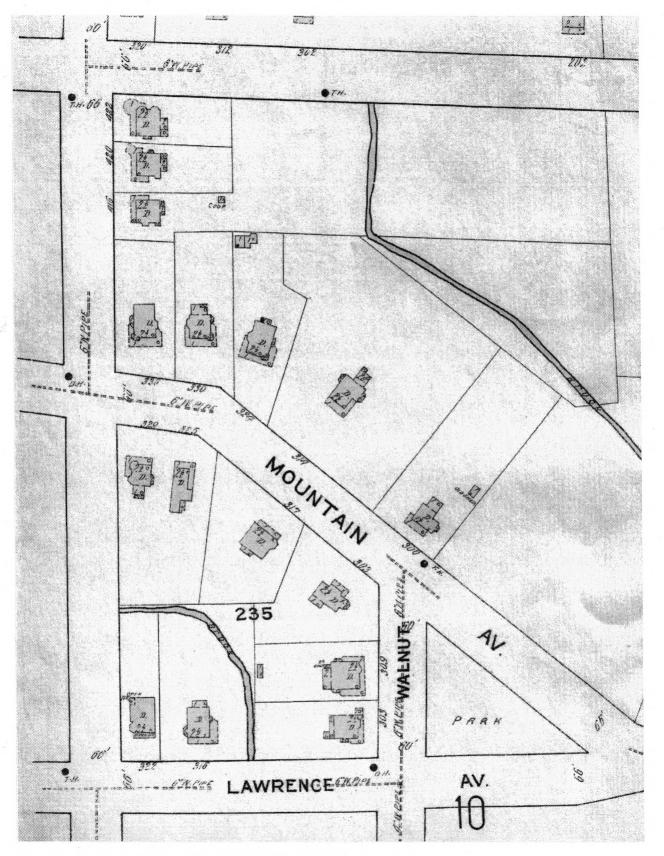


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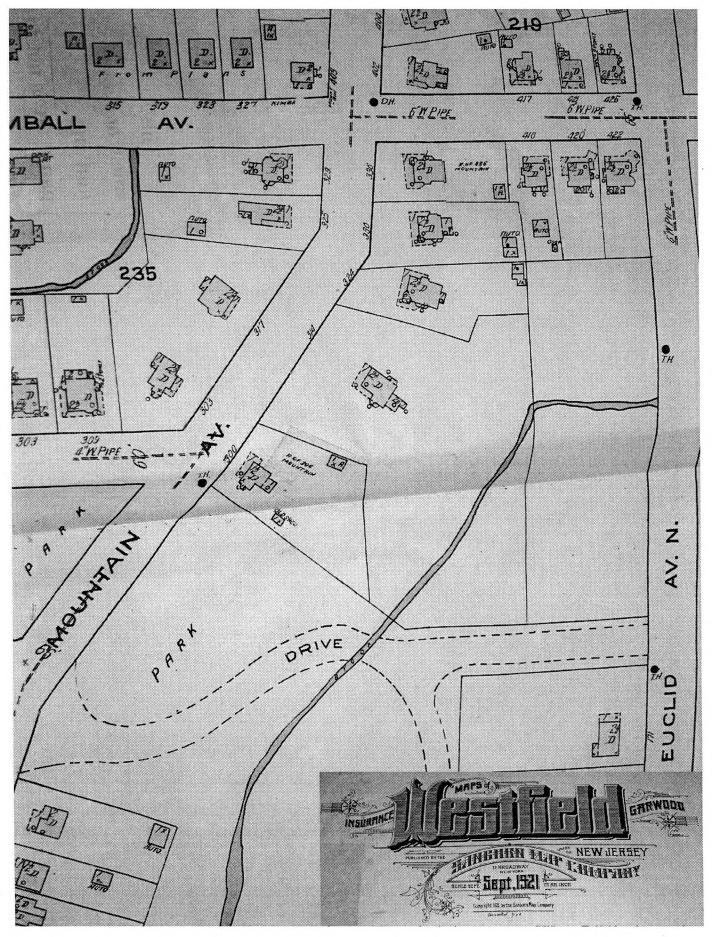
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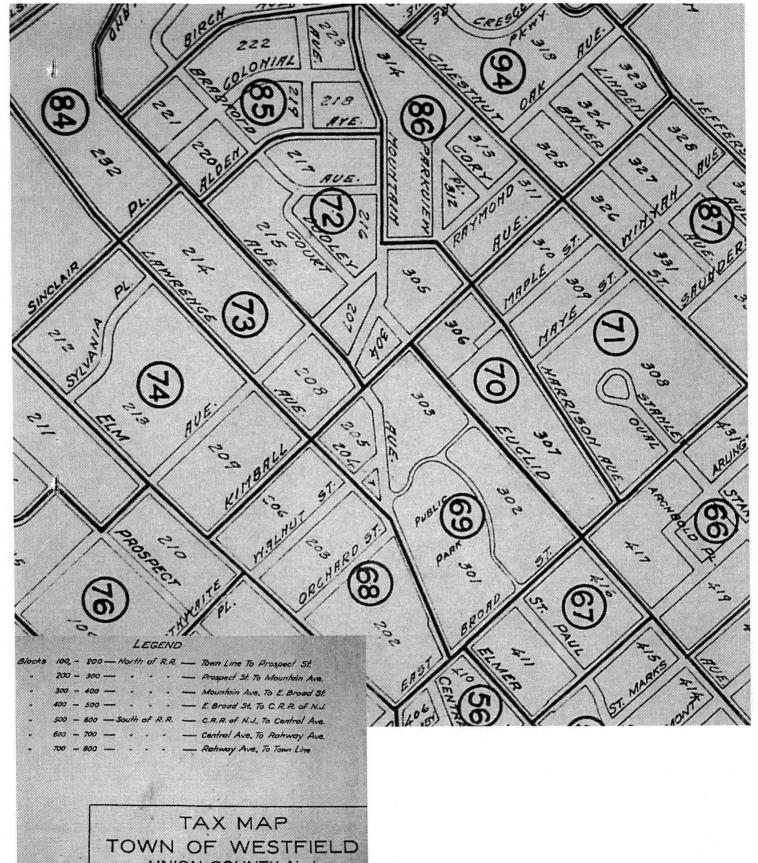


INSURANCE MAPS OF WESTFIELD, NJ SANBORN MAP COMPANY - 1909



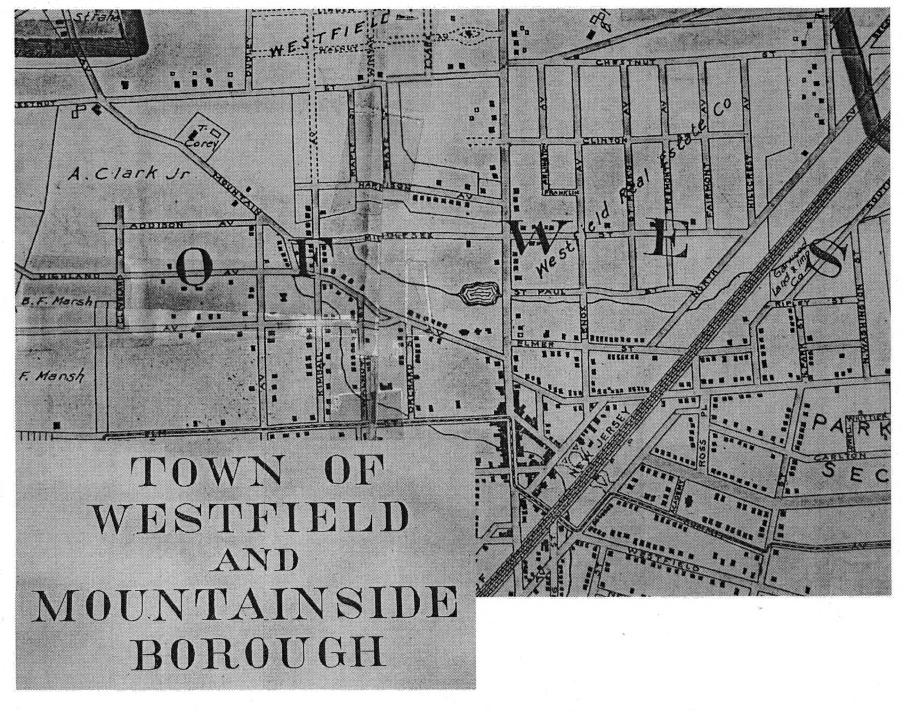
INSURANCE MAPS OF WESTFIELD, NJ SANBORN MAP COMPANY - 1916

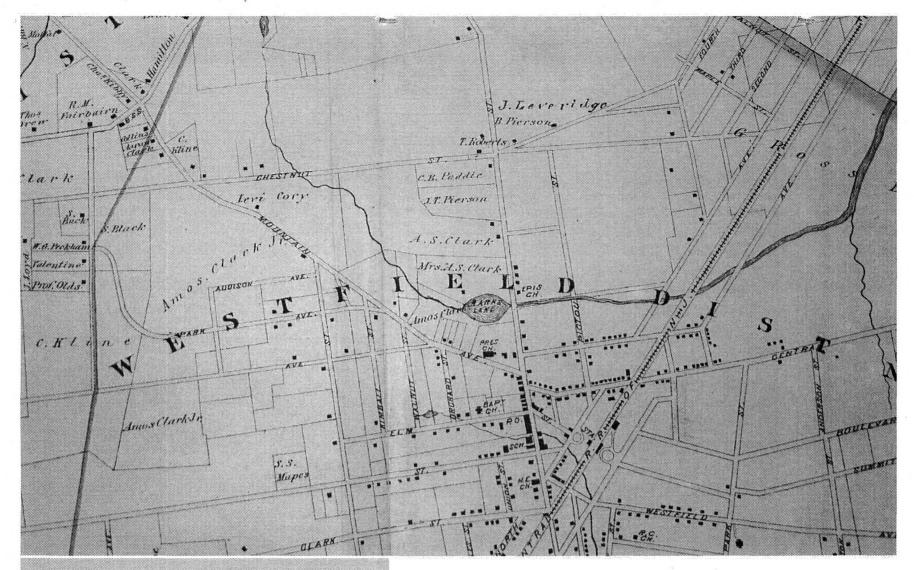




UNION COUNTY, N. J.

SCALE ("- 800"





Westfield TOWNSHIP Scale 1000 ft per inch 400

