

NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF CULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION SECTION  
INDIVIDUAL STRUCTURE SURVEY FORM

HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY NO.

HISTORIC NAME: Mount Kemble Home  
LOCATION: 1 Mount Kemble Avenue

COMMON NAME: same  
BLOCK/LOT B283/L20

MUNICIPALITY: Morristown  
USGS QUAD: Morristown

COUNTY: Morris  
UTM REFERENCES:

OWNER/ADDRESS: House for Worthy & Destitute Women  
1 Mount Kemble Ave., Morristown, NJ 07960

Zone/Northing/Easting

DESCRIPTION Main block and north wing c. 1826,  
remodeled c. 1880, south wing 1905.  
Construction Date:

Source of Date: Cutler monograph & newspaper  
articles (see bib.)

Architect: -

Builder: -

Style: Vernacular Federal with Carpenter Gothic/Stick & Colonial Revival embellishment  
Number of Stories: 2½

Form/Plan Type: 3 bay, L-type (double pile, side hall plan) main block; a narrower, 2 bay gabled north wing with appendages; and a large 5 bay, double pile south wing.

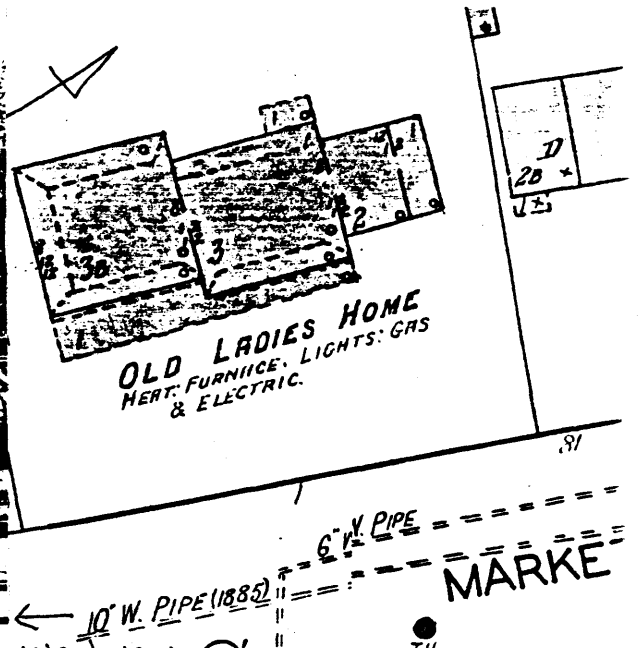
Foundation: Brick ground story that is fully above grade on the front.  
Exterior Wall Fabric: brick

Fenestration: 2/2 sash windows on main block and south wing with segmental brick lintels, architrave trim & louvered shutters, 6/6 sash windows on ground story and north wing.  
Roof/Chimneys: Mansard/jerkin gable roof on main block and south wing (patterned slate); gable on north wing/gable end chimneys in main block and interior chimney in south wing all have  
Additional Architectural Description: massive paneled brick stacks and corbelled drip caps.

- the main block and south wing have shed dormers; overhanging eaves with scrolled exposed rafter ends, saw tooth edged frieze, and built-up metal gutters; and elaborate stick work bargeboards on the north gable end.
- north wing has similar eaves treatment and frieze, a gabled wall dormer with paneled stick peak embellishment, and similar paneled embellishment on the north gable.
- the segmentally arched main entry probably had originally an elliptical fanlight; it now has a molded surround, blind transom, and heavily molded, double, glass and panel doors.
- the south wing entry, occupying the north end bay has an elliptical tracery fanlight, side-lights and glass and panel door.
- the wraparound porch has a box cornice with bed molding and frieze, square posts and square balusters.

PHOTO Negative File No.

Map (Indicate North)



OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, OFFICE OF CULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
DIVISION SECTION, 109 WEST STATE STREET, TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625 (609) 292-2023

**SITING, BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION, AND RELATED STRUCTURES:**

The Mount Kemble Home is set back approximately 75 feet from the street behind a tall hedge. The surrounding lot is well-landscaped and features many large trees and shrubs.

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

The stretch of Mt. Kemble Ave. near the Home is lined mostly with auto related businesses among which a few earlier houses survive. The steep, wooded hill to its rear belongs to the Morristown National Historical Park.

**SIGNIFICANCE:** The Mount Kemble Home has both architectural and historical significance. Architecturally it is of interest for its stylistically eclectic exterior, the surprisingly harmonious result of late 19th and early 20th century remodeling. What evidently began as a typical Federal side hall house with wing was remodeled c. 1880, acquiring an unusual mansard/gable roof and hybrid Carpenter Gothic/Stick embellishment. Credit must be given to the unknown designer of the 1905 south wing for successfully integrating the new work with the old.

Historically the Mount Kemble Home is of note as a privately supported, local residential charity that has been existence since 1883, and has occupied its present premises since 1890. Founded in 1881-83 by a group of socially concerned local ladies, the "Home For Worthy and Destitute Women" occupied a dwelling on Prospect St. until 1890 when it acquired its present building through the generosity of Charles E. Noble. Noble, who must be credited with the 1880s remodeling of the house, purchased the property in 1878 from the trustees of two deceased maiden ladies, Sarah and Elizabeth Johnson. Their brother James D. Johnson is thought to have built the original brick house on the lot he acquired from his father Richard's estate in 1826, although it may date somewhat earlier.

By the early 1900s, the success of the old ladies home had resulted (see attached page)

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

**COMMENTS:**

**REFERENCES:** Cutler, Elizabeth Lee, Mt. Kemble Home, Morristown, N.J. A Century of Service, 1883-1983 (1983) pp. 10-12 & 31-33.

"Daily Record" (clippings in Mount Kemble Home file at Morristown Library).  
September 24, 1949, September 30, 1949, and ? 1958.

**RECORDED BY:** D. N. Bertland  
**ORGANIZATION:** Morris County Historical Society

**DATE:** Spring, 1984

Mount Kemble Home significance, continued:

in a need for expansion. In 1905 Alfred R. Witney, a wealthy former partner of Andrew Carnegie, agreed to fund the enlargement and renovation of the house as a memorial to his wife Mary Louise. The south wing was added, and a new heating system installed and other improvements made at that time.

Today the Mount Kemble Home continued to function much as it did when first founded. Elderly women of limited means but in good health are provided with a home, supervised by a Matron responsible to a Board of Trustees. Residents maintain a degree of independence, having private rooms and doing their own shopping and cooking. Occupied by about fifteen older women, the Home remains a local social and architectural landmark.