

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUN 16 1977
DATE ENTERED NOV 11 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

**

Essex County Park Commission Administration Building

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

115 Clifton Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Newark

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

10th

STATE

New Jersey

CODE

034

COUNTY

Essex

CODE

015 013

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Essex County Park Commission

STREET & NUMBER

115 Clifton Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Newark

VICINITY OF

STATE

New Jersey

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Essex County Hall of Records

STREET & NUMBER

High Street

CITY, TOWN

Newark

STATE

New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1976

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

P. O. Box 1420

CITY, TOWN

Trenton

STATE

New Jersey

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Essex County Park Commission building was designed by Harold van Buren Magonicle between 1914-1916; the building is three and one half stories. It has a reddish metal tile hipped roof. The exterior facing is of rough textured brick laid in flemish bond, ranging in color from buff to light brown. The terra cotta used in the cornice, belt courses, and around the entrance is light brown in color, with the ornament executed in low relief. The soffit of the arched entrance loggia and the frieze under the wide overhang of the tiled roof are plaster with allegorical decoration in color. The frieze is pierced at intervals with windows behind heavy grills that have been painted and checkered to conform to the colorful devices of the panels.

The building site has a considerable grading change from the front to the back, which permitted Magonicle to design the primary entrance on the west side of the first level and the secondary and delivery entrance on the east side at the basement level.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Essex County Park Commission has two major areas of significance. First, it houses the country's first organized commission to oversee the upkeep and creation of land for use as public park areas. Second the building was designed by H. van Buren Magonicle, a turn-of-the-century architect, designer, potter and painter, who often collaborated with his wife, Edith who also worked on this building.

Approval for the establishment of the Essex County Park Commission was made by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey on May 8, 1894. Judge Du Pre of the New Jersey Supreme Court appointed the first commissioners on July 18, 1894. They were Edward W. Jackson, of Belleville, Cyrus Peck and Stephen J. Meeker of Newark, Frederick Kelsey of Orange and George Bromhal of South Orange. This commission was to last for two years and the commissioners were to set up rules and guidelines for the new park system and take the first steps in building the park system.

In 1895 Essex County had only twenty-five acres of lands used for parks. Hoping to improve the situation, the commission retained the services of the firm of Olmstead, Olmstead and Eliot. Frederick Law Olmstead designed the Branch Brook Park in Newark. It was his last design for a public park. After a year the commission elected their first permanent officers. They were Cyrus Peck, president; F. M. Shepard, vice president; Franklin Murphy, treasurer; Alonzo Church, secretary.

Throughout the years the Essex County Parks system has grown through both acquisition and donation. In 1897 the commission had spent over \$1,227,469 for land acquisition and in 1902 the citizens of Essex County voted to give the commission over five million dollars in public funds for future park expenditures.

From what started as 25 acres in the 1890, today the Essex County Park System encompasses over 4,000 acres with a yearly attendance of more than two million people.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Church, Alonza, secretary of Essex County Park Commission (former), Park Benefits, (includes the Acts of the Legislature of the State of New Jersey under which the Essex County Park Commission is organized).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 480 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	5,69	3,9,0	4,5	1,1	5,1,0	B					
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING						
C							D					
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property occupies city block 472 16t 1 and is roughly 200 X 300 feet in size.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

(Nanci K. Batchelor, Office of Historic Preservation, Trenton, 609-292-2023)

NAME / TITLE

Joseph Flock & Thomas MacDonald-(Architectural & Historical Researchers)

ORGANIZATION

Newark Preservation & Landmarks Committee

DATE

8/27/76

STREET & NUMBER

10 Bank Street

TELEPHONE

622-4910

CITY OR TOWN

Newark

STATE

New Jersey

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

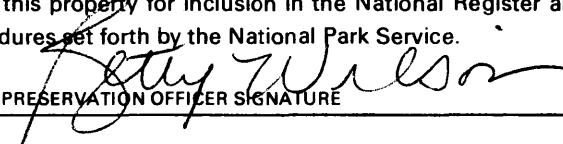
NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

Deputy
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE

Assistant Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

DATE

MAY 27 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURAL & HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST: 

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
DATE 11-8-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Essex County Park Commission Building
Newark

Essex County

New Jersey 07102
CONTINUATION SHEET

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SIGNIFICANCE

Architecture

The Essex County Park Commission building was designed by Harold van Buren Magonicle between the years 1914-1916. A native of New Jersey he was employed at Vaux & Bradford, Charles S. Haight, and McKim, Mead & White. In 1908 he secured a position as head designer in the office of Schickel & Ditmars. He went into practice for himself. Some of his notable buildings include the Elks Club, Brooklyn; a group of buildings for U.S. Embassy, Tokyo, Japan; the Peace Memorial, Kansas City and McKinley Monument, Canton, Ohio which is on the National Register.

Magonicle also found time to design furniture, pottery and the AIA seal. He also did watercolors and oil paintings.

The Essex County Park Commission building is a good example of the second renaissance revival style. A particularly note-worthy feature is the palladian window. Also the frieze decorated in colors, painted by Mrs. Edith Magonicle adds to the buildings significance.

The Essex County Park Commission building as the headquarters of the first organized park commission in the United States and as an example of the renaissance revival style merits recognition and inclusion in the National Register.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Essex County Park Commission Building
Newark
Essex County New Jersey 034
CONTINUATION SHEET

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BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

2. Kelsey, Frederick W., vice-president of original commission, The First County Park System, A Complete History of the Inception and Development of the Essex County Parks of New Jersey, J. S. Ogilvie Publishing Company, New York, 1905.
3. Report of Olmsted Brothers Parkway System, Brookline, Massachusetts, June 4, 1915.
4. Withey, Henry F., AIA and Elsie Rathburn Withey, Biographical Dictionary of American Architects--Deceased, New Age Publishing Company, Los Angeles, California, 1956, page 385-6.