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# 7 DESCRIPTION

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

West State Street presents a comprehensive catalogue of architectural phases and styles throughout the whole nineteenth century. Starting with a row of late Federal clapboard houses, this collection progresses through Greek revival, midcentury electicism, Richardsonian Ashlar, Georgian Revival to early skyscraper. The series chronicles the adaptations made by central New Jersey urban builders and the local specialities, such as the indigent tile and pottery works. The fireplaces and vestibules in the houses along the street attest to the virtuosity of the town's tile decorators. The juxtapositions of different facades betray the constant experimentation and lively imagination which pervaded this period. The freedom of the individual and the expression of personal taste emerge in this whole century of architecture.

In addition, the buildings of West State Street serve an important function. By their diversity of appearance and their private nature, they contrast with the large public buildings of the State Capitol and the State Cultural Center. Filled with law and medical offices, small businesses and apartments, they house personalities who prepare government matters and also pursue their own directions of endeavor. Presently the buildings are in excellent condition and the street is enjoyed to its full capacity.

The Kelsey Building, by Cass Gilbert, dominates the eastern intersection of the historic district and holds the urban area together. Without it, the space would dissipate through lack of character and form. Cass Gilbert adapted a Florentine Palazzo type to modern classroom and office needs. He balanced the vertical organization of large scaled bays with a three-layer elevation. He stated the protective rather than supporting function of the bay membrane by employing large areas of glass and copper paneling. This building is, in structural terms, a modern sky-scraper.

Gilbert, perhaps reflecting ideas of his mentor Stanford White, concentrated his decorative efforts in color effects. We notice this in the extensive use of tile, probably Trenton-made, especially in the grey granite basement, the round headed main portal, the deep brownish red Kachelmacher brick, the mortar with its sparkling quartz aggregate and the green patinated Renaissance clock and roof trusses. In addition, the architect exploited the textural dark effects with molded brick window frames, thick mortar joints and heavy wrought iron gates. The success of the elevation and the quality of the detail attests to Gilbert's architectural abilities and his close attention to this project.

(Continued)

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# 8 SIGNIFICANCE



# SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

#### Political and Military

The history of the State House District is inextricably connected to the history of the State of New Jersey. From 1790 when Trenton became the State Capitol, the tree-lined West State Street has always represented the multifaceted history of a thriving state and city. The area's original military site, the Barracks, gave housing to soldiers from various armies throughout the The Masonic Temple provided the Trenton Lodge #5 with a history of our nation. fine meeting place. The Kelsey Building enhances the visual view of Trenton giving the city a touch of Florentine architecture as well as providing an institution which promotes and provides educational advancement. The District residential homes reflect the growth of the city and state. They represent the diverse architectural, residential and industrial atmosphere of Trenton. Manv of the streets of Trenton, like most 20th century cities, have lost their original character -- their trees, their vitality and their purpose. West State Street has retained its individuality.

Trenton was and continues to be a governmental and industrial center. In an age when the remnants of the American heritage are quickly vanishing the State House District reminds us that the governmental seat of a State has a vital rapport with the people. The people are represented not only by their elected officials but also by their architectural choices, their educational institutions, their places of worship, their homes and their past. These aspects of life are basically intertwined and the absence of one undeniably undermines the viability of the others. This district is a capsule view of two centuries of American life.

THE STATE HOUSE: The State House situated on the south side of West State Street represents the seat of government for the State of New Jersey. An Act of the Legislature November 25, 1790, made Trenton the State Capitol. On November 22, 1791, an Act to provide suitable accommodations for the Legislature and public offices was passed and the history of the State House was to begin. The original tract was three and three-quarters acres (Continued)

# **9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Cleary, John J. Trenton's Historical Assets. Trenton, New Jersey: The Trenton Historical Society, 1919.

Community Messenger, Trenton, New Jersey; Anniversary Issue, Essays on the History of Trenton; Trenton, Y.M.H.A. Community Home, 1929 (con't.)

# **10**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the intersection of Capitol Plaza and Willow Street, thence proceed NW on Capitol Plaza to Calhoun Street. Proceed across Calhoun Street along the Delaware and Raritan Canal 800 feet. Thence proceed SW to West State Street. Thence proceed SE along West State Street 1600 feet beyond Calhoun Street. Thence proceed S 300 feet, E 650 feet and S 200 feet, to Willow Street and continue 150 feet E on Lafayette Thence proceed N to Front Street, thence proceed NW along Front Street to Street.

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

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### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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The State Capitol: The State House, the second oldest one in continuous use in America, has undergone numerous building programs and has suffered several natural and man-made tragedies. It, therefore, gives a heterogenous exterior appearance. Yet from an architectural point of view, it emerges as a multichaptered history of government's conservative nature in building--predominantely in the Classical Revival style. The variation that we sense describes the varieties of re-interpretation of the Classical that many architects formulated in the 19th century. Each saw the Greek and Roman precendents in a different light, and each utilized it in his own way.

The first State House, erected in 1792 by the masterbuilder Jonathan Doane (1756-1818) was a simple Colonial building of two stories, with arched windows on the ground floor and square headed windows on the second, a modest predimented doorway and an open arcaded cupola.

John Notman (1810-1865) designed a new state house complex by Italianizing the Doane structure (now the Governor's office) and by erecting in the austere Classical sytle an 80 foot dome and a three story, stepped and porticoed-front building. At a time when eclectic styles prescribed various emotional evocations, Notman chose Greek Doric for this period of architectural advocacy which had begun with Jefferson's efforts, the forms of the structure were complex and multiple, piled one on top of another in Roman fashion. This phase was the most doctrinaire of all the successive classical programs. The light and airy portico of the South wing, which is usually attributed to Notman, retells Corinthian classicism in a much more abstract and delicate manner, reminiscent of Palladio and the 18th century English devotees of his design.

Samuel Sloan (1815-1884) extended the South wing back in 1871, added two Corinthian ordered legislative rooms at the south east corner (destroyed in 1891) and settled an Italianate windowed block over Notman's front house, permitting the Old Doric portico to stick out. Recorded in a few photographs, Sloan's window frames remind one of Michelangelo's windows and reflect establishment taste of the time. The stained glass over the assembly, fitted with one piece Pilkington rolled plate sections, was illuminated by gas jets,

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lit by electrical sparks generated by a power plant in the basement.

The fire of March 25, 1885 destroyed the front office structure and cracked the foundations of the dome. The original 1794 structure was unharmed. It was deemed necessary, however, to pull down the front parts and rebuild.

Lewis Broome (1849-1927) gained the commission and designed the present pedimented state house with double decked porch, in his French Academic Classicism style. Together with the dome and Routunda (1895), which Broome probably authored also, his classicism incorporated Roman motifs for their conglomerative effect. Although modern eyes may be unaccustomed to his super-abundance of facade devices, he assembled the building with confidence and logic.

The later phases of construction on the Capitol -- the Assembly Chamber (1891) by Assemblyman Moylan, the Senate Chambers (1902-1903) of Arnold Moses, the four story structure by John Poole (1906) that replaced half of the 1792 building and the additions to the North Facade (1911-1912) caused scandals in construction and patronage. Their exterior elaboration documents the uninspired employment of classical details such as quoins and engaged columns that came to characterize most of governmental architecture after the Chicago Fair. Though not architecurally valuable, these parts do complete our picture of government classicism in the 19th century.

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107 and 109 West State Street are a handsome pair of Ionic order Greek Revival three story townhouses, circa 1830-40. The second retains all its original details inside and out--window and door pilasters (and architraves, pannelled wooden doors, marble fireplaces, interior window shutters, staircase and balusters, and, most importantly, high quality composition plaster ceilings). The vestibule and the front and back parlors display dazzling Greek Revival ornament above--egg and dart moldings, grape and rose friezes and stylized acanthus leaf clusters. Number 107, with many excellent original details such as the case iron fence and standards, shows interesting modifications over the course of time. In the 1850's a later style of Classical Revival portal replaced the original one. Behind these two houses stands a late 18th century brick kitchen or shop building with an unusual single rounded corner.

<u>110-116</u>. A row of three-bay houses, circa 1850, with Intalianate round headed windows. Although the group is much altered with general, #112 still bears the original doorway with painted, stylized terracotta leaf detail.

<u>120-122</u>. A three-story recapitulation of the Kelsey building in light-colored Flemish bond brick. Probably constructed between 1910 and 1920.

124-126. Two adjoining late Federal townhouses in painted Flemish bond with center line alley way. Circa 1810. #126 has a delicate, fashionable original doorway. The fourth attic story with plank and cartouche frieze was probably added to the houses in the 1940's and shows late Greek Revival influence.

<u>128-134</u>. A rugged Richardsonian ashlar group with a double-house center flanked by two separate units. Circa 1880-1885. The heavy stone work of the stoops, the first floor levels and the corner turrets contrasts with the colored brick of the second floors, (red in the center pair buff in the outer pair) and the fish scale terracotta blocks on the third floors. Although one of the houses #128, has suffered substantial changes on its lower levels, the group's impact and cohensiveness is strongly felt. It stands among the best work inspired by H. H. Richardson's

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free style of the 1870's. Ferdinand Roebling Sr., probably build the houses as a real estate investment, one of several on the street. Title searches link him with his architecturally distinguished ensemble and with the one at 198-210 West State Street.

142. A late Greek Revival row house, circa 1840, with an attractively tiled vestibule.

144. A restrained Beaux Arts two-bay facade, circa 1900, on a perhaps older brick building. The figured terracotta lunetts over the second floor windows along with the wellproportioned brackets of the cornice stand out in the academic decorative scheme.

154. An old brick row house, perhaps Federal, updated in the 1870's with a brownstone front of geometric details and a stylish colonetted doorway.

160. This exterior plays off the dark area under the large Richardsonian round arch at the lower right against the Queen Anne pannelled gable in the upper left of the composition. The dark red brick harmonizes well with the rusticated stone and the dark-painted wood. Circa 1880.

162. A Georgian-Revival apartment house, of about 1930.

168-170. A joined pair of high style, decorated Italianate townhouses, circa 1850, displaying elaborately figured arched window lintels, door frames and doorway woodwork. A large bay window of 168 projects into the adjacent corner lot. A fine gothic cast iron fence surrounds the shrubbery at the front of each lot and winds up the steps to the entrances. The high quality of these buildings, particularly in the detail work, suggests Notman's participation or inspiration. He worked extensively in the Trenton-Princeton area from 1845 to 1855.

172. Home of the New Jersey State Bar Association, this is a fine example of the geometric eclecticism that seized architects, builders and architectural book publishers in the late 1870's. We notice this kind of work in the brownstone detail and in the fine, original varnished doors.

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Ò 176. This Italiante townhouse, with restrained flat roundheaded window frames, offers a more sober example of facade ornamentation in the 1850's. The interior, occupied by the Contemporary Club, displays fine marble fireplaces, sliding room dividers and illusionistic double doors. Certain decorations donated by the Rusling family, an Egyptian Revival pier glass and a gilt Rococo-Revival over mantle mirror evoke the nature of a well-furnished, mid-century parlor.

188. A straightforward, unpretentious townhouse, circa 1860, with a few Egyptoid details. The house sports a later one-story side entrance with two inset mosaic panels by the Mueller Mosaic Co. illustrated in one of the firm's catalogues of about 1900. One section pictures a jaunty galleon heading to sea; the other a rustic village behind a stone bridge over a pond.

198-210. This coordinated block of seven joined houses nicknamed "a Pride of Lions' because of the terracotta lions' heads on the facade and on many of the interior fireplaces, was probably another of Ferdinand Roebling Sr's real estate speculation ventures. Most likely built in the second half of the 1870's under Richardsonian influence, the units, which vary perciptibly in elevation and detail, exhibit the play of heavily rusticated stone and dark brick patterning. The rough-cut arches sprightly spring across the first floor of the center houses, while some of the upper windows have slightly curved gauged brick arches. The unknown architect showed wit in sticking massive surticated blocks over the second story windows. He used terracotta panels in gabled ends and carved foliate brownstone squares above doorways. He developed an unusual sash pattern with small checkerboard pane. Some of his most unique details, the wrought iron basement grates, the stained glass transoms and the heavy carved wood doors remain in excellent condition.

The center house, #204, is still in private use as a single family residence. Despite a few minor alterations the original room dispostion and most of the decorations, including Queen Anne mantles and colorful tile work, are well preserved.

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212-214. A jointed pair of Mansard roofed houses with protruding hexagonal two story front bays. Number 214, mentioned in a deed as built an overbricking. A tall, airy Stick Style porch unites the two at their entrances.

 $\frac{216}{\text{and}}$ . A small red brick mansion with a curved Mansard slate roof and a carved and figured brownstone entrance. All the windows on the first floor have English style diamond pattern leaded glass, which prepares the visitor for the miniature manorial, carved and panelled library within the projecting bay.

224. This late Greek Revival brick townhouse, circa 1840, shows the advancement into the bracketted style in its cornice and early moments of developed floral decoration in the impressed doorway. The interior ceilings, in contrast to those in 107 and 109, are edged with simple heavy round moldings. Original window frames and inside shutters still remain.

The Barracks: It is the last remaining of five English built Colonial soldiers' quarters. A U'shaped structure with interior second floor gallery, it carries a steep pitched slate roof dotted with pronounced dormers. The heavy modillion cornice of the officers quarters is returned on the gable end.

The Masonic Lodge: Built in 1793, at approximately the same time as the first Capitol, this modest five-bay random masonry Federal building originally stood on Barrack (now Willow) Street. Basic in shape and its elevation, and devoid of any real decorative detail, it confirms the conservative character of early Trenton architecture and of the members of the Trenton Lodge, probably some of the more powerful men in the town at that time. Moved and restored in 1915, it stands as an early chapter in the history of museology. On the first floor wooded display cases contain a wide variety of Masonic memorabilia. Although originally the relics were to date from before 1800. the grouping now includes items from all the society's history. The meeting room, with the original furniture and an astronomical detailed ceiling, occupies the second floor. Old photographs show that extensive replacement of the exterior masonry walls were necessary in 1915.

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<u>300-312</u>. The Delaware and Raritan Canal Company sold a large plot of land of the northwest corner of Calhoun and West State Streets that extended at least as far as #348, to the widow of Mr. Charles Gehringer in 1847. The buildings that obviously date from before that transfer were probably built by the Canal Co. for rental income, lodging or real estate speculation. This uniform block of fancy brick four story houses, repeated at numbers 320-326, were undoubtedly put up in the early 1880's for the same reasons. The brick, punched, dotted, cut and mousetoothed, belies the imagination and wit of a good contractor, not an architect. Their simplicity and straightforwardness contribute to the informal, intimate residential character of this part of State Street, quite different from the Capitol Block houses.

<u>312</u>. This 2 1/2 story, three bay random masonry building probably served as a farmhouse in the late 18th century. At that time, this part of town was pasture land. Original sash and shutters populate the front facade. A curious domed porch construction of uncertain origin shelters the doorway at the left front corner. Deed records, unfortunately extend only back to 1850, when it was owned by a John S. Chambers.

<u>314</u>. A plain late 18th century vernacular clapboard house, the two lower stories of which were altered from two to three openings. Peeled paint from the side walls unmasks pit sawn boards.

<u>328-330</u>. A joined pair of simple 2 1/2 story, three-bay Federal brick houses. Circa 1810. Original shutters survive at the ground floor windows.

342. A common brick, three-bay house with bracketed wood cornice and tall brick arched windows. Circa 1840.

<u>336-340, 344, 348, 350</u>. A series of modest, late Federal clapboard 2 1/2 story houses that may have been erected as rental properties by the Canal Company, circa 1835. Their small scale, their proximity to the tree shaded walk and their simplicity make this section of the street appear extremely peaceful, charming and human. #338 retains original shutters with hardware at the first floor level.

342. Similar to #332, a deed in the large Gehringer transaction of June 1847 mentions this simple brick dwelling as "a new house". The two provide quiet variation to this unified, stable neighborhood.

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Inventory of Historic Structures Located Within the State House Historic District

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- Old Masonic Temple (Willow Street): 1793, Federal, 2 stories, masonry. 1.
- New Masonic Temple (Willow Street): 1927, 3 stories, Neo-Classical Revival, 2. Ionic columns.
- Old Barracks (Willow Street): 1758, 2 1/2 stories, U-shaped. 3.
- Kelsey Building (101-103 W. State Street): 1911, 5 stories, brick, decorative 4. tile details.
- 105 W. State Street: mid 19th c., 3 stories, flat roof, commercial. 5.
- 107 W. State Street: c.1830, 3 stories, brick, Greek Revival, Classical 6. Revival portal.
- 109 W. State Street: c.1830, 3 stories, brick, Greek Revival. 7.
- 111 W. State Street, mid 19th c., 1 story, store front building, frame. 8.
- 113 W. State Street, mid 19th c., 3 stories, brick (presently New Jersey 9. Historical Commission Headquarters).
- 115 W. State Street: mid 19th c., 3 stories, brick, terra cotta on window 10. consoles, Italianate.
- State House (W. State Street): c.1794, numerous additions, Classical Revival, 11. masonry.
- Chelsea Abstracting Co. (102 W. State Street): 1930's, 3 stories, International 12. style, ribbon window, stucco.
- 106 W. State Street: 3 stories brick commercial building, store front, 13. mid 19th c.
- 108 W. State Street: 3 stories, mid 19th, stucco, commercial. 14.
- 110-116 W. State Street: a row of 3 bay, 3 story, Italianate, stucco. 15.
- 118 W. State Street: 3 stories, 20th c., stucco, commercial building. 16.
- 120-122 W. State Street: 3 stories, early 20th c., modeled after the Kelsey 17. Building, English bond brick.

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- 18. 124-126 W. State Street: adjoining late Federal townhouses, painted Flemish bond, c.1810, 3 1/2 stories.
- 19. 128-134 W. State Street: c. 1880-1885, Richardsonian, ashlar group, double house center flanked by two separate units, heavy stone work on first floors, color brick second floors, fish scale terra cotta third floors.
- 20. 142 W. State Street: c.1840, 3 stories, late Greek Revival row house, tiled vestibule.
- 21. 144 W. State Street: c. 1900, 3 stories, Beaux Arts. two bay facade, figured terra cotta lunette over second floor window.
- 22. 154 W. State Street: early 19th c., brick row house, updated in 1870's, brownstone front of geometric details, colonetted doorway.
- 23. 156 W. State Street: 3 stories, brick (painted), Italianate, front entrance pedimented.
- 24. 160 W. State Street: c. 1880, Richardsonian, Queen Anne panelled gable, dark red brick.
- 25. 162 W. State Street: c. 1930, Georgian Revival, Flemish bond-brick, 3 stories.
- 26. 168-170 W. State Street: c. 1850, joined pair of high style Italianate townshouses, elaborately figured arched windows lintels, door frames and door woodwork. 168 has a large bay window, 3 stories, stucco.
- 27. New Jersey State Bar Association (172 W. State Street): 3 stories, brick, geometric eclecticism.
- 28. 176 W. State Street: c. 1850, Italianate.town-house, 3 stories, brick, restrained flat round-headed window frames.
- 29. New Jersey Education Association (180 W.State Street): C. 1965, 5 stories, reinforced concrete, grill-like appearance.
- 30. 186-188 W. State Street: c. 1860, 3 stories, brick, Egyptoid details, later one story side entrance.
- 31. 190-192 W. State Street: a pair of brick, 3 story, brownstones, rounded ends, 1820's.

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- 32. 194-196 W. State Street: 3 stories, similar to Kelsey building and #17, front bays on 2nd floor, brick and brownstone.
- 33. 198-210 W. State Street: seven joined houses, terra cotta lion heads on facades, c.1875, Richardsonian influences, rough cut arches, rusticated stone, dark brick, 3 1/2 stories.
- 34. 212-214 W. State Street: c.1870, joined pair, Mansard roofed, protruding hexagonal two story bays, Stick Style porches unite the two at front entrances.
- 35. 216 W. State Street: 3 stories, red brick, curvered Mansard slate roof, carved and figured brownstone entrance, English style diamond pattern leaded glass windows on first floor.
- 36. 222 W. State Street: 3 1/2 stories, one story addition on stucco Flemish bond to 1st floor windows.
- 37. 224 W. State Street: c.1840, 2 stories, late Greek Revival townshouse, brick, bracketted cornice.
- 38. 226 W. State Street: late 19th c., 3 stories, asbestos, brick, modern commercial building.
- Holiday Inn (240 W. State Street): multi-story, c.1970, Brutalist style, 39. reinforced concrete.
- 40. Delaware and Raritan Canal House (25 Calhoun Street): c.1830, 2 stories, frame.
- 23 Calhoun Street (Barry Court): 3 stories, brick, tile, round end windows 41. on third floor.
- 42. 300-310 W. State Street: block of 4 story row houses, brick (Punched, dotted cut and mousetoothed), c.1880's.
- Emlen House (312 W. State Street): 2 1/2 stories, three bay, random masonry, 43. 1796, domed porch.
- 44. 314 W. State Street: late 18thc., 3 stories, clapboard, aluminum siding on front facade.

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- 320-326 W. State Street: row of brick houses same as #42. 45.
- 328-330 W. State Street: joined pair of 2 1/2 stories, three bay, 46. c. 1810, clapboard
- common brick, three bay, bracketed wood cornice, 332 W. STate Street: 47. brick arched windows, c. 1840, 2 stories.
- 334 W. STate Street: 3 stories, brick, Italianate. 48.
- 336-340 W. State Street: series of late Federal clapboard, 2 1/2 stories, 49. c. 1835.
- 342 W. State Street: same as #47, c. 1840. 50.
- 344-350 W. State Street: same as #53. 51.
- 352 W. State Street: modern, 1 story, brick, commercial building. 52.
- 9-11 N. Willow St.: pair, 3 stories Italianate, brick, #9 has aluminum 53. siding on front facade.
- 13 N. Willow St.: 3 stories, brick. 54.
- 15 N. Willow Street: 3 stories, Mansard roofed, brick and stucco. 55.
- 17 N. Willow Street: 3 stories, painted brick, rounded end, Italianate. 56.

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Description Continued

There are very few encroachments within the State Street Historic District. Most of the buildings that were added since 1900 have been in keeping with the area's integrity. There are only two major intrusions directly within the district.

The first is the New Jersey Education Association building (#39). This five story reinforced concrete structure built in late 1960's, while in direct contrast to the stately buildings which surround it, is not the intrusion it would appear. The building is set-back slightly from the front facades of the other buildings on the street. The building appears to almost "blend-in" because of its placement.

The second major intrusion is the Holiday Inn Hotel (#58) at the corner of West State and Calhoun Streets. This is by far the most serious intrusion to the area. The building was added in the early 1970's. This multi-story reinforced concrete structure is a representative example of what is called the Brutalist style of architecture.

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and represents the site of the oldest part of the present building, measuring 60 x 100 feet. In 1794, the legislature held sessions in the new State House for the first time. Several additions made in 1795, 1848 (those of the architect John Notman), 1889, and 1891 have greatly altered the complexion of the State House. In 1885 a fire destroyed the northwest end but subsequent alterations have repaired the damaged sections. From 1910 to 1917 the State enlarged many times over its holdings on West State Street, Willow Street and the Sanhican Creek area, now the John Fitch Way.

The original State House was the site of a memorial commemoration to remember the death of President Washington. In 1815 the legislature granted John Stevens the right to construct a railroad in New Jersey. This was a memorial enactment because it was the first charter of its kind granted in the United States. Many prominent historical figures have appeared at the State House for diverse functions, the most renowned being: Marquis de Lafayette, Daniel Webster, Abraham Lincoln and William Henry Harrison.

The history of a State is invariably tied to the history of its principal building. The State House represents many faces of the many faceted social, historical, political, and moral attitudes of the people of New Jersey. It is a source of pride to them and an asset to the history of this nation.

THE KELSEY BUILDING (Mercer County Community College Building): This fine Florentine Renaissance style building was dedicated in June 1911. The donor of the building and the person responsible for its existence was Mr. Henry O. He was Secretary of State for the State of New Kelsev. Jersey and as a sign of devotion to the city of Trenton and his beloved wife Prudence Kelsey he donated this property and dedicated it to Prudence. Mr. Kelsey was a world traveler and he selected Mr. Cass Gilbert, a renowned architect to design his building. Mr. Gilbert was President Roosevelt's chairman of the Board of Supervisory Architects. He had then at his disposal and control the plans of all federal buildings. The Kelsey Building was originally The School of Industrial Arts and in its current history it is now the central

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administrative building of <u>Mercer County Community College</u>. The building itself has contributed to the architectural heritage of Trenton and has played a prominent role in the educational development of Trenton and the County.

THE OLD MASONIC TEMPLE: The latest Masonic Temple dedicated March 1, 1927, stands on the site of the original Temple, erected in 1793 at the corner of Front and Willow Streets. Some time after the initial organization of the Masonic Temple the members met at their homes. In 1789, the members decided that a suitable place of worship should be developed. In 1792 a committee was appointed to report on the site of building a lodge. In 1793 Mark Thompson donated to Trenton Lodge #5 a plot of ground in Barrack Street now known as Willow Street. On August 26, 1793, the cornerstone was ready to be laid. In the decade of the 1860's a brick addition was added to the Temple. On January 6, 1868, a committee reported that the Old Lodge building had been sold. The Lodge became a free school under the auspices of Thomas J. Macpherson, which he ran for five years.

THE OLD BARRACKS: This fine structure was built in 1758, during the French and Indian War, to prevent the forcible housing of British soldiers in the homes of local citizens. Petitions were sent to the General Assembly and the Assembly replied by recommending the construction of five barracks for the winter quarters for 1500 men. Trenton is the only Barracks that remains standing. Work was begun in 1758 and the stone used came from local guarries. In 1759 the building was entirely completed. British troops used the Barracks until the end of the war in May 1763, when the Assembly ordered the Barrack masters to sell the furnishings and rent the building. During the Revolution, British troops, Hessian mercenaries and American soldiers used the Barracks depending upon who controlled the territory. American soldiers used the building as a hospital for wounded American soldiers. In 1782, the Legislature ordered A public sale led to the that the Barracks be sold. eventual division of the structure into private dwellings. In 1818, parts (40 feet) of the central structure was destroyed to permit an extension of Front Street. In 1855, the southern "L" shaped section was sold and almost 50 years

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later the building was offered for sale. In 1899 the DAR saved the southern part from demolition. On June 12, 1902, this same group formed the Old Barracks Association to preserve and restore the building. During this time the State of New Jersey decided to buy the northern wing. The Association deeded its property, the southern portion, to the State with the stipulation that when restored the Association should control and manage the entire building forever. The final restoration was completed in 1917, and visitors have enjoyed the Barracks since that time.

The building stands as a document of early restoration practice and of a peculiar interior program for all the rooms. All of the exterior woodwork, including the impresssive Colonial-style doorway and a forty-foot segment of the masonry walls had to be restored. The results of the project, though uniformly attractive, may be at odds with historic reality. Yet is reflects an early 20th century conception of 18th century architecture. The Old Barracks Association divided up the interior spaces among individual chapters of the DAR, each of which assembled period rooms of old furniture, attractive ceramics and each chapter's library and records. Only recently was a reconstruction of an actual barracks room attempted, with the aid of the 1775 inventory of the Perth Amboy barracks. This procedure also tells us something of the nature of preservation efforts.

The significance of this district is the fine examples of and progressions of historic styles as illustrated by the exterior facades. This nomination excludes interiors of buildings.

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Willow Street to the point of beginning.

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