

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

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received MAR 11 1985

date entered APR 11 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Alnwick Hall

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 355 Madison Avenue NA not for publication

city, town Morris Township vicinity of

state New Jersey code 034 county Morris code 027

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	NA	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Office

4. Owner of Property

name St. Marks Associates

street & number c/o Marshall & Co. 310 South Street

city, town Morristown vicinity of state New Jersey 07960

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Morris County Courthouse

street & number Washington Street

city, town Morristown state New Jersey

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title NA has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

DESCRIPTION

Built in the early 20th century Alnwick Hall is a brick manor house modeled after 15th and 16th century English prototypes. Situated in the Convent section of Morris Township, at the corner of Route 24 and Canfield Road, it is set back from Route 24 on a level parcel of land dotted with mature trees, many of specimen quality. To the north and west stand large office buildings on well landscaped lots. Single-family residential development of suburban character occupies adjacent lands to the south and east.

Exterior

The rectangular main block of the house measures approximately 80' X 95'. A porte cochere extends 32' from the west facade and a long narrow service wing creates an ell at the rear, running about 90' beyond the south elevation.

The regular outline of the house is broken by semi-octagonal bays and towers. The two principal entrances lead to halls which join to form a T-shaped circulation pattern. Opening off these halls in a symmetrical manner are the important rooms (see plans).

Alnwick is two stories high with an 8' basement and no attic. Height from ground to castellated parapet, its most prominent feature, is approximately 33'. The flat roof is now covered with a composition roofing.

Structurally, the house is steel framed, clad entirely in orange pressed-brick laid up in common bond with knife-edged joints of tinted mortar. Matching the brick in color and texture is a terra cotta material from which all exterior ornament is fashioned. In addition to some foliate and shield-motif ornament on the porte cochere and north entrance, the most prominent decorative feature is a lancet-like frieze running in shallow relief below the north parapet.

The two principal entrances referred to earlier are elaborated in the following manner: on the north, or Route 24 side is a crenellated composition 15' wide and 17' high framed by two semi-octagonal columns. Centered between them is a paneled, double-leaf oak door beneath a four-centered arch typical of Tudor usage. The same members (semi-octagonal verticals and crenellated parapet) are used to create the west entrance, where they are lengthened to form a porte cochere 20' high with trabeated arch and a ceiling fashioned of terra cotta mosaic. The door shielded by the porte cochere is double-leaf oak similar to the first. On all elevations the windows are trabeated, some with Tudor-arched transoms. Several are filled with tracery fitted with leaded clear or stained glass.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400-1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500-1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/
___ 1700-1799	___ art	___ engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> music	___ humanitarian
___ 1800-1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ transportation
		___ invention		___ other (specify)

Specific dates 1904 Builder/Architect Percy Griffin

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

SIGNIFICANCE

Alnwick Hall, built in 1904, is a rare and virtually unaltered survivor of "Millionaires' Row," that stretch of Madison Avenue where the fabulously wealthy (as well as mere millionaires) resided in turn of the century Morristown and Morris Township.¹ Inspired by Alnwick Castle in Northumberland, England, Alnwick is a representative example of the taste of its era, when the new American plutocracy emulated European models socially and architecturally. Its owners were Edward P. Meany, a prominent attorney and pioneer in the telecommunications industry, and his wife Rosaline, who made Alnwick famous for glittering musical entertainments.

The fortune that built Alnwick was amassed by Edward P. Meany (1854-1938) from a career as one of America's most distinguished lawyers. Admitted to the bar in 1878, "He was for many years counsel for the American Telephone and Telegraph Company and had several positions of importance and confidence in that company and in many of its associated companies. General Meany has also acted on many occasions as an officer and director of important railway, financial, and other corporations. He was appointed Judge Advocate General of New Jersey in 1893. . . he has appeared in a number of celebrated litigations. As Vice President of the New Mexico Central and Southern Railway, he directed extensive negotiations between the company and the Government of Mexico, and with influential financial interests in Europe."²

Like several millionaires of the Morristown area, Meany's fortunes were connected intimately with telecommunications. In addition to the AT&T positions mentioned already, he was, in 1890, one of the five incorporators of the New Jersey Telephone Company and was an organizer of American Bell Telephone.³ His local positions included a directorship of the National Iron Bank of Morristown.

Meany put his desire for a residence recalling the traditions of fortified English strongholds in the hands of NYC architect Percy Griffin.⁴ For his inspiration, Griffin chose Alnwick Castle in Northumberland, the ancestral seat of the Percy family. Begun as a Norman keep about 1310, Alnwick was first walled c. 1450. According to a description of 1569, "Alnwick Castle is a very goodly house—very ancient, large, beautiful and portly, situated on the south side of the river Aln upon a little mote. It is well built of stone."⁵ Alnwick Castle was renovated in the Gothic mode ca. 1760, and interior decoration was added by Robert Adam. The last major changes were carried out between 1850 and 1854 in an attempt to restore its Medieval character and insert modern conveniences.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Donaldson, T.L. "Brief Memoirs of the Late Commendatore Canina," Proceedings of the RIBA, November, 1856.

Francis, Dennis Steadman. Architects in Practice in New York, 1840-1900. New York Committee for Preservation of Architectural Records, 1979. (continued)

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property 4.0

Quadrangle name Morristown

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	8	5	4	6	3	0	0	4	4	1	4	3	6	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H

Zone				Easting				Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

The subject property occupies all of Tax Lot 1, Block 397. (see attached map)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
			NA

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert P. Guter/Architectural Historian

organization

date July 25, 1984

street & number 45-A Macculloch Avenue

telephone 201-539-0366

city or town Morristown

state New Jersey 07960

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

R.W. Myers

title Director, Division of Parks & Forestry

date 1-28-85

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 4-11-85

John M. Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Interior:

Like the exterior with its Tudor motifs, the interior of Alnwick is derived largely from English architecture popular during the reigns of Henry VII and Henry VIII. In an attempt to suggest the centuries-long evolution of the interior at Alnwick in England, however, 18th-century classical and Rococo motifs are found as well.

On the ground floor of the main wing are an entrance hall and six rooms: the great hall, library, dining room, breakfast room and two drawing rooms.

The great hall was originally a two-story space (24' from floor to ceiling) measuring 24' X 60'. It is now divided into two floors. Its 12'-high oak wainscot is carved with linenfold and cusped tracery motifs. The flat plaster ceiling is divided into 24 large panels, their intersecting points terminating in carved Gothic bosses. Notable features include eight pairs of wrought iron bracket lamps, each with four cylindrical glass shades; a stained glass window representing a Medieval scene, signed in the lower right "Otto Heinigke;" concealed cornice lighting designed to produce a "moonlight effect;" and an oriel window communicating with one of the master bedrooms.

North of the great hall is a 22' X 30' drawing room originally called the Louis XVI Room for its Rococo ornamentation. The gilded wooden mantel is surmounted by a tripartite plaster mirror, both characterized by sinuous foliated motifs, as is the painted ceiling.

Two pairs of double doors are framed by Scamozzi Ionic columns. The walls are paneled to dado height and papered above (the original wall covering was silk damask).

Separating the great hall and Louis XVI Room from the east rooms is a 15' X 65' hall entered from the north. Its ceiling-height oak paneling is simple, but the plaster ceiling is more intricately modeled than any in the house, with Tudor Roses, floral medallions, strapwork, and drop pendants. The oak main stair rises at the south end of this hall. Its arcaded balustrades are Jacobean in style, with balusters square in section, tapering toward their bases. The newel is vase-shaped, topped with a carved wooden flower. Seven pairs of silver alloy sconces depict a chivalric helmet surrounded by elaborate foliation.

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The northeast drawing room is clearly derived from Adamesque sources; its pale white, gold, and blue colors and delicate decoration contrasting dramatically with those of the hall. Its dimensions are 22' square. There is a white-and-gold marble mantel on the east wall opposite a pair of double doors. Classical motifs are found in the plaster ceiling and frieze, pilasters, Corinthian columns, and parquet floor with marquetry border of anthemion motifs. The gilded fireback is cast with paterae, reeding, and garlands. Classically inspired Wedgwood-like plaques are found in the sconces.

Behind the northeast parlor is the 22' X 24' dining room. Beneath a plaster ceiling of armorial bearings and stylized flowers are wainscot panels of burled Circassian walnut, carved with linenfold and strapwork ornament. The Jacobean walnut mantel has a surround of dark marble with cream veining and a bas-relief iron fireback. The stained-glass window in the bay, surrounded by clear leaded glass, is signed "Heinigke and Bowen, N.Y."

Behind the dining room is an 18' x 18' octagonal breakfast room with full-height oak paneling; windows are of clear leaded glass.

Returning to the west side of the hall, the library is the last of the public or ceremonial rooms. Shoulder-height oak bookcases with glass doors in a Gothic design run around the entire 24' X 50' perimeter. The plaster ceiling is divided by cusped bosses into 78 panels, each containing a floral medallion in high relief; the cornice and frieze are composed of deeply-cut oak-leaf motif.

With the exception of the stair hall and its communicating corridors, all finished in Tudor/Jacobean fashion with oak paneling and plaster ceilings similar to the first floor hall, the second floor rooms reflect a light airy taste where Adamesque plasterwork replaces wood paneling and tapestry walls. The two master suites have ceilings decorated with such motifs as interlaces, ribbons and garlands, oak-leaf-and-acorn guilloches and branch-and-vine moldings. The bedroom designed for Mr. Meany is highlighted by classically-inspired mantel of painted wood and parti-colored marble; Mrs. Meany's bedroom has an Ionic mantel with brick surround and terra cotta-colored marble hearth.

On the first floor of the service wing were the butler's pantry, kitchen, servants, dining room, two bedrooms, and bath.

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Whether Griffin was sent by Meany to England is unknown. In view of the thoroughness with which the original Alnwick is documented, such a trip was probably unnecessary.⁶ An examination of drawings and descriptions reveals that Griffin's adaptation was loosely conceived. This is not surprising considering both the eclectic attitude of the period and the effort necessary to transmogrify a sprawling castle into a self-contained American country house. The most obvious points of tangency between the two Alnwicks are castellated parapets, semi-octagonal towers and bays, paired and tripled windows, and certain Tudor motifs. Inside, the modern Alnwick, like its model, displays ornament of several periods. Griffin's use of Gothic and Adamesque motifs is meant to suggest a house that evolved over centuries. His use of exterior materials, however, is thoroughly up-to-date. He replaced the stone of Alnwick Castle with pressed brick of the sort popularized by McKim, Mead and White. Ornamental details are executed in another popular material of the day, terra cotta, matched, in this instance, to the orange of the brick.

Once Alnwick was completed, it was Rosaline Meany (nee Behr) who gave the estate its distinctive identity. Unlike some of her neighbors who spent their days managing herds of prize-winning dairy cattle or supervising the construction of formal gardens, Mrs. Meany's passion was music. Musicales at Alnwick became a high point of the Morristown social season. One New York Herald clipping from the Meany scrapbook announces: "General and Mrs. E. P. Meany Give Musicale. Mme. Gluck, Mr. Amato and Mr. Zimbalist are soloists at Brilliant Entertainment." Mrs. Meany stinted neither quality nor scale at her musical evenings.

These were not merely living room recitals with piano accompaniments, but two-hour concerts with an orchestra of thirty pieces. In addition to Alma Gluck and Efram Zimbalist, soloists included Lucrezia Bori, Pasquale Amato, Giovanni Martinelli, and flutist George Barrere.

With a guest list that customarily numbered 200, the 24' X 60' Great Hall was put to good use. After being entertained by eminent artists, Mrs. Meany's eminent friends - Mrs. Grover Cleveland, Otto Kahn, and Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Armour among them - were fed a buffet supper at 11 o'clock, catered by Delmonico's. Printed programs and menus survive to document the musical and gastronomic tastes of the era. To honor her musical patronage, Mrs. Meany's favorite conductor, Adolph L. Rothmeyer, composed the "Alnwick Hall/March/Dedicated to/ Mrs. Edward P. Meany." Published by Carl Fischer, the cover of the sheet music bears a color lithograph of Alnwick.

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Alwick Hall is now being converted to professional offices. An intermediate floor level is being inserted into the Great Hall, but its paneling, ceiling, oriel and stained glass will be retained. All other significant interiors will be kept intact. The only exterior alterations will be the addition of a lobby in the ell formed by the main block and service wing. This will leave the three important elevations unchanged. The proposed adaptive reuse will halt deterioration of the historic fabric and prevent demolition for new construction, which has been the fate of most of Alwick's neighbors on Millionaires' Row.

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Footnotes

¹ In 1902, two years before Alnwick was completed, the New York Herald reported the ". . . combined wealth of Morristown's millionaires would be hard to estimate, but it would probably not fall short of half a billion dollars. Some of these men represented twenty or thirty million dollars; some of them only a trifle over the million mark, but all belonged to the richest and least known colony of wealthy people in the world." Quoted by John W. Rae, Jr. on p. 29 of Morristown's Forgotten Past.

² These quotations are taken from unidentified printed material appearing on pages 20 and 21 of a scrapbook kept by the Meanys, now owned by the Joint Free Public Library of Morristown and Morris Township.

³ The Jerseyman, 18 July 1980, p. 3. Also see entries for Meany in Who Was Who in America, and the National Cyclopedia of Biography.

⁴ The Jerseyman of 30 October 1903 reported on p. 1 that "Plans are being figured for a new residence of brick and stone to be erected for General Meany on Madison Avenue, to cost upward of \$50,000. Percy Griffin of New York is the architect." Sketchy information about Griffin can be found in Architects in Practice in New York City, 1840-1900, by Dennis Steadman Francis, but his birth and death dates are unknown. City directories list him in practice at several addresses from 1887-1900. From 1891 to 1895 he was a partner of Thomas Henry Randall (1862-1905). His commissions included the Hotel Caribee in Jamaica and the Jefferson Davis Monument in Richmond, Virginia. His obituary is not filed at the Avery Architectural Library, Columbia University, suggesting that he died outside of the New York area. (Frederick B. Hinchman is erroneously credited with the design of Alnwick Hall on p. 19 of Tours in Historic Morris County, published in 1977 by the Morris County Historical Society. Hinchman seems to have been the architect for the four brick houses Meany subsequently had built on Canfield Road for speculative purposes.)

⁵ George Tate, History of the Borough, Castle, and Barony of Alnwick (Alnwick: Henry Hunter Blair, 1866), p. 253.

⁶ In addition to Tate's history, Alnwick is treated in W. Davison's A Descriptive and Historical Review of Alnwick, 1822, and Thomas Donaldson's Brief Memoirs of the Late Commendatore Canina, 1856. Canina was responsible for the interior design of the 1850-54 remodeling.

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7 The drawings and lithographs reproduced in Tate's book illustrate the degree to which Alwick Hall corresponds to Alwick Castle.

8 Information about the musicales given at Alwick is found in the Meany scrapbook and vertical file materials owned by the Joint Free Public Library of Morristown and Morris Township.

9 A copy of the sheet music can be found at the Joint Free Public Library of Morristown and Morris Township.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Donaldson, T.L. "Brief Memoirs of the Late Commendatore Canina," Proceedings of the RIBA, November, 1856.

Francis, Dennis Steadman. Architects in Practice in New York, 1840-1900. New York Committee for Preservation of Architectural Records, 1979.

The Jerseyman, 30 October 1903, p. 1.

Joint Free Public Library of Morristown and Morris Township. Vertical file materials on Alwick Hall and Meany family.

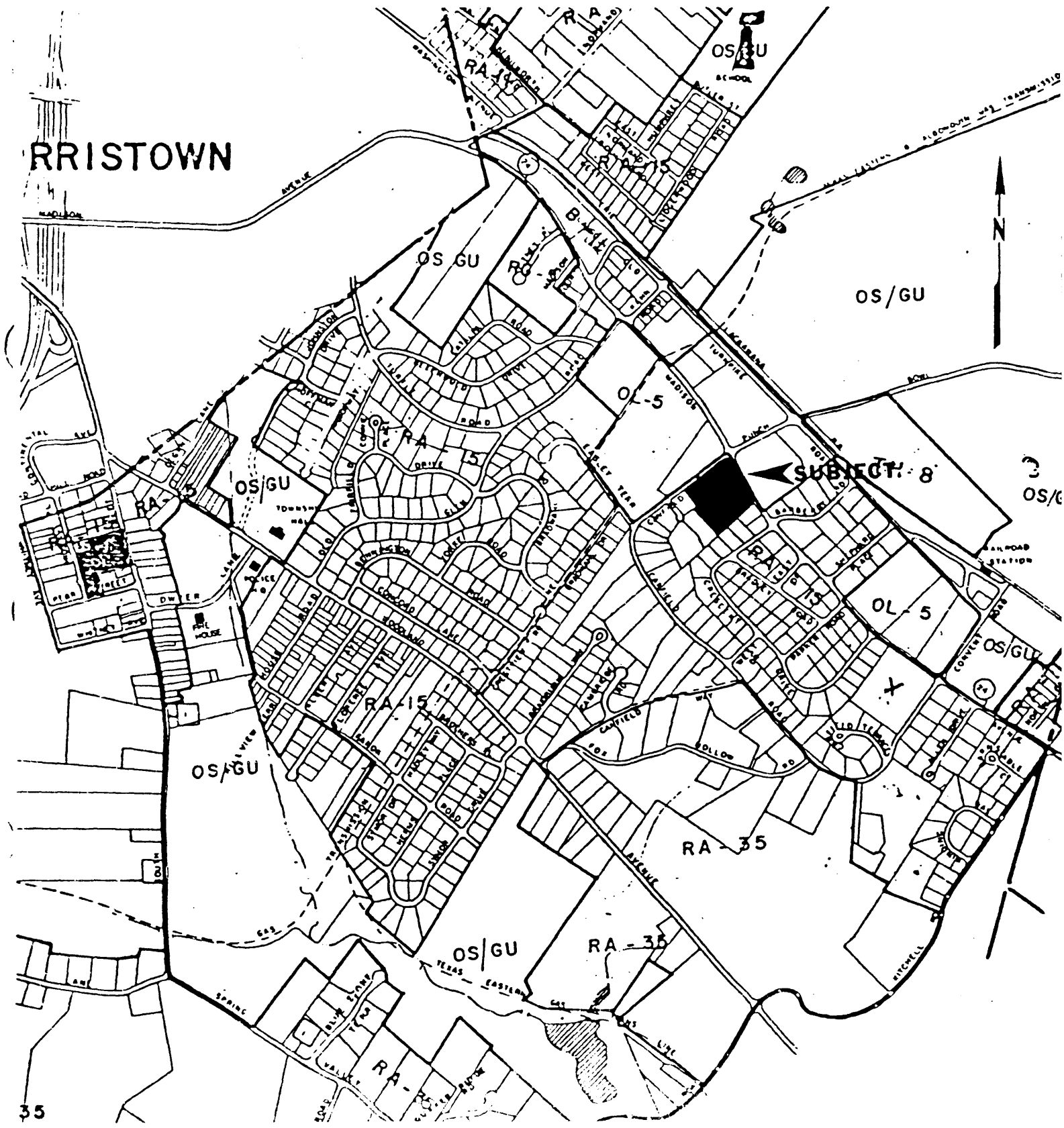
Surdam, Charles Edward. Beautiful Homes of Morris County and Northern New Jersey. Morristown, New Jersey, the Jerseyman Press, Pierson and Surdam, no date [c. 1910?].

Tate, George. The History of the Borough, Castle and Barony of Alwick. Alwick, Henry Hunter Blair, 1869.

EXISTING ZONING

The zoning on the subject property is OS-GU, Open Space-Government Use Zone. The following copies of the Morris Township Chapter 95 Zoning Ordinance outline the allowed uses and schedule of area and yard requirements:

Alnwick Hall, Morris Township, Morris County, NJ



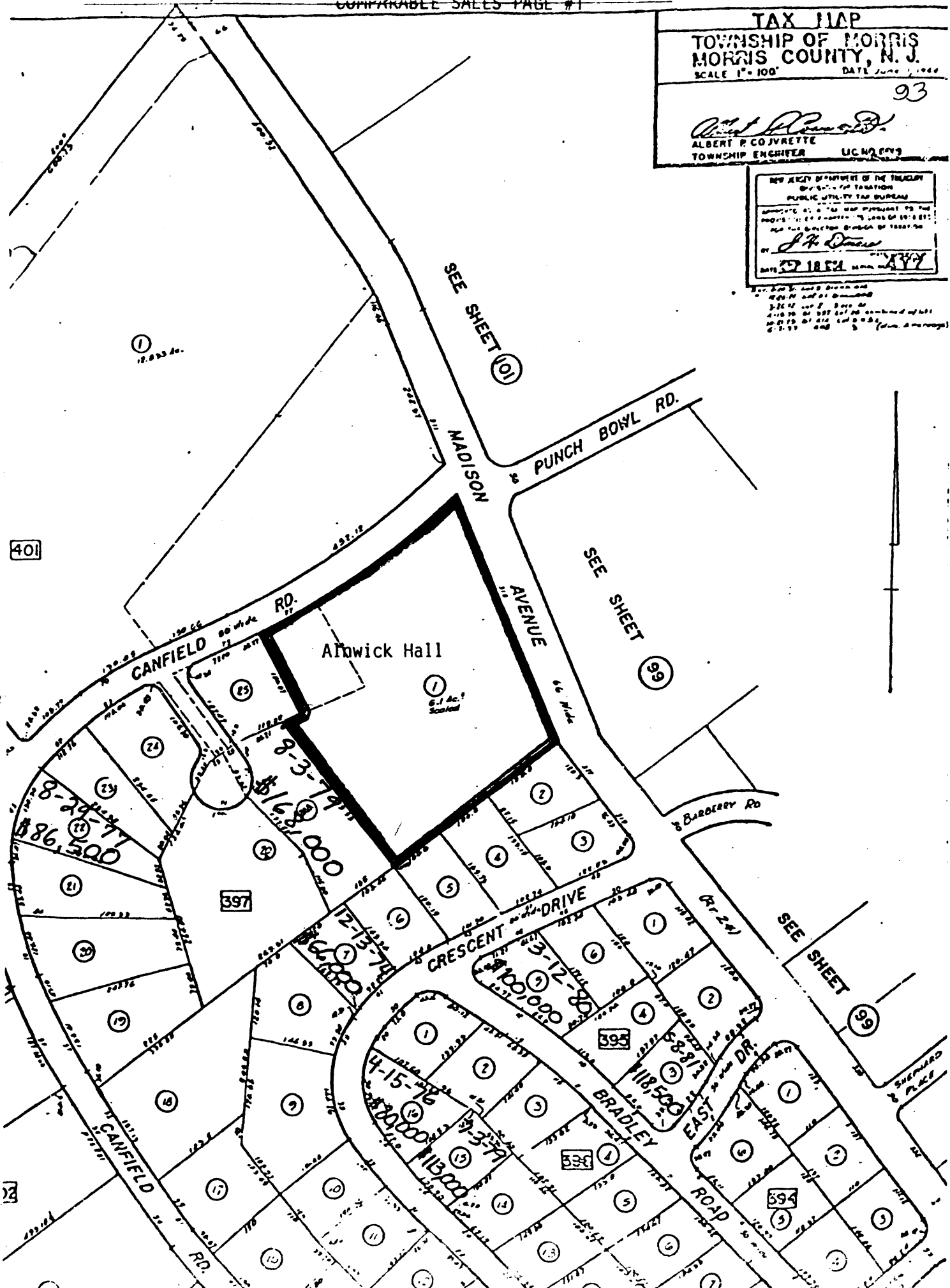
TAX MAP
TOWNSHIP OF MORRIS
MORRIS COUNTY, N. J.
SCALE 1" = 100' DATE June 1, 1968

93

Albert P. Cojvrette
ALBERT P. COJVRETTE
TOWNSHIP ENGINEER U.C. NO. 6793

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
DIVISION OF TAXATION
PUBLIC UTILITY TAX BUREAU
APPROVED AS A TAX MAP PRESENT TO THE
PROPERTY TAX COMMISSION BY ORDER OF THE
NEW JERSEY BOARD OF TAXATION
J. H. Dwyer
DATE 5/21/68

SEE SHEET 93
SEE SHEET 99
SEE SHEET 99



TAX MAP

CRUM & FORSTER INSURANCE COMPANY
OFFICE BUILDING

JERSEY CENTRAL POWER & LIGHT
OFFICE BUILDING

PUNCH BOWL

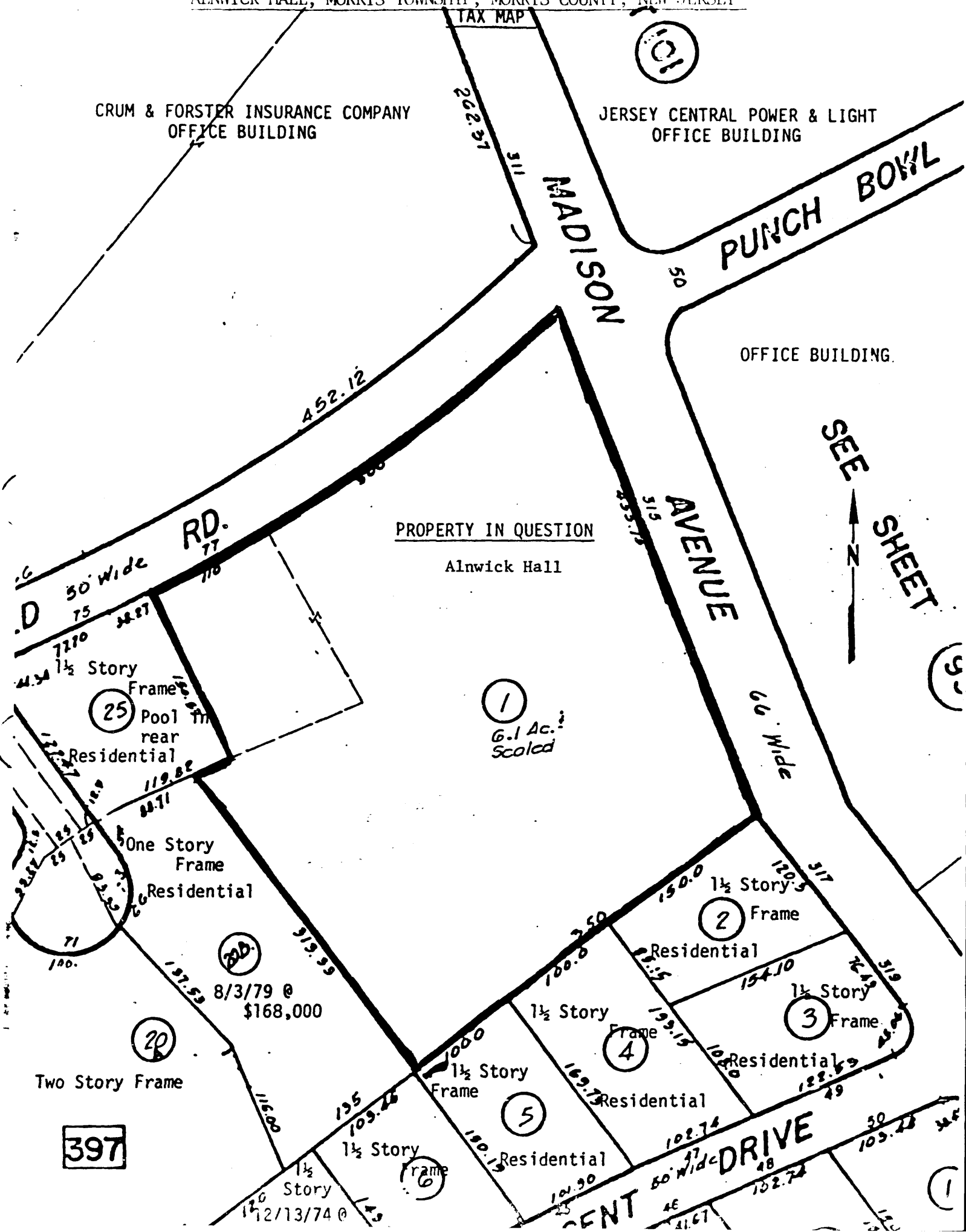
MADISON

OFFICE BUILDING.

SEE SHEET

PROPERTY IN QUESTION

Alnwick Hall



1
6.1 Ac. ±
Scaled

25
1 1/2 Story
Frame
Pool in
rear
Residential

One Story
Frame
Residential

2
1 1/2 Story
Frame
Residential

4
1 1/2 Story
Frame
Residential

3
1 1/2 Story
Frame
Residential

5
1 1/2 Story
Frame
Residential

6
1 1/2 Story
Frame
Residential

20
Two Story Frame

8/3/79 @
\$168,000

397

12/13/74 @

CENTRAL DRIVE