

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUN 19 1979
DATE ENTERED	JAN 31 1980

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

**NAME**

HISTORIC

Adams and Sickles Building

AND/OR COMMON

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

1 West End Avenue

--- NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Trenton

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

New Jersey 08625

--- VICINITY OF

4th

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Mercer

**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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE        | <b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>                   | <b>ACCESSIBLE</b>                                    | <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 type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED           | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL    | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION    |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> NO                          | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY      | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:            |

**OWNER OF PROPERTY** In process of transfer from City of Trenton to:  
West End Associates c/o Matthew Powell ✓

NAME

Canal House 1 Prospect Street

STREET & NUMBER

Trenton

New Jersey 08625

CITY, TOWN

STATE

--- VICINITY OF

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Mercer County - 209 South Broad Street

STREET & NUMBER

Trenton

New Jersey 08625

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE City of Trenton Department of Community Development & Planning

DATE

--- FEDERAL --- STATE --- COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

10 Capitol Place

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Trenton, New Jersey

# 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 type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

---

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Prominently situated on the corner of West End Avenue and Prospect Street, the Adams and Sickles building is a long, narrow trapezoidal structure of brick, wood and granite construction. Three storeys high with a partial mansard roof, the lot and the building measure, starting at the front, 32.88' x 65.15' x 43.26' x 70.07'. The lot slopes slightly down to West End Avenue.

The trapezoidal shape of the building appears to be an adaptation to the site. The two streets which bound the building do not meet at a 90 degree angle but rather at approximately a 100 degree angle. The building fits tightly on this wide-angle corner. As will be discussed later, many features of the building respond to this corner situation.

### Specific Features

The architect in responding to the corner site placed the main entrance to the building diagonally across the corner made by the two streets. Above the door and on top of a set of rounded wooden bay windows on the second and third storeys, an elaborate wooden turret rises above the level of the roof. Two unsymmetrical sets of wooden bay windows line the second and third floor face of the building on the West End Avenue side.

In contrast to the gingerbread look created by the wooden, shingled turret and bays applied to the front and corner of the structure, the long side of the building along Prospect Street presents a solid brick facade with arched windows and doors which have rough hewn granite lintels and sills. The first floor windows are taller than those above and have circular arches and there is a doubled arched door at the end of the first floor row of windows toward the rear.

The second and third story windows which are placed directly above those on the first floor are not quite as tall and have segmental arches which are shallow with the granite lintel squared-off on the corners rather than rounded as below. All six windows in the row on the second and third floors are in use while on the first floor two have been bricked in and two seem to have been transformed to a single, wide window with a flat lintel.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" 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 Circa 1900

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Adams & Sickles was a focal building in the west end of Trenton, standing prominent and familiar at the busiest corner of and at the entrance to the whole West End area. It embodied for generations, first of white Protestants who built their churches in the neighborhood, and then of Jews and white Catholics, and then of blacks, the stability of the neighborhood that was known from the turn of the century as Trenton's most affluent and elegant. Trentonians and former Trentonians all recall the sodas they drank at the Adams & Sickles soda fountain and the prescriptions that were filled by their corner druggist.

An 1881 "Atlas of the City of Trenton and Suburbs" (From Actual Surveys and Official Records by and under the supervision of E. Robinson & R.H. Pidgeon, Civil Engineer, published by E. Robinson, 82 and 84 Nassau Street, New York, 1881) shows the approximate site of the Adams & Sickles building to be occupied by "Horsecar Depot", the western terminus of a line that ran east on State Street and then south on Clinton Avenue to the railroad station.

Twenty-four years later, the "City of Trenton Atlas" (Plate 18, A.H. Mueller & Sons, Philadelphia, 1905) shows the entire Adams & Sickles neighborhood developed, with the Adams & Sickles building and all of the other buildings on its side of West End Avenue in place. Also, the residences on the north side of West State Street, between West End Avenue and Montgomery Place, had been built, while the other side of State Street was occupied by mansions whose land extended across the canal to the Delaware River.

Harry J. Podmore, in an article in the July 12, 1959 Sunday Times-Advertiser of Trenton says that Ernest Adams and Douglass Sickles first did business at the Adams & Sickles site in 1934, but notes, without giving dates, that Albert G. and Charles H. Holcomb had been the first pharmacists to do business at the site, and that they had been followed by Floyd E. Bellisfield before Messrs. Adams and Sickles too over. However, recorded deeds show that Charles H. Holcomb was buying property in the vicinity of what was to become one West End Avenue from 1895 until World War I.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.58 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Trenton, West

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A | 1,8 | 5,1,8 | 7,9,10 | 4,4 | 5,2 | 7,4,10 |

B | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

C | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

D | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

E | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

F | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

G | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

H | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Attached Drawing

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Martha L. Lamar, L. Matthew Powell, David S. Davies  
West End Associates

ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_ DATE Powell 609-989-  
c/o L. Matthew Powell Canal House 1 Prospect Street 3326  
STREET & NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625  
CITY OR TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ LOCAL x

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 [Signature]  
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

6-5-79  
DATE

TITLE Deputy Commissioner

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

[Signature]  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 1-31-80

ATTEST: [Signature]  
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE Jan 30, 1980

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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### Description

On the back part of the building there is a mansard or hipped roof faced with slate which creates an attic. One window of this attic faces on the Prospect Street side and three attic windows face the rear.

### Decorative Elements

The brickwork in the building is basically a common Flemish bond done tightly with little mortar showing. Attractive brick corbeling is brought down from the cornice between each third floor window to the level of the bottom of the sill. A column of round bricks on either side of the main door emphasizes the pivotal corner situation of the entrance.

There are a variety of decorative treatments in wood. A deep fascia extends all the way around the building. It has dentils and a series of carved modillions which seem to support the cornice. Oval shingles and dentils of various sizes decorate the turret and the bay windows.

The interior of the building is in a serious state of disrepair. A significant change was made to the building when the main bearing wall which extends the length of the building was extended upwards for fire purposes. It appears that before this was done, the third floor was a large meeting room or ballroom with a balcony. This space was divided up for apartments necessitating the firewall.

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

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Significance

Podmore says that the corporation owning Adams & Sickles was enlarged in 1945 to include John D. Harvey, Jr., Mrs. Marie A. Hooper and Walter C. Davis; this corporation remained in effect until about 1965 when, according to Anna D. Sickles, widow of Doubllass Sickles, the corporation was dissolved and John Harvey and Marie Hooper took over. They continued until the corporation went into bankruptcy in about 1974.

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Trenton  
Mercer County, NJ

Addenda

Located at the corner of West End Avenue and Prospect Street, the Adams and Sickles Pharmacy, an example of Queen Anne style architecture, functioned as the corner drug store and soda shop for the West End section of Trenton from around 1900 when it was built to the mid-20th century.

The Adams and Sickles Building is a prominent architectural focus for the entire West End Avenue. The front facade corner turret and oriel windows covered with scalloped wood shingles are characteristic of the Queen Anne style, but the side facade has a more eclectic appearance.

FHR-8-300A  
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**CONTINUATION SHEET** Bibliography      ITEM NUMBER 9      PAGE

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Mercer County, NJ

Addenda

Atlas of the City of Trenton and Suburbs. E. Robinson, New York, 1881.

City of Trenton Atlas. A.H. Mueller & Sons, Philadelphia, 1905 (plate 18).

Trenton Times. July 12, 1959.

A History of Trenton 1679-1929. Trenton Historical Society, Princeton, NJ,  
1929 (p. 590).

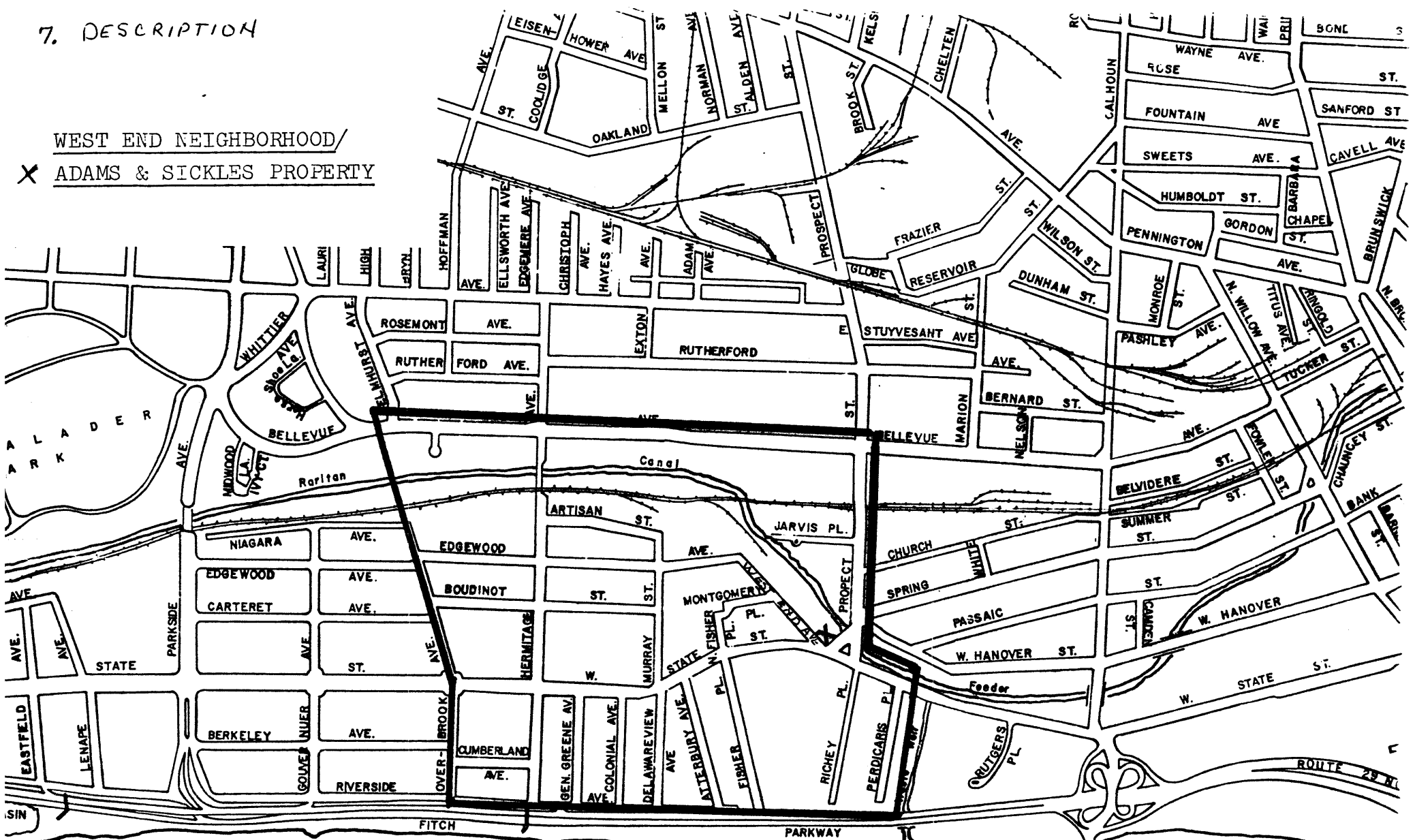
T. Karschner  
10/1979



# 7. DESCRIPTION

WEST END NEIGHBORHOOD/

X ADAMS & SICKLES PROPERTY



DELAWARE

rec. 1/21/80

7. Description

Dimensions: Adams & Sickles Building  
 (Building and lot are synonymous)  
 (A 8.5' public alley abuts the building across the rear)

