NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

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OCT 09 2009

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Olcott Avenue Historic District

other names/site number

## 2. Location

street & number Portions of Olcott, Childsworth, and Highview Avenues, and Church Street ☐ not for publication

city or town Bernardsville Borough ☐ vicinity

state New Jersey code NJ county Somerset code 035 zip code 07924

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I certify that this ☒ nomination

☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. ☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.

Signature of certifying official/Title — Date 5/20/09

Amy Cradic, Assistant Commissioner, Natural & Historic Resources/DSHPO

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.

Signature of certifying official/Title — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

☑ entered in the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

Patrick Andrus — 11/20/2009

## 5. Classification

**Ownership of Property**
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- [X] private
- [X] public-local
- [ ] public-State
- [ ] public-Federal

**Category of Property**
(Check only one box)

- [ ] building(s)
- [X] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

**Number of Resources within Property**
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|---|---|---|
| 56 | 16 | buildings |
| | | sites |
| | | structures |
| 2 | | objects |
| 58 | 16 | Total |

**Name of related multiple property listing**
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

## 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions**
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/ single dwelling
DOMESTIC/ secondary structure
RELIGION/ religious facility
RELIGION/ church-related residence
EDUCATION/ school
SOCIAL/ civic

**Current Functions**
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/ single dwelling
DOMESTIC/ secondary structure
RELIGION/ religious facility
RELIGION/ church-related residence
EDUCATION/ school

## 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**
(Enter categories from instructions)

Tudor Revival
Colonial Revival
Craftsman
Shingle Style

**Materials**
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE
walls STONE
WOOD
roof TERRA COTTA
other

**Narrative Description**
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property

County and State

Section number _____ Page _____ Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

## SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 09000940 Date Listed: 11/20/2009

Property Name: Olcott Avenue Historic District

Multiple Name:

County: Somerset State: NJ

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick Andrus 11/20/2009
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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Amended Items in Nomination:

This SLR is issued to make a technical correction to the form. In the Statement of Significance it is noted that the historic district is nominated under National Register Criteria A and C, but only Criterion C is checked in Section 8 of the form. The form is officially amended to note that the historic district is nominated for both Criteria A and C.

**DISTRIBUTION:**
**National Register property file**
**Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**

## 8 Statement of Significance

**Applicable National Register Criteria**
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- [ ] **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- [ ] **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- [X] **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- [ ] **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria considerations**
(mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- [ ] **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- [ ] **B** removed from its original location.
- [ ] **C** a birthplace or grave.
- [ ] **D** a cemetery.
- [ ] **E** a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- [ ] **F** a commemorative property.
- [ ] **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
ARCHITECTURE
EDUCATION

**Period of Significance**
1899 – c. 1930

**Significant Dates**
1905

**Significant Person**
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

**Cultural Affiliation**
N/A

**Architect/Builder**
George B. Post
William S. Post
Henry J. Hardenbergh

**Narrative Statement of Significance**
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography**
(cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- [ ] preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- [ ] previously listed in the National Register
- [ ] previously determined eligible by the National Register
- [ ] designated a National Historic Landmark
- [ ] recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- [ ] recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

**Primary location of additional data**

- [ ] State Historic Preservation Office
- [ ] Other State agency
- [ ] Federal agency
- [ ] Local government
- [ ] University
- [ ] Other

Name of repository: _____

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of property** Approximately 28 Acres

**UTM References**
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

| | Zone | Easting | Northing |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 18 | 536611 | 4507658 |
| 2 | 18 | 536891 | 4508388 |
| 3 | 18 | 536619 | 4508496 |
| 4 | 18 | 536331 | 4507760 |

☐ See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ann Parsekian, Janice Armstrong, and Dennis Bertland

organization Dennis Bertland Associates date December 2008

street & number P.O. Box 315 telephone 609-397-3380

city or town Stockton state NJ zip code 08559

## Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:
**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

## Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this from to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

## NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

*Summary*

The Olcott Avenue neighborhood in the Borough of Bernardsville, located in northeast Somerset County, was developed at the turn of the 20th century as a carefully laid out middle class residential neighborhood. The streets in the district, Olcott, Childsworth and Highview Avenues, are characterized by lots of moderate size with regular setbacks with moderate to substantial dwellings constructed in a variety of late 19th and early 20th century architectural styles, several of which are particularly noteworthy examples. Located just north of the downtown commercial district, the district also includes three prominent community institutions, the Bernardsville Methodist Episcopal Church and Parsonage, and the original Bernards High School, which are characterized by their distinctive architecture, and the former headquarters of the Visiting Nurse Association.

*Location and Setting; Geography and Topography*

Approximately 700 feet in width, the district extends in length approximately four tenths of a mile, sloping upward from the southwest to northeast along a gentle southern flank of the New Jersey Highlands region. The Olcott Avenue Historic District encompasses all of Olcott Avenue and portions of two intersecting streets (Highview and Childsworth Avenues) where residential development coincided with Olcott Avenue, but excludes adjacent areas where residential development is distinct in conception and architecture. Also excluded is most of the Bernardsville Board of Education property that adjoins the district on the south, including a 1928 school building that has been expanded and altered during several subsequent building campaigns, thereby losing its historic integrity. All district streets are asphalt paved. Distinctive in Bernardsville for its broad width, Olcott Avenue has long had curbing and sidewalks on each side; other streets in the district have no sidewalks. Houses along Olcott and Childsworth Avenues are set back generally about fifty feet, while setbacks on Highview Avenue are somewhat less. Noticeably, very few of the front yards are fenced, a tradition that stemmed from early deed restrictions. Mature shade trees, which line the district streets in most places, are a distinguishing feature along Olcott Avenue, where they are regularly spaced. Mature landscape plantings such as rhododendron (genus *Rhodedendron*) and forsythia (genus *Forsythia*) exist throughout the district. A substantial part of the character of district is derived from the proximity of the dwellings to the imposing Olcott school building and its adjacent grounds. Not only does the school property provide active recreation space, but also a portion of school property located west the Olcott building and a triangle area at the intersection of Olcott and Childsworth Avenues serve as the district's only park-like spaces.

Erected over a period of about thirty years, c. 1900 to c. 1930, the contributing resources of the district comprise a number of relatively high style buildings as well as examples of vernacular building types popularized during the late nineteenth century. The district is characterized by buildings in a variety of construction materials and types. Materials used for roofs, walls, foundations and details include stone, stucco, shingle, clapboard, tile and brick, varying in accordance with the particular architectural style employed in a building's design. Frame and stucco construction are most common, frequently in

combination with local stone. Two of the most significant buildings, the church and the high school, are entirely of stone construction. Architectural and technological innovations of the period are evident in a number of the buildings, as a result of designs created by architects who were among the most notable in America at the time. Freestanding garages present from the first years of construction as well as several carriage houses stand behind many of the houses, reflecting the residents' early embrace of the automobile. The district includes fifty-six contributing buildings composed of thirty-seven dwellings, a school, a church, a parsonage, garages and carriage houses; and two objects, both World War I memorial plaques. Non-contributing resources are comprised of sixteen buildings representing a Methodist Church education building, modern infill dwellings and garages dating from the second half of the 20th century, and a dentist office. As a whole, the district possesses excellent integrity in aspects of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association to convey its significance.

***Institutional Resources***

In keeping with the original deed restrictions, there are no commercial or industrial resources in the district. Institutional buildings in the district represent two of its most notable resources, the public school, the Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1905, the Olcott school building (inventory #46; photo #s 29 & 30) was constructed on property adjacent to the parsonage. Another Bernardsville resident, Frederic P. Olcott, who was a financier and funded the public school project, selected prominent New York architect Henry Janeway Hardenbergh to design the striking Tudor Revival building. The parapeted gables, prominent square tower, large chimneys, and Tudor arch entry are hallmarks of the style. Hardenbergh selected rough faced ashlar stonework in a light colored granite and a contrasting red clay tile roof. The shed roof dormers are an unusual detail for the style.

The Tudor Revival trend in the neighborhood continued with the construction in 1913/1914 of a new Methodist Episcopal Church to replace an earlier frame building (inventory #1; photo #s 2 & 3). Selected to design the new church was yet another New York architectural firm, Dennison and Hirons, whose connection with Bernardsville was via William Childs, founder of the Childs Restaurant chain for whom the firm designed a number of restaurants. Characterized by rough-hewn, random-laid native stone walls, steep roof, parapeted gables, heavy buttresses, and massive square tower, the church was modeled after the rural English parish church, a popular inspiration during the early 20th century for suburban Protestant churches in the region. Relatively small in scale, the church is rectangular in plan with the flat roof tower, which contains the main entry, appended to the southeast corner of the building. A secondary Tudor arch entry is located in a projecting bay on the west side of the church. The south gable end of the building faces the intersection of Wesley and Church Streets and is dominated by a grouping of three Tudor arch windows fitted with stained glass. Other windows are Tudor arch openings that feature wooden tracery or fixed diamond pane sashes.

***House Types and Architecture Styles***

No traditional house types are found in the district. The district includes six gable-fronted, two-story houses, a popular house type widely built in New Jersey towns during the late 19th- to early 20th-century period (inventory #s 9, 10, 20, 22, 24, & 28; photo #s 7, 8, 15, & 16), as well as two gambrel front houses

(inventory #s 3 & 27). A second popular house type found in the district is the bungalow, which is represented by one example (inventory # 29; photo #19). The American Foursquare house, another popular type widespread in New Jersey towns, is present at inventory #s 5, 6, 12, and 25 (photo #s 5, 6, 10, & 17). In accordance with the post-Victorian period, plans of district houses include several with the asymmetrical configurations characteristic of exuberant architect designed houses during the early decades of the 20th century. Several examples of symmetrical center hall plans that are characteristic of the Colonial Revival style are found in the district at inventory #s 13, 31, & 41 (photo #s 11 & 26).

Not surprisingly, dwellings featuring 19th century Victorian styles such as Italianate, Queen Anne and Second Empire, are largely absent from the district. For the most part, the 19th-century Victorian styles had a limited impact on district architecture, largely confined to Italianate and Queen Anne details at inventory #24, paneled posts and a spindle railing (photo #16). Noteworthy in the district are a number of substantial homes along Olcott Avenue with careful – and sometimes elaborate – architectural detailing characteristic of Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival, Eclectic Revival, Craftsman and Shingle styles that were popular during the first decades of the 20th century. A particularly fine example of Tudor Revival style is the 1902 parsonage, which was designed by the firm of George B. Post, most likely by Post's son, William Stone Post, who along with his father and siblings were Bernardsville residents (inventory #1A; photo #1). The parsonage is a relatively early example of Tudor Revival style and displays a number of distinctive Tudor features, such as its steeply pitched roof, cross gables, use of multiple wall materials, multi-paned windows arranged in groups, massive chimneys, and decorated vergeboards. However, other features of the house are illustrative of a transitional design. The integral front porch, shingled gables, and rustic stone are features perhaps more common to Shingle style, which appeared a decade or so before Tudor Revival. The Gothic arch window in the front door is a surprising detail.

Smaller homes in the district also feature architectural details that are perhaps in some instances truer in style to the styles they represent. Most prevalent in the district are Colonial Revival dwellings, which are divided among gable, gambrel and hipped roof designs, with either symmetrical or asymmetrical facades. All types have multi-paned, double hung window. Seven of the district dwellings, including several of the largest, have hipped roofs (inventory #s 5, 6, 11, 13, 18, 42, & 44; photo #s 5, 6, 9, 11, 13, &27). Colonial Revival elements are found on a number of district dwellings. Good examples are the porch at inventory #s 10 (photo # 8) and the entry at inventory #25 (photo #17). The former headquarters of the Visiting Nurse Association (inventory #9; photo #7), which provided office space on the first floor and living accommodations for the nurses on the second floor, was designed to fit into the residential neighborhood as an understated gable front Colonial Revival dwelling. The original architect is unknown; however, in 1916 the firm of George Post & Sons designed an operating room addition as a memorial to Bernardsville resident Cynthia Fairchild Dryden, wife of John Fairfield Dryden, the founder of the Prudential Insurance Company and later United States Senator.

Displaying features such as boxy shape and four-square design, Craftsman houses typically employ natural materials such as of stucco, shingle siding, stone walls and chimneys (inventory #s 2,12, 19, 29, 34 & 44; photo #s 4, 10, 14, 19, 22, & 27). Craftsman features include deep, overhanging eaves, stone foundations and chimneys, and open porches. Craftsman houses in the district include only one

illustration of the ubiquitous 1½ story Bungalow type (inventory #29; photo #19); the remainder are two story examples. Tudor Revival homes are characterized by steep roofs, front gables; prominent chimneys. Inventory #32 and 36 are brick, stucco and frame (photo #s 21 & 23). The main gable roof of inventory #36 (photo #23) is extended in a curving line to cover a first-floor side room, a typical Tudor Revival feature. The Shingle style, which is typically identified by shingle wall cladding and roofing, and asymmetrical façade, frequently with gambreled cross gable, is represented by in the district by an excellent, though somewhat late, example at inventory #14 (photo #12).

Large front porches in a variety of styles appear on many of the early district houses, designed to help families enjoy the healthful effects of the country environment, and most have remained open (for example, inventory #s 2, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 & 18; photo #s 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 & 13). Dwellings constructed later in the period of significance have small entry porches, reflecting a general trend away from front porch socializing.

***Outbuildings***

Most of the houses were designed after the automobile began to be common on local streets, and the large majority of the houses have freestanding garages, many of which echo the house in design and materials (inventory #s 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 11, 12, 20, 25, 27, 31, 45). Several dwellings that were built in the later years of the period of significance have integral garages that reflect the further integration of the automobile into daily routine. A carriage house (now converted into a dwelling) is found at inventory #23.

***Condition and Integrity***

In general district buildings are very well maintained. Several have been restored in recent years, and a number have had additions over time, generally in a sympathetic manner. Inappropriate alterations are in the main limited to the vinyl siding found on several buildings and the plastic window coverings placed over the stained glass windows of the church, which are now cloudy and conceal the stained glass. Noteworthy is the school, which has retained a very high degree of integrity The noncontributing buildings within in the district include several mid and late 20th century dwellings, which were erected on lots that were subdivided from several of the larger original lots. These houses exhibit either Cape Cod or Colonial Revival influence. In addition, there are a number of noncontributing secondary buildings on contributing properties. These are mainly freestanding garages that do not detract from the primary contributing resources and are compatible with the original neighborhood character. Overall, the noncontributing buildings and structures do not detract from the ability of the district to convey a feeling of a planned neighborhood during the period of significance.

***Inventory***

In the following inventory, each principal structure and site is identified by a number that locates it on the accompanying district map. All primary entries are categorized as either "contributing" or "non-contributing" to the significance of the district. All outbuildings included in the inventory also are identified as either contributing or non-contributing with the designation (C) or (NC). Sources used for

dating purposes include Sanborn maps for 1901, 1902, 1923, and 1930 and subdivision plats on file at the Somerset County Hall of Records. References are included where appropriate to the Somerset County Historic Sites Inventory.

## Inventory

1 **22 Church Street**. Stone, 1-story, gable-roofed **church** with stone square tower appendage on east side; stone chimney at northwest corner.

**Style:** Tudor Revival

**Date/history:** 1913-1914. Designed by Dennison and Hirons, New York architects. ("A Short History of the Bernardsville United Methodist Church.") Replaced a wooden church on the site that was constructed in 1879.

**Additional description:** Exterior features include steep asphalt roof (that replaced original slate); uncoursed native stone exterior with brownstone details; stone buttresses at each corner with brownstone caps; gable parapets capped with brownstone; stone arch windows with large keystones and brownstone sills; sashes with wooden tracery upper sections, some of which feature stained glass. South façade features grouping of a large arched window flanked by two small narrow arched windows, all of which feature stained glass. East façade features 3-story bell tower with recessed arch entry with double leaf paneled wood and glass doors, above which is a single rectangular window at the second story and paired louvered openings at the third story. Centered on the west façade is a projecting gabled bay comprising a secondary entry.

**Outbuildings:** Stone, two-story gable roof **education building** (late 20th century) (NC).

Contributing B65 /L10

1A **22 Church Street.** Frame and stone, 2-story, 2-over-3-bay, gable-front **parsonage** with cross-gable, interior stone chimney, and 1-story hipped roof screen porch on east side.

**Style**: Tudor Revival

**Date/history**: 1902. Designed by firm of noted New York architect George B. Post (1837-1913), likely by his son, William Stone Post, both of who had large estates in Bernardsville. Plans in possession of the New York Historical Society.

**Additional description**: Exterior features steeply pitched roof with flared overhanging open eaves and Stick-like brackets; verge boards with incised diamond pattern; side gable-roofed dormers; 1/1 sash windows; bay window with diamond-patterned upper sashes and transoms on first story; native stone on first story and wood shingle in gables; engaged front porch with native stone posts.

**Outbuildings:** Frame and stone, 1-story, 2-bay gable-roofed **garage** (mid-20th century) (NC).

Contributing B65/L10

2 **17 Olcott Avenue**. Stucco, 2-story, 3-bay, hip-roofed **dwelling** with interior chimney (stucco stack) and masonry, 2-story rear appendage.

**Style:** Craftsman

**Date:** c. 1910. Foundation shown on 1909 Sanborn map.

**Additional description:** Exterior features overhanging eaves with exposed rafter ends, 8/1 sash windows with shutters, 2nd story center bay window; front and side hipped roof dormers with paired 6-sash windows; central entry with sidelights; 1-story porch with shed roof, heavy stucco posts with flared tops and solid stucco railing.

**Outbuildings:** Stuccoed, 1-story, 2-bay, hip-roofed **garage** with hipped dormer; exposed rafter ends (c. 1910) (C).

Contributing B65 /L5

3 **15 Olcott Avenue**. Frame, 2-story, 3-bay, gambrel front **dwelling** with an interior chimney with brick stack.

**Style:** Colonial Revival

**Date:** c. 1909-1918. House was evidently constructed before April 1918, when a *fieri facias* was issued, resulting in sale of property at sheriff's sale for $4,708. (SC Deed Book H16, p. 181) Home of D. Fred Aungst, Supervising Principal, Bernards Township Public Schools during the 1920s.

**Additional description:** Exterior features include overhanging boxed eaves, shingle siding, 6/1 sash windows with solid shutters, second story window boxes supported with brackets; arched window in gable flanked by quarter-round windows and small octagonal window above; center segmental arch entry with panel door; lattice overhang across front façade at first story, supported on sawn curvilinear brackets.

**Outbuildings:** Frame, 1-story, gable roof **garage** (c. 1909-1918) (C).

Contributing B65 /L4

4 **11 Olcott Avenue**. Frame, 1-story, cross-gable **office** with exterior brick chimney on front gable.

**Style:** Cape Cod

**Date:** Mid 20th century

**Additional description:** Exterior features include 8/1 windows with shutters and quarter-round

## PHOTOGRAPHIC IDENTIFICATION

The following information is the same for all photographs submitted with the nomination:

| | |
|---|---|
| Name: | Olcott Avenue Historic District |
| Location: | Bernardsville, Somerset County, NJ |
| Photographer: | Ann Parsekian, Dennis Bertland Associates |
| Date: | Winter/Spring, 2008 |
| Negative and Electronic file Repository: | Dennis Bertland Associates, Stockton, NJ |

| Photo # | Site # | View |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1A | Methodist Episcopal Parsonage; northwest |
| 2 | 1B | Methodist Episcopal Church; north |
| 3 | 1B | Methodist Episcopal Church; northeast |
| 4 | 2 | Dwelling; south |
| 5 | 5 | Dwelling; southwest |
| 6 | 6 | Dwelling; northwest |
| 7 | 9 | Former VNA; northwest |
| 8 | 10 | Dwelling; northwest |
| 9 | 11 | Dwelling; northwest |
| 10 | 12 | Dwelling; northwest |
| 11 | 13 | Dwelling; northwest |
| 12 | 14 | Dwelling; northwest |
| 13 | 18 | Dwelling; northwest |
| 14 | 19 | Dwelling; northwest |
| 15 | 20 | Dwelling; southeast |
| 16 | 24 | Dwelling; east |
| 17 | 25 | Dwelling; northwest |
| 18 | 26 | Dwelling; northwest |
| 19 | 29 | Dwelling; northwest |
| 20 | 30 | Dwelling; east |
| 21 | 32 | Dwelling; southeast |
| 22 | 34 | Dwelling; southeast |
| 23 | 36 | Dwelling; southeast |
| 24 | 37 & 38 | Dwellings; east |
| 25 | 39 & 40 | Dwellings; east |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 26 | 41 | Dwelling; northwest |
| 27 | 44 | Dwelling; northwest |
| 28 | 45 | Dwelling; southwest |
| 29 | 46 | School; southeast |
| 30 | 46 | School; north |
| 31 | 46 | School property; northwest |
| 32 | Context | Olcott Avenue; southwest |
| 33 | Context | Olcott Avenue; north |
| 34 | Context | Intersection of Olcott & Highview Avenues; southwest |
| 35 | Context | Highview Avenue; northeast |
| 36 | Context | Highview Avenue; southwest |

windows in front gable.

**Outbuildings:** None

Non-contributing B65 /L3

5 **1 Olcott Avenue.** Frame, 2-story, 2-bay, hipped roof **dwelling** with interior center chimney (brick stack).

**Style:** Colonial Revival

**Date:** c. 1904. Property part of several lots purchased from developer David H. Morris in 1904 by Benjamin Amster, proprietor of B. Amster & Bro., "Bernardsville's leading butchers and grocers;" in 1914 Amster sold one lot to Charles E. Alleshkey, proprietor of a local hardware store, and the remainder, including the subject property, in 1919 to Joseph Goldsmith, proprietor of a men's wear shop in Bernardsville. (SC Deeds, Book J10, p. 41; Crimson, 1913) Appears on 1909 Sanborn map.

**Additional description:** Exterior features steeply pitched roof with wide flared boxed eaves; gabled dormers on each slope; 1/1 sash windows; front bay window, side 2-story bay window; round arch entry with fanlight and engaged Tuscan columns; 1-story porch with square railings, paired square posts on stone piers.

**Outbuildings:** Brick and frame, 1-story, 3-bay, hip roofed dental **office** with a 1-story, 1-bay attached garage; wide overhanging eaves, large side dormers, 1/1 sash windows with plain trim, glass and panel doors with small metal porch overhang (c. 1909) (C).

Contributing B65 /L2

6 **23 Anderson Hill Road.** Frame, 2-story, 3-over-4-bay, hipped-roofed **dwelling** with center chimney (brick stack).

**Style:** Colonial Revival

**Date/history:** c.1909-1919. Probably built by Charles J. Walmer of North Plainfield, who acquired two adjacent lots in 1909 and 1910 and subsequently sold them in 1919 to Carl Wermelskirchen, who was proprietor of a local butcher store and by 1930 was a realtor. (Deeds dated July 2, 1919 and December 3, 1909 at the Historical Society of the Somerset Hills; Bernards High School *Crimson)*

**Additional description:** Exterior features include wide overhanging boxed eaves; hipped dormers with paired windows that have diamond pattern upper sashes; clapboard siding; 1/1 sash windows with shutters; glass and panel door and shed-roofed wraparound porch (partially enclosed) with Tuscan columns and square railings.

**Outbuildings:** Frame, 1-story, 2-bay, hipped-roofed **garage** (c. 1909-1919) (C).

Contributing B56 /L1

7 **6 Olcott Avenue**. Frame, 2-story, 3-bay, gable-roofed **dwelling** with 1-story rear appendage and 1-bay garage underneath.

**Style:** Colonial Revival influences

**Date/history:** c. 1976. Designed by William Halsey, Basking Ridge architect.

**Additional description:** Exterior features include flush eaves, clapboard siding, multi-pane picture windows on 1st-story with wide window surrounds with keystone detail, 6/6 sash windows with shutters and plain trim on the upper story, solid panel door with sidelights sheltered under small gabled hood with arched fascia and curved bracket supports.

**Outbuildings:** None

Non-contributing B56 /L1.01

8 **8 Olcott Avenue**. Frame and masonry, 2-story, 2-over-3-bay, gambrel roof **dwelling** with a center interior chimney (brick stack).

**Style:** Eclectic Revival

**Date/history:** c. 1909. Appears on 1909 Sanborn map. Property was acquired in 1908 by Charles Alpaugh, proprietor of a local real estate office.

**Additional description:** Exterior features overhanging boxed eaves, front shed dormer with center gable, stucco siding on first story, shingle siding on second story and shed dormer, 1/1 sash windows on first story and paired casement windows with diamond panes on shed dormer, glass and panel door; integral porch with heavy square stucco posts and curved brackets, with short fluted Ionic pilasters affixed to center two posts.

**Outbuildings**: None

Contributing B56 /L26

9 **12 Olcott Avenue**. Frame, 2-story, 3-bay, gable front **dwelling** with exterior chimney (brick stack); later frame, 2-story, 3-over-2-bay, gable roof side appendage on east side; and a rear, frame, 2-story, gable roof addition with exterior chimney (brick stack).

**Style:** Colonial Revival

**Date/history:** 1906; east wing added c. 1997. Former Visiting Nurse Association headquarters. In 1916, alterations were made in memory of Cynthia Fairchild Dryden, wife of John Fairfield Dryden, the founder of the Prudential Insurance Company and later United States Senator. Alterations including the

addition of an operating room were undertaken by the firm of George B. Post. Although a relatively minor project, there was a relationship between the Post and Dryden families, who both had homes on the Bernardsville Mountain. Post prepared the original designs as well as later alterations and additions to Stronghold, the Dryden home on the Mountain. Plans in possession of New York Historical Society.

**Additional description:** Exterior features include wide boxed overhanging eaves with bracket trim, enclosed front gable with bracket trim, clapboard siding with corner pilasters, 1/1 sash windows with simple crowns and louver shutters, paired 1/1 windows on 1st-story and center 2nd-story, triple window in front gable, 1-story flat-roofed bay window on west side, glass and panel door, and flat-roofed porch with entablature, dentil molding, plain Ionic columns, and square railings.

**Outbuildings**: Stuccoed 1-story multi-bay flat roof **garage** (c. 1906) (C).

Contributing B56 /L25 Photo #

10 **18 Olcott Avenue**. Frame, 2-story, 2 over 3-bay, gable-front **dwelling** with interior chimney with brick stack.

**Style:** Colonial Revival

**Date:** c. 1909. Appears on 1909 Sanborn map. Property was acquired from Newark Home Builders in 1903 by Charles Alpaugh, real estate office proprietor, who sold it to Roger C. Faust, a bank clerk, in 1909. (United States Census, 1910) Faust was likely an employee of The Somerset Hill National Bank in Bernardsville, which was organized in 1903.

**Additional description:** Exterior features include stone foundation, wide overhanging eaves with dentil detail, clapboard siding, 1/1 sash windows with hood detail and louvered shutters, center 2nd story medallion detail, side 2-story bay window, glass and panel door with sidelights, and a shed-roofed wrap around porch with round corner gazebo appendage, dentil detail on cornice and eaves, turned railing and stone piers with Doric columns.

**Outbuildings**: Frame, 1-story, 1-bay, gable-fronted **garage** (early 20th century) (C).

Contributing B56/L24

11 **20 Olcott Avenue**. Frame, 2-story, 2-bay, hip roof **dwelling** with interior chimney.

**Style:** Colonial Revival

**Date/history:** c. 1899 – 1909. Dwelling shown on 1909 Sanborn map. Property was acquired in 1899 by William R. Bromfield, proprietor of a local hardware store. (Bernards High School *Crimson*)

**Additional description:** Exterior features overhanging eaves with plain cornice, clapboard siding, 2/2 first-story windows and 1/1 second-story windows with wide molded trim and cornices, 2-story front bay window that pierces porch roof has flat roof and molded cornice; 2-story bay window on east side;

large centered front dormer comprised of Palladian-style grouping of three windows beneath an enclosed pediment featuring molded arch with keystone supported on paneled pilasters; gabled side dormers; front entry with pilasters, glass and panel door, and sidelights; shed-roofed porch (partially enclosed) with square paired posts on clapboard bases supported on stone piers.

**Outbuildings**: Frame, 1-story, 2-bay, hip-roofed **garage** (c. 1930) (C).

Contributing B56 /L23

12 **26 Olcott Avenue.** Stuccoed masonry, 2-story, 3-bay, hip roof **dwelling** with exterior stuccoed chimney, side 1-story shed roofed appendage, and rear 2-story appendage.

**Style:** Craftsman

**Date/history:** c. 1912-1920 with c. 2005 rear addition. Property was acquired in 1900 by William R. Bromfield for $1,000, which suggests that a house had not yet been constructed. (SC Deeds, Book F9, p. 484) A fireplace brick is marked 1912. Property was sold in 1914 by Bromfield's widow to William C. Ludlow, proprietor of a local meat, fish and vegetable market and appears in a photograph in the 1920 Bernards High School yearbook (Crimson, 1920). Rear addition designed by Bernardsville architect Mark Alan Hewitt c. 2005.

**Additional description:** Exterior features include wide overhanging boxed eaves with wide plain frieze, 9/1, 12/1 and paired 6/1 sash windows; front and side hip roof dormers; 1-story bay window with shed roof; glass and panel door with sidelights; hip roof porch with stuccoed masonry posts and railings.

**Outbuildings**: Frame, 1-story, 2-bay, gable-roofed **garage** with gable-end entry and 6-pane windows in garage doors (c. 1920) (C).

Contributing B56/L22

13 **28 Olcott Avenue**. Frame, 2-story, 3-bay hipped-roofed **dwelling** with exterior rubblestone chimney and interior chimney (brick stack); rear 1-story appendage.

**Style:** Colonial Revival

**Date/history:** 1902. Property was acquired in 1902 by Ermonce V. Eberhardt from her mother, Emeline T. Eberhardt, widow of Newark industrialist Ulrich Eberhardt, Sr. who was president of Gould and Eberhardt Inc., machine tool manufacturers, when he died in 1901. (SC Deeds, p. 128) Ermonce married Clare M. Henry (1876-1953), a Bernardsville dentist, in 1901 (d. 1918). Henry was a member of the Bernards Township Board of Education from 1908 to 1927 and served as the second mayor of the Borough of Bernardsville from 1930 to 1934. ("Dr. C. M. Henry Dies at Age of 77," *Bernardsville News*, November 1953)

**Additional description:** Exterior of this large house features roof with hipped projections at front

corners and wide overhanging boxed eaves; clapboard siding on first story and shingles on second story; 1/1 sash windows, bay windows on front and west side with large 1/1 sash windows on first story and fixed upper sashes on second story; center second story window grouping comprised of a large central window flanked by narrower windows, which in turn are flanked by fluted pilasters that support a molded entablature; hip dormers on front and sides; front dormer comprised of 3 round arch windows with multi-pane upper sashes separated by fluted pilasters; central front entry with double leaf glass and panel door ; leaded glass sidelights and paired fluted pilasters; shed-roofed porch with Tuscan columns on rubblestone piers, turned balustrades, and rubblestone foundation featuring arched openings.

**Outbuildings**: (1) Frame, 1-story, 2-bay, gable-roofed **garage** with gable-end entry (mid to late 20th century) (NC); (2) frame, 1-story, gambrel-roofed **office** (originally a garage barn) with cross-gable, 6/6 windows and small porch overhang (c. 1909) (C).

Contributing B56/L21

14 **36 Olcott Avenue**. Frame, 2-story, cross gambrel **dwelling** with center chimney (rubblestone stack).

**Style:** Shingle

**Date/history**: c. 1905 (Eberhardt and Hudson, p. 531). House appears on 1909 Sanborn map. The house was designed by Newark architect W. Davenport Jones (Plans in possession of homeowner.) Property was acquired by Ulrich Eberhardt, Jr. from his mother, Emeline T. Eberhardt, widow of Newark industrialist Ulrich Eberhardt, Sr. who was president of Gould and Eberhardt Inc., machine tool manufacturers, when he died in 1901. The son became part owner of the company with his brother, Frederick Eberhardt. (*A History of the City of Newark*, p. 120.)

**Additional description:** Exterior features of this large house include clapboard siding on first story and shingle siding on flared gambrel ends; shed roof dormers at the intersection of front and west gambrels feature overhanging eaves with decorative rafter tails; two-story bay window at intersection of front and east gambrels features wide overhanging boxed eaves; the house has a variety of window configurations including 1/1 sashes on the first story 6/1 sashes on the front gambrel, dormers, and bay window; the front dormer features a group of three windows under a shingled flared pent roof supported by shingled brackets above which is a pair of casement windows with diamond sashes; on the west gambrel end are a pair of window groupings comprised of a recessed center arched window with wood tracery on the upper sashes, flanked by two shorter narrow windows, above which are a pair of casaement windows with diamond sashes; on the east gambrel end is a random grouping of four windows including a three-part stained glass window and a half-round window; center entry with multi-paned enclosure; engaged porch with fluted Tuscan columns and heavy rubblestone posts; at the east end is a porte- cochere supported on heavy rubblestone posts.

**Outbuildings**: (1) Frame, 1-story, gable roofed **garage** with shingle and clapboard siding (late 20th century) (NC).

Contributing B56/L13

15 **44 Olcott Avenue**. Frame, 1-story, gable-fronted **dwelling** with side 1-story, 2-bay appendage.

**Style:** None

**Date:** c. 1985.

**Additional description:** Exterior features include a vinyl siding, picture window, and casement windows with shutters.

**Outbuildings**: None

Non-contributing B56/L13.01

16 **48 Olcott Avenue**. Frame, 1-story, 3-bay, gable-roofed **dwelling** with side 1-story 1-bay appendage and interior chimney with brick stack.

**Style:** Cape Cod

**Date:** c. 1950. Subdivided from Eberhardt property c. 1950. Property conveyed to Aline Henry Decker, daughter of Clare M. Henry. (Bernardsville Tax Map, 1955)

**Additional description:** Exterior features include 1/1 sash windows and casement windows with shutters and front dormers.

**Outbuildings**: None

Non-contributing B56/L20

17 **52 Olcott Avenue**. Frame, 1-story, hipped-roofed **dwelling** with side 1-story, 1-bay appendage and interior chimney with brick stack.

**Style:** Raised ranch

**Date:** c. 1950. Subdivided from Eberhardt property c. 1950. (Bernardsville Tax Map, 1955)

**Additional description:** Exterior features include 1/1-sash windows, glass and panel door and engaged porch.

**Outbuildings**: None

Non-contributing B56/L19

18 **54 Olcott Avenue**. Frame, 2-story, 4-bay, hipped-roofed **dwelling** with an interior chimney (brick stack).

**Style:** Colonial Revival

**Date:** c. 1908-1909. House is shown on 1909 Sanborn map. Property was subdivided from Eberhardt property in 1908. (SC Deeds, Book L11, p. 433) Property was conveyed to Emma N. Craig, sister of Ulrich Eberhardt, Jr., in 1911. Acquired in 1935 by the Visiting Nurse Association for use as a boarding house for nurses. (SC Deeds, Book Y21, p. 264)

**Additional description:** Exterior features include wide overhanging boxed eaves with brackets and dentil detail, gable-roofed dormers, clapboard siding on first story and shingles on second story; 1/1 sash windows; large window on the first story and a similar one on a second story projecting bay with fixed diamond pattern stained glass upper sections; 2-story side bay window; central entry with fluted pilasters , cornice with dentil molding, and glass and panel door; shed roofed porch with Tuscan columns and railings with square balusters.

**Outbuildings**: Frame, 1-story, 2-bay, hipped-roof **garage** (c. 1930) (C).

Contributing B56 /L18 Photo #

19 **60 Olcott Avenue**. Frame and stone, 2-story, 3-bay, hipped-roofed **dwelling** with a center chimney (stuccoed stack).

**Style:** Craftsman and Prairie

**Date/history:** c. 1904 - 1910. Property was conveyed from Newark Home Builders Company to Helen G. Hedden, widow, for $3,500, suggesting a house was on the lot at that time. (SC Deeds, Book H10, p. 409) Helen Hedden is listed in the 1910 census as living on Wolfe Avenue (later renamed Olcott Avenue). Frank B. Allen, president of Newark Home Builders and a widower, was boarding with Mrs. Hedden at that time. She conveyed the property to him in 1915, and three years later he conveyed the property to his daughter, Anna Skinkle Allen, spinster. In 1919, Miss Allen sold the property, subject to a $5,000 mortgage, out of the Allen family. (SC Deeds, Book T14, p. 269; Book A16, p. 313; Book Z16, p. 429)

**Additional description:** Exterior features include rubblestone construction on first story and shingles on second story; steeply pitched roof with decorative finials and overhanging boxed eaves with beaded frieze; curved pinnacles on corners of roof peaks, large hipped dormers with decorative finials and paired windows centered on each slope; windows of single pane lower sashes and upper sashes with geometric patterns of small-panes; centered second story bay window, modern casement windows with geometric muntins patterns; shed-roofed enclosed front porch with heavy rubblestone piers and solid railing.

**Outbuildings**: Frame, gable roof **garage**. (c. 1930) (C).

Contributing B56 /L17

20 **41 Highview Avenue.** Stuccoed, 2-story, 2-over-3-bay, gable front **dwelling** with interior chimney with brick stack and a small side, 1-story, 1-bay appendage.

**Style:** Eclectic Revival

**Date:** c. 1909. House appears on 1909 Sanborn map.

**Additional description:** Exterior features include overhanging open eaves with scalloped rafter tails and brackets; side dormers; windows with 1/1 sashes and paired 1/1 sash windows with diamond patterned upper sashes; front gable has two bands of pierced molding that enclose four small casement windows with diamond pattern sashes; entry with reeded pilasters supporting simple entablature and glass and panel door; gable-roofed porch with square posts and railing with alternating narrow and wide balusters.

**Outbuildings:** Stuccoed, 1-story, 2- bay, gable front **garage** (c. 1909) (C).

Contributing B56 /L 16

21 **37 Highview Avenue.** Frame, 2-story, 2-bay, gable-roofed **dwelling** with interior chimney with brick stack and side 1-story, 1-bay gable-roofed appendage.

**Style:** Colonial Revival

**Date:** c. 1909. House appears on 1909 Sanborn map.

**Additional description:** Exterior features include overhanging eaves with exposed rafter ends, front gable with small paired multi-paned windows, clapboard siding with molded trim band at first story; 1/1 sash windows, 2nd-story sash windows have diamond patterned upper sashes; large front dormer with paired casement windows with diamond pane sashes; 1-story side bay window with pent-roofed porch above; gable roof entry portico with entry with fluted pilasters and square tapered fluted columns supporting entablature with dentil molding; plain railings with square balusters; glass and panel door.

**Outbuildings:** None

Contributing B56 /L 15

22 **33 Highview Avenue.** Stuccoed 2-story, 3-bay, cross gable **dwelling** with interior chimney (brick stack); 1-story, 2-bay, gable front garage attached by a 1-story breezeway.

**Style:** None

**Date:** c. 1909. House appears on 1909 Sanborn map.

**Additional description:** Exterior features include overhanging boxed eaves, 1/1 sash windows with

shutters, 1-story bay window with conical roof, glass and panel door and small gable roof porch with square posts and wrought iron railings.

**Outbuildings:** None

Contributing B56 /L 14

23 **29 Highview Avenue.** Frame, 1½-story, cross gambrel **dwelling** (former carriage house) with center chimney (rubblestone stack).

**Style:** Colonial Revival

**Date:** c. 1901 – 1909. The dwelling was originally the carriage house and four-stall stable associated with the Ulrich Eberhardt residence on Olcott Avenue (see Inventory #14 above) and was designed by the same architect, W. Davenport Jones.

**Additional description:** Exterior features include flared gambrel roof with gambrel peak overhang for hoist; cupola with flared roof; shingle siding; windows with 6/1 sashes; integral first story 2-bay garage; gabled entry portico with fluted Tuscan columns on rubblestone piers and double leaf door.

**Outbuildings:** None

Contributing B56 /L 13.02

24 **27 Highview Avenue.** Frame, 2-story, 2-over-3-bay, gable front **dwelling** with interior chimney (brick stack); 2-story appendage on west side.

**Style:** Colonial Revival influences

**Date/history**: c. 1909. House appears on 1909 Sanborn map.

**Additional description:** Exterior features include overhanging eaves, clapboard siding with shingle siding in gable, 6/1 sash windows, glass and panel door and hipped-roofed porch with square paneled columns and turned balustrade.

**Outbuildings:** None

Contributing B56 /L 12

25 **34 Highview Avenue.** Frame, 2-story, 2-bay, pyramidal roof **dwelling** with center chimney (brick stack).

**Style:** Colonial Revival

**Date:** c. 1909. House appears on 1909 Sanborn map.

**Additional description:** Exterior features include wide overhanging boxed eaves, front and side gabled dormers with paired 4-pane windows, wood shingle siding, 1/1 sash windows, 1-story side bay window with hipped roof, glass and panel door and shed roof porch with gable above the entry and Tuscan columns columns.

**Outbuildings:** Frame, 2-story, 2-bay, gable front **garage** with overhanging eaves with exposed rafter ends and glass and panel loft entry in gable (c. 1930) (C).

Contributing B53 /L 9

26 **36 Highview Avenue.** Stuccoed 2-story, 2-bay, gable roof **dwelling** with interior chimney (brick stack); 1-story, gable roof west wing; 1-story rear appendage.

**Style:** Colonial Revival

**Date:** c. 1909. House appears on 1909 Sanborn map.

**Additional description:** Exterior features include overhanging eaves with returns, 6/1 sash windows, 1-story 3-bay window and pent-roof at first story.

**Outbuildings:** None

Contributing B52 /L 10

27 **38 Highview Avenue.** Stucco and frame 2-story, 3-bay, gambrel front **dwelling**.

**Style:** Colonial Revival

**Date:** c. 1909. House appears on 1909 Sanborn map.

**Additional description:** Exterior features include overhanging boxed eaves, large shed dormers, 6/1 sash windows, shingle siding on second story, glass and panel door and shed-roofed porch with square fluted columns and railing with square balusters.

**Outbuildings:** Frame, 2-story, 2-bay, gable roof **garage** with clipped gable ends and exposed rafter ends (c. 1930) (C).

Contributing B53 /L 11

28 **42 Highview Avenue.** Frame 2-story, 3-bay, cross gable **dwelling** with interior chimney (brick stack); 2-story, 2-over-1-bay, gable roof appendage at west side with exterior frame chimney.

**Style:** Colonial Revival influences

**Date:** c. 1909. House appears on 1909 Sanborn map.

**Additional description:** Exterior features include boxed overhanging eaves, vinyl siding, 1/1 sash windows with shutters, picture window in side appendage, 2/2 window in the gable, glass and panel door and hipped-roofed porch with square posts and railings.

**Outbuildings:** Frame, gable front garage (mid 20th century) (NC).

Contributing B53 /L 12

29 **44 Highview Avenue.** Frame, 1½ -story, 3-bay, gable roof **dwelling** with exterior rubblestone chimney and rear, 1-story, gable-roofed appendage.

**Style:** Craftsman

**Date:** c. 1930. Appears on 1930 Sanborn map.

**Additional description:** Exterior features include overhanging boxed eaves, wood shingle siding, recessed shed dormer with paired windows centered on front slope; windows with diamond pattern upper sash and single pane lower sash; diamond pattern casement windows; 1-story bay window on west side; engaged front porch that extends around the east end, with rubblestone posts and railings.

**Outbuildings:** None

Contributing B53 /L 13

30 **60 Highview Avenue.** Stuccoed 2-story, 3-bay, gambrel roof **dwelling** with tall exterior stucco chimney; 1-story, 1-bay wing at south end; stuccoed archway on north end.

**Style:** Colonial Revival

**Date:** c. 1930, possibly earlier. House appears on 1930 Sanborn map. The property was not included on earlier Sanborn maps, and census evidence suggests that the house may have been constructed by 1920. The original owner, Max Hemmendinger, was proprietor of a local pharmacy and a member of the Bernards Township Board of Education. (Bernards High School *Crimson,* various years)

**Additional description:** Exterior features include overhanging boxed eaves; 3-bay shed dormer; 6/1 sash windows, picture window flanked by 6/1 windows; glass and panel door with engaged round arch pediment.

**Outbuildings:** None

Contributing B54 /L 1

31 **66 Highview Avenue.** Frame 2-story, 3-bay, gambrel roof **dwelling** with exterior chimney (brick stack) and side, 1-story, 1-bay wing.

**Style:** Colonial Revival

**Date:** c. 1930. House appears on 1930 Sanborn map.

**Additional description:** Exterior features include overhanging eaves, 3-bay shed dormer, clapboard siding, 6/1 sash windows, paired 2nd-story center windows, hip roof porch with Tuscan columns and entry with sidelights and glass and panel door.

**Outbuildings:** Frame, 1-story gable front **garage** (early 20th century) (C).

Contributing B59/L1

32 **67 Highview Avenue.** Stucco, brick and frame 2-story, 3-bay, cross gable **dwelling** with large brick exterior chimney on front facade.

**Style:** Tudor Revival

**Date:** c. 1930. House appears on 1930 Sanborn map.

**Additional Description**: Exterior features steeply pitched roof with overhanging boxed eaves; brick first story, stuccoed second story, and shingled gables; windows have 6/1 sashes and are paired on the front facade; chimney has decorative recessed panel of bricks laid on end; front entry is sheltered within a round arch brick portico with flared gable roof.

**Outbuildings:** None

Contributing B57 /L 6

33 **65 Highview Avenue.** Frame 2-story, 3-bay, gable roof **dwelling** with interior chimney (brick stack); modern 1½-story, 1-bay, gambrel roof addition with front dormer and interior chimney (brick stack); shed roof appendage on west side; and rear, 1-story gable-roofed appendage.

**Style:** Colonial Revival

**Date:** Early 20th century. The property was conveyed to Peter Stryker in 1906 and census evidence suggests the house was constructed by the 1920 census, when the Stryker family was living there. Peter Stryker was a member of the Bernards Township Board of Education.

**Additional description:** Exterior features include overhanging boxed eaves, center gabled dormer with paired windows, clapboard siding, 6/6 sash windows with crowns, west bay entry with paneled door, and shed-roofed porch with Tuscan columns.

**Outbuildings:** None

Contributing B57 /L 5

34 **61 Highview Avenue.** Frame, 2-story, 2 over 3-bay, gabled roofed **dwelling**.

**Style:** Craftsman influences

**Date:** Early 20th century. Census data suggests that the house was constructed by 1920, when Henry C. Adair, proprietor of a local upholstery business, was living there.

**Additional description:** Exterior features include overhanging eaves, shingle siding, 1/1 sash windows on 1st story, paired casement windows with diamond panes on 2nd story, center gable with diamond pane window, center entry with glass and panel door engaged porch with square posts and railings.

**Outbuildings:** None

Contributing B57 /L 4

35 **59 Highview Avenue.** Frame, 2-story, 3-bay, gabled roof **dwelling** with side, 1-story, gable roof wing.

**Style:** None

**Date:** Late 20th century

**Additional description:** Exterior features include clapboard siding, 1/1 sash windows, and glass and panel door.

**Outbuildings:** None

Non contributing B57 /L 3.01

36 **69 Olcott Avenue.** Frame and stucco 1½ -story, 2-bay, cross gable **dwelling** with large stucooed chimney on front façade.

**Style:** Tudor Revival

**Date:** c. 1930. House appears on 1930 Sanborn map.

**Additional description:** Exterior features include steeply pitched roof with flared eaves on the west slope and curved eave on the front slope; hip roof dormer; shingle siding' multi-pane casement windows; glass and panel door beneath curved front eave and flanked by brick piers.

**Outbuildings:** Frame, 1-story, 1-bay, gable-roofed **garage** (mid-late 20th century) (NC).

Contributing B57 /L 3

37 **67 Olcott Avenue.** Frame, 1-story, 5-bay, gable roofed **dwelling** with center chimney (brick stack); 1-story shed roof, west wing; frame, 2-story rear appendage.

**Style:** Colonial Revival

**Date:** c. 1930. House is shown on 1930 Sanborn map.

**Additional description:** Exterior features include overhanging eaves with returns, 2 small gable dormers with pilasters and recessed panel gable; clapboard siding; 12/1 sash windows with crowns on main block; small entry portico with square recessed panel pilasters and columns supporting paneled gable pediment; panel door.

**Outbuildings:** None

Contributing B57 /L2

38 **65 Olcott Avenue.** Frame, 2-story, 3-bay, gable roof **dwelling** with exterior brick chimney and frame, 1-story side sun porch.

**Style:** Colonial Revival

**Date:** c. 1930. House appears on 1930 Sanborn map.

**Additional description:** Exterior features include overhanging eaves, clapboard siding, 6/1 sash windows, a solid panel door with sidelights and solid fanlight detail, and a segmental arch, gable-roofed hood on heavy brackets.

**Outbuildings:** Frame, gable roof **garage** (c. 1930) (C).

Contributing B57 /L1

39 **63 Olcott Avenue.** Frame, 2-story, 3-bay, gable roof **dwelling** with exterior brick chimney.

**Style:** Colonial Revival

**Date:** c. 1930. House appears on 1930 Sanborn map.

**Additional description:** Exterior features include overhanging boxed eaves, clapboard siding, 6/1 sash windows, an enclosed side porch and a small gable roof entry porch with square posts.

**Outbuildings:** Frame, 1-story, 1-bay, gable-roofed **garage** (mid to late 20th century) (NC).

Contributing B58 /L4

40 **61 Olcott Avenue.** Frame, 2-story, 4-over-3-bay, gambrel-roof **dwelling** with interior center chimney with brick stack and a frame, 1-story rear appendage.

**Style:** Colonial Revival

**Date/history:** c. 1916, possibly earlier. House appears on postcard dating from c. 1916 and may have been built for Christopher H. Van Glahn, who purchased the property in 1905 for $500, evidence that a house had not yet been built, and sold it 1913 for an undisclosed sum. Van Glahn was pastor of the Bernardsville Methodist Episcopal church from 1902 to 1907. A new M.E. parsonage was constructed in 1902, suggesting Van Glahn purchased the Olcott Avenue property as an investment. William O. Douglas lived here c. 1923-1925 while his wife, Mildred Riddle Douglas, taught Latin at Bernards High School. Douglas was later appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court. ("Justice Douglas Once Lived Here; First Wife Taught in Local School," *Bernardsville News*, November 20, 1975)

**Additional description:** Exterior features include overhanging boxed eaves with decorative brackets, shingle siding, 6/1 sash windows with louver shutters, 2-story bay window on west side, glass and panel door, shed-roofed porch with Tuscan columns and square railings.

**Outbuildings:** None

Contributing B58 /L3

41 **6 Childsworth Avenue.** Frame, 2-story, 3-bay, gable roof **dwelling** with interior chimney; 2-story, 1-bay, gable-roofed west appendage and rear appendages.

**Style:** Colonial Revival

**Date:** c. 1916. House appears in a postcard dating from c. 1916.

**Additional description:** Exterior features include overhanging eaves, clapboard siding, 6/6 sash windows, glass and panel door with transom, and shed roof porch that has been enclosed on the two outer bays.

**Outbuildings:** None

Contributing B58 /L2

42 **14 Childsworth Avenue.** Stuccoed 2-story, 2-over-3-bay hip roof **dwelling** with large interior chimney (stuccoed stack), a 1-story, 1-bay hip roof sunroom on the east end and a 1-story, hipped-roof 2-bay garage west end appendage.

**Style:** Colonial Revival influences

**Date:** c. mid 20th century

**Additional description:** Exterior features include overhanging eaves, modern casement windows with shutters, panel door with multi-pane sidelights, and hip roof entry hood.

**Outbuildings:** None

Non-contributing B58 /L5

43 **20 Childsworth Avenue.** Frame, 2-story, 5-bay, gable roof **dwelling** with interior chimney; 1-story garage appendage at rear.

**Style:** Colonial revival influences

**Date:** Mid to late 20th century

**Additional description:** Exterior features include vinyl siding, double hung windows, panel door with multi-pane sidelights, and single bay gabled entry porch with square posts and wrought iron railings.

**Outbuildings:** None

Non-contributing B58 /L 6.01

44 **24 Childsworth Avenue.** Stuccoed 2-story, 4-bay hipped-roof **dwelling** with large interior chimney (stuccoed stack); 1-story, 1-bay, flat roofed appendage at east end.

**Style:** Colonial Revival, Stick and Craftsman influences

**Date:** c. 1919. The house was likely built for Lester A. Lummis, president of Lummis Glass Co. of New York, who purchased the property in 1919 from William Childs, who developed several large tracts in the vicinity (Childs was also a cofounder of the Childs Restaurant chain).

**Additional description:** Exterior features include wide overhanging open eaves, windows with various configurations with multi-paned upper sections; shed dormer with 2 sets of paired windows, side eyebrow dormer; main entry with glass and panel door with multi-pane sidelights; secondary front entry with arched multi-paned door with sidelights; and hip-roofed porch with square posts with Stick-style brackets and railing.

**Outbuildings:** Frame and stucco 2-story, 3-bay, gable-roofed **garage/studio** with 3 gabled wall dormers and pent roof (mid to late 20th century) (NC).

Contributing B58 /L6

45 **17 Childsworth Avenue.** Frame, 2-story, cross gable **dwelling** with interior chimney (brick stack).

**Style:** Colonial Revival

**Date:** c. 1927. House appears on 1930 Sanborn map, and was probably built around 1927, when William Childs conveyed the property to his employee, Harry A. Phillips.

**Additional description:** Exterior features include flush eaves, wood shingle siding, casement and casement windows with shutters, gable-fronted entry with glass and panel door with fanlight trim.

**Outbuildings:** Frame, 1-story, 1-bay gable front garage with wood shingle siding, 6/6 sash windows and arched door with multi-pane windows (c. 1927) (C).

Contributing B64 /L2

46 **25 Olcott Avenue.** Olcott Building. SCHS Inv. #18-03-114. Stone 2½-story H-plan **board of education offices** comprised of a 3-bay hip roof main block flanked by projecting gable front wings; large paired interior chimneys (stone stacks).

**Style**: Tudor Revival

**Date/history:** 1905. Designed by noted New York architect Henry Janeway Hardenbergh (1847-1918), who owned a large estate in Bernardsville. Land and building donated to Bernards Township Board of Education by financier and philanthropist Frederick P. Olcott (1841-1909), who was president of the Central Trust Company in New York and also owned a large estate in Bernardsville.

**Additional description:** Features include steeply pitched clay tile roof with overhanging boxed eaves and dark metal cornice; three shed dormers on front and rear slopes of main block and outside slope of each flanking wing, with a row of three windows in each dormer; exterior of rough hewn Waterloo granite laid in random ashlar with raised flat joints; stone water table; stepped parapeted gables with dressed stone caps on each side wing; 2-story flat roofed central tower with stone dentil molding, granite buttresses, and a round arched entry of dressed stone, above which is a line of 3 tall narrow windows; a variety of configurations of tall windows with stone sills and 1/1 sashes of contrasting dark metal, arranged in bands of four and five on the main block and wings and as a series of diagonal archer's windows on the gable front of each wing; and a rear 3-story metal fire escape. Inscribed over the front entry is the phrase, "Knowledge is Power."

**Other features**: 2 memorial plaques have been uncovered from what was originally a group of 20 plaques dedicated in February, 1932 to the memory of 20 Bernardsville and Bernards Township men who lost their lives during World War I. As part of the Washington Bicentennial local celebration, 20 elms were planted along the drive in front of the high school. Other plaques may still survive. (C)

Contributing B64/L1

## ARCHITECT/BUILDER, CONT'D.

Frederick C. Hirons
W. Davenport Jones

## STATEMENT OF HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Olcott Avenue Historic District is significant under National Register Criterion C in the areas of **architecture**, **community development**, and **education**, for the period c. 1899 to c. 1930, beginning with the year Olcott Avenue (originally named Wolfe Avenue) was laid out and ending with the conclusion of original residential development activity. Architectural significance derives from a number of notable examples of revival styles that were popular at turn of the 20th century as well as four outstanding buildings designed by prominent American architects of the period: William Stone Post (son of George B. Post), who designed the 1903 Tudor Revival Methodist Episcopal Parsonage; Henry Janeway Hardenbergh, who designed the 1905 Tudor Revival Olcott School; Dennison & Hirons, who designed the 1914 Methodist Episcopal Church, also Tudor Revival; and William Davenport Jones, who designed the 1905 Shingle style house at 36 Olcott Avenue. Significance in the area of community development stems from Olcott Avenue as the first street in Bernardsville designed to specifically appeal to the local rising class of merchants and entrepreneurs. It did so by means of deed restrictions regarding lot size, building setbacks, property use, and fence limitations that were harbingers of future local zoning ordinances. The district has significance in the area of education for the Olcott School, constructed as a public school and first local high school by wealthy financier and philanthropist Frederick P. Olcott, on property he purchased for the purpose and then donated to the local Board of Education. Despite some modern residential infill development, the district still reflects its appearance from the early decades of the 20th century. Notwithstanding the presence of several modern buildings as well as the loss of some early fabric to modern alterations, the Olcott Avenue Historic District possesses significance and retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association necessary for National Register eligibility under Criterion C.

### *Architecture*

The Olcott Avenue Historic District benefited from its proximity to the Mountain Colony, a well-established enclave of lavish country mansions in the surrounding Somerset Hills that were designed by prestigious American architects. Several of those architects had summer homes in the Mountain Colony, and as a result became involved in a number of local civic projects. Probably the most prominent of that group was George B. Post. Descended from a socially prominent New York merchant family, **George Browne Post** (1837-1913) was born in New York City and began his architectural practice there following the Civil War after earning a degree in civil engineering and architecture from New York University in 1858. Seeking a healthful environment for his wife who suffered from rheumatism, Post first came to the Bernardsville area in 1871 and became one of the founding members of what would eventually be transformed into an enclave of summer estates known as the Mountain Colony that stretched across portions of the Somerset Hills municipalities of Bernardsville, Mendham, Peapack-Gladstone, Far Hills, and Bedminster. By 1871, Post had already launched his own practice. His first commercial commission, the Equitable

Building, was highly significant as the first office building to utilize elevators.[1] Considered a major monument in the evolution of American architecture, and a prelude to the development of the skyscraper, the building was designed with the elevator in mind. Post leased the upper floors of the building, demonstrating his confidence in and support of the elevator scheme.[2] A prolific architect, George Post was most well known for his commercial work, which included most notably the New York Stock Exchange (1901-3) on which his son, William S. Post, collaborated. **William Stone Post** (1866-1940) joined the firm shortly after he graduated from Columbia University in 1890 and became a partner in 1904.[3] William is also credited with drawing the general plan for the buildings of the campus of City College of New York (c. 1903), and the design of the Wisconsin State Capitol, two of the firm's most noteworthy projects.[4] The Post firm is also identified with numerous residential projects, a number in the Somerset Hills.

George Browne Post's earliest known local commission was a stone residence he designed in 1886 and altered in 1898 for its second owner, John F. Dryden, who was founder of the Prudential Insurance Company, later a United Stated Senator from New Jersey, and the most prominent resident of the Mountain Colony.[5] Post designed numerous residences in the area, which has the greatest concentration of his residential designs in the country. Aside from the houses he designed for members of the Post family, altogether his firm provided original designs or alterations for more than twenty-five projects in the area.[6] Noteworthy among the local residential projects in addition to Stronghold were Appletrees (designed for financier Ramsay Turnbull in 1893); Malvern (designed for Post relative Malvina Appleton, c. 1898); Woodedge (William Stone Post's own residence, designed in 1900); Kenilwood (designed in 1901 or 1902 by William Stone Post for his older brother George B. Post, Jr); Boulderwood (originally designed for businessman Edward A. LeRoy, c.1902-1904); and Claremont (George Browne Post's second residence of that name, constructed in 1904). Apart from the Methodist Episcopal Parsonage (1902) and alterations to the Visiting Nurse Association headquarters (1916), local civic commissions undertaken by the firm included

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[1] Sarah Bradford Landau, *George B. Post, Architect: Picturesque Designer and Determined Realist*, New York: Monacelli Press, 1998, p. 12.

[2] Winston Weisman, "The Commercial Architecture of George B. Post," *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, 30 (October 1972): 179.

[3] "William Post, 74; Noted Architect," *New York Times*, July 9, 1940. A younger son, James Otis Post, became a member of the firm in 1910. James Ward, *Architects in Practice: 1900-1940*, Union, NJ: J&D Associates, 1989, p. 62

[4] "William Post, 74; Noted Architect." During his lifetime and after, George Post was recognized by his peers, critics, and historians as a major figure of American architecture. Post was among three New York architects that also included noted architects Richard Hunt and Charles McKim, who were chosen to design the 1891 Columbian Exposition in Chicago. In an 1898 publication, *A History of Real Estate, Building and Architecture in New York*, an anonymous writer singled out George Post and Richard Hunt as the more notable representatives of the "thoroughly trained and technically educated element which, about thirty years ago, commenced to gain ascendancy in the profession." Post received the Gold Medal of the American Institute of Architects in 1911, and in a 1939 history of architecture, four of the twelve commercial buildings listed were by George Post: the 1884 New York Produce Exchange; the undated New York Times Building; the undated Union Trust; and the 1890 Prudential Life Insurance Company Building in Newark, New Jersey. Weisman, p. 176.

[5] John K. Turpin and W. Barry Thomson, *New Jersey Country Houses: The Somerset Hills Volume I*, Far Hills, NJ: Mountain Colony Press, Inc., 2004, p. 12.

[6] Nearly two dozen design or alteration commissions are identified in Turpin and Thomson.

the Virginia Day Nursery (c. 1901), alterations to the Bernardsville public library (1903-04), the Italian Evangelical Church (1909-10), alterations to the Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church (1908), and the Basking Ridge Presbyterian Manse (1922).[7]

William Stone Post is thought to have been responsible for a number of the elaborate Mountain Colony homes designed by the Post firm.[8] A coachman's cottage on New York financier's Percy R. Pyne's Upton Pyne estate that was built in 1902 – the same year that the Bernardsville Methodist Episcopal Parsonage was constructed – has been attributed to William.[9] Although he later substantially altered and enlarged the cottage, the original plan was almost identical to the Parsonage (inventory #1A; photo #1). Each picturesque dwelling was made distinctive through the use of different architectural details. For example, while both featured stone first stories and shingled second stories, the parsonage has flared eaves while the coachman's cottage did not; and windows on the parsonage have diamond-pane upper sashes over single-pane lower sashes, while the coachman's cottage had 4-over-4 sashes. The borrowed design almost certainly resulted in savings that would have made it possible for the firm to donate the parsonage plans to the church.

Considered by architectural historians to be one of the great architects of his time, **Henry Janeway Hardenbergh** (1847-1918) is most well known for his New York commissions, particularly the 1884 Dakota apartment building, the 1893 Waldorf and 1897 Astoria hotels, and, most famously, the 1907 Plaza hotel. The hotels he designed were considered at the time they were built to be the finest in the world and gave him a worldwide reputation. His design for the Copley-Plaza in Boston has been called his best work.[10] Born in New Brunswick, New Jersey, and a descendent of Reverend Jacob Rutsen Hardenbergh who was the founder of that city's Queens (later Rutgers) College, Hardenbergh designed and superintended the construction of a library and chapel for the college in 1871.[11] He was drawn to Bernardsville during the early years of the Mountain Colony, and built his first summer house there in the 1880s. Hardenbergh replaced the dwelling, known as Renemede, in 1906 after it was destroyed by fire. Although primarily only a weekend and summer resident of the Mountain Colony, Hardenbergh became a trustee of the St. Bernards Episcopal Church in Bernardsville, and, in 1912, designed its Gothic-style Parish House.[12] Hardenbergh collaborated with Boston architect Guy Lowell in creating the Natirar, a Tudor-style residence in the Peapack section of the Mountain Colony completed in 1912 for Walter Ladd and his invalid wife, Kate Macy Ladd.[13] Hardenbergh's design for the Olcott School (inventory #46; photo #s 29 & 30) may have served as the genesis for the much larger Natirar mansion. Both buildings feature large hip roofed cen-

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[7] Turpin and Thomson. The Virginia Day Nursery was one of a number of day nurseries modeled after the French "Creche" system that were organized in New York City during the last quarter of the 19th century to provide low cost care to children of working mothers.
[8] "William Post, 74; Noted Architect."
[9] Turpin and Thomson, p. 103.
[10] "H.J. Hardenbergh, Architect, Is Dead," *New York Times*, March 14, 1918.
[11] Ibid.
[12] Turpin and Thomson, p. 59. The Church and Parish House, which are not in the district, were listed on the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places in 2006.
[13] Turpin and Thomson, p. 205. Mrs. Ladd's father, Josiah Macy, Jr., who died when she was thirteen, was a close friend and business associate of John D. Rockefeller.

tral blocks with tower-like Tudor-arch central entries, flanked on each end by projecting bays. Tall chimneys and bands of tall, narrow windows are distinctive features of each building. Natirar's brick façade, accented by light colored stone trim, gives a lighter, more refined appearance than the rough hewn granite façade and red tile roof of the school building.

Although not as well known as that of Post or Hardenbergh, the work of New York architects **Dennison & Hirons** has been previously recognized through several landmark designations in New York City, including the 1923 Childs' Restaurant on the Boardwalk at Coney Island, the 1928 Beaux Arts Institute of Design Building in Manhattan, and the 1929 Art Deco-style Suffolk Title and Guarantee Company Building in Queens. The partnership of Ethan Allen Dennison and Frederick Charles Hirons, which was formed in 1910 and lasted until 1929, usually specialized in mid-rise office buildings, and normally worked in either a restrained classical or Art Deco style; but the firm was also responsible for designing several of the Childs Restaurants, which numbered 107 by 1925. The fanciful ocean-themed Childs Restaurant on the Boardwalk at Coney Island was one of the first to adapt the design to the building's specific location.[14] The chain was founded in 1889 by Samuel and William Childs, who grew up on a large, prosperous farm in the northeastern part of Bernards Township, and who may have been the local link between the architects and the 1913 Bernardsville Methodist Episcopal Church project (inventory #1; photo #s 2 & 3).[15] The Tudor church seems neither typical nor representative of the firm's known projects, although little is known about other non-commercial work they may have undertaken.

**Ethan Allen Dennison** (1881-1954) was born in Summit, New Jersey, studied architecture at the Godfrey Architectural Preparatory School and the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris, afterward entering the office of Trowbridge & Livingston in New York in 1905. After the dissolution of his partnership with Hirons in 1929, Dennison headed his own New York firm and designed numerous banks in Connecticut, Philadelphia, and Delaware. He won the Medal of Honor of the Society of Diploma Architects of France and was a member of the Beaux Arts Society of New York, as well as the American Society of the French Legion of Honor.[16]

**Frederick Charles Hirons** (1883-1942) came to the United States from England as a youth. He graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and received the Rotch scholarship, after which he went to Paris to study at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts. He won the Paris Prize in 1906, which allowed him to continue his studies and travel in Europe through 1909. Hirons taught architecture at Columbia University, and was a founder of the Beaux Arts Institute of Design. It was his design for the Beaux-Arts Institute of Design in New York that won the competition for the Dennison & Hirons firm. Polychrome terra cotta panels were a prominent feature in that building's façade, and the firm was recognized for its terra cotta work in 1928, when an entire issue of *Atlantic Terra Cotta Magazine* was devoted to the partners' work.[17]After 1929, Hirons formed a partnership with F. W. Mellor for two years and later practiced on his

[14] "(Former) Childs Restaurant Building," New York Landmarks Preservation Commission Report, February 4, 2003.
[15] A complete listing of Dennison & Hirons projects has not been located; however, it is also possible that it was the Bernardsville church project that brought the young architects to the attention of the Childs brothers.
[16] "Ethan Dennison, Architect, Is Dead," *New York Times*, October 10, 1954.
[17] "Terra Cotta Work of Dennison & Hirons, Architects," *Atlantic Terra Cotta Magazine* IX (June, 1928), n.p. The

own until 1940. He designed many public buildings, including the war memorials at Worcester, Massachusetts and Vincennes, Indiana.

Comparatively little is known about **W. Davenport Jones**, who was the architect of the largest dwelling in the district, the striking 1905 Shingle style dwelling designed for Ulrich Eberhardt, Jr., son of a wealthy industrialist from Newark, New Jersey (inventory #14; photo #12). W. Davenport Jones was undoubtedly William Davenport Jones, son of Edward Henry Jones and Mary Ann Davenport, who was born in 1868 and died in 1933 in Newark.[18] The 1910 United States Census listed Jones and his wife, Jennie B. Jones, living on Fourth Avenue in Newark and working as an architect. His home address in Newark continued to be the same in the 1920 and 1930 census reports. Records show that Jones maintained an architectural office in New York between 1895 and 1899 and again between 1902 and 1908.[19] Jones was apparently engaged in general work. According to his obituary, he was the architect for the Hospital for Women and Children, the Woodmen's Junior Order, and the Woodside Building and Loan Association buildings in Newark as well as many private residences in the Forest Hill section of that city.[20] The earliest known residential design by him was the 1899 W.J. Leggett residence in the affluent Forest Hill neighborhood. An article in 1910 about the desirability of some of New Jersey's developing suburbs contains a description of another Forest Hill residence designed by Jones:

> The building has the homelike effect of the old English style in its great, overhanging, half-timbered gable and mission style touches. It is a stucco building, two and a half stories in height designed by William Davenport Jones of Newark. It contains ten rooms and two baths. The living room and dining room are trimmed in chestnut, the parlor and the bathrooms in basswood, cypress trim prevailing elsewhere. . . . Among the details of the interior work are parquet flooring, tiles bathrooms and vestibule, steam heat, and electric lights. . . . It cost about $20,000.[21]

As a Newark resident, Ulrich Eberhardt, Jr. may have been familiar with Jones' work, or Jones may have come to Eberhardt's attention through Olcott Avenue developer Frank B. Allen, a Newark attorney who was the son-in-law of Newark resident Jacob Skinkle, one of the wealthiest landowners in that city during the late 19th century.[22]

During the opening decades of the 20th century, Olcott Avenue was the most fashionable street in Bernards Township, outside the Mountain Colony. Eberhardt's Shingle-style house, a late example of the style, was the sole example of that style constructed in the district. Several of the other dwellings in the district are good examples of Period Revival architecture chosen by people of means in America's growing

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only other architectural firm to which an entire issue of this magazine was devoted was McKim, Mead & White in 1927.

[18] Email correspondence from W. Barry Thomson, September 14, 2007.

[19] James Ward, *Architects in Practice New York City, 1900-1940*, Union, NJ: J&D Associates, 1989; Dennis Steadman Francis, *Architects in Practice: New York City, 1840-1900*, [New York]: Committee for the Preservation of Architectural Records, 1979, p. 45.

[20] "William D. Jones Dies, Was Newark Architect," *Newark Evening News*, October 18, 1933.

[21] "Despite Lateness of Season Building Operations Continue Active in New Jersey's Many Popular Suburbs," *New York Times*, October 30, 1910.

[22] *New York Times*, May 14, 1890.

communities during the first decades of the 20th century. The substantial Colonial Revival center hall dwellings at inventory #s 13 and 18 (photo #s 11 & 13), both free interpretations of colonial precedents, feature such hallmarks of the style as symmetrical hipped roof shape, broad windows, and columned entry porch. Dwellings at inventory #s 2 and 12 (photo #s 4 & 10) are robust hipped-roof examples of the Craftsman style. Both are similarly restrained in stylistic elaboration and feature typical wide eaves and solid railings on their front porches.

**Community Development**

Olcott Avenue was significant during the period of its development as a neighborhood intended to appeal to an increasingly prosperous class of local merchants and business owners by means of deed restrictions placed on each property, which were to be the forerunners of local zoning ordinances enacted several decades later. While not unique in America at the time, the deed restrictions were a novel introduction in a traditionally rural area.[23] For more than 150 years, Bernards Township had been an agrarian community composed of dispersed farmsteads with several small crossroads hamlets to provide needed services. Bernardsville, which was originally known as Vealtown, was one of those hamlets.[24] The late 19th-century development of the Mountain Colony brought a group of Gilded Age tycoons who needed local services and goods for their baronial estates. They needed carpenters, masons, farm workers, and servants, and Bernardsville saw an influx of workers, including Italian, German, Irish, and East European immigrants, who moved into new neighborhoods of simple working class houses, such as a section south of the railroad depot that was established before the turn of the 20th century and was later known as Little Italy. This was a dramatic change for Bernardsville and for the township as a whole that would stir up anxieties among the older residents for a number of decades.[25] At the same time, a middle class of local professionals and merchants was emerging in Bernardsville, as a byproduct of the development of Bernardsville's enclave of baronial summer estates, which resulted in an increasing population of workers who benefited from wages paid by the tycoons of the Mountain Colony. The workers, in turn, spent their wages in Bernardsville's shops and businesses, thereby increasing the prosperity of the local merchants and professionals.

Thus, by the late nineteenth century, there was a developing market for homes that would appeal to this newly prosperous middle class. Several substantial homes were built on the old main road leading south from the center of Bernardsville; however, Olcott Avenue was unique in the township as a planned neighborhood of comfortable homes constructed in the most fashionable architectural styles, on a broad new avenue set comfortably apart from the working class neighborhoods. To further distinguish the new neighborhood model, restrictions were written into each deed by the developer to control how each buyer could use and lay out his property, and even the minimum value of the home that could be built. The result

[23] See architectural historian Christopher Gray's discussion of restrictions in "Albemarle Road: Brooklyn's Stately Esplanade," *New York Times*, June 22, 2008.
[24] The other Bernards Township hamlets were Basking Ridge, Liberty Corner, Madisonville, Franklin Corners, and Lyons.
[25] During the 1920s, the Ku Klux Klan appeared in Basking Ridge, led by Rev. Carl Mellberg of the Basking Ridge Methodist Church. With its focus during that period on white supremacy, anti-Catholicism, anti-Semitism, and opposition to foreign immigration, it had a sizable following for several years. (Edward A. Schroeder and Wayne F. Koppes, *Basking Ridge Methodism,* Vol. I, Bernardsville, NJ: Hill Press, [1983].

of the constraints, which included specific prohibitions against many business uses as well as home slaughtering-related activities that might be found in lower income communities, was a residential district of substantial dwellings in homogenous settings.

**Education**

In Bernards Township, three new multi-room schools were constructed between 1903 and 1905, a remarkable accomplishment for a rural community that resulted in the closure of five outdated schoolhouses.[26] New four-room schools were built in Basking Ridge (1903) and Liberty Corner (1904). In Bernardsville, the new school building built in 1905 and donated to the Bernards Township Board of Education by Frederic P. Olcott provided space for the first public high school in the township. Prior to that year, the nearest public high school would have been eight to ten miles away in Morristown (established in 1869), or Summit (established 1888).[27] The attention paid to the local schools was not unique to Bernardsville. There was a focus on public education throughout America around the turn of the century, as progressives campaigned to improve its quality and make it mandatory. Progressives campaigned to replace one-room country schools with consolidated schools, improve school buildings, provide vocational training for working-class children and add high school to the curriculum.[28] In Bernards Township, a small group of progressives organized in 1903 the Basking Ridge Improvement Society, with the modernization of the local school system as one of their major concerns.[29] That year, the Society worked to have men sympathetic with progressive ideas, including William Childs, elected to the local school board.[30] Childs, who was by then a successful New York City restaurant entrepreneur, attended the local public school as a child, but then had had to travel to Morristown to attend high school. In 1905, the group backed efforts by the Board of Education to establish a high school in the township, one of the first high school departments in the county.[31] And in 1906 they supported the election of Olcott Avenue resident Dr. Clare Henry to the Board.[32] In his 1904 School Report, Somerset County Superintendent H.C. Krebs singled out Bernards Township for taking the

[26] No longer needed, the Board of Education sold the old schoolhouses at Basking Ridge, Liberty Corner, Mount Prospect, Franklin Corners, and Bernardsville.

[27] For example Samuel and William Childs, who served on the Bernards Township Board of Education during the early years of the 20th century, attended Morristown High School ("Formal Opening of the New Bernards High School Building"); and Agatha R. Greulock recalled high school students attending Summit High School prior to the construction of the Olcott school ("Education in Bernards Township, undated manuscript in the Historical Society of the Somerset Hills archives."

[28] Michael McGerr, *A Fierce Discontent: The Rise and Fall of the Progressive Movement in America, 1870-1920*, New York: Simon & Schuster Inc., 2003. From 1900 to 1909, in America the enrollment rate for children aged 5 to 19 in all types of schools rose from 50.5 per 100 to 59.2; public secondary-school enrollments grew from 519,000 to 841,000; expenditures per pupil in public schools increased from $14 to $24; and the average public school term lengthened from 144.3 days in 1900 to 155.3 days in 1909.

[29] Frederick C. Sutro, "The Basking Ridge Improvement Society," unpublished manuscript in the archives of the Historical Society of the Somerset Hills, c. 1930, p. 4.

[30] Ibid.

[31] A one-year high school program was introduced in Somerville in 1904. *Annual Report of the State Board of Education and the Superintendent of Public Instruction of New Jersey for the School Year Ended June 30, 1904*, Trenton, NJ: MacCrellish & Quigley, 1905, p. 64.

[32] Dr. Henry's election bid failed that year, but he ran successfully in 1908. Sutro, p. 6.

lead – through its ambitious school construction program – in a movement toward "an awakening and an enterprise that augur well for the educational future of the county."[33] In 1905, the number of grammar school graduates was only sixty-five in all of Somerset County; no high school graduates were reported in the county that year or the following year.[34]

By 1900 the need for a new school in Bernardsville had become evident. In fact, the Board of Education was facing overcrowding that year in schools throughout Bernards Township. Discussions of the school problem continued until 1904, when Frederic P. Olcott, a wealthy financier and summer resident, made an offer to the Board of Education to personally secure land and erect a school in Bernardsville.[35] His offer was accepted. The handsome new Bernardsville schoolhouse, designed by renowned New York architect, Henry Janeway Hardenbergh, was comprised of two floors with four classrooms each and a third floor with a large hall and four small classrooms. It was erected at what was for the time and rural locale an extraordinary cost of over $100,000 on land purchased for $10,600. A Newark newspaper commented that the new schoolhouse would be "one of the most striking features of this part of the State."[36] The building was equipped with "every modern appliance, and . . . made not only useful, but beautiful."[37] The deed conveyed by Olcott to the Board of Education contained restrictions to assure that the property would be used in perpetuity for non-sectarian educational purposes, that the school would be free to all township school children, and that the property should not be sold, mortgaged, or pledged for any reason. This "splendid gift," as it was still called years later, suddenly transformed the education opportunities in the township.[38] By the time the new building was dedicated, the Board of Education had approved adding two grades for a new "high school department," and for the first time a public high school education was available in Bernards Township. In his report that year, Superintendent Krebs specifically called out Olcott's gift to the township, remarking "This will, undoubtedly, be one of the finest public school buildings in the United Sates, as Mr. Olcott will spare no pains to construct and equip it according to the most modern ideas of school requirement."[39] Unlike most other rural communities, Bernards Township was clearly in the vanguard to provide a publicly financed higher education. A grateful population passed resolutions of appreciation in Olcott's honor and promptly elected him to the Board of Education. Wolfe Avenue was swiftly renamed in recognition of his gift, and the central square in Bernardsville was dedicated to him. An inscription beneath a portrait of Olcott that still hangs in the old school building reads: "Patron and Benefactor of Education."

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[33] *Annual Report of the State Board of Education, 1904*, p. 64.
[34] *Annual Report of the State Board of Education and the Superintendent of Public Instruction of New Jersey for the School Year Ending June 30th, 1906*, Somerville, NJ: The Unionist-Gazette Printing House, 1907, p. 86. By 1906, one- or two-year high school curriculums had been established at Somerville and Bridgewater in addition to Bernards Township.
[35] Bernards Township Board of Education Minutes (BOE), March 26, 1904.
[36] "Bernardsville's New Schoolhouse Nearly Finished," *[Newark] Sunday Call*, May 7, 1905.
[37] Ibid.
[38] "The New High School Building," *The Crimson*, March 13, 1928, in the Bernardsville Public Library (BPL) Local History Room.
[39] Ibid.

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

### *Late 19th Century*

Bernardsville remained secondary in importance within Bernards Township to Basking Ridge until the late 19th century.[40] An 1873 atlas shows Bernardsville with two mills, a blacksmith shop, a hotel, and a store clustered in the vicinity of the intersection along with a handful of residences, while a Methodist Episcopal Church, another blacksmith shop and a school are shown scattered along the roads north of the intersection.[41] In contrast, the nearby village of Basking Ridge is depicted with a far denser concentration of dwellings, institutions and businesses, including four churches, an academy, two doctors, a store, a hotel, a bakery, a blacksmith shop, a wheelwright shop, and a proposed development of small house lots. Somerset County historian James P. Snell noted in 1881 that Basking Ridge was "the most considerable village in the township" with 800 residents, four churches, a dozen businesses, and six physicians.[42] His list for Bernardsville was considerably shorter, with one church, two general stores, a hotel, two blacksmiths, and a dressmaker.

Visible on the Bernardsville detail of the 1873 atlas is the station for the West Line Rail Road, which inaugurated service in January 1872 from Bernardsville, the end of the line, to Summit where the line connected with the Morris and Essex Rail Road, providing service to Newark and New York City.[43] Also visible on the atlas are the names of two wealthy New Yorkers, George B. Post and George I. Seney, who had recently established summer residences in the hills north of the railroad. The arrival in the area of the railroad and these two men would dramatically alter the future course of Bernardsville's development. Seney, who was on a path to become president of Metropolitan Bank of New York, and Post, already an established architect with a national reputation and a scion of New York society, both visited the area as boarders.[44] Shortly afterward, they became the first of the Gilded Age plutocrats to purchase large tracts in an area that would become famous as a summer resort for the fabulously wealthy, on a par with enclaves at Lenox, Massachusetts and Newport, Rhode Island. In his 1881 county history, James P. Snell took note of the wealthy New York men who had summer residences in Bernardsville, naming Seney, Post, and A.V. Stout, president of Shoe and Leather Manufacturers' Bank in New York.[45]

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[40] John Morton, a wealthy New York City merchant who fled to Basking Ridge during the Revolutionary War and was known as the "Rebel Banker" owned a gristmill in "Veal Town" at the time of his death in 1782. Shortly afterward, Morton's son, Jacob, who acted as executor, advertised the mill and forty adjoining acres for sale. *New Jersey Journal*, July 24, 1782.

[41] F.W. Beers, *Atlas of Hunterdon County*, New Jersey. 1873.

[42] James P. Snell, *History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, New Jersey, with Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of its Prominent Men and Pioneers*, Philadelphia: Everts & Peck, 1881, p. 749. In addition to four churches, Basking Ridge boasted two general stores, a grocery- and fancy-store; bakery, tin and hardware store, drug store, post office, telegraph office, carriage shop, two blacksmiths, and a creamery.

[43] Schuylar L. Mott (ed), *Among the Blue Hills: Bernardsville, a History*, Bernardsville, NJ: Bernardsville History Book Committee, 1973, p. 159.

[44] Post was among the "Four Hundred" noted members of New York society listed in 1892. "Ward M'Allister Gives Out The Official List: The Only 400," *New York Times*, February 16, 1892.

[45] Snell, p. 750.

Although the West Line Rail Road immediately began promoting the sale of nearly a thousand proposed tiny lots in Basking Ridge, hoping to create a commuter suburb that would provide steady revenue to the railroad, little development occurred there; instead, the railroad would help Bernardsville become the dominant town center of the region by facilitating the lifestyle of the enormously wealthy newcomers .[46] Basking Ridge would continue as an inexpensive summer destination for families of more moderate means, who boarded at several hotels or with local farm families.[47] In the final years of the 19th century, Bernardsville was a "flourishing little place."[48] The village acquired its own post office in 1872.[49] The Methodist Episcopal Church outgrew its frame building and in 1880 George I. Seney (1826-1893), the son of a Methodist minister and by then a bank president, gave a donation of land and a frame church, a gift valued at $10,000, located a short distance east of the intersection, at the intersection of two new streets, appropriately named Church and Wesley.[50] The church was described by historian James Snell shortly after its erection as "one of the most beautiful and convenient ecclesiastical structures in this portion of the state."[51] A neighborhood of mainly small dwellings soon developed around the church. By 1891, according to a business review published that year, Bernardsville was "an enterprising and growing post-village, . . . in the centre of a highly fertile and productive agricultural district with which the place enjoys a considerable trade. The educational and religious facilities are good; the intellectual and moral status are of a high order."[52] Businesses listed were L. Manker, harness maker; Calvin D. Smith, proprietor of a general merchandise business employing three assistants; Chas. McMichael, proprietor of Bernardsville Mill employing three mill workers; and Edward Baily, proprietor of a meat market employing one assistant and two wagons "to serve the distant trade."[53]

A local history provides a description of the thriving service economy at the turn of the century, which owed much to the residents of the burgeoning Mountain Colony:

> H. N. Miller and Barker and Higgins had hay and grain; Ludlow, Mayberry, and Getzoff did a good business in groceries and meats; Allshesky and Gianquitti and Corrado had hardware; Conkling Lumber and Dave Neill had coal. There were painters, electricians, plumbers, upholsterers, masons, carpenters, builders, shoemakers, and even a Chinese laundry. There were a great many errands to

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[46] May 29, 1873 handbill for "1000 Ne Plus Ultra LOTS!" in *Historical Booklet of Bernards Township, N.J.*, Bernardsville, NJ: Historical Booklet Committee, 1960, n.p.
[47] Janet Foster, "Basking Ridge Historic District National Register Nomination," Revised January 1993.
[48] Mott, p. 82.
[49] John L. Kay and Chester M. Smith, Jr,, *New Jersey Postal History: The Post Offices and First Postmasters, 1776-1976*, Lawrence, MA: Quarterman Publications, Inc., 1977, p. 119.
[50] "President Seney's Gifts," *New York Times*, July 9, 1880. As of 1880, Seney also had given gifts totaling $176,000 to Wesleyan University, a Methodist school.
[51] Snell, p. 747.
[52] *Business Review of the Counties of Hunterdon, Morris and Somerset, New Jersey*, Philadelphia: Pennsylvania Publishing Co., 1891, p. 138.
[53] Contrast businesses listed in Bernardsville with those in Basking Ridge: P.C. Henry, groceries and general merchandise employing three assistants; N.C. Bonnell, blacksmith; Robert Bishop, undertaker; W. R. Bromfield, plumber, tinsmith and hardware employing four assistants; Lewis Shafer, clothing and gentlemen's furnishings; Charles A. Moore, hotelier with 16 rooms; J.R. Hollinshead, blacksmith, employing one assistant; and Misses M.B. and I.C. Browne, groceries and dry goods.

be run; there were a great many packages to be handled and delivered, for a great many thing came by railway express, and such things as fresh fish, boxed in ice, had to be delivered upon arrival. There were big jobs and small jobs, and they gave a living to a good many people.[54]

Residential development in the village was also booming as a result of the demand for construction workers, farm hands, and servants at the lavish Mountain Colony country places that were being built at a rapid pace. A plat for seventy-five small lots south of the railroad was filed in 1892, a neighborhood largely populated by immigrants that would eventually be called Little Italy.[55] The timing was right for a development that would appeal to the local merchants and professional population. Growing increasingly affluent, this segment of the population comprised the local emerging middle class.

Wolfe Avenue (the original name for Olcott Avenue) was laid out as a public road in 1899, per a deed between heirs of Stewart Wolfe and Frank B. Allen, who would control all the land fronting on the broad new road, which was originally dirt. In 1869, Stewart Wolfe, who lived in New York City at the time, had purchased fifty-seven acres for $5,700 from Walter K. Sturges, who had owned the property for only three years when he sold it.[56] At Wolfe's death several years later, his heirs – Mary, his wife, and Henry S. Wolfe and Minnie Wolfe Hull, his children – were left a sizable tract of land a short distance east of the center of Bernardsville, adjacent to land owned by the estate of Anna Skinkle Allen, wife of Frank Bell Allen.[57] In 1889, at the age of thirty-eight, Allen had married Anna Skinkle, the twenty-eight year old only surviving child of Jacob Skinkle, reportedly one of the wealthiest landowners in Newark.[58] Anna's father died a year after her wedding, and she died five years later at her home in East Orange, leaving an infant daughter, also Anna.[59] Her estate included twenty-two acres in Bernardsville she acquired from John Mullen for $3,423 in 1892.[60] Little is known of Frank Allen's professional life; however, by 1899 he was president of Newark Home Builders and had built a large house for himself across from the north end of Wolfe Avenue.[61]

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[54] Mott, p. 82.
[55] "Map of S. A. Hall Tract, 1892," map #103 filed at Somerset County Hall of Records.
[56] Somerset County (SC) Deeds, Book A4, p. 142.
[57] Born in Branchville, New Jersey, in 1851, Allen entered the Newark law firm of Francis, Titsworth and Marsh, as a clerk and was admitted to the New Jersey Bar in 1872. Census records from 1880 show twenty-eight-year old Allen living in Newark with an aunt and two younger brothers.
[58] "Necrology of Members," *Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society*, 51 (1933): 92; *New York Times*, May 12, 1890.
[59] Census data from 1900 indicates Anna Allen was born in 1896, which inexplicably conflicts with the death of her mother in October 1895 as reported in the *New York Times*, October 18, 1895.
[60] SC Deeds, Book K7, p. 405; "Map of property of Estate of Anna S. Allen, at Bernardsville, N.J. surveyed August 20, 1904, by Anthony Schumacker, C.E." In 1868, John Mullen acquired two tracts from John McMullen, one of twenty acres and the other of twenty-two acres. Mullen's heirs retained a tract of land that was south of Allen's property and west of the Wolfe tract. In 1900 and 1902 Allen acquired additional lands from John Mullen. SC Deeds, Book D9, p. 40 and Book G12, p. 483
[61] According to the 1910 United States Census, Allen was living on Olcott Avenue (inventory #19) as a boarder of Helen Hedden, a widow who purchased her property in 1904 for $3,500 from Allen's Newark Home Builders; SC Deeds, Book H10, p. 409.

Particularly noteworthy in the 1899 deed between Stewart and Allen are the strict restrictions imposed on lots fronting on the broad new avenue:

> It is understood and agreed between said parties that said Wolfe Avenue . . . is hereby dedicated to public use as a public street or highway and that all the premises binding upon said Wolfe Avenue and belonging to the parties hereto, but in no case to exceed a depth greater than two hundred feet . . . are hereby made subject to the restrictions, that for the space of twenty years from the date here of, said premises shall be used only for erection and use of dwelling houses, and necessary outbuildings, each dwelling house to cost at least three thousand dollars ($3000) and to be set back at least fifteen feet from the line of said avenue and other buildings at least seventy-five feet from the line of said avenue, and for the period of aforesaid shall not be used for a brewery, distillery, slaughter house, smith shop, forge or furnace, steam engine, brass foundry, nail or other foundry, soap, candle, starch, varnish, blue, ink, turpentine, bone or entrail factory or manufactory of gun power or any bone boiling establishment or factory for tanning, dressing or preparing skins, hides or leather, or a livery stable or hog pen or any other dangerous, noxious or offensive purpose, or establishment whatsoever, or for any retail business purposes.[62]

The restrictions were a method used to distinguish the new middle class neighborhood from the working class neighborhoods in a time before zoning ordinances existed, a concept that was not limited to Bernardsville, but in this instance comprised an unusually specific and lengthy list of prohibited uses.[63] Also in 1899, Albemarle Road in Brooklyn's Prospect Park was laid out according to its original prospectus to create a suburb for "people of intelligence and good breeding" by controlling the design of the houses and the arrangement of the streets. The goal was to shape an environment "where a wife and children, in going to and fro, are not subjected to the annoyance of contact with the undesirable elements of society."[64]

### *20th Century*

Typical of the Wolfe Avenue residents was Dr. Clare Henry, a young dentist, and his wife, Ermonce Eberhardt Henry. According to family history, during the summers of the 1890s, Ermonce Eberhardt, her mother, and her brothers and sister, took the Delaware Lackawanna & Western Railroad from Newark to Basking Ridge, where they spent their vacation in the country. It was in Basking Ridge that Ermonce met Clare Henry in his father's general store, the P.C. Henry Store.[65] Ermonce's father, Ulrich Eberhardt, Sr. (1841-1901) emigrated from Switzerland to Newark in 1850 and apprenticed at Ezra Gould's machine shop there commencing in 1859. In 1867, he married Emeline Hudson, and they built a house in the Ironbound Section of the city, a working class neighborhood with a sizable immigrant population. Eberhardt became Gould's partner in 1877 and purchased Gould's share of the business in 1890, which by then had earned a high reputation for building automatic tools. The Eberhardts continued to live in their familiar working

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[62] SC Deeds, Book A9, p. 27.
[63] The first zoning ordinance in Bernardsville was enacted around 1933. Interview with Mike Mondock, Bernardsville Assistant Engineer.
[64] Christopher Gray, "Albemarle Road: Brooklyn's Stately Esplanade," *New York Times*, June 22, 2008.
[65] "H. Ezra Eberhardt Jr. and Robert M. Hudson, *Our Hudson Family History*, Baltimore, MD: Gateway Press, Inc., 1989, p. 545. It is very possible that Ermonce was vacationing at the Washington House Hotel, which was located next door to Phineas C. Henry's store in Basking Ridge.

class neighborhood, even as their wealth increased substantially. Summering in Basking Ridge rather than in the grander Bernardsville Mountain Colony would have been in keeping with the family's lifestyle.

Ulrich Eberhardt died in March of 1901.[66] In October of the same year, Ermonce married Clare Henry, who by that time was a dentist with a new practice in Bernardsville.[67] Evidently in anticipation of the wedding, in April of 1901 Ermonce's mother purchased "Lot #10" on Wolfe Avenue from the heirs of Stewart Wolfe and by December a house in the most fashionable Colonial Revival style had been constructed (inventory #13; photo #11).[68] Mrs. Eberhardt conveyed the property to her daughter in February of the following year.[69] Ermonce's brother, Ulrich Eberhardt, Jr., was also married in 1901, and continued to live in Newark.[70] In 1902 he purchased property next to his sister, acquiring Lots 11 through 16 of the Wolfe tract. In 1905, he acquired a parcel from Frank Allen's Newark Home Builders Company and started construction on what had grown to become a two-acre lot.[71] Eberhardt used architect William Davenport Jones, who built a number of substantial homes in Forest Hills, a wealthy enclave in Newark, to design a large Shingle-style dwelling. Ulrich eventually subdivided several lots from his property, including, in 1911, a lot that he sold to his widowed sister, Emma (Emeline) N. Craig.[72] The Eberhardt, Craig and Henry children attended the Bernardsville public schools.

As the residential building boom continued, by 1900 overcrowded schools had become a serious problem in Bernardsville, Basking Ridge, and Liberty Corner. The earliest known schoolhouse at Bernardsville, a stone building constructed north of the crossroads in 1824, was in use until around 1840, when another stone schoolhouse was constructed about a mile north of the center of the hamlet, which was used until 1880. In that year the old Methodist church building was converted into a schoolhouse and the stone school was evidently abandoned.[73] By 1871, there were eight schoolhouses in Bernards Township, with 170 children at Basking Ridge, 126 at Liberty Corner, and 90 at Bernardsville.[74] According to historian Snell, the public schools had "always been a subject of interest to citizens, and . . . well supported."[75] However, there was no local high school and few students even completed grammar school.[76] During the 1890s teacher Kenneth Mathieson was reportedly the first to hold a commencement exercise and award diplomas

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[66]Upon Ulrich Eberhardt's death, his widow gave the business to her three sons, Frederick, Ulrich, Jr. and Henry Ezra, and her husband's investments to her daughters, Ermonce and Emeline. Eberhardt and Hudson, p. 378-9.
[67] "Dr. C. M. Henry Dies at Age of 77," *Bernardsville News*, November 1953.
[68] Eberhardt and Hudson, p. 379
[69] SC Deeds, Book R9, p. 128.
[70] Eberhardt and Hudson, p. 535.
[71] In 1906, Mrs. Emeline Eberhardt purchased two lots next to her son, which she eventually conveyed to him in 1925. SC Deeds, Book P10, p. 217 cited in SC Deeds, Book F20, p. 4.
[72] SC Deeds, Book X12, p. 117. Mrs. Craig sold the property in 1929.
[73] Mott, p. 126.
[74] Mott, p. 125. The eight schoolhouses were: Bernardsville, Basking Ridge, Mine Mount, Mine Brook, Franklin, Mount Pleasant, Liberty Corner and Pleasant Valley.
[75] Snell reported that the aggregate value of the school property in the township in 1879 was $9,200; 522 students were enrolled with nine teachers who taught an average attendance of 245; and the total amount of money received from all sources for public purposes was $3,3385. Snell, p. 748.
[76] Snell, p. 749.

to graduating eighth graders. According to one account, three diplomas were awarded in 1894.[77] The few township students who went on to public high school traveled by horse to Morristown or by train to Summit. In 1900, overcrowding led to consideration being given to build a union school to serve Basking Ridge and Bernardsville; however, the proposed location was not conveniently located to either village, and concerns were raised about ownership of such a school in the event that Bernardsville should be made into a borough. The idea was dropped.[78] That same year, Samuel Childs, president of the Board of Education, had plans drawn by architect John Corley Westervelt to add another story to the Bernardsville Public School (the former Methodist Church) and to remodel the Basking Ridge schoolhouse.[79] Samuel S. Childs (1865-1925) was one of ten children of a prosperous farmer who had been in Bernards Township since the mid 1800s, eventually accumulating hundreds of acres of farmland. Samuel and his brother William (1865-1938) launched an innovative restaurant in New York City in 1889 which became so successful that they began to add new locations, eventually opening more and one hundred, including a number designed by John Westervelt. Westervelt's school plans seemed to focus primarily on stylistic changes, and neither plan substantially increased the capacity of the district.

Nothing came of Westervelt's plans, but efforts to address the overcrowded schools continued. In August 1902, voters approved an appropriation of $9,000 for a new school in Basking Ridge, and the school board worked for months "in fruitless endeavor" to secure the erection of a stone school house that was favored by Samuel Childs and his brother Luther.[80] Samuel Childs gave the board his personal check for $1,500 to cover deficiencies, but then, for reasons not explained in the minutes, two months later asked for its return.[81] The board subsequently voted, with the two Childs brothers dissenting, to adopt plans furnished by the state superintendent. Samuel Childs evidently continued to press his preference for a stone building, and eventually an agreement was achieved with contractors to make West Millington bluestone affordable, thereby establishing a precedent for stone construction that would be followed in Bernardsville and Liberty Corner. The new school was opened in September 1903.[82]

Population growth continued in Bernardsville, fueling the residential building boom, as evidenced by a 1903 article in the *Bernardsville News*:

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[77] Josephine M. Waltz, *Schoolhouses of Early Bernards Township*, Virginia Beach, VA: The Donning Company, 2007.
[78] "School Question to Date," *Bernardsville News*, June 8, 1900.
[79] "Bernards School," *Bernardsville News*, June 8, 1900.
[80] BOE minutes mention Samuel, Luther and William Childs at various times. Luther did not serve on the board but was presumably in attendance at some of the meetings. Board Attorney Richard V. Lindabury advised that the township could not be obligated beyond the amount approved by the voters, and "if Mr. S.S. Childs desired to pay the difference between the sort of building that he and his brother want and that which you can construct within the appropriation, I can see no reason why you should not build the more expensive building. However, to avoid the criminal law, you must have the contribution from Mr. Childs in hand before you make your contracts." Correspondence from Lindabury to Evander H. Schley, October 10, 1902. Copy of letter inserted into BOE minutes book.
[81] BOE minutes, December 20, 1902.
[82] BOE minutes, April 27, 1903. The Basking Ridge School, later named Maple Avenue School, was demolished in 1973.

> The demand for houses in our midst continues unabated but there is not a house to be had here. In view of this condition, which, as a matter of fact has existed for many months, it seems strange that some person or persons with money to invest do not take steps to supply this urgent demand. It is estimated that as many as 20 or 25 houses could be immediately rented upon their completion, and as rents are comparatively high here, the investment should be a profitable one.[83]

In January 1903, a U-shaped tract south of Wolfe Avenue was proposed for subdivision into ninety-five building lots of 50x200 feet and smaller.[84] Some Bernardsville residents may have looked upon the proposal with alarm at the potential for many additional school children. Prosperous Wolfe Avenue residents may also have felt conflicted at the prospect that the proposed subdivision might intrude upon the special nature of their neighborhood, with its restricted deeds, spacious lots, and substantial houses. While many of the residents of Wolfe Avenue had deep roots in the township, in all likelihood the proposed subdivision would attract many less affluent outsiders. On the other hand, the merchants and professionals who made up the majority of Wolfe Avenue residents could also view any new residents as potential new customers and clients.

At the January 29, 1904 school board meeting, a motion was passed to construct a new schoolhouse at Bernardsville. The proposal was subsequently discussed at two public meeting over the next several weeks, with no apparent resolution until what seems to have been a surprise announcement at the March 26th board meeting. It was then, according to board minutes, district clerk J. E. Ballentine "reported that Mr. F. P. Ollcot [sic] was a going to secure land and erect a School House at Bernardsville for the Township of Bernards."[85] This surprising and brief entry remained the only mention within the minutes of Olcott or his extraordinary offer until the March 1905 annual school meeting, when Olcott was nominated from the floor and elected to the board; Olcott, however, was unable to accept the election due to ill health.[86] With a new Bernardsville schoolhouse having been taken care of by a benefactor, the board was free to move forward to build a new schoolhouse at Liberty Corner. A proposal to spend $10,000 for a two-story stone schoolhouse was approved by township voters in April 1904; contracts were awarded in early August; the cornerstone was laid August 29; and the new schoolhouse was dedicated in January 1905.[87]

In the meantime, Olcott worked quietly to fulfill his promise. Frederic Pepoon Olcott (1841-1909), the son of well-to-do Albany banker, moved to New York City after the Civil War, where he worked as stockbroker for ten years. In 1882, he joined the ten-year old Central Trust Company of New York, and was named president in 1884.[88] In 1888, Olcott purchased a 125-acre farm from George I. Seney, eventually increasing his property to nearly 500 acres, which he called Round Top Farm.[89] The Olcotts were summer residents of the Mountain Colony, retaining a handsome house on East Fifty-third Street in New York City.

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[83] *Bernardsville News*, undated 1903 article.
[84] "Map showing a portion of the estate of Stewart Wolfe Dec'd at Bernardsville," filed January 30, 1903.
[85] BOE minutes, March 25, 1904.
[86] BOE minutes, March 21 and 25, 1905.
[87] BOE minutes.
[88] Olcott retired from that position in 1905 and was then named chairman of the board. Central Trust Company eventually became Manufacturers Hanover Trust Company.
[89] According to township tax records, by 1892 Olcott, Seney and Post were the three largest taxpayers. Bernards Township Tax Records, 1892.

He was representative of those among what was then a largely Protestant upper class who at that time held strong ideas regarding civic and Christian duty, which found expression in a variety of community projects.[90] Olcott was not alone among the Mountain Colony residents in his locally directed paternalism, nor was he even the first to build and donate a public school to the Bernards Township. An article in New York *Daily Tribune* pointed out that "Mr. Olcott is the second member of the New-York colony in the Bernard[s] Hills to erect a public school for the benefit of the people of the mountains. Grant B. Schley built a handsome public school building near his summer home at Far Hills."[91]

For the school project, Olcott moved quickly to acquire twenty-six acres from the heirs of Stewart Wolfe, paying $10,600 in April 1904 for the U-shaped tract on the south side of Wolfe Avenue that had been proposed for subdivision into ninety-five building lots the previous year.[92] He engaged another resident of the Mountain Colony, the architect Henry Janeway Hardenbergh, to design the new high school.[93] Prior to the Olcott school project, Hardenbergh had no other known commissions in the Mountain Colony vicinity. According to Mountain Colony architectural historians Jack Turpin and Barry Thomson, "in his most famous buildings, Hardenbergh made personal statements by using historical sources, especially European Renaissance styles."[94] The renowned architect was known to carefully choose the details of a building himself. His Tudor Revival design for the school was neither average nor economical. Specified construction materials, such as Waterloo granite and red clay roof tiles, had to be imported. Above the Tudor arch in the front the phrase, "Knowledge is Power" was elegantly engraved. Architectural elements, such as exposed rafter tails, raised mortar joints, and jig-sawn interior trim, all added cost, which Olcott apparently found acceptable. Hardenbergh's schoolhouse design was quite grand for the village, and certainly more sophisticated in detail than any other school in the township. Remarkably, despite having to import many of the materials, the school was designed and construction was completed within twelve months.[95]

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[90] Though a Protestant, in 1900, Olcott gave $9,500, representing over half of the construction cost, toward building the Catholic Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Bernardsville, and then went on to purchase an adjacent tract of land for $6,000, which he donated to the church for a parish house. In 1903, Olcott purchased the local tavern building and donated it to the town for use as a public library "Village Church Blessed, *New York Times*, May 3, 1900; "Frederic P. Olcott, Financier, Is Dead," *New York Times*, April 16, 1909.

[91] Waltz, p. 67; Turpin and Thomson, p. 19. A land developer and real estate broker, Schley had acquired thousands of acres of land in the western part of the township and had pressed successfully to extend the railroad west from Bernardsville to a new village center, which was accomplished in 1890. As part of his development plan for the area, which he named Far Hills, Schley set aside land for community use and paid for the cost to build a schoolhouse, a church, a firehouse, a social club, and a recreational complex, which became the nucleus of the village. Far Hills broke away from Bernards Township to form its own Borough in 1921.

[92] "Map showing a portion of the estate of "Stewart Wolfe Dec'd at Bernardsville."

[93] In the 1880s Hardenbergh built himself a frame and stucco summerhouse on the Bernardsville mountain that he called Renemede. Hardenbergh's renowned work, the Dakota building, one of the earliest luxury apartments buildings in New York, was designed in 1884.

[94] Turpin and Thomson, p. 61.

[95] Several years later Hardenbergh was apparently able to adapt his school design commission into what was likely a much more profitable design for the main block of Natirar, the expansive Mountain Colony mansion that he designed in collaboration with Boston architect Guy Lowell.

The pattern and attitude of the Mountain Colony toward the surrounding area had been established by 1900 in large part by George Seney and Frederick Olcott, but other wealthy residents of the Mountain Colony also contributed substantially to the local civic, religious, and educational institutions during this period. According to a local history, "The paternalistic attitude carried through into many fields, churches, the fire companies, and a good many other civic ventures looked to the Mountain for financial support, and they seldom looked in vain."[96] In 1902, summer resident William Stone Post, who was a member of his father's prestigious firm, George B. Post, donated plans for a new Methodist Episcopal parsonage in the Olcott neighborhood, an event that was noteworthy enough to be reported by both the local *Bernardsville News* and the larger circulation Newark *Evening News.*[97] The Newark paper described the picturesque Tudor Revival dwelling:

> It would be a difficult matter to find within the bounds of the Newark Methodist Episcopal Conference a more complete parsonage than the one that was completed last December in Bernardsville. . . . The first story is of rustic stonework. The second story is of shingle finish, with slate roofing. The house has electric light, steam heat, hot and cold water throughout, with all other modern improvements. There are five rooms on the first floor, and five rooms besides the pastor's study and a bath on the second floor. There is a splendidly arranged cellar under the entire building, containing two storage rooms, a furnace room, kitchen cellar and laundry. There is a large attic over all. The cost of the building is about $8,500.[98]

The death in 1893 of their primary benefactor, George Seney, had been a loss keenly felt by the church, which as a result his reliable financial support for more ten years had not had to assume full responsibility for its expenses. According to a later church history, Frederic Olcott "stepped into the breach and . . . supported the church generously."[99] It is not clear how the parsonage construction costs were funded, but Olcott may have provided assistance.

Another example of paternalistic community support appeared in the Olcott neighborhood in 1906. In 1903, the recently established St. Bernards Episcopal Church in Bernardsville initiated a parish nurse program that was soon transformed into the Visiting Nurse Committee, later renamed the Visiting Nurse Association, which became a nonsectarian community organization composed of women from the Mountain Colony.[100] In 1906, Mrs. Walter P. Bliss, whose husband was a prominent New York banker, led an effort to construct a building that would serve as headquarters for the Association as well as housing for the nurses.[101] A site on Olcott Avenue was selected despite the fact that less expensive building lots were available in other parts of the town. Mrs. Bliss organized the funding and oversaw the construction of the simple

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[96] Mott, p. 84.
[97] [Newark] *Evening News*, March 30, 1903; *Bernardsville News*, March 30, 1903.
[98] [Newark] *Evening News*, March 30, 1903.
[99] "The Bernardsville Methodist Church: 1841 to 1960."
[100] VNA Board Presidents: 1904-1916, Mrs. Clarence Blair Mitchell, 1916-1918, Mrs. C. Ledyard Blair; 1918-1919, Mrs. Percy R. Pyne; 1919-1921, Mrs. Walter P. Bliss; 1921-1925, Mrs. Arthur Turnbull; 1925-1934, Mrs. Shelton E. Martin; 1934-1935, Mrs. Walter P. Bliss; 1936-1937, Mrs. Richard V.N. Gambrill. Visiting Nurse Association of Somerset Hills, *Our First 100 Years: 1904 – 2004*, [Bernardsville, NJ]: Visiting Nurse Association of Somerset Hills, 2004 (VNA).
[101] VNA, p. 5.

gable front Colonial Revival building (inventory #9; photo #7). Ten years later, George B. Post & Sons donated plans for an addition to the VNA building in memory of the wife of United States Senator John Dryden, another resident of the Mountain Colony.[102]

The attention being paid to new school buildings in Bernards Township was being noticed outside of the community. In his 1904 report to the State Board of Education, County Superintendent H. C. Krebs noted the progress and specifically lauded Olcott's anticipated gift to the township."[103] In March 1905, township residents acknowledged the significance of Olcott's donation by electing him to the Board of Education. Due to ill health, however, Olcott was not able to serve.[104] Olcott donated the twenty-seven acre property and the completed schoolhouse to the Bernards Township Board of Education just one year after making his offer. As part of the school property conveyance, the owners along the avenue signed a release to assure nothing in their restricted deeds would prevent the construction of a school building.[105] On April 24, 1905, township residents voted to accept the deed for the new school and grounds. At that time, the Board of Education adopted a resolution in appreciation, approved 92-1 by residents attending the meeting:

> Resolved that the hearty thanks and enduring gratitude of the people of Bernards Township are due to Frederic P. Olcott for his noble gift of a school property in the village of Bernardsville, which, for the size and arrangement of its grounds, and the convenience, stability and beauty of the school building which he has caused to be erected thereon, is unsurpassed by any similar property in the State.
>
> Resolved further that appreciating the benefits of a thorough common school education as the best foundation for good citizenship and the greatest aid to success in life we pledge to the said Frederic P. Olcott to each other and to our children our earnest support both individually and collectively to this notable endeavor to raise the standard and extend the facilities of the free public school system of this Township.[106]

Somerset County Superintendent Krebs singled out the new school for praise in his 1905 School Report:

> The magnificent stone school building donated to Bernards township by Mr. Frederick [sic] Olcott. . . has been completed. . . . Its cost will approximate $80,000. When it is considered that it provides for but eight school rooms, it can be seen that no expense has been spared to make the building a model of beauty and convenience. The spacious grounds, the gymnasium, the fine offices and numerous toilet rooms are a few of the features that unite to make this new building an example of what a modern school should be. The effect of this gift on the welfare of the children cannot be estimated.[107]

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[102] VNA, p. 9..
[103] *Annual Report of the State Board of Education, 1904*, p. 65.
[104] BOE minutes, March 21 and 25, 1905.
[105] SC Deeds, Book F10, p. 35.
[106] BOE minutes, April 24, 1905. By then Olcott was in ill health and, at the age of sixty-four, had to retire as president of the Central Trust Company.
[107] *Annual Report of the State Board of Education and the Superintendent of Public Instruction of New Jersey for the School Year ending June 30th, 1905*, Paterson, NJ: News Printing Co., 1906, p. 89.

At their June 1905 meeting, the Board of Education voted to sell the old Bernardsville schoolhouse and use the proceeds to establish the first high school department in Bernards Township. No longer would township students have to travel to Morristown or Summit for a high school education.[108] The new schoolhouse was formally dedicated September 9, 1905, the third new school to be opened in the township within the remarkable span of only three years. One thousand programs were printed for the event, an indication of the importance attached to the new school and the widespread support by the community. A newspaper article provided a description of the new school:

> The schoolhouse, which has been more than a year in construction, is a stone structure on an elevated tract of twenty-seven acres to the north of the village. Mr. Olcott's original intention was to spend $75,000 upon the building, but it has been found that it will cost more than $100,000. The building is equipped with every modern appliance, and is made not only useful, but beautiful. . . . It is 125 feet front, 90 feet deep and three stories in height. The basement will contain a gymnasium, 30x90 fitted with all the latest apparatus. The twenty-seven acres surrounding the school will be made by Mr. Olcott, in addition to ordinary playgrounds, into a park for athletic enjoyment. A baseball and tennis ground will be made, a track laid out and a grove on the property turned into a picnic grove.[109]

In 1906, the first closing exercises of the Bernardsville Public School attracted an impressive crowd estimated at 700 persons. Principal James T. Schock spoke of the work of the past school year and of the "many difficulties that had attended the organization of the various grades." These difficulties, he said, had practically been overcome, and by another year the work would be carried to the standard established by the State Board of Education. Of forty members of the high school at the beginning of the year, thirteen left before the end of the term.[110] The first commencement exercises included an address by Republican Governor Edward C. Stokes, an indication of the magnitude and prestige attached to the event. The favorable response by the community to the improvements to local education, both in infrastructure and curriculum, was made evident at the 1906 annual school meeting, when a large crowd unanimously approved doubling the local school tax. Somerset County Superintendent Krebs singled out the township once again, remarking, "The people of that township were gratified with the progress of the schools, and were perfectly willing to bear the expense of the improvement."[111]

The new school was much appreciated by the community and frequently lauded. There was at least a belief that Bernards High School was one of the most highly rated high schools in the state because of the financial support that it received and because of the quality of its faculty. An editorial in the 1910 yearbook stated: "The scholars of Bernards High School be ever mindful of the unusual advantages they possess in their attractive building and extensive grounds. If this school should be contrasted with others of its size, the superiority of our school surroundings would at once become apparent. Situated as it is among the beautiful Bernardsville hills, no more suitable site could be found in the country." Many years later Olcott's gift

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[108] According to the BOE minutes, Professor James T. Schock was hired as principal for the entire school and teacher for the two grades of high school that were initially offered.
[109] "Bernardsville's New Schoolhouse Nearly Finished," [Newark] *Sunday Call*, May 7, 1905.
[110] "First High School Reception," *Bernardsville News*, June 15, 1906. Mr. Stokes was not rehired as principal, suggesting the difficulties he mentioned at commencement remained.
[111] *Annual Report of the State Board of Education, 1906*, p. 86.

was still being recognized, even as a new high school was dedicated: "For years we have been immensely proud of our extensive school grounds, and we feel very much indebted to Mr. Olcott who, some time ago, donated this splendid gift to the Board of Education."[112]

The community also honored Frederic Olcott by promptly renaming Wolfe Avenue after him. At the time the new school building was completed in 1905, there were more than half a dozen substantial homes constructed on Olcott Avenue, which, with its substantial, architecturally distinctive houses lining a broad tree-lined street, was unique in Bernards Township.[113] Early Olcott Avenue residents included William R. Bromfield, who established the first hardware, plumbing and tinning business in Basking Ridge; Benjamin Amster, a butcher and grocer; Charles Alpaugh, a local real estate broker; Dr. Clare Henry, the first dentist in the village; and Ulrich Eberhardt, Dr. Henry's brother-in-law, who as a commuter was atypical of the majority of residents in the neighborhood.

Bernardsville's economy continued to flourish and by 1905 Bernardsville's downtown had eclipsed Basking Ridge and Liberty Corner.[114] Between 1901 and 1909, developer Frank B. Allen constructed several new commercial blocks in Bernardsville, including the first movie theater.[115] Shortly before 1909, Ford Avenue, a street just north of Olcott Avenue that predated it, was extended eastward and renamed Highview Avenue, creating a number of new lots that had houses in place by 1909 (inventory #s 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28; photo #s 15, 16, 17, 18, & 36).[116] In contrast to Olcott Avenue, Highview was comparatively narrow and there were no deed restrictions on the lots. The result was a markedly different appearance. Around 1910, William Childs, wealthy restaurateur and onetime member of the local board of education, acquired part of the remaining Anna Skinkle Allen tract east of the high school, which he proceeded to develop as Childsworth Avenue.[117] A 1913 plat shows twelve 100' wide lots were planned, though by 1916 there was evidently only one house constructed (inventory #s 41; photo #26). Sometime prior to 1916, sidewalks and curbs were constructed along Olcott Avenue. The avenue was paved around 1916.[118]

In 1907, the first two students graduated from the Bernardsville high school. The following year, four students graduated, all of who went on to college.[119] Olcott Avenue resident Dr. Clare Henry was

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[112] *Bernards Crimson*, March 13, 1928.

[113] Property owners were Ulrich Eberhardt, Ermonce V. Henry, William R. Bromfield, Charles W. Alpaugh, Irving Davis, Cora L. Prout, Charles F. Mast, and David H. Morris, who purchased several lots to develop. SC Deeds, Book F10, p. 35.

[114] Basking Ridge residents were particularly indignant about the fact that New York trains did not stop at the Basking Ridge station and unsuccessfully filed suit against the railroad to draw attention to the village and "its importance, in the hope that the community will thus be advanced to a more prominent place and entitled to greater considerations." Frederick C. Sutro, "Address before The Basking Ridge Improvement Society, March 31st, 1905," manuscript in the archives of the Historical Society of the Somerset Hills.

[115] Sanborn Map Company, *Bernardsville, Somerset County, NJ, July 1909*; *Bernardsville News*, March 17, 1932.

[116] Sanborn Map Company, 1909.

[117] This property was adjacent to Child's 550-acre property he called Willmere Farms. 1926 Bernards Tax Map in the archives of the Historical Society of the Somerset Hills.

[118] The street improvements are not visible in a postcard from 1909 but appear in a photograph taken prior to the road being paved in 1916.

[119] *The Crimson*, Vol. X, 1916 yearbook of Bernards High School in the archives of THSSH.

elected to the Board of Education in 1908, and would serve on the board until 1927, a period of what would be one of continuous growth in the township.[120] In October 1908, the Board of Education accepted another generous offer from Frederic Olcott for $10,000 to be used for scholarships.[121] By 1910 the Olcott schoolhouse was already crowded. It had eight classrooms and was meant to hold 385 pupils but had 500.[122] M. Louise Henry entered the new high school as a freshman in 1905 and later became a history teacher at the school. Years later she recalled the new school's first years of operation and the impact of the rapid growth:

> The high school consisted of two classes on the second floor and two teachers, one of whom was Mr. James Shock, principal. The grammar school had the four first floor rooms. By the time I graduated in 1909, the grammar school was crowded here and there, in the Methodist Church basement, the old railroad depot . . . and the high school was using as classrooms the little rooms on the third floor. A chicken wire cage in the basement served as a chemistry laboratory. Physics was not taught.[123]

In 1912, the Board of Education undertook construction of a new stucco building behind the Olcott building to house the high school department, referred to as "B" building. The grammar school continued in the Olcott Building. Courses of study for Bernards High for the year 1912-1913 included Latin Scientific, English, and Commercial.[124] In 1913 there were thirteen graduates. In 1915, the high school was moved back to the Olcott building, where it remained until 1927, and the grammar school was placed in "B" building.[125] In 1916 there were twenty-seven graduates from the flourishing high school representing Bernardsville, Basking Ridge, Gladstone, Far Hills, Pottersville, Bedminster, Liberty Corner and Millington.[126] That year, there were thirty-eight juniors, forty-three sophomores, and eighty-two freshmen. Thirty-six of the freshmen were from Bernardsville, while eight were from Basking Ridge and one from Liberty Corner. The statistics express the population surge in Bernardsville as well as the probability that most farmers in Basking Ridge and Liberty Corner could not easily spare their children to attend school.

Bernardsville's population reached 2,220 in 1914.[127] A directory published that year listed one bank; telegraph, telephone, and express service; Catholic, Congregational, Episcopal, Methodist and Presbyterian churches; two weekly newspapers; and four public schools. The town was described as "one of the

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[120] "Dr. C. M. Henry Dies at Age 77," *Bernardsville News*, Undated clipping from November 1953 at the BPL Local History Room.
[121] In 1926, Dr. Clare Henry's nephew, Frederick E. Craig, would be awarded the Major Olcott scholarship of $400. Eberhardt and Hudson, p. 519.
[122] Mary Lee Waldron, "The Early Years," in *Bernards High School: 100 Years of Excellence, 1905-2005,* [Bernardsville, NJ] Century Book Committee, 2005, p. 26.
[123] Mott, p. 130. Ms. Henry was probably a niece of Dr. Henry.
[124] "Courses of Study for Bernards High for Year 1912-1913" undated manuscript in the BPL Local History Room.
[125] Mott, p. 131.
[126] Waldron, p. 26.
[127] By 1917 the grammar school was overcrowded again, and a temporary frame annex was constructed, which continued in use until 1926. Another class was held in the nearby Methodist Episcopal Church. Every grade in the elementary school was divided, making sixteen classes in a building with eight classrooms.

finest and most attractive towns in the state."[128] Advertisers included Joseph Dobbs, general building contractor, whose shop was equipped with electric power, and William C. Ludlow and Carl Wermelskirchen, meat purveyors, both of whom were residents of Olcott Avenue. In 1914, costs of repairs to the wood frame Methodist Episcopal Church proved prohibitive and it was decided to replace the church with one of more permanence. A stone Tudor Revival building, reminiscent of an English country church, was designed by Dennison and Hirons, New York architects who designed the very fanciful Coney Island Child's Restaurant. Never built, but included in the church plans, was a cloister to connect the parsonage and the church. The cost of the new church was $18,500, which was covered by a mortgage that was finally paid in 1948.[129]

There had been a long and growing dissatisfaction among Bernardsville residents about a perceived inequality of property taxes. Attempts were made in 1900, 1908 and 1921 to create a separate Bernardsville borough. Finally, on April 29, 1924, a referendum was passed to approve creation of the new borough.[130] In 1927, the first elected borough officials included Councilmen Dr. Clare M. Henry, President, Joseph Dobbs, and George B. Post, Jr.[131] Bernardsville and Bernards Township continued with a joint school system, and the high school grew increasingly overcrowded in the 1920s, with the student population reaching 239 in 1926, an increase of 36% over 1920.[132] The school board consulted with educators from Rutgers College, who found while the high school provided "good college preparatory courses and a fair training for those who intend to pursue commercial and semi-professional careers, such as nursing, etc., it had no facilities for those who want training for practical careers such as farming, mechanics, domestic science, or homemaking."[133] A citizens' committee selected to work with Board of Education on a new school included Olcott neighbors Joseph Dobbs, Emma W. Eberhardt, Harry W. Hoffman, and Leslie A. Lummis. The committee recommended a new high school "of the least costly type consistent with school requirements and with artistic symmetry in relation to the existing school buildings."[134] The building was to be located behind the Olcott Building for practical purposes and because, "if the building were placed on Olcott Avenue, it would require a more expensive exterior treatment to look sightly alongside the Olcott building."[135] In contrast to the Olcott Building, the aim of the new high school plan was to be economical and practical, with the cost of $275,000 to be publicly funded over thirty-two years.[136] The building was completed and occupied in 1928. Although the period of philanthropic underwriting was largely over, the

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[128] *Farm Journal Illustrated Farm and Business Directory of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, New Jersey,* Philadelphia: Wilmer Atkinson Company, 1914, p. 140
[129] "The Bernardsville Methodist Church: 1841 to 1960," p. 6353-C.
[130] Mott, p. 118.
[131] Mott, p.119.
[132] Bernards Board of Education, "Information on the Proposed New High School Building for the Bernards School District at Bernardsville, New Jersey," undated pamphlet in the BPL Local History Room (first of two pamphlets with identical name).
[133] Ibid.
[134] Mott, p. 132.
[135] "The New School Building: Report of the Citizens' Committee To the Voters of the Bernards School District," undated pamphlet in the BPL Local History Room.
[136] Bernards School District Board of Education, "Information on the Proposed New high School Building for the Bernards School District at Bernardsville, New Jersey," undated pamphlet in the BPL Local History Room (second of two pamphlets with identical name).

widow of former Board of Education President Samuel S. Childs donated an up-to-date cafeteria for the new school that year as a memorial to her husband.

Prosperity continued in Bernardsville during the 1920s, which reached a population of 3,500 in 1930, the year Dr. Clare Henry of Olcott Avenue was elected to the first of two terms as mayor of the borough.[137] A group of houses were constructed at the east end of Highview and Olcott Avenues during the decade. As a group they were somewhat smaller than the original Olcott Avenue residences, but nevertheless were refined examples of a variety of Revival styles. One house on Childsworth Avenue was noticeably larger than the others constructed around that time. It belonged to Leslie A. Lummis, president of Lummis Glass Company in New York City (inventory #44; photo # 27).[138] Lummis's New York City job was still atypical for the community. As late as 1928, in a graduating class of forty, only four or five had fathers who were commuters. In other words, roughly ninety percent of the families represented in that class made their living in the area, which meant that their living was greatly affected by the Mountain.[139] By that time, however, the Mountain Colony had become more fragile as an economic engine. A local history described the impact on the larger community:

> The Mountain began to wither in the early 1920's. The Founders, the first generation, died. . . . Besides, there was the progressive income tax . . . By far the greater part of the change was the cleavage between the generations. These young people could not be bothered with the discipline of noblesse oblige. . . . Therefore, the Mountain was already weakened, it was already receding from its peak, when the Depression smashed at its foundations and its sources. . . . A gritty grimness, an unpleasant sort of quietness, settled over the town, and one grew accustomed to the small knots of men, gathered on the corners of the Square, at any hour of the day. Up on the Mountain, the laborers and the stablemen were let go, then the gardeners, the maids, the horsemen, and even the chauffeurs . . . According to legend, the situation in the town might have been far more grim if John Roebling had not kept men off relief by various make-work projects.[140]

In spite of the trying economic times, in 1932 Mayor Clare Henry led a week of celebration in honor of the George Washington Bicentennial, culminating in a gathering of a crowd estimated at 1,200 to witness the planting of an avenue of trees in front of Bernards High School. Twenty trees were planted in memory of the Bernardsville and Bernards Township soldiers who lost their lives during World War I, and two additional trees were dedicated by Mayor Henry to Presidents Washington and Lincoln. Fifty-two local organizations participated in the event, with the Sons of Italy and another Italian organization, the Bernardsville Progressive Club, taking leading roles.[141]

Despite the impressive bicentennial ceremony, Bernardsville was feeling the impact of the Great Depression. The issue of the *Bernardsville News* that covered the festive Washington Bicentennial also contained an advertisement placed by the Bernardsville Unemployment Relief Committee asking residents

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[137] Sanborn Map Company, 1930; "Dr. C.M. Henry Dies at Age of 77."
[138] Lummis had acquired a tract of twenty-six acres along the eastern boundary of the school property from William Childs.
[139] Mott, p. 83.
[140] Mott, p. 88.
[141] "Week's Celebration Honors Washington," *Bernardsville News*, February 25, 1932.

to provide work opportunities for more than 194 local men who registered with the committee to seek jobs.[142] The school population in the joint district nevertheless continued to grow during the 1930s, and the old Basking Ridge grammar school became inadequate and out of date. A new school erected nearby in 1939 was described as "one of the most modern structures of its kind."[143] Bernards Township continued to grow at a faster pace than Bernardsville, which, with fewer students, was paying a larger percentage of the operating cost of the schools. Much to the disappointment of Dr. Clare Henry, Bernardsville formed its own school district in 1948. At the time, friends of Dr. Henry said the severance "would never have come about if Dr. Henry was on that board."[144] According to one account of the reason for the split,

> Bernardsville. . . is comparatively slow in present growth. Over half of its taxes come from an old estate region – the wealthy "mountain colony" –which appears to be in mild transition because of the death of older residents and the heavy hand of inheritance taxes. Bernards Township, the parent community, by comparison, has new streets for moderate-priced homes spreading all over the map like crab-grass. New young families are bringing a host of problems to the township, including the problem of educating their children."[145]

A suit in Chancery Court over which municipality would get the Olcott school property was settled in 1948 in favor of Bernardsville.

The Olcott Avenue neighborhood remained largely unchanged during the Depression and World War II. Then, beginning in the 1950s, several of the larger lots were subdivided and modest Cape Cods and ranches were built. The original dwellings constructed during the first three decades or so of the 20th century all still stand and the streetscape has changed relatively little since curbs and sidewalks were added and the road was paved around 1916. Residents of the district, which remains an upper middle class neighborhood, have continued the long tradition of participation in civic activities.

Remarkably, the institutional buildings in the neighborhood have all survived largely intact, too. A number of improvements to the school property were undertaken during the 1960s, including a large expansion of the 1928 high school and the demolition of the 1912 "B" building. A news article from 1963 promoted a proposed bond referendum to fund improvements to the Olcott building, including removing the wooden stairs, flooring and wainscoting, which were not carried out.[146] In 1985, all classes were moved out of the Olcott Building, which was then converted into administrative offices while preserving the exterior and much of the original interior architecture. Similarly, the interiors of the Methodist Church and Parsonage have been remodeled over the years, yet the exteriors of the buildings are relatively unchanged with the exception of ill-advised panels placed on the exterior of the church's largest stained glass windows. The Visiting Nurse Association sold their headquarters in 2006 and moved to a larger facility they constructed in Bernards Township. Their Olcott Avenue building was subsequently converted to residential use.

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[142] *Bernardsville News*, February 25, 1932.
[143] *Bernardsville News*, November 21, 1939.
[144] "Dr. C.M. Henry Dies at Age of 77."
[145] "School District Created Today," *Bernardsville News*, July 1, 1948.
[146] "Olcott School Was Given To Borough," *Bernardsville News,* undated clipping c. 1963 at the BPL Local History Room.

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## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the Olcott Avenue Historic District is delineated on the attached map entitled "Olcott Avenue Historic District Site Location and Boundary Map," and is verbally described in the following paragraphs. The site and boundary map was assembled using municipal tax maps and topographic maps from the Borough of Bernardsville.

The boundary of the district begins on Wesley Avenue at the northeast corner of Block 65, Lot 10 and runs along southeast, west and northwest sides of that lot to the southeast corner of Block 65, Lot 4, at the corner of Church Street, where it turns west to follow the north side of Church Street and southern lines of Block 65, Lots 4, 3 and 2 to the southwest corner of Block 65, Lot 2 at Anderson Hill Road.

From there, the boundary turns north and proceeds along the east side of Anderson Hill Road to the northwest corner of Block 56, Lot 1. At this point, the line turns east and follows the northern sides of Block 56, Lots 1, 1.01, 26, 25, 24, 23, 22, 21, and 13 to the southwest corner of Block 56, Lot 12. Here the boundary turns to follow the southwest side of Block 56, Lot 12 to the northwest corner of that lot at Highview Avenue. The boundary then turns northeast and follows Highview Avenue along the northwest sides of Block 56, Lots 12 and 13.02 to the northeast corner of Block 56, Lot 13.02.

At this point, the boundary cuts straight across Highview Avenue to the southwest corner of Block 53, Lot 9 at the intersection of Ford Avenue, and then follows the southwest side of said lot to its northwest corner. Here the boundary turns northeast and follows the northwest sides of Block 53, Lots 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 to the northeast corner of Block 53, Lot 13 where it turns southeast and follows the northeast side of Block 53, Lot 13 to the southeast corner of said lot at Highview Avenue. Then the boundary turns northeast and follows the north side of Highview Avenue to the point of its intersection with Olcott Avenue at the southeast corner of Block 53, Lot 16. From there it turns northerly and follows the west side of Olcott Avenue to the point where it intersects Old Army Road, also the northeast corner of Block 53, Lot 8.

From that point the boundary crosses Olcott to the northwest corner of Block 54, Lot 1. It then follows the south side of Old Army Road and the north side of Lot to a point where that road intersects Mullen's Lane, where the boundary turns southeasterly and follows Mullen's Lane on the northeast side of Block 54, Lot 1, to the point where it intersects Highview Avenue at the southeast corner of Block 54, Lot 1. The boundary line then turns southeast and crosses Mullen's Lane to the northwest corner of Block 57, Lot 1. From there the line follows the west, north and south sides of Block 59, Lot 1 to the southeast corner of said lot at Mullen's Lane. Here, the boundary turns southerly and proceeds across Mullen's Lane to the southeast corner of Block 57, Lot 6. From there it then follows the southeasterly

sides of Block 57, Lots 6, 5, 4, 3.01, 3, 2 and 1 to the southeast corner of Block 57, Lot 1 on the north side of Bell Terrace.

At this point, the boundary continues in a straight-line continuation to a point where the straight-line continuation intersects the south side of the road. Here, the boundary turns easterly and follows the south side of Bell Terrace to the northeast corner of Block 58, Lot 6 where it turns and follows the northeast and southeast sides of Block 58, Lot 6 to the southeasterly corner of said lot on the north side of Childsworth Avenue. The boundary then turns southwesterly and runs along the north side of Childsworth Avenue to the southwest corner of Block 58, lot 5. From that point the boundary cuts across Childsworth Avenue to the northwest corner of the intersection of Childsworth Avenue and Old Colony Road, which is also northeast corner of Block 64, lot 2.

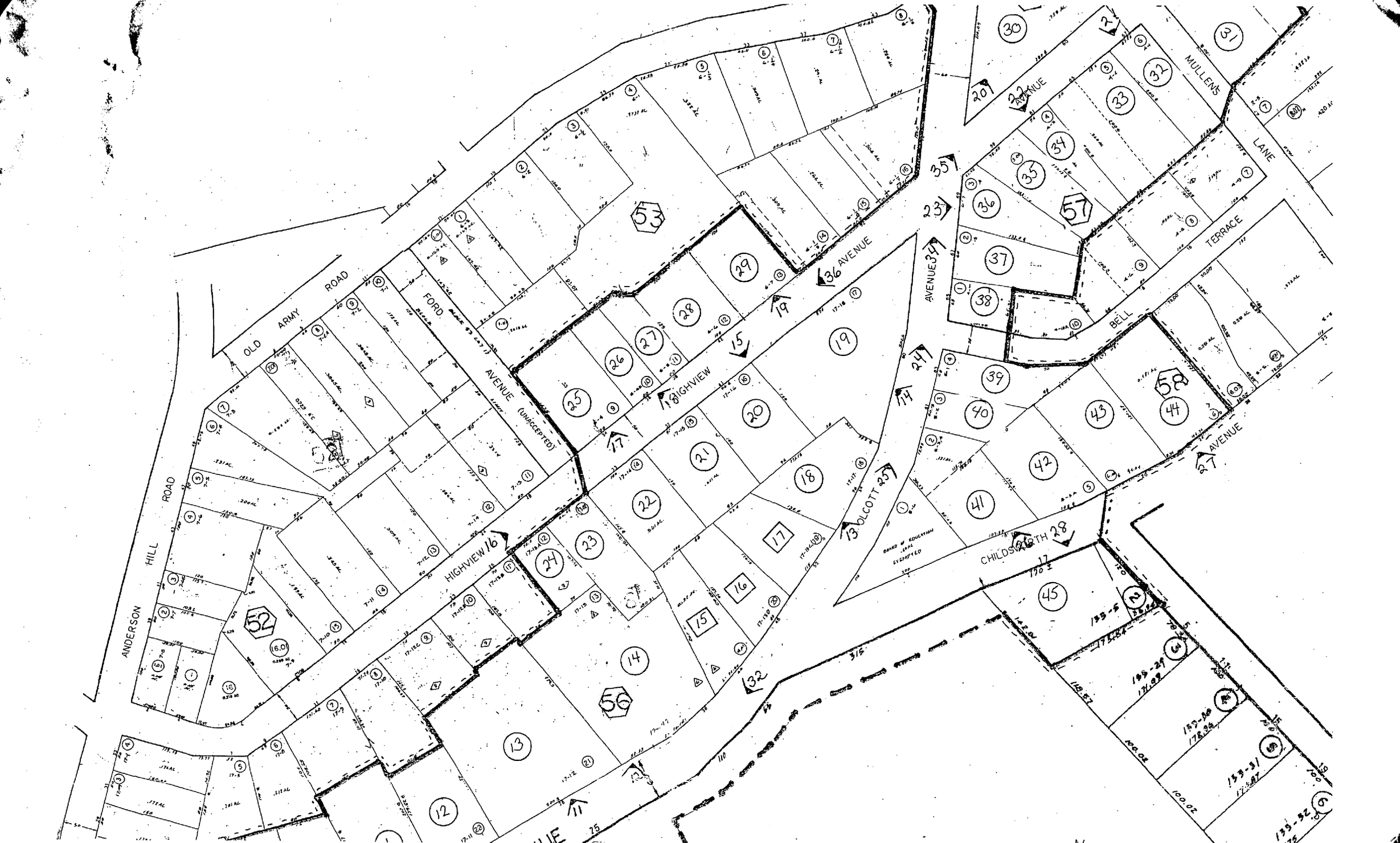
From there the boundary proceeds southeast along Old Colony Road and follows the northeast side of Block 64, Lot 2 to the southeast corner of that lot and then turns and follows the southwest and northwest sides of that lot to a point on the southwest side of that lot which is 40 feet from the south side of Childsworth Avenue, which is also the front yard set back line.

From here, the boundary turns southwesterly and follows a line of convenience across Block 64, Lot 1, along the front yard setback line (remaining 40 feet south of the south sides of Childsworth and Olcott Avenue) to a point where the front yard set back line intersects with the projection of a line that is 15 feet east of and parallel to the plane of the east side of the Olcott Building. At this point, the boundary turns southeast and follows a line of convenience 15 feet distant from and parallel to the plane of the east facade of said building to a point on a line of convenience that is 15 feet distant from and parallel to the plane created by the furthermost projecting points of the south facade of said building. There the boundary turns west and follows the line of convenience line parallel to the south facade in a direct line to a point on the west side of the school driveway (as depicted on Sheet G4 of the Bernardsville topographic map dated April 18, 1972) which is 87.5 feet from the west side of Block 64, Lot 1. At this point, the boundary turns southeast and follows the west side of the school driveway (as delineated on the 1972 topographic map) to the place of beginning at the northeast corner of Block 65, Lot 10, at the northwest corner of Wesley Avenue.

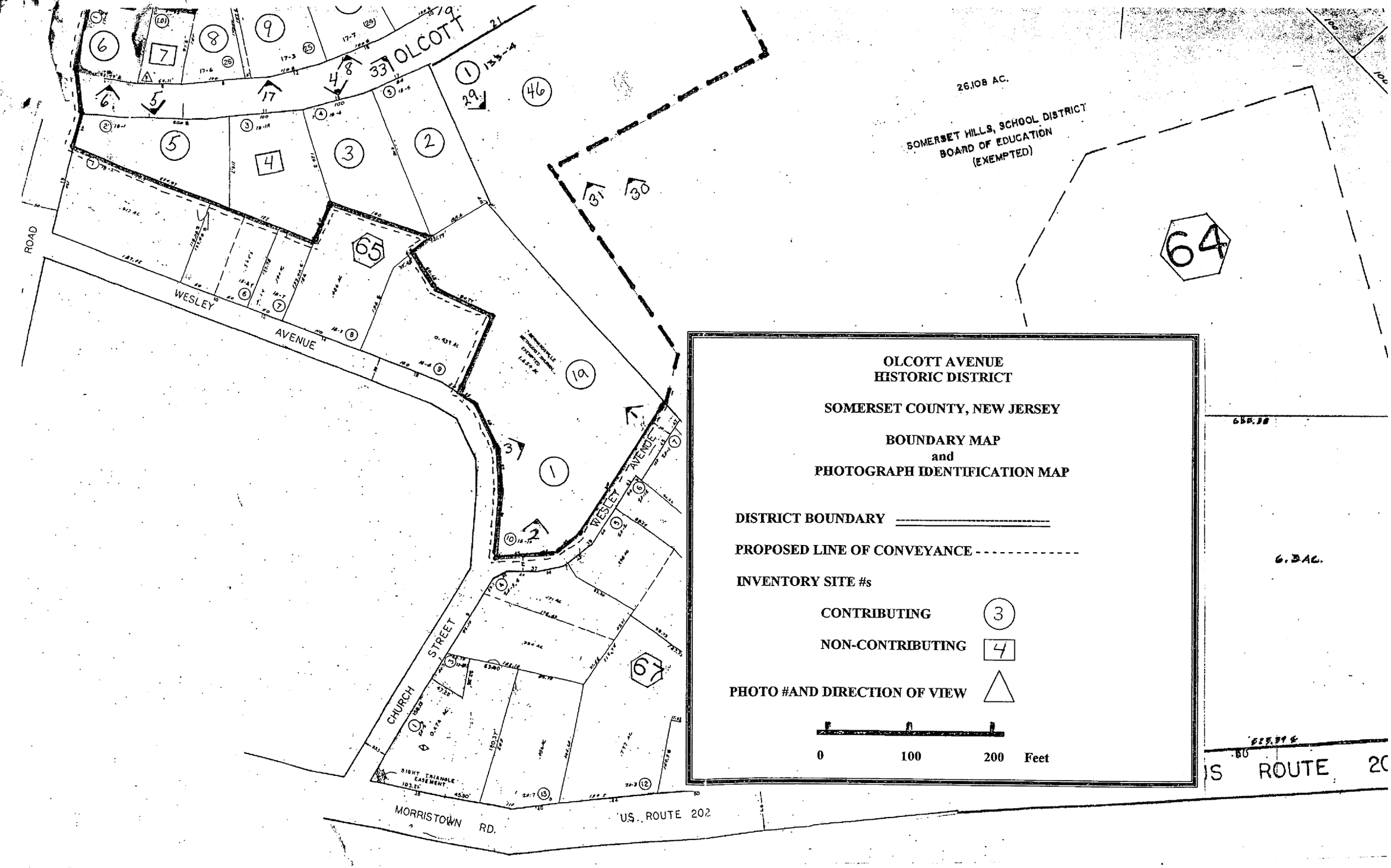
## BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

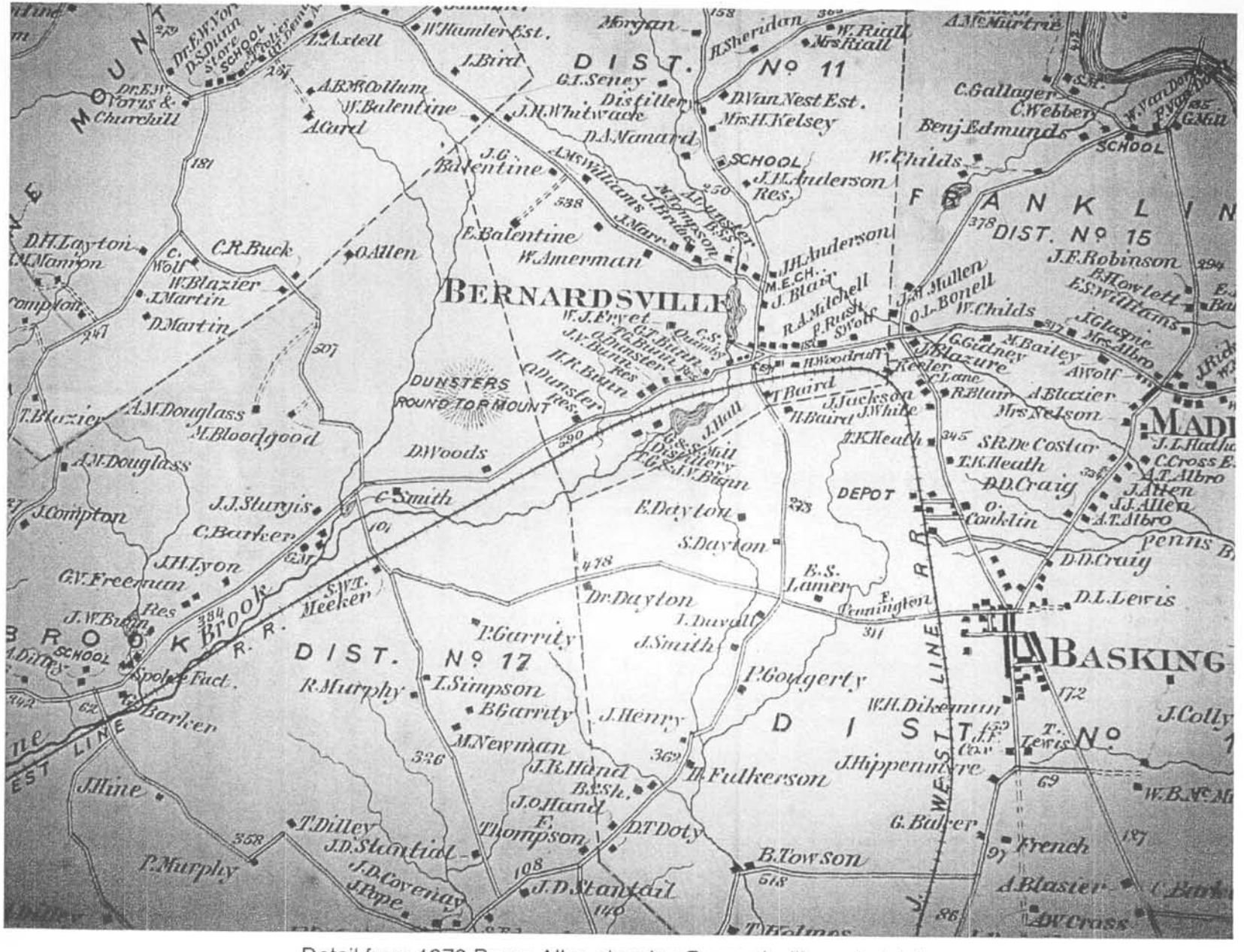
The boundaries of the Olcott Avenue Historic District are delineated to include to the greatest extent possible the architectural and historical resources, with the fewest non-contributing buildings. The boundary follows property lines or lines of convenience across lots to encompass resources related to the district and exclude unrelated resources. On the southwest and northwest sides of the district, the bound-

ary was drawn to exclude those lots that were not developed as part of Olcott Avenue or Highview Avenue extension, as well as lots that were developed later than the period of significance. On the northeast side of the district, the boundary excludes lots that were not developed as part of Olcott Avenue or Childsworth Road. On the southeast, the boundary was drawn to include the streetscape along the front of the school property, the Olcott Building, and the park-like area of the school property lying west of the school driveway, excluding the remainder of the school property as well as all buildings and facilities thereon, which have been deemed non-contributing to the significance of the district.

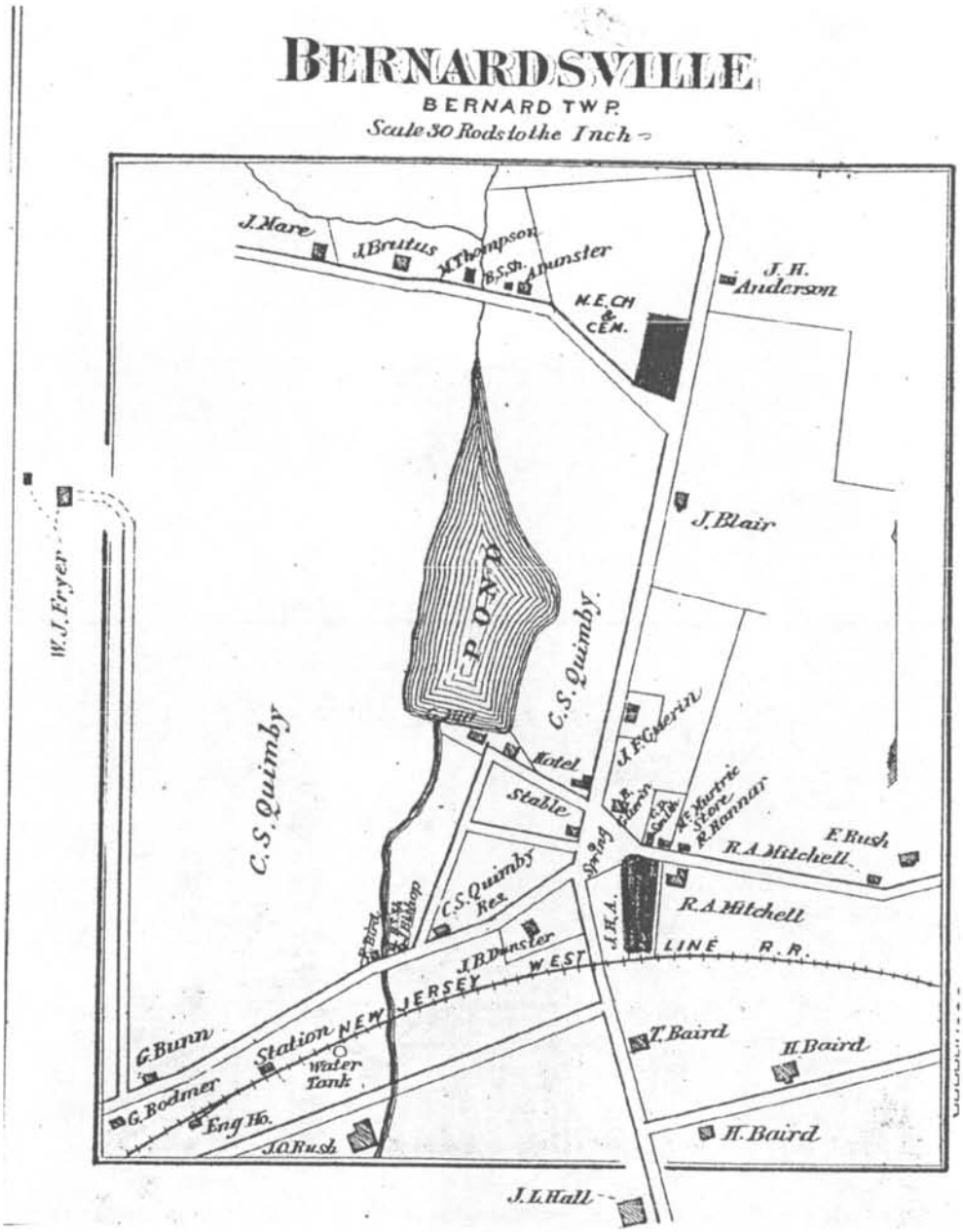


OLD ARMY ROAD
FORD AVENUE (UNACCEPTED)
HIGHVIEW AVENUE
HIGHVIEW
ANDERSON HILL ROAD
OLCOTT AVENUE
CHILDSWORTH AVENUE
BELL TERRACE
MULLENS LANE
BOARD OF EDUCATION LEGAL EXEMPTED

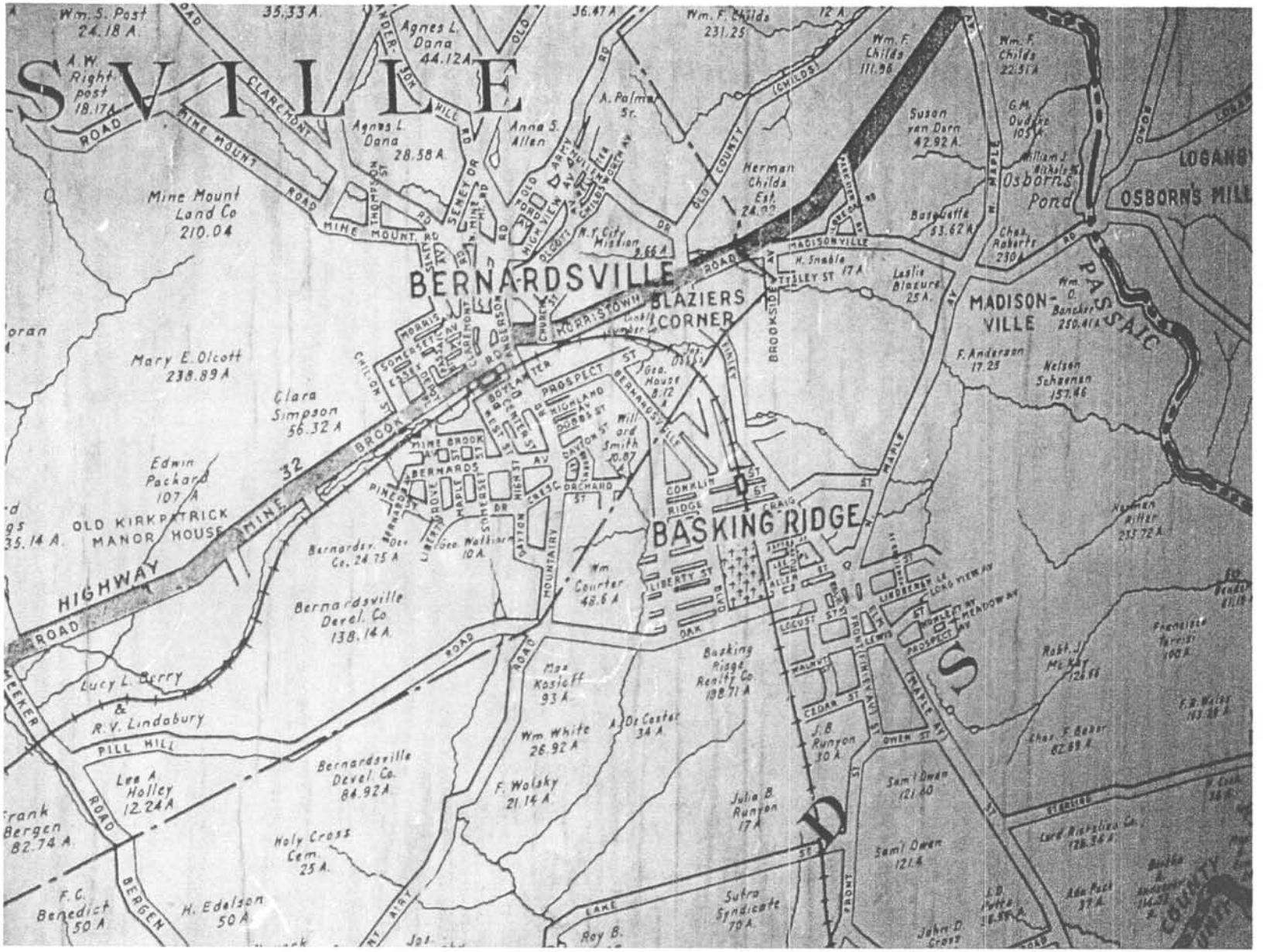

OLCOTT AVENUE
HISTORIC DISTRICT
SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
BOUNDARY MAP
and
PHOTOGRAPH IDENTIFICATION MAP
DISTRICT BOUNDARY
PROPOSED LINE OF CONVEYANCE
INVENTORY SITE #s
CONTRIBUTING 3
NON-CONTRIBUTING 4
PHOTO #AND DIRECTION OF VIEW
0 100 200 Feet
OLCOTT
WESLEY AVENUE
CHURCH STREET
MORRISTOWN RD.
U.S. ROUTE 202
SOMERSET HILLS, SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
(EXEMPTED)
26.108 AC.
6.3AC.




Detail from 1873 Beers Atlas showing Bernardsville and vicinity




Detail from 1873 Beers Atlas showing Bernardsville




Detail from 1928 Hagstrom Road Map showing Bernardsville and vicinity

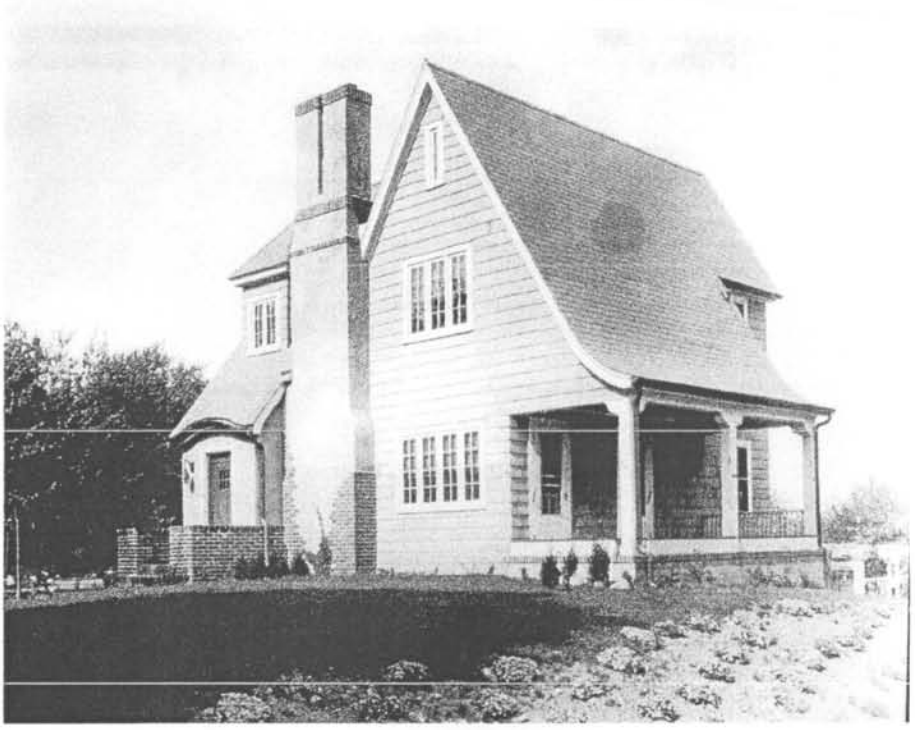
Olcott Avenue Historic District
Somerset County, NJ

Composite of 1930 Sanborn Maps showing Olcott Avenue and vicinity

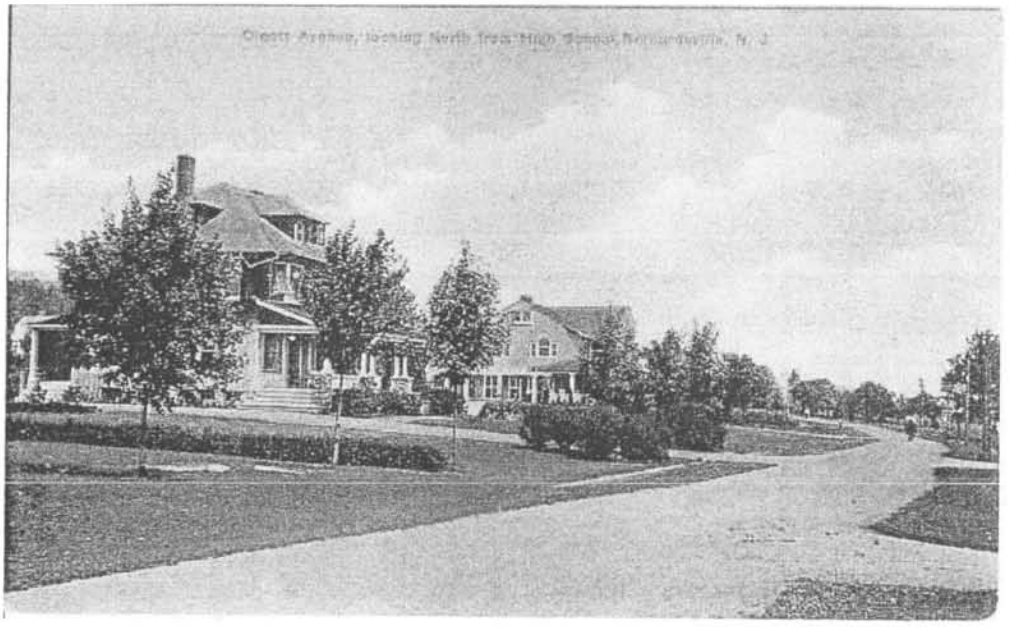
Olcott Avenue Historic District
Somerset County, NJ

17 Olcott Avenue (Inve. #2), c. 1912. School grounds are at left in photo.

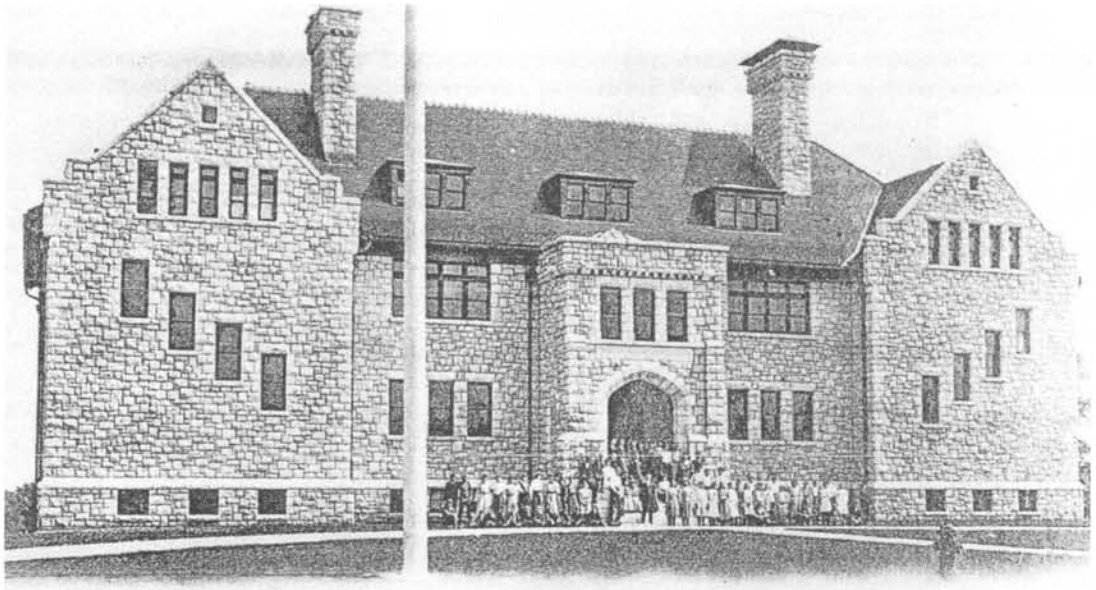
28 Olcott Avenue (Inv. #13) , c. 1902.



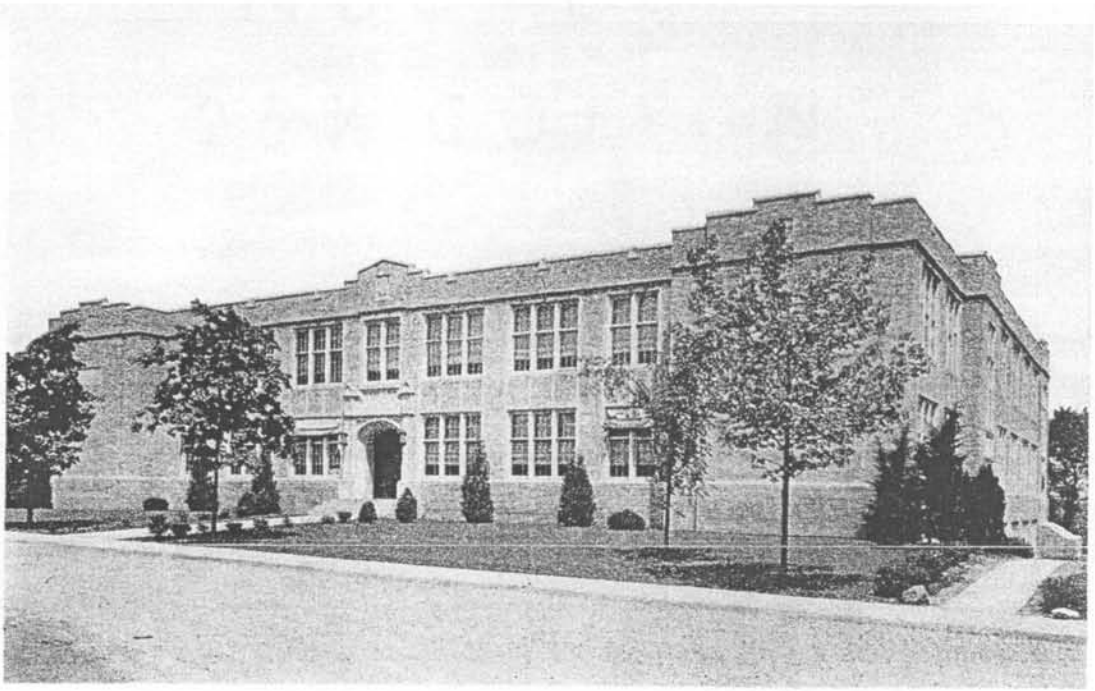
69 Olcott Avenue (Inv. #36), c. 1930



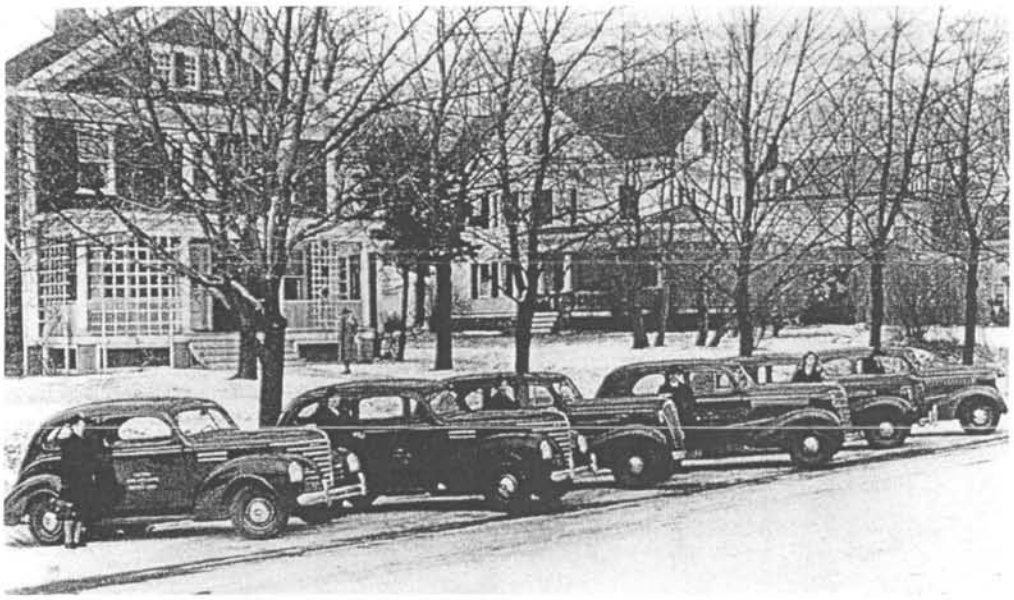
View of Olcott Avenue looking east from school driveway, c. 1909




View of the Olcott School, shortly after construction, c. 1905.



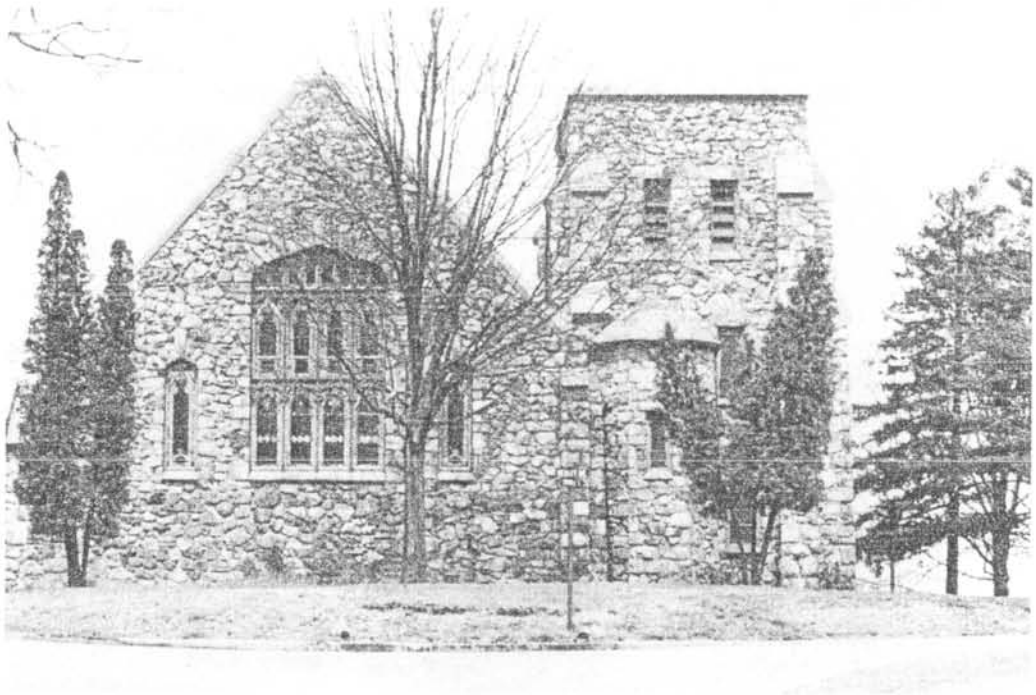
View of the 1928 High School, c. 1930s.



Visiting Nurse Association Headquarters at left with fleet of cars, c. 1930s

PUBLIC SQUARE, Bernardsville, N. J.

Main Bernardsville intersection, showing business block
with shops and businesses of several Olcott Avenue residents, c. 1920.



Bernardsville Methodist Episcopal Church, c. early 20th century

Washington Bicentennial Tree Planting at Bernards High School
*Bernardsville News*, February 25, 1932

Frederick P. Olcott, courtesy Somerset Hills Board of Education

Dr. Clare Henry, c.1948

44

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SPEED
LIMIT
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