



**A GUIDE TO  
THE HISTORIC  
LANDMARKS  
OF TEANECK,  
NEW JERSEY**



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Chairman, Teaneck Historic  
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## INTRODUCTION

*by Schuyler Warmflash  
Chairman, Teaneck Historic  
Preservation Commission*

This guidebook includes most of the historic sites and districts in the Township of Teaneck which have been identified for their architectural and historical significance. It is a project of Teaneck's Historic Preservation Commission and has been prepared during 1995 to commemorate the Township's Centennial Celebration.

The primary informational source for the guidebook has been the authoritative and comprehensive Historic Sites Survey of Teaneck conducted by Bergen County during 1980-1981. This has been supplemented with research conducted by the Teaneck Historic Preservation Commission and Robert Griffin, the Township Historian. Mildred Taylor's *The History of Teaneck* (1977) has also been a serviceable resource. In addition, architectural historian Mark Alan Hewitt, in preparing the text, has contributed his special insights and understanding of Teaneck's growth and architecture within the context of American urbanism and architectural history.

A growing awareness has been developing in American communities of historic preservation as an important environmental and quality of life issue. This has created a need for the identification of historic sites and for reliable and accessible sources of information concerning them. Since such information has been unavailable to residents of Teaneck they are, for the most part, unaware of the identity and significance of the Township's historic sites. This guidebook has been prepared specifically to meet this informational need.

A limited set of criteria has been acknowledged as a national standard for defining the significance of historic sites. These are used to identify potential sites and to determine those which are to be selected for preservation. These criteria are generally related to aspects of history, architectural aesthetics, and age. In addition, criteria may consider geographical scope in terms of significance at the local, state, regional and national levels.

We readily accept as "historic" 18th and 19th century residential and public buildings, transportation facilities, structures and objects of statewide or national significance. Association with an event or person of similar significance further facilitates such acceptance. However, in considering the term "historic" it is important to understand that it encompasses 20th century history as well, and that it also includes local history



along with state and national history. Local history is Teaneck history and it is the history of 20th century suburban development as shaped by the many forces that influenced it and gave it expression in the forms of our sub-divisions and the architecture of our dwellings, town halls, schools and houses of worship.

A number of the buildings in the guidebook have been formally designated Teaneck Historic Sites by the Historic Preservation Commission. This has assured their preservation for future generations of Township residents. However, most of the buildings included here have not yet been formally designated by the Commission, although it is planned that this will be accomplished at a future time. Some of the buildings shown here have been altered in a manner which has reduced their architectural integrity. They have nevertheless been included since they are of historic significance and since most of the alterations are reversible.

In granting the power of historic site and district designation, the Township declared that the ongoing presence of historic landmarks was and would continue to be an essential element of municipal character and identity, an important factor in the economy of the municipality, the property values therein and the education and civic mindedness of Teaneck's young people. It also stated that the character, life-style and very quality of life in Teaneck depend in great measure on Teaneck's protection of its architectural heritage.

The Commission encourages Teaneck's residents and others to visit the historic sites and districts in this guidebook and to see them for the first time with new eyes and with a broadened understanding of the Township's history spanning a period of almost 300 years from the earliest days of European settlement to the present time.

### **TOURING WITH THE GUIDEBOOK**

This guidebook has been prepared to provide a convenient, self-guided tour of Teaneck's historic landmarks. Landmarks have been identified by a number shown next to their description in the guidebook and they are also identified by that number on a map at the back of the book. The map shows a tour starting at the Municipal Green, but it may begin at any point. An index at the back of the book permits easy reference to any landmark by map number and page number.

## **HISTORICAL OVERVIEW: THREE CENTURIES OF ARCHITECTURE AND URBANISM IN TEANECK**

*Mark Alan Hewitt, AIA  
Associate Professor of Architecture  
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This publication commemorates the centennial of the incorporation of Teaneck as a township in 1895. After many years of consolidated existence, it seceded from Englewood, Ridgefield Park and the boroughs of Leonia and Bogota. Only in the 1920s did the town become fully urbanized with its familiar street grid and commercial centers, a fact which may surprise many residents of this well-ordered community of homes and businesses. New Jersey's hundreds of Progressive-Era municipalities were part of a borough movement which transformed the state from a largely agricultural region into the dense, suburban megalopolis we know today. While the majority of the landmarks to be found in the following pages date from the past 100 years, the 6½ mile square township has a history of European settlement dating to the early seventeenth century, and a native American presence stretching back even further.

Teaneck takes its name from "Tee Neck," one of two early Dutch and Huguenot settlements lying within the Kiersted Patent, a 2120 acre tract bounded to the east and west by the Hackensack River and Overpeck Creek. The land was granted following the Dutch-Indian Treaty of 1645 to Sarah Kiersted, who, it is said, learned the native language and befriended Chief Oratam of the Lenni Lenape clan who had long inhabited the territory. She received confirmation of her land rights from Lords Berkeley and Carteret, Proprietors of East Jersey, in 1669 and retained her deed until 1686, but no written records of a permanent settlement exist before 1704. At that time two small agricultural villages were located in the vicinity of Fycke Lane and upon the bluff at Brett Park. The origins of the town's name are not known precisely, but it probably derives from a native American word meaning "villages."

The landscape of this part of Bergen County is distinctive for the high ridge (Teaneck Ridge) which lies between the Overpeck Creek (Tatanqua to the Lenape tribes) and the lower marshy meadows of the Hackensack River. To the east are the dramatic cliffs of the Palisades and to the west the old town of Hackensack and the land routes to the iron mines of the Ramapo Mountains. Robert Erskine, proprietor of the Ringwood mines and George Washington's cartographer, located New Bridge and Tee Neck on his map of the evacuation of Fort Lee by Washington's army in

November 1776, one of the first depictions of the settlement landscape. The early cultural and material characteristics of the area were distinctive, marked by the use of native sandstone by the Dutch builders of the seventeenth century. Agriculture was the mainstay of the settlers here from the 1640s until the late nineteenth century, and the distinctive architectural type was the farmstead. A number of Dutch farmhouses are preserved, and several fine examples are in Teaneck.

During the Revolution much of Bergen County was torn by the divided loyalties of pro-British and pro-Revolutionary forces. Citizens were at the mercy of raiding parties from both sides in search of food, arms and supplies throughout all seven years of the war. Following the end of hostilities the centers of commerce were Hackensack and New Bridge, and to a lesser extent communities along the Hudson, where Teaneck's farmers attended church, sold their goods, and socialized. The leading landowners continued to be the descendants of early Dutch settlers — the Zabriskie, Ackerman, Demarest, Van Buskirk, Van de Linde, and Brinkerhoff names remained prominent for another century. There were 13,000 inhabitants of the county in 1790. Churches in the town of Hackensack and Schralenburgh (today's Bergenfield and Dumont) served the needs of most residents of the area. Two separate neighborhoods grew along early Indian trails, one along the banks of the Hackensack River where a small number of residents built a Lutheran church (the Van Buskirk Cemetery marks the site); and another along the edge of Overpeck Creek on the east side of the ridge. There were otherwise few public buildings in the area.

Transformation of the county came with the construction of the first railroads in the years before the Civil War. Subsequently the New York Central ran its West Shore Branch line northward, constructing a station in what was then West Englewood. The first commuters in the county built villas and country houses on agricultural properties, where they could retreat from their businesses in New York City. It was then that New Jersey played a major role in the development of America's suburban ideal, cultivated in such publications as *The Architecture of Country Houses*, by Andrew Jackson Downing (1850), and Frank J. Scott's *The Art of Beautifying Suburban Home Grounds* (1870). In nearby West Orange Andrew Jackson Davis had designed the first planned suburban enclave, Llewellyn Park, where picturesque gardens surrounded comfortable Victorian cottage residences with their characteristic piazzas or verandas. Teaneck's few examples of this dwelling type have largely disappeared, but telltale traces of their presence remain in the landscape and form of the town. Following the Civil War the area maintained its largely

agricultural base of large farms and occasional country seats — 1,000 acre farms stretched between River Road and the Overpeck. The most significant land transaction in the town's history occurred on April 10, 1865, when a young and ambitious lawyer from New York purchased 88 1/2 acres in what would later become the center of Teaneck. That man was William Walter Phelps, son of the wealthy mercantilist and railroad magnate, John Jay Phelps. When his father died in 1869, the younger Phelps relocated from New York City to his country estate in Bergen County and began to take an active interest in New Jersey, national and later international politics. At the center of the estate he expanded an existing Dutch farmhouse into a rambling, 350-foot-long, somewhat Richardsonian manor dubbed "The Grange." But architecture was not his abiding interest; Phelps was a pioneer in the management and stewardship of land, a trait shared with contemporaries Frederick Law Olmsted and his pupil Charles Eliot. He planted over 600,000 trees on his properties (later to total over 5,000 acres), developed thirty miles of roads through land that had heretofore been in cultivation, and built sixty bridges. He controlled railroads and speculated in real estate in the northern part of the county and throughout the U.S. When he died in 1894 over half of the present township of Teaneck was left in his estate, to be managed by his son and two executors. The largest portions of this land remained undeveloped until the death of Mrs. Phelps in 1920.

Because this major landscaped tract occupied a prime area stretching east to west between Teaneck Road and River Road, Teaneck's early development occurred mainly on the fringes of the present township. Incorporation in 1895 brought the first organized subdivisions, the first municipal services including police and fire brigades, and a political and community organization long-desired by residents. This was the age of the streetcar suburb, and Teaneck benefited greatly from the web of trolley and rail lines which ran westward and northward from the Hudson River and Newark's rail hubs. A key intersection developed at Fort Lee Road, on the southern end of town, and it was here that one of the first large subdivisions was constructed under the auspices William Bennett (1841-1912), a Binghamton, N.Y. builder who became the first council chairman in 1895. (Bennett had previously managed the Phelps estate lands). Walter Selvage purchased the 70-acre Brinkerhoff tract and developed his Selvage Addition Subdivision along Teaneck Road in 1901. Between 1900 and 1909 256 new homes were constructed. The town began to take on the characteristics of a garden suburb, with the added attraction that the tree lined streets and verdant landscapes of the Phelps tract formed a kind of park at the heart of



the community. By 1910 the population had increased 200% to over 2,000.

When the Phelps estate opened its holdings and began to sell parcels in 1922, a development boom occurred reflecting that of the greater New York metropolitan area. New York City issued its first regional plan in 1929, a document with far-reaching prescriptions for northern New Jersey, the five boroughs, Connecticut and Long Island. New housing, infrastructure and transportation were major elements in the plan. In this context, Teaneck's planned subdivisions and smaller speculative home tracts may be seen as constituent elements of a vast middle landscape spreading in a ring around New Ycrk. Only a few miles distant, in 1926 Clarence Stein (1883-1975) and Henry Wright (1878-1936) designed their experimental new town of Radburn (now Fair Lawn), one of the seminal planning and housing projects of the twentieth century. The design featured a mix of residential types, segregation of pedestrian and auto circulation, greenbelts woven through the housing tracts, and integration of schools, businesses and housing into a multi-layered fabric. In Teaneck, a smaller but very similar venture, the Fred T. Warner subdivision, attempted to create the same sense of community. On a less utopian scale, Teaneck's developers sought to win the hearts of prospective homeowners by offering trim, comfortable dwellings at a modest cost in a community linked by ready transportation to the urban hub of New York City.

By the mid-1920s a hectic real estate boom was underway — 1,065 property transfers were recorded between July 1924 and July 1925 alone. "Three Years Ago Farmland, Today Beautiful Homes," proclaimed one promotional brochure. The dominant style for these houses was "Tudor," a cozy and sentimental variation on old English models of the late 19th century. Districts like the Standish Road subdivision put Teaneck on the map with Mamaroneck, Chestnut Hill, and Great Neck as desirable communities for the aspiring middle income family. Teaneck's Collegiate Gothic high school and Georgian elementary schools reassured residents that children would be reared in the core values America's dominant work ethic. A stately Colonial Revival town hall and library reinforced patriotic virtues. And a friendly, domestically scaled main street commercial district developed along Cedar Lane, in what once was the heart of the Phelps preserve. By 1930 a town had appeared which could rival nearby Ridgewood and Montclair for coherence, convenience and community pride. Moreover, a new transportation linkage would give added incentives to choose Teaneck over rival communities. New Jersey Route 4 and the opening of the George Washington Bridge in 1931 increased the value of Bergen County property despite

the worsening economy. During the Depression years up until World War II Teaneck maintained its dramatic population growth, climbing to nearly 20,000. By then the defining years of the town's physical identity had passed, and with them the most significant period of suburbanization in America's history. Teaneck was a part of that historical moment.

Following the long struggle of World War II which consumed the country during the 1940's, the town began its final period of development, building upon the strong armature established by the Phelps tract and the community planning of the interwar years (the first zoning ordinance was passed in 1928). Teaneck had a medical center at Holy Name Hospital, begun in 1924 on the 10-acre Griggs estate owned and occupied by Mrs. Phelps at her death. In 1954 Fairleigh Dickinson University began its Teaneck operations on a river front site along River Road. And parkland, vital to the health of any community, was set aside by astute township officials, much of it according to the original 1933 master plan. By the 1960s there were 11 parks, four separate playgrounds, two long park strips, and nine small circles, all maintained by the township. One of the most far-reaching decisions was the bold concept of purchasing land for an easement along either side of Route 4, providing a necessary greenbelt and insuring privacy for residents in adjacent subdivisions.

The dominant models for post-war housing were garden apartments, split level and ranch style houses, trim colonials, and a few Tudor survivals. Subdivision occurred in areas at the fringes of the township, including the eastern and northwestern edges. The construction of Interstate 80 and its ancillary system of regional highways in the 1970s brought increased traffic, the commercial/residential project at Glenpointe and other development pressures to the township and county. By 1980 development of new land had ceased, and like much of America Teaneck turned to slow growth initiatives and increased planning controls to preserve its quality of life. Bergen County's population was nearly a million, and its infrastructure was strained to the limit by traffic and population expansion. In the mid-1980s New Jersey joined many states in passing enabling legislation for historic preservation. Teaneck entered in the fight to conserve historic and natural resources with the establishment of a Historic Preservation Commission to administer its preservation ordinance.

Teaneck began as landscape held in the balance of ecological and political forces between European settlers and native American cultivators. The treaty made between the Dutch and the Indians in the mid-seventeenth century to divide and share the land depended



upon the intentions and commitment of both parties to make it work. Similarly, present efforts at conservation, limitation of development and planning also depend upon intention and commitment. This brochure is a celebration of history, heritage and perseverance. It marks the collective memory of a community via the trail of history preserved in artifacts — architecture, landscape, infrastructure, and the telltale creations of our ancestors. In its pages will be found reminders of a past which, though sometimes dimly recalled, will shape the future of this land and its human inhabitants for years to come.

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## LANDMARKS OF THE COLONIAL AND FEDERAL ERAS



15

### **New Bridge**

**1888**

*Foot of Old New Bridge Road*

Sandwiched between a park and a busy Bergen County thoroughfare is the hamlet of New Bridge Landing, one of Teaneck's two oldest settlements. Though nothing remains of the village founded in the late 1600s on the bank of the Hackensack River below New Milford, a group of buildings from the past 200 years stands along Old New Bridge Road. These structures, and the now closed Victorian truss bridge which once provided commerce for the area, remind us of the scale and character of 19th century Teaneck. The oldest building is probably the small general store, but a historical marker reminds us that nearby stood the 1735 New Bridge Inn, a landmark for some 200 years before it was burned in the middle part of this century.

The bridge itself is not only picturesque, but has historical significance as one of the few standing Pony Truss Iron bridges in New Jersey. It spans 110 feet at a key bend in the river, where on the other bank stand outbuildings of the historic Steuben homestead in River Edge. The structure boasts intact tension rods, iron webbing, a turntable, plank deck, wheels and gears, and concrete encasement. Paradoxically, though its name suggests a recent chronology, the present structure is of late 19th century date, and was replaced by a newer highway bridge to the north in this century. The altered traffic pattern on New Bridge Road leaves the older span unappreciated.



**2**

**Oak Tree (former Campbell Farmhouse Site)**

**18th c.**

*Cedar Lane & Palisade Avenue*

Amidst the hubub of the present Cedar Lane commercial district stands a reminder of Teaneck's agricultural past. Not a building but a living tree, this landmark marks the site of a pre-1837 farmhouse associated with the family of Samuel Campbell. Though the house was demolished in 1982, the tree has remained since the late 18th century as one of the most venerable objects in the town.

Originally part of the Dutch Banta tract that stretched from the Hackensack River to the Hudson, the Campbell farm was acquired by the family in 1850, eventually passing into the hands of William Walter Phelps in the 1870s when he controlled the central agricultural plots on both sides of the Teaneck Ridge. The site was close to the original Teaneck Station of the West Shore Railroad during the 19th century. Little development occurred in this part of the borough until the 1920s, and the Oak Tree is a potent remnant of a rural landscape that many older residents can still recall. It deserves the same protection as the other artifacts which contributed to the history and character of the town.



**5**

**Zabriskie-Kipp-Cadmus House**

**c. 1751**

*664 River Road*

The Zabriskie-Kipp-Cadmus house is a large and imposing early sandstone dwelling from the Dutch cultural era in Teaneck. It is located on the banks of the Hackensack River, on a substantial property originally owned by the Polish immigrant Albert Zabriskie and passed in 1711 to his son Jan and his descendants. During the 18th century this bank of the river was dotted with farms, forming the eastern outskirts of the town of Hackensack. Zabriskie's grandson Joost, probably the builder of the present house, was wounded several times while defending his property during the British occupation of the area in 1779.

In 1816 a grandson of the builder sold the house and 125-acre farm to Henry Kip, a Dutch-American descendant of the company who sponsored Henry Hudson's voyage to the New World. The Kip family farmed the land throughout the 19th century, and were prominent members of the Hackensack community, attending services at the Church on the Green, which they reached by boating across the river. In 1899 the property passed by marriage into the Cadmus family, also of Dutch descent, gaining its present appellation. Oral recollections of Mrs. Helena Cadmus in the twentieth century speak of arriving at her new home as a bride to find the front yard full of sheep. With the shift from agricultural use to suburban development the lot was reduced to its present size and the south facing river-front entry moved to the north side.

The building is a five-bay block measuring approximately 60' x 40' and containing four ground floor rooms around a center stair hall. Two prominent stone chimneys dividing the major rooms were removed during the nineteenth century and subsequently restored. The ashlar sandstone walls rise from the cellar through



a tall first story; the second story lies under a framed gambrel roof typical of the type. Dating is uncertain, since historical records indicating a 1751-61 construction period cannot be substantiated with physical evidence suggesting a later 18th century date. Chilling remnants of early slave ownership remain in the basement of the house — iron manacles secured to the stone foundation by links of chain. The house preserves the stout, reserved character of these Hudson River Dutch colonial farmhouses, and is beautifully maintained by its present owners. It is listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places.



**31**

### **Adam Vandelinda House**

**1830**

*586 Teaneck Road*

During the early 19th century, Adam Vandelinda and his brother Roelof owned similar houses on opposite corners of Van Buren Avenue on land purchased by their father James in 1804. The family was of Dutch heritage dating to the seventeenth century. Adam's fine sandstone house dates by inscription to 1830. The builder had a blacksmith shop in Hackensack, and passed the house to his son John in 1854, who subsequently sold it to William Walter Phelps. The building is on the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

Early one and one half story Dutch houses dotted the Bergen County landscape for two centuries and helped to establish the regional characteristics of material culture in the area. This house retains many of the features that epitomize the type: solid stone construction, a distinctive gable roof with dramatic overhanging eaves, and a two-part plan with attached kitchen wing. The latter may be of earlier date, perhaps 1780, judging by its construction and details. The handsome lines of the house are largely the result of twentieth century modernization — the prominent dormers and porches are not Dutch features. Nevertheless, a sensitive attitude to new additions and to the site as a whole

lends an air of distinction to the ensemble. Visible from Teaneck Road, the building is one of Teaneck's most prominent historic landmarks and forms a splendid pair with the older Vandelinda homestead across the street.



**8**

### **Banta-Coe House**

**18th c.**

*884 Lone Pine Lane*

This puzzling building hides its structural and historical characteristics underneath an 1846 reframing of the traditional 1½ story roof to create a cross gable. It is a stone dwelling probably dating from the first third of the 18th century, said to have been built by Wiert Banta, the grandson of Epke Jacobse Banta, who had emigrated from Holland in 1659. The plan is a five-bay, center hall type with two internal chimneys, measuring approximately 30' x 40'. Located near the river, it served to transport Banta's woven goods to Hackensack, downstream of the site. Later owners included the telegrapher Archibald Coe, Jr., who retained the property until 1923. The house and lot are listed on both State and National Registers of Historic Places.





29

**Brinkerhoff-Demarest House**  
c. 1728

*493 Teaneck Road*

A prominent cast iron marker alerts drivers on busy Teaneck Road to the presence of this venerable Dutch sandstone house, the oldest in Teaneck. Its slender kitchen containing a Dutch oven once projected nearly to the roadway, but a portion was demolished when street widening for auto traffic was undertaken in 1941. Despite considerable renovation since its 1930s documentation by the Historic American Buildings Survey, this house remains one of the classic examples of gambrel-roofed sandstone farmhouses built by the Dutch settlers in Bergen County during colonial times. It was published in Rosalie Fellows Bailey's primer on the type in the early part of this century, when extensive genealogical data was collected on the builders.

Hendrick Brinkerhoff constructed the house between 1728 and 1735 on land purchased from the Kiersted Patent in 1686. Mildred Taylor's account indicates that "behind the house lay farmland and the fyke where many an Indian relic of Oratam's day has been found." The building faces due south, from which the house is accessed by a Dutch door and "stoep" leading to a center hall. The four surrounding rooms — two parlors, dining room, drawing room — were heated by two back to back fireplaces prior to the installation of a Franklin Stove. The kitchen wing was built during the initial campaign to communicate with the existing dining room.

Recent replacement of windows, doors, dormers and roofing have left the building with little of its vital early details or patina. The sandstone walls are notable for their varying colors and fine ashlar coursing. The largest quarries for this ubiquitous building stone were in Bergen and northern Essex Counties. Dutch masons used relatively large blocks, from one and a

half to three feet thick, often varying the coursing to feature tall and short blocks in distinctive patterns. The walls were often whitewashed. The Brinkerhoff-Demarest House is listed on the State and National Registers.



27

**Caspar Westervelt House**  
*20 Sherwood Avenue*

**1763**

Two datestones, marked with the initials of Casparus Westervelt and his wife Wentje Westervelt, are set on each side of the front door of this large Dutch stone house, fixing its date at 1763. The original Dutch property lies in an area known by the Indians as "Ackensack," meaning a high ridge between two rivers, and once extended to the north of the junction of Overpeck Creek and the Hackensack River for two miles. Traffic along the route from the Hudson River westward during the Revolution was considerable, and the house was occupied twice by hostile troops during the war.

The prominent gambrel roof and dormers of the main block, and the impressive length of 74 feet make the building unusual for its type. The original kitchen wing on the north was demolished and replaced by a south wing during the 19th century. The fireplace in the present dining room was rediscovered during the 1960's, having been walled up with iron pots still hanging on their hooks. Originally, the main block had four smaller rooms; now the space is divided into two large ones. The Westervelt House is listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places.





**30**

**James Vandelinda House**

**1805-20**

*566 Teaneck Road*

Roelof Van der Linde and his wife Susanna Brinkerhoff were listed among the thirty three original members of the Dutch Reformed Church in Hackensack in the seventeenth century. This house stands on the edge of the large tract they purchased in 1696, and was probably constructed by their great grandson James, also a prominent farmer. Adding to his land in 1804, he left the two house sites on either side of the present Van Buren Avenue to his sons in the 1820s. Roelof, his oldest, received or built the house now standing at 566 Teaneck Road.

This unusual dwelling is more oblong in plan than most of its contemporaries, and features a brick front wall and three stone rear walls. The original section is a side-hall, three bay 1 1/2 story block measuring approximately 20' x 30'. To it were added both a 19th-century dining/kitchen wing and twentieth century kitchen and family rooms. The gable roof and dormers are modern as well. Walls are of evenly coursed ashlar red sandstone and brick laid in running bond. The house is listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places.



**11**

**John Ackerman House**

**1734-87**

*1286 River Road*

A dramatic open site stretching from River Road westward suggests why for many years this was known as the "Old River House." The lines of the sandstone main block and smaller wing are unbroken by modern alterations, making this the most emphatically Dutch of all the colonial and Federal era houses in Teaneck. The stonework is in fine condition. This relatively high state of integrity is the result of years of protection by Mr. and Mrs. William Davis, who later arranged for its sale to Fairleigh Dickinson University, which recently sold the property to a religious institution.

The smaller wing of the house, measuring approximately 18' x 28', was constructed first, probably around 1734 to contain two rooms and a loft. In 1787 the larger 33' x 36' wing was built with its stair hall in the left bay, connecting the two blocks. Interior features of note include a splendid cooking hearth in the kitchen, the main fireplace in the current living room, the staircase, and the former "best" parlor now used as a dining room. The building was recorded in detail by the Historic American Buildings Survey in 1936, and is listed on the State Register of Historic Places.

John Ackerman was a descendent of David Ackerman, who came to the New World from Holland in 1662. Mildred Taylor records the sad story of the death of one of his granddaughters, who fell into the river and drowned while playing near the house. The family owned and farmed the property for over 200 years, and the expansive riverfront parcel remaining gives a good impression of the historic landscape surrounding the homestead.





**13**

### **Lutheran Van Buskirk Church Cemetery 1716**

*River Road and Maitland Avenue*

Two stone markers in a prominent bend along River Road are all that is left to mark one of Bergen County's most significant historic sites. One of them reads: "The Site of the Protestant Lutheran Church and Cemetery of Hackensack Township, N.J. Records 1704-1776 Grant of the Site by Laurence Van Boskeark 1716." Although the stones which once graced this hallowed ground are no longer visible, there is a strong and unmistakable presence to the place even now. Here stood the first Lutheran Church in New Jersey, the first barn erected in Teaneck, and the graves of many of its early citizens.

The first Lutheran services in New Jersey were probably held near the site in 1704. Twelve years later, Laurence Van Buskirk, second son of the original Dutch owner of the tract in the seventeenth century, inscribed a deed granting land to the church on the condition that there should be built within four years "a House for Devine Worship for the use of the Protestant Lutheran Congregation in and about Hackinsack." The building he erected stood on the site for a period of 100 years or so, burning in the second decade of the 19th century. After the stone church was left in ruins, a vault was erected in which remains of Dutch Lutheran families were interred. The cemetery continued to be used until 1833, and headstones bore many names from the Van Horn and Van Buskirk families, as well as other prominent Bergen county names such as Ackerman and Westervelt. The site has been maintained as municipal open space for many years despite the deterioration and eventual disappearance of the original gravestones.

## **LANDMARKS OF THE VICTORIAN ERA**



**14**

### **Christian Cole House**

**c.1860**

*1617 River Road*

As America emerged from the cataclysm of the Civil War, Teaneck was a small and peaceful agricultural community still attached to Hackensack. The first railroad to serve the town was the West Shore branch of the New York Central, opened in 1859 but bankrupt by the Centennial. Thirty five ample farms stretched between Liberty and Fort Lee Roads. And a few well-to do gentleman built villas along the Hackensack River or high up on the ridge. The population of the area, then known as West Hackensack, numbered in the hundreds.

The house at the corner of Washburn Avenue and River Road was once the center of the Christian Cole estate, a fifty acre tract running eastward and encompassing the present Tokoloka Park and Feldman Nature Preserve. Maps indicate an earlier farmhouse dating from the beginning of the 19th century, but the present dwelling is definitely from the High Victorian period. The building has an unusually foursquare plan and hipped roof, broken by four small cross gables. The pendants and tracery beneath each peak, and the large cornice brackets are typical carpenter details of the period. Much of the present wrap-around porch is a rebuilding of an older, probably original feature. The front door and interior moldings, along with other details, indicate that the house was built by a person of some means.





**28**

**J.T. Brown House**

**c.1867-76**

*381 Fort Lee Road*

The J.T. Brown house is a modest 1 1/2 story Victorian dwelling located on the site of Teaneck's first public school, which stands next door in a much altered condition. That building was a one-room, shake and shingle structure with a low belfry, constructed between 1810 and 1820 on land donated by the Westervelt family. It served pupils from nearby Leonia, Ridgefield Park and Little Ferry. Brown was the first schoolmaster to teach in the township.



**32**

**Jacob Fink Farmhouse**

**1861-67**

*175 Fycke Lane*

This modest vernacular frame building of 2-story and a half gabled massing is typical of the smaller farm dwellings which were a vital part of the area's commerce in the mid-nineteenth century. The large trees and irregular setback are remnants of the agricultural landscape which once surrounded the dwelling, but now appear anomalous in this suburban neighborhood.



**12**

**Just Farmhouse**

**c.1839**

*1500 River Road*

This large 2-story frame and shingle farmhouse retains the handsome lines that distinguished it in the days of the Morris Canal. It is the oldest surviving house from a key era in Teaneck's history, when the fertile land along River Road was dotted with prosperous farms. The picturesque river site retains some of the landscape which distinguished this part of the county for more than two centuries — tall mature trees and fine views of the riverbank. Once one of the most prepossessing of the farmhouses along the river, the building has recently received a radical alteration which removed many of its significant historical features.



**21**

**Van Brunt Farmhouse**

**c.1837**

*243 East Forest Avenue*

Located on the far eastern edge of the township, near Argonne Park, this small vernacular farmhouse is typical of the pre-Civil War era dwellings which stood on farm plots throughout the county. The open porch



with shed roof and simple bracketed cornice may date from its second period of ownership in the J.W. McCulloh family (1867-76).



25

**Vernacular Classical Revival House 1890s**  
447 Queen Anne Road

Teaneck became a township in 1895, in the midst of New Jersey's borough movement. Its population then numbered only 800. Much of the town was still largely rural and agricultural, with a few scattered concentrations of commercial buildings, a full complement of religious institutions, several train stations serving different lines, but not many dense subdivisions of houses. Trolley lines ran from Edgewater to Main street in Fort Lee, down Fort Lee Road to Broad Avenue in Leonia, and on to the junction at Hillside Avenue and across the Overpeck to Teaneck. With these transportation improvements came a few organized subdivisions, such as the one concentrated around the south side of town nearest the trolleys. Here, on long east-west streets such as Hillside, Oakdene and Copley can be found many familiar house types of the classic streetcar suburbs.

One of these types, falling under the rubric of what historian Alan Gowans calls "the comfortable house," is the stout hip roofed, two-story model with a dominant giant order front porch. This fine example uses Corinthian columns to support its monumental pediment. Similar houses can be found throughout the northern part of the state, in such towns as Newark, Irvington, Plainfield, Montclair and Englewood. Stylistically, this somewhat naive experimentation with classical features is an 1890s vernacular parallel to the larger Colonial Revival which swept the country following the Centennial.



26

**Vernacular Eclectic House**  
1880s-90s

121 Oakdene Avenue

More exuberant than the classical revival house at the corner of Queen Anne Road, this house on Oakdene features a panoply of motifs and features from an era noted for its "picturesque eclecticism." The word eclectic means "to choose," and choice is what many Americans wanted in the heady boom and bust years of the 1890s. Working class citizens, both native born and recent immigrants, flocked to suburbs like Teaneck to find good jobs, raise families, and eventually find a community in which to live out their lives. This house would have appealed to the upwardly-mobile family by showing off such deluxe features as an oval stained-glass window, Ionic columns, rich carved details, and a massive tower.



16

**Vernacular Italianate House**  
1861-67

790 Old New Bridge Road



Historians Robert Guter and Janet Foster note in their studies of pattern book houses in New Jersey that the Italianate style flourished through the auspices of numerous serial and book publications in the mid-nineteenth century. These included the popular compendiums of Samuel Sloan and John Riddell of Philadelphia, *Woodward's National Architect*, *Godey's Ladies Book*, and the seminal publications of Andrew Jackson Downing. While most of Teaneck's High Victorian houses have vanished, this small central tower villa in the hamlet of New Bridge preserves the flavor of this popular style as it existed in the 1860s. The 1876 atlas lists the house as the property of "B.Cole."



22

**Vernacular Second Empire House  
c. 1867-76**

542 Englewood Avenue

One of Teaneck's few Second Empire style houses, this tiny and very curious example features a mansard roof with gabled dormers, a fine open porch, entablature with wood brackets, and shingle cladding.

**TWENTIETH CENTURY  
PUBLIC BUILDINGS  
Bahai Center**



**Evergreen Cabin**



**Shingled Carriage House**



**Roy Wilhelm House**



**Bahai Center***130 Evergreen Place***1908-26**

On June 29, 1912 Abdu'l Baha, founder of the Bah'ai Faith, spent the night in the Teaneck home of Roy Wilhem on wooded property he had purchased from the Phelps estate. During the next day a convocation known as the Unity Feast was held in which the master gave a celebrated speech, later remembered in a time capsule buried at the site. Here, in a wooded grove, members of the nascent church resolved to erect one of the most unusual religious buildings in America, a two story log and stone structure (the Evergreen Cabin) which blends perfectly with its wooded surroundings.

Three individuals are associated with the building of the Cabin: coffee merchant Roy Wilhelm, his friend and log building enthusiast Curtis Kelsey, and the then amateur architect and Englewood stationer Louis Bourgeois. The tradition of religious meetings in rustic camps dates back to the 19th century, but it was unusual for a non-traditional faith to embrace this practice. Also unusual was the choice of an overtly vernacular log building type, again associated during this period with resort life and naturism. Only a few years prior to this campaign, Gustav Stickley had chosen the log cabin as his model for Craftsman Farms in Parsippany; his magazine, *The Craftsman* joined *Bungalow Magazine*, *The House Beautiful* and other periodicals in promoting the rustic, simple life as an American dream. Architect Bourgeois captured the essence of this style in the design, while Wilhelm collected stones for the fireplaces from his world travels, and Kelsey lent his talents as a builder on weekends. The white cedar logs for the Evergreen Cabin were mainly brought from Canada, while Norway spruce logs were cut and stripped from local stands. Nearby stood the log Torii or gate symbolic of the b'ab or prophet of the faith; its has since been demolished. The entire site seems to have been conceived in the spirit of a verdant, informal recreational camp or grove, with rock fountains and pools, winding paths and tall sheltering trees.

The sheer inventiveness and ebullience of the architecture imparts a sense of joy. Inside, the meeting spaces are filled with unusual details, including conch shell lighting fixtures, stone fireplaces and twisting log joinery. In addition to the chapel and guest rooms, there is a complete workshop in which traditional manual trades were taught and learned, such as blacksmithing, woodworking and leather crafts. Parallels with American Arts & Crafts colonies, such as the Roycrofters, Rose Valley and United Crafts, are inescapable. Bourgeois plied his skills as a designer

here in Teaneck, then moved to Chicago, where he became a noted architect associated with the later Prairie School. His fanciful national Bah'ai Temple in Wilmette, Illinois is a marvel of poured in place concrete construction. Also on the Evergreen Place site is a stucco house designed by the architect for Wilhelm in about 1908 and a shingled carriage house. The original cabin, measuring 13' x 25' was augmented with a wing finished in 1931, and fire code renovations were made in 1990.



3

**Cedar Lane Commercial Streetscape  
1920s-40s***Railroad to Front Street*

The opening of the Phelps estate to development in 1922 led to the construction of hundreds of new dwellings in the center of the township. Cedar Lane had long been a prominent east-west thoroughfare linking the old path of Teaneck Road with the West Shore Railroad Station on the other side of the ridge. It was perhaps inevitable that commercial and retail development would concentrate along this wide street. By the middle of the Depression a classic "Main Street" of shops, movie theatres, restaurants, professional offices and other needed establishments had sprung up along Cedar Lane. The streetscape includes 10 eclectic revival buildings, noted for their integrity and significance, located between the bridge spanning the Penn Central Railroad tracks and Front Street. Typical of the two story mixed use buildings familiar in many New Jersey towns is the Teaneck Center Building, with its large shop windows on the ground floor, second floor offices and fine terra cotta cladding. By 1931 the township had established a planning board and master plan to direct growth, and the coherence of this district is indicative of the civic spirit which pervaded that defining era in Teaneck's history.





20

### Central Fire House

1947

*Teaneck Road & Fairview Avenue*

George M. Cady's Central Fire House follows the Georgian Colonial vocabulary of his earlier buildings in the Municipal Government Complex, including the cupola and brick detailing. Teaneck's organized fire protection began in 1911, when four volunteer companies divided duties throughout the township. By 1915 they had consolidated into the Municipal Fire Company under Chief K.V. Ridley. The present four-bay station is located across the street from the original 1923 headquarters building, which accommodated 10 paid firemen and a volunteer corps. It is an elaborate facility even for its time, housing not only pumpers and ladder company equipment, but extensive living quarters and offices on the second floor. The domestic shuttered fenestration adds character and scale to an otherwise monumental facade fronting the busy street.

## Municipal Government Complex Historic District



### Municipal Building



### Public Library



### Former Police Building



**1**

## **Municipal Government Complex Historic District 1925-51**

*Cedar Lane & Teaneck Road*

The construction of the Municipal Government Complex in the mid-1920s marked Teaneck's coming of age as a modern suburban community. Population rose by 300% between 1920 and 1930 (from 4,192 to 16,513), and municipal services expanded to meet the demands of new residents. Frederick McGuire, chairman of the Township Committee, initiated plans for a new town hall in 1925 to replace the 1869 schoolhouse then serving the purpose. The project was plagued by controversy from the first, because residents mistrusted the motives of local politicians who had raised their taxes and pushed growth. Opponents protested that the new building would become a "hangout and roost" for the committee and political cronies.

Perhaps to stem such criticism, an architectural competition was staged to pick an architect to design the town hall. The winning scheme, by the New York firm of Ludlow and Peabody, soothed residents with its reassuring Georgian-Colonial idiom. Project architects Edward Tilton and Edward Morris utilized a gabled red brick block and a familiar pedimented classical portico, crowning the building with a cupola to suggest a patriotic "colonial" flavor. The building follows the most popular models for 1920s American public buildings, echoing the work of Colonial Revival masters such as William Adams Delano, Cameron Clark, William Lawrence Bottomley and Mott Schmidt. The cornerstone was laid in November 1925 and the building dedicated on July 4, 1926.

Also distinctive is the unusual site chosen for the complex. With the death of Mrs. William Walter Phelps in 1920, the estate began to sell its precious acreage for residential development. The ruins of Phelps's country house, The Grange, which had burned in 1888, stood at the crossroads of Teaneck Road and Cedar Lane, quite literally at the center of the township. The township acquired this 7-acre site at a cost of \$35,000 and demolished the ruins to create a park in which to set the government buildings. A ready-made landscape with mature trees and verdant lawns lent an air of permanence and stateliness to the buildings, which were placed to take advantage of picturesque flora and views north and south along Teaneck Road.

The two other buildings in the complex, a Police Headquarters (now offices) and Public Library, are mainly the work of local eclecticist George M. Cady. Citizens initiatives resulted in the construction of the first wing of the library in 1936 to designs of Frederick

T. Warner, but Cady expanded the building with side wings in 1952 to increase capacity. A more recent addition to the west side enclosed the building's handsome Georgian facades to create an interior court. Cady's modest Georgian Police Building completed the ensemble on the south side in 1951.

**23**

## **Teaneck High School**

**1928**

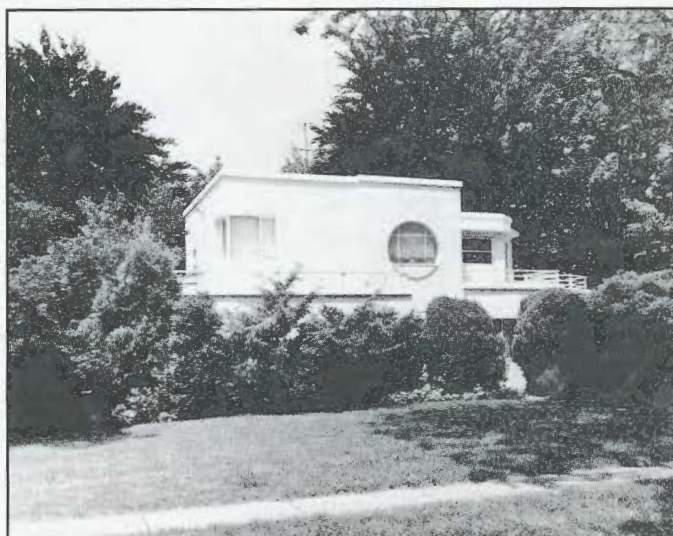
*Queen Anne Road and Cranford Place*

The 1920s expansion of public infrastructure in Teaneck matched the growth of suburban communities throughout northern New Jersey, as population spread outward from major cities. Teaneck's public school system, like those of nearby Ridgewood, Montclair, Englewood, Westfield and the Oranges, developed to meet the demands of a growing middle class. The distinguished architecture of American schools of this period was a reflection of the innovations in elementary and secondary education which blossomed during this great period of civic-minded beneficence. Teaneck High School is an excellent example of the ordered and imposing Collegiate Gothic or Tudorbethan style which predominated in educational facilities during the early part of this century.

Designed by the noted New Jersey firm of Hacker & Hacker, the school occupies a 13.5 acre green campus adjoining the Route 4 parkway, and facing an expansive set of athletic fields to the west. The building is linear, rising two stories and punctuated by three gate-like masses reminding one of the country houses of the Tudor period. The central tower uses a double turret motif taken by way of England from such influential American campus ensembles as Cope & Stewardson's Freshman Quadrangle at the University of Pennsylvania. Fine English bond brickwork interwoven with limestone belt courses, quoins, crenelations and gargoyles lend an air of elegant correctness to the

style. The building was constructed at a cost of \$726,000 by E. & C. Haerter and dedicated on January 1, 1929. 650 pupils were enrolled that year.

## TWENTIETH CENTURY RESIDENCES



4

### **Art Moderne House**

**c.1938-40**

*658 Larch Avenue*

Teaneck's tree-lined suburban streetscapes are generally graced by trim houses in the popular period styles of the pre-and post-World War II building boom. It is refreshing to find, amidst the Tudor and Colonial Revivals, a house with unmistakably modern trappings — pipe railings, porthole and ribbon windows, sleek stucco surfaces, metal details and even frosted glass. The architect of this “streamlined moderne” gem is presently unknown, although a similar house was built in 1938 to the designs of Erik Kaeyer in the nearby Standish Road development. It fits very comfortably on its large corner lot, and the massing jogs and turns defly to acknowledge various internal and external conditions. In its lines and splendid details one can see the strong influence of the 1933 Century of Progress Exposition and 1939 New York World's Fair, with their confident visions for the future of architecture and modern living.





**6**

**Arts and Crafts House**

**c.1912-25**

*755 Pomander Walk*

Bergen County is graced with a large number of Arts & Crafts bungalows, American Foursquare pattern-book houses, Sears & Roebuck models, and even a few authentic Craftsman Home Builder's Club dwellings. These simple house types appealed to working class and middle class Americans who were drawn to their more leisurely and accommodating plans and general simplicity of construction. Their peak period of popularity occurred on either side of the two World Wars, when domestic shelter publications proliferated. This example has quaint lines and typical wood and shingle details, mixed with a hint of the Colonial Revival.



**24**

**Bofinger Estate Mansion**

**c.1922**

*721 Carroll Place*

During the late 19th century, Teaneck, Englewood and other areas of Bergen County near New York became the estate grounds of many prominent business and professional leaders. William Walter Phelps owned the

largest tract among a number of grand country places which included the Englewood house of Morgan banker Dwight Morrow. Ironically, one of the last mansions in Teaneck was constructed on a part of the Phelps property, sold after 1922 to David T. Bofinger, the president of the Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company — also known as, grocery giant A&P. The site was not grand by standards of that day, approximately 20 acres, most of which would be developed into house lots by the owner before 1936. Eschewing the opulence of former tycoons, Bofinger chose to build a relatively modest brick block with only a smattering of classical detail on a lot only twice the size of neighboring suburban houses. In so doing, he prefigured the development of the Winthrop Road and Standish Road subdivisions, in which large suburban "period houses" echoing the popular styles of earlier country houses would be tailored to the tastes of the emerging upper middle class commuter.



**18**

**Louis Bourgeois House**

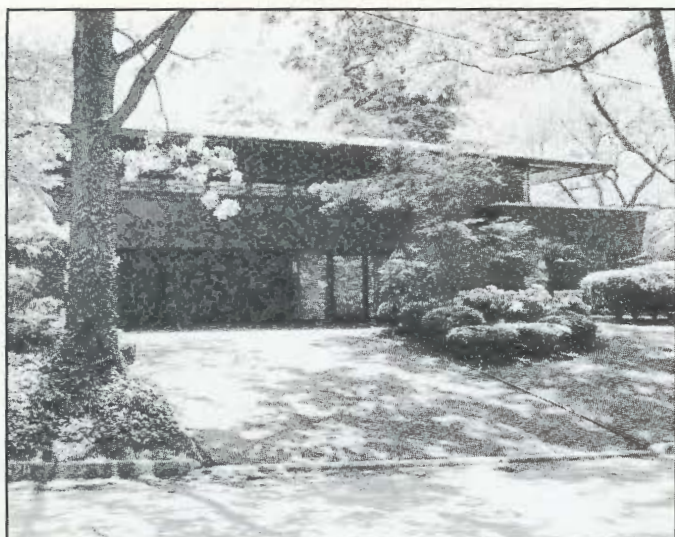
**c.1903**

*114 Bogert Street*

Louis Bourgeois is best known as the architect of the national shrine or temple of the Bahai Faith in Wilmette, Illinois. He was a resident of Englewood during the early part of the century, working in New York on the design of skyscrapers (he placed second in the famous Chicago Tribune Tower Competition in 1922), and running a stationery store. His training and apprenticeship are uncertain — he is said to have studied at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris.

This house is probably connected with the later Evergreen Place residence of Bahai Faith member Roy Wilhelm. It is a typical Arts & Crafts stucco house, with robust wood detailing and strong simple lines.





10

## Thurnauer House

628 North Forest Drive

1950

The William and Maria Thurnauer residence is Teaneck's only building by an architect of international stature, and a landmark of great significance to Bergen County and the region. It was designed in 1949 by Edward Durrell Stone (1902-1978), one of America's most eminent modern architects, during a period of peak creative activity. The owners, who still reside at their North Forest Avenue address, have been ardent supporters of the arts and culture in Teaneck, and are well-known for their patronage of classical music.

During the initial stages of his career prior to World War II Edward Durrell Stone's architecture played a crucial role in the development of the modern movement in the U.S. — his best known works included the design of the interior of Radio City Music Hall (1930), and the original building for the Museum of Modern Art (1939) with Phillip L. Goodwin. Stone's later work was also influential, establishing a richer and more decorative style of American modern building in such works as the American Embassy in New Delhi (1954), the General Motors Building in New York (1968) and the Kennedy Center for the Arts in Washington (1969).

The Thurnauer house dates from the immediate post-war years, when Teaneck's northwestern quadrant was subdivided and developed. The owners chose a prominent hillside lot in the gently curving North Forest Avenue loop. Stone spoke of the initial concept for the house as a tonic for the "space-wasting hallway." Instead, he centered the circulation around an atrium or "eventful space" which would provide "immediate drama and the possibility to orient oneself" upon arrival. He described his design as "essentially a rectangle with a central, covered, top-lighted atrium playroom which provided access to the bedrooms, to the kitchen and to the living and dining areas." Reminding

one of the contemporaneous work of Frank Lloyd Wright's Usonian period such as his Ennis House in Los Angeles, Stone's design features a cantilevered wood balcony and dramatic overhanging hipped roof. The plan is rectangular, measuring approximately 46' x 82'. Interior materials include California cypress, brick, flagstone and redwood, giving the building a durable, rustic character. The house has been lovingly maintained and retains the highest level of architectural integrity.

Dense landscaping and retaining walls screen the pool at the east side of the site, and envelop the wood and brick exterior on the street side to provide privacy. The Thurnauers have hosted a number of internationally renowned musicians and artists at concerts in their residence, including Rudolf Serkin, Dawn Upshaw, Frederika von Stade, and Rudolf Firkusny, adding an extra dimension of significance to a splendid work of architecture.



## TWENTIETH CENTURY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS

7

### Fred T. Warner Historic District 1926-38

*Catalpa, Sunset, Beverly, Cedar Lane*

Architect and developer Fred T. Warner played a critical role in the planning of Teaneck's central area and contributed much to the character, scale and ambience of the township. His most unique contribution was made in a small subdivision of approximately 40 buildings lying to the northeast of the intersection of Cedar Lane and River Road. Here the architect devised an inventive mixed-use "village" of storybook houses, garden apartments and shops.

The Warner district is really a kind of diminutive recollection of Teaneck's architectural history — in it one finds austere Dutch sandstone buildings, clapboard courtyard apartments, tiny cottages in a myriad of "Colonial" period styles, and small winding streets graced by mature trees. But behind the quaint picture of an old-time village lies a very rational and forward-looking plan for the accommodation of needed housing and commercial space in a town soon to be dominated by the automobile. Analogous to the contemporaneous Wright/Stein/Ackerman schemes for greenbelt towns such as nearby Radburn, the Warner subdivision utilizes inventive site planning, landscape development and disciplined design of housing types to create a dense but intimately scaled community. All socio-economic and demographic units are recognized — modest frame houses for small families, duplexes for maximum land utilization, maisonettes for singles and the elderly, and larger homes for bigger families. The success of his design can be attested by the popularity of the houses and apartments among residents, and the care which is lavished upon them.

Warner purchased the tract from the Phelps estate shortly after it was opened for development, and began building just prior to the stock market crash. When the Depression threatened his venture, the Phelps estate beneficently stepped in to buy back the property and lease it to Warner until he could right himself financially. Building continued for twelve years, with the last plans for garden apartments on Beverly Road published in the *Architectural Forum* of 1938. Warner was one of nine original members of Teaneck's Planning Board when it was chartered in 1931 to provide a master plan for the township.

## FRED T. WARNER HISTORIC DISTRICT



7a.

800 Catalpa Avenue

Fred T. Warner's talent for stylistic miniaturization or caricature is no better demonstrated than in this gem of a house. The essential features of the Dutch sandstone dwelling of colonial vintage are brilliantly rendered, while the architect has also made a smart and functional 20th century cottage.



7b.

Catalpa & Beverly Road #625

Another quaint and compact variation on the Dutch colonial house, this three bay dwelling features a sandstone base story and a dramatic overhanging eave and dormer.





**7c.**

*820 Catalpa Avenue*

A dash of the Louisiana creole cottage mixed with the Dutch is brewing in this fine three-bay house with a kitchen wing attached to the right side.



**7d.**

*844 Catalpa Avenue*

Like something out of a children's storybook, here is a picturesque clapboard box featuring colonial shutters and a picket fence.



**7e.**

*705-713 Cedar Lane*

**7f.**

*717-721 Cedar Lane*

Fronting Cedar Lane and the new commercial district, Warner designed a pair of sandstone office and retail buildings with a modest domestic scale. They form a kind of natural gateway to the small houses behind, and give the only clue to the passing motorist as to the treasures on nearby Catalpa Avenue. It is as if a small colonial village had once existed in this location, and these buildings were its only preserved remnants.



**7g.**

*639-667 Sunset Road*

A group of fine clapboard houses designed as "starters" for the small family.





**7h.**

*694 Sunset Road*

One of the largest houses in the district, this trim and simple dwelling features an indented entry loggia and prominent dormers.



**7i.**

*664 Beverly Road*

One of Warner's rare forays into the Tudor style so popular in the rest of Teaneck, this design has the simplicity and bold lines typical of the architect's other houses.



**7j.**

*Garden Apt. Complex*

Another surprising element in Warner's scheme was this courtyard apartment group, unusual as a housing type in Bergen county but popular elsewhere during the 1920s and '30s (in California, for instance). The scale is delightfully friendly, and the units are immaculately kept to this day.



## Standish Road Historic District 1922-36

*Standish Road and various streets*

Many residents of northern New Jersey recognize Teaneck as a community of cozy suburban houses, predominantly in the 1920s style known as Tudor. According to historian Gavin Townsend, 30-40% of the residential designs published in leading architectural journals during that Jazz Age decade could be grouped under that heading, second in popularity to "colonial" among American homeowners. The Standish Road district contains the richest and most distinctive concentration of Tudor houses in Teaneck, and one of the best anywhere in the East.

The district includes portions of Standish Road, Lincoln Place, Ramapo Road, Oakland Court, Fairidge Terrace and Wyndham Road to the east of Phelps Park and south of Route 4. Even the street names conjure up pictures of Merrie Olde England, as they were intended to do by developers during the 1920s. In Chestnut Hill, Pennsylvania and Mamaroneck, New York, enlightened landowners such as George Woodward planned houses and apartments in styles associated with the most picturesque places in England — the Cotswolds, Lincolnshire, Stratford-on-Avon. Playing on ancestral heritage, snob appeal, sentimental and literary associations, those marketing Tudor residences sought to attract Americans of middle income means with architecture pretending to the styles popular with the rich, the aristocratic, and the learned. Many architects developed a specialty in these English cottage idioms — New York's Frank Forster and Philadelphia's Robert Rhodes McGoodwin worked extensively in these styles during the 1920s. Although the architects of the Standish Road houses are not known at present, there can be little doubt that designers of talent and direct knowledge of sources were responsible for many of the designs.

Most houses include garages and front their lots in a manner typical of later automobile suburbs. Their distinctive variety of materials, textures and deliberately anachronistic construction details mark them as products of an eclectic age. Most buildings feature some half timbering and faux oak cruckwork, mixed with rustic brick or stone veneers. Interiors are functional, with smaller rooms than are typical today, and handsome details attesting to their high quality construction despite modest costs.

## STANDISH ROAD HISTORIC DISTRICT



9a.

583 Wyndham Road

A tall, compact and handsome variation on English cottage style country houses of the 1920s. The steeply sloping roof extends to a low eave on each side of the building, creating a large symmetry which is broken by the two gabled elements on the front facade. An unusual and somewhat unbalanced composition occurs at the front door, framed by a brick gabled projection and an off-center chimney mass.



9b.

580 Standish Road

Architect Eric Kaeyer designed this 1938 streamlined moderne house, a tonic to the rustic and romantic Tudor houses which predominate in the district.





**9c.**

*518 Standish Road*

An example of what sensitive renovation and additions can do to enhance the value of a 1920s house; the basic lines, textures, materials and fenestration are maintained, while significantly more space is provided at the rear and sides of the lot.



**9d.**

*573 Standish Road*

This trim and very modern hip roofed house shows how a clever designer could evoke the Tudor style in a type uncharacteristic of original English vernacular models. A little half timbering and some fine stonework do the trick.



**9e.**

*589 Standish Road*

One of the finest and most distinctive Tudor houses in the district, this model fits its lot like a glove. The tall chimney locks the composition and aptly balances the two dormers with the half-timbered cruckwork porch which projects invitingly. There is even a neatly attached garage.



**9f.**

*619 Standish Road*

Splitting the garage wing from the double-gabled main block is a bold and successful solution to this two-level lot.



## WINTHROP ROAD HISTORIC DISTRICT



**17a.**

*480 Winthrop Road*

The rather elaborate half-timbered gable on the left side gives this fine Tudor its signature or identifying mark. As in many houses of this style, the roof dominates the massing and gives the house a more horizontal feeling, tying it securely to the landscape.



**17b.**

*494 Winthrop Road*

A large and imposing Tudor bracketed by beautiful landscaping. The overdraped gable roof is broken by a sweeping entry pavilion at the left and a large dormer at the right.



**17c.**

*522 Winthrop Road*

Three gabled projections distinguish this large colonial revival house with typical post World War II stripped details.



**17d.**

*532 Winthrop Road*

Two nested gables at the front facade step down to accent the entrance of this fine Tudor house.





**17e.**

*552 Winthrop Road*

The projecting shingled witch's hat gable and oriel window are typically English features of this otherwise all-brick house.



**17f.**

*503 Winthrop Road*

A trim and almost streamlined 1930s variation on the colonial, this three bay model features unusual flemish bond brick and projecting curved bay windows.



**17g.**

*523 Winthrop Road*

Distinctive, variegated ironspot brickwork and metal casement windows give a 1930s twist to this 2-story colonial. The classical entry and two porches add a note of academic propriety.



**17h.**

*563 Winthrop Road*

One of Teaneck's finest Tudors, this sprawling slate roofed house reminds one of the best work of architects such as Frank J. Forster and Mellor, Meigs & Howe. Of particular note is the projecting garage wing — usually a recessive feature. This house gestures first to the car, then brings the visitor obliquely toward the front door with a corner chimney.

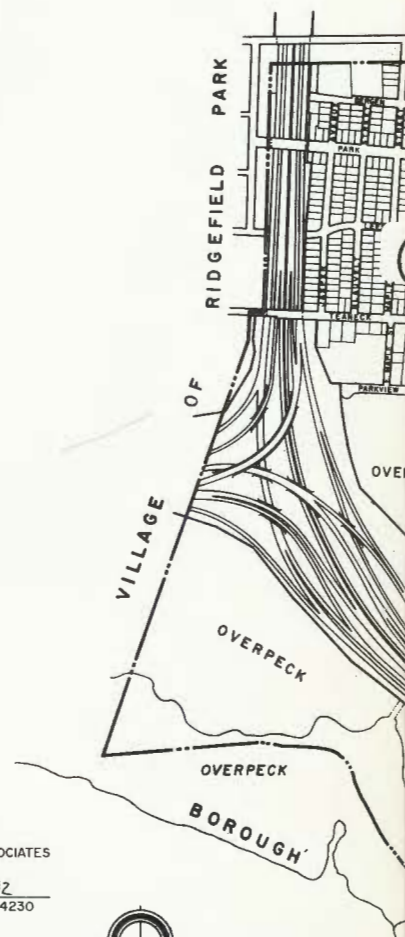


## INDEX AND MAP OF HISTORIC SITES

The following index and map have been prepared with the intention of providing visitors and residents with a convenient tour of Teaneck's historic sites and districts. Index numbers appear next to the description of each landmark in the guide and are also shown in numerical order below along with a page number reference. The map shows landmark location by index number.

SITE NAME	INDEX NO.	PAGE NO.
Municipal Government Complex Historic District	1	23
Oak Tree (former Campbell Farmhouse Site)	2	4
Cedar Lane Commercial Streetscape	3	21
Art Moderne House	4	27
Zabriskie-Kipp-Cadmus House	5	5
Arts and Crafts House	6	28
Fred T. Warner Historic District	7	32
Banta-Coe House	8	7
Standish Road Historic District	9	38
Thurnauer House	10	30
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Lutheran Van Buskirk Church Cemetery	13	12
Christian Cole House	14	13
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Vernacular Italianate House	16	17
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Central Fire House	20	22
Van Brunt Farmhouse	21	15
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Vernacular Classical Revival House	25	16
Vernacular Eclectic House	26	17
Caspar Westervelt House	27	9
J.T. Brown House	28	14
Brinkerhoff-Demarest House	29	8
James Vandelinda House	30	10
Adam Vandelinda House	31	6
Jacob Fink Farmhouse	32	14

# HISTORIC LANDMARKS TOWNSHIP OF TEANECK BERGEN COUNTY NEW JERSEY



REVISED BY:  
WILLIAM H. SCHWANNEDE ASSOCIATES  
FEBRUARY, 1992  
*William H. Schwanne* 2/27/92  
WILLIAM O. SCHWANNEDE No. 14230

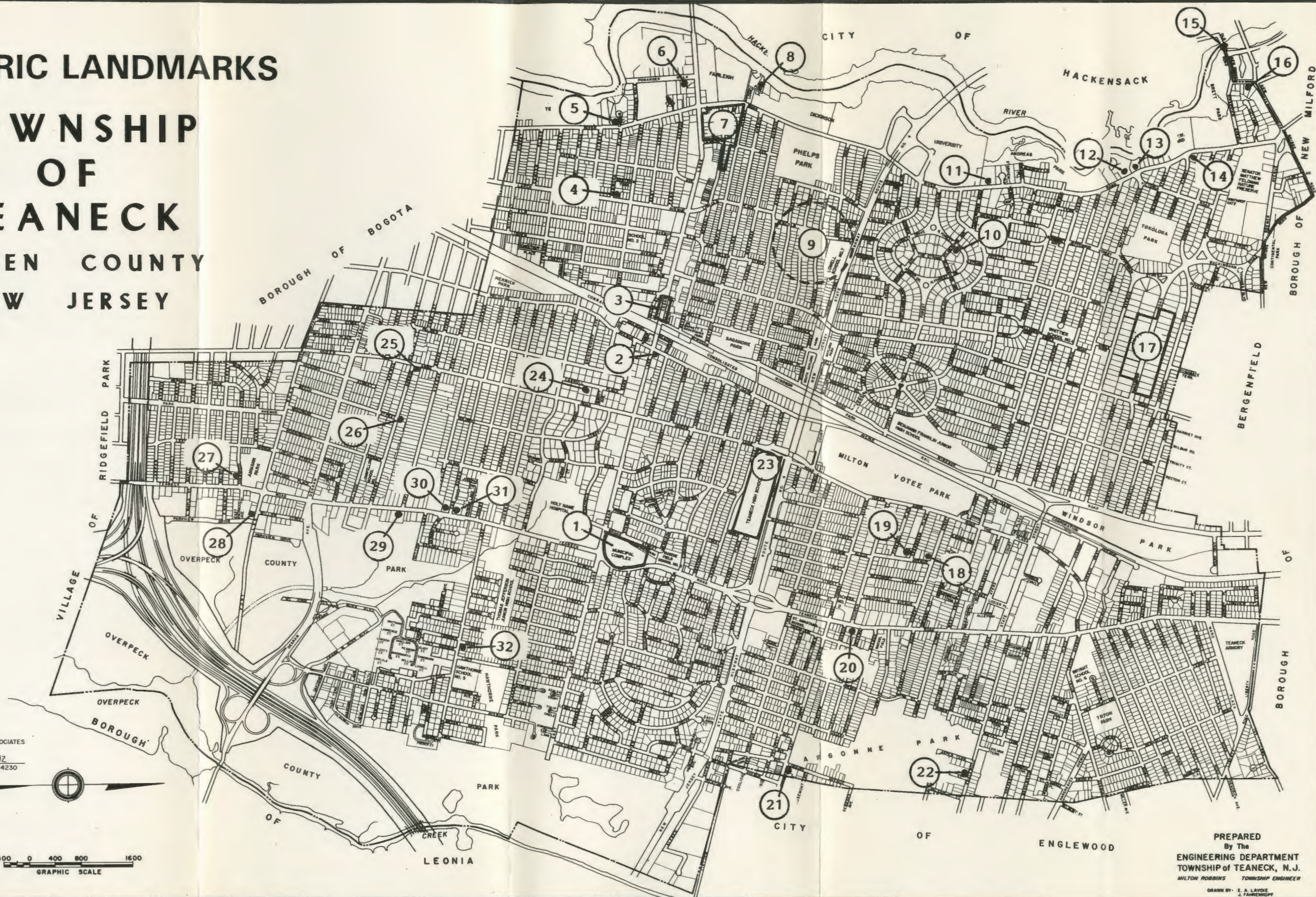
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GRAPHIC SCALE



# HISTORIC LANDMARKS

## TOWNSHIP OF TEANECK

### BERGEN COUNTY NEW JERSEY



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PREPARED  
By The  
ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT  
TOWNSHIP OF TEANECK, N.J.  
MILTON ROBBINS TOWNSHIP ENGINEER  
DRAWN BY: E. A. LAYNE  
J. FAHRENWORTH



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