

**TOWNSHIP OF WEST ORANGE
LANDMARK DESIGNATION REPORT**

**HEDGES BLOCK
56 MAIN STREET (BLOCK 69, LOT 28)**

**TOWNSHIP OF WEST ORANGE
ESSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**



Prepared for:

West Orange Historic Preservation Commission

Prepared by:

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NOVEMBER 2019

Introduction

During a historic sites survey of the Main Street corridor completed for the West Orange Historic Preservation Commission in 2014, the Hedges Block at 56 Main Street (Block 69, Lot 28) was identified as an excellent example of late-19th-century vernacular commercial architecture (Figure 1). The building, constructed in 1892, is one of the oldest and most complete historic commercial buildings on West Orange's Main Street and housed meeting space for West Orange's municipal government until 1905, which adds to its historical significance.

In 2019 the West Orange Historic Preservation Commission retained the services of Hunter Research, Inc., to conduct an in-depth historical study of the Hedges Block with the goal of designating it as a Local Historic Landmark per the Township of West Orange Revised General Ordinances 25-30.3, "Historic District and Landmark Designation." This Landmark Designation Report presents the results of this study and was prepared to support the West Orange Historic Preservation Commission's decision on whether to recommend that the Master Plan and Zoning Map of the Township of West Orange be amended to designate the Hedges Block as a Local Historic Landmark. This is the first step in the local landmark designation process outlined by Township of West Orange Revised General Ordinances 25-30.3.

The property (Block 69, Lot 28) also includes a row of six one-story stores designated as 46-54 Main Street and located immediately adjacent to the Hedges Block. This designation report excludes 46-54 Main Street and focuses exclusively on the Hedges Block at 56 Main Street.

Physical Description

Exterior

The Hedges Block is a vernacular commercial building constructed in 1892. This three-story, six-bay, common-bond brick, flat-roof, wedge-shaped building measures approximately 56-feet wide (south-to-north) at the front of the building and approximately 40-feet wide at the rear of the building (Photograph 1). It is 68-feet deep (east-to-west). The building faces east onto Main Street and is bounded to the north by Lindsley Avenue.

The building has no strongly discernible architectural style, although the building's flat-roof and some remaining decorative elements at the roofline are suggestive of the Late Renaissance Revival-style that was popular from the 1870s to the 1910s. A brick parapet topped by stone coping runs along the flat roof on the street-facing front (east) and side (north) elevations (Photograph 2). Below the parapet, a molded wood cornice with modillions extends over a prominent vertical board frieze resting above a narrow band of closely spaced dentils. A similar cornice, although with a plain frieze, separates the first-story storefronts from the second story and partially wraps around the side (north) elevation. The building's northeast and northwest corners are decorated with a delicate brick quoining pattern formed by alternating header rows.

The fenestration pattern of the front (east) elevation consists of single double-hung windows at the third and second stories over top of plate-glass window storefronts at the first story. The windows of the third and second stories are divided into two sets of three. The third- and second-story windows contain replacement double-hung 1/1 vinyl sash with faux 6/6 muntins set within the original wood casings. The windows feature thick sandstone sills and narrower lintels.

The south side elevation is windowless. The north side elevation has four windows (two each at the third and second stories) and two metal fire-escape doorways (one each at the third and second stories). The windows have stone lintels and sills, and are identical to those on the front (east) elevation. The fire-escape door at the center bay of the second story is a narrow, paired, paneled wood door with two lights that is of a late-19th-century style and possibly original. The flush metal fire-escape door in the left bay at the third story is not original. The north elevation has no windows at the first story but there is an off-center wood-door loading bay with stone lintel and sill. The original diagonal wood plank door remains in the loading bay, although partially covered by a horizontal board barrier.

The rear (west) elevation is five bays with single double-hung windows at the third and second stories, and two doors at the first story. These windows and doors vary from those on the east and north elevations due to having arched rowlock brick lintels and wood sills. Two first-story windows flanking the western rear door have been in-filled with a red-brick colored stucco. (Photograph 3). The northernmost rear entry, which provides access to Main Street Hardware, has been enclosed with plywood, while the southernmost rear entry, which provides access to Main St. Liquors, retains a wood door. This door, however, does not appear to be in use. Both entries are surmounted by transoms that have been infilled with A/C units, and both entries are accessed via unoriginal treated wood staircases with wood picket railings.

The front (east) elevation is divided into two storefronts at the first story (Photograph 4). Main St. Liquors, formerly Llewellyn Liquors, occupies the southern storefront, which is clad with painted wood panels and a fluted Doric pilaster at the southern end. While these wood panels may appear historically appropriate to the building, they are not original (see Photograph 29). The fixed, metal-frame, plate-glass windows are modern replacements. The front entry is located in the southernmost bay and is slightly recessed. It contains a replacement glazed metal door. Unoriginal fluorescent lights illuminate the storefront's sign, which sits above the windows and door.

Main Street Hardware occupies the northern storefront, which is dominated by large, modern, fixed, metal-frame, plate-glass windows. The storefront is clad with blue and orange painted metal panel aprons beneath the plate-glass windows. Similar panels at the northeastern corner of the storefront read "PLUMBING" on the front (east) elevation and "FEED" on the side (north) elevation. An unoriginal canvas awning spans the northern storefront and shields its centered front entry, which is recessed behind the plate-glass windows and contains a wood door with a large, rectangular glass pane. The transom above the door has been infilled with an A/C unit.

An off-center entry is located between the two storefronts. It contains an unoriginal flush wood door surmounted by a canvas awning. This door provides access to a stairway to the second story, which currently serves as storage for Main Street Hardware. The staircase continues to Ben Georgia Art Gallery and Studio, which occupies the third floor.

The side (north and south) elevations feature faded painted advertisements. On the north side elevation, a painted sign advertising “Coca-Cola” is located at the first story adjacent to Main Street Hardware’s fixed plate-glass window (Photograph 5). It appears that this sign was painted over earlier advertisements, for rectangular outlines and traces of words and images are visible behind it. A two-story, one-bay rectangular painted green and blue advertisement sits above the first-story cornice at the northeastern corner adjacent to the fire escape. The advertisement is illegible. Traces of large painted advertisements are located at the second and third stories and extend from the third-story entry towards the rear of the Hedges Block. The word “Duluth” is visible at the third story, which may refer to grain products from the Duluth Imperial Mill in Duluth, Wisconsin, once the largest flour mill in the world. On the south side elevation, two faded advertisements are located at the third story (Photograph 33). The rectangular advertisement is largely illegible but appears to include a circular design and two rows of words. An extremely faded advertisement for “Coca-Cola” is located immediately south of this advertisement.

The Hedges Block is banked into a small hill that slopes downwards from Main Street to the west towards Wheeler Street (Photographs 5 and 6). It rests upon a foundation of roughly shaped and coursed brownstone masonry, which is visible on the side (north) and rear (west) elevations. The foundation encloses a full-height basement. Two below-grade entries located at the basement-level on the rear (west) elevation provide access to the basement from the exterior. The basement entry to Main Street Hardware’s basement contains a board-and-batten wood door, and the entry to Main St. Liquors’ basement holds a replacement flush wood door.

Interior

The interior of the Hedges Block is roughly divided in half on an east-to-west axis by a central staircase, which provides access to the second and third stories from a first-story entry on Main Street (Photograph 7).

Main Street Hardware occupies the northern storefront, which consists of a single, large open room with replacement vinyl tile flooring above a plywood subfloor (Photograph 8). Rows of modern metal shelves dominate the space and divide the store into narrow aisles lighted by unoriginal fluorescent lights (Photograph 9). A staircase enclosed by vertical wood planks and located at the southern rear corner of the store provides access to the unfinished full-height basement (Photographs 10 and 11). An open wood staircase located adjacent to and parallel to the rear wall of the store provides access to the second floor via a wood trapdoor in the ceiling (Photograph 12).

Main St. Liquors occupies the southern storefront, which consists of a single, large open room. In contrast to Main Street Hardware, Main St. Liquors possesses entirely modern and replacement finishes, including a drop ceiling with acoustic tiles and fluorescent lights, vinyl flooring and faux wood paneling on the walls, and a row of refrigerators with clear glass doors line the southern wall of the store (Photograph 13). An enclosed staircase located at the northern front corner of the store provides access to the unfinished full-height basement (Photograph 14). Both of the plaster walls on the interior of the basement staircase bear numerous handwritten notes in pencil (Photographs 15 and 16). These notes date from the 1890s and 1900s and record significant events and deaths in the Township of West Orange. It could make an interesting project to transcribe these notes and place them on file in the public library if this task has not already been undertaken.

Like the first floor, the second floor of the Hedges Block is divided into two halves, both of which currently store merchandise from Main Street Hardware. Access is via the central wood staircase, which opens onto the second-story landing approximately mid-depth. Two doorways containing replacement flush wood doors flank the landing and open onto the northern and southern sides of the second floor (Photographs 17 and 18). Although currently obscured by rows of modern metal shelves, the northern half of the second floor consists of a large, open room oriented to the long axis of the building (Photograph 19). Apart from the eastern end of the room, which has painted brick walls, the walls are finished with plaster (Photograph 20). A wood beam supported by round wood posts spans the length of the room, which retains its original decorative pressed-tin ceiling and wood plank floor (Photographs 20 and 21). A notable survival is the exterior entry on the north wall, which retains paired, side-hung paneled, fire-escape wood doors featuring rectangular lights inlaid with chicken wire as fireproofing (Photographs 22).

The southern half of the second floor has been portioned into two rooms. The front room encompasses the eastern third of the building. An unoriginal drop ceiling with acoustic tiles and fluorescent lights obscures the original ceiling height, while drywall encloses the brick walls (Photograph 23). The rear room, which encompasses the western two thirds of the floor, retains its original ceiling height and narrow wood plank floors (Photograph 24)

The central staircase terminates at a paneled wood door at the third story, which currently houses the Ben Georgia Art Gallery and Studio (Photograph 25). Similar to the first and second floors, the third floor has been divided roughly in half along its long axis by a plaster wall set beneath a wood beam supported by round wood posts and is dominated by two large rooms that span the front three quarters of the building, running from the eastern wall to approximately the same depth as the door. The northern room displays finer finishes, including an original patterned tin ceiling, plastered brick walls and narrow wood plank floors oriented parallel to the front wall and stained a dark color (Photograph 26). The rough wood plank floors in the southern room have been painted and most of the plaster has been removed from the brick walls (Photograph 27). The plaster on the ceiling is likely unoriginal, for it encloses the trap door that originally opened onto the roof. Two remnant industrial sewing machine hookups project from the bottom of the

interior wall in the southern room (Photograph 28), while a paneled wood door set into this wall connects the southern room and the northern room.

Statement of Significance

Erected in 1892, the Hedges Block is a significant and well-preserved example of late-19th-century vernacular commercial architecture. Constructed by Samuel M. Hedges and Charles H. Hedges to replace the group of wood-frame stores they built in 1873 at the corner of Lindsley Avenue and Main Street, which shared the same name, the Hedges Block has continuously functioned as a commercial space since 1892. With its two-storefront plan, decorative wood cornice, brick parapets, fenestration pattern and loading dock, this substantial brick building embodies the characteristics of late-19th-century vernacular commercial architecture. In short, it is one of the finest, oldest and most complete historic commercial buildings within West Orange's Main Street corridor. For approximately eleven years, the Hedges Block also served as the town hall for the Township of West Orange, housing the municipal government offices and the West Orange Police Department from 1894 to 1905.

Hedges Block History. The Hedges Block at 56 Main Street was constructed in 1892 by Samuel M. Hedges and Charles H. Hedges. It replaced the original iteration of the Hedges Block, a row of eight wood-frame stores erected by Samuel M. Hedges and Charles H. Hedges in 1873 shortly after they purchased the property at the southwest corner of Main Street and Lindsley Avenue from Rachel Louisa Lindsley (Figures 2 and 3).¹ A fire destroyed these wood-frame stores on April 30, 1892, and the Hedges brothers constructed the current three-story brick building shortly after the fire (Figure 4).²

Born to William J. and Mary (Eoff) Hedges on June 23, 1821, in Somerville, New Jersey, Samuel M. Hedges received his early education in Somerville before entering his father's employ at the age of 18 in New York City. He relocated several times during the subsequent decades, moving primarily between Somerville, New Jersey, and Illinois, until 1873, when he permanently settled in Orange, New Jersey, with his family. In 1873, Samuel M. Hedges formed a partnership with his older brother, Charles H. Hedges, under the name S.M. Hedges & Co. The firm quickly established itself as one of the leading dealers of flour, feed, grain and hay in Essex County. Born in 1818, Charles H. Hedges studied medicine at Rutgers University and practiced as a physician in Flushing, New York, before relocating to West Orange prior to 1873. In addition to founding S.M. Hedges & Co., Charles Hedges continued to practice as a physician and served as the clerk of the Township of West Orange from 1866 to 1882. In 1884, Charles Hedges relocated permanently to Charlottesville, Virginia.³

¹ Joseph Fagan, "Seeing the Writing on the Wall Tells about W.O. History," *West Orange Chronicle* (West Orange, NJ), August 23, 2018; Rachel Louisa Lindsley to Samuel M. Hedges and Charles H. Hedges, September 6, 1873, Deed Book E17, Page 447, Essex County Deeds, Essex County Register of Deeds and Mortgages, Newark, NJ.

² Joseph Fagan, "Seeing the Writing."

³ Richard Edwards, ed., *Industries of New Jersey: Essex County, Including the City of Newark, the Oranges, Montclair, Bloomfield and Belleville* (New York, NY: Historical Publishing Company, 1882), 772; *Biographical*

After the completion of the new Hedges Block at 56 Main Street in 1892, S.M. Hedges & Co. moved into the first and second floors of the northern half of the building and erected one- and two-story wood-frame sheds for storage at the rear of the property (Figure 4). The West Orange Police Department occupied the first floor of the southern half of the building, which contained a courtroom and jail cells, and the Township of West Orange also rented space in the southern half of the building for its municipal offices.⁴ The Township of West Orange's municipal offices had previously been located in the original wood-frame Hedges Block.

The Township of West Orange established an independent Police Department in 1884, having previously relied upon the Police Department of Orange for protection. The West Orange Police Department rented space in the old wood-frame Hedges Block and following the fire, the police and the municipal clerk of West Orange moved into the new brick Hedges Block. The Township occupied the building until 1905, when crowded quarters prompted the municipal government to relocate its offices to the Wheeler Lindsley homestead on Northfield Avenue.

During the West Orange Police Department's tenure in the Hedges Block, John Heslin recorded important events in West Orange's history and the names and dates of residents who died in pencil on the walls of the basement staircase (Photographs 15-16). Heslin served from 1893 to 1913.⁵ In 1895, the Republican Club of West Orange also rented space in the Hedges Block. Presumably, this was located in the southern half of the building on the second floor, as a fire insurance map of West Orange published by the Sanborn Map Company in 1895 identifies the second floor of the Hedges Block as a club room (Figure 4).⁶

Samuel M. Hedges and Charles H. Hedges continued to own and operate their flour, feed and grain business from the Hedges Block through the first decade of the 20th century. Charles H. Hedges died at the age of 85 in 1903, and Samuel H. Hedges sold his half interest in the property to the executors of his brother's estate, Robert H. Wood and Halstead S. Hedges, for \$2,000.00 in 1910.⁷ Robert H. Wood and Halstead S. Hedges both resided in Charlottesville, Virginia, and treated the Hedges Block as a rental property (Figures 5 and 6). In 1912, Newell N. Smith rented and flour, feed and grain business from the northern half of the Hedges Block, which was known then as 289 Valley Street.⁸ He also rented and utilized the wood-frame sheds for hay, grain and feed located behind the Hedges Block (Figure 7). In 1912, Wallmann & Lehrer, a plumbing and steam and gas fitting business owned and operated by Herman G. Wallmann and Charles Lehrer,

and Genealogical History of the City of Newark and Essex County, New Jersey (New York, NY: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1898), 464-465.

⁴ Fagan, "Seeing the Writing."

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ David Lawrence Pierson, *History of the Oranges to 1921*, Volume III (New York, NY: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1922), 591, 599.

⁷ "Dr. Charles H. Hedges," *The Baltimore Sun* (Baltimore, MD), January 15, 1903; Samuel M. and Sarah J. Hedges to Robert H. Wood and Halstead S. Hedges, March 23, 1910, Deed Book Q46, Page 351, Essex County Deeds, Essex County Register of Deeds and Mortgages, Newark, NJ.

⁸ *Directory of the Oranges, Irvington, Livingston and Millburn 1912* (Newark, NJ: Price & Lee Company, 1912), 567.

rented the southern half of the Hedges Block, which was known as 291 Valley Street (Figure 7).⁹ Newell N. Smith eventually purchased the Hedges Block from Robert H. Wood and Halstead S. Hedges for \$18,000 in 1917.¹⁰

Newell N. Smith continued to operate his flour, feed and grain business from the northern half of the Hedges Block throughout the 1930s, by which time the building had been renumbered from 289-291 Valley Street to 56 Main Street (Figures 8 and 9). In 1932, the Hedges Block contained four rental units, which included the flour, feed and grain business and a vacant unit. According to a city directory published by Price & Lee Co. in 1932, Lambrew Bros., a produce company operated by Andrew C. Lambrew and Theodore Lambrew, rented space in the Hedges Block, presumably the first-floor store in the southern half of the building.¹¹ The Eagle Rock Council No. 287 also occupied space in the Hedges Block in 1932, most likely on the second or third floors.¹² Newell N. Smith closed his flour, feed and grain business sometime between 1938 and 1940.¹³ A fire insurance map of West Orange published by the Sanborn Map Company in 1939 indicates that Newell N. Smith's flour, feed and grain business and the Lambrew brothers' produce business occupied the first two floors of the Hedges Block, while the third story continued to function as a hall. Two of the wood-frame sheds behind the building also remained standing in 1939 (Figure 10). By 1940, the Smith & Kaufman hardware store had replaced the flour, feed and grain business in the northern half of the Hedges Block, while Andrew C. Lambrew and Theodore Lambrew continued to operate their produce business out of the southern half of the building. A new tenant, Central Dress Co., also rented space in the Hedges Block in 1940.¹⁴ The presence of sewing machine hookups on the third floor of the Hedges Block indicates that Central Dress Co. occupied this space (Photograph 28).

Newell N. Smith maintained ownership of the Hedges Block until his death at the age of 85 in May 1948.¹⁵ He devised the Hedges Block in trust to his daughter, Hazel S. Smith. The death of Hazel S. Smith in 1971 dissolved this trust, and, per the terms of Newell N. Smith's will, ownership of the Hedges Block passed to his son, Russell S. Smith.¹⁶ Stanley M. and Lorraine S. Rickle subsequently purchased the Hedges Block from Russell S. Smith for \$120,000 in

⁹ Ibid., 616.

¹⁰ Robert H. Wood and Halstead S. Hedges, executors of Charles S. Hedges), Robert H. and Isabelle P. Wood and Halstead S. and Pernette V. Hedges to Newell N. Smith, March 1, 1917, Deed Book N58, Page 508, Essex County Deed, Essex County Register of Deeds and Mortgages, Newark, NJ.

¹¹ *The Oranges Directory 1932* (Newark, NJ: The Price & Lee Co., 1932), 302.

¹² Ibid., 548.

¹³ *The Oranges Directory 1938* (Newark, NJ: The Price & Lee Co., 1938), 462; *The Oranges Directory 1940* (Newark, NJ: The Price & Lee Co., 1940), 481.

¹⁴ Ibid., 591.

¹⁵ "Deaths in New Jersey," *Courier-Post* (Camden, NJ), May 7, 1948.

¹⁶ Curtis R. Brundage to Russell F. Smith, April 8, 1971, Deed Book 4370, Page 907, Essex County Deed, Essex County Register of Deeds and Mortgages, Newark, NJ.

December 1971.¹⁷ Stanley M. Rickle was a descendant of Newell N. Smith by marriage.¹⁸ In 2003, he transferred title of the Hedges Block to Bamada Corporation, the current owner.¹⁹

The Hedges Block continued to function as a commercial building throughout the latter half of the 20th century, though the occupants of the building changed slightly. By the 1960s, Llewellyn Liquors, the predecessor to Main St. Liquors, had replaced the Lanbrew brothers' produce business in the southern half of the building (Photograph 29). The northern half of the building continued to house a hardware store, though the business changed hands several times.²⁰ The wood-frame storage sheds behind the Hedges Block remained standing during this period, and they were ultimately demolished between 1995 and 2002 (Photographs 30 and 31).²¹

Comparative Examples. The Hedges Block at 56 Main Street is one of two extant late-19th-century commercial buildings located in West Orange's Main Street corridor. The two-story, three-bay, Shingle-style building at 10-18 Main Street, which was constructed *circa* 1900, possesses similar scale and massing to the Hedges Block and occupies a similarly prominent corner at the intersection of Main Street and Northfield Avenue. Substantial alterations to the storefronts and their extension beyond the original façade, however, have greatly diminished the integrity of 10-18 Main Street (Photograph 33). Located outside of but adjacent to the Main Street corridor, the three-story, wedge-shaped, vernacular brick commercial building located at 2-4 Northfield Avenue was constructed prior to the Hedges Block between 1881 and 1890 (Photograph 34). With its scale, massing, materials and first-story storefronts, the mixed-use building at 2-4 Northfield Avenue resembles the Hedges Block and embodies many of the character-defining features of late-19th-century vernacular commercial architecture. A substantial three-story addition to the south elevation *circa* 1900 has altered the building's original late-19th-century form.

Justification of Eligibility

The definitions and procedures for local designation of historic landmarks and districts in the Township of West Orange are contained in Chapter 25-30 of the township's ordinances. Specifically, the National Register Criteria for designation are incorporated by reference in subsection 25-30.3(b).²²

The National Register Criteria for eligibility are described by the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Register Program in 36 CFR 60.4:

¹⁷ Russell F. and Hazel T. Smith to Stanley M. and Lorraine S. Rickle, December 28, 1971, Deed Book 4426, Page 759, Essex County Deed, Essex County Register of Deeds and Mortgages, Newark, NJ.

¹⁸ Joseph Fagan, "Seeing the Writing."

¹⁹ Stanley M. Rickle to Bamada Corporation, September 23, 2003, Deed Book 6021, Page 356, Essex County Deed, Essex County Register of Deeds and Mortgages, Newark, NJ.

²⁰ Joseph Fagan, *West Orange Revisited* (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2016).

²¹ Nationwide Environmental Title Research, Aerial Imagery of West Orange, New Jersey, 1931-2015, Historic Aerials, last modified 2019, <https://www.historicaerials.com/viewer>.

²² West Orange Township, *Revised General Ordinances of the Township of West Orange* (2012), on line at www.westorange.org/document_center/view/550 [accessed September 2016].

“The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, and:

A. that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or

B. that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or

C. that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

D. that have yielded, or may be likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Constructed in 1892 by Samuel M. Hedges and Charles H. Hedges, the Hedges Block at 56 Main Street is one of the oldest and most well-preserved commercial buildings in West Orange’s Main Street corridor. It embodies the character-defining features of late-19th-century vernacular commercial architecture and is representative of the multi-use building type that defines the Main Street corridor. It is rectangular in form with a parapeted flat roof above a dentiled and modillioned wood cornice. Characteristic of late-19th and early-20th-century commercial buildings, the Hedges Block housed multiple functions under one roof. It featured two full-length storefronts with fixed plate glass windows at the first story topped by office space and meeting rooms with double-hung windows on the second and third floors. The loading dock at the first story on the side (north) elevation and the faded advertising on the side (north and south) elevations speak to the building’s continuous and varied commercial uses and its prominent location at the corner of Main Street and Lindsley Avenue. As such, it is deemed to be eligible for listing as a local landmark under Criterion C.

While exterior alterations, most notably the replacement vinyl windows and 20th-century storefronts, have negatively impacted integrity of materials and workmanship, the Hedges Block retains its original design as expressed by scale and massing, fenestration pattern, running-bond and common-bond brick exterior, decorative wood cornices, stone window sills and lintels and first-story loading dock. As such, the Hedges Block possesses high integrity of design and retains sufficient integrity of materials and workmanship to convey its historic significance as a late-19th-century commercial building. The Hedges Block is deemed to have a period of significance of 1892, when it was designed and constructed.

The adjacent one-story stores at 46 to 54 Main Street are deemed to be non-contributing because they were constructed as additions to the Hedges Block between 1911 and 1939 after the period of significance.

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Robinson, E. *Atlas of the Oranges*. Philadelphia, PA: A.H. Mueller. 1904.

Attachments

Rachel Louisa Lindsley to Samuel M. Hedges and Charles H. Hedges, September 6, 1873, Deed Book E17, Page 447, Essex County Deeds.

Samuel M. and Sarah J. Hedges to Robert H. Wood and Halstead S. Hedges, March 23, 1910, Deed Book Q46, Page 351, Essex County Deeds.

Robert H. Wood and Halstead S. Hedges (executors of Charles S. Hedges), Robert H. and Isabelle P. Wood and Halstead S. and Pernette Hedges to Newell N. Smith, March 1, 1917, Deed Book N58, Page 508, Essex County Deeds.

Curtis R. Brundage to Russell F. Smith, April 8, 1971, Deed Book 4370, Page 907, Essex County Deeds.

Russell F. and Hazel T. Smith to Stanley M. and Lorraine S. Rickle, December 28, 1971, Deed Book 4426, Page 759, Essex County Deeds.

Joseph Fagan. "Seeing the Writing on the Wall Tells about W.O. History." *West Orange Chronicle* (West Orange, NJ), August 23, 2018.

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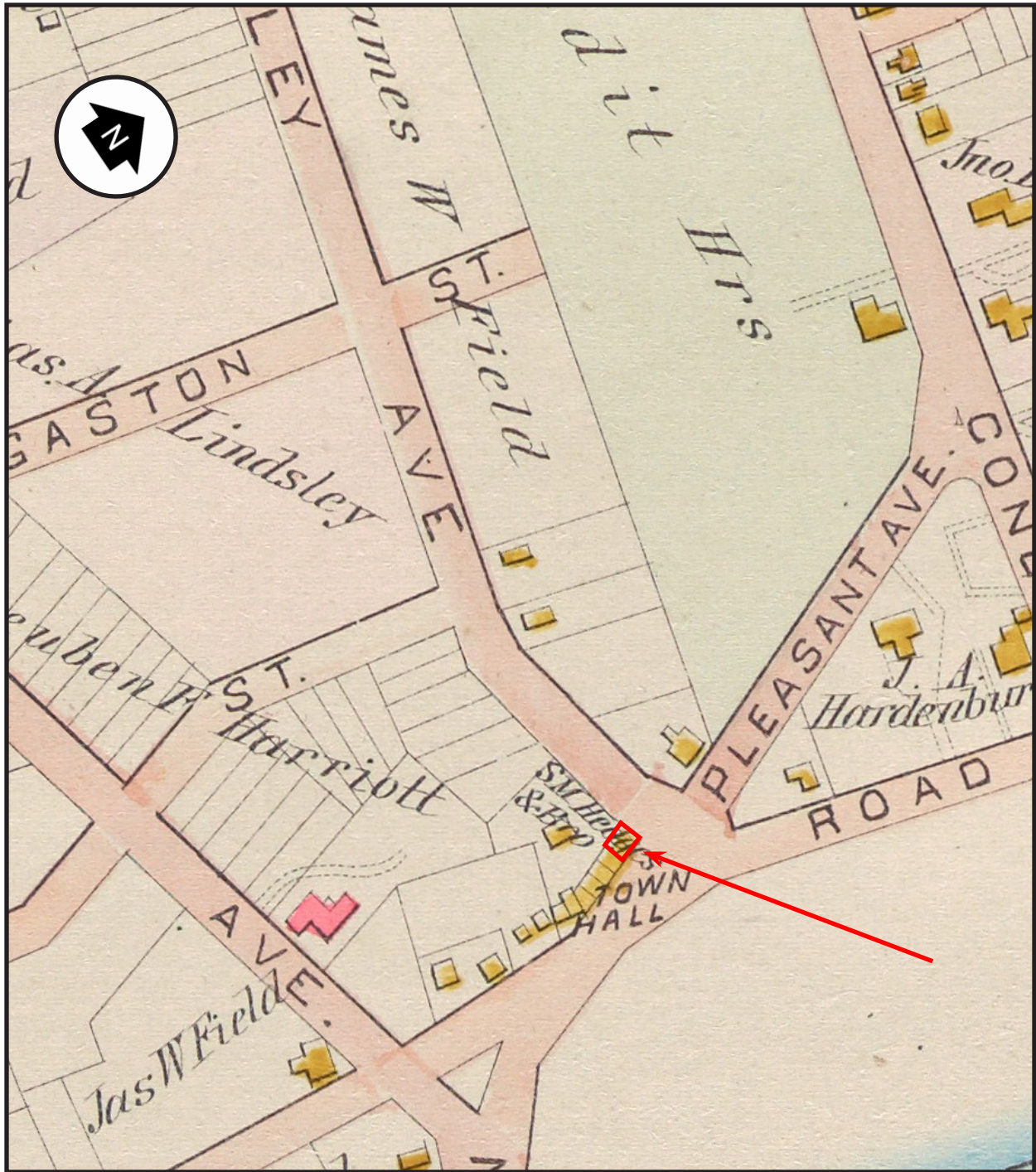


Figure 2. Pidgeon, R.H. and E. Robinson. *Atlas of Essex County, New Jersey*. 1881. Boundaries of 56 Main Street outlined. Scale: 1 inch = 220 feet (approximately).

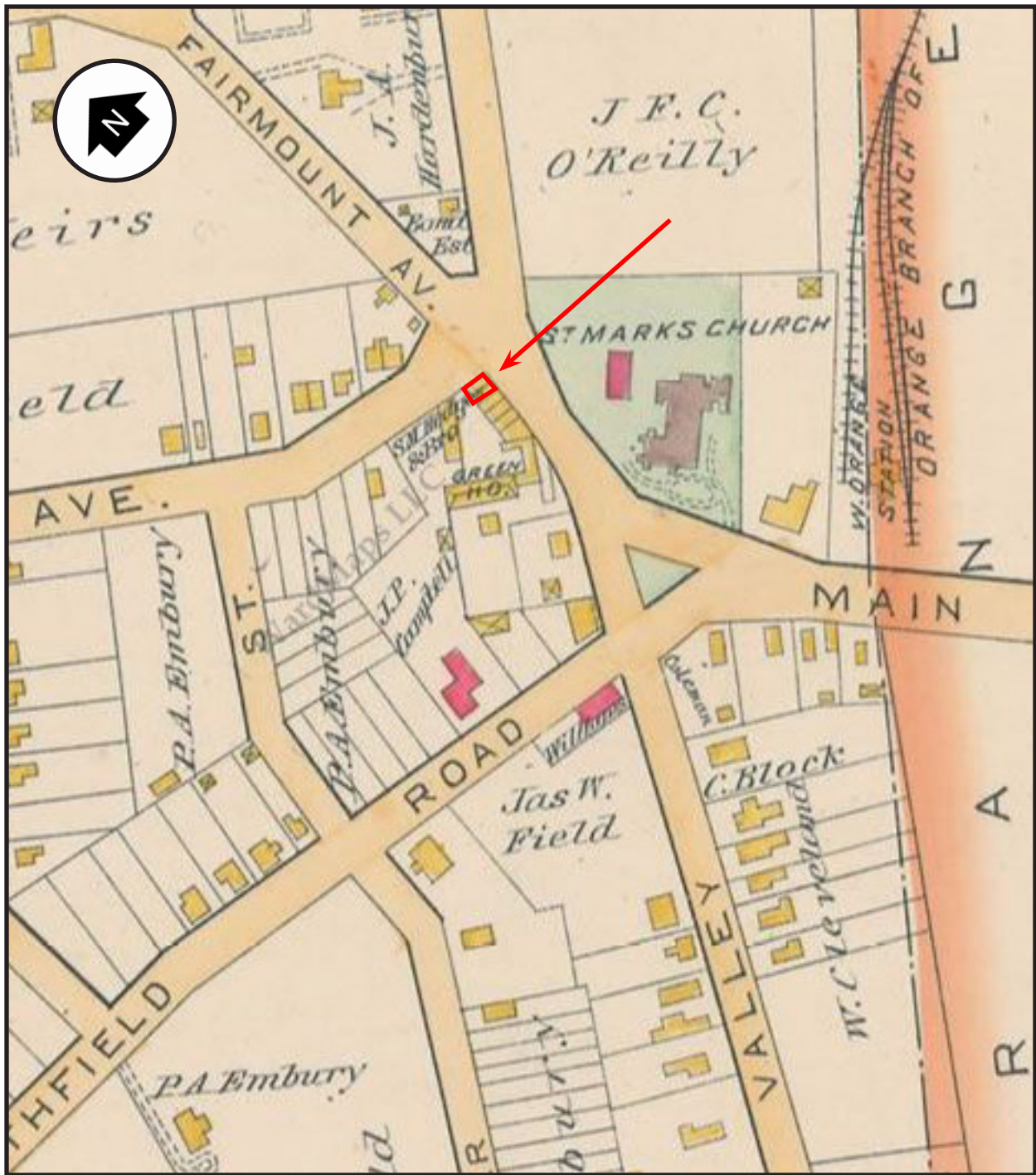


Figure 3. Robinson, E. *Robinson's Atlas Map of 1890*. 1890. Boundaries of 56 Main Street outlined. Scale: 1 inch = 210 feet (approximately).

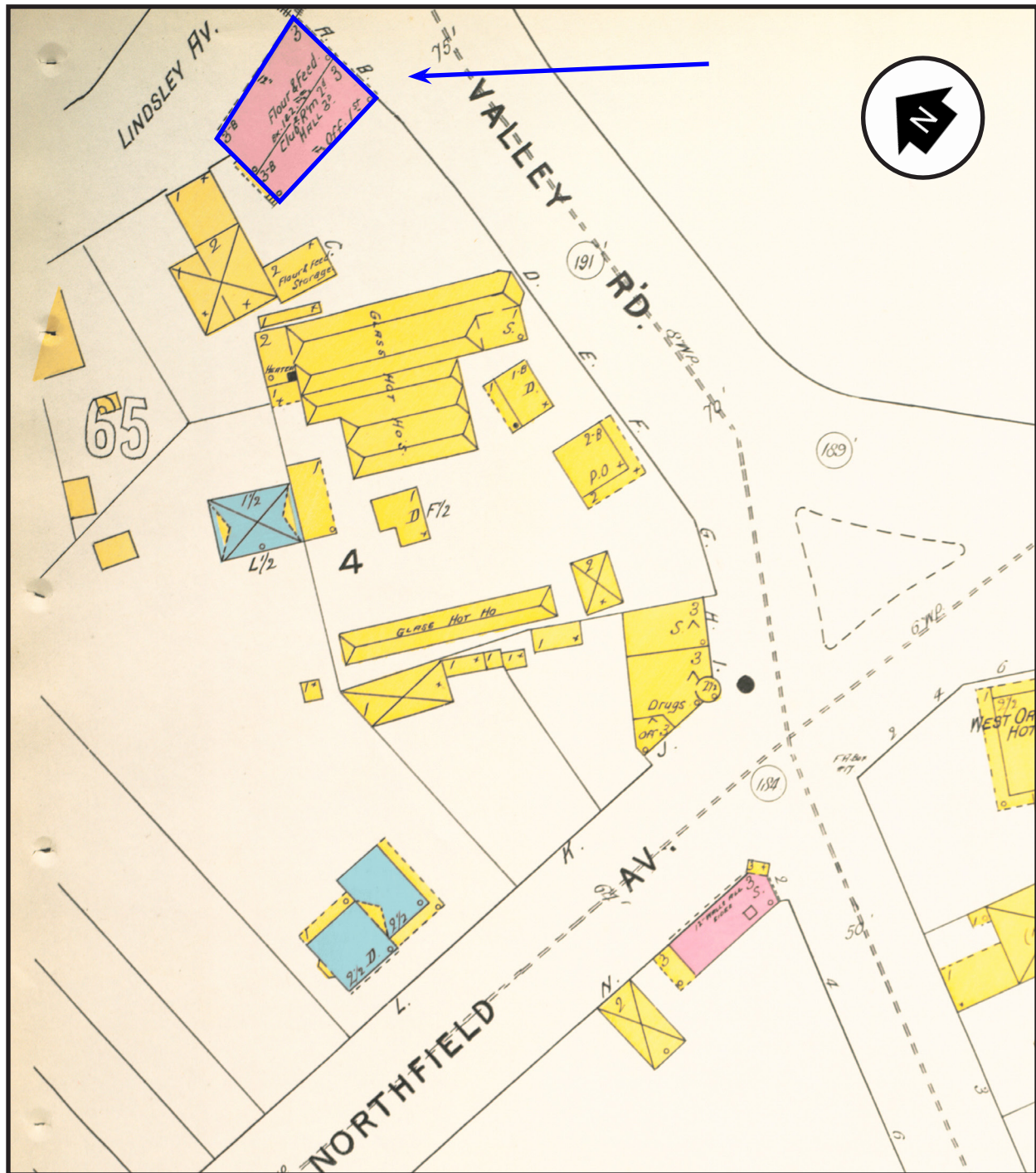


Figure 4. Sanborn Map Company. *Insurance Maps of Orange and West Orange New Jersey*, Sheet 64. 1895. Boundaries of 56 Main Street outlined. Scale: 1 inch = 75 feet (approximately).



Figure 5. Mueller A.H. *Atlas of the Oranges*, Plate 4. 1904. Boundaries of 56 Main Street outlined. Scale: 1 inch = 160 feet (approximately).

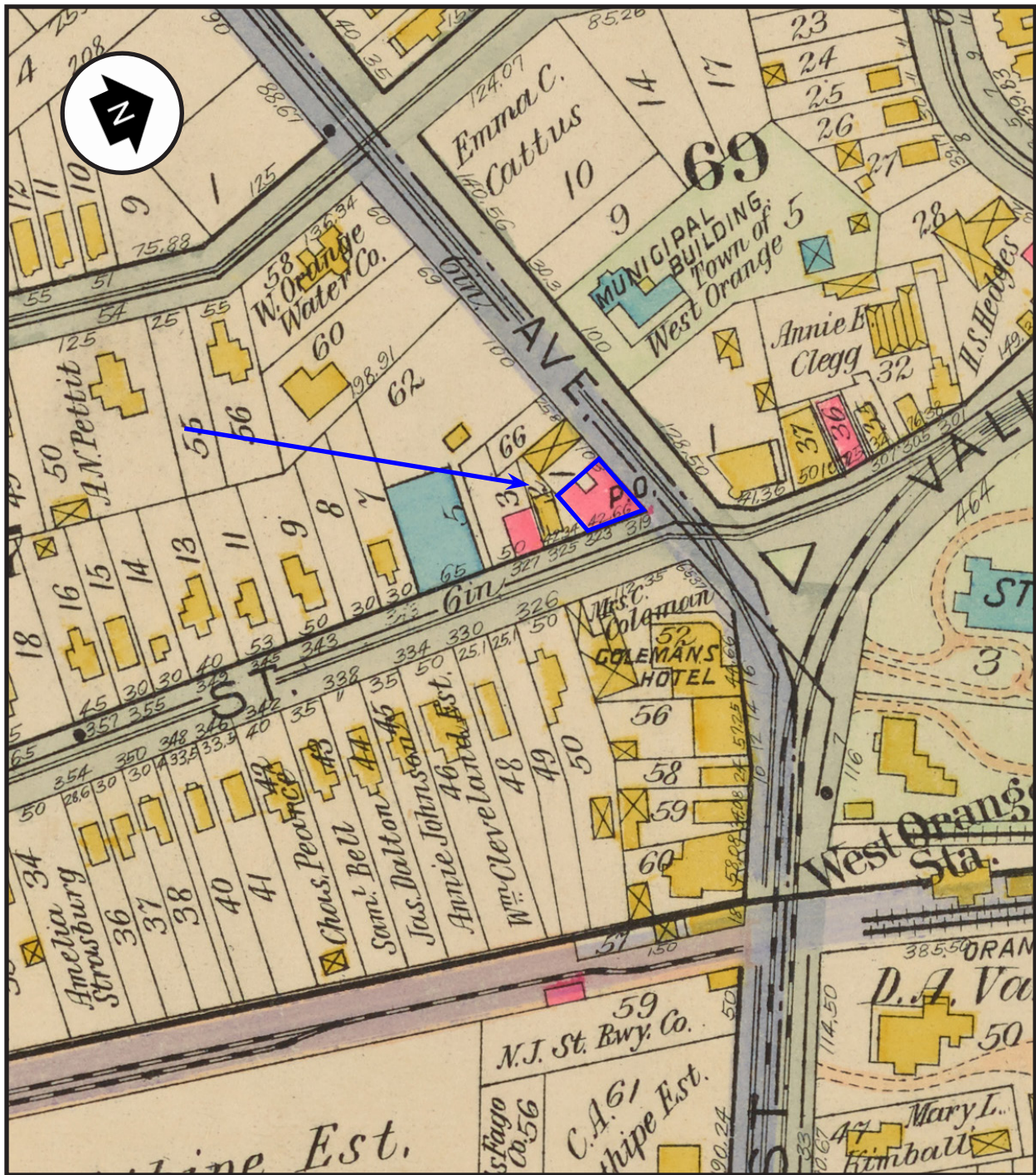


Figure 6. Mueller A.H. *Atlas of the Oranges*, Plate 15. 1911. Boundaries of 56 Main Street outlined. Scale: 1 inch = 130 feet (approximately).

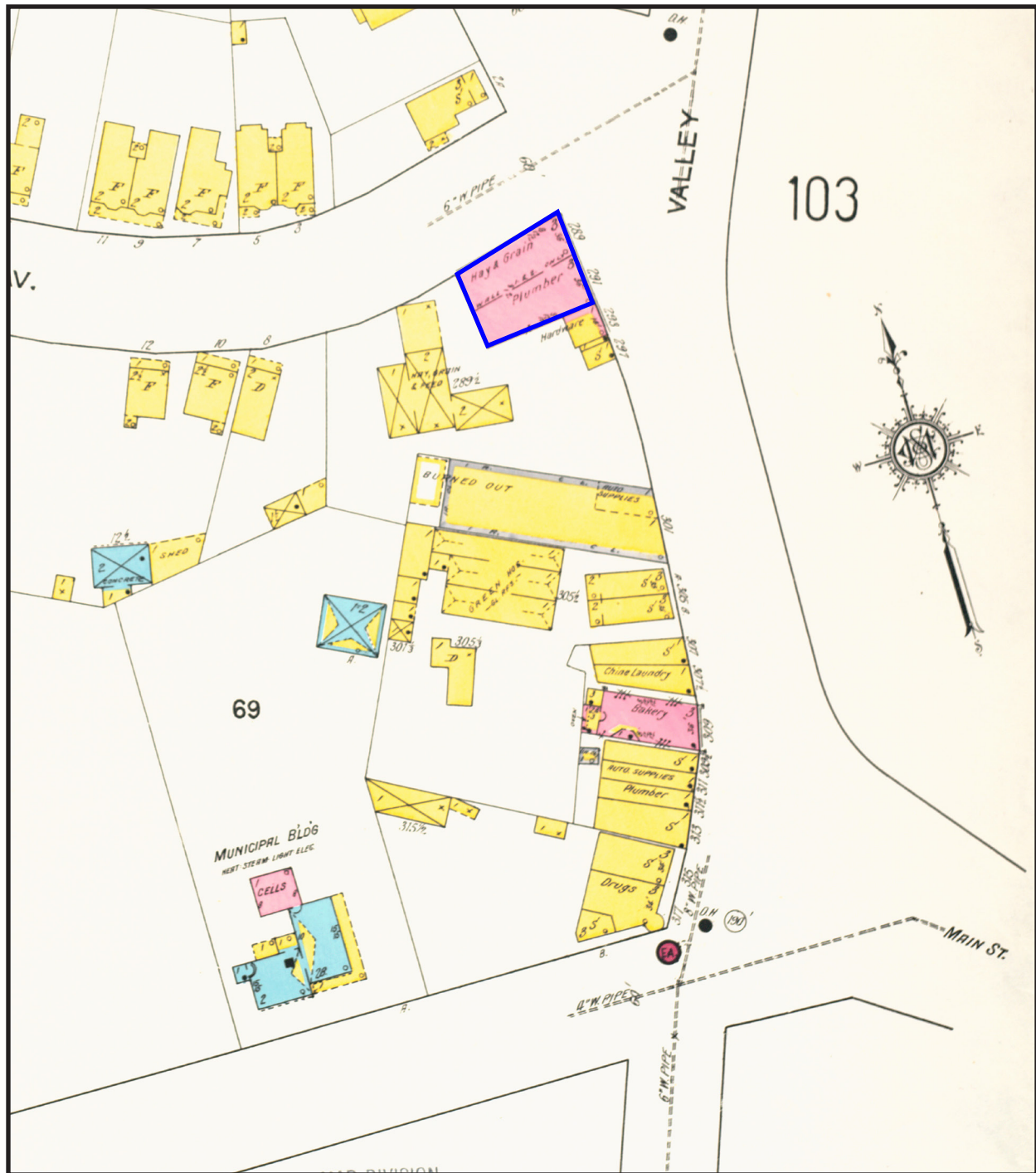


Figure 7. Sanborn Map Company. *Fire Insurance Maps of West Orange*, Sheet 59. 1912. Boundaries of 56 Main Street outlined. Scale: 1 inch = 105 feet (approximately).

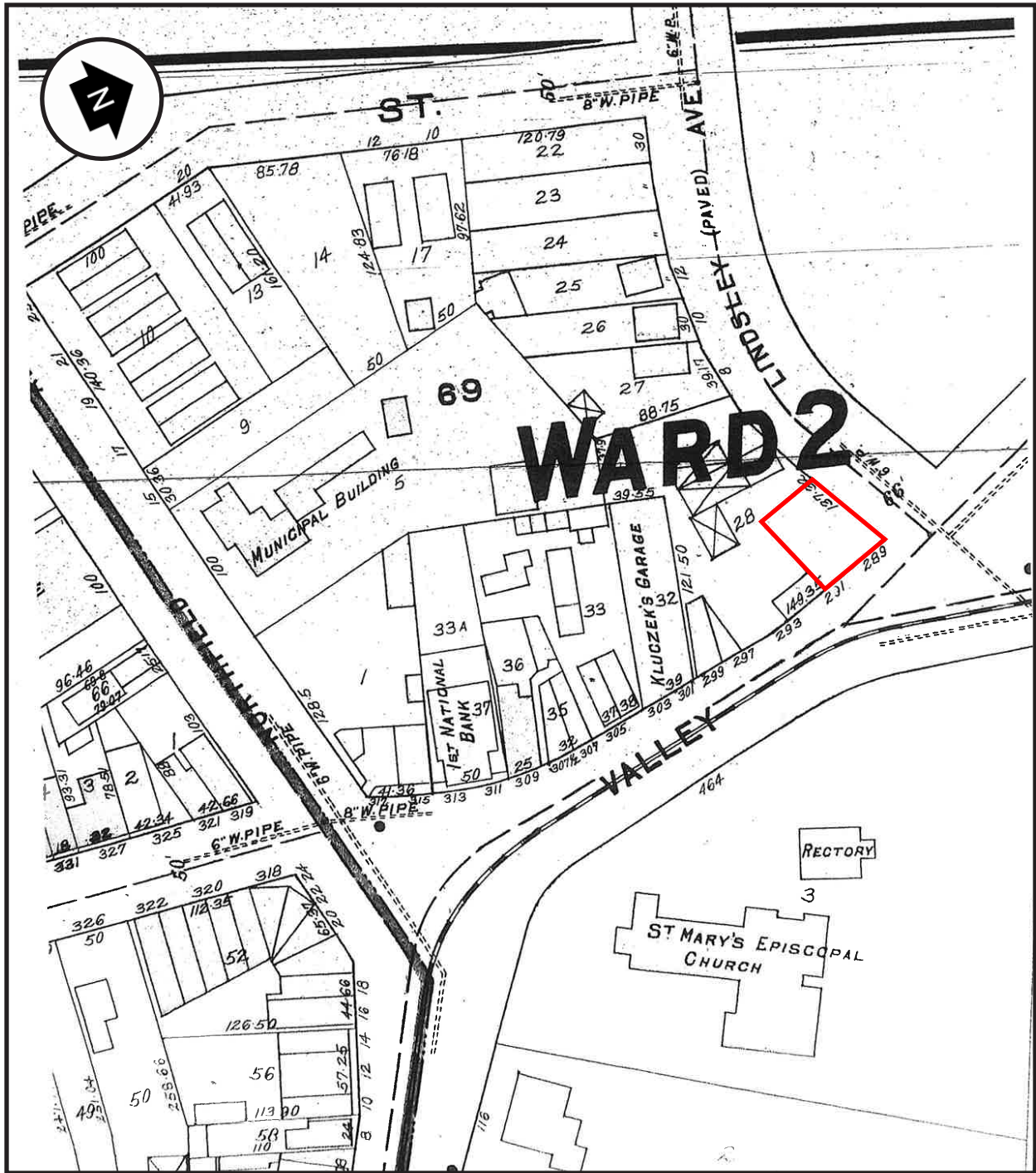


Figure 8. Sanborn Map Company. *Fire Insurance Maps of West Orange*. 1924. Boundaries of 56 Main Street outlined. Scale: 1 inch = 105 feet (approximately).

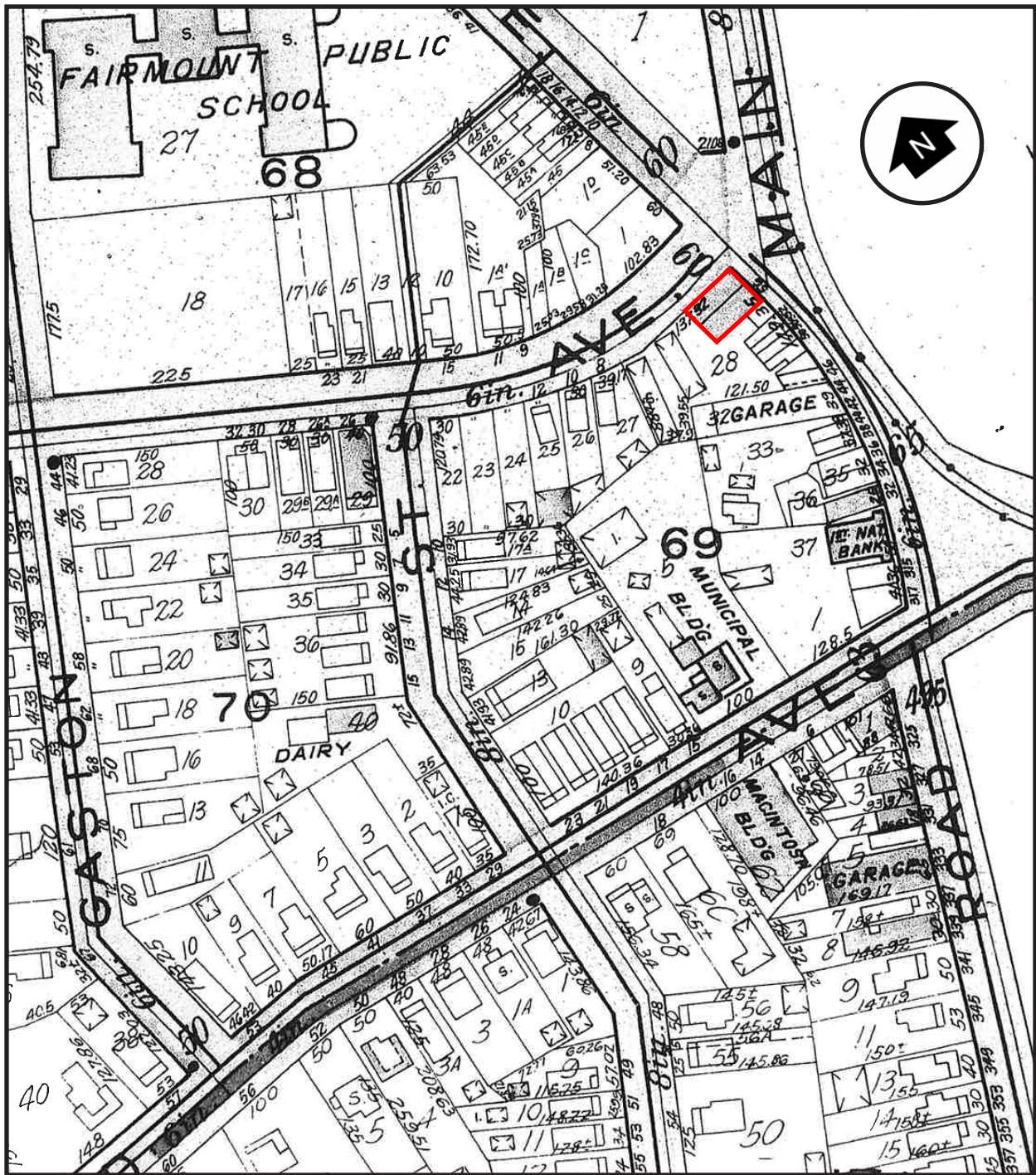


Figure 9. Franklin Survey Company. *Atlas of East Orange, Orange and West Orange*, Plate 30. 1932. Boundaries of 56 Main Street outlined. Scale: 1 inch = 165 feet (approximately).

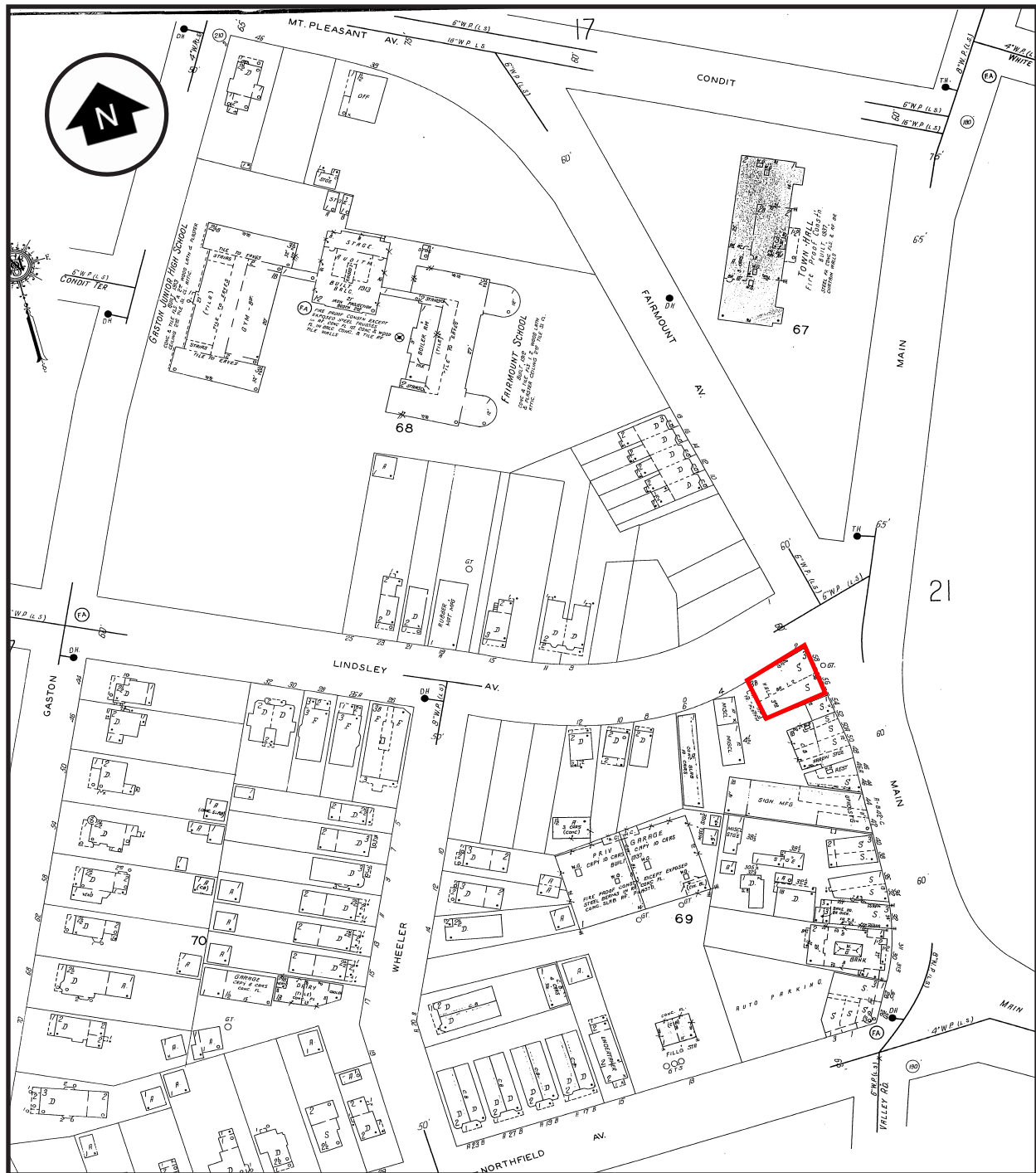
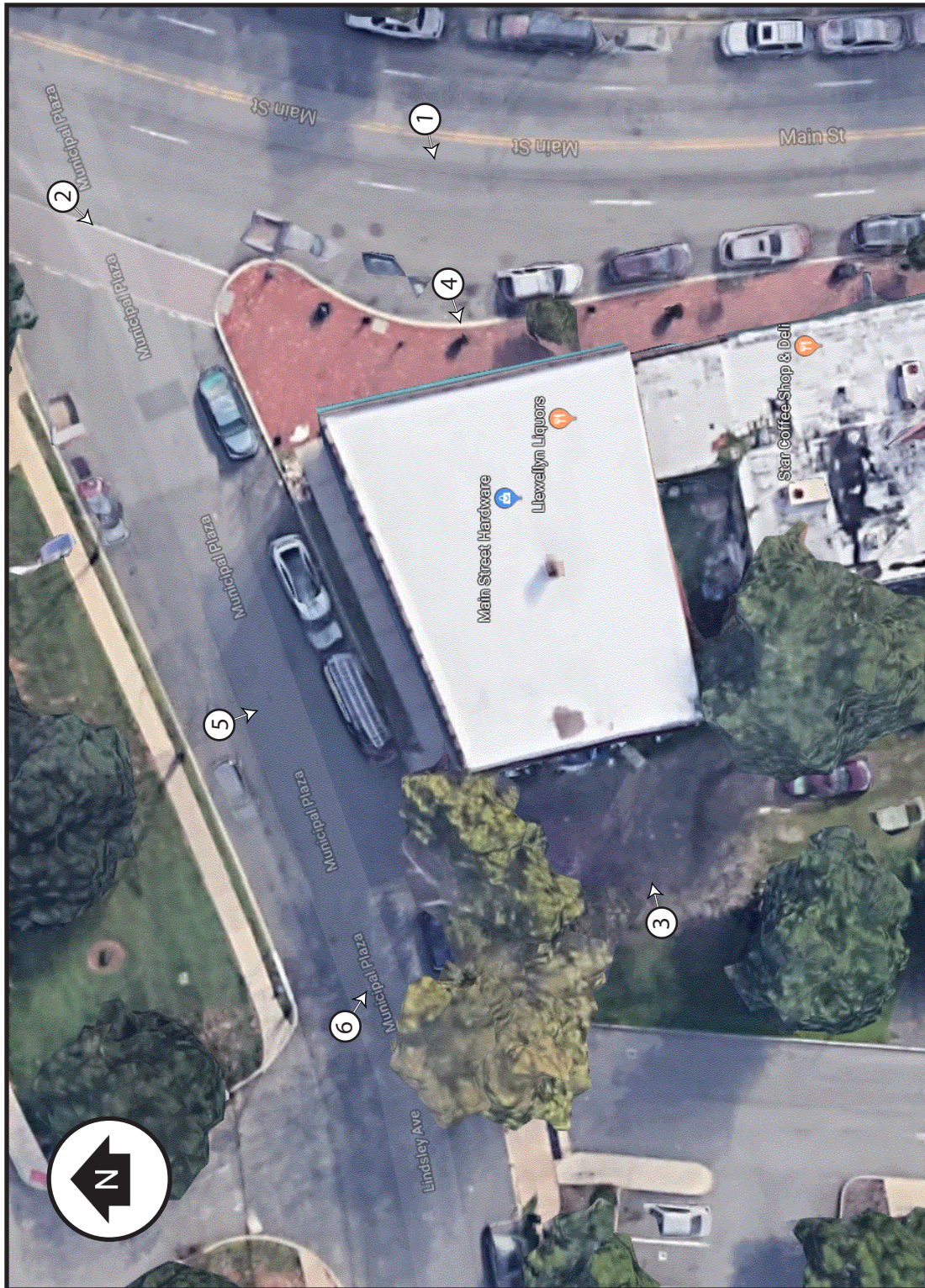
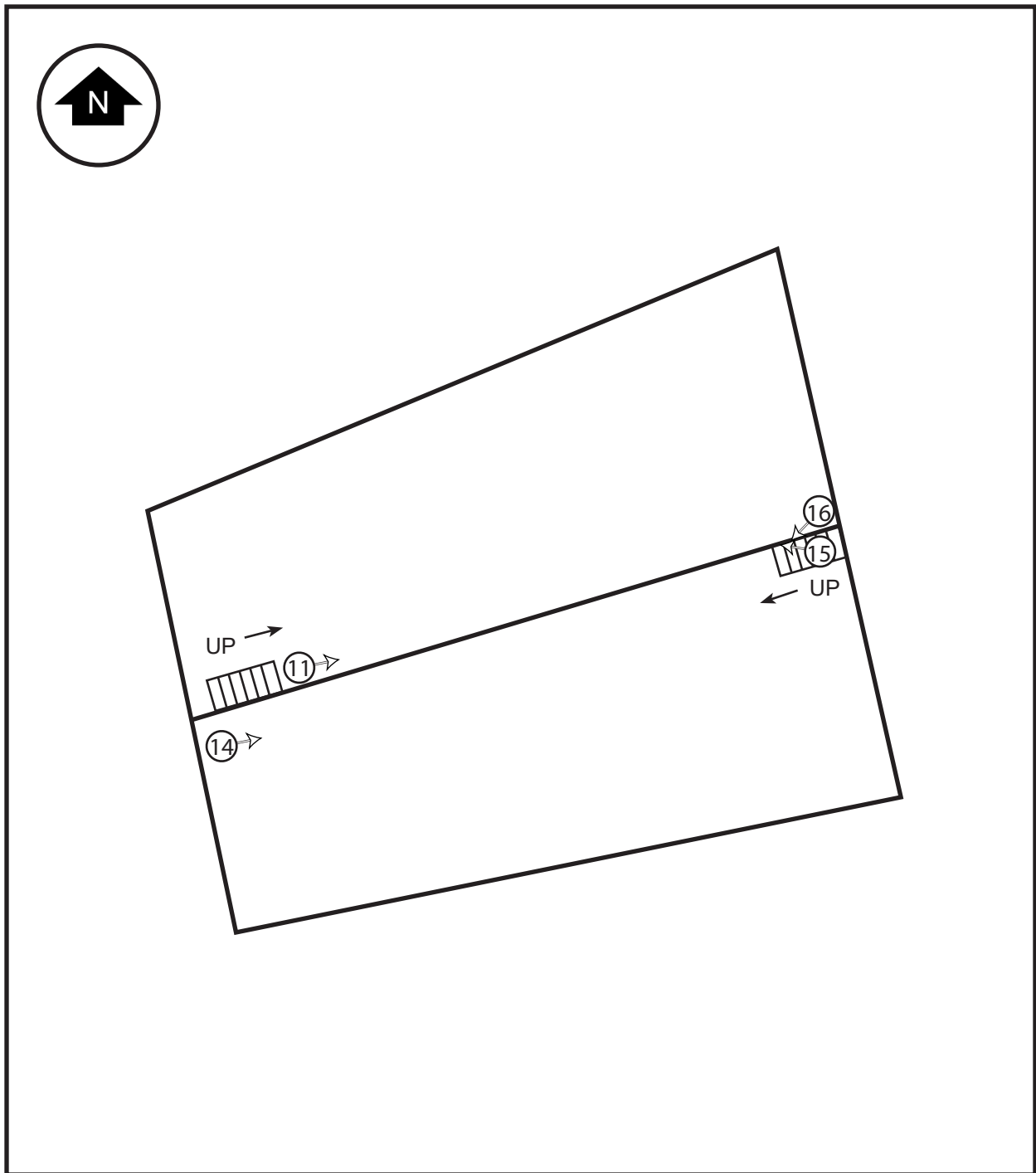


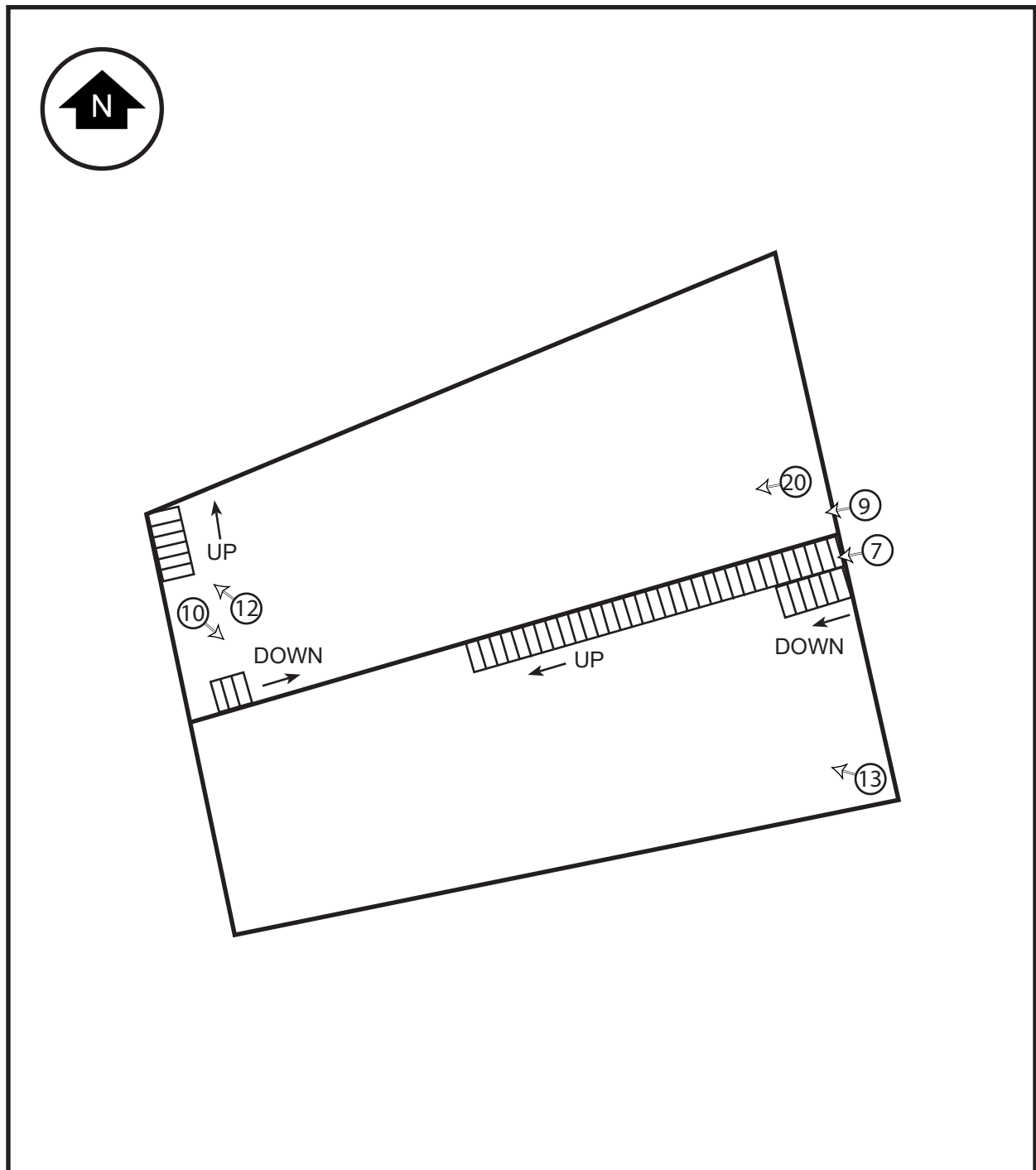
Figure 10. Sanborn Map Company. *Fire Insurance Maps of West Orange*, Sheet 19. 1939. Boundaries of 56 Main Street outlined. Scale: 1 inch = 150 feet (approximately).



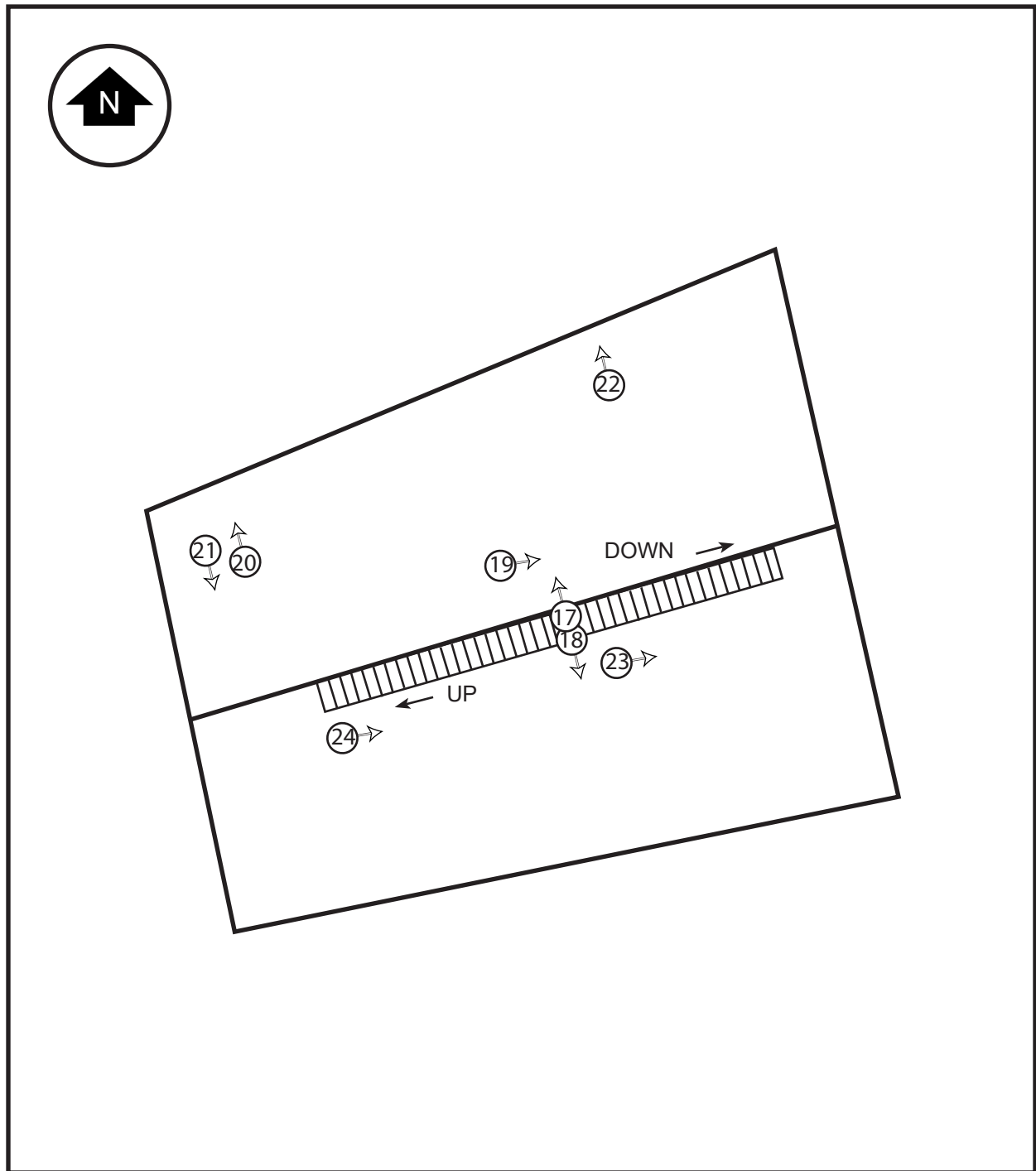
Site Plan and Exterior Photograph Key.



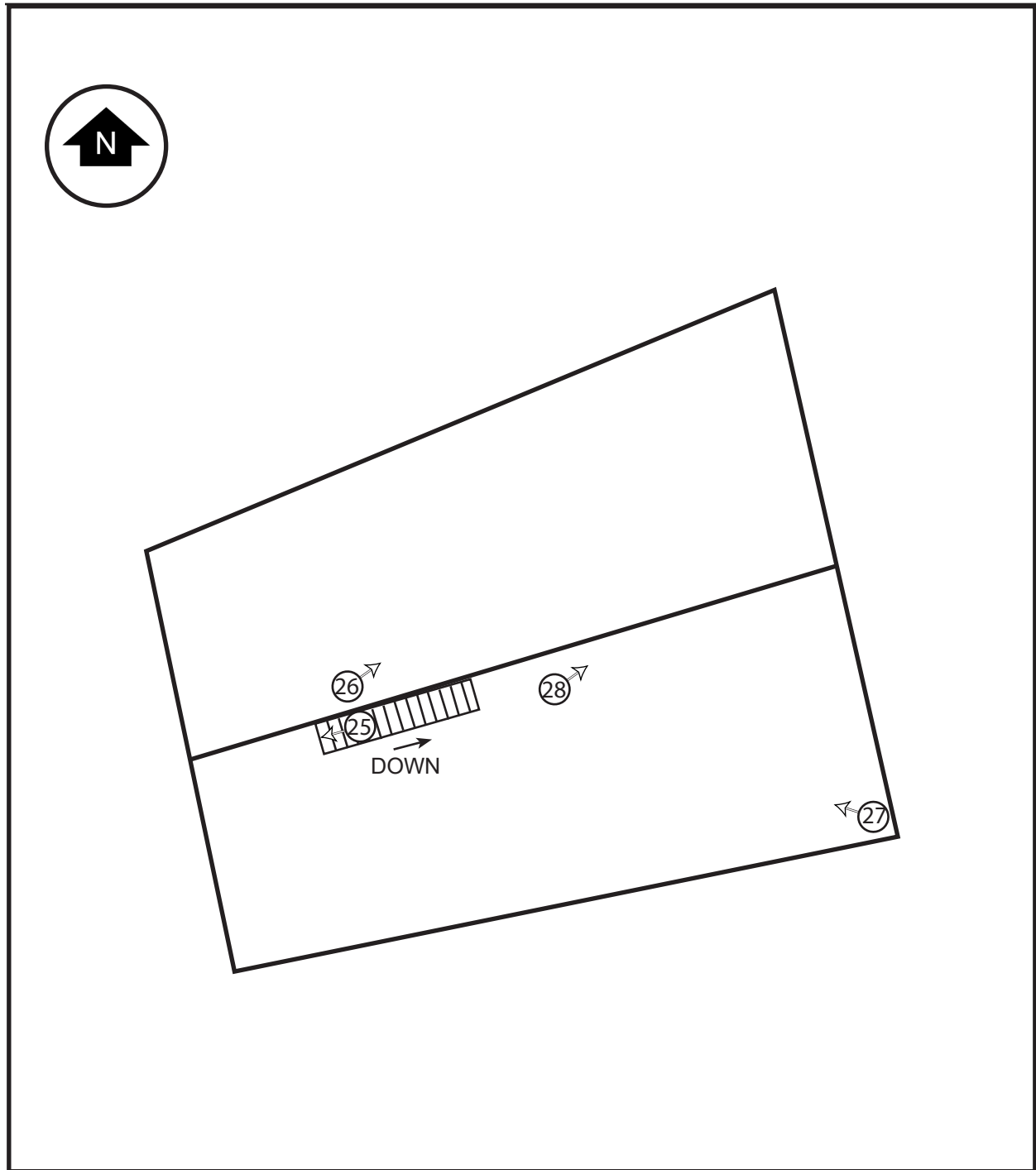
Basement Plan and Photograph Key.



First Floor Plan and Photograph Key.



Second Floor Plan and Photograph Key.



Third Floor Plan and Photograph Key.



Photograph 1. View of the Hedges Block showing the front (east) elevation, view looking southwest (Photographer: Eryn Boyce, October 2019) [HRI Neg. #19016/D1: 085].



Photograph 2. Oblique view of the Hedges Block showing the front (east) and side (north) elevations, view looking southwest (Photographer: Eryn Boyce, October 2019) [HRI Neg. #19016/D1: 080].



Photograph 3. View of the Hedges Block showing the rear (west) elevation, view looking northeast (Photographer: Eryn Boyce, October 2019) [HRI Neg. #19016/D1: 084].



Photograph 4. View of the first-story storefronts at the Hedges Block, view looking southwest (Photographer: Eryn Boyce, October 2019) [HRI Neg. #19016/D1: 087].



Photograph 5. View of the Hedges Block showing the side (north) elevation, view looking southeast (Photographer: Eryn Boyce, October 2019) [HRI Neg. #19016/D1: 082].



Photograph 6. Oblique view of the Hedges Block showing the side (north) and rear (elevations), view looking east (Photographer: Eryn Boyce, October 2019) [HRI Neg. #19016/D1: 083].



Photograph 7. View of interior of the Hedges Block showing the central staircase to the second and third floors, view looking southwest (Photographer: Eryn Boyce, October 2019) [HRI Neg. #19016/D1: 016].



Photograph 8. View of the front entry to Main Street Hardware showing the interior, view looking southwest (Photographer: Eryn Boyce, October 2019) [HRI Neg. #19016/D1: 001].



Photograph 9. View of the interior of Main Street Hardware, view looking southwest (Photographer: Eryn Boyce, October 2019) [HRI Neg. #19016/D1: 002].



Photograph 10. View of the interior of Main Street Hardware showing the enclosed staircase to the basement, view looking southeast (Photographer: Eryn Boyce, October 2019) [HRI Neg. #19016/D1: 008].



Photograph 11. View of the basement beneath Main Street Hardware, view looking northeast (Photographer: Eryn Boyce, October 2019) [HRI Neg. #19016/D1: 010].



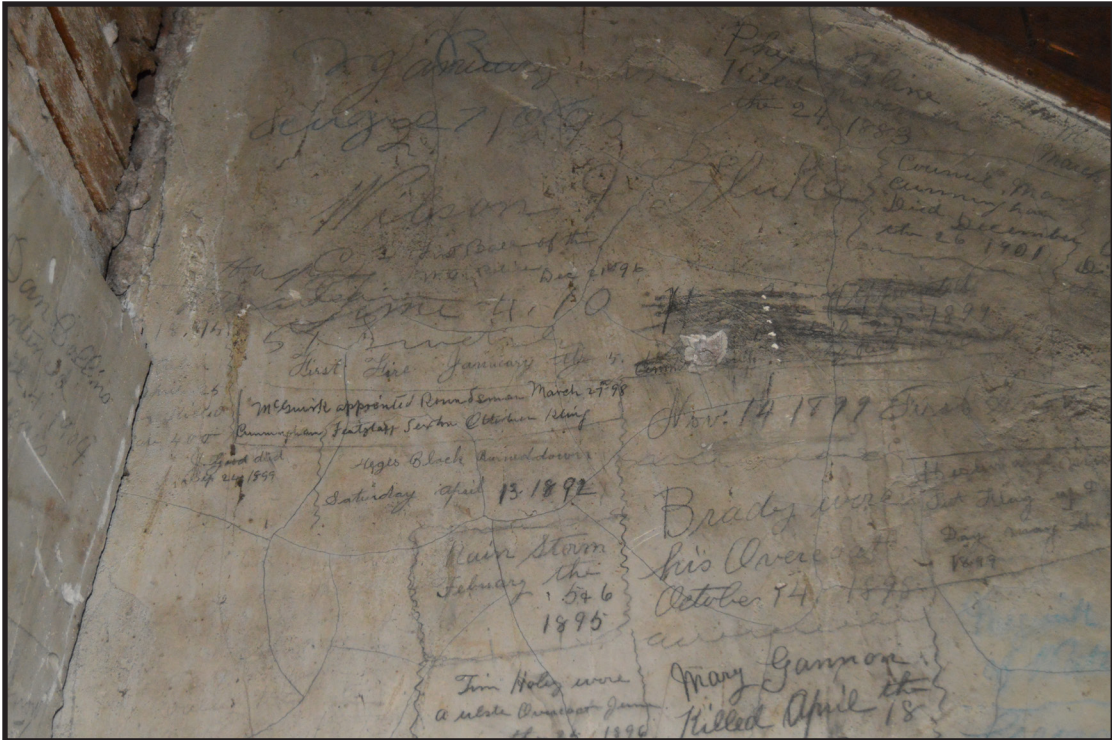
Photograph 12. View of the interior of Main Street Hardware showing the staircase to the second story, view looking northwest (Photographer: Eryn Boyce, October 2019) [HRI Neg. #19016/D1: 009].



Photograph 13. View of the interior of Main St. Liquors, view looking west (Photographer: Eryn Boyce, October 2019) [HRI Neg. #19016/D1: 078].



Photograph 14. View of the basement beneath Main St. Liquors, view looking northeast (Photographer: Eryn Boyce, October 2019) [HRI Neg. #19016/D1:076].



Photograph 15. View of the basement beneath Main St. Liquors showing the handwritten notes on the plaster walls, view looking west (Photographer: Eryn Boyce, October 2019) [HRI Neg. #18039/D1:066].



Photograph 16. View of the basement beneath Main St. Liquors showing the handwritten notes on the plaster walls, view looking southwest (Photographer: Eryn Boyce, October 2019) [HRI Neg. #18039/D1:071].



Photograph 17. View of the interior of the Hedges Block showing the entry to the northern half of the second floor, view looking northwest (Photographer: Eryn Boyce, October 2019) [HRI Neg. #19016/D1:039].



Photograph 18. View of the interior of the Hedges Block showing the entry to the southern half of the second floor, view looking southeast (Photographer: Eryn Boyce, October 2019) [HRI Neg. #19016/D1:031].



Photograph 19. View of the interior of the Hedges Block showing the northern half of the second floor, view looking northeast (Photographer: Eryn Boyce, October 2019) [HRI Neg. #18039/D1:017].



Photograph 20. View of the interior of the Hedges Block showing the northern half of the second floor, view looking northwest (Photographer: Eryn Boyce, October 2019) [HRI Neg. #19016/D1:038].



Photograph 21. View of the interior of the Hedges Block showing the northern half of the second floor and its wood plank floors, view looking southeast. Note the original pressed-tin ceiling (Photographer: Eryn Boyce, October 2019) [HRI Neg. #19106/D1:022].



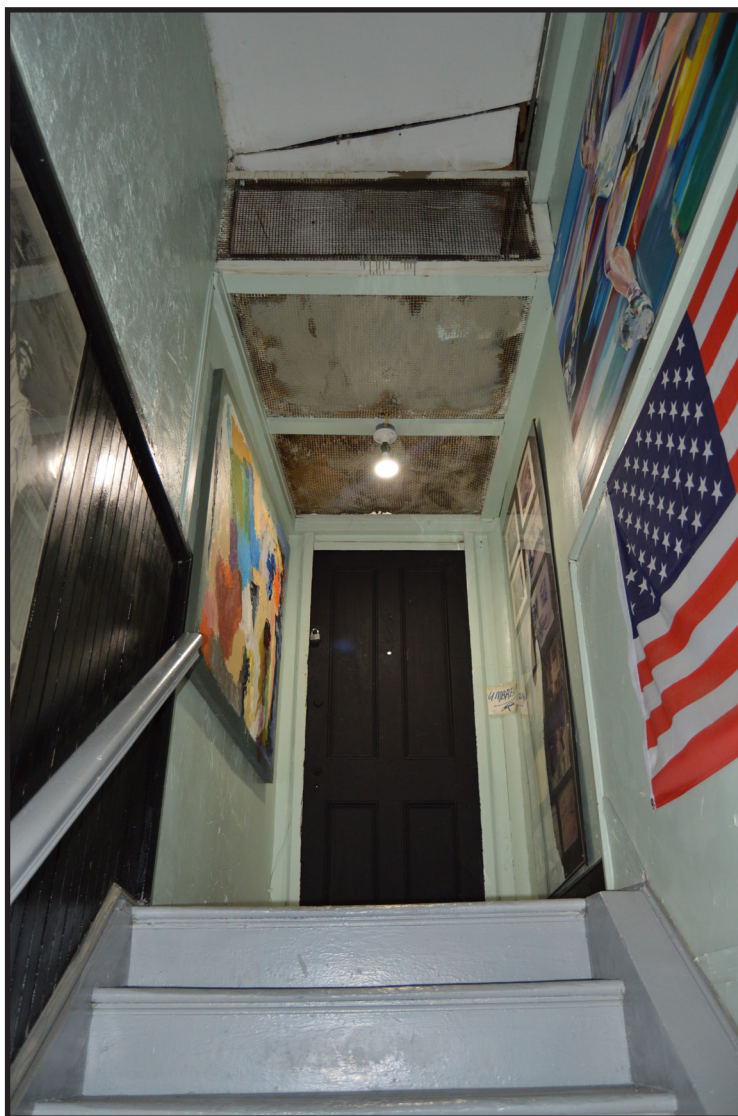
Photograph 22. View of the interior of the Hedges Block showing the northern half of the second floor and the exterior entry on the north wall, view looking northwest (Photographer: Eryn Boyce, October 2019) [HRI Neg. #19016/D1:019].



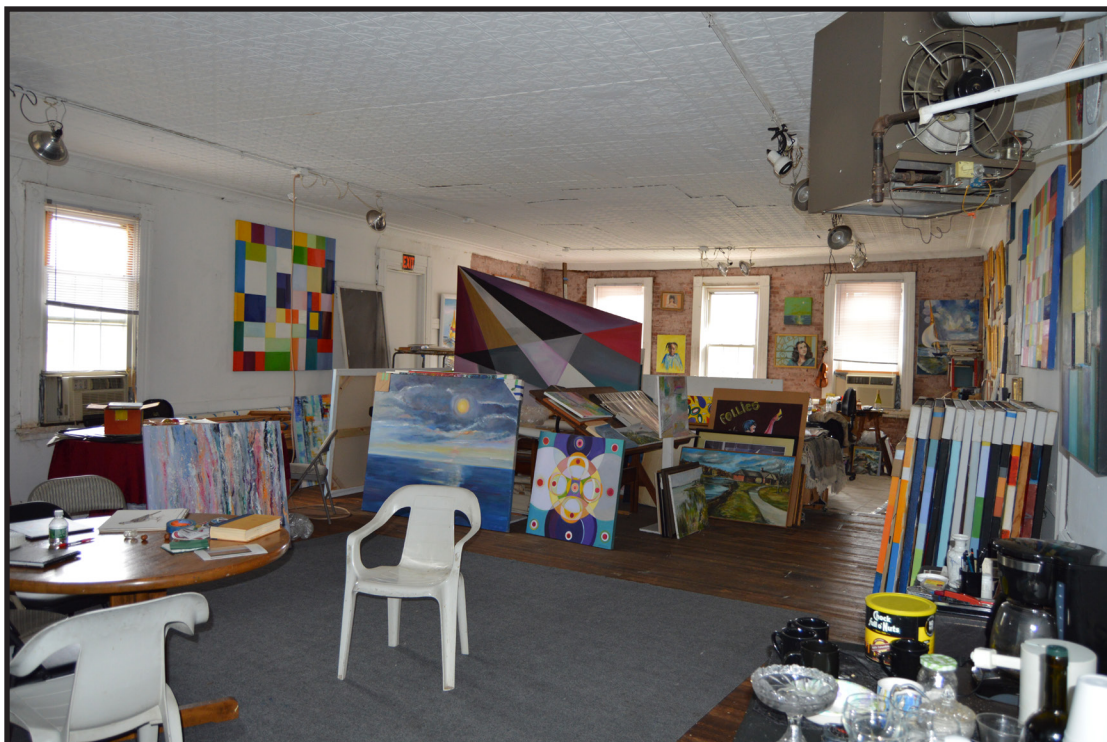
Photograph 23. View of the interior of the Hedges Block showing the front room of the southern half of the second floor, view looking east (Photographer: Eryn Boyce, October 2019) [HRI Neg. #19016/D1:032].



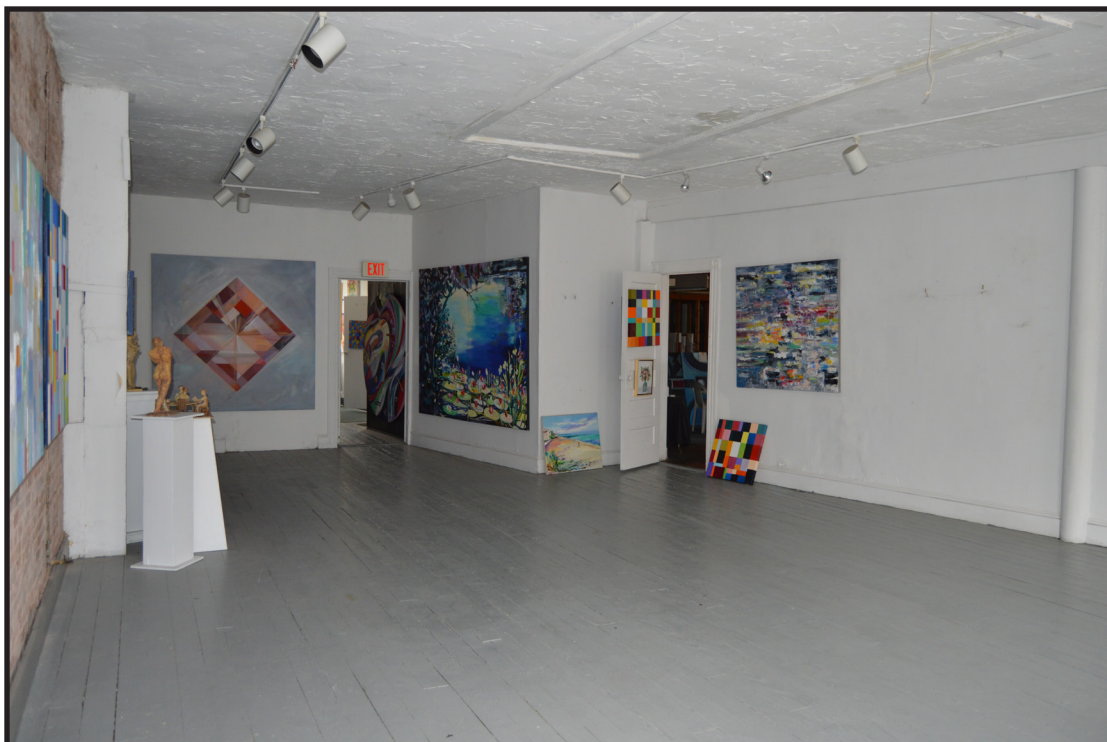
Photograph 24. View of the interior of the Hedges Block showing the rear room of the southern half of the second floor, view looking northeast (Photographer: Eryn Boyce, October 2019) [HRI Neg. #19016/D1:036].



Photograph 25. View of the interior of the Hedges Block showing the entry to the third floor, view looking southwest (Photographer: Eryn Boyce, October 2019) [HRI Neg. #19016/D1:040].



Photograph 26. View of the interior of the Hedges Block showing the northern half of the third floor, view looking northeast (Photographer: Eryn Boyce, October 2019) [HRI Neg. #19016/D1:048].



Photograph 27. View of the interior of the Hedges Block showing the southern half of the third floor, view looking west (Photographer: Eryn Boyce, October 2019) [HRI Neg. #19016/D1:055].



Photograph 28. Detail of one of the sewing machine hookups located in the southern half of the third floor, view looking northeast (Photographer: Eryn Boyce, October 2019) [HRI Neg. #19016/D1:061].



Photograph 29. View of Main Street showing the first-story storefront of the Hedges Block (right). 1960s. Source: Fagan 2016.



Photograph 30. View from the top of the 100-foot chimney at the old hat factory at Main Street and Mount Pleasant Avenue looking south on Main Street towards Lindsley Avenue and 56 Main Street (center). 1960. Source: Newark Public Library, NJ Picture Collection.



Photograph 31. Oblique view of the Hedges Block showing the wood-frame storage sheds behind the building. No date. Source: Fagan 2016.



Photograph 32. View of 52 and 54 Main Street, view looking northwest (Photographer: Eryn Boyce, October 2019) [HRI Neg. #19016/D1:86].



Photograph 33. View of 10-18 Main Street (Photographer: Allison Haley, September 2014) [HRI Neg. #14041/D3-004].



Photograph 34. View of 2-4 Northfield Avenue. Source: Google Maps 2019.

**Rachel Louisa Lindsley to Samuel M. Hedges and Charles H. Hedges,
September 6, 1873, Deed Book E17, Page 447, Essex County Deeds**

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foregoing, is and for the purchase money of the foregoing described
 estate and premises and the foregoing covenants, that as to say three
 hundred dollars on the execution of these presents that receipt therefor
 is hereby acknowledged, and that balance one hundred dollars to keep
 one note for three hundred dollars, for six months from date, and
 one note for three hundred dollars, payable on the first day of June
 A. D. 1874 with interest for the same at the rate of seven per cent
 per annum, payable half yearly, together with all legal taxes and
 all improvements. This property, being the same conveyed to the
 party in the first part, by David Kirschman, by Articles of Agreement
 dated June 15th 1870 and now on record. And it is further agreed
 by the parties to these presents that the said party of the second part
 the same and assigns may enter into and upon the same land and
 premises on the first day of September next, enclosing the said land, and
 from thence take the rents, issues and profits to his own use and
 profit. And it is further agreed by the parties hereto that the said lands
 shall be delivered and received at the Office of Deeds in the County of
 Newark, N. J. between the hours of 9 and 10 o'clock
 and there a clock in the afternoon on the next first day of July
 1874 next ensuing the date hereof. And for the performance of all
 and singular the covenants and agreements aforesaid, the said parties
 do bind themselves and their respective heirs, executors and admin-
 istrators, and they hereby agree to pay upon failure to perform the
 same the sum of three hundred dollars, which they hereby fix and
 settle as liquidated damages thereof.

In Witness Whereof the said parties have hereunto interchanged
 at New Orange and Sears the day and year first above mentioned

Signed, sealed and delivered

of the Parties of
 the first part

State of New Jersey

County of Essex

John Kirschman L. S.
 J. Kirschman L. S.

Be it Remembered that on this 10th day of Sep-
 tember in the year of our Lord one thousand eight
 hundred & seventy three before me a Commissioner of deeds in and
 for said County, personally appeared John Kirschman & J. Kirschman
 Kirschman, who I am satisfied are the grantors in the within Articles
 of Agreement, and I having first made known to them the contents
 thereof, they did then acknowledge that they have signed, sealed, &
 delivered the same, as their voluntary act & deed, for the uses &
 purposes therein.

Thomas Black, Commissioner
 Recorder in the Office September 6. A. D. 1873.

Witness my hand and seal

of the County of Essex

State of New Jersey

This Indenture made the 10th day of September in the
 year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and
 seventy three between John Kirschman & J. Kirschman
 of West Orange in the County of Essex and

State of New Jersey in the first part made and given to the said parties and to the
 the Bridges of the Township of West Orange in the County of Essex and
 State of New Jersey of the second part. Witnesseth that the said parties
 of the first part, for and in consideration of thirty seven thousand
 and fifty dollars, lawful money of the United States of America
 to her in hand well and truly paid by the said party of the second
 part, at or before the sealing and delivery of these presents, the receipt
 whereof is hereby acknowledged, and the said party of the first part
 therewith, fully satisfied, contented and paid, hath given, granted, conveyed
 and sold, aliened, released, conveyed, confirmed, and confirmed, and
 these presents doth give, grant, convey, sell, alien, release, convey, confirm,
 and confirm to the said party of the second part and to their heirs
 and assigns forever. All that tract or parcel of land and premises
 after particularly described, situate lying and being in the Township
 of West Orange, in the County of Essex and State of New Jersey.

Beginning at the South West corner
 corner of Valley Road and Lindale Avenue, as said Francis had
 recently been laid out through lands belonging to the estate of
 Wheeler Lindaley deceased; thence running along said Lindaley Avenue
 South eighty one degrees thirty seven minutes West eighty eight feet
 and four tenths of a foot; thence South eighty three degrees forty
 minutes West forty six feet and six tenths of a foot; thence South
 degrees forty eight minutes West ninety one feet and six tenths of
 foot; thence South sixty three degrees twenty minutes East thirty
 feet and one tenth of a foot to lands formerly occupied by Charles
 Deans, now deceased; thence along the line of the last mentioned land
 North twenty six degrees and forty minutes East forty feet and two
 tenths of a foot; thence along another line of last mentioned land
 South sixty four degrees East one hundred and twenty one feet and
 two tenths of a foot to said Valley Road; thence along said Valley
 Road North fifty one minutes East forty one feet; thence still
 along said Valley Road North four degrees ten minutes West eighty
 four feet and one tenth of a foot; thence still along said Valley
 Road North eleven degrees forty six minutes West thirteen feet and
 nine tenths of a foot, to Lindaley Avenue and the place of Beginning.
 Being part of the premises devised to the said Rachel Louise Lindaley
 by the last Will and Testament of Wheeler Lindaley, deceased; and
 described in a Last Will and Testament of Wheeler Lindaley, deceased, and
 by Charles A. Lindaley and others, devised in said Will.

Together with all and singular
 the houses buildings trees ways, waters profits privileges, and advantages
 with the appurtenances to the same belonging or in any way apper-
 taining also all the estate right title interest property claim and
 demand whatsoever of the said party of the first part, of its heirs,
 of the same and of its and its every part and parcel, thing, to have
 and to hold all and singular, the above described lands and
 premises with the appurtenances unto the said party of the second

part, their heirs and assigns to the only proper use, benefit and behoof of the said party of the first part, their heirs and assigns forever, and the said Rachel Louisa Lindley doth for herself her heirs executors and administrators consent and grant to and with the said party of the second part, their heirs and assigns that she the said Rachel Louisa Lindley is the true lawful and right owner of all said lands and premises, the same being more or less and divided, and of every part and parcel thereof and the appurtenances thereto belonging, and that the said lands and premises or any part thereof at the time of her signing and delivery of these presents, are not encumbered by any mortgage, judgment or limitation or by any encumbrances whatsoever, by which the title of the said party of the second part hereby made or intended to be made for the above described lands and premises, are or may be changed, charged, altered or defeated in any way whatsoever, and she and the said party of the first part now parts, consents, grants, power and lawful authority to grant, bargain, sell and convey the said lands and premises in manners aforesaid and also that she the said Rachel Louisa Lindley with warrant power and license doth and do hereby release their claim and assign forever against the said party of the second part and demands of all and every person or persons living and dying, freed and discharged of and from all manner and encumbrances whatsoever.

In Witness Whereof the said party of the first part, last herein set out her hand and seal this day and year first above written.

Signed, sealed and delivered

in the presence of

State not intended before execution

Albert V. Condit.

Rachel Louisa Lindley, L. S.

State of New Jersey. Be it Remembered That on this first day of September County of Essex, J. S. in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred

and twenty three, before me a Master in chancery of said State of New Jersey, personally appeared Rachel Louisa Lindley who I am satisfied is the grantor in the within bill of conveyance named, and having first made known to her the contents thereof, she did acknowledge that she signed sealed and delivered the same as her voluntary act and deed, for the use and purposes therein expressed.

Albert V. Condit.

Received in the Office September 6. A. D. 1873.

Fredrick C. Handwerker, clerk of the Court, doth hereby certify, in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and twenty three, Frederick C. Handwerker and Sarah his wife of the County of Essex, in the State of New Jersey, of the first part, and Elias L. Willard of the second part.

**Samuel M. and Sarah J. Hedges to Robert H. Wood and Halstead S.
Hedges, March 23, 1910, Deed Book Q46, Page 351, Essex County Deeds**

Signed, sealed and delivered
in the presence of } Matthias B. Guernsey R.F.
John A. Kimmett } Catherine C. Guernsey R.F.
State of New Jersey }
County of Essex }
O. C. I. D. remembered that on this
eighteenth day of March in the year of
our Lord one thousand nine hundred and ten, before me a
Commissioner of Deeds for New Jersey, personally appeared
Matthias B. Guernsey and Catherine C. Guernsey, his wife,
who have satisfied all the questions mentioned in the
within Subditure, and to whom I first made known
the contents thereof and thereupon they acknowledged
that they signed, sealed and delivered the same as
their voluntary act and deed, for the uses and purposes
therein expressed. And the said Catherine C. Guernsey
being by me privately examined, separate and apart
from her husband, acknowledged that she signed,
sealed and delivered the same as her voluntary act and
deed freely without any fear, threats or compulsion
of her said husband.
John A. Kimmett
Commissioner of Deeds for New Jersey.
Received in the Office March 19, A. D. 1910 at 11:55 A. M.

Samuel M. Hedges et al } This Subditure, made the twenty third day of
Lo } March in the year of our Lord one thousand
Robert H. Wood et al } nine hundred and ten. Between Samuel M. Hedges
and Sarah J. his wife, of the Town of West Orange
in the County of Essex and State of New Jersey, party of the
first part; And Robert H. Wood and Halstead J. Hedges, of the
County of Albemarle, and State of Virginia
party of the second part, Witnesseth, that the said party of the
first part, for and in consideration of two thousand
dollars, money of the United States of America to them in
kind well and lawfully paid by the said party of the second part,
at or before the sealing and delivery of these presents, the receipt
whereof is hereby acknowledged, the said party of the
first part, therewith fully satisfied, contented and paid, have
given, granted, sold, aliened, released, conveyed, confirmed
and confirmed and by these presents do give, grant, bargain
sell, alien, release, convey, confirm and confirm to the said
party of the second part and to their heirs and assigns
forever all the equal, undivided and lawful part of all that
tract or parcel of land and premises, hereinafter particularly
described situate, lying and being in the Town of West
Orange in the County of Essex and State of New Jersey.
Beginning at the southerly corner of Valley
Road and Lindley Avenue, as said Avenue has recently been
laid out through lands belonging to the Estate of the late
Lindley, deceased, thence running along said Lindley Avenue
south eighty one degrees thirty seven minutes west eighty

eight feet and four tenths of a foot, thence south eighty three degrees forty one minutes west forty six feet and six tenths of a foot thence south eleven degrees forty eight minutes west ninety one feet and six tenths of a foot, thence south sixty three degrees twenty minutes east thirty seven feet and one tenth of a foot to lands formerly occupied by Charles Dean, now deceased, thence along the line of the last mentioned lands north twenty six degrees and forty minutes east forty feet and two tenths of a foot, thence along another line of last mentioned lands south sixty four degrees east one hundred and twenty six feet and two tenths of a foot to said Valley Road, thence along said Valley Road north fifty one minutes east forty two feet thence still along Valley Road north four degrees ten minutes west eighty four feet and one tenth of a foot, thence still along said Valley Road north eleven degrees forty six minutes west thirteen feet and nine tenths of a foot to Hildrey Avenue and the place of beginning being the same lands conveyed to the said Samuel M. Hedges and to Charles H. Hedges by Rachel Bonner Hildrey by deed dated September 6, 1873 recorded in Book 6:14 of deeds for Essex County page 474. This conveyance is made expressly subject to the lien and encumbrances of two mortgages and to interest accrued thereon made by the said Samuel M. Hedges and the said Charles H. Hedges, and their wives, one in the sum of twelve thousand dollars, the other in the sum of twenty five hundred dollars now held by the estate of Emma H. Hedges deceased.

Together with all and singular the tenures, buildings, trees, way, waters, profits, privileges and advantages, with the appurtenances to the same belonging or in anywise appertaining also all the estate, right, title, interest, property claimed and demand whatsoever of the said party of the first part, of, in and to the same and of in and to every part and parcel thereof.

To Have and to Hold, all and singular, the above described land and premises, with the appurtenances, unto the said party of the second part, their heirs and assigns, to the only proper use, benefit and behoof of the said party of the second part, their heirs and assigns forever. And the said Samuel M. Hedges, do for himself, his heirs, executors, and administrators covenant and grant to and with the said party of the second part their heirs and assigns that he, the said Samuel M. Hedges now in the true lawful and right owner of all and singular the above described land and premises and of every part and parcel thereof, with the appurtenances thereto belonging, and that the said land and premises, or any part thereof at the time of the sealing and delivery of these presents, are not encumbered by any mortgage judgment or limitation or by any encumbrance whatsoever, by which the title of the said party of the second part, hereby made or intended to be made to the above described land and premises, can or may be invaded, charged, altered or defeated in any way whatsoever except the above said mortgages. And also that the said

**Robert H. Wood and Halstead S. Hedges (executors of Charles S. Hedges),
Robert H. and Isabelle P. Wood and Halstead S. and Pernette Hedges to
Newell N. Smith, March 1, 1917, Deed Book N58, Page 508,
Essex County Deeds.**

LANDMARK DESIGNATION REPORT: 56 MAIN STREET, WEST ORANGE

appurtenances, unto the said parties or the second part, their heirs and assigns, against, the said party of the first part, and its successors and assigns, all and every person or persons whomsoever lawfully claiming or to claim the same, shall and will Warrant and by these presents forever Defend.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the party of the first part hath caused these presents to be sealed with its corporate seal, signed by its President, and attested by its Secretary the day and year first above written.

Attest
Frank M. Hall,
Secretary.

"The Stratford Building and Loan Association of the City of New Jersey
Joseph T. Harrison
President.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY, SS.
COUNTY OF ESSEX,

BE IT REMEMBERED, That, on the
Twenty-first day of November, 1917,
year of our Lord One Thousand

Hundred and Sixteen (1916) before me the subscriber, a Master in Chancery of New Jersey personally appeared Frank M. Hall who being by me duly sworn doth make proof to my satisfaction that he is the Secretary of and well knows the corporate seal of Stratford Building and Loan Association of the City of New Jersey, the Grantor named in the foregoing Instrument, that the seal thereto affixed is the proper corporate seal of said corporation, and was thereto affixed and said Instrument signed and delivered by Joseph T. Harrison who was at the date and execution President of said corporation, as and for his voluntary act and deed and as the voluntary act and deed of said corporation, in the presence of deponent, who signed the same as subscribing and attesting witness.

Sworn and subscribed to before me
the day and year aforesaid, Frank M. Hall.
Samuel D. Williams,
Master in Chancery of New Jersey.
Received in the office March 20th A.D. 1917 at 12:37 P.M.

CHARLES H. HEDGES, DEC'D BY EXRS & AL.
TO
NEWELL N SMITH.

THIS INDENTURE, Made the 21st day of
March, in the year of Our Lord
Thousand Nine Hundred and seventeen
Between Robert H. Wood and Harry
Hedges, Sole Acting Executors of the will of Charles H. Hedges, deceased, and

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Robert H. Wood and Isabelle P. his wife and Halstead S. Hedges and Pernette V. his wife of the Town of Charlottesville, in the County of Albemarle,, and State of Virginia, party of the First Part; And Newell N. Smith, of the Town of West Orange, in the County of Essex and State of New Jersey, party of the Second Part; Witnesseth, That the said party of the first part by virtue of the power and authority to them given, in and by said last Will and Testament, and for and in consideration of the sum of Eighteen Thousand Dollars, lawful money of the United States of America, to them in handpaid by the said party of the second part, at or before the en sealing and delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have granted, bargained, sold and conveyed, and by these presents, do grant, bargain, sell and convey to the said party of the second part and to his heirs and assigns forever, All that tract or parcel of land and premises, hereinafter particularly described, situate, lying and being in the Town of West Orange, in the County of Essex and State of New Jersey.

BEGINNING at the southwesterly corner of Valley Street and Lindsley Avenue, as the same are now laid out, thence running along said Lindsley Avenue south seventy three degrees and ^{eight} fifty minutes west fifty four feet and ninety-five hundredths of a foot; thence still along said Lindsley Avenue south seventy six degrees and twenty minutes west thirty six feet and seventy five hundredths of a foot; thence still along said Lindsley Avenue South eighty degrees and forty minutes West thirty eight feet and sixty-two hundredths of a foot; thence still along said Lindsley Avenue north eighty nine degrees and fifty minutes west seven feet; thence south eleven degrees and five minutes west eighty eight feet and forty-five hundredths of a foot; thence south sixty four degrees and twelve minutes east thirty seven feet and ninety-one hundredths of a foot to lands formerly occupied by Charles Dean, now deceased; thence along the line of the last mentioned lands north twenty five degrees and fifty six minutes east thirty nine feet and fifty-five hundredths of a foot; thence along another line of last mentioned lands south sixty five degrees and thirteen minutes east one hundred and twenty one feet and fifty hundredths of a foot to said Valley Street thence along said Valley Street north twenty two minutes west forty two feet thence still along Valley Street north five degrees and twenty three minutes west one hundred and one feet; and thence still along said Valley Street north twelve degrees and fourteen minutes West six feet and thirty-five hundredths of a foot to Lindsley Avenue and the place of Beginning. Being the same lands conveyed to Samuel M. Hedges and the said Charles H. Hedges by Rachel Louisa Lindsley by deed dated September 6, 1873, recorded in Book E.17 of deeds for Essex County, pages 447 &c. The undivided interest and estate of the said Samuel M. Hedges in said lands having been conveyed to the said Robert H. Wood and Halstead S. Hedges by deed of the said Samuel M. Hedges and wife dated March 23, 1910, recorded in Book Q 46 of deeds for Essex County pages 351 &c. The foregoing description is drawn in accordance with a survey and diagram of said lands made by Meag and Taylor, surveyors, August 6, 1912. The lands are conveyed subject to a lease to Vosburg Miniature Lamp Company, for part of the premises for three years from February 1, 1917, and to monthly lettings, to Llewellyn Building and Loan Association, Paul Torn and New Jersey Outdoor Advertising Company, each for a portion of the premises.

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TOGETHER with all and singular the tenements, hereditaments, and the reversions, remainder and remainders, rents, issues and profits thereof, and all the estate, right title, interest, dower and right of dower property, claim and demand whatsoever, as well in law as in equity of the said party of the first part and of the said Testator, of, in and to the above described premises, every part and parcel thereof, with the appurtenances, TO HAVE AND TO HOLD, unto singular the above mentioned and described premises, together with the appurtenances unto the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns forever, to the proper use, benefit and behoof of the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns forever.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the said party of the first part have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year first above written.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered
in the presence of

Robert H. Wood
Halstead S. Hedges
Sole acting Executors of the will of
Charles H. Hedges dec'd.
Robert H. Wood
Isabelle P. Wood
Halstead S. Hedges
Pernette V. Hedges

STATE OF VIRGINIA, SS.
COUNTY OF ALBEMARLE

BE IT REMEMBERED, That on the
day of March in the year of our Lord
Thousand Nine Hundred and

before me, L.W. Wood a Notary Public in & for Albemarle County in the State of Virginia personally appeared Robert H. Wood, & Halstead S. Hedges sole acting Executors of the will of Charles H. Hedges dec'd & said Robert H. Wood & Isabelle P. Wood his wife Halstead S. Hedges & Pernette V. Hedges his wife who I am satisfied are the persons in the within Deed of Conveyance named; and I having first made known to them the contents thereof, they did each acknowledge that each signed sealed and delivered the same as their voluntary act and deed, for the uses and purposes therein expressed.

L. W. Wood
Notary Public.
Commission expires Aug. 11, 1904

STATE OF VIRGINIA, SS.
COUNTY OF ALBEMARLE,

I, W.L. Manpin Clerk of the Court of Albemarle and Clerk of the Circuit Court of Albemarle County in and for the

County, Do hereby Certify That the said Court is a Court of Record; That the person whose name is subscribed to the certificate or proof of acknowledgment of the within instrument, was at the time of taking the same a Notary Public in and for the County duly commissioned and sworn and qualified to act as such that as such Notary Public was at the time of taking such acknowledgment duly authorized by the law of the State of Virginia.

**Curtis R. Brundage to Russell F. Smith, April 8, 1971,
Deed Book 4370, Page 907, Essex County Deeds.**

A 918—Deed—Bargain and Sale.
Individual or Corporation.

JULIUS BLUMBERG, INC., LAW BLANK PUBLISHERS
80 EXCHANGE PLACE AT BROADWAY, NEW YORK

This Indenture,

Made the Eighth day of April, in the year of our Lord
One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-one.

Between CURTIS R. BRUNDAGE, surviving Trustee of the Trust
created under the Last Will and Testament of Newell W. Smith,
Deceased, late of

COUNTY OF ESSEX
CONSIDERATION
\$1.00
GIVEN FOR THE RECEIPT OF
CUMPT

of the Town of West Orange County of Essex
and State of New Jersey, party of the first part;

And RUSSELL F. SMITH, presently residing

RECEIVED & RECORDED
REGISTER'S OFFICE
ESSEX COUNTY, N.J.
APR 14 2 46 PM '71
H. F. SMITH
REGISTER

in the Town of St. Michaels County of
and State of Maryland, party of the second part;

Witnesseth, That the said party of the first part, for and in consideration of
ONE (\$1.00) DOLLAR

lawful money of the United States of America, to him in hand well and truly paid by the said
party of the second part, at or before the sealing and delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof is
hereby acknowledged, and the said party of the first part being therewith fully satisfied, contented and
paid, has given, granted, bargained, sold, aliened, released, enfeoffed, conveyed and confirmed and by
these presents do give, grant, bargain, sell, alien, release, enfeoff, convey and confirm unto the said
party of the second part, and to his heirs
and assigns, forever,

All that certain
tract or parcel of land and premises, hereinafter particularly described, situate, lying and being
in the Town of West Orange County of Essex
and State of New Jersey

BEGINNING at the southwesterly corner of Valley Street and
Lindsley Avenue, as the same are now laid out, thence running along
said Lindsley Avenue South seventy-three degrees and fifty-eight min-
utes West fifty-four feet and ninety-five hundredths of a foot; thence
still along said Lindsley Avenue South seventy-six degrees and twenty
minutes West thirty-six feet and seventy-five hundredths of a foot;
thence still along said Lindsley Avenue South eighty degrees and forty
minutes West thirty-eight feet and sixty-two hundredths of a foot;
thence still along said Lindsley Avenue North eighty-nine degrees and
fifty minutes West seven feet; thence South eleven degrees and five
minutes West eighty-eight feet and forty-five hundredths of a foot;
thence South sixty-four degrees and twelve minutes East thirty-seven
feet and ninety-one hundredths of a foot to lands formerly occupied by
Charles Dean, now deceased; thence along the line of the last mentioned
lands North twenty-five degrees and fifty-six minutes East thirty-nine
feet and fifty-five hundredths of a foot; thence along another line
of last mentioned lands South sixty-five degrees and thirteen minutes
East one hundred and twenty-one feet and fifty hundredths of a foot
to said Valley Street thence along said Valley Street North twenty-two
minutes West forty-two feet thence still along Valley Street North
five degrees and twenty-three minutes West one hundred and one feet;
and thence still along said Valley Street North twelve degrees and
fourteen minutes West six feet and thirty-five hundredths of a foot
to Lindsley Avenue and the place of BEGINNING.

Being and intended to be the same premises conveyed by
Robert H. Wood and Halstead S. Hedges, Sole Acting Executors of the

BOOK 4370 PAGE 907

BOOK 4370 PAGE 908

will of Charles M. Hedges, deceased, and the said Robert H. Wood and Isabelle P. his wife and Halstead S. Hedges and Pernette V. his wife, of the Town of Charlottesville, in the County of Albemarle and State of Virginia, to Newell N. Smith by Deed dated March 1st, 1917, recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Essex County, New Jersey, March 20, 1917, in Book N-58 of Deeds, pages 508-511.

Excepting therefrom that portion conveyed by deed dated September 24, 1959, by Hazel S. Smith, Trustee and Curtis R. Brundage, Substituted Trustee, of the First National Bank of West Orange, recorded in the Essex County Register's Office on September 25, 1959, in Deed Book 3066, Page 453, and described as follows:

BEGINNING in the Southerly line of Lindsley Avenue at a point therein distant 117.32 feet westerly from the westerly line of Main Street, running thence (1) South 9 degrees 20 minutes East 2.71 feet; thence (2) South 11 degrees 5 minutes West 97.02 feet to lands now or formerly of the Town of West Orange; thence (3) along the line of the said lands North 64 degrees 12 minutes West 20.68 feet to lands of The First National Bank of West Orange formerly Noonan; thence (4) along the same North 11 degrees 5 minutes East 88.45 feet to the aforesaid line of Lindsley Avenue; thence (5) South 69 degrees 50 minutes East 7 feet; thence (6) still along the same North 80 degrees 40 minutes East 13 feet to the point and place of BEGINNING.

The said Newell N. Smith died in May 1948 and his son, Russell F. Smith and his daughter, Hazel S. Smith, survived him. By virtue of the Will of the said Newell N. Smith, which was probated in the Surrogate's Court of Essex County, he devised any and all real estate, not otherwise therein specifically bequeathed, to his said daughter, Hazel S. Smith and Aquila N. Venino, IN TRUST, for and during the life of the said Hazel S. Smith or until she married, whichever event should first occur. The said Aquila N. Venino having been discharged as Trustee, the grantor herein, Curtis R. Brundage, was appointed Substituted Trustee in his place and stead. The said Hazel S. Smith never married and died on January 24th, 1971, and the grantee herein, the said Russell F. Smith, son of the said Newell N. Smith, survived her. The Will of the said Newell N. Smith further directed that upon the death of either his said daughter, Hazel S. Smith, or the said son, Russell F. Smith, the Trust shall cease and that the Trustees, or the survivor of them, or such of them as shall qualify, or her, his or their successor or successors, to transfer, assign and convey, the entire trust estate then remaining to the survivor of his said children. This deed is accordingly given to the said Russell F. Smith pursuant to the said direction in the Will of the said Newell N. Smith and to confirm title in said Russell F. Smith.

**Russell F. and Hazel T. Smith to Stanley M. and Lorraine S. Rickle,
December 28, 1971, Deed Book 4426, Page 759, Essex County Deeds.**

103—DEED—BARGAIN AND SALE (COVENANT AGAINST GRANTOR) L T Z S COPYRIGHT © 1965 BY ALL-STATE OFFICE SUPPLY CO.
IND. TO IND. OR CORP. 49 EDISON PLACE, NEWARK, N. J. 07102

This Deed, made the 28th day of December

Between

RUSSELL F. SMITH and HAZEL T. SMITH, his wife

RECEIVED & RECORDED
REGISTER'S OFFICE
ESSEX COUNTY, N.J.
NEW 12 22 PM '72
H. J. Smith
REGISTER

residing at Box 326
in the Town of St. Michaels in the County of
Talbot and State of Maryland herein designated as the Grantors,
And
STANLEY M. RICKLE and LORRAINE S. RICKLE, his wife

residing or located at 22 Helen Avenue
in the Town of West Orange in the County of
Essex and State of New Jersey herein designated as the Grantees;

Witnesseth, that the Grantors, for and in consideration of the sum of ONE HUNDRED
TWENTY THOUSAND (\$120,000.00) DOLLARS

lawful money of the United States of America, to the Grantors in hand well and truly paid by the
Grantees, at or before the sealing and delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowl-
edged, and the Grantors being therewith fully satisfied, do by these presents grant, bargain, sell and
convey unto the Grantees forever.

All that tract or parcel of land and premises, situate, lying and being in the
Town of West Orange in the
County of Essex and State of New Jersey, more particularly described as follows:

BEGINNING at the southwesterly corner of Valley Street and
Lindsley Avenue, as the same are now laid out, thence running (1)
along said Lindsley Avenue south 73° 58' west 54.95 feet; thence
(2) still along said Lindsley Avenue south 76° 20' west 36.75 feet;
thence (3) still along said Lindsley Avenue south 80° 40' west
38.62 feet; thence (4) still along said Lindsley Avenue north
89° 50' west 7.00 feet; thence (5) south 11° 5' west 88.45 feet;
thence (6) south 64° 12' east 37.91 feet to lands formerly occupied
by Charles Dean, now deceased; thence (7) along the line of the
last mentioned lands north 25° 56' east 39.55 feet; thence (8) along
another line of last mentioned lands south 65° 13' east 121.50 feet
to said Valley Street; thence (9) along said Valley Street north
22' west 42 feet; thence (10) still along Valley Street north 5°
23' west 101 feet; and thence (11) still along Valley Street/12
14' west 6.35 feet to Lindsley Avenue and the place of Beginning.

Valley Street now known as Main Street.
Excepting therefrom, that portion thereof conveyed by deed
dated September 24, 1959, by Hazel S. Smith, Trustee and Curtis R.
Brundage, Substituted Trustee, u/l/w/t Newell N. Smith, deceased,
to the First National Bank of West Orange, recorded in the Essex
County Register's Office on September 25, 1959, in Deed Book 3666,
Page 453, and described as follows:

BEGINNING in the southerly line of Lindsley Avenue at a
point therein distant 117.32 feet westerly from the westerly line
of Main Street; thence running (1) south 9° 20' east 2.71 feet;
thence (2) south 11° 5' west 97.02 feet to lands now or formerly
of the Town of West Orange; thence (3) along the line of said lands
north 64° 12' west 20.68 feet to lands of The First National Bank
of West Orange, formerly Noonan; thence (4) along the same north
11° 5' east 88.45 feet to the aforesaid line of Lindsley Avenue;
thence (5) south 89° 50' east 7.00 feet; thence (6) still along
the same north 80° 40' east 13 feet to the point and place of
Beginning.

BEING the same premises conveyed to Russell F. Smith, one

BOOK 4426 PAGE 759

BOOK 4426 PAGE 760 (1)

of the grantors herein by Curtis R. Brundage, surviving Trustee of the Trust created under the Last Will and Testament of Newell N. Smith, deceased, by deed dated April 8, 1971 in Book 4370 of Deeds for Essex County, Page 907, and by Deed of Russell F. Smith et ux to the Grantors by Deed of even date herewith. Subject to a purchase money mortgage executed simultaneously herewith.

Together with all and singular the buildings, improvements, ways, woods, waters, watercourses, rights, liberties, privileges, hereditaments and appurtenances to the same belonging or in anywise appertaining; and the reversion and reversions, remainder and remainders, rents, issues and profits thereof, and of every part and parcel thereof; And also all the estate, right, title, interest, use, possession, property, claim and demand whatsoever, of the Grantors both in law and in equity, of, in and to the premises herein described, and every part and parcel thereof, with the appurtenances. To Have and to Hold all and singular, the premises herein described, together with the appurtenances, unto the Grantees and to Grantees' proper use and benefit forever.

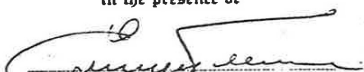
And the Grantors covenant that they have not done or executed, or knowingly suffered to be done or executed, any act, deed or thing whatsoever whereby or by means whereof the premises conveyed herein, or any part thereof, now are or at any time hereafter, will or may be charged or encumbered in any manner or way whatsoever.

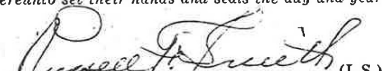
In all references herein to any parties, persons, entities or corporations, the use of any particular gender or the plural or singular number is intended to include the appropriate gender or number as the text of the within instrument may require.

Wherever in this instrument any party shall be designated or referred to by name or general reference, such designation is intended to and shall have the same effect as if the words "heirs, executors, administrators, personal or legal representatives, successors and assigns" had been inserted after each and every such designation.

In Witness Whereof, the Grantors have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year first above written.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered
in the presence of


Edward Turner


Russell F. Smith (L.S.)


Hazel T. Smith (L.S.)

State of New Jersey, County of ESSEX } ss.: Be it Remembered,
that on December 28, 1971, before me, the subscriber,
an Attorney at Law of New Jersey
personally appeared RUSSELL F. SMITH and HAZEL T. SMITH, his wife

who, I am satisfied, are the person named in and who executed the within Instrument, and thereupon they acknowledged that they signed, sealed and delivered the same as their act and deed, for the uses and purposes therein expressed, and that the full and actual consideration paid or to be paid for the transfer of title to realty evidenced by the within deed, as such consideration is defined in P.L. 1968, c. 49, Sec. 1 (c), is \$ 120,000.00

Prepared by: Harry L. Starrett, Esq.


Edward Turner
An Attorney at Law of New Jersey

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In Witness Whereof, the parties hereto have executed this lease of 2 pages the day and year first above written.

[Signature]
Witnesses as to Lessor

THE JULIANO BROTHERS

By *[Signature]*
John S. Juliano, Partner-Managing Agent
A. G. Juliano, Partner-Managing Agent

[Signature]
Blanche Lawrence
Witnesses as to Lessee

LESSOR
WHITE CASTLE SYSTEM, INC.

By *[Signature]*
Wm. J. Bauerle, Vice-President

ATTEST:
By *[Signature]*
Russell G. Saxby, Secretary
LESSEE

STATE OF
COUNTY OF
On this day of , 19 , before me personally appeared
who resides at
to me known to be the person described in and who executed the foregoing instrument and to whom I have first made
known the contents thereof, and acknowledged that he executed the same as free act and deed.
My Commission expires:

(SEAL) Notary Public

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
COUNTY OF ESSEX SS:
On this 25 day of October, 1972, before me came JOHN S. JULIANO
and A. G. JULIANO, to me known to be the persons who, as partners and managing agents
of THE JULIANO BROTHERS, the partnership described in and which executed the foregoing
instrument, signed the same and acknowledged to me that they did so sign said instru-
ment in the name of and on behalf of said partnership as partners and managing agents;
that the same is their free act and deed and the free act and deed of said partnership;
and that they were duly authorized by the partnership.

My commission expires:

(SEAL) Notary Public
ARTHUR W. WILDEROTTER
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW OF NEW JERSEY
6 SOUTH ORANGE AVENUE
SOUTH ORANGE, NEW JERSEY 07079

STATE OF OHIO
COUNTY OF FRANKLIN
On this day of August, 1972, before me came
WM. J. BAUERLE and RUSSELL G. SAXBY
to me known to be the persons who, as Vice President and Secretary, respectively, of
WHITE CASTLE SYSTEM, INC., the corporation described in and which executed the foregoing
instrument, signed the same and acknowledged to me that they did so sign said instrument in the name of and on behalf of
said corporation as such officers; that the same is their free act and deed as such officers and the free act and deed of said cor-
poration; that they were duly authorized by the Board of Directors; that the seal affixed to said instrument is the corporate
seal of said corporation; and that they reside at 3501 Rue de Fleurs and 3101 Carriage Lane
respectively, in Columbus, Ohio.

My commission expires
(SEAL) Notary Public
This lease prepared by

[Signature]
and
(2)

**Joseph Fagan. "Seeing the Writing on the Wall Tells about W.O. History."
West Orange Chronicle (West Orange, NJ), August 23, 2018.**

6 — August 23, 2018 — West Orange Chronicle

Heslin's Journal **Writing on wall**

Photos Courtesy of Joseph Fagan

Above left, the arrows seen in this side-by-side comparison of John Heslin's journal to the wall writings in the former police headquarters show similar entries, the same handwriting and the same distinctive style of doodling.

Newell Smith, above center, owned the buildings on Hedges block. Extant in the basement of one of the Hedges block buildings is the writing left behind by Heslin, above right.

Seeing the writing on the wall tells about W.O. history

We have all heard the expression "if walls could talk they would tell a story." The walls inside the former West Orange Police Station are doing just that. Writings on the wall from more than a century ago have been rediscovered and are once again telling their story.

On April 30, 1892, a fire destroyed eight row stores in downtown West Orange. These adjoining units began on the corner of Lindsey Avenue and Main Street, then known as Valley Road, and extended toward the corner of Northfield Avenue without reaching it. It was commonly referred to as "Hedges block," named for Samuel and Charles Hedges, who owned the buildings.

Their flour, feed and grain business, S. M. Hedges & Co., was also destroyed in the fire. Two tenants also displaced by the fire were the West Orange municipal government and West Orange Police Department.

Shortly after the fire, Hedges block was rebuilt and S. M. Hedges & Co. resumed business on the corner of Lindsey Avenue. The West Orange municipal government and police department also moved back in after the fire. Both were located in separate rented quarters at Hedges block from 1894 to 1905. The same building once occupied by S. M. Hedges & Co. is now Main Street Hardware, and the former police station next door is now Llewellyn Liquors.

The Hedges brothers sold the buildings to Newell Smith circa 1902. He died in 1948, and the buildings' ownership eventually passed to Stanley Rickle, one of Smith's descendants through marriage. In 1978 the proprietors of the liquor store discovered strange writings on the wall in the basement.

Rickle had apparently known of them for several years, but was never able to generate much interest in the find. On July 27, 1978, the West Orange Chronicle did a story about the wall writings. The article revealed that they dated to a time when the same building was used as the West Orange police station with a courtroom and jail cells. It was suggested that perhaps prisoners wrote on the wall at the time. Interest in the writings eventually faded and once Rickle died, they were mostly forgotten.

This all changed when I recently crossed paths with Rickle's daughter, who shares my love of history. I told her about the wall writings and it stirred up her own curiosity. She and I recently made a visit to the basement in hopes of finding the mysterious writings to see if they still existed. The only access to the basement is down the old original flimsy staircase, which creaked with our every step.

The dimly lit basement revealed dark shadows in every corner against the old stone foundation — but no writings. Unlike other basements, which are often cool and damp, this one was hot and musty with very little air circulation. Just as we were about to give up the search we discovered the old writings completely intact on a flat surface, as reported in the 1978 article.

They are still totally legible, but what is strikingly odd is that the writings mostly record just names and dates of people who were either killed or died. Although the purpose of the writings may be unclear, it is without doubt that they all date to the time when this building was the West Orange Police Station and jail. I took pictures of the writings to further study on my office computer. In doing so, I was able to learn even more about the writings.

In 2017, Mary Jo Connolly, the great-granddaughter of John Heslin, was moving out of West Orange and discovered a journal he had kept. Heslin had served on the WOPD from 1893 to 1913, eventually achieving the rank of lieutenant, and he worked in the old police station where the writings were found. Connolly had allowed me to scan a copy of Heslin's journal and, as I examined the wall writings, they reminded me of Heslin's entries in his journal. When I compared the two side by side I found it to be the same handwriting, and some entries in Heslin's journal were identical to those found on the wall. The clincher, however, was a distinct style of doodling found both in Heslin's journal and on the wall.

It leaves little doubt that the mystery of who wrote on the wall over a century ago has been solved. It was John Heslin, who died shortly following his retirement in 1913. He clearly intended to leave behind dates from West Orange history by recording in his journal and writing on the wall simultaneously.

To learn more about local history, visit www.WestOrangeHistory.com.

Joseph Fagan is the official historian of the township of West Orange and has written four books on the subject. He can be reached at JosephFagan@WestOrangeHistory.com.