

The West Street and Harrington Avenue Historic District

Nomination Report – July, 2009

Prepared by the Closter Historic Preservation Commission

Introduction

The intersection of West Street and Harrington Avenue sits at both a literal and historic junction in Closter's 300-year history. West Street holds a unique position both in its location and in the history of Closter, beginning as a Native American Trail when the Leni Lenape tribe occupied this land prior to European arrival in the 18th Century. Harrington Avenue, previously known as “Main Street,” also hosts a number of prominent homes and the historic First Congregational Church at the intersecting corner of West Street. Closter’s first church, the Dutch Reformed Church, has stood on the hilltop at the end of West Street since 1862.

History

In 1859, the first wood-burning steam locomotive of the Northern Railroad roared through Closter and the Northern Valley, transforming an area of Colonial farms and mills into a commuter suburb. The line made the connection between New York City and Piermont, New York. It allowed Closter residents to commute to Manhattan to work and city dwellers to vacation in the fresh air of the New Jersey countryside.

A community called “Closter City” grew up almost overnight around the railroad depot. During the late 19th century and early 20th century, it was the largest population center in the Northern Valley. A 1903 chamber of commerce publication stated that “the population is about 1200; two-thirds of the male citizens are commuters and have their business in New York City: the rest are merchants and business and professional men who make a livelihood in this village and in neighboring towns.

In 1859, Closter was one of three original stops on the Northern line (the others were Englewood and Piermont, N.Y.) Closter City soon became the business, population, and education center of the valley area - the hub of the Northern Valley. There were 18 trains going each way for a total of 36 by the beginning of the 20th century. The *Hand-Book of the Northern Railroad of New Jersey* (1870) contains this description of Closter: “Nineteen and one-quarter miles from Jersey City is a village that shows thrift and enterprise among its inhabitants, that now number some 800, and it’s increasing faster than any other town on the road.”

Prominent People Who Lived in the District

Past owners of the twenty-six residential properties in the proposed District include many prominent citizens with featured biographies in Bergen County history books. Some, such as J. Wyman Jones, the “father of Englewood” and Joseph W. Duryea, a prominent Jersey City businessman, were important people in other areas as well as Closter. The majority of owners were descendents of early settlers, including the VanValen, Vanderbeck, Zabriskie, Hopper, Blauvelt, Demarest, Ferdon, Naugle, Haring, Herring, Durie, Parsell, Lozier, Bloomer, and Bogert families.

Some owners were especially important in local affairs. For example: William Tate, whose grand house still stands at 292 West Street, was the postmaster, county official, and the first notary public in the borough. William Lindemann, according to Pat Garbe Morillo, was probably the second most important person in the early development of the town and built many of the homes in the residential section. He was also a freeholder and served on the first council in 1904. Lindemann had the foresight to purchase land in this area, subdividing it into building lots, including the site that is now 227 West Street. Charles Tanner, whose house was moved down the hill to its present location at 248 Harrington Avenue, was also instrumental in the economic development of Closter and served as Township Assessor in 1871. His daughter, Sophie, married William Wray, who twice served as mayor.

Other owners were important in developing businesses in town. Garret Demarest Eckerson, who lived at 280 Harrington Avenue, was the proprietor of the Eckerson Carriage & Sleigh Manufactory on Old Closter Dock Road. Abram Demarest, who purchased property (now 295 Harrington Avenue) from J. Wyman Jones in 1866, and his brothers, started the Demarest Brothers hardware store. John H. Dotson, who lived at 232 West Street, was a partner there in 1913. James Taveniere and Darius Johnson, who owned the property at 247 West Street, operated the livery stables bearing their name in downtown Closter and were instrumental in bringing water and electricity to the town. A. J. Zabriskie, who lived in the house at 244 West Street, was a harness maker and trimmer, and Charles Wetyon, an owner of 295 Harrington Avenue, founded the Closter pharmacy. The most beloved of these community leaders was probably Dr. Lewis Parsell, whose grand residence at 270 Harrington still commands the corner of West Street and Harrington Avenue. When Dr. Parsell died in 1908, the stores in town closed for his funeral.

Some women residents were also notable in Closter history. Lizzie Tate, who lived in the bungalow that her family built at 286 West Street, was the postmistress in 1900. Kittie Remson, who resided at 251 West Street, was one of Closter's first school teachers. Maria Ferdon who bought the house at 290 Harrington Avenue in 1888, wrote journals throughout the late 19th Century, many of which are now treasured by the Bergen County Historical Society.

John Henry Stephens, the "father of Closter," designed the Reformed Church of Closter, which was built in 1862. The First Congregational Church was designed by prominent architect J. Cleveland Cady, who is famous for designing the American Museum of Natural History in New York City, many buildings at Yale University, and, locally, the Methodist Episcopal Church in Alpine, New Jersey and Church of the Holy Communion in Norwood.

We include one homeowner whose importance arose later in the 20th Century, Marcel Jovine. Mr. Jovine is one of the renowned artists who made their home in Closter. He was known for designing everything from toys to coins, medals and horse sculptures. Most of us know his work, as he designed the official seal of the borough of Closter depicting the lone horseman.

Architectural styles

A wide variety of architectural styles abound in this railroad suburb. Many people think that the term "Victorian" is a descriptive architectural term, but this was really an era which produced many different building styles that can be seen along West Street and Harrington Avenue: the "Second Empire" style, lavishly exhibited at 248 Harrington and 243 West Street as well as at 258 and 268

West, and at 270, 280 289 and 290 Harrington Avenue; “Carpenter Gothic,” most notably at 280 West Street (the “Hildebrand Naugle House”) and at 232, 237 and 234 West Street, “Italianate” at 247 West Street and “Queen Anne,” at 250 and 251 West Street and 295 Harrington Avenue. There are also some striking examples of early Twentieth Century architectural styles, including the impressive “Colonial Revival” known as the “William Tate House,” at 292 West Street, “American Four Squares” at 254 and 289 West Street and at 264 Harrington Avenue, and “Bungalow” style at 228 and 286 West Street. The oldest house in the District, at 125 Closter Dock Road on the corner of West Street, was shown on an 1840 Coastal Survey map and is a good example of the “Gothic Revival” style which was popular at that time.

Please see the Property Reports, following this section, to read additional details about the architectural features of the District.

Significance of the West Street/Harrington Avenue District

The significance of the West Street/Harrington Avenue District is both historical and architectural. But it is the impact of the group that makes this District distinctive and contributes to its historic importance. In fact, the District, still clearly defined within Closter and containing a variety of vernacular buildings, is even today evocative of the railroad suburbs established in the Northern Valley in the 1860’s. Here are 26 homes and 2 churches for the residents who created a new community; nearby is their shopping center. Buildings may have lost some of their decorative brackets and bargeboards, they may have been resurfaced or enlarged, but this District has considerable integrity and has retained much of its appearance from the decades of 1860 - 1920.

Prominent citizens of the Nineteenth and early Twentieth Centuries owned properties here, such as J. Wyman Jones, the “Father of Englewood,” who held title to much of the property in the District. Familiar historic family names such as Naugle, Bogert, Demarest, Zabriskie, Stephens, Ferdon and Taveniere and Johnson dominate the deeds from this era.

The District meets the criteria for designation as established in Closter Ordinance Section 35-54(A) (1), (2), (4) and (5), as its significance is both historical and architectural. Section (A) states that “the Commission shall consider as worthy of designation those buildings, structures, objects, sites, and districts that have integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and that meet one or more of the following criteria: (1) That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the Borough of Closter by reflecting or exemplifying the broad cultural, political, economic or social history of the nation, state or community. This West Street/Harrington Avenue District meets this criterion. The “event” that occurred was the arrival of the Northern Railroad in 1859; thereafter, everything changed, and Closter was rapidly transformed from a rural village to “Closter City,” a bustling development of businesses and homes. Section (2) states that the District be “associated with historic personages important in national, state or local history.” Many of the residents of the West Street/Harrington Avenue District were important in local history, establishing businesses and holding civic positions of authority. Section (4) states that the District should “embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, that represent the work of a master, that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.” In this case, the District does the latter: it represents a “significant distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction,” not because the individual buildings in the District lack distinguishing

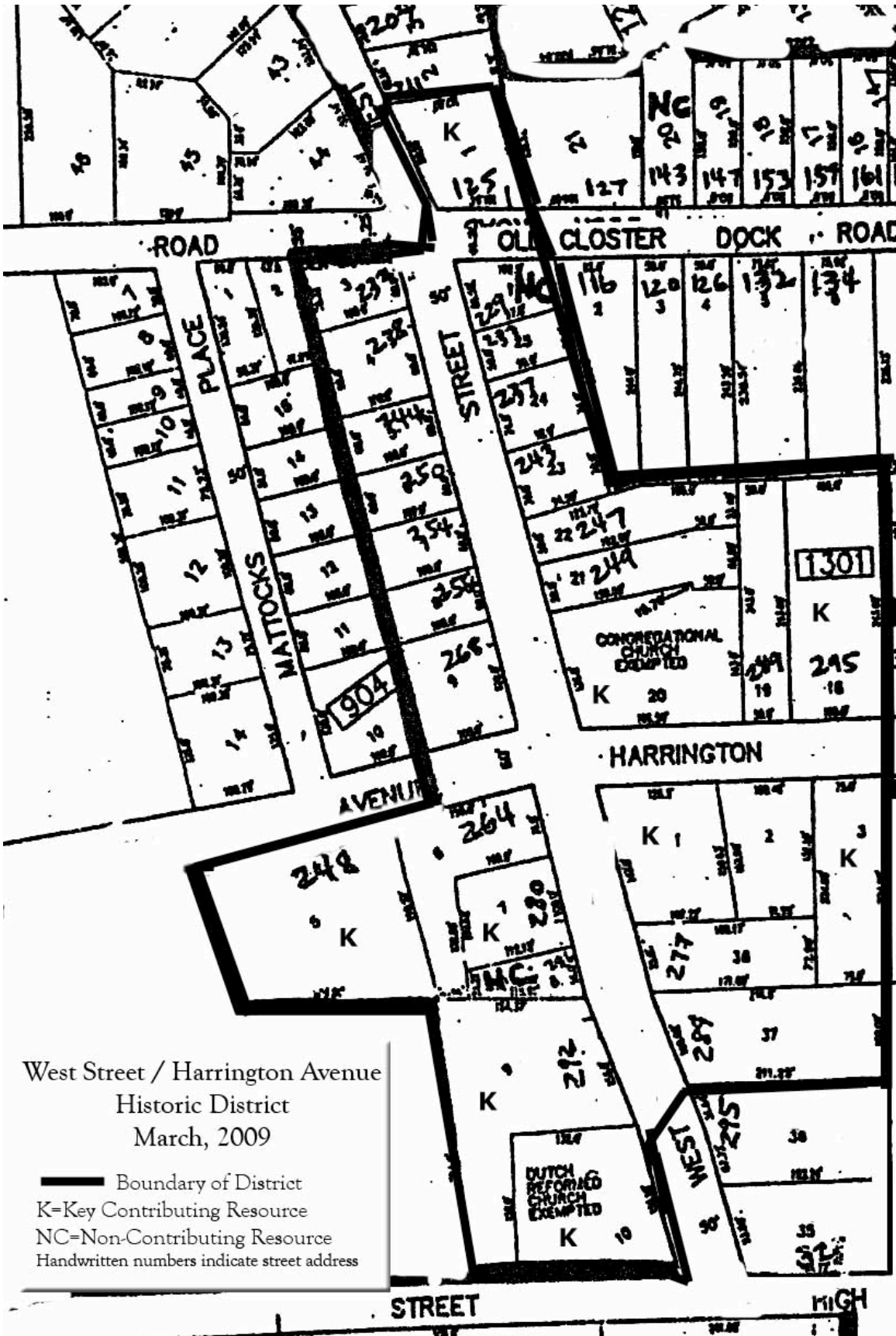
characteristics, but because the combination of them as a unified whole represents a greater contribution to the architectural history of Closter than any one individual building can. This District's period of significance runs from 1860 to 1920, and a wide variety of architectural styles are exhibited within it. Section (5) states that the District should be "otherwise of particular historic significance to the Borough of Closter by reflecting or exemplifying the broad cultural, political, economic or social history of the nation, state or community." As the neighborhood that hosts the first two churches of Closter and that can truly be characterized as Closter's first suburban neighborhood, the District meets criterion (5).

Methodology

Source materials used in researching the history of this District are listed in the Bibliography at the end of the report. Interviews with members of the Parsells, Tate and Bogert families were conducted by a member of the Closter Historic Preservation Commission. The 1982 Bergen County Sites Survey and the 2004 Closter Historic District Survey written by McCabe and Associates were the principal sources of specific architectural information regarding the houses as well as historic house names. In addition, title searches for all of the District properties were performed by members of the Commission, at the Bergen County Records Vault . The Commission took all of the current photographs used in this report.

Conclusion

The impression of this neighborhood is the same from all directions: a consistent streetscape of historically interesting, aesthetically pleasing and harmonious homes that represent a time of increasing economic and social prominence for the people of Closter. This exceptionally attractive and harmonious collection of architecturally diverse styles and forms remains remarkably intact, and has become an important and visually pleasant gateway to the Closter downtown area. Past owners of the twenty-six residential properties in the proposed District include many notable citizens who were prominent in civic and business matters. Closter's first two churches are located here and were an important facet of community life. This distinctive neighborhood deserves special recognition by the Borough.



West Street / Harrington Avenue
 Historic District
 March, 2009

- Boundary of District
- K=Key Contributing Resource
- NC=Non-Contributing Resource
- Handwritten numbers indicate street address

West Street/Harrington Avenue Historic District
Closter, New Jersey
July, 2009

WEST STREET:

125 Old Closter Dock Road block 1201 Lot 1
227 West St. block 1301 lot 1
232 West St. block 904 lot 3
233 West St. block 1301 lot 25
237 West St. block 1301 lot 24
238 West St. block 904 lot 4
243 West St. block 1301 lot 23
244 West St. block 904 lot 5
247 West St. block 1301 lot 22
250 West St. block 904 lot 6
251 West St. block 1301 lot 21
254 West St. block 904 lot 7
258 West St. block 904 lot 8
268 West St. block 904 lot 9
277 West St. block 1312 lot 38
280 West St. block 903 lot 7
286 West St. block 903 lot 8
289 West St. block 1312 lot 37
292 West St. block 903 lot 9
328 West/311 High St. block 903 lot 10

HARRINGTON AVENUE:

248 Harrington Ave. block 903 lot 5
264 Harrington Ave. block 903 lot 6
270 Harrington Ave. block 1312 lot 1
280 Harrington Ave. block 1312 lot 2
283 Harrington Ave. block 1301 lot 20
289 Harrington Ave. block 1301 lot 19
290 Harrington Ave. block 1312 lot 3
295 Harrington Ave. block 1301 lot 18



The R. Vervalen House
125 Old Closter Dock Road Block 1201 Lot 1
McCabe Survey Property ID # 1932401108
Bergen County Historic Sites Survey # 198224-9
Key Contributing Resource

This is a two-story, five-bay Gothic Revival style house with a side gable roof, a centered, projecting second-story gabled bay flanked by through-cornice wall dormers. The house has a high, random ashlar foundation, an interior brick chimney, a one-story, side gable addition with a poured concrete foundation constructed laterally off of the east end, a wood clapboard exterior, cornerboards, an asphalt shingle roof, replacement 1/1 windows, hand-sawn fascia boards, and board and batten trim with pointed base lines applied in the gable peaks on the front and sides. The front entryway under the projecting bay is supported by two squared posts consists of a wood panel door with arched frame lights across the top, sidelights, a modern storm door, and a steep front stoop of wood steps and wrought iron railings. The property has a poured concrete wall around the perimeter, along with poured concrete steps and sidewalks. The house is an unusual example of the Gothic Revival style dwelling that residents of considerable means constructed on large lots during the middle part of the nineteenth century. Despite the fact that this house has received several alterations, it retains a medium level of architectural integrity.

This is the oldest house within the proposed Historic District, being shown on an 1840 coastal survey map. Henry Penny sold the property to R. Vervalen in 1859, the year that the Northern Railroad came through Closter. R. Vervalen is listed as the owner of this property in 1861 and on the Walker Atlas map of 1876. Richard Vervalen is descended from Barnardus Vervalen, whose house at 151 West Street is listed on the state and national registers. The Vervalen family was amongst the earliest European settlers in the area, having come to this area in 1710. Later inhabitants included members of the Bogert and Lozier families whose ancestors lived in the Closter area since before the Revolutionary War.

Because this is the oldest house in the District and was inhabited by the Vervalen, Bogart and Lozier families, early inhabitants of Closter, and because of its architectural integrity, this house is considered a key contributing resource in the District.



227 West Street Block 1301 Lot 1
McCabe Survey Property ID # -1654183352
Bergen County Historic Sites Survey # 198239-23
Contributing Resource

This vernacular style house, constructed between 1876 and 1912, is a two and one half story, three bay, side hall front gable house with a pair of attic windows and a large two-story side gable addition constructed laterally off the south side. The house has a coursed ashlar foundation, aluminum siding, an asphalt shingle roof, 2/2 wood sash windows with modern storms, a large single pane window flanked by two smaller double hung windows on the first floor of the addition, and a full-width front porch with new squared posts which are bracketed at the entryway, no railings, and wood steps. The front door is new, constructed of wood panels with two attenuated windows in the upper section. There is one sidelight and a transom. Despite the number of alterations, this house retains enough of its original form to be considered a contributing resource in the District.

This property was once part of a large tract owned by Ernest Hopper. On the Walker Atlas map of 1876, the lot is shown as belonging to William Lindemann, a builder, who also owned a large amount of land in Closter. Mr. Lindemann was a farmer who became a real estate agent and builder. According to Pat Garbe Morillo in the book, Closter and Alpine, "He was probably the second most important person in the early development of the town and built many of the homes in the residential section of the district." His biography in The History of Hudson and Bergen County mentions that Lindemann served on the Town Committee and was a Collector for Harrington Township. "Lindemann Row," a commercial building with many storefronts, still stands on the north side of Old Closter Dock Road downtown.



The Mrs. Zabriskie House
232 West Street Block 904 Lot 3
McCabe Survey Property ID # 1242698706
Bergen County Historic Sites Survey # 129239-23
Contributing Resource

This iCarpenter Gothic style house is a two and one-half story, three-bay, L-plan structure with a cross gable roof, an oculus window in the gable peak, jigsawed bargeboards with a trefoil pattern, and a full-width porch. The house has a parged foundation, a vinyl-sided exterior, an asphalt-shingle roof, 2/2 wood sash windows with modern aluminum frame storms, and a porch that at one time wrapped around the ell before that section was enclosed. One of the second story windows has been replaced with 1/1 replacement windows. The porch has replacement turned columns, no railings and a set of steps made from uniblocks. The front entryway consists of an old double wood panel and beveled glass doors with a modern storm door. There is a short wall with a stairway constructed with uniblocks around the property's perimeter. Despite the alterations, this house maintains a medium degree of architectural integrity and is a contributing resource in the District.

This property once owned by Wilhelmina and Ernest Hopper was sold to Herman Eiche in 1865. Mrs. Zabriskie was listed as the owner on the 1876 Walker Atlas map. In 1891, John R. Zabriskie purchased it on a bid of \$1,300. By 1913, John H. Dotson, a plumber and partner at Demarest Brothers Hardware, bought the property from William and Mary Herring. In 1926, Eugenie Chinnock (single) passed it on to John Dotson, Jr.



233 West Street Block 1301 Lot 25
McCabe Survey Property ID # 1059253955
Bergen County Sites Survey # 198239-23
Contributing Resource

This vernacular style house is a two and one half story, three-bay, T-plan structure with a front gable main block that has an arched window in the gable peak and a side hall entry. There are ells with intersecting gables, one on each side and a bump-out on the second floor of the northern cross-gable ell. The house has a random ashlar foundation, an interior brick chimney, vinyl siding, an asphalt shingle roof, replacement 1/1 windows with snap-in muntins and modern decorative shutters, and a front entryway that consists of a new door with a lunette window and storm door. There is a new front stoop of brick and concrete slab steps with wrought-iron railings. The house lacks a front porch, a feature it probably once had. Despite the alterations, this house has retained a medium level of architectural integrity and is a contributing resource in the District.

This is another property owned by Ernest Hopper aka Hoppe or Happe. Cornelia Vanderveck owned the land without a house in 1876 and willed the property to William Endres, Jr. in 1899. It remained in the Endres family until 1946. In the 1900 *Tillotson Directory*, William C. Endres, Jr. is listed as a painter living on West Street. A Closter New Jersey booklet of 1903 has his ad: “Wm. C. Endres, Practical House and Sign Painter, kalsomining, graining and paper hanging.”



238 West Street Block 904 Lot 4
McCabe Survey Property ID # 1652807703
Bergen County Historic Sites Survey # 198235-25
Outbuildings: 1 garage - contributing
Contributing Resource

This Bungalow style house, built between 1900 and 1912, is a two and one-half story, five bay rectangular plan structure with a side gable roof and a full front porch recessed under a continuous shed roof dormer. The house has a wood clapboard exterior on the first floor and wood shingles on the second, an asphalt shingle roof, 6/1 wood sash windows with modern aluminum frame storms, a brick end chimney, a parged foundation, and a porch with squared columns, vertical board knee walls as railings, and wood steps. The front entryway consists of a wood panel and divided light door with a modern storm door. There is a detached, two-car garage located to the rear and side of the house. Despite several alterations, it retains a high degree of architectural integrity and is a contributing resource in the District.

This property with a house is listed on the Walker Atlas map of 1876 as belonging to A. J. Zabriskie. The residence next door, at 232 West Street, was also owned by Mrs. Zabriskie. In 1913, William and Mary Herring sold the property to John H. Dotson, a partner in Demarest Brothers Hardware. When he died in 1954, his executors were Beulah Tate, sister of William Tate, and Henry Mandle, founder of the U.S. Bronze Powder Works. George Taylor, who bought the property in 1954, was a banker and Sunday School Superintendent at the Reformed Church.



237 West Street Block 1301 Lot 24
McCabe Survey Property ID # 335457014
Bergen County Sites Survey # 198239-24
Contributing Resource

This vernacular Carpenter Gothic style house, built between 1876 and 1912, is a two and one half story, two-bay structure with a front gable roof and a large two-bay side gable addition with a below-grade two car built-in garage constructed laterally off the house's south side. The house has vinyl siding, an asphalt shingle roof, replacement 1/1 windows in the cant bay window with wood panels on the first story and original 2/2 wood sash windows on the second story with modern decorative shutters, and a three-quarters-width porch with chamfered posts, plain wood railings and wood steps. The attic window has been replaced with a vent. The entryway consists of a solid wood door with sidelights, transom and a modern storm door. An attached ramped garage addition with a bedroom above was added in the 1960's. This house retains a medium level of architectural integrity and is a contributing resource in the District.

This property belonged to J. Wyman Jones on the 1865 map. The lot and house are listed on the Walker Atlas map of 1876 as belonging to Tanner and Ferdon. In 1907, John D. Ferdon (widower) sold to Albert Gotham for \$10.00, part of lots conveyed by Huyler Bogart and wife to John D. Ferdon in 1894. In 1911, the heirs of Charles Tanner (see 248 Harrington Avenue) sold for \$100 a parcel of land to Albert Gotham. In the 1903 *Tillotson's Directory*, Albert Gotham is listed as a machinist in Hoboken, New Jersey, and Mrs. Gotham is listed as working in dry goods and notions.



250 West Street
Block 904 Lot 6
McCabe Survey Property ID # -582420451
Bergen County Historic Sites Survey # 198231-21
Contributing Resource

This recently renovated, strikingly painted house is a two and one half-story, five-bay, L-plan vernacular Queen Anne style home with a front gable roof, a shed roofed porch and gabled dormer, a slightly projecting gabled block with a first story cant bay window, cornice returns and a wrap-around, pedimented front porch. The house has a random ashlar foundation, a wood clapboard exterior with wood shingles in the gable peaks, chamfered cornerboards, decorative brackets beneath the second story overhang above the cant bay window, an asphalt shingle roof, replacement 1/1 windows with modern storms, and an internal brick chimney. The house has irregular fenestration including a square window in the shorter gable peak and a standard rectangular window flanked by small rectangular windows in the other gable peak. The front entryway consists of a wood panel door with an upper pane of beveled glass, a screen door that has jigsawn framing and a porch with a hip roof and a pediment with cornice returns, new chamfered columns on brick piers, decorative jigsawn wood railings, and wood steps. The house has retained a high level of architectural integrity and is a contributing resource in the District.

This property was part of the land owned by Ernest Hopper, aka Happe or Hoppe, before 1876. On the 1876 Walker Atlas map, Hopper still owned the large tract of land behind the houses on this part of West Street. (From Old Closter Dock Road to the Reformed Church). J. G. Demarest owned this property without a house in 1876. The house was built between 1876 and 1912 and stylistically dates to the 1880's and 1890's. By 1912, Joseph W. Duryea owned this large Hopper tract, then in 1916, Josephine and Joseph W. Duryea, aka Durie, sold a tract to Olive and Everett W. Lozier. Mr. Lozier was a leather goods salesman.



The T. R. Westervelt House
243 West Street Block 1301 Lot 23
McCabe Survey Property ID # 517599181
Bergen County Sites Survey # 198239-21
Outbuildings: converted chicken coop/garage
Contributing

This handsomely painted one and one half story Second Empire style house, built in 1869, has a straight mansard roof that has one centered dormer with paired windows and a curved roof, and a cant window bay with a flat roof on the south side. The house has a high brick foundation, two dormers flanking an interior brick chimney on the south side, aluminum siding, an asphalt shingle mansard, original 4/4 wood sash windows with modern storms and louvered wood shutters, and a full-width front porch with a flat roof, squared chamfered posts and newel posts, spindle balusters, and wood steps. The front entryway retains its original wood panel door with beveled glass light surmounted with a transom and protected with a modern storm door. The dormers have 2/2 wood sash windows. The sidewalk and front walkway are composed of bluestone slabs. There is a detached building in the rear believed to have been a chicken coop at one time, adjacent to a more recently built garage. Despite the fact that this house has received several alterations, it retains a high level of architectural integrity and is a contributing resource in the District.

Once this lot was part of a larger property owned by J. Wyman Jones, then later owned by I Smith Homans, Jr. (Both were important early Bergen County investors living in Englewood). Homans worked as co-editor with his father, the founder of *Bankers Magazine*. According to The History of Bergen and Passaic Counties, New Jersey, no one did more for the development of the interests of Bergen County than Homans. Jones sold the property to Tanner and Ferdon in 1868, and Homans bought it in 1874. He sold it at a loss six months later to Theodore Westervelt. The 1876 Walker Atlas map shows this house, labeled "T.R. Westervelt." Tunis A Haring then bought the property in 1886. Haring, listed as a farmer in the 1880 census, had married Leah Ann Bogert in 1865. He was later listed in the History of Bergen County as the Tax Collector of Harrington Township, as a sheriff in 1889, and as an Elder in the Norwood Presbyterian Church. The next owner was Frank Chace in 1907. The house has both front and rear porches and continues to have its kitchen in the grade level floor at rear. The date "1869" is chiseled on the living room fireplace.



The A.J. Zabriskie House
244 West Street Block 904 Lot 5
McCabe Survey Property ID # 1743673844
Bergen County Historic Sites Survey # 198239-25
Outbuildings: 1 garage
Contributing Resource

This charming Carpenter Gothic style house, built between 1865 and 1876, is a two and one half story, three-bay structure with a front gable roof and a large two-story addition with a front gable constructed parallel to the original house's south side. The house has a brick foundation under the original building, an internal brick chimney, vinyl siding exterior with vinyl shingles in the gable peaks, scalloped-edge jigsawn bargeboards, an asphalt shingle roof, replacement 1/1 windows including the round headed attic window, snap-in muntins, modern decorative shutters and a porch with a shed roof, new turned columns with brackets, jigsawn panel balusters in a low railing, and wood steps. The porch extends in front of the addition. The front entryway consists of a wood panel door with a beveled glass light in the upper section surmounted with a transom. There is a detached one-car frame garage located in the rear of the property. Despite the alterations and addition, the house retains a medium level of architectural integrity and is a contributing resource in the District.

Once part of the property of Ernest Hopper, this lot is shown on the Walker Atlas map of 1876 with a house noting A. J. Zabriskie as the owner. Mr. Zabriskie was a local harness maker and trimmer. In 1891, the property transferred from Jacob M. Bogert to William and Mary Blakeney. Charles and Mary Pike were the owners in 1893 and sold it to Robert and Celia Latta in 1905. At one time the Zabriskies owned all of the property from 232 to 238 West Street.



The Jacob Blauvelt House
247 West Street Block 1301 Lot 22
McCabe Survey Property ID # 1497201276
Bergen County Historic Sites Survey # 198239-24
Contributing Building

This Italianate style two-story, three-bay, rectangular-plan house has a flat roof, a cornice with carved brackets, and a full-width front porch. The house has a parged foundation, an interior parged chimney, aluminum siding, replacement 1/1 windows with modern storms, and a porch with a shed roof, new squared posts, plain wood railings, and wood steps. The front door is protected by a modern storm door. Despite the fact that this house has received several alterations, it retains a medium level of architectural integrity and is a contributing resource in the District.

Originally a part of the property owned by J. Wyman Jones, this house is depicted on the 1876 Walker Atlas map as being owned by Jacob Blauvelt. Blauvelt had at least three lots in this area. This was lot B, and the adjacent lot C was “the Church lot.” James Taveniere and Darius Johnson, partners in the “Taveniere and Johnson” livery stables business bought the property at auction in 1891 after the house was the subject of a lawsuit between Lucy A. Ridgway and Frederick Blauvelt. They sold the property to Arthur Hoffman in 1921.



254 West Street Block 904 Lot 7
McCabe Survey Property ID # 1426216166
Bergen County Historic Sites Survey # 198239-21
Outbuildings: 1 contemporary garage
Contributing Resource

This two and one half story side-hall American Foursquare house, constructed around 1913, has a pyramidal roof and pedimented dormers, the front one with a pair of replacement casement windows. The house has a random rubble stone foundation, a side wall brick chimney, an asbestos shingle exterior, an asphalt shingle roof, replacement 1/1 windows with modern storms, and a full-width front porch with a hipped roof, Tuscan columns on cast concrete piers, railings only along the sides, and wood steps. There is a one-story back entrance bay projecting off the rear of the house and a detached one-car frame clapboard clad garage in the rear. There is an attractive paver brick front walkway leading to a concrete sidewalk. The house has retained a medium level of architectural integrity and is a contributing resource in the District.

The property was part of a large tract owned by E. Hopper. In 1872, Albert Duryea sold part of the property to Frank Block. In March, 1906, Block's heirs sold it to Everett Lozier. In October of the same year, Everett Lozier sold to Herminie Wray. When Joseph Duryea sold another part of this land to Herminie Wray in 1911, she agreed that no tenement house or dwelling to cost less than \$2500.00 be erected. The Wrays sold the house to Willard Dayton Brown in 1920. Brown was an author of religious books.



The D. Felter House
258 West Street Block 904 Lot 8
McCabe Survey Property ID # -1160745089
Bergen County Historic Sites Survey # 198224-14
Contributing Resource

This Second Empire style house, built between 1865 and 1876, is a two and one half story, three bay structure with a concave mansard roof and two elliptical arched dormers in the front. The house has a brick foundation, a vinyl siding exterior, an asphalt shingle roof and four pane divided light windows with thick vertical muntins and modern storms. There is a two-story addition laterally off the rear and a one-story entryway bay constructed off of that. The front entryway consists of an original set of double doors with curved inset panels surmounted by a transom, and a full-width front porch with chamfered columns, new turned balusters and wood steps. There is a stone slab sidewalk leading up to the front porch. Despite the alterations, the house retains a medium level of architectural integrity and is a contributing resource in the District.

Part of this property was owned by Ernest Hopper, who sold it to Charles Tanner and William Ferdon in 1866. They sold it to David and Grace Felter in 1869. D. Felter is listed as the owner on the Walker Atlas map of 1876. It was conveyed to John D. Ferdon in 1899. John was listed as a boatman in the 1860 census and is buried in the historic Alpine Cemetery. For information on Charles Tanner see 248 Harrington Avenue. Willliam Ferdon was a descendent of W. Ferdon, aka Wilhelmus Verdon, whose property is shown on the Philip Verplank survey map of 1745. Ferdon and Tanner bought and sold many properties in the area. There are different tracts involved in this property. Part of it was deeded to John D. Ferdon in 1897 from Albert G. Bogert.



251 West Street Block 1301 Lot 21
McCabe Survey Property ID # 1614891961
Bergen County Historic Sites Survey # 198239-22
Outbuilding: New one-story garage
Contributing Resource

This vernacular Queen Anne style two and one half-story, two bay, L-plan house has a front gable roof, an intersecting gable ell, and wide fascia boards. The house has a one-story addition constructed laterally off of the rear, a random ashlar foundation, an interior brick chimney, aluminum siding, shaped wood shingles above and below the first story cant bay window, an asphalt shingle roof, replacement 1/1 windows, and a pedimented portico with turned posts, a frieze of turned spindles, wrought iron railings, and brick and concrete slab steps. The front entryway consists of a set of double wood inset panel doors with wood frame storm doors surmounted with a two-light transom. There is a newly constructed two-car single story garage to the rear of the property. Despite several alterations, this house has retained a medium level of architectural integrity.

This house was built between 1876 and 1912. Jacob Blauvelt owned the land in 1876. James Taveniere and Darius Johnson, owners of the “Taveniere and Johnson” livery stable downtown, bought it and then sold it to Aaron Remson in 1893. Miss Kittie Remson, one of Closter’s earliest school teachers lived here around the turn of the century.



The J. F. Hering House
268 West Street Block 904 Lot 9
McCabe Survey Property ID # 1621208792
Bergen County Historic Sites Survey # 198224-13
Contributing Resource

This two and one half-story, three-bay Second Empire style house, built between 1865 and 1876, has a concave mansard roof with two gabled dormers that have pronounced cornices in the front. The house has a painted brick foundation, an exterior of aluminum siding, an asphalt shingle mansard, and 2/2 wood sash windows with modern storms and modern decorative shutters. This house also has a two-story addition (one story below grade) constructed laterally off of and across the rear, a side entryway bay on the south side, a front door with a bas-relief broken pediment surround, side lights, and a new brick and concrete slab stoop with wrought iron railings. Earlier photos show an “L” shaped wrap-around porch on this prominent corner property; the porch was removed around 1959. This house retains a medium level of architectural integrity and is a contributing resource in the District.

Tanner and Ferdon sold the property to James F. Hering in 1868. J.F. Hering is listed as the owner of this property, shown with a house, on the 1876 Walker Atlas map. At one time this house was listed as 263 Harrington Avenue. Two generations of the Bell family owned the house for many years.



The First Congregational Church
283 Harrington Avenue Block 1301 Lot 20
McCabe Survey Property ID # 1291155682
Bergen County Historic Sites Survey # 198241-12
Key Contributing Resource

This one and one-half story, L-plan church, dedicated in December, 1881, has a basic single nave form that is gable end to the street with a one-bay gabled wing constructed laterally on the south end. It has a distinctive square tower and an entryway and open belfry topped with a bell shaped roof on the east side. This church has vinyl siding and a stuccoed and gabled wing constructed perpendicularly off of the west side. The main block of the church has a random rubble stone foundation, a continuous shed dormer with louvered vents, several stained glass windows, an overhanging roof on the west side forming an open portico and an enclosed vestibule with two pairs of windows and two doors. The gabled wing on the south end facing Harrington Avenue has dentilled cornice returns that meet at a square window that is situated above the middle window in a bank of three just below the cornice. These are replacement windows. There is also a small rectangular window in the gable peak. The tower has double wood panel doors and the dramatic, curvilinear belfry has three arched openings and cross brace railings on each of the four sides. The wing constructed in 1953 on the west side has a stucco exterior, a poured concrete foundation, an interior brick chimney, and casement windows. The entire church has asphalt shingles on the roof. There is a triptych over the altered titled “Eden Restored” designed by local artist Robert Alexander Baille, created in the J & R Lamb Studios. Baille, a master carver, operated a 20th Century sculpture studio in Closter. The interior ceiling beams and pews are original to the church. This church retains a high degree of architectural integrity.

This is Closter’s second church, built on land owned by J. Wyman Jones and later acquired by Jacob Blauvelt. The need for this new church was recognized by Reverend A.R. Shaw, who was pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Alpine. The Alpine church was designed by famous architect, J. Cleveland Cady. There is a documentary account describing the history of the church that states that Cady designed this church in Closter. The first full-time pastor was the Reverend Herbert B. Turner, who served until 1883. Maria Ferdon writes in January, 1882 that she attended John Naugle’s funeral, the first funeral held in the new Congregational Meeting House.



The R. Hopper House
289 Harrington Avenue Block 1301 Lot 19
McCabe Survey Property ID # 1946692273
Bergen County Historic Sites Survey # 198224-19
Outbuildings: 1 converted stable
Contributing Resource

This Second Empire style house, built between 1865 and 1876, is a two and one half story, two bay structure with a straight mansard roof with two dormers with low pitched gable roofs and a partially enclosed front porch with a large single pane window flanked by two smaller double hung windows. The house has a brick foundation, aluminum siding, an interior brick chimney, an asphalt shingle roof, replacement 1/1 windows, and a portico with a square post support and new brick and concrete slab front steps. The front entryway consists of a wood insert panel door with six lights in the top section surmounted with a transom. There is a one half-story stable of frame construction converted into a garage set behind the house at the back of the lot. The garage has a front gable form with an asphalt shingle exterior, asphalt shingle roof, irregularly placed windows, one modern overhead garage door, one wood panel door with six lights in two rows across the top, and a small shed roof side addition. The house retains a medium level of architectural integrity and is a contributing resource in the District despite several alterations, but the garage has received too many alterations and can be considered a non-contributing resource.

This property was conveyed to J. Wyman Jones by Adam A Haring, then conveyed by Jones to George Bloomer. Bloomer sold it to Susan and David G. Demarest in 1866. The Demarests sold the property for \$5,000 to Richard Hopper in 1875. "R. Hopper" is shown as the owner of the lot and house on the 1876 Walker Atlas map. Later, this house became the parsonage for the Congregational Church.



The A.J. Demarest House
295 Harrington Avenue Block 1301 Lot 18
McCabe Survey Property ID # 759516304
Bergen County Historic Sites Survey, #198224-21
Oubuildings: 2-story stable - Contributing
Key Contributing Resource

This attractive house in outstanding condition is a two and one-half-story, three-bay vernacular Queen Anne style, L-plan house with an intersecting gable roof, a broad, flat frieze band at the roofline, one round headed window in each gable peak, and a full-width flat-roofed front porch that extends to the east forming a porte-cochere. The house has a brick foundation, a wood clapboard exterior, corner boards, an asphalt shingle roof, four-over-four wood sash windows with modern storms, and the porch has short Tuscan columns on stone piers, plain wood railings and poured concrete stairs. The front door is oak, framing a large rectangular beveled glass window. There is a two story wood frame stable located at the rear of the property. The property has a stepping-stone with C.W.W. inscribed on it, adjacent to saw-cut bluestone slab sidewalks and front walkway, and a gravel driveway. This house has retained a high level of architectural integrity and was the recipient of a 2009 Bergen County Historic Preservation Commendation Award. It is a key contributing resource in the District.

This house was built on land owned originally by J. Wyman Jones, who is called the “Father of Englewood” because of his vision for development of the area after the arrival of the Northern Railroad. Abraham J. Demarest, purchaser of the property in 1866, was a tinsmith by trade and lived to be 94 years old. He was a founder of the Harrington Building & Loan Association and of the hardware store that still bears the family name. The house is depicted on the 1876 Walker Atlas map labeled “A.J. Demarest” and was constructed between 1865 and 1876. Later owner Charles Wetyen founded the Closter Pharmacy. VanValen’s History of Bergen County describes Wetyen as “one of the substantial and progressive citizens of Closter” and the History of Hudson and Bergen Counties states about Wetyen that “in every capacity he has displayed great public spirit and enterprise.” He was also a longtime member of the School Board and a member of the Knickerbocker Hook and Ladder Company (Fire Department).



The Maria Ferdon House
290 Harrington Avenue Block 1312 Lot 3
McCabe Survey Property ID # 1519729836
Bergen County Sites Survey # 198224-20
Outbuildings: 1 outhouse
Key Contributing Resource

This Second-Empire style house, built between 1865 and 1876, is a two and one half story, three-bay, square plan structure with a concave mansard roof and two elliptical arched dormers framed with curved fascia boards on the front and sides, a one-story bay window on the east side, and a full-width front porch. The house has an asbestos shingle exterior, bracketed eaves, an asphalt shingle roof, replacement 1/1 windows with modern storms, modern decorative shutters, an interior brick chimney, and a random ashlar foundation. The front porch has chamfered columns, jigsaw brackets radiating out from the capital with an additional cross piece, pierced panel railings and wood steps. The front entryway consists of the original double doors with round-headed inset lights surmounted by a transom and modern storm doors. There is a one-story addition constructed laterally off of the rear of the house and a one-story outhouse in the rear yard. The house has retained a high level of architectural integrity, particularly its porch.

This property is shown on a “map of Property of J. Wyman Jones” dated 1865, and appears on the 1876 Walker map with the house and lot belonging to Albert E. Duryea. Duryea, a founder of Harrington Building and Loan, sold the property to Maria Ferdon (single) in 1888 for \$4,700. She is listed in *Tillotson’s Directories* for 1900 and 1903 as living in Closter at “Main Street near West.” Maria Ferdon wrote daily diaries regarding everyday life in the Closter area, including the coming of the railroad, dating from 1857. The Bergen County Historical Society has six journals written by Maria Ferdon dated from 1863-1891, and the Closter Historical Society has the earliest known journal. Miss Ferdon willed the property to Maria and Richard C. Parsells in 1913. She is buried in Closter’s historic cemetery off Hickory Lane.

Because this house was the dwelling place of Maria Ferdon, well known for her diaries, which are of inestimable historical value, and because the house has retained a high level of architectural integrity, it is considered a key contributing resource in the District.



The Albert E. Duryea House
280 Harrington Avenue Block 1312 Lot 2
McCabe Survey Property ID # 809618885
Bergen County Historic Sites Survey # 198224-17
Outbuildings: 1 barn/garage
Contributing Resource

This Second-Empire style house, constructed just after 1876, is a two and one half story, three-bay structure with a straight mansard roof that has one centered dormer with a low-pitched gabled roof on the front and each of the two sides. The house has a two-story addition constructed laterally off of the rear and an unusual first floor façade that includes two modern doors side-by-side flanked by bay windows with wide wood frames and paneled bulkheads. This is a duplex dwelling. The house has vinyl siding, aluminum covered soffits, an asphalt shingle mansard roof, replacement 1/1 windows with modern storms, an interior brick chimney, and a shallow front porch between the bay windows with new turned posts and railings and wood steps. There is a one-story, front gabled frame outbuilding situated to the rear of the house. There is a hand-chiseled bluestone slab sidewalk and front walkway. Although the house has received several alterations, it still retains much of its original character and is a contributing resource in the District.

This property, without a house, is listed on the 1876 Walker Atlas map as belonging to Albert E. Duryea. On the eastern side of the property is another lot with a house belonging to Duryea. Both of these lots were listed on an 1865 property map of J. Wyman Jones. By 1910, Julia Parsell, widow of Dr. Lewis Parsell, who owned 270 Harrington Avenue next door, sold this lot to Garret D. Eckerson. The Eckerson & Brothers Carriage and Sleigh Manufactory was established in 1870 and was one of the oldest industrial concerns in Closter. According to the 1982 Bergen County Sites Survey, the house might have originally been Miss Marion Stephens' house, moved from Durie Avenue to its present location. In 1939, Garret Eckerson's widow, Margaret, sold the property to Cleary Pelletier. Cleary was a lawyer, and his father, J. Arthur Pelletier, published the Bergen Review.



The Ferdon/Parsells/Jovine House
270 Harrington Avenue Block 1312 Lot 1
McCabe Survey Property ID # 223336030
Bergen County Historic Sites Survey # 198224-16
Outbuildings: 1 “dollhouse”
Key Contributing Resource

This Second-Empire style house, constructed between 1865 and 1876, has three bays with a concave mansard roof and an L-plan form with projecting one-bay ell on the front. The house has a random ashlar foundation, asbestos shingle exterior, an asphalt shingle roof, two interior brick chimneys, extended eaves with carved brackets set in pairs, original 2/2 wood sash windows, a bank of new casement windows in a large shed roof dormer, and a round headed window with carved fascia boards in the other front dormer. There are working wood louvered shutters flanking several windows. The front entryway consists of an enclosed portico with a set of multiple light double doors surmounted by a transom. There is a flight of front steps with a curved wrought iron railing. The house has a one-story bay window with wood paneled bulkheads on the first floor of the ell and a bay window through two stories on the east side of the house. A modern, one-story two-car garage was constructed laterally off of the rear wing of the house, and there is a small one-story “dollhouse” with a slate roof in the backyard. The house displays a high level of architectural integrity.

William Ferdon owned the property as of 1876. In 1898, Catherine and James Blauvelt sold the property to Dr. L. B. Parsell, aka Parsells, listed in the book *Early Physicians of Northeastern Bergen County*. Dr. Parsells started his practice around 1884 and sold it in 1907. His death in April of 1908 was featured prominently in the *Tenaflly Record*, which noted that the Congregational Church was overflowing for the funeral and the town businesses closed from 2-3 PM. Dr. Parsell’s widow, Julia, sold the home to Melvin Quackenbush and Closter architect, Louis Vide in 1941. They converted the single house into two apartments and installed kitchen and bathroom fixtures that were displayed at the 1939 world’s Fair. Mr. Quackenbush was the author of *Looking Over My Shoulder*, an early history of Closter. In 1951, Marcel and Angela Jovine purchased the property using royalties from sales of the Ideal Toy Company’s popular “Blessed Event doll” designed by Marcel Jovine. The floor studio of this house was used to design more toys, including the popular “Visible Man,” “Visible Woman,” and “Visible V-8 Engine.” In 1964, Jovine designed the Closter Lone Horseman medallion for Closter’s Tercentenary. It is still the official symbol of Closter. Because of this house’s rich history, it is a key contributing resource.



277 West Street Block 1312 Lot 38
McCabe Survey Property ID # 1394680453
Bergen County Sites Survey # 198239-18
Outbuildings: 1 garage and a shed
Contributing Resource

This vernacular style house, formerly a barn, was built between 1876 and 1912, is a two and one half story, five bay house with a side gable roof, prominent eaves and late Queen Anne style traits such as a centered intersecting front gable with a steep pitch and shaped shingle exterior. The house has a wood clapboard exterior on the first two floors and shaped shingles in the gable peaks, an asphalt shingle roof, original 1/1 windows with modern storms, one roundheaded window in the central window bay on the second floor, a parged foundation, a first floor canted bay window on the south side, diamond shaped windows in the side gables, and a full-width front porch. The porch has Tuscan columns on poured concrete piers, no railings and a wood floor and wood steps. A recent two-story rear addition mimics the architectural style of the original building with steep gabled roofs. There is a one story frame front gable garage with a side addition located in the rear of the property. It has a pair of hinged wood doors with six divided lights across the upper sections, wood clapboard siding, and a one bay extension with a single door constructed laterally off of the south side. There is also a small shed clad in board and batten siding in the backyard. The house retains a medium level of architectural integrity and is a contributing resource in the District.

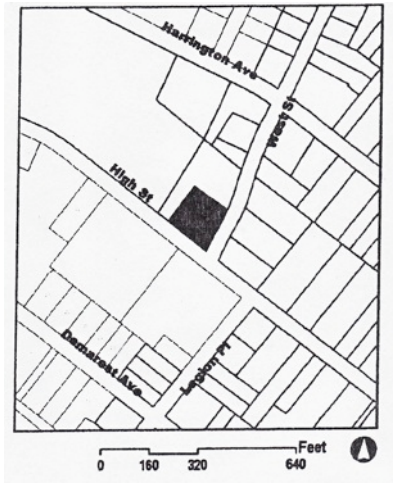
J. Wyman Jones owned a pie-shaped lot on the Southeast corner of West Street and Harrington Avenue in 1865. Part of this property was located in the thin end of that slice. This house was originally the barn associated with the house at 270 Harrington Avenue. This property was owned by Dr. Lewis Parsell and sold by his widow, Julia, to James A Russell in 1920. See 270 Harrington for more information.



289 West Street Block 1312 Lot 37
McCabe Survey Property ID #706121568
Bergen County Historic Sites Survey # 198239-17
Outbuildings: 1 barn
Contributing Resource

This stately American Foursquare style house, built at the turn of the Century, prior to 1904, is a two and one half story, two-bay structure with a hipped roof, an unusual hipped roof dormer with a bay window, and a one-story addition with a hipped roof constructed laterally on the north side. The house has a random rubble stone foundation, a wood clapboard exterior, an asphalt shingle roof, two interior brick chimneys (one is in the addition), paired 2/2 wood sash windows on the first floor with wood divided light storm windows, paired 1/1 wood sash windows on the second floor, decorative wood louvered shutters, and a full width front porch. The porch has an offset pediment emphasizing the entryway, four slender Tuscan columns, no railings, and wide wood steps. The wood panel front door has a large beveled glass window, a modern storm door, attenuated sidelights, and a slender transom. There is a detached two-car garage, originally a barn, located to the rear and side of the house. It is a large frame side gable building with wood clapboard siding, a diminutive cupola and two doors of vertical planks with cross braces. This house and garage retain a medium level of architectural integrity and are contributing resources in the District.

This property belonged to David D. Demarest on an 1859 map and was later acquired by the Tate family. The *Tenafly Record* in March 1895 noted “Plans are out for a house for William Tate to be built opposite the house of Mr. Tate, Sr. Bids for the dwelling will be opened today.” In 1904, Grace and William Tate sold the house to Edwin Durie. Mr. Durie was an employee of Demarest Brothers Hardware Store and later a partner/owner of the business with John Dotson.



The Reformed Church of Closter
328 West Street, Block 903 Lot 10
McCabe Survey Property ID # 1608308336
Bergen County Sites Survey # 198224-10
Key Contributing Building

This church has a three-bay front gable form that has a projecting centered tower. The square tower is topped with a hexagonal spire of metal plating that has seven bands of louvers at the bottom and a decorative weathervane at the peak. Its original steeple was quite different, consisting of pediments on all four sides. The church has three doors on the façade with the center door having the most detailed surround including a pediment, transom and sidelights framed by carved pilasters and flanking a set of wood inset panel doors. The doors on each side are under narrow flat portico roofs that are supported with squared wood panel columns. This church has a tall brick foundation, aluminum siding, three bays of stained glass windows - one above each of the three doors, an oculus composed of divided lights in the tower, and a large addition constructed laterally off the rear of the church. In 1894, Lamb Studio stained glass windows were installed, comprised of geometric shapes and muted colors, reflective of Dutch austerity. The church is in good condition, despite the loss of its original distinctive pedimented tower, and has retained a medium level of architectural integrity. It is a key contributing resource in the District.

The Reformed Church is Closter's first church. Designed by John Henry Stevens, the "Father of Closter," this church was erected in 1862 when Reverend E. S. Hammond's congregation numbered only 14 people. According to Maria Ferdon's diary (1857 to 1862), Hammond had been the pastor of the Dutch Reformed Church of Schraalenburgh from 1858 to 1862. Thomas W. Demarest, President of the Northern Rail Road, donated the land upon which this church was built. On the eve of construction of this church in 1861, Abraham Lincoln was drafting 10,500 New Jersey men into service for the Civil War. The Harrington Rifles, a volunteer company drill team organized in 1861, practiced in the church basement during the war. Isabelle Hammond, daughter of Rev. Hammond, opened Closter's first private school in the basement of the church. In the back of the church were carriage sheds for rent. These were destroyed by fire in 1913. In 1870, German-Americans used the basement for services, before St. Paul's Lutheran Church was built. The Reverend Henry Ward became pastor in 1887, when the membership had increased to 128. The first addition, by H.E. Mead, was added in 1923.



The William Tate House
292 West Street Block 903 Lot 9
McCabe Survey Property ID # 1585132405
Bergen County Historic Sites Survey #198224-11
Key Contributing Resource

This grand Colonial Revival Style house is a two and one half-story, three-bay, rectangular plan, center hall structure with a side gable roof and two gabled dormers that have pronounced cornice returns flanking a projecting, centered, two-story, gabled entrance bay. The house has a random ashlar foundation, a wood clapboard exterior with wide corner pilasters and a dentiled frieze band, wood shingles in the gable peaks and on the dormers, an asphalt shingle roof, original 8/8 wood sash windows with brushed aluminum storms, and an interior brick chimney. The house also has Palladian windows in the side gable peaks, a central balcony with a plain wood railing atop the porch, and an extended front porch with a side gable roof, alternating thin and stout Tuscan columns, a new plain squared wood railings, and wood steps with a wrought iron stair rail. The porch extends to form a porte-cochere with ashlar piers on the north side. There is a detached, two-car frame garage with shiplap clapboard and braced frame doors located on the northwest corner of the property. The house is a fine example of early twentieth century Colonial Revival architecture. The house has retained a high level of architectural integrity.

This house was built in 1913 by William Tate. The architect was Nelson B. Vanderbeck of Englewood, New Jersey. Mr. Tate was an insurance broker, postmaster, county official, and the first notary public in Closter. Mr. Tate, an outstanding citizen, was a charter member of the Closter National Bank and the Knickerbocker Hook & Ladder Company. His biography in the History of Bergen County mentions him as a prominent real estate and insurance agent in Bergen County. He and his wife, Grace, lived to celebrate their 68th wedding anniversary. He bought the property from Harry and Louise Conover in 1904. The property was previously owned by David A. Demarest.

Because of the prominence of William Tate in the Borough of Closter and because the house has retained a high level of integrity, it is considered to be a key contributing resource in the District.

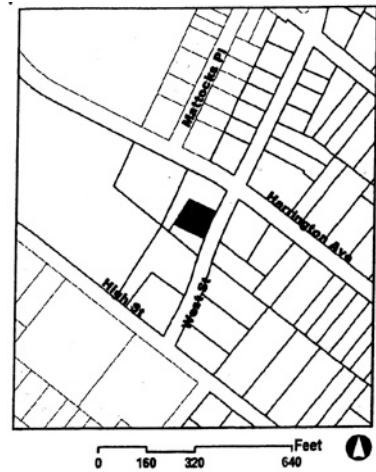


286 West Street Block 903 Lot 8
McCabe Survey Property ID # 1952461070
Bergen County Sites Survey # 198239-19
Non-contributing

This one and one half story two-bay Bungalow style house was built in the early 20th Century, with a side gable roof, a gabled dormer with a pair of windows, a gabled first story projection containing the front door, and a two-story front gable addition constructed off of the rear. The house has a parged foundation, a vinyl clad exterior, an asphalt shingle roof, and replacement 1/1 windows with modern storms. It has the trait of many early twentieth century planbook bungalows – its one and one half story form.

While situated within the geographic boundary of and the period of significance for the West Street/Harrington Avenue District, this house has received too many alterations and a large addition rendering it significantly changed and of low architectural integrity, which is why it is considered a non-contributing resource.

Although non-contributing, this house was built and owned by one of the Borough's leading families. This small house was built in the first quarter of the twentieth century for William Tate's unmarried sister, Elizabeth. She played the organ at the Reformed Church and was noted in the Tenafly Record of August 1900 as "our pleasant young post mistress."



The Hildebrand Naugle House
280 West Street Block 903 Lot 7
McCabe Survey Property ID # 1083189845
Bergen County Historic Sites Survey # 198224-12
Outbuilding: 1 shed with same double-pendant decorated bargeboards
Key Contributing Resource

This detailed vernacular Carpenter Gothic style house, built between 1865 and 1876, is a two and one half story, four bay, L-plan structure with an intersecting gable roof with flares just at the edges, decorated bargeboards with a double pendant pattern, and a wrap-around front porch. The house has a random rubble stone foundation, an interior brick chimney, an exterior of aluminum siding, an asphalt shingle roof, replacement 1/1 windows with snap-in muntins and modern storms, one round headed window in each gable peak, and a porch with bracketed and chamfered columns, new jigsaw panel balusters, and wood floorboards. This house retains its original front double doors that are wood inset panels with beveled glass in the upper sections and surmounted by a transom. There is a rear porch with similar elements as those on the front. There is a detached one-car frame garage with vertical board siding and a tri-fold door located on this property to the rear and north side of the house. The property has a Bergen County Historic Sites plaque on a post in its front yard. Despite the alterations, this house maintains a medium level of architectural integrity.

Charles Tanner and William Ferdon sold this property to Hildebrand Naugle in 1871, and it is shown on the Walker Atlas map of 1876 as owned by Hildebrand Naugle. Mr. Naugle was a carpenter, clock maker, and descendent of the Colonial period Naugle family, whose stone house at 119 Hickory Lane is known to be the oldest house in Closter. Naugle's son, Resolvent, also a carpenter, resided here in 1903. William Tate, a grandson of Hildebrand (Debbie Naugle Tate, was Hildebrand's daughter), bought the house in 1922.

Because this house was home to members of the Naugle family, one of Closter's first families and was later acquired by William Tate, an early leader of "Closter City," (see more on Tate at 292 West St.) and because of its level of architectural integrity, this house is considered to be a key contributing resource in the District.



264 Harrington Avenue Block 903 Lot 6
McCabe Survey Property ID # 833449786
Bergen County Historic Sites Survey # 198224-22
Outbuildings: 1 well - contributing
Contributing Resource

This American Foursquare style house built sometime after 1913, is a two and one half-story, three bay structure with a pyramidal roof that has two hipped roof dormers and a two and one half-story projecting ell with a first floor cant bay window and an intersecting gable roof off the east side. The house has a parged foundation, an interior brick chimney, a wood clapboard exterior with chamfered cornerboards, an asphalt shingle roof and replacement 1/1 windows on the upper story and 6/6 wood sash windows on the first story with modern storms and wood louvered shutters on hinges. The front entryway consists of a front door that is paneled wood with beveled glass and a modern storm door. There is a wrap-around porch with a hipped roof, brick columns, plain wood railings and wood steps. The house has retained a medium level of architectural integrity and is a contributing resource in the District.

This property had been part of the Charles Tanner lot and didn't have a house until after the Tanner home was moved in 1913 to extend Main Street (now Harrington Avenue). Joseph W. Duryea sold the property to Mae Taveniere Trager (widow), formally Mae Taveniere Palmer (widow) in 1919. The Taveniere family was active in town affairs; James Taveniere was a co-owner of the livery stables and was instrumental in bringing electricity and running water to Closter.



The Charles Tanner House
248 Harrington Avenue Block 903 Lot 5
McCabe Survey Property ID # 1115567111
Bergen County Historic Sites Survey # 198224-1
Outbuildings: 1 contemporary garage and one toolshed
Key Contributing Resource

Constructed between 1865 and 1876, this Second Empire style house is a two and one half-story, three-bay, L-plan structure with a concave mansard roof clad in slate with decorative colored patterns, centered elliptical arch dormers with round headed windows, and a wide wrap-around porch. The house has high random ashlar foundation with cellar windows, cant bay windows atop wood panel bulkheads on the front ell and east side, an aluminum clad exterior, paired brackets that have pendants, original 2/2 windows with louvered shutters and modern storm windows. The main entryway consists of double wood panel and beveled glass doors with a transom. This doorway was repositioned several feet forward in 1970 to make the vestibule, which projects slightly. The porch has wooden steps and short Tuscan columns atop stone piers; the railings have balusters with carved profiles. There is a detached contemporary two-car garage and a toolshed located to the rear of the house. The house was once located on West Street at the end of "Main Street," now Harrington Avenue. When Harrington Avenue was extended in 1913, the house was moved down the street to its present location. This house retains a high level of architectural integrity.

Charles Tanner purchased the property from William and Letitia Ferdon, who lived across the street, in 1871. Tanner is listed as the owner of this house on the 1876 Walker Atlas map. Mr. Tanner was co-owner of the grocery firm of Tanner and Ferdon, and also owner of a lumber and coal business. He was instrumental in the economic development of Closter and served on the building committee of the Congregational Church. He is listed in *The History of Bergen and Passaic County* as the Harrington Township assessor in 1871. The Tanners had four daughters, including Lena and Sophie. Lena married John R. Demarest who partnered with Sophie's husband, William Wray, in the coal and lumber business. Wray was a banker by profession and an early Mayor of Closter. He was one of the organizers of the Knickerbocker Baseball Club and a charter member of the Knickerbocker Hook & Ladder Company (Fire Department) of Closter.

Because of the prominence of Charles Tanner and his family in the early life of Closter City and because the house has retained a high degree of integrity, it is considered a key contributing resource in the District.

Barns and Outbuildings
West Street/Harrington Avenue Historic District



Barn located at 289 West Street



Barn located at 295 Harrington Avenue



House and barn, 280 Harrington Avenue



Outhouse located at 290 Harrington Avenue



Barn at 292 West Street



Converted chicken coop and early garage, 243 West Street

Jovine Residence
270 Harrington Avenue



Italian Gardens



Closter Borough Seal – designed by Marcel Jovine



“dollhouse”

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**The Closter Historic Preservation Commission
July, 2009**

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Orlando Tobia, Borough Historian

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