

SUMMARY OF NOMINATION INFORMATION IN ONJH FILES

NAME Essex County Fair Commission Administration Building  
 COUNTY Essex  
 MUNICIPALITY Newark City

TYPE:  
 Individual x  
 Historic District \_\_\_\_\_  
 Multiple Property \_\_\_\_\_  
 Documentation Form \_\_\_\_\_

NOMINATION FORM

ONJH FILES

- Nomination form (If there are continuation sheets, please indicate number) ✓
- First page (#1-6) ✓ CS: \_\_\_\_\_
- Description (#7) ✓ CS: \_\_\_\_\_
- Significance (#8) ✓ CS: 1
- Last page (#9-11) ✓ CS: 1
- SHPO Signatures ✓
- USGS Map ✓
- Site plan \_\_\_\_\_
- Tax map \_\_\_\_\_
- Floorplan \_\_\_\_\_
- Photo index map \_\_\_\_\_
- Other maps \_\_\_\_\_
- Photographs (Indicate number) ✓
- Exterior 2 (photocopies)
- Interior \_\_\_\_\_
- Streetscapes \_\_\_\_\_
- Outbuildings \_\_\_\_\_
- Historical \_\_\_\_\_
- Negatives \_\_\_\_\_
- Contact Sheet \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF LISTING

State Register 5/27/77  
 National Register 11/11/77

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

N.J.H.S.I. # \_\_\_\_\_ Draft Nomination \_\_\_\_\_  
 Newspaper/Magazine Articles \_\_\_\_\_ Correspondence \_\_\_\_\_  
 HABS \_\_\_\_\_ Contextual Data ✓  
 Other (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

STAFF MEMBER Bern Gidycz DATE 6/27/91  
 UPDATES: STAFF \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
 STAFF \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

NEW JERSEY AND NATIONAL REGISTER FILE REORGANIZATION - 1980-1981  
Summary Sheet

NAME Essex County Park Commission Headquarters  
MUNICIPALITY NEWARK COUNTY Essex

Nomination Form:

Final Nomination Form  Signed  Unsigned   
U.S.G.S. Map  Photocopy   
Other Maps \_\_\_\_\_

Plan(s): Site \_\_\_\_\_ Floor \_\_\_\_\_

Photographs:

	<u>Identified</u>	<u>Unidentified</u>	<u>Inadequate Coverage</u>
Exterior	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interior	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Streetscapes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outbuildings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Historical	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Negatives:

Same as prints \_\_\_\_\_ Less than prints \_\_\_\_\_ Additional Negatives \_\_\_\_\_

Slides: inadequate - interior shots; exterior shots - Fine

Boundaries:

No precise boundaries  Defined in nomination   
Defined by map  Latitude & longitude \_\_\_\_\_  
U.T.M.'s  Boundary justification \_\_\_\_\_

National Register notification of listing to SHPO:

Copies of final approved nomination: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

SHPO Notification Letters:

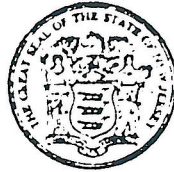
Intent to nominate  National Register  State Register   
Owner list \_\_\_\_\_

Supplemental Information:

N.J.H.S.I. \_\_\_\_\_ Draft nomination \_\_\_\_\_  
Newspaper/Magazine articles \_\_\_\_\_ Recent correspondence \_\_\_\_\_  
Local ordinance data \_\_\_\_\_ Maps \_\_\_\_\_ HABS \_\_\_\_\_  
Other Progression Sheet

Materials in Storage:

Public Meeting notification \_\_\_\_\_ Draft nomination \_\_\_\_\_  
Newspaper articles \_\_\_\_\_ Correspondence \_\_\_\_\_  
Historical information \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_



## State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

TRENTON 08625

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

MAY 27 1977.

1977

Dr. William Murtagh  
Keeper of the National Register  
Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
18th and C Streets, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

I am pleased to nominate the Essex County Park Commission Headquarters, Newark, Essex County to the National Register.

This nomination has received approval of the State Review Committee for Historic Sites.

Should you want any further information concerning this application, please feel free to contact the staff of the Office of Historic Preservation, 109 West State Street, Department of Environmental Protection, Trenton, New Jersey 08625, telephone (609) 292-2023.

Sincerely,

  
Betty Wilson  
Deputy State Historic  
Preservation Officer

BW:dy

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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC

Essex County Park Commission Administration Building

AND/OR COMMON

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

115 Clifton Avenue

\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Newark

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

\_\_ VICINITY OF

10th

STATE

New Jersey

CODE

034

COUNTY

Essex

CODE

015

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Essex County Park Commission

STREET & NUMBER

115 Clifton Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Newark

STATE

New Jersey

\_\_ VICINITY OF

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Essex County Hall of Records

STREET & NUMBER

High Street

CITY, TOWN

Newark

STATE

New Jersey

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1976

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

P. O. Box 1420

CITY, TOWN

STATE



# 74 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> RECENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Essex County Park Commission building was designed by Harold van Buren Magonicle between 1914-1916; the building is three and one half stories. It has a reddish metal tile hipped roof. The exterior facing is of rough textured brick laid in flemish bond, ranging in color from buff to light brown. The terra cotta used in the cornice, belt courses, and around the entrance is light brown in color, with the ornament executed in low relief. The soffit of the arched entrance loggia and the frieze under the wide overhang of the tiled roof are plaster with allegorical decoration in color. The frieze is pierced at intervals with windows behind heavy grills that have been painted and checkered to conform to the colorful devices of the panels.

The building site has a considerable grading change from the front to the back, which permitted Magonicle to design the primary entrance on the west side of the first level and the secondary and delivery entrance on the east side at the basement level.

# STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY HISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Essex County Park Commission has two major areas of significance. First, it houses the country's first organized commission to oversee the upkeep and creation of land for use as public park areas. Second the building was designed by H. van Buren Magonicle, a turn-of-the-century architect, designer, potter and painter, who often collaborated with his wife, Edith who also worked on this building.

Approval for the establishment of the Essex County Park Commission was made by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey on May 8, 1894. Judge Du Pre of the New Jersey Supreme Court appointed the first commissioners on July 18, 1894. They were Edward W. Jackson, of Belleville, Cyrus Peck and Stephen J. Meeker of Newark, Frederick Kelsey of Orange and George Bromhal of South Orange. This commission was to last for two years and the commissioners were to set up rules and guidelines for the new park system and take the first steps in building the park system.

In 1895 Essex County had only twenty-five acres of lands used for parks. Hoping to improve the situation, the commission retained the services of the firm of Olmstead, Olmstead and Eliot. Frederick Law Olmstead designed the Branch Brook Park in Newark. It was his last design for a public park. After a year the commission elected their first permanent officers. They were Cyrus Peck, president; F. M. Shepard, vice president; Franklin Murphy, treasurer; Alonzo Church, secretary.

Throughout the years the Essex County Parks system has grown through both acquisition and donation. In 1897 the commission had spent over \$1,227,469 for land acquisition and in 1902 the citizens of Essex County voted to give the commission over five million dollars in public funds for future park expenditures.

From what started as 25 acres in the 1890, today the Essex County Park System encompasses over 4,000 acres with a yearly attendance of more than two million people.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Essex County Park Commission Building  
Newark

Essex County

COPY NUMBER SHEET

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DATE ENTERED

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

SIGNIFICANCE

Architecture

The Essex County Park Commission building was designed by Harold van Buren Magonicle between the years 1914-1916. A native of New Jersey he was employed at Vaux & Bradford, Charles S. Haight, and McKim, Mead & White. In 1908 he secured a position as head designer in the office of Schickel & Ditmars. He went into practice for himself. Some of his notable buildings include the Elks Club, Brooklyn; a group of buildings for U.S. Embassy, Tokyo, Japan; the Peace Memorial, Kansas City and McKinley Monument, Canton, Ohio which is on the National Register.

Magonicle also found time to design furniture, pottery and the AIA seal. He also did watercolors and oil paintings.

The Essex County Park Commission building is a good example of the second renaissance revival style. A particularly note-worthy feature is the palladian window. Also the frieze decorated in colors, painted by Mrs. Edith Magonicle adds to the building's significance.

The Essex County Park Commission building as the headquarters of the first organized park commission in the United States and as an example of the renaissance revival style merits recognition and inclusion in the National Register.



# MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Search, Moore, secretary of Essex County Park Commission (former), Park Benefits, (includes the Acts of the Legislature of the State of New Jersey under which the Essex County Park Commission is organized.

## GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.5 acre

UTM REFERENCES

48								
A	18	568	180	45	11	5	10	
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING					
B								
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING					
C								
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING					
D								
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property occupies city block 472 lot 1 and is roughly 200 X 300 feet in size.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE

(Nanci K. Batchelor, Office of Historic Preservation, Trenton, 609-292-2023)

ORGANIZATION

Joseph Flock & Thomas MacDonald-(Architectural & Historical Researchers)

STREET & NUMBER

Newark Preservation & Landmarks Committee

DATE

8/27/76

CITY OR TOWN

10 Bank Street

TELEPHONE

622-4910

Newark

STATE

New Jersey

## STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

Deputy

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

Assistant Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

DATE

MAY 1977

RNPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

ECT

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE



No. 10-100-10  
10-10-10

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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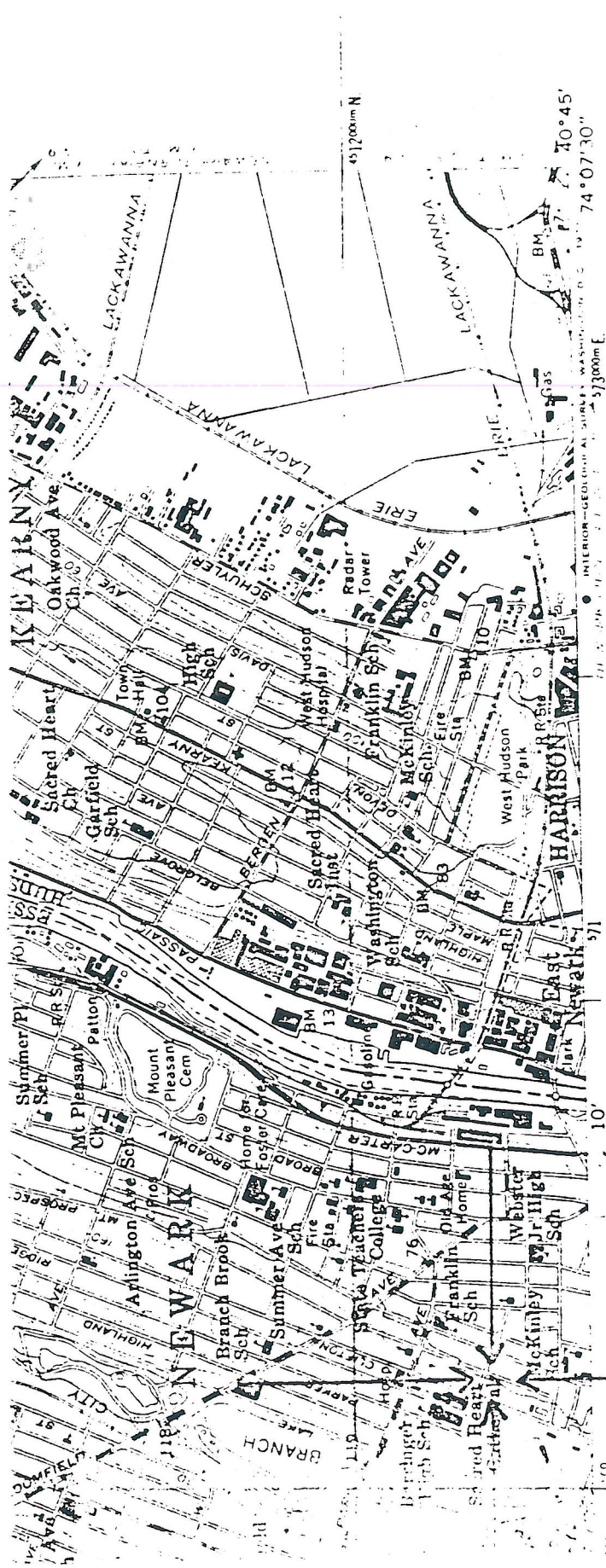
# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Essex County Park Commission Building  
Newark  
Essex County New Jersey 07102  
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

## BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

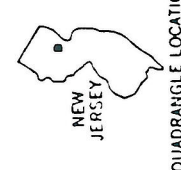
2. Kelsey, Frederick W., vice-president of original commission, The First County Park System, A Complete History of the Inception and Development of the Essex County Parks of New Jersey, J. S. Ogilvie Publishing Company, New York, 1905.
3. Report of Olmsted Brothers Parkway System, Brookline, Massachusetts, June 4, 1915.
4. Withey, Henry F., AIA and Elsie Rathburn Withey, Biographical Dictionary of American Architects--Deceased, New Age Publishing Company, Los Angeles, California, 1956, page 385-6.



491200m N  
 74°07'30"  
 INTERIOR-GEODOLITE STRIP, WASHINGTON, D.C. 1955  
 6165 I SW-SERIES V822  
 NEW JERSEY  
 1955  
 PHOTOREDUCTION  
 AMS 6165 I SW-SERIES V822

**ROAD CLASSIFICATION**  
 Heavy-duty ———  
 Medium-duty - - - -  
 Light duty ———  
 Unimproved dirt - - - -

U. S. Route  
 State Route



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

1:50,000  
 1:50,000  
 1:50,000

MILE

5000  
 6000  
 7000 FEET

1 KILOMETER

20 FEET

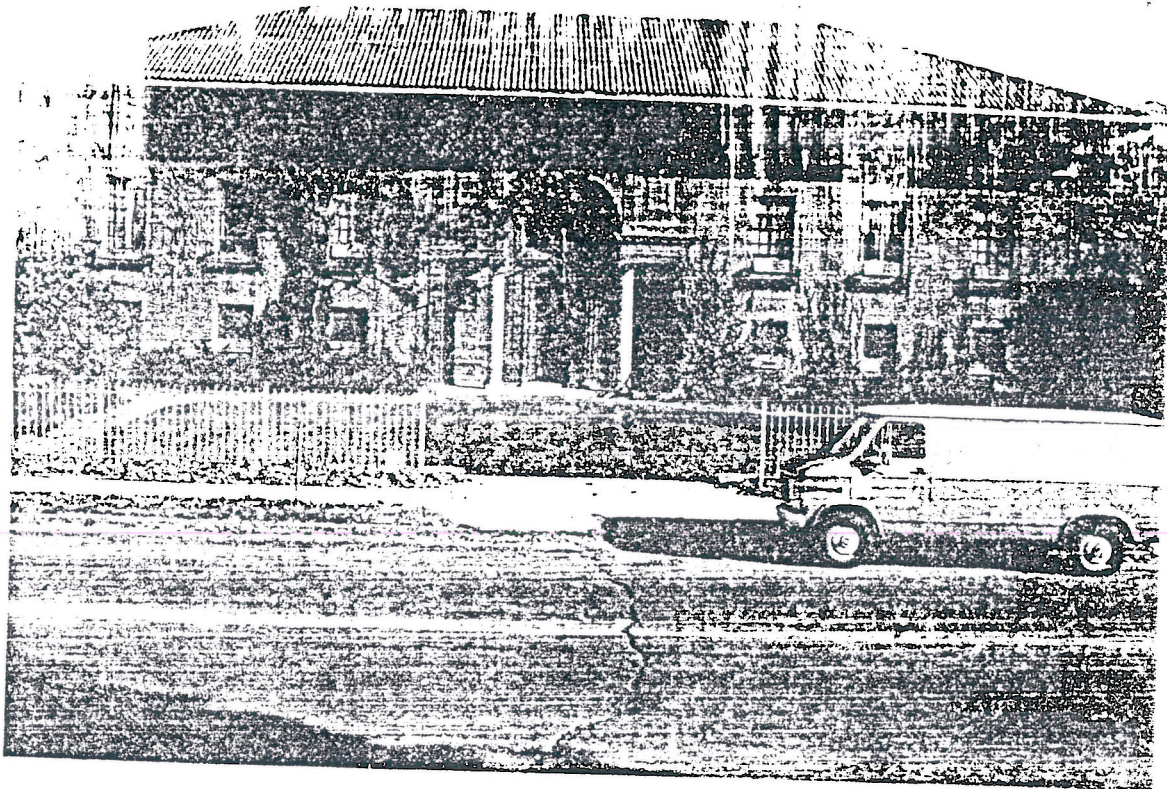
1:50,000  
 1:50,000  
 1:50,000

MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
 FEDERAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
 INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Essex County Park Commission Headquarters  
 Newark  
 Essex County  
 New Jersey 0314

ORANGE, N. J.  
 N4045—W7407.5/7.5





Essex County Park Commission Headquarters  
Newark  
Essex County  
New Jersey 07102

view of front facade  
camera view ESE  
Neg at:  
Newark Preservation and Landmark  
Committee

10 Bank Street  
Newark NJ

Essex County Park Commission Headquarters  
Newark  
Essex County  
New Jersey 07102

detail of front entrance

Camera view E

Neg at:

Newark Preservation and Landmarks Committee

10 Bank Street

Newark NJ

