

SUMMARY OF NOMINATION INFORMATION IN ONJH FILES

NAME Protestant Foster Home  
 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:
- Last page (#9-11)     /     CS:
- SHPO Signatures     /
- USGS Map     /
- Site plan
- Tax map     /
- Floorplan     /
- Photo index map
- Other maps
- Photographs (Indicate number)
- Exterior     9
- Interior     4
- Streetscapes
- Outbuildings
- Historical     1
- Negatives
- Contact Sheet

DATE OF LISTING

State Register 12/10/85  
 National Register 2/13/86

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

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

STAFF MEMBER Beth G... .. DATE 7/1/91  
 UPDATES: STAFF      DATE       
 STAFF      DATE

NATIONAL REGISTER SUBMISSION SUMMARY SHEET/CROSS INDEX TO OTHER FILES

NAME Protestant Foster Home

MUNICIPALITY Newark COUNTY Essex

DATE SENT TO WASHINGTON \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*photo copy noted as PC

NOMINATION FORM:

- Signed nomination form
- U.S.G.S. Map
- Site plan
- Tax map
- Floorplan
- Photo index map
- Other maps (indicate type)

Sent to Washington

NJ File

✓	PC
✓	PC
✓	PC
✓	PC

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION:

- Intent to nominate letters
- General Public Notice
- Owner list
- Certification of owners

	08/20/25

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Notarized owner objection letters (Indicate #)
- Other comments (Indicate #)

	0
	0

PHOTOGRAPHS: (Indicate #. Indicate if OCES photos differ from photos sent to Washington)

- Exterior
- Interior
- Streetscapes
- Outbuildings
- Historical
- Negatives
- Contact Sheet

8	8
5	5
1	1

Staff Member Sue Pringle

Date 11/30/25

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Protestant Foster Home

and/or common Youth Consultation Service (YCS)

2. Location

street & number 272-284 Broadway

~~N/A~~ not for publication

city, town Newark

vicinity of

state New Jersey

code 034

county Essex

code 013

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" 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 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
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: social

4. Owner of Property

name Youth Consultation Service

street & number 284 Broadway

city, town Newark

vicinity of

state New Jersey

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Essex County Hall of Records

street & number Martin Luther King Blvd. (High Street)

city, town Newark

state New Jersey

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

N.A.

title \_\_\_\_\_ has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date \_\_\_\_\_  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records \_\_\_\_\_

city, town \_\_\_\_\_

state \_\_\_\_\_

---

## 7. Description

---

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

DESCRIPTION

The Protestant Foster Home at 272-284 Broadway, Newark, is a 3 story, 5 bay, "U" shaped plan, brick and brownstone building, with a full basement and attic. Located in the Mount Pleasant area, north of the Central Business District, the building was constructed for the Protestant Foster Home Society in 1875, under the direction of New York architect Thomas Stent. This High Victorian Gothic influenced building is characterized by polychrome masonry detailing, red face brick laid up in American bond with butter joints, ogee arched windows decreasing in height with floor level, panelled and moulded brick chimneys, and steep gabled wall dormers with open stickwork. The facade consists of a 3 bay recessed central section containing paired windows and the main entrance, flanked by single bays set in steep gables. The mansard roof of the main section is pierced by 3 wall dormers and flanked by the gables set perpendicular to it. The north leg of the "U"-shaped building, originally designed to be shorter than the south leg, is extended by a 1909 brick addition. Although not identical to the design of the original building, the addition is similar in materials, scale and stylistic influence, and does not compromise the integrity of the original structure. A brownstone carriage step with the words "Foster Home" engraved in the top surface is situated at curbside in front of the main entrance.

The basement level is slightly elevated and divided from the rest of the facade by a brownstone water table. Similar horizontality is expressed throughout the building with the use of continuous brownstone sill courses at each floor, broken only by pairs of small stepped brackets below each ogee arched window. The first floor contains the entrance portico which is supported by chamfered posts on a 9 step painted concrete podium. This slate-roofed stick-embellished portico replaces an earlier more ornate one. The portico is flanked by two single windows in the recessed main section and two single windows in each wing. The impost blocks of all of the brownstone ogee surrounds are connected by a continuous brownstone string course. The second floor contains a central set of paired windows flanked by two single windows, also characterized by a continuous impost line and brownstone ogee-arched surrounds. In contrast, the flanking gables contain a triple set of windows. The third floor is characterized by three sets of paired windows in the central section and a pair of windows set into a blind lancet edged in unrelieved brownstone in the end gables. Within the southern lancet is the inset date 1848 and within the northern lancet is the inset date 1875; the former represents the founding of the Protestant Foster Home Society, the latter, the date of construction of the building. Red-painted gutters and flat panels have replaced the stylized entablature strips which served to connect the third story arch impost blocks. The attic story is characterized by three wall dormers in the central recessed section. Although the patterned slate roof has been replaced with gray shingles, the open stickwork of the steeply gabled dormers has remained. The flanking gables contain a tiny centered lancet window and two horizontal brownstone string courses. The brownstone coping of the flanking gables culminates in a crocket-like ornament at the apex.

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The north and south elevations are treated similarly to the facade, except for such functional considerations as doors instead of windows leading to fire escapes, and simplified stick-work in all but the center wall dormer on the 5 bay Van Wagenen Street facade. Although at one time all the windows had ogee arched shutters, now only a few remain. These are painted the same brick-red as the rest of the trim on the building. The north elevation, which faces the yard and the John and Wilson Ely designed classicizing Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company building, has four simplified wall dormers.

The rear elevation forms a courtyard leading to a parking lot and a larger rear yard. Along the back of the building is a wooden porch supported by chamfered posts and consisting of a stylized entablature with simple architrave, nailhead (triangular-notched) motif embellished frieze, and simple cornice, skirted below by panels of pierced woodwork forming ogee arches. A set of steel stairs leads down from the porch into the parking lot. Below these steps a bluestone retaining wall and stairs lead to the basement.

The basement consists of exposed but painted brick bearing walls and brick segmental arches, supplemented by occasional cast iron columns. The interior is divided into offices and work areas, now primarily used for the storage of records. A large kitchen is located at the west end of the 1909 addition. Finishes include painted brick walls and tongue and groove wainscot in the corridors.

The first floor, which currently houses the main offices of the Youth Consultation Service Center, is entered through a small vestibule partitioned off from the main hall by a pair of wooden ogee arched doors. The main hall is embellished with a round plaster arch ornamented with mouldings and ending in rosette-patterned bosses. On either side of the hall are large rooms with elaborate marble fireplaces and deeply moulded plaster cornices. The main hall leads into a transverse hallway connecting the two flanking wings to the central section. Aligned with the main hall is the stairwell, which on the first floor level leads to the wooden porch in the rear. Most of the interior partition walls are modern, creating multiple office spaces for the employees of YCS. The original interior walls created larger, more open spaces, probably used as public rooms, visitation rooms and classrooms for the resident children. Original finishes consist of plaster walls, ceilings, and mouldings, and wood floors. Current finishes include linoleum, tiled and carpeted floors, some panelled office space and suspended acoustical tile ceilings in the rear offices.

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Continuation sheet

The second floor is divided into office space at the front of the building and large classrooms and activity rooms in the flanking wings. Finishes consist of plaster walls and ceilings with some suspended acoustical tile ceilings, and carpeted and linoleum-covered floors. The third floor is almost identical to the second floor, the difference being slight variations on modern interior partitions to create office space.

The attic story contains a large room with exposed trusswork and rafters on the south and finished rooms and corridor on the north. The rooms, which are believed to have housed the resident children dormitory style, are irregular in shape due to the varying rooflines at this level. The finishes consist of plaster walls and ceilings and wood floors. There is no attic above the 1909 addition.

The site of the building is located on the westerly side of Broadway, on the northerly corner of Van Wagenen Street, Block 562, Lot 27. The property dimensions are 179.2 feet x 278 feet. Total area is approximately 49,817 feet.

# 8. 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> social
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1848, 1875

Builder/Architect Thomas Stent

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

SIGNIFICANCE

The Protestant Foster Home is an excellent example of the High Victorian Gothic influence on a medium scale structure. The building is representative of community planning and social/humanitarian services in Newark as a private institution dispensing welfare to city residents and their dependents prior to public sector involvement in community welfare.

In both design and workmanship, the Protestant Foster Home reflects the high quality of institutional architecture of the late 19th century in Newark, and it exemplifies the period's creative exploration of romanticizing prototypes. Characterized by pointed, boldly banded arches and walls diapered in colored stones, this architectural mode was developed in the U.S. while a wave of nationalism spread through America in 1876, in anticipation of the centenary of American political independence. Few monumental examples of this architectural influence exist in Newark.

Thomas Stent, the building's architect, was obviously familiar with this influence as he used it not only on the Protestant Foster Home but also on the elaborate brownstone gates and buildings of Mount Pleasant Cemetery, and the Mt. Zion Baptist Church (formerly the Park Presbyterian Church). Unfortunately, very little is known about Stent. What is known, is that he practiced architecture from a lower Manhattan office between 1867 and 1895 under various firm names.

The Protestant Foster Home Society was organized on March 28, 1848. In A. W. MacDougall's The Resources for Social Service... in Newark, N.J., the institution is described as "...a home for children of both sexes from 3 to 9 years, subject to physician's examination. No fixed board charged. Mothers and guardians of children pay a maximum of \$5.00 a month for children. Children are not sent to public school but are taught within the institution. Children are kept until 12 years of age. Capacity, 115 ... Supported by subscriptions, donations and invested funds. Chairman of Admission Committee, Mrs. J. Fewsmith ... also, the Home has established a small industrial training department" (MacDougall 1912:58).

The home was first located at 270 North Broad Street and was known as "Mount Pleasant". Sometime between 1860 and 1869 the home moved to 284 Belleville Avenue (now known as Broadway). Belleville Avenue was widened in 1875 forcing the Foster Home to construct a new building. On the 16th of June, 1875, the cornerstone was laid for the new Foster Home. In 1877, upon completion of the

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new building, the old house was removed (Protestant Foster Home Society, Annual Report 1875: 7-8).

The Protestant Foster Home Society was founded in response to the detrimental impact on the city's overall quality of life brought on by the Industrial Revolution. Newark's social fabric was forever changed as tens of thousands of immigrants flocked to the city in search of work. In 1820, 6,507 people lived in Newark; by 1840, that figure had more than doubled to 17,202, and by 1860, the population stood at 71,941 (Jackson 1972: 41). The city's rapid growth and ethnic pluralism brought on cultural tensions as well as strained the city's resources and ability to provide services. The city's schools were often overcrowded and understaffed; its medical facilities were inadequate to meet the population's health needs (Cunningham 1966: 224-31).

Constructed at a time when private philanthropy was at its peak the Protestant Foster Home Society was followed by the construction of the Newark Orphan Asylum at the intersection of High and Bleeker Streets in 1857, and by the Newark Female Charitable Society at 305 Halsey Street in 1886. On June 7, 1948, the Newark Orphan Asylum consolidated with the Protestant Foster Home to form the Newark Home for Foster Care. The building is currently owned and used by the Youth Consultation Service. Youth Consultation Service (YCS) is a private nonprofit organization serving northern New Jersey from its sites in Bergen, Essex and Hudson Counties. The agency, in existence since 1919, provides a comprehensive range of educational, mental health, recreational, and residential treatment services to abused, neglected, dependent, delinquent and emotionally disturbed children and to adults and families. YCS is an affiliate of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark.

The property was owned from 1853 until 1976 by the Protestant Foster Home Society and its successors, and then sold to YCS. Through the years the Protestant Foster Home Society merged with a number of other children's social service agencies, and underwent several changes of name. It became the Child Service Association in 1961, and is now known as the Association for Children of New Jersey.



# 9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE ATTACHED

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property ± 1 acre

Quadrangle name Orange

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

1	8	5	7	0	0	8	0	4	5	1	2	2	6	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Site is located on the westerly side of Broadway, on the northerly corner of Van Wagenen Street-Newark Tax Map: Block 562, Lot 27. The property dimensions are 179.2' x 278.0'.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries N/A

state code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ulana D. Zakalak

organization Newark Preservation & Landmarks Comm. date 8/19/85

street & number 868 Broad Street, 2nd Floor telephone (201) 622-4910

city or town Newark state NJ 07102

# 12. 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 Allen C. Senche

title Asst. Commissioner for Natural Resources date December 10, 1985

### For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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Jackson, Kenneth T. and Barbara Jackson. "The Black Experience in Newark: The Growth of the Ghetto, 1870-1970," in New Jersey Since 1860: New Findings and Interpretations. Ed. William C. Wright. Trenton: New Jersey Historical Commission, 1972.

Hitchcock, Henry-Russell. Architecture: Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries. Baltimore: Penguin Books, 1971.

MacDougall, A.W. The Resources for Social Service, Charitable, Civic, Educational, Religious, of Newark N.J. A Classified and Descriptive Directory. New York: The Knickerbocker Press, 1912.

Protestant Foster Home Society. Annual Report. Newark: n. publ., 1848 and 1875.

Note: The cooperation of the New Jersey Reference Department Staff of the Newark Public Library is gratefully acknowledged.