NEWARK ATHLETIC CLUB
(Military Park Hotel)
16-18 Park Place, Block 17, Lot 1
Newark
Essex County
New Jersey

HABS No. NJ-1055

HABS
NJ
7-NEARK,
45-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
Northeast Region
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

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7-NEARK,
45-

Location: 16-18 Park Place, Block 17, Lot 1
Newark, Essex County, New Jersey
USGS: Elizabeth, NJ
UTM Coordinates: 18.570220.4510080

Present Owner: City of Newark, N.J. (November 6, 1992)

Present Occupant: Vacant

Significance: The Newark Athletic Club is an integral component of the Military Park Commons Historic District. Constructed between 1921 and 1923, the building was sited in a prominent and highly visible location overlooking Military Park, around which were located many of the city's major retail stores, businesses and hotels. Reflective of the city's major regional and national importance as a financial center, the Newark Athletic Club was seen by its over three thousand members as the social and cultural centerpiece within their professional lives. The club's numerous lounge areas, dining rooms and meeting rooms, therefore, served the business and social needs of its members while its athletic facilities including a well-equipped gymnasium and an indoor swimming pool provided opportunities for relaxation and recreation. The club building also had about three hundred bedrooms.

The Newark Athletic Club is an excellent architectural example of the athletic club-form, a building type that was developed and refined during the first few decades of the twentieth-century, when numbers of such clubs were built. Stylistically, the building is solidly Classic-Revival and an excellent example of the adaptation of Renaissance-inspired forms and Beaux-Arts planning to twentieth-century needs. By 1943, owing to changes in Newark's economic and demographic profiles brought about, in part, by both the Depression and World War II, and the bankruptcy of the club, the building was converted into use as the Military Park Hotel, after which the building began its gradual decline. It was eventually abandoned and last occupied by numbers of street and homeless people.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Dates of Erection: c. 1921-1923. The building site is shown in an archival photograph dated c. 1920 just prior to construction.[1] (Newark Public Library Collection) A bird's eye view of the site taken in August 1922 (Newark Public Library Collection) shows the building under construction as well as the building's context.[2] Detailed coverage of the cornerstone laying by General Pershing is reported in detail in The Newark Evening News, May 26, 1922 and May 27, 1922. Several photographs accompany the articles.

2. Architect: The building was designed by Jordan Green (1878-1924). Born in Birmingham, England, Green moved to New York as a young man where he presumably received his architectural education. He set up a practice in Newark and is known for the design of several area buildings including the Newark Police Headquarters Building, The Roseville Masonic Temple in Newark (1914), and a residence for John M. Miller, Esq., also in Newark (1915).[3] When the cornerstone of the Newark Athletic Club was laid in May 1922, Green was unable to attend because of illness.[4] He died two years later on December 9, 1924 at Allenhurst, New Jersey. He was a member of the American Institute of Architects and the New Jersey Chapter of Architects.[5] Robert Nordin was the supervising architect and presumably replaced Green as the latter's health deteriorated. No information has been found regarding Mr. Nordin.[6]

3. Original and Subsequent Owners:

1920. Newark Athletic Club purchases the Colton property from Anna C. Alling, Harriet J. Colton and Clara V. Colton (X64-571) and the Frelinghuysen property from the Frelinghuysen Realty Company in 1921 (A65-F4).

1940. The Newark Athletic Club is bankrupt and its property is sold by the county sheriff to the Prudential Insurance Company of North America (T97-575).

1943. The Prudential Insurance Company of North America sells the property to the Military Park Hotel Corporation (V102-258).

1959. Property is purchased by David Phillips.

1973. David Phillips sells property to New Mil Realty Corporation.

1975. Civil action against New Mil Realty Corporation.

1977. Purchase by Videocine Center, Inc.

1980. Civil action against Videocine . Foreclosure.

1988. Datsun Urban Renewal Corporation.

1990. Foreclosure against Datsun Urban Renewal Corporation.

1992. Ownership by City of Newark as of November 11, 1992.

4. Builder, Contractor and Suppliers: The builder, according to a notation on a photograph in the Newark Public Library Collection was the Fuller Construction Company.[7] An advertisement in the Newark Athletic Club Handbook, 1924 identified the building as one of the Hetzel Roofing Company's large recent contracts. An advertisement in The American Architect of February 14, 1923 noted that The Jewett Refrigerator Company had installed the club's refrigerators, as it had for the Buffalo and Detroit Athletic Clubs. The Sealex Company of Kearny included a photograph of the club's taproom in its ad for flooring, stating that the floor there was covered with a design of custom planks, inlaid with the club monogram in contrasting colors.[8]

5. Original Plans and Construction: No original construction plans or documents have been found. However, design plans, perhaps prepared for publication, were found in The Architectural Forum, Vol. 45, September 1926. Although the original construction included the gymnasium and swimming pool, these were omitted from the plans, presumably because of space. A perspective of the building exterior was found in a collection of materials from the Newark Athletic Club News which were assembled into a publication to promote Newark as a business center. The publication, which was put together by the club, is dated August 19, 1927. Three interior architectural sketches of the building were also included in this publication but differ from archival photographs of the completed interiors.[9] An archival photograph dated August, 1922 shows the club under construction.[10]

6. Alterations and Additions: Because of the condition of the building, it is impossible to ascertain the nature or extent of any alterations and additions to the original structure. The only obvious alterations to the original building form is the absence of the gymnasium and swimming pool wings, which were part of the original construction between 1921 and 1923. (See floor plans page 22.)

B. Historical Context:

The former Newark Athletic Club building is located in one of Newark's most historic areas. A commemorative monument located between Landing Place and the McCarter Highway with sculptural carvings by John Gutzon de la Borglum, (1867-1941) who is best known as the sculptor of Mount Rushmore, signifies the spot along the nearby Passaic River where Newark's first settlers stepped ashore in 1666. Unveiled in 1916, the monument is an all but forgotten reminder of the city's early history and settlement. [11]

It is notable that Park Place, Rector Street, Centre Street and Front Street, which was once known as Lumber Street and which has since been realigned as part of the McCarter Highway are, as elements of the city's original plan, still largely intact. Military Park, once variously called The Training Ground, The Large Common and The Military Common remains as one of Newark's most prominent parks and, except for the addition of an underground parking garage, several modern kiosks and commemorative monuments, appears much like it did in early engravings and photos.[12]

During the eighteenth-century, members of Newark's social elite found the area along Park Place between Rector and Centre Streets a desirable location for the construction of their large, freestanding residences. This area's popularity as a prime residential neighborhood remained throughout the nineteenth-century when the mansions of the very wealthy were built there in a variety of Victorian-era styles. Among the area's most notable residents were Frederick T. Frelinghuysen, a prominent attorney, United States Senator (1866-69, 1871-77), Attorney General of the United States and United States Secretary of State during the administration of President Chester A. Arthur (1881-1885).[13] It was the Frelinghuysen family home, facing the eastern edge of Military Park that was eventually purchased, along with an adjacent property owned during the late-nineteenth-century and early twentieth-centuries by members of the Daniel J. Colton Family for the site of The Newark Athletic Club. As seen in the Scarlet and Scarlet Atlas of Newark, New Jersey in 1889, (New Jersey Historical Society) the Frelinghuysen's extensive property extended from Park Place east to Front Street. An excellent exterior view of both the Colton house, a four-story three-bay Italianate rowhouse and the large, square four-story five-bay Italianate-style Frelinghuysen mansion can be seen in photographs in the collection of the Newark Public Library.[14]

In 1911, with the completion of the Pennsylvania Railroad's Manhattan and Hudson Railway system along the southern side of Saybrook Place, this neighborhood was changed forever. No longer a quiet enclave of wealth and familial associations, the area bustled from early morning to late evening with the foot and vehicular traffic generated by the terminal. Slowly, the prominent residences along Park Place were given over

to other uses, including conversion into boardinghouse use. By the time the Newark Athletic Club was under construction, one of the area's grandest mansions, the former home of Senator Wright which was located immediately south of the Frelinghuysen house was literally surrounded by a one-story store-front complex built, most probably, to capture the increased commuter business surrounding the railway terminal.[15] By 1930, this elegant residence was shown on the Sanborn May (1930) surrounded by eight little storefronts with the label on its own footprint simply, "Music Studio."[16]

Slightly before the completion of the new club building on Park Place, an article in the Newark Athletic Club News mentioned the building's importance as the primary meeting place for the area's business leaders. Indeed, the city's significant insurance and banking headquarters were located close-by and within easy walking distance of the building. In addition, the newly developed transportation link to Manhattan, which was known as the Hudson Tubes and only a half-block away on Saybrook Place , gave the club an ideal location for the more leisurely transaction of business. The article's anonymous author wrote that "extension of acquaintance will be made easy for members...and the touching of elbows and coming into contact with men of vision and exceptional activity, will bring about an atmosphere which will stamp Newark as a live city." Interestingly, selections from the newsletter in which these words were written several years earlier were included in a collection of Newark Athletic Club Newsletters which were collected and bound together in one publication by the club in August 1927 as part of the campaign for the business promotion of Newark. (Newark Public Library Collection)

Even before completion of the new facility on Park Place, the Newark Athletic Club attracted national attention. Built during an era when similar facilities were being constructed across America, the gala cornerstone laying on May 22, 1922 was given front page coverage in The Newark Evening News which, in the journalistic style of the time, reported about the day's events in minute detail including those in attendance and details about the decoration of the still unfinished club building with scores of American flags and patriotic bunting. Of particular interest were details about General John Pershing who traveled up from Washington, D.C. to lay the building's cornerstone with a suitably inscribed silver trowel. Made an honorary member of the club, Pershing's fellow member included, among three thousand others, such prominent local leaders as J. Herbert Reid, Corbet McCarthy of Hahne and Company, Austen Colgate of Colgate and Company and Edward A. Duffield of the Prudential Insurance Company of America.[17] Though club membership was costly, with an initial fee of $150.00 followed by yearly dues of $75.00, special membership categories were provided at reduced fees for teachers, commissioned Army and Navy officers and clergymen, among others. Regulations restricted membership, however, to white male adults. Ladies were permitted unaccompanied entrance to the building

only if they were closely related to a club member and then only into the Reception Room, the Ladies' Reception Room and the Main Dining Room.[18] A study of the plan seems to indicate that the doorway at the far left of the building's Park Place facade was the Ladies' entrance.

In addition to its function as a gathering place for social and business events, the Newark Athletic Club also functioned as a first rate athletic facility. Among its best known amenities was its 50 by 90 foot gymnasium that boasted a clear height of 20 feet and an observation gallery, beneath open trusses, and a 22-1/2 by 75 foot indoor swimming pool. The latter, which was marked off into four swimming lanes and was specifically designed for water polo was housed in a room with green-tiled walls and arched windows, filled by bull's eye leaded glass. Squash and handball courts as well as several bowling alleys and rooms for fencing were also provided. There were 3,000 lockers at the basement's mezzanine level, as well. And, as an additional bonus for the stresses of commercial and business life were rooms providing mechanical facilities for hydrotherapy, as well as a solar ray room and steam room. For the more sedate or elderly members, there were ranges of card rooms on the third floor as well as billiard tables.[19]

Unfortunately, the high hopes that club members had for its use as a catalyst for encouraging the growth of Newark's business and commercial life were short-lived. Five years after the building's doors were opened, the Depression struck and slowly, through the next decade and the approach to World War, the city's economic and demographic profile was altered. In 1940, the Newark Athletic Club Corporation declared bankruptcy and the building was offered for sale. By 1943, the building was converted into the Military Park Hotel before its eventual abandonment during the 1980s and 1990s.[20]

Its last occupants were numbers of street and homeless people.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural Character: The Newark Athletic Club building is of architectural interest because it is a solid prototypical example of the building form and prominence given to athletic clubs in pre-depression America. Its prominent siting and architectural style represents the importance with which business leaders viewed their role in Newark during the first few decades of the twentieth century. While the building has been gutted and most windows broken out, the structure still retains a strong, dominating presence as well as a significant number of its original architectural details to recall its former importance.

2. Condition of Fabric: With few exceptions, all of the significant interior finishes and details, as well as many exterior architectural details, have been either removed or destroyed. Largely gutted to expose the steel frame of its structure, the remaining interior finishes consist only of a few isolated areas of original plaster detailing at beams and in coffers, as well as several pilaster capitals. (Photo Nos. 8, 9) At the exterior, the finely carved detailing at the rusticated base is largely intact, including a carved limestone frieze featuring sports motifs. (Photo Nos. 4, 5) Most noticeable by their absence are the segmentally-arched window surrounds of the five large windows on the second floor front, as well as the prominent overhanging lead cornice at the top of the building. This cornice collapsed partially in February 1992 and was removed in total in May of the same year. (Photo Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)

B. Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: Overall dimensions of the composite building are approximately 100.33 feet along Park Place (north-south) and approximately 250.00 feet from west to east. Included within this dimension is that part of the building originally occupied by the gymnasium and the swimming pool which were built at the rear of the I-shaped block of the building. The main seven-story I-shaped main block of the club building sits above the two-story base, each level of which has a mezzanine or intermediate level. The basement, which is located below grade, except at the rear of the building where the demolition of the gymnasium and swimming pool have exposed it, also has a mezzanine level.

The building facade is a nine-story structure with two mezzanines (first floor plus mezzanine, second floor plus mezzanine) and seven bays characterized by a one-story Palazzo-type base, a second-story piano-nobile and a seven-story shaft, the seventh-story of which is treated as an attic-story. (Photo No. 2) The building was originally crowned with a prominent overhanging cornice. As seen in an archival photograph taken in 1930, the windows of the first and second stories, both of which contained mezzanine levels, are large scaled, reflecting the ceiling height of the rooms behind them.[21] The windows of the shaft, including the attic portion of the building (floors three through nine) are of smaller scale, having originally been six-over-six double-hung sashes. From and including the second to sixth bays, these windows are placed two per bay as opposed to the one per bay of the first two stories and the first and seventh bays of the shaft and the attic story. (Photo No. 2)

2. Foundations: The foundations of this building are poured in place concrete.

3. Walls: The facade of the building is clad with limestone to a point slightly higher than the level of the second floor in a smooth-banded rusticated pattern which forms voussoirs at the heads of the four segmentally-arched windows. (Photo Nos. 3, 4, 5) Most notable at this level is the limestone carving of the segmentally-arched door surround on the hood of which crouch athletic figures wearing appropriate garb. In addition, busts wearing athletic headgear are positioned at the top of each of the four window's console-shaped keystones and, in that position, are part of the frieze running just below the second-story floor level. The frieze, which is approximately eighteen inches in depth, is most notable and is densely carved with athletic devices heavily enriched with laurel and oak leaves and including tennis racquets, hockey sticks, baseball bats and cricket paddles, the latter of which are possibly a reference to the building's British-born architect, Jordan Green. (Photo Nos. 3, 4, 5)

   Above this limestone base and cladding, the remainder of the building is a brick of light cream color, chosen, it was said, "to match the natural stone of the base."[22] Laid in common bond, the brick facade has been painted from the third level up and has a consequent uneven coloration. An interesting decorative item is the banding and panelized design in brick that can be seen at the top floor of the building at the sides and rear. Notable is the presence, also in brick, of the Club's logo at the north west and southeast top corners of the building. (Photo Nos. 1, 6, 7)

4. Structural Systems, Framing: Structural steel, much of it exposed within the building due to the removal of the interior walls and finishes, comprises the structural system of the building. (Photo Nos. 8, 9) Infill between the framing at the exterior wall is of terra cotta block which, in addition to plaster block, also comprises the interior partitions, none of which are load bearing. The floor system up to and including the third floor is of concrete. Above that level, floors are of T-joist construction. The roof framing was not investigated.

5. Porches, Stoops, Balconies, Bulkheads: The main, centralized building entrance on Park Place is reached by a broad flight of stone steps. The secondary entrance, at the building's northwest front corner which was probably originally the Ladies' entrance, has a similar stone step entrance. Photo Nos. 3, 4) Four shallow "balconies" are located at the front of the building and are purely decorative. The major and largest is placed directly over the main entrance and is supported by two pairs of consoles. (Photo No. 3) Three other balconies are located at the third

floor level at the second, fourth and sixth bays. (Photo Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5) Entrance to the basement was primarily through the first or ground floor. At the rear of the structure, service entry to the basement seems to have been via a service staircase which probably gave out to a loading platform along the northern boundary of the property. As shown in plan, access to the kitchen and the adjacent storerooms was at this location. (See floor plans p. 22.)

6. Chimneys: An archival photograph of the building taken in February 1953 clearly shows the building's main chimney.[23] Located in the southeast corner of the building, the chimney was originally topped by a metal pyramidal-roofed cap. The chimney form is square, and because of its location at the building's exterior is covered in the same light-colored brick and decorated at its top with the same brick panelized design as the rest of the building's sides. (Photo Nos. 1, 6)

7. Openings:

   a. Doorways and Doors: Major access to the building was through the central doorway located on Park Place. (Photo No. 2, 3) A secondary, and likely Ladies', doorway was located that the first bay front of the building at the northwest corner. (Photo No. 4) Service entry, with access to the kitchen and storerooms was made through a doorway located in a stairtower at the building's northeast corner. (See floor plans page 22.) No original doors or frames are extant at these locations. All remaining doors and doorframes have been removed from the building.

   b. Windows and Shutters: With few exceptions, most of the window sashes have been destroyed, although most of the window frames are still extant. All of the large, decorative sashes located on the first and second floors at the front including casement and tri-partite segmentally-arched sash seen in archival photographs have been removed, including the window frames. (Photo Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)[24]

8. Roof:

   a. Shape, Covering: The roof could not be examined because of the building's present condition. However, as shown in a bird's eye archival photograph taken in February 1953, the roof of the building's main nine-floor block was flat, and was surrounded in typical fashion by parapet perimeter walls of approximately eighteen to twenty-four inches in height. The surface would have typically been covered with built-up

bituminous roofing. Though unexamined, a building with a roof system such as this one would have had a number of interior roof drains which would have drained the flat roof system. The gymnasium addition at the rear of the building, as partially seen in the archival photograph mentioned above, had a pitched roof, while that over the pool area appears to have been flat. These roofs were likely covered with composition materials. Photograph No. 7 shows the "ghost tracing" of the gymnasium and swimming pool roofs.

b. Cornice, Eaves: Archival photographs indicate that the building was crowned at the Park Place facade with a large, prominent overhanging cornice.[25] Its profile can be seen, in part, in the archival photograph taken in February 1953. The supporting structure is all that remains. Written information about the cornice in the Newark Athletic Club News (August

19, 1927) states that it was made of lead. The cornice, as noted above, had deteriorated and was removed in May 1992.

c. Dormers, Cupolas, Towers: None.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plans: See floor plans on page 22.
Note: The floor plans included on page 22 were published in The Architectural Forum, Vol. 45 in September 1926 along with a photograph of the building's facade. (See page 23.) It should be noted that the plans do not indicate the mezzanine plans which were located on the first and second floors or the basement floor plans. The first floor mezzanine overlooked the lounge and, according to an early description was utilized for smoking and writing.[26] (Photo No. 8) The same article in the Newark Athletic Club News states that the basement mezzanine contained six bowling alleys as well as a locker room to accommodate 3,000 lockers. The gymnasium, pool and shower room were connected at the rear to this level. The gymnasium and swimming pool wing is no longer extant but indications on the Sanborn Map of 1930 indicate that the pool was located in the northeast corner of the extension and the gymnasium in the southeast corner.

2. Stairways: Several steel interior stairways are extant including those located opposite the original elevator shafts in what was once the elevator lobby. The stairways at this location, which were open to the third floor and above that level enclosed, have decorative

steel newel posts and a pre-cast balustrade which are among the few extant interior embellishments. (Photo No. 10) Two remaining interior staircases, located at the northeast and southeast corners of the large room, labeled in plan as the Billiard Room, lead to a mezzanine encircling the room on three sides. Their decorative features are minimal and the staircases are in poor condition. (Photo No. 9) Major vertical access was by elevator, all cabs and elevator doors of which are missing. Intermediate stairways, as shown on the floor plan, were used for secondary and service access.

3. Flooring: There are no original finished floors extant above the poured concrete sub-flooring, much of which is in poor condition. Photo Nos. 8, 9, 10) A description of the proposed building in The Newark Athletic Club News (August 17, 1926) stated that "the floors throughout the building will be zenitherm, a hard, cork substance." Archival photographs show area carpets in the first floor lounge, perhaps placed over the zenitherm flooring. Other archival photographs indicate that wall-to-wall carpeting covered the floor in the main dining room.[27] An advertisement for Sealex Floors and Walls in American Architect, Vol. 144-145, March 1934, featured a photograph of the Tap Room (possibly located in the basement) with a resilient floor in a wood plank design into which the club monogram had been cut in contrasting colors of the same material. (See page 24.)

4. Wall and Ceiling Finishes: While most of the original wall and ceiling finishes have been destroyed or removed, evidence and the partial remains of some of the decorative plaster work that originally decorated beams and coffers as well as pilaster capitals are extant. In Photograph No. 8 which shows the southeast corner of the first floor lounge and the mezzanine, a beam soffit displays molded plaster in an Arabesque design. Other original plaster detailing can be seen in Photograph No. 9 which shows the space identified in plan (page 22) as the Billiard Room.[28] Here, a very small amount of the original plaster decoration can been seen on the east wall, including shallow wall panels, a Corinthian pilaster capital and a few linear feet of plaster dentils within the cornice of a ceiling coffer. (Photo No. 9)

A verbal description of the proposed interior wall finishes (Newark Athletic Club News, August 17, 1927) is closely comparable with that shown in several archival photographs. Among these are the main dining room which the archival photograph shows was paneled about three-quarters up the wall with wooden paneling in an Elizabethan pattern of small panels. The Lounge, immediately inside the front door on the first floor, was said to have been

faced with Caen stone. It is not possible to ascertain the composition of the walls within this area from photographs, but it is interesting to note that both a sketch of the Lounge's interior as well as a photograph indicate that the pilasters were set with linear panels embellished with decorative plasterwork reminiscent of French-Renaissance motifs.[29]

5. Openings:

   a. Doorways and Doors: No original interior doors are extant within those areas examined.

   b. Windows: No original interior windows or trim are extant within those areas examined.

6. Decorative Features and Trim: No decorative features, beside the minor plasterwork elements and the iron staircase railings as described above in Sections 2 and 4 are extant.

7. Hardware: No original or notable hardware is extant.

8. Mechanical Equipment:

   a. Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning: None extant. However, a notation on the Sanborn Map, 1930 indicates that the building originally had steam heat.

   b. Lighting: None extant.

   c. Plumbing: None extant.

   d. Miscellaneous Mechanical Equipment: None extant. The building originally had three elevators. None of the original equipment is extant.

9. Original Furnishings: Whereabouts unknown. A list of furniture and other appointments is attached to the notice of bankruptcy sale by the Sheriff of the County of Essex, New Jersey, January 15, 1941.

D. Site:

1. General Setting and Orientation: The building is located on Park Place facing approximately 66 degrees southwest towards the eastern boundary of Military Park.

2. Historic Landscaping Design: The Newark Athletic Club building was built to the property line along Park Place and as close to the skewed side lot property lines as possible. There was no original foundation planting at the front, or western facade facing Park Place, although in recent years, heavy undergrowth and vines have obliterated the base of the building from view. There was likely no landscaping plan devised for the very narrow triangular areas that resulted along the building's south and north sides. It is probable, however, that because the service entrance giving direct access to the kitchen and the adjacent storage rooms was located at the main block's northeast corner that there was a paved service driveway into which trucks could back to unload goods. (See floor plans page 22.) As shown on the Sanborn Map of 1930, and as mentioned in the Newark Athletic Club News (August 17, 1927),an eighteen-foot wide alley gave service access to the rear of the building from Rector Street. As indicated on the Sanborn Map of 1930, the club property extended east to Landing Place.

3. Outbuildings: The archival photograph taken in February 1953 shows a portion of the narrow part of the Newark Athletic Club's property behind what was then the Military Park Hotel. A little over fifty feet in width, the area is shown as a parking lot, most likely for employees' cars. As shown on the Sanborn Map of 1930, a rectangular building of about 25 by 50 feet was constructed along the property line of Trinity Church Yard and across from the American Railway Express Company garage. Partially visible in the 1953 photograph, this building appears to be labeled as a fireproof "Carpenter's Shop," a not surprising necessity for an establishment as large as the athletic club. The building is no longer standing.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Architectural Drawings:

No original architectural drawings were found. However, design drawings that were probably prepared for publication were found in The Architectural Forum, Vol. 45, September, 1926. (See page 22.)

B. Historic Views:

Architect's Sketch of Newark Athletic Club Building Newark Athletic Club News compiled to promote Newark as a business center, August 19, 1927. Newark Public Library.

Bird's eye view of Newark Athletic Club Building (then the Military Park Hotel) and Block 17. Archival photograph, February 2, 1953. Newark Public Library.

The Clubhouse in its Gala Dress on the Memorable Day of the Cornerstone Laying, Friday, May 26, 1922. Archival photograph, circa 1922. Newark Public Library.

Cornerstone Laying at the Newark Athletic Club. Photographs in Newark Evening News, 22 May 1922. Newark Public Library.

Interior photographs of the Newark Athletic Club. Archival views, circa 1925. These views are photocopies of the original photographs, the whereabouts of which are unknown. Photocopies are unreproducible.

Interior sketches of spaces in the Newark Athletic Club (design sketches only). Newark Athletic Club News compiled to promote Newark as a business center, August 19, 1927. Newark Public Library.

Military Park after Severe Snowstorm of April 25, 1875 with Senator Wright's Mansion and Greenhouse in the distance. Archival photograph, 1875. New Jersey Historical Society.

Military Park Panorama. Archival photograph for a steroptican viewer, circa 1930. New Jersey Historical Society.

Military Park Panorama. Archival photograph, circa 1960. New Jersey Historical Society.

Military Park Showing Trinity Church and the Newark Athletic Club. Archival photograph postcard view, circa 1925. New Jersey Historical Society.

Military Park Showing Trinity Church and the Newark Athletic Club. Archival photograph, circa 1960. New Jersey Historical Society.

Newark Athletic Club. Photograph in The Architectural Forum, Vol. 45, September, 1926.

Newark Athletic Club and the Fiedler Building. Archival photograph, circa 1930. Newark Public Library.

The Newark Athletic Club Taproom. Photograph in advertisement for "Sealex Floors and Walls" in American Architect, March, 1934.

Park Place from Military Park with Saybrook Place. Archival photograph, August, 1922. Newark Public Library.

Park Place, Site of Newark Athletic Club. Archival photograph, March, 1920. Newark Public Library.

Site of Newark Athletic Club. Archival Photograph, circa 1920. Newark Public Library.

C. Interviews

No interviews were conducted.

D. Bibliography:

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"Furnishing of Men's Clubs." Good Furniture, Vol. 29, 1929.

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"Jewett Refrigerator advertisement, Newark Athletic Club." American Architect, February 14, 1923.

"Luncheon Clubs: A Tradition Fades," Tina Traster-Polak. New York Times, 2 August 1992, New Jersey Section, p. 8.

"Newark Athletic Club." American Institute of Architects, New Jersey Chapter (monthly), Newark: 1927. Newark Public Library (missing from shelf)

"Newark Athletic Club." Architectural Forum, Club and Fraternal Buildings Issue, September, 1926, plates 44, 45.

Newark Athletic Club. Constitution and By-Laws, Rules [for] Officers and Members. 1924. Newark Public Library.

"Newark Athletic Club," The Sunday Call, 28 January 1923. Microfilm. Newark Public Library.

Newark Athletic Club, Three architect's sketches of proposed interiors. Newark Athletic Club News, reprint and collection of articles, August 19, 1927. (Illustrations include Lobby, Billiard/Grill Room and Dining Room) Newark Public Library.

Newark Map. 1806, republished in 1891. Newark Public Library.

Pershing, General John J. at the cornerstone laying of the Newark Athletic Club, May 22, 1922. Photographic portrait. Newark Public Library.

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Scarlet and Scarlet. Atlas of the City of Newark, New Jersey. Newark: Scarlet and Scarlet, 1889. New Jersey Historical Society.

"Swimming Pool at the Newark Athletic Club," The Sunday Call, 28 January 1928. Microfilm. Newark Public Library.

FOOTNOTES

[1]Site of Newark Athletic Club. Archival photograph, circa 1920.

[2]Park Place from Military Park with Saybrook Place. Archival photograph, August, 1922.

[3]Mention is made of Green's name as architect of the Newark Police Headquarters Building in a report by Hunter Research, Inc., A Historic, Architectural and Archeological Assessment of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center Site, City of Newark, Essex County, New Jersey. (Trenton: 1991), p. 13. A photograph of the Roseville Masonic Temple can be found in American Architecture, Vol. 106, November 18, 1914. A photograph of the Miller House can be found in American Architecture, Vol. 108, September 29, 1915.

[4]"Cornerstone Laying at the Newark Athletic Club," Newark Evening News, 26 May 1922.

[5]"Obituary of Jordan Green," The Royal Institute of British Architect's Journal, April 4, 1925.

[6]Reference to Robert Nordin was found in the caption of a photo of the Newark Athletic Club in The Architectural Forum, Vol. 45, September, 1926. (See page 23.)

[7]The Clubhouse in its Gala Dress on the Memorable Day of the Cornerstone Laying, Friday, May 26, 1922. Archival photograph, circa 1922.

[8]"Sealex Floors and Walls" advertisement, American Architect, March, 1934, p. 93.

[9]Xerox copies of archival photographs of the completed Newark Athletic Club interiors, circa 1925 are in the possession of Herbert J. Githens. The poor quality of these copies precluded their being copied for inclusion in this report. The location of the originals is unknown.

[10]See footnote 2.

[11]Hunter, p. 21.

[12]Military Park after Severe Snowstorm of April 24, 1875 with Senator Wright's Mansion and Greenhouse in the distance. Archival photograph, 1875.

[13]Hunter, p. 9.

[14]Park Place, Site of Newark Athletic Club. Archival photograph, March, 1920.

[15]See footnote 2.

[16]Sanborn Map Company. Insurance Maps of Newark, New Jersey (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1930)

[17]These names were contained in an issue of the Newark Athletic Club News that was part of a collection of newsletters published together to promote Newark as a business center. The issue predated the completion of the club building. The collection was bound together and dated August 19, 1927. The newsletter, which is undated, also included sketches of three interior spaces. The sketches differ from the work as actually completed and as shown in the archival photographs of the interior noted above in footnote no. 9.

[18]Constitution and By-Laws, Rules, Officers and Members of the Newark Athletic Club of Newark, New Jersey, 1924, pp. 14-16.

[19]Ibid. The Newark Athletic grounds are first listed in the Newark City Directory of 1895. Apparently, a club house did not exist until about 1900 when the club is listed at 35 Clinton Street.

[20]An archival photograph taken on February 2, 1953 shows the club building fitted with an entrance marquee reading "Military Park Hotel." From listings in the Newark City Directories, the club seems to have co-existed within the building along with the Military Park Hotel until 1958. The club ceased operation in 1965 and by then was located on Fulton Street ("Luncheon Clubs" New York Times, 2 August 1992.)

[21]Newark Athletic Club. Archival photograph, circa 1930.

[22]See footnote 17.

[23]See footnote 20.

[24]Original window sash can be seen in the archival photograph "Newark Athletic Club," circa 1930. Also see page .

[25]Ibid.

[26]See footnote 17.

[27]See footnote 9.

[28]In the archival photographs mentioned in footnote 9 above, this room is labeled "Duffield Hall" and appears to be a ballroom, rather than a billiard room. In the Newark Athletic Club Newsletter (n.d.) mentioned in footnote no. 17 above, an interior sketch showed the billiard room surrounded by the tables of the Grill and the text claimed that this combination was unique to club design.

[29]Archival photographs, see footnote 9.

E. Likely sources not yet investigated:

Archives of Fuller Construction Company

F. Supplemental Material:

None found.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This documentary recording was undertaken to facilitate the construction of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center. The former Newark Athletic Club is located in the National Register-eligible Military Park Commons Historic District, and is to be demolished for the construction of the Performing Arts Center. The information gathering and the photographic recording took place in July, October and November of 1992.

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25 November 1992