

UNION HOTEL
(Englishtown Municipal Building)
13 Main Street
Englishtown
Monmouth County
New Jersey

HABS No. NJ-1239

HABS
NJ
13-ENGTO,
2-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

UNION HOTEL
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Location: 13 Main Street (west side of Main Street, immediately south of the end of Tennent Avenue), Englishtown, Monmouth County, New Jersey

U.S.G.S. Freehold, New Jersey Quadrangle
U.T.M. Coordinates: 18.554520.4460500

Significance: Possibly a residence when built, the Union Hotel has been used for both private and public purposes. It was one of two hotels in Englishtown from the mid-nineteenth century to the early twentieth, the other being the Village Inn. During this period Englishtown experienced growth as an important contributor to Monmouth County's consistently high agricultural production. The town was situated on an important railroad line used for agricultural transport and light industrial development. After its years as the Union Hotel, the building housed the town's fire department from ca. 1915 and its administrative offices from 1947.

Description: The primary two-and-a-half-story, side-gabled structure of the Union Hotel is a timber-frame, clapboard-sided building. The front of the building along Main Street is seven bays in length; the two northernmost of these appear to be an addition to what was originally a symmetrical, two-by-five-bay structure with a centrally located door. The addition supports a four-post, cross-gabled bell tower over the northernmost bay and extends five bays to the rear (west) of the building. The ground floor, with a shingled overhang sheltering its entire length, features two garage bays at the north end and a porch fronting the southern four bays. The third bay from the south (i.e., the original center bay) is topped by a cross gable with a fixed window on the attic story and a low gable on the porch overhang, both of which have scalloped shingles. The cross gable is an addition made probably before that of the two northern bays. Windows are one-over-one, two-over-two, and six-over-six sash with plain surrounds, and the south end of the building has quarter fan lights in the attic story. There is a brick chimney on the rear section of the structure.

To the rear of the timber-frame structure is attached a one-story, square-plan, concrete-block addition constructed ca. 1940, which occupies roughly double the area of the original building. Because the original building was constructed without a foundation, considerable structural settlement and material deterioration have occurred, particularly where the structure rests directly on the ground. This settlement and deterioration are also evident on the building's interior.

History: While no secure date of construction has been determined, the original five-bay structure, with its symmetrical fenestration and quarter fan lights, seems late Georgian or Federal in style and may thus be dated roughly to the second quarter

of the nineteenth century. The earliest known map of the town, Jesse Lightfoot's 1851 map of Monmouth County, labels the structure as "Perrines Village Hotel." An 1860 county map by S. N. and F. W. Beers lists "J. Bowne's Village Hotel." Both hotels appear to correspond to the study site, and in fact the building was called the Union Hotel by the last quarter of the century. William Hest (or Hess) appears to have a bakery on the site on F. W. Beers' map of 1873, and Chester Wolverton's 1889 map lists William Hees (presumably the same man) on the same lot, although without the bakery designation. Hees applied for a tavern license at least as early as 1874 and renewed it until the early twentieth century. The name Union Hotel is attached to the license by 1886.

None of these maps show the building with any conclusive detail regarding its plan, and it remains difficult to trace its development given the lack of known photographic documentation. The addition of the cross gable and colonnaded porch, each with scalloped shingles, suggest Shingle Style and perhaps Greek Revival influence, dating it to the later nineteenth century. Sanborn Insurance Company maps of 1909 show the Union Hotel as having the same L-shaped plan as the main section of the current building, suggesting that the two-bay northern wing was built prior to that year. These additions may have been made as an expansion of the building's use as a hotel.

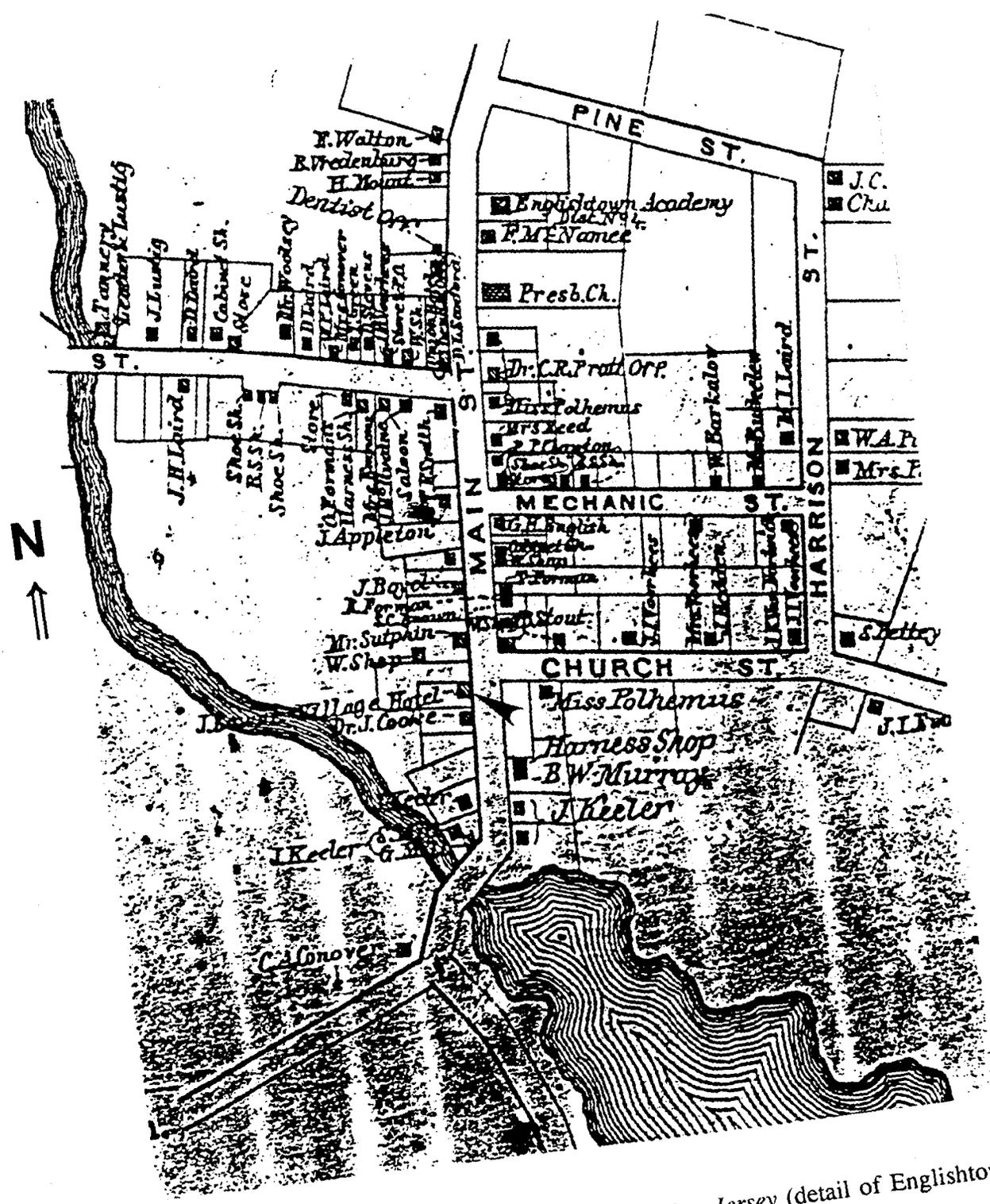
Sanborn maps from 1921 indicate that the conversion into a firehouse (involving the garages and bell tower) occurred sometime in the preceding twelve years, and a disgruntled petition against Hees' successor Samuel Mount in 1914 implies that the conversion probably came soon after that year. Revisions made in 1945 of the 1921 Sanborn maps show a small addition to the rear, perhaps the first portion of the concrete-block structure. The borough's offices were relocated to the building in 1947 and remained there until 1990, when the building was condemned because of serious structural problems. Site analysis in 1991 by Edmund Gaunt of KGD Architects concluded that the present state of the building precluded its use by the borough, and any restoration would prove far too costly. Gaunt thus recommended that the building not be restored; it has since remained condemned.

Sources: Archives, Monmouth County Library Headquarters, Manalapan Township, NJ.
Special Collections, Rutgers University Libraries, New Brunswick, NJ.
Gaunt, Edward H., letter to Clerk of the Borough of Englishtown, 6 January 1992.
McCabe, James C. and Gail Hunton, *Monmouth County Historic Sites Inventory Summary Report*, Freehold, NJ, 1986.
New Jersey Office of Cultural and Environmental Services, Historic Sites Inventories #1312-1 and #1312-1-8, prepared by James C. McCabe, 1980.

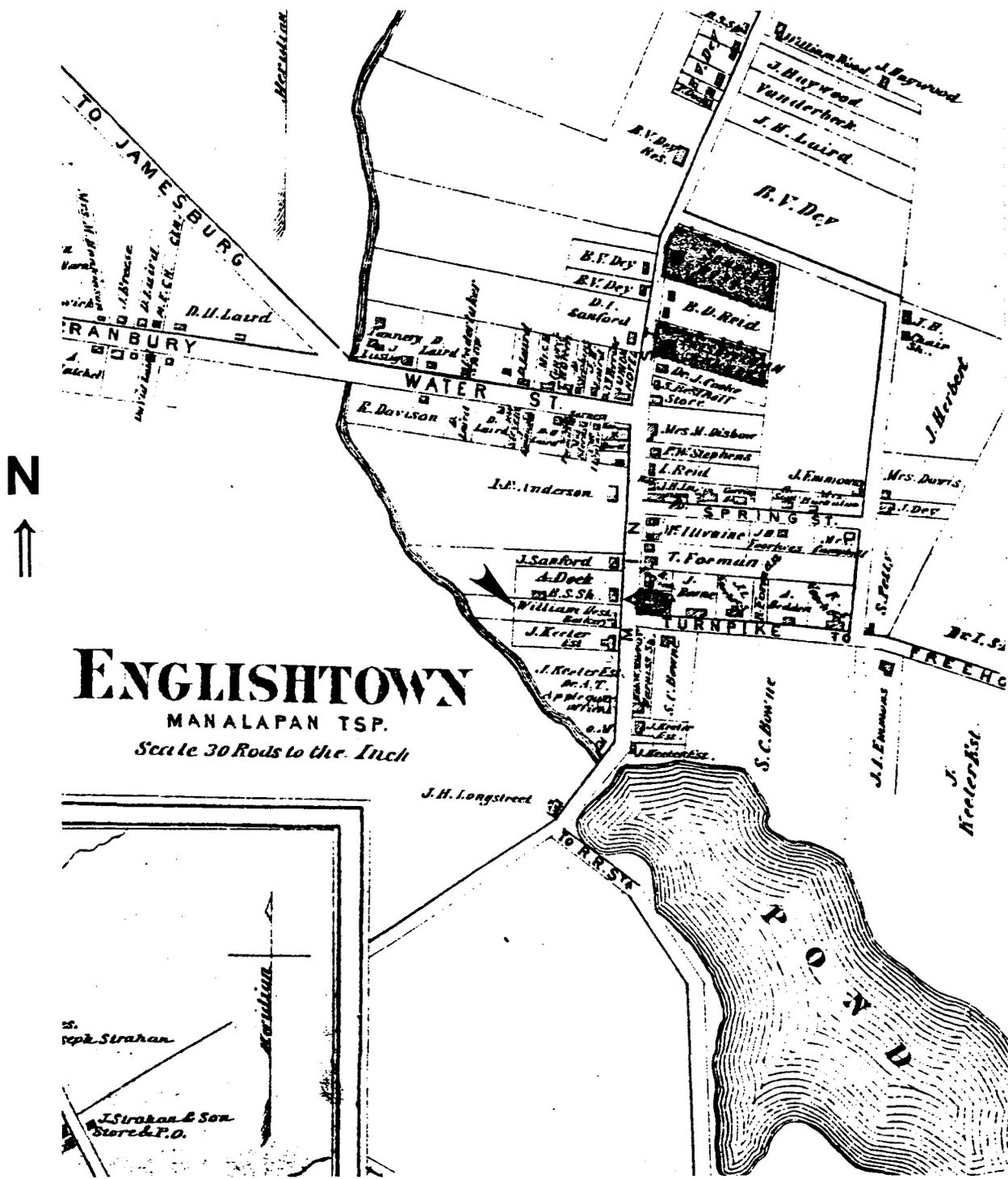
Historian: Brian Clancy, Cultural Resource Consulting Group, June 1998.



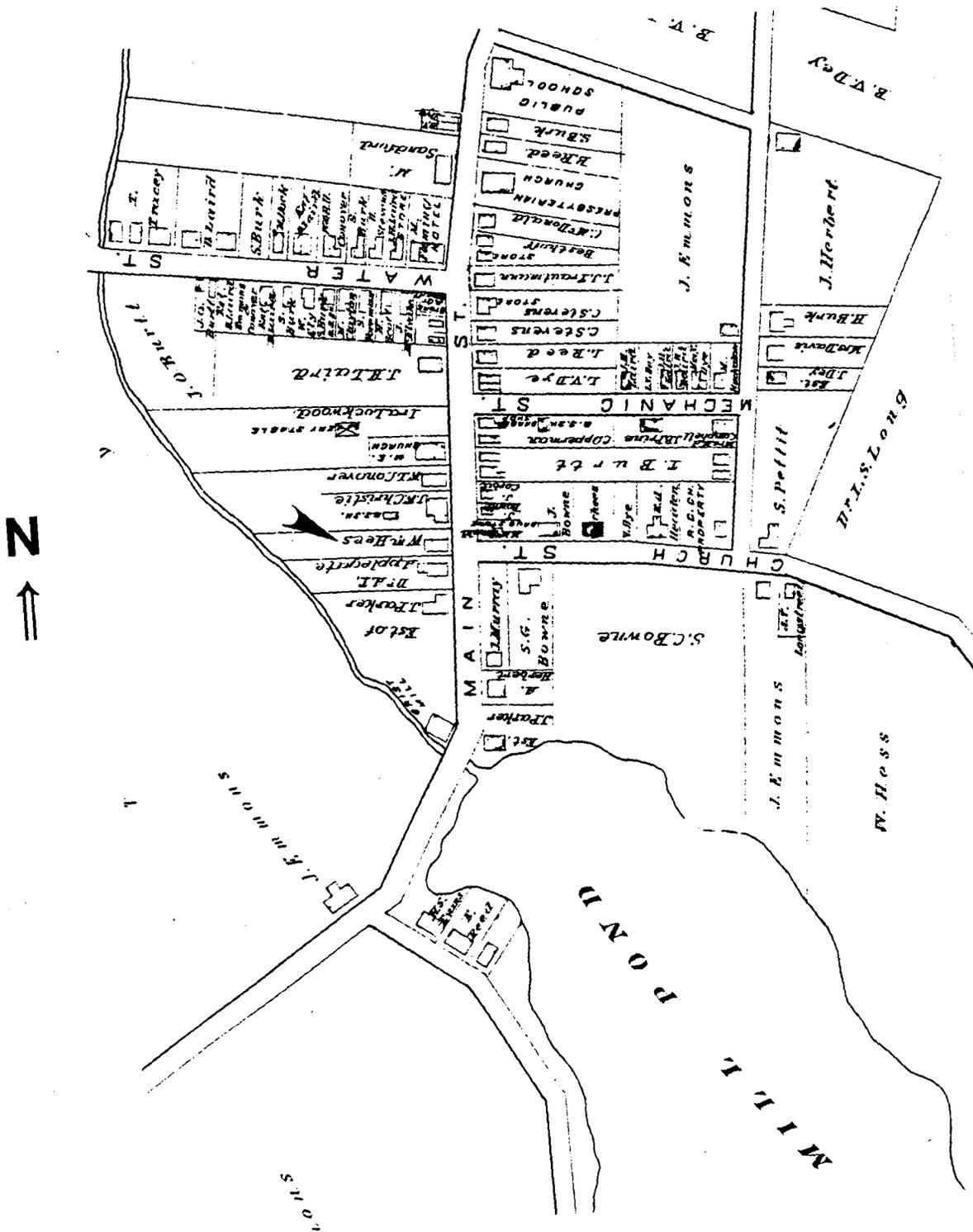
Jesse Lightfoot, *Map of Monmouth County, New Jersey* (detail of Englishtown), 1851. Union Hotel site is marked "Perrines Village Hotel."



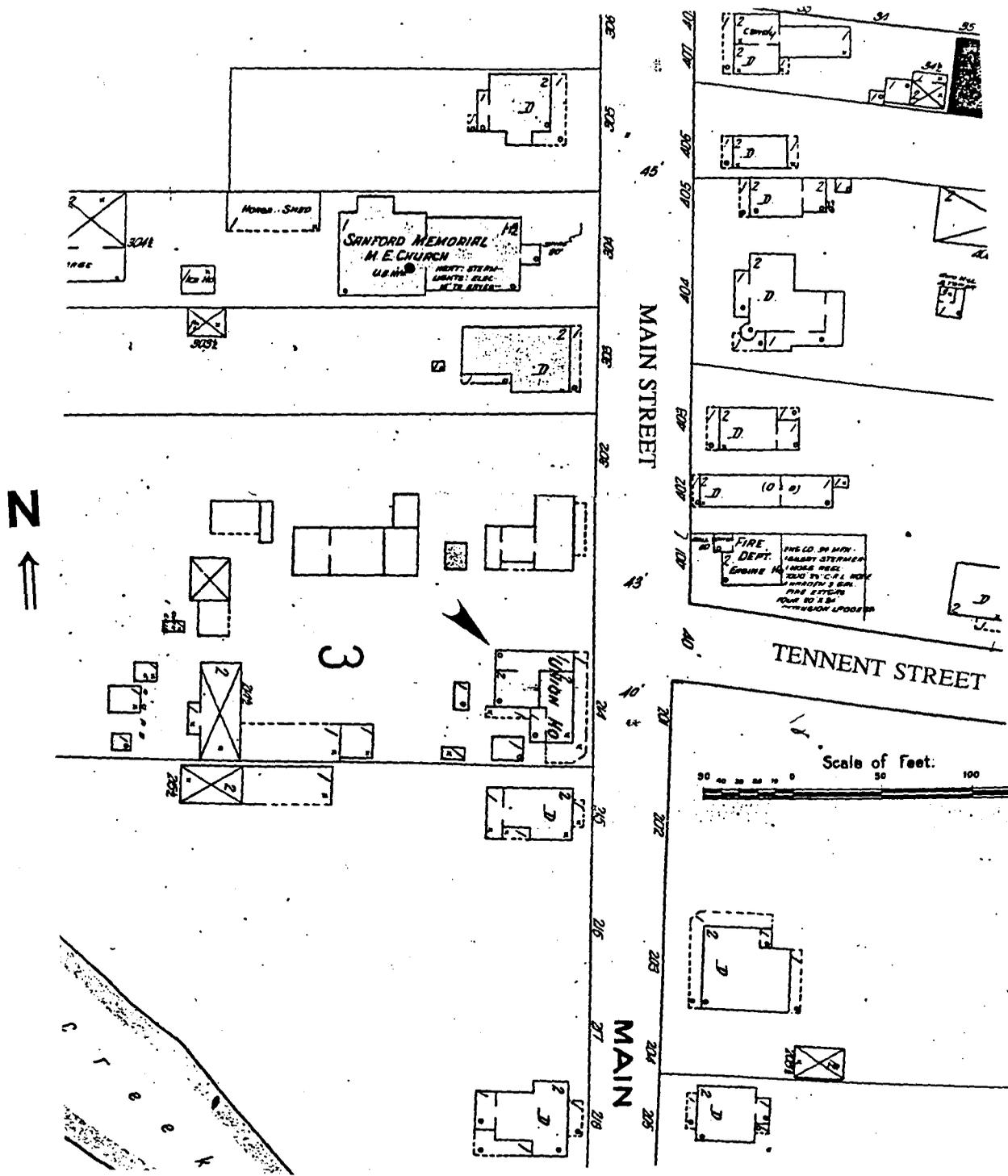
F. W. and S. N. Beers, *Map of Monmouth County, New Jersey* (detail of Englishtown), 1860. Union Hotel site is marked "J. Bowne Village Hotel."



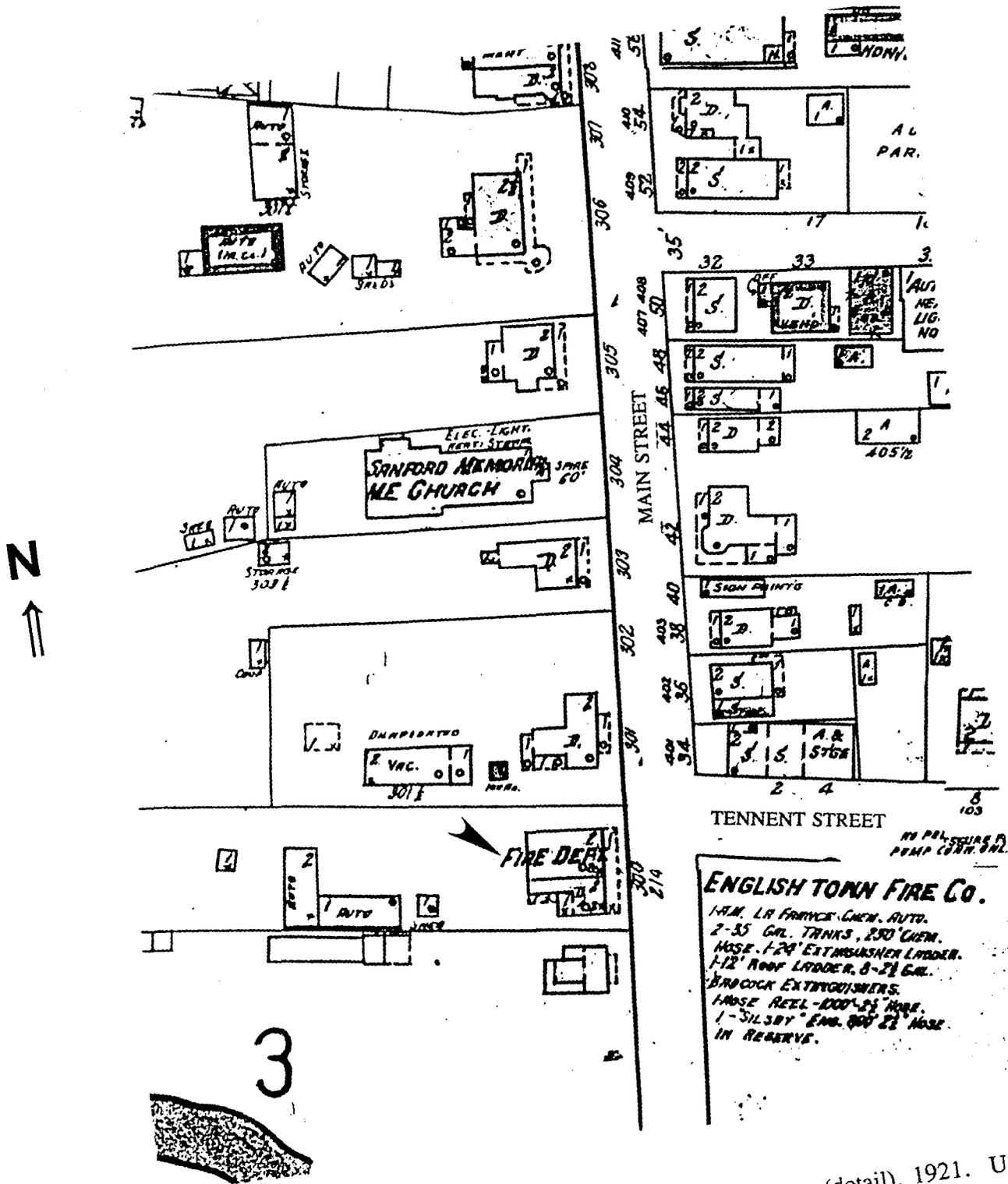
F. W. Beers, map of Englishtown from *Atlas of Monmouth County, New Jersey*, 1873. Union Hotel site is marked "William Hest (Hess?)/Bakery."



Chester Wolverton, map of Englishtown from *Atlas of Monmouth County, New Jersey, 1889*.
Union Hotel site is marked "Wm. Hees."

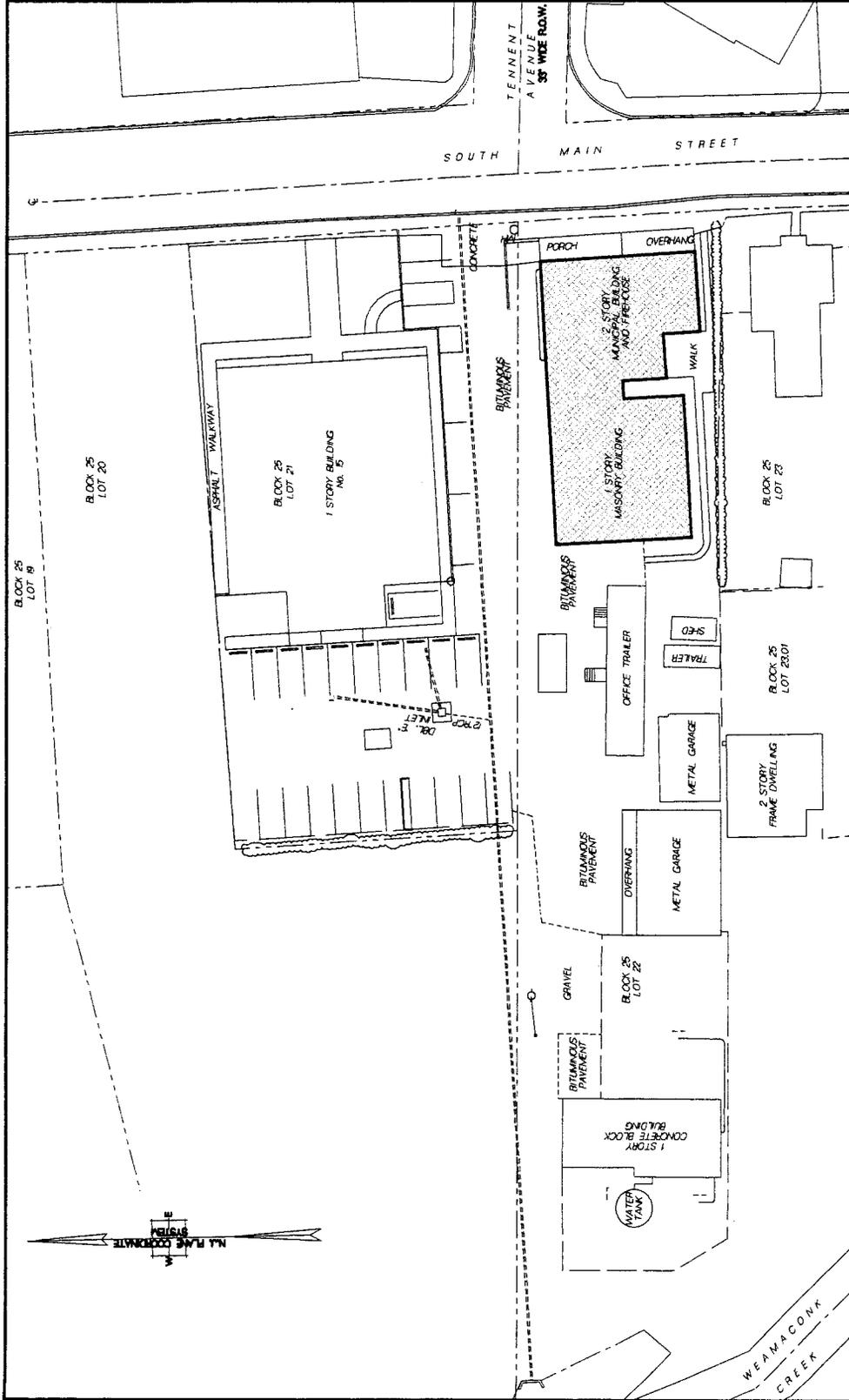


Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, map of Englishtown, New Jersey (detail), 1909. Union Hotel is marked "Union Ho."

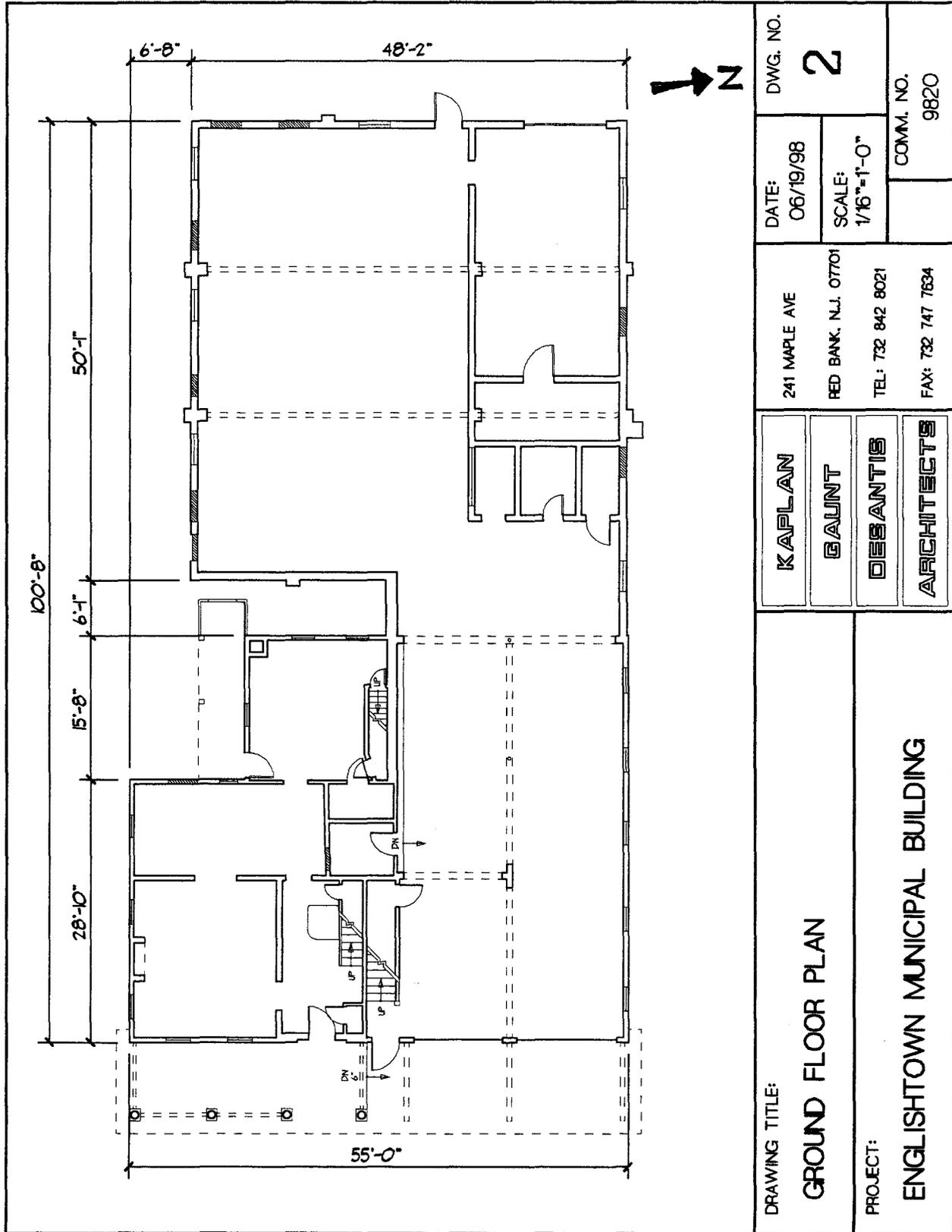


Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, map of Englishtown, New Jersey (detail), 1921. Union Hotel is marked "Fire Dept."

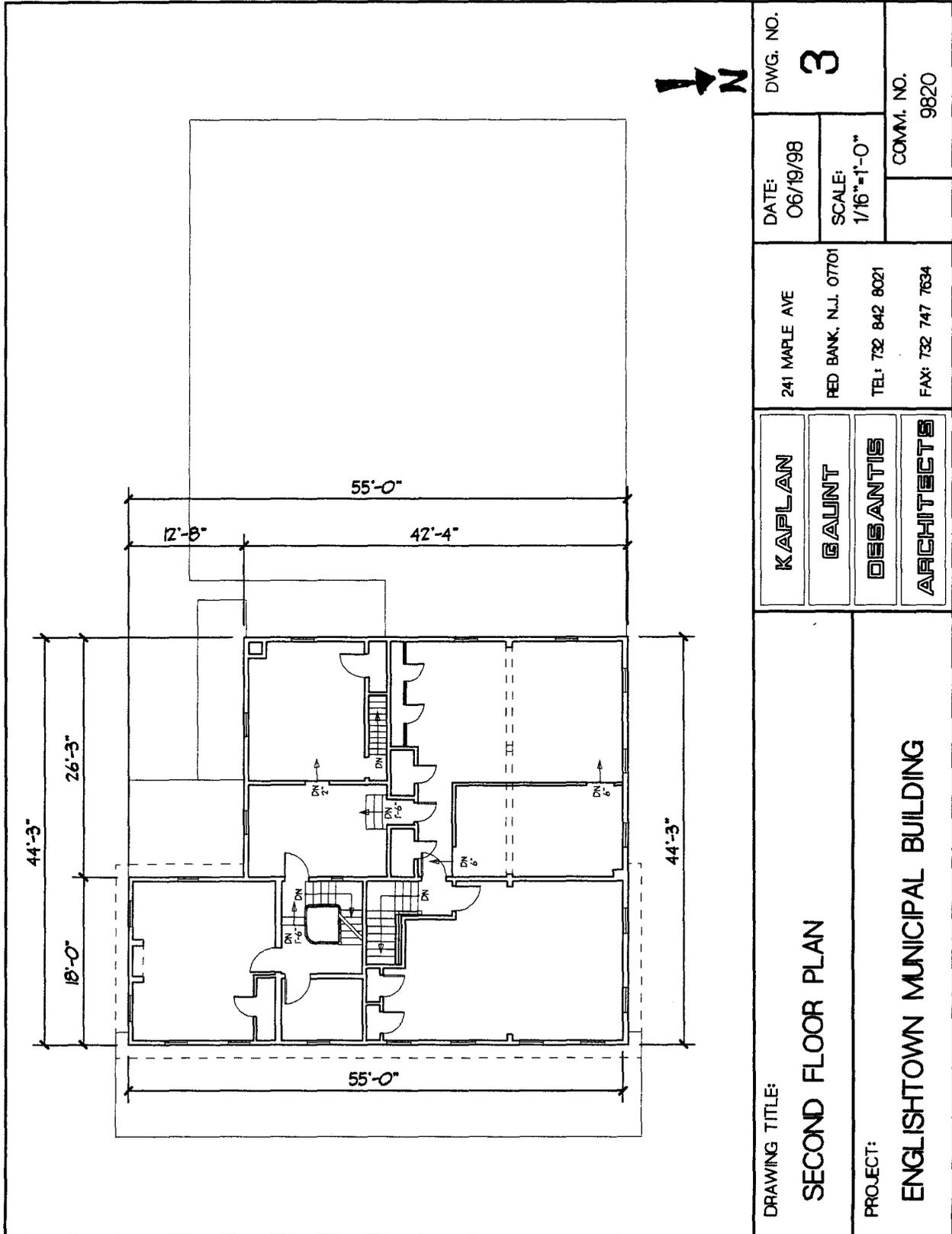
UNION HOTEL (Englishtown Municipal Building)
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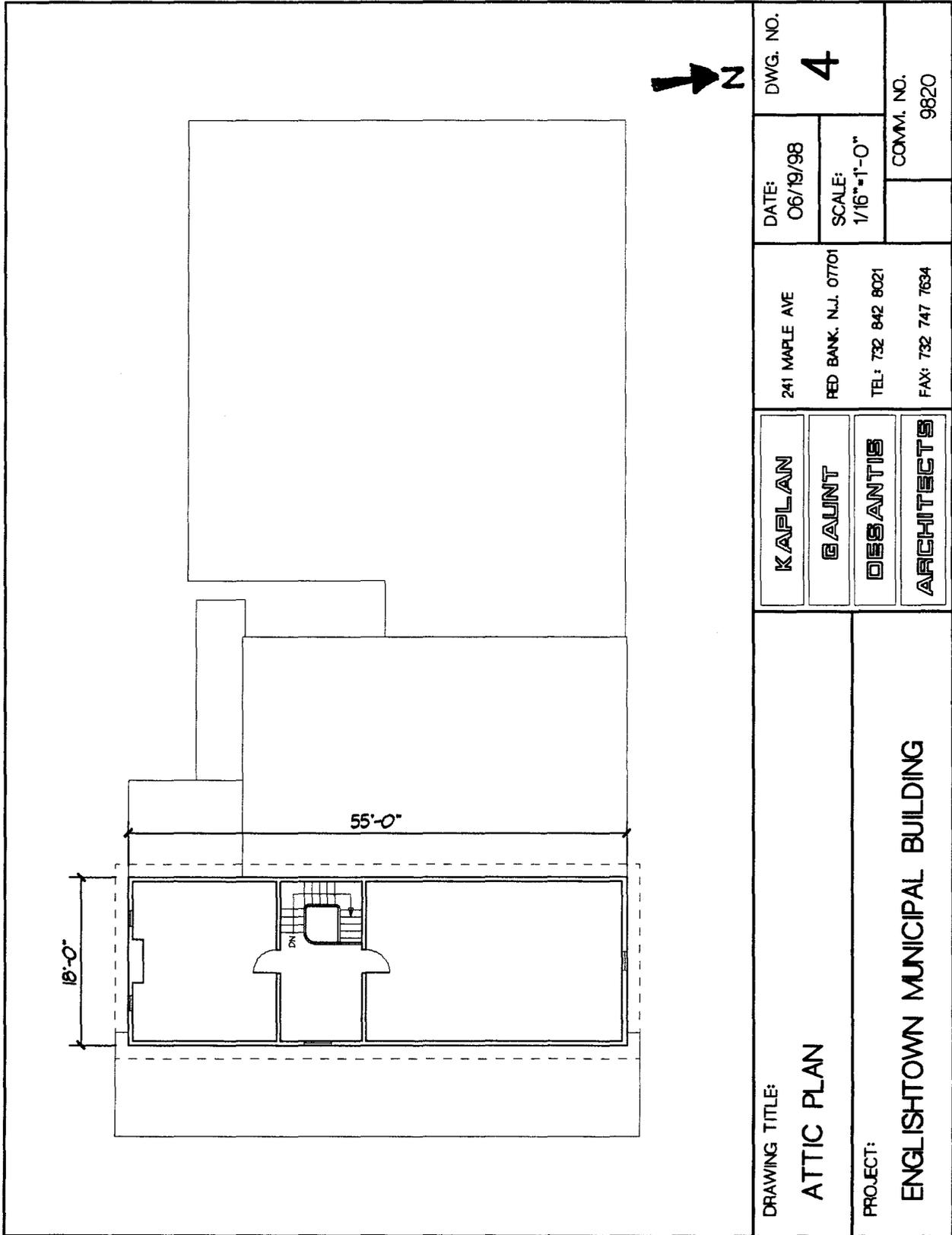
DRAWING TITLE: SITE PLAN		DATE: 06/19/98		DWG. NO. 1
PROJECT: ENGLISHTOWN MUNICIPAL BUILDING		SCALE: N.T.S.		COMM. NO. 9820
KAPLAN		241 MAPLE AVE		
GAUNT		RED BANK, N.J. 07701		
DESANTIS		TEL: 732 842 8021		
ARCHITECTS		FAX: 732 747 7634		



DRAWING TITLE: GROUND FLOOR PLAN		DWG. NO. 2	
		DATE: 06/19/98	SCALE: 1/16"=1'-0"
PROJECT: ENGLISHTOWN MUNICIPAL BUILDING		241 MAPLE AVE RED BANK, N.J. 07701 TEL: 732 842 8021 FAX: 732 747 7634	COMM. NO. 9820
KAPLAN GAUNT DESANTIS ARCHITECTS			



DWG. NO. 3		DATE: 06/19/98		COMM. NO. 9820	
241 MAPLE AVE FED BANK, N.J. 07701 TEL: 732 842 8021 FAX: 732 747 7634		SCALE: 1/16"=1'-0"			
KAPLAN		GAJINT		DESANTIS	
ARCHITECTS					
DRAWING TITLE: SECOND FLOOR PLAN			PROJECT: ENGLISHTOWN MUNICIPAL BUILDING		



DRAWING TITLE: ATTIC PLAN	PROJECT: ENGLESHTOWN MUNICIPAL BUILDING	KAPLAN GAUNT DEBANTIS ARCHITECTS	241 MAPLE AVE	DATE: 06/19/98	DWG. NO. 4
			RED BANK, N.J. 07701	SCALE: 1/16"=1'-0"	COMM. NO. 9820
			TEL: 732 842 8021		
			FAX: 732 747 7634		