



The Clark House
108 Orange Road
Block 1304 Lot 11

NOMINATION REPORT



Prepared By:
The Township of Montclair
Historic Preservation Commission
205 Claremont Avenue
Montclair, NJ 07042

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This report has been prepared in accordance with Montclair Code Section 347-135B(1).

347-135B(1):Nomination Proposals. The party proposing for designation under this section shall prepare and submit to the Commission a nomination report for each proposed property, site or district. For individual landmark designations, the report shall include one or more photographs, the tax lot and block number of the property as designated on the Official Tax Map of the township and a physical description and statement of significance and proposed utilization of the site.

The Township of Montclair Historic Preservation Commission

Edward Lippincott, Chair, Class B Member
Ira Smith, Vice Chair, Class A Member
Susan Brady, Class A Member
Denis Orloff, Class A Member
Jonathan Perlstein, Class A Member
Kathleen McDonough, Class C Member
Frank Rubacky, Alternate #1, Class C Member
Andrew F. Hageman, Alternate #2, Class C Member
Patrick Franco Jr., Commission Secretary

I. Executive Summary

The Township of Montclair Historic Preservation Commission was created by ordinance in June of 1994. The Historic Preservation Commission is charged with accomplishing the protection, enhancement and perpetuation of especially noteworthy examples or elements of the township's environment in order to:

- (1) Safeguard the heritage of Montclair by preserving resources which reflect elements of its cultural, social, and architectural history
- (2) Encourage the continued use of historic and/or noteworthy buildings or structures
- (3) Foster civic pride in the history and architecture of the Township
- (4) Promote the economic welfare of the township through the preservation of historic sites and landscapes
- (5) Enhance the visual and aesthetic character, diversity continuity and interest in the township and its neighborhoods
- (6) Discourage the unnecessary demolition or other destruction of historic resources
- (7) Encourage beautification and private investment in the township
- (8) Promote the economic welfare of the township through the preservation of its historic sites and landscapes

As per Montclair Code Section 347-135A, criteria for designation, "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) Are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- (2) Are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- (3) 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 and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.
- (4) Have yielded or may be likely to yield information important to prehistory or history.
- (5) Are otherwise of particular historic significance to the Township of Montclair by reflecting or exemplifying the broad cultural, political, economic or social history of the nation, state, region or community."

II. History of the Site

An early house with a cornerstone dating back to 1732 once stood on this site which was part of the original land grant to Azariah Crane. Nathaniel Crane Jr, descendant of Azariah Crane added an addition to the structure in 1818. This part of the building was moved to become the Country Store Museum for the Crane House – 110 Orange Road owned by the Montclair Historical Society.

The Clark House was named for Dr. James Henry Clark, an Army surgeon during the Civil War, a Montclair resident, and a descendant of the signers of the Mayflower Compact and the Declaration of Independence. The Clark House was built in 1894 by Dr. Clark's son, Dr. James Henry Clark, Jr. Descendants of the family occupied the home until 1962, 99 years after Dr. Clark came to Montclair.

III. Physical Description

Built in 1894, the Queen Ann Style residential home remains in good physical condition. The 2 ½ story structure has a fieldstone foundation and is finished with clapboard and shingles. The porch with turned columns and open balustrade runs full length of the front façade. A two-story turret with a conical roof defines the south corner of the house.

IV. Statement of Significance

The house is representative of late 19th century Queen Ann style residential architecture in Montclair. The Clark House with its strong and clearly defined architectural details has many links to the history of the community.

V. Proposed Utilization

Clark House was acquired by the Montclair Historical Society in 1985 for its historic importance, its location immediately next door to Crane House Museum, and for greatly needed space. While the Crane House Museum serves as an exhibition center, Clark House serves as the Society's educational, research, and administrative complex, including the Albert Payson Terhune Library.

VI. Bibliography

1. Miller, D.L., Map of the Town of Montclair, Philadelphia: D.L. Miller & Co. 1901

APENDIX A: Photographs

108 Orange Road
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The above photographs were taken from the Montclair Historical Society and Montclair Public Library Website's.

