

109 Alexander Avenue

NOMINATION REPORT



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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."

As property owner of the early 19th century farmhouse located at 109 Alexander Avenue, we believe the designation of this property in particular meets the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 5th criteria stated above.

II. History of the Site

The house was built by John Sigler in 1813 for his son John, who married Matilda, the daughter of Garrott Speer. The Sigler's were among the early Dutch settlers of Upper Montclair and among the most influential owners in Speertown. In 1881, George Da Cunha bought John Sigler's 64 acre farm for \$15,000.



III. Physical Description

The two story farmhouse was built in 1813 and is sited close to the road on the south-west corner of the approximately 20,500 square foot lot. There also was a barn, from the same period, sited at the center of the north property line that was removed in 1982.

The early 19th century farmhouse is finished in wide clapboard with a brownstone foundation. The asphalt finished gabled roof is decorated with an exterior end chimney on the west wall and an interior center chimney on the east wing. The fenestration is comprised of seven bays of double hung sash windows with shutters. A paneled door with an overhead transom and side lights are located in bay three below an open elaborate gabled porch with classical columns and cornice. A shed roof above the second floor windows runs into the main west gable roof. Recessed back, a five-bay wing projects to the east with identical shuttered sash on the second floor and a glazed in porch cutting across the first two bays in front. A one story wing, built in 1948, extends two bays on the north elevation and an enclosed second floor porch on the north-west corner. There have been numerous alterations to the early farmhouse over the years; however, the farmhouse remains in excellent physical condition.



IV. Statement of Significance

The early 19th century farmhouse is one of the best preserved earlier farm houses in the neighborhood. The well preserved house and property are important examples of the rural roots of the area. The property was recorded in the New Jersey Historic Register on September 29, 1986.

V. Proposed Utilization

The property at 109 Alexander Avenue was built for use as a single family residence, and is currently located in the R-1 One Family Zone. The proposed utilization of the house as a single family residence would allow for the site to retain its historic character.

VI. Bibliography

1. Sidney, J.C. *Map of Essex County*. Newark: Hiram A. Beldingm 1850.
2. Price, Eleanor. "Individual Structure Survey: Site #0713065." Preservation Montclair. 27 Feb. 1981.