
HILLSIDE'S LANDMARKS



When the new municipal center opens shortly it will take its place beside Hillside's many and varied landmarks.

It will provide adequate air-conditioned facilities for the Police Department, Municipal Court and municipal offices and combine boards and offices and many locations for the first time in the township's history.

The largest mass move will be from the present municipal building used temporarily for 32 years. Included will be the Police Department, Township Clerk, Township Treasurer and Tax Collector.

The Planning Board and Civilian Defense Council, located in the barn loft at the rear of the present building, also will move to the new structure, while the Board of Health will transfer from a rented store at 1282 N. Broad St.

Rooms in the Hillside Ave. School will be vacated by the Hillside Public Library and the Welfare Department. The library as a result will be on the first floor level for the first time in its 35-year history and will have quarters designed for its purposes.

The Board of Recreation Commissioners will leave offices in the Mayfair Theater Building. A baby-keep-well station operated at the George Washington School will be relocated in the new structure.

The Board of Tax Assessors office in the Masonic Building for many years will join other municipal offices.

The building and plumbing departments presently located in the new municipal maintenance garage will move across the street to offices of their own and for the first time, too, there will be an office provided for the township engineer in the township.

LOCAL LANDMARKS . . .

Oldest of Hillside's landmarks is the Salem Dam erected during the Revolution and replaced at least twice. The section is now being improved as a portion of Liberty Ave. area of the Elizabeth River Parkway by the Union County Park Commission.

Unique is the office shaped like a church erected in 1871 by George McGhee opposite the gate to Evergreen Cemetery on property previously owned by Senator Wiley. It was sold to the Evergreen Monument Co. about 1927 and continues in N. Broad St. at Coe Ave. in the same capacity today.

The Earl farm in Conant St. continues today as the township's only farm. Famed since the 1870s, the farm once boasted a tomato canning factory which employed 30 women and put up 30,000 three-pound cans of tomatoes in one season.

Another dam at Ursino Lake was erected in 1875 for \$26,000 to serve as a reservoir for the Elizabethtown Water Co. It still halts waters of the Elizabeth River, which are no longer used for drinking purposes.

The Lehigh Valley Railroad Station, today in the shadow of the N. Broad St. bridge, served as a shelter for commuters from Hillside to New York City from 1890 to 1948. Since 1948, the ticket office has been used as headquarters for the freight agent controlling travel on the busy Irvington-branch line.

The frame office of the Daniel Leeds Miller Co., adjacent to the station, remains today much as it was when the first Daniel Leeds Miller organized his coal business in 1896. It once stood across the street, however, and was moved in 1928 to make way for the N. Broad St. bridge.

The Evergreen Cemetery Assn. formed more than 100 years ago erected its office on the site of the old Morris family homestead in 1904.

The present Municipal Building at 1284 N. Broad St. was the showplace home of Raymond Crane when it was erected in 1908. It was acquired for the township in 1923.

The real estate office of the late George Compton at 1439 N. Broad St. opened about 1910 and functioned both as the first office for the township clerk and the Hillside National Bank. David O. Evans, contractor, is present owner of the property.

Another real estate office formed the basis for old Firehouse 2, at 1428 Maple Ave. from 1924 until last June 18, when the company moved to new facilities in Hillside Ave. The structure is being remodeled to house Fire Auxiliary forces.

A memento to rapid progress is the "Bridge-to-Nowhere" in Route 22 between the N. Broad St. bridge and the Newark City-line. Erected by the State Highway Department in 1933 when Route 29 was being constructed to replace an old trolley trestle, it was never used because buses replaced the trolleys.

Tucked away in a three-acre wooded tract in North Ave. bounded by the river, the Pingry School and the township pumping station is the bird sanctuary dedicated as a memorial to the war dead and maintained in a wild state for migratory and year around birds. The sanctuary is operated by members of the Elizabeth Garden Club.