

**BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM**

DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
NEW YORK STATE PARKS AND RECREATION  
ALBANY, NEW YORK (518) 474-0479

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
UNIQUE SITE NO.	_____
QUAD	_____
SERIES	_____
NEG. NO.	_____

AUG 19 1985

YOUR NAME: David G. Barnet DATE: June 11, 1982

YOUR ADDRESS: Memorial Town Hall TELEPHONE: 518-783-2713

ORGANIZATION (if any): Historian's Office, Town of Colonie, Newtonville, NY  
12128

\*\*\*\*\* *Component 1b* \*\*\*\*\*

**IDENTIFICATION**

- 1. BUILDING NAME(S): Menands Manor (Home for Aged Men)
- 2. COUNTY: Albany TOWN/CITY: Colonie VILLAGE: Menands
- 3. STREET LOCATION: 272 Broadway
- 4. OWNERSHIP: a. public  b. private  Women c/o Administrator
- 5. PRESENT OWNER: Home for Aged Men & ADDRESS: 272 Broadway, Menands NY 12204
- 6. USE: Original: residence Present: old age home
- 7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes  No   
Interior accessible: Explain by appointment

**DESCRIPTION**

- 8. BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard  b. stone  c. brick  d. board and batten   
e. cobblestone  f. shingles  g. stucco  other: \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: (if known) a. wood frame with interlocking joints   
b. wood frame with light members   
c. masonry load bearing walls   
d. metal (explain) \_\_\_\_\_  
e. other \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. CONDITION: a. excellent  b. good  c. fair  d. deteriorated
- 11. INTEGRITY: a. original site  b. moved  if so, when? \_\_\_\_\_  
c. list major alterations and dates (if known):

major additions and renovation: 1877  
south addition 1925 (non-contributing)

12. PHOTO: 13. MAP: see con't sheet



14. THREATS TO BUILDING: a. none known  b. zoning  c. roads   
d. developers  e. deterioration   
f. other: \_\_\_\_\_
15. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS AND PROPERTY:  
a. barn  b. carriage house  c. garage  (non-contributing)  
d. privy  e. shed  f. greenhouse   
g. shop  h. gardens   
i. landscape features: \_\_\_\_\_  
j. other: \_\_\_\_\_
16. SURROUNDINGS OF THE BUILDING (check more than one if necessary):  
a. open land  b. woodland   
c. scattered buildings   
d. densely built-up  e. commercial   
f. industrial  g. residential   
h. other: \_\_\_\_\_

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:  
(Indicate if building or structure is in an historic district)

This building is set back from the heavily traveled Route 32 (Broadway) on a wooded lot. It retains its original setting, despite the residential and commercial development surrounding the property. Its original 3.77 acre panel survives intact.

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):

This two and one-half story brick building was designed in the Stick style. The main section of the structure is "U"-shaped. The multi-gabled slate roof has many gable dormers. Two three-story corner towers are situated along the front, and have pyramidal roofs with wrought-iron cresting. (see con't sheet)

- SIGNIFICANCE original house: before 1840  
major renovations and additions: 1877
19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: \_\_\_\_\_
- ARCHITECT: 1877 additions: William M. Woollett  
: James A. Shattuck, mason
- BUILDER: \_\_\_\_\_ : Richard Wickham, carpenter

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:  
see con't sheet

21. SOURCES:

Historic Albany Foundation. Albany Architects: The Present Looks at the Past at the Past (1978).  
Howell, George R. and Jonathan Tenney. History of the County of Albany, N.Y. from 1609 to 1886 New York: W.W. Munsell & Co., 1886.  
Parker, Amasa J. (ed.) Landmarks of Albany County, New York. Syracuse: D. Mason & Co., 1897.  
Annual Report of the Home for Aged Men  
original records of Home for Aged Men  
interview with administrator

Historic Resources of the Town of Colonie, NY  
Albany County, New York  
272 Broadway  
Menands Manor (Home for Aged Men)

18. The gable ends are decorated with exposed timbering and patterned cut-outs. The frieze and the upper part of the gable ends have vertical board siding with a saw-tooth pattern along the bottom. A two-story porch runs along the front and has a one-story extension around each side of the building. The windows have stone sills and lintels. One-story porches with shed roofs extend from the rear wings. The interior retains its original details, such as the woodwork, newels, hardware, and fireplaces.

A two-story brick addition is built to the south of the main structure. This section has a flat roof. The windows have stone sills and lintels. It does not contribute to the significance of the property. The property consists of 3.77 acres. A clapboard garage (ca. 1925) sits to the rear of the building. It does not contribute to the property.

20. The Menands Manor is architecturally significant as a distinctive example of the work of prominent Albany architect, William M. Woollett. Built in 1877, the large, two and one-half story structure incorporates an early nineteenth century farmhouse. Woollett's design embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Stick Style in its asymmetrical plan, complex elevations and conspicuous use of materials and finely crafted details. The manor is further distinguished as the work of Albany builder Richard Wickham, known throughout New York State in the late nineteenth century for his carpentry and building skills.

William M. Woollett was one of three generations of his family to practice architecture in Albany in the mid to late nineteenth century. After attending Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Woollett studied at Massachusetts Institute of Technology where he was awarded high honors upon graduation in 1870. He returned to Albany to join his father's (William L. Woollett, 1815-1874) architectural practice and assumed charge of the office upon his father's death. Despite his short career (1870-1880), Woollett attracted national attention through the publication of his designs in two influential books; Villas and Cottages or Homes for All (1876) and Old Homes Made New (1878). The latter publication demonstrates Woollett's interest in updating old structures in popular Victorian styles, as he did at Menands Manor. A number of his designs for townhouses, store-fronts and villas, including the plan for the Bacon-Stickney House (included within the Town of Colonie Multiple Resource Area), were published in A.J. Bicknell's Wooden and Brick Buildings with Details. Two of Woollett's designs for homes in Albany's Washington Park Neighborhood were published in American Architect and Building News in 1879. Although he probably designed a number of houses in Albany, especially in the rapidly expanding Washington Park area, the only surviving documented building in the city by Woollett is the Benjamin Wooster House (Washington Park Historic District, NR listed, June 1972).

The Menands Manor is a rare documented example of Woollett's work and one which displays his architectural skills and fascination with detail. To the existing central hall Federal style structure, Woollett

Historic Resources of the Town of Colonie  
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Menands Manor (Home for Aged Men)

20. (continued)

added two, three-story corner towers, a slate-covered hip roof with dormers, central cross-gables, and two-story porch. In addition, Woollett embellished the manor with Stick Style details including decorative bargeboard trim, exposed framing, and an elaborate porch frieze.

The Menands Manor also reflects the building expertise of Richard Wickham, regarded in the late nineteenth century as the most successful builder in upstate New York. Born in Ireland in 1833, Wickham emigrated to the United States in 1850 and served as an apprentice for four years to the architectural firm of Crab and Doig in Rome, New York. By 1860, Wickham was listed in the Albany directories as a builder. He maintained a factory shop on Broadway, where he manufactured everything from framing to cabinetry. Wickham was also accomplished in gilding, upholstery and carving. Wickham constructed numerous major residences in Albany including the T. Roessle Residence on Central Avenue (demolished) and the J.K. Emmett Residence on Northern Boulevard (demolished). In Colonie, he built two residences now included within the Loudon Road Historic District (NR listed Oct. 1979): the Dr. Bridgeman House and the G.W. Stedman Residence. In addition, Wickham built structures in Hudson, Catskill, Tivoli, Saugerties, Rhinebeck, Poughkeepsie, and Schenectady, New York. Many of his works have been listed on the National Register including the General Batchellor Residence in Saratoga (June, 1972), the James Mix House in Kinderhook (July, 1974), the Henry Ward Beecher Residence in Peekskill (proposed), and the C.H. Evans Home in Hudson (November, 1974). Regarded as a superior builder, Wickham was in great demand and reputedly traveled over 25,000 miles a year to visit various sites. In addition to his work in New York State, he constructed buildings in Chicago, Connecticut, and Massachusetts. Wickham is also credited with inventing "traveling buggy derricks," which were used to haul the stone for the Cohoes Dam and the State Capitol. The derricks greatly hastened the construction process.

For eight years, Wickham worked exclusively for Alexander T. Stewart, the New York City department store magnate and self-made millionaire. A large real estate owner, Stewart was responsible for the suburban development of Garden City, Long Island from 1869 to 1876. While working for Stewart, Wickham built the wings of his Grand Union Hotel in Saratoga (demolished in 1952), the Park Avenue Hotel (1878), NYC, which was originally intended by Stewart to be a home for working women (demolished), and the Clarendon Hotel in New York City (demolished). Wickham also built the palatial mansion on West 34th Street for Judge Hilton, a close friend and confidant of Stewart.

The earliest portion of Menands Manor was built before 1840 for Joseph Strain, a soap manufacturer in the city of Albany. The structure retains such characteristic features of Federal period architecture as its five-bay, central hall plan, large Palladian window, and ornate Adamesque fireplace mantel. In 1877, a group of Albany philanthropists formed the Home for Aged Men and hired William Woollett to convert the structure for its new use.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Colonie Town MRA  
State Albany County, NEW YORK

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

11. Hedge Lawn

Entered in the  
National Register

f Keeper Delores Byers 10/3/85

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

12. Henry-Remsen House

Entered in the  
National Register

f Keeper Delores Byers 10/3/85

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

13. Hills, Ebenezer, Jr.,  
Farmhouse

Entered in the  
National Register

f Keeper Delores Byers 10/3/85

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

14. Humphrey, Friend, House

Entered in the  
National Register

f Keeper Delores Byers 10/3/85

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

15. Kemp, John Wolf, House

Entered in the  
National Register

f Keeper Delores Byers 10/3/85

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

16. Lansing, John V.A., Farmhouse  
& Billsen Cemetery &  
Archeological Site

Entered in the  
National Register

f Keeper Delores Byers 10/3/85

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

17. Lawton, George H., House

Entered in the  
National Register

f Keeper Delores Byers 10/3/85

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

18. Menand, Louis, House

Entered in the  
National Register

f Keeper Delores Byers 10/3/85

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

19. Menands Manor

Entered in the  
National Register

f Keeper Delores Byers 10/3/85

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

20. Pruyn, Casparus F., House

Entered in the  
National Register

f Keeper Delores Byers 10/3/85

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REF #  
85002743

Menands Manor (Colonie Town MRA)  
Albany County  
NEW YORK

Working No. AUG 19 1985  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87  
Date Due: 9/19/85 - 10/3/85  
Action:  ACCEPT 10-3-85  
 RETURN  
 REJECT  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Entered in the  
National Register

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria \_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_  
Discipline \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: \_\_\_\_\_ technical corrections cited below  
\_\_\_\_\_ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use
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4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

7. Description

Condition

- excellent
- good
- fair
- deteriorated
- ruins
- unexposed

Check one

- unaltered
- altered

Check one

- original site
- moved date \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

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**8. Significance**

Period \_\_\_\_\_ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates \_\_\_\_\_ Builder/Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification**

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_\_\_ national \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

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**13. Other**

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Historic Resources of the Town of Colonie  
Albany County, New York  
272 Broadway  
Menands Manor (Home for the Aged)

Rear elevation



North elevation



Historic Resources of the Town of Colonie, NY  
Albany County, New York

272 Broadway

Menands Manor (Home for Aged Men)

Elevation of rear



MAY • 82

Detail of dormer  
windows



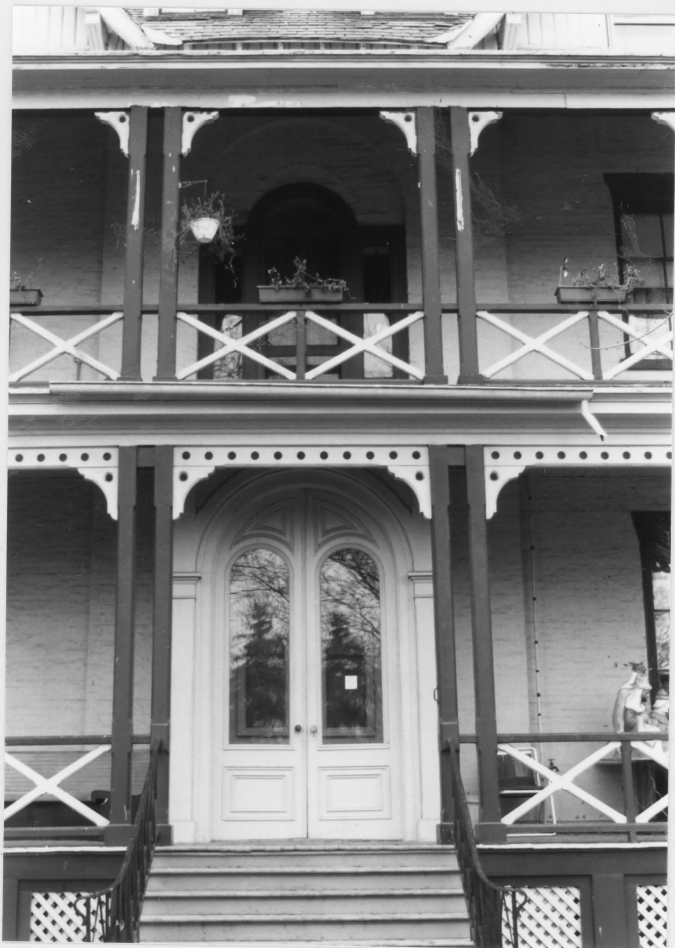
MAY • 82

Historic Resources of the Town of Colonie  
Albany County, New York  
272 Broadway  
Menands Manor (Home for Aged Men)

Detail, south elevation



Detail, front porch and entrance



Historic Resources of the Town of Colonie, NY  
Albany County, New York  
272 Broadway  
Menands Manor (Home for Aged Men)

Roof detail



Fireplace in second  
floor apartment



Historic Resources of the Town of Colonie, NY  
Albany County, New York  
272 Broadway  
Menands Manor (Home for Aged Men)

Newel post on  
first floor

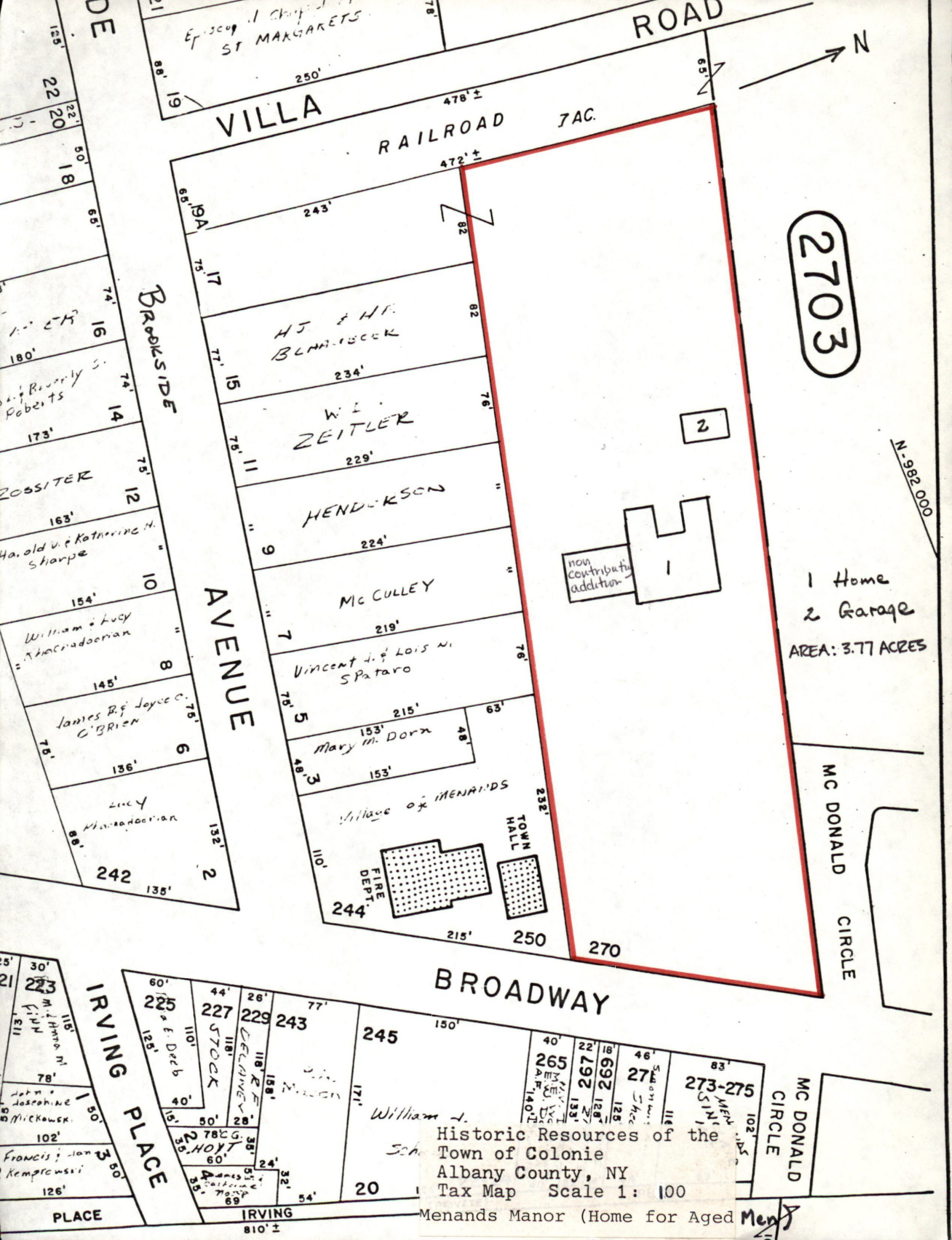


• MAY 2 •

Garage

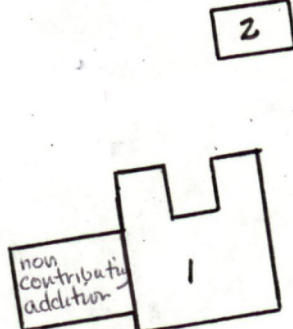


JUL 2



2703

1 Home  
2 Garage  
AREA: 3.77 ACRES



BROADWAY

MC DONALD CIRCLE

MC DONALD CIRCLE

Historic Resources of the  
Town of Colonie  
Albany County, NY  
Tax Map Scale 1: 100

Menands Manor (Home for Aged Men)

Episcopy of St. Margaret's

VILLA RAILROAD ROAD

BROOKSIDE AVENUE

AVENUE

IRVING PLACE

IRVING PLACE

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Historic Resources of the  
 Town of Colonie  
 Albany County, NY  
 U.S.G.S. Map Zone 18  
 Scale 1:24000  
 Troy South Quadrangle

Menands Manor (Home for Aged Men)

18/604420/4727300

RECEIVED  
JUL 14 1983  
COMMISSIONER

July 11, 1983

Colonic  
MKA

Sec  
Navel  
Dr.

affid  
avum

Orin Lehman  
State Historic Preservation Office  
Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau  
Agency Bldg. / I Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza  
Albany, New York 12238

Mr. Lehman,  
Upon receiving your letter of July 6, 1983 We wish to inform you  
and the Committee on the Registers of the New York State and National  
Board for Historic places, that we do not want the Schairer Dutch Barn  
listed in the National Register.  
Kindly make this known also to the Committee.

Thank You

Earl R. DeForge  
EARL R. DeFORGE

Gertrude E. DeForge  
GERTRUDE E. DeFORGE

State of New York  
County of Albany  
Subscribed before me this  
13th day of July 1983

Bruce J. Shore  
NOTARY PUBLIC

**BRUCE J. SHORE**  
Notary Public in the State of New York  
Residing in Albany County  
My Commission Expires March 30, 1984