

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**historic name Carver Centerother names/site number Sunlight Elks Lodge, I.P.B.O.E.**2. Location**street & number 40 Fowler Street ☐ not for publicationcity or town City of Trenton ☐ vicinitystate New Jersey code NJ County Mercer zip code 08618**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☐ locally. ☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

**Deputy SHPO Assistant Commissioner for Natural & Historic Resources**

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

☐ entered in the National Register.  
☐ See continuation sheet.☐ determined eligible for the  
National Register.  
☐ See continuation sheet.☐ determined not eligible for the  
National Register.☐ removed from the National  
Register.☐ other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

Carver Center  
Name of Property

Mercer County, NJ  
County and State

## 5. Classification

### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ private  
☒ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

### Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)  
☐ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

### Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	sites
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	structures
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

### Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

### Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

## 6. Function or Use

### Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Social: meeting hall

Social: civic

### Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Vacant

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS:

Colonial Revival

### Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls BRICK

roof ASPHALT

other OTHER: Cast stone

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Carver Center  
Name of Property

Mercer County, NJ  
County and State

## 8 Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria considerations

(mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☒ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on continuation sheets.)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Bibliography

(cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on continuation sheets.)

### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey  
# \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering  
Record # \_\_\_\_\_

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Ethnic Heritage: Black

### Period of Significance

1922-1975

### Significant Dates

1922

1928

1943

### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

### Cultural Affiliation

### Architect/Builder

Hunt, J. Osborne, architect

James H. Morris Company, contractor

Thomas M. Day & Sons, contractor

### Primary location of additional data

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

**Mercer County, NJ**  
County and State

**Acreage of property** 0.25

(Note to Preparers: NJ HPO will complete this portion of the Registration Form for all Preparers, based on the coordinates derived from the Site Map or District Map that HPO produces.)

- |    |      |           |       |            |
|----|------|-----------|-------|------------|
| 1. | Lat. | 40.999995 | Long. | -74.999995 |
| 2. | Lat. | 40.999995 | Long. | -74.999995 |
| 3. | Lat. | 40.999995 | Long. | -74.999995 |
| 4. | Lat. | 40.999995 | Long. | -74.999995 |
| 5. | Lat. | 40.999995 | Long. | -74.999995 |

### Verbal Boundary Description

## Boundary Justification Statement

(Explain, on the section sheet following the Verbal Boundary Description, how the chosen boundaries meet the requirements for boundary selection and are the most appropriate boundaries for the nominated property or district.)

name/title	Jennifer B. Leynes (2016) and Sally Lane (2021)
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organization \_\_\_\_\_ date 3/30/2021

street & number 928 Bellevue Avenue telephone 609-203-1606

city or town Trenton state NJ zip code 08618

(Submit the additional items with the completed form that are outlined in the "Standard Order of Presentation" that NJ HPO provides. Each page must contain the name of the nominated property or district, and the State and the county in which the property or district is located. Consult with NJ HPO if you have questions.)

(Either provide the name and address of the property owner here or provide the information separately to NJ HPO. Check with NJ HPO for other requirements. All owners' names and addresses must be provided, including public and non-profit owners, but their presence on the form, itself, is not required).

name	City of Trenton
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**street & number**    319 East State Street                      **telephone**        609-989-3635

city or town	Trenton	state	NJ	zip code	08608
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**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties and to amend existing listings. The proper completion of this form and the related requirements is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Direct questions regarding the proper completion of this form or questions about related matters to the Registration Section, New Jersey Historic Preservation Office, Mail code 501-04B, PO Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420.

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# National Register of Historic Places

## Continuation Sheet

Carver Center  
Mercer County, New JerseySection number 7 Page 1

### SECTION 7: DESCRIPTION

The Carver Center is a two-story, Colonial Revival-style brick building constructed in two phases. The main block, which was built as the Sunlight Elks Lodge in 1927-1928, faces west onto Fowler Street. It has an L-shape footprint, wrapping around the gable front auditorium, which was constructed five years earlier, in 1922-1923. The main block has a stately, symmetrical seven-bay façade with central entry featuring paired doors beneath a large semicircular fanlight (Photos #1, 2). A doorway with marquee on the north elevation provided access to the auditorium (Photo #3), which is obscured from view from Fowler Street. The Carver Center is located in an urban neighborhood historically associated with Trenton's African-American population and is surrounded primarily by mid- to late nineteenth-century brick rowhouses. Two historic nineteenth-century Black public schools, the Higbee Street School and the Bellevue Avenue Colored School, are located nearby on Bellevue Avenue; both are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

#### Narrative Description

##### *Exterior, Lodge Building*

The main block of the Carver Center, comprised of the former Elks Lodge building, has a seven-bay brick façade laid in Flemish bond accented by a narrow brick beltcourse between the first and second floors and a stepped water table. A brick parapet rises behind a cast stone cornice with modillions, hiding the flat roof. The west-facing front façade features 6/6 double-hung wood sash windows with cast stone sills. The central entry features a semi-circular, leaded glass fanlight set within a paneled recess (Photo #4). Historic photos indicate that the original configuration featured paired, 3-panel wood doors flanked by pilasters and narrow sidelights with tracery. This arrangement was altered in the second half of the twentieth century by the replacement of the doors and sidelights with paired steel doors with two narrow vertical lights set behind storm doors with decorative steel ornament. Two concrete steps with wrought iron railings lead to the entrance; they were built to replace the original splayed stoop with wrought iron railing in the late twentieth century. The building has a full basement, which is accessible at the north end of the front façade by concrete stairs leading down to an exterior basement door flanked by windows covered with iron bars. The basement entry is enclosed by an original wrought iron railing and covered with chain link fencing. A date stone on the north end of the façade reads "1927."

The north end of the main block features a rectangular marquee over the side entrance, which provides access to the ticket office and auditorium (Photo #3). The doorway originally contained paired doors of unknown style set beneath a fanlight with central muntin; the doorway was partially enclosed at an unknown date and now contains a single, solid metal door. Window types on the north elevation include an original 6/6 window on the first floor, a replacement 1/1 window on the second floor, and a smaller, original 8/8 window above the marquee. An exterior brick chimney lies east of the entrance.

The south elevation fronts a narrow alley (Photo #5). A shouldered exterior brick chimney is located near the front of the elevation. Iron security bars have been installed over the first floor windows, which contain original 6/6 double-hung wood sash. The visible portion of the rear of the main block is two bays wide and also has 6/6 wood sash windows (Photo #6). A metal fire escape provides emergency egress from the second floor.

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## Continuation Sheet

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### *Exterior, Auditorium*

The auditorium is not visible from Fowler Street; its west elevation and the western end of the south elevation abut the main block. The gable-front building has a brick exterior (Photo #7). The north elevation fronts a narrow alley and features paired 6/6 double-hung sash windows set under brick relieving arches. Two doorways are located at either end of the auditorium; the openings are topped by multi-light transoms and contain paired steel replacement doors installed in the late twentieth century. The south elevation has similar window and door fenestration, with only one set of exterior doors, located near the building's east end. The original small, one-story brick storage room appended to the east end of the south elevation was replaced c.2005 with a somewhat larger, one-story, concrete block addition. The addition has a shed roof, stucco exterior, and no windows. The rear elevation of the auditorium has no window or door openings.

### *First Floor Interior*

The central entrance to the main block opens into an entry vestibule, where a flight of four marble steps with terrazzo stringers rise to a pair of 12-light wood doors set beneath an entablature with medallion and swag detail (Photo #8). The vestibule features crown molding and a chair rail above fielded panels; paired 6-light casement windows are located above the chair rail on the vestibule's north wall, beneath an entablature matching that above the door. The vestibule floor is finished with 2-inch by 1-inch red Flemish tile manufactured by the Mueller Mosaic Company of Trenton, featuring 2-inch by 2-inch polychrome mosaic inserts (Photo #9).

The main lobby lies beyond the vestibule and features a stairway with wrought iron railing extending both up to the second floor and down to the basement (Photo #10). The lobby terminates on the south end at the main meeting room and forms an L-shape at the north end, wrapping around the ticket office located beneath the stairs and connecting at its east end to the auditorium through an arched opening. Office spaces are located along the west and north sides of the lobby. The office entrances have simple wood surrounds, but the doorways into the vestibule, main meeting room, and ticket office are surmounted by entablatures with a medallion and swag detail. The doorway into the main meeting room likely contained paired doors originally but was partially infilled in the late twentieth century. It now contains a central, hollow-core replacement door, as do most of the interior doorways. A six-panel wood door remains at the ticket office. The walls feature a chair rail above fielded panels except outside the ticket booth, where a square tile wainscot was installed in the mid-twentieth century. A bronze plaque of George Washington Carver hangs on the wall at the stair landing.

The lobby floor is finished with 2-inch by 1-inch red Flemish tile manufactured by the Mueller Mosaic Company. The remaining first floor spaces were covered with carpet in the mid- to late twentieth century; it is unknown whether original materials remain underneath.

The meeting space at the south end of the lobby is highly ornamented and features pilasters supporting boxed beams, cornice, and fielded panels (Photo #11). A brick fireplace on the south wall has an elaborate Colonial Revival surround with paired marble colonettes. The entablature has a central marble panel with an applied lamp motif, and the mantel is marble. The fireplace is framed by marble panels on either side. Doorways in the room have entablatures with medallion and swag details. French doors at the east end of the room open into a smaller meeting room with similar finishes.

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The door on the north side of the building, beneath the marquee, opens into a hall with a ramped floor finished in Mueller tile. The hall is divided by a partition wall that was installed when the exterior doorway was partially enclosed in the late twentieth century. A storage room is located on the west side of the hall, and a solid replacement door at the south end opens into the lobby opposite the ticket office. The ticket window has a sill supported on corbels and is surrounded by wood molding; a decorative wrought iron grille covers the opening.

The auditorium comprises a large open space with arched ceiling and maple floors (Photo #12). Narrow balconies cantilever from the walls on either side of the room; lattice screens have been installed along their length. The balcony at the room's west end is supported on two square columns. A kitchen is located beneath the balcony on the north, and a stairway is located behind a door on the south. The east end of the auditorium is painted brick with no window or door openings.

### *Second Floor Interior*

The second floor of the Lodge Building has a similar layout to the first floor. The stairs lead to a small hallway with doors at each end. The doors have been partially enclosed in the same manner as the first floor meeting room and contain late twentieth-century replacement hollow core doors. The room above the main meeting room was subdivided in the mid- to late twentieth century to create an office in the front; the room at the rear has movable partitions to expand the meeting space as needed. The space above the office suite also serves as a small gathering space with an attached kitchen. The second floor of the auditorium contains a women's lounge area and bathroom with modern finishes and an unfinished storage area.

### *Basement Interior*

The basement of the Lodge Building contains a recreation room that extends beneath the main meeting room and features a wide brick fireplace with wood mantel. A men's toilet and shower room is located off of the recreation room. A barber shop was formerly located in the basement's northwest corner, accessible from the street by the exterior stair. At the center of the building's west side is a room with a large window on the hall side, possibly indicating the location of the former grill room. The northeast corner is occupied by the furnace room.

### *Setting*

The Carver Center faces west onto Fowler Street, its façade abutting the concrete sidewalk. Narrow alleys on both sides separate the building from the neighboring development. A wrought iron gate encloses the south alley, which is flanked by a single brick rowhouse. On the north, the property is bordered by a vacant lot. Chain-link fencing surrounds the building on the sides and rear.

### **Integrity**

The integrity of location, design, workmanship, feeling and association of the Carver Center remains high, and the integrity of setting and materials is moderate to high. Alterations to the building's exterior have been minimal and consist primarily of the replacement doors and stoop; a small number of replacement windows; and installation of security bars over the first floor windows. Of these changes, only the replacement doors and stoop are on the front façade. The setting has been altered by the demolition of neighboring buildings on Fowler

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Street; however, this change has not diminished the character-defining features of the Carver Center, which include its symmetrical brick façade, regular fenestration, and rear auditorium.



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### SECTION 8: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Carver Center served as the primary gathering place for Trenton's African-American community from its construction in 1922 into the late twentieth century. The building was constructed by the Sunlight Elks Lodge, a Black fraternal organization, at the high point of the Great Migration, when thousands of Southern Black men, women and children relocated to Trenton in search of employment and opportunity. Its site at the heart of the vibrant Spring Street neighborhood was proximate to the City's Black businesses and the homes of its professional class. The Carver Center served as a meeting place for community organizations and hosted a wide range of programs and events. It was also a recreational and entertainment center, the scene of USO dances during World War II and of games and concerts throughout its history. As the only gathering place exclusively for Black residents outside of churches, the Carver Center holds a special place in the City's history. It has a high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. For its associations as a center of Trenton's African-American community, the property meets National Register Criterion A with local significance in the area of Ethnic Heritage: Black. Its period of significance begins in 1922, with the construction of the auditorium, and ends in 1975 with the closure of the YMCA. Although the period of significance ends less than 50 years ago, the Carver Center meets Criteria Consideration G because its importance to Trenton's Black community continued throughout its period of use as a YMCA.

#### Criterion A: Ethnic Heritage: Black

##### *Origins and Growth of the African-American Population<sup>1</sup>*

Trenton's first Black residents were almost certainly slaves of settlers. The most prominent early settlers at the falls of the Delaware, Mahlon Stacy and William Trent, both counted slaves among their possessions at the time of their deaths in 1704 and 1724, respectively. By 1810, the first year that the United States Census recorded race, Trenton's Black residents numbered 435, a number that remained fairly constant, fluctuating between around 400 and 600, until mid-century; however, as a percentage of the total population, it dropped dramatically, from 14.5% in 1810 to less than 4% in 1850. Trenton's Black population had grown to 2,581 by 1910 but reached its nadir as a percentage of the total population, at 2.7%. a decline precipitated both by the immigration of workers from Europe drawn to employment in the City's many factories, and by the annexation of predominantly white neighboring boroughs, including South Trenton in 1851 and Millham and Chambersburg in 1881.

By 1920, however, this trend would be reversed, as Trenton became a destination for Blacks looking for employment and opportunity as part of the Great Migration from the South to the industrial centers of the Northeast and Midwest. The City's Black population increased from about 2,500 to more than 4,300 between 1910 and 1920. In the next decade it nearly doubled, with more than 8,000 African-American residents enumerated in 1930. After a period of modest growth during the Great Depression (1929-1939), the City's Black population exploded to nearly 14,500 by 1950 and more than 25,600 by 1960. Its size as a percentage of the total population also grew markedly, from 3.6% in 1920 to 11.3% in 1950, and to 22.5% in 1960.

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<sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise indicated, the background context for Trenton's Black history is drawn from *Three Centuries of African-American History in Trenton: Significant People and Places* (Leynes 2015).

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### *Black Neighborhoods and Institutions in Trenton*

Throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Trenton's Black residents were scattered in small neighborhoods around the City rather than concentrated in a single area. One of the earliest neighborhoods was located north of the City's commercial center at Greene (later Broad) and State Streets, in the vicinity of Montgomery Street (see Figure 1). This neighborhood was home to the first two African-American churches in Trenton – Mount Zion African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church, founded in 1818, and St. Paul A.M.E. Church, founded in 1840. The City's first public school for Black children, established in 1832, was also located nearby, in an existing building on Hanover Street.

By the mid-nineteenth century, however, Black residents began settling in a newly-established neighborhood north of the New Jersey State House, in an area roughly bounded by Bellevue Avenue on the north, Willow Street on the east, Summer Street on the south, and Calhoun Street on the west (see Figure 1). The neighborhood was bisected in an east-west direction by the Belvidere-Delaware Railroad, which opened in 1851 from Trenton to Lambertville. In 1855, the City constructed its first school building for African-American children on Higbee Street;<sup>2</sup> three decades later, a larger school building was erected nearby to accommodate the growing student population. Both the Higbee Street School and the later Bellevue Avenue School are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The neighborhood was also the location of the new Black churches founded in the late nineteenth century. Union Baptist Church, established in 1887, and Shiloh Baptist, founded in 1896, both built their first edifices on Belvidere Street.

The arrival of Southern Blacks in Trenton during the first half of the twentieth century resulted in the expansion of African-American neighborhoods and institutions throughout the City. In the Bellevue Avenue neighborhood, this expansion led to the extension of the community southward, onto Spring Street. Census records indicate that in 1920, only one family on Spring Street identified as non-white, but by 1930 the residents were predominantly identified as "colored" or "mulatto." Featuring a higher quality building stock than the neighboring streets, Spring Street attracted many Black professional residents; teachers, lawyers, doctors, and dentists all made their homes on Spring Street. It also became the center for Black-owned businesses from the 1930s into the 1950s. *The Negro Motorist Green Book*, a publication that assisted African-American travelers to find accommodations during the era of segregation, included among its listings a number of tourist homes, restaurants, beauty parlors, and barber shops on Spring Street.

### *Sunlight Elks Lodge*

A number of fraternal organizations were established by the Black community in Trenton during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries to provide opportunities for social and civic engagement. The earliest of these was the Eclectic Club, a social organization founded in 1877 with rooms in the upper floors of a commercial building downtown, on North Broad Street. Around the same time, Trenton's first Black Masonic organization – the Prince Hall Lodge – was founded; the location of its first meeting space is unknown, though in 1928 the statewide organization built a temple on Pennington Avenue.

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<sup>2</sup> Higbee Street between Willow and Calhoun Streets was laid out around 1850. After 1860, Bellevue Avenue was built as an extension of Higbee Street from Calhoun to the city boundary. Around 1880, Higbee Street was renamed Bellevue Avenue.

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In 1907, a group of African-American men in Trenton founded a local lodge of the Improved Benevolent Protective Order of Elks (IBPOE). The IBPOE originated in Cincinnati in 1898, when Blacks denied membership to the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks (BPOE) determined to form a separate fraternal organization open to all races (McLaren 2013:231). Nearly 20 years later, Trenton residents Philip Rosell, Albert Scott, Norwood Cale, William Collins, Howard Bundy, and John H. Higgins incorporated the Sunlight Elks Lodge, IPBOE, with offices in the rooms of the Eclectic Club, one of the city's oldest Black social organizations, at 6 North Broad Street.

The Lodge's stated purpose was "to create and encourage brotherly love, charity and fidelity among its members and the world at large for fraternal and benevolent purposes" (Trenton Evening Times, Trenton, New Jersey [TET] 12 July 1907). Fraternal organizations like the IBPOE played an important role in Black communities, providing social and professional networking opportunities for members as well as charitable and educational programs for the community at large (Mjagkij 2013:vi). The Elks also "actively promoted racial uplift...fought to eradicate African American illiteracy, challenged segregation, and advocated integration, political rights, and equal economic opportunities" (McLaren 2013:231).

The incorporation of the Sunlight Lodge was met immediately with resistance from the Trenton Lodge of the BPOE, which objected to the similarity of the new organization's name to that of their exclusively white group. In doing so, they followed the lead of the national BPOE, which encouraged its members to fight the incorporation of IPBOE chapters at the local level. Ultimately, the New Jersey Attorney General determined that "inasmuch as there was no other Sunlight Lodge, the name Improved Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks was not an infringement on the previously incorporated order" (TET 7 Oct 1907:1).

With its identity secured, the Sunlight Lodge met at various locations around the city during its first few years of existence, including the old Naval Reserve Hall on East Hanover Street and rooms at 218 North Willow Street and 6 Belvidere Street (TET 3 February 1924). In 1915, the Lodge purchased an existing house at 44 Fowler Street to serve as its headquarters (TET 4 July 1915:28). Newspaper notices indicate that the house had served as a meeting place for at least two years prior to the purchase (TET 7 June 1913). The selection of the site on Fowler Street placed the lodge within the growing Bellevue Avenue neighborhood. In 1916, the Lodge reported a membership of 75, and membership continued to increase in the years that followed (TET 9 June 1916:18; TET 6 June 1919). In June 1919, the organization held a mortgage burning ceremony for the property, which was reportedly valued at \$5,000 (TET 6 June 1919:20).

### *Construction of the Sunlight Elks Auditorium, 1922-1923*

In July 1922, the Sunlight Elks announced plans for a new clubhouse, which was to serve as "a community center...for the colored people of Trenton" (TET 23 July 1922:30). The group hired J. Osborne Hunt, a Trenton architect, to design the new building, which was to be connected to the existing structure on Fowler Street but arranged so that "at some future time the present front buildings can be removed and the club house portion built to the new wing" (TET 23 July 1922:30).

It is unknown why the Elks selected Hunt (1885-1935), who was white, to design the auditorium and, later, the clubhouse. However, as research to date has not identified any Black architects working in Trenton in the early twentieth century, it seems likely that they chose Hunt because he was one of Trenton's most prominent

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architects of the period. A Mercer County native, Hunt worked as a carpenter as a young man before enrolling in Trenton's School of Industrial Arts, where he earned a degree in architectural drafting and building construction in 1908 (TET 7 June 1908). After working as a draftsman for about five years, Hunt opened an office in Trenton in 1913. His career spanned 23 years, during which time he designed the State House Annex with Jersey City architect Colonel Hugh A. Kelly, as well as the Stacy-Trent Hotel, the Y.W.C.A., and the Trenton fire headquarters on Perry Street (TET 24 March 1935). His residential commissions included houses in the city's most prominent neighborhoods of the era, Cadwalader Heights and Berkeley Square; he resided in the latter neighborhood for many years. Hunt joined the New Jersey Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) in 1925 (AIA n.d.).

Hunt's plans for the Elks' facility featured an auditorium and dance hall with a maple floor, large enough to accommodate a basketball court with spectator seating. Other facilities included bathrooms and showers finished with tile and marble, as well as a kitchen and "grille room" (TET 23 July 1922). A building permit was issued in April 1923, with the James H. Morris Company of Trenton as contractor (TET 15 April 1923).

The new brick and frame auditorium was reportedly built at a cost of \$30,000 (TET 3 February 1924). Dedication ceremonies were held on November 22, 1923. The Elks led an afternoon parade through the city and conducted formal exercises in the evening, followed by a reception and ball. The Grand Exalted Ruler of the IPBOE, J. Finley Wilson, presided at the dedication, which was attended by representatives of Elks Lodges from New York, Jersey City, and Washington, D.C. (TET 23 November 1923:33).

The 1927 Sanborn insurance map of Trenton illustrates the auditorium and its relationship to the existing buildings on Fowler Street. As shown on Figure 2, the two-story former residence at 44 Fowler Street was labeled "club" and attached to the auditorium by a two-story hyphen at the rear. The north wall of the gable-front auditorium was aligned with that of the dwelling, and the building extended behind the houses at 38 and 40 Fowler Street (Sanborn Map Company 1927).

Upon completion, the Sunlight Elks' auditorium quickly became the social and community center for the Black residents of Trenton (TET 3 February 1924). Not only did the auditorium serve many functions for the Sunlight Elks Lodge, but it also served the larger community. The building was frequently the site of dances, fundraisers, political rallies, and funerals. The facility was also rented out for private and public events (TET 30 October 1924). Just a few months after opening, the Elks announced plans to hold a "series of Sunday afternoon meetings for men," featuring prominent African-American speakers and "inviting music" (TET 3 February 1924).

### *Construction of the Sunlight Elks Lodge, 1927-1928*

As early as February 1924, the Sunlight Elks began planning for the expansion of the facility. At the time, the Lodge membership numbered 277 (TET 3 February 1924). The rapid expansion of the membership mirrored that of the Black population during this period, resulting from the migration of Southern Blacks to the region. Despite the apparent enthusiasm for the project, however, construction of the addition would not commence for three years. In 1927, the Sunlight Elks began purchasing the adjacent properties on Fowler Street, moving at least one of the existing houses to clear the lot for construction (TET 27 February 1927, 8 May 1927, 12 June 1927).

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J. Osborne Hunt again was selected as the Sunlight Elks' architect. Initial plans were for a three-story brick building, with a 100-foot frontage on Fowler Street. The estimated cost was reportedly \$100,000 (TET 27 February 1927). Hunt's rendering of the proposed three-story Lodge (Figure 3) featured a symmetrical seven-bay façade and central door with fanlight. Windows were 12/12 double-hung sash on the lower two floors and 8/8 sash in the third story. A brick belt course extended between the first and second floors, and a simple cornice and parapet masked the roofline (TET 24 July 1927).

By the time that the construction contract was awarded in May 1927, the proposed building had been reduced in size, to "two stories and a basement in height, with provisions made to add two future stories" (TET 22 May 1927). The estimated construction cost had decreased accordingly, to \$75,000. The *Trenton Evening Times* described the project:

The building is of skeleton steel construction with reinforced concrete floor and roof and is fireproof throughout. The exterior of the building is to be brick with imitation limestone trim and is colonial in design.

The interior of the building will contain a boiler room, barber shop, billiard room, locker and shower room, lounge room, reading room, administration offices, lodge room and preparation rooms, kitchen and lunch rooms and grill room (TET 22 May 1927).

The Sunlight Elks hired a local contractor, Thomas M. Day & Sons, to build the new lodge (TET 22 May 1927). The construction firm was run by its namesake, Thomas M. Day, Sr., and his sons Thomas, Jr., and Stephen. The company was active in residential, commercial and institutional construction in the Trenton area during the first half of the twentieth century. The Adath of Israel Synagogue and the Nurses Home and Maternity Buildings at Mercer Hospital, both on Bellevue Avenue in Trenton, were built by the company, as were a group of buildings at the New Jersey School for the Deaf in neighboring Ewing. They also worked on projects in Princeton, Newark, and New Brunswick (TET 23 December 1928).

The new Lodge building was dedicated in early February 1928. A newspaper headline about the facility boasted, "Trenton Sunlight Elks Have Finest Home in America," quoting George E. Bates, secretary of the IPBOE National Grand Lodge:

[The new building] actually excels in beauty and worthiness that of any other colored Elks home within the jurisdiction of the United States, Canada or Africa (TET 19 February 1928).

The *Trenton Evening Times* reported that the facility "represent[ed] an investment of approximately \$300,000," a number that presumably reflected the cost of land acquisition, construction of the auditorium and Lodge building, and furnishings for the facility. Indeed, the Elks spared little expense, from the marble and tile entry vestibule to the baby grand piano in the first floor social room. The furniture was reportedly made specifically for the Lodge building (TET 19 February 1928).

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A photograph of the new Lodge published in the *Times* shows that few modifications were necessary to reduce Hunt's original design from three to two stories (see Figure 4). The brick belt course between the first and second floors was retained, as was the cornice and parapet. The windows were reduced in size, however, from the original 12/12 sash to smaller, 6/6 sash. The design otherwise reflected a restrained, Colonial Revival styling, which the *Times* praised as "a thing of beauty... stamped with the mark of progress" (TET 19 February 1928). The author continued:

Upon approaching the new two-story brick building, one is immediately impressed with its spaciousness and its air of cosiness [sic] and luxury. But not even a word picture can adequately describe the cleanliness, simplicity and neat arrangements which have gone into this building (TET 19 February 1928).

The building had an L-shaped footprint, extending in front of the auditorium along Fowler Street and wrapping around its south side. The members' entrance was centered on the Fowler Street façade, and a public entrance providing access to the auditorium was located on the north side. The latter was described as "perhaps one of the most attractive assets to the entire building, with the marquise [sic] lights concealed behind cathedral glass" (TET 19 February 1928). The north end of the Lodge building contained offices, while the south end held the large social room and library. The second floor held the lodge room, which featured "portable doors" that could be removed to enlarge the space. Also upstairs were a recreation room, reading room, bar and kitchen. The basement contained a large billiard room with a fireplace, as well as a locker room, shower rooms, and a drying room. A second stairway in the basement connected to the auditorium (TET 19 February 1928).

The main entry vestibule, side entry hall, and lobby floors were finished with 2-inch by 1-inch red Flemish tile manufactured by the Mueller Mosaic Company of Trenton. In the main entry vestibule, the floor was accented with 2-inch by 2-inch polychrome mosaic inserts. The Mueller Mosaic Company was founded in Trenton in 1908 by Herman Carl Mueller, who adopted many of the ideas and values of the American Arts and Crafts movement. Mueller tiles were utilized in many of Trenton's most important buildings of the early twentieth century, including on the exteriors of the Cass Gilbert-designed Kelsey Building on West State Street (1910)<sup>3</sup> and the Crescent Temple on North Clinton Avenue (1929).

It is unclear to what extent, if any, the auditorium was altered during construction. The newspaper article describing the facility after its opening noted that the auditorium seated 2,000. It was equipped with a movie projection booth and featured seating in two loges and a balcony. Velour draperies, maroon with gold fringe, hung over the windows and doors, and a chandelier was suspended over the orchestra pit. The Elks intended the space to attract large conventions and social events, which would help underwrite its cost (TET 19 February 1928).

### *Sunlight Elks Lodge, 1928-1940*

At the time of the Lodge's dedication, the Sunlight Elks counted approximately 400 members (TET 19 February 1928). In addition to their own activities in the building, the Elks hosted a wide variety of social and political events for Trenton's Black residents, continuing and expanding upon the use of the original

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<sup>3</sup> The Kelsey Building is a contributing resource to the National Register-listed State Street Historic District.

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auditorium. It was the site of diverse local events, from funerals to parties sponsored by local organizations like the Tuxedo Club, a Black social and community service organization (TET 5 July 1936; TET 20 December 1937). Nationally-known speakers provided educational programs, and entertainers performed at dances (TET 3 May 1939; TET 9 October 1940).

The Lodge also hosted numerous political events during the first decades after its opening. In 1936, the Mercer County Colored Young Republicans organized at the Elks Lodge, and later that year the New Jersey State Colored Republican League held its meeting in the auditorium (TET 10 January 1936; TET 26 February 1936). The county's Colored Democratic Clubs also held meetings at the Lodge (TET 24 October 1940). In 1938, a "state-wide Civil Liberties rally and protest mass meeting" was held at the Lodge by the state IPBOE organization (TET 23 April 1938). Two years later, political rallies in support of presidential candidate Wendell Wilkie were held in the Fowler Street facilities (TET 29 September 1940).

Although the Lodge clearly played a pivotal role as a community meeting space for the city's African-American community, the stock market crash of 1929 – only one year after the building opened – and the Great Depression that followed presented difficult challenges for the Sunlight Elks and the community at large. The organization had taken on considerable debt to build and furnish the Lodge, and the Depression made it nearly impossible for the Elks to meet their obligations. In May 1940, the Lodge and all its furnishings were offered at a Sheriff's sale (TET 14 May 1940).

It is unclear how the Sheriff's sale was averted, but newspaper articles indicate that the building remained in the ownership of the Elks in the months that followed. In June 1940, about a month after the sale was scheduled to take place, the *Trenton Evening Times* reported a robbery at the Sunlight Elks Lodge, and a week later a party was held in the building (TET 20 June 1940; TET 26 June 1940). Numerous community events were held during the year, including several political rallies during the 1940 presidential campaign and a "charity ball and pageant" sponsored by the Federation of Negro Clubs in November (TET 15 November 1940).

*Colonel Charles Young Soldiers Club, 1941-1943*

In February 1941, the New Jersey National Guard approached leaders of the African-American community in Trenton to establish facilities for Black soldiers stationed at Fort Dix. Both the Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A. announced plans to entertain and accommodate the troops. The Sunlight Elks also committed to the cause, promising to create a soldiers' center at the Lodge (TET 25 February 1941). Soon after, the Elks initiated a membership and fundraising campaign, "having as its ultimate objective the redemption of the \$200,000 Sunlight Building, which is heavily mortgaged" (TET 2 March 1941).

The soldiers' recreation center opened on May 3, 1941. Like the Soldiers' Club for white servicemen on East Hanover Street, the recreation center offered light refreshments and tables for card games, table tennis, and other indoor activities. The Elks Lodge offered additional amenities, as it was a much larger building than the Soldiers' Club: the gymnasium provided space for active recreation and dances, and plans were made to offer accommodations for servicemen on leave from Fort Dix (TET 4 May 1941). The city's Defense Service Council expended \$2,000 to assist with the improvements (TET 11 April 1941).

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The center was formally dedicated on May 30, 1941, as the Colonel Charles Young Soldiers Club (TET 27 May 1941; see Figure 5). Its namesake was a West Point graduate and the highest ranking African-American officer in the Army at the time of his death (TET 18 May 1941). In addition to providing recreational activities for soldiers, the club also assisted in finding living quarters for soldiers and their families, and in placing soldiers' wives in local jobs (TET 26 December 1943). The Defense Service Council supervised activities at the center, receiving a grant from the federal government to support its functions. The *Trenton Evening Times* noted in 1943 that, "Trenton was unique in the elaborateness of its facilities and accommodations for Negro soldiers among cities throughout the country" (TET 26 December 1943). From the time of its opening until its closure in December 1943, an estimated 85,000 African-American soldiers were entertained at the Elks Lodge (TET 26 December 1943).

*Fundraising to Purchase the Lodge for the Y.M.C.A., 1943*

The closure of the Soldiers Club in the midst of the war, when attendance had reached 5,000 soldiers per month, was necessitated by the sale of the property: by 1943, the Sunlight Elks had lost their battle to retain possession of the Lodge building. In April of that year, the Trenton Mortgage Service Company agreed to an option to allow Trenton's Black community to purchase the building and continue its use as a community center (TET 4 April 1943).

Trenton Mayor John A. Hartmann served as honorary chairman of the drive, which was led by Dr. Henry J. Austin (TET 4 April 1943). Born in Rahway in 1888, Austin was raised in Princeton and educated at Lincoln University and Howard University, where he received his M.D. He opened a medical practice in Trenton in 1922 and became a leader in the local community. In 1941, the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was reorganized, with Austin as its head. He was thus a natural choice to lead the campaign to purchase the former Elks Lodge for community use (Leynes 2015:15).

Austin's co-chair was Dr. Leroy Morris, also a physician (TET 6 April 1943). Born in 1896, Morris was raised in Trenton and educated at the University of Richmond and Harvard University School of Medicine, returning to Trenton in 1925 to open a medical practice. Morris served on the Trenton Housing Authority in the 1940s, until his untimely death at the age of 49 (TET 9 January 1946).

On April 8, 1943, a mass meeting of African-American residents was held at the New Lincoln School to launch the fundraising campaign, which sought \$15,000 to purchase and equip the building. Speakers included Mayor Hartmann; Dr. William A. Wetzel, retired principal of Trenton Central High School; Reverend Frederic M. Adams, dean of Trinity Cathedral; H.A. Waldkoenig, director of the Trenton War and Community Chest; and Hilmar L. Jensen, secretary of the Community Branch Y.M.C.A. (TET 6 April 1943). Of these, Jensen was the only African-American, indicating the drive's support throughout the larger Trenton community.

The fundraising organization included a women's division and committees dedicated to special gifts, church relations, and industry. The city was divided into 17 neighborhoods, with one male and one female captain in most areas. In all, some 55 community members were called upon to serve in the fundraising effort (TET 11 April 1943). That number topped 100 workers by the end of June. Although the Black community led the effort, Dr. Wetzel reportedly contributed a significant amount of time to the cause (TET 24 June 1943). The newspaper announcement of the campaign described the group's plans for the facility:



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When the Fowler Street building...has been acquired, it will be equipped as a community center for youth and adults and will be known as Carver Centre in honor of the late George Washington Carver... There will be clubs, classes and Scout troops for Negro girls and boys; recreational, educational, and religious programs for adults; pre-induction and physical fitness courses for colored youth about to be called into the armed forces; recreation for Negro war workers and social projects for Negro soldiers (TET 11 April 1943).

Support for the drive came from near and far. New Jersey Governor Charles Edison contributed to the campaign, and Vice President Henry A. Wallace sent a letter of encouragement to the group (TET 23 April 1943; TET 2 May 1943). By early May, the first \$1,000 had been raised, and pledges were expected to reach \$10,000 by the end of June (TET 2 May 1943; TET 13 June 1943). Fearing that the Black community's resources were insufficient to raise the remaining \$5,000, the Trenton War and Community Chest issued an appeal to all city residents to give to the cause, citing the benefits of an African-American community center to the city as a whole (TET 13 June 1943). By June 23, 1943, the Carver Center drive had amassed \$10,500 in cash, enough to purchase the former Elks Lodge property (TET 24 June 1943). By early August, the purchase was complete and the deed was presented to the Y.M.C.A. The building, which had cost more than \$100,000 to build, was purchased for \$10,000 (TET 8 August 1943).

### *Carver Center Y.M.C.A., 1943-1975*

The Trenton Y.M.C.A. had first established a branch to serve the city's African-American residents in 1922. The organization secured use of the ground floor of the building at 518 Perry Street, which became known as the Northeast Branch Y.M.C.A. (TET 4 September 1922; Y.M.C.A. Community Branch Vertical File [VF], Trentoniana, Trenton Free Public Library, Trenton, New Jersey [Trentoniana]). Four years later, in 1926, the Trenton Y.M.C.A. formed a committee to extend its work into the Black community. The committee challenged the African-American community to raise \$1,000, which it would match with an additional \$4,000 (Y.M.C.A. Community Branch VF, Trentoniana). The fundraiser was initiated in December 1926, and the Colored Community Branch opened in August 1927 at 223 North Willow Street (TET 16 December 1926; TET 9 August 1927).

The Y.M.C.A. hired Hilmar L. Jensen as organizer of the Community Branch. Jensen came to Trenton from Princeton, where he was working at the Witherspoon Y.M.C.A. Born in 1898, Jensen attended high school in Asbury Park and studied at the Trenton State Teachers College and the College of the City of New York. He would remain with the Trenton Y.M.C.A. for 22 years, leaving in 1949 (TET 29 September 1954). When Jensen arrived in Trenton in 1927, the Colored Community Branch Y.M.C.A. occupied a single room at 223 North Willow Street (TET 9 August 1927). In 1938, the Y.M.C.A. acquired a three-story building at 105 Spring Street to house the Community Branch activities (Y.M.C.A. Community Branch VF, Trentoniana).

When presented with the deed to the Carver Center in 1943, the Y.M.C.A. appointed a provisional board to oversee the future of the property. Members of the board included Austin, Morris, and Wetzel from the fundraising committee, as well as William Abbotts, Jr., John G. Conner, John D. Hopkins, F. Harold Johnson, Moses Johnson, Squire Newsome, and Charles E. Whitehead (TET 26 August 1943:4). Six of the ten men were

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African-American: Austin, Morris, Hopkins, Harold Johnson, Moses Johnson, and Newsome. Hopkins was elected the group's first president (TET 29 August 1943).

Although the Y.M.C.A. held the title to the property and operated its Community Branch activities at the Center, the Board was responsible for carrying on the day-to-day operations of the facility, including all "charitable, social and welfare activities" (TET 30 December 1943:1, 2). Under the leadership of Hilmar Jensen, the coordinating committee researched the needs of the community as it developed plans for the Carver Center (TET 13 August 1943:9).

The committee planned a gala opening for New Year's Day 1944, with a formal dedication to follow later, upon completion of building renovations (TET 10 December 1943:12). The New Year's event attracted more than 1,000 people, with activities for servicemen, children, and adults (TET 3 January 1944:10). The nature of the renovations undertaken in 1944 are unknown, but they did not require the closure of the facility. Throughout the year, the auditorium hosted basketball games, movies, and shows, while the lodge rooms welcomed meetings and events held by a wide variety of community organizations. During the war, the Carver Center served an important role for Black servicemen and women, with the United Service Organizations (USO) providing a variety of recreational activities. An average of 7,000 soldiers visited the center each month; by December 1944, the USO reported that nearly 45,000 soldiers, hostesses, and visitors had attended events and activities (TET 1 October 1944:26; TET 3 December 1944:22).

The formal dedication of the Carver Center took place in November 1944. More than 1,500 people attended dedication events over a period of five days, including a basketball game and children's party. Local community clubs performed a variety program, and the key to the building was presented to Carver Center Board President John D. Hopkins (TET 12 November 1944).

During the 1940s and early 1950s, the facility was managed jointly by the Carver Center Board of Governors and the Carver Branch Y.M.C.A. Committee of Management. The arrangement was often a source of conflict, as the roles of the two organizations were poorly defined. Building maintenance, in particular, was often a source of conflict between the two organizations (Carver Branch Y.M.C.A., Minutes 16 October 1951). In response, a new management structure was adopted in 1952. The Carver Center Branch Y.M.C.A. Management Committee was established with members from the Carver Center Board and the branch management committee; it assumed all responsibility for programming, finances, staff, and building maintenance. At the same time, the organization expanded its activities from a focus on men and boys to include women and girls. This change resulted in large part from the closure in 1950 of the Montgomery Street Y.W.C.A., which had formerly served the city's Black women (Y.M.C.A. Carver Center VF, Trentoniana).

The Carver Center continued to serve Trenton's Black community as a meeting space and athletic center through the 1950s. The Carver Center also hosted shows by nationally known performers including Cab Calloway, Ella Fitzgerald, Count Basie, and Fats Waller (Leynes 2015; *Nubian News* 1994:24-25). The Center functioned as a rooming house, as well. According to *The Negro Motorist Green Book*, a travel guide serving the African-American population during the segregation era, the Carver Center was one of the few places in the city that welcomed Black travelers (Victor H. Green & Co. 1949, 1956).

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A newspaper article reciting the events and activities during the fall and winter of 1949-1950 illustrates the range of activities at the Carver Center: a college party, charity ball, dance lessons, movies, basketball, volleyball, and chess, among many others. More than 10 different organizations held meetings during that period, including the local and state branches of the NAACP (TET 2 April 1950; see Figure 6).

### *Carver Youth and Family Center, Post-1975*

By the 1960s, the Carver Center Y.M.C.A. was experiencing a declining enrollment, and in July 1975 the Y.M.C.A. closed the branch. The building was subsequently purchased by the State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs for use as a clubhouse and rental hall (Lane 1982; Weathersby 1976:B1). An outgrowth of the temperance movement, the State Federation was organized in 1915 at St. Paul A.M.E. Zion Church in Trenton. The group became an advocate for many social and political issues facing the state's Black community (Washington 1993:69-70).

In 1981, the State Federation created the Carver Youth and Family Center as a non-profit agency headquartered at the Carver Center (Lane 1982). The Center provided a variety of youth and social service programs at the Carver Center until 2021, when the property was sold to the City of Trenton. The State Federation made relatively few alterations to the building during its tenure.

The Trenton Landmarks Commission for Historic Preservation designated the Carver Center as a city landmark in 1977.

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### Section 9. Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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*Trentoniana*

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Sanborn Map Company

1927 Insurance Map of Trenton, New Jersey. Sanborn Map Company, New York.

1950 Insurance Map of Trenton, New Jersey. Revised from 1927. Sanborn Map Company, New York.

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### SECTION 10: GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

#### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet for Section 10.)

The Carver Center is located on Block 4002, Lots 3.02, 3.03, 3.04 in the City of Trenton.

#### Boundary Justification Statement

(Explain, on the section sheet following the Verbal Boundary Description, how the chosen boundaries meet the requirements for boundary selection and are the most appropriate boundaries for the nominated property or district.)

The referenced tax parcels include the entirety of the building and site as it existed historically.



## Carver Center

New Jersey and National Registers Nomination  
40 Fowler Street,  
City of Trenton, Mercer County  
New Jersey

Boundary and tax map

0 10 20 40 60 Feet

Datum: NAD 1983 State Plane New Jersey

## Legend

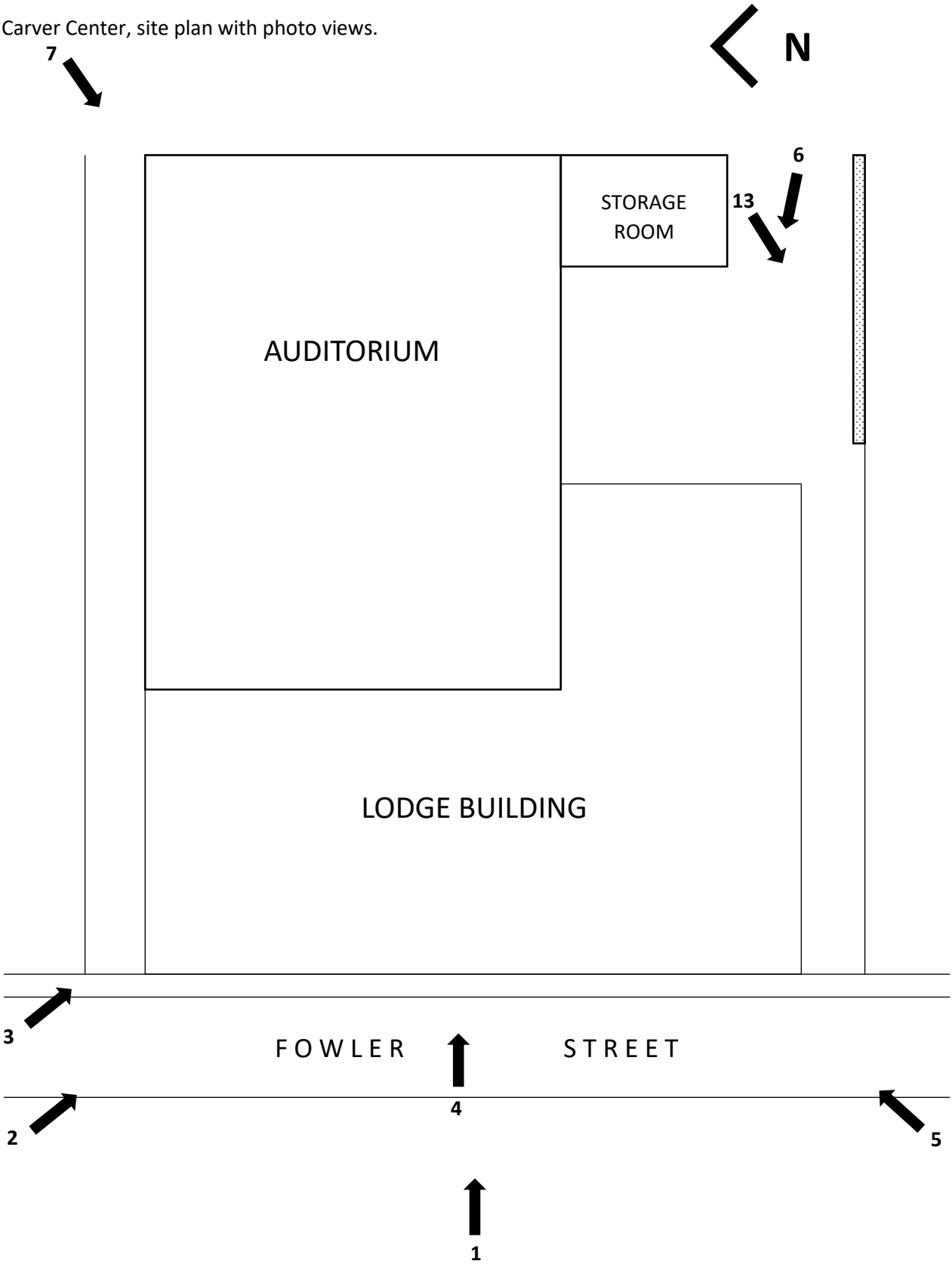
- NJ & NR Boundary
- Tax Parcels
- Coordinates

0.25 Acres



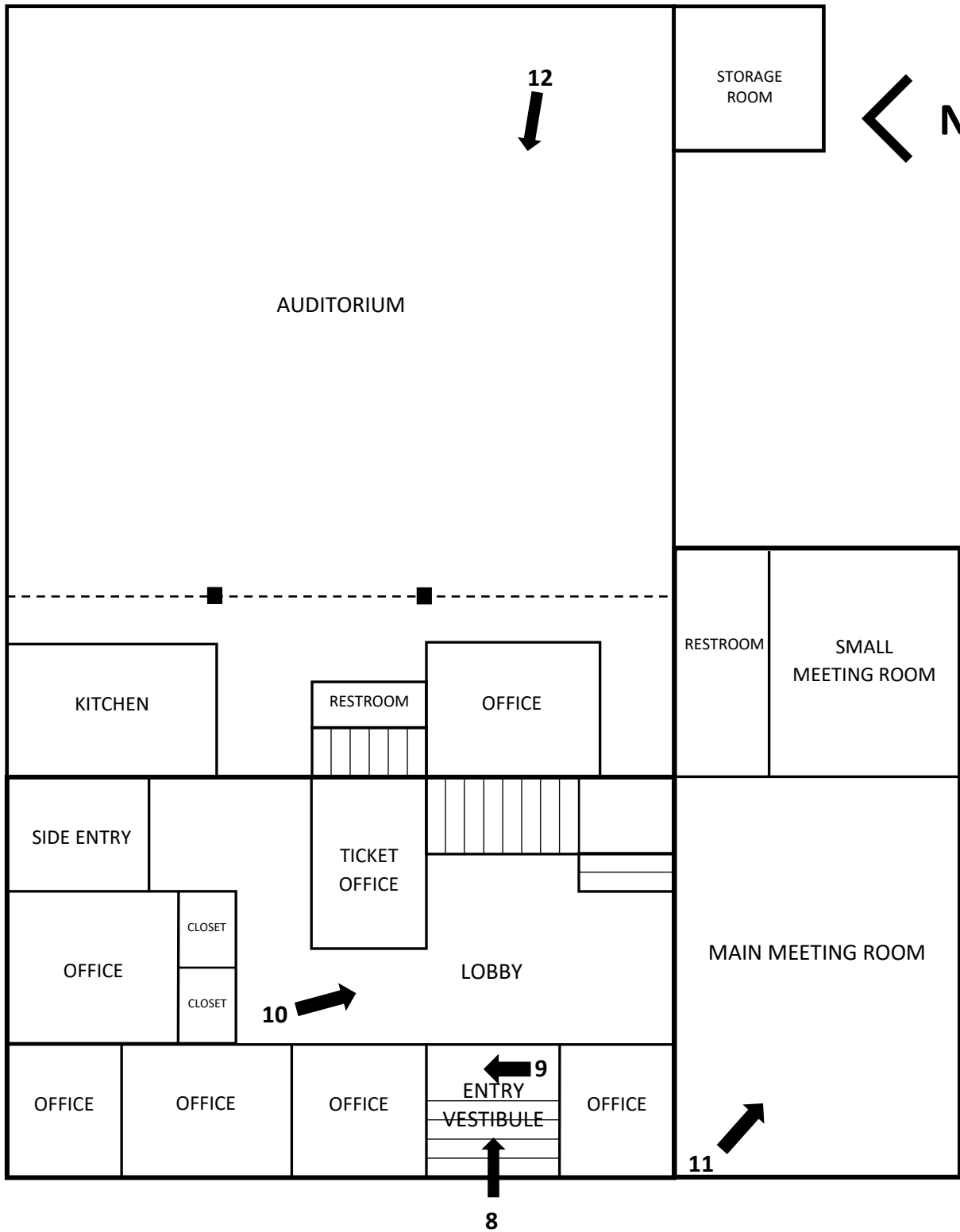
NJDEP,  
Historic Preservation Office  
April 2021

Carver Center, site plan with photo views.





Carver Center, first floor plan with photo views.

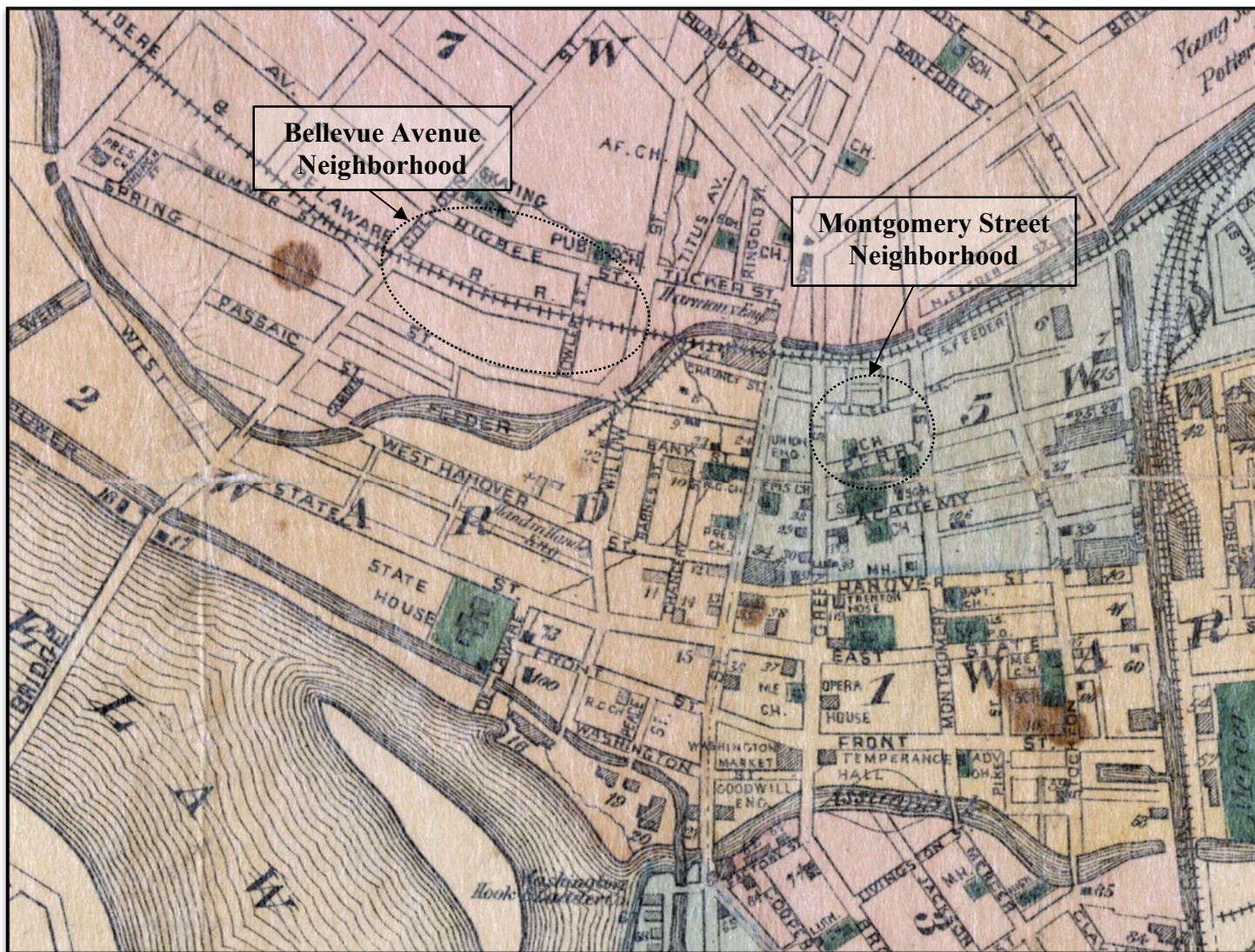


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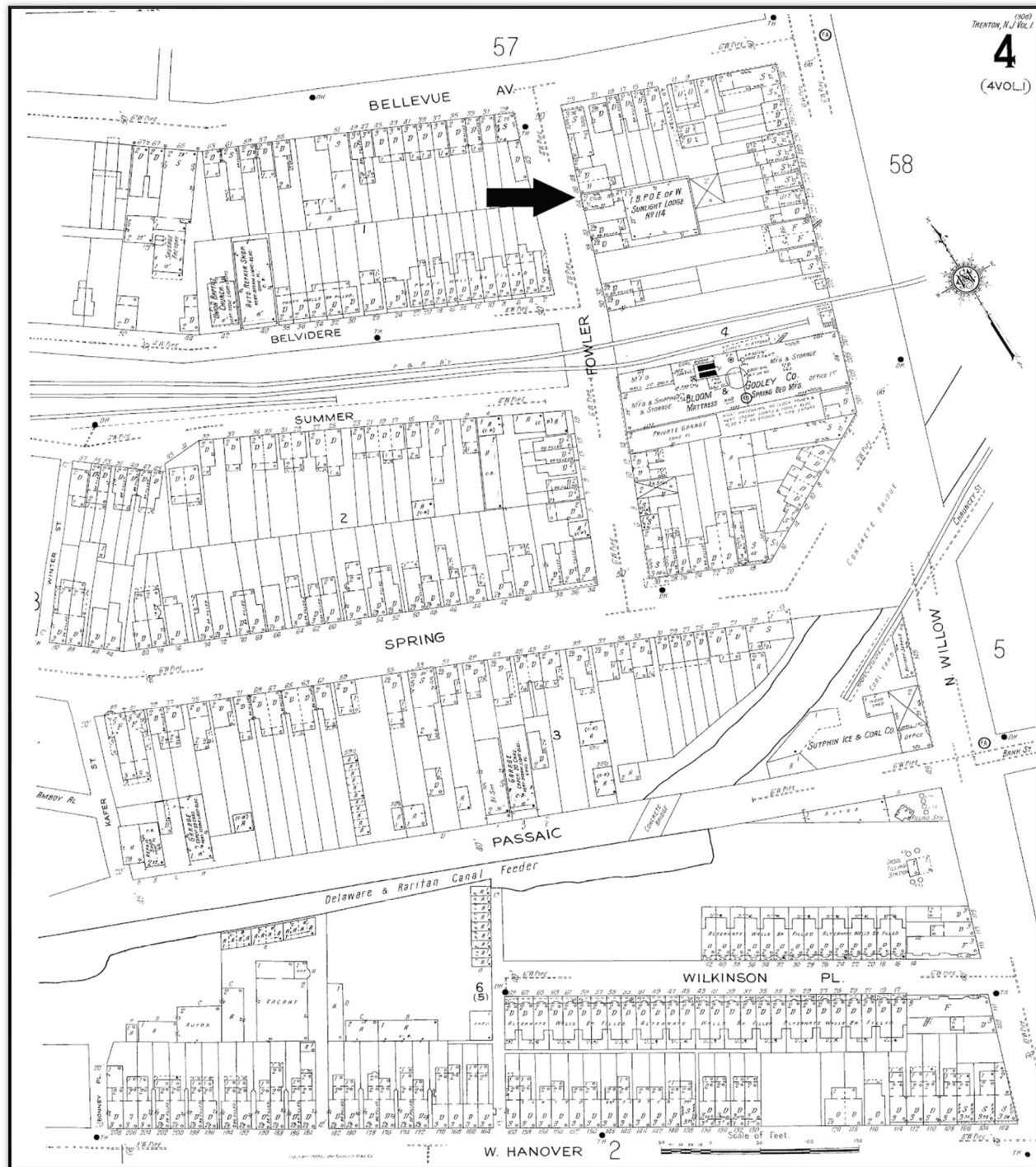
**Figure 1:** C.A. Potts, Map of the City of Trenton N. Jersey and Surroundings, 1874.

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**Figure 2:** 1927 Sanborn Map Company, Insurance Map of Trenton, New Jersey.

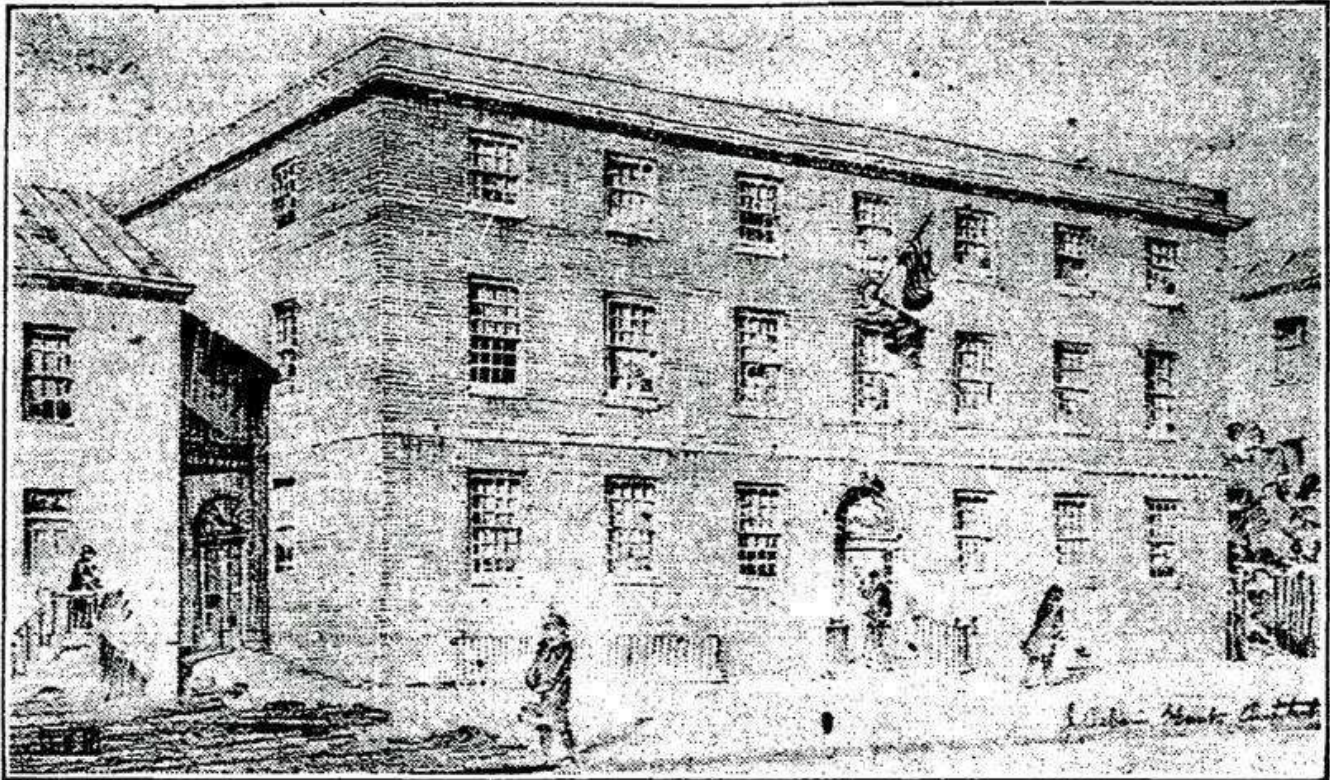


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**Fowler Street Site for Home of Trenton Fraternity**  
—J. Osborne Hunt. Architect

**Figure 3:** Rendering of Sunlight Elks Lodge published in the *Trenton Evening Times*, July 24, 1927.  
The original design included a third story.

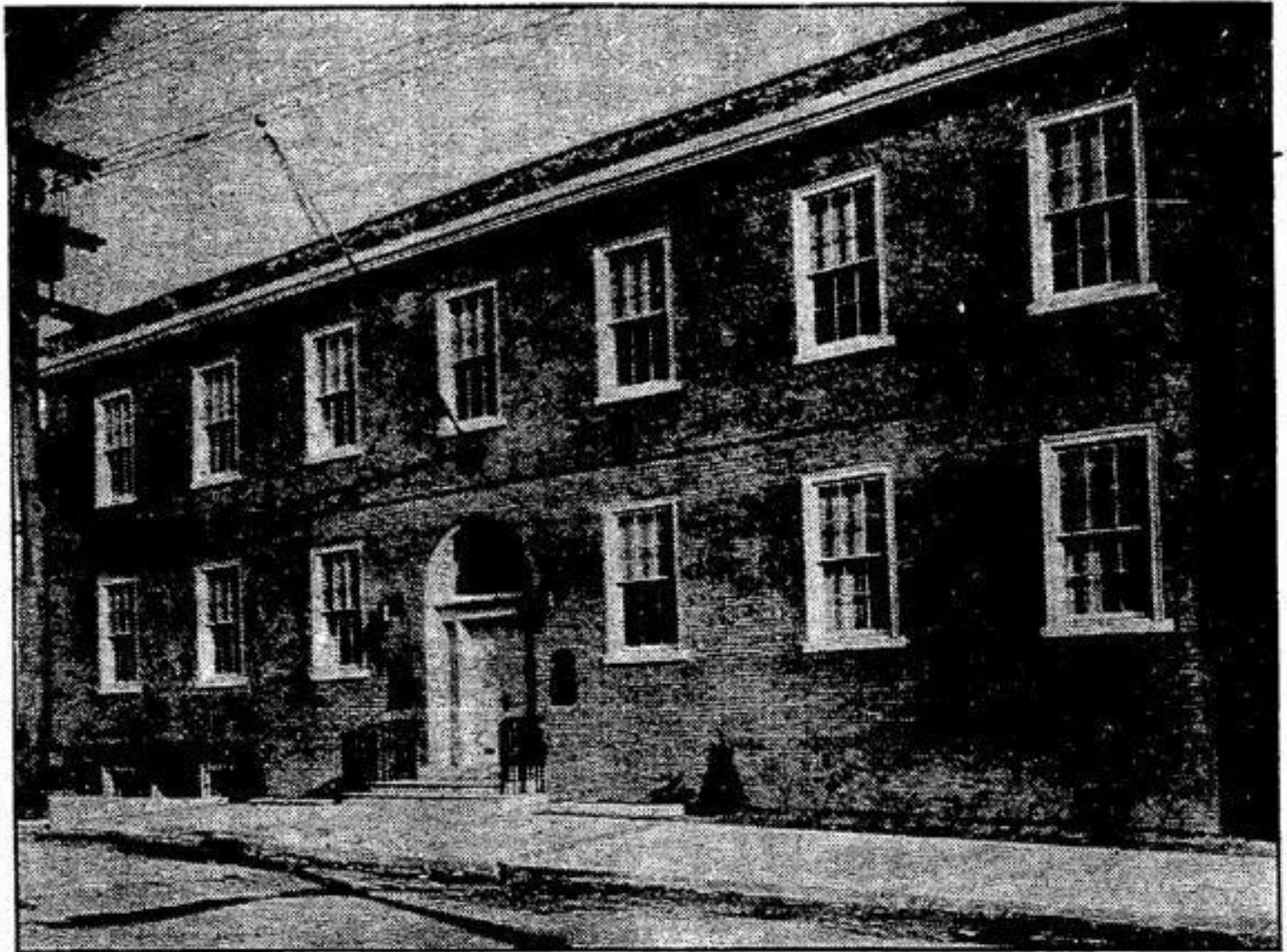
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## *New Home of the Sunlight Colored Lodge of Elks*



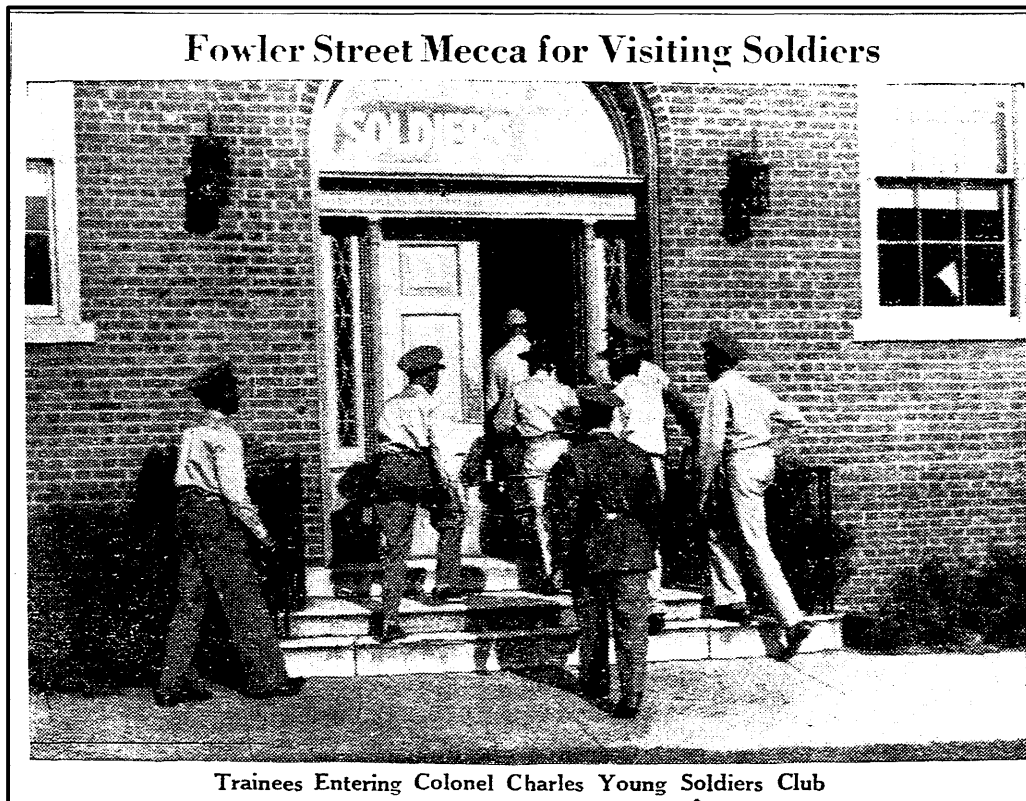
**Figure 4:** Photograph of Sunlight Elks Lodge published in the *Trenton Evening Times*, February 19, 1928.

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**Figure 5.** Photo of World War II soldiers' club, *Trenton Evening Times*, October 12, 1941.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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**Figure 6:** Civil right workers leaving the Carver Center (from Trentoniana, Trenton Free Public Library). Although the photograph is undated, the posters – which read, “Finish the Fight! Join NAACP Now” – were used by the NAACP in 1946.



Photo View 1.



Photo View 2.





Photo View 3.



Photo View 4.





Photo View 5.



Photo View 6.





Photo View 7.



Photo View 8.





Photo View 9.



Photo View 10.



Photo View 11.



Photo View 12.





Photo View 13.