

to start a clothing business for him there. In 1895, Chris bought out Mr. Peterson. Two years later Chris Christensen married Emma Reusken, who was born in Germany, and in that same year his brother, John Peter Christensen, bought into the company which became known as C. Christensen and Brother. As the business expanded and moved from tailoring to retail clothing and dry good sales, the brothers built a spacious new store in 1931 at 97 Main Street, diagonally across from their previous location. They reincorporated as Christensen's Department Store in 1936. For 103 years, until it closed in 1998, Christensen's was the anchor of Woodbridge's Main Street. It was an essential part of the lives of most Woodbridge citizens for whom Christensen's was the first stop for everything from party dresses to table clothes and scouting uniforms.

After Chris died in 1942 and Emma in 1946, their sons, Herbert and Gilford, rented 117 E. Prospect Avenue to Eugene Burns and his family. Mrs. Burns was especially active in the community and held many planning meetings and social events at their home. In 1961 the Christensens sold the house to John L. and Jean M. Smith and it remained in the Smith family until 2008.



**8 157 E. Prospect Avenue**

Jonas Halstead Coddington built his Prospect Avenue home in about 1877, a few years after he purchased the property from James P. Edgar. The home was built in the Italianate style and has a central gable that projects forward from a steep side gabled main roof. A covered porch, with a shallow sloped roof, spans the full width of the home.

John Coddington, the family progenitor, settled in Woodbridge in 1676. Jonas Coddington was a member of the 5th generation. His great-grandfather, David Coddington, was a Continental soldier. Jonas himself, a mason by trade, was Chairman of the Township Committee in 1886 and in 1897 he was the President of the Trustees of the Free School Lands. Jonas sold the house in 1910 and moved across the street to the Coddington family homestead on the north side of Rahway Avenue. Idella and Ellis Edgar acquired the property to add to their other Prospect Avenue holdings and in 1920 sold the house to James Rigby, Jr.

The Rigbys were stalwarts of the Edgar Hill community for 25 years. Mr. Rigby served as the president of the Taxpayer's Association for Edgar and led the lobbying against noxious fumes emanating from local factories. In 1945, they sold 157 E. Prospect Avenue to Wayne T. and Martha Wilson Cox, formerly of Cedar Avenue. Mr. Cox passed away in 1972 and Mrs. Cox died in 1979 when ownership passed to their daughter Jane C. Menko. Mrs. Menko and her husband Andrew made Jonas Coddington's old house their home for many years until it was sold in 2006.



**9 150 E. Prospect Avenue**

150 E. Prospect was built in a simple, Italianate style in 1850, shortly after James Parker Edgar purchased the property from Augustus Coddington in 1848. James, a prosperous farmer, was the great-grandson of Alexander Edgar who was born in Woodbridge in 1720. He wed fellow Woodbridge native Frances (Fanny) Pitney Woodhull in 1846 and began their family two years later. In 1893, James and Fanny sold the home to Idella Beckwith Edgar, wife of their son Ellis Freeman Edgar, for \$1,350.

As a young man of 18, Ellis listed his occupation as a smoking-pipe maker though he was already on his way to his career as an inventor. By 1887, he had filed his first patent for a water-tube boiler and over the next nearly twenty years, he filed more than twenty-five patents for engines, furnaces and related apparatus. After Ellis' 1922 death, Idella remained in the house until her death in 1939. Her executors sold the property in 1947 to Margaret P. Hendrickson.

Miss Hendrickson, a 1932 graduate of the New Jersey College of Women of Rutgers (Douglass College) had lived for many years with her parents Pauline and Harold Carl Hendrickson, around the corner at 82 Wedgewood Avenue. She was a guidance counselor at Woodbridge High School for decades. In 1974, Richard H. Lane, Miss Hendrickson's neighbor who had helped her maintain the property, inherited the house and has owned the home ever since.



**10 154 E. Prospect Avenue**

This Craftsman style home was constructed circa 1916 by Idella and Ellis F. Edgar who lived next door at No. 150. This home features a forward facing gabled pitched roof with exposed rafters and decorative braces. The enclosed porch spans most of the front and features decorative pilasters symbolizing the square columns typically seen with an open porch. In 1927, Idella transferred co-ownership of the property, which may have been built as a rental property or as living space for Edgar family servants, to include her second son, Ralph Beckwith Edgar. In 1941, Ralph, his wife Rebecca and his brother Ellis Barron Freeman sold the house though none of them had ever made it their home.

From 1941 to 1971, No. 154 was home to the Thergesen family, first to Albert S. and Margaret G.

Thergesen and then, after 1966, to Albert E. and his wife, Louise. The senior Thergesens, originally from Norway, were long-time Township residents. Albert S. was raised in the Sewaren section of the Township and worked as an electrical engineer in the copper refinery. The Franks family have owed this house since 1975.

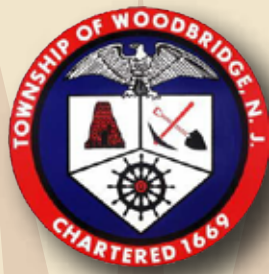


**11 184 Freeman Street**

Although the exact provenance of 184 Freeman Street is not known, it is likely one of the oldest structures still lining the "road from the Woodbridge Meeting House" as Freeman Street was called in some of the earliest deeds of this area. Construction of this house built in the Vernacular Style and with some details from the local Italianate influence, is loosely dated to between 1800 and 1849.

The land was possibly once part of the property belonging to Dr. Moses Bloomfield, father of Governor Joseph Bloomfield, whose Freeman Street house was later moved to Harrell Street. The lot where No. 184 is located was often part of a parcel of over thirty acres that was repeatedly subdivided then reformed for much of the nineteenth century. Used as an investment property, it was rented out for much of its first 100 years. Some of the owners included Rene Andre Pardesseus, of the Salamander factory, Joseph Jacobs, Francis Bruny, Gideon and Hannah Tooker, Sarah and George Hance who lived down the street in the Bloomfield house, William Johnston, Samuel Hinsdale and Henry, Marie and Herbert Schulte. However only the Brunys and, perhaps the Jacobs, appear to have lived in the house.

In 1960, 184 Freeman Street became owner-occupied once again when William and Marion Poulsen purchased the house they had been renting for many years. Barbara and Patrick J. Tobin became the owners in 1963. Barbara Tobin sold 184 Freeman Street in 2006.



## Woodbridge Township Historic Preservation Commission Tour Map of Historic Sites



- |                          |                           |                       |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. 528 Barron Avenue     | 7. 117 E Prospect Avenue  | 13. 611 Barron Avenue |
| 2. 646 Ridgedale Avenue  | 8. 157 E Prospect Avenue  | 14. 86 Freeman Street |
| 3. 755 Hillside Place    | 9. 150 E Prospect Avenue  | 15. 44 Freeman Street |
| 4. 111 E Prospect Avenue | 10. 154 E Prospect Avenue |                       |
| 5. 100 E Prospect Avenue | 11. 184 Freeman Street    |                       |
| 6. 118 E Prospect Avenue | 12. 125 Freeman Street    |                       |



**12 125 Freeman Street**

For decades, the property was part of the vast Samuel Barron estate. In 1868, Mr. Barron sold 125 Freeman Street to Maria H. Strale. Mrs. Strale, a teacher, came from Massachusetts with her daughter Hedda M. Sollace and Hedda's family. Maria deeded the property to Hedda a year later and the Sollace family made the house their home for the next thirty years. The Federal style architecture suggests that the oldest portion of the house may have been constructed as early as 1810. Around 1877 they added a large, Italianate addition which today appears as the main part of the house.

In 1894 Franklin Moore purchased the house and five years later sold it to his brother, Lawrence Moore. The Moore brothers owned and operated a nearby hardware store. In 1917, coal merchant Theodore Leber moved his large, extended family - wife, seven children and two sisters into the house. Sadly their ownership did not survive the Great Depression and in 1937 125 Freeman Street was sold in a foreclosure. Everett H. and Gladys Hooper Mott bought the house from the bank in 1938. Mr. Mott was a production manager with U.S. Metal Refining Co. in Carteret. Mrs. Mott was active in the Women's Auxiliary of the First Presbyterian Church and in the Avelen Women's Club. In 1954, the Motts sold the house to George B. and Barbara Baker Wyatt who have owned the home ever since. The Wyatts were stalwarts of Woodbridge civic life for more than half a century, active in innumerable cultural, historical, educational and environmental organizations.



**13 611 Barron Avenue (c.1920)**

For many years after their 1868 marriage Captain Isaac Insee, his wife Sarah Millard Ayers Insee and their daughter Clara Estelle, lived on Amboy Avenue in the antebellum house featured in the *Historic Walking Tour of Woodbridge, Volume II*. A well-respected veteran of the Civil War, Captain Insee made a comfortable living in the clay industry and was a pillar of the community. He served as fire commissioner, township committeeman, Director of the Board of Freeholders, Tax Collector, president of the G.A.R. (Grand Army of the Republic) for Company F, 28th New Jersey Regiment and was one of the founding members of the Masonic Lodge of Wood-

bridge.

Construction began on 611 Barron Avenue in 1889. Captain and Mrs. Insee had decided to build their dream house closer to the homes of Woodbridge's most prominent families. By early 1893, the family moved in to their "handsome villa," as it was described by a local paper. The house featured a main hipped roof with lower cross gables. Much of the original detailing has been lost over the years but the house had been a wonderful example of a Queen Anne Victorian with patterned masonry, brick arched windows, corbeled façade, chimneys and a spindlework front porch.

The Insees were able to enjoy their home together for ten years until the Captain's death in 1903. Mrs. Insee then 'downsized' and moved to 597 Barron Avenue.



**611 Barron Avenue (present day)**



**14 86 Freeman Street**

86 Freeman Street was built by William Bedman Sr. circa 1870 on properties that he had purchased from Ellis B. Freeman in 1853 and from Lawrence Moore in 1863. The home was built in the local vernacular with Italianate influences. It features a symmetrical front elevation with a single arched window in each gable, pairs of tall slender windows, and a front porch. A large two-story addition off the back was likely added about 1896.

William and Harriet Keeler Bedman moved to Woodbridge from England in the early 1830s. In 1843, Mr. Bedman established the William Bedman Seed Company of Rahway, New Jersey. Later, after his sons, William Jr., Charles, James and John, joined the business, the firm became known as Bedman Brothers. Primarily a wholesale mail order seed company, it was best known for the development of a variety of salvia named for William Jr.'s daughter, Clara. The business ended after the 1962 death of Joseph Bedman, William Sr.'s grandson, son of Charles Bedman and Mary Insee.

In 1909, William Jr. and his siblings sold their parent's house to Leonard M. and Charlotte E. Campbell. Mr. Campbell was the Township tax collector from 1904 to 1917, a charter member of Woodbridge Fire Company No. 1, and a trustee and member of

the Congregational Church.

Ruth Campbell McElroy, daughter of Leonard and Charlotte Campbell, and her husband Russell J. McElroy purchased the property from her brothers in 1943. Ruth was a Woodbridge Township teacher and Russell, an Army veteran of World War I, was an industrial arts teacher in the Woodbridge School system for 37 years. After Russell and Ruth died in 1964 and 1965, respectively, their children subdivided the property and their son, Gerald T. McElroy and his wife, Marilyn, took possession of 86 Freeman Street and made it their home. The house finally left the Campbell/McElroy families after Marilyn's 2013 death.



**15 44 Freeman Street**

44 Freeman Street, the side-gabled Colonial Revival home with inlaid gambrel roof and covered entry, was possibly built as an investment property by Theodore Dumas in about 1916. The house sat on property that had once been part of the Bloodgood estate. James Bloodgood raised his family and ran his tannery business out of 12 Freeman Street. The Bloodgoods owned much of the adjoining land to No. 12 and Ridgedale Avenue had been called Bloodgood Avenue through most of the nineteenth century. After the deaths of his older brother William in 1865 and his father James in 1866, William H. Bloodgood sold the property to Theodore Dumas who later sold it to the Woodbridge Construction Company.

In 1924, newspaper ads announced the opening of a new beauty salon at 44 Freeman Street. Miss Selma Peterson who had worked at the Elite Vanity Shop in Perth Amboy had purchased the property six months before. Miss Peterson, an immigrant from Sweden, married Danish terracotta worker Lawrence Christiansen, then opened her shop specializing in scalp treatment and hair dyeing. But the Christiansens, like so many Woodbridgeans, struggled during the Great Depression. The shop closed and 44 Freeman Street was rented out to lodgers.

Selma sold the house in 1938 to John H. Williams, the new landlord of the rental property. Through much of the early forties, the house was rented by the Hubbard family. Charles Sr. was a yard foreman at the Creosote plant in Port Reading and during the Second World War, Private Charles S. Hubbard Jr. of the Marine Corps was awarded the Silver Star Medal for heroism for his actions on Guadalcanal. After her husband's death in 1944, Eva Williams moved into the house until her death in 1954.

Heirs sold the property to Raymond Matthew and Catherine Meder Stricker, who owned the property from 1955 to 1998. Catherine sold it after Ray's 1994 death. Catherine immigrated from the Austro-Hungarian Empire at age six. Her memories of that trip are preserved as part of the Ellis Island Oral History Project. Ray was a top-selling salesman for Lieberman Breweries.



**2 646 Ridgedale Avenue (c.1890)**

In 1849 Ellis Barron Harned purchased land from Samuel Dally on behalf of his children, William, Mary, Luther, Sarah and Ellis. A home was built around that time in the Gothic Revival style featuring "vergeboards," a decorative trim in the gable hanging from the roof. About 1870, Luther Meade Harned moved his family back to Woodbridge and expanded the original house. Sadly, his wife, Jemmia died in 1875 and not long after Luther and his daughters moved in with his parents.

In 1881, the title was transferred to Luther's distant cousin Dr. Samuel P. Harned (their grandfathers were brothers). Dr. Harned was a well-regarded physician and one of the founding members of the local Masonic Lodge. His first wife was Sarah R. Bloodgood and five years after her death in 1869, Dr. Harned married Sarah's younger sister, Frances (Fannie.) Dr. Harned and his family never lived in the Ridgedale Avenue house and in 1884 Maria T. Wooden (Woodson) nee Keeler, formerly of Freeman Street, moved into the place with her husband Charles. Although Maria died in 1886 and Charles in 1909, the house remained in the family until 1930 since Charles left it to Amelia J. Lamb, Maria's sister.

For twenty-eight years, from 1940-1968, Marie Anna and Nicholas Younger made 646 Ridgedale Avenue their home. Gail M. Turner-Aquila and her husband Richard Aquila have owned the house since 1983.



**646 Ridgedale Avenue (present day)**

Woodbridge Speedway was in operation, spectators got off the train at Edgar Station, since it was just a short walk from there to the back of the grandstand. Despite a major fire at the station in 1962, the train continued to stop in Edgar until 1975 when the PA Railroad eliminated the stop from its schedule.

Although they left their names on the geography of this section of Woodbridge, the Barrons, Freemans, and Edgars were not the only prominent families who consolidated assets and strengthened community through kinship. The Bloodgood, Bloomfield, Brewster, Coddington, Cutter, Harned, Inslee families, and others, are also woven into the fabric of Woodbridge society. The names of just one line of the Edgars is a perfect example. The first husband of Mary Moore, James Parker Edgar's grandmother, was Samuel Parker, son of James Parker, the printer. His sister, Mary Moore Edgar, was the wife of Dr. Ellis B. Freeman. James P. Edgar married Frances Woodhull whose mother was a Barron. He named one of his sons Ellis Freeman Edgar. Ellis F. Edgar named one of his sons Ellis Barron Edgar—further reinforcing the ties that bind.



**1 528 Barron Ave.**

William E. Fink, Jr acquired the 528 Barron Avenue property via 1871 and 1882 purchases. The cross-gabled Queen Anne house with a wraparound porch, was constructed, perhaps as an investment/rental property, around 1896. Fink sold it in 1907, the same year he sold 44 Green Street and moved his family to New York City.

Miss Ethel A. Inslee purchased the house in 1908 and lived there with her mother Mary E. McMahon Inslee and her brother William F. Inslee. Ethel and William were the children of Mary and William Inslee, grandchildren of Margaret Fornote and William Inslee and the great-grandchildren of Mary Cutter and Gage Inslee. One of their uncles was Captain Isaac Inslee who, before his 1903 death, lived just north at 611 Barron Avenue.

Mrs. Inslee passed away in 1937. William was a railroad clerk who was employed as a ticket agent at the Pennsylvania Railroad Station (Penn Station) from the time of its construction in 1910 until his death in 1943.

Ethel did not have to commute very far as she was on the faculty of Woodbridge High School (now the Woodbridge Middle School) which was built in 1911 almost directly across the street from her house. Miss Inslee retired in 1953 after 55 years of instructing Woodbridge school children. She died in 1972 having spent 64 of her 94 years living at 528 Barron Avenue. The property was sold by her estate in 1977.

**Edgar Hill**

In Woodbridge's past, a complex web of inter-familial connections bound properties and people together, creating a strong and productive community. Nowhere in the Township is this more apparent than in the history of Edgar Hill, an area of Woodbridge Proper, and the surrounding streets such as Barron Avenue and Freeman Street.

Early settlers were allotted land, theoretically in accordance with need, for a house lot, upland wooded lot and/or farmland. Their tracts were spread across the Township. Subsequent distributions of land only added to the discontinuity of personal holdings. For at least three generations, the good citizens of Woodbridge engaged in land swaps, sales and marriage connections in attempts to consolidate disparate tracts.

Henry Freeman, c1666-1763, first acquired land in Woodbridge in 1699—sixty acres on the north side of what is now Green Street. Many of his progeny distinguished themselves. Judge Henry Freeman (the first Henry's son) was appointed a Judge of the Pleas and Justices of the Quorum and several Freemans served in the Continental Army. The ancient road leading northwest from the village kirk green was probably called Freeman Street after Dr. Ellis Barron Freeman, 1807-1877. After being educated at the Woodbridge Academy, the College of New Jersey (today's Princeton University), and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York (the medical department of King's College, now Columbia University), Dr. Freeman practiced medicine in Woodbridge for forty-five years. His house was on the south side of Freeman Street, east of the tracks of the railroad that he was instrumental in bringing into town.

Elizeus Barron, 1682-1715, arrived in Woodbridge prior to 1705, by which time he had courted and wed a local woman, Mary Andrews. He was considered a prominent and prosperous land proprietor and his descendants continued his legacy.

Elizeus' son, Samuel Barron, 1711-1801, had several farms and a tannery and was Chairman of the Committee of Freeholders in 1774. While his homestead was the former Jonathan Dunham house, now the Episcopal Rectory, at one time he owned much of the property between Freeman and Green Streets. Many deeds in the area can be traced back to the Samuel Barron Estate. Samuel's great-grandson, Dr. John Connor Barron was the most prominent male Barron of his generation and inherited much of the estate. Dr. Barron was responsible for the creation of Barron Avenue and the subdivision of the land into house lots.

Thomas Edgar, the fifth child of David Edgar, laird of Keithock in Scotland, arrived in the Americas circa 1715. He married Janet Knox and purchased lands in Woodbridge, near Rahway. His eldest son, Alexander, was the ancestor of the Woodbridge Edgars, while two of his brothers set down roots in Short Hills and Rahway. James P. Edgar, the great-grandson of Thomas, expanded the family's holdings north of Freeman Street and along the west side of Rahway Avenue. It was during James' life, 1821-1898, that the area became known as Edgar Hill, Edgar Station or even, simply, as Edgar.

In 1865, the Pennsylvania Railroad built a branch line from Rahway with Township stops at Avenel, Woodbridge and Spa Springs. Not long after, the Railroad added a stop in Edgar Hill. Township tradition has it that James P. Edgar, or his son Ellis, bargained for a station in exchange for the right of way through their property so the Edgars could get to and from NYC more conveniently. During the 1930s, when the

Woodbridge Township Historic Preservation Commission

The mission of the Woodbridge Township Historic Preservation Commission is to inform, educate, advise and unite public officials and the community at large as an advocate for the preservation of the rich history of Woodbridge Township

**Commission Members**

- |                             |                     |                        |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
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| Secretary                   | Wenda G. Rottweiler | Township Historian     |

Researchers: Wenda G. Rottweiler & Dr. Gail Price Rottweiler

Special Thanks to Mayor John E. McCormac



Edgar Train Station

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**WOODBRIDGE**

Volume IX

Historic Tour of Edgar Hill and Surrounds: The Ties That Bind



Chartered 1669

Compiled by the Woodbridge Township Historic Preservation Commission

First Edition — 2017



**6 118 E. Prospect Avenue**

118 E. Prospect Avenue was built circa 1860 on land once part of the Nathan Stansbury estate purchased by James P. Edgar in 1848. John C. Barron purchased the premises in 1874 as an investment or as part of a larger financial deal with Mr. Edgar. In 1888, No. 118 was sold to Daniel Selover Voorhees who along with his wife and five children, may have been long standing tenants of the house.

Daniel was the son of Cornelius and Sarah Bloomfield Voorhees and married Sarah Cutter in 1852. One of their daughters was Dr. Florence Voorhees. In 1879, Dr. Vorhees, after progressing through the Woodbridge schools, attended Mount Holyoke College and Women's Homeopathic Medical College in New York. A pioneering female physician, Dr. Voorhees practiced obstetrics and gynecology in Newark for over 35 years.

The senior Voorhees shared their home with their daughter Sarah and her husband Ernest C. Moffett. It remained in the family after Daniel's death in 1923 and his wife's in 1937 until the Moffetts sold in 1947.

From 1948 to 1957, 118 E. Prospect was home to the Woodbridge Gospel Church. In 1957 when the congregation moved into their new house of worship at 121 E. Prospect, this old house reverted to being a single-family home.

The original home features a cross gabled floor plan with a prominent forward-facing gable. The home has been modified over the years with many rear additions.



**7 117 E. Prospect Avenue**

Margaret E. and William H. Miller purchased the adjoining properties from James P. Edgar in 1877 and 1885. The Millers built this cross-gabled Queen Anne home shortly afterwards. The home features a cutaway bay on the front gable and a porch that wraps the home with columns adorned with decorative detailing. In 1915, after the death of his parents, Oscar H. Miller, sold his family homestead to Chris and Emma Christensen.

Chris Christensen, one of the 14 children of Peter and Christina Berthe Christensen, emigrated from Denmark in 1888. He worked for several Perth Amboy tailors including John N. Peterson. In 1892, Mr. Peterson sent Mr. Christensen to Woodbridge



**3 755 Hillside Place**

755 Hillside Place was constructed on land that James P. Edgar had acquired from the estate of Nathan Stansbury in 1848. This beautiful Italianate house with tall, slender windows and deep roof overhangs with decorative cornices and brackets, was most likely built by Colonel Alfred W. (A. W.) Jones, circa 1876, on acreage that was later referred to as the Craske Estate. The entrance to the estate was located on Rahway Avenue.

Born in Virginia, Col. Jones was educated as a lawyer and served in the Confederate Army. After the war he moved first to New York and then to Woodbridge where he started the weekly newspaper, *The Independent Hour*. In 1879, he returned to Virginia and ran for office as a member of the Readjuster Party, a biracial coalition that aspired to "break the power of wealth and established privilege" and to promote public education. He later served as a railroad president in California and spent the last years of his life in his wife's home town of St. Louis, Missouri, where his youngest daughter, Virginia A. Jones, followed in his footsteps as a newspaper editor. He died in 1913.

In 1886, Charles Craske and his family moved into the home. Charles Craske was born in London and moved to New York City in 1852. He was the inventor of stereotyping which he developed in 1861 for newspaper printing at the suggestion of Horace Greeley of the *New York Tribune*.

In 1917 the property was included in the lots being laid out in the Edgar Terrace subdivision that was being developed by Charles L. Steuerwald. Caroline F. and Walter E. Tier purchased the house in 1922 and made it their home for twenty-five years. Walter ran the C.F. Hardware Store in Woodbridge from 1938 until his death in 1947. Beginning in 1958, Janina and Peter Wyrzkowski lived and raised their family at 755 Hillside Place for nearly 60 years.



**4 111 E. Prospect Avenue**

James P. Edgar purchased the property in 1848 from the estate of Nathan Stansbury. In 1877 and 1885 he sold two parcels to Margaret E. and William H. Miller, which together would become 111, 113, 115 and 117 E. Prospect Avenue. The Millers built

their house, No. 117, at the corner of E. Prospect and Ridgedale Avenues leaving the rest of the lot as a large yard. Chris and Emma Christensen purchased the acreage and moved into No. 117 in 1915.

111 E. Prospect was built at the far end of the property shortly before the marriage of Chris and Emma Christensen's eldest son, Gilford, to Elfreda Frederick. In 1929, the new couple moved into the Colonial Revival "American Four-Square" home featuring a pyramidal hipped roof with central dormer and square plan. As typically found with the style, a porch encompasses the full width of the symmetrical front elevation. Before long, construction at 113 and 115 E. Prospect Avenue filled in the distance between No. 117 and No. 111 with houses for Gilford's brother Herbert and his wife Violet and their sister Helen and her husband Howard R. Macnab.

After an early career as a chemist Gilford joined the family company in 1944. Elfreda sold their home in 1978 after 49 years at 111 E. Prospect Avenue.



**5 100 E. Prospect Avenue**

100 E. Prospect Avenue was built on land that had once belonged to James P. Edgar. In 1908 Lottie S. C. Prior and her husband Christopher B. Craske, purchased the property and built the house circa 1916. This home is primarily a Shingle style home with Colonial Revival details. A large single-story covered porch, supported by classical columns on a stone foundation, encompasses the entire front elevation and wraps the left side of the home.

Lottie was a descendant of early New England settlers and was one of the founding members of the Woodbridge Janet Pike Gage Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Christopher, son of Charles Craske of 755 Hillside Place, worked in the family printing business as an electrotyper and was an early entrant in the automobile industry incorporating the Senate Motor Car Co. in 1908 with two other investors.

The Craskes sold the house in 1926 to May and Edward J. Coughlin and moved to Beverly Hills, CA. Unfortunately, the Coughlins lost the house during the Great Depression. The bank first rented the house to the Mantons to open the Edgar Hill Nursing Home in 1941. Later Francis P. and Julia C. Manton purchased the building in 1943. The Edgar Hill Nursing Home provided nursing and rehabilitation care for many of the Township's senior citizens for over 30 years. The nursing home closed in the late 1970s.