

**The history of AIA Central New Jersey is a complex one.**

Its roots trace back to two separate Chapters of the New Jersey AIA. Over time, both Chapters underwent several name changes and territorial shifts before eventually merging into the AIA Central NJ Section we know today.

This presentation highlights the concurrent, and sometimes overlapping, existence of Central’s predecessors, which included:

**Trenton Architects’ Society / Trenton Society of Architects / The Society of Architects of Trenton / Capital Chapter**

Roughly covering Mercer, Hunterdon, and Burlington Counties.

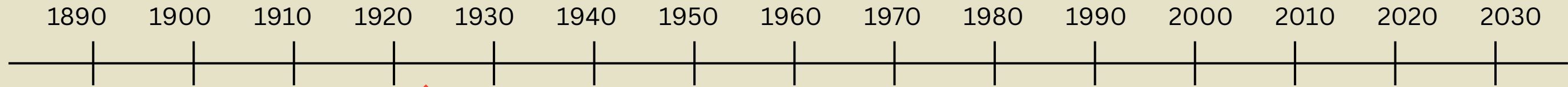
**The Union County Society of Architects / Central Chapter**

Roughly covering Union, Middlesex, and Somerset Counties

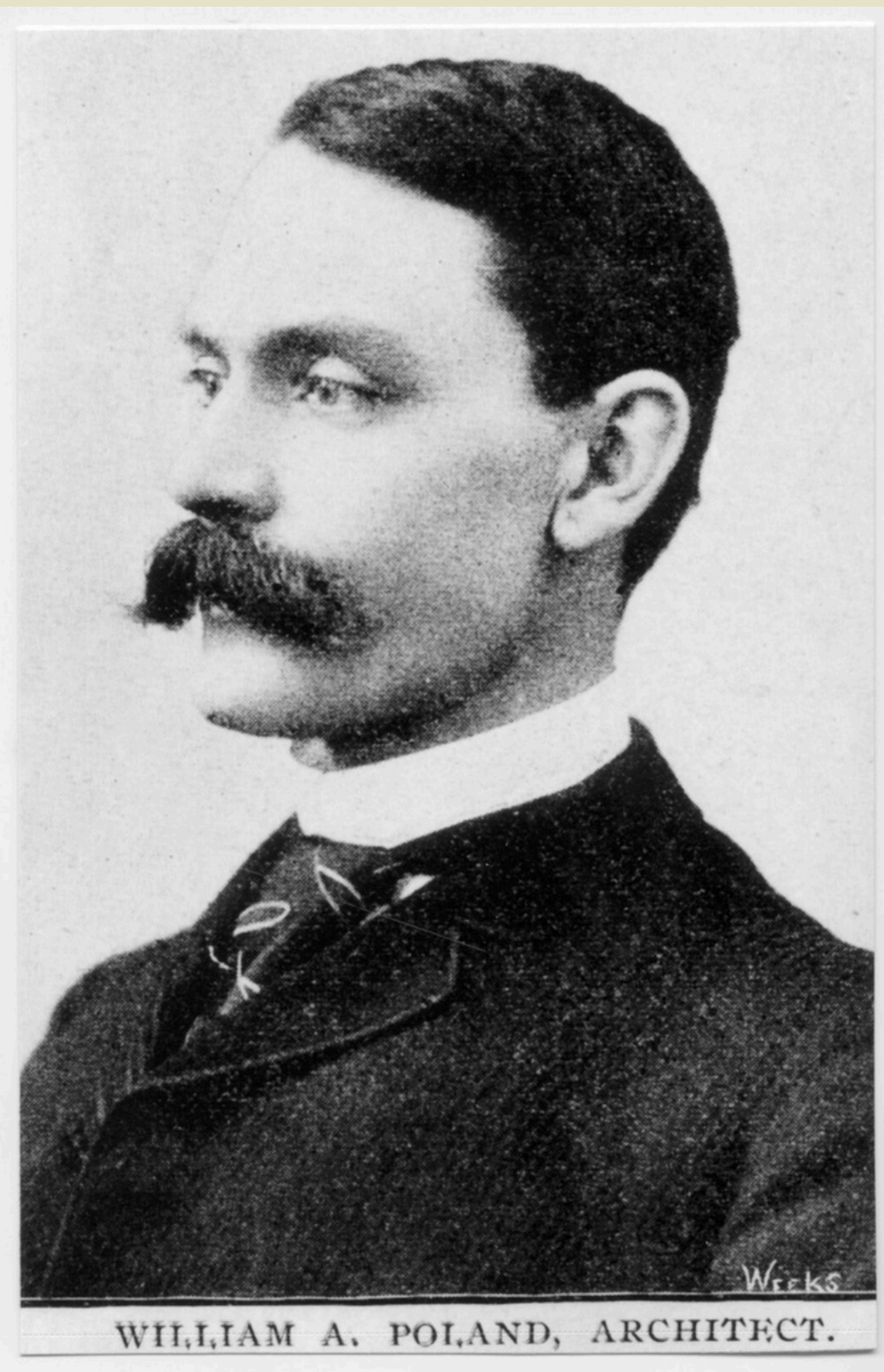
Until the 1990s, the chapters did not strictly align with county boundaries in the way today’s sections do. For example, Union County is now part of AIA Newark & Suburban, while Burlington County is now part of AIA West Jersey.

- AIA Central New Jersey** currently serves: →
- Hunterdon
  - Mercer
  - Middlesex
  - Somerset





1923 - The Trenton Architects' Society - First President - W.A. Poland



WILLIAM A. POLAND, ARCHITECT.

**W. A. POLAND DIES,  
TRENTON ARCHITECT**

Trenton, Oct. 28.—William A. Poland, 83, for more than 25 years architect for the Trenton Board of Education and dean of Mercer county architects, died last night at his home, 1 Woodside avenue, after an illness of several months.

He was born at Hightstown and moved to Trenton when a boy.

Mr. Poland was the first president of the Trenton Architects' Society, being named to that position upon the organization of the society in August, 1923. He resigned from this office last Winter and was named honorary president.

A member of the American Institute of Architects, Mr. Poland was also affiliated with the Masonic fraternity, being presented with a "Fifty Year Button" in November, 1933.

Surviving are two daughters, Mary B. Poland and Mrs. Henry W. Rickey; a sister, Mrs. John S. Yard, of this city, and three grandchildren. Funeral arrangements have not been completed.

October 28, 1935  
*The Morning Post*

This obituary of William A. Poland indicating that he was the first president of the **Trenton Architects' Society, organized August 1923.**

This is the earliest known founding date of an architectural society located within the geographic territory that is now AIA Central New Jersey.

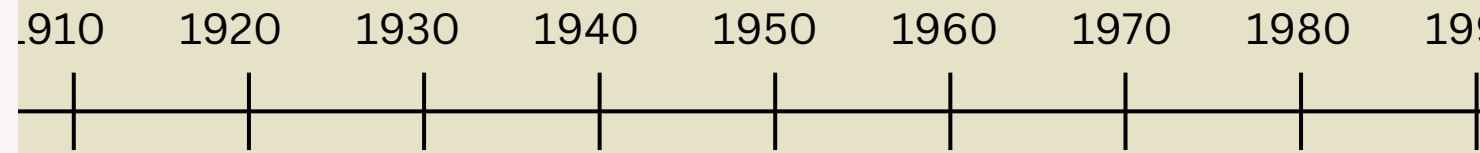
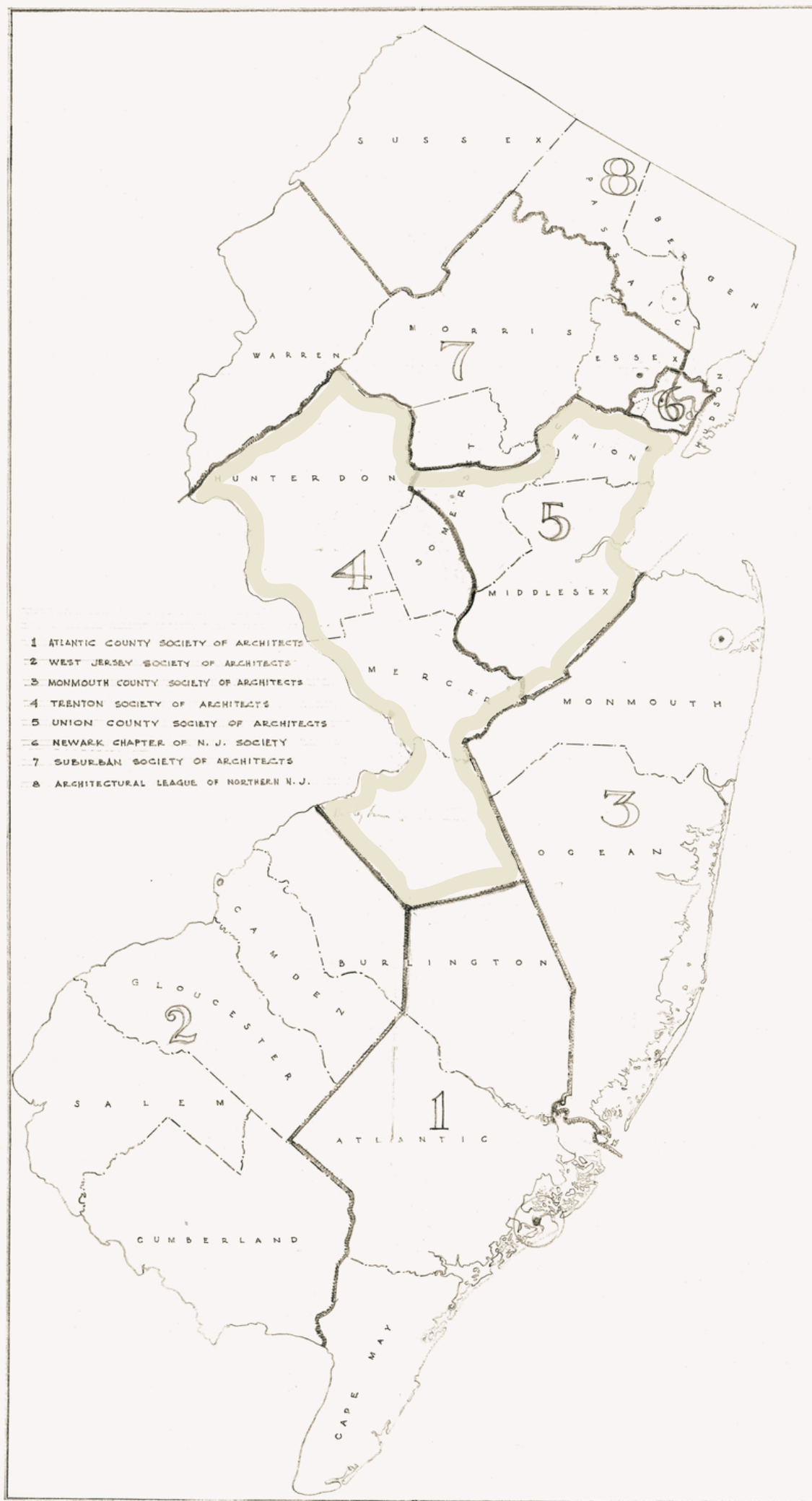
This is the date we celebrated our Centennial in August 2023

**From the Trenton Times, March 9, 1927.**

The Trenton Society of Architects is holding its annual exposition this week on the mezzanine floor of the Stacy Trent Hotel. Officers of the society, which was founded in August, 1923, are: William A. Poland, president; William A. Klemann, vice president; Harry G. Aitkin, secretary, and Leon W. Slack, treasurer.

**March 9, 1927**  
*Trenton Times*

Announcement of the annual exposition held by the Trenton Society of Architects and its officers including the president William A. Poland to attend.



### Changing Territories

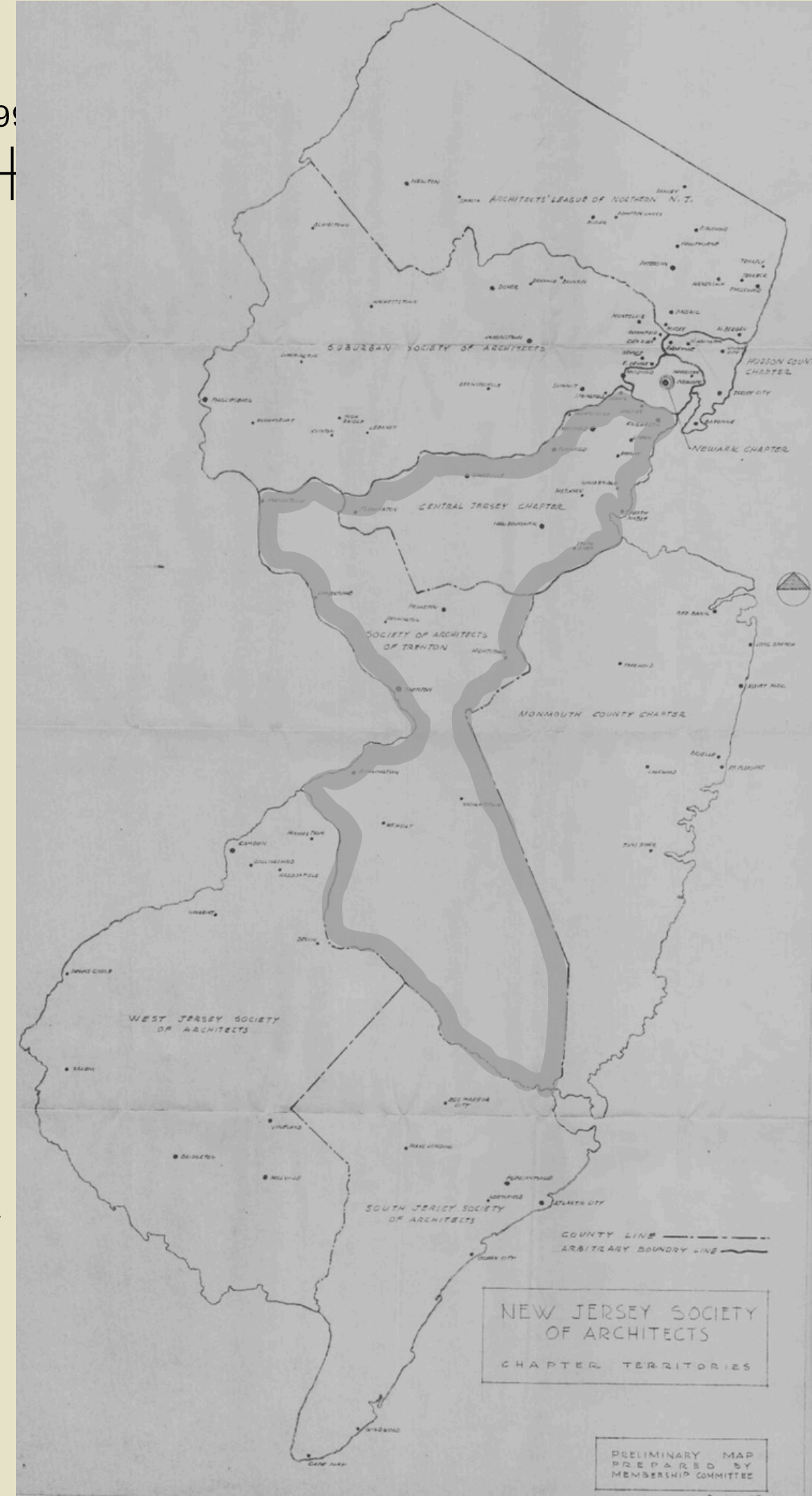
← **The New Jersey Society of Architects (NJSA)**  
 and its territorial societies approximately late 1930s.  
*Newark and Suburban Archives*

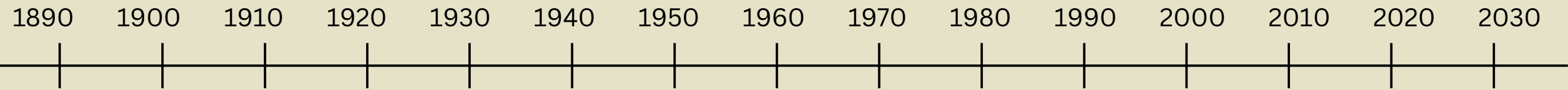
Approximate dates of the foundading of “Chapters”,  
 now called Sections:

1. Atlantic County Society of Architects (1919)
2. West Jersey Society of Architects (1925)
3. Monmouth County Society of Architects (1934)
- 4. Trenton Society of Architects (1923)**
- 5. Union County Society of Architects (1929)**
6. Newark Chapter of NJ Society (1928)
7. Suburban Society of Architects (1937)
8. Architects League of Northern NJ (1928)

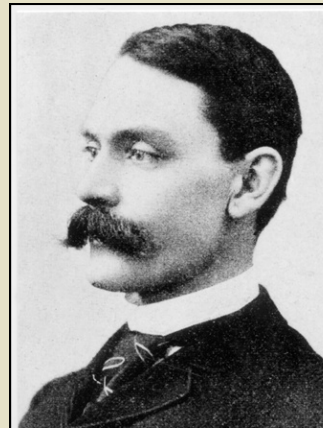
The Chapters were not placed along county lines in all cases.

1957 Map of 9 Chapters of **The New Jersey Society of Architects (NJSA)**





[aiacnj.org](http://aiacnj.org) / [About Us](#) / [AIA CNJ Past Presidents](#)



William A. Poland



Alfred M. Korff



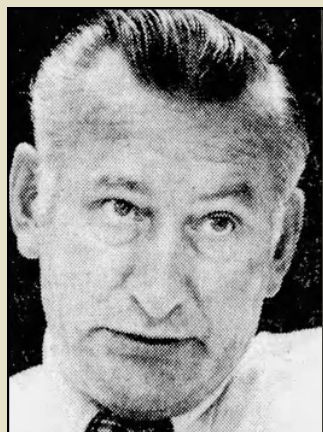
Lauren V. Pohlman



Seymour Williams



Thomas A. Vail



John M. Zvosec

- 1923 **William A. Poland** - Trenton Architects' Society
- 1930 **Robert C. Edwards** - Union County Society of Architects
- 1931 **Alfred M. Korff** - Union County Society of Architects
- 1932 **Seymour Williams** - Union County Society of Architects
- 1934 **Leslie M. Dennis** - Union County Society of Architects
- 1936 **Richard S. Shapter** - Union County Society of Architects
- 1938 **Alfred M. Korff** - Union County Society of Architects
- 1939, 1940 **C. Godfrey Poggi** - Union County Society of Architects
- 1941 - 1946 **Lauren V. Pohlman** - Union County Society of Architects
- 1947 - 1948 **Eugene A. McMurray** - Union County Society of Architects
- 1949, 1950 **George H. Levy** - Central Jersey Chapter
- 1951 **Eugene M Galloway** - Central Jersey Chapter
- 1952, 1953 **Eugene M Dennis** - Central Jersey Chapter
- 1954, 1955 **William C. Henry** - Central Jersey Chapter
- 1955 **Jay C. Van Nuys** - Central Jersey Chapter
- 1956 **Albert A. Kaufmann** - Central Jersey Chapter
- 1957 **Karl S. White** - Central Jersey Chapter
- 1958 **Richard A. Chorlton** - The Society of Architects of Trenton
- 1960 **Henry Handl** - Capital Chapter
- 1961 **Jules Gregory** - Capital Chapter
- 1965 **Thomas A. Vail** - Central Jersey Chapter
- 1967 **Robert W. Meyer** - Central Jersey Chapter
- 1967 **Hans K. Sander** - Capital Chapter
- 1968 **Martin L. Beck** - Capital Chapter
- 1968 **Robert C. Anderson** - Central Jersey Chapter
- 1969 **Ronald E. Vaughn** - Capital Chapter
- 1969 **Harry J. Spies** - Central Jersey Chapter



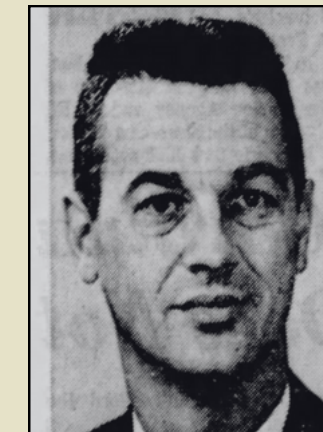
Jules Gregory



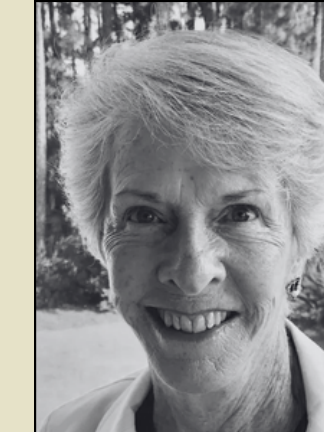
Herman H. Baouman



Richard A. Chorlton



Robert W. Meyer



Barbara E. Vincentsen



Robin L. Murray

**Central Chapter Fetes  
Past Presidents**

The Central Jersey Chapter of the New Jersey Society of Architects honored its past presidents at its November 5 meeting at Dan Dowd's Steak House, Springfield. The meeting was attended by Jacob Shteir; president of the New Jersey Society of Architects and the New Jersey Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, and Albert C. Brown, executive director of the same organizations.

Robert Dennis of Elizabeth presented illuminated testimonials to Past Presidents Seymour Williams (1932-33) of Rahway, Leslie M. Dennis (1934-35) of Elizabeth, Alfred Korff (1938-39) of Plainfield, Lauren V. Pohlman (1941-47) of Elizabeth in absentia, George H. Levy (1949-51) of Elizabeth, Eugene M. Galloway (1951-52) of Fanwood, Eugene M. Dennis (1952-54) of Elizabeth, William C. Henry (1954-55) of Elizabeth, Albert A. Kaufmann (1956-57) of Elizabeth, and Karl S. White (1957-58) of Westfield.

A moment of silence was observed for deceased Past Presidents Robert C. Edwards (1931-32), Richard S. Shapter

(1936-37), C. Godfrey Poggi (1939-41), Eugene A. McMurray (1947-49), and Jay C. Van Nuys (1955-56).

Reminiscences by the past presidents carried the group back over the years to the Elks Club in Union where the Chapter was organized on December 16, 1930.

Robert Dennis, program chairman, announced that the December 3rd meeting will be a Christmas party. Jacob Shteir stated that the first public presentation of licenses will be made to 11 newly registered architects at the November 13th meeting of the New Jersey Society of Architects and the New Jersey Chapter of the A.I.A. at the Military Park Hotel, Newark. The program will also include 2 new films "What is a House?" and "A School For Johnny" from A.I.A. headquarters.

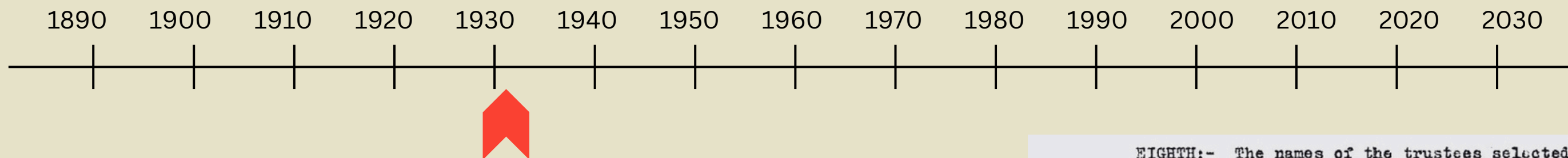
**Investigator Christensen  
Tells of Violations**

Arthur Christensen, field investigator for the State Board of Architects, made his annual visit to the Architects League of Northern New Jersey during the League's meeting in the Red Lion Inn in

*(continued on page 12)*

**November 5, 1959**

Central Jersey Chapter of the New Jersey Society of Architects honored its Past Presidents and observed a moment of silence for the deceased Past Presidents.



**CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION**  
of the  
**UNION COUNTY SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS.**

The undersigned persons desiring to associate themselves into a corporation pursuant to an Act of the Legislature of the State of New Jersey, entitled, "An Act to incorporate Associations not for pecuniary profits" approved April 21st, 1896, and the several supplements thereto, and Acts Amendatory thereof, do hereby certify:

FIRST:- That the name by which such corporation is to be known in law is the "UNION COUNTY SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS".

SECOND:- That the purposes for which this corporation is formed, are:

- (a) The advancement of architectural knowledge and practice.
- (b) The maintenance of a high professional standard among its members.
- (c) To promote the general welfare of architects, by social and professional intercourse.
- (d) To maintain the standard of ethics, and fees prescribed by the American Institute of Architects.
- (e) To hold meetings for the presentation and discussion of professional papers on architecture.
- (f) To co-operate with other organizations or public bodies, in solving any public architectural problems.

THIRD:- To contract and be contracted with, to take and hold by lease, gift, purchase, grant, devise or bequest, any property real or personal and to sell, lease or mortgage same, or any interest therein, for the objects of the corp-

Seven years after the Trenton Architects' Society was founded, architects in the Elizabeth area organized and incorporated

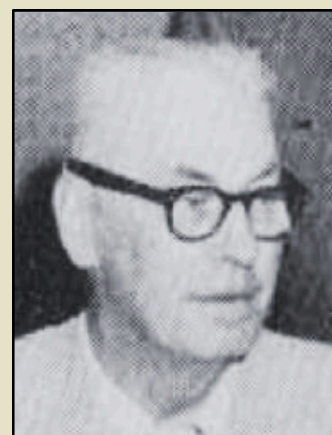
**December 16, 1930**

*AIA Central New Jersey archives*

**In 1930, the Union County Society of Architects was incorporated with Robert C. Edwards, of Elizabeth, NJ, as its first President.**

The names of the trustees selected for the first year of the Union County Society of Architects included:

- Robert C. Edwards** (1889 - unknown)
- Lauren V. Pohlman** (1894-1969)
- Charles W. Oakley** (1874 - 1934)
- Seymour Williams** (1883 - 1967)
- Leslie M. Dennis** (1917 - unknown)
- William Lundberg Finne** (1884 - 1940)
- Frederick L. Elsasser** (1897-1984)



Lauren V. Pohlman



Seymour Williams



William L. Finne

EIGHTH:- The names of the trustees selected for the first year, and also for the term they are to serve are as follows:

NAME	RESIDENCE	TERM.
<i>Robert Edwards</i>	<i>6 Halsey Pl.</i>	Three years
<i>Lauren V. Pohlman</i>	<i>407 West and Ave Elizabeth</i>	"
<i>C.W. Oakley</i>	<i>1261 Clinton Pl. Eliz. N.J.</i>	" "
<i>Seymour Williams</i>	<i>133 Central Ave. Rahway, N. J.</i>	Two years
<i>Leslie M. Dennis</i>	<i>878 Glenside Rd. Elizabeth N.J.</i>	" "
<i>Wm. Finne</i>	<i>141 Rome St. Elizabeth N.J.</i>	" "
<i>Frederick L. Elsasser</i>	<i>71 Elmwood Ave Union N.J.</i>	One year

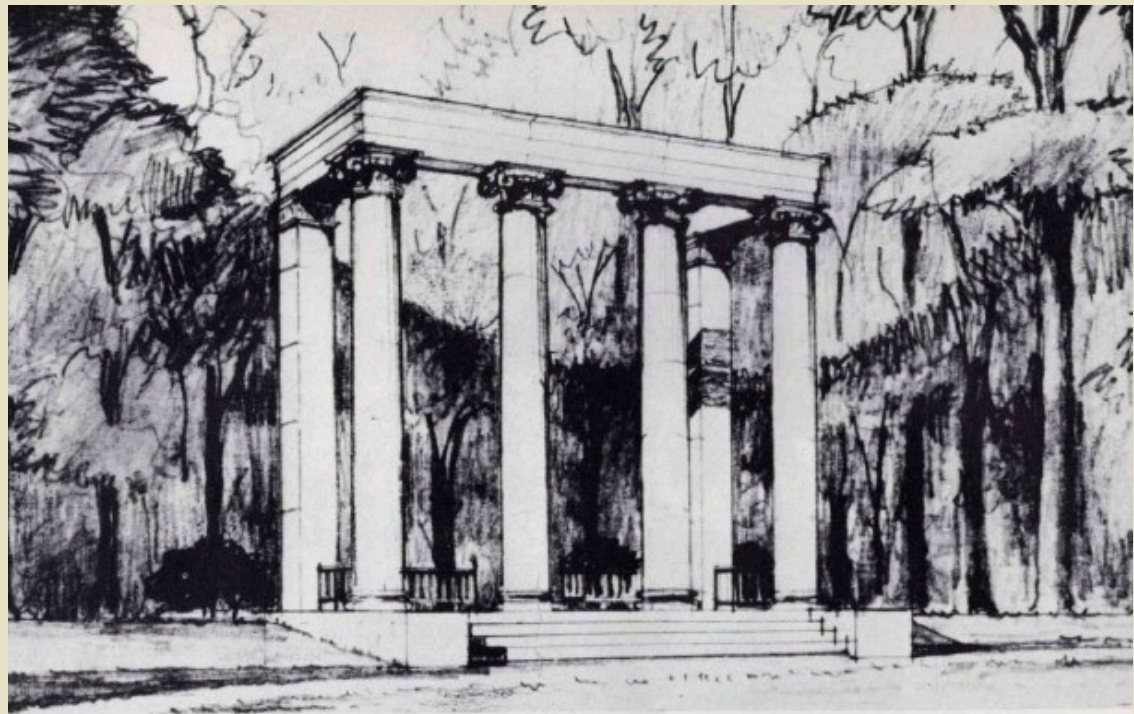
IN WITNESS WHEREOF We have hereunto set our hands and seals this *sixteenth* day of December, Nineteen Hundred and Thirty.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered in the presence of

*Joseph V. [unclear]*  
*Robert Edwards*  
*Lauren V. Pohlman*  
*C.W. Oakley*  
*Seymour Williams*  
*Leslie M. Dennis*  
*Wm. Finne*  
*Frederick L. Elsasser*



**1957 AIA Centennial**



**A Monument to Architecture**

A STATELY EXAMPLE of the architecture of the early Nineteenth Century will serve as the entrance to the Princeton Battlefield State Park — if \$20,000 can be raised to pay for its re-erection.

The architecture is a portico designed by Thomas U. Walter, architect of the dome of the U. S. Capitol and a founder and second president of A. I. A.

The portico has served as an entrance to two homes, since its erection 122 years ago. Architect Walter designed it originally for the Philadelphia home of Matthew Newkirk, wealthy merchant and railroad pioneer. When Newkirk died, his home was sold to the Society of St. George, which maintained the residence as St. George's Hall until the turn of the century, when the building was torn down.

The late H. B. Owsley purchased the portico and brought it to a site on Mercer Road, Princeton, where it graced his home. After purchasing the property in 1956, the Institute for Advanced Study demolished the Owsley home in 1957 to make room for the development of the Institute.

Recognizing its historical and architectural value, the trustees of the Institute left the portico intact. Subsequently, the portico was presented as a gift to the State of New Jersey and dismantled and transported to the Princeton Battlefield.

As was reported in the May issue of

JERSEY ARCHITECT, the New Jersey Society of Architects and the New Jersey Chapter, A. I. A., formed a special committee to deal with the problem of finding a permanent location for the portico.

The committee was designated the Centennial Memorial Committee, in recognition of the fact that 1957 was the A. I. A. centennial. Sherley W. Morgan, former head of the Princeton School of Architecture and secretary-treasurer of the State Board of Architects, was named honorary chairman of the committee.

Mr. Morgan regards the presence of the portico on the battlefield as a "most happy coincidence" and explains the committee's reasons for wanting to re-erect the portico there in this way:

"On the north boundary of the park, at the top of a long stretch of greensward, is a circular grove of pines. These surround the common grave of the soldiers — both American and British — who died in the engagement on the battlefield on January 3, 1777.

"A flat stone slab covers the ground under which they rest. The marble is inscribed with a verse from Alfred Noyes' poem on the Battle of Princeton.

"Thus is formed a memorial — simple and moving to all who know it, but unfortunately known to very few. The occupants of cars going to and from Trenton by Mercer Street (which bisects the open grassland of the park) see nothing

to tell them that they are passing such a shrine. A suitable visual marker is needed to say: 'Here is hallowed ground. Come and do reverence.' What more appropriate form could be found for such a monument than a portico of marble, standing pure and white against the green of the grove, and serving as an entrance to it?"

"Such an addition to the park would give it the focus which it now lacks, and would make it a center for patriotic gatherings."

Mr. Morgan reports the committee needs \$20,000 to re-erect the columns, with their architraves, piers and platform, as the memorial entrance to the grove where the "Unknown Soldiers of the Revolution" are buried.

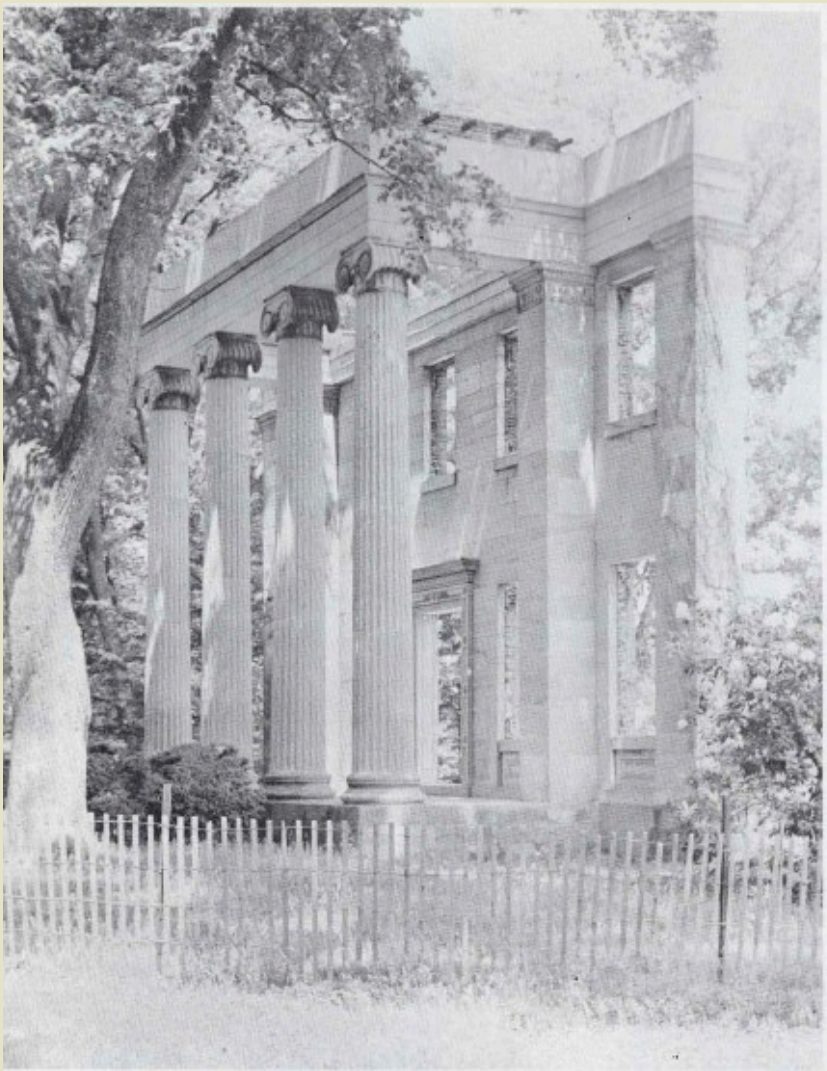
He points out that the columns are exactly the right scale for the park. Re-erecting them would provide an outstanding park entrance for a fraction of the cost of a new design, he adds.

The committee plans to add a wide expanse of steps leading up to the colonnade. Bronze commemorative plaques would be placed on the monument.

Funds for the project are being handled by the Princeton Portico Fund, a non-profit corporation. Donors are eligible for deduction privileges for income tax purposes.

Checks should be made payable to the Princeton Portico Fund and mailed to 18 Nassau Street, Princeton, Mr. Morgan reports.

JERSEY ARCHITECT



A general view of the portico which the committee seeks to preserve through its fund-raising campaign.

**Seek Funds For Portico**

AN ORNATE Ionic portico is destined for reconstruction as a Princeton battlefield monument, according to Architect Martin L. Beck.

The portico stands on property purchased in 1956 by the Institute for Advanced Study, whose trustees have

agreed to dismantle and store it on the battlefield.

Mr. Beck, who lives at 30 Westcott Road in Princeton, heads the Centennial Memorial Committee of the New Jersey Chapter, A. I. A., which seeks \$15,000 to re-erect the portico. The group has

in sight approximately \$4,000 thus far, according to Mr. Beck.

Several groups, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the City of Philadelphia, have also been interested in acquiring the 19th century Carrara marble facade. It is fairly certain, however, that the portico will stay in Princeton.

Thomas Ustick Walter designed the portico in 1836 for the Philadelphia home of Matthew Newkirk, wealthy merchant and railroad pioneer. Walter was also the architect of the wings of the National Capitol, Girard College in Philadelphia, and Andalusia, the historic home of Nicholas Biddle. He was a founder of the American Institute of Architects and served as its second president from 1876 to 1879.

When Newkirk died, his home was sold to the Society of Sons of St. George, a group organized to give "advice and assistance to Englishmen in distress." The Society maintained the residence as St. George's Hall until the turn of the century, when the building was torn down.

The late H. B. Owsley purchased the portico and brought it to a Mercer Road site from Philadelphia. It graced his home which was demolished last year. The facade was left intact because Dr. Oppenheimer and the trustees of the Institute recognized its architectural and historical value.

Should the Committee succeed in transferring the portico, it plans to add a wide expanse of steps leading up to the colonnade. Bronze commemorative plaques will be placed on the monument. The proposed site, which is near the common grave of Hessian and Continental troops who died on the battlefield, would be landscaped.

Approval of the site is currently the concern of the State Department of Conservation and Economic Development, according to Mr. Beck.

The Committee, whose honorary chairman is Professor Sherley W. Morgan, former head of the Princeton School of Architecture and secretary-director of the State Board of Architects, has more than one reason for wishing to preserve the portico.

Because of its architectural beauty and the close association of its designer with the American Institute of Architects, the portico's preservation would be an ideal commemorative of the A.I.A.'s centennial year which was observed in 1957, Mr. Beck says.

Equally important according to Professor Morgan and Mr. Beck, would be the portico's survival as a public monument on one of New Jersey's most important historic sites which now lacks a focal point of interest. If re-erected, it would probably face south overlooking the great sweep of lawn which was once the battlefield on which the Continentals first triumphed over the British regulars. Another \$11,000 remains the first prerequisite, however, to the facade's re-establishment.

The committee is anxious to hear from anyone interested in historical preservation.

JERSEY ARCHITECT

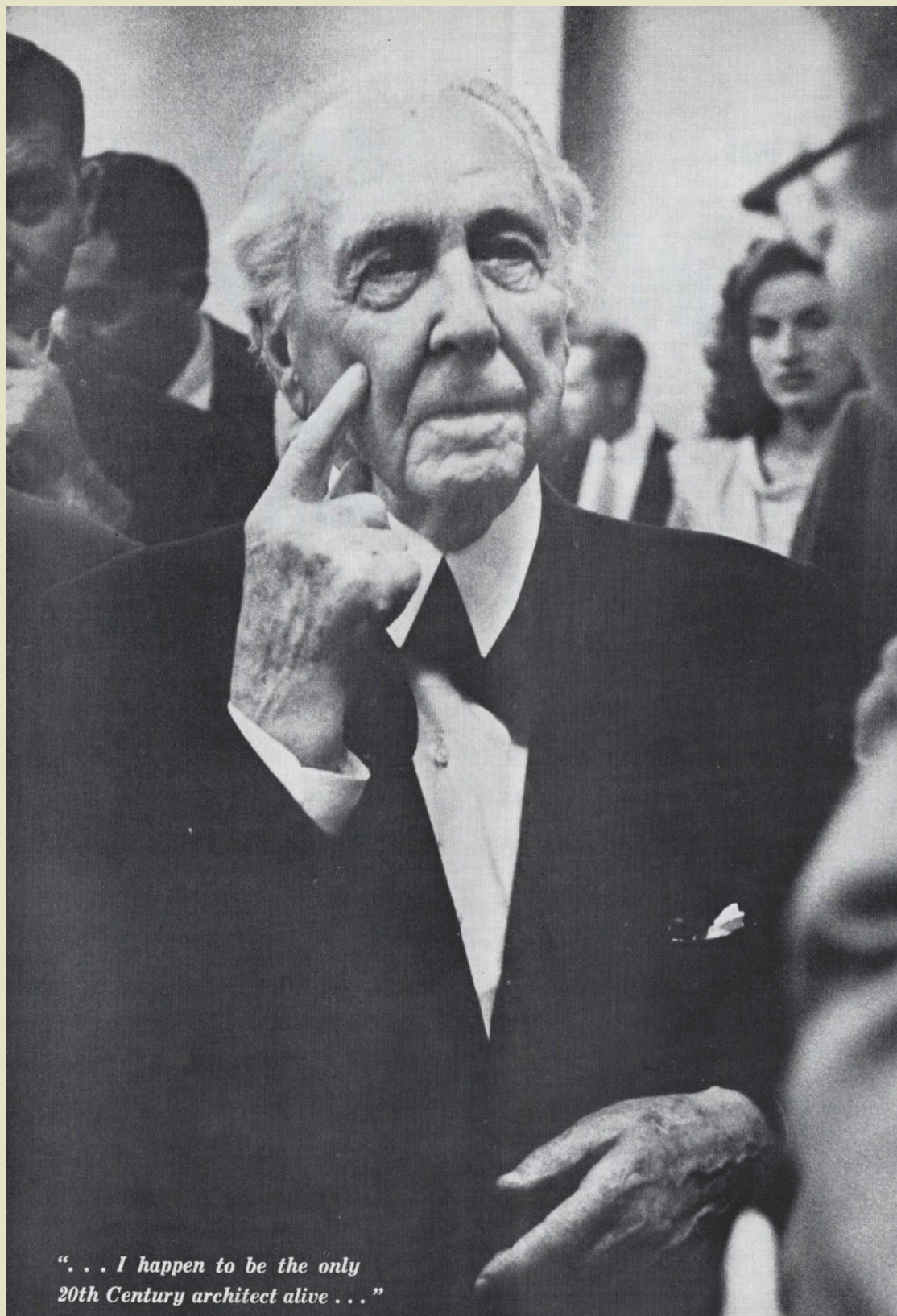
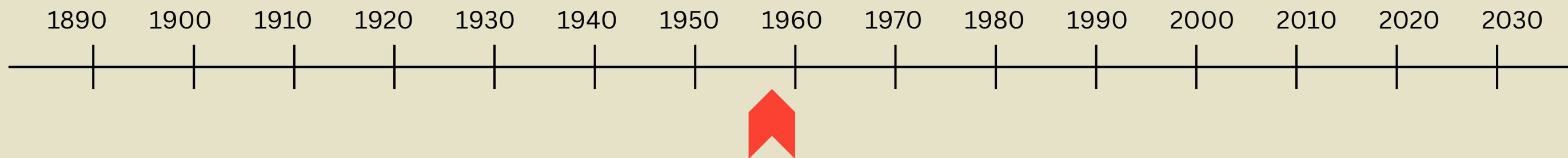


**1836 Portico Battlefield Park Memorial, Princeton**

The NJ Society of Architects and the NJ Chapter of the AIA, formed a special committee to deal with finding a permanent location for the 1836 portico designed by **Thomas U. Walter**, the architect of the dome of the U.S. Capitol and a founder and second president of AIA.

The committee was designated the **Centennial Memorial Committee** in recognition of the fact that **1957 was the AIA Centennial**. The committee secured a location and funded its reconstruction.

The portico served as the entrance to two different Philadelphia homes before being gifted to the State. It serves as a monument to architecture and a memory of the soldiers who died at Princeton on January 3, 1777 in the Battle of Princeton during the American Revolutionary War.



**W**HEN HE strode into the crowded assembly room, the audience, comprising approximately 400 architects and their guests, rose as one and applauded. He accepted the applause graciously, as a man does when he is accustomed to frequent acclamation.

He doffed his broad-brimmed Western-style hat, removed his cloak-like coat, and handed hat, coat and cane to one of the members of the reception committee. His hat, coat, suit, and flowing tie were all the same color—a deep blue.

He stepped behind the speaker's table, pausing for a moment to finger the drape which hung behind the table and to peek behind it. Later, while he was being introduced, he took a flower from a bouquet on the table and examined it carefully, twirling the stem slowly in his hand. He removed the petals slowly and studied the interior, almost like a curious child who is seeing a flower for the first time.

After he was introduced, he took the floor and began speaking. He talked for perhaps 40 minutes—without notes, without pausing to rest, without support of any kind. His posture would have done credit to a man half his 88 years; throughout the talk he stood straight and true, like the architecture he loves.

When he was finished, he received another standing ovation. This time, he smiled like a pleased boy. The applause continued while he dressed and while he departed.

It all took place in the Architects Display Building on Route 22 in Mountainside, New Jersey, on the night of September 6, 1957.

It was an auspicious occasion because he is Frank Lloyd Wright.

*November 1957 edition  
Jersey Architect*

**September 6, 1957**

Frank Lloyd Wright speaks to over 400 architects and guests of the NJ Chapter of AIA at the Architects Display Center, Rt 22, Mountainside, NJ.

**... On the Uncommon Man:**

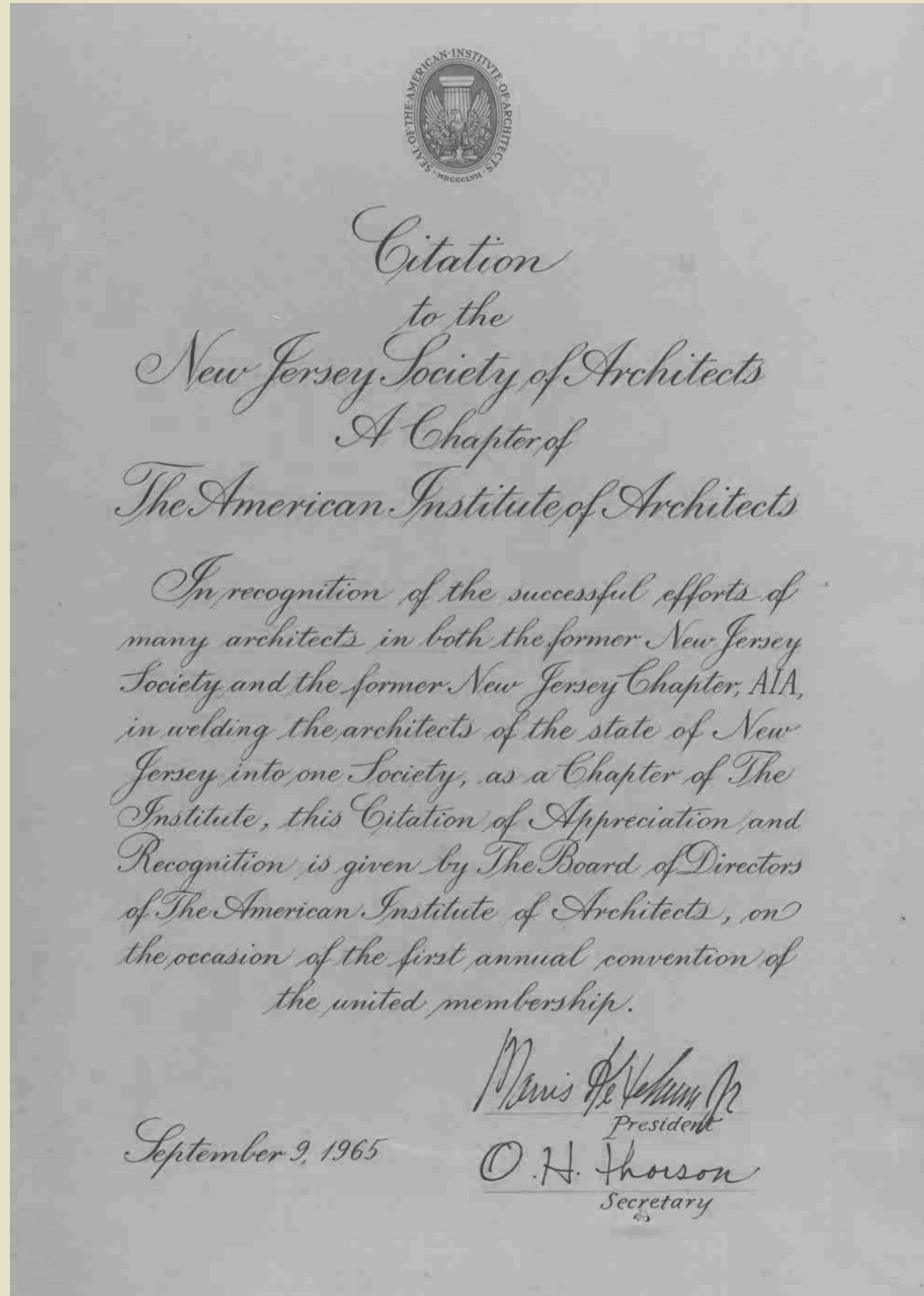
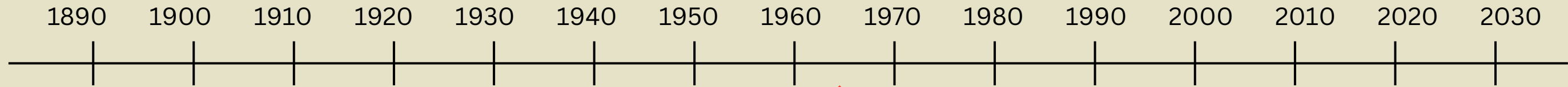
It was tremendously important when our forefathers declared our freedom as individuals, when they asserted the sovereignty of the individual. The sovereignty of the individual had never been declared by government before our forefathers declared it.

Here we are trying to work it out. It isn't easy; it's pretty difficult. Mediocrity is rising into high places. We've had no qualification for the vote. Our forefathers thought we would be ruled by the bravest and the best. That was their hope and that still is our hope but we are not making a very great success of it at the present time.

The common man is getting more than his due. According to him, the uncommon man is almost unconstitutional at the present time. The whole feeling seems to be going toward a jealousy, a meanness, concerning the uncommon man. Now, the uncommon man is all the vision the common man is going to have. And if he wipes out the uncommon man, his name is mud—or something like it.

Now, the Declaration of Independence wasn't enough. We've got to do

NOV. 1957

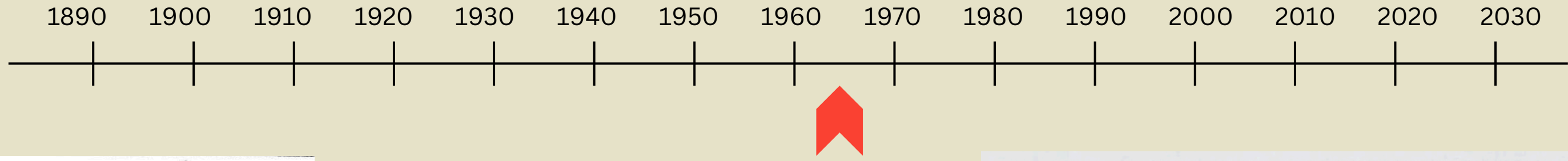


**September 9, 1965**  
**NJSA and its Chapters merge with AIA New Jersey**

For decades, the New Jersey Chapter of AIA and the New Jersey Society of Architects operated alongside each other as two separate organizations.

1964 brought renewed discussion of unifying the Society with AIA, and in 1965, the merger took place. Finally, the distinct chapters within the State Society were officially affiliated with AIA.

**“In recognition of the successful efforts of many architects ...  
... on the occasion of the first annual convention of the united membership.”**



Filed in the Clerk's Office  
 County of Union, N. J.  
 Oct 25 1965, at 11:20 AM  
 Recorded in Book 157 of  
 Certifications for said County

*chg of name*

**CERTIFICATE OF AMENDMENT OF CERTIFICATE  
 OF INCORPORATION**

*Henry J. Spies*  
 HENRY J. SPIES, designated the President and the Secretary of the Union  
 County Society of Architects duly incorporated under the laws of the  
 State of New Jersey hereby certify, that at a regular meeting of the  
 said Association held at The Springfield House in the City of Spring-  
 field, New Jersey, on June 2, 1965, at 8 P.M., and said Association  
 by a majority of the votes cast by the members of said Association  
 present at said meeting resolved to change the name of said Associa-  
 tion as hereinafter specified: and to that end we do certify and  
 set forth:-

1. That the name of said Corporation in use immediately preced-  
 ing the passage of the resolution as aforesaid and the making, recor-  
 ding and filing of this certificate was "Union County Society of  
 Architects."
2. The name assumed to designate said corporation and to be used  
 by it in the place and stead of that mentioned in the preceding par-  
 agraph is "Central Jersey Chapter, New Jersey Society of Architects,  
 A.I.A."
3. The location of the principal office of this Corporation is  
 at No. 120 Halsted Street, in the City of East Orange, County of  
 Essex and the name of the agent therein and in charge thereof, upon  
 whom process against the corporation may be served, is Mrs. H. T.  
 Schneider.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands as officers  
 of the said organization at New Brunswick, New Jersey on this sixth  
 day of October, 1965.

President *Thomas A. Vail*  
 Thomas A. Vail

Secretary *Harry J. Spies*  
 Harry J. Spies

Attest: Secretary *Harry J. Spies*

STATE OF NEW JERSEY)  
 ) SS  
 County of Union )

Be it remembered that on this 25 day of October, A.D.  
 One thousand nine hundred and sixty-five, before me the subscriber a  
 Notary Public in and for the County of Union and State of New Jersey,  
 personally appeared Harry J. Spies who being by me duly sworn, doth  
 depose and say that he is the Secretary of the Union County Society  
 of Architects, as aforesaid; that the said certificate was signed by  
 Thomas A. Vail who was at the date and execution thereof the Presi-  
 dent of the said Association in the presence of said deponent, as

26

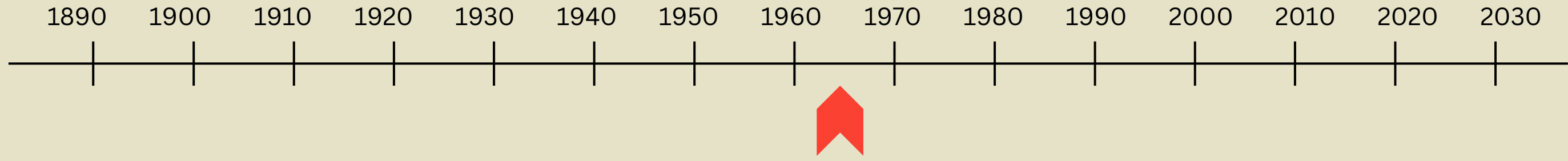
*AIA Central New Jersey Archives*

Although the name "Central Jersey" was in use as  
 early as 1954, it was not until the Chapter's  
***Certificate of Incorporation was Amended on  
 October 6, 1965*** that the  
 Union County Society of Architects was officially:  
***Central Jersey Chapter, New Jersey Society of  
 Architects, A.I.A.***

**February 11, 1965**  
*Central NJ Home News*  
**Thomas A. Vail** was elected first president of  
 the **Central Jersey Chapter** of the New Jersey  
 Society of Architects.



**AT DRAWING BOARD—Thomas A. Vail, Franklin Town-  
 ship architect, has assumed the presidency of the Central Jer-  
 sey Chapter, New Jersey Society of Architects.**



**AIA Central NJ earliest women architects on current records:**  
*not including members from the New Jersey Society of Architects:*

- 1965 Lois B. Gregg, AIA,** Princeton
- 1966 Jane West Clauss, AIA,** Trenton, *transferred from:*  
 1964 Jane West Clauss, AIA, Philadelphia Chapter
- 1967 Elizabeth Reilly Moynahan, AIA,** Princeton

*From AIA-NJ.org:*

*“Elizabeth Reilly Moynahan, AIA, (1925-2019) was a gifted teacher, architect, and a devoted mother. Her service to the New Jersey State Board of Architects included serving as commissioner for six years and president for one. She was secretary and treasurer to the Central Chapter AIA of the New Jersey Society of Architects and selected to serve on a six-member steering Committee for Historic Resources.*

*Her work included corporate office buildings, houses, schools, community buildings, housing for the elderly, barrier-free designs, a college library, and the compound for The Institute for Women’s Leadership located on the Douglass campus of Rutgers University. In Princeton, she remodeled a section of the Princeton University Library and the Institute for Advanced Study, a pioneering design for solar housing as early as the 1970s. Elizabeth was active in historic preservation restoring, among others, the Albert Einstein House. As a committed advocate for affordable housing, she was instrumental in creating Architects Housing, Eggerts Crossing Village Community Building and Offices in New Jersey.”*



*Eleanore Petterson and Elizabeth Moynahan*

*Elizabeth Reilly Moynahan, AIA, (1925-2019) A lifelong architect who graduated from Radcliffe College and the Harvard School of Design in 1952 as one of only three women in her class.*



*From pioneeringwomen.bwaf.org/jane-west-clauss:*

*“Jane West Clauss (1907–2003) was an early proponent and practitioner of modern architecture in the United States, and the first American woman to work in Le Corbusier and Pierre Jeanneret’s atelier. With her partner Alfred Clauss, she designed and built Little Switzerland in Knoxville, Tennessee, one of the first residential communities in the United States whose design was influenced by the European modern movement.*

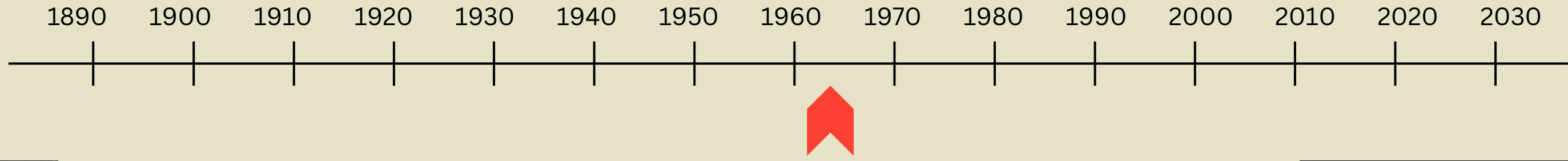
*In her long career she collaborated on the design of several important public buildings and numerous private homes in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. As an instructor at Beaver College (now Arcadia University), she trained a generation of interior designers for collaborative work with architects.*

*Reflecting on her career as a woman architect, she wrote:*

*“In summary, I must say that architecture is hard work—for man or woman. But it is an exciting and rewarding profession, and if I had another life to live, I would make the same choice. I have, of course, had the tremendous advantage of being married to a talented and dedicated architect and we have complemented each other very well, but it is a field in which a woman can succeed even without such an advantage. And it is a field in which a woman can contribute much toward a better way of life for all of us.”*



*Jane West Clauss with students at Beaver College working on the design of the Presbyterian Hospital project, 1956. Arcadia College Archives*



**Michael Graves** (1934–2015) was one of the most influential American architects and designers of the 20th century. As principal of Michael Graves & Associates and Michael Graves Design Group, he shaped the fields of architecture and industrial design through his distinctive postmodern aesthetic and human-centered approach. Graves was a member of The New York Five, a group of architects known for their modernist purity, and the Memphis Group, which celebrated color and playful form in design.

Graves served on the faculty of Princeton University’s School of Architecture for nearly four decades (1962–2001), holding the title of Robert Schirmer Professor of Architecture and later becoming Professor Emeritus. Following partial paralysis in 2003, he became a passionate international advocate for accessible and health care design.

Graves earned his Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Cincinnati in 1958 and his Master of Architecture from Harvard University’s Graduate School of Design in 1959.

He moved to Princeton, New Jersey, in **1962** to begin teaching at Princeton University and established his own architectural practice in **1964**, the same year he passed the New Jersey architecture registration exam.

In 1974, Graves purchased an abandoned warehouse at 44 Patton Avenue in Princeton and transformed it into his private residence and studio, naming it *The Warehouse*. The property was later acquired by Kean University, which in 2014 founded the Michael Graves College of Architecture and Design in his honor.

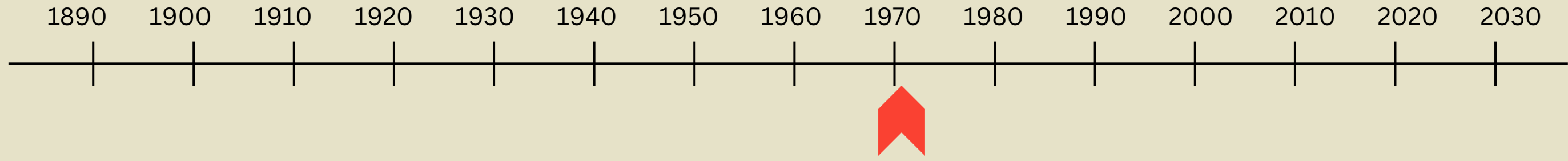
Graves’s practice moved in 1983 to 341 Nassau Street, Princeton, where it continues to operate.

Over his lifetime, Michael Graves received numerous prestigious honors:

- 1999 – National Medal of Arts
- 2001 – AIA Gold Medal
- 2004 – Michael Graves Rome Prize Fellowship established
- 2005 – AIA New Jersey Michael Graves Lifetime Achievement Award established and awarded to Graves
- 2010 – AIA/ACSA Topaz Medallion for Excellence in Architectural Education
- 2010 – Inducted into the New Jersey Hall of Fame
- 2012 – Richard H. Driehaus Prize Laureate
- 2013 – Appointed to the U.S. Access Board for Architecture & Transportation



Mr. Michael Graves, FAIA, Harry B. Mahler, FAIA. 1979 AIA NJ Convention, Atlantic City



Capital Chapter  
Ronald E. Vaughn, Chairman  
120 Halsted Street  
East Orange, N.J. 07018

Central Jersey Chapter  
Harry J. Spies, Chairman  
120 Halsted Street  
East Orange, N.J. 07018

**Capital-Central  
Jersey Chapter**  
Hans K. Sander, Chairman  
18 Nassau St.  
Princeton, N.J. 08540

Central Chapter  
Barrett R. Davies, AIA, Chairman  
12 Loriann Rd., W.T.  
Plainfield, NJ. 07060

*In 1969, **Capital Chapter** and **Central Jersey Chapter** were separate Chapters of AIA New Jersey.  
1970 brought a merger between the two chapters as **Capital-Central Jersey Chapter**.  
By 1971, the merged organization was known as the **Central Chapter**, according to AIA National Directory.*

*From the AIA 1969, 1970, and 1971 Organizational Directories*

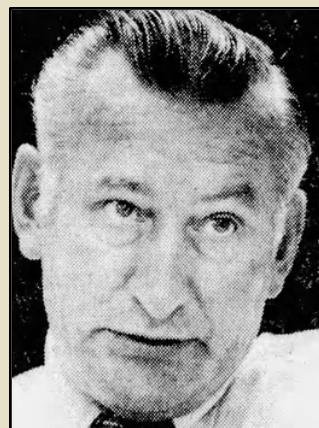


# The New Practice

by Michael C. McAney, AIA

## Architect as Developer and Entrepreneur

1978 - 1 Architecture NJ Architects Housing



John M. Zvosec



Jules Gregory



# Housing for the Elderly

The last major hurdle before construction began in Trenton on new housing for the elderly, designed and operated by architects, was cleared last fall by approval from the New Jersey Housing Finance Agency of plans and specifications for the \$5.2 million project in the Mercer-Jackson Redevelopment Area.

Joseph N. Wirth, AIA, Trenton architect and president of the Architects Housing Company I, announced the October 25, 1977 groundbreaking of the 1.2 acre site and said that occupancy is scheduled for 1979. The building will consist of 123 one-bedroom apartments and will be bounded by E. Front and S. Montgomery Streets, Douglass Square and Assunpink Creek. Tenants will be accepted who are 62 years of age or over.

The Architects Housing Company I is a corporation created by the Central Chapter of the N. J. Society of Architects. The Chapter, largest of six in the state society, includes Mercer County in its area.

The unusual non-profit project was planned as a contribution to the Bicentennial and as a means of helping to ease the critical housing program in the area.

The officers and directors of the housing com-

pany are architects who will operate the building through a management firm. They will maintain the structure and grounds and make improvements over the 40-year life of the mortgage held by HFA, the funding agency.

The idea of architects acting specifically in this manner for the public interest is believed to be the second such instance of its kind in recent times. The only other known similar project is in Utica, N.Y.

Geddes Brecher Qualls Cunningham (GBQC) Princeton architects, drew the \$3,000 prize-winning design that an impartial jury accepted in a Chapter-wide competition last year. The Chapter furnished the competition prize money. GBQC also won the commission to execute the project. The Costanza Construction Co., Pennsauken, is the general contractor.

The idea for the project was initiated by John M. Zvosec, AIA, of Princeton when he was Chapter president two years ago. Events led swiftly to formation of the housing company, the competition and to enthusiasm from the HFA and the Trenton Dept. of Planning and Development.

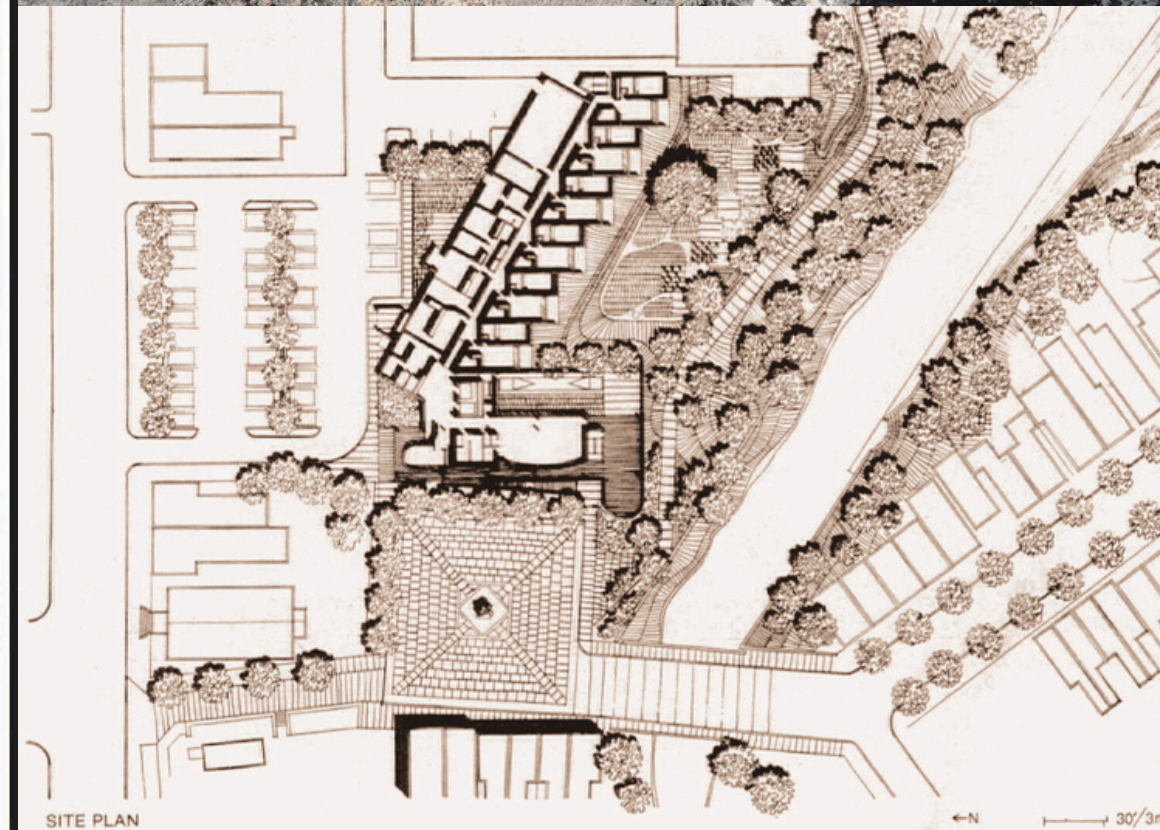
The HFA awarded "seed money" loan to pay for initial planning and design, and a housing

consultant and an attorney were engaged. The HFA loan stems from its Revolving Housing Development Loan Program and will be repaid at the mortgage closing.

Wirth said the housing company would charge rentals equal to 25 percent of individual tenants' incomes. The remainder required to operate each apartment would be subsidized by the Federal Dept. of Housing and Urban Development.

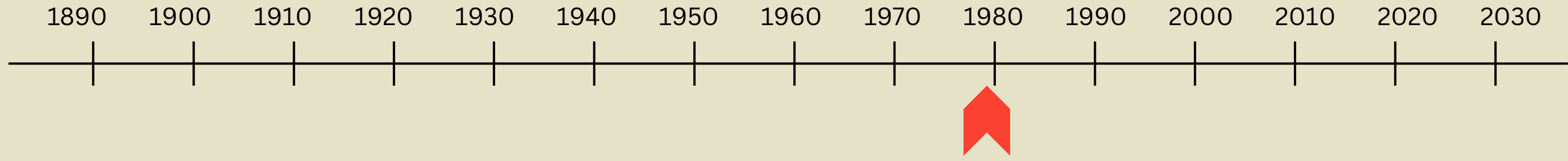
"Based on incomes, the rentals vary," Wirth said. "Our objective is to rent to those whose housing needs are the greatest. The subsidies the project will receive will help us to meet this goal, particularly among the hard pressed, lower income elderly house holder."

The project has sparked widespread recognition of the involvement by architects in major issues of the day. Community Affairs Commissioner Patricia Q. Sheehan, who is chairman of the Housing Finance Agency, said: "The Agency applauds the architects for their interest in building a senior citizens' development. This project will help meet a real need in making available more units of safe and sanitary housing for the elderly in the Mercer County area."



SITE PLAN

←N → 30'/3m



AIA Central NJ Chapter began organizing the Architects Housing Project in 1961. The Central Chapter secured \$5.2 million in mortgage funds from the NJ Housing Finance Agency to build housing for the elderly on an urban renewal site donated by the City of Trenton.

The Chapter held a design competition for low- and moderate-income housing won by the Princeton firm of Geddes, Brecher, Qualls and Cunningham, and architect Robert Geddes. The project, named Architects Housing, was completed and officially opened in **October 1979**.

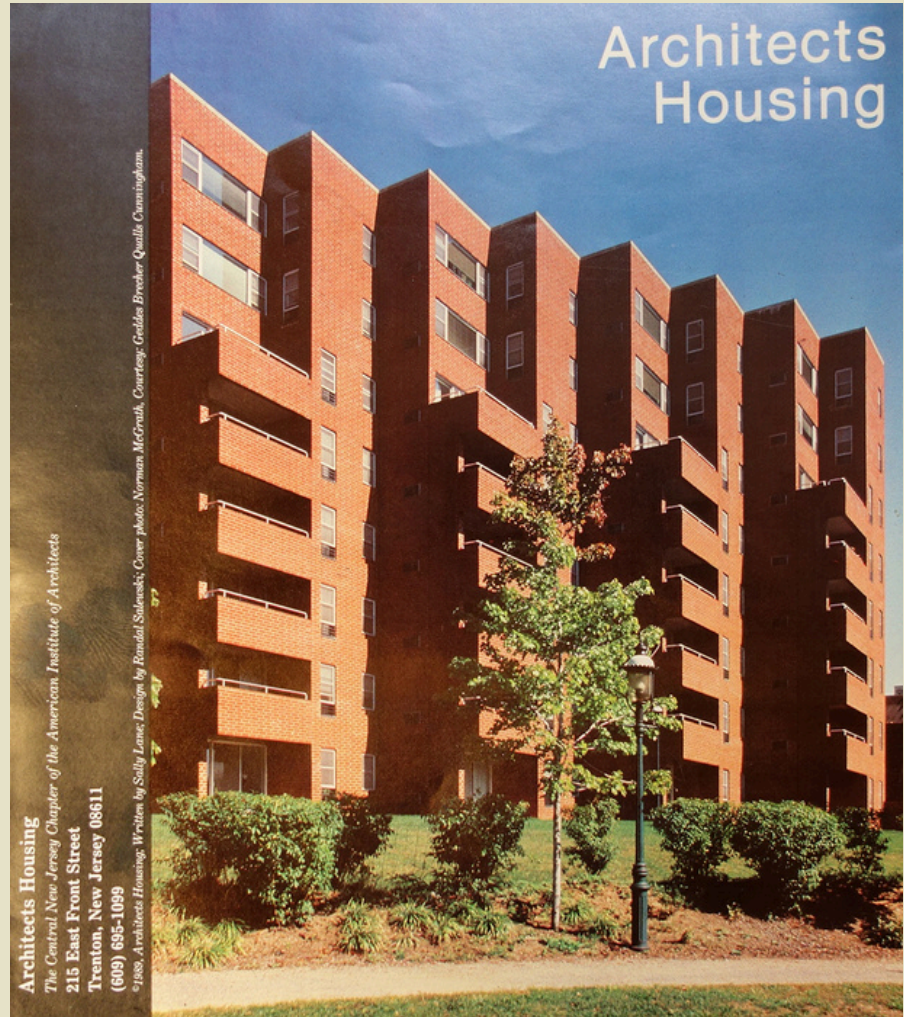
It became the nation's first architect-sponsored housing development and remains one of the most significant achievements in the history of AIA Central New Jersey.

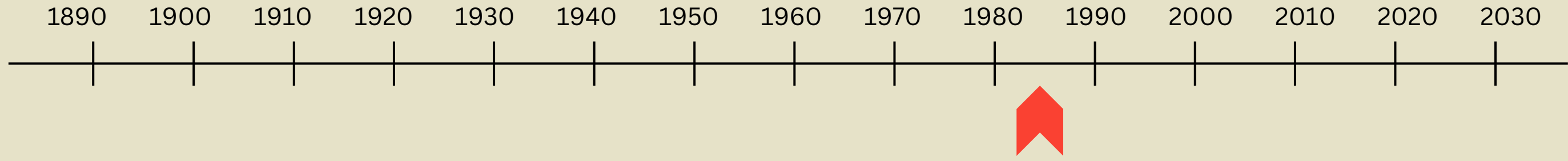


Robert Geddes



CONTEST WINNERS—Neville Epstein, Robert Geddes and Robert Brown of the Princeton architectural firm of Geddes, Brecher, Qualls and Cunningham present their winning design for a downtown Trenton housing project for the elderly at a contest of the Architects Housing Company at the War Memorial Building yesterday. Second place winner was Assistant City Planning Director Fred Travisano with Lee Weintraub. Third place was won by former Chief Building Inspector John Rhoads and Bernie Rothside with Carmi Bee.





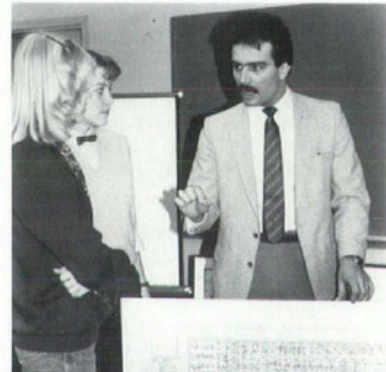
career exploration activities in new jersey



Martin Santini, AIA, with middle school students in Leonia.



Stanley J. Aronson, AIA, with students from the Grace Norton Rogers Intermediate School, Hightstown.



James Ramentol, AIA, with students from Governor Livingston Regional High School, Berkeley Heights.



J. Robert Hillier, FAIA and Alfred W. Wensley, AIA with a group of students at Mercer County Career Day, Princeton Country Day School.

A number of approaches have been utilized by New Jersey Architects as well as educators in an effort to introduce the profession as a viable career choice for youngsters to consider. As early as 1970, the Central Chapter of the N.J. Society of Architects provided "seed monies" to support a well-conceived concept to expose elementary as well as high school students in the Trenton School System to architecture and the allied professions. Later, in 1971, the first annual student design competition among students enrolled in drafting classes in select Mercer County high schools was initiated at the Princeton Day School by Hillier Group of Princeton. This event continues annually with architects from the Princeton area participating as judges and advisors.

The Architecture Transfer Program at Mercer County Community College has also sponsored a series of career exploration events since 1977. High School youngsters are invited from throughout New Jersey and Lower Bucks County in Pennsylvania. It is usually a one day affair with members of the N.J. Society of Architects serving as guest speakers/presenters. Students are briefed about what is involved in pursuing an education in architecture, the variety of programs that do exist and where, how a typical office is managed and the range of specialties that exist, and most importantly what is predicted for the profession in a 5 to 7 year period. Architects also discuss professional registration and its relationship to the education process and why it is important for youngsters to consult available reference materials on the profession. Among the architects who've participated at Mercer are: Eleanore Pettersen, AIA; Theodore Hammer, AIA, Jamil Faridy, AIA and Eugene O'Connor, AIA.

According to Edward Levy, AIA, the Architects League of Northern New Jersey has sponsored a series of high school career programs as part of its chapter meetings. Architecturally oriented junior year students with their parents are invited to attend from all 76 public and parochial high schools throughout Bergen, Passaic, Hudson and Sussex counties. Field trips, mini-seminars, and panel discussions are included as part of a very comprehensive approach to expose students to various facets of the profession.

In many instances, architects have encouraged local school districts to include their offices as part of local career activities. Youngsters have visited offices with guidance counselors, teachers and parents and received a tour of the facilities as well as job sites and first hand information from architects about the profession, career opportunities in the profession and have gained some insight about minimum requirements to enter professional schools.



Principals of the Hillier Group: J. Robert Hillier (at left), George Cedeno, Steven DeRochi, Joseph Bavaro, John Pearce, Edmund Wilson, Joel Spaeth, Dennis Wyckoff.

1983 edition 2 of Architecture NJ, photo of Hiller Group

1983 edition 2 of Architecture New Jersey

Article notes that "as early as 1970" the **Central Chapter** provided "seed monies" to support K-12 education in architecture and allied professions. The first annual student design competition "was initiated at the Princeton Day School by Hillier Group of Princeton." Princeton architects participated as judges and advisors.

Photos include architects mentoring students. Bottom photo includes **J. Robert Hillier** drawing on a board and Alfred Wensly looking on.

"J. Robert Hillier (Bob) is one of the leading and most highly-respected architects in the United States. He is perhaps best known for having built one of the largest and most successful architecture firms in the world. Bob is distinguished for his design, for his business acumen, and for his contributions to the field of architecture as a practitioner and educator.

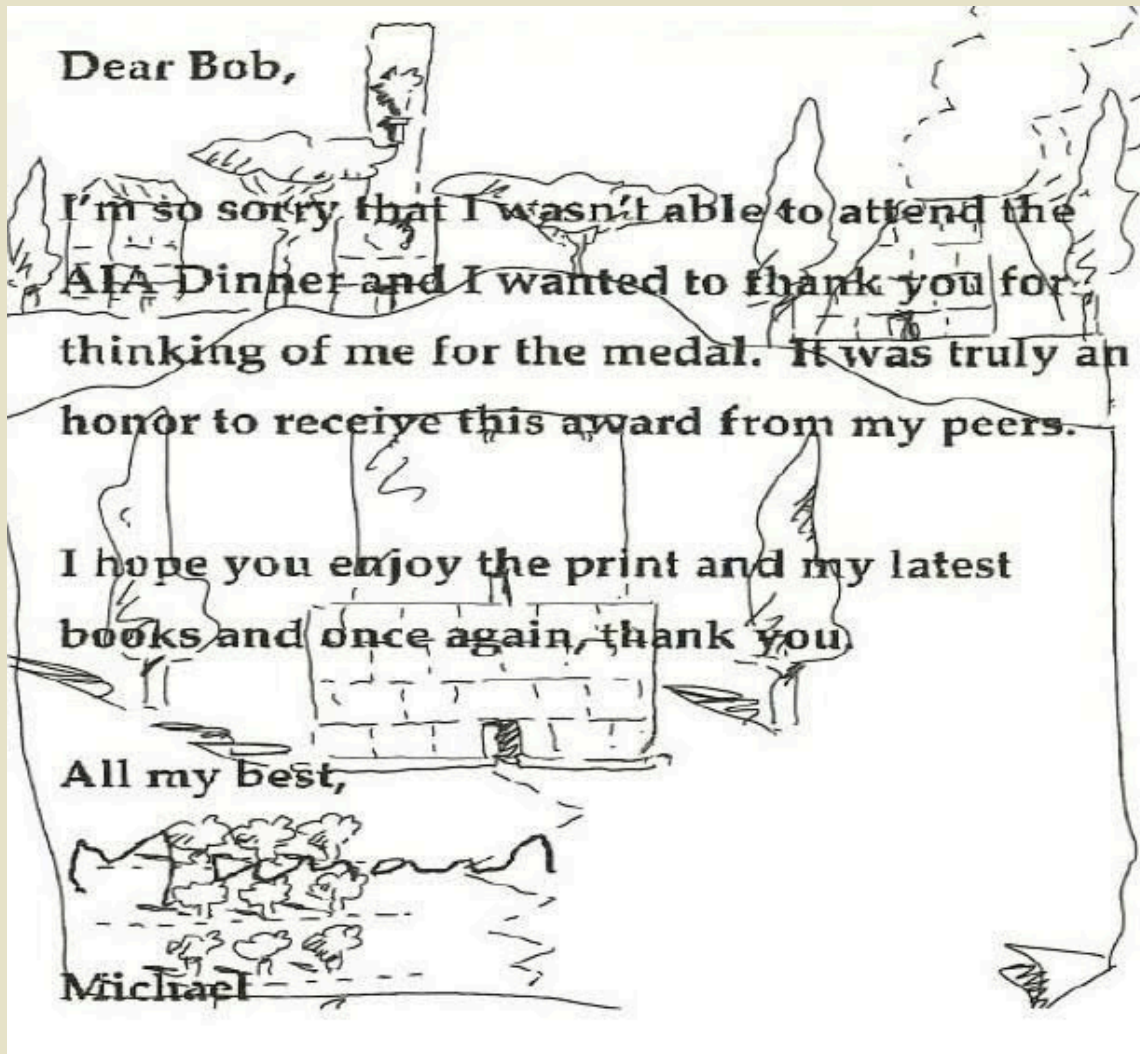
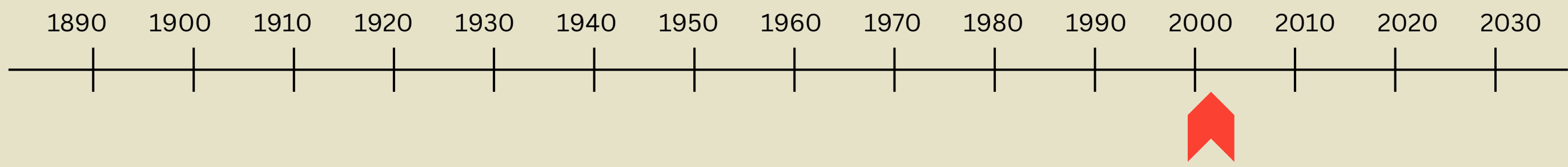
He has been on the core faculty of Princeton University's School of Architecture since 1992 where he teaches two graduate seminars. He has served on the AIA National Fellowship Jury and as Chair of the Selection Committee for the Dean of Princeton's School of Architecture.

He is the recipient of over 350 of individual honors and awards including, an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from New Jersey Institute of Technology and an Honorary MBA from Bryant University. Other honors include the Legacy Award from the Urban Land Institute, the AIA's Michael Graves Lifetime Achievement Award, and The President's Medal from New Jersey Institute of Technology. He is also a Trustee Emeritus at McCarter Theater, Peddie School, and Bryant University. He has given over 200 lectures and participated in dozens of design juries. He and the firm have been widely published in national and international journals, newspapers, and magazines.

In May of 2019, the New Jersey Institute of Technology renamed its College of Architecture the J. Robert and Barbara A. Hillier College of Architecture and Design."

2025 [www.studiohillier.com](http://www.studiohillier.com)





In 2004, AIA NJ created the Michael Graves Lifetime Achievement Award in honor of Central's own Michael Graves, FAIA

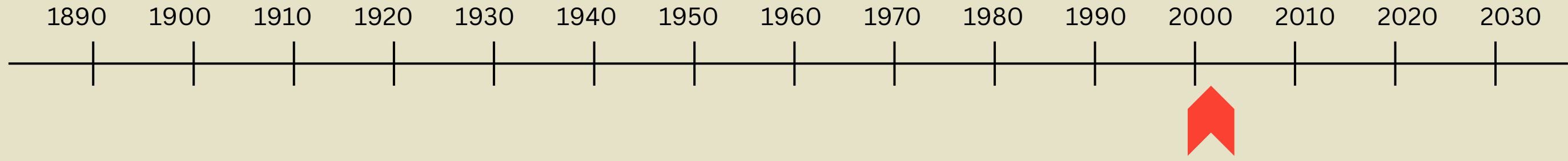


Courtesy of Bob Cozzarelli  
Martin Santini of the Architects League, and Bob Cozzarelli of Newark and Suburban, with Michael Graves, FAIA, Central New Jersey when Bob and Martin asked Michael to design the Award.

**AIA NEW JERSEY MICHAEL GRAVES LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

Past recipients include:

- Michael Graves, FAIA (2004)
- J. Robert Hillier, FAIA (2007)
- Eleanor Pettersen, FAIA (posthumously, 2010)
- Jon Hlafter, FAIA (2014)
- Alan Chimacoff, AIA (2020)



**HILLIER IS THE FIRST AWARDED WITH "MICHAEL GRAVES LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD"**

J. Robert Hillier, FAIA, was awarded the first "Michael Graves Lifetime Achievement Award" at the American Institute of Architects New Jersey chapter's Awards Dinner held on Jan. 12 at The Newark Club.



*Photo: J. Robert Hillier, FAIA, has recently been awarded the first-ever "Michael Graves Lifetime Achievement Award" at the American Institute of Architects New Jersey chapter's Awards Dinner held Jan. 12 at The Newark Club. Standing left to right: Martin G. Santini, Robert Cozzarelli, J. Robert Hillier, AIA-NJ Immediate Past President Jerome Leslie Eben.*

Hillier, a 38-year veteran of the industry, is the founder and president of the Princeton-based RMJM Hillier. The firm has several offices located throughout the nation and serves clients around the world. To date, Hillier has acquired an excess of 250 design awards for the company. Additionally, he is an adjunct professor at the Princeton University School of Architecture.

"The last 40 years have been so wonderful for me, I could not ask for a better life," Hillier said, in accepting the award.

"It is a great honor to be able to present J. Robert Hillier with the first Michael Graves Lifetime Achievement Award this year," said Seth Leeb, newly elected president of AIA-NJ. "His noteworthy contributions to the field of architecture have made him a worthy recipient of this prestigious award."

Additionally, he was the 2001 recipient of the prestigious national AIA Gold Medal. Graves' firm is responsible for the design of numerous significant buildings throughout the nation and the state, including the Alexander House, Princeton, and the Plocek House, Warren.

**Jan 12, 2007**  
*AIA New Jersey Chapter Awards Dinner, The Newark Club*  
**J. Robert Hillier, FAIA** was honored as the first recipient of the Michael Graves Lifetime Achievement Award

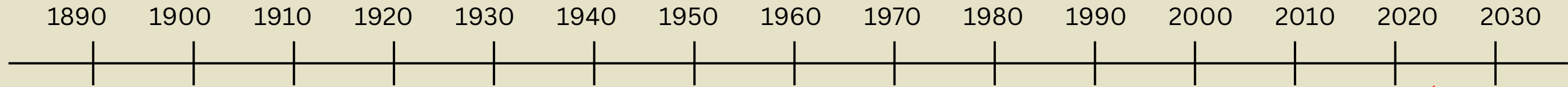
*Pictured Martin G. Santini, Robert Cozzarelli, J. Robert Hillier, and Jerome Leslie Eben*



**2014**  
**Jon Hlafter, FAIA** was honored with the Michael Graves Lifetime Achievement Award



**2020**  
**Alan Chimacoff, FAIA** was honored with the Michael Graves Lifetime Achievement Award



2023 AIA Central NJ Section rediscovering our history



October 2023 Photo at Architects Housing, Trenton. Central's Past Presidents and 2023 Board Members honored for their contributions to the AIA Central New Jersey Section.

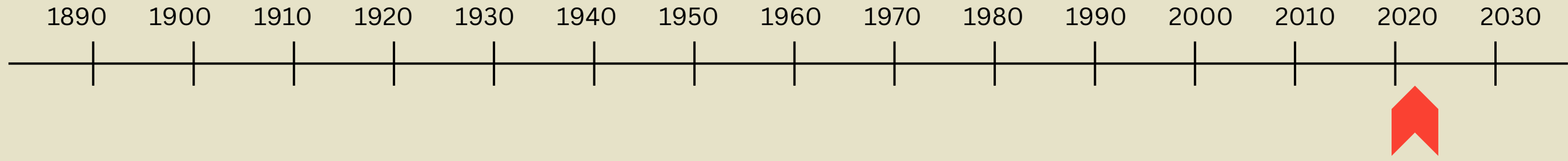
Presidents: Elina Shchervinsky, AIA (2023 President), Tania Althoff, AIA (2025 President); Erin Newton, Assoc. AIA (2024 President); LoriAnne Jones, AIA (2020 and 2021); Sean Cuddahy, AIA (2018); Joe Totaro, AIA (2010); Carmine Cerminara, AIA (2009); Thomas Meyers, AIA (2006); Michael Hanrahan, FAIA (2005); Patricia Jaar Watson, AIA (2004); Robert Longo, AIA (1998); Robin Murray, FAIA (1996); and Robert Sussna, AIA (1992)

Board Members: David Von Stappenbeck, AIA (2025 President-Elect); Ben Walmer, AIA (Treasurer); Joshua Zinder, AIA (Trustee); and George Sincox, AIA (Trustee and Board Secretary for 20 years).



October 2023 Photo at the Architects Housing, with the statue of Washington in the background, situated in the park where George Washington turned the tide and won the country in 1776.

AIA Central New Jersey is one of the largest sections of the New Jersey Chapter, with the collective strength to influence our profession both individually and as a community. Our organization thrives through the dedication of talented architects who volunteer their time and expertise to lead, mentor, and serve. Their generosity and commitment have left a profound and lasting impact on the profession and the members we represent. The Architects Housing event, pictured here, celebrated and honored our Past Presidents, Board Members, and volunteers for their enduring contributions to the success and legacy of our Section.



**October 22, 2024** AIA Central New Jersey *First Annual* Design and Service Awards Dinner, Nassau Inn, Princeton



The 2024 Inaugural AIA Central New Jersey Awards Program Dinner took place on October 22, at the Historic Nassau Inn, in Princeton, NJ.

The evening was kicked off with an enlightening course led by the esteemed **J. Robert Hillier, FAIA**. Hillier, a renowned architect who generously shared his decades of experience, captivating the audience with his insights into the interplay of design, business, and education. He discussed his innovative “Deep Dive” programming approach—a streamlined design process that not only saves time and resources but enhances the quality of output across multiple projects. Bob Hillier emphasized the importance of maintaining a unified design philosophy while customizing solutions to meet clients' specific needs.

Following Hillier's presentation, the evening continued with a formal awards ceremony, celebrating the outstanding contributions of AIA Central NJ architects and recognizing the winning recipients of the 2024 AIA Central NJ Design Awards.

