

Historic Preservation In Allendale Does Anyone Care?

Crescent Avenue

Marsha Stoltz

ALLEDALE — Three "extensively altered" homes are listed in the Crescent Avenue section of the County Historic Sites Survey, including what is now LC's Woodhouse Restaurant at 168 W. Crescent Ave. No East Crescent Avenue buildings are mentioned.

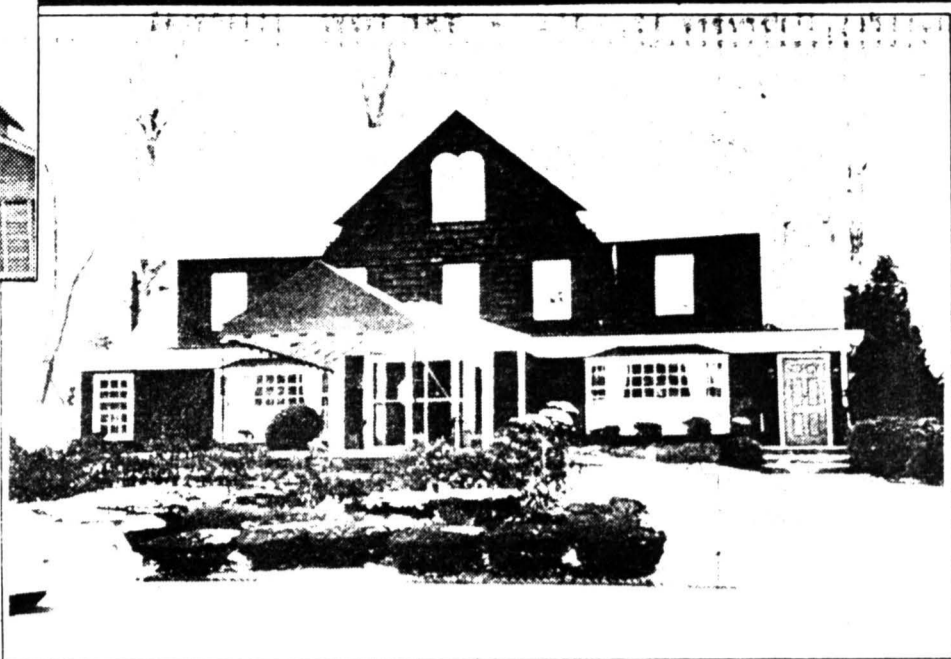
The restaurant was built about 1861 by Dennis Higgins or Hagen. It was sold to Charles Henry O'Neill in 1868. Mr. O'Neill owned a lumber and building materials business in Jersey City and was mayor there about 1850. The family named the house "Solid Comfort" — alternating with "Maple Grove" — and used it as a summer residence. It passed through several unnamed owners before conversion to restaurant use in the 1920s, including one, reincarnation as the

Ramapo Gate Inn.

The survey cites the vernacular Italianate structure for its sculpted bracket frieze in spite of being "extensively altered in the 20th century."

The circa-1800 William Shannon House still stands at 723 W. Crescent Ave. near the Park Avenue intersection. In spite of extensive alterations, the county included the house for its past farmhouse connections. "It appears to have been a modest three-bay-wide farmhouse with an attached east kitchen wing," the survey speculates. Besides Mr. Shannon, Isaac Hopper is listed as the owner in 1876, and R.C. Storms as owner in 1913.

The final house in this section is listed at 794 W. Crescent Ave. between



A restaurant since the 1920s, this former farmhouse at 168 West Crescent Ave. once served as the summer residence for the mayor of Jersey City.

Beresford Road and the Waldwick border. The survey lists the house as "significant in Allendale's agricultural settlement" since it still "retains an attractive early 19th century Greek Revival east entrance and some handsome interior 19th century features." Alterations in the early 1900s "reflect the Colonial Revival and Arts

and Crafts styles" popular at that time.

Built around 1800, A.L. Storms is listed as owner in 1861, J. Storms in 1876, 1902 and 1913. Present owners suggest ownership was held by the Critchley Family 1907-1955 but the survey does not resolve these conflicting dates in the study.

(Next: Hillside and Brookside Avenues)



Homes at 723 West Crescent Ave., left, and 794 West Crescent Ave., right, reflect the farmhouse influence on local architecture.

County Survey		Girl Scout List*	
Date Built	Address	Date Built	Address
		1875	2 E Crescent Ave
		1895	46 E Crescent Ave
		1865	175 E Crescent Ave
		1895	209 E Crescent Ave
		1896	75 W Crescent Ave
		1866	116 W Crescent Ave
1861	168 W Crescent Ave	1861	168 W Crescent Ave
		1880	408 W Crescent Ave
		1880	668 W Crescent Ave
		1890	[San Jacinto]
1800	723 W Crescent Ave	1800	723 W Crescent Ave
1800	794 W Crescent Ave	1881	794 W Crescent Ave
		1898	852 W Crescent Ave

*On file at the Lee Memorial Library, Allendale

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