

City of Summit, NJ

Created by Mrs. Goodman's
2024-2025 4th Grade IDEAS Students





Summit's Early Years



Summit had an interesting background. First, settlers started living in Summit around 1710. Most of the Founding Fathers of our country brought unique, Puritan heritage to multiple places, including Long Island, New England, and many other places through their travels.

Summit was established as a township in 1869 and sustained itself through farming. In 1899, Summit became an official city and was no longer called Turkey Hill. It was part of an area that included the towns of New Providence (called Turkey), Berkley Heights, Springfield, and Mountainside.

Most of the land was made up of farmland and pastures. The population was small, mostly made people living here who were soldiers mainly using it as a temporary resting place.



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Summit's Role in the Revolutionary War

The Battle of Springfield

On June 6, 1780, British and Hessian (German) troops invaded New Jersey. A cannon named the Old Sow was fired to alert others and call for reinforcements. The Continental Army was later able to defeat the British thanks to the fast reactions of Richard Swain, the cannon operator.

Later, in an unfortunate incident, the cannon misfired and killed Richard's cannon partner, John Pike, while trying to warn the mayor and militia of a British raid. Richard Swain also lost his thumb in the incident.



A mini-replica of the Old Sow Cannon



War Sites

Jacob Bryants Tavern

The Jacob Bryant's Tavern was located between Summit and Springfield. But now it is unfortunately buried under Route 24. Back in June 7, 1780 it was the headquarters for the Continental Army until June 23. After Washington left, General Greene was promoted into command of the area.

Burial Ground

The Revolutionary War burial ground is located right next to the Passaic River. This is where 6 soldiers were buried from wounds received from the Battle of Springfield. The burials used to be marked by mounds, but now the mounds are gone and no one knows exactly where they are.



Jacob Morrell House

In 1781, 2,500 soldiers set camp in the area around Turkey Hill (the area now known as Summit) and Chatham. This house was located in Chatham and owned by Jacob Morrell. George Washington stayed here for 3 days from August 27-29, 1781 on his way to Yorktown. He wrote 17 letters that revealed his plan to trick the British into thinking he was planning an attack on Britain's headquarters, New York. (He wasn't.) Washington marched his troops out of Chatham and towards Yorktown, Virginia. This was known as the Rochambeau Victory March.



A Strategic Approach

General Washington's victories against General Clinton and General Cornwallis during the Revolutionary War

The Scheme

General Washington planned to outsmart both General Clinton and General Cornwallis in one move. His strategy was to send fake interception letters and much other information through spies. He wanted to make it seem like there was going to be a big attack on New York City, General Clinton's headquarters, when he would really attack Yorktown, Virginia, General Cornwallis's headquarters.

And.. Action!

Once he explained the plan to his army, General Washington wanted to set his plan into action. Once the bakery was established, he began his long, grueling march to Yorktown, VA, to complete their surprise attack on the British. Once there, they stormed General Cornwallis's base, causing him to surrender and accept defeat.



The Rochambeau Route

Who

- General Washington
- General Rochambeau
- Lord Cornwallis

When

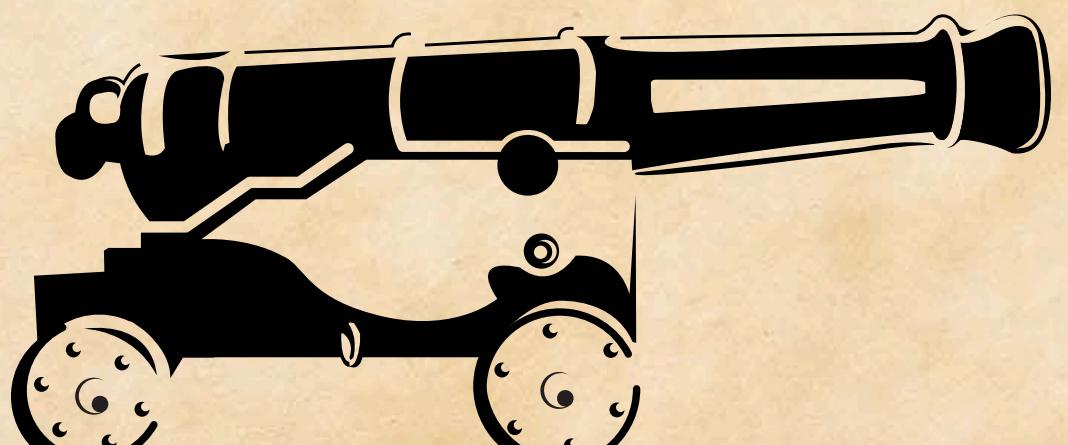
August 19-September 3, 1781. It took two weeks to go across the whole trail.

Where

Hartford, Connecticut to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Why

The British were planning a sneak attack in Yorktown, Virginia. The Americans saw it coming, so they came prepared to defend. The route was the way they came from Philadelphia.



Rochambeau Victory March

Boston Banker Allen Forge retraced the route taken by Rochambeau in the early 1920's. He concentrated on Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. His research ended at the NY state line. The Mid-Atlantic states were covered in a single article. In Fall 2000, both Houses of Congress passed a bill to require the

Secretary of the Interior to complete a resource study of the 600 mile route through Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Virginia, used by George Washington and General Rochambeau during the American Revolutionary War.

Victory Towns List From Union County

- Mountainside
- Plainfield
- Scotch Plains
- Springfield
- Summit
- Union
- Westfield
- Chatham
- Millburn
- Maplewood



Redcoats / Hessians Attacking Springfield

History

- A warning gun blasted to warn the Americans that the Redcoats were coming at 6 am on June 23, 1780.
- The British and Hessians, lead by General Knyphausen went to Short Hills to capture Washington's military supplies in Morristown.

General overview

The Redcoats and the Hessians (Germans) came to Beacon Hill to gain more advantage from surprise. However, since the Beacon Memorial is far above sea level. Because of that, the Americans were able to see them coming, and that started the Battle of Springfield





History of *Summit*

1899-1959

MAYORS FROM 1899 TO 1909

GEORGE
WILCOX
1899-1902

- REPUBLICAN
- EXPANDED SERVICES SUCH AS PAVED ROADS, WATER, SEWER AND ELECTRIC SYSTEM
- LIVED 1837-1907

GEORGE
BALDWIN
1902-1904

- DEMOCRATIC
- FOUNDED SUMMIT'S ELK CLUB
- LIVED 1851-1939

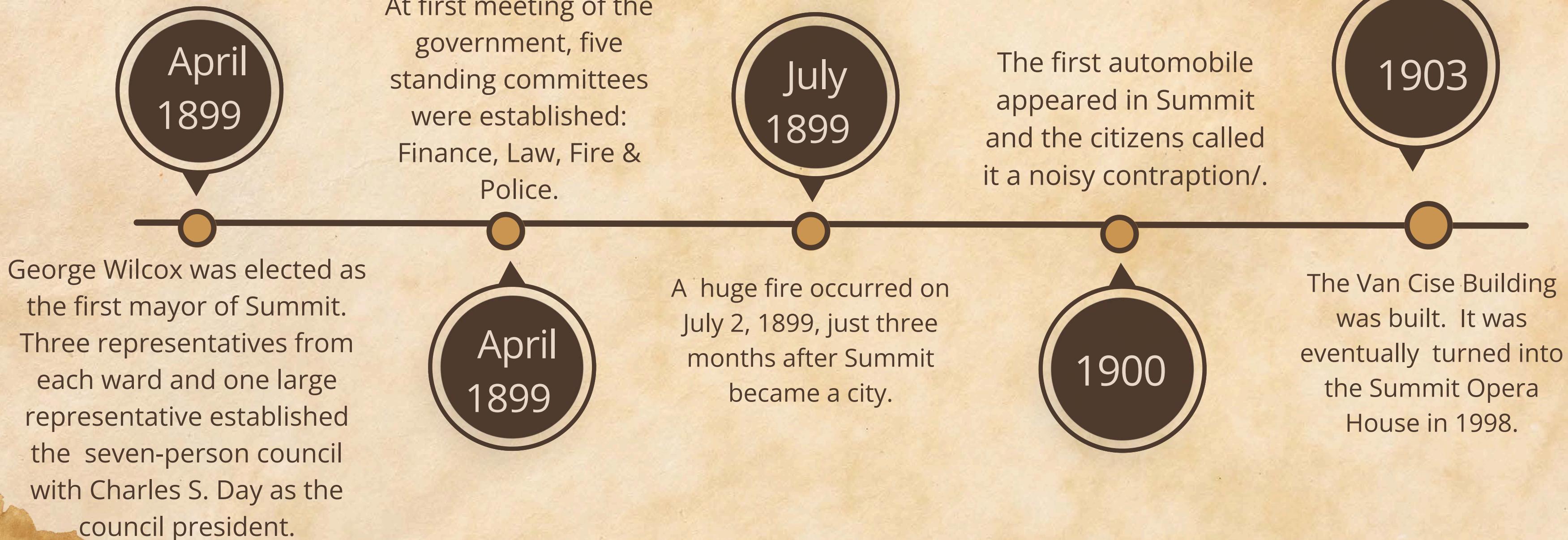
GEORGE
WILCOX
1904-1908

- REPUBLICAN
- EXPANDED SERVICES SUCH AS PAVED ROADS, WATER, SEWER AND ELECTRIC SYSTEM
- LIVED 1837-1907

J. BOYD
RISK
1908-1909

- INDEPENDENT
- BOUGHT THE BUILDING THAT LATER BECAME CITY HALL
- LIVED 1808-1913

Timeline



1910-1935

Summit Events During And After WW1

1916

In early 1917, Dr. William H. Lawrence, Jr. created an ambulance company with about 120 men after creating Overlook Hospital in 1906.

In 1916 Ruford Franklin made the National Defense Organization of Summit to prepare for WW1.

1919

In July, 1919 Summit had an enthusiastic welcome back for the soldiers on DeForest Avenue.

1920-1930

In 1920-1930 Summit had its greatest population growth from about 10,175 to about 14,556. The Lackawanna railroad was made able to transport people to New York and Newark.

1925

In 1925, residential construction took place on DeForest Ave., Kent Place Blvd., Woodland Ave, Crescent Ave, Shadyside Ave, Franklin Place, Hobart Ave, Prospect Street, and Morris Ave.

Municipal and Community Buildings

Summit Public Library

The Summit Public Library was built in 1910 and was funded by Andrew Carnegie.

Town Hall

Town Hall (known as Old Town Hall at 71 Summit Ave. today) was built in 1893 and cost \$12,000 to build.

The Original Summit Post Office

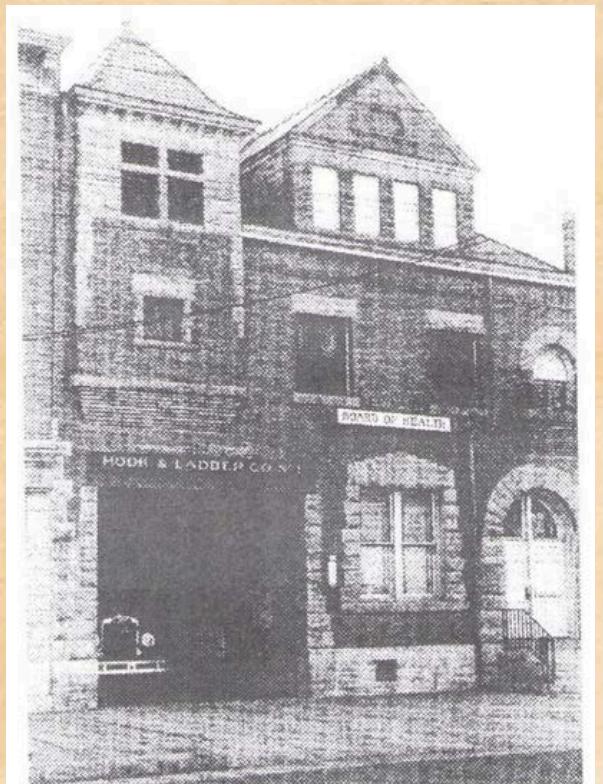
The Original Post Office was built in 1893 and is at 401 Springfield Ave.

The YMCA

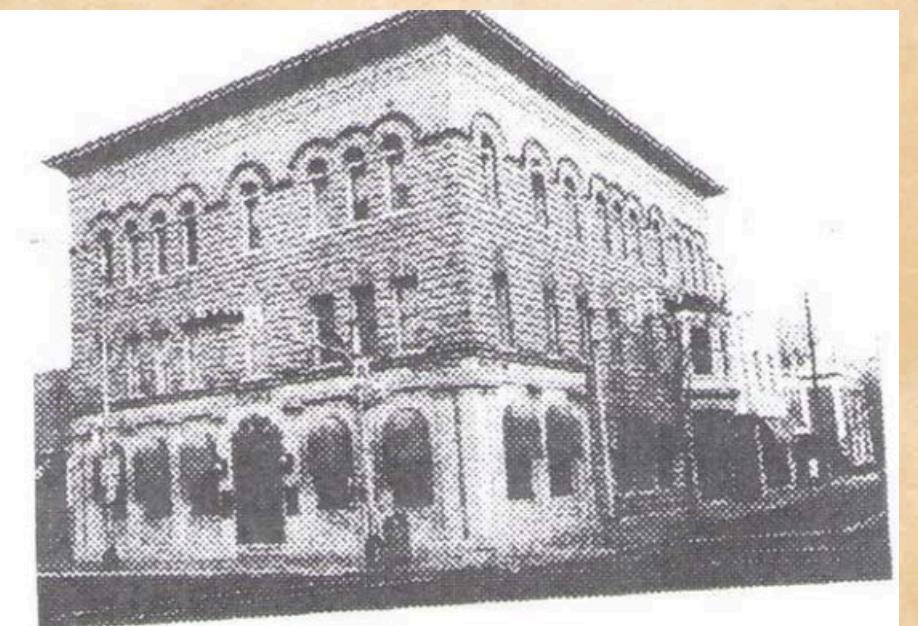
The YMCA was built in 1893 and is at 399 Springfield Ave. It also cost \$24,000 to build.

The Summit Bank

The Summit Bank at northwest corner of Springfield Avenue and Beechwood Road was built in 1898.



Summit Town Hall 1892



Summit Post Office 1893

Municipal and Community Buildings

P2

Overlook Hospital

The Overlook Hospital was built in 1906 by Dr. William Lawrence.

Summit Public Library

The Summit Public Library was built in 1910 with \$21,000 in funds donated by Andrew Carnegie.

The Melrose Building

The Melrose Building at the northeast corner of Beechwood Road and Springfield Ave. was built in 1907.

Colonial Hall

Colonial all was constructed at 350 Springfield Ave. in 1906 at a cost of \$30,000. It became the Municipal building in 1910.

The Van Cise Building

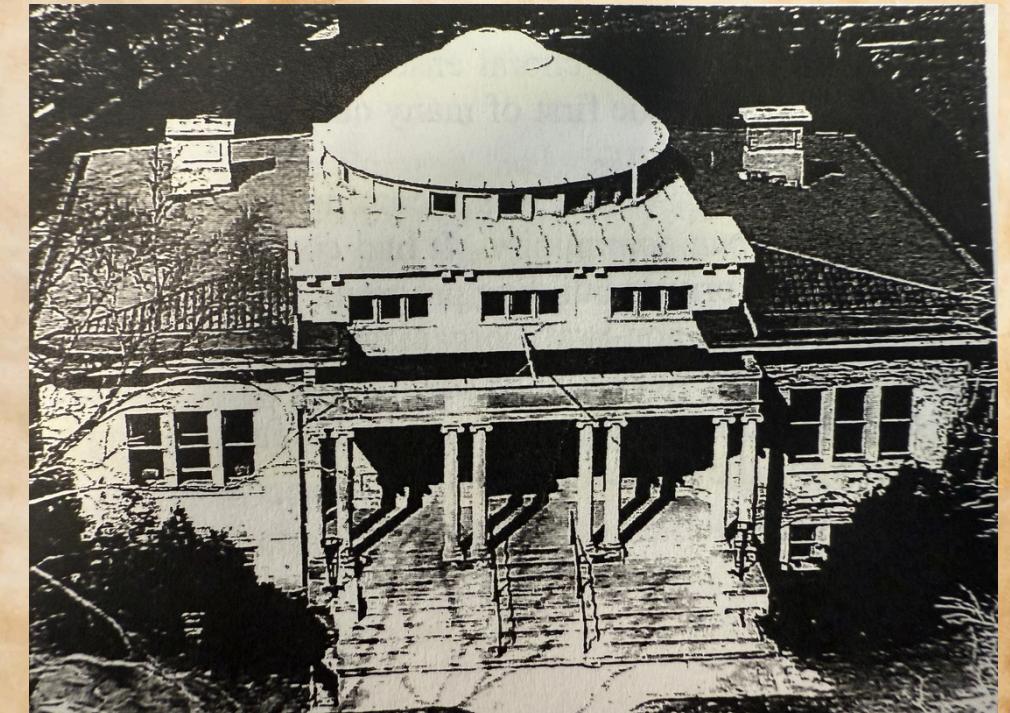
The Van Cise Building at 2 Kent Place Blvd. was built in 1893 costing \$35,000 to build. It was called many names over time like: Willard Hall, Howard Hall, Masonic Lodge, and The Summit Opera House.



Overlook Hospital (1906)



Van Cise Building



Summit Public Library (1910)

Additional Buildings Built

- Calvary Episcopal Church, 1854 - 1893*
- St.Teresa's Church, 1860's
- Christ Church, 1876
- Swedish Evangelical Church, 1898
- Cromwell Estate, 1900
- St.John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1908
- Oakes Memorial Methodist Church, 1918
- United Methodist Church, 1926
- Jewish Community Center, 1929
- Pilgrim Baptist Church, 1929
- Edison Junior High School, 1935
- Summit Diner, 1938
- Temple Sinai, 1952
- NJ Center For Visual Arts, 1986



St. Teresa's Church,
Circa 1920

*The Calvary Episcopal
Church burned in 1893

Important Buildings

In 1928 and 1929 there were important buildings being built including Worthington Court and Whittredge Gardens (the first apartments) and the Lincoln YMCA. The Lincoln YMCA was later moved to Broad Street.



During 1926, the Mabie Memorial Playground was dedicated in honor of Hamilton Wright Mabie.



In 1929, the Lincoln YMCA was built for black residents. After 25 years it fused with the Central Y at Maple and Broad streets.

Additional Information



In 1922 there were two major projects being made. One project was the War Memorial, located on the Village Green. It was called the Angel of Peace and designed by Edith Stevens Parsons. The second project included the Soldiers' Memorial Field and the Field House on the southwest of Ashland Road.



In 1899 Summit had a population of about 5,200 people but it increased to about 9,000 people in 1910-1920



The welcome back ceremony for soldiers in WWI was held on DeForest Avenue in July 1919.

Suggestion

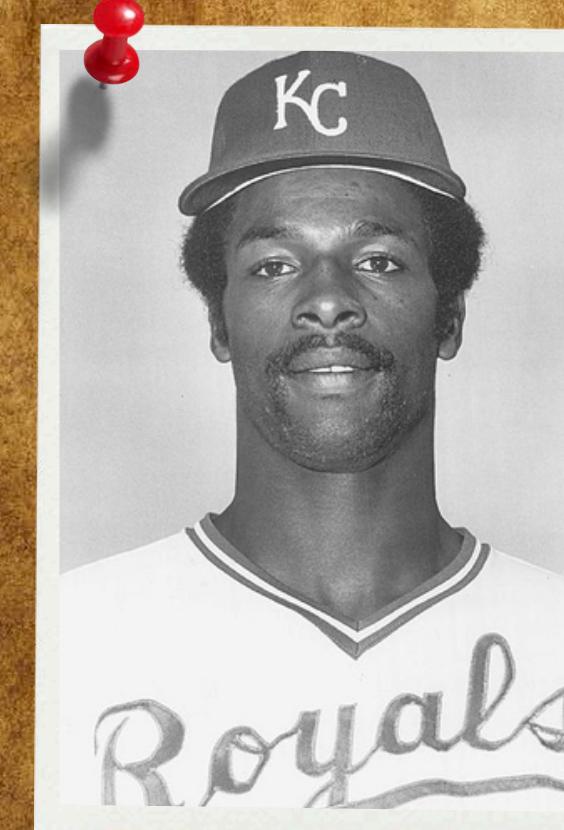
Make the July 4, 2026 celebration on DeForest Avenue because the welcome back ceremony was held there.

Summit High School Sports

1. **Coach Elwood C. Cornog Sr** worked at Summit High School for 30-years as a coach, Athletic Director, gym teacher, health teacher, and drivers education supervisor.
2. **The Summit High School basketball team** won the basketball state championship during the 1929-1930 school year.
3. **Willie Wilson** (class of 1974) played football, basketball, and baseball at Summit High School. After he graduated, he played baseball in the MLB with the Kansas City Royals and Chicago Cubs.
4. **Frank Osmulski** and **George Gross** both went on to play professional baseball.
5. **Karen Everling** was an all-state field hockey and lacrosse player.
6. **John Mallory** played football with the Philadelphia Eagles and Atlanta Falcons.



Coach Elwood C. Cornog Sr.



Willie Wilson
(class of 1974)



Summit High School State Champion Basketball Team

To learn about the 1919 girl's basketball team, go to slide 70



World War II Summit And Post-War Years

So far, Summit has been through World War I, the Great Depression, and now World War II. What did the Summit do to survive WWII? We will tell you now. Summit had 83 soldiers who lost their lives in WWII, and we will honor them each day. Lots of changes happened in this time.

The Summit Herald was a newspaper in Summit. The newspapers back pages originally went missing from the years 1941-1945, but the papers were found later in the basement of the Summit Herald. The Summit Herald was a victim of intense water damage caused by the Lyric Movie Theatre's major fire in 1951. During that time, there were multiple food shortages. In the years 1943 to 1945, many women worked in defense-related plants, and 2,490 men and women from Summit served in the military services.



Summit
Herald
Pages
from 1941



Lyric Movie Theater in 1951

In 1944, the city hired a well-known New York City consultant, Ernest P. Goodrich. He looks at population, school registration, and the development potential for the post-war years. He projected a year 2000 population for Summit of 31,200 (it turned out to be 21,088). In 1946, Summit's mayor became Mayor Lester. On May 30th, 1946, the city sponsored a large Memorial Day Parade to honor the veterans of World War II. A devastating 26-inch snowstorm in December 1947 brought Summit and the entire surrounding area to its knees. Overlook Hospital struggled financially throughout the Great Depression and World War II years.

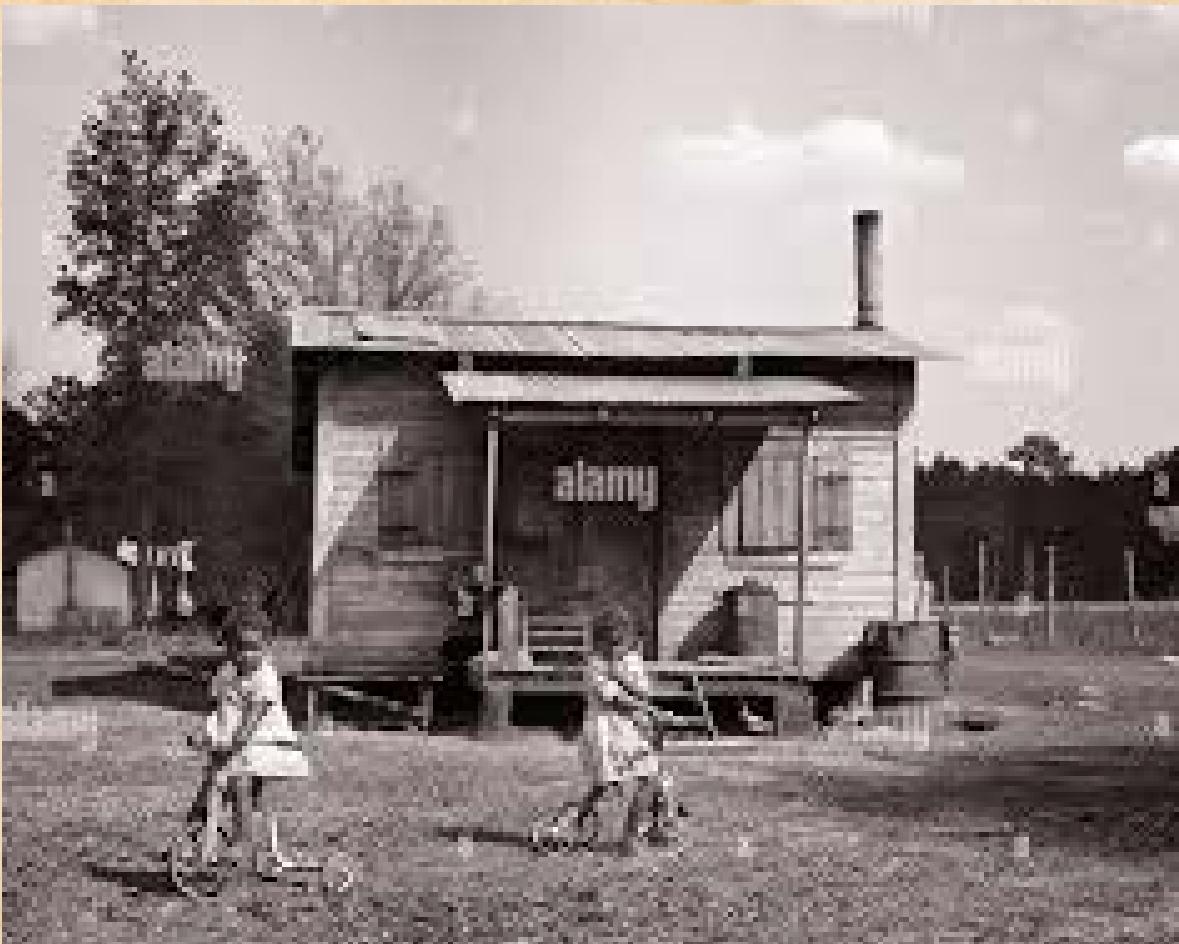


Overlook Hospital in 1941



26 inch snowstorm in 1947

As you can see, lots of things happen during this time.



In 1949, there weren't enough houses for lower-income citizens. The city kept doing public housing, and it kept failing.



Chamber Of Commerce

People

- Tom Miller
- John May, Jr.
- Leo O' Grady
- Marie Stadler
- Hugo Pfaltz
- Bill Stampes
- Rae Crane
- Joe Stiener

What They Own

- Farmer's Market
- Street Fair
- A library which includes:
 - Directories
 - Reports
 - Surveys
 - Maps
- And more stuff for the public

FACT #1

The Chamber serves as a central hub, bringing together and organizing initiatives across the entire area.

FACT #2

The Chamber of Commerce offers a collection of valuable resources, including maps, reports, surveys, travel information, and directories.

FACT #3

The Chamber of Commerce relies primarily on its members for financial support.

Timeline 1950-1961



The 18th mayor, Perival Bland, took office. The Cold War was also heating up and the Korean Conflict had just started. People were scared that an atomic explosion would wipe them out.



In May 1951, the Lyric Theater caught fire. The fire started in the women's bathroom and was reported to be smoldering for hours. The Common Council approved plans in 1951 to build the new Lincoln School.



The Jetport Proposal was approved in late 1959. In 1960, the units were completed and occupied. The Common Council bought land for a new high school in 1959.



The proposal for the parking lot near the YMCA was approved in 1957. The McCrosky report was presented in 1955. The specifics were surfaced in 1957.

Percival M Bland

- Mayor from 1950-1956
- At the time, he was the longest serving mayor in history.
- Republican

C Philip Dean

- Mayor from 1956-1958
- He was from a founding family of pioneers who settled east Summit.
- Republican

Ogden D. Gensemer

- Mayor from 1958-1963
- He was the manager of the Transoceanic Cable Ship company.
- Republican



History of Summit 1960-2000

The Expansion of the City of Summit

- Summit re-established the Summit Housing Authority, which was first created in 1938. The Glenwood Place project began in 1969 and was completed in September 1972. It cost \$1,589,424.
- In 1962, the new Summit High School was completed. It cost \$2,865,000
- Mayor Trucksess endorsed the town's project for a municipal swimming pool. Construction started in 1971, and the pool opened in 1972. It cost \$505,000.
- In 1961, the first summit fire chief, J. Murray, became a fire chief. In 1968, the council allowed the expansion of the Summit Fire Department.
- In the late 1960s and early 1970s, they expanded the schools Jefferson, Wilson, and Lincoln. It cost \$750,000.



The Expansion of the City of Summit

Part 2

- The City of Summit bought five acres of land from the Erie Lackawanna Railroad. They built 150 parking spots.
- In 1967 Summit opened 3-par golf course. It cost \$80,000.
- In 1965 Summit approved 44 new homes on Dale, Tanglewood, and Rotary Drives. They aslo added 15 more homes on Kent Place Boulevard, Passaic Avenue, and Carleen Court.

Changes Through the 1970s



Public Housing

In the early 70s, there were lots of proposals for public housing. They scrapped the plan and built the Weaver Street public project.

Construction started in September 1977 and it opened in June 1979. It cost \$1,765,000.



Overlook Hospital

In the 70s Overlook was trying to expand. They created employee housing, a parking garage, and a \$7.5 million Community Health Center completed in the early 1980s.



Parking Garage

In the later 70s, Summit had lots of parking problems so they proposed a parking garage. It would have 430 parking spots and it would cost \$2.24 million. There was controversy, but it was eventually completed in October 1980 with 331 spaces, costing \$2,360,000.



Transfer Station

In the early 70s, Summit had a garbage problem because they were paying lots of money for garbage. They had to drive the garbage to a different location which cost a lot of money so they made a transfer station. They saved \$4.60 a person and \$110,000 in total.



Barrett House

In the mid 70s, the YMCA bought a home to house kids (ages 12-17) that were unable to live in their houses. The plan was rejected by the zoning board. The YMCA were mad so they went to the court and they won. Even though it closed in 1978, it was successful and moved to a country-wide program.

Proposals of the 1970s

Reeves Reed Arboretum



The Reeves Reed Arboretum was proposed by Miss Enid Belding and was officially accepted in June of 1974.

Minibuses



In early 1974, Mayor Bennett proposed a minibus plan to save energy. The council decided to hold a vote on this proposal.

The final results showed that Summit supported the Mercedes-Benz minibuses.

They were finally planned and created around 1975. Service was terminated in 1979 due to the lack of traffic and social benefits required to justify the amount of money being spent to run the service.

Child Care Centers



In 1974, the Summit Child Care Centers proposed a new center at 95 Morris Avenue. It was built in 1975 and completed in 1976. It was a successful program and has been a model for other child care centers in the area.

Changes Through the 1980s



YMCA

In 1987 the YMCA expanded their facility. They reopened their expanded facility in 1989.



Railroad construction

In 1980, the mayor and council decided that the train station needed improvements and reconstruction. For 2 years, conversations continued without success. At the start there were 4 plans and in the end they didn't choose any of the four. A new plan was made and construction was completed in 1988.

Objetive



The Summit Hotel

The Summit Hotel was originally called the Suburban Hotel. It was refurbished in 1984 and 1985. It cost \$7 million to renovate and reopened in 1986. The Summit Hotel changed its name to The Grand Summit Hotel during the 1990s. They had some more major renovations in 1997.



Overlook Hospital

In the 1980s, Overlook continued to expand. One of the first projects they took on was a new 500 car parking garage that opened in 1980. Some other projects they took on were a new operating room and new high-tech equipment. These projects were completed in 1987.

Senior Citizen Housing of the 1980's

The Senior Citizen Housing was built in the 80's. The Housing and Urban Development (HUD) committed \$10.3 million to the project. The architectural firm that was selected for the building, Chapman and Biber, made a plan for the building, but by mid-1983 HUD still did not approve of this plan. In 1984, construction started. The 125-unit senior citizen facility was completed in 1985 and filled up almost immediately with financially qualified senior citizens.



Timeline 1989-1997

The Town Hall had too many violations so they were going to have to trash it.

1989

The town reconstructed Summit Avenue and Maple Street over the Railroad

1993

The new police station was completed.

1994

The new City Hall was completed at 512 Springfield Avenue.

1994

Overlook Hospital is built and so is a Medical arts building and an Employee Day Care Center.

1995

The town began process of a new library that was expected to be done in 1998.

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Important Changes



Overlook Hospital

In 1995 Overlook Hospital had over 3,000 employees.

The hospital built a new medical arts building, an employee day care center, a Neuroscience center, and a new parking garage near Upper Overlook Road. All under the leadership of President Michael Sniffen.



YWCA
Gymnasium

The YW's Summit program had been a success at the Wilson School for a number of years. This gym was needed by the City's Board of Recreation in the mid-1990's. The YWCA Board approved the construction of a new gym on their property on Maple Street and Morris Avenue. The project took a big step in 1996 with private fundraising. It houses the gymnastics program and other programs developed by the YWCA.



Expansion of
the YMCA

By 1997, the YMCA had started on a project to build a new regulation-size swimming pool, some exercise room facilities, a new elevator for handicap access and other additional modernization.



Summit Schools

- The school enrollment increases by 3,823 from 1900- 1950

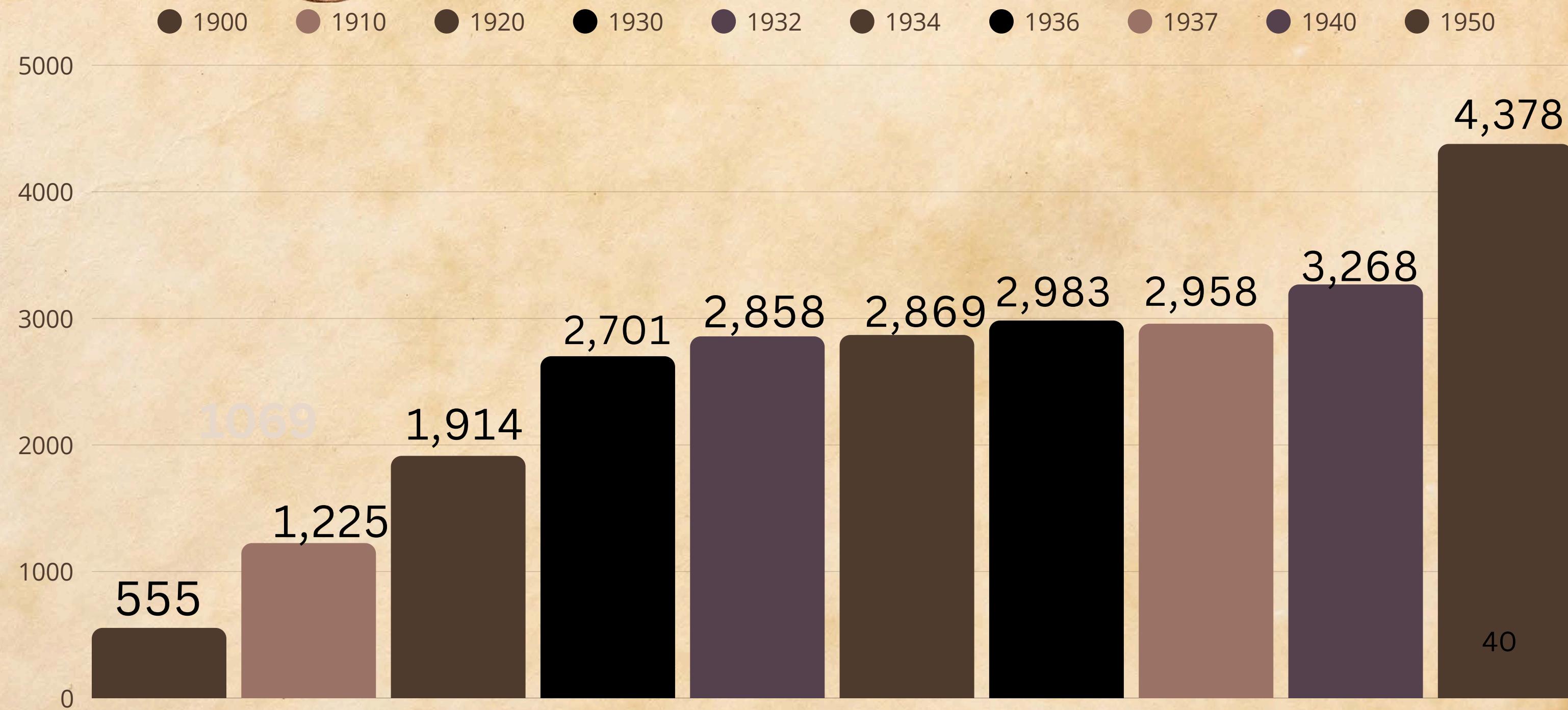
- In 1937 the enrollment decreased by 25

- The biggest increase is from 1940-1950

- The smallest increase is from 1932-1934

School Enrollment

Summit, N.J.



Classes In Summit

In Summit Public Schools the first school was called Dean's Town. Dean's Town was a small 1 room school.

In “modern” kindergartens, they try to make students feel like they are at home. In 1st - 2nd grade, they had very interactive learning where students built while learning, much unlike now when most of our learning is on huge screens. Also, they started trying to make them love singing and reading around kindergarten and 1st grade.



Classes In Summit (continued)

In 3rd grade, students learned and really liked learning about dutch home life. They learned by building tiny dutch homes and some wood animals. In 4th grade, students took a really cool field trip to see and document Washington's headquarters. Also in 4th grade they learned about Priscilla in a Colonial place. They learned by dressing up and acting. In 5th grade, kids started to finally learn about the geography of the United States Of America. In 6th grade, you learned while building, and some kids even built a mini Franklin Planetarium. In High school, you do a lot of varsity sports and band/orchestra.



Classes In Summit (continued)

Also, back then they taught students a lot about nature. I see that in one specific lesson students made an ant nest. This is very different from now, when we rarely get taken outside for lessons. Kids also learned math outside by trying to measure stuff in nature. In addition, they also sketched from nature in a group. Lastly, there were P.E. classes outside and kids did lots of activities.



Progression of Summit Public Schools



The Little Red School House was donated in 1792 to Summit and was the first school.

John Kelly and Benjamin. S. Dean donated property to Summit for a new school at 73 Park Avenue.



Public School No. 1 was constructed at 512 Springfield Avenue. It went through many changes over the years. In 1883 it added high school grades (in addition to having elementary grades). In 1918 it became exclusively a high school until the new high school on Morris Avenue was completed in 1923. In 1923 it became Summit's first Junior High School for grades 7 and 8.



Public School No. 2 (Roosevelt School) was built on Park Avenue. It closed in 1979.

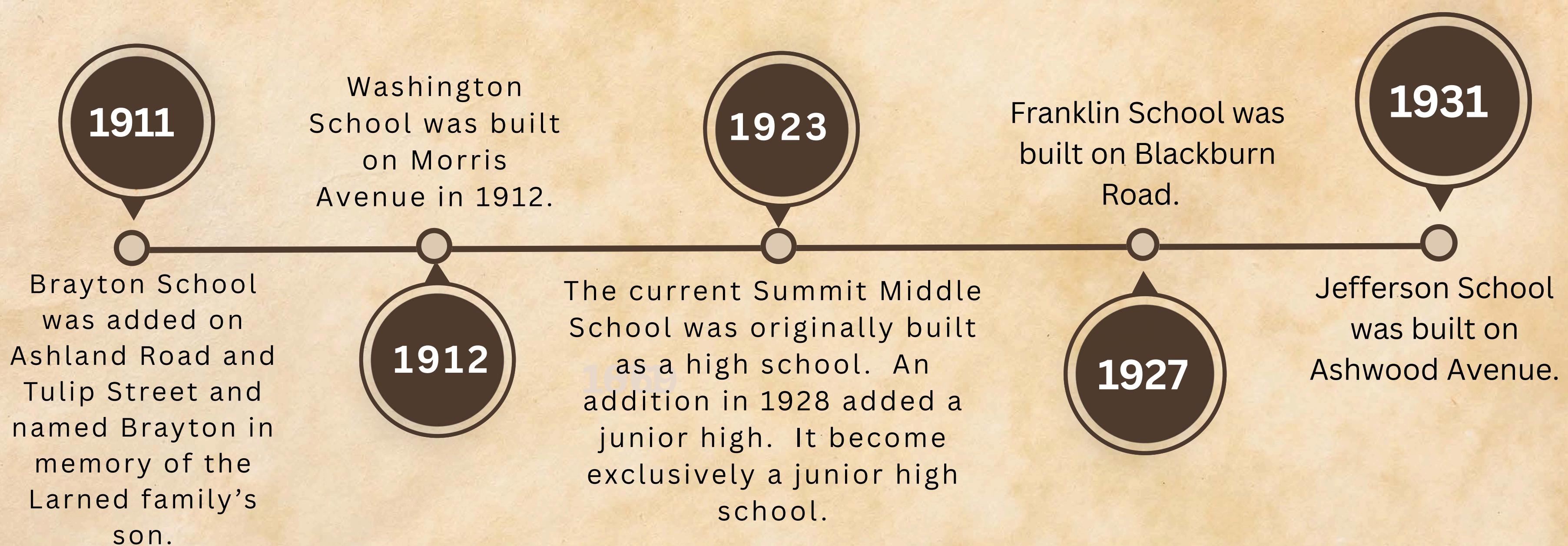


***Sources vary on the year Roosevelt School was built.**



The first Lincoln School was added in Deforest Avenue at the corner of Maple Street in the heart of Downtown Summit. It was torn down in 1955 and a new "second" Lincoln School was built on 44 Woodland Avenue.

Progression of Summit Public Schools (p. 2)



Progression of Summit Public Schools (p. 3)

1938

Lincoln School No.1 on DeForest Avenue was demolished and Lincoln School No. 2 was built on Woodland Avenue.

1959

The new Summit High School was opened on Kent Place Blvd.

1979

Lincoln School was renamed Lincoln-Hubbard School in honor of G. Morrison Hubbard, Jr. for of his philanthropy in Summit.

Edison Junior High was built at the extreme eastern end of Summit. It was controversial due to the location and closed in 1945.

1953

Wilson School was built. It was closed in 1981 and reopened as Wilson Primary Center in 2008.

1963

Roosevelt School closed because of decline in enrollment. The building is now condominiums.

1998

School Additions

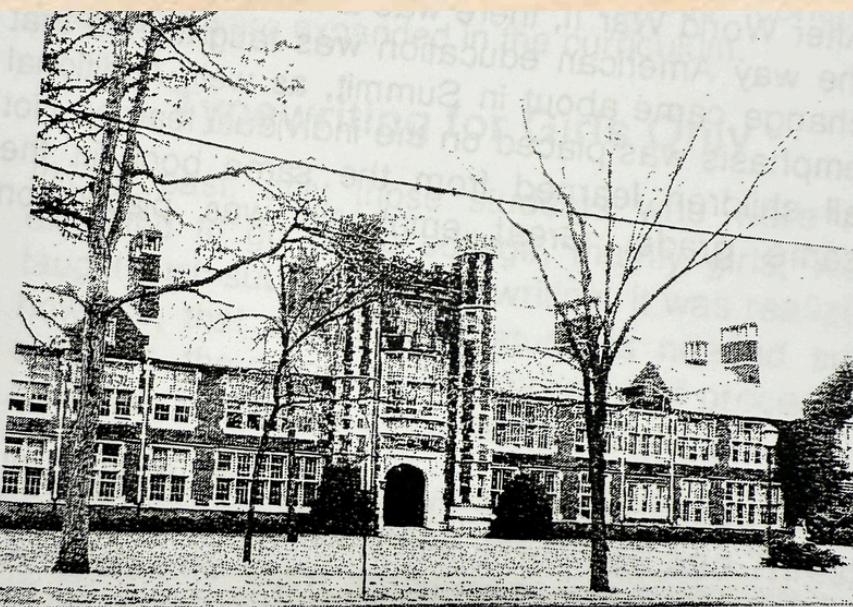
Washington School: 1923, 1929

Franklin School: 1931, 1949, 1956, 1972, 2016

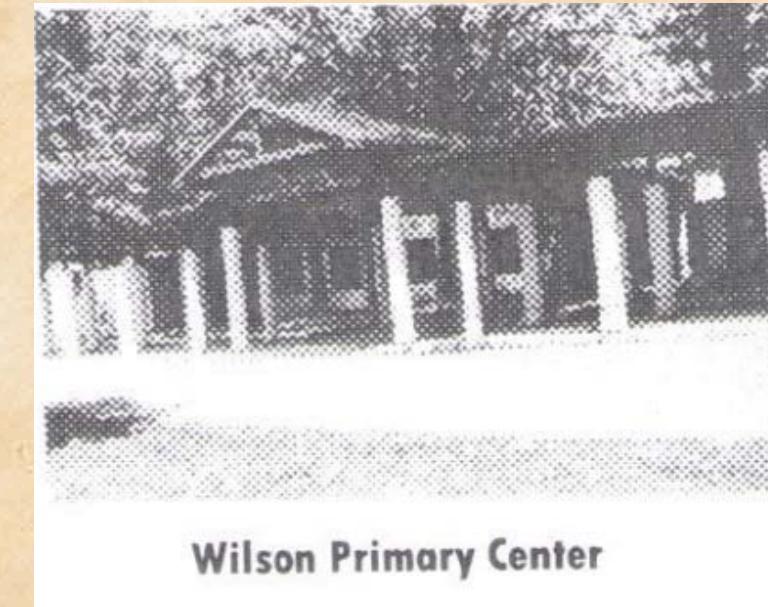
Current Summit Middle School: 1928, 1949, 1962, 1986, 2023

Brayton School: 1954, 1965

Jefferson School: 1957, 1967



Summit Middle School (1952)





Subject Additions



In 1897, cooking was added to the curriculum. In the 20th century cooking was combined with woodworking to become “Domestic Science”.



School orchestras were formed. Play productions became very common. Musicals were performed. Starting formed in the early grades.



P.E was added to maintain good health, sportsmanship and fitness. Soon, schools formed sports teams. Most of the time, basketball and baseball were mainly played. Later, tennis, soccer, hockey and lacrosse were added.

Subject Additions



Library

In 1896 reference books were added to the school library. In 1884 there was a library fund. Purchases were being made from textbook and library publishers. They also purchased encyclopedias and charts.



Classrooom
Learning

In 1894 psychology, arithmetic, history, astronomy, physics, spelling, grammer and chemistry were added to the curriculum.



Health

On orders of the State of New Jersey, the curriculum included learning about alcohol affect and hygiene. Male teachers taught the boys and female teachers taught the girls .

Special Needs

Some kids in the schools were not able to learn like us and that's why they created the special classes for the kids who learned differently. Sometimes the kids had a special teacher to help them who can coordinate with the kid. These teachers and classes were set up by the Department of Child Health and Guidance. This department focuses on child health and education. There were three special classes for the special needs kids who are three years behind in their education.





OAK KNOLL

Private Schools

Part 1

Private schools have been part of a life-long learning in the community.

St. Teresa's School

St. Teresa's School started in a rented building in about 1874. It was founded by Dr. Wiggins and it was enlarged in 1886. The teachers were women from the Sisters of Charity. St. Teresa's moved into a new building in 1909.

Oratory Prep

Oratory Prep was founded in 1907 but its name was Carlton Academy. The origin of Oratory Prep's property could be traced back to 1904. Oratory School is a catholic school and places a strong emphasis on English and math skills. It educates boys in grades 7-12.

Kent Place School

In 1894, William J. Curtis, Frank Crawford, and several others wanted to open a school for girls. Many schools for boys were opening and some families felt that their daughters should get the same kind of education. A few months later, Kent Place School opened. With all the enrollment happening, Kent Place School needed (and got) some additions.

Oak Knoll

The American of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus turned Summit's Larned Estate into Oak Knoll. In 1924, Oak Knoll opened with 17 boarding and day students. In 1963, Oak Knoll got some renovations like creative arts spaces and offices. There were additional expansions and modernization of its facilities and programs in the 1990s.

Private Schools

Part 2

Miss Clara Powtin's School

One of the earliest private schools was Miss Clara Powtin's school in a rented home on Locust Drive. It was established by Miss Powtin all the way back in 1895.

Stafford Hall School of Business

Stafford Hall was established in 1931 and located at 185 Summit Avenue. It specialized as a business and secretarial school. It was mainly for young women. It closed in the 1980s,

Summit Area Community School

The Summit Area Community School was organized by a group of local citizens. They worked with the Board of Education to organize it in 1977. It has courses in continuing education, lifelong learning, philosophy, computer technology, cuisine, how to play golf, and others.

Oak Kno

Kent Place Headlines

In 1971, the Chamber of Commerce proposed a 130-car parking lot. This was one of the most rapid up and down projects ever experienced in Summit. Later, to Summit's relief, Kent Place built a field hockey and lacrosse field on the proposed 1971 parking lot. In 1972, Kent Place made the headlines, once again, as they were in active discussions with Pingry School about a possible merger of the two schools. A special committee was sent to watch the matter extremely closely. Near the end of 1973, Kent Place finally announced that the merging discussion was closed and the schools would remain as is.





Historical Homes

666 Springfield Ave

History

666 Springfield Ave was built around 1857 by Reverend Thomas Cook. This house is an Italianate house that served as a girls school. Cook used “new fangled” cement instead of using brick or wood. People called it “Cook’s Folly,” because everybody thought that it would fall down. A lot of things including the original wood cupola, fencing, gates, and the fountain are long gone.



15 Briant Parkway

15 Briant Pkwy was built as a 15-room home for William H. Briant. He was an active member in Summit's early government. Briant and his brother Issac were descendants of early settlers of Summit. Issac owned a tavern that housed troops for a small period of time in 1780. In 1930 Union County bought most of Briant's farm to create Briant Park.



175 Springfield Avenue

History

William Briant lived on 175 Springfield Ave when he owned the Oliver J. Haynes estate. The original house could've been smaller, and then added to after 1905. It had many names such as the Hayes/Briant Farm House, "The Cement House", "The Hayes-Briant House" and "Crow's Nest".



115 Kent Place Boulevard

History

115 Kent Place Blvd was the home of Summit's first mayor, George Wilcox. His wife, Mary Budington Wilcox, was a founder of the Fortnightly Club. Mary B. Wilcox was the club's first president. For multiple years, the home was covered in ivy. Hence the name Ivyholm. It is now a dentist's office. Its property value is approximately \$2,000,000 today. The property is about 6,700 sq ft.



196 Kent Place Boulevard

History

196 Kent Place Blvd was the former home of New York Merchant Nicholas D. C. Moller. He came to Summit with his family in 1854. Moller passed away in 1874 and his properties were split up between his 8 surviving children. His son, Frederick, inherited 196 Kent Place Blvd. He didn't own the property for long though, likely due to financial problems. According to records, he was unemployed and got a mortgage in 1882. William J. Curtis bought the property in 1884. According to the New York Times, his estate was worth over \$1,000,000. The Curtis girls were most likely the first students enrolled in Kent Place School when it opened in 1894. In 1997, the family moved to Fairfax. After that, on March 27 1906, Jessie B Kenvals bought the property.



Fun Fact: It was known as Melrose Cottage

44 Blackburn Road

History

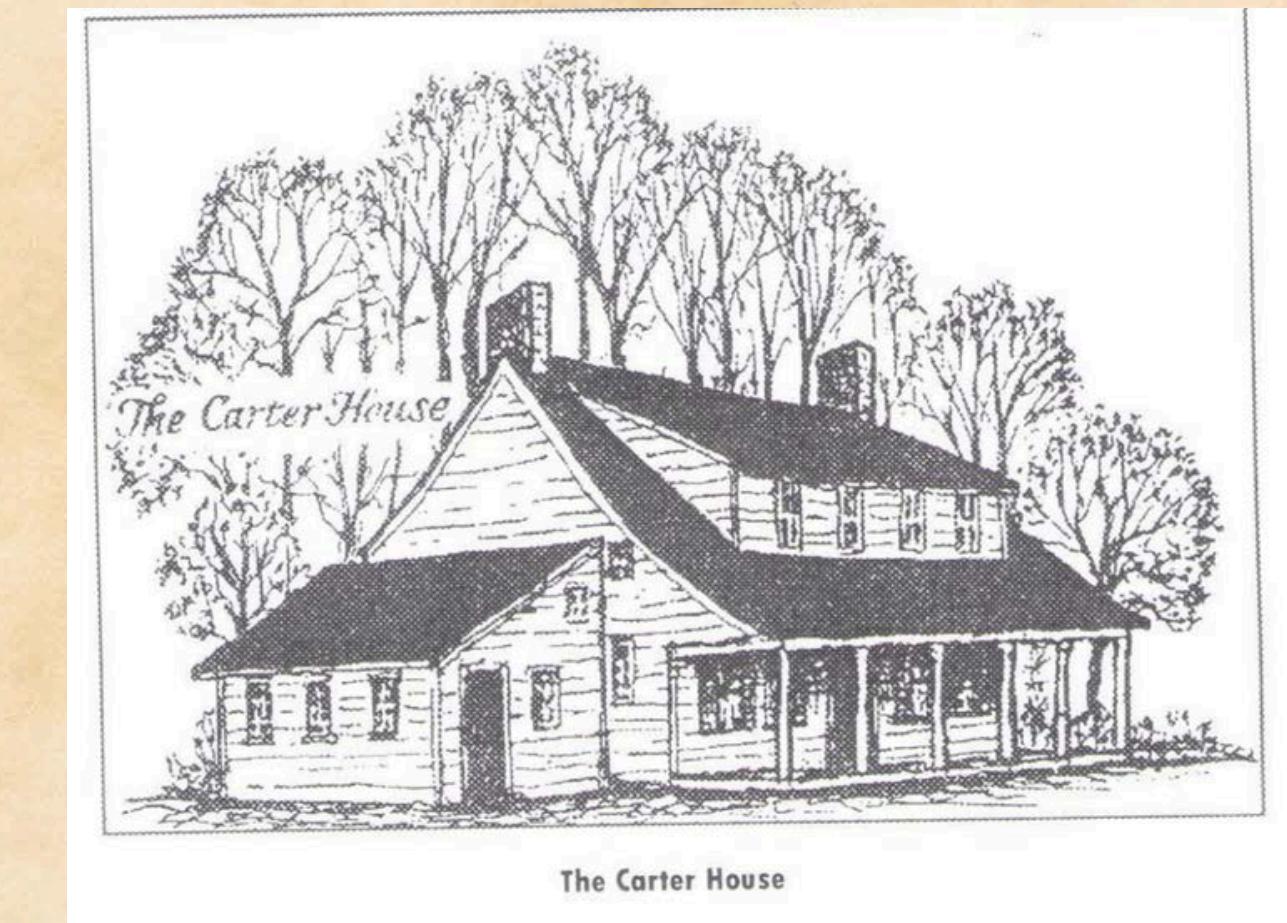
This was the house of William Z. Larned, who helped make Summit established as a city in 1899. This house was a Chateau-styled home known as “Stoneover.” It now serves as the Administration Building of Oak Knoll private school.



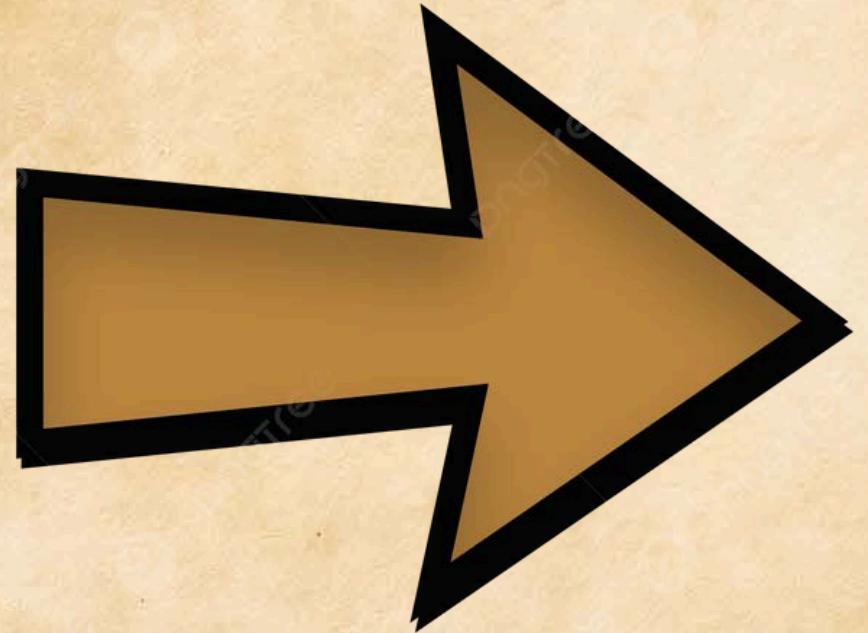
92 River Road The Carter House

History

When the East Jersey Associates gave Benjamin Carter a grant of land in about 1740, he made a 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ story (one story house with a slightly larger attic) house. It is Summit's oldest house. Benjamin Carter's descendant, John E. Sayre Jr., was born in the Carter House. He was one of Summit's first councilman.



The Carter House (Outside)



On the outside the Carter House is built to be a family residence of 600 acres, for Benjamin Carter and his family. It has a modern look and has a porch on the front and is a two story building. There are lots of trees around the carter house but there is also a parting when the sidewalk pulls onto a brick pathway that leads to the sun porch. Eventually, if you keep walking, you'll get to the front door.



The Carter House (Inside)



The inside of the
Carter House

The inside of the Carter House has no electronic devices. It has everything a 18th century family would want. It has lots of low ceilings, floors, walls and lots of corner fireplaces. It has lots cabinets.



The inside of the
Carter House

80 Park Avenue

History

80 Park Avenue was built in 1871, being the 3rd school in Summit. Back then, it was around 73 Park Avenue. This was also the site of the Roosevelt School Gym. It was moved to 80 Park Avenue when the Roosevelt School opened in 1905.





97 Hobart Avenue
now



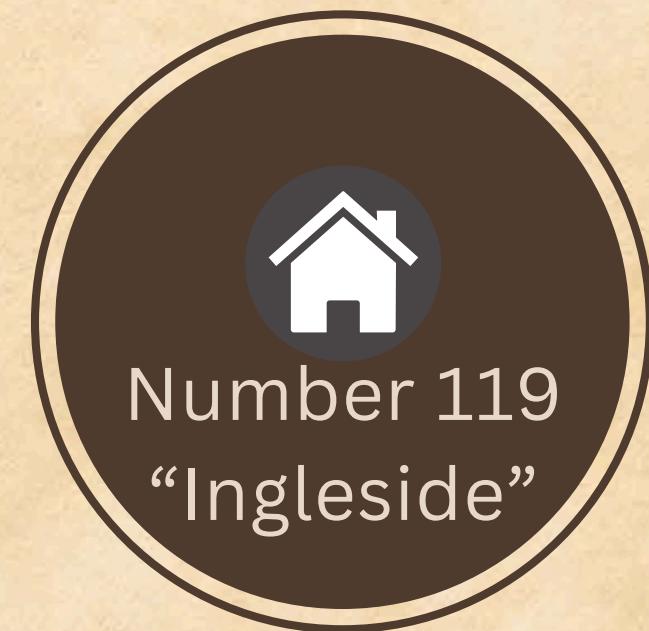
Number 97

Number 97 was one of the houses that was designed by John N. Cady and built on Hobart Avenue by J.F. Chamberlin for his married daughters. Number 97 combines characteristics of the Colonial Revival Style and the Shingle Style.



Number 107

Number 107 has a symmetrical example of the Colonial Revival Style. Mr. Osborne was listed in the 1901 Summit directory as a "commercial traveler". His house had cost \$8,000 to build two years earlier.



Number 119
"Ingleside"

1890 was when William Darrow lived in the house. Number 119 is a Colonial Revival house. Some parts of the house have characteristics of the Shingle Style house such as the windows being a symmetrical and it's shingle wall cladding.

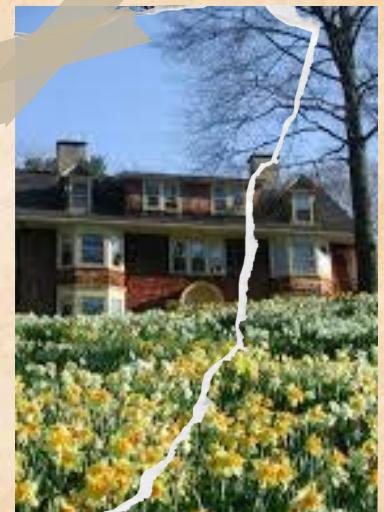


123 Hobart
Avenue now



Number 123

Hodenpyl (who was the owner) was a diamond importer built it as a Shingle Style house for \$8,000. Number 123 has a porch with Colonial Revival details. A later owner, Miss Enid Belding was founder of the Reeves-Reed Arboretum.



165 Hobart
Avenue now.

Hobart Avenue

Part 2



141 Hobart Avenue was a house that was the only example of a Mission Style house on this street. Because of the Mission Style, it became very popular in California and near the West in the early 1900's



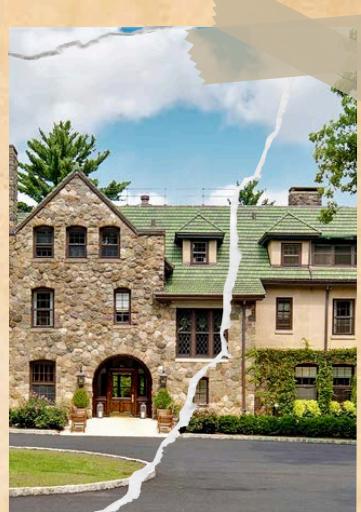
This house (and the ground around it) is now well known as the Reeves-Reed Arboretum. The house had a style of Colonial Revival and the Shingle Style, the most popular style on Hobart Avenue.



226 Hobart Avenue was very important in the early 1900's during the American Revolution. It was Signal station #10. It had a style of an English Tudor Revival home.



250 Hobart Avenue is now well-known as the Beacon Hill Club. It became the Beacon Hill Club in 1956. It had a style of a Tudor Revival house. In the 1890's the owner, Mr. Basset, designed a sanitary sewer system made 250 Hobart Avenue the Beacon Hill Club.



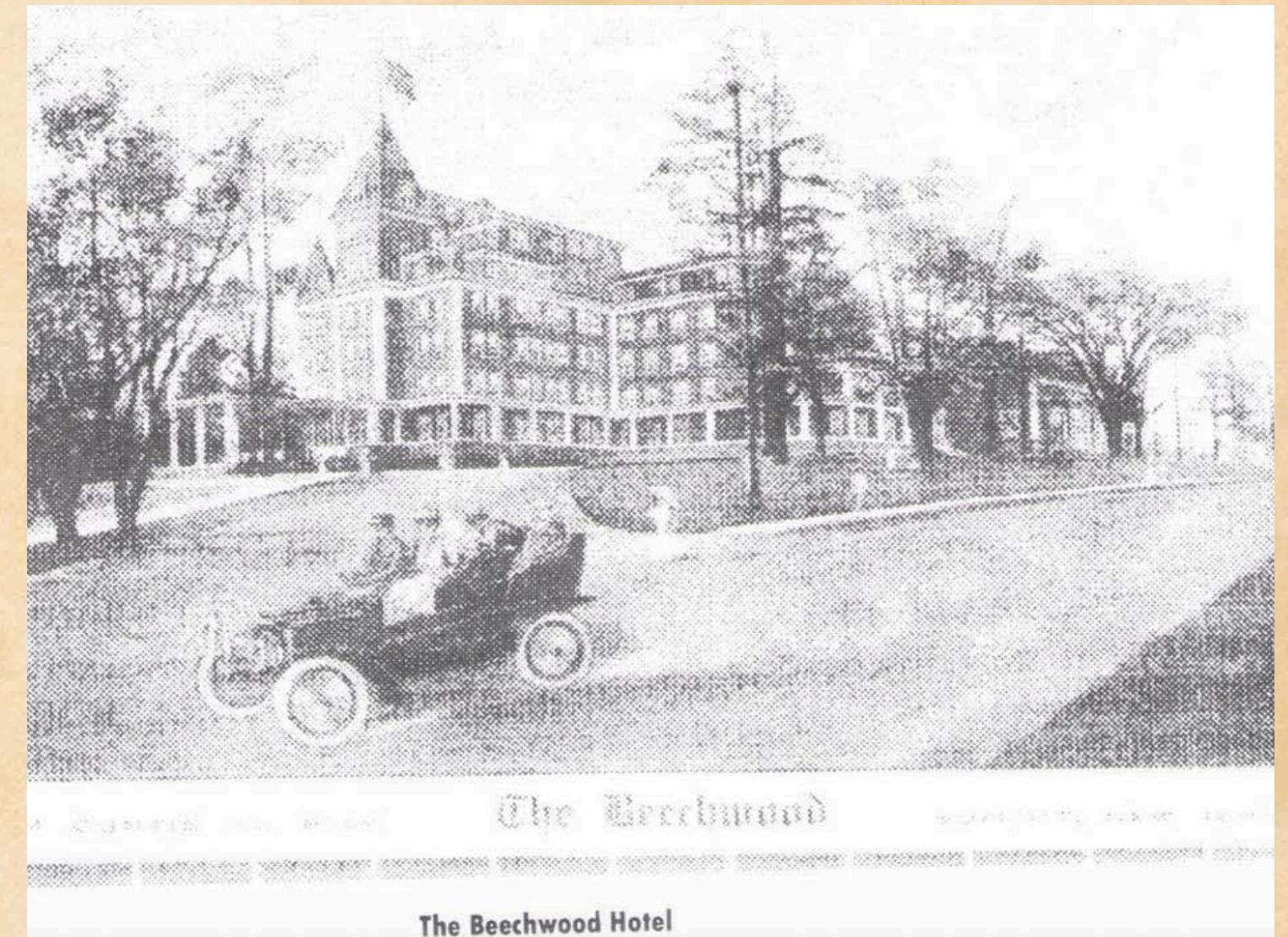
250 Hobart
Avenue now

Popular Hotels in Summit 1850-1869

There were many popular hotels in Summit back in the second half of the 19th century. Many people came to Summit for vacation to take a break from their lives in Brooklyn and New York. In 1858 the first hotel was built by Jonathan Crane Bonnel and was called the Summit House.

Some of these hotels that were in Summit include The Park House, Beechwood Hotel, Essex Hotel, Morrissey's, The Branch House, Hahne's Hotel, Condit's, Summit House Annex, Farmer's Hotel, Sam Lee's Tavern, Mansion House, the Highland House, and The Blackburn.

Most of the hotels that were listed do not exist anymore, as Summit is now residential and not a vacation destination.



Summit Downtown Historic District

The places that the Summit Downtown Historic District includes are: Union Place and Springfield Avenue from Kent Place Boulevard to Waldron Avenue. The Summit Downtown Historic District is on the National Register of Historic Places because of the well-kept architecture. Most of the places in Summit were built in 1890 to 1930. The Summit Downtown Historic District was built around the railroad.



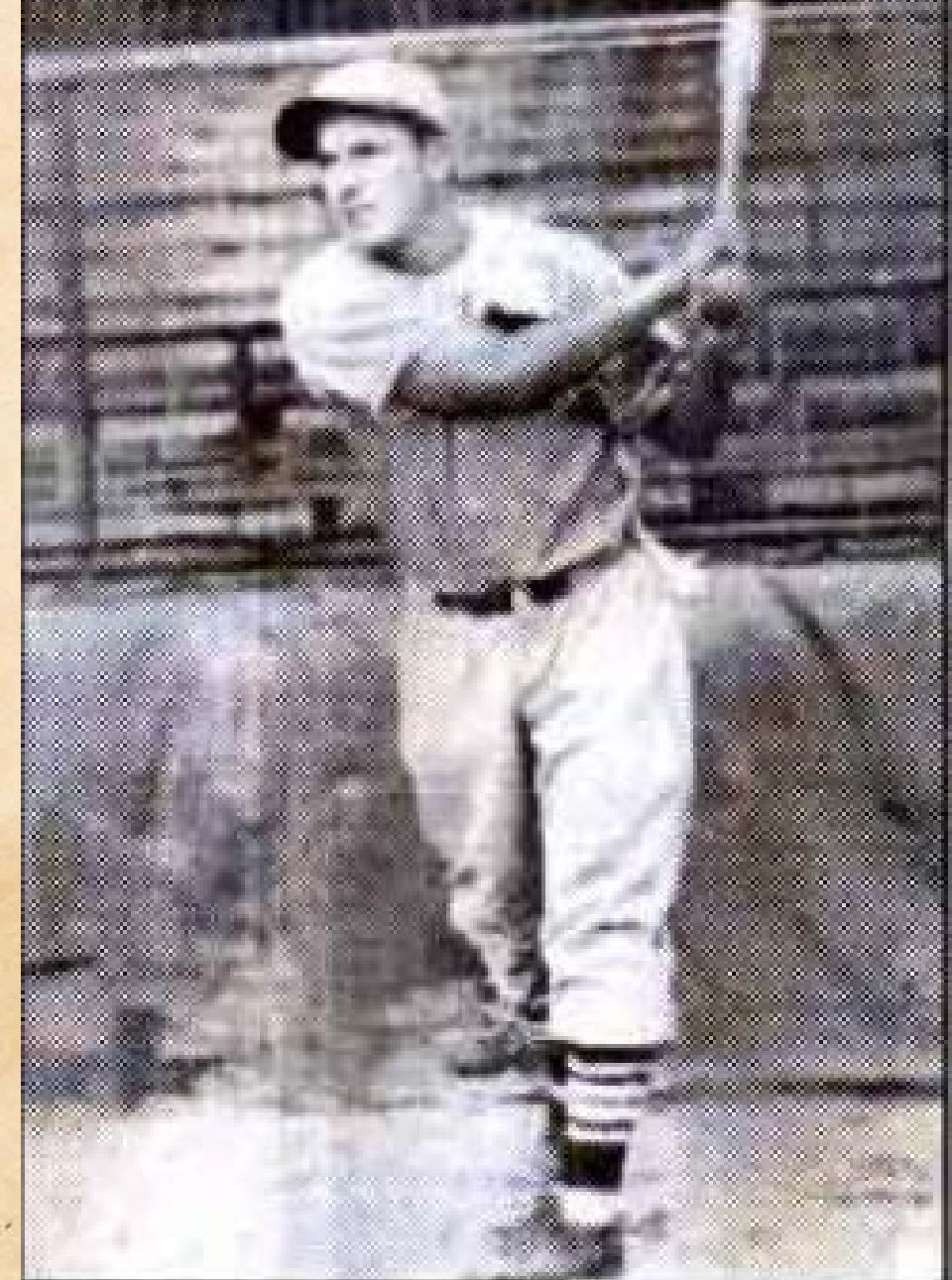
Summit Stories

Joe Medwick

Joe Medwick was born on, November 24, 1911. Growing up in Summit, Joe always was an outstanding athlete from a kid to when he was in high school. He starred in football, basketball, track, as well as baseball.

In his sophomore year of college, Joe decided that he was going to sign with the St. Louis Cardinals. In the 1929 season, Joe led the MLB with a batting percentage of .438. He won his first MLB title in 1934, with the St. Louis Cardinals. Joe Medwick also played for the Brooklyn Dodgers, New York Giants, and the Boston Braves. He also had a brief stint with the New York Yankees before returning to the Cardinals. Medwick retired in the 1948 season, at the age of 37, after playing 18 seasons in the MLB.

Even though Joe picked to play baseball professionally, he never gave up on football. Eventually he would win many titles and make it into the Pro-Baseball Hall of Fame in 1968. He is still recognized for being a great baseball player. Joe later died on March 21, 1975.



Joe Medwick swinging

Patrick J. Kelly

World's Best Cop

Patrick J. Kelly was born in 1891 in Summit. He grew up with two sisters and lived at 242 Morris Avenue. He joined the Summit police in 1917 when he was only 24 years old. In 1922 he married Mary Lynch. They had no children and lived at 361 Springfield Avenue. He had served for 21 years by the time he retired in 1938, after achieving the rank sergeant. He died in 1964 and was buried in the parish cemetery of St. Teresa's for everything he had done for them.

World's Best St. Nick

Another thing that the great Patrick J. Kelly did was become St. Nick for a lot of children. He did this until he was 70 years old and did it for churches, schools even civic organization. He even dressed as Santa for the Chamber of Commerce's annual Christmas program. Pat would take old toys and him and his wife would remake them into newer and better toys for children. He was also able to get a hold of the local post office to gather any letters that were going to Santa.



Patrick J. Kelly being surveyed by a 2 year old girl

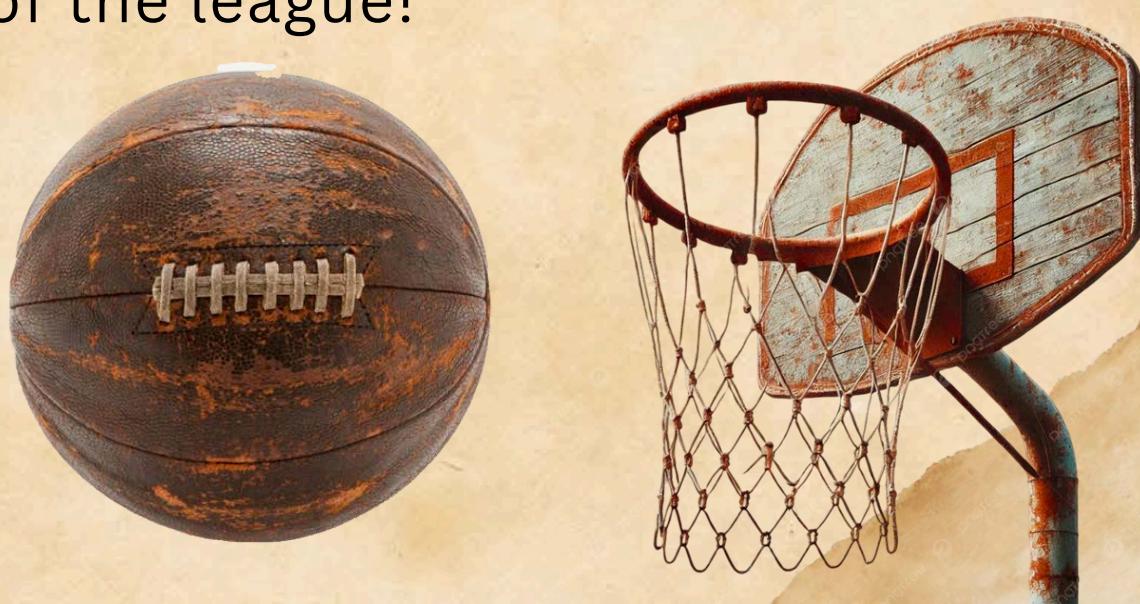
"1919 Basketball Champs and a Champ of a Teacher"



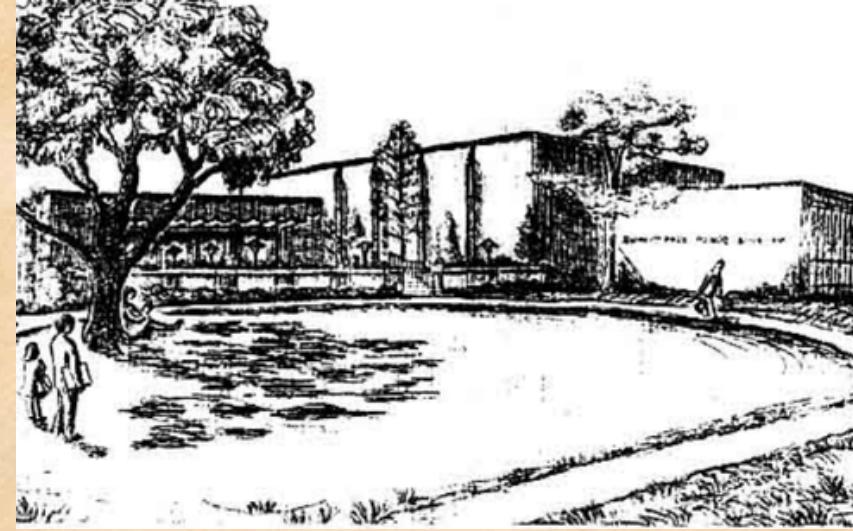
The 1919, the girl's Summit High School varsity team won the championship of the Morris and Essex League. Their team consisted of 8 players. Their head coach was named Grace Jones. Grace Jones was 22 when she was hired to be a P.E teacher in 1916. When Grace Jones started teaching, she was the only gym teacher in the district, so she was teaching a total of 1,616 students that year. Grace Jones was hired by Howie Anderson, a long time football coach. In the 1919 season, the girls basketball team went into the playoffs with a record of 8-1 (eight and one). The team came up to the last week of the season needing two wins to gain the title. They first defeated Dover by a 48-10 score and followed that victory up with a season-closing win over West Orange, 30-21, giving them a clear-cut championship of the league!

Fun Fact:

Grace Jones' nickname was Jonesy



Timeline of the Summit Library Association (SLA)



Groups of Summit citizens begin to discuss the library project, and some meetings are held on the subject. This results in the formation of the Summit Library Association (SLA).

1869

After Summit secedes from the New Providence Township, some of the women of the town create the Ladies Book Club of Summit. As the club goes on, conversations shift to the possibility and need of an active library for Summit.

1878

The SLA moves its 800 volumes to a local thread and needle shop at 408 Springfield Avenue.

1873

The Association is offered the free use of the library room in the first school in town by the Trustees of Public School No. 1.

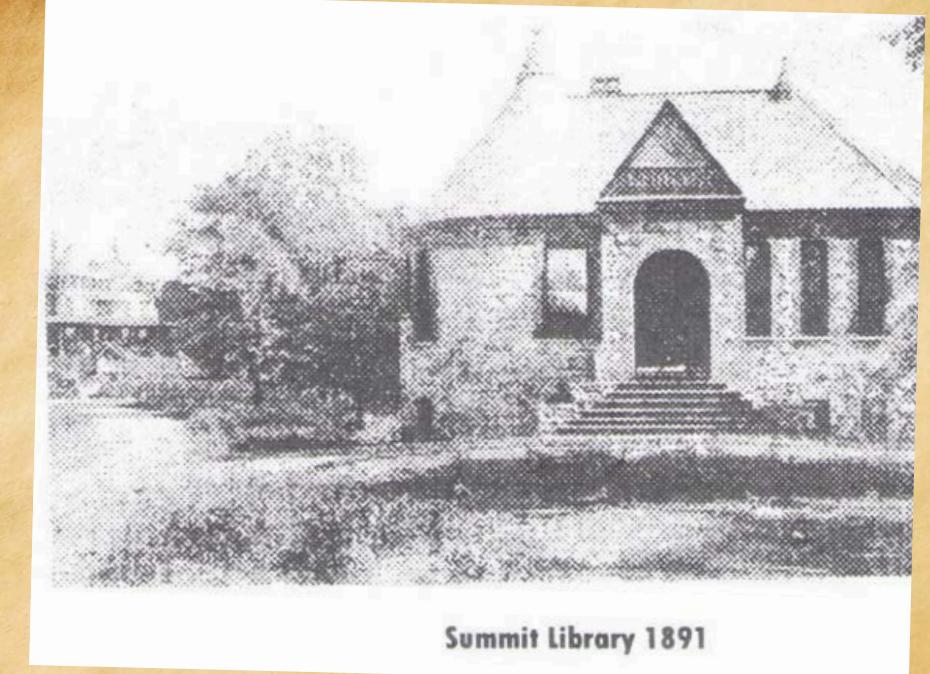
1882

The SLA builds the first real library building.

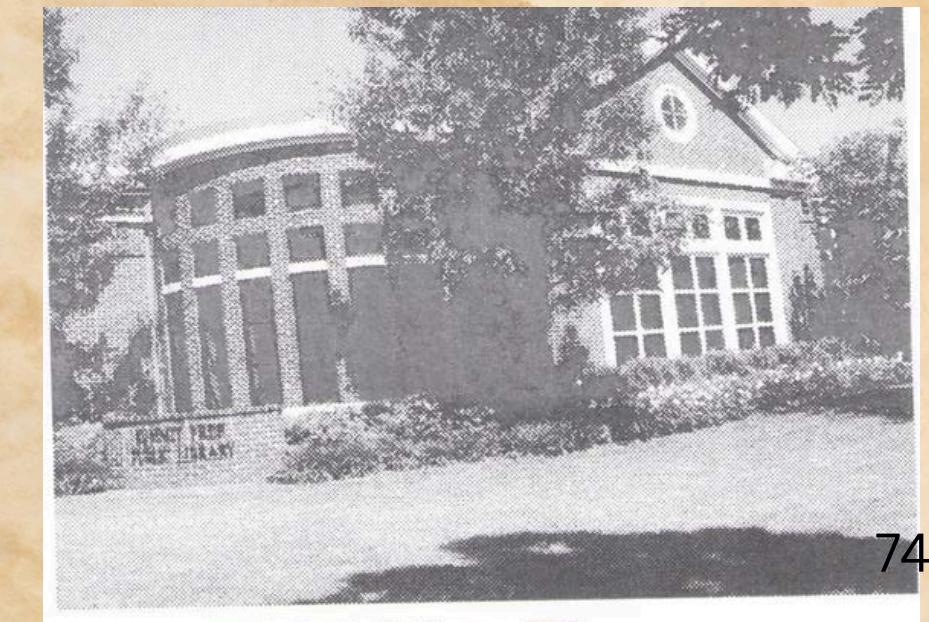
1891

Summit Library Association Facts:

- The first Board of Trustees for the SLA was headlined by William Z. Larned.
- The Association issued \$10,000 in stock (2,000 shares at \$5.00 each). Stockholders were allowed to borrow 2 books for 2 weeks each.
- The daughter of the owner of the thread and needle shop where the library was located became the librarian.
- On April 11, 1893, the SLA announced that the library would be free to all residents of Summit.



Summit Library 1891



74

The Legacy of The Brothers Risk

William Risk

William Risk was born in 1842 in Muncy, Pennsylvania. He earned an undergraduate degree from Lafayette College and went on to obtain a medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania. He, his wife, and his daughter moved permanently into Summit in 1874. He was a trusted family physician and he provided care, medicine, and advice often without a fee. He was also a director of the Summit Trust Company, a congregant of the Central Presbyterian Church, and a member of both the Masonic Order, and the Highland Club along with his brother. He led the effort for a clean public water system. He was also raising awareness for a public sewage system even though the majority of the residents and town officials were against the idea of a public sewage system. In addition, he worked on establishing the Summit Board of Health and served time as president. Dr. Risk was an important part of the plan to open Summit's first public school. In 1905 William Risk sadly died at the age of 63.



William Risk

James Risk

James was born in the same place as his brother in 1858, and also had an undergraduate degree from Lafayette College, as well as a matching medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania. He was a director of the Summit Trust Company, a congregant of the Central Presbyterian Church, and a member of both the Masonic Order and the Highland Club along with his brother. He began his medical career in Baltimore, and in 1892 he moved his practice to Summit to be closer to his brother. James' other relations included the medical societies of both the Morris and Essex counties, being director of the First National Bank, having a place as elected member of the Common Council, and for 2 years he served as mayor. After his sibling died, he carried on his brother's work until he himself died in 1913 at age 65.



**Richardson Romanesque Mansion
(former home of William Risk)**