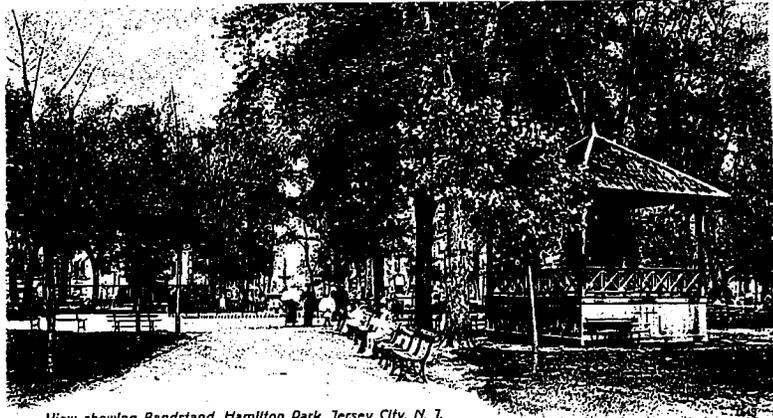


**HAMILTON
PARK
NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION**



View showing Bandstand, Hamilton Park, Jersey City, N. J.

**TENTH
ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION
HOUSE TOUR
1987**

First Light on the New Horizon

It was once just a magnificent dream. A master planned complex of the future built against one of the most spectacular panoramas in the world. It is now becoming reality.

Newport, upon its completion, will bring together over 10 million square feet of office space, 1.4 million square feet of retail space, 9000 residential units and 1200 luxury hotel rooms. A community for the future.

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Newport

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

With great pleasure and pride we welcome you to the Hamilton Park Neighborhood Association's Tenth Anniversary Celebration Weekend.

Much has changed since Norman Walther and a handful of interested residents formed the Association a decade ago. While the general desire to make Hamilton Park a better place to live remains constant, the specific problems have changed somewhat. In the beginning, the Association focused its energies toward problems of crime and drug activity, which had forced some friends and neighbors to bid farewell to Jersey City. The Association, which is composed of both long-time (born & bred) and newly transplanted residents, marshalled its forces to reclaim the neighborhood and to promote the downtown area by persuading people to relocate to our fair City. The House Tours aided our cause by enlightening the public to our treasures, the Victorian houses of yesteryear.

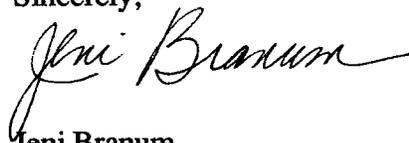
While the Association has continued to concern itself with problems and issues, today much of its time is spent in reviewing proposed developments and exerting pressure to ensure that rapid changes are in keeping with the needs and desires of the neighborhood. We will continue to dedicate ourselves to enhancing the "quality of life" and promoting a positive image of our community and City.

We hope you will enjoy this weekend's activities and that you will keep this Anniversary Journal as a memento. We think you will find the Journal to be informative, amusing, and nostalgic of the "good old days".

The officers, trustees and members of the Association look forward to meeting you during the Anniversary Dinner Dance and the House Tour.

We thank you once again for sharing in our celebration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeni Branum". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Jeni Branum

HAMILTON PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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Vice President.....Betty Gerena
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CELEBRATION WEEKEND COMMITTEE

Tommy Perna
Ralph Stivali
Walt Sidoroff

Bill Nalle
Bob Buckler

HISTORY OF THE ASSOCIATION

The first meeting of the Hamilton Park Neighborhood Association was called to order at the Central Baptist Church on Pavonia Avenue more than ten years ago. Those who attended recall it as a cold evening. Concern about deteriorating living conditions in the neighborhood and plans to refurbish the sidewalks around Hamilton Park sparked the meeting, according to one participant. Shortly thereafter, an open meeting with Mayor Paul Jordan to discuss the neighborhood's problems was held at Ferris High School, at Coles and Eighth Streets.

As specified in its constitution and by-laws, the Association strives to serve the interests and needs of the people. Acting as a sounding board for the opinions of residents, HPNA facilitates communication of important neighborhood news and unites residents in common causes. To these ends, the Association is pledged to act as a voice for local residents at various City meetings. The Association cooperates with the city government and other civic associations in promoting a cleaner and safer neighborhood and neighborhood revival; and assists in upgrading Hamilton Park and the immediate environs.

Over the years, the following individuals have served as President: Norman Walther, Don Walrod, Lewis Perlmutter, Neil Pecoraro, Joseph Thompson, Teri Gronkowski, Janice Monson, and currently, Jeni Branum.

Among its many activities, the Association has sponsored summer camp opportunities for neighborhood youth, park festivals, and house tours. (The first house tour was conducted in 1977.) The Association was also instrumental in assisting the City's petition to place the Hamilton Park Historic Places in 1979. During this period, Hamilton Park itself was refurbished. Current projects include the construction of a wrought-iron fence around the park and the relocation and renaming of the Pavonia Branch of the Jersey City Public Library.



25 - A Busy day in Jersey City, N. J.

VISIONS OF HAMILTON PARK

Until 1804 the main livelihood of this area was farming. The low-lying Hudson River shore had a marshy quality similar to the undeveloped portion of the Hackensack meadowlands today. A few land formations existed, primarily in the Jersey City area - one of these was in the vicinity of what is now Hamilton Park. This virgin terrain was the home ground of a few thousand natives of the Algonquin nation. They belonged to the Hackensack branch of the Lenni Lenape tribe and were later known to the English as the Delawares. These Indians taught the Dutch how to grow maize, beans and squash. Their homes of bent saplings and bark were the models for the first temporary shelters of the Europeans.

In the late 1600's, Michael Pauw, a "burgomaster" of Amsterdam bought two shoreline properties on the mainland, across the river from New Amsterdam. The first tract, called Hoboken Hackingh by the Indians, covered the current boundaries of Hoboken. The second tract consisted of two parts: Harsimus and Aresick; extending south from the present Jersey City/Hoboken border through the Bayonne peninsula. Pauw called this land Pavonia from the Latin spelling of his own name, Pavo, which means "Peacock".

Michael Pauw never crossed the Atlantic and held title for only four or five years before he was forced to return it to the Dutch West India Company. Before the resale took place, he hired Cornelius Van Vorst to conduct fur trade and to arrange for the farmers who were expected to move to Pavonia.

The Jersey City story really begins in 1804, when a few well-to-do New Yorkers began to see exciting prospects for the west shore of the Hudson. Alexander Hamilton, who duelled Aaron Burr in that same year, drew up a bill incorporating the Association of the Jersey Company for which he served as counsel. Among its forty principals were Richard Varick, a mayor of New York, and John B. Coles, a flour merchant and New York alderman. Although he never lived on his land, Coles had sufficient confidence in the plan to develop the river front to buy land known as "Dukes Farm", east of Bergen Hill, between Communipaw and Hoboken. Early inhabitants included Robert Fulton, who lived there until his death in 1815. At the time, his house, later known as the Hudson Hotel; and Varick's which was on what is now Essex Street, stood in nearly total isolation.

The area that Coles bought was divided into sections. The neighborhood to the north of Pavonia Avenue was known as Hamilton Park. For more than thirty years, development proceeded slowly. During this period, in 1820 the city of Jersey City was incorporated, provided with a new charter in 1829, then reincorporated in 1838. By 1835 there were 170 houses. The first census taken in 1840 counted only several thousand inhabitants. Few if any houses or other buildings dating from that period have survived.

Coles had his land surveyed and laid out in city blocks with streets running at right angles. The original 1804 survey contained the first site plan for Hamilton Park, which was named after Alexander Hamilton. By 1848 however, when no work had been done to landscape the area as a park, John Coles' heirs decided that they wanted the land back for their own use. Four trees were immediately planted by the Town Committee and two years later a wooden fence was built around the park. Today Hamilton Park stands as the focal point for the Hamilton Park Historic District, an area mainly of houses which are best described architecturally as "in the Victorian vernacular" interspersed with small clusters of older Greek revival buildings.

The residential square, of which Hamilton Park is an example, has long been a major feature of Anglo- American town planning. The earliest - Covent Garden in London - dates back to 1631, and this model was emulated early on in America. During the first half of the 19th Century most of the cities on the eastern seaboard had such squares. The earliest plans for Philadelphia and Charleston incorporated this feature. Today, the north side of Washington Square in New York City and Lewisburg Square in Boston have survived almost intact as good examples. So, too, have the squares of Jersey City.

Although there is no data to make clear exactly what existed in the mid-19th Century, the 1850 map of Jersey City and Van Vorst Township shows what are today called Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Streets as Mill, Mintorn and Garretson Streets, respectively. Ninth and Tenth Streets were called North First and North Second Streets, while Coles was known as Ontario Street.

In 1871, the names of the streets were changed by adoption of an Ordinance by the Mayor and Aldermen. The surveying map of the City made in 1873 indicates not only these changes but also those lots which had been developed by that date; a time when the post-Civil War building boom was coming to a close. The vast majority of homes standing today in the Hamilton Park Historic District had their origins in the 1865-95 period.

In the 1850's the industrial revolution was at hand. It was a time when large numbers of immigrants were entering the population in Jersey City, and many settled in the neighborhood near Hamilton Park. This renewing multi-national heritage was, and still is, as vibrant a life force on Hamilton Park streets as the vivid architectural backdrop. Today, over 90% of the area's land use is still residential, and the area is home for tens of thousands of people.

From the times of the native American Indians and early Dutch settlers, river transportation has been an important activity affecting this area. During the industrial revolution, technological advances in transportation not only caused changes in the size and flow of the population, but also in the kinds of work people could perform and, most certainly, changes in land use. While it may have been possible to predict the advent of ferry service and railroads as the technology developed, no one could have imagined that both forms of transportation would pale in significance compared to the automobile less than 200 years later.

In 1798, John Stevens of Hoboken joined in partnership with Robert Livingston, his brother-in-law, in an attempt to demonstrate a steam-driven vessel. The venture failed and in 1802, Livingston entered into a partnership with Robert Fulton. Five years later the famous voyage of the Clermont between Manhattan and Albany ushered in and secured a new era in water transportation. In anticipation of an enormous demand for steamboats, Fulton bought land in Paulus Hook and began construction of a shipyard. He also started his own trans-Hudson ferry service in 1812. The trip boasted a fifteen minute crossing from Paulus Hook to New York City "under good conditions".

In 1826, Stevens successfully demonstrated another adaptation of the steam engine - the locomotive. Between 1830 when the Stevens family acquired controlling interest in an early railroad company, and 1856, when the New York and Erie Railroad bought 200 acres at Pavonia Avenue where it erected a new terminal on landfill - the site of the Newport project begun in individually-owned companies.

In 1908-1909 the Manhattan-Hudson Company inaugurated service from Hudson Terminal in New York to Exchange Place in Jersey City with a connection at the Pavonia Station. By 1912 this system was extended to Newark, and today is known to its riders as PATH. After seven years of construction, the Holland Tunnel opened on November 12, 1927, linking Canal Street in Manhattan to 12th Street in Jersey City. The 113-mile New Jersey Turnpike was built during the 1950's.

It was during the latter half of the 1970's that efforts were made to designate the Hamilton Park area as an historic district. In its petition to the federal government, Jersey City officials wrote: "Jersey City's urbanistic heritage has been especially well preserved in considerable degree by "benign neglect". But a time comes when positive measures of preservation and not merely minimal maintenance are needed. The gradual deterioration progresses more rapidly, and some rising sense of the values of the district as a whole is required to balance the worthy efforts of individual owners to keep up and "improve" their properties..."

"What is covered in the broadest sense by the term "restoration" has come to be understood not alone by professionals...but also by an increasingly interested and informed public. It is these social values, even more perhaps than the purely visual ones, that the handling of the Hamilton Park District in the near future should regard and, where possible, enhance."

FAMOUS AND INFAMOUS RESIDENTS

Alexander Hamilton

In April 1873 City Treasurer, Alexander Hamilton (no kin of our past president) absconded with \$100,000 in bonds, accompanied by Winetta Montague, an actress. Though he was captured, he escaped and traveled to Mexico, London, and in the states, only to finally turn himself in after two years. After being convicted, he was ordered to spend three years in prison. However, his escapade virtually ended Republican rule in Jersey City for a century.

Frank Hague

Frank Hague was born in the "Horseshoe" section (second district) of Hamilton Park. He became the 30th and longest-serving mayor with a term of 30 years, 1917- 1947. His famous phrase, "I am the law", is a clue to his type of administrative rule. More than anything else, it was the political machine he managed to build over the years that gained him notoriety throughout New Jersey and the entire country. Even political science classes in colleges are introduced to Frank Hague in courses dealing with the connection between politics and power. Some may argue that the good things Hague did outweigh the bad. Frequently mentioned as major achievements are the free medical care that was provided at the Medical Center and Margaret Hague, and Roosevelt Stadium, which was said to be the payback from President Roosevelt for the overwhelming victory that Hague delivered from Hudson County. While Roosevelt stadium was recently torn down to make way for future housing, Hague's legacy will not soon be forgotten, and generations of people will still tell stories of "The Boss".

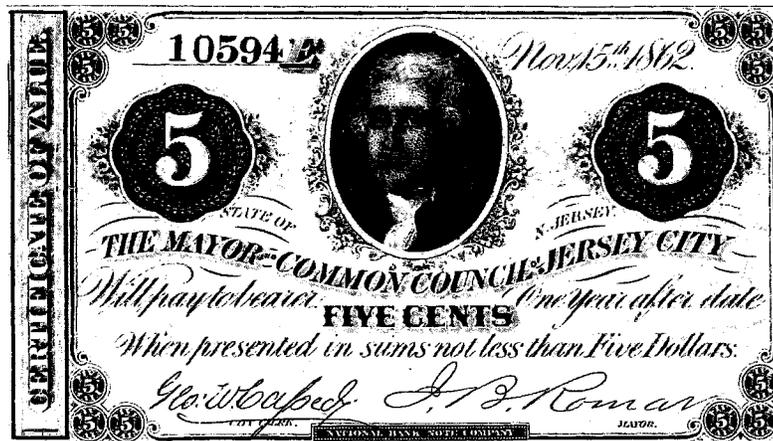
John V. Kenny

John V. Kenny, 32nd mayor, lived at 22 West Hamilton Place. Described as a henchman of Frank Hague, he ran against Frank Eggers, Frank Hague's nephew, after a falling out with Hague. That election has gone down in Jersey City's history as the dirtiest campaign. After his win, his reign lasted until 1953. Though he left office everyone was still aware of his presence in the City and the County; his power was still evident though he no longer ruled from City Hall.

In 1972 when Jersey City's various officials were indicted for crimes, John V. Kenny too was indicted for income tax evasion. "22 West Hamilton Place" ended up being auctioned for \$8,000.00

Joseph "Newsboy" Moriarty

An immediate neighbor to John V. Kenny, his residence was 24 Hamilton Place. Those of us who lived in Jersey City will never forget opening the papers and reading the story of the vacant garages on Oxford Placed which was the hiding place for \$1 1/2 million dollars. "Newsboy was running for numbers". "Numbers" was a gambling game quite prevalent before Lotteries came about. Politics and the control of the numbers were intertwined for many years during the reign of the previously mentioned famous/infamous residents of Hamilton Park.



PAVONIA BRANCH LIBRARY

The original Pavonia branch of the Jersey City Public Library was located in a handsome stone building designed by John Gurd in 1924. The basement contained a central meeting room which seated 200. The main floor had steel stacks on the Eighth Street side, a central circulation desk, an adult reading room, and a children's room overlooking Hamilton Park. On the second floor were offices, a reference room, rest rooms, a lunch room, and an exhibition room. The floors, paneling, shelves, and furniture were all solid oak set off by white plaster walls. The building, including land and all furnishings, cost about \$210,000 to build.

That building was razed in 1967 and Pavonia Avenue between Erie Street and Hamilton Park was closed to make way for the new buildings needed by St. Francis Hospital. It was suggested that the library be rebuilt in the park itself, but few supported that idea. Another suggestion was to incorporate the library into the new hospital buildings, but that proposal was rejected also. A "temporary" library was opened in trailers on Pavonia Avenue between Erie and Grove Streets in 1970 and is still in use.

Finally, in a move that represents a first in the nation, Jersey City recently purchased one of the condominium units in the Wells Fargo building as a permanent home for the Pavonia branch library. The contract to provide the permanent facilities needed to house the collection is now in the bidding process, and the new branch library is slated to open next year. The new library, which will be entered from the Eighth Street side of the Wells Fargo building, is currently the subject of community input as to a suitable name.



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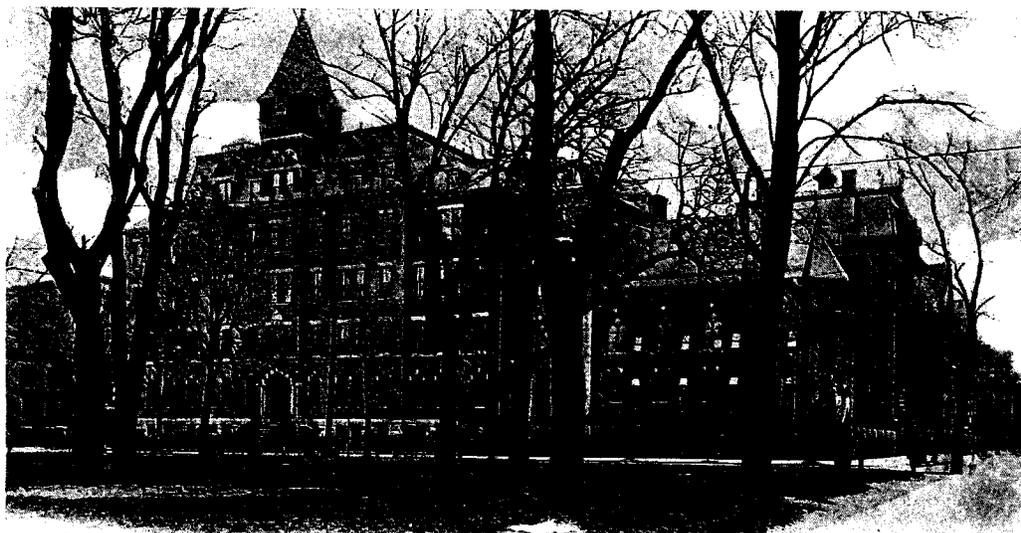
Hamilton Park, Jersey City, N. J.

ST. FRANCIS HOSPITAL

Founded in 1867 by the Sisters of Charity and located in a rented building on Coles and Fourth Streets, St. Francis Hospital moved to its present location about 1895, when it occupied a six-story Victorian building on East Hamilton Place (now Mc Williams Place) between Pavonia Avenue and Ninth Street.

In March, 1966, Sister Ambrosina, who headed the hospital, requested that the Pavonia branch library be demolished to allow expansion room for new hospital buildings. Thus, the recent history of the hospital illustrates the difficulty of balancing the needs of a vibrant neighborhood with the desire to preserve its architectural heritage. The hospital has undoubtedly been a stabilizing influence in the area from its beginnings. During the twenty or so years that preceded the rebirth of Hamilton Park, it may well have been among the only viable institutions operating in what some considered an undesirable area. It is ironic, therefore, that once the turnaround came, it found St. Francis with antiquated facilities which were too small to serve a growing community and which could not be economically saved. Thus, the very institution that served as a fulcrum for the area when it was depressed became an architectural casualty as it was reborn. While the distinguished Victorian hospital buildings are still missed, the community is proud of the modern facilities and school of nursing which took their place.

Today, St. Francis continues to be a major force benefiting the Hamilton Park community. The Association holds its monthly membership meetings there as well as special events such as the Tenth Anniversary Dinner and Ball.



553 St. Francis Hospital, Jersey City, N. J.

CHURCHES

St. Michael's

Named after the biblical archangel, special protector of God's people and leader of the heavenly army that drove Satan out of heaven, St. Michael's started as a small mission on Erie Street in 1855. Parish records show a baptism in 1867, and funds sufficient to erect the present building had been collected by 1872. Construction was completed by 1876.

Designed in the Renaissance style, the exterior of the church features symmetrically placed polychrome stone moldings that are punctuated by balanced groupings of inlaid geometric mosaics. This geometry is repeated in the interior, especially in the "I" floor plan and the mosaic designs on walls and ceilings. The marble altar rail and pulpit and the stained glass windows were added in 1908. Each September the parish celebrates the Feast of St. Michael with a special mass and a pot-luck dinner.

St. Anthony's

This, the oldest Polish parish in New Jersey, began in 1882 with forty-five Polish-American immigrants. By 1884, a small wood-frame church 40 X 60 feet was dedicated. Today, the structure is a handsome Victorian Gothic edifice in rock-faced brownstone and granite, built in 1892-94. In 1895, the interior of the church was destroyed by fire. The only remnant, a large crucifix which hung over the main altar, was relocated to the vestibule where it still can be seen.

In 1934, three marble and mosaic Gothic-styled altars, fourteen marble columns and six-foot wainscoting of marble were installed. The floor of the sanctuary was also laid in marble, and a marble Baptistry was added, which enlarged the church to its present size. This work was completed to celebrate the church's 50th anniversary.

Inscribed over the door of the church are the following words: "Polish Catholic Church of St. Anthony built by donations of the members - the Polish people of Jersey City 1892-94, Restored 1955".

A gifted orator, St. Anthony was also known as the "Hammer of Heretics". Born Ferdinand in Lisbon in 1195, St. Anthony was canonized by Pope Gregory IX in 1232, less than one year after his death in Padua where he lived.

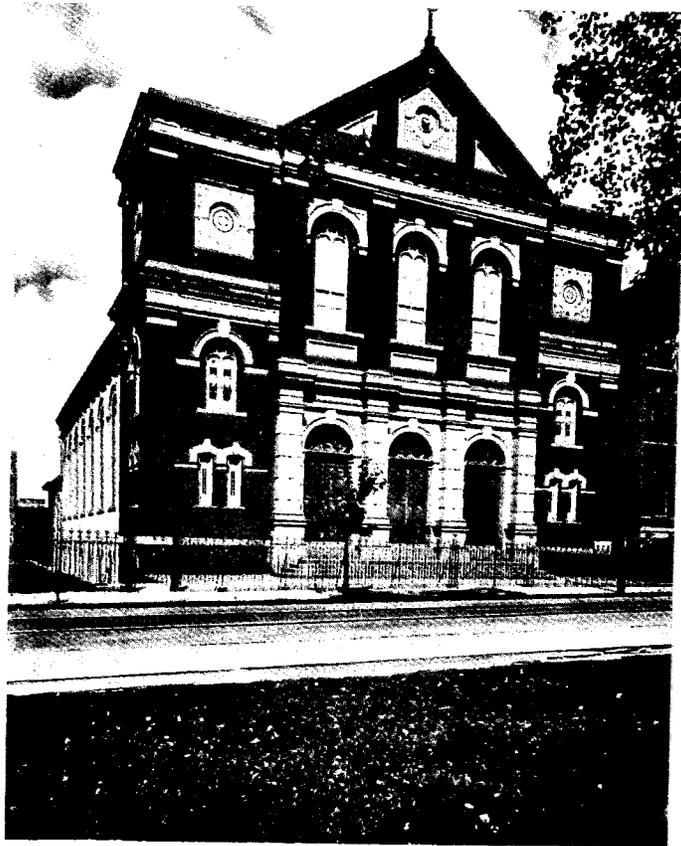
Central Baptist Church

This handsome brick church of rather unusual design was originally erected in 1870 as the Centenary Methodist Episcopal Church and was rebuilt in 1882. Its lines are simple and strong, well delineated in red brick and stone, both now obscured by paint. The

delicacy of the very original detailing, if not the dominant pair of round-arched windows, reflects the 1882 rebuilding, yet the overall effect is more evocative of the 1850's. For some time, the church was used as a Goodwill Mission and had been totally abandoned when the present congregation bought it in 1955. The first meeting of the Hamilton Park Neighborhood Association was held here.

Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary

In 1885, the parish of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary, more commonly known as Holy Rosary, became a reality in small wood-frame church on Sixth Street. In 1903, the cornerstone of the present edifice was laid, and dedicated a year later. The church was extended an additional 30 feet in 1927. The first Italian-American parish in the state, Holy Rosary was consecrated on October 6, 1934. The parish honors the Virgin each year in August with a mass and a procession. There is a week-long street festival, which has become extremely popular neighborhood tradition.



4183—St. Michael's R. C. Church, Jersey City, N. J.

4183—St. Michael's R. C. Church, Jersey City, N. J.



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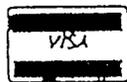
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THOMAS H. KEAN
GOVERNOR

October 16, 1987

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the State of New Jersey, I am delighted to extend greetings to all those taking part in the Hamilton Park 10th Anniversary Weekend Celebration.

This weekend's activities not only will help raise money to construct a new fence around Hamilton Park but also will highlight Jersey City's history and culture. Events like this illustrate the type of community spirit that makes New Jersey great, and the residents of Jersey City can be proud of their unique heritage.

Special thanks to the Hamilton Park Neighborhood Association and to all those who have contributed to making this occasion possible.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Kean". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line above the first few letters.

Thomas H. Kean
Governor

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a dedicated group of people who CARE.*

*Glenn D. Cunningham
Council President*

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"BEST WISHES, HAMILTON PARK,

FOR A GREAT ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!"

Good luck on your tenth anniversary. The beauty and architecture of your neighborhood coupled with the spirit of commitment of its people is a success to be proud of.

Joseph A. Panepinto, Esq.

*Thank you for ten years of service
to our community*

**Robert
Janiszewski**

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"New Jersey's State Assembly needs the same spirit and dedication exhibited by the Hamilton Park Neighborhood Association. As your Assemblymen, we'll be aggressive advocates for a safer, cleaner New Jersey. Preserving our environment and enhancing the quality of life in urban neighborhoods are attainable goals we can achieve together. Let's get started right now!"

ANTHONY IMPREVEDUTO

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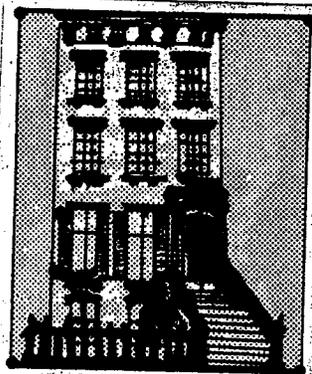
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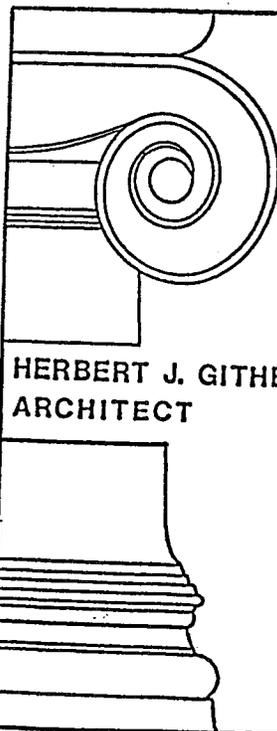
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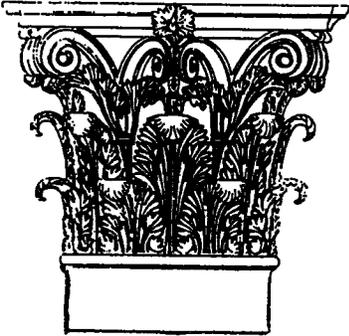
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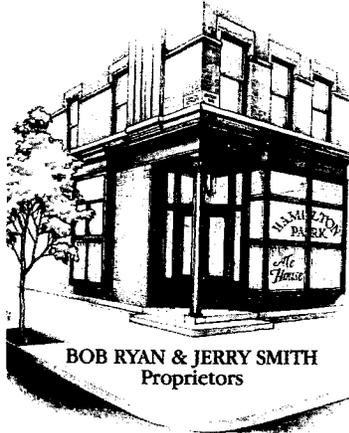
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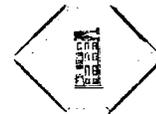
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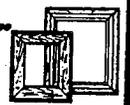
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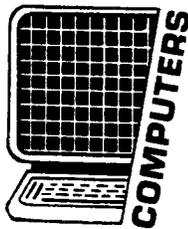
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