

Memorial Municipal Building

Constructed 1922-1924

Historic Restoration 2006-2007

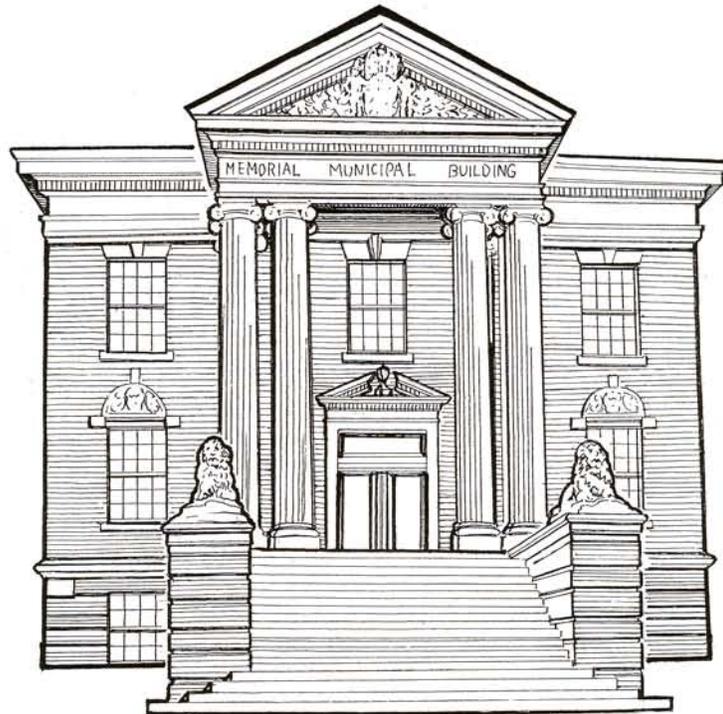




Daniel J. Reiman, Mayor

Ronald Rios, Council President
Joseph Sitarz, Councilman
Randy Krum, Councilman

Susan Naples, Councilwoman
Jorge Diaz, Councilman
Vincent Bellino, Councilman





Borough of Carteret

Daniel J. Reiman, Mayor

Working together to build a better Carteret

Dear Friends:

These past few years have been a great time for progress in Carteret. We have made dramatic strides in improving our cityscape, and our overall quality of life standards. Most importantly we have restored some of the pride in our community that until recently had been dormant.

Among the most significant of these improvements has been the restoration of our historic Memorial Municipal Building. A few years ago it would have been difficult to believe that this structure was in fact a regional treasure. With its initial construction and opening in 1924, this building would serve not just as a home to our local administration, but as a tribute to those who gave their lives in a war assumed to be the world's last. The grandeur of its structure and aesthetic details were clearly intended to serve as a reflection of the reverence held for those military servicemen, and to preserve it indefinitely.

The restoration of our Memorial Municipal Building has been a considerable undertaking. With \$2,308,033.29 in grants and donations funding the project, Borough Hall has been meticulously renovated with the guidance of historic specialists, who have served to ensure that every interior and exterior detail is returned to its original integrity wherever possible. Along with this historical accuracy has come a number of modernized amenities that have made the many public services it houses A.D.A. accessible, and as technologically efficient as any workplace in the modern world.

With the recent celebration of our centennial anniversary as a Borough form of government this has been an appropriate capital investment for complete restoration. As it is a treasure not just of our Municipality but of the State of New Jersey, we have preserved an important piece of our national history, and a level of regional pride deserving of this project. Many thanks are owed to all of those both in and beyond Carteret who have supported it.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Reiman
Mayor, Borough of Carteret

Welcome...



Funding for this brochure has been provided in part by the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission, Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders, and the New Jersey Historical Commission / Dept. of State.

Booklet design completed by Ron McPhee of the Carteret Public Information Department
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After two years of grant seeking, architectural planning, and construction the Borough of Carteret completed the historic rehabilitation of its Memorial Municipal Building in 2007. The center of operations for Carteret's administration is also recognized as the only remaining monument to the fallen American soldiers of World War I in the region. To date the town has raised well over \$2 million in federal, state, and county grants, as well as corporate endowments to finance its restoration.



Originally constructed from 1922 to 1924, the Memorial Municipal Building serves as both an administrative center for town officials and a memorial to military servicemen who died in World War I. Classified as "neoclassical," Borough Hall's exterior features a Jeffersonian façade masonry structure with ornate brickwork and cast stone elements wrapping its windows and doors. Its structure culminates at the building's traditional entrance, where sizeable Ionic pilasters support the Greek terra cotta pediment that is the historical and aesthetic epicenter of the building's design, showcasing a detailed depiction of two World War One soldiers astride Carteret's town seal. The figures are encompassed by laurels and are hovered over by an American eagle which defines the terra cotta's apex (see front cover).

The scope of rehabilitation has included the restoration of the terra cotta, cast stone and brick façade, roof replacement, reintroducing the council chambers to its original second floor space, improving A.D.A. accessibility to all three floors with the introduction of an elevator, handicapped-accessible restrooms, all new traditional interior finishes, and the installation of historically correct energy efficient double hung windows. The Council Chambers have been restored to their original prestige with historically accurate walls, flooring, and woodworking, as well as preserved rosettes. The marble flooring found throughout the building has been preserved, as well as the original jail cells on its ground floor. Mechanical improvements include the installation of traditional pendent mounted light fixtures, and the upgrading of the building's heating, cooling, and plumbing systems. Structural improvements have been aimed at both the preservation of the building's historical integrity and its modernization.



"Now restored to its original prominence and improved with the enhancements of today's technology, the completely rehabilitated Borough Hall will continue to serve as a source of pride for our community, and a testament to the World War One memorial that is Borough Hall. A war long forgotten, that is evident only in the history books and the few remaining memorials that remind us of the sacrifices made nearly 90 years ago."

—Mayor Daniel J. Reiman



A REVEALING RENOVATION



■ Decorative rosettes were found under two layers of ceiling at the Carteret Municipal Building.

Historic surprises in Carteret building

By ARIELLE LEVIN BECKER
STAFF WRITER

CARTERET: The surprises that come during a multimillion-dollar historic renovation are not usually good ones, Mayor Daniel J. Reiman noted. "You hope it's not too bad," he said yesterday, standing in the old council chambers of the borough's Memorial Municipal Building, where crews have been revamping everything from the walls and floors to the heating system and exterior facade.

Then, alluding to the surprises unearthed during the building's restoration, he added, "And you find out it's great."

Just a day earlier, crews preparing the floors to pour new terrazzo had found something unexpected under the quarter-inch layer of glue, sealant and dirt that lined the ground: granite on the staircases, and original Italian marble blocks in the floors.

The discovery led officials to scrap



Photos by JASON TOWLEN/Staff photographer

■ Extensive renovations are nearing completion at the Carteret Municipal Building, above. Mayor Daniel J. Reiman discusses progress of the project yesterday at the building, below.

plans to cover the floors with terrazzo, opting instead to restore the floors to their original look.

It was among several surprise historical discoveries made during the \$2.5 million restoration. Earlier, crews took apart two ceilings in the council chambers and found an older, 15-foot high ceiling adorned with poured-in-place rosettes. And beneath the room's carpeting, crews found hardwood floors that will be preserved.



See **Surprise**, Page B2



THE ATOM TABLOID

June 9, 2006

Carteret Celebrates Centennial With Municipal Building Dedication

CARTERET – Mayor Daniel J. Reiman, who is often credited for his visionary plans of future development, led a spectacular celebration of the community's past last weekend, with a gala dinner dance Sunday night and a ceremony marking the borough's centennial with an international guest on Friday.

Reiman kicked off the centennial celebration last Friday with the dedication of its historic Memorial Municipal Building, which recently was fully refurbished.

"Over the next few months our borough will celebrate its first 100 years," said Reiman. "The re-dedication of this magnificent structure is a fitting launch for that momentous event."

"Our Memorial Municipal Building is a regional historic treasure," Reiman said.

Constructed in 1924, the structural and aesthetic features of the building's intri-

cate Jeffersonian architecture have been historically restored. Originally designed for use as both an administrative center and a monument to those military personnel who died in WWI, it is the only remaining memorial municipal building in New Jersey.

"This building synergizes the value of both drawing from our rich history and looking forward to our bright future," Reiman said.

The rededication and centennial kick off began with a ribbon cutting at the Municipal Building on Friday afternoon. The mayor and borough council members were joined by Mayor Claude DuPont of Carteret in Normandy, France.

The Carteret High School Band, as well as 90 local public school students, performed an original song they wrote about Carteret. Students then donned

period costumes for a re-enactment of the first Borough Council meeting, which took place in May 1906

During the ceremony, Borough Council President Ronald Rios announced sev-

eral activities planned for the centennial celebration, including a July 4 fireworks celebration and a Sept. 10 centennial parade.

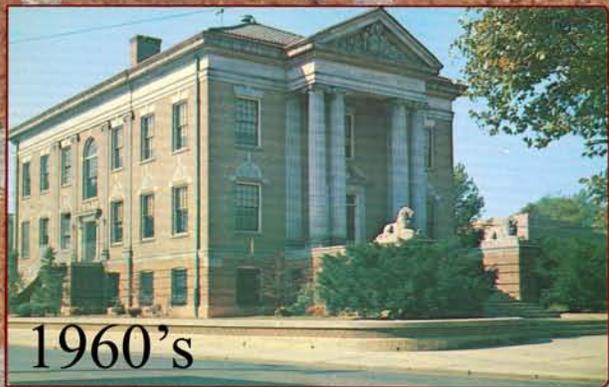
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1930's



Cutting the Ribbon... City officials and honored guests participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the re-dedication of the borough's refurbished Memorial Municipal Building. Pictured left to right are Councilman Joseph Sitarz, Council President Ron Rios, former Mayor Dr. John "Doc" Fenick, Mayor Claude DuPont of Carteret in Normandy, France, Mayor Daniel J. Reiman, former state Assemblyman Thomas J. Deverin, Councilman Vincent Bellino, Councilwoman Susan Naples, and Councilman Jorge Diaz.



1960's



2007

DET



MEMORIAL MUNICIPAL BUILDING
CARTERET, N.J.
HISTORIC RESTORATION A.D. 2005 - 2007

DANIEL J. REIMAN, MAYOR

COUNCIL

- RONALD G. RIOS, PRESIDENT
- VINCENT BELLINO
- JORGE DIAZ
- RANDY KRUM
- SUSAN NAPLES
- JOSEPH W. SITARZ

- ROBERT J. BERGEN, ESQ., ATTORNEY
- ANTHONY NEIBERT, CONSTRUCTION OFFICIAL
- PATRICK J. DEBLASIO, CFO / TAX COLLECTOR
- JOHN DUPONT P.P., C.M.E., P.E., ENGINEER
- KATHLEEN M. BARNEY, BOROUGH CLERK

CARTE

GROUND

- 001 PLANNING/Z
- 002 ENGINEERING
- 003 PERMIT OFF
- 004 CONSTRUCT
- 005 BUILDING IN
- 006 SUB CODE I
- 007 SUPPLY
- 008 HISTORIC M

AILS



RET MEMORIAL MUNICIPAL BUILDING

FLOOR	FIRST FLOOR	SECOND FLOOR
BOOKING	101 GRANTS & PUBLIC INFORMATION	201 BORO CLERK
CLERK	102 OFFICE OF THE MAYOR	202 BOARD OF HEALTH
OFFICE	103 LAW DIRECTOR	203 CONFERENCE ROOM
MANAGEMENT OFFICIAL	104 STAFF OFFICE	204 COUNCIL CHAMBERS
INSPECTOR	105 STORAGE	
INSPECTORS	106 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/UEZ	
MUNICIPAL JAIL	REST ROOMS ON 1ST FLOOR	



The Memorial Municipal Building

The building in question is the Memorial Municipal Building, constructed to honor the servicemen and women of WWI. It was erected at a time when the just-concluded war was referred to as the “war to end all wars” and the “great war” because it was inconceivable that any war could be more devastating. Americans believed that no civilized society would ever allow a world-wide conflict of such utter chaos to happen again and never again would world leaders send so many into battle to die such horrible deaths. Little did the country know that in 20+ years, we would once again be embroiled in a conflict just as frightening and equally as world-wide. The “war to end all wars” became WWI.

The Carteret Memorial Municipal Building was built on the backs of thousands of local residents who died or were wounded to make the world free, and on the tears of millions who mourned for those who perished, both here and abroad. At least 3 memorial town halls, similar to Carteret’s, were constructed in Middlesex County – they represented a “monumental” gesture that was repeated all over the USA.

Sadly, today, few remain. In Middlesex County, all but one has been razed. Too often, when the battles or incidents happen off our shores, when the last of the people who remember the crisis first-hand are gone...our collective consciousness forgets. Ironic, but we remove the very memorials we have erected so as NOT to forget.

Thus, it has happened, that the only WWI memorial building still standing in central New Jersey is that of Carteret. It is an important structure to save and the County should be involved, because of the significance of the building and the history it represents.

Each design element of the memorial building has significance – no element was placed without reason. The main entrance to Carteret Borough Hall is strongly influenced by Thomas Jefferson’s pavilion designs – invented by this statesman to symbolize the people’s form of government. The 12-over-12 hung windows, some with fans or ovals, are indicative of Federal Period architecture – so named as it was popular immediately after the Revolutionary War and through the early decades of our new nation. Also of Federal style are the low hipped roof, and the fact that the decoration of the brick exterior is confined to the majestic front entry. This is all quite fitting for a municipal structure, dedicated to those who fought for freedom.

The Carteret Borough Hall is architecturally important because it was fabricated at a time when “master” craftsmen were still found among the building trades. Terra cotta embellishments were possible – soon after however, this industry for which Middlesex County was famous would die. The tableau in the frieze above the columns represents the land and sea efforts during the war – a doughboy and a sailor. The lions that grace the portico, are in all likelihood, there to protect truth and justice, as the building housed not only government but the original jail.

The Cultural and Heritage Commission strongly urges that this project go forward. It will engender a great sense of pride for the people of Carteret and Middlesex County and serve as an anchor for all the other rehabilitation and redevelopment efforts underway or planned by Carteret. This is a structure worth saving for its history, for its architecture and most importantly, for the memory of our WWI veterans.

Recognizing the scope of this project, and the importance, I believe that an opportunity may exist for future listings on the State and National Registers of Historic Places, and for possible NJ Historic Trust funding in the 2005 round. However, it is vital that a preservation architect be among the professionals working on the project. No state funding could be awarded without the inclusion of such expertise. A preservation architect is knowledgeable about craftsmen who continue traditions that may be needed to restore certain elements of the architecture and design. They are experienced in solving problems that arise when decisions need to be made between Secretary of Interior National Preservation Standards and contemporary code, are able to provide accurate cost-estimates from their base of knowledge. Preservation architects know of unique solutions to restoration issues, because they have experienced them before and devised answers that met preservation standards. Much like engineering specialties such as structural and electrical, preservation architects are specialists in their field and should be brought aboard this project.

**Anna M. Aschkenes, Executive Director
Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission**



“The lions that grace the portico, are in all likelihood, there to protect truth and justice, as the building housed not only government but the original jail...”

-Anna M. Aschkenes
Executive Director
Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission



Project Team

General Contractor
Dauti Construction Company Inc.

Mechanical Sub-Contractor
Mecca Air Co. Inc.

Plumbing Sub-Contractor
Don Pizzolato Plumbing Inc.

Electrical Sub-Contractor
Capodanno Electric

Underground Electrical Service
Krypton Electric, Inc.

Masonry Restoration Sub-Contractor
Michael J Malpere Company Inc.

Landscaping
Coast Nursery, LLC.

Millwork Sub-Contractor
Dorcon Inc.

Entrances/ Windows
Zak Architectural Metal & Glass

Wood Benches
Sauder Woodworking Co.

Wood Floors
Aba Co

Carpeting
The Gillespie Group

Project Management
CCMS

Venezia Architects

Anthony Neibert
Borough Project Manager

John DuPont
Borough Engineer

Carteret History

at a glance

Carteret was a part of the Woodbridge Township until 1906 when it became the Borough of Roosevelt. In 1922, the name was again changed to the Borough of Carteret.

The history of Carteret is rooted in the years preceeding the Revolution.

On a direct route between New York and Philadelphia, Carteret became a favorite excursion area. It is believed that George Washington traveled over the Blazing Star Trail, the main route through the Borough.

Early settlers included the English, Dutch, Swedes, and Scots. The population increased steadily as the town developed into a prosperous center for trade. Over time a number of farms came to characterize the landscape, and produced a variety of fruits, vegetables, poultry, and cattle.

In the early 1800's, Carteret was a vital part of the greater region because of its roads leading inland along the waterfront. It was the last landing place for ferries which provided transportation to and from New York.

Today's West Carteret section was a farming community known as Rahway Neck, inhabited by 15 or 20 families. The splendid waterfront of Staten Island Sound began to attract manufacturing enterprises, and soon a settlement of importance was developed enough to warrant the location of a post office which was called Carteret. In 1906 two post offices were established in the Borough, one in Carteret proper and the other in the Chrome section. The two locations were merged in 1922 into its present locality.



In 1906 cows were still driven to pasture along Roosevelt Avenue, then known as Rahway Avenue. Trolleys emerged in the early 1900's first as horse driven vehicles replacing the smaller stagecoaches.

The Carteret school system had its beginning as the first red brick schoolhouse, which still stands in the West Carteret section.

Also in 1906, the first banking institution was established. The First National Bank opened its doors in the Chrome district. The second bank was founded in 1923 and began its operation in a small store, later erecting its own building on Cooke Avenue.



In 1906, the Borough Council passed an ordinance creating a police department. Eight men were appointed. Henry J. Harrington, one of the eight, was promoted to Sergeant on July 9, 1908. He became the Borough's first police chief. Mr. Harrington retired in March of 1954 and George Sheridan, Jr., succeeded him as chief.



In the 1920's, the Fire Company had horse drawn fire apparatus. These same horses were used daily to haul garbage wagons during the course of the day. If the fire whistle blew, they unhitched the horses and raced to the fire.

Over the years Carteret has seen many changes. Manufacturing, which was a major industry, has disappeared. What we see now is the beginning of a Renaissance of the Borough. Major improvements are being made to our waterfront, Chrome, and the business district along Roosevelt Avenue.





Carteret Mayors, 1906-2007



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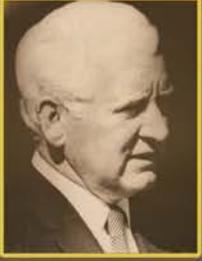
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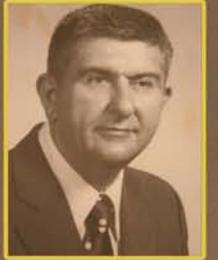
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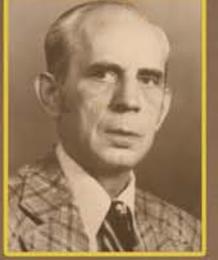
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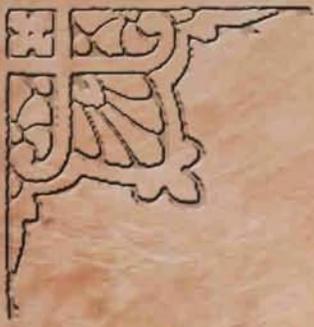
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- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1) Joseph A. Hermann (D) | 1906-1922 |
| 2) Thomas J. Mulvihill (D) | 1923-1930 |
| 3) Joseph A. Hermann (D) | 1931-1934 |
| 4) Joseph W. Mittuch (R) | 1935-1944 |
| 5) Stephen Skiba (D) | 1945-1952 |
| 6) Frank A. Bareford (R) | 1953-1956 |
| 7) Edward J. Dolan (D) | 1957-1960 |
| 8) Stephen Skiba (D) | 1960-1962 |
| 9) Andrew W. Banick (R) | 1963-1966 |
| 10) Thomas J. Deverin (D) <small>(became Assemblyman)</small> | 1967-1969 |
| 11) Michael Toth (D) | 1969-1974 |
| 12) John Fenick, M.D. (R) | 1975-1978 |
| 13) John V. Tomczuk (D) <small>(deceased, 10/82)</small> | 1979-1982 |
| 14) Margaret Tomczuk (D) | Oct. 1982 - Dec. 1982 |
| 15) Peter J. Sica (R) | 1983-1998 |
| 16) James A. Failace (R) | 1999-2002 |
| 17) Daniel J. Reiman (D) | 2002-present |

Background - (1, 3) Honorable Mayor Joseph A. Hermann, circa 1907



Funding for
the Historic Restoration Project
provided by

NJ Building Fund DCA Grant	\$281,553.29
Prologis Corporation Endowment	\$325,000.00
CDBG Grant	\$41,000.00
Radisson Hotel Donation	\$50,000.00
NJ ADA Grants	\$86,480.00
Kaplan Companies Donation	\$300,000.00
Kinder Morgan Endowment	\$75,000.00
Middlesex County Community Development	\$50,000.00
Middlesex County CDBG Discretionary Grant	\$50,000.00
Other	\$132,000.00
Capital Bond	\$600,000.00
NJ DCA - Mortar & Brick	\$117,000.00
ADA CDBG 2005	\$100,000.00
Historic Restoration Grant	\$100,000.00

