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Early 20th Century Architecture

CHP's February 2015 newsletter was about our varied mixture of architecture and CHP received a great many requests to elaborate on the topic. In our last issue we featured many of our historic houses built in the 19th century. In this edition, we will focus on homes built in the 20th century. With our interesting collection of neighborhoods, Clayton is a small, quiet, peaceful, single-family community. As the years come and go, housing styles in Clayton have kept up pace. The borough is a diverse mix of housing designs – Victorian homes, ranchers and Cape Cods. ~ ~

The beginning of the century had many changes in store for Clayton. With the arrival of automation in glass manufacturing, Moore Brothers & Co. ended production in 1912. World War I had been raging in Europe for over 2 ½ years, when the United States declared war on Germany on April 6, 1917. A ceasefire and Armistice was declared on November 11, 1918. The American economy suffered through the “Great Depression” from 1929 through the late 1930s.

The Following is an excerpt from *Clayton, New Jersey, in the 1930 U. S. Census with an introduction, notes, annotations and analysis by Fred Cimino.*

“During the 1930s, Clayton, New Jersey was a town of approximately 2,150 citizens and despite entering the sixth month of the Great Depression seemed to be prospering. Unemployment was not a serious factor. The downtown business area was quite extensive and included new car dealers. A movie house (109 No. Delsea Drive), a public library (208 No. Delsea Drive at West Maple St.), several grocery stores, restaurants, florists and many specialty stores. The Silver-Chamberlain Brush company (253-259 W. Maple St.), the New Jersey Cotton Products Company (West Center at Railroad), Hungerford & Terry Filter Mfg. Co. (No. Atlantic Ave.), and the F. M. Pierce Hollowware and Glass Factory (west side of No. Broad St. between West North and West Howard Streets) provided industrial might to the town. The presence of approximately 75 farms within the borough added a rural touch to the community.

Please note that FARMS were noted and numbered by the census taker. In some cases, it seems a chicken coop, stable and or vegetable garden behind a residence sealed its classification as a farm.” ~ ~

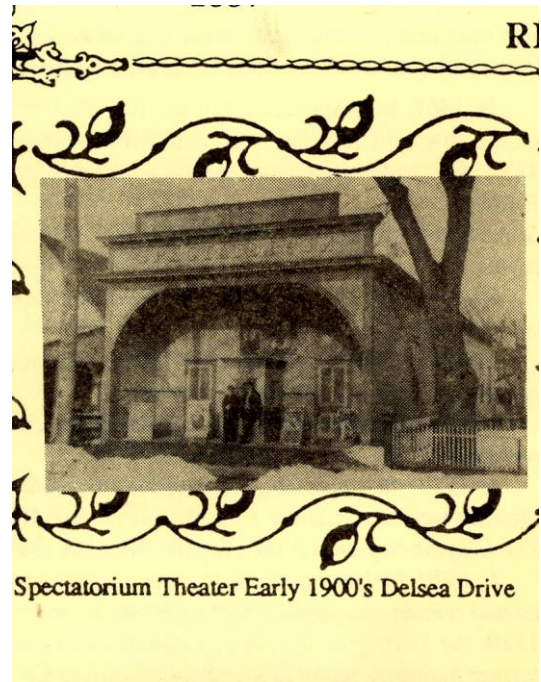


PHOTO ABOVE: Located at 109 North Delsea Drive, where the current day Municipal Building and parking lot are located, the “Spectatorium” changed its name to “The Strand” in the 1930s. Photo from The Heritage News, 1987.



PHOTO ABOVE: Opera House located at 105 West High Street, also the site of the Clayton Town Hall. Today this site is where the Clayton Volunteer Fire Co. No. #1 is located. Photo from CHP archives.

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