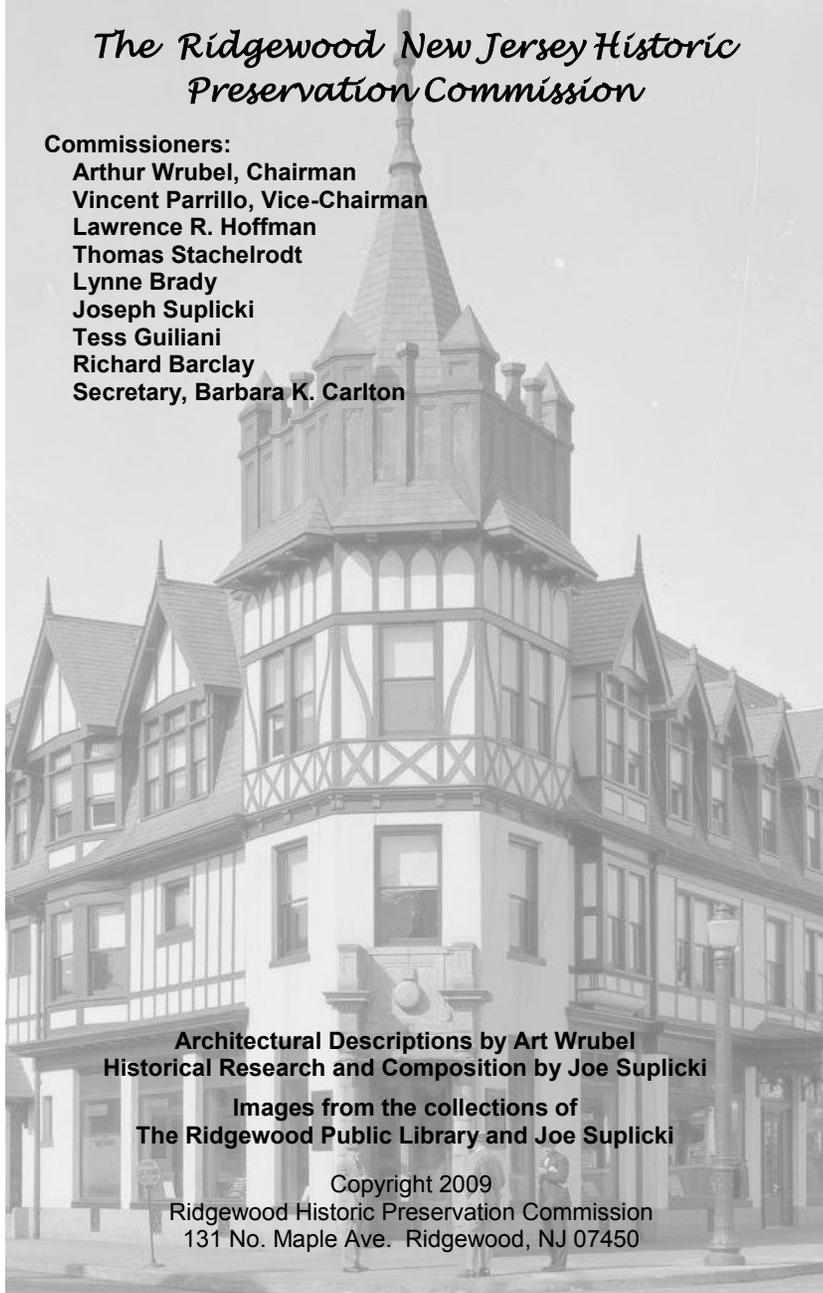


*The Ridgewood New Jersey Historic
Preservation Commission*

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**Architectural Descriptions by Art Wrubel
Historical Research and Composition by Joe Suplicki**

**Images from the collections of
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131 No. Maple Ave. Ridgewood, NJ 07450

A WALKING TOUR of



Ridgewood Ave., Looking East, Ridgewood, N. J.

RIDGEWOOD'S HISTORIC DOWNTOWN DISTRICT



WILSEY BUILDING
RIDGEWOOD, N. J.

Vintage Photos of Ridgewood's Historic Downtown District



Station Plaza

Vintage Photos of Ridgewood's Historic Downtown District



Godwin Avenue looking East



Play House and Osmun Building, Wilsey Square



Morgan Building, 2 Godwin Avenue

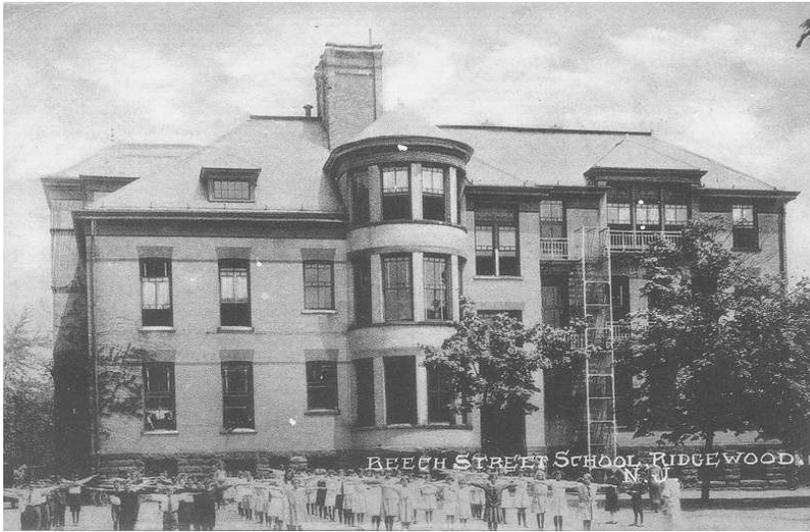


Fire Engine on North Broad Street returning to Headquarters



Station Park from the Lincoln Building, 45 No. Broad St.

20. Ridgewood Education Center, 49 Cottage Place (1894)



Joseph H. Christopher, Ridgewood's major builder in the 1890s, built this massive Romanesque Revival building, of Haverstraw pressed brick and sandstone from Haledon. The architect was J. Warner Allen of East Orange. One of the Village's most important historical resources and still serving an educational function, it played a vital role in the establishment of the community at the turn of the century. Ridgewood's present boundaries are directly related to the need for this school. Legislation consolidating all the school districts in a municipality prompted Midland Park and then Glen Rock to separate from Ridgewood Township in 1894 so that they wouldn't have to pay for the new school. In order to forestall further withdrawals, the Village of Ridgewood was incorporated that year. Originally called simply The Ridgewood School when it opened in 1895, it was authorized as a High School by the State Superintendent of Schools in December 1895, and was then called the Ridgewood High School, although it housed both grammar and high school students. When the original portion of the present High School was built in 1919, this became known as the Beech Street School. When the 6-3-3 grade alignment began in 1929, this was the first home of the Benjamin Franklin Junior High School.

We hope that you enjoyed your tour.

If you would like more information about any of Ridgewood's historic places, please feel free to contact the Ridgewood Historic Preservation Commission or the Ridgewood Public Library.

The history of Ridgewood's development revolves around the Railroad Station and tracks. The Paterson and Ramapo Railroad came through what was then Franklin Township in 1848, with the nearest station in Ho-Ho-Kus at Hollywood Avenue, near the Rosencrantz mill. The Erie took over the road in 1851. To accommodate the request of the mill owners in Godwinville (Midland Park) for a station closer to them, the Erie in 1853 authorized a flag stop for freight where the tracks crossed the Paramus to Godwinville Road (East Ridgewood and Godwin Avenues today), and called it the Godwinville station. Later they placed an old stagecoach type rail car to serve as a depot for commuters. A group of these commuters actually donated land and purchased lumber to build a permanent station in 1858. These same commuters, unhappy with the name Godwinville for their station, lobbied for a name change, and after getting the U. S. Government to establish a Post Office in Ridgewood in 1865, finally succeeded in 1866 in having the station name changed to "Ridgewood." Ridgewood's downtown development began about this time. Streets were laid out in 1865 and the first store was erected in 1866 at the northeast corner of Ridgewood Avenue and Oak Street.

The historic downtown, which grew up around the station, was built mainly between 1900 and 1930. It forms a homogeneous unit both functionally and visually within the Village. Most buildings in the district are contiguous, forming definite frames for streets that give the district a typical "Main Street" character.

1. Ridgewood Railroad Station Complex (1916)



The Ridgewood Railroad Station, built in 1915-1916 with its mission style architecture, is unique in New Jersey. This style, popularized in California during the 1890's, skillfully integrates all the buildings in the complex with distinctive characteristics such as round roof arches, shaped gable ends, smooth stucco walls and Spanish tile roof. Frank Howard, one of the two Erie Railroad engineers who designed the station, had worked for the Southern Pacific Railway.

2. George L. Pease Memorial Library, 30 Garber Square (1923)



This fourth home of the Library is a handsome example of Italian Renaissance Revival design, effectively sited on a terrace. The building was erected with funds from the 1917 bequest by Gertrude Pease Anderson in memory of her father, George L. Pease, a notable early resident. In 1897, the Village Improvement Association was founded with Gertrude Pease MacNaughton as First Vice-President. The V. I. A. opened the first library on January 24, 1898 in the Zabriskie Building (the original octagonal portion of the Moore Building - #10). Henry Barrett Crosby and Albert Marten Bedell designed The George L. Pease Memorial Library. The building had a spacious interior with open plan, dark chestnut woodwork, skylight, and mural decoration by Dr. G. Adolph Anderson, Gertrude's second husband and widower. The exterior of the building remains unchanged with its Flemish bond brick, contrasting light stone cornice and arched pediment flanking Palladian windows making it one of Ridgewood's outstanding buildings. In 2009, local philanthropist David F. Bolger renovated the building, replacing the deteriorated wooden windows, refurbishing the interior woodwork and adapting the building for office space. He also replaced the entrance stairway, and installed parking and the ADA compliant ramp.



One of Dr. Anderson's murals.

18. Archibald-Vroom House, 160 East Ridgewood Avenue (1789)



This sandstone house, built by John Archibald, is on the State and National Registers of Historic Places. Dr. William L. Vroom, (1866-1966), began his practice in

1888 and used this building as Ridgewood's first hospital. He wore out many horses in the pursuit of his practice before becoming, in January 1900, the first Bergen county citizen to own a horseless carriage—a steam-powered Locomobile. He was a pioneer in the use of insulin and diphtheria antitoxin. Dr. Vroom treated his last patient in 1963, when he was 97, ending a career during which he delivered over 3,000 babies.

19. Warner Theatre, 190 East Ridgewood Avenue (1930)



E. Ridgewood Ave. - Showing Theatre, Ridgewood, N. J.

This fine representation of the Art Deco style is actually a brick building with concrete and marble facing on the façade. Vertical emphasis is achieved with set backs and geometric massing, staccato shapes and colors for ornamentation. The original rectangular marquee was replaced with a smaller, triangular one, and later the vertical Warner sign was removed.

16. Old Post Office, 36-38 Oak Street (1929)



Built by Maud Van Emburgh Cobb for the Post Office Department with the promise of a ten-year lease, this small building is notable for the elegance of design in its façade, an adaption of Renaissance style, and for its varied functions in the community since

its construction. Note the roof with parapet cornice, plain frieze, egg and dart moldings, Ionic columns and fanlights. The building served as a Post Office for ten years, then was bought by *The Ridgewood News*. They leased it to the Village for municipal offices until they needed the space for themselves. It was occupied by *The Ridgewood News* from 1955 until the 1980's and now is in commercial use.

17. World War Memorial, Van Neste Square (1924)



Situated in Memorial Park in Van Neste Square, this 20th Century Classic Revival granite memorial column was designed by Henry Bacon, the architect of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D. C. Made of granite, with a bronze eagle sculpted by Henry Hering, of Piccirilli Brothers of Mott Haven, in The Bronx. The memorial was dedicated to the sons of Ridgewood who died in the First World War. Plaques were later added with names of the deceased servicemen. Recent research discovered a Spanish-American War casualty, so a new plaque which added his name and corrected previous misspellings was placed with the others.

3. Wendell Apartments, 20 Garber Square (1928)



This English Tudor Manor style apartment building with exuberant details, is effectively placed on a low terrace with cobblestone walls and angled to lead the eye to the Library providing a frame for Garber Square. It was designed by Harold E. Paddon, a New York architect and Village resident. It has varied windows (6/6 sash, multi-paned casements, arched with brick surrounds), varied roof lines (hipped, intersecting gabled peaks, crenellated parapets, tiles, with pent roofs over entrances), half timbers, wall dormers, quatrefoil designs in wood panels, and Tudor upper stories.

4. 10 Garber Square (c. 1929-1930)



This Mediterranean Revival commercial building is related to the California Mission Style Railroad Station which it faces. Its varied details include a parapet with profiles that are in part crenellations and in part Moorish arches, a tiled bracketed roof, and a wrought iron balcony. It is believed that Harold E. Paddon designed this as well as all of the buildings on this block.

5. Corsa Building (1917)



This building was designed by Harold E. Paddon and built for George Corsa, a coal and lumber dealer, Klondike gold miner, and real estate agent who developed the area. When built, it was the only building in Ridgewood with 15-foot ceilings and a

steel framework. The Ridgewood Chapter of the American Red Cross was the first tenant, occupying all three storefronts. Note the many Renaissance decorative details—a deep wooden cornice, a frieze of triglyphs and disks, a surmounting balustrade, pilasters that divide the façade into three units, a central entrance porch with columns and entablature, and glazed double door with transom. The Corsa Building was the first on this block and still dominates the intersection of Garber Square and West Ridgewood Avenue.

6. Gorlin Building, 15-17-19 West Ridgewood Avenue (1924)



This commercial building, also by Harold E. Paddon, is of Tudor Revival style with a slated pent roof, hood molds, half timber in gables and over end units, kingposts and brackets. Aaron Aljian, the prolific Ridgewood photographer, who took many of the

photographs featured in this brochure, purchased the building in 1927 and relocated here from the Osmun Building in 1928. Ridgewood's fourth bank, The North Jersey Trust Company opened in this building in 1929.

14. The Ridgewood Trust Company Building, 60 East Ridgewood Avenue (1910)



While altered by the first floor addition of a commercial façade, elements of this Renaissance Revival building of Indiana Limestone are still visible. The elaborate parapet has a cartouche framed with scrolls, swags and wreaths over the corner entrance. Panels with stepped profiles vertically connect the windows. Following the merger of the First National Bank with the Trust Company, in 1931 it became home to the Fidelity Title and Mortgage Guaranty Company.

15. Hanks Block, 43 - 67 East Ridgewood Avenue (1893), (1903)



The two sections of this large row of stores were built ten years apart, by Dr. E. F. Hanks. The Vernacular style buildings hold a commanding site on the block in which they are situated. The cornice of the newer building to the right has exposed rafter ends and dentil molding; there are corner quoins and, when this picture was taken, there were pent roofs over two of the shops. Originally there was no corner entrance, but a later alteration in the building resulted in the present attractive angled entrance.

13. Pioneer Building, 29 - 31 East Ridgewood Avenue (1900)



This example of a Vernacular Renaissance Revival style building opened in November of 1900. It replaced the original Pioneer Building that had been destroyed by fire the previous March. It was designed by Herman Fritz, a noted Passaic architect, who moved to Ridgewood that year. The window treatment is of particular interest with two bays of triple windows on Oak Street and a bay of paired windows on East Ridgewood Avenue. Note the battlements and check-board paneling and the rough-surfaced stone vertical strips that separate groups of windows continuing into the parapet. This building first housed Tice's Pharmacy, the Ridgewood telephone exchange, the Library, a bookbinder and a hall. In over a century of constant use it has housed a restaurant, a men's shop, a jeweler, and many other shops.



7. The Play House, 12-16 Wilsey Square (1913)



This building, designed by Davis, McGrath and Kiessling, Architects, of New York, and built by Walter Wilsey, has a Mediterranean Revival façade of stucco inlaid with brown tiles. Originally the building had two stores flanking the theater entrance with the marquee in the center. Mayor Garber officiated at its opening in November 1913 when a play was presented by Ridgewood young people. The Play House was well-designed for social and civic affairs and movies. It closed in 1929 and never reopened as a theater. Over the years the marquee was removed, the building was configured for commercial space and covered with a brickface veneer. The brickface was removed in a 2003 renovation which exposed the original façade and recreated the tiled roof. The fly loft, where scenery was stored, is still distinguishable at the rear of the building.

<p>Price Schedule</p> <p>MATINEES</p> <p>Children 10 Cents Adults 35 Cents</p> <p>EVENINGS</p> <p>Children 20 Cents Adults 40 Cents</p> <p><i>Saturdays and Holidays Evening Prices Prevail</i></p>	<p>Play House</p> <p>Ridgewood, N. J. :-: Phone Ridgewood 1234</p> <p>A WARNER THEATRE <i>Direction Warner Bros.—Creators of Vitaphone</i> WEEKLY MATINEES — 3:15 P. M. SATURDAY and HOLIDAYS — 2:30 P. M. EVENINGS — TWO SHOWS — 7 and 9</p>	<p><i>Programs Mailed to Our Patrons by leaving name at the box office</i></p>
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8. Stokes Building, 28-36 Wilsey Square (1916)



This long two-story building housing shops and apartments is vernacular in design with Classic Revival trim. Despite alterations, the facades have retained their integrity with a bracketed pent roof with cornice, a frieze between stores and wide transoms above ground floor shop windows.

**CROSS TO EAST SIDE OF RAILROAD
USING PEDESTRIAN UNDERPASS**

9. Wilsey Building, 1-3-5 East Ridgewood Avenue (1914)



This large Eclectic-Tudor Revival building named for Ridgewood's prolific builder, Walter W. Wilsey, is one of the key buildings in the commercial development of the business district. It has a slated hipped roof with corner gables, dormer windows, a corner tower with a bell-shaped roof and spire with weathervane, a tower clock, and large arches spanning ground floor bays. The arched façade facing the railroad station and plaza is particularly well proportioned.

**12. The First National Bank and Trust Company Building,
56 East Ridgewood Avenue (1930)**



This handsome 20th Century Classic Revival building has the dates 1899-1930 on the cornerstone commemorating the establishment of The First National Bank of Ridgewood in 1899 and the erection of this building in 1930. The bank was first housed in the original Pioneer Building diagonally across the street. When they were burned out in 1900, they erected their own building on this site in 1901. Following their merger with The Ridgewood Trust Company in 1929, they razed their first building and the Post Office building adjoining and built this building in 1930. Designed by Morgan & French, of New York, the building has limestone ashlar facing over brick curtain walls. Handsome details include dentil molding, frieze, monumental Ionic engaged columns on the front and Ionic pilasters on the side, a band with Greek fret designs and a clock in the circular frame with shoulders decorated with cornucopias and fruit. In the 1930s a merger with Citizen's National Bank created The Citizen's First National Bank and Trust Co. It later became NatWest, Fleet, and now (2009) Bank of America.



Post Office and First National Bank Buildings

11. Hopper Building, 28-32 East Ridgewood Avenue (1908)



This three-story commercial building in the Vernacular style has many fine details: its parapet, the name of the building inscribed in the cornice, and the vertical elements emphasized on the façade. The projecting triple-window bays flanking the paired center windows are united by panels and separately roofed. It was designed by architect Charles Sidney Keyser, who designed many early buildings and was Ridgewood's first Building Inspector. Many people fondly remember this building as the home of Drapkins.

DRAPKINS

30 E. Ridgewood Ave., Tel. Ridgewood 6-3263—6-1006

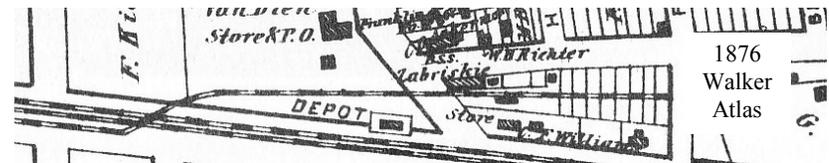
Stationery -- Party Goods -- Greeting Cards -- Novelties
Gigars -- Fishing Tackle

ALL NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES

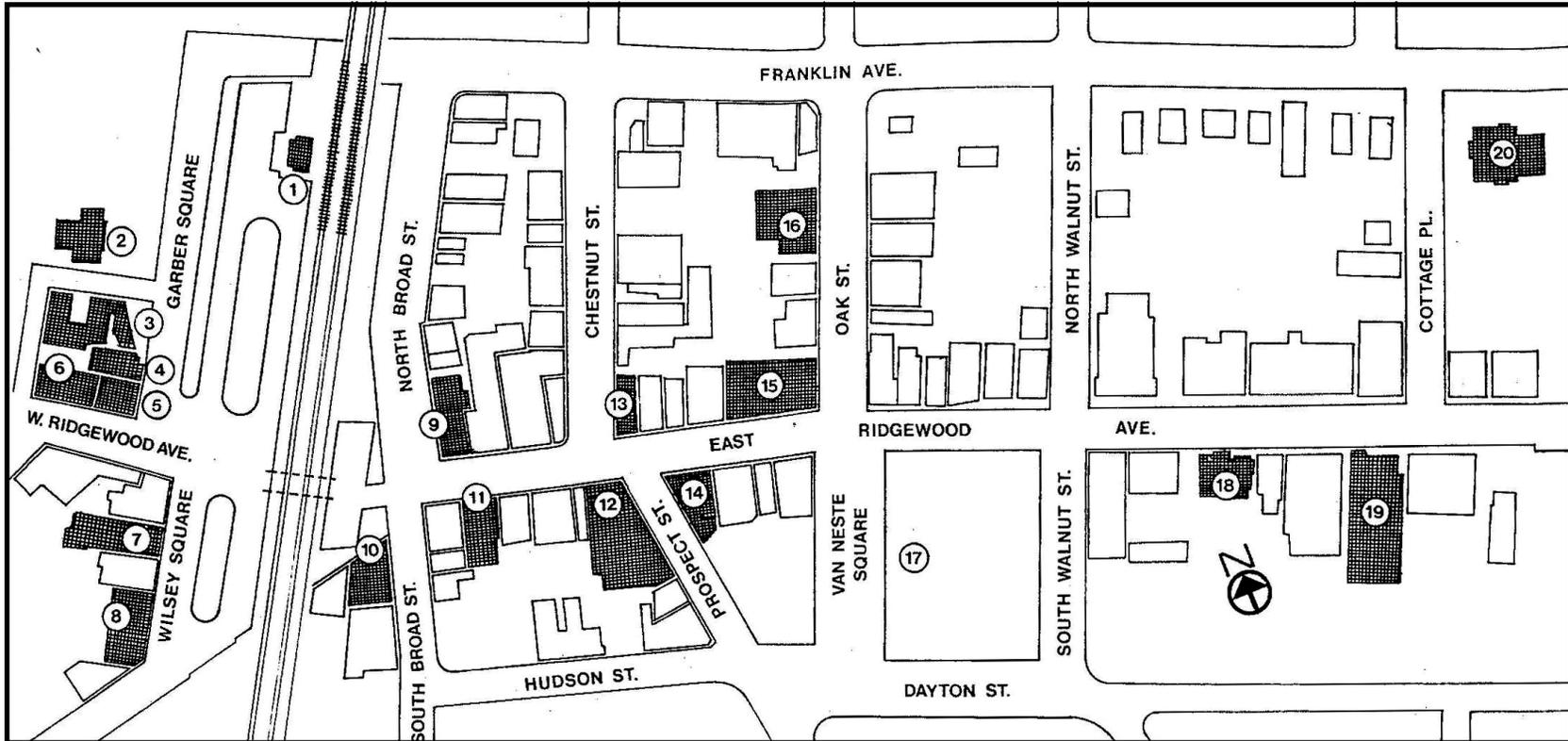
10. Moore Building, 12 East Ridgewood Avenue (1874-1929)



This building, an eclectic mix of architectural styles (Medieval Revival, Gothic, Tudor), is constructed of brick and stucco. Some details to note: a mansard roof with varied gable dormers with pinnacles, a corner tower with turrets and finials, half timber trim, and a corner entrance. The original octagonal portion, built by John J. Zabriskie, Jr. in 1874, was probably the first brick structure in the district. Its present form was the result of several additions, over a period of twenty years, by William E. Moore, a plumber and Village Commissioner, who also fabricated the weathervane on the Wilsey Building. It was the original home of the V. I. A.'s Ridgewood Library in 1898, and later the first home of Citizen's National Bank. Gertrude Pease MacNaughton and her husband Allan paid the rent for this building for the three years the library was here. Forming a striking western terminus for East Ridgewood Avenue, this building with its handsome tower, together with the Wilsey Building and its clock tower create a romantic heart as the focus of the Historic Downtown District.



**A WALKING TOUR OF
RIDGEWOOD'S HISTORIC DOWNTOWN DISTRICT
PRESENTED BY THE RIDGEWOOD HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**



1. Ridgewood Railroad Station Complex (1916)
2. George L. Pease Memorial Library, 30 Garber Square (1923)
3. Wendell apartments, 20 Garber Square (1928)
4. 10 Garber Square (ca. 1929-1930)
5. Corsa Building (1917)
6. Gorlin Building, 15-17-19 West Ridgewood Avenue (1924)
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9. Wilsey Building, 1-3-5 East Ridgewood Avenue (1914)
10. Moore Building, 12 East Ridgewood Avenue (1874-1929)

11. Hopper Building, 28-32 East Ridgewood Avenue (1908)
12. 1st National Bank & Trust Co., 56 E. Ridgewood Avenue (1930)
13. Pioneer Building, 29-31 East Ridgewood Avenue (1900)
14. Ridgewood Trust Co. Building, 60 E. Ridgewood Avenue (1910)
15. Hanks Block, 47-67 East Ridgewood Avenue (1893, 1903)
16. Old Post Office, 36-38 Oak Street (1929)
17. World War Memorial, Van Neste Square (1924)
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