

Special Architecture of William A. Poland Trenton Walk with Karl Flesch, President Trenton Historical Society

TGT Walk #34

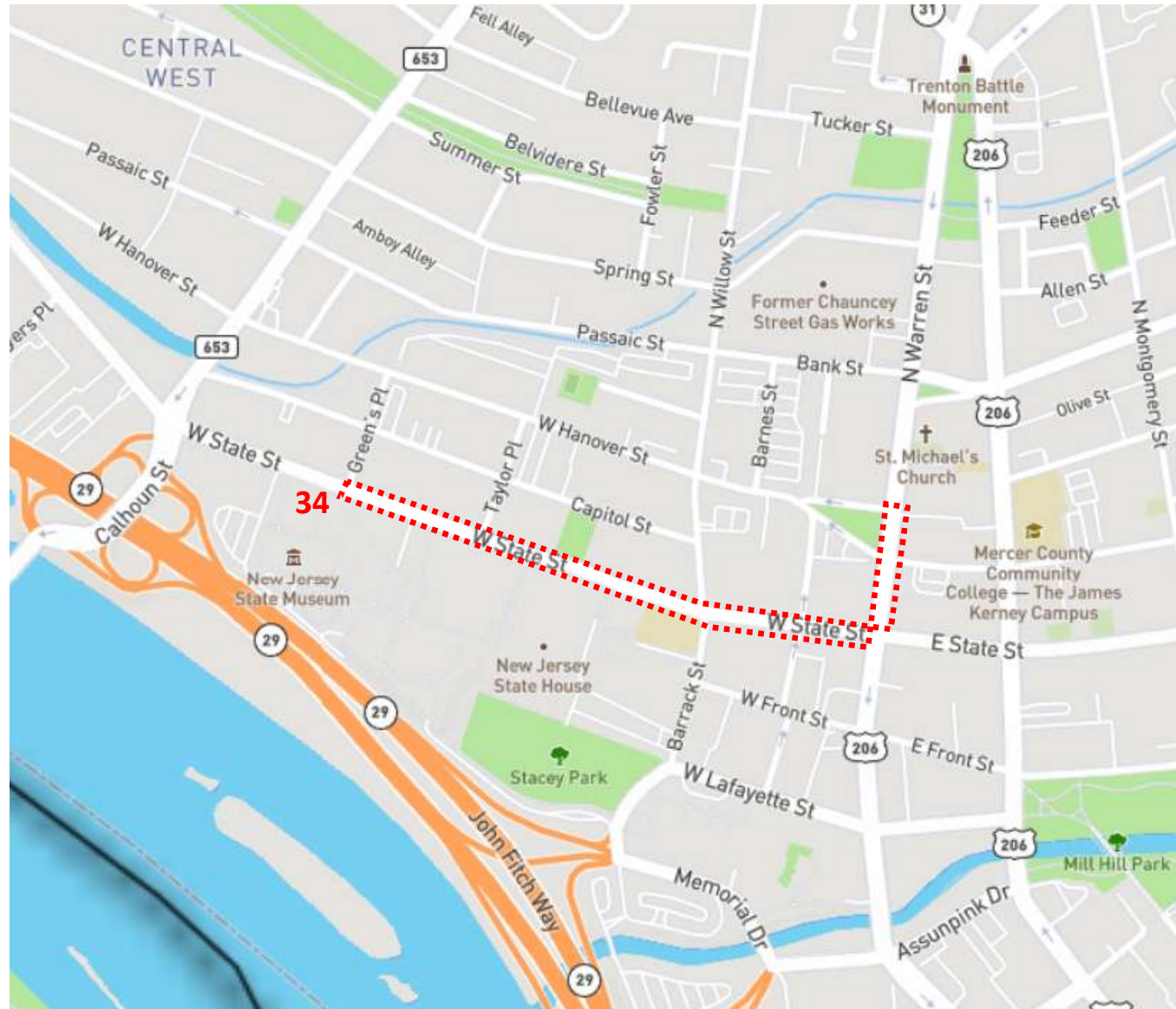
34. Leave from and return to the New Jersey State Museum at 205 W. State Street and learn about the works of Architect William Poland, who designed over 2,000 buildings in and around the City of Trenton. The short walk will include an interior tour of the extraordinary Elks Lodge at 120 N. Warren Street (limited to 25 persons; respond to Becky Taylor or Tim Brill to guarantee your reservation). Please note that the Elks Lodge is not handicapped accessible and there will be no access to bathrooms in the building. Bring a flashlight to explore dark stairwells on the upper floors. Hear about the prolific architect's prominent Trenton buildings, some of which have been demolished but many are still contributing to the special character of the City's business districts and neighborhoods. Plenty of free parking is available on weekends in lots adjacent to the Museum and on the street in front of the Museum. Consider visiting the wonderful State Museum after the Walk!

1.0 miles

Saturday, June 6, 2026 (Rain Date: June 13)
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Contact for More Info:

Tim Brill, 609-947-8530, tim.brill@njconservation.org,
Becky Taylor, 609-240-6886, becky@btaylorpa.com, or
Karl Flesch, 908-307-2963, k35372h@msn.com



William A. Poland, Architect

1852 -1935

Designed over 2,000 buildings in and around Trenton,
including:

The Broad Street Bank Building

The Second Masonic Temple

The Trenton YMCA

Turkish Baths

St. Joachims Church & School

Mill One

Many Trenton Schools, including Junior High #1

Trenton Elks Lodge



COMPLETE PLANS FOR ELKS' HOME

Trenton Lodge, No. 105, B. P. O. E., has left nothing undone in planning for its new home to be erected on North Warren Street. Plans have been adopted by the building committee and bids will be asked for in about two weeks and opened one week afterward.

When completed the home will be surpassed by none in the State. It will cost about \$40,000.

The new building will be four stories high. One of the features of the new home will be an Italian roof garden with pagola covering. It will be accessible by two stairways.

In the basement will be situated the bowling alleys, billiard parlors, shower baths and lavatories. On the street floor will be the reception hall in front, with tiled floor, another billiard parlor and a magnificent cafe, furnished throughout in mahogany. On the second floor front will be a large parlor for general use, and in the rear will be the social room, with a fully equipped stage, including footlights, drop, dressing rooms and everything that goes to make up a modern stage. A movable partition will be placed between the parlor and social rooms, so that the entire second floor may be used for dancing or other entertainment. The floor itself will be of hard wood.

On the third and fourth floors front will be bedrooms and baths, five rooms and a bath on each floor. Next to these will be the ladies' reception and retiring rooms, and in the extreme rear will

be the lodge room. This room will be two stories high, taking up the third and fourth floors. It will be 34 feet wide and 60 feet in length, furnished in white enamel, with mahogany trimmings. It will contain a gallery, pipe organ and cloak rooms.

The first story front exterior will be of granite. The remaining three stories will be of Persian brick, trimmed with terra cotta and colored marble.

The committee comprises: Charles A. May, chairman; J. Wiggins Thorn, secretary; J. H. Longstreet, of Bordentown; Nicholas Snyder, Abram Swan, Sr., ex-Mayor Daniel J. Bechtel, Frank E. Weeden, Samuel Levy, Charles W. Carl, William A. Poland, John E. Mulroy, J. G. Coleman, L. W. Grover, of Princeton; William Thomas, Joseph D. Buch and Isaac Vogel.

Trenton Evening Times
May 13, 1910

ELKS WILL HAVE FINE CLUBHOUSE

Restaurant, Sleeping Quarters
and Roof Garden Among
Features of Building

The new Elks' home, which is to be built on North Warren Street by Trenton Lodge, No. 5, will probably be one of the finest club-houses in this section of the country. It will be provided with a cafe and a rathskeller, with a bar on the first floor. Another feature will be a roof garden connected with the bar by a dumb-waiter. The front portion of the building will be four stories high, with a roof garden on the top, while the rear of the building will be only three stories in height.

The front of the building will have a granite base, with Indiana limestone up to the second story, and from there up Harvard gray brick will be used.

The entrance to the building will be very attractive. An iron grill, handsomely designed, with an iron hood overhead, will be placed outside the large French plate glass doors.

The front windows of the first and second stories will be of large plain glass and will open to the floor. Small balconies will extend in front of each window on the first floor, and on the second story a balcony will be built across the entire front of the building. Two brick columns will extend to the top of the building, one on each corner, and a large Elk's head will be placed on the top of each.

The rathskeller and the bowling alleys will be located in the basement, the bowling alleys, of which there will be two, will occupy the north side of the basement and will be over 100 feet long. The rathskeller will be located on the other side of the basement, and will probably be equally as long. This rathskeller will be fitted up with a bar, and tables will be placed around the room for lunch purposes. Everything will be fitted up for the convenience of the members and visiting Elks. Bowling tournaments will be arranged between the members, and probably with out-of-town members.

Shower baths, tubs, lavatories and toilets will occupy the front part of the basement. All the latest sanitary plumbing will be used throughout the building. The coal vault will be placed under the pavement. The first floor will be divided into a reception hall, a pool and billiard-room and a cafe. The secretary's office will also be located on this floor. The reception

hall will be located in the front part of this floor, the pool and billiard-room behind it and the cafe in the extreme rear, south side.

The cafe and the rathskeller will be exclusively for the members and for visiting Elks, as will also the pool and billiard rooms, and, in fact, the entire building.

Floors of the vestibule and reception hall will be tiled, while the rest of the floors on the first floor will be of a hard asphalt composition, as well as the basement floors. The idea of having this kind of flooring on these two stories is in order that a hose



CHARLES A. MAY.
(Chairman of Building Committee of Elks new club house.)

can be turned on and the floors easily washed.

The parlor will be 34 by 49 feet, and will be in the front of the second story. The remainder of the floor will be fitted up as social rooms, but will be arranged so that they can easily be made into one large room, 34 by 52 feet, for dances or other entertainments. A large stage will be built in the rear of this hall, fitted up with all the latest stage appliances. A kitchen will also be located on this floor.

The third floor will be fitted up for lodge purposes, and will contain a large meeting room, 34 by 50 feet, and the ceiling will be eighteen feet high. This room will be located in the rear of the third floor, and the top of the room will be the top of the building in the rear, as the fourth story and roof garden will not extend over this part of the building. A preparation and dark room, which is used in the ritual, will also be located on this floor. A large pipe organ will be installed at the east end of this room, probably costing \$1,000. Three sleeping rooms will be located in the front part of the building on this floor, and five more will be placed on the fourth floor.

These bedrooms will be for the accommodation of the members, or more particularly for visiting members when they wish to stay over night. These rooms will be rented to members of the order. Each room will also be placed on the third and fourth floors.

The roof garden will be arranged with vines and shrubbery, extending over an arbor. A brick balustrade will be built across the front.

Electric elevators will run from the basement to the roof garden, and dumb-waiters will also be installed throughout the building. Electric bells, speaking tubes and telephones will also be placed in every room.

The building will be heated with steam, and a vacuum cleaning plant will be installed in the basement, with piping running through the building so that by attaching to the pipe in any part of the building the cleaning can easily be done.

Electricity and gas will furnish light for this new building. Three fire escapes will be erected on the building, one on each side and one in the rear.

The building will be finished throughout in quartered white oak and stained, with dark mission effect. The furnishings throughout will correspond with the style of finish in the building. The cost of the building will be about \$40,000. Work will begin probably next month.

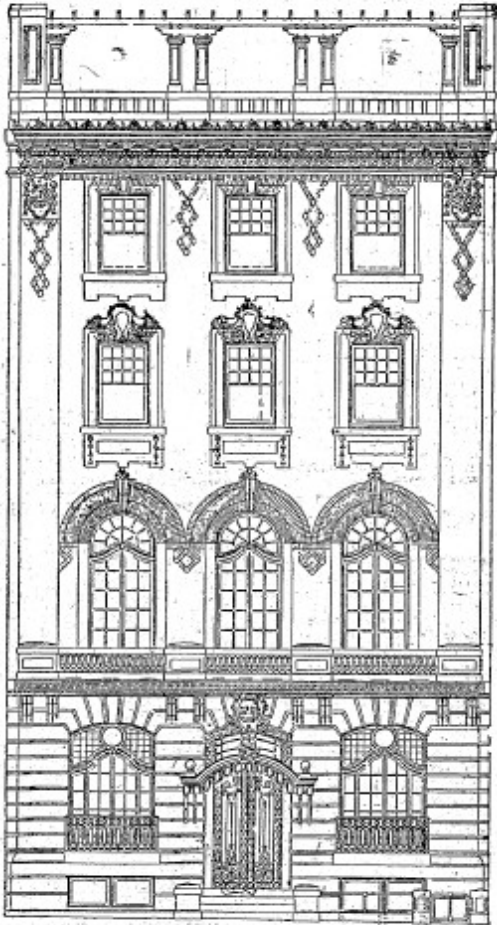
A steward will be employed, who will be at the building all the time and have absolute control, under the supervision of the house committee appointed by the lodge.

The building is expected to be completed by December 1, and the Elks will have their opening January 1, 1911. W. A. Poland of this city is the architect.

Trenton Evening Times
May 20, 1910

Admiring Eyes For Elks' New Building

It is Rapidly Nearing Completion and Will Add to the Attractive Appearance of North Warren Street.



FUTURE HOME OF TRENTON LODGE, ORDER OF ELKS

During the hot evenings of the last few weeks envious eyes have often been directed to the attractive-looking roof garden on top of the new Elks' building, nearing completion, on North Warren street, opposite West Hanover. Trenton Lodge No. 105, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, expects to occupy this handsome new home about November 1, and arrangements are already under consideration for dedicatory exercises. At the recent National convention of Elks at Atlantic City, the Trenton members wore gold badges engraved with the design of the facade of the new building, which will be a decided addition to the leading architectural features of the centre of this city. It will be the only building in the city thus far to be occupied exclusively by a fraternal organization. The lodge has a membership approaching 700, with an income of nearly \$10,000 a year and no obligations in the way of sick and death benefits, so that the support of this imposing home will be an easy matter.

While the place will have no stated income, there will be various self-supporting features introduced as needed. Eight rooms will be provided for the use of members of the order from out of town who desire to make their headquarters at the building. If a sufficient demand is developed, meals will be served here regularly. Billiard and pool rooms and a cafe are among the conveniences planned for members. Entertainments will be given that will be open to the public as well, and the facilities will be far in advance of those at the present building, on the opposite side of Warren street. Work on the structure has reached such a stage as to give the observer an accurate idea of the conveniences that the lodge will enjoy, and it is of the highest grade throughout.

The effective exterior has long attracted admiring attention. The front of the first story is of granite and white Indiana limestone, above which the construction is of gray Persian tapestry brick, trimmed with Atlantic terra cotta. The trimmings at the top are in green, with a large elk's head on either side. The front vestibule will be finished in marble and plate glass and will open into a spacious reception hall, with large brick fireplace and mantel, paneled wainscoting of weathered oak and a winding stairway at the right. This hall will be sumptuously furnished, and will connect with the cafe and grill room. The ceiling is paneled in chestnut beam work. Back of the stairway will be an elevator, running up to the roof garden at the top of the building, and there will also be dumb-waiters reaching every floor.

The second floor will embrace a library and parlor at the front, divided from an entertainment hall by means of portieres, which can be thrown aside in case of dances, making a hall 25 by 25 feet. The stage at the rear is adapted to public

entertainments, and will have all modern facilities. The floor will be of maple with natural finish. The parlor opens on a balcony overlooking West Hanover street, by means of three large glass doors. The wainscoting and the beam work of the ceiling are of weathered oak.

On the third floor is the lodge room, which will be very elaborate when completed. The wainscoting will be finished in white enamel, and the floors and furniture will be of mahogany. The ceiling is in paneled plaster, representing the work of five English modelers for seven weeks. A dome of stained glass will be erected over the centre, and a pipe organ will be placed in the balcony at the rear. In the front of this floor are three bedrooms, back of which are the tyler's and candidates' room. The lodge hall is two stories in height.

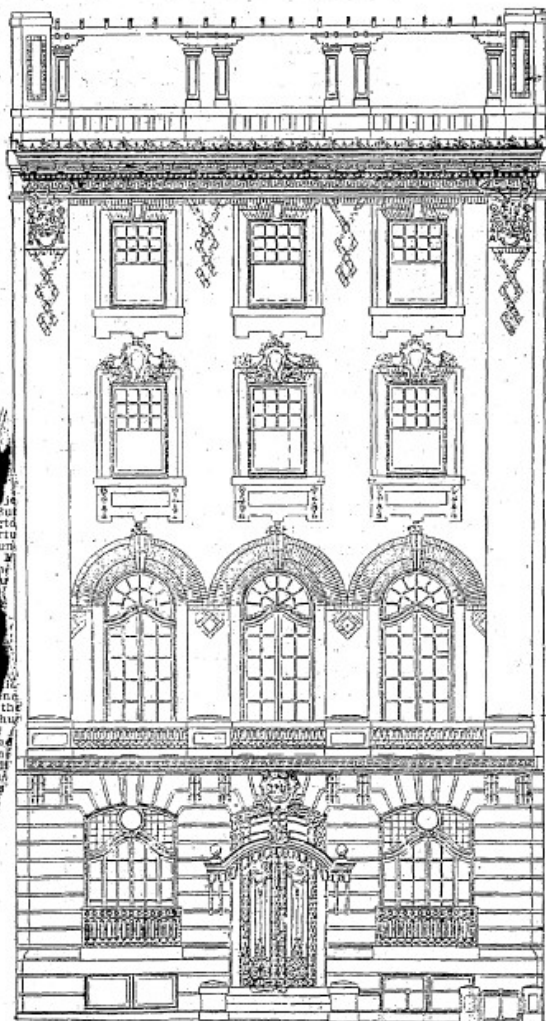
On the fourth floor are five commodious bedrooms, and above these is the roof garden, commanding an extensive view of the city. This will be an attractive spot in warm weather, and will be fitted up with boxes of flowers and vines.

The mechanical arrangements will be of the most approved type, including a vacuum cleaning plant, heating apparatus and modern sanitary equipments. Baths and toilet rooms will be fitted up in the basement, where will also be a pool and billiard room and bowling alley. In the front of the basement will be the office of the building, reached from a sidewalk stairway. Connecting with the rear is a barn that will be converted into a general storage house and kitchen, so that no smell of cooking will permeate the main building. The coal and ash vault will be under the sidewalk.

On ladies' nights the guests will have the use of a retiring room especially for their accommodation on the third floor, and will also have access to baths and toilet rooms on the same floor. The cost of the building and furnishings will be nearly \$100,000.

Trenton Evening Times
July 23, 1911

New Home of the Elks To Be Opened Tomorrow



NEW HEADQUARTER OF TRENTON ELKS

At 10 o'clock tomorrow morning the handsome new home of Trenton Lodge No. 105, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, located at 122-124 North Warren street, will be opened for members of the order only. The toast, "To Our Absent Brothers," will be observed at 11 o'clock. Music will be furnished by an orchestra throughout the day and an entertainment will be provided during the afternoon hours. It is expected that every member of the local lodge will be present at this, the first "Open House" to be held in the new home. Provision has also been made for the entertainment of many visiting brothers.

Erected and furnished at a cost close to \$100,000, the building is one of the handsomest devoted exclusively to lodge purposes to be found in the State. From the cellar to the roof garden, great care has been taken in the selection of the furnishings. The building is four stories high. The front of the first story is of granite and white Indiana limestone. Above this the construction is of gray Persian tapestry brick, trimmed with Atlantic terra cotta. The trimmings at the top are in green, with a large copper elk's head on either side.

The basement will be utilized for bowling, pool, billiards, bath and toilet purposes. On the first floor is an elaborately furnished reception hall, connecting with the grill room, which is fitted up with mission furniture. The second floor has a library and parlor at the front, divided by portieres from

the entertainment hall. When entertainments or dances are given in this hall, a floor space 125 by 36 feet will be at the lodge's disposal. At the east end of this hall is erected a stage with all modern facilities for theatrical performances. The greater part of the third floor is given over to the lodge room, which is beautifully equipped. The lodge hall is two stories high.

Five commodious bedrooms have been laid out on the fourth floor and above these is the roof garden, commanding an extensive view of the city. Retiring and cloak rooms are conveniently located on every floor. A number of these rooms are especially arranged for the accommodation of the ladies on visiting nights, and when entertainments are given.

A great deal of credit is due the building committee which had charge of the erection of the new home. This committee consisting of J. Wiggins Thorn, Abram Swan, Sr., and J. D. Coleman. To Mr. Thorn particularly is great praise due for his supervision of the construction work. From the time the building was started until its completion he was on the job daily and he will be one of the happiest men in the order when the doors are thrown open to the lodge tomorrow.

While all future business of Trenton Lodge will be conducted in the home after tomorrow, no definite date has been set for the dedication ceremonies.

The officers of the Trenton lodge follow: Edwin Pearson, exalted ruler; Fred Swan, esteemed leading knight;

M. Wiley E. Brown, esteemed loyal knight; Thomas Balderston, esteemed lecturing knight; Edwin Fitzgeorge, secretary; James D. Hall, treasurer; Robert K. Shimer, esquire; W. B. Snowden, inner guard; George Hicks, tyler; Rev. George C. Maddock, chaplain; Charles H. Naylor, organist.

Trenton Evening Times
December 31, 1911

The Elks' Home, Trenton, N. J.

