

9-11 Mercer Street, Hopewell - Legion / Stonecutting (1880s)

Rev. 8/7/2021 x - D. Dixon

The east side of Mercer Street begins with the Hopewell House and adjacent shops on the corner of West Broad Street, and then has four houses along the street (#3, 5, 7, and 9), before the corner property facing Model Avenue. The last house (technically #9-11 since it can be a two-family residence), is set back, past the depth of the adjacent properties.

Beginning before 1900, #9 was the site of the Seville & Reid stone memorial and monuments businesses. Then from c. 1948 to 1966 the #9 Mercer Street building was renovated to become the home of American Legion Post 339. During the 1950s, the building was an integral part of the Hopewell Memorial Day parades, and the whole area was used for the Legion Carnival since the #7 and #5 Mercer lots were still vacant.

The Legion then sold the property around 1966 to the Klett family, who converted the #9 building to multi-family. Around 1990, the Klett family built and sold the houses on the #5 and #7 lots.

1870s - Corner House at Model

- 1875 - "R. R. Station" at Model and Mercer, with 2 sets of tracks
- 1887 - Corner building at #41-47 Model, and adjacent #39

1887 - 1951 - Seville & Reid - Monuments and Stone

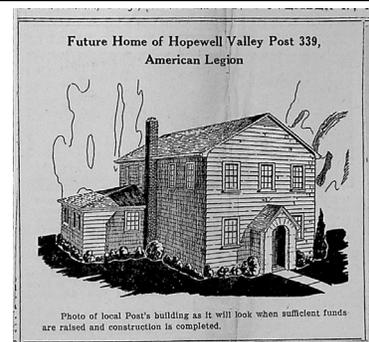
- 1894 - 1895 - Seville & Reid at corner Mercer and Model
- 1897 - E. E. Seville move to Greenwood Cemetery, Trenton
- 1897-1899 - E. E. Seville also at 5 Railroad Pl. (Hopewell Herald)
- 1897 - William I. Reid, Marble and Granite established
- c1912 - W. I. Reid yard at #9 Mercer, 2-story building set back
- c1922 - W. I. Reid adds additional sites by tracks
- 1951 - W. I. Reid still operating (Reid died 1947)

1945 - 1966 - American Legion Post 339

- 1945 - Hopewell Valley American Legion Post 339 chartered
- 1945 - Legion purchased "vacant building" on Mercer Street
- 1948 - Legion building in use at #9 Mercer
- 1950s - Legion hall was start/end of Memorial Day parades
- 1950s - Legion Carnivals on property (with #5 and #7)
- 1966 - Legion moves to Van Dyke Road

1966 - 1986 - Klett Family

- 1966 - Legion sells Mercer property to Klett family
- c1966 - #9 Mercer adapted to multi-family use
- 1986/87 - #5 and #7 houses constructed and sold



1948 Building Design



1963 Memorial Parade



Current 9 Mercer Street

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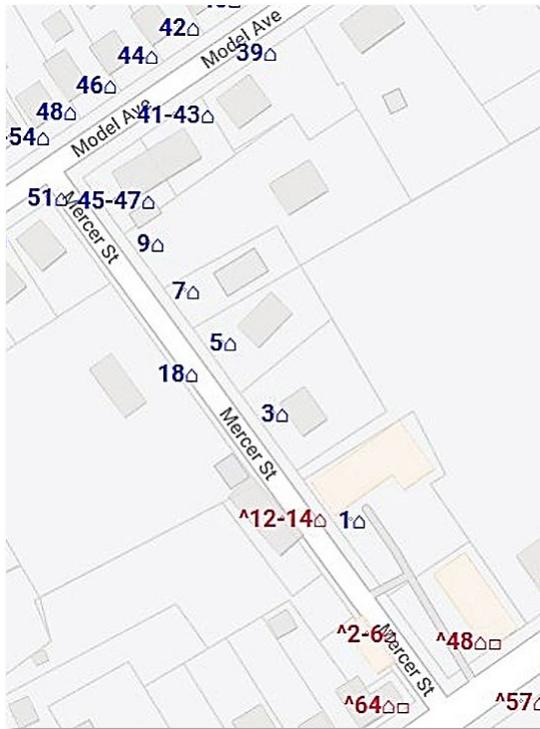
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Mercer & Model - Properties

Mercer Street has businesses at the Broad Street end, but the north end towards Model Avenue is now fully residential. But #9 Mercer has an earlier history in the 1950s as the American Legion hall, and back to 1900 with a stonecutting business. The #9 Mercer house is the last property on the north end of the east side of Mercer Street (before the corner house), and is set back, past the depth of the adjacent properties. The property also extends in a L shape behind #7 Mercer.

Current Mercer Street Properties



41-43 / 45-47 Model (corner) - Now a double house with four units (stonecutting in the 1910s)
39 Model - Directly in line with #9 Mercer. The lot is L-shaped, with the extension down the right side into the #9 property

9 Mercer - The former Legion / stonecutting property, two lots deep, with the back of the lot extending behind the #7 property

7 Mercer - Next house south from #9

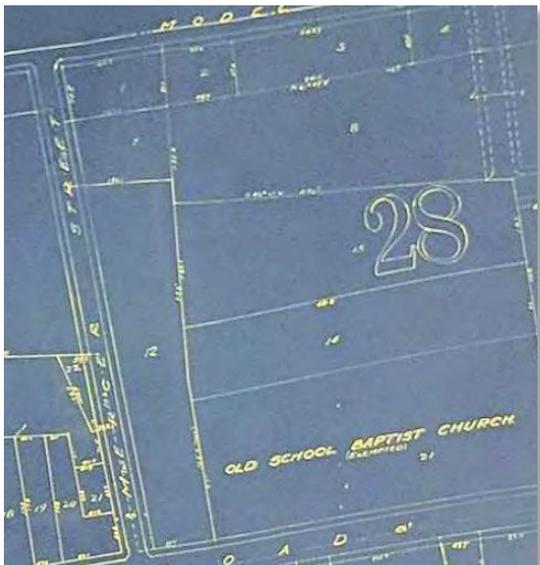
5 Mercer - Next house south, built on a diagonal due to the stream bed that runs under Mercer

3 Mercer - Next house south, before the driveway into the Old School Baptist Church cemetery

1 Mercer - Hopewell House Square shops (former livery and Fire Dept. area)

48 West Broad (corner) - Hopewell House (former hotel / saloon)

1916 Tax Map - Three Lots on Mercer



In comparison, the 1916 Hopewell Borough Tax Map shows only three lots along the east side of Mercer Avenue in Block 28 (now renumbered as Block 14):

Lot 1 (now lot 1) - Now approx. **#41-47 Model**, at the corner of Mercer, with Lot 2 / #39 next to it.

Lot 7 (now lot 34) - Now approx. **#9 Mercer**, next to the south (but no longer rectangular)

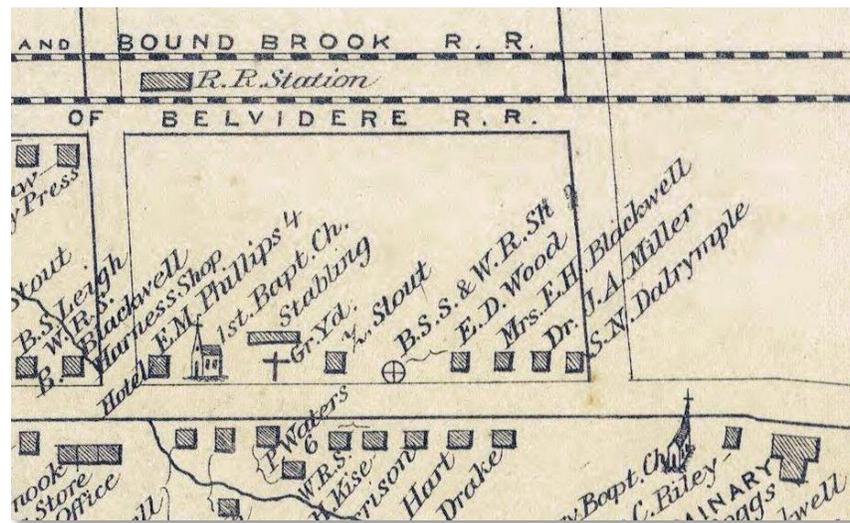
Lot 12 (now lot 29 - 33) - Now approx. **#1 to #7 Mercer** and **#48 West Broad**, extending the rest of the way down the length of Mercer to Broad, to the west of the Old School Baptist Church property.

Mercer & Model - Maps (1875 - 1927)

1875 - Railroads & Empty Land - Everts & Stewart Map

The 1875 Hopewell map from the Combination Atlas Map of Mercer County by Everts & Stewart shows the two sets of railroad tracks that ran along Model Avenue: first the Mercer & Somerset ("Somerset Branch of the Belvidere R. R.", since removed), and then the Delaware and Bound Brook R. R. (the current tracks, by the current train station). (The locations in the map are approximate.)

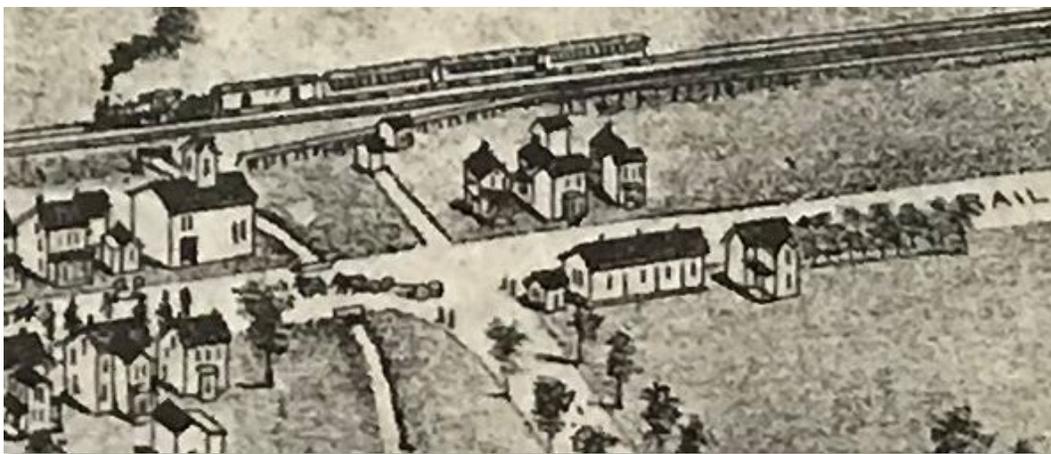
Besides the confusingly placed M&S railroad station, there are no other structures shown along Model between Mercer and Greenwood (to the left and right), or on the east side of Mercer north of the Hopewell House and the Old School Baptist Church on West Broad Street (top and bottom).



1887 - Corner Buildings - Fowler Map

The 1887 Hopewell panoramic aerial map by T. M. Fowler shows a one-story corner building at #41-47 Model, and an adjacent building at #39 Model (then labelled as Rail Road Avenue).

There are no other structures at the north end of Mercer Street.

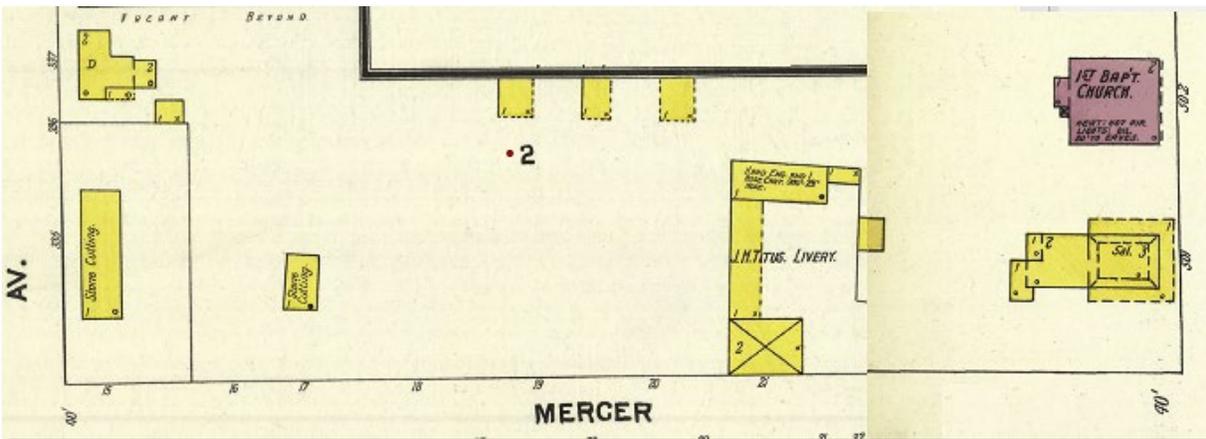


1902 - "Stone Cutting" - Sanborn Map

The 1902 Sanborn fire map shows the #41-47 Model corner building (one-story, identified as "Stone Cutting"), and the #39 Model house (a dwelling).

It also shows a smaller "Stone Cutting" structure down Mercer, which will later be expanded in the #9 Mercer property.

There are no other properties down Mercer Street (e.g., in the #7, #5, and #3 lots), until the "J. H. Titus Livery," which was also used for fire equipment (now #1 Model / Hopewell House Square), and the "Sal[oon]" (now the Hopewell House at 48 West Broad).



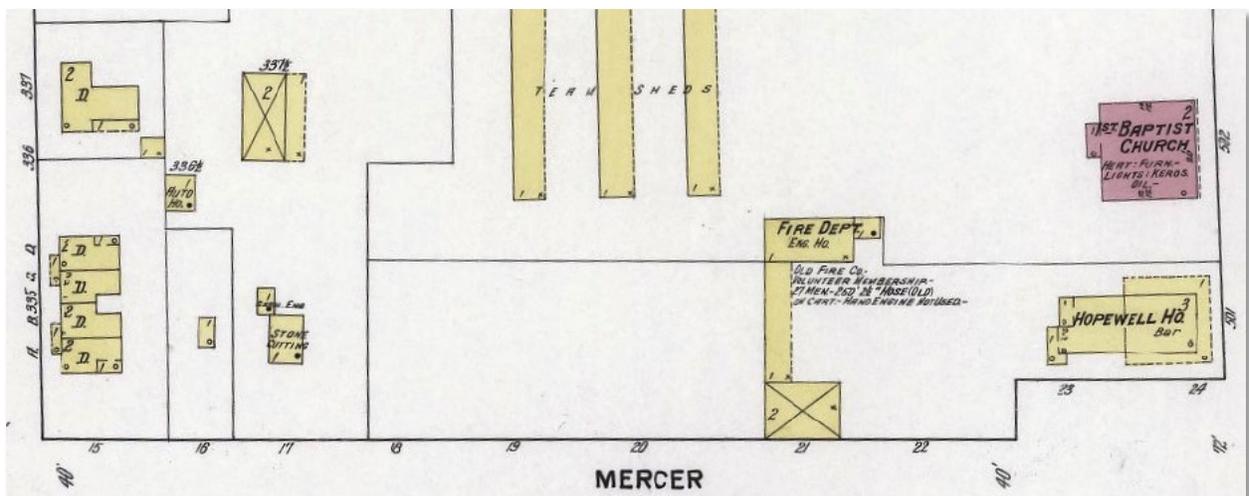
1912 - Expanded "Stone Cutting" - Sanborn Map

The 1912 Sanborn fire map shows the #41-47 Model corner building has been enlarged to two stories and divided into four dwelling units.

The "Stone Cutting" use is now only on the #9 Model lot, and expanded:

- The front structure on Mercer ("Stone Cutting") has an added shed ("Gasol. Eng."). There is a small structure to the left, shown on a separate lot.
- The small structure on the back left is marked "Auto Ho."
- The new two-story structure in the back matches the approximate location and size of #9 Mercer, with a one-story extension along the right side.

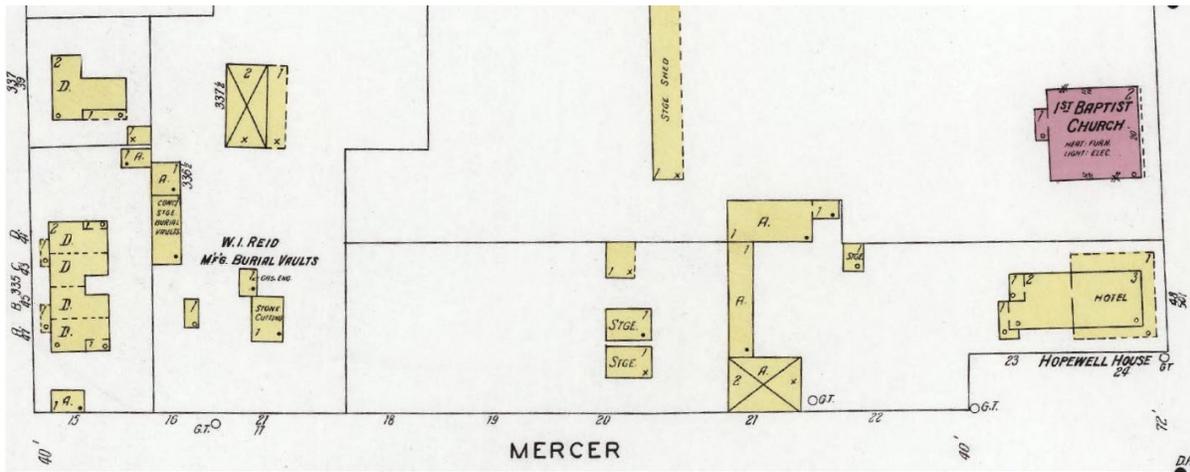
Down the street, the former livery (#1 Model / Hopewell House Square) is used for the Fire Dept., with Hopewell House again on the corner.



1927 - "W. I. Reid / Burial Vaults" on Mercer Street - Sanborn Map

The 1927 Sanborn fire map shows a further expansion of #9 Mercer as one lot, "W. I. Reid / Mfg. Burial Vaults":

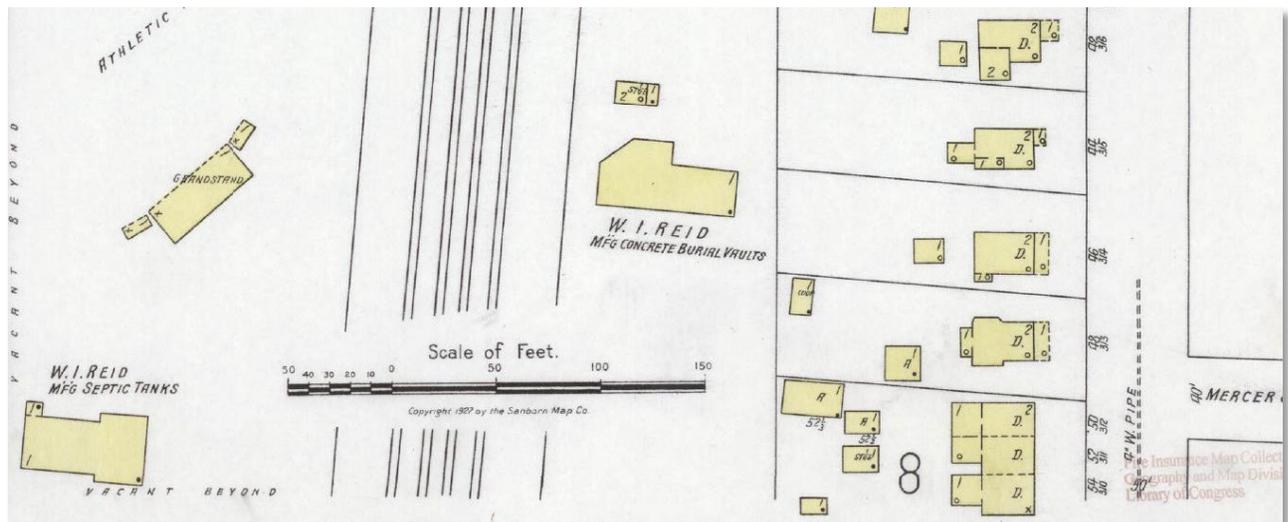
- The front building is the same ("Stone Cutting" / "Gas Eng."), with the small side building to the left no longer shown as a separate lot.
- The back left structure is expanded as "Conc./ Stge. Burial Vaults."
- The back building (in the #9 location) is the same.



1927 - "W. I. Reid / Burial Vaults" on Hart Avenue - Sanborn Map

The 1927 Sanborn fire map also shows two other locations of W. I. Reid facilities, on both sides of the railroad tracks, north beyond the end of Mercer Street:

- "W. I. Reid / Concrete Burial Vaults" - South of the tracks behind #46 and #48 Model, west of the former location of the Creamery (where the stream crosses under Model).
- "W. I. Reid / Septic Tanks" - North of the tracks, roughly at the end of the current Newell Place off Hart Avenue. At the time, the area between Pierson Place and Newell Place south of Hart Avenue was a baseball field ("Athletic Field"), with the "Grandstand" shown in the southwest corner by the tracks. A now-abandoned road, Drake Avenue, also ran along the tracks between Shaftsbury Avenue and the future end location of Pierson Place.



Mercer & Model - Aerials (1932 - 1972)

1932 Aerial - W. I. Reid Monuments

A 1932 aerial image taken at the time of the Lindbergh kidnapping matches the Sanborn maps:

- Reid Septic Tanks building north of the tracks and west of the baseball field on Hart Avenue
- Reid Vaults building south of the tracks behind the houses on Model opposite Mercer
- Reid complex at #9 Model: Front building, and longer side building towards Model, plus large structure set back at current building location (2-story, with 1-story side)



1972 Aerial - Legion Building

A 1972 aerial shows the former Legion building in its current form, with the long drive and circle in front, although still with empty property to the south before the cemetery driveway (#7, #5, and #3 Mercer).



c1894 - c1950 - Seville / Reid - Marble and Granite

The #9 Mercer street property was shown in use for stonecutting back to 1902 in the Sanborn maps, and referenced in newspapers back to 1894.

by 1894 - 1895 - Seville & Reid - Marble and Granite

The "W. I. Reid" shown in the 1927 Sanborn map was William I. Reid, who operated stonecutting and related businesses in Hopewell from around 1894 until at least 1951. He originally partnered with Edward E. Seville, who then relocated to Trenton by 1897, and operated there at least until 1929.

The first mention in the newspapers of Seville & Reid's marble and granite works is in 1894, placing the business on Mercer Street ("Monuments, Headstones, Markers, Etc.").

At the end of 1895, the partnership was dissolved "by mutual consent." Seville then started his business in Trenton, and Reid took over the Hopewell yard.

<p>SEVILLE & REID, Manufacturers and Dealers in Marble and Granite MONUMENTS HEADSTONES MARKERS, Etc., OF THE FINEST GRADES OF WESTERLY QUINCY BARRE AND OTHER FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC GRANITES.</p> <p>We always have an assortment of finished Headstones and Monuments at our yard to select from. We also have all the newest designs of the finest Monuments, which we can furnish direct from quarries at quarry prices.</p> <p>Call and see us before placing orders elsewhere, or write for designs and prices. Prompt attention given to all correspondence.</p> <p>Seville & Reid, HOPEWELL, N. J.</p> <p>Seville & Reid [HH 10/8/1895]</p>	<p>Dissolution of Co-Partnership. Notice is hereby given that the co-partnership lately existing between Edward E. Seville and Wm. I. Reid, under the firm name of Seville & Reid, has this day been dissolved by mutual consent. All debts owing to the said partnership are payable to Edward E. Seville, and demands on the said co-partnership are to be presented to Edward E. Seville for payment. Dated Hopewell, N. J., Nov. 30, '95. (Signed) E. E. SEVILLE, WM. I. REID.</p> <p>Seville & Reid Dissolved [HH 12/24/1895]</p> <p>Mr. Edward Seville and family removed to Trenton yesterday, where Mr. Seville has started a marble yard. The old stand, where Seville & Co. conducted the marble business for several years, was recently bought of the Joseph M. Phillips estate, by Mr. William I. Reid. He was for a time partner of Mr. Seville. Mr. Reid has started a marble yard at the old stand.</p> <p>Seville to Trenton [TET 12/1/1897]</p>
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1896 - c1929 - E. E. (Edward) Seville - Marble and Granite Works

E. E. (Edward) Seville, was a Hopewell resident who later moved to Trenton in 1897 after the dissolution of the Seville & Reid partnership. His company, E. E. Seville & Co., was established in 1896, and located in Trenton on Greenwood Avenue by the Greenwood Cemetery by 1897. It continued being mentioned in newspapers into 1929.

Seville also kept some business in Hopewell in 1897 - 1899, partnering with C. Emmitt Voorhees, the editor of the Hopewell Herald, to have a marble yard at 5 Railroad Place, adjoining the Herald office (see 1987 photo with headstones). Voorhees also bought the Seville home in Hopewell in 1897, and then invested in the Seville company in 1900.

Edward Seville also was the designer and sculptor of the granite monument that was installed by the earlier American Legion Post 273 at Broad and Greenwood in 1925, and then moved to the Elementary School on Princeton Avenue around 1930.



<p>SEVILLE & CO.'S MARBLE YARD. OFFICE OF THE HOPEWELL HERALD.</p> <p>Seville (left) next to Hopewell Herald on Railroad Place [HHH 1897]</p>	<p>Marble and Granite Monuments and Headstones</p> <p>At Greatly Reduced Prices.</p> <p>We have moved the Marble and Granite Works from the old stand on Mercer street and Model avenue to Park Row, opposite depot, where we expect to keep a few designs of Fine Granite Monuments. To reduce our stock of Marble work we are selling it at very low prices. Call for prices.</p> <p>Any one who desires to erect a memorial to their departed ones will do well to call now and get a bargain at the yard of</p> <p>E. E. Seville & Co.</p> <p>HOPEWELL, N. J.</p> <p>We also have a yard and office at Greenwood avenue, opposite Greenwood Cemetery, Trenton, N. J., where we have a large variety of first-class Marble and Granite Monuments, etc</p> <p>E. E. Seville move [HH 1/12/1898]</p>
<p>GREENWOOD MARBLE AND GRANITE WORKS.</p> <p>BEFORE placing your order for a Monument, or Cemetery Work of any description it will be to your interest to see our collection of designs which we are prepared to execute in the best grades of American or imported Marble or Granite. We also invite an inspection of finished work.</p> <p>Estimates given on Monuments to be erected in any part of the country.</p> <p>E. E. SEVILLE & CO., GREENWOOD AVE., Opp. entrance to Greenwood Cemetery, TRENTON, N. J.</p> <p>E. E. Seville in Trenton [HH 9/18/1901]</p>	<p>The Seville Mfg. Co.</p> <p>MEMORIALS</p> <p>Are designed and made at our shop in Trenton, N. J. No jobber's profits or agents commissions.</p> <p>We have all standard granites of selected best grade—in rough blocks—direct from the best quarries. We build special designs to order and set up in our yard for approval before delivery.</p> <p>Buy direct from the maker—</p> <p>Seville Monument Mfg. Co., Inc. At The Gate Greenwood Cemetery Greenwood Ave. Phone 7-1836 TRENTON, N. J.</p> <p>E. E. Seville in Trenton [HH 12/30/1925]</p>

1897 - c1950 - William I. Reid - Marble and Granite

William I. Reid (1868 - 1947) was a "a widely known marble and monumental dealer" in Hopewell who expanded from granite and marble monuments and headstones, to automatic sealing burial vaults, concrete, and septic tanks. His business was established in 1897 after the dissolution of the Seville & Reid partnership, and continued past his death at age 79 until at least 1951.

Mr. Reid came to Hopewell when was five years old, and is thought to be the oldest resident here in point of years living in the borough. He was in the monumental business over 50 years, and concrete enterprises about 35 years. [Obituary, HH 4/2/1947]

Reid took over the Seville & Reid yard in Hopewell, describing its location in a 1901 advertisement as "Office and Yard Corner of Model Avenue and Mercer Street." The business was called the Hopewell Marble and Granite Works through around 1910. Reid then expanded on the property:

- The 1902 Sanborn map shows "Stone Cutting" at the #41-47 Model corner house, and in a small building on the #9 Mercer property.
- The 1912 Sanborn map shows the corner house on Model was converted to a two-story dwelling. The #9 Mercer yard was expanded with an added shed on the small building (marked "Gasol. Eng."), plus the addition of the two-story #9 Mercer building and a small "Auto Ho." building. (In 1909, the Herald reported that Reid had installed a "gasoline engine and air compressor ... for cutting and lettering.")
- The 1927 Sanborn map shows further expansion of the "W. I. Reid" complex, with the extension of the small building as "Conc / Stge. Burial Vaults."

<p style="text-align: center;">WM. I. REID, DEALER IN Granite & Marble Monuments, HEADSTONES, AND CEMETERY - - WORK OF ALL KINDS, HOPEWELL, N. J.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">WM. I. REID, Manufacturer of and Dealer in GRANITE and MARBLE MONU- MENTS and HEADSTONES. Satisfaction guaranteed. OFFICE AND YARD CORNER OF MODEL AVENUE AND MER- CER STREET, HOPEWELL, - N. J.</p> 
<p>Early Reid ad [HH 1/12/1898]</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Reid at Model and Mercer [HH 7/24/1901]</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SLATE VAULTS ALWAYS READY. Used in place of brick and flagging. Will have different sizes in stock at all times. HOPEWELL MARBLE & GRANITE WORKS. W. I. REID, Prop.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Reid Marble & Granite [HH 5/29/1907]</p>

c1922 - c1950 -- Additional Reid Sites

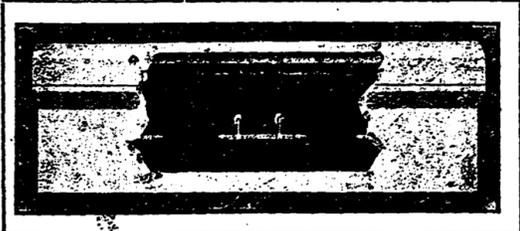
In 1917, the Herald reported that Reid "purchased ground along the railroad on Model avenue on which he will erect a large building to be used for the manufacture of concrete grave vaults."

The 1927 Sanborn map shows two additional Reid sites, on each side of the railroad tracks across from where Mercer Street ends on Model Avenue:

- "W. I. Reid / Concrete Burial Vaults" - South of the tracks behind #46 and #48 Model, west of the former location of the Creamery (where the stream crosses under Model).
- "W. I. Reid / Septic Tanks" - North of the tracks, and next to the baseball field, on the right of the cul-de-sac at the end of the current Newell Place off Hart Avenue [RDH]. Reid later advertised two Hart Avenue lots for sale in 1946.

According to the 1920 and 1930 U. S. Census reports, Reid lived at and owned #48 Model Avenue with his wife Jane and daughter Ethel. (They are also on Model in the 1910 census, but moved to 116 West Broad by the 1940 census.) The Burial Vaults business was on a strip of property that ran next to the tracks behind this lot and its neighbors, which was later used for an auto business, and now by Boro Collision.

Also in 1922, the Herald reported that Reid bought property to expand the business further down Model Avenue by Louellen Street (the former saw mill). However, there are no further reports on this location, and no indication of this in the 1927 Sanborn map.

<p style="text-align: center;">Automatic Sealing BURIAL VAULT</p>  <p>The Automatic Sealing Concrete Burial Vault is extensively in use throughout this country. For more than ten years it has proven its superiority over all other burial vaults. It has stood every test and has received the approval of undertakers and cemetery officials everywhere. Many noted government officials have been interred in Automatic Sealing Vaults at the Arlington National Cemetery. No higher type of burial vault can be made, and yet its cost is within the reach of the masses. The rich can not buy a better vault. Manufactured by</p> <p>W. I. REID, - Hopewell, N. J. Phone 132. Order through Undertaker or direct.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Unit System Septic Tanks</p> <p>To help you solve the sanitation problem when you build your new home, suggest that you consult me on the installation of septic tanks.</p> <p>The old cesspool system is fast being declared unhealthful.</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">W. I. REID Dealer in Granite and Marble Monuments</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Model Avenue Phone 132 Hopewell, N. J.</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Septic Tanks / Model Avenue [HH 5/7/1924]</p>
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Automatic Burial Vault [TET 7/4/1920]

c1945 - William Reid to American Legion

William Reid died in 1950, and the last advertisement for the business appeared in the newspapers in 1951. Reid's daughter, Ethel A. Reid, ran the business after his death [RDH].

<p>William I. Reid Succumbs To Long Illness</p> <p>One of Hopewell's most prominent citizens, William I Reid, of West Broad street, a widely known marble and monumental dealer, died Sunday morning following a lengthy illness. The deceased was 79 years old on March 12.</p> <p>Mr. Reid came to Hopewell when he was five years old and is thought to have been the oldest resident here in point of years living in the borough. He was in the monumental business over 50 years and concrete enterprises about 35 years.</p> <p>Reid obituary [HH 4/2/1947]</p>	<p>WILLIAM I. REID REINFORCED CONCRETE Burial Vaults and Septic Tanks</p> <p>Phone 132 Hopewell, N. J</p> <p>Late Reid ad [HH 5/30/1951]</p>
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Confusingly, before Reid's death, in 1945, the American Legion bought the "vacant building" that became #9 Mercer, and occupied the renovated building by 1948. This was while the Reid company was still in operation (presumably at the other sites north of Mercer Street).

In addition, the northeast side of Mercer Street has a complicated history in the property records. There are multiple lots, including the separate lots for #9 as well as #7 and #5, plus the back (deeper) extension of #9 past the narrower lots for #7 and its neighbors, plus the vacated extension of Center Street from Vorhees to Mercer. As a result, there are multiple transactions and deeds for each of these separate pieces of property, at different times, and passing through different owners.

For example, Reid sold one such lot in 1951, which was then sold to the Veterans Memorial Association of Hopewell, N. J. in 1954, and then to Hopewell Valley Post No 339 American Legion in 1967. In another example, the Veterans Memorial Association bought a lot from the 1954 owner in 1957, and then transferred it to the Legion Post in 1966.

Fully mapping these lots and associated deed transactions is beyond the scope of this work. It is clear, however, that there was some flexibility in how different owners - and the Legion - acquired and used this property along Mercer Street

1946 - 1966 - Hopewell Legion Post 339

Hopewell Valley American Legion Post 339 purchased the #9 Mercer building property in 1946, and occupied the building from 1949 until it moved to Van Dyke Road in 1966. The renovations were done by William, Charles, and Nick Bregenzer, along with "a lot of volunteer labor" [DDG]. In addition to #9 Mercer, the then-vacant adjoining lots at #5 and #7 Mercer down towards West Broad Street were used for Legion Carnivals in the 1950s.

Dec. 1945 - Hopewell Valley American Legion Post 339 chartered December 1, 1945

Dec. 1946 - Post purchased "vacant building on Mercer Street" and began remodeling

1946 - "December 16 - Legion purchased vacant building on Mercer Street for \$600 and began to remodel it with construction of kitchen, heat and water tank."
[Hopewell Valley Veterans Association, 3/7/2015]

1946 on Dec. 16 ... "a vacant building on Mercer Street was purchased with the intentions of remodeling it for an American Legion home." [HH 10/13/1948]

Nov. 1948 - Fund-raising drive for "the construction of a building on Mercer Street" (#9)

"The Hopewell Valley Post 339, American Legion, has undertaken the construction of a building on Mercer Street which will not only house their unit but will be available for other organizations." [HH 12/1/1948]

May 1949 - Fund-raising drive completed

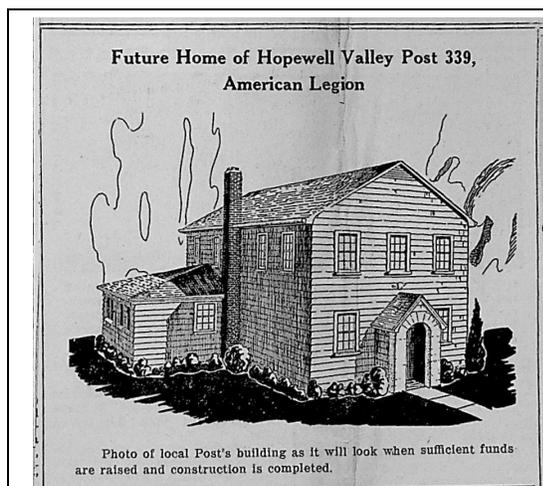
Have \$2,900 of \$3,000 goal, expect late returns and pledges to exceed goal [HH 5/4/1949]

June 1949 - Post meeting in new building, more than half done

"Hopewell Valley Post 339, American Legion, held its meeting Monday evening in the now home which is now well past the half-way mark of construction. The building will be one of the most modern in the borough when completed" [HH 7/6/1949]

1950s - early 60s - Site used for Memorial Day parades and Legion Carnival

April 1966 - Hopewell Legion moves to 44 Van Dyke Road (Ground breaking 3/1965)



Legion Building Design, 11/1948
[Post 339]



1963 Memorial Day Parade at 9 Mercer
[Terry Devlin]

1966 - 1986 - Klett Family

The Klett family acquired the Legion property from the Legion Post around 1966. They later built and sold the homes that now stand on #5 and #7 Mercer.

1966 - Legion Sale to Klett Family

The Legion sold the Model Avenue property to Frederick E Klett Jr and Florence A Klett in multiple transactions around 1966. In addition to #9 Mercer, the Klett family also acquired the still-vacant lots at #5 and #7 Mercer.

The Klett family converted the #9 building into two units for rental, top and bottom. This involved dividing the large open meeting spaces to create bedrooms and facilities, blocking off the front entrance, and separating the side stairs from the lower level.



#9 Mercer, 1965 [Bob Gantz]



Current 9 Mercer Street [DD]

1986 - Klett Family - New Houses

In 1986-87, the Klett family built and sold the two new houses at #7 and then #5 Mercer [JRK].

The #5 Mercer house is built on a diagonal because of a stream that runs behind the properties. (The stream then runs under Mercer to join with the Beden Brook tributary that runs down the west side of Mercer, which then runs under the former pizza shop, under West Broad Street, and continues east over to the Borough Park.)

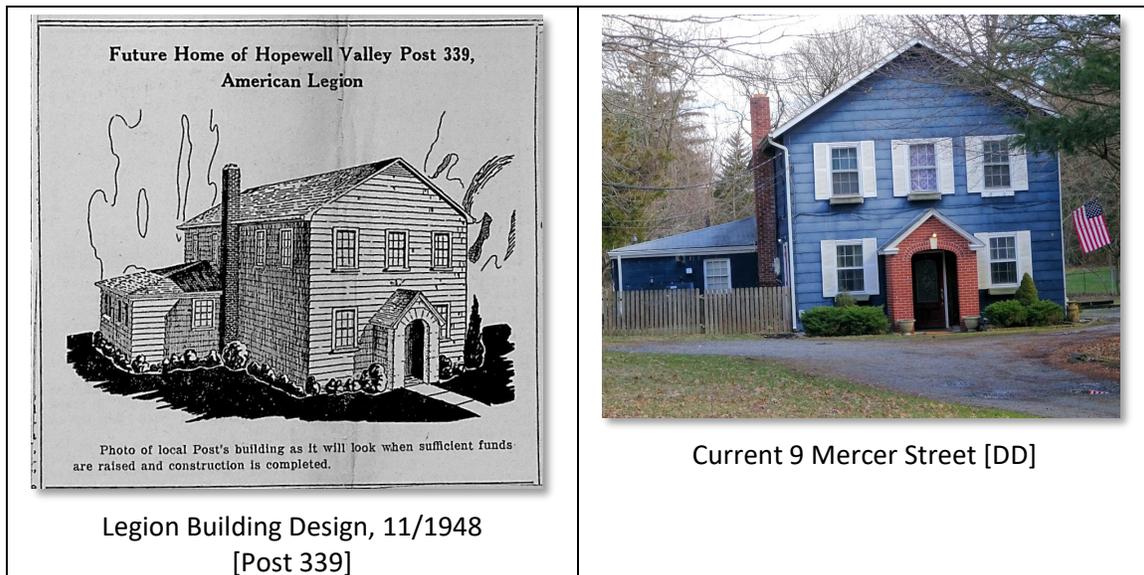
The #9 Mercer house was later converted back to its current single-family use by opening up the side stairs and unblocking the front entrance.

(The separate #3 Mercer building was constructed between 1953 and 1956.)

Conclusion: The #9 Mercer Building

Did the Legion build the current #9 Mercer building, or was it modified from an existing building? The newspaper reports during the fund drive in 1948 are ambiguous, and could be read as suggesting that the Legion was constructing an entirely new building. But the reports of the purchase in 1946 clearly state that the Legion purchased a vacant building, and were renovating it - specifically to add "kitchen, heat and water tank."

The assumption from the 1948 illustration of the future Legion building is that there was an existing two-story rectangular structure, to which the Legion added the single-story concrete block side addition and the front brick entranceway.



This assumption is supported by examining the current building. The side addition is concrete block, different from the frame main building, and the addition does contain both a kitchen in the back half, and heating equipment in the front section (along with a bathroom).

In addition, the wall at the entrance to the kitchen appears to be an exterior wall, since it still has exterior wood siding visible on the kitchen side. Wood framing and support beams also are visible at various locations in the structure.

So what was this structure before the Legion bought it? It does appear to be in roughly the same location and footprint as the W. I. Reid / stone cutting building shown in the 1912 and 1927 Sanborn maps, and in the 1932 aerial. (Note that these show a building with a one-story extension on the right side, which is missing in the Legion building.)

The 1985 Cultural Resource Survey also states that this is the same building: "This structure, 1105-28-7 [#9 Mercer], was built c. 1900 as part of a gravestone and burial vault manufacturing concern and its conversion to residential use postdates 1927."

References

Information extracted and summarized from sources including books, reports, maps, newspapers, and photos. Many of the original materials (documents, maps, aerials, and photos) come from the many contributors to the Hopewell Valley History Project, and are shared on the site (HopewellHistoryProject.org).

People and Organizations

Thanks to the following people and organizations for additional information:

[Legion 339] Hopewell Valley American Legion Post 339 - for support in researching and sharing the history of local veteran's groups.

[JRK] - Joe Klett and the Klett family - for comments and clarifications.

[RDH] - Dick Hall - for additional family and Legion information.

[DDG] - Dawn Gordon - for additional Bregenzer family information.

Books

[HHH 1897] - *Healthful Historic Hopewell* (1897), Normer Gray

Reports

[Site Survey 1985] - 1985 Cultural Resource Survey, Hopewell Borough

Maps

- Hopewell map from 1875 Combination Atlas Map of Mercer County by Everts & Stewart

- 1887 Hopewell panoramic aerial map by T. M. Fowler

- Sanborn Fire Maps of Hopewell Borough (1902, 1912, 1927)

- 1916 Hopewell Boro Tax Map

- 1993 Hopewell Boro Tax Map - Shows old and new block / lot numbers.

Newspapers

[HH] - Hopewell Herald newspaper (through 1955)

[TET] - Trenton Evening Times newspaper