

THE ROBY HOUSE

CHATHAM, NEW JERSEY



BUILT C. 1910





James Whitton was the builder of The Roby House. This ad from a 1911 Chatham Press issue advertises his residence located at what is now known as 75 Hillside Avenue.

THE ARCHITECTURE OF THE ROBY HOUSE

By the 1900s, homes of great stature were built in a variety of elaborate architectural styles all over Chatham by the well-to-do. But the middle class also had the desire to live in fashionable homes. These homes may be smaller, and not quite as fancy, but they are charming, practical and built with the same quality craftsmanship.

VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE is simply architecture without an architect. The Roby House is the perfect example of this “style”. The local builder supplied plans which were generic and could be altered to suit the individual’s need. These homes are not “over designed” and represent a variety of architectural styles combining to produce the perfect home for the original owner.

MR. WHITTON HAD an artistic side which is evident in his buildings. His homes are well balanced and well designed. He incorporated some of the same features in most of his houses including a full width porch, abundant windows and very often, a signature window seat.



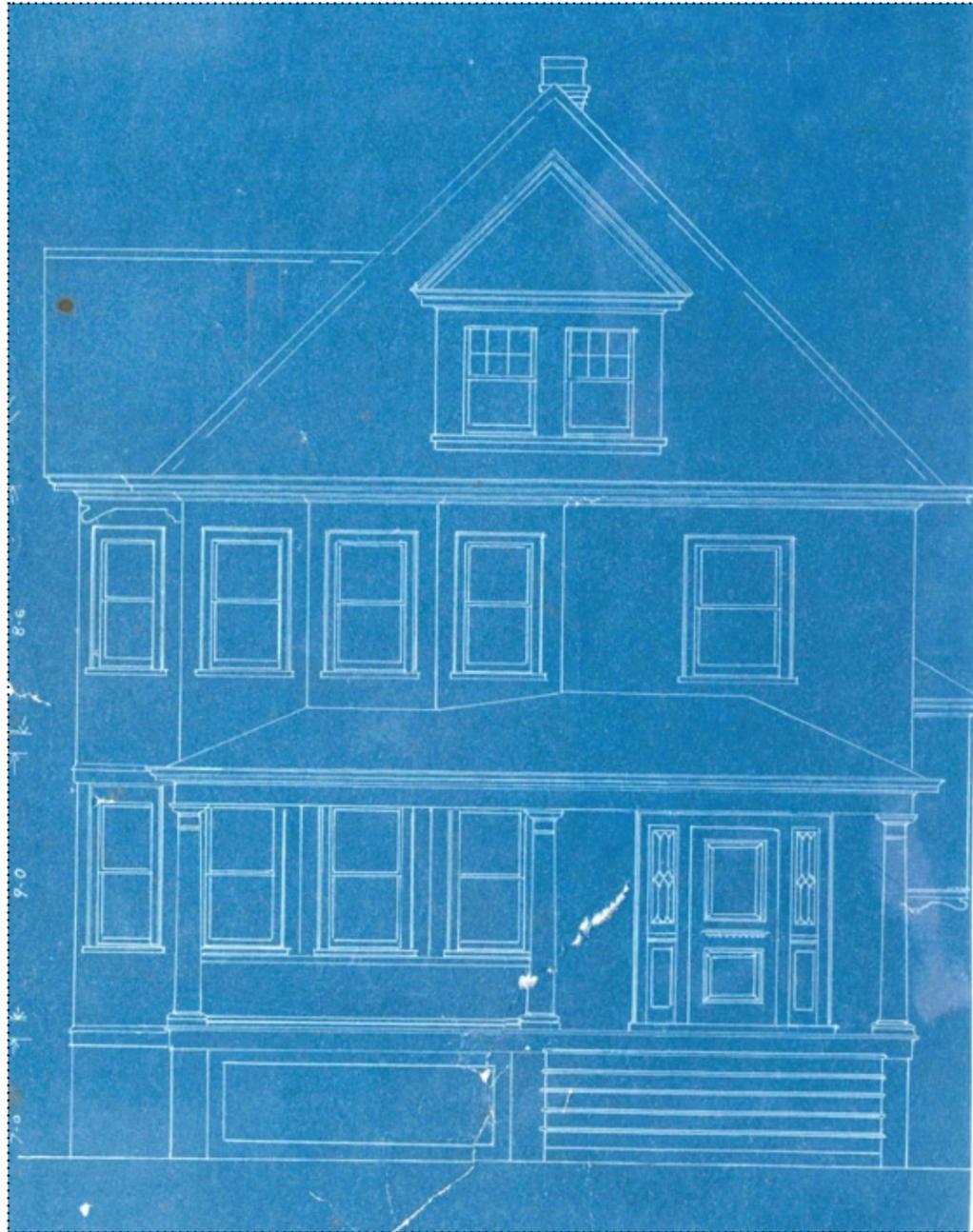
In the early months of 1911, Mr. Whitton used a photograph of the recently completed Roby House in promotional pieces to advertise his craftsmanship.

Through the decades, updates have been made to keep The Roby House fresh and modern. But the homes original integrity and exquisite architectural features have been wonderfully preserved, inside and out.



THE ORIGINAL PLANS

THE ORIGINAL PLANS still survive and have been passed down from owner to owner.



Apparent from the front elevation plan, very little has changed over the last 100 years. The front door and side lights, the porch and bay windows are original.



Mr. Whitton redrew the first floor to the specifications of the Roby's, the original owners of the home.

FIRST FLOOR PLAN. J. S. S. S.
MR. J. A. R. ROBY OWNER

The cellar plan is interesting in that it shows the laundry stove, vegetable closet and coal bin.

