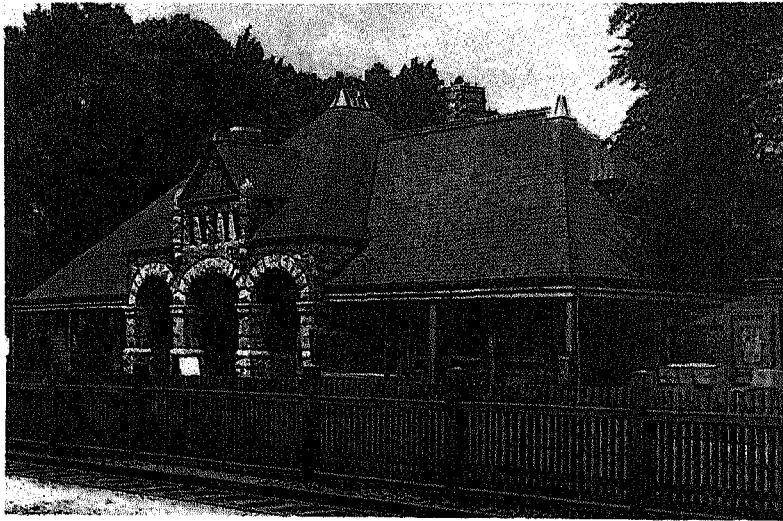


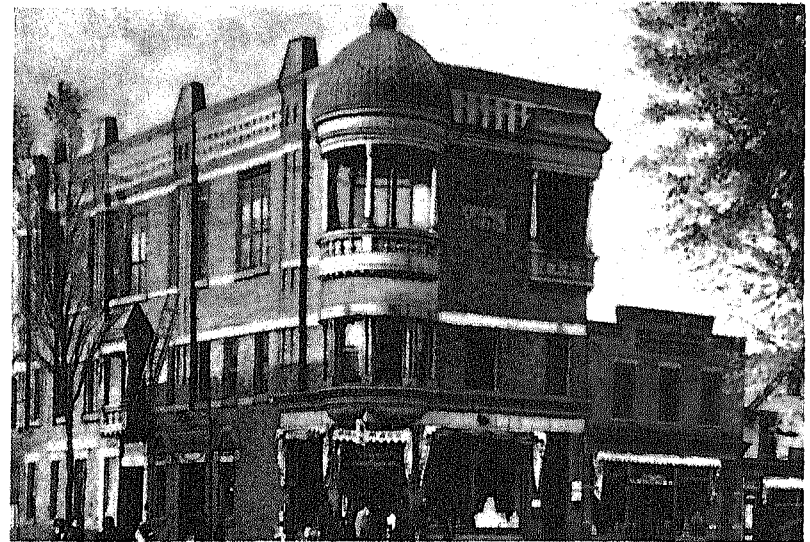
∞ Township of Westfield ∞

Westfield was the name given the area just west of the first seat of government in Elizabethtown. As land was sold and developed the population increased and in 1729 the village of Westfield was established. In 1794 the Township of Westfield formally separated from Elizabethtown. Westfield Township included Fanwood, Plainfield, Scotch Plains and Mountainside and formed a distinctive community known as the Westfields. In 1877 the Township of Fanwood was formed and was separated from Westfield.

Westfield has the distinction of having been the state capital for one day. On August 22, 1812 New Jersey Governor Joseph Bloomfield left the state on business for the day. Upon his departure, the state seal was delivered to the Honorable Charles Clark of Westfield making Westfield the state capital.



*In the mid 1830's, the construction of the Westfield railroad station marked the end of stage coach delivery of mail to communities west of Elizabeth.*



*Arcanum Hall is located at the corner of Broad and Elm streets.*

As important as the railroad is to Westfield today it was equally as important to the residents of the 1800's. The railroad was named the Elizabethtown and Somerville railroad in 1838. It was reported in 1838 that after seven years of intermittent labor, the much heralded railroad was completed. For it's maiden trip in May of 1838 people drove from miles around to witness this event. Many openly scoffed at "Sam's Folly", so called because Sam Downer of Westfield had made it his pet project. Local resident Dave Miller bet five dollars that his team of trotting horses could beat the train to Westfield from Elizabeth and he did it beating the train by ten minutes.

Improved transportation stimulated commuter traffic which gradually changed Westfield from a farming to a residential community. In 1844 the town was described as a neat village consisting of thirty or forty buildings in the vicinity of the Presbyterian Church. By 1883 there were one-thousand homes in Westfield and a population of three-thousand of whom two-hundred were daily commuters.