

Shadow Lawn

Intersection of Cedar and Norwood avenues

West Long Branch

Shadow Lawn was constructed in 1927 for Hubert T. Parson, a protege of dime store magnate Frank Woolworth who worked his way up from bookkeeper to president of the Woolworth empire. Constructed in the French Classical tradition, the sprawling residence was completed and furnished at a cost of \$7,500,000. The building was designed by the firm of Horace Trumbauer. The chief designer in Trumbauer's firm was Julian Abele. Abele graduated from the University of Pennsylvania School of Architecture in 1902, becoming the first African American to practice architecture professionally in the United States. Trumbauer sent Abele to Paris to study, making him the first African American to study architecture at the Ecole des BeauxArts in Paris. Shadow Lawn was the last project on which Trumbauer and Abele collaborated. The 1929 stock market crash resulted in Parson's loss of the property, and today the building is owned by Monmouth College. The building stands as an affirmation of Trumbauer and Abele's talent as architects. Shadow Lawn was designated a National Historic Landmark on February 4, 1985. [C 3/28/78 NHL, 78001780]