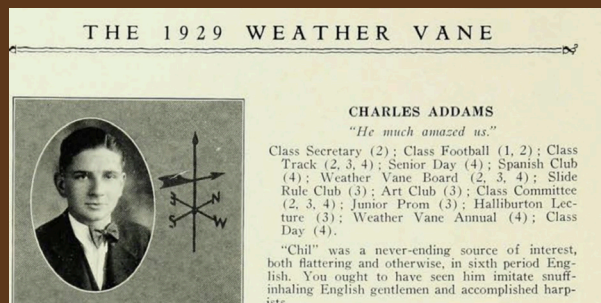


The Weather Vane



The school yearbook, has a photo of Addams' freshman class. Called, The Twenty-Niners, the students are sitting on the school's portico steps, which appear nearly the same today as they did in the 1926 photo.

Addams was elected as class secretary in his 1928 Sophomore year.

The 1929 *The Weather Vane*, Addams' senior year, has a medieval theme. Knighthood and Chivalry is mentioned throughout the 1929 issue.

Addams' senior picture has a quote "He much amazed us." His activities are listed in the write-up along with the reference to his nickname "Chil."

Addams' cartoons appear in *The Weather Vane* and show hints of his unique humor. One could be interpreted to reflect his encounter with the Westfield police.



The Weather Vane 1928
by Charles S. Addams



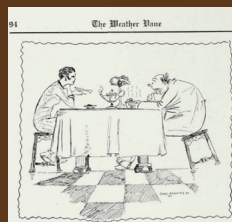
The Weather Vane 1929
by Chas Addams



The Weather Vane 1926
by Chas Addams



This illustration for the 1927 *The Weather Vane* Sports Section shows a more conventional technical aspect of the sports rather than making a sarcastic intimation. By Chas Addams



The Weather Vane 1927
by Chas Addams



At the conclusion of touring the Charles Addams Heritage Trail, you can say that you literally walked on the same ground that Charles Addams walked along. You saw the Revolutionary War burial ground that he spent time exploring and you gazed upon the impressive historic homes that must have made such a big impression on him that he used the architectural styles in his cartoons. You stood at the portico of his high school where he spent 4 formidable years, contributing his impertinent sarcastic cartoons to *The Weather Vane*. All of these things described, undoubtedly influenced and shaped the creative mind of Charles Samuel Addams, who went on to become one of the world's greatest cartoonists.

This brochure was made possible by a grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the Department of State, and administered by the Union County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs with support from the Town of Westfield, The Downtown Westfield Corporation, The Tee & Charles Addams Foundation, and AddamsFest. Special thanks to Mayor Shelley Brindle and the Town Council especially to Councilwoman Dawn Mackay and Town Administrator James Gildea, Union County Commissioner, Kimberly Palmeri-Mouled, Union County Parks and Recreation Director, Victoria Durbin-Drake, Union County Cultural and Heritage Administrator, Kathy Kakaletis, and Union County History Programs Director, John Prescott

Creators

Julie Diddell
Jessica Dubrovsky
Joan Blagg

Layout

Rendition Designs

Editor

George Hiltz

Disclaimer: The Charles Addams Heritage Trail offers the visitor a year-round self-guided recreational experience. The sidewalks may have occasional unevenness and there is a moderate hill that you will traverse on the Trail. Follow road crossing safety. Please respect the private property of the sites on the Trail.

All care has been given to provide accurate, publicly available information. Please email AddamsFest with corrections as needed.

For more information on Charles Addams, Charles Addams - Wikipedia

EMAIL: info@addamsfest.com

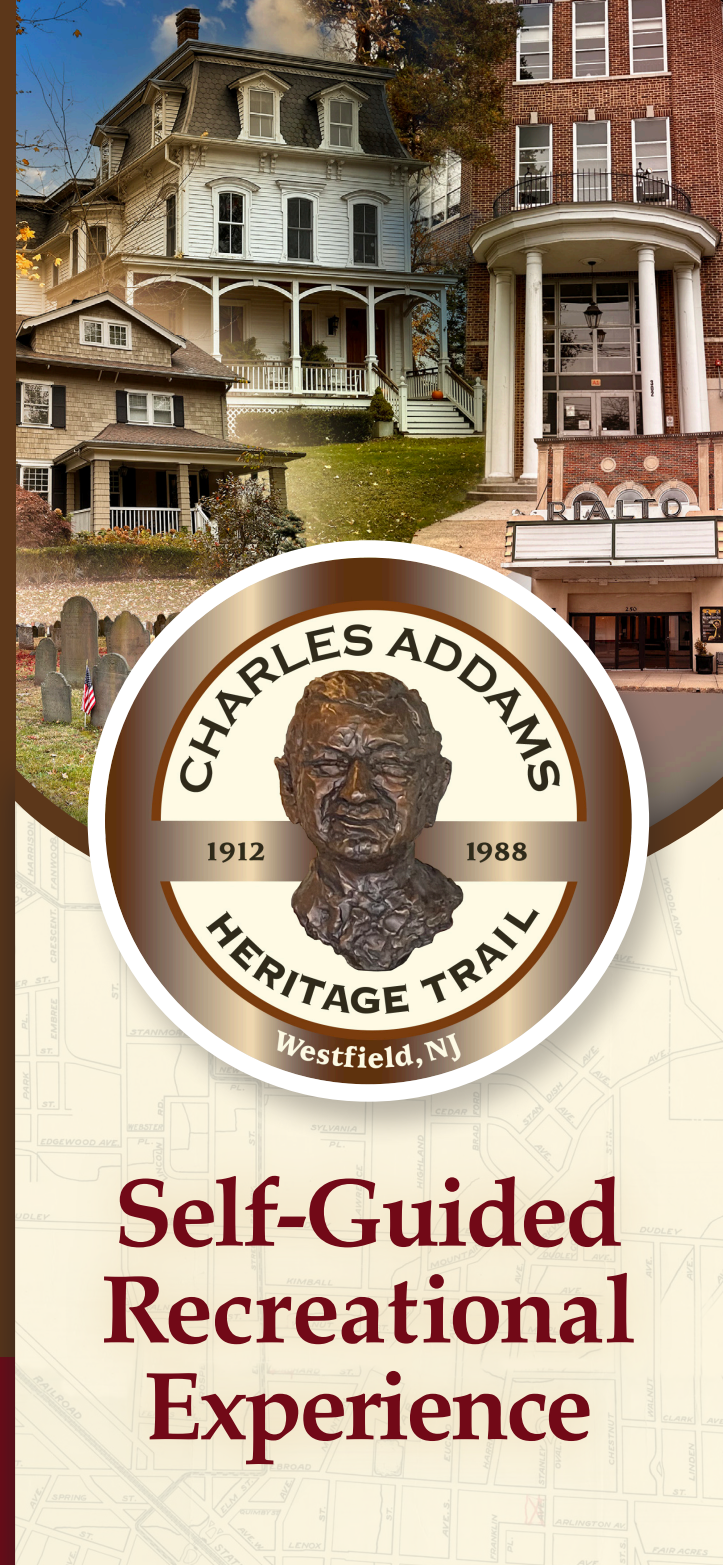
WEB: addamsfest.com



/AddamsFest



/addamsfest



Self-Guided Recreational Experience



Born on January 2, 1912 in his parents' home at 511 Summit Ave, Charles "Chas" Addams and his family went on to live at 522 Elm Street. After graduating high school in 1929, he attended Colgate University for one year. He transferred to the University of Pennsylvania and then to Grand Central School of Art in New York City. It is the years that Addams lived in Westfield, from 1912 to 1947, that the Charles Addams Heritage Trail highlights in the form of tracing the footsteps that Addams would have walked along while he lived in the town that imparted the sights and experiences that shaped his creativity.



The theater is the subject of several Addams cartoons. One showing the featured movie, "The Killer Moth. Stark Shear Terror" and another captioned, "It's a town that time forgot," showing the J. Frank clothing store with the Rialto in the background.



Addams is said to have spent time exploring this cemetery, which contains red sandstone gravestones of over 70 Revolutionary War Veterans, while he imagined what the buried people looked like. His cartoon of a cemetery ditch digger harkens to Addams' fascination with cemeteries like the one at this location.



The home of the Westfield Historical Society is a classic 1872 Italianate style reflective of Westfield's developmental transition from the early period of a rural farming community to railroad suburb.



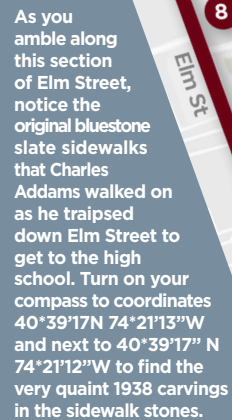
Built between 1842 and 1880, they are examples of several preserved Victorian homes from the original Dudley Park parcel. The Kimball Avenue Historic District is now one of a few recognized historic districts in Westfield.




There are several grand classic homes built between 1870 and 1926, which are literally in Addams' backyard. A few of them are the probable sites of his adolescent rascality. A chalk drawing of a skeleton, attributed to Addams, was located in the barn of one of these homes until it was removed for preservation. The skeleton, named "Dudley" is now on loan to the Town of Westfield, from the Khichi family. "Dudley" comes out for public viewing in October during AddamsFest.



The house that young Charles Addams lived in for the longest period of time while in Westfield. His loving grandmother, Emma Louise Tufts Spear lived on the 3rd floor. She is considered by most to be the inspiration for the cartoon character, Grandmama Addams, mother of Gomez. This unimposing circa 1907 Colonial style house is reflective of Addams' self-described normal childhood.



 = Charles Addams' inspiration spots



Built between 1869 and 1905. The original architectural characteristics are intact. Set on an imposing perch is 411 Elm Street. Tall in stature, of Second Empire style with a mansard roof, has come to be known as an "Addams Family Inspiration House." 411 Elm Street appears on the AddamsFest logo.



The cornerstone was laid in 1914. This was the Westfield High School where Charles Addams attended college preparatory classes from 1926-1929.



Completed in 1922, this large stone building evokes a vision of a medieval fortress. The gargoyles on the tower were removed in 2024.



Built in 1892 by the Royal Arcanum, a fraternal benefit society founded in 1877, the Queen Anne-style with its copper-domed turret details is reminiscent of the Renaissance era.