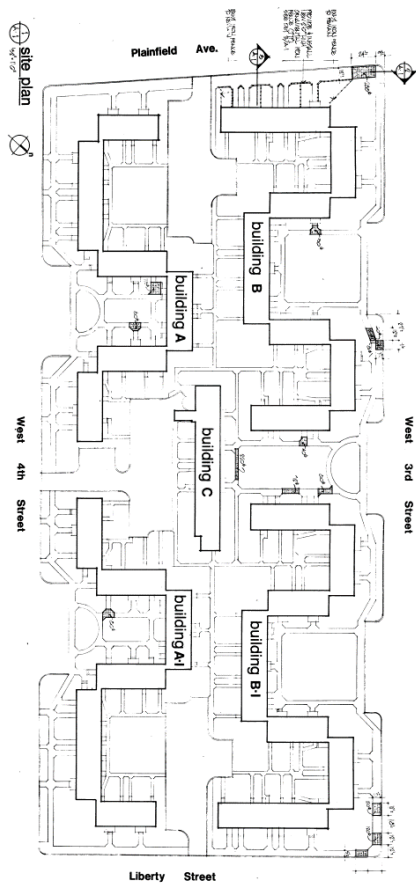


West End Gardens Survey Map, 1987



IMAGES

Cover: *West End Gardens, 1957*,
Courier News Photograph Archive.
Above: *Line drawing 61364, Charles
Detwiller Collection.*
Inside : *Courier-News, November 1,*
*2015, page A3. Photo of Joanne
Hollis from www.legacy.com.*

*More images available at
Plainfield Public Library*

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Plainfield Public Library

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Joanne Hollis Gardens

DEDICATED 2015

A Brief History



History

The Joanne Hollis Gardens was originally the West End Gardens. It opened in August 1954 as Plainfield's first public housing development. It included five buildings located on the block between Liberty St., Plainfield Ave., West Third St., and West Fourth St. Designed by local architect Ernest T. Brown, the complex included 16 one-bedroom, 66 two-bedroom, 32 three-bedroom, and 14 four-bedroom apartments. By opening day, the City had already received 485 applications.

The Gardens were renovated and modernized in the early 1990s. The improvements included new porches, fences, a playground area, and a child-care center.

On October 24, 2015, the complex was rededicated as the "Joanne Hollis Gardens" in her honor.



Joanne Hollis (1961-2014)



Joanne Hollis was a life-long resident of Plainfield. She lived in the West End Gardens for over 30 years. A devoted Plainfield activist, Joanne worked as Plainfield Housing Commissioner and served as Councilwoman for the Fourth Ward.

Hollis was appointed in 1995 and again in 2010 to serve two five-year terms as resident commissioner for the Housing Authority of Plainfield. She also served as president of the Elm-West Resident Association for 22 years.

At the re-dedication ceremony for the complex in October 2015, Randall Wood, Executive Director of the Housing Authority, said, "Joanne was a fierce and vocal advocate for the residents of West End Gardens...her vision for a better future was driven by an extraordinary faith....She was a gift to our community." Also at the ceremony, Mayor Adrian Mapp declared October 24th to be "Joanne Hollis Day."

Joanne passed away on September 26, 2014; she was 53 years old.