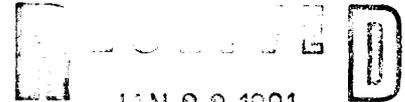


111

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Neighbor, Jacob Wise (J.W.), House
other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 143 West Mill Road N/A not for publication
city, town Long Valley (Washington Township) vicinity
state New Jersey code 034 county Morris code 023 zip code 07853

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	1	1 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	0	0 sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	0	0 structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	0	0 objects
		1	1 Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official *[Signature]* Date 1/14/91
Acting Assistant Commissioner for Natural & Historic Resources/DSHPO
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain): _____

Entered in the National Register

[Signature] 2/22/91

Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic - single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic - single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone
walls Weatherboard
roof Asphalt
other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The J. W. Neighbor House is located on rural West Mill Road about two-thirds of a mile south of the village of Long Valley and about twenty miles west of Morristown, Morris County, New Jersey. The house is set back off the south side of the road, facing north; it is accessed by a slightly curved gravel drive which terminates at the garage behind the house. The house is situated to the rear of sloped lawn, which is accentuated with a variety of specimen deciduous and conifer trees. Although the age of these trees is not known at this time, it appears that their planting dates to the construction of the house. Because the house site is slightly elevated, it overlooks both West Mill Road and the adjacent South Branch of the Raritan River, giving the J. W. Neighbor House a commanding presence in the landscape. The mid-twentieth-century garage is located to the south and east of the house, behind a post and rail wooden fence on the southern edge of the property.

The Greek Revival-style J. W. Neighbor House is a nearly square structure, two stories in height, of frame construction over a full cellar built of ashlar stone. The house is five bays long and four bays deep with a low hipped roof and four symmetrically placed interior end chimneys. The structure is divided horizontally through changes in material and ornamental woodwork treatments. The cellar is masonry, the first floor is clad with clapboard with beaded corner boards. Below the line of the second floor window sills is an ornamental molded band on the north facade and the west and east elevations composed of a simple compound molding, a fascia and running guttae. The wall plane of the second floor or attic story is clad in flushboards. The cornice, which continues on all elevations, consists of a lower cyma reversa band with molded dentils above a two-step corona surmounted by a projecting molded cornice concealing the metal gutters. The roof is a low hip covered in asphalt shingles with a central square flat. The east and west elevations have a pair of tall rectangular symmetrically placed brick masonry chimneys with flue vents above two rows of corbeled brick.

The fenestration of the doors and windows is symmetrical on all elevations with the most ornamental work concentrated on the north or principal facade. There are two porches or piazzas, an original porch located on the north facade and a circa 1966 porch on the south elevation.

The front (north) facade is distinguished by the one-story porch running its length. This porch is constructed on brick piers with latticework infill. The porch is accessed by two straight flights of wood steps, one flight centered on the facade, the other to the westerly end of the porch. The porch floor is wood plank with a fascia board and molded lip. The

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) N/A A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

circa 1830-40

Significant Dates

circa 1830-40

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Signifying Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Sited on a sloped lawn amidst mature specimen trees and overlooking rural West Mill Road and the distant South Branch of the Raritan River, the circa 1830-40 J. W. Neighbor reflects the early and mid-nineteenth-century romantic ideal of domestic architecture dominating its environment. This high-style farmhouse, located just beyond the village of Long Valley and twenty miles west of Morristown, represents an early and notable example of Greek Revival architecture in rural Morris County. The house, which retains most of its original high-style, classical detailing and landscaping, incorporates the characteristic elements and features associated with rural Greek Revival structures. Because the J. W. Neighbor House embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type and period of construction and possesses high artistic value, it meets Criterion C of the National Register of Historic Places.

Leonard Neighbor (1698-1766), originally Leanhart Nachbar, was one of the initial Moravian settlers who moved his family from Pennsylvania to Long Valley in the rolling highlands region of northwestern New Jersey in 1738. The valley became known as German Valley when other German families followed Neighbor's lead and moved there. "Long Valley" replaced "German Valley" as the name of the overall valley and its central village in response to the anti-German sentiment of World War I.

In 1750, Leonard Neighbor purchased the 318 acres of land he had occupied since 1738 from William Logan of Philadelphia. The site of Neighbor's original homestead is probably located somewhere near the present J. W. Neighbor house.¹ The 318-acre farmstead passed to Neighbor's only son, Leonard Neighbor, II (1741-1806), who then passed it to his son Leonard Neighbor, III (1764-1854). Leonard Neighbor, III divided the homestead in half and sold it to his two sons: Leonard Neighbor, IV (1802-1880) and Jacob Wise (J.W.) Neighbor (1805-1889).

Leonard Neighbor, IV bought the southern half of the farmstead in 1829; his house and farm complex still stand at 177 West Mill Road. The northern half of the original Leonard Neighbor property was sold to J. W. Neighbor in 1830 for \$5,000. J. W. Neighbor probably built his house at 143 West Mill Road sometime soon afterward. Until it was

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 2J.W. Neighbor House, Washington Township,
Morris County, NJ

porch is supported by six square, cased, modified Tuscan wood columns with square plinths and molded torus. The shafts have molded stepped fields with flat panels; the capitals are modified Tuscan with double astragals and cyma reversa molding. In addition to the six free-standing columns are two *in antis* at each end of the porch. The cornice consists of a full entablature with a plain fascia, molded brackets, and molded gutter.

The north facade has a central frontispiece on the first floor with a single-leaf door with sidelights and full-width transom. The sidelights and transom are geometrically divided by applied wood mullions. The door and glazing have a molded surround with base blocks, panels and block bosses. The whole of the doorway is framed by pilasters with flat paneled fields and full entablature. Flanking the frontispiece are two pairs of full-length, triple-hung sash with six lights in each sash unit. The windows have full surrounds with pedimented entablatures. The sash are fitted with shutters, the lower portion of the shutters having raised panels, the upper sections having fixed louvers. The second floor has six "attic" or frieze band windows incorporated into the attic band. Each window is fitted with three-light, top hinged, tilt windows and fixed louvered shutters held in place with scroll shutter dogs.

The east and west elevations are nearly identical with four bays to each. The cellar of each elevation has two six-light, top hinged sash with simple molded surrounds. The first floor has six-over-six, double-hung sash with simple molded surrounds and fixed louvered shutters with a single cross rail, and the second floor has three-light sash with top hinged windows and fixed louvered shutters in the frieze band. All of the windows have scrolled shutter dogs. The west elevation has an areaway constructed of rubblestone and steps leading to the cellar at the northwest corner. The rear (south) elevation has a circa 1966 wood frame porch running its length. The floor of the porch is brick on a rubblestone foundation. The porch is supported on six square posts with applied arched fascia boards. The porch roof is a simple shed type with plain box cornice and end boards. At each end of the porch is a partial latticework enclosure. The fenestration of the first floor rear elevation is irregular with two doors and four windows. The doors are single-leaf with multiple-light glazing; the off-center door is a "Dutch door" with two panels in the lower section and glazed with nine lights in the upper. The pair of windows to the east of the door is identical to the sash found on the east and west elevations. The west windows are a later alteration. These windows are smaller than the other sash on this floor and are fitted with two-over-two, double-hung sash. The five second floor windows are identical to those on the east and west elevations and the north facade.

The interior of the house is symmetrically disposed around a central hall, with each floor containing four principal rooms. The cellar, constructed of rubblestone, is accessed by a single-run stair entered under the main staircase on the first floor or through the exterior areaway entrance at the northwest corner of the house. All of the rooms in the cellar have exposed rubblestone walls, concrete floors, and plastered ceilings with the exception of the summer kitchen which is plastered throughout. Originally, the cellar housed the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 3J.W. Neighbor House, Washington Township,
Morris County, NJ

domestic offices, a milk room (SE), cold room (NE), laundry room (SW), and summer kitchen (NW). All of these rooms flank the center hall that runs the length of the cellar. The finishes throughout the cellar are utilitarian with plain window and door casings. The surviving original doors are vertical board and batten. The summer kitchen has a large fireplace with a brick-lined fire box. The fire box surround is of plain plaster with a simple two-board mantel shelf and simply detailed support brackets. The door to the areaway is a single-leaf "Dutch door" with x-braced panels in the lower section and a nine-light section above. This door retains its original iron strap hinges and lock. The southwest room contains a pair of stone piers with arched brick heads supporting the large kitchen fireplace and hearth on the first floor.

The first floor, like the cellar, is symmetrically arranged with two rooms flanking the center hallway which runs the length of the house. The center hall is divided at its midpoint by a semi-elliptical archway with engaged, paneled pilasters that contain stylized, applied fretwork in the neck above the astragal. A fluted keystone crowns the arch. The arch visually divides the hall into an entrance hall and a stair hall. The entrance hall is symmetrical in composition with the principal entrance door at the north end. This doorway contains a single-leaf, two-panel door with later six-light glazing in the upper portion. Originally, the door was a typical Greek Revival configuration with two vertical panels. The door retains its original unornamented brass rim lock. The door is flanked by sidelights and a transom with a heavily molded and fielded surround with flat panels below the sidelights. At the center points of the east and west walls are single-leaf, two-panel doors with full surrounds. The surrounds contain modified Tuscan pilasters with base blocks, flat field panels, and full entablatures with plain fascias and Greek ovolo moldings.

The stair hall has an off-center door on the east wall, leading to the rear parlor, with a door surround identical to those in the entrance hall. The staircase is a two-flight dog leg with a turned newel post, turned spindles, and a molded rail. The newel post and rail are mahogany; the spindles are painted, and the skirting under the staircase contains seven vertical panels with applied moldings and flat fields. The stringers are ornamented with applied scrollwork. Under the stair carriage is a single-leaf, two-panel door with heavily molded surround and corner blocks leading to the basement. Under the stair landing is a "Dutch door" leading to the rear porch. This door has a lower section with two raised panels, an upper section with nine lights, and a heavily molded surround. The door appears to retain its original hardware including the wrought iron, Norfolk box lock and latch.

To the west of the hall are nearly identical double parlors separated by sliding doors. The door and window surrounds of the parlors are fully developed with base blocks, pilasters with field panels, and full entablatures. With the exception of the full-length windows in the north parlor, the windows have paneled skirts with applied moldings and flat panels. All of the windows are fitted with paneled, folding pocket shutters.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 4J.W. Neighbor House, Washington Township,
Morris County, NJ

The surround framing the sliding double doors features four pilasters, two *in antis* with a full entablature similar to the window and door surrounds. In both parlors, later shelving and bookcases have been inserted. The mantelpieces in both rooms are wood with transitional Federal/Greek Revival detailing. The north parlor mantelpiece was marbleized using a floating oil technique to imitate the appearance of veined black Egyptian marble. The design of the mantelpiece features engaged, modified Ionic columns supporting a large entablature with bolection moldings, a central panel, and two flanking panels. The mantel shelf has curved ends and a molded lip. The rear or south parlor has an identical mantelpiece which has been painted over the marbleizing. The hearths of both mantelpieces are brick laid in a herringbone pattern.

The northwest room, currently the dining room, contains detailing identical to the northeast or front parlor, the only difference being the simply molded chair rail, which may be a later addition, and the treatment of the south wall, which has a single-leaf door and surround instead of double sliding doors. The walls and ceilings throughout the first floor are plaster. There are no crown moldings or ceiling medallions located on this floor. However, earlier accounts of the house remember there being an applied star-shaped medallion in one of the parlors.

The southwest room or kitchen is simply detailed with molded, recessed window and door surrounds. The west wall contains a large fireplace with a brick fire box, bake oven and the original, wrought iron crane. The fireplace surround is plastered and the mantel shelf is a large board with applied molding supporting the shelf proper. To the south of the fireplace is a built-in closet with single-leaf door with a single, flat panel and applied molding. In the southwest corner is a closed, winder stair leading to the room above.

The high-style, Greek Revival detailing of the first floor is carried to the second floor through the ornamentation of the staircase with the applied scrollwork detailing continuing from the first floor along the apron of the half-landing and the second floor skirting. The second floor, like the first floor, is symmetrically composed around the hall. There are four principal rooms and two later bathrooms. The second floor is simply detailed throughout with heavily molded door surrounds, two-panel doors with flat fields, and applied moldings. The base boards are uniformly high with a simple, straight, Greek Revival-profile top mold. The window surrounds are simply molded with plain reveals and molded lip sills.

In all of the rooms, the perimeter ceilings slope in response to the low pitch of the roof. Originally, the four principal rooms were divided by side-to-side closets with one closet serving each room. The northeast and southeast rooms retain this original feature, while the corresponding rooms to the west have been altered by the addition of a bathroom. The most distinguishing features of the second floor are the mantelpieces. These mantelpieces are transitional Federal in style, featuring the standard pilasters and flat

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

J.W. Neighbor House, Washington Township,
Morris County, NJ

entablatures typical of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Two of the mantelpieces retain their original marbled treatment in imitation of black Egyptian marble.

A notable feature of the second floor is the former light well located at the center of the hallway. This well, which rises to the under-side of the roof, originally was probably lit by a square lantern or skylight to provide additional daylight in this area.

Throughout the house, much of the original hardware is intact. On the first floor, the original brass rim locks, escutcheons, knobs, and hinges remain *in situ*. On the second floor, the majority of the cast iron box locks and knobs survive. Where visible, the random-width, heart pine floors appear original, the exception being the cellar where all of the original flooring materials was replaced with cement. The upper and lower halls retain their original Greek Revival-period lanterns with their cut and etched glass and smoke bells. The first-floor lantern is hexagonal in form, the second-floor lantern is square. Later alterations to the interior include the addition of bathrooms, kitchen equipment, and cabinets, installation of central steam heat and radiators, and the removal of several of the plaster surrounds at the fireplace openings.

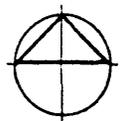
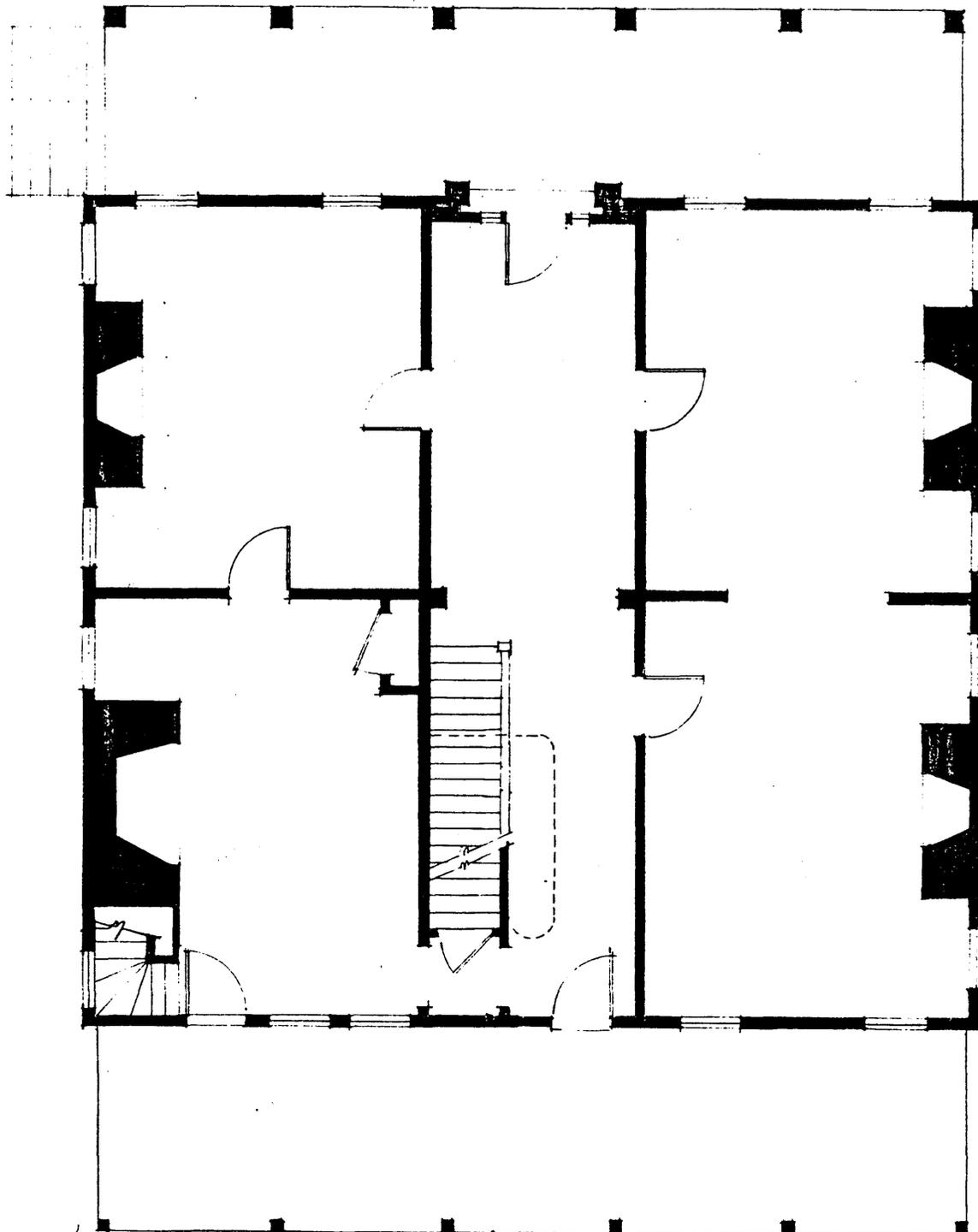
To the rear of the house is a circa 1945 two-car garage and shed constructed of cement unit block. The structure is comprised of the garage proper with a shed area to the side. The building is lit by multiple-light metal sash. The doors are plain wood with non-ornamented frames. The shed roof is covered with asphalt shingles and the rafters are exposed at the perimeter and gable ends.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 6

J.W. Neighbor House, Washington Township,
Morris County, NJ



Scale: 1/8"=1'

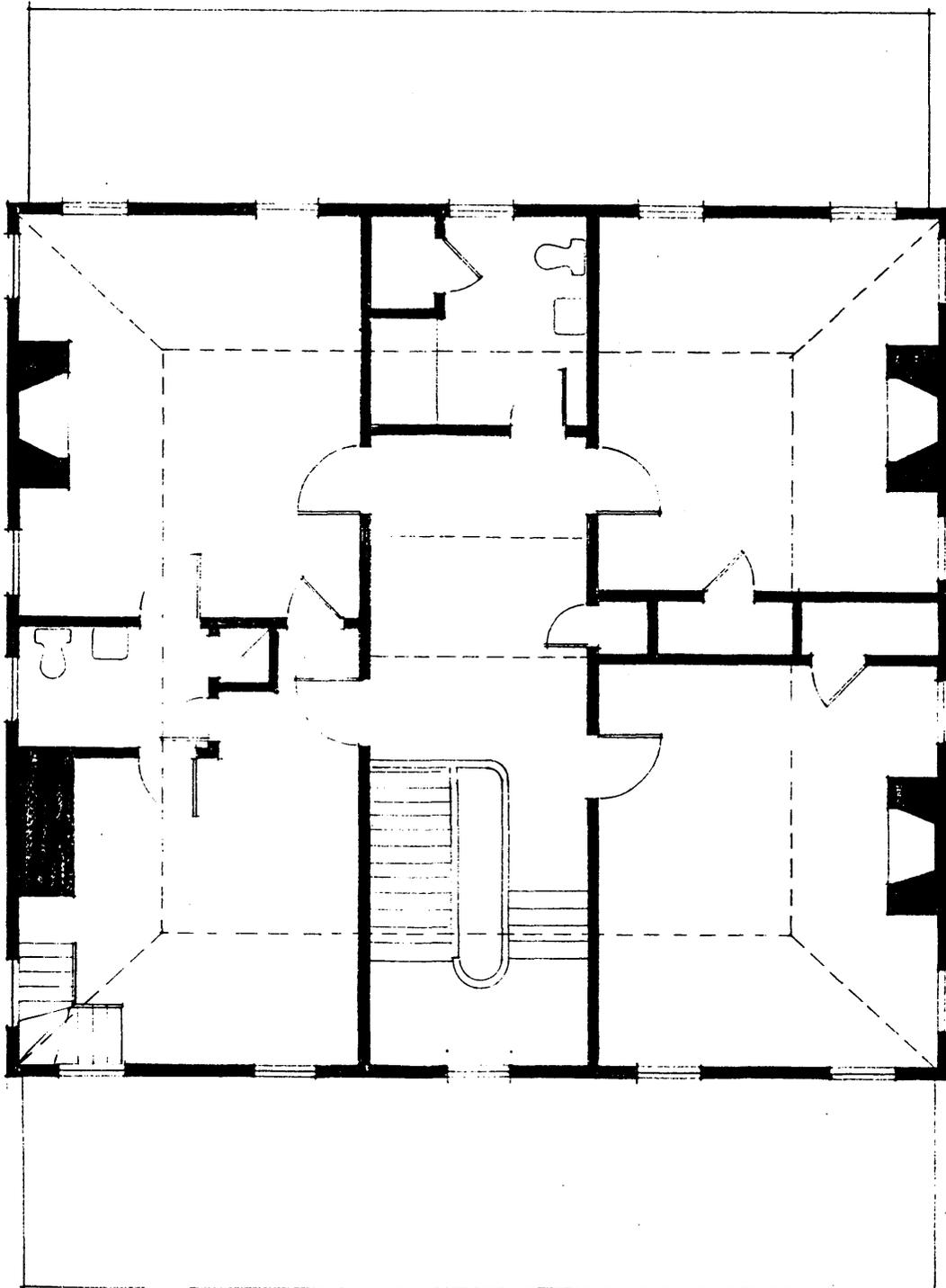
Neighbor, Jacob Wise (J.W.), House
First Floor

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 7

J.W. Neighbor House, Washington Township,
Morris County, NJ



Scale: 1/8"=1'

Neighbor, Jacob Wise (J.W.), House
Second Floor

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 2J.W. Neighbor House, Washington Township,
Morris County, NJ

sold in 1929 and then leased as a tenant farmer's house, the J. W. Neighbor house was continuously used as a farmhouse by the Neighbor family.²

The J. W. Neighbor house is significant for its architecture, being an excellent early example of a rural New Jersey, Greek Revival-style farmhouse. Its frame construction and degree of high-style detailing and workmanship distinguish the J. W. Neighbor house from other Washington Township and rural Morris County farmhouses of the period. These other farmhouses are typically more vernacular in style, constructed of stone, sometimes finished with stucco, and have only simplified classical detailing.

As the 19th century progressed, farmhouses influenced by the wide dissemination of architectural pattern books brought some sense of high-style design to the Township [Washington], but that influence was minimal here; such houses are usually watered-down versions of similar houses found in the county's more urbanized areas, so that the most important domestic building expression in Washington Township remains the folk tradition of stone houses that originated in the middle of the 18th century and survived hereabouts until the ante-Bellum [sic] period.³

Among the high-style features that distinguish the J. W. Neighbor house are its low hipped roof (likely topped by a square lantern in its original design), triple-hung, six-over-six sash, full-length windows with pedimented lintels and eared architraves on the first floor, and frieze band windows on wide flushboarding on the second floor, suggesting a classical frieze. Classical moldings and door surrounds, mahogany handrail and newel post, marbleized wooden fireplace mantles, and interior window shutters are just some of the house's finer interior details. The J. W. Neighbor house is noted in the county's historic and architectural survey as the "style's most prominent exemplar" in Washington Township and as "surprisingly sophisticated for such a rural location."⁴

Part of the sophistication that characterizes the J. W. Neighbor House is the way in which it exemplifies the romantic ideal of a classical form posed within the landscape. The house is set back from West Mill Road at end of a long grassy lawn. The lawn is ornamented by a collection of mature specimen trees, mostly evergreens, which frame views to the house from the road and the slightly curving gravel drive. This romantic landscape not only highlights the classical architecture of the farmhouse, but also shields its garage and outbuildings (since demolished), which were sited on the far side of the driveway, from public view. The house, whose summer kitchen and service rooms (milk room, cold room, and laundry room) were located in the basement, is devoid of wings and dependencies that are typical of farmhouses. Although not actually a temple in form,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 3J.W. Neighbor House, Washington Township,
Morris County, NJ

the house stands as a single, prominent feature on the landscape, dominating a setting of classical serenity and representative of the romantic landscape ideals of the period.

Although the J. W. Neighbor House shares similarities with other Greek Revival-style dwellings in rural Morris County, its quality of design and workmanship is distinctive within the county. Several other contemporary Morris County farmhouses and village dwellings have similar features, such as a center hall plan, first-story clapboard siding, second-story flushboarding, and frieze band windows. Most of these examples, however, are more vernacular in style, having gabled ends and only a modest degree of Greek Revival-decoration. The two-story, clapboarded, five-bay, center hall Piatt House (NJHSI #1433-020) in Riverdale has a similar six-column porch and second-story, frieze band window treatment, but it has a gabled roof, double-hung windows, and plainer moldings than the J. W. Neighbor House. The Leddell House, on Roxiticus Road outside the Ralston Historic District in Mendham Township, is one of the only other low hipped-roofed, Greek Revival houses in the area. That house, however, is a three-bay, side-hall dwelling with no porch.

The J. W. Neighbor House appears to reflect a finer classical design, the kind illustrated in the architectural pattern books of the period such as those of Benjamin Lafever, a New York City architect and native of nearby Morristown, New Jersey. Late-eighteenth and nineteenth-century carpenters and builders, who had little or no formal architectural training, used pattern books as models for their clients' houses. Although the builder of the J. W. Neighbor house has not been established, it appears that he may have used designs from one of the many popular pattern books or builders' guides of the period. If the J. W. Neighbor house was built from pattern book designs, it indeed would be an exceptionally early example of high style, Greek Revival, pattern book design in rural Morris County.

In summary, the J. W. Neighbor House is significant as an early local example of high-style Greek Revival architecture and romantic landscaping. Its quality of classical interior and exterior design and workmanship set it apart from other contemporary vernacular and Greek Revival-style Morris County farmhouses of the period. Because of the architectural qualities that distinguish the building and its high degree of integrity, the J.W. Neighbor House appears eligible for the National Register.

Footnotes

1. Virginia Allen, "The History of the Stewart Neighbor House and Family". Long Valley, NJ, 1969, 2.

2. Ibid., 2-3.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

J.W. Neighbor House, Washington Township,
Morris County, NJ

3. Acroterion - Historic Preservation Consultants, Inc., "New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory, Morris County Cultural Resources Survey: Washington Township Historic Site Inventory" (Prepared for the Morris County Heritage Commission, 1987), 3.

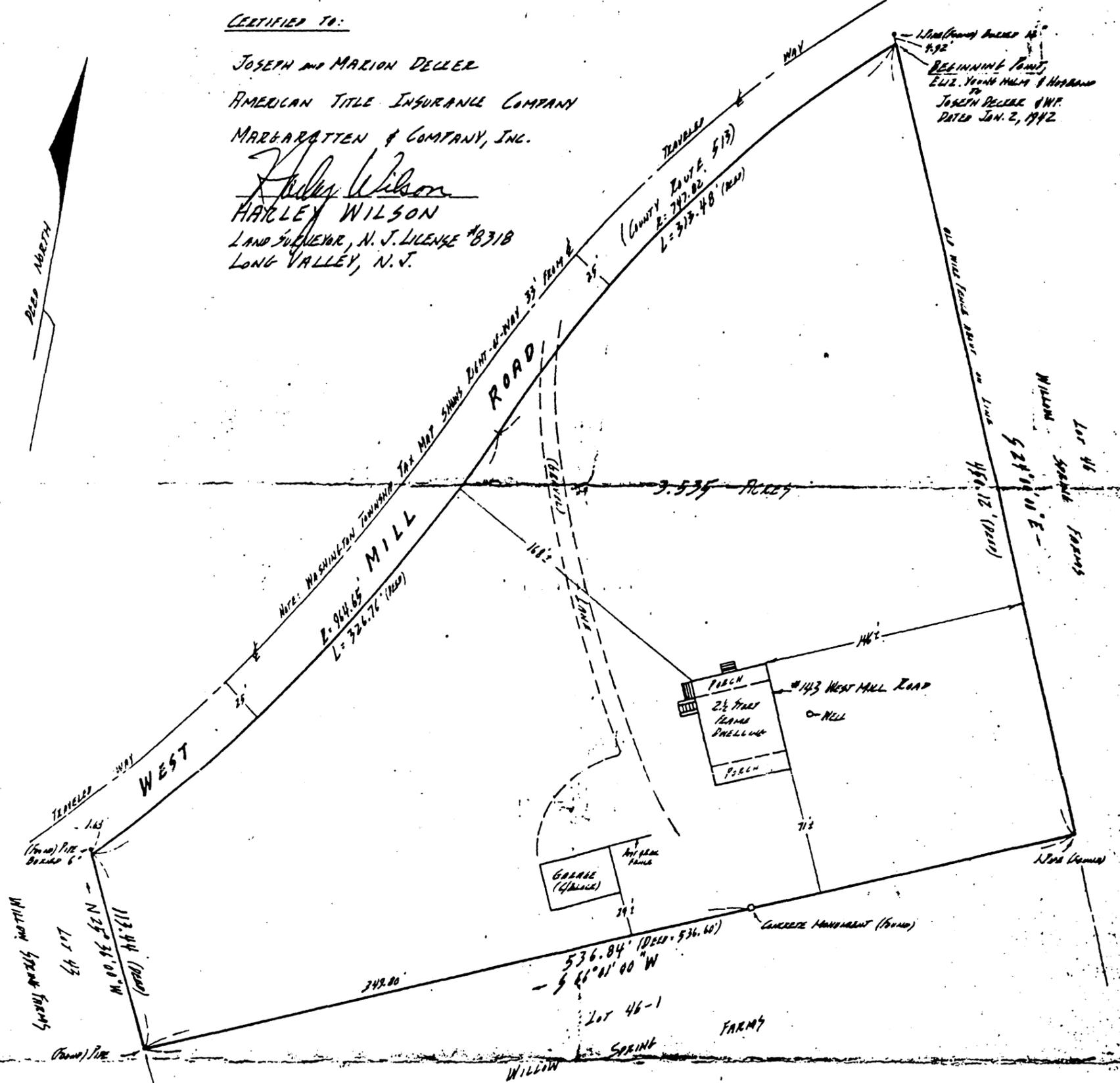
4. Acroterion, 4.

CERTIFIED TO:

JOSEPH and MARION DECKER
AMERICAN TITLE INSURANCE COMPANY
MARGAROTTEN & COMPANY, INC.

Haley Wilson
HAILEY WILSON
LAND SURVEYOR, N. J. LICENSE #8318
LONG VALLEY, N. J.

1. Land (Found) Booked as
4.92'
BEGINNING POINT
ELIZ. YOUNG MILLS & HOBAN
TO
JOSEPH DECKER & WIFE
DATED JAN. 2, 1912



PROPERTY SURVEY

Block 34, Lot 47

LANDS OF

JOSEPH & MARION DECKER

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP, MORRIS COUNTY, N. J.

SCALE: 1" = APPROX 66.36' MAY 10, 1983