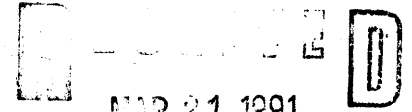


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



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 Fosterfields  
other names/site number The Willows/Joseph W. Revere House

2. Location

street & number Rt. 24 (Mendham Road) and Kahdena Road  not for publication  
city, town Morris Township  vicinity  
state New Jersey code 034 county Morris code 027 zip code 07960

3. Classification

<b>Ownership of Property</b>	<b>Category of Property</b>	<b>Number of Resources within Property</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<b>Contributing</b>	<b>Noncontributing</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	9 <del>10</del>	5 <del>1</del>
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	1 <del>7</del>	1 <del>3</del>
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	7 <del>0</del>	3 <del>0</del>
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	0 <del>17</del>	0 <del>9</del>
		17 <del>9</del>	9 <del>1</del>

Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 5 identified in nomination

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 3/11/91  
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. Patrick Andrews 10/9/91  
 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:)

Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture: agricultural field, storage, outbuildings

Domestic: single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture: museum  
Domestic: single dwelling

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Gothic Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation field stone

walls weatherboard

roof slate

other terra cotta

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Fosterfields, owned and operated as a living historical farm by the Morris County Park Commission, is comprised of 174 acres of fields, pastures, woods, and buildings. The land has been continuously farmed since the 18th century through the first half of the 20th century and many associated farm buildings remain in addition to a farmer's house and a larger Gothic Revival house built in the mid-19th century. A visitor's center, built by the Park Commission in 1978, is situated near the Kahdena Road entrance.

This application is a replacement for the 1973 Nomination to the National Register under the common name "Fosterfields" and the historic name "General Joseph W. Revere House 'The Willows' (Bret Harte Estate)". That nomination listed only 125 acres and applied different criteria for significance from this application.

**The Landscape**

Fosterfields is located in Morris Township, Morris County, NJ, about one mile west of Morristown center. (fig.1) The entire property is over 225 acres of which some fifty acres have been added by the Park Commission since 1979. This nomination only includes the 174 acres historically associated with this farm.

Mendham Road (Rt.24) divides the farm on an east-west axis, with almost forty-three acres on the south side of Mendham Road. (fig.2b) This southern portion, situated on both sides of Picatinny Road, includes lots purchased by the owners from 1881-1979, Charles Foster and his daughter, Caroline. Most of this land rises in a steady grade, part of a ridge that rises to the south. A stream that originates on this hillside flows under Mendham Road and through the farm. Remnants of a stone wall surrounding a reservoir that had provided water ca.1900 remain on the upper portion of the

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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)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

- Agriculture
- Architecture
- Military
- Art
- Literature

Period of Significance  
c. 1854-c.1920

Significant Dates  
1854

Cultural Affiliation  
N/A

Significant Person

Revere, Joseph Warren  
Harte, Bret

Architect/Builder

Wheeler, Gervase

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

Over 174 acres of valuable farm land was given to the Morris County Park Commission in 1979 by Caroline Foster. As early as 1972, Miss Foster deeded over a portion of the land to the Park Commission, retaining life rights to the house and some acreage. In 1973, Fosterfields, including The Willows, some outbuildings, and 125 acres, was put on the National Register of Historic Places. Three years later, Fosterfields became the first living historical farm in New Jersey and goals were set to depict farming as it was performed between 1880 and 1910, the height of productivity at Fosterfields. Since Miss Foster's death in 1979, a program of restoration and interpretation has begun. Programs, demonstrations and tours of the farm and of The Willows allows the public to enjoy this facility from April through October. The interpretation, in part, reflects the three areas of significance that qualify this site for the National Register: Criteria A - historic association with agriculture under Charles Foster's ownership; Criteria C - distinctive Gothic Revival architecture; and Criteria B - association with Joseph Warren Revere, an important military figure, and nineteenth century author Bret Harte.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

- Biographical and Geneological History of Morris County, New Jersey. vol.1, NY:Lewis Publishing Co., 1899.
- Cunningham, John T. Garden State. New Brunswick:Rutgers University Press, 1955.
- Guter, Robert. The Willows at Fosterfields. Historic Structure Report, 1983, on file MCPC.
- Heritage Studies, Inc. Farm Buildings at Fosterfields. Prepared for Short & Ford and MCPC, 1983, on file MCPC.
- Irwin, Leonard and Herbert Ellis. New Jersey The Garden State. NY:Oxford Book Company, 1962.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:  
MCPC -- Fosterfields Visitor's Center

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of property 174 Acres Mendham, NJ Quad

UTM References

A	1,8	5,4,0,9,0,0	4,6,1,6,9,0,5	B	1,8	5,4,2,0,6,5	4,6,1,6,9,0,5
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	1,8	5,4,0,9,0,0	4,5,1,6,6,0,0	D	1,8	5,4,2,0,6,5	4,5,1,6,6,0,0

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes all of the property purchased by Charles Foster and his daughter, Caroline, between the years 1881 to 1927 that have been historically part of Fosterfields and maintain historical integrity. This includes an additional 43 acres of land south of Mendham Rd. not included on the 1973 National Register Nomination.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nancy Strathearn, Curator/Historian  
organization Morris County Park Commission date Aug.16, 1990  
street & number P.O. Box 1295 telephone 201 326-7646  
city or town Morristown state NJ zip code 07962-1295

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Picatinny lot. (fig.3:18) A small fieldstone and brick structure, believed to be a filter for the water piped through Foster's land by the Morris Aqueduct Company in 1900, sits next to the abandoned reservoir. On the west side of Picatinny the flattened ground provided tillable land 100 years ago but has reverted to woodland today. This parcel of land was not included on the 1973 nomination.

The bulk of Fosterfields lies on the north side of Mendham Road between Kahdena Road on the east and Washington Valley Road on the west. (fig.2a) Another ridge lies on the north portion creating a saddle of land between this and the Picatinny ridge. It is here that the main house, farm buildings, cultivated fields, and pastures are situated. The top of this ridge flattens into two large fields. For a brief period in the 1870s, an iron mine operated on this ridge; a depression marks the location, now surrounded by hedges. (fig.4) A triangular-shaped woodlot covers most of the hill that faces the farm. Closer to Mendham Road, young trees and shrubs grow on the land surrounding the stream that runs through the southern portion of the property. A pond lies south of the farm house. The remainder of this land is in fields.

Neighboring lands include the large holdings of the non-profit organization, The Seeing Eye (mostly woods and open space) to the northwest, the Tracey Estate (another park-owned property of fields and a house) to the northeast, privately-owned residential housing to the east with large wooded lots that all but obscure the houses, and on the south side of Mendham Road privately-owned undeveloped wood land. The viewshed from almost any point on the farm is of surrounding woods and wooded hillsides - an amazing feature for a property only one mile from an urban center.

Historically, maps, land sketches, photographs and journal notations show most of the acreage was used as pasture or cultivated, particularly during the 1880-1925 period. The stream that courses through the farm, was noted in an 1851 advertisement in The Jerseyman (Dec.11, 1851, p.2) as "a never failing spring" and was probably the source of drinking water for the farm. The carriage drive that enters the farm from Mendham Road and leads to the main house was originally the 18th-century "Road to Jacob Arnold's," as it was once called, that continued over the hill into Washington Valley to the north. A depression in the earth indicates that portion of the road abandoned over 100 years ago.

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Today the fields are used for pastures and crops. Split rails fence most of the pastures; wire fencing has been used to keep deer out of some crops. The sweeping lawn, stretching from the front of the house down to the orchard, remains the same as 140 years ago. Norway Spruces, planted in the 19th century, still grow on both sides of the main house. Spruce and maple trees line the drive up to the house, many of which were noted in a journal kept from 1882-1925. A stone wall that terminates in a gothic arch over the carriage drive dates from Joseph Revere's ownership between 1852-1881.

The orchard that once grew on the lower portion of the space between the house and farm buildings has been replanted with similar varieties of fruit trees. A vegetable garden is planted next to the orchard. The woods to the north of the main house serve as a functioning wood lot. Only a small portion of acreage has been used for the modern intrusion of a visitor's center and parking lot (a line of spruce trees has been planted that will eventually block sight of this building from the farm) and another parking lot near the farm buildings.

Main Residence - The Willows (contributing building.)  
(fig.3:1)

The Willows sits near the top of a hill that rises to the north affording a vista over much of the farm. Built in 1854 in the Gothic Revival mode, the exterior and most of the interior of the house remain unchanged after almost 140 years.

The 2 1/2 story frame structure is built in a modified Greek Cross plan with an ell attached to the rear. A fieldstone basement supports all the main body excluding porches and the rear ell. Weatherboard, painted grey, with brown trim and dark green shutters protect the house. The main body is built with balloon framing; the rear ell, built over a crawl space, is of post and beam indicating an older structure joined to the house to form a 1 1/2-story service ell for kitchen and maid's room. A one-story room on a foot-high stone foundation is attached at the farthest end of the ell.

The steeply-pitched slate roof creates the most dominant feature of The Willows. Four prominent gables on the main body intersect to form a Greek Cross, modified with an ell on the east side. Of the five chimneys, three have chimney pots.

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The front facade offers the most dramatic presentation: a two-story verandah sheltered by the overhanging roof supported by six chamfered posts that terminate in gothic tracery extending into the apex of the gable. A balcony, cantilevered from the second floor, lies behind the arches. Within the side gables and the gable of the kitchen wing is decorative stick work imitating a king-post truss.

The double-hung sash windows, all capped with label moldings, have varied sized panes. The one dormer window, set in the kitchen ell, has the same stick work within its peak as the gable stick work. Most windows have louvred shutters and wood-framed storm windows. Three false windows, balancing the fenestration, have shutters permanently closed. Bay windows on the west (parlor) and north (library) sides and a second floor oriel window add visual variation to those facades.

The front entrance is a double-leaf oak door with two vertical lights in the upper half. French doors open onto the front verandah from the parlor and dining rooms. A small verandah on the west side has a door opening into the rear hall and a French door opening from the parlor. The rear (north) kitchen door opening into the small adjunct has a ramp for handicap accessibility. A third small verandah in front of the kitchen ell includes a door opening into the back hall opposite the west side door. A coal chute and wooden bulkhead in the rear open into the basement as does another door beneath the dining room on the east side reached by stone steps.

Despite its age, the interior remains almost unspoiled after 140 years. The foyer floor has been laid with Minton geometric tiles in buff, black and red colors. The original pine floors in the rest of the house remain in place with narrow-board oak flooring laid directly over the parlor, dining room, back hall, and the larger second floor bedchambers, bathrooms and back hall - a late 19th-century renovation. Narrow-board yellow pine has been laid over the original kitchen floor.

Eight of the eleven fireplaces throughout the house have decorative wood or marble mantels. The most elaborate is the foyer chimneypiece carved with vines entwined around mythical figures with a pair of gothic-inspired hoods or canopies extending from the corners of the chimney breast. The marble mantel in the parlor has the Revere family crest carved as the keystone of a tudor arch. The wood mantels of the large bedchambers have carved in them the same decorative king post truss as found in the exterior gable work.

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The library has bookcases with lancet-shaped glass doors built into both sides of the fireplace. Gothic inspired features include the walnut wainscotting with arched panels and a wood panel above the fireplace shaped into an ogee arch with a fleur de lis finial.

The second floor has four bedchambers of which two have been restored as bedrooms, one as a ladies sitting room and the last as a staff office not open to the public. The two main chambers within the cross wings of the floor plan have barrel-vaulted ceilings. Two bathrooms and a maid's room over the kitchen wing complete the second floor. A wooden, lead-lined cistern is in the attic directly over the larger bathroom.

The house continues to be heated with hot water radiators installed in the 1890s. Duct work through non-working chimney flues, added in the 1980s restoration, provides humidification to aid climate control. A sprinkler system and infra-red security beams were also added in the 1980s. One room in the basement is dedicated to most of the mechanical systems and one closet on the first floor to alarm systems.

### Tromp L'oeil Paintings

The tromp l'oeil painted walls and ceilings of the foyer and dining room were executed shortly after the house was built. Above the wood wainscotting in the foyer, the plaster walls and ceiling have been painted to look like rectangular-shaped, wood-framed panels with a light blue insert. The shading of each panel gives the illusion of a single light source that adds to the effect of realism. Above the fireplace, two painted lancet-shaped arches appearing to be made of wood contribute to the Gothic-inspired motifs of the architecture. The east wall next to the stairway extends the tromp l'oeil to the second floor.

The dining room walls have been painted with small game and other foodstuffs with some cut-out lithographs attached in places. On the north wall is painted a brace of hares, a stag's head, and a duck. A painted turkey and a basket with vegetables, enhanced with lithographs of a mallard, quail, and a rabbit, adorn the east wall. A draping grape vine artfully connects the objects on these two walls. On the south wall, between two doors, is painted a bracket shelf with loaves of bread; to the right of one of the doors is a fish net with a catch of flounder, trout and salmon. A



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General Revere House (Fosterfields),  
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bull's head, painted on canvas, is attached above the doorway. The east wall includes cans of oysters and lobster meat and a roasted boar's head above the doors to the parlor. Over the fireplace is a large mural of fruit, wine and oysters set within a tudor-shaped arch and topped with the Revere family crest and a banner reading, "Praise God from whom all blessings flow." On both sides of the chimney breast are painted roundels with a lithograph of a kingfisher set within one roundel (the other is missing).

The entire room is painted with wood panels framing each subject. The ceiling is painted to look like diagonally-laid boards that give the illusion of a rise in the center.

Although these walls have survived 150 years without being overpainted, their condition is fragile. A 1990 grant from the state of New Jersey is funding partial conservation of the worst of these areas.

### Ice House (contributing structure) (fig.3:2)

To the rear or north side of The Willows an ice house has been built into the hillside. Its gothic overtones and a Minton tile from the Willows' foyer embedded in its stucco covering strongly suggest the ice house was built with The Willows. It has been fully restored and functions today.

The hexagonal-shaped structure lies below ground for eight feet with approximately two feet above ground before the sharply-peaked roof begins. The concrete walls with a thin stucco veneer are two feet thick. A thick door opens beneath the gable.

The roof is made of sheathing and milled battens to look like the original board and batten treatment as seen in an 1890 photo. A wood pinnacle surmounts the vertex of the six-sided roof. A loading door opens in the rear panel of the roof.

Three stone steps, built into the hillside and framed with boulders banked on both sides, lead to the front door.

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### Wood Shed (contributing structure) (fig.3:3)

To the east of the ice house sits a wood shed probably built as a companion out-building with the ice house. It is built on a field stone foundation into the side of the hill with the long side of the single-gable plan facing the rear of The Willows.

The single gable slate roof has a bell cote with bell on its east end. The board and batten siding, painted in gray with brown trim en suite with the house, sheaths a post and beam frame. A single door opens on the front facade. Photographs show the original plan had two large open bays that were later covered with lattice and eventually sided with board and batten.

The single long room has loft space above accessed by a gable-end hatch door beneath the bell cote. A badly deteriorated exterior wood stairway, built into the side of the gable end was removed a few years ago.

### Garage (noncontributing building ) (fig.3:4)

A single bay garage, seen in photographs, was built to the east of the wood shed around 1930. A later alteration enlarged it to a taller, double-bay structure.

The building is sheathed in German siding. The front (south) gable-end facade has two bays with wood folding doors hung on exterior tracks. A small loft door above the bays sits within the gable. The east side has one 6/6 window, a single door, and a folding door to a rear bay. The rear (north) side has a field stone chimney next to a coal chute, a small loft door and a nine-light window. The west side has two boarded up windows. Asphalt shingles cover the roof.

The concrete foundation sits on a concrete pad for the front two thirds of the interior, with a raised bay in the rear (north). A basement under the rear third is reached by interior stairs. The walls and ceiling have been finished with furring strips and masonite. A storage loft is above.

The garage serves as storage space today. Alterations have so changed this building from the original, it is considered noncontributing.

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### Stone Arch and Wall (contributing structure) (fig.3:7)

Approximately two thirds of the way up the carriage drive from Mendham Road to The Willows is a stone arch connected on its eastern side to a stone wall that runs alongside the drive back down to the farmer's house. The arch, drawn on a map before Charles Foster purchased the property in 1881, was erected by the builder of The Willows, Joseph Revere.

The sharply pointed lancet-shaped arch is constructed of field stones with the oldest mortar remains shaped into a beveled finish. A wrought iron gate hung within the arch replaces the wood gate seen in a 1890 photo. This Gothic stone feature typifies 19th-century, picturesque landscape.

Years of weathering have taken their toll on the stone arch and wall, the worst damage having been done by trees that have uprooted large sections of wall. Restoration of the arch and of the weakest points of the wall is scheduled for 1990.

### Cottage (contributing building) (fig.3:6)

Between 1918 and 1920, Caroline Foster who lived in The Willows with her father, built a cottage of Colonial Revival design for her personal use. Situated further down the hill from The Willows, the house backs up to the woods and affords a view of the barn area. A huge Norway spruce grows just west of the cottage.

The Cape Cod cottage of white clapboard is built upon a small concrete foundation. The roof is covered with asphalt shingle pierced with a brick chimney at the east end. A paneled wood door in the center of the front (south) facade is flanked by 6/6 double hung windows. Pintles indicate shutters once hung on every window. A simple broad stone step leads to the door. Two 6/6 windows on each facade emit light to the non-electrified cottage.

One room comprises the interior plan. A large field stone fireplace with attached wood mantel projects from the center of the east wall. The walls are finished with horizontally-laid yellow pine boards. Six exposed joists with pine boards laid on their top side form a loft floor accessed through a 2'x3' opening. The cottage floor is made of six inch pine boards.

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### Reservoir (contributing structure) (fig.3:5)

To the east of The Willows, a stone and concrete reservoir is built into the highest point of the hill. Measuring nineteen feet in diameter and ten feet deep, the covered pit extends above ground where it has been banked with earth. However, the lowest point of the reservoir where pipes lead to the house is still high enough to have originally gravity fed water into the basement of The Willows where it was then pumped into the attic cistern. Water was pumped up to the reservoir from the barn area by a ram pump installed sometime after The Willows was built in the 1850s. Later, in the 1880s, it was pumped by steam and eventually gasoline engines housed in the barn area. A trap door on the top allows access into the now empty pit.

### The Barn Area

The work center of the farming end of Fosterfields is centrally located and includes a farm house, barn, carriage house, and auxiliary outbuildings. These buildings have been enlarged, renovated, and rebuilt since the first recorded history of this farm began in the 1770s yet their importance to the property remains unquestioned. Indeed, as a functioning farm, it is to be expected that farm buildings will evolve with advances in agriculture and technology, and with new owners.

However, in order to present the farm as closely as it appeared between 1880-1910 (the target period of this living historical farm), the Park Commission has begun a program of restoration of the buildings to that period. The barn was restored similar to its appearance ca.1900 by the architectural firm, Short & Ford, in 1983. Plans are currently underway to restore the carriage house to the same time period. Meanwhile, other buildings are maintained mostly for stabling and storage purposes until funding is available for restoration of appearance and function to the target period. Thus the buildings range in a variety of time frames yet all are integral to the farm both historically and today.

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### Farmer's House (contributing building) (fig.3:8)

Probably the first building on this property was built where the farmer's house is located today. Photographs from the 1890s show a 1 1/2 story, frame, side-entry house with gambrel roof and an attached one story kitchen. Built in the 1770s, it is believed that General Washington's Commander of the Artillery, Henry Knox, may have stayed in this house in 1779. After the larger house, The Willows, was built in 1854, this earlier house became the home of farm tenants and, later, of farm managers. In 1915, this house burned down in an early morning fire and was rebuilt to its current appearance the following year.

The present house was designed by the architectural firm of George A. Mills, located on Pine Street in Morristown (drawings in Morris County Park Commission - MCPC- files). Architectural drawings showing existing sections of old foundation to be kept confirm that the new house was built on the foundation of the original farm house. The design was similar to the first house, a vernacular Colonial, which retained the side entry and gambrel roof. However, the house was enlarged to 2 1/2 stories and incorporated the kitchen within the main body. The foundation for the kitchen of the first house was removed and four piers built to support a rear porch half the size of the early kitchen.

The frame house is sheathed in clapboard painted a tan color with dark brown trim, and has a slate roof. The fieldstone foundation encloses a full basement and includes supports for two interior chimneys on the south side. The front (west) facade faces the drive to the main house that was once the public Road to Jacob Arnold's. A small porch protects the side entry doorway that includes vertical lights on each side of the door. Windows throughout the house are 6/6 double-hung sash.

Both side facades (north and south) are flat walls broken only by windows. The south facade, where the hill side falls away, includes a door into the cellar.

The rear (east) facade has a one story porch across the width of the house supported by brick piers. It is enclosed with tongue and groove siding and sets of paned windows with a central door. A closet at the south end was labeled "refrigerator closet" on the architectural drawings.

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The interior of the first floor includes kitchen, dining room and living room with side hall and stairway. The second floor was built with six bedrooms, no doubt to house the many immigrant workers employed between 1881-1925, but, with later alterations there are now three bedrooms and a bath.

The house is in good condition and provides housing for the farm manager's family.

### Creamery (contributing building) (fig.3:9)

The creamery lies to the south of the farmer's house placing it within proximity of the stream and a small pond. This building is noted on a sketch of farm buildings for insurance purposes drawn ca. 1900 and is described in the inventory as a "frame shingle roof building, including foundations while occupied as a sleeping apartment, milk house and creamery" (MCPC files). The building appears to have changed little since that description.

The single gable frame building, oriented on a north-south axis on a hillside that falls away to the south, has exposed cellar walls with a walk-in door on the west side. The partially-embanked, two-foot thick field stone and brick foundation is targeted. The concrete floor of the cellar slopes along the east wall to allow running water to drain. Caroline Foster recalled spring water running through the cellar, used to keep milk cold when Fosterfields sold milk in addition to breeding Jersey cows, from the 1880s to the 1920s. There is a brick chimney with duct opening on the south wall.

In the upper level, accessed by a door on the north gable end, are three rooms finished with horizontal and vertical boards: bathroom, kitchen, and living/bed room. A side door entering the kitchen on the west facade is reached by a set of wooden stairs built into the side of the creamery. All windows are 6/6 sash. Louvred vents allow air into the attic crawl space reached by a hatch door within the gable of the north end.

Until restored, this building serves as storage space for small equipment.

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### Carriage House (contributing building) (fig.3:10)

The carriage house is next to the east side of the large barn, built into the side of a bank that falls away to the south. Changes in the foundation show that the original building was smaller than the 1890s structure seen in photos and that today's version is different from the late 19th century carriage house.

The fieldstone foundation, up to six feet high, supports the north and west sides. The south and east foundations are partially open with cinder block and field stone infill in places. Ell-shaped, field stone support for a chimney seen in old photographs remains on the south wall. Exposed floor beams are supported with five large wood poles. Part of the floor is poured concrete.

The upper portion of the carriage house is level with the top of the bank. The frame structure is clad in German siding on three sides with an older clapboard siding remaining on the east side facing the barn. The single-gable roof has asphalt shingles. Set on an east-west axis, the sliding doors are on the west end gable; a window above the doors replaces the loft opening seen in the 1890s photos. Two 2/2 windows on the south side replaces three 6/6 windows seen in the early photos.

The interior was finished with tongue and groove paneling on the walls and ceiling ca. 1900. A trap door, large enough to allow passage of carriages, opens into the loft above. The remains of a built-in harness closet and a cast iron sink are situated along the north wall. Half of the floor is of poured concrete with a central drain. An opening for a stove pipe in the north wall indicates the chimney seen on the south wall in the 1890s photos had long been removed. The carriage house is slated for restoration in the near future. It will be restored to its ca. 1900 appearance retaining as much building material from that period as possible.

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### The Barn (contributing building) (fig.3:11)

This is the largest of the barn complex structures. As with the other buildings, it has undergone changes, the latest being a 1983 restoration similar to its 1890s appearance with inclusion of the changes made to the north side in the early 20th century, i.e., a banked entrance to the sliding track door replacing the small wooden steps seen in the 1890s photo and windows on both sides of the door replacing another bay opening to the left of the main door.

The barn is banked along the north wall opening onto the floor of the upper level. The lower level, facing a fenced area for livestock, opens into the stabling and milking area of the barn. The upper barn has vertical board siding over a post and beam frame, with wood shingles on the single-gable roof. A louvred cupola is centered atop the roof. The north facade includes an exterior central sliding doorway to the upper floor flanked with 6/6 double hung sash windows. Window wells allow light passage through two foundation windows of the lower level. The south facade of the upper level also has a sliding door centrally located with two 6/6 windows on both sides.

The south side is two stories high as the bank falls away exposing the stone lower level. The field stone walls reach approximately six feet, topped with another four feet of brick wall, which has been pargeted and scored to resemble ashlar blocks. Six dutch doors, evenly spaced along the foundation wall, have transoms above each door, similar to the 1890s photo. The west wall of the foundation has a dutch door and window; the opening for a beam that once connected with the carriage house has been infilled.

The interior of the upper barn rises to the roof with a room for storage and feed bins built into the southeast corner. The floor is of varied width boards. An interior stairway leads to the lower level stabling area. The stables include four standing stalls and two box stalls on the west side. The east side of the lower level has a concrete floor raised in the center to create an aisle between two side alleys. Five cow stanchions are aligned along one side only. Two cow stalls are built along the north wall. A small door opens into the silage pits built along the east side of the barn.

Silage Pits: Although only the exposed pits remain, three concrete and rubble stone ensilage pits adjoin the barn along



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its eastern foundation wall. The upper frame portion that would include floor joists, floors, and a single story frame structure, all seen in photographs, is missing. The pit area measures 18'x20'x32' divided into three equal pits, was built by the firm Quimby & Babbington in 1883 (Jerseyman Ag.31, 1883:3).

Despite the lack of framed superstructure above these ensilage pits, the remains are important vestiges of the peak years of farming at Fosterfields. Representing a very early example of an important technique of animal feed technology, the remains alone qualify as contributing structures.

### The Granary (contributing building) (fig.3:12)

The granary lies on a north-south axis forming a partial court yard with the barn and carriage house. The single-gable building is aligned with the ensilage pits at a 90 degree angle. Built into a hillside that falls away to the south and west, the building has a stable attached to its south side and a small engine house attached to the lower western side.

The rectangular framed structure has an asphalt-shingled roof and a field stone foundation. The framing is sided with vertical boards painted barn red. A double leaf plank door is centered on the east side with a boarded window to its right, and a single door on the north end with interior steps that lead to the raised floor. Two boarded windows penetrate the west wall. The interior of this upper level is partitioned into storage spaces originally for grain but currently used for equipment.

The lower level, accessed by two doors on the west side, contains two large pits made of two foot thick, pargeted stone walls originally used as ensilage storage (MCPC files - insurance records). These pits, measuring approximately fifteen feet high by ten feet across and fifteen feet deep, descend about four feet below ground and are currently empty.

**Stable:** Attached to the south end of the granary is a one-story barn on level with the lower part of the granary. The north end of this small barn shares the stone wall of the granary and another stone wall on the east side. Above the eastern wall a framed superstructure rises another three feet before the single gable roof begins. The west and south walls are framed with vertical board siding painted barn red.

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The framing is made of posts and beams of older structures, possibly assembled in the early 20th century to replace a barn seen in older photos that was at least twice as long. Three dutch doors on the west side open into sheep pens and a central alley. Two pig pens are placed on the south end, each opening out to a run.

Engine House: Attached to the lower level of the granary on the west side is a small engine house approximately ten feet by ten feet. The sides are eight foot high stone walls with vertical boards above reaching into the gabled roof. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The concrete floor has a pad to support an engine, originally steam and later replaced with gasoline, that was used to turn a drive shaft. A 6/6 window and door face the barn yard on the west side.

Photographs show an earlier engine house made of wood with a tall metal smoke stack situated on the same foundation. The current structure probably replaced the earlier one in the early 20th century.

The engine house is not used today although parts of an old gasoline engine are still stored in it. Steam and gasoline power played an important part in the technological side of Fosterfields thus making this building an important contributing factor.

### Three-Sided Shed (noncontributing structure) (fig.3:13)

A large barn once stood on the foundation of this shed but was razed in the 1960s by Caroline Foster. Another barn, set at a right angle to this structure, was also razed; a gap in the side of the bank offers visible testimony to its former existence. These barns once formed part of a complex just north of the extant barn. Fragments of the former barn's field stone foundation remain on three sides with losses in-filled with cinder block. Severe deterioration has been shored with poured concrete piers and a wood sill.

After razing the original structure, Miss Foster had posts and beams and rough board siding, all probably salvaged from the original barn, reconstructed into a three-sided shed made of three short sides with a single gabled, asphalt-shingled roof (only half length on the open side) covering it. With a dirt floor, the shed is used for farm machinery storage.

This structure is in poor condition and with so little resemblance and fabric of the original barn, it is considered non-contributing.

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### Storage Shed (non-contributing building) (fig. 3:15)

This single-gabled, frame building lies to the east of the barn outbuildings. A tarpaper over lath roof and vertical board siding cover the post and beam frame. A double-leaf folding door opens on the north gable-end side with a small loft door above that. There are no windows.

Although erected in the same location as a shed seen in an 1890s photo, this shed appears to have been built well into the 20th century. Its construction indicates a lack of building skills that has resulted in accelerated deterioration of the structure. Thus, this building is considered noncontributing.

### Two Corn Cribs (noncontributing structures) (fig.3:14)

Two corn cribs, on an east-west axis, face the east facade of the main barn. The single gable cribs are protected with wood shingle roofing. The sides are made of slats backed with screen with a small portion in vertical boards. The sides are narrower at the bottom than the top. There is a small hatch door on the upper portion of the north sides of both cribs. For both, wood plank floors rest on six poured concrete piers raising each crib approximately eighteen inches above ground.

Not seen in the photos from the 1890s, and of no particular design significance, these are not included as contributing structures,

### Chicken Coop (noncontributing building) (fig.3:16)

The chicken coop, based upon a plan from the 1881 publication Barns Sheds and Outbuildings by the New York firm of Orange Judd, was built in 1988 and is therefore considered noncontributing.

The shed-plan building lies on a north-south axis with the broad side facing the barn complex. Built on a poured concrete slab, the frame building has German siding painted barn red. The shed roof is of lathe and wood shingles. A plank door on the southern end has a 6/6 sash window to its right. The west facade has four large windows with wire mesh screens. The interior is partitioned with chicken roosts and nests on one side and feed bins on the other.

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### Visitor's Center (noncontributing building) (fig.3:17)

Located near Kahdena Road on the eastern edge of Fosterfields is the Visitor's Center, built in 1978. It is situated at a distance from the barn area, screened with a double row of young spruces, to be as unobtrusive as possible with the rest of the site.

The building is built into the side of a hill with two levels. The upper level is clad in brown-stained board and batten and the lower is of poured concrete. The contemporary design includes sharply-angled walls and steeply-pitched roofs with single-paned sash windows.

The upper level contains office space, lobby, rest rooms, storage space, exhibit area, and an auditorium. The lower level has additional office space, storage, a class room, and a garage/workshop.

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## Picatinny Road Reservoir (noncontributing site)

When Charles Foster bought the tract on the southern side of Washington Turnpike along Picatinny Road in 1887, a reservoir sat in the southern portion of the lot directly below the larger reservoir owned by the Morris Aqueduct Co. on the adjoining land. Robinson's Atlas of 1887 shows a round-shaped body of water with an irregular shore line on Foster's newly-acquired lot.

In 1897, the Morris Aqueduct Company obtained permission from Foster to run a cast iron pipe through his Picatinny Road lot, said line being seen on the 1910 Mueller Atlas, Plate 21. This Atlas drawing also indicates an improvement to Foster's small reservoir: a stone wall supporting a berm on three sides (east, north and west) as the hill sloped downward was built to enlarge the reservoir. The Atlas also shows the Aqueduct Company's pipe line exiting from Foster's reservoir (presumably they had that right since Foster's reservoir was fed entirely from the Aqueduct Company's reservoir on the hillside above), into a brick structure that contained shut-off valves, and continuing through Foster's property to Washington Road where it turns eastward (see fig. 2b).

Today the only remnants of this reservoir are parts of the stone wall and the berm measuring approximately 135' of stone wall across the north end, and the berm (partially supported with stone wall) measuring 200' along the west side. The entire reservoir has been filled with dirt and a 22' deep abandoned manhole (that apparently had a shut-off valve for pipes from the reservoir above according to the Municipal Utilities Authority or MUA), sits in the middle of the dirt mound. These pipes are now abandoned and the MUA (successor to the Aqueduct Company) sold off their land to a developer over ten years ago.

Because the site of Foster's reservoir is filled with dirt and a run-off stream from the upper reservoir bypasses alongside the west side, this former reservoir site is considered noncontributing.

## Picatinny Road Brick Structure (noncontributing)

Directly below and north of the Foster reservoir site, sits a brick structure (see fig. 2b). Described in the original nomination application as possibly a filter for the water the Morris Aqueduct Company piped through this structure, further investigation indicates this may also have been where turn-off valves were located for the Aqueduct Company's pipe line.

The structure measures 16' x 10' and rises 10' above ground. A stone

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foundation, in places 50" tall, supports the brick walls that measure 17" wide. The top side is open although old wood beams lying inside indicate there may have been some kind of roof. Also amongst the debris inside is a T-handled turn-off rod. There are no accessible openings from the ground into this structure. Three sections of pipe emerge from the lower side of the east wall. A 13" interior brick wall, slightly off center and running east to west, divides the structure into two sections leading to the conjecture of a filtering system that would have also used charcoal to operate in a fashion similar to the interior walls of cisterns. At least a foot of muck in the bottom and no way to climb down into the structure prevents further investigation. This structure must have been abandoned when the manhole was dug into the dirt-filled Foster reservoir which, in turn, was abandoned when the MUA ran a new pipe line to the east of both reservoirs.

This brick structure has been slowly deteriorating for a number of decades. Without the accompanying reservoir its significance is greatly minimized thus it is considered noncontributing.

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## CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS

Main Residence  
Cottage  
Farmer's house  
Creamery  
Carriage house  
Barn  
Granary  
Stable  
Engine house

## CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES

Ice house  
Wood shed  
Stone arch & wall  
Reservoir  
Silage pits (3)

## CONTRIBUTING SITE

Landscape

## NON-CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS

3-sided shed  
Chicken coop  
Visitor's center  
Garage  
Storage shed

## NON-CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES

Corn cribs (2)  
Picatinny Road Brick Structure

## NON-CONTRIBUTING SITE

Picatinny Road Reservoir

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### Criteria A - Historical Association with Agriculture

When Charles Foster bought the Revere farm in 1881, the original 200-acre farmstead, then over 150 years old, had been reduced in size to eighty-eight acres and many of the farm buildings badly dilapidated after years of tenant farming. Foster initiated a program of improvement immediately increasing the acreage to over 130 acres within the first year. He named the property Fosterfields and within a few years had restored the farm buildings and bought the first of his purebred Jerseys from the Isle of Jersey, England, which he used as breeding stock for his emerging dairy-cow business (Foster ledger and newspaper articles attest to these improvements.)

Charles Grant Foster, from a prominent Hartford family, remained a partner in the commodities brokerage firm of Ward & Foster in New York City until his retirement around 1900. As one of a family of nine brothers and sisters, he shared his interest in breeding cows with at least two other brothers, one of whom immigrated to Australia to raise cattle. Bill Thompson, Foster's brother in law, managed the farm and the steady change of immigrant workers hired from Ellis Island through an agency (correspondence MCPC files). Foster remained actively involved with his farm, however, recording the planting, cultivation, and harvesting of the feed crops for his cows, and the birth and sale of calves (Foster Journal and notes, MCPC files).

Of particular note, for the first twenty or so years, Foster employed a few innovative methods of farming that placed him among those farmers willing to experiment and evaluate new techniques. For instance, as early as 1883, The Jerseyman reported Charles Foster completed construction of silage pits by the firm Quimby & Babbington (The Jerseyman, Ag.31, 1883:3). This method of storing fodder in airtight compartments had been proposed in publications but would not be accepted by New Jersey farmers for another twenty years. Yet Foster's success is seen in his many Journal entries referring to fodder storage. Charles Foster also used his own steam power and elaborate system of drive shaft and belts to cut and store fodder when most farmers still relied upon horsepower. And the extensive water system, initially powered before Foster's tenure with a ram pump, appears to have been extended under Foster's hand, to supply water for a reservoir near the main house and for the creamery next to the farm buildings.



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Charles Foster's Jersey cow business was in select company in New Jersey. After the Civil War, the dairy industry came into its own when refrigerated railroad cars enabled rapid transportation of milk to population centers. Between 1875 - 1900, the dairy industry gained tremendous strides after the development of the cream separator and suitable glass bottles. Farmers built their own creameries to produce ice cream and butter in large quantities (Irwin & Ellis, 1962). In New Jersey, the northwestern section of the state excelled in dairying. The demand for better breeds of dairy cows grew, backed by wealthy fanciers and prosperous farmers who imported the best producers.

Although modest in his life style, Charles Foster had ample means to personally select and import top Jerseys from the Isle of Jersey, England, and to become a member of the distinguished Jersey Cattle Breeders Club organized in 1879. At his peak, he had as many as 125 head of Jerseys, most of which were sold as calves. Foster joined the ranks of such notable New Jersey dairy breeders as H. McKay Twombly of Florham Park, Ephraim T. Gill of Haddenfield, Dr. James Russel of Lawrenceville, Warren Kinney of New Vernon, and Peter H.B. Frelinghuysen of Morris Township - all producers of prize-winning cows. Purebred dairy cow production was a rich man's pastime yet it is what made New Jersey's dairy industry so successful (Cunningham, 1955).

With the establishment of New Jersey's Experiment Station in 1880, Rutgers scientists turned their attention to New Jersey dairying. In their effort to improve breeds, they became the nation's acknowledged authority on forage crops. Between 1880 and 1890, Rutgers proved the importance of corn ensilage hastening the adoption of the vitally important silo in the nation's dairy districts (Pierce & Tressler, 1964). Not until after 1900 with the development of the upright silo, was the practice fully appreciated. Foster's silage pits, built in 1883, were decidedly advanced. Rutgers also progressed in controlling diseases spread by bacteria in milk. Their drive for tuberculin testing, resisted by many farmers because it meant eradication of infected cows, was practised by Foster who had his herd tested at least as early as 1899, a year before the first ordinance was passed in New Jersey (Jerseyman, May 26, 1899).

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Charles Foster used every acre of his land to successfully raise his Jersey cows. In 1887, he purchased another thirty-six+ acres on the south side of Mendham Road. Part of the land was cultivated but its real value was the additional supply of water from a reservoir built there plus protection of his own supply of water from the stream that originated on this land. Fosterfields was increased to 167 acres, all critical to the successful operation of his farm. Further justification for inclusion of these almost fifty acres, omitted in the 1973 National Register form, is given as figures 7a, b, and c.

After Charles Foster's death in 1927, Caroline Foster, his daughter, bought an additional parcel of over six acres, noted as the Luther Kountze 6.34A plot on fig. 2b, and continued to farm on a reduced scale. Maintaining a strong desire to preserve the farm, Miss Foster eventually left the entire estate of more than 174 acres to the Morris County Park Commission upon her death in 1979 with instructions to preserve the property and buildings as a farm. As Morris County, and Morris Township in particular, continue to loose open space to development, the significance of Fosterfields as a farm becomes a vital reminder of the once important agricultural heritage of the area.

## Criteria C - Architectural Significance

In addition to its agricultural association, Fosterfields is significant for the architecture of The Willows. Built in 1854 by Joseph Warren Revere, the Gothic Revival house is closely based upon a design by Gervase Wheeler in his book Rural Homes (1851).

Gervase Wheeler came to America from England in the mid 1840s and stayed some twenty years. His commissions were not numerous but he was acquainted with two of America's leading proponents of romantic architecture, A.J. Downing and Richard Upjohn. Wheeler practised in the northeast and known examples of his work can still be seen in the Boody House, now the residence of the President of Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine, and the Patrick Barry House in Rochester, NY, part of the University of Rochester. He was, however, better known for his essays in The Horticulturist and as author of two books, Rural Homes and Homes for the People (1855). Claiming to have been influenced by Augustus Pugin's ecclesiastical architecture and John Ruskin's truth in architecture, Wheeler designed homes in the romantic eclecticism of mid-19th century America, mainly in Gothic and Italianate modes. The Willows is a close adaptation of a house Wheeler designed for Henry Olmstead in East Hartford, CT in 1849 (Tribert, 1988).

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The Willows exhibits many of the characteristics of the picturesque Gothic Revival. Its steeply-pitched roofs, dominant central gable, and spacious verandahs, hallmarks of the country cottage, was further embellished with medieval-looking chimney pots, label moldings, and interior use of Gothic motifs. Distinguishing this house from the ordinary, however, are the arched columns adorning the three verandahs and the decorative gable work within the side gables that mimic a king-post truss -forerunner to what Vincent Sculley terms "Stick Style" architecture.

The interior retains the tromp l'oeil painted walls of the foyer and ceiling exhibiting the tastes and fashions of 19th-century America. Geometric Minton tiles, an early example in a rural American home, are still in the foyer floor. The barrel-vaulted ceilings in two second-floor bedchambers further enriches the upward effect of the Gothic mode.

The pastoral, broad-sweeping lawn coupled with the rusticity of the woods as a backdrop presents an ideal picture of the romantic nature of mid-19th century America as espoused by the leading tastemaker of the day, Andrew Jackson Downing. The Willows brought an 18th-century farmstead into the 19th century with startling exuberance.

Restoration of The Willows to its appearance ca. 1900, target period of the living historical farm, required relatively little change. The house had remained remarkably unscathed in almost 150 years making the adaptation as a house museum uncomplicated. The significance of The Willows as a testimony to Gothic architecture is a major factor in the interpretation of Fosterfields.

### Criteria B - Significant Person, Military

The third area of significance for Fosterfields is its association with Joseph Warren Revere, a grandson of Paul Revere and an important military figure in his own right. Joseph Revere, born in 1812, began his naval career at age sixteen after two years of training. A three year Pacific cruise, a year of pirate hunting in the Caribbean, service on the African coast and Mediterranean and a trip to Russia preceded his cruise to China and promotion to lieutenant in 1841. From 1845 to 1850, he was assigned to the California coast, in command of the landing party that raised the

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American flag at Sonoma in 1846. He served as agent for naval timber in the midst of the gold rush. After resigning from the navy in 1850, Revere accepted an offer to organize the artillery of the Mexican army, forming a close friendship with the President of Mexico. In 1852, he left California, rejoined his wife and settled in Morristown.

Revere bought the old Ogden farm and within two years had The Willows built, a home far more suitable for this dashing figure than the 18th-century farm house. With the outbreak of the Civil War, Revere entered the army on August 31, 1861 as colonel of the 7th New Jersey Volunteers. After the Peninsula Campaign and at Seven Pines and Antietam, he was made brigadier general and led the 2nd Brigade, 2nd Division, III Corps, at Fredericksburg, and the Excelsior Brigade at Chancellorsville. It was at Chancellorsville, on May 3, 1863, after severe fighting leaving his forces short of ammunition, that he moved them without orders three miles to the rear. For that action he was sharply censured and relieved of his command. Revere was court martialed and dismissed. He returned to Morristown where he vigorously fought to have his name cleared. On September 10, 1864, President Lincoln revoked the dismissal and allowed Revere to resign as Brevet Major General (MCPC files ). Revere wrote two books, A Tour of Duty in California (1849), which became a handbook for settlers, and Keel and Saddle: a Retrospective of Forty Years of Military and Naval Service (1872).

Joseph W. Revere's military career spanned a broad sweep of 19th-century world events that effected the course of history - diplomatic relations, piracy, slave trading, exploration, and the Mexican War - and culminated in action in some of the major battles of our country's Civil War. He participated in a time in world history when the United States slowly emerged as an independent country, full of promise and untapped resources, and just beginning to realize our strengths. Revere may not be as famous as his grandfather but his military career was equally as significant in shaping the course of United States history.

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### Criteria C: Art

The walls and ceilings of the foyer and dining room of The Willows have been painted in tromp l'oeil panels and murals. Analysis by Winterthur paintings conservator, Richard Wolbers, reveals at least two people painted these rooms. The foyer exhibits a good example of the deceptive dimensional effect of tromp l'oeil (fool the eye) painting with the use of shadowing to represent a supposed light source. Painted to look like architectural features, this practise was undoubtedly meant to impress the beholder. A somewhat common theme for entry halls was painting ashlar blocks on the walls. In Morristown, this was done at Acorn Hall (1853) and Stephen Vail's house (1840s). Another house at 83 South Street has painted paneled wainscoting in the entry hall. The Willows, with its showy wall and ceiling treatment reflects the personality of its flashy owner, Joseph Warren Revere.

The most impressive room, however, is the dining room. All four wall are painted with dead game, loaves of bread, canned food, and a still life of fruits and wine. The initials "JWR" on the still life mural identify the artist as Joseph Warren Revere whose talent is also seen in the illustrations for his book A Tour of Duty. Additionally, cut outs of colored lithographs of animals have been skillfully attached in places so as to appear as part of the paintings. An extra touch of deception is the use of real picture hooks in some walls from which a rope to hold suspended animals has been painted, confusing the viewer as to what is real and what is painted.

By the second quarter of the 19th century, the dining room had become an integral space in domestic architecture. Considered both a public and private family space, the grand opulence of parlors was not appropriate in the dining room and furnishings were generally restrained in character. Artistic decoration of the dining room was encouraged, but with restrictions. Prints and paintings revolved around themes of food and drink, fruit, flowers, and game, although some 19th-century writers found visions of dead game depressing and inappropriate. L. Prang & Co., a Boston fine-art publisher, sold "Dining-Room Pictures" in their 1883-1884 catalogue. The list included a set of four fruit prints, a pair of fish pictures, Our Kitchen Bouquet, Dead Game, dessert pictures, game pieces, and a pair of still lifes that depicted lobster, eggs, celery, trout, grouse, and tomatos. (Williams, 1985)

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Revere's distinctive expression of dining room art, painted in full scale and covering all four walls, is an outstanding example of mid-19th century taste and culture. Described by Othmar Carli, expert paintings conservator, these walls are a rare example of honest amateur art without the pretentious effort of high-style, gilded painting found in the homes of the very wealthy. The walls of the foyer and dining room represent a significant piece of American art form from the 19th century.

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## Criteria B - Significant Person, Literature

(The following was taken verbatim from the 1973 National Register nomination for Fosterfields. It is possible that additional research could shed new light on the relationship between Bret Harte and his home at Fosterfields.)

The short stories and poetry of Bret Harte represent a milestone in the development of local color literature in the United States. He was followed by an entire school of local colorists, few of whom could match the clear, exciting descriptions found in "The Luck of Roaring Camp", or the wide appeal of "Plain Language of Truthful James." His literary moment was fleeting, but at his best Harte illuminated one aspect of American literature as had no other before him.

He is aptly described by one of his biographers as an "argonaut and exile." For most of his life in America, Harte lived with relatives or in a succession of boardinghouses, hotels, and rented dwellings. All but a handful of these have been either destroyed or greatly altered, and of those remaining, "The Willows" is the most interesting and intact residence associated with his career. From 1873 to 1876, he and his family occupied four different houses in Morristown, New Jersey. Harte was away lecturing much of the time. He lived at the Revere House, renting from the retired General, in 1874-5 and perhaps for a longer period. Though Harte called Morristown a "bigoted, self-righteous, hypocritical place," he found its environment superior to that of New York boardinghouses.

Born Francis Bret Harte in Albany, New York in 1836, he moved to California at age eighteen after a childhood of wandering. By 1871 he had written several popular short stories concerning the wilderness in which he worked and soon decided to come back East to write.

But after leaving the West, Harte could not maintain his former excellence and flair for "local color" and was forced into second rate mimicry of his earlier achievements.

Hartes' works include: The Lost Galleon and Other Tales (1867), "The Luck of Roaring Camp" (1868), "The Outcasts of

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Poker Flat" (1869), Gabriel Conroy (1876). Bret Harte was also the editor of Overland Monthly, and a writer for Atlantic Monthly. A play, Ah, Sin, on which he collaborated with Mark Twain in 1877 was a dismal failure.

Harte died in 1902, living in England; a country in which his popularity had not waned.



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----- The Jerseyman, various issues from 1881 - 1916.

Malone, Dumas, ed. Dictionary of American Biography. vol.111, Platt - Steward,  
NY:Charles Scribner's Sons, 1935.

Morris County Park Commission (MCPC) files to include:

Charles G. Foster "Journal"  
Charles G. Foster ledgers  
Charles G. Foster notes  
Oral histories

Pierce, John and Arthur Tressler. The Research State: A History of Science  
in New Jersey. Princeton:D.VanNostrand Company, Inc., 1964.

Tribert, Renee. Gervase Wheeler: Mid-Nineteenth Century British Architect  
in America. Unpublished Master's Theses, Univ. of Penn., 1985.

Whiffen, Marcus. American Architecture Since 1780. Cambridge:The M.I.T. Press,  
1985.

Williams, Susan. Savory Suppers & Fashionable Feasts. NY:Pantheon Books, 1985.

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Starting at the south side of Mendham Road, southeast of the intersection with Kahdena Road, at the stump of an old chestnut tree, proceed N14°E for 739.2' to a stone heap, then N74°30'W for 723.36' to the center line of Kahdena Road, then N22°W for 702.24', then N71°35'W for 702.9', then S22°50'W for 541.86' to an iron pipe, then 71°30'W for 1431.54' to a monument, then S20°5'W for 1521.96', then S89°40'E for 597.3', then S15°W for 712.83', then S5°W for 405.0' to the south side of Mendham Road, then S58°E for 312.18' to a stone heap in Old Mendham Road, then S38°40'W for 198.0' to a stone heap, then S84°54'W for 635.58' to a stone heap in Picatinny Road, then S0°45'E for 563.64', then S32°W for 667.92', then S69°E for 337.92', then N86°15'E for 348.48', then N12°45'E for 541.2', then N31°E for 528.0', then N20°01'E for 1267.78', then S69°07'E for 448.06', then N19°46'E for 750.36' to the south side of Mendham Road, then S77°45'E for 1313.4', and then S53°E for 358.38' to starting point.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetGeneral Revere House (Fosterfields),  
Morris Township, Morris County, NJSection number 10 Page 2HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE "JONES WOODS" A.K.A.  
"PICATINNY ROAD LOT" AS PART OF FOSTERFIELDS

The land comprising Fosterfields has been continuously farmed from at least the 1700s to the present. Parts of the acreage have changed owners several times over the last 200 years but today's configuration of farm buildings, fields, and wood lots (all integral to the farmscape) were compiled under the ownership of Charles Foster and his daughter Caroline. However, the boundary lines, as delineated in the 1973 listing of this property on the National Register of Historic Places, encompassed only 125 acres of land failing to include the parcel of land south of Mendham Road (formerly Washington Turnpike) also known as Jones Woods or, as Charles Foster called it, the Picatinny Road lot. This additional land of 42+ acres was purchased in two lots by the Fosters; Charles Foster bought 36+ acres in 1887 and in 1927 Caroline Foster bought a small adjoining parcel of 6+ acres (noted as the Luther Kountze lot on the enclosed 1911 atlas). The boundaries of the National Register listing should be extended to include all of Fosterfields as it was historically compiled by the Fosters.

The significance of Fosterfields, according to the National Register criteria, includes three categories: Criteria A (historical association - in this case with agriculture in Morris County); Criteria B (association with an important person - in this case with Jos. W. Revere, an important military figure); and Criteria C (embodiment of a distinctive period of construction - in this case with Gothic Revival architecture). The extension of the boundary lines for the National Register nomination to incorporate the land along Picatinny Road is significant under Criteria A because of its agricultural association with Charles Foster.

Charles Foster bought the Revere farm of 88 acres in 1881. With the purchase of neighboring farm lands, Foster expanded his acreage with another 28+ acres to the west (part of the Jones farm) and 15+ acres (the Gribbin farm) on his eastern boundary. In 1887, Foster purchased the rest of the Jones farm located on the southern side of Washington Turnpike (Mendham Road) for an approximate total acreage to Fosterfields of 167 acres.

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The land was used mainly to support a herd of Jersey cows which at times numbered as much as 125 head. Indeed, the land itself was insufficient to pasture all the cows which were, instead, herded to fields on neighboring farms. For the most part, Foster's acreage was planted with fodder corn, wheat, rye, and hay grasses to feed the cows. A daily journal kept by Charles Foster from 1881-1922 records the planting and harvesting of these and other crops at Fosterfields. An entry on June 2, 1888, "Planted right hand Corn hill across road," marks the first mention of his farming activities on the south side of Washington Turnpike, nine months after buying that land. For the next 30 years, the Picatinny Road lot was cultivated for a variety of crops including fodder corn, potatoes, rye, hay, and clover. In addition to crops, Charles Foster's concern for his land included judicial plantings of a variety of trees. On Picatinny Road he wrote in 1891, "set out maples across Road on Hill lot," and again on Nov. 23, 1901, "Set out maples other side of Road in place of those died or played out..." and again in 1908, "CGF & Joe Smith set 4 maples other side mend [Mendham] Road one below 3 above pic [Picatinny] Road."

Charles Foster maintained his partnership in a commodities warehouse firm in New York City while actively pursuing his interest in farming. The dairy industry was serious business in Morris County at the turn-of-the-century; in Morris Township alone Foster was in elite company with Hamilton Twombly's Florham Farms, George G. Frelinghuysen's Whippany Farm, and Peter B. Frelinghuysen's Twin Oaks. But more than a gentlemanly pursuit, Charles Foster practised progressive methods of farming he read about in the American Agriculturist or in the US Department of Agriculture Yearbook (for the years 1894-1925) or in his many volumes on dairy cows and horse care he kept in his library.

New Jersey had been in the forefront of "experimental farming" throughout the 19th century advising record keeping of planting methods and its results to determine optimum yields. Foster's journal indicates his own participation in such experiments at Fosterfields. References to the Picatinny Road lot show that even that parcel of land was integral to his experimental farming.

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June 27, 1907: "Put Fertilizer on Fodder Corn By  
Burnham's Woods" [land adjacent  
to Picatinny lot]

June 29, 1907: "Picty corner upper half our bu seed  
lower half Butler Early"

April 9, 1908: "Finished Sowing peas Picty corner which  
were mostly sowed 7th Sowed by hand  
1 1/2 Bu per acre"

April 10, 1908: "Sowed oats about 2 Bu pr acre 10 q  
Grass Seed 1/4 Red Top + 6 quarts  
clover picattinny [sic] corner peas  
already sowed there and 200 lbs  
fertilizer pr acre."

In 1897, Charles Foster sold an easement to the Morris Aqueduct Company through his Picatinny Road property. The deed stated the Morris Aqueduct Company could lay a cast iron pipe line through Foster's property and to maintain it. The only stipulation was to not interfere with Foster's own reservoir which he built for purposes of ice harvesting. Foster's journal notes the yearly harvest of ice from this reservoir.

Thus, the historical significance of the Picatinny Road lot (a.k.a. "Jones farm," "Jones Woods") owned by Charles Foster as part of his farm, Fosterfields, is undeniably bound to the entire farm property. Crop cultivation and harvesting, ice harvesting, and tree planting were all conducted on this land during Charles Foster's tenure. Caroline Foster did not keep a journal of her farm activities although during her subsequent ownership she purchased an adjoining lot in 1927 demonstrating a desire to preserve and protect that piece of Fosterfields. The Park Commission's efforts to protect this land follows that same tradition.

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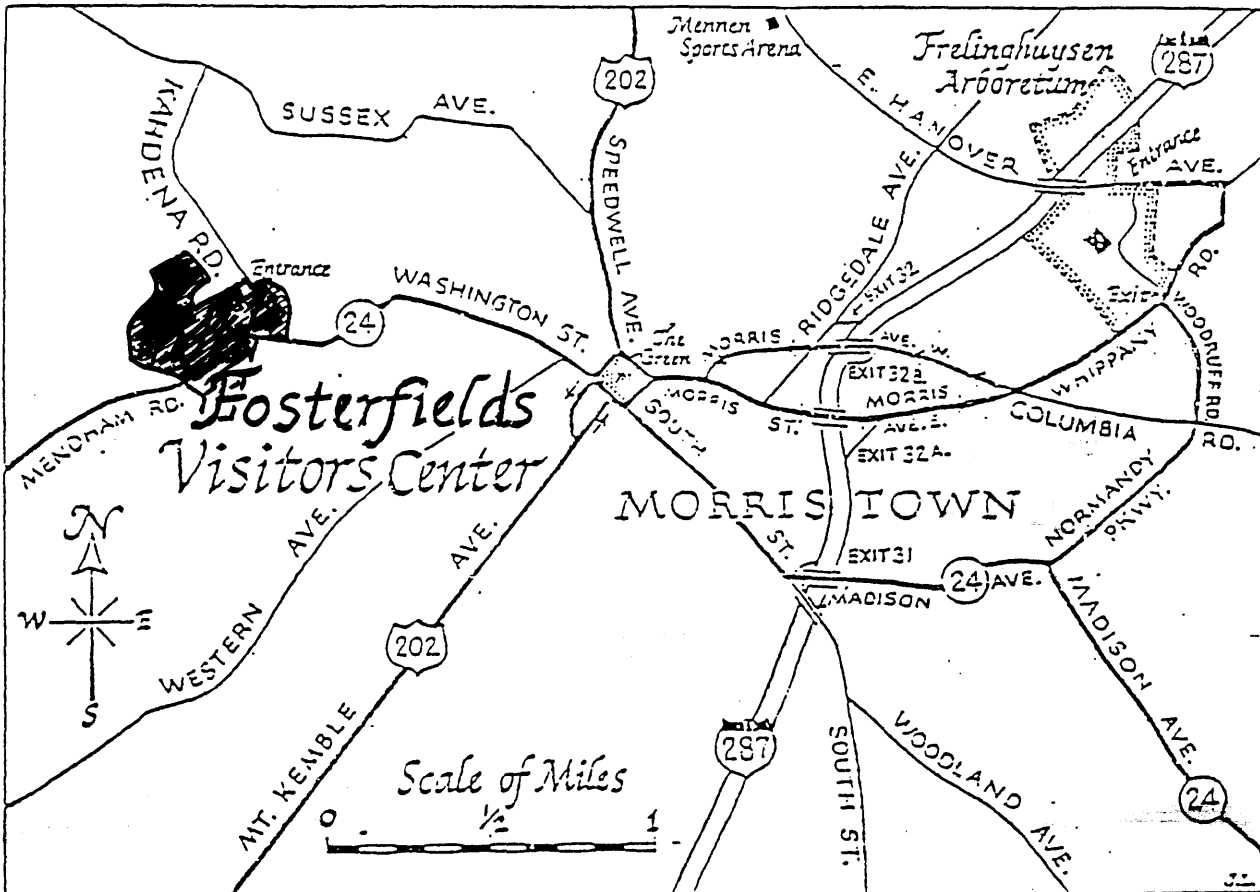
All photographs are of:

- 1) Fosterfields (General Revere House)
- 2) Morris Township, NJ (Morris County)
- 3) Photographer: Nancy Strathearn
- 4) August 1990
- 5) Negative kept at Morris County Park Commission

Identification of photos keyed to fig.3 except for #s 23-28:

- #1 The Willows looking NW
- #1a The Willows looking W
- #1b The Willows looking NE
- #2 Ice House looking N
- #3 Wood Shed looking NE
- #4 Garage looking N
- #6 Miss Foster's Cottage looking NE
- #7 Stone Arch looking S
- #8 Farmer's House looking E
- #9 Creamery looking SE
- #10 Carriage House looking NE
- #11 Barn looking NE
- #11a Ensilage Pits looking S
- #12 Granary looking E
- #12a Granary looking SW
- #13 Three-Sided Shed looking NE
- #15 Shed looking SE
- #17 Visitor's Center looking E
- #19 Vegetable Garden looking NW
- #20 Stream as it passes under Carriage Drive looking E
- #21 Carriage Drive looking N (Road to Jacob Arnold's)
- #22 Field upper ridge behind The Willows looking NE
- #23 Foyer of The Willows: Tromp L'oeil walls and ceiling looking NW
- #24 Foyer of The Willows: Tromp L'oeil arches over fireplace looking N
- #25 Dining Room looking N
- #26 Dining Room looking E
- #27 Dining Room looking S
- #28 Dining Room looking W

DIRECTIONS AND MAP TO FOSTERFIELDS, KAHDNA ROAD, MORRISTOWN, N.J.

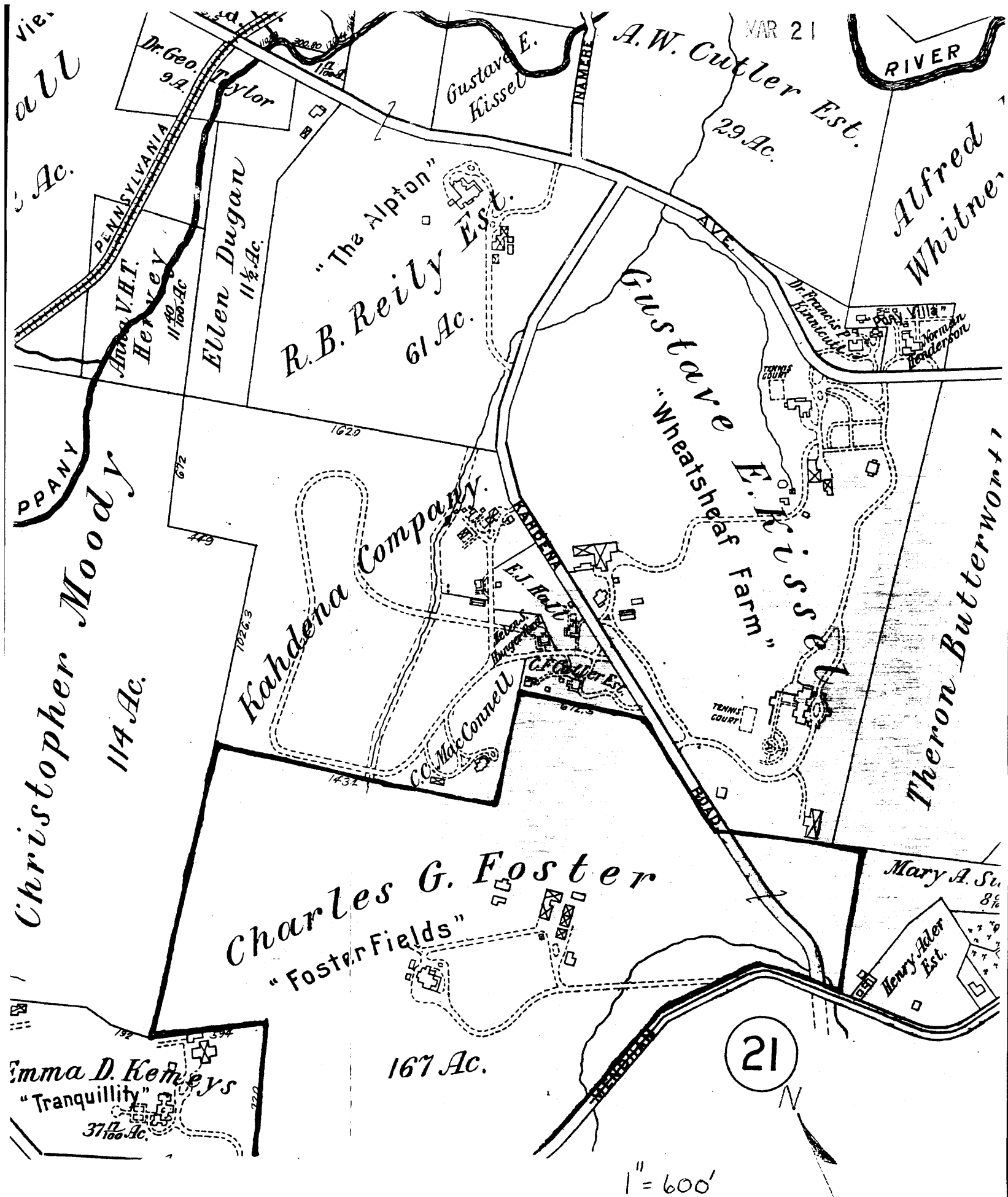


Traveling NORTH on Route 287 take the Madison Avenue Exit 31 and turn LEFT onto South Street and proceed into the center of Morristown. You will be on Route 24W. The Route will take you around the the Town Green (see map). Continue on Route 24W until you come to Kahdena Road about 1 mile from the center of town. Turn right onto Kahdena Road. You will see the Fosterfields sign on the corner. The entrance is about 1/4 mile from the beginning of the road. The class will take place in the Visitors Information Center.

Traveling SOUTH on Route 287, take the Madison Avenue Exit 31 and bear Right onto Route 24W (South Street) than follow the directions above.

Figure 1 Directional Map

General Revere House (Fosterfields)  
Morris Township, Morris County, NJ



General Revere House (Fosterfields), Morris Township,  
 Morris County, New Jersey  
 Figure 2a: Mueller, A.H. Atlas of Part of Morris Co, NJ 1910  
 Plate 20 "Fosterfields"



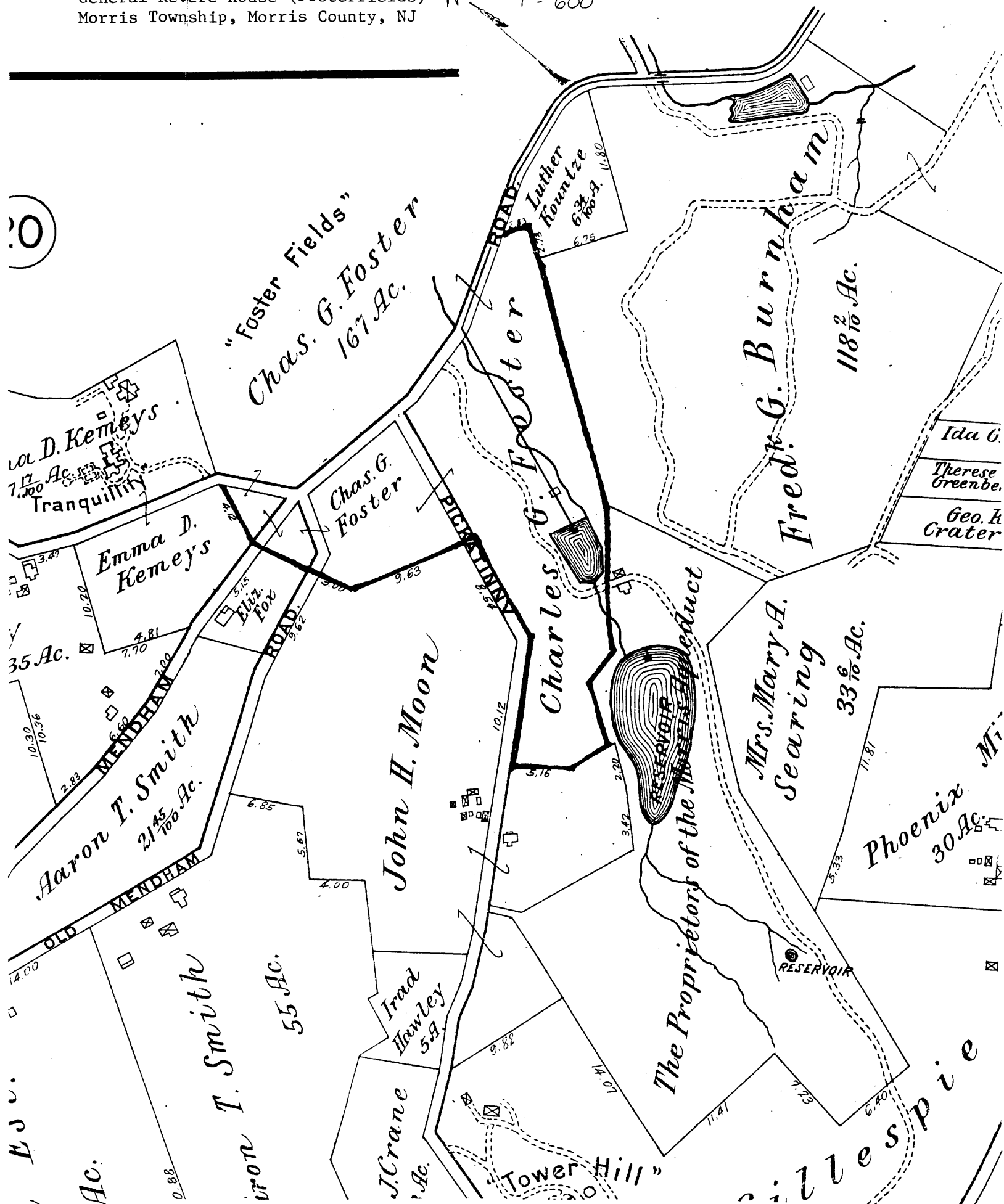
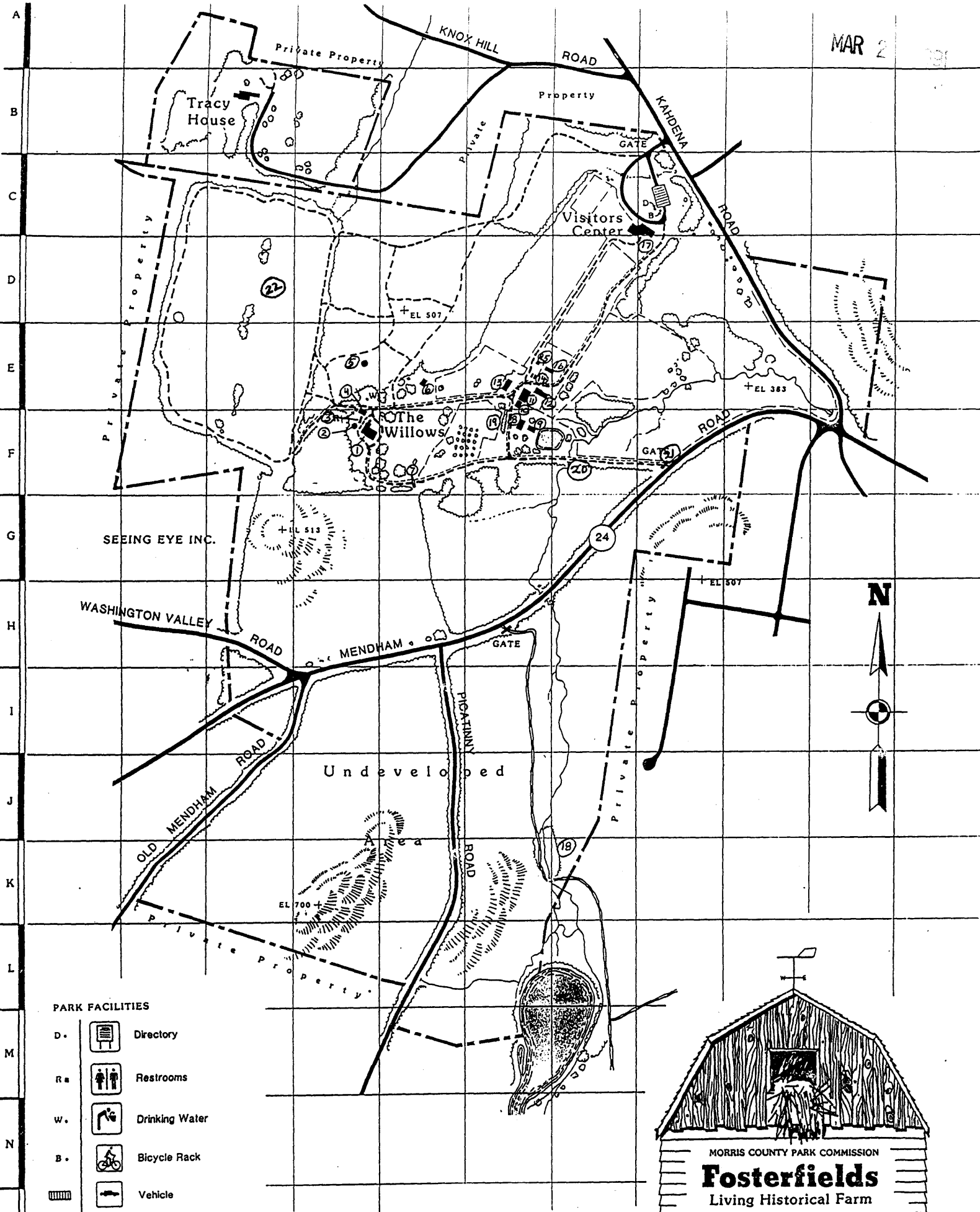







Figure 2b: Mueller, A.H. Atlas of Part of Morris Co, NJ, 1910  
Plate 21 "Charles G. Foster"

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**PARK FACILITIES**

- D.  Directory
- R.  Restrooms
- W.  Drinking Water
- B.  Bicycle Rack
-  Vehicle

General Revere House (Fosterfields), Morris Township, Morris County, NJ





Figure 3: Location Map, Fosterfields, 1990



MORRIS COUNTY PARK COMMISSION

## Fosterfields

Living Historical Farm

-  Paved Vehicular Road
-  Unpaved Road (Authorized Personnel Only)
-  Unpaved Road / Foot Trail (Authorized Vehicles Only)
-  Foot Trail (No Vehicles)

200 100 0 200 400 600

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INDEX TO LOCATIONS ON FIGURE 3: FOSTERFIELDS

- 3:1 The Willows
- 3:2 Ice House
- 3:3 Wood Shed
- 3:4 Garage
- 3:5 Reservoir
- 3:6 Miss Foster's Cottage
- 3:7 Stone Arch
- 3:8 Farm House
- 3:9 Creamery
- 3:10 Carriage House
- 3:11 Barn
- 3:12 Granary
- 3:13 Three-Sided Shed
- 3:14 (2) Corn Cribs
- 3:15 Shed
- 3:16 Chicken Coop
- 3:17 Visitor's Center
- 3:18 Picatinny Road Reservoir
- 3:19 Vegetable Garden
- 3:20 Stream
- 3:21 Carriage Drive (The Road to Jacob Arnold's)
- 3:22 Field

Figure 3b: Index to figure 3

General Revere House (Fosterfields)  
Morris Township, Morris County, NJ

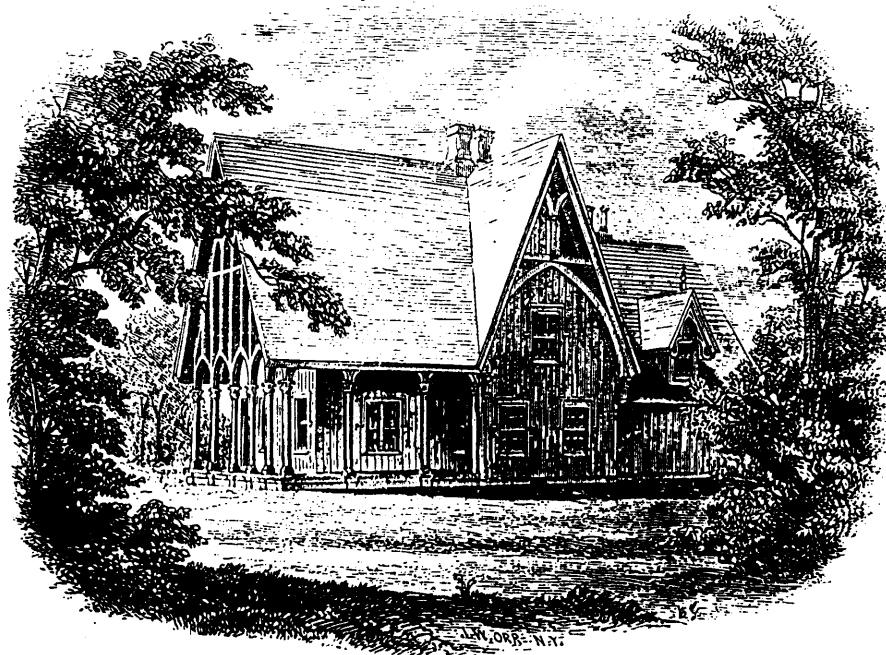
The simplicity, economy, and convenience that I have attempted to embody therein, would probably make it favorably received by many, and if the scenery or the circumstances any where be identical with those I have described, the fac-simile copy of this design might perhaps with advantage be made. The cost of construction would certainly not exceed four thousand dollars, leaving one thousand for the out-buildings, gates, and fences, thus appropriating, as I at first supposed, five thousand dollars to the erection of a country home.

I will now take another scene, and sketch therein another class of home.

Near a small country village, a road leads from its main street, screened on either side by trees from the sun, and slightly undulating in surface, giving here and there a pleasant glimpse of landscape, varied in beauty and extent. Here and there along this road are homes of the village gentry, and those families of more wealth and leisure, whom love of the country, and the convenient contiguity of the village to the town wherein the gentlemen are professionally employed, have caused to select this neighborhood as their place of abode.

The class of house, of even the wealthy, has hardly attained the dignity of the Suburban Villa, nor has it the wide stretch and informal arrangements of the genuine country house. The legitimate cottage seems the proper model for such a house—not the modern, pert, and inconvenient structure filled with odd corners and all sorts of vulgar prettinesses; but the "little house"—the true synonyme of the word cottage.

In the State of Connecticut, about a mile and a half from the



OLMSTEAD HOUSE—view from the S. E.

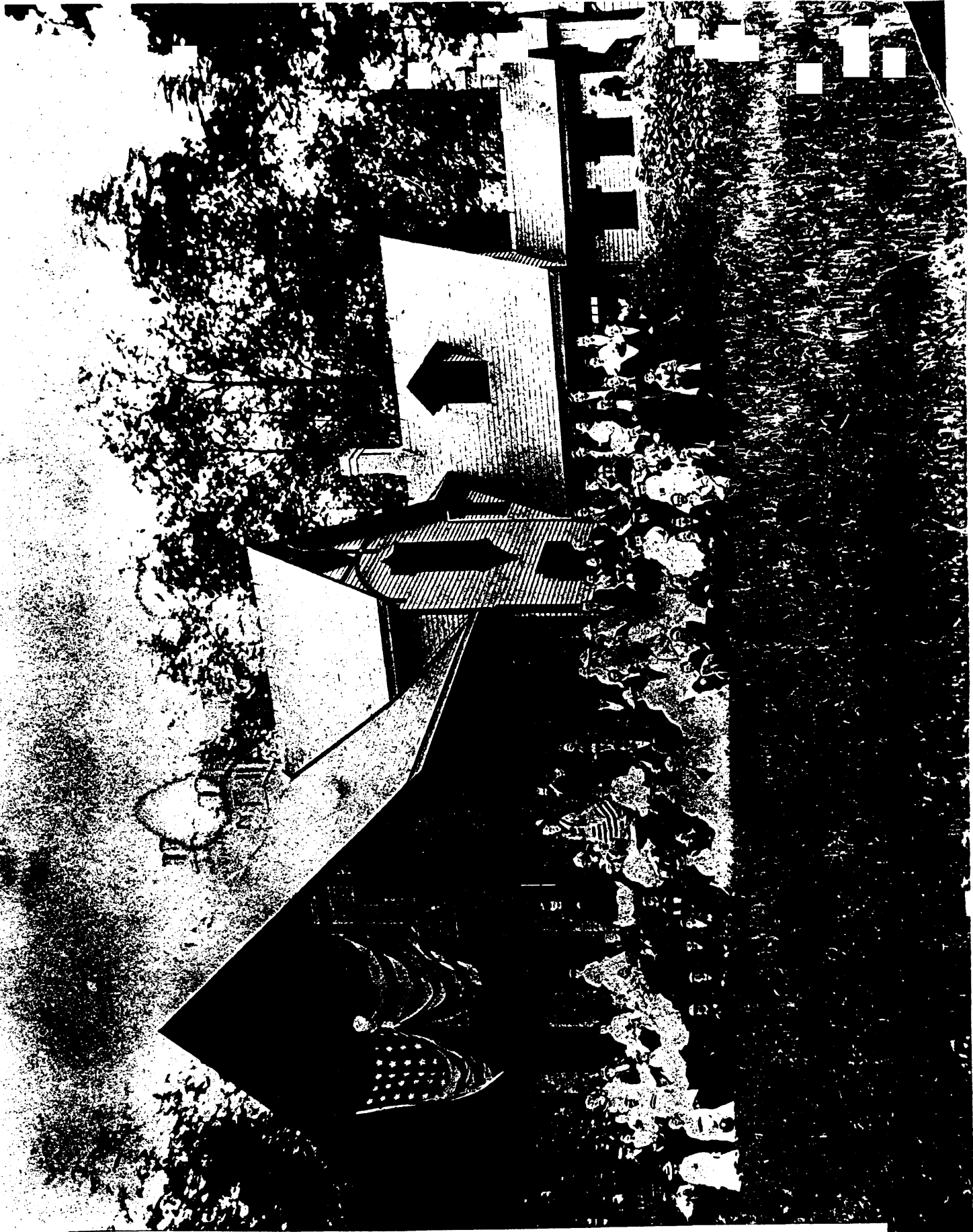


Figure 6: The Willows with Revere Family, ca.1860s  
Original photo in MCPC files.

General Revere House (Fosterfields), Morris Township,  
Morris County, New Jersey