

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

MAR 15 1989

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 Reynolds-Scherman House
other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 71 Hardscrabble Road NA not for publication
city, town Bernardsville Borough vicinity
state New Jersey code 034 county Somerset code 035 zip code 07924

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	3	1 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	1	1 sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	4	1 structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		2 objects
			2 Total

Name of related multiple property listing: NA
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.

John J. Knost March 3, 1989
Signature of certifying official Date
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. *John J. Knost* 4/29/89
 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)

domestic/single dwelling
industry/manufacturing facility
agricultural/ outbuilding

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

domestic/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival
Early Republic

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone
walls stone
roof wood shingle
other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Reynolds-Scherman House is located on Hardscrabble Road in the narrow wooded valley cut by Indian Grave Brook through the hilly northeastern corner of Bernardsville. The stone house, an 18th or early 19th-century structure which was enlarged and remodeled in this century, is built into the side of a rather steep hill on the north side of the road. A short distance west of the house stands a frame, mid 19th-century bank barn. In a small meadow across the road is a mill pond created by damming the creek. The site of the fulling mill which it once served lies just northeast of the dam; the site of an early house is located northwest of the dam near the road.

House, exterior:

The embanked gable-roofed house consists of a main block and an east wing. The 2 1/2-story main block has an irregular 3-bay fenestration on the south or principal elevation, a central chimney, and a two-room plan with transverse stairhall across the rear. Both tradition and physical evidence suggest that it was originally built as a barn or storehouse, possibly in the 18th century, and was converted into a dwelling in the early 1800s. Although extensively renovated in this century in the Colonial Revival style, the main block retains considerable early fabric as well as other features which indicate that remodeling also occurred in the later 19th century. The smaller 2-story east wing has a regular 3-bay facade, set well back from the plane of the main block's front, and a gable-end chimney. Designed in the Colonial Revival style to complement the main block, it was constructed some years after 1928, utilizing stone taken from the ruins of the fulling mill. The house was again renovated in recent years, and in this work care was taken to preserve both its Colonial Revival character and surviving early features.

The main block is of load-bearing masonry construction. Its walls are coarsed-rubble stone with rough-squared quoins at the corners, and its door and window openings exhibit a variety of lintel treatments. Segmentally arched lintels composed of crude stone voussoirs span three openings on the front, now fitted with windows, which patches in the adjoining masonry indicate were originally doorways: the ground-floor windows flanking the central entry and the east end-bay window on the first story above. Flat lintels with roughly shaped key stones and flanking blocks were employed for the gable windows (there are two on the west and one on the east gable) and for the windows flanking the off-center entry on the 3-bay north elevation. All of the other window and door openings

 See continuation sheet

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 NA

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Industry
Publishing

Period of Significance

c. 1778-1938

Significant Dates

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Significant Person

Scherman, Harry

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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

Picturesquely sited along Indian Grave Brook, the Reynolds-Scherman House and its adjoining mill site possess significance in the areas of architecture, industry, and publishing. The stone house, a simple 18th or early 19th-century structure which was enlarged and remodeled in this century, not only exhibits features that are illustrative of Bernardsville's early domestic architecture but also exemplifies 20th-century Colonial Revival interest in the more informal, vernacular aspects of America's architectural heritage. The industrial significance of the property stems from the fulling mill, an enterprise established in the late 18th century and operated until the middle of the 19th century, whose history is representative of that of the small-scale, water-powered industry once characteristic of the region. While the mill has not survived, its site may have the potential to yield important archaeological information about the area's 18th and 19th century industrial development. The environs of the Reynolds-Scherman House, as well as the early house site adjoining the mill pond, are also likely to have significant archaeological deposits and features relating to the domestic material culture of the period. Of the property's early owners the most notable is "Squire" Samuel Reynolds, who evidently expanded the fulling mill into a woolen factory and probably created the present house from a barn. However, Harry Scherman, who acquired the property in the 1920s and established it as his country residence, has national significance in the field of publishing as a founder of the Book-of-the-Month Club. The Reynolds-Scherman House in a very real sense encapsulates the history of Bernardsville, standing witness to the transformation of the town from an agricultural community with a leavening of small-scale industrial and commercial activity into a sylvan retreat inhabited by affluent, often prominent urbanites.

The architectural interest of the Reynolds-Scherman House is a product of both its surviving early fabric and its Colonial Revival transformation. Features that are representative of the region's early vernacular building practices include the southern orientation of the embanked structure, its coursed rubble-stone walls and segmentally arched lintels, and its brick fireplaces and simple interior woodwork. The central-chimney plan, however, is unusual for an early 19th-century house in the area, and if not simply a result of the conversion of the building from a barn into a dwelling may be evidence of rural conservatism.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS): NA
 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: NA
 State historic preservation office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property ± 12.5 Bernardsville , NJ Quad

UTM References

A

1	8	5	3	7	4	0	0	4	5	0	9	9	2	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

1	8	5	3	7	5	0	0	4	5	0	9	6	4	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

1	8	5	3	7	2	6	0	4	5	0	9	5	6	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

1	8	5	3	7	2	2	0	4	5	0	9	6	4	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 1 8 5 3 7 3 0 0 4 5 0 9 8 8 0

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dennis N. Bertland (archaeological assessment by Peter Primavera, R.A.M., Inc.)
organization Bertland Associates date April 1988
street & number P.O. Box 11 telephone (201) 689-6356
city or town Port Murray state New Jersey zip code 07865

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(at least those whose lintels are not obscured by trim) are spanned with either a single thin stone or a boulder. During the recent renovations the stonework was repointed in an appropriate manner to match some surviving early mortar.

That the three arch-linteled front windows were originally doorways strongly suggests that the main block was not built as a dwelling. With three ground-level entries and another on the story above, the main block bears a striking resemblance to small stone bank barns of the region. The southern elevation of such barns typically had several "stall doors" providing access to the lower stable level and a "threshing door" on the main floor above.

The doors, windows, and exterior wooden trim of the main block appear largely to date to the 19th and 20th centuries. The recessed front entry, perhaps originally arch-linteled and slightly lower like the flanking windows, has a Victorian 4-panel door and a Colonial Revival surround. The recessed panels of the door, typical of mid 19th-century work, are clip-cornered creating an attenuated octagonal shape and outlined with a cyma reversa molding. The surround with its simple flanking pilasters and narrow cornice no doubt dates to the post-1928 renovations. The rear entry, which opens to the first story, has a narrow quirk-beaded surround and a 4-panel door with cyma reversa moldings; both elements evidently are 19th century. All of the windows have 6/6 sashes, except for the slightly wider ground-story front windows which are 8/8 and the single-light casement windows of the attic story, four on the front and two on the rear, which are set just below the eaves. The casements and probably most of the other windows are 20th-century replacements. The windows have narrow plain trim and working shutters (recess paneled on the ground story, louvered above). The casement windows on the front pierce a wide frieze with ogee-curved ends that clearly dates to the post 1928 remodeling. The boxed overhanging eaves, however, which have an ogee crown molding and a small bed molding, may be 19th century.

The main block's wood shingle roof is a recent installation, during which work a patch of original shingling was uncovered and preserved. The chimneys brick stack probably was rebuilt during the post-1928 remodeling. Based on the evidence of its construction, the chimney itself appears to be an early 19th-century feature. That the main block was originally a barn would explain the chimney's atypical central location. While some early houses in the area, like the mid 18th-century Wick House at nearby Jockey Hollow, had central chimneys, by the 19th century gable-end chimney placement appears to have become ubiquitous throughout the region.

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The exterior detailing of the east wing is much like that of the main block. It includes flat and segmentally arched lintels, 6/6 sash windows with architrave trim, louvered and paneled shutters, boxed overhanging eaves matching those of the main block, a wood shingle roof contemporary with the main roof, and a brick chimney stack. On the south elevation, a recessed entry occupies the west-end bay on the ground-floor level; it has simple, narrow trim and a Dutch door whose lower half is paneled and whose upper half has a round-arched multi-pane inset. The north facade features a single-leaf French door with side lights and architrave surround.

House, interior:

On its first two floors the main block has two rooms of about equal size which open onto a narrow hallway extending the full width of the rear elevation. This arrangement appears to be original, although it may be that the hall partitions have been modified to some degree. The central chimney provides each of the four rooms with a fireplace. The plan of the attic story differs slightly in that the transverse corridor does not abut the rear wall, allowing for a bathroom and closets there. The three floors are connected by an open dog-leg staircase located along the west end of the north wall.

The interior of the main block exhibits a mixture of 19th and 20th century finishes, and, as on the exterior, the recent renovations have been sympathetic to both the surviving early fabric and the post-1928 Colonial Revival remodeling. Typical features include random-width flooring, plaster walls and ceilings, brick fireplaces, panel and batten doors, and simple woodwork. While the main block's four fireplaces, three of the mantelpieces, many of the doors, and at least some of the woodwork on the two lower floors appear to be of 19th-century provenance, the finishes of the attic story, the staircase, and some of the flooring, plasterwork, and woodwork below evidently date to the early 20th-century remodeling. The present kitchen and bathroom fixtures, as well as the heating, plumbing, and electrical systems, were installed in the most recent renovations, during which time restoration work was undertaken such as rebuilding the deteriorated ground floor and replacing a missing mantel with a copy of a surviving original.

The main block's woodwork is quite simple. The windows have quirk-beaded surrounds, plain sills, and board-lined reveals, except on the first story where folding shutters have been installed in the reveals. The baseboards and door surrounds are either quirk-beaded or plain. On the ground story the west room retains early horizontal board wainscoting on its north wall, and the east room

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has a modern quirk-beaded and reeded chair rail. Several recessed-panel doors are found on the lower two floors; probably of mid to late 19th-century date, each one has four panels outlined with a cyma reversa molding matching that of the front door. Most of the batten doors present appear to be 20th-century installations, as are the few raised-panel closet doors. Antique wrought iron hardware (strap and H-L hinges and Suffolk latches) has been installed throughout. With its square newel posts and spindles and slightly rounded railing, the staircase exhibits a simple Colonial Revival treatment.

The west room on the ground floor was originally the kitchen, and to one side of its brick fireplace is a bake oven with rectangular opening. The fireplace itself has splayed jambs, a flat lintel of splayed stretchers supported by an iron band, an iron swivel crane, and a simple mantel shelf. The fireplace in the east ground-floor room has been reconstructed with the original brick, and its mantel is a copy of the identical mantels on the floor above. These three fireplaces are constructed like the kitchen fireplace, but have plain mantels of late Georgian derivation with quirk-beaded surrounds and simply molded cornice shelves.

Clear-spanning, hewn, chestnut joists are exposed in the ceilings of the two ground-floor rooms. They run north/south, and the joist closest to the chimney in each room is cut with mortices at fairly regular intervals along the entire length of its bottom face. The mortices probably are evidence of partitions. The close proximity of the partitions to the chimney suggests that they belonged to the main block's barn/store house period, and were removed for the construction of the chimney during the building's early 19th-century residential conversion.

The ground floor of the east wing is divided by a partition sheathed with quirk-beaded boards. To the south of the partition is a breakfast room, to the north a kitchen and utility room. Except for a powder room and closet at the west end, the floor above is entirely taken up by a large living room. These rooms also have plaster walls and ceilings and simple woodwork resembling that of the main block. The ground story has a brick floor; the upper story has wooden flooring. Centered on the east wall of the living room is a brick fireplace with splayed jambs and flat brick lintel of splayed headers. Its mantel has plain pilasters, a wide frieze with a single recessed panel, and a molded cornice. There are built-in cupboards with raised-panel doors below the living room windows and built-in bookcases along the room's west wall.

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Site and Outbuildings:

Set back approximately 40 feet from Hardscrabble Road, the Reynolds-Scherman House is surrounded by well-landscaped grounds that feature a variety of mature trees and shrubs. The sloping ground is terraced with dry stone walls and steps, and a picket fence runs along the road frontage. Brick sidewalks are found in both the front and rear of the house. Behind the house is a slate and brick terrace and a small, stone "storage cave" with poured-cement roof that is built into the side of the heavily wooded hillside. To the west of the storage cave is a modern wood shed of frame construction. To the east of the house is a tennis court whose hillside location required a massive stone base. Most of these landscape features probably post-date 1928. Except for the tennis court, whose location is well removed from the immediate environs of the house, and the storage cave, the construction of these features appears to have generally impacted only the ground surface. As a result, most of the earlier archaeological deposits associated with the house probably have survived.

A short distance west of the house and close to the road stands a four-bay bank barn of braced-frame construction with a stone stable level. Evidently dating to the mid-19th century it was remodeled by the Schermans sometime after 1928 to house garages and a party room. It has a wood shingle roof, vertical plank siding, and multi-pane sash windows. The stall doors on the south side of the stable level were replaced in the conversion by three garage entries with batten doors hung on strap hinges. Sliding doors were retained at the main wagon entry on the north side; in place of the "threshing door" on the south side is a large screened opening which can be closed from the inside by batten doors hung on strap hinges. The latter opening provides a view of the mill pond from the party room which occupies the entire upper level of the barn. The party room is dominated at its east end by a massive stone fireplace with brick chimney and retains old plank flooring. The west end of the room features a loft. Exposed to view in the party room, the frame of the barn is constructed of both hewn-and saw cut timber of moderate size; framing details indicate the building's west end is a somewhat later extension.

The mill pond in the meadow across the road from the house is about two acres in size. Its earthen dam with concrete spillway was built by the Schermans in the 1940s as a reconstruction of the old mill dam which had badly deteriorated. The fulling mill and woolen factory stood on the north side of the creek at the north end of the dam. Stone from the ruins of the mill was used by the

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Schermans to build the east wing of the house.¹ While the mill site is heavily overgrown with brush, its location is still evident. Although the site may have suffered some effects from the reconstruction of the dam and the removal of stone, there appears to be sufficient evidence, on the surface, that some of the archaeological components of the fulling mill and woolen factory may be preserved. Northwest of the dam near the road is the site of a house which was associated with the mill.² No aboveground remains are visible; nevertheless, archaeological deposits and features associated with the site, which probably has an 18th-century component are likely to survive below the present lawn surface.

Except for the rebuilt dam and modern wood shed, all of the structures can be categorized as contributing. The fulling mill and early house sites have not been evaluated for their archaeological significance.

1 Interview with Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Dreesen, October 1987.

2 J. W. Otley and J. Keily, Map of Somerset County, New Jersey, Camden, New Jersey: Lloyd Van Derveer, 1850; and Somerset County Deeds, Book C/page 240.

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The post-1928 remodeling of the house reveals the appreciation for America's vernacular architectural traditions which influenced much Colonial Revival work in the 1920s and 1930s. The renovations done by the Schermans display a sensitivity to the simple early character of the dwelling. The east wing, for example, relates well to the main block in terms of form, materials, and detailing, and in refurbishing the main block high-style Georgian and Federal motifs were eschewed. This design attitude was maintained outside where the informal landscaping of the surrounding grounds harmonizes well with the wooded, rural setting.

Since the title to the property occupied by the house and mill site can be traced back without break only until 1801, the shadowy outline of its earlier history and the beginnings of its industrial development must be pieced together from other sources. The European settlement of the hilly northern reaches of Somerset County largely began in the third decade of the 18th century, after Indian land titles had been extinguished in 1717-20. A majority of the pioneers appear to have been people of New England stock moving westward from their original settlements in eastern New Jersey. The natural resources of the region attracted not only farmers, but also industrialists. As was the case elsewhere in the New Jersey Highlands, the presence of substantial deposits of iron ore, numerous water power sites along the many streams, and abundant hardwood forests suitable for making charcoal led to the establishment of iron forges in the area. Grist mills, saw mills, and other waterpowered industries began to proliferate as well along area streams by the middle of the 18th century. Such enterprises frequently were the focal point around which small settlements coalesced.

According to local tradition and secondary sources, several water-powered industries appeared along Indian Grave Brook and the Passaic River before the Revolutionary War, comprising a small, dispersed settlement known as Logtown. There is little documentary evidence for the formative period of this settlement which came to include a forge, a fulling mill, grist mills, and saw mills as well as several farmsteads and dwellings.² The 1784 Clinton map of Somerset County, drawn by a British army officer who made use of a 1766 land survey, gives slight detail for the northwestern corner of Bernards Township from which Bernardsville subsequently was formed. It does, however, indicate that the lands along Indian Grave Brook were part of two large tracts, both roughly rectangular in shape with their long sides trending northeast/southwest. The larger of the two, designated #196 on the map, contained 3,500 acres and was owned by Charles Dunstar. The other, #193, contained 1,036 acres and included at its north end the confluence of Indian Grave Brook and the Passiac River. Its owner was given as John Budd.³

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In 1748 John Budd and James Alexander, Gentlemen, sold to Elisha Ayers, Yeoman, 168 acres of land on the southwest side of the Passiac River that presumably formed part of or lay near to Budd's abovementioned holding. By the time of the Revolutionary War, Elisha Ayers is known to have owned or operated a forge which was located on the Passic River at the mouth of Indian Grave Brook. The existence of Ayer's forge at that location was established by research conducted to locate the encampment site of the New Jersey Brigade of the Continental Army during the winter of 1779-80.⁴

The encampment site occupies a wooded hillside just north of the Reynolds-Scherman House.⁵ Local tradition holds that the house was originally a barn that served as a commissary storehouse for the encamped soldiers.⁶ If true, the presence of a barn implies the existence of a farmstead at that time, if not a mill seat. While there is no documentation to support this claim, physical evidence does suggest that the main block of the house was built as a barn. The windows flanking the central ground-floor entry in front were inserted in segmentally linteled doorways whose lower portions were blocked up with stone. Similarly, the east end-bay window above was a wider, segmentally linteled opening at one time. Thus, the building could well have been a small, two-level barn with three stall doors leading to the embanked stable and with one entry, possibly a "threshing door," opening to the main floor above. Archaeological investigation might provide information about the building's origins, and possibly shed light on its traditional association with the brigade encampment site.

The first definite evidence of a structure on the site appears in a deed of 1801. The deed from William Bryant and wife to Daniel Doty for a 30-acre property encompassing the site of the house and mill pond notes the existence of a fulling mill on the premises.⁷ Bernards Township tax ratable roles, which survive for a number of years beginning in 1784, first list a fulling mill in 1793. It was assessed to Jacob Canfield. For the following year, two fulling mills appear on the role, Canfield's mill and⁸ one belonging to Benjamin Dunham. In 1796 only the Canfield mill was listed.⁹ As several early 19th-century conveyances indicate that Jacob Canfield owned considerable property in the immediate neighborhood, it is quite possible that his was the fulling mill which Doty purchased from the Bryants in 1801.

According to local historical accounts of Logtown, a fulling and textile mill was established on Indian Grave Brook as early as 1723 by an Englishman named Cantfield who brought over experienced workers for the operation. Actually, although Jacob Canfield was of English stock, his ancestors had been in America for several generations and his father had moved from Newark to

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Morristown earlier in the 18th century.¹⁰ While Jacob Canfield lived in Morristown, his business interests extended into nearby Somerset County. His name first appears on the Bernards Township tax roles in 1788, when he was assessed for 100 acres and a forge. By 1792 his holdings in the township had grown to 138 acres and included a saw mill in addition to the forge. It seems likely that his fulling mill, first assessed in the following year, was established at that time. Acquiring an additional 58 acres and a second forge by 1796, Canfield evidently was one of the local entrepreneurs who did much to establish the small-scale, decentralized industry that was characteristic of the region in the 18th and 19th centuries.¹¹

Very little is known about the Bryants who presumably acquired the fulling mill property sometime after 1796, the last year for which a surviving tax role assesses a fulling mill to Canfield, if in fact they acquired Canfield's mill. In their 1801 deed to Doty, the Bryants were described as of Hopewell, New Jersey and the mill is called "Bryant's fulling mill."¹² If they had lived in Bernards Township and operated the mill, they had moved to Hopewell by 1801. Doty, an inhabitant of Morristown like Canfield, probably was a non-resident proprietor. Owning the 30-acre mill property for little more than a year, he sold it in 1802 for \$1,025, \$245 more than he had paid.¹³ In that year, the next for which a Bernards Township tax role survives, his fulling mill was the only one listed.¹⁴

David Reid (or Reed), who purchased it from Doty, is the first known owner of the property who clearly resided there and operated the fulling mill. In his deed of purchase he is described as a "fuller."¹⁵ Local tradition holds that he lived in a house, no longer extant, but whose site appears to remain archaeologically intact, which stood by the fulling mill.¹⁶ In deeds of 1820 and 1822, reference is made to the "fulling mill house" which may have been his residence; in fact, the 1850 Somerset County map depicts a dwelling near the mill on the south side of the road which corresponds to the location indicated for the house in the above mentioned deeds.¹⁷ On the 1803 and 1806 tax ratable lists, Reid was assessed for a saw mill as well as the fulling mill; the former quite possibly was operated in conjunction with the latter.¹⁸ Preserved archaeological deposits and features associated with the site may holds answers to some of these questions.

David Reed retained title to the mill property until 1820 when, due to mortgage difficulties, he lost it and other holdings at a court-ordered sheriff sale held on May 12 of that year at his residence. The 30-acre mill lot was sold to high bidder Jacob Guerin for \$680 to satisfy the foreclosed mortgage given by John Ehendorf in 1806.¹⁹ Two years later Guerin and his wife sold the property

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to Caleb and Thomas Simpson for \$1,475.²⁰ Thomas subsequently acquired Caleb's interest and in 1832 conveyed the property along with two adjoining parcels to Samuel Reynolds and Johnathan Stevens for \$2,000.²¹ Five years later Stevens and his wife, then living in Bloomfield, received \$1,000 for their half interest in the three tracts from Reynolds, who by that time probably was resident proprietor of the fulling mill.²²

Samuel Reynolds, who was known by the sobriquet of "Squire," is traditionally credited with the conversion of the stone barn into his residence.²³ Such a conversion might explain the unusual central placement of the chimney, when the vast majority of early 19th-century houses in the region were built with interior gable-end chimneys. The brick fireplaces of this chimney with their splayed jambs and their brick-stretcher lintels supported by iron bands are typical of early 19th century work in the region. Although some early houses in the area are known to have had central chimneys, (the mid 18th-century Wick House at nearby Jockey Hollow is one example), the practice appears to have largely disappeared by the early 1800s. The "eye-brow" windows lighting the garret chambers also are suggestive of an early 19th-century date for the conversion; such windows are not common features of 18th century houses in the area. Reynolds, who owned the property until the 1860s, is also likely to have built the bank barn whose early fabric suggests a mid-19th century construction date.

By all accounts, Samuel Reynolds was a prominent land owner and businessman in the Logtown neighborhood. His name appears frequently in real estate conveyances of the second quarter of the 19th century as he bought and sold property in the area. In the 1850 census, he was described as a "woolen manufacturer" and his real estate was valued at \$7,000.²⁴ The 1850 Somerset County map depicts "S. Reynold's factory" at the east end of the mill pond on the north side of the brook.²⁵ The industrial schedule of the 1850 census indicates that he had a \$5,000 capital investment in his "woolen factory," making it the third most valuable industry in the township. In that year, the water-powered operation employed six men and utilized several machines to process 7,000 pounds of wool worth \$2,000 into 2,000 yards of "sabfnet" valued at \$1,250, 800 yards of broad cloth valued at \$1,400, and other work, possibly custom orders such as blankets and coverlets, valued at \$1,250.²⁶

By 1850 the operation of the fulling mill clearly had been expanded to include the other processes necessary to the manufacture of finished cloth. This probably occurred between 1834 and 1844. Both the 1830 United States Census and Gordon's 1834 Gazeteer record that Bernards Township had one fulling mill; it was probably the one acquired by Reynolds and Stevens in 1832.²⁷ Writing in 1844,

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Barber and Howe noted that the Township then contained "2 woolen fac." and a fulling mill.²⁸ One of the woolen factories may well have been the one owned by Reynolds in 1850. While the manufacture of cloth traditionally had been divided into several trades which typically were conducted separately by different individuals, early 19th-century entrepreneurs like Reynolds, following industrial trends of the period, sought to consolidate fulling and other tasks necessary to cloth making into larger²⁹ factory operations, increasingly with the substitution of machines for manpower.

Sometime in the 1850s Reynolds, who was then in his sixties, ceased operating the factory. In 1860 he evidently rented the business to David B. Smith whom the census of that year identifies as a "woolen manufacturer" who lived close to Reynolds, but owned no real estate. The industrial schedule of the 1860 census indicates that the enterprise had grown considerably. A work force of seven men and six women produced 40,000 yards of cotton warp tweed worth \$16,000 from 12,000 pounds of wool costing \$5,400, 3,000 pounds of cotton costing \$450, and cotton warp and other articles valued at \$3,000.³⁰

In 1864 Reynolds subdivided a 7.43-acre parcel containing the mill and mill pond from his lands and conveyed it to James Haigh of Newark. Thereafter Haigh moved to Bernards Township and probably made improvements to the property, since in the following year he sold it to Christopher McCape for \$4,500, \$1,500 more than he had paid. The latter deed specified the inclusion of "the factory or fulling mill on the premises with all machinery."³¹

In 1866 Reynolds sold 42.88 acres, the remainder of his land on the north and south sides of Hardscrabble Road to George Butz, Jr. of Philadelphia.³² Butz apparently moved immediately to the property since in the deed for a small adjoining parcel that he purchased four months later reference is made in the boundary description to "the late residence of Samuel Reynolds, now George Butz."³³ In 1875 Ann Marie Myers of New York City purchased the two tracts from Butz for \$11,000. The year before, Christopher McCape, then living in Camden, New Jersey, sold the mill property to Elizabeth Myers, who was also from New York City, for \$4,000; shortly thereafter its title was conveyed to Ann Marie, who no doubt was related to Elizabeth.³⁴

Unable to satisfy the principal and interest of \$9,623 due on her mortgage to Butz, Ann Marie Myers lost the three tracts at a court-ordered sheriff's sale in 1876. Butz purchased all three at the sale and held them for nine years.³⁵ In 1885, once again living in Philadelphia, he sold the property to Randolph J. Stinson for \$6,000. Five years later Stinson conveyed title back to Butz for

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\$5,000.³⁶ Stinson, who was described as a farmer in the 1880 census, appears to have occupied the house during this period; a bottle found by the present owners under the floor on the ground story contained a note with the names of Stinson and his wife and the date November 12, 1890.³⁷ In 1894 Butz, still a resident of Philadelphia, sold the property to Thomas Keck of East Orange for only \$3,000. Four years later Thomas P. Gallagher of Bridgewater Township purchased it for \$2,500.³⁸

The continuous drop in the purchase price of the property in the last decades of the 19th century reflects the economic decline of the Logtown neighborhood. The small-scaled, decentralized enterprises that had once proliferated in the region began to disappear after the Civil War as a result of the technological advances occurring in industry and transportation. Small, isolated communities like Logtown declined into backwaters or disintegrated totally as their industries closed. The fulling mill at Logtown, although its operations had been expanded into those of a woolen factory by 1850, could not compete with the vast textile mills erected at places such as Paterson, New Jersey and Lowell, Massachusetts over the course of the 19th century. Exactly when the Logtown mill was finally abandoned is unknown, but it probably occurred by 1870s. It is neither included in the 1870 industrial census schedule nor depicted in the 1874 county atlas. Furthermore, the 1881 county history makes no mention of the mill in its discussion of Bernard Township's few industries.³⁹

Despite the neighborhood's industrial decline, that other economic forces were at work in the Somerset Hills in the late 19th century is reflected in the next conveyance of the property. Six days after Gallagher purchased the three tracts in 1898, he sold them to the Somerset Land Company for \$1,200 more than he had paid for them.⁴⁰ The president of the Somerset Land Company was Anthony R. Kuser. Colonel Kuser, whose fortune came from coal mining was one of several dozen individuals of considerable wealth who began to colonize the hilly northern section of Bernards Township in the post Civil War era. These people were attracted to the Somerset Hills as a picturesque and salubrious area, reasonably accessible to New York and New Jersey's urban centers, in which to establish country residences. In the decades before and after 1900, large country houses with elaborate outbuildings and expansive grounds were built amidst the area's earlier farmsteads, some of which were removed or remodeled. The Reynolds-Scherman House was a rental property for Col. Kuser, who occupied a large Colonial Revival mansion elsewhere in the neighborhood.⁴¹

By 1911 the Somerset Land Company had acquired several thousand acres of land in the area, assembled in 56 parcels of varying size, including the three

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tracts purchased from Gallagher. In that year the ownership of these lands was conveyed to the Somerset Holding Company which also was controlled by Kuser.⁴² Both companies periodically sold pieces of their property. In many cases the earlier deed boundaries were abandoned for new property lines, thus greatly increasing the difficulty of tracing back the chain of title for individual parcels.

In 1919 the Somerset Holding Company was dissolved and two tracts of its remaining land, comprising about 200 acres, were conveyed to Anthony Kuser, subject to a mortgage of \$30,000 given by Susie Dryden Kuser in trust for Cynthia G. D. Kuser.⁴³ This property evidently was part of the land conveyed by Kuser and wife to the Ballentine Land Company in 1925 and in the following year by the latter to the Morris and Somerset Land Company. Later in 1926 the Morris and Somerset Land Company subdivided from the property a lot of about five acres on which the Reynolds-Scherman House stood and sold it to Rudolph Cristensen, who shortly thereafter transferred the title to Maltilda Christensen.⁴⁴

Two years later Bernadine K. Scherman, the wife of Harry Scherman, purchased the lot.⁴⁵ This was the first of several acquisitions by which the Schermans assembled extensive holdings on both sides of Hardscrabble Road that came to encompass the 19th century mill property. The Schermans used the property as their country residence. Some years after purchasing the house they remodeled it in the Colonial Revival style and added the east wing using stone taken from the ruins of the fulling mill. Other improvements made by them included reconstruction of the mill pond dam, building the tennis court, and remodeling the barn.⁴⁶

As the principal founder of the Book-of-the-Month Club, Harry Scherman (1887-1969) is credited with revolutionizing "book distribution and...the reading habits of millions."⁴⁷ Raised by his mother in a Philadelphia boarding house, Scherman, after completing his schooling, in 1907 moved to New York where he began work as a reporter for a weekly newspaper, "The American Hebrew." Some years thereafter he entered the field of book publishing as a copywriter. Around that time he joined several men in setting up a company, the Little Leather Library Corporation, which published and sold low-cost editions of the classics. In eight years, the firm sold 48 million volumes at 10 cents each. Scherman disposed of his interest in the company in 1924 and spent the next two years developing his revolutionary book marketing ideas which resulted in the founding of the Book-of-the-Month Club in 1926. His marketing concept was based on the premise that while few Americans lived near a book store, everyone was near a post office. Scherman and his partners, Maxwell Sackheim and Robert K. Haas, also decided that their club's books would be chosen by an independent and paid board.

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Club selections have included works of such diverse authors as Sinclair Lewis, Thomas Mann, Pearl Buck, George Bernard Shaw, Ernest Hemingway, and Carl Sandburg.⁴⁸ The club's formula was vastly successful, by 1946 200 million books had been mailed to club members and by 1969 the number approached one quarter of a billion, and from an original capital investment of \$40,000 grew into a multi-million dollar enterprise. Scherman served as president of the company from 1931 until 1950, when he was named chairman of the board, in which capacity he served until shortly before his death.⁴⁹

In addition to his book business, Harry Scherman interested himself in economic topics, serving as a director of the National Bureau of Economic Research and writing popular articles on economics and monetary theory. He also served as a trustee of the Mannes School of Music and as a director of the Edward MacDowell Association, an organization that assists musicians and artists. He belonged to three New York clubs (the Players, the Lotos, and the Century). He is said to have been quiet, affable, and somewhat absent-minded, and in Bernardsville⁵⁰ to have used the remodeled barn as a retreat in which to read manuscripts.

Scherman's wife, the former Bernadine Kielty, whom he married in 1914 and by whom he had two children, was an author of some note. Her diverse work included an autobiographical novel, the Girl from Fitchburg, an art history entitled Masters of Painting, and three historical biographies for young readers. She also edited an anthology of poems and was a contributing editor of the "Ladies Home Journal." An outspoken New Englander of⁵¹ strong character, she is remembered locally much more vividly than her husband.

The Schermans used the Bernardsville property as a country residence throughout their lives. They entertained extensively, and their weekend guests often included authors published by the Book-of-the-Month Club. Their considerable interest in history and the environment led to the donation in the 1960s of a 120-acre parcel to the east to the New Jersey Audubon Society and of the property to the west, on which were found the archaeological remains of the New Jersey Brigade encampment, to the federal government as an addition to the Morristown National Historical Park. The present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Ronald H. Dreesen, acquired the house and mill site in 1981. With a reverence for the history of the place, they have restored the house, undertaking extensive renovations that are sympathetic to both its surviving original fabric and Colonial Revival alterations.⁵²

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Notes

¹Peter Wacker, Land and People, A Cultural Geography of Pre-industrial New Jersey: Origins and Settlement Patterns. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1975, pp. 126, 166, & 174; James P. Snell, (ed.) History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, New Jersey. Philadelphia: Everts & Peck, 1881, pp. 735-36; Schuyler L. Mott (ed.), Among the Blue Hills, Bernardsville.....A History. Bernardsville, NJ: Hill Press, (n. d.), pp. 22, 23, 28, & 29.

²Mott, pp. 26 & 27.

³I. Hill, Lieut., "A plan of Somerset County, Province of New Jersey, 1784," (copied from the 1766 survey of Benjamin Morgan), Clinton Map #229.

⁴John F. Luzander, The New Jersey Brigade Encampment Site: A Special Study. The National Park Service, 1968, pp. 14-21; and Fred and Isabel Bartenstein, "The New Jersey Brigade Encampment Near Morristown, Winter of 1779 A. D.," John F. Luzander, The New Jersey Brigade Encampment Site: A Special Study. The National Park Service, 1988, pp. 8-19.

⁵Ibid.

⁶Interview with Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Dreesen, October, 1987.

⁷Somerset County Deeds, Book B/page 519.

⁸Bernards Township Tax Ratables, 1793 and 1796.

⁹Somerset County Deeds, Book E/page 163.

¹⁰Mott, p. 27; and Frederick A. Canfield, A History of Thomas Canfield and of Mathew Canfield with a Genealogy of their Descendants in New Jersey. New Haven, Connecticut: The Tuttle, Moorehouse, and Taylor Press, 1987, p. 67.

¹¹Bernards Township Tax Ratables, 1788, 1792, & 1793.

¹²Ibid., and Somerset County Deeds, Book B/page 519.

¹³Somerset County Deeds, Book C/page 240.

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¹⁴ Bernards Township Tax Ratables, 1802.

¹⁵ Somerset County Deeds, Book C/page 240.

¹⁶ Interview with Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Dreesen, October 1987

¹⁷ Somerset County Deeds, Book J/page 949 and K/617; and J. W. Otley and J. Keily, Map of Somerset County, New Jersey, Camden, NJ: Lloyd Van Derveer, 1850.

¹⁸ Bernards Township Tax Ratables, 1803 & 1806.

¹⁹ Somerset County Deeds, Book J/page 949.

²⁰ Ibid., Book K/page 617.

²¹ Ibid., Book O/page 855, and P/120.

²² Ibid., Book U/page 154.

²³ Mott, page 168.

²⁴ Somerset County Deeds, Book M/page 407, N/213, 215, & 227, O/352, P/114, 119, & 120, and U/72, and United States Census, 1850, Bernards Township, Schedule of Population.

²⁵ Otley and Keily map.

²⁶ United States Census, 1850, Bernards Township, Products of Industry.

²⁷ United States Census, 1830, Bernards Township, Schedule of Population; and Thomas F. Gordon, A Gazetteer of the State of New Jersey, Trenton, NJ: Daniel Fenton, 1834, page 103.

²⁸ John W. Barber, and Henry Howe, Historical Collections of the State of New Jersey, Newark, NJ: Benjamin Olds, 1844, p. 443.

²⁹ Hubert G. Schmidt, Rural Hunterdon. New Brunswick, NJ. Rutgers University Press, 1945, pp. 232-33.

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³⁰United States Census, 1860, Bernards Township, Schedule of Population and Products of Industry.

³¹Somerset County Deeds, Book O₃/page 559 and Q₃/312.

³²Ibid., Book T₃/page 139.

³³Ibid., Book T₄/page 142.

³⁴Ibid., Book X₄/pages 356 & 360.

³⁵Ibid., Book D₅/page 206.

³⁶Ibid., Book H₆/page 153 and X₆/613; and United States Census, 1860, Bernards Township, Schedule of Population.

³⁷Interview with Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Dreesen, October 1987.

³⁸Somerset County Deeds, Book R₇/page 288 & V₈/415.

³⁹United States Census, 1870, Bernards Township, Products of Industry; F. W. Beers, County Atlas of Hunterdon, New Jersey. New York: F. W. Beers & Co., 1873, p. 37; and Snell, p. 749.

⁴⁰Somerset County Deeds, Book V₈/page 420.

⁴¹Mott, pp.68-78; and Charles E. Surdam and William Gardner Osgoodby, Beautiful Homes of Morris County and Northern New Jersey, Morristown, NJ: Pierson & Surdam (no date), pp 78 & 79.

⁴²Somerset County Deeds, Book S₁₂/page 281 & A₁₇/391; and John S. Stiger, "Original transfers of property to Somerset Land Co., Nov. 1911," (unpublished map).

⁴³Somerset County Deeds, Book A₁₇/page 391 and U₂₀/414.

⁴⁴Ibid., Book D₂₀/page 144; J₂₀/42; K₂₀/132; & S₂₀/320.

⁴⁵Ibid., Book A₂₁/page 434.

⁴⁶Interview with Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Dreesen, October 1987.

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Bernards Township Population Schedules.
Bernards Township Industrial Schedules.

Somerset County Courthouse, Somerville, NJ.

Somerset County Deed Books.

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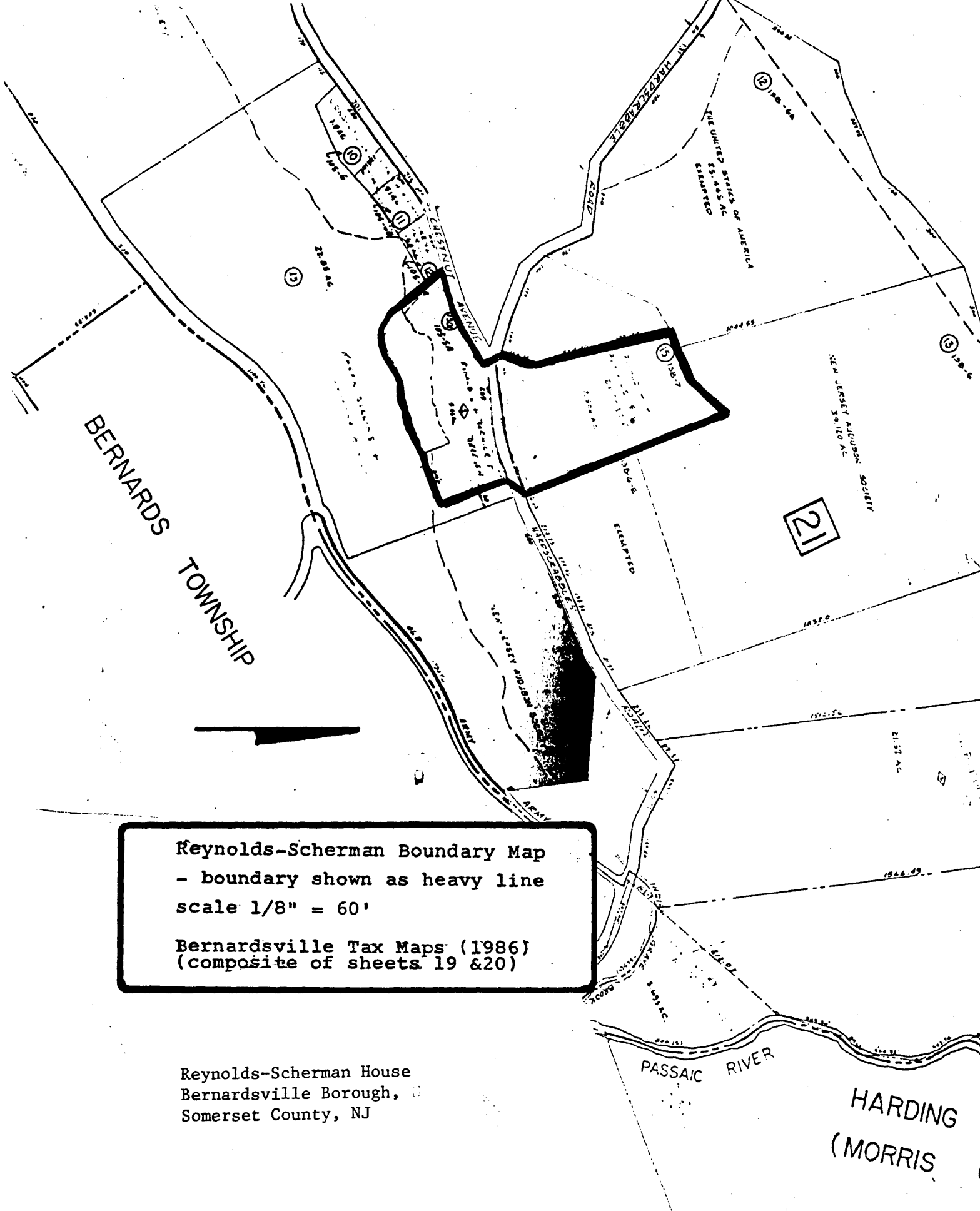
Reynolds-Scherman House, Bernardsville
Borough, Somerset County, New Jersey

Boundary Description:

Located in Bernardsville, the nominated property includes two lots (block 21/lot 15 on the north side of Hardscrabble Road and block 35/lot 13.01 on the south side). The boundary of the nominated property is shown as the heavy line on the accompanying map entitled "Reynolds-Scherman House Boundary Map."

Boundary Justification:

The boundary of the nominated property encompasses the two parcels acquired by the present owners from the Scherman estate. This delineation includes all of the identified resources which contribute to the historical significance of the property, and protects as well its historical character and setting.



Reynolds-Scherman Boundary Map
 - boundary shown as heavy line
 scale 1/8" = 60'

Bernardsville Tax Maps (1986)
 (composite of sheets 19 & 20)

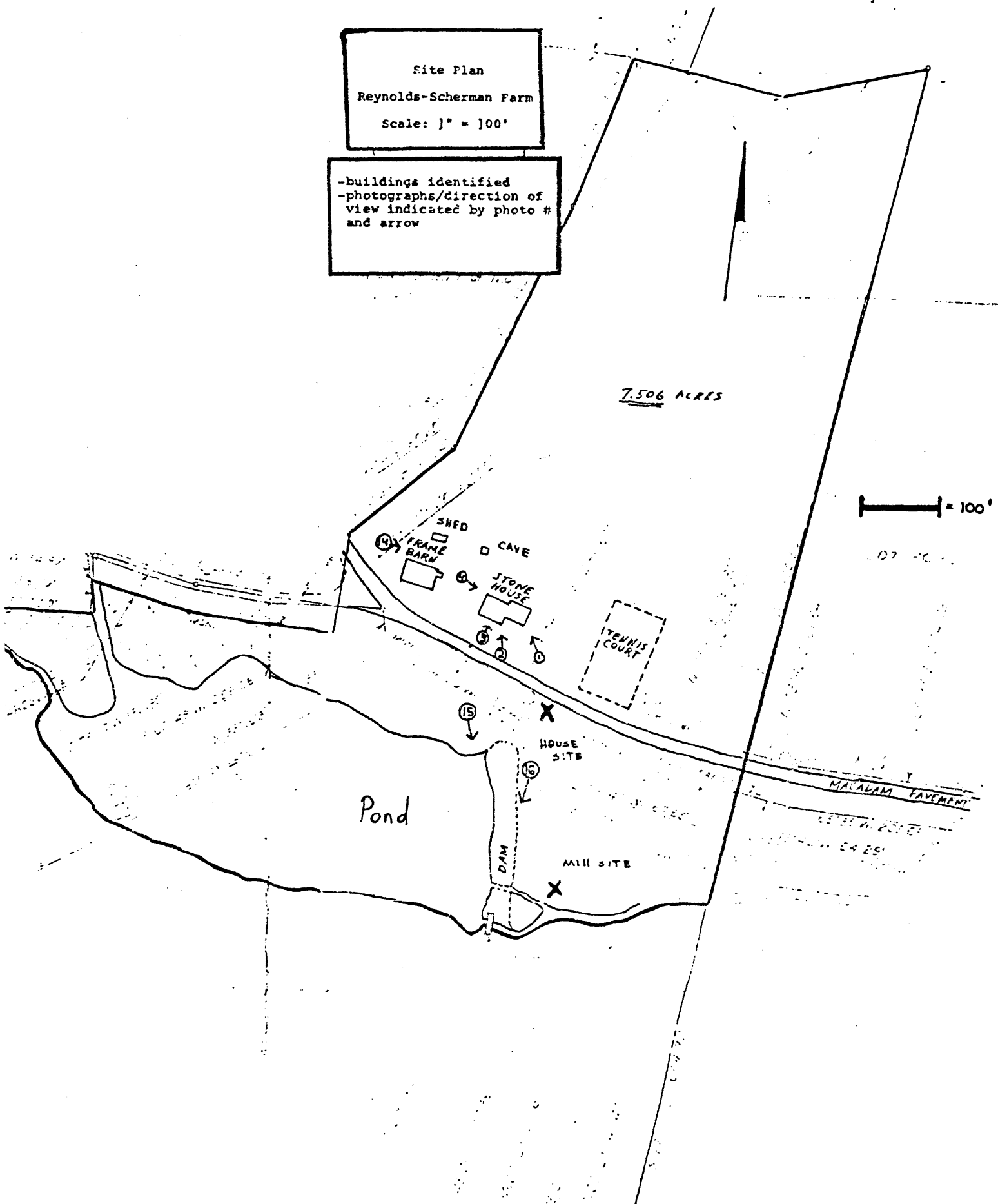
Reynolds-Scherman House
 Bernardsville Borough,
 Somerset County, NJ

PASSAIC RIVER

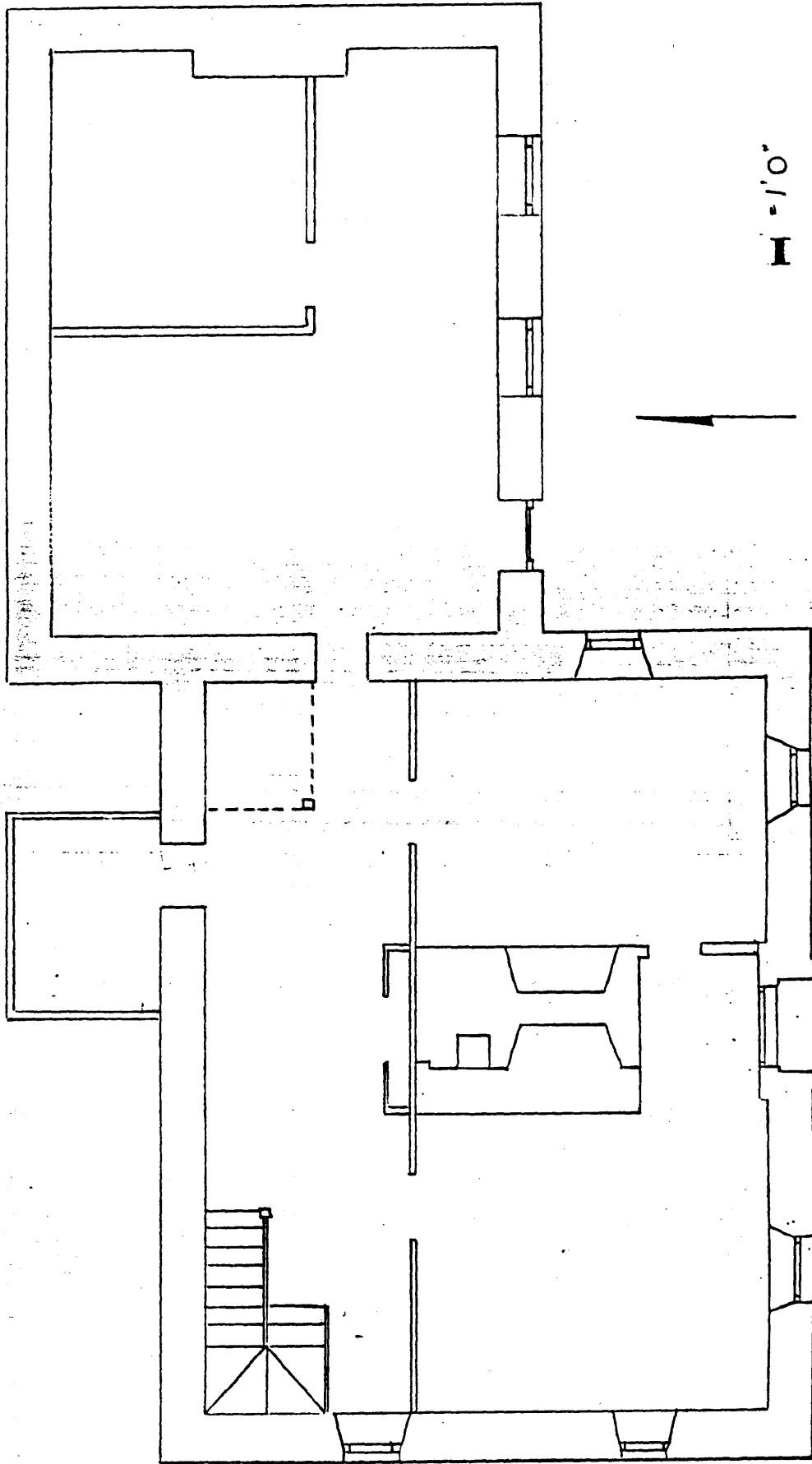
HARDING
 (MORRIS C)

Site Plan
Reynolds-Scherman Farm
Scale: 1" = 100'

-buildings identified
-photographs/direction of view indicated by photo # and arrow



Reynolds-Scherman House
Bernardsville Borough
Somerset County, NJ



Bertrand Associates
F. Andrew Wolf 3/88

Reynolds-Scherman House
(First Floor plan)

Reynolds-Scherman House
Bernardsville Borough
Somerset County, NJ