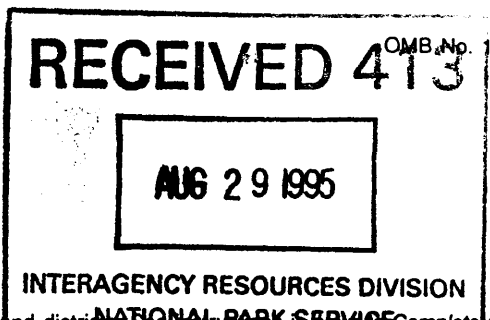


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions. Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name JACOBUS VANDERVEER HOUSE
other names/site number KNOX HOUSE

2. Location

street & number U.S. Routes 202 and 206, n. of River Road NA not for publication
city or town Pluckemin, Bedminster Township vicinity
state New Jersey code 034 county Somerset code 035 zip code 07978

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
[Signature] 7/13/95
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Assistant Commissioner for Natural & Historic Resources/DSHPO
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is:
 entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): _____

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Edson H. Beall 9/29/95

Entered in the
National Register

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

COLONIAL: Dutch Colonial
EARLY REPUBLICAN: Federal

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE
walls WOOD: weatherboard;
STUCCO
roof ASPHALT SHINGLE
other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations NA
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

EXPLORATION? SETTLEMENT

MILITARY

Period of Significance

c. 1760-1915

Significant Dates

1779

1810

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Henry Knox

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Somerset Co. Clerk's Office

Jacobus Vanderveer House
Name of Property

Somerset Co., NJ
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 19 acres Gladstone, NJ Quad

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 | 1,8 | 5|2,9|9,2,0 | 4,5|0,1|8,6,0
Zone Easting Northing
2 | 1,8 | 5|2,9|0,4,0 | 4,5|0,1|8,6,0

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

See continuation sheet

5 1 8 5 2 9 8 6 0 4 5 0 1 6 6 0

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Constance M. Greiff, Director

organization Heritage Studies, Inc. date 1/4/95

street & number 60 Princeton Avenue telephone 609-924-3225

city or town Rocky Hill, state NJ zip code 08553

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Township of Bedminster

street & number 130 Hillside Avenue telephone 908-234-0333

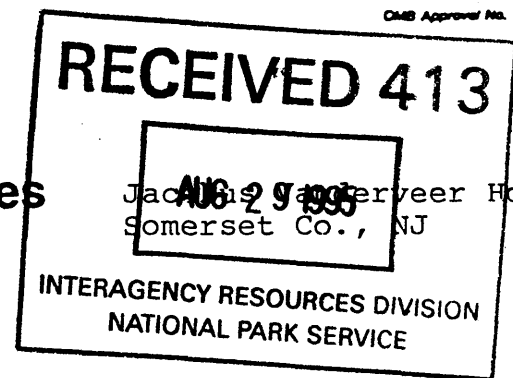
city or town Bedminster state NJ zip code 07921

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet



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The Jacobus Vanderveer House is located approximately one and one-half miles north of the village of Pluckemin in Bedminster Township, Somerset County. It is situated on the west side of the present Routes 206 and 202 and north of the North Branch of the Raritan River and River Road. Although located on what is now a very busy highway, the house is still surrounded by open fields and, to a remarkable degree, retains an air of rural serenity. Former outbuildings, in deteriorated condition a few years ago, have been demolished. The only other structure now on the site is an early 20th century frame garage in poor condition.

The house is sited perpendicular to the road. Its original entrance was from the south, although alterations have now placed the drive and front door to the north. The house is 5 bays wide and 1 and 1/2 stories high, with a one-story shed-roofed leanto along the west side, which has a small porch at the south. (Photo 1) A one-story porch, carried on square posts, has been added along the north front. (Photo 2) The gable roof is now pierced along both fronts by added gabled dormers with paired windows. Interior chimneys, centered on the ridge, rise at the east and west gable ends.

The foundation is roughly squared rubble; however, the division between the earlier western and later eastern section is clearly delineated along the south side, just east of the doorway. The division is marked by a difference in stone color as well as masonry technique. The south and east sides, as well as the western gable, are sheathed in clapboard. The north side and walls of the shed addition are covered in a mud-like, rough stucco on wire lath over clapboard. The roof is asphalt shingle. Windows on the south and east sides and in the shed are 6/6 sash. There are small 6/6 sash at each end of the gables and a single "eyebrow" window over the second window from the west on the south facade; a photograph taken from the southeast by Dr. John Van Doren, c. 1890, shows that originally there were five such windows, located over the door and windows of the first floor. North and south entrance doors appear to be late 19th or early 20th century with glazed upper panels. The north door is flanked by large paired windows of similar date.

Although the stucco, porch and dormers have now given the north front of the house a somewhat "bungaloid" appearance, the building's age and development over time are immediately apparent on the interior.

A full cellar extends under the western two-thirds of the building, while the eastern section is only over a crawl space and the leanto appears to be on grade. In the cellar, heavy, adzed timbers run north-south, framed into an east-west beam that is anchored between the stone supports for two fireplaces. The northern of these is cantilevered to a heavy timber lintel and supports a corner fireplace. (Photo 3) The southern is arched. In the southeast corner of the cellar, the framing runs

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east-west, defining the former extent of the hallway. A bulkhead along the south wall was the original access to the cellar.

The footprint of this section is almost square, measuring approximately 28 feet in width and 32 feet in depth. From the cellar, as well as the configuration of the first floor, it is possible to determine that the original plan consisted of a side hall, with two rooms to the west side. Some clues indicate more detail about the original arrangement, although more intensive physical investigation would be necessary to establish the plan with any certainty. The cellar framing, as well as evidence of the removal of two beams spanning east-west about half-way down the hallway, (Photo 4) suggests that the original stair faced the south doorway and rose fairly steeply along the hallway's east side from a point approximately opposite the opening to the present stair to the cellar. The cut-off beams would have supported the top of the stair at the level of the garret. The ghost of a partition along the east wall suggests that this stair was boxed. Another ghost along what would have been the west wall of the hall, but is now within the cellar stairway suggests that there was another partition, creating a small room at the rear of the hallway. The hallway ceiling originally was lower, matching the ceiling in the two western rooms, but was raised to match the height of the two eastern rooms when those were added.

The present stairway rises from the north along the west wall of the hallway to a garret landing. The heavy newel post dates to the late 19th or early 20th century, but the delicately turned balusters appear to have been reused. (Photo 5) Their form suggests that they may come from a stairway installed when the eastern rooms were added in the early 19th century.

The southern room (Room 1) is entered from the hallway through an original five-panel door. (Photo 6) A few massive beams, finished and meant to be exposed, span from front to back. (Photo 7) These suggest that the framing of the building is Dutch, although further investigative probing of the garret and roof framing would be necessary to establish its character with certainty. Like the rest of the first floor, the flooring of wide pine boards is original. A hefty chair rail marks the east and south walls and forms the sills of the windows. (A plate rail, which also runs along these walls is a late 19th or early 20th century addition.) The west wall, with fireplace at the center, is fully paneled. (Photos 8 and 9) The firebox has been bricked up to accommodate a stove flue. The style of the mantel, framed with unusual attenuated colonnettes and a frieze with center panel, suggests that it is an early 19th century addition. To the left of the fireplace are a five-panel door and fine arched, barrel-backed cupboard with curved shelves. A similar arched opening to the right of the fireplace now holds a 19th century door. (Photo 10)

The five-panel door in the west wall of this room indicates that there always was some enclosed space to the west of the room, although whether the present shed is original would require further

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Jacobus Vanderveer House
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investigation. Because there is no indication of cooking facilities elsewhere, some form of kitchen probably always occupied this space. The shed is now occupied by a kitchen and two pantries or store rooms. (Rooms 5, 6 and 7.)

A partition has been removed between the southern and northern rooms, creating one large space. The treatment of the Room 2 is simpler than that of the larger Room 1. While the exposed beams, chair rail and later plate rail are the same, there is no fully paneled wall. The fireplace is in the southwest corner. Although the form of the mantel, with its frieze in the form of a flattened bolection molding, is widely found in central New Jersey in the 18th century, the delicate and slender proportions again suggest that this mantel was added in the early 19th century. (Photo 11) Room 2 has been somewhat more affected by alterations than Room 1. The change in the north windows obviously affects the interior as well as the exterior. In addition, the original doorway opening from the hall was closed up when the stairway was added, and a new, late 19th or early 20th century door was inserted at the north end of the wall dividing this room from the hallway.

The remaining two rooms on the first floor differ markedly in character from those to the west side of the hall. For one thing, their ceilings are about a foot higher, giving a sense of greater amplitude. Elements, such as the six-panel doors, tend to be more vertical. (Photo 12) These rooms also have chair rails, although again these are more delicate in profile than their counterparts across the hall. The southeast room (Room 3) is dominated by the fireplace centered on the east wall. Its mantel, in vernacular Federal style, has a frieze richly embellished with carved and gouged fans, circles and ovals. (Photo 13) Some ornament appears to have been added to this room in Greek Revival style, perhaps in the 1830s. This includes somewhat heavy fluting along the sides of the mantel and overdoor moldings incorporating a Greek fret.

Like the north room across the hall, the northeast room (Room 4) has a corner fireplace ornamented with circles, ovals, diamonds and fans. The treatment is, however, not as elaborate, with far less carving. (Photo 14) This fireplace has been bricked up to enclose a woodburning heater. Also, at some time in the 20th century, a toilet was installed in the northwest corner of the room; presently the room is used for storage.

The former open garret was divided into four rooms and two baths, probably at the same time the dormers were added in the late 19th or early 20th century. Doors and moldings are typically late Victorian in character. (Photo 15)

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The Jacobus Vanderveer House is the last surviving building associated with the Vanderveers, a family prominent in Bedminster Township from the period of its earliest settlement through the third quarter of the nineteenth century. It stands on land acquired by Jacobus Vanderveer the elder, probably in 1743, although the house was not constructed until some ten to twenty years later, and is named for his son, also Jacobus. According to tradition, it served as headquarters for General Henry Knox during the winter of 1778-79, when the American artillery was encamped in the village of Pluckemin a short distance to the south. Architecturally, while the exterior has suffered some loss of integrity, the interior is well preserved and contains notable 18th and early 19th century woodwork. Constructed in two sections, the house poses interesting questions about the interrelationship of English and Dutch culture as reflecting in building techniques and ornamentation.

Ownership

The elder Jacobus Vanderveer was born in Salem County, New Jersey, in 1704, the son of Jacobus Vanderveer and grandson of Cornelis Janse Vanderveer, who emigrated from North Holland to Flushing, New York, in 1659.¹ By 1734 he was established in Somerset County; his eldest son was baptized at Readington in that year.² The following year, when he purchased two relatively small pieces of land in Hillsborough Township, the deeds described him as "of Somerset" and noted that both pieces of property were bounded by land he already owned.³ It was not until 1743 he acquired land along the North Branch of the Raritan. This consisted of

¹ Rosemary Fellows Bailey, *Pre-Revolutionary Dutch Houses and Families in Northern New Jersey and Southern New York*, (New York, 1968), p. 459. A recent genealogy by Doris Davis Wallace, "Some Vandivers of the show Me state and elsewhere" (Somerset County Library) suggests that the progenitor may have been Capt. Jacob Jacobsen Vanderveer, who married Katherine Bassert of Salem County and died at Wilmington, DE in 1699.

² *Ibid.*

³ D.S. May 8, 1835 for three acres purchased from Cornelius Van Horne and D.S. July 10, 1735 for 24 acres purchased from Reynier Van Veghte et ux. Van Der Veer Papers, New Jersey Historical Society.

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439 acres on the east side of the river, bought from Lewis Johnston and his wife Mary.⁴ It probably was at about the same time that he purchased a tract on the west side of the river, although no deed for that transaction exists.⁵

The instrument from the Johnstons to Vanderveer lays unusual stress on the former being "Lawfully and Rightfully Seized in their own Right of a good sure perfect Absolute and indefeasible Estate of Inheritance" and that Jacobus will have undisturbed right to the property. This strong language probably was a response to the fact that certain land titles in East Jersey were in dispute throughout the first half of the eighteenth century. The case, generally known as the Elizabethtown Bill in Chancery, was heard in 1747. At the time, there were unauthorized tenants on both the Johnston and Axtell properties. John Clawson on the Johnston property had been evicted in March 1742/43, only a few months before Vanderveer's purchase.⁶

Many of the unauthorized tenants had been engaged in timbering and sawmilling. Jacobus Vanderveer also exploited the rich resources of the area's forests. A 1762 advertisement for property for sale in the neighborhood cites Jacobus Vanderveer's mills as a landmark.⁷ While the mills undoubtedly were the source of Vanderveer's wealth, he was a civic leader as well. In 1739, probably before moving to Bedminster, he was a Justice of the Peace. Later, he served as a Justice of the Quorum in 1749, 1752 and 1768; as a Judge of Oyer and Terminer, 1766-68; 1770-71, and 1774; and as a Judge of Common Pleas in 1768.⁸ He was also a prominent figure in the Dutch church on the west side of the river.⁹ He was an elder from the time the congregation was

⁴ East Jersey Deeds, Liber K-2, 253-257. Lewis Johnston had inherited the land from his father, Scottish proprietor John Johnston.

⁵ The previous owner of the western parcel was Daniel Axtell, who had acquired 941 acres from another Scottish proprietor in 1726. The Johnston and Axtell holdings are delineated on one of the maps published with the Elizabethtown Bill in Chancery.

⁶ *A Bill in the Chancery of New-Jersey*, (New York, 1747). Copies are at the New Jersey Historical Society and Rutgers University Library.

⁷ *Archives of the State of New Jersey*, 1st series, XXIV, 111-112.

⁸ "Civil List of Somerset County, 1688-1799," *Somerset County Historical Quarterly*, VIII (1919), 121.

⁹ The church building is gone, although the burying ground remains.

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formed on December 25, 1758, and donated the two acres of land on which the church was erected in 1760. He also contributed 50£ and one-third of the oak used in its construction. His will left 200£ to be used toward payment of the minister's salary. The grave of his wife, Phoebe, was the first burial in the churchyard in 1759.¹⁰

The mills, as well as homestead property were located on the east side of what is now Route 206. The position of both is shown on John Hills' 1778 map of Somerset County. (Figure 1) Jacobus Vanderveer died, a wealthy man in 1777, leaving his heirs money at interest as well as land in Maryland and Virginia. His Bedminster Township property was divided between two sons. Elias, born in 1746 received the property incorporating the mills. Described in the will as the "Plantation whereon I now Dwell" it lay southeast of the North Branch. The property west of the road and northwest of the North Branch was left to an older son, another Jacobus.¹¹

It is possible that the younger Jacobus Vanderveer, who was 31 when his father died, already was living on the property and had built the older section of the house. Various dates for the construction have been cited. Andrew D. Mellick thought the house had been built c. 1760; Van Horn dates it 1756. It may have been built around the time the younger Jacobus reached his majority in 1764 or 1765. The style of the paneling, particularly the interior doors, is consistent with a date early in the third quarter of the 18th century.

The younger Jacobus, who eventually anglicized his name to James, died in 1810, leaving the property to his son, Henry S. Vanderveer. Henry S. outlived his father by only two years, the farm then going to his daughter Mary Hardenburgh Vanderveer. She retained the property until April 1, 1833, at which time she sold it to a cousin, Dr. Henry Vanderveer.¹² The wealthy and eccentric doctor had thus reunited his grandfather's properties. When Dr. Vanderveer died in 1868, relatives contested his will. Extended legal proceedings dragged on until 1873.¹³ Eventually the court divided the estate among five Vanderveer cousins, ordering that the real

¹⁰ J.H. Van Horn, *Historic Somerset*, Historical Societies of Somerset Counties (1965).

¹¹ New Jersey Wills, Liber 18, 558-570.

¹² Somerset County Deeds, Liber F-2, 451.

¹³ New Jersey Prerogative Court Register #5; Van De Veer Papers; Somerset County Surrogate's Office, Docket #11900.

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Continuation SheetJacobus Vandervee House
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estate be sold. At that time a map of the various parcels in the doctor's possession was made, showing the location of the Jacobus Vandervee House on a property designated as number VI.

The property then passed out of the immediate family, being sold to Israel Schenck and then to Henry Ludlow. Ludlow sold it around the turn of the century to Grant B. Schley, who had extensive real estate holdings in the area. During most of this period it remained, as it had been during Dr. Henry Vandervee's ownership, a rental property.

Revolutionary War Associations

During the winter of 1778-1779, the American Army was encamped in Somerset County. While Washington was headquartered at the Wallace House in Somerville, the American artillery encamped just north of Pluckemin on the east side of what is now Route 206. According to tradition, their commander, General Henry Knox and his family quartered in the house of Jacobus Vandervee.¹⁴ So strong is this tradition, that in local histories the building is often referred to as the Knox House.

A charming story related to the Knox occupancy has been told and retold. Based on oral tradition, both Andrew D. Mellick and James P. Snell recount that when Knox's infant daughter, Julia, died in 1779, the Dutch Church refused to bury her in the churchyard because Knox was a Congregationalist. According to this romantic tale, "Old Jacob Van Derveer's honest cheek blushed scarlet with shame for his church and congregation." Leading Knox to the field adjacent to the churchyard, where his own daughter lay, refused burial by the church because of insanity, he said, "Gen'ral Knox, this is my ground; bury your child here."¹⁵

How much truth there is in this delightful story is questionable, although the grave of the Knox child is located close to that of a Vandervee daughter. In 1779 the elder Jacobus Vandervee had been in his grave for three years; the younger was 36 years old, hardly the venerable patriarch of

¹⁴ In contrast to other secondary sources, Bailey, *Pre-Revolutionary Dutch Houses*, p. 460, places Knox's headquarters in the Elias Vandervee House on the east side of the road. This seems unlikely; at the time that house was occupied only by Elias's young, pregnant widow and an infant son and it seems unlikely that Knox would have imposed.

¹⁵ James P. Snell, comp., *History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, New Jersey*, 724; Andrew D. Mellick, Jr., *The Story of an Old Farm*, 463.

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legend. Nevertheless, the local persistence of the tale suggests that some sort of friendly relationship between Knox and Jacobus Vanderveer existed and helps confirm the even more persistent tradition that this house was Knox's headquarters.

Architectural Significance

Although it has undergone considerable alteration, the Jacobus Vanderveer House still retains integrity of location, form and plan, materials, workmanship (especially in terms of paneling and other decorative detail), feeling and association. The road on which it stands has now become a busy highway, but the surroundings retain a rural feeling and the siting of the building -- oriented to the south -- remains indicative of its early date. The alterations do not mask the one-and-a-half story form, with its broadly sweeping roof, indicative of Anglo-Dutch taste. Aspects of its construction, plan and particularly well-preserved interior detailing, make it an excellent example of a Dutch-American house.

When it was built, the Vanderveer family had been established in America for more than a hundred years. Throughout that time, they had intermarried with other Jersey Dutch families, such as the Ditmars, Hardenberghs and Van Hornes. They also had remained attached to, and indeed prominent in, the Dutch Reformed Church. They thus can be considered "Dutch" in culture. Their house provides evidence of their background, but also demonstrates the process of acculturation.

Dutch elements in the older part of the house probably include the frame. The few large beams, framed from front to back and related to the window openings, suggest that the building may be framed in characteristically Dutch fashion as a series of "H" bents. The side hall plan, with a larger front room with fireplace centered on the side wall and corner fireplace in the smaller rear room, is not specifically Dutch, although in an "English" house of this period, one would expect to find such a plan coupled with a 2 to 2 1/2 story height. If, however, as appears to be the case, the stair and the hall behind it were partitioned from the entry portion of the hall, forming a third small room at the rear, the plan might be considered Dutch rather than a conventional 2/3 Georgian. Although boxed or sheathed stairs occur in houses built by other cultural groups, Waterman considered such stairs especially characteristic of Dutch building. This was practical because the stairs often led to open garrets; if not closed off they would generate serious drafts.¹⁶ Indeed, the garret, originally open in both sections of the house, is another Dutch feature.

¹⁶ Thomas Tileston Waterman, *The Dwellings of Colonial America*, 223.

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There is, however, nothing distinctively Dutch about the paneling in the older section of the house, which rather reflects prevailing American taste of the period in which the building was constructed, the third quarter of the 18th century. On the other hand, the mantels in the later, eastern section are reflective of Dutch taste. The form, with pilasters, frieze and prominent center block, is a common one in the Federal period. The elaborate decoration, especially on the mantel in the southern room (Room 3), is of a type commonly found in areas with sizable Jersey Dutch populations.¹⁷ Similar mantels were installed in the General Frelinghuysen House in Raritan c. 1810. The design of the mantels in the Vanderveer House suggests that the addition was made at the time Henry S. Vanderveer inherited the building from his father in 1810, or when his sister in turn inherited two years later.

The addition created a center hall plan with two rooms to either side. Although Cohen in *The Dutch-American Farm*, considers this plan typically Dutch-American, it is in fact a conventional Georgian plan that can be found at least from Virginia through Pennsylvania to New Jersey. What distinguishes the plan in Dutch examples is the form that results when it is combined with a 1 1/2 story height. The plan itself, similar to that adopted by English neighbors, is a symptom of acculturation. It seems likely that when the addition was made, it resulted in a true center, through hall, with open stair. The delicate balusters, probably reused in the existing stair, appear to date from the same period as the mantels and other trim in this part of the building. The added fluting on the mantel and the Greek Revival overdoors in Room 3 may date from Dr. Henry Vanderveer's acquisition of the property in 1833.

¹⁷ Although like all generalizations this is subject to exceptions, mantels of similar form in buildings that can be considered culturally English are likely to incorporate classically derived detailing, such as swags and bellflowers.

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Jacobus Vanderveer House
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Section number 9 Page 1

Books and Articles

Bailey, Rosemary Fellows. *Pre-Revolutionary Dutch Houses and Families in Northern New Jersey and Southern New York*. Paperback ed. New York, 1968.

"Civil List of Somerset County, 1688-1799." *Somerset County Historical Quarterly*. VIII (1919).

Cohen, David, Steven. *The Dutch-American Farm*. New York and London, 1992.

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Jacobus Vanderveer House
Somerset Co., NJ

Section number 9 Page 2

Maps

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

Jacobus Vanderveer House
Somerset, Co., NJ

Boundary Description

Beginning at a point on the west side of U.S. Routes 202/206 at the end of a tree/hedgerow, the southerly side of which is approximately 160 feet south of the house, thence northerly along the west side of the road approximately 1100 feet to a point between two tree/hedgerows that run east-west, then westerly between the hedgerows approximately 450 feet to the 128' contour line to a point between two tree/hedgerows that run roughly north-south. Thence southerly between the hedgerows approximately 625 feet to a point where the vegetation veers towards the west. Then following a line 50 feet within the western hedgerow in a roughly semicircular pattern to the 120' contour line, thence southeasterly along that line 160 feet. Thence easterly along the southern edge of a tree/hedgerow 800 feet to the place of beginning.

Boundary Justification

The Jacobus Vanderveer House occupies a parcel of over 100 acres purchased by the Township of Bedminster as open space. Although there are presently no comprehensive plans for its use, portions of the tract will eventually be developed for passive recreation and ball fields. Concept plans call for the ball fields to be located in the souther portion of the tract near River Road. The boundaries for National Register purposes were drawn to assure that, after such development takes place, the rural atmosphere of the Jacobus Vanderveer House would be preserved by incorporating natural visual barriers provided by existing vegetation.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

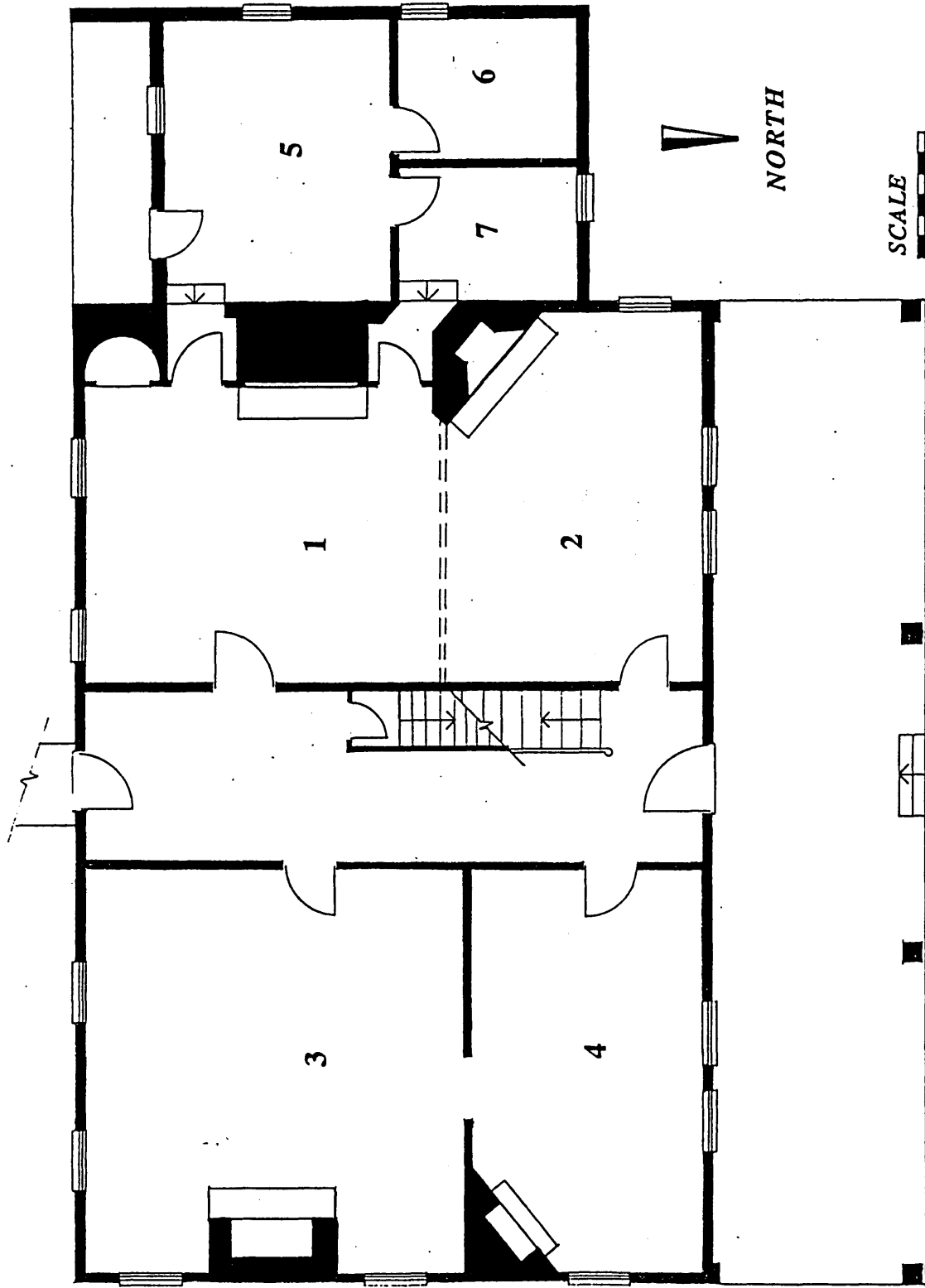
Section number _____ Photos _____ Page 1

Jacobus Vanderveer House
Somerset County, NJ

Photo Inventory

Photographer: Constance Greiff
Date of Photos: 11/94
Negative Repository: New Jersey Historic Preservation Office

- Photo #1 - front facade with shed-roofed addition on west side; view NE
- Photo #2 - rear of house with porch; view SE
- Photo #3 - fireplace support and timber framing in cellar
- Photo #4 - cellar framing
- Photo #5 - stairway
- Photo #6 - original panel door to Room 1
- Photo #7 - Room 1; view S
- Photo #8 - panelled west wall of Room 1 and fireplace
- Photo #9 - fireplace in Room 2
- Photo #10 - fireplace in Room 1
- Photo #11 - arched opening and 19th century door in Room 1 next to fireplace
- Photo #12 - six panel door on first floor
- Photo #13 - Federal era fireplace in Room 3
- Photo #14 - corner fireplace in Room 4
- Photo #15 - example of late Victorian doors and window moldings

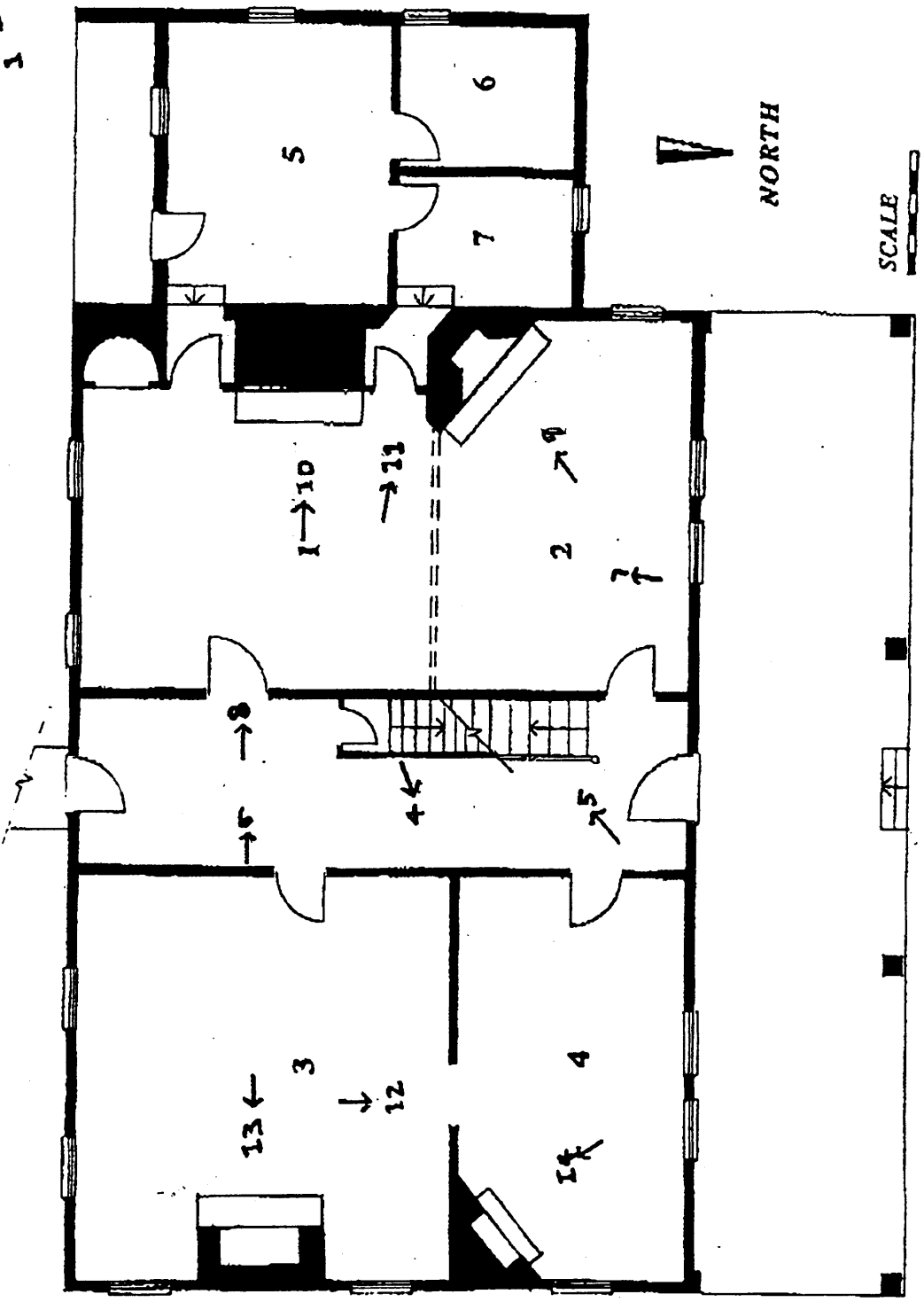


FIRST FLOOR PLAN

JACOBUS VANDERVEER HOUSE,
 BEDMINSTER TOWNSHIP,
 SOMERSET COUNTY, N.J.

DRAWN 11.18.94 BY ART

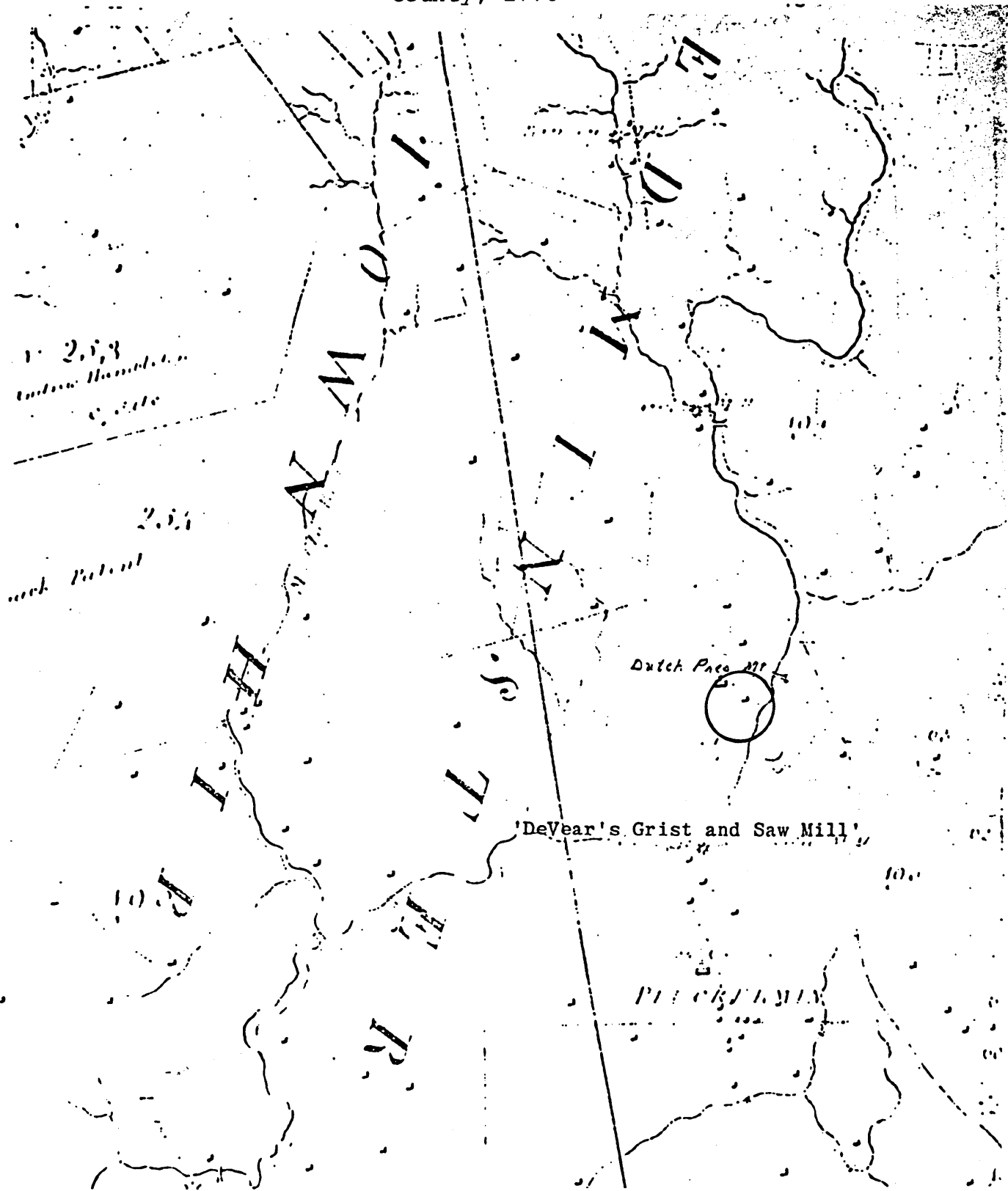
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FIRST FLOOR PLAN

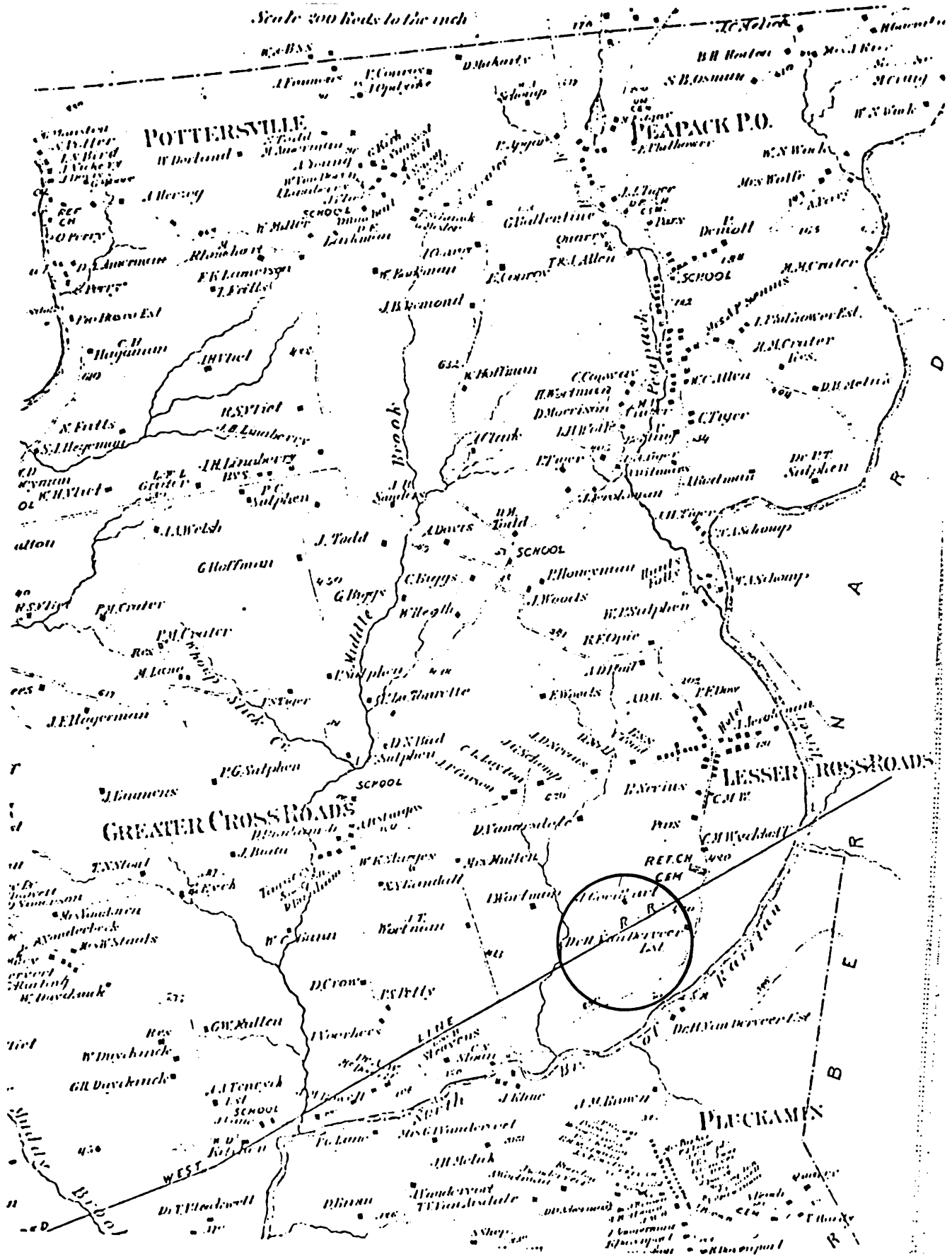
JACOBUS VANDERVEER HOUSE,
BEDMINSTER TOWNSHIP,
SOMERSET COUNTY, N.J.
DRAWN 11.18.94 BY ART

Fig. 1. John Hills, "Map of Somerset County, 1778

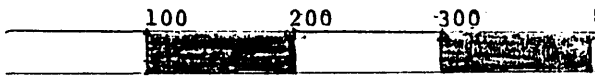


Jacobus Vanderveer House, Bedminster Township, Somerset County, NJ

Fig. 2. Otley & Kelly, Map of Somerset County, 1850



Jacobus Vanderveer House, Bedminster Township, Somerset County, NJ



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JACOBUS VANDERVEER HOUSE
BEDMINSTER TOWNSHIP
SOMERSET COUNTY, NJ



PREPARED BY:

Heritage Studies

January 1995

