

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only  
received AUG 1 1984  
date entered AUG 30 1984

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name** (Rev. John Hancock) House, Cider Mill and Cemetery

historic

and/or common Hancock House

**2. Location**

street & number 45 Ridgedale Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Florham Park vicinity of congressional district

state New Jersey code 034 county Morris code 027

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: cemetery

**4. Owner of Property**

name William M. Hancock, Jr.

street & number 45 Ridgedale Avenue (201) 377-0469

city, town Florham Park vicinity of state New Jersey 07932

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Morris County Courthouse

street & number Washington Street

city, town Morristown state New Jersey

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Historic Preservation Element  
Morris County Master Plan has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_ yes  no

date 1976 \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state  county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records Morris County Planning Board, Schuyler Place

city, town Morristown state NJ

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

## Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Hancock House and Cider Mill, both frame structures, occupy 1½ acres of level ground on the west side of Ridgedale Avenue. The house stands several yards from the road and the mill is sited directly behind it at a distance of about 150'. Both are surrounded by mature deciduous trees of considerable size. The 1 1/3 acres of cemetery land occupy a slight rise immediately southwest of mill and house as Ridgedale Avenue curves in that direction. A low stone wall defines the cemetery's roadside boundary.

The Hancock property lies in the midst of a suburban residential neighborhood of similarly scaled 1- and 2-story frame houses, dating mostly from the second half of the 20th century with a scattering of earlier buildings. The appearance and general character of the neighborhood (small houses on small lots sited relatively near the road) is typical of local development evolving gradually from the subdivision of 18th and 19th-century agricultural properties.

### Exterior

The Hancock House is an L-plan dwelling constructed of braced-frame oak members clad with clapboards of varying widths. The smaller west wing (ca. 1750) is built without a foundation; the larger wing (ca. 1802) has a rubble fieldstone foundation and cellar. The gabled roofs of both wings are covered with asphalt shingle. In the smaller wing, west gable end, is one interior brick chimney, rebuilt above the roofline. The east gable end of the larger wing has a single brick chimney serving a furnace, the two original chimneys having been removed.

The front door of the smaller wing, centered between two 9/6 sash, is shielded by a modern shed roof. The main roof, with overhanging eaves, has neither cornice nor frieze. A narrow addition, built ca. 1930, runs along the rear of this wing and has multipaned picture windows.

The facade of the larger wing is three bays with side-hall entrance. A narrow window is butted up against the left side of the door. Most of the windows are 6/6 sash. The windows of the second floor facade have 9 lights and open by sliding horizontally. Across the length of the facade is a flat-roofed porch carried on 5 posts, square in section, with molded caps. The rear of this wing was extended several feet during a ca. 1930 remodeling and the fenestration altered.

### Interior

The original part of the small wing (#5 on plan) is now one room with a small bath in the southeast corner and enclosed porch (#6) at the rear, both added ca. 1930. The fireplace, with simple wooden shelf and cemented hearth, is the focal point of the room. Door and windows are framed with plain mitred architraves; a batten cupboard has ca. 1880s hardware and the narrow-board floor dates from around 1915. This room must have been altered successively in its evolution from dwelling to artisan's quarters to

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Rev. John Hancock House, Cider  
Mill & Cemetery, Florham Park, NJ Item number 7  
Florham Park, Morris County, NJ

Page 1

Description (continued)

dwelling. Its general configuration and simplicity of treatment support the ca. 1750 construction date, although there is little fabric that can be analyzed closely.

The larger wing, consisting of 4 principal ground-floor rooms has a side hall (#1) and double parlors (#2 & 3) incorporating original fabric dating from several different periods. The present kitchen (#4) was remodeled in the 1930s, obliterating all traces of original fabric except for a section of chairrail in the SE corner. The enclosed porch w/bathroom (4a) for customers was added contemporaneously.

Hall (#1)

A straight-run stair rises against the west wall. The turned newel post and balusters are standard Italianate types popular locally in the 1850s and 1860s. Beneath the plain stringer are seven panels of stained and varnished hardwood. Two other features of interest are a 28" high grained wainscot and original wrought iron strap hinges on the six panel front door.

Parlors (#2 & 3)

The parlors are nearly identical w/10"± wide oak floors and faux marbre wooden Greek Revival Mantels of the simplest pilastered type, 5'7" long x 4'4" high with brick hearths. Those parlor windows that no longer have their original 6/6 sash have been altered with 4/4 pseudo-casements (actually sliding sash) of the type favored by Downing and familiar from local houses built in the 1850s (like Joseph W. Revere's "The Willows" in Morris Township).

Bedchambers

The chamber floor has a large percentage of original (or at least very old) plaster and grained woodwork. The doors are a mixture of batten construction, 4-panel and 6-panel, most with rimlocks and white china knobs. The three windows of the front facade have 9 lights and slide into the wall horizontally.

The large front chamber (above room #2) has a 61" high Federal-style wooden mantel w/gouge-cut sunburst patera and reeded pilasters. The rear chamber has lost its mantel.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Rev. John Hancock House, Cider

Continuation sheet Mill & Cemetery Item number 7 Page 2

Florham Park, Morris County, NJ

Description (continued)

HANCOCK CIDER MILL

The Hancock Cider Mill is a 2-story oak frame building w/gable roof, full cellar and random fieldstone foundation. Cladding is shiplap siding and slate roof. Overall dimensions are 26' x 38', exclusive of two wings

(see plan). Wing #1 is a silo added in 1900 to house a wooden vinegar generator tank (see photo A). The silo was later raised to a full three stories (see photo B). Wing #2 is an apple house (photo B) w/double-leaf garage doors, added in 1937 to replace the bins pictured in photo A and to house washing equipment.

On the northeast is a shed-roofed loading platform and a small office extension that houses balance mechanisms for the wagon scale ("Howe Scale" can be seen painted under the window in photo A). Doors behind the loading platform are sliding doors, and all windows are 6/6 sash. The bucket elevator visible in photo A once passed through the second-story door in the southeast gable end.

The large ground-floor space is undivided (except for the office extension) in order to accommodate the drive shaft, which runs through the width of the building, and the other equipment, most of which remains in situ. In addition to the drive shaft, the barrel hoist, conveyor ("elevator") trough, juice press, apple grinder and scale mechanism are pictured in photos #1-5.

HANCOCK CEMETERY

The cemetery occupies a small hill west of the house and mill, bounded on the roadside by a low stone wall with two entrances and screened on the north by a stand of evergreens. The intersection of Ridgedale and Greenwood Avenues is now an area of suburban single-family houses. A gas station stands opposite the cemetery.

Tombstones and monuments are generally quite simple, of sandstone, limestone and marble. Aside from the evergreens and a few scattered shrubs, there is no attempt at formal landscaping.

In addition to six generations of Hancocks, the names on the tombstones represent a cross section of early Florham Park settlers. The number of burials is between 400 and 500.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1803 & ca. 188 (Builder/Architect Reverend John Hancock

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Hancock Homestead reflects a family tradition of religious faith, invention and industry, spanning the years 1803 to 1950. The house, built by circuit-rider Rev. John Hancock was used for 30 years as a Methodist meeting place and is a representative example of local vernacular construction based on English precedents brought to Morris County by settlers from Long Island and Elizabethtown. The cemetery, still in use today, is an unusual example of a public burying ground maintained continuously by a single family for 160 years. The mill, with most of its 1880s machinery intact, is a textbook of late-19th-century cider-making.

Religion

The Hancock Homestead lands were originally part of the 18th century holdings of the Hand family when present day Florham Park, Hanover, Morristown, Chatham, Whippany and Parsippany were all part of Hanover Township. Josiah Hand became John Hancock's stepfather soon after the young boy's widowed mother fled from Springfield with her son to escape its burning by the British in 1780.(1)

John Hancock became a farmer, and although his formal education was scant, his reading and writing abilities marked him as an educated man among his neighbors. In 1801, at the age of 25, he joined the Methodist Episcopal Church. Two years later he built a new wooden farmhouse, attached to an earlier dwelling and artisan's shop, (2) on land acquired from his second stepfather, Robert Forrest. John Hancock was licensed as a Methodist preacher the same year that he completed his house, which became the scene of prayer meetings and lessons from that time until 1832.

In 1814, the Rev. Hancock was ordained a deacon and in 1833 an elder. He was no stay-at-home minister but a trail-blazing circuit rider whose huge territory included Flanders, Paterson, Newark, Rahway and New Providence. His vocation came at a time when few Methodist ministers had any formal theological training; their detractors, in fact, often scorned them as graduates of "Brush College," (3) a reference to primitive circuit-riding conditions. John Hancock's lifetime, nevertheless, corresponded to a period of enormous growth in Methodist Church membership. Between 1784 and 1840, the church grew from 15,000 to 795,000 communicants. Such an increase was attributable largely to men like Hancock, exponents of extemporaneous

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property House & Mill : 1 1/2 acres; cemetery: 1 1/3 acres  
Quadrangle name Morristown, NJ Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A	1,8	5,5,0	4,8,0	4,5	13	7,0,0	B							
	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C							D							
E							F							
G							H							

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The subject property includes all of Municipal tax lots 8 (House & Mill) and 9 (Cemetery), Block 48.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

N/A

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert P. Guter

organization Historic Preservation Consultant date 6 January 1984

street & number 45A Macculloch Avenue telephone (201) 539-0366

city or town Morristown state New Jersey 07960

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer signature R.W. Myers

title Director, Division of Parks & Forestry date 7-16-84

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register Entered in the National Register date 8/30/84

J. Helene Byers  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Rev. John Hancock House, Cider Item number 8 Page 1  
Mill & Cemetery,  
Florham Park, Morris County, NJ

Significance (continued)

preaching who actively sought out the faithful. Not content to open his home as a quasi-church, the Rev. Hancock for many years fitted out a grove on the farm every July 4th where a large congregation repaired for religious and patriotic exhortations.

John Hancock carried his Methodist convictions to the N.J. Legislature, where he was a member. Many of his speeches are recorded, notably those opposing legalized horse racing and his reports to the committee on habitual drunkenness.

Most of his life was spent balancing the practical concerns of a small farmer with those of his higher calling, as vividly expressed in this 1829 letter to his oldest son John Wesley:

My Son: I want you to draw in the large stack of oats after a few drying days. I want you to make my brooms two-thirds flat. I wish you to kill the hogs, and hang up the pork when you think best. I want you to give the sled two good coats of paint, and put it under shelter; and above all, I want you to attend to the worship of God in the family and in your closet. Try to get the children as often as you can to preaching and prayer meetings; impress the truth upon their minds; they are fallen sinners, and the sinner must be born again; pray until the Spirit of God comes down upon your souls; seek God by faith and prayer. (4).

Old age did not less the Rev. Hancock's devotion to the circuit. In 1839 his records show that he traveled 2,406 miles on horseback; spent 154 days away from home; held 161 meetings and ended up \$5.28 out of pocket - all this in his 63rd year. (5)

When John Hancock died in 1854, he left to his family and neighbors the burying ground on his land that had been used by townfolk even before the oldest surviving tombstones, dated 1781. For many years a board tablet at the entrance was inscribed with these words, typical of Hancock's pietistic verse:

"Ye travellers through this vale of strife,  
To endless death or endless life,

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

Rev. John Hancock House, Cider

Continuation sheet Mill & Cemetery, Item number 8 Page 2  
Florham Park, Morris County, NJ

Significance (continued)

Here you may learn midst joy or tears  
The end of worldly hopes or fears."

His own tombstone reads simply:

"John Hancock, for 50 years a faithful minister of Jesus Christ.  
Born Dec. 6, 1776, Died Sept. 17, 1854. He being dead yet speaketh."

Architecture

The house where the Rev. Hancock for 30 years invoked the "Spirit of God upon fallen sinners" is a vernacular dwelling typical of Hoppingtown (as the village was then known) houses of the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Its side-hall, 2-room-deep plan is predictable, considering the construction date and the culture region. The one surviving Federal-style mantel testifies to the apparent incongruity, frequently found in New Jersey during this period, between an utterly simple exterior and interior features of some pretension. There is no difference, in quality, for example, between the Hancock mantel and those in a Morristown house like Macculloch Hall (ca. 1810) built for a gentleman of means.

At some point between about 1840 and 1860, judging from stylistic evidence, the interior sustained its first major modernization. As noted in the Description section, this resulted in an altered stair, grained woodwork upstairs and down, faux marbre mantels in the parlors and a number of 4/4 pseudo-casement windows. A comparison of physical and associative evidence suggests that these changes probably were made soon after the Rev. Hancock's death in 1854. Alterations made in the 1930s seem to have been primarily additive.

Industry and Invention

John Hancock's livelihood, as the 1829 letter to his son indicates, was based on farming and broom-making. Family tradition also maintains that a horse-powered cider mill existed on the farm as early as 1807. No documentary evidence has yet been found to support this contention, although the N.J. Industrial Census of 1870 shows the Hancocks were making cider before construction of the steam-powered mill, and an old photograph (included here as photo G) depicts a building (still standing many years after the 1880 mill was built) referred to by the Hancocks as "the old mill" (about 65' N. of the present mill).



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Rev. John Hancock House, Cider  
Mill & Cemetery,

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 3

Florham Park, Morris County, NJ

Significance (continued)

The present mill was built to replace the original horse-powered operation by W.F. Hancock ca. 1880. An 1882 notice in the True Democratic Banner, titled "A New Mill," reports, "We paid a visit to the cider mill of Mr. William F. Hancock near Madison, N.J., a few days ago. Mr. Hancock has just fitted out a new mill complete, new building, press, and all the paraphernalia appertaining to a modern cider mill." (6)

Cider-making ca. 1880 was carried out according to generally similar methods throughout the northeast. The methods used by the Hancocks, with their minor personal variations, are described below.\*

1. Apples were unloaded and stored in bins with removable slats designed like huge coal bins, after being weighed on a Howe wagon scale.

2. From the bin the apples were carried to the second floor in a "bucket elevator," or conveyor belt that rode on a sprocket chain revolving in a "trough."

3. After leaving the conveyor the apples were sorted by means of a Hancock invention, a hickory-board sorter on which unsound fruit failed to bounce.

4. Once sorted, the sound apples were dropped through an aperture in the second floor onto a grater wheel incorporating 10 foot-long knives (before washing was introduced, small pebbles and other foreign matter would frequently damage the knives and the process would have to be stopped for sharpening).

5. The resultant apple pulp was transferred with wooden shovels from a tub to the press.

\* Of the original major pieces of machinery, only the steam engine/boiler is gone. It stood at the back of the ground-floor space so it could be stoked from a rear door. When the mill was converted to electricity, a few parts of the engine/boiler were salvaged for scrap or reuse. Most of it was buried about 20' from the rear of the mill.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

Rev. John Hancock House, Cider

Continuation sheet Mill & Cemetery, Item number 8 Page 4  
Florham Park, Morris County, NJ

Significance (continued)

6. The press consisted of 10-13 latticed wooden racks, each rack measuring 5 to 6" high and 54" square and each lined with a cotton cheese-cloth blanket. Apple pulp was spread over the blanket in the first rack, evened out with a wooden paddle and the blanket folded over on top. The process was repeated until all of the racks were full.

7. The press was then screwed down under 50 tons of pressure and the resultant juice was carried off into tanks where it could be held until pumped into barrels.

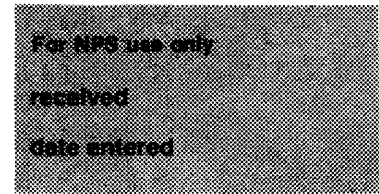
The Hancocks manufactured vinegar by passing hard cider through the mill's wooden generator tank which had been filled with corn cobs in order to expose the cider to large quantities of air. The cider was splashed in at the top of the tank in small quantities by means of tilt troughs which filled and splashed, first left, then right. After 24 hours of this process (at a constant temperature of 80°F.) the vinegar was pumped into two 15,000 gallon storage tanks.

In addition to the latest machinery, the new mill's most important feature was its motive power - steam. The exhibition of Corliss engines and other sophisticated steam machinery at the Centennial Exhibition of 1876 had hastened the application of steam to tasks previously powered by means of water or animals. William F. Hancock's adoption of the new technology was indicative of progressive thinking among Morris County agriculturists in the 1880s: Charles Foster of nearby Morristown, breeder of purebred Jersey cows, was adding stationary steam machinery to his farm at about the same time. (7) Hancock's pride in his new mill is obvious from an 1883 advertisement he placed in The Jerseyman: "Apples Wanted/The Highest Market Prices Paid for/Cider Apples/Delivered at the Steam Cider Mill between Madison and Columbia/William F. Hancock." (8)

The advantage of steam, when combined with improved machinery, was dramatic. With no more than three or four workers, Hancock was able to produce cider at a rate of 350 gallons per hour, representing an increase of approximately tenfold over old methods. A comparative assessment of the mill's capacity is difficult to ascertain because of the state of 19th century records. Even the N.J. Industrial Census does not always report the same kinds of data from decade to decade. The census for 1880 gives a good indication of relative standing, however. It lists "Hancock and Son" as makers of "cider and vinegar." No capacity or production figures are given, but "value of product" is \$3,390." By comparison, only two other Morris

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Rev. John Hancock House, Cider

Continuation sheet

Mill & Cemetery,

Item number

8

Page 5

Florham Park, Morris County, NJ

Significance (continued)

County cider makers are listed, and for each the value of product is \$1,000. (9) Few cider mills had their own orchards, and the Hancock mill was no exception. As the foregoing Jerseyman advertisement establishes, Hancock's cider was a blend, produced from a variety of apples. In light of the family's Methodist faith and prominence of their patriarch, the Rev. John Hancock, who regularly reported to the N.J. Legislature on habitual drunkards, it should come as no surprise that "Mr. Hancock does not distill but deals exclusively in cider, and puts up a very superior article of champagne cider." (10) The mill did produce vinegar, however, of both culinary and industrial quality, and during the Spanish American War sold vinegar for cannon-powder manufacture to the Dupont Works. A third industrial activity was also carried out in the mill.

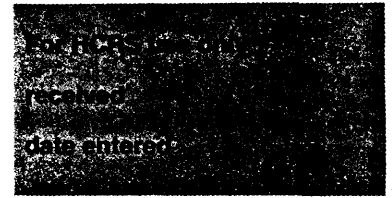
When the cider-making season was over, brooms were made on the second floor using locally grown broom corn. This was one of many local broom factories that caused the area to be known as "Broomtown." A Hancock designed broom machine is displayed by the Florham Park Historical Society.

The wisdom of Hancock's investment in steam seems evident from this 1890 notice from The Jerseyman: "William Hancock of Madison has taken in at his cider mill this year 3,000 bushels of apples for which he paid thirty cents per bushel." (11) Steam continued to power the mill until 1920 when the Hancocks once again took advantage of the latest technology by converting to electricity, just as it was introduced town-wide. The machinery remained unchanged. In the mid 1930s, the N.J. Department of Agriculture required that apples had to be washed before grinding. Since no equipment or specifications existed, the Hancocks exercised their ingenuity and created a washing system which the state then used as a model when recommending installations for other mills. The Hancock system involved dumping the apples from sorting table to water filled wooden tank and then passing them through a 60lb pressure spray as they started up the elevator. (12)

Although the Hancock mill produced large quantities of cider for its day, changes in agriculture and centralized large-scale distribution and marketing were taking their toll by the 1940s. As evidence of its continued prominence and viability however, the mill sold cider to other northern New Jersey mills (such as the Ochs Mill in Livingston) that could no longer produce their own cider but wanted to maintain retail trade. In 1947 the Hancock Cider Mill ceased operations, ending 140 years of a family-operated industry.

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Rev. John Hancock House, Cider  
Continuation sheet Mill & Cemetery, Item number 8 Page 6  
Florham Park, Morris County, NJ

---

Significance (continued)

The survival of the cider mill virtually intact is probably due to its continuous ownership by one family, progressive in some ways, conservative in others. Although quick to adopt new power sources, for example, the Hancocks continued to utilize traditional machinery and methods because they performed efficiently. For this reason the bulk of the remaining machinery dates from the 1880s. This inherent conservatism also accounts for the late destruction of the earlier mill building, a fact which makes archaeological potential likely.

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Rev. John Hancock House, Cider  
Mill & Cemetery,

Continuation sheet

Item number

8

Page 7

Florham Park, Morris County, NJ

NOTES

1. These and subsequent details of the Rev. John Hancock's life are found in the biography written by Elwood H. Stokes, A Pilgrim's Footprints.
2. Information about this earlier wing of the farmhouse is derived from family tradition.
3. Context for local Methodism of Hancock's day is found in John Cunningham's history of Drew University, University in the Forest.
4. Stokes, p. 130.
5. Stokes, p. 155.
6. True Democratic Banner, 1882 (no month), p. 133.
7. cf. "Farm Buildings at Fosterfield," Heritage Studies, Inc., 1983.
8. The Jerseyman, Sept. 28, 1893, p. 2.
9. U. S. Census, Schedule of Industry, 1880.
10. True Democratic Banner, 1883, p. 133.
11. The Jerseyman, October 17, 1890, p. 3.
12. Details of the cider mill machinery and operation were provided in an interview in May, 1983 between William M. Hancock, Jr. and Robert P. Guter.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Rev. John Hancock House, Cider  
Mill & Cemetery

Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 1

Florham Park, Morris County, NJ

For NPS use only

received

date entered

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Cunningham, John. University In The Forest. Afton Publishing Company,  
Florham Park, N.J., 1982.

The Jerseyman, as cited.

Lewis Historical Publishing Company. Biographical and Genealogical History  
of Morris County.

W.W. Musell & Company. History of Morris County.

Stokes, Elwood H. A Pilgrim's Footprints, or Passages in the Life of Rev.  
John Hancock of East Madison, N.J. New York, Dix & Edwards, 1850.

True Democratic Banner, as cited.

United States Census (1870 and 1880), New Jersey, Morris County - Products  
of Industry.

Historical Title Narrative of the Hancock Homestead Farm, Edward Howell,  
C.E. To which is attached abstract of the deed made by David Hand to  
Robert Forrest, (November 4, 1795) and an Abstract of Deeds of convey-  
ance, Devises and Mortgages, prepared by Runyon, from the Records of  
Morris County Clerk's Office (pages 22 et seq.) With Map attached.  
1916.

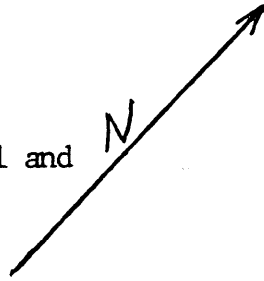
John Hancock Cemetery Burial Records 1823 to present  
Maintained at the Hancock House, 45 Ridgedale Ave., Florham Park, N.J.

Two general sources useful for background information but without specific  
relevance to the Hancock Mill or the Hancock's methods of production are:

Bryant, Dorastus L. "The History of (Apple) Jack." advertising brochure,  
ca. 1900.

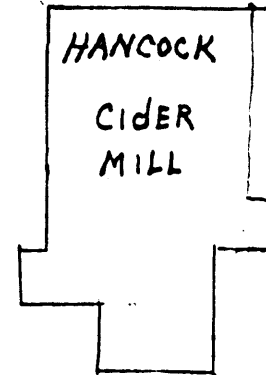
Weiss, Harry B. The History of Apple Jack or Apple Brandy in New Jersey.  
N.J. Agricultural Society, Trenton, N.J., 1954.

Rev. John Hancock House, Cider Mill and  
Cemetery  
Florham Park, Morris County  
New Jersey

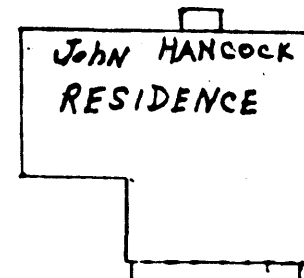


Site Plan

JOHN HANCOCK  
CEMETERY 1 1/2 ACRE

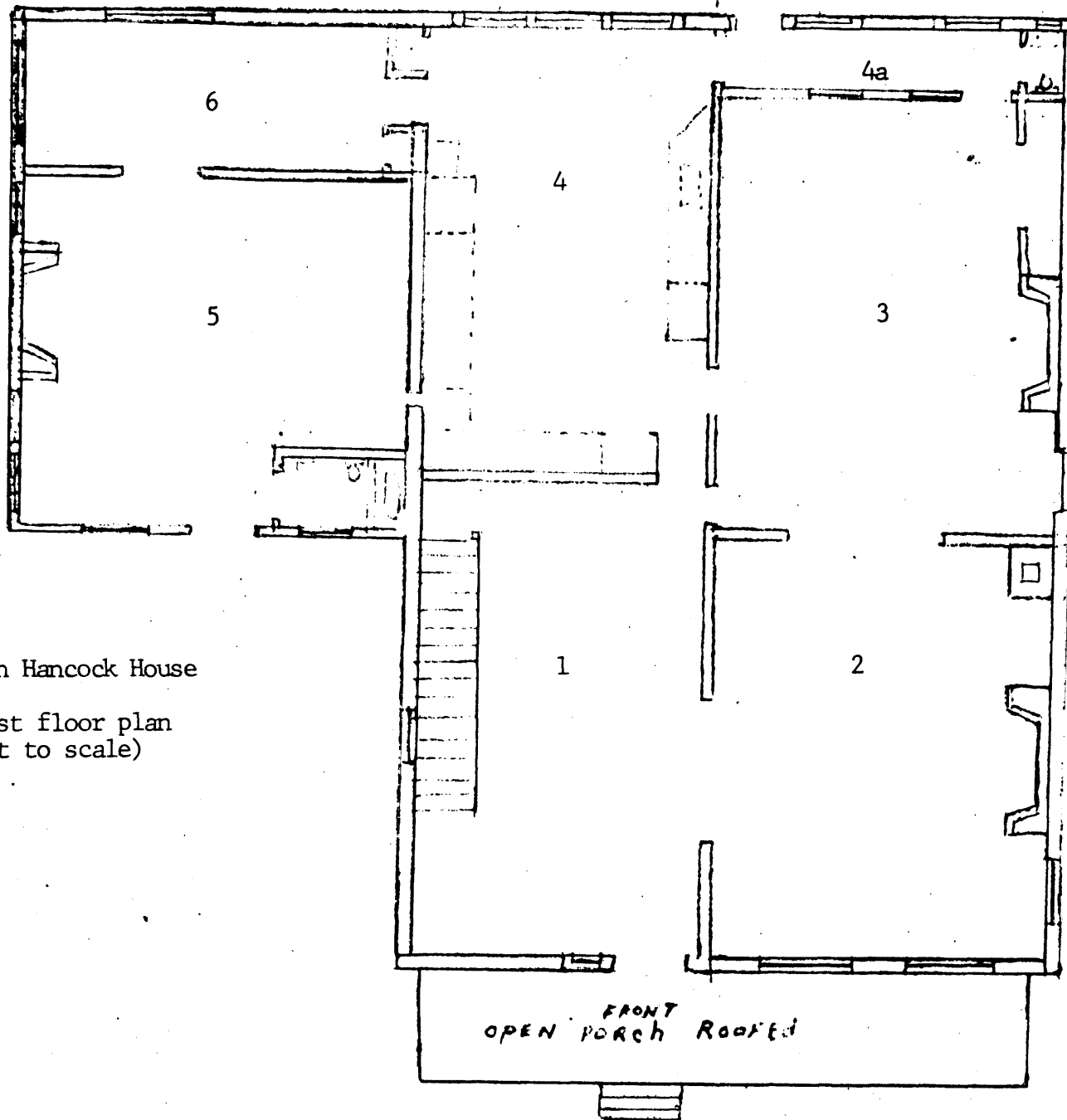


1 1/2 ACRE



Block NO 48 LOT NO 8

BLOCK 48 LOT NO 9  
RIDGE DALE AVE



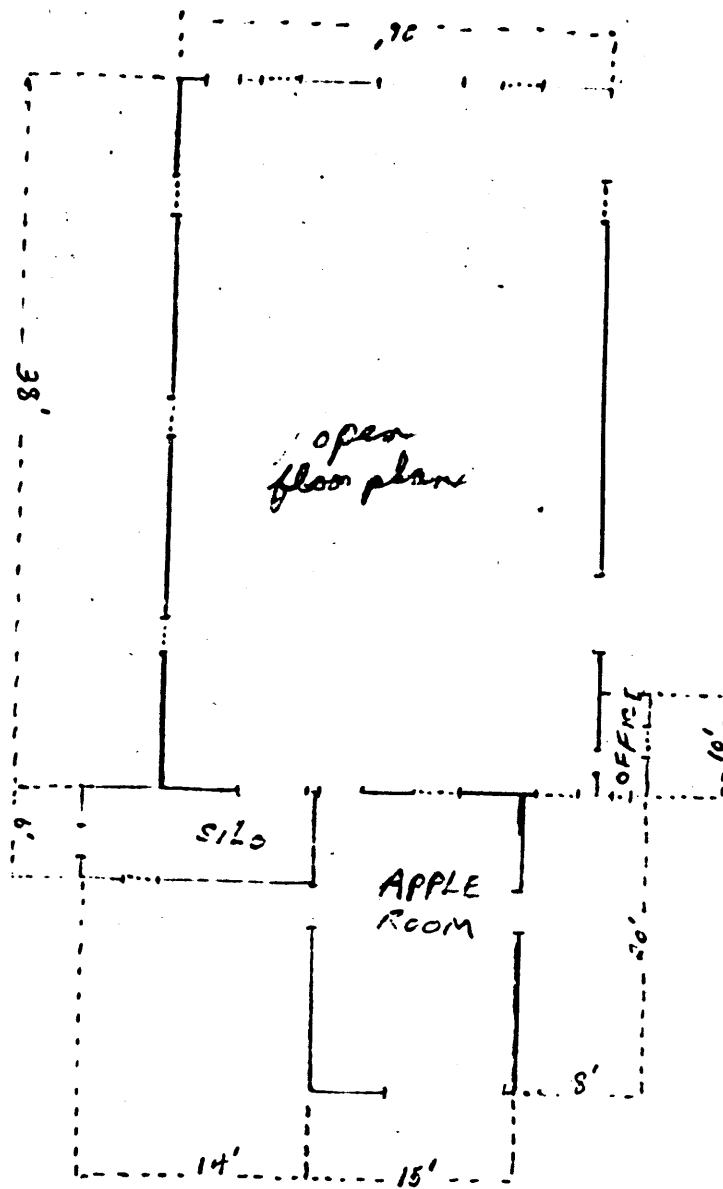
John Hancock House

First floor plan  
(not to scale)

Florham Park, Morris County, N.J.  
HANCOCK HOUSE & MILL



# HANCOCK CIDER MILL



John Hancock House, Cider Mill,  
and Cemetery  
Florham Park, Morris County  
New Jersey  
Plan of Cider Mill