NPS Form 10-900 (Oct. 1990)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the 2010 National Register of Historic Places Registration For (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 instruction. 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: Wertsville Historic District

other names/site number:

...

- 1

. . .

2. Location

| et and number: Wertsville and | d Lindbergh Roads | N/A not for publicatio |
|---|---|--|
| or town: East Amwell Towns | ship | N/A vicinity |
| e: New Jersey | county: Hunterdon County | zip code: 08551 |
| tate/Federal/Tribal Agency | Certification | the ZO live to a state of the state |
| request for determination of eli Historic Places and meets the pro meets does not meet the N nationally statewide X lo Signature of certifying official/Title | er Natural & Historid Resourc | egistering properties in the National Register of n 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property property be considered significant comments.) |
| In my opinion, the property \Box m comments.) | eets 🗌 does not meet the National Register cr | iteria. (🗌 See continuation sheet for additional |
| Signature of certifying official/Title | Date | |
| State or Federal agency and bure | au American Indian Tribe | |

4. National Park Service Certification

| I hereby certify that the property is: | Signature of the Keeper | Date of Action |
|--|-------------------------|----------------|
| entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet. | atuick Andrus | 10/5/00 |
| determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet. | | |
| determined not eligible for the National Register. | | |
| removed from the National Register. | | |
| other. (explain:) | | |

OMB No. 10024-0018

resources previously listed in the National Register

buildings sites structures objects Total

N/A

5. Classification

| Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply) | | Category of Property (Check only one box) | | Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.) | |
|--|----------------|--|--------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| X | private | | building(s) | Contributing | Noncontributing |
| X | public-local | X | district | 31 | 12 |
| | public-State | | site | 2 | |
| | public-Federal | | structure | 1 | |
| | | | object | | |
| | | | | 34 | 12 |
| Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) | | Number o | f contributing resources previ | | |
| | | | in the Natior | | |

N/A

| Historic Functions | Current Functions | |
|--|---|--|
| (Enter categories from instructions) | (Enter categories from instructions) | |
| Agriculture/Subsistence | Agriculture/Subsistence | |
| Commerce/Trade | Commerce/Trade | |
| Domestic | Domestic | |
| Funerary | Funerary | |
| Religion | | |
| Transportation | | |
| Historic Subfunctions | | |
| Enter subcategories from instructions) | (Enter subcategories from instructions) | |
| Agricultural Outbuildings | Agricultural Outbuildings | |
| Cemetery | Cemetery | |
| Department Store | Department Store | |
| Religious Structure | Multiple Dwelling | |
| Road-Related | Road-Related | |
| Single Dwelling | Single Dwelling | |

| Architectural | Classification |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| (Enter categories | from instructions) |

Federal **Greek Revival** Italianate

Materials (Enter categories from instructions) Foundation Stone Walls Wood Roof Asphalt

Narrative Description

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

| name/title: Dennis Bertland & Sally Bisl | ор | |
|--|---|---------------------------|
| organization: Dennis Bertland Associat | es | date: 4/30/2000 |
| street & number: P.O. Box 11 | | telephone: (908) 689-6356 |
| city or town: Port Murray | state: New Jersey | zip code: 07865- |
| Additional Documentation | | |
| Submit the following items with the completed form | : | |
| Continuation Sheets | | |
| Maps | | |
| A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minu | te series) indicating the property's location | l. |
| A Sketch map for historic dist | ricts and properties having large acreage | or numerous resources. |
| Photographs | | |
| Representative black and wh | ite photographs of the property | |
| Additional items | | |
| (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional ite | ems) | |
| Property Owner | | |
| (Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or | FPO.) | |
| name: | | |
| street & number: | | telephone: |
| city or town: | state: | zip code: |
| | | |

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.

US GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1993 O - 350-416 QL 3

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.)

- X 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.
- X 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

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

Property is

- A owned by 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture Commerce Community Planning And Development

Period of Significance

Ca. 1834-1946

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

N/A State of the second second

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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:) | Primary location of additional data: |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested. | State Historic Preservation Office |
| 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 | |
| See continuation sheet for additional HABS/HAER documentation. | |

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 284.00

UTM References

| 1 | 18 | 517610 | 4478120 | 3 | 18 | 517060 | 4476550 |
|---|------|---------|----------|---|------|--------------------|----------|
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 2 | 18 | 518010 | 4477700 | 4 | 18 | 516560 | 4477030 |
| | | | | | | continuation sheet | |

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.)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1 Wertsville Historic District, Hunterdon County, NJ

DESCRIPTION

Wertsville is located in East Amwell Township in southern Hunterdon County, within the Piedmont geographical province of northern New Jersey. Surrounded by the gently rolling farmland of the Amwell Valley along an unnamed branch of the Neshanic River, the Wertsville Historic District centers around the T-shaped intersection of Wertsville Road (County Route 602) and Lindbergh Road

Known historically as Werts' Corners, the rural crossroads community is almost exclusively residential, with surviving architecture dating predominantly from the 19th century, and very few modern intrusions. Immediately surrounding the hamlet are large farms, a few of which have been subdivided into large-lot residential areas, while most retain their agricultural status, including those located within the district. An inventory of district resources is included in this section, and all resources have been categorized as "contributing" (C) or "non-contributing" (NC) to the district's historical significance. Contributing resources include 31 buildings, mostly 19th c. dwellings and farm buildings, 2 sites, including a rubblestone foundation and a cemetery, and 1 structure, a WPA-era bridge. Non-contributing resources include 12 buildings, mostly modern farm buildings and garages, and 1 structure, a 20th c. bridge whose construction date falls outside the village period of significance, but whose style and materials allow it to blend seamlessly within the visual context.

District architecture is, for the most part, characterized by vernacular interpretations of popular 19th century styles, including Federal, Greek Revival, Italianate and Gothic Revival, employed with varying degrees of sophistication, utilizing simple stylistic embellishment typical of the era. District buildings are primarily gable-roofed frame dwellings with attendant outbuildings, along with four notable farmsteads, contiguous to the village. Typical dwellings are traditional in form, usually single-pile, with interior gable-end chimneys and generally regular fenestrations of three to five bays. Buildings are closely spaced on small lots, facing either Wertsville or Lindbergh roads with short setbacks. Most have retained their historic form and detailing over time, and although many have been refurbished or enlarged, these alterations do not significantly affect the character of the district.

A vernacular late-Georgian/early Federal transitional dwelling is the farmhouse at 203 Wertsville Road (inventory #17, photo # 2), originally built as a 3-bay, double-pile side-hall plan dwelling with a later 2-bay west extension. Stylistic characteristics include its solid, robust form, small, regularly spaced sash windows, and wide clapboards. An excellent example of a Federal style

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2 Wertsville Historic District, Hunterdon County, NJ

dwelling is the Werts homestead (inventory # 14, photo # 6), built in 1810 with 19th and 20th c. Colonial Revival embellishment. Original features include an Adamesque swag-ornamented cornice, and center doorway with triangular pediment, pilasters, and demilune fanlight. The east wing, a 20th c. Colonial Revival addition, carefully replicates the original proportions and ornamentation of the original house. A more vernacular version of the Federal style is located at 6 Lindbergh Rd. (inventory #5, photo # 14), typical of local houses of the early 19th century in its simplicity of form and absence of ornament.

Greek Revival influences are seen in the house at 308 Wertsville Rd. (inventory #3, photo #10) which features a square-capped false parapet and corner pilasters typical of vernacular Greek Revival, combined with Gothic Revival icicle-like bargeboards. Now a residence, the nearby 1853 schoolhouse (inventory #6, photo # 15), is also in the Greek Revival mode, with its solid rectangular form, lozenge-shaped gable-end window, and corner pilasters with scallop-edged capitals resembling piecrust molding and matching window hoods, identical to inventory #6.

Central to the village, both historically and today, is the P.V.D. Manners store, now known as the Peacock Country Store, a combination frame residential/commercial building built in the Italianate style in 1883, a building that retains both its historic function and much of its historic fabric, both on the exterior and interior (inventory # 4, photo #s 11 & 12). The store features many of the hallmarks of the Italianate: imposing square form, hip roof, overhanging eaves with small rectangular windows in the frieze, arched doorways with round-arched paneled doors. Notable too is the number of original features and store fixtures on the interior, including built-in cabinetry with original hardware, counters, paneling, and interior shutters. More modest examples of Italianateinfluenced dwellings include 304 Wertsville Rd. (inventory #2), and 340 Wertsville Rd. (inventory # 13).

Also important to the district is the Werts Corner or Amwell Baptist Church (1834, 1884), a stone meetinghouse with adjacent cemetery (inventory #12, photo #s 21 & 22). Though retaining vestiges of former stylistic identity as an essentially classical vernacular building, the church was heavily gothicized in an 1884 remodeling, resulting in its distinctive windows with pointed arches, and added vestibule with unusual folk-art 8-pointed star motif above an eclectic Eastlake-Carpenter Gothic doorway. Its interior also retains a striking altar wall and Carpenter Gothic ceiling, along with other original woodwork ca. 1884.

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Section number 7 Page 3 Wertsville Historic District, Hunterdon County, NJ

Farmsteads included in the district are notable for both the historic and visual context they provide, as well as for retaining a significant amount of attendant outbuildings, predominantly frame, gable-roofed, simple structures with little adornment, that include stables, barns, and wagon houses. Village outbuildings also include stables, wagon houses and privies, along with modern garages.

Two highway bridges are located within the district, one of which is a simple, typical concrete slab (inventory #15, photo # 9), and the other of which is a more decorative rubble stone structure built in 1940, with a masonry barrel vault lined in corrugated metal (inventory #16, photo # 5). Both are well maintained and blend visually with the district; additionally, one of the bridges (inventory #16) is worthy of preservation in its own right as a very good example of a WPA-era structure associated with transportation.

INVENTORY

1 292 Wertsville Rd. Frame, 5-bay, gable-roofed <u>dwelling</u> with lower 2-story, 2-bay west wing and 2-story, 2-bay, shed-roofed west wing. Main block contains interior chimney with brick stack.

Style: none

Date: mid-19th c.

House features mixture of 1/1 and 6/6 sash windows with modern picture windows. Siding is asbestos shingle.

Outbuildings: Barn complex includes 2 older frame 1-story, gable-roofed <u>barn/stables</u> (late 19th-early 20th c.) with plank siding and standing seam metal roofs (C), and 2 modern 1-story, gable-roofed rectangular <u>barn/stables</u> (NC).

Contributing

B 34/L 34

Photo #3

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4 Wertsville Historic District, Hunterdon County, NJ

2 304 Wertsville Rd. Frame, 2-story, 5-bay gable-roofed <u>dwelling</u> on stone foundation, with interior gable-end chimneys (brick stacks with corbeled water tables). Rear ell is modern appendage.

Style: Italianate influences

<u>Date</u>: ca. 1860

House has overhanging eaves with returns. Windows are 6-light casements with louvered shutters, with paired 4-light gable-end windows. Central 8-paneled door with bolection molding has 3-light transom. Siding is asbestos shingle. Raised entry porch with square posts is modern replacement.

Outbuilding: Modern 1-bay gable-roofed frame garage (NC).

Contributing B 34/L35 Photo #

3 308 Wertsville Rd. Frame, 2-story, 3-bay gable-roofed <u>dwelling</u> with interior east gableend chimney, and 1½- story 2-bay east wing.

Style: Greek Revival/Italianate influences with Gothic Revival embellishment

Date: mid 19th c.

Clapboard-sided house on stone foundation has 6/6 sash windows with louvered shutters and scalloped window hoods and diamond-shaped gable-end attic windows. Distinctive sawnwork icicle-like bargeboards trim overhanging eaves. Much of the distinctive trim is original, and matches the detailing of the former schoolhouse on Lindbergh Rd. (inventory # 6). The 1½ story east wing has a false parapet. Hip-roofed 3-bay entry porch features square posts with molded caps and bases.

Contributing

4

B34/L36

Photo # 10

2 Lindbergh Rd. P.V.D. Manners Store. Frame, 2-story, 6-bay <u>commercial/residential</u> <u>building</u> with low-pitched hip roof and attached barn/stable wings.

Style: Italianate

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Section number 7 Page 5 Wertsville Historic District, Hunterdon County, NJ

<u>Date</u>: 1883; article in *Hunterdon County Democrat* dated May 8, 1883 details plans for construction by original owner, P.V.D. Manners of Wertsville. "P.V.D. Manners of Wertsville is erecting a new house and store building. The dimensions of the house are 74 x 50 feet, and the store room 74 x 26." Another article dated August 14 tells of Manners' plans for a grand opening on August 18.

Clapboard-sided main block has 2/2 sash windows with louvered shutters, with 2-light attic windows in plain frieze under overhanging eaves. Exterior concrete block flue stack projects from west side. Northern half of the building retains traditional use as country store, with recessed double door with segmentally arched enframement between semi-hexagonal bay windows. Residential portion to the south has side-hall plan with identical paneled double entry door beneath segmental arch. A 5-bay hip-roofed front porch has box cornice, chamfered posts and square-spindle railing. Hip roofs of porch and main block are covered in standing-seam metal. An historic photo shows the building has been little altered, with a high degree of integrity. The store interior is also largely intact, with many original store fixtures and features, such as built-in cabinetry with original hardware, counters, beaded-board paneling, interior shutters on the front windows, and random-width plank floor.

Lower 2-story gable-roofed former <u>stable/wagon shed</u> is attached at northwest corner by open breezeway, sided in clapboard, with evidence of a sliding batten door on south side. Another lower 2-story, 4-bay, gable-roofed wing, (built as a stable with rooms above supported on posts, visible in an historic photo) extends to the east of the main block, with a former loft entrance facing Wertsville Rd. Now converted to apartments, the wing has clapboard siding, 2/2 sash and modern paneled steel-and-glass entry doors.

ContributingB 34/L 37Photo # 11,12

5

6 Lindbergh Rd. Frame 2-story, gable-roofed <u>dwelling</u> with interior chimney (brick stack), consisting of a 3-bays with center door, with three lateral additions to the east.

Style: Federal vernacular with Greek Revival influence <u>Date</u>: early 19th c.

Features include flush eaves, wide clapboard siding and 6/6 sash windows on upper story with 9/6 sash below. The house has two separate front doors, one a paneled wooden door, and the other a modern stock colonial glass-and paneled replacement.

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<u>Outbuilding:</u> Frame, 2-story 2-bay <u>wagon house/barn</u> with standing seam metal gabled roof, vertical wooden siding, 6/6 gable-end window and sliding batten door (C).

Contributing B 34 L 30 Photo # 14

6 10 Lindbergh Rd. District School # 100. Frame, 2-story, 3-bay <u>schoolhouse</u> with frontfacing gable end, now converted to residence.

Style: Greek Revival with Italianate embellishment

Date: 1853 (inscribed in gable-end attic window on main façade)

The former schoolhouse has been converted to residence, with overhanging bracketed eaves, corner pilasters, and tall 6/6 sash windows, with scalloped window hoods on the main façade and similar capitals on corner pilasters. Gable-end attic window is lozenge shaped with etched date "1853." This window, along with window moldings, are identical to those found at 308 Wertsville Rd. (inventory # 3). Small gabled cupola on roof ridge replaces larger, more elaborate bracketed cupola with corner pilasters and louvered openings, visible in historic photographs. Center door is modern stock colonial replacement with 3-light sidelights. Distinctive enframement with pilasters and "piecrust" cornice matching window trim has been reworked to accommodate modern door. South side rear entry porch has shed roof and turned posts on a concrete stoop with multi-pane glass door.

<u>Outbuildings</u>: 1) Gable-roofed frame <u>privy</u> (early 20^{th} c.), sided in clapboard (C); 2) Shed-roofed frame <u>outbuilding</u> (late 19^{th} –early 20^{th} c.), visible in historic photographs(C); 3) Building site with remains of rubblestone <u>foundation</u> (C).

Contributing

7

B 34/L 29

Photo # 15

9 Lindbergh Rd. Frame, 1 ½ story, 5-bay, gambrel-roofed <u>dwelling</u> with interior gableend brick chimneys.

Style: Colonial Revival

Date: mid-20th c.

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House has 8/12 sash windows with louvered shutters, gabled dormers, flush eaves, and clapboard siding.

Outbuilding: Gable-roofed frame 2-bay modern garage with clapboard siding. (NC)

Non-contributing B 34/L 1 Photo # 16

5 Lindbergh Rd. Frame, 2-story, 3-bay <u>dwelling</u> with 2-bay attached garage.

Style: none

8

9

House has vinyl siding and 1/1 sash windows with decorative shutters.

Non-contributing B 34/L 2

1 Lindbergh Rd. Frame, 2-story, 3-bay gable-roofed <u>dwelling</u> with 1-story, 1-bay shedroofed wing to the west, and west gable-end exterior brick chimney.

Style: none

Date: mid-19th c.

Date: late 20th c.

Photo #

House has flush eaves, replacement 1/1 sash windows with decorative shutters, and paired 4-light gable-end attic windows. Siding is replacement vinyl. Shed-roofed 1-bay entry porch as plain posts and concrete base.

Contributing B 35A/L 3 Photo #

10 314 Wertsville Rd. Frame, 2-story, 3-bay, gable-roofed, <u>dwelling</u> built in three sections: main block (facing Wertsville Rd.), 2-story, 3-bay rear ell (facing Lindbergh Rd.), and 1¹/₂-story kitchen wing. House has interior stuccoed brick chimney and concrete block flue on east end.

Date: mid-19th c.

Style: none

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Section number 7 Page 8 Wertsville Historic District, Hunterdon County, NJ

House has 1/1 replacement sash windows with decorative shutters and aluminum siding; kitchen wing has paired 4-light windows under eaves. Hip-roofed 1-bay entry porch on main façade has plain square posts and concrete stoop with iron railings.

<u>Outbuilding</u>: Frame, 2-story, 2-bay gable-roofed <u>wagon-house/barn</u> (mid to late 19th c.), clad in combination of vertical plank siding and asbestos shingle, and modern overhead type garage doors. (C)

Contributing B 35A/L 4 Photo # 19

11 318 Wertsville Rd. Frame, 2-story, 6-bay, gable-roofed <u>dwelling</u> with 2 interior stuccoed brick chimneys, and attached ground-level flat-roofed 1-bay garage addition with hinged doors on east end.

Style: Greek Revival influence

Date: mid-19th c.

Features include boxed cornice with returns. Siding is replacement vinyl; windows are a mix of 1/1 and 6/1 sash, with paired square east gable-end attic windows. Enclosed 3-bay entry porch has hip roof.

Contributing

B 35A/L 5

Photo # 20

12 320 Wertsville Rd. Amwell Baptist Church. Stone, 2¹/₂ story, 3-bay, gable-roofed <u>church</u> with 1 ¹/₂ story modern frame addition, converted to residence.

Style: Greek Revival influence; later Italianate and Gothic Revival/Eastlake embellishment.

<u>Date</u>: 1834 (inscribed in date stone in gable end: "Amwell Baptist Church/Built1834") Extensively remodeled 1884 (keystone above vestibule entrance is inscribed "A.D. 1884").

Now converted to a residence with retail store, the church built of coursed native rubble stone has contrasting quoins and a stepped water table. Features include boxed cornice with small returns and paired brackets on gable ends, with smaller single brackets on

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Section number 7 Page 9 Wertsville Historic District, Hunterdon County, NJ

north and south facades, along with some remains of earlier cornice modillions. Doubleheight windows have replacement multi-pane sash, topped by gothic arches added in 1884 remodeling; round attic window appears in east gable end. Ghosts of original rectangular windows extending to cornice are evident. Gable-roofed 1-story vestibule in darker gray stone added in 1884 is centered on west façade, with small gothic-arched 1/1 sash windows and a gothic-arched entry. Doorway has gothic-arched sawnwork panel with beaded board laid in a chevron pattern, with additional applied wooden ornament in eclectic Eastlake/Carpenter Gothic mode. Octagonal stone set above doorway has naive 8-pointed star motif. Double door is modern glass replacement. Gothic-arched windows on second story above vestibule addition have been decoratively filled with receding rows of corbeled brick in 1884 remodeling. Note: Interior retains highly decorative1884 altar wall with columns and false graining, and elaborate Carpenter Gothic ceiling as well as other woodwork c. 1884.

Frame, 1½ story, 3-bay east addition with retail store has vinyl siding, plate glass windows and a small gothic-arched gable-end window, with a 2-bay garage with modern overhead doors to the rear.

<u>Landscape feature</u>: Located directly to the rear of the church on a separate lot, the <u>cemetery</u> dates from the early 19^{th} c., with the majority of the stones marking graves from the mid-to late-nineteenth century. (C)

Contributing

B 35A/L 6.7

Photo # 21,22

13 340 Wertsville Rd. Manners Farm. "Terraceland." Frame, 2 ½ story, double-pile, 5-bay dwelling with interior brick chimney has a 2-bay single-pile west kitchen wing with east gable-end interior brick chimney.

Style: Italianate influence

Date: mid 19th c.

House has 6/6 sash windows (with 3/3 sash in uppermost story), and decorative shutters. Siding is aluminum. Paneled wood door has sidelights and transom.

Outbuildings: 1) Pair of gable-roofed frame <u>wagon houses</u> (mid to late 19^{th} c.) to west of house have multipane windows, plank siding and corrugated metal roofs(C); 2) Modern <u>barn complex</u> includes 4 rectangular gable-roofed corrugated metal buildings, one

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Section number 7 Page 10 Wertsville Historic District, Hunterdon County, NJ

with twin silos, and 1 flat-roofed, 3-bay, concrete block outbuilding to the rear of the main house with multi-pane windows. (NC).

Contributing B 35A/L 8 Photo #

14 309 Wertsville Rd. Werts Homstead; "Serendipity Farm." Frame, 2-story, 5-bay gableroofed <u>dwelling</u> with interior gable-end brick chimneys, and lower 2-story 2-bay east wing, with additional extensions and additions to the rear, including a kitchen wing contemporary with the main house, forming an H-plan. A tunnel connects main block with formerly separate dependencies.

Style: Federal, with Colonial Revival embellishment

Date: c. 1810-1830

Clapboard-sided house has proportions and hallmark decorative elements of the Federal style, including symmetrically placed 6/6 sash windows with louvered shutters, cornice ornamented with Adamesque swag motif, and center 8-panel door with triangular pediment, slim pilasters, demilune fanlight and round-arched sidelights. An historic photograph c. 1921 shows that the main block of the house today retains a high degree of integrity. Main block has exposed stone chimney back on east gable end. Rear extension has first-floor glassed-in porch. Extensions and additions executed in Colonial Revival style, blending with original house, most notably the east wing where care has been taken to duplicate the original cornice with swagged frieze of the main house.

<u>Outbuildings</u>: 1) Frame and stone 2-story, 3-bay, gable-roofed <u>outbuilding</u>, (late 19th/early 20th c.), now converted to a cottage dwelling, with attached 4-bay 1 ½ story garage wing to the rear. Windows are 6/6 sash with paneled shutters; garage wing has gabled dormers with multi-pane sash above modern overhead garage doors. Central doorway has colonial revival moldings and modern glass-and-panel door (C); 2) Frame, 2-story, gambrel-roofed <u>bank barn</u> on stone foundation, with attached 11-bay frame stable extension, rebuilt possibly early -to- mid 20th c. on foundation of earlier barn, built in 1869, seen in historic photographs. Pink sandstone date tablet in barn's stone foundation reads "J. L. Werts/1869." Barn has metal roof and horizontal plank siding, with wide ramp to double-height sliding crossbuck door. East façade has paired multi-pane windows on second story, with modern glass-and-panel metal door and a sliding glass and

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wood door, both with crossbuck design. Barn has attached 11-bay 1-story, gable-roofed west stable extension with clapboard siding, metal roof and modern multi-pane sash windows, and attached 1-bay garage with modern overhead door (C); 3) Frame, 1-story, 6-bay, shed-roofed <u>poultry house</u>, (mid-to-late 20^{th} c.) (NC); 4) Metal 1-story, gable-roofed <u>outbuilding</u> with sliding door (late 20^{th} c.) (NC); 5) Pair of frame, 1 ½ story gable-roofed <u>wagon sheds</u> (late 19^{th} c.) joined with a hyphen, with clapboard siding and Colonial Revival doors and windows, as well as pent roof overhang (C); 6) Three-sided, 2-bay modern frame <u>outbuilding</u> with shed roof used as animal feeding station, located on adjacent lot #13.01 (NC).

Contributing

B 23/L13, 13.01

Photo # 6, 7, 8

15 Hunterdon County Bridge # E-177

Concrete slab deck with stone retaining wall extending the length of store property (inventory # 4).

Style: none

Non-contributing

Date: mid 20th c.

Photo # 9

16 Hunterdon County Bridge # E-237

Masonry arch with galvanized sleeve.

Style: none

Date: 1940 (bridge records)

Barrel vault lined in corrugated metal with ring arch articulated with cut stone voussoirs; side walls, spandrels and parapets faced with semi-coursed square cut sandstone with concrete capping and ribbon mortar. Spandrels are articulated by slightly projecting piers. Square marble tablet with inscription reads: "1940/FR Hoffman/CY Hamp/SL Bodine/E Bohren Eng." Cited in *Stone Arch Bridge Inventory, Phase II* as a very good example of a WPA-era bridge worthy of preservation.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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Contributing

Photo # 5

17 203 Wertsville Rd. Frame, 5-bay, double pile, gable-roofed <u>dwelling</u> with interior gableend chimneys (brick stacks).

Style: Georgian influence

Date: late 18th/early 19th c.

Sided in wide clapboards, the house has a slate roof and flush eaves, with window placement and proportions that suggest that it was possibly built as a 3-bay side-hall plan house with a later 2-bay west extension. Windows are 6/6 sash. A narrow front porch with shed roof extends along the length of the main façade (partially enclosed), with a 1-bay side entry porch with shed roof on the east end.

<u>Outbuildings</u>: Extensive barn/stable complex, consisting of:1) Large frame, 2-story <u>bank</u> <u>barn</u>, (mid to late 19th c.), possibly built in two parts as a 3-bay unit with later 3-bay extension. Features include a seamed metal gable roof, vertical plank siding, and a west gable hoist overhang, and shed roofed rear appendage with silo(C); 2) Frame, 1 ½ story gable-fronted <u>wagon house</u> (mid-to late 19th c.)with flanking appendages, sided in clapboard with batten sliding doors and paired sash windows in gable end (C); 3) Frame, 1-story, 7-bay <u>stable</u> (mid 20th c.) with almost flat roof and gabled appendage at one end, possibly a tack room or poultry house (NC); 4) Frame, 4-bay <u>outbuilding</u> (early 20th c.)with asymmetrical gable roof, sided in clapboard (C); 5)Freestanding frame, gable-roofed, 2-bay <u>garage</u> (probably early 20th c.), possibly a remodeled wagon house, adjacent to house with strap-hinged doors, vertical plank siding and cupola (C).

Contributing

B 23/L 11.04

Photo # 1,2

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SIGNIFICANCE

The Wertsville Historic District possesses significance under Criterion C in the areas of settlement pattern, architecture, commerce and transportation. The hamlet exemplifies the smallest of the agglomerate settlements that proliferated throughout the region in the 18th and 19th centuries to serve its dispersed agricultural population, but whose growth was limited by their isolation and lack of access to 19th-century transportation innovations. The district has architectural significance as an assemblage of modest, mostly 19th-century buildings whose construction, form, detailing and spatial organization are representative of the rural region's vernacular architecture in that era. The district's commercial significance is due to its store, a physical document of the important economic and social roles of such mercantile establishments in small rural communities. It possesses significance in the area of transportation because of its 1940 stone bridge, a good example of the WPA-era revival/interpretation of traditional stone-arch bridges. In addition, archaeological resources relating to the area's 19th-century material culture also may be present in the environs of district buildings and sites.

While settlement occurred in the neighborhood around what became Wertsville well before the middle of the 18th century, a hamlet did not coalesce until the middle of the 19th century after a church was built at what was then known as "Werts Corner" in 1834, joining an earlier nearby schoolhouse. Wertsville grew to include about a half dozen dwellings, and by 1873, in addition to its church and school, had acquired a store, post office, tavern and several artisan shops. Located well off the region's main roads and bypassed during the 19th-century canal and railroad building booms, Wertsville was overshadowed by nearby villages and towns like Ringoes and Flemington with such advantages, however, and never became more than a neighborhood service center, a role it maintained into the early 20th century. The community experienced almost no growth after the 1870s until the low-density residential development of recent years in its environs. Its agricultural functions of its farmsteads continue today.

Wertsville consequently has managed to preserve much of its 19th/early 20thcentury character despite the loss of its artisan shops. A majority of the district's buildings were erected c. 1834-1873, although several are earlier or later. The distinctive historical character of the village results from the survival of these buildings, their rather tight spacing with short set backs, and their juxtaposition with the surrounding countryside. These resources –mostly dwellings with attendant outbuildings, but including a combination store/dwelling as well as the former church, school and tavern– are in general well preserved and exhibit relatively few modern alterations. Collectively they pos-

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ses architectural significance. Their form, construction, detailing and siting provide a representative illustration of the rural region's essentially vernacular architecture in the 19th century. Dwellings like site #s 1, 2, 3, 5, 13, 14 and 17, as well as the former tavern, #10, exemplify the traditional house types and construction practices found in the region (photo #s 2, 3, 6, 10,14, 19 & 20), and both the former church and school (site #s 6 and 12, photo #s 15 & 21) are representative of the gable-fronted type employed for institutional buildings in the area's 19th-century villages and rural neighborhoods. Of similar interest are the district's agricultural outbuildings including gable-fronted wagons houses and bank barns (site #s 13, 14 and 17, photo #s 2, 3 & 7). The influence of architectural styles popular in the 19th century is readily apparent in the design and/or detailing of several district buildings. For example, the demilune entry fanlight and Adamesque swagornament cornice frieze of the Werts Homestead (site # 14, photo #6) are characteristic of the Federal style, and the simple corner pilasters ornamenting both house #3 and the 1853 schoolhouse, site #6, are typical Greek Revival details (photo #s 10 & 15). Of particular note is the 1883 Manners Store (site #6, photo #s 11 & 12), a combination general store/dwelling whose blocky form and low-pitched hip roof evoke the Italianate cubical villa form. In its 1884 remodeling the Werts Corner Baptist Church, site #12, acquired Gothic Revival point-arched windows and an Eastlake/Carpenter Gothic entry (photo #21). Later Colonial Revival influences are evident in 20th-century remodeling of the Werts Homestead, site #14, which included the accurate replication of the original cornice for the new east wing (photo #6).

The district also contains a representative example of a WPA-era stone bridge, Hunterdon County Bridge #E-237 (site # 16, photos # 4 & 5), one of several Hunterdon County examples identified in the county's 1998 *Stone Arch Bridge Inventory, Phase II.* The survey observed that

A very short revival of stone arch bridges and bridges styles appeared in the 1930s, as part of an effort to put people to work pursuant to the Works Progress Administration. Bridge designers turned to the labor intensive masonry arch as a way of creating additional jobs while leaving permanent monuments....these bridges are marked in general with a keen appreciation for the design possibilities of masonry arches, but are quite timid from an engineering point of view. Many of the bridges of this time are not true stone arch construction. A stone faced replica of a stone arch bridge is often built, using either a filled concrete arch for the structure inside the spandrel walls. another commonly employed method, was to use a corrugated metal pipe arch as stay-in-place centering.¹

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With its stone side walls, arch rings outlined with voussoirs and corrugated metal arch sleeve, the district bridge is clearly expressive of the WPA-type and reflects as well 20th-century interest in the region's architectural traditions.

European settlement of the Amwell Valley in southern Hunterdon County began in the first decades of the 18th century, initiated largely by pioneer agriculturists of English. Dutch and German stock. Land in the vicinity of what later became Wertsville was surveyed in the early 1700s, and settlers began to acquire property shortly thereafter. John Manner, an Englishman emigrate who first located at Freehold in eastern New Jersey, is said to have purchased and settled property along present-day Lindbergh Road east of Wertsville in 1718. His relatives by marriage, brothers James and David Stout, who were of Dutch and English descent, located nearby. Peter Young, also of Dutch origins, acquired a 1,000-acre tract encompassing the land along the Neshanic Creek branch east of the Wertsville intersection in 1726.² Land around and west of the intersection came into the possession of William Werts, who probably was of German descent, by separate purchases from William Snook and James Stout in 1743. In his 1773 will, Werts devised the two tracts to his sons Christopher and John who enlarged their holdings by the purchase of adjoining parcels in 1787 and 1790. As memorialized by an 1804 deed, Christopher's interest in the property past to his four sons upon his intestate death, and in 1824 and 1825 son William acquired the his three brother's shares in the property which consisted of three tracts comprising about 259 acres.³ William Werts made his home along the creek just west of the intersection (site # 14). A 140-acre tract on the southeast corner of the intersection owned by David Stout, no doubt a descendant of the Stout brothers, passed to his widow Betsy and her new husband John Hoagland sometime before 1825, in which year the Hoaglands conveyed a half interest in the same to James Servis. Jonathan Higgins purchased the property in 1835, his farmstead was site #13. Ezekiel Quick, grandson of pioneer settler Jacob Quick, had located west of the Werts by 1825 at site #2.⁴

The neighborhood's earliest focal point appears to have been a log schoolhouse erected in 1747 on land leased from Benjamin Stout for 99 years. A frame building on the same property replaced the pioneer school in 1798. While the exact location is unknown, it probably was not too far from the intersection since upon the expiration of the lease in 1846, the schoolhouse was moved to William Wert's property opposite the church.⁵ Local residents met at the schoolhouse on March 1, 1834 resolving to build a Baptist church, and at a meeting held a few weeks later the "Baptist Meeting House at Werts Corner" was formally organized. The articles of incorporation for the new church

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provide the first documented use of the place name "Werts Corner" for the locality.⁶ Trustees of the new congregation acquired an acre lot from Betsey Hoagland and John Servis, on which a stone church , 40 by 48 feet, was constructed in 1834-36.⁷

Upon William Wert's intestate death his real estate was sold at auction on December 29 and 30, 1841, and a 100-acre tract encompassing the southwest corner of the intersection, was subsequently conveyed to high bidder William Sharp who evidently settled at site #1. Sharp, in turn, sold an 8-acre lot at the corner to Charles W. Holcombe for \$800 early in 1843. Holcombe probably was responsible for building a store on the corner site since when he sold the lot (minus an acre subdivided from its southeast corner, but plus a small wood lot) to Richard Holcombe, no doubt his relative, in the following year the price was \$1,700 and when he bought the property back from Richard in 1851, reduced to 5.69 acres, the price had increased only \$300. In any case the store was extant by 1851, its existence on the site documented by the county map of that year.⁸ When East Amwell Township was formed in 1846, the first annual meeting of the new municipality was held at the house of Charles Holcombe. The meeting venue may have been the Wertsville store since the 1850 census indicates that Charles Holcombe was operating the store before he repurchased it.⁹

The 1851 county map also identifies "Wearts Corner" by name and reveals that a hamlet of about eight buildings, including the church, school and store, had grown up around the intersection surrounded by the Werts, Higgins, Quick and Sharp farmsteads.¹⁰ The 1850 census indicates that the community had attracted a blacksmith, a wheelwright and a shoemaker. Shoemaker Elnathan Stout, however, was the only one of the three to own property. He bought a lot next to the Baptist church for \$50 in 1847 (site #11) and evidently built the house on it since he sold the property for \$600 in 1854.¹¹ Limited additional growth occurred in the 1850s and 1860s. A substantial frame 2-story schoolhouse, site #6. was erected in 1853 a short distance south on the store, and in the following year a post office was established under the name of Wertsville with storekeeper Charles W. Holcombe as first postmaster.¹² An 1862 newspaper advertisement for a property auction to be held "at the inn of Elijah Holcombe in Wertsville" establishes that the community had acquired a tavern by then.¹³ Holcombe's tavern probably was the "hotel" (site #10) depicted in the 1873 county atlas at the southeast corner of the two roads whose proprietor was then George Wall. The hotel was the property of Jonathan Higgins who also owed the blacksmithy to its south; the wheelwright shop on the opposite side of the road near the schoolhouse was owned by Jacob S. Manners whose relative Peter V. D. Manners had purchased the store property from Charles Holcombe in 1865.¹⁴

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A few more houses also were built in the hamlet, including two dwellings west of the store (site #s 2 & 3).

While Wertsville's growth had reached its zenith by the early 1870s, some addition development subsequently occurred relating to its role as a service center. In 1883 Peter Manners replaced his old store with the present substantial building (site #4), a combination store and dwelling. The newspaper announcement of his grand opening provides a description of his business:

Mr. P. V. D. Manners announces that he will open his handsome new mercantile rooms at Wertsville, on Saturday, August 18th with an elaborate assortment of fancy and staple dry goods, novelties, groceries and every-thing in the line of general merchandise. Mr. Manners will keep open house on that day.¹⁵

Manner's store was a center of local social life. A "social hop [was] held in the new store building on the night of Decoration Day [1883]." In addition to forty people from Flemington, "there were guests there also from all the county around about."¹⁶ In the following year, extensive renovations were made to the Baptist Church through the efforts of H. A. Chapman, minister of the congregation from 1882 to 1889. According to a church history

"the house was transformed under his oversight and by his hand, passing description in originality and beauty. Mr. Chapman completed the reconstruction without cost to the church.¹⁶

Despite such improvements, Wertsville had entered a long period of stagnation by the 1880s unable to compete with nearby communities with better transportation connections. The 1881 county history makes no mention of the tavern and blacksmith in its description of the hamlet, suggesting that these businesses had closed, and the 1902 county map depicts only one artisan shop in addition to the store, church and school.¹⁷ The post office closed in 1905.¹⁸ By 1927, the Baptist Church was dormant, having had "a long line of pastors and supplies," and in 1936 the building was sold to a private party.¹⁹ In 1938, the schoolhouse was declared unsafe by the state building inspector and the students transferred to another township district school; thereafter only the store remained in operation.²⁰ Some road improvements were made in the era, including replacement of the bridge carrying Manners Road across the Neshanic branch in 1940²¹ and the community maintained its agricultural functions through the end of World War II.

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Section number <u>10. Geographical Data</u>

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UTM References (Continued)

| <u>#</u> | Zone | Easting | Northing |
|----------|------|---------|-----------------|
| 5 | 18 | 518010 | 4477700 |
| 6 | 18 | 517610 | 4478120 |

٢

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Wertsville exists today as a small cluster of 19th-century buildings surrounded by a rural neighborhood of low-density residential development. Although its artisan shops have not survived, their sites remain largely intact and the hamlet retains much of its 19thcentury character. Local officials and residents alike recognize the special qualities that establish the historical character and significance of Wertsville and make it worthy candidate for listing on the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places.

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Footnotes

¹ Thomas Boothby, et. al., Stone Arch Bridge Inventory, Phase II Hunterdon County, New Jersey, page 12..

² Hubert G. Schmidt, *Rural Hunterdon: An Agricultural History*, pages 29–34 58; Peter Wacker, *Land and People. A Cultural Geography of Pre-industrial New Jer*sey: Origins and Settlement Patterns, page 127; James P. Snell (ed.), *History of Hunter*don and Somerset Counties, New Jersey, pp. 553–554.; Stanton D. Hammond, *Hunterdon* County, New Jersey, Sheet B, Map Series # 4.

³ Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 11, page 97 and Book 25, pp. 354 & 521.

⁴ Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 39, page 106, Book 38, page 521 and Book 39, page 516; Hunterdon County Road Returns, Book 2, page 249.

⁵ Snell, page 356; Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 57, page 600.

⁶ Snell, page 535; "Baptist Meeting House at Werts corner Articles of Incorporation," Hunterdon County Historical Society, manuscript #0019.

⁷ Thomas S. Griffiths, *A History of Baptists in New Jersey*, page 104; Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 57, page 600.

⁸ Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 79, pages 161 & 191, Book 82, page 281 and Book 99, page 39; Samuel C. Cornell, *Map of Hunterdon County, New Jersey*.

⁹ Snell, page 354; United States Census, Populations Schedule, East and West Amwell Townships, 1850.

¹⁰ Samuel C. Cornell, *Map of Hunterdon County, New Jersey*.

¹¹ United States Census, Populations Schedule, East and West Amwell Townships, 1850; Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 108, pages 403 & 406..

¹² Snell, page 356; John L. Kay and Chester M. Smith, Jr., New Jersey Postal History, page 79.

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¹³ Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 130, page 786.

¹⁴ F. W. Beers, *County Atlas of Hunterdon, New Jersey*, page 77; Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 132, page 95.

¹⁵ The Hunterdon Democrat, May 8, 1883 and August 14, 1883.

¹⁶ Griffiths, page 104.

¹⁷ Snell, page 356 Pugh & Downing, Civil Engineers, *Map of Hunterdon County, New Jersey*, 1902.

¹⁸ Kay, page 79.

¹⁹ A. Van Doren Honeyman (ed.), Northwestern New Jersey: A history of Somerset, Morris, Hunterdon, Warren, and Sussex Counties. Vol. 2, page 890; Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 413, page 333.

²⁰ "The Wertsville School." page 3.

²¹ Hunterdon County Bridge Records, E-237.

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BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the Wertsville Historic District are delineated on the attached map entitled "Wertsville Historic District Site Location and Boundary Map," and is verbally described in the following paragraph. The site and boundary map was assembled using current municipal tax maps from the township of East Amwell.

The boundary of the district begins in East Amwell Township on the north side of County Route 602 at the northwest corner of block 34, lot 34 and proceeds south and east along the west and south sides of lot 8 to that lot's southeast corner on the west side of Lindbergh Rd. the boundary crosses Lindbergh rod in a straight line to the road east side on the west side of block 35.01, lot 8, and turns south along the east side of the road to the southwest corner of block 35.01, lot 8, and continues east and north along the south and east sides of lot 8 to the northeast corner of that lot of Route 602. From there the boundary proceeds west along the south side of Route 602 to a point which would intersect the straight continuation of the east side of block 23, lot 12, and follows that line across the road to the southeast corner of block 23. Lot 12.

The district boundary next proceeds north and west along east and north sides of block 23, lot 12 to the northwest corner of that lot on the east side of block 23, lot 13, and continues north, west and south along the east, north and west sides of lot 13 to the northeast corner of block 23, lot 13.03. The boundary then turns west on the north side of lot 13.03 to Manners Rd., and crosses Manners Rd. in a straight line to the northeast corner of block 24, lot 11.10. The boundary follows the west side of Manners Rd. (also the east side of block 24, lot 11.10) to the its intersection with the east end of the conservation easement line delineated across lot 11.01. It then follows the conservation easement line across lot 11.01 to the west side of that lot, also the east side of block 24, lot 11.04. The district line continues north, west and south along the east, north and west sides of block 24, lot 11.04 to that lot's southwest corner on the north side of Route 602. It proceeds south across Route 602 along a straight line continuation of the west side of block 24, lot 11.04 to the north side of Route 602 and then runs west along north side of Route 602 to return to the district boundary's starting point.

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BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of the Wertsville Historic District were delineated to include to the greatest extent possible the architectural and historical resources of the hamlet, with not only the fewest non-contributing buildings but also to protect the district's historic rural setting.

To the north, the district is constrained by modern residential development, and the boundary follows property lines to exclude those uses. The boundary extends on the north, south and west to include the open farmlands associated with farmsteads adjoining and associated with the hamlet.

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Section number_Photo_ Page_26_ Wertsville Historic District, Hunterdon County, NJ

Photographic Identification:

Photographs were taken in fall and winter 1999/2000 by Amy Zambrowski and Sally Bishop. Negatives are the property of the East Amwell Historic Preservation Commission.

| <u>PHOTO #</u> | INVENTORY # | VIEW |
|----------------|--------------------|------|
| 1 | 2 | NW |
| 2 | 2 | NW |
| 3 | 1 | SE |
| 4 | Wertsville Rd. | NE |
| 5 | 16 | SW |
| 6 | 14 | N |
| 7 | 14 | SE |
| 8 | 14 | W |
| 9 | 15 | SW |
| 10 | 3 | SE |
| 11 | 4 | SE |
| 12 | 4 | SW |
| 13 | Lindbergh Rd. | SE |
| 14 | 5 | NW |
| 15 | 6 | NW |
| 16 | 7 | NE |
| 17 | Lindbergh Rd. | NW |
| 18 | Lindbergh Rd. | NW |
| 19 | 10 | NE |
| 20 | 11 | NE |
| 21 | 12 | NE |
| 22 | 12 | NE |
| 23 | Wertsville Rd. | SW |





