

PH 367427

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 17 1976

DATE ENTERED

JUN 29 1977

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Rockleigh Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER F of Normwood on

Rockleigh Road, Piermont Road & Willow Avenue NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Borough of Rockleigh VICINITY OF

9th Congressional District

STATE

New Jersey

CODE

34

COUNTY

Bergen

CODE

003

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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Multiple

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

___ VICINITY OF

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Office of the Borough Clerk, Municipal Building

STREET & NUMBER Rockleigh Road

CITY, TOWN

Rockleigh

STATE

New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory

DATE 1973

___ FEDERAL STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Historic Sites Section, Dept. of Environmental Protection

CITY, TOWN

Trenton

STATE

New Jersey

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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 district area, prior to 1680 was part of the vast wilderness known as "The Kings Woods". The territory was long inhabited by the Lenni Lanape Indians, whose culture lasted within the area until the latter part of the eighteenth century. No professional surveys or excavations have been conducted and, consequently, although a prehistoric site may be included in the district, this has not been documented. Prior to 1769, a tract of 200 acres was conveyed from Henry Ludlow to Abraham A. Haring (1709-1791), who was an early settler of the area. The Haring farmlands being separated by Closter Publick Road (Piermont Road) and Snedens Landing Road (Rockleigh Road). Henceforth, a small farming village developed from Snedens Landing south along Snedens Landing Road; the landing being a center of activity since the early 1700's. It is this colonial farm area that comprises the proposed historic district and which is present-day Rockleigh, N. J. The New York portion of the area is currently also being considered for nomination to the National Register.

The proposed district is rural in character with large open field and meadow areas, natural glens, and dense wooded tablelands that extend from the eastern side of the borough up to the top of the Palisades ridge and the Alpine Township, New Jersey boundary line. Occasional small waterfalls spill over the steeper inclines and drain into the Sparkill Brook which winds throughout the entire area. The woods provide a sanctuary for birds, Red and Gray Fox, Raccoon, Deer and smaller wildlife.

These natural aesthetics provide a park-like setting for the collection of historic old homes that dot the boroughs two main roads. Many of these old dwellings are related through their architecture and the genealogy of the families who built them. The traditional heritage of Bergen County being reflected in the architecture of the Dutch Colonial style sandstone farmhouse and the Dutch style clapboard frame dwelling. Most of these buildings are situated on large tracts of land ranging from 2-15 acres. This large acreage stemming from the early agricultural and dairy history of the area, which existed until the early 1940's. The proposed district area is primarily residential.

There are 29 sites located in Rockleigh Historic District. Of these six (6) are 18th century, five (5) date from the first half of the 19th century, seven (7) date from the second half of the 19th century, three (3) are early 20th century, and eight (8) are modern.

The modern structures are all small residences generally set back a considerable distance from the street and provided with sufficient natural cover as to limit objectionable aesthetic encroachment.

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Bergen County New Jersey 034

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DESCRIPTION

1. John A. Haring House & Barn (c. 1805) (HABS NJ-169)
Piermont Road

The dwelling is a 1 1/2 story gambrel roof Dutch Colonial sandstone structure. The earliest section is a small one room stone kitchen built about the time of the Revolutionary War with the 1805 and 1808 sections adjacent to it. The interior floor plan in the 1805 section is of side hall construction with large livingroom and smaller rear bedroom with garret above. The garret is partially finished with two bedrooms and bath. A shed style dormer was added c. 1940. The 1808 wing is a gable roof sandstone one room structure with small garret above. This garret is also partially finished with small bedroom, hall and bath. A dormer was added c. 1940. A clapboard gable roof wing added about 1870 is attached to the south side of the stone kitchen. All interior walls in the main sections are plastered mud and animal hair. The original white pine floorboards are throughout the entire dwelling. The original Dutch style hardware are extant in the main sections while earlier Suffolk type latch and "H" hinge hardware are present in the stone kitchen. The structure is "L" in shape, with upper exterior portions of shingle and clapboard. The dwelling faces in a southerly direction and is located on the west side of south Piermont Road. It is in good condition. Bergen County Historical Society marker erected 1974. A small Dutch style barn built c. 1806 is extant and is located to the north of the house. (see photos)

2. Edwin Eastwood House (1959)
Piermont Road

Modern brick and clapboard ranch house.

3. Abraham A. Haring House (c. 1758)
Piermont Road

The dwelling is a 1 1/2 story wide gable roof sandstone structure. The roof peak was built without a ridge pole and extends over a front porch addition which is supported by wooden posts. The interior floor plan is of center hall construction with two rooms, one on each side of the

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DESCRIPTION

hall. The garret above has been finished into four bedrooms and bath. Later additions include dormers and a side kitchen wing built about 1812. The house has some of its original floorboards and some original Dutch style hardware. The interior walls are coated with animal hair plaster. Upper exterior portions are of clapboard. The dwelling is rectangular in shape and faces in an easterly direction. It is located on the west side of south Piermont Road and is in good condition. Bergen County Historical Society marker erected 1974. (see photo)

4. Angelo Picciotti House (1958)
Piermont Road

Modern brick ranch house.

5. Sideney Happel House (1921)
Piermont Road

Clapboard structure.

6. James Gowdey House (c. 1862)
Piermont Road

The original 1862 section is a 2 story gable roof structure. The exterior walls are of clapboard. Evidence of a narrow side hall construction remain. The main floor has been extensively altered into two large rooms with four bedrooms and bath on the second floor. There is some original floorboards in this section. A Modern wing construction in the Dutch style gambrel roof with clapboard exterior walls is attached to the south side of the 1862 section. This section includes a center hall, garage with bedroom and bath above. The dwelling is rectangular in shape and is located on the east side of north Piermont Road. It faces in an westerly direction and is in good condition. A small 19th century barn is located to rear of the house.
(see photos)

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7. Old Gesner Burying Grounds c. 1788
Piermont Road

The burying ground is a plot approximately 20' x 30' in size. There are seventeen graves recorded. They are: Jacob Concklin, Jr., d. 1811, Elizabeth Gesner, d. 1825, Jacob Concklin, d. 1827, Eleanor Cooper, d. 1813, John H. Gesner, d. 1811, Famitche Brower Gesner, d. 1788, Cornelious (sp.?) Gesner, d. 1790, Phoebe Concklin, d. 1827, Famitche Gesner, d. 1821, David Concklin, d. 1840, Famitche Concklin, d. 1845-46, David Concklin, d. 1851, Mary Quidor, d. 1838, Rachel & Peter Concklin (infants), Infant grave I (unmarked), Infant grave II (unmarked). The burying ground is located at the south rear of the James Gowdey House, c. 1862, on the eastside of north Piermont Road. The plot is in a wooded area and is in fair condition. (see photo)

8. Bucknell House and Barn (1906)
Piermont Road

Early 20th century clapboard house and barn.

9. Henry Tory House II (c. 1850 extensively altered)
Willow Avenue

This house, although a unit was built in the mid-19th century, has lost most of its historical integrity as a result of modern additions which almost totally obscure the two story three bay clapboard 19th century unit. (Photo)

10. Arthur Foster Residence (1930)
Willow Avenue

Small four bay by two bay 1 1/2 story clapboard dwelling with concrete foundation. (Photo)

11. Henry Tory House I (c. 1850)
Willow Avenue & Rockleigh Road

This is a 2 1/2 story t-form clapboard Victorian house. The roof is gable and the overhang is accentuated by simple

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brackets. The windows are 2/2 sash with louvered shutters. A carriage house is at the rear of the property.

12. Butler House (1935)
Rockleigh Road

Modern brick and shake shingle dwelling.

13. Joseph DuBois House c. 1823-1833
Rockleigh Road

The c. 1823-33 section is a 1 1/2 story gable roof clapboard structure. The interior floor plan shows evidence of a side hall construction. This section has one large room on the main floor with one bedroom above. Later alterations include the addition of a dormer and removal of the south interior fireplace and exterior chimney; a small shed style run porch being added in its place. A larger wing of similar construction was added, circa 1840, to the north side of the original structure. There is one large room on the main floor with two finished bedrooms and bath above. A small one room wing was added to the north side of this section. Interior walls in both sections are plastered. Later alterations include a dormer and the roof line of both sections have been extended to include a porch on the east front. Exterior trim work is of the Victorian style. Some interior framing is of the Federal style. The dwelling faces in an easterly direction. It is rectangular in shape and is located on the west side of north Rockleigh Road. There is a small 19th century board and batten barn located to the rear of the house. The house and barn are in good condition. Bergen County Historical Society marker placement in 1975. (see photos)

14. Albert (Abraham) Cooper House c. 1823-27 & Blacksmith Shop Site
Rockleigh Road

The c. 1823-27 section is a 1 1/2 story three bay gable roof clapboard structure. The interior floor plan shows evidence of a narrow side hall construction. There is a livingroom and smaller bedroom on the main floor with garret above which has been finished into one large bedroom with half bath. A smaller wing

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of similar construction was added to the north side of the original section. This section was altered into one large open room that is the present-day kitchen-family room and bath. Some interior framing is of the Federal style. The interior walls are plastered. The house faces in an easterly direction. It is generally rectangular in shape and is located on the west side of north Rockleigh Road. There is a small late 19th century style barn to the rear of the house. The dwelling and barn are in good condition. Bergen County Historical Society marker placement in 1975. (see photo)

15. Werner Maeden House (1971)
Rockleigh Road

Modern brick and clapboard residence.

16. Jacob (Joseph) Moore House c. 1810-1823
Rockleigh Road

The c. 1810-1823 section is a steep 1 1/2 story clapboard frame dwelling. The interior floor plan shows evidence of a narrow side hall construction. There is a living room on the main floor with loft above that has been finished into two small bedrooms and bath. The interior walls are plastered. The livingroom mantle, Parsons cupboard, and some interior framing are of the Federal style. The original floorboards are covered with a modern-day flooring. The original front entrance has been eliminated with additional windows added in its place. The north side of the house has two small windows just below the roof line which is characteristic of a possibly earlier date. A small wing has been added to the south side of the house to include a present-day small kitchen, additional bedroom and bath. The exterior walls of this later wing are clapboard. The dwelling is on the east side of north Rockleigh Road. The house faces in an easterly direction and is in good condition. (see photo)

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17. Alfred Locarni House (1950)
Rockleigh Road

Modern brick and clapboard residence.

18. Site of Jacob Concklin Cider Mill c. 1850-1885
Rockleigh Road

The present appearance is that of a clearing on a wooded 5 acre tract of land. The site is approximately 60' x 75' in size and is located on the east side of north Rockleigh Road. The site is centered on the rear property of the previous property. (see photo)

19. Arthur Somers House (1925)
Rockleigh Road

2nd quarter 20th century shake shingle residence.

20. Dennis Shea House (1962)
Rockleigh Road

Modern shake shingle residence.

21. Samuel Sneden House (c. 1790)
Rockleigh Road

The dwelling is a five bay 1 1/2 story gambrel room sandstone structure. The side and rear walls are the original. The front exterior wall was refaced circa 1961. The interior floor plan is of center hall construction with one room on each side of the hall. The main floor includes livingroom, diningroom and small rear chamber. The garret above is finished into four bedrooms and two baths. A small one story sandstone wing on the south side of the main structure houses the present-day kitchen. A similar sandstone wing on the north side has been converted into a garage. The house has its original floorboards. Above the eaves the gable ends are clapboard. Later alterations include front dormers, additional windows, exterior chimney, and a

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full length rear shed dormer. It is rectangular in shape and faces in a easterly direction. The dwelling is located on the west side of middle Rockleigh Road and is in good condition. (see photo)

22. Riker-Mabie-Concklin-Snedden House (Roaring Brook Farm) (c. 1752)
Rockleigh Road

This dwelling is a five bay 1 1/2 story gable roof clapboard structure. The earliest section c. 1752 is the present kitchen. Four beaded beams are exposed in this area. The interior floor plan shows evidence of a center hall construction, the first floor, however, being extensively altered. A north gambrel roofed clapboard wing was added to the rear of the structure to include a diningroom and additional upstairs bedroom. There are three bedrooms a bath above. Later additions include dormers, a small screened porch and a bay window on the west exterior side. Interior framing is of the Federal and Greek Revival style. The house has some of its original floorboards. The interior walls in the kitchen section can be observed from the cellar and are plastered with mud and straw. The cellar has a dirt floor and the foundation is random field stone. The dwelling is currently "T" in shape, facing in a southerly direction and is located on the east side of middle Rockleigh Road. A small late 19th century English form barn is located to the north rear of the house. Both house and barn are in good condition. (see photo)

23. P. Woodland House (c. 1890)
Rockleigh Road

This house is a good example of the Colonial Revival style. Rectangular in form this substantial two story, stucco residence has a tiled hip roof and a full height central bay portico which has paired fluted columns with Ionic capitals. The roof of this portico is pent and is bracketed. Beneath the portico is a one story full-length porch which has attenuated paired columns also with Ionic capitals. The building is in good condition. (see photos)

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24. Abraham "D" Haring House (c. 1740)
Rockleigh Road

This dwelling is a five bay 1 1/2 story gambrel roofed structure of dressed brick and sandstone construction. The roof extends over a front porch which is supported by wooden columns. This extension was probably completed late 19th - early 20th century. Alterations include porch, dormers and a stucco addition on the west side of the original building. The interior floor plan is of center hall construction with large livingroom, diningroom and smaller rear chamber with garret above. The garret is finished to include four bedrooms and bath. Some interior paneling is 18th century. The house has some original hardware and some original floorboards. The interior walls are coated with animal hair plaster. The upper exterior portions are shingled with some areas of clapboard. The dwelling is rectangular in shape and faces in a southerly direction. It is located on the north side of south Rockleigh Road. The dwelling is in good condition. (see photos)

25. Site & Ruins of Sloats Saw Mill (c. 1850-61)
Rockleigh Road

The present appearance is that of a swampy and wooded glen located on a wide bend of the Sparkill Brook. The site is on the southeast side of South Rockleigh Road on semi-public land. The area is approximately 300' x 400' in size. The ruins of a stone walled embankment remain. (see photos)

26. Jacob Haring House (c. 1820, 1865)
Rockleigh Road

The main unit is a two story circa 1865 frame farmhouse. The exterior siding is clapboard. The original 1820 section was a small three bay 1 1/2 story two room dwelling and was enlarged to its present appearance at about 1865. The gable roof extends over a front side porch which is supported by wooden posts. Elements of the Greek Revival and Victorian styles are evident in the interior framing and exterior trim work. The interior floor

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plan is of a narrow center hall construction with one room on each side of the hall. Some older structural methods have been used. The original board flooring exists throughout the first and second floors. The first floor includes livingroom, diningroom and hall. There are four bedrooms and bath on the second floor. Interior walls are plastered. A rear porch was enclosed and turned into the present kitchen. A small screened porch has been added on the northeast side of the house. The house is in good condition. A small barn has been converted into a garage at the rear of the house. A small corn crib is still extant on the rear property. (see photos)

27. Moses Taylor Sneden House (c. 1860)
Rockleigh Road

The Sneden House, a L-form 2 1/2 story Victorian clapboard farmhouse with bargeboard is not visable from the road. A straight dirt and concrete private road lined with trees leads the way to this dwelling, perched atop a hill. The house is in excellent condition. (see photos)

28. Theodore Happel House (1939)
Willow Avenue

This is a modern brick residence.

29. Site of Washington's Troop Encampment (c. 1781)
Willow Avenue

This open field is reputedly the site of an encampment during the American Revolution. While artifacts have apparently been encountered no professional evaluation or survey has been conducted. The site has good potential for future excavation by professionals. (see photos)

The Rockleigh Borough map with historic boundaries and properties delineated is attached.

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Inventory of Historic Structures Located Within the Rockleigh Historic District

1. John A. Haring House and barn (Piermont Road), c.1805, 1 1/2 stories, gambrel roof Dutch Colonial sandstone, c.1870 addition, barn c.1806, Dutch style.
2. Edwin Eastwood House (Piermont Road), 1959, 1 story, brick and clapboard ranch house.
3. Abraham A. Haring House (Piermont Road), c. 1758, 1 1/2 stories, gable roofed sandstone
4. Angelo Picciotti House (Piermont Road) 1958, 1 story, brick ranch house.
5. Sidney Happel House (Piermont Road), 1921, 2stories, clapboard.
6. James Gowdey House (Piermont Road), c.1862, 2 stories, gable roofed clapboard, 20th c. additions.
7. Old Gesner Burying Grounds (Piermont Road), c.1788, located behind Gowdey House, approximately 17 graves.
8. Bucknell House (Piermont Road), 1906, 1 1/2 stories, clapboard
9. Henry Tory House I (Willow Avenue), c.1850, 2 stories, clapboard, 20th c. extensive alterations.
10. Arthur Foster House (Willow Avenue), 1930, 1 1/2 stories, clapboard.
11. Henry Tory House II (Willow Avenue & Rockleigh Road), c. 1850, 2 1/2 stories, t-form clapboard Victorian, gable roof.
12. Butler House (Rockleigh Road), 1935, brick and shake shingle, 2 stories.
13. Joseph DuBois House (Rockleigh Road), c.1823-1833, 1 1/2 stories, gable roofed, clapboard, c.1840 addition.
14. Albert (Abraham) Cooper House (Rockleigh Road), c.1823-27, 1 1/2 stories, gable roofed, clapboard, site of blacksmith shop in rear.
15. Werner-Maeden House (Rockleigh Road), 1971, 2 stories, brick and clapboard.

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16. Jacob (Joseph) Moore House (Rockleigh Road), c.1810-1823, 1 1/2 stories, clapboard.
17. Alfred Locarni House (Rockleigh Road), 1950, 1 story, brick and clapboard.
18. Site of Jacob Concklin Cider Mill (Rockleigh Road), Cider mill operated there c. 1850-1885.
19. Arthur Somers House (Rockleigh Road), 1925, 2stories, shake shingle.
20. Dennis Shea House (Rockleigh Road), 1962, shake shingle, 1 1/2 stories.
21. Samuel Sneden House (Rockleigh Road), c.1790, 1 1/2 stories, gambrel roofed, sandstone.
22. Riker-Mabie-Concklin-Sneden House (Roaring Brook Farm) (Rockleigh Road), c.1752, 1 1/2 stories, gable roofed, clapboard, later additions.
23. P. Woodland House (Rockleigh Road), c.1890, 2 stories, Colonial Revival, central-bay portico, Ionic capitals, roof is pent and bracketed.
24. Abraham "D" Haring House (Rockleigh Road), c.1740, 1 1/2 stories, gambrel roofed, dressed brick and sandstone, stucco addition on west side.
25. Site & Ruins of Sloats Saw Mill (Rockleigh Road), c.1850-61, stone walled embankment remains.
26. Jacob Haring House (Rockleigh Road), c.1820 1 1/2 stories, clapboard, gable roofed, enlarged to 2 stories c.1865.
27. Moses Taylor Sneden House (Rockleigh Road), c.1860, L-form, 2 1/2 stories, Victorian clapboard farmhouse with bargeboard.
28. Theodore Happel House (Willow Avenue), 1939, 1 story, brick
29. Site of Washington's Troop Encampment (Willow Avenue)

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 type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" 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/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)

Local historical
significance

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Agriculture

The settlement patterns of the Dutch culture in America contrasted from that of their English counterparts in that the Dutch and their progenitors tended to be farmers and reluctant to settle in clusters forming villages and towns. The persistence of the agricultural Dutch along Rockleigh Road has preserved this rural atmosphere which is reminiscent of the tradition of 18th and 19th century farm regions. This perseverance is all the more important when viewed in light of the post-World War II population explosion of Bergen County as the city dwellers, freed from the metropolitan area by the increased availability of the automobile, spread into the region. Rockleigh somehow resisted the trend and as a result is one of the few communities in the county which still exhibits rural farming characteristics.

The Rockleigh Historic District represents a way of life which appears to have disappeared from the New Jersey culture -- an area settled by a small handful of families, enlarged by family inter-marriages and an occasional additional settlers and stabilized by the mid-19th century. The mobility of today's society seems to have eliminated the family community in all but the most rural and desolate regions of America. A family in New Jersey seldom lives in one spot for more than a decade, consequently, the intimacy of an area such as Rockleigh will probably never exist the county again. Even Rockleigh has suffered from this unstable modern life, with most of its original inhabitants having disappeared. But while the structures remain and the histories continue to be written Rockleigh presents an insight into a former way of life which no longer exists in the 20th century.

Architecture

The earliest farmhouses in the Rockleigh District are typically Dutch, particularly the 18th century structures. These 1 1/2 story gambrel roofed red sandstone dwellings are indigenous to the Hudson Valley and Northeast New Jersey region. Rockleigh has four good examples of this 18th century-early 19th century Dutch style of architecture. While all but the John A. Haring house have been

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significantly altered, they still present a visual exterior impression of the Dutch style and have various original 18th century details and hardware as well as later Federal and Greek Revival elements indicating continuous usage and development of the houses.

Perhaps the most significant structure in the district, however, is the small Dutch form barn which was built in 1806. It is of the traditional three bay Dutch barn plan with wagon doors on both gable ends which open up to a wooden threshing floor flanked by storage and animal aisles originally entered from the outside by doors at the corner of the gable end. The flooring is wood. The barn is 36 x 40 feet and framed in four bents. The only unusual feature of this Dutch barn is the height of the eaves (12'10"). Generally, the eaves are barely the height of a man. As only a few of these barns still exist in New Jersey, particularly in this condition, the immediate association of this barn with the nearby John A. Haring house (1805) makes this farm an unparalleled document of a Dutch farm complex.

Significant buildings, roads, sites and ruins discussed herein within the proposed District are underscored.

The Borough of Rockleigh, situated in Northeast Bergen County, New Jersey, was once part of a patent granted to Dr. George Lockhart. On February 7, 1685, "the proprietors of the province of East New Jersey conveyed to Lockhart some thirty-eight hundred acres on the west side of the Hudson River in the County of Bergen"². The neighboring Province of New York, however, assumed control of the land and Lockhart received a confirmatory patent from that government on June 27, 1687. The colonial history of Rockleigh, therefore became the history of New York until 1769 when the boundary line with New Jersey was settled after long and bitter dispute. During the Revolutionary War the area remained steeped in conflict between patriot and Tory.

Haring Family

George Lockhart never settled the tract. It was sold and title went through several hands until acquired by Henry Ludlow in 1725. Ludlow conveyed a small part of the tract (some 200 acres) to Abraham A. Haring (1709-1791), a great-grandson of Jan Pieterse Haring, a Dutch

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immigrant, who became one of the Tappan Patentees of 1681.¹ Borough records indicate that Haring built a sandstone dwelling for himself on Rockleigh Road, the house being known as the Abraham "D" Haring House (c. 1740). His purchase of this tract of land, however, was not for himself, but for his son Abraham A. Haring (1734-c. 1780). The younger Haring built a Dutch style sandstone dwelling around 1758 on Piermont Road. The house is known as the Abraham A. Haring House (c. 1758). Young Haring was also a captain in the local militia during the Revolutionay War and was captured by the British. He died in a British prison in 1780. In 1785, his widow, Margrietje Blauvelt Haring married a neighbor, one John Riker. The elder Haring (1709-1791) drew his will in 1786 and devised the property to his grandsons -- David, Abraham and John, the sons of the late Captain Haring. The dwelling remained in the Haring family until 1805, when it was sold to Moses Taylor. Taylor became a prominent member of the community. The house remained in the Taylor family until 1902.

John A. Haring (1780-1854) was the youngest son of Captain Haring. He inherited the southern portion of his grandfathers lands. On the property just south of his fathers house stood a small one-room sandstone kitchen built about the time of the Revolutionary War. He married Bridget Ferdon in 1804 and in 1805 began building a larger homestead adjacent to the old kitchen. Constructed in the Dutch Colonial style of architecture, the new dwelling faced in a southerly direction. In 1806 he erected a small Dutch style barn. Haring was a farmer and lived a long and peaceful life on his lands. In 1813 he was assessed for one hundred and two acres, two horses and six cattle. A later inventory indicates he grew grain and potatoes and raised cows, sheep, swine and fowl. He died on February 22, 1854, leaving the house and lands to his son Nicholas. The house and barn are located on the west side of Piermont Road and remained in the Haring family until 1969. The homestead is known as the John A. Haring House and Barn.

The Harings are traditionally associated with Tappan, New York and the surrounding New Jersey area. They were prominent in the leadership of the community and gave their name to the area in 1775. It was then called Harrington Township.

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Nicholas J. Haring (1814-1896) was the only son of John A. Haring. As his father aged, Nicholas then managed the farm. He married Eliza Haring, who was also a great-grandchild of Captain Abraham A. Haring. The couple raised a large family -- five boys and five girls and eventually inherited the farm and lands when John died. Nicholas involved himself with improvements in the old house, adding additional bedchambers in both garrets for his growing family. Nicholas involved himself also with improvements within the community, for on "April 10, 1857 along with nine other local land owners he applied to Bergen County for a re-alignment of a part of Piermont Road. On June 2, 1857 the route was surveyed and the length of the improvement involved about one and one half miles with the beginning near the present Norwood-Closter line. The artery ran northward past Nicholas Haring's house and ended close to the northeast corner of Moses Taylor's barn. From this point at Taylor's barn the existing road was extended to the New York border by October 4, 1859. The extension was first named Carterette Road."³ (Piermont Road 1859)

Nicholas Haring appears to have been generous with his family. Three of his children settled within the immediate area of the home. They were Maria Haring (1837-1887), Jacob Haring (1839-1914) and Andrew Haring (1846-1926). When Jacob married Caroline Christie about 1859, Nicholas gave the young couple a small two-room dwelling that was built at c. 1820 and stood on Haring lands on the south-east side of Rockleigh Road. Jacob and Caroline began their married life by driving to the little house with a horse and wagon, one cow tied to the back of the wagon and a steeple clock that was their wedding present. The steeple clock still stands on the livingroom mantle today. Jacob eventually enlarged the dwelling and ran a dairy farm for many years. This house has always been in the Haring family and is so today. The house is known as the Jacob Haring House.

Maria Haring married a neighbor, Moses Taylor Sneden. Sneden built a dwelling just north of his wife's father's home in 1860. The house being known as the Moses Taylor Sneden House.

Andrew Haring (1846-1926) was to eventually inherit his father's house and land in 1896. When Andrew married Martha Jones, Nicholas added a clapboard wing to the wouth side of the house for the couple.

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The dwelling remained in the Haring family until 1969, thus ending 164 years and four generations of Haring family ownership.

Sneden Family

At the time of the Revolutionary War, from 1780 to the conclusion of hostilities in 1783, Washington's Blockhouse at Snedens Landing was garrisoned by a company of Continental soldiers. Both historic Rockleigh and Piermont Roads were used by the troops going to and from the Landing. Rockleigh Road at this time was called Snedens Landing Road. On May 14, 1781, fifteen enemy vessels and a number of flat boats appeared in the Hudson River. Washington and his aides concerned that an attack was about to be made on the landing and dispatched 200 men to support the post and cover the countryside in the area. A portion of the troops sent encamped in an area that lies on the south side of present-day Willow Avenue. The area is known as the Site of Washington Troop Encampment 1781. It was later referred to as "Snedens Fields".

Since the early 1700's, the Sneden family was traditionally associated with a Hudson River area commonly called Snedens Landing, now Palisades, New York. Segments of the family operated a ferry business with Jeremiah Dobbs, who resided on the other side of the river. Shortly after the adoption of the Declaration of Independence the family came under suspicion and attack for refusing to sign the Generally Association Articles that had been put forth to declare allegiance to the cause of liberty. Name in a resolution approved by the Committee for Safety at a meeting held in Clark's Town (Clarkstown), on July 29, 1776, were Dennis Sneden, James Sneden, William Sneden and Samuel Sneden. All suffered the consequences of being named Tories.

At the same time, however, Mary "Mollie" Sneden transported segments of the Continental Army across the River. Family members who resided near the landing were referred to as "Snedens of the river", while those who lived in the upper regions of the area were called "Snedens of the field."⁴

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Samuel Sneden, who supported the Tory cause in 1776 (while his neighbor Captain Abraham A. Haring commanded a local company for the cause of liberty) was a "field" Sneden.

It is not known exactly where Samuel Sneden (c. 1760-unknown) resided at the time, but it is known that he built a sandstone homestead around 1790 on the west side of Rockleigh Road; the house being known as the Samuel Sneden House. The dwelling was built in the Dutch Colonial style of architecture and sheltered his descendants for several generations. Sneden was both farmer and carpenter and well settled by the time his son Jacob was born on November 27, 1796.

Jacob Sneden (1796-1862) resided and inherited his fathers house. He became a schoolteacher and taught in the first school established in Palisades, New York. At the age of 30, he married Cornelia Ann Rudd, age 21, on September 26, 1827. A daughter Elizabeth Rudd Sneden was born to the couple on August 11, 1828.

Elizabeth Rudd Sneden (1828-1880) was 19 years old when she married Abraham Riker on October 13, 1848. Abraham was a descendant of John Riker who owned a dwelling and lands on the east side of Rockleigh Road in 1752. The house being known as the Riker-Mabie Concklin-Sneden House c. 1752 (Roaring Brook Farm). (John Riker was to marry Margrietje Blauvelt Haring in 1785, widow of Captain Haring).

The dwelling is similar in architecture to the earlier Matthias Smock House c. 1718-21 in Middlesex County. In 1770 the dwelling and lands passed to Peter and Sarah Mabie and remained in the Mabie family until 1797. The record of ownership shows Jacob Concklin and his descendants in possession of the old farm until 1891. At that time the farm passed to the Sneden family and has remained so since 1891.

Gesner Family

Johan Hendrick Gesner (1681-1745) at age 29 years immigrated with his wife Anna Elizabeth and infant daughter Margaret on the English ship Lyon, arriving in New York in June 1710. German in origin, the family eventually settled in the vicinity of Tappan village.

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Johan Gesner was a miller by profession and operated a mill on the Hackensack River. He lived a pious life and adhered to the Lutheran faith. In his will drawn on October 30, 1745, he devised all his property except one Negro woman to his wife Elizabeth and provided that at her death the property should go to his son John Henry Gesner (1724-1811). The Negro woman was left to his daughter Margaret, wife of Jacob Valentine of Yonkers, New York. The will was proved on July 16, 1748.

John Henry Gesner (1724-1811) learned his father's profession and became a miller. He like his father was man of comfortable means. In 1744 he married Famitcha Brower (1723-1788), daughter of Adolphus Brower and Jannette Ferdon. John and Famitcha began and ended their married life in a house built on Piermont Road, a mile and a half southeast of Tappan village and close to the New Jersey-New York state line, in what is present-day Rockleigh, New Jersey. The house was located at a hundred yards southeast from the James Gowdey House c. 1862. (Mary E. Gowdey, wife of James was related to the Gesner family). All that remains of the life lived there is the Old Gesner Burying Grounds c. 1788.

Gesner (1724-1811) at the time of the Revolutionary War was regarded as a citizen of Orangetown. Several of his sons belonged to a militia company known as the Kings Orange Rangers that had been raised mainly in Orange County, New York, by Lieutenant John Bayard in 1776. John and his wife Famitcha chose to remain neutral at this time. They like the Snedens refused to sign the Association Articles, suffering the same consequences of being named Tories.

When the family came under attack, Gesner fearing for the lives of his sons Jacob (1751-unknown), Isaac (1753-unknown), and the twins Henry and Abraham (1756-unknown) urged them to leave Harrington Township. New York was now in the possession of the British and he felt they would be safe there. All of them had been threatened with the prospect of being taken to New England and being put into dungeons. They left Snedens Landing in a open pettiauger belonging to Dennis Sneden. New York gave them safe harbor, but they would never return to the old farm again.

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The Revolution ended and the home was broken up. The twins, Henry and Baraham settled in Nova Scotia. Jacob was lost at sea. Isaac settled in New York. In the winter of 1788 Famitcha dies. From a few remaining letters of John Henry Gesner, his remaining years were long days of sadness. He was laid to rest beside Famitcha in the family burying grounds to the side of the old house in 1811.

A Village in Harrington Township

By the turn of the 18th century the Bergen countryside was developing into rolling farmlands and small villages. One such village was present day Rockleigh and the proposed historic district. By the first quarter of the 19th century the village was an established farming community. It was typical of its times. The descendants of the early settlers were joined by others who brought with them a needed trade or profession that helped make the village self-sufficient. The marching of troops on Rockleigh Road was now only a tale told to children. A Haring daughter would marry a Sneden son; their children in turn choosing a Concklin or Taylor descendant, and so the village remained and expanded.

Jacob Moore, who was a cobbler by trade, come to the village about 1810-23. He established a shop and dwelling on the east side of Rockleigh Road just south of the state line; the house being known as the Jacob Moore House. Moore farmed his lands and raised turkeys and other fowl. We know from his neighbor, Nicholas Gesner, who kept a detailed diary, that Moore became a source of irritation to his neighbors. Complaints were often made to him about his flock of turkeys that wandered about in neighbors corn fields, causing great damage to the crops. Moore was known to be a man of comfortable means, however, he had a reputation of being eccentric. It was claimed by those who knew him that "he goes to bed with his rooster on the bed post".⁶

Jacob Moores' immediate neighbor was Albert Cooper. Cooper was a blacksmith and built a dwelling on the west side of Rockleigh Road in 1827, directly across from the Moore house; this house being known as the Albert Cooper House. He opened his shop and forge just north of his dwelling. Cooper was known to his friends

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and neighbors as "Obb". Although, there is no record of his birth, he was known as an able blacksmith as "everybody in town took their horses and oxen to be shod by Obb Cooper".⁵ The forge became a place for local news and conversation.

Around 1823-33 Joseph DuBois (1803-1882) and his wife Elizabeth Concklin (1801-1882) established their home and farm on the west side of Rockleigh Road, just south of the Moore and Cooper farms. The house being known as the Joseph DuBois House. By 1858 the DuBois farmlands extended west from Rockleigh Road and past the proposed new extension of Piermont Road. When the new road was opened in 1859, DuBois was one of the land owners who received compensation as the extension cut through his west fields. The farm remained in the DuBois family until 1893.

To the northwest of the DuBois home was a Concklin farm. The Concklin family, established by Jacob Concklin, Esq. (1718-1787) and his wife Hester Barhyte (1720-1783) was a large and prolific family that resided at two locations on Rockleigh Road. The dwelling to the north of the DuBois home was the John Gesner Concklin (1796-unknown) house. The other Concklin residence is known as the Riker-Mabie-Concklin-Snedden House (Roaring Brook Farm). Jacob Concklin, Jr., and his descendants were in possession of this dwelling from 1797-1891. DuBois wife, Elizabeth was a descendant of the Concklin family.

The Concklin family from c. 1860-1885 operated a cider mill. The mill was located to the rear of the John Gesner Concklin house. Neighbors with large orchards brought their apples to be processed into cider or apple brandy. A horse was used to run a tread mill and grind the apples. The cider was stored in a stone vault that was located on the south side of the mill. The mill was in operation until that last quarter of the 19th century. The house remained standing until the early 1950's. The area is known as the Site of Concklins' Cider Mill c. 1860-1885.

Around 1850-61 Jenkins Sloat came to the farm village. Sloat came from New York City. He purchased the old Abraham "D" Haring House and opened a saw mill on the south side of Rockleigh Road on the Sparkill Brook. The processing at the saw mill was a simple operation and lumber was only rough-cut for floorboards, construction and siding. The saw mill was in operation for approximately 15-20 years. Its' water-wheels stopped and the saw mill closed in the last quarter of

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the 19th century. All that remains of it is its location recorded on a 1861 map and the ruins of a stone walled embankment on the brook. The area is known as the Ruins and Site of Sloat's Saw Mill c. 1850-1861.

In 1853 John Gesner Concklin's daughter, Mary Elizabeth (1832-1935) married James W. Gowdey (c. 1830-unknown). It is not known where the couple spent the first nine years of their marriage. It is known, however, that James W. Gowdey built a house on Piermont Road in 1862. The house is located on the east side of north Piermont Road near the New Jersey state line, and known as the James Gowdey House. The couple raised a large family -- five boys and five girls. Mary Elizabeth Gowdey lived to be 103 years old. Her daughters Emma Ellen and Leah inherited the farm in c. 1935. The house and land remained in the Gowdey family until c. 1965. The house stands on the old Gesner farm which includes the Gesner Burying Grounds c. 1788.

The second half of the 19th century brought little growth to the area. Only three new homes were built during this period of time. As in all rural areas, a certain timelessness will prevail. . . but the past and present invariably mingle and take task of change together.

East Northvale

"By the turn of the century surrounding communities in Harrington Township sought independence from old ties and "Boroughs" were formed with local governments of their own. One example of the times was Northvale. Organized as a borough in 1916, the town consisted of present-day Northvale and East Northvale (Rockleigh which lay beyond Horse Hill and Ludlow Ditch. Separated by this natural barrier the two communities developed independently of each other. The East Northvale lands were part of the Lockhart Patent while Northvale proper came out of the Tappan Patent. The total population of the area at the time was 827".⁷

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Rockleigh

On April 12, 1923 East Northvale sought its is own independence and became Rockleigh, New Jersey. While Northvale chose to grow into a modern-day community, Rockleigh chose to remain rural. Today (1975), after fifty-five years of "growth", Rockleigh is still rural in character, having a population of 130.

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George H. Budke Collection, Vol. 69. (pp. 2, 39, 41). New York Public Library.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 157 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 8	5 9 0 0 0 0	4 5 4 0 0 8 0	B	1 8	5 9 1 0 6 1 4 0	4 1 5 3 1 9 7 1 6 1 0
	ZONE EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE EASTING	NORTHING		
C	1 8	5 8 9 8 7 0	4 5 3 8 6 7 0	D	1 8	5 8 1 9 7 1 3 0	4 1 5 3 1 8 6 1 7 1 0
	ZONE EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE EASTING	NORTHING		

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the intersection of Piermont and Rockleigh Roads, proceed N along Piermont Road 975 feet, thence proceed E 600', N 225', and E to Rockleigh Road. Thence proceed NNE along Rockleigh Road 340'. Thence proceed W 675', and N to Willow Avenue. Thence proceed W to Piermont Road and follow the road N to the Rockland County, New York border. Thence, proceed SE along the border to the E side of Rockleigh Road. Thence, proceed S along Rockleigh Road 225', thence

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES (Cont'd)

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Cathleen Jane Heslin, Borough Historian

ORGANIZATION

Borough of Rockleigh, New Jersey

DATE

April 1975

STREET & NUMBER

Municipal Building

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Rockleigh

STATE

New Jersey

(Revisions by Terry Karschner, Historic Sites Section)

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

David J. Bardin

TITLE

Commissioner, Dept. of Environmental Protection

DATE

July 2, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Robert B. Rettig, Acting

DATE 6/29/77

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION, NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Charles A. [Signature]

DATE 6-14-77

CLERK OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Footnotes

- (1.) Borough of Rockleigh, 50th Anniversary-Borough of Rockleigh New Jersey 1923-1973 Booklet. P. 1.
- (2.) Tract previously patented June 12, 1669 but void since not settled within required seven years. New Jersey Archives (Calendar of Records, Vol. XXI, p. 8, 92; George H. Budke Collection, Vol. 69, p. 2, 39, New York Public Library.
- (3.) Road Return G-15, Hackensack.
- (4.) Sneden, R. Newton. Sneden Family. Genealogical Notes. Possession of Mrs. Elmira Sneden, Rockleigh, N. J.
- (5.) Oral history, Borough of Rockleigh. Statement of Miss Marietta Sneden, March 13, 1975.
- (6.) Ibid.
- (7.) Borough of Rockleigh, 50th Anniversary-Borough of Rockleigh, New Jersey 1923-1973 Booklet. p. 8.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Rockleigh Historic District

Rockleigh Boro

Bergen County

New Jersey 034

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Oral History supplied by:

Mrs. Gertrude Van Blarcom Hutcheon, Rockleigh Road, Rockleigh, N.J.
(Mrs. Hutcheon is the granddaughter of Jacob Haring (1839-1914).

Mrs. Harriet Haring Duke, Lawrence Apts., Pierment, N. Y.
(Mrs. Duke is the granddaughter of Nicolas Haring (1814-1896).

Mr. R. Newton Sneden, Rockleigh Rd., Rockleigh, N. J.

Mrs. Elmira Sneden, Rockleigh Rd., Rockleigh, N. J.

Miss Marietta Sneden, Rockleigh Rd., Rockleigh, N. J.

(The above listed individuals are well informed members of the
Haring and Sneden families. All have resided in Rockleigh since
childhood with the exception of Mrs. Elmira Sneden. They are familiar
with other families who have lived here and events surrounding their
lives. Their age range is from 59 to 91 years old).

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Mr. Reginald McMahan, 186 Oxford Terrace, River Edge, N.J.

(Mrs. Heslin is Historian to the Borough of Rockleigh;
Mr. McMahan is affiliated with the Bergen County Historical
Society).

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1

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION CONT'D

PROCEED E 300', S 500', and W back to Rockleigh Road. Thence, proceed S along Rockleigh Road 700', thence, proceed E 375', S 600' and W back to Rockleigh Road. Thence, proceed S along Rockleigh Road to the bend in the road. Thence, proceed E 525', S 525', W 400', N 400' and W to Piermont Road. Thence, proceed S 675' along Piermont Road. Thence, proceed W 450', N 850' and E to the point of origin.

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC Rockleigh Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Rockleigh VICINITY OF COUNTY Bergen STATE New Jersey

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE Rockleigh Borough Land Usage Map

SCALE 1 inch = 600 feet DATE 1974

4 REQUIREMENTS

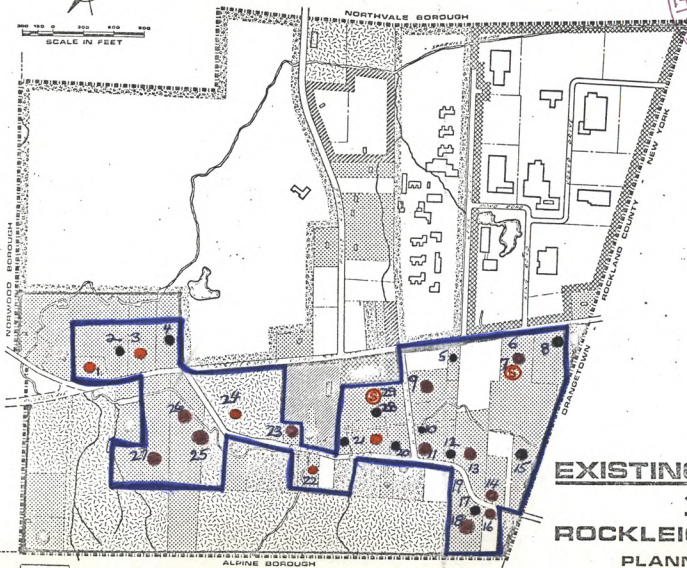
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

RECEIVED
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 NATIONAL REGISTER
 Doc
 6-29-78



0 100 200 300 400 500
 SCALE IN FEET



- c.1700 Rd.
- 1859 Rd.
- 18th C.
- 19th C.
- 20th C.
- RESIDENTIAL
- COMMERCIAL
- COMMERCIAL HORSE FARM
- INDUSTRIAL
- PUBLIC
- SEMI-PUBLIC
- VACANT

PROPOSED HISTORIC DISTRICT

EXISTING LAND USE
1974
ROCKLEIGH BOROUGH
 PLANNING BOARD
 BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
 BOORMAN & O'RRAM, INC. - CONSULTANTS

SOURCE OF LAND MAP
 COURTESY OF THE BOARD