

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

56-1264



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Collins House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 108 Baldwin Street

not for publication

city or town Bloomfield Township

vicinity

state New Jersey

code 034

county Essex

code 013

zip code 07003

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. See continuation sheet for additional comments.

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

R. L. Boring
Ass't Commissioner
5/4/17
NJ DEP

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson H. Beall
7.3.17

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic - Single Dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Work in progress.

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: East Jersey Cottage

Greek Revival

Federal

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Sandstone

walls Wood/weatherboard

roof Asphalt Shingle

other

Narrative Description

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

8 Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria considerations

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

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture _____
 Transportation _____

Period of Significance

c. 1790-1874 _____

Significant Dates

c. 1790 _____
 c. 1820 _____

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A _____

Cultural Affiliation

N/A _____

Architect/Builder

Collins, Isaac (builder, ca. 1820) _____

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography See continuation sheet.

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data

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

Name of repository:

Collins House
Name of Property

Essex County, NJ
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 0.43 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	18			3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2				4			

See 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.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Andrew W.J. Kollar, AIA, NCARB/Fused Studios, Inc.; Miriam Michalski; Richard Rockwell

organization _____ date April 2017

street & number 24 Morse Avenue telephone 973-699-0109

city or town Bloomfield state NJ zip code 07003

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

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

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

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

Property Owner

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

name Township of Bloomfield, Attn: Councilman Carlos Pomares

street & number 1 Municipal Plaza telephone 973-670-0691

city or town Bloomfield state NJ zip code 07003

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

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

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NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Summary Paragraph

The Collins House is a vernacular wood frame 1½-story house consisting of two principal sections to which four smaller additions have been added on the south and east sides. The smaller principal portion of the house was built about 1790, and was the home of Revolutionary War veteran John Collins (1754–1806), who purchased the property in that year. The larger principal section of the house was added circa 1820, reputedly¹ by John's son Isaac Collins, who was a carpenter by trade.² The first floor layout is composed of front and back parlors with a side staircase, which indicates that Isaac Collins was a relatively prosperous homeowner. Federal and early Greek Revival elements are incorporated into this addition and they support its estimated date of construction. Both sections of the house exhibit the regional vernacular building form known as an "East Jersey Cottage," but with rear sheds that give them a saltbox profile (Historic Photo 1). The addition on the south side of the smaller portion was added sometime before 1859, while the other additions date from *circa* 1900. The outer walls of all portions of the house are covered in wood clapboard (weatherboard) most recently painted bluish-gray, the paint now faded, peeling, and in some areas falling off. The clapboard on the two newer additions is novelty siding, with a narrower reveal than the siding on the older portions of the house. The foundation is brownstone and the roof is covered in asphalt shingle over cedar shakes. There are two chimneys, one on the north and one on the south end of the house. The interior of the northern section of the house reflects the Federal period in the detailing of the staircase (Historic Photos 18 and 19), the carved wooden fireplace mantles (Photos 53 and 55) and the woodwork around the windows (Historic Photo 20). No outbuildings survive, but an old well has been covered by a mill sharpening stone (Photo 1).

Setting

The Collins House faces the Third River, a tributary of the Passaic River that runs to the west of the house, through the town of Bloomfield. A portion of John F. Kennedy Drive occupies the site of the former Inclined Plane 11 East of the Morris Canal, directly behind the house, to the east. Kinder Towers stands to the north of the house, a senior-citizens apartment building built on the site of a former paper mill. To the south, a long driveway leads to Baldwin Street, a residential street in Bloomfield.

The Collins House property is located in the central section of the Bloomfield Township, and within the Piedmont Lowlands geographic region. Three ridges of the Watchung Mountains stand nearby and this property is situated between the first of these ridges and the Passaic River. The property is locally known as Lot 96, Block 697 of the Township of Bloomfield's tax map. The parcel is irregular in shape and of approximately 0.43 acres, or about 17,000 square feet. The building has a footprint of approximately 2,076 square feet (including all additions and the open porch). Parts of Lot 100 to the immediate west and south of the parcel were historically associated with the property although they are under separate ownership today. The parcel is therefore landlocked with an asphalt and gravel driveway over an implied easement of necessity

¹ Mildred Stone, a descendent of Isaac Collins, stated that family tradition credits Isaac Collins with building the 1820 section of the house. (Stone, Mildred. Oral history, interview by Mary Donovan, Bloomfield, NJ. 2 December 1993. Typed manuscript, Bloomfield Public Library Special Collections Section.) In addition, several mortgage transactions implemented by Isaac Collins just before that time provided additional funds that may have been used to construct the 1820 addition. Since Isaac Collins was a carpenter, it seems unlikely he would have hired someone else to build the addition.

² Thomas F. Gordon, *Gazetteer of the State of New Jersey* (Trenton: Daniel Fenton, 1834), 105

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extending from Baldwin Street to the south through part of Lot 100. Lot 96 is at a higher elevation than the adjacent land that is part of Lot 100.

Exterior Description

The house is currently in poor condition due to vandalism and neglect although undergoing repair. Windows have been boarded over and the roof has been covered with tarps to protect the house from the elements. As part of an ongoing effort to stabilize the building, the modern interior finishes have been removed, exposing the original structure. Woodwork, doors and other original materials have been placed in temporary storage. The roof of the house is in poor condition and water leakage has caused some damage to the house. The condition of the clapboard is deteriorating but the house is structurally sound. Aside from the additions on the rear and side of the house, little alteration appears to have taken place since the construction of the original portions of the house.

The house today is the product of repeated growth and expansion. It stands composed of an original dwelling, as noted above, likely constructed during the tenure of John Collins between 1790 and 1806, a substantial addition to the north constructed by or for his son Isaac Collins in or about 1820, a small, 1-story addition to the south about 1850, still later additions to the east side of the original dwelling and the northern addition, and finally a small vestibule appended to one rear addition. In order to maintain clarity, each building campaign shall be addressed in terms of its physical appearance today or as documented historically, its structure and construction methodology, and finally by its interior spatial configuration and any known details. The three primary sections visible from the front of the house are most clearly defined in photographs taken in the 1960s (Historic Photos 1 and 2).³ In more recent photographs the house is partially obscured by tarpaulins and plywood covering the house (Photos 2, 3 and 4).

Original Dwelling - 1790s

Though the exact date of construction is unknown, records indicate John Collins purchased the land for this property in 1790 and was living at this location at the time of his death in 1806, narrowing the range of possibilities. A traditional East Jersey Cottage, the 1790 section of the Collins House is a 1½ story side-gabled building with a single, brick, interior end chimney along the southern exterior wall. The west elevation is divided into three bays. The second and third bays contained windows (none of the windows and doors in this section of the house are extant) and the third bay contained a door or window depending on the period. Historic photographs from 1977 show the door in bay three with a small pent roof awning above and a wood framed deck with stairs below. A moderately pitched roof complements the balanced façade. There are no dormers or further embellishments to the roof. This is presumed to be the location of the original front door.

A bulkhead below the first bay of the west elevation provides access to the cellar with additional light entering the cellar through windows directly below the second and third bays. At an indeterminate time during the twentieth century, a wood frame shed enclosure was built around the bulkhead and is currently in a deteriorated condition. With no photographs of the building prior to the construction of subsequent additions, there is little

³ Brian H. Morrell, Herbert J. Githens and Edward S. Rutsch, "Cultural Resource Survey of the Historic Collins House and the Marcal Paper Company Property, Bloomfield, Essex County, New Jersey" (February 1982), attached documentation.

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evidence of how the remaining elevations of the 1790 dwelling looked. Two relatively modern double-hung windows are visible to either side of the chimney at the garret level suggesting this was always intended to be symmetrical. All remaining elevations feature fading painted clapboard with an exposure ranging from 7 to 9 inches (Photo 5). Visual inspection of peeling paint on the clapboard shows new layers a bluish-gray with underlying layers white or off-white.

Addition - 1820

This 1½ story side-gabled East Jersey Cottage addition replicates many of the components developed in the original dwelling while nearly tripling the total footprint of the building. Ascribed by the family's oral tradition to 1820, Isaac Collins followed the tradition of expanding a building toward the sides rather than the example of progressively appending to the building's rear. The west elevation includes original six-over-six double-hung windows in the first and second bay (larger than those in the 1790 section of the house) and a six-panel door with a three-light transom in the third bay (Photo 4). Cellar windows are in the first and second bays directly under the first floor windows.

The evolution of the porch should be described. Barely visible at a distance in undated Historic Photo 12, the porch when this photo was taken appears to have already replaced the original porch. The presence of smooth-cut, regular-coursed foundation stones on the section of the foundation under the first and second bays (Photo 13) and rough-tooled irregular coursed stones directly under the door suggest a porch the full width of the front was not original; that the 1820 addition as originally built had a smaller porch and stairs to the front door slightly wider than the door. Such a porch, covered or uncovered, was not uncommon for the period or for the East Jersey Cottage type. Through the 20th century, a 5'-4"-deep, wood-framed, covered porch extended across the full width of the west elevation of the addition. This porch, however, largely collapsed by 2010, and it was later removed in its entirety. This porch can be seen in Historic Photos 1 and 2. Four unelaborated pillars accentuated the three bays. The limited number of clear photographs of the porch suggest a nearly flat roof; however, the 1982 *Cultural Resource* clarifies that it "is a [shallow] hipped roof, which is flashed to the west wall at about the ... knee wall of the second [story] above."⁴ The historic photographs suggest the porch had a simple, wooden guardrail about 30" tall with closely spaced wood balusters on all open sides and no handrails for the stairs, indicative of a 20th-century alteration.

The north gable end elevation is symmetrical with a brick, interior end chimney centered at the apex of the gable. There are a single cellar window, four six-over-six double-hung windows on the first floor, and three six-over-six double-hung windows on the second floor (Photo 6). The windows are spaced to accommodate both the two fireplaces on the first floor and their two chimneys that rise through the second floor and are corbeled together on the second floor that join to form a single chimney in the attic (Photos 7 and 8). Though the original east elevation was concealed or modified when the rear extension was built, newly uncovered interior framing details indicate that this elevation was similar to the west elevation, with a double-hung window in the second bay and doors in the first and third bays (Photo 9). The original back door was most likely in the third bay and the first bay was converted to an interior door when the rear addition was built. Unique to the south elevation, it is the only part of the two principal forms of the building that is intentionally

⁴ Morrell, et al, 57.

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asymmetric and unbalanced. A single cellar window was placed in the stairway of the existing bulkhead. A single six-over-six double-hung window was located directly above the cellar window on the first floor with no corresponding window on the opposing side of the elevation.

In the second story south elevation, two six-over-six double-hung windows serve differing purposes and are located accordingly. A smaller window on the west side was placed inward far enough to not conflict with the roof construction or the angled ceilings directly in line with the original house's west wall below. On the east side, a stair window is lower in elevation corresponding to the height of the intermediate landing. Conveniently, this lack of conformity is nearly unperceivable since the original dwelling's gable is centered on the addition and the building as a whole is elevated on a hill. Like the original dwelling, the elevations of this addition all exhibit fading painted clapboards with an exposure ranging from 7 to 9 inches (Photo 10).

Secondary Addition - Ca. 1850

Appended to the south of the original dwelling (Historic Photo 2, far right), and flush with the west and east elevations, this one-story addition exhibits fundamental changes to the form and proportion of the building as a whole. The extension was made to the side rather than the rear. The roof now has eaves on all sides and the pitch is considerably lower. While very little of the structure of this addition is uncovered, the only consistent feature observed from the exterior is a consistency with the foundation materials.⁵ The foundation is brownstone similar to that used in the original dwelling except the stones are irregularly coursed with a rough tooled surface. It is more likely that all or a majority of this construction took place during Isaac's wife Jane's ownership of the bequeathed property thereafter; but not later than 1856 when the building footprint is shown on a tracing of the *Map of the Town of Bloomfield* (see 1856 map).

The west and east elevations of this addition both have one centrally located six-over-six double-hung window of similar size to those used in the original dwelling. The south elevation originally had two of these windows equally spaced, with a door on the far left which has been sealed up. This door is visible in Historic Photos 14 and 15 and its outline is visible in Historic Photo 16, taken in 2004. The three elevations each have novelty siding with a ± 5 " exposure. This addition was built on a crawlspace (instead of a full basement) that is accessed through a small wooden door located on the right side of the south elevation. There appears to have been an earlier addition in this location with a single door on the south elevation and a shed roof (Historic Photo 15). Because the historic photographs are not dated, additional research is required to determine if the later addition was an enlargement or replacement of the older addition and whether both additions used the same foundation. Because this addition had a separate door facing the basin at the foot of the inclined plane, it may have, at one time, served a purpose related to the canal such as an office, store or boarding house.

A lost datestone formerly located in the southwest corner of this addition featured a crudely chiseled crown, the initials "H R M" (with the "R" raised above the crown) and the year 1759 (Historic Photo 22). Unfortunately, the datestone was removed by vandals in 2012. The 1759 date on the stone cannot be interpreted as a reliable

⁵ Considering Isaac Collins died in 1841 it is possible that he initiated this building campaign within his lifetime wherein he could advise on the craftsmanship employed in the foundation; however, it is not likely he even saw this through to completion. It is also possible that the ca. 1850 addition was built on an existing foundation left from an older portion of the dwelling.

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indication of the age of the house since the original transaction wherein John Collins obtained the property occurred is 1790. Datestones such as this usually exhibit the first initial of the last name of the owner raised in the center, flanked by the first initials of husband and wife below on either side. However, John Collins did not buy the property from someone whose last name began with an "R"; he bought it from a Joseph Woodruff.⁶

Rear Additions

The 1906 *Atlas of Essex County, New Jersey, Vol. 3* is the first known map to clearly illustrate the rear additions to both the original dwelling and the 1820 addition (See 1906 map in Accompanying Documentation).

However, it is possible these additions were constructed earlier than 1906. The rear additions are visible in Historic Photo 11 (undated, but estimated to be early 1900s) showing the Inclined Plane and Morris Canal while the canal was in operation.

The rear addition appended to the east wall of the original dwelling is one story in height with a shed roof that extends the full width of the elevation. The profile of the structure as it meets into the original dwelling resembles a saltbox. Built on a crawlspace and featuring the same novelty siding as found on the secondary addition would suggest construction was either concurrent or of similar timing. The south wall of this addition is no longer extant, though a sketch of the property included in the 1982 *Cultural Resource Survey of the Historic Collins House and the Marcal Paper Company Property* showed a single centrally located window. The east elevation has three identical one-over-one double-hung windows asymmetrically placed which are smaller than those in the historic sections of the home. While the roof is currently in disrepair, its former use as a kitchen and a bathroom during the twentieth century (Historic Photo 17) would necessitate a series of small roof penetrations to accommodate proper venting.

The rear addition appended to the east wall of the 1820 addition features almost all of the characteristics of the other rear addition as seen from the exterior except it is taller and larger. It is also one story in height, extends the width of the elevation, and has a shed roof. Though the overall massing is proportionate to the other rear addition the placement of windows and doors is far more thoughtful and balanced. Both the north and south elevations have a centrally located one-over-one double hung window while the east elevation has two similar windows and a door equally spaced; all of which align with the apertures on the west elevation of the 1820 addition.

The final addition consists of a one story vestibule appended to the east elevation of the rear addition to the 1820 addition and is more difficult to date. The 1937 *Insurance Maps of Essex County, New Jersey, Including Bloomfield and Glen Ridge, Volume 2* show a clean sketch of the Collins House without it. This structure continues the roof profile of the adjoining construction and places a central one-over-one double-hung window on the south and east elevations. The exterior wall face of the adjacent rear addition is still visible inside the vestibule. The north elevation features a single door entrance at grade. All elevations use the aforementioned novelty siding.

⁶ One hypothesis suggests the datestone was relocated from the original dwelling at the time the later addition was built. Another possibility is the later southern addition was built on an existing foundation from an older house for which research has not yielded any title evidence. Alternatively, the datestone might have been incorporated from another building altogether.

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Cellar (see Cellar Floor Plan)

The foundation walls for all phases of construction consist of local brownstone which exhibits varying degrees of workmanship. Viewed from the exterior of the original dwelling (Photo 11), the foundation appears to have regular courses of square-cut stone laid above grade in an ashlar fashion and featuring a smooth cut surface. The foundation of the 1820 addition has similar regular coursed square-cut stone in the front with the same stone with a rough tooled surface on the north elevation (Photo 12). The stone directly under the front door (Photo 13) is rough tooled and irregularly coursed suggesting the intention was to have the rough-cut stone obscured by a porch or stairway at the door, and the smooth-cut stone exposed. On the interior side, the foundation masonry is more irregular and includes uncut rubble stone as well, particularly in areas below the adjacent grade. The best quality stone is consistently used in the pilasters that support the upstairs fireplaces (Photos 14 and 16).

The original cellar (23'-11" x 13'-2") has no interior partitions and features two stone pilasters on the south wall directly below the upstairs fireplace (Photo 14). A concrete floor was poured likely at the time the lally column supports were installed and appears to be in good condition. The cellar from the 1820 addition (24'-3" x 27'-4") has no interior partitions however the building structure in the middle of the room (Photos 16, 17 and 18) effectively divides the space into two equal halves. Along the north foundation wall in each of these "rooms" are a pair of stone pilasters that support the upstairs fireplaces (Photos 16 and 17). A brick segmental arch was retroactively installed between each of these pilasters tying them together. The flooring in the west room is concrete that is broken in some areas. In the east room, a vent for a flue was installed in the brick arch between the pilasters into the chimney that was used to vent a hot water heater (Photo 17). There is a concrete pad in front of the pilasters possibly used for a stove or boiler that would have been vented through the chimney. The remainder of the flooring in the east section is earthen (Photo 17).

The walls within the original cellar and the 1820 addition are in good condition for their age despite showing signs of efflorescence. In the original cellar (Photos 14 and 15), rough sawn 3"x8" floor joists at $\pm 24"$ on center run continuously from the west (front) wall to the east (rear) wall and are supported directly on the stone foundation wall in masonry pockets. At the time of the 1820 addition, the north foundation wall was removed in its entirety, creating one large open space. At an unknown time, 3-1/2" steel lally columns were installed at each end of the original cellar supporting a 2"x8" wood girder intended to provide an intermediate support for the original floor joists (Photo 14 and 15). The support girder is deflecting, no longer providing full bearing for all of the joists. Both windows on the west wall and the crawlspace access opening on the East wall were reinforced later with brick along each side and a steel angle lintel above. While the brick is in excellent condition, the rusting angles suggest this repair was made within the last thirty years.

In the 1820 addition, a 9" wide by 5 1/2" tall hand hewn timber sill plate rests on a 7" high rubble stone foundation wall extending 15'-5 1/2" along the central north-south axis of the space in line with the bearing wall above (Photos 16, 17 and 18). Three hand hewn timber posts of varying dimension between 5-3/4"x7" to 7"x7" support a hand sawn girder via mortise and tenon joints. Each post has chamfered corners. A fourth, smaller, true 3"x4" wood post was installed at a later time at the southernmost end of the beam that appears to be friction fit in place.

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The drawing in Illustration New 1 illustrates the first floor joists in the cellar. The northern-most and southern-most joists are 4"x10" and span the full width of the room, $\pm 27'$. Rough sawn joists between the full joists are between 3" and 4" by 10" and are irregularly spaced, from 29" to 34" on center. These joists vary in length but are $\pm 15'$ long and run from masonry pockets in the east wall to the girder where they are notched 1-1/2" into the girder. These joists each abut a similarly-sized joist that runs from a masonry pocket in the west wall to the girder (Photo 18). The joists overlap $\pm 12'$ past the girder in both directions. The joists running east/west support the floor of the two parlors above on the first floor.

In 2015 a 2 1/4" screw-jack column was placed in the northwest corner of this cellar supporting a new 4"x4" wood beam that relieves stress from four bays of joists that are no longer firmly bearing on the west foundation wall (Photo 19).

In the southern section of the cellar, the joist framing changes direction by 90° (Illustration New 1), running from north to south between the last east-west joist and a rough sawn beam running between the two sections of the basement. This section with joists running north/south supports the floor of the first-floor hall. These shorter members frame into the last east-west joist using three types of mortise and tenon joints (Photos 20 and 21 and Illustration New 1). Some of the joints are single mortise and tenon in the upper third of the joist, some with a vertical trunnel (Photo 21). Some are double mortise and tenon with a vertical trunnel (Photo 20), suggesting the possibility of an influence from Dutch framing. The keyed double mortise and tenon connection is repeated at the fireplace framing near the north wall (Photo 22).

It should be noted that there is an unusual detail pertaining to the beam into which the shorter members frame which spans between the two sides of the cellar (Photo 15). In addition to the mortise and tenon connections, in the center of three framing bays are full-depth wood wedges inserted into the face of the beam. While two are fully intact, a third is partially displaced. Warranting further inspection, this condition may have sought to rectify a loose connection by forcing the wood fibers to make a tighter connection with the joist tenons.

The wooden stairs leading from the cellar to the first floor are not original to the dwelling as evidenced by a $\pm 6'$ ledge in the foundation wall where the stairs were previously located (Photo 23). A stone slab located at the bottom of the existing stairs may be representative of that original stair. Also of particular interest is a single pegged tenon projecting through the floor immediately west of the stair opening (Photo 24). The location suggests this is anchoring the staircase leading from the first floor to the second floor. Similar to openings in the original cellar, the former window opening and crawlspace access opening on the East wall were reinforced with brick along each side and a steel angle lintel above.

The secondary addition has a crawlspace accessed from an exterior wooden door located on the right side of the southern elevation. Over the previous decades this space was used for storage and is inaccessible until further cleaning is carried out. Based on the direction of the floorboards visible on the first floor, the floor joists frame from north to south likely with no intermediate bearing.

The rear addition appended to the original cellar is framed with 2"x8" sawn floor joists at 16" on center over a crawlspace. The rear addition appended to the 1820 addition cellar is framed with 2"x10" sawn floor joists at

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16" on center, also over a crawlspace. The rear vestibule (mudroom) appended to this addition has no discernable foundation aside from a concrete slab poured on grade.

Structural Framing – Original Dwelling (See First and Second Floor Plans)

The anchor-bent framing of the original dwelling exemplifies the Dutch framing tradition as described in Foster.⁷ Eight anchor bents bear on a timber sill plate set above the floor joists with knee braces on each corner perpendicular to the north and south walls (Illustration New 2). Bents are composed of hand hewn wood posts ranging in size from 4" to 4-1/2" by 6" to 6-1/2" at 36" or 42" spacing (36" for window and door bays, 42" for spaces between the door and window bays as shown in Illustration New 3). Smaller, rough-sawn, single-story studs occupy space between the bents with the remainder of the framing cavity infilled with rubble nogging. Anchor bent joints are mortis and tenon and many are badly deteriorated (Photo 25). A well-preserved through mortise and tenon joint in the northwest corner with an angled notch in the post can be seen in Photo 26. This joint has been protected by the south wall of the 1820 addition. Girts were used between some of the bents. Photo 27 shows the southwest corner bent with mortis and peg hole where the girt is apparently missing. Some of the bays clearly had no girts as in the northwest corner bay in Photo 28 where the space a bent might have occupied is filled with rubble nogging. What remains is too deteriorated or altered to easily discern the original locations of girts and requires further research.

Ceiling framing consists of continuous rough sawn timbers approximately 3"x6" with additional floor joists between the tie beams at irregular spacing (Photo 28). Variation in the size of floor boards, irregularly spaced joists and additional framing in the northeast corner of the dwelling visible in Photo 29 suggest this was the location of the original stairway to the garret. In the half-story space above, the west and east walls continue upward becoming knee walls with nogging between the bents (Photo 30). This material, while not directly structural in nature, provided many of the benefits of masonry construction without the expense, using readily available materials. Some areas of nogging have become loose over time and have fallen out of their respective framing cavities (Photo 30).

Structural Framing – 1820 Addition (See First and Second Floor Plans)

In the 1820 addition, the perimeter walls are framed in the same arrangement as in the original dwelling albeit with taller posts and studs. There are five anchor bents (Illustration New 5) with tie beams that extend the full width of the dwelling; approximately 30'. Mortise and tenon joints are offset to the south half of each post as seen from the interior in Photo 31 and exposed exterior in Illustration New 6. Photo 31 shows a close-up of one of the bents at the intersection of the tie beam on the east wall and connecting girts. Pegs of the mortise and tenon joints of the girts are visible in the photograph.

Anchor bents are connected with girts using mortise and tenon joints as shown in Photo 32. Also in this photograph, you can see the irregular widths of girts between bents. The girt on the left supports one floor joist and the area under this girt has two single-story studs while the girt on the right supports two joists. The framing cavity between studs is infilled with rubble nogging and small irregularly-spaced horizontal boards are

⁷ Janet Foster, "Domestic Architecture in Colonial New Jersey," *Garden State Legacy.com*, Issue 6, December 2009

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interspersed between the nogging adding support where smaller pieces of rubble are used. An original door frame can be seen on the left and an original window frame is located to the right. Both the door and window were covered over when the east addition was added.

The anchor bent that separates the hall from the parlors uses box framing under the tie beam. Photo 33 shows the wall of the rear (east) parlor with a diagonal brace on the east side. Mortise and tenon joints are used on both ends of the diagonal brace (the top joint being visible in Photo 33). The brace is one continuous piece with the intersecting 3"x4" studs mitered where they are attached to the brace. There are seven 3"x4" load bearing studs in this wall providing additional support to the tie beam above and forming a nailing surface for lath on both sides of the wall. Smaller studs are interspersed between the 3"x4" studs.

The front (west) parlor wall (Photo 34) is nearly a mirror image of the rear parlor wall. This wall has six 3"x4" load bearing studs and a diagonal brace on the west side with intersecting 3"x4" studs mitered to fit above and below the brace. The doorway opening for the front parlor is currently 61" wide. There is evidence in the flooring and in the framing above the doorway that the original opening was 33" wide.

The north/south wall between the parlors (Photo 35) also uses box framing with nine 3"x4" load bearing studs which provide support to the 4"x5" beam on the top which runs the full length of the wall and supports the joists above. Smaller studs are interspersed between the 3"x4" studs. The drawing in Illustration New 7, illustrates the second floor joists. The 4"x9" tie beams of the three anchor bents run the full width of this floor. Joists that are 2-1/2" to 3"x9" between the tie beams are approximately half the width of the room and are supported on one end on the girts between the anchor bents on the east and west walls and on the other end, they overlap in the center of the room where they rest on the beam forming the north/south wall between the parlors.

In the front (west) parlor, deteriorated studs in the west wall resulted in a significant amount of nogging coming loose and falling out. In 2015, stabilization-related repairs necessitated the installation of new 2"x4" stud framing on the inside face of the first and second bays (Photo 36).

Another well-preserved example of construction occurs in the half story above the east wall (Photos 37 and 38). Photo 37 shows the interior of the south end of the east wall at the stair landing, and Photo 38 is the opposite side of this wall – originally an exterior wall, but protected by the eastern addition after it was added. From the interior (Photo 37), the southern-most anchor bent is visible with the girt between that anchor bent and the next bent to the north as well as a diagonal brace lapped where it intersects with the girt and connected to the plate above with a mortise and tenon joint. Vertical studs are irregularly spaced and mitered to fit above and below the angled brace. From the exterior (Photo 38) the through tenon joint in the second anchor bent is visible as well as the girt above the window framing and the through tenon joint in the third anchor bent. Also visible is the mostly intact stone nogging. The nogging seen above the girt was repaired, probably at the time of the rear addition's construction, where some of the original stone nogging was replaced with red brick. Also from the exterior side, the original white painted clapboard on the first floor is visible.

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A diagonal brace similar to the one in the east wall is repeated in the west (front) wall (southwest corner seen from the interior) visible in Photo 39. Intact rubble nogging is also visible in this photograph as well as the birdsmouth cuts where the rafters sit on the plate.

Most of the studs used in the second story of the 1820 addition are smooth cut on three faces with the remaining face left the natural shape of the tree from which they were cut with bark and stubs of branches intact (Photos 40 and 41). Some of the lumber used for ceiling joists in the second story are smooth cut on only two faces (Photo 42).

Structural Framing (See First and Second Floor Plans) - Newer Additions

The secondary southern addition to the house has no exposed framing cavities at this time, therefore one can only speculate whether the construction continues to employ a braced frame or balloon frame. The rear addition appended to the original dwelling is balloon framed with 2"x4" wood studs at 16" on center extending from a sill plate to a double top plate with no form of insulation extant. As a result of exposure to the weather, some of the studs as well as portions of the top plate are deteriorating. Modern plywood sheathing spans the fields between the framing cavities and provides a nailing surface for the siding material.

The rear addition appended to the 1820 addition is also balloon framed with 2"x4" wood studs at 16" on center extending from a sill plate to a single 4"x4" hand hewn top plate with no form of insulation extant. The materiality of the sill plate as a larger timber is more consistent with the materials used throughout the original dwelling and the 1820 addition; therefore, this may indicate that this addition was installed chronologically prior to the one appended to the original dwelling. As a result of exposure to the weather and the close proximity to grade, many of the studs have rotted toward the bottom and are no longer structurally sound. The top plate is also in poor condition. The extent of the damage in this area is more apt to warrant reconstruction rather than repair.

The addition has true 2"x4" sawn ceiling joists at 20" on center which bear on a notched ledger board nailed to the 1820 addition's east wall. 2"x8" sawn ceiling joists at 16" on center are attached in a similar manner. The shed roof has a 5 in 12 pitch, nearly half that of the 1820 addition's roof. The rear vestibule appended to this structure has 2"x4" roof rafters at 30" on center bearing on a ledger board on the flat across the adjoining roof plane. This shed roof is of comparable pitch to that roof.

The rear addition appended to the original dwelling has true 3"x4" sawn ceiling joists at 16" on center which bear on a ledger board nailed to the original east wall. 2"x6" sawn ceiling joists at 16" on center are attached in a similar manner. The shed roof has a 4 in 12 pitch, less than half the pitch of the original dwelling.

Attic and Roof - Original Dwelling

The original attic construction is visible through a hole above the collar ties in the area of the garret directly above the stairs leading from the 1820 addition (Photo 43). 3"x4" rough sawn common rafters are at ±24" on center with birdsmouth cuts bearing against the inside edge of the plate (Photo 44) along the west and east walls. The rafters are connected at the ridge by pegged half-lap joints (Photo 43) at the center which eliminated the need for a ridge beam. Collar ties of similar dimension are provided at each bay to increase the rigidity of

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the frame as well as to provide a nailing surface for the installation of a finish ceiling (in lieu of additional ceiling joists). Wood battens laid across the common rafters provide a nailing surface for the roofing assembly. Collar ties and battens are visible in Photo 43. Visual inspection of the underside of the roofing material (Photo 45) shows the original cedar shake roofing. While this area will require a new roof to be installed, the structure itself is in good condition. The gable roof has a 9 in 12 pitch (a slope within the common range of 18th century roofs).

Attic and Roof - 1820 Addition

A timber frame structure supports the roof of the 1820 addition. The structure consists of a pair of purlin posts with an anchor beam forming a bent at either end of the dwelling with a pair of collar purlins running the full length of the dwelling. Illustration New 8 uses a drawing adapted from Sobon to illustrate the purlin posts, anchor beam and collar purlins from the south elevation. Illustration New 9 shows the four collar ties spaced evenly from north to south tying the collar purlins. Photo 46 shows the southeast corner purlin post with through mortise and tenon joints between the purlin post and collar purlin (top joint with peg holes visible) and between the purlin post and anchor beam (lower joint with pegs visible). Also visible in the photograph is the diagonal brace parallel to the south wall supporting the anchor beam with a single peg of the joint visible in the anchor beam.

Photo 47 shows the northeast corner purlin post with mortise and tenon joints connecting the collar purlin to the purlin post, the anchor beam and the diagonal brace parallel to the collar purlin viewed from the attic. There is also a diagonal brace parallel to the north wall that is obscured by the chimney. Photo 48 shows a view of the same diagonal brace looking upward from the second floor. Photo 49 shows the same joints looking upward from the second floor towards the joint where the diagonal brace meets the collar purlin. In the foreground, the ceiling joists with lath nails are visible. The ceiling joists are 17" below the collar purlin. Above the joists is a through tenon joint of one of the collar ties in the collar purlin with the vertical peg visible. To the right of that joint is the upper joint of the diagonal brace with the horizontal peg visible. Just above these two joints, you can see the birdsmouth cut in the rafter where it sits on the collar purlin. The southern bent employs diagonal braces parallel to the south wall; the northern bents employ diagonal braces both parallel to the north wall and perpendicular to the north wall. Photo 50 shows the diagonal braces on the northwest purlin post from the second story. The brace on the left connects to the collar purlin above and also serves as framing for a lath and plaster wall, and the brace on the right runs on the north side of the chimney and connects to the anchor beam above. The western collar purlin has three empty mortises two of which can be seen in Photo 51. Their purpose is not apparent. They may have originally been used or intended for supporting the collar purlin and/or framing a wall in this location.

The roofing assembly is comparable to the original part of the home, with several layers of asphalt roof shingles on top of the original cedar shakes. The rafters are connected at the ridge by mitred butt joints (Photo 52) at the center. Wood battens and the underside of the cedar shakes are also visible in Photo 52. The gable roof has an 8½ in 12 pitch.

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Interior Spaces

Please note that the overall dimensions for spaces are recorded relative to the front of the house; the east-west dimension provided first, followed by the north-south dimension. Ceiling and wall heights are documented on the attached floor plans and are measured from the finished floor to the finished ceiling or in the case of an unfinished space (such as the cellar), from finish floor to the underside of the framing above (See floor plans). As this building continues to be cleaned and made ready for restoration, non-historic finish materials are being removed with no discernable cultural loss. These materials include, but are not limited to, wood wall-paneling, acoustic tile suspended ceilings, carpeting, and linoleum flooring. Photos taken prior to the cleaning also show steam radiators in many of the rooms as well as the hot water heater in the northeast corner of the 1820 addition's cellar.

First Floor

Built as a one-family dwelling, the manner of building campaigns undertaken at the Collins house facilitated later owners to convert the property into a two-family dwelling, after the period of significance.

The original dwelling had a rectangular single-pile floor plan with one to two rooms on the first floor and a sleeping garret in the loft above. The living space was entered through a single door on the southern side of the west wall. Depending on the time period, photographs document this door having been converted to a window and ultimately back to a door but research supports that it was the original door location. Since both of the windows on this elevation still have rubble stone nogging in the cavities below their sills, it is highly unlikely that either evolved from a previous door opening. Along the south wall of the living room is the fireplace, which was the only original heat source for the residents. A later unornamented red brick mantle was appended to the front of the fireplace with the older grey fire brick visible within the opening (Historic Photo 23). Later alterations to the space include a closet to the east of the fireplace and built-in shelving to the west of the fireplace.

The 1820 addition has a rectangular double-pile floor plan with two parlors along the north wall and a side hall to the south. The hall (7'-10" x 29'-1") runs the full length of the addition with an exterior door on either end and was lit by one window on the south wall and incidentally by the transom over the front door. A door added to the south wall (east of the aforementioned window) led into the original dwelling with a small step down. A 3'-2" wide wood switchback stair along the south wall leads to the second floor (with 11 treads and 12 risers to the intermediate landing, followed by 3 treads and 4 risers to the upper story). As described in the 1982 *Cultural Resource Survey*, "the stair [had] a simple handrail on slender balusters that...terminated in a turned newel"⁸ consistent with the Federal period style (Historic Photos 18 and 19). The newel post and handrail were removed and stored offsite after vandalism incidents after the house was abandoned. In the southeast corner of the hall, a straight stair leads down to the cellar.

The entrance to the front parlor (17'-10" x 14'-5") is through a wide cased opening in the hall. This room features a centrally located fireplace along the north wall with a low-profile stone hearth (Photo 53). The west

⁸ Morrell, et al, page 47.

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side of the chimney breast conceals a small cabinet. The mantelpiece has features popular to the Federal style, including engaged Tuscan colonette legs to either side of the fireplace, and a sunburst in the middle of the header (undermantel). The fire bricks and trim panels around the firebox were painted a bright red. A plywood covering has been built around the mantle to protect it while stabilization work is in progress.

Original squared window trim with rosettes (Historic Photos 20 and 54), as well as crown moldings and base molding pieces also consistent with the Federal style have been salvaged from this space and are currently being stored for later use and reference during restoration.

The rear parlor (17'-10" x 14'-4") is almost a mirror image of the front parlor, with a wide opening to the hallway and fireplace centered on the north wall (Photo 55). The chimney breasts are deeper here to accommodate built-in window-seats on either side and have a cupboard discreetly located on the east side. The firebox has been sealed closed, a remnant from when this fireplace was repurposed to accommodate a gas stove, which is no longer extant. There is a low-profile brick hearth in front of the fireplace. This mantelpiece is less ornate and more consistent with an early period Greek-Revival style, including low-profile pilaster legs with tall base moldings, simple panels, and a capital molding. The embellishment centered in the header is a simple mortise stripe pattern. This mantelpiece was also recently protected with a plywood covering. Both parlors were lit from two windows located on the front or rear walls as well as by a pair of windows on either side of their respective fireplaces.

The single-room secondary addition on the south side of the original dwelling provides an additional bedroom (11'-7" x 15'-11") entered via a doorway located on the south wall of the original dwelling to the west of the fireplace. A closet was added to the southwest corner of the room prior to 1977, eliminating the westernmost window or door from the south wall.

The rear addition appended to the original (1790) building is currently in disrepair with much of the finish flooring missing and the framing structure exposed. The northern portion included a bathroom (±4'-6" x 6'-11") entered through a narrow door in the south wall of the 1820 addition. None of the plumbing fixtures remain. In the middle of the addition is a smaller room (±5'-8" x 6'-11") which was possibly a pantry to accompany the kitchen (±13'-0" x 6'-11") that occupied the remainder of the space.

The sketched plans included in the 1982 *Cultural Resource Survey* show different conditions whereby there is no central room and the bath is accessed from within the rear addition. This alternate arrangement would be far more conducive for a two-family dwelling; however, it is unclear why these changes could have developed since that time. A cased opening leading to the kitchen is centrally located within the larger room of the original dwelling. A 4'-1" wide pass-through opening and countertop is located to the south of that aperture.

The rear addition appended to the 1820 addition is in similar condition, with no remaining finish ceiling, wall finish, and limited finish flooring. This larger kitchen (26'-4" x 10'-9") was entered through cased openings in the hallway or from the rear parlor and originally used the door on the east wall to directly exit to the rear of the building.

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Second Floor

While this portion of the dwelling will be identified as the second floor, it is important to remember that this is more appropriately considered a half story, consistent with the East Jersey Cottage. In both the original dwelling as well as the 1820 addition, knee walls on the west and east walls pitch up toward the center of the house with flat plaster ceilings in the middle of the rooms.

The original dwelling's sleeping garret (23'-10" x 15'-1") is accessed through a door centered in the south wall of the 1820 addition, down a short flight of wood stairs (3 treads, 4 risers). Closets were later framed to either side of this staircase in line with the ceiling break. There is one window flanking each side of the chimney on the south wall.

The second floor of the 1820 addition originally had three bedrooms accessed from a common hall at the top of the staircase. The first bedroom (14'-4" x 12'-10") located in the southwest corner remains largely unchanged though the single window on the south wall is currently covered up.

The second bedroom in the northwest corner has been subdivided into two rooms. The function of the smaller room (11'-4" x 7'-6") is unclear but since it connects to the aforementioned bedroom via a door in its south wall and continued to have one window on the north wall, this may have been a private sitting room, a nursery, or in more recent times, a sizable closet. The larger space (9'-5" x 13'-3") is a bedroom with one window on the north wall centered between the chimneys from both of the first floor fireplaces.

The third bedroom (15'-0" x 7'-6") located in the northeast corner of the plan also has one window on the north wall. This is the only second floor space afforded a closet (on its south wall). Eventually this bedroom was converted to a 3-piece bathroom of which none of the fixtures remain. Likely at the time of this conversion, a linen closet was framed into the hallway just north of the stairs.

Attic

There is no habitable space or useable storage in any of the attic areas. On the north wall of the 1820 addition, the two chimneys that centered in each of the parlors on the first floor and passed along each side of the central window on the half story join together into a shared chimney in the attic space (Photos 7 and 8). Repairs or modifications to the chimney are evident in the use of a different color brick along the eastern side of the chimney which were probably done concurrently with the installation of the heating system.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary Paragraph

The Collins House, one of the oldest residential buildings in Bloomfield, NJ, is a good example of the once-common house form that has been labeled by historians and cultural geographers as an East Jersey Cottage. The Collins House is essentially two East Jersey Cottages appended together. No similar example of two such appended cottages has been identified within Bloomfield Township. Embodying distinctive characteristics from both the late 18th century and the early 19th century, the Collins House meets National Register Criterion C with local significance in architectural history. The Collins House was also closely associated with the adjacent, Register-listed Morris Canal. Two generations of Collins men were carpenters who worked for the canal company building bridges, aqueducts, and inclined planes. The Canal, specifically Inclined Plane 11 East, was built on the Collins property in the backyard of the house. The Collins House, still standing on its original footprint, is a conspicuous landmark in photographs of the nearby inclined plane, but it stands outside the Register boundary of the canal historic district. Yet for its historic associations, the Collins House adds to the strength of the Morris Canal district's significance in transportation history.⁹

Historical Background

The Township of Bloomfield was originally a part of the Town of Newark, which was founded in 1666 by an association of New England Puritan families from Milford, Branford and Guilford, Connecticut.¹⁰ The original boundaries of Newark extended from the northern boundary of Elizabethtown on the south to the Passaic River on the north, and to the Watchung Mountain on the west.¹¹ The portion that later became Bloomfield was situated in the northern part of this tract and remained unsettled for a number of years.

One of the earliest settlers of the area now known as Bloomfield was the progenitor of the Ward family, John Ward, who came to Newark with the Branford, Connecticut group of settlers. In 1675 the East Jersey Proprietors conferred to him 44 acres of land near the Second River that eventually became the central section of Bloomfield. Daniel Dodd, also from Branford, settled a tract of land conferred to him in 1697. This land was located in the south end of the present Bloomfield Township, then called Watsesson Plain. Other early settlers of the area were the Baldwin, Morris, and Davis families. John Morris cleared and settled on a tract that became the Morris Neighborhood by the Third River just north of the site of the Collins House. Benjamin Baldwin from Milford, the progenitor of the Baldwins of Bloomfield, acquired land between the Second and Third Rivers. Descendants of his son David, born around 1715, also settled in the area near the Third River in the Morris Neighborhood. Stephen Davis of the Milford group founded the branch of the Davis family in Bloomfield. Thomas Davis, his son, acquired a number of tracts of land near the Second and Third Rivers prior to 1700. The home of a descendant, Deacon Joseph Davis, was used for church services later in the 18th century.

⁹ Jennifer B. Leynes, Ilene Grossman-Baily and Virginia Overberger, "Mapping the Morris Canal in Essex County," September 2014, Richard Grubb & Associates, 4-2. This recently-completed survey recommends the Collins House as one of the opportunities for the preservation of surviving canal remnants.

¹⁰ Stephen Morris Hulin, *Real and Ideal Bloomfield* (Bloomfield: Groeve-McGovern Co., 1902), 9

¹¹ Folsom, *Bloomfield Old and New*, 11

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John Collins, born in 1754, was not originally a Bloomfield resident, having emigrated to Pennsylvania from Bally Shannon in Northern Ireland.^{12, 13} He settled in Bloomfield about 1781, after serving as a Sergeant in the Continental Army in Captain Holmes' Company, Fourth Battalion, Second Establishment. He had enlisted in the New Jersey Continental Line from Burlington, New Jersey, on December 19, 1776.¹⁴ According to other early records¹⁵ he was taken prisoner in July of 1777 but apparently was released, as it is documented that he served at the Storming of Stony Point,¹⁶ which was led by General "Mad" Anthony Wayne on July 16, 1779. He was also a Captain and Conductor of Team Brigade and Assistant Commissary of Issues in the quartermaster General's Department in the state troops and militia.¹⁷ He arrived in Bloomfield shortly after his discharge from the army, and married Mary Wood Baldwin, a native Bloomfield resident.

John and Mary's first child, Joseph, was born January 4, 1785. Isaac was born in 1786 and another son, Thomas, followed two years later.¹⁸ On March 13, 1790, John Collins purchased the property now encompassing the Collins House from Joseph Woodruff. Joseph Woodruff sold it to Collins for 117 pounds "in good current lawful money of the state."¹⁹ The property consisted of 11.45 acres on the Third River, extending to the land of Phineas Baldwin. The property was designated as falling in the community of Crab Orchard (the name given to the neighborhood at the time the deed was executed).²⁰ This land extended from the Third River east across what became the site of Morris Canal Plane 11 East.²¹

The deed describes the property in metes and bounds as extending along the Third River to the edge of the Phineas Baldwin property, and encompassed the 11.45 acres later inherited by John's son Isaac Collins in 1806. By 1806 that acreage included the earliest section of the Collins House. John Collins is the putative builder of the older, simpler section of the house according to a family descendant. He apparently farmed the land to support the family based on the contents of his will, and was a man of modest means, appropriate for the owner of a modest East Jersey cottage. For a period of time, the property in front of the Collins house was flooded for use as a mill pond seen on the 1856 map (see accompanying documentation). We have no record of the exact dates the pond was extant, but we know the pond existed as early as 1806 and as late as 1856. (In his will of 1806, John bequeathed an annual income from the pond to his wife Mary, and the pond was in existence when the 1856 map was made.)

The only other recorded deed to John Collins of Bloomfield is dated January 24, 1803, which conveyed to him a fourth interest in 2.75 acres in Bloomfield from Joseph Jones of Newark for \$75. This property was located on

¹² Mildred Stone, Oral History, interviewed by Mary Donovan 12/2/1993, at the Bloomfield Public Library, Bloomfield, New Jersey. Typed manuscript.

¹³ Folsom, *Bloomfield Old and New*, 42

¹⁴ Continental War Records compiled by the State of New Jersey Genealogical Society, Box 568706-1574 Reel 8, NJ Archives, reference Mss.2380, p. 20; and Mss.3775, p. 6.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, Box 580786-1909, Reel 157, Mss. 3775

¹⁶ Folsom, *Bloomfield Old and New*, 42

¹⁷ Morrell, et al, 24

¹⁸ Bloomfield Cemetery, headstone of Thomas Collins

¹⁹ Essex County Deeds, Book N: 54

²⁰ *Ibid.*

²¹ Morrell, et al, 17

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the Third River by Phineas Baldwin's land and was probably adjacent to the property Collins had purchased in 1790.²²

John Collins was one of the founding members of the Presbyterian Church on the Green, contributing to the original subscription to build the church in 1796. The founding of the church society was a seminal event in Bloomfield, since the congregation chose the name of Revolutionary War General Joseph Bloomfield as the name of the church society, thus leading to the town being named Bloomfield when it was incorporated in 1812.²³ Prior to this time Bloomfield was a part of Newark and consisted of a patchwork of neighborhoods, including Stone House Plains (north of the Morris Neighborhood, known as Brookdale today), the Morris Neighborhood, and Crab Orchard, the location of the Collins House. The towns variously known as Belleville, Franklin (later Nutley), Glen Ridge and Montclair, originally neighborhoods within Bloomfield, later seceded after Bloomfield's incorporation.

The settlement of Bloomfield centered along one long road that led out of Newark. It ran as far as Stone House Plains earlier than 1695. Bloomfield's Broad Street follows this old road's path. Settlement was relatively sparse and even after the Revolutionary War there were only about thirty homes between the south end of the town and the Morris Neighborhood.²⁴ The Collins House was one of these early homes and the only one remaining today from the Crab Orchard and Morris Neighborhood.

The Morris family ran the earliest recorded sawmill in Bloomfield.²⁵ It was located on the Morris property on the Third River and had a cornerstone dated 1702; it stood until 1890.²⁶ The millpond was located slightly northwest of the site of the Collins House and derived its water from the Third River, which flowed through the Collins property. The Baldwin family also owned three mills on the Third River, including a paper mill/tannery.^{27, 28}

Although there is no other information extant about John Collins' vocation, he may have farmed for a living, as the inventory made at his death, August 26, 1806, filed October 31, 1807, indicates that he left 2 hogs, 1 lot of corn and potatoes, 2 tons of hay, 11 cows, 1 calf, and another lot of corn.²⁹

In 1806, not long before his death, John Collins gave a mortgage to Joseph Woodruff and Samuel Dodd on his 11.45-acre lot on the Third River in "Crab Orchard." He borrowed £110 using his land as security. The mortgage stated that Collins was residing on the property at this time, which indicates that the oldest portion of the house had been built previously, consistent with the family tradition that credits John Collins with building the original portion of the house, probably not long after he purchased the property in 1790.³⁰ However, more research is needed to definitively determine the age of the oldest portion of the house.

²² Ibid., 24

²³ Charles E. Knox, D.D., *Origin and Annals of the "Old Church on the Green"* (Bloomfield: S. Morris Hulin, 1901): 19, 62

²⁴ Folsom, *Bloomfield Old and New*, 24-26

²⁵ Morrell, et al

²⁶ Folsom, *Bloomfield Old and New*, 140

²⁷ Cushman, *Mill*, 28

²⁸ Folsom, *Bloomfield Old and New*, 16

²⁹ John Collins Inventory, Book 0399G, 1807, New Jersey State Archives

³⁰ Morrell, et al, 24

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John Collins died in September of 1806, bequeathing his property equally to his two sons Thomas and Isaac. Along with the property they inherited his debts, including the mortgage on the property. The other children received various sums of money and various major possessions such as feather beds. John Collins also left the annual sum of \$12.50 to his wife Mary, which was income from Baldwin & Pitt for the privilege of inundating part of the Collins property with their millpond.³¹ (The millpond can be seen on the 1856 map [Bloomfield-1856-map].)

Isaac and Thomas Collins (sons of John Collins) divided the estate between them February 28, 1814, at which point Isaac received the 11 acres on the Third River in Bloomfield, which included the house. Two years later, on September 25, 1816, Isaac gave a mortgage on his 11 acres to his brother Joseph Collins, borrowing \$300. Joseph Collins had received \$300 from their father John in his will.

The family tradition credits Isaac with building the newer portion of the house in 1820,³² so it is possible some of the money he received from the mortgage to Joseph may have been used toward the building of the larger unit of the house, or perhaps toward the purchase of the land from Samuel Pitt.

On September 17, 1825, Isaac purchased 7.62 acres adjacent to his 11-acre tract from Samuel Pitt for \$772. The land bordered the paper mill's pond, which supplied the mill downstream. There was a stipulation in the deed that Collins was not to interfere with the flowing of the pond. Isaac Collins died April 19, 1841, at the age of 58, and is buried in Bloomfield Cemetery. His estate was left to his wife Jane, and upon her death was to be equally divided among their nine children: Helen Mead, Barney W., May, Catharine, John, Sarah, Isaac, Esther, and Joanna W.

Jane Collins continued to live in the house until her death on May 20, 1885. Joseph Fairbanks, husband of Isaac and Jane Collins' daughter Catharine Collins, acquired the interest of all the Collins heirs to the house and property June 3, 1887³³, and retained the dwelling until May 11, 1891. On that date, the Collins House was sold out of the family and it became part of the adjacent paper company property. It has continued to be described as Tract 3 of the paper company holdings, sold at various times to the several companies that have owned the paper mill.³⁴ It is from this point on that the history of the house converges with that of the history of the paper mill later owned by Marcal.

Criterion C – Architecture

The Collins House embodies the authentic architectural characteristics of the East Jersey Cottage, a unique type of vernacular construction that synthesized aspects of early Dutch and English braced-framing techniques into a single model.³⁵ Carried out over a series of building campaigns by the Collins family and subsequent owners, this property documents over 200 years of local history both through artifacts found on-site as well as through a

³¹ John Collins Will

³² Morrell, et al, 25

³³ Essex County Deeds, Book O-23: 206

³⁴ Morrell, et al., 26

³⁵ Peter Wacker, "New Jersey's Cultural Landscape Before 1800," *Proceedings of the Second Annual Symposium of the New Jersey Historical Commission*, December 5, 1970 (Newark: New Jersey Historical Society, 1971), 47. Also Janet Foster, "Domestic Architecture in Colonial New Jersey," *Garden State Legacy.com*, Issue 6, December 2009

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visual inspection of the current structure. Recent efforts toward stabilization of the building have pulled back finish materials facilitating a more thorough analysis of the underlying structure and the methods employed.

The oldest portions of the Collins House today still exhibit the typical East Jersey Cottage form: one-and-one-half stories in height with a gable roof over a three-bay façade and the entrance located in one of the side bays. The house retains intact original rubble nogging typical of 18th century construction. The property also retains its historic well. Because of its secluded location, the house is still intact on its original land and aside from the adjacent senior citizen apartment building, stands alone on the landscape historically associated with the house.

Criterion A – Transportation: The Morris Canal

By 1830, only 40 years after John Collins had settled in the area, the town of Bloomfield had grown substantially from a handful of dwellings and a few family-run mills, to become a prosperous business and industrial center for the area. At this time the town's population was 4,309, and as of 1832 it contained 17 merchants, 6 gristmills, 2 cotton manufactories, 5 sawmills, 4 copper rolling mills, 3 paper mills, 1 paint factory, 2 calico print works, 3 woolen manufactories, several shoemaking shops and a number of hat-making shops.³⁶

During this time period, the Morris Canal, first envisioned in 1822 by George P. Macculloch, a Morristown businessman, was nearing completion. The Canal was eventually built by private investors. An act was passed on December 31, 1824, incorporating the Morris Canal and Banking Company to form an artificial waterway 90 miles in length between the Passaic and Delaware rivers. By September of 1825, thirty miles were under contract with 700 men digging the canal bed. As different sections of the canal were completed, they were opened up for local use. On November 4, 1831, the first trip from Newark to Phillipsburg was completed and took about five days, a journey that passed through the section of the Canal that ran through Bloomfield. The first full season of use was in 1832.

In 1836 an extension to Jersey City of approximately 12 miles was added, making the full length of the Canal just over 102 miles. Within this length were 23 inclined planes and 34 locks.³⁷ These included one of each in Bloomfield: Lock 15 East and Plane 11 East. Plane 11 East was built directly adjacent to the Collins House on Collins property sold to the Canal Company by Isaac Collins where today's John F. Kennedy Drive is located. This canal plane was the town's busiest point on the canal. Freight docks, storage buildings, and headquarters for boatmen were all located there.³⁸

During its prime, the Morris Canal was an important transportation resource for the Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York region. The Canal was considered an engineering marvel of its time, due partly to the use of inclined planes. Although employed on a smaller scale on English canals, the inclined plane was adapted for the Morris Canal and used to conquer changes of elevation anywhere from 35 feet to 100 feet. The canal boats were floated onto a cradle car, which was pulled out of the water, then up or down on iron rails to the next section of

³⁶ Thomas F. Gordon, *Gazetteer of the State of New Jersey* (Trenton: Daniel Fenton, 1834), 105

³⁷ James Lee, *The Morris Canal – a Photographic History* (Easton, PA: Delaware Press, 1979, reprinted 1988), 4

³⁸ Morrell, et al, 14

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canal. Those iron rails were supported by heavy stone “sleepers,” some of which are extant in inclined planes that are still intact in the western part of the State.³⁹

Originally built for boats of ten gross tons, the Canal was gradually increased for boats carrying twenty-five tons. After an enlargement program was completed in 1860, boats carrying seventy gross tons and more were common. The tonnage on the canal steadily increased from 58,259 tons in 1845 to 899,220 tons in 1866. From 1855 on, coal was the main commodity carried on the canal. However, grain, wood, cider, vinegar, beer, whiskey, bricks, hay, hides, iron ore, sugar, lumber, manure, lime, and many other goods also were transported. The decade of 1860 to 1870 witnessed the greatest growth in population and industry of the territory served by the canal.

The rise of the railroads eventually doomed the canal. The railroads were continuously cannibalizing the canal company's business and once the Morris Canal lost the majority of its coal and iron ore business, it became apparent that it had outlived its usefulness. Finally on November 29, 1922, the business was disbanded and the majority of the Morris Canal property passed into the hands of the State of New Jersey.⁴⁰

John Collins' son Isaac Collins (1786-1841) and Isaac's son John Collins (1824-1906) were both carpenters who worked on the Morris Canal, assisting in the construction and maintenance of the plane next to their house, as well as many bridges and other structures on the canal.⁴¹ According to an unpublished biography of Isaac's son John Collins,

“[He] was noted in his day as a bridge builder of exceptional ability. As a young man [he] was apprenticed to the carpentry trade, acquiring a skill that was unusual and which marked him as a master workman. Entering the service of the Morris Canal and Banking Company, he was employed by that enterprise for many years as master carpenter and boat builder, and it is noteworthy that in this connection he constructed every bridge that crossed the canal between Easton, Pa., and Jersey City, N. J. acquiring wide reputation as an expert at bridge building. He was subsequently appointed supervisor of the Jersey City division of the canal serving in that responsibility for several years.”⁴²

(There were over 250 bridges that crossed the Morris Canal across the state. We do not know if the statement that John Collins ‘built every bridge that crossed the canal’ is intended literally, or if it is referring to his role in supervising and/or designing and building components of all of the bridges.) John Collins left the employ of the Morris Canal in approximately 1874, at which time he went to work for the Oakes & Company Woolen Mills in Bloomfield as a master carpenter, a position he held there for 25 years. He died in 1906, seven years after retiring from that position.⁴³

³⁹ <http://www.njskylands.com/hsmorriscanal3.htm>

⁴⁰ Lee, *Morris Canal*, 5

⁴¹ Jennifer B. Leynes, Ilene Grossman-Baily and Virginia Overberger, “Mapping the Morris Canal in Essex County,” September 2014, Richard Grubb & Associates, 3-26

⁴² The Publishing Society of New York, “The Memorial Cyclopaedia of the Twentieth Century (Comprising Memoirs of Men and Women who have been instrumental in the progress of the industries, professions, arts, literature, legislation, society and Charities of the United States),” 1906, Galley 11 and 12

⁴³ Ibid.

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The Canal Society of New Jersey has a collection of John Collins' carpentry tools (Historic Photos 3-10). The Friends of the Morris Canal Greenway in Bloomfield hope to exhibit these tools at the Collins House as part of the restoration and interpretation of the house.

The Morris Canal, and specifically Inclined Plane 11 East, were built on Collins property. The Canal Company purchased 2.08 acres from Isaac Collins⁴⁴ for canal right-of-way for the canal. The 1856 map shows the property owned by Jane Collins (Isaac Collins' wife who inherited the property after Isaac's death in 1841) on both sides of Inclined Plane 11 East. The plane house where the turbine and hydro-powered machinery were housed (see Historic Photos 14 and 15), also visible on the 1856 map, was built on the east side of the plane on the property that had belonged to Isaac Collins. Historic Photo 11 shows a plank road crossing the inclined plane connecting the Collins property on both sides of the plane. It was common for the Canal Company to provide "farm bridges" for farmers whose property was bisected by the canal (the original Baldwin Street Bridge was a farm bridge). In a similar manner, a plank plane crossing was provided so the Collins family could access their property on both sides of the canal.

The existing Collins house is the only remaining house associated with the canal in Essex County. The fact that the house is in its original location with the surrounding property as it was when the canal was in operation makes it even more unique and valuable. Only one remaining structure associated with the canal in Bloomfield still survives: the Berkeley Avenue Bridge, which is slated to be demolished in 2016. Because the property remains intact in the same location as it was in relation to the location of the Inclined Plane when it existed, that is, in the back yard of the house, the house provides a unique opportunity to visualize and interpret the scale, grade and location of the plane. The roadway that replaced Inclined Plane 11 East maintains the grade and relationship to the Collins property and house as it did when the inclined plane was extant.

Inclined Plane 11 East has a special significance to the history of engineering of inclined planes on the canal and local Bloomfield residents Ephraim Morris, Caleb Dodd Baldwin and Ira Dodd played an important role in inclined plane design and development.

When the Canal Company offered a premium for new inclined plane designs, Ephraim Morris, the great-grandson of John Morris, the progenitor of the Morris family in Bloomfield, entered the competition with his design for Inclined Plane 11 East. Morris was selected as one of the winners of the competition.⁴⁵

Morris' plane, built as Inclined Plane 11 East in 1829⁴⁶ on what had been Collins property was a "double plane" with one boat and cradle ascending while another descended using gravity assisted with hydro power from a water wheel located at the head of the plane. Another distinguishing feature of his plane was the utilization of two locks (technically, half locks) at the head of the plane.⁴⁷ Morris registered a patent for his inclined plane design "for raising boats from one Level to another, on canals, by means of inclined planes."⁴⁸ (See Ephraim

⁴⁴ *Independent Press*, "Legal Details of Canal Purchase are Explained: Town Free to Use Right-of-Way for Transportation; Original Property Owners," December 31, 1926

⁴⁵ Barbara N. Kalata, "A Hundred Years A Hundred Miles: New Jersey's Morris Canal (Morris County Historical Society, 1983), 132

⁴⁶ *Ibid.*, 134

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*, 133

⁴⁸ Thomas P. Jones (Editor), *Journal of the Franklin Institute*, Volume 5, May, 1830

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Morris Patent for Inclined Plane in Accompanying Documentation.) Caleb Dodd Baldwin and Ira Dodd supplied parts for Ephraim Morris' inclined plane they manufactured in the Morris family's mill.⁴⁹ They also built a "magnificent brownstone aqueduct" that carried the Morris Canal over the Passaic River in Little Falls.⁵⁰

It was reported by a Collins descendant that during the construction of the canal and inclined plane, construction workers boarded at the Collins House.⁵¹ According to Kalata, the President of the Morris Canal Company and a committee of Canal Company directors, as well as state councilmen and assemblymen, visited the canal during its construction to inspect the ongoing work, particularly the inclined planes. At Bloomfield, they saw "a very considerable number of workmen" employed on the inclined plane adjacent to the Collins property.⁵² These workers would have needed a place to stay while they worked on the plane, so it is certainly feasible that they would have boarded at the Collins House.

Work to enlarge the capacity of the canal began in 1840-41 but was hampered by financial issues pertaining to the canal company.⁵³ The efforts to widen the canal to accommodate larger hinged boats and to rebuild and widen the locks and planes ultimately took place from 1846-60.⁵⁴ The first new planes built in 1846 standardized on a design that used an iron Scotch turbine⁵⁵ rather than Ephraim Morris' water wheel design.

The Inclined Planes of the Morris Canal were considered a national engineering feat. The Inclined Plane in Bloomfield was featured in *Scientific American* May 20, 1882 with illustrations showing the newer design using a Scotch Turbine and hinged canal boats.

The Collins House was a prominent landmark in photographs and postcards of the Inclined Plane in Bloomfield. Historic Photos 11-15 and the illustrations in the 1882 *Scientific American* article (See Accompanying Documentation) show the Inclined Plane and include the Collins House in the scene.

In 2014, the Bloomfield Town Council designated the path of the Morris Canal as Morris Canal Greenway, as part of the state-wide effort to protect and preserve the Canal and increase educational and recreational opportunities. The Council also formed the Morris Canal Greenway Committee to preserve the Collins House as the centerpiece of the Morris Canal Greenway in Bloomfield.

Other Historical Information

As discussed, the property was associated with the early milling industry that grew up along the Third River. However, the property was closely intertwined with later mill development in the mid-19th century as well. Mill development to the north end of the property appears to have begun in 1865, although an immediately adjacent mill was established in the mid-1850s just northeast of the site. This mill utilized the waterpower from the Morris Canal, which enabled a paper mill to be erected on what would later become the Marcal property.

⁴⁹ Kalata, *A Hundred Years*, 132

⁵⁰ *Ibid.*, 38

⁵¹ Morrell, et al, 26

⁵² Kalata, *A Hundred Years*, 135-136

⁵³ *Ibid.*, 343

⁵⁴ *Ibid.*, 383

⁵⁵ *Ibid.*, 371 and 373

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The original 11-acre Isaac Collins property was gradually sold beginning in 1865, when Isaac's widow Jane and his nine children began to sell off portions of the land. They first conveyed on November 2, 1865 0.63 acres to Robert Southmayd of Philadelphia and Charles A. McCracken of Bloomfield, for \$2,500, a parcel that later became known as Tract 1 in the paper company deeds,⁵⁶ and was situated where the Marcal mill building, now the Kinder Towers senior citizen apartment building, stands, just north of the Collins House. This conveyance also granted the privilege of allowing the mill to construct a tailrace over the Collins lands. Southmayd and McCracken bought a 1-acre lot (which became Tract 2 in the mill holdings) on December 1, 1865 from Jonathan Potter, along with Morris Canal water rights. This lot bordered on Hoover Avenue, extending southward along Third River and adjoining the 0.63-acre mill site (Tract 1) that had been sold by the Collins family.⁵⁷ A year later, Southmayd and McCracken sold both Tract 1 and Tract 2 to Archibald T. Finn of New York City for \$15,000,⁵⁸ who then conveyed these tracts and the mill to his wife Myraette for \$1,000 on May 18, 1868.⁵⁹ She owned them until August 10, 1870, when the Silver Spring Paper Company bought them for \$6,500, subject to a \$2,500 mortgage that had been given to Joseph Fairbanks. On August 23, 1870, Archibald Finn sold the water privilege from the Morris Canal to the Silver Spring Paper Company.⁶⁰

There were several complex transactions of temporary transfer of ownership under the Silver Spring Paper Company to other entities during its tenure there, apparently to assuage financial difficulties. By 1880 the mills were being operated under the name Weymouth Paper Mills, although Silver Spring still owned the property at this time. Silver Spring finally failed and went into receivership. By three conveyances in March and November of 1882, the mill, equipment, water rights and two tracts of land were conveyed to Elisha Fulton of New York City for \$15,000. At that time, there were claims totaling \$40,214.70 owed by Silver Spring.

On December 11, 1883, Elisha Fulton sold both Tracts 1 and 2, the water rights and the mill, tools and machinery to the Essex Paper Company of New Jersey for \$60,000. The Essex Paper Company only owned the mill for six years before the property was seized due to unpaid debts to a mortgage held by the Whitlock family. A public sale of the property was held, and Marie Antoinette Whitlock, widow of the original mortgage-holder, Daniel Whitlock, purchased the mill, the two tracts of land and the machinery for \$15,000. Two years later, on June 4, 1891, she sold the mill, two tracts, and water rights back to Elisha Fulton for \$30,000.⁶¹

Fulton also purchased the adjacent Collins family house and 0.9-acre parcel (Tract 3) on May 11, 1891, from Joseph Fairbanks for \$1,800.⁶² The family home, which had been owned by John Collins' descendants for almost 90 years, therefore became part of the paper company lands. At this point the paper company now owned nearly the entire land area bounded by Hoover Avenue to the north, Baldwin Street to the south, the Morris canal to the east, and the Third River to the west.

Shortly after these transactions, on July 30, 1891, Fulton sold the mill, water rights, machinery, and Tracts 1, 2 and 3, including the Collins House, to the National Paper Manufacturing Company of New Jersey. He sold a

⁵⁶ Essex County Deeds, Book R-12:390

⁵⁷ Ibid., Book T-12:449; Book N-13:544; Book G-13:163

⁵⁸ Ibid., Book N-13:546; Book D-13:461

⁵⁹ Ibid., Book I-14:425

⁶⁰ Ibid., Book X-15:560, Book N-21:387

⁶¹ Morrell, et al, 26-38

⁶² Essex County Deeds, Book A-26:552

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small additional piece of land that he had acquired previously to the same entity on January 25, 1892. This 0.69-acre tract became Tract 4 of the paper company lots.⁶³

The National Paper Manufacturing Company did not own the mill long; it conveyed the property in two deeds in 1892 and 1893 to the United Paper Company, which then defaulted, causing the whole property to be seized by the court of chancery. Elisha Fulton purchased the property back for \$20,000 on July 3, 1894, possibly to settle unpaid debts. He then sold the property on that same date to Diamond Mills Paper Company of New York State, which was able to successfully manage the company until it closed down and sold off the mill and four tracts to the Freeman Corporation of Bloomfield on June 10, 1936.⁶⁴ Five years later it transferred the mill and property directly to the president of the corporation, Lloyd R. Freeman of Newport News, Virginia.⁶⁵ He died in 1948 and left the property to his wife Elizabeth Frazier Freeman. On June 20, 1960, Elizabeth Freeman and Freeman Corporation sold the paper mill and its four lots, as well as three other lots not directly related to the paper mill holdings, to ERA Holding Company. Marcal Paper Mills, Inc., a successor by merger of ERA Holding Company, Inc., operated the paper mill on the site until approximately 1980, when all operations ceased. It was then used as a warehouse for paper goods and a storage and workshop for small businesses.⁶⁶

The Collins House during the Marcal mill's tenure was evidently used to house the mill's caretakers. Oliver Kemp, a mill employee for 30 years, was the last caretaker to live in the house and was able to name a number of previous occupants who lived there.⁶⁷

Marcal Paper Mills then agreed to sell the property to the Township of Bloomfield for the purpose of building a senior citizens residence in late 1981.⁶⁸ The Township planned to use federal Community Development Block Grants for the purchase. However, the Department of Environmental Protection required that the property be evaluated for the presence of significant cultural resources. The property had come to the attention of the DEP when the Army Corps of Engineers surveyed the area as part of a flood control plan. In addition, the Bloomfield Area Environmental Action Group, a citizen's organization, notified the state about the site, requesting it receive consideration. The Bloomfield Historical Society also urged that the Collins House be preserved.⁶⁹

As a result, the Township commissioned a cultural resource survey, which was conducted on the Collins House and the Marcal Paper Company property by Historic Conservation and Interpretation, Inc., of Newton, New Jersey, for a cost of \$7,641.⁷⁰

Architectural Historian Herbert J. Githens, Researcher/Archeologist Brian H. Morrell, and Industrial Archeologist Edward S. Rutsch were the researchers, and they completed the survey in February 1982. As a result of their research, they concluded that the Collins House met Criterion C of the National Register of

⁶³ Ibid., Book M-26: 328

⁶⁴ Morrell, et al, 39-40

⁶⁵ Essex County Deeds, Book H-99:303

⁶⁶ Morrell, et al, 41

⁶⁷ Oliver Kemp, interview by nomination preparer, Miriam Michalski, Bloomfield, New Jersey, January 2004

⁶⁸ "Bloomfield Buys Site for Housing," *The Star Ledger*, 1 December, 1981

⁶⁹ Robert F. Lanzetti, "Officials Seek Archaeologist to Probe Paper Mill History," *The Herald News*, 9 November, 1981

⁷⁰ "Bloomfield Buys Site for Housing"

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Historic Places.⁷¹ The mill, however, was deemed too greatly altered to meet the criteria of significance for the inclusion on the National Register.^{72, 73}

The sale of the mill property to the Township of Bloomfield by Marcal Paper Mills, Inc., was then finalized on May 11, 1982, for a cost of \$399,800.⁷⁴

In order to preserve the Collins House and still enable the erection of the senior citizens housing, the Marcal property was then divided so that the Township of Bloomfield retained ownership of 0.43 acres of Tract 3 of the property, which included the Collins House, and is designated Block 697, Lot 96. Another small piece of property (unrelated to the Collins House), Lot 99, was also excluded and retained by the Township. On August 6, 1985, the Township of Bloomfield sold off the remainder of the mill property to National Church Residents of New Jersey, an Ohio Corporation, for \$250,000, to build a senior citizen apartment building on the site of the mill buildings.⁷⁵ The deed included a number of easements to enable the town to access the two lots that remained in its possession. (See tax map.)

⁷¹ Morrell, et al, 67

⁷² Ibid., 70

⁷³ As a result of these findings, the State Historic Preservation Office sent a letter to Frank R. Domenick, Community Development Director in Bloomfield, dated March 4, 1982, stating the Collins House and its associated well were cultural resources within the property that "are eligible under criterion C – 'that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction' and criterion D – 'that may be likely to yield information important in history.'" The further research conducted for this nomination seemed to indicate that the property is eligible under Criterion A, due to the connection of the house with the Morris Canal and early and ongoing industry in the area.

⁷⁴ Essex County Deeds, Book 4750:667

⁷⁵ Essex County Deeds, Book 4885: 103

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property consists of Block 697, Lot 96, as shown on the Bloomfield Township Tax Map (See accompanying site map).

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

This acreage encompasses the Collins House and its immediate surroundings, which are associated with the period of significance. It is owned by the Township of Bloomfield. The remaining land was sold off and is no longer under the control of the Township or connected with the house.

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PHOTO LOG

Name of Property: Collins House

City or Vicinity: Bloomfield

County: Essex

State: NJ

Photographer: Richard Rockwell [photos 1, 5-55] and Andrew Kollar [photos 2,3,4]

Location of Original Digital Files: 126 Lexington Ave, Bloomfield, NJ 07003 (except as noted below)

Photo #1 (NJ_EssexCounty_CollinsHouse_0001)

Date of Photographs: 11/27/2011

View of original well that remains on the Collins property covered by a mill sharpening stone.

Photo #2 (NJ_EssexCounty_CollinsHouse_0002)

Date of Photograph: 4/4/2015

Full view of western elevation: 1820 section (left); ca. 1790 section (center); ca. 1850 addition (right).

Location of Original Digital Files: Andrew Kollar, Principal, Fused Studios, Boston, MA

Photo #3 (NJ_EssexCounty_CollinsHouse_0003)

Date of Photograph: 4/4/2015

Full view of eastern elevation: Showing the later additions to the back of the house, with the central (ca. 1790) section and southern (ca. 1850) section to the left.

Location of Original Digital Files: Andrew Kollar, Principal, Fused Studios, Boston, MA

Photo #4 (NJ_EssexCounty_CollinsHouse_0004)

Date of Photograph: 4/4/2015

View of the Collins House from the northwest.

Location of Original Digital Files: Andrew Kollar, Principal, Fused Studios, Boston, MA

Photo #5 (NJ_EssexCounty_CollinsHouse_00005)

Date of Photograph: 12/22/2015

Clapboard on original dwelling showing layers of white paint under layers of bluish gray.

Photo #6 (NJ_EssexCounty_CollinsHouse_00006)

Date of Photograph: 12/12/2015

North elevation of 1820 addition.

Photo #7 (NJ_EssexCounty_CollinsHouse_00007)

Date of Photograph: 12/22/2015

Chimneys on north end of the 1820 addition viewed from second floor interior showing angle of chimneys as they approach each other to form a single chimney in the attic.

Photo #8 (NJ_EssexCounty_CollinsHouse_00008)

Date of Photograph: 12/22/2015

Attic of 1820 addition facing north showing chimneys joining into a single shared chimney. Repairs to the brick are visible on the right (east side) of the chimney. Later wind braces are visible in the center of the attic space tying the rafters to the purlin collar ties and ceiling joists.

Photo #9 (NJ_EssexCounty_CollinsHouse_00009)

Date of Photograph: 6/27/2015

Exterior of east elevation of 1820 addition after removal of interior wall finishes viewed from the newer east addition. This wall was the interior west wall of the newer addition which covered over the window and door openings.

Photo #10 (NJ_EssexCounty_CollinsHouse_00010)

Date of Photograph: 12/12/2015

Close-up of clapboard from the west elevation of the 1820 addition showing layers of white paint under layers of bluish gray paint.

Photo #11 (NJ_EssexCounty_CollinsHouse_00011)

Date of Photograph: 12/22/2015

Foundation on west elevation of original dwelling showing regular coursed, square-cut ashlar masonry.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

Collins House
Bloomfield Township, Essex County, New Jersey

Section number Photos Page 33

-
- Photo #12 (NJ_EssexCounty_CollinsHouse_00012) Date of Photograph: 12/22/2015
Northwest corner of the foundation of the 1820 addition showing rough tooled surface of the masonry on the north foundation wall.
- Photo #13 (NJ_EssexCounty_CollinsHouse_00013) Date of Photograph: 6/27/2015
Foundation of west elevation of 1820 addition showing section under the front stairs below the front door where irregular coursed rough tooled masonry was used.
- Photo #14 (NJ_EssexCounty_CollinsHouse_00014) Date of Photograph: 6/27/2015
Cellar of the original 1790s dwelling facing southeast showing brownstone pilasters supporting the first-floor fireplace and later-added lally column and support beam.
- Photo #15 (NJ_EssexCounty_CollinsHouse_00015) Date of Photograph: 6/27/2015
Cellar of the original 1790s dwelling facing southwest. An intact wedge is visible in the beam between the 1790s dwelling and the 1820 addition in the first floor joist fanning cavity in front of the staircase. Lally columns, support beam and concrete floor added at a later date are visible.
- Photo #16 (NJ_EssexCounty_CollinsHouse_00016) Date of Photograph: 6/27/2015
Cellar of the 1820 addition facing northeast showing the hand hewn timber girder, posts and sill plate. Scratch marks are visible on the sill plate at the base of the smallest post where it was friction-fit into place. Brownstone pilasters supporting the first-floor fireplace in the front (west) parlor are visible against the north wall.
- Photo #17 (NJ_EssexCounty_CollinsHouse_00017) Date of Photograph: 6/27/2015
Cellar of the 1820 addition facing northwest showing the hand hewn timber girder, posts and sill plate. Scratch marks are visible on the sill plate at the base of the smallest post where it was friction-fit into place. Brownstone pilasters supporting the first-floor fireplace in the rear (east) parlor are visible against the north wall.
- Photo #18 (NJ_EssexCounty_CollinsHouse_00018) Date of Photograph: 6/27/2015
Cellar of the 1820 addition facing southeast showing the hand hewn timber girder, posts and sill plate. Overlapping first floor joists are visible where they are supported by the girder. Also note the notched fit of the joists into the girder.
- Photo #19 (NJ_EssexCounty_CollinsHouse_00019) Date of Photograph: 6/27/2015
Cellar of the 1820 addition facing northwest showing recently added screw jack. Also visible are the brownstone pilasters that support the first-floor fireplace in the front (west) parlor, broken sections of concrete flooring (in front of the pilasters and in the northwest corner) and a concrete slab in the southwest corner.
- Photo #20 (NJ_EssexCounty_CollinsHouse_00020) Date of Photographs: 12/29/2015
Cellar of the 1820 addition facing southeast showing details of two of the double through mortise and tenon joints.
- Photo #21 (NJ_EssexCounty_CollinsHouse_00021) Date of Photograph: 12/30/2015
Cellar of the 1820 addition facing south showing detail of two through mortise and tenon joints with a single tenon at the upper third of the beam, one with a visible vertical trunnel.
- Photo #22 (NJ_EssexCounty_CollinsHouse_00022) Date of Photograph: 6/27/2015
North wall of cellar of the 1820 addition showing detail of one of the double through mortise and tenon joints at the brownstone pilasters supporting the first-floor fireplace of the front (west) parlor.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

Collins House
Bloomfield Township, Essex County, New Jersey

Section number Photos Page 34

-
- Photo #23 (NJ_EssexCounty_CollinsHouse_0023) Date of Photograph: 12/29/2015
Replacement cellar stairs facing south. Under the stairs, original ledge for the stairs is visible in the stonework.
- Photo #24 (NJ_EssexCounty_CollinsHouse_00024) Date of Photograph: 12/30/2015
Mortise and tenon joint in the joist supporting the first-floor stairs.
- Photo #25 (NJ_EssexCounty_CollinsHouse_00025) Date of Photograph: 12/22/2015
Deteriorating mortise and tenon of anchor beam in a bent at the west wall of the original dwelling.
- Photo #26 (NJ_EssexCounty_CollinsHouse_00026) Date of Photograph: 12/29/2015
Well-preserved housed through mortise and tenon joint with angled notch in northern-most anchor bent, northwest corner of the original 1790s dwelling.
- Photo #27 (NJ_EssexCounty_CollinsHouse_00027) Date of Photograph: 6/27/2015
Southern-most anchor bent in the west wall of the original 1790s dwelling showing the mortise and peg hole presumed to be where a girt had been located.
- Photo #28 (NJ_EssexCounty_CollinsHouse_00028) Date of Photograph: 12/22/2015
Interior of west wall of the original 1790s dwelling showing irregular spacing of anchor bents and joists, and intact rubble noggin.
- Photo #29 (NJ_EssexCounty_CollinsHouse_00029) Date of Photograph: 12/22/2015
Ceiling in northeast corner of the original 1790s dwelling showing presumed location of stairs to the garret.
- Photo #30 (NJ_EssexCounty_CollinsHouse_00031) Date of Photograph: 12/22/2015
West wall of the second story of the original 1790s dwelling showing tops of anchor bents with intact rubble nogging between bents on the right (north) and spaces where the rubble nogging has been displaced between bents on the left (south).
- Photo #31 (NJ_EssexCounty_CollinsHouse_00031) Date of Photograph: 6/27/2015
East wall of the 1820 addition showing mortise and tenon joints at intersection of anchor bent (top beam is the tie beam of the anchor bent) and girts (to either side of the anchor bent).
- Photo #32 (NJ_EssexCounty_CollinsHouse_00032) Date of Photograph: 6/27/2015
Interior of east wall of the rear (east) parlor of the 1820 addition showing anchor bents with irregular spacing between the bents, girts connecting the bents and to the right, the framing of the south wall of the rear parlor under one of the anchor bents.
- Photo #33 (NJ_EssexCounty_CollinsHouse_0033) Date of Photograph: 12/12/2015
Rear parlor facing south showing detail of anchor bent and framing with a diagonal brace on the east side (left). To the right side of the opening leading into the hall, a single dowelled mortise and tenon joint is visible in the tie beam which anchors the second floor stair framing.
- Photo #34 (NJ_EssexCounty_CollinsHouse_00034) Date of Photograph: 12/12/2015
Front parlor facing south showing detail of anchor bent and framing with diagonal brace on the west side.
- Photo #35 (NJ_EssexCounty_CollinsHouse_0035) Date of Photograph: 12/12/2015
Wall between the parlors showing detail of the framing with overlapping abutted floor joists above.
- Photo #36 (NJ_EssexCounty_CollinsHouse_00036) Date of Photograph: 12/29/2015
Interior of west wall of the 1820 addition showing original 6 over 6 windows and temporary stabilization framing.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

Collins House
Bloomfield Township, Essex County, New Jersey

Section number Photos Page 35

- Photo #37 (NJ_EssexCounty_CollinsHouse_00037) Date of Photograph: 12/22/2015
Interior of east wall of the 1820 addition at the stair landing showing the girt between two anchor bents and diagonal brace connected to the plate above.
- Photo #38 (NJ_EssexCounty_CollinsHouse_00038) Date of Photograph: 11/14/2015
Exterior of east wall of rear (east) parlor facing west showing original clapboard, anchor bents, studs between bents and diagonal bracing at the second story level, stone nogging and repaired nogging above the girt near the diagonal bracing.
- Photo #39 (NJ_EssexCounty_CollinsHouse_00039) Date of Photograph: 11/22/2015
Interior of second story of west wall of the 1820 addition showing diagonal brace, rubble noggin and birdsmouth cut in rafters where they sit on the plate.
- Photo #40 (NJ_EssexCounty_CollinsHouse_00040) Date of Photograph: 10/16/2015
Studs of the north/south interior wall on second story at top of the stairs showing lumber cut on three sides with exposed bark and branch stubs.
- Photo #41 (NJ_EssexCounty_CollinsHouse_00041) Date of Photograph: 10/16/2015
Studs of the east/west interior wall on second story at top of the stairs showing lumber cut on three sides with exposed bark and branch stubs.
- Photo #42 (NJ_EssexCounty_CollinsHouse_00042) Date of Photograph: 10/16/2015
Joists of ceiling at the top of the stairs showing lumber cut on two sides with the original shape of the tree on the other sides.
- Photo #43 (NJ_EssexCounty_CollinsHouse_00043) Date of Photograph: 6/27/2015
Attic of original dwelling facing south showing pegged half-lap joints at the center.
- Photo #44 (NJ_EssexCounty_CollinsHouse_00044) Date of Photograph: 12/29/2015
Second-story of 1820 addition showing birdsmouth cut in rafters where they sit on the plate. Underside of cedar shake roofing shingles is also visible.
- Photo #45 (NJ_EssexCounty_CollinsHouse_00045) Date of Photograph: 12/22/2015
Underside of roof in attic of 1820 addition showing original batten and cedar shake shingles.
- Photo #46 (NJ_EssexCounty_CollinsHouse_00046) Date of Photograph: 12/22/2015
Second-story of 1820 addition looking southeast at the southeast corner at the intersection of mortise and tenon joints of the purlin post, collar tie and collar purlin. Also visible is the diagonal brace and upper mortise and tenon joint connecting the brace to the collar tie.
- Photo #47 (NJ_EssexCounty_CollinsHouse_00047) Date of Photograph: 11/14/2015
Attic of the 1820 addition looking northeast at the northeast corner at the intersection of the mortise and tenon joints of the purlin post, collar tie and collar purlin. Also visible is the diagonal brace and upper mortise and tenon joint (exposed horizontal peg) in the collar purlin and the first collar tie where it is tied to the collar purlin (vertical peg visible). The chimney with patched brickwork is on the left.
- Photo #48 (NJ_EssexCounty_CollinsHouse_00048) Date of Photograph: 11/14/2015
Second story of 1820 addition looking east at the northeast corner. Horizontal beam above is the eastern collar purlin with a collar tie and diagonal brace. Lower joists are ceiling joists 17" below the collar purlin and collar ties. Chimney is visible on the left.

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National Park Service

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Collins House
Bloomfield Township, Essex County, New Jersey

Section number Photos Page 36

Photo #49 (NJ_EssexCounty_CollinsHouse_00049)

Date of Photograph: 11/14/2015

Close-up of the intersection of the mortise and tenon joint (vertical peg) of a collar tie tied to the east collar purlin, the mortis and tenon joint of the diagonal brace (horizontal peg) and the birdsmouth cut in a common rafter where it sits on the collar purlin.

Photo #50 (NJ_EssexCounty_CollinsHouse_00050)

Date of Photograph: 10/16/2015

Northwest corner purlin post with mortise and tenon joints of two diagonal braces. Brace on the left was used to support a lath and plaster wall viewed from the inside of the wall.

Photo #51 (NJ_EssexCounty_CollinsHouse_00051)

Date of Photograph: 12/22/2015

West collar purlin in the attic of the 1820 addition looking north and up from the second floor. There are three empty mortises notched in the underside of this collar purlin whose purpose is not apparent. That may have been used for support or for studs forming a wall.

Photo #52 (NJ_EssexCounty_CollinsHouse_0052)

Date of Photograph: 6/27/2015

North end of the attic of the 1820 addition showing the mitred butt joints of the rafters and the underside of cedar shakes.

Photo #53 (NJ_EssexCounty_CollinsHouse_0053)

Date of Photograph: 4/21/2012

Fireplace in the front parlor facing north showing Federal style engaged Tuscan colonette legs on either side of the fireplace and sunburst in the middle of the header.

Photo #54 (NJ_EssexCounty_CollinsHouse_00054)

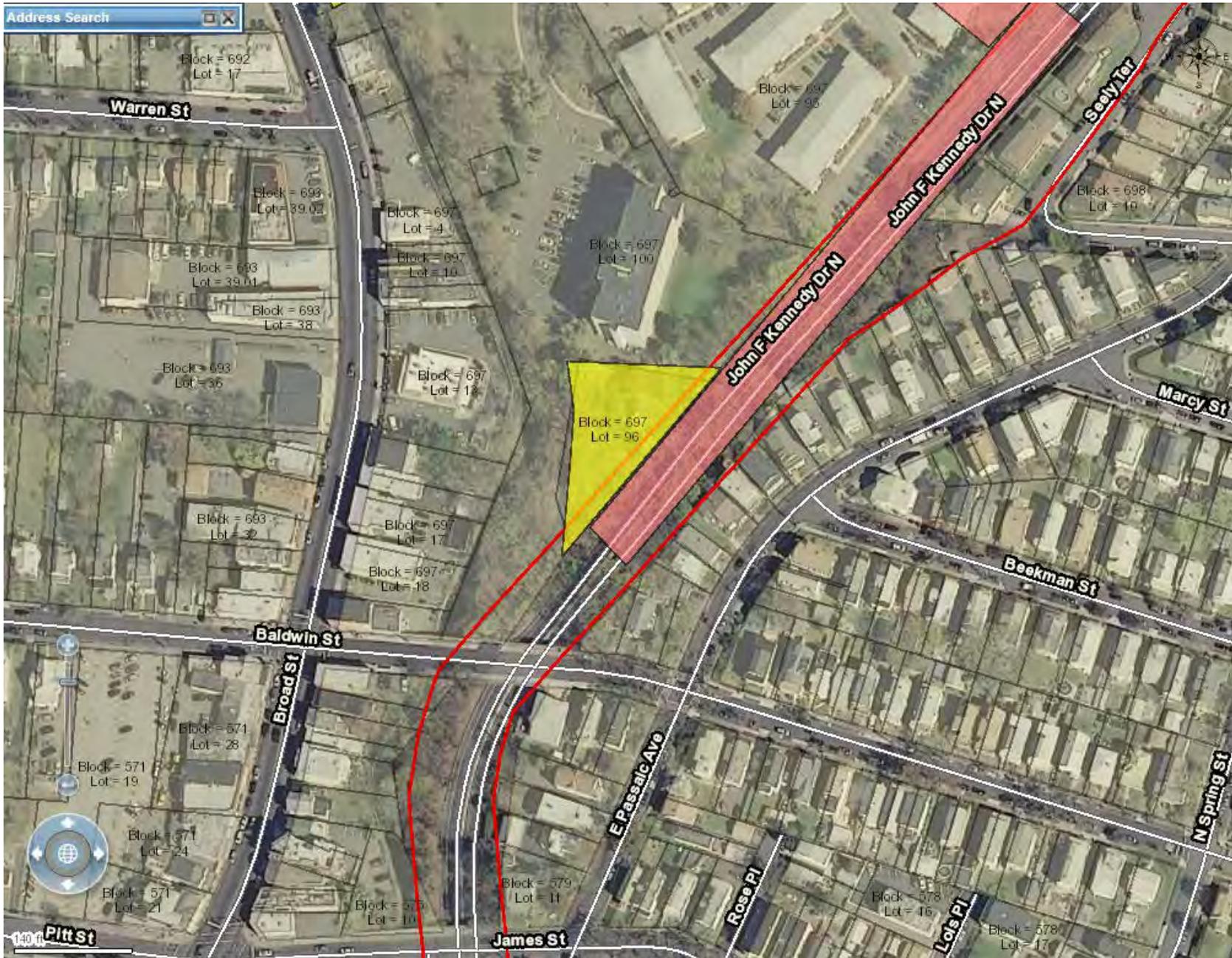
Date of Photograph: 4/12/2012

Northwest corner of the 1820 addition. Original molding on the top of the window on the west wall of the building is visible above the plywood covering the window. Molding on the window on the north wall to the west of the fireplace is also visible.

Photo #55 (NJ_EssexCounty_CollinsHouse_0055)

Date of Photograph: 4/21/2012

Fireplace in rear parlor facing north showing Greek-Revival style mantelpiece with low-profile pilaster legs and capital molding and built-in window-seats on either side.



Collins House

108 Baldwin Street, Bloomfield Township, Essex County, New Jersey

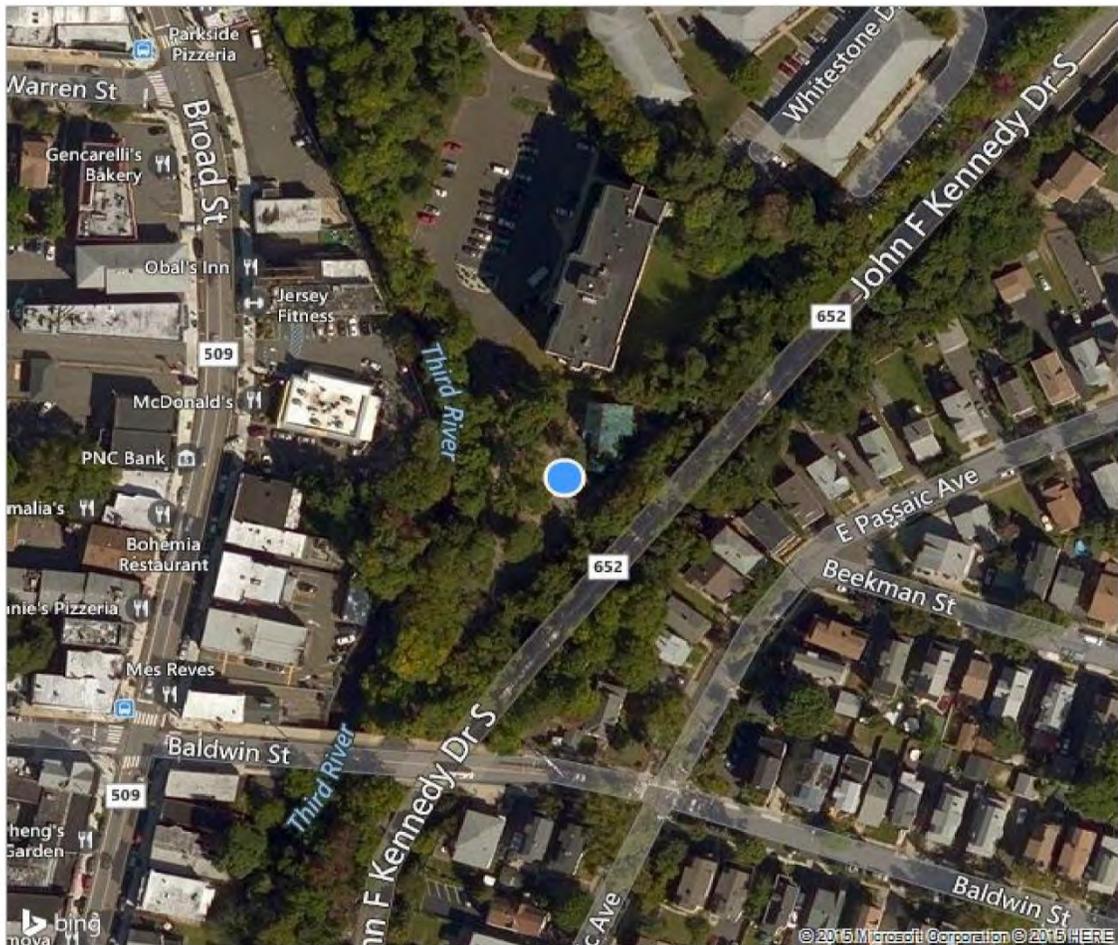
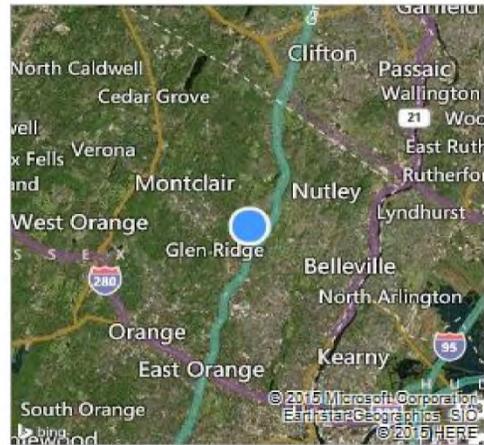
Collins House
Bloomfield Township, Essex County, New Jersey

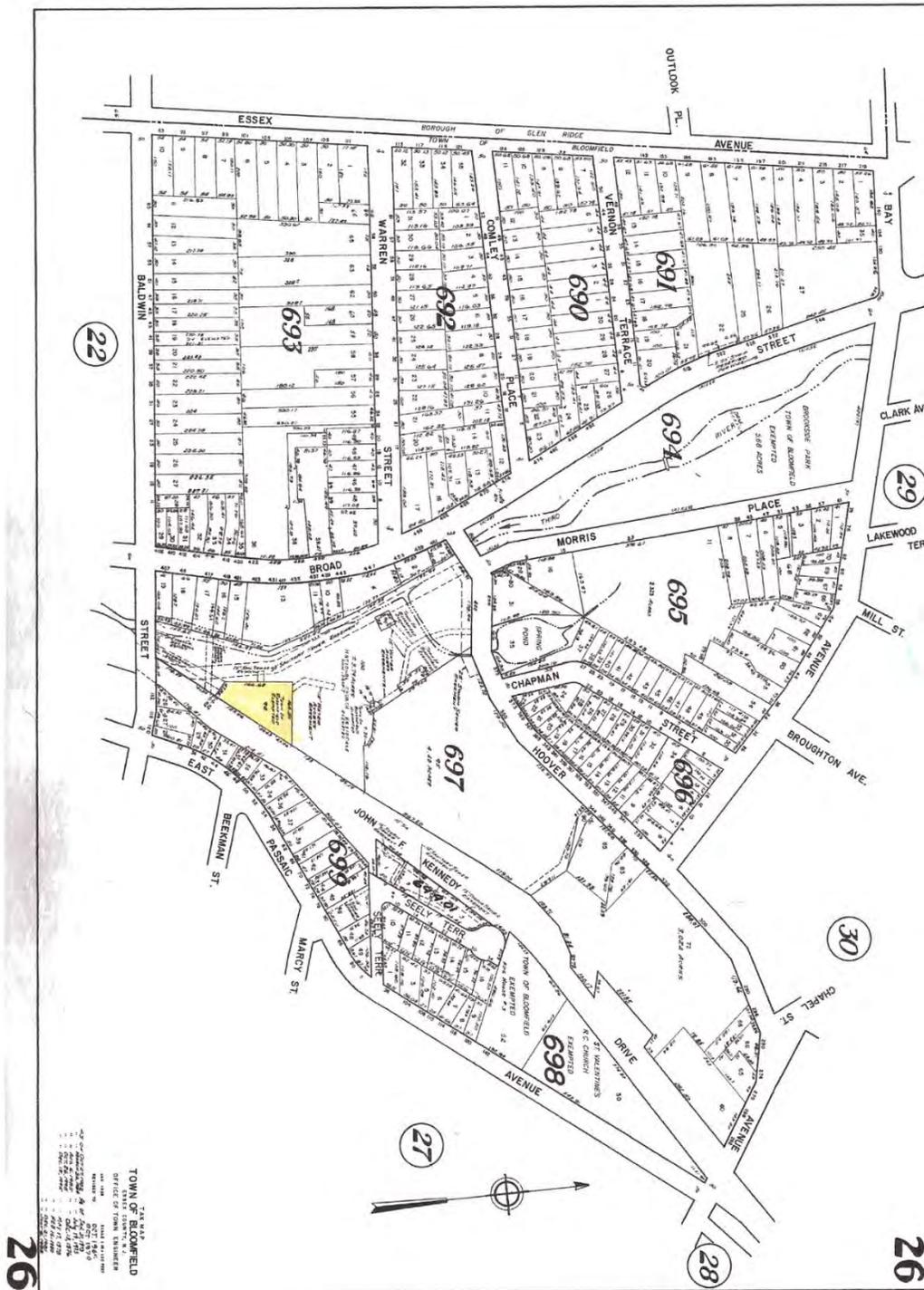
bing Maps

108 Baldwin St, Bloomfield, NJ 07003

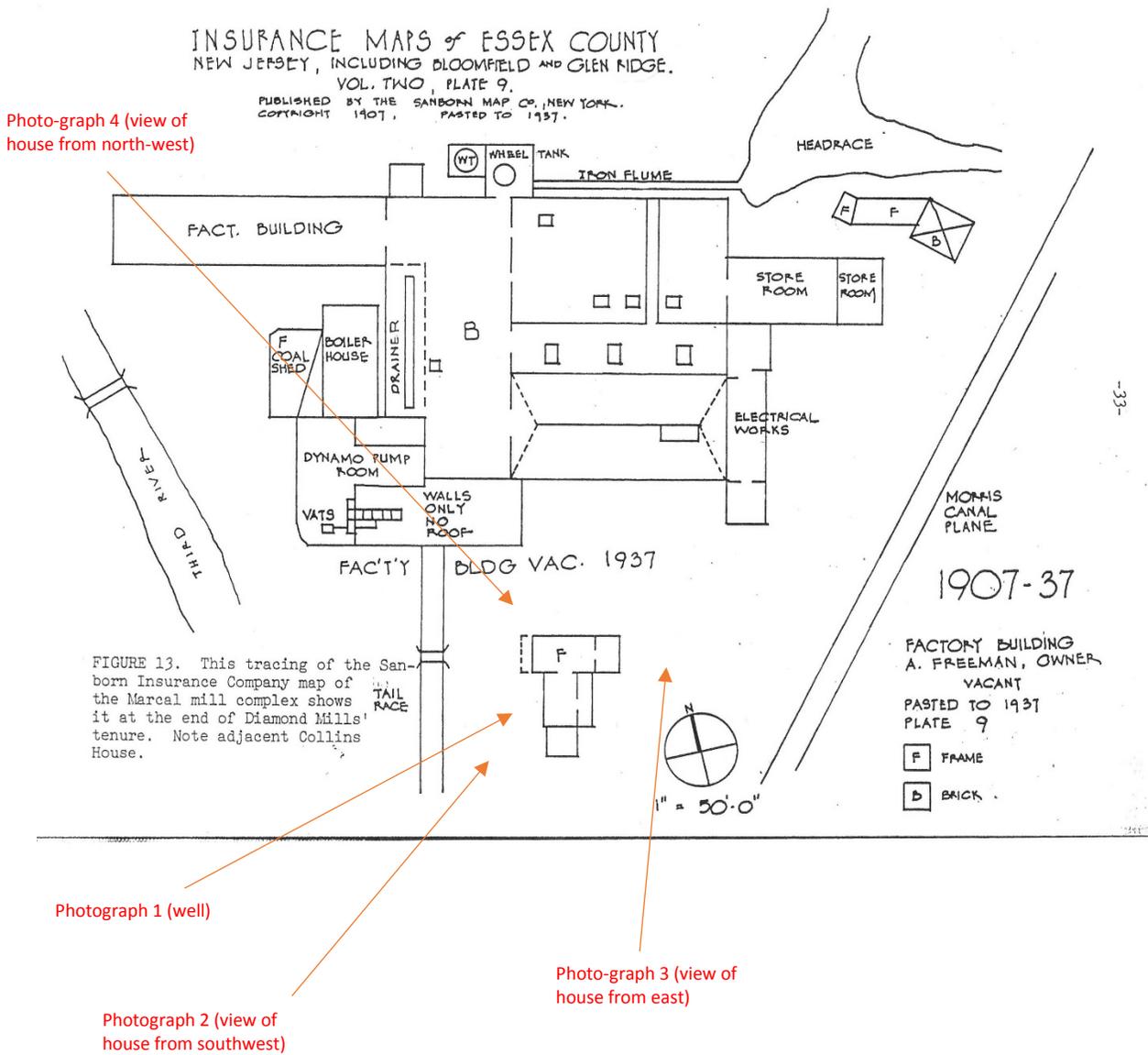
Collins House
40.807964,-74.191170

On the go? Use m.bing.com to find maps, directions, businesses, and more





Bloomfield Township Tax Map: Nominated property highlighted in yellow



Location of Photographs 1, 2, 3 and 4 in relationship to Collins Site

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|---------------------------|
|  | ORIGINAL DWELLING - CA. 1790S - JOHN COLLINS |  | REAR ADDITIONS - CA. 1900 |
|  | PRIMARY ADDITION - CA. 1820 - ISAAC COLLINS |  | REAR ADDITION - POST 1937 |
|  | SECONDARY ADDITION - CA. 1850 | | |



CELLAR PLAN
 SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

-  EXISTING WALLS & PARTITIONS
-  CHANGE IN CEILING HEIGHT ABOVE
-  BUILDING COMPONENT KNOWN HISTORICALLY BUT NO LONGER EXTANT

Collins House
 Bloomfield Township, Essex County, New Jersey

- ORIGINAL DWELLING - CA. 1790s - JOHN COLLINS
- PRIMARY ADDITION - CA. 1820 - ISAAC COLLINS
- SECONDARY ADDITION - CA. 1850
- REAR ADDITIONS - CA. 1900
- REAR ADDITION - POST 1937



- EXISTING WALLS & PARTITIONS
- CHANGE IN CEILING HEIGHT ABOVE
- BUILDING COMPONENT KNOWN HISTORICALLY BUT NO LONGER EXTANT

FIRST FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

Collins House
 Bloomfield Township, Essex County, New Jersey

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|---------------------------|
|  | ORIGINAL DWELLING - CA. 1790S - JOHN COLLINS |  | REAR ADDITIONS - CA. 1900 |
|  | PRIMARY ADDITION - CA. 1820 - ISAAC COLLINS |  | REAR ADDITION - POST 1937 |
|  | SECONDARY ADDITION - CA. 1850 | | |



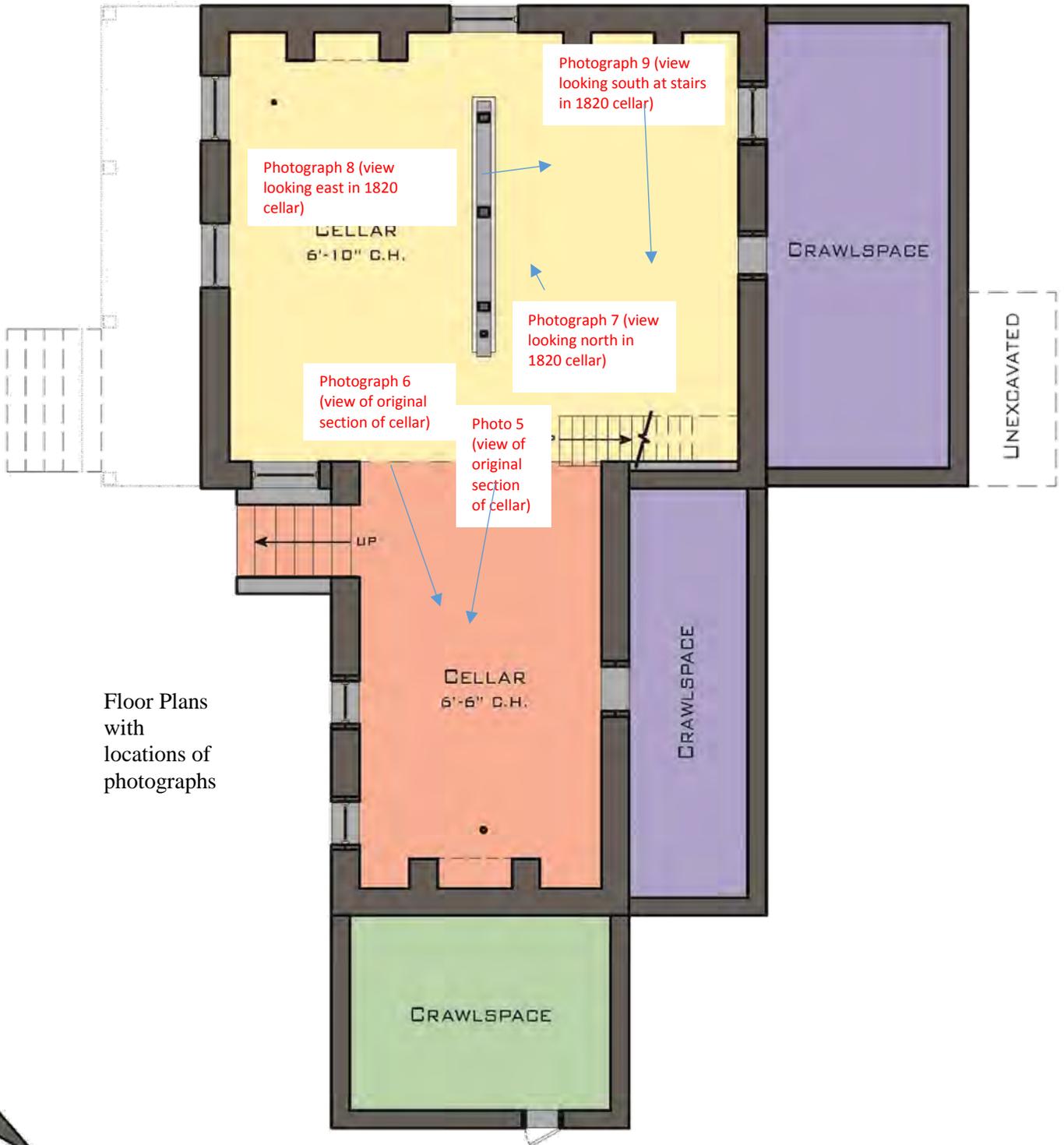
SECOND FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

-  EXISTING WALLS & PARTITIONS
-  CHANGE IN CEILING HEIGHT ABOVE
-  BUILDING COMPONENT KNOWN HISTORICALLY BUT NO LONGER EXTANT

Collins House
 Bloomfield Township, Essex County, New Jersey

- ORIGINAL DWELLING - CA. 1790s - JOHN COLLINS
- PRIMARY ADDITION - CA. 1820 - ISAAC COLLINS
- SECONDARY ADDITION - CA. 1850
- REAR ADDITIONS - CA. 1900
- REAR ADDITION - POST 1937



Floor Plans with locations of photographs



CELLAR PLAN
 SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

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- REAR ADDITION - POST 1937



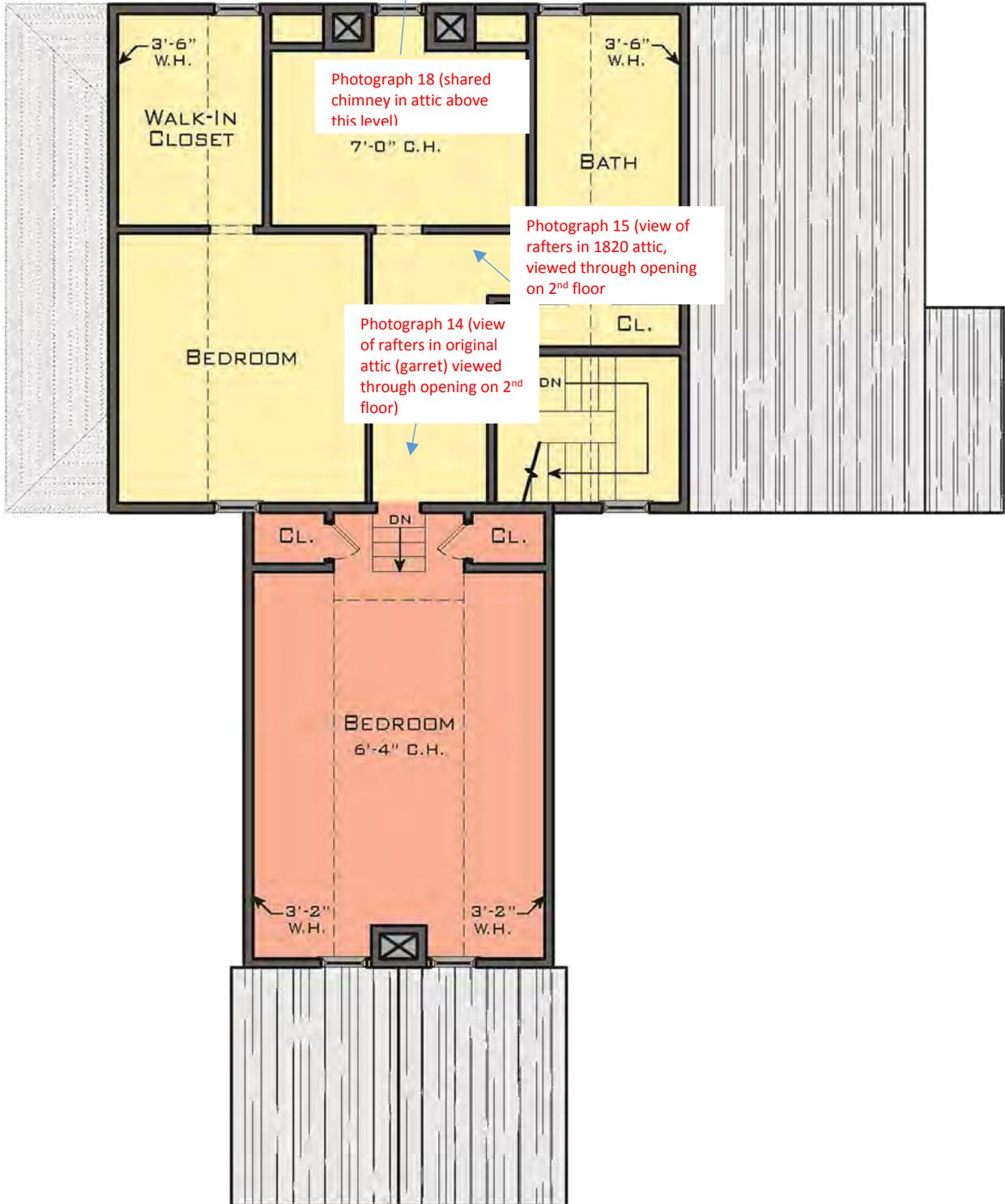
FIRST FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

- EXISTING WALLS & PARTITIONS
- CHANGE IN CEILING HEIGHT ABOVE
- BUILDING COMPONENT KNOWN HISTORICALLY BUT NO LONGER EXTANT

Collins House
 Bloomfield Township, Essex County, New Jersey

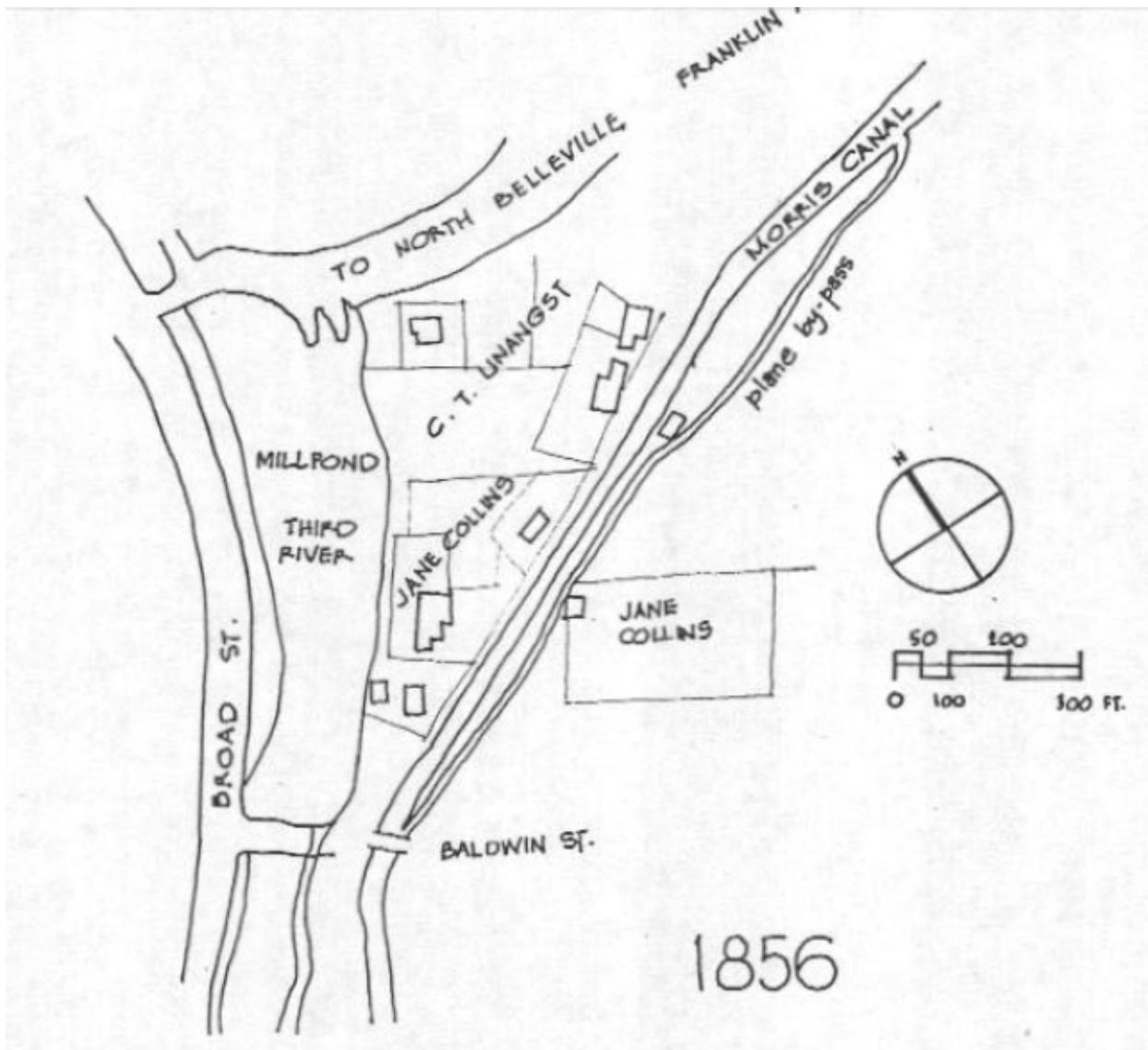
- ORIGINAL DWELLING - CA. 1790s - JOHN COLLINS
- PRIMARY ADDITION - CA. 1820 - ISAAC COLLINS
- SECONDARY ADDITION - CA. 1850
- REAR ADDITIONS - CA. 1900
- REAR ADDITION - POST 1937



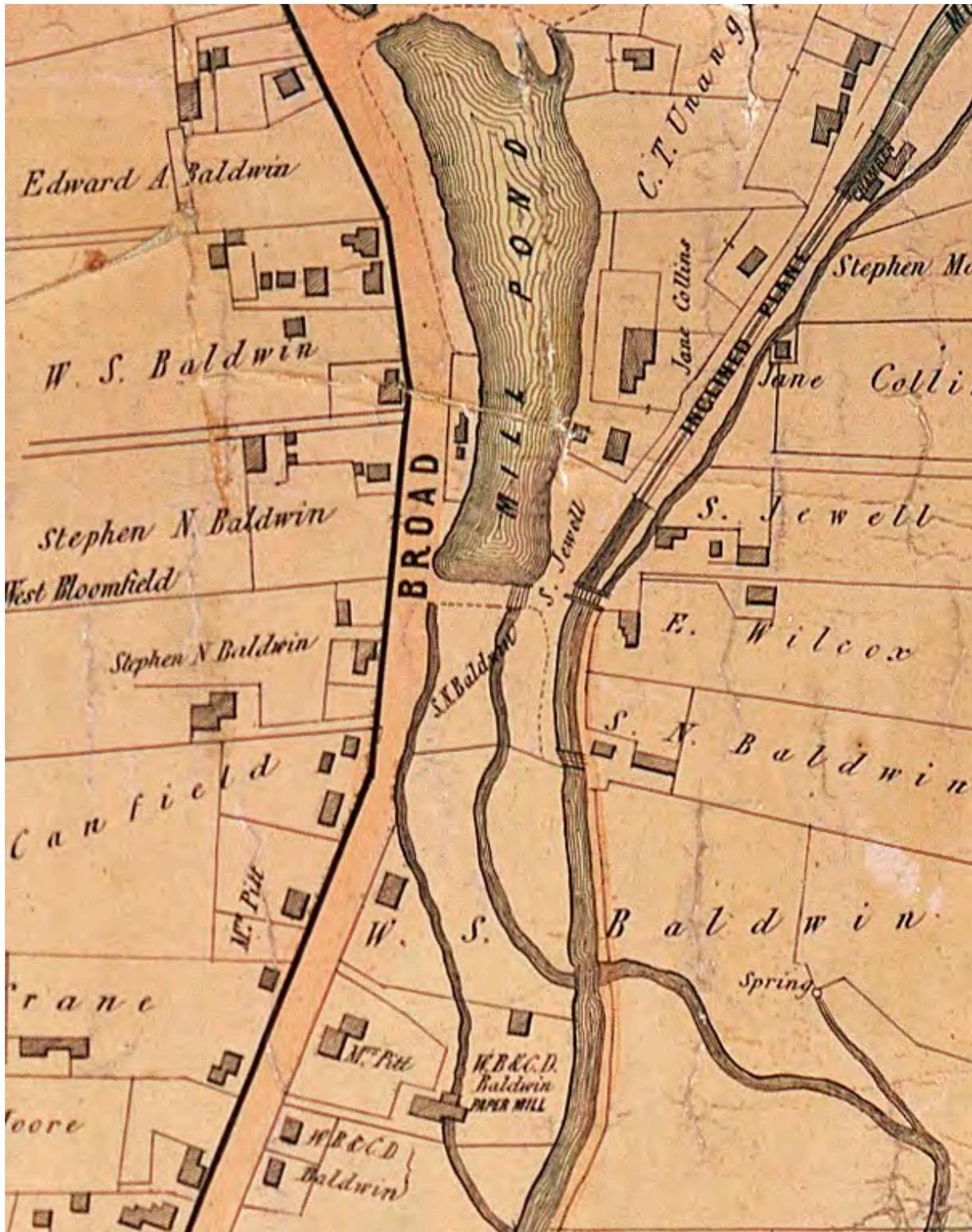
SECOND FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

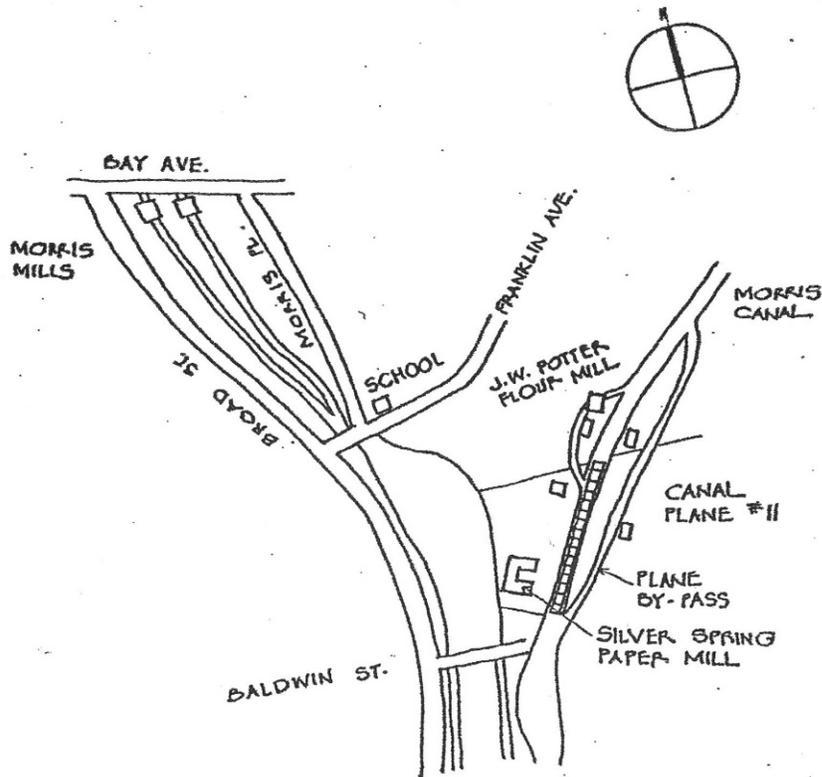
- EXISTING WALLS & PARTITIONS
- CHANGE IN CEILING HEIGHT ABOVE
- BUILDING COMPONENT KNOWN HISTORICALLY BUT NO LONGER EXTANT



Tracing of 1856 from Morrell showing Jane Collins property on both sides of the inclined plane with an out building and property on the east side of the plane



Copy of original 1856 map from which the Morrell tracing was made. Per Morrell, the map is "Map of the Town of Bloomfield, Essex Co., surveyed, drawn and published by Thos. Hughes 1856. In the collection of the Historical Society of Bloomfield. The Baldwin millpond is just west of the Collins House. (Morrell, et al).

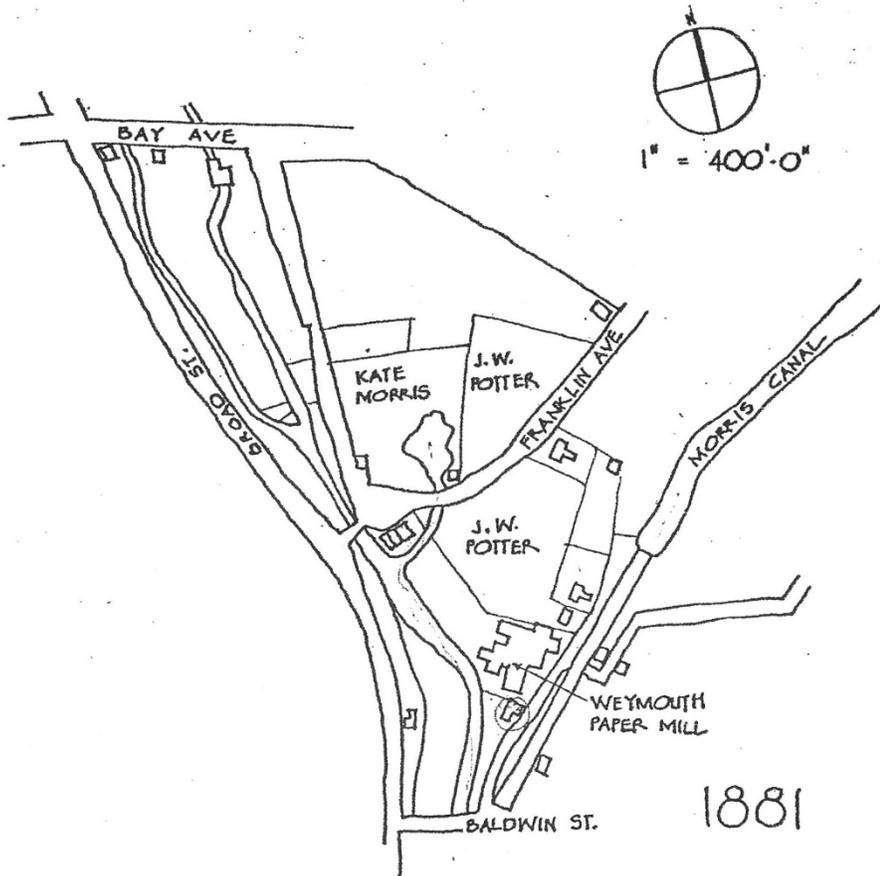


1871

MAP of the TOWNSHIPS of
BLOOMFIELD, MONTCLAIR, BELLEVILLE AND WOODSIDE,
ESSEX Co., NEW JERSEY.
SURVEYED & PUBLISHED BY JAS. HUGHES, BLOOMFIELD, N.J., 1871.

NOTE! COLLINS HOUSE OMITTED FROM THIS MAP.

The Baldwin millpond and the new paper mill on the old Collins property are shown on this tracing. Built in 1865, the mill was bought by the Silver Spring Paper Company in 1870. The Potter flour mill also appears, as well as its raceway system. The Collins House was mistakenly omitted from the map; it should be located where the Silver Spring Mill is drawn, and that building should be slightly to the north. (No scale on original.)



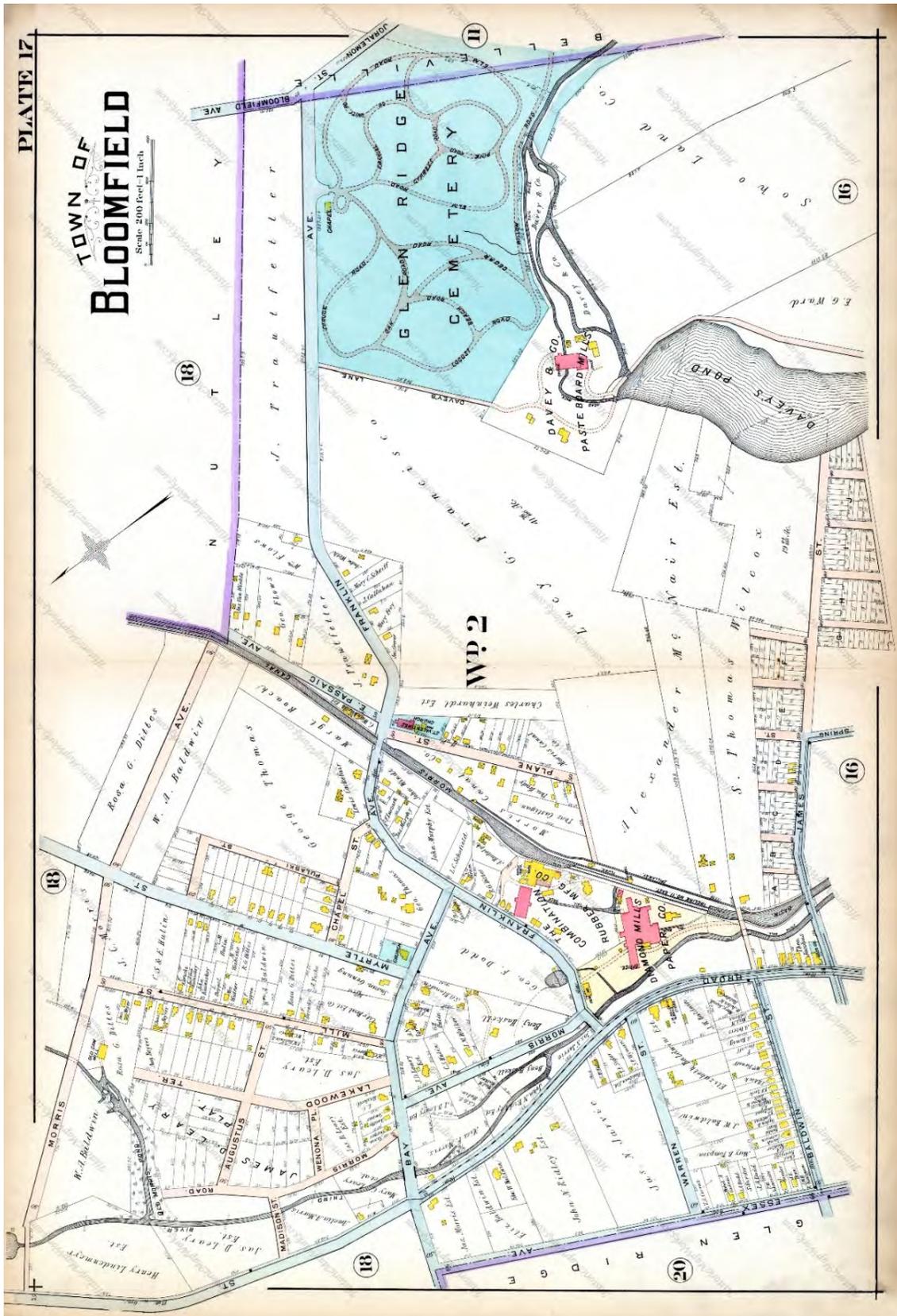
ATLAS of ESSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY.

PART of BLOOMFIELD

FROM ACTUAL SURVEYS AND OFFICIAL RECORDS BY AND UNDER THE
SUPERVISION OF ROGER H. PIDGEON.

On this tracing of an atlas map, the Baldwin millpond has disappeared from the Collins property, perhaps because waterpower was replaced by steam engines. The Weymouth Paper Mill occupies the Marcal site. The Collins House appears immediately south of the mill. Spring Pond, the body of water just north of Franklin Avenue, flows into the Third River and was used by the paper mill as a source of clean water for the paper-making process. An addition to the Marcal property is a multi-family tenant house fronting on Franklin Avenue by the outlet of Spring Pond.

Source: Brian H. Morrell, Herbert J. Githens and Edward S. Rutsch, "Cultural Resource Survey of the Historic Collins House and the Marcal Paper Company Property, Bloomfield, Essex County, New Jersey" (February 1982): 28



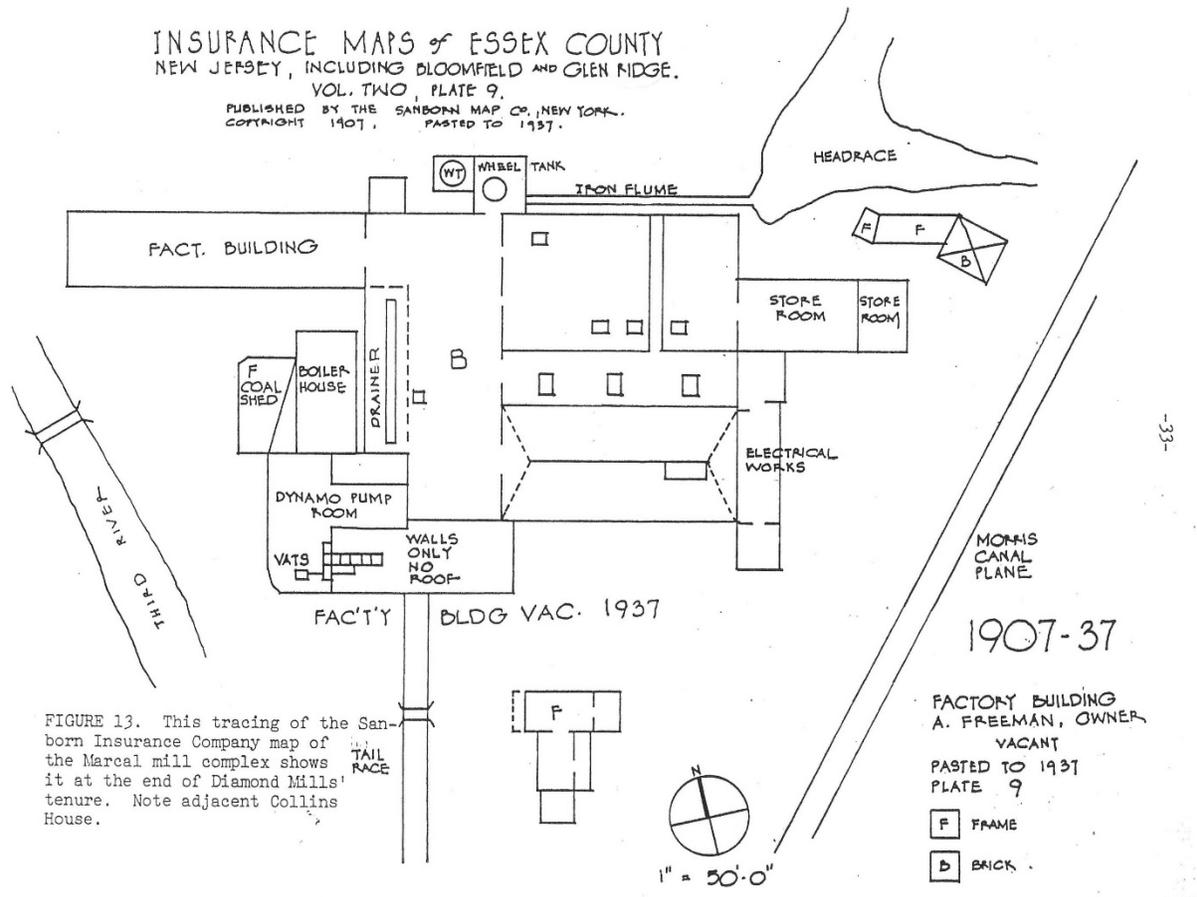


FIGURE 13. This tracing of the Sanborn Insurance Company map of the Marcal mill complex shows it at the end of Diamond Mills' tenure. Note adjacent Collins House.

Tracing of Insurance Map of Essex County (from Morrell, et al) showing outline of Collins House without additional vestibule.

Collins House
Bloomfield Township, Essex County, New Jersey

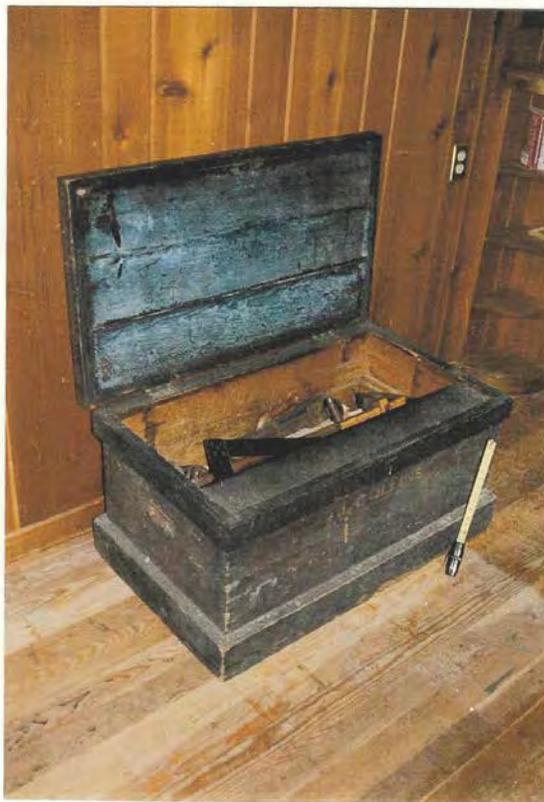
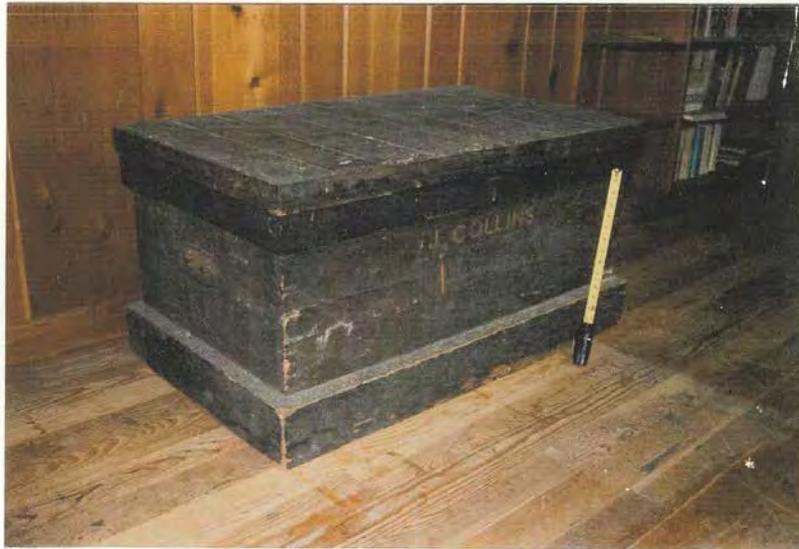


Historic Photograph 1: Northwest view of ca. 1820 section of Collins House taken in the 1960s.
Source: Morrell, et al.

Collins House
Bloomfield Township, Essex County, New Jersey



Historic Photograph 2: Western façade Collins House taken in the 1960s. 1820 addition on left, ca. 1790 original dwelling in center; ca. 1850s addition on right.
Source: Morrell, et al.

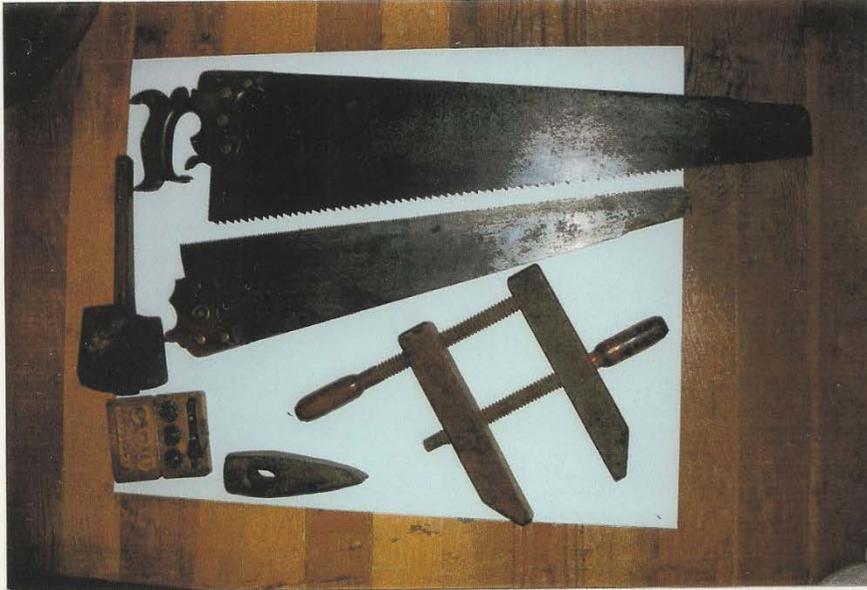


Historic Photographs 3 and 4: Box containing carpentry tools owned by John Collins (1824-1906), son of Isaac Collins.

Source: Photographs by Robert Goller, Morris Plains, NJ. Tools are in the possession of the Canal Society of New Jersey.



Historic Photographs 5 and 6: Carpentry tools owned by John Collins (1824-1906), son of Isaac Collins. Source: Photographs by Robert Goller, Morris Plains, NJ. Tools are in the possession of the Canal Society of New Jersey.



Historic Photographs 7 and 8: Carpentry tools owned by John Collins (1824-1906), son of Isaac Collins. Source: Photographs by Robert Goller, Morris Plains, NJ. Tools are in the possession of the Canal Society of New Jersey.



Historic Photographs 9 and 10: Carpentry tools owned by John Collins (1824-1906), son of Isaac Collins. Source: Photographs by Robert Goller, Morris Plains, NJ. Tools are in the possession of the Canal Society of New Jersey.



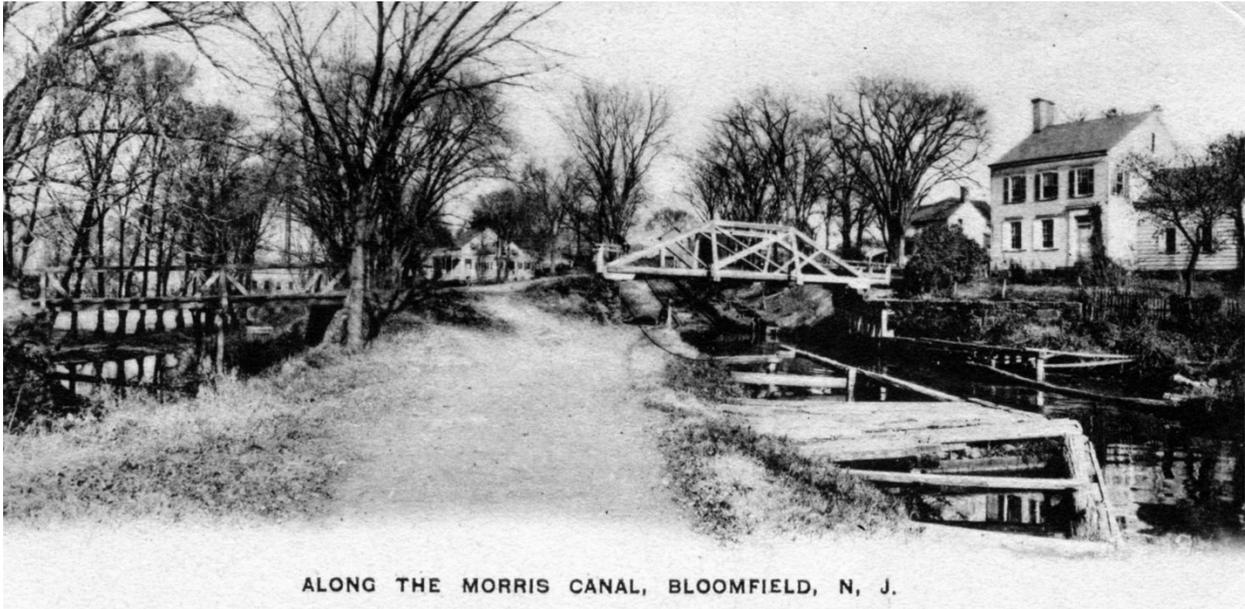
Historic Photograph 11: Postcard labeled “Looking down inclined Plane, Morris canal, Bloomfield, N. J.” Looking south down Inclined Plane 11 East. Rear of Collins house is on the right. Plank road crossing the plane is visible at the bottom of the photo.

Source: Historical Society of Bloomfield, 90 Broad Street, Bloomfield, NJ



Historic Photograph 12: Foot of the Inclined Plane taken from the James Street Bridge facing north. Baldwin Street Bridge is in the foreground. The Collins House is visible through the trees on the left.

Source: Historical Society of Bloomfield, 90 Broad Street, Bloomfield, NJ



ALONG THE MORRIS CANAL, BLOOMFIELD, N, J.

Historic Photograph 13: Postcard labeled “Along the Morris Canal, Bloomfield, N. J.” Foot of the Inclined Plane taken from the tow path near the James Street Bridge facing north. Baldwin Street Bridge over the canal in the foreground on the right. Baldwin Street Bridge crossing Third River on the left. The Collins House is in the center of the photo. Diamond Paper Mill and smoke stack are visible in the distance on the left. Source: Historical Society of Bloomfield, 90 Broad Street, Bloomfield, NJ



Historic Photograph 14: Foot of the Inclined Plane taken from the Baldwin Street Bridge facing north. The Collins House is on the left. Children using a canoe give a sense of scale of the Inclined Plane. Source: Historical Society of Bloomfield, 90 Broad Street, Bloomfield, NJ



Historic Photograph 15: Foot of the Inclined Plane taken from the Baldwin Street Bridge facing north with a boat ascending the plane. The Collins House is on the left.



Historic Photograph 16: View of south elevation of ca.1850 southern addition to Collins House showing evidence of sealed-off door. Photograph taken by Miriam Michalski, 2004.

Collins House
Bloomfield Township, Essex County, New Jersey



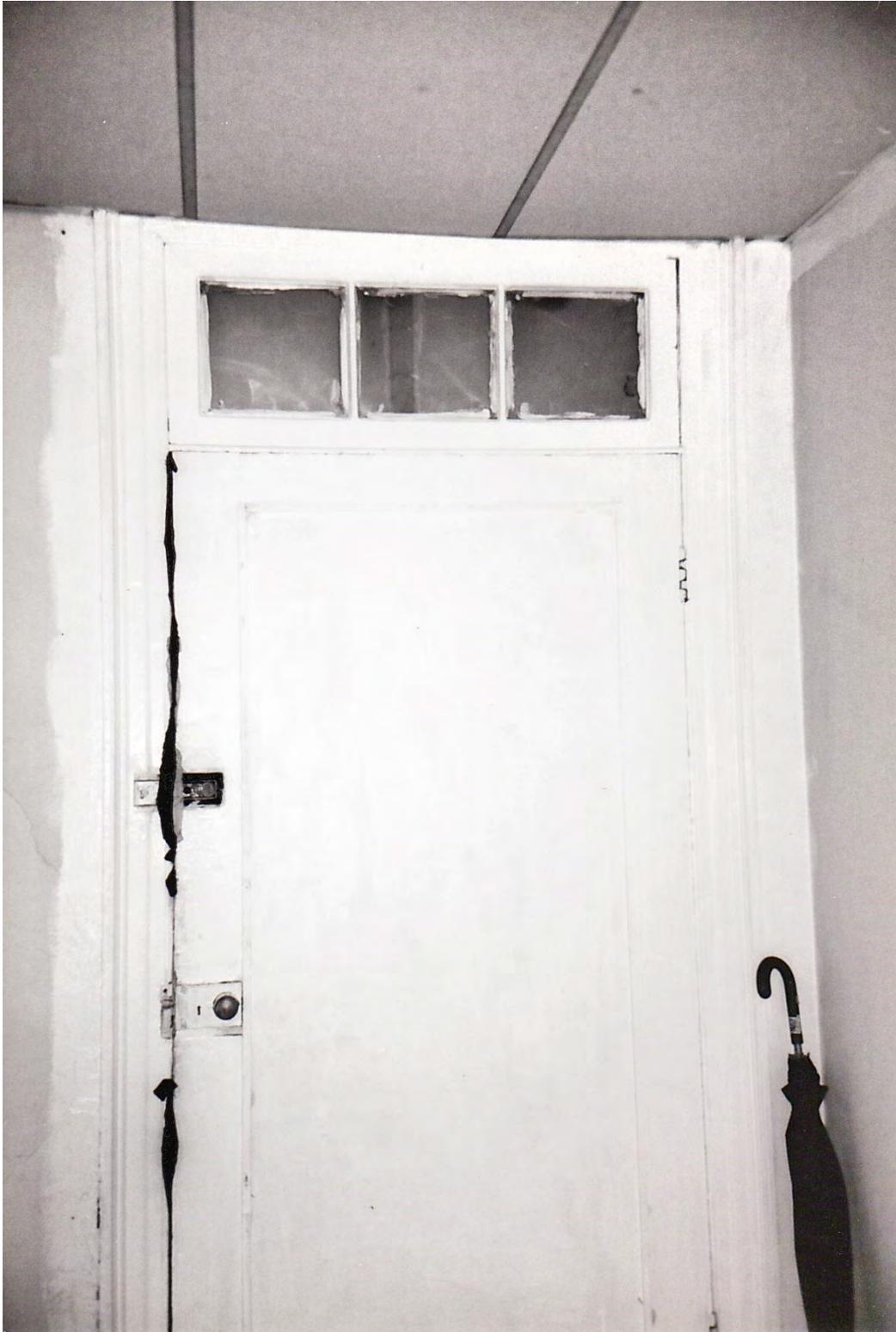
Historic Photograph 17: View of east elevation of Collins House. Photograph taken by Miriam Michalski, 2004.



Historic Photographs 18 and 19: Federal staircase details in Collins House prior to vandalism. Photograph taken by Miriam Michalski, 2004.



Historic Photo 20: View of woodwork detail in front parlor. Photograph taken by Miriam Michalski, 2004.



Historic Photograph 21: Interior view, facing west, of the front door, showing original hardware and 3-light transom window.



Historic Photograph 22: Datestone formerly located in southwest portion of foundation. Photograph taken by Richard Rockwell, 2011.



Historic Photograph 23: Interior of 1790 portion of Collins House facing the south wall of the main structure. (Door on far right leads to ca. 1850 addition). Note wood paneling and brick facing added to the front of the original fireplace. Photograph taken by Miriam Michalski, 2004.

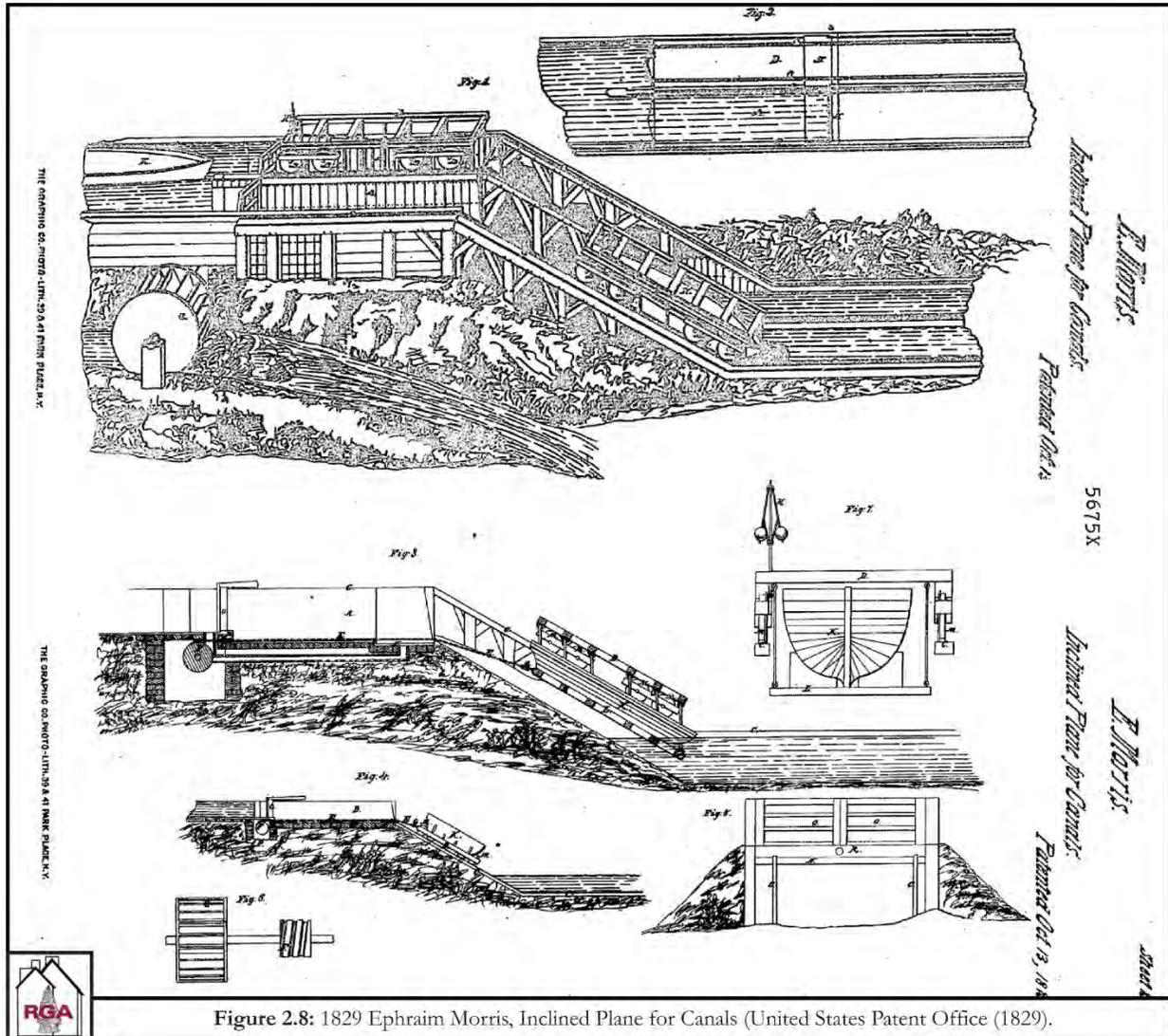


Figure 2.8: 1829 Ephraim Morris, Inclined Plane for Canals (United States Patent Office (1829).

2-13

Ephraim Morris patent for Inclined Plane.

Jennifer B. Leynes, Ilene Grossman-Baily and Virginia Overberger, "Mapping the Morris Canal in Essex County," September 2014, Richard Grubb & Associates, 2-13

SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN

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NEW YORK, MAY 20, 1882.

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 [POSTAGE PREPAID.]

HYDRAULIC LIFT ON THE MORRIS CANAL.

In passing from the waters of the Hudson River, opposite New York, to the waters of the Delaware River, opposite Easton, Pa., by the way of the Morris Canal—a distance of 103 miles—the boats are carried over hills to the altitude of 760 feet above tide water level.

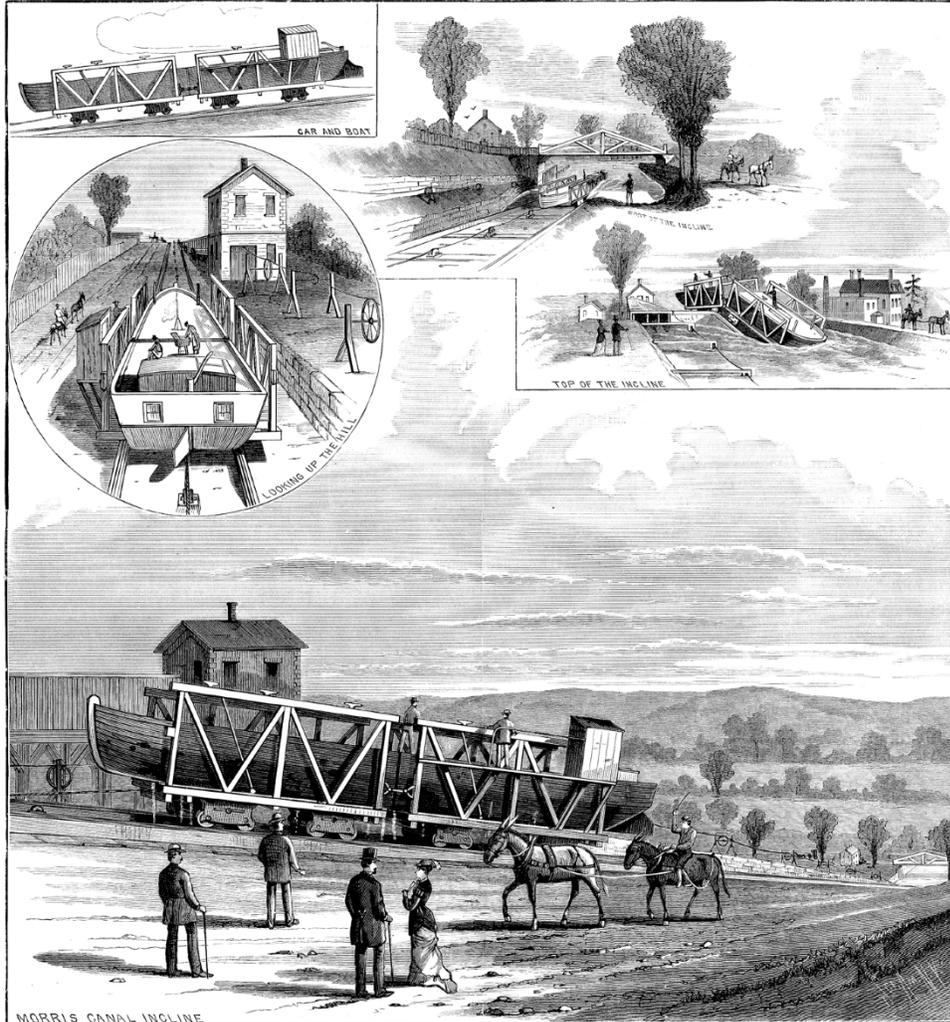
There are two methods of raising and lowering boats in use on this important coal route, one being the usual lift lock, in which the boat is floated into a narrow masonry passage having movable gates, which are far enough apart to receive the boat, so that, by admitting water from above the inclosed level, the boat is raised and floated into the upper canal level. The other plan, which forms the subject

of our illustration, is to haul the boat and its cargo up an incline upon a car.

The termini of the canal levels at Bloomfield, N. J., are separated by an incline about 1,600 feet long and 60 feet high. The canal boat is taken from the lower level and deposited in the upper level by a double car, or rather two cars coupled together, each of sufficient width and length to support one of the halves of the bisected canal boat. A track, consisting of two heavy rails 12 feet apart, guides and supports these cars with their load. A wire rope of 3 inches diameter winding upon a drum 13 feet in diameter draws the car up the incline.

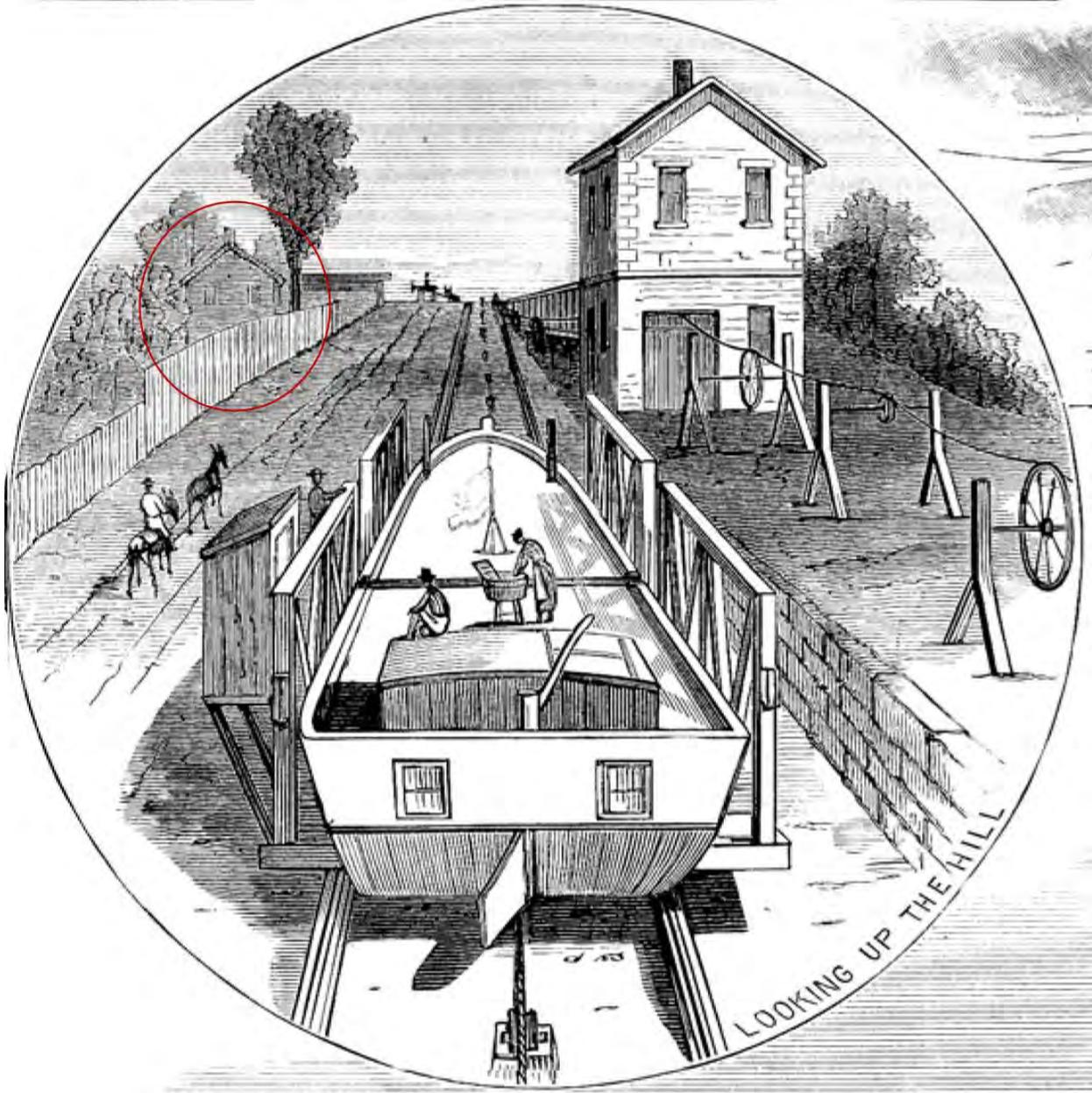
This huge drum is revolved by a turbine water wheel 4½

feet in diameter, placed in the wheel house half way down the incline. The turbine is supplied with water from the upper level and discharges into the lower level. The operation of transferring a boat from one level to another is very rapid; we are informed that four minutes is the usual time for making the transfer. The car not only enters the water below to receive the boat, but enters the water of the upper level to allow the boat to float off. One of our views shows a boat entering the water of the upper level. There are twenty-three of these inclines upon this canal and twenty-four ordinary lift locks. Three of the inclines are double. This lock at Bloomfield gives an idea of the facility with which ponderous bodies may be handled by exceedingly simple means.



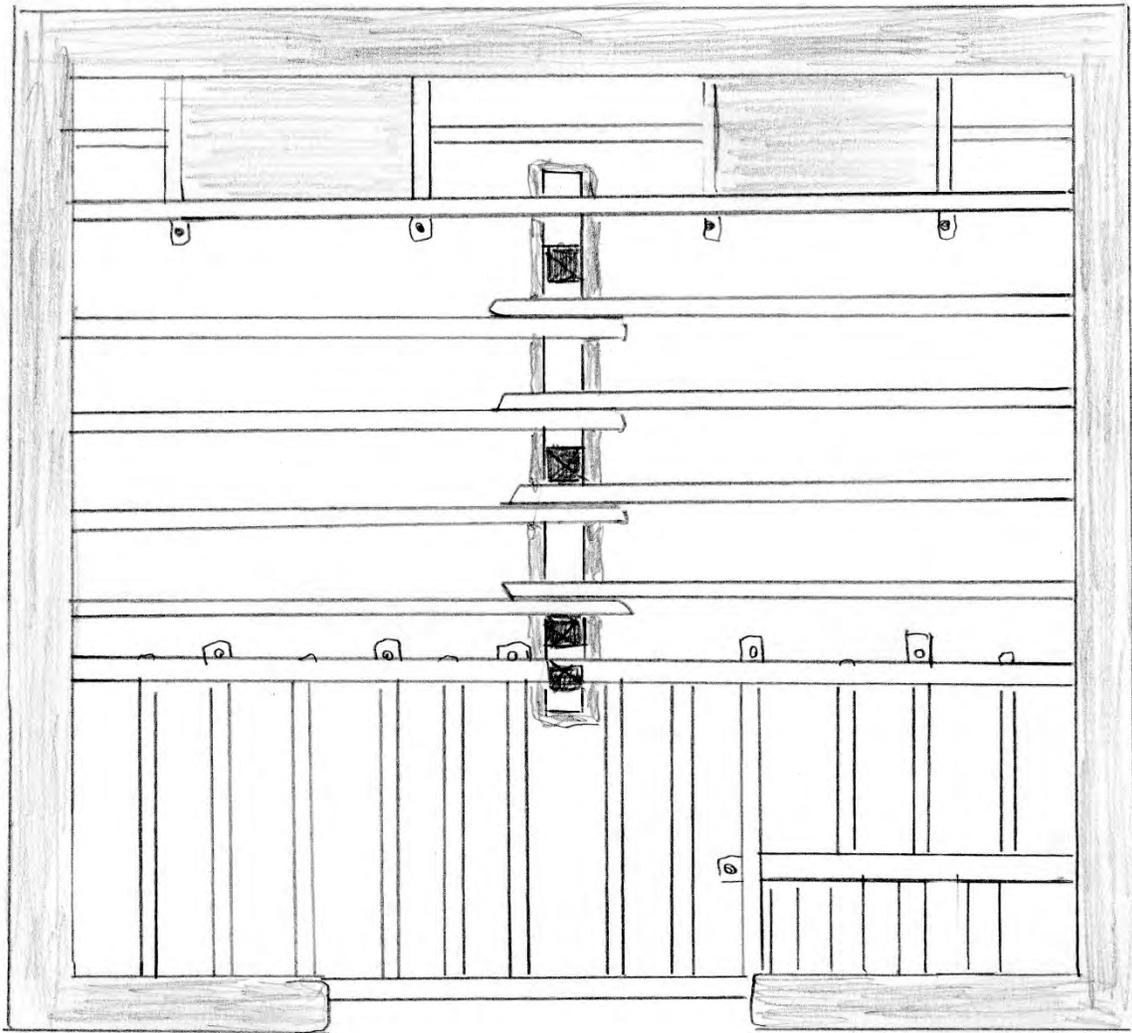
— HYDRAULIC LIFT ON THE MORRIS CANAL, AT BLOOMFIELD, N. J. —

Scientific American Article May 20, 1882 featuring the Inclined Plane in Bloomfield. The Collins House is depicted in the circular illustration center left showing a boat ascending the plane.



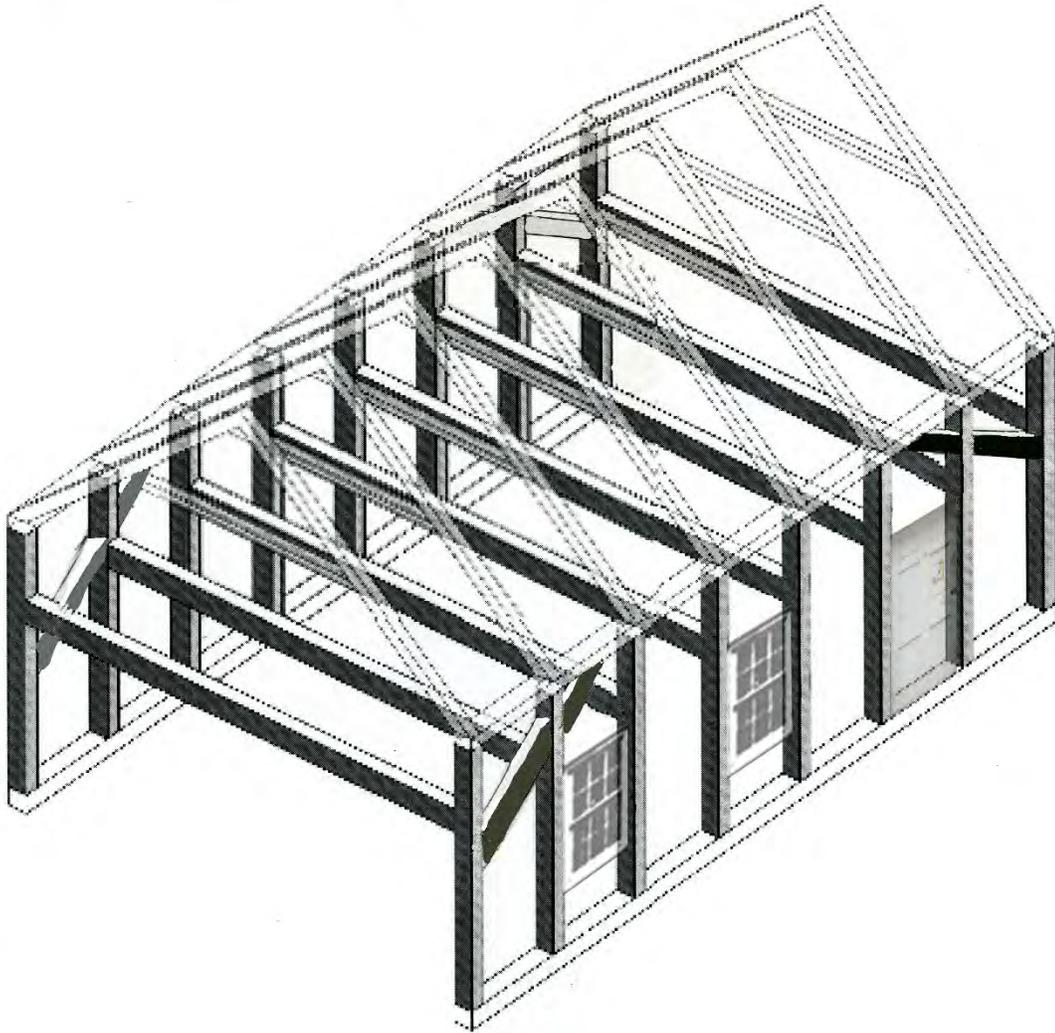
Enlarged illustration from Scientific American, May 20, 1882 showing the Collins House. The artist apparently shows the house as closer to the plane and further uphill than in actuality to fit it into the illustration.

Illustration 1 New – First floor joists in the cellar of the 1820 addition



Drawing illustrates the first floor joists in the cellar of the 1820 addition. Joists on the northern two-thirds of the room are half the width of the dwelling, run east/west and overlap above the central support beam. Joists in the southern third of the room run north/south and are connected to the southern-most east/west joist with mortise and tenon joints. Mortise and tenon joints are also indicated in the joists supporting the hearths at the north wall.

Illustration New 2 – Eight anchor bents used to construct the original dwelling



Drawing illustrates the eight anchor bents used to construct the original dwelling showing approximate location of windows and original door. Knee braces were used on each corner perpendicular to the north/south walls. Drawing adapted from an illustration in Janet Foster, "Domestic Architecture in Colonial New Jersey," *Garden State Legacy.com*, Issue 6, December 2009.

Illustration New 3 – Location of anchor bents in original dwelling



Original dwelling - Interior west wall. Highlighting shows the location of the five interior anchor bents. Note the irregular spacing between the bents and irregularly spaced joists above the bays that don't contain windows.

Illustration New 4 – Carpenters marks

This tie beam of an anchor bent in the original dwelling has four carpenter's marks shown in the four close-ups below.



Illustration New 5 – Location of anchor bents in 1820 addition



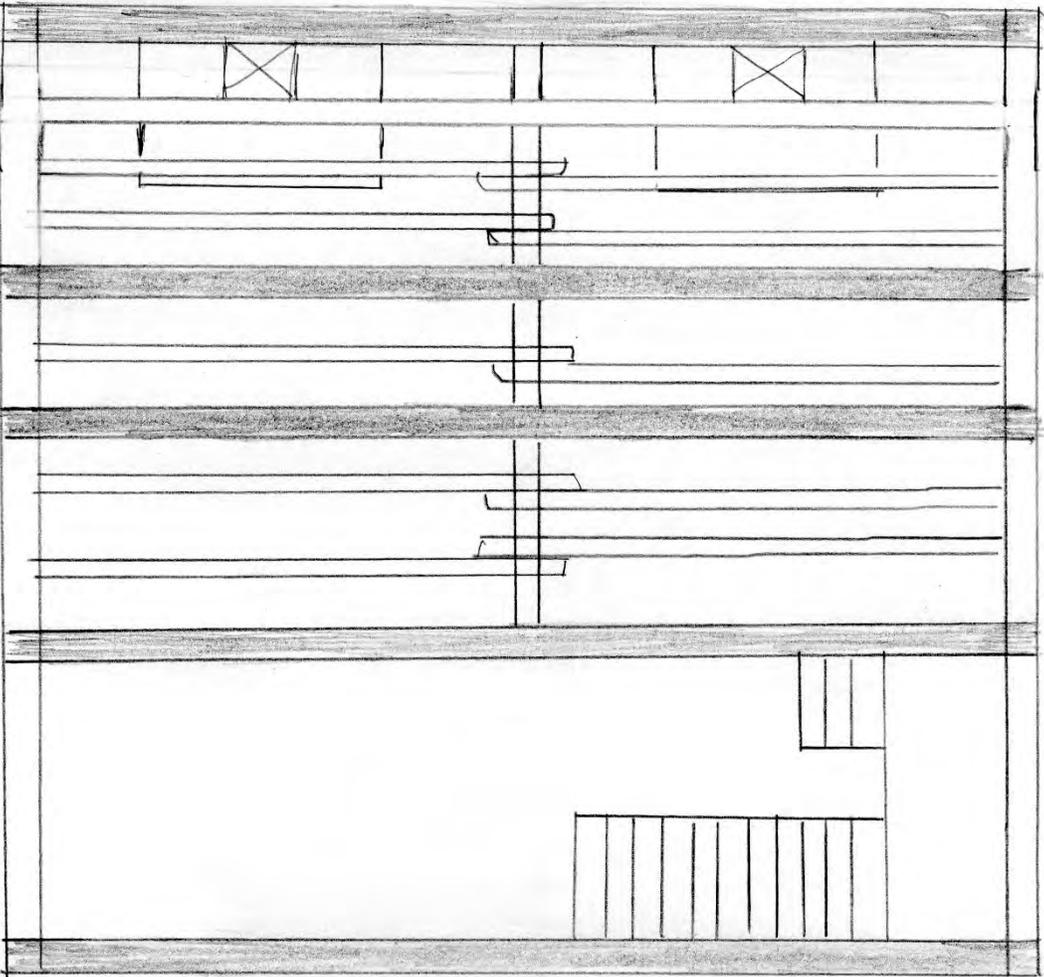
West elevation of the 1820 addition showing the approximate location of the five anchor bents.

Illustration New 6 – Tenons of anchor bent joints



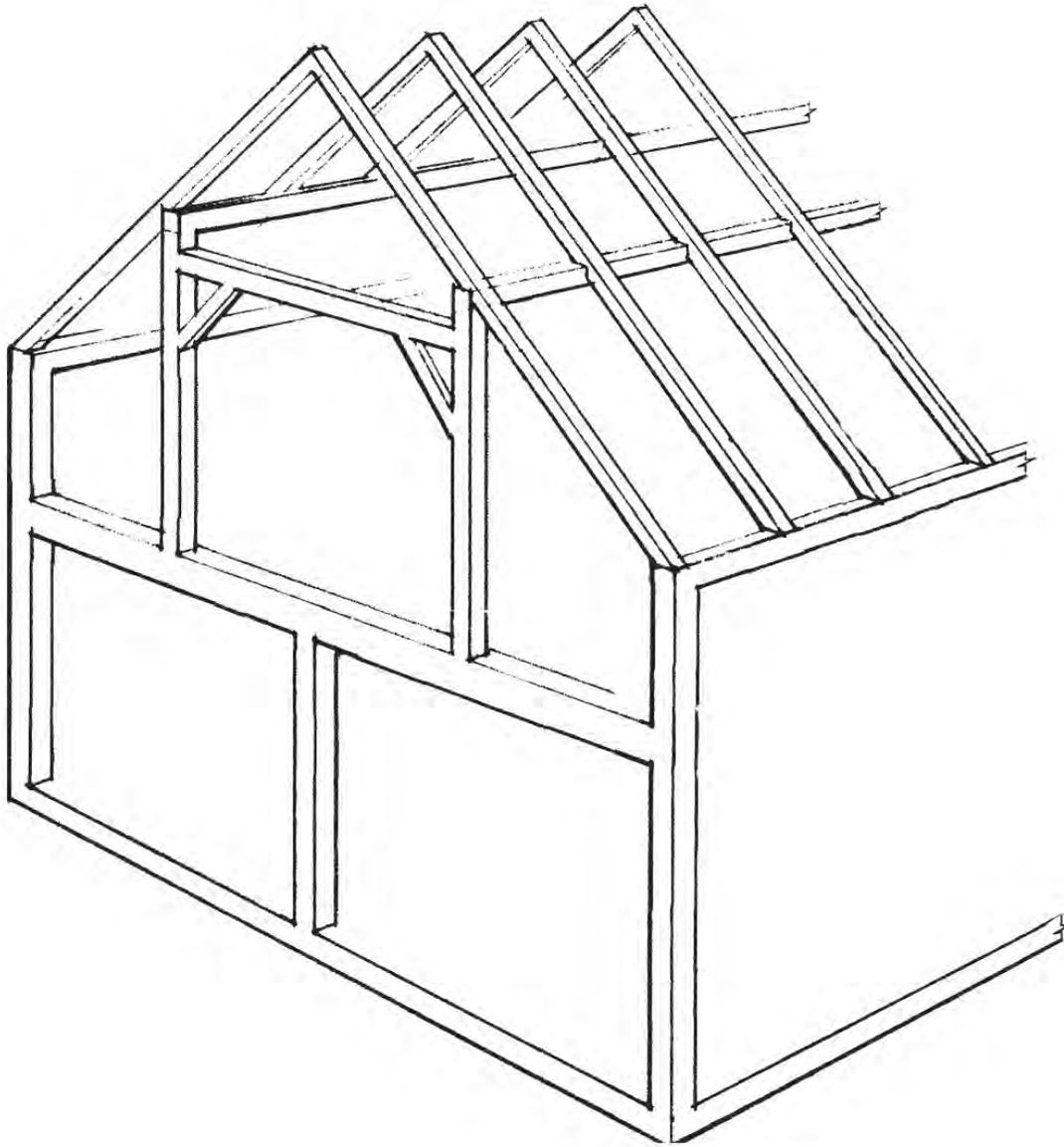
Through tenons of two anchor bent mortise and tenon joints viewed from the exterior of the east wall.

Illustration 7 New – Second floor joists in the ceiling of the first floor of the 1820 addition



The five anchor bents are shaded. Joists between the anchor bents are irregularly spaced, are half the width of the room and overlap above the north/south wall in the center of the room.

Illustration New 8 – Purlin posts, bent girt and collar purlins in second story and attic of the 1820 addition



Drawing of Purlin plates adapted from Sobon, Historic American Timber... representing the south elevation of the 1820 addition. Some framing members are omitted for clarity.

Illustration New 9 – Collar ties and collar purlins in the attic of the 1820 addition.



Attic in the 1820 addition view from the south end of the attic looking north. The four collar ties are indicated with arrows. The chimneys from the two first-floor fireplaces seen as separate chimneys on the second floor come together to form a single chimney at the far end of the north wall. Birdsmouth cuts in common rafters are visible where the rafters rest on the collar purlins. Collar tie in the foreground has three empty mortises whose purpose is not apparent. Ceiling joists are 17" below the collar ties. A wind brace made of a piece of repurposed clapboard is attached to the tie beam in the foreground.















































































































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 5/19/2017 Date of Pending List: 6/28/2017 Date of 16th Day: 7/13/2017 Date of 45th Day: 7/3/2017 Date of Weekly List: 7/6/2017

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject 7/3/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria

Reviewer Edson Beall Discipline Historian

Telephone _____ Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



State of New Jersey

MAIL CODE 501-04B

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

NATURAL & HISTORIC RESOURCES

HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

P.O. Box 420

Trenton, NJ 08625-0420

TEL. (609) 984-0176 FAX (609) 984-0578

Project # 04-1668
HPO-E2017-062



CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

BOB MARTIN
Commissioner

May 4, 2017

Paul Loether, Chief
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the Collins House, Bloomfield Township, Essex County, New Jersey.

This nomination has received unanimous approval from the New Jersey State Review Board for Historic Sites. All procedures were followed in accordance with regulations published in the Federal Register.

Should you want any further information concerning this application, please feel free to contact Katherine J. Marcopul, Administrator, New Jersey Historic Preservation Office, Mail code 501-04B, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0420, or call her at (609) 984-5816.

Sincerely,

Rich Boornazian
Deputy State Historic
Preservation Officer