

DEC 28 1989

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Joseph Ware House
other names/site number Joshua Thompson house; Ware/Shourds house

2. Location

street & number 134 Poplar Street, Hancock's Bridge not for publication
city, town Lower Alloways Creek Township vicinity
state New Jersey code 034 county Salem code 033 zip code 08038

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Alan Shourds 12/15/89
Signature of certifying official Date
Assistant Commissioner for Natural & Historic Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. *Alan Shourds* 1/26/90
 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:) _____

Alan Shourds _____
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)Georgian

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stonewalls brick

roof synthetic shingleother

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Ware-Shourds house, in Lower Alloways Creek Township, Salem County, is an eighteenth-century Georgian farmhouse built chiefly in two sections; about 1730 and in 1758; with the latter being enlarged about 1833. These three phases of constructions, though different, are similar in material and in degree of stylistic pretension. The result is a house which combines persistent trends in Mid-Atlantic and Delaware Valley domestic architecture, into a structure of local and regional significance. The house was built as a farmhouse and its setting remains rural. Situated on the south bank of Alloways Creek, the house faces the creek (North), and is bordered on the south by orchards.

The house as it exists today with its additions illustrates the principle of an "I" house. The larger, western section, is a 2½ story, single-pile, brick dwelling; the east addition is also brick, two stories in height. Due to differing constructions there are two distinct rooflines, but the gable ridge of the addition lies in range with the roof ridge on the original house. Stylistic and physical evidence in several areas of the house prove that the larger section was the earliest, followed by the lower level of the smaller section, then the upper level.

The original house is three bays wide, about 24 by 44 feet in plan, constructed of brick with two different brick patterns, Flemish bond with glazed headers on the north side (creek side), and common bond on the remaining three sides, with a row of glazed headers on either end wall, tracing the roofline in the gable. The main entry is centered in the north facade. A pent roof running above the entry and lower level windows is highlighted by a pediment in the center, which indicates that the entry is in its original location. The 3-light transom above the entry and the six-panel door appear original. A boxed cornice and cove molding below the roof line characterizes the house with others in the area. A "hearse" door, located in the central bay on the south side, is furred over, making it visible from the outside only. The west wall shows an original, small window that was blocked up. The primary windows consist of 9-over-9 double-hung sash. A glass enclosure beneath the pediment on the north side alters the original appearance of the main entry. The current entry porch was added after 1945.

A full basement, with brick foundation walls, underlies this house. The brick floor of the basement, however, was covered over with concrete to prevent

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
<u>exploration/settlement</u>	<u>ca. 1730-1778;</u>	<u>1758</u>
<u>Architecture</u>	<u>1828-1891</u>	<u>March 21, 1778</u>
<u>Military</u>		<u>1856</u>
<u>Politics/Government</u>	Cultural Affiliation	
<u>Literature</u>	<u>N/A</u>	
Significant Person	Architect/Builder	
<u>Thomas Shourds (1805-1891)</u>	<u>Unknown</u>	

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Ware-Shourds House is significant under Criterion 'C', as a fine example of Salem County's patterned-brick Georgian domestic architecture. The house also meets Criterion 'A' for its association with the early settlement of Salem County and perhaps also with the events surrounding the infamous Revolutionary War massacre on March 21, 1778 at the nearby Hancock House, also in Hancock's Bridge, where a British raiding party massacred twenty-five continental soldiers in their sleep. It meets Criterion 'B' as the residence of Thomas Shourds (1805-1891), a local farmer who briefly gained political attention as an important member of the nascent Republican Party who nominated Vice Presidential candidate William O. Dayton of New Jersey at the G.O.P.'s first electoral convention in 1856. Although he had been an active Whig, his career was farming not politics, and he remained a lifelong Salem County resident, living in the Ware-Shourds house until his death. He gained additional distinction as a local historian. Shourds wrote The History and Genealogy of Fenwick's Colony, published in 1876, an important work about the earliest decades of Salem County's history.

The Ware family acquired and settled the land on which the Ware-Shourds house stands in the 1680s. Joseph Ware Sr., of Monmouthshire, Wales, emigrated to America in 1675 on board "The Griffin," the vessel that brought John Fenwick to the New World to found the settlement that historians have termed "Fenwick's Colony." Fenwick's controversial actions, which were not sanctioned by William Penn or by other prominent Quakers interested in settling West Jersey, resulted in the founding of the town of Salem and the settlement of Salem and Cumberland counties. Ware married in 1683, and within a few years he bought the farm on which the present Ware-Shourds house stands. His house, which is described in his last will and testament and in the subsequent inventory of his estate, both dated 1711, evidently stood on this farm, but its location relative to the present house is unknown.

Joseph Ware Jr. (1684-1754) inherited his father house and plantation in 1711. He built the present house in 1730, according to local historian Thomas Shourds (see below). Like his father, Joseph Jr. was a Quaker; he was a

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water seepage. Massive brick fireplace foundations at each end indicate that the fireplaces are in their original location. The lintels above the basement windows are wood, the floor joists are 3" x 8", and are randomly spaced.

The attic joists in the original house are 4" x 5", and are randomly spaced, with stringers being attached by half lap dovetails, secured with wooden pegs. The roof planks are 6" tongue-and-groove boards, but they are replacements.

The first floor of the original house is presently into two rooms by a board partition, creating a hall-parlor plan. The flooring on the first floor is replacement oak, but the original heart pine (usually referred to as pumpkin pine due to its color) still remains on the second floor. Each of the two chimneys contain fireplaces on both first and second floors. Both upstairs fireplaces, and the west end downstairs fireplace, have the original heart pine mantles and face paneling. The fourth fireplace has been altered. Interior trim is rather simple and austere. The doors are fitted with English style hinges and latches.

The east addition, entered through the east end of the original house, is of brick, three bays wide, about 24 by 33 feet in plan, with the longer dimension extending the line of the original house. The first story of the brick addition was constructed in 1758, and displays Flemish bond with glazed headers on the creek side and common bond on the remaining two sides. The plan is a single room with a fireplace on the east wall similar to the Hancock House. Originally the addition had a steep pitched roof. At some time between 1901 and 1946, a wood lean-to shed addition was added to the east end of the house. "Lightning struck the east end and badly damaged the exterior brickwork and the shed/portion"² in about 1946. The shed addition was subsequently removed. In repairing this damage, the glazed brickwork with the date "1758" was replaced to match the original.

The windows of the east addition consist of 6-over-6 double-hung sash with a large, bay, replacement window added after 1945, in the central bay, on the creek side. Inside, the fireplace wall contains simple wood paneling, painted, which replaced the original paneling.

A second story, also of brick, was added to the east addition, but the precise construction date is unknown. The brickwork, which is common bond even on the facade, and the overall craftsmanship indicate that the second story was built approximately 75 years after the first. The floor joists are hand hewn, 4" x 5" (exposed on lower level) randomly spaced, appearing as if they were salvaged from a log cabin or a clapboard structure. Tongue and groove oak planing was used for the flooring.

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There have been no records of any original outbuildings in this study. On the property there is a barn located approximately 100 feet southeast from the house, built after WWII. The barn is used as a garage and workshop, and doesn't appear to have any historical significance.

The property now associated with the house retains many of the characteristics it had at the time it attained significance. Situated along the south bank, the house runs generally parallel with the Alloways Creek. The house is not visible from the road, but is accessible by a lane. Due to farming, development in the area was kept to a minimum, the result being that there are no other buildings visible from the Ware-Shourds House. Except for distant high tension electrical lines, the house and its property appears today much as it did when it was built.

1. A "hearse" door, so called, was built into some houses in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, when before the rise of the modern funeral industry, funerals were held in a decedent's home. If the coffin containing the corpse could not be moved horizontally through the front door, a special "hearse" door would be needed, through which the coffin could be moved into a waiting wagon or hearse. For a discussion of this feature in nineteenth-century houses, see Allen G. Noble, Wood, Brick & Stone: The North American Settlement Landscape, Volume 1: Houses (Amherst, MA: University of Massachusetts Press, 1984), 104-6.
2. George W. Johnson, 27 in 76: Patterned-Brick Houses of Salem County (Salem, NJ: self-published, 1977), 84.

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Township, Salem County, NJCLARIFICATION OF THE CONSTRUCTION HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE
OF THE WARE-SHOURDS HOUSE:

The construction date of this house has been a matter of dispute among historians of Salem County for the last century. Thomas Shourds, in his 1876 book, HISTORY AND GENEALOGY OF FENWICK'S COLONY, claimed that the house was built in 1730, without identifying which section of the house he specifically meant. Since World War II, however, local historians have interpreted Shourds' statement to refer to the larger, western section of the house, under the assumption--now evidently erroneous--that it was the older section. George Sickler, in his 1934 work SOME OLD HOUSES OF SALEM COUNTY, indicated that the date of the eastern section of the house was 1710, based on his reading of a date that at that time was visible in the eastern gable. After lightning damaged the east wall about 1946, it was rebuilt with the date 1758, which the then owner assumed was correct. Subsequent historians such as Johnson (1976) have accepted this as the proper date.

Yet historic photographs, buttressed by written documentation, strongly suggest that Sickler was correct. At least two early photographs, one undated (in Sickler) and one by Thomas Yorke (1887), clearly show an extremely steep roofline in the east end wall, indicating the original form of the eastern section of the house. This steep roof pitch was characteristic of seventeenth- and early eighteenth-century houses only--such as one built in 1710--and would have been most unlikely in a stylish house of 1730. (The Yorke photograph also demonstrates that the leanto on the east end of the house was built before 1887, not after 1901.)

Both photographs also show a date in the brickwork of this steep gable, and Sickler clearly indicates that he interpreted the date to be "1710." Close examination of the historic photograph (from Sickler) reproduced in Johnson (1976) shows that in the post-1946 rebuilding of the east wall, liberties were taken with the last two digits of the date, proving that the reconstruction of the wall was to some degree mishandled.

Sickler was evidently unaware of corroborating evidence for his date. However, on March 28, 1711, Joseph Ware Sr., the

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then owner of the property, wrote his last will and testament. In it he left to his wife, "the new End of the house now affinishing." (Ware, Descendants, p.4) The inventory of his personal estate was prepared less than one month later, and it also refers to the "new Room." (Ibid., p.5) Thus Ware had a house under construction in 1710, and the photographic evidence, backed by Sickler's direct observation, strongly indicates that Ware's house was the east section of the present building.

This date is important for three additional reasons. First, it argues that the nominated property was the dwelling of Joseph Ware Sr. before it descended to his son, Joseph Jr. Thus, it would have been associated with the family progenitor, the original settler who had made the trans-Atlantic crossing with Fenwick in 1675. This connection strengthens the significance of the property under the category "Exploration/Settlement."

The second reason for the importance of the date is that it proves that Joseph Sr.'s original house stood on the same site, and that it was extended by the 1710 construction. This knowledge probably brings archeological consequences. If the imprint of Joseph Ware's seventeenth-century dwelling was not obliterated by the construction of the western section of the house, then it must still survive in close confinement to the present east section. As a result, the nominated property should, in future, be evaluated for its potential eligibility under Criterion 'D,' as to its likelihood to yield information important to the history and lifestyles of the first generation of English settlers of Salem County. This evaluation has not been made for the present nomination.

Third, if the date is correct, the Ware-Shourds house undoubtedly becomes the oldest known example of patterned brickwork in Salem County and probably southern New Jersey. Of the twenty-seven surviving examples of patterned-brick domestic architecture in Salem County identified by Johnson, this house would become the eldest, displacing the John Darkin house, built in 1720. Until the publication of Johnson's book, the oldest known example had been the Abel Nicholson house, built in 1722.

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prominent member of the Friends Meeting House at Hancock's Bridge when it was built."⁴ He married Elizabeth Walker and had three sons and one daughter. Their second son, Solomon Ware, married Sara Stretch in 1740, and inherited his father's house upon Joseph Jr.'s death in 1754.

Solomon & Sarah Ware had eight children, all dying as minors except for one daughter, Sarah. Solomon had the east end addition built in 1758, probably to help accommodate his children. He died in 1761, and his wife⁵ died four years later, leaving the house and property to their daughter Sarah.⁵ Sarah married Joshua Thompson, of nearby Elsinborough, in 1773,⁶ with whom she had three children.

On March 21, 1778, the massacre at Hancock's Bridge took place. William Hancock, a prominent judge was bayoneted in his house (the Hancock House) along with approximately 20 other American Militia stationed there. William Hancock "Died⁷ a few days later at the residence of his brother-in-law, Joshua Thompson, 2nd." (The Hancock House, site of the massacre, is a patterned-brick house of similar date to the Ware house, and is a state-owned historic site at which the massacre is interpreted.)

Joseph Thompson, the oldest son of Joshua and Sarah Thompson, bought the house and its land from his father. Joseph had five children with his first wife Ann Mason, including a daughter named Sarah. She inherited the house and property from her mother⁸ after her father remarried. Sarah Thompson married Thomas Shourds, in 1828.⁸ (a Salem County native who was himself descended from Joseph Ware Sr.) Thomas Shourds was born in 1805 and died in 1891. He was known as "Statesman" due to his affiliations with local politics. An active member in the declining "Whig Party," Thomas Shourds made the nomination for William O. Dayton to become⁹ Vice President of the United States at the first Republican National Convention in Philadelphia in 1856.

Thomas and Sarah Shourds had eight children, and may have constructed the second floor of the east end addition to house them. Another possibility, however, is that a previous owner added the addition. In 1876, Thomas Shourds wrote his book "History and Genealogy of Fenwick's Colony" in his house.

Shourds was the last historically significant occupant of the Ware-Shourds house. After he died in 1891, ownership of the house lingered for a decade among his heirs. First, his wife Sarah owned the property, which then descended to her daughters Anna and Mary Shourd. Finally, however, after 171 years of occupancy by seven generations of one family, and after nearly 220 years of continuous

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ownership of the farm by Joseph-Ware, Sr., a founder of Fenwick's colony, and his descendants, the Ware-Shourds house was sold outside the family for the first time. In 1901, Charles Grosscup brought the house, becoming the first of a succession of outside owners who have held the property ever since. Together, their impact on the building has been generally conservative and caring, so that the Ware-Shourds house today still exhibits most of its early fabric.

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NOTES

1. For a discussion of the circumstances surrounding the early settlement of Salem County, see John E. Pomfret, The Province of West New Jersey, 1634-1702 (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1962)
2. Joseph Ware Sr.'s land transactions are recorded in the West Jersey Deeds, on file at the New Jersey State Archives [NJSA], Trenton, NJ.
3. Ware, Franklin, (compiled by) Genealogy of the Descendants of Joseph Ware of Fenwick Colony, England. Pg. 4.
4. Shourds, Thomas. The History and Genealogy of Fenwicks Colony (1876; Reprint 1976), 475.
5. Ibid., 330.
6. Ibid.
7. Stewart, Frank H. Salem County in the Revolution, (Salem, NJ: 1967), 76.
8. Shourds., Fenwick's Colony, 238.
9. Johnson, Dr. George, W. 27 in 76 Patterned-Brick Houses of Salem County. (Salem, NJ: self-published, 1977).

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WARE-SHOURDS HOUSE

Chronological List of Owners

1730-1754	Joseph Ware, Jr.
1754-1761	Solomon Ware
1761-1765	Sarah (Stretch) Ware, (Wid. of Solomon)
1765-1773	Sarah Ware, (dau. of Solomon & Sarah)
1773-Unknown	Joshua Thompson (m. Sarah Ware)
Unknown-Unknown	Joseph Thompson
Unknown-1828	Sarah Thompson, (dau. of Joseph)
1828-1891	Thomas Shourds, (m. Sarah Thompson)
1891-Unknown	Sarah Thompson, Widow of Thomas Shourds
Unknown-1901	Anna & Mary Shourds, Daughters of Thomas Shourds
1901-1920	Isaac Grosscup
1920-1942	Edwin J. Grosscup
1942-1943	The Salem National Bank & Trust Company
1943-1946	Leroy & Marion Norcross
1946-1959	George & Marion Clark
1959-1986	Billy & Blanche Ashlock

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Major Bibliographic References

Manuscript Sources:

Salem County Deeds, Salem County Clerk's Office, Salem NJ.

Salem County Wills, Salem County Surrogate's Office, Salem, NJ.

Published Works:

Fenwick's Colony. NJ: Salem County Tercentenary Committee, Salem 1964.

Harper, Robert W. Old Gloucester County and the American Revolution.
Woodbury, NJ: Gloucester County Cultural and Heritage Commission.

Johnson, Dr. George W. 27 In '76': Patterned Brick Houses of Salem County.
Salem, NJ: 1977.

Shourds, Thomas. History and Genealogy of Fenwick's Colony. Reprint,
Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, 1976.

Sickler, Joseph S. The Old Houses of Salem County. Salem, NJ: Sunbeam
Publishing Co., 1934.

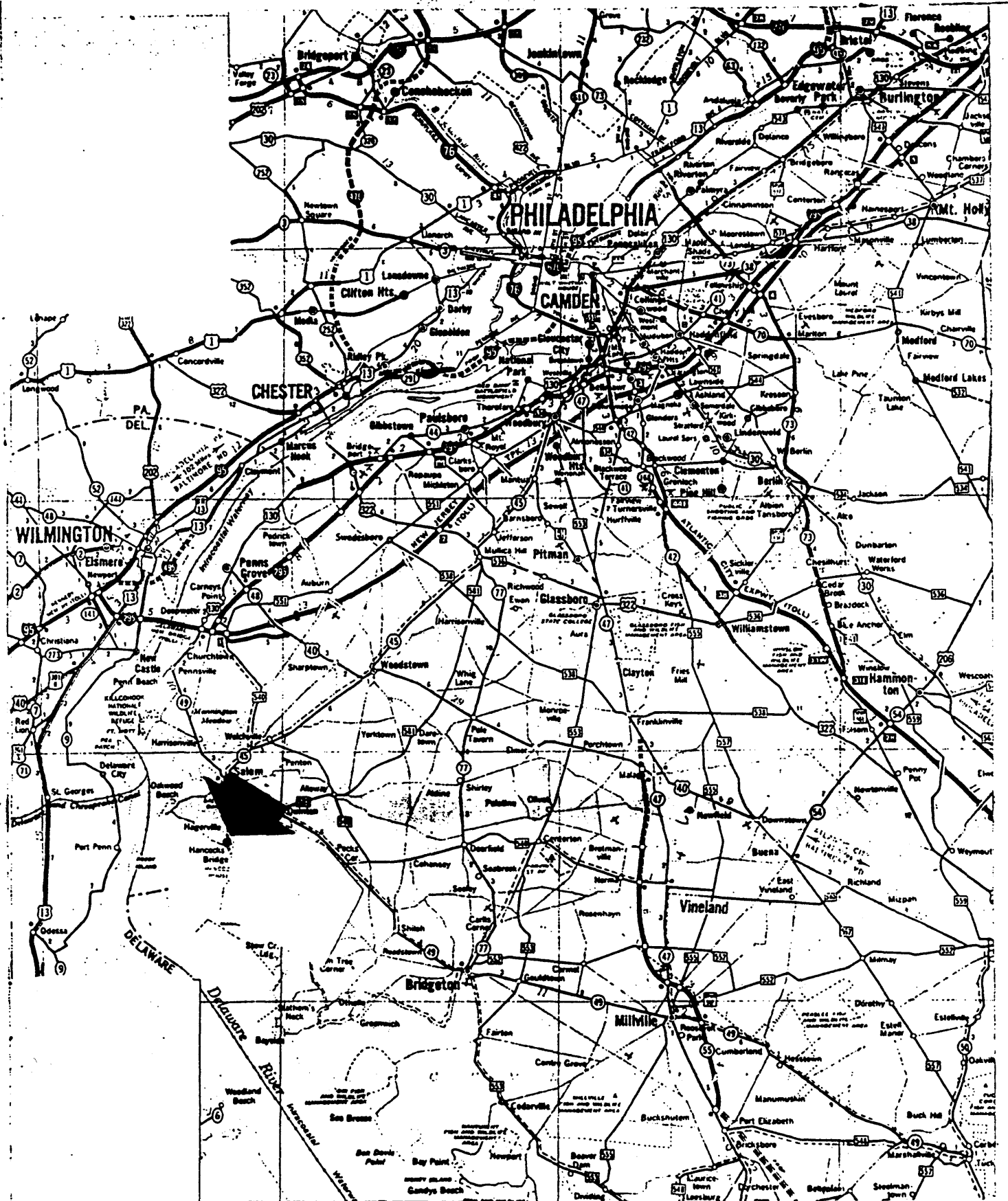
Stewart, Frank H. Salem County in the Revolution. Salem County Historical
Society, Salem, New Jersey, 1967.

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Township, Salem County, NJVerbal Boundary Description

BEGINNING at a point in the center line of Popular Street, said point being the Northwesterly corner of land now or formerly of Jere W. Powell and the southwesterly corner of land now or formerly of Earl Bowers, and running thence (1) along the centerline of Popular Street, South seventy-seven degrees ten minutes West, one hundred thirty-five to an angle point therein; (2) still along the same, South seventy-nine degrees four minutes West, five hundred and fourteen and forty-five hundredths feet to a point of curve; thence (3) still along the same, a curve to the southeastward described by a radius of nine hundred fifty-five feet, an arc distance of two hundred eighty-one and sixty-nine hundredths feet to the line of land now or formerly of Josiah F. Harris; thence (4) along the said Harris's land, North fifteen degrees fifty-one minutes West, twenty feet to a concrete monument; thence continuing the same course, still along the same, a further distance of seven hundred forty-five and thirty-five hundredths feet, making a total distance for this course of seven hundred sixty-five and thirty-five hundredths feet to an iron pipe set at a corner of land of Leroy Norcross; thence (5) along the said Norcross' land, North seventy-seven degrees forty-four minutes East, crossing two certain rights of way hereinafter mentioned, two hundred fifty-three and thirty-five hundredths feet to an iron pipe for a corner; thence (6) still along the same, North one degree fifty-eight minutes East, three hundred seventy-nine and eighty-seven hundredths feet to an iron pipe set in a high water line of Alloways Creek; thence (7) along the said high water line, in an easterly direction, the various courses and distances thereof to the line of the land of Earl Bowers' aforesaid; thence (8) along the said Bowers' land, South eighteen degrees thirty-four minutes East, thirty feet, more or less, to an iron pipe; thence continuing the same course, still along the same, a further distance of eight hundred five and sixty-six hundredths feet to a concrete monument; thence continuing the same course, still along the same, a further distance of twenty feet, making a total distance for this course of eight hundred fifty-six feet, more or less, to the place of the beginning.

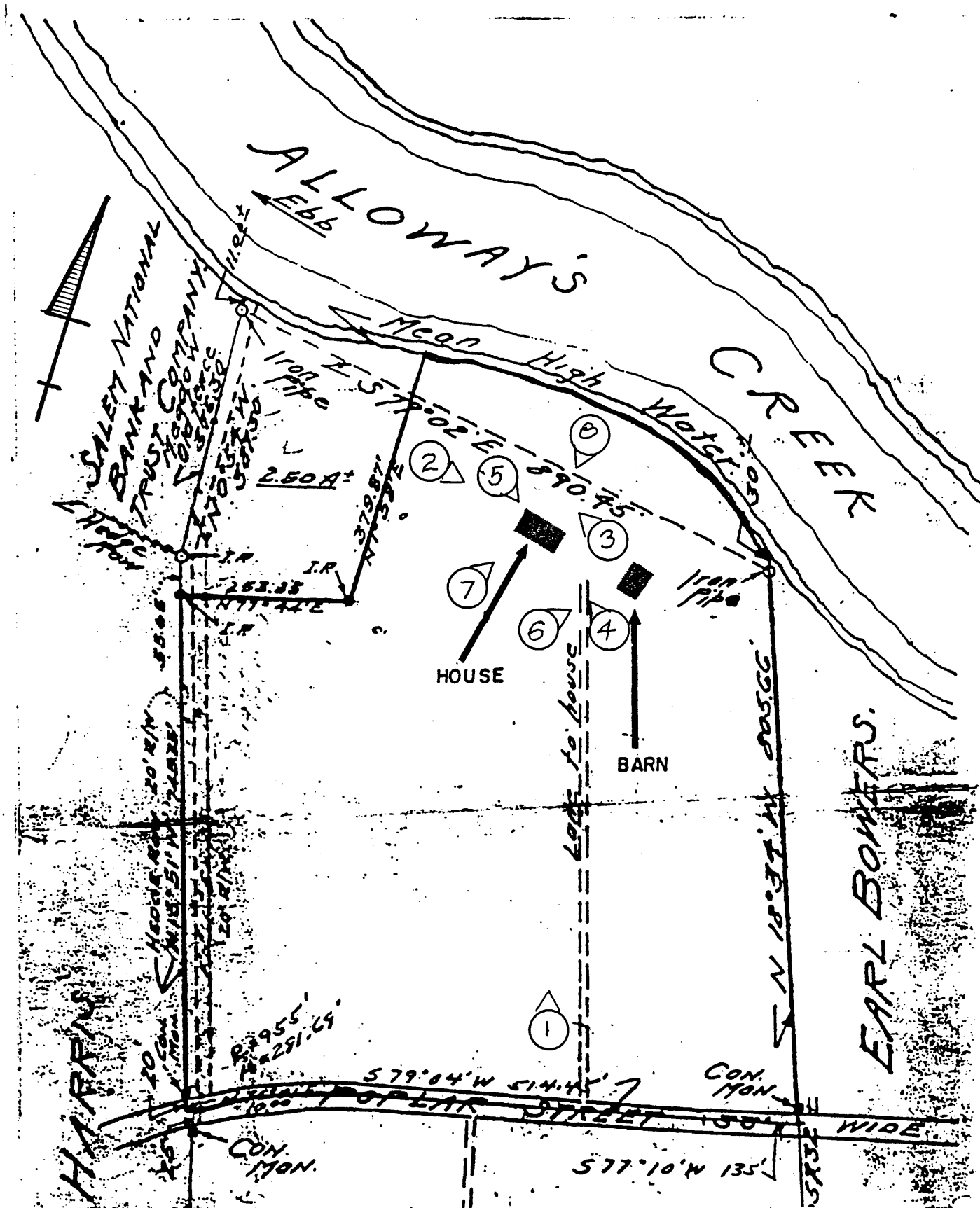
Boundary Justification

The boundary of the Joseph Ware-Thomas Shourds House has been selected to encompass the natural and man-made features linked historically to the period in which the House attained significance. The boundary is identical with the current property, which is part of the land associated with the House since the 18th century. Although considerably reduced in size from the original parcel, this amount of land is sufficient to convey the rural sense of the property.



LOCATION MAP
 SCALE 1" = 6.7 MILES ±

THE JOSEPH WARE-THOMAS SHOURDS HOUSE



SITE PLAN

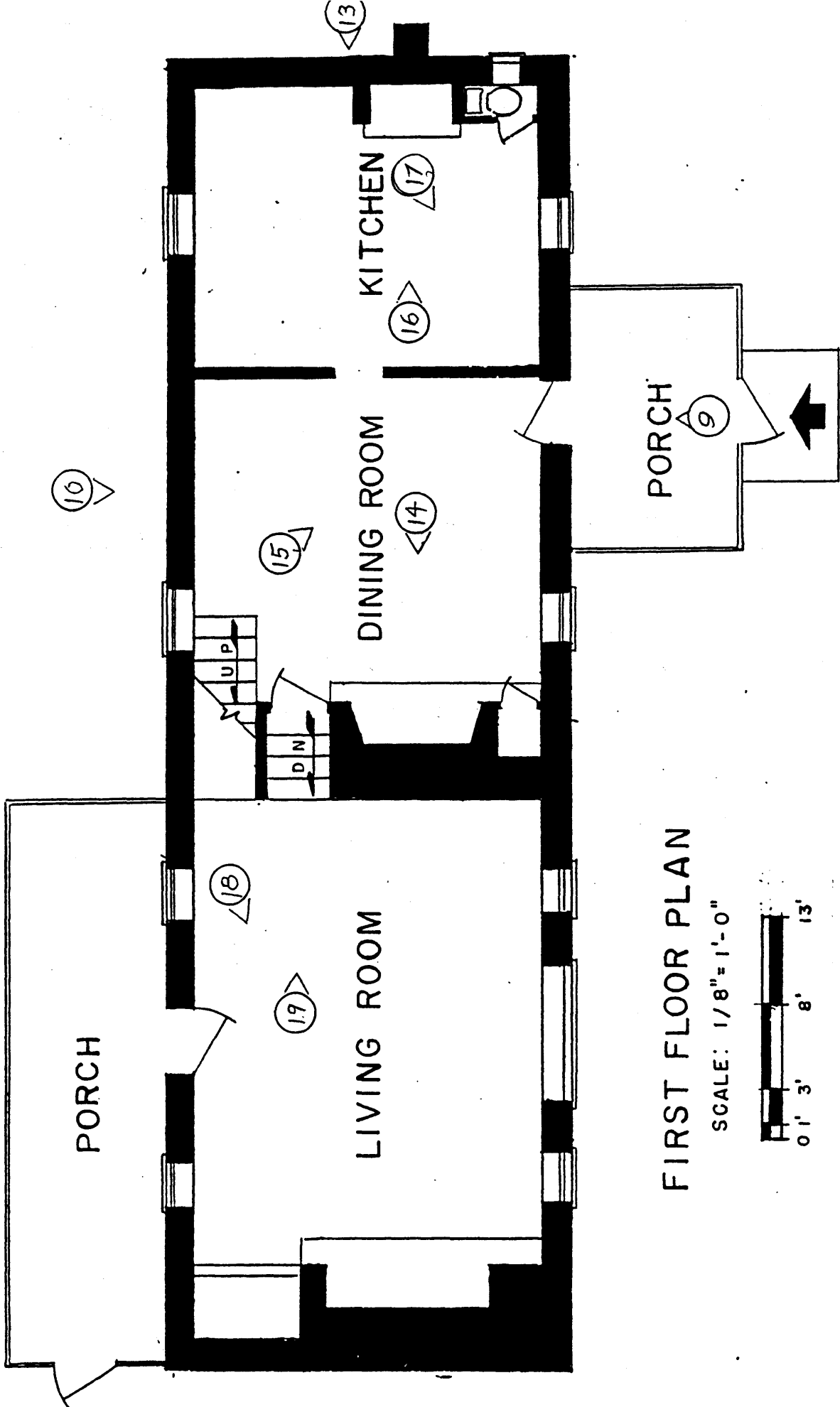
SCALE 1"=200'

5.40 ACRES



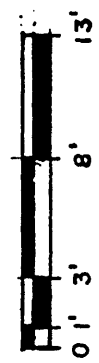
PHOTO NUMBER

THE JOSEPH WARE-THOMAS SHOURDS HOUSE

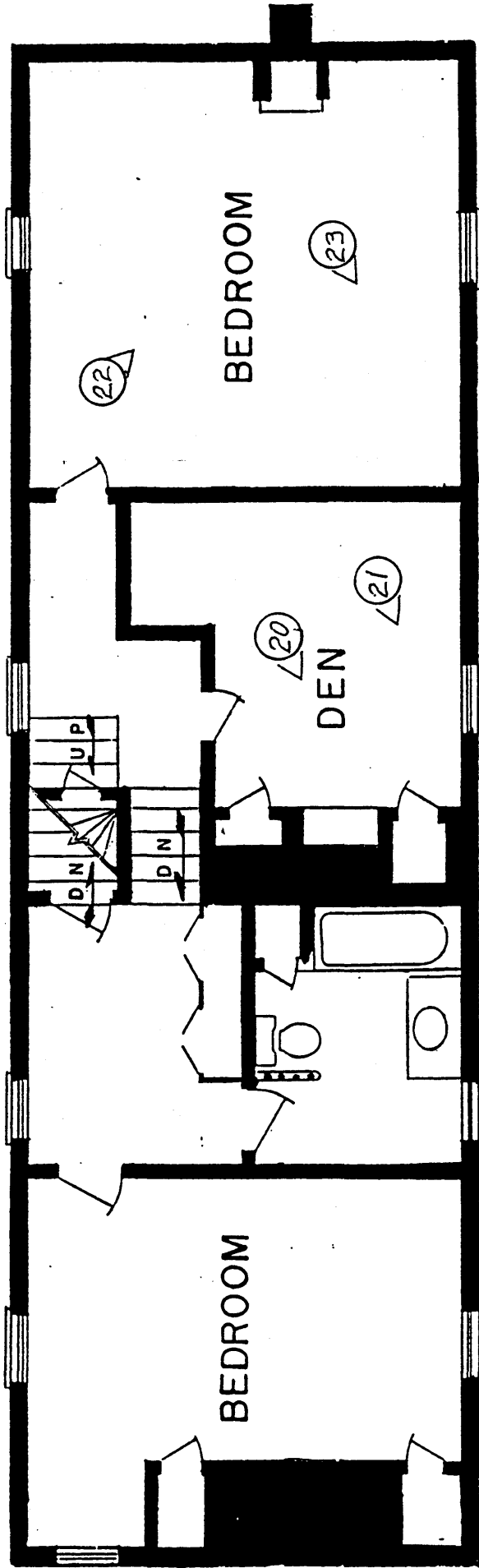


FIRST FLOOR PLAN

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



(23) PHOTO NUMBER



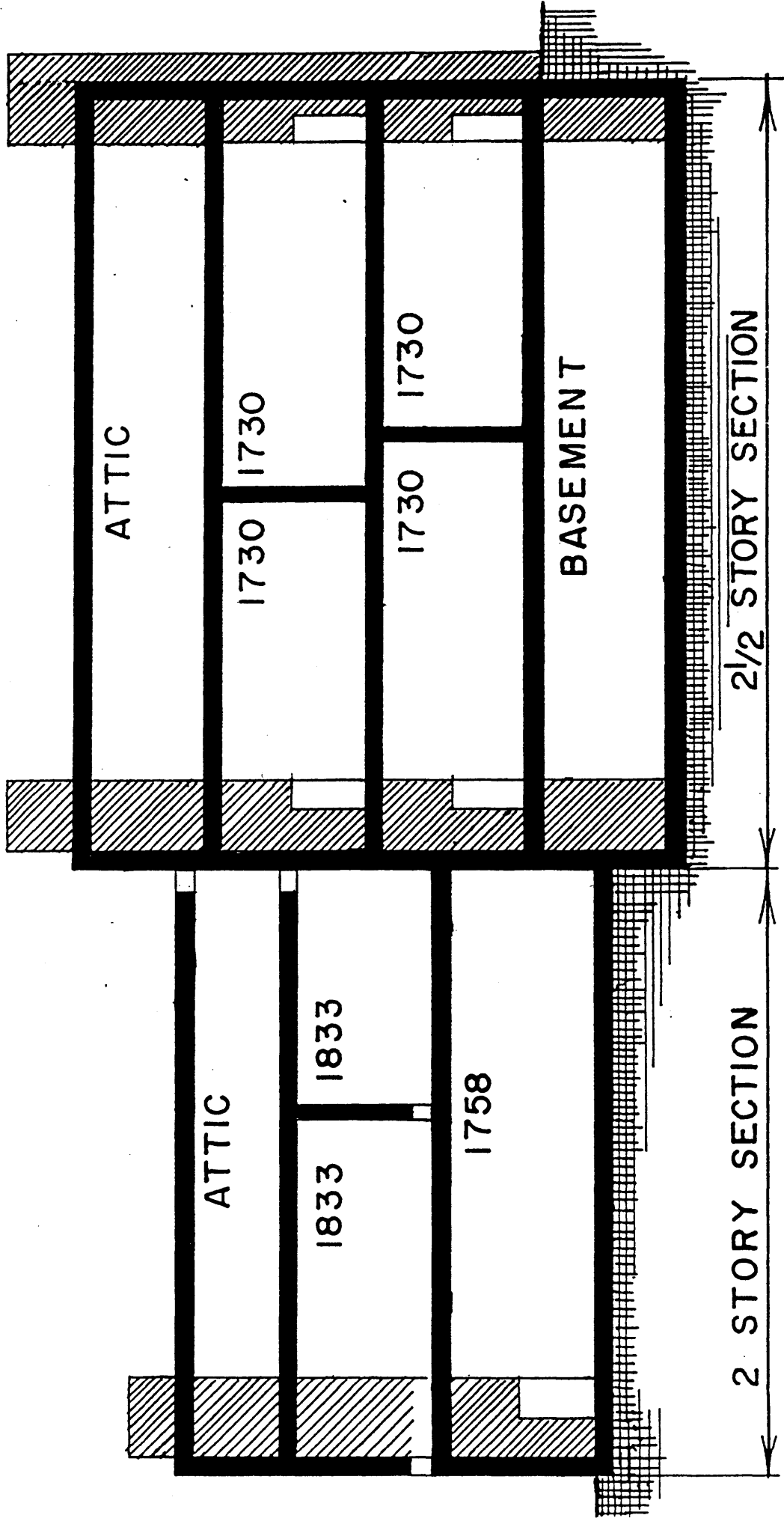
SECOND FLOOR PLAN

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



23 PHOTO NUMBER

CONSTRUCTION DATES



THE JOSEPH WARE-THOMAS SHOURDS HOUSE