

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 Raritan/Readington South Branch Historic District  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number Routes 523 & 612 & River, Burgess Roads  NA not for publication  
city, town Raritan and Readington Townships  vicinity  
state NJ code 034 county Hunterdon code 019 zip code 08822

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>40</u>	<u>31</u> buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>3</u>	<u>      </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>47</u>	<u>33</u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		<u>      </u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

### 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.

*Allen S. ...* 12/7/89  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Assistant Commissioner for Natural & Historic Resources/DSHPO  
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.  
 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): \_\_\_\_\_

*Allen Byer* 1/20/90  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

domestic/ single family  
 agricultural/outbuildings, fields  
 industry/manufacturing facility  
 commerce/business

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

domestic/single family  
 agricultural/outbuildings, fields  
 commerce/business

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Colonial/ Georgian  
 Early Republic/ Federal  
 mid-19th century/ Greek Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone  
 walls weatherboard  
stone, brick  
 roof synthetic  
 other slate

**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

Located in the New Jersey Piedmont just northeast of the rapidly developing town of Flemington, the Raritan/Readington South Branch Historic District encompasses a remnant of rural landscape in the fertile lowlands along the river of that name. The linear district stretches for about two and one half miles along the South Branch of the Raritan between Routes 31 and 202, but for only about half of that distance actually borders on the river. The Lehigh Valley Railroad, which follows the South Branch and crosses it about midway between the two highways, cuts off the northern portion of the district from the river. While much of the district lies on the west side of the South Branch in Raritan Township, a sizable portion at its south end is on the east side in Readington Township.

The district is largely a mixture of open agricultural land, and woods (some of which along the river is publicly owned open space) with scattered farmsteads and houses. In three places, however, small settlements -each little more than a place-name with a few buildings- provide focal points. Two of them, Holcomb Mills and Rockefeller's Mills, are former mill seats on the South Branch established in the 18th century; the third, Flemington Junction, coalesced around the train station erected in 1885 at the junction of the Lehigh Valley Railroad's main line and its branch line to Flemington and has two businesses and three houses. The district is surrounded by a mix of land uses including modern industrial plants and subdivisions, scattered houses and businesses, and open fields and woodland with farmsteads. In general, the suburban uses are found on the south and west, while a more rural character prevails to the north and east, where land along the river is publicly owned open space.

An inventory of all the district's resources forms part of this section, and resources have been categorized as "contributing" or "non-contributing" to the district's historical and architectural character. Of the 47 contributing resources, 40 are build-

(Continued on continuation sheet 1)

**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)  
exploration/settlement pattern  
architecture  
politics/government  
transportation

Period of Significance  
c. 1738-1885

Significant Dates  
N/A

Cultural Affiliation  
N/A

Significant Person  
Reading, Jr., John

Architect/Builder  
N/A

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

The Raritan/Readington South Branch Historic District possesses significance in the areas of settlement pattern, politics/government, architecture, and transportation. Occupying fertile lowlands along a stretch of one of the region's major rivers, the district encompasses a portion of the extensive lands acquired and settled early in the 18th century by John Reading, Jr. who as a surveyor and agent for the West Jersey Proprietors played an important part in establishing the land ownership and subdivision patterns, and consequently settlement patterns, in the northwestern portion of New Jersey. By entailing most of his South Branch holdings on his male heirs for two generations, Reading also had a direct, albeit more unique role in shaping the character of the neighborhood for many years. Significance in the areas of politics and government stems from the important offices John Reading held for many years in New Jersey's colonial government (he served on the provincial council for nearly four decades and twice as acting governor), and to a lesser degree to the public positions occupied by his brother-in-law Martin Ryerson and several of his sons and grandsons. The district has architectural significance as an assemblage of 18th and 19th-century buildings whose construction, form, detailing, and spatial organization are illustrative of the rural region's vernacular architecture in that era. In particular, several of the district's 18th-century dwellings (#s 10, 11, 13, 16, and 24, for example) exhibit features that are not common to Hunterdon County's surviving early houses and thus are important documents of the region's early domestic architecture. The district's significance in the area of transportation results from the presence of the c. 1885 Lehigh Valley Railroad Station (#7) at Flemington Junction which is Raritan Township's only resource of the kind.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page I Raritan/Readington South Branch HD,  
Raritan & Readington Twps, Hunterdon  
County, New Jersey

(Description continued)

ings (10 of which date to the 18th century and 30 to the 19th century), three are 19th-century sites, and four 19th-century structures. One contributing resource, the Gov. John Reading House (#13) is individually listed on the National Register. There are 33 non-contributing resources, of which 31 are 20th-century buildings (mostly out buildings), two are 19th-century buildings, and two are 20th-century structures.

Predominately vernacular structures of moderate size, the district's houses are simply detailed and exhibit a variety of stylistic embellishment typical of the 18th and 19th centuries. Many have been enlarged or refurbished over the years. Modern improvements, while resulting in the loss or obscuring of early fabric and detailing in some cases, have been neither numerous nor disfiguring enough to mar the historic architectural character of the district. Typical of the region's dispersed rural dwellings, the earlier houses, whether close to the road or set well back from it, are oriented to face south. The later houses invariably face the road. The District's buildings generally are in good condition and well maintained.

The architecture of the South Branch District is representative of the region's vernacular construction practices and building types in the 18th and 19th centuries. Comprising a majority of the district's dwellings are the traditional, 2-story house types with single-pile or double-pile plans, regular fenestration patterns, and interior gable-end chimneys. Such dwellings are ubiquitous in the Delaware valley's 18th and 19th-century housing stock. Early examples include #s 2, 10, 11, 13, and 14, and the east wing of #19; three examples, #s 1 and 4 and the main block of #19, date to the middle decades of the 19th century. Although falling out of favor by the middle decades of the 19th-century, traditional 1 1/2-story houses were prevalent in the area at an early date. The South Branch District has four early examples, all of which have gable-end chimneys, and either single-pile (#15) or double-pile plans (#s 16, 21, and 24). Two district houses (#s 5 and 8), built in the late 1800s at Flemington Junction, are of the gable-fronted house type that became popular in the region's towns after the middle of the 19th century, but is less common in rural settings.

Besides their varying types, the district's earlier dwellings

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 2Raritan/Readington South Branch HD,  
Raritan & Readington Twps, Hunterdon  
County, New Jersey

exhibit other features that testify to the diversity of the region's early architecture and reflect the heterogeneous nature of its ethnic building traditions as well the influence of popular architectural styles on its vernacular building practices. While frame construction and gable roofs predominate among the district's dwellings, as they do elsewhere in the region, several of the 18th-century houses are of masonry construction, and of them one, the 1760 Gov. Reading House (#13), has a hip roof and another, the Ryerson-Quick House (#24), has a gambrel roof with the proportions and kicked overhanging eaves associated with Dutch builders in eastern New Jersey. In fact, the purported builder of the latter house, Col. Martin Ryerson, was of Dutch descent and raised in Bergen County in northern New Jersey.<sup>1</sup> The Ryerson-Quick House is perhaps the westernmost example of this distinctive gambrel roof in the state. The hipped roof of the house erected by Governor Reading, who was of English Quaker stock, is also the only extant early example of its kind in the area, and is but one manifestation of high style influences discernible in the dwelling. Coursed rubble stone was employed for three houses (#s 10 and 16, in addition to the Ryerson-Quick House, #24); two of them (#s 10 and 24) are faced with brick on one elevation, a treatment of which there are no other early examples in Hunterdon County, but which may have once been more prevalent judging from documentary evidence.<sup>2</sup> One district dwelling, the Gov. Reading House (#13), is entirely of brick construction and its molded brick water table is another high-style Georgian influence; the prominent inscription of its construction date in glazed headers on one wall is a practice associated with southern New Jersey. The brickwork of all three houses (#s 10, 13, and 24) is Flemish bond, which on the first two incorporates glazed headers, another uncommon treatment in the area. House #10, which undoubtedly was built by a son or grandson of Gov. Reading c. 1760-80, was also distinguished on its brick veneered gable-end wall by a pent roof, a feature of which there are few extant examples in northwestern New Jersey, but which is strongly associated with the Delaware valley culture region. Two other notable early features can be mentioned: the plaster cove cornice of Gov. Reading's House (#13) and the unusual corner placement of the gable-end chimney in the frame, 2-story, single-pile-plan dwelling (#11) erected by another son or grandson of the governor in the 18th century.

While the exterior of a few district dwellings are quite unadorned, most exhibit some decorative detailing, typically at the eaves and front entry; decorative detailing is also common on the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 3Raritan/Readington South Branch HD,  
Raritan & Readington Twps, Hunterdon  
County, New Jersey

inside, particularly in the treatment of fireplace walls. The embellishment of these essentially vernacular structures was derived from several of the architectural styles popular in the 18th and 19th century. In the earlier houses the stylistic embellishment is of classical derivation. The paneled fireplace wall in the principal room of the Atkinson-Case-Quick House (#16) with its bolection molding around the fireplace opening, naively fluted flanking pilasters, and molded cornice is an outstanding provincial interpretation of the Baroque or pre-Palladian classical motifs that became popular in English America in the first half of the 18th-century. The Baroque or Wren/Gibbs house formula which is synonymous with Georgian domestic architecture in America is clearly, albeit conservatively, evoked in the design and detailing of the Gov. Reading House (#13), a rectangular, hip-roofed block with symmetrical facade and floor plan, austerely detailed exterior, and restrained interior which features simple raised paneling and architrave surrounds in the principal rooms. Georgian influences are also apparent in the robustly molded box cornice of #11 and the Roman-ovolo and cyma-reversa molded window trim of that house and #s 14, 16, and 24. One early 19th-century dwelling, the Joseph Reading House (#2) typifies vernacular Federal-style work of that period in the delicate moldings of its pilastered front entry, architrave door and window trim, and pilastered fireplace mantels. The c. 1839 Risler House (#1) similarly exhibits Greek Revival motifs which were popular in the region around that time; it has an almost flat roof, full entablature at the eaves, large plain corner pilasters, and a sidelighted and transomed entry.

Some evidence of Victorian stylistic influences are also found in the district. The c. 1870 main block of the Schamp-Kugler House (#19) exhibits a combination of Gothic Revival and Italianate motifs in its boxed overhanging eaves with scalloped bargeboard, chamfered porch posts, and pedimented window surrounds. The Lehigh Valley Station at Flemington Junction (#7) is a small frame structure whose board and batten siding, wide stick-bracketed eaves, and stick-work ornamented corner porches reveal both Carpenter Gothic and Stick style influences. Colonial Revival and Queen Anne influences of the late 19th/early 20th century are evident in the detailing of the few modest dwellings erected at the Junction around that time, such as the Tuscan porch columns of #s 5 and 8 and the spindle-work embellishment at the gable peak of #5.

Outbuildings are common appurtenances of district houses and substantial barn complexes are found at most of the farmsteads.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

Raritan/Readington South Branch HD,  
Raritan & Readington Twps, Hunterdon  
County, New Jersey

They include privys, small wagon houses or garages, tool or wood sheds and at several farmsteads, larger barns around which are grouped wagon houses, chicken coops, and other structures. Representative of the area's 19th/early 20th century farm culture, they are typically unadorned structures of frame construction. Five farmsteads (#s 4, 13, 15, 16, and 24) have English barns, ranging in date from a purported 18th-century date at #13 to the later 1800s at #s 4 and 24. Wagonhouses with gable-end entries survive at #s 4, 15, 16, and 24, and farmstead #4 retains an outkitchen dating c. 1851-73. A mid-20th century dairy barn is located at farmstead #11, and at #s 1, 2, and 23, modern barns and equipment sheds replace older barn complexes.

An outbuilding complex of a commercial nature is located behind house #8 at Flemington Junction. Built in the late 19th/early 20th-century period to house a still operating plumbing business, it is comprised of a number of utilitarian frame structures which include a large storage building/shop, a stable, and several sheds.

The district also contains two mill seats on the South Branch, both of which were established in the 1700s and operated well into this century. Unfortunately, at neither location do early mill buildings survive intact. The stone foundation of the Reading-Taylor grist mill (#14) at Holcomb Mills is possibly of 18th-century date and retains a datestone inscribed "1754, George Taylor A. D. 1837 R. B." The frame, 1-story gambrel-roofed superstructure was built after a fire in this century. At Rockefeller's Mill, a mid-20th century masonry and frame structure of apparently industrial origins (#17) occupies the site of and possibly incorporates the remains of the Quick-Rockefeller grist mill. The mill dam and and remnants of the raceway survive.

Bridges constitute one other category of resource in the district. They include two 19th-century, single-arched, stone road bridges (#s 3 and 20) crossing small tributaries of the South Branch, a single-span iron truss bridge (#18) of c. 1900 which carries Rockefeller Mill Road across the South Branch, and double-span steel truss bridge (#25) of evidently 20th-century date by which the Central Railroad of New Jersey's southern branch crosses the river.

An inventory of all structures and sites within the district has been prepared as part of this description. Each principal structure and site is identified by a number which locates it on



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 5Raritan/Readington South Branch HD,  
Raritan & Readington Twps, Hunterdon  
County, New Jersey

the accompanying district map. All entries have been categorized as "contributing" or "non-contributing" to the significance of the district. All outbuildings included in the inventory are contributing unless individually identified with the designation (NC). To facilitate their description, most of the dwellings have been classified according to a typology of the traditional and popular house types found in the area. Identified by letter, each type found in the South Branch district is defined in the following typology:

- A-type A 1 1/2 story, single-pile dwelling with either a one-room plan or a two-room, "hall and parlor" plan. The former generally has a two-bay facade, the latter a three or four-bay facade. Interior gable-end chimney placement is characteristic. A few 2-room-plan examples, however, have central chimneys which arrangement has both German and English antecedents. The type has been described by folklorists, cultural geographers, and architectural historians as both a British cabin and an east Jersey cottage. Widely distributed in northern New Jersey, the type is associated with both the Delaware Valley and the East Jersey/Long Island culture region. It was much more prevalent and remained more popular to a later date in the latter area.
- C-Type A 1 1/2-story, double-pile, two-room-wide dwelling usually with a 3 or 4-bay facade, or, infrequently, a 5-bay facade. Two floor plans are found: one is a three-room plan consisting of one large main room and two smaller rooms that with interior gable-end chimneys resembles the three-room "Quaker plan" recommended by William Penn; or with a central chimney, rarely encountered in northwestern New Jersey, conforms to the Germanic "Kuche-Stube-Kammer" plan. The other is a four-room plan consisting of one large main room with a smaller room behind (often partitioned off for a staircase or small stairhall) and of two small rooms to one side of about equal size. Other 3 or 4-room-plan houses with central or gable-end chimneys reveal Dutch, Germanic, and English influences. The origins of this type are, therefore, both English and continental European. Examples are also found in both the lower Delaware Valley and in east Jersey/Long Island, and, like

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 6

Raritan/Readington South Branch HD,  
Raritan & Readington Twps, Hunterdon  
County, New Jersey

the A-type, are far more numerous and remained more popular until a later date in the latter area.

- E-Type** A 1 1/2-story double-pile dwelling with a center-hall plan and a symmetrical 5-bay facade. Of the rooms flanking the center hall, the front two are usually larger than the back two which are often quite narrow. In some examples the hallway is subdivided by a partition in line with those separating the flanking rooms. This type reveals the influence of the Georgian style on the double-pile, 1 1/2-story types. It is quite common in central and eastern New Jersey, where it is often associated with Dutch inhabitants.
- I-Type** A 2-story, gable-roofed, single-pile dwelling with either a one or a 2-room plan. Fenestration patterns include 2-bay; 2-over-3-bay and 3-bay with center entries; and 4-bay with a single or paired inner-bay entries and occasionally end-bay entry. Chimney placement is gable end. Cultural geographers hold the type's origins to be English and its American cultural hearth to be the lower Delaware Valley and Chesapeake Bay regions. It was widely built in the Delaware Valley from the 18th century until the early 1900s.
- H-type** A 2-story, gable-roofed, single-pile dwelling with a center-hall plan, a symmetrical 5-bay (or occasionally 3-bay) facade and gable-end chimneys. This type evidently is a Georgian style transformation of the I-type and is common to the same regions as the I-type. Locally, however, it fell out of favor after the middle decades of the 19th century.
- J-type** A 2-story, gable-roofed, one-room-wide, double-pile dwelling with a 2-bay or 2-over-3-bay facade and with one or, less frequently, two chimneys located within one gable end. It either has a 2-room plan or a 3-room plan with one large front room and two small back rooms, one of which may serve as a stairhall. Its origins evidently are urban; houses of this type were built in 17th-century London after the Great Fire and in 18th-century Philadelphia. In the Delaware Valley it was popular in both urban and rural settings, becoming ubiquitous in many of the region's towns by the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Raritan/Readington South Branch HD,  
Raritan & Readington Twps, Hunterdon  
County, New Jersey

Section number 7 Page 7

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mid-19th century, but falling out of favor with rural builders around the same time.

**K-type** A 2-story, gable-roofed, 2-room-wide, double-pile dwelling with a 3 or 4-bay facade or, infrequently, a 5-bay facade and usually with gable-end chimneys. Two basic floor plans are encountered. One is a 3-room plan consisting of one large main room and two smaller rooms; this plan conforms to the three-room "Quaker plan" recommended by William Penn to early settlers. The other is a 4-room plan consisting of one large main room with a smaller room behind (often partitioned for a staircase or small stairhall) and with two small rooms of about equal size to one side. A central chimney version with both 3 and 4-room plans is associated with German settlers in the Mid-Atlantic region. The origins of this type are both English and continental European. It is found in both the Delaware Valley and East Jersey regions and was popular until the mid-19th century.

**M-Type** A two-story, double-pile dwelling with a center-hall plan and a symmetrical 5-bay facade. It has usually one or two chimneys within both gable ends and, less frequently, two interior chimneys. This is the classic Georgian center-hall house which continued to be built throughout the region long after the Georgian style had ceased to become fashionable, thus becoming a traditional type.

**L-Type** A two-story, double-pile dwelling with a side-hall plan and a regular 3-bay facade. It has usually one or two chimneys within one gable end or, less frequently, an interior chimney. It is two-thirds of the classic Georgian center-hall house and is widely distributed throughout the Mid-Atlantic region.

**Popular Types**

**N-Type** A two-story, double-pile, gable-roofed dwelling with its gable end as the principal facade, usually 2 or 3-bays wide, and with some form of side-hall plan. Some late examples have gambrel roofs. Chimney placement includes both paired stacks within one side wall and one

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 8

Raritan/Readington South Branch HD,  
Raritan & Readington Twps, Hunterdon  
County, New Jersey

or two interior stacks. The origins of this type appear to be in the emphasis of the Greek Revival style on the gable end which could be treated as a pediment. It is widely found in the towns of New Jersey and commonly in the country.

N<sub>1</sub>-Type An N-type with a fairly shallow, cross-gabled wing projecting from one side creating an L-shaped plan. It is also widely distributed in New Jersey.

Footnotes:

1. Rosalie Fellows Bailey, Pre-Revolutionary Dutch Houses and Families in Northern New Jersey and Southern New York, New York: Dover Publications, Inc. 1968, p. 533.

2. William Nelson, (ed.), Documents Relating to the Colonial History of the State of New Jersey. First Series, Vol. XIX, Extracts From American Newspapers, Relating to New Jersey. Vol. III 1751-55, Paterson, NJ: The Press Printing and Publishing Co., 1897, p. 311.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 9Raritan/Readington South Branch HD,  
Raritan & Readington Twps, Hunterdon  
County, New Jersey

- 1 Risler House. Frame, 2-story, flat-roofed dwelling consisting of a 3-bay, L-type main block with paired chimneys (br. stacks) in the south wall, 2-bay side wings, rear appendages, and a modern 1-story, flat-roofed south addition.

Style: Greek Revival with Colonial Revival embellishment      Date: c. 1839

There is a full entablature at the eaves with plain corner pilasters on the main block and wings. Other features include clapboard siding, 6/6 sash windows with "pedimented" architrave trim and louvered shutters, transomed main entry with sidelights, molded outer surround and plain pilasters flanking the door. The rectangular bay on the front of the south wing has a gabled Colonial Revival cornice and triple 2/2 sash windows (c. 1900-25). The flat-roofed porch which has a box cornice, square posts with molded bases and capitals, arched spindle frieze in the central entry bay, and a "checker" patterned railing (probably reworked).

An 1839 property division indicates that another house and a barn were located near the present house at that time.

Outbuildings: (1) Frame, gable-roofed wagon house (19th century) which has been incorporated into a modern stable complex. (NC) (2) Stone gate posts (20th century) mark the entrance driveway. (NC) (3) Across the road on B9.01/L1 is a modern stable complex of metal-sheathed pole barns and an exercise track with an octagonal gazebo (20th century).

Contributing      B9/L5.02      Neg. # A 33-37, B 0

- 2 Joseph Reading House. Stone, 4-bay, K-type dwelling with 2 chimneys in the west gable and 1 in the east gable (all have brick stacks with drip caps), a frame 2 over 3-bay 2-story west wing with a modern garage and 1-story appendage, and a modern frame east wing.

Style: vernacular with Federal and modern Colonial Revival embellishment      Date: c. early 19th remodeled and enlarged mid 20th century.

The main block has a box cornice with returns and large bed

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 10Raritan/Readington South Branch HD,  
Raritan & Readington Twps, Hunterdon  
County, New Jersey

molding that is carried on the raking eaves with a smaller bed molding (some reworking), coursed rubble stone with rough-squared quoins, 12/12 and 12/8 sash windows (modern) with plain trim, main entry with early transom and flanking pilasters (door and shed-roofed entry porch are modern), a transomed rear entry with recess panel-lined reveals, architrave trim and a flush-bead 8-panel door. The two wings feature clapboard siding with mostly 6/6 and 8/8 sash windows.

Outbuildings: (1) Frame, 1 1/2-story, gable-roofed wagon house (possibly 19th century) with a modern 1-story stable appendage. (C) (2) Modern frame shed. (NC)  
Contributing B9/L7 Neg.# E 36, F 2-6

- 3 Burgess Road Bridge. Masonry, single barrel-vaulted bridge of coursed rubble construction with stone voussoirs outlining the arch on both ends.

Style: none

Date: c. mid-19th, perhaps earlier or slightly later.

Contributing

Neg.# B 1

- 4 Garabrant Farmstead. Frame, 5-bay, H-type dwelling with chimneys in each gable end (brick stacks), and a 2-story rear wing with appendages.

Style: none

Date: c. 1851-60

This dwelling features a standing-seam metal roof, a box cornice with returns that is carried on the raking eaves, 2-light eyebrow windows, 6/6 and 1/1 sash windows with plain trim, a transomed central entry, and a 3-bay, hip-roofed porch with a box cornice and square posts. Recent installation of aluminum siding has covered much of this dwelling's original architectural character, which revealed a combination of Greek Revival and Italianate influences in details including a full entablature with scroll brackets, corner pilasters, and molded porch posts with brackets.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 11Raritan/Readington South Branch HD,  
Raritan & Readington Twps, Hunterdon  
County, New Jersey

Outbuildings: (1) Frame, 1 1/2-story, gable-roofed out kitchen (c. 1851-70) with a lean-to appendage on the west side. (C) (2) Frame, 1 1/2-story, gable-roofed wagon house with a gable-end entry and clapboard siding (c. 1851-80). (C) (3) Frame, 3 or 4-bay, gable-roofed, 2-story barn with a shed appendage across the south side, a perpendicular ell at the NE corner, clapboard siding, sash windows, and batten doors (c. 1851-73). (C) (4) Frame, gambrel-roofed dairy barn with two silos on the west gable end; the perpendicular ell with gable hoist on its south side was probably originally a free-standing structure (c. 1920-40). (NC)

Contributing B9/L18 Neg.# B 2-7

- 5 Frame, 3-bay, N-type dwelling with an interior chimney (brick stack) and a 2-story, gable-roofed rear ell with an exterior brick gable-end chimney.

Style: Queen Anne/Colonial Revival influences Date: c. 1899

It has clapboard siding, overhanging eaves, spindle-work embellishment at the front gable peak, 1/1 sash windows with plain trim and small cornices, an entry with glass and panel door, and an L-shaped porch with Tuscan columns on brick pedestals.

Outbuildings: Frame, gable-roofed wagon house. (NC)

Non-contributing B16/L15 Neg.# C 12-16

- 6 Minneakoning Farm/"Greenwood" Site.

The original portion of the house on this site (a J-type to judge from old photographs) is said to have been built by a grandson of Governor Reading in 1780. Subsequently enlarged and remodeled, it was known as "Greenwood" in the mid 19th century. It was later owned by Hiram Deats and his son of the same name who called it "Minneakoning Farm." The house and outbuildings were demolished after the death of the younger Mr. Deats in 1963. Elements of the house were used in constructing the buildings at the Turntable Junction/

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 12

Raritan/Readington South Branch HD,  
Raritan & Readington Twps, Hunterdon  
County, New Jersey

Liberty Village complex in Flemington.

Contributing B16/L67 Neg.#

- 7 Lehigh Valley Station. Frame, 1 1/2-story, gable-roofed railroad station.

Style: Carpenter Gothic/Stick influences Date c. 1885

This structure has wide overhanging eaves with stick brackets, clipped gables, board and batten siding with some clapboarding, tall windows (boarded up), semi-octagonal bays centered on the east and west sides, and small gabled stick-work porches at the NE and SE corners.

Outbuildings: Stuccoed masonry, 1-story, flat-roofed gas station (mid-20th century) which has been converted into a shop. Adjoining it are several fuel storage tanks and the property is enclosed by a chain-link fence. (NC)

Contributing B17/L4 Neg.# C 26-29

- 8 William Stothoff House and Shop. Frame, 3-bay, N<sub>1</sub>-type dwelling with an interior chimney (brick stack) and a slightly lower rear extension which has a shed appendage on its south side.

Style: late Victorian and Colonial Revival influences Date: c. 1885

Exterior features include a slate roof with gable dormers, boxed overhanging eaves, spindle-work at the east gable peak, clapboard siding, 2/2 sash windows with plain trim, a transomed entry, and an L-shaped porch with Tuscan columns.

Outbuildings: (1) Frame, 1 1/2-story, gable-roofed office with clapboard siding, modern windows and an attic entry with glass and panel door (20th century). (NC) (2) Frame, 2-story, gable-roofed warehouse/stable with a slightly lower east gable-end extension, clapboard siding, an interior chimney, multi-pane sash windows, batten doors, and a



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 13Raritan/Readington South Branch HD,  
Raritan & Readington Twps, Hunterdon  
County, New Jersey

bracketed shed roof sheltering entries on the east side at the rear (late 19th/early 20th century). (C) (3) Frame, 2-story, gable-roofed wagon shed/stable with several shed-roofed appendages, clapboard siding, batten doors, and sash windows (late 19th/early 20th century). (C) (4) Frame, 1-story, 5-bay, gable-roofed (asymmetrical) equipment shed with clapboard siding, 6/6 sash windows, and batten doors (early 20th century) (C); abutting its south end is a 1-story, flat-roofed, cement-block appendage (mid-20th century). (NC)

Contributing

B17/L6

Neg.# C 17-22,D 26-30

- 9 Frame, 2-bay, 2 1/2-story, hip-roofed dwelling with an interior chimney (brick stack), an exterior brick chimney, and a 2-story, hip-roofed south wing.

Style: Colonial Revival influencesDate: 1910-25

This house has a hipped dormer on the front, boxed overhanging eaves, and wood shingle siding above the clapboarded first story. The treatment of the front entries and the flat-roofed front appendage appears to be an alteration.

Non-contributing

B17/L7

Neg. # C 23-25

- 10 Daniel R. Reading Farmstead. Stone and brick, 2-bay, J-type dwelling with a 3-bay east extension which has a chimney in its east gable, and a rear lean-to appendage.

Style: ColonialDate: c. 1750-70,  
enlarged early 19th,  
remodeled in late 19th  
and 20th century

The notable feature of this house is the Flemish bond brick work with dark headers on the west wall of the main block. Other exterior features include shed dormers (20th century), boxed overhanging eaves with bed molding (19th century), coursed rubble stone, mostly 6/6 sash windows with timber lintels and plain trim, a ghost of a pent roof on the west gable of the main block, a transomed front entry with a

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page I4Raritan/Readington South Branch HD,  
Raritan & Readington Twps, Hunterdon  
County, New Jersey

Victorian panel door, and a shed-roofed porch with square posts (late 19th century). The rear of the main block has an entry with a recessed 4-panel door and one of the west windows has been converted into a door.

Outbuildings: (1) Frame, shed with a lean-to addition. (NC) (2) Frame, chicken coop with barn appendage. (NC) (3) Frame, shed-roofed chicken coop. (NC) (4) Frame garage with novelty siding. (NC) (5) Stuccoed, 1 1/2-story cottage (c. 1930-40). (NC) (6) Frame, 2-story "school house" (19th century) with a 3-bay south gable-end front, 4-bay side walls, stuccoed stone foundation, clapboard siding, boxed overhanging eaves, 2/2 sash windows with plain trim, and a central entry with glass and panel door. (C)

Contributing

B17/L9

Neg.# C 30-37, DD 2-12

11

Daniel K. Reading Farmstead. Frame, 5-bay, H-type dwelling with chimneys in both gable ends (brick stacks; west chimney has plastered exposed back, the east chimney is triangular and located in the northeast corner) and a blocked furnace flue on the front, a gable-roofed 2-story rear wing at the east end with a shed-roofed addition on its west side, and a shed appendage on the east side.

Style: Georgian influencesDate: c. 1760-90,  
subsequently enlarged  
and remodeled

The molded box cornice and flush west-gable eaves on the main block are original, while the east gable-end and the additions have overhanging eaves. The exterior is clapboard with most of the original quirk-beaded boards remaining on the south and west sides. Other features include 9/6 and 6/6 sash windows with ovolo-molded architrave trim and louvered shutters, an entry porch with a low-pitched hip-roof, built-up entablature and square posts (mid-19th or 20th century), and a transomed central entry with ovolo-molded architrave trim and raised six-panel door backed by diagonal, quirk-beaded boards.

Outbuildings: (1) Frame, gabled well curb which retains its plank & lattice enclosure and wooden roller (19th century).

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page I5Raritan/Readington South Branch HD,  
Raritan & Readington Twps, Hunterdon  
County, New Jersey

(C) (2) Frame, 1 1/2-story, gable-roofed shed with clapboard siding and modern appendage (19th century). (C) (3) Frame, 1 1/2-story, gable-roofed wagon house with a gable-end entry (19th century). (C) (4) Frame, gambrel-roofed dairy barn with a silo and milk house appendage (c. 1920-40). (NC)

Contributing B16/L37 Neg.# C 5-9, 11  
DD 21-25

- 12 Stone and frame, 2-story, gable-roofed dwelling with 1-story side wings, one of which incorporates a cellar-level garage.

Style: Colonial Revival influence Date: c. 1950-60

Non-contributing B17/L10 Neg. # D 15 & 16

- 13 Governor Reading House. Brick, 5-bay, hip-roofed, M-type dwelling with three interior chimneys (brick stacks).

Style: Georgian Date: c. 1760

This house features a plaster cove cornice, Flemish bond brick work with some glazed headers, particularly on the east end, and with the date 1760 marked in glazed headers on the west end, molded brick water table, segmentally-arched windows on the basement and first floor levels with 12/12 sash replacements, and a central double-doored entry with six-light transom.

Outbuildings: (1) Brick, 1-story, gable-roofed summer kitchen with a Dutch door hung on strap hinges (18th century). (C) (2) Frame, 1-story, gable-roofed shed with a 3-bay protective overhang (19th century). (C) (3) Frame English barn with clapboard siding on a hewn frame (18th century). (C) (4) Frame, gable-roofed barn with hewn frame (early 19th century). (C)

It was individually listed on the National Register in 1979.

Contributing B27/L29 Neg. # D 21-26

- 14 Reading/Taylor House & Mill. Frame, 3-bay, I-type dwelling

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 16Raritan/Readington South Branch HD,  
Raritan & Readington Twps, Hunterdon  
County, New Jersey

with a chimney in each gable-end (brick stacks; east one has exposed stone back), a 2-bay west extension with a gable-end chimney (brick stack), a stone lean-to on the east gable-end at the cellar level, and a shed-roofed rear wing with a chimney (brick stack).

Style: Georgian influences with Colonial Revival embellishment      Date: c. 1770-1810, enlarged & remodeled in 19th and 20th.

This house has a standing seam metal roof with a box cornice and flush raking eaves, clapboard siding, 6/6 and 9/6 sash windows with ovolo-molded architrave trim on the I-type main block (plain elsewhere), and a shed-roofed front porch with turned posts and modern horizontal railing supported by stone posts. The central front entry of the I-type has ovolo-molded architrave trim and a six-panel door with delicate moldings; bank cellar entry has a batten door. 20th century modifications include the L-shaped porch on the rear ell with partial enclosure and squat Tuscan column on cobblestone pedestal, some modern entry doors, and the Colonial Revival hood over the rear main entry.

Outbuildings: (1) Cobblestone, hip-roofed well house (c. 1915-40). (NC) (2) "Grist Mill", while the stone foundation is probably of 18th century date (a date stone set in the foundation is inscribed "1754, George Taylor A.D. 1837 R.B.") the frame, gambrel-roofed super-structure was rebuilt after a fire in this century (C); a frame equipment shed abutting its east end. (NC) (3) Frame garage. (NC)

Contributing      B28/L7A      Neg.# D 36 & 37,  
E 2-15

15

Barber Farmstead. Frame, 3-bay, A-type dwelling with a chimney in the west gable-end (plastered brick stack; east gable-end chimney has been removed), and a lean-to addition on the east gable-end with a modern appendage.

Style: none      Date: c. 18th or early 19th century, remodeled in 20th.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page I7

Raritan/Readington South Branch HD,  
Raritan & Readington Twps, Hunterdon  
County, New Jersey

Most of the exterior fabric appears to be of 20th-century provenance. It features a wood shingle roof (c. 1970) with flush eaves, clapboard siding, 1/1 and 2/2 sash windows with plain trim, an L-shaped porch with turned posts, off-center entry with glass and panel door, and a central entry on the north side with a gabled hood. The modern appendage on the lean-to houses a bathroom.

Outbuildings: (1) Frame wood shed (mid-20th) with plank siding which replaces a frame "out kitchen". (NC) (2) Frame privy. (C) (3) Cement-block pump house. (NC) (4) Frame garage with plank siding and batten doors. (NC) (5) Four frame chicken coops. (NC) (6) Frame equipment shed. (NC) (7) Concrete-block chicken house. (NC) (8) Frame English barn with clapboard and board & batten siding, batten doors hung on strap hinges, and an ell and a silo at the NE corner (early 19th century). (C) (9) Frame, 1 1/2-story, wagon house with gable-end entries, side wall corn cribs, and plank siding (19th century). (C) (10) Concrete-block, 1 1/2-story, gable-roofed dairy barn with a gabled milk-house appendage (1965). (NC) (11) Frame corn crib (possibly 19th century). (C)

Contributing

B27/L30

Neg.# D 27-35

16

Atkinson-Case-Quick Farmstead. Frame, 3-bay, C-type dwelling with chimneys in each gable end (brick stacks), an embanked cellar above grade on the north side and a modern west appendage.

Style: Colonial Revival embellishment

Date: c. 1750-80,  
enlarged & remodeled  
in mid 20th century.

This house features a slate roof with gable dormers (20th century), box cornice and flush raking eaves, and a stucco exterior. Some of the 8/8 sash windows retain their original pegged timber frames with cyma reversa outer molding. The west appendage with board and batten siding and the central entry's door are modern alterations.

The interior retains considerable early fabric including a wide timber-linteled fireplace in the cellar kitchen, a

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 18Raritan/Readington South Branch HD,  
Raritan & Readington Twps, Hunterdon  
County, New Jersey

corner fireplace with panelled chimney breast and built-in cupboard in the northwest room above, and most notably a panelled fireplace wall in the main room with a heavy bolection molding around the fireplace opening, fluted flanking pilasters, and a robust cornice.

Outbuildings: (1) Frame, 3-bay, garage/equipment shed with a gable-end lean-to, clapboard siding and batten doors (late 19th or 20th century). (C) (2) Frame, 4-bay English barn with a north gable-end lean-to, south gable hoist, plank siding and batten doors (19th century). (C) (3) Frame, 1 1/2-story wagon house/stable with a bank cellar, south gable hoist, plank siding and batten doors (19th century). (C)

Contributing B36A/L22 Neg.# E 29-35

- 17 Quick-Rockafellow Mill. Stuccoed masonry and frame building that succeeded and possibly incorporates remnants of the earlier grist mill on the site. Its construction appears industrial in form and finish, however, it is now occupied as a residence.

Style: none Date: c. mid-20th

Outbuildings: The mill dam and traces of the mill race (19th century) remain. (C)

Non-contributing B73/L23 Neg.# F 33-35

- 18 Rockafellow Mill Bridge. Metal truss bridge with masonry abutments and a plank deck.

Style: none Date: late 19th

Contributing Neg.# F 32

- 19 Schamp/Kugler House. Frame, 3-bay, I-type dwelling with a west gable-end chimney (brick stack), a lower I-type east wing (possibly built in two parts) with a central chimney (brick stack), and a further 1-story appendage at the east end.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 19

Raritan/Readington South Branch HD,  
Raritan & Readington Twps, Hunterdon  
County, New Jersey

Style: Italianate/Gothic Revival  
embellishment

Date: c. 1870 (main  
block), 18th or early  
19th (east wing)

The main block features boxed overhanging eaves with scalloped barge boards, clapboard siding, 4/4 sash windows with shouldered and pedimented architrave trim, a central main entry with similar trim and a recessed 4-panel door with "carved pendants" in the top panels, a shed-roofed porch with boxed eaves, saw-tooth frieze on the ends and chamfered posts with molded capitals, and a stone bank cellar. The earlier wing has flush eaves, clapboard siding, 6/6 sash windows, and a shed-roofed porch with square posts and an enclosed east end.

Contributing

B37/L3

Neg.# E 23, 24 & 28

20

River Road Bridge. Masonry, single barrel-vaulted bridge of coursed rubble stone construction with stone voussoirs outlining the arch on both ends.

Style: none

Date c. mid-19th,  
perhaps earlier or  
slightly later

Contributing

Neg.# E 25-27

21

Frame, 3 over 4-bay, C-type dwelling with gable-end chimney (brick stack).

Style: none

Date: c. early 19th

Exterior features include a box cornice with flush raking eaves, modern asbestos shingle siding, 2/2 sash replacements, and a flat-roofed porch with enclosed left end and screen enclosure. A modern, 1-story, flat-roofed appendage has recently been constructed on the left side.

Outbuildings: Frame, 2-story, gable-roofed wagon house. (C)

Contributing

B73/L25

Neg.# D 21-

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 20 Raritan/Readington South Branch HD,  
Raritan & Readington Twps, Hunterdon  
County, New Jersey22 Graveyard. Small family plot with several head stones.

Contributing B73/L24 Neg. #

23 Frame, L-type dwelling with east gable-end chimney (exposed back), 2-story, 4-bay rear ell with an interior chimney (brick stack) and attached garage.Style: Colonial Revival embellishment Date: c. late 18th, early 19th century.

This house has overhanging eaves, modern aluminum siding, various multi-pane sash windows, and a shed-roofed porch on the front.

Outbuildings: Modern, frame, 1-story barn. (NC)

Contributing B73/L22 Neg. # D 35-37, A 2-5

24 Ryerson/Quick House. Stone and brick, 5-bay, gambrel-roofed, E-type dwelling with chimneys in each gable end (brick stacks with water tables and drip caps), a frame, 1 1/2-story, gable-roofed wing on the right side with a gable-end chimney (brick stack with a water table and drip cap), and a frame, 1 1/2-story, gable-roofed left side wing with a gable-end chimney (stuccoed brick stack).Style: Dutch Colonial Date: c. 1738-50

The main block of this dwelling is an outstanding early example of its type. Notable features include the gambrel roof with kicked overhang and the Flemish bond brick veneer on the south front. Other features include segmentally-arched windows with early 12/8 sash on the rear and 2/2 sash front replacements with panelled shutters, gable dormers, and a central entry with 4-light transom and panel door. The right side wing (late 18th century) features gable dormers, a box cornice with flush raking eaves, a shed-roofed porch, clapboard siding, and 9/6 sash windows. The slightly-higher left wing (early to mid-19th century) has clapboard siding, 6/6 sash windows, and a shed-roofed porch.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 21Raritan/Readington South Branch HD,  
Raritan & Readington Twps, Hunterdon  
County, New Jersey

This house retains much of its original interior fabric including the mantels, doors and trim.

Outbuildings: (1) Large frame English barn (19th century). (C) (2) Frame, gambrel-roofed barn (late 19th) perpendicular to the English barn. (C) (3) Frame, wagon house with gable-end entry (19th century). (C)

Contributing B73/L17 Neg.# A 6-19

25 Railroad Bridge. Metal, two-span, truss bridge.

Style: none Date: c. 20th century

Non-Contributing Neg.# D 13 & 14

26 Frame, 1-story, gable-roofed dwelling.

Style: none Date: 20th-century

Non-Contributing BI7/I00.03 Neg.# SB 24

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 2Raritan/Readington South Branch HD,  
Raritan & Readington Twps, Hunterdon  
County, New Jersey

Despite the intrusion of modern development from burgeoning Flemington into the lowlands along the South Branch, the district retains to a remarkable degree the essentially rural character that it had at the end of the 19th century. The district's resources -mostly 18th and 19th-century farm houses with attendant outbuildings, but including a train station, several small bridges, and two mill seats- are in general well preserved and evidence relatively few modern alterations. Their spatial organization is dispersed except for three small concentrations. The survival of these buildings and their distribution are what give the district its distinctive historical character. Collectively the buildings possess architectural significance. Their forms, construction, decorative embellishment, and siting provide a representative illustration of the rural region's essentially vernacular architecture in the 18th and 19th centuries. A number of buildings are of individual note. Several 18th-century houses exhibit features that are not common to the area's surviving early dwellings; among them are the corner placement of a gable end chimney (#11), a plaster cove cornice (#13), evidence of a gable end pent roof (#10), and the incorporation of a single brick wall in an otherwise stone-built dwelling (#10 and 24). One of the latter, the Ryerson-Quick House (#24), is the only house in Hunterdon County to have a gambrel roof with the distinctive proportions and kicked eaves associated with the Dutch building in eastern New Jersey. The 1760 Gov. Reading House (#13) with its symmetrical, hip-roofed, rectangular form is a rare local example of the Wren/Gibbs design formula associated with 18th-century Georgian architecture. The c. 1839 Risler House (#1) with its low-pitched roof, full entablature and corner pilasters is a good example of local interpretation of the Greek Revival style popular at that time. Because of the close family relationship of the original owners, there may have been some connection -direct or indirect- between the Risler House and the two well-known Greek Revival dwellings, the Reading-Large and John G. Reading Houses, erected for members of the Reading family by master builder Mahlon Fisher in Flemington in the mid-1840s.<sup>1</sup> The Lehigh Valley Station (#7) is also of architectural interest as a well preserved example of the small, Carpenter Gothic train stations which once proliferated around the region, but of which there are few survivors.

Although the community's two grist millshave not survived, the remnants of their foundations and hydrosystems may have the poten-

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 3Raritan/Readington South Branch HD,  
Raritan & Readington Twps, Hunterdon  
County, New Jersey

tial to yield important archaeological information about the area's 18th and 19th-century industrial development. Archaeological resources also may exist in the environs of other district buildings, and in particular at the "Greenwood/ Minneakoning Farm" site (#6), a c. 1780 Reading family house demolished in the late 1960s.<sup>2</sup>

European settlement in southern Hunterdon County began in the first decades of the 18th century, initiated largely by pioneer agriculturalists of English, Dutch, and German stock.<sup>3</sup> The earliest known settler along the stretch of the South Branch encompassed by the district, John Reading, Jr. (1686-1767), was of English Quaker background, but not a subsistence farmer like most of the pioneers. The only son of Col. John Reading, a West Jersey proprietor and governmental official, settled on the Delaware River just above Stockton, New Jersey, John Reading, Jr. was a surveyor and Proprietary agent who about 1715 or shortly thereafter established his homestead on lands amounting to over 1,000 acres and including the entire northern half of the district which he and his father had acquired by several purchases some years earlier.<sup>4</sup> His homestead was located just outside of the district on the site of the Lipton plant; the house that he purportedly built there about the time of his marriage in 1720 was torn down in the mid-1960s.<sup>5</sup> John Reading, Jr. married Mary Ryerson, a woman of Dutch descent from northeastern New Jersey, and her brother Col. Martin Ryerson (b. 1698, d. 1771-90) was another early settler along the South Branch. Col. Ryerson acquired substantial acreage on the east side of the river and presumably settled there c. 1726-37, erecting his 1 1/2-story stone house with its distinctive Dutch gambrel roof (#24) around that time or somewhat latter.<sup>6</sup>

Land along both sides of the river at the southern end of the district evidently was part of the almost 5,000-acre proprietary tract owned by Joseph Kirkbride. In 1730 John Reading, Jr. acquired a portion of Kirkbride's vast holdings around what is now called Holcomb Mills; a grist mill (site #14) was established there before 1755 and on an elevation above the mill Gov. Reading's brick Georgian house (#13) was built in 1760.<sup>7</sup> Newspaper advertisements of 1766-67 for the sale of the property give an extensive description of its improvements which constituted a well-developed mill hamlet. Adjoining the stone mill were "a good frame house, (possibly #14) with two rooms on a floor, for a miller, a house for a carter, cooper's shop, etc." and appurtenant to the brick main house, a brick kitchen and storeroom, wash house, brick shop, frame barn and other outbuildings.<sup>8</sup> In 1745, Kirkbride's executors con-

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

Raritan/Readington South Branch HD,  
Raritan & Readington Twps, Hunterdon  
County, New Jersey

veyed 252 acres encompassing the site of Rockafellow's Mill to Thomas Atkinson who probably established the grist mill there (site #17) and built the embanked 1 1/2 story stone house (#16); land on the east side of the river (#23) which Kirkbride had sold in 1710 to Cornelius Bogart and Nicholas De La Mater was acquired in 1733 by Nicholas Emmons who appears to have settled on the property. <sup>9</sup>

At least four of John Reading's sons settled near their father on his holdings along the South Branch. Eldest son John (1722-66) evidently located on the northern portion of the property (lands to the north of Bartles Corner Road which included the sites of farmstead #s 1 and 2).<sup>10</sup> Col. George Reading (1725-92), the Governor's second son, received title to the 2-acre mill lot at Holcomb Mills from his father in 1755 and the adjoining 255-acre farm with the brick house, where he may have lived with his father, in 1767 a few months before the latter's death.<sup>11</sup> Captain Thomas Reading (1734-1814) occupied his father's original homestead dwelling with 400 adjoining acres, and Captain Daniel Reading (1727-1768) was settled on 390 acres between the holdings of his brothers George and Thomas (encompassing the sites of #s 6, 10, and 11).<sup>12</sup> Daniel Reading married in 1755, and the stone house (#10), whose west wall is of Flemish bond brickwork with glazed headers, quite possibly was erected by him around that time.

In dividing his extensive New Jersey landholdings among his heirs, Governor Reading took steps to insure that most of the South Branch property would remain in the possession of his male descendants for at least two generations. He gave his sons John, Daniel, and Thomas only a life interest in the land allotted to them, actually vesting title to each portion in the two eldest sons of each of his three sons. While John's portion was entailed by deed, Gov. Reading placed the portions of his other two sons in trust in a codicil to his will with the stipulation that an equitable division be made upon each son's youngest child reaching the age of twelve. Gov. Reading made similar arrangements in the codicil for his father's plantation on the Delaware River, "Mount Amwell," which he allotted to his son Joseph.<sup>13</sup>

That at least some of the Governor's descendants shared his feeling for the South Branch property is clear from the arrangements which several of his great-grandchildren made to divide the property which they inherited upon the intestate death of their father, John Reid Reading (1756-1821), the eldest son of the Governor's son Daniel. Although John Reid Reading left no will, his

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 5Raritan/Readington South Branch HD,  
Raritan & Readington Twps, Hunterdon  
County, New Jersey

children agreed to comply with his wish that the South Branch property inherited from the Governor go to his two sons, Robert Kennedy Reading (1790-1853) and Daniel Reid Reading (1796-1868).<sup>14</sup> The younger brother retained ownership of his farm (#10) until 1858, and it was only in 1866 when the heirs of the elder brother disposed of their inheritance (site #6) that the last of the Governor's original South Branch acquisitions passed out of the hands of the family.<sup>15</sup>

In light of the care which he took with the devolution of his South Branch holdings, it is surprising that Gov. Reading did not similarly entail the 255-acre property with the brick Georgian house which he deeded to his son George in 1767. The Governor perhaps discriminated between his family's original proprietorial holdings along the South Branch and property that he subsequently acquired. In fact, less than one month after George received the 255-acre farm from his father, it passed out of the family's hands when he sold it and the adjoining mill to John Gregg.<sup>16</sup> That George Reading advertised the property for sale, along with other holdings in which he had an interest, several times during the year before he received title to it, on one occasion stating that he did so to raise money, is an indication of his financial difficulties. These largely resulted from the business failure of the ironworking venture, Squires Point Forge on the Musconetcong River in northeastern New Jersey, which he tried to develop in partnership with his brothers Thomas and Daniel and his uncle Martin Ryerson.<sup>17</sup> No doubt seeking greener pastures George Reading, along with two of his sons, moved to western Pennsylvania early in the Revolutionary War and later to Kentucky, where he died in 1792.<sup>18</sup>

Col. Ryerson also became deeply embarrassed financially because of debts incurred in the forge operation, and in 1769 offered for sale his 355-acre homestead farm on the South Branch along with nine other tracts of land and several slaves.<sup>19</sup> Two years later a petition was presented on his behalf to the Governor's Council (signed by 26 individuals and read by neighbor Thomas Atkinson) testifying to his good character and distressed circumstances and requesting that he might be relieved by an act of the legislature. No relief was forthcoming, and sometime thereafter, if not before, the South Branch property presumably was sold. In 1772-75 Ryerson's wife and three of their sons are said to have removed to Sussex County, New Jersey. Although Ryerson is thought to have died before their departure, administration was not granted on his estate until 1790.<sup>20</sup>

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 6Raritan/Readington South Branch HD,  
Raritan & Readington Twps, Hunterdon  
County, New Jersey

Fortunately for Thomas and Daniel Reading, the trusts established by their father protected their homestead farms from the Squires Point Forge debacle. Daniel unfortunately died as a result of a hunting accident in 1768, and as stipulated in his father's will, his widow and children presumably received the "profits" of the 390-acre homestead until his youngest child reached the age of twelve.<sup>21</sup> Sometime thereafter in accordance with the will, and probably about 1784, the property evidently was divided between Daniel's sons, John Reid Reading (1756-1821) and Daniel Reid Reading (1763-1834). The younger brother was 21 in 1784, and the Amwell Township Ratables list of that year for the first time assessed both brothers for improved acreage.<sup>22</sup> John Reid's portion appears to have included both the stone and brick house (#10) possibly built by his father and the "Greenwood" site (#6), whose original house he may have built c. 1780.<sup>23</sup> He may have occupied both houses at different times during his life, although his widow's release of her dower rights stipulated that she should have the use of rooms in the house on the east side of the road (#10), suggesting that they resided there in later years.<sup>24</sup> Daniel Reid's portion encompassed the site of #11, a frame house of 18th-century date, which evidently was his residence.<sup>25</sup>

Governor Reading's eldest son John died in 1767 and the latter's will also directed that the "profits" from his homestead farm, deeded by his father to his two eldest sons John and Charles, should go to his wife until his youngest child reached the age of twelve.<sup>26</sup> The division of the homestead, the South Branch lands north of Bartles Corner Road, between the brothers must have been made between 1773 when their youngest sister Mary was twelve and 1780 when they were assessed separately for property in the Amwell Township Ratables List.<sup>27</sup> Captain John Reading (c. 1751-1821) received the southern end of the homestead encompassing the site of #2; Major Charles Reading (b. c. 1753, d. after 1817) got the northern end which included the site of #1 where he is said to have lived, possibly in the "old house" there mentioned in an 1839 property division.<sup>28</sup>

The descendants of both Daniel and John Reading retained portions of their South Branch patrimony until well into the 19th century. As previously mentioned, brothers Robert K. and Daniel R. Reading, grandsons of Daniel by his son John Reid Reading, divided their father's homestead between themselves in 1826; Daniel R. Reading kept his farm (#10) until 1858, and the heirs of his broth-

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 7Raritan/Readington South Branch HD,  
Raritan & Readington Twps, Hunterdon  
County, New Jersey

er, who died in 1853, sold their inheritance (site #6) in 1866.<sup>29</sup> Farmstead #11, the portion of Daniel Reading's son Daniel Reid Reading, descended by inheritance to Daniel Reid's grandson Daniel Kennedy Reading (1827-53), and was sold out of the family only after the latter's early death.<sup>30</sup> Captain John Reading's portion passed to his son Joseph Reading (1778-1853), who probably was responsible for building the early 19th-century stone house there (#2), where he lived until his death.<sup>29</sup> Like several of his forebearers, Major Charles Reading became financially embarrassed and consequently transferred title of his 199-acre South Branch farm to trustees in 1817; later that year the property was deeded to George Risler (1789-1820), the husband of Major Reading's daughter Jemima (1785-1853).<sup>30</sup> After the division of the property in 1839 the Rislers' son George W. (1817-?) reassembled much of the farm, including lot #6 apportioned to his brother Mahlon on which the "new house" (#1) stood.<sup>31</sup> George W. Risler apparently lived on the farm until 1866 when he sold it out of the family.<sup>32</sup>

The political prominence of John Reading, Jr. resulted from his wealth as a large landowner, the basis of political power in 18th-century New Jersey, a period when the right to vote and hold public office was restricted to property owners. As a surveyor and agent for the West Jersey Proprietors, among whom his father Col. John Reading numbered, Reading acquired considerable property which coupled with extensive holdings inherited from his father (who died in 1717) made him one of the largest landowners in northwestern New Jersey. Little more than a year after his father's death he was nominated by Governor Hunter to a seat on the provincial council, and shortly thereafter appointed by the governor to the commissions which delineated the boundary lines between New Jersey and New York and East and West Jersey. While John Reading, Jr. did not take his seat on the provincial council until 1721, he held that official for many years thereafter and as president of the council twice served as acting governor of the colony, for two months in 1747 upon the death of Gov. Hamilton and for nine months in 1757-58 after the death of Gov. Belcher. Among other positions of public trust, he was commissioned Colonel of a Hunterdon County militia regiment in 1727 and appointed one of the judges of a court which tried pirates in 1728.<sup>33</sup>

Governor Reading's descendants and relatives living in the South Branch neighborhood also held many important positions of public trust. Martin Ryerson, Gov. Reading's brother-in-law, was appointed a judge of the Court of Common Pleas in 1748 and was made

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 8Raritan/Readington South Branch HD,  
Raritan & Readington Twps, Hunterdon  
County, New Jersey

a colonel of a militia regiment.<sup>34</sup> The Governor's eldest son John was collector of Hunterdon County in 1745-47, second son George was commissioned a justice of the peace for Hunterdon County in 1755 and represented the county in the colonial assembly between 1761 and 1767, and third son Daniel was county collector from 1759 until 1765 and served as a militia captain.<sup>35</sup> Governor Reading's son Thomas was also a judge of the Court of Common Pleas; he was commissioned captain of the sixth company of the third New Jersey regiment in 1776-77, and in 1778 was appointed one of the state's agents to secure army provisions and other war supplies.<sup>36</sup> The Governor's grandson John Reading (son of his eldest son and known as "Valiant John") was an ensign in his Uncle Thomas's company in 1776, subsequently became a first lieutenant, and later held a captain's commission; John's brother Charles served in the Revolutionary War as a lieutenant and captain in the Hunterdon County militia. After the war he was a militia major and in 1792 became a member of the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders. The Governor's great-grandson Joseph Reading (the son of grandson John) also served as a county freeholder, and his great-grandson Robert Kennedy Reading was commissioned a justice of Hunterdon County's Court of Common Pleas and Orphans Court in 1830.<sup>37</sup>

Most of the Readings were Presbyterians (the Governor's father having converted from Quaker faith), and several were active in the local church. Gov. Reading bequeathed Amwell Township's eastern Presbyterian congregation money for communion silver.<sup>38</sup> His son Thomas was a founder and trustee of the Presbyterian Church at Flemington and elected an elder of the congregation in 1797; his grandsons Charles Reading and John Reid Reading and great-grandsons Robert Kennedy Reading and Joseph Reading were also trustees of the church for many years.<sup>39</sup>

One other public service performed by a descendant of Gov. Reading can be mentioned. Daniel Kennedy Reading, a great-great-grandson who died unmarried at an early age, became a benefactor of local education by bequeathing \$6,000 for the construction of a public school at Flemington. Named Reading Academy in honor of its donor, the school served as the community's high school from 1862 until 1915.<sup>40</sup>

Gov. Reading's brick house and the adjoining grist mill property, sold out of the family by George Reading in 1767, changed hands quite frequently in subsequent years. Among the later 18th-century owners was Edward Shippen, a prominent and wealthy Phila-



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 9Raritan/Readington South Branch HD,  
Raritan & Readington Twps, Hunterdon  
County, New Jersey

delphian with misgivings about American independence from Britain, who used it as a retreat from that city during the Revolutionary War. A shrewd businessman, Shippen paid 3,200 pounds for the 267 acres in 1776 and sold it two years later for 9,000 pounds, making a handsome profit which he is said to have used to finance the marriage of his daughter Peggy to General Benedict Arnold.<sup>41</sup> A physician Dr. Amos Gregg owned the property from 1780 until 1791, by which date he was living in Philadelphia. During his tenure a saw mill was operated in conjunction with the grist mill.<sup>42</sup> The mill property was separated from the rest of the tract in 1809.<sup>43</sup> William Taylor acquired the mill in 1814 and evidently moved into the brick house upon his marriage to the widow of Richard Hixon, who bought the house and appurtenant farm in 1812 and died c. 1825.<sup>44</sup> Hixon's property was subdivided among his heirs, and the lots encompassing the Barber Farmstead (#15) were subsequently purchased by Taylor's son William and Jacob Shoemaker in 1835, who sold the property to James Barber in 1850.<sup>45</sup> Taylor's son George evidently rebuilt the grist mill in 1837, which after the father's death in the following year was owned by a succession of individuals and continued in operation until early in this century when, known as Holcomb Mills, it was destroyed by fire.<sup>46</sup>

Martin Ryerson's South Branch property was acquired about 1790 by Tunis Quick (1762-1836), who evidently moved there shortly thereafter.<sup>47</sup> A large landowner and wealthy farmer, Quick was assessed for 450 acres on the 1802 Readington Township Ratables List, by a wide margin the largest holding in the township in that year.<sup>48</sup> The east wing of the house (#24) was probably built by him early in his tenure, if not added before then; the west wing apparently dates to the 19th century, and may have been built by his son Jacques V. Quick. The South Branch homestead remained in the Quick family until the 1870s.<sup>49</sup> The farm just east of the Ryerson-Quick property was the portion of the Kirkbride tract acquired by Nicholas Emmons in 1733. His family owned the farm until the mid-19th century; the late 18th/early 19th-century house (#23) there may have been erected by him or by one of his sons or grandsons.<sup>50</sup> Tunis Quick was also a miller, and in 1825 he purchased the nearby grist mill and house (#16 and site #17) owned by Thomas Atkinson until 1784. Tunis Quick conveyed the title of the property to his son Jacques in 1826, and the latter evidently owned it until the 1860s.<sup>51</sup> The mill's place name comes from Alexander S. Rockafellow, the most prominent subsequent owner of the property.<sup>52</sup>

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 10Raritan/Readington South Branch HD,  
Raritan & Readington Twps, Hunterdon  
County, New Jersey

The rural agricultural character and settlement pattern long established along the South Branch continued throughout the 19th-century with little change except for the periodic replacement of buildings at the various farmsteads, the gradual subdivision of property, and the occasional creation of a new farm, like that of the Garabrant Farmstead (#4) in the 1850s.<sup>53</sup> As descendants of the Readings and other early settlers sold their patrimonies and moved away, others succeeded them. Of particular note among the later 19th-century newcomers to the neighborhood, was Hiram Deats, a successful manufacturer of agricultural implements, the most important of which was an improved plow patented by his father John Deats. Hiram Deats acquired the "Greenwood" property (#6) in the 1870s, but did not finally retire there until 1884. His son Hiram E. Deats (1870-1963) lived on the property, renamed "Minneakoning Farm," throughout most of his life. He achieved prominence as a local historian and writer, benefactor of the Hunterdon County Historical Society and Flemington Public Library, and promotor of education at all levels.<sup>54</sup>

The construction of railroad lines along and across the South Branch in the second half of the century, heralded changes in land use which only began in earnest in the past several decades. First to be built in the early 1870s was the Central Railroad of New Jersey's South Branch line from Somerville to Flemington, which crossed the river a short distance south of Holcomb Mills.<sup>55</sup> It was followed in 1873-75 by the construction of the Easton and Amboy Railroad, along a route down the valley of the South Branch in Raritan Township and crossing the river north of Holcomb Mills continuing along the east side of the river in Readington Township. The Easton and Amboy was subsequently acquired by the Lehigh Valley Railroad who opened a branch line to Flemington in 1883; the Flemington Junction station (#7) was built c. 1885.<sup>56</sup> While it had little immediate impact in the South Branch neighborhood, this connection made a great contribution to the economic growth and industrial development of the Flemington area in the late 19th and early 20th century era. At the Junction, however, only a few houses were built in that period (#s 5, 8, and 9) and a plumbing business (#8) established by the Stothoff family which continues in operation today.<sup>57</sup>

While passenger service was abandoned on the Flemington branch line in 1952 and the station closed some years thereafter (the station property is now owned by a fuel oil company which established a yard there), the presence of the two main railroad lines caused

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 11Raritan/Readington South Branch HD,  
Raritan & Readington Twps, Hunterdon  
County, New Jersey

Raritan Township to zone considerable property along the river for industrial uses.<sup>58</sup> No doubt attracted by the railroad and the river, a large chemical factory was erected on River Road south of Holcomb Mills in the 1950s before the institution of zoning in the Township. In the 1960s, the Lipton Tea Company acquired Governor Reading's original homestead farm just northeast of Flemington Junction and built a large manufacturing plant there; the house held to have been erected by the governor c. 1720 and subsequently occupied by his son Thomas was removed by Lipton in the mid-1960s. The "Greenwood/Minneakoning Farm" property (site #6) was sold after the death of Hiram Deats in 1963, and the buildings demolished in the late 1960s.<sup>59</sup> Industrial zoning, coupled with the general decline of agriculture in the area, has had a markedly negative impact on the architectural resources of the South Branch neighborhood. Fortunately, the relatively more isolated Readington Township side of the South Branch has been relatively unscathed by new development. Despite a hiatus in the 1970s and early 1980s, development pressure in the area continues today, although uncertainty about the exact route and timing of the proposed Route 31 by-pass (most likely just west of the district, but not for many years to come) has perhaps preserved the industrial zoned lands on the west side of the district from immediate development. While abandoned and under-utilized farm buildings on both sides of the river have continued to deteriorate, the district still retains much of its rural character and many significant resources. Responding to the recent loss of notable buildings and the prospect of more development in the future, officials of both Readington and Raritan Townships have sponsored this nomination to secure the historical recognition that the South Branch District so richly deserves and as an important step in instituting a local preservation policy.

Notes

<sup>1</sup> William Basset, Historic American Building Survey of New Jersey. Newark, NJ: The New Jersey Historical Society, 1977, pp. 48 and 49; and Josiah Granville Leach, Genealogical and Biographical Memorials of the Reading, Howell, Yerks, Watts, Latham, and Atkins Families. Philadelphia: J.P. Lippincott Co., 1898, pp. 55, 68 and 69.

<sup>2</sup> "Hiram Deats to Doris Raridan Mertan, 4/4/1940." Reading Family File, Hunterdon County Historical Society.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 12

Raritan/Readington South Branch HD,  
Raritan & Readington Twps, Hunterdon  
County, New Jersey

<sup>3</sup> Hubert G. Schmidt, Rural Hunterdon, New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1945, pp. 29-34; and Peter Wacker, Land and People. A Cultural Geography of Pre-industrial New Jersey: Origins and Settlement Pattern, New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1975, p. 127.

<sup>4</sup> James P. Snell, (ed.) History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, New Jersey, Philadelphia, Everts & Peck, 1881, pp. 182, 188, and 302; and D. Stanton Hammond, "Hunterdon County, New Jersey." Map Series # 4, Sheet G, Genealogical Society of New Jersey, 1965.

<sup>5</sup> Raritan Township, Flemington & Environs, Raritan Township Bicentennial Committee, 1976, p. 38.

<sup>6</sup> Rosalie Fellows Bailey, Pre-Revolutionary Dutch Houses and Families in Northern New Jersey and Southern New York. New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1968 (reprint of 1936 limited edition), p. 531; and Albert Winslow Ryerson, The Ryerson Genealogy. Chicago: Edward L. Ryerson, 1916, p. 14.

<sup>7</sup> Schmidt, p. 57; Snell, p.302; Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 3, page 499; New Jersey Colonial Conveyances, Book O, page 174 and Book X, page 276; Amwell Township Tax Ratables, 1780; and Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 3, page 499.

<sup>8</sup> William A. Whitehead, et al. (eds.), Documents Relating to the Colonial, Revolutionary, and Post Revolutionary History of the State of New Jersey. First Series, Vol. XXV, pp. 47, 215, and 308. (These volumes will be cited hereafter as N. J. A., First Series.)

<sup>9</sup> Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 3, page 499 and Book 2, page 386.

<sup>10</sup> Snell, p. 302; and Leach, p. 119.

<sup>11</sup> New Jersey Colonial Conveyances, Book O, page 174 and Book X, page 276.

<sup>12</sup> Leach, pp. 122-23; and Snell, p. 302.

<sup>13</sup> Leach, pp. 122-23; N. J. A., First Series, Vol. XXXII, p. 344.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 13

Raritan/Readington South Branch HD,  
Raritan & Readington Twps, Hunterdon  
County, New Jersey

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<sup>14</sup> Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 36, page 202; and Leach pp. 57 and 58.

<sup>15</sup> "Hiram Deats to Doris Raridan Mertan, 4/4/1940." Reading Family File, Hunterdon County Historical Society.

<sup>16</sup> Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 1, page 457.

<sup>17</sup> N. J. A. First Series, Vol. XXV, pp. 47, 215, and 309; and Phyllis Ryerse, "The Other Martin Ryerson and Squire's Point Forge." The North Jersey Highlander. Vol. XI (Summer, 1975) pp. 8-12.

<sup>18</sup> Leach, pp. 44-45.

<sup>19</sup> N. J. A. First Series, Vol XIX. p. 389; and Bailey, p. 531.

<sup>20</sup> Bailey, p. 531.

<sup>21</sup> Leach, pp. 49 and 122-23.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid. pp. 43 and 44; and Amwell Township Tax Ratables, 1784.

<sup>23</sup> Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 41, page 13.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid. Book 32, page 72.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid. Book 41, page 13; and Snell p. 302.

<sup>26</sup> N.J. A. First Series, Vol. XXXII, p. 344.

<sup>27</sup> Leach, p. 41; and Amwell Township Tax Ratables, 1780.

<sup>28</sup> Leach, p. 55; Snell, p. 302; and Hunterdon County Divisions, Book 1, pages 465 and 468.

<sup>29</sup> Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 36, page 202; Leach pp. 57 and 58; and "Hiram Deats to Doris Raridan Mertan, 4/4/1940." Reading Family File, Hunterdon County Historical Society.

<sup>30</sup> Snell, p. 302; Leach, pp. 60 and 73; and Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 108, page 503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 14

Raritan/Readington South Branch HD,  
Raritan & Readington Twps, Hunterdon  
County, New Jersey

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<sup>29</sup> Snell, p. 302; and Leach, pp. 55 and 68.

<sup>30</sup> Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 27, page 91 and Book 28, pages 138 and 139; and Leach, pp. 56 and 69.

<sup>31</sup> Hunterdon County Divisions, Book 1, page 468; and Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 135, page 2.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid, Book 135, page 2; and J. C. Sidney, Plan of the Township of Raritan, Hunterdon County, New Jersey, Philadelphia: Richard Clark, 1850.

<sup>33</sup> Leach, pp. 23-26; and Raritan Township, Flemington & Environs, Raritan Township Bicentennial Committee, 1976, p. 38.

<sup>34</sup> Bailey, p. 531.

<sup>35</sup> Leach, pp. 41, 44, 45, and 49

<sup>36</sup> Ibid. p. 52.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid. pp. 55, 68, and 71.

<sup>38</sup> East Amwell Bicentennial Committee, A History of East Amwell 1700-1800, Ringoes, NJ: 1976, p. 212; and Leach. p. 122.

<sup>39</sup> Leach, pp. 52, 55, 57, 68, and 71.

<sup>40</sup> Ibid. p. 73; and Raritan Township, Flemington & Environs, Raritan Township Bicentennial Committee, 1976, p. 38.

<sup>41</sup> Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 1, pages 457 and 461, Randolph Shipley Klein, Portrait of an Early American Family, Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1975, pp. 131 and 185.

<sup>42</sup> Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 1, page 468 and 472; and Amwell Township Tax Ratables, 1784.

<sup>43</sup> Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 16, page 234 and 419.

<sup>44</sup> Ibid. Book 22, page 340; and Hunterdon County Wills, Book 7, page 126.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 15Raritan/Readington South Branch HD,  
Raritan & Readington Twps, Hunterdon  
County, New Jersey

<sup>45</sup> Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 63, page 508 and Book 96, page 572; and Hunterdon County Divisions, Book 1, page 96.

<sup>46</sup> Datestone inscription on the mill's foundation; and Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 76, page 350, Book 96, page 491, and Book 104, page 599.

<sup>47</sup> Bailey, pp. 331-32.

<sup>48</sup> Readington Township Tax Ratables, 1802.

<sup>49</sup> Bailey, p. 332.

<sup>50</sup> Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 2, pages 386 and 422, Book 69, page 388, and Book 136, page 184; and Readington Township Tax Ratables, 1802; and F. W. Beers, County Atlas of Hunterdon, New Jersey, New York, F. W. Beers & Co., 1873, p. 67.

<sup>51</sup> Bailey, p. 332; and Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 38, page 391, Book 41, page 57, and Book 181, page 82.

<sup>52</sup> Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 241, page 57 and Book 353, page 570.

<sup>53</sup> Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 116, page 72; and and F. W. Beers, County Atlas of Hunterdon, New Jersey, New York, F. W. Beers & Co., 1873, p. 67.

<sup>54</sup> Raritan Township, Flemington & Environs, Raritan Township Bicentennial Committee, 1976, p. 55.

<sup>55</sup> Snell, p. 112.

<sup>56</sup> Snell, p. 116; Stephen R. Burgess, Flemington Junction Ringoes, NJ: the Black Diamond Railroad Museum, Inc., 1971, p. 21; and Raritan Township, Flemington & Environs, Raritan Township Bicentennial Committee, 1976, pp. 20-21.

<sup>57</sup> Raritan Township Historic Sites Survey, Bertland Associates, 1987, #s 1021-125 and 1021-126.

<sup>58</sup> Raritan Township, Flemington & Environs, Raritan Township Bicentennial Committee, 1976, pp. 20-21.

<sup>59</sup> Ibid. p. 55.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 9 Page 2Raritan/Readington South Branch HD,  
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County, New Jersey

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 9 Page 3Raritan/Readington South Branch HD,  
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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 4 Raritan/Readington South Branch HD,  
Raritan & Readington Twps, Hunterdon  
County, New Jersey

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Hunterdon County Deed Books  
Hunterdon County Mortgage Books  
Hunterdon County Road Returns  
Hunterdon County Will Books

New Jersey Archives, State Library, Trenton, NJ

Amwell Township Tax Ratables, 1780-1803  
New Jersey Colonial Conveyances  
Readington Township Tax Ratables, 1774-1802

United States Census

Population Schedules, Readington and Raritan Townships,  
1850-1880  
Industrial Schedules, Readington and Raritan Townships,  
1850-1880

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 2

Raritan/Readington South Branch HD,  
Raritan & Readington Twps, Hunterdon  
County, New Jersey

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UTM References:

- A - 18/512560/4488440
- B - 18/513780/4486400
- C - 18/515540/4485700
- D - 18/515380/4484700
- E - 18/514560/4484860
- F - 18/514610/4485260
- G - 18/513940/4485520
- H - 18/513880/4485100
- I - 18/513280/4485160
- J - 18/512040/4488200

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 10 Page 3Raritan/Readington South Branch HD,  
Raritan & Readington Twps, Hunterdon  
County, New JerseyVerbal Boundary Description and Justification

Beginning at the point in Raritan Township where Rockafellow's Mill Road crosses the Raritan River, running due south, then east, and again south along the east side of said road from the river to the southwest corner of lot 2 of block 37. The boundary then runs due east along the southern border of lot 2 to the northeast corner of lot 3 of block 37, then proceeds in a southwesterly direction along the irregular southeastern border of lot 3 until it rejoins the Rockafellow's Mill Road. The boundary line crosses the road and turns due south along the west side of the road to the southeast corner of lot 22 of block 36.01, then turns west along the southern border of said lot to its southwest corner where the boundary line turns due north, then east, and again north along the western border of lot 22 until it meets the River Road.

It turns west and proceeds along the south side of the road past lots 21, 20, 19 and 17, all of block 36.01, crosses the River Road Extension and the Pennsylvania Avenue Extension and continues along the south side of River Road past lots 34 and 31, both of block 27, to the northeast corner of lot 40 also of block 27, then turns due west along the border of lot 40 to a corner then south along the eastern border of lots 40 and 30 to the southeast corner of lot 30 where it meets the Black River and Western Railroad. The boundary line turns due west across lot 30 to the southeast corner of lot 28 of block 27, then north and briefly northeast along the eastern boundary of said lot to a point where it rejoins the south side of River Road, then north along the road to the intersection of River Road and Route 523 where it turns and runs east along the north side of that road to the southeast corner of lot 55 of block 16, then north along the eastern border to its northeast corner, then west along the northern border to a point where it meets the New Jersey Power and Light Company's right of way.

The boundary line turns northwest and runs along the east side of the right of way and crosses Route 612 (Bartles Corner Road), then turns east and runs along the north side of the road to the southeast corner of lot 22 of block 9, then north along the eastern border of said lot to its northeast corner, then west along the northern border of lot 22 to its northwest corner where it rejoins the power company's right of way. The boundary line turns north and runs along the eastern side of the right of way to a point where it meets the northwest corner of lot 5.02 of block 9, from there it turns due east and runs along the northern border of said

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 10 Page 4Raritan/Readington South Branch HD,  
Raritan & Readington Twps, Hunterdon  
County, New Jersey

lot to its northeast corner where it meets Burgess Road. It crosses said road, turns north and follows the east side of that road to a point where it meets the Conrail Railroad. The boundary then turns southeast and runs along the west side of the railroad right of way, crosses Route 612 and continues in the same direction along the railroad to the northeast corner of lot 100.04 of block 16. The line turns briefly due west to the northwest corner, then southeast along the western border of lot 100.04 to its southwest corner where it meets the Raritan River.

The boundary line continues across the river and into Readington Township where it runs along the southern border of lot 102 of block 73 to its southeast corner. It turns briefly north then southeast along the railroad right of way to a point where it meets Rockafellow's Mill Road. It crosses the road then turns south along the east side of the road past the intersection at River Avenue and continues along Rockafellow's Mill Road across the Raritan River, and back into Raritan Township to the point of beginning.

The boundaries of the South Branch District were delineated to include to the greatest extent possible, its significant architectural and historical resources, with not only the fewest non-contributing structures but also with sufficient amounts of visually and historically critical open space.

On the north and east sides of the district the Conrail right-of-way (the old Lehigh Valley line) provided an appropriate boundary line of convenience which excluded the large inobtrusive Lipton plant, but allowed the inclusion of the several contributing resources on the Readington Township side of the river which are historically and visually linked to the district. On the west side of the district a power line right-of-way similarly provided a boundary of convenience in an area of mostly open agricultural lands, beyond which mostly modern land uses predominate. To the south, however, the boundary is more irregular as it follows property lines to exclude modern uses, jogging noticeably to avoid the large factory complex and modern houses on River Road.

United States Department of the Interior  
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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number photo Page 1

Raritan/Readington South Branch HD,  
Raritan & Readington Twps, Hunterdon  
County, New Jersey

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### Photographic Identification:

The following information is the same for all of the photographs submitted with the nomination:

Name: Raritan/Readington South Branch Historic District

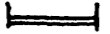
Location: Raritan and Readington Townships, Hunterdon County, NJ

Photographer: Dennis Bertland

Date of photographs: #s 1 to 31 are Spring 1988  
#s 32 to 44 are December 1988

Negative repository: Bertland Associates,  
Box 11, Port Murray, NJ 07865

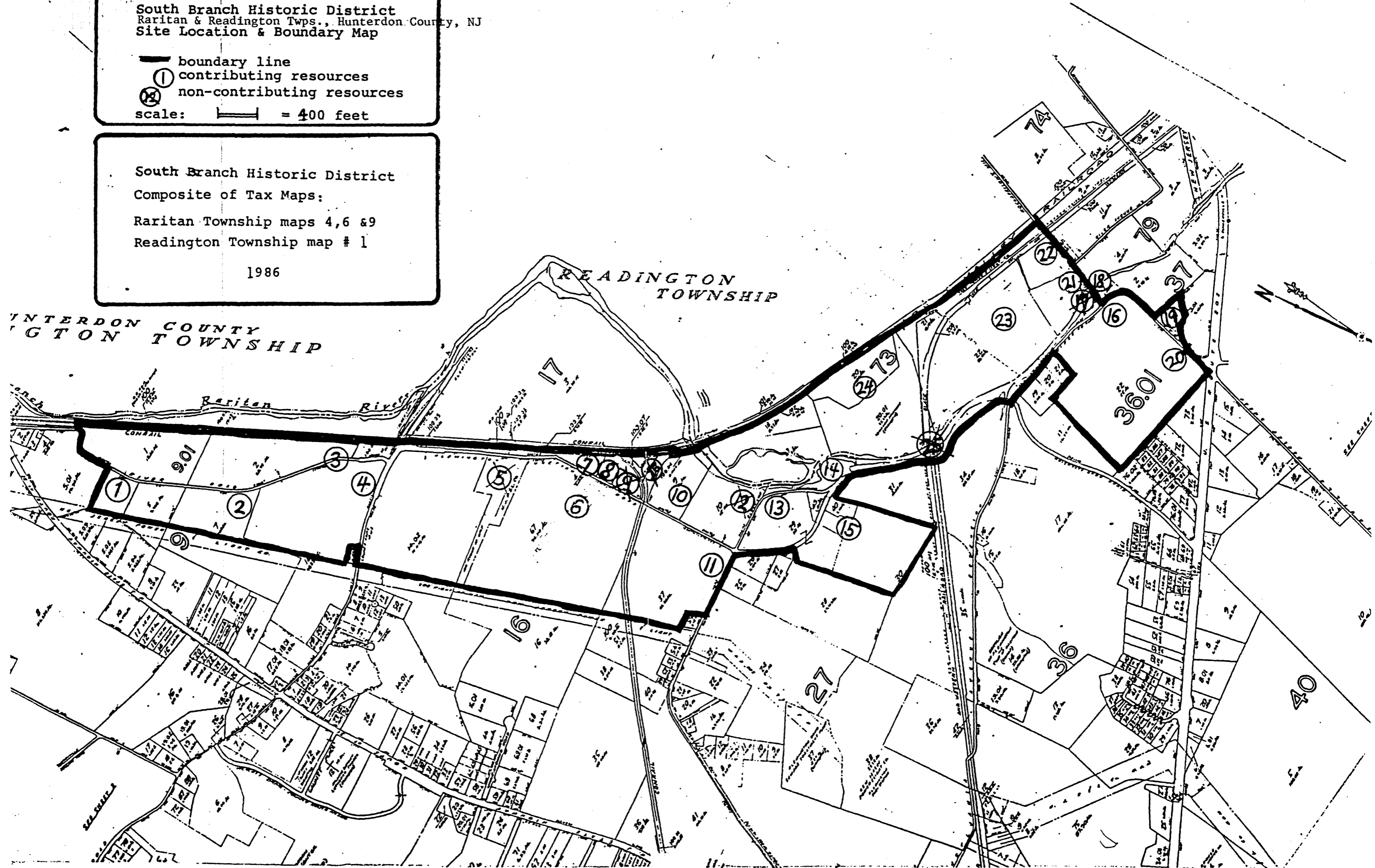
South Branch Historic District  
Raritan & Readington Twps., Hunterdon County, NJ  
Site Location & Boundary Map

- boundary line
  - ① contributing resources
  - ⊗ non-contributing resources
- scale:  = 400 feet

South Branch Historic District  
Composite of Tax Maps:

Raritan Township maps 4, 6 & 9  
Readington Township map # 1

1986



South Branch Historic District  
Raritan & Readington Twps, Hunterdon County, NJ  
Photo Directional View Map



number identifies photo  
& arrow the direction of  
view

scale:  =400 feet

