

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

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

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HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

1. Name of Property

historic name Kennedy-Martin-Stelle Farmstead

other names/site number Rev. Samuel Kennedy Parsonage Farmstead

2. Location

street & number 450 King George Rd. not for publication

city or town Bernards Township (Basking Ridge) vicinity

state NJ code NJ county Somerset code 035 zip code 07920

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Marc A Matsil Signature of certifying official/Title 6/1/03 Date
Marc A Matsil, Assistant Commissioner, 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 for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

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

Signature of the Keeper 5/5/2004 Date of Action
Patrick Andrews

Kennedy-Martin-Stelle Farmstead
Name of Property

Somerset, NJ
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply) **Category of Property** (Check only one box) **Number of Resources within Property** (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
4	1	buildings
<hr/>		
		sites
<hr/>		
2	2	structures
<hr/>		
		objects
<hr/>		
6	3	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

AGRICULTURAL/storage

AGRICULTURAL/animal facility

AGRICULTURAL/agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/Not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Post-medieval, English

Dutch Colonial

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls vinyl

roof shiplap

asphalt

other wood shingle

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Education

Politics/government

Period of Significance

c. 1762-1852

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Kennedy, Samuel, Rev.

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unk.r.own

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

SHPO Letter of Opinion HPO-E01-150

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Kennedy-Martin Stelle Farmstead

Name of Property

Somerset, NJ

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 4.397

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 18 539816 4500707
Zone Easting Northing

3
Zone Easting Northing

2

4
 See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dennis Bertland & Janice Armstrong

organization Dennis Bertland Associates date November 5, 2001

street & number P.O. Box 11 telephone 908-689-6356

city or town Port Murray state NJ zip code 07865

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

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

Photographs

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

Additional items

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

Property Owner

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

name The Township of Bernards

street & number 277 South Maple Ave. telephone 908-204-3018

city or town Basking Ridge state NJ zip code 07920

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

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1 Kennedy-Martin-Stelle Farmstead, Somerset County, NJ

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Located in Bernards Township in northern Somerset County about a half mile north of Interstate Route 78, the Kennedy–Martin–Stelle Farmstead is picturesquely sited on the banks of the Passaic River at the end of the lane leading from busy King George Road. Linearly sited along the lane, the farmstead comprises a large assemblage of vernacular buildings that range from the 18th to the 20th centuries in date. Its principal elements are a Dutch-framed, one-and-one-half-story house, built in the 18th century and remodeled in the 19th and 20th centuries; a four-bay, 18th-century English barn with “dropped” or lower level stable at the east end and a four-bay extension to the west added c. 1840; a gable-fronted wagon house exhibiting hybrid Dutch/English framing and dating c. 1790-1820; a frame, five-bay cowshed erected c. 1825-50; and a frame, gambrel-roofed dairy barn built in the early 20th century. Ancillary structures include a stone well and brick ice pit, both probably predating 1850, but with 20th-century superstructures, and a concrete silo adjoining the barn. An in-ground swimming pool, now filled in, and adjoining pool shed are fairly recent additions to the complex. A mix of lightly wooded and open land surrounds the farmstead, which occupies a small remnant of its historic acreage. On the east, the property drops off to a riverside meadow. The meadow is partially wooded especially to the north and south, and wooded public parkland occupies the opposite riverbank. Small grassy fields are located between the house and barns and to the west of the barns. A hedgerow separates the farmstead from former farm fields to the south, also in municipal ownership, and another hedgerow along the northern property line screens adjoining modern residential development. Seven small outbuildings, once part of the farmstead, but now off-site, are not included in the nomination. Five of them (two work shops, an equipment shed, pump house, and small tenant cottage, all of early/mid 20th-century date) are sited west of the barn on lot 20.01; two, presumably 19th-century buildings (a double crib/wagon shed and a shed) are located on the north side of the driveway opposite the main barn on lot 17.01.

House:

(feature #1 on the site map)

The farmstead’s substantial frame dwelling consists of a one-and-one-half-story, gable-roofed main block dating to the 18th century, which has acquired Victorian cross gables and 20th-century appendages at its east end. While the main block’s fenestration pattern may be mostly early, except for the paneled front door and boxed overhanging eaves which presumably date to the Victorian remodeling, the exterior fabric appears to be 20th century. No doubt, the window sashes were replaced and the quadrant gable windows and the stick-bracketed front entry hood added in the early 20th century, probably in conjunction with the construction of the Colonial Revival porch predating the extant east appendage. The latter was added in 1961/62, and the vinyl siding installed in 1989. (see Section 8, page 32). See photo #s 1–5.

Physical evidence suggests that the 6-bay, double-pile-plan main block is the result of at least two building campaigns: a mid 18th-century unit encompassing the western half of the main block that was laterally extended to the east by the late 1700s. The junction between the original section, quite possibly

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2 Kennedy-Martin-Stelle Farmstead, Somerset County, NJ

the dwelling referenced in a 1767 advertisement for the sale of the property, and the east extension is readily apparent in the attic and living room ceiling (see Section 8, page 17).

A portion of the beaded clapboard cladding of the original section's east gable, attached with hand-wrought nails, remains in the attic and is indicative of 18th-century construction (photo #51). The doubling of the living room ceiling beams in alignment with this gable provides additional evidence of the two builds, and the mortises in the western of the two beams must have accommodated studs of the original unit's east gable-end wall (photo #34). However, there is no corresponding foundation in the cellar below; perhaps this wall was subsequently removed or the stone cellar was built at one time and supported a one-story east appendage that was replaced or incorporated into the present east half of the main block.

Both sections of the main block appear to be Dutch-framed and feature double-pile first-story plans, along with end-wall chimneys (that of the west unit becoming an interior stack upon construction of the east unit). All of the visible framing members are hewn timber, and the partition between the front and rear first-story west rooms is filled with mud nogging packed on hand-split slats, a typical early construction feature (photo #s 29 & 32). The west half of the main block has three first-story rooms, although the front room (which now incorporates a portion of the east extension) may have been divided into two rooms at one time (photo #s 32 & 33). The west-unit's chimney has a massive stone base and provides the middle rear room with a corner fireplace, which retains a simple Georgian style mantel (photo #s 31 & 37). The corresponding front fireplace may also originally have had a corner placement, as suggested by an angled floor timber below; however, it was subsequently rebuilt to face south (photo #s 30, 31 & 32).

The east half of the main block's first-story plan consists of two east rooms, a narrow hall with enclosed staircase to the west on the rear and a corresponding space to the west front, possibly an entry hall originally, now forming part of the living room (photo #s 38, 41 & 42). The east chimney vents a brick cooking fireplace with north-jamb bake oven (typical of the 18th/early 19th-century construction) in the southeast room, the original kitchen (photo #41), and the canted corner in the smaller room to its rear is evidence that it also had a corner fireplace. Other early features include flooring and plaster in several rooms, some architrave door with an ovolo/cavetto outer molding, several raised panel doors hung on strap hinges, a number of batten doors and the horizontal board wainscot in the southeast room (photo #s. 37, 38, 43 & 44). The Federal style mantel in the living room probably dates to the 1820s or 1830s (photo #35), and the cast iron bake oven door presumably is a mid 19th-century replacement (photo #42).

Although the attic story may have been unfinished originally, the common practice in the region's early one-and-one-half-story houses, the presence of a stairwell railing of simple Federal style type in the upper hall suggests that the upper story was finished, at least in part, as living space by the late 18th/early 19th-century period, as does the presence of a few batten doors with Norfolk latches

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3 Kennedy-Martin-Stelle Farmstead, Somerset County, NJ

(photo #s 45, 47 & 48). Partitioned into a number of small bedrooms opening from a narrow hallway, the upper story undoubtedly was remodeled in conjunction with the addition of the cross gables. While the flooring and some simple bead-edge woodwork, along with the batten doors, are earlier, most fabric appears to be of mid/late 19th-century provenance like the four-panel doors (recessed panels outlined with molding) and molded door and window trim (photo #s 45 – 50

The enlargement of the living room to its present configuration probably occurred in the early 20th century as part of the Colonial Revival updating of the house. The living room fireplace presumably was rebuilt to face south in conjunction with that work, and its Federal style mantel reinstalled (photo #s 32 & 33). The house acquired central heat, plumbing and electricity by the 1930s. However, the finishes and fixtures of the present kitchen (located in the northeast room behind the old kitchen) and bathrooms date to the mid/late 20th century (photo #s 36 & 48). The family room appendage at the east end of the house was built in 1961/62, replacing the earlier screen porch, and has a brick fireplace and pine paneling typical of that era (photo #39). A portion of the foundation is stone and may survive from a shed appendage predating the porch. Other late 20th-century work includes removal of plaster from the living room ceiling, along with the installation of built-in bookcases there and reproduction “Colonial” hardware on the front door (photo #s 32 & 33).

Wagon house: (feature #2 on the site map)

Located northwest of the house along the farm lane, the wagon house is a frame, one-and-one-half-story, building with gable-end entries. Presumably the “wagon house” mentioned in Oliver Stelle’s 1832 estate inventory, it can be dated ca.1790–1820 on architectural grounds (see Section 8, page 24).

A shed appendage on the north side appears to be a mid-20th-century addition. The foundation is stone and the roof asphalt shingle. The gable-end facades are covered with wood shingle siding, as is the wall concealed by the north appendage. However, only on the west gable-end wall are the framing members cut to receive shingle lath, suggesting that the other walls were clapboarded originally. The south wall is covered with early 20th-century novelty-siding, the shed appendage with vertical boards. The extant wagon entry and loft doors, hung on strap hinges, are probably 19th century; the date of window’s multi-pane sashes is unknown date. Photo #s 6 – 10.

The mostly hewn-timber wagon house displays a combination of Dutch and English framing techniques. Many, but not all, of the upper story joists are directly joined to upright posts in the end walls and at mid-span. The roof is framed with common rafters, incorporating collar beams and wind bracing. The interior is divided into two dirt-floored wagon bays separated by partition covered with horizontal boards. One bay retains a cogged wagon hoist suspended from the ceiling beam. A staircase, entered from the exterior and enclosed with wide iron-oxide painted boards, provides access to the loft above. The plank-floored loft retains built-in grain bins that appear to be original fabric, and the adjoin-

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4 Kennedy-Martin-Stelle Farmstead, Somerset County, NJ

ing exterior wall features brick nogging, evidently an attempt at rodent protection. The wagon house is a contributing resource. Photo #s 6 – 10.

English barn: (feature #3 on the site map)

The farmstead's main barn stands some yards west of the wagon house on the south side of the driveway. Built in two parts, the large frame barn consists of a four-bay English barn, apparently of 18th-century date, and a three-bay lateral extension to the west, probably added c. 1840. The original section to the east incorporates a dropped east end-bay stable, and this feature, coupled with the physical evidence of an appendage at its west end predating the extant west addition, suggests that it could be the "good Barn, [with] a Stable at each End" noted in an 1767 advertisement for the sale of the property (see Section 8, page 17). Certainly, features like the hewn-timber common rafter/pegged wind brace framing assemblage present in the east half of the barn are suggestive of an early construction date. The four-bay extension to the west, also of mortise-and-tenon, hewn-timber construction, evidently incorporates the frame of a smaller English barn. The extension may be the "new barn" mentioned in Clarkson Stelle's 1850 estate inventory, and both sections probably represent the "two large Barns" mentioned in an 1852 sale advertisement (see Section 8, page 28).

With the exception of the coursed rubble stone foundation, nearly all of the barn's exterior fabric is of 20th-century date including the asphalt shingle roof, novelty siding, batten sliding doors at the main wagon entry, smaller stable doors, and small multi-pane sash windows (Photo #s 14 – 16). An earlier wood shingle roof survives beneath the present cladding, and a section vertical of plank siding attached with cut nails remains the narrow passageway between the west extension and the adjoining dairy barn (Photo #s 19 & 22).

The interior also bears evidence of subsequent reworking but retains much of its original character. Five bents divide the east half into four bays. The threshing floor occupies the west inner bay flanked by narrower aisles, which originally contained haymows (photo #s.18 – 21). The dropped stable creates a mezzanine-like area in the wider east-end bay. The hewn timber bents incorporate substantial cross members, although some elements have been damaged or replaced. The roof frame consists of large hewn common rafters (tapering slightly from plate to peak and connected at the ridge with a lap joint) that are notched to receive the exceptionally long wind braces (photo #s 19 & 20). The exterior walls are framed with saw cut studs. The presence of studs in the upper portion of the west end bent (what would have been the original west gable), in conjunction with the lack of studs or stud mortises below, is evidence of an earlier west appendage (Photo #18). The flooring is recycled ship planking installed sometime after 1960.

The framing of the three-bay west extension indicates that it began as a narrower, three-bay English barn that was moved next to the original barn and enlarged by lengthening the bents to the north and constructing a new roof. Like that of the original barn the roof is framed with common rafters with-

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5 Kennedy-Martin-Stelle Farmstead, Somerset County, NJ

out purlins and supporting posts. The lower portion of the west bay was enclosed, probably sometime around the middle of the last century, to create a large box stall or storage area (photo #s 17).

The barn is a contributing resource.

Cowshed: (feature #4 on the site map)

The frame cowshed evidently dates the second quarter of the 19th century. It probably is the “cow shed” mentioned in Clarkson Stelle’s 1850 inventory and the “Cow House” noted in the 1852 sale advertisement (see Section 8, pages 26–28).

Of hewn-timber, mortise-and-tenon construction, the long, relatively narrow, two-story, gable-roofed building began as a three-bay unit and was enlarged two bays on the south end. A shed appendage on the west side probably dates to the early 20th-century, and the installation of cow stanchions on the lower level presumably is contemporary with that addition, long with the poured-concrete foundation. It retains early cut-nailed vertical plank siding on its east side; the addition features novelty siding on its west side. The cowshed is a contributing resource..

Ice pit/pump house: (feature #5 on the site map)

Standing southeast of the house, this small, frame, one-story shed features a gable roof, overhanging eaves and novelty siding (photo #25). A batten-door entry is located on the west side, a small window on the south gable end. It purportedly was used to house a pump for pumping water from the river and, judging from its construction, probably dates to the early 20th century or some years later. The shed conceals a feature, which, although filled with debris, appears to have been a small brick ice pit, probably of mid 19th-century date. It is a contributing resource.

Well: (feature #6 on the site map)

Located conveniently near the house, the round, stonewalled well of unknown depth presumably dates to the 19th-century, if not earlier. The square, frame well curb appears to be of late 19th or early 20th-century provenance (photo #26). It features an overhanging gable roof with saw-tooth-edged vertical siding on the gables. Horizontal siding enclosures the lower portion of the curb; latticework panels were used above. The well is a contributing resource.

Dairy barn: (feature #7 on the site map)

Sited perpendicularly to the main barn, and separated from it by a narrow passageway, the frame, gambrel-roofed dairy barn evidently was built in the early 20th century (photo #s 27 & 28). It was enlarged to the west some decades later creating the present asymmetrical roof. The foundation is poured

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 6 Kennedy-Martin-Stelle Farmstead, Somerset County, NJ

concrete, and the walls and roof trusses are framed with small saw cut lumber. Exterior features include overhanging eaves, novelty siding, and multi-pane sash windows and stacked batten doors on the south end, surmounted by a hoist overhang at the roof peak. The first story featured rows of metal cow stanchions and poured concrete manure troughs; the open upper level served as the hay loft. The dairy barn is a non-contributing resource.

Silo: **(feature #8 on the site map)**

The poured concrete silo with domed metal roof probably was constructed in conjunction with the mid-20th-century expansion of the adjoining dairy barn. It is a non-contributing resource.

Pool/pool house: **(feature #9 on the site map)**

The poured-concrete in-ground swimming pool located between the house and barns was installed during the second half of the last century (photo #s 53 & 54). Enclosed with a split-rail fence, the pool has been recently filled in. The adjoining pool house, an insubstantial frame structure, probably is contemporary with the pool. The pool and pool house constitute a non-contributing resource.

Integrity:

Although subject to a number of alterations during the last century, the Kennedy-Martin-Stelle Farmstead still possesses the ability to reflect its historical and architectural significance. Despite modifications, the house, main barn and wagon house retain most of their character defining features. The non-contributing outbuildings present relatively little negative impact. Although the historical integrity of its surroundings has been compromised to a limited degree by adjacent modern development, the property still evokes the setting of its historical period in such features as the relationship of the house to the river and fields; it consequently retains essential integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7 Kennedy-Martin-Stelle Farmstead, Somerset County, NJ

SIGNIFICANCE CONTINUATION SHEET

Significant Person

Martin, Ephraim, Col..

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 8 Kennedy-Martin-Stelle Farmstead, Somerset County, NJ

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Kennedy–Martin–Stelle Farmstead, a tranquil and historically significant, vestige of Bernards Township’s rural past, is noted for two prominent eighteenth-century figures who owned the farm and resided there: Reverend Samuel Kennedy, an important local minister and educator; and Colonel Ephraim Martin, a Revolutionary War soldier and New Jersey legislator. These two individuals were locally significant respectively in the areas of education and politics/government. As pastor of the Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church, Samuel Kennedy established a classical school while residing at the farmstead, one of the earliest such academies in New Jersey, which garnered a considerable reputation for a short period. As a member of the upper house of the New Jersey legislature for over twenty-five years Federalist, Colonel Martin figured prominently among the state’s Federalist politicians and had an important role in securing New Jersey’s approval of the Bill of Rights to the U.S. Constitution by the legislature in 1789. The farmstead also possesses architectural significance, largely because of its early barn, the centerpiece of a diverse complex of vernacular frame buildings that range from the 1700s to the 1900s in date. The four-bay eastern half of the main barn (possibly constructed as early as the 1760s and certainly no later than about 1800 when the property was owned by Oliver Stelle), is a notable early example of the English barn type, exhibiting two rare surviving features: hewn common rafters with pegged wind braces and a “dropped” or lower level stable at one end. A three-bay extension to the west, also of mortise-and-tenon, hewn-timber construction, was added c. 1840 utilizing the frame of a smaller English barn. Despite this addition and other alterations contemporary with the construction of the adjoining dairy barn in the early 20th century, the original English barn can be readily distinguished and remains relatively well preserved.

Five other structures built before 1850 contribute to the property’s architectural significance: the farmhouse, the wagon house, the cowshed, the icehouse and the well. With its double-pile, laterally expanded plan and Dutch framing system, the one-and-one-half-story farmhouse typifies the region’s early domestic architecture. Its main block may date in part to before the Revolutionary War and is undoubtedly no later than the early 1800s. Despite extensive remodeling during the Victorian era and again in the Colonial Revival mode around the middle of the last century, the house retains some notable early fabric like the beaded clapboards attached with hand-wrought nails visible in the attic, and more may remain intact behind later finishes. The wagon house and cowshed similarly exhibit some 20th-century alterations but remain good examples of the small outbuildings once characteristic of the region’s farmsteads. Featuring gable-end entries and upper-level loft with built-in grain bins, the mostly hewn-timber wagon house displays a combination of Dutch and English framing techniques and appears to date c. 1790-1820. The small five-bay cowshed, also of mortise-and-tenon construction, was built in two parts around the second quarter of the 19th century. Likewise representative of the ancillary structures once common on area farms, the stone well and brick ice pit probably predate 1850, although the latter subsequently was converted into a pump house, and the frame superstructures of both appear to be 20th-century work..

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 9 Kennedy-Martin-Stelle Farmstead, Somerset County, NJ

The farmstead's other buildings date to the 20th century and do not contribute to its architectural significance. The complex underwent extensive renovations as a dairy operation during the first third of the 20th century when William R. Codington and his wife Rachel, Oliver Stelle's great-granddaughter, owned the property. Outbuildings dating to that period include the frame gambrel-roofed dairy barn and concrete silo adjoining the main barn, along with three small frame sheds now located off-site. Although the dairy barn/silo assemblage is representative of its type, period and construction, subsequent remodeling of the barn, work which encompassed changing the roof profile on one side from gambrel to gable, has compromised its original design integrity and its ability to express the evolution of the farmstead as an early 20th century dairy operation. The three outbuildings contemporary with the dairy barn (equipment shed, work shop and pump house) exhibit little that is distinctive as regards type, period or construction and are insufficient by themselves to evoke the property's early 20th-century use as a dairy farm. While these buildings are neither individually nor collectively significant, they distract little from the farmstead's historical character and, in their form, scale and materials, harmonize with its earlier buildings. The farmstead acquired two more outbuildings in the mid 20th century, a small workshop and cottage of concrete block and frame construction, both also located off-site, and a number of other changes were made to the complex then and more recently including installation of an in-ground swimming pool. These undistinguished buildings and alterations have had relatively little negative impact on the farmstead's overall historical integrity.

Although the property now comprises only a fraction of its historic acreage, enough land remains to convey a sense of its original agricultural character, as do the presence of open fields to the south and west, the riverside meadow on the east and several hedgerows. The latter also provide screening from adjoining modern land uses. The present entrance lane evidently is the historic one, and the linear arrangement and southern orientation of the farmstead along its axis survive intact. Two small, presumably 19th-century outbuildings, located off-site on the north side of the driveway opposite the main barn, help buffer the complex from the modern residential development just to its north. Originally forming part of the farmstead, the two buildings (one of which is a double-crib wagon shed) are now within the boundary of house lot subdivided from the farm in some years ago and are not included in the nomination.

Despite the loss of some early fabric to modern alterations and the presence of several non-contributing elements, the Kennedy-Martin-Stelle Farmstead possesses the historical significance and integrity necessary for listing on the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places. Significant for the period c. 1762-1852 and retaining its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, the property clearly meets two National Register eligibility criteria: Criterion B for its "association with the lives of persons significant to our past" and Criterion C, which references those properties "that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction." In addition, archaeological resources relating to the neighborhood's 18th and 19th-century material culture may exist in the immediate environs of the farmstead, particularly around the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 10 Kennedy-Martin-Stelle Farmstead, Somerset County, NJ

house. Future investigation of any such resources identified might establish the property's eligibility under Criterion D which references properties "that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history."

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT:

The site of the Kennedy-Martin-Stelle Farmstead forms part of a large tract of land encompassing the southeastern portion of present-day Bernards Township that was acquired by John Harrison in 1717. Reportedly acting as agent for the East Jersey Proprietors to extinguish Native American land claims, Harrison obtained title to the property from "Nowenoik, an Indian chief," by deed dated June 24, 1717. Bordered on the east by the Passaic River and on the south by the Dead River, the 3,000-acre parcel became known as "Harrison's Neck." The 1717 deed, as recounted by 19th-century Somerset County historians, describes Harrison as a resident "of Rockie Hill," New Jersey. No evidence that he ever settled on the tract has come to light. The local historians also surmised that Harrison died sometime before 1720, by which time title to most of Harrison's Neck had passed to four individuals: Daniel Hollingshead, George Rescarrick, Col. John Parker and James Alexander. This may be in error since a will survives for a "John Harrison, gentlemen," of Perth Amboy, dated March 2, 1723/24 and probated June 11, 1725, which names Col. John Parker as one of two executors. The property purportedly was surveyed into farms ranging from 150 to 200 acres in size in 1727 and, in the following year, divided by lot among Parker and his co-owners. However, Harrison's estate or heirs may have retained ownership of portions of the Neck, as suggested by the later Morgan/Hills map of Somerset County, which lists a 300-acre tract just northwest of the farmstead under his name.¹

An 83-acre lot encompassing the farmstead site became the property of Nathaniel Rolph in 1740, although from whom he acquired it has not been established. As recorded in the third schedule of the "Elizabethtown Bill of Chancery" (a 1747 list of East Jersey land titles) Rolph received title to lot #117, a tract of 83 acres "on Harrison's Purchase," on March 28, 1740, and the map accompanying the schedule locates lot #117 at the confluence of the Passaic and Dead Rivers. The Morgan/Hills map would appear to confirm Rolph's ownership of the property. Evidently reflecting earlier ownership patterns, the map delineates a long, narrow 83-acre tract stretching along the Passaic north of the Dead River, which it identifies as lot #138, the property of "Nathaniel Ralph." Nathaniel Rolph (or Rolfe as his name appears in a later deed) may have lived on the property, perhaps in the house which the Morgan/Hills map depicts on or near the site of the present farmstead. He probably was the Nathaniel, born c. 1712, identified by genealogists as the son of Moses Rolph, a New Englander who migrated to Woodbridge, New Jersey, in the late 1600s. Nathaniel had an older brother Samuel, probably the Samuel Rolfe who was one of the seven trustees receiving title to the lot occupied by the pioneer Pres-

¹ J. P. Snell (ed.), *History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties*, New Jersey, pp. 735 & 736; New Jersey Wills, Liber A, page 330; "Plan of Somerset Cty in the Province of New Jersey/ copied from the original by Lieut. I[J]. Hills., asst. engr." [c. 1777-80, the original was surveyed by Benjamin Morgan in 1766].

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 11 Kennedy-Martin-Stelle Farmstead, Somerset County, NJ

byterian house of worship at Basking Ridge in 1731. The Henry Rolfe cited by local historians as a pioneer settler of the community might have been their cousin.²

Portions of Harrison's Neck lying north and west of the Rolfe tract along the Passaic became the property of James Alexander, an East Jersey proprietor who was appointed Surveyor General of the province in 1715. The Elizabethtown Bill of Chancery memorializes James Alexander's title to lot #121, "6 tracts in Harrison's Neck" comprising 785.48 acres of land, under the date September 17, 1741, the date of the "return of survey" filed by Alexander for the property. The Morgan/Hill map identifies several parcels as the property of James Alexander, one of them a 351-acre parcel (lot #137) abutting the west side of Rolfe's property at its southern end, which lot a later deed indicates formed part of the fourth tract of the six surveyed in 1741. Alexander retained ownership of much of his Harrison's Neck property, the subsequent inheritance of his son General William Alexander, Lord Sterling, but sold off some of his holdings there including lot #137.³

Nathaniel Rolfe appears to have kept his Harrison's Neck property until 1747, it no doubt being the 87.25-acre tract adjoining the Passaic River (containing 83-acres after "allowance for highways") which he sold to Moses Doty on March 31st of that year for 180 pounds. The deed of conveyance describes both men as residents of Somerset County, and historical sources indicate that Doty was living in the vicinity of Basking Ridge as early as the 1730s. Family history notes the birth of a son there in 1730, and records of the local Presbyterian church first mention his name in 1732. That Doty moved to the property acquired from Rolfe is clear from a later newspaper advertisement, which refers to it as "the Plantation on which Mr. Moses Doty formerly lived."⁴ He evidently was a farmer (a later deed calls him a "yeoman") and expanded his holdings by lease and purchase. He purportedly leased land from James Alexander in 1747 and four years later acquired from him the eastern half of lot #137 (described in the 1751 deed as a 204-acre "Tract of land and meadow ...lying upon Pasick [sic] river and dead river") for 204 pounds, subject to the yearly payment of "an ear of Indian corn," if demanded. That Doty received 1,200 pounds for his 300-acre farm upon selling it in 1762, more than triple the purchase price for the two lots combined, suggests that he had made considerable improvements to the premises.⁵

² Snell, pp. 562, 736 & 742; NJ Secretary of State's Deeds, Book A-3, page 206; "Plan of Somerset Cty in the Province of New Jersey/ copied from the original by Lieut. I[J]. Hills., asst. engr." [c. 1777-80, the original was surveyed by Benjamin Morgan in 1766]. email communication, Ann Parsekian, June 17, 2002.

³ Snell, pp. 562 & 736; NJ Secretary of State's Deeds, Book A-3, page 208; East Jersey Surveys, Book S, page 206; Peter Wacker, *Land and People*, page 338; Secretary of State's Deeds, Book A-3, page 208; Alan Valentine, *Lord Sterling*, page 111.

⁴ Secretary of State's Deeds, Book A-3, page 206; *The New York Mercury*, No. 807, April 20, 1767, as quoted in *New Jersey Archives*, 1st Series, XXV, *Newspaper Extracts*, VI, 1902, page 350; Ann Parsekian, "A Preliminary Report on the Reverend Kennedy Parsonage Farm, Bernards Township, New Jersey," p. 3.

⁵ East Jersey Deeds, Book H3, page 301; Parsekian, page 3; Secretary of State's Deeds, Book A-3, page 208.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 12 Kennedy-Martin-Stelle Farmstead, Somerset County, NJ

The purchaser of Doty's farm was the Rev. Samuel Kennedy, the Scottish born minister of the Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church. Before acquiring the Doty property in 1762, Rev. Kennedy evidently occupied the parsonage farm belonging to the church. One of the first entries in the church minute book, begun in 1763, notes that the congregation had agreed to take "the parsonage place in its own care, and, instead thereof, pay Mr. Kennedy 20 [pounds] yearly as an addition to his salary."⁶ Kennedy must have moved from the parsonage to his own farm at this time, if he had not done so already. He certainly was residing there by August of the following year when he placed the following advertisement in a New York newspaper:

*The Rev. Samuel Kennedy, of Baskinridge [sic], or Bernard's Town, in the County of Somerset, and Province of New-Jersey, designs to have the learned Languages, and liberal Arts and Sciences, taught under his Inspection, in a School-House now built on his own Plantation; where Persons may be fitted to enter any Class in College; Any convenient Lodgings may be had near the said School-House. N. B. There are Scholars now learning the Latin and Greek Languages in said School.*⁷

The exact location of Kennedy's schoolhouse is not known.

Born in Scotland in 1720, Samuel Kennedy was educated at the University of Edinburgh before coming to America in the 1740s and settling in New Jersey. He pursued theological studies in New Jersey under the auspices of the Presbytery of New Brunswick, receiving a license to preach from the Presbytery in 1748 and ordination as a minister a few years later. Rev. Kennedy became the minister of the Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church on June 26, 1751 and served the congregation in that capacity until his death on August 31, 1787. An evidently energetic clergyman, he was a well-regarded preacher and concerned himself with the theological controversies attracting the attention of many Presbyterians in the mid-18th century, aligning himself with the "New Lights" who embraced the evangelical and revival movement known as "Great Awakening" in contrast to the more conservative "Old Light" Presbyterians.⁸ The "classical school" which he established and carried on for many years gained local renown. It was one of the first such schools in New Jersey, belonging to a small group of academies "inspired by the education zeal of Presbyterian ministers associated with the Great Awak-

⁶ John, C. Rankin, *The Presbyterian Church Basking Ridge, N. J. A Historical Discourse*, page 14.

⁷ *The New York Mercury*, August 27, 1764, as quoted in *New Jersey Archives*, 1st Series, XXIV, *Newspaper Extracts*, V, 1902, page 407.

⁸ Snell, pp. 599, 743 & 748; O.M. Voorhees, "Samuel Kennedy of Scotland and Basking Ridge," page 2; Peter Wacker, *Land and People. A Cultural Geography of Pre-industrial New Jersey: Origins and Settlement Patterns*, pp. 176-77. Biographical footnote on Rev. Samuel Kennedy, *New Jersey Archives*, 1st Series, XXV, *Newspaper Extracts*, VI, 1902, page 350.

⁹ Nelson R. Burr, *Education in New Jersey 1630 - 1871*, page 191; Rankin, page 14.

¹⁰ Geraldine Hutner, "MSNJ: America's First and Oldest Medical Society," *Journal of the Medical Society of New Jersey*, 1984, pp. 718-72; O.M. Voorhees, "Samuel Kennedy of Scotland and Basking Ridge," page 2; Dennis Bertland, "A Sketch History of Dr. Samuel Kennedy, Johnsonburg, New Jersey," page 2.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 13 Kennedy-Martin-Stelle Farmstead, Somerset County, NJ

ening and the founding of Princeton.” According to 19th-century minister and historian John C. Rankin, the Rev. Kennedy “being a highly accomplished scholar and possessing great wisdom and energy as a disciplinarian, his school was extensively patronized, and sent many of its pupils to the College of New Jersey [Princeton].”⁹ He also was a practicing physician of some distinction, acquiring a “reputation in the treatment of disease,” and joined the Medical Society of New Jersey in 1768 two years after its founding. Samuel Kennedy and his wife, the former Sarah Allen of Philadelphia, reportedly had at least seven children, the eldest of whom Samuel, presumably educated by his father, also became a doctor, settling near what is now Johnsonburg, New Jersey, about 1768.¹⁰

Operation of a large farm may have proved onerous for such a busy man as the Rev. Kennedy, or perhaps its distance from the church and center of the community proved inconvenient. For these, or other reasons, he offered the property, along with his livestock and farming equipment, for sale at auction less than three years after the announcement of his school. The auction advertisement of April, 1767, provides detailed documentation as to the well-established character of the farm at that time and its substantial improvements, which encompassed seventy-two acres of “plough land” (more than one third planted in Timothy and other meadow grasses) and over two hundred apple trees, along with a small house and “good barn” with stables. At the same time a considerable portion of the farm, including 100 acres of “very rich bottom” land, appears to have remained undeveloped, probably either woodland or scrub:

To be sold at public Vendue, on Wednesday the 17th Day of June next, by the Revd. Samuel Kennedy, of Bernard's-Town ... his Plantation on which he now lives, containing 300 Acres of Land, more or less, well watered and timbered, ... on which Plantation there is a Dwelling-House with three Rooms and two fireplaces on the lower floor, situate at a small Distance from the Brink of said Passaic-River, and a good Quarry for building may be opened at the Distance of a few Poles from said House: There is also on the said Plantation, a good Barn, and a Stable at each End of it, and an Orchard containing 57 old Apple Trees, and 136 young Ones, some of which are grafted; there is about 72 Acres of plough Land cleared, 12-and half of which have been mowed for a considerable Number of Years, and about 2 Acres of it has been mowed for two Years past, and about 11 Acres the sowed with Timothy Seed, together with one and half Acre more, are expected to be mowed this Summer, 100 Acres more of good Meadow may be made on a very rich Bottom, being the Plantation whereon Mr. Moses Doty formerly lived. On said Day Samuel Kennedy proposes to sell Horses, Cattle, Sheep, and Utensils of Husbandry, &c &c. when good Attendance will be given, and the Conditions of Sale made known.”¹¹

¹¹ *The New York Mercury*, No. 807, April 20, 1767, as quoted in *New Jersey Archives*, 1st. Series, XXV, *Newspaper Extracts*, VI, 1902, page 350.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 14 Kennedy-Martin-Stelle Farmstead, Somerset County, NJ

The western, and earliest, portion of the house, with its three first-floor rooms and two fireplaces, conceivably is Kennedy's dwelling. The eastern half of the main barn with its dropped east end-bay stable (along with the physical evidence of an appendage at its west end predating the extant west addition) similarly could be the "good Barn, [with] a Stable at each End" noted in the advertisement. Certainly, features like the bead-edged clapboards surviving on what was the original east gable of the western portion of the house (visible in the attic) and the hewn-timber common rafter/pegged wind brace framing assemblage present in the east half of the barn are suggestive of an early construction date.

Whether or not the sale took place as advertised on June 17, 1767, is unknown. However, one can infer from various sources that the Kennedy plantation became the property and residence of Col. Ephraim Martin by the late 1770s, although no recorded or unrecorded deed of conveyance to him has been found. While he may have acquired the property earlier, Ephraim Martin most likely moved there sometime between June, 1776, when he received a militia commission in Sussex County, New Jersey, and May, 1778, when he appeared on the Bernards Township tax roll, the earliest surviving for that municipality.¹² Genealogical sources suggest that Martin, a native of central New Jersey, may have been living in Sussex County as early as 1760.¹³ That he was in Sussex County as late as the spring of 1776, is clear from a May newspaper advertisement, describing property for sale in Hardiston Township, Sussex County, as located "about one mile from ... Col. Ephraim Martin's," as well as his June Sussex County militia commission. That in 1778 he was assessed for 340-acres of "improved land" in Bernards Township, along with livestock, one slave and a riding chair, establishes his residency in the township by that time.¹⁴ Furthermore, military maps of 1779 and 1780 depict a house on the subject property as that of "Col. Martins."¹⁵

Ephraim Martin, the son of Ephraim and Keziah Runyon Martin, was born in 1733, either in Piscataway, New Jersey, or in Somerset County, where his parents had settled near the confluence of the Passaic and Dead Rivers in what is now Warren Township about that time. He appears to have moved to Sussex County as a young man and raised a family, genealogical sources claiming the birth of a son there in September, 1760.¹⁶ He evidently prospered and became sufficiently well established

¹² *The Pennsylvania Journal*, June 19, 1776, as quoted in New Jersey Archives, 2nd Series, I, Newspaper Extracts, I, page 552; Francis B. Heitman, *Historical Register of Officers of the Continental Army During the War of the Revolution*, page 381; New Jersey Tax Ratables, Bernards Township, May, 1778.

¹³ Jay W. Thonal, "Colonel Ephraim Martin (1733-1806) His Wife or Wives," *Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey*, Vol. 58, pp. 16-18; "1st & 2nd Floors of the Van Horne house/11-11-43 M. Schneider

¹⁴ *The Pennsylvania Journal*, June 19, 1776, as quoted in *New Jersey Archives*, 2nd Series, I, *Newspaper Extracts*, I, page 552; Heitman, page 381; New Jersey Tax Ratables, Bernards Township, May, 1778.

¹⁵ Erskine Map "No 70. C," the "Road towards Morristown past Baskinridge [sic] Meeting House..., 1779;" S. DeWitt, *Contractions in the Jerseys 1 mile to the inch*, Erskine Map 106A and 106B..., 1780."

¹⁶ Thonal, pp. 16-18; Parsekian, page 5.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 15 Kennedy-Martin-Stelle Farmstead, Somerset County, NJ

to assume a role in public affairs during the Revolutionary War when he served the America cause in military and political capacities. Martin was one of five deputies from Sussex County who attended the Provincial Congress of New Jersey held in Trenton in October, 1775. He was commissioned as a colonel of the Second Regiment, Sussex County Militia on June 14, 1776 and appointed as colonel of the new fourth New Jersey Battalion of the Continental Army on November 28th of that year. Stationed at Princeton in the autumn of 1777, he advertised the desertion of a soldier from his "quarters" there on November 20th, and passed some portion of the following winter with his regiment at Valley Forge.¹⁷

Resigning his army commission in 1779, Col. Martin embarked on a life-long career of government service, which encompassed both elected and appointed positions. He was chosen in the general election of October 12, 1779, to represent Somerset County on the New Jersey governor's council, the upper house of the new state legislature, and thereafter served many terms on the council until 1806, the year of his death, first as representative for Somerset County and beginning in 1795, after moving to New Brunswick, for Middlesex County. He was appointed by the state legislature in 1783 as one of the commissioners for draining the "drowned lands" along the Wallkill in Sussex County and by Congress in 1786 as surveyor under the direction of Thomas Hutchins, Esq., to survey the Western Territory of the United States. Martin politically was a Federalist and, according to one historian of New Jersey Federalists, stood out among the state's Federalist leaders as a Baptist, for his length of service in the legislature and for his representation of more than one county.¹⁸

In 1789, Ephraim Martin had a prominent role in securing the approval of the first amendments to the U. S. Constitution by the New Jersey legislature. The state legislative council appointed Martin and three other councilors to a committee to discuss the proposed amendments on November 4th. The state assembly having appointed a similar committee, the two committees quickly issued a joint report recommending the adoption and ratification of the amendments within a few days. Consideration of the report by the legislature began on November 6th, and final approval occurred on November 20th, making New Jersey the first state to ratify the Bill of Rights. Martin also is thought to have participated in the Congressional campaign of 1789, as one of three Somerset County legislators who combined to write a series of letters about the election, under the pseudonym "Martin B. Bunn," letters

¹⁷ *Minutes of the Provincial Congress and the Council of Safety of the State of New Jersey*, 1879, page 197; Heitman, page 381; William S. Stryker, *Official register of the officers and men of New Jersey in the Revolutionary War...*, pp. 26, 27 & 37]; *New Jersey Gazette*, December 2, 1778, as quoted in *New Jersey Archives*, 2nd Series, II, *Newspaper Extracts*, II, 1903, page 573. Anderson Berg, *Encyclopedia of Continental Army Units*, page 148.

¹⁸ *New Jersey Archives*, 2nd Series, III, *Newspaper Extracts*, III, 1914, page 701; Public notice place by Ephraim Martin, Esq., *Political Intelligencer*, February 2, 1784, as quoted in Thomas Wilson, *Notices From New Jersey Newspapers 1781-1790*, page 186 *New York Gazetteer*, June 30, 1786, as quoted in Wilson, page 465; Rudolph J. and Margaret C. Pasler. *The New Jersey Federalists*, page 211.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 16 Kennedy-Martin-Stelle Farmstead, Somerset County, NJ

which made extensive "veiled" comment on the campaign.¹⁹

A prosperous landowner, Ephraim Martin acquired property in Sussex County and the Ohio country, in addition to his Bernards Township farm, which he appears to have owned and made his residence until 1794. Surviving Bernards Township tax records indicate that his local landholdings reached 375 acres of "improved land" in 1784, although his taxable acreage declined in subsequent years. They also provide some evidence as to the nature of his farm operation. In 1778, for example, he was assessed for four horses, seven hogs and seventeen head of cattle, and between 1778 and 1792 his livestock assessment included four horses in most years and averaged 12.5 head of cattle. In various years throughout the period he was taxed for a riding chair, sleigh, chaise and covered wagon, and in most years for two or three vehicles.²⁰ While the historical record provides almost no information about the physical character of the farm during his ownership, his livestock and vehicles suggest the existence of a substantial barn and wagon house. A prominent man with his resources may not have been satisfied with a small house like the one described in the Kennedy sale advertisement, and it is quite possible that he enlarged or replaced the earlier dwelling. In addition to their double pile, one-and-one half-story plan and Dutch framing system, the west and east portions of the main block both exhibit features typical of 18th century construction such as a corner fireplace with Georgian style mantel, raised panel doors hung on strap hinges and other woodwork.

Although genealogical sources differ, Ephraim Martin appears to have married three times and had at least four children. His first marriage to Martha (last name unknown) mostly likely took place c. 1756 and produced four sons (Absalom, born c. 1758, Jeremiah, Ephraim, born in September, 1760, in Sussex County, and Squire). Upon Martha's death about 1767, he evidently married Keziah Carmen who purportedly died in 1788. She must have been the "Mrs. (Col.) Martin," whose name appears on a list of participants in a statewide effort of patriotic women to promote "a subscription for the relief and encouragement of those brave Men in the Continental Army."²¹ For his third marriage, thought to have occurred c. 1789, Martin wed Catherine Wall Green Stelle, the widow of the Reverend Isaac Stelle, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Piscataway, who had died in 1781. Ephraim Martin belonged to the Mount Bethel Baptist Church, located a few miles south of his Bernards Township farm, and became a deacon of that congregation in 1786. Martin also was a slave owner; his 1778 tax assessment lists one male slave, and his 1805 will provided for the manumission of three females. Mar-

¹⁹ Mary Alice Quigley and Mary R. Murrin, "New Jersey and the Bill of Rights," pp. 6 & 7; Richard P. McCormick, *Experiment In Independence: New Jersey In the Critical Period, 1781-1789*, page 291.

²⁰ Edmund J. James, "Notes on the Baptist Church at Mount Bethel," *Somerset County Historical Quarterly*, VII, pp. 118-19; "An Account of Colonel Ephraim Martin," *Somerset County Historical Quarterly*, VII, pp. 233-34; NJ Tax Ratable, Bernards Township, Somerset County, 1778, 1784, 1788, 1789, 1790, 1791 & 1792.

²¹ Ann Parsekian, "Col. Ephraim Martin c. 1733-1806," page 1; Thornal, pp. 16-19; *New Jersey Gazette*, July 5, 1780, as quoted in *New Jersey Archives*, 2nd Series, IV, *Newspaper Extracts*, IV, 1914, page 486.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 17 Kennedy-Martin-Stelle Farmstead, Somerset County, NJ

tin died on February 26, 1806, evidently having lived in the vicinity of New Brunswick since moving from Bernards Township in the 1790s.²²

Ephraim Martin appears to have sold his Bernard Township farm to brothers Oliver and Samuel Stelle, the stepsons of his wife, the former Catherine Stelle, in 1794. According to family history recounted in 1881 "Oliver Stelle...removed from Piscataway, Middlesex Co., N. J., about 1794, and settled on the farm [the subject property] now owned by Isaac S. Runyon." Another historian pinpoints his removal from Piscataway to Bernards Township to April, 1794.²³ The two brothers' acquisition of the Martin farm must have occurred around that time, since they executed a mortgage, proved and recorded on May 19, 1794, for a 269.25-acre tract of land comprising the property to Ephraim Martin for 575 pounds. The assessment listing of Samuel Stelle for 266 acres of land on the August, 1794, Bernards Township tax roll offers additional confirmation of the title transfer. The burial of Oliver Stelle's infant daughter Anna in the nearby Mount Bethel Church cemetery in December, 1794, provides evidence that he had moved from Piscataway by that time.²⁴

Within several years Oliver Stelle became the sole owner of the property, which he held until his death in 1832. Family history recounts that "Samuel remained but a few years in the country [Bernards Township]," and Oliver probably acquired his brother's interest by the time of his removal. In May, 1797, Oliver Stelle and his wife Mary mortgaged a 232-acre tract of land to David Ayers for "200 pounds York money," the same property that the brothers had acquired from Ephraim Martin minus small lots subdivided from the north and south ends and sold by Oliver to Ephraim's son Squire. Oliver may have used the money realized from the second mortgage to buy out his brother or possibly to finance improvements.²⁵ He did not finish paying off the original mortgage until years later. Ephraim Martin's 1806 estate inventory lists as an asset "Oliver Stelles Bond" valued at \$976.07, presumably the balance due on the 1794 mortgage, which was not canceled until three years later.²⁶

Born on August 1, 1756, Oliver Stelle was one of nine children of the Rev. Isaac and Christiana Stelle. He married Mary Runyon in 1778, and they had at least eleven children: Christiana (1779-1854), Ephraim (1780-54), Isaac (1782-1816), John (1790-1850), Anna (1793-94), Mary (1794-1815) Clarkson (1797/98-1850), Rachel (1800-1818), Sarah, Harriet, and Ruth. Oliver's wife died on February 22, 1813 at age 54, and sometime before 1823 he remarried, as documented by a deed reference

²² Ann Parsekian, "Col. Ephraim Martin c. 1733-1806," page 1; Thornal, pp. 16-19; *New Jersey Archives*, V, 1781, page 320; James, "Notes on the Baptist Church at Mount Bethel," *Somerset County Historical Quarterly*, VII, pp. 118-19; NJ Tax Ratables, Bernards Township, Somerset County, 1778; NJ Wills 10112L; "An Account of Colonel Ephraim Martin," *Somerset County Historical Quarterly*, VII, page 233.

²³ Snell, Freeman Stelle biography after page 738; John Littel, *Families Records; or Genealogies of the First Settlers of the Passaic Valley and Vicinity above Chatham...*, page 403.

²⁴ Somerset County Mortgages, Book D, page 52; NJ Tax Ratables, Bernards Township, Somerset County, 1794; Siegel, *Cemetery Records of Warren Township Somerset County New Jersey*, no page.

²⁵ Snell, Ephraim R. Stelle biography after page 738; Somerset County Mortgages, Book E, page 131; NJ Wills, 10112S.

²⁶ NJ Wills 10112L; Somerset County Mortgages, Book D, page 52.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 18 Kennedy-Martin-Stelle Farmstead, Somerset County, NJ

in that year to his wife Sarah.²⁷ Of his children who survived to adulthood, most married and settled in the Basking Ridge neighborhood. The 1830 census lists John and Clarkson Stelle immediately before and after their father, indicating that they lived in close proximity to him, probably on his farm or on land that he had sold to them. Maintaining the religious affiliation of his forebears, Oliver joined the Mount Bethel Baptist Church, serving the congregation as a trustee and acquiring two pews. A slaveholder, he was taxed for one slave in 1818 and registered slaves “born in his family” in that year and 1820.²⁸

The 1830 census documents the composition of Oliver Stelle’s household towards the end of his life. The census enumerates six members: one white male (aged between 70 and 79); three white females (one aged between 60 and 69, one between 40 and 49, and one between 15 and 19); one free black male and one free black female (both aged between 10 and 23). Oliver must have been the white male in his seventies; the oldest female probably was his second wife Sarah and the middle-aged female his unmarried daughter Christiana, mentioned by name in his will as residing at home. The teen-aged girl may have been one of the granddaughters also mentioned in his will or perhaps a servant; the free blacks presumably were former slaves, employed as domestic servant and farm laborer.²⁹

Oliver Stelle prospered in Bernards Township. Evidently a successful farmer and investor, he acquired extensive holdings in Bernards Township and vicinity including farmland adjoining his homestead, along with several house lots and a distillery and cider mill. Five of the six Bernards Township tax records surviving for years between 1797 and 1818 give his taxable land as 224 acres, and his 1829 will includes bequests for considerably more than 312 acres of land. Tax and estate records provide additional information about his farm and other assets. Between 1797 and 1818, his livestock assessment included five horses in all but one year and averaged 11.8 head of cattle. In 1818, he was taxed for a “top” wagon and two riding chairs. Stelle’s 1832 estate inventory gives the total value of his personal property as \$2,519 including \$610 in notes and \$84 cash. Livestock worth \$1,192 constituted his most valuable asset: 11 horses (7 horses and 4 colts) valued at \$580, 24 head of cattle (15 cows, 5 steers, 3 calves and 1 bull) worth \$287, 2 “yokes” of oxen valued at \$148, 7 pigs and their shoats worth \$148, and 28 sheep worth \$42. The herd of sheep, along with a mention of “loom and tackling” and a “lot broad cloth,” documents domestic cloth manufacture.³⁰

²⁷ Littel, 1851, page 403; Oliver B. Leonard, *Outline Sketches of the Pioneer Progenitors of the Piscataway Planters*, pp. 15 & 19; Siegel, *Cemetery Records of Warren Township Somerset County New Jersey*, no page; NJ Wills 3213R and 2389R; Somerset County Deeds, Book Q, page 178

²⁸ Alan A. Siegel, *The Baptist Meeting House Cemetery and Church*, pp. 15 & 16; US Census, Bernards Township, 1830; Somerset County Deeds, Book Q, page 178; “Additional Slaveholders’ List in Somerset,” *Somerset County Historical Quarterly*, VI, page 96.

²⁹ NJ wills 2389R; US Census, Bernards Township, 1830.

³⁰ NJ Tax Ratables, Bernards Township, Somerset County, 1797, 1892, 1803, 1805, 1806 & 1818; New Jersey Wills 2389R.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 19 Kennedy-Martin-Stelle Farmstead, Somerset County, NJ

Oliver Stelle's will and inventory also identify several rooms and features of his house. His 1829 will mentions the "west front room," the "west back room," the "middle back room," and the "entry" and/or "entry chamber," as well as the kitchen, cellar and well, indicating that his residence had a double-pile first-floor plan with a range of at least three rooms front and back, and thus establishing the configuration of the present house by that time. His inventory names two rooms in the house: the "west chamber" and the "milk room." The latter, which contained a "lot of crockery," presumably was a cold storage room, probably located in the cellar. The reference to "old casks and gums [?] in west chamber" suggests that this room was being used for storage. While the "west chamber" may have been either of the west rooms mentioned in the will, it might also have been located on the upper story.³¹

Although the upper stories of the region's early one-and-one-half-story houses typically were unfinished or partially finished, the presence of a stairwell railing with an apparently late 18th/early 19th-century provenance in the upper hall certainly suggests that upper story was finished, at least in part, as living space during this period. Other features of the house that, based on physical or stylistic evidence, can be dated to c. 1800-1830 include the pilastered, late Federal style mantel in the present living room and brick cooking fireplace and bake oven in the southeast room. Oliver Steele may well have been responsible for remodeling the house and possibly for enlarging it to the east.

Oliver Stelle's inventory indicates that the house was comfortably, but simply furnished with tables and chairs, several beds, two "clothes cupboards," a corner cupboard, a desk and a "looking glass." The single most valuable item listed was an "8 day clock" worth \$25. With the exception of the clock, Oliver Stelle's household goods included no indicators of an elite lifestyle, although three lots of books may reflect some level of household education. The listing of "Andirons Shovel & Tongs" and "Andirons...Shovel & Trammel" implies that open fireplaces were still in use for heating and cooking. The inclusion of few kitchen items and textiles in the inventory suggests that the inventory may be only partial listing of items in the house, excluding property belonging to Oliver's widow and unmarried daughter.³²

The inventory identifies three other buildings by name, one of which, the "wagon house," mentioned in three entries relating to the storage of lumber, scythes and "old harnesses," presumably is the one extant for which physical evidence suggest a late 18th/early 19th-century construction date. The inventory also lists the "stove at the School House," as well as "lot of old iron at Still house" and "Barrels & hogsheads in Still house." Stelle's will indicates that his cider mill and distillery were not part of his farmstead but located on another property. The location of the schoolhouse remains unknown. While it is possible that Samuel Kennedy's schoolhouse had survived, the inventory item more likely refers to a neighborhood schoolhouse for which Oliver had provided a heating stove. An 1823 deed

³¹ New Jersey Wills 2389R.

³² Ibid.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 20 Kennedy-Martin-Stelle Farmstead, Somerset County, NJ

records the existence of another farm building on the Stelle property, a hay barracks located near the road and the boundary of a 56-acre tract conveyed by Oliver to his son Clarkson.³³

Upon Oliver Stelle's death on June 3rd 1832, at age seventy-six, his son Clarkson inherited the homestead farm (his lands located between the Passaic River and present-day King George Road) and an adjoining tract to the south on the west side of the road. Clarkson also received an undivided one third share of the lots "purchased of Oliver Woodward" and of the "cider and still works with the appurtenances thereunto belonging" (sharing the same with brothers John and Ephraim), along with his father's "small black boy" and one third of the estate remainder. John Stelle's inheritance included property lying west of the road and the homestead, which adjoined land previously deeded to him by his father; Ephraim Stelle similarly inherited the "remainder of the farm whereon helives" (located west of John's property on the road to Liberty Corner). Later maps corroborate the location of the three brothers' farms.³⁴

Oliver Stelle's provisions for his unnamed widow and unmarried daughter Christiana included, among other bequests, the use of specified portions of his house. His wife was to have "the use in common with the others of my west front room and west back room[,] the entry [,] kitchen [,] well and cellar for one year after my decease," along with \$70 a year as long as she did not remarry. She was also to receive for the same period "a sufficiency of grain [,] meat and necessary provisions...and of firewood cut up at the door suitable for a stove or fireplace" to be supplied by Clarkson. The widow was "to live with my daughter Christian[a] or if she should elect to live with Clarkson," the latter's two brother's were to share the costs of her support for the one year. The will confirms the widow's possession of "all the linnin [sic] Bedding, etc." that she brought to the marriage, as well as that which she made subsequently and "all and every description of goods that she brought" in accordance with "an agreement made with her before our marriage." Lastly, two new woolen blankets were to be provided for her one year after his decease "should she be living." In addition to a bequest of \$650, Christiana received her choice of one of the "cows on the home farm," half of her father's linen, her choice of "two Beds and Bedding," as well as two "bedsteds [sic] & cords," her father's "black girl, Amy," his "riding chair and harness" and the use of a horse. She also was to have "the use of [his] middle back room and the use in common with the others of the entry chamber, cellar [,] kitchen and well so long as she shall remain single and wish to occupy them her self." The cow was to be kept by Clarkson as long as she remained unmarried.³⁵

Clarkson evidently made his father's homestead his residence sometime after inheriting the property and lived there with his family until his death in 1850. His wife, Lucinda, died in 1838, leaving him with several young children. In 1840 his household had eight members: two white males (one

³³ Ibid., Somerset County Deeds, Book Q, page 178.

³⁴ New Jersey Wills 2389R; John Littel, *A Map of Passaic Valley from Stone House Village to Chatham N. J.*, 1845; J. W. Otley and J. Keily, *Map of Somerset County, New Jersey*, 1850.

³⁵ Ibid.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 21 Kennedy-Martin-Stelle Farmstead, Somerset County, NJ

aged between 5 and 9 and one between 40 and 49), five white females (one aged between 0 and 4, one between 5 and 9, two between 15 and 19, and one between 50 and 59) and one free black male aged between 10 and 23). Clarkson must have been the white male in his forties, the four girls and one boy his children and the oldest female his unmarried sister. Clarkson and the free black male undoubtedly were the two household members given as agriculturists.³⁶

The black household member probably was the individual mentioned in a December, 1841, entry in the minutes of the Mount Bethel Baptist Church, which notes that "Our colored brother Bill, living with Clarkson Stelle, having left his master and having been guilty of immoral conduct, such as getting drunk, the church voted that he be excluded from the privilege of the church." In the following April "Colored William, Clarkson Stelle's boy, came before the church to make acknowledgements [and the] church voted that he be restored."³⁷

In 1850, the year of his death, Clarkson Stelle's household contained five members: Clarkson, age 52, a farmer who owned real estate valued at \$9,000; his three daughters, Mary Ann, age 25, Mercy, age 22, and Adaline, age 15; his son Thomas T., age 19; and his sister, Christian[a], age 72. No longer a member of his household, fourth daughter Rachel had married Isaac S. Runyon in 1843.³⁸

The agricultural schedule of the 1850 census indicates that Clarkson Stelle was the proprietor of a general farming operation. The farm, consisting of 156 acre of improved land and 50 acres of unimproved land, was valued at \$9,000, and the farm equipment, \$500. His livestock, worth \$1,000, included 5 horses, 9 milk cows, 7 other head of cattle, 2 oxen, 27 sheep, and 13 swine. Farm production encompassed 120 bushels of wheat, 90 bushels of rye, 700 bushels of corn, 250 bushels of oats, 200 bushels of buckwheat, 40 bushels of Irish potatoes, \$30 worth of "orchard products," 6 bushels of peas, 8 bushels of clover seed, 6 bushels of other grass seeds, 40 tons of hay, 600 pounds of butter, 60 pounds of cheese and 40 pounds of wool. The value of "home manufactures" was \$75 and the value of "slaughtered animals," \$250.³⁹

Clarkson Stelle died intestate on July 13, 1850, at the age of 52, having "committed suicide by hanging himself in the wagon-house." His inventory, made on August 9th, provides limited information about his residence, naming only the "kitchen," "kitchen chamber" and "milk room and cellar." The reference to "lumber etc kitchen chamber" suggests that this room, presumably located either behind or above the kitchen, was being used for storage, and the listing for the "milk room and cellar" appears to confirm the location of this cold storage room in the cellar. The inventory identifies three other buildings by name, one of which the "wagon house," mentioned in an entry relating to the storage of lum-

³⁶ Siegel, *Cemetery Records of Warren Township Somerset County New Jersey*, no page; US Census, Bernards Township, 1840.

³⁷ Siegel, *The Baptist Meeting House Cemetery and Church*, pp. 18 & 19.

³⁸ US Census, Bernards Township, 1850; Snell, page 738; *Somerset County Historical Quarterly*, VIII, page 61.

³⁹ US Census, Agricultural Schedule Bernards Township, 1850.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 22 Kennedy-Martin-Stelle Farmstead, Somerset County, NJ

ber, presumably is the one extant and the one mentioned in Oliver Stelle's 1832 estate inventory. The two other buildings are the "new barn" and the "cow shed," both mentioned in reference to hay storage. Three stacks of hay also are listed, suggesting the presence of hay barracks. The "new barn" may have been the west half of the present barn (which physical evidence suggests was a subsequent addition to the larger, east section, recycling the frame of a smaller barn) or another building which has not survived. In any case, it presumably is one of the "two large Barns" mentioned in an 1852 sale advertisement for the property, and the "cow shed" may well be the "Cow House" noted in the add, and possibly the extant cow shed/stable for which physical evidence suggests a c. 1825-50 construction date.⁴⁰

The inventory gives the total value of Clarkson Stelle's personal property as \$2,359.66 (slightly less than that of his father), including \$860.66 in notes and \$100.90 cash. Livestock worth \$608 constituted about 25% of his assets: 5 horses (3 mares and 2 colts) valued at \$280, 18 head of cattle (8 cows and 10 calves or young cattle) worth \$208, 1 "yoke" of oxen valued at \$65, 10 pigs worth \$38 and 9 sheep (5 ewes and 4 lambs) valued at \$17. The inventory includes \$395 in harvested crops: 10 bushels of buckwheat worth \$4, 240 bushels of oats valued at \$72, 100 bushels of corn worth \$50, 150 bushels of wheat worth \$150, 50 bushels of rye valued at \$25 and an unspecified amount of hay worth \$94. The inventory suggests that the house remained comfortably, but modestly, furnished with such items as tables and chairs, several beds, a "looking glass and wash stand," several other mirrors, two "clothes presses," a corner cupboard, and a "bureau." The listing of 120 yards of carpeting (one lot of 80 yards and another of 40 yards) suggests that at least several rooms were carpeted. The inclusion of three stoves, one of them in the kitchen, indicates that stoves had supplanted fireplaces for cooking and heating.⁴¹ Clarkson may well have updated the house after his father's death, and the late Federal mantel in the present living room could have been added by him, instead of by his father.

The Stelle family remained staunch Baptists throughout the 19th century, and in the year after Clarkson Stelle's death his heirs were instrumental in the founding of the Millington Baptist Church. In August, 1851, Stelle's heirs-at-law (his children, Rachel & her husband, Isaac S. Runyon, Thomas T. Stelle, Mary Ann Stelle and Mercy Stelle) subdivided a half-acre lot from the northwest corner of his homestead farm for the newly formed Millington Baptist Society to build a "meeting house." The present church was finished and dedicated in October, 1852.⁴²

To settle Clarkson Stelle's estate, his farm was sold at a court-ordered auction in 1852, and the newspaper advertisement of the sale gives a general description of the property:

Splendid FARM for Sale.the Real Estate whereof Clarkson Stelle died seized, comprising the HOMESTEAD FARM of the said deceased, known as the "Oliver Stelle

⁴⁰ *Plainfield Gazette*, July 18, 1850 as quoted in *Somerset County Genealogical Quarterly*, IV, page 339; New Jersey Wills, 3211R; "Commissioners Sale of Real Estate,....June 15, 1852" *Somerset Messenger*, July 23, 1852, page 3.

⁴¹ New Jersey Wills, 3211R.

⁴² Somerset County Deeds, Book N2, page 438; Snell, Ephraim R. Stelle biography after page 738 and page 747.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 23 Kennedy-Martin-Stelle Farmstead, Somerset County, NJ

*Farm," containing about 200 acres of first rate Plough, Meadow and Grazing Land. About 30 acres of very heavy Timber on said Farm. The improvements are a large and good Frame House, two large Barns, Cow House, and every desirable out building, all in good condition. A road running through, divides the Farm, and will be divided or sold together. There is a great variety of fruit on said Farm. It is also well watered, and the Passaic River runs on the east side of said Farm.*⁴³

The farm was still divided into cropland, meadows and orchards as in 1767 when Rev. Kennedy advertised it for sale. However, little, if any, unimproved land appears to have remained, and its 30-acre wood lot was a significant asset in the middle of the 19th century, by which time the region had become much deforested.⁴⁴

At the auction, the 199.79-acre property was sold to Isaac S. Runyon, Clarkson Stelle's son-in-law, the high bidder at \$41 per acre, for a total of \$8,191.39, and on March 1st of the following year the property was conveyed to him. A few weeks later Isaac and wife Rachel deeded the portion of the property lying west of King George Road, which contained 111.52 acres, to Thomas J. Stelle, Rachel's brother. Thomas evidently occupied and farmed that tract until his death in 1856, after which his unmarried sisters Mary Ann and Mercy lived there for a few years, followed by Mercy and her husband Thomas Terrell. The Runyons retained the 88.27-acre tract east of the road and the Stelle homestead, which they made their residence and farmed throughout their lives. Possessing life rights to a portion of the house, Rachel's Aunt Christiana presumably lived there until her death in 1854 at age seventy-two.⁴⁵

The 1860 and 1870 censuses reveal that German immigrants had supplanted slaves and free blacks as laborers on the farm. In 1860, Isaac Runyon's household contained five members: Isaac, age 40, a farmer with real estate worth \$6,000; his wife Rachel, age 38; their two sons, "Reuna" [sic], age 4, and Clarkson, age 1; Adam Smith, age 45, a German born farm laborer; and Harriet Ames, age 26, no occupation give, but possibly a domestic servant. The 1870 census lists seven household members: Isaac, age 51, a farmer with real estate worth \$12,000 (double the valuation of 1860); his wife, Rachel, age 50; their son, "Runy" [sic], age 14; three girls, Josephine, age 16, Julia, age 12, and Rachel, age 6; and Adam Smith, age 60, the German born farm laborer. The two oldest girls, surnamed Runyon but not listed in the 1860 census, must have been relatives; son Clarkson listed in 1860 presumably had died.⁴⁶

⁴³ "Commissioners Sale of Real Estate, ... June 15, 1852" *Somerset Messenger*, July 23, 1852, page 3.

⁴⁴ Hubert G Schmidt, *Agricultural In New Jersey*, pp. 118-121.

⁴⁵ Somerset County Deeds, Book Q2, pp. 361 & 375, Book A2, page 82; Siegel, *Cemetery Records of Warren Township Somerset County New Jersey*, no page; D. J. Lake & S. N. Beers, *Map of the Vicinity of Philadelphia and Trenton*, 1860; F. W. Beers, *Atlas of Somerset County*, 1873.

⁴⁶ US Census, Bernards Township, 1860 and 1870.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 24 Kennedy-Martin-Stelle Farmstead, Somerset County, NJ

The agricultural schedule of the 1870 census indicates that the farm remained a diversified operation. Sheep raising had been abandoned since 1850 and the dairy herd had grown by roughly 25%. While no cheese was being made, the farm's production of butter had increased from 600 to 900 pounds. The census describes the farm as consisting of 120 acre of improved land and 10 acres of woodland, valued at \$12,000, Runyon evidently having enlarged his land holdings since acquiring the property. The farm equipment was worth \$345. Farm wages "during the year" were \$300 including "board." His livestock valued at \$1,200 included 2 horses, 2 mules, 13 milk cows, 4 other head of cattle, and 3 swine. Farm production included 150 bushels of wheat, 500 bushels of corn, 750 bushels of oats, 60 bushels of Irish potatoes, 8 bushels of clover seed, 40 tons of hay and 900 pounds of butter. The value of slaughtered animals was estimated at \$325, and the figure given for the "estimated value of all farm products" is \$2,620.⁴⁷

The agricultural schedule of the 1880 census documents an increase in the size of the dairy herd by one third since 1870, among other changes. Butter evidently was no longer made on the farm; instead milk was sent to a creamery. Chickens and egg production were mentioned for the first time. With only thirty bearing trees, the orchard was much reduced in size. In 1880 the Runyon farm, valued at \$10,000, contained 120 acres of improved land, 25 acres of "meadows, permanent pastures, orchards [and] vineyards" and 5 acres of unimproved land other than woodland. Runyon's farm equipment was worth \$500 and his livestock \$1,200. The 1879 cost of farm labor hired for 52 weeks was \$500; and \$60 was spent on fertilizer in that year. His livestock in 1880 included 7 horses, 2 mules, 20 milk cows, 2 other head of cattle, 3 pigs and 30 poultry. In 1879, 18 "calves dropped," 12 calves were purchased, 12 were sold living, and one was slaughtered. In that year, the farm had 52 acres of grasslands of which 40 acres were mown producing 60 tons of hay, as well as a one-acre orchard with 30 bearing apple trees. Other farm production in 1879 included 300 bushels of wheat from 10 acres, 700 bushels of corn from 16 acres, 350 bushels of oats from 12 acres, 30 bushels of rye from 2 acres and 40 bushels of Irish potatoes from one half acre. In 1879, the farm produced 7,300 gallons of "milk sold or sent to butter and cheese factories" and 300 eggs; the total estimated value of the farm's 1879 production was \$2,000.⁴⁸

A prosperous and successful farmer, Isaac Runyon had the means to improve his property, and he probably was responsible for the Victorian cross gables and contemporary alterations to the house. Something of the physical character of house during his ownership, if not its furnishings, can be learned from the cursory inventory of personal property made upon his death in 1892, which identifies twelve rooms or areas in the house:

Sitting-room contents/ Hatrack in hall/ Parlor and contents/ Room back of parlor/ Bedroom back of sitting-room/ Stair carpet, table in hall and contents of small bed-room up-

⁴⁷ US Census, Agricultural Schedule, Bernards Township, 1870.

⁴⁸ US Census, Agricultural Schedule, Bernards Township, 1880.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 25 Kennedy-Martin-Stelle Farmstead, Somerset County, NJ

stairs/ Contents of cellar/ Dining room and contents/ Store-room and contents/ Attic and contents/ room back of kitchen/ kitchen and contents.⁴⁹

The inventory indicates that the upper story contained at least one bedroom by this time, as well as an attic and possibly a hallway. However, the number of rooms and their configuration cannot be construed definitively; one of them might have been the storeroom mentioned. One can safely assume that the parlor, sitting room and two rooms to their rear occupied the western half of the first story. For the east half of the first story two arrangements can be considered: (1) kitchen occupying the southeast room with cooking fireplace and bake oven, the "room back of kitchen" to its rear, dining room immediately to its west occupying the east end of the present living room, and the hall with hat rack the entry at the foot of the stairs; the store room could either occupy the east-end shed appendage or be located on the upper story. (2) hall with hat rack occupying the east end of the present living room, dining room the southeast room with cooking fireplace; and the kitchen and the "room back of kitchen" located in the east-end shed appendage; this scenario leaves the northeast room (the modern kitchen) unaccounted. The only furnishings identified are stair carpeting and a table and hat rack in the hall or halls.

The "granary" is only other building mentioned, presumably the extant wagon house, in whose upper-story feed bins the wheat, oats and shelled corn listed in the inventory undoubtedly were stored.

As inventoried, the total value of Isaac Runyon's personal property was \$5,465.48, including \$3,695.80 in cash, notes, interest and book accounts, which comprised the bulk of his assets. Live-stock worth \$663 constituted only about 12% of his assets: 5 horses valued at \$250, 14 cows, 1 heifer and a bull worth \$400, 4 turkeys worth \$5 and "about 50 fowl" worth \$8. The inventory included \$390 in harvested crops: 100 bushels of wheat worth \$100, 250 bushels of oats valued at \$90, 200 bushels of shelled corn worth \$100, and 8 tons of hay worth \$100, as well as \$8 worth of smoke meat. It also listed a carriage and "phaeton" as well as various other wagons, sheds, and farm equipment.

Isaac Runyon died intestate on February 9, 1892, at age 73, of bronchitis and "La Grippe" after a two-week illness, leaving his daughter Rachel Codington as his only heir, his wife having died some years earlier. Rachel, who had married William R. Coddington at the Millington Baptist Church in 1883, lived with her husband in Plainfield, New Jersey, where he practiced law. William Rueben Codington, the son of George W. and Jane Codington, grew up a neighbor of the Runyons, and his family descended from early settlers of the neighborhood. In addition to his law practice, he played a role in political and business affairs at the local and state level, including the directorship of several

⁴⁹ NJ Wills, 6157R.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 26 Kennedy-Martin-Stelle Farmstead, Somerset County, NJ

companies, twenty-five years as attorney for Union County, and two terms in the state assembly in the 1890s.⁵⁰

While Codington acquired considerable property in the Millington neighborhood during the early 20th century, including large portions of Oliver Stelle's original holdings, he and his wife evidently continued to live in Plainfield until sometime in the 1920s, when they made the farm inherited from her father their principal residence. Until then, the farm probably was tenanted. Codington established a dairy operation at his Bernards Township property (which he named River-Edge Farm) and took a special interest in the raising and breeding of Guernsey cattle.⁵¹ Physical evidence indicates that the main dairy barn and several other sheds and improvements can be dated c.1920-1940, and it seems likely that this work mostly occurred in the 1920s in conjunction with his making the farm his primary residence. The house also was updated around this time by Codington in the Colonial Revival style, as evidence by such embellishments as the quadrant gable windows and the classically detailed screen porch overlooking the river which was later replaced by the existing east gable-end appendage. He may also have been responsible for rebuilding the living room fireplace from its original corner configuration, perhaps concurrently enlarging the room by the removal of partitions.

William R. Codington died on January 22, 1935 aged 81, after suffering a heart attack at his Bernards Township home. He willed his entire estate, after specific bequest to family members and employees, in trust for his wife, Rachel, for life, and thereafter to their two children, Martha and Albert. Rachel also received "all the household furniture and personal property contained at my residence at River-Edge Farm"⁵²

The inventory made shortly after his death gives the total value of his personal property as \$105,261.02, the major portion of which consisted of notes, bonds, mortgages, stocks and cash. The farm equipment at River-Edge Farm (including a milk delivery truck) was valued at \$749. Listed live-stock consisted of 28 pedigree-registered cows at "Rive-Edge Dairy" worth \$2,975, as well as three old horses valued at \$225. The inventory also gives limited information about the house, indicating that electricity and plumbing had been installed by that time. The listing of two lots of fireplace implements suggests that the fireplaces were being used. The set of wicker porch furniture probably graced the screened porch; a mix of braided and oriental rugs covered the floors. A "maid's bureau, old" was valued at 50 cents; a "mahogany bureau, antique," \$10.⁵³

⁵⁰ New Jersey Death Registers, 1891-92; NJ Wills, 6157R ; "Judge Codington Succumbs at 81," *The Bernardsville News*, January 24, 1935.

⁵¹ Somerset County Deeds, Book F10, page 138, Book T11, page 466, Book W20, page 149 and Book P21, page 201; "Judge Codington Succumbs at 81," *The Bernardsville News*, January 24, 1935; NJ [US Census, Plainfield, NJ, 1900 & 1920.

⁵² Somerset County Wills, Book E1, page 200].

⁵³ Somerset County Inventories, Book W, page 136.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 27 Kennedy-Martin-Stelle Farmstead, Somerset County, NJ

Rachel Codington died on November 12, 1936, less than two years after her husband, leaving all of her property to her two children. Her personal property, valued at \$12,030.61 in her estate inventory, included \$8,640.86 in cash, mortgage, interest and uncollected debts, notes, interest and book accounts, jewelry worth \$499, a wrist watch worth \$18, a 1929 Cadillac valued at \$50 and the household goods inherited from her husband worth \$140. The inventory provides considerable information about the house at River-Edge Farm and its furnishings. Nine rooms are named: telephone room, living room, dining room, kitchen, hall, north bedroom, south bedroom, southwest bedroom and maid's room. The inventory indicates the upper story contained at least one bedroom, as well as an attic and possibly a hallway. The inclusion of items such as a brass kettle and brass candlestick in the telephone room, an "old churn, painted wood" in the dining room, and an "old cradle" and an "old stand" in the hall suggest the presence and appreciation of antiques, possibly passed down through the family.⁵⁴

Upon the death of Rachel Codington, in accordance with the terms of her husband's will, River-Edge Farm (along with other real estate) passed to their two children, Martha C. Dascombe and Albert I. Codington. In 1942, Martha conveyed her half interest in the family homestead and three other tracts to her brother.⁵⁵ The property passed from the ownership of Oliver Stelle's descendants in the following year when Albert I. Codington, sold it to the Arlington Investment Corporation of Kearny, New Jersey. Arlington developed the Sun and Crest Roads neighborhoods from the northern portion of the farm but in 1945 sold the remaining property on the east side of the King George Road to Gerald L. Pearson, a scientist at Bell Laboratories, and his wife Mildred, who made it their residence. Fifteen years later, the Pearsons conveyed a 36-7-acres tract including the farmstead, along with an adjoining 7.1-acre lot, to George and Ingrid Geier, who lived there until the 1990s. While operating his marine-maintenance company in Brooklyn, Mr. Geier continued limited farming on the Basking Ridge property, first haying the fields and later growing Christmas trees. Alteration made by the Geiers include replacing the Codington's screened porch with the family room appendage in 1961-62, removing the plaster ceiling in the living room and adding the bookcases to left of the fireplace, adding vinyl siding to the exterior of the house in 1989, and installing recycled ship planking as flooring in the main barn.⁵⁶

Mrs. Geier died in 1994, and in the following year her husband transferred title of the two tracts to a limited liability corporation, presumably controlled by him. On October 13, 1999, the Geier corporation sold the two tracts to the Sterling Properties Group, LLC, for \$5,000,000. On the same day, the Township of Bernards purchased the portion of the property containing the farmstead from Sterling for \$3,500,000 using funds raised by the municipal open space tax, the remainder being retained by Sterling for development as senior citizen housing. Recognizing the historical importance of the prop-

⁵⁴ Somerset County Wills, Book F1, page 344 Somerset County Inventories, Book W, page 201.

⁵⁵ Somerset County Deeds, Book X22, page 372 & Book 636, page 261.

⁵⁶ Ibid. Book 641, page 3168 & Book 970, page 123 & Book 976, page 235; Parsekian, "A Preliminary Report on the Reverend Kennedy Parsonage Farm, Bernards Township, New Jersey," page 6; Ann Parsekian "Notes from Farmstead Tour with George Geier, Meg & Phil, July 31, 2002.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 28 Kennedy-Martin-Stelle Farmstead, Somerset County, NJ

erty to the community, as well as its open space and recreational value, the township currently is engaged in planning for the farmstead's preservation and adaptive reuse as a cultural facility.⁵⁷

⁵⁷ Somerset County Deeds, Book 2029, page 856 & 860; Book 2262, pp. 156 & 178.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 29 Kennedy-Martin-Stelle Farmstead, Somerset County, NJ

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 30 Kennedy-Martin-Stelle Farmstead, Somerset County, NJ

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 31 Kennedy-Martin-Stelle Farmstead, Somerset County, NJ

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 32 Kennedy-Martin-Stelle Farmstead, Somerset County, NJ

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 33 Kennedy-Martin-Stelle Farmstead, Somerset County, NJ

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New Jersey Death Registers, 1891-92
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New Jersey Wills

Somerset County Clerk & Surrogate Offices, Somerville, NJ

Somerset County Deeds
Somerset County Mortgages
Somerset County Inventories
Somerset County Wills

United States Census

Agricultural Schedules, Bernards Township, 1850-1880
Population Schedules, Bernards Township, 1830-1880
Population Schedules, Plainfield, NJ, 1900 & 1920

UNPUBLISHED MATERIALS

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 34 Kennedy-Martin-Stelle Farmstead, Somerset County, NJ

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 10 Page 35**BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The boundary of the nominated property is delineated on the attached site boundary and photographic identification map and is verbally described in the following paragraph. The site and boundary map was made using the survey map recently prepared by the Township of Bernards for the property.

The boundaries of the nominated property are those of block 185, lot 20.03, the lot encompassing the Kennedy-Martin-Stelle Farmstead. The boundary begins on the east side of King George Road at the southwest corner block 185, lot 19.01 and the northwest corner of block 185, lot 20.03 at a concrete monument in the easterly sideline of King George Road, said point being 321.99 feet from the southerly side line of Sun Road and the easterly sideline of King George Road if they were extended to intersect and from which point runs:

1. North 83° 53' 47" East, 580.86 feet to a point; thence
2. North 05° 07' 11" West 71.50 feet to an iron pipe; thence
3. North 83° 22' 43" East 348.90 feet to a point in the centerline of the Passaic River; thence
4. Along the centerline of said River South 46° 17' 45" East 149.81 feet to a point in the centerline of said River; thence
5. Leaving the Passaic River South 72° 48' 42" West 120.41 feet to a corner fence post; thence
6. North 10° 29' 17" West 192.94 feet to a concrete monument; thence
7. South 80° 13' 42" West 467.98 feet to a concrete monument; thence
8. North 08° 17' 38" West 210.41 feet to a concrete monument; thence
9. South 83° 53' 47" West 428.35 feet to a concrete monument in the easterly sideline of King George Road; thence
10. Along the easterly line of said Road North 21° 37' 23" West 77.84 feet to the point and place of BEGINNING.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary of the nominated property corresponds to those of block 185, lot 20.03, which lot comprises all of the remaining lands appurtenant to the Kennedy-Martin-Stelle Farmstead.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Photo Page 43 Kennedy-Martin-Stelle Farmstead, Somerset County, NJ

Photographic Identification:

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

Name: Kennedy-Martin-Stelle Farmstead
Location: Bernards Township, Somerset County, NJ
Photographer: Dennis N. Bertland
Date: Fall 2002
Negative Repository: Dennis Bertland Associates, Port Murray, NJ

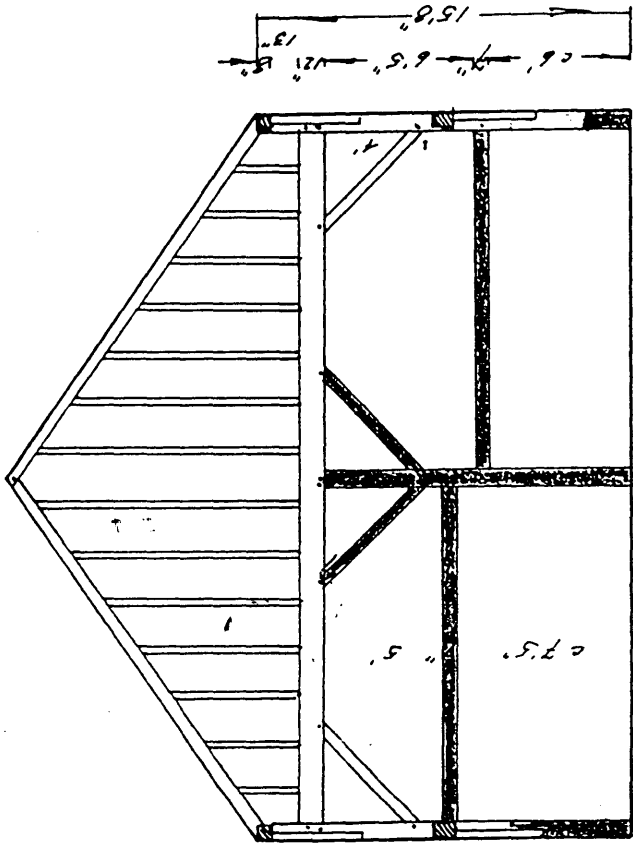
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1	1, entry detail	N
2	1, south facade	NW
3	1, north side	SW
4	1, N facade	SE
5	1, S&W facade	NE
6	2, SE facade	NW
7	2	W
8	2	NE
9	2, W side door detail	E
10	2, feed bins	NW
11	2, loft	SW
12	2, S bay interior	NE
13	2, N bay interior	SW
14	3	SW
15	3, NW sides	SE
16	3, foundation detail	NW
17	3, west extension	SW
18	3, detail	SW
19	3, S roof detail	
20	3, interior	NE
21	3, interior	SE
22	3&7, passage way	NW
23	4	NW
24	4	NW
25	5	SE
26	6	NE
27	3&7	NW

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Photo Page 44 Kennedy-Martin-Stelle Farmstead, Somerset County, NJ

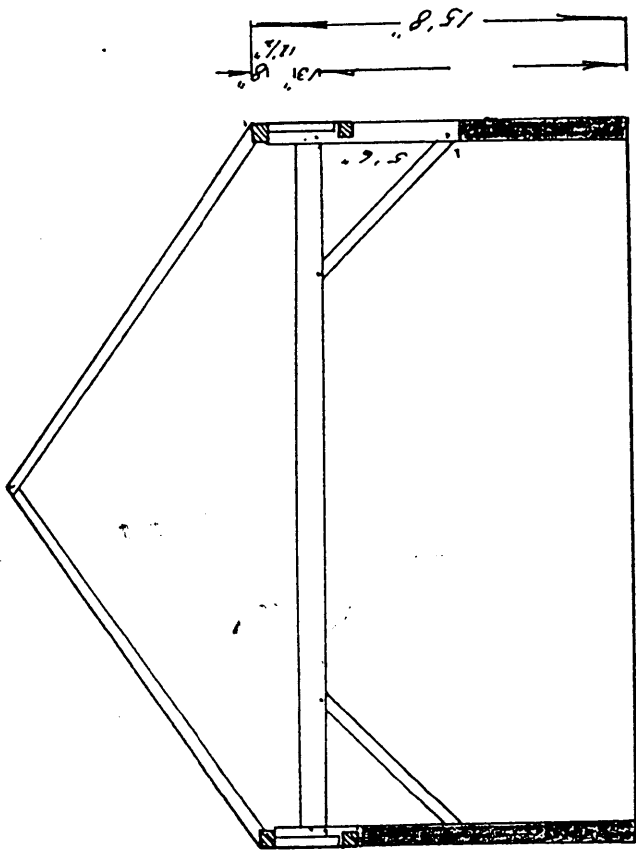
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28	3&7	NW
29	1, Room 001, beam detail	S
30	1, Room 001, beam detail	NE
31	1, Room 001, chimney	NE
32	1, Room 101	NW
33	1, Room 101	SE
34	1, Room 101, ceiling detail	N
35	1, Room 101	N
36	1, Room 102	NE
37	1, Room 103	SE
38	1, Room 104, door detail	S
39	1, Room 107	SE
40	1, Room 108, cellar latch detail	
41	1, Room 108	NE
42	1, Room 108, bake oven detail	
43	1, Room 108	NW
44	1, Room 108, door detail	
45	1, Room 201	NE
46	1, Room 203	NW
47	1, Room 204	E
48	1, Room 205	SW
49	1, Room 206, floor detail	
50	1, Room 208	NW
51	1, Room Attic	
52	Driveway, Barns 3&7	W
53	9, pool area	SW
54	Overall shot	SE
55	Contextual view, Passaic River	SE



14' 8" 15' 11" 9"
 30' Y
 Z

D o n t E

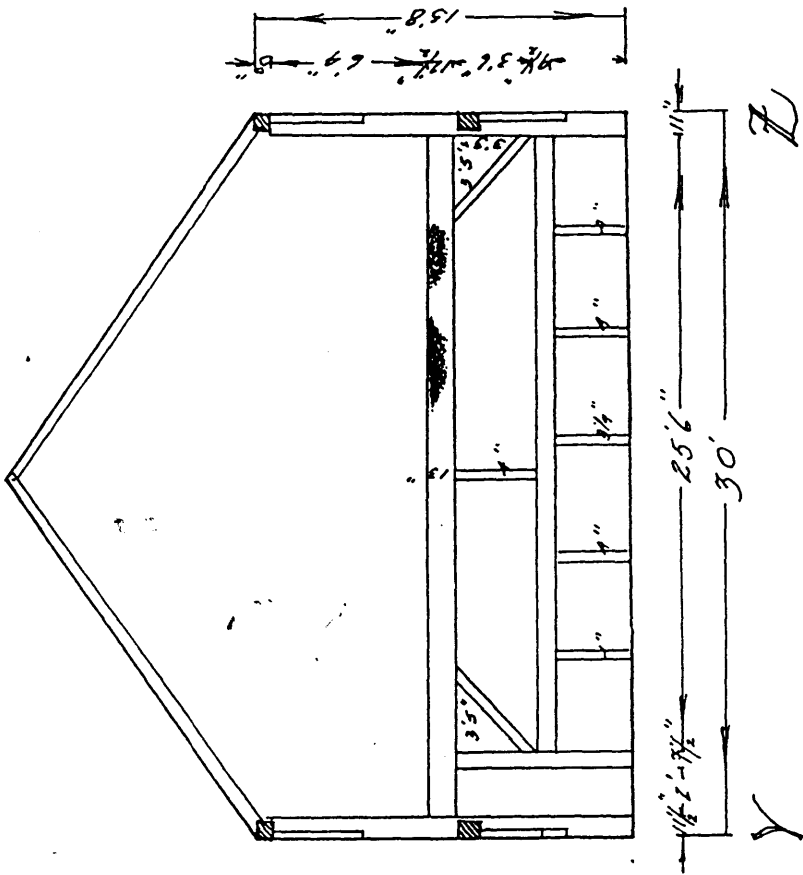
KENNEDY PARSONAGE BARN. Scale: 1/8" = 1' 0" 5' 10'



$8\frac{1}{2}$ ' 28' 5" 30' 11 1/2° Y

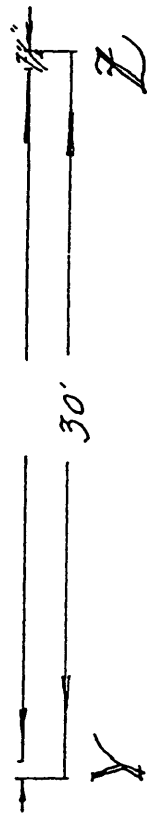
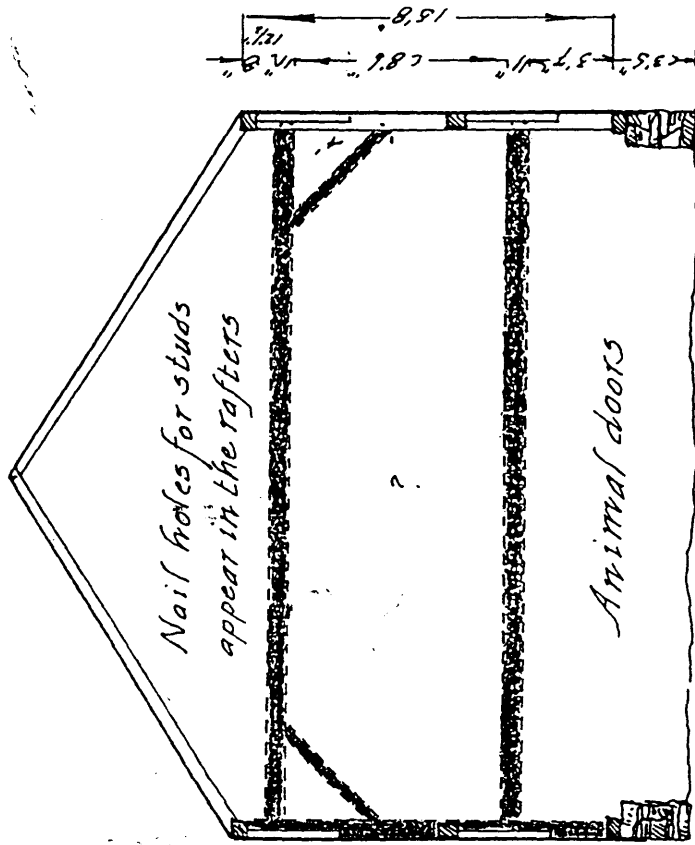
B. e. m. t. D

KENNEDY PARSONAGE BARN. Scale: 1/8" = 1' 0" 10'



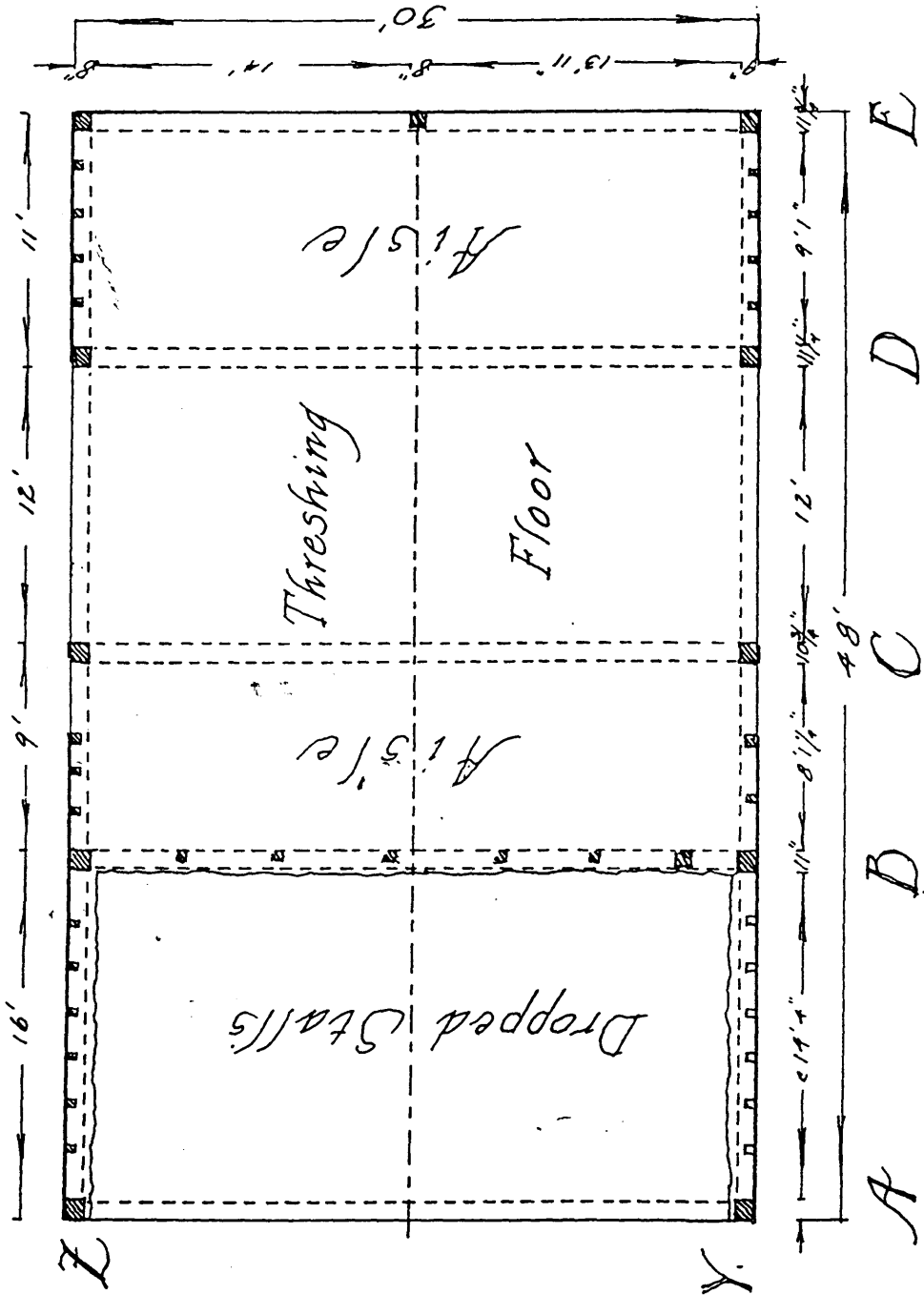
Y Z

Bent B
 KENNEDY PARSONAGE BARN. Scale: 1/8" = 1' 10'

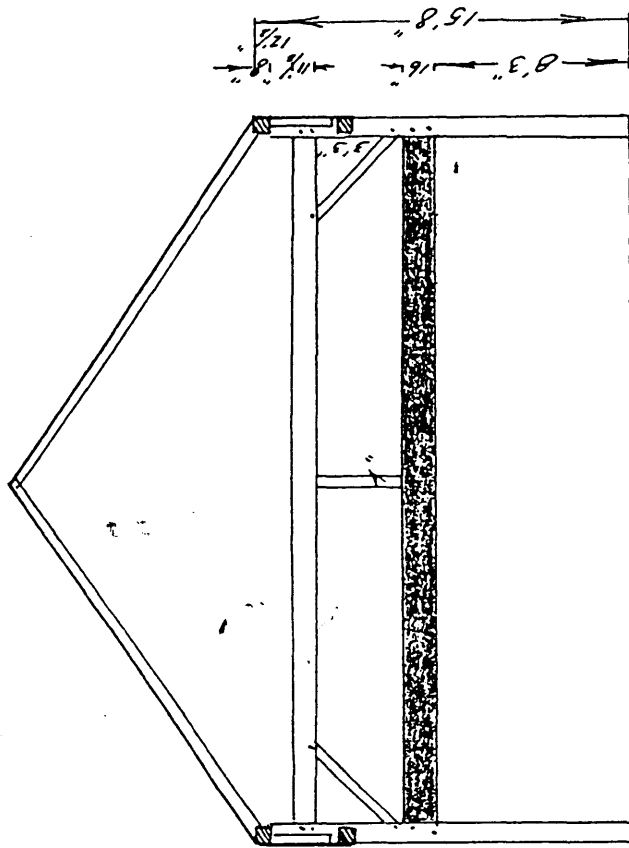


B e n t A

KENNEDY PARSONAGE BARN. Scale: 1/8" = 1' 0"



KENNEDY PARSONAGE BARN. Scale: 1/8" = 1' 0".



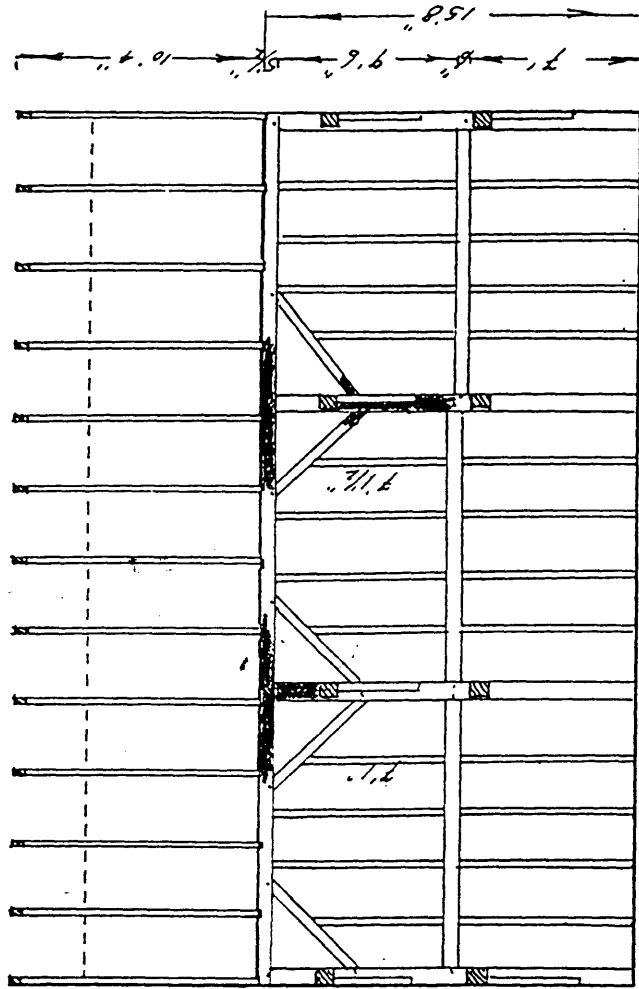
Y Z

10" 10"

28' 4" 30'

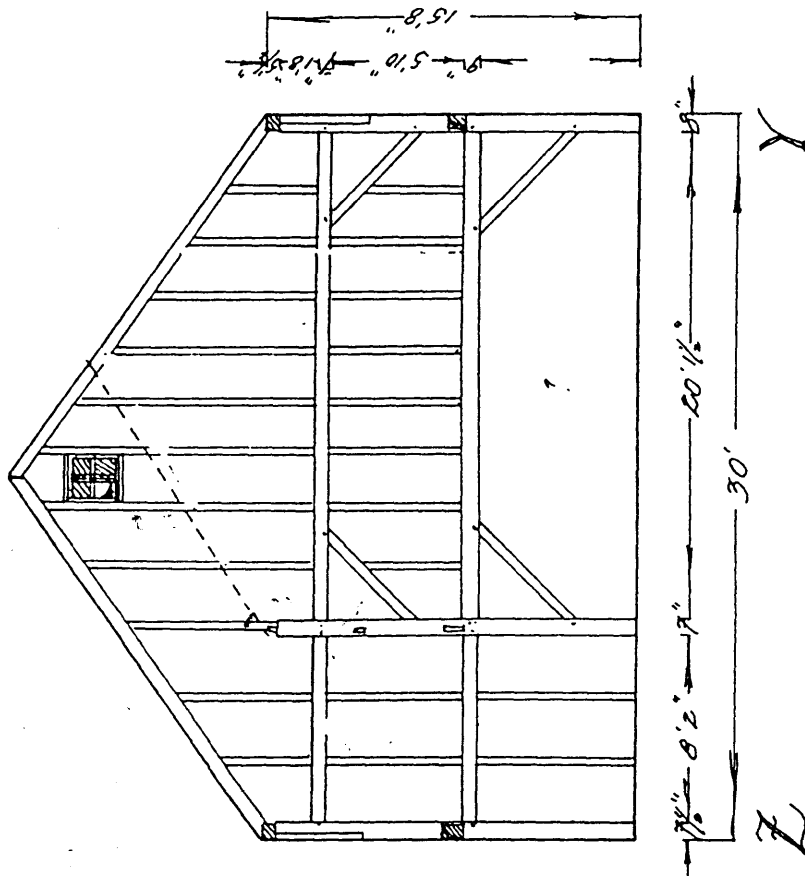
B e n t C

KENNEDY PARSONAGE BARN. Scale: 1/8" = 1' 0" 10'

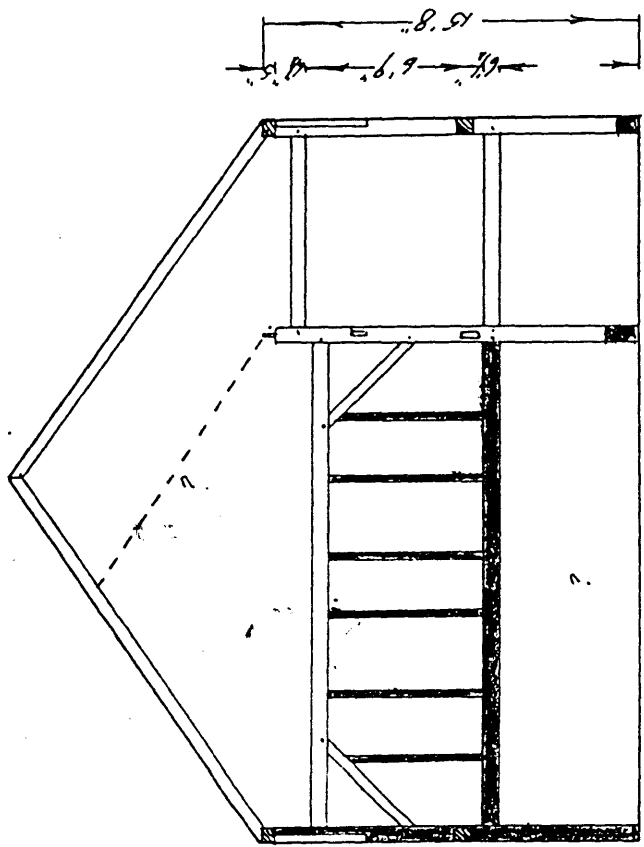


I H G F
S i d e Y

KENNEDY PARSONAGE STRAW BARN. 1/8" = 1' 0" 5' 10'



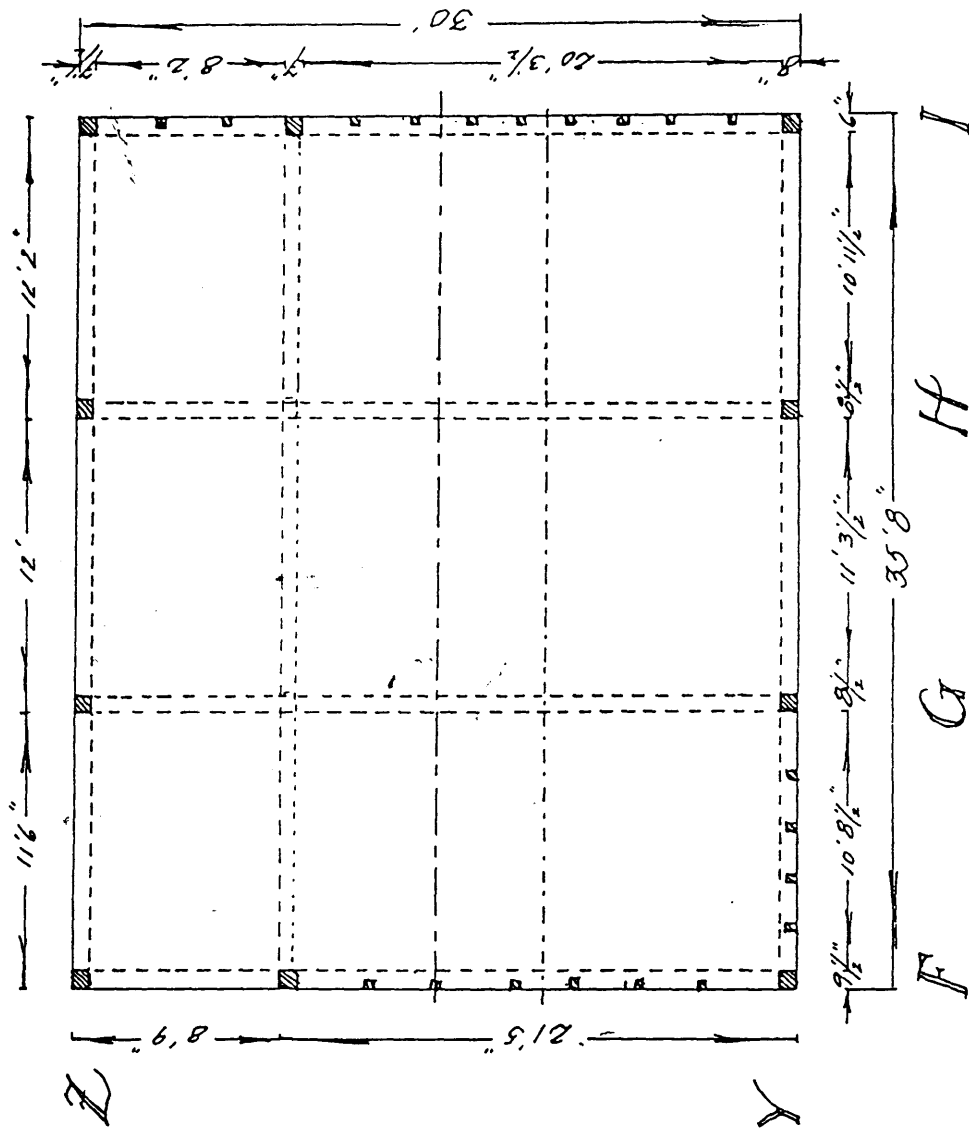
Z
 Y
 B e n t I
 KENNEDY PARSONAGE STRAW BARN 1/8" = 1' 0" 5' 10'



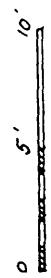
Y Z
 20' 3" 8' 1/2"
 30'

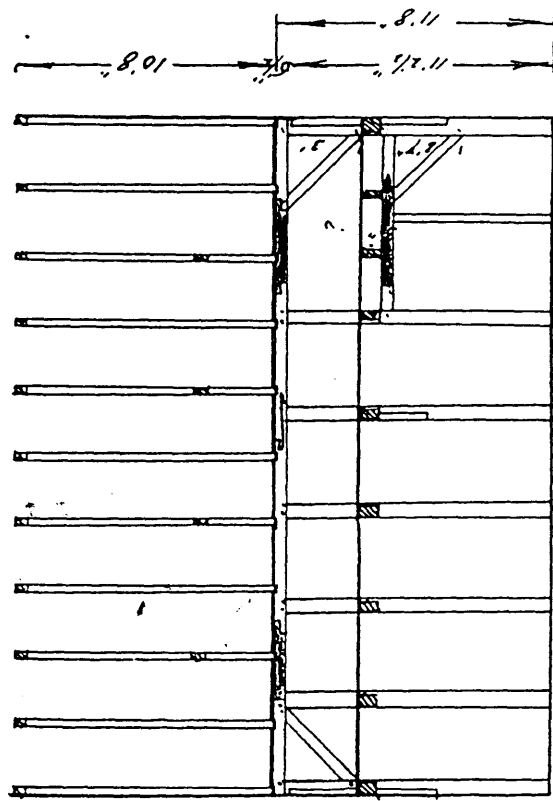
B e n t F

KENNEDY PARSONAGE STRAW BARN · 10' 1" 5' 10'



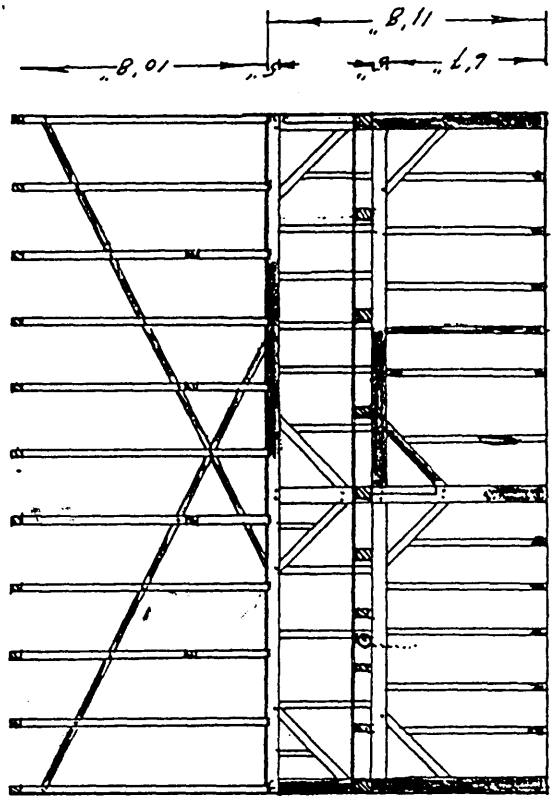
KENNEDY PARSONAGE STRAW BARN.





I H G F E D A
 Side Z

STELLE WAGONHOUSE Scale: 1/8" = 1' 10'



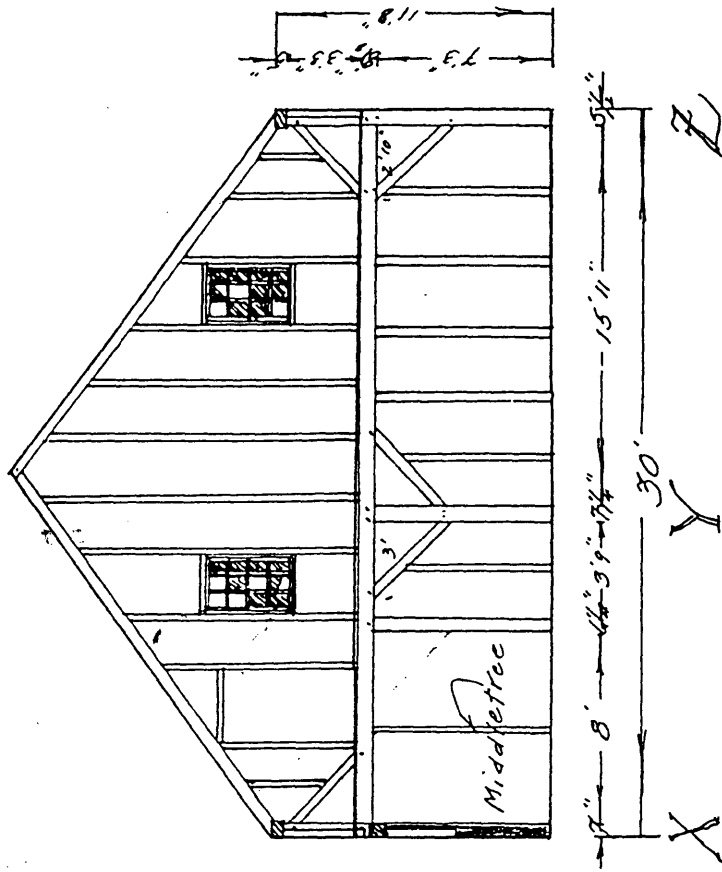
11' 4" 8" 28' 14' 1/2"

A
S
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L
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S
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D
E

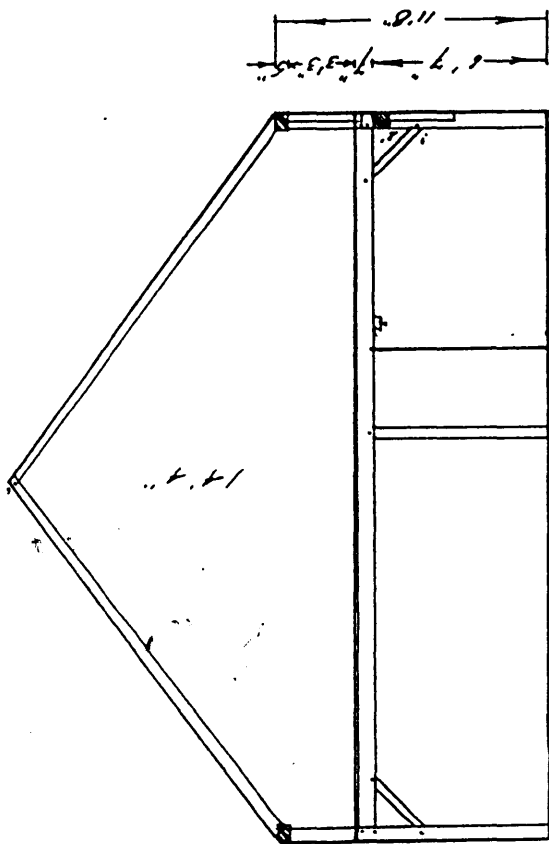
STELLE WAGONHOUSE

Scale: 1/8" = 1' 0"



Bent I

STELLE WAGONHOUSE Scale: 1/8"=1' 5' 10"



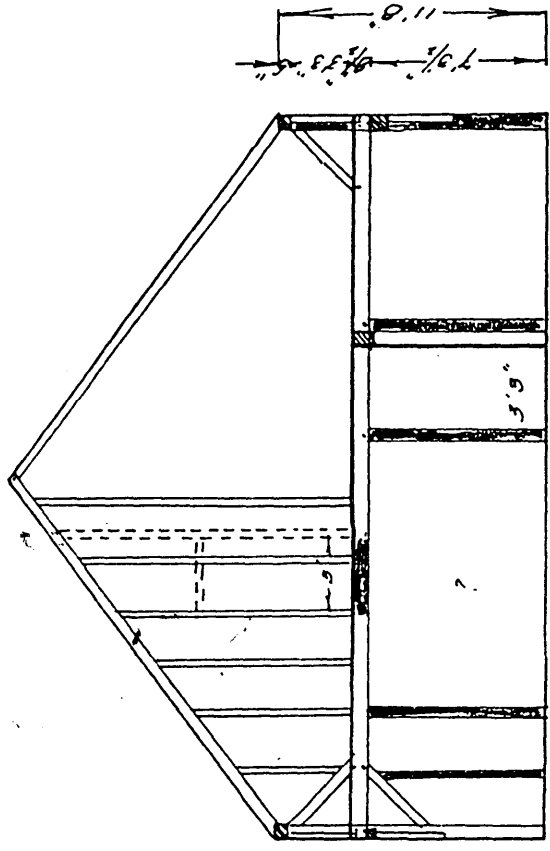
$16' 2\frac{1}{2}''$ $12' 5\frac{1}{4}''$ $6\frac{1}{4}''$
 Z Y X

D e n t E

STELLE WAGONHOUSE

Scale: $\frac{1}{8}'' = 1'$



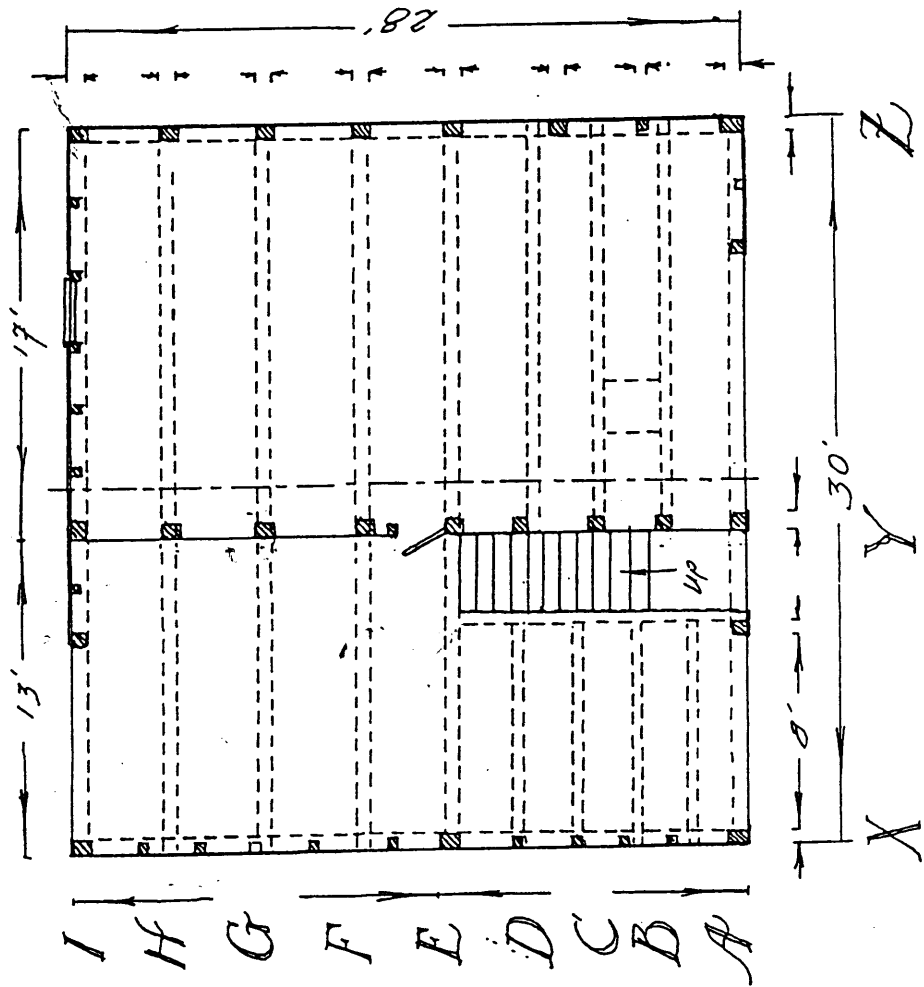


$11' 0''$
 $30'$
 $8'$
 $5' 9''$
 X
 Y

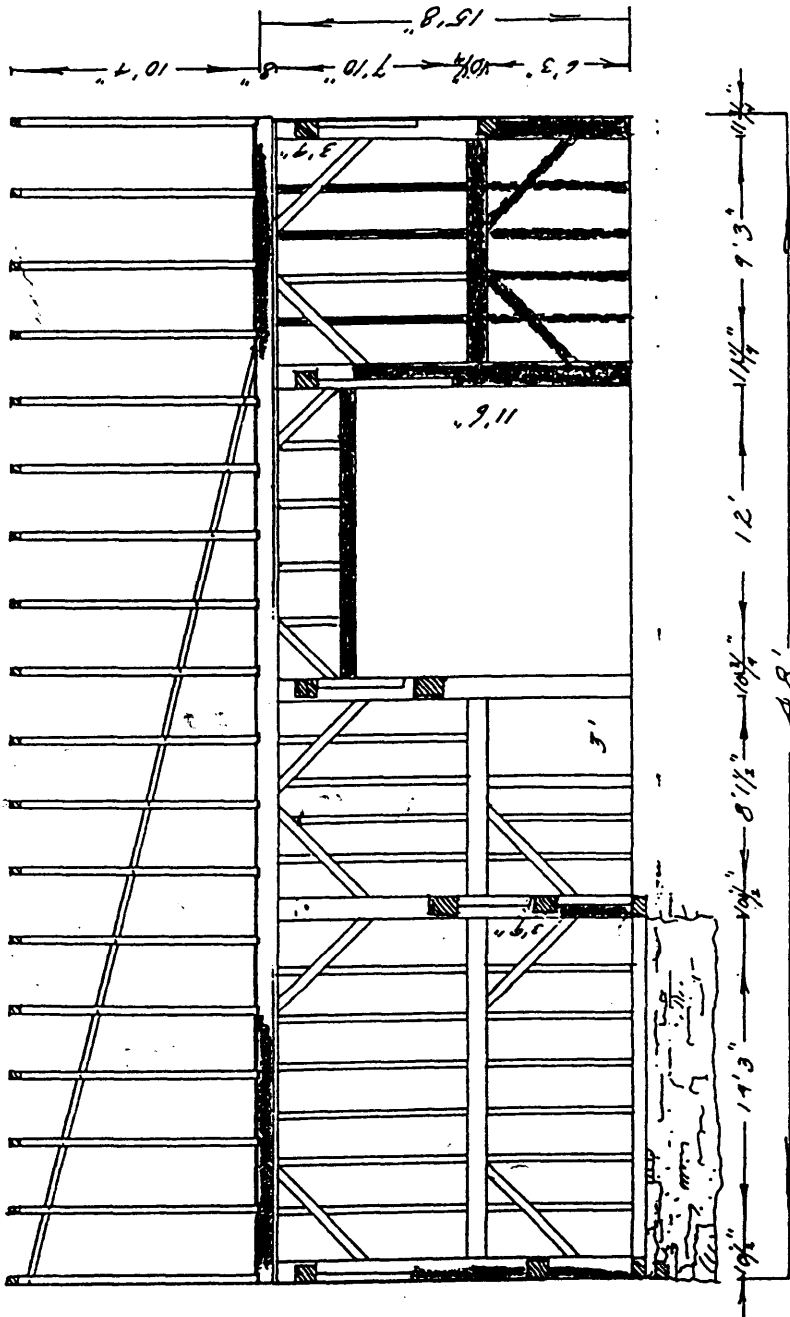
Bent A

STELLE WAGONHOUSE

Scale: $\frac{1}{8}'' = 1' 0''$



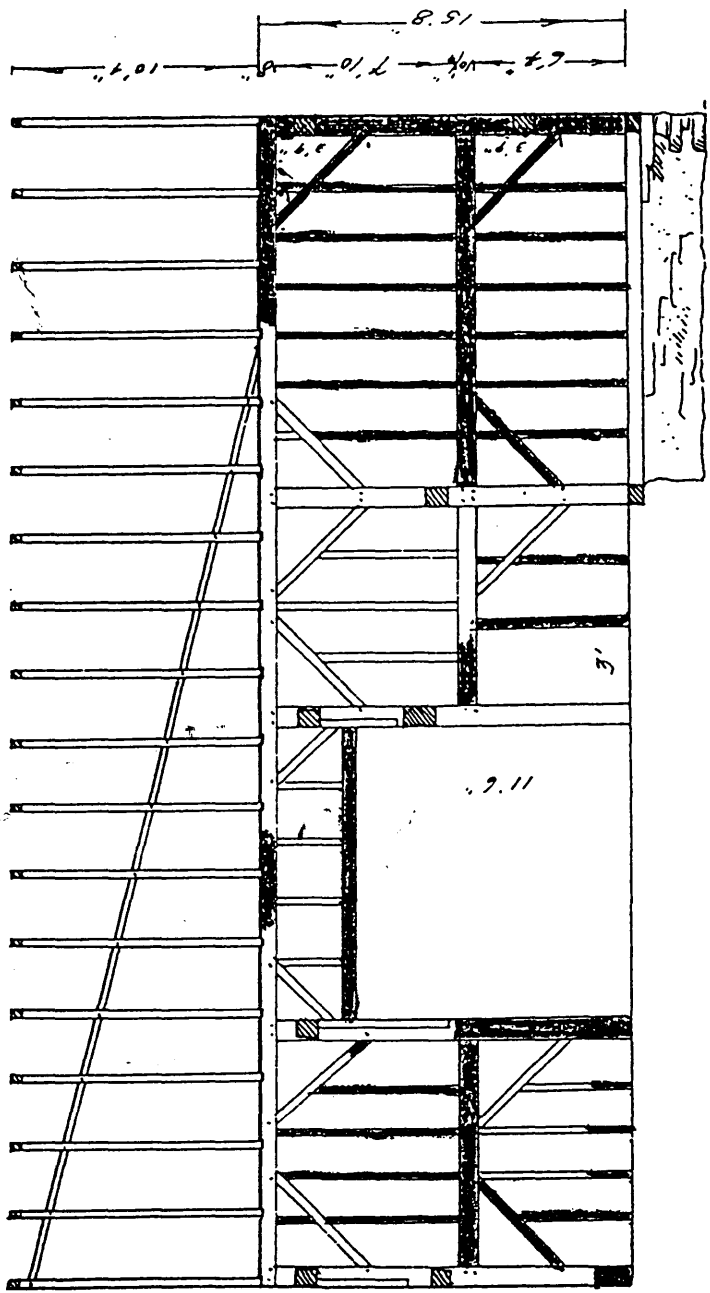
STELLE WAGONHOUSE



A B C D E

S i d e : Z

KENNEDY PARSONAGE BARN. Scale: 1/8" = 1' 0" 5' 10'

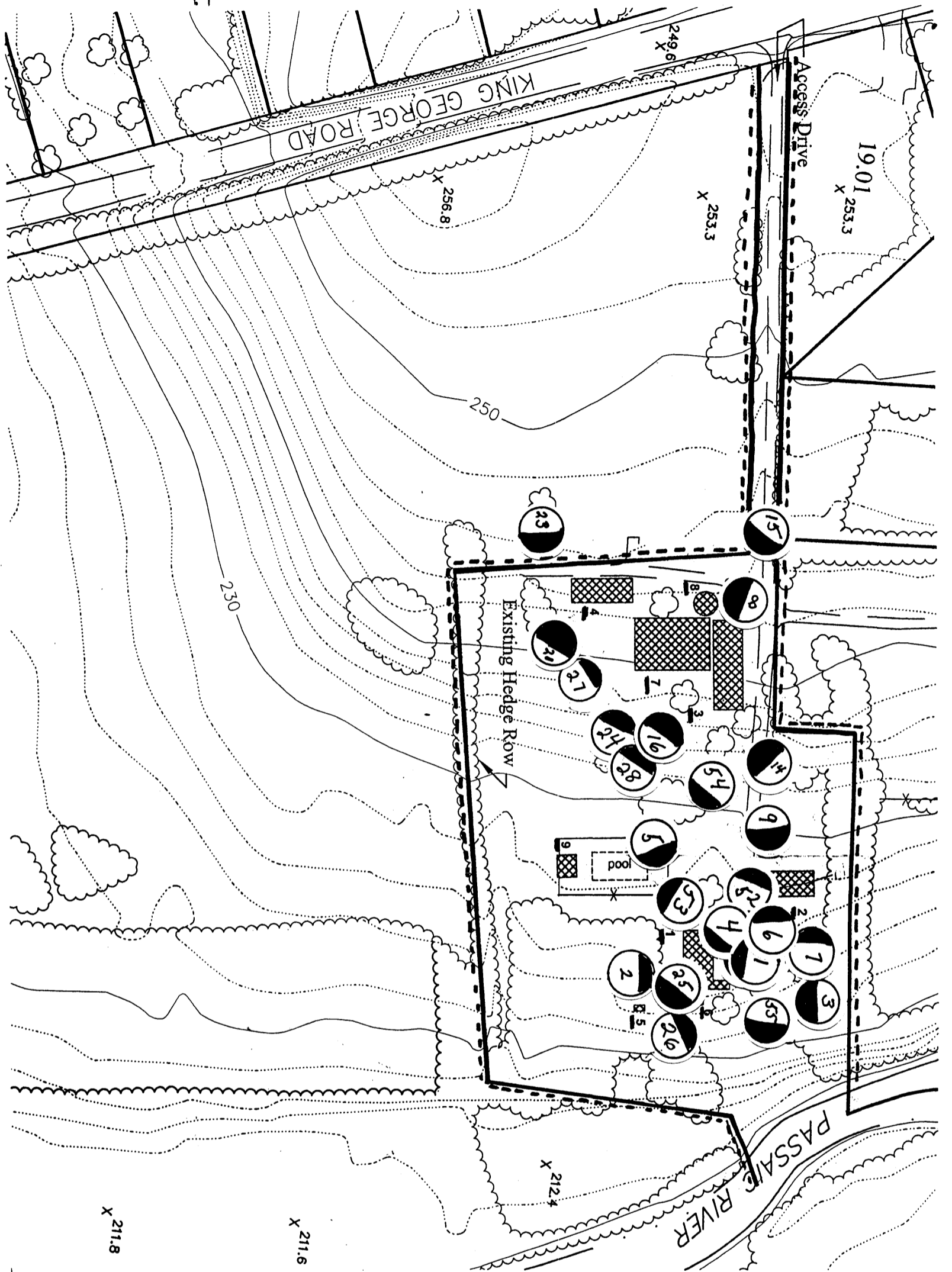


$11\frac{1}{2}''$ — $1'3''$ — $11\frac{1}{4}''$ — $12'$ — $10\frac{3}{4}''$ — $8'1\frac{1}{2}''$ — $11''$ — $61\frac{1}{4}''$

E D E Y C B A

S i d e Y

KENNEDY PARSONAGE BARN Scale: $\frac{1}{8}''=1'$ $\frac{5}{16}''=10'$



BUILDING KEY:

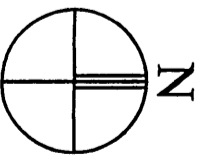
- 1. FARM HOUSE
- 2. WAGON HOUSE
- 3. ENGLISH BARN
- 4. COW SHED/BULL BARN*
- 5. ICE HOUSE/PUMP HOUSE
- 6. WELL HOUSE
- 7. DAIRY BARN
- 8. SILO
- 9. POOL HOUSE

*Presumed Use as Cow Shed, Bull Barn, or Piggery



Photo ID#
(direction of view)

Property Boundary



Historic Building Architects, LLC

312 West State St. Trenton, NJ 08618 TEL 609 393 3999 FAX 609 393 4333
Certificate of Authorization # AC 245 Expires 01/31/2004

The Kennedy-Martin-Stelle Farmstead
450 King George Road
Basking Ridge, New Jersey 07902
Township of Bernards
County of Somerset

Revisions & Submissions Date

Site Map and Photo Key

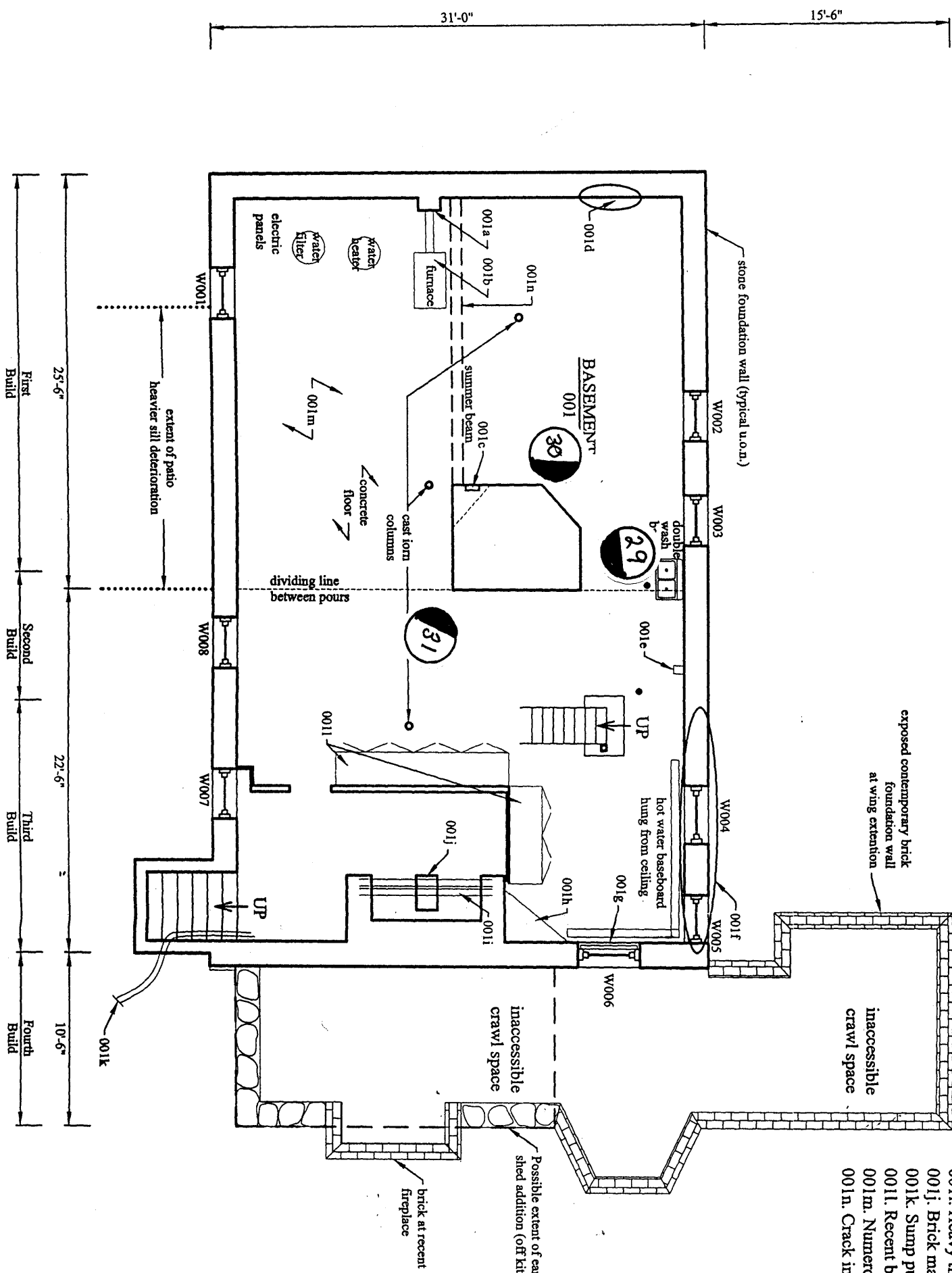
A-0.1

Date:
9/2002

Drawn by:
MH

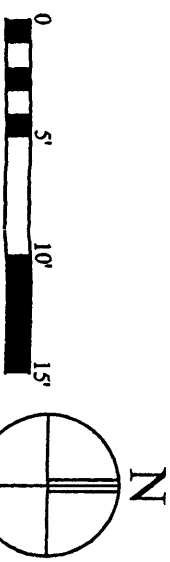
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1"=100'

ANNABELLE RADCLIFFE-TRENNER R.A. NJ# AJ 13774
MICHAEL CALAFATI R.A. NJ# AJ 09029

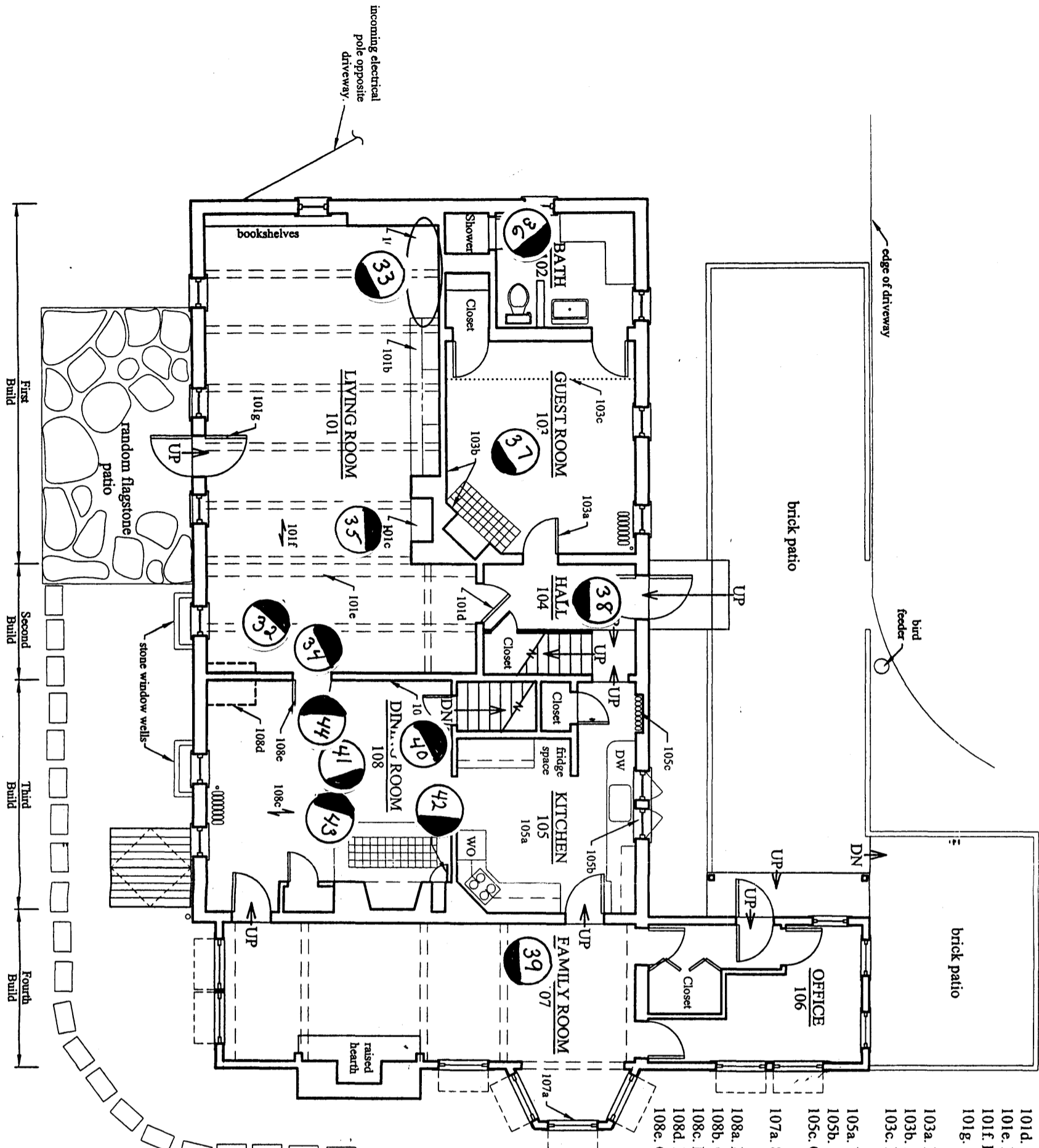


- NOTES:**
- 001a. Brick chimney flue-furnace vent.
 - 001b. Furnace is asbestos covered.
 - 001c. Stepped pockets in chimney's masonry mass.
 - 001d. Area of concrete infill.
 - 001e. Sanitation line exits.
 - 001f. Significant deflection of stone masonry foundation wall.
 - 001g. Blocked window.
 - 001h. Triangular stone mass diminishes as it approaches floor.
 - 001i. Heavy timbers spanning length of original fireplace.
 - 001j. Brick mass supporting chimney stack.
 - 001k. Sump pump discharge.
 - 001l. Recent built-in cabinets attached to vertical board wall.
 - 001m. Numerous temporary screw jack columns (not drawn).
 - 001n. Crack in summer beam.

4
Photo ID#
(direction of view)

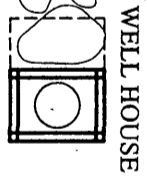


<p>Historic Building Architects, LLC 312 West State St. Trenton, NJ 08618 TEL 609 393 3999 FAX 609 393 4333 Certificate of Authorization # AC 245 Expires 01/31/2004</p>	<p>Preservation Plan for The Kennedy-Martin-Stelle Farmstead 450 King George Road Basking Ridge, New Jersey 07902 Township of Bernards, Owner</p>	<p>Revisions & Submissions Date <u>Somerset</u> <u>County, NJ</u></p>
<p>Date: 8/2002</p>	<p>Drawn by: MH</p>	<p>Scale: 1/8"=1'-0"</p>
<p><small>ANNABELLE RADCLIFFE-TRENNER R.A. NJ# AJ 13774 MICHAEL CALAFATI R.A. NJ# AJ 09029</small></p>		
<p>Farm House Basement Plan</p>		<p>A-1.0</p>

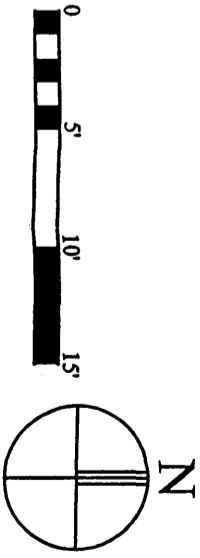


- NOTES:**
- 101a. Area of water damage to floors and walls.
 - 101b. Built-in Colonial Revival cupboard.
 - 101c. Late Federal fireplace.
 - 101d. Original 4 panel door.
 - 101e. Exposed beams. Ceiling between beams filled in with beveled boards.
 - 101f. Direction of non-original flooring.
 - 101g. Victorian era dutch door with applied strap hinges.
 - 103a. Early door with strap hinges.
 - 103b. Knobby pine walls.
 - 103c. Patch in plaster ceiling and at baseboard.
 - 105a. Vinyl flooring and knobby pine cabinets.
 - 105b. Vinyl clad windows.
 - 105c. Cast iron radiator set into wall.
 - 107a. 8/8 simulated windows with bottom hoppers (typ).
 - 108a. Horizontal board wainscoting.
 - 108b. Cast iron oven door, 1848.
 - 108c. Direction of non-original flooring.
 - 108d. Box at ceiling to enclose second floor plumbing.
 - 108e. Original 4 panel door.

Photo ID#
(direction of view)



WELL HOUSE



Historic Building Architects, LLC
 312 West State St. Trenton, NJ 08618 TEL 609 393 3999 FAX 609 393 4333
 Certificate of Authorization # AC 245 Expires 01/31/2004

Preservation Plan for
 The Kennedy-Martin-Stelle Farmstead
 450 King George Road
 Basking Ridge, New Jersey 07902
 Township of Bernards, Owner

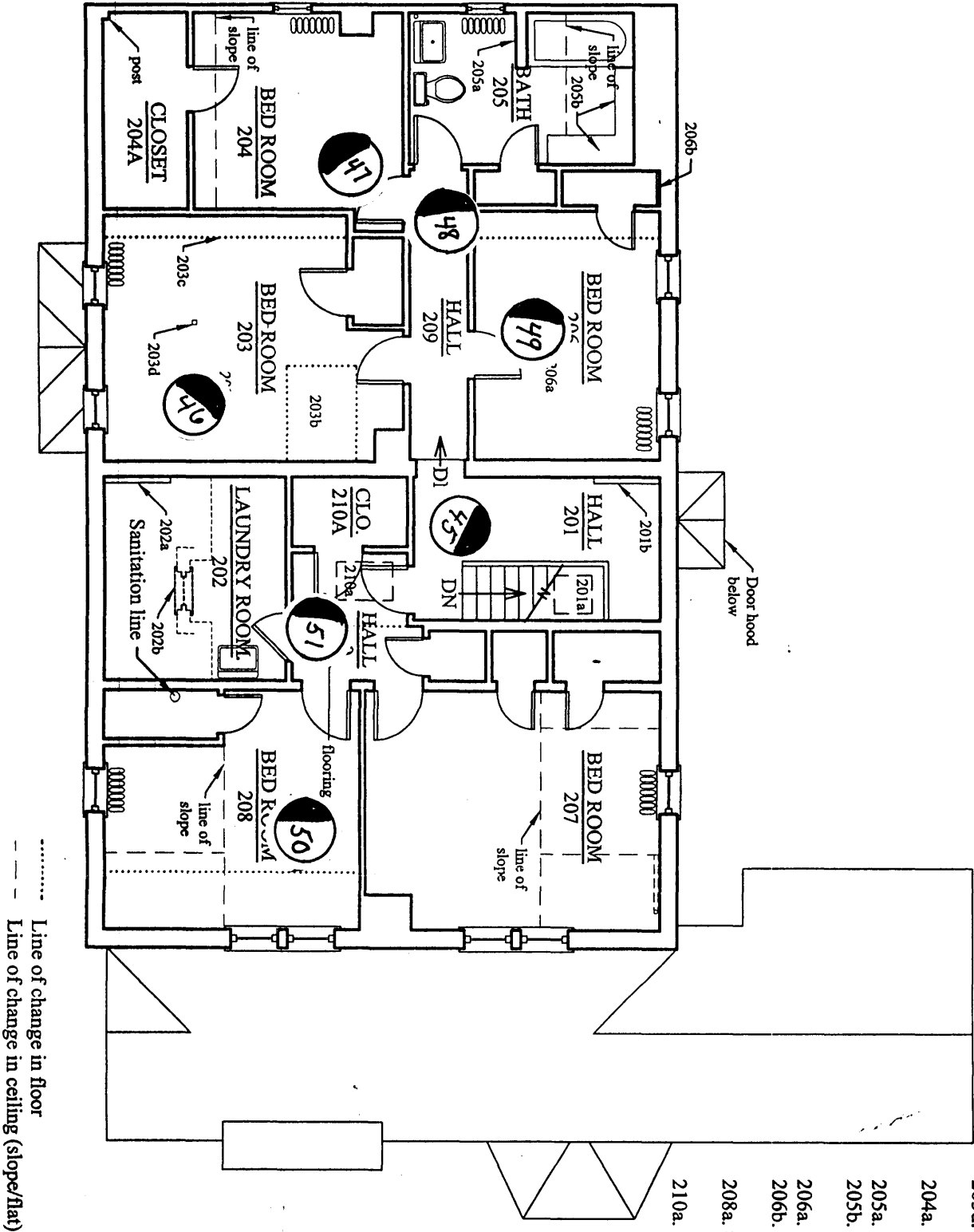
Revisions & Submissions	Date
Somerset County, NJ	

Date: 8/2002
 Drawn by: MH
 Scale: 1/8"=1'-0"

ANNABELLE RADCLIFFE-TRENNER, R.A. NJ# AI 13776
 MICHAEL CALAFATI, R.A. NJ# AI 09029

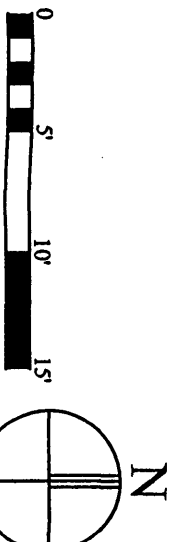
Farm House First Floor

A-1.1



..... Line of change in floor
 - - - - - Line of change in ceiling (slope/flat)

First Build Second Build Third Build Fourth Build



4 Photo ID#
 (direction of view)

- NOTES:
- 201a. Skylight.
 - 201b. Diagonal strut behind plaster.
 - 202a. Diagonal strut behind plaster.
 - 202b. High dormer window.
 - 203a. 12" wide floor boards - majority of this room.
 - 203b. 9" wide floor boards this area.
 - 203c. Continuous seam between floor boards.
 - 203d. Metal patch in floor.
 - 204a. Floor boards upto 12" wide.
 - 205a. Beveled board wainscoting.
 - 205b. Colonial Revival cabinets.
 - 206a. Floor boards upto 12" wide.
 - 206b. Horizontal bump at line of window sill.
 - 208a. Sanitation line.
 - 210a. Attic access (panel in ceiling).

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 450 King George Road
 Basking Ridge, New Jersey 07902
 Township of Bernards, Owner

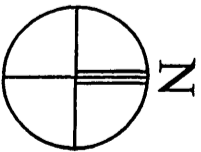
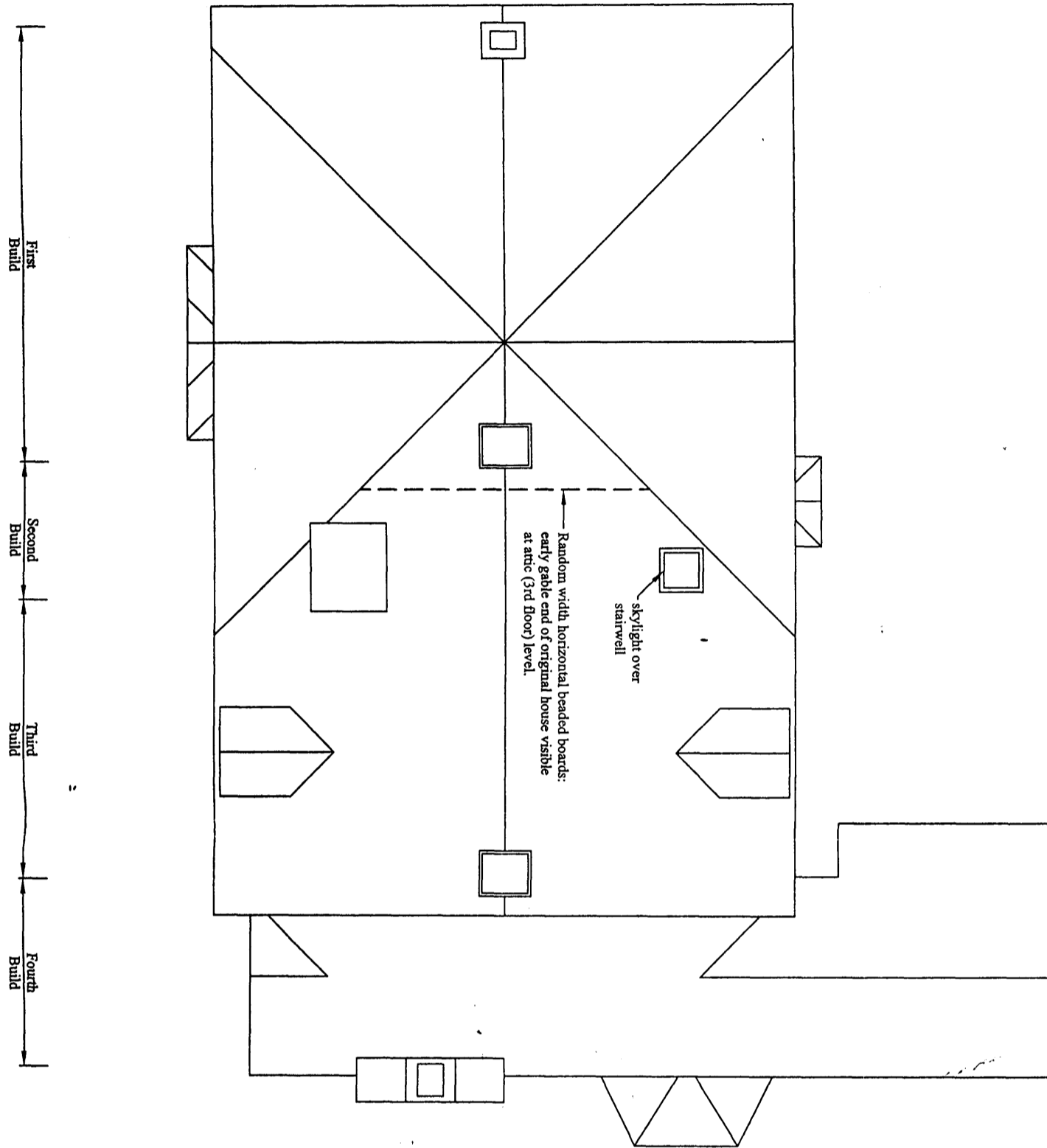
Revisions & Submissions	Date
Somerset County, NJ	

Date: 8/2002
 Drawn by: MH
 Scale: 1/8"=1'-0"

ANNABELLE RADCLIFFE-TRENNER R.A. N.J.# AI 13774
 MICHAEL CALAFATI R.A. N.J.# AI 09029

Farm House Second Floor Plan

A-1.2



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<u>Somerset</u>	
<u>County, NJ</u>	

Date:
8/2002

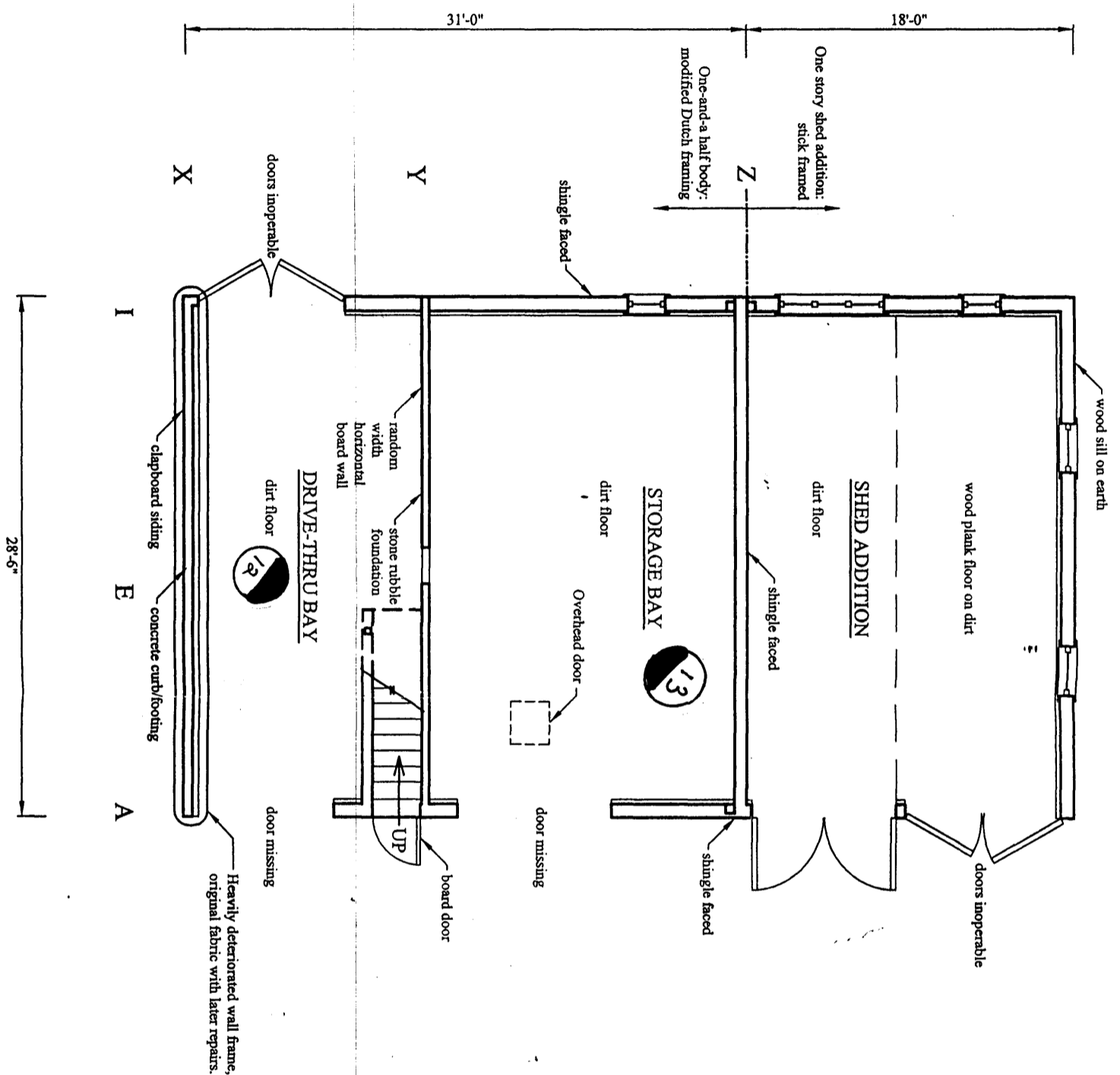
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MH

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

ANNABELLE RADCLIFFE-TRENNER R.A. NJ# AI 13776
 MICHAEL CALAFATI R.A. NJ# AI 09029

Farm House Roof Plan

A-1.3



4
Photo ID#
(direction of view)

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<u>Somerset</u>	
<u>County, NJ</u>	

Date:
8/2002

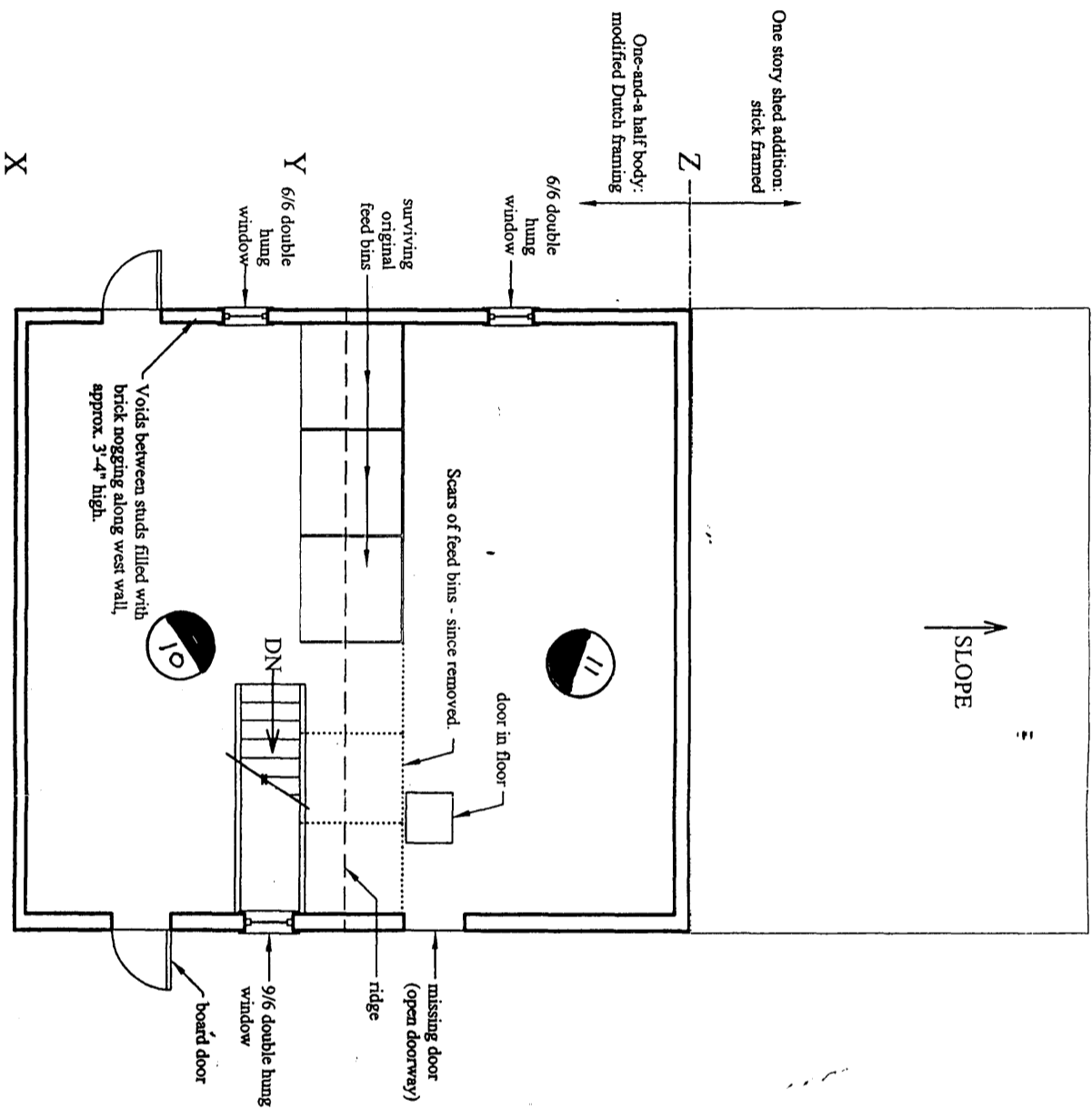
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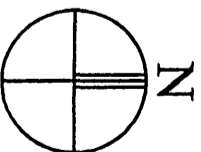
ANNABELLE SADCUFFE-TRENNER R.A. NJ# AJ 13776
MICHAEL CALAFATI R.A. NJ# AJ 07029

Wagon House First Floor Plan

A-1.4



4
Photo ID#
(direction of view)



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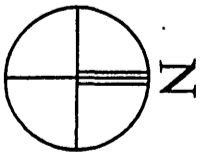
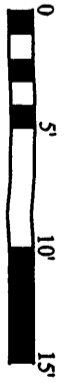
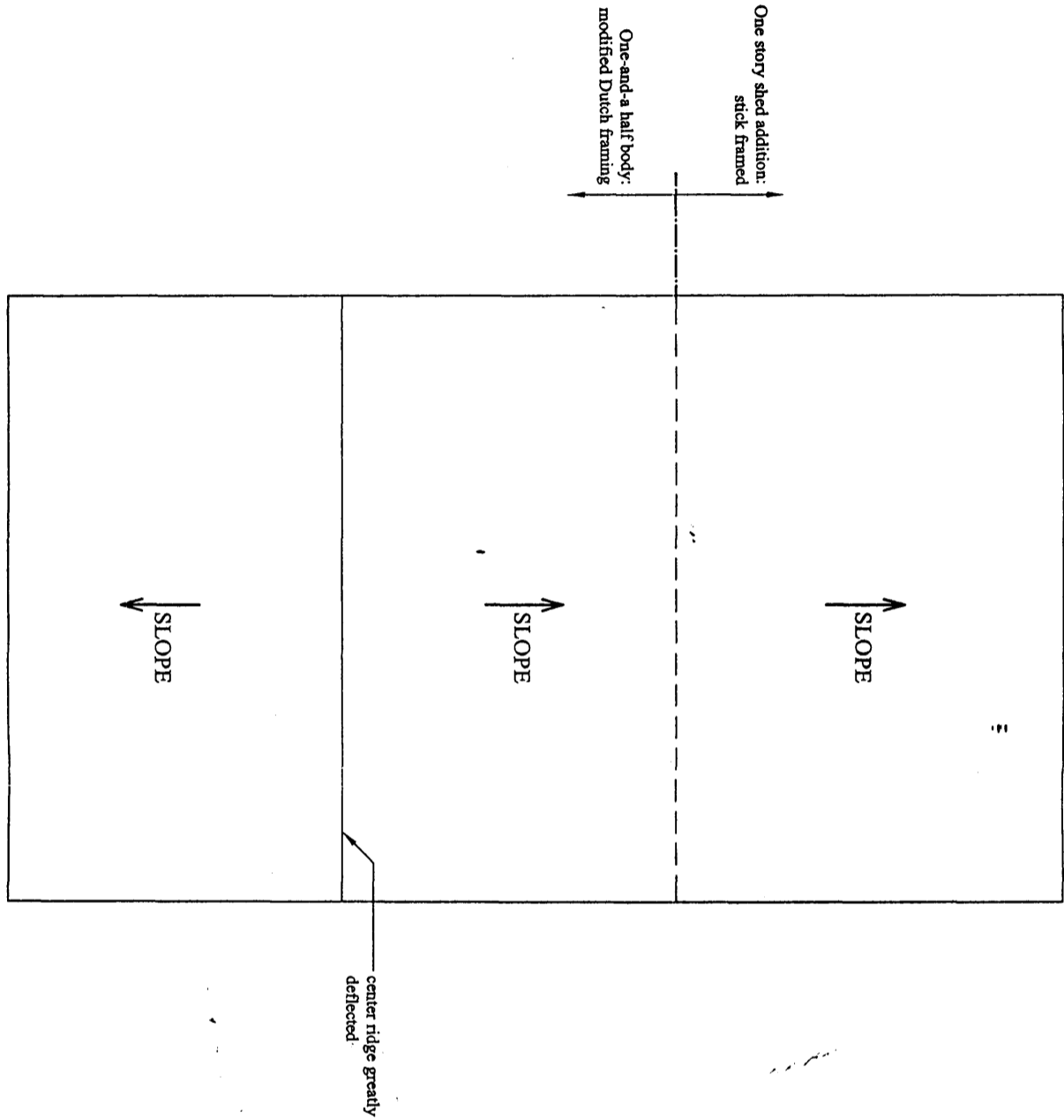
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Scale:
1/8"=1'-0"

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MICHAEL CALAFATI R.A. NJ# AI 09029

Wagon House Second Floor Plan

A-1.5



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Scale:
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Wagon House Roof Plan

A-1.6

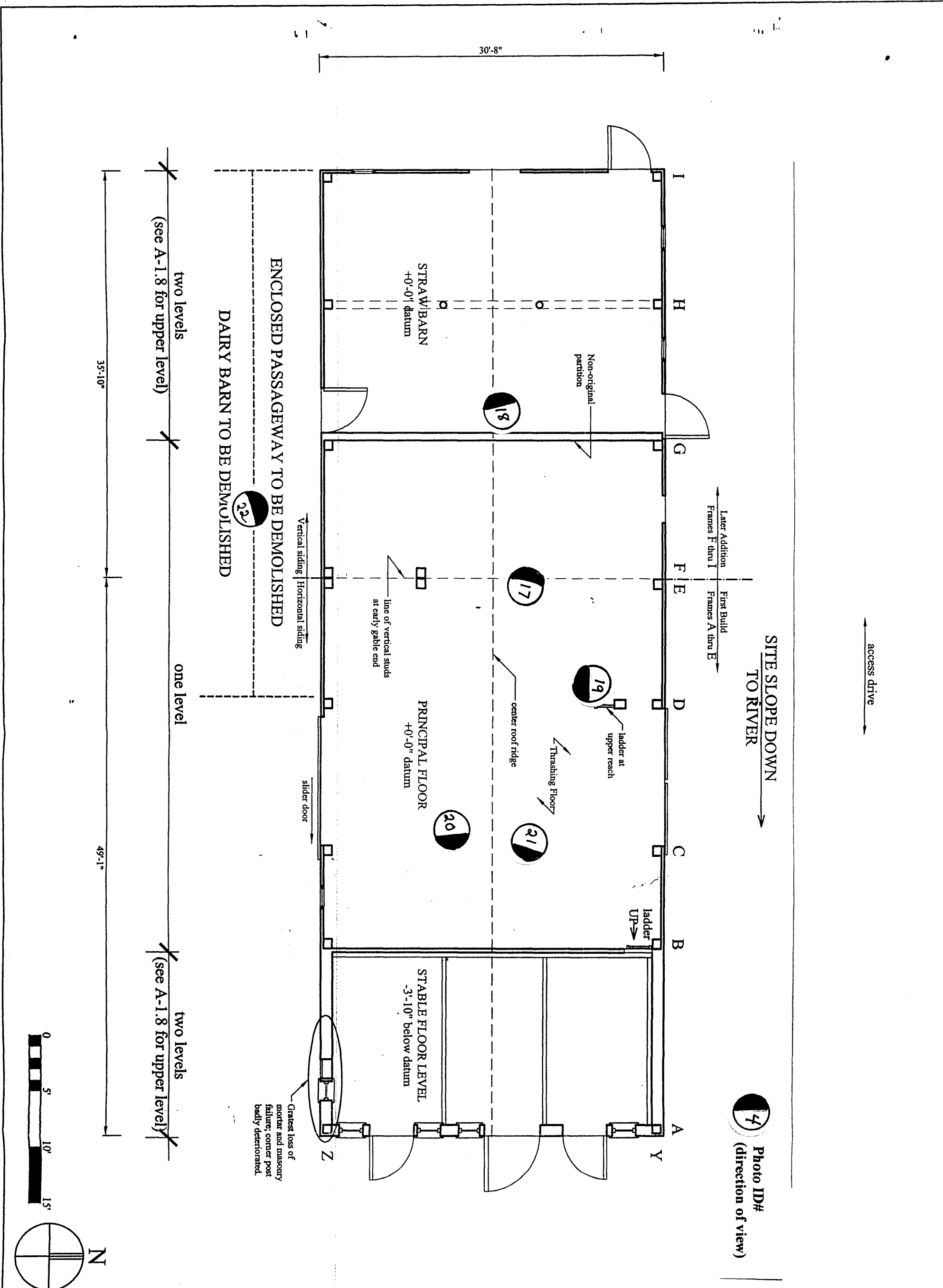


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(direction of view)

Revisions & Submissions	Date
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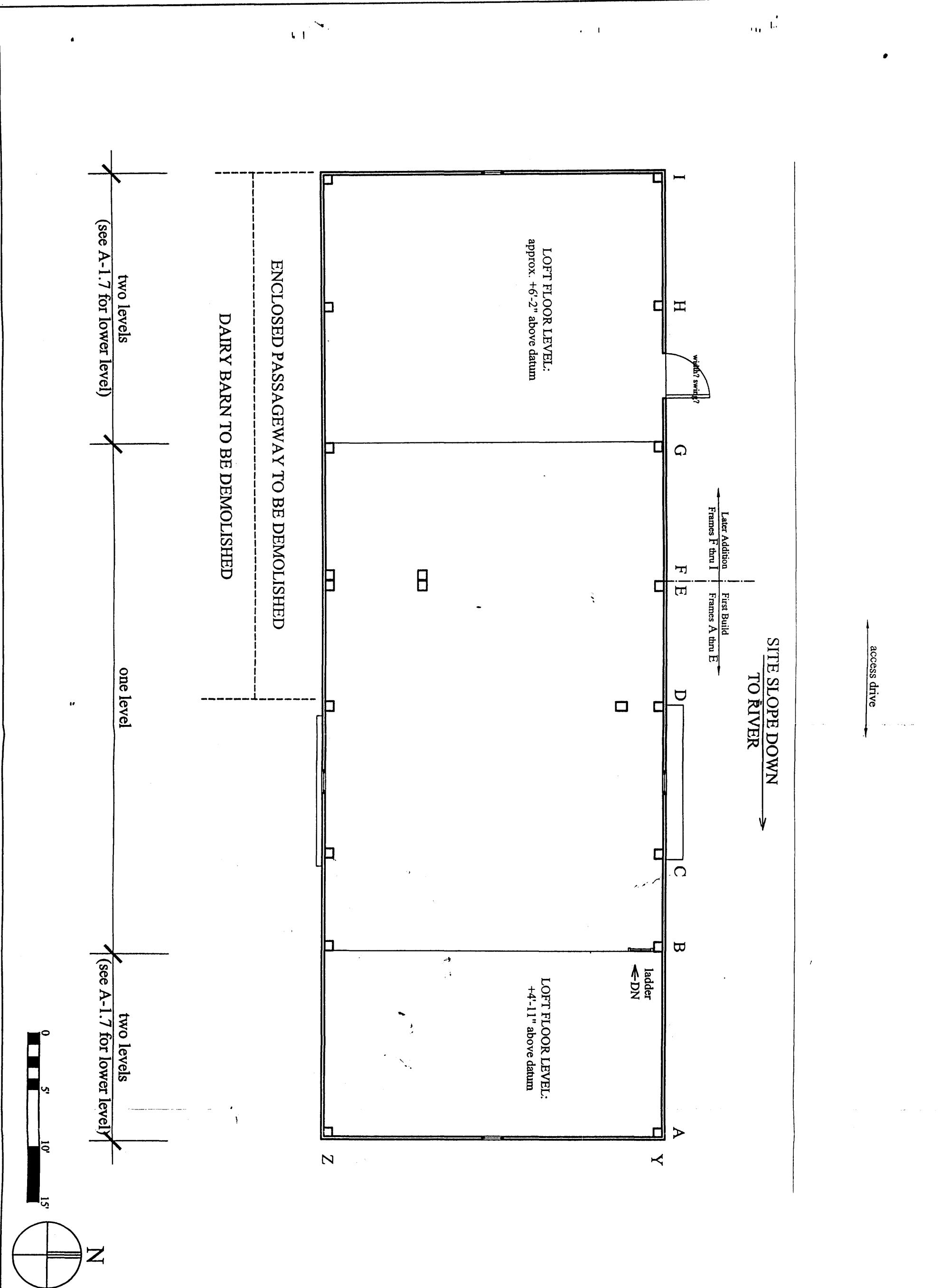
Barn Ground Level Plan

A-1.7

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MICHAEL CALAFATI R.A. NJ# AI 09029



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 8/2002

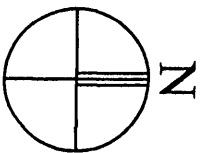
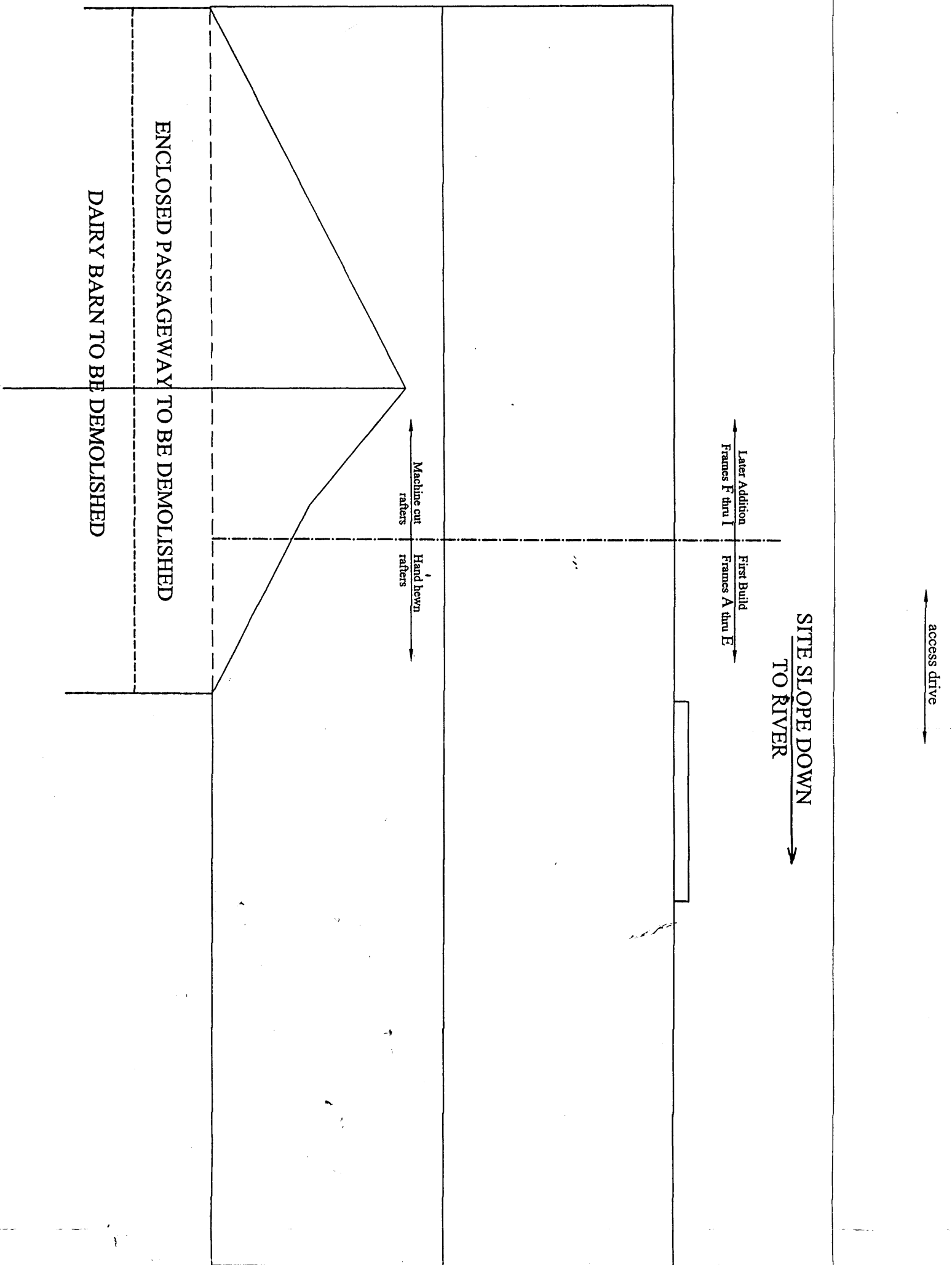
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 MH

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

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Barn Loft Plan

A-1.8



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Date:
8/2002

Drawn by:
MH

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

ANNABELLE RADCLIFFE-TRENNER R.A. NJ# AJ 13776
 MICHAEL CALAFATI R.A. NJ# AJ 09029

Barn Roof Plan

A-1.9