

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

JAN 16 1996

HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determination 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" for "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 (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Combs Hollow

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Combs Avenue and Combs Hollow Road South of Doby Road NA not for publication

city or town Randolph Township vicinity

state New Jersey code 034 county Morris code 027 zip code 07869

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.)

[Signature] Date 12/1/95
 Signature of certifying official/Title
 Assistant Commissioner for Natural & Historic Resources/DSHPO
 State of 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] Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 2/16/96
Edson H. Beall
 Entered in the
National Register

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
11	10	buildings
14		sites
4		structures
		objects
29	10	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

INDUSTRY/ manufacturing facility

/ extractive facility

/waterworks

AGRICULTURE/ agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC / single dwelling

/ secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER - East Jersey Cottage

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone, concrete

walls weatherboard, wood shingle, stucco

roof asphalt, wood shingle, slate

other

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations N/A
(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)

Industry

Period of Significance

1735-1927

Significant Dates

ca. 1735 - settlement and construction of mills

1927 - purchase of land by water system

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Combs, Moses N. (1753-1834)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

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): N/A

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Randolph Township Landmarks Commission

Combs Hollow
Name of Property

Morris County, New Jersey
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 230

Mendham NJ Quad

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3	Zone	Easting	Northing
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 Cynthia Hinson

organization Acroterion date March 8, 1995

street & number P.O. Box 950 telephone (201) 822-0883

city or town Madison state NJ zip code 07940

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 _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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

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

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AGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Combs Hollow Historic District
Morris County, New Jersey

Section number 7 Page 1

Description

The Combs Hollow Historic District consists of properties located along the "T"-shaped route created by Combs Hollow Road, India Brook and Combs Avenue in southern Randolph Township. Ancient sugar maples line narrow, twisting roads, forming canopies that contribute to the Hollow's secluded atmosphere. The adjacent lands, once used for grazing and farming, are now overgrown with bushes and trees, and the landscape is dotted with nineteenth century vernacular houses and rural outbuildings. Dawson Brook to the west and India Brook on the east are the significant natural features of the district which also includes two mill ponds, the larger of which was used until recently as a reservoir.

The heavily wooded, sloping terrain along the banks of India Brook which defines the district to the southwest, is the site of the nineteenth century Lewis mine and forge. This area also contains the remains of a stone dam and the traces of an earlier mining road.

One of the properties located along Combs Avenue contains the foundations of a small 18th century dwelling and outbuilding, identified as the Lewis Farm. A well-preserved nineteenth century vernacular house which lies directly across the road from the India Brook mill site was home to a succession of mill owners. To the northwest lies wooded land which was purchased in 1806 by the Skellinger family, who retained ownership throughout the nineteenth century. Their dwelling and barn complex exhibit a high degree of integrity. Historic maps indicate the location of the Skellinger family's 19th century iron mine to the southeast of the house, and to the east of the barn complex, on the northeast side of the avenue, is the site of at least one of the openings of a second iron mine, also identified on maps of the period.

The primary focus of the district occurs at the southern end of Combs Hollow Road, where a large mill pond and foundations of a mill complex point to the existence of a significant 19th century water-powered industrial site. Also located along Combs Hollow Road are the early nineteenth century Jacob Briant house and barn, the early 20th century David Minard Lewis house, the remains of an upper dam, the stone foundations of two dwellings and four outbuilding, in addition to two ca. 1925 outbuildings and a former one-room schoolhouse, now converted to a dwelling. The intersection of Combs Hollow Road with Doby Road marks the northern edge of the district.

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The standing buildings of Combs Hollow are all two stories tall and of frame construction. Most are simple and functional in design and date from the first quarter of the nineteenth century, the area's period of greatest activity. Individual property descriptions follow.

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. | East Jersey Cottage, ca. 1860 | Block 40, Lot 1 |
| | 10 Combs Avenue | 1 contributing building - |
| | Photo 1 | good condition |
| | | 1 contributing site |

The house is two stories tall on a stone foundation with a gable roof and clapboard siding. It is three bays in length oriented with its gable end to the street and has one modern chimney. There are widely-spaced, 9/6 sash on the first floor with louvered shutters and three kneewall windows on both the north and south facades; an enclosed porch lined with nine-paned casement windows extends along the south facade. The porch was probably added in the late 19th or early 20th century.

Documentation: In 1806, this property was part of a tract purchased by William Skellinger from Richard Loveridge. According to the 1887 map, the farm was still in the Skellinger family that year. The property of the original Skellinger farm included the barn complex across the road. Although the barns are now on a separate lot from the house, they are both owned by the same family, perpetuating the historic relationship of these properties. To the southeast of the house and Dawson Brook is the site of the Skellinger Iron Mine, which is indicated on nineteenth century maps and on a 1977 map of abandoned iron mines. The mine entrance is not visible from the road due to heavy vegetation.

- | | | |
|----|--|---|
| 2. | Barn Complex | Block 51, lot 19 |
| | 5 Combs Avenue | 2 Contributing Buildings - fair condition |
| | Early 19th C. with later modifications | |
| | Photo 2 | |

This lot contains a complex of three connected barns and a freestanding one-and-a-half story barn. The freestanding barn has both plank and board and batten siding. Windows on this structure are 3/3 and 4/4. The bank-barn consists of three sections forming a "U" shape, and a concrete silo. The main section has a stone basement and

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5. 22 Combs Avenue Block 40, Lot 2
Ca. 1960 "Colonial" Non-contributing Building

This house is set far to the rear of a wooded lot and is not visible from the road. It is one-and-a-half stories and is sided with stone face and clapboard sides. A front porch is set under an extended gable roof with two dormers. A two-car garage is attached.

6. 30 Combs Avenue Block 40, Lot 3
Undeveloped wooded lot Contributing Site

This lot with its natural landscape contributes to the integrity of the district by providing an appropriate view and setting for the district's extant resources.

7. 31 Combs Avenue Block 51, Lot 17
Undeveloped wooded lot Contributing Site

This lot's wooded landscape, like that on Block 40, Lot 3, contributes to the visual integrity of the district.

8. 33 Combs Avenue Block 51, Lot 16
Cape Cod, ca. 1955 Non-contributing Building

This house, set about thirty feet from the road, has a gable roof, shingle siding, 1/1 sash windows, two dormers on the facade, a center entry, and a concrete foundation.

9. 35 Combs Avenue Block 51, Lot 15
Cape Cod, Ca. 1955 Non-contributing Building

The house has a gable roof, clapboard siding, picture windows, two gabled dormers on the facade, a center entry, and a concrete foundation. Near the road the property is bordered with a low fieldstone wall.

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10. 45 Combs Avenue Block 51, Lot 14
Modified Ranch, ca. 1950 Non-contributing Building

The house is built in an "H" shape formed by two front-facing gables linked by a center section with a broad porch recessed under the low gable roof. The house has multi-paned sash windows, wooden shingle siding, and sits on a hill that rises to the north of Combs Avenue. There is a stone well on the front lawn.

11. McIlrath-Lorey House Block 40, Lot 5
Modified East Jersey Cottage 1 Contributing Building -
21 Combs Hollow Road Good condition
18th or early 19th century
Photo 5

A broad, banked house, two stories tall with five bays and a center entry in the traditional regional vernacular style. It has a high fieldstone foundation which is banked into the hill that rises to the northeast; the facade is oriented directly to the south and not to the road. It is sided with clapboard and the roof has been recently restored with slate. The fenestration includes kneewall windows below the cornice line, and 6/6 and 2/2 sash windows on the main floor. Mid-19th century Italianate style additions include cross gables in the roof, bracketed eaves and arched windows in the cross gables. There is a one-story gable-roofed stone addition at the rear of the house facing Combs Avenue. Later additions to the structure include a greenhouse and garage.

Landscape/Accessory Buildings: Located on the grounds are a small pond and a one-story shed.

Documentation: Inspection of the interior of the house reveals heavy timber beams with mortise and tenon joints, some of which are inscribed with Roman numerals. The land on which this structure stands can be traced back to an Andrew McIlrath, who sold the property to Thomas Wolfe in 1804. Deeds indicate that from 1827 onward this house was transferred along with the mill lot across the road on a 47.5 acre tract. Succeeding owners of the house and mills were Jacob Hughson and wife Lydia Combs, James Arrowsmith, John Stiles, Stephen Stiles, Abram Wyckoff, and James Lorey. Lorey was the last owner of record to operate the mills. James Lorey

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transferred ownership to his daughter, Clara, who subdivided the tract and sold Block 40, lot 5 to the present owners in 1954.

12. Lewis Farm, 18th century Block 40, part of Lot 4
Combs Hollow Road Contributing Site
Photo 6

The stone ruins of a dwelling and outbuilding are present on the part of lot 4 directly adjacent to lot 5. The roughly square foundations of the dwelling are banked into the side of the hill which rises towards Combs Avenue. This suggests that, like the McIlrath House, this dwelling faced south and used the hill rising to the north behind the house as a wind break. Next to the ruined foundations is a well opening lined with stones. To the northeast are the remains of a small outbuilding and a large ditch with tracings of iron ore which may have been a test hole for an iron mine. A stone property wall stands to the northwest. The remains of a 19th century mining road which served the Lewis Mine and Forge are visible at the curve of Combs Avenue.

Documentation: Nineteenth century maps show the dwelling of Aaron Lewis at this location. The site was part of a 114 acre tract purchased by Aaron Lewis in 1833. The tract, identified in nineteenth century deeds as the "Old Farm", had been part of the estate owned by his father, Captain David Lewis, which was auctioned off after David's death in 1830. Although not traceable through deeds, it is likely that this was the homestead of David's father, Edward Lewis.

13. Bridge over India Brook, 1901 Contributing Structure - good condition
Combs Hollow Road
Photo 7

This small iron bridge has a stone foundation and low railings decorated with a succession of interlocking Gothic arches. The bridge passes over India Brook just south of the mill site and marks the border between Mendham and Randolph.

Documentation: According to the Morris County Engineering Department, the iron bridge was installed in 1901. Repairs to the deck were made in 1976, but the railings themselves have not been altered.

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14. Site of mill complex and tan yard Block 52, part of Lot 2 (see map)
Southeast side of Combs Hollow Road 1 Contributing Site
18th and 19th centuries 1 Contributing Structure -
Photos 8, 9, 10, 11 & 12 good condition

This site includes the remains of a saw mill, the location of the tan yard, bark house and bark mill, and the remains of a footbridge. Also on this tract is a stone dam built during the first decade of the 20th century to replace the 18th century mill dam. The visible remains of the mill complex include a clearly evident stone lined head race situated parallel and close to Combs Hollow Road, and the dry-laid stone foundations of the wheel pit and tail race located to the south of the head race.

Although the .14 acre lot which contained the bark house, bark mill and tan yard can be approximately placed from its description in a deed from Moses Combs to Daniel Schenck (R2, 539) archaeological investigation is necessary in order to reveal the foundations of these structures.

On the banks of India Brook near the remains of the mill complex are the dry-laid stone foundations of a footbridge. Its close proximity to the mill complex suggests that it was an ancillary structure possibly connected to a mine road. In later years, when the mill pond was used as a reservoir, the bridge provided an alternate means of access to the sand filters. The presence of a layer of rough aggregate concrete on top of the stone foundation indicates that the bridge was probably rebuilt sometime during the 20th century. A pile of wooden boards and what appear to be the wooden railings of the bridge lie in the brush on the southeast bank of the brook.

Documentation: Mills: The Jacob Janeway account books contain entries beginning in the 1730s indicating that Levi Lewis, who established the mills, lived in the area now known as Combs Hollow. Records of the First Presbyterian Church in Succasunna credit Levi Lewis with sawing the lumber used to build the church, which was constructed about 1760. The mills belonged to Levi's son, Edward Lewis until he sold them to Jacob Briant, who then sold half interest to Thomas Wolfe. Wolfe and Briant sold their respective halves of the mill lot to Moses Combs in 1816 and 1817. The mills were in operation at least until 1894, when they were listed in the New Jersey Geological Survey's Report on Water Supply.
Bridge: The bridge is clearly indicated on maps dating from 1937 which are located at the Mendham Borough planning department.

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15. 23 Combs Hollow Road, 1960
1 1/2 story vernacular cottage

Block 51, Lot 13
1 Non-contributing Building;
1 Contributing Site

The original 19th century building was rebuilt with modern materials ca. 1960 and recently underwent extensive renovations. The present one-story "T"-plan house is of frame construction on a concrete slab and is sheathed with plywood and vinyl siding. A high fieldstone wall which abuts the northeast side of the house is likely the remains of the small 19th century structure which stood on the spot.

Documentation: A structure on this site was first indicated on the 1868 map with the initials S.S. which could stand for Stephen Stiles, who at that time owned the mills and the house directly to the southwest (Block 40, Lot 5). The 1887 map indicates J.D. Bonnell as the owner, who at that time also owned the house immediately to the northeast (Jacob Briant house). Local tradition indicates that this was a modest dwelling used by tenants and laborers in the mill.

16. 27 Combs Hollow Road
Moses Combs-Jacob Briant House
and barn, ca. 1807
Photos 13 & 14

Block 51, Lot 11
2 Contributing Buildings -
good condition

The house on this lot appears to have originally been three bays wide with a side entrance -- a classic East Jersey cottage. Three kneewall windows on this section appear to have been added. Additions over the years have created a main block with a facade of six irregularly spaced bays. Under this section the foundation is of stone. A bi-level addition made in the last ten years to the northeast end of the house includes an extended rectangular bay and a second floor dormer. The house is sheathed in clapboard, has 6/6 sash windows, and has a gable roof of wood shingles. Despite recent additions, the house still maintains a visual integrity that links it with the area's early 19th century history.

The barn on this lot is banked into the hillside and has a high basement constructed of stone. The upper loft is sided with vertical board, which is cut in a decorative pattern along the gable end. The windows have 6/6 sashes.

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Landscape: A dry-laid stone retaining wall extends along the property parallel to the road.

Documentation: The lot on which the barn and house stand, which was once combined with the present lot 12, can be traced back to Daniel Schenck, who purchased the property from Moses Combs. The house that exists on the lot today is most likely the house built by Jacob Briant, first mentioned in the deed from Moses Combs to Schenck. The Randolph Township land purchases by Moses Combs in 1816 included two lots purchased of Jacob Briant (D2, 67), one of which was a small rectangular lot of 1/4 acre fronting Combs Hollow Road, which probably contained the present house. In May of 1807, the same year he had purchased the mill lot from Edward Lewis, Jacob Briant had purchased the 1/4 acre lot from Thomas Wolfe for the sum of \$10, indicating that there was not yet a structure on it. Combs, and later the executors of Schenck's estate, transferred this lot along with a tract across the road containing the bark mill and tan yard. In 1840 the lot was transferred to Jacob Bonnell, who still appears on the map of 1887 at this location. According to a report prepared by the house's owners in the late 1970s, the business ledger of Jacob D. Bonnell was discovered under the floorboards during a renovation.

- | | | |
|-----|--|---|
| 17. | 29 Combs Hollow Road
Contemporary House, ca. 1989 | Block 51, Lot 12
Non-contributing Building |
|-----|--|---|

This 2 story house, which sits at the top of the wooded hill rising to the west of Combs Hollow Road, is not clearly visible from the road. Its steep gable roofs, clapboard siding, large windows and exposed metal chimney pipe express a modern "vernacular" house.

- | | | |
|-----|--|---|
| 18. | Northwest side of Combs Hollow Road
Foundations of dwelling, 19th century
Photo 16 | Block 51, part of lot 10 (see map)
Contributing Site |
|-----|--|---|

The dry-laid stone foundations of a dwelling, roughly square in plan, are located close to the road atop a short, steep incline. A stone lined well opening is located close to the foundations.

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Documentation: Nineteenth century maps show a structure at this location owned by William Jackson Lewis (a direct descendant of Levi Lewis). William Jackson Lewis had purchased the house on a lot of 5.16 acres from Peter and Isaac Combs in 1846 (X4, 120). This house was owned by successive generations of Lewises until 1927, when Silas Lewis and his wife Clara sold the tract to Charles H. Day, who in turn sold it to the Town of Morristown.

19. Southeast Side of Combs Hollow Rd Block 52, part of lot 1.01 (see map)
Banked barn, 19th century Contributing Site
Photo 15

Diagonally across from the foundations of the William J. Lewis house are the stone foundations of a banked structure, probably a barn as it is not indicated on any of the 19th century maps.

Documentation: The deed description for the above mentioned William J. Lewis property, which included land on both sides of the road, appears to include this site.

20. Southeast side of Combs Hollow Rd Block 52, part of lot 1.01 (see map)
Spring House, 19th century Contributing Building -
Photo 17 deteriorated condition

This small structure lies to the northeast of the banked barn structure. The roof has completely disappeared from this structure, which is banked close to the road on the incline leading to India Brook. The walls are made of stone, and there are traces of stone steps leading from the road to the structure.

Documentation: This site also appears to be included within the bounds of the William J. Lewis property.

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21. Southeast side of Combs Hollow Rd Block 52, part of lot 1.01 (see map)
Upper Dam and Mill Pond 1 Contributing Structure
Before 1822 1 Contributing Site
Photo 18

The dam, built of dry-laid stone, once impounded a small mill pond which is still present. The stream has since diverted around the dam and there are no indications of the dam's outlet.

Documentation: Reference to this upper dam is made in a deed of 1822 from Moses Combs to Jacob Hughson (M2, 182): "But the said Moses N. Combs reserves for the use of the mills below, the privilege of flowing back the water on the above described lot by keeping up the upper dam as high as it has been built if the owners of the mills should choose to keep it up." The upper mill pond is also mentioned in a later deed from Combs to Hughson (U2, 62) which granted Hughson "the water privileges consisting of two mill ponds and a mill race together with the right of raising and flowing said ponds as high as may be deemed necessary for the use of said mills..."

22. 33 Combs Hollow Road Block 51, part of lot 10
Mockridge-Lewis House, 1910 1 Contributing Building - fair condition
Photo 19 2 Non-contributing Buildings

This early 20th century structure is two-and-a-half stories tall, faced with stucco on the first story and wood shingles above. The two bay wide gable end faces the street, with paired windows on both floors. The front entrance is sheltered by a portico on thin wooden columns which rest on high concrete bases. A shed-roofed addition extends from the south elevation. Also on this lot are two non-contributing outbuildings -- a two-car garage and a small shed.

Documentation: According to Wilma Lewis Sagurton, this house was built in 1910 by her parents, Nanna Mae Mockridge and David Minard Lewis and was the first structure in Combs Hollow to use electricity. Power was provided by a gasoline generator in the basement, and the wiring scheme was designed by Nanna Mae herself. This was the last house to be built in Combs Hollow before the land was purchased in a forced sale by the Mayor of Mendham, Charles H. Day, for use by the Mendham and Morristown water systems.

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23. Northwest side of Combs Hollow Road Block 51, part of lot 10 (see map)
Foundations of dwelling Contributing Site
Late 18th / early 19th century
Photo 20

The dry-laid stone foundations of a dwelling with a fireplace on the northeast wall are located in the heavy underbrush close to the road.

Documentation: The 1854 map indicates the house of Thomas Wolfe on this site. This site was part of a 100 acre tract Thomas Wolfe had purchased from Alexander McIlrath in 1817, after selling his land and interest in the mills to Moses Combs. Thomas Wolfe was listed as an Overseer of the Roads in the Randolph Township Committee minutes of 1818, and his name became attached to the district he oversaw, indicated on 19th century maps as the "Wolfe District No. 4." The 1850 census shows Thomas Wolfe to be 84 in that year, listed as a farmer with real estate valued at \$3000. In March of 1854 the executors of the deceased Thomas Wolfe sold the 100 acre tract containing the dwelling to James Wortman, who is indicated at this location on the 1868 map. By the time of the 1887 map, a J. Wolfe is indicated as the owner, probably Job Wolfe who was Thomas' son.

24. Southeast side of Combs Hollow Rd Block 52, part of lot 1.01 (see map)
Farm outbuildings, 19th century Contributing Site
Row of sugar maples - Photo 21

This site contains the remains of two buildings, probably agricultural. The dry-laid stone foundations nearest the road are banked into the earth and appears to date from the 19th century. Farther back from the road are the remains of a concrete walled structure, probably dating from the early 20th century.

Documentation: No primary structures are indicated at this site on 19th century maps, suggesting that they were outbuildings belonging to the farm of Thomas Wolfe and subsequent owners of his farm. (House across street, see above.)

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25. Intersection of Combs Hollow Road with Doby Road
Former Wolfe Schoolhouse
Photos 22 & 23
- Block 51, part of Lot 10
3 Contributing Buildings -
fair / poor condition

This former schoolhouse, now converted to a dwelling, is a one story frame structure with a gable roof and two concrete chimneys. A porch with simple classical revival columns was added on the front facing Doby Road, along with a hip-roofed addition on the rear. The siding is of asbestos shingles and the paired and single windows have 6/1 sashes.

Landscape/Accessory Buildings: There is a low concrete retaining wall at the edge of the property facing Doby Road. The yard is very overgrown with shrubs and trees. There is a ca. 1920 two story frame barn on a concrete foundation with a gable roof and plank siding; and a single story shed.

Documentation: In January of 1825 the Lancaster School Association was officially incorporated and the five trustees were John H. Janson, Moses Crammer, Moses N. Combs, Thomas Wolfe, and Job Wolfe. In April of 1825 the Trustees of the Lancaster School purchased the present schoolhouse site consisting of 1/4 acre from John W. Leddle for the sum of \$20. The schoolhouse was constructed soon afterward and became known as the Wolfe Schoolhouse after Thomas Wolfe, who at that time lived in the house directly to the southwest. The building is still indicated as "School No. 4" on the 1887 map, but by the second decade of the 20th century, the house was apparently used as a dwelling. According to the recollection of Wilma Sagurton, who was born in 1916 in Combs Hollow, the only telephone in Combs Hollow was located in the Wolfe Schoolhouse, and use was provided to residents only in cases of emergency by the farmer who occupied the premises.

26. Site of Lewis Iron Mine
Undeveloped wooded lot
- Block 116, Lot 8
Contributing Site

This heavily wooded lot is the site of the Lewis mine and contributes to the visual integrity of the district.

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- | | | |
|-----|---|---|
| 27. | Southeast side of India Brook
Undeveloped wooded lot | Block 116, part of Lot 9
Contributing Site |
|-----|---|---|

This rugged, wooded lot contributes to the visual integrity of the district.

- | | | |
|-----|--|---|
| 28. | Southwest end of India Brook
Undeveloped wooded lot | Block 116, part of Lot 7
Contributing Site |
|-----|--|---|

This site which slopes steeply toward India Brook, contains remains of the rubble stone walls of a former dam. Although there is no above-ground evidence of its existence, due to the preponderance of iron slag, this is also believed to have been the site of the Lewis Forge.

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Significance

As in many sections of Morris County, the ready availability of abundant natural resources led to the initial settlement of Combs Hollow in the early 18th century, and encouraged the growth of agriculture and a variety of small enterprises such as mills, distilleries and tanneries. Although the area was named for the Combs family who were large land holders and prominent in the development of local industry, the hamlet had been settled for nearly a century before Moses Combs' arrival in 1816. Local businesses flourished throughout the nineteenth century, and the 1860's and 70's witnessed the expansion of numerous iron mines. These provided a draw for many recent immigrants and Combs Hollow enjoyed one final, brief period of growth before the ultimate demise of Morris County's mining industry during the 1890's.

The area remained a viable agricultural community until 1927 when it was chosen as a possible expansion site for the Mendham and Morristown water systems. At that time several residents were forced to sell their farms, and until very recently, the area remained frozen in time, protected from any significant new development.

Early Industry, 1730-1816

One of the earliest settlers in the area was Levi Lewis (1706-1779), who established the grist and saw mills on India Brook which continued to be operated by a succession of owners throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Levi Lewis was born September 15, 1706 in Woodbridge, New Jersey and sources indicate that he settled in the area now known as Combs Hollow in the 1730s.¹ Several members of Levi's family accompanied him, including his brother Eliphalet, with whom Levi established the grist and saw mills (Site #14). Although the precise construction date of the saw mill is not known, a published history of the First Presbyterian Church in Succasunna credits Levi Lewis with production of the lumber used in the construction of the church, which was built in 1760.² According to church records, Levi was one of the first trustees in 1765 and his brother Eliphalet was an elder in 1768.³ Levi and his sons were also active participants in the local government of Mendham, where they held the offices of Overseer of the Poor, Collector, Freeholder, and Overseer of the Roads.⁴

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After Lewis' death in 1779, his son Edward continued the operation of the mills.⁵ In his will, Levi distinguished between the "Mill plantation" which included the two mills and mill yards, and his "old plantation," a distinction which indicates that the two tracts were separate. To his son James, Levi left the "old homestead" which was located on the old plantation.⁶ Unfortunately, the precise size of Lewis' holdings are not clear, and with the exception of the mills, the location of the additional structures associated with his estate is not known.

The home of Levi's son Edward, who operated the mill until 1807, is equally difficult to place. One reference which indicates the approximate location of Edward Lewis' house appears in a deed between Jacob Briant and Thomas Wolfe dated May 1, 1807. The tract of land described in the deed begins at a point "near a spring of water near the house in which Edward Lewis now lives."⁷ The angles of the described lot, together with its location near a spring, indicate that it was part of the western corner of the mill lot sold to Jacob Briant by Edward Lewis and his wife, Mehitable, in April of 1807.

Edward Lewis also owned the tract of land adjacent to the mill lot on the southwest; it is likely that this site included the present Block 40, lot 4 on which the ruins of a house and outbuilding stand (Site #12). The close proximity of these ruins to the mill site make it a logical place for Edward to have lived when he operated the mills. When Edward Lewis died in 1813 he left his estate "both real and personal" to his wife Mehitable, which included the house in which he lived.⁸ In later years their son, Captain David Lewis, owned this site which was part of a 114 acre tract. This property, identified as the "Old Farm" was part of the estate sold at auction after Captain David Lewis' death in 1830.⁹ It was purchased by David's son, Aaron Lewis, whose name appears on nineteenth century maps next to a structure at this location. The 1850 census of agricultural productions shows Aaron Lewis to be the owner of a 110 acre farm which was valued at \$4000, one of the highest valuations in the area.

Due to a population increase in Mendham that began towards the end of the Revolutionary War, plans were initiated in the early 1800s to create a separate township.¹⁰ On November 13th, 1805, authorization was given for the creation of Randolph Township from the northern section of Mendham. One of the earliest meetings of the Randolph Township Committee was held at the Combs Hollow house of Captain David Lewis on April 25, 1806.¹¹ As the Lewis family owned land that lay

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near the newly created border with Mendham, it was inevitable that David should have taken part in the creation of the new township. Captain Lewis hosted later meetings of the Randolph Township Committee in 1813 and 1815, at which time he was noted in the minutes as an "Inn Keeper in Calais."¹² Calais was a small settlement to the north of Combs Hollow, and the name is still recorded on current maps. It is not known whether the tavern or inn owned by David Lewis is still standing. David Lewis also owned a distillery and cider works in Combs Hollow which undoubtedly provided the stock for his tavern. The lot on which the distillery and cider works stood was owned many years later by a great grandson of Captain David Lewis, David Minard Lewis, who sold it in 1927.¹³ These structures are no longer extant.

David did not continue the operation of the grist and saw mills; in April of 1807 Edward and Mehitable sold the mills to Jacob Briant and control of the business passed out of the Lewis family.¹⁴ The following year Jacob Briant sold one half share of this 29 $\frac{1}{4}$ acre lot to Thomas Wolfe¹⁵ and the two owned the mills jointly until selling them to Moses Combs in 1816-1817.

In addition to operating the mill, Briant and Wolfe built homes in the area, with ready access to the mill yard. In 1804 Thomas Wolfe had purchased a tract of 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres which was located directly across the road from the mill and included the present block 40, Lot 5 (Site # 11).¹⁶ The house standing on this lot appears to have been built in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century, and may have been constructed by Wolfe.¹⁷

Jacob Briant, who was about 27 years old when he purchased the mill lot, also purchased a small lot of about one-quarter of an acre on Combs Hollow Road from Thomas Wolfe the same year.¹⁸ This lot was parceled out of the tract Wolfe had acquired from Andrew McIlrath in 1804. Although no mention is made of a house on this lot when Jacob Briant sold it to Moses Combs in 1816, a later transaction from Moses Combs to Daniel Schenck makes reference to a house built by Jacob Briant on the lot.¹⁹ The house located on block 51, Lot 11 (Site # 16) is most likely the Briant house, as its position matches that of the house mentioned in the deed.

After Thomas Wolfe sold his share of the mill lot along with the previously mentioned 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ acre lot to Moses Combs in 1817, he purchased 100 acres of land bordering on

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what is now Combs Hollow Road to the north of his former holdings.²⁰ According to the 1850 census, Wolfe (who was by then 84 years old) maintained a productive farm, valued at \$3000; his most substantial products were Indian corn, oats and butter.²¹ The Wolf farmhouse is indicated on the 1853 map, and stone foundations are still visible at the corresponding site (Site #23).

Further strengthening the sense of Combs Hollow as a distinct neighborhood, a school house was built in 1825.²² Because it was constructed on lands adjacent to the property of Thomas Wolfe, the building also became known as the Wolfe School House. Although it has been converted to a private residence, this one-room structure still stands on the southwest corner of Doby and Combs Hollow Road as evidence of the importance of that crossroads at the time when the adjacent lands were populated with homes and small farms. The schoolhouse was still in use as late as 1887, however, by the second decade of the twentieth century the building had become a private residence.

Moses Newel Combs

Although settled in the second half of the eighteenth century, this corner of Randolph Township ultimately derived its name from its most prominent nineteenth century resident. Moses Newel Combs (1753-1834) began to purchase land in Combs Hollow in August of 1816, several months after the death of his first wife, Mary Haynes.²³ In August of 1816 and April of 1817, he purchased the mill lot from Jacob Briant and Thomas Wolfe,²⁴ and by 1818 he appeared on tax lists as the owner of the grist and saw mills as well as 187 acres of land.

Combs, who was in his 63rd year when he arrived in the hollow, had resided in Newark since the end of the Revolutionary War.²⁵ In Newark, Combs had established a reputation as a successful but eccentric tanner and shoemaker who had abandoned the Presbyterian ministry to devote himself to other pursuits; namely, his shoemaking business and philanthropic projects. A biographical sketch appearing in Atkinson's *The History of Newark, New Jersey* offers the following glimpse into his personality:

"During the first quarter of our existence as a Republic Moses Newel Combs was a noted Newarker in every sense of the term...But, while a

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strong churchman, a temperance advocate and an ardent friend of education, he was disposed to rebel against a church discipline which he considered arbitrary and tyrannous."²⁶

This source also cites Combs as the first shoemaker in Newark to expand his market beyond that city to other parts of the country. According to another historical account, "Moses Combs was the actual father of Newark's industries...It was through him that the town's industrial system was formed."²⁷

In addition to enlarging his market, Combs developed an apprentice system that not only was an asset to his business, but also provided a valuable service to his employees, many of whom went on to become successful leaders in business.²⁸ He is credited with forming a night school for his apprentices which, the Federal Writers Project noted in 1938, was "probably the first free night school in America."²⁹ An early notice for this school appeared in *Woods Newark Gazette* in October of 1794 and advertised: "An evening school, for teaching Reading, Writing and Arithmetic, is now opened at Mr. Combs' school house under the tuition of Mr. Dod...". Classes were to be held three nights per week during October, five nights per week from November through February, and again three nights per week from March through June. At this time, there was a tuition charge of ten shillings.³⁰ Combs' School continued to operate as late as 1811, at which time it was advertised as a free school "for Educating the Children of the Poor in Newark." The advertisement listed Moses N. Combs as president, his son David as treasurer, and his son Isaac as a trustee.³¹

In addition to his innovative ideas in business and in education, Combs had novel ideas in the areas of religion as well. An ordained minister, he was the leader of a short lived reformatory movement within the First Presbyterian Church in Newark in 1784, the premise of which was an objection to what was known as the "half-way covenant."³² Combs and his followers withdrew from their local church to attend worship at the Presbyterian Church in Orange.

Evidently in command of the substantial amount of capital needed to pursue his reformatory interests, Combs constructed a wooden building on Market Street in Newark. The bottom level of this structure was used for public worship and the upper floor housed a school room.³³ Combs also served as editor of a magazine containing religious essays and poems of which a few issues were published in 1797.³⁴

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As a prominent local businessman, Moses Combs was also involved in a number of civic projects in Newark. He was treasurer of the Newark-Springfield Turnpike Company in 1806, a founder and director of the Newark Fire Insurance Company,³⁵ and a member of the first board of directors for the Newark State Bank, which was organized by an act of Legislature in 1812.³⁶

Shortly after moving to Randolph, Mr. Combs married for a second time. Aside from announcements of this marriage and of his death in 1834, deed transactions provide the only documentation of Combs' activities during the time he was in Morris County. Research indicates that he and the children who had joined him from Newark owned a large portion of the land along Combs Hollow Road south of Doby Road. According to his entry in *The Dictionary of American Biography*, Moses and his first wife Mary had 13 children.³⁷ Those who settled for a time in Combs Hollow included Lydia, who in 1820, married Jacob Hughson, a native of Randolph, daughters Deborah and Hannah, and sons David and Richard.

In addition to working the grist and saw mills, Moses Combs began a tanning operation adjacent to the mill yards. In a deed of 1825, Combs sold two parcels of land to Daniel Schenck, one of which contained the house built by Jacob Briant and a second across the road which contained a bark mill, a bark house and a tan yard including "the privilege of having water out of the mill race...and to grind bark sufficient for the use of said yard at times when it will not interfere with the running of the grist mill and saw mill that now belongs to the said Moses Combs."³⁸

It is likely that Moses Combs resided in the Briant house (Site #16), although he also owned the Wolfe house (Site #11) which became the residence of Lydia and Jacob Hughson after their marriage.

Combs remained in the Hollow for approximately ten years. On July 12, 1826, he placed a notice for a public auction of his land in a local newspaper. The tract included 140 acres and contained two dwellings with barns and outhouses, the grist mill and saw mill, and an apple orchard. Interested parties were requested to call on Jacob Hughson "on the premises" or Moses Combs in South Orange.³⁹ This land was never sold at auction, and in 1827 Combs sold interest in the mills to his daughter and son-in-law, Lydia and Jacob Hughson.⁴⁰

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By 1834, the year that Moses Combs wrote his will, his primary residence was again Randolph.⁴¹ He held a tract of 60 acres in that township at the time of his death, on April 12, 1834. His obituary, which appeared in *The Advertiser* of Newark, duly noted the philanthropy for which he was known during his lifetime.

Further research may establish whether Moses Combs had instituted any apprenticeship or educational programs in Randolph, similar to those he had organized in Newark. The tan yard which he established on India Brook may have been an attempt to educate a new group of youths in the trade.

In 1836 Jacob and Lydia Hughson sold the mill lot and adjoining house lot to James Arrowsmith,⁴² and left the area; they do not appear on the local census in subsequent years. It appears that Arrowsmith did not make profitable use of the grist mill, for the 1850 industrial census lists only his saw mill as active.

The Iron Industry in Combs Hollow

In addition to their involvement with the milling and tanning industries, members of the Combs family also became interested in iron mining. In numerous areas of Morris County, the mining industry prospered during the 1860s and 1870s, and the population of Randolph Township grew rapidly during these decades.

The iron industry had a long history in Randolph, and one account written in 1882 notes that "Randolph's strongest attraction to the new comers were the iron ores rather than her soil."⁴³ The ores of the near-by Succasunna mine, later known as the Dickerson mine, were known to have been of value as early as 1710.⁴⁴ It is not known whether mines were worked in Combs Hollow before the nineteenth century, but sources describe the existence of Rushe's Forge, located on India Brook. This forge appeared as early as 1786 on tax records, and is indicated as a ruin on a map of the Morris Canal Route drawn in 1823.⁴⁵ The documented mines in the Combs Hollow area included Combs Mine (Site #4), the Lewis Mine (Site #26), and the Skellinger Mine (Site #5).

According to a report on iron mines written in 1868, the Combs Mine was first worked in the early 1820s.⁴⁶ In 1864 this mine was reopened when Deborah Combs and

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Stephen Stiles leased their adjoining farmland to the Bethlehem Iron Company.⁴⁷ The 1868 map indicates the presence of Stiles and Combs Iron Mine Engine, located on the north side of Combs Avenue, east of Dawson Brook.⁴⁸

In 1872 the mining operation was successful enough to cause Isaac Combs to repurchase the right of lease from the Bethlehem Iron Company along with their mining equipment.⁴⁹ In the census year 1879-1880, the Combs Mine produced 4,480 tons of iron, a substantial amount in comparison with others listed for that year.⁵⁰ By the time of the 1887 map of Randolph, the Combs Mine, which is indicated by two openings, no longer has the name of Stiles attached to it. This map also indicates a private road extending from Combs Hollow Road to Combs Avenue, which was probably used to transport the ore from the mines, which lay in the midst of farmland.

The Lewis Mine, also known as the Herrick Mine, was located on the farm of Aaron Lewis. The mine, shown on the 1868 map, consisted of three shafts east of the Lewis house and India Brook.⁵¹ Sources do not indicate when the mine was first worked. A deed from January 1869 between Aaron Lewis and the Randolph Iron Company describes an agreement to raise 2,000 tons of ore annually; however, the Geological Survey of New Jersey reported that work at this mine had ceased in 1870.⁵² In 1880 an attempt was made to reopen the mine, but its productivity was not documented.⁵³

Developed in 1878, the Skellinger Mine was located across the road from the Combs Mine. Charles J. Skellinger owned the 140 acre farm on Combs Avenue on which the mine was located. The Skellinger family had lived in Combs Hollow since at least 1806, when William Skellinger had purchased approximately 24 acres of land from Richard Loveridge.⁵⁴ The Skellinger homestead and barns still stand, maintaining a high degree of integrity, on the western end of Combs Avenue where it intersects South Road.

A news article from August of 1878 regarding the Skellinger Mine reported: "The ore is now being carted to the railroad at Ironia, two miles and a half, for fifty cents per ton. As there is an unlimited demand for ore of this character, further development...will show this to be one of the best mineral properties in the State."⁵⁵ By June of 1880, about 9,840 tons of ore had been raised from this mine.⁵⁶

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The ores of both the Skellinger and Combs Mines were of a grade that could be used in the manufacture of Bessemer Steel, which began to replace cast iron. The Bessemer Steel Process was relatively new, having been brought over from England in the 1860s. However, the development of large regions of this quality ore in the Lake Superior Region during the 1880s eventually made most of the small mines in the Morris County region obsolete.⁵⁷ By the time of the 1890 report by the Geological Survey of New Jersey, all 22 of the mines listed for Randolph had been abandoned.

During the two decades of prosperity brought about by the iron industry, Combs Hollow, as well as the larger area of Ironia, experienced an influx in population, comprised mainly of iron workers. Many of the workers were immigrants from England, and several of the single male miners boarded with local families. The upward mobility of many of the newcomers can be traced through census sheets and deeds as they purchased land, businesses and homes in the township. In 1870 one such miner, James Lorey from England, was a border with the family of William Jackson Lewis, who lived on Combs Hollow Road north of Combs Avenue. By the time of the 1880 census, James was married to William J.'s daughter, Caroline Lewis. In 1889, James and Caroline Lorey purchased the house formerly owned by Lydia and Jacob Hughson (Site #11). Over the course of two decades, James Lorey was thus transformed from an immigrant miner to a gentleman farmer and mill plantation owner.

James Lorey was the last owner of record of the grist and saw mills that had been established over 150 years earlier. In 1894, a grist mill on India Brook owned by a James "Lawry" is listed in the New Jersey Geological Survey's Report on Water Supply.⁵⁸ Clara Lorey, a descendant of the hollow's early settler Levi Lewis, inherited her father's property and stayed in Combs Hollow until 1954, at which time she sold her house to its present owners.

Combs Hollow in the 20th century

The overgrown, sparsely populated Combs Hollow of today is a ghost of the productive community described in the preceding pages. In 1927 the land which lay on Combs Hollow Road northeast of the present Block 51, lot 12 was chosen as the site for the expansion of the Morristown and Mendham Water systems. India Brook

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had been used as a water source for Mendham since the first decade of the twentieth century and during this time the existing stone dam at the large mill pond on India Brook was constructed, replacing the mill dam which had been in use since the mid-eighteenth century. During the 1930s the houses and outbuildings which stood along the northern stretch of Combs Hollow Road fell prey to vandalism and the elements. When the nationwide depression lifted and other area communities experienced a building boom, Combs Hollow remained frozen in time.

A 1936 map of Combs Hollow shows only three landowners: James Lorey, William Skellinger, and Dr. Doby. The remainder of the property is divided between the Mendham and Morristown Water Companies.⁵⁹ Although the full extent of the reservoir expansion was never fully realized, in 1937 plans were made to expand the existing reservoir and piping system with the construction of new sand filters and water mains.⁶⁰

In 1977 the Morristown Water Company was incorporated into the Southeast Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority, at which time their holdings in Combs Hollow were considered surplus and not part of the main water system. In 1980 the reservoir system which Mendham had established on the former mill pond fed by India Brook, which lay to the east of Combs Hollow Road and to the south of Doby Road, was taken out of service.⁶¹ Since then, parcels have been sold to private developers, although no major construction has yet taken place within the hollow.

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Endnotes

1. Entries from the Jacob Janeway account books reference sales made to a "Levy" Lewis at "North Branch" in 1735. North Branch apparently refers to India Brook, which is a northern branch of the Raritan River. Entries are reprinted in *Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey*, Vol. 34, p. 75; Vol. 35, p. 40.
2. First Presbyterian Church, Succasunna, "One Hundred and Seventy-Fifth Anniversary," p.11.
3. *Historical Memorial, Presbyterian Church, Succasunna, New Jersey 1765-1895*. (Dover, NJ: Press of the Iron Era) pp. xi, 6.
4. Wright, Helen. "Early Records of Mendham Township, Morris County, N.J., Transcribed from County and Township Minute Book." (1964), pp. 12, 24, 26, 36, 42, 71.
5. Mendham Tax Ratables, 1780 - 1802.
6. Will of Levi Lewis, 1779. Filed with Morris County Wills, p. 0500, State Archives, Trenton.
7. Morris County Deeds, Book P, p. 90.
8. Will of Edward Lewis, 1813. Filed in the records room of the Morris County Surrogate Court, Book A, p. 389.
9. Morris County Deeds, Book G3, p. 214; records of the Morris County Orphans Court, 1834, Docket File 35-42.
10. Irwin, Richard T., "Post-War Population" in *A History of Randolph Township, Morris County, New Jersey* (Township of Randolph, 1976).
11. Photocopy of the original minutes of the Randolph Township Committee from 1806 to 1835, in the local history collection of the Randolph Township Library.
12. Ibid, pp. 52, 60, 61.

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13. Morris County Deeds, Book R30, p. 508 - transaction from David M. Lewis and wife to Charles H. Day, April 1, 1927. Charles H. Day, who was then the mayor of Mendham, sold the various parcels he purchased in Combs Hollow to the Town of Morristown on the same day he acquired them.
14. Ibid, Book P, p. 72.
15. Ibid, Book Q, p. 366.
16. Ibid, Book I, p. 347.
17. According to Clara Lorey, who sold the house to its present owner in 1954, this house once belonged to General Joseph Lewis who served under George Washington during the Revolutionary War. Lorey, who was born about 1879 said she was the great, great granddaughter of General Joseph Lewis. However, existing documentation indicates that General Joseph Lewis did not live in Combs Hollow, but in Morristown, and genealogical research reveals that he was not of the same branch of the Lewis family that settled in Combs Hollow. Census records and other sources do indicate that Clara Lorey was the great, great granddaughter of Captain David Lewis, who was the son of Edward and Mehitable. It is possible that he is the ancestor to whom Clara Lorey referred, whose identity became confused over the years. Captain David Lewis, however, cannot be associated with the Revolutionary War, having been born in 1771.
18. Morris County Deeds, Book P, p. 72.
19. Ibid, Book R2, p. 539: "Beginning at a stone in the road near said Combs Mills on a course South thirty six degrees West distant one chain and fifty five links from the Southwesterly corner of the House on said lot built by Jacob Briant..."
20. Ibid, Book F2, p. 238.
21. Seventh Census of the U.S., Fourth Series: Agricultural Productions. June 30, 1850 (Randolph Township).
22. Mills, Sarah, "Education" in Richard T. Irwin, Ed. *A History of Randolph Township, Morris County, New Jersey* (Randolph Township, 1976).

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23. Obituary of "Mrs. Combs, wife of Mr. Moses N. Combs" in *The Sentinel of Freedom* (Newark), Feb. 13, 1816, No. 22, Vol. XX, p. 3. *The Dictionary of American Biography*, Vol. IV (New York, 1930) identifies Mary Haynes as the woman whom Moses Combs married shortly after settling in Newark after the Revolutionary War.
 24. Morris County Deeds, Books D2, p. 67; and E2, p. 167.
 25. Johnson, Allen and Dumas Malone, eds. *Dictionary of American Biography*, Vol. IV (New York: Charles Scribner's & Sons, 1930) pp. 328-329.
 26. Atkinson, Joseph, *The History of Newark, New Jersey* (Newark, NJ: William S. Guild, 1878) p. 148.
 27. *A History of the City of Newark, New Jersey*, Volume II (New York: The Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1913) p. 516.
 28. Ibid, p. 515.
 29. Federal Writers' Project of the WPA for the State of New Jersey, "Leather Makers of Newark" in *Stories of New Jersey* (NY: M. Barrows & Company, 1938) p. 322.
 30. *Wood's Newark Gazette*, Wed., Oct. 22, 1794, p. 3.
 31. *A History of the City of Newark, New Jersey*, Vol. II (Lewis) p. 747.
 32. "Historical Society Lore," *Newark Evening News*, Nov. 24, 1914.
 33. Atkinson, J., *The History of Newark, New Jersey*, p. 148.
 34. "Historical Society Lore," *Newark Evening News*, Nov. 24, 1914.
 35. Johnson, Allen and Dumas Malone, eds. *Dictionary of American Biography*, Vol. IV (New York: Charles Scribner's & Sons, 1930) p. 328.
 36. Atkinson, J., *The History of Newark, New Jersey*, p. 157.

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37. Johnson, Allen and Dumas Malone, eds. *Dictionary of American Biography*, Vol. IV (New York: Charles Scribner's & Sons, 1930) p. 329.
38. Morris County Deeds, Book R2, p. 539.
39. *Palladium of Liberty*, July 13, 1826, p. 3.
40. Morris County Deeds, Book U2, p. 62.
41. Will of Moses N. Combs, 1834, Morris County Courthouse, Surrogate Dept., Book D, pp. 337-352.
42. Morris County Deeds, Book L3, p. 106.
43. *History of Morris County, New Jersey* (New York: Munsell, 1882) p. 294.
44. Bayley, William S., *Iron Mines and Mining in New Jersey*, Vol. VII of the Final Report Series of the State Geologist (Trenton, NJ: MacCrellish & Quigley, State Printers, 1910) p. 1.
45. Map of the Morris Canal Route by J. Mann, 1823; Map NJ-4-7 in collection of the Morristown Public Library.
46. Cook, George H., *Geology of New Jersey* (Newark, 1868) p. 550.
47. Morris County Deeds, Book L6, pp. 489-492.
48. Stephen Stiles was also the owner of the grist and saw mills during this time, having purchased them from his father, John Stiles, in 1860. John Stiles had purchased the mills from James Arrowsmith in 1851.
49. Morris County Deeds, Book U4, p. 387.
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52. Morris County Deeds, Book N7, p. 429.
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54. Morris County Deeds, Book O, p. 176.
55. *Jerseyman*, Aug. 3, 1878, p. 3.
56. Bayley, William S. *Iron Mines and Mining in New Jersey*, Vol. VII of the Final Report Series of the State Geologist (Trenton, NJ: MacCrellish & Quigley, State Printers, 1910) p. 468.
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58. Vermeule, Cornelius Clarkson, *Report on Water Supply, Water-Power, the Flow of Streams and Attendant Phenomena*, Volume III of the Final Report of the State Geologist, (Trenton, NJ: The John L. Murphy Publishing co., Printers, 1894), Appendix I, p. 31.
59. Street, Road and Property Ownership Map of Morris County (Dolph and Stewart, 1936). Map MC-4-5 in collection of the Morristown Public Library.
60. Plans of Improvements to Water Supply for Borough of Mendham, NJ, March 1937. (four sheets in the possession of the Mendham Borough Planning Dept.)
61. Interview with Bill Cline, Mendham Borough Engineer, Nov. 19, 1992.

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Combs Hollow Historic District
Morris County, New Jersey

Section number 10 Page 1

Boundary Description

Beginning at the western corner of Block 40, Lot 1 the district continues along the southwest property lines of the properties on the southwest side of Combs Avenue, namely, Block 40, lots 1, 2, and 3. It then continues in a southerly direction along the western lot line of Block 40, Lot 4, to the line dividing Mendham and Randolph Townships, where it turns west to the tip of Block 116, Lot 8. From there it angles to the southeast and continues to within 150 feet of India Brook. Turning southwest, the boundary follows India Brook until it reaches Block 116, Lot 7 where it continues east for 300 feet before turning northwest to follow the opposite bank of the brook. The district then follows the outline of a portion of Block 116, Lot 9 to the eastern edge of Block 116, Lot 8, where it again crosses the Township line and continues along the lot's southern line in an easterly direction to Combs Hollow Road. Crossing over the road, and including the iron bridge within its boundary, the district then follows the southeast bank of India Brook, passing through Block 52, lots 2 and 1.01 until it reaches the southwest side of Doby Road. The district then continues north along the southwest side of Doby Road to the northwest corner of Block 51, Lot 10, where it follows the outline of Block 51, Lot 10 until its intersection with the northeastern lot line of Block 51, Lot 16. The District then continues in a northwesterly direction along the northeastern lot lines of Block 51, lots 16, 17, 18 and 19 to the northwestern corner of Block 51, Lot 19 and the southeasterly side of South Road. The district continues along the southeasterly side of South Road to the western corner of Block 40, Lot 1 and the place of beginning.

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Combs Hollow Historic District
Morris County, New Jersey

Section number 10 Page 2

Boundary Justification

The choice of boundaries for the Combs Hollow Historic district was not based on traditional boundaries of the community (which are not formally defined) but are rather based on the grouping of the significant historic resources of the area, as well as natural landscape features.

On Combs Avenue, the Skellinger house and barn complex present a clearly recognizable historic resource as the district is entered from South Road on the northwest end of the district. The sites of the Combs and Skellinger mines are located further southeast on either side of this road, just beyond the stone bridge over Dawson Brook. Although the mine pits are not clearly apparent from the road due to heavy underbrush, the undeveloped wooded lands which encompass them contribute to the integrity and historic views of the district. This is true for the rest of the length of Combs Avenue, where the view along this road bordered by traditionally undeveloped land is essentially unchanged, though the lots are now more heavily wooded. Although there are five non-contributing houses and one non-contributing outbuilding along this stretch of road, only three of the houses are clearly visible from the road. These houses are of a simple vernacular design and are therefore not an obtrusive presence in the district. Block 40, Lot 4, which has frontage on both Combs Avenue and Combs Hollow Road, contains the ruins of one of the oldest home sites in the hollow which are located in the midst of this wooded lot.

To the southwest, the district boundaries extend into Mendham Township in order to include several significant industrial sites along India Brook. Located in Block 116, Lot 7, are the remains of a rubble stone dam. Although there is no above-grade evidence of it, due to the large amounts of iron slag in the area this is also believed to have been the site of the Lewis Forge. The rugged terrain of Block 116, Lot 8 was the site of the Lewis Mine.

The iron-railed bridge on Combs Hollow Road which crosses India Brook is included both because it provides a distinctive entry into the district near the mill site on India Brook, and because of its merit as an example of early 20th century decorative ironwork.

The stretch of land which lies between India Brook and Combs Hollow Road was the core of Combs Hollow's earliest industrial activities. Because this land was included

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Combs Hollow Historic District
Morris County, New Jersey

Section number 10 Page 3

in the purchase by the water system in 1927, the historic lot divisions have disappeared and the entire stretch of land today covers only a portion of two lots. The southwestern end of this area includes the large mill pond, the site of a tan yard, bark house and bark mill, and the foundations of a grist mill and saw mill. Further upstream on India Brook are the ruins of two banked outbuildings as well as an upper dam and mill pond. At the northeastern end of this stretch of land, near Doby Road, are the remains of two agricultural buildings, one of which is constructed of dry-laid stone banked into the earth.

The district does not continue along Combs Hollow Road northeast of Doby Road because of the poor integrity of the structures (now vacant) along this road, and because of its remoteness from the industrial core of the district. The inclusion of Block 51, Lot 10, which borders Combs Hollow Road on the northwest is due both to its function in preserving the historic view along Combs Hollow Road leading to the mill site, and to the presence of key resources along this stretch of land. Thus, the former one-room Wolfe Schoolhouse, built ca. 1825 at the intersection of Doby and Combs Hollow Roads, marks the entrance to the historic district at its northeast end. Along the northwestern side of Combs Hollow Road the extant resources include two early 20th century agricultural buildings, the ruins of the 19th century homes sites of Thomas Wolfe and William Jackson Lewis, and the Mockridge-Lewis house which was the last house to be built in the hollow before the expansion of the water system in 1927 halted further building activity.

The inclusion of Block 51, Lot 12 is for reasons of landscape continuity and geographical definition. Once part of the lot which contains the Jacob Briant house and barn, this property is the highest point in the district and drops steeply as it approaches Combs Hollow Road. The contemporary house on this wooded lot is located on the top of the hill and is, therefore, barely visible from the road. The Jacob Briant house and barn, a key resource which stands on Block 51, Lot 11 directly across from the mill pond, is situated at the base of the hill.

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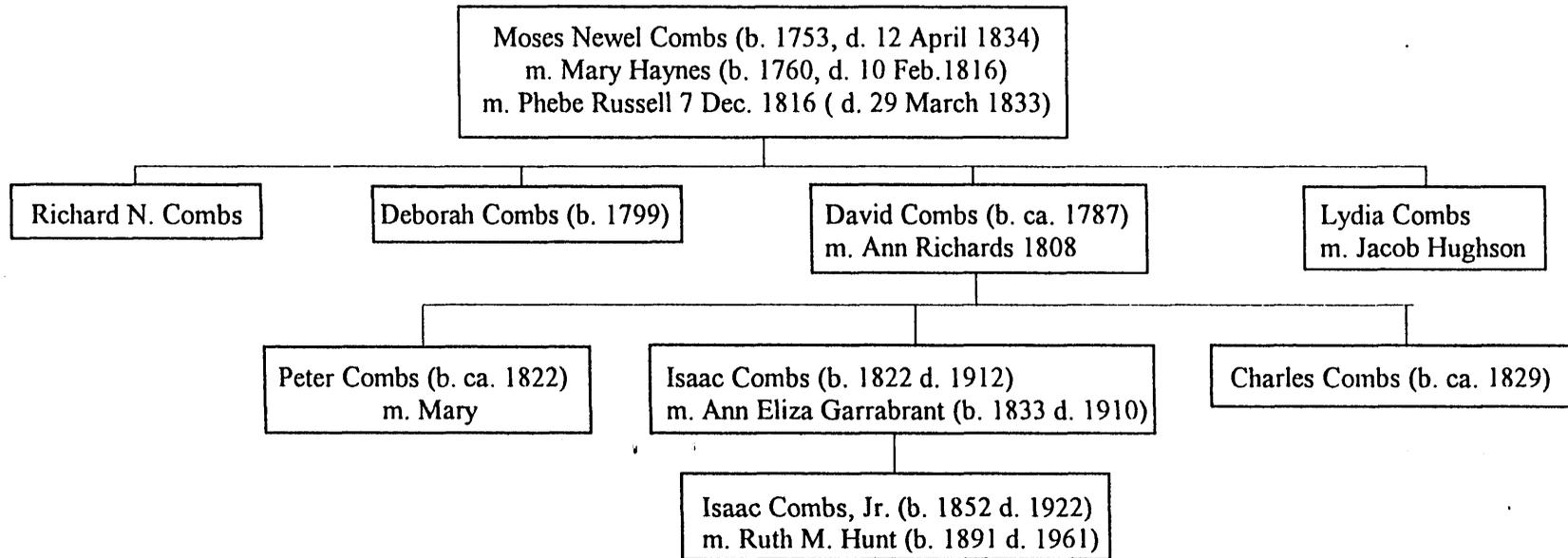
Section number 10 Page 4

Combs Hollow Historic District
Morris County, New Jersey

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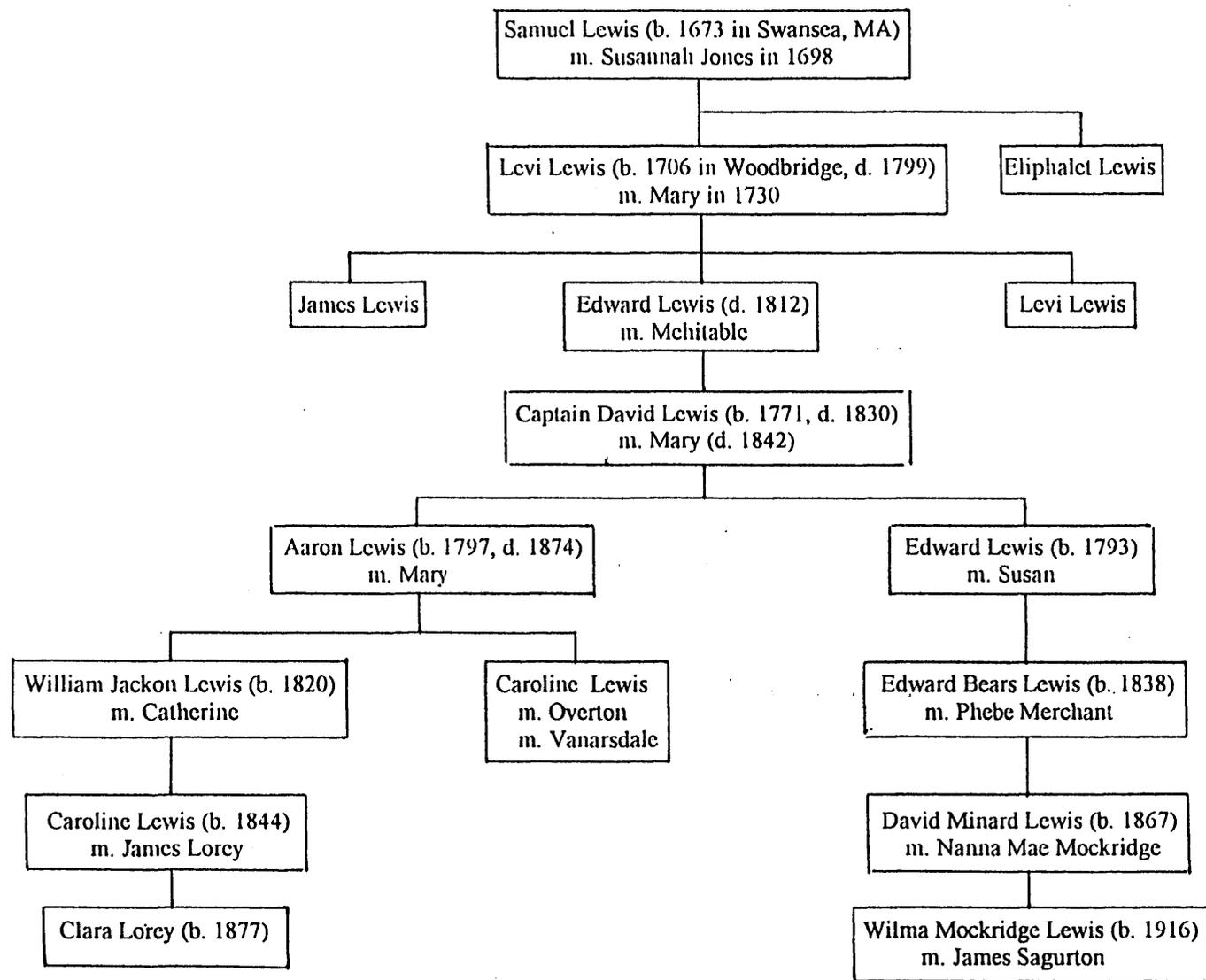
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4 - 1 8	5 3 3 3 4 0	4 5 1 8 4 2 0
5 - 1 8	5 3 3 2 4 0	4 5 1 8 4 2 0
6 - 1 8	5 3 3 3 0 0	4 5 1 8 5 6 0
7 - 1 8	5 3 3 6 4 0	4 5 1 8 3 8 0
8 - 1 8	5 3 2 6 0 0	4 5 1 7 1 0 0
9 - 1 8	5 3 1 9 4 0	4 5 1 6 5 4 0
10 - 1 8	5 3 1 8 6 0	4 5 1 6 5 8 0
11 - 1 8	5 3 2 3 6 0	4 5 1 7 2 2 0
12 - 1 8	5 3 2 5 2 0	4 5 1 7 2 8 0
13 - 1 8	5 3 2 5 4 0	4 5 1 7 5 2 0
14 - 1 8	5 3 2 2 6 0	4 5 1 7 5 8 0
15 - 1 8	5 3 2 2 6 0	4 5 1 7 2 8 0

Family Tree of the Combs of Combs Hollow



The above genealogical tree is not complete and is based on information from wills, census records, deeds, cemetery records, and previously published reports.

Family Tree of the Lewises of Combs Hollow



The above genealogical tree is not complete and is based on information from wills, census records, deeds, and previously published reports.

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Combs Hollow Historic District
Morris County, New Jersey

Section number Photos Page 1

Photo List

Property -- Combs Hollow Historic District

County and State -- Morris County, New Jersey

Photographer -- Janet Foster

Date Photographed -- November 1992, February 1993

Location of Negatives -- Acroterion, P.O. Box 950, Madison, NJ 07940

1. 10 Combs Avenue, Block 40, Lot 1 (Skellinger House). View facing southwest.
2. 5 Combs Avenue, Block 51, Lot 19 (Skellinger barn complex). View facing southeast.
3. Combs Avenue near bridge over Dawson Brook. View facing north.
4. Combs Avenue bridge. View facing north.
5. 21 Combs Hollow Road, Block 40, Lot 5. View facing north.
6. Ruins on site of Lewis Farm, Block 40, part of Lot 4. View facing west.
7. Bridge on Combs Hollow Road. View facing west.
8. Foundations of mill complex, Block 52, part of Lot 2. View facing northwest.
9. Mill head race, Block 52, part of Lot 2. View facing southwest.
10. Foundations of bridge over India Brook (foreground) and ruins of mill complex (background left), Block 52, part of Lot 2. View facing northwest.
11. India Brook near foundations of bridge with dam in distance, Block 52, part of Lot 2. View facing northeast.

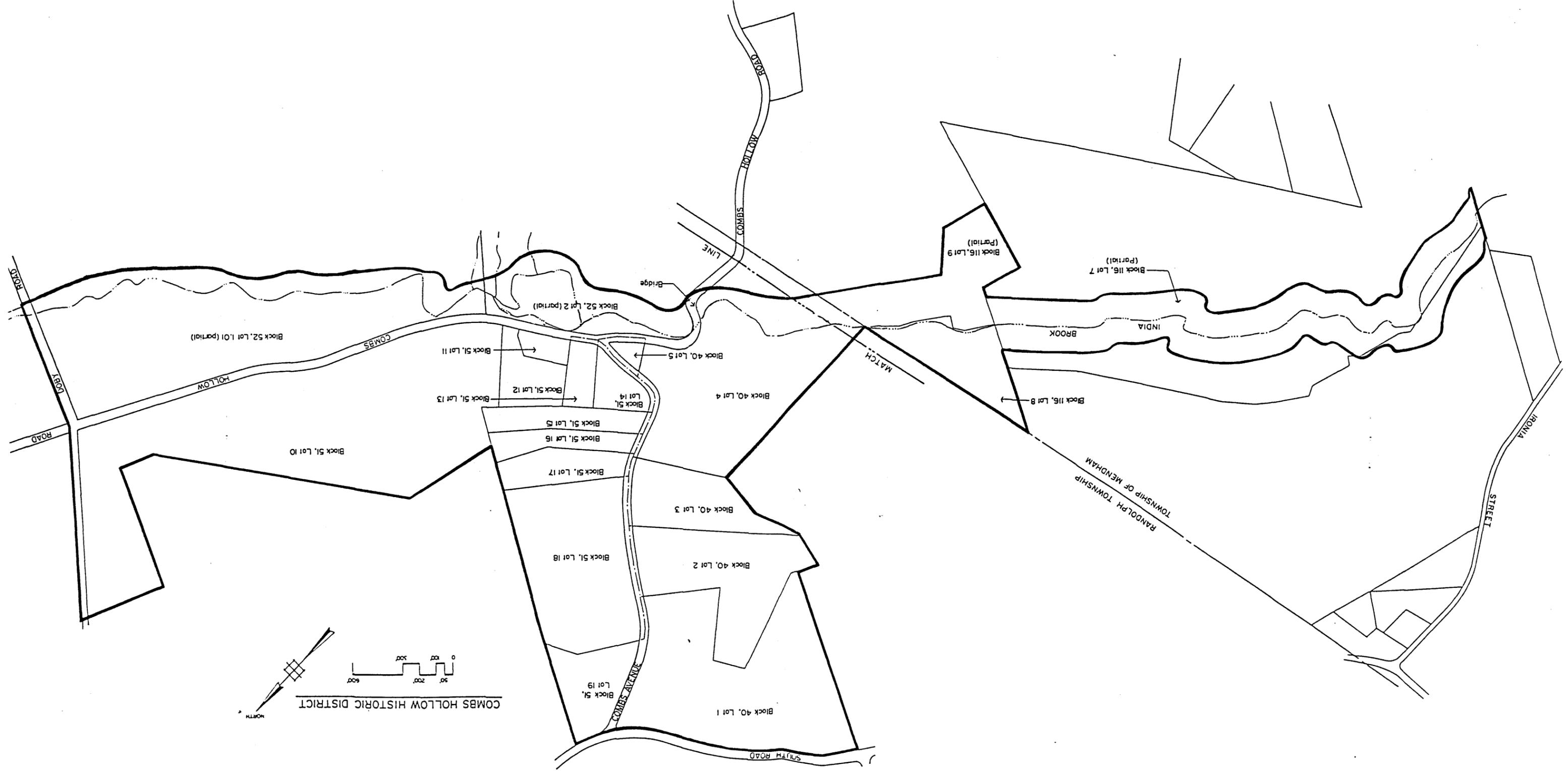
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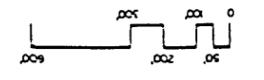
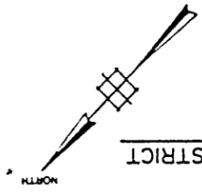
Combs Hollow Historic District
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12. Mill pond at dam. View facing east.
13. 27 Combs Hollow Road, Block 51, Lot 11 (Jacob Briant house). View facing north.
14. 27 Combs Hollow Road, Block 51, Lot 11 (Barn). View facing north.
15. Ruins of banked barn, Block 52, part of Lot 1.01. View facing northwest.
16. Foundations of dwelling, Block 51, part of Lot 10. View facing north.
17. Spring house, Block 52, part of Lot 1.01. View facing northeast.
18. Upper dam, Block 52, part of Lot 1.01. View facing east.
19. 33 Combs Hollow Road, Block 51, part of Lot 10 (Mockridge-Lewis House). View facing west.
20. Foundations of dwelling, Block 51, part of Lot 10 (Thomas Wolfe house site). View facing north.
21. Sugar Maples on Combs Hollow Road. View facing southwest.
22. Outbuildings near Wolfe Schoolhouse, Block 51, part of Lot 10. View facing northwest.
23. Wolfe Schoolhouse, Block 51, part of Lot 10. View facing southwest.



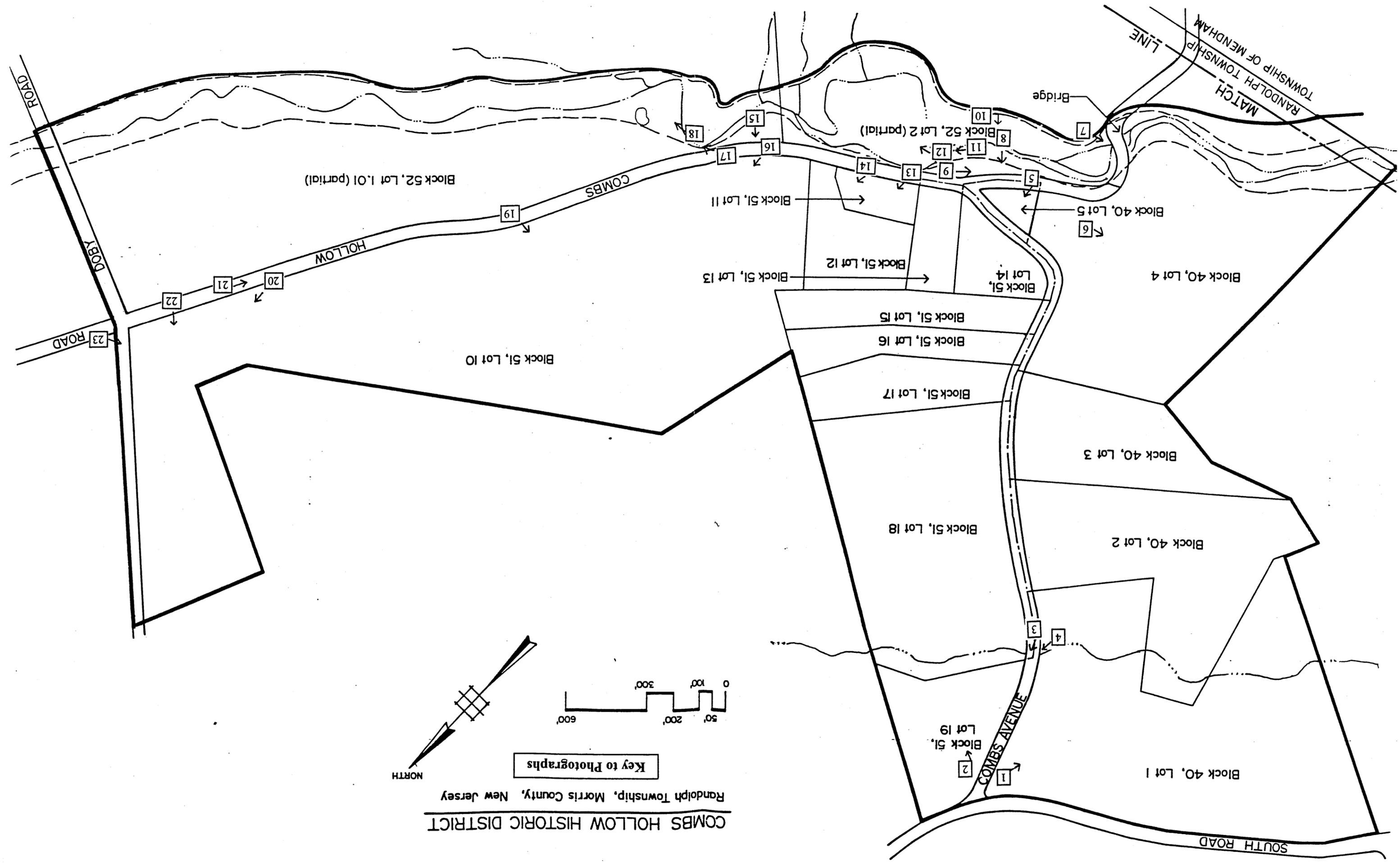
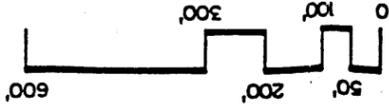
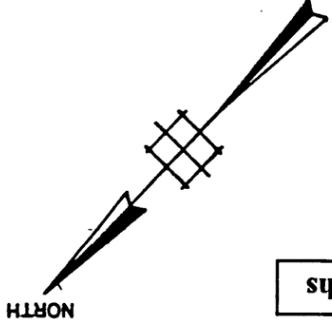
COMBS HOLLOW HISTORIC DISTRICT



COMBS HOLLOW HISTORIC DISTRICT

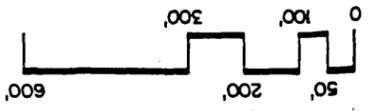
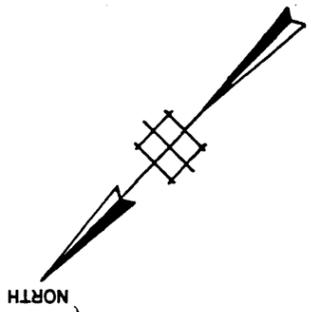
Randolph Township, Morris County, New Jersey

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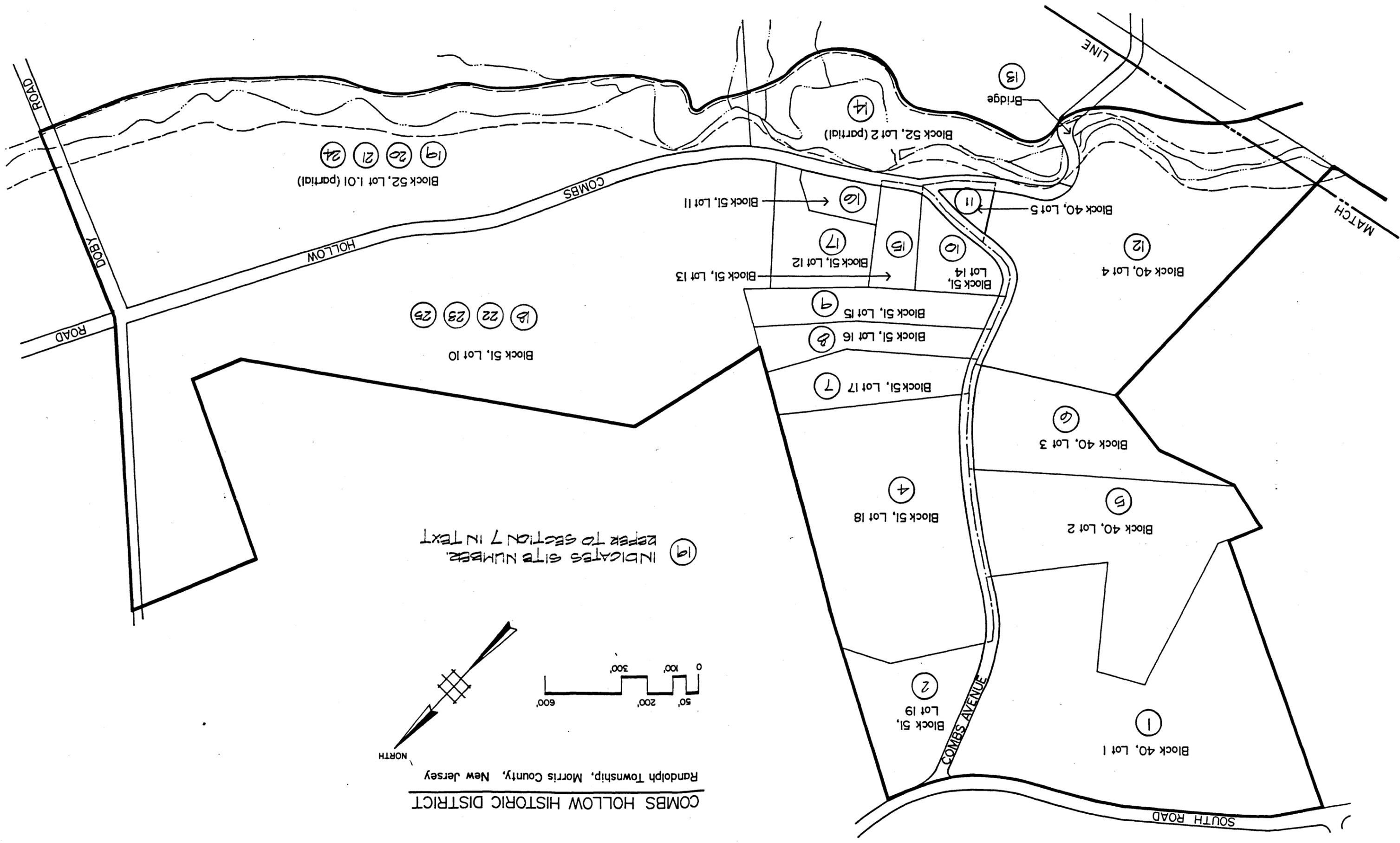


COMBS HOLLOW HISTORIC DISTRICT

Randolph Township, Morris County, New Jersey



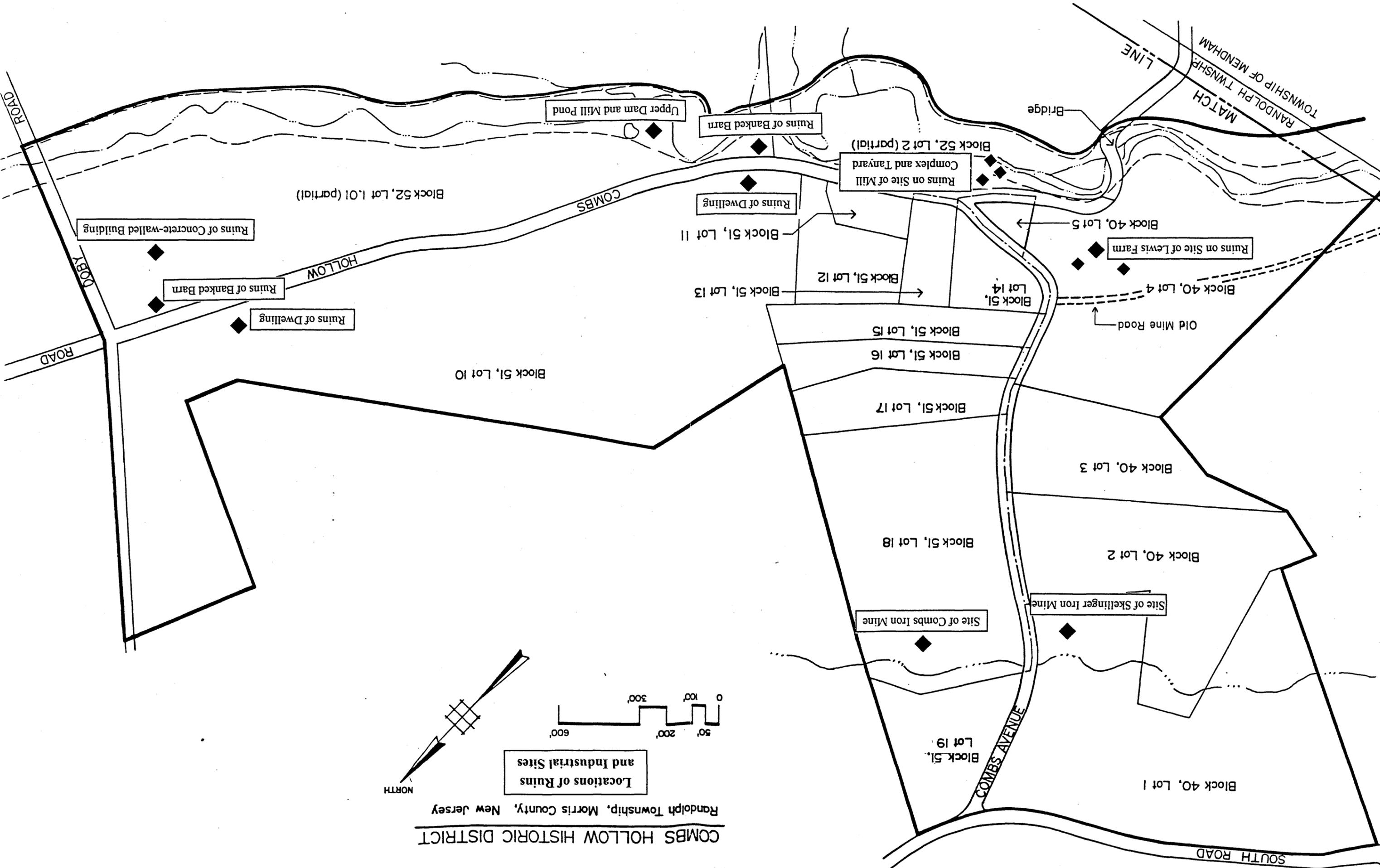
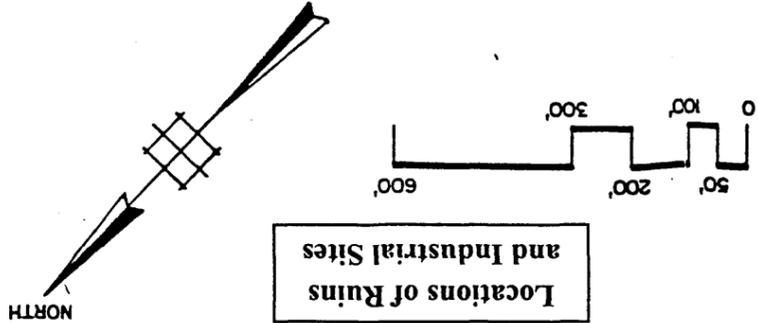
19 INDICATES SITE NUMBERS.
REFER TO SECTION 7 IN TEXT

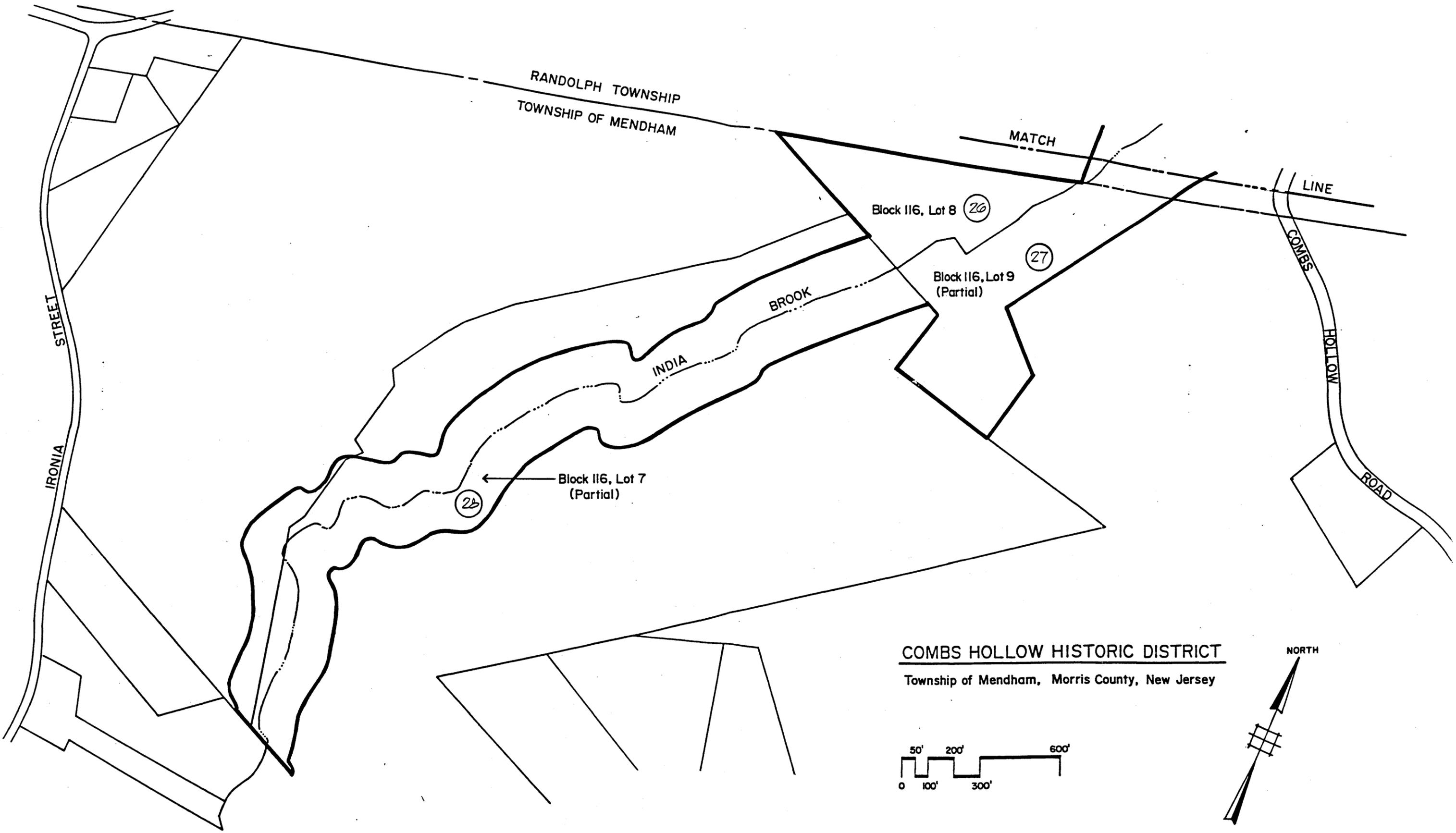


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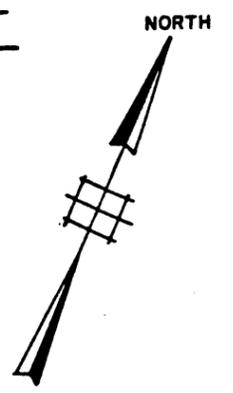
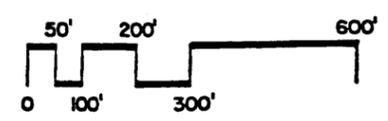
Randolph Township, Morris County, New Jersey

Locations of Ruins
and Industrial Sites



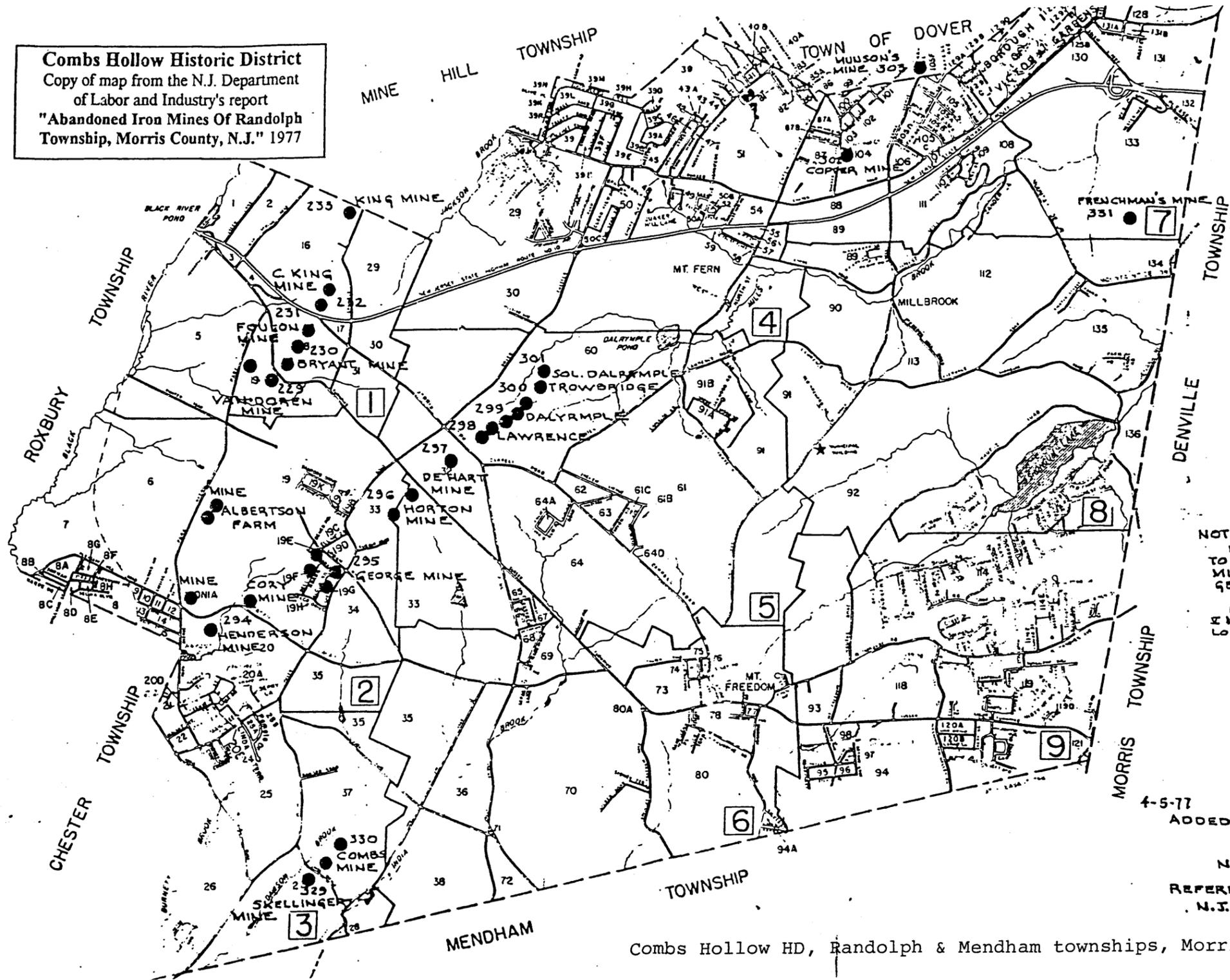


COMBS HOLLOW HISTORIC DISTRICT
 Township of Mendham, Morris County, New Jersey



Ⓜ INDICATES SITE NUMBER.
 REFER TO SECTION 7 IN TEXT.

Combs Hollow Historic District
 Copy of map from the N.J. Department
 of Labor and Industry's report
 "Abandoned Iron Mines Of Randolph
 Township, Morris County, N.J." 1977



MINE NO	INDEX MINE NAME
229	VAL DOREN
230	BRYANT
231	FOULON
232	C. KING
233	KING
234	HENDERSON
235	GEORGE
236	HORTON
237	DE HART
238	LAWRENCE
239	DALRYMPLE
299	TROWBRIDGE
300	TROWBRIDGE
301	SOL. DALRYMPLE
302	COPPER
303	MUNSON'S
329	SKELLINGER
330	COMBS
331	FRENCHMAN'S CORY ALBERTSON FARM

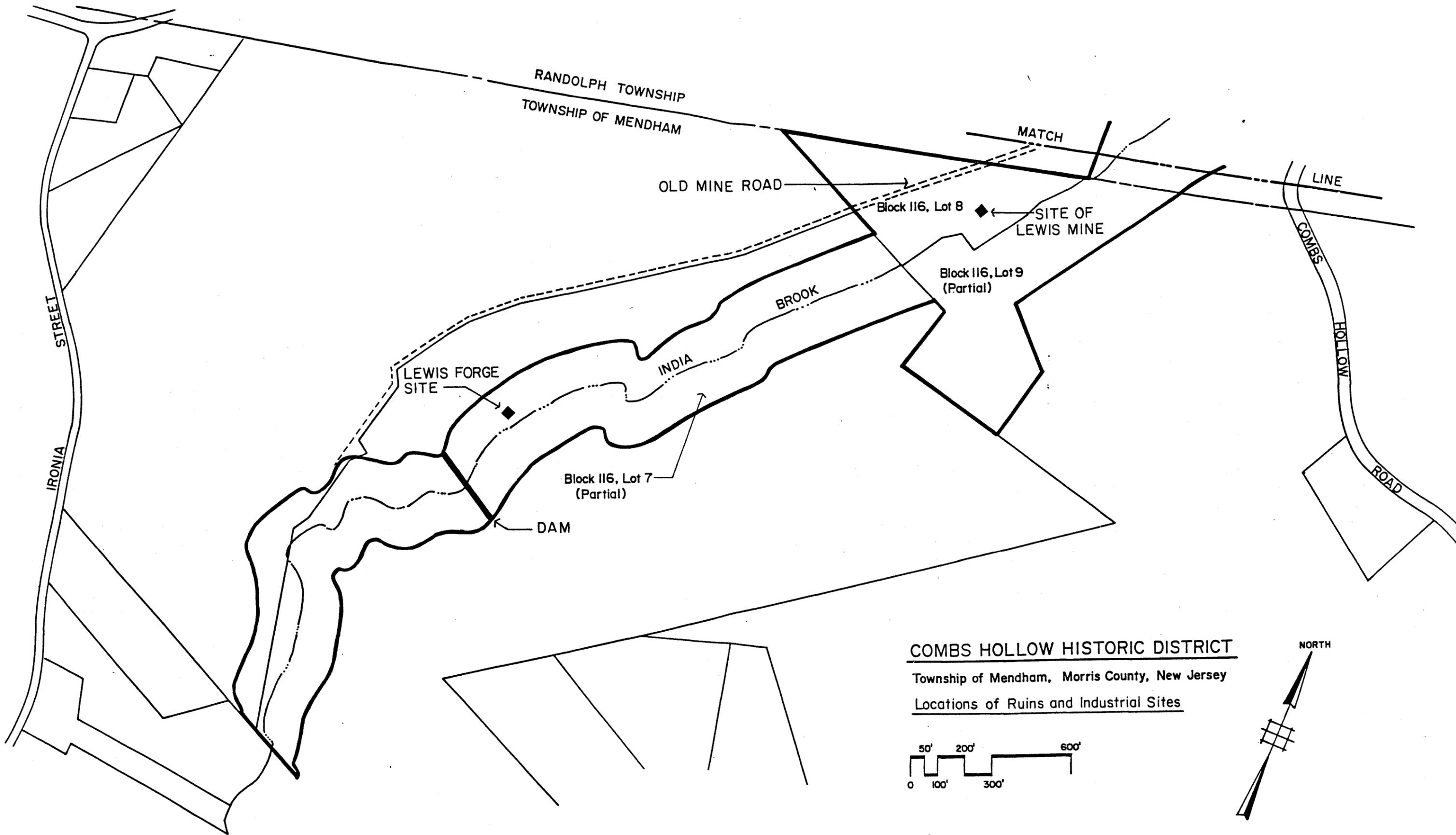
NOTE:
 MINE NOS. CORRESPOND
 TO NOS. ASSIGNED TO
 MINES IN 1910 N.J.
 GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.
 REFER PLATES II-B-III
 FOR DETAILED
 LOCATIONS.



4-5-77
 ADDED LOCATIONS OF IRON MINES
 MINE SAFETY SECTION
 N.J. DEPT. OF LABOR AND IN
 REFERENCE:
 N.J. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY-VOL. VII-

Combs Hollow HD, Randolph & Mendham townships, Morris County, NJ

TOWNSHIP



COMBS HOLLOW HISTORIC DISTRICT
 Township of Mendham, Morris County, New Jersey
 Locations of Ruins and Industrial Sites

