

DATA SHEET

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	New Jersey
COUNTY:	Somerset
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	SEP 13 1976

1. NAME

COMMON:
**** Millstone Historic District** *includes some #ABS*

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Amwell and River Rds.

CITY OR TOWN: Millstone (Borough) CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 5th

STATE: New Jersey CODE: 34 COUNTY: Somerset CODE: 035

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Multiple

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: New Jersey CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: County Clerk's Office

STREET AND NUMBER: County Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Somerville STATE: New Jersey CODE: 34

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

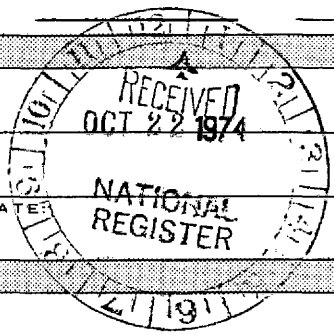
TITLE OF SURVEY: New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory (#'s 2003.1, .2, .3, .4)

DATE OF SURVEY: 1960-64 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Historic Sites Section/Department of Environmental Protection

STREET AND NUMBER: Box 1420

CITY OR TOWN: Trenton STATE: New Jersey CODE: 34



STATE: New Jersey
 COUNTY: Somerset
 ENTRY NUMBER: _____
 DATE: _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Thomas Gordon's Gazetteer of New Jersey, written in 1834, describes Millstone as a "post-town of Hillsborough Township, Somerset County, on the left bank of the Millstone river,... [which] contains 2 taverns, 3 stores, a Dutch Reformed Church, and between 30 and 40 dwellings, in a level, fertile, red shale country."

Although Gordon failed to mention the newly constructed Delaware and Raritan Canal, a description ten years later, Barber and Howe's Historical Collection of the State of New Jersey indicates that the canal possibly encouraged further development at Millstone:

"Millstone, 6 miles south of Somerville, is situated on the west bank of the river of the same name, in the immediate vicinity of the Delaware and Raritan Canal. It is a place of considerable business, and large quantities of grain are brought and stored here. There are 4 stores, 3 taverns, several mechanics, 3 storehouses for grain, an extensive lumber-yard, an academy, a Reformed Dutch Church, and about 45 dwellings."

By the 1880's, although the lumber-yard, academy, and grain storehouses had apparently disappeared only ten additional dwellings were noted as compared to 1844.

Presently Millstone still conforms to its mid-19th century form - most of the structures dating from the 3rd and 4th quarters of the 18th century to the mid-19th century.

Condition of Structures

All buildings in the historic district are in generally a good state of repair with the exception of two, 37 North River Street and 205 Ann Street. Both of these structures are presently under study by restoration architects and completed restoration is expected prior to December, 1975.

One, no. 35 North River Street has been fully restored recently by a pair of architects.

Inclusive Street Numbers

Ann Street - 205, 206, 210, 211, 212, 214, 215, 217, 218, 222, 224, 225, 226

Alley Way - 7, 10, 11

Anwell Road - 11, 15, 27, 29, 31, 39

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) Settled 1690

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>Settlement</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SETTLEMENT

The history and development of Millstone, New Jersey closely coincides with the development and improvement of transportation methods throughout the nation.

The earliest inland settlement of New Jersey in the late 17th and early 18th centuries was heavily dependent upon navigatable riverways as a convenient means by which to reach the virgin wilderness of potential raw industrial materials, timberland, and farmland in the state.

The Millstone River provided such a means creating the village eventually to be called Millstone.

The derivation of the name of the town itself seems to suggest the hamlet was a milestone between earlier towns and, in fact, Millstone is the halfway point between New Brunswick and Princeton via the river (unfortunately, this account does not explain how the name of the river was derived).

Originally, settlement was exclusively delegated to large farms, but at least by the end of second quarter of the 18th century several structures were clustered closely around the river to take advantage of commerce potentials.

By the year 1738 a bridge crossed the Millstown at Amwell Road, but the primary means of travel was still the river.

The Delaware and Raritan Canal, built in the 1830's had an ambivalent affect on Millstone. The canal encouraged settlement and business in the area as evidenced by the predominance of structures in the community dating from the general period following the canal's construction. The canal, however, did not go directly through Millstone, but approached the east bank of the river and sharply veared away. This, in effect, created another community appropriately named East Millstone.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Corwin, Edward Historical Discourse on Occasion of the Centennial Anniversary of the Reformed Dutch Church of Millstone, J. J. Reed, N.Y.C. 1866.
 Demarest, W.H.S. History of Rutgers College, New Brunswick, N.J. 1924.
 Snell, James History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, N.J. 1898.
 Van Horn, J. Historic Somerset, 1965.
 Barber, John W. and Henry Howe Historical Collections of the State of New Jersey Newark, New Jersey 1844 (pp. 454-60).

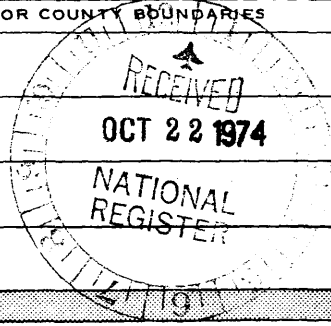
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	40° 30' 16"	74° 35' 35"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	40° 30' 19"	74° 35' 09"		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	40° 29' 42"	74° 35' 03"		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	40° 29' 38"	74° 35' 29"		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **80 acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

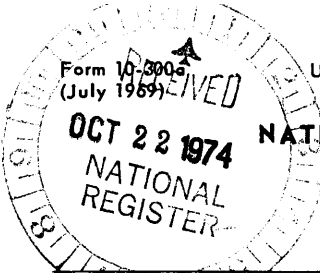
NAME AND TITLE: (minor revisions by T. Karschner, Historic Wayne T. McCabe Sites Section, Department of Environmental Protection)
 ORGANIZATION: Consultant - Historic Preservation DATE: June, 1974
 STREET AND NUMBER: 97 Fifth Street
 CITY OR TOWN: Edison STATE: New Jersey CODE: 34

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

I am the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665). I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:
 National State Local
 Name: David J. Bardin
 Title: Commissioner, Dept. of Environmental Protection
 Date: October 15, 1974

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.
Acting Wm J. Henry
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
 Date: 9/13/74
 ATTEST:
Acting Mark A. Henry
 Keeper of The National Register
 Date: 9.13.74

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



Form 10-3005
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet) 1.

STATE	New Jersey	
COUNTY	Somerset	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		SEP 13 1976

(Number of entries)

Millstone Historic District
Somerset County 035
New Jersey 34

2 Location (cont'd.)

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the point of intersection of Millstone's southern boundary and the center of the Millstone River proceed north following the center-line of the Millstone River to a point 1050 feet north of the Amwell Road (State Route no. 514) Viaduct. Thence proceed west 800 feet to a point in the center of Main Street. Thence proceed south following the center-line of Main Street 260 feet. Thence proceed west perpendicular to Main Street 220 feet. Thence proceed south parallel to Main Street 200 feet. Thence proceed east perpendicular to Main Street 220 feet to a point in the center of Main Street. Thence proceed south following the center-line of Main Street 550 feet. Thence proceed west perpendicular to Main Street 450 feet. Thence proceed north parallel to Main Street 230 feet. Thence proceed west 200 feet. Thence proceed south 360 feet parallel to Main Street. Thence proceed east 630 feet to a point in the center of Main Street. Thence proceed south following the center-line of Main Street 200 feet. Thence proceed south following the center-line of Main Street 200 feet. Thence proceed west 750 feet to a point 350 feet north of the intersection of Ann Street and West Street. Thence proceed south 350 feet to a point in the center of the intersection of Ann Street and West Street. Thence proceed west following the center-line of Ann Street 220 feet. Thence proceed south perpendicular to Ann Street 140 feet. Thence proceed east parallel to Ann Street and perpendicular to West Street 110 feet. Thence proceed south parallel to West Street 230 feet to a point in the center of Amwell Road. Thence proceed east following the center-line of Amwell Road 360 feet to a point 120 feet west of the center of the intersection of Amwell Road and Main Street. Thence proceed south perpendicular to Amwell Road and parallel to Main Street 250 feet. Thence proceed east perpendicular to Main Street 120 feet to a point in the center of Main Street. Thence proceed south following the center-line of Main Street 700 feet, to a point where Main Street starts to break toward the southeast. Thence proceed west perpendicular to the center-line of Main Street just traversed 320 feet. Thence proceed south perpendicular to the southern boundary of the Borough of Millstone 820 feet. Thence proceed east following the southern boundary of the Borough of Millstone 1420 feet to the point of beginning.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet) 2.

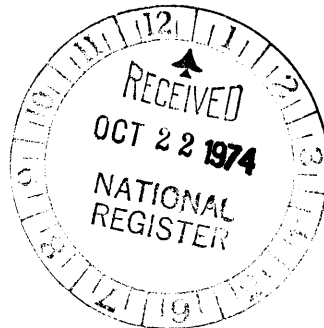
STATE New Jersey	
COUNTY Somerset	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	SEP 13 1976

(Number all entries)

6. Representation in Existing Surveys Continued
Old Millstone District
Somerset County
New Jersey

Historic American Building Survey (N.J.-293)

Survey Date - 1939 Federal
Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.

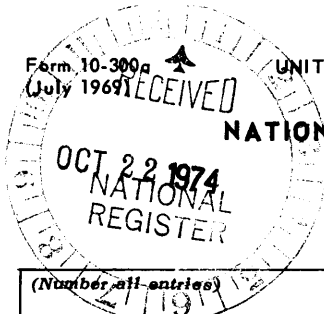


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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) 3.



(Number all entries)

7. Description (continued)

Old Millstone District
Somerset County
New Jersey

West Street - 4, 6, 7

North River Street - 31, 33, 34, 35, 37

South River Street - 11, 13

Main Street - 1336, 1340, 1351, 1357, 1364, 1367, 1373,
1377, 1390, 1403, 1410, 1413, 1417, 1418,
1419, 1429, 1444, 1445, 1488, 1490, 1500,
1516

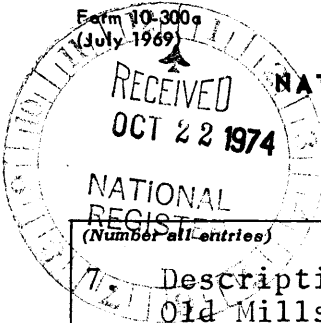
Four structures within the boundaries of the historic district are without any actual street numbers. These are: The Blacksmith Shop on North River Street, a building made of cinder-block walls (c1945) on North River Street, the Hillsborough Reformed Church, on the corner of Main Street and Amwell Road and the Millstone Borough Hall located on Main Street.

Number of Structures and Intrusions Within the District

There are fifty-eight (58) structures within the district with three intrusions.

Distinctive Qualities and General Description of District During Period of Significance

Until fifteen or twenty years ago, when 'modernization' came to Millstone, the Borough had lay relatively dormat for some 100 years. In 1870 Millstone was a rural hamlet with no legal boundaries and contained 262 residents, about fifty-five dwellings, one Reformed (Dutch) church and a Sunday school adjoining it. There were three stores, one blacksmith shop, two wheelwright shops, and a district school. Thus Millstone remains today, its old section disturbed only in a few places with 'modern' structures. One of these buildings is the Abraham Wilson House designed by Frank Lloyd Wright and constructed in 1956 on the banks of the Millstone River. Although a 20th century intrusion, it is none-the-less a very important building. It was also during the 1870's that the Mercer and Somerset Railroad extended its line from East Millstone through Millstone to Somerset Junction. The line, however, was abandoned in 1879. Traces of the railroad still remain with Millstone today in the form of a pier in the center



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet) 4.

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7. Description (continued)
 Old Millstone District
 Somerset County
 New Jersey

of the Millstone River. This pier was one of the main supports for the railroad trestle that crossed the river.

When the Delaware and Raritan Canal opened a new trade route for the farmers of the area in the 1830's, Millstone was one the regions major receiving points for grain, cattle and other produce from the farms of the surrounding townships and counties.

At the time of the American Revolution Millstone was not just a collection of local farms but rather was the seat of the Somerset County Court from 1738 to 1779. At this time there existed a jail, two taverns, the original Dutch Reformed Church (burned in 1777), a presbyterian church, and a cluster of small homes other than those associated with the surrounding farms.

General Description of Natural and Man-Made Elements in District

The historic district of Millstone encompasses approximately seventy acres and fifty-eight structures fall within its boundaries. This constitutes a density of 0.9 structures per acre.

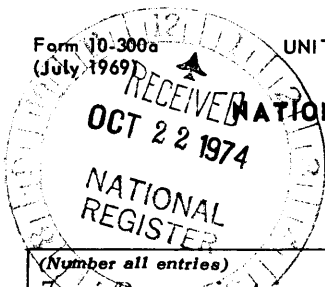
The present land use to be found within the district is single-family residential, commercial, institutional and open space (recreational).

Some of the prominent geographical features to be found in Millstone's district are: the Millstone River that forms the eastern boundary of the Borough; the moderate rise in the land to the northern end of the community; a modest bluff that overlooks the Millstone River; a flat, open plain of land that is surrounded by trees and is situated by the river.

A few of the man-made features other than the buildings in the community are: the pier in the Millstone River from the Mercer and Somerset Railroad (photo no. 8); an Indian millstone (photo no. 12 b) that can be found in front of the Hillsborough Reformed Church.

The following is a description of a representative selection of structures in the district:

1. Edward Beyers House, c1840, 222 Ann Street. This is a two



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet) 5.

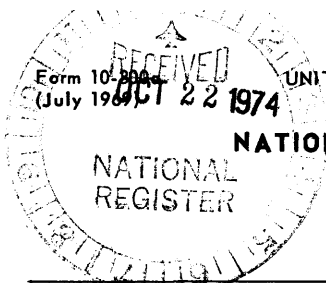
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COUNTY Somerset	
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(Number all entries)

7. Description (continued)
Old Millstone District
Somerset County
New Jersey

story house with a late 19th century porch addition. The foundation is brick of local manufacture and set in a variation of English Cross. The walls are of cross-timber construction with brick nogging, with wood-plaster inside. The first and second floor windows are 6/6 and lack any shutters. The main entrance is framed on the sides and top with lites. There is one chimney located in the center of the house. The roof is gabled and has slate over wood shingles.

2. Borough Hall, c1850, Main Street. This is a one story wood frame building with a brick facing. The foundation is a random-coursed rubble setting with a stucco facing inside. The interior of the structure is the original vertical, beaded, tongue-and-groove boards. The structure has no chimney. There is one large room with two small utility rooms flanking the entrance hall. The windows are paired 4/4's and the attic window is in Gothic Revival design. There are no shutters. The roof is a replacement of the original using asphalt shingles.
3. Blacksmith Shop, c1740, North River Street. This is a two story wood frame structure with a brick facade on the first floor level and wood shingles on the second. The brick facing has remnants of stucco covering. The windows on the first floor are a combination of 8/8 and 16/12, while the second floor has 6/6 windows. The north wall of the first floor is of field stone construction so as to hold back the earth of the hill into which the building is set. The upper level is a later addition (c1820). The walls are full-timbered and wood pinned. There is one chimney on the north end of the building and leads from the bellows, and hearth. All floor beams and rafters are hand-hewn and the second floor boards are wide. The roof is wood shingled.
4. Hillsborough Reformed Church, 1828, corner of Main Street and Amwell Road. This is a two story building with a random course rubble foundation. The exterior of the building is clapboard. Brick is used for insulation. The walls are full timbered and pegged. The windows on the sides are 16/12 while those on the south end (main entrance) are 15/15 with semi-circular tops. There are no windows



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(Continuation Sheet) 6.

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(Number of entries)

7. Description (continued)
Old Millstone District
Somerset County
New Jersey

on the ground level on the south end. The three doors are arranged in a symmetrical pattern with the windows of the second floor and quarter windows of the attic. A circular window is at the attic level directly over the center door as is a circular lite in the steeple. The bell turret is octagon in shape. The roof is slate on wood shingle and gabled. The building has inside brick chimneys.

5. Van Doren House, 1755, 1488 Main Street. This is a two story house with a two story wing and a one story leanto. The building is of wood frame construction, wood shingles outside and brick nogging for insulation. The interior walls are plaster on wood lathe. There are two inside brick chimneys. The windows in the main part of the house are 12/12 of the ground level and 9/6 of the second. The other two story part of the house has 6/6 on the upper floor and 9/9 on the first. All windows are shuttered using paneled style shutters. There are Dutch doors front and back. The roofs are single gable and have wood shingles on hand-hewn rafters that are pegged at the ridgeline. The foundation is of field stone construction. The barns and smoke house are as old as the house itself.

6. Dr. Abram Van Buren House, foundation c1760, building 1838, 1403 Main Street. This is a two story house with a random course rubble foundation. The walls are brick nogging infilled and have plaster on wood interiors. The exterior is clapboard. There is one inside chimney on the west end. The floor beams are hand-hewn with beading on the edges. Mortice and tenon joints and wood pins are employed. The windows are 6/6 and the main entrance on the north side of the house has both side and top lites. The windows are shuttered and use the panel style shutter. The roof is a gable style and slate on wood shingles.

7. Disborough House, c1810, 1410 Main Street. This is a two story house with a random course rubble foundation. The building is wood framed with brick nogging for insulation. The floor beams and rafters are hand-hewn and wood pinned and there are wide floor boards. The exterior is clapboard while the interior is plaster on wood lathe. All of the windows are 6/6 and the shutters are louvered. The entrance door has lites both on the sides and top. There are three

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(Continuation Sheet) 7.

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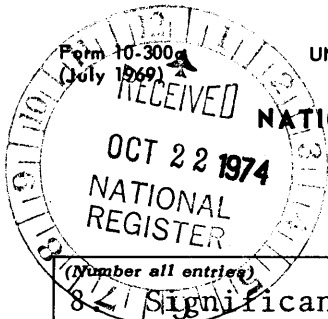
(Number all entries)

7. Description (continued)
Old Millstone District
Somerset County
New Jersey

inside and one exterior chimneys. The roof is a simple gable design with slate on wood shingles.

8. John Van Nest House, c1780, 13 South River Street. This is a two story wood framed house with a field stone foundation. The beams and rafters are hand-hewn and wood pinned. The windows are replacements and are presently 2/2 and all windows have paneled shutters. The porch is of second or third quarter 19th century addition. There are wide floor boards and one central chimney leading up to a single gable roof. There is slate on wood shingles for the roofing.
9. Abraham Wilson House, 1956, 1419 Main Street. Designed by Frank Lloyd Wright this one-and-one half story house is constructed out of cinder block on the back and ends. The front has a second floor wooden terrace and balcony. The main room of the house has floor-to-ceiling lites separated by slender oak mullions. There is a concrete patio in the front. The interior has Wright's typical built-in furnishings. The roof is just slightly slanted toward the back of the house and is covered with asphalt.
10. Anglada House, c1835, 1389 Main Street. This is a two story house with a two story wing. The house is cross-timbered with brick nogging and hand-hewn floor beams, and wide floor boards. All of the windows are 6/6 and have louvered shutters. The main entrance has six panels and is framed on the sides and top with lites. The exterior surface is random width clapboard and the inside is plaster on wood lathe. There are two inside chimneys with original mantels. The roof is a replacement using asphalt shingles instead of slate on wood.





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet) 8.

STATE	New Jersey	
COUNTY	Somerset	
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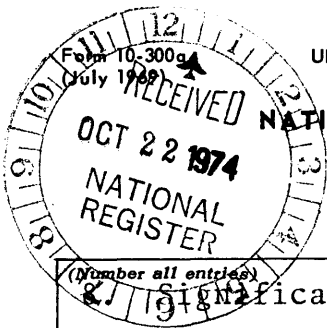
8. Significance (continued)
Old Millstone District
Somerset County
New Jersey

It was East Millstone, and not Millstone, which received a railroad in the 1850's, completely isolating Millstone from further 19th century industrial development since the tracks ended abruptly in East Millstone until the 1870's. (The extension of the railroad appears to have been of minimal consequences to the town industrially).

This, from the mid-19th century until the second quarter of the 20th century little development occurred in Millstone, consequently providing the county and state with an excellent presentation of a first and second quarter 19th century community with intermittent examples of 18th and late 19th century construction.

It is worth noting, in order to further evaluate the effect of national transportation trends on Millstone, that what could presently be considered the center of town has a modern gasoline and service center and car wash accommodating the most recent of transportation trends.

On June 10, 1688, William Dockwra, having secured the confidence of the 'Twelve Proprietors of New Jersey' for having induced large emigration from England and Scotland to New Jersey received patents for 2000 acres in the valleys of the Millstone and Raritan. In 1690, Captain Clement Plumstead obtained a large grant of this land, including the territory of the present Borough of Millstone and extending along the river's west side from Peacebrook to Blackwell's Mills. It was in 1699 that the Hockenberry House was erected in Millstone. Millstone was probably the most important plain in Somerset County in 1738, as the vote of the citizens of the county then determined that it was the proper place for the county seat. The court house of Somerset County was there from 1738 to 1779; the first court house was at Six-Mile Run, built in 1716 and burned in 1737; the court house at Millstone was burned in 1779 by the Queen's Rangers in their raid under Colonel John Simcoe the day of their burning the Raritan church. The court house and the place, of much interest for many things, are famous in the constitutional history of the United States. The Supreme Court of the state sometimes met there; and in session there, September, 1779, just when Queens College (Rutgers) was about to go there, it rendered its decision in the case of Holmes v. Walton, the first affirming of the principle ever since maintained in all courts of the land, that a legislative body must keep within the limits



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet) 9.

STATE	New Jersey	
COUNTY	Somerset	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
	SEP 13	1976

2. Significance (continued)

Old Millstone District
Somerset County
New Jersey

set for it by charter or constitution, that the laws enacted by the legislative branch of the government are subject for the determining of their meaning and validity to the courts, the judicial branch of the government.

A bridge over the river, in all probability, existed in the year 1738, as it was here that the Amwell Road passed. The farmers in this vicinity made this the point of shipment for their produce. The farms were being taken up along the river. The Harlingen tract was also already occupied. In 1738 there were about fifty families within three miles of the present borough.

With the location here of the court house there arose the necessity of a public house. Two taverns flourished in the time of the Revolution, one on a site a little northeast of the church, the other near the bridge. The court house and jail stood a little south of this inn. Some of the large stones of its foundation can to this day still be seen. It may have been near by that the Black slave was burned for murdering his master, Jacob Van Nest, in 1752.

In 1760 the inhabitants built the small Presbyterian church and in 1767 the Dutch church was erected on the site still occupied. On April 6, 1775, the New Millstone Church was incorporated under the name Hillsborough to distinguish it from Harlingen which was then called Millstone. The cornerstone of the present church was laid on June 8, 1828. Contractor and builder was Joachim Quick. The chief carpenter was Issac Van Nuys. All of the work was done by hand. In 1863 the church bell was hung and in 1943 the chapel was enlarged and refurnished. The architecture is Federal.

In 1800 there was no school-house, the children crossing the river into Franklin. Jacob Van Nuys lived in the house east of the church later occupied by Dr. Fredrick Blackwell. This house was used some time before 1800 by Henry Quick, a cabinet maker. A hatter by the name of Jobe succeeded Van Nuys. In 1812 Dominie Zabriskie became its occupant, the church having bought it for a parsonage.



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(Continuation Sheet) 10.

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(Number all entries)

8.2 Significance (continued)
Old Millstone District
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In 1800, Cornelious Lowe kept the hotel near by; Isaac Fisher and Lowe Fisher proceded him. The next building on the east side of the street was the Presbyterian church, opposite the house once owned by Fredrick V. L. Disborough. Next was the house of Dr. Abraham Van Buren. John Van Nest occupied the house on the north side of Peacebrook, next to the river, later occupied by Nelly Van Tine. Paul Duryea occupied a house directly north, keeping in it a small store it was subsequently resided in by the Suydams.

John Christopher had a shoemaker-shop opposite the present Blacksmith's shop at the north end of the borough, near the river and a dwelling adjoining. The road at this time came down the hill between John Van Nest's and Dr. Van Buren's. The straight road west of James Elmendorf's house was opened about 1830.

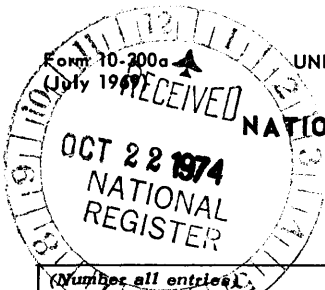
Edward Van Harlingen lived in the house that once stood where the Franklin State Bank presently stands, at the foot of the hill. In this house the exercises of Queens College was held for a while during the Revolution.

The Van Doren farm was the first south of the church. It had been in possession of the family since 1753. The next place was that of Isaac Van Cleef; he had moved there some years prior to 1800, having come from the neighborhood of Pluckamin.

Peter Ditmars occupied the next farm. He sold it to Abraham Beekman in 1815.

Millstone became, after the canal was opened, a place of considerable business. As many as 100,000 bushels of grain have been stored there at one time, waiting for the opening of the canal. There were in 1834 four stores, three taverns, several mechanics, three storehouses for grain and an extensive lumberyard. With the opening of the railroad to New Brunswick, in 1856, the development of this borough was perhaps retarded, as East Millstone, in Franklin, became the terminus of the railroad.

In 1873 the railroad was opened to Somerset Junction, on the Delaware, to anticipate the new railroad from Bound Brook to Philadelphia. But when the new railroad opened in 1876, the Mercer and Somerset railroad was abandoned.



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(Continuation Sheet) 11.

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8. **Significance** (continued)
 Old Millstone District
 Somerset County
 New Jersey

MILITARY

Millstone was the scene of many events during the Revolutionary War and was more important than neighboring villages and townships in this respect.

It was at Millstone in May, 1775, that the Somerset County Committee of Correspondence met and considered the question of raising troops.

In January, 1777, after capturing Trenton and Princeton, George Washington marched his forces through Millstone on his way to Morristown. His army camped in the fields south of the parsonage. George Washington stayed at the Van Doren House as he did on other occasions. Lord Cornwallis was pursuing Washington with about eight thousand troops believing the Americans were heading for New Brunswick. Later, the Hessians established an army hospital for their sick and wounded on the farm after clearing off a large piece of woodland.

General Dickinson and his Jersey militia encamped in Millstone in January 1777, fighting a successful skirmish with the British at Weston.

In June, 1777, the troops of Lord Howe were in Millstone for a short time when Howe made an attempt to draw Washington from his strong position at Middlebrook.

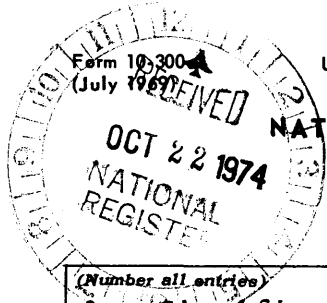
In the fall of 1778 after the battle of Freehold, Washington once more took up his winter quarters at Middlebrook and the British occupied part of this area.

During this winter several British officers were quartered at the Parsonage.

During the Civil War, the same fields on the Van Doren property that were used to muster the militia for the Revolutionary War, were again put to use for the mustering of troops for the Union.

EDUCATION

During the Revolutionary War a part of Old Queens College (now Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey) took refuge



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(Continuation Sheet) 12.

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(Number all entries)

8. Significance (continued)
Old Millstone District
Somerset County
New Jersey

in Millstone to reduce the ever-present chance of British molestation. Here some of the students attended classes while others received their instruction at similar temporary establishments in Raritan and North Branch. The house used for this purpose was the home of John Van Harlingen, minister of the Millstone church. The house stood until only recently, when, after years of neglect and abandonment, was torn down and replaced with a contemporary banking facility. The following notice was posted in the New Jersey Gazateer when Queens College was re-assembling it's splintered departments into a whole at the New Brunswick campus: "Notice is Hereby given, the Grammer-School at Raritan was opened last Monday, and that the vacation of Queens College will end on Thursday the 4th of November, when the business of said College will be again carried on at New Brunswick. Boarding may be had at each of the above places at as low a price as any part of the State. - Parents and guardians may be assured of the greatest care being taken of the youth and that proper attention will be given to every branch of English education". -"By order of the Faculty, John Taylor, Clerk Pro Tem., Raritan, October 29, 1779."

TRANSPORTATION

In 1872 the Mercer and Somerset Railroad (running from New Brunswick to East Millstone, and opened in 1855) was extended across the river, under a new charter, and ran a southwesterly course to the Delaware at Somerset Junction. This was done to anticipate and prevent the building of a new railroad to Philadelphia. As the latter succeeded, however, the extension of the Millstone road to the Delaware was abandoned in 1879. The track was taken up and the trestle work across the meadow between the Millstone River and River Road was dismantled. The only remaining vestage of the railroad is the massive stone pier in the center of the Millstone River. The rest of the line still runs into East Millstone and is the property of the Penn-Central Railroad but has been abandoned for many years.

Concise Statement of Significance

It was through what is now the Borough of Millstone that settlers passed to establish their farmsteads in Somerset Counties and other counties west of here. Millstone played an extremely important part in the early shipment of farm products to New Brunswick and Perth Amboy. Millstone was the scene of dramatic

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(Number all entries)

8. Significance (continued)
Old Millstone District
Somerset County
New Jersey

events during the Revolutionary War and was more important than neighboring villages and townships in this respect. It was in Millstone in May of 1775, that the Somerset County Committee of Correspondence met and considered the question of raising troops. In January, 1777, after capturing Trenton and Princeton, George Washington marched his forces through Millstone on his way to Morristown. His army camped in the fields south of the parsonage. Washington himself stayed in the Van Dorne House as he had on other occasions. General Dickinson and his army of Jersey militiamen encamped in Millstone in January, 1777, fighting a successful skirmish with the British at Weston. In September of 1777, Millstone was designated as one of the seats for the State's Supreme Court. Back in 1738 the citizens of the county voted to make Millstone the county seat. The variety of architecture within the historic district runs the entire gamut of that experienced in the Northeast region of the United States. There is Dutch Colonial, Federal, Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, Mansard and 'modern' (the house designed by Frank Lloyd Wright).

Restoration and Preservation Activities

There presently exists a very active Historic District Commission that is playing a vigorous part in the decision making processes that have any affect on the historic district itself or the adjoining properties. The Borough of Millstone has had historic district zoning since 1968 and was revised in 1970. Many citizens that reside within the district take a great pride in the fact that this area of the region is so old and so take special pains to maintain their homes, garages and barns. In some cases, as in that of no. 35 North River Street, an entire building was taken from a state of dilapidation to being fully restored.



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(Continuation Sheet) 14.

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1834 (p. 180).
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1873 (p. 54)



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Millstone Historic District
Somerset County 035
New Jersey 34

7. Description (con't.)

The village of Millstone as nominated corresponds nearly perfectly with an 1876 atlas of the community. All of the 19th century village is encompassed by the district boundaries. Structures to the north of the district are generally early 20th century. Buildings to the west are early 20th century or modern. The eastern border is the Millstone River which makes Millstone geographically distinct from nearby East Millstone.

While the district could ideally be extended to the south to include an agricultural region, this politically is another township (Hillsborough Twp.) and is being nominated separately.

The Somerset County Courthouse and jail, built in 1738 and burned by the British in the American Revolution in 1777 along with the church (re-erected in 1828 on same site), was probably located on South River Street. An archeological assessment, however, has never been conducted at this site.

The flood plain opposite the Van Doren House was a brief encampment for the American army in the winter of 1777 following the Battle of Princeton and a British encampment in the fall of 1778. Civil War recruits mustered in the same field in the 1860's. While an archeological assessment has not been conducted in this relatively undisturbed open field, being a flood plain and currently under consideration for acquisition as open space it has excellent potential for archeological fieldwork.

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Millstone Historic District
Somerset County 035
New Jersey 34

8. Significance (con't.)

across the meadow between the Millstone River and River Road was dismantled. The only remaining vestige of the railroad is the massive stone pier in the center of the Millstone River. The rest of the line still runs into East Millstone and is the property of the Penn-Central Railroad but has been abandoned for many years.

Transportation has thus dealt a blow to Millstone which from the mid 19th century until the second quarter of the 20th century little development has occurred, consequently providing the county and state with an excellent presentation of a first and second quarter 19th century community with intermittent examples of 18th and late 19th century construction.

Settlement:

It was through what is now the Borough of Millstone that settlers passed to establish their farmsteads in Somerset County and other counties west of here. Millstone was originally a settlement exclusively relegated to large farms, but by the end of the second quarter of the 18th century several structures were built to take advantage of the commerce potentials. By the year 1738 there were approximately fifty families within three miles of the present Borough.

The derivation of the name of the town itself seems to suggest the hamlet was a milestone between earlier towns and, in fact, Millstone is the halfway point between New Brunswick and Princeton via the river.

Millstone was probably the most important plain in Somerset County. In 1737, by popular vote of the citizens of Somerset, it was decided that Millstone was the proper place for the county seat. The first Somerset County Court House was built in 1716 and later burned in 1737. Its location was at Six Mile Run. The second Court House was built in Millstone in 1738. It was later burned in 1779 by the Queen's Rangers led by Colonel John Simcoe. The Supreme Court of New Jersey sometimes met in session here. It was here that it rendered its decision in the case of *Holmes v. Walton*, the first affirmation of the principle that a legislative body must keep within the limits set for it by charter or constitution, that the laws enacted by the legislative branch of the government are subject to the determining of their meaning and validity to the courts, the judicial branch of the government. This principle has been upheld ever since by all the courts of the land.

There arose, through the location of the court house, a need for a public house. Two taverns flourished in the time of the Revolution, one on a site to the northeast of the Presbyterian Church, the other near the bridge at Amwell Road. The court house and jail stood to the south of the inn. Some of the

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Millstone Historic District
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New Jersey 34

8. Significance (con't.)

large stones of its foundation can to this day still be seen. In all probability it was near here that a Black slave was burned for murdering his master, Jacob Van Nest, in 1752.

In 1760 the local populous of Millstone built the small Presbyterian church. Later, in 1767, a Dutch church was erected on the same site. On April 6, 1775, the New Millstone Church was incorporated under the name Hillsborough to distinguish it from Harlington which was then called Millstone. The cornerstone of the present church was laid on June 8, 1828. The contractor-builder was Joachim Quick, the chief carpenter, Issac Van Nuys. In 1863 the church bell was hung and in 1943 the chapel was enlarged and refurnished in the Federal style.

The variety of architecture within the historic district runs the gamut of that experienced in the northeast region of the United States. There is Dutch Colonial, Federal, Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, Mansard and "modern" (the house designed by Frank Lloyd Wright).

Restoration and Preservation Activities:

There presently exists a very active Historic District Commission that is playing a vigorous part in the decision making processes that have any effect on the historic district itself or the adjoining properties. The Borough of Millstone has had historic district zoning since 1968 and was revised in 1970. Many citizens that reside within the district take a great pride in the fact that this area of the region is so old and so take special pains to maintain their homes, garages and barns. In some cases, as in that of No. 35 N. River Street, an entire building was taken from a state of dilapidation to being fully restored.

Military:

Millstone was the scene of many events during the Revolutionary War and was more important than neighboring villages and townships in this respect.

It was at Millstone in May, 1775, that the Somerset County Committee of Correspondence met and considered the question of raising troops.

In January, 1777, after capturing Trenton and Princeton, George Washington marched his forces through Millstone on his way to Morristown. His army camped in the fields south of the parsonage. George Washington stayed at the Van Doren House, as he did on other occasions. Lord Cornwallis was pursuing Washington with about 8,000 troops believing the Americans were heading for New Brunswick. Later, the Hessians established an army hospital for their sick and wounded on

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the farm after clearing off a large piece of woodland.

General Dickinson and his Jersey militia encamped in Millstone in January, 1777, fighting a successful skirmish with the British at Weston.

In June, 1777, the troops of Lord Howe were in Millstone for a short time when Howe made an attempt to draw Washington from his strong position at Middlebrook.

In the fall of 1778 after the battle of Freehold, Washington once more took up his winter quarters at Middlebrook and the British occupied part of this area.

During this winter several British officers were quartered at the Parsonage.

During the Civil War, the same fields on the Van Doren property that were used to muster the militia for the Revolutionary War, were again put to use for the mustering of troops for the Union.

Education:

During the Revolutionary War a part of Old Queens College (now Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey) took refuge in Millstone to reduce the ever-present chance of British molestation. Here some of the students attended classes while others received their instruction at similar temporary establishments in Raritan and North Branch. The house used for this purpose was the home of John Van Harlingen, minister of the Millstone Church. The house stood until only recently, when, after years of neglect and abandonment, was torn down and replaced with a contemporary banking facility. The following notice was posted in the New Jersey Gazateer when Queens College was reassembling its splintered departments into a whole at the New Brunswick campus: "Notice is Hereby given, the Grammer-School at Raritan was opened last Monday, and that the vacation of Queens College will end on Thursday the 4th of November, when the business of said College will be again carried on at New Brunswick. Boarding may be had at each of the above places at as low a price as any part of the State. -Parents and guardians may be assured of the greatest care being taken of the youth and that proper attention will be given to every branch of English education". - "By order of the Faculty, John Taylor, Clerk Pro Tem., Raritan, October 29, 1779."

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Millstone Historic District
Somerset County 035
New Jersey 34

8. Significance (con't.)

Transportation:

The history and development of Millstone, one of New Jersey's earliest settlements, has been greatly influenced by the development of Transportation throughout the area. Transportation is one of the main reasons for the creation of the Village of Millstone. It was originally a halfway point between New Brunswick and Princeton, via the river.

On June 10, 1688, the "Twelve Proprietors of New Jersey" granted the patents for 2,000 acres in the valleys of Millstone and Raritan to William Dockwra for the purpose of inducing emigration from England and Scotland to New Jersey. In 1690, Captain Clement Plumstead obtained a large grant of this land. It included the territory, presently known as the Borough of Millstone, extending along the west bank of the Millstone River from Peacebrook to Blackwells Mills.

Millstone played an extremely important part in the early shipment of farm products to New Brunswick and Perth Amboy, via the river. Although the river was still the primary means of transport, a bridge was built at Amwell Road. It was primarily used by farmers to transport goods for shipping.

The Delaware and Raritan Canal, built in the 1830's, had an ambivalent effect on Millstone. The canal encouraged settlement and business in the area, as evidenced by the predominance of structures in the community dating from the general period following the canal's construction. As many as 100,000 bushels of grain have been stored there at one time, waiting for the opening of the canal.

In 1834 there were four stores, three taverns, several mechanics, three storehouses for grain and an extensive lumberyard. The canal, however, did not go directly through Millstone, but approached the east bank of the river and sharply veered away. This in effect created another community appropriately named East Millstone.

With the opening of the railroad to New Brunswick, in 1856, the development of this borough was perhaps retarded, as East Millstone became the terminus of the railroad. It was East Millstone, and not Millstone, which received a railroad in the 1850's, completely isolating Millstone from further 19th century industrial development since the tracks ended abruptly in East Millstone.

In 1872 the Mercer and Somerset Railroad (running from New Brunswick to East Millstone, and opened in 1855) was extended across the river, under a new charter, and ran a southwesterly course to the Delaware at Somerset Junction. This was done to anticipate and prevent the building of a new railroad to Philadelphia. As the latter succeeded, however, the extension of the Millstone Road to the Delaware was abandoned in 1879. The track was taken up and the trestle work

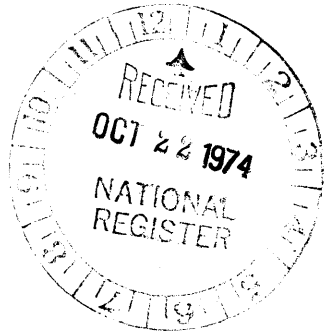
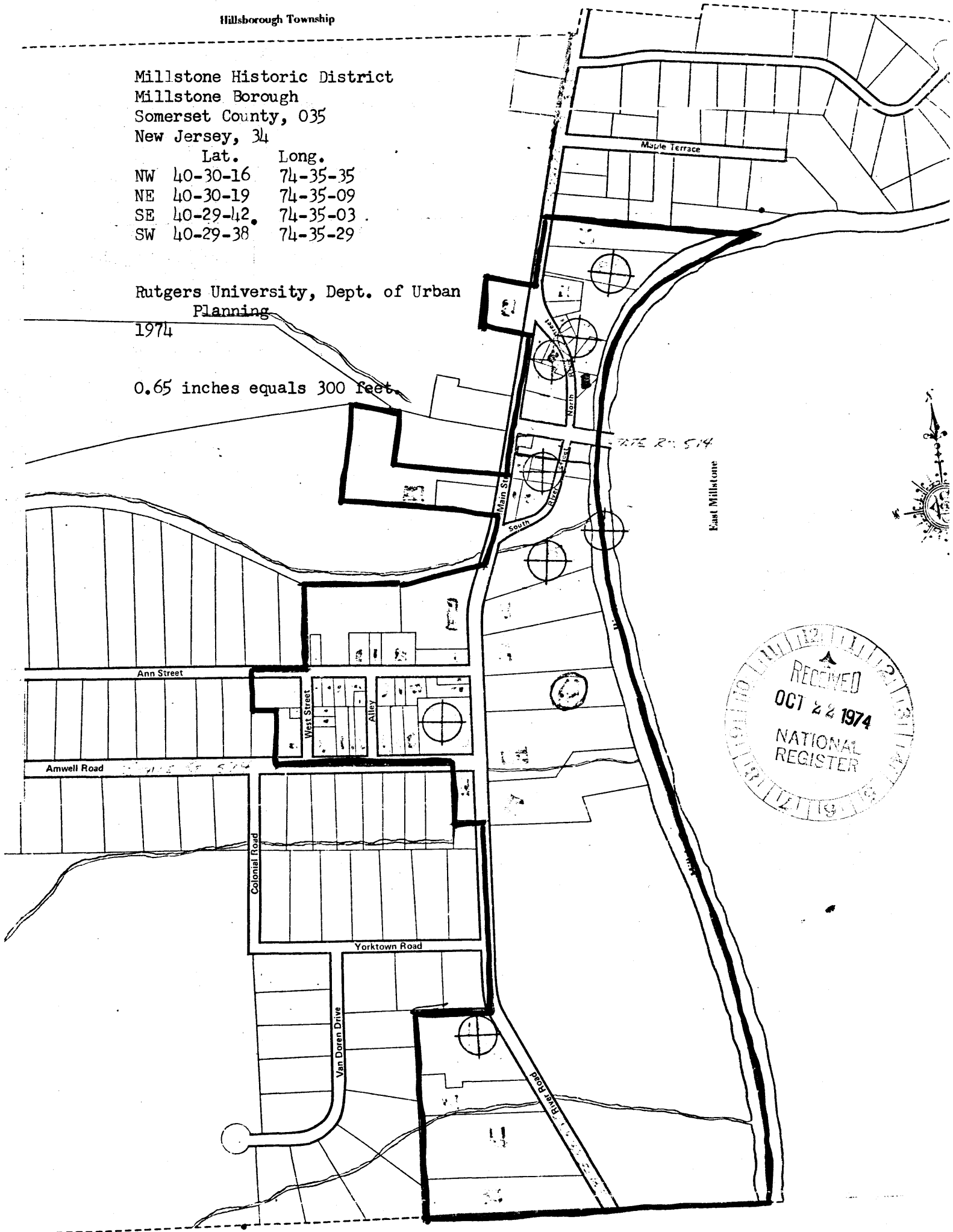
Hillsborough Township

Millstone Historic District
Millstone Borough
Somerset County, 035
New Jersey, 34

	Lat.	Long.
NW	40-30-16	74-35-35
NE	40-30-19	74-35-09
SE	40-29-42	74-35-03
SW	40-29-38	74-35-29

Rutgers University, Dept. of Urban
Planning
1974

0.65 inches equals 300 feet.



Hillsborough Township