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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

SEP 18 1995

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION

This form is for use in nominating or requesting recognition for historic 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 Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge
other names/site number Homestead Farm; Homestead Plantation; Oak Ridge; Oak Ridge Golf Club; Hugh H. Bowne Estate; Sarah Bowne Robinson Estate; Bowne-Robinson House; Beehive Oven House; Chapman Cottage.

2. Location

street & number Oak Ridge Road (Clark) & Feather Bed Lane (Edison) not for publication
city or town Township of Clark & Township of Edison vicinity
state New Jersey code 034 NJ county Union code 039 zip code 07066
Middlesex code 023 zip code 08820

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 of certifying official/Title [Signature] Date 2/8/95
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 of the Keeper [Signature] Date of Action 10/25/95
Entered in the National Register

Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge
Name of Property

Union & Middlesex Counties, NJ
County and State

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	
1	5	buildings
3	2	sites
		structures
1		objects
5	7	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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/agricultural field

DEFENSE/battle site

LANDSCAPE/street furniture-object

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/outdoor recreation

LANDSCAPE/street furniture-object

DEFENSE/battlesite

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

FEDERAL

COLONIAL

ITALIANATE

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls WOOD: WEATHERBOARD

WOOD: SHAKES

roof ASPHALT OVER WOOD: SHINGLE

BRICK

other WOOD

METAL: CAST IRON

Narrative Description

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

Name of Property

County and State

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.)

- Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
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.
Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
LAW
ARCHITECTURE
EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
MILITARY

Period of Significance

1720/1740 to 1929

Significant Dates

1720-1740 c. 1860

1777

c. 1800

1814-1881

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Judge Hugh Hartshorne Bowne

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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

Primary location of additional data:

- 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

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

Name of repository:

Clark Historical Society, Clark, NJ

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approx. 208 acres Perth Amboy Quad

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 8	5 5 4 7 7 1	4 4 9 5 6 1 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	1 8	5 5 5 5 3 0	4 4 9 5 7 2 3

3	1 8	5 5 5 8 6 7	4 4 9 5 4 3 9
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	1 8	5 5 5 2 2 4	4 4 9 4 7 1 1
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet #5 below		
5	1 8	5 5 4 3 2 0	4 4 9 4 7 8 0

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 William T. Fidurski, Chairman

organization Clark Environmental Commission date March 22, 1995

street & number 32 Hillcrest Drive telephone (908)388-6293

city or town Clark state NJ zip code 07066

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 Union County Division of Parks and Recreation

street & number Union County Administration Building telephone (908)527-4911

Elizabethtown Plaza

city or town Elizabeth state NJ zip code 07207

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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

RECEIVED 413 Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge Union & Middlesex Counties NJ SEP 18 1995 INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
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NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge is a tract of approximately 208 acres that is delineated by its colonial boundaries and functioned as a large, plantation-type farmstead from colonial times until 1929. In the early 1930s, a large portion of the tract was put into grass cultivation for recreational golf use, and a golf course, known as Oak Ridge Golf Club, was established. The course is presently owned and operated by Union County. Despite any noncontributing factors, the site is the last in Union County that is evocative of a large eighteenth and nineteenth century farmstead.

Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge is located in an area or section known from colonial and revolutionary times as the Ash Swamp or Ash Swamp Battlefield. The Ash Swamp proper is an area of open, freshwater marsh with large areas of marsh grass; meandering streams; and moist-bottom woodland that is roughly one and one-half miles long and one mile wide and is approximately bounded by Oak Ridge Road in Clark Township and Featherbed Lane in Edison Township (both formerly the Road or Highway from Rahway to Ash Swamp), by Inman Avenue in Edison Township (formerly the Road from Rahway to Short Hills Tavern or the Road to Mount Pleasant), by Old Raritan Road in Edison Township, by Raritan Road in Scotch Plains Township (formerly Old Raritan Road or Old Raritan Road), and by Lake Avenue (formerly Quaker Road) in Scotch Plains and Clark townships. The Ash Swamp section is comprised of the Ash Swamp proper and surrounding properties. The Ash Swamp section presently falls within the townships of Clark, Scotch Plains, and Edison, but in colonial times was located in Rahway, Scotch Plains, and Woodbridge, respectively. The southwestern portion of the Ash Swamp section overlaps with an area known as the Short Hills, which is composed of glacial terminal moraine located east of Woodland Avenue in Plainfield running to the northwest to the first range of the Watchung Mountains (formerly the Blue Hills) and to the southeast into Middlesex County. The terminal moraine of the Short Hills was related to the formation of the Ash Swamp geologically. The Short Hills/Ash Swamp area is distinct from the nineteenth century Township of Short Hills in Essex County, New Jersey near Millburn and Springfield, New Jersey.

Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge lies in the eastern part of the Ash Swamp section, and at least one-third of the proposed register site falls within the actual swamp. Included in the historic boundary of the proposed register site are a main plantation house, the ruins of the tenant farmer's house, an obelisk-shaped county line marker that

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places**
Continuation SheetHomestead Farm at Oak Ridge
Union & Middlesex Counties
NJSection number 7 Page 2

predates 1857, portions of the Ash Swamp significant to traditional agrarian operations relating to the harvest of "salt hay" from marsh meadows, and portions of the Ash Swamp involved in military operations and use of the swamp as a hiding place during the Battle of Ash Swamp on June 26, 1777, which is also known as the Battle of the Short Hills. Although there is a strong, oral tradition of slave presence at Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge, there has been no archaeological confirmation of apparent slave quarters ruins on the property, and the apparent slave ruins are not listed in the Areas of Significance or Number of Resources sections of this nomination. In addition, although Native American encampments have been documented along the western Ash Swamp, and Native American artefacts have been found on Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge, no archaeological evaluation specific to a potential Native American site at Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge has been done, and a potential Native American site has not been included in the tally of historic resources on the tract at the present time.

Although the proposed register site includes noncontributing golf greens (Photo 16), a parking lot (Photo 1), and five garage-type utility buildings (Photos 107-110) of cement-plastered or decorative concrete block of twentieth century origin and is transected by a Lehigh Valley/Conrail track right-of-way (Photo 111) and a Public Service Electric and Gas Company power line right-of-way, these intrusions have minimum effect due to their size and placement. In particular, the power line traverses the far southern end of the property and the rail line is in the Ash Swamp far to the rear and behind the golf playing area. From Oak Ridge Road between the main plantation house and the tenant farmer house and proceeding in a northerly direction to the railroad is a paper street formerly known as the Road to Ashbrook Station and now known as Robinson Street in Clark Township and as part of Featherbed Lane in Edison Township. This paper road was planned to stop at the railroad and is unimproved, although a narrow, bituminous paved, golf cart path in the golf area generally follows its route. The main plantation house is placed on a knoll, facing south in the traditional manner, and is set well back from the road (Photo 1). The view of the main house is unobstructed, although there is a large bituminous parking area with a single light pole of modern design directly in front of the main house. The Perth Amboy Quadrangle map indicates that there was once a L-shaped driveway across the front of the main house and out to the street from the area just west of the main house. Access to Oak Ridge Road was at the present two entrances/exits to the parking lot. Bituminous paving of the parking lot was accomplished by paving within the L-shape out to Oak Ridge Road to form a roughly triangular-shape parking area. Road access in colonial times has not been documented, but the present access points to the parking area appear to represent the most convenient approaches to the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge
Union & Middlesex Counties
NJ

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

main house. The tenant farmer house, presently in very poor condition with fire damage and missing exterior walls in areas but with an intact two-story chimney stack with beehive oven (Photos 71-106) is located at the front, southeast corner of the site and is also placed with an unobstructed view. The tenant farmer house is known locally as the Beehive Oven House or Chapman Cottage (after a descendant of the tenant farmer). The layout of the golf area follows the natural topography, which rolls gently downhill from the rear of the main house toward the rear of the property which is swampy. Greens areas are only slightly built-up over grade and sand traps have simply been excavated, banked and filled with sand (Photo 16). The course contains no constructed hazards. Grassy areas of the fairways (Photo 112) reflect a topography very similar to farm photos (Photo 17) in the late 1800s. Photos 17 and 112 appear to reflect possible changes in tree location as would be expected over an hundred-year period. No documentaion of the condition of the tract in colonial times has been found. Photo 18 indicates the presence of a cluster of seven barn-type outbuildings on the property in the late nineteenth century. No trace of these outbuildings is presently apparent, although an 1868 map⁴⁶ indicates that these outbuildings were located about three hundred feet to the north of the rear of the main plantation house, which would place their location within the golf area. The existence of these outbuildings in colonial times is not known. The same 1868 map also notes two additional outbuildings along Oak Ridge Road, arranged one behind the other, just south of the Middlesex County line. It is also not known if these two additional outbuildings existed in colonial times. As indicated by the oral history of the tenant farmer's family³⁷, apparent remains of slave quarters are located in a wooded area to the south and rear of the golf playing area. These apparent slave quarters ruins are only discernible by the linear placement of individual foundation stones that would have held up small wooden shacks and an apparent built-up rubble ledge that might indicate the presence of a firebox, hearth, privy or root cellar (Photo 71). The apparent slave ruins, indicated on accompanying maps as "SLAVE RUINS" are located approximately seventy yards southeast of the third green. In addition, the descendants of the Fagan family, who were tenant farmers on this tract, are in possession of a number of Native American relics found on site including a quern, rubbing stones, tanged points, a stone rattle, stone axes, a split-antler knife, and a small, palm mortar for compounding body paint and poultices with the thumb. These artefacts were all found at the southeastern portion of the proposed register site, mostly in the field behind the tenant farmer house, which now serves as a practice/teaching range for the golf professional. Although Native American encampments have been documented along the western

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge
Union & Middlesex Counties
NJ

Section number 7 Page 4

portion of the Ash Swamp⁴⁷, no archaeological evaluation of the proposed register site for Native American significance has been done at the present time. The Ash Swamp encircles the rear of the golf playing area. On Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge, the Ash Swamp extends across the train tracks into extensive areas East of the tracks (Photos 113-115). Along the railroad right-of-way, near the ruins of a late 1800s station, the Ashbrook Station³⁷ (Photos 67-69) that was demolished in 1947, the Ash Swamp tends to be moist-bottom woodlands as shown in Photo 111 of the railroad grade.

The modern, noncontributing garage type storage buildings on the site include a three-bay garage just west of the main house, which has its doors facing west (Photo 109); three additional garages (one partly removed and existing as only a foundation) slightly further west and facing east (Photo 110); and a large, nine-bay garage, along Oak Ridge Road and east of the main plantation house (Photos 107 and 108). The latter structure, although the largest noncontributing building is located in a low area and is heavily landscaped with trees so that it is barely apparent in the view shed of the main plantation house (Photo 108).

A Union/Middlesex Countyline Marker is located in the parking lot about 100 feet from the front door of the main plantation house. The marker is cut sandstone, and is an obelisk about three feet high. The marker appears to be one piece without a separate base or footing. The side of the marker facing the main house bears an "E." indicating Essex County and indicating placement at some time before 1857 when Union County was still part of Essex County. The opposite side of the marker is inscribed with an "M." for Middlesex County and the intervening sides each bear the marking "C.L." indicating county line. (Photos 3&4)

The main house on the proposed register site (Photos 1-66) served as the main plantation house and the residence for the original farmstead and presently serves as the clubhouse for the Oak Ridge Golf Club, a public golf course that is owned and operated by Union County, New Jersey, although a portion of the golf course and the tenant farmer's cottage at the southern end of the proposed register site fall within Middlesex County, New Jersey.

The overall stylistic influence of the main plantation house is predominated by the central Adam portion of the house, which represents its middle period of construction and is defined by a two-story simple Adam stairway, a front door with leaded-glass elliptical fanlight with

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places** Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge
Continuation Sheet Union & Middlesex Counties
NJSection number 7 Page 5

sidelights, 6/6 windows with solid panel shutters, and modillions at all rakes and eaves. The center portion is, however, also reminiscent of New England Georgian with its two-story frame construction and gambrel roof, a combination that infrequently has persisted in the Middle Atlantic. Although the main house is two-story frame construction, it is also reminiscent of Dutch Colonial homes of frame construction on western Long Island in New York, where there is an intermingling of Dutch and New England influences. Although the main gambrel roof and the gable roofs of the side wings are framed with straight eaves, the construction of integral guttering at all eaves creates the appearance of slightly flared Flemish eaves. In addition, the house currently has three, exterior, divided Dutch doors including the front and rear doors of the central portion of the house and a front door in the west or kitchen wing of the house. A fourth, exterior, divided Dutch door would have been present in the rear wall of the present kitchen, but would have been eliminated when a rear addition was placed on the west wing.

The exterior appearance of the main plantation house across the three principal periods of construction is unified by coordinated, exterior treatments including the uniform use of cedar shake siding (although one inch thick, oak weatherboard persists on a shed addition to the west wing of the house), solid-panel shutters, identical modillions and wrought shutter dogs. The roofing material is modern asphalt shingle in worn condition, which had been installed over cedar shingles on open sheathing. The hip-roofed, Italianate porches at the front and rear of the main house have paired, octagonal columns with unique, latticework elements bridging each pair of columns. Several columns have been replaced with square replacements, although the latticework bridging has been retained or reproduced in all cases. The top plates and all rafters of both porches are fully chamfered and diamond cut. The modillions surrounding the porch eaves are functional tail cuts of the roof rafters as the porch eaves are open and unguttered.

In the central portion of the main house, the floor plans at first and second floor levels are essentially identical. The main front door leads into an entry hall that is in line with a smaller rear room that encloses the two-story, suspended Adam stairway on the left and the rear door to the right. The stairway and rear exitway are separated from the front hall by a large glass and wood panel door that would have been intended to restrict heat loss up the stairway. The main hall presently contains a golfers' service counter and modern, shoulder-high, wooden wainscoting but upper, trim is intact. The stairway area is remarkably intact. To the right of the hall area and parallel to it, are two, equally sized front and back rooms, each with a fireplace centered on the far wall. The front room is largely covered with plywood paneling, which also

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetHomestead Farm at Oak Ridge
Union & Middlesex Counties
NJSection number 7 Page 6

conceals the fireplace in this room, but original trim remains essentially intact. The rear room had been renovated some time ago to a revival style and an openwork fireplace insert had been added to the fireplace. In modern times a divided picture window had been installed in the rear outside wall and would be appropriate for reconstruction. At the second floor level of the central portion of the house, the hall is completely open to the stairwell. Two rooms, immediately above the lower rooms and each with a fireplace, are largely in original trim although the fireboxes of the fireplaces have been variously patched over with cement plaster. In addition, an essentially free-standing modern rest room with two showers had been installed for golfers' use at the front of the building and enclosing the front of the second floor hall and part of the front room at this level.

The oldest portion of the main house dates to between 1720 and 1740 37,44 and was originally constructed as a linear, two-story English Hall plan in the Colonial Folk style. The core of the original building consisted of the current kitchen in the West or kitchen wing of the present structure. The present foundation under the kitchen served as the foundation for the English hall and is constructed of fieldstone eighteen inches thick with an exterior footprint of 17'6" by 21'3". There is a full cellar under the kitchen and structural evidence that there were stairs from the kitchen into the cellar at some point in time. (NOTE: The entire foundation of the house including all additions is fieldstone below grade, but above-grade foundation stone was variously dressed to roughly rectangular shape in the additions.) The original foundation was protected at sill level by an oak water table (Photo 13) that today is only visible across the front, exterior kitchen wall, because of additions to the other three sides of the original, one-room-deep, English hall. None of the additions have a water table at sill level. (Photo 14) Additions to the original structure have essentially been in the telescope and shed manner, but the first addition consisted of a two story addition across the entire rear of the house and was accomplished with the raising of the gable roof and moving the endwall chimney two feet rearward at attic level (Photo 38). The structural framing throughout the entire house is trunneled, oak, post and beam, but the original, front kitchen foundation sill is unusual in that the oak joists rest on a 2X17 oak subsill and the rim girt that supports the front wall is notched and mortised into the top of the oak joists (Photo 19). In actuality the entire load of the front roof and sidewall is carried on the edges of the oak joists which are nominal 4X10s and 3X12s. In other portions of the building, joists are double tenoned into girt mortises (Photo 45), and display exceptional carpentry technique. All exterior walls, including endwalls to the roof peaks are nogged with brick. The cellar beneath the kitchen is especially excep-

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetHomestead farm at Oak Ridge
Union & Middlesex Counties
NJSection number 7 Page 7

tional as it has a fifteen-foot-wide chimney stack supported by three brick arches against the westernmost wall (Photo 21). The outside portions of the brick arches are nested into the front and rear fieldstone walls. Girts and posts are hand hewn, some partially sawn. Joists display slightly inclined saw marks (Photo 20) and may be sash sawmill or pit sawn. The East wall of the foundation of the original structure would have been reworked somewhat to provide access from the cellar of the addition that now makes up the center portion of the house, but the rear and westernmost shed additions to the original structure were built over crawl spaces that appear to be inaccessible.

In the current kitchen that was the English hall, the fifteen-foot wide chimney stack is currently concealed by a plastic laminate wall, but reportedly, when the area was sealed, the original wooden mantelpiece, hearth with arch-top brick oven, copper set kettle and iron crane and cooking hardware were all intact⁴⁵. The kitchen front door is Dutch with wrought iron latch and strap-and-pintle hinges. (NOTE: The house has a total of three Dutch doors, the other two serving as front and rear doors to the central, entry hall.) Windows in the kitchen are 12/12 with 6X9 glass some panes of which are original with irregular finish and violet to amber tinged panes that are one-sixteenth inch thick. At the rear of the kitchen, opposite the chimney stack, there is a fully-enclosed staircase constructed of parallel (unbeaded) pine boards as is the board and batten door leading to the winder stairs (Photos 27&28). The large, H-L hinge, held by hand wrought nails, had worn off at the pin and a modern strap hinge had been installed above it. There is a second nearly identical, enclosed winder staircase going from the second floor to the attic, directly over the first. In the kitchen, between the staircase and the chimney stack, in the rear wall, the original, rear, exterior door opening can be identified by the lower half of an exterior door stop and the original oak doorsill at floor level (Photos 23-25). Kitchen floors, only visible from the cellar are oak boards, up to 13½" wide (Photo 20). The rear addition to the kitchen serves as a storage room that also has identical 12/12 windows, that may have been reused from the original rear wall. The two-story shed addition at the westernmost wall of the original structure is low-ceilinged as it is nestled under the gable-end of the kitchen wing. It serves as a "back kitchen" and contains a five-foot brick oven, with flue arched to meet the main chimney stack, (Photo 26). There is also an exceptionally small, winder stair near the oven. Although the original oak flooring in the kitchen

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetHomestead Farm at Oak Ridge
Union & Middlesex Counties
NJSection number 7 Page 8

is covered by several layers of composition flooring, the oak boards appear to be essentially intact when examined from the basement area. In addition to the covered hearth, some of the kitchen's wall finishes are covered with modern materials but large areas of pine wainscoting and oak timbers are exposed and in good condition.

The hall chamber, above the kitchen, has an hearth with wooden mantle (Photo 31), 12/8 windows, floor boards to 13½" of pine, and plaster walls that expose portions of hand-hewn posts and brick nogging (Photos 29,30, 33). At the head of the winder staircase leading to the attic a 5½X9, hand-hewn end girt is exposed (Photo 36). In the attic of the kitchen wing, the doors in the knee walls have H-L hinges held by hand wrought nails (Photo 39), and the chimney, moved two feet rearward at an angle to recenter the chimney on a new roof peak (Photo 35), are visible.

The hearth in the hall chamber appears to be intact and original (Photo 31) and there is some falling plaster in the front wall near the windows. A modern partition wall had been installed opposite the fireplace in the hall chamber and a modern bathroom had been installed behind the partition. This bathroom is no longer used and is mostly disassembled. The removal of the bathroom and partition would be appropriate to a restoration effort. Rooms in the additions around the hall chamber are largely intact, although covered with various layers of wallpaper that may be amenable to a wallpaper study. Suffolk and Norfolk latches are both present.

The central, entry portion of the main house has an 11x11 main beam, which holds the joists by double mortise and tenon joints (Photo 42). The bottoms of the first floor boards are visible and are all hand-dressed at each joist and hand planed for edge-to-edge fit (Photo 45). The front and rear doors of the central, entry portion of the house are both wood-panel, "Cross and Bible" Dutch doors with the interior sides fully battened (Photos 46-49). Strap and pintle hinges on the front door span the full door width. The front door has a rim or box lock and the rear door an exposed mechanism lock (Photo 49). The fanlight over the front door is now sandwiched between wooden panels, because it was in need of repair, but when it was enclosed it was reportedly still intact, leaded, and had a cut glass hub medallion (Photo 48). The entry hall is a through design similar to Mount Vernon, but of much simpler, classic Adam style. The stairway has an extra landing than Mount Vernon, because the Homestead stairway is enclosed in a separate room at first floor level. The handrail is simple, rounded Adam style, with three balusters per tread, and sweeps up to the third floor attic in one, unbroken spiral, with no intervening newel posts at any landings (Photos 50-55). Balusters are of simple square cross section, and rail and balusters are reminiscent of the 1796 Coleman-Hollister House in Greenfield, MA. The stairway is suspended and has a flush mounted handrail on the wall. The stairwell is open from first floor to the bottom of the gambrel

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetHomestead Farm at Oak Ridge
Union & Middlesex Counties
NJSection number 7 Page 9

roof at attic level. The attic of this wing has two oak purlin posts in each endwall and four oak purlin posts set in the attic floor area. Trunnels and Roman numeral match markings are present. The gambrel roof spans over 38½ feet and has 5½X9 purlin plates (Photos 57-60). The roof peak has no ridgepole and is formed of tongue and fork pegged rafters (Photo 61). Attic closet wainscoting and board and batten doors are beaded-edge pine boards with H-L hinges with hand wrought nails (Photo 63). The hardware may be reused or leftover from earlier construction. The attic is cavernous with the gambrel peak rising more than fifteen feet above the floor. Tradition holds that this central, entry portion of the house was constructed circa 1800³⁷, and it is likely that the exterior modillions that bracket all rakes and eaves of all additions originated with this period of construction. The modillions are identical in style to those used by Thomas Jefferson for the Virginia State House, that was completed at the end of the 1700s (Photos 2,3&9).

Tradition holds that the easternmost or library wing of the main house was constructed to hold Judge Hugh Hartshorne Bowne's extensive collection of books around 1860³⁷. The library wing is notable for its Italianate features including double-arch cast iron, front door, grills; arch-effect casement windows in the window bay; and an Italianate winder stairway (the fourth stairway serving the living areas) (Photos 65&66). The library currently serves as the ladies' rest room and is wood panelled, but the panelling was installed without disturbing heavy wood trim in the room, and the moldings are therefore intact. The second floor room above the library is essentially intact except for composition ceiling tiles that were installed across the arched ceiling. The Italianate winder stairway in the library wing is well preserved.

The tenant farmer's house or cottage is located along the southern edge of the proposed register site. The cottage is a Delaware Valley type saltbox that was extensively restored around 1930 including the removal of brick nogging in the walls. The cottage also dates to 1720 to 1740^{37,44} and tradition holds that it was moved to its present location circa 1800 and served as the tenant farmer's home thereafter. It has fallen into severe disrepair under thirteen years of Union County management, but the original chimney stack with beehive oven protruding at the exterior was repointed circa 1930 and is in very good condition despite some minor damage around the oven opening. Condition of this house is best

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetHomestead Farm at Oak Ridge
Union & Middlesex Counties
NJSection number 7 Page 10

described by Photos 72-106, as the photos depict the extensive fire damage and collapsed porch roof and missing wall at the rear of the building. In addition there is a large, unrepaired hole in the roof at the front of the building and the hole has channeled precipitation into the oldest part of the structure. Large amounts of plaster has fallen from walls and ceilings. Rot along the front sill has caused the front wall of the building to begin to compress into the foundation. There is extensive rot of one main beam in the second floor ceiling. The second floor joists at the rear of the saltbox addition are unsupported and gradually sagging to collapse. An area of floor near the front wall in the first floor living room is rotted through to the crawl space. In addition, although the tenant farmer house had been rebuilt in the early 1930's, it had not been restored according to current guidelines. Brick nogging had been removed from wall cavities and the outside walls left uninsulated. Although original wrought iron latches on doors had been retained and a few original H-L hinges and doors had been retained, many of the strap-and-pintle hinges present in the house appear to be 1930s replacement hinges. In addition the stairway to the second floor had been moved from its central position, and the roof may have been completely replaced. A rear narrow chimney had been installed to vent an oil burner. At the time, the main, two-story chimney stack had been repointed and is presently in good condition with only minor vandalism damage near the beehive oven opening. The chimney stack has a hearth at the second floor, a hearth at the first floor and a beehive oven to the right of the first floor hearth. The beehive oven protrudes from the exterior of the chimney stack. A chimney stack of this type is unusual in the area.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetNJ Union County
Homestead Farm at Oak RidgeSection number 8 Page 10a

SUMMARY PARAGRAPH

Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge was through most of the nineteenth century the home of Hugh Hartshorne Bowne, a local political figure, judge, state legislator, and founding member of the Republican Party in New Jersey. He attended as a delegate the first two national Republican Party conventions, in 1856 and 1860, that nominated Fremont and Lincoln respectively. His home, the sole surviving building of the farmstead, combines a fine Federal style main block with a colonial period west wing, and an Italianate east wing and front and rear porches. This home is significant under Criterion B for its association with Bowne in the areas of politics and law, and under Criterion C, both for its unusually high quality of construction in the pre-Revolutionary west wing, and for the high quality of the Federal style treatment of the main block. The Italianate porches are also notable for their size and good state of preservation. The property also meets Criterion A for its military associations during the Revolutionary War. Evidence strongly suggests that this house was the site of an inflammatory incident in December 1776, in which its owner, William Smith, was shot and his daughter sexually assaulted by a Hessian officer and his party who were enroute from Hackensack to New Brunswick. This incident was described both in a newspaper account and in a broadside that helped fuel American hostility to the British occupiers of New Jersey. Almost seven months later, on June 26, 1777, the "battle of Ash Swamp" (or Battle of the Short Hills as it is also known) took place, the early fighting of which took place on the southern edge of the Homestead Farm. The successful defense of this neighborhood by about 2,500 outnumbered Continental troops and militia, under the command of Lord Stirling, in the face of 11,000 British troops, safeguarded the main body of the Continental Army from encirclement and capture at Quibbletown (now New Market in Middlesex County), and caused British General Howe to quit his New Jersey campaign against Washington. The British within days strategically withdrew from New Jersey and turned attention to the capture of Philadelphia, which took place less than three months later. Despite the loss of its agricultural outbuildings and the minor landscaping that was done in the 1930s to convert most of the property into a golf course, the farmland remains remarkable in the highly suburbanized Union County as the only place that still conveys a fair sense of the eighteenth and early nineteenth century agricultural landscape. It offers unobstructed vistas of the first range of the Watchung mountains several miles away, and is the only extant farmstead in Union County still delineated by its colonial period boundaries.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceHomestead Farm at Oak Ridge
Union & Middlesex Counties
NJNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 11NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge currently operates as Oak Ridge Golf Club, a Union County public golf course. The approximate 208 acres of the proposed register site were part of an original Proprietors' Grant taken by East Jersey Deputy Governor Thomas Rudyard, himself one of the original twelve East Jersey Proprietors¹, via a May 20, 1686 patent^{4,5,6}. On September 29, 1686, Rudyard conveyed the 1500 acres to his son-in-law, John West; and West's widow, Anna Rudyard West Wharton, and her second husband Robert Wharton, deeded the entire 1500 acres to Joseph Smith of New York City on December 6, 1696^{7,8}. Research regarding the subdivision of the acreage is presently incomplete, but prior to 1768 the proposed register site was already a farm of approximately 200 acres, known as Homestead Farm and Homestead Plantation that was owned by Shubal Smith of Woodbridge (NJ)^{12,13,10,11}. Shubal or Shobal Smith was the the grandson of John Smith of Barnstable (MA), millwright, who was one of the nine associates who founded Woodbridge, NJ in 1667^{21,22,23,9,3}. John Smith was married to Susanna Hinckley²³, whose brother was Thomas Hinckley, governor of Plymouth Colony^{24,25,26}. John Smith was the first constable of Woodbridge and was later elected to East Jersey assembly³.

Shubal Smith was married to Prudence Fitz Randolph, and upon his death on May 30 1768, Homestead Farm passed to their son, William Smith of Rahway (NJ)^{21,10,12,13}. William Smith died in 1790, leaving Homestead Farm to his daughter, Isabel, who was married to Richard Hartshorne^{11,12}. Richard Hartshorne was the great, great nephew of Hugh Hartshorne of London, upholsterer, who was also one of the twelve original Proprietors of East Jersey^{2,27}. Upon the death of Richard Hartshorne, Homestead Farm passed to his daughter, Sarah Hartshorne^{13,14,15}. Sarah Hartshorne was married to Robert H. Bowne of New York City, who was the great, great grandson of John Bowne of Flushing, New York^{28,29}. John Bowne is noted as the ardent Quaker, who settled in Flushing, New York in 1653 and was arrested, imprisoned and exiled to Holland for his Quaker views by Peter Stuyvesant in 1662, only to be returned to New York by the Dutch West India Company^{31,32}. John Bowne's imprisonment and exile is cited as a legal precedent for the United States Bill of Rights that was drafted about 120 years later. John Bowne is also related to the Winthrop family that yielded a governor of Plymouth Bay Colony and two governors of Massachusetts Colony^{28,29}. Robert Hartshorne Bowne, by virtue of his relation to the Hartshorne family of Monmouth County, New Jersey and a consequent common ancestor, Richard Saltar of Monmouth County, was a second cousin, two generations removed to Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States^{27,28}.

Of the six children of Robert Hartshorne Bowne and Sarah Hartshorne Bowne,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetHomestead Farm at Oak Ridge
Union & Middlesex
Counties, NJSection number 8 Page 12

three are known to have lived their entire lives at Homestead Farm, which also came to be known as Oak Ridge in this period. These children were Judge Hugh Hartshorne Bowne (1814-1881), John L. Bowne (1820-1894), and Elizabeth L. Bowne (a/k/a Elizabeth L. Robinson and Elizabeth Bowne Robinson) (1811-1882) ^{28,14-18,32-34}. They would all have been third cousins, one generation removed from Abraham Lincoln ^{27,28}. Hugh H. Bowne was an active politician and statesman having served as Justice of the Peace, Judge of Common Pleas, Clark Township Committeeman, Mayor of Clark, member of New Jersey State Assembly, and a delegate to the Philadelphia Convention of 1866 (Southern Reconstruction Convention), having been appointed by New Jersey Governor Marcus L. Ward ³²⁻³⁵. In addition, as Union County had not been formed from the southern part of Essex County until 1857, Judge Bowne was one of the founders of the Republican Party in both Essex and Union Counties, having been a delegate to the first Republican National Convention at Pittsburgh, PA in 1856 that nominated Fremont, and the 1860 Republican National Convention that nominated Abraham Lincoln, who was coincidentally Judge Bowne's third cousin, one generation removed ^{32,34}. Homestead Farm, by then also known more commonly as Oak Ridge, was also called the Hugh H. Bowne Estate in the late nineteenth century ³⁶. As a notable local and New Jersey statesman, Judge Bowne was known statewide for trustworthiness and fairness ^{32,34}. After Judge Bowne's death in 1881, his sister, Elizabeth Bowne Robinson had various family members execute deeds giving her clear title to the proposed register site and adjoining tracts presently not belonging to the proposed register site ^{14,15}.

After Elizabeth Bowne Robinson's death in 1882, all property apparently went to her bachelor brother, John L. Bowne, who negotiated railroad right-of-way with the Roselle and South Plainfield Railway Company, ^{16,17} and subsequently transferred the remaining property to three of Elizabeth Bowne Robinson's daughters who lived on site, namely Sarah Bowne Robinson, Mary P. Robinson, and Emily L. Robinson ¹⁸. In the late 1800s, the influence of the Bowne-Robinson family was sufficient to induce the railroad to construct a large Victorian train station on the railroad right-of-way across the proposed register site ³⁷. Known as Ashbrook Station it was demolished in 1947 (Phctos 67-69).

At the start of the twentieth century maps identify the proposed register site as the Sarah Bowne Robinson Estate.⁴³

The three Robinson sisters; Sarah, Mary and Emily; were known for philanthropic work involving conservation, the church, minority rights, and animal welfare and lived at the proposed register site until their respective deaths in 1925, 1929 and 1913 ³⁹⁻⁴¹. Before her death in

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetHomestead Farm at Oak Ridge
Union & Middlesex Counties
NJSection number 8 Page 13

1929, Mary Phelps Robinson was honored by the establishment of a wild-life sanctuary, the Ash Brook Reservation adjoining the proposed register site, for her dedication to conservation and animal welfare⁴². In 1927, she also sold a power line right-of-way to the Holland Company¹⁹. After the death of Mary P. Robinson in 1929, her estate converted the farm into a private golf club, Oak Ridge Golf Club, which opened in the early 1930's³⁷, and which the executors and subsequent partners sold to Union County in 1974²⁰.

In all, Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge served as the home for six generations of a familial line of prestigious Quaker families that included the Smith, Hartshorne, and Bowne families^{26,31,32,27}.

Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge, despite any noncontributing factors, is quite simply the last site in Union County that is evocative of a large eighteenth and nineteenth century farmstead in Union County. Its present use as a golf course has protected it from intensive development and retained the sensation of open space that the site had in the 1700s. The placement of the main house on a knoll, facing south in traditional fashion evokes the feeling of arrival, and the house commands the site as it has for more than two and one-half centuries. If lost, this house and setting could never again be duplicated at any site in Union County. Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge also reflects the earliest settlement and agrarian history of Union County, which at one time was almost exclusively agricultural and now has all but lost its agricultural base and heritage. As far back as the time of the Proprietors in the Eastern Division of New Jersey, the land at Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge was highly valued for agricultural use. On May 30, 1683, after touring Pennsylvania and the Jerseys, Deputy Governor Thomas Rudyard wrote in glowing terms about the fertility of land in the Elizabeth Town (now Union County) area. He reported that after William Penn had visited the Elizabeth Town area, Penn remarked that he had never seen such fertile land. Rudyard also wrote that, although the tidal areas were "good Land", "there is much better Land up higher on the River ... extrordinary Land...".^{5,48} Deputy Governor Rudyard was in charge of the distribution of proprietary lands in East Jersey. When it was time to take his own allotment, the land that is Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge was part of his 1500 acre allotment on the Rahway River.^{4,5,6,49} Although records have not yet revealed precise localities cultivated by Rudyard, Hatfield noted that Rudyard "became a Planter on a large scale".⁵ Rudyard's term as Deputy Governor was, however, rather short as he was removed from office in 1685 amidst charges that he was taking the choicest lands for himself.^{50,51}

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetHomestead Farm at Oak Ridge
Union & Middlesex Counties
NJSection number 8 Page 14

Although the cultivation of grass in the golfing area of Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge (Photo 112) is evocative of the land's prior use for grazing (Photo 17), the area of the Ash Swamp on the property that encircles the rear of the golf area is also significant to the agrarian history of the proposed register site. As far back as proprietary times, both salt and freshwater marshes were important sources for the harvesting of "salt hay" for use as livestock fodder. Deputy Governor Rudyard's letter of May 30, 1683, quoted by Hatfield⁵², reveals the importance of marshes to colonial farmsteads and also reveals part of Rudyard's rationale for taking the property that encompasses what is now Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge:

Fresh and salt meadows, which now are very valuable, and no man here will take up a Tract of Land without them, being the support of their flocks in Winter, which other parts must supplie by store, and taking more care for English grass. But know, where salt marshes are not there is no muskettos and that manner of Land the more health.

Pomfret also notes the existence of this report from Rudyard⁴⁸. In 1949, Sim had documented the traditional importance and methods of harvesting salt and freshwater marsh grass in New Jersey, including the use of horses with "mud shoes" or "mud boots" and unshod oxen for harvesting salt hay in the marshes⁵³. John Fagan, the tenant farmer at Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge from 1853 to 1890³⁷, maintained a team of oxen for heavy hauling and work in the swamp. At Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge, salt hay was harvested in the swamp up until 1929 by a local farmer, George Cordes, Jr., who did work for the Robinson family⁵⁴. In addition to use as livestock fodder, salt hay would have been used at Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge for animal bedding, mulch, and insulation around blocks of ice in the ice house that is no longer in existence at the property. Sim also documented the use of salt hay as insulation in ice houses⁵³. Large areas of marsh grass at Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge are located on both sides of the railroad tracks (Photos 113-115) and these areas reflect the same historic agrarian atmosphere and resource that they did in colonial times.

As noted, the eighteen-room main house, exceptional in its antiquity and size, demonstrates authentic, original detail of its Colonial Folk, Adam, and Italianate periods of construction. The house is virtually unchanged, except for paint color, from the late 1800s. It is the least altered house of its type in the Union County Area. The defining interior architectural features from the fifteen foot wide chimney stack held by three brick arches to the three story Adam stairwell to three other winder staircases and stairways of two additional periods to its hardware to its original leaded fanlight entry are unsurpassed in the area.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetHomestead Farm at Oak Ridge
Union & Middlesex Counties
NJSection number 8 Page 15

In addition, the county line marker (Photos 3 & 4) located in the parking lot in front of the main plantation house and marked with an "E." on the plantation house side is historic because it predates 1857 when Union County broke away from Essex County. The location of this marker affords it a position of prominence on the proposed register site, and formal historic recognition of this site will promote further interest in the preservation of this marker and further study of its origin and precise dating.

Because the tenant farmer house is in very poor condition, it has been counted as a site resource rather than a building resource at Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge. Because of the protruding beehive oven on the exterior, the house has renown in the local area and is, in fact, known as the "Beehive Oven House". The chimney stack is in very good condition, in spite of the condition of the rest of the tenant farmer house. The chimney stack is the last example of a slender, two-story, hearth-over-hearth chimney stack with protruding beehive oven in the area. The site and location of the tenant farmer house, is, however, also significant because of its relationship to the plantation/farmstead that is Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge. The tenant farmer house has an historic, functional relationship to the operation of the plantation, and the placement of the tenant farmer house away from the main plantation house along the southern border of the farmstead was certainly intentional and is indicative of its cultural relationship to the main plantation house and also indicative of the cultural relationship of the occupants of both houses. If the wooden portions of the tenant farmer house required removal, the tenant farmer house would be amenable to interpretation by a permanent, metal frame and canopy that would preserve the foundation and chimney stack and also maintain the historic spatial relationship to the main plantation house. At the same time, archaeological disassembly of the wooden structure of the tenant farmer house would afford an opportunity for archaeological study and the collection and preservation of artefacts.

Although the apparent ruins of slave quarters (Photo 71) on Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge have not been confirmed by archaeological study and have therefore not been counted as an historic resource site, there is strong tradition and some documentary evidence that slaves would have been a part of the early history of Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge and that the slaves would have lived in small wooden shacks held up by fieldstones arranged in linear order on the surface of the ground.

Woodbridge, New Jersey records indicate that the Smith family, who

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetHomestead Farm at Oak Ridge
Union & Middlesex Counties
NJSection number 8 Page 16

owned Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge prior to 1768, held slaves as evidenced by the June 3, 1717 recording of Shubal Smith's sale of "one Negro woman named Phebe to Samuel Smith" of Woodbridge for fifty pounds silver currency⁵⁶. In addition, the recorded December 16, 1719 will of Samuel Smith of Woodbridge includes a "negro girl" in his estate⁵⁷. Additionally, the presence of slaves on Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge is noted in the oral, familial history of the Fagan family, who were tenant farmers at Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge. Fagan family history goes back to circa 1833 at Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge, when Miss Frances McGuire, eventual wife of John Fagan, was brought to the farm as the ward of the Bowne-Robinson family. Descendants of the Fagan family have been a continual presence in the area since that time and now include the Chapman, Baumle, and Warren families³⁷. The Fagan family history notes that slave quarters ruins could be distinguished from stone discarded from farm operations by the non-random linearity of the arrangement of fieldstones on the ground, and the location of the slave quarters ruins in the woods to the rear of the property between the main house and the tenant farmer house. The apparent slave quarters ruins shown in Photo 71 are reflective of the Fagan familial tradition, and the rubble ledge at the rear of the photo suggests a possible firebox, hearth, privy, or root cellar. Even in this century, the storage of corn and root crops in sand in pits in the ground is known. The apparent slave quarters site is located quite far from the main house and the tenant farmer house, and is located along the border of the Ash Swamp, but its location may have been influenced by a nearby water source, an extinct spring that was reportedly bulldozed over by the county some time ago. The Fagan family history also notes that a slave burial ground was located across Oak Ridge Road from Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge, but that it had been lost to a housing development in the 1970s.

The apparent slave quarters site at Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge is very similar in appearance to confirmed habitation sites in the freed-slave community of Skunk Hollow at Alpine, New Jersey. Should the apparent slave quarters site at Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge be confirmed by eventual archaeological evaluation, it would be the first and only confirmed slave quarters site in New Jersey. The transitory nature of small, wooden shacks set on unset fieldstones make such sites rare in the North, and such sites present a distinct archaeological and preservation potential and a valuable link to lost Black history in America.

Similarly, although Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge has not been specifically evaluated for Native American archaeology on the tract, the knowledge that there were Native American encampments along the western Ash Swamp⁴⁷ and the knowledge that the Fagan family descendants have possession of a number of Native American relics from Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge, would suggest the desirability of having archaeological evaluation for

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetHomestead Farm at Oak Ridge
Union & Middlesex Counties
NJSection number 8 Page 17

Native American resources on Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge. At the present time, however, lacking professional archaeological confirmation, a Native American site is not counted in the list of historic resources in this nomination.

Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge is significant to the War of the American Revolution in several regards:

- 1) Hessian attacks on the Smith family at Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge in late 1776 were widely reported in the colonies and would have particularly fueled patriotic resistance in the area.
- 2) The Ash Swamp at Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge was used by American militia to entrap a British army contingent early in the Battle of Ash Swamp.
- 3) The Ash Swamp was used as a hiding place for Smith family silverware, retreating militia, and women and children in their efforts to escape the British and Hessian military.
- 4) The Battle of Ash Swamp was a significant engagement in the War of the American Revolution for several reasons:
 - a) Lord Stirling foiled the entire British army in New Jersey in their offensive plan to flank the American left and cut off the strategic retreat of the main American army at Quibbletown.
 - b) The British capture of three, French, three-pound, brass cannon at the Battle of Ash Swamp gave the British early confirmation of French involvement in the American Revolution.
 - c) The Battle of Ash Swamp was the last battle in the 1777 campaign in New Jersey and resulted in the abandonment of New Jersey by the British forces.
 - d) The plundering and wanton destruction by British and Hessian forces during and after the Battle of Ash Swamp, partly prompted by their failure to dislodge Washington from the Watchung Mountains and by their ire over the retreat from and abandonment of New Jersey, resulted in a rebel outrage and determination in New Jersey that was not to be broken, not at Fort Mercer on October 22, 1777, not at Monmouth on June 28, 1778, not during the Morristown winter of 1779/80 where the cold and conditions were more severe than Valley Forge in 1777/78 82,58-60, not at Connecticut Farms on June 7, 1780, and not at Springfield on June 23, 1780. (See Purcell & Burg for battles)

The winter of 1776-1777 found the Ash Swamp located midway between Washington's winter encampment at Morristown and the British forces at Amboy and New Brunswick. On December 1&2, 1776, the main British army including a number of Hessian regiments undertook a direct, overland

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetHomestead Farm at Oak Ridge
Union & Middlesex Counties
NJSection number 8 Page 18

march from Hackensack, New Jersey to seize New Brunswick, New Jersey. In his diary of this march, Hessian Captain Friedrich von Muenchhausen, General William Howe's aide de camp, noted that in taking New Brunswick a Hessian grenadier, Captain von Weitershausen, was killed. Although the exact line of march is not documented, the most direct line of march would take the troops directly past the front door at Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge. Subsequently, on December 14, 1776, a Bucks County, Pennsylvania, broadside denounces British and Hessian atrocities in New Jersey and reports:

WILLIAM SMITH, of Smith's Farm, near Woodbridge, hearing the cries of his daughter, rushed into the room, and found a Hessian Officer attempting to ravish her, in an agony of rage and resentment, he instantly killed him; but the Officer's party soon came upon him, and he now lays mortally wounded at his ruined, plundered dwelling.⁶²

In a letter from an American army officer, that was printed in the "Pennsylvania Evening Post" on December 28, 1776, additional details of these assaults are given, with the officer noting: "two other officers rushed in with fusees, and fired two balls into the father, who is now languishing under his wounds."⁶³ The daughter in these accounts would be Isabel Smith, the only daughter of William Smith. Isabel Smith lived her entire life at Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge, and her father survived until 1790, despite his wounds from fusees (short muskets). The "plundered dwelling" noted would be what is now the west wing of the main plantation house at Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge. It is also interesting and significant to note that in the oral history passed from the Bowne-Robinson family to the Fagan tenant farmer family, it is noted that the William Smith family, the Bowne-Robinson ancestors at Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge during the American Revolution, hid the family silverware in the Ash Swamp toward the rear of the farm to keep the silverware out of British hands. Unfortunately, the silverware was so well hidden that the family could not find it in the swamp after the war³⁷. Too little information exists to determine if Captain von Weitershausen was the Hessian officer involved in the assault at the farm. Accompanying the publication of these accounts of assaults at Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge, and without doubt greatly influenced by these accounts, there was substantial militia activity in the area. Fleming notes that as early as December, 1776, American General William "Scotch Willie" Maxwell was operating in the area "with a thousand militia behind him".⁶⁴ Vermeule reports that during January 1777, "Maxwell's brigade of Jersey-

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetHomestead Farm at Oak Ridge
Union & Middlesex Counties
NJSection number 8 Page 19

men and the militia under Gen. Philemon Dickinson had established a firm line of defense, hemming Cornwallis in on the north and west. It ran along the Essex-Middlesex line from Rahway to Ash Swamp and the Blue Hills fort, thence along the mountain to Bound Brook and up the Millstone to Princeton." Vermeule also noted: "Col. Moses Jaques was at Rahway".⁶⁵ Interestingly, Moses Jacques held property to the south-east of Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge 12-13.

Thereafter there is continual military activity at Ash Swamp. Detwiler cites reports from British Captain Archibald Robertson that on January 23, 1777 the 28th and 35th regiments engaged the enemy at the Short Hills. Detwiler also notes the pension account of John Hall which places the fighting at Short Hills, Ash Swamp, and Martins Wood³⁸. The Martins Wood is located in present day Edison, New Jersey and is roughly bounded by Inman Avenue, Grove Avenue, New Dover Road, and Tingley Lane (formerly the Road to Mount Pleasant), and Mr. Hall's description would tend to place the action on January 23, 1777 on the south end of the Ash Swamp. On March 5, 1777, the "Pennsylvania Gazette" printed a letter of February 3, 1777 from an American officer that reported that this encounter of January 23, 1777 involved several changes of position and eventually resulted in a stand-off from which the British retreated, but not before the British had thirty-six killed and nearly one hundred wounded while the Americans had fifteen killed and about as many wounded⁶⁶.

Vermeule reports another engagement at the Ash Swamp on February 23, 1777⁶⁷, but this time Vermeule's map, reproduced in Hoffman, places the action at the northeast corner of the Ash Swamp on Lake Avenue in Scotch Plains, near the part of Rahway (formerly Spanktown) that is now Clark Township.⁶⁸ Ryan indicates that the action near Spanktown was between General Maxwell's brigade and the British under Colonel Charles Mawhood⁶⁹.

Further evidence of American encampment at the Ash Swamp/Short Hills is indicated by an April 18, 1777 desertion report issued by American Colonel Israel Shreve that indicated the location of the Second Regiment of the State of New-Jersey as "now lying at Short-Hills, near Woodbridge"⁷⁰. In his GENERAL ORDERS from Morristown on May 23, 1777, General Washington approved the sentences of "a General Court Martial, held at Ash-Swamp on the 14th"⁷¹. The sentences covered three officers and one enlisted man and included one sentence of death, and therefore indicated a serious military presence at Ash Swamp. On May 24, 1777, "The Pennsylvania Evening Post" printed a report of military activities as "a letter from Ash Swamp, dated May 20, 1777"⁷². American General Lord Stirling (William Alexander) wrote a military report to General John Sullivan from "Edgars, Ash Swamp June 24th 1777 7 o'clock"⁷³. Detwiler's research places the home of Captain David Edgar on an one hundred twenty acre farm located

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetHomestead Farm at Oak Ridge
Union & Middlesex Counties
NJSection number 8 Page 20

at the northeast corner of the intersection that is now Featherbed Lane and Inman Avenue in Edison Township with the farm acreage extending north to an area that would place the farm directly across the present Oak Ridge Road from Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge⁷⁴. Detwiler opines that the Edgar home was probably Lord Stirling's headquarters in the Ash Swamp area. Stirling's letter of June 24, 1777 discusses the movement of British troops and the apparent British removal to Staten Island in New York. On June 25, 1777, General Washington sent a letter from the "Camp at Quibble Town" to The President of Congress discussing Lord Stirling's troop deployment at Ash Swamp indicating that he "intended to have posted more there, but found, on reconnoitring the Ground, it was low and disadvantageous"⁷⁵.

Part of the significance of the Battle of Ash Swamp relates to the fact that Washington knew that he should not face numerically superior British forces in head-on combat. He was very firm in his instructions that his generals should "by no means risk a General Engagement"⁷⁶. In order to preserve the American army, Washington had pursued a course of strategic retreats, harassment of the enemy and avoidance of direct engagements⁷⁸, earning him the name of the "American Fabius". Washington had used the Watchung Mountains as protection from the British, and British General Howe had feigned a troop removal to Staten Island to trick Washington into coming down from the mountains, which Washington did in coming to Quibble Town (New Market) on June 24, 1777 while at the same time advancing Lord Stirling to the Ash Swamp/Short Hills⁷⁷. On June 25, 1777, Howe brought his troops back to Amboy (Perth Amboy) where he split into two columns. Detwiler places the column headed by General Cornwallis at 5,000 and the column headed by Generals Howe and Vaughan at 6,000.⁷⁹ Some American reports place the total British troop count at 12,000 to 14,000.⁸⁰ Kipping and Smith also place the strength of the Cornwallis column at about 5,000.⁸¹ As he was quoted in Detwiler, General Howe testified before the House of Commons about his failure to pursue the American army into the mountains stating that he only had "about 11,000 men" with him and "To have attacked Gen'l Washington in that strong post, I must necessarily have made a considerable circuit of the country, and having no prospect of forcing him, I did not think it advisable to lose so much time as must have been employed on that march, during the intense heat of the season."⁸³ The American force under Stirling included 1798 men in the brigades of Generals Conway and Maxwell plus Morgan's and Dark's riflemen, the Independent Corps of Ottendorff and Armand, and an undetermined number of local militia^{79,81,84}. British army estimates of the the American force in the main encounter at Ash Swamp were recorded at "between two and three thousand" by Lieutenant Colonel William Harcourt⁸⁵ and "approximately 2,500 men with six cannon" by Hessian Captain von Muenchhausen.⁸⁶

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceHomestead Farm at Oak Ridge
Union & Middlesex Counties
NJNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 21

Based upon the size, direction and rapidity of the British march on June 26, 1777, it was Howe's strategy to overwhelm the American left guarded by Stirling, push past Stirling and seize the Scotch Plains Gap into the Watchung Mountains, move to seize the westward gaps that Washington would use to reassume a safe position in the Watchungs thereby trapping Washington on the plains below the Watchungs, and make a direct attack on the main American army⁸⁷⁻⁹¹. With the entire British Army in New Jersey, totalling at least 11,000 men and moving in two columns, General Howe later reported: "it was judged advisable to make a movement that might lead to an attack, which was done the 26th"⁹⁸. In his journal on June 26, 1777, British Major John Andre, later conspirator with Benedict Arnold and later executed as a spy in 1780, reported that: "the plan of our march was, that the right hand Column should by turning Washington's left get between his Army and the mountains, whilst the Left marched straight to Quibbletown and attacking him"⁹⁹. In the actual march on June 26, 1777, the British right column under Cornwallis went to Woodbridge village, made a left turn and worked their way to the Ash Swamp. The British left column under Howe and Vaughan initially proceeded in a more westerly direction from Amboy to Bonhamtown, turned to the right at Metuchen Meeting House (located to the north of present day Metuchen), and proceeded toward Scotch Plains falling in behind the Cornwallis column⁹². Although the main encounter on June 26, 1777 took place at the Ash Swamp, the march that day was accompanied by continual sniper fire and several limited encounters, which were noted by both Andre⁹² and von Muenchhausen⁸⁶. British Captain John Montrossor reported: "There was a continued firing most of the day's march."⁹³ In the meantime, American Colonel Timothy Pickering at the Quibble Town encampment, reported that on the morning of June 26, 1777 at about seven o'clock an American "light-horseman brought word to the General, that the enemy were at hand, within two miles and a half. The General ordered the alarm-guns to be fired."⁹⁴ Washington then ordered the troops to move back into the mountains, which involved returning to the Middle Brook Valley encampment and securing the gaps into the mountains.

Rawson⁹⁵ offers considerable insight into the reaction of the civilian population of the area in the months preceding the Battle of Ash Swamp. She notes that the people of the area were "becoming more and more nervous as the British forays and return raids" and there was "constant small-arms fighting all about". Many of the people of the "plains" fearful of the British plundering had left their homes and farms and had fled to set up "scores of camps" up in the mountains between the first and second ranges of the Watchungs at Washington Valley, so named because it was the route used by Washington in moving between Princeton and Morristown. When the British approached on June 26, 1777, those in the Ash Swamp section who had not gone to Washington Valley, hid in Ash

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetHomestead Farm at Oak Ridge
Union & Middlesex Counties
NJSection number 8 Page 22

Swamp "using this uncertain terrain as hunt-proof refuge". As previously noted, there are patches of moist-bottom woodland in the swamp upon which Native American encampments have been documented⁴⁷, and the Smith family at Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge had hidden the family silverware in the swamp, never to find the silverware again.

Local history also documents local militia using their knowledge of swamp terrain and their ability to pass safely through the swamp to ambush a contingent of the British army at the southeast part of Ash Swamp at Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge in an engagement that began at the farm of Daniel Moore^{96,97}. Daniel Moore's Farm was located on the south boundary line of Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge, just west of Captain David Edgar's¹²⁻¹³. At the time, Moore's Farm was located at the northwest corner of the intersection of the Road from Rahway to Ash Swamp, and the Road from Rahway to Short Hills Tavern in Woodbridge. Today, this location is the northwest corner of the intersection of Featherbed Lane and Inman Avenue, respectively, in Edison. The ground along Inman Avenue is high, forming the southern border of Ash Swamp, and the elevation at Moore's Farm drops off into the swamp at Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge toward the north-northwest. To the west of Moore's Farm the ground is a dry, cross slope. To the immediate due north of Moore's Farm is the knoll upon which sits the main plantation house at Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge. Prior to the main engagement with Stirling at Ash Swamp, a contingent of the British Army had stopped for a meal at Moore's Farm. From the edge of the swamp a group of militia fired upon the British and ran to the north-northwest into the swamp at Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge. The British were part light horse and part infantry and rushed to pursue the militia and got stuck in the marshy areas, but the militia had circled back and fired upon the British from behind the trees with an exacting precision that raked the immobile British horsemen. Dally⁹⁶ had interviewed the children of participants in the battle including Robert Coddington, the son of Robert Coddington who at the time of the Battle of Ash Swamp was about sixteen years old and served as a guide to the American troops. In great detail, Dally describes:

British ... on the farm of Daniel Moore-for some ... their last meal...A volley is heard...a body of American infantry...British cavalry charged the sturdy patriots who fled before them...probable a ruse de guerre...into the treacherous swamp...cavalry...thundering after...not at all informed of its morasses and fenny recesses... discovered their fatal mistake...From behind the large trees a shower of balls...many a steed started riderless away...In vain the spur and rein...soft adhesive mud clung to every hoof. The animals, with trembling limbs, struggled wildly for solid ground,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetHomestead Farm at Oak Ridge
Union & Middlesex Counties
NJSection number 8 Page 23

and the confusion increased momentarily as the unseen foe diminished the British ranks with terrible precision...Every house in the neighborhood was filled with the wounded....

As a result of this ambush, Newberry notes that "British losses rose to 100 killed and many wounded. Only two Americans were killed."⁹⁷

The main engagement at Ash Swamp, however, took place further west along the southwestern border of Ash Swamp at Scotch Plains. British Major John Andre recorded that "The front soon reached Ash Swamp, where they came up with a considerable body of Rebels commanded by Lord Sterling, who had taken post on a rising ground"⁹². Hessian Captain von Muenchhausen recorded that "on a bare hill before some woods, we came upon approximately 2,500 men with six cannon"⁸⁶. According to Hatfield, "At Scotch Plains, a severe engagement ensued with the troops under Lord Stirling"^{100,101,102}. Davis noted that General Washington, from "Washington Rock" between Dunellen and Plainfield (present names), "watched the sharp battle between Lord Stirling's American troops, and the British under Cornwallis"¹⁰³.

The Andre and von Muenchhausen accounts place the main engagement along the western border of the Ash Swamp at the hilly area that runs along Raritan Road between Rahway Road and Terrill Road in Scotch Plains. The front of the hill rises above Rahway Road just past the turn where Rahway Road turns from a northerly to a northwesterly direction and offers a commanding view of the flat terrain of the rest of Ash Swamp and all approaches to the east and south. Strategically, Stirling's deployment at this hill gave him the optimum high ground to defend any British movement toward the Scotch Plains Gap or beyond. Tactically, Stirling had to hold the British as long as possible within the approximate one-mile stretch between Rahway Road and Terrill Road, because the ground drops sharply approaching Terrill Road and would be impossible to defend from the attack from the south, but the primary action would have taken place at the front of the hill overlooking Rahway Road. After the battle, the British dead were buried at Noe Clarkson's Farm located on the northeast corner of Rahway Road and Inman Avenue (the Road from Rahway to Short Hills Tavern) about 2000 feet south of the hill^{104,105}. The American dead were buried east of Raritan Road just north of the front of the hill above Rahway Road near a traditional Indian burial ground near the Indian spring "that never went dry". "Some 25 pioneers" (indicating patriots) were buried there¹⁰⁶⁻¹⁰⁸. The American burial site is located on the present Ash Brook Golf Club, also owned by Union County, which had bulldozed the Indian spring while working on the course. None of the burial sites bear any identifying markings.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetHomestead Farm at Oak Ridge
Union & Middlesex Counties
NJSection number 8 Page 24

Von Muenchhausen described the main engagement at the Battle of Ash Swamp as follows:

We took two 12-pounders and several 6-pounders to our left flank, where we had some rising ground. From our right flank the Hessian grenadier battalion von Minnigerode ascending the slope in deployed formation, attacked their left flank, Our battalion had to move considerably to the right in order to outflank their left flank. The rebels continued a strong but not very effective fire upon us. They finally fired grape-shot at von Minnigerode's battalion, but after that, they ran away into the woods. On this occasion the von Minnigerode battalion took two, and the English Guards one of their new French brass 3-pounders, which are very good cannon. General Lord Stirling, who was in command, had his horse shot, and General Maxwell was almost captured by the Hessian grenadiers, missing him only by a hair's breadth.⁸⁶

Von Muenchhausen's account indicates the severity of the battle and the capture of the new French cannon, significant to the British as early confirmation of the French involvement in the revolution. Von Muenchhausen, during interrogation of a prisoner on September 1, 1777, would later learn that the cannon were three of fifty brought with other French arms to Washington by French Brigadier of Artillery Coudray during the previous winter.¹⁰⁹

Detwiller quoting an American observer gives an American view of the battle: "a smart engagement ensued, and our men stood their ground manfully for a considerable time; but the amazing superiority of numbers obliged them to retreat...the enemy having flanked them."^{79,80} Estimations of losses in the Battle of Ash Swamp are varied, but General Washington, writing to the President of Congress on June 29, 1777 reported: "the Enemy's Loss was much more considerable than it was first imagined to be. It has been reported to me to day, that the Enemy took Sixty four Prisoners in the whole...Prisoners taken by us were thirteen"¹¹⁰. Washington also wrote to General Israel Putnam on June 29, 1777 that the British "came out from Amboy with their whole Force two days ago. They marched as far as Westfield, plundering and burning Houses and driving off what little stock remained"¹¹¹. Describing the plundering, American Colonel Timothy Pickering wrote: "At Westfield the meeting-house was converted into a slaughter-house, and the entrails of the cattle thrown into the pulpit"¹¹².

Historical evaluations of the Battle of Ash Swamp include Flexner speaking of General Howe:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetHomestead Farm at Oak Ridge
Union & Middlesex Counties
NJSection number 8 Page 25

On the night of June 25-26, Howe crossed secretly back from Staten Island and marched to get behind the American position. He succeeded in beating up the advance guard of Stirling's detachment, but all the rest of the quick-marching Americans got away.

Having failed to trap the old fox, Howe retired again to Staten Island. Now he abandoned even Amboy. Not a single British soldier was left in New Jersey. This complete recapture of a state the British had almost completely overrun seemed to John Hancock "the most explicit declaration of the whole world that the conquest of America is not only a very distant but an unattainable object."¹¹³

Leckie gives the following evaluation of the battle:

Howe...launching a furious attack. Stirling, always a dogged fighter, tried to resist stubbornly, but then, seeing that Cornwallis was in position to cut him off, he retreated.... British made the dubious claim...But it was no victory, as they also insisted, for Washington had time to retreat to Middlebrook heights. Thus after three maneuvers, Sir William Howe found himself back where he had started at Amboy. Frustrated, he withdrew his entire army to Staten Island, so that by June 30 "the province of New Jersey was entirely evacuated by the king's troops."

Pancake offers the following evaluation:

Lord Stirling...The belligerent Irishman further imperilled his position by standing and fighting. The British column under Cornwallis smashed him and almost cut him off...Washington was amply forewarned and withdrew to Middlebrook, leaving the two armies in the same positions they had occupied three weeks before....Howe...ferried the entire force across to Staten Island...a dispirited and idle army....¹¹⁵

Scheer and Rankin talk about Howe:

At last, he thought, he would bring the rebel general into the open. In brutal heat, under an unsparring sun, the columns joined and came to Stirling, who stood angrily and then managed to make off. The sound of firing near Woodbridge warned Washington of his danger, and he quickly drew back to the heights behind Middlebrook.¹¹⁶

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge
Union & Middlesex Counties
NJ

Section number 8 Page 26

Purcell and Burg evaluate the significance of the Battle of Ash Swamp as follows:

Howe sends Cornwallis' force through Woodbridge to attempt to outflank the American left while he moves to Metuchen Meeting House, sending still a third detachment to Bonham Town to confront generals Greene and Wayne. On the outskirts of Woodbridge Cornwallis encounters Lord Stirling. Though out-numbered two to one, Stirling's division fights valiantly, suffering perhaps 100 killed. Washington takes advantage of the delay in Cornwallis' advance to withdraw the main army to the protected positions at Middlebrook. Howe's tactics have failed, and he begins to withdraw all of his troops to Staten Island.¹²⁰

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge
Union & Middlesex Counties
NJ

Section number 8 Page 27

In the aftermath of the Battle of Ash Swamp, the effect of the British plundering and wanton destruction was so severe that on July 5, 1777 a letter from Morristown stated:

The British army burnt, stripped and destroyed all as they went along. Women and children were left without food to eat, or raiment to put on. Three hundred barrels of flour were sent down towards Westfield and Ash Swamp, by order of his Excellency, to be distributed among the poor sufferers.¹¹⁷

General Washington recognized the militia and the suffering endured in a July 1, 1777 letter to Brigadier General Nathaniel Heard:

The Enemy totally abandoned Amboy Yesterday, I therefore shall be enabled to dispense with a much less Number of Militia than were demanded, which gives me pleasure, as the people will have an Opportunity of collecting their Harvest....Return my thanks to the Officers and privates of the Militia for their late Spirited Behavior, which has in a great measure delivered their province from the hands of their oppressors, altho some few have suffered from their wanton depredations.¹¹⁸

General Washington in a July 4, 1777 letter to Major General John Armstrong confirmed the aid following "General Howe's late Manoeuvre in Jersey":

The Spirit with which the Militia of this State and Pennsylvania turned out upon the late alarm, far exceeded my most Sanguine expectations and I am persuaded must have chagrined Genl. Howe... The distress of many of the Inhabitants; who were plundered not only of the effects, but of their provision of every kind, was such, that I sent down several Waggon loads of Meat and Flour to Supply their present Wants.¹¹⁹

The seven-month, British occupation of New Jersey that began in late November 1776 was a time of bitter conflict. The early assaults on the Smith family and the plundering of Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge in many ways sealed the British fate. By December 14, 1776, Hessian Captain von Muenchhausen was complaining of insidious rebel tactics and recorded:

It was also ordered that inhabitants who ventured, in mobs or individually, to fire at our passing men, would be hanged at the next tree without trial. It is now unsafe for us to travel in Jersey. The rascal peasants meet our men alone or in small unarmed groups. They have their rifles hidden in the bushes,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge
Union & Middlesex Counties
NJ

Section number 8 Page 28

or ditches, and the like. When they believe they are sure of success and they see one or several men belonging to our army, they shoot them in the head, then quickly hide their rifles and pretend they know nothing.¹²¹

The period saw constant British plundering, repeated skirmishes, and the hanging of four people in Morristown as Loyalists.¹²² By June, 1777, British General Howe was complaining that any British soldier who wandered away from camp would be killed by a sniper from the New Jersey militia.⁶⁴ At the Ash Swamp on June 26, 1777, approximately 2500 men under General Lord Stirling stood and fought a delaying action against a lead British column of 5000, backed up by a second column of 6000, a total of 11,000 troops. In doing so, Lord Stirling stopped the British from encircling Washington's main army at Quibbletown and gave Washington sufficient time to effect a strategic retreat to Middlebrook Valley. Stirling's foiling of the British plan of attack resulted in the immediate abandonment of New Jersey by the British.

When the last British boat left Amboy for Staten Island on June 30, 1777, General William Howe "was the last man to step aboard.... Never again was he to set foot in New Jersey."¹²³ The "jubilant word" was brought to Middle Brook¹²⁴. "The defensive had saved America."¹²⁵

With a total troop involvement of approximately 13,500, the Battle of Ash Swamp was one of the biggest offensive movements of the American Revolution. More importantly, the Battle of Ash Swamp protected and assured the survival of the American army and boosted the spirit of the revolutionary cause throughout the colonies. As the final, pivotal battle in the 1777 campaign in New Jersey, it resulted in the retreat of the entire British force in New Jersey, an event celebrated by John Hancock as "the most explicit declaration of the whole world that the conquest of America is not only a very distant but an unattainable object."¹¹³

Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge is significant to the Battle of Ash Swamp, the 1777 campaign in New Jersey, and the American Revolution, because it was the late 1776 location of the Hessian assault of the Smith family at Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge - an event widely reported in the colonies and a notable contributor to rebel indignation; because the swamp on Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge was used as a place of concealment from the British forces; and because Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge was the location of early fighting at the Battle of Ash Swamp.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetHomestead Farm at Oak Ridge
Union & Middlesex Counties
NJSection number 7&8 Page 29ENDNOTES

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetHomestead Farm at Oak Ridge
Union and Middlesex Counties
NJSection number 7&8 Page 30

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetHomestead Farm at Oak Ridge
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NJSection number 7&8 Page 31

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetHomestead Farm at Oak Ridge
Union & Middlesex Counties
NJSection number 7&8 Page 32

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge
Union & Middlesex Counties
NJ

Section number 7&8 Page 33

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National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetHomestead Farm at Oak Ridge
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Continuation SheetHomestead Farm at Oak Ridge
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National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetHomestead Farm at Oak Ridge
Union & Middlesex Counties
NJSection number 9 Page 36

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetHomestead Farm at Oak Ridge
Union & Middlesex Counties
NJSection number 10 Page 37VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge proposed register site consists of all property that makes up the Oak Ridge Golf Club. In Clark Township (Union County) this consists of Block 1 lots 1 and 3; Block 2 lots 1 and 3; and Block 3 lot 1. In Edison Township (Middlesex County) this includes Block 412 lots 1B and 1D and 1E, and Block 413 lot 1.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes all property owned by the Union County Division of Parks and Recreation that represents the historical boundary of Homestead Farm or Homestead Plantation as it was known to have existed prior 1768 12,13,10, and it includes the main plantation house, tenant farmer house ruins, the apparent slave ruins that are not counted as a resource, possible Native American resources also not counted, the county line marker that formerly delineated the border of Essex and Middlesex counties, the portion of Ash Swamp used by the farm for harvesting salt hay, the portion of Ash Swamp where early fighting took place at the Battle of Ash Swamp, and a portion of Ash Swamp used as a place of concealment from the British during the American Revolution. Conrail and Public Service Electric and Gas Company rights-of way (Clark Block 1 lots 2 and 4, and Block 2 lot 2; Edison Block 680 lots 19 and 20) were excluded from the boundary because they are in separate, private ownership,; because they do not add significantly to the overwhelming importance of the property as a district; and because they do not even create any discontinuity in the proposed register site as the deeds that granted rights-of-way retained permanent rights-of-way to the grantors to provide easy access to all portions of the proposed register site.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge
Union & Middlesex Counties
NJ

Section number Photos Page 38

PHOTOGRAPHS

The following is the same for all photos:

1. Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge
2. Union & Middlesex Counties, New Jersey
3. William T. Fidurski, Chairman, Clark Environmental Commission
4. December, 1994 (Note: Approximate dating of any copied photos will be noted under #6 for each as applicable.) Photos 107-115 taken in July 1995.
5. Negatives to be held by: Clark Historical Society, Inc. Clark, NJ
(908)381-3081

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

Photos 1-66 show the main house and its immediate area. Photos 67-69 show Ashbrook Station built due Bowne-Robinson Family influence. Photo 71 shows slave quarters ruins. Photos 71-106 show the tenant farmer's cottage known as the Beehive Oven House and Chapman Cottage. Photos 107-115 are additional photos of the landscape and noncontributing buildings.

6. Main house from Oak Ridge Road
7. Photo 1

6. Front of main house.
7. Photo 2

6. Front of main house with county line marker in foreground.
7. Photo 3

6. County line marker from rear showing "E." or Essex County side.
7. Photo 4

6. Front of main house in late 1800s
7. Photo 5

6. Photo of front of main house in late 1800s
7. Photo 6

6. 12/12 window at front of present kitchen in West wing.
7. Photo 7

6. Hand wrought shutter dog on window in Photo 7
7. Photo 8

6. Detail of front porch modillions/rafter tail cuts showing extensive chamfering on rafters and plates.
7. Photo 9

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge
Union & Middlesex Counties
NJ

Section number Photos Page 39

- 6. Board and batten door in westernmost, shed addition at front of house.
- 7. Photo 10

- 6. Detail of strap and pintle hinge on door in Photo 10
- 7. Photo 11

- 6. 1x10 Oak Weatherboard in cistern portion of shed addition in Photo 10.
- 7. Photo 12

- 6. Detail of water table at sill level of front of kitchen exterior.
- 7. Photo 13

- 6. Exterior sill detail at addition at rear of kitchen wing. Note dressed surfaces of stone compared to Photo 13
- 7. Photo 14

- 6. Rear view of main house facing South
- 7. Photo 15

- 6. View of property from rear porch facing North
- 7. Photo 16

- 6. Late 1800s photo of farm showing livestock
- 7. Photo 17

- 6. Late 1800s photo of farm showing outbuildings no longer in existence
- 7. Photo 18

- 6. Sill construction at front of kitchen foundation.
- 7. Photo 19

- 6. Slightly inclined saw marks on kitchen floor joist.
- 7. Photo 20

- 6. Right hand (of three) chimney arch supporting kitchen chimney stack
- 7. Photo 21

- 6. Middle chimney arch next to that in Photo 21
- 7. Photo 22

- 6. Remains of exterior door stop at original exterior doorway from kitchen
- 7. Photo 23

- 6. Original oak doorsill in doorway shown in Photo 23
- 7. Photo 24

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge
Union & Middlesex Counties
NJ

Section number Photos Page 40

- 6. Sill shown in Photo 24
- 7. Photo 25

- 6. Brick oven in westernmost shed addition
- 7. Photo 26

- 6. H-L hinge at kitchen staircase
- 7. Photo 27

- 6. Winder stairway from kitchen to second floor. Note hand planing on upper trim board covering end girt.
- 7. Photo 28

- 6. 12/8 window in 2nd floor hall chamber above kitchen
- 7. Photo 29

- 6. Exposed 7" oak post and brick nogging in front wall of hall chamber above kitchen
- 7. Photo 30

- 6. Hearth in hall chamber above kitchen
- 7. Photo 31

- 6. 12/12 window at second floor rear of kitchen wing rear addition
- 7. Photo 32

- 6. Pine floor boards with hand wrought nails, second floor, kitchen wing
- 7. Photo 33

- 6. Second floor, kitchen wing interior door hardware. Note rim lock held by one screw and two hand wrought nails.
- 7. Photo 34

- 6. Second floor kitchen wing door hardware
- 7. Photo 35

- 6. Kitchen wing winder stair from 2nd floor to attic. Note end girt
- 7. Photo 36

- 6. Cut-off rail post in Photo 36 staircase at attic floor level
- 7. Photo 37

- 6. Chimney in attic of kitchen wing showing slanted construction
- 7. Photo 38

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge
Union & Middlesex Counties
NJ

Section number Photos Page 41

- 6. H-L hinge with hand wrought nails in knee wall kitchen attic
- 7. Photo 39

- 6. Sidewall plate and bird's mouth rafter and nogging at front of kitchen wing
- 7. Photo 40

- 6. Brick nogging in endwall near Photo 40
- 7. Photo 41

- 6. Entry wing joists and 11X11 main beam in cellar
- 7. Photo 42

- 6. Chamfered post in entry wing cellar
- 7. Photo 43

- 6. Stripped log post near Photo 43
- 7. Photo 44

- 6. Detail of mortise and tenon joinery in entry wing cellar. Note tenon workmanship and hand dressing and planing of floor boards
- 7. Photo 45

- 6. Front door to entry wing
- 7. Photo 46

- 6. Rear of front door to entry wing. Note hinges
- 7. Photo 47

- 6. Photo of entry hall in late 1800s, note leaded fanlight
- 7. Photo 48

- 6. External mechanism lock on rear door of entry wing
- 7. Photo 49

- 6. Entry wing stairway in late 1800s
- 7. Photo 50

- 6. Present condition of stairway shown in Photo 50
- 7. Photos 51-53

- 6. Stairway in Photos 51-53 looking up to gambrel roof
- 7. Photo 54

- 6. Looking down stairwell in photos 51-54 from attic landing
- 7. Photo 55

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetHomestead Farm at Oak Ridge
Union & Middlesex Counties
NJSection number Photos Page 42

-
6. 1800s photo front parlor, second floor, entry wing
7. Photo 56
6. Entry wing attic framing showing purlin post, shouldered joint of purlin beam, diagonal braces, purlin plate above, trunnels, and Roman numeral match marks
7. Photo 57
6. Hand hewn surface of post in entry wing attic
7. Photo 58
6. Brick nogging in entry wing, attic endwall
7. Photo 59
6. Detail of front wall plate in attic of entry wing
7. Photo 60
6. Tongue and fork ridge construction of roof of entry wing
7. Photo 61
6. Hand wrought roof hatch hook near Photo 61
7. Photo 62
6. Pine batten with hand wrought nails on attic closet door, entry wing
7. Photo 63
6. Lighter structural framing in library wing cellar. Note meat hooks
7. Photo 64
6. Italianate stairway, library wing
7. Photo 65
6. Arch-effect casement windows, library wing
7. Photo 66
6. Ashbrook station circa 1900
7. Photos 67 and 68
6. Present outcrops of remains of Ashbrook Station
7. Photos 69 and 70
6. Slave quarters ruins, note linearity of stones and rubble ledge at rear indicating a possible firebox or hearth or privy or root cellar
7. Photo 71

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge
Union & Middlesex Counties
NJ

Section number Photos Page 43

6. Front of tenant farmer's cottage looking North, note oven in chimney
7. Photo 72

6. Front door of tenant farmer's cottage
7. Photo 73

6. 1800s photo of front of cottage
7. Photo 74

6. Present condition of rear of cottage
7. Photos 75 and 76

6. Rear of cottage circe 1930
7. Photos 77 and 78

6. Exterior attic door
7. Photo 79

6. Restoration well East of cottage dating from c. 1930
7. Photo 80

6. Detail of present exterior of beehive oven'
7. Photo 81

6. Cottage, first floor hearth c. 1930
7. Photo 82

6. First floor hearth details from 1970s photos
7. Photos 83 and 84

6. Present condition of hearth in photos 82-84
7. Photo 85

6. Iron crane rings in first floor hearth
7. Photo 86

6. Damage at opening of beehive oven
7. Photo 87

6. Interior of beehive oven showing method of brick laying
7. Photo 88

6. Corner detail of parson's cupboard at left of first floor hearth
7. Photo 89

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetHomestead Farm at Oak Ridge
Union Middlesex Counties
NJSection number Photos Page 44

-
6. Hearth/floor juncture, first floor
7. Photo 90
6. Panelled door laying on floor
7. Photo 91
6. Broken case of rim lock on door in Photo 91
7. Photo 92
6. Post and beam construction in rear wall of first floor living room
7. Photos 93 and 94
6. Restoration side door of kitchen
7. Photo 95
6. Rubble at rear of first floor
7. Photo 96
6. Original H-L hinge and hand wrought nails on door in rubble
7. Photo 97
6. Fire damage above kitchen
7. Photos 98 and 99
6. Present condition of second floor hearth
7. Photo 100
6. Wrought door latches on 2nd floor
7. Photos 101 and 102 and 103
6. Apparent 1930s restoration hinge on 2nd floor
7. Photo 104
6. Rot damage to main girt in center of second floor ceiling
7. Photo 105
6. Detail of roof construction. Note the absence of a ridgepole
7. Photo 106
6. Largest modern service building located along Oak Ridge Road to the northeast of the main plantation/club house.
7. Photo 107
6. View of building in Photo 107 taken from main plantation house.
7. Photo 108

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge
Union & Middlesex Counties
NJ

Section number Photos Page 45

6. A modern service building immediately west of main clubhouse.
7. Photo 109

6. Three modern service buildings (one dismantled and currently existing only as a slab and foundation in the right of the photo) to the immediate west of the building in Photo 109
7. Photo 110

6. Railroad grade looking west into Ash Swamp portion of Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge. Photo was taken from the west edge of the actual playing area of the golf course. The area of the Ash Swamp shown tends to be moist-bottom woodlands.
7. Photo 111

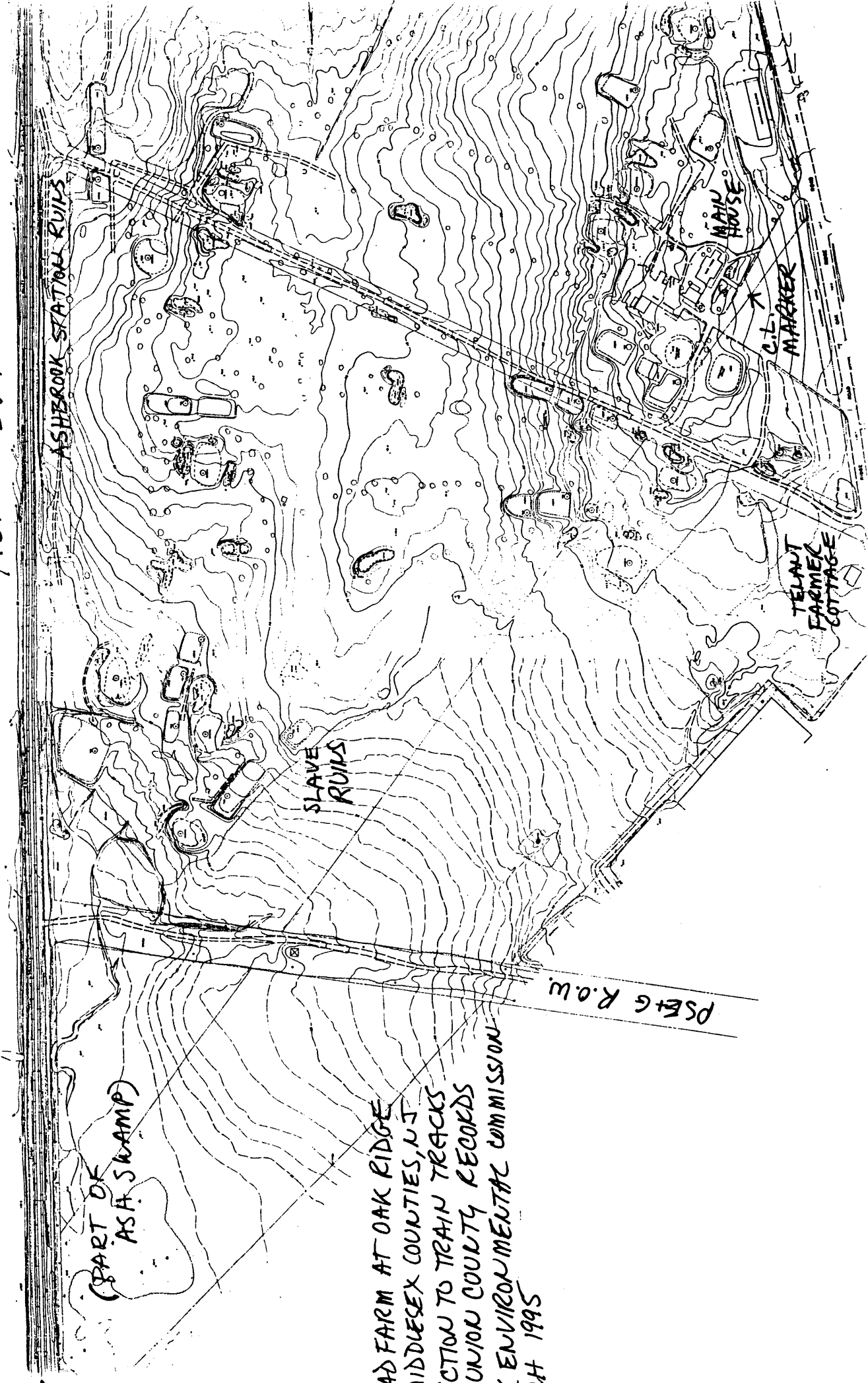
6. Playing area of golf course in same approximate area as Photo 17
7. Photo 112

6. Predominantly marshy area on Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge east of railroad tracks in the northern portion of the property. Photo taken looking east and the golf area is behind the right tree line at the rear of the photo.
7. Photo 113

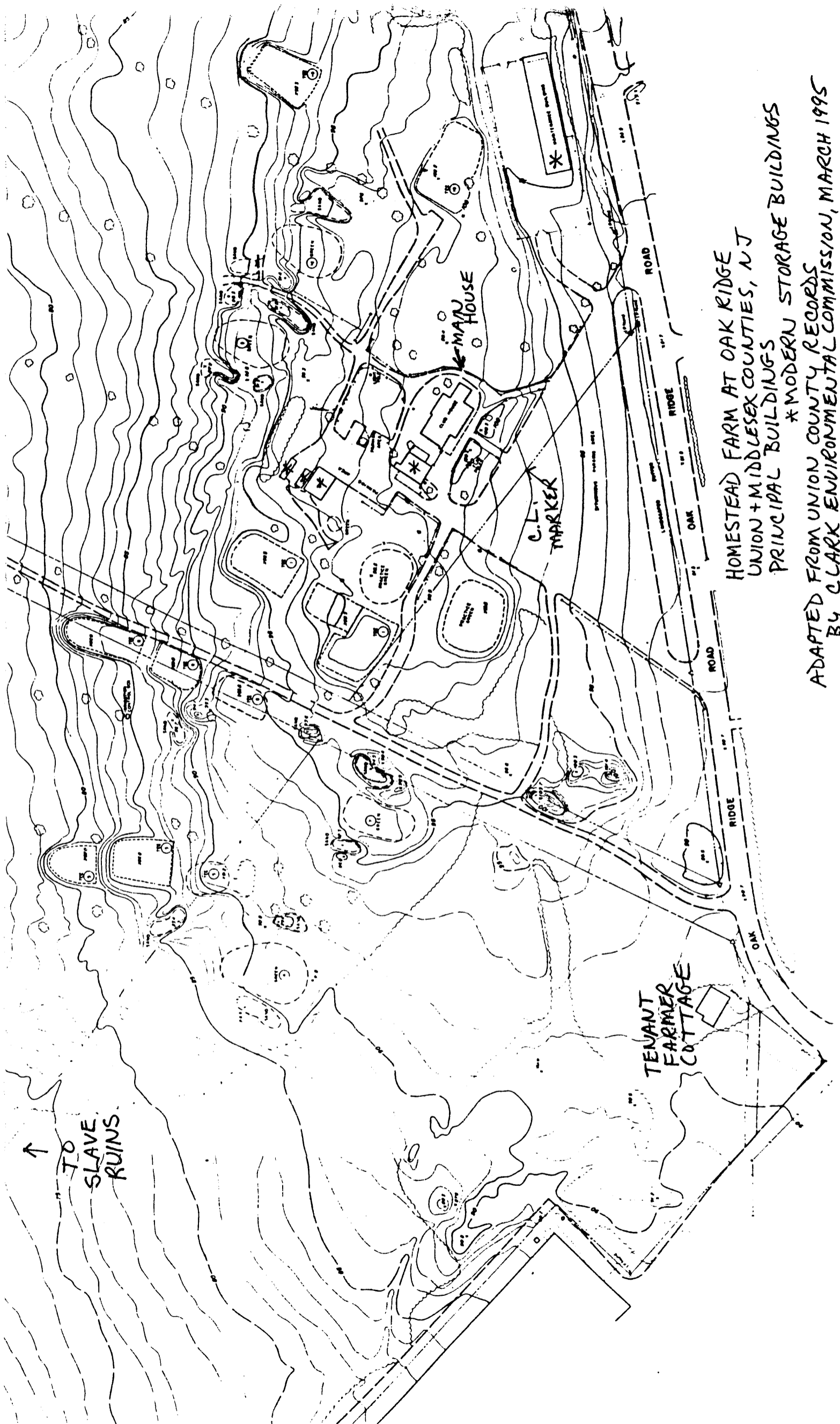
6. Predominantly marshy area of Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge west of the railroad tracks at the northwest portion of the property.
7. Photo 114

6. Predominantly marshy area of Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge west of the railroad tracks in the southwestern portion of the property. Note the dead trees, typical of a swampy border habitat in this portion of Ash Swamp.
7. Photo 115

ASH SWAMP



HOMESTEAD FARM AT OAK RIDGE
 UNION + MIDDLESEX COUNTIES, N.J.
 SOUTHEASTERN SECTION TO TRAIN TRACKS
 ADAPTED FROM UNION COUNTY RECORDS
 BY CLARK ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
 MARCH 1995

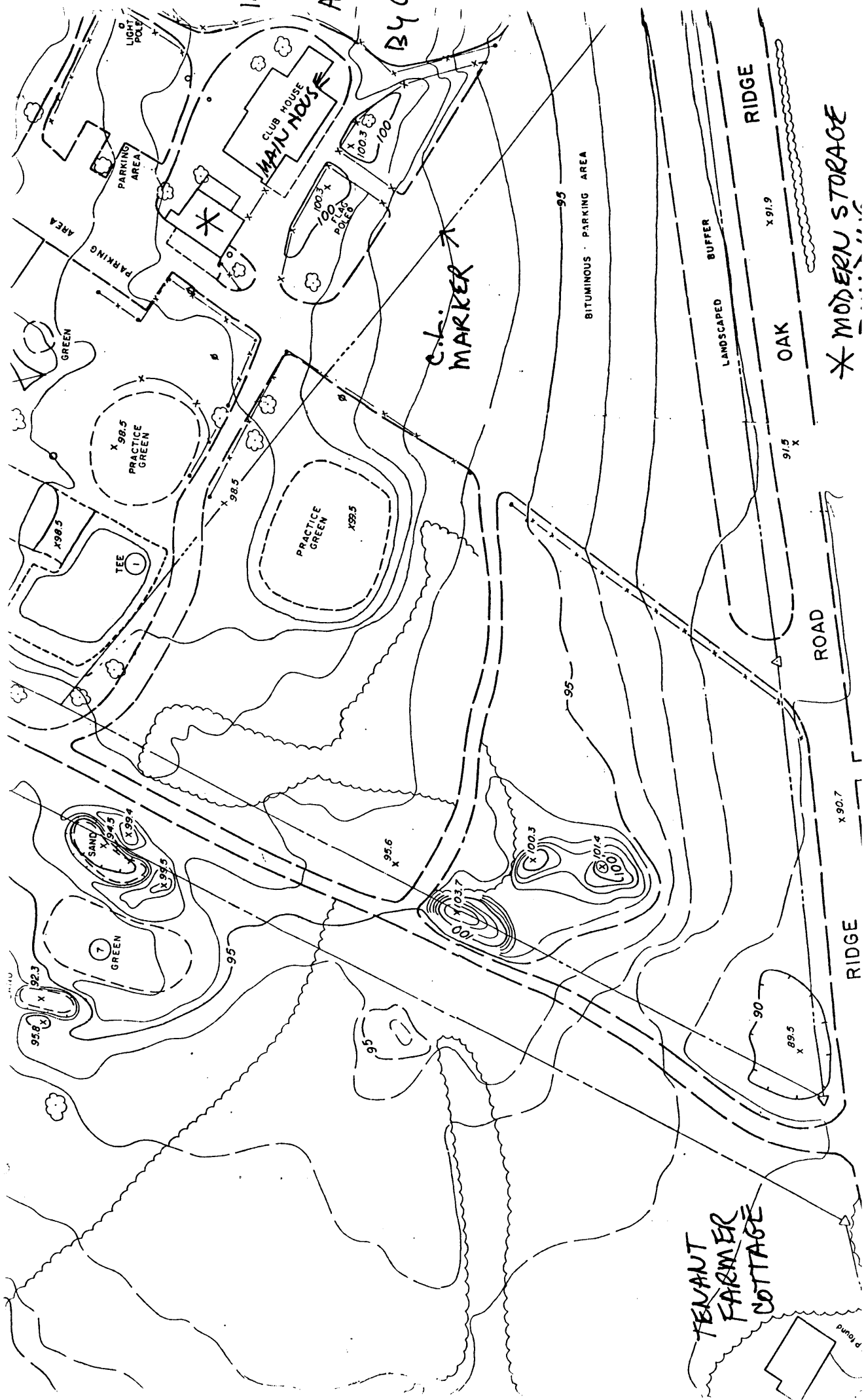


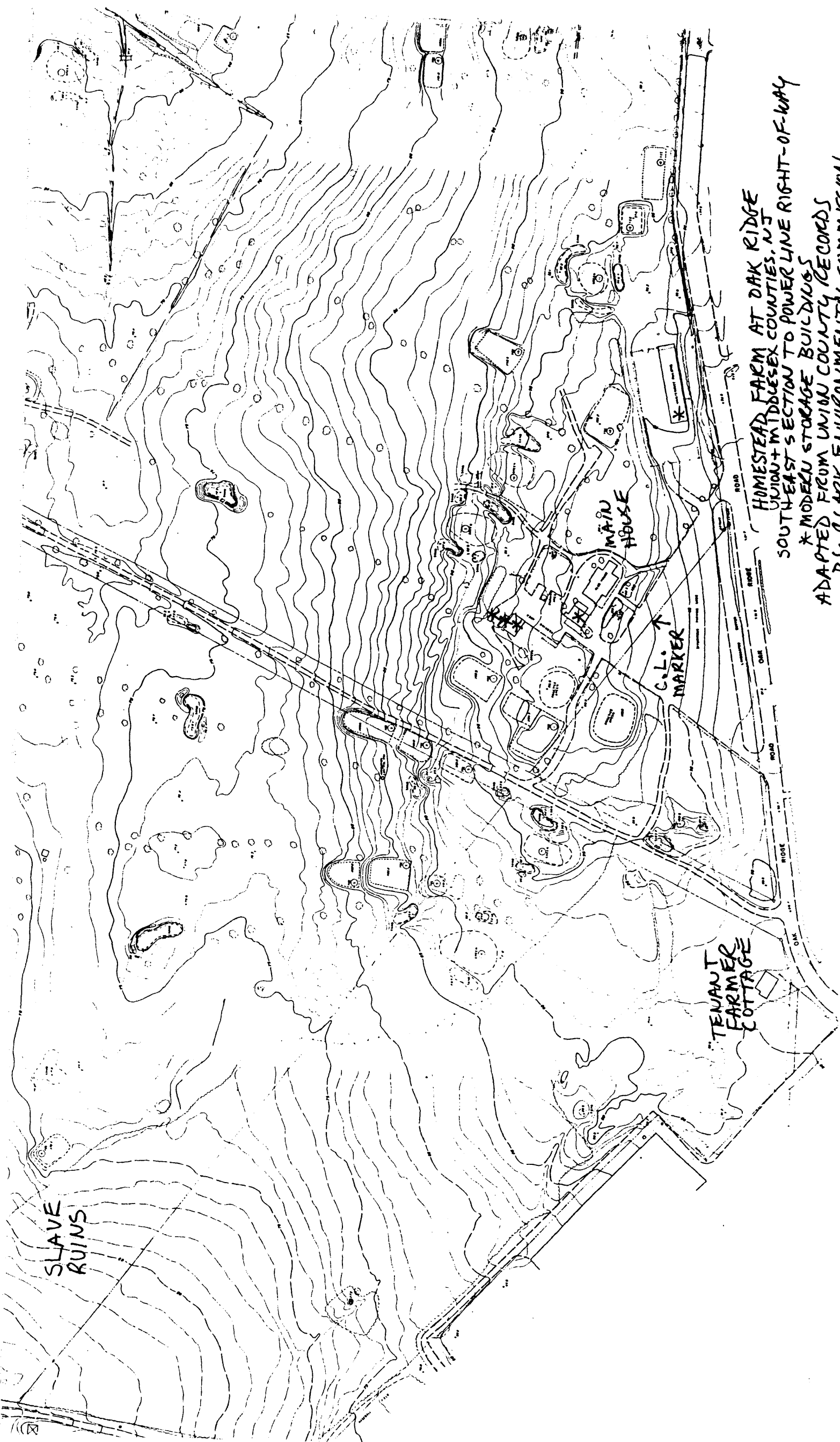
HOMESTEAD FARM AT OAK RIDGE
 UNION + MIDDLESEX COUNTIES, N.J
 PRINCIPAL BUILDINGS
 * MODERN STORAGE BUILDINGS

ADAPTED FROM UNION COUNTY RECORDS
 BY CLARK ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION, MARCH 1995

HOMESTEAD FARM
 AT OAK RIDGE
 UNION + MIDDLESEX
 COUNTIES, NJ
 IMMEDIATE BUILDING
 AREA

ADAPTED FROM
 UNION COUNTY RECORDS
 BY CLARK ENVIRONMENTAL
 COMMISSION
 MARCH 1995





HOMESTEAD FARM AT OAK RIDGE
UNION + MIDDLESEX COUNTIES, NJ
SOUTH EAST SECTION TO POWER LINE RIGHT-OF-WAY
* MODERN STORAGE BUILDINGS
ADAPTED FROM UNION COUNTY RECORDS
BY CLARK ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MARCH 1995

SLAVE
RUINS

MAIN
HOUSE

TENANT
FARMER
COTTAGE

C.L. MARKER

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

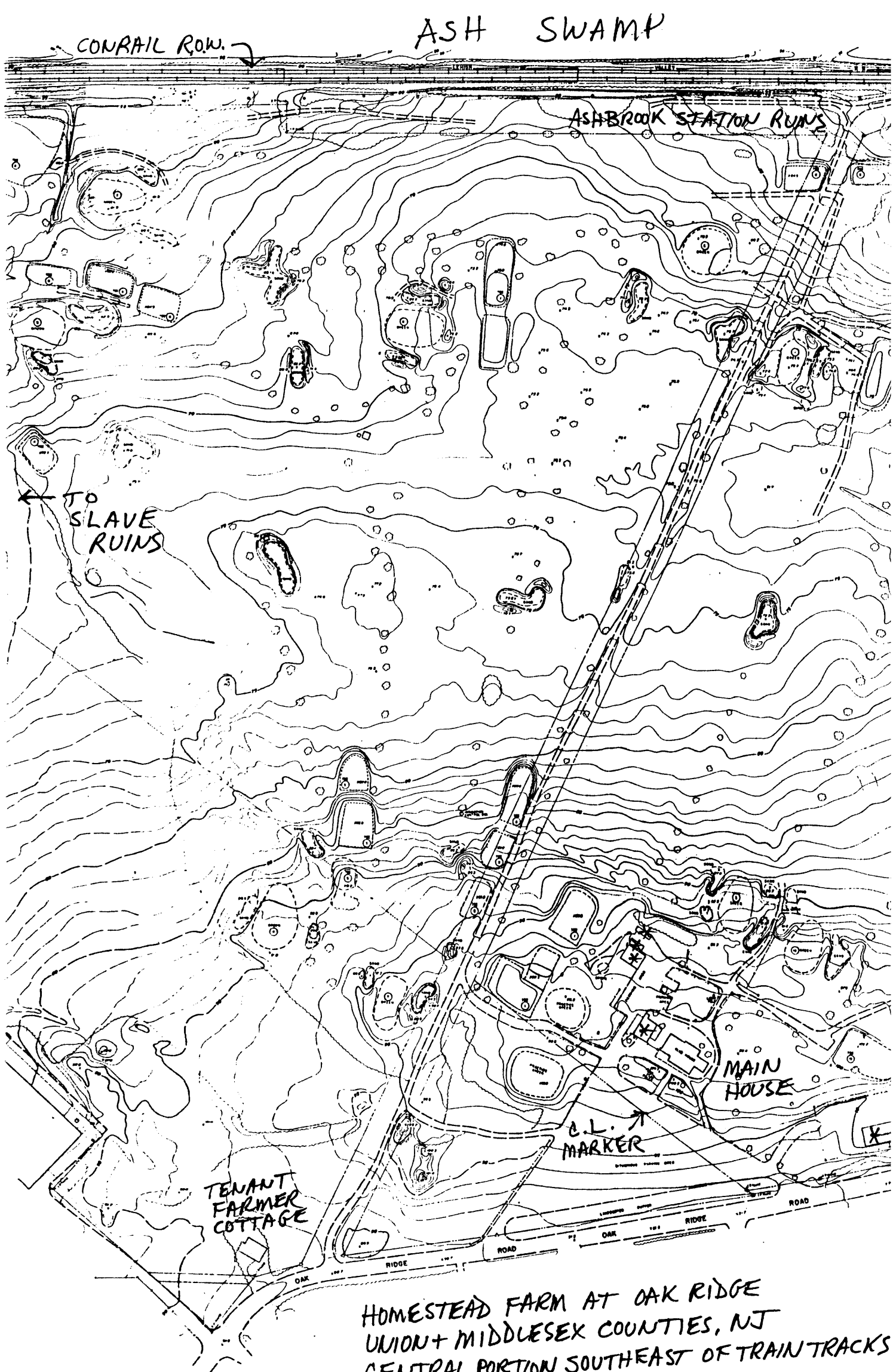
ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD



HOMESTEAD FARM AT OAK RIDGE
 UNION + MIDDLESEX COUNTIES, NJ
 CENTRAL PORTION SOUTHEAST OF TRAIN TRACKS
 * MODERN STORAGE BUILDINGS
 ADAPTED FROM UNION COUNTY RECORDS
 BY CLARK ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
 MARCH 1995

ASH SWAMP

ASHBROOK STATION RUINS

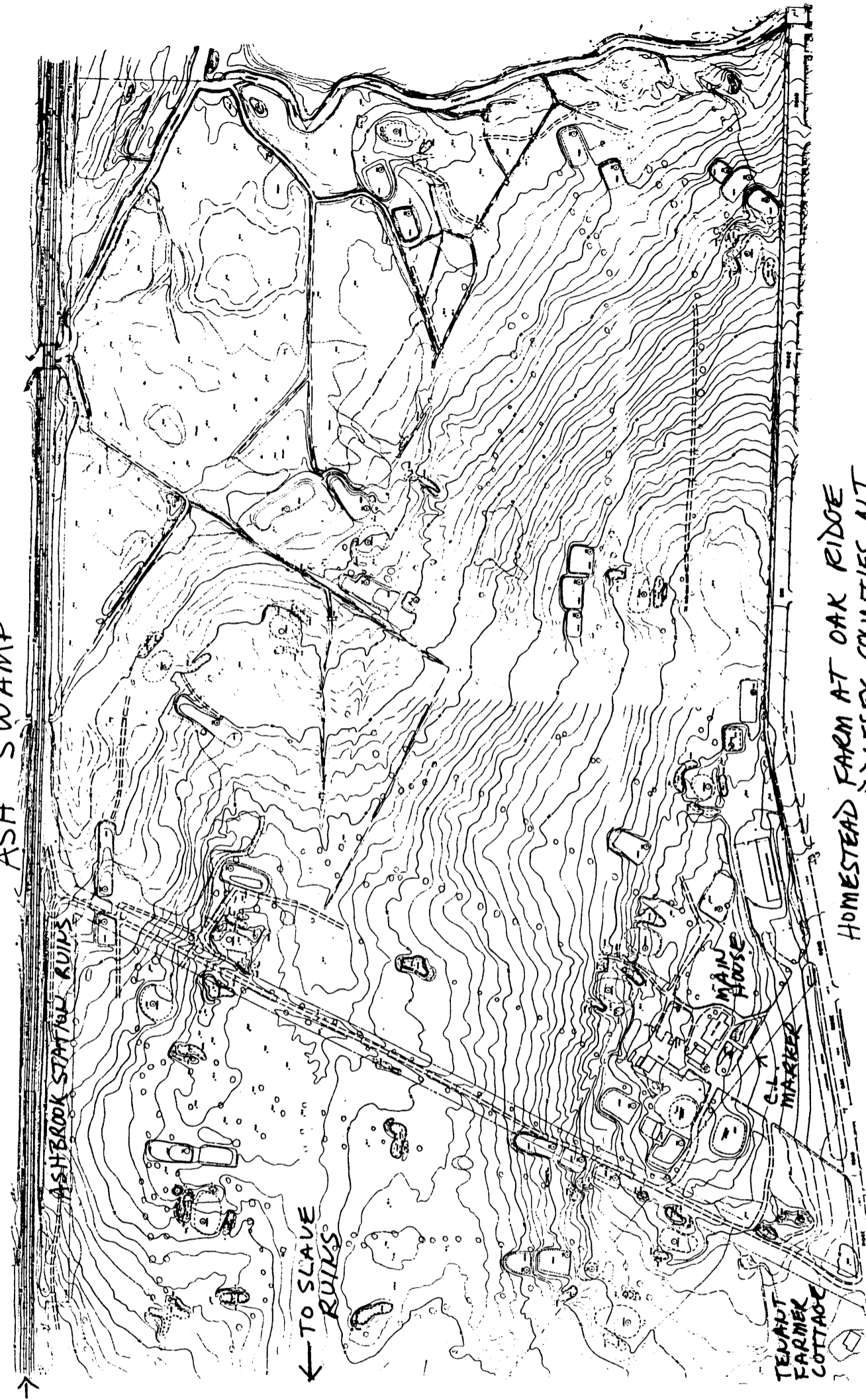
← TO SLAVE
RUINS

MAIN HOUSE

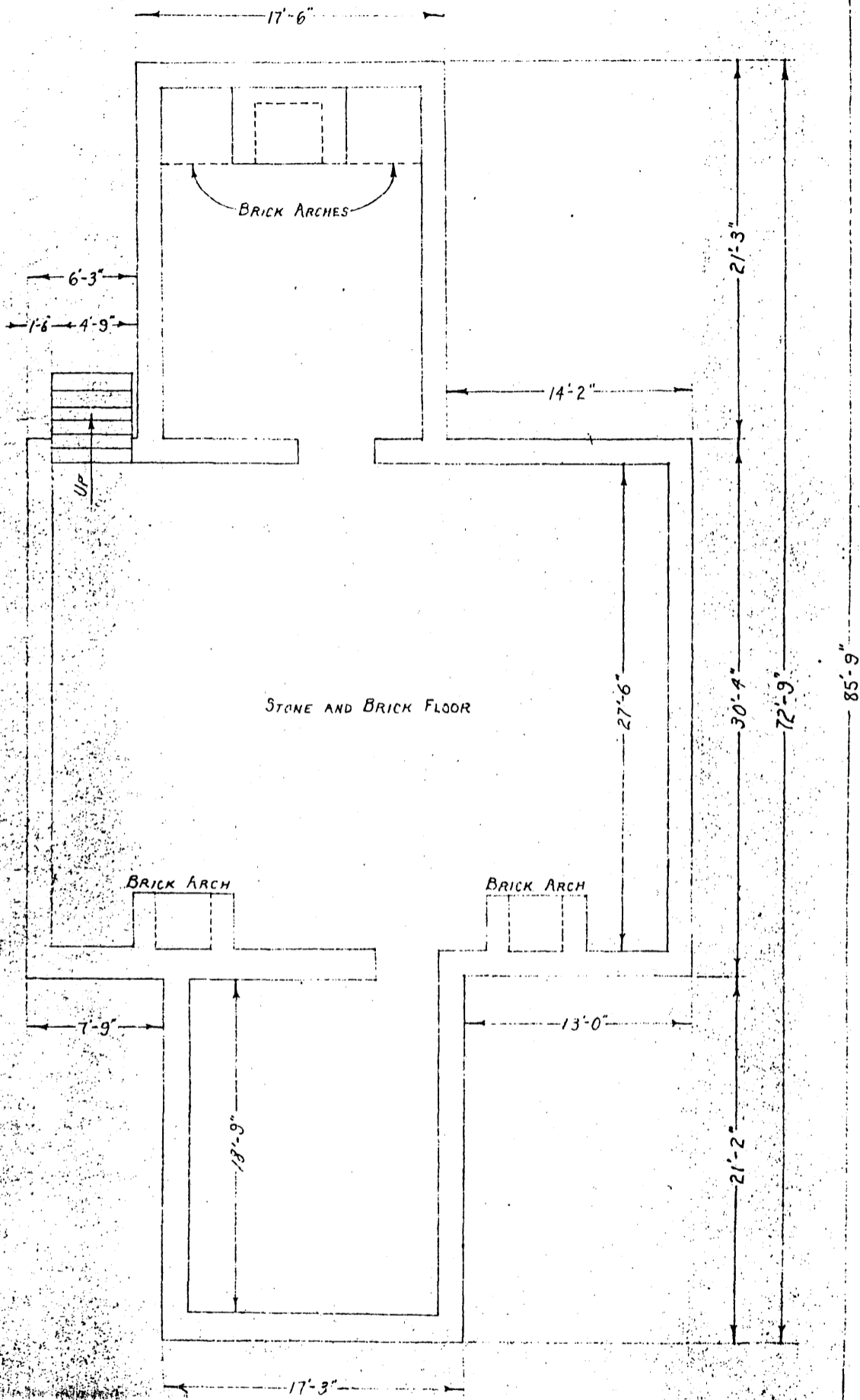
G-1
MARKER

TENANT
FARMER
COTTAGE

HOMESTEAD FARM AT OAK RIDGE
UNION + MIDDLESEX COUNTIES, NJ
NORTHEASTERN SECTION TO TRAIN TRACKS
ADAPTED FROM UNION COUNTY RECORDS
BY CLARK ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION, MARCH 1995

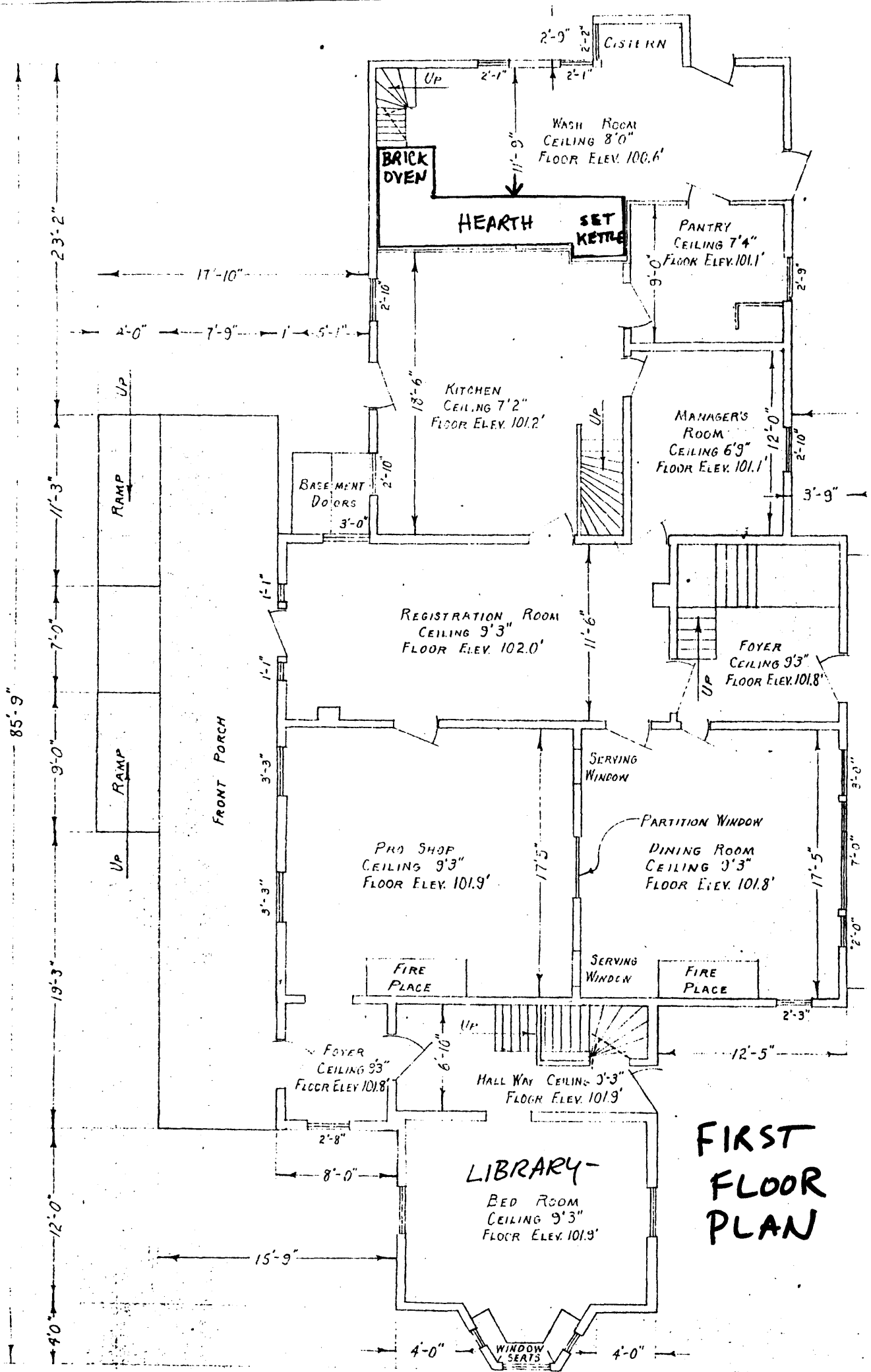


BASEMENT PLAN



HOMESTEAD FARM AT OAK RIDGE
UNION + MIDDLESEX COUNTIES NJ
MAIN PLANTATION HOUSE - BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN
ADAPTED FROM UNION COUNTY RECORDS
BY CLARK ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MARCH 1995

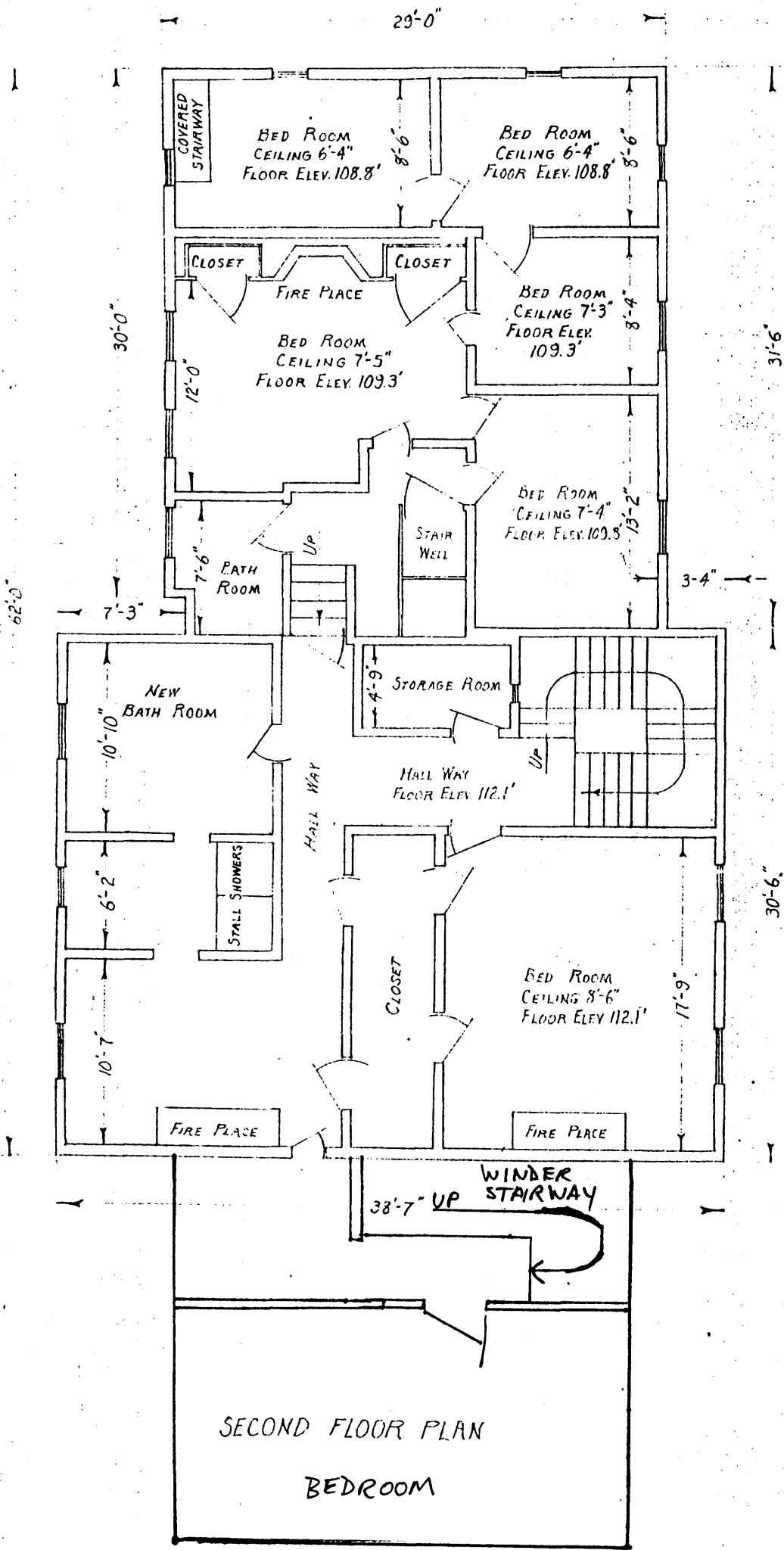
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FIRST FLOOR PLAN

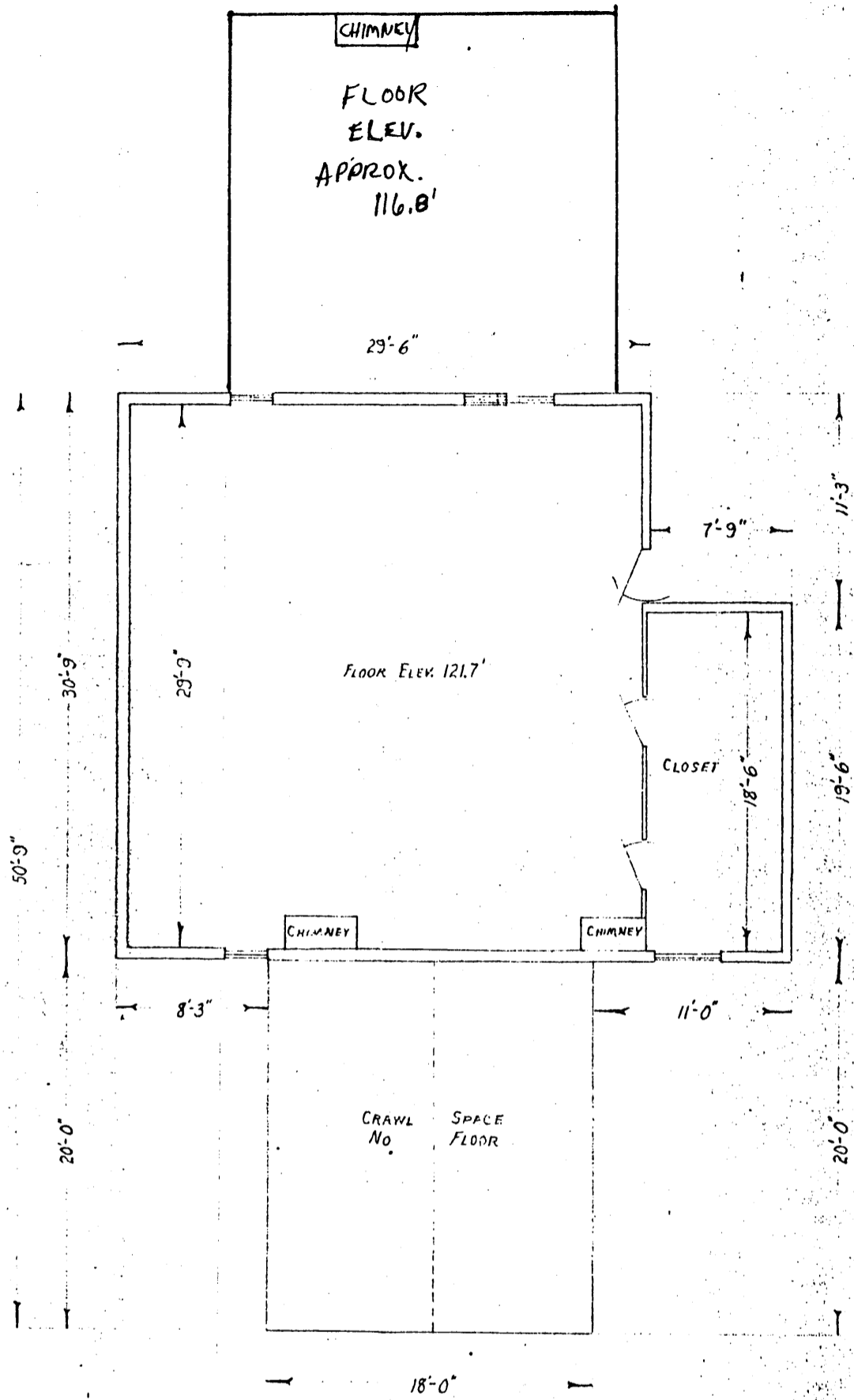
HOMESTEAD FARM AT OAK RIDGE
 MAIN PLANTATION HOUSE - FIRST FLOOR PLAN
 UNION + MIDDLESEX COUNTIES, NJ
 ADAPTED FROM UNION COUNTY RECORDS
 BY CLARK ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
 MARCH 1995

(NOT TO SCALE)



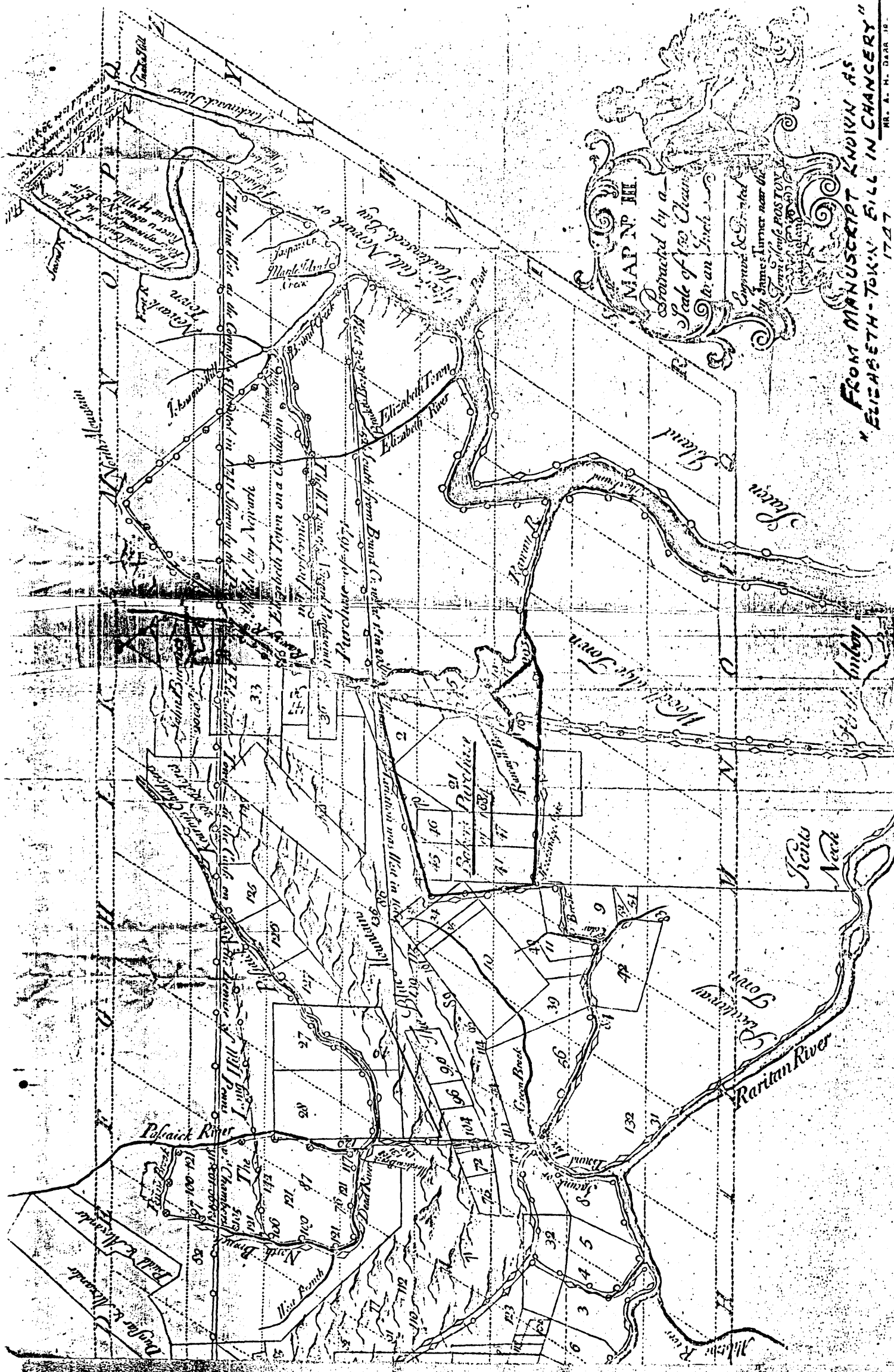
HOMESTEAD FARM AT OAK RIDGE
 UNION + MIDDLESEX COUNTIES NJ
 MAIN PLANTATION HOUSE - SECOND FLOOR PLAN
 ADAPTED FROM UNION COUNTY RECORDS
 BY CLARK ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
 MARCH 1995

(NOT TO SCALE)



ATTIC PLAN

HOMESTEAD FARM AT OAK RIDGE
 UNION + MIDDLESEX COUNTIES NJ
 MAIN PLANTATION HOUSE - ATTIC FLOOR PLAN
 ADAPTED FROM UNION COUNTY RECORDS
 BY CLARK ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
 MARCH 1995
 (NOT TO SCALE)



MAP N° III
 Engraved by a
 Plate of 100 Sheets
 in an Inch
 by James Turner near the
 Sign of the POST-OFFICE
 in New York
 1747

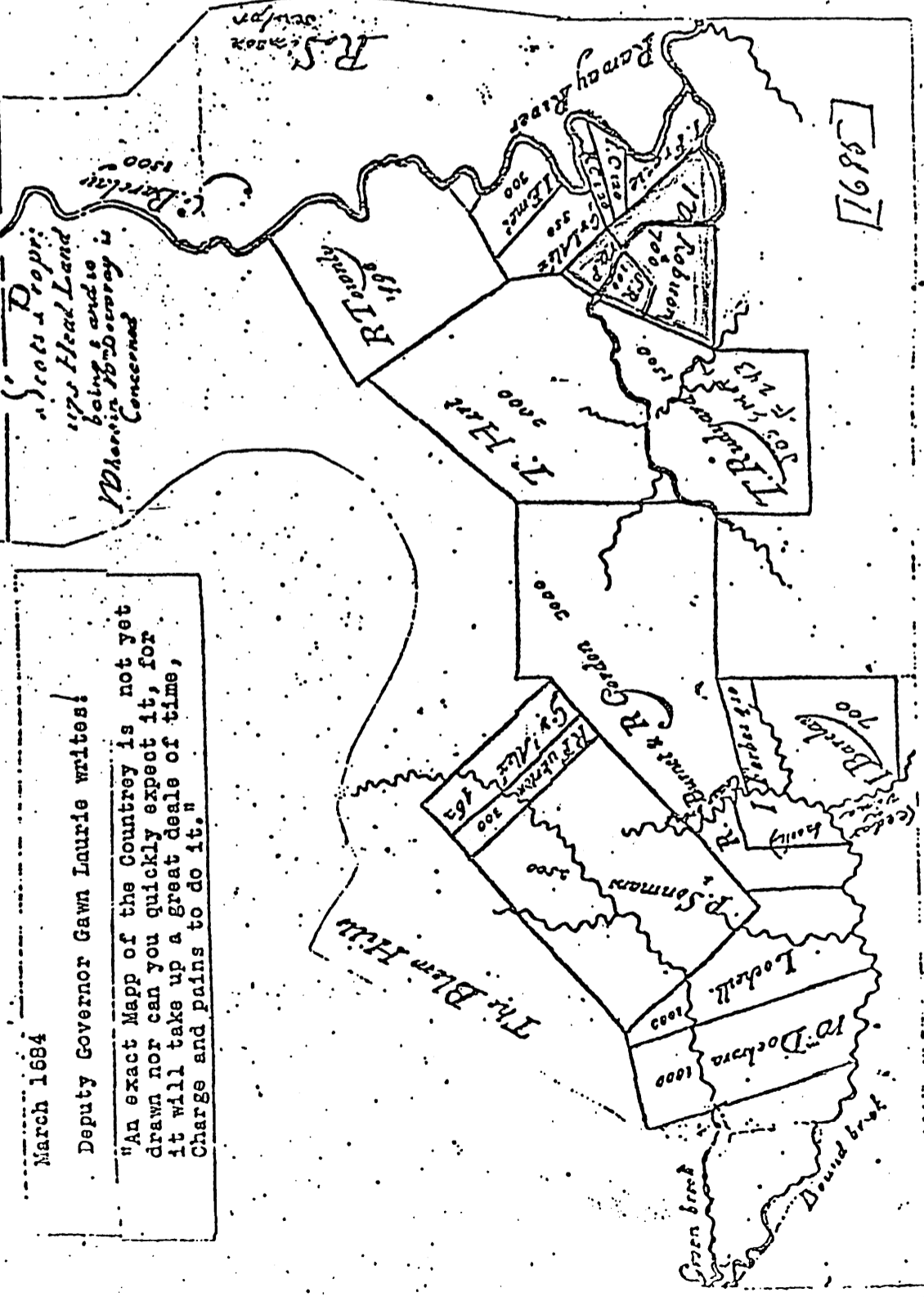
FROM MANUSCRIPT AND IN AN AS
 "ELIZABETH-TOWN FILL IN CHANCERY"
 MR. A. H. DARR
 1747

HOMESTEAD FARM AT DARK RIDGE
 UNION + MIDDLESEX COUNTIES NJ
 MAP SHOWING THOMAS RUDYARD'S 1500 ACRE
 PROPRIETORS' GRANT DRAWN (BUT NOT IDENTIFIED)
 SOUTH OF "BAKER'S PURCHASE OF 1684"

March 1684

Deputy Governor Gawn Laurie writes!

"An exact Mepp of the Country is not yet drawn nor can you quickly expect it, for it will take up a great deale of time, Charge and pains to do it."

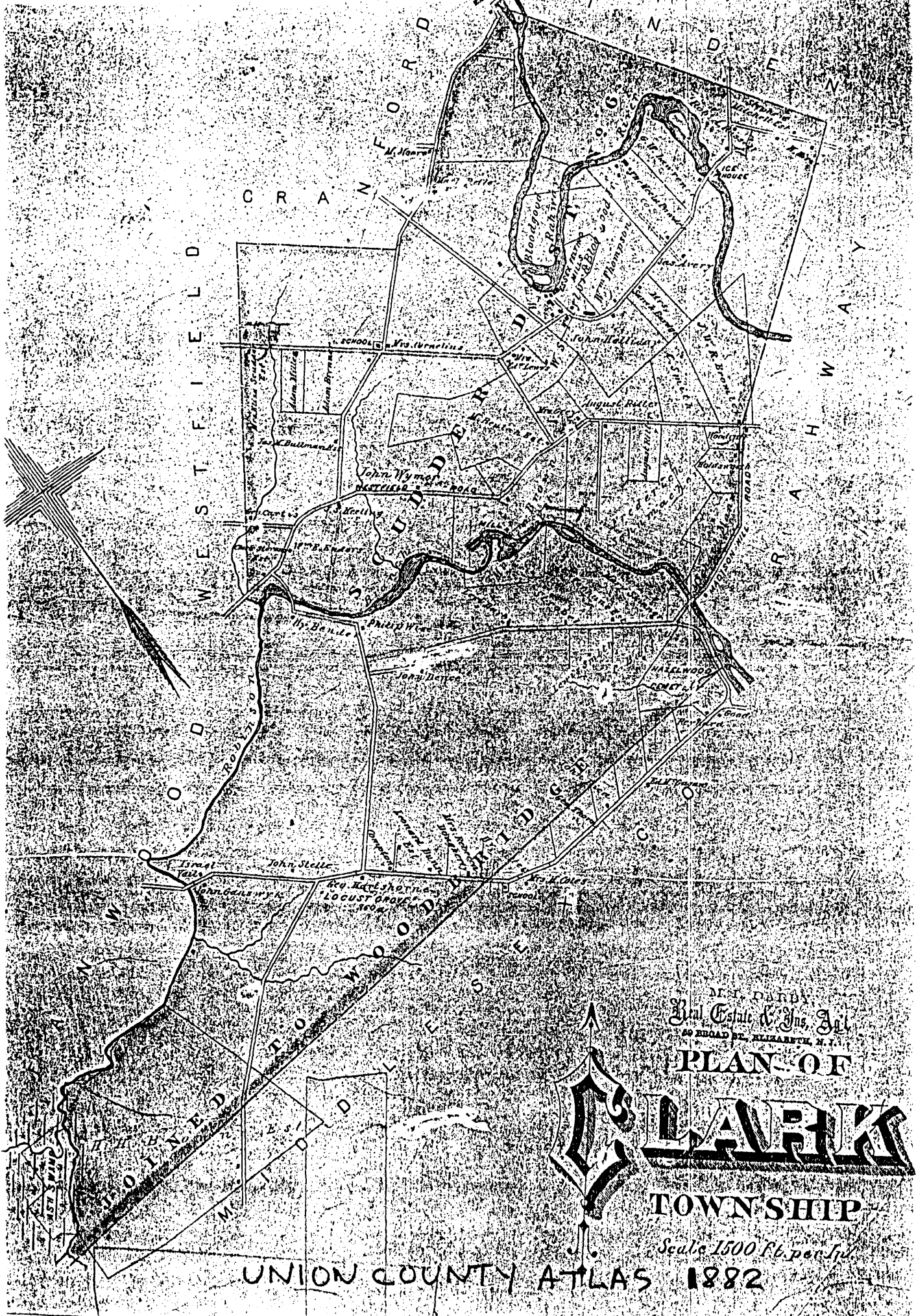


HOMESTEAD FARM AT OAK RIDGE
 UNION + MIDDLESEX COUNTIES, NJ
 MAP SHOWING 1500 ACRE PROPRIETORS' GRANT
 TO THOMAS RUDYARD

Source of Map found among unpublished manuscript by Harion Nichols Rawson, "Jersey's Scotch Plains" reference to a "mapp." delineated around 1665 by one John Reid apparently the "Gardner to the Lord Advocate" to show lands of William Dockwa. We give here a map of 1685 drawn by R. Simon, Sculptor under the title Scots Propr 1175 Head Land being 5 & 10 where William Dockwa is concerned."

Present location of original map unknown

Homestead Farm, Clark Township, Union County &
Edison Township, Middlesex County, New Jersey



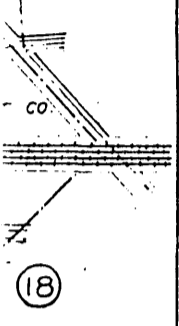
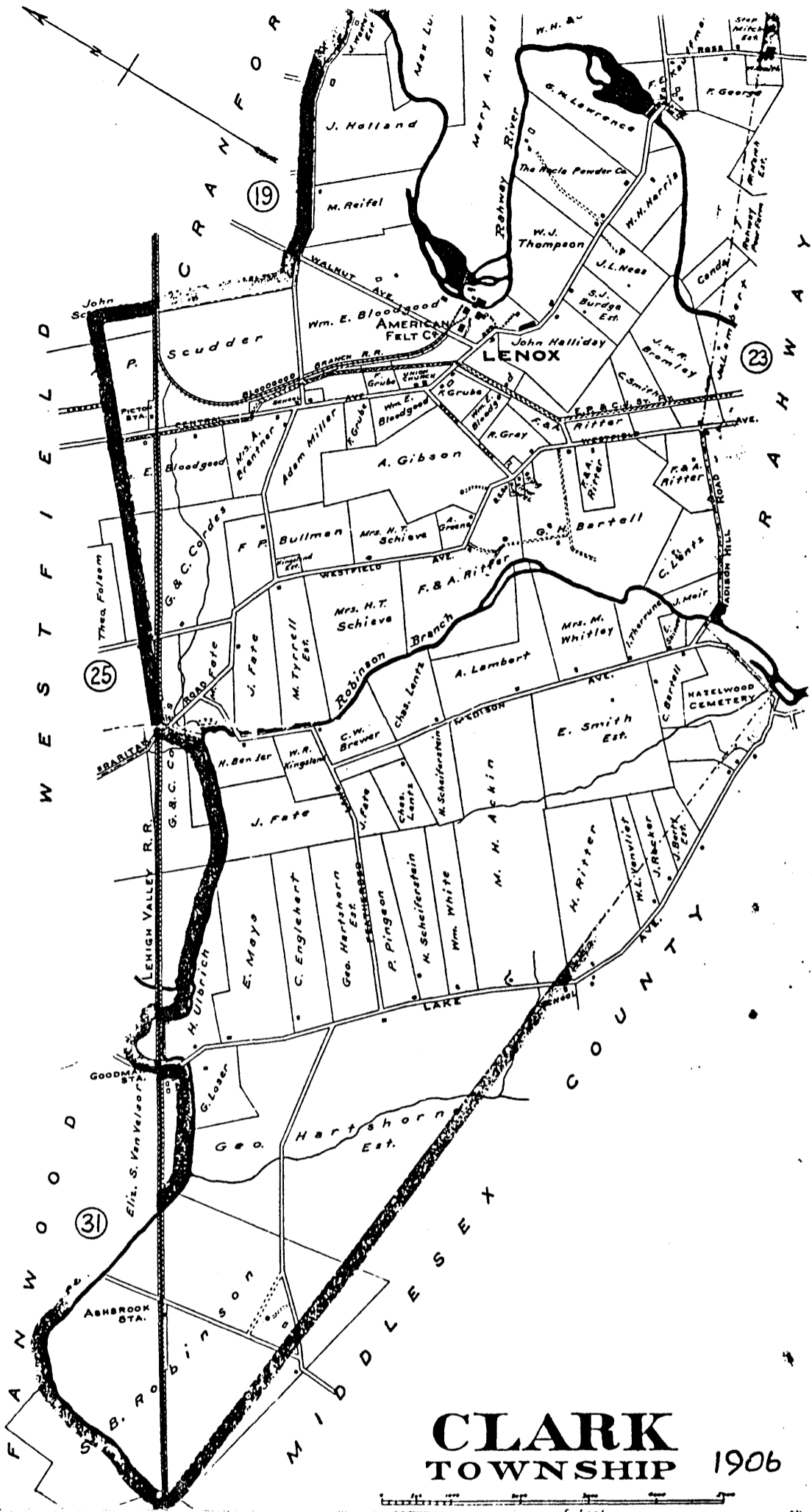
M. T. DADBY,
Real Estate & Ins. Agt.
40 BRAD ST., ELIZABETH, N. J.

PLAN OF CLARK TOWNSHIP

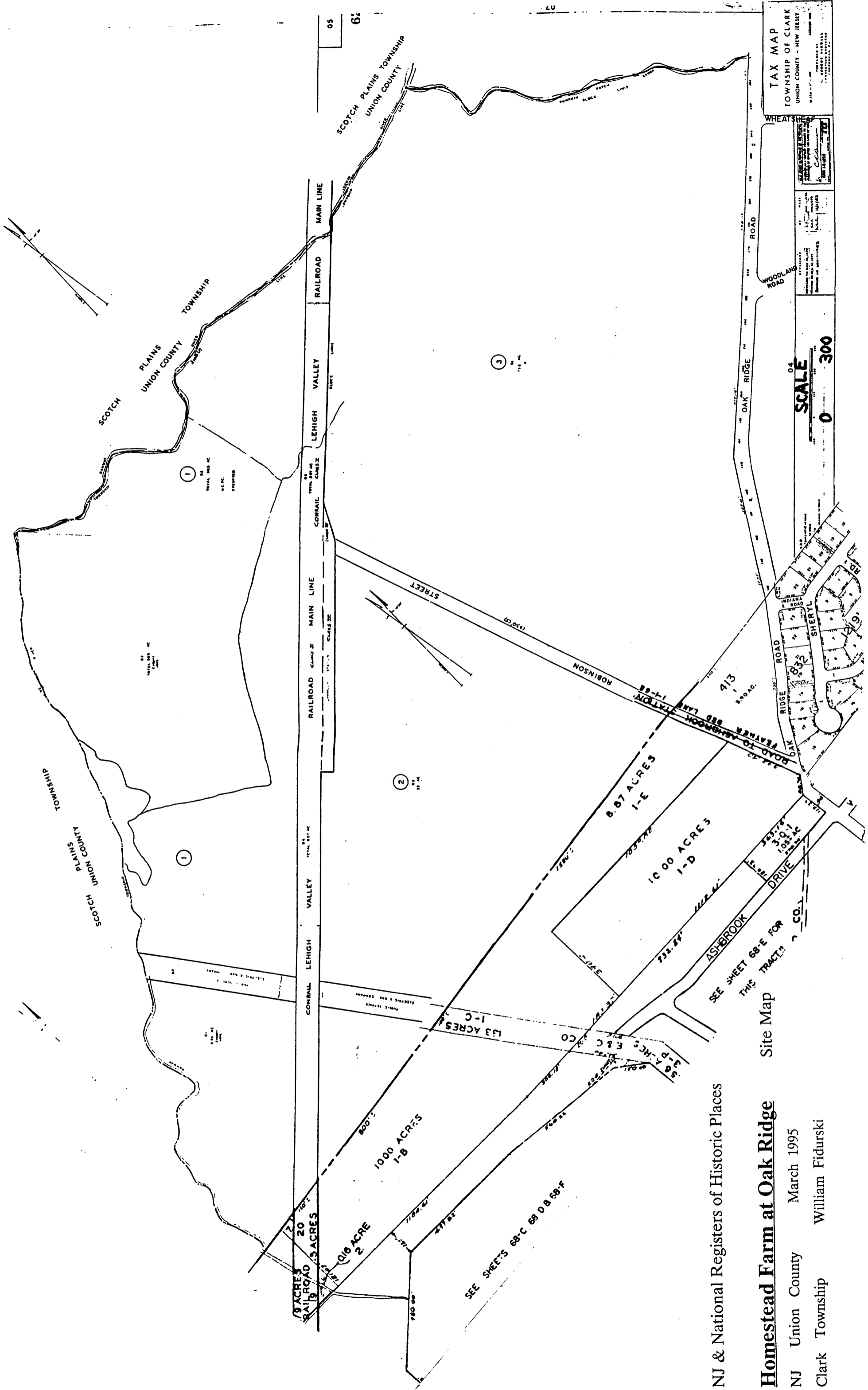
Scale 1500 Ft. per In.

UNION COUNTY ATLAS 1882

Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge
 Clark Twp./Union County
 Edison Twp./Middlesex County
 New Jersey



CLARK
TOWNSHIP 1906



NJ & National Registers of Historic Places

Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge Site Map

NJ Union County March 1995

Clark Township William Fidurski

TAX MAP
TOWNSHIP OF CLARK
UNION COUNTY - NEW JERSEY

SCALE
0 300