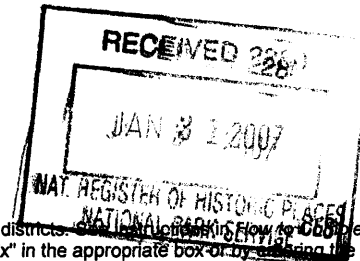


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



763

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. ~~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 listed in 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 Bartles House
other names/site number Christy House

2. Location

street & number 159 Oldwick Road (County Route 523) not for publication
city or town Tewksbury Township vicinity
state New Jersey code NJ county Hunterdon code 019 zip code 08858

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I 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.
Amy Cradic 6/28/00
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Amy Cradic, Assistant Commissioner, Natural & Historic Resources/DSHPO
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet for additional comments.
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:) _____
Signature of the Keeper Patricia Andrews Date of Action 3/14/2007

Bartles House

Name of Property

Hunterdon, 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		buildings
1		sites
	1	structures
		objects
2	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Residential/single family

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

vacant

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Italianate

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls clapboard

roof Asphalt

other

Narrative Description

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

Bartles House
Name of Property

Hunterdon, NJ
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.)

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

Criteria considerations

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

Property is:

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

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

architecture

Period of Significance

1842-1862

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Primary location of additional data

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

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property Approximately 1.5 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	18	521005	4501499	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2				4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dennis Bertland & Janice Armstrong

organization Dennis Bertland Associates date July 2005

street & number PO Box 24 telephone _____

city or town Bloomsbury state NJ zip code 08804

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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name Township of Tewksbury

street & number 169 Old Turnpike Road telephone 908-439-0022

city or town Califon state NJ zip code 07830

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

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

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Bartles House, Hunterdon County, NJ

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Located just south of the village of Oldwick, the Bartles House is a substantial frame dwelling of mid 19th century provenance, exhibiting both Italianate and Greek Revival style influences typical of that period. Set well back from Oldwick Road at the end of a tree-lined driveway, but clearly visible to passersby, the house occupies a level site overlooking rolling, open meadowland. It constitutes the only significant building to survive on a 50-acre parcel acquired by Tewksbury Township in 1999. Although popularly known as the Christy House after recent owners of the property, the dwelling takes its historic name from the locally prominent Bartles family, successive generations of that family having owned and occupied the larger farm of which the property formed part from the late 18th century to the early 1900s.¹ While most of its fabric dates to the 19th century, the house was renovated in the mid 20th-century and may incorporate part of the foundation of an early house on the site. The only extant outbuilding is a 20th-century garage just northwest of the house outside the boundary of the nominated portion of the property, which contains approximately 1.5 acres. A filled-in swimming pool and the adjoining foundation remnants of a barn demolished some years ago are located about one hundred yards south of the house, beyond the boundary of the nominated property. To the north of the house, on a lot recently subdivided from the property, a firehouse is currently under construction. The surrounding properties are a mix of open and wooded land with low-density residential and commercial development along Oldwick Road. Despite mid 20th-century alterations, the loss of its farm buildings, and adjacent modern development, the Bartles House retains its essential integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and reflects its architectural significance of the mid 19th century period.

House: (feature #1 on the site map)

Exterior:

The Bartles House consists of a large main block, erected circa 1842-62, and a small rear appendage added in the middle of the 20th century. Capped by a low-pitched hip roof, the two and one half-story main block has a symmetrical five-bay front elevation, side-wall chimneys and double-pile center-hall plan. While retaining distinctive Greek Revival/ Italianate detailing and other early fabric, the house was renovated in the middle decades of the last century, and the exterior presents an amalgam of 19th and 20th-century features (photo #s 6 - 12). Built on a low rubble-stone foundation, the perimeter walls of the main block are covered with clapboard siding, except for the horizontal flush sheathing employed for the attic story on the front and side elevations. While much of the siding apparently is original, based on the evidence of visible cut-nail heads, wire-nailed, 20th-century replacement clapboards also are present, most noticeably around the front entry, presumably installed there in conjunction with the removal of the original front porch. On the three of its sides clad with flush siding, the attic story is articulated as an entablature, which constitutes the dwelling's most notable feature (photo #s 7, 10 & 12). Combining Italianate and Greek Revival motifs, the entablature consists of box cornice with ogee crown molding and wide soffit supported by simple scroll brackets, below which a molding strip defines the frieze and architrave. The small skylights piercing the low-pitched roof are a 20th-century alteration, as is

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Bartles House, Hunterdon County, NJ

the exterior brick chimney on the north side towards the front. The two interior chimneys, one on each side towards the rear, are original, although the brick stacks may have been rebuilt.

The house exhibits a regular fenestration pattern: symmetrical five-bay front or east facade with central entry, three-bay north and south sides with end-bay north entry and four-bay rear elevation. The first and second stories feature mostly 6/6 sash windows with plain trim. The attic story has horizontal three-light windows set within the entablature architrave and 3/3 sash windows on the rear elevation. The fenestration of the end walls has been modified by the addition of small middle-bay windows and a small oriel window on the first story side south; a double window also has been added on the first-story rear facade. A few first and second-story windows retain louvered shutters hung on cast-iron butt hinges, which probably date to the 19th or early 20th century. The Greek Revival treatment of the front entry incorporates sidelights, transom, pilasters and panel door (photo #8). The four pilasters (two smaller flanking the door; two larger framing the entire entry) have paneled shafts, plinths and cap moldings. The door has three, clip-cornered recessed panels (two up and one below) edged with Grecian ovolo molding; a similar molding edges the recessed panel beneath both of the three-light sidelights. The transom has four lights. The brick-walled, flagstone-paved entry terrace, flanked by brick planters, is a mid-20th-century replacement of the original front porch, which physical evidence suggests was three bays wide. Notches at the bottom of the front-wall siding adjoining the north and south inner end bays appear to relate to the removed porch floor framing, and the octagonal posts employed for the 20th-century screen porch at the southwest corner of the house probably were recycled from the front porch (photo #s 10 & 11). The octagonal posts (four freestanding and two attached, the number required for a three-bay porch) are Greek Revival in style, articulated as columns with molded capitals, astragals and bases, and the molding used for the capitals resembles that employed for the front entry. The north entry, which occupies the west-end bay, features mid-20th-century fabric: a glass-and-panel door and a one-bay shed-roofed porch with poured concrete base and square posts.

The west or rear façade of the house has a shed-roofed appendage with a screen porch to its south, an addition which on the basis of physical and stylistic evidence can be dated to the middle of the 20th century (photo #s 10 & 12). The foundation is concrete, and the clapboard siding is wire-nailed. Both the appendage and porch have low-pitched shed roofs, concealed on the ends by "false fronts" or parapets that are detailed as simple entablatures, perhaps inspired by the removed front porch. A semi-hexagonal oriel window protrudes from the west side of the appendage. The screened porch has flagstone flooring resembling that of the front terrace and the recycled octagonal posts described above (photo #11).

Interior:

The interior of the house similarly retains much of its original character, along with features dating from the 20th-century renovations or more recently. The main block has a narrow central hall and flanking rooms on all three stories, the original 19th-century arrangement, and a full cellar. The central hall is divided into front and back sections on the first and second-stories, each with a staircase. The open front staircase rises in two runs from the first to third stories around a narrow open well (photo #s 14, 21, 29 &

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Bartles House, Hunterdon County, NJ

30). Retaining its original detailing, the staircase has a bulbous turned newel post, molded handrail and slender turned spindles (photo #15). The enclosed back staircase extends from the cellar to the second floor where it has an open railing. The first story has two north rooms and one large south room, with a fourth room and a half bath located in the rear appendage. That the south room (photo # 19) originally was two rooms is documented by the description of a 1950s real estate advertisement.² Two rooms flank each side of the second-story center hall, both pairs of rooms separated by a bathroom and closets, apparently partitioned from the rear rooms in the 20th-century renovations (photo #s 21 – 29). The third-story floor plan matches that of the first story with one south room and two north rooms (photo #s 30 – 32), but the west end of the hall is partitioned off for a bathroom.

Something of the dwelling's construction can be seen in the cellar, along with what may be a remnant of an earlier house on the site. Exposed to view in the cellar, whose coursed rubble-stone walls bears traces of whitewash, the framing of the first story consists of saw-cut joists running east/west and large hewn summer beams running north/south. The internal north chimney, evidently designed to serve wood stoves, is of brick construction above a small base; the exterior north brick chimney, a 20th-century addition, which provides fireplaces in the first and second-story northeast rooms above, does not have any internal base. In contrast to these chimneys, the south chimney, while also of brick construction, features a massive timber-linteled stone base (photo #13), whose form and size are more characteristic of earlier chimneys serving fireplaces than of those designed in the middle of the 19th century to accommodate wood stoves and coal grates, such as the one in the room above served by the south chimney. The timber-linteled base, and possibly portions of the stone foundation walls as well, may survive from the Bartles' earlier dwelling.

Besides those of the main staircase, early decorative finishes throughout the house include tongue and groove flooring, plaster walls and ceilings, molded woodwork and panel doors, detailed in a manner characteristic of the middle of the 19th century. On the first and second stories, the random width floorboards range from three to six inches in width, and the baseboards, for the most part, have a robust ogee top molding typical of the mid- 19th century millwork. A similar molding was used for the architrave door and window trim, which in the first-story, south room has shouldered corners (photo #18). The architrave trim in the first-story, northeast room, also shouldered, is slightly more elaborate and incorporates a stepped fascia (photo #16). In addition, both rooms have recessed panels beneath the windows. Also typical of the mid-1800s, extant early doors feature four recessed panels on both faces, edged with a small ogee molding, and are hung on cast-iron butt hinges. Ghosts indicate that the doors were fitted with mortise locks, but most now have 20th-century brass knobs. The coal grate in the first-story south room originally had a marble mantel typical of the 1850s and 1860s (photo #19). Although it has been lost to vandalism; the ghost of its outline survives, along with a portion of the cast-iron grate and a facing fragment indicating that it was made of black marble (photo #20). The finishes of the third story, presumably used for storage and/or secondary bedrooms, are much simpler than those of the floors below (photo #s 30 – 32). Wider random width floorboards were installed there, as well as plain door and window trim and baseboards. While the hall closet and south rooms have four-panel doors like those of the lower stories, the doors to the two north rooms appear to be recycled fabric of early 19th-century date.

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Bartles House, Hunterdon County, NJ

Both have five recessed panels (horizontal top panel over two pairs of vertical panels) edged with a small delicate molding characteristic of Federal style work.

The most notable mid 20th-century renovations to the main block of the house include the addition of fireplaces in the northeast, first and second-story rooms (photo #s 17 & 24) and of bathroom and closets between the bedrooms on the second story (photo #s 23 & 28). The fireplaces have brick fire boxes and hearths. Both evidently had wooden mantels, which have been removed. The ghost of the removed first-story mantel reveals that it was installed over wallpaper, indicating that the chimney breast, which projects slightly into the room, predates the present fireplace. This suggests that there may have been an earlier fireplace or stove in this location. The northwest first-story room has served as the kitchen from at least the middle of the 20th-century, and its fittings and finishes, which include built-in cupboards and appliances, date to that period or more recently. Unless there was an earlier rear addition predating the present one, the northwest room must have been the original kitchen. The rear appendage contains a small breakfast room with floor-to-ceiling paneling revealing Colonial Revival influences, as well as a half bath.

Setting and Site Features:

Located on a rolling tract of land, a mix of open meadows and woods, the Bartles House occupies a level site facing east at the end of a tree-lined, unpaved driveway leading from Oldwick Road (photos #s 2 & 3). An open meadow occupies the area between the house and Oldwick Road south of the driveway, and part of the meadow has been regraded as a storm water detention basin (photo #s 1 & 4). To the west of the house woods predominate. The area immediately around the house is grassy but, long neglected, features little in the way of ornamental planting. The only extant outbuilding is a 20th-century garage standing northwest of the house, located outside the boundary of the nominated portion of the property, which contains approximately 1.5 acres. A filled-in swimming pool and the adjoining foundation remnants of a barn demolished some years ago are located about one hundred yards south of the house, beyond the boundary of the nominated property. To the north of the house, on a lot recently subdivided from the property, a firehouse is currently under construction (photo #5). A small portion of its paved driveway extends onto the nominated property. The surrounding properties are a mix of open and wooded land with low-density residential and commercial development along Oldwick Road.

Individual site features are discussed in more detail below (photo #s 1 – 5).

Driveway:

(feature #1 on the site map)

The unpaved driveway extends approximately 100 yards in a straight line from Oldwick Road to an informal parking area in front of the house, from which a short spur leads to the garage. The trees lining the driveway are irregularly planted and, judging by their varied diameters, range from fifty to perhaps 100 years in age. The driveway is a contributing resource (photos #s 2 & 3).

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Storm water detention basin:

(feature #2 on the site map)

Located southeast of the house, the basin occupies an area of about one acre. Its contours and grassy surface plantings blend well with the rolling meadow of which it forms part (photo #s 1 & 4). A portion of the basin is located within the boundaries of the nominated property and is a non-contributing resource.

Integrity:

Despite mid 20th-century alterations, the loss of its farm buildings, and adjacent modern development, the Bartles House preserves most of its character defining features. Retaining its essential integrity of setting, location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, the property still reflects its architectural significance of the mid 19th century period.

Notes

¹ Historic Preservation & Illumination, "*A History of the Bartles Family Farm*," page 1.

² "Dobbs" Realtor - Listing sheet for the house, dated 195[?].

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Bartles House, Hunterdon County, NJ

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Overlooking rolling meadowland just south of the village of Oldwick, the Bartles House is an important survivor of Tewksbury Township's rural past. Although locally noted for its association with the Bartles family, prominent residents of the neighborhood for several generations, the dwelling's significance is architectural. Evidently built between 1842 and 1862 by Joseph Bartles on a farm owned by his family since the late 1700s, the Bartles House exemplifies the hybrid Greek Revival/Italianate designs often selected by prosperous individuals throughout the rural region for their residences around that time, designs revealing the influence of new stylistic fashions promulgated by contemporary pattern books and periodicals, as well as a lingering taste for classical architectural modes of longer standing. The house has lost its complement of outbuildings, as well as some early fabric, and modern development is encroaching on its immediate environs. Nevertheless, the property retains its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and is eligible for inclusion in the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places. Significant for the period 1842 – 1862 during which it was built, the house clearly meets Criterion C.

The Bartles House is a distinctive mid-19th century interpretation of the classic center-hall-plan type in which the more steeply pitched gable and hip roofs common to earlier Georgian examples of the type were supplanted by the attic half-story and low pitched roof introduced locally in the second quarter of the 19th century with the Greek Revival style and further updated by the broad, bracketed eaves characteristic of newly fashionable Italianate mode. Unlike more sophisticated Italianate cubical villas that were their contemporaries, these houses seldom had roof-top belvederes, towers or broad verandas and typically retained the more horizontal proportions associated with earlier classically inspired center-hall houses and often exhibited an eclectic combination of Greek Revival and Italianate detailing.¹ Disseminated by books such as A. J. Downing's *The Architecture of Country Houses* and Lewis F. Allen's *Rural Architecture*, as well as periodicals like *Godey's Magazine* and the *American Agriculturalist*, the Italianate style was imprinting residential architecture throughout America by the 1850s and remained popular for many years thereafter. These publications included designs for five-bay versions of the Italianate cubical villa that could have influenced the builder of the Bartles House, like one illustrated in John Riddle's 1861 book *Architectural Designs for Model Country Residences* (figure 1).² Although much more high style than the Bartles House, the Riddle design also incorporates some Greek Revival motifs, and its entry treatment, composed of a central door with clip-cornered panels, sidelights and transom opening onto a three-bay porch, is strikingly similar to that of the Bartles House. However, the Bartles House is more Greek Revival in feeling than the Riddle design, eschewing the latter's more vertical proportions, along with such characteristic Italianate motifs as round-headed windows, and adopting an eclectic eaves treatment that marries Italianate scroll brackets to a Greek Revival entablature. A possible local model for this hybrid eaves treatment also exists: the Reading-Large House, an impressive Greek Revival mansion with giant Ionic portico erected in 1847 by master builder Mahlon Fisher.³ Located in Flemington, the seat of Hunterdon County, the Reading-Large House stands next door to the property occupied at the time of its construction by Joseph Bartles' nephew, Charles Bartles, a prominent lawyer and businessman.⁴

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Bartles House, Hunterdon County, NJ

Dwellings like the Bartles House, which might be termed "vernacular cubical villas," were widely built throughout New Jersey during the middle of the 19th century, as documented by historic sites surveys and cultural resources studies, and in the rural portions of the state probably were more numerous than high style Italianate cubical villas. Scattered examples are found throughout Hunterdon County's prosperous agricultural districts, as well as in its burgeoning villages and towns, with one notable grouping of a dozen or more in the northern part of the county located along or near the old Easton and Spruce Run Turnpikes (present-day Routes 22 & 31) to which loose cluster the Bartles House belongs.⁵ While at least one county example (the Chamberlin House in East Amwell Township) has a scroll-bracketed Greek Revival entablature, simple bracketed Italianate cornices predominate, such as the one gracing the Parry House in the town of Clinton.⁶ The latter's entry treatment is Greek Revival in feeling and bears a strong resemblance to that of the Bartles House, in particular, the use of robust octagonal columns to support the three-bay entry porch. Unlike the Bartles and Perry houses, most other local "vernacular cubical villas" feature the slender square posts on pedestals associated with the Italianate style. The more pronounced Greek Revival character of the Bartles House relative to other local examples of the type may be a reflection of its owner's conservative tastes and possibly indicates a construction date earlier, rather than later, within the period during which houses in the Italianate style were built.

Historical Overview

Although unrecorded deeds make tracing its early history of ownership difficult, the site of the Bartles House formed part of an 8,990-acre tract surveyed in 1709 for George Willocks, a major proprietary figure in the eastern and western divisions of New Jersey. Subdivision and settlement of this large tract, which occupied a good portion of what was to become Tewksbury Township, occurred over the course several decades, and by the middle of the 1700s the village of New Germantown (present-day Oldwick) with its Lutheran church had emerged as a center for the surrounding agricultural community.⁷ Sometime in the late 18th century, probably before 1779, title to a portion of the former Willocks tract located just south of New Germantown, and encompassing the Bartles House site, was acquired by Frederick Bartles, a German immigrant who is thought to have settled in New Germantown during the late 1760s. Bartles evidently prospered in New Jersey and by 1790, as documented by a list among his family papers in the collection of the Hunterdon County Historical Society, owned several properties in Tewksbury Township and Morris County. One of these, described as a "farm comprised of 61 acres and including one dwelling house and barn near New Germantown, valued at 350 pounds," probably formed the core of the Bartles' family homestead.⁸ Sometime in the 1790s, Frederick relocated to New York state, thereupon homestead farm passed to his eldest son, Andrew.

Andrew Bartles apparently occupied the homestead farm throughout his long life. In his 1836 will he fondly referred to the farm as "the home of my earthly existence... where I have spent the greater portion of my life."⁹ In the year after Andrew's death in 1841, his executors sold the 202-acre farm and a nearby wood lot to his younger brother Joseph, who owned and occupied the premises until his death in 1865.¹⁰ Although the date of the extant house is uncertain, Joseph most likely constructed it to replace the

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Bartles House, Hunterdon County, NJ

old family homestead sometime after acquiring the property in 1842. Joseph makes proud mention of his "mansion house," in his 1862 will, a reference no doubt to this imposing dwelling.¹¹ At Joseph's death the property passed to his son Jacob K. Bartles. Jacob, who remained unmarried, owned and occupied the premises until his death in 1894. By that time the size of the holding had decreased, along with the overall value of the property. The house and remaining acreage then passed to Joseph's brother George, whose heirs sold the property out of the family in 1914. The property changed hands several times during the twentieth century. In 1928, it was acquired by Esther B. Crego of New York City, who retained title until 1955.¹² She must have been responsible for the dwelling's mid-20th-century renovations, documented by a real estate advertisement dating to the 1950s.¹³ In 1956, the property, reduced in size to 56.74 acres, was purchased by Stephen and Vieve Christy, who resided there until the 1980s and for whom the farm is currently named. After changing hands once more in 1984, the property was purchased by its present owners, the Township of Tewksbury in 1999.¹⁴

Frederick Bartles

According to family history, Frederick Bartles was captured by the French while serving in the cavalry of Frederick the Great. He escaped from Paris and fled to Philadelphia where he arrived on September 8, 1753, in the ship "St. Michael."¹⁵ At that time his name was listed as Frederich Henrich Barthals. Following his marriage to Anna Catherine Apt, whom he met and married while living in Philadelphia, Bartles settled in New Germantown. Originally known as Smithfield, the small community was renamed in about 1753 following an influx of German settlers.¹⁶ Local histories describe Frederick Bartles as a "man of enterprise," and sometime after relocating to Hunterdon County, he became "engaged in the manufacturing of iron."¹⁷ The first official record of his residency is found in the records of the Zion Lutheran Church, where on May 20, 1771, Anna Marie, the second child of Frid. [sic] Bartels, was baptized.¹⁸ Bartles' oldest child, Andrew, had been born in 1766, however the place of his birth is unknown, as the records for the Oldwick Lutheran Church do not begin until 1767. Although Bartles was not listed in the 1767 charter for the old Lutheran Church, he was obviously a resident by 1771, when his daughter's baptism was entered in church records. Bartles soon became a well respected member of the community, as evidenced by his serving as one of the Township's elected Freeholders in 1775, 1784-85, 1787 and 1788.¹⁹

Precisely when Frederick purchased his New Germantown property is uncertain. However, the Tewksbury Township tax roll for 1779, the earliest extant for the municipality, lists him as the owner of 61 acres of improved land at New Germantown, and this must be the 61-acre farm included in the 1790 inventory of his property surviving in the family papers. Seven more tax roll survive for the years between 1784 and 1790, documenting that he both farmed and conducted business as a "trader" or merchant. By 1789, his taxable property in Tewksbury had grown to 342 acres of improved land, and included seven horses, nine head of cattle and two slaves. However, in 1790, the last year for which a township tax roll survives, his assessed holdings had decreased to 130 acres of land, and the inventory of his landholding made in the same year lists even less local property.²⁰ According to the list, in addition to the previously

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Bartles House, Hunterdon County, NJ

mentioned 61-acre farm near New Germantown, he owned two dwelling houses in the village, valued at 375 pounds, and a 10-acre wood lot on Fox Hill.

Besides his mercantile and agricultural pursuits, Frederick Bartles was engaged in the iron making business during this period. For several years, he manufactured wrought iron in partnership with John Plum of New Brunswick, who is believed to have manufactured the first cut nails ever made in the state of New Jersey.²¹ The 1790 list of Bartles' landholdings reveals that he owned what appears to have been an iron forge in Morris County containing 100 acres, two fires, two coalhouses, one tripphammer and two dwelling houses, valued at 550 pounds, as well as two acres with a gristmill, a dwelling house, and a stable, valued at 350 pounds.²²

In the last decade of the 18th century, Frederick Bartles joined the westward migration to the frontier, although confusion exists as to exactly when this occurred. According to 19th-century sources, he was persuaded by Colonel Charles Williamson to relocate to the area of Bath, New York, in 1793. There he founded the eponymous village of Fredericktown on the outlet of Mud Creek, one of the branches of the Conhocton River, where he engaged in the flour and lumber trades.²³ That Bartles relocated to New York is undoubted, as the collection of family papers at the Hunterdon County Historical Society contains a letter from Frederick to his son Andrew, informing the New Jersey family members of the death of their mother, and that letter was mailed from Fredericktown, New York. However, his move to New York may have occurred some years after 1795. Upon the establishment of a post office at New Germantown in January, 1795, Frederick Bartles was appointed the first postmaster, although the position may have been held by Frederick Bartles, Jr., not his father.²⁴ In any case, sometime after the elder Frederick's move to New York the homestead at New Germantown passed to his son Andrew.

Andrew Bartles

Born in 1766, Andrew Bartles was the oldest of eight siblings. Despite the extensive family records, virtually nothing is known of his early life. By 1790, however, he was engaged in making hats, probably in partnership with his brother Frederick. An advertisement in the *Brunswick Gazette* of November 16, 1790, announced that Andrew and Frederick Bartles of New Germantown, in Hunterdon County "carried on the hatting business as formerly and wanted immediately one or two good felters who understood their business and could be recommended for sobriety."²⁵ Later in life Andrew became an avid proponent of the temperance movement, and the seeds of his interest can be read in this advertisement. Andrew first appears on the Tewksbury tax rolls in 1790, assessed for a quarter-acre "house and lot," as was his brother Frederick. Business receipts indicate that he was employed in the village at that time. A receipt in the family papers dated May 17, 1790, indicates that Andrew purchased from Oliver Bamett "the Lott whereon the said Bartles now lives together with the buildings for said lott." Andrew acquired other property during this period, as evidenced by a bill of sale from Augustus Ohant for the purchase of a second house and lot.²⁶

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Bartles House, Hunterdon County, NJ

Andrew married Catharine Plum, the daughter of his father's business partner, in about 1790 and their first child was born the following year.²⁷ The hatting trade appears to have prospered; numerous receipts from the early 1790s show that Andrew often exchanged finished hats for raw skins of animals such as fox, mink and rabbit. Andrew continued in business throughout the 1790s, as a bill of sale from 1798 stated that Daniel Reading of Amwell Township had "sold to Andrew Bartles hatter of New Germantown [sic] his negro wench Dina." A note from October 1799 requested that Andrew "let the barrer [sic] here have one hat and charge the same to your humble servant". Andrew may have continued in the hat business as late as 1802, as worn scrap of paper in the family papers records a wager he made for "one best fur hat."²⁸

By the early 19th century Andrew appears to have moved to the family property just outside of New Germantown, where he engaged in farming until at least 1829. A 1812 deed for property adjoining the Bartles property on the south makes reference to the "corner of Andrew Bartles," indicating that the transfer of title from father to son had occurred by that time.²⁹ In 1829 Andrew, who was then 65 years of age and suffering from asthma, entered into an agreement with his much younger brother Joseph, whereby Joseph would farm Andrew's property in return for a share of the crop. The agreement spells out the specifics of their arrangement which was to last for fifteen months. Whether or not this arrangement was renewed remains unknown.³⁰ During the early 19th century, Andrew bought and sold numerous parcels of land, and by the time of his death the homestead comprised slightly over 202 acres. Andrew also served his community as tax collector in 1814 and township committeeman from 1819 until 1826.³¹

Andrew Bartles was well known for his dedication to the cause of temperance, and his obituary stated that he was "the first farmer in his neighborhood to dispense with the use of intoxicating liquors in conducting the operations of his farm."³² In his 1841 will, Andrew gave full expression to his temperance convictions:

[D]eeply impressed as I am and have been of the vaneful [sic] and heart rending effects of intemperance I do for the last time affectionately solicit my grand children and children - those who have unfortunately indulged in the use of intoxicating liquors to desist and those who have not to abstain, wholly and entirely. This is my final injunction I pray them to heed, by the misery and ruin which it will enable them to avoid, by the contentment and happiness which an adherence to it will undo and avoidance secure. This has been my living - I desire it to be my dying advice... I would appeal to all... taste not, touch not, handle not the unclean thing.³³

Andrew's will also made it clear that he wanted his homestead farm to remain in the family. In writing his testament, he hoped and trusted

that some one of my children or their husbands may purchase my homestead farm, that the home of my earthly existence - with which is connected my temporal associations and where I have spent the greater portion of my life and expended my labor may be preserved to my family for generations to come.³⁴

Despite the fact that Andrew had eight children living at the time of his death, it was his brother Joseph who purchased the farm, a property that he knew well, having previously farmed it for Andrew. Unfortu-

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nately the inventory that was made at the time of Andrew's death provides no information about the size or appearance of his house.³⁵ The family papers contain one receipt, dated September 18, 1823, for the purchase of "eleven hundred foot" of weatherboards.³⁶ Whether the boards were for the improvement of an existing structure or for the construction of a new building is unknown.

Joseph Bartles

Born in 1784, Joseph was eighteen years younger than his brother Andrew. There are few references to Joseph in the Bartles' family papers, and nothing is known of his early years. The 1881 county history described him as a merchant in New Germantown before turning to farming, and he farmed for his brother Andrew for at least one year, 1829. He also served as New Germantown's postmaster, a position then often held by a storekeeper, from 1828 until March 1842, at which time he purchased his brother's farm.³⁷ The 1850 federal census identifies Joseph Bartles as a 65-year-old farmer owning real estate valued at \$15,000. He and his wife Phebe, age 54, had two living children: George H., age 26, a merchant, and Jacob K. age 21, a farmer. The household also included a 23-year laborer and four other unrelated young individuals: two females, age 18 and 29, and two males, age 23 and 15, who probably were employed as farm laborers and household servants.³⁸ The 1860 census described Joseph Bartles, age 75, as a "retired farmer" with real estate worth \$10,000 and personal property worth \$5,000, figures placing him among the township's wealthiest citizens. Besides his wife Phebe, age 65, and son Jacob, a 30-year-old farmer, the household included three young male farm laborers, one of whom was born in Germany, and a Irish-born female servant.³⁹ Joseph Bartles wrote his will in 1862, bequeathing to his wife Phebe all of the household goods and furniture in his "mansion house." Unfortunately, the inventory made upon his death in 1865 gives little information about the dwelling, covering its contents in only several lines with such entries as "Furniture in Bed Rooms, Parlor furniture & stove [and] Furniture in Sitting Room & Kitchen."⁴⁰ Nevertheless, the reference to the "mansion house," as well as the architecture of the house itself, are good evidence that he built the present dwelling sometime after acquiring the family property in 1842. Leaving a personal estate worth \$18,443.75, Bartles clearly was a prosperous individual, well able to afford constructing a substantial dwelling.

Jacob Bartles

Following Joseph's death in 1865, the house and land passed to the younger of his two sons, Jacob. The family papers contain no references to Jacob, and little is known of him except that he was born about 1829, never married, and died in 1894. The 1870 federal census lists him as 40-year-old farmer owing land worth \$21,800 and personal property valued at \$3,450. Besides his aged mother, his small household consisted of a young farm laborer and a domestic servant.⁴¹ Phebe Bartles died some years thereafter, and the 1885 state census lists Joseph Bartles as the head of a household including four members of the Huff family (presumably husband, wife and two daughters) and another unrelated male, individuals presumably employed by Bartles.⁴² Upon Joseph Bartles' death in 1894, the value of his personal estate totaled \$5,551.01, considerably less than that of his father. His inventory, however, gives a detailed, room-by-room list of contents of his house, indicating that it was comfortably furnished in the manner of the

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times, while the values given suggest that the furnishings were modest or dated. The parlor, for example, contained twelve chairs, worth \$6.00, one rocking chair, \$1.50, two tables, \$3.00, one mirror, \$2.00, and a carpet, \$10.00, along with "Curtains & fixtures" and "Pictures, Lamps, Books & Bal. contents of Parlor," both lots worth \$3.00.⁴³ His single most valuable possession was a violin worth \$20.00. Music may have been an interest he shared with his grandfather Andrew, who is known to have ordered one set of violin strings in 1792.⁴⁴

20th Century Ownership

Jacob dying intestate, the farm passed to his brother George, a resident of Flemington, who died in 1897. During these years, the property probably was rented to tenant farmers, and in 1914 George Bartles' heirs sold the property out of the family to Frank B. Allen. Allen, in turn, conveyed the premises to Esther B. Crego, a resident of New York City, in 1928. Esther Crego, a widow, sold the property in 1955 to Henry B. Schenk, who in the following year conveyed its title to Stephen F. Christy.⁴⁵ A real estate advertisement survives from this time to document that the replacement of the front porch by the present entry terrace. The advertisement offered the house and fifty acres of land were offered for a reduced price of \$65,000.⁴⁶ The house purportedly had been "completely remodeled" in 1949, and the large barn and a second outbuilding had been remodeled in 1953 with new siding and roofs.⁴⁷ In 1985, Stephen Christy's widow sold the farm for \$780,000 to William Gurasich, who in 199 sold it to the Township of Tewksbury for \$3,217,000.⁴⁸

Notes

¹ Robert P. Guter and Janet W. Foster, *Building By The Book Pattern Book Architecture in New Jersey*, pages 73 – 79.

² *Ibid.*, page 75.

³ HABS NJ-396.

⁴ *Portrait and Biographical Record of Hunterdon and Warren Counties New Jersey*, page 183; James Snell, *History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties*, pages 309, 339 & 340; 479; Cornell, Samuel C. *Map of Hunterdon County New Jersey*, 1852. John N. Reading, who commissioned the Reading-Large House, was well acquainted with Charles Bartles, having formerly been Bartles' pupil at the Flemington Academy. Joseph Bartles may well have seen the impressive house on a visit to Flemington.

⁵ Examples have been documented in the following sources: Historic Sites Research. "N. J. Route 31 From I-78, Clinton, to U. S. 46, Buttsville, Cultural Resources," site #s 3b & 3c; Historic Sites Research, "N. J. Route 31 From U. S. Route 202, Flemington, to I-78, Clinton, Cultural Resources," site #s 16 & 18; Hunterdon County Historic Sites Survey, site #s E-31, Q-59, R-63 & R-310; *Hunterdon County Master Plan, Sites of Historic Interest*, pages 212 (site #E-25), page 174 (site C-18) & page 175 (C-38); Annandale Historic District National Register Nomination, site #s 70, 76 & 96; Clinton Historic District National Register Nomination, site #238. Another small cluster of examples is located in Hillsborough Township, Somerset County: Somerset County Historic Sites Survey, site #s 1810-87, 126, 133 & 134.

⁶ Hunterdon County Historic Sites Survey, site # E-31; ; Clinton Historic District National Register Nomination, site #238.

⁷ D. Stanton Hammond, *Hunterdon County, New Jersey, Map Series # 4, cover sheet & sheet B.*

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- ⁸ The historical overview is an updated version of the historical narrative in Historic Preservation & Illumination's "A History of the Bartles Family Farm," pages 1 – 5; Bartles Family papers, Folder 13.
- ⁹ NJ Wills 4574J.
- ¹⁰ Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 78, page 299.
- ¹¹ NJ Wills 6452J.
- ¹² Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 78, page 299; Book 311, page 144; Book 371, page 344; Book 472, page 480 & Book 566, page 375; NJ Wills 6452J.
- ¹³ "Dobbs" Realtor - Listing sheet for the house, dated 195[?].
- ¹⁴ Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 556, page 375; Book 912, page 327 & Book 1212 page 0869.
- ¹⁵ 1. Daniel Rupp, *A Collection of Upwards of Thirty Thousand Names of Immigrants in Pennsylvania from 1727 to 1776*, page 299.
- ¹⁶ James Snell, ed., *History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, New Jersey*, pages 338, 339 & 479.
- ¹⁷ *Portrait and Biographical Record of Hunterdon and Warren Counties New Jersey*, page. 183.
- ¹⁸ Beulah Gangaware, *Records of the Corporation of Zion in New Germantown in West New Jersey*, as referenced in Historic Preservation & Illumination's "A History of the Bartles Family Farm," page 2.
- ¹⁹ Snell, page 478.
- ²⁰ New Jersey Tax Ratables, Tewksbury Township, 1779, 1780, 1784, June & July, 1785, 1789 & 1790.I, page 478; Bartles Family papers, Folder 13, as referenced in Historic Preservation & Illumination's "A History of the Bartles Family Farm," page 2.
- ²¹ Snell, page 339.
- ²² Bartles Family papers, Folder 13, as referenced in Historic Preservation & Illumination's "A History of the Bartles Family Farm," page 2.
- ²³ Snell, page 339.
- ²⁴ Letter from Jennifer Lynch, USPS Historian, dated October 11, 1996, as referenced in Historic Preservation & Illumination's "A History of the Bartles Family Farm," page 2; John L. Kay and Chester M. Smith, Jr., *New Jersey Postal History*, page 77.
- ²⁵ Bartles Family Papers, Folder 87; Harry Weiss, *Early Hatters of New Jersey*, page 22.
- ²⁶ New Jersey Tax Ratables, Tewksbury Township, 1790; Bartles Family Papers, Folder 87.
- ²⁷ Snell, page 475.
- ²⁸ Bartles Family Papers, Folder 78.
- ²⁹ Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 21, page 249.
- ³⁰ Bartles Family Papers, Folder 5.
- ³¹ Snell, page 478.
- ³² Tewksbury Township Historic Sites Inventory, site #1024-HH5.
- ³³ NJ Wills 4574J.
- ³⁴ Ibid.
- ³⁵ Ibid.
- ³⁶ Bartles Family papers as referenced in Historic Preservation & Illumination's "A History of the Bartles Family Farm," page 4.
- ³⁷ Snell, 475.
- ³⁸ US Census, Population Schedules, Tewksbury Township, 1850.
- ³⁹ US Census, Population Schedules, Tewksbury Township, 1860.
- ⁴⁰ NJ Wills 6452J.
- ⁴¹ US Census, Population Schedules, Tewksbury Township, 1870.

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⁴² New Jersey Census, Population Schedules, Tewksbury Township, 1885.

⁴³ NJ Wills 9645J.

⁴⁴ Historic Preservation & Illumination, page 4.

⁴⁵ Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 311, page 144; Book 371, page 344; Book 472, page 480 & Book 566, page 375.

⁴⁶ "Dobbs" Realtor - Listing sheet for the house, dated 195[?].

⁴⁷ Historic Preservation & Illumination, page 4.

⁴⁸ Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 560, page 376; Book 912, page 327 & Book 1212, page 0869.

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Bartles House, Hunterdon County, NJ

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Hunterdon Republican, Flemington, NJ
The Hunterdon County Democrat, Flemington, NJ
The Hunterdon Gazette, Flemington, NJ

Public Records:

Historical American Building Survey

HABS NJ-396, Reading-Large House, Flemington, NJ

Hunterdon County Court House, Flemington, NJ

Hunterdon County Deeds
Hunterdon County Wills

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Clinton Historic District, Town of Clinton, Hunterdon County, NJ. 1995
Oldwick Historic District, Tewksbury Township, Hunterdon County, NJ. 1983

New Jersey Archives, Trenton, NJ

West Jersey Proprietors Records
New Jersey Wills
New Jersey Census, Tewksbury Township, Hunterdon County, 1885

New Jersey Historic Preservation Office, Trenton, NJ

Hunterdon County Historic Sites Survey
Somerset County Historic Sites Survey

United States Census

Population Schedules, Tewksbury Township, Hunterdon County, 1850-1870
Agricultural Schedules, Tewksbury Township, Hunterdon County, 1850-70.

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BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property includes the portion of Tewksbury Township tax block 44, lot 22, delineated on a recent survey of the property prepared by suburban Consulting Engineers, Inc. The boundary of the nominated property, as delineated on the survey, begins at a point on the west side of County Route 523, which point is on the east side of lot 22, and proceeds northwest 770.30 feet to a corner, then continues northwest 116.80 feet to another corner at the southwest corner of the nominated property lot. From there the boundary turns northeast and runs 108.70 feet to another corner (the northwest corner of the nominated property lot), then turns southeast and runs 340.80 feet to a corner, and continues southeast 380.62 feet to a corner on the west side of Route 523 and the east side of lot 22, which point is the northeast corner of the nominated property lot. From there the boundary runs southeast along the west side of the road to the place of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary of the nominated property was delineated to contain the Bartles House and its driveway, along with the view of the house from Route 523, and to exclude the site of the modern development proposed for other portions of lot 22. The southern line across the meadow was drawn to begin at the point first comes into view of travelers proceeding north on the road.

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Section number Photos Page 1

Bartles House, Hunterdon County, NJ

PHOTOGRAPHIC IDENTIFICATION:

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

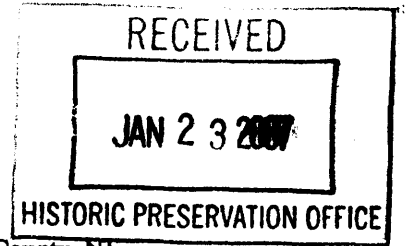
Name: Bartles House
Location: Route 523
Tewksbury Township, Hunterdon Co., NJ
Photographer: Janice Armstrong
Date of photographs: March 2005
Negative repository: Dennis Bertland Associates
PO Box 24
Bloomsbury, NJ 08804

Photograph direction of view:

- #1 From Route 523 towards house, northwest view.
- #2 From Route 523 towards house, southwest view.
- #3 Driveway toward Route 523, east view.
- #4 From house toward Route 523, southeast view
- #5 From house toward firehouse, northeast view.
- #6 North and east facades, southwest view.

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Section number Photos Page 1

Bartles House, Hunterdon County, NJ

PHOTOGRAPHIC IDENTIFICATION:

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

Name: Bartles House
Location: Route 523
Tewksbury Township, Hunterdon Co., NJ
Photographer: Janice Armstrong
Date of photographs: March 2005
Negative repository: Dennis Bertland Associates
PO Box 24
Bloomsbury, NJ 08804

Photograph direction of view:

- #1 From Route 523 towards house, northwest view.
- #2 From Route 523 towards house, southwest view.
- #3 Driveway toward Route 523, east view.
- #4 From house toward Route 523, southeast view
- #5 From house toward firehouse, northeast view.
- #6 North and east facades, southwest view.
- #7 East façade, west view.
- #8 East façade door detail.
- #9 South and east facades, northwest view.
- #10 South and west facades, northeast view.
- #11 Rear porch, southeast view.
- #12 North and west facades, southeast view.
- #13 Cellar, south view.
- #14 1st floor corridor, Room 101, west view.
- #15 1st floor, Room 101, stairs detail.
- #16 1st floor, Room 103, window detail, northeast view.
- #17 1st floor, Room 103, fireplace detail, northwest view.
- #18 1st floor, Room 102, door detail, north view.
- #19 1st floor, Room 102, southwest view.
- #20 1st floor, Room 102, fireplace detail.
- #21 2nd floor, hall, Room 201, east view.
- #22 2nd floor, Room 209, northeast view.
- #23 2nd floor, Room 208, south view.
- #24 2nd floor, Room 202, northwest view.
- #25 2nd floor, Room 202, southeast view.

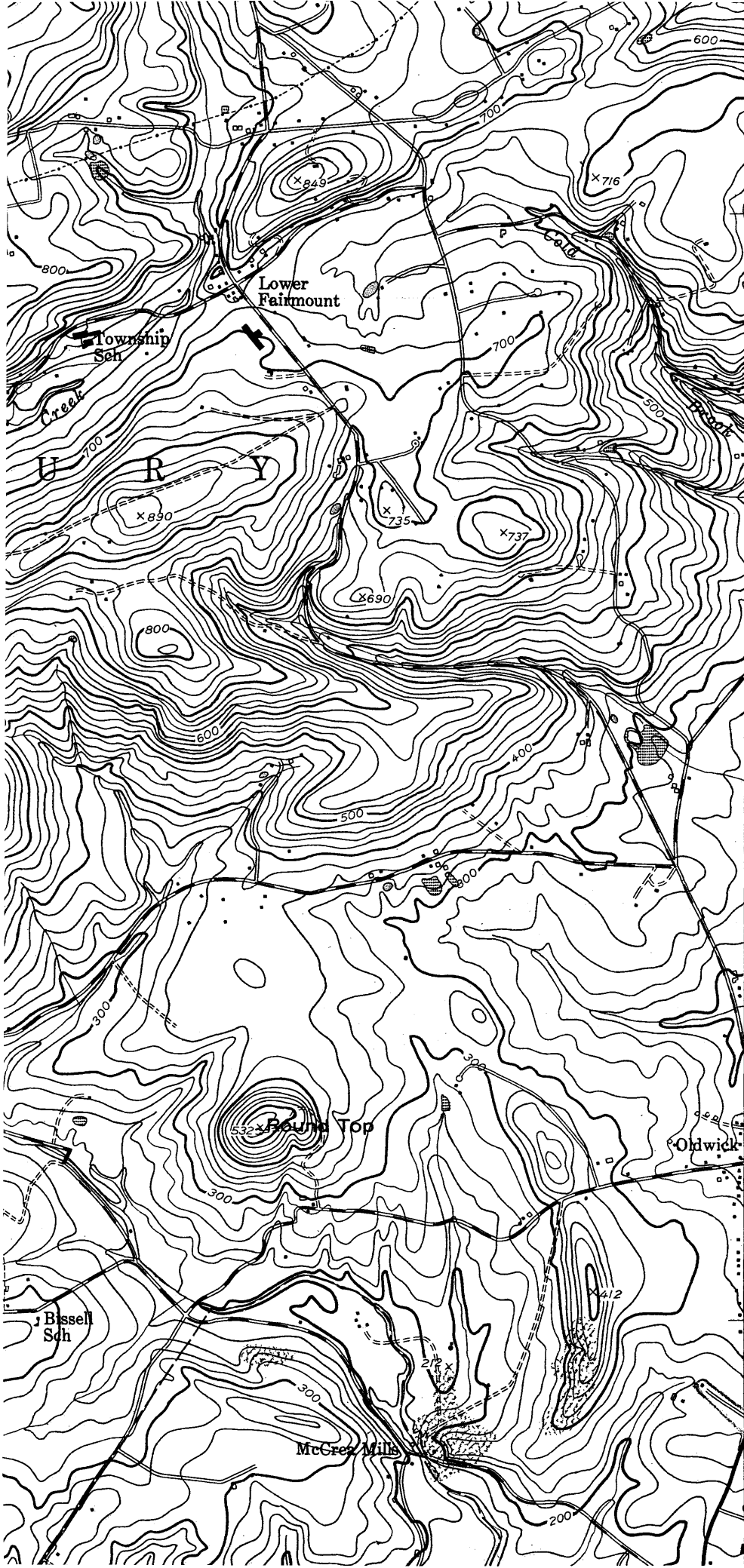
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Bartles House, Hunterdon County, NJ

- #26 2nd floor, Room 204, northwest view.
- #27 2nd floor, Room 208 northwest view.
- #28 2nd floor, Room 208, northwest view into Room 207.
- #29 2nd floor hall, Room 301, northwest view.
- #30 3rd floor landing, Room 301, east view.
- #31 3rd floor, Room 302, southwest view.
- #32 3rd floor, Room 304, southeast view.
- #33 Garage, northwest view



4507
42'30"
4506
4505
4503
4502
40'
4501

(GLADSTONE)
6065 11 NW

BEDMINSTER 5.8 MI.
MORRISTOWN 19 MI.

Bartles House
Hunterdon Co., NJ

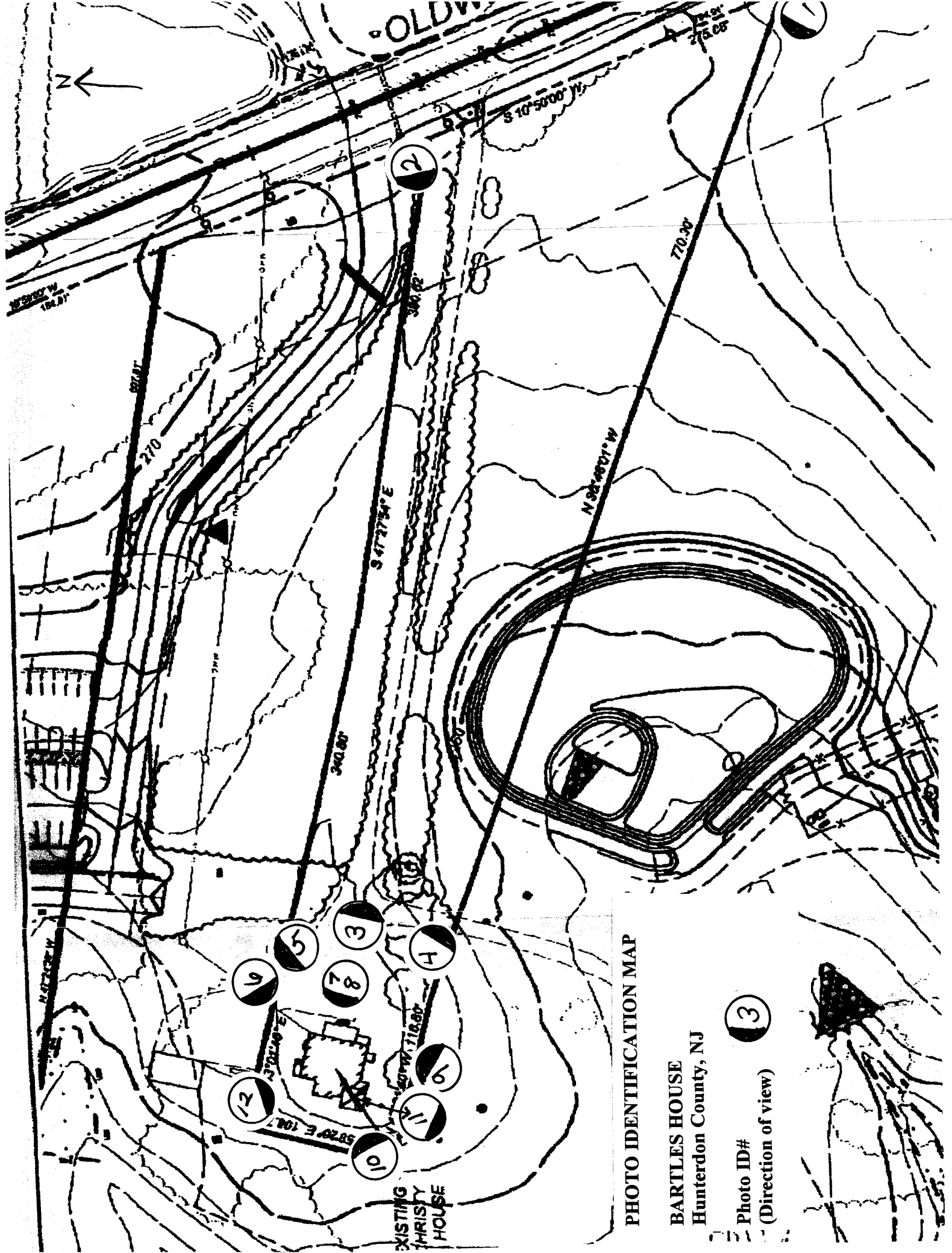


PHOTO IDENTIFICATION MAP

BARTLES HOUSE
 Hunterdon County, NJ

Photo ID# **3**
 (Direction of view)



EXISTING
 THIRISTY
 HOUSE

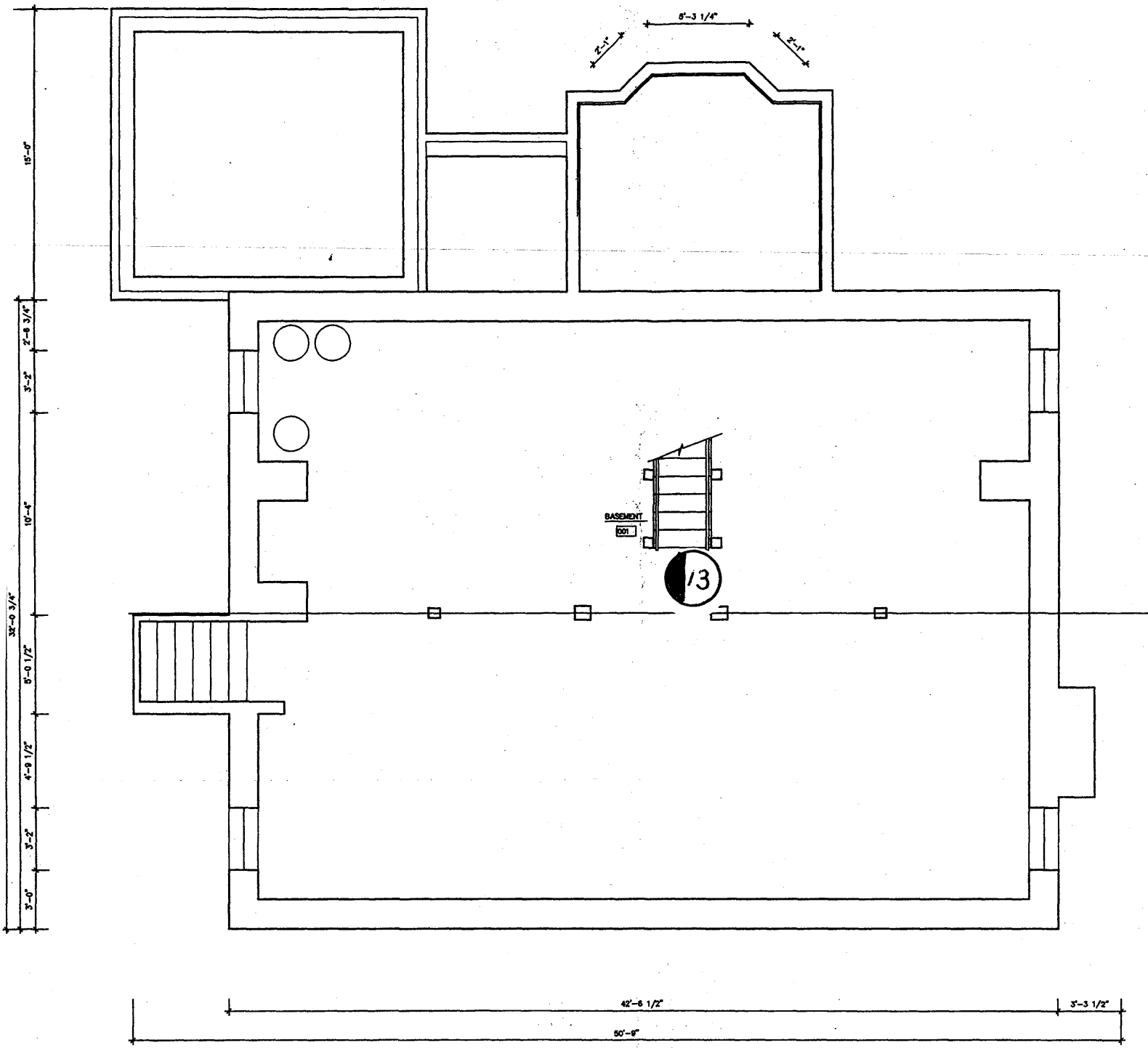


PHOTO IDENTIFICATION MAP

BARTLES HOUSE
Hunterdon County, NJ

Photo ID#
(Direction of view)



1 BASEMENT PLAN
 A1 SCALE: 1" = 1'-0"

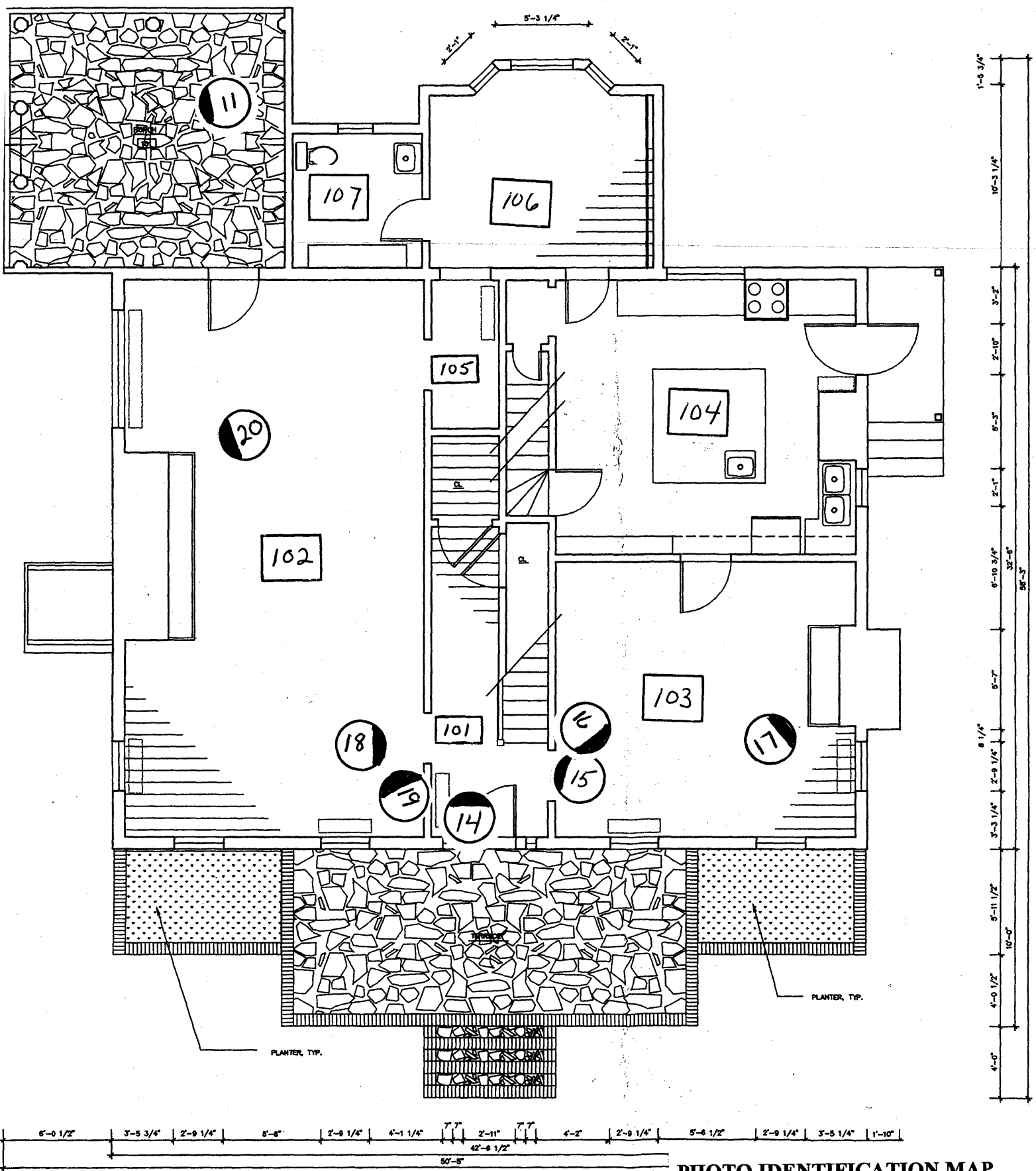


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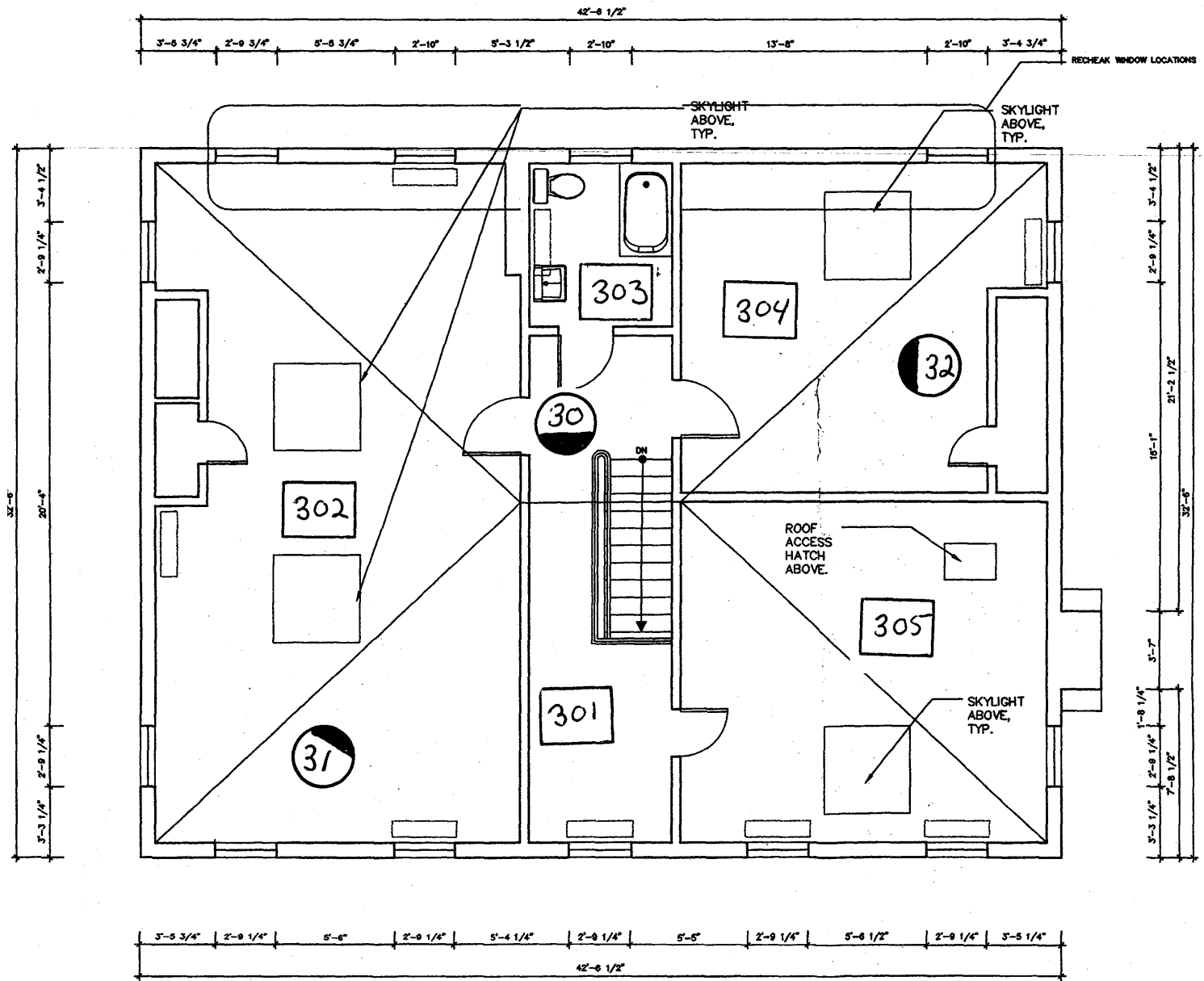
BARTLES HOUSE
Hunterdon County, NJ

Photo ID#
 (Direction of view)



2 FIRST FLOOR PLAN
 A1 SCALE: 1" = 1'-0"





2 THIRD FLOOR PLAN
 A2 SCALE: 1" = 1'-0"



PHOTO IDENTIFICATION MAP

BARTLES HOUSE
 Hunterdon County, NJ

Photo ID#
 (Direction of view)



