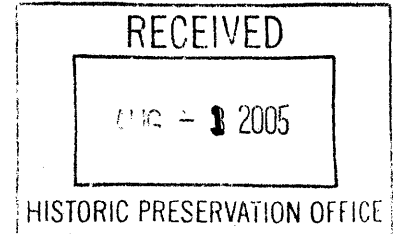
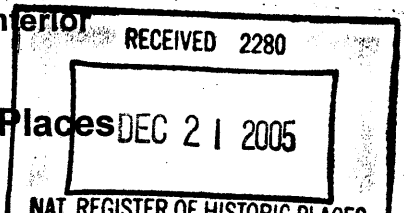


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 15). 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 Probasco-Dittmar Farmstead  
other names/site number Buck's Mill

2. Location

street & number 61 Bucks Mill Road  not for publication  
city or town Colts Neck Township  vicinity  
state New Jersey code NJ county Monmouth code 025 zip code 07722

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.

[Signature] 11/18/05  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
John S. Watson Jr. 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] 2/1/06  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action  
Edson H. Beall

**Probasco-Dittmar Farmstead**

Name of Property

Monmouth County, New Jersey

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	
2	1	buildings
0	0	sites
3	11	structures
0	0	objects
5	12	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- DOMESTIC/single dwelling
- DOMESTIC/secondary structure
- AGRICULTURE/storage
- AGRICULTURE/animal facility
- AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuilding

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- DOMESTIC/single dwelling
- DOMESTIC/secondary structure
- AGRICULTURE/storage
- AGRICULTURE/animal facility
- AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuilding

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Colonial/Dutch Colonial

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation Sandstone, brick
- walls Wood, clapboard
- roof Wood shake
- other Wood trim

**Narrative Description**

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

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

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

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

**Criteria considerations**

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

Property is:

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

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1735-1955

**Significant Dates**

1735, 1760, 1949

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

N/A

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data**

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

Name of repository:

**Probasco-Dittmar Farmstead**

Name of Property

Monmouth County, New Jersey

County and State

**10. Geographical Data**Acreage of property 101.70 acres**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	18	568060	4460186
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	18	568182	4459830

3	18	567410	4459327
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	18567136		4459713

 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 Ulana D. Zakalak, Historic Preservation Consultantorganization Zakalak Associates date July 25, 2005street & number 30 Linden Place telephone (732) 212-8800city or town Red Bank state New Jersey zip code 07701**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 Trudy Dittmar and George Dittmar IIIstreet & number 61 Bucks Mill Road telephone (732) 462-3424city or town Colts Neck state NJ zip code 07722

**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

Probasco - Dittmar Farmstead  
Colts Neck, Monmouth County, NJ

### Description

The Probasco-Dittmar farmstead, known as Duck Hollow Farm since the 1950s, occupies approximately 100 acres in the Township of Colts Neck on Bucks Mill Road and Yellow Brook. The farmhouse, which faces south, is bordered on this side by a large millpond which once fed the grist mill across the street (see photo 1). The remains of the associated mill are located on a 1.1-acre lot across Bucks Mill Road from the house (see photo 26). A gravel drive from Bucks Mill Road crosses a bridge over the millpond and leads to the farm. The wood-frame farmhouse consists of three distinct sections and represents three or four building campaigns over an almost 300 year time period (see photos 1-4). There is a shed-roofed lean-to on the easternmost end, a gable-roofed, one-and-one-half-story, three-bay middle section, and a gable-roofed, two-and-one-half-story, three-bay western section. Also on the property are 16 outbuildings, four of which are related to its agricultural past; the remaining buildings were added from the 1950s through the early 1990s and are non-contributing. The contributing buildings are: an English barn, corncrib, chicken/duck coop and a three-bay garage (formerly an agricultural outbuilding). The non-contributing buildings are: an ice house, root cellar, summer kitchen, silo, spring house, stable/caretaker's house, smoke house, machine shed, woodworking shop, garden house/potting shed, beehive hutch, and lawyer's office. There are also a few miscellaneous sheds, gazebos, and a water pump shelter, all built after 1950. The remains of the grist mill, which consists of a rebuilt mill wheel with its associated foundation, are all that is left of the grist mill, a victim of suspected arson in 1967.

The farm building complex is located at the eastern edge of the farm, closest to Bucks Mill Road, and arranged in a linear fashion. Directly west of the complex is the greater portion of cultivated fields and pasture making up the 100-acre farm. A farm driveway leads from Bucks Mill Road, passing on the north side of the house and continuing as an east-west linear farm road. The barn, silo, corncrib, garage, and machine shed are located to the northwest of the farmhouse (see photos 15 and 16). The ice house and spring house are to the north of the farmhouse, and the remaining outbuildings are scattered to the west of the farmhouse. Several ponds are located on the north side of the buildings; George Dittmar Jr. created these from a stream and marshland after 1950. Another pond is located at the southwest corner of the property along Yellow Brook.

### Main Dwelling House

The main house, or farmhouse, is a three-part, wood frame residential building, constructed in the mid-to-late eighteenth century in an Anglo-Dutch building tradition (see photos 1-4). It is one of only a few known two-story, Dutch-framed houses in Monmouth County. The main block of the house, a three-bay, two-story western section, is the oldest part of the house dating to the mid-eighteenth century and comprising 30 feet in width by 29 feet in depth (see photo 2). The middle, one and one-half story section was built at the end of the eighteenth century (see photo 3). It is

approximately 18 feet wide by 24 feet deep. The easternmost section of the house, consisting of a shed-roofed, lean-to section is 29 feet deep by nine feet wide (see photo 3).

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7 Page 2

Probasco - Dittmar Farmstead  
Colts Neck, Monmouth County, NJ

---

A massive, two-story, Dutch post and beam framing characterizes the oldest, c. 1760, section of the house. This construction is defined by a series of H-shaped bents (transverse framing sections) which are widely spaced, continuous, heavy anchor beams (floor joists) joined into the upright posts, extending from the front to the back of the house, and hand-hewn rafters. These anchor beams are extraordinarily long, spanning 29' from north to south. The anchor beams are visible supports in the interior of the house. They form an important part of the ceilings and were always meant to be visible because they are finished with a decorative bead at the edges. The anchor beams are visible on both the first and second floors of the main part of the house. It does not appear that they were ever covered with a ceiling (see photos 5-10).

Nine pairs of rafters that are numbered and are set approximately four feet on center support the roof of this section. The rafters are tapered, and tenoned and pinned without a ridge pole in the Dutch fashion. The tops of the posts are tenoned and keyed into the rafter plate visible in the attic. The walls in between the uprights are filled with brick and clay mixed with straw. The ends of the rafters have "scabs" attached to them. These are wooden boards, which could have supported a kick eave at one time. There is a full basement under this section of the house, which can be accessed through paired batten doors located in the southeast corner of the house. This part of the house originally had a four-room plan and was approached by the main entrance in the south façade, which is located underneath a post-supported portico (see photo 2). A chamfered post-supported shed-roofed porch added in 1973 spans the width of this house section on the north (see photos 3 and 4).

The middle section of the house, which dates to the late eighteenth century, is most likely a replacement for the original house first constructed in the 1730s. This section probably follows the outlines of the original house, however, the anchor beams are spaced closer together than in the c. 1760 main block of the house. They are also not finished with a decorative bead but have a rougher appearance in some cases even exhibiting some bark (see photo 11). This section of the house was originally one large room on the first floor with a garret above. Today it is separated into one large dining room and three very small rooms (the back hall, bathroom, and laundry) on the first floor and two small rooms with angled ceilings and exposed rafter plates on the second (see photo 13). A massive fireplace takes up the east wall and has a staircase located behind it. There is an earthen floor crawlspace under this section of the house. This section of the house is approached by a centered entrance in the south façade. An additional entrance, with a brick stoop and pent roof, is located on the north elevation. The stoop and pent roof were added in the 1950s.

The easternmost section of the house is a single-bay, lean-to addition that was present in the 1850s when a description of the property was taken for insurance purposes. This section of the house was somewhat altered when it was converted into a kitchen in the early 1950s. The lean-to originally had garage doors on the north side and a single door on the south side. When the Dittmars moved the kitchen to this section of the house, they replaced the garage doors with a double Dutch door under a pent roof and a side window, and closed the south entrance. A large picture window was also located in the east wall (see photos 3 and 14).

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7 Page 3

Probasco - Dittmar Farmstead  
Colts Neck, Monmouth County, NJ

The exterior cladding is clapboard of varying widths. Although it appears that much of the clapboarding may have been replaced through time, there are original beaded clapboards on the second floor of the north elevation of the c. 1760 section of the house. This is a decorative bead line on the exposed edge, which casts an extra shadow and gives emphasis to the horizontal edge. The roofing is cedar shingle. Fenestration varies throughout the house. There are original wood double hung windows on the north elevation of the house. The windows on the south elevation were replaced in the early 1950s due to extensive termite damage. There are four brick end chimneys all of which have been rebuilt due to deterioration. The main block of the house has a peanut stone<sup>1</sup> foundation with some later brick alterations; the middle blocks has a mixed peanut stone and brick foundation, and the lean-to has a brick foundation.

### Interior

#### Ca. 1760 House

The interior of the main block of the house, built in 1760, originally consisted of a four-room plan: two rooms on the west side, a stair hall on the east side and a room behind the stairhall. At some point in time, prior to 1949, the dividing wall between the two rooms on the west side was removed and the two rooms combined into one very large room (Room 102). This was most likely done in the early twentieth century (see photo 6). When the Dittmars bought the house in September 1949, the west wall of Room 102 was covered in 1930s-era knotty pine paneling with built-in bookcases trimmed with scalloped valances. The two fireplaces had bulky twentieth-century mantelpieces. The Dittmars removed this paneling and had Everett Matthews build new paneling and mantelpieces. The early American design of the paneling was influenced by a model seen in the American Wing of the Metropolitan Museum (see photos 5 and 6). The south side windows were replaced when significant termite damage in the south wall was discovered in the early 1950s. Originally the windows were nine-over-six double hung; these were replaced with twelve-over-twelve double hung windows on the first floor and twelve-over-eight on the second floor. The first floor west side window was also replaced. The second floor on the west and east elevations has original six-over-six double hung windows. The north side windows are original nine-over-six double hung.

In 1950, the Dittmars converted the room at the rear of the stairhall (Room 103) from a kitchen into a den and the kitchen was moved to the lean-to (Room 108). During this conversion they removed a section of the north wall from Room 103 and replaced it with a picture window. The flanking six-over-six original windows remained.

Room 101 is the entrance hall. It contains a paneled door flanked by sidelights that appear to be replacements from the mid-nineteenth century (see photo 7).

---

<sup>1</sup> Peanut stone is a building material characteristic to Monmouth County. It is a conglomerate sandstone rich in iron and contains large-sized aggregates.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7 Page 4

Probasco - Dittmar Farmstead  
Colts Neck, Monmouth County, NJ

The stairs lead to a landing and central corridor (Room 201). The upstairs of this section of the house is divided into four rooms accessible by this central corridor. Three of the rooms are bedrooms and Room 206 is a bathroom. Rooms 203 (see photo 8) and 205 (see photo 9) have fireplaces along the west wall with early American paneling similar to that used in Room 102 below. A small bathroom (Room 204) has been inserted between the fireplaces and is approached through Room 203. Fenestration includes replacement twelve-over-eight windows on the south wall and original windows elsewhere.

A door in the east wall of Room 202 leads to the attic stairs. The bathroom in Room 206 was existent when the Dittmars bought the house in 1949.

### **The late eighteenth-century middle block of the house**

The middle block of the house consists of one large room at the south side of the house and two smaller rooms at the rear. The large room, Room 107, is the dining room of the house and has a large rebuilt fireplace with early American paneling across the east wall (see photo 11). This wall was covered with 1930s knotty pine paneling that is still evident behind the replacement paneling. A staircase behind the fireplace leads to the second floor. Room 104 is an "L"-shaped entranceway that leads to Room 105, a bathroom. Room 106 is the laundry room. The exposed anchor beams are continuous from Room 107 through these small rooms at the rear of the house.

The narrow staircase behind the east wall of the dining room leads to the second floor that was originally an open garret, but now consists of a corridor, a hall, and a bedroom. The corridor, (Room 209) leads to the bedroom, Room 207 at the north side of the block. This bedroom is fenestrated with two small, three-pane windows in the north wall, and a six-over-six double hung windows in the east wall (see photo 13). An exposed rafter plate extends along the north wall and is the terminus of the slanted ceiling. Another rafter plate can be seen on the opposite side of the house in Room 208, which is an open hall that leads to the main block of the house (see photo 12). There is no east-west partition wall between the corridor and this room, creating an open, hall-type space. The south side of this block is also fenestrated with small horizontal windows of three panes each.

The floor levels are irregular on the second floor of the house. One has to step up from this wing of the house onto the landing of the main stairhall. Then there is another small step leading from the stairhall into the c. 1760 block of the house (see photo 12).

### **The lean-to kitchen**

The lean-to addition consists of a large, narrow room housing the kitchen (Room 108) and a step-down pantry (Room 109). Both were installed in the early 1950s when the lean-to was converted from a garage to a kitchen (see photo 14). Documentary evidence shows that this lean-to was in place by 1850 when it was described and measured for insurance purposes.

### **Outbuildings**



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7 Page 5

Probasco - Dittmar Farmstead  
Colts Neck, Monmouth County, NJ

The following buildings were in existence when the Dittmars purchased the farm in 1949. All are contributing resources:

### **English Barn**

The main barn, which is directly northwest of the main house, is a two-and-one-half-story, wood frame, c. 1880, four-bay, English style barn sheathed with vertical wood boards and fenestrated with four-vertical-pane single windows on the ground floor (see photo 15; figure 4). The sliding batten doors are centrally located on both the south and north elevations. This would allow for efficient winnowing of grain by creating natural drafts when both sets of doors were opened. The wood shingled roof has wide overhanging eaves. The cupola on the roof ridge was built around 1950. The English barn was basically a single function barn and was most suited for crop production where major livestock were absent, or were housed separately. It is likely that this barn was built when the farm production was concentrated in grains and other buildings were constructed for the small amount of animals kept at the farm. This barn was probably built when the farm passed out of the Probasco family holdings and was bought in a sheriff's sale by Englishman George Wilkins in 1880. (This was not the original barn on the property. The 1850 insurance record for the barn describes it as 24' x 52' in size. The current barn is 30' x 45'.)

### **Small barn/garage**

The small barn/garage attached to the west side of the barn is a late nineteenth-century, three-bay, single-story, rectangular building approximately 18' x 36' in plan (see photo 15; figure 4). This was one of the buildings on the property when George Dittmar Jr. purchased the farm in 1949. It was originally located immediately west and perpendicular to the barn. George Dittmar Jr added the three garage doors, however, the six pane single sash windows in the north wall are original. He also moved the building to its present location by pivoting it and attaching it to the barn. (The only 1850 farm building that comes close in measurement to this small barn is the 1850 sheep house which is 14' x 36' in plan.)

### **Corncrib**

The farm corncrib is a freestanding, narrow, wood frame, wood slat-sided corncrib, possibly dating from the late nineteenth century (see photo 16). It is located immediately to the west of the silo. The crib has a wood shingled, gable roof, and slanted sidewalls giving it a coffin-like appearance. The interior is accessed through a man door in the gable end and there are several partitions on the interior. The narrow slats of the exterior walls are widely spaced allowing for good ventilation. The gable end is built of vertical boards and has a batten door. Small square window openings are located below the eaves. (The corncrib is not mentioned in the 1850 insurance description. The smallest building mentioned is the smoke house, so perhaps such small outbuildings were not counted, or the corncrib was built after the last insurance policy renewal description which was in 1863).

### **Chicken/Duck coop**

The chicken/duck coop is an outbuilding that was present on the property when the Dittmars purchased the farm in 1949 (see photo 17). It is an early twentieth-century, three-bay, single-story, saltbox -roofed shed with four-over-four double hung windows and a plank man door, and weatherboard siding. It is

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7 Page 6

Probasco - Dittmar Farmstead  
Colts Neck, Monmouth County, NJ

---

currently located at the rear of the stable/caretaker's house but was originally located on the north side of the farmhouse driveway across from the farmhouse.

### **Non-contributing farm buildings**

The following buildings were constructed by the Dittmars from 1960 through the 1990s. Although they are less than 50 years of age, they are unique structures in their design and craftsmanship. All are based on models from Colonial Williamsburg or rural Pennsylvania, either from Lancaster or Berks Counties. Everett Matthews and/or his son Kevin Matthews built all the wood frame structures.

#### **Silo**

George Dittmar Jr. added the metal-capped circular silo at the northwest corner of the rear of the barn in the 1960s (see photos 15 and 16).

#### **Root cellar**

The root cellar, located on the south side of the farm driveway in front of the summer kitchen, is a very low, octagonal stone structure with a wood-shingled conical roof (see photo 18). The roof has a matching hatchway and a pinnacle. The Dittmars built the root cellar around 1977 from a model they had visited in rural Pennsylvania. Everett Matthews built the frame section of the root cellar; Charles Scott built the fieldstone walls.

#### **Summer kitchen**

The summer kitchen is a one-and-one-half story wood frame building with a side-gabled, wood-shingled roof, a large single chimney on the west side, a central plank door flanked by six-over-six double hung windows and a pent roof (see photo 18). The half-story windows are six bay fixed sash windows. All windows have paneled shutters. The summer kitchen was built by Everett and Kevin Matthews around 1978. The model for the kitchen is unknown although Trudy Dittmar, one of the current owners, feels that the interior echoes some of the interiors of Williamsburg summer kitchens and the exterior may be modeled on summer kitchens from Pennsylvania.

#### **Ice house**

The ice house is a square plan, wood frame building on a brick foundation (see photo 19). It has horizontal board siding, corner boards, wooden water table, a wood shingled roof and a batten door. A louvered cupola with a bell-shaped roof decorates the peak of the hipped roof. Built by the Everett and Kevin Matthews in the early 1980s, the icehouse is located behind the barn on the northern mill pond. It was based on a model from Colonial Williamsburg.

#### **Spring house**

The spring house is a small, one-bay, fieldstone building partially sunk into the earth on the north side of the farm driveway across from the farmhouse (see photo 20). It has a single plank door, and a wood shingled-gable roof with cornice returns. The spring house is based on several unidentified models from

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7 Page 7

Probasco - Dittmar Farmstead  
Colts Neck, Monmouth County, NJ

---

rural Pennsylvania. Everett and Kevin Matthews built the wooden part of the structure in the late 1970s; Charles Scott was the mason or the stonework.

### **Stable/caretaker's house**

The stable was constructed in the early 1960s (see photo 21). It was originally just the section that runs north-south; a perpendicular addition was constructed in 2003 to create a house for the caretaker. The stable was constructed by Charles Hagerman, the 2003 addition by Kevin Matthews.

### **Law office**

The law office is a single-story, three-bay, wood frame building with a bell-shaped, patterned shingle roof (see photo 22). It has a brick foundation, nine-over-nine double hung windows flanking a paneled door and clapboard siding. Built by Kevin Matthews in the mid-1990s, it is a copy of the Tayloe Office, at the Tayloe House in Colonial Williamsburg. The building is located in a grove west of the main farm complex.

### **Smokehouse**

The smokehouse was built in the late 1970s (see photo 23). It is a one-story, square-plan shed with a wood-shingled roof and cupola. The single door consists of battens laid on a diagonal. The structure is clad with weatherboards and has corner trim and a matching water table. Based on a model from Colonial Williamsburg, the smoke house was built by Everett Matthews with assistance from his son, Kevin Matthews. It is located west of the farmhouse.

### **Garden House/Potting Shed**

This shed is located to the west of the house along the mill pond (see photo 24). It is a gable roofed, two-bay shed with horizontal plank siding and scalloped cedar-shingle roof. Fenestration consists of six-over-six double hung windows with panel shutters and a single batten door. Everett and Kevin Matthews built the shed in 1977. It is based on outbuildings at Colonial Williamsburg.

### **Beehive Hutch**

The beehive hutch is located inside the central garden area immediately west of the garden house (see photo 24). The small outbuilding has a saltbox profile and is open on three sides. It was built in the early 1980s by Everett and Kevin Matthews.

### **Woodworking Shop**

The woodworking shop is a single-story, two-bay, gable-roofed structure with side walls which angle in at the base of the building (see photo 25). It is located west of the beehive hutch and was built by Kevin Matthews in the early 1980s.

### **Machine shed**

The "L"-shaped, open front, machine shed is located northwest of the English barn. It has a saltbox profile and is based on a model from rural Pennsylvania (either Lancaster or Berks County). It was built by Kevin Matthews in the early 1980s.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7 Page 8

Probasco - Dittmar Farmstead  
Colts Neck, Monmouth County, NJ

---

### Miscellaneous farm structures (all non-contributing)

#### Cucumber Pump

The antique cucumber pump in front of the English barn was erected around 1967. It replaced a previous iron pump. A post-supported open shelter with a wood shingled roof, based on a model seen at Colonial Williamsburg, protects the pump.

#### Gazebos

There are two gazebos on the property: one on the south side of the house based on a model from Pennsylvania and built in 1977, and one in the field west of the farm complex, built in 1986.

#### The Mill Site

The four-story wood frame mill was completely renovated by George Dittmar Jr. in 1967 (see figures 5 and 6). The four-story mill was one of the largest in the area and had been built in 1854 by Joseph Probasco, replacing an earlier mill on the site. The peanut stone foundation was two-feet thick and twenty-feet deep. The design for the mill wheel was enlarged from a Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) plan and built by Everett Matthews (the source for the wheel is unknown). (The original water wheel had been removed when turbines replaced waterpower). Everett Matthews took the plans for a 10-foot wheel and enlarged it to 28 feet (Gabiellan 1998: 70-71). Unfortunately, the renovated mill was destroyed by suspected arson on Halloween night 1967, only months after the restoration was complete (personal communication with Trudy Dittmar). The only vestiges of the mill are the mill water wheel and the stone foundation supports for the mill wheel (see photo 26). Due to its large size and high visibility, the mill wheel is a local landmark. The mill is the source of the road name, "Bucks Mill Road" upon which it is located.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 1

Probasco - Dittmar Farmstead  
Colts Neck, Monmouth County, NJ

---

### Statement of Significance

The Probasco-Dittmar farmstead, now called Duck Hollow Farm, possesses historical and architectural significance of great value to the town of Colts Neck and to Monmouth County. The farm complex and grist mill site is a physical manifestation of historic trends common to Monmouth County since the early eighteenth century and is also a documented example of small farm slavery once endemic to New Jersey. The farmhouse is one of the finest remaining buildings of the Dutch settlement period of Monmouth County. The farm has a long and continuous association with two major Colts Neck families: the Probascos, a Dutch family who moved from Long Island to Monmouth County around 1735; and the Dittmars, who purchased the property in 1949, recognized its significance, and have maintained it ever since. The house is also one of only a few remaining eighteenth century houses in Monmouth County that have a two-story, heavy timber Dutch frame. The Probasco-Dittmar house is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, for its method of construction.

### The Dutch in Monmouth County

The Dutch were the earliest ethnic group to arrive in New Jersey and established the earliest permanent agricultural settlements (Wacker 1975:164). Although referred to as Dutch, they were of myriad ethnic backgrounds, including Huguenot, Walloon, Flemish, Polish, Scandinavian, French, German and other ethnicities. This northwestern European population became assimilated through settlement in the Dutch West India Company possessions, through intermarriage, through close everyday association with other Netherlanders, through membership in the Dutch Reformed Church and through constant exposure to Dutch cultural traits. During the period when the Dutch controlled New York and New Jersey, prior to 1664, they concentrated their settlements east of the Hudson River and in the Hudson River Valley. Early agricultural settlements were concentrated across the East River From Manhattan on Long Island, in what is now Queens and Brooklyn, and on Staten Island. After the English took over New Jersey from the Netherlands, the Dutch settlers found it easier to move into New Jersey. By the last decade of the seventeenth century, Dutch families were well established in what is now Bergen County and were also beginning to move into the Raritan and Millstone River Valleys in what is now Somerset County. Most of these settlers came to central New Jersey from Long Island, streaming to the area in the 1680s-1690s, expanding into Monmouth County.

Some Dutch families from Somerset and Middlesex counties also moved into Monmouth. As in other portions of central New Jersey, the presence of New Englanders and Scots and competition for land served to limit the volume of Dutch in-migration (Wacker 1975: 168). The largest concentration of Dutch settlers in Monmouth County was in Pleasant Valley, now Holmdel. Smaller concentrations were also found in Middletown, Shrewsbury, and Freehold townships. Atlantic Township, the former name of Colts Neck, would be formed in 1847 from parts of what were then Freehold, Shrewsbury and Middletown Townships; it, too, had a population of Dutch families in the 18th century. Many of the residents of Atlantic Township were of Dutch descent and included some of the largest slaveholding families in Monmouth County such as the Van Maters. Other Dutch neighbors included names such as

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 2

Probasco - Dittmar Farmstead  
Colts Neck, Monmouth County, NJ

---

Vanderveer, Conover, Sutphin, Van Kirk, Polhemus, and Schank. The village of Colts Neck, which originated in the 18th century, had enough of a Dutch population to start a Dutch Reformed Church in 1856 (Lewis 1922: 440).

### **Architectural Significance: the rarity of two-story Dutch-framed houses**

It has been a common observation among historians who have examined 18th-century Dutch houses in the middle-Atlantic states that those constructed of Dutch framing techniques are overwhelmingly of 1+1/2-story height. It is likewise commonly understood that during the same period two-story houses were frequently constructed by English builders, but it is less widely understood that Dutch builders sometimes also did. The Probasco-Dittmar house stands out as an example of a Dutch-framed house that features a full second story under the roof. Rosalie F. Bailey, in her 1936 book about Dutch houses in New Jersey and southern New York cited the unusualness of such houses, concluding that with only two exceptions, the only two-story Dutch houses built in rural areas before the Revolutionary War stood in the Raritan River and Millstone River watersheds, "and they were erected in the thirty-five years previous to the war" (ie.1740-1775). [Bailey: 486; also see pp. 36, 475, 480, 484, 489.] Bailey, however, illustrated her conclusion with houses whose exteriors exhibited considerable English influence that is visible in her photographs, and she did not explicitly indicate that Dutch framing practices were followed in each instance. More recent investigators in New Jersey, including Clifford Zink and Gail Hunton, have been careful to verify that Dutch framing techniques were used in houses that have been historically associated with Dutch families. They have also brought to light some previously unknown examples of two-story examples and raised new questions about them, including how much English influence their structural systems embody. Still, few two-story Dutch houses have been documented in New Jersey.. One Monmouth County example, the Grover house in Middletown Township, was listed in the New Jersey and National Registers in 2002. Another, the Rhea-Applegate house, stands in the Register-listed Monmouth Battlefield Historic District. The Probasco-Dittmar house offers another example of this house type, which is one that needs more research to be carefully understood.

The Probasco-Dittmar House is also noteworthy because much original fabric survives from building periods in the eighteenth century and the first half of the nineteenth century. The two-story main block of the house, built around 1760, also maintains its pegged and numbered rafters, rafter scabs for kick eaves, beaded clapboard on the north elevation, and original windows in the north elevation.

### **The Probasco Family**

Deeds and genealogical records show that the earliest Probasco who settled the property that is now called Duck Hollow Farm was Christoffel Probasco (1703-1778) and his wife Sara Ammerman. Christoffel's great-grandfather, Jurryen Probasco, had emigrated to Flatbush from Holland around 1657. Jurryen and his wife Catelyntie raised approximately three children in Flatbush. As first generation Americans, the Probasco children seem to stay in the Flatbush area. By the fourth generation, however, the great-grandchildren of Jurryen begin leaving Brooklyn for greener pastures.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 3

Probasco - Dittmar Farmstead  
Colts Neck, Monmouth County, NJ

Great-grandson Christoffel and his wife Sara moved to Colts Necks after the birth of their sixth child, Cornelia, who was born in Brooklyn on August 2, 1735, but prior to the birth of their next child, Abraham, who was born in Colts Neck on April 19, 1737. It is extremely likely that Christoffel and Sara built the mill as well as the earliest house on the land currently called Duck Hollow Farm. It is also likely that the house was a typical one room, one-and one-half story Dutch house, perhaps similar to the middle portion of the existing house. Christoffel and Sara had twelve children of whom Abraham Probasco (1737-1806) was the seventh child and the fourth son. Christoffel died in 1778 and Sara in 1790. Abraham inherited the farm from his parents. It is likely that he inherited it as opposed to the three brothers who preceded him because they were already provided for. Based on genealogical records, it appears that the first two boys died early. The third son, Jan, had a large family and was settled at Six Mile Run (four children born at Six Mile Run and the fifth at Millstone).

### Abraham Probasco

Abraham (1737-1806) married Neeltje "Eleanor" Van Dorn in 1761, and they eventually had two sons who survived into adulthood, Christopher (1769-1846) and Abraham (1771-1861). Two sons died in early childhood. They also had two daughters: Sara (1765-1828) and Margrita (1767-1844). The 1761 marriage of Abraham and Neeltje meant that two families would have to coexist in one house, and could have been the motivation for the building of the main block of the house, a date which fits with the house stylistically. Christopher, Abraham's oldest son, remained in Colts Neck with his parents, while his brother Abraham and his wife, Jane Barkalow, moved to Ohio where they started the Ohio branch of the Probasco family.

Abraham ran the farm and gristmill for some time prior to the death of his father, Christoffel, who died at age 75 in 1778. It was a common practice among the Dutch to give use of a farm to a mature son, but not to convey ownership until the father's death. Abraham was a prosperous miller and moneylender. At his death in 1806, a considerable number of his neighbors owed Abraham Probasco money. His house was well furnished with a maple desk, three large dining tables, six green chairs, a bedstead completely outfitted with bedding and curtains, eight straw-bottomed chairs, pewter plates, platters and tea kettles, wearing apparel worth \$25, a clock worth \$40 and a lot of books. He also owned three slaves, his most valuable possessions: a Negro man worth \$120, and a Negro woman and child worth \$110.

Abraham believed in the institution of slavery and actively opposed any efforts to emancipate the slaves. In 1774, Probasco joined 91 other slaveholders in Shrewsbury and Middletown in signing a petition opposing slave manumission to Governor William Franklin and the New Jersey Assembly<sup>2</sup>. This petition was in response to Chief Justice Lord Mansfield's decisive judgment that legally emancipated

<sup>2</sup> "The Petition of Sundrie of the Inhabitants Freeholders and Owners of Negroes in Shrewsbury," January 12 and February 2, 1774; "The Petition of Sundrie of the Inhabitants Freeholders and Owners of Negroes in Middletown," February 2, 1774, Box 14, New Jersey State Archives, nos. 16, 17, 18.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 4

Probasco - Dittmar Farmstead  
Colts Neck, Monmouth County, NJ

---

slaves in Britain in 1772<sup>3</sup>. The farmers of Shrewsbury and Middletown were fearful of the possibility and consequences of black freedom. They worried that as the Revolutionary War approached, the slaves would pursue open rebellion. Their fears were well-founded. When the war broke out, a number of blacks fled to the British side (Hodges 1997: 94-95).

Abraham was also a sergeant in the Monmouth Militia (Adelberg 1997: 220). It is likely that he suffered damages at the hands of the British during the Revolutionary War; especially as the notorious Colonel Tye (neighbor John Corlies' former slave Titus) and his band of renegade slaves had attacked some of his closest neighbors. In June 1780, Colonel Tye conducted several actions in Monmouth County. During one of these actions, Tye and his men murdered Private Joseph Murray at his home in Colts Neck. They also attacked another local, Barnes Smock, a leader of the Monmouth militia along with Probasco.<sup>4</sup>

Abraham Probasco was also not above subterfuge to maintain bondage. In the early 1790s the free family of Cornelius Wilson took Abraham to court. Cornelius Wilson, his wife Hagar, and their children, Lydia and Anna, sued for freedom from Abraham Probasco. The Wilson family had been manumitted by their Morris County master, William Winds, just before the Revolutionary War. In order to earn some money, Cornelius Wilson and his family contracted with Abraham Probasco to serve him for five years. Probasco asked for a bill of sale for five shillings, and he later used that deed to declare the Wilsons as his slaves. With the help of the New Jersey Society for the Abolition of Slavery, the Wilsons sued for their freedom in court and won (Hodges 1997: 127).

Sometime probably after the war, but before 1800, Abraham decided to modernize the house by rebuilding the one-and one-half story section of the house – which was presumably the original house. The new addition consisted of a large room on the first floor and a garret on the second floor. It is probable that this wing was used not only for cooking but also as living quarters for Abraham's "kitchen family" which consisted of at least the three Negro slaves mentioned in his inventory: a man, woman and child (Abraham Probasco Inventory 1807). The child was probably the boy, Anthony, a child slave born in November 1804 listed in the Black Birth Book. It is unclear what happened to the slaves after Abraham died. In the 1830 Federal Census, there are three "free colored" living with Abraham's son, Christopher, on the farm: one free colored male age 10-24, one free colored female age 10-24, and one free colored female under the age of 10. It is possible that the free colored male, aged 10-24 is Anthony, although he would have been 26 in 1830 (US Federal Census 1830).

According to Monmouth County's Black Birth Book, Abraham's two sisters, Sara and Margrita (later Anglicized to Margaret, and then Maryann) continued their father's tradition of owning slaves. The

---

<sup>3</sup> William Murray, Chief Justice Lord Mansfield, ruled on May 14, 1772, in *Somerset vs. Stewart*, that slavery was outlawed on British soil. Slavery continued throughout the remainder of the British Empire, as did the slave trade. In 1807, Britain abolished the slave trade. Slavery was finally outlawed throughout the British Empire in 1833, through the Great Emancipation Act.

<sup>4</sup> The records of Revolutionary War damages for Monmouth County were destroyed so there is no record of the damages that may have been suffered by the Probascos.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 5

Probasco - Dittmar Farmstead  
Colts Neck, Monmouth County, NJ

Birth Book lists their slave Dinah as having seven children born between 1809 and 1838. The oldest was Jack born in 1809, followed by Pompey in 1813, Julian in 1815, Maryann in 1817, Dinah in 1819, Clara in 1835 and Rose in 1838. All were subjected to the Gradual Emancipation Act of 1804 and would serve 25 years if male and 21 years if female before their manumission. It is not known what happened to these slave children; only Clara shows up in later census data. She is recorded as a Negro servant girl, age 14, living with Joseph Phillips Probasco in the 1850 Federal Census. Although it is not known where Abraham's sisters lived, Maryann was listed in Christopher Probasco's will as living with him and to "have her home in my dwelling house in the same room she now occupies" (Christopher Probasco Will 1845). This could only mean that the slaves remained in the Probasco family home, and that there were most likely more slaves than the two to three usually found with a small Monmouth County Dutch family at this time.

Abraham's inventory also lists agricultural products that his farm produced or stored. These include salt hay, coarse hay, straw, flax, apples (including barrels of cider, cider spirits and cider royal), potatoes, turnips, beef, ten acres of rye on the ground, bushels of rye, bushels of corn, eight loads of salt hay at the shore, 300 hundred pounds of pork, and 150 bushels of corn in the crib. Based on his inventory, Abraham Probasco also maintained sheep, pigs, two young bulls and one cow, a blind mare, one yoke of oxen, one pair of old gray horses, and a sorrel mare. One must remember that this inventory cannot be truly reflective of his possessions because by the time this inventory was taken, most of his property had already been dispersed to his children.

### Christopher Probasco

Abraham Probasco deeded the gristmill and homestead farm to his eldest son Christopher in June of 1792, 14 years prior to his death (recorded June 1834). Christopher married Phoebe Van Nest in 1804. They had nine children: Eleanor Van Dorn (b. 1806, also called Ellen), the twins Jacob Van Nest (b. 1808) and Abraham (b. 1808), Joseph Philips (b. 1811), Christopher (b. 1813), Cornelius (b. 1815), Ursula Philips (b. 1818), Catherine (b. 1820) and Phoebe Ann (b. 1824).

Christopher operated the gristmill and ran the farm until his own death in 1845. Christopher was as prosperous as his father Abraham had been albeit less controversial. He accumulated substantial luxury goods, including three looking glasses, mahogany bedsteads with bedding, carpets, pictures, tables, pewter and silver plates and utensils, an eight-day clock, a Bible and prayer books and numerous chairs. In his 1842 will, Christopher divided his holdings, including three farms, among nine children, including five sons. His eldest son, Jacob Van Nest and his fourth son, Christopher, were given a gristmill which was located northeast of the homestead farm. This was a large gristmill, near the center of the village, and was the choice real estate in the father's portfolio. Joseph Philips, the third son, and Cornelius, the youngest son, were given the homestead farm with the accompanying grist mill. Abraham, the second son, received property in Upper Freehold where he already lived. With the willing of the homestead farm to Joseph and Cornelius, Christopher left his wife, Phoebe "the use of such of the three rooms in my dwelling house as she may choose." (This indicates that by 1792, the house had to be quite large. The small one-and-one-half-story wing only had one on the ground floor, and a garret on the second

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 6

Probasco - Dittmar Farmstead  
Colts Neck, Monmouth County, NJ

floor.) In this will, the daughters Ursula, Catherine and Phoebe, as well as the widow, were each given \$1,500.00. The will went to great lengths to assure that eldest daughter Eleanor's husband, Tunis Van Derveer, whom she married in 1834, would not get his hands on her share. It was to be held in trust by Abraham's executors, Eleanor's five brothers. They were to pay a lifetime interest to Eleanor. If Eleanor were to die, the principal would be returned to her children. If she died without issue, the principal would be equally divided among her remaining sisters. (This legacy trust would lead to the eventual sale of the farm.)

### Joseph Philips Probasco

The 1850 U.S. Federal Census gives a picture of what was happening with the Probasco family. Joseph and Cornelius were both listed as owners of the farmstead property. Joseph was listed as the miller, and Cornelius as the farmer. At this time there were ten people living on the farm: Joseph, age 38, his wife Elizabeth, age 24, James Kearney (age 3), Robert Stockton (age 2), and Joanna (2 months), Jacob's brother Cornelius (age 34), his sisters Ursula (age 39) and Phoebe (age 22), Joseph's mother Phoebe (age 69), and lastly a black servant girl, Clara (age 14). It looks like Joseph and Cornelius inherited not only the homestead farm and mill, but also the unmarried siblings. Each brother's real estate was assigned a value of \$8,000 (for a total value of \$16,000), recognizing the common ownership. (Joseph had other children as well. His first son, Cyrenius, likely died soon after birth. Hulda was born in 1852, Mary Jane in 1854, Hendrick, 1857, and Rynier in 1859, for a total of eight children.)

Many secondary resources on the history of Colts Neck state that Joseph Philips Probasco had the family grist mill rebuilt in 1854. Apparently, it was erected by Abram "Boss Abe" Cottrell of Matawan, a well-known local mill builder (Gabiellan 1998: 70). The new mill was four stories high with a gable roof parallel to the road, and a peanut stone foundation two-feet thick and twenty-feet deep. At 40' x 30', it was one of the largest grill mills in the area.

Cornelius Probasco died in 1852, leaving Joseph the only brother in charge of the homestead farm and gristmill. Probably because they were all owed money by the estate of their father, Joseph's siblings signed off their interests in the homestead farm to Joseph. Or a more likely scenario was that Cornelius died intestate without wife or issue, resulting in his siblings inheriting his portion of the land. They followed their father's intention by signing over their property to Joseph.

Joseph took out an insurance policy on the farm in 1858 with the Monmouth Mutual Fire Insurance Company. The farm was valued at \$3,000, but more significantly it listed every building on the farm as well as its size. The dwelling house was listed as 30 x 32 feet with an attached kitchen 18 by 25, and an attached shed of 10 by 30. These dimensions match the three parts of the house as they are today. The barn was 24 x 53; the attached shed was 11 x 24. The sheep house was 14 x 36, the cow house 15 x 60, stables 21 x 31, wagon house 24 x 53, hen house 8 x 12, wood house 16 x 20, smoke house 7 x 8 and a hog house without any dimension for a total of nine outbuildings (Holmdel Mutual Fire Insurance Company 1858).

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 7

Probasco - Dittmar Farmstead  
Colts Neck, Monmouth County, NJ

The 1860 U.S. Federal Census lists Joseph P. and Elizabeth (Van Mater) Probasco still living in Atlantic Township but with only seven children, no siblings, in-laws or laborers. Joseph died on March 14, 1865, leaving all of his children as minors. Joseph's brother, Christopher, was the administrator of the estate. The Monmouth County Orphans' Court conducted guardianship hearings for the children. Joseph's widow, Elizabeth, requested guardianship for her children Huldah, Mary Jane, Hendrick L. and Rynier (all under the age of 14). The children over 14 were given a choice. Joanna chose her mother, while the two oldest boys, James K. and Robert S. chose their uncle, Christopher (Cronk 2002: 122).

In 1869, Christopher Probasco, brother of the deceased Joseph Philips Probasco and administrator of his estate, leased the mill and a barn to Alfred C. Hulit for \$550/annum. It appears that this was done to try to keep the mill in the family. Hulit transferred his interest to a Mr. K. Reid on February 1, 1870. Apparently this effort to hold on to the farm did not succeed because in October of 1870, the estate, which was split into a mill lot and a farm lot, was sold to the highest bidder. William C. Buck bought the gristmill with 8 acres for \$4,200.04, and Charles Bennett and Ezra Osborne purchased the homestead farm of 90.61 acres for \$6,875.29. The homestead farm was sold with a legacy encumbrance of \$1,500.00 due to Eleanor Van Dorn Vanderveer. Bennett and Osborn sold some of the property back to Elizabeth Probasco, Joseph's widow the following March 1871 for \$6,000.00, and some of the homestead farm was also sold to Benjamin Sickles and his wife Maria.

The farm remained in the widow Elizabeth Probasco's family until March 1880 when it was sold in a sheriff's sale. Elizabeth died six months later. The reason for the Sheriff's sale was the satisfaction of a legacy encumbrance from Christopher Probasco's 1842 will, leaving a trust fund of \$1,500 to his oldest daughter Eleanor Van Dorn Vanderveer. Eleanor and her husband Tunis sued her sister-in-law Elizabeth (widow of Joseph), Benjamin Sickles and his wife Maria, James Kearny Probasco, Robert Stockton Probasco, Hulda and Andrew Buck, Joanna Probasco, Mary Jane Probasco, Hendrick Probasco, and Elizabeth Probasco as guardian of the minor Rynier. Eleanor sued for the principal of \$1,500, annual interest since 1842 and court costs. The farm was sold to an Englishman, George Wilkins, and passed out of the Probasco family forever. Wilkins farmed the property with his wife Polina and four children through 1900. By 1910, Wilkins was 81 and lived alone on the farm.

### **The separation of the mill from the farm.**

The 1870 sale split the Probasco farm into two parcels: the homestead farm which was bought by George Wilkins, and the mill property consisting of eight acres, on the east side of Bucks Mill Road, which was sold to William Buck and his wife Adaline. Buck lived on the mill property with four children Garret, John, Alfred and Laura, and Mary Schenck, his sister-in-law (US Federal Census 1880).

The 1880 Agricultural Schedule listed the value of William Buck's property as \$6,000. By this time the mill was run by a 24 horsepower turbine rather than by the mill wheel. Three-quarters of Buck's products were custom ground. The types of grain that were processed included wheat, rye, and corn meal. The estimated capacity of the mill on a daily basis was 150 bushels (US Federal Census Agricultural Schedule 1880).

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 8

Probasco - Dittmar Farmstead  
Colts Neck, Monmouth County, NJ

The gristmill stayed with William Buck until 1915, when the executor of William Buck's estate, his eldest son Garrett Buck, put the mill up for sale. Garrett's younger brother, Alfred Buck, bought the mill. Alfred had already been working as the miller while his father William was involved in general farming. The 1915 executor's sale notice described the property as:

valuable mill property and eight acres of land...the property known as Buck's Mill, at Colt's Neck, NJ, consisting of a six-room house, cellar under all of it; a barn 40 x 20 feet; wagon house 14 x 20; cow house 10 x 16; poultry house 10 x 14; poultry house 8 x 16; wood and coal house 5 x 12; pig house 8 x 18. There are eight acres of land attached to the property. The land is of excellent quality and in good condition, suitable for raising any crops grown in this section. There is a good variety of fruit on the place, consisting of apples, pears, peaches, cherries, grapes, plums, etc. The buildings are all in good condition of repair.

(This description relates to the property around the gristmill on the east side of Bucks Mill Road.) Alfred C. Buck remained the miller until at least 1930. He operated the mill with the help of his wife Florence, and their two sons Robert and Alfred Jr. (US Federal Census 1930).

### Other Owners

In 1920, the sons of the deceased George Wilkins sold the farm to Theodore Rowe. Rowe was a fertilizer salesman who had previously rented a house with his family in downtown Freehold. Five years later the farm was sold in a Sheriff's sale to Coley F. Sims, trustee of the Rasin-Monumental Company who held Rowe's mortgage (and was likely Rowe's employer). In 1928 Rasin-Monumental Company sold the farm to Antoni Tauber and Leopold Straube once again holding the mortgage. Tauber and Straube were Polish immigrants who together owned a grocery store in Perth Amboy. The two families lived on the farm together with their respective children and grandchildren (a total of 13 people) through the worst years of the Great Depression. In 1939, Tauber and Straube sold the property to Leah Hollander of New York City. Leah Hollander, and her daughter and son-in-law, the McCues, sold the farm to Harry Sieber in 1946. Two months later, Harry Sieber sold the property to Bayard and Ella Beebe. In September of 1949, the Beebes sold the farm to Florence and George J. Dittmar Jr., whose family owns it to this day.

### The Dittmar Family

Florence and George J. Dittmar Jr., who owned the Dittmar Agency, an insurance agency in downtown Freehold, bought the farm in the fall of 1949. At that time, the only existing buildings were the farmhouse, the barn, a corncrib, a three-bay garage, and a chicken/duck coop. Although the mill pond existed in the front of the house, the rear of the house was bordered by a stream and marshland. The mill and the mill lot were still owned by members of the Buck family. At this point the farmhouse had been somewhat modernized with electricity and plumbing and redecorated with knotty pine paneling in

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 9

Probasco - Dittmar Farmstead  
Colts Neck, Monmouth County, NJ

all of the downstairs public rooms. The Dittmars began work on their farmhouse almost immediately by hiring local carpenter and cabinetmaker Everett Matthews, who would come to play a significant role in the restoration of many of Monmouth County's most historic buildings.

The Dittmars understood the importance of maintaining the integrity of the farm and its resources. Long time admirers of early American architecture, furniture and objects, the Dittmars set to renovating the house as well as making it livable for their two children and their growing collection of antiques. George J. Dittmar Jr. became very active in civic affairs and became a member of the Colts Neck Township Committee in 1956, a seat he served until 1962. He also served two terms as mayor, in 1958 and 1961. He played a pivotal role in instituting zoning regulations and other measures to preserve open space. After serving as a Trustee since 1959, in 1967, Dittmar became president of the Monmouth County Historical Association, a position he held until 1971. During this time he was instrumental in the restoration of the Allen House in Shrewsbury, the Covenhoven House in Freehold, and the Holmes-Hendrickson House. While Dittmar managed the work, he hired carpenter Everett Matthews to do the actual restoration of the houses.

The Dittmars' great interest in Colonial Williamsburg and early American architecture is evident in both the rehabilitation of the farmhouse and in the design of the various outbuildings added by them. The Dittmars were very careful to preserve the structural integrity of the farmhouse while redecorating the interior. The most major change to the interior was the transfer of the kitchen at the north side of the main block of the house to the shed-roofed portion of the house at the far east end. It is unlikely that this was the original location of the kitchen anyway; it was surely in the smaller one-and-one-half story wing of the house. The bathrooms, indoor plumbing, heating and electricity were already in place when the Dittmars bought the farm in 1949. The partition wall between the two parlors in the main block of the house was already removed as well. Dittmar had Everett Matthews remove the knotty pine vertical paneling that existed along the western wall of the combined parlors and the fireplace wall of the dining room and replaced it with hand-made Colonial Revival-influenced paneling. Matthews later built the post-supported porch along the north side of the house. The brick stoops at the doors were also added.

The greatest change to the farm made by the Dittmars was the creation of the ponds on the north side of the house and in the southwest corner of the property, and the addition of the various outbuildings. The Dittmars converted the marshland, which was fed by a stream on the north side of the house into additional mill ponds. The outbuildings they added were copies of historic outbuildings from Colonial Williamsburg or from rural Berks and Lancaster Counties in Pennsylvania. Everett Matthews or his son Kevin Matthews, the current manager of the farm, constructed all but one of the buildings. The two largest outbuildings are the caretaker's cottage and the machine shed, followed by the "lawyer's office" and the summer kitchen. The "lawyer's office" is a copy of the Tayloe Office at the Tayloe House in Colonial Williamsburg. The summer kitchen was based on a variety of sources from both Pennsylvania and Colonial Williamsburg. Other buildings, such as the ice house, the smoke house, and the garden house were based on outbuildings present in Colonial Williamsburg. The root cellar and the spring house were based on models found in rural Pennsylvania. Although the buildings are less than 50 years

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 10

Probasco - Dittmar Farmstead  
Colts Neck, Monmouth County, NJ

---

old and are listed as non-contributing, they nevertheless add to the architectural and historical character of the site.

George and Florence Dittmar reconstructed the original farm acreage by buying up many of the pieces that had been separated from it over time. Especially significant is the Dittmar's 1963 purchase of the mill lot and the mill meadow lot, a total of 1.1 acres. This purchase reconnected the mill to its historical farmstead. In 1967, George Dittmar renovated the mill and had a mill wheel built (in its last incarnation it had been operated by turbines). Unfortunately, only months after its restoration, arsonists destroyed the mill as a Halloween prank.

Today the farm is owned and maintained by George and Florence's children, Trudy and George Dittmar III. The farm acreage has been placed in a farmland preservation easement.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 9 Page 1

Probasco - Dittmar House  
Colts Neck, Monmouth County, NJ

---

### Major Bibliographic References

- Adelberg, Michael S. Roster of the People of Revolutionary Monmouth County. Baltimore: Clearfield Co., Inc. 1997.
- Bailey, Rosalie Fellows. Pre-Revolutionary Dutch Houses and Families in Northern New Jersey and Southern New York. New York: Dover Publications, 1968.
- Beekman, George C. Early Dutch Settlers of Monmouth County, New Jersey. Freehold: Moreau Brothers, 1901.
- Beers, F.W. Map of Monmouth County, New Jersey. New York: Beers, Comstock and Cline, 1860.
- Beers, F.W. Atlas of Monmouth County, New Jersey. New York: Beers, Comstock and Cline, 1873.
- Cronk, Judith B. Intestates and Others from the Orphan Court Book of Monmouth County, NJ 1785-1906. Baltimore: Clearfield Co. Inc. 2002.
- Dittmar, Trudy. Florence Dittmar. Obituary. 2002. Unpublished obituary. Personal communication with author.
- Dittmar, Trudy. George Julius Dittmar, Jr. Obituary. 2001. Unpublished obituary. Personal communication with author.
- Ellis, Franklin. History of Monmouth County, New Jersey. Philadelphia: R.T. Peck and Co., 1885.
- Ellis, Franklin. This Old Monmouth of Ours. Freehold, Moreau Brothers, 1932.
- Gabriellan, Randall. Colts Neck. Charleston, South Carolina: Arcadia Publishing, 1998.
- Garrett, Elisabeth Donaghy. "Living with antiques: The residence of Mr. And Mrs. George J. Dittmar Jr. in Monmouth County, New Jersey." The Magazine Antiques. Vol. CXIII, No.4, April 1978.
- Hodges, Graham Russell. Slavery and Freedom in the Rural North. Lanham, Maryland: Madison House Publishers, Inc., 1996.
- Holmdel Mutual Fire Insurance Company. Records of the Holmdel Mutual Fire Insurance Company, 1858-1888. Collection of the Holmdel Historical Society (transcription of original documents), Holmdel, NJ.
- Hunton, Gail and McCabe, James. Monmouth County Cultural Resources Survey. Trenton, NJ: 1981. Inventory no. 1309-6.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 9 Page 2

Probasco - Dittmar House  
Colts Neck, Monmouth County, NJ

---

Hunton, Gail. "U.S. Direct Tax of 1798." Unpublished transcription and statistical analysis, Monmouth County Parks System, 2002.

Lewis Historical Publishing Company. History of Monmouth County, New Jersey, 1664-1920. New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1922.

Lightfoot, Jesse. Map of Monmouth County, 1851. Freehold: Monmouth County Historical Association reprint.

McCormick, Richard P. New Jersey from Colony to State, 1609-1789. Newark: New Jersey Historical Society, 1981.

Meeske, Harrison. The Hudson Valley Dutch and Their Houses. Fleischmanns, New York: Purple Mountain Press, 1998.

Miles, Anne Pette. Monmouth Families. Vol. 1 King William, West Virginia: self-published, 1980.

Monmouth County Archives: Deed Books, Probate Inventories and Wills.

Monmouth County Office of the County Clerk. Black Birth Book of Monmouth County, New Jersey, 1804-1848. Freehold, NJ: Office of the Monmouth County Clerk, 1989.

Monmouth County Office of the County Clerk. Manumission of Monmouth County, New Jersey, 1791-1844. Freehold, NJ: Office of the Monmouth County Clerk, 1989.

Noble, Allen G. Wood, Brick and Stone. The North American Settlement Landscape. Vol. 2.: Barns and Farm Structures. Amherst, MA: University of Massachusetts Press. 1984.

Thompson, Elizabeth M. Colts Neck: Old Homes and Families. 1990.

United States Federal Census 1830-1940.

Wolverton, Chester. Atlas of Monmouth County. New York: Chester Wolverton, 1889.

Zink, Clifford W. "Dutch Framed Houses in New York and New Jersey." *Winterthur Portfolio* 22, 4 (Winter 1987): 265-294.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 10 Page 1

Probasco - Dittmar House  
Colts Neck, Monmouth County, NJ

---

### 10. Geographical Data

#### Verbal Boundary Description

The Probasco-Dittmar Farmstead occupies Block 23, Lots 18, 19.01, 19.02 and Block 29, Lot 13.

#### Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes all of the parcels that constitute the current Duck Hollow Farm. This land contains the historic Probasco farm and the site of the Probasco Mill (later Buck's Mill).

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Probasco-Dittmar Farmstead  
Monmouth County, New Jersey

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

---

UTMs

Zone 18

5- 567664  
4460323

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section Number Photos Page 1

Probasco-Dittmar Farmstead  
Colts Neck, Monmouth County, NJ

---

**Photographs**

The following information is the same for all the photographs listed:

- 1) Name of property: Probasco-Dittmar Farmstead
- 2) City and state: Colts Neck Township, New Jersey
- 3) Photo by: Ulana Zakalak, Zakalak Associates
- 4) Photo taken: April 18, 2005
- 5) Location of negatives: Zakalak Associates  
30 Linden Place  
Red Bank, NJ 07261

6) & 7) Descriptions of views indicating direction of camera:

- Photo 1 of 26: Probasco-Dittmar farmhouse and original mill pond, view looking northwest.
- Photo 2 of 26: Probasco-Dittmar farmhouse, view looking northeast.
- Photo 3 of 26: Probasco-Dittmar farmhouse, view looking southwest.
- Photo 4 of 26: Probasco-Dittmar farmhouse, view looking southeast.
- Photo 5 of 26: Probasco-Dittmar farmhouse, first floor, Room 102, view looking south.
- Photo 6 of 26: Probasco-Dittmar farmhouse, first floor, Room 102, view looking northwest.
- Photo 7 of 26: Probasco-Dittmar farmhouse, entry hall, first floor, Room 101, looking east.
- Photo 8 of 26: Probasco-Dittmar farmhouse, second floor, Room 203, looking northwest.
- Photo 9 of 26: Probasco-Dittmar farmhouse, second floor, Room 205, looking southwest.
- Photo 10 of 26: Probasco-Dittmar farmhouse, second floor, Room 202, looking southwest.
- Photo 11 of 26: Probasco-Dittmar farmhouse, first floor, Room 107, looking east.
- Photo 12 of 26: Probasco-Dittmar farmhouse, second floor, Room 208, looking west.
- Photo 13 of 26: Probasco-Dittmar farmhouse, second floor, Room 207, looking north.
- Photo 14 of 26: Probasco-Dittmar farmhouse, first floor, Room 108, looking north.
- Photo 15 of 26: Probasco-Dittmar farmstead; English barn, garage and silo, looking southeast.
- Photo 16 of 26: Probasco-Dittmar farmstead, silo and corn crib, looking southwest.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number Photos Page 2

Probasco-Dittmarr Farmstead  
Colts Neck, Monmouth County, NJ

---

- Photo 17 of 26: Probasco-Dittmar farmstead, chicken/duck coop, looking northwest.  
Photo 18 of 26: Probasco-Dittmar farmstead, summer kitchen in background, root cellar in foreground, looking southwest.  
Photo 19 of 26: Probasco-Dittmar farmstead, ice house, looking northeast.  
Photo 20 of 26: Probasco-Dittmar farmstead, spring house, looking north.  
Photo 21 of 26: Probasco-Dittmar farmstead, stable/caretaker's house, looking west.  
Photo 22 of 26: Probasco-Dittmar farmstead, "lawyer's office," looking northwest.  
Photo 23 of 26: Probasco-Dittmar farmstead, smoke house, looking west.  
Photo 24 of 26: Probasco-Dittmar farmstead, garden shed and beehive hutch, looking southwest.  
Photo 25 of 26: Probasco-Dittmar farmstead, woodworking shop, looking west.  
Photo 26 of 26: Probasco-Dittmar farmstead, mill wheel, looking northeast.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section Number    Historic Illustrations    Page    1    Probasco - Dittmar Farmstead  
Colts Neck, Monmouth County, NJ

---

**Historic Illustrations**

Figure 1. View of Probasco-Dittmar farmstead, original mill pond in the foreground and the south façade of farmhouse. Photo taken by George Dittmar Jr. in the fall of 1949. View looking northwest.

Figure 2. View of Probasco-Dittmar farmstead. West and south elevations of the farmhouse. Photo taken by George Dittmar Jr. in the fall of 1949. View looking northeast.

Figure 3. View of Probasco-Dittmar farmstead. West and north elevations of the farmhouse. Photo taken by George Dittmar Jr. in the fall of 1949. View looking southeast.

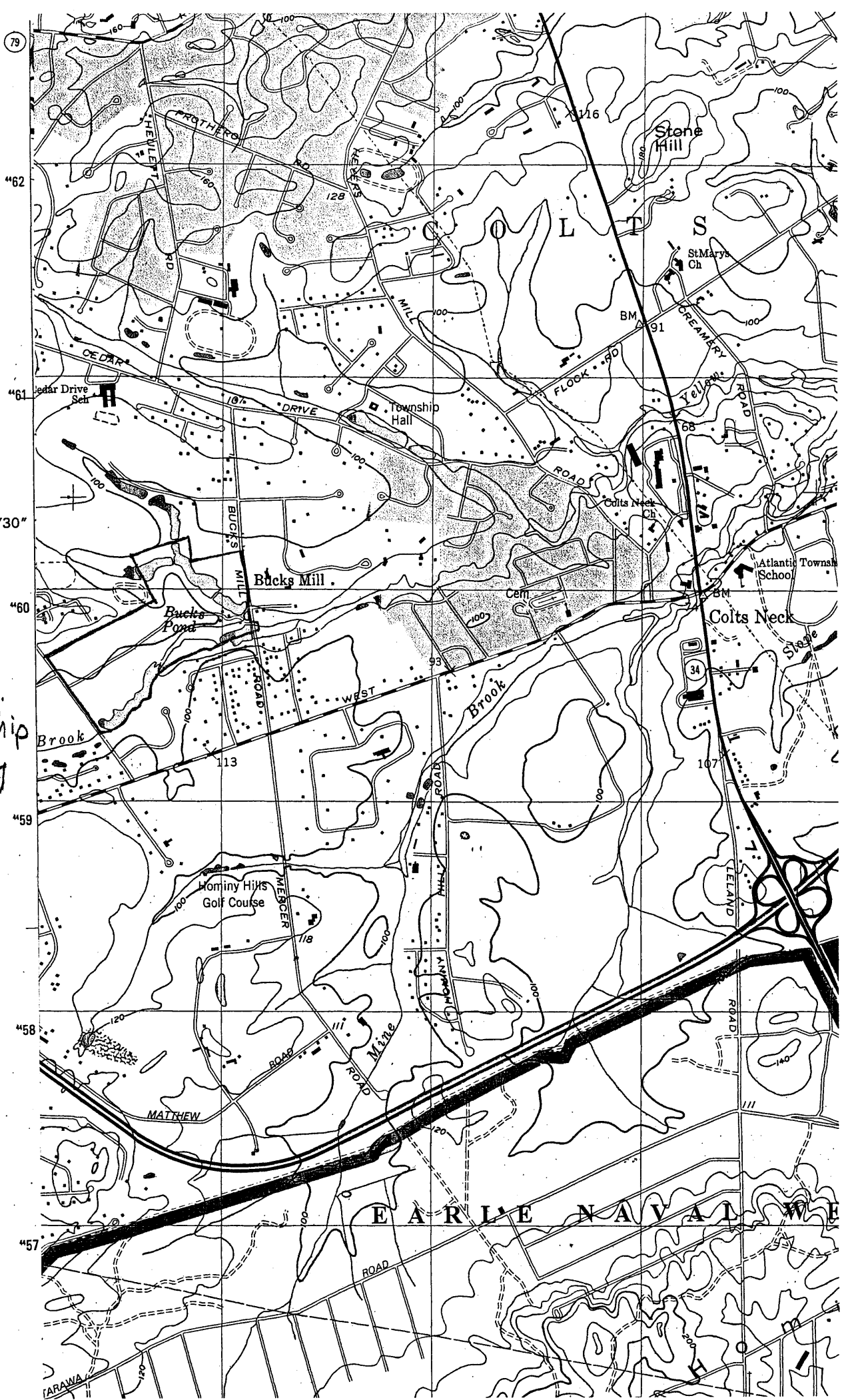
Figure 4. View of Probasco-Dittmar farmstead. English barn and small barn (now garage). Photo taken by George Dittmar Jr. in the fall of 1949. View looking northwest.

Figure 5. View of Bucks Mill. North and west elevations. Photo taken by George Dittmar Jr. in the summer/fall of 1967. View looking southeast.

Figure 6. View of Bucks Mill. West and south elevations. Photo taken by George Dittmar Jr. in the summer/fall of 1967. View looking northeast.

Figure 7. Aerial view of Probasco-Dittmar farmstead (Duck Hollow Farm). Photo most likely taken by Dan Dorn of Dorn's Photography, Red Bank, c.1985. View looking southeast.

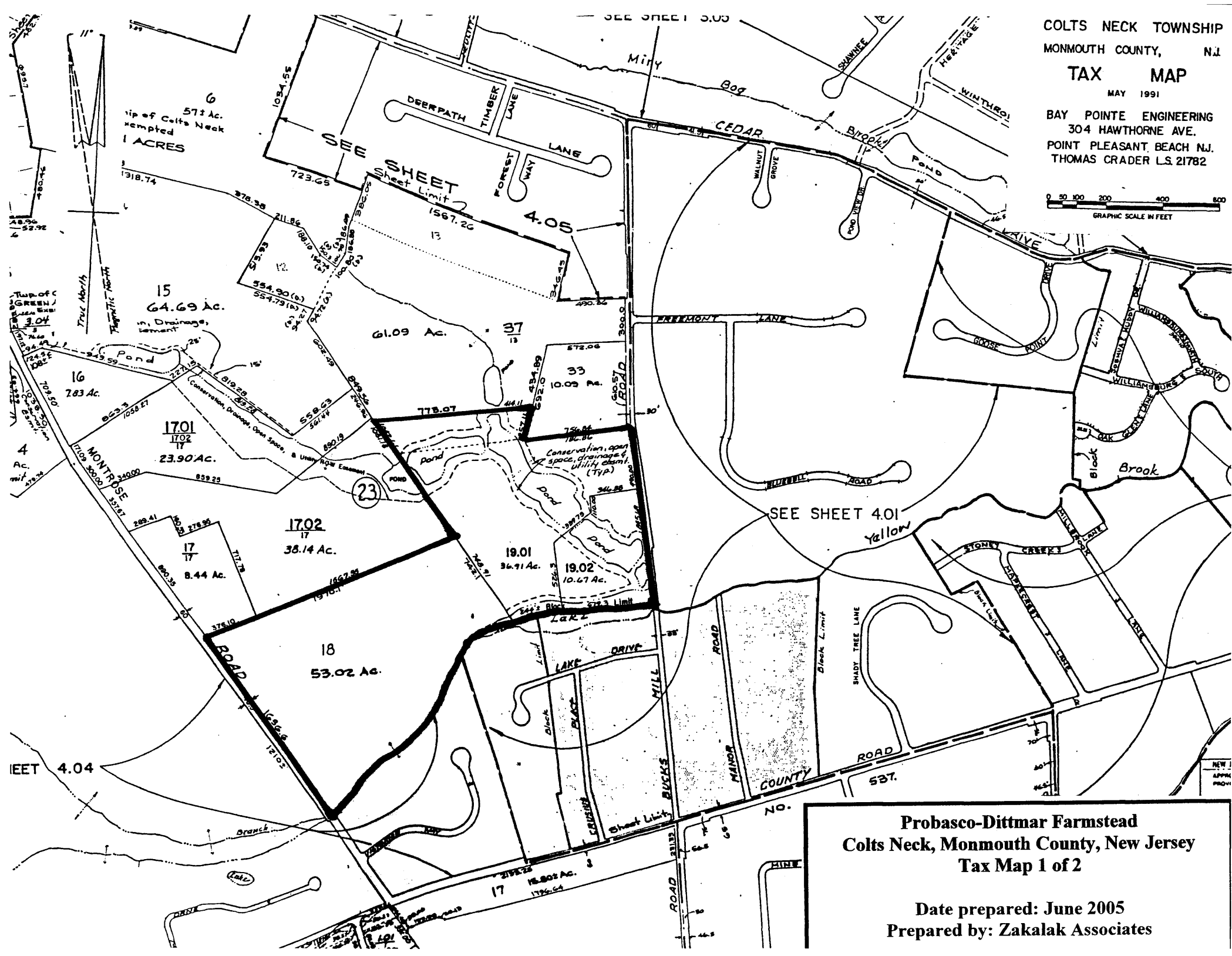
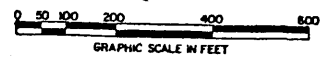
Probaseo-Dittmar  
Farmstead  
61 Bucks Mill Rd.  
Colts Neck Township  
Monmouth County  
New Jersey



# TAX MAP

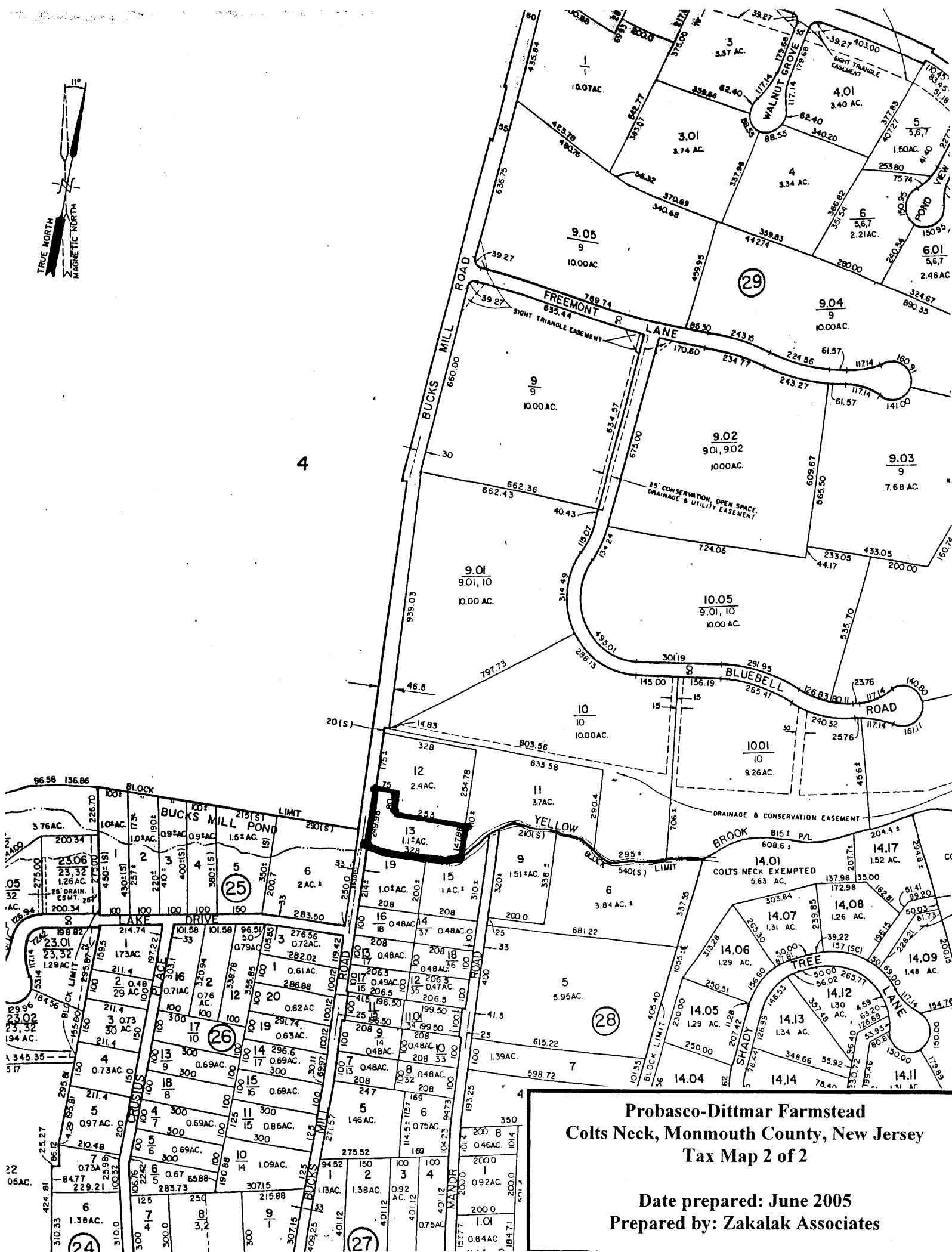
MAY 1991

BAY POINTE ENGINEERING  
304 HAWTHORNE AVE.  
POINT PLEASANT BEACH N.J.  
THOMAS CRADER L.S. 21782



**Probasco-Dittmar Farmstead**  
**Colts Neck, Monmouth County, New Jersey**  
**Tax Map 1 of 2**

Date prepared: June 2005  
Prepared by: Zakalak Associates



**Probasco-Dittmar Farmstead**  
**Colts Neck, Monmouth County, New Jersey**  
**Tax Map 2 of 2**  
  
**Date prepared: June 2005**  
**Prepared by: Zakalak Associates**



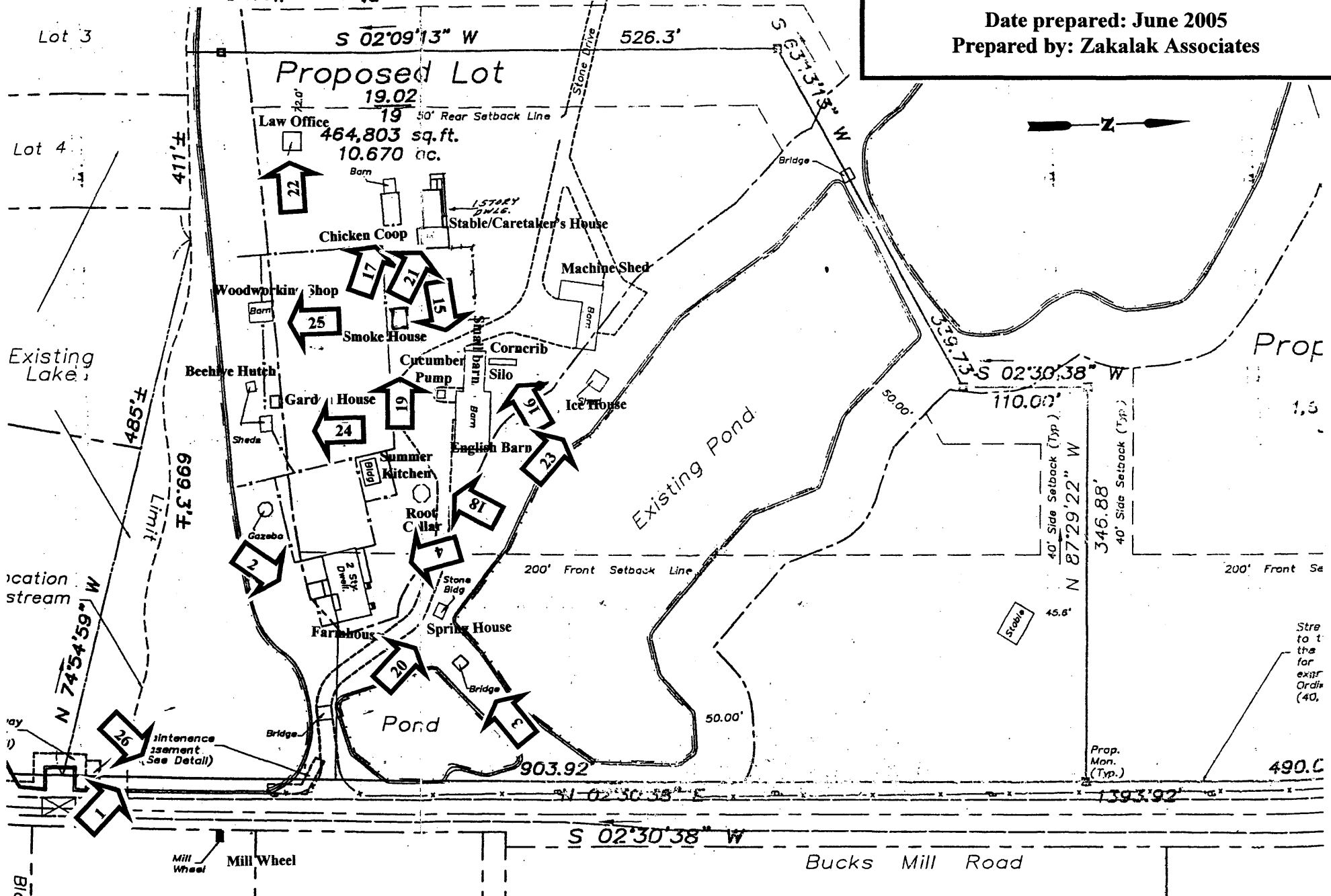


( IN FEET )

1 Inch = 100 ft

**Probasco-Dittmar Farmstead**  
**Colts Neck, Monmouth County, New Jersey**  
**Photo Locator Map**

Date prepared: June 2005  
 Prepared by: Zakalak Associates



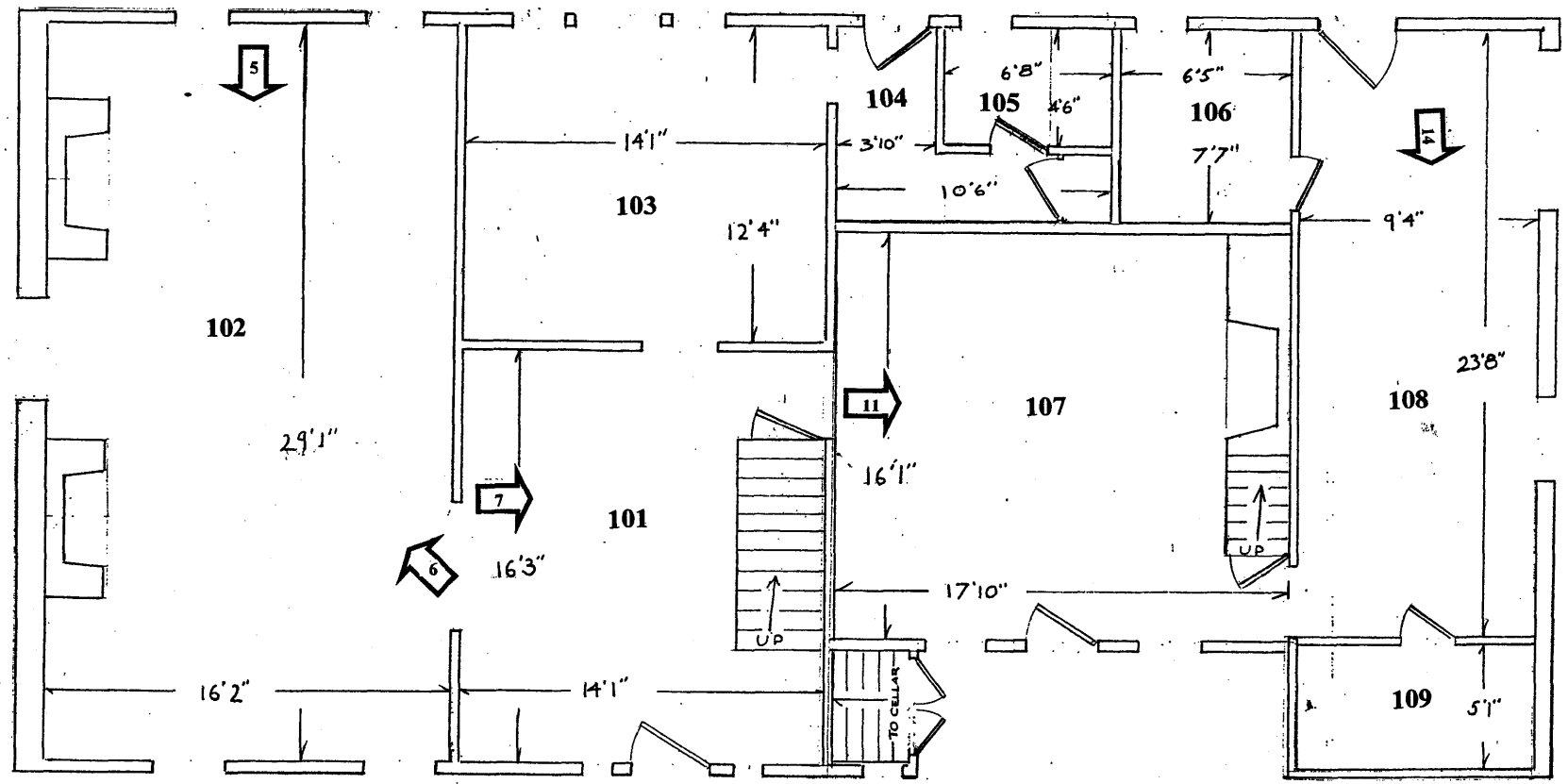
Prop  
1.3

Str  
to t  
the  
exit  
Ordin  
(40,

490.C

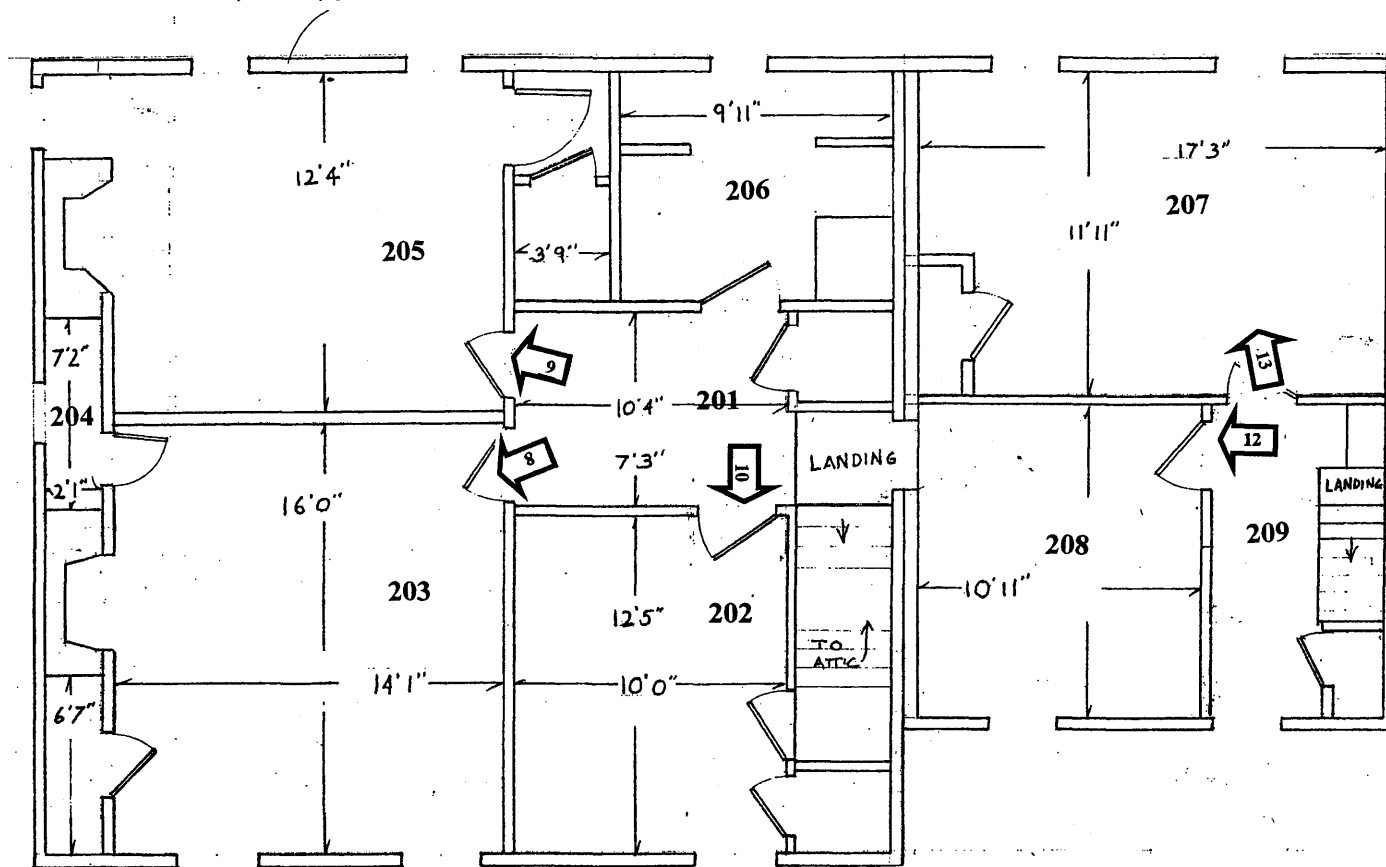
Prop.  
Mon.  
(Typ.)

INTERIOR FIRST FLOOR



DITTMAR RESIDENCE - DUCK HOLLOW  
COLTS NECK, NEW JERSEY

INTERIOR SECOND FLOOR



DITTMAR RESIDENCE - DUCK HOLLOW  
COLTS NECK, NEW JERSEY