# National Register of Historic Places **Continuation** Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_

#### SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 90001474

Date Listed: 10/4/90

Walker-Combs-Hartshorne Farmstead **Property Name** 

Monmouth County

NJ State

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Signature of the Keeper

Amended Items in Nomination:

In the list of contributing resources the well house has been categorized as a building, rather than as a structure. The new contributing count is thus 10 buildings and one structure. Sue Pringle of the NJ SHPO has been informed of this change to the nomination.

.

1474

OMB No. 1024-0018

13

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

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

AUG 2 0 1990" NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines* for *Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property				
	bs-Hartshorne	Farmstead		
other names/site number Monmouth County Historic Sites Inventory No. 1316-34				
Oakley Far	mstead			
2. Location				
street & number 189 Wemroc	k Road		<u> </u>	t for publication
city, town Freehold			* V. • •	inity
state New Jersey code 03	4 county	Monmouth c	ode 025	zip code 07728
3. Classification			<u></u>	
Ownership of Property Ca	ategory of Property	Numbe	r of Resources	within Property
X private X	] building(s)	Contrib	uting Non	contributing
public-local	district	السبيت	11	buildings
public-State	site	· · ·		sites
public-Federal	structure			structures
	object	- · · · · ·		objects
			<u>11 0</u>	Total
Name of related multiple property listing:			-	resources previously
4. State/Federal Agency Certification	n			
Signature of certifying official <u>Acting</u> Assistant Commission State or Federal agency and bureau			rces/DSHPO	<u>871 47 40</u>
In my opinion, the property meets		e National Register criteria		ation sneet.
Signature of commenting or other official		·	D	ate
State or Federal agency and bureau				
5. National Park Service Certification	n			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
I, hereby, certify that this property is:	~			
<ul> <li>entered in the National Register.</li> <li>See continuation sheet.</li> <li>determined eligible for the National Register.</li> <li>See continuation sheet.</li> <li>determined not eligible for the National Register.</li> </ul>	Patie	k Andrus		10/4/90
removed from the National Register.		1	<u> </u>	
	- for	Signature of the Keeper		Design Antion

griculture/agr omestic/ multip	
omestic/ multi	ple dwelling
terials (enter categori	ies from instructions)
terials (enter categori	ies from instructions)
terials (enter categori	ies from instructions)
Materials (enter categories from instructions)	
ndation irons	tone/brick
	· · · · · ·
f slate	
	n porch/trim
a	allsshing

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Oakley Farmstead is a 115.34 acre farm located on Wemrock Road, in West Freehold, Monmouth County, New Jersey. The farm complex consists of a main farmhouse and ten wood frame outbuildings, including a well house, three barns, three sheds, a tenant house, garage, and wood house. Although converted to residential use and now not part of the current farm, the manure house (with a later garage addition), located just north of the main barns, is still extant. Due to the expansion of Route 33, the oldest barn, located at the western edge of the farm, was removed and reassembled at Historic Smithville, a recreated historic village in Atlantic County. Of the 23 outbuildings existing in 1915 (recollection of owner, Elizabeth Oakley), 12 were demolished over time, including 6 chicken houses, 1 single corn crib, 1 double corn crib, 1 pig house, 1 cow barn (removed to Historic Smithville), silos and the hay scales. All of the demolished buildings were minor in function. Except for the Smithville barn, all of the major outbuildings are still in existence today. The farmhouse and all ten outbuildings are contributing elements of the Oakley Farmstead; all have been well maintained and have a high level of integrity.

The farm complex is located approximately in the center of the rectangular farm property. Directly south of the complex is the greater portion of cultivated fields representing approximately 82 acres. North of the farm complex is an apple orchard of 18 acres, a 10.2 acre field and directly east is a 2.3 acre pasture. The complex is approached from Wemrock Road by a long driveway from the south, passing on the west side of the house and connecting to the east-west linear farm road behind it. The barns are located to the west and northwest of the farmhouse; the remaining outbuildings, other than the wood house, are arranged in an east-west line north of (behind) the house. The wood house is located directly east of the farmhouse. The largest existing barn, used as a cow barn in the

8. Statement of Significance	
Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:	
Applicable National Register Criteria 🛛 🗛 🔤 B 🖾 C 💭 D	
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)	
Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)       Period of Significance	Significant Dates
Significant Person Architect/Builder N/A unknown	

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Oakley Farmstead, significant in the areas of agriculture and architecture, accurately represents a Monmouth County farm of the eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth centuries. In continuous agricultural use since the early eighteenth century, its buildings, structures and features embody a characteristically rural, isolated agricultural landscape. Though commercial agriculture in Monmouth County has survived to this day, the last two decades have seen much of the farmland developed for commercial and residential purposes. The Oakley Farmstead is part of a diminishing group of farms constantly threatened by development pressures. It is one of the oldest working farms in Monmouth County (Monmounth County Inventory 1981).

The evolution of agriculture on the Oakley farmstead is a microcosm of the agricultural development in Monmouth County. Beginning around 1720 as a subsistence farm, the property quickly became a commercial enterprise. The farm products were typical for the day with their emphasis on meats and grains such as pork, beef and poultry products, wheat, rye and Indian corn. Farm labor was provided by the family, and in the cases of farm owners George Walker and Elijah Combs, by black slaves (Monmouth County Inventories I 1001, May 17, 1748 and Monmouth County Inventory 203 July 28, 1831).

The earliest recorded reference to a working farm was in the 1720 deed, when Richard Clark sold the farm to George Walker (Monmouth Country Deed G 67). The earliest probate inventory associated with a farm owner, George Walker, lists 20 head of cattle, 31 head of sheep, 5 horses, 7 swine, 16 geese and 18 other fowl, as well as wheat, rye and Indian corn, and one male Negro slave (Monmouth County Inventory I 1001 May 17, 1748).

#### 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet 9.1.

city or town \_\_\_\_Oceanport

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested previously listed in the National Register previously determined eligible by the National Register designated a National Historic Landmark recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #	Yee continuation sheet         Primary location of additional data:         N/A         State historic preservation office         Other State agency         Federal agency         Local government         University         Other         Specify repository:
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of property <u>115.34</u> Adelphia & Free	ehold Quads
UTM References A $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 8 \\ 5 & 5 & 8 & 2 \\ 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} 4 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 0 & 2 \\ 4 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ Zone Easting Northing C $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 8 \\ 5 & 5 & 9 & 2 & 8 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} 4 & 4 & 5 & 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 4 & 4 & 5 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$	$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$
Verbal Boundary Description	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
The Oakley Farmstead occupies Block 69, Lot total area is 115.34 acres. The farm has been construction of Route 33. The larger parcel of 88.71 acres and the smaller parcel of land	en split in an east-west direction by the of land to the south of Route 33 consists
Boundary Justification	
The nominated area includes land that has be Oakley Farmstead.	een historically associated with the
11. Form Prepared By	
name/title <u>Ulana D. Zakalak</u> , <u>Historic Preservatic</u> organization <u>Zakalak</u> Associates	
street & number _ 57 Cayuga Avenue	dateApril_11, 1990

•

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_ Walker-Combs-Hartshorne Farmstead (Oakley Farmstead), Freehold Township, Monmouth County, NJ

early 20th century, is located directly west of, and perpendicular to, the main house, creating a courtyard between the two structures and the linear row of farmbuildings to the north. The remaining two barns and tool shed are connected by sheds open to the south. Directly north of the main house is a garage and a tenant house. In 1915, the tenant house was actually the feed house and the garage was the smoke house. The structures were converted sometime after 1915.

#### MAIN DWELLING HOUSE

The main house, or farm house, is a 2 1/2 story, 5 bay, rectangular plan, wood frame structure with a 2 story, 3 bay, slightly recessed wing attached to its east side. Located on a slight rise, it is oriented to the south with a view of the largest portion of the farm's cultivated fields. Following the local vernacular tradition of expansion from within, the current appearance of the farmhouse represents a series of structural additions and a variety of nineteenth century decorative features, including a gracefully detailed transitional Federal/Greek Revival entrance and simple entablature, and an a mid-nineteenth century Italianate porch. The shingle clad structure is fenestrated with 6/1 double hung wood windows set in simple classically moulded surrounds and flanked by paneled shutters on the upstairs windows of the main facade and louvered shutters on the remainder of the house. The classicizing entablature is composed of a simply moulded architrave, a wide blank frieze, and a plain cornice, hidden from view by a gutter. The side-gabled slate-clad roof is pierced by one exterior wall chimney in the southwest corner. The northwest corner chimney and the interior chimney located in the original section of the house were removed c. 1915.

The structure probably began as a 10'-by-8' settler's cabin, the evidence of a fieldstone foundation and roughly hewn sills with bark on them still visible in the crawlspace of the house. Sometime in the mid-eighteenth century, the structure was enlarged to a one-andone-half story two bay house, approximately 20' wide and 25' in depth, with a small 5' x 6' porch in the southeast corner. Evidence of this enlargement includes hand-hewn post and beam framed walls infilled with brick, pegged and bark-covered roof rafters, and a

#### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3 Walker-Combs-Hartshorne Farmstead (Oakley Farmstead), Freehold Township, Monmouth County, NJ

massive fireplace foundation visible in the crawl space in the east wall of the house. Access to the upstairs was provided through a narrow stair in the back of the house; the stair was removed and covered over prior to 1915. The original house contained two rooms on the ground floor, including a kitchen with cooking fireplace along the east wall, and a sleeping loft upstairs.

In the early nineteenth century, the roof of the house was raised to a full two stories and the front of the house was extended approximately 5 feet enclosing the porch. The dimensions of the house were now 20' in width and 30' in depth. By 1831, the house was doubled in size to the west, with the addition of a center hall, two rooms on each floor, a finished bedroom in the attic and a full basement with a milk room under the new wing. The beautifully detailed Federal/Greek Revival door surround was also added by this time. The Italianate porch was added around 1850.

The interior floor plan consists of four rooms to a floor, two rooms on either side of the wide, central stair hall. A bathroom was added at the top of the stairs around 1915. The first floor contains the parlor, sitting room, dining room and kitchen. The second floor is divided into four bedrooms, a central stair hall and bathroom. The attic has a finished (plastered) bedroom in the 1830 addition and an unfinished garret over the original house. The stone-walled basement is partitioned into general storage areas and a whitewashed milk room. Interior finishes include plaster walls and ceilings, wood floors, classicizing window and door architraves, baseboards and ceiling trim.

By 1873, the kitchen had been moved to the one-and-one-half story eastern wing. Due to the nature of later alterations, it is not clear when this wing was added to the house. Local tradition states that the wing was at one time a separate building on the farm and was moved to its present location. When Charles Oakley Jr. bought the farm in 1911, the wing was in use as the kitchen and washhouse.

In 1924, the one-and-one-half story kitchen wing was renovated by Charles Oakley, Jr. to provide housing for his son's family. The lean-to addition to the east wall, forming the wood shed, was removed, the north wall extended to the rear, a small entrance portico was added, the roof was raised to two full stories, and the basement was excavated. The ground floor was given a dining room,

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_7 Page \_\_\_4 Walker-Combs-Hartshorne Farmstead (Oakley Farmstead), Freehold Township, Monmouth County, NJ

kitchen and living room, and two bedrooms were installed upstairs. The kitchen was moved to the southwest room of the house and a pantry, lavatory and enclosed porch were added along the rear of the house.

Other alterations installed by Oakley include interior plumbing and electricity, new 6/1 windows in the house (replacing the original 6/6 windows) a bay window in the dining room, and the opening of interior partitions throughout the house. Oakley also raised the floor level in the original part of the house, which until 1914, was two steps lower than the 1830 addition.

#### OUTBUILDINGS

Barn 1 (Cow Barn): The main barn, which is directly west of the farmhouse, is a two-and-one-half story, wood frame, English style barn sheathed with vertical wood boards and fenestrated with four vertical pane single windows on the ground floor and batten doors on the second and attic stories. Two gable roofed ventilators straddle the roof ridge. At one time a windmill, used to draw water from an interior well, was located on the northeast corner of the roof. This is the newest barn on the property, dating to c. 1870.

Barn 2 (Horse/Cow Barn): This two-and-one-half story shingleclad wood-frame structure has been somewhat altered with a lean-to shed addition on its south side, predating 1915. The original c. 1830 gabled barn has a slate-clad roof. The interior of the barn is now open on the ground floor; it was originally partitioned to house livestock. The upper floor served as storage for hay. The framing consists of massive 12" x 12" hand-hewn posts supporting 8" x 12" hand-hewn joists. All are mortised and pegged.

Barn 3 (Carriage Barn): This two-and-one-half story timber framed barn is the oldest barn on the property, and is probably concurrent with the original two bay house. The clapboard clad barn features a lime mortared ironstone cellar, hand-hewn mortised and pegged posts, beams, braces and rafters, brick-infilled walls and random width wood plank floors. The ground floor, accessible by double width doors, was used for the storage of carriages and wagons. The upper floors were used for hay. A shed attached to the east wall of the barn provided additional storage for wagons.

#### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_7 Page \_\_\_5 Walker-Combs-Hartshorne Farmstead (Oakley Farmstead), Freehold Township, Monmouth County, NJ

Shed 1: Enclosed alleyway connecting the horse/cow barn to the carriage barn; constructed by Oakley c. 1915.

Shed 2: An open, metal-roofed shed connecting the carriage barn to the tool shed.

Shed 3 (Tool shed): Single-bay, wood frame shed accessed by means of a sliding wooden door, forming the eastern anchor of the linear row of attached barns and sheds.

Tenant House: The tenant house, formerly used as the feed house, is a 2 story, 2 bay, wood frame, side-gabled, shingle clad, structure with a one story lean-to addition at the rear. The house features a single room on each floor. The entrance is located in the southern bay of the ground floor underneath the vernacular gabled post supported portico. The simply moulded windows are 6/6 double hung wood sash.

Garage: Originally used as the smoke house, the single bay, gable-roofed garage features timber framing, horizontal board siding and a concrete floor.

Wood House: The wood frame, single bay, gable-roofed, shingleclad wood house is located immediately east of the eastern wing, and served as the storage area for wood needed by the kitchen stove.

Well house: Located in front of the eastern wing of the farmhouse, the wood frame well house features a stone-lined well enclosed by a post-supported gable roof. Although in recent memory the water was drawn by a pulley and chain, originally the water was drawn by means of a sweep.

#### Site

The Oakley Farmstead occupies Block 69, Lot 35 of the Freehold Township Tax Map. The total area is 115.34 acres. The farm has been split in an east-west direction by the construction of Route 33. The larger parcel of land to the south of Route 33 consists of 88.71 acres and the smaller parcel of land to the north consists of 26.63 acres.

#### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Walker-Combs-Hartshorne Farmstead (Oakley Farmstead), Section number \_\_\_\_\_8 Page \_\_\_2 Freehold Township, Monmouth County, NJ

By the end of the eighteenth century, farmers began to diversify with new crops such as potatoes, and apples for the production of cider and whiskey (Schmidt 1973: 98, 100). Elijah Combs, owner of the farm from 1794 to 1831, provided many of his neighbors with whiskey, keeping book accounts of what they owed. Combs also raised bees, and added the production of buckwheat and oats to the usual grain crops of wheat and corn (Monmouth County Inventory I 201 July 28, 1831). Combs also adopted some labor saving machinery such as a fanning mill, eliminating his dependence on the wind when threshing grain (Schmidt 1973: 135).

The probate inventory of Elijah Combs lists 8 oxen, 29 head of cattle, 6 horses, 4 mules, 27 sheep, 6 pigs, 2 hens, hay, wheat, corn, rye, oats, potatoes and apples. The inventory also lists a variety of outbuildings, some of which are no longer in existence, but all giving a picture of an early nineteenth century farm. These include: a house, barn, calf house, corn crib, wagon house, weave shop, unspecified shop, ice house, cow house, sheep house, Stile (sic) house, cider house and one lot of beehives. Aside from farming, it seems that one of Combs' chief occupations was the distilling of whiskey; his inventory lists 2,259 1/2 gallons of whiskey, along with many lots of casks, hogsheads, apple tubs, funnels, pails, shovels, etc. Combs owned two Negro slaves (Monmouth County Inventory I 203 July 28, 1831).

Interior room assignments listed in the inventory give a clear picture as to the layout of the farmhouse at this time. The basement and second floor rooms of the newest section of the house, the west addition, are listed in the inventory. Therefore, the house was built to its present footprint and general appearance by 1831 (Monmouth County Inventory I 203 July 28, 1831).

In the mid-nineteenth century, farm activities became gradually more mechanized. Richard S. Hartshorne, owner from 1842 to 1872, introduced new farm equipment such as gang plows, Thompsons and Biddles potato diggers, a windmill, a hay tedder (for stirring mown hay), and a grain drill. Hartshorne also used two mowing machines and a threshing machine (Monmouth County Inventory I-2 183 November 19, 1872). Corn was now stored in newly constructed silos and a large barn was built for the milch cows.

A dramatic increase in farm products can be seen in the

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Walker-Combs-Hartshorne Farmstead (Oakley Farmstead), Section number 8 Page 3 Freehold Township, Monmouth County, NJ

November 19, 1872 inventory and earlier agricultural census returns of Richard S. Hartshorne. The 1850 agricultural census lists Hartshorne's agricultural property as: 1 horse, 4 mules, 6 milch cows, 3 other cattle, 48 head of sheep, 52 head of swine, 200 bushels of wheat, 1,000 bushels of Indian corn, 200 bushels of oats, 70 pounds of wool, 500 bushels of potatoes, 400 pounds of butter, 50 pounds of beeswax and honey, 20 tons of hay, and orchard products with a value of \$50.00 (Monmouth County Agricultural Census 1850). Ten years later Hartshorne had eliminated the sheep but increased his acreage and production of grain to 250 bushels of wheat, 15 bushels of rye, 1,200 bushels of Indian corn, 200 bushels of oats, 1,000 bushels of peas and beans, 10 bushels of Irish potatoes, 600 pounds of butter, 30 tons of hay, orchard products with a value of \$75.00 and slaughtered animals with a value of \$450.00 (Monmouth County Agricultural Census 1860). Hartshorne's 1872 inventory lists 23 head of swine, 15 head of cattle, including 5 milch cows, 2 teams of mules, 1 black mare, apples, potatoes, corn, rye, wheat, hay and straw. The inventory also mentions mechanized equipment such as mowing and threshing machines, a washing machine and wringer, a sausage cutter and a refrigerator (Monmouth County Inventory I-2 183 November 19, 1872).

By the time of the 1880 agricultural census, the value of the farm products had decreased dramatically. This was as the result of the death of Richard S. Hartshorne. The farm was purchased in 1873 by his son, Acton Civil Hartshorne, a prominent Monmouth County lawyer, who remained in Freehold and leased the farm to tenants. Full scale commercial agricultural production was not resumed until 1911, with the purchase of the farm by Charles Oakley, Jr., a farmer from East Williston, Long Island. The farm became almost totally mechanized by the early twentieth century when Charles Oakley Jr. introduced tractors and their related equipment. Oakley raised apples, potatoes, various grains, hay and maintained pigs, chickens and a milk cow. The apples and potatoes were brought to downtown Freehold where they were shipped by the Central Railroad to the Wallabout Market in Brooklyn for resale (interview with Elizabeth Oakley, July 1988). Charles Oakley Jr. died in 1932. His daughter Elizabeth continued to farm the property until 1972 when the farm was leased for soybean and corn production. Several years ago, the acreage was leased to a tenant farmer for the production of sod (interview with Elizabeth Oakley, July 1988).

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4 Walker-Combs-Hartshorne Farmstead (Oakley Farmstead), Freehold Township, Monmouth County, NJ

The Oakley Farmstead is also significant in the area of architecture. The significance of this site rests on the visual quality of the farmstead as a whole: a well-preserved farmhouse, an accrual of neat outbuildings arranged in a courtyard, and an agricultural setting. The house, while vernacular in style, illustrates one way Monmouth County farmhouses were typically expanded: a small settler's cabin enlarged to a one and one-half story house with two bays, and, again enlarged to a five bay, two story, symmetrically balanced house. Although the farmstead has been continually evolving over 270 years, the layout of the buildings and the buildings themselves retain the essence and quality of a nineteenth century agricultural landscape.

#### THE PEOPLE ASSOCIATED WITH THE FARMSTEAD

<u>1686 - 1701:</u> During the Proprietary period of government the farmstead property was owned by John Barclay, Robert Barclay, John Reid and John Bowne. The Proprietors of East New Jersey sold the tract of land (acreage unknown) to John Barclay in 1686 who transferred it to Robert Barclay in the same year (East Jersey Deed B40, 42 and B41, 43). John Barclay was a Scot and the receivergeneral of quitrents for the proprietary government (Wacker 1975: 338). Robert Barclay was a Scots Quaker from Edinburgh and one of the Twenty Four Proprietors of East New Jersey (Pomfret 1973: 49). He owned an entire propriety plus 5,000 acres, and was the governor of East New Jersey for life. A learned man and leading advocate of the Friends, Barclay published a dozen tracts including the famous Apology. Barclay was the chief architect of Scottish resettlement in East New Jersey (Wacker 1975: 303). Robert Barclay sold the farmstead tract of 500 acres to John Reid in 1699 (East Jersey Deed G223). Reid, a Scots Quaker, was employed in 1683 by Robert Barclay and other Scottish proprietors of East New Jersey as "overseer" in charge of a party of emigrants from Scotland (Ellis 1885: 79) Reid was appointed Surveyor-General of the Province in 1702 and was a member of the General Assembly in 1703 (Ellis 1885: 108). John Reid sold 200 acres of the tract to John Bowne in 1701 (Monmouth County Deed D159). John Bowne, son of Captain John Bowne, a patentee and one of the five original settlers of the Monmouth Patent granted by Governor Nicolls (Ellis 1885: 66), was a member of of the Provincial Assembly, taking part in the Second Assembly in 1704 and the Third

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_8 Page \_\_\_\_ Walker-Combs-Hartshorne Farmstead (Oakley Farmstead), Freehold Township, Monmouth County, NJ

Assembly in 1707 (Ellis 1885: 108). Although both John Reid and John Bowne resided in Freehold, it is not likely that they resided on the farmstead tract.

<u>1706</u> - <u>1720</u>: John Bowne sold the 200 acre farmstead tract to Richard Clark in 1706 (Monmouth County Deed F34). Nothing is known about Richard Clark; he was probably a farmer and most likely resided on the property as his deed to the following owner mentions a house (Monmouth County Deeds G67 and H39).

<u>1720 - 1801:</u> During this period, the farm was owned by George Walker and his descendants. His son, George Walker Jr., inherited the property in 1748 (Monmouth County Will 01599). Little is known of either Walker, except that the son served in the Revolutionary War in Captain Waddell's Company (Ellis 1885: 259). Captain George Walker Jr. died intestate in 1794, leaving Aaron Forman Walker the administrator of the estate (Monmouth County Will Liber 33 425). The estate was sold in 1801 to Elijah Combs (Monmouth County Deed N118).

<u>1801</u> - <u>1832</u>: During this period, Elijah Combs actively farmed the property of 239.90 acres. A man of some means, Combs was probably responsible for developing the farm to its present appearance. His 1831 probate inventory accurately describes the farmhouse as it now appears.

<u>1832</u> - <u>1842</u>: The farmstead was sold by the Commissioners of Monmouth County for the estate of Elijah Combs to Rulif R. Schenck. The total acreage at the time was 226.45. Schenck proceeded to sell off some of the acreage. By the time he sold the farm to Richard S. Hartshorne Jr. in 1842, the tract was reduced to 143.23 acres. It remained this size until Route 33 was built through the farm (Monmouth County Deeds A3 147 and E4 258), reducing it to its present size of 115.34 acres.

<u>1842</u> - <u>1911</u>: The farmstead was purchased from Rulif R. Schenck in 1842 by Richard S. Hartshorne Jr., a New York businessman engaged in the selling of oil under the name of Van Vorhees and Hartshorne. A native of Matawan, where he was born on January 6, 1814, and a descendant of Richard Hartshorne, one of the original Monmouth patentees, Hartshorne bought the Freehold property in the spring of 1842, where he moved with his family and took up commercial farming.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number8 F	- (	Walker-Combs-Hartshorne Farmstead (Oakley Farmstead),
	Page	

He remained there with his family until April 1, 1871, when he moved to Freehold, still carrying on his farming business. Around July 1, 1872, while stowing away hay in the barn, he slipped and fell twenty feet to the floor, receiving substantial injuries, from which he died on July 29, 1872 (Ellis 1885: 313). His son, Acton Civil Hartshorne, a prominent member of the Monmouth Bar, bought the farm from the estate of his father in 1873 (Monmouth County Deed E4 258).

Acton Civil Hartshorne was born October 12, 1843 on the homestead farm. From 1859 to 1866, he was employed by Holmes W. Murphy, Esq., clerk of Monmouth County, as a copyist, acting as deputy clerk and attending chiefly to searching and preparing abstracts of title. In 1866, Hartshorne entered the office of Honorable Joel Parker, where he served a regular clerkship as student-at-law, and at the February term of 1870, was admitted to practice in the courts of the State as an attorney-at-law and solicitor in Chancery; in 1876 Hartshorne was admitted as counselorat-law. On May 1, 1875, he formed a law partnership with the Honorable Chilion Robbins, ex-judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Monmouth County under the name Robbins and Hartshorne. Hartshorne also served as special master and examiner in the Court of Chancery and that of Supreme Court Commissioner. He married Georgie E. Bibb of Alabama, granddaughter of Governor and U.S. Senator Bibb of Alabama. Hartshorne attended the World's Exposition at Vienna as a commissioner from New Jersey appointed by the Governor, under an act of the Legislature (Ellis 1885: 312). Due to his prominence as a public figure, Hartshorne maintained an office and home in Freehold and leased the farmstead to tenant farmers (interview with Elizabeth Oakley: July 1988). In 1911, Hartshorne sold the farm to Charles Oakley Jr., a general purpose farmer from East Williston, Long Island (Monmouth County Deed 904 286).

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number <u>8</u> Page <u>7</u>

Walker-Combs-Hartshorne Farmstead (Oakley Farmstead), Freehold Township, Monmouth County, NJ

#### CHAIN OF TITLE TO PROPERTY

- 1686 Proprietors of East Jersey to John Barclay (East Jersey Deed B40, 42).
- 1686 John Barclay to Robert Barclay (East Jersey Deed B41, 43).
- 1699 Robert Barclay to John Reid (East Jersey Deed G223).
- 1701 John Reid to John Bowne (Monmouth County Deed D159).
- 1706 John Bowne to Richard Clark (Monmouth County Deed F34).
- 1720 Richard Clark to George Walker (Monmouth County Deed G67 -Richard Clark's house was on this property).
- 1729 Richard Clark to George Walker (Monmouth County Deed H39).
- 1748 George Walker Sr. to George Walker Jr. (New Jersey Will 01599).
- 1794 George Walker Jr. to Aaron Forman Walker, Administrator (Monmouth County Will Liber 33, p. 425).
- 1801 Aaron Forman Walker et al. to Elijah Combs (Monmouth County Deed N118).
- 1832 Commissioner of Monmouth County/Estate of Elijah Combs to Rulif R. Schenk (Monmouth County Deed A3 147).
- 1842 Rulif R. Schenk to Richard S. Hartshorne (Monmouth County Deed E4 258).
- 1873 Commissioner of Monmouth County/Estate of Richard S. Hartshorne to Acton Civil Hartshorne (Monmouth County Deed 250 409).
- 1911 Acton Civil Hartshorne to Charles Oakley Jr. (Monmouth County Deed 904 286).

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_ Walker-Combs-Hartshorne Farmstead (Oakley Farmstead), Freehold Township, Monmouth County, NJ

- 9. Major Bibliographic References
- Beekman, George C. <u>Early Dutch Settlers of Monmouth County, New</u> Jersey. Freehold: Moreau Brothers, 1901.
- Ellis, Franklin. <u>History of Monmouth County, New Jersey</u>. Philadelphia: R.T. Peck and Co., 1885.
- Hornor, William S. This Old Monmouth of Ours. Freehold: Moreau Brothers, 1932.
- Monmouth County, New Jersey. Historic Sites Inventory 1316-34 (1981).
- Pomfret, John E. <u>Colonial New Jersey.</u> New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1973.
- Schmidt, Hubert G. <u>Agriculture in New Jersey</u>. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1973.
- Stillwell, John E., M.D. Unrecorded Wills and Inventories, Monmouth County, New Jersey. New Orleans: Reprinted by Polyanthos, 1975.
- Wacker, Peter. Land and <u>People.</u> New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers University Press, 1975.

Official Records

Monmouth County Agricultural Census 1850, 1860 and 1880

- Monmouth County Hall of Records, Freehold, New Jersey Monmouth County Deeds, Probate Inventories and Wills
- New Jersey State Archives, Department of State East New Jersey Deeds
- New Jersey State Census 1915
- United States Federal Census 1830 1910

#### Miscellaneous

Interviews with Elizabeth Oakley, July 1988, August 1989, March 1990.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Walker-Combs-Hartshorne Farmstead (Oakley Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_: PHOTOGRAPHS Farmstead), Freehold Township, Monmouth County, NJ Photographs The following information is the same for all of the photographs: 1) Name of property: Walker-Combs-Hartshorne Farmstead 2) City, county and state: Freehold, Monmouth County, New Jersey 3) Photo by: Ulana D. Zakalak 4) Photo taken: August 1989 and March 1990 (Photo Numbers 1, 3 and 4) 5) Location of negative: Zakalak Associates 57 Cayuga Avenue Oceanport, New Jersey 07757 6) & 7) Descriptions of views indicating direction of camera: Photo 1 of 13: South (main) facade of farmhouse, camera pointing north Photo 2 of 13: North (rear) facade of farmhouse, camera pointing southwest Photo 3 of 13: Close-up of main entrance, south facade, camera pointing north Photo 4 of 13: Interior, main entrance, camera pointing south Photo 5 of 13: Interior, stair hall, camera pointing north Photo 6 of 13: Interior, rear entrance, camera pointing north Photo 7 of 13: Interior, parlor in southwest corner of the house, first floor, camera pointing southwest Photo 8 of 13: Interior, sitting room in southeast corner of the house, first floor, camera pointing east Photo 9 of 13: Interior, southwest bedroom, second floor, camera pointing northwest Photo 10 of 13: Horse/cow barn (#2), carriage barn (#3) and sheds #1 - 3, pointing northwest Photo 11 of 13: Cow barn (#1), camera pointing west Photo 12 of 13: Cow barn (#1) with other barns and sheds in the background, camera pointing northeast Photo 13 of 13: Feed house, camera pointing northwest



Freehold Township Tax Map, Block 69, Lot 35 showing boundaries of Oakley Farmstead. Walker-Combs-Hartshorne Farmstead, Freehold Township, Monmouth County, NJ



