## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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

### SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 02000133 Date Listed: 3/8/2002

Property Name: Van Horne House

County: Somerset State: NJ

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:

This SLR makes a technical correction to the form. In section 3 of the form, "National" level of significance was inadvertently checked; the SHPO has clarified that "Local" level of significance is the appropriate level. The form is amended to note this change.

DISTRIBUTION: National Register property file Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

NPS Form 10-900 (Oct. 1990)	RECEIVED	2280	OMB No. 10024-0018
United States Department of the Interior National Park Service	22	2002	133
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form	S CARE DE CASTER OF HIL MATRIMAL PARK	STORIC FOLCES SERVICE	ole
This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National by entering the information requested. If an item does not apple architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form	Register Bulletin 16A). Co y to the property being do enter only categories and	mplete each item by n cumented, enter "N/A I subcategories from th	narking "x" in the appropriate box or " for "not applicable." For functions, he instructions. Place additional
1. Name of Property			
historic name Van Horne House			
other names/site number			
2. Location			
street & number941 East Main Stre	et		D not for publication
city or town Bridgewater Township	)		C vicinity
state NJ code code			-
3. State/Federal Agency Certification			
request for determination of eligibility meets the docu Historic Places and preets the procedural and profession meets	nal requirements set forth ia. I recommend that this	in 36 CFR Part 60. In property be considered	my opinion, the property
In my opinion, the property  meets does not meet comments.)	t the National Register crit	eria. ( See continua	tion sheet for additional
Signature of certifying official/Title	Date		
State or Federal agency and bureau			
4. National Park Service Certification I hereby certify that the property is:	Signature of the Ke		Date of Action
M entered in the National Register.	atur 1	Induis	3/8/02
☐ determined eligible for the National Register ☐ See continuation sheet.			
determined not eligible for the National Register.			
removed from the National     Register.			
other, (explain:)			

Van Horne House

Somerset, NJ County and State

5. Classification				
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Reso (Do not include prev	ources within Proper iously listed resources in the	ty - ne count.)
Image: Second system    Image: Second system      Image: Second system    Image: Second system		Noncontributing	•	
			sites	
	🗌 object			structures
			<u>1</u>	objects
		1	1	Total
Name of related multiple p (Enter "N/A" if property is not part	roperty listing of a multiple property listing.)	Number of cont in the National	ributing resources p Register	reviously listed
N/A		0		
6. Function or Use				
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		Current Functions (Enter categories from in	nstructions)	
Domestic: single family Commercial: business		Social:civic		
		Culture: mu	iseum	
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
		******	·	
7. Description Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)		Materials (Enter categories from in	nstructions)	
Colonial Revival		foundationstone	Э	
			ninum	
		roof wood	l shingle	
		other		
Narrative Description				

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

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#### Van Horne House

Name of Property

#### 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.

Somerset, NJ County and State

#### Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

#### Architecture

Period of Significance 1937 –1944 I

Significant Dates

<u>N/A</u>

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

۰.

<u>N/A</u>

**Cultural Affiliation** 

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

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

#### 9. Major Bibliographical References

#### Bibilography

(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
  # NJ-523
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Van Horne House	Somerset, NJ County and State		
10. Geographical Data			
Acreage of Property _approx. 1.985			
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)			
1       5       3       7       9       9       4       4       8       9       9       8       0         Zone       Easting       Northing         2       1	3   1   1   1   1     Zone   Easting   Northing     4   1   1     5   See continuation sheet		
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)			
11. Form Prepared By			
name/title Dennis N.Bertland			
Dennis Bertland Associates	June, 2001 date		
street & number PO Box 11	telephone908-689-6356		
city or town Port Murray	state zip code <u>07865</u>		
Additional Documentation			
Submit the following items with the completed form:			
Continuation Sheets			
Maps	•		
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the p			
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having	ng large acreage or numerous resources.		
Photographs			
Representative black and white photographs of the p	property.		
Additional Items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)			
Property Owner			
(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)			
name Heritage Trail Association			
street & number PO Box 8095	telephone		
city or townBridgewater	stateN.T zip code 807		
Panerwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for	or applications to the National Begister of Historic Places to pomina		

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

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

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Van Horne House, Somerset County, NJ

#### **DESCRIPTION**

Prominently located just west of Interstate Route 287 in suburban Bridgewater Township, the Van Horne House crowns a low rise several hundred yards north of the Raritan River amidst the modern commercial development that has engulfed the area in recent years. Named for the property's 18<sup>th</sup>-century owner, Col. Philip Van Horne, but presenting a 20<sup>th</sup>-century Colonial Revival appearance, the frame, two-story, gableroofed house consists of a large main block with smaller flanking wings. The main block has symmetrical, five-bay, front and rear facades, paired interior gable-end chimneys and a double-pile center-hall plan. The flanking wings, almost half as deep as the main block and much lower in height, feature three-bay front elevations and interior gable-end chimneys. While its exact construction date remains unknown, the house probably was erected in the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, most likely before the Revolutionary War, and was extensively remodeled in the middle decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. In fact, little early fabric survives other than the foundation and frame. Physical evidence indicates that the kitchen wing to the east was an early addition; construction of the west wing occurred in 1969. Although the Van Horne House has been subject to a number of alterations since its Colonial Revival transformation by the Calco Chemical Company between 1937 and 1944, most notably in the 1960s, it retains architectural integrity of the 1937–1944 period and the ability to reflect its historical and architectural significance.<sup>1</sup>

#### **Exterior:**

Except for the coursed-rubble stone foundation, the exterior of the house is an amalgam of  $19^{th}$  and  $20^{th}$ -century features (photo #s 1 – 7). The aluminum siding was installed c. 1980, perhaps in conjunction with repairs made after the house suffered minor fire damage in 1977. Much of the clapboard siding beneath the aluminum evidently dates to the 1930s and 1960s renovations, although some earlier siding may well survive. The wood shingle roofing appears to be contemporary with the aluminum siding and replaces the wood shingling installed in the 1930s. The southern two of the main block's paired chimneys retain brick stacks that bear evidence of reworking; the northern two stacks have been removed. The main block has box cornice with built-in gutters, returns and wide frieze. Depicted in the 1938 HABS photographs, as well as in earlier  $20^{th}$ -century

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> HABS-NJ-523: date sheets, pp. 1-15; "Calco Company to Restore Historic Van Horne Homestead Near Plant," *Somerset Messenger*, 12/21/1937 & *The Calco Diamond*: "Bound Brook," September, 1941 & "Historic Van Horne House Now Converted to Office Building," April, 1944.

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photographs, the cornice resembles vernacular Greek Revival work of c. 1830-60, although it may have been rebuilt in the 1930s. The east wing has flush raking eaves, and its gable-end chimney features a brick stack and exposed brick fireback from which a domed bake oven protrudes (photo #4). The latter appears to have been considerably reworked. Early 20<sup>th</sup>-century photographs document that the bake oven was originally contained within a one-story shed-roofed appendage extending the width of the wing's east gable end; a c. 1934 photograph reveals that the shed addition had been removed by that time. The present small shed appendage was added in the early 1960s. Most of the dwelling's 6/6 sash windows appear to date to the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, as do the main block's front and rear entries and the front porch. The windows have plain trim and aluminum shutters, contemporary with the siding, which replaced louvered and panel shutters depicted in historic photographs and measured drawings. The hip-roofed, onebay front porch retains a simple entablature and paneled posts characteristic of the Greek Revival style; it was reworked in 1938 when railings replaced built-in 'stoop" seats and the floor deck was rebuilt (photo #3). While the front entry is flanked by 6/4 sash sidelights, the rear entry features narrow, multi-pane, fixed sidelights and transom; both entries have four-panel doors with Grecian ovolo moldings. The rear porch was enlarged from one to three bays in 1938; the multi-pane glass enclosure was added in the early 1960s (photo #7). The east wing's glass-and-panel front door was replaced with a batten door in the early 1960s renovations, at which time the present three-bay porch with square posts and shallow bay arcading was constructed in place of the pent roof depicted in early photographs and drawings (although the porch roof may incorporate the pent roof in whole or part). Historic photographs reveal that the east wing originally had an offcenter north entry. Evidently blocked up by 1937, it was reopened west of center in the 1938 and again removed in the early 1960s renovations. Designed to resemble the east wing, the 1969 west wing also has flush eaves, arcaded front porch and batten front door, the latter a decorative feature only.<sup>2</sup>

#### Interior:

The interior of the house also has a Colonial Revival character but retains some earlier fabric. Surviving 18<sup>th</sup>-century elements includes the stone foundation and pre-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> HABS-NJ-523: photographs & drawings; M. Schneider, "1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Floors of the Van Horne house," dated 11/11/43; William A. Schleicher, "Some Observations Regarding the age of the Van Horne House," August, 2000; Charles H. Detwiller, Jr., "Alterations to Van Horn House for American Cyanamid," dated 2/28/60, last revised 12/23/65; Historic Building Architects, LLC.& Dennis Bertland Associates, *Preservation Plan for the Van Horne House*, April, 2001, pp. II-5, 13, 24, 27-32 & 35-37, V-9 & 10 and VII-8 & 9; "Van Horne House damaged by fire," *Messenger-Gazette*, November 17, 1977.

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sumably much of the hewn timber framing, as well as some interior wooden trim like the chair rail fragment in the attic stairwell, the attic stair door, the mantel in the second-story northeast room, and the frame of the blocked west gable window. The latter elements, for the most part, appear to have been recycled, either from other locations in the house or off site, at various times. Other early fabric recorded by the HABS drawings has been removed, including the base of back-to-fireplaces between the main block east rooms and most of the brick nogging in the perimeter walls, as well as the wall and ceiling plaster and hand-split lath (photo #s 29, 30, 32 & 36). While one HABS historian concluded that the house was "about 1755 or 1770," another posited that the house was rebuilt in the 1790s, its foundations and the removed chimney base having survived from an earlier dwelling on the site. Other historians have argued that the removed chimney base and main block frame were contemporary, citing the physical evidence of the "closet shaft" and patched hole in the attic floor roughly aligned with the removed base. Although one of the HABS historians concluded, on the basis of surviving fabric, that the house was heavily remodeled in the 1830s, the extensive renovations could have taken place as late as, or continued into, the 1850s or 1860s. The staircase's heavy turned newel is more typical of that era, as was the marble mantel in the southeast 1<sup>st</sup>-story room, now removed, depicted in a 1930s photograph (photo #s 13).<sup>3</sup>

The main block has central stair halls on both stories flanked by two rooms on each side, as well as a full cellar and open attic. In addition to the staircase with its turned balusters, molded handrail and bulbous newel post, a fair amount of  $19^{th}$ -century fabric remains including a number of panel doors and trim, some flooring and the heavily molded window surrounds (those on the first story with panels below the sills; those on the floor above patched where the "shouldered" corners depicted in the HABS drawings were removed). Numerous other modifications have been made to partitions, doorways and other features, and most of the wall and ceiling plaster, woodwork and doors, flooring, and fireplace treatments date to the middle decades of the  $20^{th}$ -century. The firststory hallway, for example, was made narrower by moving its west wall several feet to the east sometime between 1939 and 1943, and the vestibules at both ends were added in he early 1960s (photo #s 12 & 13). As is the case throughout most of the house, the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> HABS-NJ-523: data sheets, pp. 1 & 13-15, also photographs & drawings; Schneider, "1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Floors of the Van Horne house," 11-11-43; Detwiller, "Alterations to Van Horn House for American Cyanamid," dated 2/28/60, See also undated & unsigned c. 1937/38 measured drawings of the house whose attic plan depicts and describes the "hole in floor probably where the original chimney came thru [sic]" roughly aligned with the back-to-back chimney bases; "Historic Van Horne House Now Converted to Office Building," *TCD*, April, 1944; Historic Building Architects, LLC.& Dennis Bertland Associates, *Preservation Plan for the Van Horne House*, April, 2001, pp. II-4 & 24.

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Van Horne House, Somerset County, NJ

hallway has modern wall-to-wall carpeting and patterned wallpaper of "colonial" design presumably introduced after the 1977 fire. The hall chair rail is evidently contemporary with the vestibules. The southeast room's fireplace features a distinctive Colonial Revival treatment of pre-Georgian style derivation, comprised of a segmetally arched opening with paneled surround, simple shelf and three overmantel panels with eared, round-arched heads and bolection moldings. It dates to the early 1940s, as do the room's paneled wainscot and molded cornice. The fireplaces, cornices and chair rails of the two west rooms on the first story are contemporary with those of the southwest room. With its delicate moldings and pilasters, the fireplace mantel in the southwest room reflects the Federal style. That of the northwest room features a Georgian style treatment: eared surround molding and overmantel panel (photo #s 15 - 18). The double-doors between the two west rooms, presumably a  $19^{th}$ -century feature, were reduced in width in the early 1960s. The two restrooms and east wing access corridor occupying the first story's northeast corner also date to the 1960s renovations, as do the heating, air conditioning and electrical systems and fixtures.<sup>4</sup>

The finishes of the main block's second story are similar to, but simpler than, those of the first story. No fireplaces or mantels are present, except for the recycled 18<sup>th</sup>century Georgian mantel in the northeast room (a vertical seam at its midpoint indicates that it was cut down to fit the space). While HABS recorded no mantel there in 1938, a 1943 drawing notes that the mantel at that location was to be retained and that another one in the southeast room was to be removed. A 1937 drawing documents the ceiling beam running east/west midway in the hall above the stairs. Ornamented with fluted key blocks, it may be an early feature. Alterations dating to the 1960s renovations include the file closet between the two west rooms and the small secretarial offices at the front of the hall and in the northeast room.<sup>5</sup>

Something of the main block's construction can be seen in the cellar and attic. The stone-walled cellar is divided in half by a stone and brick wall whose eastern end formed part of the paired 18<sup>th</sup>-century chimney bases and was removed with them in 1960/61. The bases consisted of brick piers spanned by timber lintels, their substantial proportions indicating that they supported large fireplaces. Large bases also support the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> HABS-NJ-523: photographs & drawings; Schneider, "1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Floors of the Van Horne house," date 11/11/43; Detwiller, "Alterations to Van Horn House for American Cyanamid, dated 2/28/60, last revised 12/23/65;" Undated & unsigned c. 1937/38 measured drawings; Charles H.; Historic Building Architects, LLC.& Dennis Bertland Associates, *Preservation Plan for the Van Horne House*, April, 2001, pp. II-24.-31 & 35-37, hereafter Historic Building Architects, LLC.. 5 Ibid.

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paired west chimneys, in contrast to the much smaller brick piers of the later east chimneys. An early brick wall partially encloses a room in the northeast corner of the cellar, and the gap left by the removal of the paired chimney bases was filled with concrete block. While the brick floor paying in the northeast room is early fabric that in the other portions of the cellar apparently dates to the 1930s renovation, at which time the cellar stairs were relocated from a floor hatch at the north end of the center hall to their present location under the main staircase. Although reworked in places, much of the original first-floor framing remains. It consists of large hewn joists on three-foot centers, which span between the north and south walls and the central partition (photo # 33 – 36). Visible in the lofty, open attic, the roof framing consists of hewn common rafters spaced on approximately three-foot centers and connected at the peak with pegged lap joint. The rafters were subsequently reinforced with saw-cut struts which, set at an angle, are pegged to the rafters along sides mortises that may be evidence of removed collar beams (photo #32). The gable walls are framed with small studs, and a considerable amount of brick nogging remains between them. The west gable retains the frame (possibly recycled) of a blocked central window that evidently was replaced by the flanking windows. The floorboards are tongue-and-groove. An enclosed staircase between the northwest room and central hall provides access to the attic (photo #s 30 & 31). Paint ghosts on the hand-planed, tongue-and-groove boards used for the enclosure suggests that they have been recycled. The staircase evidently dates to the 19<sup>th</sup>-century and replaced a staircase located between the two east rooms, now removed, which was recorded by the 1930s drawings but had been blocked off by that time.<sup>6</sup>

The cellarless east wing was extensively remodeled in 1960/61 to create the present conference room. In that work, all first and second story partitions were removed, the ceiling height raised several feet, the north and south walls firred out several inches and the rear entry and windows blocked up. The former kitchen fireplace and flanking bake oven were retained but reworked with new brick facing and wooden mantel. The oven's cast iron door, which bears an 1848 patent date, may have been installed at that time. Other features include recycled wall paneling (purportedly taken from a Philadelphia house), a "colonial" tavern bar grill which hides a kitchenette in the northeast corner, a retractable movie screen on the north wall and a cove cornice incorporating florescent lighting. At the time off the HABS recording, the wing contained a kitchen and two small service rooms with an enclosed staircase in the north corner on the first story and four small second-story chambers. The west wing features two first-story offices, both

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Historic Building Architects, LLC., pp. II-27 & II-36.

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with corner fireplaces, and an upper-story storage room. The simple "colonial" fireplace mantels and other woodwork date to the wing's 1969 construction (photo #21).<sup>7</sup>

#### Setting:

Surrounded by modern development, the Van Horne House occupies slightly sloping ground, which drops off to the south towards East Main Street, the old river road. Main Street's alignment was shifted slightly northward in the 1990s, encroaching on the Van Horne front lawn, to accommodate the construction of a baseball stadium and associated parking lots on the site of the former Calco/American Cyanamid plant across from the house. A shopping center erected around the same time borders the property on the north. Interstate 287 runs along the property's eastern boundary. An asphalt driveway sweeps up from Main Street along the east side of the lot to the parking area which occupies the small rear yard, the site of tennis courts constructed in the 1940s. the alignment of an abandoned driveway survives as a linear depression to the west of the house; beyond it is a large berm constructed in conjunction with development of the adjoining property. An asphalt sidewalk leads from the parking area to the main block's north entry porch. The surrounding grounds are informally planted with a variety of trees and shrubs creating a park-like atmosphere. Many trees are young evergreens evidently planted within the last decade. A row of evergreens was placed along the north property line to screen the blank side wall of the adjoining shopping center; and low ground cover was planted to stabilize the along the steep cut resulting the East Main Street relocation.. There are no foundation planting, although a few small evergreens are clustered near the northeast corner and west side of the house (photo #s 8 - 11).<sup>8</sup>

A flagpole in front of house is only other site feature; Somerset County installed it in the late 1990s (photo #8). Until the late 1930s, a small, gable-roofed, wooden well curb of presumably 19<sup>th</sup>-century date stood adjoining the southeast corner of the east wing. A 1944 photograph documents the existence of a frame, one and one-half story outbuilding with north/south ridge and south gable-end lean-to appendage located northeast of the house. Its provenance and function are unknown.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Historic Building Architects, LLC., II- 7 & 8.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Ibid., II-35.

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#### Integrity:

Although subject to a number of modern alterations within the past fifty years, the Van Horne House still possesses the ability to reflect its historical and architectural significance. Major modifications (the thorough renovation of the east wing and adjoining portions of the main block and addition of the west wing) have left the building's character defining features intact. While its setting has been compromised by the recent surrounding development, house retains its essential integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

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Van Horne House, Somerset County, NJ

#### SIGNIFICANCE

A local landmark visible to passing motorists on Interstate 287, the Van Horne House has significance under Criterion C for architecture. Remodeled between 1937 and 1944 by the Calco Chemical Company (later American Cyanamid), who had acquired the property a few years earlier in the expansion of its adjoining manufacturing facility, the dwelling exemplifies Colonial Revival design and construction, as well as historic preservation approach, of that period.<sup>1</sup> The property is noted for its Revolutionary War associations (particularly its role in the Battle of Bound Brook) and for its 18<sup>th</sup>-century owner Col. Philip Van Horne, genial host to both American and British officers during the war. However, except for the dwelling's foundation and frame little early fabric survives that reflects that era.<sup>2</sup> Nevertheless, archaeological resources relating to the property's role in the Battle of Bound Brook, as well as to the neighborhood's 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century material culture, may exist in the environs of the house

In renovating the Van Horne House during in the 1930s and 1940s for company purposes, Calco made a concerted effort to preserve and enhance its historical architectural character, perceiving the project as more than just the provision of useable workspace but, in a broader sense, as a memorialization of the property's (and the community's) Revolutionary War associations, an idea with heightened patriotic resonance during World War II. Not only was the deteriorated building thoroughly repaired and modern utility systems unobtrusively installed under the supervision of John H. McMurray, vice president in charge of engineering and construction. Colonial Revival woodwork, hardware and other features also were introduced in an attempt to restore its 18<sup>th</sup>-century appearance.<sup>3</sup> Some of these changes were in place when HABS documented the house in 1938/39, and remaining interior work was completed by 1944 to accommodate company offices.<sup>4</sup> As "restored" by 1944, the house clearly expresses the Colonial Revival approach to historic preservation current during the period and evokes the patriotic values informing the contemporary historic preservation movement. Further renovations in 1960/61 (designed by prominent New Jersey architect Charles H. Detwiller, Jr.) and the addition of the west wing in 1969 to update and expand office space continued the earlier

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> HABS-NJ-523: data sheet pp. 6 & 13.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> HABS-NJ-523: data sheet pp. 1-15.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> "Calco Company to Restore..," Somerset Messenger, 12/21/1937 & The Calco Diamond: "Bound Brook," September, 1941, "July Cover Design," July, 1942 & "Historic Van Horne House Now Converted to Office Building," April, 1944, hereafter TCD.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> "Historic Van Horne House Now Converted to Office Building," TCD, April, 1944.

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Colonial Revival design approach.<sup>5</sup> This later work resulted in relatively few changes except in the east wing and adjoining service area of the main block, and the dwelling's 1930s/1940s Colonial Revival character remains largely intact

The site of the Van Horne House lies near the east side of a tract of 2,754 acres stretching between the Raritan River and First Mountain acquired by New York City merchant Thomas Codrington between 1683 and 1685, land that had been recently purchased by the East Jersey Proprietors from its Native American owners. Codrington sold the tract to fellow New York merchant Philip French in 1706, who in his will of that year bequeathed it to his three daughters. A 1722 deed records the partition agreement for the tract between Cornelius Van Horne and Joseph Reade, husbands of French's two surviving daughters, and the survey map accompanying the deed locates "Reades house" on or near the site of the Van Horne House.<sup>6</sup> In about 1735 an 84-acre parcel encompassing the house site became the property of Jacob Janeway, another merchant, who evidently operated a store on the premises until shortly before his death in 1747.<sup>7</sup> Newspaper advertisements in that year for the sale of the property, identify it as "a Pleasant country seat, fit for a gentleman or storekeeper" and give detailed descriptions of the main house on the premises, which appears to have differed markedly from the extant house in size and plan.<sup>8</sup>

In 1750 Philip Van Horne, a son of Cornelius Van Horne, purchased the property from Janeway's executors and, four years later, mortgaged it to a relative of his wife, Elizabeth Ricketts, which document describes him as "of Bridgewater.... Merchant."<sup>9</sup> Although he is thought to have lived in New York for part of the year, Philip Van Horne evidently regarded his Bridgewater farm, which became known by the name of "Phils Hill," as his primarily residence. He served as a colonel in the Somerset County militia during the French and Indian War and was appointed a county court judge in the 1760s. He purportedly retired to "Phils Hill" at the outbreak of the Revolutionary War, and appears to have resided there (in somewhat reduced circumstances after the war) until shortly before his death in 1793 when, having disposed of his New Jersey property, he was living in Maryland, presumably with one of his children. Tax records indicates that while Van Horne retained ownership of a carriage and several slaves during the post-war

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> "Cyanamid Restores Historic House As Its Divisional Headquaters," Somerset Messenger-Gazette, 2/15/1962 & "A New Page Added to the Van Horne Story," TCD, 6/25/1969.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> East Jersey Deeds, Book D2, page 7.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Nathalie Cooper, Somerset County Historical Quarterly Commemorative Issue, 1982, pp. 7 & 8.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> NJ Archives, Newspaper Extracts, 1740-50, pp. 339 & 381.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Somerset County Mortgages, Book B, page 214.

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era, reductions occurred in his livestock and landholdings, the latter being cut in half to 90 acres by 1788.<sup>10</sup>

The Marquis de Chastellux, a French army officer touring America at the end of the Revolutionary War, had dinner with the Van Hornes on November 28, 1780, and left a vivid account of his visit in his journal. He found his host to be "a tall stout man, near sixty years of age, but vigorous, hearty, and good humored," in contrast to Mrs. Van Horne whom he described as:

an old lady, who from her countenance, her dress, and her deportment, perfectly resembles a painting by Vandyck. She punctiliously does the honors of her house, presides over her table without saying a word, and the rest of the time she is merely there, like a family portrait.

The house he noted:

resembles closely what is called 'a manor' in England, [and] is in a beautiful situation; it is surrounded by some trees, the approach is adorned with a grass plot, and if this lawn were better taken care of, one would think oneself in the neighborhood of London rather than in that of New York.<sup>11</sup>

Col. Van Horne is legendary for his hospitality to the American and British officers whom the course of the Revolutionary War brought to his door, generosity which perhaps contributed to subsequent financial difficulties. One American officer who stayed with him in July, 1777, later wrote:

his hospitality ought certainly to have been recompensed by an unlimited credit on the public stores. His house, used as a hotel, seemed constantly full.... notwithstanding the number of guests that were to be provided for, there appeared no deficiency in accommodation, and we supped and lodged well."<sup>12</sup>

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> HABS-NJ-523, pp. 9-15; NJ Tax Ratables, Bridgewater Township, 1779-1793; Fred Sisser, "Philip Van Horne (1719-1793)," Somerset County Genealogical Quarterly, 1992, p. 309; Howard C. Rice, Travels in North America in the Years 1780, 1781 and 1782 by the Marquis de Chastellux, 1963, pp. 118 & 119.
 <sup>11</sup> Rice, 1963, pp. 118 & 119.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> "Memoirs of a Life Chiefly Passed in Pennsylvania" by a Captain Graydon quoted in James L. Bergen, "Phil's Hill, the Home of Col. Van Horne," *Somerset County Historical Quarterly*, April, 1912, pp. 83 & 84.

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Van Horne's house provided headquarters for General Benjamin Lincoln during the spring of 1777 when Lincoln commanded the American troops then deployed at Bound Brook as one of the advanced posts of the Continental Army and for General Lord Stirling during the second American encampment at nearby Middlebrook in 1778/79. "Phils Hill" also figured prominently in the short Battle of Bound Brook when early on the morning of April 13, 1777, the British launched a successful surprise attack on the house, as part of a several prong attack on Bound Brook, routing the American forces stationed there and capturing several cannon. General Lincoln escaped but, according to the second-hand report of a young Hessian officer, fled "without his breeches."<sup>13</sup>

In 1794, shortly after Col. Van Horne's death, "Phils Hill" (along with adjoining lands formerly owned by his father) was sold to John Campbell who evidently lived there until late 1809/early 1810 when he moved to Jamaica. A prosperous landowner, Campbell was assessed on local tax roles during the period for 228 acres of land, as well as for several slaves, considerable livestock, a coach, a dog and, beginning in 1806, a grist mill, presumably the one just east of the house on the Middlebrook.<sup>14</sup> Campbell apparently left his unmarried sister Margaret in residence at "Phils Hill" upon moving to Jamaica, and in April, 1810, conveyed the property to trustees for the benefit of Margaret and his brother James, receiving a Jamaican "plantation or sugar works" in exchange from the latter.<sup>15</sup> In 1831 the Campbell trustees sold "Phils Hill," then comprised of a 242-acre farm and one wood lot, to John Herbert for \$9,500.<sup>16</sup> Herbert, owned and occupied the farm until his death in 1856. A wealthy man for his time and place, he had extensive real estate holdings (including the adjoining Middlebrook grist mill), and the inventory of his personal property made after his death lists cash, bonds and notes worth almost \$32,000 (but unfortunately does not mention any household furnishings). He left his homestead farm to his son, John, Jr., subject to the provision of a life interest in the house and garden for his wife Jane.<sup>17</sup> The inventory made upon Jane Herbert's death in 1860, itemized for the southeast and southwest rooms of the house, includes furnishings typical of a prosperous household of the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century: mahogany furniture (sideboard, table & work stand), fancy chairs, a sofa, lamps and scones, window shades, carpeting, chinaware and a "French bedstead," as well as more utilitarian objects such as a spinning wheel.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> HABS-NJ-523, page 10; Joseph P. Tustin, Diary of the American War: A Hessian Journal, pp. 56-57.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> NJ Tax Ratables, Bridgewater Township, 1794-1809.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Somerset County Deeds, Book P, page.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Somerset County Deeds, Book Q, page 108.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> NJ Wills 3558R.

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earthenware and a churn.<sup>18</sup> The staircase with its heavy turned newel dates to this period, and suggests that her son undertook renovations after her death.

Despite his inheritance John Herbert, Jr., appears to have suffered financial difficulties, and in 1887 the property was seized and sold by the Somerset County sheriff. It changed hands twice more before its 1899 purchase by the Bound Brook Water Company, who purportedly rented the house in 1899 to the New York Typographers Unions as a residence for needy members.<sup>19</sup> Throughout the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the house appears to have been occupied by tenants and to have gradually deteriorated under corporate ownership; the grist mill was torn down in 1903.<sup>20</sup>

The situation changed dramatically upon the acquisition of the house in 1934 by the Calco Chemical Company, whose vast manufacturing complex, begun in 1916, occupied the lowlands directly south of the house between East Main Street and the Raritan River.<sup>21</sup> Caretakers occupied the deteriorated house for three years, but in 1937 the company began to formulate plans for its renovation. In October existing conditions drawings were prepared by a local architect, Ernest T. Brown of Plainfield, and in December the local newspaper reported that plans for the renovation had been completed, that the work, overseen by Calco executive John McMurray, would cost \$12,000 and that the restored building would be used as corporate guest quarters but would be "in a greater sense a museum," since the company reportedly intended not only to restore the building to its original appearance but also to decorate and furnish it "in colonial period." Modern utilities were to be installed but "so introduced...as to avoid clashing with the antique settings."<sup>22</sup> McMurray, who had written a serialized history of the company and was to contribute to several articles about the history of the Van Horne House, appears to have been the driving force behind the preservation effort and was "said to have been collecting Colonial house-furnishings plans and information which will enable him to do a thorough job."23

The February, 1938, issue of the company newsletter, *The Calco Diamond*, reported that while the company had "long contemplated" the restoration of Van Horne

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> NJ Wills 3760R.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Somerset County Deeds, Book P6, pages 201 & 296 & Book V6, pages 205 & 343.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Bergen, Somerset County Historical Quarterly: April, 1912 & TCD, March, 1938.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> "Early History of Calco," TCD, April, 1935.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> "Calco Company to Restore Historic Van Horne Homestead Near Plant," Somerset Messenger, 12/21/1937.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Ibid. & "Early History of Calco," TCD, April, 1935; "History of Calco," TCD, January, 1936.

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House, the impetus for undertaking the project at that time was providing work for employees during "the present recession in business."<sup>24</sup> By the fall of 1938, when HABS recorded the house, exterior repairs appear to have been completed (including new wood shingle roofs and copper porch roofs, siding repairs, and rebuilt rear porch - enlarged from one to three bays), as well as limited interior work but no plumbing.<sup>25</sup> A 1943 drawing, presumably prepared by the company's construction department, documents the installation of a full bath on the second floor of the main block between the east rooms and a first-story rest room directly below, as well as the relocation of the west wall of the first story hall several feet east to its present position by that time."<sup>26</sup> If and when the house was used as guest quarters remains unknown, although the installation of a full bath, as well the design details for a window seat and flanking linen closets at the front on the upper hall depicted on the 1943 drawing, certainly suggests that such may have been the case or the intention.

In the early 1940s, the house provided limited recreational facilities for company employees and, during World War II, was used for offices. There was a tennis court behind the house by the summer of 1940, and in the following year the company constructed four new courts and installed locker and shower rooms for both men and women in the house.<sup>27</sup> The latter must have been located in the east wing since the 1943 drawing of the main block floor plans records no such facilities there. The September, 1941, issue of the Calco newsletter reported that the company was planning to finish the interior restoration of the house:

While records and indications of the original layout of the Van Horne home are sketchy and incomplete, Calco has engaged a well-known interior decorator who has specialized in the restoration of many colonial buildings. As far as possible, the building's original interior decorations, such as paneling, doorways and window frames are to be followed.<sup>28</sup>

Calco planned "to use the building as a social center for a number of employee activities." In addition to the dressing rooms and showers for the tennis players, several rooms were to "be furnished as club and sitting rooms."<sup>29</sup> Interior work was completed

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> "Van Horne House (Part I)," TCD, Feb., 1938, page 2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> HABS-NJ-523: photographs and drawings.
<sup>26</sup> M. Schneider, "1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Floors of the Van Horne house," 1/-11/43.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> TCD, September, 194, p. 2, "Tennis," TDC, May, 1941, p. 10 & "Tennis," TDC, May, 1942, p. 13.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> "Bound Brook," TDC, September, 1941, page 11.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> Ibid.

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by early 1944, and photographs appearing in the April newsletter indicate that many of the main block's extant interior features, most notably the fireplace mantels and overmantels in the three principal first-story rooms, were extant by that time. The April newsletter related that the house had been converted into "temporary war-time office space" to relieve crowded conditions in another company building. The "Pharmaceutical sales and administration department" occupied the first floor and the "Dye and Intermediate Export sales personnel" the second story.<sup>30</sup>

During World War II, Calco sought to stress the patriotic associations of its preservation of the Van Horne House and to use the house as a symbol of its efforts for wartime production. The July, 1942, issue of *The Calco Diamond* featured a cover photograph of the Van Horne House with an oversized American flag flying above it and the inscription "Van Horne House/1750-1942." A short article on the cover design noted that the house "is emblematic of Calco's own production drive to carry on the ideals established here 164 years ago," making reference to the dwelling's Revolutionary War Associations and "that bitter winter when the American Army quartered itself here [at Middlebrook]."<sup>31</sup> In describing the conversion of the house to office space in 1944, the newsletter observed that:

Charm notwithstanding in the revolutionary fame of the Van Horne house, Calco workers may be proud that the restored mansion now plays a vital part in the present war by providing the necessary office space for the department responsible for the sale of sulfa-drugs not only to the drug trade but to the armed forces all over the world.<sup>32</sup>

Office use of the Van Horne House continued after the War and throughout the 1950s, although apparently for less high profile functions, such as the company's utility office, once wartime space limitations had been alleviated. Company reorganization plans of the early 1960s resulted in new interest in the house. Concurrent with the relocation of its corporate offices from New York to Wayne, New Jersey, the American Cyanamid Company (formerly Calco) mandated the relocation of division managements from New York to the site of their largest facilities as part of a decentralization program. With the transfer of the firm's organic chemicals division to the Bridgewater plant, new office space was required. Instead of erecting a new administration building, company

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> "Historic Van Horne House Now Converted to Office Building," *TCD*, April, 1944.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> "July Cover Design," TCD, July, 1942, page 2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> "Historic Van Home House Now Converted to Office Building," TCD, April, 1944.

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officials decided to renovate the Van Horne House for that purpose. Architect Charles H. Detwiller, Jr., prepared plans for the necessary work which included structural repairs, installation of new electrical, heating and air conditioning systems, replacing old bathrooms with new restrooms in the 1<sup>st</sup>-story northeast room, and extensive renovation of the east wing as a conference room with kitchenette. While some early fabric was lost (notably the stub of an interior chimney recorded by HABS which predated the east end-wall chimneys), the dwelling's Colonial Revival character was preserved and the new work incorporated colonial motifs and recycled fabric. Some more modern elements also were introduced including "wall-to-wall carpeting made of Cyanamid's Creslan acrylic fiber."<sup>33</sup> In 1969 the west wing was added to provide additional office space. Designed by plant architect R. A. Westergren "to match the type of construction of the original building," the new wing mirrors the proportions of the east wing.<sup>34</sup>

The company continued to use the Van Horne House for offices in the 1970s and maintain its historical character. Recognized for its "colonial heritage," the house figured prominently in the Bicentennial celebrations held in Somerset County in 1976. Featured in a countywide historic house tour, it also served as the venue for an exhibit of Revolutionary War era relics and antiques. In November of the following year, a fire broke out in the northwest corner of the second story. As reported by a Calco official to a local newspaper, "the building sustained structural damage in the room where the fire started, and there was extensive smoke damage throughout the house." The fire damage was repaired soon after, and the interior redecorated.<sup>35</sup>

The situation changed drastically around 1980, when American Cyanamid, faced with environmental problems among other issues, decided to close its Bridgewater facility. Although the factory complex along the Raritan was declared a superfund site in 1982, two years later the upland property including the Van Horne House was determined marketable and the company sought to sell it for development. Despite widespread local opposition, the company received planning board permission "to move the house some

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> Charles H. Detwiller, Jr., "Alterations to Van Horn House for American Cyanamid," dated 2/28/60, last revised 12/23/65; "Cyanamid Restores Historic House As Its Divisional Headquarters," Somerset Messenger-Gazette, 2/15/1962, hereafter SMG; "Colonial Mansion converted to Offices," SMG, 1/21/1964.
 <sup>34</sup> "A New Page Added to the Van Horne Story," TCD, 6/25/1969.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup> "Colonial Heritage Draws Widespread Interest," *TCD*, 8/26/1976; "Washington Was Here – Somerset County During the Revolutionary War 1775 –1783 -Exhibit of antiques and Americana of the Revolutionary Period /Van Horne House, Bound Brook, N. J.," no date: "Van Horne House damaged by fire," *Messenger-Gazette*, November 17, 1977.

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2,000 feet to the west in order to more fully develop their property."<sup>36</sup> However, development plans were subsequently abandoned, only to be resurrected in the 1990s.

In 1997 through a complicated series of transactions developer William Krame of Paramus, NJ, Bridgewater Township and Somerset County agreed to the division and development the former Cyanamid property as a big box shopping center, parkland and a baseball stadium, the county receiving the Van Horne House in the division. The project required relocation of Main Street northward onto the Van Horne lawn, the site of part of the Battle of Bound Brook.<sup>37</sup> Somerset County commissioned an archaeological survey of the portion of the Van Horne property within the proposed road realignment project area. The study, limited to the area directly impacted by the road project, found "no potentially significant archaeological deposits," and the road consequently was approved and built in 1999.<sup>38</sup>

At that time, the Heritage Trail Association of Somerset County began formulating plans for the preservation and adaptive reuse of the Van Horne House as a cultural center featuring interpretive exhibits about local history and related programs. The HTA, which received title to the property from Somerset County in March, 2001, seeks to secure New Jersey and National Register listing for the Van Horne House, recognizing both the historical significance of the house and the important role of register listing in achieving its preservation.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> "Acroterion, Architectural and Historical Eevaluation of the Van House, September 1984, pp. 1 and 5; Jessie Havens and Judy Peters, "Chronology of the Van Horne House and Site," 1997.

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> Joe Tyrrell, "Baseball wins Bound Brook Battle," The Star Ledger, 1/4/1998:27; Havens & Peters, 1997.
 <sup>38</sup> Richard Grubb & Associates, Historical and Archaeological Survey East Main Street Realignment Project Township of Bridgewater, Somerset County New Jersey, 3/20/1998:1-1.

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Somerset County Deeds Somerset County Mortgages

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#### **BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The boundary of the nominated property is delineated on the attached entitled "Van Horne House Site and Boundary Map" and is verbally described in the following paragraph. The site and boundary map was made using a recent a property survey map entitles "Site Plan the Van Horne House," which was prepared by Michael J. Amoross, Somerset County Engineer, and dated 5/18/00.

The boundaries of the nominated property are those of block 350, lot 4, the lot on which the Van Horne House stands. The boundary begins at the east corner of block 350, lot 4, which point is located about 10 feet from the East Main street edge of pavement. From there, it proceeds northwest along the northeast side of lot 4 to the north corner of that lot, then southwest along the northwest side of the lot to its west corner, and finally east along the south side of the lot to the place of beginning.

#### **BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The boundary of the nominated property corresponds to those of block 350, lot 4 which lot comprises all of the remaining lands appurtenant to the Van Horne House.

the fraternity house from the park-like campus grounds, arbitrary lines of convenience were delineated. South College Drive and the service driveway provide appropriate physical boundaries to the south and east.

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#### **Photographic Identification:**

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

Name:	Van Horne House
Location:	941 East Main Street
	Bridgewater, NJ
Photographer:	Dennis Bertland
Date of photographs:	winter/spring, 20001
Negative repository:	Dennis Bertland Associates
	PO Box 11
	Port Murray, NJ 07865

#### Photograph direction of view:

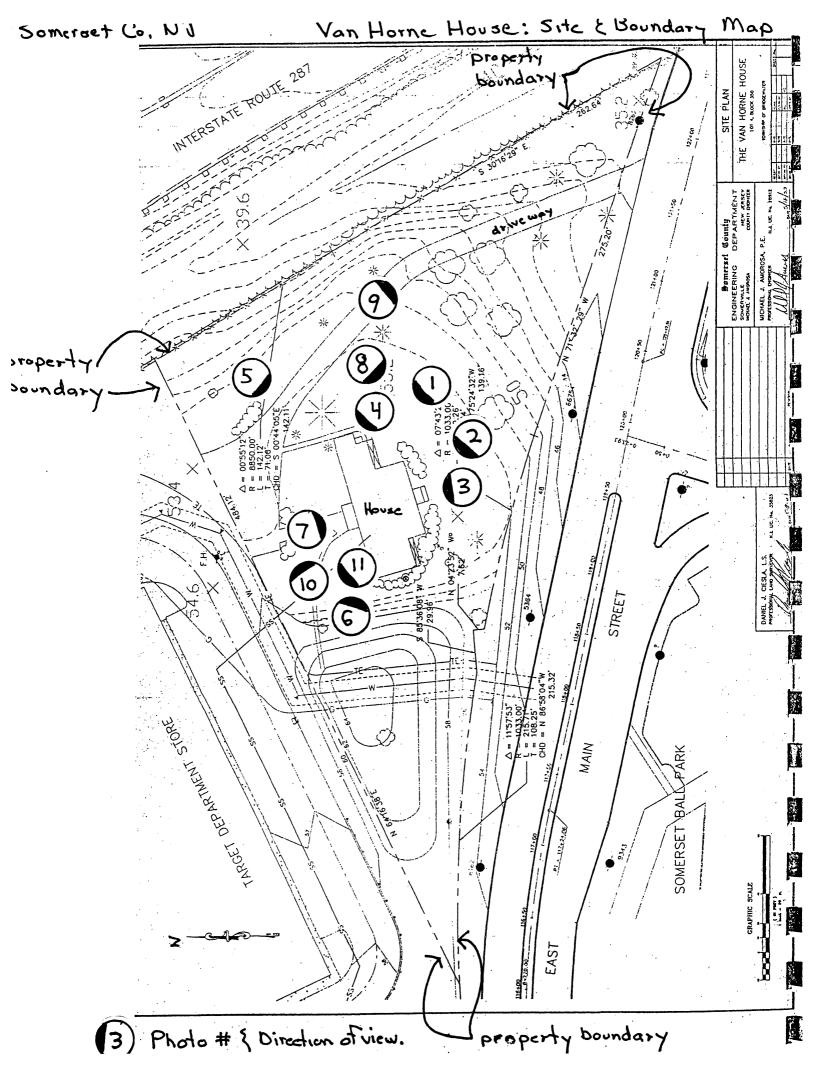
- #1 south & east facades, northwest view.
- #2 south & east facades, northwest view.
- #3 south entry porch, northwest view.
- #4 east façade, bake oven detail, northwest view.
- #5 east & north facades, southwest view.
- #6 west & north façades, southeast view.
- #7 north entry porch, south view.
- #8 south lawn & flagpole, southwest view.
- #9 driveway, southeast view.
- #10 rear lawn & parking lot, northeast view.
- #11 rear lawn, northwest view.
- #12 1<sup>st</sup> story, center hall, southeast view.
- #13 1<sup>st</sup> story, center hall, northeast view.
- #14 1<sup>st</sup> story, SE room, northeast view.
- #15 1<sup>st</sup> story, SE room, northwest view.
- #16 1<sup>st</sup> story, SW room, northwest view.
- #17 1<sup>st</sup> story, NW room, northwest view.
- #18 1<sup>st</sup> story, NW room, northeast view.
- #19 1<sup>st</sup> story, conference room, northeast view.
- #20 1<sup>st</sup> story, conference room fireplace, northwest view.
- #21 1st story, west wing, south room, northwest view.
- #22 2<sup>nd</sup> story, center hall, southeast view.

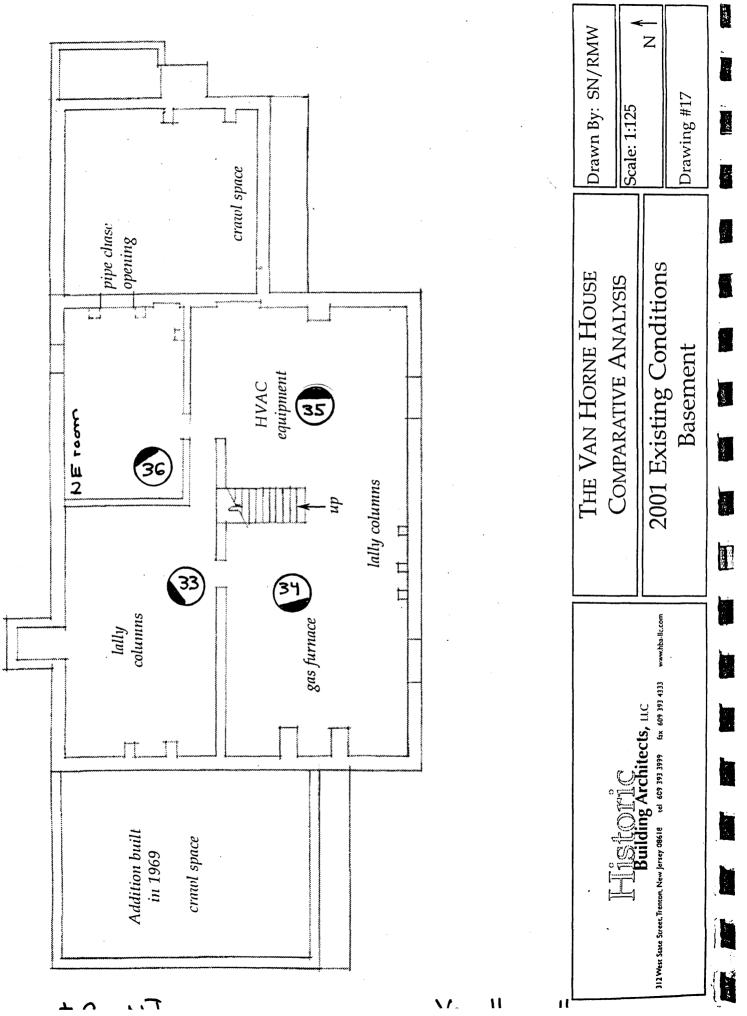
### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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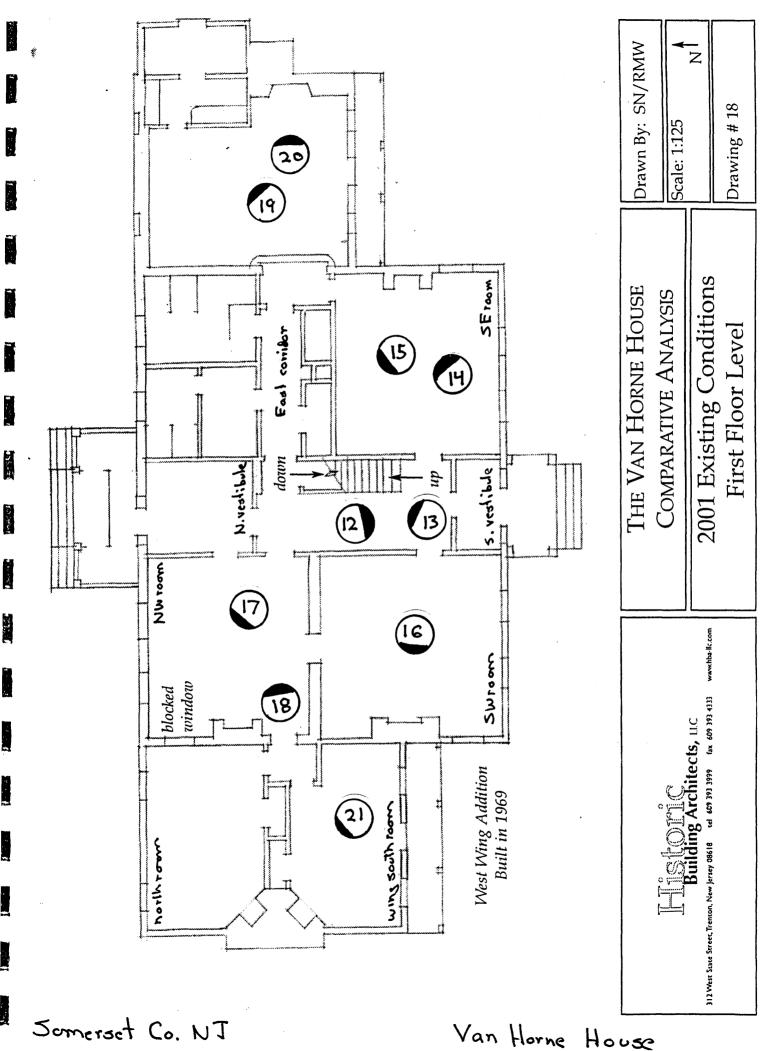
Van Horne House, Somerset County, NJ

- #23 2<sup>nd</sup> story, center hall, northeast view.
- #24 2<sup>nd</sup> story, SE room, southeast view.
- #25 2<sup>nd</sup> story, SW room, northeast view.
- #26 2<sup>nd</sup> story, NW room, northeast view
- #27 2<sup>nd</sup> story, NW room, southwest view into SW room
- #28 2<sup>nd</sup> story, east corridor, east view
- #29 2<sup>nd</sup> story, NE room, northeast view
- #30 2<sup>nd</sup> story, center hall, attic stairs door, southwest view
- #31 2<sup>nd</sup> story, attic stairs, southeast view
- #32 main block attic, southeast view
- #33 main block cellar, northwest view
- #34 main block cellar, southwest view
- #35 main block cellar, east view
- #36 main block cellar, NE room, brick floor, northeast view



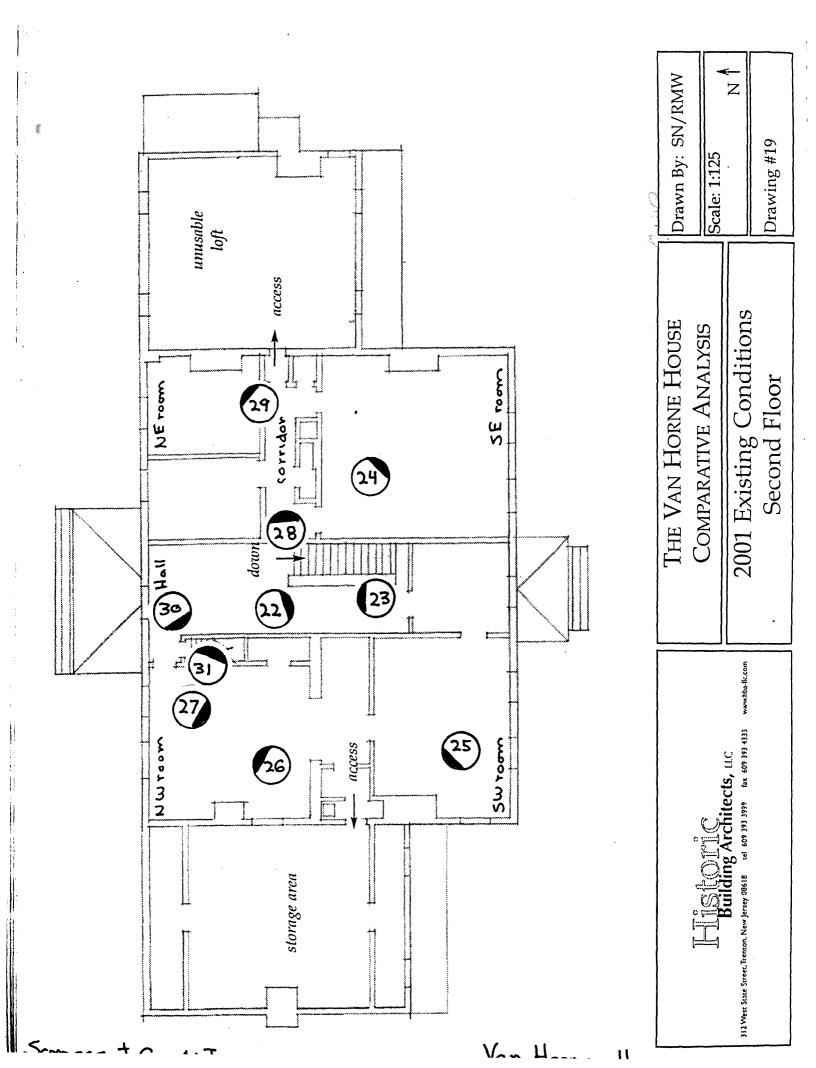


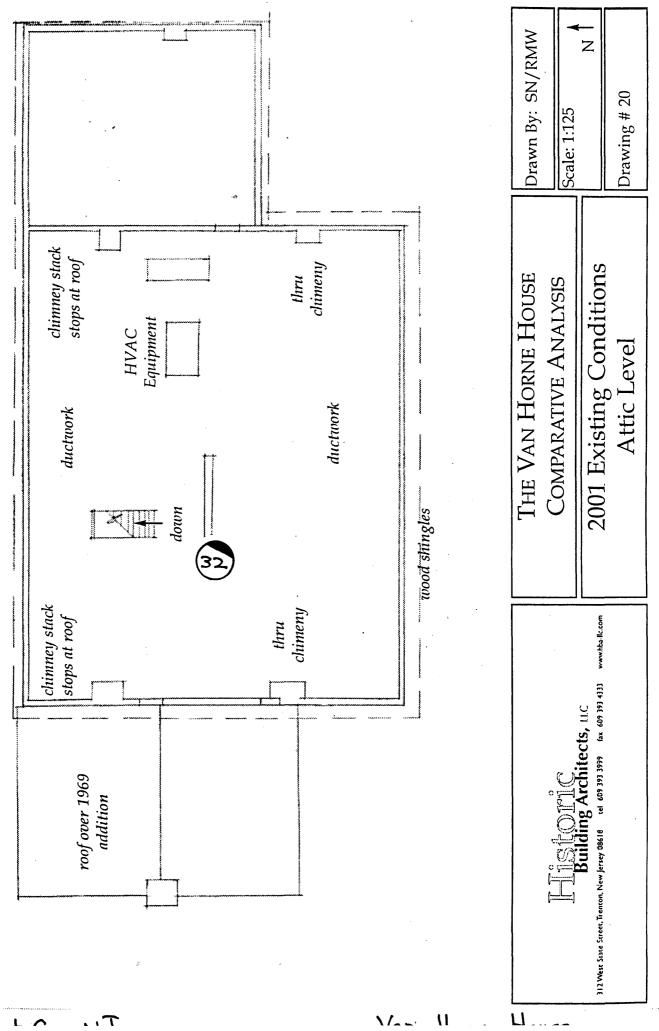
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