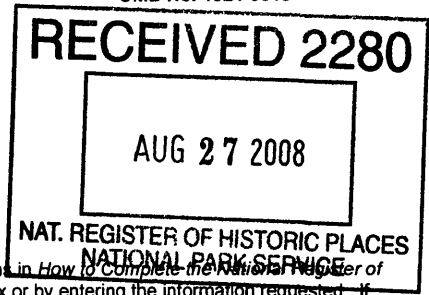


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

972



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Vail-Trust House

other names/site number Trust House

2. Location

street & number 225 Greenbrook Road not for publication

city or town Green Brook Township vicinity

state New Jersey code NJ county Somerset code 035 zip code 08812

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. See continuation sheet for additional comments.

Amy Cradic Signature of certifying official/Title 7/24/08 Date

Amy Cradic, Assistant Commissioner, Natural & Historic Resources/DSHPO
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet for additional comments.

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Patrick Andrews 10/7/2008

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2		buildings
		sites
	1	structures
		objects
2	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/ single dwelling

DOMESTIC/ secondary structure

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/ not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

FEDERAL

ITALIANATE

COLONIAL REVIVAL

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls WOOD

roof ASPHALT

other

Narrative Description

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

8 Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria considerations

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

Property is:

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

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

c. 1790 - c. 1876

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Runyon, John

Primary location of additional data

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

Name of repository:

Vail-Trust House

Name of Property

Somerset County, NJ

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 4.73 Acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	18	542724	4493199	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2				4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ann Parsekian, James Cox, Janice Armstrong, Dennis Bertland

organization Dennis Bertland Associates date June 2007

street & number P.O. Box 24 telephone 908-213-0916

city or town Bloomsbury, NJ state NJ zip code 08804

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Green Brook Township

street & number 111 Greenbrook Road telephone 732-968-1023

city or town Green Brook state NJ zip code 08812

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

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Vail-Trust House
Somerset County, NJ

Section number 7 Page 1

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Occupying a four-acre municipally owned lot in suburban Green Brook, the Vail-Trust House is a south-facing frame dwelling composed of three principal sections, each of which dates to a different century. At the east end, the earliest section is comprised of two deep East Jersey Cottages that were constructed around 1790. A 20th-century Colonial Revival porch has been added to the south façade of this wing. The center section is a two-story gable-front block with Italianate architectural details that was built around 1876. At the west end of the dwelling is a one-story 20th century Colonial Revival wing. The building has good structural integrity, although the condition of the building is only fair at this time. The west wing and central block both retain very substantial amounts of original materials. While the east wing has lost some original materials, such as original sashes, substantial early fabric has survived, including flooring, wall and ceiling plaster, woodwork, and door hardware. As a whole, the building possesses adequate integrity in aspects of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association to convey its significance.

The Vail-Trust House property, which includes a wagon house and a well curb in addition to the dwelling, is at the southwestern end of Green Brook Township at base of First Watchung Mountain, several hundred feet north of Green Brook, a half-mile northeast from its confluence with Bound Brook. The broad flat valley is composed of alluvial soils that originally drew settlers attracted to its agricultural potential. Facing south, and set back only a few feet from the road, the dwelling and the nearby wagon house are surrounded by mature trees and enclosed by a chain link fence in what is now a town park. A small, unnamed tributary of Green Brook runs from the northeast corner to the southwest corner of the property. Currently owned by Green Brook Township, which recently acquired the property from the State of New Jersey, the dwelling takes its historic name from two families that owned the property for a combined total of 177 years. The earliest section was undoubtedly built by the Vail family, which owned the property from 1747 to 1833; however, the house is popularly known as the Trust House after the family that first acquired the property in 1866 and continued to own the house until 1957.

Exhibiting Federal, Italianate and Colonial Revival style influences, the gable-roofed frame dwelling consists of a two-story central block, with double-pile, side hall plan and central chimney; a one-and-one-half story, five-bay, east wing—built in two stages—with double-pile plan and interior chimney; a one-story, single-pile west wing with exterior end-wall chimney; and a two-story appendage extending from the rear of the central block (Photo #s 1 & 6). While exact construction dates remain unknown, physical and documentary evidence indicates that the dwelling underwent four major building campaigns between the late 18th and the mid 20th centuries. The earliest part of the building, the east wing was built in two campaigns, the east section first, as can be seen from framing exposed to

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Vail-Trust House
Somerset County, NJ

Section number 7 Page 2

view in the attic. The wing is comprised of two laterally joined, one-and-one-half story units with almost identical three-room plans and utilizing Dutch H-bent construction (Photo #2). Physical evidence, such as cut nails with hand-hammered heads and door hardware, suggests a construction date between 1790 and 1820 for both parts of the east wing. What is now the central block was constructed around 1876 in an Italianate style, set perpendicular to the earlier wing, with its south gable end projecting slightly to create a plan evocative of the L-shaped Italianate villa (Photo #4). Sometime in the early 20th century, an appendage supported on posts was added to the second story at the north end of the central block (Photo #6). The final major building campaign occurred in the mid-20th century when the Colonial Revival-style, one-story west wing was constructed, and dormers and a Colonial Revival porch were added to the south side of the east wing (Photo #5). Despite the 20th century alterations, the Vail-Trust House retains architectural integrity of the c. 1790-c. 1876 period and the ability to reflect its architectural significance.

The property also contains a two-story wagon house erected in the 19th century that stands a short distance west of the dwelling and is a contributing resource (Photo #25). Located behind the house are a 20th century stone well curb and a group of park furnishings including a small gazebo, benches, and play equipment. These non-contributing resources do not detract from the dwelling's setting.

Plan and Exterior

East Wing

The east wing is comprised of two very similar halves, each one framed separately using Dutch H-bents, and each consisting of three rooms – a large main room and two small rear chambers with garret above – a double pile plan that was common in the region during the 18th and early 19th centuries, which some cultural geographers have identified as a “deep East Jersey Cottage,” a house type that is an amalgam of Dutch and New England cultural traditions (Figures 2 & 3; Photo #s 2 & 3).¹ Dates for the two east-wing building campaigns are difficult to pinpoint. According to local traditions, at least some portion of the dwelling was built during the first half of the 18th century. A 1766 map seems to show a building in existence at that time in the approximate location of the subject dwelling; however, physical evidence points to a late 18th century or early 19th construction date and the transfer from one

¹ For example, see Peter O. Wacker, *The Musconetcong Valley of New Jersey*, New Jersey: Rutgers University Press, 1968, pp. 88-89 and 148-151. See also the farmhouse description in: Dennis Bertland and Janice Armstrong, “Kennedy-Martin-Stelle Farmstead National Register Nomination,” Dennis Bertland Associates, 2001.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Vail-Trust House
Somerset County, NJ

Section number 7 Page 3

Vail to another in 1792 is a likely time for construction to have occurred.² Similarities in construction suggest that the west half was probably built around the same time or not many years later. Both halves undoubtedly were built during the Vail family period of ownership (1747 – 1833).³

The foundation of the east wing is rubblestone, and the wing's clapboard siding and window sashes are a mix of mainly 19th and 20th century fabric. The earliest clapboard is on the south side of the wing and was applied after the second half of the wing was constructed, but predates the 1876 addition. Visible above the ceiling boards of the existing south porch is strip of unpainted wood at the top of the siding under the roof eaves, which may be evidence of an early cornice. Clapboard siding on the north side and some on the east end of the east wing has been replaced. Windows in the east wing appear to retain their original configuration. Most are comprised of nine-over-six sashes, although the two windows on the southern side of the west half have six-over-six sashes. At least one window on the south wall of the wing retains what appears to be an original sash with wide Roman ovolo muntins, indicative of 18th or very early 19th century construction (Figure 2, Window W109, upper sash).⁴ The other sashes on that wall are also early, with narrow Roman ovolo muntins typical of the early 19th century. Most windows retain shutter hinges with pintle mounts of an undetermined age, but which probably are mid-20th century, as they are present on west wing, too. The two dormers on the south roof slope appear to have been added in the late 19th century, during the Trust ownership, and, based on slight differences between the dormer windows and the gable windows on the later central block, they may have been part of a remodeling project reportedly undertaken by Herman Trust after he acquired the property in 1866, which predated construction of the 1876 central block.⁵ The dormers' round arched windows feature shouldered surrounds. One of the three exterior doors in the east wing, D107, appears to be an early vertical-board door hung on strap hinges. Windows on the north and east sides are later replacements. The south entry probably is the original one for the east half of the wing, although interior details in the entry area indicate that some reworking took place, and the door is a 20th century replacement (Figure 2, Door D104-1). All of the windows and doors in the wing, with the exception of the later dormers, have plain trim of undetermined age, which is probably early if not original,

² "Plan of Somerset Cty in the Province of New Jersey/ copies from the original by Lieut. I[J]. Hills, asst. engr." [c. 1770, the original was surveyed by Benjamin Morgan in 1766.] It is possible that a portion of the east wing may represent a substantial rebuilding of an earlier dwelling; however, so far no evidence has been found that would date the building earlier than around 1790. The presence of cut nails with hand-hammered heads in the east half of the wing indicate a construction date between 1790 and 1820

³ It is conceivable that the west half was originally constructed as a separate dwelling contemporaneous to the east half, and then moved to the current location where it was joined to the east half.

⁴ References to building features will use the nomenclature contained in the plans shown in Figures 1-5.

⁵ *Our Town: A History of Green Brook Township, Green Brook, New Jersey*, Green Brook Bicentennial Committee, 1972

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Vail-Trust House
Somerset County, NJ

Section number 7 Page 4

based on the evidence that the clapboard siding on the south elevation of the wing predates the construction of the central block. The chimney is integral to the east half of the wing, and was constructed as an interior gable-end chimney. Its stack has been replaced. Surviving diagonal framing in the north-west corner of the floor in Room 103 suggests that the west half might have also originally featured a gable end chimney. Across the front of the wing is a full-width Colonial Revival porch whose roof framing is modern and was likely constructed when the west wing was added, sometime between 1940 and 1972. Supported on Tuscan columns, its shed roof gives the wing a somewhat Dutch appearance. But what kind of porch was associated with the east wing entry, if there was one that predated the current porch, is unknown.

Central Block

According to descendants of Herman Trust, who purchased the property in 1866, the third major building campaign took place in 1876, when Mr. Trust hired John Runyon, a carpenter from nearby Dunellen, to build what is now the central block of the dwelling. The two-and-a-half story gable-roof frame addition was built perpendicular to the west end of the east wing, creating a dwelling that at the time gave the appearance of an asymmetrical L-shape Italianate villa. With the use of economical manufactured decorative elements, the clever remodeling created an up-to-date, fashionable Victorian house that featured stylish architectural details and modern improvements. Its modified side-hall plan, which features unconnected front and back halls was likely more economical than a plan with an open front-to-back stair hall (Figure 2, Rooms 102 & 110). In places where framing elements have been exposed, they are constructed of saw-cut lumber, machine-cut nails and circular-sawn lath, materials typical of the mid/late 19th century. Italianate stylistic details of the central block include wide overhanging eaves with built-in gutters, articulated as a bracketed box cornice and frieze that is carried on the raking eaves. The cornice is detailed with a crown molding, bed molding and widely spaced scroll brackets. The tall first and second story windows feature two-over-two sashes with plain trim and a molded cornice; the round arch windows in each gable end also have plain trim.

Two other noteworthy Italianate details are prominently featured at the south end of the central block. Centered on the first story is a semi-hexagonal bay window (Figure 2, W103, W104, & W105), with a central window comprised of two-over-two sashes flanked by slightly narrower windows with one-over-one sashes; paneled aprons below the windowsills with simple bolection moldings; and a bracketed box cornice matching that of the main roof. A new main entrance to the house was constructed at the southeast corner of the addition (Figure 2, Door D102-1). The round-arched entry has a bold architrave surround with fillet/ogee molding. The door is recessed slightly and the reveal is lined with recessed panels edged with small ogee molding. Hung on cast iron butt hinges, each leaf of the round-arched door has three panels, all of which are edged with bolection molding. The upper quadrant panel in each leaf is composed of glass. The fields of the lower panels have "nailhead" elements. The

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Vail-Trust House
Somerset County, NJ

Section number 7 Page 5

door's somewhat oversized appearance suggests that it may have been purchased as a pre-manufactured item rather than being custom made for the house. The entry was originally sheltered by a one-bay porch, which a surviving ghost (visible on the wall above the wing porch ceiling) indicates had a low-pitched roof (either shed or possibly quarter hip) with built up eaves to accommodate a built-in gutter.

At the rear of the central block is a 20th-century appendage at the second story, two bays wide, one bay deep, and raised on square posts to second story level, providing cover for a concrete patio area at ground level. Its gable roof was constructed with an extremely shallow pitch, thereby preserving the south gable's round arched window and cornice trim. In contrast to the rest of the central block, windows with two-over-two sashes have no decorative cornices.

West Wing

Sometime between 1940 and 1972, a one-story, single-pile Colonial Revival wing was added to the west side of the central block, balancing the east wing and giving the dwelling a degree of overall symmetry.⁶ The new wing features a concrete block foundation, clapboard siding, 4/4 sash and fixed sash windows, and an exterior gable-end brick chimney. The box cornice at the roof eaves incorporates built-in gutters, which mimic the gutters on the central block, and is returned on the raking eave. Windows in the west wing, as well as many windows in the other sections of the house, retain shutter hinges with pintles mounts. At least some of the shutters are stored in the house and appear to date to the 20th century. Few changes have been made to the exterior of the west wing, although a photograph from 1972 indicates that existing "picture windows" on the north and south elevation replaced two sash windows (Photo #5).

Interior

East Wing

The interior of the east wing retains much of its original character, and surviving features are consistent with a late 18th/ early 19th-century construction date, including its Dutch H-bent framing system, woodwork, nails and door hardware. Two hand wrought nails can be seen on what would have been the original outer face of the east half's northwest corner post. The nails could not have been

⁶ In an interview with the Miss Josephine and Mr. George Trust in 1940, only what they called the "old part" and the "west end" (the Italianate central block) was mentioned. A 1972 photograph shows the completed 20th-century west wing. *Our Town: A History of Green Brook Township, Green Brook, New Jersey*.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Vail-Trust House
Somerset County, NJ

Section number 7 Page 6

hammered in after the west half was in place, evidence that the east frame was erected first. The interior also bears evidence of late 19th century remodeling that dates to Herman Trust's ownership, as well as 20th-century alterations. There is a partial dirt-floored cellar under the east end, which is accessed via a bulkhead entrance located on the west side of the front door (Figure 1). Based on the existing layout of the cellar, it is possible that the original cellar entry was located at the south corner of the west wall of the original dwelling, and was relocated at the time the west half of the wing was constructed. While most of the cellar walls are rubble stone laid with mortar, the diagonal wall in the northwest corner curiously has almost no trace of any pointing or mortar. The area behind the diagonal wall is back-filled with earth and stone that originally supported the hearth of a corner fireplace above it. The structural framing members in the wing are mostly hand hewn, and are assembled with traditional mortise and tenon joinery. The roof is framed with widely spaced roof rafters, for which a mix of hand-hewn and sawn timber was employed. The rafter pairs are connected at the peak with a pegged lap joint and spike nailed to the wall plates. The rafters at the west end of the north slope of the roof are notched to receive a diagonal-placed wind brace that survives (Photo #9). A corresponding wind brace in the southwest corner of the west half may be concealed behind later finishes. It is unknown whether a similar bracing system was used in the east half. Visible in Room 209, are two rafters that belong to the framing for the original east half of the wing, which are notched to accommodate lath for shingles (Photo #10), a construction detail missing from the rafters in the west half of the wing.

Despite subsequent alterations, a considerable amount of early fabric remains in the east wing, including flooring, wall plaster, woodwork, and door hardware. (Figure 2, Room 105; Photo #s 7 & 8). The floorboards in east front room, for example, are secured to the joists by cut nails with hand-hammered heads, a distinctive nail type in general use from about 1790 to around 1820. Coupled with the fact that the joists do not exhibit earlier nail holes, this evidence indicates a post-1790 construction date, which suggests construction occurred after property was acquired by Peter Vail in 1792. A pieced triangular section of flooring supported on a diagonal floor joist in the northwest corner of this room is a sign of a corner fireplace (Photo #8). The boards used to fill in the section are narrower than the surrounding floor, confirming a different construction date. (Figure 1, Room 005). That the corner fireplace was contemporary with the post-1790 flooring is established by a right-angled cut in the pieced area, which would have accommodated the hearth. The corner fireplace was replaced with another flush with the west wall, as evidenced by the ghost outline of its blocked-up firebox and removed mantel, probably during the early 19th century and perhaps in conjunction with the construction of the west half of the wing. That opening was later closed and the mantel removed, possibly in connection with 20th century alterations in the adjacent room (Figure 2, Room 103). Fortunately, a parlor mantel matching the ghost has been found in the attic (Photo #11). Typical of early 19th-century Federal-style work, it is comprised of pilasters with delicate molding, and a plain frieze with projecting center and end

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Vail-Trust House
Somerset County, NJ

Section number 7 Page 7

blocks.⁷ The tongue-and-groove bead board ceiling in this room was likely installed as part of Herman Trust's late 19th-century remodeling project. A door in the southwest corner of the room, (Figure 2, Door D104-2), leads to a tiny vestibule. The angled wall between the vestibule and Room 103 is nogged with brick and is of early construction; the vertical-board door on this wall has been hung upside down, indicating it was likely salvaged from another location. The floor in the vestibule slopes up from the front door, evidence that the vestibule was created or at least reworked when the west half was built.

The two north rooms of the east half of the wing (Figure 2, Rooms 107 & 106) have little original surviving fabric; however, the plain trim on two early interior doorways retain spike-driven pintles (Figure 2, Doors D105-1 and D105-2), which confirm the original configuration of the floor plan as well as the original door swing direction into the smaller chambers. Stored in the attic is a group of early doors, which appear to have been salvaged from the first floor of the east wing, and may include the original doors for these chambers. Several of the doors have early Dutch strap hinges with distinctive round ("pancake") nail pads and Suffolk door latches with bean-shaped cusps, typical of early 19th century door hardware (Photo #s 12 & 13). The western of the two rooms has an exterior board and batten board door hung on early strap hinges (Figure 2, Door D107). The original partition between rooms 106 and 107 and the front room, 105, is filled with brick nogging and is framed by hewn studs, most of which are connected by mortise and tenon joints to the attic floor joists (the horizontal members of the H bents). Room 106 was converted into a bathroom, probably during the period of Colonial Revival remodeling. All fixtures have since been removed.

Except for the absence of a cellar, the plan of the west half of the wing is almost identical to the east half, with dimensions of the two halves differing only slightly. The west half is several feet narrower in width than the east half; and its north wall plate is between one and one-and-one-half inches lower than that of the east half.⁸ The first story of the west half has 20th century replacement flooring above sub flooring that appears to date from the 19th century. In the northwest corner of the west front room (Figure 2, Room 103), a diagonal floor joist (a barely dressed log) supported on stone piers is

⁷It is possible that the mantel was first used on the corner fireplace. The fact that the mantel was a parlor style indicates that at the time the mantel was in use, the room it was in was not being used as a kitchen. It is not clear which room was used as a kitchen during Phase One or Phase Two periods. Either of the large front rooms could have served, or perhaps there was a separate kitchen wing that no longer survives. After the construction of the 1876 central block, presumably one of the rooms in the east wing was utilized as a kitchen.

⁸The difference in heights of the top plates is possible evidence that the west half of the wing was an existing dwelling that was moved and joined to the east half. However, nothing has been found so far that would date this half of the wing to such an early period, although it is possible that such confirmation could still be found, through dendrochronology, for example.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Vail-Trust House
Somerset County, NJ

Section number 7 Page 8

presumably an indication of a corner fireplace that no longer survives. With the exception of some brick rubble, there is no evidence remaining of a chimney mass in this location, which may have been removed when the central block was erected in 1876. Framing to the west of the diagonal joist is dimensional lumber that apparently dates no earlier than the late 19th century and would be consistent with the 1876 building campaign. Exposed ceiling beams in the west front room are mostly saw-cut, or hand hewn and planed, with evidence of chamfered edges (Photo #14). Nail holes in the beams indicate that a plaster ceiling was subsequently installed, at which time the lower face of at least one joist was hacked away to provide a more level surface. The plaster ceiling was removed in the 20th century, probably as part of west wing building campaign that included some remodeling of the east wing to introduce some Colonial Revival elements. Also dating to the Colonial Revival remodeling is the fireplace and mantel on the east wall, created by closing the fireplace in the east front room and opening the back of its firebox. Of the two north rooms, the west room (Figure 2, Room 109) retains a greater amount of early fabric. Its exposed ceiling beams have chamfered edges, and original attic floor boards are visible between the beams. The west back room in this half of the wing has a board-and-batten exterior door whose location matches that of the back door in the east half (Figure 2, Doors D109-1 & D107).

A narrow, enclosed stairway, sheathed with tongue-and-groove bead board, leads from the western-most back room (Figure 2, Room 109) to the attic story, which was partitioned into three rooms, leaving the northwest corner of the attic unfinished. The walls and ceilings of these rooms are sheathed with tongue-and-groove bead board; this work evidently occurred in the late 19th century, judging by the “modern” machine-cut nails and door latches – probably as part of Henry Trust’s remodeling work and likely done at the same time the dormers were added (Figure 3, Rooms 206, 207 & 208; Photo #15). Lift latches on the board-and-batten room doors are of a type known as Blakes patent latch, first manufactured in the mid-19th century and in common use thereafter. The two closets in room 206 also date to the Victorian-era remodeling. Decorative hinges on one closet door are similar to hinges found in the central block, but have ball finials instead of acorns. Early 20th-century ceiling fixtures survive in two of the attic rooms. The random-width, tongue-and-groove attic flooring is attached with cut nails with hand-hammered heads, evidently in early fabric that predates the partitions.

The northwestern portion of the attic (Figure 3, Room 209) remains unfinished, exposing the upper portion of the north wall and the roof framing to view. This area extends slightly into the east half of the wing, where a portion of the gable wall between the two builds having been removed. Visible in this room is a portion of the roof frame structure and, along the north wall in this room, the upper portions of the large hewn posts of the H-bents, including a pair of corner posts where the two halves of the wing were joined.

Central Block

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Vail-Trust House
Somerset County, NJ

Section number 7 Page 9

Both the original side-hall floor plan and most of the interior fabric of the central block survive intact. There is a full-height cellar under this section of the dwelling, with exterior access via a stairless bulkhead entry located in the northwest corner. The first floor is comprised of a larger front room (Figure 2, Room 101) and a slightly smaller back room (Figure 2, Room 111), flanked on the east by front and back hallways. The second floor consists of a large front bedroom (Figure 3, Room 201) and a smaller back bedroom (Figure 3, Room 205) that is flanked by the stairway and an upstairs hall (Figure 3, 202). At the rear of the second floor are two small rooms, one of which serves as a bathroom, that were added to the second story in the early 20th century (Figure 3, Rooms 203 & 204).

The front door enters into a cramped front hall, which accesses the front parlor, the east wing and stairs to the second floor, but does not continue through to the rear of the house (Figure 2, Room 102; Photo #17). The narrow hall contains few architectural embellishments other than molded baseboard and door surrounds that match those in the other rooms, and one elongated molded plaster ceiling decoration. There is no indication that the enclosed staircase originally had railings other than one section along the hall at the top of the stairs, which features a turned newel post and turned balusters. The south or front parlor (Figure 2, Room 101; Photo #18) features wide bolection moldings on door and window surrounds; four-panel doors with recessed mortised locks feature recessed panels on both faces with small ogee molding typical of the mid/late 19th-century. A molded plaster cornice, assembled from pre-cast sections, with decorative strips in an acanthus leaf motif used to mask the section joints, and a large ceiling medallion comprised of a lobed square decorated with acanthus foliage and fruit distinguish this room as the main parlor (Photo #19). The archway opening to the bay window on the south side of the room is supported on pre-cast plaster console brackets in an S-scroll design decorated with acanthus foliage. Egg and dart molding decorates the bay's narrow cornice. The chimney-breast presumably had a mantel that served as a stove back, probably similar to the one present in the rear parlor. The original baseboard, which may have been similar to the baseboard that survives in the back parlor, was removed when baseboard-heating fixtures were installed. After the property was acquired by the Raritan Valley Hospital Association in 1962, some interior remodeling was done to accommodate office use, including construction of a first floor restroom (recently removed); and addition of dropped ceilings (also recently removed).

A wide double door in the northeast corner of the room leads to the back parlor (Figure 2, 111), which was remodeled as a kitchen, probably in connection with the Colonial Revival building campaign. The detailing of this room is somewhat more restrained than that of the front parlor. Moldings on windows and doors match those in the front parlor. However, the ceiling medallion is somewhat smaller (Photo #20), and the room lacks a bay window. Cornice molding, if any, may survive behind 20th century soffits that were added when the room was remodeled as a kitchen during the 20th century. Centered on the south wall is a wooden mantel (Photo #21) composed of plain pilasters and a plain

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Vail-Trust House
Somerset County, NJ

Section number 7 Page 10

frieze with a projecting “keystone,” above which the chimneybreast exhibits a patched stove thimble. Baseboard in the room has an upper edge molding. The back face of the door leading from this room to the rear hall retains its original faux finish, which features well executed bird’s eye maple panels (Figure 2, D110-2). The small back hall provides access to cellar stairs, a back door, and the east wing (Figure 2, Room 110).

On the second floor, the two original rooms (Figure 3, Rooms 201 & 205) have wide ovolo window molding and door surrounds similar to the first floor, and most of the baseboard with upper edge molding survives. Only the rear bedroom shows obvious evidence of a stove thimble on the chimney breast. The front room boasts three built-in closets, while the back bedroom has one. Two rooms, including what was presumably the first indoor bathroom, were added to the north end of the floor sometime during the early 20th century (Figure 3, Rooms 203 & 204). Curiously, the interior surround on the doorway into one of the rooms (Figure 3, Room 203) matches the molding used elsewhere in the central block. Perhaps the door surround was recycled, or it is possible that the existing appendage either replaced or was expanded from an earlier one.

West Wing

The wing’s floor plan consists of a south front entry, a large living room, and a small back hall serving a rear entrance and a powder room (Figure 2, Rooms 112, 113, & 115). Interior finishes in the wing are quite simple, consisting of wood flooring, sheetrock walls and ceiling, and molded window trim. A brick fireplace centered on the west wall has a simple wood mantel that features plain pilasters and a plain frieze.

Other Site Features

Wagon House (19th century; contributing)

Standing several hundred feet northwest of the house is a nineteenth century, two-bay, two-story frame **wagon house**, with later shed appendages on each side, which is covered with vertical board siding (Photo #25). Entries fitted with modern garage doors are located in the south gable end. Modern single-sash windows have been installed in each gable end. It is of traditional box frame construction employing sawn cut timbers and mostly mortise and tenon joinery. A stairway at the north end of the east bay to the second floor that is enclosed with vertical boards features a batten door hung

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Vail-Trust House
Somerset County, NJ

Section number 7 Page 11

on early “Dutch” strap hinges – likely recycled – which are distinguished by their distinctive “pancake” nail pads. The second floor was finished as a workshop during the mid to late 20th century.

Well Curb (20th century; non contributing)

Immediately behind the east wing of the dwelling is a rubblestone **well curb** with a gable roof supported on plain posts set into the stones (Photo #6). Based upon its proximity to the rear of the earliest section of the house, there may have originally been a well in this location, but if so it has been filled in. The well curb appears to be a 20th century construction.

Minor Non-contributing Resources

Also located on the property and depicted on the site plan are a small metal shed, a small wood gazebo, and a small wood bridge, all of which are late 20th century construction. In accordance with guidelines, these small minor resources are not reflected in the resource count for the property.

Landscape Features

The four-acre property features numerous mature trees, including several groups of evergreens that appear to be about seventy years old. An asphalt U-shaped driveway on the south side of the dwelling enters the property from the east. There is evidence that the drive continued to the wagon house. In the southwest corner of the property concrete walkways survive from what may have been a mid 20th century landscaped garden area. The north end of the property has been furnished with a modern gazebo and a group of park benches (Photo #6). A chain-link fence surrounds the entire property. A small footbridge across the narrow Green Brook tributary running along the west side of the property is of wooden construction and late 20th-century date.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Vail-Trust House
Somerset County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 1

NARRATIVE SIGNIFICANCE

The Vail Trust House is significant under National Register Criterion C in the area of architecture as a fine illustration of the region's vernacular building design and construction practices during the 18th and 19th centuries, reflecting traditional forms and methods as well as contemporary innovations and stylistic influences. The period of significance for the house begins in c. 1790, around which time the earliest part of the house – the east wing – was constructed, and ending in c. 1876, by which time the central block of the house was constructed. The east wing is a notable example of what cultural geographers have called a deep East Jersey Cottage, which has been identified as a product of cultural amalgamation and was once a locally common early house type, and retains a rare surviving framing feature: Diagonal wind bracing of the roof framing system. Also noteworthy is the gable-fronted main block, added around 1876, which created an individualized and successful version of a vernacular bracketed Italianate villa. Despite the addition during the 20th century of a west wing, the two earlier elements of the dwelling can be readily distinguished and remain relatively well preserved. Notwithstanding the presence of a modern west wing as well as the loss of some early fabric to modern alterations, the Vail-Trust House possesses the architectural significance and integrity necessary for listing on the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places. Retaining its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, the property clearly meets Criterion C of the National Register eligibility criteria, which references those properties “that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction. In addition, archaeological resources relating to the area's 18th and 19th-century material culture also may be present in the vicinity of the house, but Criterion D significance is not claimed.

The east wing of the Vail-Trust House, which is comprised of two Dutch-framed, deep East Jersey Cottages, is a fine example of the process of 18th century acculturation in northeastern Somerset County as depicted in its architecture. The one-and-a-half-story, single-pile East Jersey Cottage and its double-pile version known as a “deep” East Jersey Cottage reflect an amalgam of Dutch and New England influences, a combination of traditions that has been previously identified in the vicinity north of the Raritan River, which experienced concurrent English and Dutch in-migration and rapid acculturation between the groups.¹ In addition to the Vail family, who originally immigrated to New England from England and subsequently immigrated to the Raritan River Valley via Westchester, New York, other early settlers in the Green Brook neighborhood included the Randolphs who also immigrated from New England; the Sebrings, who immigrated from the Netherlands to Long Island;

¹ This merging of cultural traditions is found elsewhere in Somerset County. A nearby example is the dwelling at the Kennedy-Martin-Stelle Farmstead in Bernards Township, just north of Green Brook.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Vail-Trust House
Somerset County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 2

the Vermueles, who came from the Netherlands to Bergen, New Jersey; and the Brokaws, also from the Netherlands. The East Jersey Cottage, a traditional house type that was initially identified in 1938 by cultural geographer Thomas Jefferson Wertenbaker and has been discussed in other sources since then, was widely built throughout the Raritan Valley during the 18th and early 19th centuries, although relatively few examples remain.² Cultural geographer Peter O. Wacker identified the deep East Jersey cottage as a house type closer to English precedent than the single-pile version identified by Wertenbaker, and traces its origins in northern Essex and Morris counties in New Jersey, commenting that, "A great deal of acculturation obviously occurred in the area between the Passaic and Raritan watersheds in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries."³ This area of acculturation included the Green Brook vicinity.

In addition to the one-and-a-half-story height, identifying features of the deep East Jersey Cottage found in the Vail-Trust House include a floor plan with one front room and two back rooms, with the front room deeper than the rear, a plan evidently adapted from New England customs. Traditional Dutch timber framing construction utilizing anchor-bents influenced the look of the houses, and typically, the space between the tops of the first story windows and the eaves, which housed a loft or garret, would be wide enough for a row of squat windows, although not all surviving examples have windows, and in some examples windows were inserted later. In the Vail-Trust House, a series of irregularly spaced anchor-bents are visible in the attic. Almost all of the surviving one-and-a-half story houses have interior end chimneys, another Dutch influence that gained favor over the central chimney common to New England dwellings. Evidence suggests that both sections of the east wing of the Vail-Trust House originally had interior end chimneys. Typically, the East Jersey Cottage had narrow eaves in the New England manner, as found on the east wing of the Vail-Trust House, in contrast to wide overhanging eaves customarily found on Dutch houses. Additions to East Jersey Cottages were commonly made in the Dutch manner, via extensions to the right or left of the main building, either by extending the original lines or by appending smaller wings.⁴ In the Vail-Trust House, a repetition of the

² Thomas Jefferson Wertenbaker, *The Middle Colonies*, New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1938, pp. 148-154. Discussion of East Jersey Cottages is also found in: Peter O. Wacker, *The Musconetcong Valley of New Jersey: A Historical Geography*, New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1968; Wacker, "New Jersey's Cultural Landscape Before 1800" in *Proceedings of the Second Annual Symposium of the New Jersey Historical Commission*, Trenton: The New Jersey Historical Society, 1971; Dennis N. Bertland, *Early Architecture of Warren County*, [Belvidere, NJ]: Warren County Board of Chosen Freeholders, 1976; and Research & Archaeological Management, Inc., *Somerset County Cultural Resource Survey*, Somerville, NJ: Cultural and Heritage Commission of Somerset County, 1989, Section III, pp. 1-6.

³ Wacker, *The Musconetcong Valley of New Jersey*, 89; Wacker, "New Jersey's Cultural Landscape Before 1800," p. 51.

⁴ A good example of lateral expansion provided by Wertenbaker was the Meeker House in Newark. Plate 10, facing p. 154.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Vail-Trust House
Somerset County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 3

three-room floor plan of the deep East Jersey Cottage in its linear expansion suggests the occupants' high degree of satisfaction with its utility, as well a rapid acceptance and adoption of a new cultural model.

Within Green Brook Township, a collection of four surviving early Vail family dwellings, including the Vail-Trust House, provides an interesting opportunity for studying several sub-types of the East Jersey Cottage. The three other surviving dwellings, the Jonah Vail House, the Thomas Vail House, and the Alexander Vail house, all of which are privately owned, feature early sections that bear some similarity to the Vail-Trust House. The oldest part of the Thomas Vail House is a one-and-a-half story double pile dwelling that features brick nogging. Although now somewhat obscured by remodeling, a photograph of the Jonah Vail House from 1890 shows a small one-and-a-half story, asymmetrical five-bay wing, also a double pile dwelling. A photograph of the Alexander Vail House shows a single pile, four-bay dwelling. The East Jersey Cottage plan varied within the extended Vail family, perhaps reflecting influences as a result of marriage or other local contact.

Representing only the second known construction project by John Runyon, a carpenter and undertaker, later a borough councilman, from neighboring Dunellen, New Jersey, the 1876 addition to the Vail-Trust House (now the central block of the dwelling) is an interesting example of an economical and inventive transformation of what was by then an outdated dwelling into a modern house that gave an appearance of a stylish Italianate L-plan villa.⁵ Leaving the frame and floor plan of the existing dwelling essentially intact, Runyon created a new main block for the Trust family that was enhanced with many decorative details, such as cast plaster medallions and cornices and an elegant new front entry, which by late 19th century had become affordable as a result of the availability of manufactured versions of what originally were handmade features. Perhaps as another nod toward economy, Runyon altered the typical side-hall plan to omit the expected open stairway and front-to-back hall. Although suggesting a degree of frugality by the Trusts, the addition and east wing improvements reflect a certain level of prosperity and indicate a high degree of Americanization of the immigrant family.

Although the site represents only a portion of the acreage associated with the dwelling during the period of significance, sufficient land remains to convey a sense of its original character. Importantly, the property still abuts the Green Brook, along which the earliest settlement in the area

⁵ Ian C. G. Burrow, "A Cultural Resource Survey for the Green Brook Flood Control Project," Hunter Research, Inc., 1989 (Revised 1990), p. 6-100. Runyon's own house, built in 1869 at the northeast corner of North Washington Avenue and Front Street in Dunellen, New Jersey, is the only other known example [Ott, p. 181]. Runyon's account books survive in Rutgers University Special Collections; unfortunately, however, an initial examination revealed no helpful information about Runyon's building projects.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Vail-Trust House
Somerset County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 4

occurred. Adjacent to the dwelling is a 19th century wagon house, which helps to convey a sense of the property's original rural character. A well curb that was constructed in the 20th century, although a non-contributing structure, may be located on the site of the original well and does not impact the dwelling's historic integrity.

Current township plans would preserve the building in its present location and adapt it for an appropriate public use.

Historical Development

Located along the northern banks of the Green Brook, the site of the Vail-Trust House was originally within the bounds of Middlesex County when it was set off from East Jersey in 1683. The location then became part of Somerset County when the new county was set off from Middlesex County in 1688.⁶ The site formed part of a large parcel of land purchased by Deputy Govern Gawen Lawire for the Proprietors of East Jersey from the Lenape Indians in 1684.⁷ However, the Elizabethtown Associates made an overlapping claim for land that included the site as part of their 1664 grant from Colonel Richard Nicolls. Ownership of the land remained in dispute between the families of the Elizabethtown Associates and the Proprietors of East Jersey for many years. The dispute ultimately resulted in the lands being surveyed in 1699 and divided into 171 parcels consisting of 104 acres each. This became known as the Clinker Lot division and it continued to be plagued with controversy.⁸

Beginning in the late 17th century, the East Jersey Proprietors sold vast tracts of land within the disputed region of central New Jersey. Following the subdivision of lands in the area, Scottish and English Quakers seeking religious refuge settled along the Green Brook, where these pioneering settlers established farmsteads, gristmills and sawmills.⁹ According to Schedule No. 3 in the Elizabethtown Bill of Chancery, published by James Parker of New York in 1747, Sir Evan Cameron, a Scottish nobleman and land speculator, purchased a 2,000-acre tract (Tract "56") in 1690 that

⁶ John P. Snyder, *The Story of New Jersey's Civil Boundaries, 1606-1968*, Trenton, NJ: Bureau of Geology and Topography, 1969, page 221.

⁷ Peter Wacker, *Land and People*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1975, pages 347-8.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Maxine N. Lurie and Marc Mappen, *Encyclopedia of New Jersey*, New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2004, page 335.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Vail-Trust House
Somerset County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 5

included the Vail-Trust House site.¹⁰ The property was subdivided and sold during the first half of the 18th century, passing from Sir Evan Cameron to his grandson Donald Cameron, also a resident of Scotland, on July 30, 1716.¹¹

Only four years later, on September 23, 1720, Donald Cameron conveyed 300 acres of his “land...in the Eastern Division of New Jersey ...previously solely belonging to Sir Eugenius [Evan] Cameron” to James Alexander, another well-known land speculator, for £36.¹² Alexander held onto the property until 1738, when he, Andrew Hay and Andrew Johnston conveyed a tract of unknown size, containing the site of the Vail-Trust House, to Gideon Mortall.¹³ Mortall died some years later, and on May 20, 1747, his executors (Penelope Mortall, John Vail and Irene Runyon) conveyed an 80-acre tract including the Vail-Trust house site to Stephen Vail. This conveyance was referenced in a 1770 mortgage for the property between Stephen Vail “of Somerset in the Eastern Division of the Province of New Jersey, husbandman,” and David Edgar, yeoman of Woodbridge in the county of Middlesex. At the time of the mortgage the subject property was bounded to the southwest by Joseph Ross, south by the Green Brook, east by other lands owned by Stephen Vail, and north by lands of James Alexander, who was deceased by then.¹⁴

Stephen Vail (1710 - 1777) was one of the earliest settlers in the vicinity and was a neighboring landowner when he purchased Mortall’s 80-acre property. Vail’s ancestors emigrated from England to New England during the 17th century. According to late 19th century historian James P. Snell, Stephen Vail and his brother John, sons of Samuel Vail (1678 – 1733), came from Long Island “at an early time.”¹⁵ However, the family genealogy indicates that Samuel Vail and his sons were from Westchester, New York, and moved from there to settle on the Green Brook in the early 18th century. According to the genealogy, Samuel Vail’s farm was located “two miles up the stream near the present Richmond St., in Plainfield,” which was about two miles east of Stephen Vail’s property.¹⁶ In 1733, only a year after purchasing the land in Somerset County, Samuel Vail died in Westchester, New York. His two sons remained in Somerset County and are remembered as the progenitors of most of the Vails within the county. Upon his death, Samuel’s farmstead was divided equally between his sons. Each

¹⁰ James P. Snell (ed.), *History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, New Jersey*. Philadelphia: Everts & Peck, 1881, page 562.

¹¹ East Jersey Deeds, Book D-2, page 25.

¹² East Jersey Deeds, Book C-2, page 104.

¹³ Somerset County Mortgage Book A, page 248.

¹⁴ Somerset County Mortgage Book A, page 248.

¹⁵ Snell 1881, page 860.

¹⁶ Wm. Penn Vail, *M.D. Genealogy of Some of the Vail Family Descended from Thomas Vail*, Blairstown, NJ: WP Vail, 1937, page 25.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Vail-Trust House
Somerset County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 6

son received 137.5 acres, and, according to Samuel's will, both sons were already "in possession" of their respective parcels, and presumably resided on them. Stephen married Esther Smith (b. 1713), daughter of Benjamin and Sarah (Shotwell) Smith very soon after January 17, 1733, on which date he was "left at liberty to marry Esther by the Friends Meeting."¹⁷ Stephen and Esther Vail had between six and nine children depending on sources, nine being commonly accepted.¹⁸ Stephen added substantially to his inherited land when, in 1747, he purchased the adjacent lot – and site of the Vail-Trust House – from the estate of Gideon Mortall.

A 1766 map of Somerset County by J. Hills and Benjamin Morgan provides the first cartographic evidence of a farmstead located near or on the subject property, which evidently was part of Sir Evan Cameron's 2,000-acre tract, #169.¹⁹ The 1781 Hills map of Somerset County, evidently based on the 1766 map, confirms that a building was located on or near the subject property, a short distance north of the Green Brook. The 1766 map also depicts "Hamptons Saw Mill" east of the subject property, and both maps show several farmsteads located along the northern side of the Green Brook.²⁰

Stephen Vail died in 1777, evidently without filing a will, and the homestead farm apparently passed to his eldest son Thomas.²¹ Thomas Vail (c.1733-1792) was drafted in 1756 to serve during the French and Indian War despite his Quaker prohibitions against warfare.²² On February 19, 1756, a

complaint was made to the Woodbridge Monthly Meeting of Friends that Stephen Vail had employed a person in the place of his son who was prest [sic] to go to ye frontears [sic] in order to build block houses.²³

¹⁷ Vail, pages 69-76.

¹⁸ Ibid. The children were: Thomas (b. 1734), Benjamin (b. 1736), Stephen (1738), another Stephen (b. 1739), Abigail (b. 1742), Abraham (1744-), Sarah (b. 1744), Samuel (1754-1846) and Esther.

¹⁹ J. Hills and Benjamin Morgan, *Plan of Somerset County in the Province of New Jersey*, 1766.

²⁰ J. Hills, *A Map [of] Somerset County Reduced from the Original Survey By I. Hills, Asst. Engineer*, 1781.

²¹ Stephen Vail's children were: Shubell (d. 1770); Esther; Thomas (1733/34-1792); Benjamin (b.1736); Stephen, Jr. (1738); Stephen Jr. (1739-1808); Abigail, (1742-1809); Abraham (b. 1744); Sarah, twin of Abraham; and Samuel (1754-1846). Green Brook Historical Society Website, "The Vails of Green Brook," <http://www.greenbrooknj.com>.

²² Green Brook Historical Society Website, "Early Settlers", http://greenbrooknj.com/main6_3.htm

²³ Vail, 1937, Page 70.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Vail-Trust House
Somerset County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 7

It is likely that Stephen wanted to free his eldest son from the draft, for both religious and personal reasons, prompting the complaint. Two years later, on April 19, 1758, Thomas Vail married Mary Drake, granddaughter of John Vail, Quaker Preacher, and together they had five children.²⁴

Surviving tax records for Bridgewater Township indicate that "T. Vail" lived near relatives, including his brother Abraham, during the late 18th century. According to the 1780 tax list "T. Vail" owned a modest sized farm with 125-acres of improved land. The farmstead boasted three horses, four head of cattle and one hog.²⁵ Subsequent tax records reveal a marked decrease in the size of Thomas' assessed land holdings, suggesting that he subdivided or sold portions of his farmstead. In 1784, he was assessed for forty acres of improved land, as well as two horses and three cattle.²⁶ By the following year Thomas evidently further reduced his acreage, as he was assessed for only nineteen acres, along with two horses and two cattle.²⁷ During the rest of the decade Thomas' farmstead changed little aside from some fluctuation in livestock.²⁸ In 1791, he was assessed for seventeen acres of improved land, while his livestock had dwindled to just two cattle.²⁹

Thomas Vail died in 1792, and based on the evidence from surviving tax data and later deeds, his modest farmstead subsequently passed to his son, Peter Vail (1764-1842).³⁰ Although documentary evidence indicates a building existed on the property some years earlier, according to physical evidence, it was probably around this time that the original section of the Vail-Trust House was constructed.³¹ In 1793, Peter was assessed as a "single man & horse" without land, and it is possible that he lived with his father at that time.³² The following year he was assessed for seventeen acres of improved land, which corresponds to the acreage owned by his father prior to his death.³³ In 1795, Peter was assessed for seventeen acres of improved land and fifty-four acres of unimproved land. During the opening years of the 19th century Peter evidently improved or increased his landholdings, and, 1802, he was assessed for forty-six acres of improved land and ten acres of unimproved land worth \$10 per acre. Some details about the composition of Peter Vail's household during his later years

²⁴ Green Brook Historical Society Website, "Trust House", <http://greenbrooknj.com/main2.htm>.

²⁵ Bridgewater Township, Somerset County, Tax Ratables, 1780.

²⁶ Bridgewater Township, Somerset County, Tax Ratables, 1784.

²⁷ Bridgewater Township, Somerset County, Tax Ratables, 1785.

²⁸ Bridgewater Township, Somerset County, Tax Ratables, 1788. Bridgewater Township, Somerset County, Tax Ratables, 1789.

²⁹ Bridgewater Township, Somerset County, Tax Ratables, 1791.

³⁰ Green Brook Historical Society Website, "Trust Farmstead", http://greenbrooknj.com/main2_3.htm

³¹ Cut nails with hand-hammered heads and early door hardware suggest a construction date between 1790 and 1820 for both the east and west sections of the east wing.

³² Bridgewater Township, Somerset County, Tax Ratables, 1793.

³³ Bridgewater Township, Somerset County, Tax Ratables, 1794.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Vail-Trust House
Somerset County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 8

can be learned from the 1830 Federal census. According to the population schedule of that census, the Vail household numbered six individuals: A white male of sixty and under seventy-one, who was probably Peter; a white male of forty and under fifty, who was perhaps a son; a white male between ten and fifteen; a white female of sixty and under seventy, probably Peter's wife; a white female of thirty and under forty; and one female slave of thirty six and under fifty-five.³⁴ On September 13, 1833, Peter Vail conveyed what had grown to become a forty-nine-acre property, containing the subject dwelling, to Hannah Fitz Randolph for \$1,840.³⁵ The Vail family continued to own the adjoining property.

When Peter Vail sold the dwelling in 1833, after eighty-six years of Vail family ownership, it began a period of thirty-three years during which ownership of the dwelling changed seven times. Although there were several members of the extended Randolph family living in Green Brook at this time, Hannah Fitz Randolph was living in Piscataway in 1833, when she purchased the Vail property. She was still living in Piscataway in 1840, when she sold the property to Garret P. Montfort which suggests the property may have been rented to tenant farmers.³⁶ A map of the county published in 1850 confirms that Montfort occupied the farmstead. The map shows the house located north of the Stele Fitz Randolph Mill, noted on the map as "Randolph's P & G.M."³⁷ On April 1, 1850, Montfort and his wife, Felima, conveyed the subject property and a smaller three-acre lot to Richard Field, Jr., for \$2,750.³⁸ Six years later, Field and his wife, Catherine, of Piscataway, conveyed the forty-nine-acre property to Joseph C. Hoff on April 8, 1856.³⁹ It is quite possible that the Fields had been renting their farm property – perhaps to Hoff – while they resided in Piscataway. Hoff appears in 1855 state census with a household of five native-born white males and five native-born white females, which included seven children under sixteen.⁴⁰

³⁴ United States Population Census, Warren Township, Somerset County, New Jersey, 1830.

³⁵ Somerset County Deed Book W, page 354.

³⁶ Somerset County Deed Book W, page 355. Montfort paid \$1,840 for the property, the same amount Randolph paid seven years earlier.

³⁷ J.W. Otley and J. Keily, *Map of Somerset County, New Jersey*, Camden, New Jersey: Lloyd Vanderveer, 1850. Located on the Green Brook, just upstream from the Vail-Trust House property, Randolph's Gristmill was owned by members of the Vail family until it was sold to Stele Fitz Randolph in 1811. Randolph then sold the mill to Joseph C. Hoff in 1855.

³⁸ Somerset County Deed Book K2, page 498.

³⁹ Somerset County Deed Book X2, page 193. Hoff, a miller who purchased Randolph's nearby mill in 1855, paid \$2,587 for the two lots.

⁴⁰ New Jersey Census, Somerset County, 1855.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Vail-Trust House
Somerset County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 9

Joseph C. Hoff held the subject property for only three years before conveying it and two other parcels totaling sixty-two acres altogether, to Dr. Harvey Dayton on November 18, 1859 for \$7,000.⁴¹ At the time, Dayton also owned the nearby Vail/Randolph Mill, and undoubtedly purchased the farm as an investment.⁴² Only two months later, Dayton and his wife Maria conveyed the property to Christian Bromm (also known as Broom and Brown) on January 21, 1860.⁴³ A map made published that same year identifies "C. Broom" as the owner of the house.⁴⁴ The census in that year records Christian, a farmer aged 54 and his wife, Caroline, age 56, both of Hesse Cassel in Germany, owned a farm worth \$3,000 and personal estate worth \$500.⁴⁵ Christian Bromm died intestate and his property passed to his executors, consisting of his wife, "Carolini" Bromm, Conrad Egel, and his wife, Elizabeth Bromm Egel. The executors conveyed the farmstead to Conrad Egel's brother-in-law, Herman Trust, and his wife Mary, of Piscataway, Middlesex County, on February 24, 1866.⁴⁶

According to family history, Herman Trust initially emigrated from Germany (Prussia) to California where he acquired a farm before moving to New Jersey. Years later, he recalled being told when he purchased the Green Brook house that it was approximately one hundred years old.⁴⁷ The 1870 Somerset County atlas depicts "H. Trust" as the owner of the farmstead.⁴⁸ Further information about the family is found in the 1870 population census, which records that Trust's household included "Hermin" a forty-nine-year old farmer; his twenty-nine-year old wife, Mary, who was described as "keeping home;" Josephine Trust, age six; Lizzie Trust, age four; and Catherine Trust, age one. Herman and Mary were both born in Prussia, while the other members of the household were born in New Jersey, which suggests that Herman and his family were living in New Jersey by around 1864,

⁴¹ Somerset County Deed Book F3, page 452.

⁴² Ian C. Burrows, "A Cultural Resource Survey for the Green Brook Flood Control Project in the City of Plainfield, The Boroughs of Bound Brook, Middlesex, Dunellen, North Plainfield and South Plainfield and the Townships of Green Brook and Bridgewater, Middlesex, Somerset and Union Counties, New Jersey," Hunter Research, February, 1989 (Revised July, 1990), page 6-98.

⁴³ Ibid.; Somerset County Deed Book G3, page 59. Bromm paid \$3,000 for the forty-nine acre property.

⁴⁴ S. N. Beers and D. J. Lake, *Map of the Vicinity of Philadelphia and Trenton*, Philadelphia: C. K. Stone and A. Pomeroy, 1860.

⁴⁵ United States Population Census, Warrenville, Somerset County, New Jersey 1860.

⁴⁶ Somerset County Deed Book S3, page 439. At that time, the forty-nine-acre tract was bounded by the Green Brook, Stelle Randolph's land, Isaac Brokaw's land, Henry Harriott's line, Thomas Vail's line, Peter Vail's land, Isaac Van Deveter's line and the road. The conveyance was subject to an unspecified right of way "over said land as it now exists pursuant to a deed made between Garrot P. Montfort and Steele Randolph dated May 20, 1840."

⁴⁷ Irene E. Feldkirchner, *Our Town, A History of The Township of Green Brook*, Green Brook, NJ, 1976, page 36.

⁴⁸ F.W. Beers, *Atlas of Somerset County, New Jersey*, New York: Beers, Comstock, and Cline, 1873.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Vail-Trust House
Somerset County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 10

when his oldest daughter, Josephine, was born. The Trust farmstead was valued at \$5,000 in 1870, while the value of Herman's personal estate that year was listed at \$350.⁴⁹ According to the agricultural census of the same year Herman ("Hermina") Trust owned an average-sized farm with fifty-seven acres of improved land and ten acres of woodland valued at \$5,000. At some point, Herman had acquired nineteen acres in addition to the forty-nine purchased from Peter Vail. During the previous year, Trust paid \$140 of wages for farm labor; the farm produced sixty bushels of winter wheat, 150 bushels of Indian corn, fifteen bushels of Irish potatoes, 290 pounds of butter and four tons of feed hay; 200 acres were cultivated in oats; livestock included two horses, three cows and one swine for a total value of \$350; value of animals slaughtered or sold for slaughter was \$50; total value of farm production was \$650.⁵⁰ As a relatively prosperous farmer, Herman Trust was able to make considerable improvements to his house within ten years of acquiring the property, first remodeling the "old part" of the house and then in 1876 contracting with a carpenter, John Runyon of Dunellen, to add a new two-story main block.⁵¹ The expansion may have been to accommodate the growing Trust household.

John Runyon (1840-1924) was the son of Abel S. and Catherine Runyon. His father was a carpenter and tilled a farm of fifty acres. John learned the trade from his father, eventually becoming a carpenter and then undertaker (1867-1886). John's first wife was Caroline Randolph (d. 1848), a daughter of Robert and Sallie Randolph of Piscataway Township. Together they had two children, Augustus and Amelia. In 1853 he married his second wife, Mary Dunn, daughter of Ira and Elizabeth Dunn of Piscataway. In 1868, about 300 acres owned by the Central Railroad of New Jersey were sold to a development company that laid out the new town of Dunellen. Runyon was one of the first to purchase a lot in the new town, located at the northeast corner of North Washington Avenue and Front Street. He first erected a small building that served as residence and shop, later replacing it with a much larger dwelling, the only other house he is known to have built. Runyon worked as a carpenter and undertaker until 1886 and later served on the Dunellen Borough Council.⁵²

By 1880, according to the population census, the Trust household included "Harmon" of Hesse Darnstadt, age fifty-six, Mary, his wife of Bavaria, age forty, and their children Josephine, age sixteen, Mary, age thirteen (who was probably the same daughter listed at "Lizzie" in the 1870 census), Catherine, age nine and George A., age six. Two other individuals lived with the Trusts: Fifty-seven

⁴⁹ United States Population Census, Warren Township, Somerset County, New Jersey, 1870.

⁵⁰ United States Agricultural Census, Union Village and Warrentown, Somerset County, New Jersey, 1870.

⁵¹ Feldkirchner, page 36.

⁵² Wesley Ott, *1 Mile x 1 Mile x 100 Years = Dunellen, NJ, 1887-1987*, NJ: Pentacle Communications, 1987, pages 3 and 181.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Vail-Trust House
Somerset County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 11

year old Frederick Hurdle, of Bavaria, and thirty-eight year old John Horne, of Prussia.⁵³ Incorrectly listed as sons, the men were evidently boarders, possibly recent immigrants who were staying with a local contact. The agricultural census released in the same year indicates that Herman (“Harmon”) Trust farm comprised forty acres of improved land and sixteen acres of unimproved woodland, indicating a reduction of eleven acres since 1870. The farm was valued at \$5,000, the same amount as in 1870.⁵⁴ Farm products for the year were valued at \$1,000. In the 1885 state census, “Harmon” Trust was listed as the head of a household including his wife Mary, Josephine, Elizabeth (who was likely the same “Lizzie” recorded in 1870 and “Mary” recorded in 1880), Katie (probably Catherine), George A., and John Horn a German between 20 and 60 years old.⁵⁵ Herman’s wife Mary presumably died sometime between 1885 and 1895, as she is not listed in the 1895 state census. In that year, besides Herman, the household consisted of Josephine, Katie, George, and Stella Trust, a girl between five and twenty years old, whose young age suggests that Mary might have died during her birth.⁵⁶ Also missing from the household in 1885 was Herman’s daughter Mary, who, by age eighteen may have been married or possibly was living with another family as household help.

During the opening years of the 20th century suburban development in central New Jersey began to force out many farmers.⁵⁷ At an increasing rate, the aging population of farmers or their children subdivided and sold the agricultural land for residential subdivision, particularly in towns such as Green Brook and others in the southern part Somerset County that were conveniently located near commuter railroad lines. Herman Trust died in North Plainfield December 5, 1916 and his will was filed January 17, 1917. His children, George A. Trust and Katherine “Katie” Trust, were made

⁵³ United States Population Census, North Plainfield, Somerset County, New Jersey, 1880. There appear to be several inaccuracies in 1880 census information, including Herman’s age and the relationship of the two adult men in the household, who are improbably listed as Herman’s sons, but are more likely to have been boarders.

⁵⁴ United States Agricultural Census, North Plainfield Township, Somerset County, New Jersey, 1880. Farming implements on the farmstead were valued at \$250, while livestock were valued at \$300. Herman spent \$60 on repairing the buildings on his property and paid \$320 for farm labor in 1879. Grassland acreage on the farm consisted of nine acres mown, thirty-one acres not mown and eleven acres of hay. Livestock included two horses, four milk cows, two other head of cattle; four calves were dropped in 1879 while three cows were sold live and one was sold slaughtered. Four swine and twenty-eight barnyard poultry were also recorded. Farm products included three hundred pounds of butter, sixty-six bushels of Irish potatoes, and eight bushels of sweet potatoes. Grain production consisted of ten acres of corn (yielding 400 bushels), five acres of oats (yielding 140 bushels), seven acres of rye (yielding 48 bushels) and one acre of wheat (yielding twelve bushels). The value of produce for the year was \$57.

⁵⁵ New Jersey Population Census, North Plainfield, 1885.

⁵⁶ New Jersey Population Census, North Plainfield, 1895.

⁵⁷ Lurie and Mappen, 2004, page 335.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Vail-Trust House
Somerset County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 12

executors of his estate.⁵⁸ Over the next several decades, George and Katherine subdivided and sold a number of lots from the property, and, in 1957, the last of the farmstead property left family ownership. On August 9, 1957, George A. Trust, unmarried son of Herman and Mary Trust, of Green Brook conveyed the house and a second 15.52-acre tract to Lester H. Lages and Myrtle Lages, who were siblings.⁵⁹ Presumably during their ownership, the Lages added the present west wing and remodeled portions of the east wing, introducing Colonial Revival features such as a new porch across the south side of the wing and interior changes such as conversion of the east wing's northeast room into a bathroom and the central block's north parlor into a kitchen.⁶⁰ Five years later, the Lages sold their property, by then known as 255 Green Brook Road, to the Raritan Valley Hospital Association within two deeds dated May 24 and October 24, 1962.⁶¹ The first conveyance was for a tract of land that encompassed the site of the Vail-Trust House, containing "not less than 26 acres for a "public general hospital together with a medical professional building." The second conveyance was subject to a temporary right of way known as the "Green Brook Raritan River Basin, snagging and clearing project."⁶² During the period of hospital ownership, some interior remodeling was done to accommodate its use as office space. Much of this remodeling has since been removed.

By 1975, the State of New Jersey decided to close the hospital and convert it into a facility for the developmentally disabled, and, on August 7, 1975, the Raritan Valley Hospital Association conveyed the subject property, Green Brook Township Block No. 6, Lot 2, to the New Jersey Health Care Facilities Financing Authority.⁶³ On August 3, 2001, the Financing Authority conveyed the 25-acre lot to the New Jersey Department of Human Services.⁶⁴ The Department of Human Services subdivided the property and on August 14, 2006 transferred 4.73+/- acres to Green Brook Township for use as a public park.⁶⁵

⁵⁸ Somerset County Will Book U, page 546.

⁵⁹ Somerset County Deed Book 901, page 72.

⁶⁰ It is possible that the remodeling was done before the Lages siblings acquired the dwelling, but it seems less likely that George Trust, as a single man, would have undertaken such a sizable project.

⁶¹ Somerset County Deed Book 1025, page 322.

⁶² Somerset County Deed Book 1025, page 517.

⁶³ Somerset County Deed Book 1317, page 708.

⁶⁴ Somerset County Deed Book 5067, page 1669.

⁶⁵ Somerset County Deed Book 5594, pages 3022-3027.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Vail-Trust House
Somerset County, NJ

Section number 9 Page 1

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Books and Reports

- Bertland, Dennis N. *Early Architecture of Warren County*. [Belvidere, NJ]: Warren County Board of Chosen Freeholders, 1976.
- Bertland, Dennis and Janice Armstrong. "Kennedy-Martin-Stelle Farmstead National Register Nomination." Dennis Bertland Associates, 2001. On file, New Jersey State Historic Preservation Office, Trenton, New Jersey.
- Burrow, Ian C. G. "A Cultural Resource Survey for the Green Brook Flood Control Project in the City of Plainfield, The Boroughs of Bound Brook, Middlesex, Dunellen, North Plainfield and South Plainfield and the Townships of Green Brook and Bridgewater, Middlesex, Somerset and Union Counties, New Jersey." Hunter Research, Inc., February, 1989 (Revised July, 1990). On file, New Jersey State Historic Preservation Office, Trenton, New Jersey.
- Feldkirchner, Irene E. *Our Town, A History of The Township of Green Brook*. Green Brook, NJ: Green Brook Bicentennial Committee, 1976.
- Lurie, Maxine N. and Marc Mappen. *Encyclopedia of New Jersey*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2004.
- Ott, Wesley H. *1 Mile x 1 Mile x 100 Years = Dunellen, NJ, 1887-1987*. South Plainfield, NJ: Pentacle Communications, 1987.
- Research & Archaeological Management, Inc. *Somerset County Cultural Resource Survey*. Somerville, NJ: Cultural and Heritage Commission of Somerset County, 1989.
- Robert Silman Associates, P.C. "Observations and Recommendations Regarding the Structural Condition of Trust House." Draft report prepared for Historic Building Architects, dated June 21, 2007.
- Snell, James P. (ed.). *History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, New Jersey*. Philadelphia: Everts & Peck, 1881.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Vail-Trust House
Somerset County, NJ

Section number 9 Page 2

Snyder, John P. *The Story of New Jersey's Civil Boundaries, 1606-1968*. Trenton, NJ: Bureau of Geology and Topography, 1969.

Vail, Wm. Penn, M.D., *Genealogy of Some of the Vail Family Descended from Thomas Vail*, Blairstown, NJ: WP Vail, 1937.

Wacker, Peter O. *Land and People*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1975.

Wacker, Peter O. *The Musconetcong Valley of New Jersey*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1968.

Wacker, Peter O. "New Jersey's Cultural Landscape Before 1800" in *Proceedings of the Second Annual Symposium of the New Jersey Historical Commission*. Trenton: The New Jersey Historical Society, 1971.

Wertenbaker, Thomas Jefferson. *The Middle Colonies*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1938.

Maps and Plans

Beers, F.W. *Atlas of Somerset County, New Jersey*. New York: Beers, Comstock, and Cline, 1873.

Beers, S. N. and D. J. Lake. *Map of the Vicinity of Philadelphia and Trenton*. Philadelphia: C. K. Stone and A. Pomeroy, 1860.

Green Brook Township Tax Map, 2004.

Hills, J. *A Map [of] Somerset County Reduced from the Original Survey By I. Hills, Asst. Engineer*, 1781.

Hills, J. and Benjamin Morgan. *Plan of Somerset County in the Province of New Jersey*, 1766.

Historic Building Architects. Plans drawn for the Trust House Historic Structures Report, April 2007.

Otley, J.W. and J. Keily. *Map of Somerset County, New Jersey*. Camden, NJ: Lloyd Vanderveer, 1850.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Vail-Trust House
Somerset County, NJ

Section number 9 Page 3

Public Records

New Jersey Archives, Trenton, New Jersey

- East Jersey Deeds
- New Jersey Population Census
- New Jersey Tax Records, Bridgewater Township, Somerset County
- New Jersey Tax Records, Warren Township, Somerset County
- New Jersey Tax Records, North Plainfield Township, Somerset County
- United States Agriculture Census
- United States Population Census

Somerset County Clerk's Office

- Somerset County Deeds
- Somerset County Mortgages
- Somerset County Wills

Websites

Green Brook Historical Society Website, <http://greenbrooknj.com/>

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Vail-Trust House
Somerset County, NJ

Section number 10 Page 1

NARRATIVE BOUNDARY

The boundary of the nominated property is delineated on the attached site boundary and photographic identification map and is verbally described in the following paragraph. The site and boundary map was made using the survey map prepared for the recent subdivision of the property.

The boundaries of the nominated property are those of block 6, lot 2.1, the lot containing the Vail-Trust House, and an adjacent section of right of way of Greenbrook Road. The boundary begins on the south side of Greenbrook Road, at the northeast section of block 6, lot 2 and the northwest corner of block 6, lot 2.1 and from that point runs east 142.10' to the northwest corner of block 6, lot 2.1 where it crosses to the east side of Greenbrook Road and then proceeds in a southerly direction on the east side of the right of way to a point opposite the southeast corner of block 6, lot 2.1, marked by a monument. At that point the boundary proceeds south along the east side of block 6, lot 2.1 107' +/- to the top of the north bank of Green Brook, where it turns west and continues along the top of the bank of the river approximately 420' to the southeast corner of block 6, lot 2 and the southwest corner of block 6, lot 2.1. There, the boundary turns north and follows the east side of block 6, lot 2.1 1,007.91' to the point and place of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary of the nominated property corresponds to that of block 6, lot 2.1, which lot comprises all of the remaining lands appurtenant to the Vail-Trust House, and an adjacent section of the right of way of Greenbrook Road, in order to include that small portion of the dwelling that extends into the right of way. Although the site represents only a portion of the acreage associated with the dwelling during the period of significance, sufficient land remains to convey a sense of its original character. Importantly, the property still abuts the Green Brook, along which the earliest settlement in the area occurred.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Vail-Trust House
Somerset County, NJ

Section number Photos Page 1

PHOTOGRAPHIC IDENTIFICATION

The following information is the same for all photographs submitted with the nomination:

Name: The Vail-Trust House
Location: Green Brook, Somerset County, NJ
Photographer: Ann Parsekian, Dennis Bertland Associates
Date: Spring, 2007
Negative and Electronic file Repository: Dennis Bertland Associates, Bloomsbury, NJ

<u>Photo #</u>	<u>View</u>
1.	South elevation, view to northeast
2.	East wing, view to north
3.	East wing, view to southwest
4.	Central block, view to northeast
5.	West wing, view to northeast
6.	North elevation, view to southeast
7.	East wing, room 105, view to southwest
8.	East wing, room 105, view to northwest
9.	East wing, room 209, view to northwest, wind brace
10.	East wing, room 209, view to northeast, notched rafters
11.	Federal mantel stored in room 207
12.	Example of door latch on doors stored in room 207
13.	Example of door hinge on doors stored in room 207
14.	East wing, room 103, view to northeast
15.	East wing, room 208, view to east
16.	Central block front entry, view to northwest

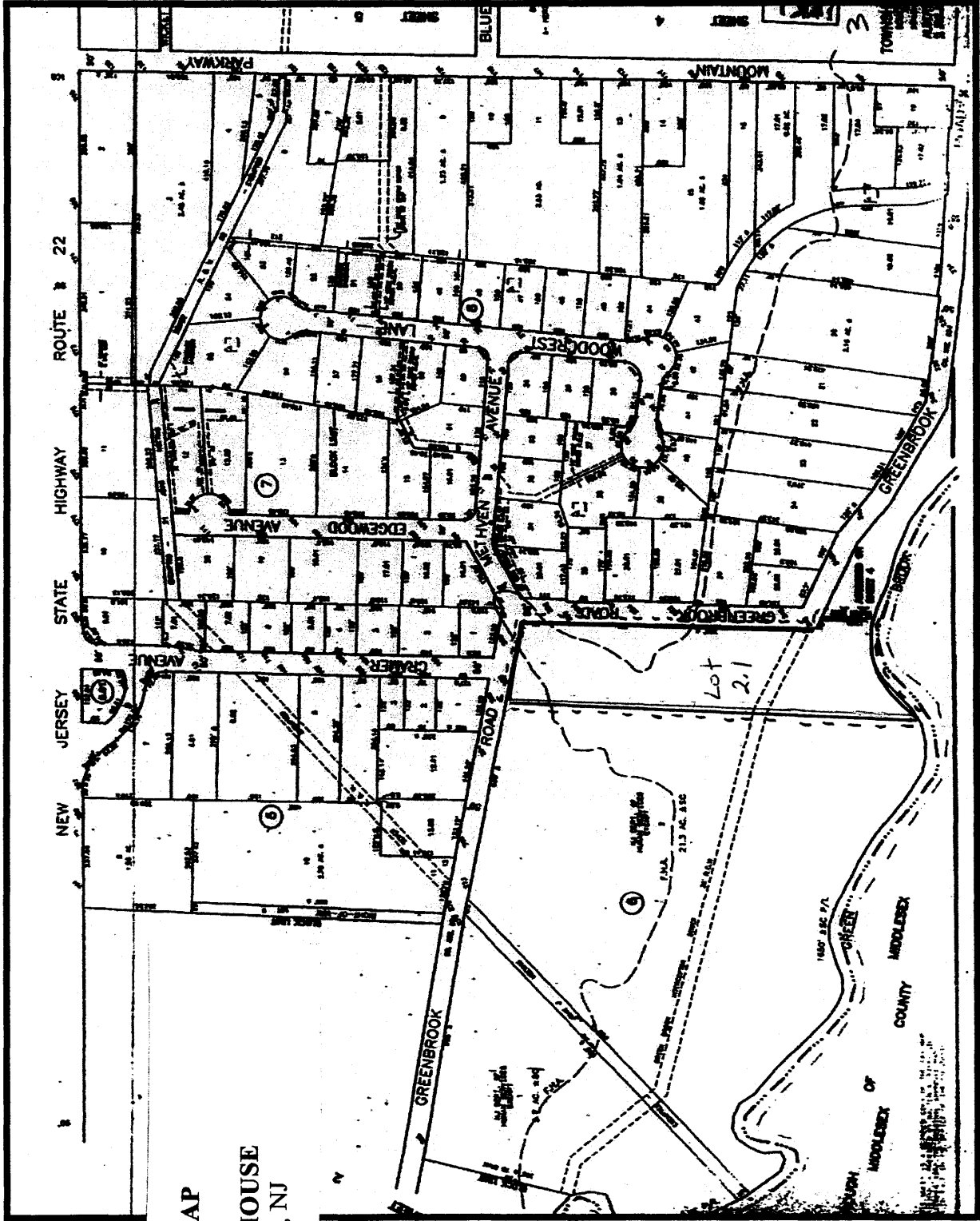
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

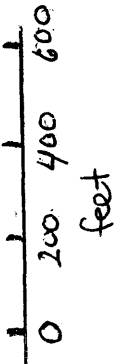
Vail-Trust House
Somerset County, NJ

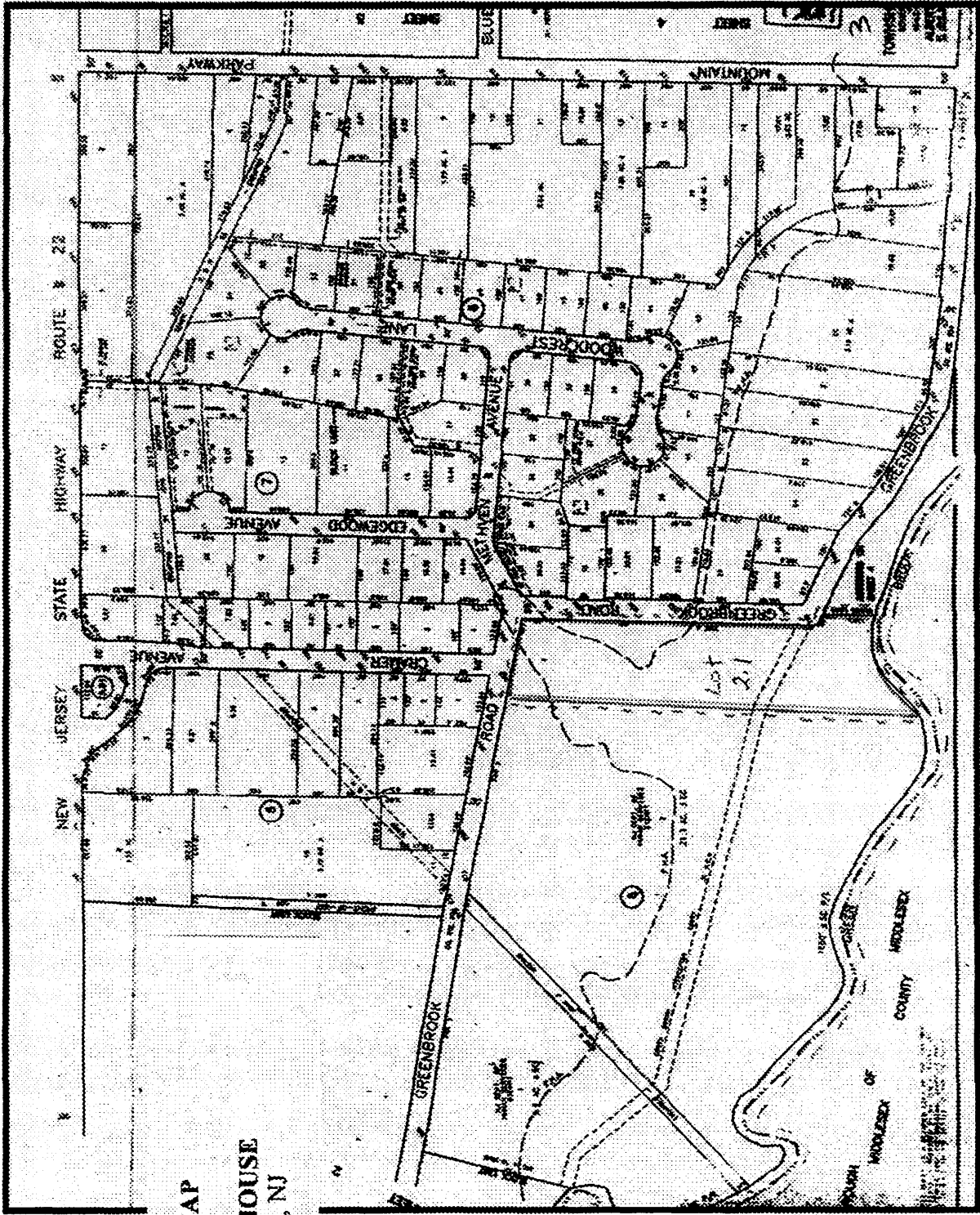
Section number Photos Page 2

17. Central block front hall, view to north
18. Central block, room 101, view to southeast
19. Central block, room 101 ceiling medallion
20. Central block, room 111 ceiling medallion
21. Central block, room 111, view to south
22. Central block, room 111, door D110-2
23. Central block, stair hall, view to south
24. Central block, room 201, view to northeast
25. Wagon house, view to northwest
26. East wing, room 209, view to north.

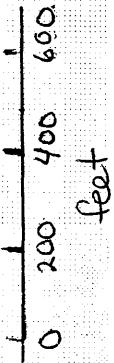


BOUNDARY MAP
VAIL-TRUST HOUSE
Somerset County, NJ





BOUNDARY MAP
VAIL-TRUST HOUSE
Somerset County, NJ



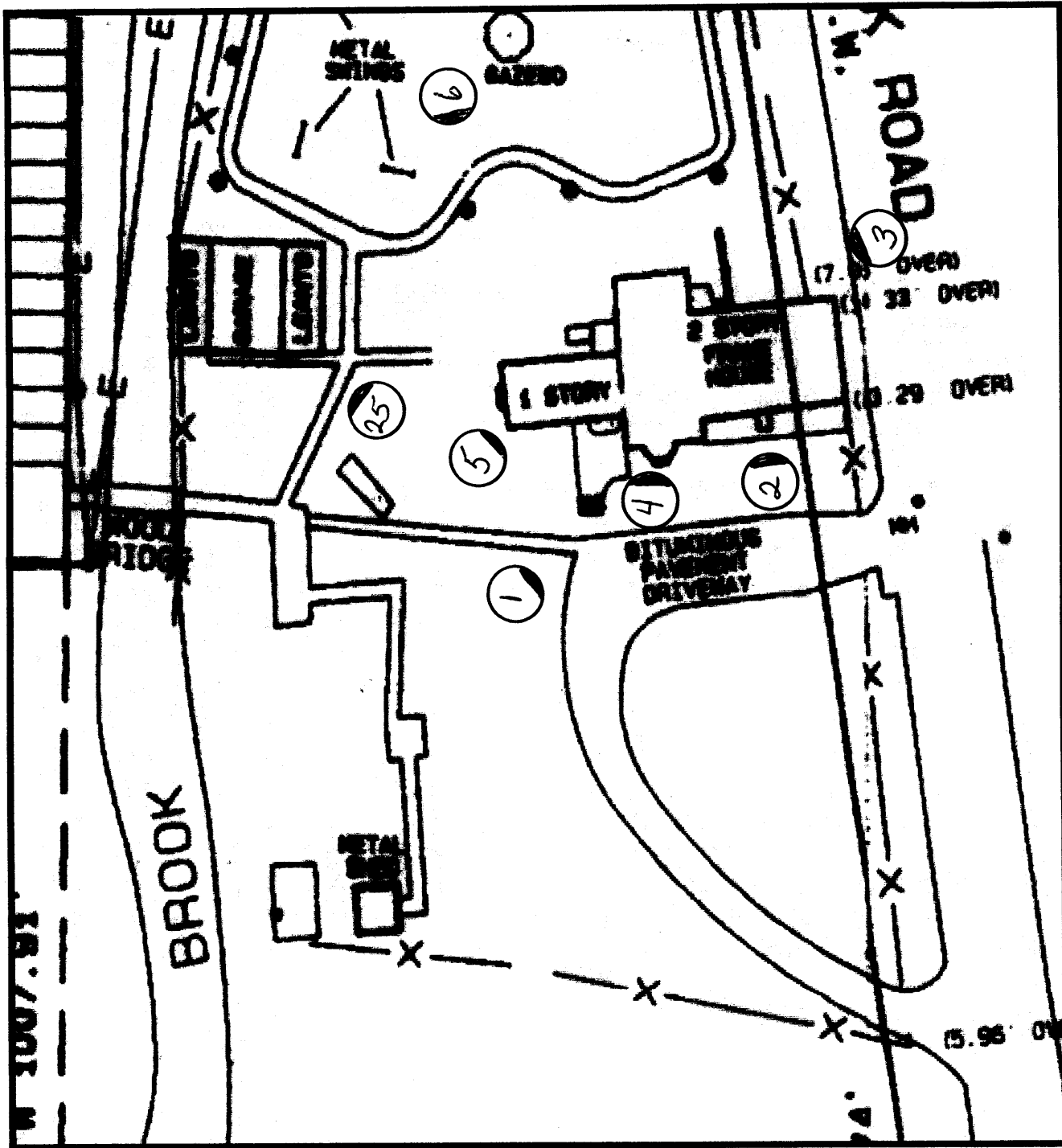
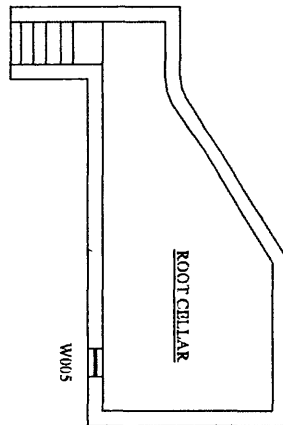
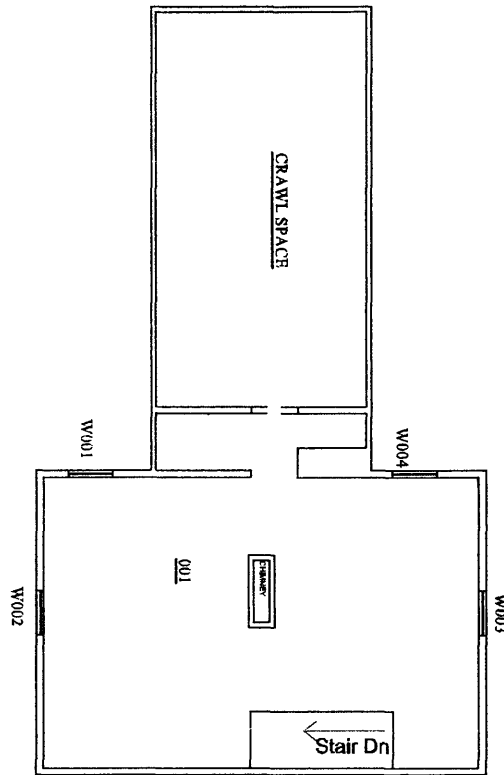


PHOTO IDENTIFICATION MAP

VAIL-TRUST HOUSE
Somerset County, NJ

Photo ID# **(2)**
(Direction of view)

BASEMENT PLAN



Historic Building Architects, uc
 312 West State St. Trenton, NJ 08618 TEL 609 393 3999 FAX 609 393 4333
 Certificate of Authorization # AC 245 Expires 01/31/2008

**The Trust House
 Historic Structures Report**
 255 Green Brook Road
 Green Brook, NJ 08812

Revisions & Submissions	Date
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Date:
04/2007

Drawn by:
AJ

Scale:
1/8"=1'0"

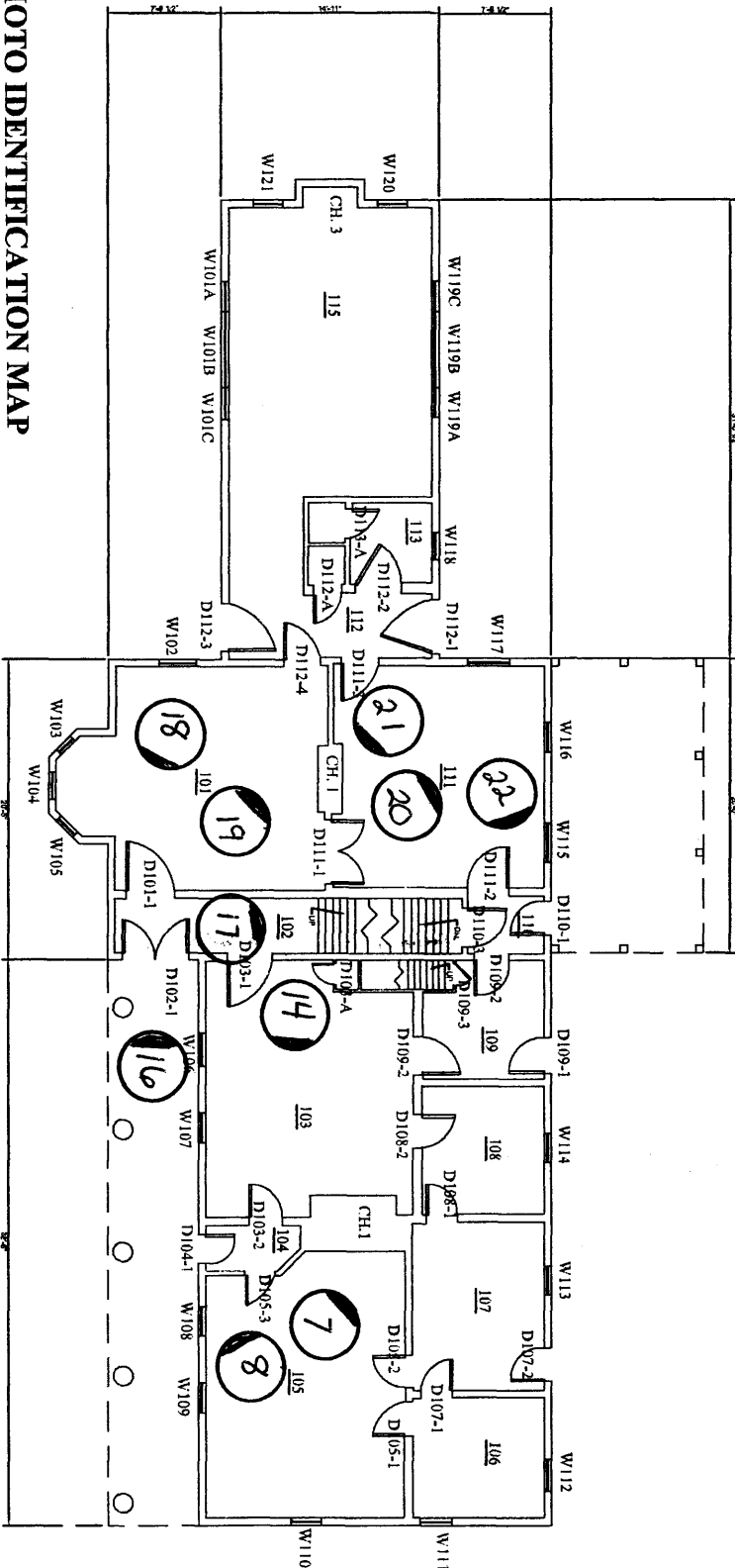
ANNAPOLIS BALDWIN-HISBANDS, C.A. INC. 3146
 WICHARTI CALAZAR P.A. 1104 REGDOR

Basement Plan

A-1.00

VAIL-TRUST HOUSE
 Somerset County, NJ
 Photo ID# **3**
 (Direction of view)

PHOTO IDENTIFICATION MAP



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

Historic Building Architects, LLC
 312 West State St. Trenton, NJ 08618 TEL 609 393 3999 FAX 609 393 4333
 Certificate of Authorization # AC 245 Expires 01/31/2008

The Trust House Historic Structures Report
 255 Green Brook Road
 Green Brook, NJ 08812

Revisions & Submissions	Date

Date: 04/2007

Drawn by: AJ

Scale: 1/8"=1'0"

ANNVILLE ROAD/PHILADELPHIA, CALIFORNIA 91744
 PROJECT: CALIFORNIA P.A. 112-ALC0009

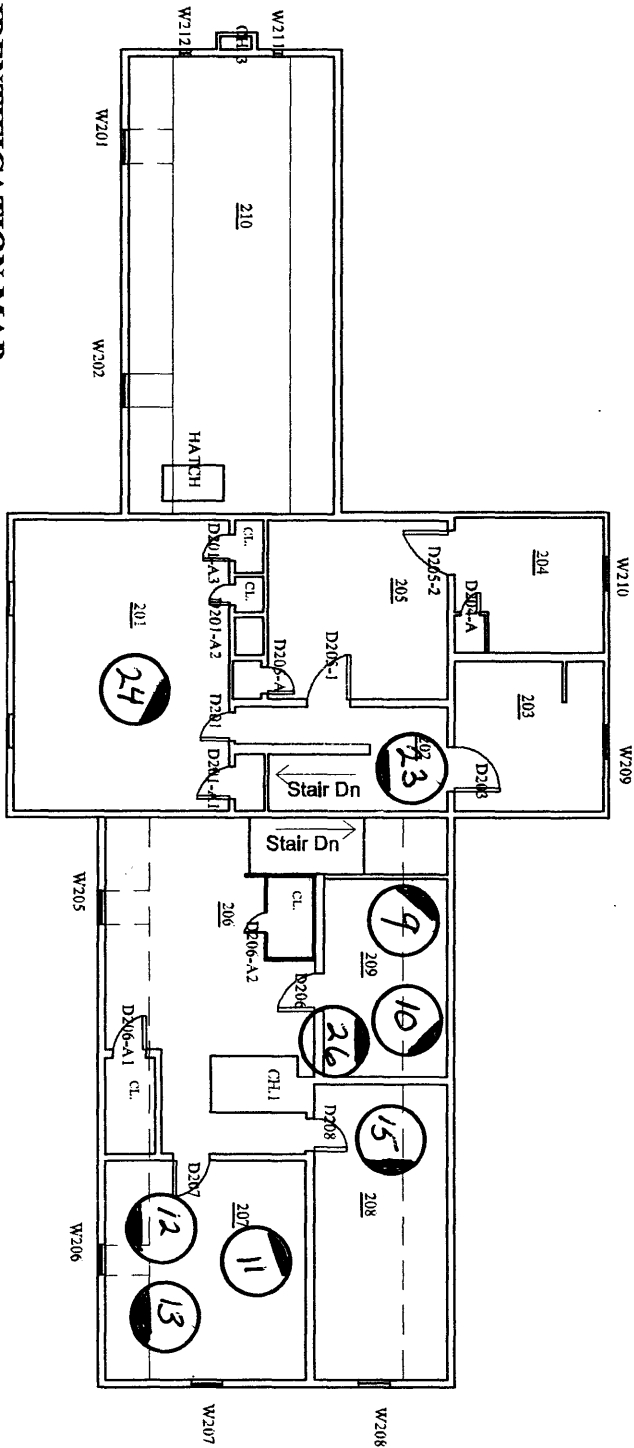
First Floor Plan

A-1.10



VAIL-TRUST HOUSE
 Somerset County, NJ
 Photo ID# **5**
 (Direction of view)

PHOTO IDENTIFICATION MAP



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

Historic Building Architects, LLC

312 West State St. Trenton, NJ 08618 TEL 609 393 3999 FAX 609 393 4333
 Certificate of Authorization # AC 245 Expires 01/31/2008

Date: 04/2007

Drawn by: AJ

Scale: 1/8"=1'0"

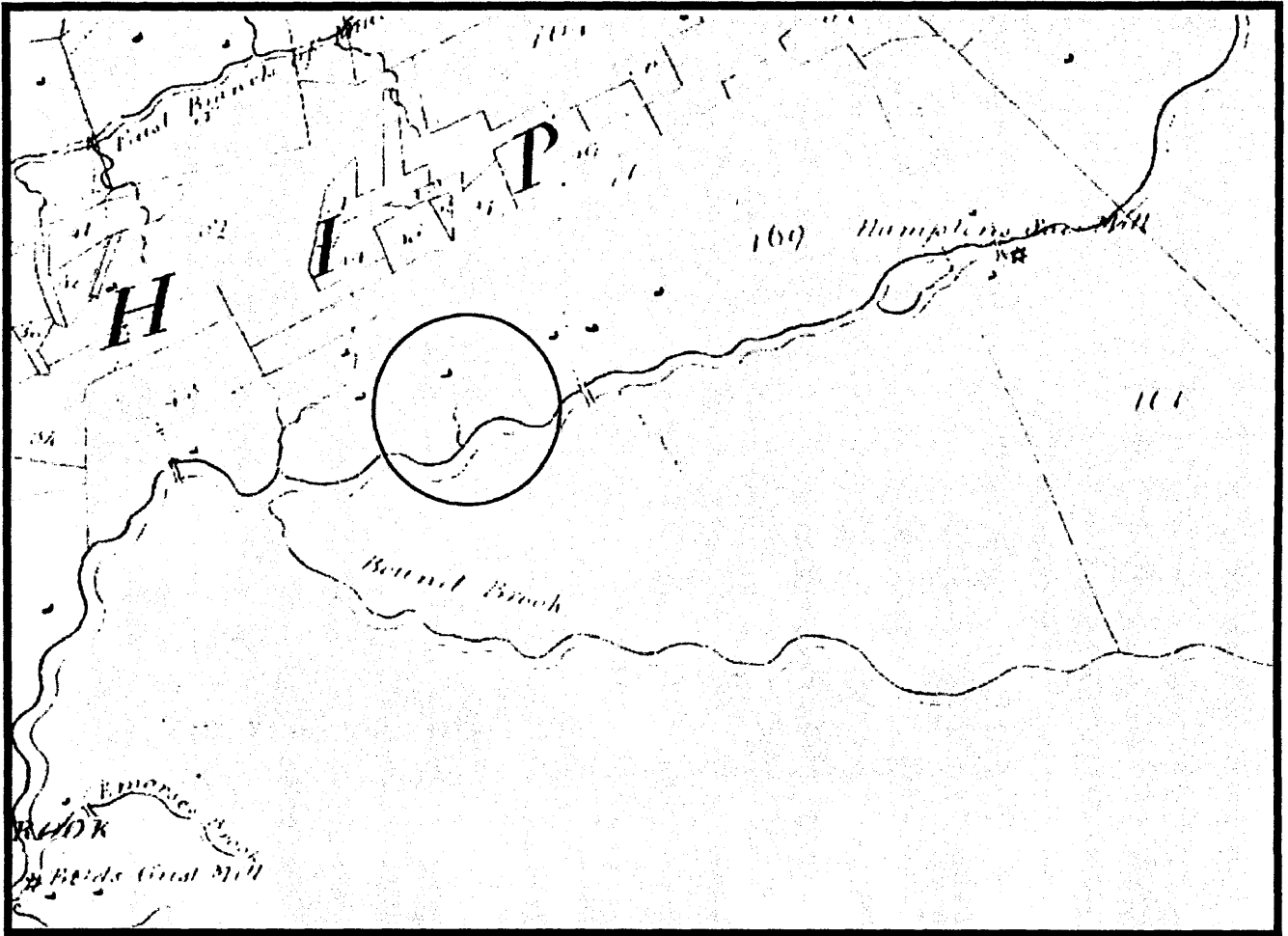
The Trust House
Historic Structures Report
 255 Green Brook Road
 Green Brook, NJ 08812

Revisions & Submissions Date

Second Floor Plan

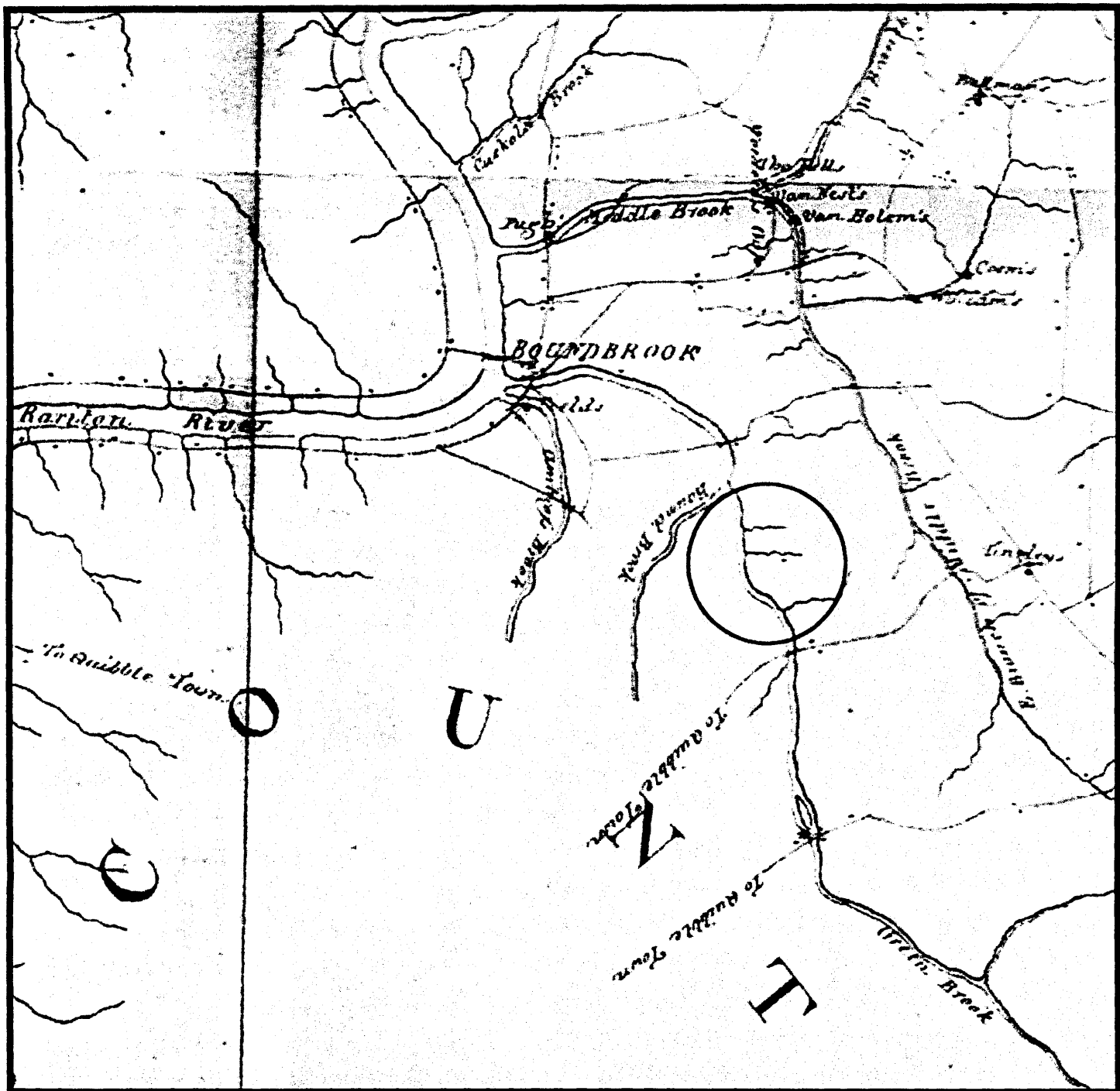
A-1.20





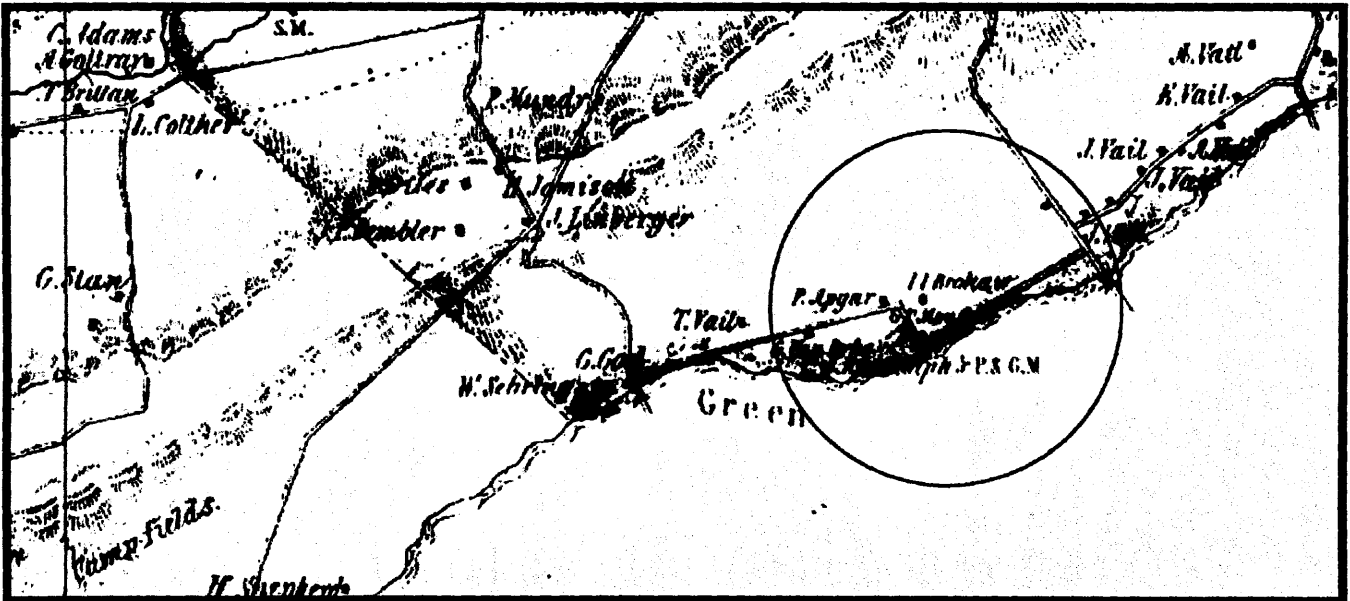
Hills, J. and Benjamin Morgan. *Plan of Somerset County in the Province of New Jersey, 1766.*

Vail-Trust House
Somerset County, NJ



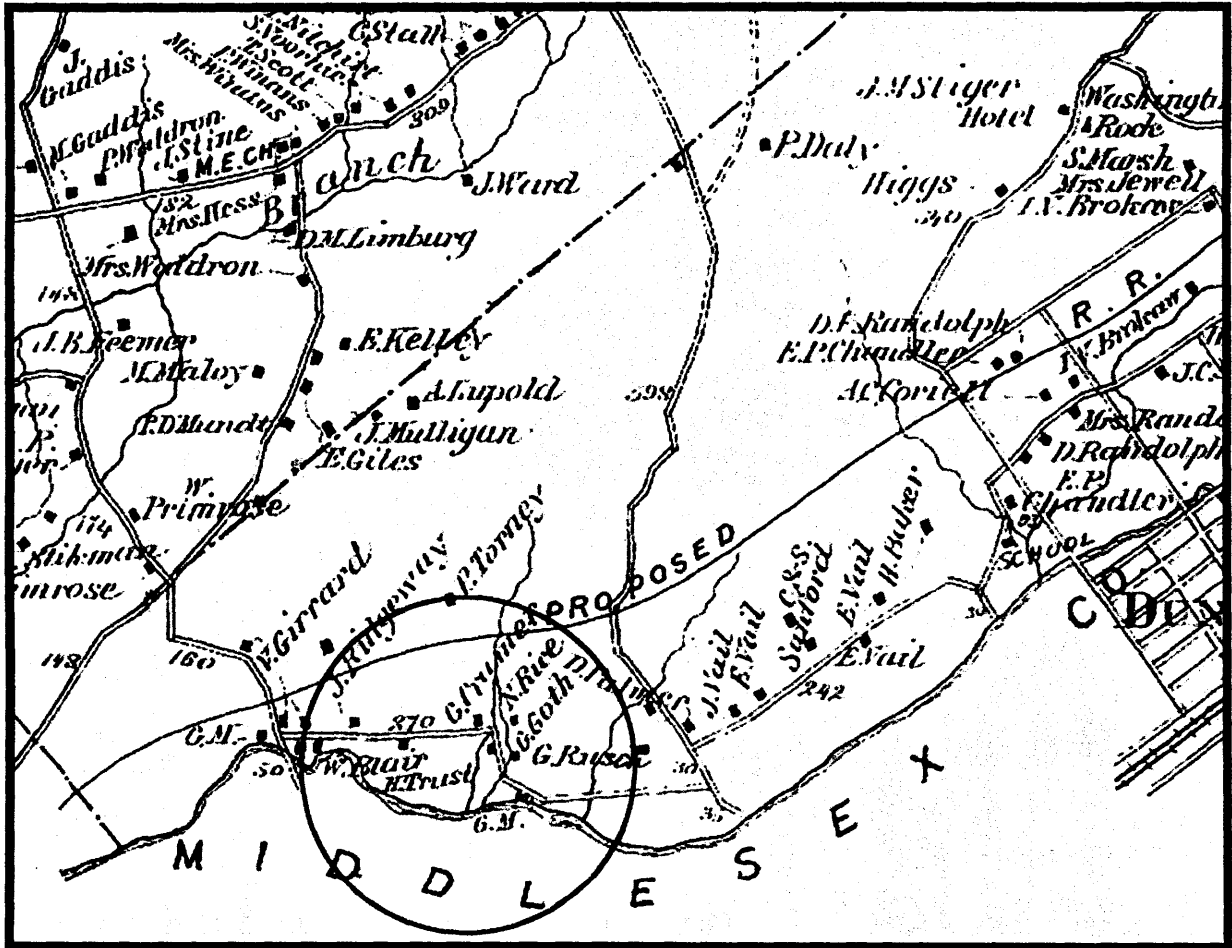
Hills, J. A Map [of] Somerset County Reduced from the Original Survey By I. Hills, Asst. Engineer, 1781

Vail-Trust House
Somerset County, VT



Otley, J.W. and J. Keily. *Map of Somerset County, New Jersey*. Camden, NJ: Lloyd Vanderveer, 1850.

Vail-Trust House
Somerset County, NJ



Beers, F.W. *Atlas of Somerset County, New Jersey*. New York: Beers, Comstock, and Cline, 1873.

Vail-Trust Horse
 Somerset County, NJ