

Prob 10-1243

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



### National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for 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 Hamilton Farm Stable Complex

historic name Hamilton Farm Stable Complex

other names/site number U.S. Equestrian Team Headquarters

#### 2. Location

street & number 1040 Pottersville Road

not for publication

city or town Bedminster Township

vicinity

state New Jersey

code 034

county Somerset

code 035

zip code 07934

#### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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 [Signature] Date of Action 5/18/18

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Hamilton Farm Stable Complex  
Name of Property

Somerset, New Jersey  
County and State

**5. Classification**

<b>Ownership of Property</b> (Check as many boxes as apply)	<b>Category of Property</b> (Check only one box)	<b>Number of Resources within Property</b> (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing	
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
		<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**  
None

**6. Function or Use**

<b>Historic Functions</b> (Enter categories from instructions)	<b>Current Functions</b> (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>Recreation/Culture: sports facility</u>	<u>Recreation/Culture: sports facility</u>
<u>Agriculture/Subsistence: animal facility</u>	<u>Commerce/trade: organizational facility</u>
<u>Domestic: institutional housing</u>	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**7. Description**

<b>Architectural Classification</b> (Enter categories from instructions)	<b>Materials</b> (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>Tudor Revival (stables, garage, blacksmith shop)</u>	foundation <u>Concrete, terra cotta block, fieldstone</u>
<u>Colonial Revival (house)</u>	walls <u>Stucco, painted wood shingles, brick</u>
_____	<u>Corrugated steel</u>
_____	roof <u>Asphalt roof tiles, asbestos roof tiles</u>
_____	other <u>Copper cupolas</u>
_____	_____

**Narrative Description**

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

SEE ATTACHED SHEETS

**8 Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

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

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

**Criteria considerations**

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

Property is:

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

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) SEE ATTACHED SHEETS, BEGINNING PAGE 10

**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 (Stable design)

Engineering (Guastavino vaulting)

**Period of Significance**

1917-1927

**Significant Dates**

1917 -

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Weissenberger, Jr., William (AKA Whitehill, William)  
Guastavino, Raphael Jr.

**Primary location of additional data**

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

Name of repository:  
USET Archives

**Hamilton Farm Stable Complex**

Name of Property

**Somerset, New Jersey**

County and State

**10. Geographical Data**Acreage of property 9 acres**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)**

Reference: Google Maps

Latitude: 40.715105 Longitude: -74.682420

**Verbal Boundary Description**

[See Map 1] The boundary of the designated parcel, shown on the map, traces a line around the six structures listed above.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundaries were selected to focus on the stable and riding rings where historic events took place. There are no other equestrian-related historic resources outside of the boundaries – just forests, fields and properties owned by other, unrelated entities. See Map 4.

**11. Form Prepared By**name/title Mark Alan Hewitt, FAIA and Nancy Little (edited by NJ HPO staff)organization Mark Alan Hewitt Architects date May 2018street & number 6 Claremont Road, D2 telephone 908-630-9416city or town Bernardsville state New Jersey zip code 07924**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 United States Equestrian Team Foundationstreet & number 1040 Pottersville Road telephone 908-234-1251city or town Gladstone state NJ zip code 07934**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 from to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Summary Paragraph

The Hamilton Farm Stable complex occupies a property of approximately 9 acres on a portion of the former James Cox Brady estate, known as Hamilton Farm, near Gladstone, New Jersey. The complex consists of the Hamilton Farm Stable, and five other buildings and structures: a riding facility called the Outdoor Riding Ring, a blacksmith shop, a garage, a residence, and an indoor riding ring (known as Nautical Hall). The boundary of the designated parcel (circa 300 feet x 750 feet) closely follows the area circumscribed by the buildings and outdoor ring [Map 4]. The largest and most significant building is the Stable, built in 1917, a 2-story building constructed of bearing masonry, tile vaulting, and a wood and steel roof structure covered in flat red composite tiles. The Garage, also believed to be built in 1917, is similarly constructed. The residence is a 1-story, wood-framed dwelling, with shingle cladding and a composition roof. The blacksmith shop is a small, 1-story, rectangular, stuccoed building with an asphalt shingle roof. The construction dates of the Outdoor Riding Ring, the blacksmith shop, and the residence are not known, but they are understood likely to have been built before 1927. This conclusion rests upon three pillars: that their construction marks them as of the 1920s; or that they are closely related to the success of the stable complex as a functional group; and that the death of Brady in 1927 left in its wake neither the opportunity nor the reason to add further buildings to the complex. Five of the resources, the Hamilton Farm Stable, the Outdoor Ring, the Residence, the Garage and the Blacksmith Shop are contributing. The Indoor Riding Ring (Nautical Hall), built in or shortly after 1960, a non-contributing building, is a prefabricated industrial shed made of lightweight steel framing and metal cladding standing on a fieldstone base. All five contributing resources have undergone varying degrees of alteration but still substantially retain their original design, materials, and workmanship, to convey their significance. The complex currently serves as the headquarters for the United States Equestrian Team Foundation (USET).

Mature trees and shrubs surround the buildings, and there is a large auto court and driveway in front of the stables. Access is from Pottersville Road, to the north, along a long, picturesque tree-lined drive. The immediate landscape surrounding the complex is protected from future real estate development, and the complex is visually isolated by trees and terrain from all but the nearest areas of Hamilton Farm. The setting powerfully evokes the heyday of country life during the early twentieth century in Somerset County.

**1. The Stable, built in 1917. Contributing building. [Photos 1-36, Historic photos 1-3, 9-12]**

The H-shaped stable, dubbed the "Million Dollar Coach House," was completed in 1917 at an actual cost of some \$250,000, which was astonishing for such a building [Photos 1-12]. Large even by standards of the 1920s, its area comprises 37,669 square feet on three levels. The most durable and fireproof materials available were used, including brick, stucco, sheet copper, metalwork and Guastavino tiles [Historic photo 12]. The hipped concrete roof structure was reinforced with steel. The east wing, now configured as offices, measures 107 feet by 40 feet; the center block is

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approximately 100 feet from east to west; the large stable wing measures 162 feet by 40 feet [Historic photos 1-2]. The windows are wooden, double hung units, though there are casement doors to access the central balcony and hopper style units in the stall areas. All of the windows and doors are original. The below grade area under the rotunda and part of the east wing houses the boiler room. The entire area under the west wing comprises a stabling area built into the hillside. That lower level has its own entrance on the west façade.

The stable building’s exterior is in excellent condition, though its original tile roof was replaced decades ago with flat red asbestos tiles from Belgium known as “Eternit”. Some of these tiles lost their color within a few years. Most of the original characteristic features of the building remain despite several renovations. In 1988 the first section of the USET executive offices were created in the area previously used as the carriage storage area in the east wing. A build-out enlarging the office space was done in 1997. In 1999 raised panels were installed in the Whitney Stone Library, along with new lighting, painting and carpeting. The most recent renovation was to the lower level stalls in 2016 in the west wing. The USET offices installed in the center and east portions of the building were constructed to maintain most of the key finishes. They can be removed should a full restoration be desired in the future. The overall integrity of the building is excellent for a facility that has been in active use for almost a century. The other buildings are also well maintained, and have changed little in the years of USET ownership.

The main entrance at ground level faces south. Visitors are immediately drawn to the central pavilion, which has a prominent central gable above an arched entrance [Historic photo 3]. Sliding wooden carriage doors can remain open, giving a view through the entire building to the riding ring beyond [Photos 1-2]. There is no base, and the walls are stucco. Diagonal buttresses further define the projecting entrance, and wood brackets support the eaves of the gable. Below the gable is a stucco-framed window/door and metal balcony, capped by a clock. The carved limestone surround and clock frame are decorated with festoons and hunting horns [Photo 3]. The wooden French doors and flanking windows have transoms, forming a rectangular opening on the second floor. The half-oval metal balcony has a diamond pattern balustrade and an open grille floor. Flanking the central element are square second floor windows and niches on the ground level. There are cylindrical copper lanterns with conical caps on each side of the doorway which are original. The roof is covered in flat red asbestos tiles from Belgium known as “Eternit.”

A prominent octagonal-sided cupola with a pointed top mounted on a double pitched roof [Photo 1] caps the central portion of the building, behind which is a skylight for the Trophy Room below. Similar octagonal cupolas are atop the roofs of the flanking wings, each with a copper roof and vents. Each originally had a prominent weathervane (see below). The flanking wings have hipped roofs with copper hips and valleys. Four shed dormers flank the entrance pavilion on each side, each with a red tile roof and walls. Three similar dormers sit on the side wings. Each wing has a separate wood

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doorway and flanking double hung windows [Photos 5-6]. The west wing was for the horses, the east for carriages. A ramp on the west wing allowed horses to enter on the lower level or to travel to the upper level.

The west façade, three stories tall, has a central gabled entrance to access the lower level stalls. There is no base, and the walls are stucco. This small projection has a central arched window at the third level, rectangular casements with transoms on the second, and an arched opening on the first. A semi-hipped roof covers the ramp between the ground and lower levels. There are six hip dormers at the second story, atop a hip roof with flat red asbestos tiles [Photos 4-5]. The roof is covered in flat red composite tiles. These are all replacement, not the original roofing.

The rear or north façade of the stable is almost identical to the south front, with a central pavilion, French doors, and a larger balcony for viewing riders and horses in the ring [Photos 8-9-10]. There is no base, and the walls are stucco. Chimneys flank the central pavilion, each venting part of the heating system. The roof is covered in flat red asbestos tiles.

The east façade, two stories tall, has five flat arched windows at ground level, originally lighting carriage stalls. There is no base, and the walls are stucco. Directly above each opening is a hip dormer similar to those on the other three sides of the building. The arched windows have prominent limestone sills. The roof is covered in flat red asbestos tiles [Photos 11-12]. The exterior of the building has very little ornament.

Compared to the spare exterior, the interior is quite impressive. Every consideration was given to building a facility exquisitely suited to the comfort of champion horses. There are 51 varnished southern yellow pine stalls (on two levels) with cork tile floors and individual floor drains [Photos 18-22]. The cork tile floors are presently being replaced by rubber matting as the cork tiles, efficient at the time, have become outmoded and the rubber matting far easier to maintain and better for the horses' comfort. Decorative stanchions are cast iron. Brass hardware and other decorative flourishes distinguish the stalls. Originally each had an automatic watering system as well. The stalls have been undergoing rehabilitation and restoration, with the lower level section completed in 2016. In addition to the rubber matting, all chewed or damaged wood has been replaced, the plumbing (for the watering system) and electrical system have been updated and all metal fixtures, latches, grillwork and such have been replicated from the original. All stalls have been painted and stained to reflect the original appearance. A similar renovation is planned for the upper level of stalls in 2017. In the center of the main block was a tack room, stallion stalls, watering troughs and other facilities for horses following their exercises or training [Photos 12-17]. An interesting feature of the ramp between the main and lower levels is the method used for ensuring traction for the horses: pieces of old fire hose are nailed across the ramp deck.

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The distinguishing feature of the first floor is the large oval rotunda with entrances on both the north and the south sides. The center of the rotunda ceiling is glass, and from the Trophy Room directly above, Brady and his guests could view processions of carriages and horses as they left the stable or entered the riding ring to the north [Historic photos 9-10]. Light filtered into the rotunda on the lower floor through this glass ceiling from a skylight in the ceiling of the Trophy Room directly above [Photo 13]. Carriages were stored in the east wing, which has housed offices for the USET since 1978 [Historic photo 5]. The walls are generally of glazed brick, with some wood and plaster partitions [Photos 30-32, 35-36]. The original weathervanes are now on display in the east wing office areas [Photos 32-34]. One is a representation of Brady's favorite horse, *Hamilton Model*, and the others are based on a Brady-owned coach-and-four and a carriage drawn by a team of horses. The weathervanes were removed from the roof cupolas in the 1990's and brought indoors for several reasons: increasing theft of valuable weathervanes in the community, vandalism (in fact one of the vanes sports a bullet hole!) and the beginnings of deterioration from acid rain.

The second floor was reserved for staff and the entertainment of the family and guests, and was accessible from three staircases in the center and east and west wings. The space is centered on a wood-paneled Trophy Room which followed the oval shape of the rotunda below and was lined with glass-fronted cabinets, each illuminated by electric bulbs [Photos 23-29]. Brady placed trophies from numerous equestrian and breeding competitions in the cabinets. Eventually the cases were refitted to contain a pictorial history of the United States Equestrian Team's successes in international competition. The original cabinetwork, metalwork, and skylight remain intact today. The skylight has a hand-painted grapevine border created by some of the Italian artisan team brought over to carve the cabinetry [Photo 27]. Other second floor rooms are still in use as offices. The area above the east and west wings was once used to accommodate riders and grooms. Originally there were ten sleeping rooms for the staff, an apartment for the manager, eight bathrooms, and the west wing attic was used as a hayloft and for grain storage. Later, at the time the building was used as a rehabilitation hospital for the Merchant Marines, this space was transformed into a recreation area. Currently the west wing is no longer maintained as a working facility though the attic is still used for storage. The east wing bedrooms have been transformed into current USET staff offices. The former east wing attic was converted into a large conference room/library, known as the Whitney Stone Library. It contains modern chairs, conference tables, audio-visual equipment and a number of library cabinets holding equestrian-related publications (mostly books, magazines and annuals). Attic ventilation is still provided by two cupolas at the intersections of the center wing with the east and west wings, though window air conditioners have been added to the Library.

**2. The Outdoor Riding Ring, built c. 1917. Contributing structure. [Photo 7, Historic photo 4]**

The exact date of construction is unknown, but it is believed to be contemporary with the stable based on a comparison with historic photos [Historic photo 4]. The riding ring was renovated to accommodate United States Equestrian Team training and events beginning in 1961. The entire ring



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had been covered in grass, but now an outside track of dirt was created. Later, the ring was completely covered in heavy sand, which was then replaced in 2011 with a new dirt base and drainage system which was then topped with a proprietary blend called Westwind Performance Additive which is mixed with sand. This current mixture provides the world class, all-weather footing needed for today's international level competitions. Still in active use, the staff maintains the sand surfaces and fences around the ring to a very high standard in anticipation of competitions [Photo 7]. Coursed rubble stone walls surround the ring with a pair of pillars and wooden gates at the north and south ends which provide access to horses, people and equipment. The walls are approximately one foot thick and consist of coursed rubble fieldstone with Portland cement mortar joints. The tops of the walls have dressed bluestone caps. The pillars are approximately three feet square and five feet high. They are constructed of matching coursed rubble fieldstone with Portland cement mortar joints and topped with dressed bluestone caps. The pillars at the south (stable) end are topped with free-standing decorative concrete urns. Both sets of pillars have swinging wooden gates attached that allow the ring to be closed. There are portable aluminum bleachers on the west side of the ring. Mature trees surround the ring, providing shade on the north and west sides. Jumps, judges' stands, and other elements used in competitions are stored elsewhere, and erected when required.

**3. The Indoor Ring, built c. 1960. Non-contributing building. [Photos 37-41]**

The Indoor Ring, named Nautical Hall after a famous USET jumper, is an original Butler building according to the manufacturer's marking found on the wall. The ring stands directly to the west of the larger outdoor ring [Photos 37-41]. Constructed of steel like an aircraft hangar, its walls and roof are of corrugated aluminum; the walls originally sat directly on the ground with no foundation. In 2014 the lower four feet of wall was cut away, cement footings poured and a fieldstone base was constructed [Photo 38]. Both clerestory windows and skylights provide natural light for the open interior [Photo 39]. The roof and walls are supported by massive hinged metal arches. The surface is the same proprietary blend described for the Outdoor Ring. Kick boards with Amish hand-crafted woodwork on the lower part of the walls protect horses and riders during training [Photo 40]. Note: the potential individual eligibility of an early Butler building is not being evaluated as part of this nomination.

**4. The Garage, built c. 1917. Contributing building. [Photos 42-46]**

To the east of the stable is a 10,970 square foot garage, originally for maintenance vehicles, storage, and housing for estate staff. The exact date of construction is unknown, but based on visual evidence it is believed to be contemporary with the stable. The plan is a broad L-shape, opening to an auto court bounded by a tall brick wall. Its materials and form are similar to that of the stable: stucco exterior walls, hip roofs, dormers, and wooden carriage doors and windows, but with asphalt roofing. Each wing has three dormers on each side, five double hung windows, and five rectangular carriage doors. The surface of the courtyard at the garage is brick [Photos 42-43].

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The building was designed to accommodate vehicle storage on the ground floor and staff quarters above. The interior walls are plaster and the ground floor space has a concrete slab floor. Above are individual bedrooms for staff, accessed from a continuous hallway along with two apartments. The doors each have a glazed transom to allow light from the hallway. Originally there was a total of ten bedrooms in the west wing and one bathroom and seven bedrooms in the east wing with one bathroom [Photos 44-45]. In the middle was a kitchen, a living room and a dining room [Photo 46]. At a later date some of the bedrooms in the west wing were turned into an apartment with a bedroom, living room, dining room and kitchen. Currently the Gladstone Equestrian Association occupies the west wing and converted all the remaining bedrooms into office space. The middle section was turned into another apartment, keeping the original kitchen. The east wing is still all bedrooms except for one, which was converted into a kitchen. The interior floors are narrow plank, fir; the walls are plaster, and original wood doors have been maintained or repaired over the years [Photo 46].

**5. The Blacksmith Shop, built c. 1917. Contributing building. [Photos 51-53]**

A very small (398 square foot), stucco Blacksmith Shop and Shoeing House lies just to the east of the stable [Photos 52-52]. The exact date of construction unknown but it may have been built during the first campaign at Hamilton Farm, predating the stable, with later modifications such as stucco cladding to make it harmonize with the rest of the complex. It is rectangular, one story, and has a shallow pitched, hip roof. The asphalt shingle roof is contemporary. The interior has a concrete floor, plaster walls, and wood windows and doors. There is evidence of a coal stove that once heated the interior, and perhaps was used to soften iron [Photo 53].

**6. The Residence, built c. 1917. Contributing building. [Photos 47-50]**

The final large building on the site is a 1,790 square foot house, originally built for estate staff. The exact date of construction unknown but believed to be contemporary with the stable. The plan is a long rectangle, with three projecting doorways on the west façade [Photo 47]. The foundation is original, made of terra cotta block, occasionally visible where the paving has worn through [Photo 50]. There are wooden stoops at each doorway; all doors and floors have been replaced. The exterior walls are covered in painted shingles. All of the windows are double hung, with wooden sash and trim and are replacements [Photo 48]. There is a single brick chimney on the west side. The one-story building has hip roofs, originally with cedar shakes, which are now covered in gray asphalt shingles.

**Evolution of the Boundary of the Resource**

James Cox Brady’s property ownership at its zenith reached approximately 5,000 acres spread over three counties of New Jersey: Morris, Hunterdon and Somerset. The acreage was not completely contiguous, with two sections set apart from the main body. A 1925 map (Figure 1), compiled by E.S. Tainter for James Cox Brady shortly before his death, shows the property at its greatest extent

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and allows one to understand the present-day use of much of the property subsequently disposed of by his heirs.

With today's tendency towards denser population growth, it is inspiring to see that none of the former Brady property is now home to shopping centers or housing developments; indeed, there is almost no commercial development except for the occasional small roadside store. Instead, the land has been divided into many grand country estates (equestrian and farming), working farms, preserved farmland, individual, well-spaced homes, and a large golf course, all interspersed with forests, fields and meadows with two rivers running through them. Hamilton Farm Golf Club is now established on some 500 of the original acres; Trump National Golf Course, Bedminster, abuts a piece of Brady property (which must be crossed to reach the back entrance to the golf course). Hacklebarney State Park is partially situated on a large portion of formerly Brady-owned real estate. The entire southern portion of the Brady tract is obviously still foxhunting country as the Essex Fox Hounds facility in Gladstone remains close by and the many contiguous fields sport horse-friendly jumps along the fence lines. Some towns mentioned on the map are now merely a small grouping of houses, with perhaps a church, such as Lamington. Another, Vliettown, is home to a number of Brady descendants, though there is no discernible town center still existing.

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**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Summary Paragraph

The Hamilton Farm Stable Complex, built between 1917 and 1927, is significant under Criterion C an outstanding example of an architectural type: the estate stable. It was built more for the comfort and care of horses than for architectural ornament or expression. The stable complex employs many innovative or exceptional elements, most notably Guastavino tile vaulted ceilings, and it possesses engineering significance under Criterion C for being the first stable to use such a vaulting system in the United States. At its peak, Hamilton Farm, the enterprise of James Cox Brady, covered over 5,000 acres and was maintained by a staff of hundreds. The stable complex is among the largest of its type in New Jersey, and the stable building itself is the only such building in a New Jersey complex of this kind that continues to function as a stable. Although this principal building is known to have been constructed in 1917, the precise dates of construction and alteration of the complex’s other buildings are less clear. Some are believed to have been built simultaneously with the stable due to similarities of style and materials, while others are believed to date from the 1920s due to their physical similarity with contemporary building construction and the history of the development of the larger estate. It is presumed that the complex reached its present configuration by the time James Cox Brady died in 1927, as it largely laid fallow (meaning no major building campaigns) until it later became the main training facility for the United States Equestrian Team (USET) about 1960. The USET had the Indoor Riding Ring constructed shortly afterward. [Note, however, that this nomination does not examine the potential significance of the USET’s association with the property.] The period of significance is 1917-1927. It is significant at the local level.

The Plutocracy and the Bernardsville Mountain Colony

Agriculture drove the economy in northern Somerset county for almost two centuries. The largest towns—Bound Brook, Somerville, and Plainfield—were centers of trade for farmers. Following the cataclysmic economic and social changes wrought by the Civil War, Somerset County’s hilly northern stretches were transformed by their proximity to New York City and such New Jersey industrial cities as Newark and Jersey City. Its agricultural landscape was transformed. Former villages within the county turned into thriving towns by the close of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. John F. Dryden, the founder of the Prudential Insurance Company, John H. Ballantyne of the Newark brewery, and C. Ledyard Blair of the Erie & Lackawanna Railroad were but a few of New Jersey’s members of the Social Register. Charles Pfizer and James Cox Brady, both wealthy New Yorkers, were attracted to New Jersey, and soon joined them in purchasing land in what would become a significant “colony” centered in Peapack and Gladstone.<sup>1</sup>

Like their forbears, many wealthy, landed families in the United States invested heavily in their “stables”—a term used for both the breeding/training facilities and the horses kept in them. During the early twentieth century, as carriage horse transportation gave way to the automobile, wealthy breeders increasingly saw their stock as a badge of class authority and continued to fox hunt and support horse shows, the major venues for equestrian pursuits. As Barry Thomson and John Turpin have noted, the Somerset Hills were an ideal locale

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for leisure activities favored by these wealthy Americans. Rolling hills could be converted into golf courses; lakes into boating and swimming venues; miles of carriage road were already in place for equestrian pursuits. Most important for Brady and his friends, the area along the Black River was ideal for horse and cattle breeding. There were water sources, pastures for grazing, and even large barn groups that could be refitted as stables.

Along with such prominent horse breeders as Pfizer and Blair, James Brady helped to develop the area around Gladstone as a favored place for equestrians, linking his properties with nearby estates in a picturesque network of riding and carriage trails. Blair produced a famous map of these routes during the 1920s, which hangs on the walls of many residents to this day. When James Cox Brady began purchasing individual farms around 1900, the Somerset Hills were entering a new era of development, one intimately associated with the rise of America’s industrial fortunes following the Civil War. By the 1920s the area would be known as a playground for many of America’s richest families. The creation of Brady’s “Hamilton Farm” contributed to this “Country Place” era during the period following the nation’s Centennial, lasting until the eve of World War II.<sup>2</sup>

James Cox Brady and Hamilton Farm

James Cox Brady was born in 1882 in Albany, New York, the second son and sixth child of the wealthy Irish-American capitalist, Anthony N. Brady and his wife, Marcia Meyers Brady. His father was one of the leading financial figures in America at the turn of the century. The senior Brady amassed his fortune in gas, electric lighting and rapid transit. After graduating from Yale in 1904, James joined his father in managing the family’s financial ventures. He rose quickly to become a major figure in American business, particularly in electric power generation and gas distribution. Five years after his graduation, he was director of five New York State electric and gas companies, president and director of five New York State utility companies, the Albany Trust Company, The United States Motor Company and the United States Locomotive and Equipment Company, among others. After his father’s death in 1913, Brady became co-executor along with his brother of their father’s estate. He was forced to reduce the number of offices and directorships he held. Cutting the number significantly, Brady did keep his position as vice president of the New York Edison Company.<sup>3</sup> J.C. Brady married Elizabeth Jane Hamilton, the daughter of insurance mogul Alexander Hamilton, in 1905. Together they had three children: Elizabeth Jane Hamilton Brady, James Cox Brady II, and Ruth Brady.

As noted above, Brady became aware of the potential of western Somerset County for the creation of a large country estate through his friend Charles Pfizer. His first purchase in 1911 was a 190-acre farm adjoining Pfizer’s Gladstone property, acquired for \$100 per acre. Construction began in 1912 on a lodge that was to be used by the Brady family for hunting parties. Shortly afterward Brady built a large house designed by Otis & Chapman of New York and a field house with an indoor pool, tennis and squash courts and locker rooms. The first house burned to the ground in 1923 and was replaced with a larger masonry building designed by Montague Flagg and Christian Rosborg [Historic photo 6 - foreground]. Ellen Biddle Shipman, one of America’s pioneering landscape architects, laid out the gardens.

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Eventually Brady was to acquire 40 contiguous farms lying mainly south of Chester and west of the Black River, a tributary of the Raritan in three counties: Somerset, Morris, and Hunterdon. To the north of the main house, screened by trees, Brady set about making a group of farms, each with its own specialization. A horse barn, bull barn and blacksmith shop were completed by 1923 near but outside of the boundaries of the nominated complex [Supplemental photo 17]. Just to the south of that group were the chicken houses and kennels – elaborate by the standards of the day. West of the stables were flower gardens and a substantial greenhouse. On the far west side of the property were dairy, hay barns, and facilities for farm equipment [Map 3]. In all, more than 4,000 acres were cultivated. Brady named his estate Hamilton Farm as a tribute to his first wife, who died in a tragic railroad accident in 1912.

Hundreds of men were on the farm payroll, which ranged from \$4,000 to \$8,000 a month in a typical year. The vast enterprise was managed by Fred Huyler, a former local carpenter who was originally hired to help with land acquisition and building construction. Huyler, who held his position for 50 years, was often on the road, showing prize Herefords, Jersey cattle, Dorset sheep, Duroc-Jersey swine, and German shepherd dogs<sup>4</sup> [Historic photo 7].

All of the large country places had agricultural enterprises and sporting facilities, but generally the house was the most elaborate building in the compound. Unlike most of his peers, Brady put more energy and attention into the development of the farm buildings than into the house, though his art and decorative art collections were substantial. He had a large collection of carriages housed in the stable's east wing [Historic photo 5]. Hamilton Farm produced a variety of crops including corn, rye, wheat, oats, beef and dairy cattle, pigs, chickens, geese, ducks, show dogs, and hunting and harness horses. His equine stock consisted mainly of outstanding specimens of Hackney ponies, hunters, Clydesdales and Percheron draft horses. Produce, flowers, beef and pork and fruit from the farm were carried to New York City and helped to stock Brady's house and yacht during cruises. The 1920s saw major local economic increases in Bedminster Township. The farm flourished and provided jobs for a generation of local residents. In fact, over one third of the townspeople were employed on the farm at one time or another.<sup>5</sup> Moreover, the enterprises helped to enliven and sustain the agriculture industry in Somerset County through the Depression.<sup>6</sup>

In 1914, Brady married the daughter of the Earl of Limerick from Dromore Castle in Limerick, Ireland. Lady Victoria Mary Pery shared her husband's love of horses and owned a number of show-quality jumpers and hunters, which she kept at the Hamilton Farm stables. The couple had two children together: Victoria Mary Pery Brady and Genevieve Brady. Brady's second wife passed away of pneumonia during the flu pandemic of 1918. Two years later, Brady married his third wife, Helen McMahan. McMahan was not interested in animals and farming.<sup>7</sup> Nevertheless, a few years prior to his death, Brady became interested in breeding and racing thoroughbreds. This led him to establish a thoroughbred nursery known as Dixiana Farm near Lexington, Kentucky, purchased in 1925.<sup>8</sup> In 1927, Brady, himself, died suddenly of pneumonia. His heirs closed down their father's farm operation and sold all the animals, but the farm property was retained. Brady's widow, Helen, married C. Suydam Cutting and lived in the main house for most of the year. She eventually moved off the property and the buildings remained in sporadic use for many years.<sup>9</sup>

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The Importance and Significance of Hamilton Farm Stable in a State-wide Context

During the 1920s Hamilton Farm was among the most elaborate estates of its kind in the United States, rivaling that of William Randolph Hearst (San Simeon) in California, Marshall Field III (Caumsett) on Long Island [Supplemental photo 15], and George Washington Vanderbilt (Biltmore) in North Carolina.<sup>10</sup> In New Jersey, the neighbors included Charles Pfizer, Doris Duke, Kate Macy Ladd and Ledyard Blair a few miles to the north and east, all with elaborate buildings and barns on large estates. All of these barns in the fairly recent past have either been repurposed into schools, restaurants and the like or destroyed. It is significant that with the huge fortunes poured into creating these vast estates, only Hamilton Farm stable has survived intact in its original context and construction.

It is also architecturally significant that Brady's architect chose to use the Guastavino Tile vaulting system in the stable. While this system had been used in many industrial structures, the design represented an exciting innovation in the architecture of horse stables – no other tile-vaulted stables are known to exist in the United States. (More on this tile system will be discussed later in this nomination).

As far as USET staff and the author of this nomination are aware, the stable at Hamilton Farm is the only substantial building of its kind still in use as an equestrian facility in New Jersey. Nearby stables at Blairsden (1898) and Natirar (1928) have been altered for new uses—Matheny School and 90 Acres Restaurant. The carriage barns at Georgian Court in Lakewood are part of a college. State-owned barns at Ringwood Manor and Skylands Manor in Passaic County are not used for horses or carriages.

The Architecture of Modern Stables and Brady's Innovations at Hamilton Farm

During the late nineteenth century farm animals, and particularly horses, were regularly killed in massive barn and stable fires, as most agricultural buildings were constructed entirely of wood. Gas lanterns, like the one that started the Great Chicago Fire in 1871, were a common form of lighting and often tipped over, igniting hay or straw. Newspaper articles consistently called for better fire safety and more fire-resistant construction in livery stables, barns, and other farm buildings. Still, wood buildings had several advantages over other types of construction: they were easily ventilated, cheap to construct, and required little in the way of heat.<sup>11</sup>

In July 1916, the stables at Hamilton Farm caught fire during the night,<sup>12</sup> producing nearly \$25,000 in damage – half the value of the building. Twenty horses and all the cattle were taken temporarily off the property.<sup>13</sup> Brady was lucky to escape greater losses of life and property. Quickly, there were plans to rebuild the stables, this time much grander than before, and completely fireproof. In planning his new stable/carriage barn, Brady turned to resources from his corporate ventures in New York City, envisioning a complex that would be as durable as the new generating facilities and power plants he had built in Eastern cities. He did not hire one of the fashionable eclectic architects in New York, such as John Russell Pope, Harrie T. Lindeberg, or Carrère & Hastings, who designed elaborate country estates for his peers, often including farm groups with stables and dairy barns.<sup>14</sup> Indeed, he seems to have avoided the prevalent styles of stable architecture, choosing instead to emphasize functional efficiency and commodious quarters for horses and staff.<sup>15</sup>

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To carry out his vision, Brady turned to his favorite corporate architect, William J. Weissenberger, Jr., who had worked for, and designed many buildings for Brady's New York Edison Company. Weissenberger (1880-1965) practiced in both New York and New Jersey during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. He was born in September 1880 to a father who had recently emigrated from Germany to Jersey City. His father (born in 1853) was a tradesman who later worked for Hudson County; his mother, Louisa, was born in New York in 1854. The couple married in 1875 and had several children, of whom William was the oldest.<sup>16</sup> Weissenberger attended night classes at the Cooper Union from 1894 until 1897, and worked as a draftsman while still in his teens. He served an apprenticeship in the office of Bradford Lee Gilbert (1853-1911), an architect who designed primarily for railroads. He also worked for the Morristown architect Frank E. Colburn. He established a practice in Jersey City at 136 Prospect Street, where he appears in several city directories up to 1915. In 1917-18 he is listed in a New York City directory as practicing from an office at 32 Union Square East.<sup>17</sup> Later he appears again in Jersey City. Following World War I, Weissenberger joined many German-Americans in Anglicizing his last name. He is listed in city directories as William Whitehill after 1918.<sup>18</sup>

Weissenberger/Whitehill worked for Brady's New York Edison Company from 1900 until 1916. In this regard, he would have been familiar with Guastavino Tile vaulting, popular for industrial structures. Of numerous buildings designed for New York Edison, the 1914 converter station at 117-119 West 39<sup>th</sup> Street was one of the largest, rising 6 stories and costing over \$250,000. The architect was also responsible for Nicholas F. Brady's townhouse alterations (1911 and 1919) in Manhattan, a day nursery at St. Ignatius Loyola Church (again for the Brady family, who were prominent members), and a school building for St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church in Bernardsville (1922, donated by the Brady family). He practiced actively until at least 1930, and he is said to have done work on the Seven-Up/Coca Cola Bottling Company facilities in Westchester County, New York. He resided in Westchester until his death on March 1, 1965.<sup>19</sup>

Most twentieth-century stables were built to accommodate either race and harness horses, or the private stock of fine equestrian mounts favored by the Vanderbilts, Whitneys, Astors, Rockefellers and other American gentry. The latter type was usually U or H shaped, and often placed to define a forecourt or paddock. The size of any stable was based on the number of horses and carriages in the owner's possession—the larger the estate, the larger the stable.<sup>20</sup> Thus the stables at G.W. Vanderbilt's Biltmore were among the most elaborate and grand in the U.S., though royal stables in Europe outstripped any American examples.<sup>21</sup>

Since horses do not climb stairs, most stable blocks were one-story, with perhaps a second floor to accommodate staff and store equipment. Health and safety of both horses and grooms was the paramount concern of stable designers, and most of the standards for stalls, waste control, tack rooms, grooming, and feeding were well defined by the late nineteenth century. One of the most difficult challenges was designing a floor in each stall that would be soft, durable, and permeable enough to handle the disposal of manure and urine.<sup>22</sup> Light and ventilation were also much discussed in farm and field journals during the 1880s and 1890s. So, a typical "modern" stable would usually have large roof ventilators to draw warm air out of the stalls by



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convection, and a tall ceiling to aid in air circulation among the stalls. This was to be the case at Hamilton Farm.

Weissenberger planned the new stable group and quickly produced construction drawings [Historic photo 1], using the Rafael Guastavino firm as a sub-contractor for the project. The original drawings (now at the Avery Architectural Archives) show details for the vaulting system and plans for the building, but do not depict the elevations or roof of the structure [Historic photo 12]. Its basic module was a 13-foot by 36-foot vault supported laterally on two wide flange steel beams, spanning between brick walls approximately 18 inches thick. Though the vault span was relatively narrow in comparison to other Guastavino vaults, its strength was considerable, given the thin tiles supporting the second floor. As previously noted, this vault design had never been used in any stable in the United States up to this time.

In other respects, Brady’s stable conformed to predominant modern stable types: a front court formed by the two flanking wings made it easy to assemble horses and riders for a hunt or cross country ride; the rear fronted a riding ring, on axis with the main entrance. Though two stories tall, the stall wings were well lit and ventilated, and laid out in double rows with a wide aisle between.<sup>23</sup> Often carriages were kept opposite the stables to allow easy access to tack and equipment. This can be seen in the stables at Biltmore, and at Hyde Park, the Frederick Vanderbilt estate [Supplemental Photo 13]. The United States Government built a large stable of similar design near Washington, D.C. in the years prior to the construction of Brady’s buildings.<sup>24</sup> Often, too, the grooms and trainers lived above their charges, in an attic-type dormitory much like the one at Hamilton Farm.

On many country estates the style of the stables was coordinated with that of the house, as at Harbour Hill and Caumsett on Long Island [Supplemental photos 14-15]. This was not the case at the Brady estate: he built elegantly but with little regard for popular styles such as Georgian, Tudor, or Modern French (Beaux Arts). In this respect it is difficult to assign a particular stylistic label to any of his farm buildings. Brady’s new barn had little ornament and appeared quite perfunctory when compared to such carriage barns as the one at the Frederick Vanderbilt estate at Hyde Park, designed by McKim, Mead and White in the late 1890s.

Rafael Guastavino, Sr. and the Timbrel Vault

In 1916 the R. Guastavino Company, located in Woburn, Massachusetts, was revolutionizing the construction industry in the United States with its patented “timbrel” or “Catalan” vaulting system. When William Weissenberger chose to employ this system in the Brady stables, he was following a distinguished group of American architects who were attracted to the functional and aesthetic virtues of this “new” system. Though Catalan tile vaulting was not the invention of Rafael Guastavino, Sr. (1842-1908), his American company made history by employing a traditional method of thin (2” to 4”) multi-layered tile construction in the Boston Public Library and other buildings of the mid-1880s in the United States. Chosen for both its economic and structural advantages by McKim, Mead and White, shallow-arched tile vaults allowed the architects to span considerable spaces with “fireproof” construction at a time when both steel and wood framing were vulnerable to frequent urban blazes of the type that virtually razed the city of Chicago in 1871.

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Rafael Guastavino Sr. was born in Valencia in 1842. He trained as a construction engineer and manager in Barcelona beginning in 1861, and later worked as an architect and contractor specializing in traditional tile construction. His first major commission was the Batllo Textile Factory (1871) in Barcelona, a huge building that won him praise as a technical master but not enough recognition as a designer. He abandoned his family and left for the United States with his young son, Rafael Jr., in 1881.<sup>25</sup> He recognized that he could offer American architects a lightweight, flexible, and economical vaulting system that would fit both industrial and commercial building requirements during a time when “modern” construction materials and methods were replacing wood and masonry. Steel framing was relatively expensive and required masonry fireproofing, and reinforced concrete had not yet reached a viable state of development in the U.S. Following his success at the widely admired Boston Public Library, he decided to found a company that designed, manufactured, and built tile vaults on a turnkey basis.

During the 1890s a number of Beaux Arts trained American architects were searching for new means of constructing monumental classical buildings in the U.S. Many were drawn to the Guastavino tile system as a result of its championing by McKim, Mead and White. Richard Morris Hunt utilized the system in his massive Biltmore Estate for George Vanderbilt in Asheville, North Carolina (1889-93), while Carrère and Hastings employed the vaults in their Central Congregational Church (1890) in Providence, Rhode Island. With the endorsement of such prominent architects, the success of the Guastavino Company was assured.

As John Ochsendorf, Professor of Engineering at M.I.T, has noted in his study of the Guastavinos, “in order to compete economically and to anticipate the needs of architects, it was essential for the company to make technical innovations. The company adapted to the architectural demands of the period, such as fireproofing, soundproofing, sanitation, and decorative effects for varying architectural styles.”<sup>26</sup> The major advantage of their system was its speed of execution and its lightness. Tile vaults could be as thin as three inches, and weighed only a fraction of a comparable stone or brick vault spanning the same distance. They required no centering, allowing workmen to construct with minimal scaffolding, from above the walls. With the addition of steel beams at the sides of a barrel vault, the Guastavino system was flexible enough to accommodate almost any spatial or plan configuration. Architects and engineers quickly joined the ranks of enthusiasts, recommending the system to their clients.

William Weissenberger undoubtedly convinced James Brady to use these vaults for their fire resistance and ease of installation, not only for industrial buildings, but also for the stables at Hamilton Farms. Indeed, Brady was able to open his stable in less than a year, surpassing any masonry system in speed of construction by months. He must have been pleased with his new facility, for he quickly decorated the Trophy Room with medals and spoils of competition. His dogs, horses, and cattle were winning the admiration of enthusiasts throughout the world. Alas, he was only able to enjoy his new facilities for ten years.

HISTORY POST PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE

World War II Uses

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During the Second World War the stable group at Hamilton Farms became an emergency wartime hospital. The main stable was converted for hospital uses in 1942. James Cox Brady’s widow, now (1942) Mrs. Charles Suydam Cutting, made the facility available rent-free and equipped the building with modern facilities, and it was opened by officials of the New Jersey Defense Council. Hamilton Farms became the first civilian emergency base hospital of its kind in the United States [Historic photos 7-8]. The purpose of the base hospital was to accommodate the overflow from other New Jersey hospitals that would be brought in by the Red Cross Motor Corps in case of an emergency. The building was staffed with fifteen doctors, one hundred nurses, and could accommodate up to 250 persons.<sup>27</sup>

On the first floor were the operating room, bed space, and rooms that were utilized for other departments. The second floor contained additional bed space and quarters for nurses. The horse box stalls were made into patient rooms with bunks. In addition to the box stalls, the hospital contained an operating room, kitchen, and staffing room. In what was once Brady’s Trophy Room, the Hamilton Farms Defense Unit made bandages and other equipment for civilian defense units. The rooms were also fitted with explosion proof switches and emergency lighting in case power lines were destroyed. The building served the New Jersey Office of Civilian Defense in this way for six months.

Eventually, the hospital was converted into a rest home for sailors. The Gladstone Merchant Marine Rest Center was one of only seven rest centers in America operated under the joint sponsorships of the War Shipping Administration and the United States Seaman’s Service. The average stay of each man was approximately 3 weeks and the number of servicemen in residence at any given time ranged from 48 to 60. Medical treatment was available with the basic aim being relaxation and varied recreation. Those who stayed at the Rest Center were men that had previously been hospitalized but needed further recovery time. It was also open to men without the need of physical recovery but too mentally weary for duty. It was a place where patients could relax and forget about bombs and combat. The residents of the Gladstone Merchant Marine Rest Home were free to roam the estate and tend a victory garden. The facility also had a heated swimming pool, indoor tennis and squash courts, outdoor baseball and horseshoe pitching, kennels, barns where they could milk cows, and a nearby lake (in downtown Peapack) where the soldiers could fish.<sup>28</sup> It should be noted that these facilities were located outside of the very small boundaries of this nomination, though quite nearby.

Movies were shown once a week and the staff of the rest home organized community groups to come and perform for the troops. The men also took classes in the Arts and Skills room, which taught the troops, who had lost everything, how to make belts, ditty bags, slippers, and small gifts for family members.<sup>29</sup> The small activities were relaxing for the weary gentlemen and relieved tense nerves and muscles.

Following the war, the hospital was taken out of service and dismantled. The stables remained in use by local riders on a rental basis until the late 1950s, operated under Brady family supervision.

The United States Equestrian Team at Hamilton Farm

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It is difficult to remember that horsemanship was a basic skill for most men and women until the end of the 19th century. Only when the horse no longer filled an urgent role as a means of transportation did riding become a specialized sport and a diversion for the privileged. In fact, the first modern equestrian competitions emerged only in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, just after the founding of the modern Olympics by Baron Pierre de Coubertin (Athens, 1896).<sup>30</sup> In many respects, the history of Hamilton Farm tracks precisely in parallel with that of equestrian competitions in the modern era.

Equestrian events were staged at the second Summer Olympic Games, held in Paris from May until October of 1900. The most accomplished horsemen in America were then part of the U.S. Cavalry, as was the case with most nations competing there. The dominant rider was Giovanni Giorgio Trissino, a Venetian nobleman, who won gold and silver medals in two of the three events.<sup>31</sup> In the United States, U.S. Army Cavalry officers were the dominant professional equestrians until after World War II. Maj. Harry D. Chamberlin was a standout in the Los Angeles Olympics of 1932, winning three medals including a silver medal in show jumping.<sup>32</sup> Our military teams competed on equal footing with other world-class riding squads for several decades. Olympic riding by non-military contestants did not appear until the late 1930s.

Bill Steinkraus, probably the most consistent and successful of all American riders, remembers the transformation of his sport after his own service in the Cavalry during the 1940s. After the U.S. military ceased to support competitive teams in 1948, American riders faced an uncertain future. Regional horse shows did not offer sufficient competition to nurture world-class horses or riders. The most accomplished riders were often from wealthy families who could keep and train horses in jumping, dressage, and cross-country skills. Moreover, the best-equipped stable for such training was at Fort Riley, Kansas, the former Cavalry training center.<sup>33</sup>

Thus, the transition from a tradition-steeped, regimented discipline managed by the military, to a more flexible, well-funded, and open system of recruiting and training equestrians was fraught with problems from the beginning. Without a national governing body, and the backing of wealthy patrons, there could be no successful teams from the United States in Olympic or international competitions. Fittingly, the two constituencies joined forces to forge a new system.

To answer the need for a national organization an ad hoc group called the "International Equestrian Competition Corporation" formed in 1950 whose purpose was "to select, train, equip, and finance our nation's international equestrian representation, with special emphasis on our own North American fall circuit of international shows and the Olympic Games."<sup>34</sup> Col. John "Gyp" Wofford, who had competed on the 1932 Olympic team, became the first president of what would become the U.S. Equestrian Team. Steinkraus joined as a young rider and, with the help of Arthur McCashin and Major John Russell of the Army, took home a team bronze medal in jumping at the 1952 Helsinki Olympics.

The USET was at first a small organization run by volunteers and centered around New York City. At the helm was Whitney Stone, a businessman who proved to be critical to future success, as well as former Army

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Brig. Gen. Frederic W. Boye and Andrew M. Montgomery, its first secretary. Though the board of directors grew rapidly in the mid-1950s, mainly through social connections among wealthy families and horse breeders, no coherent plan for fundraising and training emerged to steward the U.S. team during a long and grueling international season dominated by European riders. After a poor showing at the Stockholm Games in 1956, and a scandal regarding the dismissal of John E.B. Wofford (son of the outgoing president) from the team following the Pan American games that year, morale was low among both riders and supporters.

In order to improve its competitive edge, the USET board voted to go forward with an ambitious 3-year capital campaign to raise at least \$1.5 million in preparation for the Rome Olympics. The results were immediately felt, as Bill Steinkraus won two events riding *Ksar d'Esprit* at the Prix des Nations in Rotterdam in 1958. John Galvin, the father of the dressage/event specialist Trish Galvin, offered use of his 33,000-acre Rancho San Fernando Rey as a training venue in Santa Barbara, California. The large area was especially useful for Three-Day Event training and had a temperate climate to foster good health for horses in the large stable complex.

The search for an Olympics-worthy coach eventually settled on the famous Hungarian jumping specialist Bertalan de Nemethy. Though eccentric and strict with both horses and riders, he proved to be what the team needed to succeed in international events. During the 1958-59 season the team improved dramatically with each showing: 32 total wins including the Nations Cup in London (twice) and in Rome, and a superb result in the 1959 Pan American Games that were held in Chicago. There were gold medals in eventing for Michael Page, dressage for Trish Galvin, and a team gold medal in jumping led by Hugh Wiley on *Nautical*.<sup>35</sup>

Preparations for the 1960 Rome Olympics were not wholly satisfactory, as several horses died or were injured during training abroad. In addition, there was controversy over Galvin's overly intrusive dealings with the staff and coaches during the months of training in Santa Barbara. Perhaps as a result, and though the team was competitive in all events, Rome was not the watershed success that many had hoped it would be. As often in future competitions, the standout performance would be in jumping--a team silver medal for Frank Chapot, George Morris, and Bill Steinkraus.<sup>36</sup> These riders became stalwarts of the USET's future Olympic teams and also went on to train many champion riders in the coming decades.

Meeting the following January [1960], President Whitney Stone expressed his concern about training facilities, but also had some astonishing good news for his board members: "we are most fortunate to tell you today that we have found a solution to [the facilities] problem," owing to the generosity of the Brady family of Gladstone, New Jersey.<sup>37</sup> Arthur McCashin and two women who had been on the 1952 roster, Carol Durand and Norma Matthews, all lived in the Gladstone area during the search for a new facility. They were aware of the Brady family and the Gladstone Rest Center which was no longer in use from World War II. The USET and the Brady family engaged in several years of conversation before the family invited the equestrian team to make use of the barn and training area in exchange for upkeep of the facilities. Hamilton Farms, one of the country's elite stabling, training, and breeding locations, was to become the USET's new headquarters.<sup>38</sup>

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According to the USET newsletter, the facility was to provide “superior stabling for about fifty horses, living quarters for riders, a large training ring and several thousand acres for cross-country riding.”<sup>39</sup>

Development of the training facility was swift. The Indoor Riding Ring was in use by the beginning of 1963. Programs for young riders, including a new “Equitation Class” were part of an expanded USET effort to build talent for future teams. Olympians such as Morris, Steinkraus, and James Wofford went on to become teachers and directors of USET. Indeed, following the establishment of Gladstone as USET’s headquarters, the equestrian team went on to extraordinary success in international competitions, culminating in two team gold medals at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles, in jumping and eventing. The facility was in active use from 1961 until 1988.<sup>40</sup>

Not only did Hamilton Farm give the USET a secure venue for training, it also helped control the high cost of competing internationally. The USET Foundation, which now maintains offices at Hamilton Farm stable complex, raises millions of dollars annually to support the team. Appropriately, the Hamilton Farm headquarters provided facilities at a lower cost than any rental stable and ring elsewhere in the U.S. or abroad. Brady’s building proved its worth many times over, rewarding the ingenuity of his architect and proving the durability of the vault system.

A number of the most successful riders of that golden era have been enthusiastic in their praise for the USET’s choice of Hamilton Farms, recalling its effect on their careers. Tad Coffin, a double gold medalist in the Montreal Olympics, discussed his education as a rider in terms of USET standards. “I was selected for the resident program and, in the summer of 1973, Gladstone became my new home. I lived in the castle, upstairs above the offices with other young riders.... Our active day consisted of riding and learning, and the best possible circumstances in which to do both were provided.”<sup>41</sup> Bringing talented horses and riders together for such extended periods was essential to the success of the U.S. team.<sup>42</sup>

Support for the USET at Hamilton Farm was consistent for three decades, but eventually the team outgrew its single facility. In 1978 the Beneficial Finance Corporation bought most of the remaining Hamilton Farm acreage from the Brady family. The team rented the facilities until 1988, when Beneficial Chairman Finn Caspersen donated 200 acres to the USET Foundation. Caspersen was a competitive driver in carriage events, and became the key figure in the USET during the last decades of the twentieth century. As the current owner of the nominated property, the USET Foundation maintains the buildings, grounds and fields.

Though the nominated property no longer serves as a residential training facility, the USET holds selection trials for international competitions, training sessions, and educational events at Hamilton Farm all-year-round. The stables serve as a home and a symbol of success for riders and staff of the very successful United States Equestrian Team, something that seemed a distant possibility in the mid-1950s.

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- <sup>1</sup> On the general country house movement in the United States, see Mark Alan Hewitt, *The Architect and the American Country House: 1890-1940* (New Haven: Yale Univ. Press: 1991).
- <sup>2</sup> See, for instance, Robin Karson, *A Genius for Place: American Landscapes of the Country Place Era* (Amherst, Univ. Press of Massachusetts: 2007). The New Jersey Historic Preservation Office is preparing a MPDF (Multiple Property Documentation Form) for the Country Place-Era properties of the Somerset Hills. At this time, however, that document remains incomplete.)
- <sup>3</sup> Ibid. 3-4.
- <sup>4</sup> John Turpin and Barry Thomson, *Houses of the Somerset Hills* (2 vols.), Mountain Colony Press, 2004. vol. 1, 211-212.
- <sup>5</sup> "The Story of Hamilton Farms." N.p.: Beneficial Management Corporation, n.d. 6-7.
- <sup>6</sup> Ibid, 213.
- <sup>7</sup> *Family Group Sheet for JAMES COX BRADY*. Rep. N.p.: n.p., n.d. Print.
- <sup>8</sup> Special to *The New York Times*. (1925, Aug 07). J.C. Brady buys Dixiana farm for a thoroughbred nursery. *New York Times* (1923-Current File)
- <sup>9</sup> "The Story of Hamilton Farms," 7.
- <sup>10</sup> See Hewitt, *The Architect and the American Country House*, Chapters 1 and 3.
- <sup>11</sup> C.f. Thomas J. Spencer, "Erect Humane Horse Stables," *Washington Post*, July 26, 1894, 5, written in response to a stud horse stable fire; "Heckscher Stables Burn: Polo ponies valued at \$10,000 killed," *New York Times*, July 22, 1917, 7, on a prominent owner's tragedy.
- <sup>12</sup> "Fire at J.C. Brady's New Jersey Home," *New York Times*, July 11, 1916, 6.
- <sup>13</sup> "Brady Farm Burns." *The Jerseyman* [Morristown] 14 July. 1916: 2.
- <sup>14</sup> On these architects, see Hewitt, 25-69; also monographs such as, Mark Alan Hewitt, et al, Eds., *Carrère and Hastings, Architects* (New York, Acanthus Press: 2006), and Steven M. Bedford, *John Russell Pope: Architect of Empire* (New York, Rizzoli: 1998).
- <sup>15</sup> One of the earliest American books of stable prototypes was: *Stables and carriage houses: building designs*. R.W. Shoppell, architect. (New York: The Co-operative Building Plan Association, Architects, 1889).
- <sup>16</sup> *Twelfth Census of the United States*, 1900, Precinct 7, Jersey City, Hudson County, Ward 10, Sheet No. 17 (Ancestry.com).
- <sup>17</sup> *Jersey City Directories*, 1908, 1915 (Ancestry.com); James Ward, *Architects in Practice in New York City, 1900-1940* (New York, COPAR: 1989): 83.
- <sup>18</sup> Petition, dated June 5, 1918, by William Weissenberger, Jr., Amelia H. Weissenberger, and Edwin William Weissenberger, to change their names to William Whitehill, Amelia H. Whitehill, and Edwin William Whitehill, respectively. County Court of Westchester County, New York. Courtesy of Barry Thomson.
- <sup>19</sup> "Whitehill, 84, Architect 60 Years, Dies," *The Standard Star*, New Rochelle, NY, March 2, 1965, 1-2.
- <sup>20</sup> The definitive single volume is: Sir John Frederick Wellington Fitzwygram, *Horses and stables*. (5th edition (1903) re-issue. London Longmans, Green, and Co., 1911).
- <sup>21</sup> On Europe, c.f. Giles Worsley, *The British stable*. (New Haven: Published for the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art by Yale University Press, 2004); and Christopher G. Powell, *tables and stable blocks*. (Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire, Shire Publications, 1991).
- <sup>22</sup> C.f. Harold Leeney, "Stables and Fittings," *The Field: The Country Gentleman's Newspaper*, June 21, 1923, v. 141 n. 3678, 919.
- <sup>23</sup> A comprehensive series of technical articles appeared in *The American Architect*: C.H. Blackall, "Stables I-III," *AABN*, Oct. 10, 1896; 11 ff; Nov. 14, 1896, 51 ff. and Nov. 28, 1896, 67. Virtually every aspect was discussed, including planning, stall design, hygiene, and fittings.

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- <sup>24</sup> See "Plan of District Stables: Model design furnished by architects," *Washington Post*, Aug. 25, 1907, R7. The "big" structure was to be "a model in arrangement and construction." Tudor in style, it resembles Hamilton Farm in key respects.
- <sup>25</sup> John Ochsendorf, *Guastavino Vaulting: The Art of Structural Tile* (Princeton, Princeton Architectural Press: 2010): 18-39.
- <sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*, 155.
- <sup>27</sup> "Carriage House to Base Hospital." *The Bernardsville News* [Bernardsville]. N.d. 6-7.
- <sup>28</sup> "The Pilot Goes to Gladstone Rest Home." *The Pilot*, n.d. 14.
- <sup>29</sup> "Seaman's Rest Fills Great Need." *The Bernardsville News* [Bernardsville] 29 June 1944.
- <sup>30</sup> See Wikipedia entry: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Olympic\_Games. Fourteen nations competed in the Athens Games in 1896, in just 43 events. No equestrian events were held that year.
- <sup>31</sup> See en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1900\_Summer\_Olympics#Equestrian.
- <sup>32</sup> William Steinkraus, "Introduction," in Nancy Jaffer, Ed. *Riding for America: The United States Equestrian Team* (New York, Doubleday: 1990): 3.
- <sup>33</sup> "Equestrian Team will sail July 11," *New York Times*, April 2, 1928, 25. The U.S. Cavalry team trained at Fort Riley, sending six riders and sixteen horses abroad for the season in Europe. The article reported that places were open for civilians on the team for the first time that year, and that competition was fierce overseas.
- <sup>34</sup> Steinkraus, 6-7.
- <sup>35</sup> Steinkraus, *Riding for America*: 10-11.
- <sup>36</sup> USET Minutes, January 18, 1961.
- <sup>37</sup> Leffingwell, Randy. "Chapter Eleven: Hamilton Farms Gladstone, New Jersey." *Ultimate Horse Barns*. St. Paul, MN: Voyageur, 2006. 118.
- <sup>38</sup> "Quest for Equestrians is Planned," *New York Times*, March 19, 1961, page S6.
- <sup>39</sup> USET Newsletter, 1961, provided by Bonnie Jenkins to the author.
- <sup>40</sup> On the success of the U.S. effort, see Kitty Slater, "Our Equestrian Team Becoming One of the Best," *Washington Post*, October 25, 1962, D11. Slater attributes improvements directly to the acquisition of the training facility at Hamilton Farm.
- <sup>41</sup> Tad Coffin, "Learning the USET way," in *Riding for America*, 121, 123.
- <sup>42</sup> The team was extensively profiled during the 1960s and 1970s. See John Rendel, "U.S. Equestrian Team Captures Nations Cup in National Show at Garden," *New York Times*, November 7, 1967, 56. Walt Disney Studios captured their popularity with its film, "The Horse With the Flying Tail," in the early 1960s. Actual footage of Nautical, the amazing jumper, was featured.

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**Photo Log**

Name of Property: Hamilton Farm Stable Complex

Historic Name: Hamilton Farm Stables, U.S. Equestrian Team Headquarters

City or Vicinity: Gladstone

County: Somerset State: New Jersey

Photographer: Crysta Sotirhos, photos 2-44, 47, 54

Clifton J. Cotter II, photos 45-46, 48-53

Jack Turpin, photo 1

Date Photographed: Sotirhos – Spring 2015

Cotter – Fall 2016

Turpin – c. 2000

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Photo 1. Full exterior of the barn from the south

Photo 2. Exterior of the main entrance of the barn from the south

Photo 3. Close up of the balcony on the second floor overlooking the vehicular courtyard at the main entrance.

Photo 4. Continuation of front façade from the south.

Photo 5. Exterior of the barn from the west.

Photo 6. Close up of the side entrance of the barn from the west.

Photo 7. Second floor balcony view of the outdoor ring from the north.

Photo 8. Detail of the clock on the second floor balcony on the back (outdoor ring side) of the building.

Photo 9. Exterior of the back entrance of the barn facing north.

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- Photo 10. Back façade of the barn past the outdoor ring facing north.
- Photo 11. Exterior of the carriage wing from the northeast.
- Photo 12. Exterior of the carriage from the southeast.
- Photo 13. Interior of the rotunda from the south.
- Photo 14. Detail of the Guastavino vaulting.
- Photo 15. Interior of the rotunda from the southwest.
- Photo 16. Interior of the rotunda from the northwest.
- Photo 17. Interior of the rotunda from the northeast.
- Photo 18. Interior of the hallway connecting the rotunda and the stables known as Stallion Row.
- Photo 19. Interior of the stables facing south.
- Photo 20. Detail of one of the box stalls.
- Photo 21. Interior detail of one of the box stalls.
- Photo 22. Interior of the stables facing north.
- Photo 23. Entrance to the second floor Carol H. Durand Memorial Trophy Room.
- Photo 24. Interior of the steps leading to the second floor Trophy Room.
- Photo 25. Interior of the second floor Trophy Room facing northwest.
- Photo 26. Interior of the second floor Trophy Room facing north.
- Photo 27. Interior of the second floor Trophy Room facing northeast.
- Photo 28. Interior of the second floor Trophy Room facing south.
- Photo 29. Close up of the glass floor on the second floor Trophy Room facing south.
- Photo 30. Interior of what was once the entrance to the carriage stables facing east.
- Photo 31. Interior of the entrance way past the shelving to what was once the carriage stables facing east.
- Photo 32. Interior of the passageway facing west.
- Photo 33. Detail of *Hamilton Model* weathervane.
- Photo 34. Detail of a weathervane.
- Photo 35. Hallway in the carriage wing facing north.
- Photo 36. Hallway in the carriage wing facing south.
- Photo 37. Exterior of the indoor training ring, Nautical Hall, facing south.
- Photo 39. Interior of the indoor training ring, Nautical Hall, facing north.
- Photo 38. Exterior of the indoor training ring, Nautical Hall, facing slightly southwest.
- Photo 40. Interior of the indoor training ring, Nautical Hall, facing south.
- Photo 41. Exterior of the indoor training ring, Nautical Hall, facing north.
- Photo 42. Exterior of the garage on the eastern border of the property.
- Photo 43. Exterior the garage on the eastern border of the property facing east.

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- Photo 44. Second floor bedroom in the garage.  
 Photo 45. Second floor bathroom in the garage.  
 Photo 46. Second floor gathering/dining room in the garage.  
 Photo 47. Exterior of the residence on the USET property facing west.  
 Photo 48. Close up of windows and door of the residence on USET property facing west.  
 Photo 49. Exterior of residence from the east.  
 Photo 50. Basement of residence showing worn parging over terracotta blocks.  
 Photo 51. Exterior of the blacksmith shop from the west.  
 Photo 52. Exterior of blacksmith shop from the east.  
 Photo 53. Interior of blacksmith shop showing ghost of stove pipe and chimney.  
 Photo 54. Interior view of the stable, second floor hallway.

**HISTORIC and SUPPLEMENTAL PHOTOGRAPHS**

**Historic Photos**

- Photo 1. Ground floor plan from Rider & Driver Magazine 11-10-1917.  
 Photo 2. Section from Rider & Driver Magazine 11-10-1917.  
 Photo 3. Historic photograph of the Essex Hunt Meeting taken by Newark, N.J. photographer H.A. Strohmeyer circa 1919.  
 Photo 4. Historic photograph of the riding ring by Newark, N.J. photographer H. A. Strohmeyer circa 1919.  
 Photo 5. Historic photo of the carriage stables circa 1920s.  
 Photo 6. Aerial view of Hamilton Farm circa 1923. Nominated property is in the upper right corner.  
 Photo 7. Brady hospital operating room during World War II.  
 Photo 8. Brady hospital sterilizing room during World War II.  
 Photo 9. Historic photo of the second floor Trophy Room circa 1960s after the USET association began.  
 Photo 10. Historic photo of the rotunda facing the stall area circa 1960s.  
 Photo 11. Historic photo of the stall area circa 1960s.  
 Photo 12. R. Guastavino Co., working drawing for Brady stable at Hamilton Farm, 1916. Avery Architectural Archives, Columbia University.

**Supplemental Photos**

- Photo 13. Carriage house/garage, Frederick Vanderbilt National Historic Site, Hyde Park, New York, circa 1896. (Hewitt, *The Architect and the American Country House*).

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Photo 14. Stable at Harbour Hill, Clarence Mackay estate, Roslyn, Long Island, by Warren & Wetmore, circa 1898. (Hewitt, *The Architect and the American Country House*).

Photo 15. Stable at Caumsett, Marshall Field III estate, Long Island, by John Russell Pope, 1928. (Hewitt, *The Architect and the American Country House*).

Photo 16. Stable at Edgerton Winthrop estate, Muttontown, Long Island, by Delano & Aldrich, 1914. (Hewitt, *The Architect and the American Country House*).

Photo 17. Hamilton Farm barn group circa 1920s.

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**Photo Log**

Name of Property: Hamilton Farm Stable Group

Historic Name: Hamilton Farm Stables, U.S. Equestrian Team Headquarters

City or Vicinity: Gladstone

County: Somerset

State: New Jersey

Photographer: Crysta Sotirhos, photos 2-44, 47, 54  
Clifton J. Cotter II, photos 45-46, 48-53  
Jack Turpin, photo 1

Date Photographed: Sotirhos – Spring 2015  
Cotter – Fall 2016  
Turpin – c. 2000

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- Photo 1. Full exterior of the barn from the south
- Photo 2. Exterior of the main entrance of the barn from the south
- Photo 3. Close up of the balcony on the second floor overlooking the vehicular courtyard at the main entrance.
- Photo 4. Continuation of front façade from the south.
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- Photo 7. Second floor balcony view of the outdoor ring from the north.
- Photo 8. Detail of the clock on the second floor balcony on the back (outdoor ring side) of the building.
- Photo 9. Exterior of the back entrance of the barn facing north.
- Photo 10. Back façade of the barn past the outdoor ring facing north.
- Photo 11. Exterior of the carriage wing from the northeast.
- Photo 12. Exterior of the carriage from the southeast.
- Photo 13. Interior of the rotunda from the south.
- Photo 14. Detail of the Guastavino vaulting.

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

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

Hamilton Farm Stable Complex
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- Photo 15. Interior of the rotunda from the southwest.  
 Photo 16. Interior of the rotunda from the northwest.  
 Photo 17. Interior of the rotunda from the northeast.  
 Photo 18. Interior of the hallway connecting the rotunda and the stables known as Stallion Row.  
 Photo 19. Interior of the stables facing south.  
 Photo 20. Detail of one of the box stalls.  
 Photo 21. Interior detail of one of the box stalls.  
 Photo 22. Interior of the stables facing north.  
 Photo 23. Entrance to the second floor Carol H. Durand Memorial Trophy Room.  
 Photo 24. Interior of the steps leading to the second floor Trophy Room.  
 Photo 25. Interior of the second floor Trophy Room facing northwest.  
 Photo 26. Interior of the second floor Trophy Room facing north.  
 Photo 27. Interior of the second floor Trophy Room facing northeast.  
 Photo 28. Interior of the second floor Trophy Room facing south.  
 Photo 29. Close up of the glass floor on the second floor Trophy Room facing south.  
 Photo 30. Interior of what was once the entrance to the carriage stables facing east.  
 Photo 31. Interior of the entrance way past the shelving to what was once the carriage stables facing east.  
 Photo 32. Interior of the passageway facing west.  
 Photo 33. Detail of *Hamilton Model* weathervane.  
 Photo 34. Detail of a weathervane.  
 Photo 35. Hallway in the carriage wing facing north.  
 Photo 36. Hallway in the carriage wing facing south.  
 Photo 37. Exterior of the indoor training ring, Nautical Hall, facing south.  
 Photo 39. Interior of the indoor training ring, Nautical Hall, facing north.  
 Photo 38. Exterior of the indoor training ring, Nautical Hall, facing slightly southwest.  
 Photo 40. Interior of the indoor training ring, Nautical Hall, facing south.  
 Photo 41. Exterior of the indoor training ring, Nautical Hall, facing north.  
 Photo 42. Exterior of the garage on the eastern border of the property.  
 Photo 43. Exterior the garage on the eastern border of the property facing east.  
 Photo 44. Second floor bedroom in the garage.  
 Photo 45. Second floor bathroom in the garage.  
 Photo 46. Second floor gathering/dining room in the garage.  
 Photo 47. Exterior of the residence on the USET property facing west.  
 Photo 48. Close up of windows and door of the residence on USET property facing west.

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- Photo 49. Exterior of residence from the east.  
 Photo 50. Basement of residence showing worn paving over terracotta blocks.  
 Photo 51. Exterior of the blacksmith shop from the west.  
 Photo 52. Exterior of blacksmith shop from the east.  
 Photo 53. Interior of blacksmith shop showing ghost of stove pipe and chimney.  
 Photo 54. Interior view of the stable, second floor hallway.

**ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS**

**Historic**

- Photo 1. Ground floor plan from Rider & Driver Magazine 11-10-1917.  
 Photo 2. Section from Rider & Driver Magazine 11-10-1917.  
 Photo 3. Historic photograph of the Essex Hunt Meeting taken by Newark, N.J. photographer H.A. Strohmeyer circa 1919.  
 Photo 4. Historic photograph of the riding ring by Newark, N.J. photographer H. A. Strohmeyer circa 1919.  
 Photo 5. Historic photo of the carriage stables circa 1920s.  
 Photo 6. Aerial view of Hamilton Farm circa 1923. Nominated property is in the upper right corner.  
 Photo 7. Brady hospital operating room during World War II.  
 Photo 8. Brady hospital sterilizing room during World War II.  
 Photo 9. Historic photo of the second floor Trophy Room circa 1960s after the USET association began.  
 Photo 10. Historic photo of the rotunda facing the stall area circa 1960s.  
 Photo 11. Historic photo of the stall area circa 1960s.  
 Photo 12. R. Guastavino Co., working drawing for Brady stable at Hamilton Farm, 1916. Avery Architectural Archives, Columbia University.

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National Park Service

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**Supplemental**

Photo 13. Carriage house/garage, Frederick Vanderbilt National Historic Site, Hyde Park, New York, circa 1896. (Hewitt, *The Architect and the American Country House*).

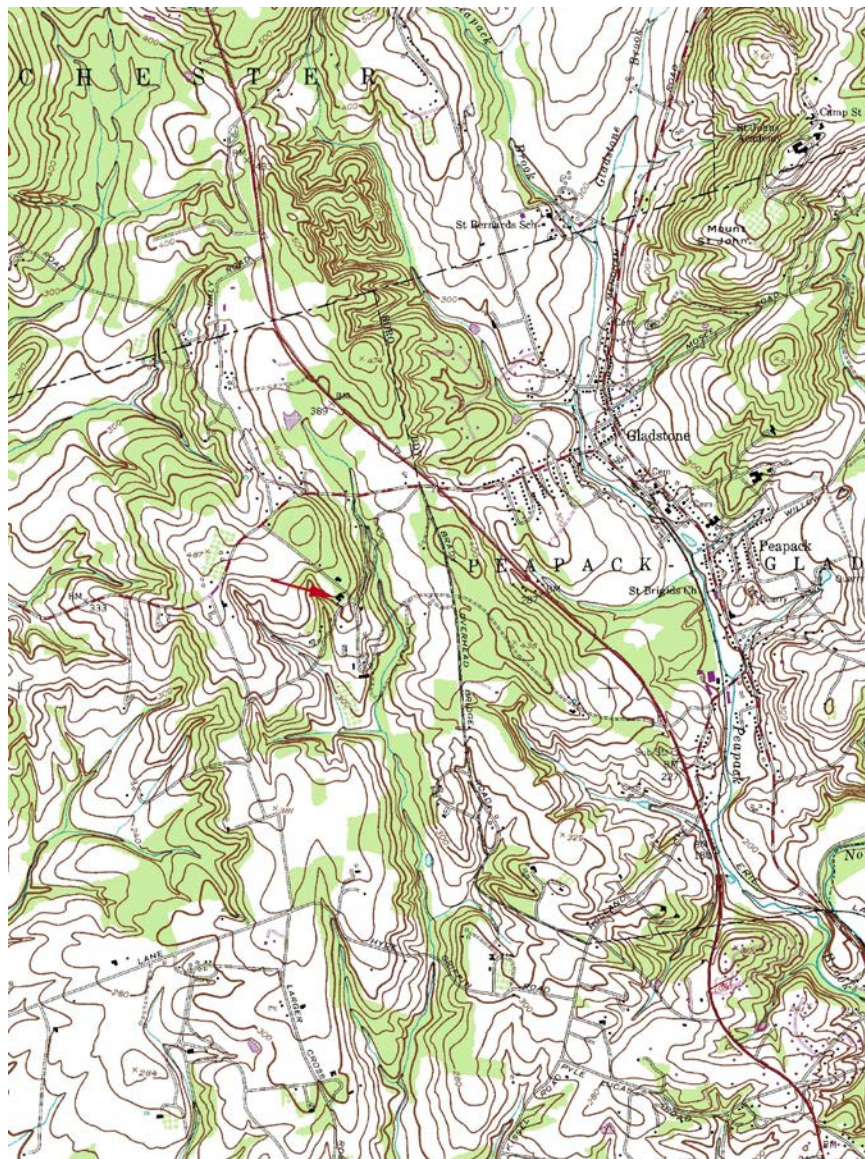
Photo 14. Stable at Harbour Hill, Clarence Mackay estate, Roslyn, Long Island, by Warren & Wetmore, circa 1898. (Hewitt, *The Architect and the American Country House*).

Photo 15. Stable at Caumsett, Marshall Field III estate, Long Island, by John Russell Pope, 1928. (Hewitt, *The Architect and the American Country House*).

Photo 16. Stable at Edgerton Winthrop estate, Muttontown, Long Island, by Delano & Aldrich, 1914. (Hewitt, *The Architect and the American Country House*).

Photo 17. Hamilton Farm barn group circa 1920s.

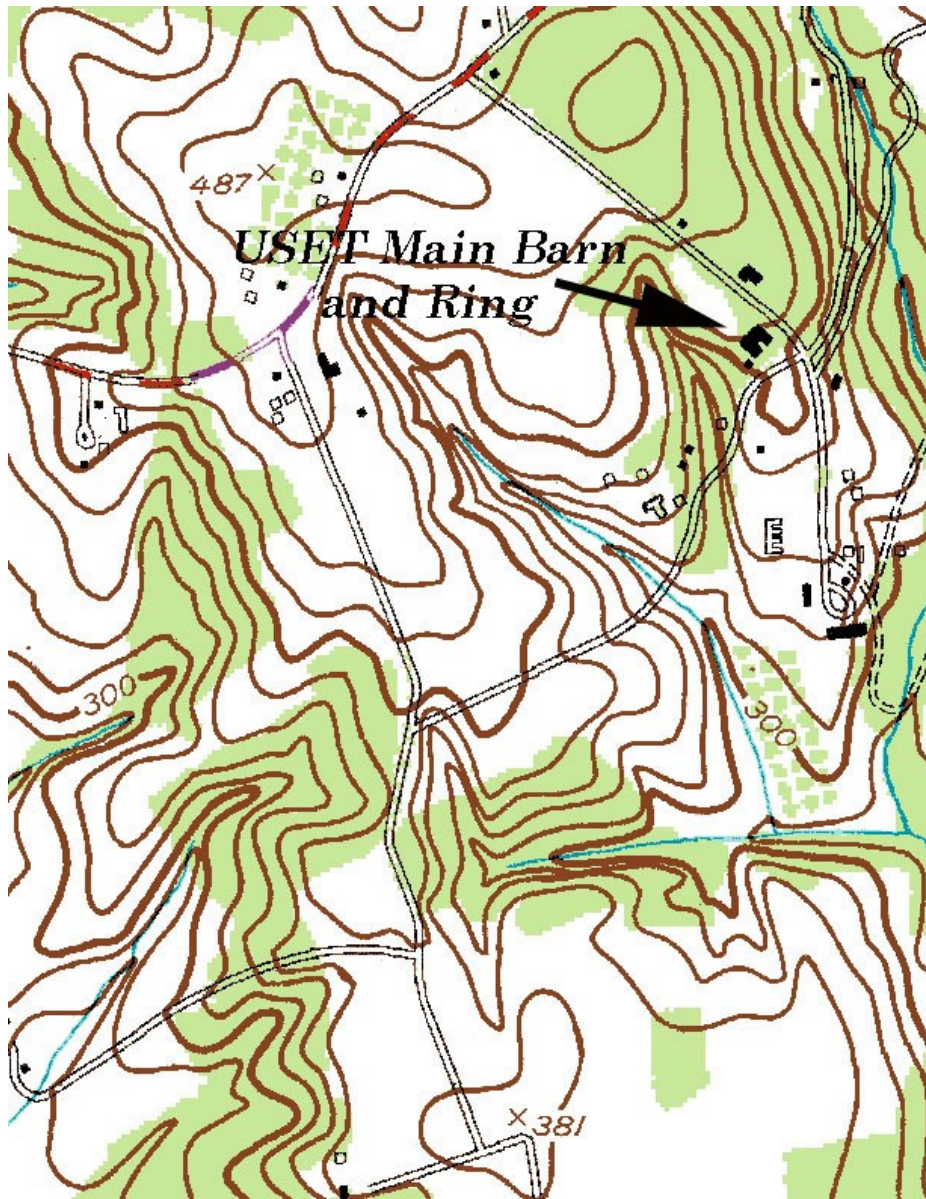
# Map 1



Arrow indicates the location of the USET Headquarters, Hamilton Farm Stables, on USGS Gladstone Quadrant, 1954

United States Equestrian Team  
Gladstone, New Jersey

## Map 2



A detail of the previous USGS map showing the location of the stables

United States Equestrian Team  
Gladstone, New Jersey

# Map 3



## Hamilton Farm, 1926; Map Key

A: Stable group, B: Farm group, C: Main house, D: Kennels, E: Greenhouses, F: Main gate

United States Equestrian Team  
Gladstone, New Jersey

# Map 4



**Site plan of current USET Training Facility  
Yellow line indicates area to be included in this nomination**

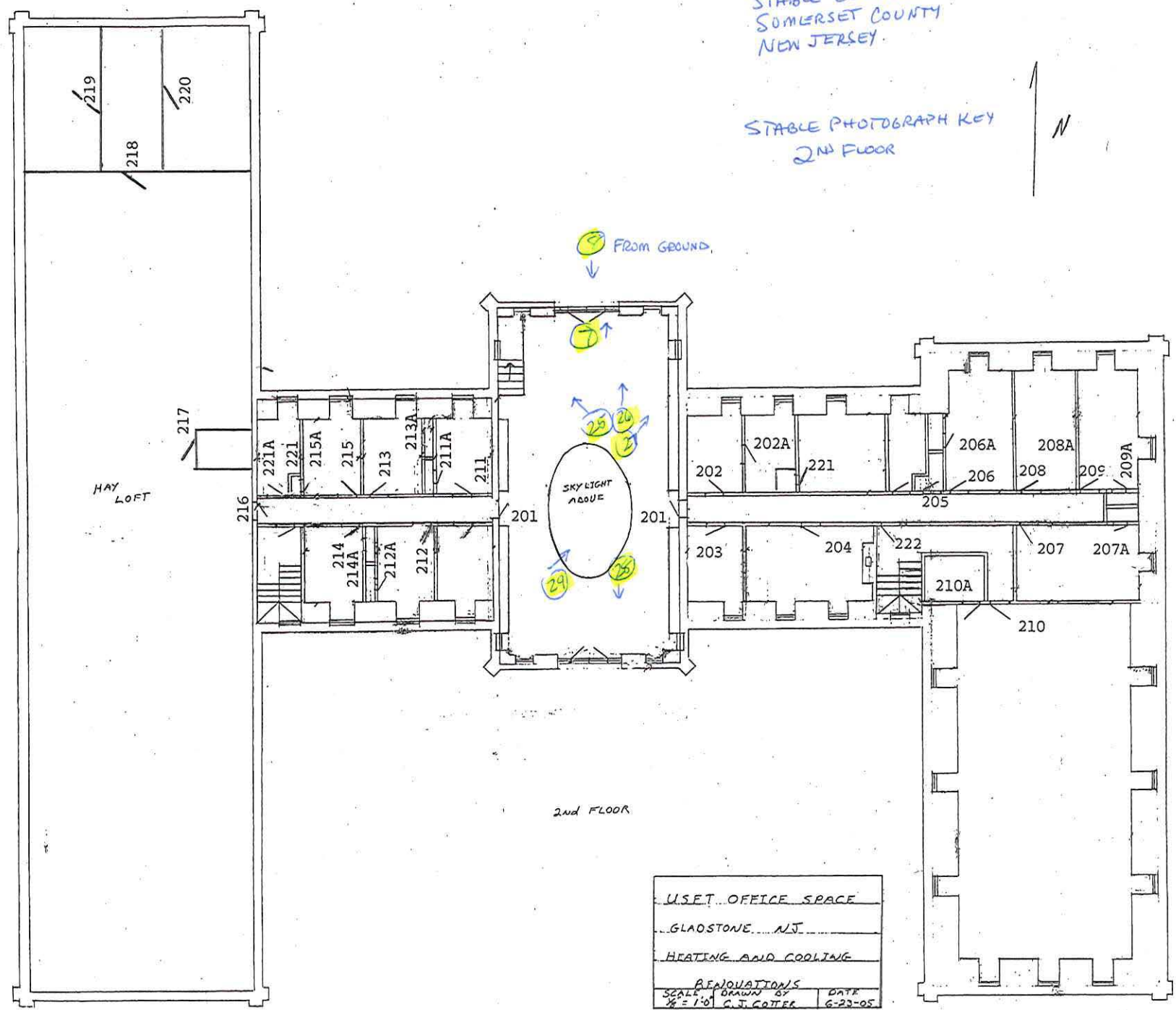
United States Equestrian Team  
Gladstone, New Jersey





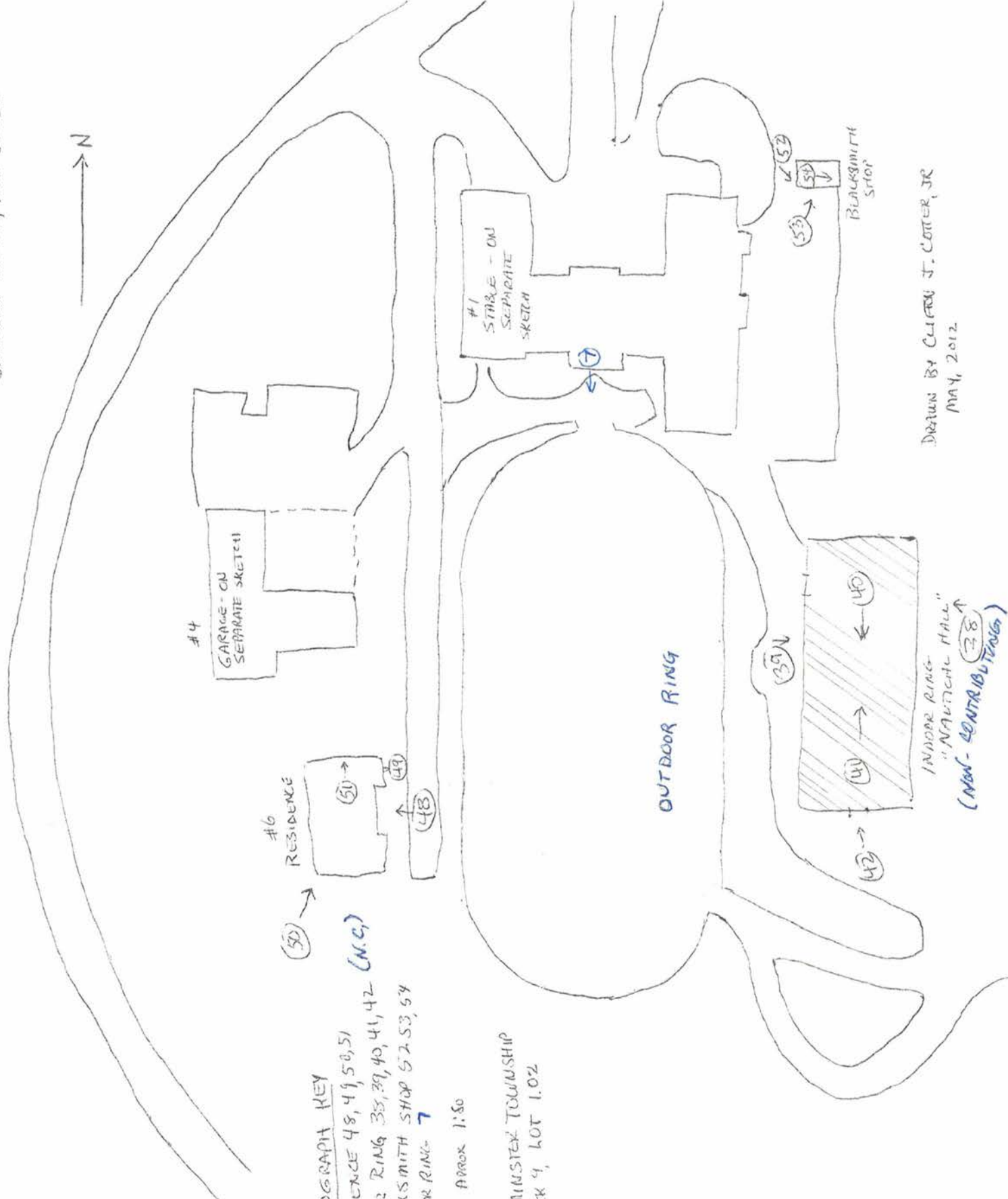
HAMILTON FARM  
 STABLE COMPLEX  
 SOMERSET COUNTY  
 NEW JERSEY

STABLE PHOTOGRAPH KEY  
 2ND FLOOR



2nd FLOOR

USEF OFFICE SPACE	
GLADSTONE, NJ	
HEATING AND COOLING	
RENOVATIONS	
SCALE: DRAWN BY	DATE
1/4" = 1'-0" A. J. COITTE	6-23-05



PHOTOGRAPH KEY

- # 6 RESIDENCE 48, 49, 50, 51
- # 3 INDOOR RING 38, 39, 40, 41, 42 (N.C.)
- # 5 BACKS WITH SHOP 52, 53, 54
- # 2 OUTDOOR RING 7

SCALE APPROX 1:50

BEDMINSTER TOWNSHIP  
Block 4, LOT 1.02

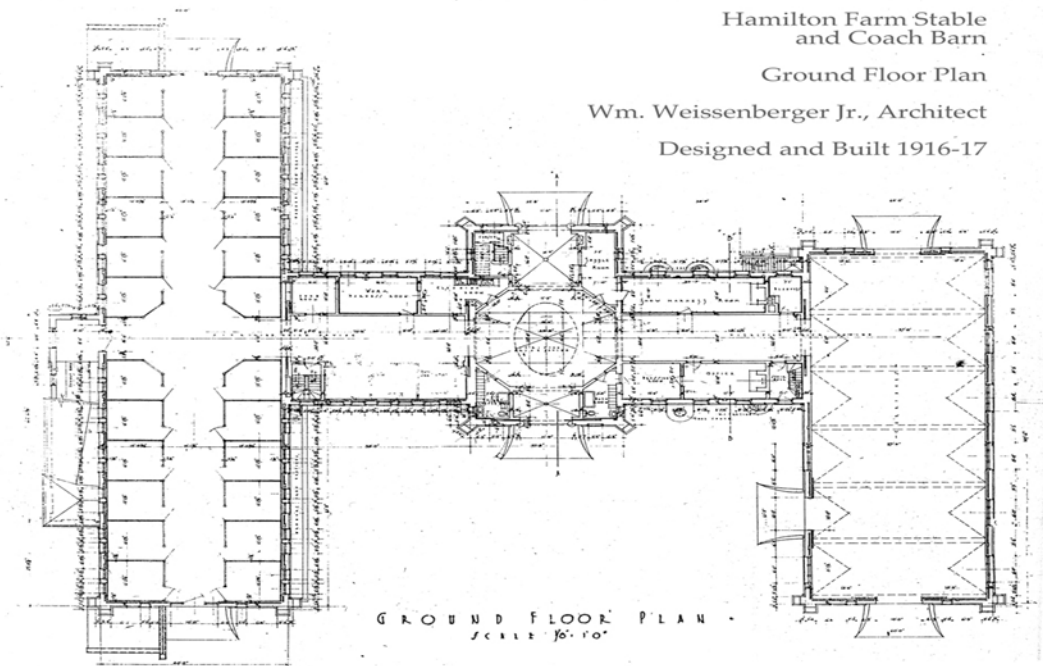
DRAWN BY CLIFFORD T. COTTER, JR.  
MAY, 2012

INDOOR RING -  
"NAUTICAL HALL"  
(NON-CONTRIBUTING)

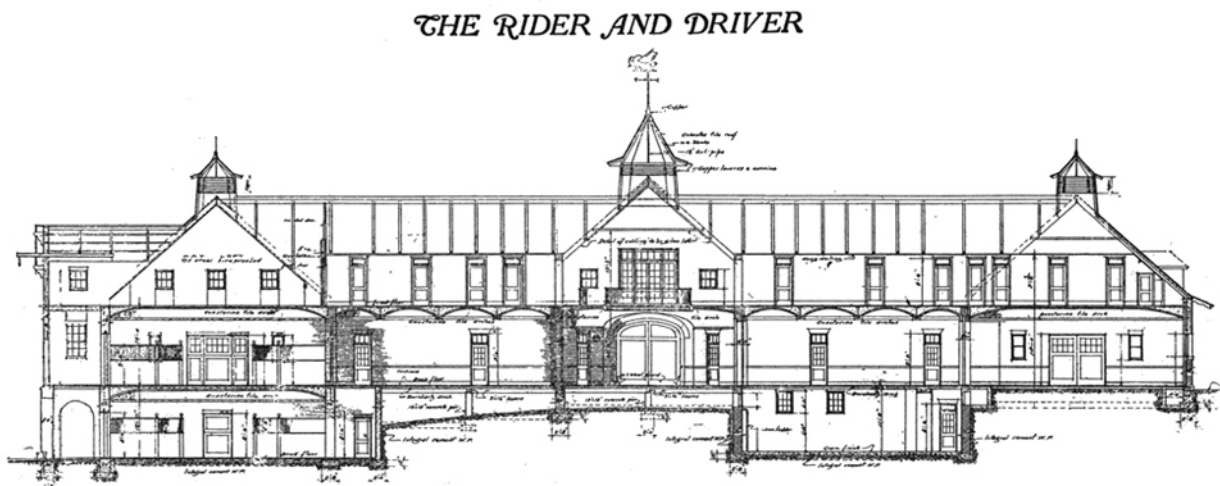


# ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS

## Historic



Historic Photo 1. Ground floor plan from Rider & Driver Magazine 11-10-1917.



Historic Photo 2. Section from Rider & Driver Magazine 11-10-1917.



Historic Photo 3. Historic photograph of the Essex Hunt Meeting taken by Newark, N.J. photographer H.A. Strohmeyer circa 1919.



Historic Photo 4. Historic photograph of the riding ring by Newark, N.J. photographer H. A. Strohmeyer circa 1919.



Historic Photo 5. Historic photo of the carriage stables circa 1920s.





Historic Photo 6. Aerial view of Hamilton Farm circa 1923. Nominated property is in the upper right corner.



Historic Photo 7. Brady hospital operating room during World War II.



Historic Photo 8. Brady hospital sterilizing room during World War II.



Historic Photo 9. Historic photo of the second floor Trophy Room circa 1960s after the USET association began.



Historic Photo 10. Historic photo of the rotunda facing the stall area circa 1960s.



Historic Photo 11. Historic photo of the stall area circa 1960s.



## Supplemental



Supplemental Photo 13. Carriage house/garage, Frederick Vanderbilt National Historic Site, Hyde Park, New York, circa 1896. (Hewitt, *The Architect and the American Country House*).





Supplemental Photo 14. Stable at Harbour Hill, Clarence Mackay estate, Roslyn, Long Island, by Warren & Wetmore, circa 1898. (Hewitt, *The Architect and the American Country House*).



Supplemental Photo 15. Stable at Caumsett, Marshall Field III estate, Long Island, by John Russell Pope, 1928. (Hewitt, *The Architect and the American Country House*).



Supplemental Photo 16. Stable at Edgerton Winthrop estate, Muttontown, Long Island, by Delano & Aldrich, 1914. (Hewitt, *The Architect and the American Country House*).



Supplemental Photo 17. Hamilton Farm barn group circa 1920s.































LUCERNE 1872  
C.A.S. 1872

LUCERNE 1872  
C.A.S. 1872

LUCERNE 1872  
C.A.S. 1872

LUCERNE 1872  
C.A.S. 1872

LUCERNE 1872  
C.A.S. 1872

ROTTERDAMSCHE MAATSCHAPPIJ VAN L. O. V. ROTTERDAM 1878

ROTTERDAMSCHE MAATSCHAPPIJ VAN L. O. V. ROTTERDAM 1878

ROTTERDAMSCHE MAATSCHAPPIJ VAN L. O. V. ROTTERDAM 1878





USA



NOTICE

MEN







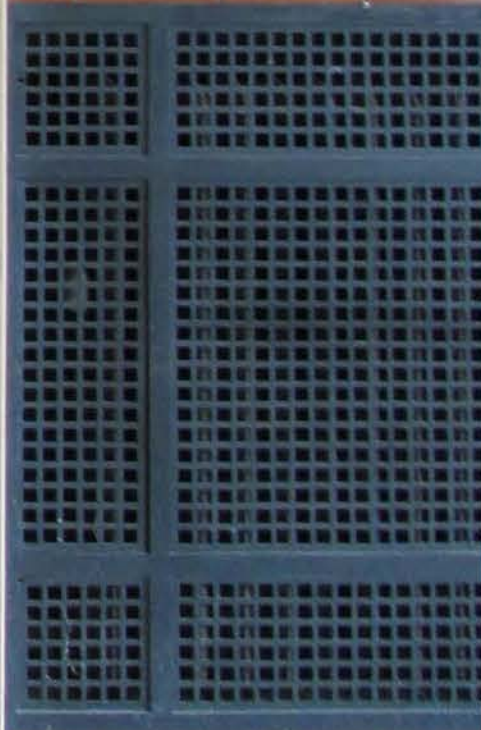








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MEMORIAL · TROPHY · ROOM

























































FIRE  
HOODS





















National Register of Historic Places  
Memo to File

# Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Resubmission

Property Name: Hamilton Farm Stable Complex

Multiple Name: \_\_\_\_\_

State & County: NEW JERSEY, Somerset

Date Received: 5/18/2018      Date of Pending List: \_\_\_\_\_      Date of 16th Day: \_\_\_\_\_      Date of 45th Day: 7/2/2018      Date of Weekly List: \_\_\_\_\_

Reference number: RS100001243

Nominator: State

Reason For Review:

Accept       Return       Reject      5/18/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: POS: 1917-1927, AOS: architecture and engineering, LOS: Local.

Recommendation/ Criteria: Criterion C,

Reviewer Lisa Deline      Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2239      Date 5/18/18

DOCUMENTATION:    see attached comments : No    see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



State of New Jersey

MAIL CODE 501-04B

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

NATURAL & HISTORIC RESOURCES

HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

P.O. Box 420

Trenton, NJ 08625-0420

TEL. (609) 984-0176 FAX (609) 984-0578

Project # 11-1405  
HPO-C2017-286



CHRIS CHRISTIE  
*Governor*

KIM GUADAGNO  
*Lt. Governor*

BOB MARTIN  
*Commissioner*

April 7, 2017

Paul Loether, Chief  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the Hamilton Farm Stable Complex, Township of Bedminster, Somerset County, New Jersey.

This nomination has received unanimous approval from the New Jersey State Review Board for Historic Sites. All procedures were followed in accordance with regulations published in the Federal Register.

Should you want any further information concerning this application, please feel free to contact Katherine J. Marcopul, Administrator, New Jersey Historic Preservation Office, Mail code 501-04B, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0420, or call her at (609) 984-5816.

Sincerely,

Rich Boornazian  
Deputy State Historic  
Preservation Officer



56-1243

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for 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 **Hamilton Farm Stable Complex**

historic name James Cox Brady Stable

other names/site number U.S. Equestrian Team Headquarters

2. Location

street & number 1040 Pottersville Road  not for publication

city or town Bedminster Township  vicinity

state New Jersey code 034 county Somerset code 035 zip code 07934

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.

Paul Booz Assistant Commissioner 4/6/17  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

NJ DEP  
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

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Hamilton Farm Stable Complex  
Name of Property

Somerset, New Jersey  
County and State

**5. Classification**

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)		
		Contributing	Noncontributing	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	4	1	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	0	0	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	1	0	structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	0	0	objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	5	1	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

None

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>Recreation/Culture: sports facility</u>	<u>Recreation/Culture: sports facility</u>
<u>Agriculture/Subsistence: animal facility</u>	<u>Commerce/trade: organizational facility</u>
<u>Domestic: institutional housing</u>	

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>Tudor Revival (stables, garage, blacksmith shop)</u>	foundation <u>Concrete, terra cotta block, fieldstone</u>
<u>Colonial Revival (house)</u>	walls <u>Stucco, painted wood shingles, brick</u> <u>Corrugated steel</u>
	roof <u>Asphalt roof tiles, composite roof tiles</u>
	other <u>Copper cupolas</u>

**Narrative Description**

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

SEE ATTACHED SHEETS

Returned

**8 Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

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

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

**Criteria considerations**

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

Property is:

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

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture (Stable design)

Engineering (Guastavino vaulting)

**Period of Significance**

1917-1927

**Significant Dates**

1917 – barn constructed

1927 – James Brady dies

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/builder**

Weissenberger, William (AKA Whitehill, William)

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) SEE ATTACHED SHEETS, BEGINNING PAGE 10

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

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

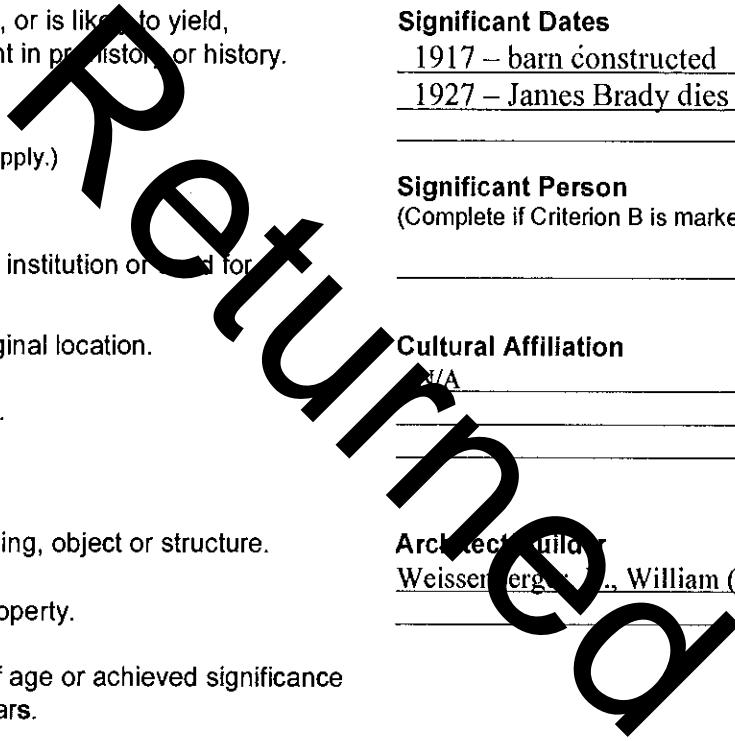
**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

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

**Primary location of additional data**

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

Name of repository:  
USET Archives





Hamilton Farm Stable Complex

Somerset, New Jersey

Name of Property

County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property One half acre

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)**

Reference: Google Maps

Latitude: 40.713744 Longitude: -74.685730 (to center of cupola on the stable roof)

**Verbal Boundary Description**

[See Map 1] The boundary of the designated parcel, shown on the map, traces a line around the six structures listed above.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundaries were selected to focus on the stable and riding rings where historic events took place. There are no other equestrian-related historic resources outside of the boundaries – just forests, fields and properties owned by other, unrelated entities. See Map 4.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Mark Alan Hewitt, FAI, and Nancy Little  
organization Mark Alan Hewitt Architects date March 27, 2017  
street & number 6 Claremont Road, D2 telephone 908-630-9416  
city or town Bernardsville state New Jersey zip code 07924

**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 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 United States Equestrian Team Foundation  
street & number 1040 Pottersville Road telephone 908-234-1251  
city or town Gladstone state NJ zip code 07934

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

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

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National Park Service

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Hamilton Farm Stable Complex
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Page 1

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION - Historic and Current Condition of the Property

Summary Paragraph

The Hamilton Farm Stable Complex occupies a property of approximately 200 acres on a portion of Hamilton Farm, the former Brady estate, near Gladstone, New Jersey. The designated parcel of approximately one-half acre, smaller than the current U.S. Equestrian Team Foundation property, consists of: the Hamilton Farm Stable, the Outdoor Riding Ring, the Blacksmith Shop, a Garage, a Residence, and an Indoor Riding Ring known as Nautical Hall. The boundary of the designated parcel (circa 300' x 750') closely follows the area circumscribed by the buildings and outdoor ring [Map 4]. The largest building, and most significant, is the Stable, built in 1917, which is constructed of bearing masonry, tile vaulting, and a wood and steel roof structure covered in flat red composite tiles. The Garage, also believed to have been built in 1917, is similarly constructed. The Indoor Ring (Nautical Hall) is a prefabricated industrial shed made of lightweight steel framing and metal cladding with a fieldstone base. The Residence is wood frame, with a shingle cladding and composition roof. The Blacksmith Shop is a small, rectangular stucco building with an asphalt shingle roof. Four of the buildings, the Hamilton Farm Stable, the Outdoor Ring, the Residence, and the Blacksmith Shop are contributing. All four have undergone varying degrees of renovation and/or alteration but retain the integrity to convey their significance.

The designated district contains six resources, five contributing and one non-contributing. The overall site is an area surrounding the existing stables and riding ring, formerly part of the extensive Brady estate. Mature trees and shrubs surround the buildings, and there is a large auto court and driveway in front of the stables. Access is from Pottersville Road, to the north, along a

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picturesque tree-lined drive. The landscape is protected from development, and reminds visitors of the heyday of country life during the early twentieth century in Somerset County.

The stable building's exterior is in excellent condition, though its original tile roof was replaced decades ago with inferior red composite tiles from Belgium known as "internet". Some of these tiles lost their color in a few years, creating a most unpleasant splotchy look to the roof. Most of the original characteristic features of the building remain despite several renovations. In 1988 the first section of the USET executive offices were created in the area previously used as the carriage storage area. A building enlarging the office space was done in 1997. In 1999 raised panels were installed in the Whitney Stone Library, along with new lighting, painting and carpeting. The most recent renovation was to the lower level stalls in 2016. The USET offices installed in the center and east portions of the building were constructed to maintain most of the key finishes. They can be removed should a full restoration be desired in the future. The overall integrity of the building is excellent for a facility that has been in active use for almost a century. The other buildings are also well maintained, and have changed little in the years of USET ownership. There are no photos or records in the archives showing them prior to the 1960s.

**1. The Stable, built in 1917. Contributing building. [Photos 1-3, Historic photos 1-3, 9-12]**

The H-shaped stable, dubbed the "Million Dollar Coach House," was completed in 1917 at an actual cost of some \$250,000, which was astonishing for such a building [Photos 1-12]. Large even by standards of the 1920s, its area comprises 37,669 square feet on three levels. The most durable and fireproof materials available were used, including brick, stucco, sheet copper, metalwork and Guastavino tiles [Historic photo 12]. The hipped concrete roof structure was reinforced with steel. The east wing measures 107 feet by 40 feet; the center block is approximately 100 feet from east to west; the large stable wing measures 162 feet by 40 feet [Historic photos 1-2]. The windows are wooden double hung units, though there are casement doors to access the central balcony and hopper style units in the stall areas. All of the windows

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and doors are original. The below grade area under the rotunda and part of the east wing houses the boiler room. The entire area under the west wing comprises a stabling area built into the hillside. That lower level has its own entrance on the west façade.

The main entrance at ground level faces south. Visitors are immediately drawn to the central pavilion, which has a prominent central gable above an arched entrance [Historic photo 3]. Sliding wooden carriage doors can remain open, giving a view through the entire building to the riding ring beyond [Photos 1-2]. There is no base, and the walls are stucco. Diagonal buttresses further define the projecting entrance, and wood brackets support the eaves of the gable. Below the gable is a stucco-framed window door and metal balcony, capped by a clock. The carved limestone surround and clock frame are decorated with festoons and hunting horns [Photo 3]. The wooden French doors and flanking windows have transoms, forming a rectangular opening on the second floor. The half-oval metal balcony has a diamond pattern balustrade and an open grille floor. Flanking the central element are square second floor windows and niches on the ground level. There are cylindrical copper lanterns with conical caps on each side of the doorway which are original. The roof is covered in flat red composite tiles from Belgium known as "internet."

A prominent octagonal-sided cupola with a pointed top mounted on a double pitched roof [Photo 1] caps the central portion of the building, behind which is a skylight for the Trophy Room below. Similar octagonal cupolas are atop the roofs of the flanking wings, each with a copper roof and vents. Each originally had a prominent weathervane (see below). The flanking wings have hipped roofs with copper hips and valleys. Four shed dormers flank the entrance pavilion on each side, each with a red tile roof and walls. Three similar dormers sit on the side wings. Each wing has a separate wood doorway and flanking double hung windows [Photos 5-6]. The west wing was for the horses, the east for carriages. A ramp on the west wing allowed horses to enter on the lower level or to travel to the upper level.

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The west façade, three stories tall, has a central gabled entrance to access the lower level stalls. There is no base, and the walls are stucco. This small projection has a central arched window at the third level, rectangular casements with transoms on the second, and an arched opening on the first. A semi-hipped roof covers the ramp between the ground and lower levels. There are six hip dormers at the second story, atop a hip roof with flat red composite tiles [Photos 4-5]. The roof is covered in flat red composite tiles. These are all replacement, not the original roofing.

The rear or north façade of the stable is almost identical to the south front, with a central pavilion, French doors, and a large balcony for viewing riders and horses in the ring [Photos 8-9-10]. There is no base, and the walls are stucco. Chimneys flank the central pavilion, each venting part of the heating system. The roof is covered in flat red composite tiles.

The east façade, two stories tall, has five large arched windows at ground level, originally lighting carriage stalls. There is no base, and the walls are stucco. Directly above each opening is a hip dormer similar to those on the other three sides of the building. The arched windows have prominent limestone sills. The roof is covered in flat red composite tiles [Photos 11-12]. The exterior of the building has very little ornament.

Compared to the spare exterior, the interior is quite impressive. Every consideration was given to building a facility exquisitely suited to the comfort of champion horses. There are 51 varnished southern yellow pine stalls (on two levels) with cork tile floors and individual floor drains [Photos 18-22]. The cork tile floors are presently being replaced by rubber matting as the cork tiles, efficient at the time, have become outmoded and the rubber matting far easier to maintain and better for the horses' comfort. Decorative stanchions are cast iron. Brass hardware and other decorative flourishes distinguish the stalls as among the finest ever built in the United States. Originally each had an automatic floor flushing system as well. The stalls have been undergoing rehabilitation and restoration, with the lower level section completed in 2016. In addition to the rubber matting, all chewed or damaged wood has been replaced, the plumbing (for the watering

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system) and electrical system have been updated and all metal fixtures, latches, grillwork and such have been replicated from the original. All stalls have been painted and stained to reflect the original appearance. A similar renovation is planned for the upper level of stalls in 2017. In the center of the main block was a tack room, stallion stalls, watering troughs and other facilities for horses following their exercises or training [Photos 12-17]. An interesting feature of the ramp between the main and lower levels is the method used for ensuring traction for the horses: pieces of old fire hose are nailed across the ramp deck.

The distinguishing feature of the first floor is the large oval rotunda with entrances on both the north and the south sides. The center of the rotunda ceiling is glass, and from the Trophy Room directly above the rotunda Brady and his guests could view processions of carriages and horses as they left the stable or entered the riding ring to the north [Historic photos 9-10]. Light filtered into the rotunda on the lower floor through this glass ceiling from a skylight in the ceiling of the Trophy Room directly above [Photo 13]. Carriages were stored in the east wing, which has housed offices for the USET since 1978 [Historic photo 5]. The walls are generally of glazed brick, with some wood and plaster partitions [Photos 30-32, 35-36]. The original weathervanes are now on display in the east wing office areas [Photos 32-34]. One is a representation of Brady's favorite horse, *Hamilton Model*, and the others are based on a Brady-owned coach-and-four and a carriage drawn by a team of horses. The weathervanes were removed from the roof cupolas in the 1970's and brought indoors for several reasons: increasing theft of valuable weathervanes in the community, vandalism (in fact one of the vanes sports a bullet hole!) and the beginnings of deterioration from acid rain.

The second floor was reserved for staff and the entertainment of the family and guests, and was accessible from three staircases in the center and east and west wings. The space is centered on a oak-paneled Trophy Room which followed the oval shape of the rotunda below and was lined with glass-fronted cabinets, each illuminated by electric bulbs [Photos 23-29]. Brady placed

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trophies from numerous equestrian and breeding competitions in the cabinets. Eventually the cases were refitted to contain a pictorial history of the United States Equestrian Team's successes in international competition. The original cabinetwork, metalwork, and skylight remain intact today. The skylight has a hand-painted grapevine border created by some of the Italian artisans team brought over to carve the cabinetry [Photo 27]. Other second floor rooms are still in use as offices. The area above the east and west wings was once used to accommodate riders and grooms. Originally there were ten sleeping rooms for the staff, an apartment for the manager, eight bathrooms, and the west wing attic was used as a hayloft and for grain storage. Later, at the time the building was used as a rehabilitation hospital for the Merchant Marines, this space was transformed into a recreation area. Currently the west wing is no longer maintained as a working facility though the attic is still used for storage. The east wing bedrooms have been transformed into current USET staff offices and a portion of the east wing attic was converted into a large conference room/library, known as the Whitney Stone Library. It contains modern chairs, conference tables, audio-visual equipment and a number of library cabinets holding equestrian-related publications (mostly books, magazines and annuals). Attic ventilation is still provided by two cupolas at the intersections of the center wing with the east and west wings, though window air conditioners have been added to the Library.

**2. The Outdoor Riding Ring, built c. 1917. Contributing structure. [Photo 7, Historic photo 4]**

The exact date of construction is unknown, but it is believed to be contemporary with the stable based on a comparison with historic photos [Historic photo 4]. The riding ring was renovated to accommodate United States Equestrian Team training and events beginning in 1961. The entire ring had been covered in grass, but now an outside track of dirt was created. Later, the ring was completely covered in heavy sand, which was then replaced in 2011 with a new dirt base and drainage system which was then topped with a proprietary blend called Westwind Performance Additive which is mixed with sand. This current mixture provides the world class, all-weather

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footing needed for today's international level competitions. Still in active use, the staff maintains the sand surfaces and fences around the ring to a very high standard in anticipation of competitions [Photo 7]. Coursed rubble stone walls surround the ring with wooden gates at the north and south ends which provide access to horses, people and equipment. The walls are approximately two feet thick and consist of coursed rubble fieldstone with Portland cement mortar joints. The tops of the walls have poured concrete caps. There are portable aluminum bleachers on the west side of the ring. Mature trees surround the ring, providing shade on the north and west sides. Jumps, judges' stands, and other elements used in competitions are stored elsewhere, and erected when required.

**3. The Indoor Ring, built c. 1960. Non-contributing building. [Photos 37-41]**

The Indoor Ring, named Nautical Hall after a famous USET jumper, is an original Butler building according to the manufacturer's marking found on the wall. The ring stands directly to the west of the larger outdoor ring [Photos 37-41]. Constructed of steel like an aircraft hangar, its walls and roof are of corrugated aluminum; the walls originally sat directly on the ground with no foundation. In 2014 the lower four feet of wall was cut away, cement footings poured and a fieldstone base was constructed [Photo 38]. Both clerestory windows and skylights provide natural light for the open interior [Photo 39]. The roof and walls are supported by massive hinged metal arches. The surface is the same proprietary blend described for the Outdoor Ring. Kick boards with Amish hand-crafted woodwork on the lower part of the walls protect horses and riders during training [Photo 40].

**4. The Garage, built c. 1917. Contributing building. [Photos 42-46]**

To the east of the stable is a 10,970 square foot garage, originally for maintenance vehicles, storage, and housing for estate staff. The exact date of construction is unknown, but based on visual evidence it is believed to be contemporary with the stable. The plan is a broad L-shape, opening to an auto court bounded by a tall brick wall. Its materials and form are similar to that of



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the stable: stucco exterior walls, hip roofs, dormers, and wooden carriage doors and windows, but with asphalt roofing. Each wing has three dormers on each side, five double hung windows, and five rectangular carriage doors. The surface of the courtyard at the garage is brick [Photos 42-43].

The building has vehicle storage on the ground floor and staff quarters above. The interior walls are plaster and the ground floor space has a concrete slab floor. Above are individual bedrooms for staff, accessed from a continuous hallway along with two apartments. The doors each have a glazed transom to allow light from the hallway. Originally there was a total of ten bedrooms and one bathroom in the west wing, and seven bedrooms with one bathroom in the east wing [Photos 44-45]. In the middle was a kitchen, a living room and a dining room [Photo 46]. At a later date some of the bedrooms in the west wing were turned into an apartment with a bedroom, living room, dining room and kitchen. Currently the Gladstone Equestrian Association occupies the west wing and converted all the remaining bedrooms into office space. The middle section was turned into another apartment, keeping the original kitchen. The east wing is still all bedrooms except for one, which was converted into a kitchen. The interior floors are narrow plank, fir; the walls are plaster, and original wood doors have been maintained or repaired over the years [Photo 46].

**5. The Blacksmith Shop, built c. 1917. Contributing building. [Photos 51-53]**

A very small (398 square foot), stucco Blacksmith Shop and Shoeing House lies just to the east of the garage [Photos 52-52]. The exact date of construction unknown but based on visual evidence is believed to be contemporary with the stable. It is rectangular, one story, and has a shallow pitched, hip roof. Probably built during the first campaign at Hamilton Farm, it predates the large stable. The asphalt shingle roof is contemporary, and there are no historic features on the exterior that indicate its former use. The interior has a concrete floor, plaster walls, and wood windows and doors. There is evidence of a coal stove that once heated the interior, and perhaps

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was used to soften iron [Photo 53].

**6. The Residence, built c. 1917. Contributing building. [Photos 47-50]**

The final large building on the site is a 1790 square foot house, originally built for estate staff. The exact date of construction is unknown but believed to be contemporary with the stable. The plan is a long rectangle, with three projecting doorways on the west façade [Photo 47]. The foundation is original, made of terra cotta block, occasionally visible where the paving has worn through [Photo 50]. There are wooden stoops at each doorway; all doors and floors in the original section have been replaced. The exterior walls are covered in painted shingles. All of the windows are double hung, with wooden sash and trim and are replacements [Photo 48]. There is a single brick chimney on the west side. The one-story building has hip roofs, originally with cedar shakes, which are now covered in grey asphalt shingles.

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NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary Paragraph

The 1917 Stable at Hamilton Farm, subsequently to become the main training facility for the United States Equestrian Team is important for illuminating the upper class fascination with horse breeding, carriage driving, and riding during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Of the hundreds of country houses and gardens built during the Country Place Era (c. 1880-1940), many estates had large paddocks, kennels, breeding sheds, carriage barns, and stables. Few could claim the comprehensive, businesslike, and integrated enterprise exemplified by James Cox Brady's Hamilton Farm. At over 5,000 acres, and maintained by a staff of hundreds, this vast agricultural showplace was renowned in its day and after. Few Jersey residents are still aware of its impressive scope and history. Among the extra-stable buildings constructed by such plutocrats as Marshall Field II, Vincent Astor, Henry Francis DuPont, and Otto Kahn, Brady's Hamilton Farm stable building remains impressive for its size, technology and intensely competitive demeanor. Fancier and more architecturally pretentious buildings were constructed as testaments to the wealth and achievements of other moguls, but Brady's stable celebrated only one thing: the horse. Without the surrounding emphasis of the upper class taking to the equestrian world as its latest interest and hobby, there would have been no launching pad of wealthy collegiality and the Hamilton Farm Stable would never have been built. It is extremely significant that it is the only stable of its size and type remaining in the state of New Jersey that continues to function in its historic use. The period of significance covered here is actually only a scant ten years from 1917 until Brady's untimely death in 1927. The fact that this stable has endured handsomely for almost 100 years is a tribute to James Brady's determination to build a large, safe, technologically advanced, attractive building for a specific purpose. The Hamilton Farm complex qualifies under Criterion C as an outstanding example of an architectural type or style. It is significant at the local level.

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The following narrative describes the cultural context surrounding the construction of the stables at Hamilton Farm. It then takes up the story of James Brady's life and activities in Gladstone, focusing on his equestrian activities. A section is devoted to the architecture of modern stables, and to the Guastavino tile system. The concluding narrative describes the property after Brady's death, including its use as a Merchant Marine Rest Home, and its history since 1960, when it became the headquarters of the United States Equestrian Team.

Cultural Context: Gladstone's Early History

After Somerset County was divided off from its neighboring county (Middlesex) in 1688, English settlers created the so-called Peapack Patent. In the 1701 agreement, twenty-four proprietors in East New Jersey gave two of their members, George Willocks and Dr. John Johnstone, a large tract of land that spanned thousands of acres. This included all of the land carved from Bedminster to form Peapack-Gladstone in 1911.

Agriculture drove the economy in the county for almost two centuries. The largest towns—Bound Brook, Somerville, and Plainfield—were centers of trade for farmers. Farmers cleared the forests to plant corn, wheat, fruit trees, rye, oats, buckwheat and flax. Hard ciders and applejack from East Jersey were sold throughout the colonies. Farm roads and trails crisscrossed the hills and valleys of the Upper Raritan basin, and the hedgerows of Dutch, German, and English farmers divided the land into neat parcels that often remained in a single family for several generations.

The Plutocracy and the Bernardsville Mountain Colony

Following the cataclysmic economic and social changes wrought by the bloody conflict between the North and the South during the Civil War, New Jersey's agricultural landscape was

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transformed. Former villages turned to thriving towns, and towns into industrial cities such as Camden, Newark, Trenton, and Hackensack. Newark's leading businessmen were part of an oligarchy that looked to New York's high society for its cultural cues and moral strictures. John F. Dryden, the founder of the Prudential Insurance Company, John H. Ballantyne of the Newark brewery, and C. Ledyard Blair of the Erie & Lackawanna Railroad were but a few of New Jersey's members of the Social Register. Charles Pfizer and James Cox Brady, both New Yorkers, were attracted to New Jersey, and soon joined them in purchasing land in what would become a significant "colony" centered in Peapack and Gladstone.<sup>1</sup>

Like their forbears, many plutocrats in the United States, invested heavily in their "stables"—a term used for both breeding/training facilities and the horses kept in them. During the early twentieth century, as the carriage horse transportation gave way to the automobile, wealthy breeders increasingly saw their stock as a badge of class authority and continued to fox hunt and support horse shows, the major venues for equestrian pursuits.

As Barry Thomson and John Turpin have noted, the Somerset Hills were an ideal locale for leisure activities favored by these wealthy Americans. Rolling hills could be converted into golf courses; lakes into boating and swimming venues; miles of carriage roads were already in place for equestrian pursuits. Most important for Brady and his friends, the area along the Black River was ideal for horse and cattle breeding. There were water sources, pastures for grazing, and even large barn groups that could be refitted as stables.

Along with such prominent horse breeders as Pfizer and C. Ledyard Blair, James Brady helped to develop the area around Gladstone as a favored place for equestrians, linking his properties with nearby estates in a picturesque network of riding and carriage trails. Blair produced a famous map of these routes during the 1920s, which hangs on the walls of many residents to this day. When James Cox Brady began purchasing individual farms in around 1900, the Somerset Hills

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were entering a new era of development, one intimately associated with the rise of America's industrial fortunes following the Civil War. By the 1920s the area would be known as a playground for many of America's richest families. Hamilton Farm contributed to what has been called the "Country Place" era during the period following the nation's Centennial, lasting until the eve of World War II.

James Cox Brady and Hamilton Farm

James Cox Brady was born in 1882 in Albany, New York, the second son and sixth child of the wealthy Irish-American capitalist, Anthony N. Brady and his wife, Marcia Meyers Brady. His mother was the daughter of a prominent Vermont jurist and his father was one of the leading financial figures in America at the turn of the century. The senior Brady amassed his fortune in gas, electric lighting and rapid transit. After graduating from Yale in 1904, James joined his father in managing the family's financial ventures. He rose quickly to become a major figure in American business, particularly in electric power generation and gas distribution. Five years after his graduation, he was director of five New York State electric and gas companies, president and director of five New York State utility companies, the Albany Trust Company, The United States Motor Company and the United States Locomotive and Equipment Company, among others. After his father's death in 1913, Brady became co-executor along with his brother of the Anthony N. Brady estate. He was forced to reduce the number of offices and directorships he held. Cutting the number significantly, Brady did keep his position as vice president of the New York Edison Company.<sup>3</sup> J.C. Brady married Elizabeth Jane Hamilton, the daughter of insurance mogul Alexander Hamilton, in 1905. Together they had three children: Elizabeth Jane Hamilton Brady, James Cox Brady II, and Ruth Brady.

As noted above, Brady became aware of the potential of western Somerset County for the creation of a large country estate through his friend Charles Pfizer. His first purchase in 1911 was a 190-acre farm adjoining Pfizer's Gladstone property, acquired for \$100 per acre.

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Construction began in 1912 on a lodge that was to be used by the Brady family for hunting parties. Shortly afterward Brady built a large house designed by Otis & Chapman of New York and a field house with an indoor pool, tennis and squash courts and locker rooms. The first house burned to the ground in 1923 and was replaced with a larger masonry building designed by Montague Flagg and Christian Rosborg [Historic photo 6 - foreground]. Ellen Biddle Shipman, one of America's pioneering landscape architects, laid out the gardens.

Eventually Brady was to acquire 40 contiguous farms lying mainly south of Chester, and west of the Black River, a tributary of the Raritan in three counties: Somerset, Morris, and Hunterdon. To the north of the main house, screened by trees, Brady set about making a group of farms, each with its own specialization. A horse barn, bull barn and blacksmith shop were completed by 1923 near the location of the nominated complex [Supplemental photo 17]. Just to the south of that group were the chicken houses and kennels--elaborate by the standards of the day. West of the stables were flower gardens and a substantial greenhouse. On the far west side of the property were dairy, hay barns, and facilities for farm equipment [Map 3]. In all, more than 4,000 acres were cultivated. Brady named his estate Hamilton Farm as a tribute to his first wife, who died in a tragic railroad accident in 1912.

Hundreds of men were on the farm payroll, which ranged from \$4,000 to \$8,000 a month in a typical year. The vast enterprise was managed by Fred Huyler, a former local carpenter who was originally hired to help with land acquisition and building construction. Huyler, who held his position for 50 years, was often on the road, showing prize Herefords, Jersey cattle, Dorset sheep, Duroc-Jersey swine, and German shepherd dogs<sup>4</sup> [Historic photo 7].

All of the large country places had agricultural enterprises and sporting facilities, but generally the house was the most elaborate building in the compound. Unlike most of his peers, Brady put more energy and attention into the development of the farm buildings than into the house, though

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his art and decorative art collections were substantial. He had a large collection of carriages housed in the stable's east wing [Historic photo 5]. Hamilton Farm produced a variety of crops including corn, rye, wheat, oats, beef and dairy cattle, pigs, chickens, geese, ducks, show dogs, and hunting and harness horses. His equine stock consisted mainly of outstanding specimens of Hackney ponies, hunters, Clydesdales and Percheron draft horses. Produce, flowers, beef and pork and fruit from the farm were carried to New York City and helped to stock Brady's house and yacht during cruises. The 1920s saw a major local economic increase in Bedminster Township. The farm flourished and provided jobs for a generation of local residents. In fact, over one third of the townspeople were employed on the farm at one time or another.<sup>5</sup> Moreover, the enterprises helped to enliven and sustain the agriculture industry in Somerset County through the Depression.<sup>6</sup>

In 1914, Brady married the daughter of the Earl of Limerick from Dromore Castle in Limerick, Ireland. Lady Victoria Mary Pery shared her husband's love of horses and owned a number of show-quality jumpers and hunters, which she kept at the Hamilton Farm stables. The couple had two children together: Victoria Mary Pery Brady and Genevieve Brady. Brady's second wife passed away of pneumonia during the flu pandemic of 1918.

Two years later, in 1920, Brady married his third wife, Helen McMahon. McMahon was not interested in animals and farming.<sup>7</sup> Nevertheless, a few years prior to his death, Brady became interested in breeding and racing thoroughbreds. This led him to establish a thoroughbred nursery known as Dixiana Farm near Lexington, Kentucky, purchased in 1925.<sup>8</sup>

In 1927, Brady died suddenly of pneumonia. His heirs closed down their father's farm operation and sold all the animals, but the farm was retained. Brady's widow, Helen, married C. Suydam Cutting and lived in the main house for most of the year. She eventually moved off the property and the buildings remained in sporadic use for many years.<sup>9</sup>



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The Importance and Significance of Hamilton Farm Stable in a State-wide Context

During the 1920s Hamilton Farm was among the most elaborate estates of its kind in the United States, rivaling that of William Randolph Hearst (San Simeon) in California, Marshall Field III (Caumsett) on Long Island [supplemental photo 15], and George Washington Vanderbilt (Biltmore) in North Carolina.<sup>1</sup> In New Jersey, the neighbors included Charles Pfizer, Doris Duke, Kate Macy Ladd and Ledyard Blair a few miles to the north and east, all with elaborate buildings and barns on large estates. All of these barns in the fairly recent past have either been repurposed into schools, restaurants and the like or destroyed. It is significant that with the huge fortunes poured into creating these vast estates, only Hamilton Farm stable has survived intact in its original context and construction.

It is also architecturally significant that Brady's architect chose to use the Guastavino Tile vaulting system in the stable. While this system had been used in many industrial structures, the design represented an exciting innovation in the architecture of home stables – no other tile-vaulted stables are known to exist in the United States – only one, near to New Jersey. More on this tile system will be discussed later in this nomination.

As far as USET staff and the author are aware, the stable at Hamilton Farm is the only substantial building of its kind still in use as an equestrian facility in New Jersey. Nearby stables at Blairsden (1898) and Natirar (1928) have been altered for new uses—Matheny School and 90 Acres Restaurant. The carriage barns at Georgian Court in Lakewood are part of a college. State owned barns at Ringwood Manor and Skylands Manor in Passaic County are not used for horses or carriages.

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The Architecture of Modern Stables and Brady's Innovations at Hamilton Farm

During the late nineteenth century farm animals, and particularly horses, were regularly killed in massive barn and stable fires, as most agricultural buildings were constructed entirely of wood. Gas lanterns, like the one that started the Great Chicago Fire in 1871, were a common form of lighting and often tipped over igniting hay or straw. Newspaper articles consistently called for better fire safety and more fire resistant construction in livery stables, barns, and other farm buildings. Still, wood buildings had several advantages over other types of construction: they were easily ventilated, cheap to construct, and required little in the way of heat.<sup>11</sup>

In July of 1916, the stables at Hamilton Farm caught fire during the night,<sup>12</sup> producing nearly \$25,000 in damage--half the value of the building. Twenty horses and all the cattle were taken temporarily off the property.<sup>13</sup> Brady was lucky to escape greater losses of life and property. Quickly there were plans to rebuild the stables, this time much grander than before, and completely fireproof.

In planning his new stable/carriage barn, Brady turned to resources from his corporate ventures in New York City, envisioning a complex that would be as durable as the new generating facilities and power plants he had built in Eastern cities. He did not hire one of the fashionable eclectic architects in New York, such as John Russell Pope, Harrie T. Lindeberg, or Carrère & Hastings, who designed elaborate country estates for his peers, often including farm groups with stables and dairy barns.<sup>14</sup> Indeed, he seems to have avoided the prevalent styles of stable architecture, choosing instead to emphasize functional efficiency and commodious quarters for horses and staff.<sup>15</sup> To carry out his vision, Brady turned to his favorite corporate architect, William J. Weissenberger, Jr., who had worked for, and designed many buildings for Brady's New York Edison Company.

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Weissenberger (1880-1965), practiced in both New York and New Jersey during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. He was born in September 1880 to a father who had recently emigrated from Germany to Jersey City. His father (born in 1853) was a tradesman who later worked for Hudson County; his mother, Louisa, was born in New York in 1854. The couple married in 1875 and had several children, of whom William was the oldest.<sup>16</sup>

Weissenberger attended night classes at the Cooper Union from 1894 until 1897, and worked as a draftsman while still in his teens. He served an apprenticeship in the office of Bradford Lee Gilbert (1853-1911), an architect who worked primarily for the railroads. He also worked for the Morristown architect Frank E. Colburn. He established a practice in Jersey City at 136 Prospect Street, where he appears in several city directories up to 1915. In 1917-18 he is listed in a New York City directory as practicing from an office at 52 Union Square East.<sup>17</sup> Later he appears again in Jersey City. Following World War I, Weissenberger joined many German-Americans in Anglicizing his last name. He is listed in city directories as William Whitehill after 1918.<sup>18</sup>

Weissenberger/Whitehill worked for Brady's New York Edison Company from 1900 until 1916. In this regard he would have been familiar with Guastavino Tile vaulting, popular for industrial structures. Of numerous buildings designed for New York Edison, the 1914 converter station at 117-119 West 39<sup>th</sup> Street was one of the largest, rising 6 stories and costing over \$250,000. The architect was also responsible for Nicholas F. Brady townhouse alterations (1911 and 1919) in Manhattan, a day nursery at St. Ignatius Loyola Church (again for the Brady family, who were prominent members), and a school building for St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church in Bernardsville (1922, donated by the Brady family). He practiced actively until at least 1930, and he is said to have done work on the Seven-Up/Coca Cola Bottling Company facilities in Westchester County, where he resided until his death on March 1, 1965.<sup>19</sup>

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Most twentieth century stables were built to accommodate either race and harness horses, or the private stock of fine equestrian mounts favored by the Vanderbilts, Whitneys, Astors, Rockefellers and other American gentry. The latter type was usually U or H shaped, and often placed to define a forecourt or paddock. The size of any stable was based on the number of horses and carriages in the owner's possession—the larger the estate, the larger the stable.<sup>20</sup> Thus the stables at G. W. Vanderbilt's Biltmore were among the most elaborate and grand in the U.S., though royal stables in Europe outstripped any American examples.<sup>21</sup>

Since horses do not climb stairs, most stable blocks were one-story, with perhaps a second floor to accommodate staff and store equipment. Health and safety of both horses and grooms was the paramount concern of stable designers, and most of the standards for stalls, waste control, tack rooms, grooming, and feeding were well defined by the late nineteenth century. One of the most difficult challenges was designing a floor in each stall that would be soft, durable, and permeable enough to handle the disposal of manure and urine.<sup>22</sup> Light and ventilation were also much discussed in farm and field journals during the 1880s and 1890s. So a typical "modern" stable would usually have large roof ventilators to draw warm air out of the stalls by convection, and a relatively tall ceiling to aid in air circulation among the stalls. This was the case at Hamilton Farm.

Weissenberger planned the new stable group and quickly produced construction drawings [Historic photo 1], using the Rafael Guastavino firm as a sub-contractor for the project. The original drawings (now at the Avery Architectural Archives) show details for the vaulting system and plans for the building, but do not depict the elevations or roof of the structure [Historic photo 12]. Its basic module was a 13 foot by 36 foot vault supported laterally on two wide flange steel beams, spanning between brick walls approximately 18 inches thick. Though the vault span was relatively narrow in comparison to other Guastavino vaults, its strength was considerable, given the thin tiles supporting the second floor. As previously noted, this vault design had never been

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used in any stable in the United States up to this time.

In other respects Brady's stable conformed to predominant modern stable types: a front court formed by the two flanking wings made it easy to assemble horses and riders for a hunt or cross country ride; the rear front had a riding ring, on axis with the main entrance. Though two stories tall, the stall wings were well lit and ventilated, and laid out in double rows with a wide aisle between.<sup>23</sup> Often carriages were kept opposite the stables to allow easy access to tack and equipment. This can be seen in the stables at Biltmore, and at Hyde Park, the Frederick Vanderbilt estate [Supplemental Photos 14-15]. The United States Government built a large stable of similar design near Washington, D.C. in the years prior to the construction of Brady's buildings.<sup>24</sup> Often too the grooms and trainers lived above their charges, in an attic-type dormitory much like the one at Hamilton Farm.

On many country estates the style of the stables was coordinated with that of the house, as at Harbour Hill and Caumsett on Long Island [Supplemental Photos 14-15]. This was not the case at the Brady estate: he built elegantly but with little regard for popular styles such as Georgian, Tudor, or Modern French (Beaux Arts). In this respect it is difficult to assign a particular stylistic label to any of his farm buildings. Brady's new barn had little ornament and appeared quite perfunctory when compared to such carriage barns as the one at the Frederick Vanderbilt estate at Hyde Park, designed by McKim, Mead and White in the late 1890s.

Rafael Guastavino, Sr. and the Timbrel Vault

In addition to its significance as a state-of-the-art horse barn, the Hamilton Farms Stable is also associated with the early history of Guastavino vaulting in the United States. In 1916 the R. Guastavino Company, located in Woburn, Massachusetts, was revolutionizing the construction industry in the United States with its patented "timbrel" or "Catalan" vaulting

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system. When William Weissenberger chose to employ this system in the Brady stables, he was following a distinguished group of American architects who were attracted to the functional and aesthetic virtues of this "new" system.

Though Catalan tile vaulting was not the invention of Rafael Guastavino, Sr. (1842-1908), his American company made history by employing a traditional method of thin (2" to 4") multi-layered tile construction in the Boston Public Library and other buildings of the mid-1880s in the United States. Chosen for both its economic and structural advantages by McKim, Mead and White, shallow-arched tile vaults allowed the architects to span considerable spaces with "fireproof" construction at a time when both steel and wood framing were vulnerable to frequent urban blazes of the type that virtually razed the city of Chicago in 1871.

Rafael Guastavino Sr. was born in Valencia in 1842. He trained as a construction engineer and manager in Barcelona beginning in 1861, and later worked as an architect and contractor specializing in traditional tile construction. His first major commission was the Batllo Textile Factory (1871) in Barcelona, a huge building that won him praise as a technical master but not enough recognition as a designer. He abandoned his family and left for the United States with his young son, Rafael Jr., in 1881.<sup>25</sup>

Guastavino recognized that he could offer American architects a lightweight, flexible, and economical vaulting system that would fit both industrial and commercial building requirements during a time when "modern" construction materials and methods were replacing wood and masonry. Steel framing was relatively expensive and required masonry fireproofing, and reinforced concrete had not yet reached a viable state of development in the U.S. Following his success at the widely admired Boston Public Library, he decided to found a company that designed, manufactured, and built tile vaults on a turnkey basis.

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During the 1890s a number of Beaux Arts trained American architects were searching for new means of constructing monumental classical buildings in the U.S. Many were drawn to the Guastavino tile system as a result of its championing by McKim, Mead and White. Richard Morris Hunt utilized the system in his massive Biltmore Estate for George Vanderbilt in Asheville, North Carolina (1889-93), while Carrère and Hastings employed the vaults in their Central Congregational Church (1890) in Providence, Rhode Island. With the endorsement of such prominent architects, the success of the Guastavino Company was assured.

As John Ochsendorf, Professor of Engineering at M.I.T, has noted in his study of the Guastavinos, "in order to compete economically and to anticipate the needs of architects, it was essential for the company to make technical innovations. The company adapted to the architectural demands of the period, such as fireproofing, soundproofing, sanitation, and decorative effects for varying architectural styles."<sup>26</sup> The major advantage of their system was its speed of execution and its lightness. Tile vaults could be as thin as three inches, and weighed only a fraction of a comparable stone or brick vault spanning the same distance. They required no centering, allowing workmen to construct with minimal scaffolding from above the walls. With the addition of steel beams at the sides of a barrel vault, the Guastavino system was flexible enough to accommodate almost any spatial or plan configuration. Architects and engineers quickly joined the ranks of enthusiasts, recommending the system to their clients.

William Weissenberger undoubtedly convinced James Brady to use these vaults for their fire resistance and ease of installation, not only for industrial buildings, but also for the stables at Hamilton Farms. Indeed, Brady was able to open his stable in less than a year, surpassing any masonry system in speed of construction by months. He must have been pleased with his new facility, for he quickly decorated the Trophy Room with medals and spoils of competition. His dogs, horses, and cattle were winning the admiration of enthusiasts throughout the world. Alas, he was only able to enjoy his new facilities for ten years.

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POST PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE

World War II Uses

During the Second World War the stable group at Hamilton Farms became an emergency wartime hospital. The main stable was converted for hospital uses in 1942. James Cox Brady's widow, now Mrs. Charles William Cutting, made the facility available rent-free and equipped the building with modern facilities and it was opened by officials of the New Jersey Defense Council. Hamilton Farms became the first civilian emergency base hospital of its kind in the United States [Historic photos]. The purpose of the base hospital was to accommodate the overflow from other New Jersey hospitals that would be brought in by the Red Cross Motor Corps in case of an emergency. The building was staffed with fifteen doctors, one hundred nurses, and could accommodate up to 250 persons.<sup>27</sup>

On the first floor were the operating room, bed space, and rooms that were utilized for other departments. The second floor contained additional bed space and quarters for nurses. The horse box stalls were made into patient rooms with bunks. In addition to the box stalls, the hospital contained an operating room, kitchen, and staffing room. In what was once Brady's Trophy Room, the Hamilton Farms Defense Unit made bandages and other equipment for civilian defense units. The rooms were also fitted with explosion proof switches and emergency lighting in case power lines were destroyed. The building served the New Jersey Office of Civilian Defense in this way for six months.

Eventually, the hospital was converted into a rest home for sailors. The Gladstone Merchant Marine Rest Center was one of only seven rest centers in America operated under the joint sponsorships of the War Shipping Administration and the United States Seaman's Service. The average stay of each man was approximately 3 weeks and the number of servicemen in residence at any given time ranged from 48 to 60. Medical treatment was available with the basic aim being



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relaxation and varied recreation. Those who stayed at the Rest Center were men that had previously been hospitalized but needed further recovery time. It was also open to men without the need of physical recovery but too mentally weary for duty. It was a place where patients could relax and forget about bombs and combat. The facility also had a heated swimming pool, indoor tennis and squash courts, outdoor baseball and horseshoe pitching, and a nearby lake (in downtown Peapack) where the soldiers could fish.<sup>28</sup> It should be noted that these facilities were located outside of the very small boundaries of this nomination, though quite nearby.

The residents of the Gladstone Merchant Marine Rest Home were free to roam the estate and visit the kennels. They were also free to go take in walks, tend a victory garden and milk cows. Movies were shown once a week and the staff at the rest home organized community groups to come and perform for the troops. The men also took classes in the Arts and Skills room which taught the troops, who had lost everything, how to make belts, ditty bags, slippers, and small gifts for family members.<sup>29</sup> The small activities were relaxing for the weary gentlemen and relieved tense nerves and muscles.

Following the war the hospital was taken out of service and dismantled. The stables remained in use by local riders on a rental basis until the late 1950s, operated under Brady family supervision.

The United States Equestrian Team at Hamilton Farm

It is difficult to remember that horsemanship was a basic skill for most men and women until the end of the 19th century. Only when the horse no longer filled an urgent role as a means of transportation did riding become a specialized sport and a diversion for the privileged. In fact, the first modern equestrian competitions emerged only in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, just after the founding of the modern Olympics by Baron Pierre de Coubertin (Athens, 1896).<sup>30</sup> In many

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respects the history of Hamilton Farm tracks precisely in parallel with that of equestrian competitions in the modern era.

Equestrian events were staged at the second Summer Olympic Games, held in Paris from May until October of 1900. The most accomplished horsemen in America were then part of the U.S. Cavalry, as was the case with most nations competing there. The dominant rider was Giovanni Giorgio Trissino, a Venetian nobleman, who won gold and silver medals in two of the three events.<sup>31</sup> In the United States, U.S. Army Cavalry officers were the dominant professional equestrians until after World War II. Major Harry D. Chamberlin was a standout in the Los Angeles Olympics of 1932, winning three medals including a silver medal in show jumping.<sup>32</sup> Our military teams competed on equal footing with other world-class riding squads for several decades. Olympic riding by non-military contestants did not appear until the late 1930s.

Bill Steinkraus, probably the most consistent and successful of all American riders, remembers the transformation of his sport after his own service in the Cavalry during the 1940s. After the U.S. military ceased to support competitive teams in 1948, American riders faced an uncertain future. Regional horse shows did not offer sufficient competition to nurture world-class horses or riders. The most accomplished riders were often from wealthy families who could keep and train horses in jumping, dressage, and cross-country skills. Moreover, the best-equipped stable for such training was at Fort Riley, Kansas, the former Cavalry training center.<sup>33</sup>

Thus, the transition from a tradition-steeped, regimented discipline managed by the military, to a more flexible, well-funded, and open system of recruiting and training equestrians was fraught with problems from the beginning. Without a national governing body, and the backing of wealthy patrons, there could be no successful teams from the United States in Olympic or international competitions. Fittingly, the two constituencies joined forces to forge a new system.

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To answer the need for a national organization an ad hoc group called the "International Equestrian Competition Corporation" formed in 1950 whose purpose was "to select, train, equip, and finance our nation's international equestrian representation, with special emphasis on our own North American fall circuit of international shows and the Olympic Games."<sup>34</sup> Col. John "Gyp" Wofford, who had competed on the 1932 Olympic team, became the first president of what would become the U.S. Equestrian Team. Steinkraus joined as a young rider and, with the help of Arthur McCash and Major John Russell of the Army, took home a team bronze medal in jumping at the 1952 Helsinki Olympics.

The USET was at first a small organization run by volunteers and centered around New York City. At the helm was Whitney Stone, a businessman who proved to be critical to future success, as well as former Army Brig. Gen. Frederick W. Foye and Andrew M. Montgomery, its first secretary. Though the board of directors grew rapidly in the mid-1950s, mainly through social connections among wealthy families and horse breeders, no coherent plan for fundraising and training emerged to steward the U.S. team during a long and grueling international season dominated by European riders. After a poor showing at the Stockholm Games in 1956, and a scandal regarding the dismissal of John E.B. Wofford (son of the outgoing president) from the team following the Pan American games that year, morale was low among both riders and supporters.

In order to improve its competitive edge the USET board voted to go forward with an ambitious 3-year capital campaign to raise at least \$1.5 million in preparation for the Rome Olympics. The results were immediately felt, as Bill Steinkraus won two events riding Ksar d'Esprit at the Prix des Nations in Rotterdam in 1958. John Galvin, the father of the dressage/event specialist Trish Galvin, offered use of his 33,000-acre Rancho San Fernando Rey as a training venue in Santa Barbara, California. The large area was especially useful for Three-Day Event training and had a temperate climate to foster good health for horses in the large stable complex.

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The search for an Olympics-worthy coach eventually settled on the famous Hungarian jumping specialist Bertalan de Nemethy. Though eccentric and strict with both horses and riders, he proved to be what the team needed to succeed in international events. During the 1958-59 season the team improved dramatically with each showing: 32 total wins including the Nations Cup in London (twice) and in Rome, and a superb result in the 1959 Pan American Games that were held in Chicago. There were gold medals in eventing for Michael Page, dressage for Trish Galvin, and a team gold medal in jumping led by Hugh Wiley on Nautical.<sup>35</sup>

Preparations for the 1960 Rome Olympics were not wholly satisfactory, as several horses died or were injured during training abroad. In addition, there was controversy over Galvin's overly intrusive dealings with the staff and coaches during the months of training in Santa Barbara. Perhaps as a result, and though the team was competitive in all events, Rome was not the watershed success that many had hoped it would be. As often in future competitions, the standout performance would be in jumping--a team silver medal for Frank Chapot, George Morris, and Bill Steinkraus.<sup>36</sup> These riders became stalwarts of the USET's future Olympic teams and also went on to train many champion riders in the coming decade.

Meeting the following January, President Whitney Stone expressed his concern about training facilities, but also had some astonishing good news for his board members: "we are most fortunate to tell you today that we have found a solution to [the facilities] problem" owing to the generosity of the Brady family of Gladstone, New Jersey.<sup>37</sup> Arthur McCashin and two women who had been on the 1952 roster, Carol Durand and Norma Matthews, all lived in the Gladstone area during the search for a new facility. They were aware of the Brady family and the Gladstone Rest Center which was no longer in use from World War II. The USET and the Brady family engaged in several years of conversation before the family invited the equestrian team to make use of the barn and training area in exchange for upkeep of the facilities. Hamilton Farms, one of the country's elite stabling, training, and breeding locations, was to become the USET's

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new headquarters.<sup>38</sup> According to the USET newsletter, the facility was to provide “superior stabling for about fifty horses, living quarters for riders, a large training ring and several thousand acres for cross-country riding.”<sup>39</sup>

Development of the new training facility was swift: an indoor ring was in place by the beginning of 1963. Programs for young riders, including a new “Equitation Class” were part of an expanded year-round USET effort to build talent for future teams. Successful Olympians such as Morris, Steinkraus, and James Wofford went on to become teachers and directors of USET. Indeed, following the establishment of Gladstone as USET’s headquarters, the equestrian team went on to extraordinary success in international competitions, culminating in two team gold medals at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles, in jumping and eventing. The facility was in active use from 1961 until 1988.<sup>40</sup>

Not only did Hamilton Farm give the USET a secure venue for training, it also helped to control the high cost of competing internationally. The USET Foundation, which now maintains offices at Hamilton Farm, raises millions of dollars annually to support the team. Appropriately, the Hamilton Farm headquarters provided facilities at a lower cost than any rental stable and ring elsewhere in the U.S. or abroad. Brady’s building proved its worth many times over, rewarding the ingenuity of his architect and proving the durability of the timbered vault system.

A number of the most successful riders of that golden era have been enthusiastic in their praise for the USET’s choice of Hamilton Farms, recalling its effect on their careers. Tad Coffin, a double gold medalist in the Montreal Olympics, discussed his education as a rider in terms of USET standards. “I was selected for the resident program and, in the summer of 1973, Gladstone became my new home. I lived in the castle, upstairs above the offices with other young riders. . . . Our active day consisted of riding and learning, and the best possible circumstances in which to do both were provided.”<sup>41</sup> Bringing talented horses and riders together for such extended periods

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was essential to the success of the U.S. team.<sup>42</sup>

Support for the USET at Hamilton Farm was consistent for three decades, but eventually the team outgrew its single facility. In 1978 Beneficial Finance Corporation bought most of the remaining Hamilton Farm acreage from the Brady family. The team rented the facilities until 1988, when Beneficial Chairman Finn Caspersen donated 200 acres to the USET Foundation. Caspersen was a competitive driver in carriage events, and became the key figure in the USET during the last decades of the twentieth century. As the current owner of the property, the USET Foundation maintains the buildings, grounds and fields.

Though the Hamilton Farm Barn Complex no longer serves as a residential training facility, the USET holds selection trials for international competitions, training sessions, and educational events at Hamilton Farm all year round. The stables serve as a home and a symbol of success for riders and staff of the very successful United States Equestrian Team, something that seemed a distant possibility in the mid-1950s.

NOTES

<sup>1</sup> On the general country house movement in the United States, see Mark Alan Hewitt, *The Architect and the American Country House: 1890-1940* (New Haven: Yale Univ. Press: 1991).

<sup>2</sup> See, for instance, *Robin Karson, A Genius for Place: American Landscapes of the Country Place Era* (Amherst, Univ. Press of Massachusetts: 2007).

<sup>3</sup> Ibid. 3-4.

<sup>4</sup> John Turpin and Barry Thomson, *Houses of the Somerset Hills* (2 vols.), Mountain Colony Press, 2004. vol. 1, 211-212.

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<sup>5</sup> "The Story of Hamilton Farms." N.p.: Beneficial Management Corporation, n.d. 6-7.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid, 213.

<sup>7</sup> *Family Group Sheet for JAMES COX BRADY*. Rep. N.p.: n.p., n.d. Print.

<sup>8</sup> Special to *The New York Times*. (1925, Aug 07). J.C. Brady buys Dixiana farm for a thoroughbred nursery. *New York Times* (1923-Current File)

<sup>9</sup> "The Story of Hamilton Farms," 7.

<sup>10</sup> See Hewitt, *The Architect and the American Country House*, Chapters 1 and 3.

<sup>11</sup> C.f. Thomas J. Spencer, "Erect Humane Horse Stables," *Washington Post*, July 26, 1894, 5, written in response to a stud horse stable fire; "Heckscher Stables Burn: Polo ponies valued at \$10,000 killed," *New York Times*, July 22, 1917, 7, on a prominent owner's tragedy.

<sup>12</sup> "Fire at J.C. Brady's New Jersey Home," *New York Times*, July 11, 1916, 6.

<sup>13</sup> "Brady Farm Burns." *The Jerseyman* [Morristown] 14 July 1916.

<sup>14</sup> On these architects, see Hewitt, 25-69; also monographs such as, Mark Alan Hewitt, et al, Eds., *Carrère and Hastings, Architects* (New York, Acanthus Press: 2006), and Steven M. Bedford, *John Russell Pope: Architect of Empire* (New York, Rizzoli: 1998).

<sup>15</sup> One of the earliest American books of stable prototypes was: *Stables and carriage houses: building designs*. R.W. Shoppell, architect. (New York: The Co-operative Building Plan Association, Architects, 1889).

<sup>16</sup> *Twelfth Census of the United States*, 1900, Precinct 7, Jersey City, Hudson County, Ward 10, Sheet No. 17 (Ancestry.com).

<sup>17</sup> *Jersey City Directories*, 1908, 1915 (Ancestry.com); James Ward, *Architects in Practice in New York City, 1900-1940* (New York, COPAR: 1989): 83.

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<sup>18</sup> Petition, dated June 5, 1918, by William Weissenberger, Jr., Amelia H. Weissenberger, and Edwin William Weissenberger, to change their names to William Whitehill, Amelia H. Whitehill, and Edwin William Whitehill, respectively. County Court of Westchester County, New York. Courtesy of Barry Thomson.

<sup>19</sup> "Whitehill, 84, Archite 80 Years, Dies," *The Standard Star*, New Rochelle, NY, March 2, 1965, 1-2.

<sup>20</sup> The definitive single volume is: Sir John Frederick Wellington Fitzwygram, *Horses and stables*. (5th edition (1903) 2<sup>nd</sup> issue. London Longmans, Green, and Co., 1911).

<sup>21</sup> On Europe, c.f. Giles Worsley, *The British Stable*. (New Haven: Published for the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art by Yale University Press, 2004); and Christopher G. Powell, *Stables and stable blocks*. (Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire, Shire Publications, 1997).

<sup>22</sup> C.f. Harold Leeney, "Stables and Fittings," *The Field: The Country Gentleman's Newspaper*, June 21, 1923, v. 141 n. 3678, 919.

<sup>23</sup> A comprehensive series of technical articles appeared in *The American Architect*: C.H. Blackall, "Stables I-III," *AABN*, Oct. 10, 1896; 11 ff; Nov. 14, 1896, 51 ff. and Nov. 28, 1896, 67. Virtually every aspect was discussed, including planning, stall design, hygiene, and fittings.

<sup>24</sup> See "Plan of District Stables: Model design furnished by architects," *Washington Post*, Aug. 25, 1907, R7. The "big" structure was to be "a model in arrangement and construction." Tudor in style, it resembles Hamilton Farm in key respects.

<sup>25</sup> John Ochsendorf, *Guastavino Vaulting: The Art of Structural Tile* (Princeton, Princeton Architectural Press: 2010): 18-39.

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*, 155.

<sup>27</sup> "Carriage House to Base Hospital." *The Bernardsville News* [Bernardsville]. N.d. 6-7.



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<sup>28</sup> "The Pilot Goes to Gladstone Rest Home." *The Pilot*, n.d. 14.

<sup>29</sup> "Seaman's Rest Fills Great Need." *The Bernardsville News* [Bernardsville] 29 June 1944.

<sup>30</sup> See Wikipedia entry [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Olympic\\_Games](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Olympic_Games). Fourteen nations competed in the Athens Games in 1896, in just 43 events. No equestrian events were held that year.

<sup>31</sup> See [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1900\\_Summer\\_Olympics#Equestrian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1900_Summer_Olympics#Equestrian).

<sup>32</sup> William Steinkraus, "Introduction," in Nancy Jaffer, Ed. *Riding for America: The United States Equestrian Team* (New York, Doubleday: 1990): 3.

<sup>33</sup> "Equestrian Team will sail July 11," *New York Times*, April 2, 1928, 25. The U.S. Cavalry team trained at Fort Riley, sending six riders and sixteen horses abroad for the season in Europe. The article reported that places were opened for civilians on the team for the first time that year, and that competition was fierce overseas.

<sup>34</sup> Steinkraus, 6-7.

<sup>35</sup> Steinkraus, *Riding for America*: 10-11.

<sup>36</sup> USET Minutes, January 18, 1961.

<sup>37</sup> Leffingwell, Randy. "Chapter Eleven: Hamilton Farms Gladstone, New Jersey." *Ultimate Horse Barns*. St. Paul, MN: Voyageur, 2006. 118.

<sup>38</sup> "Quest for Equestrians is Planned," *New York Times*, March 19, 1961, page S6.

<sup>39</sup> USET Newsletter, 1961, provided by Bonnie Jenkins to the author.

<sup>40</sup> On the success of the U.S. effort, see Kitty Slater, "Our Equestrian Team Becoming One of the Best," *Washington Post*, October 25, 1962, D11. Slater attributes improvements directly to the acquisition of the training facility at Hamilton Farm.

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<sup>41</sup> Tad Coffin, "Learning the USET way," in *Riding for America*, 121, 123.

<sup>42</sup> The team was extensively profiled during the 1960s and 1970s. See John Rendel, "U.S. Equestrian Team Captures Nations Cup in National Show at Garden," *New York Times*, November 7, 1967, 5. Walt Disney Studios captured their popularity with its film, "The Horse With the Flying Tail" in the early 1960s. Actual footage of Nautical, the amazing jumper, was featured.

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Hamilton Farm Stable Complex
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**Photo Log**

Name of Property: Hamilton Farm Stable Group

Historic Name: Hamilton Farm Stables, U.S. Equestrian Team Headquarters

City or Vicinity: Gladstone

County: Somerset State: New Jersey

Photographer: Crysta Sotirhos, photos 2-44, 47, 54  
Clifton J. Cotter II, photos 45-46, 48-53  
Jack Turpin, photos 1

Date Photographed: Sotirhos – Spring 2015  
Cotter – Fall 2016  
Turpin – c. 2000

**CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS – 2015-16**

- Photo 1. Full exterior of the barn from the south  
Photo 2. Exterior of the main entrance of the barn from the south  
Photo 3. Close up of the balcony on the second floor overlooking the vehicular courtyard at the main entrance.  
Photo 4. Continuation of front façade from the south.  
Photo 5. Exterior of the barn from the west.  
Photo 6. Close up of the side entrance of the barn from the west.  
Photo 7. Second floor balcony view of the outdoor ring from the north.  
Photo 8. Detail of the clock on the second floor balcony on the back (outdoor ring side) of the building.  
Photo 9. Exterior of the back entrance of the barn facing north.  
Photo 10. Back façade of the barn past the outdoor ring facing north.  
Photo 11. Exterior of the carriage wing from the northeast.  
Photo 12. Exterior of the carriage from the southeast.  
Photo 13. Interior of the rotunda from the south.  
Photo 14. Detail of the Guastavino vaulting.

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

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Hamilton Farm Stable Complex
Name of Property
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- Photo 15. Interior of the rotunda from the southwest.
- Photo 16. Interior of the rotunda from the northwest.
- Photo 17. Interior of the rotunda from the northeast.
- Photo 18. Interior of the hallway connecting the rotunda and the stables known as Stallion Row.
- Photo 19. Interior of the stables facing south.
- Photo 20. Detail of one of the box stalls.
- Photo 21. Interior detail of one of the box stalls.
- Photo 22. Interior of the stables facing north.
- Photo 23. Entrance to the second floor Carol H. Durand Memorial Trophy Room.
- Photo 24. Interior of the steps leading to the second floor Trophy Room.
- Photo 25. Interior of the second floor Trophy Room facing northwest.
- Photo 26. Interior of the second floor Trophy Room facing north.
- Photo 27. Interior of the second floor Trophy Room facing northeast.
- Photo 28. Interior of the second floor Trophy Room facing south.
- Photo 29. Close up of the glass floor on the second floor Trophy Room facing south.
- Photo 30. Interior of what was once the entrance to the carriage stables facing east.
- Photo 31. Interior of the entrance way past the shelving to what was once the carriage stables facing east.
- Photo 32. Interior of the passageway facing west.
- Photo 33. Detail of *Hamilton Model* weathervane.
- Photo 34. Detail of a weathervane.
- Photo 35. Hallway in the carriage wing facing north.
- Photo 36. Hallway in the carriage wing facing south.
- Photo 37. Exterior of the indoor training ring, Nautical Hall, facing south.
- Photo 39. Interior of the indoor training ring, Nautical Hall, facing north.
- Photo 38. Exterior of the indoor training ring, Nautical Hall, facing slightly southwest.
- Photo 40. Interior of the indoor training ring, Nautical Hall, facing south.
- Photo 41. Exterior of the indoor training ring, Nautical Hall, facing north.
- Photo 42. Exterior of the garage on the eastern border of the property.
- Photo 43. Exterior the garage on the eastern border of the property facing east.
- Photo 44. Second floor bedroom in the garage.
- Photo 45. Second floor bathroom in the garage.
- Photo 46. Second floor gathering/dining room in the garage.
- Photo 47. Exterior of the residence on the USET property facing west.
- Photo 48. Close up of windows and door of the residence on USET property facing west.

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National Park Service

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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)
--

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- Photo 49. Exterior of residence from the east.  
 Photo 50. Basement of residence showing worn paving over terracotta blocks.  
 Photo 51. Exterior of the blacksmith shop from the west.  
 Photo 52. Exterior of blacksmith shop from the east.  
 Photo 53. Interior of blacksmith shop showing ghost of stove pipe and chimney.  
 Photo 54. Interior view of the stable, second floor hallway.

**ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS**

**Historic**

- Photo 1. Ground floor plan from Rider & Driver Magazine 11-10-1917.  
 Photo 2. Section from Rider & Driver Magazine 11-10-1917.  
 Photo 3. Historic photograph of the Essex Hunt Meeting taken by Newark, N.J. photographer H.A. Strohmeyer circa 1919.  
 Photo 4. Historic photograph of the riding ring by Newark, N.J. photographer H. A. Strohmeyer circa 1919.  
 Photo 5. Historic photo of the carriage stables circa 1920s.  
 Photo 6. Aerial view of Hamilton Farm circa 1923. Non-nated property is in the upper right corner.  
 Photo 7. Brady hospital operating room during World War II.  
 Photo 8. Brady hospital sterilizing room during World War II.  
 Photo 9. Historic photo of the second floor Trophy Room circa 1960s after the USET association began.  
 Photo 10. Historic photo of the rotunda facing the stall area circa 1960s.  
 Photo 11. Historic photo of the stall area circa 1960s.  
 Photo 12. R. Guastavino Co., working drawing for Brady stable at Hamilton Farm, 1916. Avery Architectural Archives, Columbia University.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Hamilton Farm Stable Complex
Name of Property
Somerset, New Jersey
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

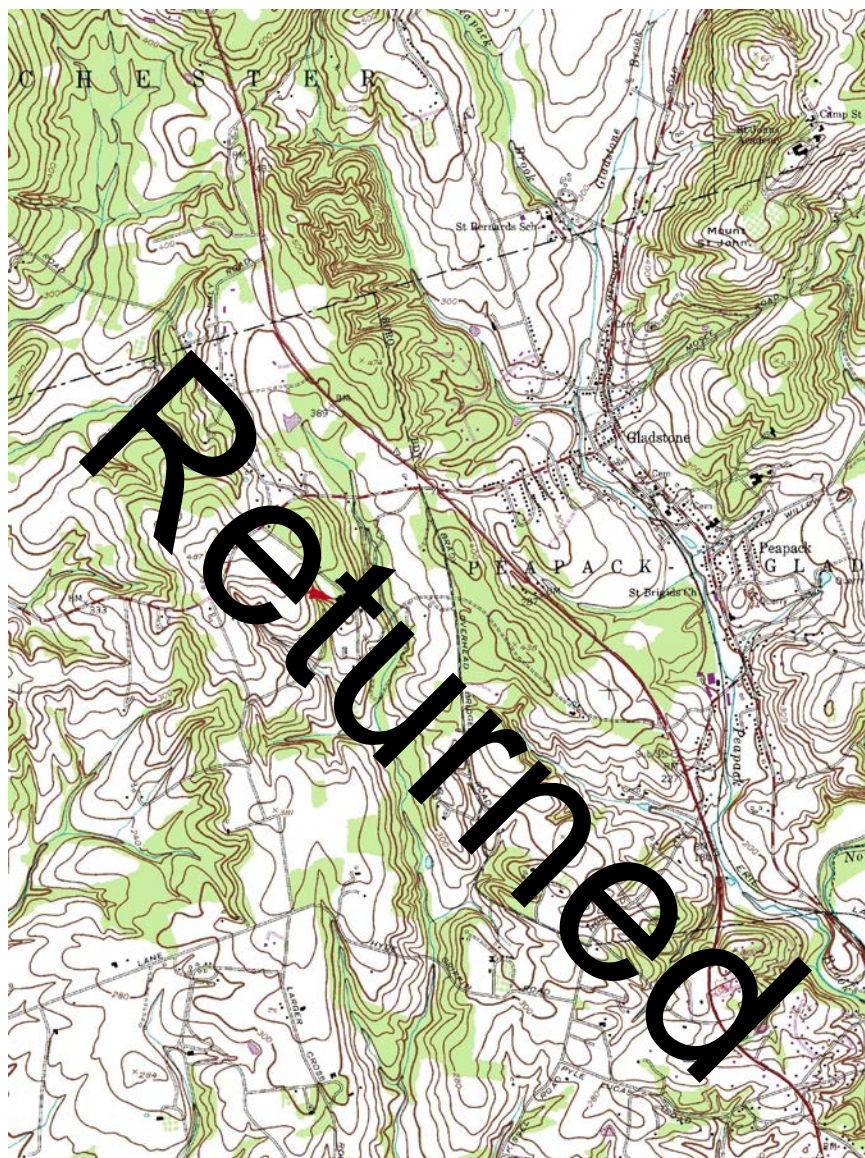
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Supplemental

- Photo 13. Carriage house/garage, Frederick Vanderbilt National Historic Site, Hyde Park, New York, circa 1896. (Hewitt, *The Architect and the American Country House*).
- Photo 14. Stable at Hanger Hill, Clarence Mackay estate, Roslyn, Long Island, by Warren & Wetmore, circa 1898. (Hewitt, *The Architect and the American Country House*).
- Photo 15. Stable at Cansett, Marshall Field III estate, Long Island, by John Russell Pope, 1928. (Hewitt, *The Architect and the American Country House*).
- Photo 16. Stable at Edgeron, Winthrop estate, Muttontown, Long Island, by Delano & Aldrich, 1914. (Hewitt, *The Architect and the American Country House*).
- Photo 17. Hamilton Farm barn group, circa 1920s.

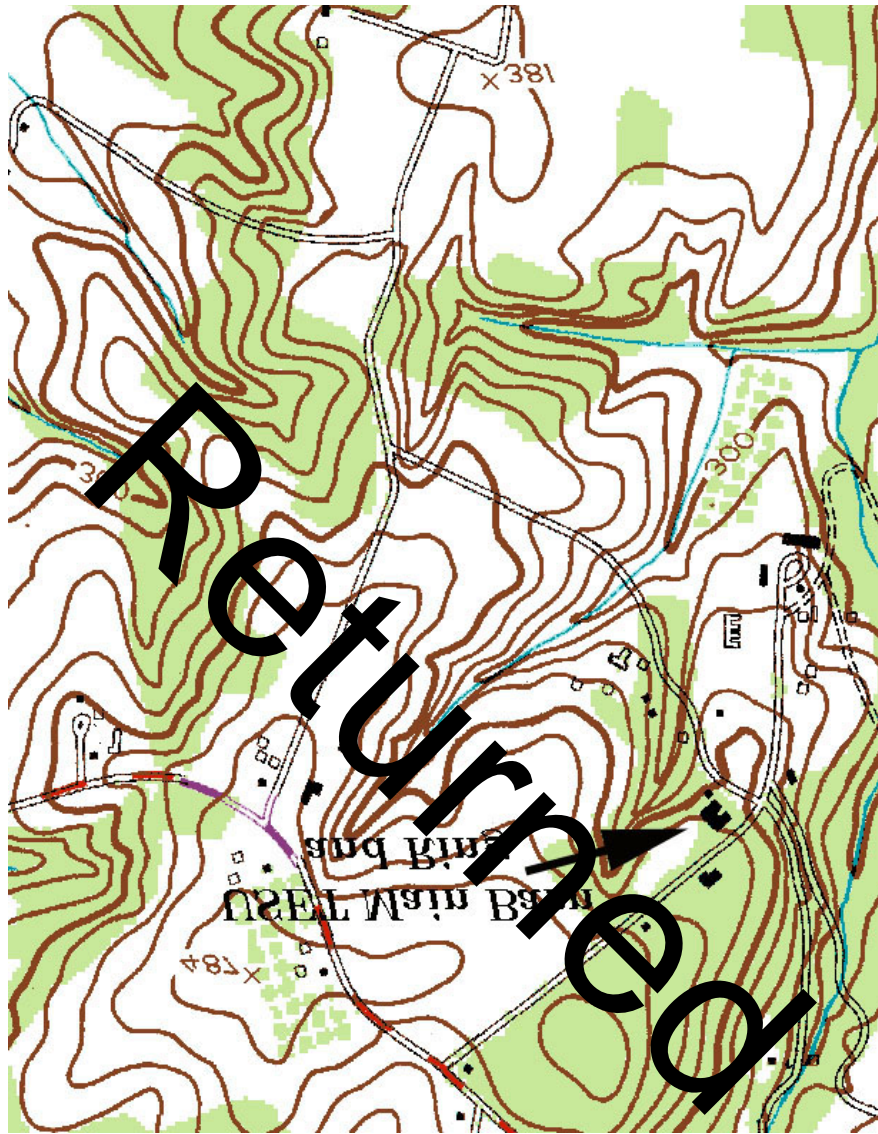
# Map 1



Arrow indicates the location of the USET Headquarters, Hamilton Farm Stables, on USGS Gladstone Quadrant, 1954

United States Equestrian Team  
Gladstone, New Jersey

## Map 2



A detail of the previous USGS map showing the location of the stables

United States Equestrian Team  
Gladstone, New Jersey

# Map 3



Hamilton Farm, 1926; Map Key  
A: Stable group, B: Farm group, C: Main house, D: Kennels, E:  
Greenhouses, F: Main gate

United States Equestrian Team  
Gladstone, New Jersey

# Map 4



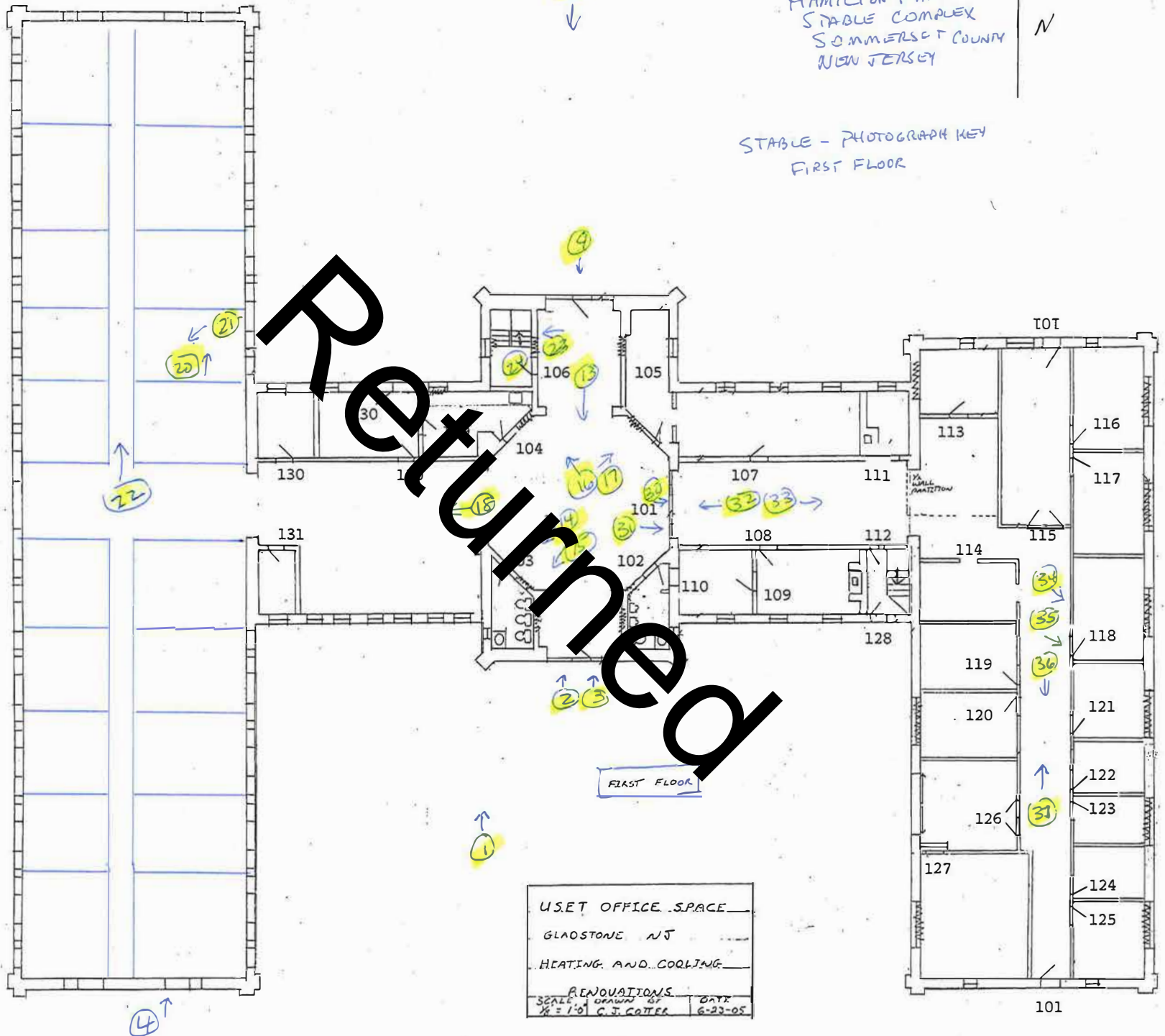
Site plan of current USET Training Facility  
Yellow line indicates area to be included in this nomination

United States Equestrian Team  
Gladstone, New Jersey

HAMILTON FARM  
STABLE COMPLEX  
SOMMERSSET COUNTY  
NEW JERSEY

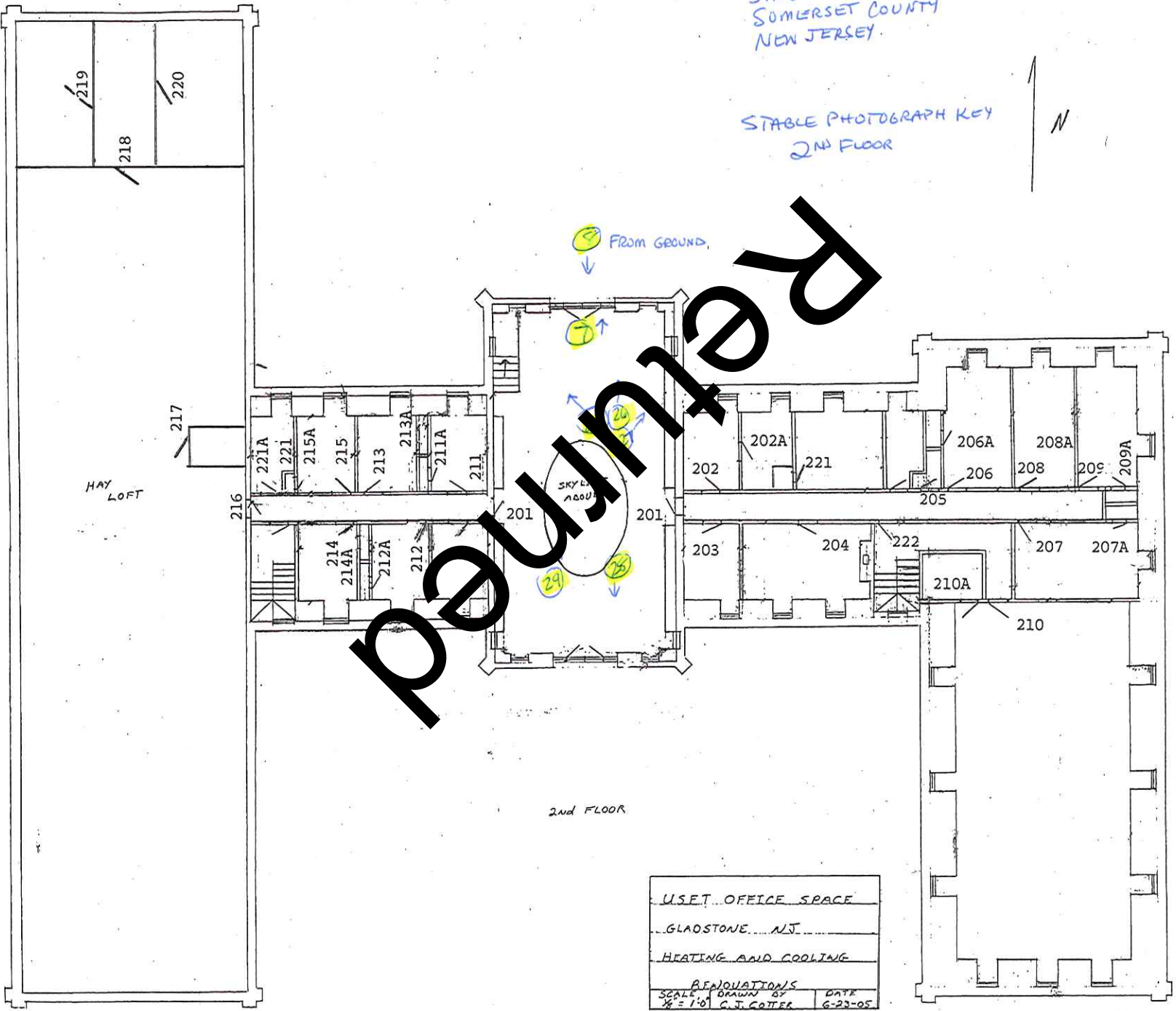
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STABLE - PHOTOGRAPH KEY  
FIRST FLOOR



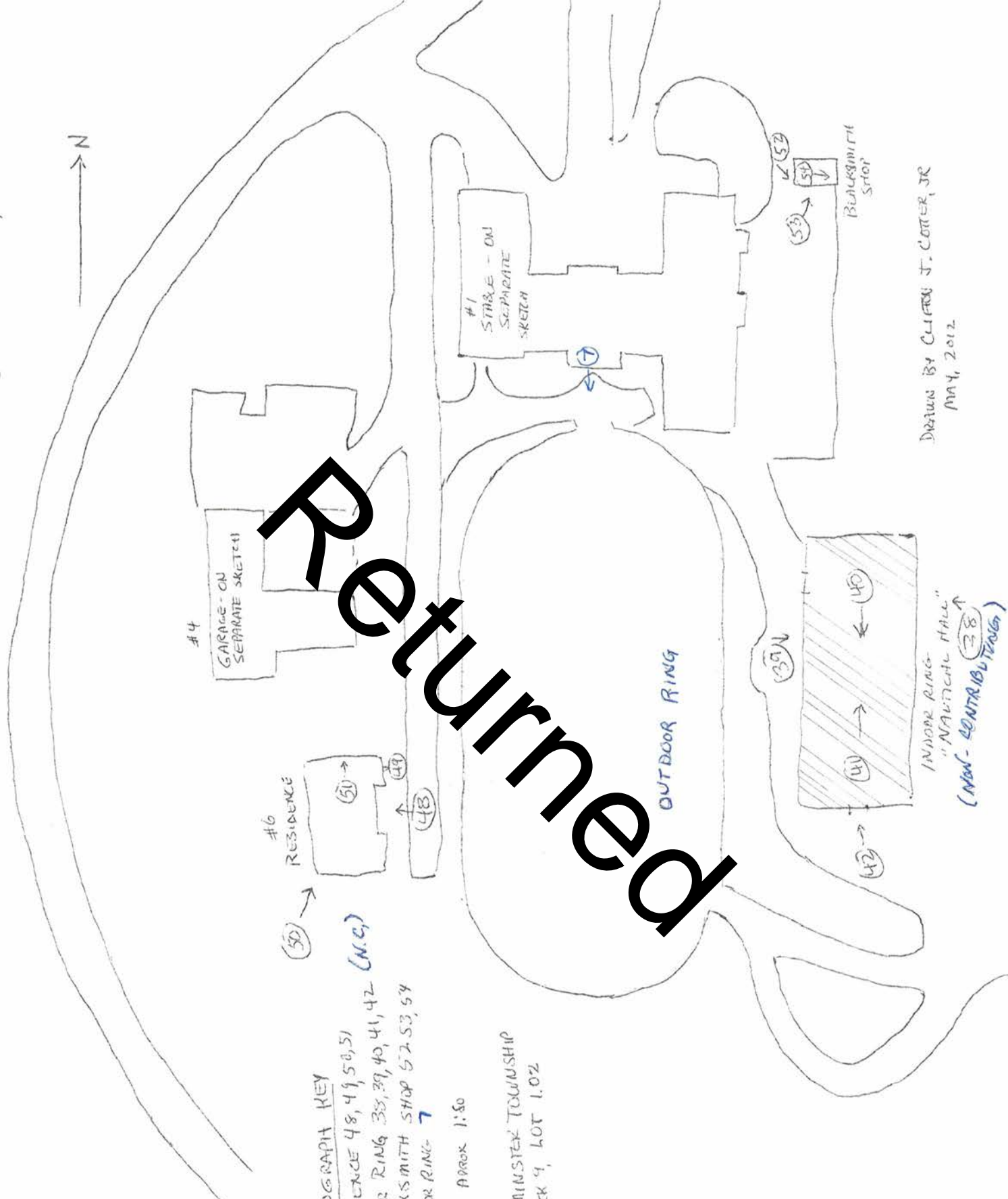
HAMILTON FARM  
STABLE COMPLEX  
SOMERSET COUNTY  
NEW JERSEY.

STABLE PHOTOGRAPH KEY  
2ND FLOOR



2nd FLOOR

USEF OFFICE SPACE  
GLADSTONE, NJ  
HEATING AND COOLING  
RENOVATIONS  
SCALE: DRAWN BY DATE  
1/8" = 1'-0" G. J. COOPER 6-23-05



Returned

PHOTOGRAPH KEY

- # 6 RESIDENCE 48, 49, 50, 51
- # 3 INDOOR RING 33, 39, 40, 41, 42 (N.C.)
- # 5 BACKS WITH SHOP 52, 53, 54
- # 2 OUTDOOR RING 7

SCALE APPROX 1:50

BEDMINSTER TOWNSHIP  
BLOCK 9, LOT 1.02

DRAWN BY CLIFORD J. COTTER, JR.  
MAY, 2012

INDOOR RING -  
"NAUTICAL HALL"  
(NOW - CENTRAL BUILDING)



HAMILTON FARM STABLE COMPLEX  
SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

SECOND FLOOR - GARAGE - BUILDING 4

1040 POTTERS VILLE ROAD, GLAASTONE, NJ  
07060

BEDMINSTER TOWNSHIP BOCK 9  
LOT 1.02

SCALE APPROX 1:13.6"

BUILDING PHOTOGRAPH KEY

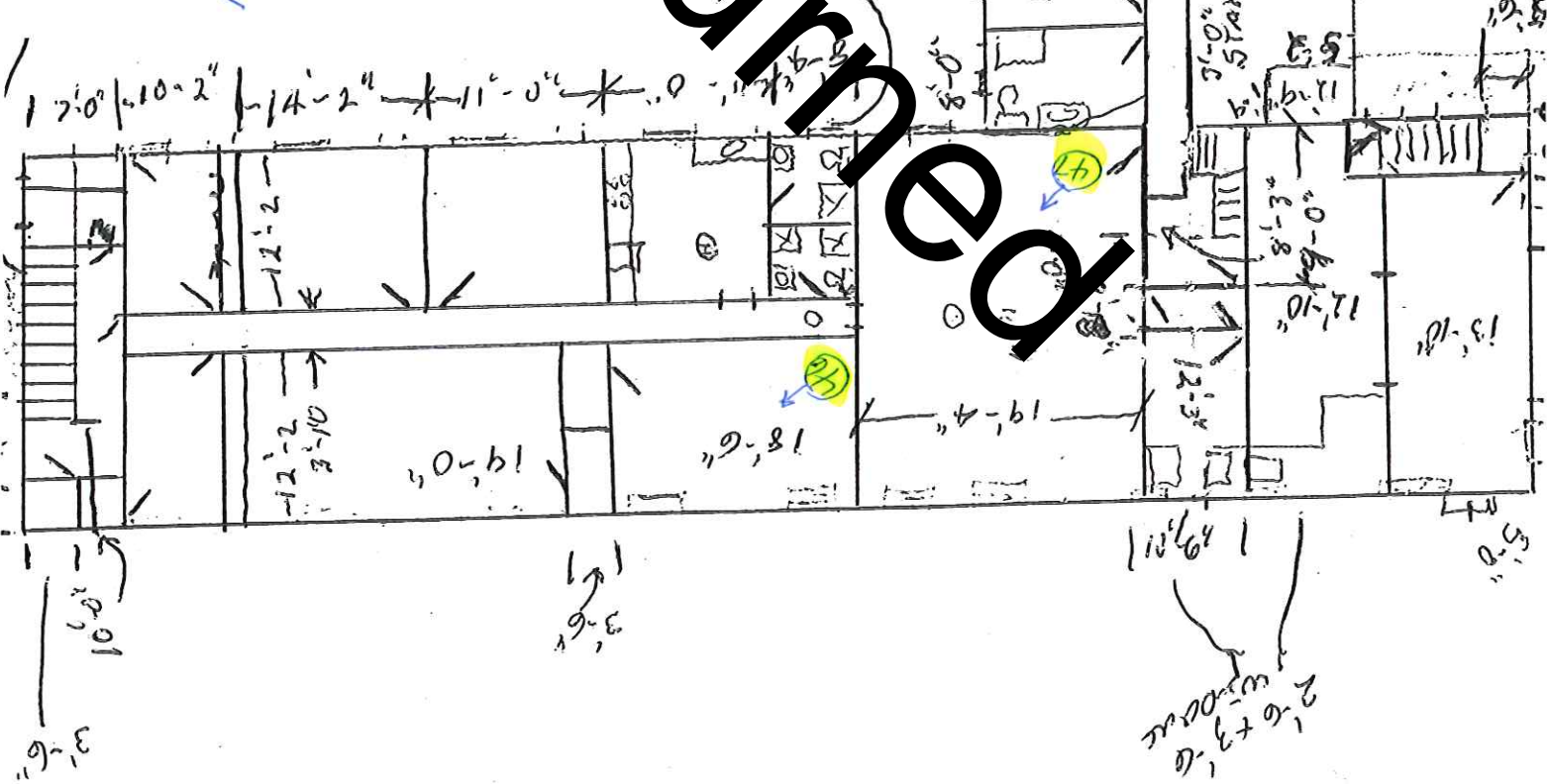
PHOTOS 43  
44  
45  
46  
47

DRAWN BY CLIFTON J. COTTER JR  
OCTOBER, 2008

47

GROUND LEVEL

N



43  
FLOOR  
GROUND LEVEL

2'-6\" + 3'-0\"  
w/door

5'-0\"

13'-10\"

12'-10\"

8'-3\"

5'-5\" STAIR

5'-0\"

5'-6\"

2'-8\"

2'-4\"

3'-5\"

21'-3\"

15'-9\"

22'-0\"

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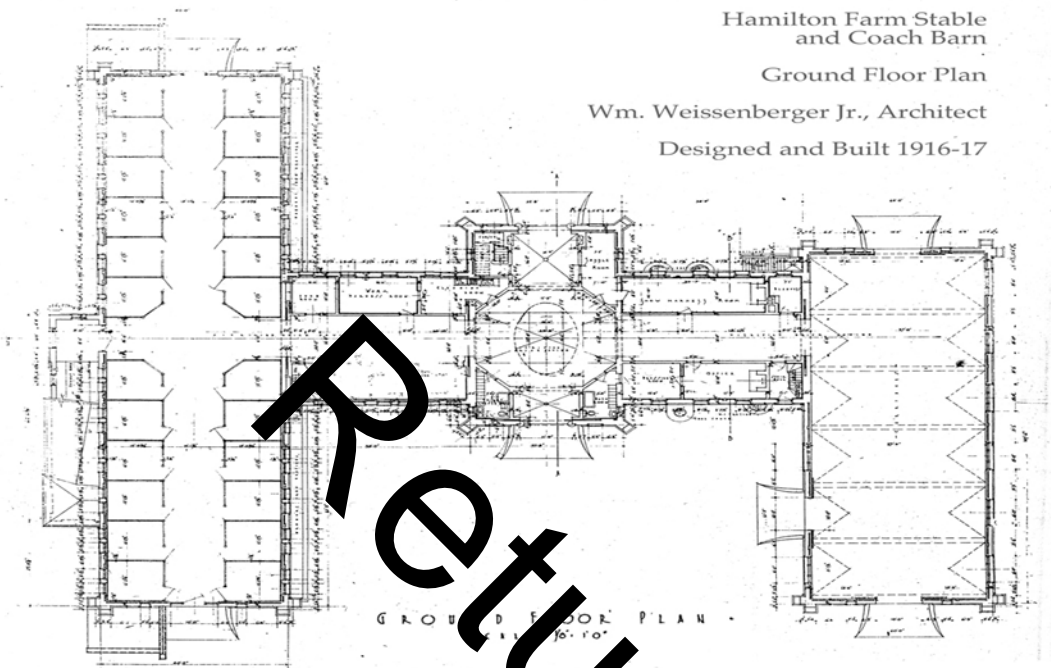
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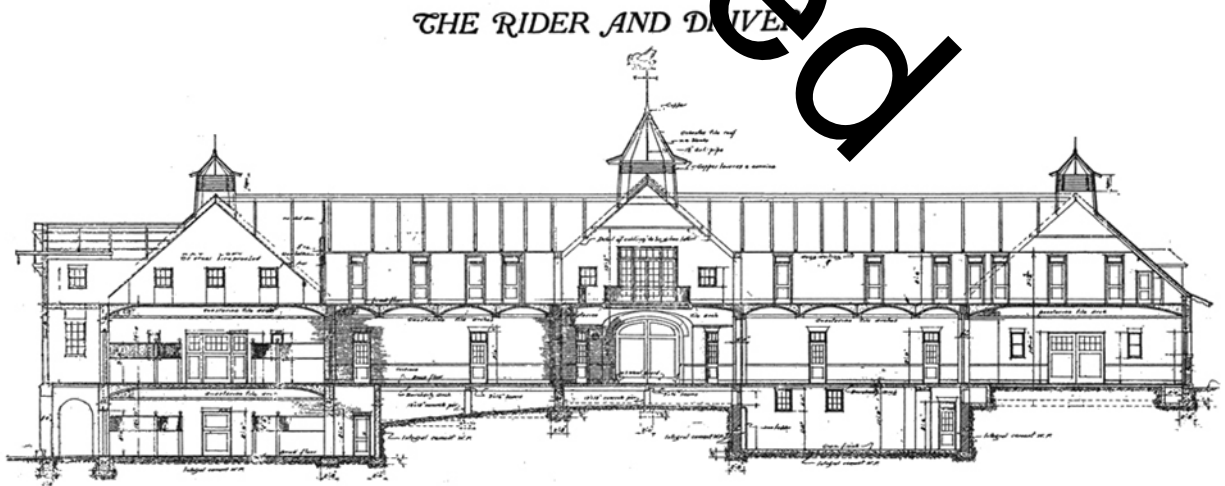
11'-2\"

# ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS

## Historic



Historic Photo 1. Ground floor plan from Rider & Driver Magazine 11-10-1917.



Historic Photo 2. Section from Rider & Driver Magazine 11-10-1917.



Historic Photo 3. Historic photograph of the Essex Hunt Meeting taken by Newark, N.J. photographer H.A. Strohmeyer circa 1919.



Historic Photo 4. Historic photograph of the riding ring in Newark, N.J. photographer H. A. Strohmeyer circa 1919.



Historic Photo 5. Historic photo of the carriage stables circa 1920s.

Returned



Historic Photo 6. Aerial view of Hamilton Farm circa 1923. Nominated property is in the upper right corner.



Historic Photo 7. Brady hospital operating room during World War II



Historic Photo 8. Brady hospital sterilizing room during World War II.

Returned





Historic Photo 9. Historic photo of the second floor Trophy Room circa 1960s after the USET association began.

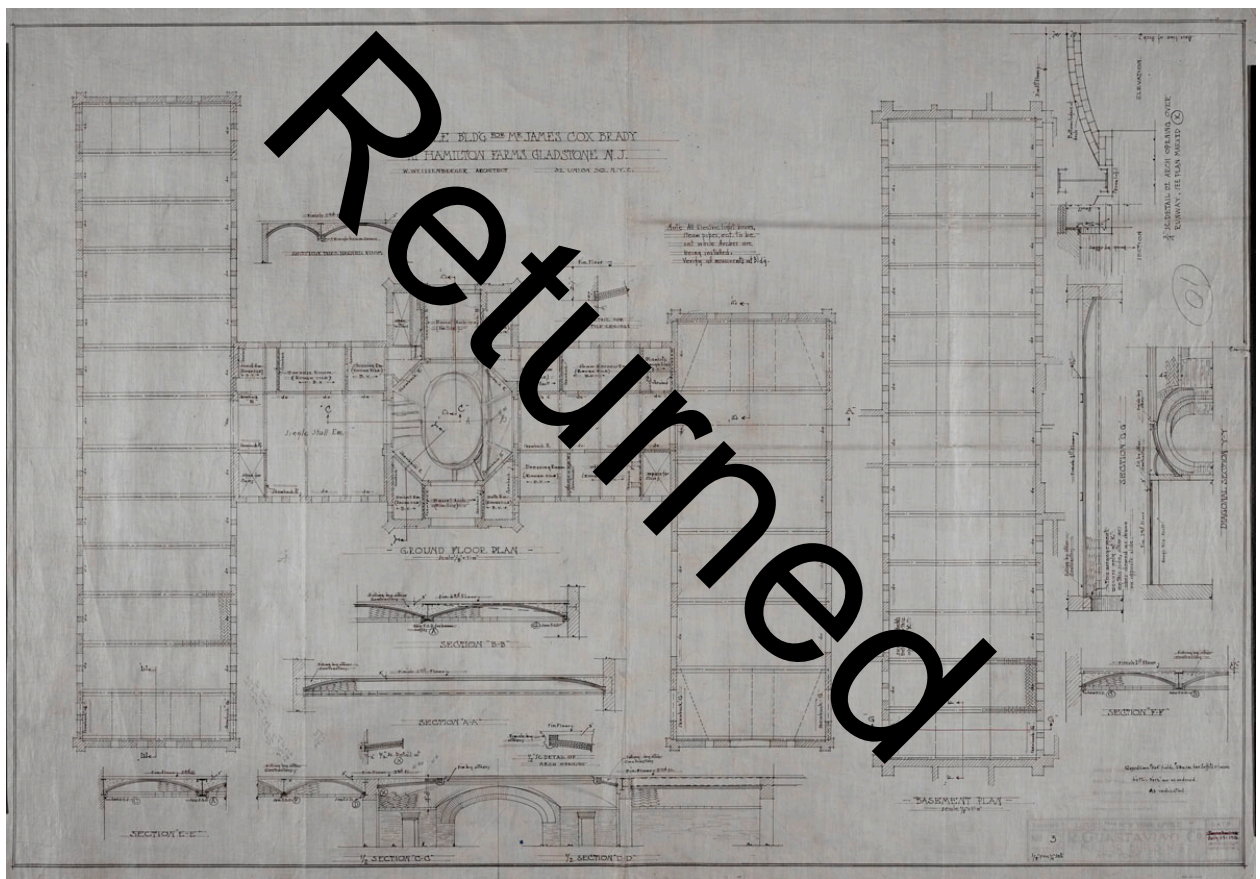


Historic Photo 10. Historic photo of the rotunda facing the stall area circa 1960s.



Historic Photo 11. Historic photo of the stall area circa 1960s.

Returned



Historic Photo 12. R. Guastavino Co., working drawing for Brady stable at Hamilton Farm, 1916. Avery Architectural Archives, Columbia University.

## Supplemental



Supplemental Photo 13. Carriage house/garage, Frederick Vanderbilt National Historic Site, Hyde Park, New York, circa 1896. (Hewitt, *The Architect and the American Country House*).



Supplemental Photo 14. Stable at Harbour Hill, Clarence Mackay estate, Roslyn, Long Island, by Warren & Wetmore, circa 1898. (Hewitt, *The Architect and the American Country House*).



Supplemental Photo 15. Stable at Calwasee, Marshall Field III estate, Long Island, by John Russell Pope, 1928. (Hewitt, *The Architect and the American Country House*).



Supplemental Photo 16. Stable at Edgemoor Winthrop estate, Muttontown, Long Island, by Delano & Aldrich, 1914. (Hewitt, *The Architect and the American Country House*).





Supplemental Photo 17. Hamilton Farm barn group circa 1920s.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Hamilton Farm Stable Complex

Multiple Name: \_\_\_\_\_

State & County: NEW JERSEY, Somerset

Date Received: 5/12/2017      Date of Pending List: \_\_\_\_\_      Date of 16th Day: \_\_\_\_\_      Date of 45th Day: 6/26/2017      Date of Weekly List: \_\_\_\_\_

Reference number: SG100001243

Nominator: State

Reason For Review: \_\_\_\_\_

Accept       Return       Reject      6/26/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary  
Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Recommendation/  
Criteria \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer Lisa Deline      Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2239      Date 6/26/17

DOCUMENTATION:    see attached comments : ~~Yes~~    see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places**

**Comments**

**Evaluation/Return Sheet**

**Property Name:** James Cox Brady Stable  
**Property Location:** Somerset County, NJ  
**Reference Number:** SG-1243  
**Date of Return:** July 21, 2017

---

**Reasons for Return**

The James Cox Brady Stable nomination is being returned for technical and substantive revisions.

The Brady Stable Complex contains a stable, outdoor and indoor riding rings, a garage, blacksmith shop, and a residence. The property is being nominated under Criterion C, at the local level, for significance in architecture and engineering, with a period of significance beginning with the stable construction in 1917 and ending with the death of James Brady, in 1927.

Issues

Section 1. Historic Name

The stable is referred to by various names throughout the nomination; however, it is unclear which one is the historic name that was commonly used during the period of significance. Please clarify.

## Section 8. Statement of Significance

Since the property is being nominated under Criterion C, for architecture/engineering, the period of significance and the supporting statement of significance should focus on 1917, the date the historic resources were constructed. For properties nominated under Criterion C, the period of significance is the date of construction and/or dates of any significant alterations and additions. The information in the text (mainly pages 16 – 22) that discusses the design and construction of these resources--should be edited and used as the main focus for the significance argument. Further explanation is also needed on the architectural significance of the Tudor Revival and Colonial Revival styles of all the buildings not just the stable. Please refer to the NR Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register Registration Form*, pg. 45-50, for further guidance.

For additional contextual information regarding the significance of the work and history of the Rafael Guastavino firm, the 2010 NR nomination for the Church of Saint Lawrence (Additional Documentation) in Buncombe Co., NC, provides some useful information for possible incorporation into the narrative for the Hamilton stable nomination. Since it is not yet available on our NR website, a copy of this nomination will be emailed, along with these return comments, to the NJ SHPO National Register staff.

Please provide some additional contextual details regarding Hamilton Farm. For a “vast agricultural showplace” of over 5,000 acres, the nominated parcel only represents the equestrian activities of the farm. What happened to the remaining historic resources, pastures, and fields and what remains now within the current 200 acres?

### Technical

Please correct the period of significance and significant dates on the form. Also add the Rafael Guastavino firm under the Architect/Builder heading.

Call me at 202-354-2239 or e-mail at <lisa\_deline@nps.gov> if you have any questions.

Lisa Deline, Historian  
National Register of Historic Places



HPO Project #: 11-1405  
HPO-E2018-165

## State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
NATURAL & HISTORIC RESOURCES  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE  
MAIL CODE 501-04B  
P.O. BOX 420  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0420  
TEL: # 609-984-0176 FAX: # 609-984-0578

PHILIP D. MURPHY  
*Governor*

SHEILA Y. OLIVER  
*Lt. Governor*

CATHERINE R. McCABE  
*Acting Commissioner*



May 14, 2018

Lisa Deline  
NPS – National Register  
1849 C Street NW  
Mail Stop 7228  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Deline:

The New Jersey Historic Preservation Office is re-submitting the National Register nomination for the Hamilton Farm Stable Complex in Township of Bedminster, Somerset County, New Jersey - National Register reference number SG-1243, for National Register consideration. The nomination was returned for substantive and technical issues. All changes have been made in compliance with your recommendations.

If you have any further questions or comments, please contact Bob Craig of the Historic Preservation Office staff by email at [bob.craig@dep.nj.gov](mailto:bob.craig@dep.nj.gov) or by phone at (609) 984-0541.

Sincerely,

Katherine J. Marcopul  
Deputy State Historic  
Preservation Officer

Attachments

KJM/kjc