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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 for individual properties and 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 from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Grover House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 940 West Front Street not for publication

city or town Middletown Township vicinity

state New Jersey code NJ county Monmouth code 025 zip code 07701

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby 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 8/14/02
Marc A. Matsil, Assistant Commissioner, Natural & Historic Resources, DSHPO
State of 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 the 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

Edson H. Beall

10/10/02

Grover House
Name of Property

Monmouth County, NJ
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT / Work in progress

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial/Dutch Colonial

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Wood: shingle

roof Asphalt shingle

other Wood

Narrative Description

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

Grover House
Name of Property

Monmouth County, NJ
County and State

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.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

c. 1730-c. 1840

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Grover House
Name of Property

Monmouth County, NJ
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property Less than one-tenth acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	118	5716067	4466194
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ulana D. Zakalak Historic Preservation Consultant

organization Middletown Township Historic Preservation Commission date April 26, 2002

street & number 57 Cayuga Avenue telephone (732) 571-3176

city or town Oceanport state NJ zip code 07757

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name Township of Middletown

street & number 1 King's Highway telephone 732-615-2000

city or town Middletown state NJ zip code 07748

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 Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section Number 7 Page 1

Grover House
Middletown Twp., Monmouth County, NJ

Description

The Grover House, located at 940 West Front Street in Middletown, New Jersey, is a two-story, four-bay, rectangular-plan, wood-frame, residential building, constructed c.1730, in an Anglo-Dutch building tradition, and expanded using the same building techniques, c.1820-1840. One of only a few remaining two-story, Dutch-framed houses in Monmouth County, the building has undergone two relocations within Middletown Township, and is now situated in the wooded, township-owned Stevenson Park. The house is set back from the road approximately 300 feet, and faces south. Although the house has been moved from its original location, it is significant as a rare surviving example of two-story, Dutch timber framing, and the use of round-butt shingles as cladding. The older section of the house was most likely constructed circa 1730, by the descendants of the first James Grover, one of the twelve original patentees of the Monmouth Patent. This section of the house is characterized by Dutch framing techniques and the use of round-butt shingles, an early vernacular building tradition particular to central New Jersey. The newer, nineteenth century section of the house, while utilizing the older construction techniques, also exhibits elements of the Greek Revival style in its decorative treatments. The house was first moved in 1953, when the New Jersey Highway Authority condemned the farm for the development of the Garden State Parkway. The Grover House was moved for the second time, when a suburban subdivision threatened its demolition in 1996. The house remained in the Grover family until the death of the last descendant, Anna Lum, in 1983. Though not on its original site, it remains in the neighborhood in which it was first built.

Following the local vernacular tradition of expansion, the current appearance of the house represents a series of additions, and a variety of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century decorative features. The house was built in two main sections: the western two bays form the earliest section, dating from the mid-eighteenth century, and comprising 21' in width by 30' in depth. The eastern section was probably built in the early nineteenth century, but utilizes the same construction techniques as the older section, including Dutch framing techniques and mud and straw infill between the upright posts. This section measures 19' in width and 30' in depth. When the eastern section was built, the roofline of the older section was also altered to join and match the gable of the newer section.

The framing of the Grover house is a massive, two-story, Dutch timber construction defined by a series of H-shaped "bents" (transverse framing sections); widely spaced, continuous, heavy anchorbeams (floor joists) joined into the upright posts, extending from the front to the back of the house; and hand hewn rafters. The rafters in the eastern section are mortised at the roofline; the western rafters are tied into a ridgepole. The walls between the uprights and the beams are filled with brick nogging and clay mixed with straw. Brick nogging is used in the eastern section of the house (the c. 1820-1840 section) and in areas where changes have been made to the

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Grover House
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building, such as below the windows and to infill old openings. The clay mixed with straw wall infill appears in both the older and newer sections of the house and is held in place by horizontal, hand-split boards set into notches made into the posts. The only exception to the notches appears in the western wall of the house, where the horizontal boards are nailed into the posts using large wrought iron nails. The mud and straw mix appears to have been pushed into place, left to dry and then the seams at the staves filled in with additional, thinner mixed mud. The attic level anchorbeams are dressed and have remnants of what was apparently the original paint, which exhibits a blue gray color. The beams were covered with a lath and plaster ceiling in the nineteenth century, resulting in the boxing out of the tops of the second floor windows. This gives the windows the odd appearance of being higher than the ceiling.

The eastern section doubled the size of the original house about 1820 to 1840. Although older building techniques were copied in the newer part of the house, including the two-story Dutch framing, the decorative aspects of the interior were very up-to-date for the period of construction. The framing was copied almost down to the size of the timbers. Both sections utilized posts that are approximately uniform, and vary in size from about 6 1/2" to 7 1/4" in width and depth. The only difference appears to be in the species of wood used. The newer timbers appear to be of a denser and darker wood. The interior is ornamented in the Greek Revival style, with decorative millwork, such as the doors, and the door and window surrounds, suggesting a construction date of c. 1820-1840.

The rectangular plan building is 40 feet in length by 30 feet deep. There are four bays on each main elevation and two bays on each gable end. Two, small, one-room, one-story ells, one on the northwest corner and the other on the northeast corner, existed prior to the move. These were not original to the house but were later, early twentieth-century additions. There was a small entrance porch on the northwest ell. A modern porch had been added on the front facade which covered the front door and a nineteenth century bay window on the east end. Both porches were removed prior to the building's 1996 move. The removal of the two additions and the two porches has left holes in the exterior walls, which were boarded up. The exterior cladding consists of wood shingles. Early round-butt shingles, most likely original to the house, remain on the western end wall. The roof is asphalt shingle.

Fenestration throughout the house varies in both form and date of installation (see individual room descriptions for details). The south elevation has two-over-two double-hung wood windows on the first floor and nine-over-nine windows on the second floor. Nine-over-six windows dominate in the west elevation. There are also six-over-six, two-over-two and one-over-one windows present in various locations. The front door is split leaf with two panels above and four below, and is inset into a Greek Revival surround with flanking four-pane sidelights.

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The south elevation is the current and presumed historic façade of the house (see photo 1). It is four bays wide, but is made slightly asymmetrical by the twentieth-century bay window in the easternmost bay. The walls are mostly covered with large, rectangular-butt shingles, but the bay window and the area between the bay and the front entrance is covered with smaller rectangular-butt shingles of a more recent vintage. There are three different types of window surrounds on this façade. A beaded window surround is found only on the second floor of the western half of this elevation. The windows on the lower level of the west side, and the upper level of the east side have the predominant house window surround, consisting of a plain surround with a drip edge at the top of the lintel. The twentieth century, bay window surround is the most recent. The main entrance is located in the second bay from the west and is a Dutch (split) door with sidelights. The removal of the front porch prior to the last move left a large hole where the roof was connected to the roof of the bay. The cornice has also deteriorated, due to problems with the built-in gutter and neglect.

The west elevation is a gable end wall with roughly three bays, but the placement of the openings is asymmetrical due to the fireplace and chimney on the interior (see photo 4). This wall is clad with round-butt shingles, some of which appear to be original to the construction of the house (these are the smaller shingles), while the larger shingles are later replacements. There are traces of red paint evident on the shingles. Two vertical boards create seams in the first floor elevation. One is to the left of the southernmost window; the other is beneath the middle window toward the left. These seams mark the extent of a large chimney that once protruded through this wall. The chimney may have been removed when the roof was worked on, as the larger shingles were installed in both a portion of the gable end and the previous location of the chimney mass. The middle, first-floor window has a plain surround with a drip edge at the lintel top; the flanking windows have a beaded surround with a drip edge along the top. The windows on the second and third floors have plain surrounds with a lintel drip edge.

The north elevation is, like the south elevation, a four-bay asymmetrical elevation (see photo 3). The wall is clad with all three types of shingles: round, large rectangular and small rectangular. There are large, rectangular shingles in the upper portion of the eastern half, smaller, rectangular shingles on the lower portion of both halves, and later replacement round-butt shingles on the upper level of the western half. There are two doorways, each of which once led to an addition. The windows beside each of the doorways have plain surrounds with the lintel drip edge. The second floor windows on the western half have window surrounds consisting of a cyma recta ending in a quirk. The small window on the first floor that allows light into the pantry has a beaded surround with a drip lintel edge.

The asymmetrical east elevation has large, rectangular-butt shingles on the upper levels (with one small patch of smaller rectangular shingles along the north edge) and clapboard on the lower level (see photo 2). The clapboard is not consistent across the elevation, however, and may have

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been installed at two different times, or patched for some reason. The second floor windows have nine-over-six sash. At the first-floor level there are two doors. The southern door is a sash door that probably dates from the installation of the porch, while the other door is a six-panel door with clipped corners on the slightly raised fields, which matches several other doors on the first floor level and probably dates from the construction of the eastern half of the house. The single window on the first floor level is a two-over-two sash window with a plain surround that probably dates from the installation of the porch and the clapboard. At the attic level, there are two, six-over-six, double-hung windows. The second and third-floor level window openings probably date to the construction of the eastern half of the house. All of the windows, with the exception of the northern one of the first floor level, have plain surrounds with a drip lintel edge. The surround around the northern door is also plain. This trim probably postdates the door, being contemporary with the installation of the window, clapboard, and porch instead. The removal of the porch has left a very large hole in the elevation.

The exterior of the house is in fair to poor condition due to its vacant state, its most recent move and placement on a structurally inadequate foundation. The house is currently undergoing rehabilitation and has been placed on a new, more appropriate foundation in spring of 2002.

Interior

First Floor

The first floor plan consists of two rooms on either side of a central hallway, with a pantry behind the stairhall.

Room 101: Entry hall

The front entry hall is part of the nineteenth-century, eastern addition. The trim around the doorways is Greek Revival in style, which is consistent with a construction date of c. 1820-1840. Each of the three doors (one into Room 102, room 106, and the exterior main entrance door) has six panels, each exhibiting a slightly raise field with clipped corners (see photo 8). This style of door can also be seen at the former Wardell House, now Shrewsbury Borough Hall, which was constructed c. 1820. The main entrance door is a Dutch door from which all hardware has been removed. There are four lights above a panel in each sidelight. The flooring consists of wide, plain-sawn planks, of random width and tongue-and groove joints. The floor was covered with a carpet that left a one-foot wide border of bare wood around the edge painted light green. A wooden baseboard and chair rail finish the walls. The walls and ceiling are plaster. A mid-to-late-nineteenth century, plaster medallion remains where a light fixture once hung from the ceiling.

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Plaster walls enclose the stairs and a single bead caps the stair stringboard. To the right of the stairs is a set of cabinets. The doors of these cabinets appear to have been recycled from another location. The inside of the cabinet is paneled with beaded board, which is later than the Greek Revival period. The stair hall may have originally run the depth of the house and may have had an open staircase.

Room 102: Front parlor

Located in the oldest portion of the house, the front parlor of the original house has wide plank, random width, tongue-and-groove flooring, patched at the location of the original fireplace. The walls and ceiling are plaster over mud and straw infill, except for the eastern wall, which has been infilled with brick nogging. The plaster along the west wall was replaced with wallboard in the 1950s when the house was moved the first time and the current fireplace was built (see photo 6). The ceiling plaster around the current chimney is patched, as the original chimney was larger in size. This room has a taller baseboard than in the entry hall and appears to date from the late nineteenth century. There is no chair rail or cornice in this room.

Two of the three doorways in the room have Greek Revival trim: the one leading to the entrance hall, and the one in the middle of the north wall. The third doorway, which is also located in the north wall, is a much narrower and lower door, and is trimmed with moulding which matches that of the north wall, second floor, westernmost bays (a cyma recta and a quirk bead). There are also three windows in the room. The two, south wall windows have two-over-two, double-hung sash with clipped-corner, paneled aprons beneath, like the door panels (see photo 5). The moulding around these two windows is not the same as the Greek Revival door trim. It may be contemporary with the baseboard moulding. The west wall window contains six-over-six double-hung sash and has the same trim as the south wall windows, but does not have the apron beneath. The ceiling was wired for a ceiling fixture at one time and also has a heat exchange grate.

A curious detail in this room is in the southern wall, where a lintel is located between the two windows (see photo 5). It is tied into two of the upright timbers creating what appears to have been an opening at one time. Perhaps this was the original front entrance to the oldest section of the house. Although the exterior of the posts have notches for shingle nailers, the interiors of the posts do not have notches for the horizontal staves seen in the remainder of the house.

Room 103: Back parlor

Possibly the back parlor of the original house, this room has wide plank flooring and plaster walls over mud and straw. Below the windows, the plaster is over brick nogging, which may be original but probably dates to the later alteration of the windows. This room's trim is different

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from that of the front parlor (Room 102). The baseboard is the same as in the entry hall, but the chair rail has a simpler profile. In the east wall is an outline of a doorway that was closed up when the eastern half of the house was built (see photo 7). The two, west wall windows have nine-over-six, double-hung sash. Between these windows, the horizontal staves, which hold the mud and straw in place, are nailed to the uprights rather than notched in. The staves are attached using hand-made, wrought iron nails. The north wall window has two-over-one double-hung sash. One or more of these sash are twentieth-century replacements. These three windows and the doorway in the middle of the south wall all have the same, undistinguished trim that probably dates from the middle to late nineteenth century. The doorway in the north wall, which once led to the northwest addition, may have been converted from a window. The door is a four-panel door with a plain surround like that around the door and window on the exterior of the east elevation, indicating that it too may have been installed during the late nineteenth century.

Room 104: Pantry

It is possible that the c. 1820-1840 stair hall may have originally run the depth of the house and may have had an open staircase. This would make the pantry a later alteration to the c. 1820-1840 addition. The pantry has undergone several alterations, as can be seen by the use of later, smaller studs and brick nogging. The floor is uneven and composed of several layers of linoleum over a wood floor. The east and north walls have a plain 5" high baseboard. The south, north and east walls are plaster over brick nogging, as is the wall around the doorway into Room 103. The ceiling is plaster. A single shelf is located beneath the four-light awning window on the north wall. The east wall of the former basement stair is vertical beaded board. Another beaded-board partition divides the "L"-shaped plan into two sections. A cabinet, which may have been recycled from another location, was added to the south wall. The doorways to Room 103 and the basement have plain surrounds, while that into Room 105 has a Greek Revival surround. The window, which may be early twentieth century, also has a plain surround.

Room 105: Kitchen

Most recently used as a kitchen, this room has been altered in many ways. The floor is covered with vinyl sheet flooring, the walls and ceiling are wallboard, and a soil stack and plumbing chase run up the wall in the northwest corner. A stovepipe was once located along the north wall. A plain baseboard was added at the time the wallboard was installed. There are two, two-over-two, double-hung sash windows: one on the north wall, and one on the east wall. Both have plain surrounds with the exception of rounded edges on the stools. The north window also has beaded trim. Of the four doors in the room (one per wall), three are six-panel Greek Revival doors with clipped corner fields (see photo 8). The north-wall door, which once led to an addition, has four panels, which again is consistent with a late nineteenth-century alteration. All the door mouldings are plain except for the one in the west wall. The west-wall door has Greek

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Revival trim, matching that of the entrance hall. In addition to a stove, the room has a sink in the northwest corner, a radiator for heat, and a ceiling fixture.

Room 106: Dining room

Located in the southeast corner of the house, the former dining room has a modern 2 ½" wide board, tongue-and-groove floor over the original floor, a plain baseboard and a shoe moulding. The walls are plaster and the wallboard ceiling is trimmed with a small cornice. A twentieth-century window bay was created along the south wall with an arched opening cut into the existing wall (see photo 9). The top of the arch is lined with beaded board. There are three one-over-one windows in the bay with early twentieth-century trim. There are three doorways into the room: the doorways in the west and north walls have six-panel, Greek Revival doors with matching trim. The use of lath in the eastern half of the north wall and the modern wood framing around the north door indicate that the door and its trim may have been moved from their original location in the eastern half of the wall to their current position in the western half of the wall. The reason for this move is probably related to the previous kitchen's appliance layout. A nineteenth-century mantel, which has cut nails and appears to be vernacular Greek Revival, was attached to the north wall. It may have been the mantel for the fireplace that at one time was located along the east wall. Currently, there is an early twentieth-century, four-light-over-one panel sash door. This room was also outfitted with a ceiling light fixture and two radiators.

Second floor

The second floor plan consists of a central hallway with four rooms to the west and two rooms to the east.

Room 201: Second floor hall

The second floor hall has a wide plank, tongue-and-groove wood floor with a 5" high, beaded baseboard. The walls are plaster, but the ceiling is clad with masonite panels trimmed with wood battens (a mid-1920s feature), most likely applied directly over the original plaster. The stair rail has square balusters and a simple handrail. The newel post at the top of the stairs slopes inward toward the top and has chamfered corners. Doorways open off the hallway into Rooms 202, 203, 204, 206, the attic, and 208. Each of these doorways, except the one to 208, have a plain surround with a bead on the inner edge of the trim. Each of the five doors is different. The door opening into Room 202 was at one time a large, seven-panel door of an unusual panel configuration, and was probably a first floor door, perhaps from this house. The door has been cut down to fit the doorway and has been hung upside down. There are no markings however, of where the original latch hardware was located. The door does have original H-L hinges with leather clinches. The doors to Rooms 203 and 204 are both four-panel Victorian era doors. The

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one to Room 203 has decorative Victorian hinges. The side facing the hall has moulding on the recessed panels, while the side with the raised panels faces the room. The door to Room 204 lacks the decorative hinges and the moulding on the side with the recessed panels, which again faces the hall. The door to 206 is a large, board-and-batten door with wrought iron rosehead nails. This door would also originally have been located on the first floor of a house, probably an exterior door but not the front door, because it is so utilitarian. The door to the attic is also board-and-batten but not as old as the other board-and-batten door. Lastly, the door to Room 208 is a two-panel Georgian door that has been cut down to fit the doorway. The door surround matches that on both sides of the door into Room 207. The single, north-wall window in the hallway is a six-over-six, double-hung sash window with the same surround as the majority of the doors. The hall was heated by a radiator and lit by a bell-shaped ceiling fixture.

Room 202

Room 202 has been partially refinished with modern materials and has had a bathroom created out of the northwest corner of the room. The linoleum floor has a 6" high baseboard trimmed with shoe moulding, with the same shoe moulding used as a cap. The walls are plaster, but the ceiling has the same masonite panels as the hall. The bathroom, which includes a sink, tub and toilet, has the same finishes as the rest of the bedroom. There is one nine-over-six, double-hung sash window in the east wall, and a second one in the bathroom on the north wall. Both have plain trim with a single bead along the inner edge. The east wall window has a heavy stool and another single bead along the bottom apron edge. The window extends above the level of the ceiling. The hall door has the same trim as the windows. The bathroom door is a single-panel door with plain trim. The doorless closet has a plain surround. The bedroom has a radiator and both the bedroom and bathroom have ceiling fixtures for light.

Room 203

Finishes in Room 203 include plaster walls and ceiling, and a linoleum floor with a 5" plain baseboard. The east wall has a plain-trimmed, nine-over-six double-hung sash, with a bead along the inner edge, while the south-wall window is nine-over-nine, with 1" wide trim, a heavy stool, and no apron. Both windows are taller than the ceiling. Along the north wall is a four-panel closet door with a plain surround. The plain-trimmed door to the hall, in the west wall, is also four-panel, with a bead along the inner edge. The room has a radiator and ceiling light fixture.

Room 204

Room 204 spans the two sections of the house, with a dividing point expressed by plain pilasters and a plaster-clad, ceiling beam (see photo 10). The wood floor is laid up of wide, random-width,

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tongue-and-groove planks. The walls are plaster, except for some replacement wallboard in the south wall. The south wall window is the same as that in Room 203, with nine-over-nine, double-hung sash, a 1" wide surround and a heavy stool, but it also has an apron with a heavy bead on it. The window extends above the height of the ceiling. The north-wall, hall door has plain trim with a bead along the inner edge. The doorless closet opening has plain trim. The baseboard along the inside of the closet has a single bead cap. The west-wall door, which leads to Room 205, is another two-panel Georgian door that has been cut down to fit the doorway (see photo 10). The trim is plain. This room has a radiator and a ceiling light fixture.

Room 205

Located in the southwest corner of the house, Room 205 has original wood flooring, patched where fireplace alterations have occurred in the west wall, and trimmed with a 5" single bead baseboard. The walls are plaster over mud and brick nogging, with some fiberboard patching, especially around the modern chimney area and on parts of the south wall, where plaster may have been damaged during the first move. The ceiling is nineteenth-century plaster and lath. The two windows in the south wall are nine-over-nine, double-hung sash windows finished in 1" trim with a bead along the inner edge. The plain-trimmed doorways have a bead along the inner edge. The closet door is a three-panel Georgian door; the door to Room 206 is a six-panel Georgian door that has been cut down to fit the doorway (see photo 11). While this door may have been a first floor door at one time, it does not exhibit many layers of paint, so it may have been an interior door, or may have been moved to the second floor early on. The window located in the closet is a nine-over-nine, double-hung sash window finished in plain trim with a bead along the inner edge. The heat source for this room appears to have been a wood stove, which has been removed. The room has the same hanging light fixture as Rooms 203 and 204.

Room 206

Room 206 is an east-west hallway located between rooms 205 and rooms 207-208 (see photo 11). The wide plank, tongue-and-groove flooring is finished with a beaded, 5" baseboard. The walls and ceiling are plaster. The door trim to Rooms 201 and 205 is plain with a bead along the inner edge, while the trim around the door to Room 207 is like that around the door to Room 208. A three light transom in the west wall admits light from the window in the closet. This hallway predates the c. 1820-1840 eastern expansion of the house. There is evidence of a door in the north wall of the hall leading to Room 208. The only other opening in Room 208 is a door leading to the central hallway that was created by the eastern addition. The earlier door was closed up when the addition was constructed.

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Grover House
Middletown Twp., Monmouth County, NJ

Room 207

Room 207 is a bedroom located in the northwest corner of the house (see photo 12). It is finished with tongue-and-groove wood flooring, and plaster walls and ceiling. The door into the room is a two-panel Georgian door with leather clinches on the hinges. The single window in the room has nine-over-nine, double-hung sash and the same trim as the windows in Room 205, but without the stool. The trim appears to be hand-planed with slender, square, hand-cut nails. Like the other second floor windows, the window extends above the nineteenth-century ceiling. Through the exposed lath on the ceiling, where the plaster has failed, one can see that the ceiling joists are dressed and painted, indicating that at one time they were exposed. It is possible that the plaster ceiling was added throughout the house after the major c. 1820-1840 expansion, as a way of unifying both sections of the house. The plaster lath exhibits marks of a circular saw, which came into widespread use at the same time as the construction of the eastern addition.

Room 208

The heavily-patched, wide, tongue-and-groove floorboards are trimmed with a 4" high baseboard ending in a thick cap bead. The walls and ceiling are plaster, and there is a single, nine-over-nine, double-hung sash window in the north wall with a 1" wide surround and a beaded stool, but no apron. The hall door has plain trim with a bead along the inner edge. There does not appear to be a source of heat for this room, but it does have a ceiling light fixture. Prior to the construction of the eastern addition, this room was entered through a door in the hall (Room 206).

Attic

The division between the two halves of the building is evident in the construction of the attic (see photos 13, 14). The eastern half has lapped, mortised and pegged rafters (see photo 14), while the western half, which was altered at some time either during or after the construction of the eastern half, has a ridge board (see photo 13). In addition, the western rafters were apparently altered when the roofline was altered, resulting in empty collar tie mortise holes and changes to the bird mouth angles where the rafters bear on the wall plates. Another indication that the rafters were altered is the presence of spaced nailers along the outer edge of the two end pairs of rafters in the western section. The lath supporting the current shingles on the west wall is not held in place by these nailers. Some of the rafters on both sides are sistered and a line of post and lintel supports has been added across most of both sides. The posts, however, are not bearing on joists in most cases, but on the floorboards. The plaster reaches all the way to the wall plate in the western half, indicating that the joists were originally exposed to the rooms below. A patch in the solid board sheathing on the east side coincides with the location of a chimney seen in a historic photo. The solid board sheathing suggests that the roof alteration may have occurred when slate was installed. The additional supports may have also been added at

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Section Number 7 Page 11

Grover House
Middletown Twp., Monmouth County, NJ

this time to compensate for the additional weight of the slate. The finished second story walls are exposed above the existing ceiling lath, indicating that the anchorbeams were originally meant to be exposed. Further evidence of this is the original blue gray paint on the underside and sides of the anchorbeams (see photo 15). The floors are wide-plank, tongue-and-groove boards. In the west end is a single, six-over-six, double-hung sash window; in the east end are two windows of the same type.

Basement

The existing basement is a new, cinderblock-on-slab foundation, with internal pilasters and piers designed to support the load of the relocated house. The framing consists of large, hand-hewn rectangular joists in the southwest corner, and smaller, partially hewn joists in the southeast corner and across most of the north side, some of which still retain bark. The joists in the northeast corner have been replaced with vertically-sawn joists. The sill has been patched in some areas and is in poor condition or completely missing in several places. Weak and missing areas have recently been replaced with a new sill plate. Much of the first floor framing has deteriorated due to rot, insect damage and other problems, relating to the two moves experienced by the house.

The difference in the framing between the southwest corner and the remainder of the house suggests the possibility that the original house was comprised of only the southwest corner, a one-room house which would be approximately 17' x 21' in dimension. Another interpretation may be that only the south room was over a full basement and the north room was over a crawlspace, thus the framing in the north section did not need to be finished in the same manner. Whatever its original form, by 1798, when the house was assessed for taxes, it was two rooms deep and two stories high with a separate kitchen.

Site

The Grover House is located in a wooded area on the north side of West Front Street in Stevenson Park, Middletown, New Jersey. A large site to accommodate the house was cleared and a driveway constructed on the east side of the property. The house is separated from the remainder of the park by trees. The area immediately around the house is presently a construction site and is mostly dirt and gravel. The current, southern orientation of the house probably matches its original orientation.

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Section Number 8 Page 1

Grover House
Middletown Twp., Monmouth County, NJ

Statement of Significance

The Grover House is one of a very few remaining eighteenth-century houses that embody a two-story Dutch frame, and, built about 1730, it may be the oldest such house in Monmouth County. The house also employed round-butt shingles as cladding, an early method of cladding that was popular among Dutch families in Monmouth County and was once seen in many of the better houses, but has become rare. The house still possesses many of its original round-butt shingles, and some replacements, and it also still contains some of its wattle-and-daub infill material, an ancient but still common method in eighteenth-century New Jersey of filling the interstices of a wall for greater warmth and solidity. This combination of features makes the Grover House architecturally significant within Monmouth County. In addition, although no Criterion B argument is being made, the house remains important to Middletown Township as the home for about two hundred and fifty years of a line of descendants of James Grover (d. 1685), one of the most important figures of the first two decades of Middletown's history. The house meets Criterion C for its architectural significance, and it qualifies for Register listing under Criteria Consideration B as a moved building that is important primarily for architectural significance.

James Grover was one of the original settlers of Monmouth County. He moved from Gravesend, Long Island around 1664, after the English took New Amsterdam from the Dutch. On April 8, 1665, Governor Nicolls of New York conveyed the Monmouth or Navesink Patent to "some of the Inhabitants of Gravesend, upon Long-Island" (Wacker 1975: 250). The twelve patentees had already purchased, with Nicolls's consent and approval, the land of the local Native Americans, and the Sachems had appeared before Governor Nicolls to acknowledge the purchase (Wacker 1975: 250). The original patentees were to each receive five hundred acres with an additional 120 acres for each member of the family and sixty acres for each servant. The patentees settled principally at Middletown and Shrewsbury but also at Portland Point (Highlands of Navesink). Middletown village was laid out by December of 1667 and consisted of thirty-six home lots and thirty-six out lots adjacent. Nearby meadow lots were laid out in the following two years (Wacker 1975: 251).

The Middletown Town Book records in its first list of outlots the designation of lot #15 for James Grover Senior and #25 for James Grover, Junior. In its preceding list of the homelots of Middletown, it lists both #16 and #36 as belonging to James Grover without identifying which, father or son. In a later entry, James Grover, Senior, exchanged lot #16 for upland where he agreed to maintain a mill. The senior Grover, in addition to his post as town miller, was town surveyor and a holder of a number of town appointments (Jelliffe 1982: 34). He was also the first tavern keeper in Monmouth County. The land where the Grover House stands was part of a tract of 330 acres which Governor Carteret granted in 1676 to James Grover on the Swimming River

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Section Number 8 Page 2

Grover House
Middletown Twp., Monmouth County, NJ

and which Grover referred to as "Grover's Inheritance" (Stillwell 1914: 254; Strong 1998: n.p.). It was on this tract of land that the Grover House was built and where Grover's descendants lived until the death of Anna Lum in 1983.

James Grover (I), the original patentee, died in 1685, leaving his estate to his son Joseph Grover (I), who died in 1689. Joseph's son was his heir, James Grover (II), who died in 1752. According to a tradition that descended in the Grover family, it was this James Grover who built the oldest part of the house around 1730 (McCafferty 2001; Stillwell 1914: 254-270). Little is known about this James Grover. He was born in Middletown in 1679, married Mary Tilton in 1717, and died in Middletown in 1752. He was a constituent member of the Baptist Church at Middletown, and served as a Freeholder in 1714. He had at least five children: James (III), who inherited his Middletown property, Joseph (II) (born 1720) who moved to Cream Ridge in Upper Freehold, Sylvanus (born 1736), Hanna and Rebeccah. When James (II) died in 1752, the property passed to his son, James Grover (III). James (III) was married to Mary Stout. He died wealthy but childless in 1802. He willed the property to James Grover (IV), the great-grandson of Joseph Grover (II), who was the younger brother of James (III), leaving him 500 acres plus the homestead.

James Grover (IV) was born in Plainsboro in 1796. His parents were Joseph Grover, and Ruth Covenhoven, who was of Dutch ancestry. Because he was a small child when he inherited the property, the farm was rented to a tenant farmer, and the proceeds were paid to the Monthly Meeting of the Friends of Shrewsbury (Strong 1998: n.p.). This payment was specified in the will of his benefactor uncle, James Grover (III), who was a Quaker. James (IV) could only inherit his uncles' property if he married (Will of James Grover, Liber 40, Folio 48). Upon reaching the age of majority, James (IV) moved his family to Middletown, to the Grover family home, in 1817. By this time, James (IV) was already married to Deborah Vorhees of Dutch Neck, and they had one child, James Clark Grover (V). After their move to Middletown, they had another eleven children, which could have been the motivation to expand the small house (children number six and seven were born in 1828 and 1830, respectively). Of their twelve children, only two died in infancy. James Grover was a prosperous farmer and an active participant in Middletown affairs. In 1840, he was elected to the New Jersey Legislature as a Whig (Red Bank Register 12/2/1884).

James Grover's (IV) eldest son, James Clark Grover (V), purchased the family home in 1844, two years after his marriage to Rachel Stilwell Smith. His father, James Grover (IV) continued to live on Front Street in Red Bank, until his death in 1884 (Red Bank Register 12/2/1884). James Clark Grover (V) also had a large family with ten children. Only one died in infancy. The youngest of these ten children was Effie, born in 1865. She remained in the house after the death of her father in 1873. Effie married Charles Lum, from Sandusky, Ohio in 1885, and had two children, Anna and Floyd Lum. Effie died in 1953. Anna never married and remained in the family home until her death in 1983 at 95 years of age.

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Section Number 8 Page 3

Grover House
Middletown Twp., Monmouth County, NJ

The Grover house was slated for demolition when part of the Grover tract was condemned to build the Garden State Parkway in 1953. Apparently, it was located in the way of the Exit 109 interchange. The last generation of Grovers to live in the house, Anna and Floyd, unsuccessfully fought the Highway Authority to save their farm. The state took 44 acres and cut the property in such a way that it was tendered useless for farming. The Lums managed to save the house by moving it to an adjacent property they owned. After it was moved, the house remained in private ownership as a farmhouse until the death of Anna Lum, in 1983. She was murdered in the house when she surprised a burglar ransacking the house. The house has been vacant since that time. In 1996, the house was moved a second time when approval was granted for a subdivision on the property, threatening it with demolition again. The exterior of the house is currently being restored. The Grover House will eventually be used as a Visitor's Center for Stevenson Park.

In its current configuration, the Grover House is a variation of a double pile, center-hall plan, evolving in two principal stages, c. 1730 and c. 1820-1840, with other minor modifications completed at different times. The house is a rare surviving example of two-story, Dutch timber framing, and the use of round-butt shingles, a wall cladding once common to grander, eighteenth-century houses in Monmouth County. In addition to its significance for its cladding materials and its association with the Grover family, the house is significant because of the increasing rarity of Dutch-framed houses in the area.

Family history dates the construction of the western part of the house to c. 1730, and the ownership of James Grover (II) (McCafferty 2001). This is supported by architectural evidence. The footprint of the oldest part of the house is similar to that of the deep East Jersey cottage, a two room deep building either one or two rooms wide. The original, c. 1730-house section is a two-story, two-room deep, one room wide cottage. These cottages were usually one-and-one-half stories high, not two stories typically, making the Grover house an exception. The 1798 Federal Direct Tax assessment conducted by Elias Conover, one of the few such lists that survive from New Jersey, tabulated the occupant and owner of each dwelling in Middletown exceeding \$100 in value. James Grover is listed as the owner of a two-story, wood house, 21' x 30', with nine windows and one kitchen valued at \$940. The dimensions correspond perfectly with the two-bay western section of the house. Gail Hunton, a Monmouth County historic preservation specialist and architectural historian who is currently undertaking an extensive study of Dutch frame buildings in New Jersey, has done extensive research on the Federal Direct Tax of 1798 as it applied to Middletown. A total of 358 houses were assessed in 1798. Of these 358 houses, only 15.5% were two-story houses (84.5% were either one or one-and-one-half stories, as described by the assessor). Therefore in 1798, only a very small percentage of existing houses in Middletown were two stories in height. Most Dutch houses in central New Jersey were one and one-half stories in height. The fact that the Grover House is a two-story, Dutch timber-frame house makes

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Grover House
Middletown Twp., Monmouth County, NJ

the house rare (Hunton, Monmouth County Parks System: 2002). It is not clear why a farmer of English descent would have built a Dutch frame house. Because the Grover family was from Gravesend, Long Island, where there was a long history of Dutch and English intermingling, it is possible that the Grovers adapted Dutch building techniques for their own use. It is also possible that James Grover hired a Dutch carpenter to frame the house. The largest concentration of Monmouth County Dutch residents, Pleasant Valley (Holmdel), was located very near the Grover farm.

The use of round-butt shingles on the oldest part of the house is another early construction method common to eighteenth-century Monmouth County; few surviving examples remain. While such shingling was not exclusively practiced in Monmouth County, it is seldom found outside of Monmouth County today. The round-butt shingles are a decorative element, and are considered a finer finish on grander houses. Although used on other mid-eighteenth century houses in Monmouth County that are not Dutch, the prevalence of round-butt shingle cladding among the Dutch houses is so great, that Gail Hunton has characterized the technique as being Dutch-influenced. Round-butt shingles can be seen on other Dutch houses in Long Island, Staten Island and Brooklyn. They can be seen on the 1753 Burrowes Mansion in Matawan, an English house built by a Dutch carpenter, and on the 1752 Covenhoven house in Freehold, built for a Dutch family by an English carpenter (Hammond 1980: n.p.). Hunton believes that the technique first appears around 1740, but it is also seen on the John Welling House in Pennington, which was completed between 1700 and 1733 (HABS NJ-409: 1937).

Sometime after the 1798 Federal Direct Tax was tabulated, most likely around 1820-1840, the house was doubled in size with a full, two-story, two bay addition on the eastern side. This date is based on the decorative Greek Revival millwork in the house, which matches that of the c. 1820, Wardell House in Shrewsbury. The date is further confirmed by the fact that James Grover did not move to the house until 1817. Between 1802, when his uncle and benefactor died, and when he reached the age of majority, the house was rented out and the proceeds given to the Monthly Meeting of the Shrewsbury Friends. It is unlikely that the house would have been expanded during this time. It is likely that James Grover (IV), who upon moving from Plainsboro to Middletown proceeded to have a dozen children with all but two reaching the age of majority, expanded the house.

The construction of the addition matched that of the original section, with the same heavy post and beam construction as the original western section. Although it is considered late for Dutch framing, the James Grover (IV) who inherited the house was half-Dutch (his mother was a Covenhoven from Plainsboro) and his wife Debra was from the Dutch Vorhees family of Dutch Neck, Mercer County. There were still Dutch residents in Pleasant Valley nearby. The addition created a Georgian style house with a more symmetrical façade and a center hall. The addition of

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Grover House
Middletown Twp., Monmouth County, NJ

the eastern bays necessitated the rearrangement of internal spaces and the updating of the western section. The Greek Revival millwork that characterized the new section, was also added to the older section to modernize it. The house was again modernized in the early twentieth century with the addition of porches, the bay window on the south façade and most likely the rearrangement of the kitchen.

In January 1996, the New Jersey State Historic Preservation Office recognized the Grover House for its architectural significance by issuing a Certification of Eligibility (Guzzo 1996). The New Jersey Historic Trust confirmed this finding by giving the Grover House a grant for the restoration of the exterior. The Grover House is an important architectural element in the richness and variety of New Jersey's surviving historical landscape. Although not in its original agricultural setting, the preservation of the house is significant for future generations.

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Section Number 9 Page 1

Grover House
Middletown Twp., Monmouth County, NJ

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Section Number 9 Page 2

Grover House
Middletown Twp., Monmouth County, NJ

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Continuation Sheet**

Section Number 10 Page 1

Grover House
Middletown Twp., Monmouth County, NJ

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property consists of only the Grover House, located at 940 West Front Street Middletown.

Verbal Boundary Justification

Due to the fact that the house has been moved twice, and has no land associated with the original house, only the house itself is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

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Section Number Photographs Page 1

Grover House
Middletown Twp., Monmouth County, NJ

Photographs

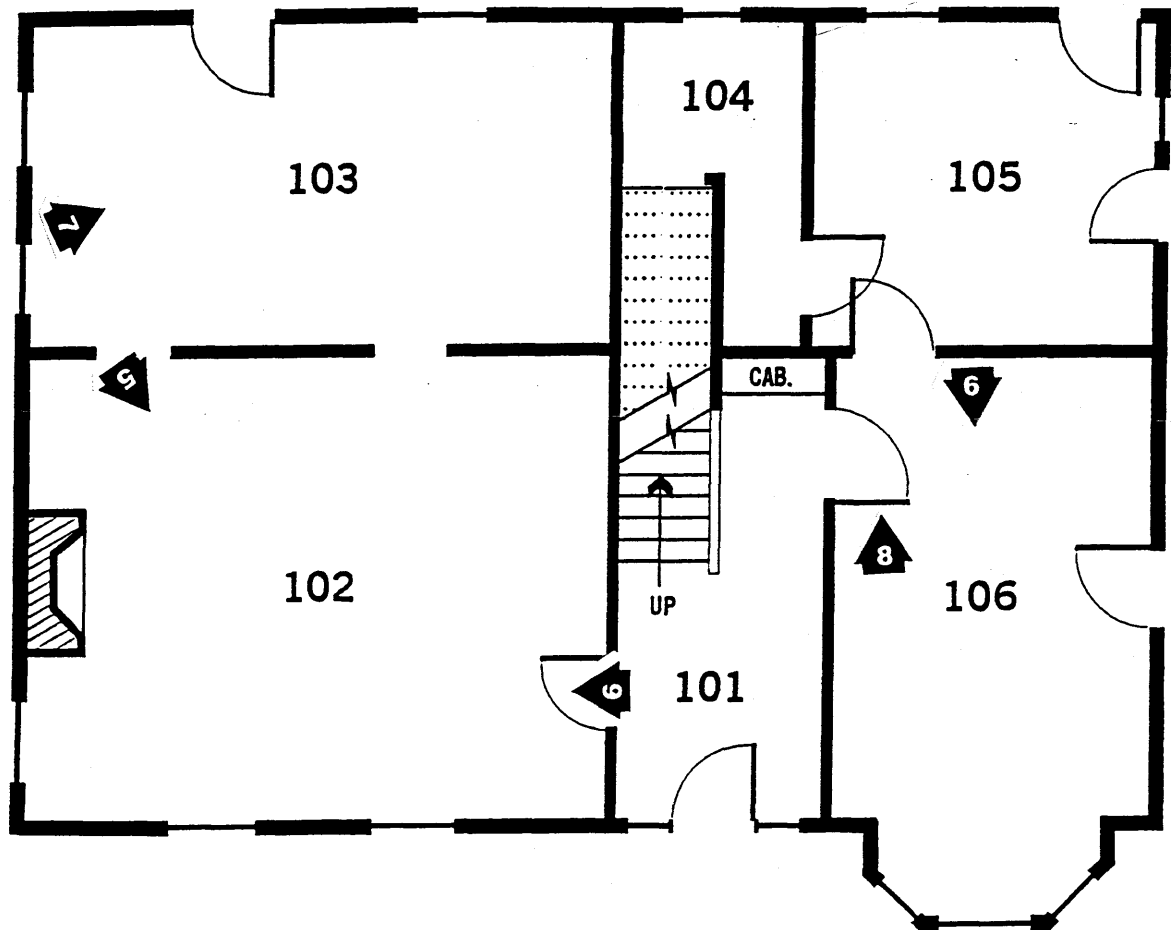
The following information is the same for all the photographs listed:

- 1). Name of property: Grover House
- 2). City and state: Middletown, New Jersey
- 3) Photo by: Ulana Zakalak
- 4) Photo taken: April 24, 2002
- 5) Location of negative: Zakalak Associates
 57 Cayuga Avenue
 Oceanport, NJ 07757
- 6) & 7) Descriptions of views indicating direction of camera:

- Photo 1 of 15: South elevation, view looking northeast.
- Photo 2 of 15: East elevation, view looking west.
- Photo 3 of 15: North elevation, view looking south.
- Photo 4 of 15: West elevation, view looking northeast.
- Photo 5 of 15: Room 102, view looking southeast.
- Photo 6 of 15: Room 102, view looking west.
- Photo 7 of 15: Room 103, view looking northeast.
- Photo 8 of 15: Door into kitchen, room 105, view looking north.
- Photo 9 of 15: Room 106, south wall, view looking south.
- Photo 10 of 15: Room 204, view looking southwest.
- Photo 11 of 15: Room 206, view looking northwest.
- Photo 12 of 15: Room 207, view looking northwest.
- Photo 13 of 15: Attic, view looking southwest.
- Photo 14 of 15: Attic, view looking northeast.
- Photo 15 of 15: Attic, view looking north.

Interior

■ First Floor



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

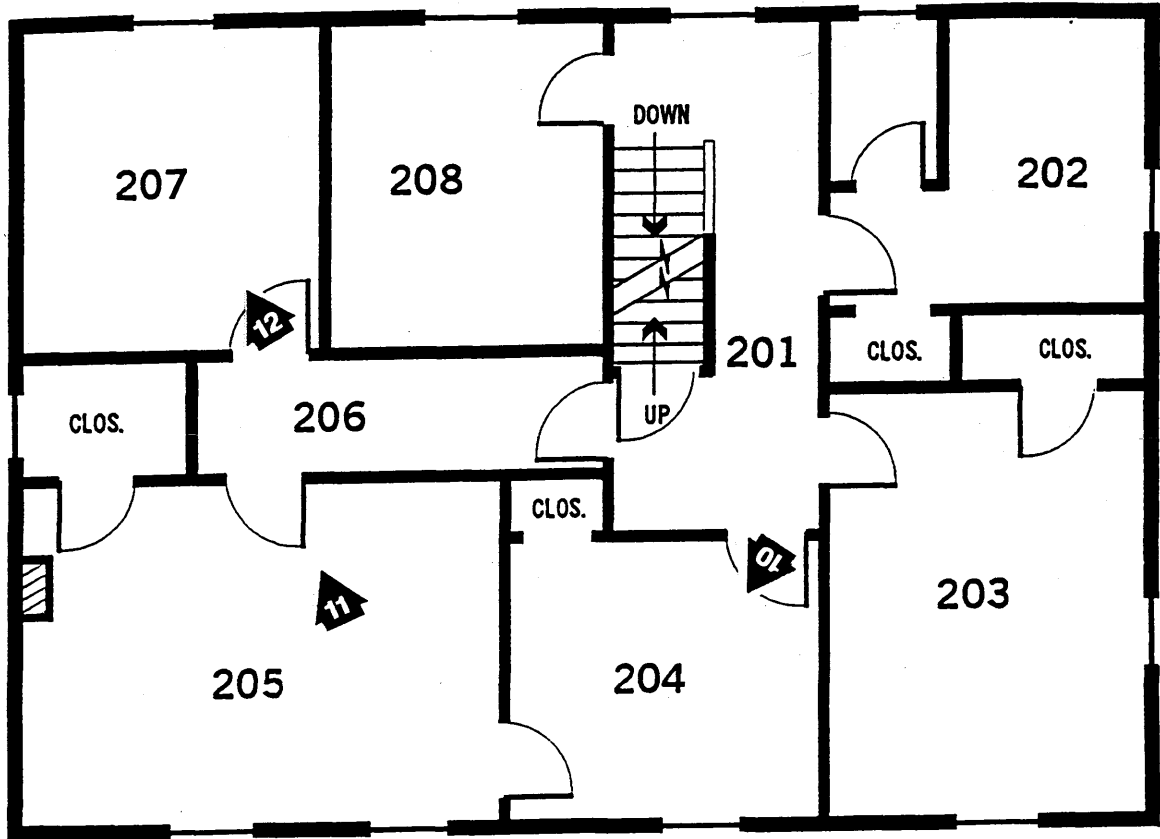
NOT TO SCALE



Grover House
Middletown, Monmouth County, New Jersey
Photo Locator Map 1 of 2

Plan provided courtesy of Westfield Architects
from the Grover House Adaptive Reuse Plan
June 1988

■ Second Floor



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

NOT TO SCALE



**Grover House
Middletown, Monmouth County, New Jersey
Photo Locator Map 2 of 2**

**Plan provided courtesy of Westfield Architects
from the Grover House Adaptive Reuse Plan
June 1988**

S161 NW
(KEYPORT)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

LONG BRANCH QUADRANGLE
NEW JERSEY—MONMOUTH CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

1:586 2 190 000 FEET HIGHLANDS 2.6 MI. 73°58'

74°07'30"
40°22'30"

575000m.E

18 MI. TO INTERCHANGE NO. 11, N.J. TURNPIKE
576 7.4 MI. TO N.J. 36

57 578

4469000m.N

7 MI. TO INTERCHANGE NO. 11

4467

Grover House
Middletown
Monmouth
County, NJ

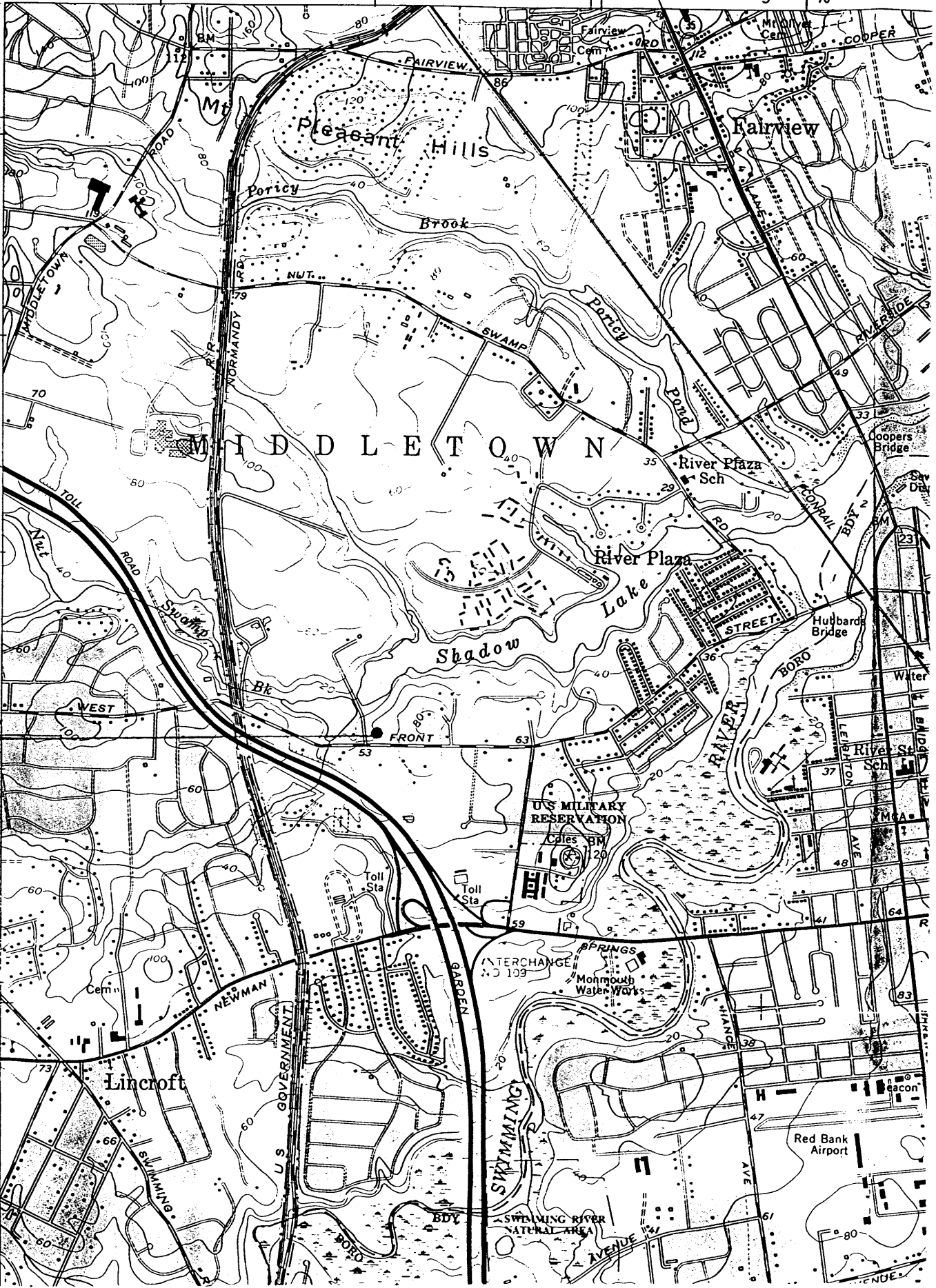
4466

4465

20

4 MI. TO N.J. 36
HOLMDEL 3.4 MI.

4464



4 MI. TO N.J. 36
HOLMDEL 3.4 MI.

4464




Grover House

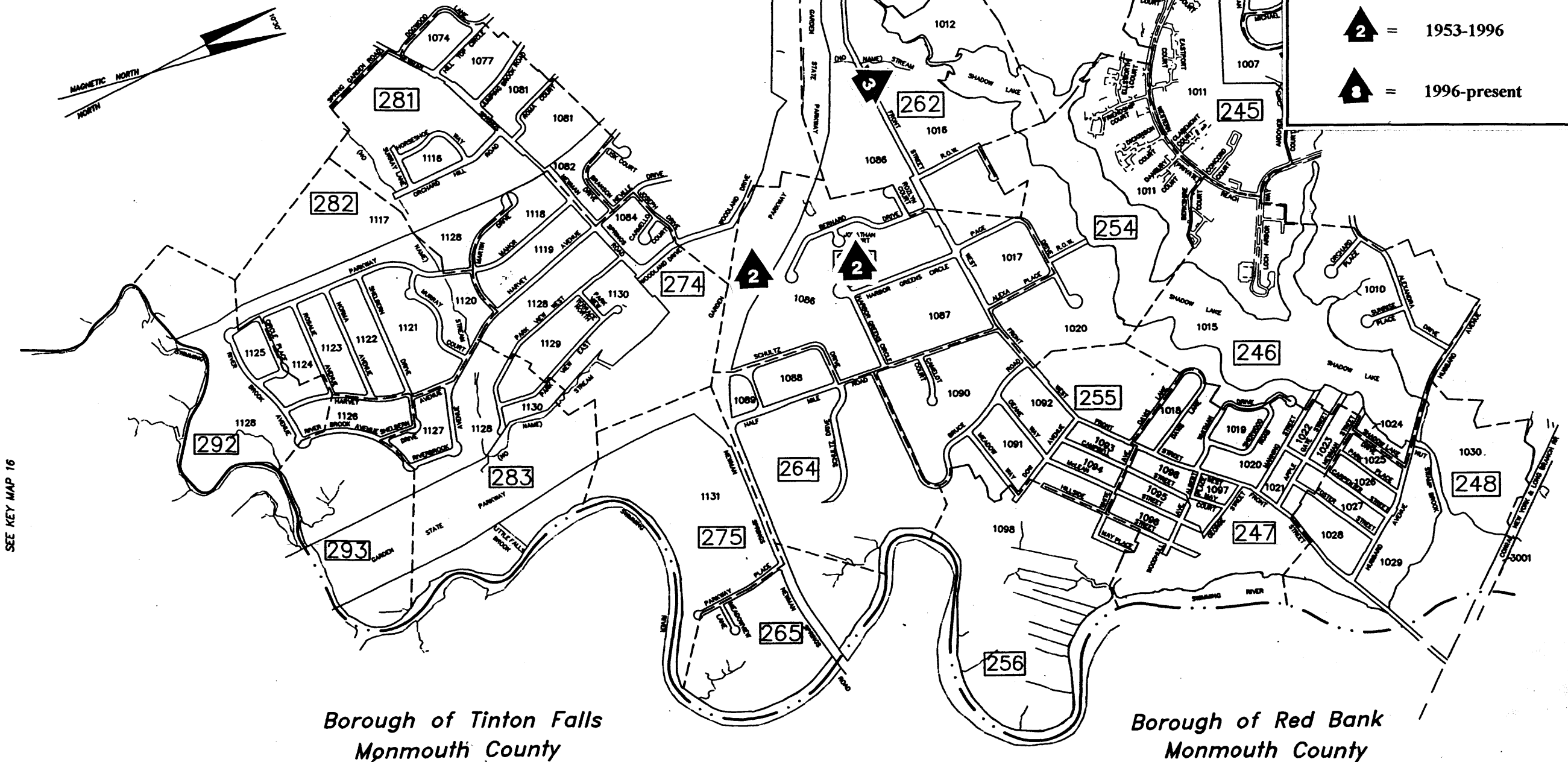
Middletown Township Monmouth Co. NJ

Location Map

SEE KEY MAP 14

Map Showing Locations of Grover House

-  = c. 1730-1953
-  = 1953-1996
-  = 1996-present





SEE KEY MAP 16

SEE KEY MAP 13

Borough of Tinton Falls
Monmouth County

Borough of Red Bank
Monmouth County

LEGEND FOR:

KEY MAP	DETAIL SHEET
 Detail Sheet Number	 Block Number
20 Block Number	20 Lot Number
- - - - - Sheet Limit	————— Township Boundary
————— Block Limit	

To show conditions as of April, 1988

The areas, boundaries, and dimensions shown on this tax map are derived from ground surveys, aerial surveys, and recorded plans, maps, deeds, and wills and are to be used for assessment purposes only.

This tax map supersedes the tax map approved December 31, 1985.

I hereby certify that this map and survey has been made under my immediate supervision, and complies with the laws of the State of New Jersey.

RICHARD M. SCHULZ, P.E., P.L.S. License No. 10597

THIS PLAN REVISED AS NOTED

ORIGINAL APPROVED AS A TAX MAP BY N.J. DIVISION OF TAXATION
DEC. 17, 1992
SERIAL No. 748

TAX MAP
TOWNSHIP OF MIDDLETOWN
MONMOUTH COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
SCALE: 1" = 500'
APRIL, 1988
RICHARD M. SCHULZ, P.E., P.L.S.
T & M ASSOCIATES
11 TINDALL ROAD, MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP
NEW JERSEY, 07748