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INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

1. Name of Property

historic name COL. JOSEPH ELLIS HOUSE

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 1009 Sycamore Street

not for publication N/A

city, town Haddon Heights

vicinity N/A

state New Jersey code NJ - 034 county Camden

code 007

zip code 08035

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private public-local public-State public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s) district site structure object

Number of Resources within Property

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total.

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: Haddon Heights Pre-Revolutionary Houses

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official: [Signature] Date: 2/28/90 Assistant Commissioner for Natural & Historic Resources/DSHPO

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register. determined eligible for the National Register. determined not eligible for the National Register. removed from the National Register. other, (explain:)

[Signature]

9/23/94

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single Dwelling

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single Dwelling

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Georgian

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stonewalls stuccoweatherboardroof asphalt shingleother 

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The Col. Joseph Ellis House is set on an eminence of ground facing south toward Sycamore Street, although early maps indicate that originally it was located at some distance from any roadway. That fact has led to speculation that it may originally have been a dependency of the Hinchman-Lippincott House, a speculation that seems unlikely, though, in that that house originally was smaller and less elegant than the Ellis House. This description will consider first the original house, then its very interesting history of additions and alterations.

The original portion of the house is, rectangular, 2 1/2 stories in height, and constructed of brick over a rubble stone foundation. The front (south) facade is three bays wide and stuccoed, the present layer applied over an earlier one that was scored to resemble ashlar. There is a carefully constructed belt course approximately at the line of the second floor. At the left (west) side of the facade is a small wooden front porch with paired columns and a single-sloped roof, a feature of recent date designed to match a porch shown in a 1910 photograph of the building. The roof is a gable, with ridge parallel to the facade and trimmed with a molded cornice. A chimney is located at the ridge, in the center of the east side. All window frames (three in the second story, two in the first) and the front door frame, in the west bay of the facade, appear to be original. The windows have 6/6 light double hung sash in the second story and 9/6 light sash in the first. All shutters are replacements hung on original pintles.

The rear (north) facade is similar to the front, except that its first story contains only a single window and door, and its second story two windows, not regularly spaced but in careful vertical alignment. The first story is not stuccoed and reveals the common bond brickwork with headers approximately every seventy course. The north entry door is multi-panelled and appears to be a Colonial Revival insertion into the original door frame. A patched area in the brick above the door indicates a former rectangular transom, a feature that would be blocked by the landing of the present stairway within.

The original portion of the house is two rooms deep, the rooms separated by a lateral partition containing back-to-back angled corner fireplaces at the eastern end. In the northwestern corner of this portion of the house is an open stairway, its hall being an extension of the south (front) room.

 See continuation sheet

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G    N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Military

Period of Significance

18th Century

Significant Dates

ca.1760

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Col. Joseph Ellis (ca. 1730-1796)

Architect/Builder

unknown

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

This house derives primary significance as the residence of Joseph Ellis (d. 1796), a political officeholder and important commander of local militia during the Revolution, who played a significant role in the defense of the Delaware Valley during the British occupation of Philadelphia, 1777-1778. Born in Ellisburg, Gloucester (now Camden) County, Ellis married Mary, daughter of Jacob Hinchman, in 1760. The couple lived in this house, and evidently built the main brick section.

Although portions of the house date from a period before Ellis' occupancy, the pre-Ellis history of the house is obscure. Architectural evidence indicates the central frame portion of the house to be older than the main brick portion. There is further indication that it may have been moved to its present alignment from another location, either on this site or another. The house stands on land that belonged to John Hinchman, Sr., then, after his death, to Jacob Hinchman his youngest son. It is thus possible that the earliest portion of the house was built by one of the Hinchmans, either for his own occupancy or as a tenant house or slave quarters for the farm. Whatever the use, the small wooden structure remained subsidiary to the principal house (see Hinchman-Lippincott House National Register Nomination). It had no means of access to a watercourse or to a public road except through the Hinchman farm until the 19th century.

Ellis was an important southern New Jersey figure. His military career began during the Seven Years' War, when he served, in 1758-1759, as captain of a company in Colonel John Johnston's Regiment of New Jersey Provincial Troops, which took part in the Canadian campaign against the French. Recommissioned to his captaincy in 1764, he rose to become Colonel of the Second Regiment of Gloucester County Militia in October 1775. On February 15, 1777 he was commissioned as brigadier general of the New Jersey State Troops, to replace departing general Philemon Dickinson. Although he declined the commission six days later, he remained in command of his Gloucester Militia, serving in many engagements in New Jersey in support of Continental troops. On November 25, 1777, he supported the Marquis de

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

See Multiple Property Documentation Form

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

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:  
Haddon Heights Historic Preservation Commission

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property approximately six-tenths acre

UTM References

A 

1	8	4	9	4	5	8	4	4	4	3	8	6	8
Zone				Easting				Northing					

C 

Zone				Easting				Northing					

B 

Zone				Easting				Northing					

D 

Zone				Easting				Northing					

Camden, NJ Quad

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Block 70, Lot 19, Borough of Haddon Heights, Camden County, New Jersey

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The parcel of land containing the resource. The original land holding has long since been divided into multiple lots.

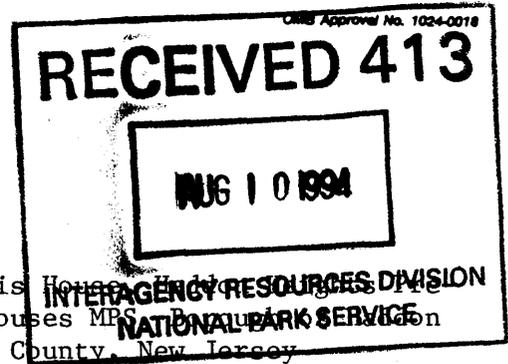
See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Craig Morrison AIA date July 28, 1988  
 organization \_\_\_\_\_ telephone (215) 423-3595  
 street & number 2207 Emerald Street state Pennsylvania zip code 19125  
 city or town Philadelphia

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet



Col. Joseph Ellis Home  
Revolutionary Houses MPS  
Heights, Camden County, New Jersey

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

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

Assistant Commissioner for Natural & Historic Resources/DSHPO

State of Federal agency and bureau

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 2Col. Joseph Ellis House, Haddon Heights Pre-  
Revolutionary Houses MPS, Borough of Haddon  
Heights, Camden County, New Jersey

The stair features delicately turned newels and spindles and has an under-stair partition of multi-panelled design enclosing a small toilet room. Its landing crosses immediately above the head of the north door, blocking its original transom. It would appear that the entire stair was constructed probably in the location of an original enclosed winding stair. Both first floor rooms contain nicely detailed late 18th century mantelpieces.

The two principal rooms on the second floor are separated by an interesting board partition. This feature is unusual in that it has depth and encloses a pair of side-by-side closets opening into the respective rooms. The corner fireplaces in the second story also are nicely detailed and of early period, although expectedly much simpler than those on the main level.

The third floor is an open attic, showing the roof supported by dovetailed king post trusses and containing an original firefighting platform and roof hatches.

To the west of the original house, set back from the front facade and in line with the rear facade, is a one-room rectangular 2 1/2 story frame addition with gable roof parallel to that of the original house. The facade of this portion of the building has a central door and a single second story window. To the east of the door is a small window. The rear elevation is sided with horizontal boards graduated in width from wide at the bottom to narrow at the top. There is a central second story window and a first story plank door (possibly old but altered) and window set toward the left (east) of the facade.

At the basement level the east wall of the portion of the building abuts, but was constructed separately from the west wall of the original house. The first floor has, in its northwest corner, an angled fireplace with a raised brick hearth and, despite its relatively small size, a full complement of 18th century cooking hardware. The framing of the first floor ceiling is exposed, the joists being let into the masonry wall of the fireplace. In the southeast corner, diagonally opposite, though may be seen an original tenoned diagonal framing member, itself giving the appearance of accommodation for a corner fireplace. There is an enclosed

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Col. Joseph Ellis House, Haddon Heights Pre-  
Revolutionary Houses MPS, Borough of Haddon  
Heights, Camden County, New Jersey

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winding stair along the south wall leading to the second floor and another winding stair along the east wall leading to the attic.

In the attic of the central portion of the house one may see the brick of the upper side wall of the original house. This appears to be entirely finished, even in areas where the wood framing members of the central wing abut. It also has, near the floor level, a line of exposed mortar, possibly remaining from flashing of a different addition in this same location.

The fact that all framing members of the central section suggest that it was very early in date has resulted in speculation that it, rather than the east wing, was the original portion of the house. It is suggested here that it indeed is old, but that it was moved from another location and placed against the extant brick building as a ready-made addition. Perhaps it, indeed, was the rumored outbuilding of the Hinchman-Hurley House.

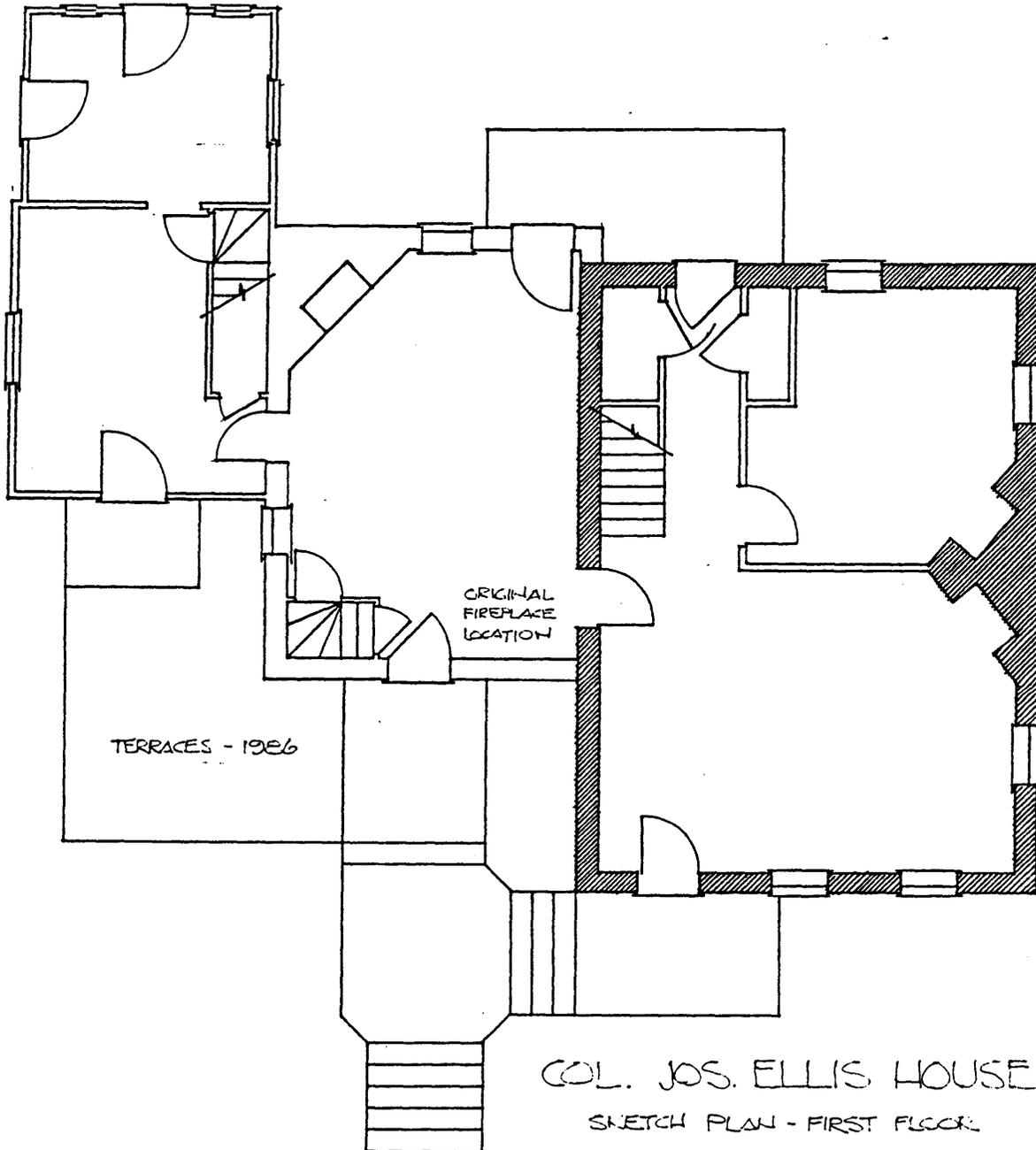
Abutting the west wall of this addition, also set back from the facade but in line with the rear wall, is a second 1 1/2 story addition, this with a shed roof, the sloping edge facing the street. It has a hooded central door and a central second story window. This portion of the building has yet another single story addition projecting from its rear face. Like the central block, this wing is clad with siding in several widths. It has a stuccoed chimney projecting through the rear slope of its roof.

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Col. Joseph Ellis House, Haddon Heights Pre-  
Revolutionary Houses MPS, Borough of Haddon  
Heights, Camden County, New Jersey

Section number 7 Page 4



COL. JOS. ELLIS HOUSE  
SKETCH PLAN - FIRST FLOOR  
ORIGINAL HOUSE ON THIS SITE SHADED

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Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 2Col. Joseph Ellis House, Haddon Heights Pre-  
Revolutionary Houses MPS, Borough of Haddon  
Heights, Camden County, New Jersey

Lafayette in the Battle of Gloucester, a significant success for a small, outnumbered force of Americans facing a group of British pickets and their reinforcements. (McGeorge 1909).

Ellis' political career, too, was outstanding. In 1774 he served on Gloucester County Committees of Correspondence and Observation, and the following year was elected a Gloucester County representative to the New Jersey Provincial Congress. Under the Provincial Congress, he served as a muster master to help organize battalions of troops formed ordered by the Continental Congress. He had a strong attendance record, and voted for the Constitution of New Jersey on July 2, 1776. Evidently, Ellis also served as County Sheriff for a brief time. Later, from 1785 to 1795, he served as Judge of the Gloucester County Court of Common Pleas. The pinnacle of his public career, however, was his service in the state legislature. He represented Gloucester in the New Jersey Assembly in 1778 and in 1781-1785 and, from 1787 through 1794, served in the Legislative Council, predecessor of the New Jersey Senate (McGeorge 1909).

Ellis continued to live in this house until the end of his life. He died in 1796, after which the property passed to his second wife, the former Abigail Clement Blackwood, widow of former Gloucester County Sheriff Samuel Blackwood (McGeorge 1909). She apparently later married Samuel Bloomfield, of Haddonfield, a brother of Revolutionary War general and New Jersey Governor Joseph Bloomfield. Abigail Bloomfield deeded the property to brother-in-law Joseph in 1807, but he never lived there. During the ownership of the Bloomfields, the house evidently was leased. When Joseph Bloomfield sold it two years later, the property was described as "late in the occupation of Moses Burrough."

In 1809, Nathaniel Lippincott bought the property from Bloomfield. Like the adjacent Hinchman-Lippincott farm, it remained in the Lippincott family throughout the 19th century. In 1877 it was still owned by the heirs of Joseph Lippincott (Atlas 1877). In the early 20th century, the Lippincott family subdivided the property for residential housing.

(Research assistance William Leap, Runnemede, New Jersey)

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number Photo Page 1

Col. Joseph Ellis House, Haddon Heights Pre-  
Revolutionary Houses MPS, Borough of Haddon  
Heights, Camden County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHIC INVENTORY

All photographs by Craig Morrison, AIA, July, 1988

Negatives deposited with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Parks and Forestry, Office of New Jersey Heritage, CN 404, Trenton, New Jersey 08625.

- #1 General view of main facade looking north
- #2 General view of rear facade looking south
- #3 First floor interior of central (earliest) block showing fireplace in northwest corner (looking northwest)
- #4 First floor interior of central (earliest) block showing header for fireplace (now removed) in southeast corner (looking southeast)
- #5 Attic interior of central (earliest) block showing finished brick west wall of main block (looking east)
- #6 Attic interior of central (earliest) block showing plaster wall and flashing line on west wall of main block, prior to combination of the two buildings (looking east)
- #7 Attic interior of central (earliest) block showing finished, tooled joints in west wall of main block now abutted by rafters of "earliest" block (looking east)
- #8 First floor interior of main block showing fireplace in northeast corner of southeast room (looking northeast)
- #9 First floor interior of main block showing main stair to second floor (looking northwest)
- #10 Second floor interior of main block showing fireplace and plank wall in northeast corner of southeast room (looking northeast)
- #11 Attic interior of main block showing dovetailed truss members

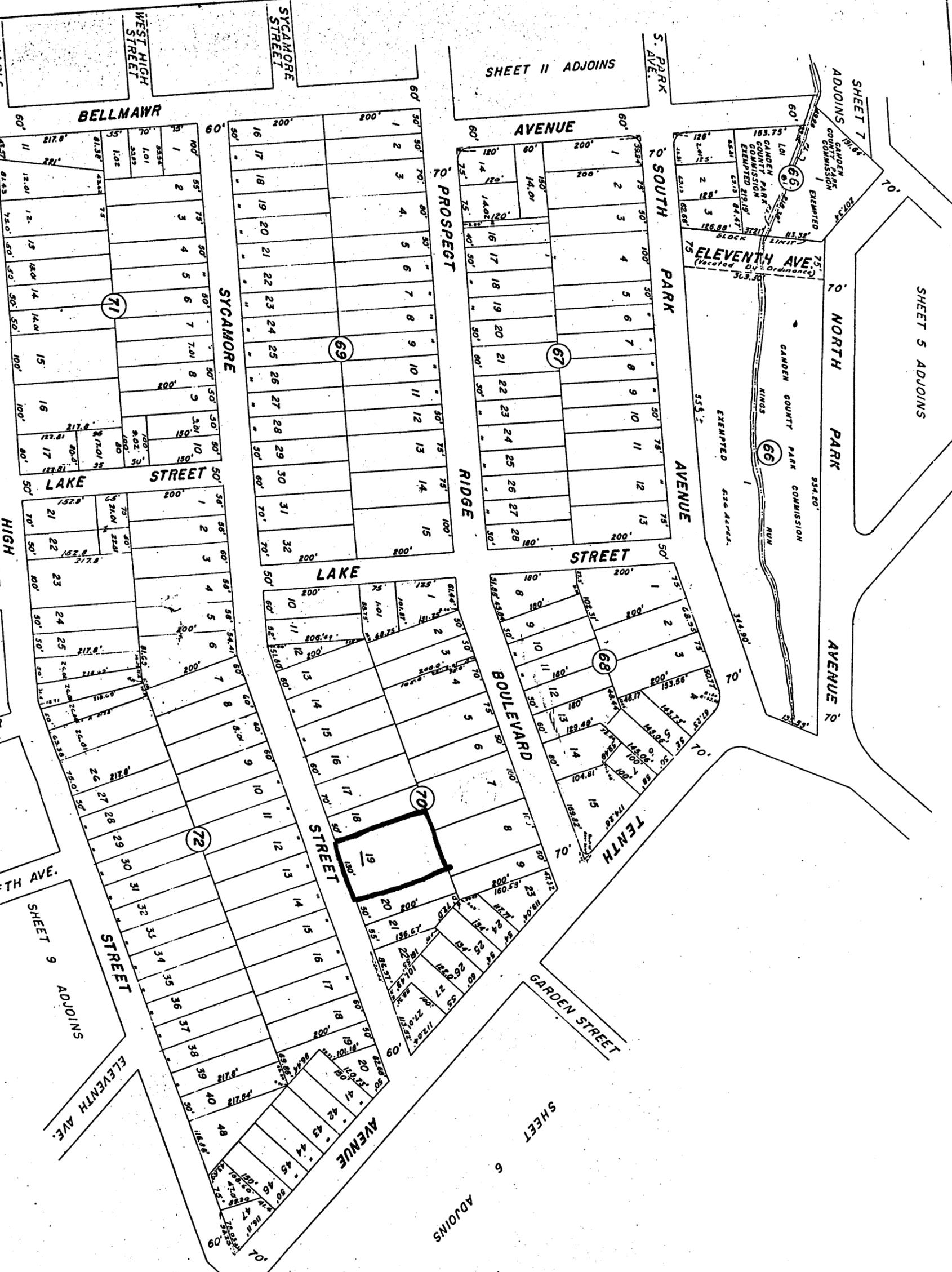
SHEET 9 ADJOINS

SHEET 9 ADJOINS

SHEET II ADJOINS

SHEET 7 ADJOINS

SHEET 5 ADJOINS



GUYER DRIVE  
 TWELFTH AVE.  
 ELEVANTH AVE.  
 NOV 27 1934

RECORDED TO OCT 1, 1915 BY  
 ROBERTSON & JOHNSON  
 BOROUGH ENGINEERS

Revised to Oct. 1, 1934

ROBERTSON & JOHNSON  
 BOROUGH ENGINEERS

BOROUGH OF  
 HADDON HEIGHTS  
 COUNTY OF GARDEN, NEW JERSEY  
 SCALE 1"=100' 1950  
 PLOTTED FROM RECORDS AND SURVEYS  
 BY  
 ROBERTSON & JOHNSON  
 BOROUGH ENGINEERS

Col. Joseph Ellis House  
 Haddon Heights Pre-Revolutionary  
 Houses MPS

