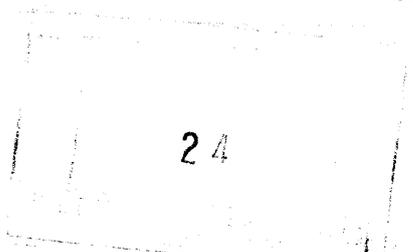


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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

historic name Decker-Kincaid Homestead  
other names/site number Valley Farm

2. Location

street & number 591 Powerville Road  not for publication  
city or town Boonton Township  vicinity  
state New Jersey code NJ county Morris code 027 zip code 07005

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 *John S. Watson, Jr.* Date 1/4/05  
John S. Watson, Jr., Assistant Commissioner Natural & Historic Resources/DSHPO  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet for  
additional comments.  
  
Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register.  
 removed from the National Register.  
 other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_  
  
Signature of the Keeper *Edson Beall* Date of Action 3/9/05

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

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

**Number of Resources within Property**

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	1	buildings
0	0	sites
2	0	structures
0	0	objects
4	1	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Commerce/Specialty Store

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Vacant/Work in Progress

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Federal

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Wood

roof Shingle

other \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

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

**Decker-Kincaid Homestead**

Name of Property

**Morris, New Jersey**

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)

- Agriculture
- Art
- Commerce
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

Ca. 1837-1955

**Significant Dates**

1837

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

\_\_\_\_\_

**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:

\_\_\_\_\_

Decker-Kincaid Homestead  
Name of Property

Morris, New Jersey  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of property** 1.3 Acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	18	549611	4533976	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2				4			

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

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

**Boundary Justification**

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

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title James Bolan, Jean Ricker and Gretchen Longo

organization Historical Society of Boonton Township date September 30, 2004

street & number 6 Sheridan Lane telephone 973-335-7567

city or town Boonton Township state New Jersey zip code 07005

**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 Historical Society of Boonton Township

street & number 591 Powerville Road telephone None

city or town Boonton Township state New Jersey zip code 07005

**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

Decker-Kincaid House  
Morris Co., NJ

Section number 7 Page 1

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## SECTION 7 – NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The descriptive information (excluding the Farm Stand, Garage and Sheds) included in Section 7 is excerpted from the *Existing Appearance and Condition* section of the Preservation Plan for the Miller-Decker [Decker-Kincaid] House at the Oscar A. Kincaid Homestead prepared by Westfield Architects & Preservation Consultants, March 2004.

### SITE (Picture #1)

The Miller-Decker [Decker-Kincaid] House at the Oscar A. Kincaid Homestead is set on the rise of a small hill in a rural area. The land slopes away from the building to the east, north, and west, and is relatively flat to the south. A road curves around the north side of the house at a slightly lower level than the house. A long stone retaining wall (contributing structure) holds back the bank of the north slope adjacent to the road. A concrete walkway runs in front of the east elevation north to the road, where steps cut down through the retaining wall. Along the walkway, in front of the 1837 section, there is an enclosed well house (contributing structure). The age of this feature is unknown, but it does appear in the ca. 1895 photo of the house. The base is poured concrete, while the upper section is wood frame with a gable roof and lattice over the openings. On the west side of the housing, the framed lattice can be removed for access to the well. To the west of the house is an twentieth-century garage (non-contributing building) and to the southwest there are three twentieth-century sheds apparently constructed at least partly of salvaged and scrap material. Mature trees and conifers can be found on the property.

### HOUSE:

#### EXTERIOR

##### General Exterior

The house was constructed in two main sections with two additions. The first section, constructed circa 1785, is a small, single-cell, one-and-one-half story house with a shallow stone foundation, timber framing covered with clapboard, and currently an asphalt shingle gable roof oriented southeast/northwest. The second section was constructed against the north wall of the first section in 1837. This section is also one-and-one-half stories with a stone foundation, clapboard siding and an asphalt shingle gable roof oriented southeast/northwest. This section was constructed over a full cellar, however, and is not only set higher from grade than the first section, but is also taller and wider. Full-length porches were constructed along the facades of both sections in the late nineteenth century. Two additions were constructed along the west (rear) elevation. One addition is a two-story, one-room deep bathroom addition at the west end of the staircase in the 1837 section, while the other is a one-story, shed-roof kitchen addition behind the c.1785 section. The two-story addition has a poured concrete foundation and clapboard siding, while the one-story addition has a stone and concrete foundation and clapboard siding. The one-story addition extends to the south of the south wall of the c.1785 section.

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## Roofing and Drainage

The roofs of both main sections are gabled with asphalt shingles. The eaves and raking cornices terminate at the walls on the 1837 section, which appears to be an alteration from an earlier configuration with a slight overhang and pole gutters. The c.1785 section also had a cornice and pole gutters. While the raking cornice is still in place, the east elevation cornice may have been altered behind the added hang gutter. The one-story addition has a cornice similar to that on the c.1785 section that runs only along the east and south elevations. The west elevation of the one-story addition has only a flat board for a cornice south of the chimney and a plain fascia and soffit to the north of the chimney. The twentieth-century two-story addition and the two twentieth-century wall dormers, which appear to be contemporary with each other, all have open eaves with exposed rafters. The two porches have nearly flat roofs covered with bituminous roofing and built-in gutters.

Hang gutters have been placed at the eaves of the east elevations of the c.1785 and 1837 sections, as well as along the south side of the two-story addition. A downspout in the corner between the 1837 section and the two-story addition on the west elevation shows that there was once a gutter on that side as well. Each of these sections of gutter was non-functional for some period of time. Recently, new sections of gutter and downspout were added to the c.1785 section and the south half of the 1837 section to make those sections functional. Neither solution is optimal, however, as water is not discharged at the ground, away from the building. Both porches have a single downspout. That on the c.1785 section porch is rusted at the top and has been replaced below, suggesting that it also is not or was not working properly. While the downspout on the 1837 section porch may be functioning, there is a large hole in the roof that must be allowing moisture to get into the porch roof framing. The apparent deterioration and distortion of the roof beams and casing is evidence of this supposition. It was also noted that a lightning rod system has been disconnected and its wires were left dangling from the roof, most likely when the roof was recently replaced. As the spikes are still in place to attract lightning, but the current has nowhere to safely dissipate, this represents a serious hazard to the building.

## East Elevation (Picture #2)

On the east elevation, the c.1785 section is located to the left or south of the 1837 section. The c.1785 section's east elevation is one-and-one-half stories, nearly symmetrical, with two two-over-two double-hung sash windows on the first floor and two three-light awning windows on the second floor, just below the eaves. The molding around all four windows is flat with a simple drip cap and, on the lower windows, a slightly projecting sill. A door was once located between the two first floor windows, but has been removed. A one-story full-length porch runs along the facade. The porch has a concrete floor, chamfered wood posts with applied bases and capitals, and a molded cornice with a cavetto beneath an ovolo molding profile. A bulkhead, laid lengthwise against the c.1785 section at the north end, provides the only access to the basement beneath the 1837 section. The bulkhead has a wood frame and two board-and-batten doors hinged together in the center.

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The 1837 section is also one-and-one-half stories, although overall taller and set higher than its counterpart. This elevation is asymmetrical and reflects the side-hall configuration of the interior. A set of double-leaf doors with a two-light transom is located at the south end, with two two-over-two windows to the north of it at the first floor level. The doors, which appear to be late-nineteenth century, each have a lower panel and upper sash, with the same large bolection moldings around each, and embossed hardware. The molding profile consists of an outer quarter-round curve, a fillet, a slender cyma recta, a three-quarter bead, and a cavetto molding at the panel. The door surround is flat except for two added backbands on the outside of the trim up to door height on either side, and along the outside edge of the trim up near the top of the transom. The transom is separated from the door by an interesting molding consisting of series of small moldings with an ovolo-over-cavetto molding, arranged like dentils below the horizontal board between the two elements and against the top trim board above the door, using a square filler block in the angle as a nailer. The opening has a hood molding consisting again of the ovolo over cavetto profile. **(Picture # 4)**

The window trim consists of a backband fillet, an attenuated cyma recta molding terminating in a fillet, and a flat section. The windows have hood moldings that peak at the center. The profile of the hoods consists of a bullnose over a cyma recta projection, then an attenuated cyma recta with a bottom bead forming the bed molding. This hood molding is completely separated from the window trim by a flat section of fascia above the window trim.

The second floor level has an added wall dormer, finished in clapboard, with a gable roof and open eaves. The window itself is a wide, one-over-one double-hung sash with flat trim and a small drip cap. The dormer is centered on the bedroom and is therefore off-center in the elevation.

The east elevation of the 1837 section is finished by a full-length, one-story porch. The porch has a replacement concrete base edged in brick, constructed in 1949, with two concrete steps at the south end, which was also the original location of the wood steps when the porch base was constructed of wood. The porch posts are similar to those on the c.1785 section, with chamfering and applied bases and capitals, but the capitals are placed lower on the posts to allow for decorative brackets. The brackets are now gone, as are many of the capital elements. The balustrade between the posts has simple sawn baluster sections with arches between the balusters. The balustrade goes across the entire east side of the porch and along the north end, restricting entry onto the porch to the two concrete steps at the south end. The porch cornice has the ovolo-over-cavetto cornice seen on some of the other trim elements and a beaded-board ceiling.

As the one-story addition continues past the south end of the c.1785 section, it too has an east elevation. This section has a shed roof, so the elevation consists of a box cornice with the ovolo/cavetto profile over a clapboard wall, with a four-light over two panel door with flat trim and a drip cap. The door has slightly raised panels with integral ovolo/cavetto molding.

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The east elevation exhibits significant paint loss and some deterioration of the wood elements as a result of the missing paint coat and the gutter and downspout problems. Deterioration is particularly severe at the southeast corners of the c.1785 and 1837 sections. In addition, the bulkhead is deteriorated due to time and weather, while the porch posts, particularly the 1837 section posts, have lost applied moldings and show some deterioration of the wood. The porch ceiling and porch roof structure on the 1837 section have both deteriorated due to the gutter problem described above, and the porch roof is actively leaking where it abuts the house wall. The concrete bases of both porches are aesthetically inappropriate. Ultimately, they may need to be replaced with wood-framed floors with tongue-and-groove decking. If they are retained, there is some cracking and deterioration that should also be addressed.

## North Elevation (Picture #5)

The north elevation consists only of the north wall of the 1837 section. There are five windows on the clapboarded elevation, two each at the first and second floors, stacked, making the elevation symmetrical, and one at the basement level, beneath the eastern windows. The windows are set toward the corners, such that the upper corners of the second floor windows are just shy of the raking cornice. The first floor windows have hoods like those on the east elevation, while the second floor windows have simple drip caps. Much of the wood making up the hoods, however, has been replaced. The stone foundation is exposed on this elevation, showing rubble stone that has been largely covered over with mortar. The raking cornice consists of a plain board with no overhang.

The paint is badly peeled on this elevation. The stone foundation at both corners shows some signs of movement, although the movement appears worse at the northeast corner. The basement window has been covered over with plywood. The large tree to the north of the house also overhangs the building and contributes to the moisture-related deterioration.

## West Elevation (Picture #5)

The west elevation is asymmetrical like the east elevation. At the north end, the 1837 section has a single two-over-two window at the first floor window, a wall dormer at the second, and a basement window opening covered with plywood with pipes coming through it. The first floor window has a flat surround with a drip cap. The dormer has the same window and roof details as that on the east elevation. An exterior brick chimney has been added to the north of the windows. This chimney serves the current heating system. The south end of the 1837 section is obscured by the two-story addition. This addition, which appears to have been constructed c.1930 (presumably along with the dormers), has a poured concrete foundation and clapboard siding with a wider exposure than elsewhere on the building. Like the dormers it has open eaves. The two, one-over-one windows in the addition are located on the west elevation and have flat trim and wood screens.

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To the south of the addition, there is a one-story addition that extends the length of the c.1785 section and beyond it by about six feet. A brick chimney partially encased in concrete is located at the point where the addition begins to extend past the south wall. This chimney served an additional space heater located in the kitchen. North of this chimney, the clapboard has a wider exposure, is painted, and appears to be newer. To the south of the chimney, it is older, narrower, and peeling. In addition, although there is a six-over-six window to either side of the chimney, that to the north is of twentieth-century construction and is short and wide for its height, while the other is taller with early-nineteenth-century sash. Taken with other evidence on the interior, it appears that the one-story section may have had a fire at one time, replacing much of the historic fabric and making determination of its age based on physical evidence difficult.

Some of the clapboard has been replaced on this elevation and the newer clapboard has been painted. The paint on the remaining older clapboard is peeling. There is again deterioration of wood elements as a result of the peeling paint and lack of gutters and downspouts. There are also some gaps in the cladding, such as at the top of the wall at the northwest corner and at the southwest corner of the one-story addition. The north chimney leans toward the roof. The south chimney is obsolete and unsightly. The wire from the disconnected lightning rod system dangles off the two-story addition roof.

### South Elevation (Picture #3)

Each of the house sections is represented on the south elevation. The south elevation of the 1837 section, rising above the adjacent, smaller c.1785 section, consists of a clapboard wall with a flat raking cornice board and two two-over-two windows. The south elevation of the two-story addition, on the same plane, presents a blank, clapboarded wall and open eaves with clipped rafters under its cross gable. The south elevation of the one-story addition consists of a raking box cornice over a clapboard wall with a single six-over-six single-hung sash window and a small area of stone foundation. The south elevation of the c.1785 section is most visible, with a raking cornice with returns, two two-over-two windows at the second floor over a single two-over-two window to the west at the first floor level and a five-sided bay at the east end.

The bay has a nearly flat roof, a box cornice, a two-over-two window in the center bay, two one-over-one windows in the bays adjoining the center bay, and clapboard beneath. An added exterior chimney between the two bays serves the fireplace in the c. 1785 parlor.

This elevation shows the same wood deterioration, particularly at the base of the bay, where there is additional deterioration due to splash back from the concrete pathway directly beneath the wood. The added chimney is aesthetically inappropriate and most likely replaced an interior end chimney for the fireplace when a stove was installed.

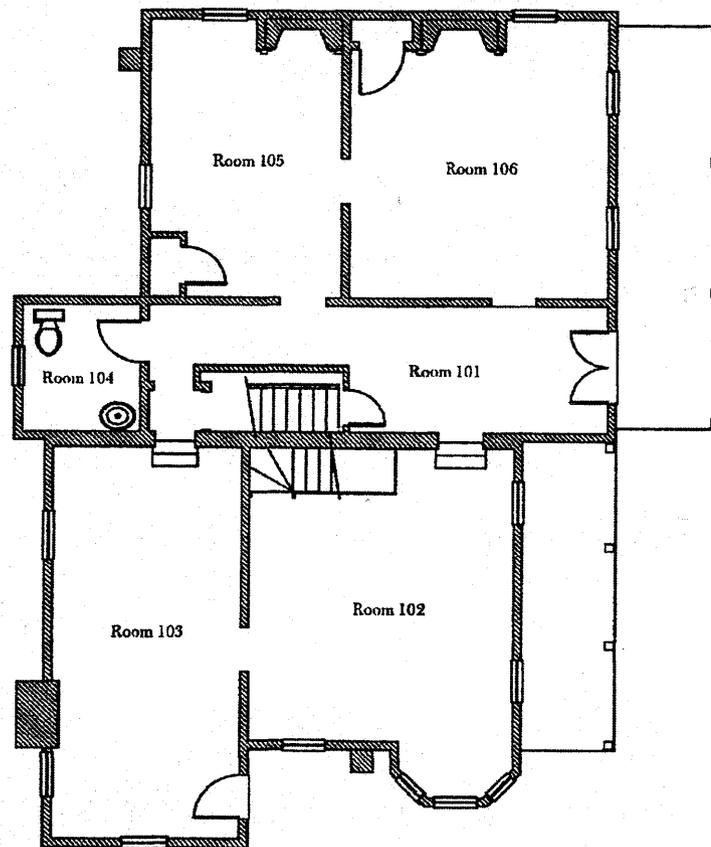
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INTERIOR



■ **First Floor**

**Room 101 (Picture #s 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17)**

The first floor hallway runs the length of the 1837 section at its south end. The floor is 5" -6 wide tongue-and-groove flooring running east-west, the walls are plaster, finished with a technique called spooning, in which a pewter spoon is heated and then run over the barely damp plaster in continuous curlicue sections. On the north wall, a folk art face has been done in the same technique. The ceiling and the east end of the hallway are both plain plaster. The depth of plain plaster on the walls and the change in flooring to narrow tongue-and-groove at the east end suggests the former location of an entrance vestibule. The baseboard in the

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hallway is 11" high and consists of a bead over an elongated ovolo above a recessed fillet cap topping the baseboard face. A staircase is set in the southwest corner of the hallway. The staircase is a transitional Federal/Greek Revival style open staircase that winds up around a landing to the second floor. **(Pictures 20 & 21)**

The side wall of the staircase appears to have panels similar to those on the 1837 doors. The staircase has been enclosed at the first floor level, however, with a stud wall covered with drywall on the hall side, making inspection of the paneling difficult. A stacked five-panel door with embossed brass knob and backplate and clamshell trim is set at the bottom of the stairs. The newer wall is finished with 5" high dimensional lumber in lieu of a baseboard.

**(Picture #13)** The entrance doorway consists of double-leaf doors, each with a sash above a square, recessed panel with applied molding in the stylized cyma recta and fillet profile, set beneath a two-light transom and surrounded by trim with an outer backband and the same stylized cyma recta and fillet around a fascia. Three Greek Revival doorways lead off the hallway, one on tile south side to the c.1785 parlor and two on the north side to front and rear parlors in the 1837 section. The two north doors each have two vertical panels the height of the door, while the south door has been replaced with a beaded-board-and-batten door. The panels on the north doors are recessed with a stylized cyma recta molding, fitted with a fillet on the inner edge, but the paneled side of the doors atypically face the parlors, exposing the flush backs of the panels to the hallway. The surround around all three doors is a simplified tabernacle frame. The jamb trim consists of a plain base with a recessed fillet at the top, being the same height and pattern of the baseboard and recessed fillet portion of the baseboard cap. The jamb trim forms pilasters with a recessed center that has a recessed fillet around the sides and top and an outer fillet around the sides and top as well. A capital consisting of a stylized cyma reversa and a fillet then supports the frieze of a cornice. The frieze is capped by molding with the same profile as the capitals. Each door has a box lock and brown or black porcelain knob.

In addition to the entrance door, parlor doors, and stair door, another stacked-five-panel door with the same embossed hardware and flat 5" trim is located in the west wall and leads to the bathroom addition. Another doorway is located beneath the staircase and presumably led to a closet at one time. While it does not have the more elaborate surround of the parlor doors, it is clearly from the same period. The surround profile consists of an outer fillet, the same stylized cyma recta applied molding, and a fascia. The door has been removed. A final doorway has been added in the south wall of the closet beneath the stairs for access to the kitchen addition. This doorway has the same stacked, five-panel door, embossed hardware, and flat 5" trim as the bathroom door.

The room has a single ceiling light fixture, a smoke detector, and a radiator. There are minor cracks in the wall plaster and more significant cracks in the ceiling that have been badly repaired. Some cupping was also noted in

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the floorboards. As with many old houses, the doors do not all operate properly and need to be adjusted. Finally, there is some deterioration at the bottom of the entrance doors due to moisture.

## Room 102 (Picture #s 26 and 27)

The original c.1785 first floor was remodeled around 1875. In its current configuration, it is one, spacious parlor with 7X" wide tongue-and-groove flooring running north-south, vertical, beaded-board wainscoting with a heavy bullnose cap with a cavetto bed molding beneath, plaster walls, a vertical-beaded board wall around the quarter-turn winder stairs in the northwest corner, and an acoustic tile ceiling. There are two doors, a four-panel door with recessed panels and applied molding in the west wall and a beaded-board-and-batten door in the north wall. Two steps have been added to access the hallway door and the ceiling has been modified to accommodate the door's height, as the floor level in the c.1785 parlor is nearly two feet lower than in the 18'3 7 section. The enclosed stair also has three doors. All three are beaded-board-and-batten. Two are full-sized doors with box locks and white porcelain knobs leading to the stairs on the south side and to the closet beneath the stairs on the east side. A third, smaller door of the same type has a spring latch and is located in the south wall, providing access to a smaller closet beneath the lower steps.

In addition to three two-over-two windows in the east and south walls, a bay window is located in the southeast corner. The center window of this bay is two-over-two, while the two side windows are one-over-one. Each of the doors and windows has the same molding, which consists of a fillet backband, a quirked cyma recta, and a fascia, with a half-bead at the jamb transition. The cap on the wainscoting dips down at each window to form the stool. Two in filled areas were noted in the wainscoting, one on the east wall and one on the west. The one in the east wall corresponds with the location of a door in the c.1895 photograph. The one in the west wall is presumed to have corresponded with the opening of an original door or window.

Finally, in the center of the south wall, there is a fireplace with a bricked-in firebox and chimney walls with exposed modern brick as well. A stove pipe hole is set high on the brick-covered wall. The fireplace mantel and surrounding wainscoting, however, were not affected by the infill treatment. The fireplace surround has plain bases with chamfered edges and a sloped cap beneath plain pilasters with chamfered edges. The caps on the pilasters consist of a fillet with concave sides. The frieze is plain, with the exception of a peak in the lintel of the firebox opening. The mantel shelf has chamfered edges and clipped corners. The room has two radiators and a single ceiling-mounted light fixture. This room is in generally good condition, with the exception of minor floor wear, some peeling paint and bad previous painting surface preparation. There is an active leak in the ceiling above the east radiator. It was also noted that the ceiling tiles are cupping, which may be due to age and inadequate support or perhaps also to moisture. The condition of the plaster beneath the wallpaper is not known.

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## Room 103 (Picture #25)

The kitchen addition has vinyl flooring over plywood, baseboard with a bead cap on the east wall, wainscoting similar to that in the c.1785 parlor on the south wall and the south end of the west wall, drywall walls, and a drywall ceiling. A wood cornice molding has been installed, most likely to hide the wall/ceiling joint. A section of the west wall has been framed with dimensional lumber and is filled with brick to provide a backdrop for a freestanding heater. Built-in cabinets are located along the east wall at the south end between the door to the c.1785 parlor and an exterior door. The parlor door has flat trim, like all the other doors and windows in the room. The door to the exterior has four lights above two-vertical panels and the same embossed hardware as the stacked, five-panel doors in the 1837 section. Nineteenth-century six-over-six sash windows, reused from another location, are set in the south wall and in the west wall, south of the brick section. A third window, north of the brick in the west wall, is also six-over-six, but is of twentieth-century construction. The stacked, five-panel door at the north end leads into the back of the 1837 hallway beneath the stairs. As in the parlor, two steps lead up to it and the ceiling is altered at that point to accommodate the height of the door. An early twentieth-century sink is set in the southwest corner, a modern stove is set along the east wall north of the parlor door, and a cast iron radiator is located between the stove and the parlor door.

The ceiling and west wall of the room have suffered major water damage from a leak and an excessive amount of mold has grown in this area. The floor is deteriorated beyond reuse, including some of the sub flooring. There is also minor moisture-related deterioration to the wainscoting under the sink and at the bottom of the exterior door. There is also some peeling paint and the doors need to be refit for proper operation.

## Room 104 (Picture#14)

The bathroom, located in an addition off the rear of the hallway, has a vinyl tile floor laid over narrow tongue-and-groove wood flooring. The walls and ceiling are drywall with a 5" baseboard with bead cap and quarter-round shoe molding at the floor and a small wood cavetto molding at the ceiling. The room contains a sink, toilet, radiator, and a built-in wood cabinet in the middle of the south wall. A one-over-one sash window with wide, flat trim is set in the west wall. The plumbing in the bathroom is not completely working. A hole has been cut in the ceiling in the northwest corner to provide access to a leak in the plumbing for the second floor bathroom. The floor in the same corner sags somewhat, perhaps due to previous leaks in the first floor plumbing. Finally, the sink, which is probably original to the construction of the addition, requires refinishing.

## Room 105 (Picture #19)

The rear parlor in the 1837 section has 8X" -12X", random-width, tongue-and-groove flooring, the same baseboard as the front hallway, plaster walls, and an acoustic tile ceiling. In addition to the door to the hall in the south wall, there is a second door of the same type in the east wall leading to the front parlor. The paneled side

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of the door faces the front parlor. The surround around both doors is similar to that in the hallway, except the jamb trim consists of a recessed center panel and only one surrounding fillet. An added closet in the southwest corner of the room is of wood stud and drywall construction and has a flush, hollow-core plywood door. Both windows in the room, one on the west wall and one on the north, have the same surrounds as the doors, with trim down to the floor. Recessed wood panels with the stylized applied molding are set beneath the windows between the jamb trim. The fireplace, set in the northeast corner, has a surround similar to the door casing. The bases are the same, but are capped by a quirked cyma reversa molding. The pilasters match the jambs, except the recessed center panel is not clipped at the bottom. The same frieze and cornice molding form part of the mantel frieze, but are surmounted by another frieze, with a larger version of the same cornice molding, that in turn supports the mantel shelf. The shelf is plain, but is rounded at the corners. The firebox lintel is a segmental arch. The room is heated by a single cast iron radiator and is lit by an early twentieth-century chandelier.

Obvious problem conditions in the room include the staining and mold on the west wall from a previous leak, minor wear to the flooring, peeling paint on the woodwork, and an uneven brick hearth. The walls, which are covered with wallpaper, may require some plaster repairs.

## Room 106 (Picture #18)

The front parlor has 5X" -9" random-width, tongue-and-groove flooring laid north-south, the same baseboard as the hallway, plaster walls covered with wallpaper, and a plaster ceiling. A butt joint in the flooring is set about two feet from the south wall. The boards south of the joint are the original wide, random-width boards. Two windows along the east wall and another along the north wall all match those in the rear parlor. Three doors, one in the south wall, one in the west, and a closet door in the north chimney wall are all also consistent with the rear parlor. Each door has a box lock. The one to the hall has a horizontal box lock with a black porcelain knob, the door to the rear parlor has a vertical box lock with no knob, and the door to the closet has a horizontal box lock with a white porcelain knob. This lock is stamped "patented May 17, 1870." This knob is clearly a replacement for a horizontal box lock, the ghost of which is still outlined on the door. This lock also provides a time period (after 1870) for the Victorian period alterations, including the window replacement and the renovations to the c.1785 parlor.

The fireplace in this room, located on the center of the north wall between the closet and the window, is more elaborate than that in the rear parlor. The pilasters are three dimensional. The recessed panels on the front side of the pilasters have the two outer fillets, like the hall side jamb trim, while the sides of the pilasters have a recessed panel with a single fillet like the parlor door trim. As on the rear parlor fireplace, the panels are finished with a bottom rail rather than dying into the base. Above, the molding just below the mantel shelf is

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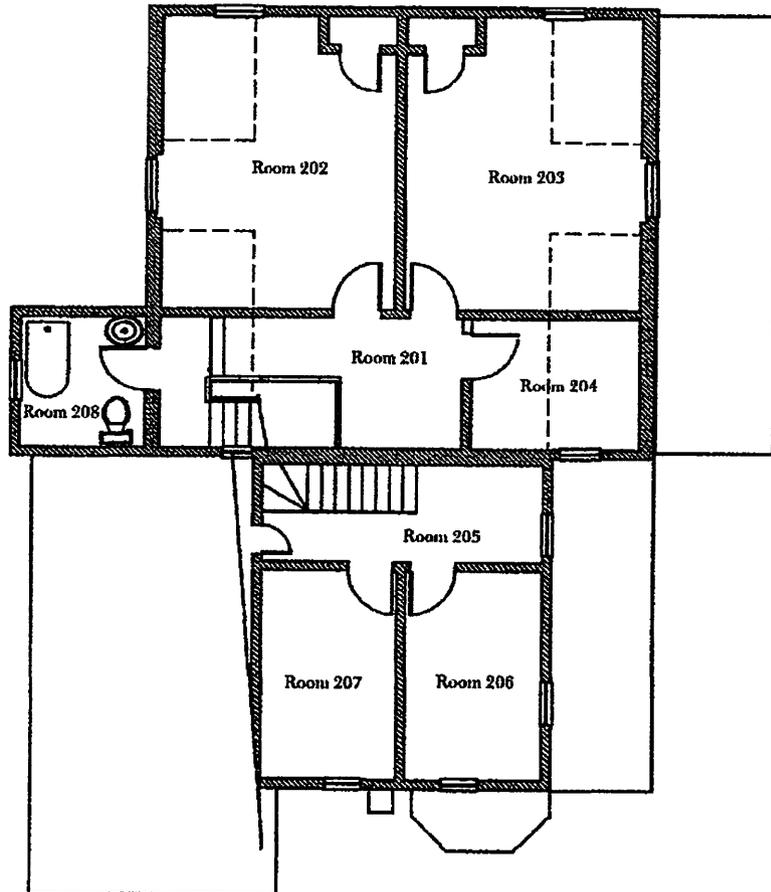
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much larger than that in the rear parlor and the shelf itself has a fillet-and-ovolo edge profile and is not rounded at the corners.

The room is heated by two radiators and lit by a ceiling light fixture. A vent in the ceiling is a remnant of an earlier heating system by which heat would have drifted up to the second floor.

Problem conditions include cracks and movement of the ceiling plaster, possible plaster cracking in the walls behind the wallpaper, minor flooring repairs, a missing knob on the west door, doors that need to be refit in their current openings, and peeling paint on the ceiling.



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### Second Floor. Room 201

The second floor hallway in the 1837 section has 7X" -11 1/4", random-width flooring running north-south, the same baseboard as the hall below, the same plaster walls with spooning finish, and a plaster ceiling. The ceiling is sloped at the west end due to the roof slope. A landing in the staircase is set two steps down from the second floor level at the west end of the hallway. A door to the bathroom in the two-story addition is set at the landing. The doorway has flat 4" wide trim and a stacked, five-panel door with embossed hardware. Three more doorways, two on the north wall and one on the east wall, all also have flat 4" wide trim, but have two-panel doors like those on the first floor. The panels on the doors face the hall. Each door has a box lock stamped "Corbin " with a black porcelain knob. The staircase, with its open, curving balustrade, has round handrails and slender, turned balusters. One window is located in the south wall near the west end. Like those on the first floor, it features two-over-two double-hung sash, but it has flat, .3" wide trim, a bullnose stool and no apron. The hallway is lit by a single, ceiling-mounted fixture and has a smoke detector on the ceiling.

There are cracks in the wall and ceiling plaster. Attempts have been made to patch the wall cracks, resulting in discolored areas, but the plaster has re-cracked. The ceiling has also been cracked and has been poorly patched in some places. Unfortunately, the construction of the bathroom additions probably led to the movement that caused these hallway cracks. It was also noted that the ceiling paint and some of the trim paint is peeling, which may be due to lack of heat on the upper floor in recent years. The railing is dangerously loose and has a number of missing or broken balusters. Finally, there is some minor wear to the floor and the doors need refitting in their openings.

### Room 202 (Picture #22)

The rear bedroom on the second floor of the 1837 section has 5 1/4" -10", random-width, tongue-and-groove flooring, a 5" high baseboard with a thick beaded top molding, and plaster walls and ceiling. The ceiling slopes on the west side due to the roof slope above. A closet has been added in the northeast corner with a stacked, five-panel door and 4" wide flat trim. The trim around the hall door in the south wall is 4" wide flat trim as well. The two other main features in the room are a two-over-two window in the north wall with 3" wide flat trim and a wide bullnose stool, and a twentieth-century, one-over-one window with 4" flat trim, a square-edged stool and a plain apron in the west wall dormer. The room is heated by a radiator against the north wall and lit by a single, ceiling-mounted light fixture. As in the parlors downstairs, there is a butt joint in the floor about two feet from the south wall.

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The room is in good condition with the exception of some plaster cracks and evidence of past moisture infiltration at the dormer. The wallpaper is peeling off the walls, possibly due to moisture, age, and/or a search for additional spooning finishes.

### Room 203 (Picture # 23)

The front bedroom in the 1837 section is a mirror image of the rear bedroom with the exception that the closet door is missing and there is a cast iron grate in the floor from a previous heating system. The plaster in this room is in generally better condition than the rear bedroom, but the ceiling has been poorly patched and prepared for repainting in the past. It was also noted that the east window does not close properly, there is some moisture staining on the lower sash of the north window, and there is some unevenness in the floor.

### Room 204 (Picture #24)

The small room at the east end of the second floor hallway apparently served as a nursery, based on its size and wallpaper design. Its finish details match the other two bedrooms. It has the one door to the hall, one window in the south wall, one radiator, and no light fixture. It has no closet, but features a built-in shelving unit in the southeast corner. The window has some moisture deterioration and is not fully functional. Most of the top layer of paint is peeling off the ceiling. Minor plaster cracks were noticed and minor wear on the floor was noted as well.

### Room 205 (Picture # 30)

The second floor of the c.1785 section has been divided into three sections: a hallway and two bedrooms. The hallway has a quarter-turn winder stair (with the winders at the bottom) in the northwest corner. The beaded-board stair wall continues up to form a half-wall at the second floor level. The floor in the hallway is 7 1/2" wide, tongue-and-groove flooring running north-south. The walls, which are sloped at the east and west ends, and the ceiling are both plaster. A 5" high baseboard with a bead cap runs along the plaster walls. A three-light awning window with wide, flat trim is located in the east wall, down by the floor. Two beaded-board-and-batten doors with porcelain knobs, embossed hinges, and flat trim are set in the south wall, leading to the two bedrooms. A small access door with a recessed panel and flat trim is located in the west wall, providing access to the attic space above the kitchen addition. There is no ceiling light fixture in this space, but there is a smoke detector on the ceiling.

The hallway has significant plaster damage at the east end, above the window, presumably due to leaks. A section of the plaster has fallen. Other areas are cracked. The paint in this area is also peeling.

### Room 206 (Picture # 28)

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Room 206 is the southeast bedroom on the second floor of the c.1785 section. The floor is composed of 7 ½" wide tongue-and-groove boards running north-south. There is a heating grate in the floor, and 5" high baseboard with a beaded cap. The door in the north wall has 4" wide flat trim and a box lock with a white porcelain knob. There is also a two-over-two window in the south wall with 3" wide flat trim, a bullnosed stool and an apron with a bottom edge bead. Finally, there is another three-light awning window in the east wall at the south end with 4" wide flat trim. An early twentieth-century wall sconce is mounted next to the door on the north wall.

There is significant plaster and structural damage in the southeast corner from what was apparently a long-term leak. Other plaster cracks and peeling paint were also noted in the room.

### Room 207 (Picture # 29)

Room 207 is a mirror of Room 206 without the awning window or the heating grate. The room is in better condition, and exhibits only minor plaster cracks and some peeling paint.

### Room 208

The second floor bathroom is the same in size and configuration to that on the first floor, with the exception of the location of a bathtub instead of the built-in cabinet along the south wall. The floor in this bathroom is still narrow tongue-and-groove wood. Like the first floor bathroom, the plumbing is not fully functional. The sink and tub also require refinishing and there is some peeling paint on the ceiling.

### THE ROAD STAND (Pictures 11, & 1)

The earliest section of the road stand was constructed in the mid to late 1920's as an ice cream stand with a modern freezer chest. (Picture 12) In 1938 Oscar A. Kincaid, Sr. entered into the dairy business, and added a new room to the original structure to house the walk-in cooler which is still in tact today. The building measures 33 feet by 12 feet, is constructed of drop siding, has a hip roof with open eaves, a front overhang, and two stacked, five panel doors. The serving windows are still clearly evident today. (Picture 10) A hand operated gasoline pump, installed in the 1920's for customers' convenience as automobiles took to the road past the stand, was removed sometime in the early 1980's. (Picture 9)

### GARAGE (Pictures 6 & 7)

The garage (20 feet by 20 feet) was constructed in 1934 by master carpenter and woodworker, Clarence Burnett, a skilled local craftsman famous for making elegant black walnut gun stocks. An ardent sportsman, Mr. Burnett's work in that field is on museum display. The structure is of wooden drop siding, has open eaves, two

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small double-hung windows and a door similar to the kitchen door. The roof is covered with a rolled roofing material. Two mismatched overhead garage doors are on the northern side.

### **SHEDS (Picture 8)**

The three 20<sup>th</sup> Century sheds on the property, constructed of salvaged and scrap materials, had various uses including storage and shelter for farm animals.

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### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Decker-Kincaid homestead is significant for a remarkable work of decorative plaster that adorns the upper and lower stair halls of this house. It incorporates a large, round, stylized face, reminiscent of a mask, on the north side of the downstairs hall, the date "1837" on the opposite wall, with the rest of the plaster finished in a pattern of tight swirls. The identity of the plaster artisan is no longer known. The property is also significant for a well-preserved ice cream stand built in the 1920's and operated as a farm stand for several decades. The property meets Criterion C in art for the unusual plasterwork and in architecture for the ice cream stand, an unusual property type.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Decker-Kincaid homestead, known as "Valley Farm," is situated on the northernmost border of the 1,430 acres comprising William Penn's Lot No. 48, surveyed for Penn in 1715 by John Reading, Jr., future governor of New Jersey. (1757 - 1758).<sup>i</sup> This was a proprietary survey after which title to this particular tract was transferred to William Penn, colonial governor and proprietor of Pennsylvania. The Penn line runs seventy-five feet behind the house and through the barnyards across the road.

In 1758, Frederick DeMouth, one of Boonton Township's earliest settlers, purchased 672 acres of this tract and established a thriving plantation at the location known today as Four Corners, the intersection of Powerville and Rockaway Valley Roads. Slaves helped maintain his "considerable" lifestyle, and the family continued to prosper.<sup>ii</sup> Twenty years later, Frederick's son Adam, heir to the farm, was rated one of the three wealthiest men in Pequannock. In or about 1785, Adam's daughter, Anna, and son-in-law Adam Miller, Jr., built their own home just one and a half miles to the north, the earliest section of that dwelling still standing today as the second oldest frame building indigenous to Boonton Township. The little house did not face the road, because at that early date there was no designated road to the property.

The DeMouth and Miller families mentioned here were among the 3,000 earliest Palatines who, "Seek(ing) their Piece of Bread at various places," sailed in January 1710 from London in the great fleet of ten ships bound for the New World.<sup>iii</sup> They settled briefly in the "fair, rich lands" of Hackensack where "everyone fashioned cabins according to his own invention and architecture,"<sup>iv</sup> and then migrated to the Saddle River Valley, the Ramapo (Ramapough, Romopock) wilderness in northeastern Bergen County, New Jersey. The 42,500 acre Ramapo Tract contained present day Franklin Township, Hohokus and Ridgewood, stretching into Pompton Township and Rockland County, New York. 1712/1714 Account Listings of settlers on the tract identify the names of Adam Miller, Johannes Parliament and Jacob Teymont or Zemont (DeMouth). A decade later they were living along the Ulekill in neighboring TeWaughow (Towaco), which by mid-18<sup>th</sup> Century may have become a bit too crowded for their progeny's taste. Thus, the last migration to untilled land in Rockaway Valley where their enduring homes still grace the rural scene.

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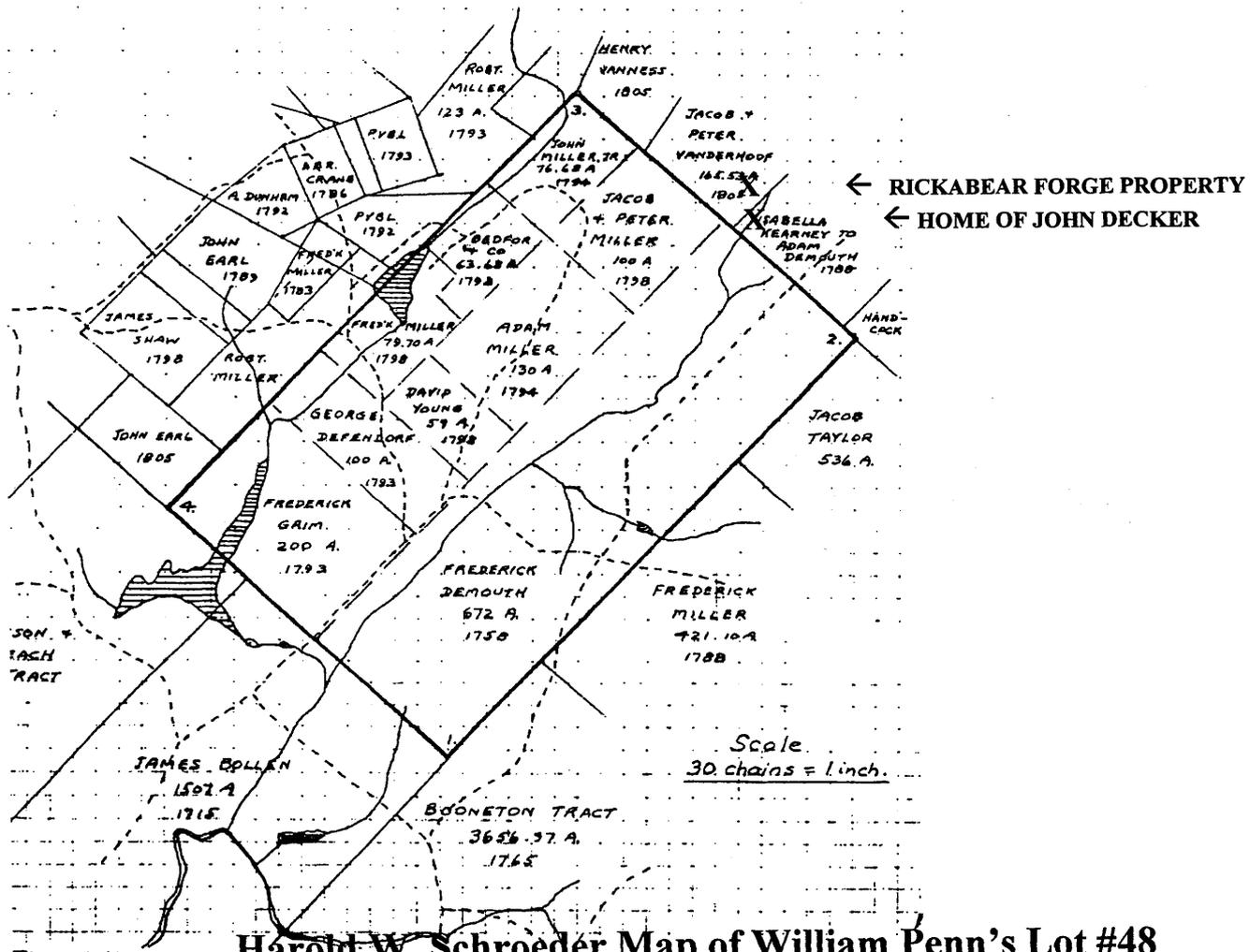
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W.J. - 1.

William Penn's Lot No. 48, in Rockaway Valley. 1250 A. 1715.  
(rectangle in heavy lines.) (actually 1430)  
(adjoining returns in light continuous lines, internal subdivisions (deeds)  
in light dashes, roads short dashes, streams continuous freehand).  
(see Deed Book, and A. L. Cobb Papers, for abstracts of deeds).



Harold W. Schroeder Map of William Penn's Lot #48

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On February 13, 1797, Adam and Anna sold their 49.89 acres for £182.10 sh. to John Parlimen, Jr., who in 1793 had married Sarah Miller, daughter of Frederick Miller, builder of the landmark Miller/Dixon homestead still standing in the center of Rockaway Valley.<sup>v</sup> Adam and Sarah were cousins. John Parlimen constructed and operated a sawmill on the brook which runs by present day Morris County Bridge No. 183 just below Lake Rickabear near the Kinnelon Borough border. Known today as Beaver, or Stickle Brook, it is referred to in old deeds as Parlimen's Sawmill Brook. Discernible traces of the operation remain on the present Dunham properties, next door to and just a few hundred feet from the Decker/Kincaid house site.

In 1799, for whatever reason, Adam and Anna Miller joined the locally famous (or infamous) Ogden caravan bound for Phelps, New York. A long procession of eighteen covered wagons, ox drawn, packed with children and household goods, departed from old Pequannock carrying several of our founding families to the banks of Lake Canandaigua,<sup>vi</sup> where new territory was being advertised and developed by Samuel Ogden, member of the prominent Newark, New Jersey, family, some members of which held strong Loyalist views and had openly affirmed loyalty to the crown. Samuel Ogden, who played an important role in early Pequannock Township history, most particularly as Old Boonton resident ironmaster, swore his allegiance to the patriot cause. What Revolutionary War Generals Washington, Sullivan and Maxwell thought of him is another matter, well recorded in New Jersey Archives.<sup>vii</sup> By 1792 Ogden had left the area and invested in large land tracts in northern New York State. It was just seven years later that the Boonton caravan headed there, lured in large part, perhaps, by rich land selling at 10 shillings an acre.

John Decker, Oscar Kincaid Jr.'s great-great-grandfather and next owner of note, was born on the family's High Mountain Tract in old Pequannock Township in 1801 (d.1877). In 1822 he married Deborah Vanderhoof (b. 1804 - d. 1832), daughter of close neighbor Peter. John Parlimen had sold the house site property to William Scott, Powerville ironmaster and future Morris Canal Commissioner, who in the first quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century was actively engaged in exploring the Mine Ridge location for iron deposits. He had no interest in occupying the house, and the 49.89 acres were sold to John Decker on March 1, 1828. By family tradition, John and Deborah Decker occupied the house before their actual purchase.

*On December 10, 1824 a Stray was Taken in and "posted by John A. Decker A Brown Yearling Stear Small white spot on the Beley and flank marked with a Crop off the Left ear and two Slits in the end and a half peny the underside of the Same."<sup>viii</sup>*

It is interesting to note that William Scott's mother was Catherine Miller, sister of Sarah (Miller) Parlimen. From the earliest Palatine connection, right down to Oscar A. Kincaid, Jr., every owner was in some way related through either blood or marriage.



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Ten years after their marriage, young mistress Deborah died in childbirth and was buried in the small, almost forgotten woodland graveyard, faint vestiges of which are still detectable, on today's Lake Rickabear property. Her loving children would in the far distant future place her name on a memorial stone in the new Rockaway Valley Methodist Church Cemetery, but it is only a cenotaph marking an empty tomb and commemorating her repose elsewhere. John remarried near-neighbor, Rachel Jacobus Miller, widow of John Francis Miller.

John Francis Miller, a son of Aaron and Jane Peer Miller, was born on March 25, 1790 in the historic Miller/Dixon homestead. Rachel Jacobus Miller was born December 9, 1796, at TeWaughow (Towaco). They had five children: James (b. July 8, 1813); Frederick (b. July 10, 1815); Elvina (b. December 24, 1811); Nicholas (b. September 11, 1820), and Isaac (b. September 7, 1823). The youngest was just one year old when his father, aged 34 years and 7 months, died in November 1824. Rachel several years later remarried John Decker. She thereupon did something that would be found astonishing today. Rachel arranged for her own five children to live with her mother-in-law Jane, known then and remembered today as "Granny Peer," while she reared John and Deborah Decker's younger brood of four: Andrew, (1827-1906), (Sarah) Louisa (1830-1918), Catherine, future mistress of the house (1832-1915), and Elizabeth (1822-1897). When Rachel Jacobus Miller Decker died in 1866, John married her sister Martha, who died in 1879.

In his 1828 will (proved 1829), Aaron Miller had made careful provision for his deceased son's children.<sup>ix</sup> In 1833 James and Eleanor (Nelly) Miller Dixon, daughter of Aaron, petitioned the Orphan's court for fair division of John Francis Miller's property, after which hearing, it was decided to sell. The highest bidder was John Decker at \$668.00! The property became his on July 10, 1837, the year of the new addition to his home. In March 1842, John and Rachel sold the land to James Dixon for \$1,000.00. In September 1837, Elvina Miller Campfield, wife of Alfred W. Campfield, sold her share to her father-in-law Barzilla Campfield. In December 1849 the Campfields sold 44 acres to Cyrus Dixon, son of James and Eleanor Miller Dixon, who was married to John's daughter Elizabeth. After Granny Peer's death in 1849, the Dixons purchased all remaining legacies.<sup>x</sup>

A young man with initiative and foresight, John Decker prospered and built the large pond which is today called Lake Rickabear (always referred to locally as Decker's Pond) and operated a successful forge in the general area of the old Parlmen sawmill. The forge was sited on a steep incline just four tenths of a mile to the north of the homestead, and a remnant of that period still stands directly across the road from the Decker-Kincaid house. The large barn on the left was removed from the forge pond to his farm property when ironworking activities ended. Another reminder, still in existence, though much changed, is the privately owned residence located at present day 605 Powerville Road, constructed by John just 500 feet behind his own dwelling to house workmen at the forge. In operation until the Civil war period, the forge location is shown on the 1853 Lightfoot & Geil map and in the 1868 Beers Atlas. On May 13, 1878, a year after John's death, its three large, tub bellows were sold at auction.<sup>xi</sup>

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Forge man and farmer, John Decker became a man of substance, adding extensive acreage to his original 1824 purchase. His forge property played a role in the earliest days of the Industrial Revolution. He dealt locally with iron masters Joseph and William Scott and Dr. Columbus Beach. His forge iron came from the Hibernia mines. Shipments from his forge to New York were made via the Morris Canal. The 1850 Census is revealing. It records John Decker, 47, worth \$8,000.00; Rachel, 54; Andrew 22; (Sarah) Louisa, 20; and Cornelius Van Duyne, 17 labourer. Listed in immediate proximity were Charles *Kincade (Sic.)*, 25; Catherine, 17; John H., 1; and Henry Courter, 63, labourer. By 1850 two daughters were married: Elizabeth to Cyrus Dixon and Catherine to Charles Kincaid. Sarah Louisa would marry William Kanouse. Son Andrew married Martha Dixon. Charles and Catherine had seven children: Charles; John; William; Andrew (father of Oscar Kincaid, Sr.); Mary; Frank; and Asa. Asa and Mary would inherit the farm and assume its proprietorship in the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

The small, original house was enlarged in 1837 when the side-hall main block was added. The addition's most remarkable feature is a unique example of folk art, executed by an unknown artisan on the plaster of the staircase walls and never erased by repainting or other means. The new stair hall was, for its day, quite elegant, and John and Rachel Decker engaged a workman, name unknown, to plaster the wide downstairs and upstairs halls. What transpired from that point on became a well known local legend which 167 years later is inspiring widespread interest and promoting scholarly research by folklorists and museum specialists. The master of the house and the workman, who is believed to have been a rural, self-taught contractor, had a great altercation, the cause a bit unclear. Perhaps the work was unsatisfactory, that view substantiated, in part, by the fact that the upstairs plasterwork shows strong indication that it was executed by a different hand. In any event, family members have said that John refused to pay for services rendered. In spiteful retaliation, the dismissed craftsman "decorated" the newly applied plaster with an ingenuous and idiosyncratic portrait that is now considered a unique example of naïve and whimsical folk art. At ceiling height he drew a large and fanciful face bearing striking resemblance to a pumpkin head or jack o' lantern. Its execution is childlike. The outline is completely delineated by an aura-like circle of rays and sunbursts. Cheeks are highlighted, and the chin boasts a small goatee. The artist gave the subject rather splendid teeth. Although its expression is enigmatic, the face on the wall, simple and crude as it is, bristles with character. The artist chose to date his work on the opposite stair wall, where he printed 1837 in bold, eight inch high numbers still evident today and, like the drawing, hard to ignore. Unfortunately, he did not sign his name or initial!

The "portrait" may be the center of attraction in the welcoming hall, ". . . the calling card for the house and most important feature,"<sup>xii</sup> but the smooth plaster work there also has a tale to tell and a secret to reveal. According to family tradition, the grain mottling thereon was done by the hired contractor wielding a pewter spoon, still in Kincaid family possession. The upstairs hallway is similarly grained, but by a different hand using the same puzzling technique. In his conservation proposal for the Decker-Kincaid house Anton Rajer, fine arts conservator states:

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... What is important and quite amazing is that the original decoration, which is probably done in type of charcoal with a type of binder, possibly fat or an organic material, was applied in 1837 and throughout the 165 years of the house's existence and occupation until recent times, the hallway decoration was never painted out and lost. It is significant from the point of view that the decoration is found not only on the first and second floors of the home, it is continuous and goes up the staircase, and that it is dated and on one side of the hallway is a large circular, like monster mask painted on the wall. All of the decoration is monochromatic and painted in black and white.<sup>xiii</sup>

We do not know the reaction of John Decker's young children to the unauthorized work of art, nor do we know how the Kincaid's seven viewed it, but we do know by their own confession that the last generation of young ones was terrified of it. For many years it certainly kept an unblinking eye on every Decker-Kincaid child traipsing upstairs to bed. Mrs. Oscar Kincaid, Sr., chose to hide it behind a magnificent tall case clock brought from her family's Newark townhouse. Ironically, in spite of its contentious origin, the face on the wall became an accepted and permanent household fixture and is now a recognized folk art gem.

John Decker was prominent in local politics. At least as early as 1831, he held office as one of Pequannock Township's overseers of the highway, and he was re-elected to that post in 1832.<sup>xiv</sup> In 1842 he was the most active trustee in the construction of the Rockaway Valley Methodist Church. He was a successful farmer and forge master, who accumulated large landholdings in what are today Boonton, Rockaway and Montville Townships and Kinnelon Borough. His forge operation, connected to New Jersey's important iron industry, played a part in Morris County's early industrial history.

When Decker died in 1877, all his properties descended to his children. Son Andrew purchased his sisters' interests, and when he died in 1906, all his land, including his father's new home on early Adam Miller property, went to his children, son Orlie Apgar and daughter Idella J. Miller, who married the Reverend Albert O. Miller (no relation), pastor of the Rockaway Valley Methodist Church.

In 1845, some years after it had served as the Pequannock Township Poor House, the historic 1767 Adam Miller "plantation" on Rockaway Valley and Farber Hill Roads was sold to John Decker by the then owner James Dixon, and John built for himself and Rachel an impressive new house identical to the nearby and recently constructed Cyrus Dixon residence.

The 1850 Census shows newly wed daughter Catherine, husband Charles and small son John apparently living with John and Rachel on the homestead property. Oscar Kincaid Jr., relates in the Century Farm Award Bulletin that it was in that year John gave Catherine the farm thus dating Kincaid family ownership to March 19, 2003, when the Historical Society of Boonton Township purchased the subject property.

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On their 1876 Boonton Township tax bill the Kincaid's paid \$4.00 Poll Tax; \$8.17 Bounty Tax; \$21.50 State and County Tax; \$8.50 State School Tax; and \$.40 Dog Tax for a total of \$42.57, plus \$1.36 Road Tax. Their real estate was valued at \$3,800.00, Personal \$500.00 for a total of \$4,300.00

They were buying necessities not provided by the farm itself from Charles Townsend's Powerville Lock Store on the Morris Canal. Receipted bills list purchases of molasses, meal, sugar, gingham, flour, saleratus, tobacco and [gun] powder.

In December 1879 The Agricultural Insurance Company of Watertown, New York, policy number 423 in the total amount of \$1,350.00 insured their house, furniture and family possessions for \$450.00; two barns for \$300.00; hay and grain in barns for \$250.00; carriages and harnesses \$50.00; three horses \$150.00; and three cows \$150.00

On October 15, 1885, the Boonton newspaper released the following news item. "Chas. Kincaid of Rockaway Valley has raised some large sunflowers this season. He gave one to Asa T. Cook that measured 42 inches in circumference, 14 inches in diameter, and weighed 4 1/2 pounds. The stalk where it connected with the flower measured 6 inches in circumference."

During the summer of 1891 Horace Ford, a liveryman in the Town of Boonton, paid Charles Kincaid for seasonal pasturing of a mare and colt.

In April 1897 at a regular meeting of the Township Committee of Boonton Township Charles was appointed, under the supervision of such committee, Overseer of the Road in District No. 2.

In April 1898 coverage by the Standard Fire Insurance Company of New Jersey under Policy #43952 was increased to \$2,550.00 as follows:

- \$1000.00 - On frame shingle roof building, and additions thereto, while occupied as a dwelling.
- \$ 300.00 - On household and kitchen furniture, useful and ornamental, beds, bedding, linen, carpets, family wearing apparel, printed books, music, sewing machine, fuel and family stores, all while contained in above described dwelling,
- \$ 200.00- On frame shingle roof barn No. 1,
- \$ 200.00- On frame shingle roof barn No. 2,
- \$ 100.00- On frame shingle roof wagon house,
- \$ 100.00- On farm produce
- \$ 150.00- On wagons, carriages, sleighs, harness and farming utensils,
- \$ 300.00- On horses, not to exceed \$100 on any horse in event of loss,
- \$ 200.00- On horned cattle, not to exceed \$50 on any one in event of loss

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All while contained in above described buildings and on premises  
Situates on farm of assured, occupied by owner on the road leading  
from the Mine Ridge to Powerville in Morris County, New Jersey

The information given in this policy is pertinent and interesting. It mentions "additions thereto" and probably dates the late, rear lean-to addition.

Charles died in 1901, and in 1911, four years prior to her death, Catherine conveyed the farm to son Asa and daughter Mary. By 1902 Asa had evidently become (or hoped to become) involved in livestock farming as it was reported in the local newspaper that he had suffered a remarkable and still unsolved theft of some 30 cows!

Not widely used until the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, silos for preserving forage were now added to the barn, and corn began to reign supreme. Grain and hay were also raised, and the farm produced poultry and eggs.

In 1913 Asa and Mary insured the house, barns (three in number) and contents for \$2,550.00. Livestock was insured with \$200.00 on horses and \$300.00 on cows. 1918 insurance coverage remained the same.

Cows were kept primarily for home consumption of milk, cream, butter and cheese, which were also sometimes bartered at the local stores. An occasional veal calf might be sold. In the 1920's surplus milk from a small herd was sold to the neighboring Wayside Farms dairy. Firewood was cut and sold at \$5.00 per cord. Seed potatoes were ordered from Hickox-Rumsey Co., Inc. of Batavia, New York.

In 1931 Oscar Kincaid Sr. purchased his Aunt Mary's share of the farm, and in 1935 he inherited his Uncle Asa's share.

### **The Stand**

Twentieth-century interest in the property has centered largely on the farm's ice cream stand that was built after World War One. The story of the little refreshment stand on the homestead property is not so well known and certainly merits more attention. Deeply ingrained in the folk history of Boonton Township the early section of the little road stand was built by Oscar A. Kincaid, Sr., (1888-1968) in the mid to late 1920's, about the time he and Imogene B. Bradin were united in marriage (January 14, 1926).<sup>xv</sup>

Electrical service had just become available to upper Township residents. Until that date every household had a nice collection of oil lamps and an oak-paneled icebox, porcelain lined, complete with nickel plated ice chamber, waste pipe and drip pan. Ice cream was not the readily available treat it is now. The homemade variety was the order of the day, a luscious treat made from rich Guernsey cream, but enjoyed only when Sears

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Roebuck's wooden ice cream bucket was taken off the shelf on very special occasions, the flavor of choice packed in rock salt and ice, and the wheel cranked by willing hands. The reward for all that work? Permission to lick the chocolate coated dasher!

The rural scene was changing, and now, because of new initiative on the Kincaid farm, the Township had its very own ice cream stand with a most modern freezer chest offering several delectable flavors of choice. Some old time residents recall that *Cream-O's* vanilla came from Dover and, made from the "true bean," was especially good. Others remember Hershey's chocolate. Customers were served at small inside tables or over the front window counter. Because the scoops were so generous, a double-dip sugar cone demanded dexterous juggling. Word spread! The dusty, furrowed Boonton-Butler Road (now Powerville Road) had been recently surfaced, and automobiles could be more venturesome. Residents from a four mile radius drove up, down or over for a summer night's treat. A hand operated gas pump was installed for the convenience of regular customers and Sunday drivers who had not long since traded horses for a new Ford or Studebaker.

The stand became a recreational meeting place for area neighbors, whose own kitchens by this time pridefully displayed shiny new Frigidaires. Hand-squeezed lemonade was now frosted with clunky, frozen ice cubes – no longer the inviting bell-like tinkle of ice slivers chipped from the 50-pound block in the big oak chest. The cantankerous old *Lightning* freezer was relegated to the attic and in due time forgotten. Neighborhood boys and their pals, today's septuagenarians, recall the halcyon days of long ago summers when the old pasture lots grew an ambrosial abundance of big, sweet raspberries, which the enterprising youngsters picked and sold at the stand. Waiting expectantly for customers, they pitched horseshoes by the shagbark hickory which stands in the rear of the building, still providing winter larder for the squirrels.

In 1935 Oscar, Sr. moved into the family homestead, making some unobtrusive changes to accommodate his wife and two children. In 1938 he entered the dairy business, and to house his new endeavor added a room to the small road stand. A large walk-in cooler was installed for dairy refrigeration. The stand became *The Milk House*, sometimes serving as a convenient butchering facility. A **HILLSIDE DAIRY** sign, prominently advertising the family's retail milk route, was displayed, and the "refreshment" stand ceased operation as such. Surviving records show that in 1940 Oscar, Sr., was milking twenty-five cows. Milk sold for 15 cents per quart; cream 63 cents per quart; buttermilk 10 ½ cents per quart. From October 1, to November 1, 1940, he produced a total of 6,836 quarts. But World War II was looming, and on Saturday, October 2, 1943, due to a shortage of labor, he sold at auction his herd of twenty-three cattle and one stock bull; all his dairy equipment; two 28-foot silos; and his McCormick reaper.<sup>xvi</sup> Recent research discovered that the silos sold for \$28.00 each. During the war, the Kincaids provided plots, guidance and tools for the "Victory" gardens planted by patriotic Boonton townspeople. By 1944, the Kincaids had reverted to general farming and adopted the more appropriate name by which the house and property are still recognized today: VALLEY FARM, O. A. Kincaid & Son, Props., Powerville Road, Boonton Township, N.J. Deerfield 4-4172.

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With a sense of harmonious connection to the past, the farm stand continued in uninterrupted operation until the death of Oscar A. Kincaid, Jr. in November 2000. It was often left unattended, completely on the honor system with unlocked money box sitting among tomatoes and peppers. There was no fancy merchandise for sale – just the homegrown bounty of the farm itself (Oscar's sweet corn and tomatoes were famous); firewood from over the Mine Ridge; Christmas trees, peaches and cider in season from local suppliers; and, especially memorable, the heirloom apples introduced here to the public in the 1970's by pomologist Harold W. Schroeder of nearby Lyonsville.<sup>xvii</sup> In late summer and fall the winery aroma in the farm produce stand came from baskets of Golden Russets; Black Gilliflowers (the clovey proper name for the local Sheepnose); Yellow Bellflowers; Blue Pearmains; and Rhode Island Greenings; also highly colored and delectable Northern Spies; Fall Pippins; Early Joes; and New Jersey's own Maiden's Blush. Apples with personality and character; apples whose grand old names and pedigrees have acquired them folklore status. Sweet corn, too, had enticing names and flavor: Spring Gold; Sundance; Seneca Chief; Silver Queen; and Wonder Sweet.

The house has been a farm homestead for over 200 years. In recognition of its long agricultural history, *Valley Farm* received from the New Jersey Agricultural Society its prestigious Century Farm Award in 1980. Oscar, Jr. was a founding member of the Morris County Agricultural Development Board; and during his 17 years on the Board was instrumental in the preservation of 41 farms, protecting 3,100 acres in Boonton Township and Morris County. In August 1996, the farm and stand attracted special media attention and created some local excitement when it provided the background for a Providence Health Care TV commercial filmed by the Artist Company of Manhattan. In 2001 the MCADB, which usually purchases only development rights, bought the 75 acre Kincaid farm for both open space and farmland preservation purposes. The Morris County Park Commission has named its portion of the property, *Kincaid Woods* in Oscar, Jr.'s honor.

### ENDNOTES

<sup>i</sup> Schroeder, Harold W., Map of William Penn's Lot #48. See note 16.

<sup>ii</sup> Munsell & Co., History of Morris County, New Jersey 1739 – 1882 (New Vernon, New Jersey: Reprinted by the Morris County Historical Society, 1967) 79, 336-338.

<sup>iii</sup> Simmendinger, Ulrich, The Simmendinger Register (Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1984) 12, 16.

<sup>iv</sup> Simmendinger, Ulrich, The Simmendinger Register (Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1984) VIII.

<sup>v</sup> Schroeder, Harold W., Map of the Parlmen Purchase. See note 16.

<sup>vi</sup> Bishop, Ruth M., "History of the Miller Family," Correspondence to Alex D. Fowler, 21 August 1947.

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<sup>vii</sup> Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. XIII, (1943) 642 -643.

<sup>viii</sup> Town Book of Pequannock Township 1741 – 1835, Vol. II (Joint Free Public Library of Morristown and Morris Township) 184.

<sup>ix</sup> Miller, Aaron, Last Will and Testament dated April 15, 1828. Filed December 18, 1828. Proved January 16, 1829. Witnesses: Thomas VanWinkle, William M. Dixon. George Ocobock. Recorded in Lib. C – Lot 453. (New Jersey Archives and History Bureau #2283N).

<sup>x</sup> Wright, Helen Grey Henning, Adam Mueller, A German Palatine (1979). Elvina Miller Campfield, daughter of John Francis Miller, was Mrs. Wright's great-grandmother.

<sup>xi</sup> Vendue Advertisement, Estate of John Decker, Boonton Times Bulletin (Boonton) 7 March 1878.

<sup>xii</sup> Rajer, Anton, Conservation Proposal for the Decker-Kincaid Home in Boonton Township, New Jersey (Fine Arts Conservation Services, Madison, Wisconsin 31 March 2004).

<sup>xiii</sup> Rajer, Anton, Conservation Proposal for the Decker-Kincaid Home in Boonton Township, New Jersey (Fine Arts Conservation Services, Madison, Wisconsin 31 March 2004).

<sup>xiv</sup> Town Book of Pequannock Township 1741 – 1835, Vol. I (Joint Free Public Library of Morristown and Morris Township) 184.

<sup>xv</sup> Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society, Vol. 50 – No. 1 (Newark, New Jersey) January 1932. Mrs. Oscar A. Kincaid Sr. was an heiress to the J&P Coats and Clark Thread Company fortune. Her home at 230 Broadway (corner of Taylor), Newark, New Jersey, became headquarters of the New Jersey Historical Society on October 31, 1931.

<sup>xvi</sup> Auction Sale Advertisement by order of Oscar A. Kincaid, owner, Boonton Times Bulletin (Boonton, New Jersey) 28 September 1943.

<sup>xvii</sup> "Harold W. Schroeder" New York Times (New York) 21 October 1973. Schroeder had been a Wheeling Steel Corporation executive, who after his retirement in 1955, became a full time pomologist and orchardist. He revived the eight acre antique apple orchard on his one hundred-thirty acre farm in Lyonsville, Rockaway Township, New Jersey, adding forty additional trees from land grant agricultural colleges of the 1860's. An able surveyor and respected historian, he researched and mapped the property boundaries of Morris County's earliest land owners. His Decker family information originated in 1964 while composing a Genealogical Chart of the descendants of Frederick Decker (1813-1864), brother of John A. Decker. Extensive research was necessary to settle the question of clear title and to obtain a quit claim deed to 1.48 acres of land formerly owned by Frederick Decker, part of which was subsequently owned by Mr. Schroeder.

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## SECTION 10 – GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Premises is known and designated as Block 20601, Lot 11 on the Tax Map of the Township of Boonton, commonly referred to as 591 Powerville Road, Boonton Township, New Jersey 07005.

All that certain tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in the Township of Boonton, County of Morris, and State of New Jersey, being more particularly describes as follows:

BEGINNING at a point on the southwesterly right of way line of Powerville Road (width varies) said point being the common corner of Block 20601, Lots 8, 10 and 11 and from said point running; thence North 52 degrees 46 minutes 27 seconds West, a distance 527.10 feet along the dividing line of Lots 10 and 13 to the South and Lot 11 to the North; thence

North 40 degrees 29 minutes 33 seconds East, a distance of 211.90 feet along the dividing line of Lot 12 to the West and Lot 11 to the East to the aforesaid southwesterly right of way line of Powerville Road; thence

South 34 degrees 03 minutes 22 seconds East, a distance of 193.09 feet along said Powerville Road; thence

South 30 degrees 56 minutes 36 seconds East, a distance of 82.68 feet continuing along said Powerville Road; thence

South 29 degrees 55 minutes 48 seconds East, a distance of 150.10 feet continuing along said Powerville Road to the Place of BEGINNING.

The above description is written in accordance with a survey by Van Cleef Engineering Associates dated 12/03/03.

### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION STATEMENT

The nominated property consists of the lot that comprises the portion of the Decker-Kincaid farm that contains the farmhouse and roadside stand. Other portions of the historic farm have been set off as other lots and are not included in this nomination.

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Decker-Kincaid Homestead, Morris County, New Jersey

Photo #	Description of Photo Content	Direction Camera is Facing
1	General view of property, showing farm stand, house and barn	North
2	Front of house, showing 1785 portion on left and 1837 addition on right	North
3	Front and side of house	Northeast
4	Entrance door to the 1837 addition	Northwest
5	Rear of the house – note the two bathroom additions circa 1930s	Southwest
6	Front and side of the garage, built circa 1940s	Southwest
7	Rear and side of garage	Northeast
8	Three small sheds to the side of the 1785 house	Northwest
9	Front of farm stand, built circa 1920	South
10	Front door of farm stand, showing rooftop sign: "Valley Farm 1824, O.A. Kincaid"	West
11	Rear and side of the farm stand	North/Northeast
12	Interior view of the farm stand's two rooms	Northwest
13	Front hall of the 1837 addition	South
14	Alternate view of the front hallway of the 1837 addition	North
15	Front hallway wall of the 1837 addition, showing spoon work and the "face"	Northeast
16	Front hall of the 1837 addition, showing spoon work detail and the "face"	West
17	Front hall of the 1837 addition, showing the date of the addition printed within the spoon work	West
18	Front parlor in the 1837 addition – note the fireplace and sign	East
19	Rear parlor in the 1837 addition, also with a fireplace	Northeast
20	Detail of banister of staircase leading upstairs in the 1837 addition	Northeast
21	Upstairs hallway in the 1837 addition	South
22	Upstairs rear bedroom in the 1837 addition	Northeast
23	Upstairs front bedroom in the 1837 addition	Southeast
24	Nursery bedroom in the 1837 addition	Southwest
25	Kitchen in the 1785 house, showing the entry door to the house	Southwest
26	Dining room in the 1785 house	West
27	Alternate view of the dining room in the 1785 house, showing the upstairs stairwell and the entry to the hallway in the 1837 addition	East
28	Front bedroom on the second floor of the 1785 house	Southwest
29	Rear bedroom on the second floor of the 1785 house	Southwest
30	Second floor hallway in the 1785 house, showing the staircase down to the first floor that enters into the dining room	Northwest

Photographer: Marian L. Hummel Photo negatives held by: Marian L. Hummel

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National Park Service

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Decker-Kincaid Homestead, Morris County, New Jersey

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Labeled "Planting Time" on the back of the picture. First quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet**

HISTORIC PHOTOS 2 of 5

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_ Decker-Kincaid Homestead, Morris County, New Jersey



The Kincaid Granary – Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

Note the dusty Boonton-Butler Road appearing much as it did when at an “annual Town meeting held in the Township of Pequannock the 9<sup>th</sup> day of April 1832 at the House of James Dixon in Rockaway Valley” John A. Decker was re-elected an Overseer of the Highway.<sup>17</sup>

United States Department of the Interior  
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HISTORIC PHOTOS

3 of 5

Decker-Kincaid Homestead, Morris County, New Jersey



The Decker-Kincaid House in the first quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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Decker-Kincaid Homestead, Morris County, New Jersey

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The Kincaid Barns in the 1930's  
The forge barn appears on the left

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National Park Service

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Kincaid Family gathering with friends on an early summer afternoon in 1895

Pictured left to right: Jackie Sanders (farm hand), Anthony Nix (neighbor), Charles Kincaid (seated), Oscar A. Kincaid, Sr., Mary Kincaid Breese, Catherine Decker Kincaid (seated), Verna Kincaid, Andrew Kincaid, Dorcas Van Dine Kincaid (John Kincaid's wife) and Timothy Stickle (proprietor of neighboring Wayside Farms).

Decker-Kincaid Homestead - Valley View  
 591 Powerville Rd.  
 Boonton Twp, N.J. 07005 (Morris County)

Map "A"

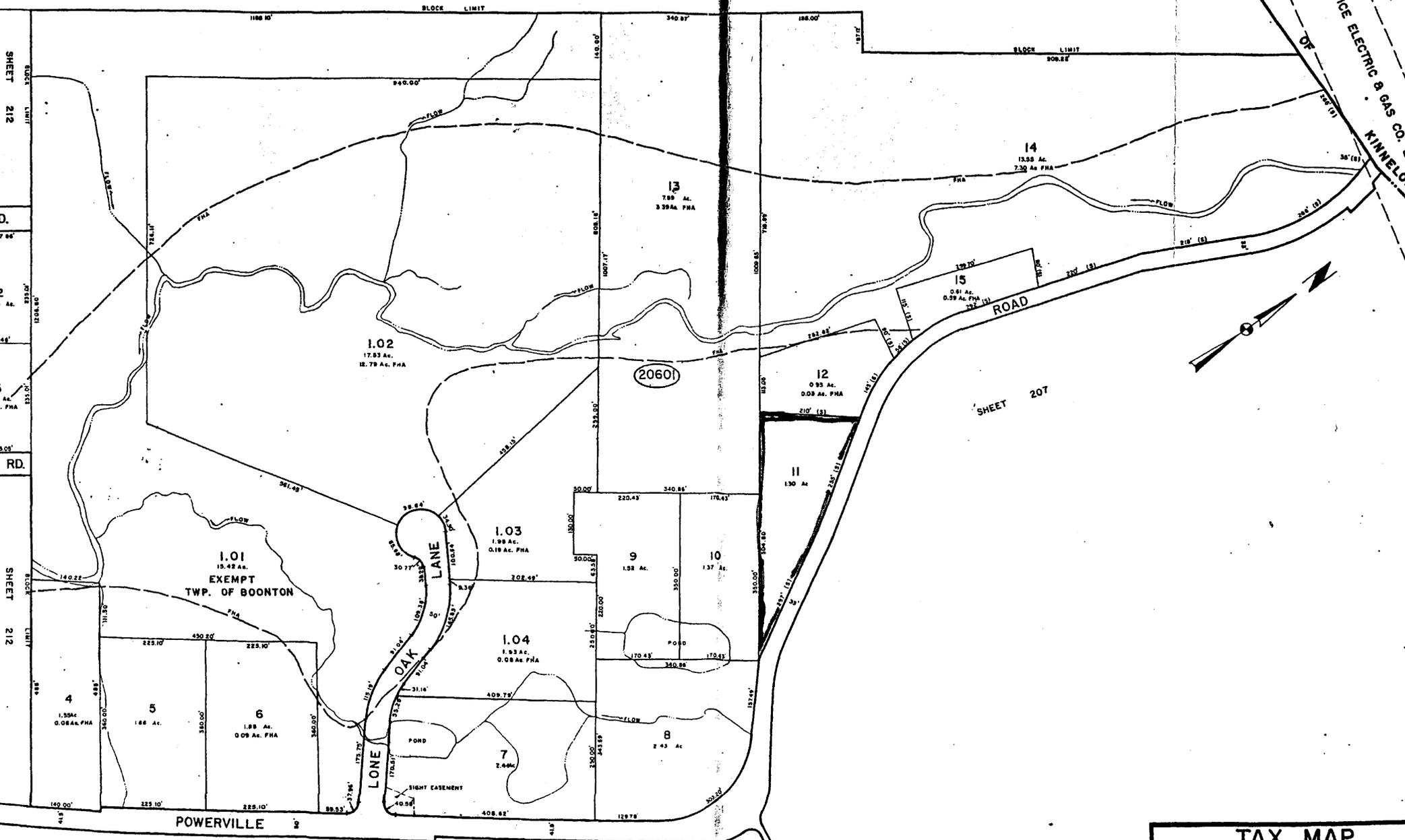
20

SHEET 205

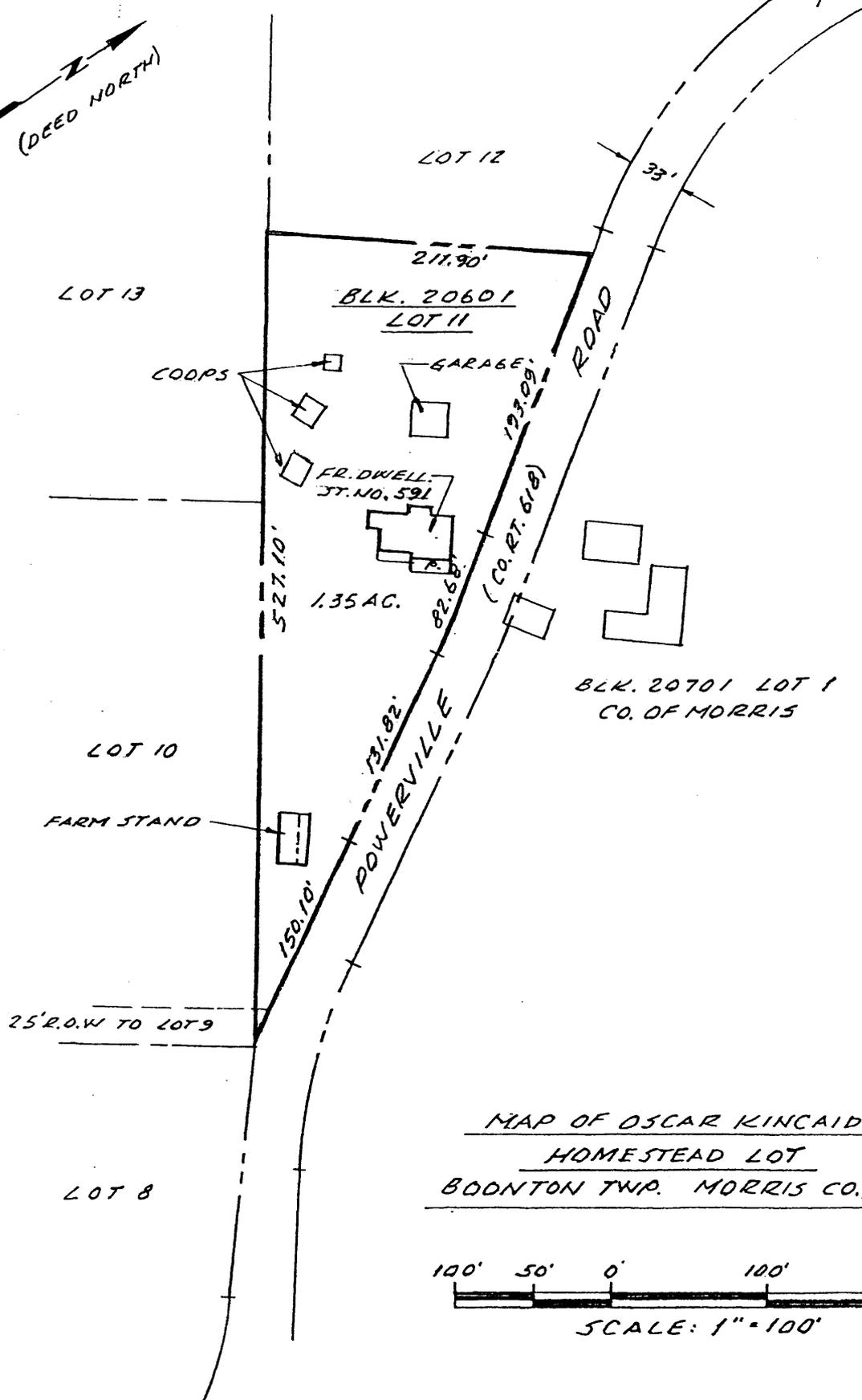
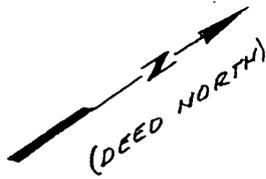
SHEET 207

SHEET 209

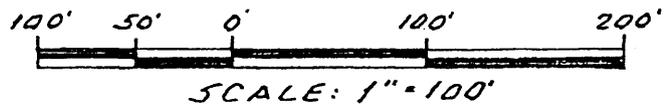
**TAX MAP**  
**TOWNSHIP OF BOONTON**  
 MORRIS COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
 SCALE: 1" = 100'  
 JANUARY 1, 1961  
 LINCOLN H. EDWARDS



DECKER-KINCAID HOMESTEAD, BOONTON TOWNSHIP, MORRIS COUNTY, NEW JERSEY



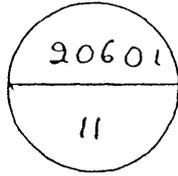
MAP OF OSCAR KINCAID  
HOMESTEAD LOT  
BOONTON TWP. MORRIS CO., N.J.



Site Map

210' (S)

Photos



1.3 Ac.



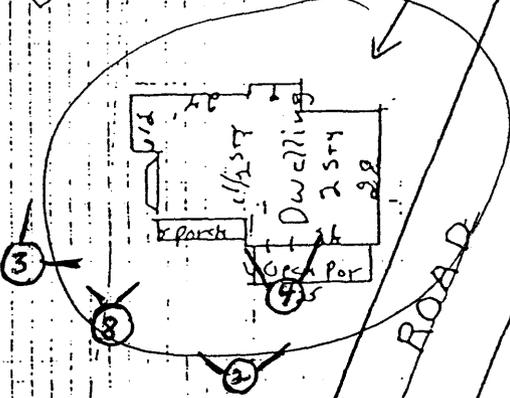
SCALE: 1" = 40'  
SKETCH MAP BASED ON  
APPRAISER'S FIELD  
INSPECTION AND TAX MAP  
DATA NOT A SURVEY  
2003

Key

- = photo numbers and photographer position
- = angle of photo taken

(12 photos)

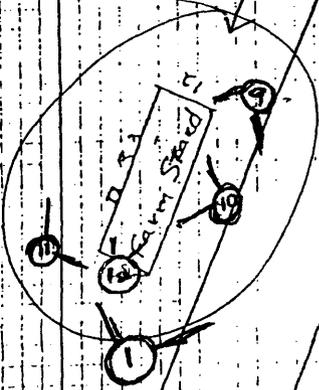
564.50 (S)

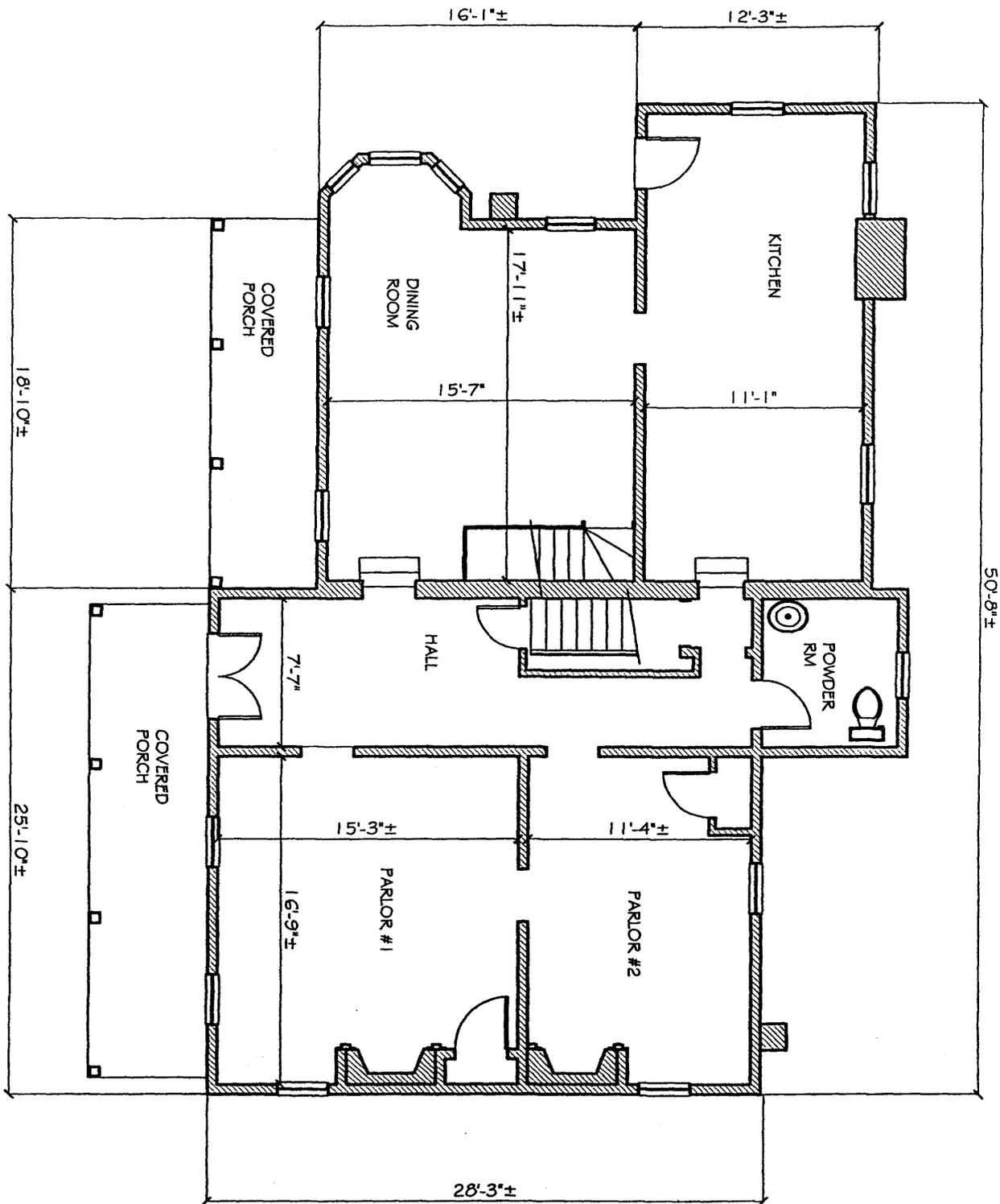


Decker-Kincaid Homestead

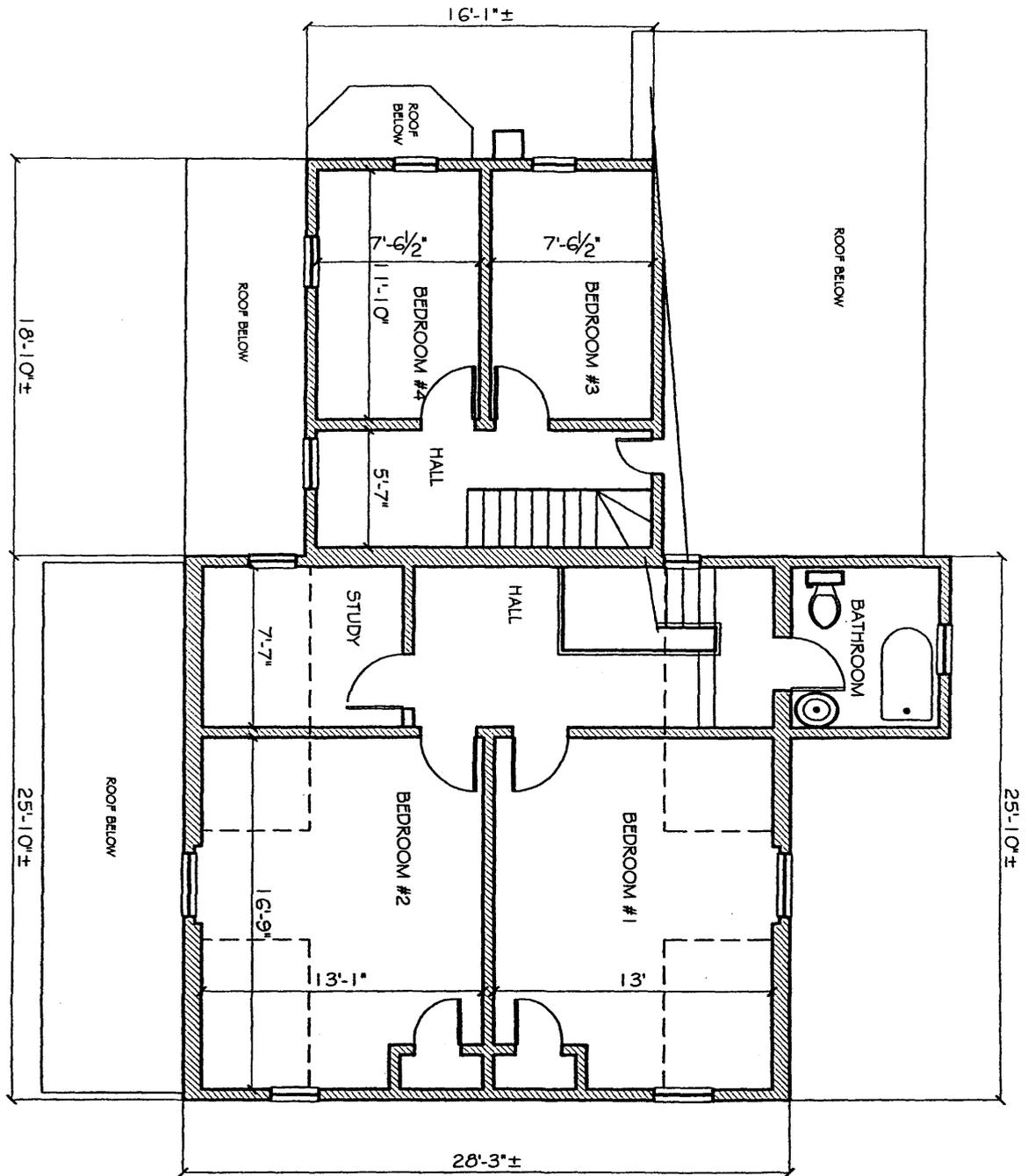
POWERSVILLE ROAD

Refreshment Stand





<b>DECKER-KINCAID RESIDENCE</b> POWERVILLE RD. BOONTON TOWNSHIP, NJ	<b>MARJORIE B. ROLLER, ARCHITECT</b>			9 BROOKVIEW ROAD BOONTON TWP., NJ 07005 (973)402-0560	
	<b>EXIST. 1ST FL. PLAN</b>	<b>AI-10023</b>	JOB#: 2338	SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"	DATE: 4/5/04



DECKER-KINCAID  
RESIDENCE

POWERSVILLE RD.  
BOONTON TOWNSHIP, NJ

**MARJORIE B. ROLLER, ARCHITECT**

9 BROOKVIEW ROAD  
BOONTON TWP., NJ 07005  
(973)402-0560

EXIST. 2ND FL. PLAN

AI-10023

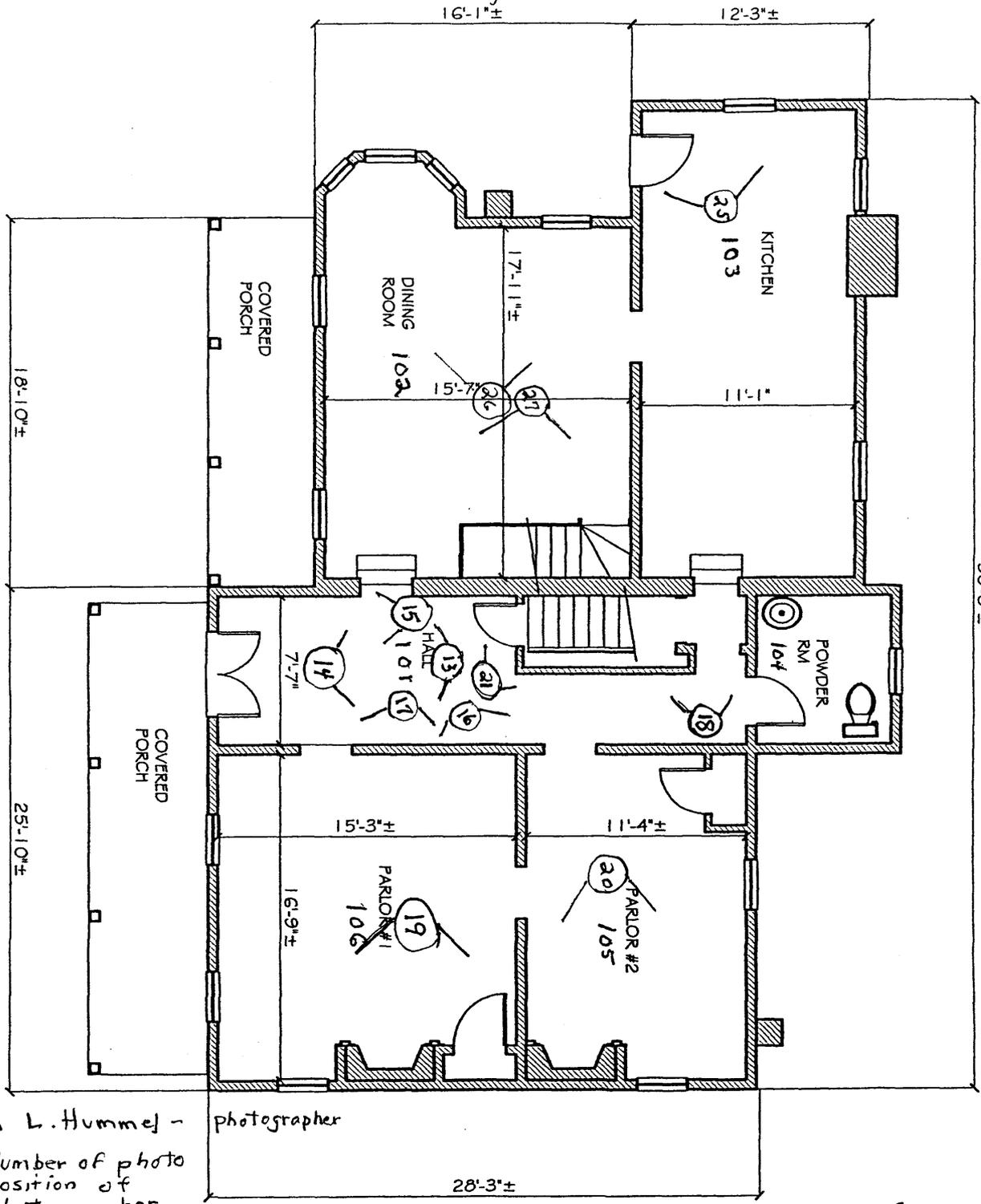
JOB#: 2338

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

DATE: 4/5/04

E-2

Photo Key



Marian L. Hummel - photographer

○ = Number of photo position of photographer.

↖ / = Direction of shot taken (Apr., May 2004)

DECKER-KINCAID RESIDENCE  POWERVILLE RD. BOONTON TOWNSHIP, NJ	<b>MARJORIE B. ROLLER, ARCHITECT</b>			9 BROOKVIEW ROAD BOONTON TWP., NJ 07005 (973)402-0560	
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