

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

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received FEB 12 1986

date entered

MAR 13 1986

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Alward Farmhouse

and/or common Chimney Ash Farm

2. Location

street & number 40 Mt. Airy Road

NA not for publication

city, town Basking Ridge vicinity of

state New Jersey code 034 county Somerset code 035

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	NA	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name W. Drew Kastner

street & number 40 Mt. Airy Road

city, town Basking Ridge vicinity of state New Jersey 07920

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset County Court House

street & number High Street

city, town Somerville, state New Jersey

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Alward farmhouse sits back off Mt. Airy Road on a 1 and 1/2 acre remnant of the original 150 acre farm and orchard, at the end of a small private dirt road. Apparently built in two sections, as indicated by construction details in the basement and attic, the 1½ story 5 bay home is a simple frame & clapboard farmhouse with fieldstone foundation. The partial basement under one side of the house, the spacing of the rafters in the attic, and the difference in ceiling heights and construction from one side of the house to the other belies the two separate construction dates.

Charles Detwiller, following a full inspection of the house, estimated the earliest date of construction between 1735-1740, but the 3rd quarter of the 18th Century seems more plausible. The details of construction indicates that the southeastern section of the house may have been built forty or fifty years later.

Construction is of the post and beam type. The beams are notched and pegged. The original roof was of thick handsplit shakes. Six fireplaces feed into two chimneys - one at each end of the house. The house consists of seven rooms in all, in addition to a large 3/4 unfinished basement. Original wide pine floorboards are still present in two rooms. Original hand-hewn ceiling beams are visible throughout the four first floor rooms and in the basement.

Both the interior and exterior design of the house are simple and somewhat primitive. Some windows contain original glass and many of the doors are hung with original hardware-latches pintles and strap hinges. Lighting fixtures, wallpaper and other decorations are new.

The exterior of the Alward house is covered with uniform width clapboard. A wide brick chimney protrudes from each gable end, with the stone wall of one exposed on the lower portion of the house's northwestern side. The front and rear facades have 6/6 sash windows on the first floor and 3 pane knee-wall windows on the second level. The gable ends have 6/6 sash windows on both the first and second levels. Some of these contain original glass. Window surrounds are simple.

Both the front and rear doorways are currently unprotected, but old photographs show that the front door was once encased by a porch with a small gabled roof, while the rear of the house had a long shed and enclosed porch, probably built in the 1900's.

The roof of the house is gable with modern asphalt shingles on the front half and thick hand split wood shingles on the rear half. The attic rafters are essentially the same from one section to another. They are hewn, pegged and have no ridge beam. Spacing in the earlier section is wider, however.

The front door opens to a small vestibule which separates the living room and dining room. The back door opens directly into the keeping room, which probably was the original kitchen. The mantel of the keeping room fireplace has no moldings, but the mantels of the fireplaces in each of the other three first

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floor rooms appear to have early, although simple, moldings and other trim. The dining room has original wide 1½" thick tongue and groove board flooring, as does the master bedroom above. The floor boards in the living room are newer, narrow oak, probably placed over the original floor. The flooring in the new kitchen and the keeping room are wide board reproductions, the originals having since deteriorated. The original flooring is oak but the reproductions are of pine. In each of the four first floor rooms exposed oak ceiling beams are in plain view. Those in the original section are planed and beaded while those in the second half are not and were probably covered by a plaster ceiling at one time.

The stairway leading to the second floor empties into an open hallway with built-in cupboard on the first floor. What was probably an open second floor loft has been partitioned off into two bedrooms and a bath. One of these bedrooms has been converted into a study. Up four more steps is the master bedroom, which also has original random width wide board oak flooring. There are no fireplaces on the second floor although one may have existed in the loft area at one time.

Beneath the main stairway is a stairway leading into the cellar. In the cellar the floor beams and floor boards above are clearly visible. Fieldstone walls 2-foot thick run the full height of the cellar, which has been partitioned into a summer kitchen/family room, a work shop, and a laundry/furnace area. Reproduction wide board pine floors have been added to the summer kitchen/family room, as has knotty pine paneling and extra support beams.

Ruins of several structures, which may have been the barn, outhouse, smoke house, silo and well, are discernable. A small farm shed is the only out-building still standing. The shrubbery and landscape reveal the contour of the original property and indicate the location of two old wagon roads long since out of use.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
..... prehistoric	..... archeology-prehistoric	..... community planning	..... landscape architecture	..... religion
..... 1400-1499	..... archeology-historic	..... conservation	..... law	..... science
..... 1500-1599	..... agriculture	..... economics	..... literature	..... sculpture
..... 1600-1699	X architecture	..... education	..... military	..... social/
X 1700-1799	..... art	..... engineering	..... music	..... humanitarian
..... 1800-1899	..... commerce	X exploration/settlement	..... philosophy	..... theater
..... 1900-	..... communications	..... industry	..... politics/government	..... transportation
		..... invention		..... other (specify)

Specific dates mid-late 18th c. **Builder/Architect** Henry Alward

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Alward house is a good example of a primitive northern New Jersey farmhouse and represents one of the few extant colonial farmhouses in Bernards Township. The lines of the building have gone essentially unchanged since the late 18th century; fenestration is unaltered, the roof is unbroken by later dormers, and there are no additions - making the exterior an unusually pristine 18th century farmhouse. The exact date of the earliest northwestern three bay section is uncertain, but it was probably completed sometime in the 3rd quarter of the 18th century by Henry Alward. Possibly originally inhabited by a tenant farmer since Alward had a homestead elsewhere, the building portrays the primitive and simple lifestyle of many of New Jersey's itinerant earliest settlers.

Around the end of the 18th century an addition nearly doubled the buildings size and provided simple embellishments (plaster ceilings, beaded mantels), but the elemental nature of the house was retained. The expansion was probably effected by a new owner, Abraham Canfield of Morristown.

Canfield died in 1789 and in 1795 the property was transferred to Jonathan Pennington. Pennington left the property to his wife Osee and after her demise it was to pass to his daughter Osee, who was the wife of Henry Alward. The Alward family owned the property until 1872.

Henry Alward, an early settler in Bernards, died in 1782. His wife was named Ann. His will exists. He left to his sons Henry and William his home plantation. This homestead is marked on Robert Erskine's map of the area made for General Washington, c. 1778. It is indicated on the road paralleling the Passaic River just south of the Dead River, near its confluence with the Passaic. Sometime between 1783 and 1789 Abraham Canfield acquired the property.

Abraham Canfield died in 1789. He listed himself in his will as a merchant of Morristown making no mention of any specific properties owned by him. There is no deed record of Canfield's purchase.

In a mortgage deed, dated September 12, 1795 the property was transferred from the executors of the estate of the late Abraham Canfield of Morristown to Jonathan Pennington. The document included a verbal description of the boundaries. The property consisted of 150 acres. Recorded under mortgages, the transaction is an agreement to make two payments for a total of 200 pounds. This agreement apparently followed the actual purchase of the farm if Pennington's record of purchase, stated in his will, is correct. He gives the date as February 15, 1794.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Basking Ridge and Bernards Township Historical Society Records
Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church Records
Somerset County, Snell
Correspondence with Alward family members

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property ±1.5 acres

Quadrangle name Bernardsville

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	8	5	3	5	8	2	1	0	4	5	0	4	6	8	1	0
Zone		Easting						Northing								

B

Zone		Easting						Northing								

C

Zone		Easting						Northing								

D

Zone		Easting						Northing								

E

Zone		Easting						Northing								

F

Zone		Easting						Northing								

G

Zone		Easting						Northing								

H

Zone		Easting						Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

Block #94, Lot #17

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

W. Drew Kastner, 40 Mt. Airy Rd., Basking Ridge,

N.J. 07920 (201) 221-9123 with the assistance of

name/title William H. Kastner

organization William H. Kastner, Realtor

date 1981, 1985

street & number Mt. Kemble Avenue

telephone (201) 267-2622

city or town New Vernon

state New Jersey 07976

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

Deputy
State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Allen C. Senebe

title Assistant Commissioner for Natural Resources

date February 5, 1986

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Allen C. Senebe
Keener of the National Register

date 3-13-86

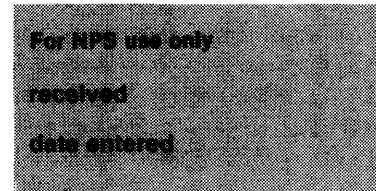
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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According to Jonathan Pennington's will of 1815, Pennington left all his real estate to his widow Osee, and after her demise it was to pass in the main to his daughter Osee, wife of Henry Alward. He left to his widow, and afterward to his daughter and her heirs, specifically: "50 acres to be laid from the farm I bought of Abraham Canfield's executors, to be laid off at the north end of said farm and parallel to the north line." To Jonathan, his grandson, son of Osee and Henry Alward, he left "remainder of farm I bought of executors of Abraham Canfield."

Osee Alward must have died around c. 1823 when Jonathan's brothers and sisters took steps to release to Jonathan and his wife Deborah their 1/9th shares in the undivided 50-acre tract. The deeds were sometimes issued in the spouse's names. (From Henry Alward to Jonathan, 1823: K-855; from W.D. Alward, 1826: M-109; from G. McCoy, 1826: M-110; from Jacob Alward and wife, and William C. Annin and wife Sarah, 1830: O-426; from Osee Alward, Elizabeth Alward, Joseph Alward and wife, and Jonathan Hand and wife Ann, 1831: O-765.)

Jonathan Alward afterward bought other tracts of land unrelated to this farm. He and his wife Deborah were still buying land in 1854. Jonathan Alward died sometime before 1864. In 1864 Joseph Alward, of Elizabeth, New Jersey, son of Jonathan (presumably) by deed (Q-3, 577) transferred to Waters B. Alward, another son, his 1/3rd interest in tract and premises "being homestead farm of late Jonathan Alward, deceased."

This deed refers to a survey of the property made in 1856. Following the property description, the statement appears: "First four courses above were copied from the deed given by the executors of Abraham Canfield to Jonathan Pennington...." The 8th and 9th courses were from the survey of 1856. The farm consisted of 145 acres.

In 1869, Mary F. Alward, widow and executor of the estate of Waters B. Alward, deceased, and Osee P. Dunham sold "homestead farm of Jonathan Alward" to Joseph Alward of Elizabeth for \$10,500. (Deed I-4, 248) It contained 143.35 acres. At the end of the deed it is stated that 1/3rd of the farm is owned by Jonathan's daughter Osee and 2/3rds by Mary F. Alward, widow and executor of his son Waters B. Alward, deceased, tenants in common. W.B. Alward died March 1, 1866 (records in Surrogate's Office).

In 1872, Joseph Alward and wife Martha Chris, of Elizabeth, sold to Patrick Gougerty of Bernards Township, the same farm, then consisting of 105.44 acres, for \$10,544. (Deed M-4, 512) In comparing these last two deeds, we find the

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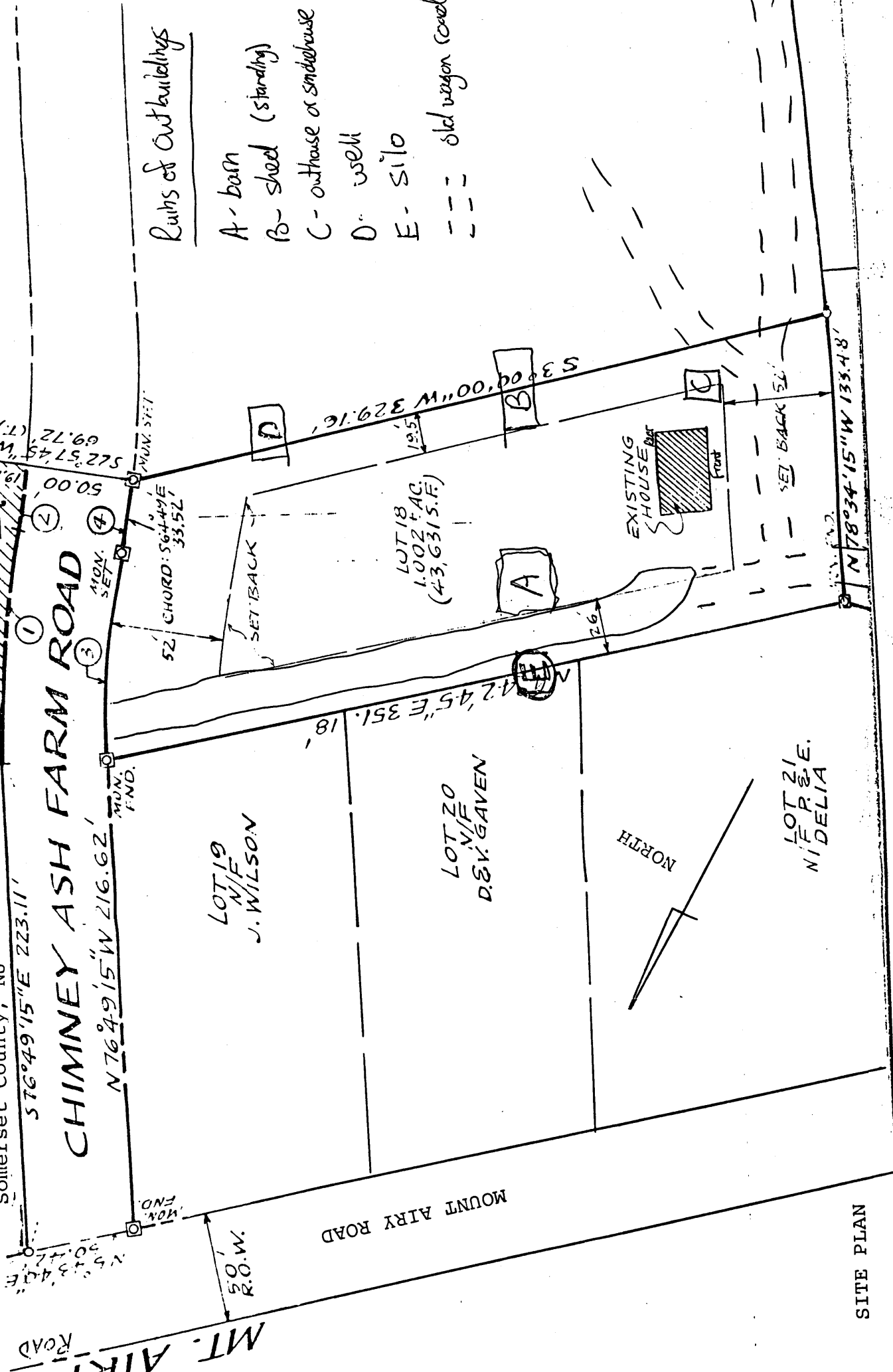
2

difference in acreage is accounted for by the apparent removal of some property at the northeast corner.

The addition to the house can probably be attributed to Henry Alward and his wife Osee Pennington. That in itself is an assumption, unless you accept as correct the family tradition that the Alwards moved in as soon as her father bought the property. The 1815 will of her father, Jonathan Pennington, does not state that she was living there at the time. After 1815, Osee's son, Jonathan Alward was living on the southern 2/3rds of the farm (again we must presume that this portion contained the house). Later he bought the remainder of the farm. Despite the "primitive" style of the east part of the house, it is even possible that it was not constructed until the 1790s. This possibility exists because of the purchase price of the entire farm, 200 pounds, for 150 acres. In the same decade, Pennington paid the same money for 40 acres and in 1801 paid 62 pounds for 15½ acres "with message and premises." Usually deeds make no mention of houses at all. In rare instances, we come upon a reference to a "message," which means a house, but usually one occupied by a tenant.

The house that existed before 1789 appears to have been occupied by tenants, since the then-owner lived in Morristown. The house has importance, as a surviving example of vernacular building in northern Somerset County by someone of Scotch-Irish or English background (the nationalities of the early settlers of the Basking Ridge area). There are not many such examples to be found. It would be of some interest to compare it with a few others in the area: the Hockenbury House, the stone Shoudy House (off Galluping Hill Road), and the two houses on Valley Road. All of these are 1½-story houses. Dates have not been firmly established for any of these, however.

Alward Farmhouse
 Mt. Airy Road & Chimney
 Ash Farm Road
 Bernards Township
 Somerset County, NJ



- Ruins of Outbuildings
- A - barn
 - B - shed (standing)
 - C - outhouse or smokehouse
 - D - well
 - E - silo
 - = old wagon road

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MT. AIRY ROAD

SITE PLAN