

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0687120
FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED OCT 24 1978
DATE ENTERED DEC 15 1978

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

George Bowlsby DeGelleke House

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

NW of Parsippany at

STREET & NUMBER

320 Baldwin Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Parsippany *vic.* ~~Troy Hills Twp.~~

VICINITY OF

5th

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

New Jersey

34

Morris

027

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Township of Parsippany-Troy Hills

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Parsippany

VICINITY OF

New Jersey

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Hall of Records

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Morristown

New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory (#2371.6)

DATE 1974

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Office of Historic Preservation

CITY, TOWN Trenton

STATE New Jersey

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

Probably built in two sections, the Bowlsby-DeGelleke House has a 1 1/2 story, 5 bay, center entrance appearance. Construction details in the basement and attic indicate that the 3 bays to the west composed the original first unit and the east two bays were added shortly after. The beams in the basement and the rafters in the attic, however, are all hewn oak construction. Only the double hewn beams in the basement, the difference in rafter spacing in the attic, and the uneven fenestration belies the two separate construction dates. Their similarity in building technique (hewn beams, mortise and tenon, plates) suggests that the east unit was built only a few years after the west unit.

The exterior of the Bowlsby House is covered with clapboarding. The front and rear facades of the house have narrow board clapboarding, the gable ends are a much wider board, perhaps originals.

The front facade fenestration has 6/6 sash windows on the first floor and 3 pane kneewall windows on the second level. The doorway and porch exhibit restrained Greek Revival characteristics with sidelights, pilasters and square columns.

The roof of the house is gable with modern asphalt shingles. There is a brick chimney in each gable end. The chimney bases are stone as is the overall foundation. The house once had gable end returns but these were removed sometime in the 20th century, perhaps when the full length porch was added along the east end to accommodate a new side door around 1900. At about the same time that these modifications were being implemented, the plain board frieze surrounding the second windows was covered with narrow board clapboards.

Inside, there is a narrow center hall running from the main entrance to the rear of the house. Along the east wall of the hall a mid-19th century stairway runs straight to the upper floor. On either side of the hall are two rooms, each of which has separate access to the hall. The front room on the west end has a fireplace with a simple Greek Revival mantel; the one on the east end formerly had a fireplace, but it was obliterated some years ago when a furnace was installed and its chimney used for a flue.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Bowlsby-DeGelleke House is a good example of a New Jersey vernacular late 18th-early 19th century farmhouse. It is the last structure of its type in Parsippany-Troy Hills and one of the few 125 year old or older buildings in the township. This type of structure, the 1 1/2 story frame dwellings with 3 or 5 bays, once commonly dotted the New Jersey landscape, but through attrition such buildings have become increasingly rare.

It has been contended that the Bowlsby-DeGelleke House was built as early as 1773, although there is no evidence to justify this. It is more probable that around 1790 George, Jr. either built a new house or so completely up-dated his old house that traces of any earlier house were destroyed.

Although the beams and floorboard construction in the western part of the house are similar to those in houses of the 1800+ 10 period, the internal trim and external appearance, particularly the simplified Greek Revival front entrance, point to Nathaniel Bowlsby as the builder/owner when he owned the area from 1819 to 1849.

The earliest known Bowlsby in New Jersey was Thomas who died in Burlington in 1731. His son, George Bowlsby had moved into Hanover of Morris County by 1745. A freeholder of Hanover Township in 1752, George died in 1773 leaving property in the area to his five sons. It would appear that George, Jr. was given the property now in question.

George Bowlsby, Sr. gave us no clue in his will to the location of the homestead of his son George, Jr. - merely that George, Jr., was already living in Hanover in 1773. In 1778 he was listed as owning 200 acres of improved land in Hanover Township valued at 1,200, but again there was no indication of where Goerge, Jr., lived

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Morris County
New Jersey 034

CONTINUATION SHEET

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The hall and the two rooms on the west end have floorboards of oak, about six inches wide, and one and a quarter inches thick, with either elementary tongue-and-groove, or shiplap edges; the two rooms on the east end have floorboards of fairly narrow pine, now concealed by floor covering. The floorboards of the second floor are, on the whole, much wider (some 16 or 17 inches wide) and are oak.

Beneath the main stairway is a stairway leading into the cellar. In the cellar the beams supporting the floor above are in clear view: those under the hall and west rooms are hewn but left naturally round at places; those under the east unit are generally shaped on all four sides. Under the east wall of the hall, the beams, which run parallel to that wall, are doubled, giving rise to the speculation that the east end was a somewhat later addition to what was once the original half house -- the hall and the two rooms on the west. In the west end of the cellar, and, for the most part, under the back room, which is now the kitchen, are stone walls about five feet high and about ten foot square.

The second floor has been partitioned off into four bedrooms and a bath (ca. 1922), but was originally probably an open loft space.

Facing due south the Bowlsby-DeGelleke House is on a two acre wooded lot surrounded by modern apartment buildings.

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On the 10th of July 1815, George Bowlsby, Jr., wrote his will and made provision for his three sons, Thomas, Martin and Nathaniel, and for his three daughters, Phebe, Rachel and Susan. To his son, Thomas, he deeded the tract left to him by his brother, Thomas; to his two sons, Martin and Nathaniel, his homestead farm of 100 acres more or less, situated near Troy; and to each of his three daughters, \$120; no provision was made for his other children (un-named), because he had already given them their shares. He died some time before 1819 when his will was proved.

The homestead farm of George Bowlsby, Jr., of 100 acres, became the joint property of Martin and Nathaniel Bowlsby on their father's death in 1819. That property remained undivided between them until June 26, 1834 when by a mutual exchange of deeds each confirmed to the other the part he was to receive.

The division of the property between Martin and Nathaniel Bowlsby in 1834 was precipitated by Martin's agreement to sell his place to the Parsippany Presbyterian Church for a parsonage. After service as a parsonage for over 40 years, the house was occupied after 1876 and for many years by E. E. Baldwin and his family.

In the meanwhile, Nathaniel Bowlsby and his wife, Phebe, continued to reside in the house. In 1838, Nathaniel's wife, Phebe, died at the age of 38 years, and Nathaniel later married Margaret J. Nathaniel died on April 5, 1849, just 16 days after making his will, naming his son, William B. and his friend, Andrew J. Smith, as executors.

Nathaniel had specified in his will that his son should pay certain legacies, and, if his son declined to do so, then the property should be sold, and the legacies paid out of the proceeds. The son, William B. Bowlsby, did decline, and renounced his executorship. The whole property of 70 acres was then sold, on May 2, 1849, by the remaining executor, Andrew J. Smith, to Thunis R. Cobb for \$1,800.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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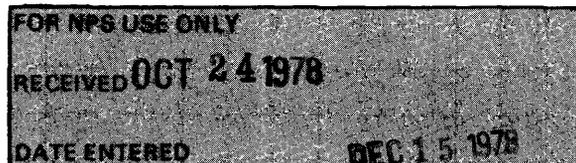
Thunis R. Cobb and family occupied the house until his death in 1873. Cobb died intestate, and some heirs being minors, the Orphans Court had to take over the estate. Under a Court order, Commissioners were appointed and directed to sell the property. This was done on April 18, 1885, when the Commissioners sold the property to Stephen H. Card.

On December 3, 1910, Stephen H. Card and Mary A. Card, his wife, after occupying the house for at least 26 years, sold about 50 acres of the property, including the house, to Isaac Baas of Newark. On February 11, 1922, Isaac Baas and wife sold the house and 13.69 acres to Peter and Alethea DeGelleke.

For over 50 years the house was in the possession of the DeGelleke family, and for that reason the house is also currently known as the DeGelleke house.

In 1977, after negotiations with Alethea DeGelleke, Parsippany-Troy Hills Township acquired the property for eventual use as a historical museum.

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New Jersey Wills

- Samuel Barker - 1/8/1729
- Thomas Bowlsby - 2/23/1731
- George Bowlsby - 1773
- Thomas Bowlsby - 4/23/1798
- George Bowlsby, Jr. - 5/31/1819
- Nathaniel Bowlsby - 4/16/1849

Morris County Deeds

- Division of land between Nathaniel and Martin Bowlsby - 6/26/1834. G-3/73 and P-4/469.
- Andrew J. Smith, executor to Thunis R. Cobb - 5/2/1849. Q-4/44.
- Commissioners of Cobb Estate to Stephen H. Card - 4/18/1885. M-11/473.
- Stephen Card to Isaac Baas - 12/3/1910. Q-20/433.
- Isaac Baas to Peter DeGelleke - 2/11/1922. N-27/191.

Tax Ratables. Hanover Township. 1778-1821.

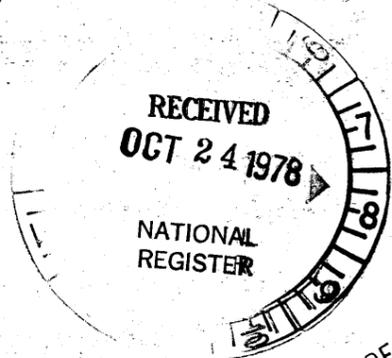
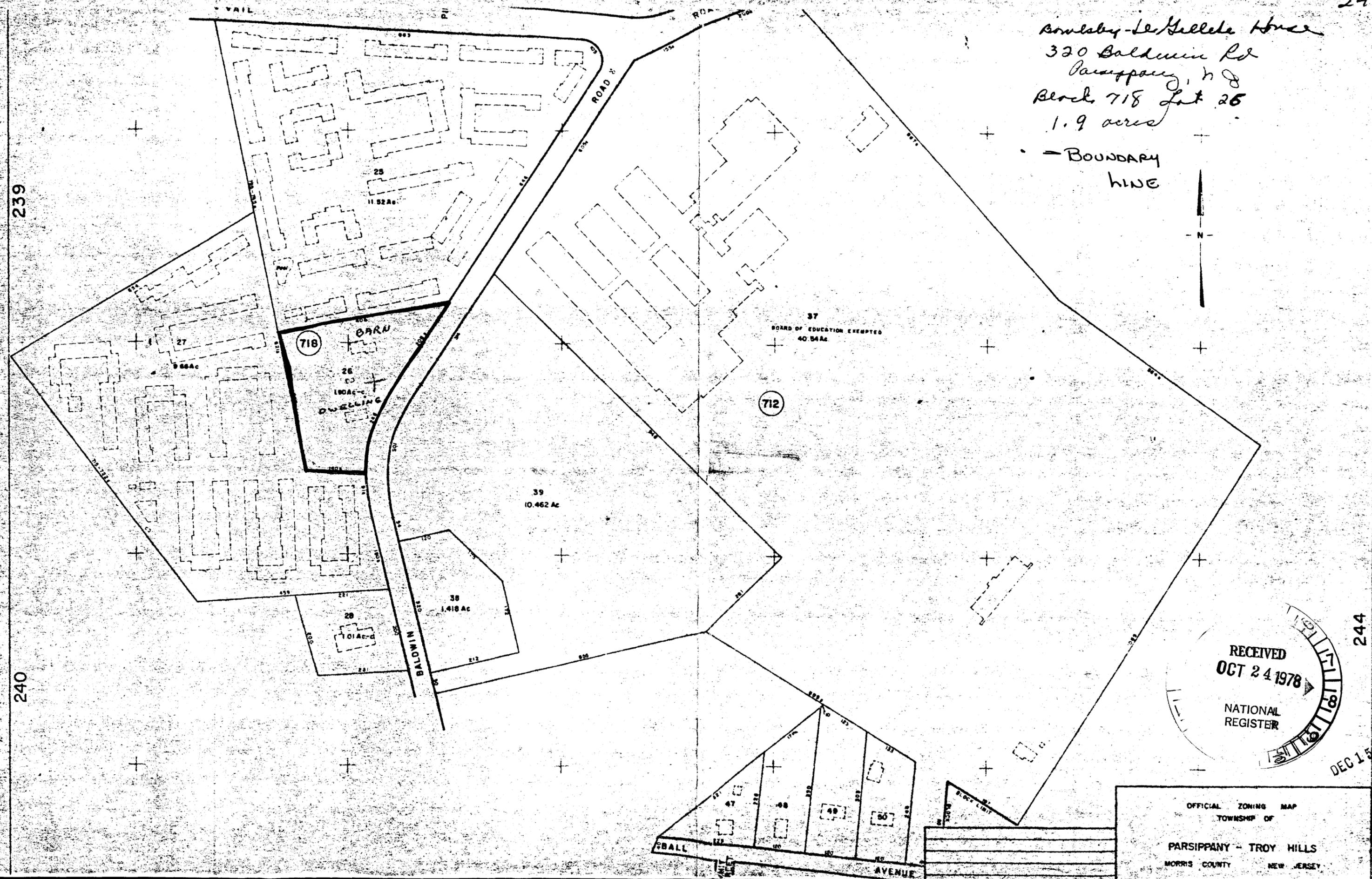
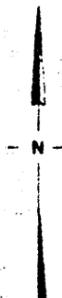
Ball, Annette. History of the Parsippany, New Jersey Presbyterian Church. 1928. (pp 10-12).

Stiles, Henry Reed. The Stiles Family in America. 1895. (p. 515).

Stryker, William S. Official Register of the Officers and Men of New Jersey in the Revolutionary War. 1872. (pp 153, 514).

Bowlsby-LeMelle's House
320 Baldwin Rd
Parsippany, NJ
Block 718 Lot 25
1.9 acres

— BOUNDARY
LINE



DEC 15 1978

OFFICIAL ZONING MAP
TOWNSHIP OF
PARSIPPANY - TROY HILLS
MORRIS COUNTY NEW JERSEY