NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

1 NAME
HISTORIC
Samuel Orton Harrison House
AND/OR COMMON
Cole Residence

2 LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER
153 Orton Road
CITY, TOWN
West Caldwell
STATE
New Jersey

3 CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY
—DISTRICT
_ BUILDING(S)
—STRUCTURE
—SITE
—OBJECT

OWNERSHIP
—PUBLIC
_PRIVATE
—BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION
—IN PROCESS
—BEING CONSIDERED

ACCESSIBLE
—OCCUPIED
—UNOCCUPIED
—WORK IN PROGRESS

PRESENT USE
—AGRICULTURE
—COMMERCIAL
—MUSEUM
—EDUCATIONAL
—ENTERTAINMENT
—GOVERNMENT
—INDUSTRIAL
—RELIGIOUS
—SCIENTIFIC
—TRANSPORTATION
—MILITARY
—OTHER:

STATUS
—X.OCCUPIED
—Y. UNOCCUPIED
—WORK IN PROGRESS

PRESENT USE
—X. PRIVATE RESIDENCE

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY
NAME
Mr. and Mrs. Sandford S. Cole
STREET & NUMBER
153 Orton Road
CITY, TOWN
West Caldwell
STATE
New Jersey

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE.
REGISTER OF DEEDS, ETC.
Registers Office (Book 3999 Page 26)
STREET & NUMBER
Hall of Records, 465 High Street
CITY, TOWN
Newark
STATE
New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE
Historic American Buildings Survey (6-183)
DATE
July 28, 1937
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Library of Congress
CITY, TOWN
Washington
STATE
D.C.
The Harrison House consists of a two story rectangular northerly section and a southerly section composed of a central two story section with covered porch and a single southern most one story section with stone steps and porch. Casual observation invites the conclusion that the southerly sections and the northerly section were constructed separately. Careful examination of construction details discloses the virtual certainty that the entire structure was erected at the same time. The clapboard on the westerly exposure (the rear of the house) extends continuously without breaks over all three sections. Access to the construction details of the interior of the common wall joining the two main sections may be made through the attic and reveals only lath and plaster with no evidence of clapboard. There is no structural support wall or evidence thereof in the basement beneath the common joining interior wall. The thickness of all interior walls, including the wall common to both sections, is between 5 inches and 5 1/2 inches while all exterior walls are 6 1/2 inches in thickness.

The exterior is of wood frame construction with clapboard, brick interior chimneys, field stone foundation, asphalt over cedar shingles roof, shutters (not original) on the northern and eastern exposures. The interior of the southerly sections consists of 2 rooms above, 2 rooms below connected by a narrow stairway, 2 fireplaces of brick construction with common chimney, cellar and cistern beneath 3/4 of this section. Ceiling height is 7' 1" first floor, 6' 5" second floor, plaster over lath walls, random width pine floors first floor, random width maple floors second floor. On the first floor both rooms are equipped with chair rails. The northern section consists of 3 rooms above, 2 rooms and center hall below with main stairway and cellar below. Ceiling height is 8' 3" first floor, 7' 0" second floor, plaster over lath walls, random width pine floors first floor, random width maple floors second floor, first floor both rooms with chair rails, cornice moldings, and brick fireplaces centered on the north wall with inverted "Y" chimney. Fireplaces in both sections display wooden mantels of late 18th century style. Kitchen and living room fireplaces are equipped with fireplace cranes. The minor alteration involves installation of a bathroom on the second floor and 1/2 bath on the first floor.
The Samuel Orton Harrison House, built in the second quarter of the 19th century is a fine example of a vernacular Greek Revival farmhouse.

Essentially unaltered, this dwelling presents a clear picture of the rural farmhouse of 19th century New Jersey. It also establishes a physical as well as a cultural bond with the Puritans who first settled in New England (especially Connecticut). Seven generations removed from England and six generations removed from New England, the Harrison House has a physical massing with similarities to the Connecticut farmhouse.

A frame, two story, 3 bay, side hall dwelling with second floor narrow knee wall windows incorporated in the plain frieze beneath the eave and a 1 1/2 story kitchen wing alongside, this is a typical house type in Essex County. There are numerous buildings in the area with an essentially identical building form, but the Samuel Orton Harrison House is probably the most pristine example in West Caldwell.
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.0

UTM REFERENCES

ZONE EASTING NORHTING ZONE EASTING NORHTING
A 1.8 5.8 6.7 5 4.9 19.7 0
C E

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please see surveyors map attached by Peter S. Marra, April 8, 1946.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

(Office of Historic Preservation - 10/1979)

Sandford S. Cole, Owner

ORGANIZATION

DATE 2/1978

STREET & NUMBER

153 Orton Road

TELEPHONE 201-226-8189

CITY OR TOWN West Caldwell

STATE New Jersey

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

TITLE Deputy Commissioner, Dept. of Environmental Protection

DATE 10-26-79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE June 30, 1980

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 6/25/80

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION
Samuel Orton Harrison House  
West Caldwell  
Essex County, New Jersey

The Harrison House is one of the few early 19th century farmhouses in rapidly urbanizing West Caldwell of Essex County.

The land on which it was built was part of a tract owned by Caleb Hetfield, purchased from the Indians in 1702. A substantial portion of this land came into possession of the Harrison family about 1774, and initial speculation pointed to Samuel A. Harrison as responsible for erecting a first primitive structure. However, recent research has revealed that Samuel would have been only three years old in 1790, so it is more probable that the builder was Samuel's father, Joseph.

The Historic American Buildings Survey suggests that the house was probably built about 1830. A statement by Mary Harrison Canfield in 1937 attributes construction to her father, Samuel O. Harrison, at the time of his marriage. While the question whether he did or did not erect the main structure may be food for continuing investigation, he did acquire title to all land and other property left in 1849 by Samuel A., his father, 82 acres in all and valued at $2,744.45.

The house is a typical early 19th century farm structure of the period and has not been changed substantially through the years.

T. Karschner  
2/1980
Samuel Orton Harrison House
West Caldwell
Essex County, NJ

Map of Essex County, New Jersey. Hiram Belding, Newark, 1850.
History of Essex and Hudson Counties, New Jersey. William A. Shaw, Philadelphia, 1884 (pp. 833, 835, 842, 851).
Map of Essex County, New Jersey. Matthew Hughes, Orange, NJ, 1874.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property Owner Record</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Samuel Orton Harrison (1816-1897) – Most likely built this house between 1849 and 1859, possibly earlier.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary A. Harrison Canfield (1856-1946) – Appears that property was given to Samuel Orton's daughter when he died in 1897. Mary owned house up to her death around 1946.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raymond F. Dey – Bough property in 1945.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanford S. and Joy Cole – Purchased house in 1975.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MAP OF EXTENSION OF ELLIS ROAD

MAP OF PROPERTY
West Caldwell, Essex County, N. J.

PETER S. MARRA
Civil & Sanitary Engineer
309 BLOOMFIELD AVENUE
Caldwell, N. J.

DATE: JAN, 23, 1964
SCHE: 1 T-10
SCALE: 1" = 100'