

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Mott Hollow
other names/site number Millbrook
Mott's Hollow

2. Location

street & number Gristmill Road & Millbrook Avenue near N/A not for publication
city, town Randolph Township Millbrook vicinity
state New Jersey code 034 county Morris code 027 zip code 07869

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: [X] private, [] public-local, [] public-State, [] public-Federal
Category of Property: [] building(s), [X] district, [] site, [] structure, [] object
Number of Resources within Property: Contributing (24, 4, 8, 36), Noncontributing (17, sites, structures, objects, 17 Total)

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 5

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this [X] 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 [X] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. [] See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official: [Signature] Date: 7/27/92
Assistant Commissioner for Natural & Historic Resources/DSHPO
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. [] See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official: _____ Date: _____
State or Federal agency and bureau: _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
[X] 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:) _____
Entered in the National Register
Signature of the Keeper: [Signature] Date of Action: 8/31/92

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC - single dwelling

 - secondary structure

 COMMERCE - speciality store

 INDUSTRY - mill

 AGRICULTURE - agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC - single dwelling

 - secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

OTHER - vernacular (East Jersey Cottage)

 LATE VICTORIAN - QUEEN ANNE

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation _____ STONE
 walls _____ WEATHERBOARD
 _____ SHINGLE
 roof _____ ASPHALT
 other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Mott Hollow Historic District is characterized by well-preserved vernacular houses, some outbuildings, and the mill pond and stream nestled between two steep, wooded hills. The secluded location of the valley has preserved its historic appearance and feeling, and the cluster of houses along the western end of Gristmill Road may be the most important grouping of early vernacular buildings in Randolph. Although in the past the unincorporated area known locally as Mott Hollow extended upstream along the Mill Brook to encompass some sites along present-day Fords Road, the intersection of the Mill Brook, Millbrook Avenue, and Gristmill Road marks the historic center of the area known in the early 19th century as Mott Hollow, and it is this area which retains a concentration of extant historic buildings in an appropriate setting for historic district designation.

Gristmill Road roughly parallels the Mill Brook on the north side of the east-west running stream. The stream is flanked by Pierson's Hill to the south, which rises to a height of 1000 feet, and a somewhat more gentle and unnamed slope to the north. The historic district comprises the land and houses between the stream and Gristmill Road, and selected properties on the north side of that road and west of Millbrook Avenue at the intersection with the stream. The "hollow" or stream valley and its narrow road have prevented large-scale development of the area, but there are enough scattered houses of modern vintage that the historic resource cannot be said to include all properties along Gristmill Road.

Entering the district from the south, Millbrook Avenue descends Pierson's Hill to a stone bridge crossing the Mill Brook. To the west of the bridge stands the 1884 schoolhouse, and just south of it, well back from the road, sits a modest, embanked frame house, which belonged to the Mott family. North of the bridge lies another vernacular frame house of 19th century origins. These three structures clustered on the wide valley floor form the western end of the district. Several yards farther north, Gristmill Road turns off Millbrook Avenue, the road drops suddenly, and a cluster of small, well-preserved houses springs into view.

 See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

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

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Community Development
 Industry

Period of Significance

1800-1900
 1800-1900

Significant Dates

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

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

Mott Hollow is part of a larger region of Randolph Township, Morris County, known as Millbrook. The district is characterized by a cluster of well-preserved 19th century buildings in a secluded and heavily wooded stream valley. Named for one of the leaders in developing the community in the early 19th century, Mott Hollow is a distinctive historic resource, rich in history associated with the development of agricultural-related industries. It is eligible for the National Register under criterion A, because of its association with "events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history", specifically the development of American industry in the protective economic era between 1800 and 1814. The community was developed in this time period specifically as an industrial venture based upon water-powered mills, and the growth of industry was accompanied by the construction of associated residences, many of which survive maintaining a high degree of historic integrity. Mott Hollow's growth slowed in later decades of the 19th century, but changes and development did take place in response to changing economic, religious, and social forces within the valley.

"Then let us to the Jersey hills
 On fancy's ever-ready wings,
 And view the dell, once strewn with mills-
 Now vanished and forgotten things.

So wrote Theodore Mott in 1915, in a long poem entitled "Old Millbrook". The poem recalls the industrial village of Millbrook,

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Family papers of the Mott family and unpublished historical research on them, provided by Dr. Margaret Steneck, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Irwin, Richard, ed. A History of Randolph Township. Township of Randolph, N.J., 1976.

Munsell, W., ed. History of Morris County, New Jersey. Munsell & Co., New York, 1882.

Maps:

Beers, F.W. Atlas of Morris County, New Jersey. New York, 1868.

Lightfoot & Geil, surveyors. Map of Morris County, New Jersey. J. Shields, Publ., 1853.

Robinson, E. Robinson's Atlas of Morris County, New Jersey. New York, 1887.

United State Census, "PRODUCTS OF INDUSTRY", 1850, 1860, 1870.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register Tuttle Cooperage
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository:

Randolph Landmarks Commission
Township of Randolph, New Jersey

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 44.4 acres Mendham, NJ Quad

UTM References

A 1 8 | 3 3 8 3 0 0 | 4 5 2 3 9 6 0
Zone Easting Northing

B 1 8 | 5 3 8 4 0 0 | 4 5 2 3 7 6 0
Zone Easting Northing

C 1 8 | 5 3 7 3 2 0 | 4 5 2 2 6 6 0

D 1 8 | 5 3 7 1 4 0 | 4 5 2 2 7 6 0

E 1 8 5 3 7 6 8 0 4 5 2 3 5 0 0

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janet W. Foster / Associate Director Acroterion
organization for Randolph Landmarks Commission date March 5, 1991 Rev. Jan. 1992
street & number 71 Maple Avenue telephone 201 984 9660
city or town Morristown state N.J. zip code 07960

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Beyond them, the valley floor and the stream are visible between the trees. Farther east-northeast, the old gristmill, and then the millers' house are visible. The road turns, and houses are more scattered; new ones hidden from view on the wooded hillsides, the old ones generally hard by the road. The entire stream and its northern bank were part of the historic environment of Mott Hollow, and thus these features are included in the district, even when modern houses have been built on stream-side property.

The historic settlement was extended from the southeast, for the later 19th century forms and details of domestic building are more evident in the houses on the northeast end of the road. The district is bounded on the northeast by the Mill Brook, where it is crossed by Gristmill Road. At that end of the district, the wider valley floor is an open meadow, dotted with the straggly remains of an apple orchard, the remnant of an important cash crop for local farmers.

The quiet and tranquility of Mott Hollow today are in marked contrast to the noise and bustle of the valley during its heyday as an industrial village. The district remains the core of that area, and preserves through its buildings, archaeological potential, setting, and interested occupants the remains of a 19th century community.

The district contains 24 contributing buildings, 8 contributing structures (including a well, stone walls, a gravity waterworks and a bridge), and 4 contributing sites. Seventeen non-contributing buildings are also included within the historic district.

Individual building descriptions follow a summary of the architectural styles present in Mott Hollow.

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The cultural affiliation of the settlers of Mott Hollow was decidedly English, and the earliest surviving houses (# 13, 17, 19 and 22) are traditional vernacular dwellings identified as East Jersey Cottages. Characterized by a story and a half form, a high knee wall below a gable roof, and a three bay facade with a side-placed entry, this was the most frequently constructed 18th century house type in Morris County's English communities, especially Mendham (from which Randolph Township was formed) and Morris Townships. The Mott Hollow examples are fairly well-preserved, and the addition which enlarged the Powers House (#13) to a center-entry dwelling is a typical alteration of that basic house type.

The mill buildings and other "industrial" buildings erected in Mott Hollow in the early 19th century were heavy-timber, frame construction, one-and-a-half to two stories tall. Stone was confined to foundations and bricks used for chimneys, but masonry building construction was not employed.

The limited development that took place during the 19th century after the economic decline of the mills in Mott Hollow was also in the vernacular building tradition, without any reference to the sweeping changes taking place in American architecture during the period. The Rossi-Munson House (#1) of the mid-19th century uses the center-entry, two-story Georgian house as its model, although simplified by lack of exterior detail and the presence of contemporary stock millwork for its sash, stairway baluster, and interior moldings. Two other buildings of the period, the much-modified house on the sawmill lot (# 18) and a modest frame house (#9), may be best described as utilitarian structures.

Only the most recent contributing buildings within the district, three houses built about the turn-of-the-century, (#3, 10, 20) exhibit features of contemporaneous nationally popular architecture. Two houses use the "L" plan, and all employ the varied surface texture of the Queen Anne style to some degree. While certainly modest examples of this exuberant and often excessively ornamented style, they do signal the integration of Mott Hollow into the mainstream of American building, and the end of any Quaker restraint on decoration or design. The Quakers themselves had all but vanished, and their influence in Randolph, so prominent in the early years of the township, was felt no more.

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1. 9 Gristmill Road
Vernacular residence
Photo 1, 2, 3

Block 142 Lots 17 & 18
Contributing; Excellent integrity

Rossi-Munson House

Built in the mid-19th century, this 2 1/2 story, five-bay center-entry house is a vernacular descendent of the Georgian center-hall plan house. It has clapboard siding, a fieldstone foundation, gable roof and two end brick chimneys. The four-over-four sash windows are set in plain wooden frames. A rear 2 1/2 story wing projects at right angles from the original house. Inside, the house retains original moldings, wide pumpkin pine floorboards, plaster walls and mantelpieces.

Landscape/ Accessory Buildings: The house is sited on a relatively flat, open, triangular parcel of land at the foot of a steep hill, and west of the Mill Brook. The over three-acre property includes a barn, an outhouse, a stone wall, the remnants of an apple orchard, and a small pond. The two outbuildings and the wall are contributing to the district.

Documentation: The house is associated with the distillery site across the street (see following description), and the present owner believes that deed descriptions of the property indicate that distilling and cider-making were also carried out on this property during the late 19th century.

2. 10 Gristmill Road
Contemporary Colonial

Block 146 Lot 19
Noncontributing - no photo

A two-and-a-half story frame center-hall plan house with rustic wooden siding, built in the 1970s. It stands directly on the site of the 19th century Davenport Distillery, a locally important agricultural-related industry. The site has been totally disturbed with later construction, and thus is not contributing to the district as a likely area for archaeological investigation.

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3. 22 Gristmill Road Block 146 Lot 16
Vernacular Residence Contributing; Good integrity
Photo 4

Built in the 19th century, this 2 1/2 story frame house uses the gable-front "L" plan form popularized by pattern books. The clapboard house is on a fieldstone foundation, its gable roof covered with slates; one brick chimney is centered on the roof while the other is located on an end wall. The three bay facade has a side entry, covered by a projecting, enclosed portico. Windows are two over two sash, flanked by inoperable shutters. Inside, original flooring survives in the first floor dining room and all rooms on the second floor. The doors and windows of the house are also all original.

Landscape/ Accessory Buildings: Detached two car garage with one large overhead door, hipped roof, and shiplap siding; non-contributing to the historic district. The property slopes sharply down to the Mill Brook. Along the stream, there is a curious man-made earthwork, possibly the remains of a mill dam. It has been broken through by the stream, but behind the "dam" there are portions of stone walls which clearly formed a circular "holding tank" of some sort for the water. A separate pond remains north of the stream itself. Further investigation, both archaeological and documentary, may reveal the form and uses of these sites; perhaps they were related to the activities of the 19th century distillery, which stood just downstream from here.

Documentation: The 1868 and 1887 maps of Randolph (see Bibliography) note a cider mill at this location.

4. 32 Gristmill Road Block 146 Lot 15
Ranch house Noncontributing

A post-World War II ranch house finished with vinyl siding. The house is set on the slope rising above the Mill Brook, to the south of Grist Mill Road. Sited below the level of the road, on a wooded lot, the house is nearly invisible from Grist Mill Road. A two car garage is sited close to the road.

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5. 38 Gristmill Road Block 146 Lot 14
Tudor style bi-level Noncontributing

A split rail fence along the road and a paved driveway are the only indications of a residence at this location visible from the public right-of-way. The house (built in the 1970s) is set on the slope rising above Mill Brook, to the south of Grist Mill Road. Sited below the level of the road, on a wooded lot, the house is not a visual intrusion in the district.

6. 42 Gristmill Road Block 146 Lot 13
Contemporary bi-level Noncontributing

This tan brick bi-level is sited on a slope above the Mill Brook, but well below the level of the road. Only the asphalt shingle roof is visible from the right-of-way. A steep, sinuous driveway goes from the house to the road; a paved parking area near the road alleviates some bad-weather hazards no doubt associated with such a driveway. Along the stream of this property, the remains of a stone and concrete dam attest to some construction in the late 19th or early 20th centuries, but the original form and purpose of it is presently unknown.

7. 44 Gristmill Road Block 146 Lot 12
Vernacular contemporary Noncontributing

The two-story, gable front core of this house appears to have some age, although its origins are currently unknown. The house has been completely remodeled, with new vinyl siding, a wrap-around deck, replacement windows and doors, and rebuilt chimney. Any historic character or information in the architectural fabric has been removed, making this a noncontributing building to the district, although its location well back from the road and its modest scale do not make it intrusive in the historic environment.

8. 48 Gristmill Road Block 146 Lot 11
Ranch house Noncontributing

This 1960s ranch house clad in vertical siding gained a two-story addition in 1990. The facade of the house is notable for a

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large exterior cobblestone chimney. The house is sited close to the road, screened from it by a row of trees and shrubs. A detached two-car frame garage is located east of the house.

9. 49 Gristmill Road Block 145 Lot 40
Vernacular Contributing; Fair Integrity

A small two-and-a-half story farmhouse with shed addition, originally covered with clapboard and now finished with vinyl siding. The house has a fieldstone foundation and a gable roof covered with fiberglass shingles, although it is known that the original roof covering was cedar shingles. The facade has three bays on the first floor, including an entry placed to one side under an enclosed portico; the second floor has two bays. Windows are replacement 1/1 sash. Inside, the hand-cut and pegged heavy timber frame of chestnut is visible in dining room and basement.

Landscape/Accessory Buildings: The house is located quite close to the road, on a curve of the road. It overlooks the stream some 60 feet below. A fieldstone foundation for a small barn or outbuilding remains behind the house. A single car frame garage stands east of the house; it is noncontributing. Old apple trees on the property are a remnant of the agricultural heritage of the farm.

Documentation: Former residents in the neighborhood have stated that the house was built in the 1850s. It does not appear on the 1853 Map of Morris County, but the house is located on the 1868 Beers' Atlas of Morris County; supporting a construction date in the late 1850s.

10. 51 Gristmill Road Block 145 Lot 41
Vernacular Queen Anne Contributing; Good integrity

This two-and-a-half story gable-front house on a fieldstone foundation has asbestos shingle siding (over clapboard) and a wooden shingled gable. The main block is built on a three-bay side-hall plan, with a two story addition to the west side forming an "L" plan structure. The windows are 2/2 sash. The gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles and there is one internal chimney. The largely vernacular house achieves a Victorian-era look by the front porch with turned posts and brackets, and the corresponding trim in the gable. Inside, the brick fireplace features a black

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marble mantel; wide plank floors are soft wood. The hand-hewn joists visible in the basement are likely reused from another, earlier building, such as a barn or even one of the area's mill buildings.

Landscape/Accessory Buildings: The wooded, hillside property is defined in front (south side of the property) by a dry-laid stone wall. Stone steps lead from the road up to the front porch. A two-story smokehouse/wash-house is located to the west side of the house; it has been modified from its historic appearance but it is still a contributing element of the district. To the east of the house is a stone-lined well. Additional old stone walls terrace the property to the rear and sides of the house. A non-contributing garage stands on the property.

Documentation: The house post-dates any of the 19th century maps of Morris County. The appearance of the house suggests a ca. 1900 construction date.

11. 54 Gristmill Road Block 146 Lot 10
Ranch house Noncontributing

A contemporary ranch-type dwelling, built in the 1970s, with vertical siding and fancy stonework veneer. The house is set below the level of the road on a wooded lot above the Mill Brook.

12. 60 Gristmill Road Block 146 Lot 9
Raised ranch Noncontributing

This is a 1980s raised ranch house with brick veneer and stained wood shake siding, fronted by a circular driveway. The house is level with the road; behind the house, the wooded property slopes down to the Mill Brook.

13. 64 Gristmill Road Block 146 Lot 8
Vernacular Contributing; Good integrity

The core of this house, which may date as early as 1789, was a three-bay, side-entry, story-and-a-half structure. Subsequent additions in the 19th and 20th centuries have transformed it into a center-hall, two-story, five bay house. The original section of the house has a fieldstone foundation; the later (ca. 1940) portion

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of the foundation is concrete block. The house is embanked into the south-facing hillside so that basement level rooms are accessible from the exterior on the rear of the dwelling. The house is sided in cedar shakes. Windows reflect the additive history of the house; some are 6/6 sash, some are 4/4 sash, and some are paired 6/6 sash from the 1940s. A gable roof and rear shed-roof addition are covered with asphalt shingles. Inside, the hand-hewn and pegged heavy timber frame is visible in places. Low ceiling heights (6'10" first floor; 6'3" second floor) and paneled staircase attest to the age of the structure. A modern wooden deck and greenhouse have been added to the rear of the house.

Landscape/Accessory Buildings: The house is sited close to Gristmill Road, on a lot which slopes gently down to the Mill Brook, becoming more wooded as it slopes away from the house. A frame bank barn (20' x 30') on a fieldstone foundation with board and batten siding is located east of the house, sited directly beside the road. There is a new horse barn to the south of the lot.

Documentation: The house appears on all three 19th century maps of Morris County; in 1853, as the J. Powers residence (John Powers was a 78-year-old farmer in 1850, according to the U.S. Census of that year); and in 1868 and 1887, as the J. Rogers home. An insurance policy for 1848 describes the property of John Powers as a "1 1/2 story frame Dwelling 17 feet by 34 feet &c. scituate on the Road leading from Mill Brook to Robert Piersons near Mill Brook, Randolph Township". This may well be the old core of the present house; the location and name are correct for this site at this date.

14. 72 Gristmill Road Block 146 Lots 5 & 6
The Mott-Davenport Grist Mill Contributing; Good Integrity

The two-and-one-half story frame gristmill is the centerpiece of the Mott Hollow District. The main building's gable end faces a bend in the road. The asphalt-covered gable roof extends to form a hood at the peak of the roof, and a hoist is extant on this gable end above the second floor window. The symmetrical five-bay facade in the gable end centers of the full-height windows at the second story level which replace original double barn doors. The mill was converted to a residence in 1944, and repaired following a fire in 1986. Most windows, doors, and interior elements date to 1944, although harmonious with the historic nature of the building. Some original door hardware has been salvaged and reused in the

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building. A massive exterior cobblestone fireplace stands on the west side of the building, incorporating a millstone into its hearth. The original fieldstone foundation of the building is clearly visible on the embanked southern side.

Landscape/Accessory Buildings: Accessory buildings extend to the east of the main mill building. They include a clapboard-sided two-story building now used as an office and garage, which has overhead garage doors on the first floor and original multi-pane sash on the second floor. This is close enough to the main mill building so that a covered walkway connects the two. Farther east, and to the south, is a small wooden shed with gable roof and stone foundation. A shed-roofed frame garage covered with rustic wood siding stands farther east. It is not contributing to the district.

The stream which gave the mill power runs through the property, but the races feeding the mill are faint or nonexistent. The mill pond survives west of the mill, on land which is now subdivided from the mill. A mill stone has been reused in the front walk to the main mill building.

Documentation: The mill dates to about 1800, when Joshua Mott and his sons settled along the Mill Brook and began operating this mill. Whether Mott built the mill, or whether it was already in existence when he arrived on the scene is unclear. Certainly the mill was in operation in 1807, when William Mott (Joshua's eldest son) purchased the property, and the same day sold a one-half interest in the mill and mill lot to Silas Young. The mill had an important role in the local economy, grinding grain for the farmers' use and to sell in town. The mill was owned and operated by Adam(s) Davenport from about 1860 to 1895, when it was one of the last operation grist mills in the area.

15. 77 Gristmill Road Block 145 Lot47, Block 146, Lot 4
Vernacular Greek Revival Contributing; excellent condition

This two-and-a-half story frame, four bay house marked by a central one-story portico on paired square columns is the centerpiece of an approximately two-acre property divided by Gristmill Road. The house sits on a fieldstone foundation; the walls of the upper floors are clapboard. Windows are 9/9 and 6/6 sash; modern picture windows and casements have been added on an addition to the rear of the house. The house has an asphalt gable roof with projecting eaves and interior end brick chimneys.

Landscape/Accessory Buildings: A shingle-sided barn stands to

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the west of the house. It is two stories high, with an asphalt gable roof. The barn was renovated in the mid-20th century to accommodate two cars, a workroom, and bathroom on the first floor, and studio rooms on the second floor, finished with wood paneling. Massive stone fireplaces with exterior chimneys provide the only source of heat to the building. All windows are multi-pane casements. The barn is contributing to the historic district.

The barn is separated from Gristmill Road by a picket fence, and the driveway entrance is marked by massive mill stones from the mill which stands across the street. A low cemented stone wall runs along a major portion of the property front. To the rear of the house and barn, the land rises up sharply, and this geography has been tamed somewhat by construction of a series of terraces with flagstone walks and cemented stone walls.

Water is supplied to the house and barn by a unique (and probably original) gravity system. This originates on top of the high hill in the northwest corner of the property. Surface water runs down an open channel (now concrete) into a double pipe which then runs underground to a stone-lined reservoir. Sediment settles to the bottom, overflow runs off the top, and water feeds through outlets about one-third from the bottom along underground pipes down the hill to a junction box with valves and branches to the house and barn. This engineering work is considered a contributing structure within the historic district.

This property includes the millpond on the opposite side of the street, an important feature of the historic and present landscape. The millpond has a large sluice and spillway on the east, facing the former gristmill. A medium-sized sluice exists at the west end of the pond, and a small hand-pulled sluice is on the north side. A concrete apron has been added to one side of the pond.

The remains of the raceway from the millpond to the mill may be seen on the south side of Gristmill Road on this property, as well as the foundations of a long, narrow building parallel and close to the road opposite the house, which may have been a 19th century sawmill.

Documentation: William Mott (1780-1855) operated the grist mill during Mott Hollow's years of prosperity, and it is probable that he had this house built for himself sometime in the early 19th century. He sold the house and mill to Ulysses Kinsey sometime prior to 1845. This house is shown on the 1853 map of Morris County as the property of U. Kinsey. Later 19th century maps show it as the property of A. Davenport, the last miller of Mott Hollow.

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16. 78 Gristmill Road Block 146 Lot 3
Vernacular 19th century Contributing, good condition

A center-hall, story-and-a-half heavy-timber-framed embanked cottage with shingled wall covering and an asphalt gable roof marked by an exterior brick fireplace on the east gable end. The house faces north onto Gristmill Road, and is set very close to the road on a narrow, level shelf of land above the Millbrook. The windows are paired and single 6/6 sash. The center front door is marked by an applied pediment of 20th century design. The original portion of the house is on a high fieldstone wall, open to ground level on the south side. The basement contains an early well. A rear shed-roofed addition off the lower level is on a concrete foundation.

Landscape/Accessory Buildings: To the east of the house is a paved parking area. No outbuildings extant.

Documentation: The present owner reports that the house was originally a blacksmith shop or stable, which would be likely given the proximity of the building to the road.

17. 83 Gristmill Road Block 145 Lot 49
East Jersey Cottage Contributing, good condition
Tuttle Cooperage - Individually listed on the National Register of
Historic Places, 1977.

Embanked frame house with side-placed entry on the south-facing ground floor of the house. The clapboard walls rise above a fieldstone foundation. An asphalt-covered gable roof is punctuated by an interior end brick chimney which serves corner fireplaces within the house, and has an exposed brick fireback on the first floor exterior. Eyebrow windows have been enlarged on the facade; a shed roof dormer is centered on the facade in the roof. The house had an extended front roof incorporating the front porch running across the facade on the first floor level. The porch is now enclosed. Various multi-pane windows are all replacements; they are set within simple frames.

Landscape/ Accessory Buildings: The house is set well back from the road midway up a gentle hill. There is a simple frame sheep barn to the rear of the house, which contributes to the district, and another small shed. The dry-laid stone walls and sheep-grazed field in lieu of a manicured front lawn add greatly to the historic feeling of the house and the neighborhood. A frame

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outbuilding now used as a garage is a contributing building. The present building was constructed as a residence; the actual cooperage shop is believed to have stood in front of it, and is now gone. Archaeological investigation of the property might provide more clues to the location and manufacturing specialties of the Tuttle's cooperage.

Documentation: The Tuttle Cooperage was operated first by Daniel Tuttle (1760-1841), a veteran of the American Revolution. His son David (1797-18xx) carried on the trade in the same house, and is listed in the 1850 Industrial Census as cooper, employing three people full-time to produce \$1500 worth of barrels, kegs, and churns annually. From the cooperage came the wooden containers which were necessary for packing the products of the nearby mills of Mott Hollow.

18. 84 Gristmill Road
Vernacular
Sawmill & House
Mill Forge Site

Block 146 Lots 1 & 2
Contributing, good condition

A one-and-a-half story frame house with a saltbox profile, and entry in the west-facing gable end. The house is covered with shingle siding, and sits on a dry-laid stone rubblestone foundation. The gable and shed roof is covered with asphalt shingles, and a metal stovepipe extends from the building. A simple porch has been added over the front door. Windows are 2/2 sash and modern replacement windows. A wooden deck has been added to the rear of the house.

Landscape/Accessory Buildings: The house is sited directly on the south side of Gristmill Road behind a stand of tall evergreens. The embanked frame barn/garage on the property is a former sawmill, and it still houses the floor rollers used to move logs and wood. The heavy timber frame building has mortise-and-tenoned connections between the 18" x 18" posts above a fieldstone first floor. The entire property slopes gently to the south toward the Mill Brook. The remains of a stone dam, head race, and tail race may be seen on the property between the sawmill and the stream.

The property extends to Millbrook Avenue and to the bridge over the Mill Brook. On this site, in the floodplain of the stream, stood A. Doughty's (or Doty's) forge in the mid-19th century. It appears on the 1853 map of Morris County at this location, although it is not on later maps. The area has been recently bulldozed,

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but archaeological evidence for this important iron-related industry may lie below the disturbed upper surface.

Documentation: A sawmill is noted at this location on both the 1868 and 1887 atlases of Morris County. The sawmill has not been documented as one of the early mills established by the Mott family; it may well be a later 19th century addition to the community when the earlier industries founded along the stream were experiencing difficulty. Aaron Doty's "Forge Furnace" was recorded in the 1850 Industrial Census of Randolph Township. In that year it produced 100 tons of iron blooms, worth \$4000, in a facility that was both water-powered and used a "cole" fired furnace. Tied to the regional iron industry for its raw material, as well as for the boom-bust cycles which characterized the iron economy in Morris County, the forge was out of business by 1860, and no longer standing by the time of the 1868 County Atlas. A shoe shop, operated by Joseph Moore, stood on the corner of Millbrook Avenue and Gristmill Road, on this property in 1853, according to the Shields Map of Morris County. It was not noted on the later maps.

19. 89 Gristmill Road
East Jersey Cottage

Block 145 Lots 50, 51
Contributing, good condition

A frame story-and-a-half cottage of the regional vernacular type known as an East Jersey cottage. It is sided with clapboard, and the gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles and pierced by an interior brick chimney in the west gable end. The side-hall plan house has a group of four 6/6 sash windows side-by-side on the facade. The fieldstone foundation is clearly visible on the south facade; the house is embanked into the hillside. A shed addition to the rear leads to a modern deck.

Landscape/Accessory Buildings: The house is sited well up a gentle hill from Gristmill Road, and sits at an angle to it. A stone wall defines the front property line. A story-and-a-half noncontributing frame garage is located near the street in the southeast corner of the property.

20. 315 Millbrook Avenue
Vernacular Queen Anne

Block 115 Lot 1
Contributing, good condition

A two-and-a-half story frame house with clapboard siding and enclosed, pedimented shingled gable. The original house was a three-bay, side-hall plan dwelling with front-facing gable and modest shed-roofed front porch. The gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Extensive additions in 1990 have doubled the size

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of the house, creating a nearly center door and an irregular profile of gable roofs and dormers. The main house retains fair architectural integrity. More important than the house's architecture is its location in the center of Mott Hollow in the 19th century. It may replace an earlier dwelling; the land was owned by the Motts in the early 19th century.

Documentation: The 1853 and 1868 maps of Morris County locate a dwelling at this site. Ownership in 1853 is unclear, although it may be part of the Mott family holdings; in 1868, it belonged to E. & C. Trobridge. No house appears at this site on the 1887 map; the visible architecture of the house supports its construction after this date.

21. 317 Millbrook Avenue
Millbrook Schoolhouse - 1884

Block 115 Lot 2
Contributing - good condition

The one-story frame schoolhouse has been converted to a residence, but it retains many original features. A long, low, one story structure, the clipped gable roof projects over wooden scroll brackets. The gable end entry facing Millbrook Avenue is sheltered by a shed-roofed porch on simple supports. The center entry is flanked by windows; most windows in the building are six-over-six sash. The schoolhouse is frame, with shiplap siding, over a fieldstone foundation. A single story addition has been made to the rear of the building and at right angles to it, creating an "L" plan structure.

Landscape/Accessory Buildings: The school is sited parallel and quite close to the banks of the Mill Brook. A single-story non-contributing building, apparently a former two-car garage now converted to living quarters, stands north of the main building.

Documentation: The Quakers who settled Mott Hollow firmly believed in the importance of education for all children, and they established a school here very early in the 19th century. School buildings were identified on this site in both the 1868 and 1887 maps of Morris County. This school building was constructed in 1884 for the Randolph Township Public School system, and abandoned in 1924 when the new Millbrook School, located a mile to the north, was constructed.

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22. 343 Millbrook Avenue
East Jersey Cottage

Block 115 Lot 3
Contributing - fair condition

Set well off the road and facing the stream, this small, embanked cottage is an artifact of the Mott family, founders of Mott Hollow. The one-and-a-half story frame house is set on a high fieldstone foundation. The upper walls are covered with brick-look asphalt siding; the gable roof is also covered with asphalt shingles. There are two bays on the facade; all windows are replacement one-over-one sash. A shed-roofed addition extends from the eastern gable end. Its traditional form suggests an early nineteenth century construction date.

Landscape/Accessory Buildings: The overgrown grounds around the house obscure it from view from the street. There are no outbuildings extant.

Documentation: A house appears at this location on the 1853 map of Morris County, and it is identified as the property of W. Mott. William Mott was, by this date, an old man of seventy three, with only two years to live. He had retired from milling some years before, and had sold the mill and accompanying house to Ulysses Kinsey. William Mott moved to this modest house in the mid-1840s, upstream from the great mill he once operated. This seems to be the house described in a surviving 1845 insurance policy for the property of William Mott: "2 Story frame Dwelling 30 ft front 16 ft deep first story. 3 rooms & entry, fireplace. 2 Story 3 rooms &c. &c." The house appears to be from the early 19th century - further research into its original occupants and construction date is needed.

23. Bridge over the Mill Brook
Millbrook Avenue

Maintained by Morris County
Contributing; good condition

This stone-arched bridge over the Mill Brook has cobblestone walls above the road surface, capped with oblong stones stood on end, "soldier course" fashion. It is this portion of the bridge which undoubtedly dates to 1938, the year the Morris County Engineering Office claims the bridge was erected. The fieldstone ramp walls on either side of the bridge, and the stone arched base of the bridge are clearly older than that. Millbrook Avenue followed its present course across the Mill Brook since at least 1853, according to the Shields Map of Morris County, and a bridge must have stood here by that time as well.

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There are parts of two lots within the Mott Hollow district which are north of the Mill Brook, but not accessible from Grist Mill Road. They are reached via Zander Lane, a private road off Grist Mill Road which parallels the Mill Brook on its southern side. They are Randolph Township tax block 146, lots 18 and 19. The portions of the lots north of the stream included in the district do not contain any structures, but they lie within the historic area of Mott Hollow, and their wooded landscape contributes to the appearance of the district.

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where Theodore Mott had been born some 83 years before, and which by 1915 was little more than a row of old houses along a meandering stream. Millbrook or Mott Hollow had reached its heyday about 1812, long before Theodore's birth, when it encompassed four separate mills, a shoemaker shop, a cooper shop, a school, and an unknown number of residences. Millbrook centered on the stream, or Mill Brook, which powered the mills, and extended along present-day Millbrook Road, Grist Mill Road, and Ford Road. It may be said to have included all settlement for about half a mile around the intersection of these roads, for at that distance to the northwest stood the Randolph Friends Meeting House.¹ The founders of Millbrook were Quakers, and the meeting house was an important part of the community. Its closure in 1865 was directly related to the decline of the village Theodore Mott lamented.

(Portions of the following narrative are greatly indebted to the very fine article "The Mott Family" published in the 1976 History of Randolph Township, by Dr. Margaret Steneck, professor of history at the University of Michigan, and descendant of the Mott family of Randolph Township. She has graciously shared additional family letters, deeds, and other papers from the Mott family for this nomination).

The Mott family came to New Jersey from Maryland in 1754. Gershom and Rachel (Van Sant) Mott moved to Amwell, Hunterdon County, bringing with them their strong Christian faith, nurtured by the Society of Friends, and a Mott family tradition of milling, going back at least as far as Gershom's grandfather. They also brought their three-year old son Joshua (1751-1837), to whom the family trade was passed on as he grew to manhood.

¹ The Randolph Friends Meeting House was built in 1758, and is thus the oldest building erected for religious use still standing in Morris County. The spiritual and social center for the Quakers who lived in Mott Hollow and other sections of Randolph, it counted among its members a majority of the first Township Committee, elected in 1806. The meeting house ceased its active use when the Randolph Friends Meeting was laid down in 1865. The well-preserved building remains intact, and it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

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In the early 1790s, Joshua and his wife, Mary Kitchen (1755 - 1834) moved from Amwell to Mendham Township, Morris County with their young family. The Motts seem to have chosen Mendham both for the active Friends Meeting (founded in 1758), which they joined, and for the opportunities for a miller. Joshua appears on the Mendham tax rolls for 1792 as the owner of a gristmill. By 1793, he was taxed on both a gristmill and a fulling mill. Joshua was taxed for these mills until 1798, when records for the Mendham Friends Meeting indicate that he left for the Rahway-Plainfield area in search of better "prospects."

It is hard to tell whether or not Joshua Mott's "prospects" improved. He returned to Mendham in 1800, and in 1803 he was again taxed for a fulling mill. Although the location of the mills he operated in the 1790s is unknown, by 1803 it is likely that he was set up in business along the Mill Brook. Well into middle age now, Joshua Mott was joined in the mill by his sons William (1780-1855), Joshua, Jr. (1783 -?), and John (1787-1858). The Motts seem to have taken over an existing mill² on land belonging to William Shotwell, another member of the Society of Friends. Shotwell moved to Canada in 1803, apparently with the understanding that his Mendham (later Randolph) holdings would eventually be bought by the Motts. William Mott purchased the first tract in 1807, a 91 1/2 acre parcel extending along the stream in a sheltered valley. The price per acre - \$32.75 - suggests that the mills were located on this property; an 1810 acquisition for an additional 63 acres was only \$4.77 per acre. This was vacant land, purchased primarily for securing "the streame for the use of waterworks."³

² Munsell's History of Morris County (1882) notes that Robert Schooley built a grist-mill at Mill Brook sometime after 1740, "which was the first mill...started west of Morristown." (p. 291) The connection, if any, between Schooley's mill and Mott's is unknown, although the Schooley family were one of the prominent Quaker families of the Mendham/Randolph area, and thus would surely have been well known to the Motts.

³ From the deed description of the property sold to William Mott. Mott family papers in the possession of Dr. Margaret Steneck.

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William Mott immediately began to resell portions of the property to various family members and members of the community. "Shares" of ownership in mills were sold as they went into business. William retained control of the gristmill lot and business, while his brothers and father set about establishing a fulling mill, an oil mill, and a tanyard along the stream. Of all the mills established in the early 19th century, only the gristmill survives (photo #13). This mill gives the road through the valley its name, Gristmill Road, and it provides a picturesque focus to the linear community. The present mill is a restoration of the original, and is converted to residential use. The miller's substantial house across the street from the mill still stands (photo #15), and the millpond just south of the road adds to the bucolic setting of the valley.

By 1812, the valley rang out with noise, and was filled with activity. The area had gained the name "Mott (or Mott's) Hollow". It is said that a gentlemen who was offered a large tract of land along the Rockaway River at Dover rejected the proposition, in favor of an investment in a smaller property at Millbrook, because he believed Dover had less of a future.⁴ Part of the impetus for such tremendous growth came from Jefferson's Embargo of 1808, the Non-intercourse Acts of 1810, and finally the War of 1812. All these federal actions suspended or strictly limited the importation of British goods, encouraging Americans to try the manufacture of necessary commodities.

The oil mill in particular was a response to external economic forces. Flax seeds were ground in the mill to release the unctuous center of the kernel, which, after much pressing and squeezing, became linseed oil. Linseed oil, a natural drying oil, was the primary ingredient in oil paints, used for all architectural purposes, and for some decorative painting as well. Paint materials had been almost exclusively imported items during America's colonial days, although subject to the same heavy taxes as glass, paper, and tea. After the Revolution, relatively inexpensive and high quality paint materials (both pigments and oils, as well as brushes) were imported from England, discouraging Americans from

⁴ Richard T. Irwin, "Religion in Randolph", A History of Randolph Township, Randolph Township, 1976, p. 98.

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taking up their manufacture. With the imposition of the embargo, attention was turned to domestic manufacture.⁵ Oil mills were never numerous in New Jersey; Mott's oil mill was one of only two in Morris County in 1821. It seems to have stood west of the present-day Millbrook Avenue, outside the boundaries of this district nomination, but a presence nonetheless in shaping the community which survives within this district.

The fulling mill, upstream from the grist mill, was a more common mill type. In it, newly woven wool cloth was cleaned, shrunk, thickened, and napped in order to make the cloth more serviceable. Sheep grazed easily on the steep hillsides of the area, and the shearing, spinning, and weaving of wool was a chore on many farms throughout Morris County in the 19th century. The final preparation of the cloth was accomplished only by the constant pounding and soaking provided by the heavy wooden mallets run off the waterwheel of a fulling mill. The fulling mill was a necessary industry for the agricultural region, in order to help the farmer's turn their sheeps' wool into a valuable cash crop. The fulling mill in Mott Hollow was operated by Joshua Mott, Sr. and his son John; the years of the embargo, and of protection from the gigantic and efficient British textile industry, were prosperous ones for them. The fulling mill no longer stands, but its site along the Millbrook is within the district. Early historians state that this fulling mill was operational before any other in the county save for Morris Township, and it handled most of the wool produced in northern Morris County.⁶

⁵ It was another Quaker, Samuel Wetherill of Philadelphia, who first successfully manufactured white lead in the United States in 1812. White lead was the primary ingredient of good quality architectural paint. When mixed with linseed oil, a durable white paint resulted; the addition of other pigments produced almost any color desired.

⁶ Munsell, History of Morris County, 1882, p. 295. Other sources can account for 7 fulling mills in Morris County by 1794, and 8 in 1810, the additional mill perhaps being that of the Motts. The fulling mill in Mott Hollow continued to operate until at least the 1850s, at which time most of the fulling mills in New Jersey disappeared. By that date, textile mills took over all operations

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A related industrial activity, the carding of wool, took place in the carding mill. This was not originally water powered, and so was located closer to Gristmill Road. Southwest of the carding mill was a tanyard, which probably supplied the leather needed in the shoemaker's shop. Its existence is known from old deed descriptions, but the tannery had vanished before the mid-19th century. The carding of wool was apparently absorbed into the fulling mill, for the 1850 Industrial Census records as a single business the "Fulling Mill and Carding Machine" operated by water power. The shoemakers shop may have been located in several buildings over a half century of activity. The Steneck's plotting of deed descriptions places it on the west side of Millbrook Avenue; the 1853 map of Morris County locates a "S.S." on the east side of the intersection.

A cooper shop stood on the north side of Gristmill Road. There, Daniel Tuttle and his son David made barrels for the grain and oil produced by the mills of the community. The Tuttle's house is listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places (photo #22). However, the nomination identifies the property as the Tuttle Cooperage, although the cooperage itself is no longer extant. The present owner has identified foundations and tool scraps which suggest that the cooperage stood in front of the vernacular house. Other houses along Gristmill Road were built during the early 19th century for people who worked in the mills. At least six houses in the district may be dated to the Mott era. (See Description Section, # 13, 15, 16, 17, 19, and 22).

The development of agricultural industries in Mott Hollow coincided with and helped to support an increasing population and prosperity in the northern section of Mendham Township. In 1805, Randolph Township was set off from Mendham. The new township was named for Hartshorne FitzRandolph (1723-1806), a leader in the community in the latter 18th century until his Quaker convictions collided with the passions incited during the American Revolution. He retired from office rather than compromise his pacifist principles. After the war, FitzRandolph returned to public life and

in the manufacture of woolen cloth. Weiss, Harry B. and Zeigler, Grace M. The Early Fulling Mills of New Jersey. Quoted in the Glover Fulling Mill Site National Register Nomination, by Craig Morrison, 1990.

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to the service of his community, and along the way became the largest landholder in Randolph. He died the year following the incorporation of the township named for him. The Mendham Friends Meeting, begun in part by FitzRandolph in 1758, also changed its name to reflect the municipality where it was now located, and to honor its founder and stalwart member.

The Motts were pillars of the Society of Friends, and with the flourishing of their various businesses, their religion thrived as well. In 1805, Joshua Mott was appointed overseer of the Randolph Meeting, and after 1809, he and his son William became overseers for the combined Hardwick-Randolph Monthly Meeting. Membership increased, and the Quaker dominance of local industry was supported by workmen of the faith. But the sect was still a minority within the larger region of Morris County, and inevitably, children of the Randolph Quakers married neighbors from out of the faith. The Quakers were not conciliatory on this point, and the children were denied further participation in the Society of Friends. Two of the children of Joshua and Mary Mott were removed from the roles of the Randolph meeting in this manner.

By 1865, the Randolph Friends Meeting was laid down, or closed, due to a lack of members. By this date, no descendant of Joshua and Mary Mott was being raised as a Quaker. Similar stories could be told about the other families who had made up the Meeting in the early 1800s. By 1865, Mott Hollow was a half-forgotten name; the 1868 map of Morris County shows the grist mill and a saw mill along the Mill Brook along with a few scattered houses, but the great fulling mill, oil mill, tanyard, and cooperage were gone. How did such a thriving community disappear?

The answer lies in the return of economic "normality" after the War of 1812, and the lifting of the embargo which had briefly protected fledgling American industry. Although in 1815 Congress enacted a tariff bill designed to protect American industry rather than simply to raise revenue, high-quality British goods, particularly textiles, were again flooding American markets. The home-made goods looked far less appealing to consumers than the imported ones, and many American industries were put out of business. In Mott Hollow, John Mott and the fulling mill suffered most. After tremendous expansion and investment, John fell deeply into debt with the collapse of American protectionism. The rest of the Mott family bought his holdings, and rescued him from complete financial ruin, but the heyday of Mott Hollow was clearly over.

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Mott Hollow was, in fact, experiencing the same events that touched the larger community and the nation as a whole. The population of Randolph declined in the decade 1810 to 1820, as a result of outmigration by workmen in failing industries. Randolph was considered an "industrial" area in the 19th century; not only for its mills, but more notably for its iron mines. The numerous iron mines in the northwest corner of the township were instrumental in drawing the first settlers to the area, and for more than a century the boom-and-bust cycles of mining had an impact on the local economy. Iron production suffered after the War of 1812, as England flooded America with inexpensive iron goods; thus diminishing the incentive for mining and manufacture of native ores. The iron industry recovered and flourished as never before in the mid-19th century, but the economic importance of scattered, water-powered mills was never to fully revive.

In the 1820s, the Motts began to sell out. More partners were taken in, and the Mott family tradition of mill ownership and operation came to an end. William Mott, owner of the gristmill prospered most, but turned to farming and carpentry in his old age.⁷ William's grandson Alexander did not learn milling as a trade, but went to the city of Newark to become a machinist. His younger brother moved away to California.

The dim economic picture for the little valley along the Mill Brook worsened when the Morris Canal was constructed (1824-1832) to the north in the Rockaway River Valley. The canal's primary purpose was to allow efficient transport of coal from Pennsylvania's coal fields to urban metropolises like New York, Newark, and Jersey City. It had a secondary economic impact in the small towns of New Jersey through which it ran, providing farmers a way to get fresh produce to big-city markets more quickly than by wagon, and offering a livelihood to the tavern keepers,

⁷ The United States Census for 1850 lists 69-year-old William Mott as a carpenter. He shared his house with his wife Mary, also 69, their widowed daughter-in-law Margaret Mott, and two grandsons, Alexander, then age 14, and Simeon, age 11. The same source identifies Ulises (Ulysses) Kinsey as the miller in the Mott Hollow area. If further proof of the social changes in the community were needed, it must be noted that Kinsey was a leading light of Methodism in Morris County.

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merchants, and repairmen all along its route.

As a direct result of the canal, the village of Dover began to blossom into a town of some consequence in the region. This was further enhanced in the 1840s with the construction of the Morris and Essex Railroad. Although little over a mile away from each other, Dover and the Millbrook Valley became worlds apart by the end of the 19th century; Dover developed with new industries and businesses which were able to successfully compete in this country and abroad, and Millbrook diminished to a rural backwater, with an old-fashioned grist mill and a saw mill to meet the limited demands of a very limited area.

There was some effort to continue to use the water power present along the Mill Brook through the 19th century, since the system of stone dams, head races, and tail races still represented a viable "infrastructure". The Industrial Census of 1850 lists a "Forge Furnace" which manufactured "Iron in Bloom". It is undoubtedly the same as the Dickerson & Doughty [Doty] forge identified along the Mill Brook east of the intersection with Millbrook Road on the 1853 map of Morris County. The census reveals that the forge was operated with two water wheels and one coal burning furnace, which produced 100 tons of iron blooms a year. It is unknown for how long this furnace was operational, but it does not appear on the 1860 Industrial Census, and there is no trace of the site today above ground.

The proprietor of the forge, Aaron Doty, was also the enumerator of the Randolph Township Industrial Census for 1850, and so listed his enterprise first. Later on in the census, he noted his neighbors downstream - Jane Swain, who owned the water-powered fulling mill and carding machine⁸; David Tuttle, the cooper, and Ulysses Kinsey, the miller. These industrial sites are all identifiable on the 1853 Shields' Map of Morris County, the earliest known map of the area with information on land use.

⁸ The 1853 map is a bit vague in siting the fulling mill building, but it was downstream from the forge and Millbrook Avenue bridge, and upstream from the grist mill. There is no above-ground evidence to mark the spot where this important mill stood. It is listed in the 1850 Industrial Census, but not in the same census for 1860; by that date its operation may have been seen as rather small, or it may have been active only occasionally.

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The Industrial Census also lists Joseph Moore, maker of boots and shoes. The "S.S." on the 1853 maps at the southeastern corner of the intersection of Millbrook Avenue and Gristmill Road may be his shoe shop. The name "J. Moore" is seen on the map to the west of the shoe shop, not clearly connected to a particular structure. All these industrial sites are within the district. A sawmill owned by Jacob Searing operated on the west side of Millbrook Road and well upstream from the other cluster of mills. This site is beyond the limits of the district boundaries, but the sawmill may have utilized the ponds and races of earlier Mott mills, such as the oil mill.

At the time of the Civil War, the Millbrook Valley still had a noticeable cluster of houses, but by the 1868 Beers' Atlas of Morris County, the carding mill and forge were gone. The saw mill and grist mill remained, but only the grist mill was large enough and permanent enough an industry to merit inclusion in the 1860 industrial census. The proprietor, Adams Davenport, reported that his water-powered mill produced wheat flour, rye flour, buckwheat flour, corn meal, oatmeal, and oat bran. One "AD", presumably Adams Davenport, also owned two buildings upstream from the grist mill which were likely mill sites, although the census data suggests that if they were operated at all, it was on a short-term basis, and they were not employing anyone other than Davenport.

A new cider mill and distillery came into existence well downstream of the other mills (#1,2) in the 1860s. Proprietors of the cider distillery built a large circular pond, lined with stone, in which to collect the necessary water for their product. An earthen dam of some sort was also constructed. Both these features survive in part; no actual distillery buildings still stand along the Mill Brook at this eastern end of the district. The distillery operated in Mott Hollow was not identified with an owner's name on the 1868 or 1887 maps of Morris County, and it does not appear in the industrial census of 1860, 1870, or 1880, but local lore has traditionally named the site "Davenport's Distillery".⁹

⁹ Only in the 1891 Report on Water-Supply in the New Jersey State Geologist's report, is a distillery site mentioned along the Mill Brook. Owned by one William Teed, the "old distillery site" is noted as not in use at that date. Although several distilleries appear on historic maps, and are known to have been operational in Randolph Township in the 19th century, only Bryant's Distillery,

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The grist mill, which may in fact have been one of the first industries along the Mill Brook, remained operational the longest. It is the only industry along the Mill Brook identified in the 1880 industrial census. Still owned by Adams Davenport, it employed only one person, full-time, for eight months of the year. The other months of the year the mill ran part-time. According to the census, the over-shot-powered mill ground thousands of bushels of wheat and other grains, with most of the work coming from the grinding of "feed" for animals. Davenport also operated a saw mill along the stream, near the grist mill, according to the 1887 Morris County Atlas. A second sawmill is shown upstream in the same map; it is still standing and recognizable, although converted to a horse barn (# 18).

The 1891 State Geologist's Report is the last known listing of Adams Davenport as the owner of both a grist and a saw mill; his was one of only a handful of Morris County water-powered mills that were still in operation by that date. It was Davenport's mill, alone in the valley, which inspired the poem "Old Millbrook". Its author, Theodore F. Mott (1839-1931) was a grandson of John Mott, the fulling mill operator. Theodore was born and raised in Mott Hollow, and for a time made his livelihood as a storekeeper in a house high on a hill overlooking the Mill Brook. In 1868, he was the only member of the Mott family to remain living in the "hollow". By 1887, although he continued to live there, Theodore had closed the store in this now out-of-the-way location. The crossroads was identified as Millbrook, not Mott Hollow, although there was no post office, and population density was no greater than along many other roads in Randolph shown in Robinson's 1887 Atlas of Morris County.

Eventually, even Theodore Mott moved away, and his elegaic poem was written from East Orange in 1915. The village of Mott Hollow or Millbrook was but a memory, but its passage was not regretted. Theodore wrote:

a steam-powered enterprise producing over 2000 gallons of cider and apple whiskey, appears in the industrial census. Bryant's Distillery, located about two miles west of Mott Hollow, is individually listed on the New Jersey Register of Historic Places.

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Mourn not of vanished things as strange;
The wide, wide world is like our dell;
If men progress there must be change;
And now, old friend, good night, farewell!

In 1922 the poem was published in Dover Dates, a bicentennial history of Dover, New Jersey. Charles Platt, the editor and publisher prefaced the poem with these remarks:

"There may be more building going on in Millbrook than for twenty-five years back. This may lead to a new prosperity in place of the industrial supremacy that once marked the village by the brook. Millbrook is already, and may become still more, a residential suburb to Dover's commercial center. Those salubrious hills ... are being appreciated once more... the automobile is now making these picturesque hilltops available as never before for rural villas, to rebuild the waste places of "the vanished village."¹⁰

Platt was overly optimistic about the development of the valley. The 1920s saw construction of a few hunting cabins or bungalows in the woods, there was no serious attempt to create a suburban development there. That would have to wait for the 1960s, when a taste for secluded homes, linked by car to commercial and cultural opportunities, coincided with rising affluence, cheap gasoline, and suburban relocation of middle class jobs. Gristmill Road retains its historic character, but development along its formerly empty length is now largely complete with single family houses constructed within the past thirty years.

The Mott Hollow valley offers above-ground and archaeological evidence of its past, which is the story of milling and other industrial development in the 19th century in New Jersey. Although no formal excavations have taken place, evidence for a mill dam, the sawmill, and another mill with its accompanying head race and tail race are evident from surface inspection. Further archaeological investigation has the potential to expand the district's significance, as the buried resources along the stream amplify Mott Hollow's industrial past.

¹⁰ Charles Platt, Dover Dates: A Bicentennial Celebration of Dover, New Jersey, Dover, N.J., 1922, p. 58.

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BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point on Grist Mill Road, in Randolph Township, New Jersey, where the Mill Brook is crossed by the road, and proceeding upstream along the southerly edge of the stream in a generally west-southwesterly direction along the Mill Brook to its intersection with the property known as Randolph Township block 146, lot 4, and then south and west along this property line to its southern terminus and continuing along the southerly lot lines of adjoining properties, namely tax block 146, lots 3, 2, and 1. At the intersection of the property line (which is also the stream) with Millbrook Avenue, continue west across Millbrook Avenue, including all of the stone bridge which crosses the stream at this point. On the west side of Millbrook Avenue, the historic district boundary intersects with the northeastern point of block 115, lot 3, and continues south, northwest, and east around this property to the intersection with the southwest corner of block 115 lot 2; then north along the western or rear property line of this property to the point where it turns east, and east for approximately 182 feet to the intersection with the western property line of block 115 lot 1. Following the western property line of block 115, lot 1 to its intersection with Fords Road, then east-northeast along the line between this property and Fords Road and continuing in the same line across Millbrook Avenue to the eastern right-of-way of Millbrook Avenue. Turn north along the right-of-way, continuing across the intersection with Grist Mill Road, and to the intersection of the easternmost Millbrook Avenue right-of-way with the northwestern property line of tax block 145, lot 50, the property located on the northwest corner of the intersection of Millbrook Avenue and Grist Mill Road. Follow the northerly or rear lot lines of adjoining properties to the northeast, namely tax block 145, lots 49, 48, and 47, and then east along the northeastern property line of block 145, lot 47 to the intersection with Grist Mill Road, and across said road in a straight line to the intersection with its easterly right-of-way, and northerly along the right-of-way and the front property lines of tax block 146 lots 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10, to a point on Grist Mill Road opposite the southernmost corner of the property known as tax block 145, lot 41. Proceed west in a straight line across Grist Mill Road, continuing westerly along the southwest property line of block 145, lot 41, following the western (rear) and northeastern property lines of said lot to the intersection with the rear or westerly property line of tax block 145, lot 40, and north and east around the boundaries of said property to Grist Mill Road, and

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straight across the road to the eastern right-of-way. Continuing northerly along the east side of Grist Mill Road to a point opposite the platted but undeveloped Hill Street shown on Randolph Township tax maps and across Grist Mill Road to the northwest property line of tax block 145, lot 17, and thence along the northwestern property lines of said property and its neighbor, block 146, lot 18, to the northern corner of said property, and then south along the eastern property line of said lot to the intersection with Grist Mill Road, then straight across Grist Mill Road to the Mill Brook, and thus to the place of beginning.

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BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The Mott Hollow Historic District is very definitely one with a "sense of place", retaining a setting consistent with its historic associations. The experience of moving through the district defines and explains the boundaries to a large degree, with the stream and its associated mill sites as the centerpiece.

The drop into the valley is still experienced, even when traveling by car along Millbrook Avenue. At the stone bridge over the stream, the sense of being within a sheltered "hollow" is quite strong, and the evidence of historic activity in this valley is telegraphed to even the most casual observer by the form of the old schoolhouse by the bridge and the sign in its gable end with the construction date "1884" emblazoned on it. Trees obscure the center of the district, however, until one turns the corner onto Gristmill Road, and the road dips suddenly, curves, and then small houses of obvious age are revealed. Continuing east, the millpond, and then the mill are visible. The road continues east, moving up and somewhat away from the stream, through a thickly wooded landscape where old houses are sited hard by the road and newer ones are set back, so as to be nearly invisible when the leaves are on the trees. The eastern end of the district is firmly anchored by two later 19th century houses. At this point, the Mill Brook is crossed by a modern culvert-type bridge, and the valley opens up to a wider and more easily developed terrain with no historic development associated with Mott Hollow.

Mott Hollow, as an unincorporated place, never had strictly defined boundaries. However, its reason for being was the series of mills concentrated along the Mill Brook, near the intersection with Millbrook Avenue. The district boundary was drawn to include the stream and all known mill sites east of the bridge over the Mill Brook on Millbrook Avenue, which seem from the historic map evidence to have stood on the north side of the stream. The steeply wooded slope to the south of the stream was not, and is not, conducive to development. This hillside is divided into several properties, which have frontage on Pierson's Hill Road. Because the hill is so steep, historically it served as a prominent divider, and carried its own place name, "Pierson's Hill". It was not considered part of Mott Hollow, and will not be included in the Mott Hollow District.

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All properties north of the stream and south of Gristmill Road are included, although half of them contain non-contributing residences. To remove properties with non-contributing buildings would be to lose the continuity of the stream. The stretch of non-contributing properties occupies historically undeveloped land, but land which was certainly part of Mott Hollow and which linked known, active mill sites. The newer houses on the south side of Gristmill Road are generally not intrusive into the historic landscape.

To the north side of Gristmill Road, historic houses have been singled out for inclusion in the district, while non-contributing houses have been excluded. The siting of these non-contributing houses is, in general, more obvious from the road than the new houses across the road. They do not contribute to, and may even detract from, the historic qualities of the valley as a whole. Selective inclusion of properties with historic buildings reinforces the importance of the district as a whole, and does not "dilute" the district with a number of non-contributing buildings higher than the contributing ones. The ridge line of the hill geographically forms the northwestern boundary of Mott Hollow. The western end of the ridge is followed by the rear property lines of the cluster of contributing buildings at the west end of Gristmill Road. However, that ridge breaks and another ridge, roughly parallel to the north, helps define the valley. The ridge line in the eastern part of the district becomes an inappropriate boundary, including far too many non-contributing structures.

Historically, Mott Hollow included other mills further upstream (west) on the Mill Brook from the edge of the present district. These mills are all gone, and their sites are separated from the Gristmill Road/ Millbrook Avenue core of the district by a steep hill and modern residences. There is no continuity or "integrity of location,...setting,.. feeling and association" to justify the extension of the district to include these sites. The district does include three properties on Millbrook Avenue at the intersection of this road with both the stream and Gristmill Road. The stream and road junction is known to have been the site of an important mid-19th century "Forge Furnace", and may have been the site of earlier mills. The schoolhouse building is an 1884 structure, occupying the site of a much earlier school erected by Mott Hollow's settlers. A house associated with the Mott family and another vernacular dwelling in the area are also from the period

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Continuation SheetSection number Photo Page 1Mott Hollow Historic District, Randolph
Township, Morris County, New JerseyPhoto Identification

The following information is the same for all of the photographs submitted with the nomination.

Name: Mott Hollow Historic District
Location: Randolph Township, Morris County,
New Jersey
Photographer: Fran DeLucia
Negative repository: 3 Woodcock Lane
Randolph, New Jersey 07869

<u>Photo #</u>	<u>View</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Subject</u>
1	NW	12-6-90	9 Gristmill Road - facade & side
2	NW	5-18-90	9 Gristmill Road - outbuilding
3	NE	12-6-90	9 Gristmill Road - pond
4	SE	5-18-90	22 Gristmill Road - facade
5	N	5-18-90	22 Gristmill Road - stone steps on property
6	W	12-6-90	49 Gristmill Road - east side of house
7	N	12-6-90	49 Gristmill Road - foundation of barn
8	NE	5-18-90	51 Gristmill Road - facade
9	N	5-18-90	51 Gristmill Road - facade
10	NW	5-18-90	51 Gristmill Road - outbuilding

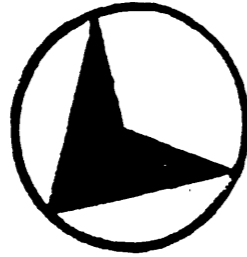
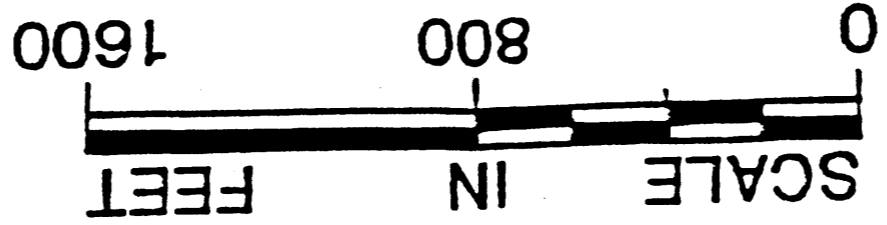
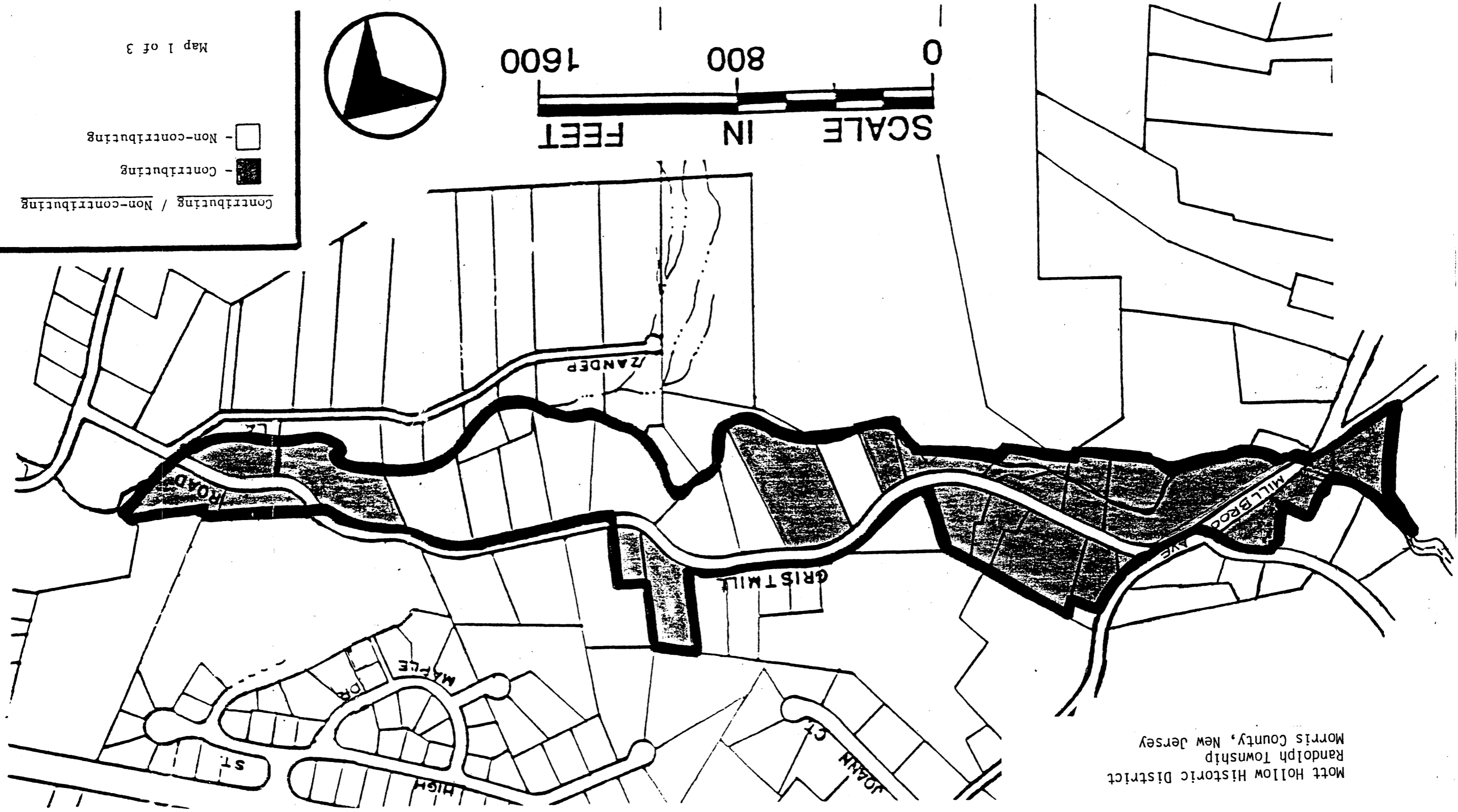
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<u>Photo #</u>	<u>View</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Subject</u>
11	E	12-6-90	64 Gristmill Road - barn
12	E	12-6-90	64 Gristmill Road - facade
13	E	12-6-90	72 Gristmill Road - mill and outbuilding
14	SW	12-6-90	72 Gristmill Road - millpond
15	W	12-6-90	77 Gristmill Road - facade and side
16	N	5-18-90	77 Gristmill Road - millstone
17	N	5-18-90	77 Gristmill Road - barn
18	E	5-18-90	78 Gristmill Road - facade
19	SE	12-6-90	84 Gristmill Road - facade and side
20	N	5-18-90	83 Gristmill Road - barn
21	NW	5-18-90	83 Gristmill Road - barn
22	NW	5-18-90	83 Gristmill Road - facade
23	SE	5-18-90	83 Gristmill Road - millstone
24	NW	12-6-90	89 Gristmill Road - facade

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<u>Photo #</u>	<u>View</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Subject</u>
24A	S	3-22-92	Intersection of Millbrook Ave. & Gristmill Road - obstructed view of #315 Millbrook, view of #317 Millbrook
24B	W	3-22-92	315 Millbrook Ave. - facade
24C	W	3-22-92	317 Millbrook Ave. - facade
24D	S	3-22-92	Bridge on Millbrook Ave. over Millbrook Stream
24E	N	3-22-92	Bridge on Millbrook Ave. over Millbrook Stream
24F	W	3-22-92	343 Millbrook Ave. - facade
24G	W	3-22-92	343 Millbrook Ave. - facade

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Contributing / Non-contributing
- Contributing
- Non-contributing

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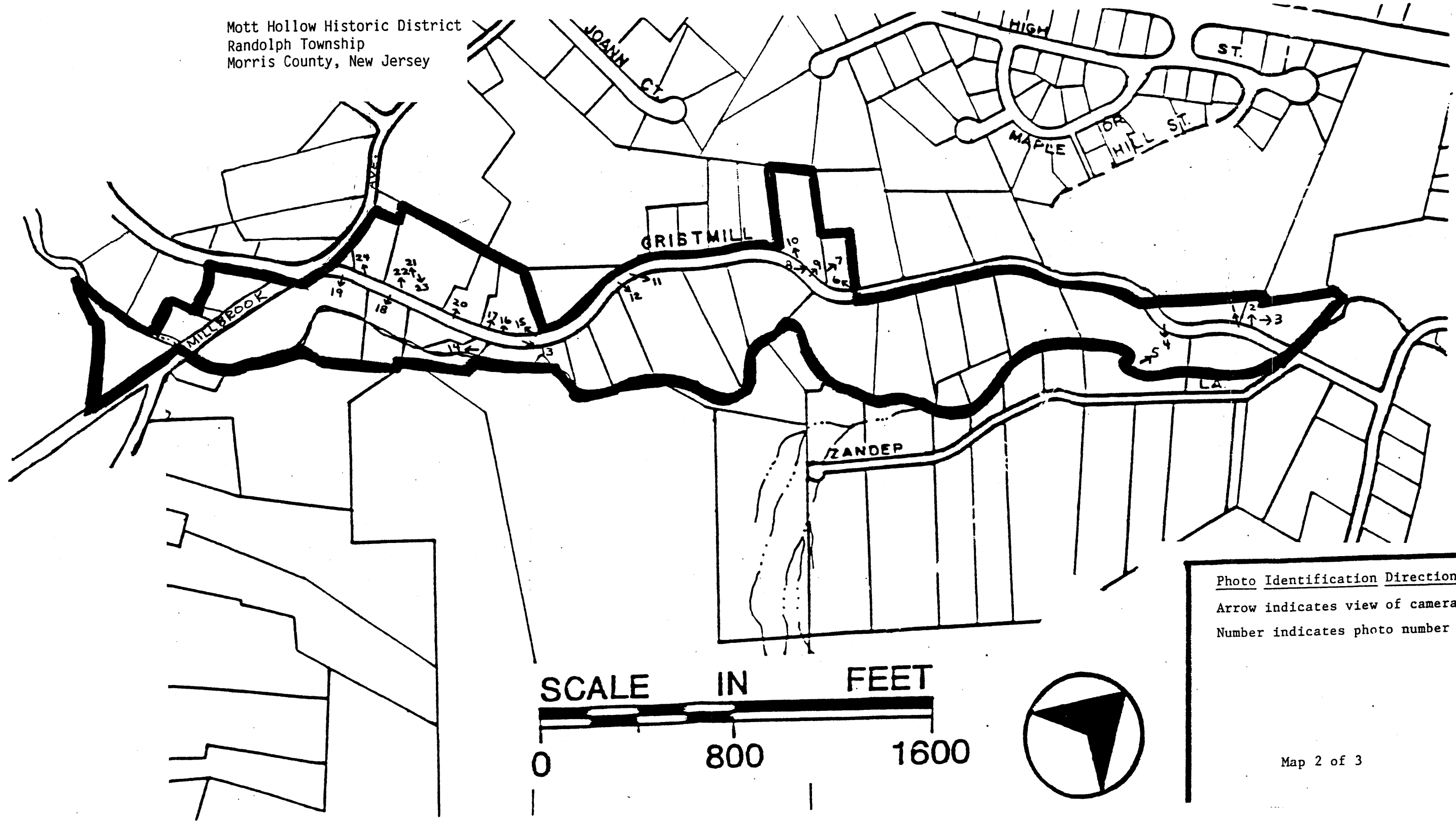
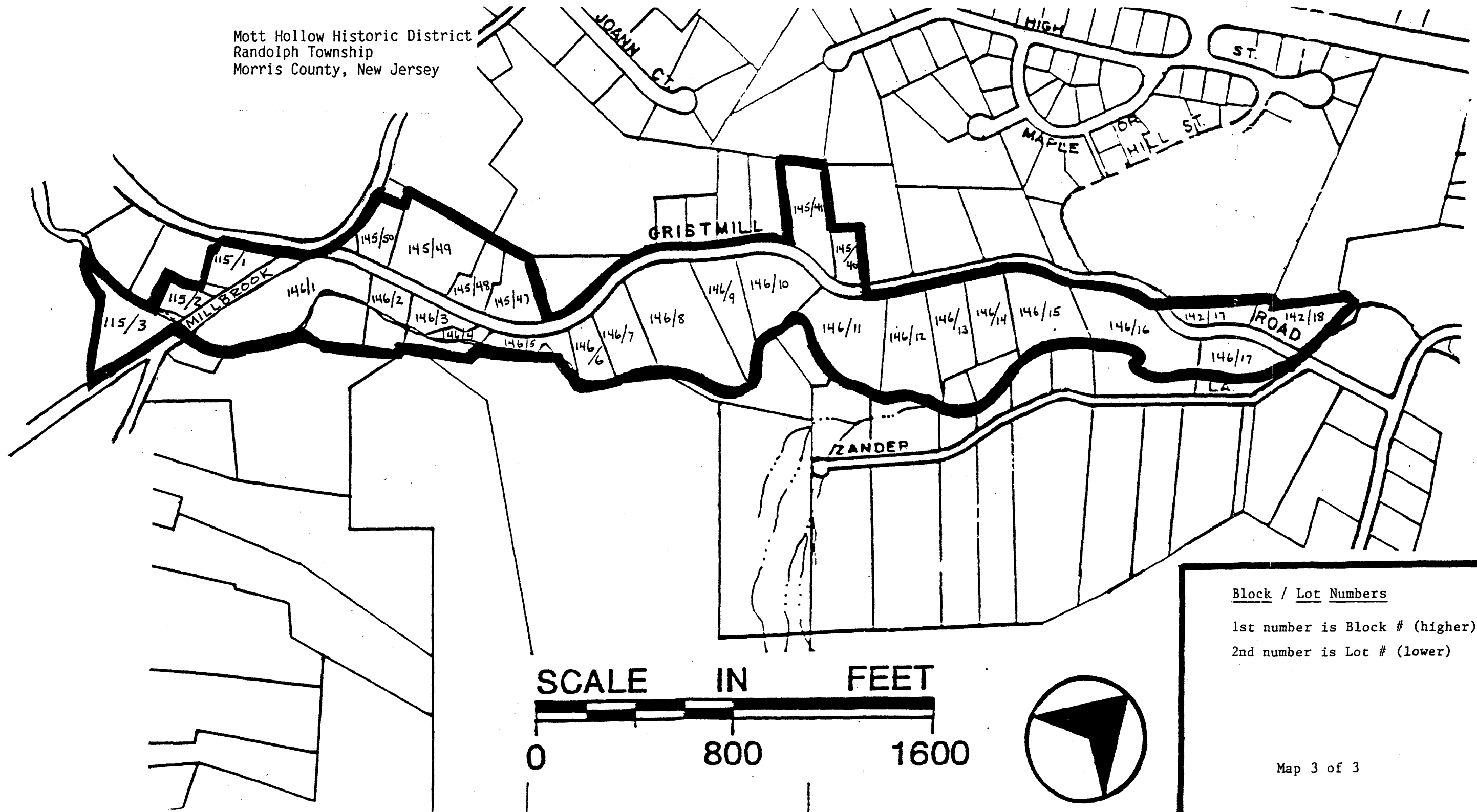


Photo Identification Direction
Arrow indicates view of camera
Number indicates photo number

Mott Hollow Historic District
Randolph Township
Morris County, New Jersey



Block / Lot Numbers
1st number is Block # (higher)
2nd number is Lot # (lower)