

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED **MAR 16 1982**
DATE ENTERED **APR 15 1982**

**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
Stage House Inn
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Intersection of Park Avenue and Front Street N/A NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CITY, TOWN
Scotch Plains N/A VICINITY OF 22nd 15th CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
STATE CODE COUNTY CODE
New Jersey 034 Union 039

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
John Ferrara
STREET & NUMBER
c/o Stage House Inn, Front Street and Park Avenue
CITY, TOWN STATE
Scotch Plains N/A VICINITY OF New Jersey

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Union County Registry of Deeds
STREET & NUMBER
Court House, Broad Street
CITY, TOWN STATE
Elizabeth New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Union County Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no
HABS Drawings, 1936
Tercentennial Historic Sites
DATE 1936, 1974 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Rutgers University Library
CITY, TOWN STATE
New Brunswick New Jersey

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This is a long, frame, two story building consisting of several parts that have been added through the years. Starting at the corner of the intersection of Park Avenue and Front Street, this apparently was the second section of the building. It consists of a three bay two story unit, two rooms deep with corner fireplaces and a stair hall with doors front and back. The original Dutch door with strap hinges and hardware still remains at the rear door. In the front parlor is a cast-iron fire back with the date 1737 cast into it. The doors are six panel, with a heavy raised panel on one side and with flush beaded boarding on the back. They are hinged on hand wrought strap hinges and pintels. The trim is mostly original: beaded on the door edge with a backband-type molding on the edge. There are simple shallow shelf mantels, original wide floor boards, and a simple two piece chair rail against the plaster walls. The stairway is of a later date, circa 1920, and replaces the original, whose side rails are still discernable at a different slope than the present. On the westerly side of this hallway is what appears to be the original building, possibly dating to the later part of the 17th century, as early history refers to seven dwellings in Scotch Plains in 1688. As this was an important intersection of the Minisink Indian Trail and a very early road which eventually became the Old York Road, it is logical to assume a building stood here. The remaining evidence and construction of this section of the building could be of that period. This earliest portion is now included within a larger room which contains that section of the earliest house and a section which was either moved up against it or added later on in the mid-1700's.

There are glass vision panels on the ceiling showing evidence of two corner fireplaces and the boarding of the side to an early stairway and adjacent to the present stair. There appears to have been one small chamber and one larger chamber. The first floor ceiling came down quite low originally to plate height, just above the windows. Part of one rafter is exposed in the "long room" on the second floor where the roof has been raised to match the two story height of the part of that building to its west. This long room addition appears to have been made in the 1770's. The basic design of the earliest building was the typical one story farm

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 type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1737

BUILDER/ARCHITECT John Sutton

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Used continuously since at least 1737 as a tavern, the Stage House Inn, at a prominent intersection in Scotch Plains, is one of the few 18th century structures in the town at its original location. The Inn, although expanded and modified over the years, still provides the aura of an 18th-19th century hostel.

The Stage House Inn has played a prominent part in the history of Scotch Plains ever since 1737 when its first innkeeper was licensed. It served as the meeting place for local government and a rallying point for enlisting soldiers during the Revolutionary War. A Liberty Pole stood outside it where the 1920 War Memorial now stands. It also served as a way station on the Swift Sure Coach Line and served many prestigious patriots, including Lafayette, and many prominent military figures of the Revolution quartered in the area in 1777. The building is shown on Robert Erskine's map of 1781 as being Marselis Tavern.

This building is a fine example of an early tavern and has been in continuous use as such since its construction in 1737. It has played a prominent part in the government of the town where its "Long Room" was used for initial town meetings. It still plays an important role, situated across the street from the present City Hall and "Town Green". It is a fine example of the growth and adaptation to new needs and requirements in the march of progress without losing any of its original character or charm. It is truly a most significant and important building to preserve.

The tavern operators are listed as follows:

18th Century: 1737: John Sutton
1776: Peter Marselis
1789: Recompense Stanbery III

19th Century: 1800: Jacob Stanbery
1815: Charles Gilman
1818: J. Miller
1819: Thomas Burlochs
1824: _____ Crane
1827: Jonathan Hetfield

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/2

UTM NOT VERIFIED

QUADRANGLE NAME Chatham

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 550750 4499960
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Stage House Inn is located on an irregular plot 195' x 260'[±], at the northwest corner of the intersection of Front Street and Park Avenue in Scotch Plains. Block 22, Lot 66 - Scotch Plains Tax Map

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

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE N/A CODE COUNTY CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Charles H. Detwiller, Jr., A.I.A.

ORGANIZATION

Architect

DATE

July 16, 1980

STREET & NUMBER

120 Depot Park

TELEPHONE

(201) 756-7406

CITY OR TOWN

Plainfield

STATE

New Jersey 07060

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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

Deputy

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

May 11, 1981

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Entered in the
National Register

DATE

4/15/82

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

Stage House Inn

Continuation sheet Scotch Plains, New Jersey Item number 7

Page 1

Description (continued)

house about 16'-0" wide with a center door and flanking windows. All of the sash of this main two story section of the building are 9/6. A shallow one story porch runs across the front of this two story section, with a lean-to addition added in 1961 across the back housing a new bar and dining area.

Attached to this two story element is what appears to have been a complete three bay house with the typical center door and flanking window arrangement. This has a story-and-a-half with "stomach" windows on the second floor, with sloping ceiling. The area on the first floor of this section has no basement under it as the other two parts have, and rested on beams directly on the ground (now replaced with air and crawl space). There is a huge 5'-0" wide cooking fireplace with crane and cook oven to the side. There is also evidence of a tight winding stair to the left of this fireplace, long since removed.

To the rear of this third element of the building was another one story unit with a center door and flanking windows. This has been connected for modern kitchen use. A long narrow porch facing Front Street ties these three elements together, with an outside cellar way on the extreme easterly end. This leads to the basement storage area which is partially excavated under the front section, all supported on a mud mortar, local stone foundation. The present roof is asphalt shingles on top of old wood shingles.

A batten and board fenced service yard is attached to the rear kitchen wing, with murals duplicating old fashioned advertisements.

Attached to the new "lean-to" wing of the Inn is a brick veneered "link" containing entrance lobby, restrooms, coat room and two pairs of access doors from the courtyard and Park Avenue. This is attached to the Duel Barn which fronts on Park Avenue and with a door leading to the courtyard (Duel Barn not part of nominated building).

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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Stage: House Inn

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Significance (continued)

19th Century: 1829: Peter B. Davis
1831: W. H. Cleaver
1841: Thomas T. Barr
1844: Abraham Nelson
1853: Antone De Boud
1879: Thomas Paff

20th Century: 1906: W. L. Deagen
1920: Herm Frawrie
1933: Frank Krischoffer & Bill Galbert
1938: (approximately): Herm Frawrie
1940: (approximately): Gene Laurent
1950: (approximately): Frank DeBlanco
1961: Peter Kooluris
1975: John Ferrara, James Ferrara, Michael Henig

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

Stage House Inn

Continuation sheet Scotch Plains, New Jersey Item number 9

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William P. Elliott, Esq., Charles Detwiller, Jr.,
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John Ferrara, Sam Gugliotta, Peter Dillon.

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Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
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Stage House Inn
Continuation sheet Scotch Plains, New Jersey Item number 9

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Bibliography (continued)

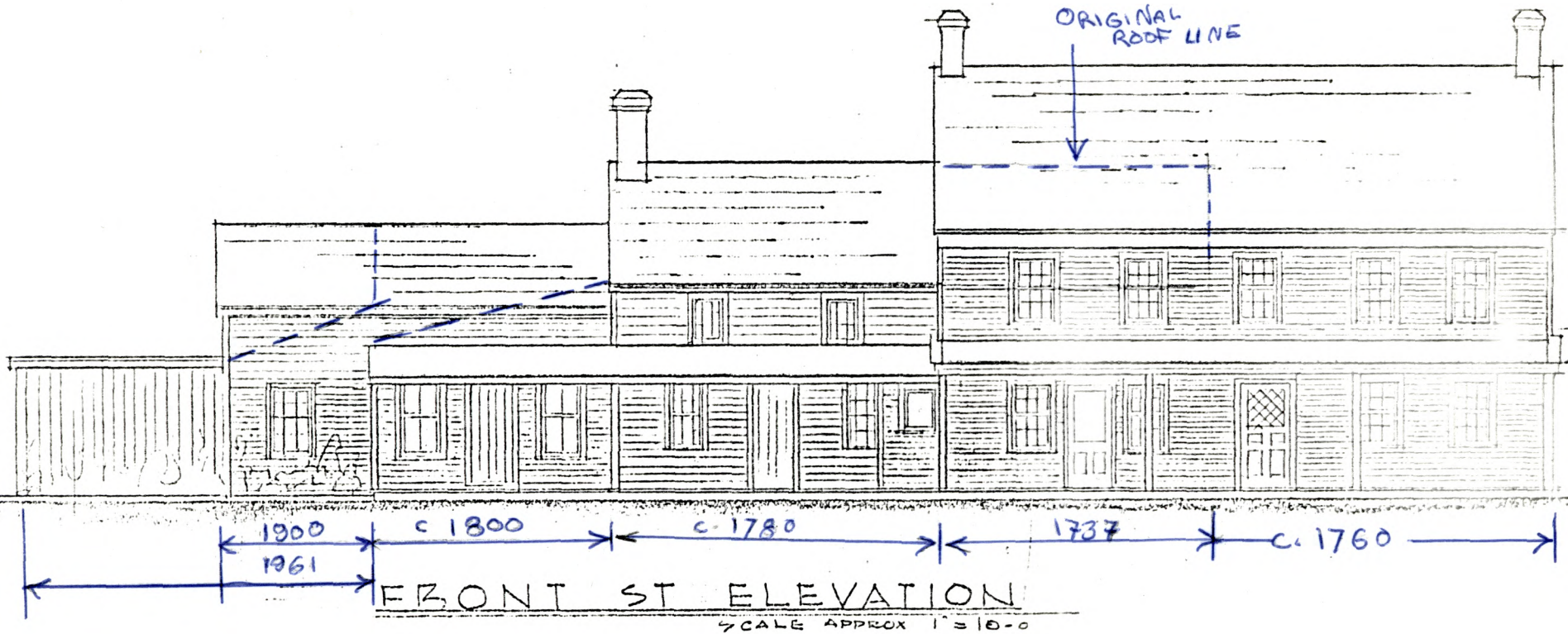
Revolutionary War Maps of Robert Erskine. 1779. Number 67, C.
Through Scotch Plains and Springfield.

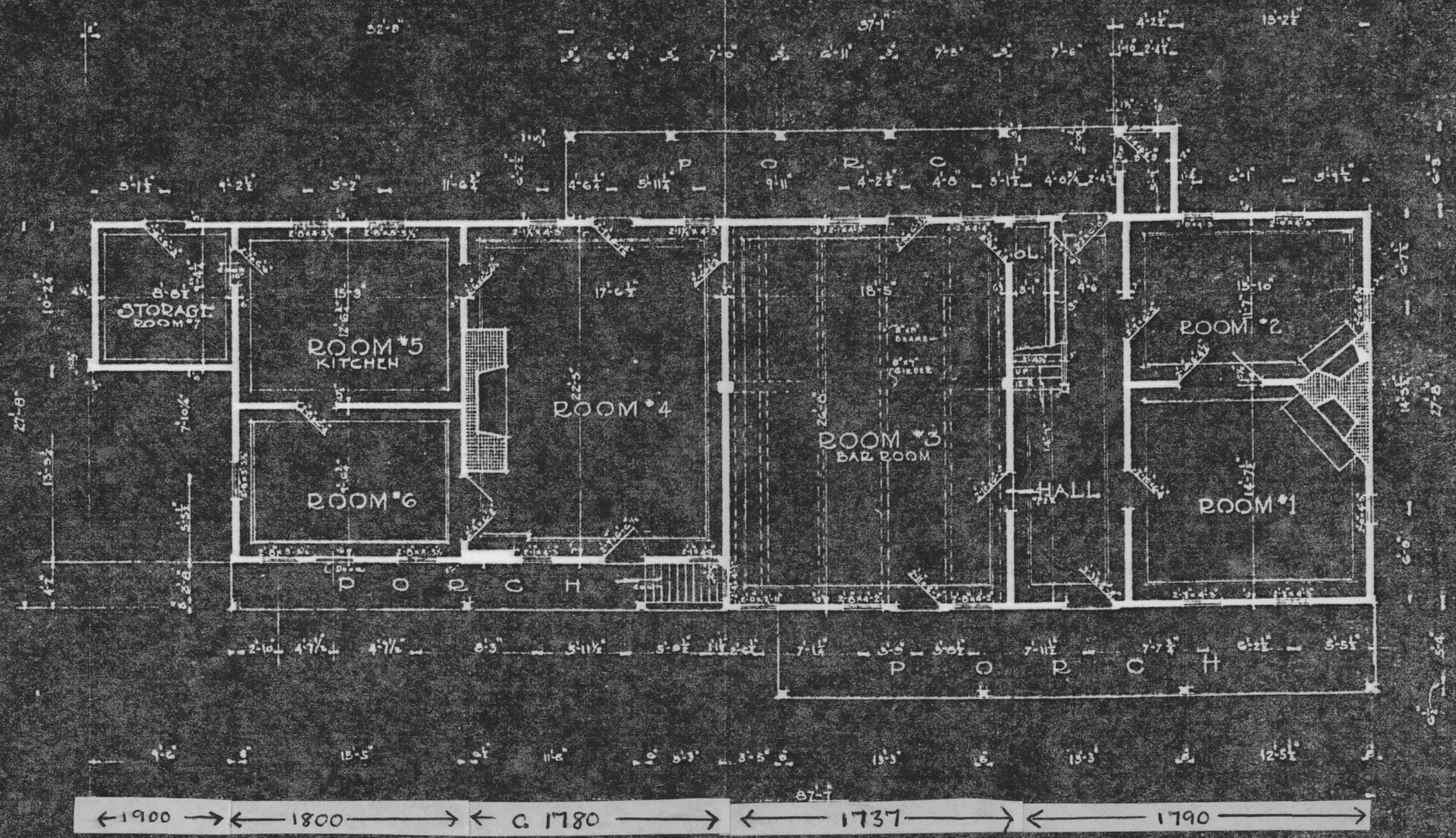
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STAGE HOUSE INN
Scotch Plains
Union County
New Jersey

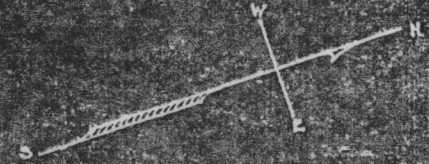




Stage House Inn
 Scotch Plains
 Union County, NJ

FIRST FLOOR PLAN

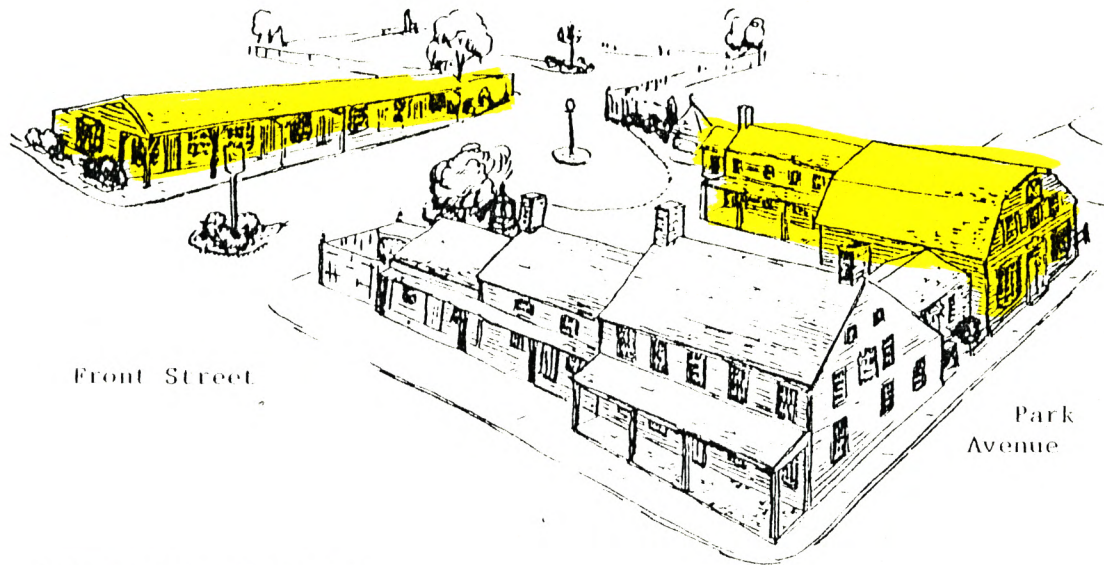
LEGEND
 BRICK
 FRAME



JOHN B. SUBHOFF - DEL.
 WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
 OFFICIAL PROJECT 165-22-6999
 UNDER DIRECTION OF UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, BRANCO PLANNING AND DESIGN

NAME OF STRUCTURE
OLD HISTORIC INN
 EASTBONT STREET AND PARK AVENUE SCOTCH PLAINS N.J.

SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"
 METRIC
 SURVEY NO. **NJ-414**
 HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
 July 1 of 3 sheets



STAGE HOUSE
INN

Shaded buildings are not part of nomination.

Stage House Inn
Scotch Plains
Union County, NJ