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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE JAN 13 1998

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking  in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Bridget Smith House

other names/site number Bridget Smith Homestead/Smith Homestead/Smith-McConnell House

2. Location

street & number 124 Randolph Avenue NA  not for publication

city or town Mine Hill Township  vicinity

state New Jersey code NJ county Morris code 027 zip code 07803

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Assistant Commissioner for Natural & Historic Resources/DSHPO

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- 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:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Patrick Andrews

2/27/98

Bridget Smith House  
Name of Property

Morris County, N.J.  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
-		sites
-		structures
-		objects
1	0	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/Museum

WORK IN PROGRESS

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Mid-19th Century

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls WOOD

roof WOOD

other \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Bridget Smith House  
Name of Property

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County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations** NA  
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

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

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Industry

**Period of Significance**

1855 - 1912

**Significant Dates**

N/A

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Ferromonte Historical Society of Mine Hill, Inc.

Bridget Smith House  
Name of Property

Morris County, N.J.  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 0.36 acres

Mendham, NJ Quad

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

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See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Bierce Riley (Advisor), Past President, Roebing Chapt. Soc. for Industrial Archeology and Elaine Campoli, President, FHS

organization Ferromonte Historical Society of Mine Hill, Inc. date July 3, 1997

street & number c/o B.Riley, 19 Budd Street telephone (973)455-0491

city or town Morristown state N.J. zip code 07960

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Mine Hill Township

street & number 10 Baker Street telephone (973) 366-9031

city or town Mine Hill state N.J. zip code 07803

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
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Morris County, N.J.Section number 7 Page 1NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Bridget Smith House is an outstanding example of unimproved worker housing built for Morris County iron miners/laborers and their families in approximately 1855. Located in a residential neighborhood in a semi-rural setting, the house is easily accessible, situated in close proximity to a main county road. (photo #1) The house embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type of workers' dwelling that was customarily ancillary to large-scale iron mining and ore-processing operations in the New Jersey Highlands region during the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. Utilizing balloon framing, this 1 ½ story simple structure was originally a two-family house. Each side was designed to be the inverse or mirrored image of the other with an enclosed winder stair that butted against the central partition wall to provide access to the second floor. Soon after the house was constructed, a one-story shed-roofed extension was built on the rear to provide an extra room for each first floor of the duplex and a crawl space storage area on the second floor. At the same time, a covered porch was added that ran along the full length of the front elevation and serviced both sides of the duplex. The porch, which collapsed in 1994 due to severe deterioration and weather conditions, has been almost entirely removed and is scheduled for reconstruction in 1997-8. Another renovation to the Bridget Smith House occurred in 1912 when the two family house was converted into a single family residence by cutting doorways through the central partition wall which divided the two domiciles. One of the winder stairs, no longer needed, was removed and the opening floored over, giving the house its current layout. This remodeling, however, had very little impact on the historic fabric of the house; the dwelling remains relatively unimproved with original siding using machine-cut nails. Electricity and a cold-water tap in the kitchen were the only major 20<sup>th</sup>-century improvements. There are also two other non-contributing structures on the site: the original well-hole exists, covered with a concrete cap, in front of the house and a "two seat" privy is to the rear of the property. The absence of central heating and indoor toilet facilities further underscore the unaltered condition of the structure. The cedar shake roof was replaced in 1994 and, along with the scheduled exterior restoration for 1997-8, will ensure the historic integrity of the Bridget Smith House.

**Current Appearance: General, Foundation, and Frame**

The general plan of the Bridget Smith House, as originally constructed c.1855, was a 1 1/2 story, two-family house. (photo #2) Later, a one story, shed-roofed rear extension and a covered front porch were added. The exact construction dates of the rear addition and the front porch are unknown; however, investigations have shown that the two appendages were most likely constructed contemporaneously between 1855 and 1875. Physical evidence in the addition includes machine-cut nails, a type which was used prior to 1875, when wire nails became

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prevalent. Furthermore, investigations have shown that the rear addition was attached to the house without removing the original paint-stained exterior house siding of the rear wall. This original siding, subsequently covered over by the later addition, remains well preserved and, more importantly, shows very little weathering. The lack of weathering indicates that the siding was exposed to the exterior elements for only a short time before it was enclosed by the addition, suggesting that the addition was constructed closer to 1855 than 1875.

With the addition, the Bridget Smith House took on a "salt-box" profile (photo #4), although it should be noted that the house itself is not a "salt-box" house. The first story of the Bridget Smith House, including the addition, incorporates four full-height rooms with 6'10" high ceilings (photo #9), while the second floor consists of two attic-story rooms that incorporate 3'7" high knee walls (photo #15) and a finished ceiling that is 6'4" high and level through the center portion of the house, being attached directly to the gabled roof rafters. Each side of the house incorporates two bays for the front elevation. Each bay consists of a single window, placed towards the center of the house, and a door, located towards the outer gabled walls of the house, for the first floor; and two windows for each side of the duplex on the second floor. The entire front facade, therefore, consists of a symmetrical, four-bay scheme having two oppositely located windows and two oppositely located doors for the first story and a second story having four symmetrically placed windows. The inner two second-story windows align vertically with the windows below, but the outer two windows do not align with the doors below.

Originally, the house was separated into two individual family living areas, each having a single room on the first floor and a single half-story room on the second floor, accessible via an enclosed winder stairway (photo #12). Soon after the original construction, however, the one-story extension was added to the rear of the house, thereby giving each side of the duplex an additional room on the first floor. This addition was accessed via the two exterior back doors of the original house block, now converted to interior doorways. With the addition, the first floor of the house took on a four-square or four-room layout. Also existing originally was a centrally located interior chimney that serviced heating/cooking stoves for both sides of the house. This chimney still exists, but the original stoves have been removed and the chimney wall patched-over in places. In 1912 the house was converted into a single-family residence. To achieve this task, doorways were cut into the main partition wall (photo #10, #16) that separated the two sides of the duplex and one of the staircases was removed, thus giving the house its current layout.

The external shape of the house is derived from its 1 1/2 stories, a side-gabled roof with a shed-roof extension on the rear and the single projecting chimney stack. As evidenced by the simplicity of the external shape, as well as its materials, construction, internal layout and ornamentation, the

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Bridget Smith House clearly represents the vernacular architecture of worker housing in the mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century.

The foundation for the Bridget Smith House consists of stone masonry perimeter walls that provide support for the wood-frame walls above and for the wood floor joists of the first floor. The perimeter foundation walls are approximately 1'0" thick and are constructed using fieldstone, mainly gneiss, arranged in a random rubble configuration. The color of the stone varies, ranging from tan and brown to gray, depending on the mineral components in each stone. The stonework is exposed up to 2'10" in height on the exterior of the rear (east) elevation.(photo #5) Some of these stones, comprising the foundation walls, are bedded in their original sand-lime mortar mixture, while the majority of the mortar joints have been repointed using a Portland cement-based mortar. The foundation is scheduled for restoration in 1997-8.

The north elevation foundation includes a cellar access doorway, mostly below grade level (photo #6) and incorporates a tongue-and-groove vertical wood door. In order to access this doorway, a bulkhead was built into the ground, using fieldstone retaining walls (that tie into the foundation walls) and a system of four fairly steep steps that descend from grade level down about 4' to the level of the cellar doorway. This bulkhead was enclosed and made water-tight using a wood tongue-and-groove door that sloped on a 20-degree angle away from the house. This door deteriorated, no longer exists, and is being reconstructed during 1997-8 restoration, as are the bulkhead and stairs.

Within the cellar, remnants of a whitewashed finish remain on the interior side of the stonework on both the foundation walls and many of the framing members.(photo #24) Whitewash was intended as a germicidal/sanitary agent and light-reflective surface. Incorporated within the foundation wall on the south elevation is a small windowed opening that was used for ventilation and to accommodate a coal shute. Currently, a single sash window is framed into the opening.

The structural system consists of balloon frame construction using light-weight 2"x4" studs supported by a stone masonry foundation. The balloon framing, which utilizes mill-sawn lumber in standardized dimensions, was a relatively new construction technique at the time it was used for the Bridget Smith House. The economy of balloon framing accounts for its rapid acceptance by builders of the 19<sup>th</sup>-century. The fact that the Bridget Smith House uses balloon framing indicates the unlikelihood that the house was built before c. 1855.

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Morris County, N.J.Section number 7 Page 4**Current Appearance: Exterior**

The existing exterior siding for the Bridget Smith House consists of 19<sup>th</sup>-century, random-width, vertical pine boards with battens for the majority of the house except for the half-story knee wall directly above the former porch roof. (photo #2) This portion of the wall is covered with a secondary layer of 5"-wide horizontal lap siding, nailed to the extant original vertical board siding at the time of the porch construction. In all likelihood, the lap siding was added to facilitate flashing between the wall and new porch roof, thus preventing the entrance of water behind where the porch butted against the house.

The existing vertical board-and-batten siding on the north (photo #7), south (photo #4), and east (photo #5) elevations is original and conforms to that on the former back wall of the structure, now protected by the shed-roof of the rear addition, but visible on the west wall of the second-floor storage area. The vertical board siding is nailed to the framework using machine-cut nails, a nail type used prior to 1875 when wire nails became prevalent. The vertical siding boards are of random width, ranging in size from 6" to 17" wide. The board-and-batten siding on the rear addition is similar to that on the original house. However, close inspection reveals joints at the former rear corner locations. (photo #6)

The porch along the front elevation of the Bridget Smith House (photo #19, #20, #21) collapsed due to severe deterioration and extreme ice/snow load in early 1994 and has been removed (photo #3), with the stone base remaining. The porch is believed to have been built at the same time as the rear addition and, thus, dating between 1855 and 1875, spanned the entire length of the front elevation and extended out 4'6". It consisted of simple wood-frame construction with 5"-wide tongue-and-groove flooring and will be reconstructed with similar materials.

Although it is believed that the brickwork of the chimney foundation and the interior stack is original, the exposed brickwork above the roof line appears to be replacement material. During the 1994 re-roofing, the chimney was repointed and new copper flashing installed. The current brick chimney shaft that protrudes above the roof line is short and narrow, being ten courses high and two stretchers wide on all four sides with a cap consisting of three courses of simple corbeling.

The exterior beaded board-and-batten doors are on the front elevation. The doors measure 2'10-1/2" wide x 6'1/2" high and employ rim-lock hardware. These doors are original to the house as confirmed by their construction, as well as the evidence of Blake's latches. Each door originally led into a separate family domain. A window was cut into the southernmost door in



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1912 to create an entrance to the parlor, while the other remains as originally constructed and was used as a kitchen door after 1912.

Several different window types and sizes are utilized to provide air circulation and light for the interior of the house. These differing window types and sizes occur in accordance with location, room function and historical status, namely original versus later additions or replacement. The windows differ in typologies and sizes. On the front elevation of the house, two original c.1855 windows of similar size and type are employed for the first story. Four original c.1855 similar eyebrow windows occur on the second story of the front elevation above the finished plank flooring of the second story.(photo #16)

The gabled roof has a pitch of approximately 34 degrees while the shed roof covering the extension has a slope of approximately 29 degrees.(photo #22) The current roof covering consists of new Western Red Cedar "No. 1 Perfection" shingles, installed in late 1994 for the entire roof. This new roofing replaced a severely leaking old roof covering which consisted of two layers of asphalt shingles nailed directly to an early layer of cedar shingles. The selection of cedar shingles for the new roofing was based on investigation. The cornices and eaves for the Bridget Smith House, both historically and currently, are of a simple type and construction, lacking ornate details and providing very little overhang.

**Current Appearance: Interior**

Two types of flooring exist at the Bridget Smith House. The first type consists of original pine, random-width butt-jointed planking which is fastened to the floor joists using machine-cut nails. The widest board measures approximately 1' 7". This original flooring type is historically valuable and is employed on the second floor; while an identical plank floor is used on the first floor in the rear addition. The condition of the plank flooring varies from board to board; most remain in excellent condition. The first floor of the original house block consists of 3 1/2" tongue-and-groove, in fairly good condition.

The interior walls were originally finished with plaster on circular-sawn lath except for the lower portion of the first-story perimeter walls of the original house block, which were wainscotted with horizontal boards extending approximately 3' above the finish floor level.(photo #11) The majority of the original plaster, almost all of the original lath, and all of the wainscoting remains in the house; however, some of the original plaster has been patched with a thin layer of 20<sup>th</sup>-century plaster. In addition to the plaster patches, several layers of wallpaper and other alternations to the wall finishes have occurred.(photo #13)

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There is very little decorative trim in the house; not even a decorative bead appears on any of the early trimwork. Those few decorative moldings that do appear are of 20<sup>th</sup>-century material. As such, the trimwork reflects the house's vernacular nature in its simplicity, as evidenced through the existing simple baseboards, window casements, and door frames. (photo #14)

Of the two original enclosed winder stairs, only one remains and is located in the southeast corner of the northwest room. (photo #12) The second winder stair was removed in 1912 when the two-family house was converted into a single-family dwelling, thereby, no longer necessitating two stairways. The winder stair is enclosed at the first-floor level with original, random-width, vertical board walls; it incorporates a right-angle winder turn near the bottom, before rising up to the second floor in a straight run of four treads measuring 9 1/2" deep. A dwarf wall that lines the exposed stair opening in the second floor acts as a guardrail (photo # 18). Under the stair, accessible from the first floor level, is a closet, a common feature beneath winder stairs that made use of otherwise wasted space. Both the opening for the closet and the adjacent stairway opening employ original board-and-batten doors. The door for the stair incorporates tongue-and-groove beaded boards, as well as original hardware including an original cast iron Blake's latch with a curved lift, typically dating post-1840.

The existing chimney was designed to provide access for first-story heating/cooking stoves. A hole in the floor of the northern second-floor room and a plastered-over area on the wall indicate that a stove pipe was used to heat the second floor before it was exhausted through the chimney. (photo #17) The square chimney, located along the south face of the main partition wall that divided the two sides of the house, consists of brick plastered with mortar and extends about 1'7" into the southwest room.

The first floor of the house has four interior doorways, three of which have original doors. Two of these doors are of four-panel design, the upper two panels being about two-and-a-half times as long as the lower ones. The second floor has only one doorway, created in 1912 when the house was converted into a single family residence. "Ghostmarks" indicate the existence of rim-lock hardware. It is important to note that all of the doors are historic, remain in good repair, and retain much of their original hardware.

**Current Appearance: Outbuilding and Other Structure**

The remains of a "two-hole" privy exist approximately 30' to the east (rear) of the house. (photo #8) The privy walls consist of vertical boards supported by a light-weight frame. The doorway opening incorporates a 2" wide casing. The privy is in poor condition, missing the north

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wall and is scheduled to be fully rebuilt in 1997-8 using in-kind lumber and cedar shake shingles. It is not the original building but may be located on the original privy hole.

A concrete-capped well exists in the small front yard, approximately 5' from the northern door on the front (west) of the house and approximately 2' from the paved road. (photo #2) This well supplied water to the Bridget Smith House via a hand pump on the kitchen sink until c. 1980, when the well water became polluted by run-off from the road, at which time city water service was installed in the form of a single cold-water tap. (photo #23)

**NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Bridget Smith House embodies the distinctive characteristics of an iron-mining-related multi-family workers' dwelling of the New Jersey Highlands in the mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century. It is a type of vernacular workers' housing that was customarily ancillary to large-scale iron mining and ore-processing operations in the region, as industry associated with major settlement patterns of northern New Jersey and provided the economic basis for much of the New Jersey Highlands. Constructed c. 1855, the Bridget Smith House is also unique because it did not undergo customary 20<sup>th</sup>-century modernizations (e.g. plumbing, insulation, artificial siding, replacement windows, indoor toilets, central heating) and, as such, in its unimproved condition, retains its mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century integrity in high degree.

**Chronological History of Property**

The lot on which the Bridget Smith House stands was originally a portion of a 100-acre tract owned in the early 19<sup>th</sup>-century by Ebenezer Coe, Esq. of Randolph, and later sold by him to Samuel & Matilda Youngs of Randolph. In 1852, the Youngs sold the tract to John M. Yatman (also spelled Yetman) of Randolph for \$1,500.<sup>1</sup> (see Attachment 1) The 1860 New Jersey census indicates that Yatman, aged 39, was a farmer with a total worth of \$14,000., making him one of the wealthiest men in Randolph at the time.

As shown on the 1853 Map of Morris County (Lighfoot), the roughly 0.8 mile section of Randolph Avenue on which the Bridget Smith House is located had only three structures located on it (from north to south): the E. Millen residence; a schoolhouse; and the Youngs/Yatman Residence. Though still a part of Randolph Township, "Mine Hill" is depicted as a geographic place name in 1853.

<sup>1</sup> Morris County Hall of Records, Y4-199.

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By August 1854, two-and-a-half years after he purchased the tract, Yatman was subdividing uniform 30' x 150' building lots along roads through his property, including what is now Randolph Avenue. Within a few years, this area would become known as "Irishtown", a densely settled working-class neighborhood whose occupants were almost exclusively employed by mining concerns, and who were (as the name implies) predominantly Irish immigrants.

Irishtown was within short walking distance, by mid-19th standards, of a number of mines (the Byram, Baker and Millen Mines were all within a quarter-mile). There were no mines, or indications of ore deposits in the immediate vicinity of Irishtown. There was logic to this as there was good reason not to build dwellings on land which might ultimately be used for mining. The Dover Iron Company built a dozen or more tightly-spaced workers' dwellings along Randolph Avenue prior to 1868; however, there is no evidence that the Bridget Smith House was ever built or owned by any mining or iron company. It was always a privately owned residence.

John M. Yatman sold one of his sub-division lots in 1854 to Thomas Malona (later spelled Maloney). The 4,810-square-foot lot was identified as "Lot Number One" on a map of lots filed by Yatman in the Hall of Records.<sup>2</sup> On the very same day, Yatman sold an identical adjacent lot to James Malona.<sup>3</sup> The relationship between Thomas and James is not stated in the documentation but they appear to have been brothers. There are no mineral rights reserved in the deeds, which suggests the specific area showed little promise for mining. Seven years later, in 1861, they each purchased an additional lot from Yatman, respectively south and north of the adjacent lots acquired in 1854 (see Attachment 2). Though independent transactions, the size and price of the lots were identical.<sup>4</sup>

The lots Yatman sold to the Maloneys in 1854 cost \$50 each, which indicates that the lots were vacant (the somewhat smaller adjacent lots Yatman sold the Maloneys in 1861 were \$40 each). The financial incentive for Yatman to subdivide into \$50 building lots was clear: by the square foot, these 9/100<sup>ths</sup> acre lots had cost him a mere \$1.65 the year before, as part of the whole tract. For the Maloneys, the price was considerable. In the mid-to late-19th century, miners' wages varied from roughly 45 cents to \$1 per day, depending on economic conditions. As such, \$50 may have represented months or even years of savings, after living expenses.<sup>5</sup>

The Bridget Smith House is located on Thomas Maloney's lots (see Attachment 3); by the time he sold the lots in 1879, the selling price increased to \$350 suggesting the erection of a dwelling.

<sup>2</sup> Morris County Hall of Records, D5-594.

<sup>3</sup> Morris County Hall of Records, D5-496.

<sup>4</sup> Morris County Hall of Records, Z5-308 (James Maloney); Z5-320 (Thomas Maloney).

<sup>5</sup> Ransom, James M. *Vanishing Ironworks of the Ramapos*, 1966: 226-227.

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Maloney most probably acquired his original lot with this intention. The dwelling was within easy walking distance of a number of mines with the Dickerson Mine less than a mile away and the Byram Mine a few hundred yards across the street. As a two-family dwelling, the house clearly reflected the working-class status of its occupants. While markedly better than sharing a dwelling with others in common, it nevertheless provided cramped accommodations for a family of any size, affording minimal comfort and no privacy within each family, but standard for the 19th-century working class.

By the Civil War Era, the area of Mine Hill around the Bridget Smith House was already known as Irishtown. Both maps and census records document that this working-class mining neighborhood was, indeed, heavily occupied by Irish immigrants, including the family of John and Bridget Smith. John was born in County Caven, Ireland and on August 21, 1846 applied for U.S. citizenship which was granted five years later on November 3, 1851. Bridget Lockman Smith had immigrated from County Tipperary, Ireland and it is known she had seven brothers and sisters who may have immigrated at approximately the same time, although they eventually moved to various parts of the country. John and Bridget's first two children, John and Willie, died at "school age". They were followed by Mary, born 1864, who lived in Mine Hill until her death in 1947, and John Patrick, born 1868, who never returned from travels in the mining districts of the western United States, death unknown.<sup>6</sup> John Smith, Bridget's husband, died c. 1868, just prior to the birth of his son, John Patrick. Family records indicate that John died in a mine-related accident, a common occurrence, and his body was never recovered.

The 1870 New Jersey Census taken in August, lists the following regarding widow Bridget Smith's household: Bridget Smith, 35, white female; occupation: keeping house; born in Ireland; children: daughter Mary, aged 6, born in New Jersey, son John P., aged 2, also born in New Jersey. The children's father (name not listed) was of foreign birth (presumably deceased John Smith). No valuation was given for real estate or personal property (presumably none). Bridget Smith was literate, and her daughter Mary, though yet illiterate, had attended school during 1870.<sup>7</sup> When Thomas and Julia Maloney sold the property to Thomas' second cousin, Bridget Smith, on May 22, 1879, she was already the widow of John, with two children. It is unclear if she had been a tenant in the house prior to the purchase.

The 1880 New Jersey Census gives us another snapshot of life in the Smith House. We can be reasonably sure that Bridget was now living in the dwelling, having purchased it the year

<sup>6</sup> Burbridge, Family Records

<sup>7</sup> 1870 NJ Census, Randolph Twp, Morris County: p.84 (Total #374). The Bridget Smith dwelling was the 636th dwelling and the 670th family to be recorded.

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previous. The census lists: widow Bridget Smith, aged 45, keeping house; children: Mary, aged 16, at home, and John, aged 12, at home and attending school. Also residing in Bridget Smith's house (presumably in the other half of the duplex) is another widow of the mines: Margaret Lowe, aged 33 and keeping house; also born in Ireland and her six children: James, aged 12; Mary, aged 10; Thomas, aged 8; John, aged 6; Kate, aged 4; and Patrick, aged 2. Their deceased father, was also born in Ireland.<sup>8</sup>

Advancing to the 1900 Census, we find a different picture. The Dickerson Mine closed in 1891 and with that and many other mines in Randolph now defunct, the population dropped precipitously. Gone are the legions of miners and laborers from the old days. The Smith family, along with many other old families of Irishtown, stayed on, however, making their living at other occupations. Common employers now include silk mills in Dover and Wharton, the powder works in Kenvil, and the iron works and foundry in Dover. There were also carpenters, farm laborers, and masons, as well as the occasional remaining iron miner.

In the household of Bridget Smith, things have changed radically by 1900. Her son-in-law, Richard Morrissey, is now listed as the head of the household. No other family shares the dwelling, so presumably, Bridget is living in the half of the duplex she has always occupied and her daughter, son-in-law and their family are in the half formerly rented to Margaret Lowe. Thus Bridget Smith, aged 65, now a grandmother, was fortunate to be residing with family and grandchildren in her declining years.<sup>9</sup> She died intestate, at age 72, on May 28, 1907<sup>10</sup> and is buried in the St. Mary's Church cemetery located in Mine Hill. Her simple grave marker indicates the site is shared with "Baby Morrissey" who had died previously; most likely her grandchild.

It would appear that soon after Bridget's death in 1907, her daughter and son-in-law moved out of the dwelling and made renovations to convert the house from a duplex into a single-family home. They began to rent it to Jesse and Ida McConnell, who were married on July 4, 1912 and moved into the house the next day. He was employed at the powder works in Kenvil. Ida was born locally in 1890 and resided in the house as a tenant from 1912 to 1990, a period of seventy-eight years. Mrs. McConnell's steadfast traditionalism was primarily responsible for the preservation of the structure in such an unimproved state.

Technologically, the house underwent few changes from 1912 onward. Minimal electricity was added in early 1940, followed by Jesse's death in 1943. Thereafter, the residence became that of

<sup>8</sup> 1880 NJ Census, Randolph Twp., Morris County: p.384.

<sup>9</sup> 1900 NJ Census, Randolph Twp., Morris County: sheet 2

<sup>10</sup> Deed: Patricia M. Morris et al to the Twp. of Mine Hill, 10 October 1993.

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Ida McConnell alone. She had been employed as a housekeeper in early years at Mine Hill's Canfield Mansion, home of Dickerson Mine owner Frederick Canfield, and in later years, for various families in Dover. She walked to work daily and never owned a car or drove. A coal-fired stove provided the means of heating and cooking, but was replaced in the 1940's by a stove that burned either coal or bottled gas. The cellar stored the coal which could be retrieved during inclement weather by using the trap-door in the kitchen floor leading, by ladder, to the cellar.

As a widow with no children, Ida McConnell felt little pressure to modernize her dwelling. As a tenant during her entire 78-year occupancy, she similarly had no financial incentive to make improvements to a dwelling she did not own. Rarely traveling beyond the environs of Mine Hill and Dover, and content with her lifestyle in a neighborhood surrounded by a brother and sister and many loyal friends, there were no social forces acting on her to make common 20th-century improvements and alterations. There was no indoor toilet, but instead a two-seat outdoor privy. Water was drawn by hand pump directly into the kitchen at the front of the house from a well near the front door. When the well became contaminated by road runoff, a single cold-water tap was supplied by the municipal water system in 1980.

In 1976, a small group of residents formed the short-lived Mine Hill Historical Society to identify local sites and to document the Bridget Smith Homestead, as it had been referred within the estate managed by Bridget Smith's three granddaughters, the Misses Morrissey. The house was declared eligible for the National Register of Historic Places by the New Jersey State Board of Review on September 16, 1977. However, the nomination was not made official due to objections by the Morrissey sisters, now deceased. Efforts were tabled during the ensuing years and rekindled in 1990 by a new group who formed the Ferromonte Historical Society of Mine Hill, Inc. in an effort to save the Bridget Smith House as a valuable, rare, undisturbed relic of Mine Hill's industrial heyday. In 1989, Ida McConnel had suffered a broken hip, which finally forced her to vacate the dwelling in 1990 at the age of 100; she was moved down the street to her sister's home and later died in nursing home at age 103. The house remained vacant after that time and became overgrown, showing signs of deterioration. The threat of neglect and increasing vandalism lent urgency to the preservation effort, which was stalled when the asking price of the real estate was set at \$20,000. Failing to be sold due to the substandard building lot size, the Smith heirs donated the property and building to the municipal government in October 1993 for historic preservation in the name of Bridget Smith. In 1993, the New Jersey State Historic Preservation Office reaffirmed the historical significance of the Bridget Smith House. Acting Administrator, Terry Karschner, noted "This dwelling still stands essentially as it was built over a century ago. Typical

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of 19th-century workers housing, it is an important reminder of the life of iron miners in the late 19th-century."<sup>11</sup>

**Criterion A - Historical Background & Significance: Iron Industry and Settlement Patterns**

From the early 18th to the late 19th-century, New Jersey was one of America's major iron-producing states. Mine Hill's magnetite iron deposits were both amazingly productive and mining was long-lived, spanning a remarkable 256 years.<sup>12</sup> As its name suggests, Mine Hill was an intensely developed mining area. While much of the industrial development occurred in the second half of the 19th-century, Mine Hill claims some of the oldest iron mines in the state. At least twenty-two distinct mines operated in this tiny, roughly three-square-mile township. The first, the Succasunny Mine opened in 1710, was later acquired by Jonathan Dickerson in 1776. It operated under the name Succasunny/Dickerson Mine and was later operated by his son, Mahlon, who built an estate in Mine Hill. He is a well-known local figure having been New Jersey Governor, U.S. Senator and Secretary of the Navy<sup>13</sup>, as well as a personal friend of Andrew Jackson. The mansion he built was destroyed by fire in the mid-1960's as was another vacant mansion built by another branch of the mine-operating family, the Canfields. Only the modern historical street markers remain.

By the late 1850's, Morris County's iron industry had entered a kind of begrimed Golden Age. Canal and railroad access, plentiful fuel and raw materials, and a large available work force (largely immigrant) allowed the region to prosper, while contributing to the industrial advance of both the state and the nation. The construction of mine workers' dwellings in large numbers was part of this boom. During the decade of the Civil War showed 115 iron mines operated in New Jersey; by 1878-80, 42 mines in Morris County produced 80 percent of the state's total.<sup>14</sup> The development of large coal and iron deposits in the midwest and Great Lakes regions as well as technological advances in iron processing created intense competition for New Jersey's mines and meant the end for smaller, less profitable mines in the state. By 1880, 15 of the town's 21 mines were already closed. The Byram Mine; long a major producer, was abandoned in 1883, probably the first major blow to the future of Irishtown.<sup>15</sup> The oldest mine, the Dickerson, was worked until late 1891. Only the Scrub Oak Mine survived into the 20th century, finally closing in 1966, thus closing the iron era of Mine Hill.

<sup>11</sup> Karschner, Terry; Historic Preservation Office. Letter to Bierce Riley, 16 September 1993.

<sup>12</sup> Cohen, 1994: p.3.

<sup>13</sup> Cohen, 1994: p. 29.

<sup>14</sup> Bayley, 1910: p.382.

<sup>15</sup> Bayley, 1910: p.382.



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The majority of Irishtown's 19th-century structures have vanished; most of their sites are currently occupied by mid-to-late 20th-century tract homes. Byram's Row, consisting of 11 worker's dwellings adjacent to the Bridget Smith House, survived through the 1940's, but today is entirely gone. Similar housing stock at the Weldon Mine in Jefferson Township and the Edison Mine in Ogdensburg has entirely vanished. In Upper Hibernia or Orelan in Rockaway Township, only one of several dozen worker dwellings continues to stand, while in Mount Hope, Lower Hibernia, Wharton and Chester, worker housing associated with the iron industry survive in limited numbers, but have been highly renovated with such 20<sup>th</sup>-century improvements as plumbing, additions, enclosed front porches and synthetic siding.<sup>16</sup> In Mine Hill, all but one of the surviving 19<sup>th</sup>-century worker dwellings have been heavily modernized. The notable exception is the Bridget Smith House, with its original siding and near original floor plan, it is a rare survival and outstanding example of unimproved worker housing of the period. The Bridget Smith House is Mine Hill's last fragment of its industrial past.

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<sup>16</sup> Riley, 1991

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**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

**Verbal Boundary Description**-Lot 9, Tax Block 1803, Mine Hill Township, Morris County, NJ

**Boundary Justification** - The boundary is comprised of the 123' x 127' lot on which the Bridget Smith House is sited. This is also approximately the historic boundary of the Bridget Smith property. Although the original 1879 deed included only 61.5' x 156' (.22 acres), a subsequent quiet claim of 1995 increased the property by .14 acres, to total .36 acres. Refer to certified survey of 1994, revised in 1996 (Attachment 6).

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Morris County, N.J.Section number PHOTO ID Page 17Property - Bridget Smith House, 124 Randolph Avenue, Mine HillCounty and State - Morris, New JerseyPhotographers - Elaine Campoli, President, Ferromonte Historical Society of Mine Hill, Inc.;  
Bierce Riley, Roebing Chapter, Society of Industrial Archeologists(Historic, 1990);  
Mark Hewitt, Hewitt Architects (selected slides, 1997)Date Photographed - June 1997 (Historic: 1966, 1986, 1990)Location of Negatives - Mine Hill Township Clerk's Safe, Municipal Building, Mine Hill, N.J.Exterior Views (keyed to Floor Plan map)

1. Front facade and sign from across street
2. Full front facade, west elevation
3. Front porch remains, southwest elevation
4. Side, south elevation.
5. Rear, east elevation.
6. Side with cellar, north elevation.
7. Side corner, northwest, and neighborhood
8. Privy

Interior Views: First Floor (keyed to Floor Plan map)

9. Kitchen from entry door
10. Kitchen to parlor doorway
11. Parlor walls
12. Doors to winder stairs and closet
13. Rear addition, Room 1
14. Parlor including front door

Interior Views: Second Floor (keyed to Floor Plan map)

15. Bedroom 1 facing knee-wall/storage area
16. Ceiling and windows
17. Bedroom 2, floored-over area and chimney patch
18. Winder stairs descending view

Historic Views

19. Front(1966)- Tax Files, Mine Hill Township, NJ
20. Front(1986)- Burbridge Family Records, Mine Hill, NJ
21. Front (1990)-B.Riley
22. Southwestern View (1990)-B.Riley
23. Kitchen door & cold-water tap (1990)-B.Riley
24. Whitewash cellar & coal bin (1990)-B.Riley

## JOHN CILO, JR. ASSOCIATES, INC.

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS, PLANNERS AND LAND SURVEYORS

JOHN CILO, JR., P.E. & P.L.S.

SCARLETT DOYLE, P.P.

TEL: 908-526-2121

FAX: 908-707-1950

### Deed Description

Lot 9, Block 1803

Mine Hill Township

Morris County, New Jersey

Beginning at a point in the easterly sideline of Randolph Avenue, said point being southwesterly from a point marking the intersection of the easterly sideline of Randolph Avenue and the southerly sideline of Indian Falls Road, a distance of 127.37' to the point and place of beginning; thence

(1) S 67°45'E, a distance of 117.50' to an iron pipe found; thence

(2) S 22°25'W, along the division line of Tax Lot 8, as recorded in Deed Book 2055, Page 859, a distance of 121.61' to an iron pipe about to be set, said iron pipe also marking the 13th corner of the fourth tract as recorded in Deed Book W-8, Page 183; thence

(3) N 67°06'23"W, along the northerly side of a 15' right-of-way as recorded in Deed Book 2128, Page 758, a distance of 136.11' to an iron pipe about to be set in the easterly sideline of Randolph Avenue; thence

(4) N 34°04'29"E, along the easterly sideline of Randolph Avenue, a distance of 60.36'; thence

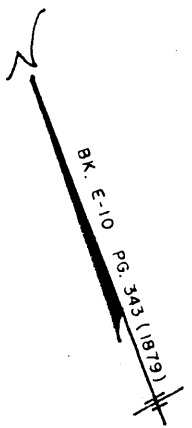
(5) N 28°24'44"E, a long said sideline, a distance of 61.36' to the point and place of beginning.

The above-described premises are known and designated as Lot 9, Block 1803, on the 1996 tax map of the Township of Mine Hill.

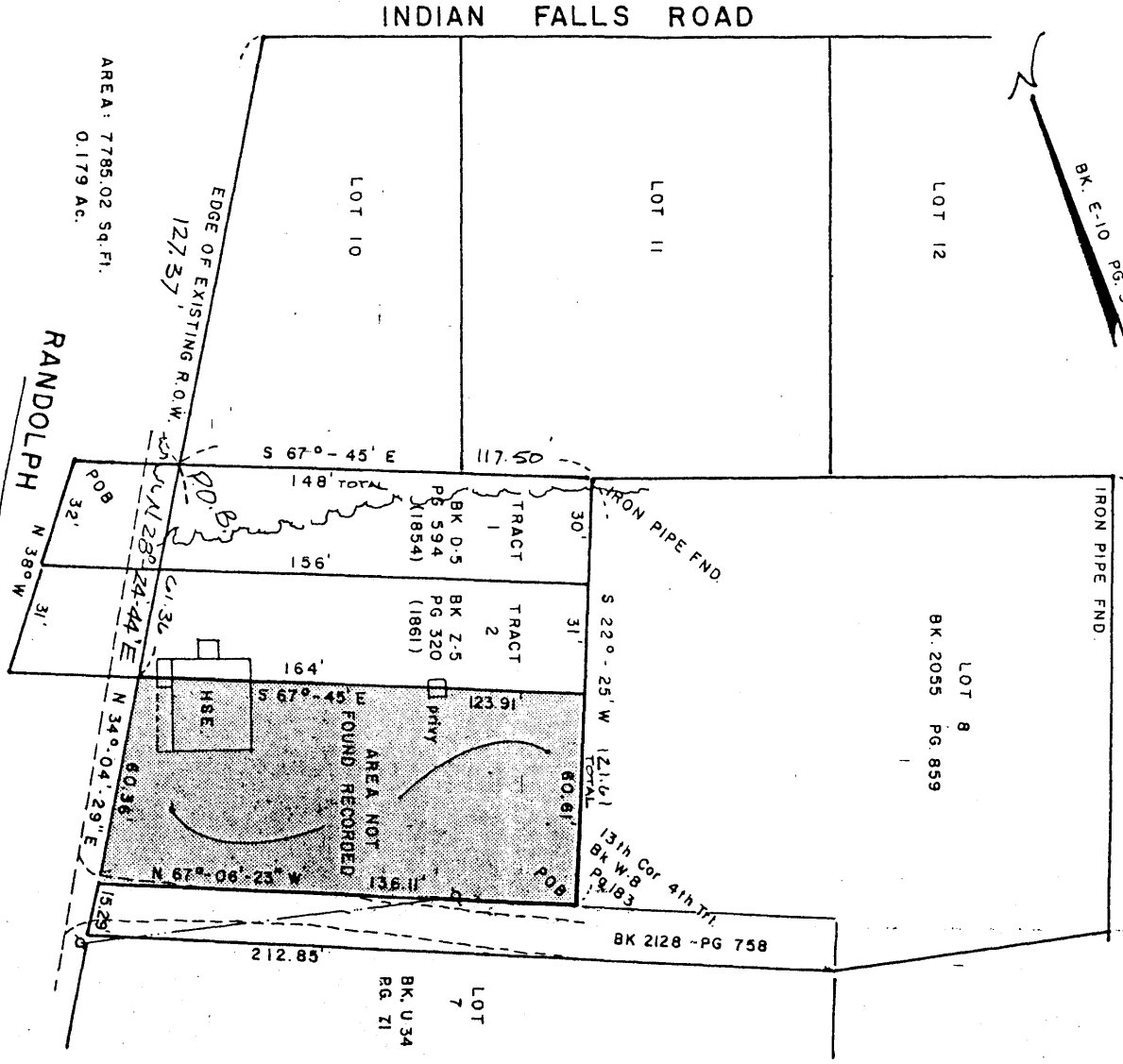
# Map of Survey

Bridget Smith House  
Mine Hill Township  
Morris County, New Jersey

ATTACHMENT 6b



PROPERTY CORNERS NOT SET AT THE TIME OF SURVEY



AREA: 7785.02 Sq. Ft.  
0.179 AC.

DATE: 8-21-95  
REVISED 8-3-96

*John M. Hale*  
JOHN CILO JR. N.J.P.E. & L.S. LIC. NO. 12942  
JOHN M. HALE N.J.L.S. LIC. NO. 33525



**JOHN CILO JR. ASSOCIATES**  
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER - LAND SURVEYOR - PLANNER  
198 West High Street Somerville - New Jersey - 08876

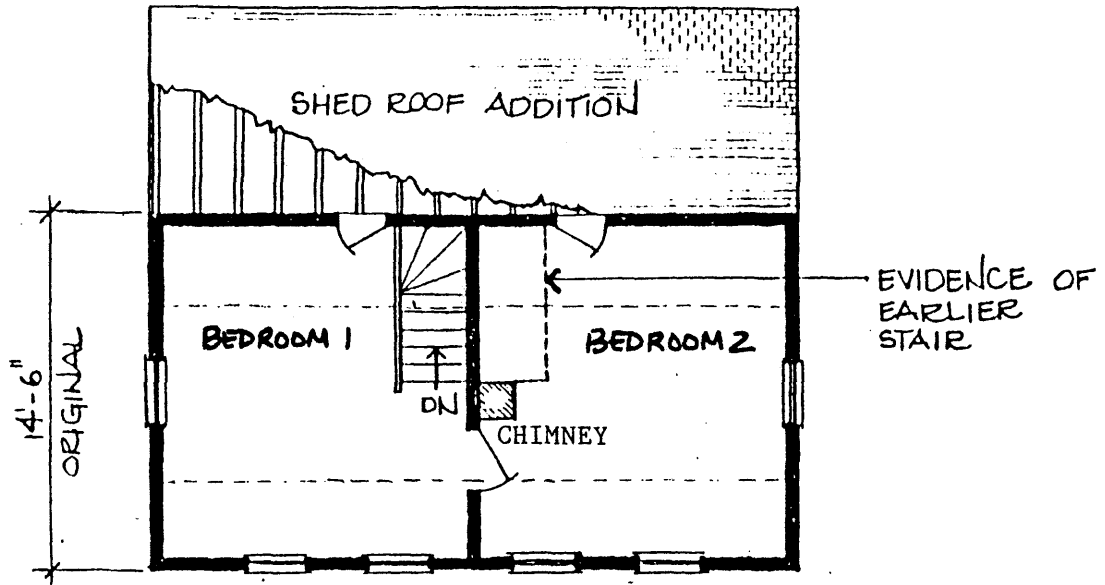
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TOWNSHIP OF MINE HILL

OWNER: \_\_\_\_\_  
MORTGAGEE: \_\_\_\_\_  
ATTORNEY: \_\_\_\_\_  
TITLE COMPANY: \_\_\_\_\_  
AGENCY: \_\_\_\_\_  
LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET: RANDOLPH AVE  
COUNTY: MORRIS STATE: N. J. MUNICIPALITY: TOWNSHIP OF MINE HILL  
FILE NO.: 94-2525 BOOK: \_\_\_\_\_ PAGE: \_\_\_\_\_

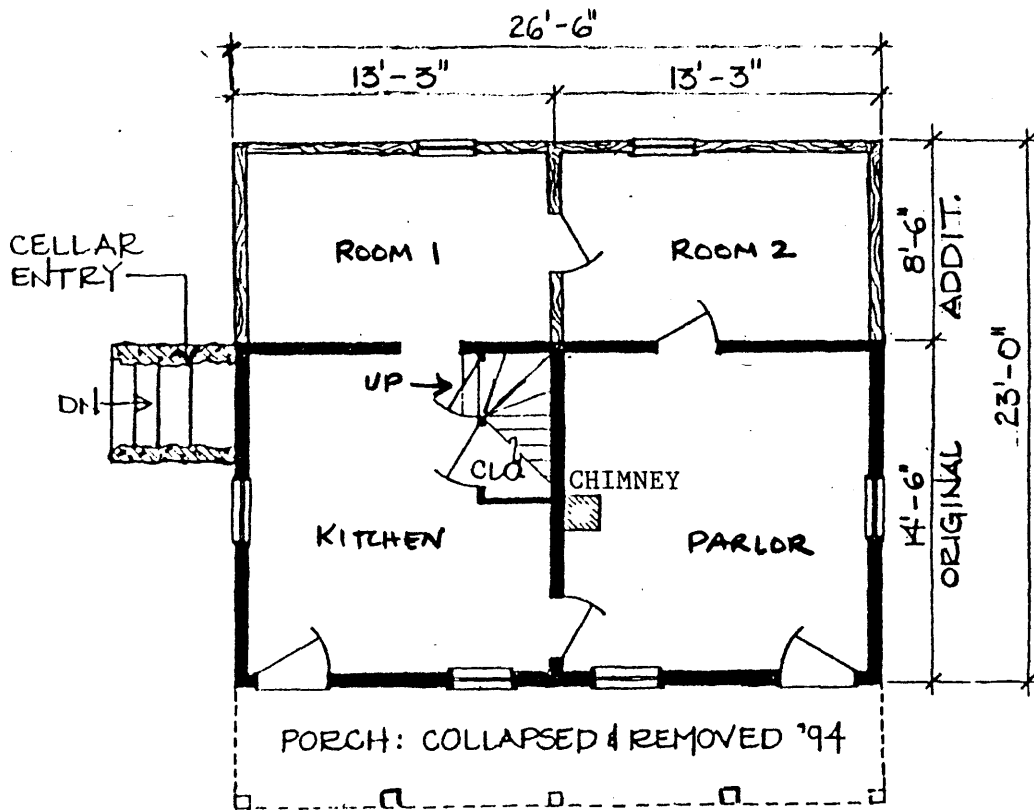
FILED MAP NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

FILED MAP No.: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ LOT: \_\_\_\_\_ BLOCK: \_\_\_\_\_

TAX MAP LOT: 9 BLOCK: 1803 SCALE: 1" = 40' DATE OF FIELD SURVEY: 9-26-94

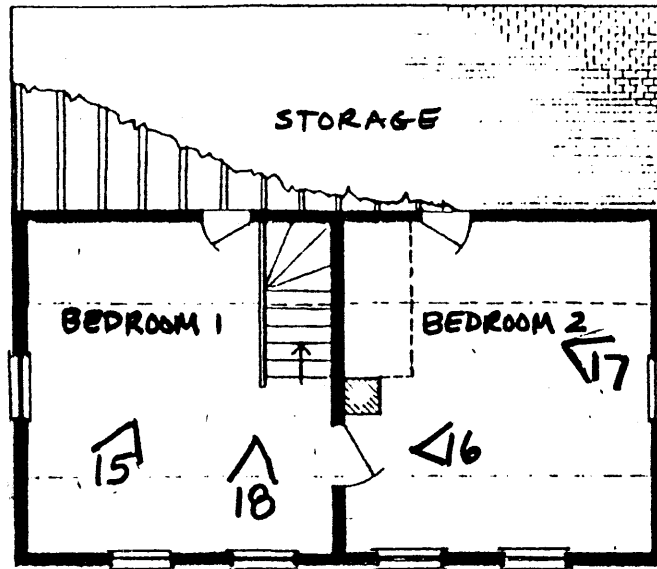


SECOND FLOOR PLAN SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"

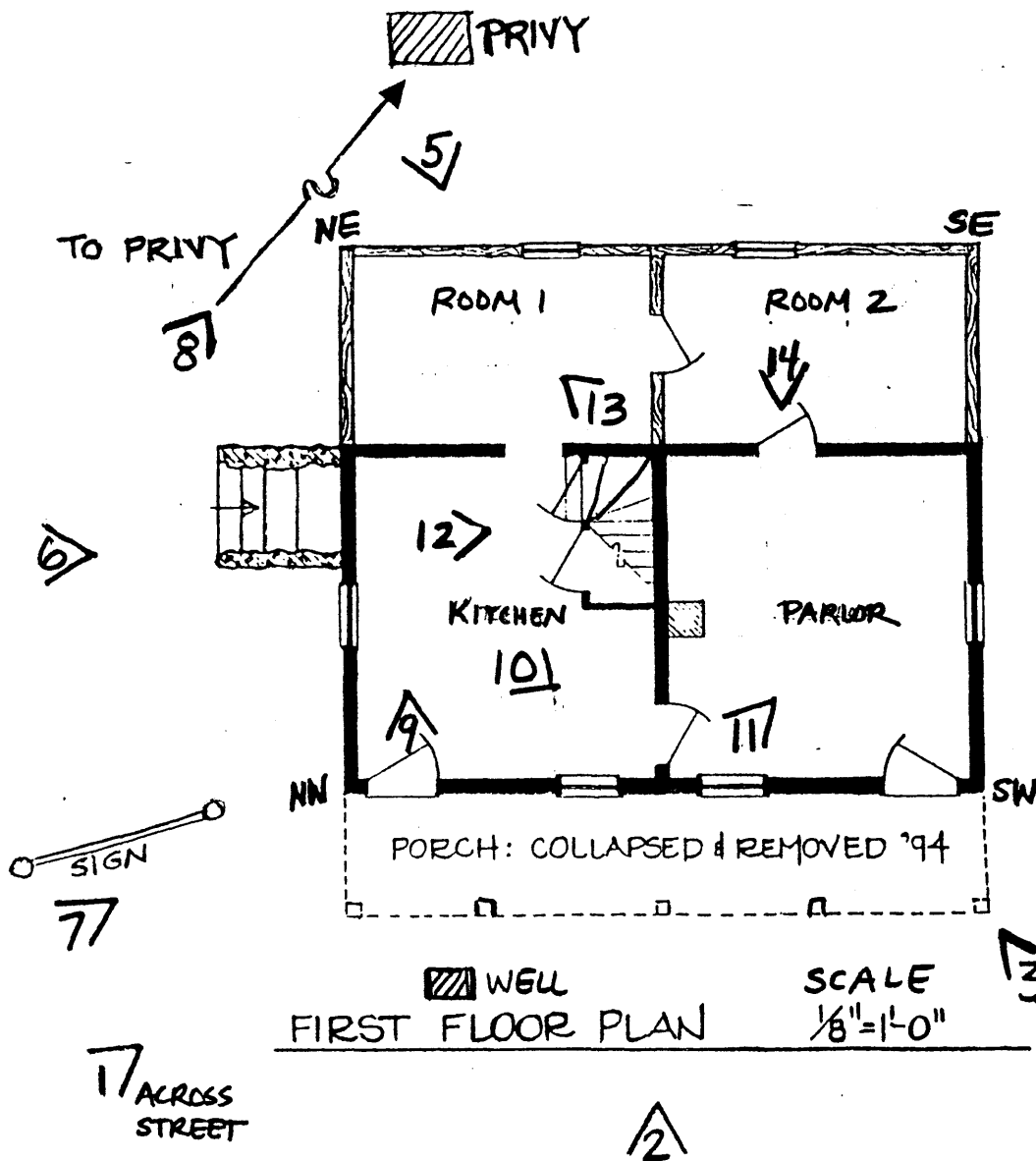


FIRST FLOOR PLAN SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"

1997 - PHOTOGRAPH LOCATION MAP - BRIDGET SMITH HOUSE



SECOND FLOOR PLAN SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"



FIRST FLOOR PLAN SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"

77 ACROSS STREET