

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

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

For HCPS use only
received MAR 31 1982
date entered MAY 13 1982

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name Vreeland, John and Anna, House (Hamilton town)

historic John and Anna Vreeland/Hamilton House

and/or common The Hamilton House

2. Location

street & number 971 Valley Road N/A not for publication

city, town Clifton N/A vicinity of congressional district 8th

state New Jersey code 34 county Passaic code 031

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input 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 City of Clifton

street & number 900 Clifton Avenue

city, town Clifton N/A vicinity of state New Jersey 07015

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registrar of Deeds

street & number 77 Hamilton Avenue

city, town Paterson state New Jersey 07505

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N.J. Historic Sites Inventory (#723.6) has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1973 federal state county local

depository for survey records Cultural and Environmental Services

city, town Trenton state New Jersey

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved date 1973
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Built circa 1817, the John and Anna Vreeland/Hamilton House is a substantial 1 1/2 story, gambrel roofed, 5 bay, center hall, sandstone dwelling with a carefully coursed Flemish bond stone front. The kitchen wing off the south gambrel end was added circa 1830 and is a smaller 1 1/2 story, 3 bay, stone unit with a clap-board front and a rear 1 story leanto appendage.

Originally located about 1,000 feet north on the opposite side of Valley Road, immediately south of State Highway 46, the entire Hamilton House and a small 19th century stone springhouse were moved in 1973 to save the buildings from being demolished.

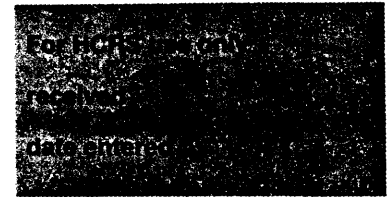
The main gambrel roofed unit of the house measures 41'6" by 33' and has a distinguishing dressed ashlar Flemish bond 5 bay front. The center front entrance has a 6 panel door with transom. The transom is a simple fan with a carved half-round lunette and four lights fitted within a wide low rectangle. There is a "stoep" at the front entrance, which is covered by a small gable roof, supported by four columns. The two front columns are freestanding and the back two are engaged, with a railing on either side, but without benches. The entrance is flanked on either side by two windows inset with undecorated surround. Shown as primarily 1/1 sash in 1973, the windows are presently 12/12 double hung sash. Below each of the four windows are eight-light windows opening to the cellar. There are stone lintels and sills at each window and at the door.

The north gambrel end of the house has two double hung sash windows with narrow undecorated surround inset at the first floor level and four regularly spaced windows at the gambrel. However, an 1870 photograph shows this wall without windows. It was suggested that this was the location of an earlier dwelling. This conjecture was based upon excavations at the original site which uncovered in an embankment paralleling the north wall a number of field stones located about 6"-8" below the original grade. A semi-circular ventilation opening is cut into the central upper portion of the weather boarded gable.

The gambrel roof has no overhanging eaves on either the front or the rear, but a wooden gutter is attached directly to the edge of the roof. At the front of the house a cornice board with crown molding is placed directly below the gutter. The gambrels are sheathed with weatherboarding above the roof plate.

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Description (continued)

The roofing material is slate with rows of rounded edge slates forming a banded pattern at the center of the lower slope and at the break of the gambrel roof. The end chimneys are contained within the wall. They are capped by the extension of the bricks to form a complete arch over the opening.

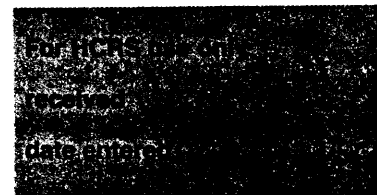
The plan of the interior has two rooms to either side of the center hall. The front rooms (14'x16') are slightly larger than the rear ones (12'x14') and have fireplaces in the end walls. The Adamesque mantels, doors, and windows and door surrounds are characteristic of the late 18th-early 19th century. The staircase is to the rear of the eight foot wide hall. The elongated newel, balustrade and vertical beaded paneling are also late 18th-early 19th century. The floors are beam and plank construction with a large hewn girder running lengthwise under the first floor. The roof rafters are pegged to the ridge beam and purlins, reinforced at intervals with collar beams and supported by bracketed posts. The roof boards are laid horizontally over the rafters.

Attached to the south end of the main house is a circa 1830, 1 1/2 story, stone and frame, gable roof structure with a 1 story leanto. The leanto houses the kitchen with its restored beehive oven. This addition was built directly against the exterior wall of the main house. This is corroborated by the type of nails which were removed from trim, window stops, liners and floor joist leveling strips prior to the relocation of the house. The front wall is of frame construction with weatherboard siding. There is a door to the right of center and two windows on either side.

The end wall is of rough cut sandstone and rubble, with small stones used as infill. The exterior side door from the leanto is panelled with a single narrow light in the upper center, while the interior door is an 18th century divided "Dutch" door with wrought strap hinges. The small window between the door and the chimney has an oversized lintel and sill. The paired windows to the right of the chimney are each 9/9 double hung sash. Two windows in the gable light the loft above the front room and are single hung sash of 4/2. The lower, movable two-light sash is hung in an unorthodox manner, that is, outside of the upper stationary sash.

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Description (continued)

The rear wall of the leanto is constructed of rough cut sandstone, rubble, and small stone infill, and is pierced by two windows of double hung sash, 6/6.

The roof of the front section is constructed of a ridge beam with rafters resting on the plates of the extreme walls. Nailing strips run horizontally as support for the wooden shingled roof. On the interior, a door was cut through the exterior of the main house to provide access. The main floor of the large house is three steps above this level.

In all, the impression of the addition is that of being hastily built, using "found" materials. Perhaps this is an indication of an immediate need for a kitchen because of the destruction of the previous kitchen by fire.

The flat-roofed stone springhouse, imbedded into the ground, rises above the surface by a half-story and has a raised frame entrance canopy. Constructed of roughly coursed sandstone, the rectangular structure has a door at the front and a single louvered window on either side. Entrance to the springhouse is gained by depressed stone steps along the side.

The last will and testament of Harry Hamilton, dated 1970, stipulated that before his farmstead could be sold by his heirs "the buildings shall be completely demolished or removed from said property." Some twenty farm outbuildings were subsequently demolished, but the City of Clifton and the Hamilton-Van Wagoner House Restoration Association moved the main building intact (and disassembled the springhouse) to its present site in 1973. By setting the house on a new deep cinder block foundation, an assembly room/auditorium was created in the basement.

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 type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	N/A	Builder/Architect	N/A
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Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The John and Anna Vreeland/Hamilton House, built circa 1817 and enlarged in the 1830's, is one of the last symbols of Dutch settlement in the City of Clifton and one of the finest examples of early 19th century stone houses in Passaic County. Distinguished by the unusual dressed ashlar Flemish bond front facade, the house manifests a sophistication of details and a formal center hall plan characteristic of Georgian/Federal architecture while utilizing the traditional building materials and methods of the region.

Two hundred nineteen Dutch stone houses in nearby Bergen County were surveyed and 205 were included in a thematic National Register nomination. The thematic nomination discussed these properties as follows:

"This group of houses represents one of the most important early American residential building types - the 1 1/2 story stone house associated with the Dutch cultural group...Built continuously from the Dutch colonization of the 17th century through the founding of the Republic and the early years of the 19th century, the houses are consistent in form and material utilization, and yet richly varied in size, plan and stylistic detail.

"The building form is based upon the vernacular rural building tradition of the Dutch cultural group of northern Europe, which included parts of Belgium, France and Germany, as well as Holland. Early settlers of the Dutch cultural group were attracted to the Hackensack, Passaic, Ramapo and Saddle River valleys.

"Settlers laid out their farms and houses in relation to the primary mode of transportation and mill power. It appears that all of the construction techniques and design elements utilized were previously unknown to the early settlers, based on their simple northern European dwellings. Their tradition of brick masonry buildings was transposed to the available local material, sandstone and fieldstone, which could be readily cut and dressed to workable shapes. Slaves and indentured servants provided the labor.

"As the Dutch cultural group became more assimilated into the prevailing Anglo-American base, their houses retained the same materials and methods but evolved into the more formal and sophisticated plans and details of the Georgian, Federal and Greek Revival styles.

9. Major Bibliographical References

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

See Continuation Sheets

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property buildings only

Quadrangle name Orange

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	8	5	6	8	1	6	0	4	5	2	4	2	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification Buildings are contained within property Block 51-6, Lot 71, but only the two described structures (house and springhouse) are being nominated inasmuch as these buildings have been moved and the present property (2.5 acres) appears to have no historical association with the original farmstead.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

Revisions by Terry Karschner, Office of Cultural and Environmental Services, 11/1981

name/title Henry De Vos

organization The Hamilton-Van Wagoner House Restoration Association

date January 28, 1981

street & number 38 New Brier Lane

telephone (212) 922-3111

city or town Clifton

state New Jersey 07012

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

Deputy

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Laura Schmitt

title

date 2/22/82

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Anna Marie Dwyer
Keeper of the National Register

date 5/13/82

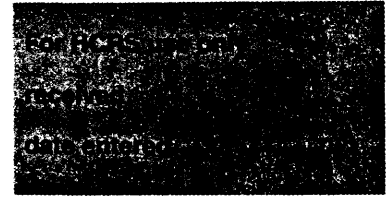
Attest:

Chief of Registration

date

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Significance (continued)

"The decline of the stone building type in the second quarter of the 19th century corresponds to the revolution in the building industry with the rise of carpenter/builders and the development of the balloon frame. The abolition of slavery may also have contributed to the demise of this form of construction."

The stone house survey also categorized ten basic house plan types. Located along the Passaic River Valley, a cultural hearth area of Dutch settlers, the Vreeland/Hamilton House is a well preserved example of plan type F (as designated in the survey), a five bay, Georgian double pile plan with a later lateral wing (modified type B plan) incorporating the formal Federal style and detailing which typified many of these houses in the early 19th century.

Acquackanonk (now Passaic, Paterson and Clifton) was purchased from the Lenni Lenape Indians in 1679 by 14 Dutchmen who had emigrated from Holland and settled in the town of Bergen (now Jersey City). They received a patent from the Lords Proprietor of East Jersey in 1684.

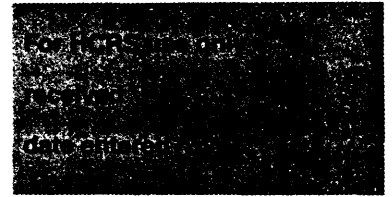
Gerrit Van Wagoner, a grandson of one of the "Patentees", is the first known owner of the original farm. Gerrit devised this land by his will to his son Hermanus. Hermanus in turn willed it to his son Gerrit who bequeathed it to his only granddaughter, Anna Vreeland.

Although a "Van Waggener" house is shown at the original site on Karpinski's military map of the revolution, it is believed that the current Hamilton House was built by Anna and John Vreeland at about the time of their marriage in 1817.

Anna and John Vreeland sold the house to the Van Riper family in 1837. It is believed that the present dining room and kitchen wing were added about that time. Both Vreelands and Van Ripers were descendants of the original "Patentees." The ownership of the house changed hands several times until 1856 when Henry Hamilton purchased it. It remained in the possession of the Hamilton family until 1972 when it was acquired by the City of Clifton. For as long as anyone can remember, the house has been known as the "Hamilton House." Henry Hamilton established one of the first milk delivery routes in Acquackanonk. Since Hamiltons lived in the house for 116 years and because they had numerous offspring, they were well known in what was then a small farm community.

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Significance (continued)

Henry Hamilton (1809), a dairy farmer, may have been responsible for the construction of the stone springhouse for keeping the milk cool. When Henry died the property was left to three unmarried daughters - Bridget (1835-1920), Susan (1840-1928), and Margaret (1847-1918) Hamilton. The surviving son, William (1842-1922), did not inherit the homestead, getting the dairy business and considerable other property. After, the house became the property of the daughters of William and Catherin Hamilton. They were Emmie (1873-1955), Addie (1875-1957), Clara (1877-1955), and Laura (1882-1955) Hamilton. Harry Hamilton inherited the house when his sister Clara died, although he had operated the farmstead since the 1920's. His three brothers, who Harry outlived, Will, Howard and George, shared in other aspects of the farm. Harry Hamilton died in 1970 and left the farmstead to his daughter, Caroline Hamilton, with stipulations that if she were to sell the property, extant buildings were to be demolished or removed. Caroline Hamilton sold the farmstead in 1973.

HABS and the 1960's New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory identified three sandstone buildings in the City of Clifton. A cursory visual survey conducted by the Hamilton House Museum indicates that only two other stone houses are still extant in the city. Although Passaic County has never had a comprehensive cultural resources survey, HABS and NJHSI recorded some 25 stone houses. At least seven of these have been subsequently demolished.

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Rivingtons Royal Gazette, 1780, New York Historical Society

Newark newspaper, August 2, 1902.

Documents

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Deed, Ford to Hamilton, Passaic County Deed Book A2, page 186, 1856.

Will, Van Wagoner, Garret, Essex County Book of Wills, Book A page 19, August 6, 1800.

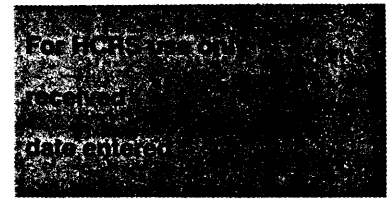
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Will, Hamilton, Harry, Passaic County Book of Wills, Book V19, page 546.

Maps

Karpinski Collection, Map Division, The New York Public Library, 1780.

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Hopkins Atlas of Passaic County, 1861.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE:

Rothe, Albin. The Early Stone Houses of Bergen County, New Jersey: A Survey. Bergen County and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Trenton, NJ, 1979.

COLLECTION OF THE HAMILTON HOUSE MUSEUM:

Photographs of the house on the original site, and as settled on the new foundations.

Photographs and measurements of interiors compiled before the moving of the house.

Records of the Henry Hamilton House and lot compiled by Herbert A. Fisher, Jr.

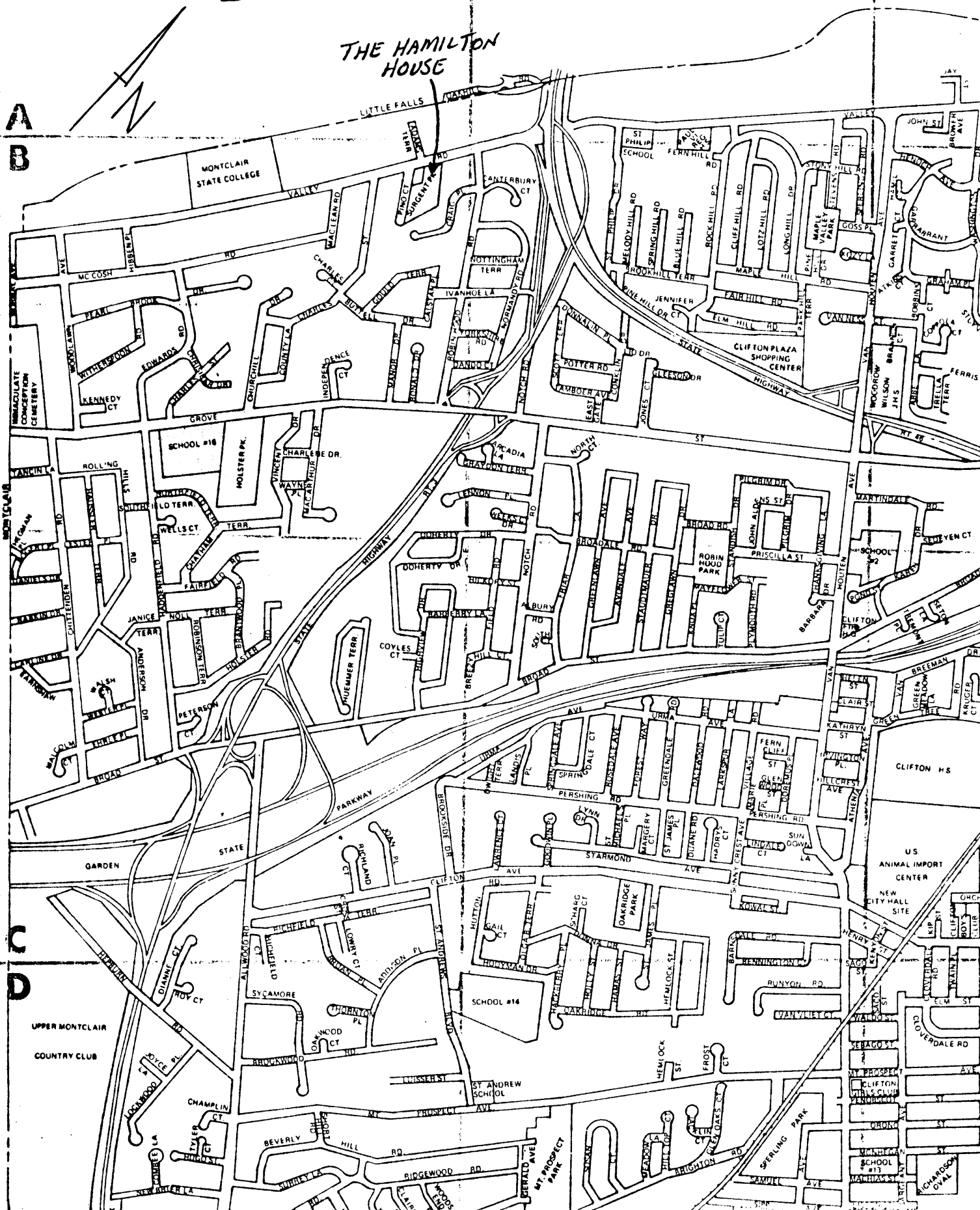
Reminiscence of Caroline Hamilton, with local historical background, published by the Hamilton-Van Wagoner House Restoration Association, Inc.

Report on proposed archaeological excavation at the Hamilton-Van Wagoner dwelling site. Prepared 1973.

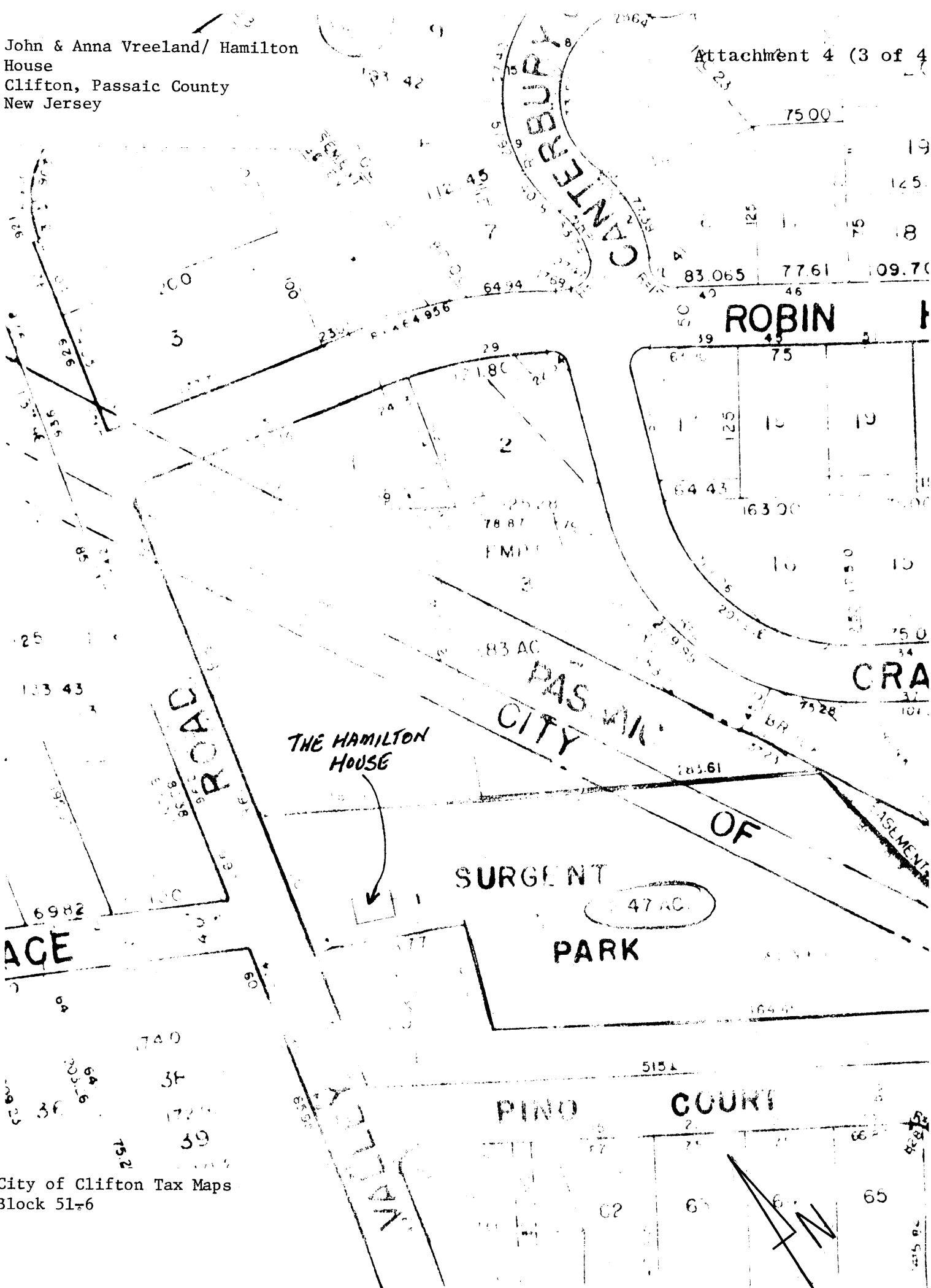
Reports from Charles H. Detwiller, Jr., Architect and Daniel Hopping, Architectural Historian.

City of Clifton, N.J.

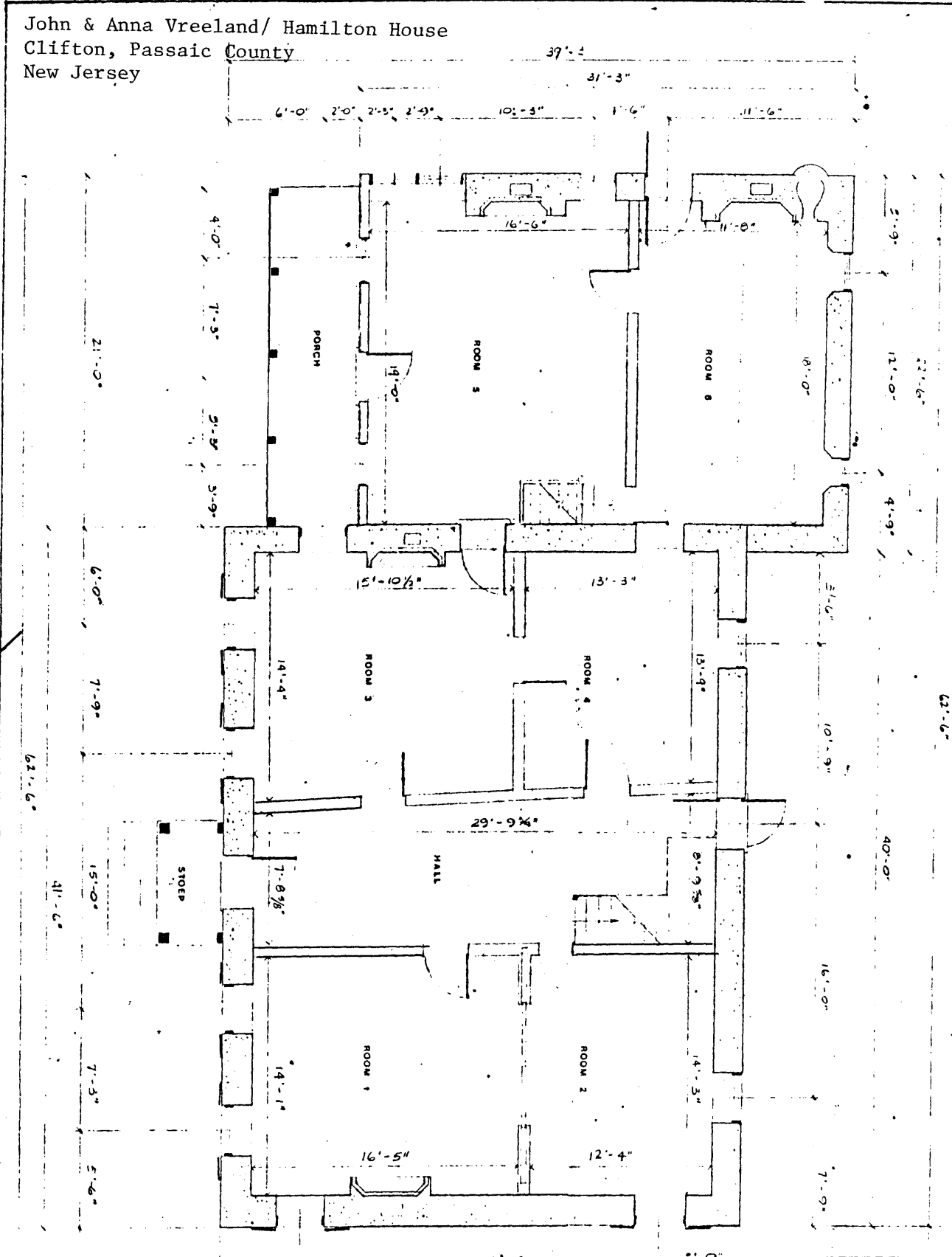
THE HAMILTON
HOUSE



John & Anna Vreeland/ Hamilton House
Clifton, Passaic County
New Jersey



John & Anna Vreeland/ Hamilton House
 Clifton, Passaic County
 New Jersey



HAMILTON - VAN WAGONER
 HOUSE
 CLIFTON, N. J.
 SCALE : 3/4" = 1' - 0"

APPROXIMATE MEASUREMENTS.
 DRAWN BY: J. R. A
 NOVEMBER 23, 1980