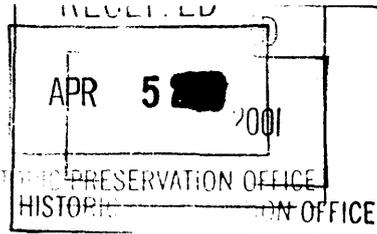


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

433
026



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 "x" 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 Reaville Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Old York, Amwell, Barley Sheaf, Kuhl, Manners not for publication ^{Rds.}

city or town East Amwell & Raritan Townships vicinity

state New Jersey code NJ county Hunterdon code 019 zip code 08822

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

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

Patricia Andrews

5/2/2002

Peaville HD
Name of Property

Hunterdon, NJ
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 | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| <u>32</u> | <u>25</u> | buildings |
| | | sites |
| | <u>1</u> | structures |
| | | objects |
| <u>32</u> | <u>26</u> | 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/single family

Religion/religious facility

Commercial/department store

Commercial/restaurant

Agricultural/storage

Social/meeting hall

Education/school

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single family

Religion/religious facility

Agricultural/storage

Health care/sanitarium

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Federal

Greek Revival

Gothic Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls clapboard

aluminum

roof asphalt

other _____

Narrative Description

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

Reaville HD
Name of Property

Hunterdon, NJ
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

(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)

Architecture

Community development

Commerce

Period of Significance

c. 1815-1900

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:

Reaville HD
Name of Property

Hunterdon, HD
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 159 approx.

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

| | | | |
|---|------|---------|----------|
| 1 | 18 | 515820 | 4480680 |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 2 | 18 | 515310 | 4480260 |

| | | | |
|---|------|---------|----------|
| 3 | 18 | 514940 | 4480020 |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 4 | 18 | 514620 | 4480270 |

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 Dennis N. Bertland

organization Dennis Bertland Associates date March, 2001

street & number PO Box 11 telephone 908-689-6356

city or town Port Murray state NJ zip code 07865

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 _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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.

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DESCRIPTION

Located within the Piedmont geographical province of northern New Jersey, Reaville straddles the boundary between East Amwell and Raritan Township in southern Hunterdon County. Set in the gently rolling farmland of the Amwell Valley about a half mile northeast of the Neshanic River, the predominately 19th-century village, first known as Greenville, centers on the Y-shaped intersection of the Old York and Amwell Roads. It consists of a church, several farmsteads and almost three dozen dwellings, as well as a former tavern, store and schoolhouse and a small complex of modern commercial buildings at the junction of Barley Sheaf and Old York Roads. Residential subdivisions of recent date border the village to the northeast; elsewhere the surrounding landscape presents a mix of open farmland and scattered, modern, large-lot residential development with a cluster of dwellings to the south along Manners Road.

The Reaville Historic District encompasses all of the 19th-century village and portions of the land associated with farmsteads adjoining the village, but excludes the modern commercial cluster and residential development. An inventory of district resources is included in this section, and all resources have been categorized as "contributing" (C) or "non-contributing" (NC) to the district's historical significance. Contributing resources consist of 32 buildings, mostly 19th century dwellings and outbuildings. Non-contributing resources include 26 buildings, mostly modern garages and outbuildings, as well as several modern dwellings, and 1 structure, a silo.

The district is dominated by modest gable-roofed buildings of frame construction dating to the middle decades of the 19th century and exhibiting simple stylistic embellishment characteristic of that era. Most have retained their historic form and fair amount of early detailing, and although many have been refurbished or enlarged, these alterations do not significantly affect the character of the district. Buildings generally are in good condition and well maintained; surrounding yards similarly are well groomed, often featuring large trees and mature plantings, and occasionally picket or rail fencing.

Within the central part of the district, buildings typically are closely spaced on small lots and face the road with short setbacks; on the periphery they are more loosely grouped on larger lots, but often still have rather short setbacks. The particularly short set backs of the tavern and adjoining store (site #s 5 and 6) were enough for a few horses or small wagons to park at their front, at a safe distance from the travel lane, but would have allowed little in the way of the small dooryards which occupy the space between district dwellings and the road.

District roads follow their original courses, (both in their horizontal and vertical alignments) and the principal thoroughfares, Old York and Amwell Roads, have been in

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use since the middle decades of the 18th century (an import east/west route across New Jersey, the Old York Road was utilized for many decades as a stagecoach route beginning in 1765). Both roads currently are county roads (Routes 514 and 613) and feature one northbound and one southbound travel lane, each about ten feet wide, although the lane width of the Old York Road at its junction with Amwell Road by the store house (site #6) narrows to about eight feet. The paving is asphalt and the highway is painted with center and side lines that distinguish the travel lanes from the shoulders. The paved shoulders vary from a few inches to approximately three feet on each side. Barley Sheaf Road, a township road, also has north and southbound travel lanes separated by a painted center line. Since there are no shoulder lines both traffic lanes are about 12 feet wide. The road is paved with asphalt. The narrow, unnamed lane between the store and tavern is not a dedicated public road but is used by public by prescriptive easement. The paved road is approximately 10 feet wide and has one traffic lane. As befitting the rural setting of these roads, there are no curbs or sidewalks; where lawns exist they extend to the edge of the shoulder. The signage consists of standard road identification and traffic control signs. Through the district, none of the intersections are signalized and there are no turning lanes.

The district's architecture is representative of the rural region's vernacular construction practices and building types. Houses predominate, mostly examples of the traditional, 2-story, gable-roofed types with single-pile plans, interior gable-end chimneys and generally regular fenestration patterns of three to five bays. Such houses (the I-type and its center and side-hall plan variants) are ubiquitous in the region's 19th-century housing stock. Examples include I-types like #s 7, 8, 9, 11, 31, 32, 38 and 39 (photo #s 2, 3, 11, 18, 20, 23 & 24), as well as several with center and side-hall plans of that type (#s 13 and 23 and #s 26, 27, 33 and 34, respectively) that illustrate the Georgian transformation of the type (photos #s 1, 11, 12 & 21). There are two, 2-story, double-pile dwellings in the district, #s 2 and 20, of which the first has a center-hall plan (photo #14). The gable-end chimneys of two houses (#s 11 and 21, photo #24) have exposed masonry at the base on the exterior, a construction feature characteristic of the region's early domestic architecture. Another distinctive feature less frequently encountered in area houses is the parapeted end wall or "false front" of the shed addition of #11. Most district dwellings exhibit at least some decorative detailing, usually at the front entry or roof eaves, embellishment derived from the architectural styles popular in the 19th century. For example, the delicate pilasters flanking the entry of #11 and the curve-muntined entry transom of house #13 are characteristic of the Federal style, and the built-up box cornices and wide friezes of several houses are typical Greek Revival details (site #s 24, 27, 29, 32, 33, photo #s 3, 11 & 12), as is the single-panel front door of #13. Several district houses have front cross gables and/or bargeboards of Gothic Revival derivation (#s 3, 21, 23 and 38, photo #s 1, 2, 14 18), the elaborate tracery bargeboard ornamenting the front gable of

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#23 being of particular note. The Tuscan columns added to the porch of the latter house are a Colonial Revival motif, and the blocky, hip-roofed form and turned porch posts of #1 suggest Queen Anne style influences.

The district also contains a number of institutional and commercial buildings. With its gable-fronted principal façade crowned by a belfry and symmetrical rectangular form and fenestration, the Amwell First Presbyterian Church (site #18, photo #s 6 & 7) conforms to the plan type used for churches and other public buildings in the region that appeared by the late 1700s and remained popular well into the 19th century. Its roots lie in the earlier classically based designs of English architects Christopher Wren and James Gibbs. Built in 1839, the church, as depicted in an 1850 illustration (a vignette on the 1850 map of Raritan Township, figure #2), originally had two rows of flat-headed windows on each side, paired front entries, and a clock in the front gable below a three-tiered belfry. The only early exterior feature to survive, the belfry presents an amalgam of Federal and Greek Revival motifs with its round-headed louvers, flanking pilasters and Grecian ovolo cornice moldings. In 1883 the church was enlarged and extensively remodeled. The building was extended one bay to the rear, the cellar excavated to create a ground story, and the exterior updated with new triple-hung windows, central front entry and wide cornice at the eaves. The bracketed eaves cornice, raked window hoods and Stick-bracketed entry hood are expressive of Victorian eclecticism and reveal Italianate, Gothic Revival and Stick style influences.

Reaville's former tavern (site #5, photo #8, right, & 10) is a domestically scaled and detailed building dating c. 1815-30. Its 2-story, double-pile main block apparently began as a 3-bay, side-hall unit with interior chimney and was extended one bay to the west. The front entry features a demilune fanlight and delicate flanking pilasters typical of the Federal style. A large frame building erected in several sections, the former Reaville store (site #6, photo #s 8 & 9) accommodated both residential and commercial uses. Construction evidently began in the 1830s, or perhaps slightly earlier, and the building reached its present L-shaped configuration by 1850. It consists of a large 2-bay, double-pile storehouse, whose east gable featured a hoist overhang until recently, a smaller rear ell whose north gable end retains its hoist overhang, and a 2-story, 4-bay single-pile west wing which appears to have been erected in two parts and to have been used for residential purposes. Reaville's former schoolhouse and social hall (site #s 14 and 25, photo #s 4 & 19, left) are modest gable-fronted buildings. In contrast to the plainly detailed, c. 1853 schoolhouse, the social hall (which dates to 1853-59 and was rebuilt and/or remodeled c. 1870-81) exhibits Gothic Revival influences in its tracery bargeboards and diamond-shaped gable window. Converted into a dwelling before 1881, it later acquired a Colonial Revival wrap-around porch with Tuscan columns.

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Of similar interest are the mostly 19th-century outbuildings associated with the district's farmsteads and dwellings. English barns are a common feature of northwestern New Jersey farmsteads, and the district has two examples, one at site #13 with perpendicular ells and the other at #21 with lateral extensions (photo #s 2 & 21). Gable-fronted wagon houses are present at both farmsteads, as well as at #23 (photo #1); wagon houses with side-wall entries are located at #s 12 and 37 (photo #17). An out kitchen/wood survives at site #13 (photo #21, left). Other district outbuildings include privies, chicken sheds, and garages, most of which date to the 20th century.

INVENTORY

- 1 20 Amwell Road. Frame, 1 ½ story, 3-bay hip-roofed dwelling.

Style: Queen Anne influence

Date: c. 1900

Description: It has clapboard siding, overhanging eaves, 1/1 and 2/2 sash windows, most with louvered shutters, a single hip wall dormer above the entrance and a wraparound porch with turned posts and railings.

Outbuilding: Frame, 1-story, 1 bay garage (early/mid 20th) with clapboard siding and exposed rafter ends (NC),

Contributing

B77/L26.01

Photo #

- 2 11 Amwell Road. Frame, 2 ½ story dwelling consisting of a 6-bay, double-pile main block (4-bay unit with 2-bay east extension) has interior chimney (brick stack); and a 2-bay rear extension with exterior brick chimney.

Style: Colonial Revival embellishment

Date: mid/late 19th century with later additions

Description: Remodeled in the mid/late 20th century, it has 2-story gabled portico with square posts and railings, a diamond-shaped front gable window, and neo-Victorian trim. Other features include vinyl siding, 6/6 sash with decorative shutters, gabled dormers on the west façade and a hip-roofed 3-bay secondary porch with square posts and railings.

Outbuilding: Frame, 1-story, 4-bay garage/workshop (mid 20th) with steeply

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gabled roof and modern overhead doors (NC).

Contributing

B77/L26

Photo #14, right

- 3 7A-B Amwell Road. Amwell Presbyterian Church Parsonage. Frame, 2-story, 5-bay, double-pile, presumably center-hall-plan dwelling with interior gable end chimneys (brick stacks) and 2-story rear wing perpendicular to main block.

Style: Gothic Revival influence

Date: 1865. The house was erected during the summer of 1865 on a lot purchased that spring from Robert r. smith; house & lot cost \$5,000 (Snell, 1881, p. 317 & Kugler, 1912, pp. 240-41). A photograph, presumably c. 1912, in Kugler depicts an elaborate Gothic Revival bargeboard on the front gable matching that of district house #23, as well as a wide front porch with lattice work.

Description: The prominent cross-gable has a diamond-shaped window with quatrefoil tracery. Other features include clapboard siding, overhanging eaves, and 4/4 sash and 2/2 sash windows. The glass-and-panel entry door has side-lights and a transom with incised quatrefoil corner blocks; the gabled entry porch with square posts is a modern replacement.

Outbuildings: 1) Masonry 1-story, 2-bay dwelling/workshop has an interior brick chimney, 1/1 sash windows, and a glass and panel door. (mid-late 20th c.) (NC); 2) Frame, 1-story, 1-bay gable-roofed garage has tin roof and vertical plank siding (early 20th c.) (NC).

Contributing

B77/L30

Photo #14, left

- 4 5 Amwell Road. Frame, 1 ½ story, 3-bay gable-roofed dwelling with west gable-end interior chimney (brick stack).

Style: Cape Cod

Date: mid-20th

Description: It has permastone stone veneer and aluminum siding, enclosed gabled entry porch, east-end sunroom, 1/1 sash windows and dormers.

Outbuildings: 1) Frame, 1-story, 2-bay gable-roofed garage (mid-20th) has

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modern overhead door (NC); 2) Masonry 1-story, 2-bay, gable-roofed work shop/store (mid-20th) with front-facing gable end has single large fixed window and wood entry door, along with 1/1 sash windows (NC).

Non-contributing

B77/L32

Photo #13

- 5 3 Amwell Road. Greenville Tavern/Hotel. Frame, 2-story, gable-roofed, tavern/dwelling consisting of a 4-bay, double-pile main block (presumably side-hall-plan block with a brick-stack interior chimney and a 1-bay west extension) and a lower, 2-bay, single-pile rear wing.

Style: Federal influence

Date: ca. 1815-30. An 1838 advertisement for the sale of the property mentions the "tavern stand", and describes the buildings as "all nearly new." (*Hunterdon Gazette*, 1/1/1839). Called the Greenville Tavern in Runkle Rea's 1836 tavern license petition & identified as Greenville Hotel on the 1850 Sidney map of Raritan Township.

Description: Early features include box cornice with returns, paired 6/6 sash gable windows in gable ends and, most notably, the Federal door surround which has pilasters with half-columns, elliptical fanlight in a deeply recessed paneled arch with carved keystone, and a six-panel door. The hip-roofed front porch has been altered with end-end enclosure, square posts and horizontal railing; the 1/1 sash windows and aluminum siding are also modern work..

Outbuilding: Frame, 2-story, 3-bay garage (mid 20th) has apartment on the second floor, with 6/1 sash windows and a shed-roofed entry porch (NC).

Contributing

B77/L33

Photo #s 8, right & 10

- 6 1 Amwell Road. Greenville Storehouse/Reaville Store. Frame, gable-roofed store/dwelling consisting of a 4-bay, 2 ½ story, double-pile main block (storehouse) with interior chimney (brick stack); a lower, 2-story rear ell (storehouse); and a 2-story, 4-bay, single-pile west wing (dwelling, possibly built in two parts) with interior chimney (brick stack).

Style: none

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Date: c. 1825-35, enlarged by 1850. An 1838 advertisement for the sale of the property mentions the "store house", and describes the buildings as "all nearly new." (*Hunterdon Gazette*, 1/1/1839). The 1850 Sidney map of Raritan Township reveals that it had achieved its L-shaped configuration by then.

Description: Main block, sided in asbestos shingle, has 1/1 sash windows with decorative shutters (replaced), and a shed-roofed entry porch. Wing, clad in novelty siding, has paired 1/1 sash windows with decorative shutters and enclosed front porch with shed roof. Hoist overhang extant on north gable rear wing; similar overhang on main block's east gable has been removed.

Contributing

B77.12/L1

Photo #s 8 & 9

- 7 204 Old York Road. Frame, 2-story, 2-bay, gable-roofed, single-pile dwelling with 2-story, 3 bay, single-pile rear wing. Main block has interior gable-end chimney with brick stack); wing has interior chimney, also with brick stack.

Style: Federal influence with Colonial Revival embellishment

Date: c. 1830-50

Description: Exterior features include clapboard siding, overhanging eaves, and 12/8 sash windows. Side door facing Old York Road has strap hinges and a pent roof overhang.

Outbuildings: 1) Frame, 1-story, 1-bay, gable-roofed garage (early/mid 20th) has doors on strap hinges, clapboard siding, and fixed 6-light windows (NC); 2) Frame, shed-roofed privy (late 19th/early 20th) (C).

Contributing

B77/L34

Photo # 22 & 23

- 8 206 Old York Road. Frame, 2-story, 5-bay, gable-roofed dwelling.

Style: none

Date: mid-19th

Description: It features include overhanging eaves, and a combination of 9/6, 6/6, and 2/2 sash windows with decorative shutters. Shed-roofed porch has

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square posts and turned spindle railing (replaced). Siding is aluminum.

Contributing B77/L29 Photo #22

- 9 208 Old York Road. Frame, 2-story, 3-bay, gable-roofed, single-pile dwelling with west gable end interior chimney (brick stack) has 2-story, 2-bay rear ell.

Style: Colonial Revival embellishment **Date:** c. 1830-50

Description: It features 6/6 sash windows, with an added multi-pane bay window on the main façade. Paneled wood door has a gabled hood. Siding is vinyl.

Contributing B77/L28 Photo #

- 10 210 Old York Road. Frame, 1-story, 3-bay gable-roofed dwelling.

Style: ranch **Date:** mid-20th

Description: It has 1/1 sash windows, stone veneer, and a screened porch..

Non-contributing B77/L27 Photo #

- 11 212 Old York Road. Frame, 2 story, gable-roofed dwelling consisting of a 3-bay single-pile main block with interior gable-end chimney (exposed back and brick stack), a 2 over 3-bay south wing and 1-bay, shed-roofed east gable-end addition with "false front" parapet.

Style: Federal influence **Date:** c. 1810-30

Description: Exterior features include asbestos shingle siding, 1/1 sash windows with decorative shutters (replaced), and wooden paneled door within plastered surround. Hip-roofed entry porch has turned posts.

Contributing B77.09/L37 Photo #24

- 12 147 Barley Sheaf Road. Frame, 2-story, 5-bay, gable-roofed, single-pile dwelling (probably a 3-bay unit with 2-bay extension) has rebuilt exterior gable-end

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chimneys.

Style: none

Date: c. 1830-50

Description: It features include a standing seam metal roof, flush eaves, 6/6 sash windows with decorative shutters, a hip-roofed entry porch with turned posts and aluminum siding.

Outbuildings: 1) Frame, 3-bay, gable-roofed wagon house (19th) has vertical plank siding and a batten sliding door (C); 2) Metal-sided, 1-story, gable-roofed pole barn/workshop (late 20th) (NC).

Contributing

B79.11/L/11

Photo # 19 & 20

- 13 142 Barley Sheaf Road. Frame, 2-story, 5-bay, gable-roofed, single-pile (presumably center-hall-plan) dwelling with interior south gable-end chimney and exterior north chimney (brick stacks), and 2-story rear ell (evidently built in two parts; possibly a gable-end shed appendages was raised to full two story height).

Style: Federal influences; Greek Revival & Victorian embellishment

Date: c. 1815-35

Description: Features include asbestos shingle siding, flush eaves, 1/1 sash windows (replaced), and a hip-roofed 3-bay entry porch with built-up box cornice and turned posts. The front entry has a transom with curved muntins and a 1-panel door.

Outbuildings: 1) Frame, square, 1-story, 1-bay, gable-roofed woodshed/out kitchen (mid/late 19th) has clapboard siding, exposed rafter ends and overhanging eaves, fixed multi-pane windows, and paneled entry door (C); 2) frame shed-roofed privy (19th-early 20th) has clapboard siding (C); 3) frame, 2-story, 3-bay wagon house (mid-late 19th) with shed-roofed extension has vertical plank siding, gable-end entry sliding batten doors, and fixed 6-light windows (C); 4) frame, 2-story, gable-roofed English barn (mid/late 19th, enlarged early 20th) that was almost doubled in size by a east gable-end extension and whose lower walls were partially rebuilt in cement block. A gable tool shed appendage is located on the north side, and a perpendicular ell with hoist overhang is located at the southwest corner. A cement block milk house is located at the southeast corner.

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- 17 152 Barley Sheaf Road. Frame, 2-story, 2-bay dwelling has recessed 1-bay wing with rear 1-story extension.

Style: none

Date: mid 19th

Description: It has boxed eaves, 6/6 sash windows and vinyl siding.

Contributing

B82/L13

Photo #

- 18 191 Old York Road. The First English Presbyterian Church. Frame, 2-story, gable-roofed church, 3-bays wide and 5 bays deep (4-bays deep originally with 1-bay rear extension) with three-tier front steeple, two later exterior brick chimneys, and small shed appendages on the west and north sides.

Style: Federal/Greek Revival influences, Gothic Revival/Stick embellishment.

Date: erected in 1839; enlarged and remodeled 1883. Construction incorporated materials salvaged from the congregation's original 18th century church (located about a mile and a half to the west) began on February 11, 1839 and was finished in the autumn of that year. It was to measure 42 feet in width wide and 56 feet in length. Jacob Voorhees was the contractor; the cost was \$2,300 plus the salvaged material (Snell, 1881, page 317). The Sidney 1850 map of Raritan Township depicts the church as 4-bays deep with two rows of flat-headed windows on each side, paired front entries, gable clock and three-tier belfry like the one extant, but without basement windows. As regards the 1883 work, church records mention only that the building committee was authorized to borrow money to enlarge and remolded the church (Kugler, 1912, page 226).

Description: The tiered steeple, which evidently is an early feature, consists of three sections: a square base with cornice, a square belfry with round-arched louvered windows flanked by paneled pilasters on each side and a cornice; and an octagonal cap with cornice shingled spire and weathervane.

Features dating to the 1883 remodeling include the boxed overhanging eaves with brackets on the front gable, triple-hung double-height 6/6/6 sash windows with arched hoods (many retain original glass and several retain scraps of colored rice paper simulating stained glass), central front entry with recess-paneled

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- 21 181 Old Yorkl Road. Frame dwelling consisting of 5-bay, 2-story, single-pile main block (probably built in two parts, a 4-bay unit with 1-bay extension) with gable-end interior chimneys (stuccoed brick stacks; east one with exposed back) and a 1 and 1/2-story, 2-bay rear wing.

Style: Italianate/Gothic Revival embellishment

Date: 1820-40, subsequently remodeled

Description: Now covered with asbestos shingles, the exterior features off-center front gable, boxed over hanging eaves with returns on front gable, 6/6, 9/6 and 2/2 sash windows, round-arched front gable window, and transomed entry with 6-panel door.

Outbuildings: 1) Frame, 1 1/2-story, wagon house (early/mid 19th) has clap-board siding partially covered in asphalt shingle, gable-end entries with batten doors, some hung on strap hinges and paired 6-light gable-end windows (C); 2) frame, 3-bay, English barn (early/mid 19th, subsequently enlarged) that has been almost doubled in size by a west gable-end extension whose walls have been partially rebuilt in concrete block. It has a shed appendage on the east gable end, and another on the rear almost joining it to the wagon house (C); 3) abutting the west gable-end is a bowed-roof, 2-bay west dairy barn (mid 20th) with shed-roofed milk house appendage (NC), as well as two silos (mid 20th) (NC).

Contributing

B82/L3

Photo #2

- 22 173 Old York Road. Frame, 1-story, 3-bay, gable-roofed dwelling with multiple extensions and interior chimney (brick stack).

Style: none

Date: mid-20th

Description: It has paired multi-pane windows, a bay window on the west side, and vinyl siding.

Non-contributing

B82/L6

Photo #

- 23 171 Amwell Road. John Quick House. Frame, 2-story, , gable-roofed dwelling consisting of a 5-bay, single-pile, presumably center-hall-plan main block with interior gable-end chimneys (brick stacks) and a lower 3-bay rear ell with inte-

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rior chimney (brick stack) and shed appendage.

Style: Gothic Revival influence with Colonial Revival embellishment

Date: c. 1865

Description: Exterior features include clapboard siding, boxed overhanging eaves, central front gable with elaborate tracery bargeboard and quatrefoil window in a diamond-shaped surround, 4/4 sash windows with louvered and paneled shutters, 2/2 sash on the secondary facades, and a central entry with transom, molded surround and panel door (replacement). The 3-bay, flat-roofed entry porch has box cornice and slim Tuscan columns, early 20th-century replacements.

Outbuildings: 1) Frame, 1 1/2-story, wagon house (mid/late 19th) has overhanging eaves, clapboard siding, paired louvered gable-end openings, and gable-end entries with batten doors with strap hinges; flanking one-story, gable-roofed appendages of approximately 5 bays each that serve as chicken houses (C); 2) Frame, 2-story, 6-bay, shed-roofed garage/chicken house (mid 20th) has asbestos shingle siding. (NC).

Contributing

B82/L5

Photo #1

- 24 190 Old York Road. Frame, 2-story, 4-bay, gable-roofed dwelling with 2-story rear extension and rear shed-roofed appendage. West exterior gable-end chimney has brick stack and corbelling.

Style: Greek Revival influence

Date: mid-19th

Description: It has a built-up box cornice, flush raking eaves, 1/1 sash windows with decorative shutters, a semi-hexagonal bay window and a glass-and-panel entry door. The hip-roofed front porch has a square posts and railings (replaced).

Outbuilding: Frame, 2-story barn (19th) with gable roof has been converted to living quarters with 1/1 sash windows (NC).

Contributing

B18/L5

Photo #3

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Description: Exterior features include a built-up box cornice with returns that is carried on the raking eaves, 1/1 sash windows and an end-bay entry door with fluted pilasters and bull's eye corner blocks. A bay window and stone veneer have been added to the first story of the main façade, as has vinyl siding elsewhere. The hip-roofed front porch with built-up box cornice has square posts and railings.

Contributing B18/L7 Photo #

- 28 198 Old York Road. Frame, 2-story, gable-roofed dwelling built in 3 parts: a 5-bay, single-pile, presumably center-hall-plan main block, a 2-story, 2-bay west wing, and a 2-story, 2-bay east wing with 1-story, gable-front appendage that apparently is 20th-century shop addition.

Style: Colonial Revival embellishment

Date: c. 1835-50 with later additions

Description: It has overhanging eaves, center entry with fluted pilasters and 6/6 sash windows with molded window hoods and decorative shutters, fenestration which is repeated in the west wing. The 1-story appendage has large, multi-pane windows and a separate glass and panel entry door. Siding is vinyl.

Contributing B18/L8 Photo#

- 29 200 Old York Road. Frame, 2-story, 4-bay gable-roofed, single-pile dwelling with lower and shallower, 2-bay east wing.

Style: Greek Revival influence

Date: mid-19th

Description: It features a built-up box cornice, flush raking eaves, 6/6 and 2/2 sash windows, inner-bay main block entry and a hip-roofed entry porch with square posts and railings and a square spindle frieze. The 2-story wing porch has heavy square posts.

Contributing B18/L9 Photo#

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- 30 2 Amwell Road. Stuccoed stone, 1-story, 1-bay outbuilding. The house depicted on this lot in the Beers 1873 atlas has not survived.
- Style: none Date: mid-20th
- Description: Building has rough stucco exterior, front-facing gable end with tongue and groove vertical boards, and single glass and panel entry door.
- Non-contributing B/L Photo#
- 31 4,4A Amwell Road. Frame, 2-story, 7-over-8-bay, gable-roofed, single-pile dwelling built in at least two phases, possibly as a 2-over-3-bay block with lateral extensions.
- Style: none Date: mid-19th
- Description: It has flush eaves, a combination of cedar shake and vinyl siding, and 6/6 sash with decorative shutters. Dual hip-roofed entry porches have square posts and railings.
- Contributing B18/L11 Photo#
- 32 6 Amwell Road. Frame, 2-story, 5-bay, gable-roofed, single-pile dwelling. The wider spacing between the two west bays suggests may have been a 4-bay unit with 1-bay west extension.
- Style: Greek Revival influence Date: c. 1840-50
- Description: It features aluminum siding, a built-up box cornice with wide plain frieze, flush raking eaves, and 2/2 sash windows. Probably and early 20th-century replacement, the hip-roofed 3-bay entry porch with cross-gable has been glassed-in with 6/1 sash windows.
- Contributing B18/L12 Photo #11, right
- 33 8 Amwell Road. Frame, gable-roofed dwelling consisting of a 3-bay, single-pile, presumably side-hall-plan main block with an interior west gable-end

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chimney and a lower 2-story rear wing, possibly built in two parts, with interior chimney (brick stack).

Style: none

Date: mid-19th

Description: It has overhanging eaves on the main block, flush eaves on the rear ell, 2/2 sash windows, asbestos shingle siding, end-bay entry and gabled entry porch with turned posts.

Contributing

B18/L13

Photo #11. middle

- 34 10 Amwell Road. Frame, gable-roofed dwelling consisting of a 3-bay, single-pile, presumably side-hall-plan main block with interior west gable-end chimney (brick stack) and a lower 2-story, 3 bay, rear wing.

Style: Greek Revival influence

Date: mid 19th

Description: It has a standing seam metal roof, box cornice with wide plain frieze, flush raking eaves, 2/2 and 6/6 sash windows, end-bay entry and gabled entry porch with turned posts, Siding is vinyl.

Outbuilding: Frame, 1-bay, gable-roofed garage (mid/late 20th) has overhead door (NC).

Contributing

B18/L14

Photo #12, left

- 35 12 Amwell Road. Frame, 2-story, 2-over-3-bay, gable-roofed dwelling with east exterior gable-end chimney and 2-story, 2-bay west wing

Style: Colonial Revival influences

Date: c. 1900

Description: It has overhanging eaves, vinyl siding, a combination of paired 6/1 and 1/1 sash windows with decorative shutters, a multi-pane door and a hip-roofed front porch with square posts and railings.

Outbuilding: Frame, 1-story, 1-bay gable-roofed garage (mid/late 20th) has overhead door and vinyl siding (NC).

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| Contributing | B20/L1 | Photo # |
|---|--|-------------------------|
| 36 | 14 Amwell Road. Frame, 1 ½ story, 3-bay, gable-roofed <u>dwelling</u> . | |
| (Excluded from the district prior to listing; | | |
| see minutes of the NJ State Review Board for Historic Sites, October 31, 2001.) | | |
| 37 | 20 Amwell Road. Frame <u>dwelling</u> consisting of a 2-story, 4-over-5-bay main block (possibly built in two parts) with interior gable-end chimneys (brick stacks) and a 1-story, 1-bay west addition. | |
| Style: Colonial Revival embellishment | | Date: c. 1820-40 |
| Description: It has overhanging eaves, a mix of 2/2 and 9/6 windows with louvered shutters, and aluminum siding. Entry has paneled door and narrow pilasters. West wing has a large multi-pane window. | | |
| Outbuilding: Frame, 2 ½ story, gable-roofed <u>wagon house</u> (late 19 th) has clapboard siding, side-wall entry with sliding batten doors, a 6/6 sash window on the loft story, and fixed 6-light gable-end windows (C). | | |
| Contributing | B20/L3 | Photo #s 16 & 17 |
| 38 | 16A-B Amwell Road. Frame, 2-story, 4-bay, gable-roofed, single-pile <u>dwelling</u> with 2-story shed-roofed east addition and east interior gable-end chimney (brick stack). | |
| Style: Gothic Revival influences; Colonial Revival embellishment | | |
| Date: c. 1850-60 | | |
| Description: Clapboard-sided house features overhanging eaves with scalloped sawnwork bargeboard, scalloped window hoods, and large, diamond-shaped | | |

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louvered gable vent, linking this house to two buildings in the nearby Wertsville Historic District dating from the early 1850s, the former schoolhouse, built in 1853 (10 Lindbergh Road, Wertsville HD inventory #6) and the house at 308 Wertsville Road (Wertsville HD inventory #3). The addition entry has a shed-roof overhang with chamfered brackets; the gabled main entry porch with returns and square columns is a later Colonial Revival addition.

Outbuilding: Frame, 1-story, 3-bay chicken house (late 19th/early 20th) has multi-pane windows, wide clapboard siding, and a slate roof (C).

Contributing

B20/L4

Photo #18

- 39 18 Amwell Road. Frame, 2-story, 4-bay, gable-roofed, single-pile dwelling with exterior gable-end chimneys (brick stacks).

Style: none

Date: mid-19th

Description: It features vinyl siding, overhanging eaves, a combination of 2/2 and multi-pane sash windows, hip-roofed entry porch with turned posts (re-placed), and a first story rear sun porch dating from 1940.

Contributing

B20/L5

Photo #

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SIGNIFICANCE

The Reaville Historic District possesses significance under Criteria A and C in the areas of community development, architecture and commerce. The village exemplifies the small agglomerate settlements that proliferated throughout the region in the 18th and 19th centuries to serve its dispersed agricultural population, but whose growth was limited by their isolation and lack of access to 19th-century transportation innovations. The district has architectural significance as an assemblage of modest, mostly 19th-century buildings whose construction, form, detailing and spatial organization are representative of the rural region's vernacular architecture in that era. The district's commercial significance is due to its tavern and store, physical documents of the important economic and social roles of such mercantile and service establishments in small rural communities. In addition, archaeological resources relating to the area's 19th-century material culture also may be present in the environs of district buildings and sites.

While settlement occurred in the neighborhood around what became Reaville well before the middle of the 18th century, a village did not coalesce until the 1830s when a church and school were built at what was then known as "Greenville," joining an earlier tavern and store at the fork of the Old York and Amwell (or Brunswick) Roads. Located on an important early stage route, Reaville grew over the next several decades to include between two and three dozen dwellings and, in addition to its church, tavern, school and store, acquired a post office, social hall and several artisan shops. Bypassed during the 19th-century canal and railroad building booms, however, Reaville was overshadowed by nearby villages and towns like Ringoes, Lambertville and Flemington with such advantages and never became more than a neighborhood service center, a role it maintained into the early 20th century. The community experienced almost no growth after the 1870s, except for a creamery established around 1900, until the low-density residential development of recent years in its environs.

During its 19th-century period of significance, Reaville served a small portion of the surrounding Amwell Valley, a fertile agricultural district comprised of family farms which ranged from about fifty to several hundred acres in size. Analysis of maps and other data suggests that the neighborhood served by Reaville during that time had a radius of between one and two miles from the fork of the Old York and Amwell Roads, the town of Flemington and the village of Ringoes being, respectively, about three and four miles away from Reaville and the hamlets of Van Liew's Corner, Wertsville, Clover Hill, Copper Hill and Larisons Corner from two to three miles distant. Hunterdon County's agricultural economy peaked in the middle decades of the 19th century, but thereafter de-

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clined (in response to such factors as competition from newly developing Midwestern agricultural lands), as reflected in the drop in land prices from a high of as much as \$135 per acre in 1867 to about \$31 per acre in 1898. The rise and decline of many of Hunterdon County's rural service centers parallel this trend, and when the local agricultural economy began to improve after 1900, the more isolated communities like Reaville (which were bypassed by new highways) were ill positioned to take advantage of the better economic conditions.¹

Reaville consequently has managed to preserve much of its 19th-century character despite the loss of its artisan shops and creamery. A majority of the district's buildings were erected c. 1835-1873, although several are earlier or later. The distinctive historical character of the village results from the survival of these buildings, their rather tight spacing with short set backs, and their juxtaposition with the surrounding countryside. These resources—mostly dwellings with attendant outbuildings, but including a church as well as the former tavern, school, social hall and store—are in general well preserved and exhibit relatively few modern alterations. Collectively they possess architectural significance. Their form, construction, detailing and siting provide a representative illustration of the rural region's essentially vernacular architecture in the 19th century. Dwellings like site #s 3, 7, 11, 12, 13, 22, 29, 34 and 38, as well as the former tavern and the combination store/dwelling, #s 5 and 6, exemplify the traditional house types and construction practices found in the region (photo #s 1, 2, 3, 8, 14, 16, 18, 21, 23 and 24), and the church, school and social hall (site #s 14, 18 and 25, photo #s 4, 6, and 19, left) are representative of the gable-fronted type employed for institutional buildings in the area's 19th-century villages and rural neighborhoods. The predominance of two-story, single-pile houses (the traditional I-type) reveals Delaware Valley cultural influences (#s 7, 11, 12, 24, 30, 33, 38 & 39, photo #s 1, 11, 12, 18, 19 and 24), and the several examples with center and side-hall plans illustrate the Georgian transformation of that type (#s 13, 23 and 28 and #s 26, 27, 33 and 34, respectively; photos #s 1, 11, 12 and 21). With its three-tiered belfry the church (site #18, photo #s 6 and 7) also evokes the 18th-century Wren/Gibbs design formula, which persisted in conservative rural areas well into the middle of the 19th century. The store's gable hoist overhang is a notable survivor (site #6, photo #9), typical of the region's early mills and storehouses and expressive of how they functioned. Of similar interest are the district's agricultural outbuildings including English barns, gable-fronted wagons houses and poultry sheds (site #s 12, 13, 21, 23 and 37, photo #s 1, 2, 17 and 21).

The influence of architectural styles popular in the 19th century is readily apparent in the design and/or detailing of several district buildings. For example, the demilune

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entry fanlight and delicate pilasters of the tavern's entry (site # 5, photo #10), and the curve-muntined transom of house #13 are characteristic of the Federal style, and the built-up box cornices and wide friezes of several houses are typical Greek Revival details (site #s 24, 27, 29, 32, 34, photo #s 3, 11 and 12). With its round-headed louvers, flanking pilasters and Grecian ovolo moldings the 1839 church belfry is an amalgam of Federal and Greek Revival motifs (site #18, photo #s 6 and 7). Features dating from the 1883 church remodeling—bracketed overhanging eaves, raked window hoods and stick bracketed entry hood—are expressive of Victorian eclecticism and reveal Italianate, Gothic Revival and Stick style influences. Several district houses have front cross gables and/or bargeboards of Gothic Revival derivation (#s 3, 21 and 23, photo #s 1, 2 and 14), the elaborate tracery bargeboard ornamenting the front gable of #23 being of particular note. Later Colonial Revival influences are evident in the wraparound porch with Tuscan columns added to the former Good Templars social hall (site # 25, photo #4).

European settlement of the Amwell Valley in southern Hunterdon County began in the first decades of the 18th century, initiated largely by pioneer agriculturists of English, Dutch and German stock. Land in the vicinity of what later became Reaville was first surveyed under New Jersey's system of proprietary landholding in the early 1700s, and the site of the village lies within the northwest corner of an 875-acre tract allotted to south Jersey resident John Ladd in 1712. Ladd bequeathed the property to his granddaughter Mary Parker. Mary and her husband Charles Norris had the property resurveyed in 1755, presumably because of a disputed title, which was finally cleared through court proceedings four years later. In 1760 the Norrises conveyed the tract to Lewis Chamberlin, Joseph Leigh and Ichabod Leigh, who later that same year divided the property among themselves, Lewis Chamberlin receiving 424 acres, the western portion of the original tract.² Lewis Chamberlin (or Chamberlain) appears to have been one of the neighborhood's pioneer settlers, an East Jersey emigrant presumably of English stock, who located on or near the Ladd/Parker property in the 1730s. According to one local history he and his wife, Lucretia Woolsey,

were married in 1735 in Monmouth County [N. J.] and family tradition says that they loaded all their possessions on a wagon drawn by a fat black horse, came across the Sourland Mountain and settled along Mallard's Brook between Reaville and Wertsville. Here they built a log house and as they cleared the land, Lucretia helped drag brush for burning while carrying her first born child in a sack on her back.³

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In 1774 Chamberlin's executors sold a 222.5-acre portion of the property, "all that plantation of land on the North side of New Shanning [Neshanic] Creek," to John Williamson for 900 pounds. Although the deed described him as a "Yeoman "of Burlington County, N. J., John Williamson may have been related to the local Williamsons, a family of Dutch origins whose progenitor (also named John) was an early settler of the Amwell Valley. "English and Dutch books" were listed in the inventory made upon his intestate death in 1800. Division of his real estate among his heirs finally occurred in 1814, at which time a lot of 14 acres on the east side of the Old York Road straddling its junction with the road to New Brunswick was assigned to his son David. In 1815 David Williamson and his wife sold the lot, together with an adjoining 9-acre parcel that had formed part of his mother's dower portion, to Elisha Sharp and David Manners, and in 1821 Sharp conveyed his undivided half interest in the property to Manners who owned it until his death in 1836.⁴

A tavern at the junction of the two roads on the Sharp/Manners lot appears to have been the neighborhood's earliest focal point. It was extant by 1819, in which year Stephen Strong received a tavern license for "the house he now lives in in Amwell at the fork of the York and Brunswick Roads," and probably was established in 1817, if not before, by Joseph McMullen in a house rented from Sharp and Manners. Strong's 1818 tavern license petition noted that he had "rented the tavern lately occupied by Mr. McMullen," and Joseph McMullen stated in his 1817 petition that "he had been encouraged to set up and keep a public house of entertainment where I now dwell." Furthermore, David Manners and Elisha Sharp were the first and third men to sign McMullen's petition.⁵ The McMullen/Strong tavern may have occupied the house at site #5 which appears to date c. 1815-30 and which later deeds and maps identify as a tavern. The tavern evidently was a rental property and had a succession of keepers in its early years. Thomas Wilson took over from Strong in 1820, and Samuel Large followed Wilson in 1823 (when Manners Road was laid out in August of that year, the surveyors met "at the house of Samuel Large innkeeper at the crossroads"). Two sons of David Manners followed Large: Theodore between 1830 and 1832 and Abraham from 1833 to 1835.⁶

By the middle of the 1830s, "Greenville" had come into use in reference to the tavern, as well as a place name for the locality. In 1836 Runkle Rea petitioned the county court for a tavern license, noting that he occupied "the tavern stand formerly kept by Abraham Manners, des[ceased] generally known by the name of the Greenville tavern," and upon the creation of Raritan Township two years later, its southern boundary ran along "the middle of the road leading from Clover Hill to Manner's tavern, now called Greenville."⁷

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A store was conducted at Greenville in conjunction with the tavern in the 1830s, quite possibly earlier, and the property also featured a wheelwright shop. Abraham Manners' estate inventory, dated July 18, 1835, includes entries for the "store and contents" and "book ac[coun]t at Greenville."⁸ The November, 1838, newspaper advertisement for the commissioners' sale of the property after the death of Mary Manners (to whom title had passed after the intestate death of her husband David Manners two years earlier) described it as

all that long established *Tavern Stand, Store House, Farm etc.* known by the name of Greenville; lying at the junction of the York Road and the road leading to New Brunswick, containing about 37 acres of first-rate land, in good order. The fences and buildings are all nearly new, and the property is in most excellent repair. There is also a wheelwright shop on the property which can be appropriated to any other purpose. The stand is a most eligible one for business—both for store and tavern keeping, having a long established reputation of the very best kind, and in a situation and neighborhood which can be excelled by but few tavern or store stands in the county. For further particulars....call upon....Runkle Rea on the premises.⁹

According to the biography of Runkle Rea in the 1881 county history: "In 1835 he gave up farming and engaged in the mercantile business at Reaville, then called Greenville."⁸ This account makes no mention of his tavern keeping, which evidently ended in 1839 when he was succeeded as tavern keeper by Richard Quick who, as high bidder at the commissioners' sale, acquired the property in that year.¹⁰ The existing store building (site #6) probably dates, at least in part, from the Manners period.

The nascent community also attracted institutional functions in the 1830s. A log schoolhouse purportedly was erected about a half mile to the east in 1835. However, an 1846 deed for a portion of the Manners/Quick property excludes a lot, "granted by David Manners to the school district for the term mentioned in a certain lease," suggesting that there was a school in Greenville before his death in 1836. It probably was "School House" depicted on the 1850 township map near the southeast corner of Amwell and Manners Roads. In 1839 the Amwell Valley's pioneer Presbyterian congregation moved from its original location, now the Pleasant Ridge Cemetery located about one and a half miles west of Reaville, to its present site at the intersection of the Old York and Amwell Roads. Construction of the new Amwell First Presbyterian Church (site #18), which was

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undertaken by contractor Jacob Voorhees and incorporated materials salvaged from the old church, began on February 11, 1839 and was finished in the autumn.¹¹

By 1844, as described in the state history published in that year, a well-established village had developed at the intersection of the two roads:

Greenville, on the SE boundary of Raritan, on the road from Lambertville to Somerville, is a new and flourishing little village, containing a tavern, store, a few mechanics, about a dozen dwellings, and a neat Presbyterian church, lately erected.¹²

The name of the community was changed to Reaville upon the establishment of a post office in 1850, no doubt at the behest of the first postmaster, merchant Runkle Rea. Rea had acquired the store and most of the Manners/Quick property lying south of Amwell Road in 1846, the tavern having been cut off and sold as a small separate lot three years earlier.¹³ By the middle of the 19th century Reaville's development pattern had been established. The 1850 township and 1851 county maps depict buildings clustered around the road fork and scattered elsewhere. The rather closely spaced row of houses characterizing the south side of Old York/Amwell Roads on the maps was well defined by 1850 and reached its present extent by the early 1870s. Although several house lots were created earlier, most were subdivided by Runkle Rea after 1846.¹⁴

The 1850 census indicates that the community had attracted a number of artisans including two wheelwrights, a blacksmith, saddler, cabinetmaker, tailor and shoemaker, as well as a physician and schoolteacher. Dr. George P. Rex settled there in 1837 and made his residence at site #29, and by 1873 another doctor, J. R. Glenn, was living in the village (site #26).¹⁵ Limited institutional development also occurred in the third quarter of the 19th century. The "trustees of the Reaville School" acquired a lot in 1853, and the extant schoolhouse (site #14) presumably dates to around that time. In the same year, Runkle Rea sold a lot on the south side of the Old York Road across from the Rex property to the "trustees of Greenville division No.81 Sons of Temperance." A social hall built by that group on the lot (site #25) was sold at public auction in 1859 upon the group's disbandment. Another fraternal group organized in 1870, the "Reaville Lodge, No. 100, I. O. of G. T. [or Good Templars]," rented the former Temperance Hall (or its replacement) and flourished for a few years. By 1881 the Templars were gone and the building had been converted into a dwelling.¹⁶ While an 1867 deed records an agreement to use the second story of the "house" on the Temperance lot as a "Sabbath school and session room" for the Presbyterian church, those plans were subsequently abandoned (if,

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in fact, they were ever implemented), and in 1883 the Presbyterians enlarged and remodeled their church, alterations which included converting the cellar into a ground story.¹⁷

Reaville's growth reached its zenith by the early 1870s. The 1873 county atlas reveals that only modest residential development had occurred since the 1850s, and the 1881 county history found the village to be "quite a settlement" with "a school, church (Presbyterian), hotel, store, and several shops, besides a score or more of dwellings," indicating little change since 1873.¹⁸ Unable to compete with nearby communities with better transportation connections, Reaville experienced almost no subsequent development except for a creamery established around 1900 and a scattering of houses. According to the 1906 state industrial directory, the Amwell Valley Creamery processed "practically all the milk from the farms [in the neighborhood], and makes a very fine grade of butter."¹⁹

Despite this new enterprise, the 20th century witnessed the community's gradual disintegration as a service center. The improvement and paving of local roads beginning in the early 1900s and the construction of state highways several miles to the north and west in the 1920s, coupled with the proliferation of automobiles and trucks during the period, lessened the dependence of neighborhood residents on local services and negatively impacted local enterprises. The creamery operated for several decades, but closed sometime before 1931 when its owner, the New Jersey Milk and Creamery Company, went into receivership and the property was sold. Thereafter, local farmers left their raw milk to be picked up by refrigerated truck at a concrete platform erected at the intersection of the Old York and Barley Sheaf Roads. As residents could more easily travel elsewhere for shopping and entertainment, local businesses declined. Reaville lost its artisan shops by the time of the Depression, and the post office closed in 1937.²⁰ The tavern weathered both Prohibition and the Depression only to close shortly after World War II. While a small store was opened in an appendage added to the front of a house opposite the church in the 1930s, both the new and the old stores closed in the 1950s, leaving the church as the only community focal point. Although the tavern and adjoining storehouse were reused, the former as a dwelling and the latter as a "rest home," the creamery and adjoining blacksmith shop were replaced by buildings for an electrical contractor in the 1960s.²¹

Reaville exists today as an enclave of 19th-century buildings surrounded by a mix of open farmland and low-density residential development. While residential subdivisions have reached the northeastern edge of the village in recent years, active farms re-

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main to the south and west. Although its creamery and artisan shops have not survived, the village retains much of its 19th-century character. Local officials and residents alike recognize the special qualities that establish the historical character and significance of Reaville and make it worthy candidate for listing on the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places.

Footnotes

¹ Hubert G. Schmidt, *Rural Hunterdon: An Agricultural History*, pages 63–70 & 189–190; J. C. Sidney, *Plan of the Township of Raritan, Hunterdon County, New Jersey*, 1850; Samuel C. Cornell, *Map of Hunterdon County, New Jersey*, 1851; F. W. Beers, *County Atlas of Hunterdon, New Jersey*, 1873, end page.

² Schmidt, *Rural Hunterdon: An Agricultural History*, pages 29–34 & 58; Peter Wacker, *Land and People. A Cultural Geography of Pre-industrial New Jersey: Origins and Settlement Patterns*, page 127; James P. Snell (ed.), *History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, New Jersey*, pp. 553–554; Stanton D. Hammond, *Hunterdon County, New Jersey, Sheet B*, Map Series # 4; Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 1, page 45.

³ East Amwell Bicentennial Committee, *A History of East Amwell 1700-1800*, page 137.

⁴ Snell, pp. 367 & 368; NJ Wills 1948J & 4320J; Hiram Deats, Williamson Notebook, Hunterdon County Historical Society, Vol. II, no page; Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 31, page 344; Hiram Deats, Manners Notebook, Hunterdon County Historical Society, no page.

⁵ Hunterdon County Tavern Licenses, Joseph McMullen, 1817, & Stephen Strong, 1818 & 1819.

⁶ Ibid., Thomas Wilson, 1820, 1821 & 1822; Samuel Large 1823 – 1826 & 1828; Theodore Manners, 1830-1832 & Abraham Manners, 1833-1835.

⁷ Hunterdon County Road Returns, Book 2, page 249;. Hunterdon County Tavern Licenses, Runkle Rea, 1835; Snell, page 304.

⁸ NJ Wills, 4238J.

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- ⁹ "Commissioners Sale of Real Estate," *Hunterdon Gazette*, January 1, 1839.
- ¹⁰ Snell, page 304.
- ¹¹ Snell, pp. 308, 317 & 342; Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 86, page 3; J. C. Sidney, *Plan of the Township of Raritan, Hunterdon County, New Jersey*, 1850.
- ¹² John W. Barber, and Henry Howe. *Historical Collections of the State of New Jersey*, page 250.
- ¹³ John L. Kay and Chester M. Smith, Jr., *New Jersey Postal History*, page 78; Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 83, page 374 & Book 86, page 3.
- ¹⁴ J. C. Sidney, *Plan of the Township of Raritan, Hunterdon County, New Jersey*, 1850; Samuel C. Cornell, *Map of Hunterdon County, New Jersey*, 1851; F. W. Beers, *County Atlas of Hunterdon, New Jersey*, 1873, end page.
- ¹⁵ United States Census, Populations Schedule, East Amwell and Raritan Townships, 1850; Snell, 221; Beers, end page.
- ¹⁶ Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 104, pages 364 & 368, Book 121, page 306, Book 139, page 175 and Book 148, page 237; "Public Sale," *Hunterdon Gazette*, November 2, 1859; Beers, end page; Snell, page 306.
- ¹⁷ Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 139, page 175; Snell, page 306.
- ¹⁸ Beers, end page; Snell, page 306.
- ¹⁹ Schmidt, page 153; Pugh & Downing, Civil Engineers, *Map of Hunterdon County, New Jersey*, 1902; *The Industrial Directory of New Jersey*, 1906, page 322.
- ²⁰ *The Industrial Directory of New Jersey*, 1906, page 322; Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 389, page 137; Interview with local resident Richard De Hoff; A. Van Doren Honeyman (ed.), *Northwestern New Jersey: A history of Somerset, Morris, Hunterdon, Warren, and Sussex Counties*. Vol. 2, page 916; Kay, page 78;
- ²¹ Interview with local resident Richard De Hoff; Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 715, page 320.

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²¹ Interview with local resident Richard De Hoff; Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 715, page 320.

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The Hunterdon Gazette, Flemington, NJ

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Hunterdon County Deed Books

Hunterdon County Mortgage Books

Hunterdon County Road Returns

New Jersey Archives, Trenton, NJ

Hunterdon County Tavern Licenses

New Jersey Wills

United States Census

Population Schedules, East Amwell Township, 1850-1870

Industrial Schedules, East Amwell Township, 1850-70

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BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the Reaville Historic District are delineated on the attached map entitled "Reaville Historic District Site Location and Boundary Map," and are verbally described in the following paragraphs. The site and boundary map was assembled using current municipal tax maps of East Amwell and Raritan Townships.

The boundary of the district begins in East Amwell Township on the south side of the Old York Road at the northwest corner of block 18, lot 5 and proceeds south and east along the west and south sides of lot 5 to that lot's southeast corner, also the northwest corner of block 18 lot 16.06 and a southwest corner of block 18, lot 15.01. It then proceeds east and north along the south and east sides of lot 15.01 to the northeast corner of that lot, from which point it cuts across block 18, lot 15 in a straight line to the southwest corner of block 18, lot 10. It next turns east and runs along the north side of lot 15, to the northeast corner of that lot on the west side of Manners Road. It cuts across Manners Road in a straight line to the southwest corner of block 20, lot 1, also the northwest corner of block 20, lot 2.01. It continues east to the southeast corner of lot 1, which is also a westerly corner of lot 2 (excluded from the district). It continues north along the easterly lines of lot 1 to the south side of Amwell Road; thence easterly along the south side of Amwell Road to the northwest corner of lot 3. It continues along the west side of lot 3 and the southerly lines of lots 3 and 4 to a westerly corner of lot 5, from which point it proceeds south, east, and north along the lines of lot 5 to the northeast corner of that lot on the south side of Amwell Road.

north side of block 20, lot 5 to a point which would intersect a straight line continuation of the east side of block 77, lot 26.01 in Raritan Township across Amwell Road. The boundary proceeds north along that line across Amwell Road and the municipal boundary between East Amwell and Raritan Townships into Raritan Township to the southeast corner of block 77, lot 26.01 on the north side of Amwell Road. It continues north along the east side of lot 26.01 to the northeast corner of that lot. It next runs west along the north sides of block 77, lots 26.01 and 26 to the southeast corner block 77.09, lot 37 and then turns north and west along the east and north sides of lot 37 to the northwest corner of that lot on the east side of the Old York Road, from which point it crosses the Old York Road along a straight line continuation of the north side of block 77.09, lot 37 to the west side of the Old York Road and the east side of block 79.01, lot 12.

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From there the district boundary proceeds south along the east sides of block 79.11, lots 13, 14 and 16 and the west side of the Old York Road to the south corner of the last mentioned lot and the intersection of Old York and Barley Sheaf Roads. It turns north along the east side of Barley Sheaf Road and the west sides of block 79.11, lots 16, 15 and 14 to the northwest corner of lot 14, also the southeast corner of block 79.11, lot 11. From there, it runs east, north and west along the south, east and north sides of lot 11 to the northwest corner of lot 11, also the southwest corner of block 79.11, lot 10, on the east side of Barley Sheaf Road.

From that point the boundary turns west and crosses Barley Sheaf Road in a straight line to the southeast corner of block 82, lot 2. It then runs north along the east side of block 82, lot 2 and the west side of Barley Sheaf Road to the northeast corner of that lot at the intersection of Barley Sheaf and Khuls Roads and then runs west along the north side of lot 2 and the south side of Khuls Road to northwest corner that lot. It proceeds south along the west side of lot 12 to that lot's southwest corner, also the northwest corner of block 82, lot 3, continues south along the west side of lot 3 to the northwest corner of block 82, lot 5, and runs still south along the west side of lot 5 to that lot's southwest corner on the north side of the Old York Road. From there the boundary cuts across the Old York Road and the Raritan/East Amwell boundary on a straight line continuation of the west side of block 82, lot 5 to the south side of the Old York Road. It then runs northeast along the south side of the Old York Road, also the north side of block 18, lots 3, 3.02, 3.01, 4, 18 and 5.01 to the northwest corner of block 18, lot 5 and the place of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of the Reaville Historic District were delineated to include to the greatest extent possible the architectural and historical resources of the hamlet, with not only the fewest non-contributing buildings but also to protect the district's historic rural setting.

To the northeast and south the district is constrained by modern residential and development, and the boundary follows property lines to exclude those uses, as well as the commercial buildings erected on the former creamery property. The boundary extends on the north and west to include the open farmlands associated with farmsteads adjoining and associated with the village.

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Hunterdon County, New Jersey

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5-
Zone 18
Easting 514470
Northing 4480880

6-
Zone 18
Easting 515170
Northing 4481130

7-
Zone 18
Easting 515320
Northing 4480890

8-
Zone 18
Easting 515470
Northing 4480950

9-
Zone 18
Easting 515560
Northing 4480955

10-
Zone 18
Easting 515720
Northing 4480920

11-
Zone 18
Easting 515800
Northing 4480750

See continuation sheet

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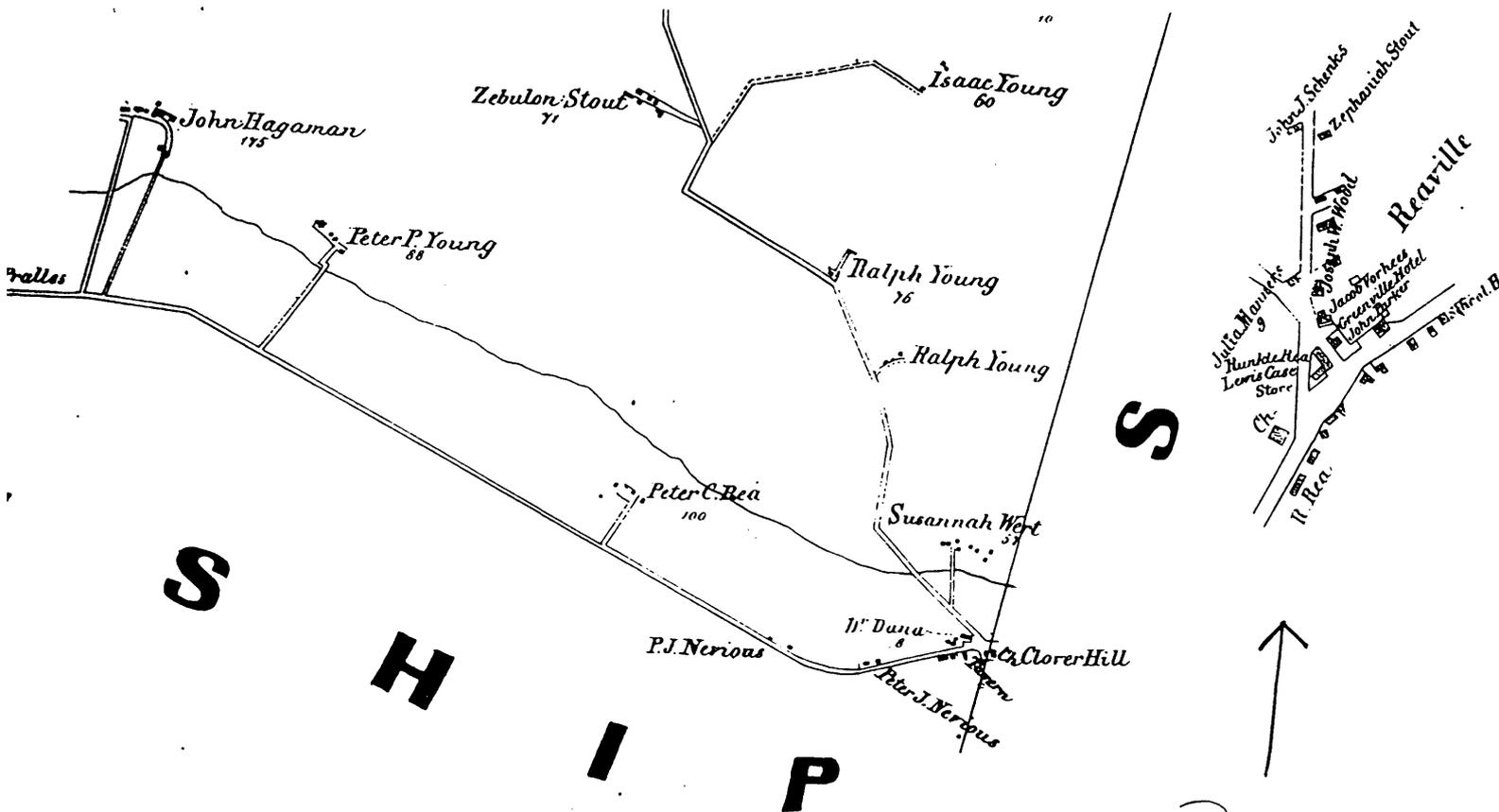
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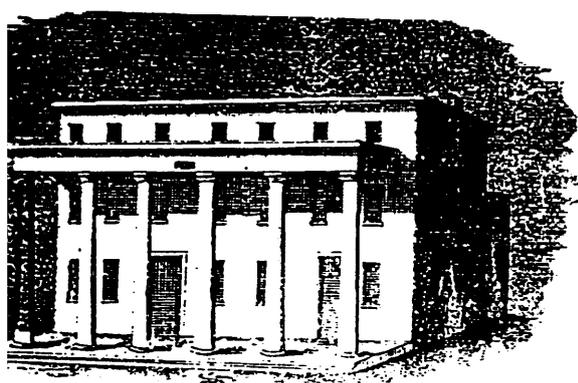
Photographs were taken in fall and winter 1999/2000 by Amy Zambrowski and Sally Bishop. Negatives are the property of the East Amwell Historic Preservation Commission.

| <u>PHOTO #</u> | <u>INVENTORY #</u> | <u>VIEW</u> |
|----------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| 1 | 23 | NW |
| 2 | 21 | NW |
| 3 | 24 | SW |
| 4 | 25 | SE |
| 5 | Old York Rd., at #18 | NW |
| 6 | Old York/Amwell at #18 | NE |
| 7 | 18, belfry | NE |
| 8 | 6 & 5 | NE |
| 9 | 6 | SW |
| 10 | 5, entry detail | N |
| 11 | 32, 33 & 34 | SE |
| 12 | Amwell Rd. at #34 | SW |
| 13 | 4 | NE |
| 14 | 3 & 2 | NE |
| 15 | 36 | SW |
| 16 | 37 | SW |
| 17 | 37, wagon house | SW |
| 18 | 38 | SW |
| 19 | Barley Sheaf Rd. at #12 | NW |
| 20 | Barley Sheaf Rd. at #12 | NW |
| 21 | 13 | NW |
| 22 | Old York/Barley Sheaf junction | NE |
| 23 | 7 | SE |
| 24 | 11 | SE |



S
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PLAN
 OF THE TOWNSHIP
 of
REAVILLE
HUNTERDON CO.
N.J.



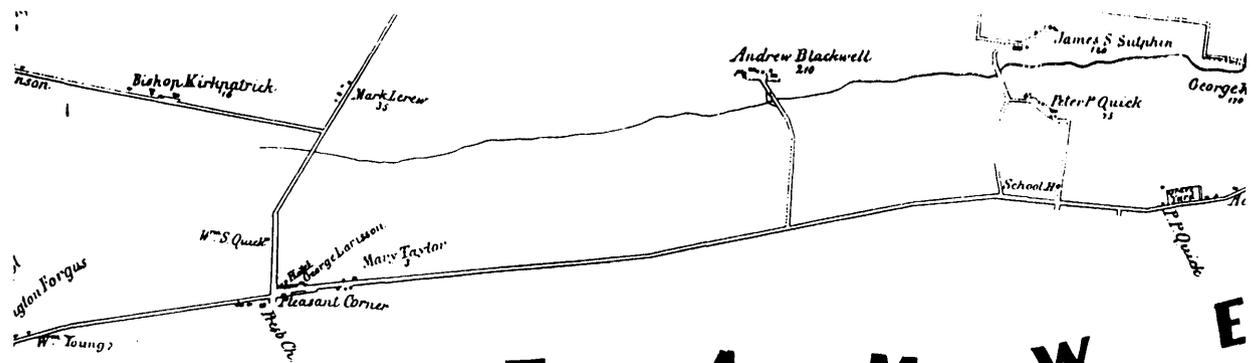
UNION HOUSE
 kept by Mr. Hall.

Surveyed by J. C. Sidney 80 Walnut St. Phila
 Published by Richard Clarke 384 S. 3rd St. Phila

Entered according to Act of Congress in the Year 1850 by Rich^d. Clarke in the Clerks Office of th
 of the Eastern District of P^a

Figure 1
 village of Reaville, 1850

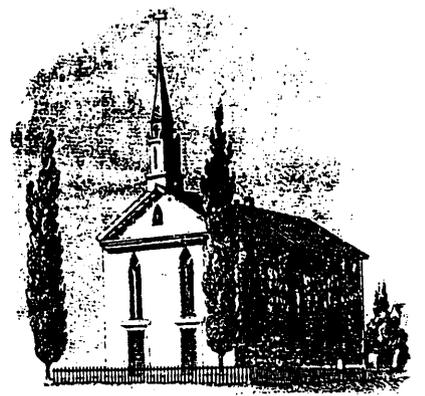
Reaville Historic District
 U. S. N. S.



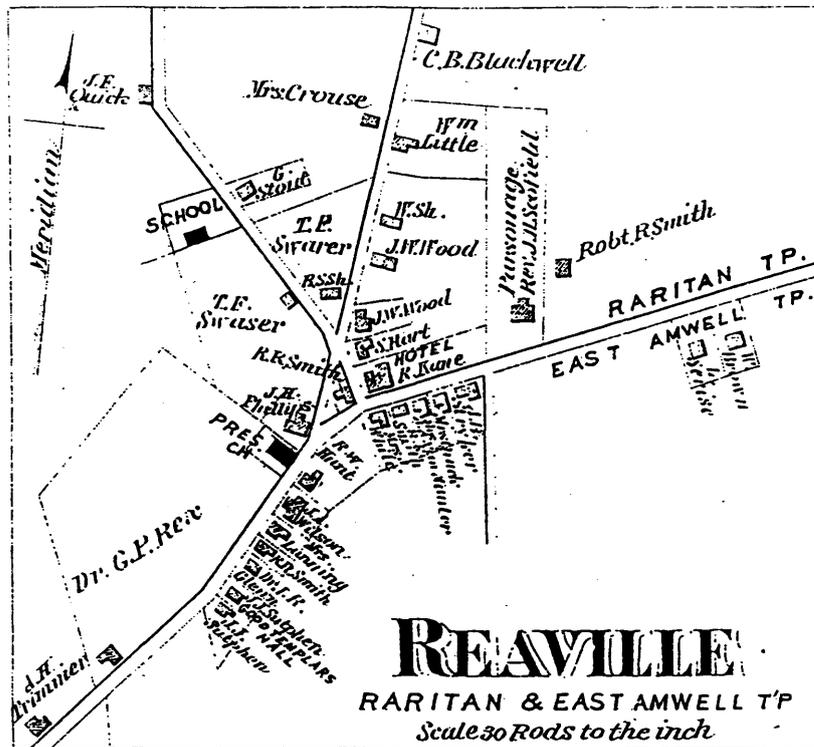
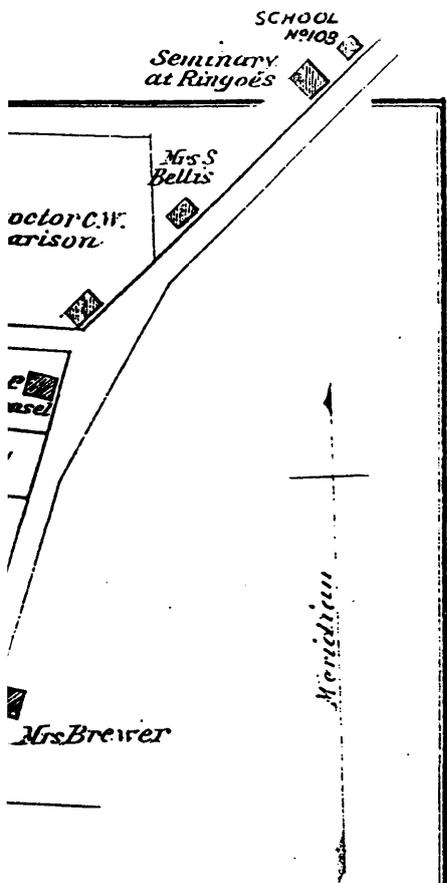
E A S T A M W E



W. D. EMERY'S STORE



BAPTIST CHURCH



INGOES
EAST AMWELL TP.
Scale 30 Rods to the inch

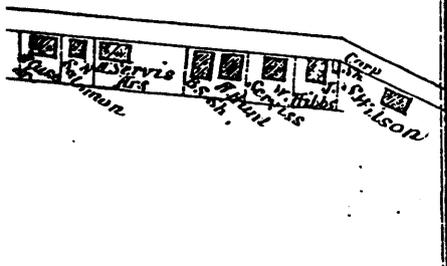
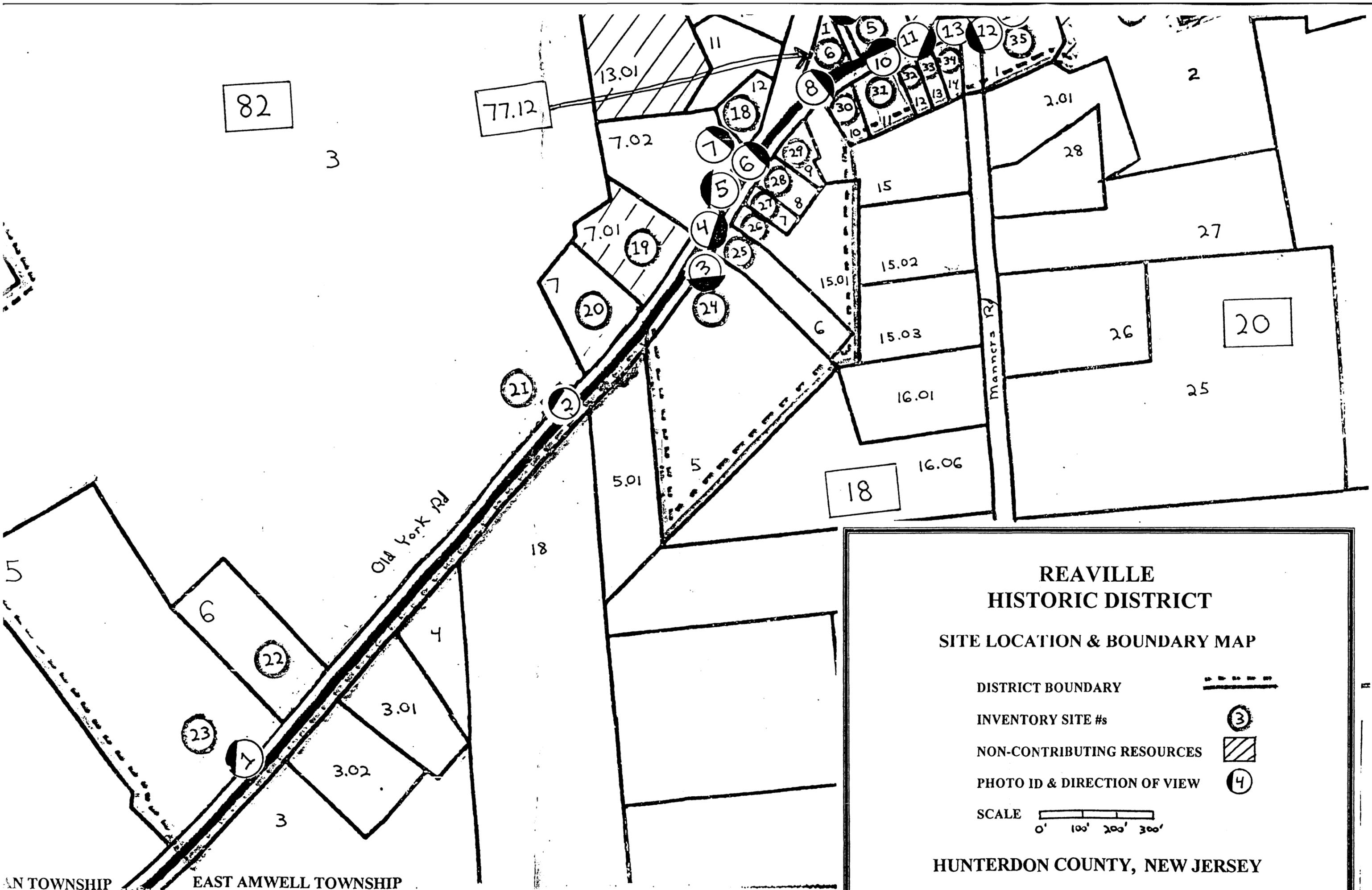


Figure 3, Reaville 1873
Beers, Atlas of Hunterdon Co.

Reaville Historic District
H. I. N. T.



82

77.12

3

13.01

7.02

7.01

7

5.01

18

Old York Rd

3.01

3.02

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4

3

2

21

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18

18

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16.06

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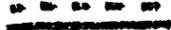
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Manners Rd

REAVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT

SITE LOCATION & BOUNDARY MAP

DISTRICT BOUNDARY



INVENTORY SITE #s



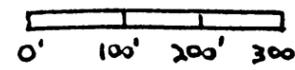
NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES



PHOTO ID & DIRECTION OF VIEW



SCALE



HUNTERDON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

AN TOWNSHIP

EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP



Kuhl Rd

Salisbury Street Rd

Old York Rd

Old York Rd

Amwell Rd

RARITAN

EAST AMWELL

79.11

77.09

77

82

77.12

13.01

7.02

20.01

6.01

2.01

2

3

13

21

14

15

12

17

16

7

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