

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *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 listed in 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 Israel Stevens House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 2167 Brunswick Avenue not for publication

city or town Lawrence Township vicinity

state New Jersey code NJ county Mercer code 021 zip code 08648

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I 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] 12/6/04
Signature of Certifying official/Title Date

John S. Watson, Jr. Assistant Commissioner Natural & Historic Resources/DSHPO
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this 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] 3/15/05
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Edson H. Beall

Israel Stevens House

Name of Property

Mercer County, 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	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC / single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC / single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Federal

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Wood / weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other Brick (chimneys)

Narrative Description

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

Israel Stevens house
Name of Property

Mercer County, 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.)

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

ca.1804 - 1923

Significant Dates

ca.1804

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data

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

Name of repository:

Lawrence Branch, Mercer County Public Library

Israel Stevens House
Name of Property

Mercer County, NJ
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	18	522677	4455906	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2				4			

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 Billy Joe O'Neal, Jr.

organization _____ date January 2004

street & number 2167 Brunswick Avenue telephone (609) 599-1843

city or town Lawrenceville state NJ zip code 08648

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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name Billy Joe O'Neal, Jr. and Lauren Mary O'Neal

street & number 2167 Brunswick Avenue telephone _____

city or town Lawrenceville state NJ zip code 08648

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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Israel Stevens House
Mercer Co., NJ

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Description:

The Israel Stevens house is a 2-story, 3-bay, side-hall plan, frame house built in the Federal style probably about 1804, and a very good vernacular example of that style in a farmhouse. It is well-proportioned and features large windows, a finely tooled entablature, and a reeded stringcourse. The original low stone foundation is now covered in concrete. In 1923 a two-story ell was added to the rear. The original stone foundation, now covered with concrete, is low. Most of the original interior Federal details remain intact. In 1923 a two story ell was added to the rear, northwest elevation. At that point a two story ell on the northeast gable end was demolished. The house faces east and stands on a slight rise to the west of alternate US Route 1 (more popularly known as the "Brunswick Pike"), on a 1/3 acre lot that is the sole remaining property from a once substantial farm. Several large trees stand on the property. Two yellow pines on the front lawn date from at least the 1850s¹. A small 8' x 10' shed, built in 2000, stands behind the house near the property line. The clapboards on the front (SE) elevation are original; clapboards on the other three walls were replaced in 1923. Brick nogging survives in three of the exterior walls. Modern storm doors and triple track storm windows, installed in 2000-2001, cover all 1st and 2nd story openings, with the exception of the first floor of the 1923 addition, where the original wooden framed storm windows remain.

1804 Section (Exterior):

The main block of the house exhibits a facade (SE elevation) dominated by its Federal-style features. The roof is a gable with its ridge parallel to the facade and two interior end chimneys in the south side. The roof is without dormers and is currently finished with composite shingles. A slate roof was removed in 1996. The original roof was wood shingle.

SE Elevation (Photos 1-2): At the roofline, a fine Federal style entablature (Photo 2) features an architrave band of intersecting semicircular moldings alternating with triglyphs, and a frieze band of drill and gouge fretwork. The cornice is unornamented. A reeded clapboard (Photo 3) between the first and second stories (partially removed above the entrance porch) forms a stringcourse. Both first story windows have 9/6 sash and paneled shutters with the original shutter dogs. The center, bottom light of the left end window has the "*Israel*" inscribed in cursive lettering. Family tradition states that the original owner made this etch. All three of the second story windows have 9/6 sash with louvered shutters. All five sashes and their shutters appear to be original. Only three of the six original second-story shutter latches remain intact. The front entrance to the house is a 1923 replacement. It displays simple trim around a 6-panel door, with wainscot panels, 4-light sidelights, and rather awkwardly-constructed elliptical fanlight transom squeezed between the upper sidelights instead of topping them. The sidelights are wider than typical Federal style sidelights. The fanlight is not a reproduction of the original transom window. It was **installed in 2002, replacing one added during the 1923 renovations.** The entrance porch, with simple

¹ When interviewing Elmer Peters, a senior citizen, he remarked that when he was a young man he spoke to an old man who said that when he was a boy he remembers the two pines tall enough to be seen for some distance. One of the two pines appears in the 1890s photo included with this nomination form.

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posts and a wood trestle, was also added during the renovations. Two basement windows are visible. The openings are original, but the current sashes are not.

SW Elevation (Photo 5): Flanking windows are placed toward the corners at both stories. The living room window is original. It has a 9/6 sash with the original shutter dogs. The original shutters are missing. At some point between 1982 and 1997, the original shutter was moved to the SE elevation, replacing another first story set. The remaining three 6/6 windows are not original. A round-arched 6/6 window is centered under the gable, a 1923 addition. The entrance door, a 1923 addition, has a large window light above two panels. The southwest gable end reveals the spacious 2-room width of the interior with two interior end chimneys with exposed, painted brick chimney backs at the first story. A porch, similar but much larger than that at front, has been added.

NW Elevation (Photo 6): The first story dining room window has 9/6 sash; one second story Bedroom 2 window has 9/6 sash. Both are original. One basement window is visible; its opening is original, but the current sash is a replacement. 4-inch diameter half round gutter was added during the 1920s.

NE Elevation (Photo 9): A steel door covers the original bulkhead to the cellar. A replacement door was added to the first floor entrance, as part of 1923 renovations. Originally, this entrance led from the 1804 section's side hall into the kitchen area of the former NE ell. The original six-panel, triple molded door was removed during the 1923 renovations, and reused in Bedroom 3 as a closet door. At the same time the 2/2 window was added to the landing between the first and second floors, mounted in an opening that originally led from the 1804 section to the second floor of the former NE ell section. The 6/6 second story sash, slightly forward of gable center, was added as part of the 1923 renovations. A round-arched 6/6 window is centered under the gable, a 1923 addition to the attic. Brick nogging is not present on most this elevation, for it once was an interior wall.

1923 Rear Ell Section (Exterior): (Photos 5-8)

This is a two-story addition extending across two-thirds of the rear of the house, covered by a flat roof. The roof is finished in rubber composite. There is no cellar beneath this section, only a crawlspace.

SW Elevation: The entrance door has a large window light above two panels. Above the entrance door is a simple, small roof. A round-arched 2/2 window is to the right of the door. Directly above that window is the second story, colonial revival 6/6 window.

NW Elevation (Photo 7): The door has three panels. There is no roof above the door. A round-arched 2/2 window is to the right of the door, its original storm window intact. A colonial revival 6/6 window is centered on the elevation. 4-inch diameter half round gutter was added in 1923. A small lean-to originally jutted out from this elevation. Built in the 1950s, the lean-to was demolished in 1999, being in ill repair and lacking a frost proof foundation.

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NE Elevation (Photos 8 & 9): A round-arched 2/2 window is centered on the elevation, its original storm window intact. Directly above that window is the second story, colonial revival 6/6 sash with a modern storm window, added in 2000.

1804 Section (Interior):

The house has seven rooms, first- and second-floor halls, a cellar and an attic, totaling approximately 2,800 square feet. Most of the interior details in the 1804 section are intact. Original chair rails remain, as well as the original doors, the beautiful woodwork, fireplace cupboards and mantels. Like many homes of this period, detailing of baseboard, chair rail, fireplace mantle, windows and door molding is more elaborate in the living room, less so in other rooms. The first- and second-floor ceilings throughout the 1804 section are 8' 10" above the floor. The original 6-inch baseboard is intact. Chair rail is present in all three first-floor rooms, but more elaborately molded in the living room than elsewhere. All four fireplace hearths contain original brick. All of the walls are original, constructed from plaster and hand cut lath. A major renovation in 1923 (see above) included additional windows and doors in the 1804 section. At that point the NE ell of the home was demolished and two rooms were added to the rear: the kitchen and bedroom 3. The house was modernized in the early 20th century. Plumbing was added when the small bedroom on the NE end was converted to a bathroom. Original antique electrical ceiling light fixtures, circa 1909, remain intact in the living room and side hall. Two later electrical system upgrades were made. In the 1980s the knob and tube wiring was removed and "BX" cable was installed. In 1999, the service was upgraded to 150 amps, new branches were added and the 60 amp fuse box was removed from the cellar wall and replaced by a circuit breaker box, located at the head of the cellar stairs. The plumbing was upgraded in the 1982, when copper was installed and the galvanized pipe removed. The original vertical section of the 4-inch cast iron soil pipe remains intact from second floor to basement, enclosed along with some supply side copper pipe in a wooden raceway. The horizontal basement portion of the soil pipe was replaced in 1999 with a similar product.

Cellar measures 24 ¼' x 24 ¼'. The original floor is dirt. Concrete was laid, in three distinct phases over a 50-year period, to accommodate coal storage, a central heater, and a washer and dryer area. Walls are of random fieldstone, 18 in thick, now whitewashed. Two arched brick fireplace supports, now plastered, project from the southwest wall and span between stone cheek walls. The ceiling is unfinished. The adze hewn joists are visible, with mortise and tenon connections. The original first floor random width planking is also visible. The brick main support is not original. This support was repaired and coated with Portland cement in 2000. At the same time, the side hall main beam was reinforced with three support columns to arrest movement of the side wall. The four-panel door, its hinges and the doorframe are original. The door hardware (rim lock sets with porcelain knobs) is a mid-1800s replacement. Four window openings exist. Three remain in use as windows, but no original sash remain. Situated behind the gas furnace/heater, the foundation and crawl space of the 1923 ell are visible through the opening of the fourth window.

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First Floor:

Side Hall (Photos 11 & 12) dimensions are 8' x 27'. The Floor is not original. Modern replacement floor consists of a finished surface of narrow, tongue and groove oak slats installed over the original random width plank pumpkin pine floor. Plaster on walls covers the original plaster. Existing baseboard and chair rail appear to be original. The chair rail and baseboard were broken when ceiling to floor chases were installed—a soil pipe duct was added around about 1900, and a hot air duct around 1980. Plaster on ceiling covers the original plaster. A small area of lath near the soil pipe chase was replaced with sheet rock, probably as part of the 1982 bathroom renovations. The front door entrance was enlarged during the renovations, to accommodate the sidelights. However, frame molding is identical to the original molding found elsewhere in the 1804 section. The original door swung the opposite direction. (An original hook that held the old door open remains mounted in the baseboard.) The molding, salvaged from elsewhere in the house during the 1923 renovations, has one 45° joint cut per side, and the two pieces were and joined to fit the larger, current opening. The current door, sidelights and transom light were part of the 1923 renovations. The four-panel kitchen door and hardware are a 1950s addition; but the doorframe and molding are original. The current door is 2" smaller than the original door was. The carpenter added a 2" wide shim to the hinge side to reduce the size of the opening. The frame is low and original, it being the former back entrance to the 1804 section of the home. The side entrance door and molding, located at the foot of the stairway to the second story, are a 1923 addition. This door is placed in the doorway opening to the former NE ell of the house. The front door, transom, and side lights are a 1923 addition. The landed stairwell is original and intact. Below the stringer is a wainscot of four raised panels (Photo 13), two square and two triangular. The balustrade consists of an elliptical handrail between plain newel posts, supported by molded but unturned balusters (Photos 13 and 14). From the stairwell base on the first floor, twelve steps lead to a landing, where a doorway once led to the former NE ell. The doorway was removed in 1923 and replaced by a 2/2 window. Four steps lead to Bedroom 3. In the opposite direction, six additional steps lead to the 2nd floor side hall. Minimal tread, riser and stringer damage to a few of the lower stairs is visible from the cellar stairwell, due to powder post beetles. The stringer is adorned with a carved 4-inch interwoven circular pattern (Photos 14 and 15). A coat rack is mounted on the wall, between the dining room and kitchen doors with six original brass coat hooks.

Living Room (Photos 16-20) dimensions are 17' x 13 ½'. The flooring is not original. Wall to wall carpeting was installed in 2001. Modern replacement floor beneath the carpet consists of a finished surface of narrow, tongue and groove oak slats installed over the original random width pumpkin pine plank floor. Plaster on walls covers the original plaster. Existing baseboard and chair rail are original and intact. Ceiling plaster has been renewed with a modern finish. Existing French doors are not original, dating from the mid-19th century. Materials used suggest the doors were added in the mid 1800s. The existing door to the side hall (Photo 18) is original, but the hinges and door hardware (rim lock sets with porcelain knobs) are a mid-19th-century replacement. Existing door to southwest porch and its opening were added during the 1923 renovations. All three windows, hardware and trim are original and intact. About one third of the glass lights are original. The name *Israel* is etched in one light in cursive lettering.

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Family tradition holds that the original owner personally etched the lettering. The original 6 ft brick fireplace (Photos 19 & 20) is intact. The wooden mantle is elaborately carved and gouged. The mantle columns echo the original front door entranceway to the home. The flue is sealed. A gas insert log set and period pulley were added in 2001. Original, 16 in L x 57 in H cupboards straddle both sides of the fireplace, hardware intact, and recessed into the fireplace wall. The recently rewired ceiling chandelier fixture dates from 1907-08 and is intact, save for a replacement mounting base.

Dining Room (Photos 21-23) dimensions are 17' x 12'. The floor is not original. Wall to wall carpeting was installed in 2001. Modern replacement floor beneath the carpet consists of a finished surface of narrow, tongue and groove oak slats installed over the original random width plank pumpkin pine floor. Plaster on walls covers the original plaster. Existing baseboard and chair rail are original and intact. Plaster on ceiling covers the original plaster. The door to the kitchen is a 1923 addition, with a large window of wavy glass. The existing door to the side hall is original, but the hinges and door hardware (rim lock sets with porcelain knobs) are a mid-1800s replacement. The 6/6 window to the right of the fireplace is a 1923 addition. The 9/6 window on the NW wall is original and intact. The original 6 ft brick fireplace is intact. The opening measures 42 in L x 32 in H. The wooden mantle is similar to its living room counterpart, but less elaborate in detail. The flue is sealed and the chimney capped. The original chair rail and baseboard are intact. A large pair of original cupboards (Photo 22), recessed into wall, stand to the immediate left of the fireplace. The overall size of the two cupboards is 34 in L x 82 in H. The hinges are original, but the handles appear to be wooden replacements. To the right of the fireplace, recessed into the fireplace wall, is another original cupboard. Similar to its living room counterparts, it measures 14 in L x 51 in H. The hinges are original, but the handle is absent.

Second Floor: The original plaster walls are resized but intact in all rooms of the second floor 1804 section. There is no chair rail on this floor.

The Side Hall (Photo 27) measures 8' x 19'. The original random width pine floor is 95% intact. The only portion not original is a 3' x 3' of the 2nd landing section, located between Bedroom 3 and the side hall stairs leading to Bedrooms 1 & 2. That section is tongue and groove oak, except for one original wide pine plank board, formerly a tread. The tongue and groove section is a platform butted against the tread, forming the 2nd landing. This adjustment was created during the 1923 renovations. It eliminated the necessity of a 4th tread to elevate the rise into Bedroom 3 (Photo 31). The original plaster ceiling is intact. A 6/6 window was added midway between the bathroom and attic doorway, as part of the 1923 renovations. Five steps lead to the side hall from the second of two 3' x 3' landings. This stringer is also adorned with a carved 4 inch interwoven circular pattern and a belt course (Photo 14).

Bedroom 1 (Photo 29) measures 17' x 13 1/2'. The original random width pine floor is 99% intact. A small hot air vent was added in the 1980s, in front of the closet. The original plaster ceiling is intact. It has bellied a bit in the area of the fireplace, indicating that a chimney flashing leak once existed. The ceiling is firm, however. The six-panel door, its hinges and the doorframe are original. The door hardware (rim lock sets with porcelain knobs) is a mid-1800s replacement. The set is identical to the one found in Bedroom 2,

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only this one has an added feature that Bedroom 2 lacks-- a privacy lock. Two 9/6 windows on the SE wall is original and intact. The 6/6 window to the left of the fireplace on the SW wall is a 1923 addition. The original 4'4 1/2" ft brick fireplace and mantle are intact. The opening measures 34" L x 29" H. The wooden mantle top is very elaborate. The opening frame woodwork design is very similar to the original door framing design and identical to the framing found in bedroom 2. The flue is sealed. The closet to the right of the fireplace was added during the 1930 renovations. It's six-panel door was reused from the old portion of the house, probably from a side hall entrance to the NE ell, but its hinges, the doorframe woodwork and the baseboard between it and the fireplace date from the 1923 renovation.

Bedroom 2 (Photo 30) measures 17' x 12'. The original random width pine floor is 97% intact. In 1982, some cuts were made between the closet and forced air vent. At that time, a small 18' x 24" plywood portion was used as a replacement material. The original plaster walls are intact. 4' x 8' sheetrock was applied over the original plaster ceiling. The sheets are framed out using 1' x 4' pine. The six-panel door, its hinges and the doorframe are original. The door hardware (rim lock sets with porcelain knobs) is a mid-1800s replacement. The 6/6 window to the right of the fireplace on the SW wall is a 1923 addition. The 9/6 window on the NW wall is original and intact. The name "*Katie*" engraved in an original light, etched in the wavy light in the late 1800s by Catherine Stevens, daughter of James R. and Sarah Stevens. The original 4'2" ft brick fireplace and mantle are intact. The opening measures 32" L x 29" H. The wooden mantle is very simple. The opening frame woodwork design is very similar to the original door framing design. The flue is sealed and the chimney is capped. The six panel door (30' W x 76" H) and frame are original and intact. The closet is quite shallow, measuring 39"W x 15" D. It's height is the same as floor to ceiling height-- 8' 10". The interior floor of the closet was repaired with a sheet metal strip, when the air ducts were installed.

Bathroom measures 8' x 9'. The current linoleum floor conceals the original pine floor. The original plaster ceiling is intact. The six-panel door (Photo 28), its hinges, hardware and door frame are original and intact. The 9/6 window on the SE wall is original and intact. A claw foot tub was added in the 1920s and remains intact. The other standard plumbing fixtures date from the 1980s. Originally a bedroom, the last person to inhabit it as such was Cornelia Stevens, youngest daughter of James R. and Sarah Stevens.

Attic measures 25 1/2' x 25 1/2'. The six-panel side hall entrance door, its hinges, hardware and doorframe are original and intact. The original random width pine floor is intact. On the stairwell landing, plaster covers about one third of the northeast wall. Bricks are beneath the plaster, between the posts. A crack, caused by a concealed rafter, runs the length of the plaster. It marks the old roof line of the NE ell and shows it's original pitch. The ends of a rafter from the old roof is visible where the rafter was toed in to the existing posts. However, no toe nails or joints were used. This is conclusive evidence that an NE ell did exist at some point. The NW wall along the stairwell landing only is lathe and plaster. A 6 in diameter hole was cut into the wall in the 1980s, to run Bx cable, where a few inches of the lathing is visible. The exposed lathing is rough cut and of varying thickness. The ceiling rafters are exposed, original and intact. Two round-arched 6/6 windows, centered under the end gables, were a 1923 addition.

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1923 Rear Ell Section:

This section of the home was constructed in 1923 after Frank Carr purchased the home from the Stevens family.

First Floor: Kitchen (Photos 24-26) dimensions are 15' x 11'. Modern replacement floor consists of a linoleum surface of narrow slats installed over two previous linoleum layers, a ¼ inch plywood layer and, finally, the original plank floor. The walls are 8' 10" H. The SE wall was once the rear wall of the 1804 section of the home. New plaster was applied to this wall in 1923. The three remaining walls are stud construction, covered with ¾" pine horizontal planking, followed by standard lathing and plaster. The ceiling is plastered lathing. The room has four doors total. The doors leading to the side hall and dining room were described earlier. They have molding identical to the other newer openings found in the 1804 section. Two additional doors lead to the exterior of the home: one is a tri-panel door; the other has two lower panels and a large light above. All three 1/1 windows have arched tops. Both exterior doors and all three windows have identical late Victorian molding, with rosettes at the top corners of the frames. The cabinets are simple and primitive. The material is pine with contemporary colonial style hinges and door handles. A 19"W x 17"D x 106"H corner hutch runs from floor to ceiling in one corner, abutting the heater chimney flue. Three imitation granite counter surfaces combine to run the length of the room on one side--from the sink to a window seat to the under the counter automatic dishwasher. A former owner says that a large hutch once ran from ceiling to floor where the dishwasher now stands, butting up to the rear door. This is evidenced by the a sawn-off rosette, cut flush to the right molding of the doorway to accommodate the former hutch.

Second Floor: Bedroom 3 (Photos 31 & 32) dimensions are 15' x 11'. Three treads lead up and into the room. The six-panel door dates from the 1923 renovations. This opening was probably a window prior to the renovations. The walls are 8' H, 10" less than the rest of the rooms. The tongue and groove oak slat floor is original. The SE wall was once the rear wall of the 1804 section of the home. New plaster was applied to this wall in 1923 as part of the renovation. The three remaining walls are stud construction, covered with ¾" thick pine planking, covered by standard lathing and plaster. The ceiling is plastered lathing. The six-panel closet door was reused from the old portion of the house, probably from a side hall entrance to the NE ell, but its hinges and the doorframe date from the 1923 renovation. There are three 6/6 double hung windows, one on each of the three outer walls of the room.

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Statement of Significance:

The Israel Stevens House is a very good and well-preserved example of Federal style architecture in an early 19th-century, frame farmhouse of two stories and a side-hall plan. It features spacious proportions, large windows, a fine, delicately-ornamented roof entablature and a reeded stringcourse, all well-executed elements of a carpenter-builder's interpretation of Federal/Adam style design. The house meets Criterion C for local architectural significance.

Historical Background:

The present 1/3-acre lot is all that remains of a 247-acre farm purchased by Israel's father, Thomas Stevens Sr., in the mid-1700s. The land remained in the Stevens family through most of the nineteenth century until the family began to parcel it off and subdivide. Part of the property remained in the family well into the twentieth century, and the house, itself, remained in Stevens family ownership until 1982 (see below). Israel Stevens evidently had the house built for himself and his wife about 1800, although the precise date has not been determined. The house is located in the Slackwood section of Lawrence Township (formerly Maidenhead Township), on a eight-foot rise, facing easterly and set back from the northwest side of Alternate US Highway 1. Three Stevens heads of household who lived in this home were elected township officials and ordained officers of the Maidenhead/Lawrenceville Presbyterian Church. Some members of the family were closely involved with the development of the Slackwood neighborhood in southern Lawrence Township.

Thomas Stevens, Sr. (1735-1777) purchased 200 acres of land in Maidenhead Township in April 1750, from a John Stevens who is believed to have been his brother. By 1773, he had added another 47.6 adjacent acres to the farm, by three separate transactions. The last of these purchases was a 30.6 parcel, abutting the farm of Captain John Anderson (owner of the Register-listed Anderson-Capner house). His farm bordered both the Shabakunk and Assunpink creeks, including their confluence. Upon his death, his last will and testament, written in March and proved in August 1777, stipulated that his son John would receive his homestead farm, except for the 30.6-acre piece that would pass to Israel when he turned 21 years of age (in 1785). Israel and his brother, Thomas, Jr., would also receive cash legacies from a personal estate that was appraised in September 1777 at upwards of 3700 pounds. Israel was a farmer and local political figure. From 1797 to 1828, Israel served as an elected township official in many capacities (in Maidenhead until 1816, at which point the township changed its name to Lawrence). He was at different times a committeeman, chosen freeholder, constable, and a commissioner of appeals. He also served on a committee established to manage the business of the education of the poor children of the township—forerunner of the township board of education. He married Ruth Rozell (1770-1851) [the year of the marriage is yet to be learned], but the two of them never had children.

The original construction date of the Israel Stevens' house has not been precisely determined. It is possible that the present house was not the first dwelling on the property. A historic photograph shows that an ell formerly stood attached to the northerly end of the present house, and its size and form, with an end chimney, suggests that its original use was either as a small dwelling or as a kitchen wing for the present house. It clearly functioned as a kitchen wing through the nineteenth century. It is unknown

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Israel Stevens House
Mercer Co., NJ

Section number 8 Page 2

whether this wing stood at the time of Israel's marriage to Ruth, which is plausible. It is also unclear whether this wing was built before 1804, the date local historians have focused upon as the most likely date for the construction of the present house.

In any case, the present 2½ story, 3 bay house was probably built no later than during the first decade of the 19th century. It is stylistically similar to the Register-listed Green-Reading house in Ewing Township several miles away, believed to have been constructed about 1797-98. Both are Federal-style houses with side-hall plans and similar ornamental carvings, although not so similar to suggest that they were constructed by the same builder. The difficulty, however, with relying on similar houses to seek evidence for the construction date of the Israel Stevens house is that while the number of Federal-style houses in New Jersey that have been identified is rather large (well over 100), very few of their construction dates have been determined with the precision and certainty that would make comparisons useful. An examination of the Lawrence Township architectural survey (conducted in 1986-87) failed to find any other houses that are sufficiently similar to use for dating evidence.

In November 1804, the legislature chartered the Trenton and New Brunswick Straight Turnpike Company. The turnpike pressed its right-of-way within fifty yards of the front door of the present house, driving a road—as the company's name implied—on a straight line between Trenton and New Brunswick. Although Stevens' house appears to stand with its facade parallel to the line of the turnpike, and although judging from that appearance one might conclude that the house was built after the road was installed, a sequence of turnpike first, then house, may not have been how it happened. The Register-listed Anderson-Capner house, which stands several hundred yards to the south and predates the turnpike by about forty years, has an identical orientation, facing easterly. Both stand on high ground above the Assunpink Creek, and the Stevens house could have been oriented to face the creek and to take advantage of the morning sun.

Israel and Ruth were active members of Maidenhead Church (Lawrenceville Presbyterian Church). During their early years as church members, the congregation numbered about fifty to sixty adults. Israel served the church in many capacities. In 1812 Ruth started a Sunday school whose circle later established the Slackwood Church (see below). She began that Sunday school in a local one-room schoolhouse called Oak Hill School, which stood along the turnpike road (now alternate US 1) opposite the present Texas Avenue. When a new schoolhouse called the Valley School was built soon after as a replacement, the Sunday classes were continued at the new school.

In 1818, Israel's mother died. His sister Eliza had died in 1790, and his brother John had already sold his interest in their father's farm. Thereafter in June 1818, Israel and his brother Thomas Jr., formally partitioned the farm that Thomas Stevens Sr. had accumulated before the Revolution. Thomas Jr. kept the southern portion (the half that fronted upon the Assunpink Creek), and Israel received the northern 112 acres, which evidently abutted the 30 acres he already owned. Israel thereupon farmed his 130 acres for three more decades.

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Israel Stevens House
Mercer Co., NJ

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There is some discrepancy about his death date. Maidenhead Presbyterian Church minutes note that: "Israel Stevens, one of the elders in the early years of the century, died 1849. He had ceased to act several years before his death, but he had been a faithful elder for nearly fifty years." However, according to his gravestone in the Upper Lawrenceville Cemetery, he died October 16, 1848. His three siblings had all preceded him to the grave. His widow, Ruth, died on February 3, 1851, aged 81. After Ruth's death, Israel's nephews—Israel B. Stevens and James S. Stevens—inherited the house and farm. Israel B. Stevens afterward sold his interest in the farm to his brother James S. Stevens, who then lived in present house until 1888.

James S. Stevens was the son of Israel's older brother Thomas Stevens Jr. James was born on the family homestead on March 27th, 1806. He was the sixth of eight children: five girls and three boys. His first wife, Catherine Smith, was born in June 1807. Catherine bore four children, two of whom lived to adulthood: Anna (Annie) S. Stevens, born August 9, 1840, died February 10, 1869, wife of Franklin Dye; and James Roselle Stevens, born October 6, 1843, died Oct 1919. The two other children, Caroline and Roselle, died quite young. Catherine died October 31, 1845. She never lived in the present house. James remained a widower for five years, but in October 1850 he remarried. His second wife was Sarah Smith Phares, a local widow. In 1851, when James and Sarah moved into what had been Israel Stevens' house, his daughter Annie was eleven years old and his son James Roselle was eight years old. James S. Stevens was a farmer, a member of Lawrenceville Presbyterian Church, a trustee of the church and an elected township official. He served on the township committee and was also an overseer of roads, 8th District from 1860 to 1866, inclusive. He made some minor interior changes to the house. Most notably, he added the French doors between the living room and dining room. During this period most of the original door hardware was removed from the living room, dining room, and bedroom 1 & 2 doors, replaced by non-reversible rim lock sets with white porcelain knobs on the first floor and reversible rim lock sets with brown mineral knobs on the second. The locksets on bedrooms 1 and 2 appear to be of slightly older origins than those on the first floor. The bathroom (at the time it was a bedroom) and attic door hardware were spared.

In July 1856, James S. Stevens, his siblings Cornelia, Catherine and Elizabeth, and Thomas Jr.'s widow Hannah sold the southern half of the farm, including the old farmhouse, for \$5,771.40. That southern farm then became known as the Mortimer farm. James S. remained in the Israel Stevens house on the northern half of the farm until his death on February 21, 1888. He, too, was buried in the Upper Lawrenceville Cemetery. His will was proved March 6, 1888. All his personal estate and all real estate went to his son James R. Stevens, except the bedroom furniture, which went to his daughter Annie Dye. His son, or his son's heirs, were to pay \$100 annually to Annie Dye during her lifetime.

The next owner of the Israel Stevens house was James Roselle Stevens (1843-1919), son of James S. Stevens. James R. was born 1843, on the southern farm. During the Civil War, he served in the Union army under Captain F.W. Van Kirk. His regiment was attached to the Army of the Potomac, and he was at the front in both battles of Fredericksburg, from which he escaped unharmed. He was for eight years a member of the township committee, and held the office of constable for many years. He was a Republican

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and a member of the Presbyterian Church. In 1873 he married Sarah C. Davis, and they were the parents of a son and two daughters: Thomas, who married E.J. (Emma) Green; Catherine Smith; and Cornelia Crozier. The historical photo of the Israel Stevens house included in this application depicts the four women mentioned above. Taken in the late 1890s, the photo depicts from left to right: Sarah C. Davis, her daughters Cornelia Crozier and Catherine Smith, and her daughter-in-law E. J. (Emma) Green.

Lawrence Township remained rural until the late nineteenth century. James and his family cultivated the land for general farming and dairy purposes. His son William Crozier Stevens, eventually opened Stevens' Dairy on the property. But the city of Trenton was growing in area and population, sometimes annexing land from the surrounding townships, including Lawrence, and sometimes simply spilling over into the townships, especially as trolley lines expanded outward. The oldest residential subdivision constructed in Lawrence Township was filed with the county clerk in April 1890. This neighborhood would soon become known as Slackwood. The subdivided land was situated just south of the J.R. Stevens farm. By 1899, the Slackwood community consisted of about 300, including 125 voters and 100 children. These residents contemplated whether to form a separate borough at that time (although it never happened). Many of the Slackwood citizens felt a local house of worship was needed. From the circle started by James R. Stevens' great aunt, Ruth Stevens, a Ladies Aid Society was founded in 1893. Its primary purpose was to build a church at Slackwood. On October 17, 1894, James Stevens and his wife Sarah deeded a tract from their farm for this purpose, with 75 feet of frontage along Brunswick Pike, by 200 feet deep. Volunteer labor completed the first building and it was dedicated in December 1894 for the religious use of all denominations. This was called the Slackwood Union Church or Chapel. James R. was a trustee of the Slackwood Union Chapel Association. A newspaper article published in the Sunday Advertiser on September 24, 1899 states that Frank Carr (he would become the next owner of the house) was the first presiding officer and was the current president of the chapel and James Stevens was a current trustee and the superintendent. The Sabbath school had sixty members. It remained non-denominational until April 25, 1935 when the church reorganized, affiliating with the UPC, USA. The church was then renamed the Slackwood Presbyterian Church. From 1908 until 1911, James R. also served as an elder of the Lawrenceville Presbyterian Church. He died October 15, 1919, and he, too, was buried in the Upper Lawrenceville Cemetery.

By 1922 his widow Sarah had moved in with her daughter, Mrs. Charles (Cornelia) Carr.¹ In 1923 a large part of the Thomas Stevens farm, including most of the James R Stevens tract, was sold to and developed by The Colonial Land Company. The new neighborhood (their second venture) was named Colonial Lakelands. A subsection of Slackwood, it included land all around the Israel Stevens house. However, the subdivision did not include the Israel Stevens house itself. At this point a small family cemetery on the farm was excavated and the remains were removed to a common grave in another cemetery. James' widow, Sarah, died December 3, 1936. She was buried alongside her husband. Changes to the house that

¹ The 1922 Trenton Directory lists her as Sarah C Stevens, widow of James, and living at 21 Carr Ave, in the Slackwood section. Her daughter Cornelia and Cornelia's husband Charles Carr are also listed at that address. Neither Sarah nor the late James are listed in 1920 and 1921.

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James made included the first electrical service in the house and the first modern plumbing. The oldest remaining light fixtures, in the side hall and living room, were installed around 1910. The small bedroom last occupied by Cornelia Stevens was converted into a bathroom. The present clawfoot tub in that room is the only remaining original plumbing fixture.

The next owner was Cornelia Stevens' father-in-law, Frank Carr.² In 1923 he demolished the northeast ell of the home, which had been the kitchen wing since Israel Stevens' time, while at the same time building a new addition with a new kitchen to the rear.³ They replaced the original main entry door and changed the transom above it, and they added front and side porches and windows on the north gable end where the kitchen wing had been removed. They reused some doors and trim from the Northeast ell of the old house. He covered the random width pine floors on the first floor with tongue and groove oak flooring. He added three additional windows to the southwest side-- one each in the dining room and bedrooms 1 & 2. He also added central heat--a forced air, coal-burning unit.

When Frank died in the 1940s, Cornelia (1892-1987) and her husband Charles S. Carr inherited the Israel Stevens house, bringing it once again back into the Stevens family. The Carrs, however, never lived in the house as husband and wife. Instead they lived next door in a five-bay colonial revival home, built for them on former Stevens property. Cornelia would become the last member of the Stevens family to own the home. She was quite active in the Presbyterian Church. A member of Slackwood Church, she endowed that congregation with a Christian Education Trust. They rented the house to relatives for many years. The Elmer Peters family raised three children in the home during the 1950s, then their daughter Sherry and her husband James Branson rented the home for a few years. Elmer and his wife have shared a great deal of the oral history of the home with me. They say that Cornelia is to be commended for maintaining the character and integrity of the home, both inside and out. Cornelia's permission was necessary prior to any simple change in the house, such as new wallpaper, etc. Cornelia Carr died a widow with no children of her own in 1987, age 95. Her family had sold the Israel Stevens house on March 17, 1982 for \$42,000.00 to Martin Wiasczek, to raise funds for her medical maintenance. Wiasczek replaced the coal burning heater with a modern gas forced air system and replaced the galvanized pipe plumbing, installing copper. He quickly sold the property July 20, 1982 to Michael Christian for \$53,500.00. In late August Christian placed it into the hands of realtor Janice Baykal for sale for use as professional space. It was advertised for sale late August 1982 for \$89,900.00. The property was located in a residential zone in Lawrence Township and would require a variance. Both Mrs. Baykal and the owner were advised of this. The owner withdrew the property from the market September 18, 1982 and expressed an interest in

² The 1923 Trenton Directory lists Frank Carr's address as 21 Carr Ave., a semi-detached home attached to his son Charles' home. The 1924 and 1926 directories lists Frank's address as 2111 Brunswick, renumbered 2167 Brunswick, the current number, between 1932 and 1934. In 1924, 1926 and 1931 Charles and Cornelia's address is listed as 2019 Brunswick, now known as 2155 Brunswick and listed as such in the 1935 directory. This Colonial Revival house is adjacent to The Israel Stevens House.

³ Lawrence Township building permit records do not date back to 1923. However, major renovations were done in 1922-23, after Frank Carr purchased the home. The builder signed and dated the underside of a stair tread leading to the new ell (Photo 31): C. Habel 1923.

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National Park Service**

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Continuation Sheet**

Israel Stevens House
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arranging transfer of ownership to Lawrence Historical Society if he could retain use of the second floor front bedroom for his office. The Lawrence Historical Society, however, did not purchase the home. Christian continued to live in the home for a while, but then moved to California. He leased the home to various tenants. Eventually, he elected to sell it. In August 1998, a real estate agency listed the house for sale. The house, however, did not sell, and the asking price was lowered. When still no offers were forthcoming, the asking price was reduced again in early 1999. Bill and Lauren O' Neal made an offer, which Christian accepted.

The present owners, the O'Neals, closed on the property in April 1999, purchasing the house "as is." The house had been rented out and neglected for many years. Numerous housing violations needed correction. In July 1999, the township permitted the O'Neals to occupy the home, after fire violations had been corrected. They have rehabilitated it. A condemned lean-to on the rear of the home was demolished. Storm windows and storm doors were added and the front porch was rebuilt. The heating, plumbing and electrical systems were updated. A new coat of white paint was applied to the house. On October 17, 2000, Lawrence Township's Growth and Redevelopment Committee awarded the winners of its second annual Economic Development Awards at the Lawrence Division, Mercer County Chamber of Commerce meeting. The Residential Award was given to the O'Neals for their purchase and renovation of the historic Israel Stevens House and for caring for one of Lawrence Township's historic treasures.

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Israel Stevens House
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Section number 9 Page 1

Major Bibliographic References:

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Israel Stevens House
Mercer Co., NJ

Section number 10 Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is the parcel known as Block 1504, Lot 4, of Lawrence Township, Mercer County, New Jersey (see the accompanying site map).

Boundary Justification Statement

The nominated property is the surviving portion of the historic Stevens family farm that is still associated with the house.

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Section number Photos Page 1

Photographs

**Photographs taken in February 2002 by Bill O'Neal.
Negatives in his possession.**

1. SE Elevation
2. SE Elevation: Cornice and 2nd story windows
3. SE Elevation: Beltcourse
4. South Corner
5. SW Elevation
6. West Corner
7. NW Elevation
8. North Corner
9. NE Elevation
10. East Corner
11. Side Hall First Floor: Facing front door
12. Side Hall First Floor: Facing kitchen door
13. Stairway detail: Wainscot
14. Stairway detail: Beltcourse
15. Stairway detail: Gouging
16. Living Room: SW side
17. Living Room: SE side
18. Living Room: Door to sidehall
19. Living Room: Fireplace
20. Living Room: Fireplace Column Detail
21. Dining Room: As seen from Living Room
22. Dining Room: Cupboard
23. Dining Room: Kitchen Entrance to left, sidehall to right
24. Kitchen: Facing NW side
25. Kitchen: Facing North corner
26. Kitchen: Facing sidehall and dining room
27. Side Hall Second Floor: Facing bathroom door
28. Bathroom Door: Facing sidehall
29. Bedroom 1: Facing SW Elevation
30. Bedroom 2: Facing SW Elevation
31. Bedroom 3: Facing NW side, stairs to the room.
32. Bedroom 3: Facing West Corner

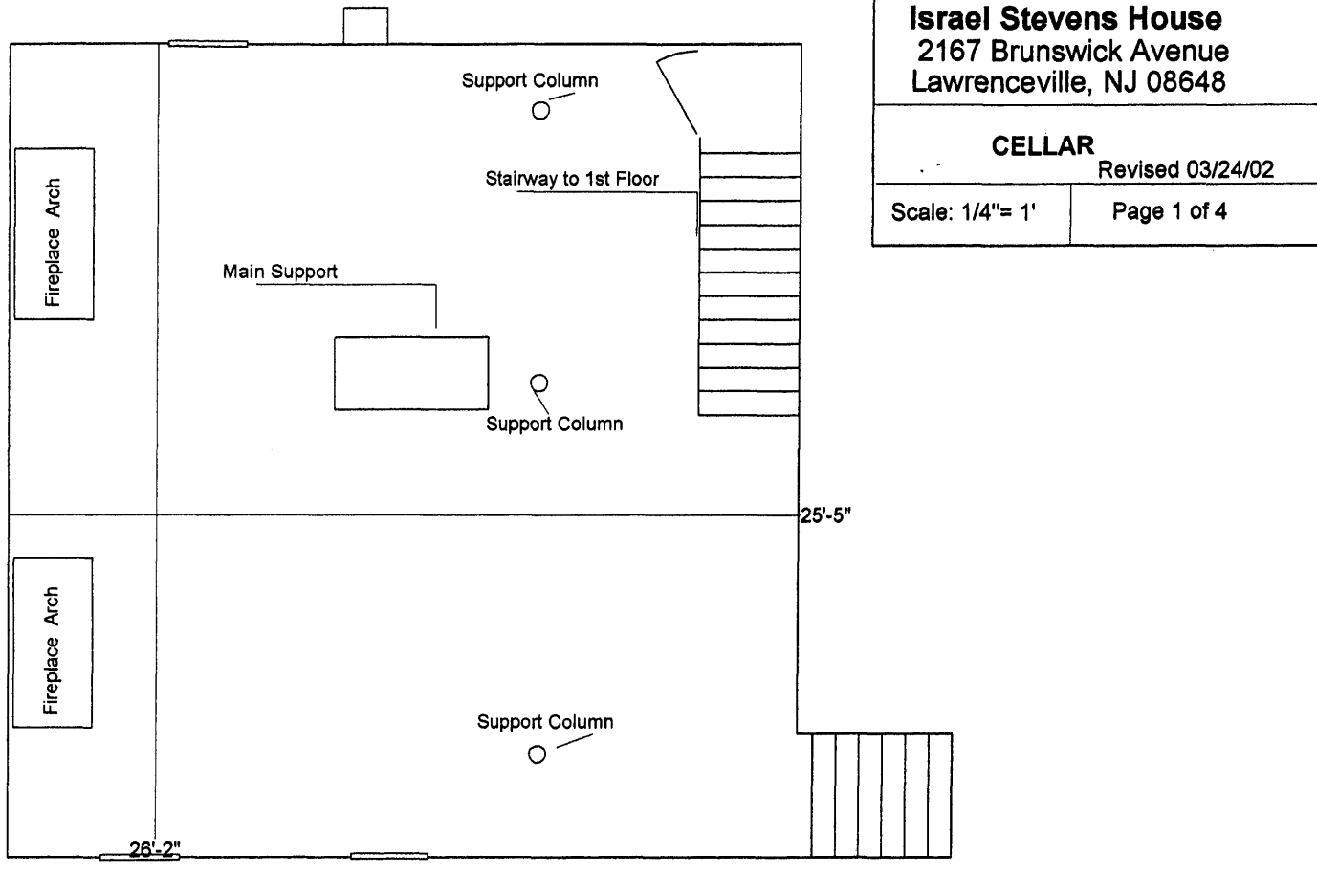
Israel Stevens House
2167 Brunswick Avenue
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

CELLAR

Revised 03/24/02

Scale: 1/4" = 1'

Page 1 of 4

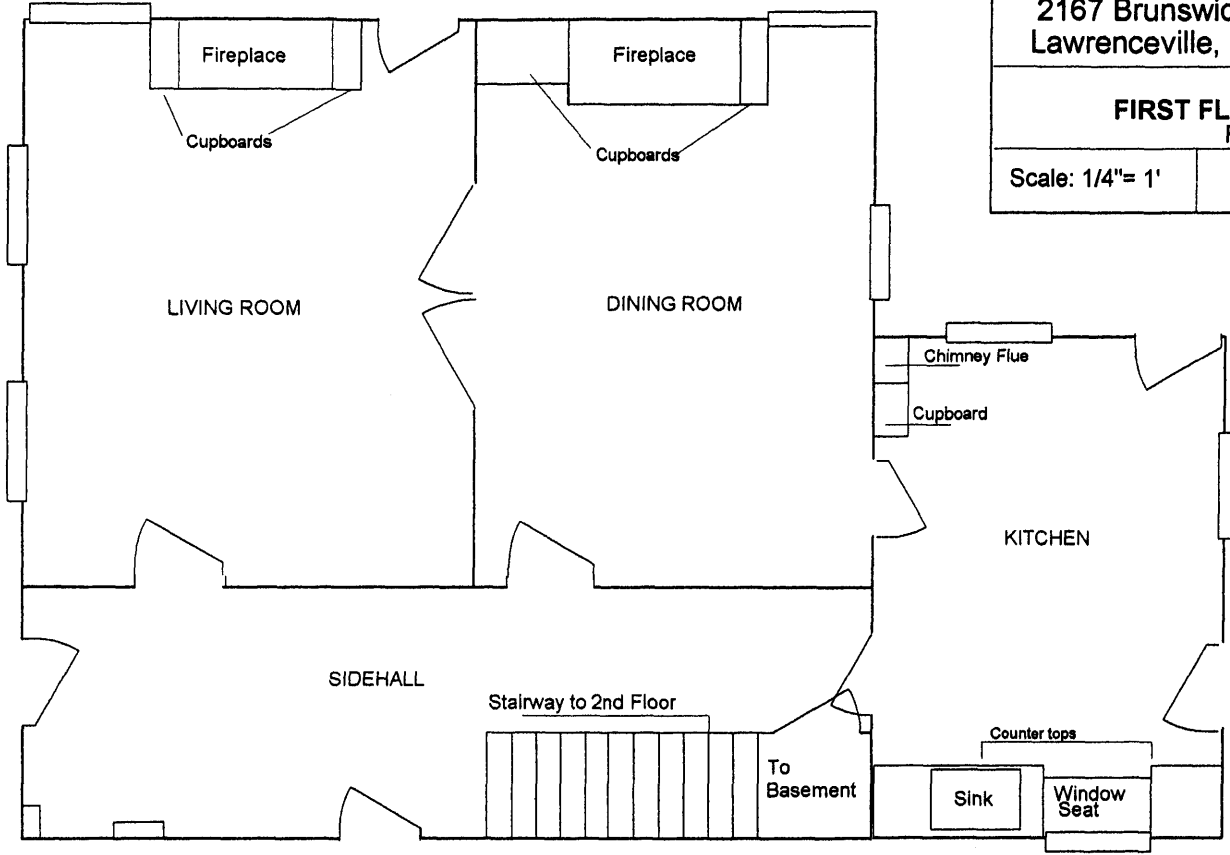


Israel Stevens House
2167 Brunswick Avenue
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

FIRST FLOOR
Revised 03/24/02

Scale: 1/4" = 1'

Page 2 of 4

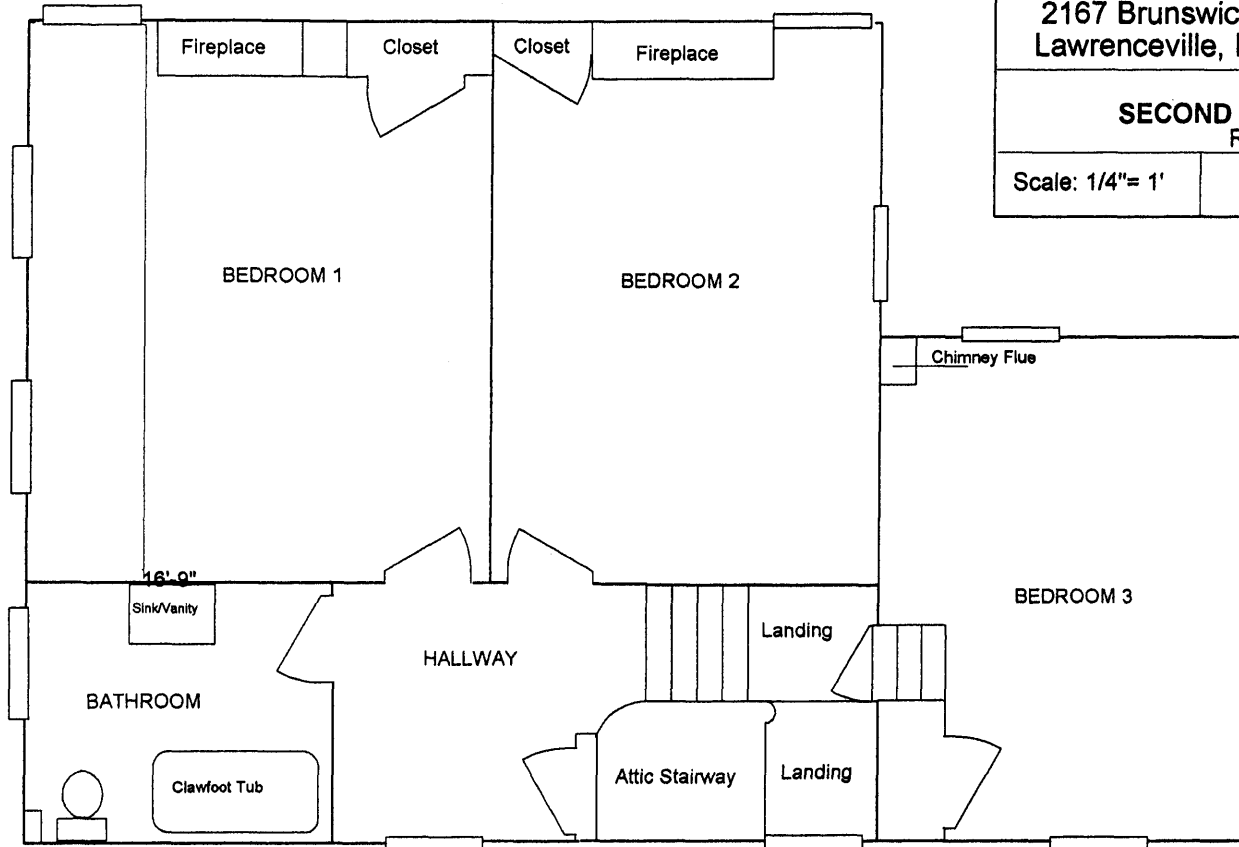


Israel Stevens House
2167 Brunswick Avenue
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

SECOND FLOOR
Revised 05/01/01

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Page 3 of 4



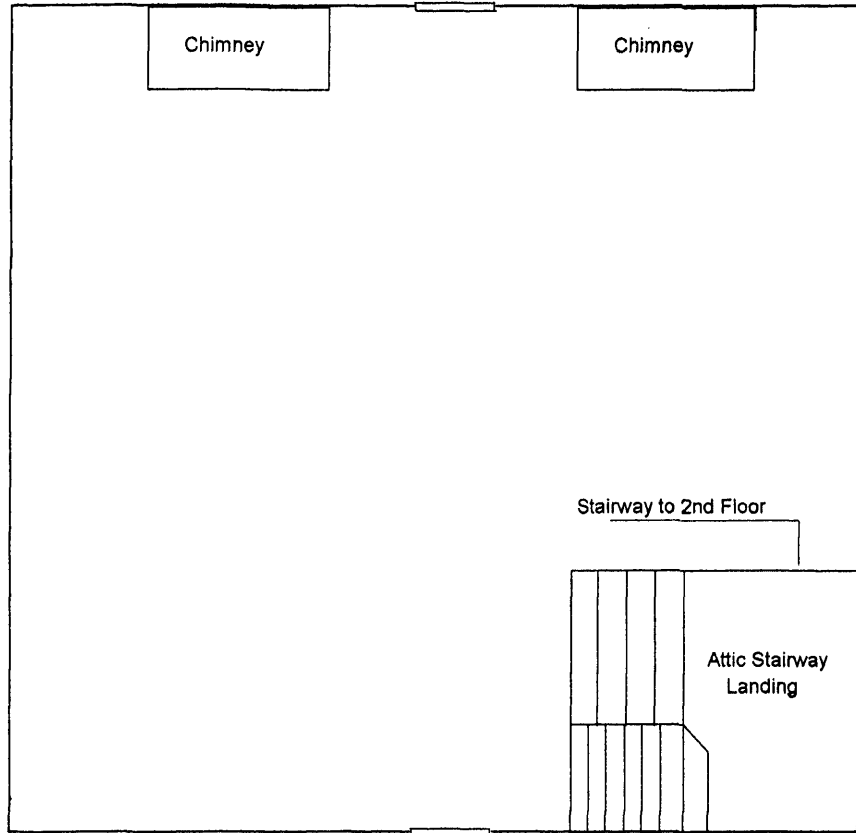
Israel Stevens House
2167 Brunswick Avenue
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

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Page 4 of 4



Israel Stevens House

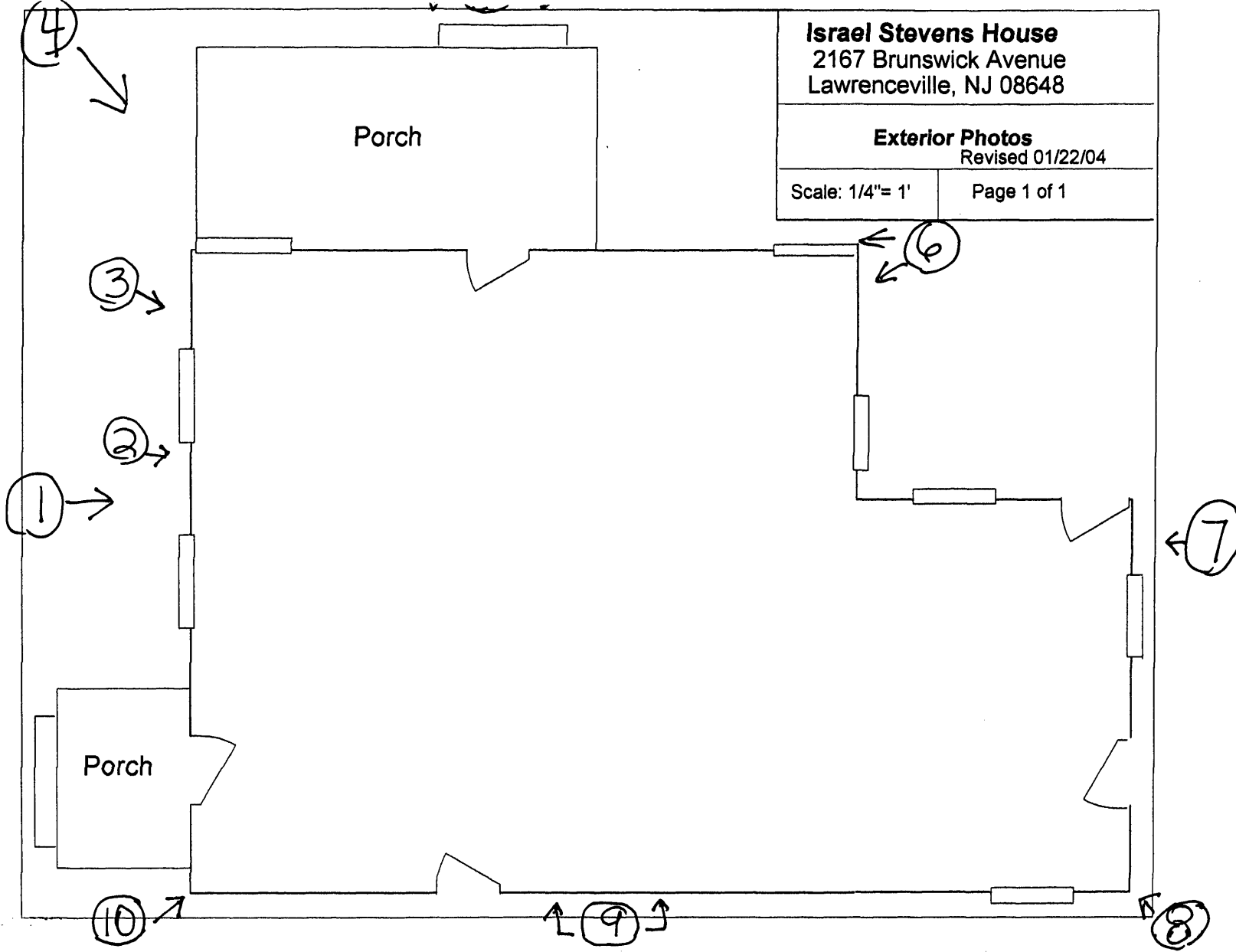
2167 Brunswick Avenue
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

Exterior Photos

Revised 01/22/04

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Page 1 of 1



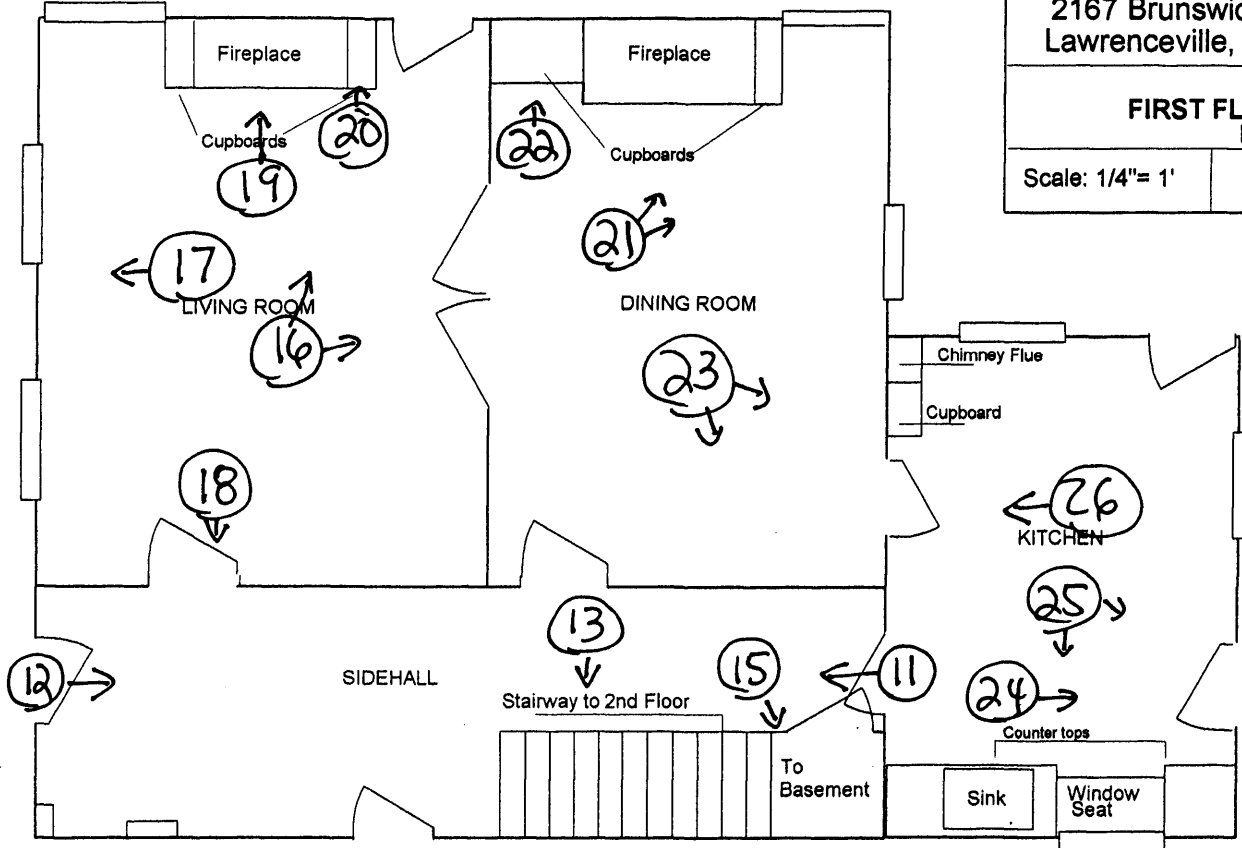
Interior Photo Key

Israel Stevens House
2167 Brunswick Avenue
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

FIRST FLOOR
Revised 03/24/02

Scale: 1/4" = 1'

Page 2 of 4



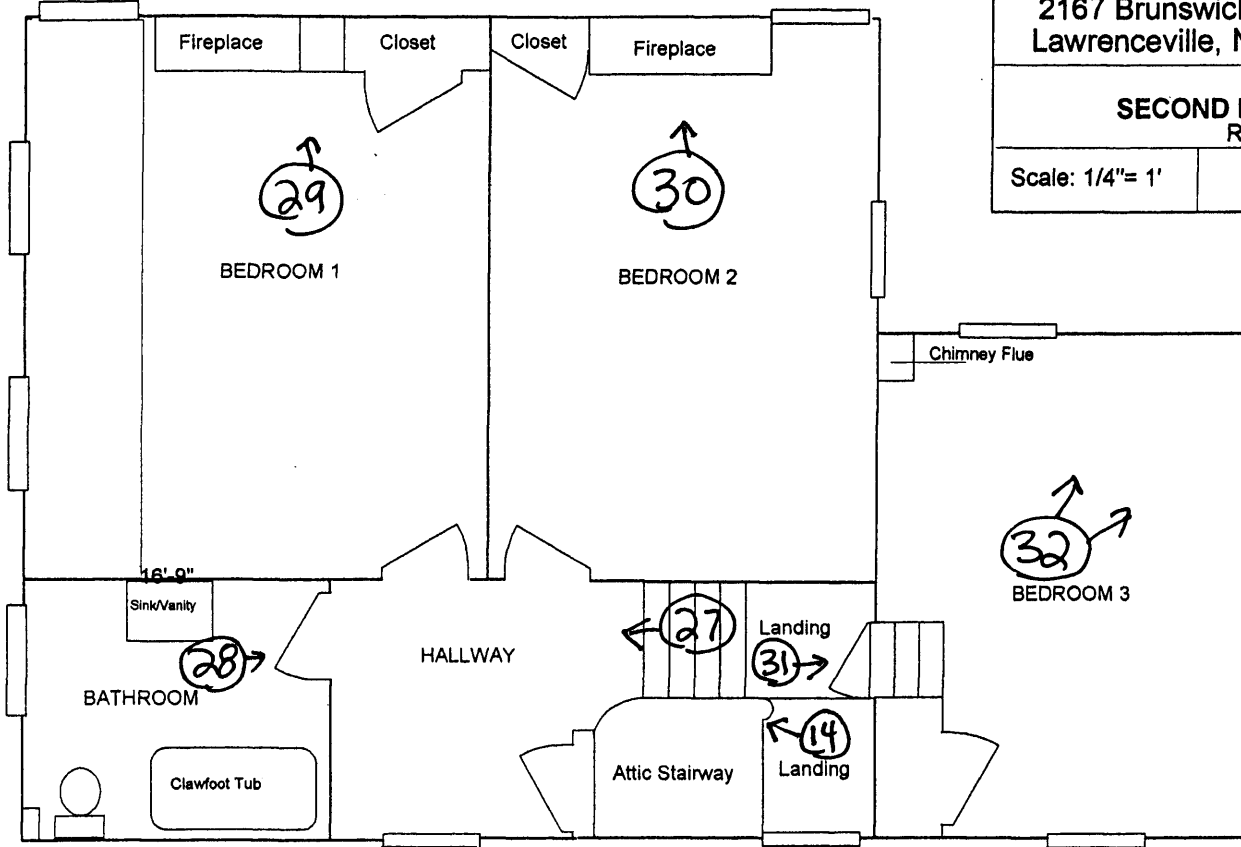
Interior Photo Key

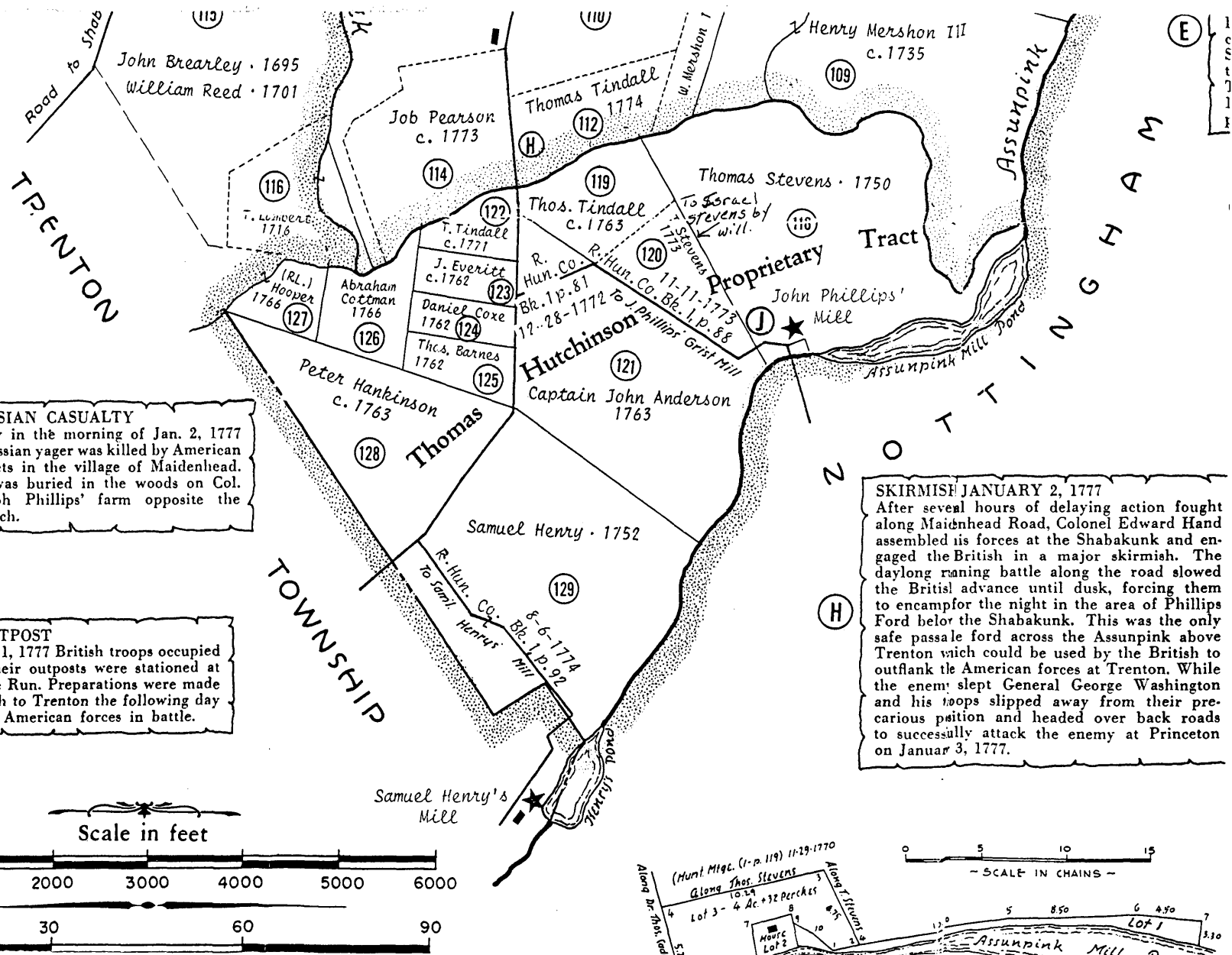
Israel Stevens House
2167 Brunswick Avenue
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

SECOND FLOOR
Revised 05/01/01

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Page 3 of 4

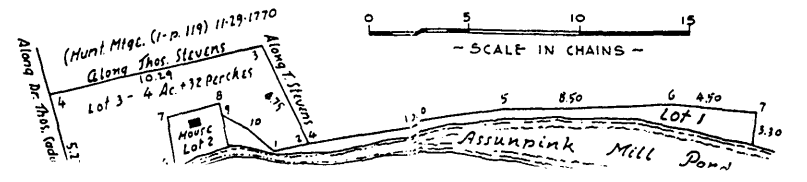
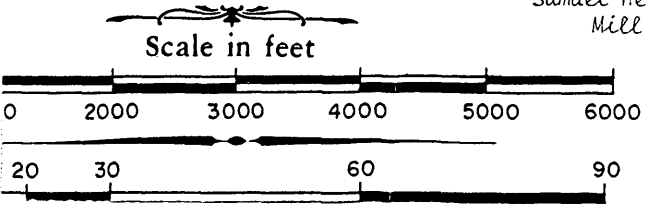




HESSIAN CASUALTY
 Early in the morning of Jan. 2, 1777 a Hessian yager was killed by American pickets in the village of Maidenhead. He was buried in the woods on Col. Joseph Phillips' farm opposite the church.

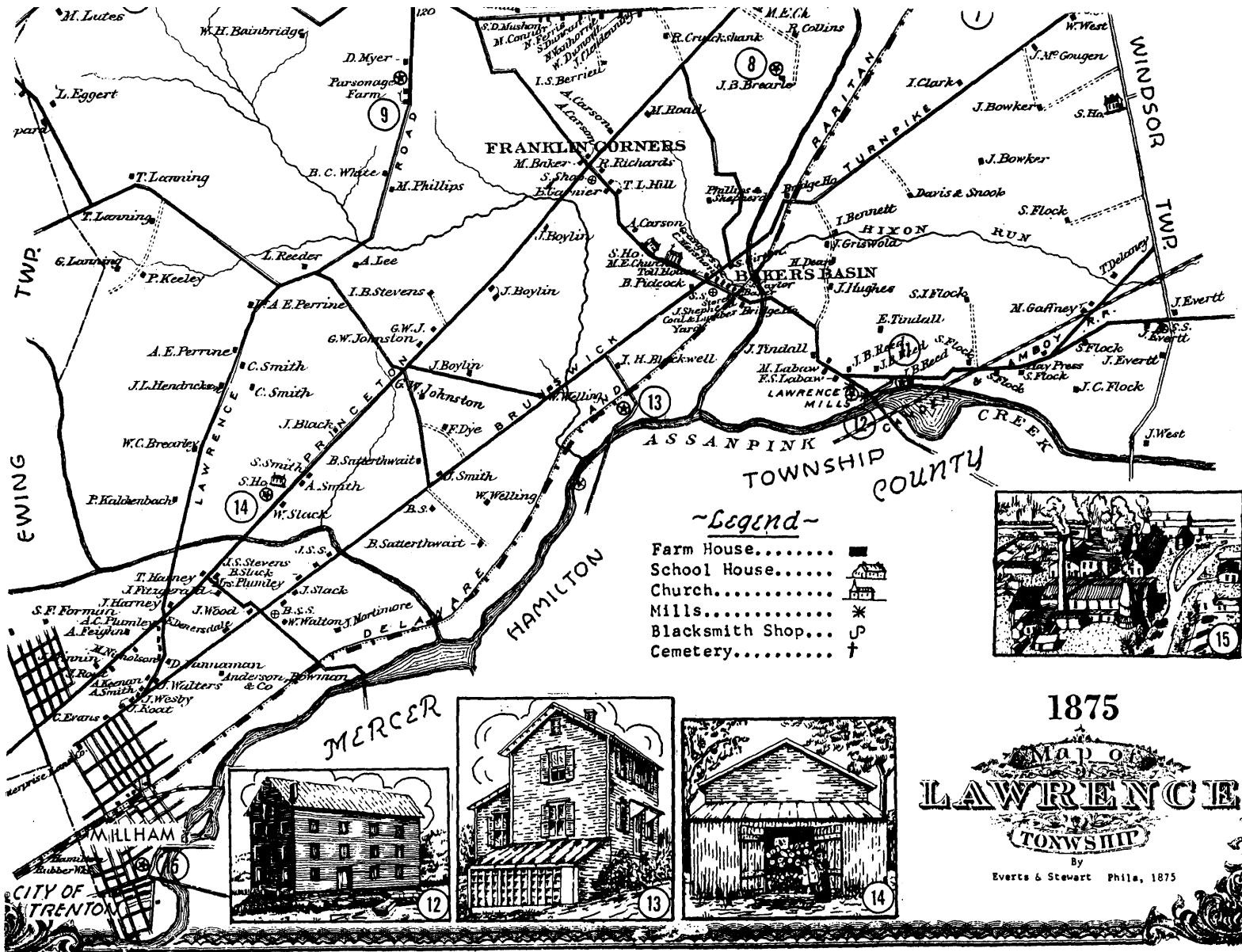
OUTPOST
 Early on Jan. 1, 1777 British troops occupied Maidenhead. Their outposts were stationed at Mile Run. Preparations were made to march to Trenton the following day but the American forces in battle.

SKIRMISH JANUARY 2, 1777
 After several hours of delaying action fought along Maidenhead Road, Colonel Edward Hand assembled his forces at the Shabakunk and engaged the British in a major skirmish. The daylong running battle along the road slowed the British advance until dusk, forcing them to encamp for the night in the area of Phillips Ford below the Shabakunk. This was the only safe passable ford across the Assumpink above Trenton which could be used by the British to outflank the American forces at Trenton. While the enemy slept General George Washington and his troops slipped away from their precarious position and headed over back roads to successfully attack the enemy at Princeton on January 3, 1777.









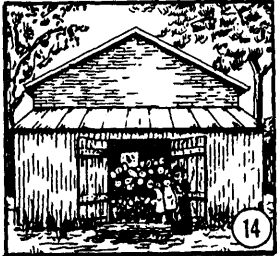
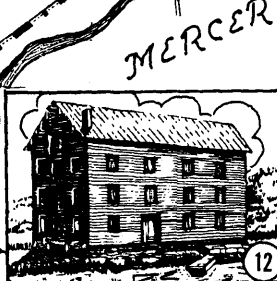


1849 Map of Mercer County
Showing Israel Stevens House belonging to
"Heirs of I. Stevens"



~Legend~

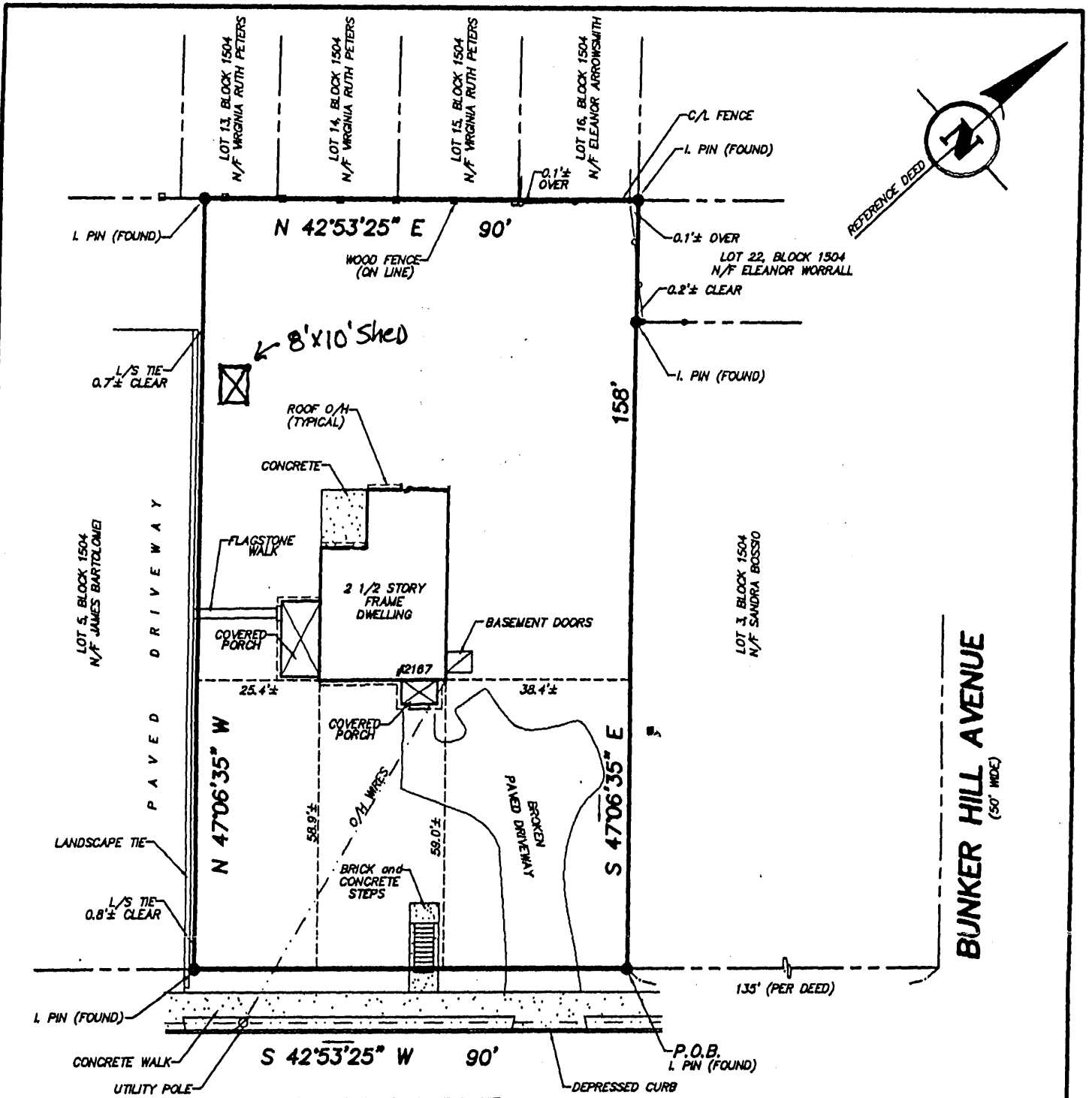
- Farm House..... 
- School House..... 
- Church..... 
- Mills..... 
- Blacksmith Shop... 
- Cemetery..... 



1875
 MAP OF
LAWRENCE
 TOWNSHIP

By Everts & Stewart Phila, 1875





BRUNSWICK PIKE
(a.k.a. ALTERNATE U.S. ROUTE 1)
(100' WIDE)

NOTE
AREA = 0.33 Ac.±

TAX MAP DATA
LOT 4
BLOCK 1504
SHEET 15

REFERENCE DEED
DEED BOOK 2192, PAGE 447

TO:
BILLY JO O'NEAL, Jr. and LAUREN O'NEAL, husband and wife ;

GENERAL ABSTRACT & TITLE AGENCY, (GL-29378) ;
TICOR TITLE INSURANCE COMPANY ;

ROBERT SWAN, ESQUIRE.

I declare that, to the best of my professional knowledge and belief, this map is the product of a field survey performed on or about the date indicated in the title block hereon, by me, or under my direct supervision, in accordance with NJAC 13:40-5.1, Land Surveyor; Preparation of Land Surveys. This map is made to provide information for the title insurer and for the mortgage holder named above. This declaration is given solely to the above named parties for this transaction only and is not transferable, except as provided herein.

This map and declaration are valid only when an original signature and embossed seal are affixed hereto.

This survey subject to any facts that may be revealed by a full and accurate title search for the property shown hereon and all adjoining properties.

FILED MAP REFERENCE

BEING KNOWN AS PART OF LOT 2 AND PART OF LOTS 388, 389, 390 AND 391 ON A MAP ENTITLED "COLONIAL LAKELANDS" FILED JUNE 28, 1923 AS MAP No. 393.

Land Title Surveys, Inc.
Land Surveying and Mapping Consultants

P.O. Box 2549, Hamilton, New Jersey
Phone (609)890-6276 • Fax (609)890-6992

394-1649??

MAP of SURVEY

prepared for

**BILLY JO O'NEAL, Jr. and
LAUREN O'NEAL, h/w**

lands situate

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP, MERCER COUNTY, N.J.

John M. Rossi
John M. Rossi
New Jersey Professional Land Surveyor No. 40609

date

4/15/99

Scale:	Date:	Drawn:	Ch'kd:	File:	Proj. No.:
1" = 30'	4/13/99	JMR	JTL	89-425	89-425