

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received SEP 30 1988
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Laing House of Plainfield Plantation

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 1707 Woodland Avenue NA not for publication

city, town Edison vicinity of

state New Jersey code 034 county Middlesex code 023

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	NA	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. J.P. Stevens, Jr. (House)/ W.R. & N.K. Barrett (Barn)

street & number 1681 Woodland Avenue c/o Burgdorff Realtors
480 Morris Avenue
Summit, NJ 07901

city, town Edison, NJ 08817 vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Middlesex County Court House

street & number John F. Kennedy Square

city, town New Brunswick state New Jersey 08903

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Middlesex County Historic Sites

title Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1978 federal state county local

depository for survey records Office of New Jersey Heritage, CN 404,

city, town Trenton state New Jersey 08625

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Laing House of Plainfield Plantation is an 18th century (ca. 1st quarter 18th/1790-1810/1946) farmhouse that stands on a knoll of the Short Hills beside the old road between Piscataway and Scotch Plains (now Woodland Avenue). Shaded on the south side (front elevation) by a gigantic copper beech more than twice the height of the house, the vernacular, Federal-style, frame house is oriented away from the road and toward a vista of sloping, open land. A U-shaped, shingled barn (center section, ca. 18th century; wings, ca. 19th and early 20th century) is located a short distance to the northeast.

The main block is a 2½ story, 5 X 2 bay (south elevation; north elevation is 4 bay), gable across house of frame construction with brick nogging. There is a 1½ story shed leanto on the east elevation. The asphalt shingled roof is steeply pitched and has clipped eaves, and there is an interior, brick chimney at each gable end. Except for the east elevation of the leanto, which is wood-shingled, the house has clapboard siding with corner boards. However, the clapboard of the south (front) elevation is wider (7" exposure) than that of the other three elevations (5½" exposure). The main block has center entrances on both the south and north elevations; that of the south elevation has a 4-light transom. Both entrances have 4-panel doors (late 18th/early 19th century). There is a hipped roof entrance porch with box posts (ca. 1900) at each entrance. Most windows have 9/6 sash with architrave surrounds (attic windows, two at each gable end, have replacement 6/6). There are paired 9/6 windows above the front entrance. Many window panes are old, wavy glass. Paneled shutters are found at first story windows; the second story windows have louvered shutters.

The 1½ story, shed leanto (ca. 18th century with 19th century alterations) faces the east. Its three-bay, front facade has a center entrance with a 6-panel Dutch door flanked by windows with 9/6 sash. Above these sash are 4-light (19th cent.) "belly windows" in the attic of the leanto. In the 1940s, the sash on the south side of the leanto were removed and replaced by a sliding glass door to a terrace, and a garage/maid's quarters addition was added to the north side of the leanto. Because the house is situated on a knoll, the garage entrance is concealed in the east side of the embankment so that it is below the grade level of the house. Older, 9/6 sash that were removed from the side of the leanto were utilized in the new addition, which also has several contemporary casement windows. At the time of the addition, a porch identical to those of the entrances to the main block was removed, and the shed roof was extended to create a full-facade porch across the leanto.

The original foundation of the house is fieldstone, with some ashlar, and was not fully excavated until the 1940s renovations, when a full basement (concrete block) was added under the main block. There is no cellar under the leanto. At that time, due to rotting and structural problems, the original,

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hand-hewn beams were replaced; however, several sections of original beams were retained in place to illustrate the original construction.

The front (south) facade of the main block indicates that the right, or eastern, three bays were the earliest section of the house. The window openings of this portion are significantly smaller than those of the left, or west, two bays (25½" X 52" as opposed to 27" X 55½"). To the east, the door and the windows are evenly spaced, whereas the space between the door and the first window to the left (west) is quite large, more than double the spacing to the east. Since the 9/6 sash are similar throughout the house, it is probable that the earlier section may have originally had smaller paned windows that were replaced when the house was enlarged in the late 18th or early 19th century.

Due to the replacement of foundation beams and joists, as well as flooring, and the lack of exposed structural detail (with the exception of outer wall in attic of leanto), interior clues to the early additions and remodelings (18th and 19th centuries) are few. In the area, other 18th century houses began as 1½ story, three bay houses that were later enlarged to 2½ story, five bay structures (Nathaniel Smith House, Berkeley Heights). It is quite possible that the Laing House was enlarged in this manner as well.

Interior

The interior of the main block consists of a center hall, with staircase, flanked by a living room and a dining room and pantry. Originally, the dining room, like the living room, extended the full depth of the house. The leanto served as kitchen. However, in the 1940s the leanto was remodeled as a den, and a new kitchen was added in the maid's quarters/garage addition. Also at that time, the rear section of the dining room was taken for utilization as a pantry. This section of the house also has an enclosed, rear staircase (19th century; see plans of house).

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- 1 Architects for the renovations of 1946 were Alden DeHart and Charles Detwiller of Plainfield. Both were known for finely designed houses in the Colonial Revival and Georgian Revival styles. Detwiller has restored several 18th century houses in the area.

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In general, the interior of the house reflects the remodeling that occurred in the late 18th/early 19th century, most notably in the federal fireplace mantel in the living room, plain hall wainscoting, slender, shaped stair balusters, and slender banister (the newel post is mid-19th century). The dining room fireplace was eliminated in the 1940s; at that time a fireplace in the leanto, opposite the dining room fireplace, was remodeled. That fireplace has an 18th century, architrave surround which may have been taken from the dining room. To the right of the den fireplace is a mid-19th century wall oven with iron door.

Throughout the house, walls and ceilings are plaster. The attic was paneled in the early 20th century. Very small sections of exposed brick nogging (early pale bricks) are visible only in the attic of the leanto.

The Barn

The barn is a 1½ story, U-shaped structure which consists of a center section main block (ca. late 18th cent.) with flanking wings (west wing, mid-19th cent.; east wing, late 19th cent.). The entire barn is covered with cedar shingles (over clapboard in center and west sections) and has a replacement, asphalt-shingled roof. The roof is surmounted by four, late 19th century cupolas; two are on the center section, and there is one on each wing.

The main block is a 1½ story, gable across structure of approximately 68' X 28'. It may have originally been shorter in length by about 20', being extended to the west at a later date. Its construction is typical of an 18th century English barn. The building is framed in bents. All beams, posts, rafters, and braces are hand-hewn and joined with dowels. Carved Roman numerals are found at the joints of major architectural members. There are diagonal braces at each bent. Rafters meet at the gable ridge; there is no ridgepole. There are massive, full-height, center entrances on each side (south and north elevations) so that wagons could be driven through. Originally there were stalls flanking the center section, but they have been removed. The loft, or upper story, was accessed by a ladder; it can be reached now by staircase from the wings. The massive, vertical board, double-leaf barn doors (late 19th cent.) have chamfered framing and bracing on the interior side, as do the Dutch doors, one of which is located to the left (west) of the barn door (south elevation) and the other, which is larger, is located west of the first in the extended portion.

The west wing is a stepped-down, 1½ story, front-gabled, mid-19th century addition. It has a large, double leaf, vertical board barn door at the gable end, with a double leaf hay door above. Side windows have 6/6 sash. The east

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wing, which is the same height as the main block, is also front gabled. It has an open carriage shed, supported by square posts, at the gable end. The rear portion is accessed on the west side by a Dutch door similar to the others.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates early 18-early 19th c **Builder/Architect** Unclear

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Laing House of Plainfield Plantation is significant because it represents the early settlement of the area by Scottish Quakers (ca. 1689) and the establishment of one of the most northerly Quaker meetings (Plainfield Meeting, ca. 1721), as well as the origin of the name "Plainfield," given to the town which grew to the north of Plainfield Plantation. From the time of its construction (ca. early 18th cent.), throughout the eighteenth century, and for part of the nineteenth century, it served as the home of the descendants of the original John Laing, who arrived at Ambo (Perth Amboy) from Scotland in 1685. It was most likely the second Laing house to be constructed on the plantation. Today, although there may be several other "Laing" houses extant, it survives as the best preserved of those built in the eighteenth century and, in its setting on open, rolling land, the Short Hills, is the most evocative of Plainfield Plantation.

Though most often associated with Philadelphia and Pennsylvania, the Quakers loom large in the history of the settlement of New Jersey and in the establishment of a tradition of tolerance and acceptance of diversity which initially encouraged colonization and later contributed to the state's vigor and growth. Although Friends' settlements were concentrated in West Jersey along the southern half of the Delaware River a few meetings were established in East Jersey north of the Raritan (Wacker, 179). One of these was the Plainfield Meeting, established by John Laing, Jr. and initially held at his house. The first meeting house for the group was erected in 1736 on land bequeathed by Laing and with £10 left by Laing for that purpose. When, shortly after the American Revolution, a new meeting house was constructed some two miles to the northwest, it carried "Plainfield," the name of Laing's farm, with it, leading to the application of that name to the community formerly known as Milltown. Thus the Laing House is linked to a religious settlement of state-wide significance and also to the local history of Plainfield. It is popularly believed that this house was indeed the home of John Laing, Jr., who originated the Plainfield Meeting. Enlarged and remodeled in the Federal style in the late eighteenth century, it has not been possible to conclusively date the house. However, the eastern section appears to date from the early eighteenth century. In any case, it was the home of John's descendants. It stands today a short distance down the road from the plaque which marks the location of the first Plainfield Meeting.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheets.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1.81

Quadrangle name Plainfield, NJ

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

118	55171810	41491231810
Zone	Easting	Northing

B

Zone	Easting	Northing			

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheets.

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

NA

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Linda B. McTeague, Preservation Planning Consultant

organization date April 29, 1987

street & number 1208 Pierpont Street telephone (201) 382-3223

city or town Rahway state New Jersey 07065

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

Deputy

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *William C. Senneker*

title Asst. Commissioner for Natural & Historic Resources date 3/23/88

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 10/27/88

William C. Senneker
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Township, Middlesex County, New JerseyEarly History of the Quakers in New Jersey

The contribution of the Quakers to New Jersey is too often overlooked. West Jersey was purchased by Quakers in 1675, and in 1682, following the death of Sir George Carteret, Quaker William Penn and eleven others purchased East Jersey from his widow, bringing in twelve more proprietors in 1683. Emigration from Scotland was promoted, and within a few years Scottish Quakers were arriving at Ambo (Perth Amboy) in Middlesex County to settle the surrounding countryside. Quaker influence in East Jersey was soon diluted by sales to non-Quakers, but the brief period of Quaker dominance had lasting effects. Early Jerseyans enjoyed liberal political concessions, many of which much later found their way into the fabric of American life: the Assembly could convene itself and could not be adjourned by fiat; it controlled taxes, roads, towns, and the militia. Most important for the Friends, an often persecuted sect, the Concessions and Agreements of 1676 proclaimed, "No person . . . shall be in any way molested, punished, disquieted, or called in question, for any difference in opinion or practice in matter of religious concernment . . . but all . . . persons may . . . freely and fully have and enjoy his and their judgments and consciences, in matters of religion . . ." (Jamison, 10).

Within the Woodbridge Meeting, of which the Laings were prominent² members, the spirit of religious freedom was championed by Friend William Webster² who, on grounds of conscience, refused to pay a tax levied by Woodbridge in 1695 for support of the Reverend Samuel Shepard. In 1700 Webster's position against the tax was upheld in court, but two years later, when New Jersey became a crown colony, the local minister again became an employee of the government. However, Webster's stand is noteworthy nonetheless. It is regarded by some as the first such conscientious objection in colonial America, presaging the crucial separation of church and state enshrined in the Constitution almost a century later. (Shotwell, 12).

Laing History

2 William Webster, who was unable to write his name, was one of the witnesses of John Laing, Jr.'s will in 1731. Later generations of Laings and Websters intermarried.

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The progenitors of the Laings of New Jersey, John Sr. and his wife Margaret, arrived at Amboy from Scotland aboard the aptly named "Caledonia" just in time for the harsh winter of 1685, when the Arthur Kill froze so solid that wagons could be driven between Amboy and Staten Island. They, like other Scots and Quakers, were probably drawn by favorable accounts of the new world penned by Friends Thomas Rudyard, Gawen Lawrie, John Barclay, and others, and were propelled from Britain by the severities visited upon Quakers there. (Gordon, 5)

In a letter dated March 20, 1686, John Barclay recounts the Laings' arrival: "When John Laing came first ashore I got him what accommodation I could, for him and his servants, but the winter coming on suddenly after his landing, he was not willing to go into the woods . . . so he takes two acre lots here in town . . . which he cleared and fenced this winter." (Proceedings of New Jersey Historical Society, 119-120.) At about the time of Laing's arrival, John Barclay, one of the proprietors, received a large tract of land bounded by the Cedar Brook to the west and within sight of the Blue Hills (Watchung Mountains) beyond. In the deed to Barclay's tract, his land was referred to as "Plainfield Plantation." (Honeyman, 370). In 1689 the Laings settled on that tract, to which Laing gained title in 1692. (Leonard, 1)

While the Laings were at Amboy, they had been the "foremost founders" of the first Quaker meeting there in August, 1686. (Clayton, 574) John Laing is mentioned by name in minutes of a monthly meeting for 1687-1688 as a contributor of 4 shillings to "Widow Bunn for nursing Widow Mill's child." (unsigned letter in Laing file, Local History Collection, NYPL) Within a few years of the Laings' moving to the Plantation, they were attending the Woodbridge meeting, which met in the home of Nathaniel Fitz Randolph until 1713, when a permanent meeting house was constructed. (Rawson, 28) The elder Laing died in 1698, but his five children, John Jr., William, Abraham, Isabel, and Christina, were to carry forward their religious patrimony, intermarrying with other Quaker families--Shotwell, Vail, Fitz Randolph, Webster--and producing numerous children. John Laing, Jr., who married Elizabeth Shotwell in 1705³ and fathered twelve children, inherited

3 Elizabeth's father, Abraham Shotwell of Elizabethtown, was an outspoken man who had some of his land confiscated because of religious and political statements. One day he met Governor Carteret on a bridge over creek and, after words over who should go first, threw Carteret into the water. (Rawson, 28)

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Plainfield Plantation. His brother William acquired land on the west side of the Cedar Brook, originally the tract of John Forbes. In addition, John Jr. and William, by the late seventeenth century, acquired additional tracts from proprietors Robert Burnet and Robert Gordon, P. Sonman, Dockwra, and others, giving the Laing family vast holdings in the area. However, William's home and plantation lay to the west of the Cedar Brook, whereas John's Plainfield Plantation lay to the east.

John Laing, Jr. and the Establishment of the Plainfield Meeting

By the early eighteenth century, a number of Quaker families, including the Laings, had settled in Elizabethtown's "Upper Countrey," in the vicinity of what was to become the City of Plainfield. "The distance being too great to the meeting-house in Woodbridge, especially during the season of bad roads, . . . at a Monthly Meeting held at Woodbridge 9th month 16th, 1721, John Laing, one of the prominent members, asked permission to hold a meeting at his home." (Evolution, 1) Approval was granted, and a "weekly meeting was begun, . . . at John Laing's." The meeting was continued in Laing's house until 1736,⁴ five years after his death, when it moved a short distance to a permanent meeting house built on land bequeathed by Laing and paid for by £10 which he left for that purpose. (Will of John Laing, 1731)

⁴ At about the time the Plainfield Meeting was being held on the Laing property, Quakers formed an important segment of New Jersey's population. For example, in 1730, 24 of the 96 (25%) organized religious congregations in the state were Quaker. While the number of Friends was smaller in northeast Jersey, in Gloucester, Burlington, and Monmouth counties, Quakers comprised between 41 and 51% of the populace as late as 1745. (Murrin, 7) In Monmouth County, Quakers controlled political life until the time of the American Revolution. Their pioneering contribution to the anti-slavery movement is of particular note. The Friends were the first organized religion to forbid members to own slaves. In practice, slave ownership among Quakers in New Jersey fell from 85% in the 1715-1735 period to 16% in the 1764-1780 period. By contrast, slave ownership in New Jersey as a whole was only reduced from 81% to 61% between those periods. (Soderlund, 21)

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On March 27, 1731 the Woodbridge Monthly Meeting gave permission for construction of a meeting house on Laing's land "that should not exceed in its dimensions twenty-four feet square, and fourteen between joyns." (Clayton, 842) This building was completed a short distance down the road (Woodland Avenue) in 1736, but until then, "the residence of the Laings was still the place appointed for service, although John, the promoter of it, was dead."⁵

For about a half-century, area Quakers convened at the meeting house built due to the generosity of John Laing. However, in 1760, a proposition had been made at the August meeting "to remove the Plainfield Meetinghouse from John Laing's" (Clayton, 301), but it was not until about 1788 that a new and larger meeting house completed on a site near the center of what was to become the City of Plainfield. After the new building was constructed, timbers from the old meeting house were used to build a horse and wagon shed behind the new meeting house. The 1790 expense account for the new building totaled "474 pounds, 7 shillings, 10 pence, excluding what stuff was got from the old Meeting House." Some of this "stuff", beams framing a doorway, can still be seen in the school wing adjoining the "new" building.⁶ (Regen, 1)

Plainfield Plantation and Later Laings

Today, there are three houses on Woodland Avenue, the old road between Piscataway and Scotch Plains, which are traceable to the descendants of the first John Laing. They are all located on the eastern side of the road, and the subject of this nomination is the second one, or the one in the middle. The one to the south at 1779 Woodland Avenue may be the earliest of the three and perhaps contains the original John Laing, Sr. house. (C. Detwiller) However, later additions which extend to the rear and incorporate a barn, plus altered fenestration and vinyl siding, have almost totally obscured its early origins. The

5 The site of this meeting house is marked by a sign opposite the Plainfield Country Club on Woodland Avenue.

6 The second Plainfield Meeting House is part of the North Avenue District, listed on the National Register in 1986.

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other, toward the north end of the road at 1663 Woodland was also once part of the plantation. Its appearance indicates that it probably postdates the other two (ca. late 18th/early 19th cent.) Together, running from south to north, the houses illustrate the growth of the Laing family and the subdivision of the plantation among descendants of the first John Laing. However, their relationship has been obscured due to the interspersal of new construction.

John Laing, III was 22 and unmarried at the time of his father's death in 1731. The elder Laing's will indicates his intent to let the plantation support his minor children until they were old enough to become apprentices and to then confer most of the farm on John III and his heirs. He instructed that parts of the plantation could be sold to provide enumerated legacies for his eleven children, and he left 157 acres, animals, and farming equipment to his second son, David. During the American Revolution the house belonged to a John Laing. (F. Detwiller, M7) However, apparently John III did not marry (Leonard, 2) and the owner, if not John III, may have been John (b. 1743), the son of John III's younger brother David. David's will supports the theory that he may have resided in his father's house, for he indicated in it that his plantation was not the 157 acres mentioned in his father's will. Since it was not, and since his brother John did not marry, David may have been living in their father's house. In that case, the owner at the time of the Revolution may have been his son John.

The important Revolutionary War Battle of the Short Hills took place a short distance from John Laing's house. General Howe marched his army to battle along the Scotch Plains road, which sent his men along today's Woodland Avenue within yards of the Laing House. (F. Detwiller, 9) The major encounter of the battle appears to have occurred about a mile northeast of the house on the high ground beside the road to Rahway (Inman Avenue), where Laing's neighbor John Whitehead was one of many local farmers to suffer British depredations: "Rails Burnt . . . 8 Acres of Rye destroyed," as well as clothing stolen. (F. Detwiller, 19)

As the years passed, the Laing family prospered. Wills of sons and grandsons of John Laing, Jr. reveal the affluence of the family. John W. Laing (b. 1817), the great-great-great-grandson of the original John, built Laing's Hotel in 1828, an imposing Greek Revival building which stood in Plainfield until 1898. (Leonard, 4) In the mid-nineteenth century, the house was owned by Isaac Laing (Map of Middlesex County, 1876), who may have been able to trace his ancestry to the first John Laing on the family trees of both parents. (Leonard, 3)

Due to the fact that several crucial deeds and wills are not to be found in either State or Middlesex County archives, and due to literally hundreds of

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divisions of the original property and acquisitions and changes in configuration of divided lots, it has been impossible to document ownership of the nominated property in a continuum. However, it is apparent that the property was owned by the Laing family from the late seventeenth century to the early nineteenth century, and then again from the mid-nineteenth century until 1906. Today, the house and its eighteenth century barn are the only significant testimony to the settlement of Plainfield Plantation and the original Quaker meeting there.

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- 7 During most of the first half of the nineteenth century the house was occupied by members of the Frazee family (Deeds and Otley and Kelly Map of Middlesex County, 1850). The relationship of that family to the Laings, if any, is not known. However, it returned to the Laing family by 1875. (Map of Middlesex County, 1876)

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Ownership of the Laing House and Plainfield Plantation

- 1686: John Barclay (Reid map; historical accounts)
- 1692: John Laing (historical accounts)
- 1698: John Laing, Jr. (historical accounts)
- 1731: John Laing, III (will of John Laing, Jr.)
- 1777: John Laing (either J. Laing, III or J. Laing, son
of David Laing, brother of J. Laing, III)
- c. 1800: James and William Laing (Stevens and Mumford deeds)
- c. 1825-1850: Frazee Family (deeds; 1850 map)
- 1852-1906: Isaac Laing (deeds; 1876 map)
- 1906-1943: Thomas J. Mumford (deed)
- 1943-1987: Mr. and Mrs. J.P. Stevens, Jr. (deed)

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Detwiller, Charles. Interview in Edison, New Jersey. April 5, 1987.

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United States Department of the Interior
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Township, Middlesex County, New Jersey

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MAPS

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WILLS

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(the second John Laing; referred to in nomination as John Laing, Jr.)

Will of David Laing (Sr.) Middlesex County PB 1768
(2d son of John Laing, Jr. and Elizabeth Shotwell)

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Township, Middlesex County, New Jersey

Will of John Laing, Middlesex County 10738 PB 1819
(1st son of David Laing, Sr. and Mary Thorn)

Will of David Laing (Jr.) Middlesex County 41062 PB 1825
(3d son of David Laing and Mary Thorn)

DEEDS⁸

Book 1256/316; April 12, 1943
Executors of Gertrude Mumford to John P. Stevens, Jr.

Will identifies the land as a parcel described in three deeds to James Laing and Isaac Laing, dated 1826, 1800, and 1796. Those deeds were not located in archives.

Book 388/306; October 5, 1906
Executors of Isaac Laing to Thomas J. Mumford

Book 77/365; April 11, 1858
William Laing to Isaac W. Laing

Book 64/91; January 17, 1852
George and Edgar Frazee to Isaac W. Laing

Book 46/397; October 6, 1847
James Laing to Isaac W. Laing

Book 39/523; April 8, 1844
Drake Fitz Randolph to Isaac Laing

Book 30/680; August 5, 1836
John Frazee to William Frazee

Book 26/435; 1833
James Laing to John Frazee

Book ; January 6, 1830

8 Deeds for nominated property and/or contiguous property.

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Township, Middlesex County, New Jersey

James and Elizabeth Laing to John Frazee

Book 21/662; 1829

Morris Frazee to John Frazee

Book 11/315; April 4, 1815

A. Moses & M. Bishop to Morris Frazee

C. 97 December 25, 1699

Robert Barclay to John and William Laing

D. 349 October 16, 1691

Robert Burnet to John Laing

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Township, Middlesex County, New Jersey

The nominated property adjacent Lot 6-A-8 and a portion of the adjacent Lot 6-A-5, both in Block 415. The boundary runs as follows:

Beginning at the northwest corner of lot 6-A-8 and running 389.71' south along Woodland Avenue to the southwest corner of the lot; then turning east and running 138.21' along the southern lot line of 6-A-8; then turning north again and running 342.81' on the common lot line between lots 6-A-8 and 6-A-5 and then continuing approximately 69' farther on the western lot line of lot 6-A-5 to the southern edge of the driveway easement; then turning east and continuing along the northern lot line of 6-A-5 at the driveway easement for approximately 199'; then turning south along the eastern lot line of 6-A-5 for approximately 99'; then turning west and running in a straight line for approximately 199'; then running along the northern lot line of lot 6-A-8 along the driveway easement to the northwest corner of that lot, or the point of beginning.

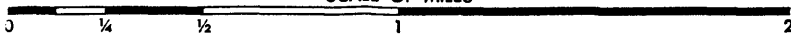
MAP OF EDISON TOWNSHIP

1985

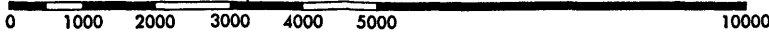
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SCALE OF MILES



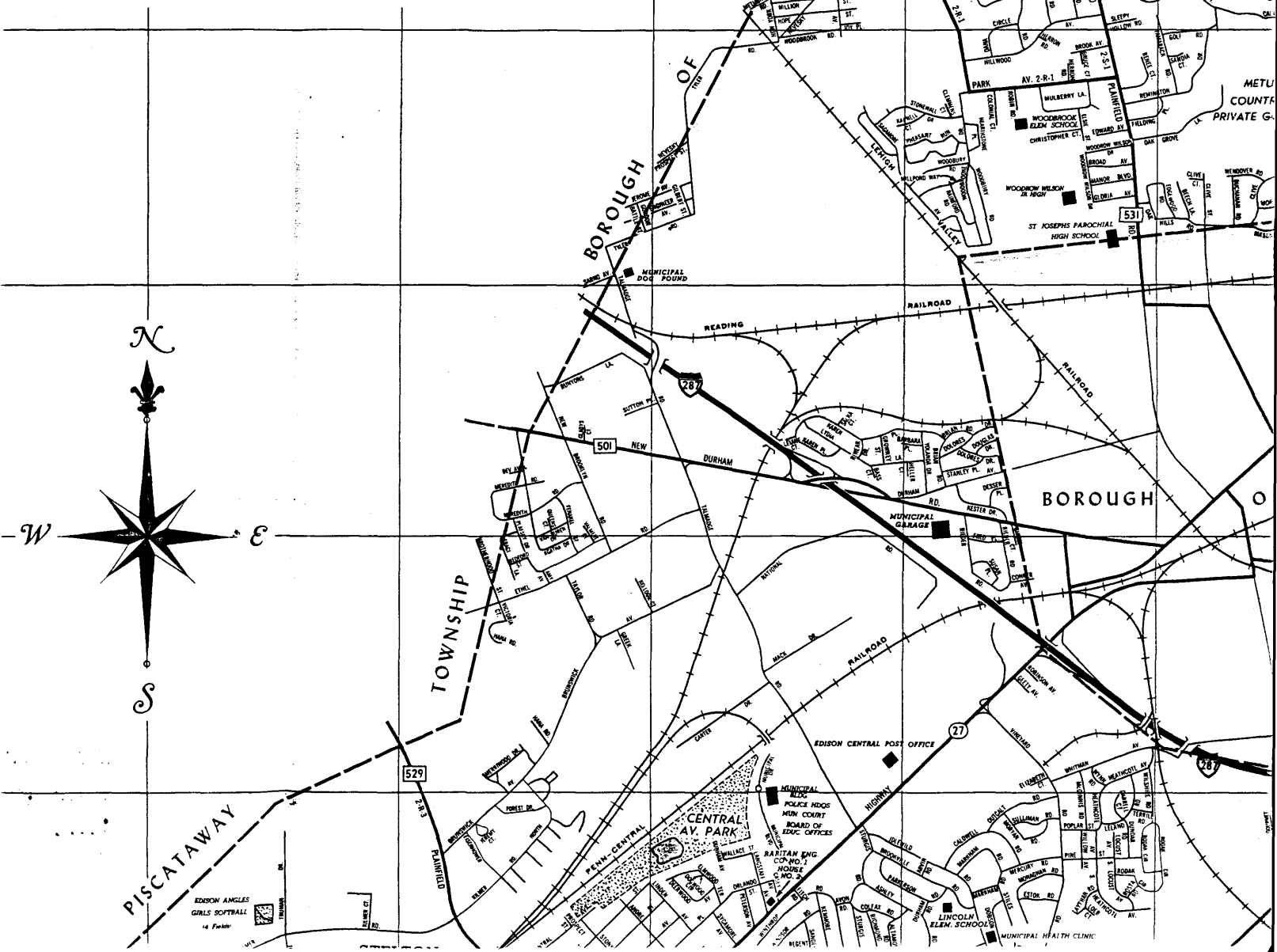
SCALE OF FEET

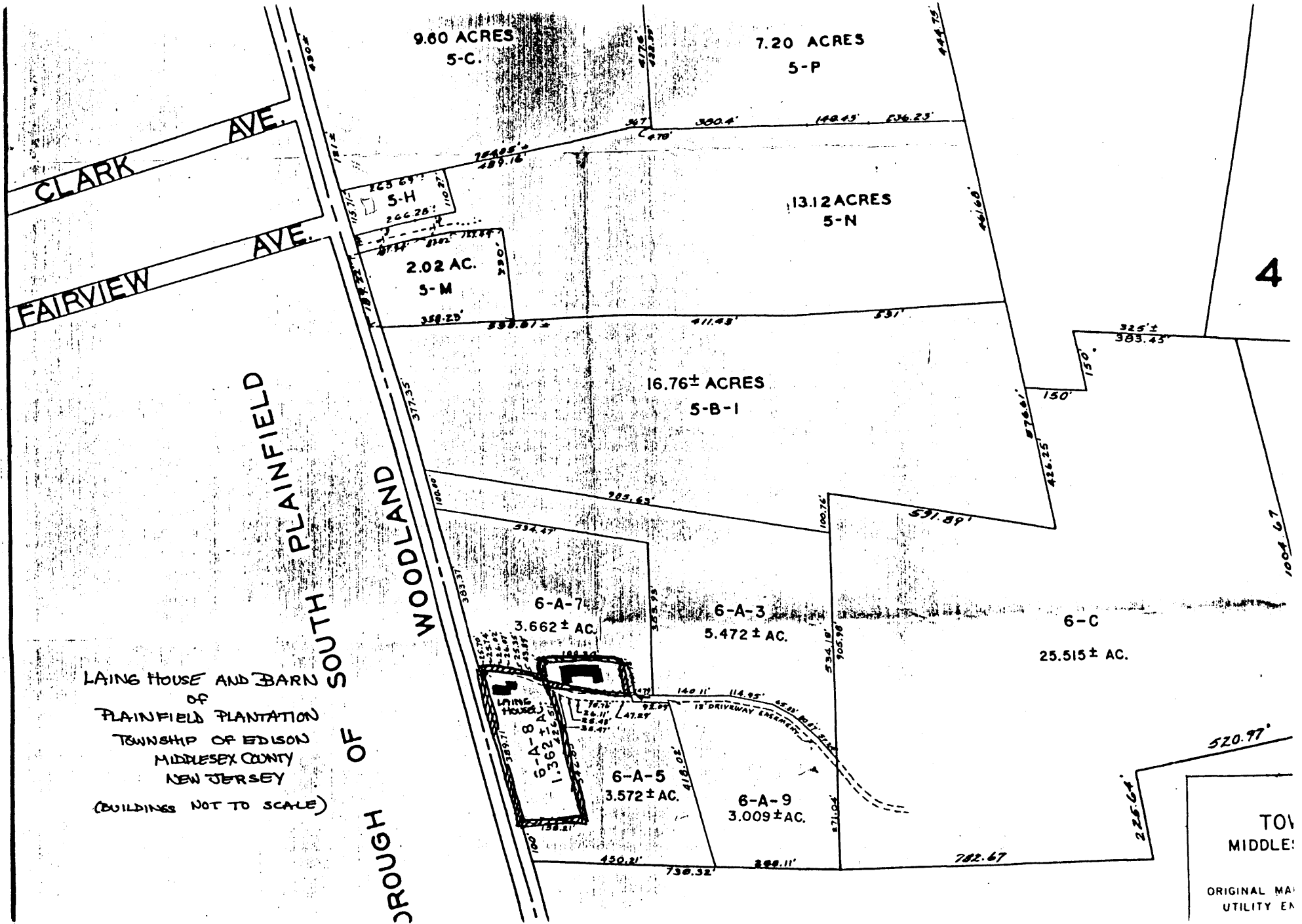


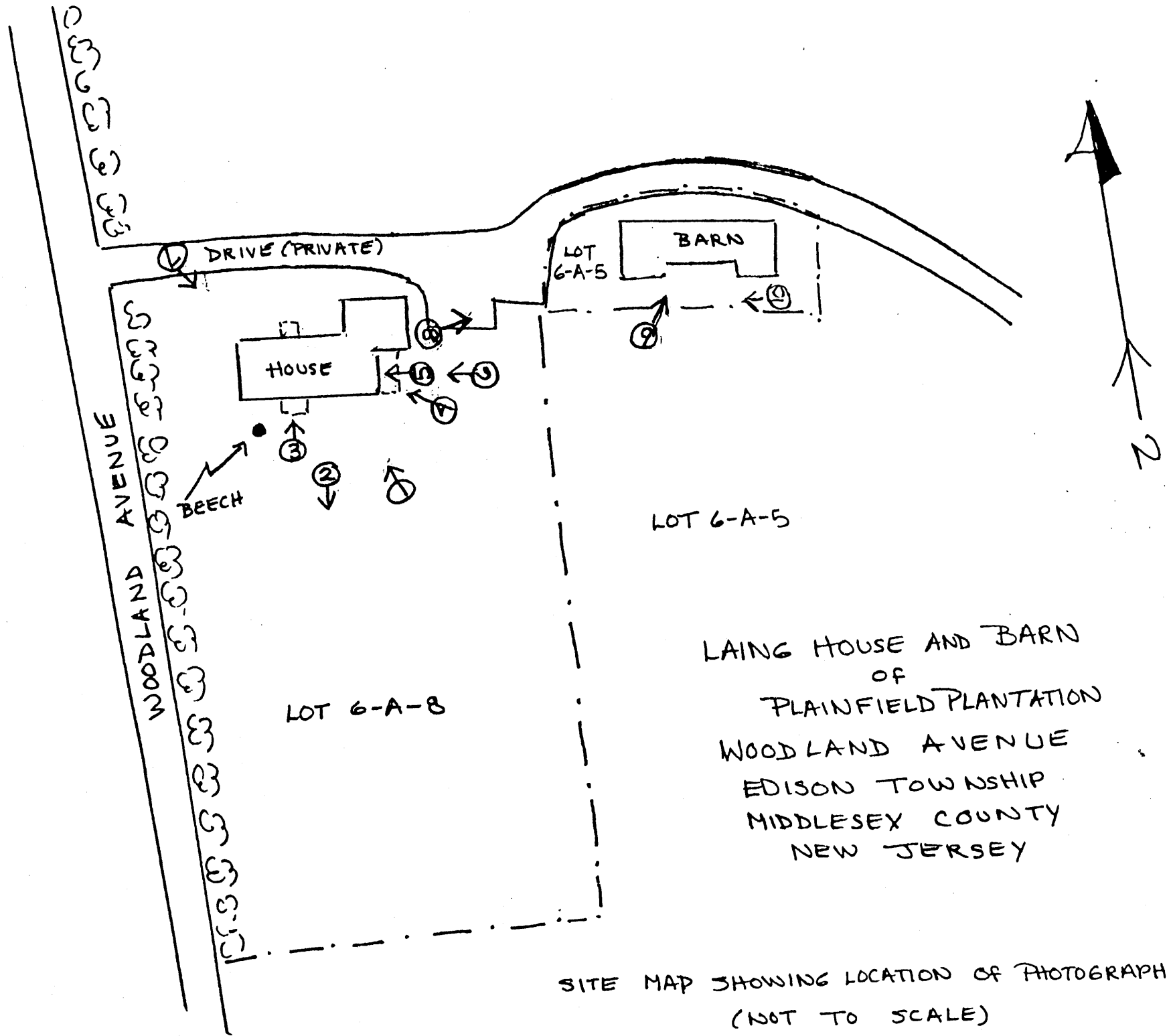
LEGEND

- Limited Access Roads
- Main Through Roads
- Other Roads
- Interstate Highway Numbers
- U. S. Highway Numbers
- State Highway Numbers
- Secondary State Highway Numbers
- County Road Numbers
- Railroads
- Bridges and Overpasses
- County Boundaries
- Town Boundaries

LAING HOUSE AND BARN
PLAINFIELD PLANTATION
EDISON
MIDDLESEX CTY
NEW JERSEY







LOT 6-A-8

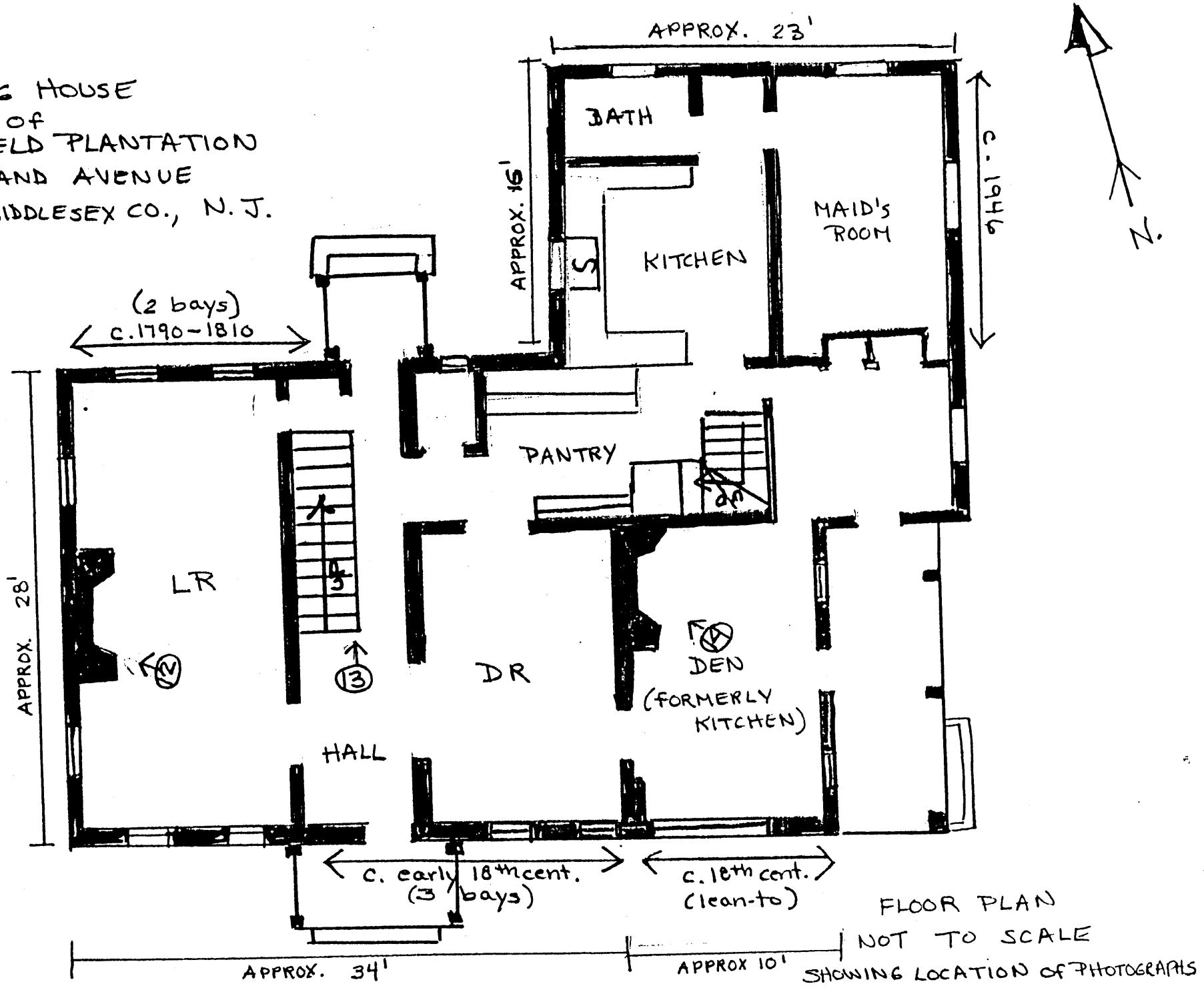
LOT 6-A-5

LOT 6-A-5

LAING HOUSE AND BARN
 OF
 PLAINFIELD PLANTATION
 WOODLAND AVENUE
 EDISON TOWNSHIP
 MIDDLESEX COUNTY
 NEW JERSEY

SITE MAP SHOWING LOCATION OF PHOTOGRAPHS
 (NOT TO SCALE)

LAING HOUSE
 of
 PLAINFIELD PLANTATION
 WOODLAND AVENUE
 DISON TWP., MIDDLESEX CO., N. J.



FLOOR PLAN
 NOT TO SCALE
 SHOWING LOCATION OF PHOTOGRAPHS