

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Kennedy House and Mill

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 306 Route 173 NA not for publication

city or town Stewartsville (Greenwich Township) vicinity

state NJ code 034 county Warren code 041 zip code 08886

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of Certifying official/Title

Date

Assistant Commissioner for Natural & Historic Resources/DSHPO
State of Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Elson R. Beal

5/16/96

Kennedy House & Mill
Name of Property

Warren Co., NJ
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
4		buildings
1		sites
1		structures
		objects
6	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
Industry, manufacturing facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic, single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Federal
Other: I-house
Other: grist mill

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone
walls stone
roof slate
other asphalt shingle

Narrative Description

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

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 N/A
(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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Politics/government

Industry

Period of Significance

c. 1778 - 1859

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Kennedy, Robert H. (1787 - 1859)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- 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:

Kenndey House & Mill
Name of Property

Warren Co., NJ
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approx. 7.81

Bloomsbury NJ Quad

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	18	490160	4501140
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2	18	490460	4500940

3	18	490300	4500760
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4	18	489980	4501000

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dennis N. Bertland/Director

organization Bertland Associates date November, 1995

street & number P. O. Box 11 telephone 908-689-6356

city or town Port Murray state NJ zip code 07865

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

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

Photographs

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

Additional items

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

Property Owner

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

name Pauline Lehr

street & number 306 Route 173 telephone 908-479-4571 (610-691-4783)

city or town Stewartsville, NJ state NJ zip code 08886

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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Kennedy House and MillSection number 7 Page I

Picturesquely sited on the north bank of the Pohatcong Creek in Greenwich Township in southern Warren County, the Kennedy House and Mill are located at the abandoned New Jersey Turnpike crossing just south of State Route 173. A mostly 19th-century assemblage of stone structures, the complex, in addition to the house and the mill, includes two small outbuildings and the abutments of a bridge erected in 1838. A bypassed segment of the old road leading to the bridge now serves as the property's driveway. Park like grounds surrounding the house slope off sharply southwards to the creek whose steep banks are heavily wooded as is the rest of the property except for the small level field to the west of the house. The complex is surrounded by a gently rolling landscape of fields and woods with scattered dwellings. To the north across Route 173 is the Greenwich Presbyterian Church with its expansive grounds and cemetery.

House

The principal element of the complex is the large, well-preserved house, a 2-story, gable-roofed structure consisting of a main block and two wings. Facing east, the five-bay, single-pile main block has a center-hall plan and interior gable-end chimneys. It exhibits notable Georgian/Federal style detailing and can be dated to c. 1815-25 based on physical and documentary evidence. To the south is a lower and narrower, two-bay, one-room-plan wing with gable-end chimney which appears to be contemporary with the main block. At the rear of the main block is a two-bay, one-room-plan wing, also with gable-end chimney, which evidently is the oldest portion of the house and may date to the 18th-century. While retaining much early fabric, the house was renovated in the 1920s, and some features date to that period or more recent work. (photo #s 1 -3)

All three sections of the house are of coursed rubble stone construction (a mix of limestone and gneiss) incorporating roughly squared corner quoins. While much of the stonework has been re-pointed in this century with portland cement, areas of early, if not original, pointing survive on the side and rear elevations. Early parging remains on the second-story rear wall of the south wing. Lintel treatments distinguishable from the stonework span only the main block's first-story windows. The two rear windows feature crude, keystone lintels of Georgian style derivation which are typical of the region's late 18th/early 19th century masonry construction. The lintels of the front windows, surprisingly sim-

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pler (one would expect the more elaborate treatment to be on the dwelling's principal elevation), consist of one or two flat stones. (photo #s 1 - 3)

The front of the main block exhibits a symmetrical fenestration pattern composed of 9/6 sash windows with timber sills and narrow frames edged with a Torus molding. These narrow surrounds differ from those of the dwelling's other windows and might have been reworked, although there is little to suggest any alteration except for the unusually wide mortar joints between the frames and lintels and that the sills (which may be 20th-century fabric) extend several inches beyond the jambs on each side. More typical of the area's early architecture are the timber frames of the main block's four rear windows which are of mortise and tenon construction with exposed pegs and have the Roman ovolo outer molding characteristic of 18th and early 19th century work. The north side of the main block is blank except for two four-light gable windows with similar ovolo-molded, pegged-timber frames; two identical windows light the south gable. Modern storm/screen windows have been installed on most openings. (photo #s 1 - 3)

The dwelling's most impressive exterior feature is the main block's central entry, a combination of Georgian form with Federal detailing comprised of a recessed, fanlighted doorway and pedimented, columned surround. Attached Roman Doric columns flank the opening, surmounted by entablature-like projections which support the bottom-broken segmental pediment. Delicately carved, dentil-like moldings ornament the pediment and entablatures, and gouge-carved rosettes decorate the friezes of the latter. The recessed entry has a wide marble sill; the dressed granite step and the matching blocks which serve as plinths for the attached columns may be later replacements. The entry reveals are lined with raised panels matching those of the eight-panel door except for the two lower door panels which are plain (the raised panel fields face inside, a detail occasionally found on early 19th-century exterior doors in the region). The door retains a round brass knob which turns a large iron rim lock mounted inside. The fanlight, separated from the door by a molded transom bar, has a gouge-carved hub and lead swag and scroll ornament. The main block's rear entry also is recessed, but much more modestly detailed. It has a simple architrave surround and an eight-panel door whose recessed panels, edged with a small molding, match those lining the reveals. The wooden storm door is modern. (photo # 4)

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While the slate of the main block's roof is probably an early 20th-century installation, the two brick chimney stacks with stepped water tables and corbelled drip caps appear to be 19th-century fabric, although the covers are modern. The large box cornice at the front eaves features a robust crown molding and a miter-ended architrave bed molding whose upper portion repeats the dentil-like motif of the entry. The box cornice on the rear is similar, but lacks the bed molding. Both gables have flush eaves with bead-edged rake boards. (photo #s 1 - 3)

The front elevation of the south wing has two, 6/6 sash, second-story windows and one, 9/6 sash window below, all three with architrave trim (the outer molding with an ovolo/cavetto profile) and heavy timber sills. The upper windows feature louvered shutters hung on strap hinges. The south gable is blank except for a 9/6 sash first-story window with architrave trim and timber sill and a six-light cellar window. On the rear elevation is one 6/6 sash second-story window featuring a timber frame with ovolo outer molding and paneled shutters hung on strap hinges. The shutters, although apparently early fabric, probably are a 20th-century installation, since paneled shutters typically were employed at first-story, not second-story windows. The multi-pane casement window below is a mid-20th-century alteration. (photo #s 1 & 3)

The south wing's front entry retains architrave outer trim matching that of the adjoining window, but the glass-and-panel door and the plain reveal boards are 20th-century fabric. They probably date to the 1920s renovations, as does the simple Colonial Revival front porch with square posts, cast-iron spandrel brackets, and slate-paved floor deck. The wing's cellar is partially above grade on the south end, and the cellar entrance has a gabled hatch, no doubt also of 20th-century provenance, with bead-board siding and a six-panel door which appears to have been recycled. (photo #3)

The wing also has a slate roof and brick chimney stack with stepped water table and corbelled drip cap. There are box cornices at the front and rear eaves, but only the former has a small bed molding with mitered ends. The gable eaves are flush.

That the rear wing was built before the main block is evident in the stonework at the junction of the two sections. Its southern orientation is typical of the region's early architecture, as are features like the windows. The one first-story and two second-story windows on both the south and north sides of the wing have

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heavy timber frames of mortise and tenon construction with exposed pegs and a Roman ovolo outer molding. The south entry features architrave outer trim and a six-panel door, backed with bead-edged vertical boards, whose recessed panels are outlined with a small ovolo molding. The iron lift latch appears to a Colonial Revival embellishment. It may have been installed during the 1920s renovations when the shed-roofed porch on the south side of the wing was built. The enclosed porch has a concrete floor deck, vertical siding, and multi-pane casement windows. The wing's north entry evidently was blocked up around the same time. The box cornices with robust corona molding at the wing's south and north roof eaves appear to be early fabric. The windowless west gable wall has flush eaves; a patched area of masonry below may represent a removed exterior bake oven. (photo #s 2 & 3)

While also subject to 20th-century renovations, the interior of the house preserves its original floor plan and much of its original character. Among the surviving features are tongue and groove flooring, plaster walls and ceilings, fireplaces and mantels, panel doors with early hardware, molded woodwork, and the main staircase. Modern alterations, for the most part, have been confined to the two wings. . (photo #s 5 - 13)

The first story of the main block has a central stair hall which extends the full depth of the house and is flanked on each side by one large room with fireplace. The hallway features 4" wide flooring, molded chair rail and baseboard, and a paneled wainscot whose recessed panels are outlined with a small ovolo molding. The delicate molding profiles of the woodwork are characteristic of the Federal style, as are the symmetrically molded door surrounds which incorporate corner rosettes with a pin wheel motif. The eight-panel doors hung on butt hinges feature recess panels on both sides outlined with a small ogee molding and retain mortise locks with small brass knobs. The open staircase, which consists of long lower and short upper runs broken by a landing, has square spindles and molded railing which terminate in a "rat tail" curved lower newel post. The railing is reflected above the wainscot on the stairwell wall, visually supported by split, vase-turned newel posts. The string board has a reeded band and a scroll bracket under each step. (photo #s 5 & 6)

The living room to the north of the hall, the dwelling's principal room, has 6" wide floor boards and molded baseboard, chair rail, and door and window trim matching that of the hallway.

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The windows feature paneled reveals which extend to the floor and incorporate folding shutters. The Rumford-type fireplace with splayed jambs and sloping rear wall is distinguished by a marble surround and cast iron lining with Adamesque fluted ovals and reeded bands. The elaborate mantel, an outstanding work of craftsmanship and exuberant Adamesque design, consists of a small symmetrical molding with corner rosettes around the fireplace opening, pairs of attenuated vase-turned flanking colonettes, a tripartite frieze with gouged-carved ornament including fluted rosettes, fans, and ovals (motifs which in the raised central block are superimposed upon each other in a remarkably complex design), and cornice with reeded chevron banding and dentil-like molding resembling that of the front entry and cornice. (photo #s 7 & 8)

The south or dining room resembles the north room except for doors flanking the fireplace (the one to the left serving a closet and the other providing access to the south wing; a third door in the west wall leads to the rear wing) and more simply detailed mantel and door and window trim. The mantel has attached columns, but lacks any gouge carving or reeding. The symmetrically molded door trim features simple "bull's eye" corner blocks. (photo #9)

The main block's second-story floor plan mirrors that of the first floor, except for a small chamber, subsequently converted into a bathroom, which occupies the front of the hall. The hall has architrave door trim; the two bedrooms have symmetrically molded door and window trim like that of the rooms below. The six-panel doors have raised fields with cavetto/ovolo outer moldings and small ovolo inner moldings. They are hung on butt hinges and have small iron rim locks with brass knobs. The window reveals do not extend to the floor, but are fitted with paneled shutters. The architrave-like chair rails continue across the window openings as sills. The baseboards have simple top moldings. The two fireplaces feature plastered openings and identical mantels with symmetrically molded pilaster strips, plain friezes, and simply molded cornices. Closets built into the corner of both rooms are mid-20th-century features. (photo #s 12 & 13)

The south wing's first-story room, now serving as the kitchen, must have had another function originally based on the evidence of its small brick fireplace. The Rumford type fireplace has angled jambs, sloping rear wall, and flat lintel of brick headers supported by an iron band. Its mantel incorporates a stepped architrave surround, large molded cornice with mitered ends, and plain frieze

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with ogee-curved ends. The enclosed staircase on the south wall provides access to both the cellar and the room above. Its two six-panel doors feature flush, bead-edged panels and cast iron Norfolk latches of early 19th-century type. Architrave molding was employed for the door surrounds, and the windows have plastered reveals. The tongue and groove, pine paneling is a mid-20th century alteration as are the linoleum floor and exposed-beam ceiling. (photo #10)

The rear wing's first-story room, the original kitchen, is dominated by a large, timber-linteled cooking fireplace whose opening extended about three quarters of the width of the west end of the room. Patching of the stonework outside suggests that the fireplace first had an exterior bake oven accessed through an opening at the south end of the rear wall. Sometime later, probably in the second quarter of the 19th century, it was replaced by the brick bake oven which occupies the south half of the fireplace, extending slightly beyond the lintel. At the same time the north jamb was extended in brick. Opening into the fireplace, the bake oven retains an iron door with strap hinges and "rat tail" lift latch, to the rear of which is an iron swing crane. The bracketed mantel shelf probably is early fabric along with the room's architrave door trim with Roman ovolo outer molding, the simply molded chair rail and beaded baseboard. Twentieth-century alterations include the open staircase on the east wall (probably a reworking of an earlier staircase) the pine floor, and the ceiling's decorative "exposed beams." (photo #11)

The upper floors of both wings were extensively reworked in the 1920s remodeling, as well as subsequent renovations, and retain little early fabric. In the middle of the century, the south wing's second-story room was converted into a bath/dressing room with built-in closets.

Site features and grounds

Sloping southward toward the Pohatcong Creek, the grounds around the house are informally landscaped with a variety of mature trees and shrubs. A stone-paved pathway leads from the front door to the driveway, and a second pathway broken by short flights of steps descends the terraced lawn to the south to the outbuildings. A split rail fence delineates the rear lawn from the field to the west. Site features are discussed in more detail below.

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Kennedy House and MillSection number 7 Page 71. Smoke house

One of two small outbuildings at the edge of the terraced lawn south of the house, the stone smoke house is of coursed rubble construction incorporating a mix of limestone and gneiss. It has an east gable-end entry with pegged mortise and tenon frame and batten door hung on strap hinges, a smoke slit in the west gable, and a slate roof with overhanging eaves, probably a 20th-century replacement. The smoke house, probably of early/mid 19th-century date, is a contributing resource. (photo # 17)

2. Wagon house/garage

Just south of the smoke house is a stone, 1 and 1/2-story outbuilding with frame gables which was built as a wagon house sometime during the middle of the 19th century or perhaps earlier. The full-width opening on the stone east gable end, which an old photograph indicates was fitted with batten doors, is now obscured by a frame, 1-bay garage of mid 20th-century date. The frame lean-to on the south side of the wagon house evidently is a 19th-century addition and was converted into a stable in the middle of this century. The masonry walls of the wagon house are constructed of coursed rubble stone, a mix of limestone and gneiss, largely repointed with portland cement. There are two small 4-light windows with plank frames on the north side. The loft entry, reached by flight of wooden steps, has a batten door with 4-light inset. This fabric evidently is of 20th-century provenance as are the tin roof with exposed rafter ends and the bead-board siding. (photo #s 15 & 16)

The walls inside the stone portion incorporate two small niches, probably used to set lanterns, and the ghost of a loft staircase can be seen on the west wall. The wagon house/stable is a contributing resource.

3. Grist mill

Located on the north bank of the creek beyond the other outbuildings, the grist mill is a 2 1/2-story, gable-roofed structure whose ground floor is only fully above grade on the south and west sides. Its small size and features such as the arched inscription tablet set in the east gable and the heavy timber door and window frames make a construction date no later than the early 1800s likely. In poor condition by the 1920s, the mill underwent exten-

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sive repairs in the middle of this century, including the reconstruction of the roof and portions of the interior floor framing. (photo #s 18 -20)

Mostly limestone but incorporating some gneiss, the walls are rubble stone with large, roughly squared corner quoins. Although the stone work has been partially repointed with portland cement, much early pointing survives especially on the west and south elevations. The window and door openings lack lintels distinguishable from the walls. Round arches of cut stone voussoirs, however, span the inscription tablet and the portal, now blocked up, on the south wall for the drive shaft of the original undershot water wheel. The building has flush eaves, an asphalt-shingle roof, and a stone-stacked chimney in the northeast corner.

The east gable end, the mill's principal elevation, has an irregular, three-bay fenestration with central entries on the first and attic stories above which at the gable peak is a hoist with wooden roller protected by a gable hood. The upper entry and the two flanking windows retain early timber frames of mortise and tenon construction with exposed pegs, and the door frame features an integral bead molding around its inner edge, a detail characteristic of the region's early architecture. The upper entry's batten door hung on strap hinges and the six-light sash of the flanking windows appear to be later replacements, and the timber frames, multi-pane sashes, and batten doors of the mill's other doors and windows are a mix of 19th and 20th-century fabric. (photo #s 18 & 19)

The arched inscription tablet set between the gable hoist and loft entry has a parged surface on which the construction date of the mill and perhaps the initials of its builder or first owner no doubt were painted. Unfortunately, no trace of the original inscription or any subsequent repainting has survived.

The interior of the building similarly presents a mix of early and modern fabric. The floor frames, portions of which were extensively rebuilt, are constructed of both hewn and saw cut timber, and many of the members used in the reconstruction evidently were recycled from other old frame buildings. The ground story has a dirt floor and unplastered stone walls. Heavy timber work in the southeast corner near the water wheel drive shaft portal for the water wheel is the only surviving element of the mill works. It evidently was part of the supporting frame for the mills stone,

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perhaps the two stones outside leaning against the wall of the building. Concrete piers were installed in this century to support the three large summer beams of the first floor frame. The first story and the loft above have roughly plastered walls and window reveals. The fireplace in the northeast corner is supported by a corbelled base and has a flat lintel of cut stone voussoirs. The northern third of the floor is a concrete slab; the southern two thirds consists of random width, tongue and groove flooring. The loft floor is framed with large summer beams and smaller joists. The easternmost summer beam and some of the joists to its east appear to be early fabric; most of the other members appear to be replacements. A portion of the loft floor has been removed creating a mezzanine effect. Despite such changes and the loss of its works, the mill can be considered as a contributing resource. (photo #s 20 - 21)

4. Mill race.

The dry raceway which parallels the south side of the mill must have provided water to what must have been an undershot wheel whose location is indicated by the drive shaft portal on the mill's south wall. The raceway consists of a short head race which starts above a sharp bend in the creek just downstream from the bridge abutments and a much longer tail race which discharged into the creek about one hundred yards below the mill. The mouth of the raceway has been blocked off from the creek by a concrete head wall. A short stone retaining wall runs along the bank of the creek between the north bridge abutment and the mouth of the raceway. It may have formed part of a mill dam, although no other evidence of any impoundment is discernible. The raceway is a contributing resource.

5. Bridge abutments

The abutments on either side of the creek are of rubble stone construction and incorporate low parapets. On the inside face of the north abutment's west wall is set a marble stone with the carved inscription "Kennedyville Bridge A. D. 1838." The bridge erected at that time, which might have been stone arched, was replaced by an iron truss bridge sometime later in the 19th century. The stone abutments of the 1838 bridge evidently were retained for the truss bridge. The truss bridge, in turn, was abandoned and removed upon the construction of Route 173 in 1918. The abutments are a contributing resource. (photo #22)

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Kennedy House and Mill
Warren County, NJ

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Significant Person

Kennedy, Robert (1773 - 1812)

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An assemblage of early stone buildings clustered along the Pohatcong Creek in southern Warren County, the Kennedy House and Mill are significant under Criteria B and C. The property has long been associated with the Kennedy family, for several generations among the most prominent in the area, most notably with Robert Kennedy (1733-1812) and his son Robert H. Kennedy (1787-1859) who exemplify the landed proprietors who played important roles in the economic, social, and political life of the rural region during the late 18th/early 19th century period. The elder Kennedy, a Revolutionary War patriot, amassed large landholdings encompassing mills and quarries, as well as extensive farmlands, which he developed and passed on to his heirs. The younger Kennedy, while successfully managing the large property inherited from his father, pursued a political career holding various elective and appointive, local and state offices. The house and mill, well-preserved stone structures of late 18th/early 19th century date which retain notable early fabric, also possess significance as documents of the region's early domestic and industrial architecture.

The Kennedy House and Mill are representative of the vernacular building practices and types popular in the region during the late 18th and early 19th centuries.¹ With its stacked gable-end entries and overhanging hoist, the mill is a good example of the small mills that once proliferated around the region. Despite the loss of its equipment and other interior changes, it remains perhaps the best preserved of four similar small stone mills on the lower Pohatcong Creek in Warren County.² The arched plaque set in the front gable, of particular note although its painted inscription has not survived, is a distinctive feature only occasionally found on early masonry buildings of the area. The rear wing of the house with its single first-floor room dominated by a large cooking fireplace is a good example of the smallest, simplest form of the traditional I-type adopted for modest dwellings throughout the region at an early date. The main block with its symmetrical facade and single-pile center-hall plan similarly exemplifies the Georgian version of the I-type popular with people of means in the area during the first half of the 19th century. The main block is particularly distinguished by such outstanding decorative features as the front entry, which combines Georgian form with Federal detailing, and the parlor fireplace mantel, a exuberant interpretation of Adamesque motifs. Expressive of its owners' prosperity and awareness of high style fashions, the main block, when built, must have been one of the neighborhood's most impressive dwellings.

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While the chain-of-title for the site of the house and mill can be traced back without break only to Robert Kennedy's 1810 will, it clearly formed part of the 1,111-acre tract on the north-western New Jersey frontier surveyed for Philadelphia resident John Cook in 1715 by right of a warrant from the West Jersey Council of Proprietors.³ The property, which extended from the Musconetcong River to beyond the Pohatcong Creek, passed by inheritance to Cook's only son and heir Arthur, who also lived in Pennsylvania, and then to the latter's only daughter and heir Hannah.⁴ Sometime after her father's death Hannah married William Henry, and in 1742, the Henrys conveyed a 500-acre "plantation....the westerly or low-ermost part" of the Cook tract to Elizabeth, Arthur Cook's widow, and her husband Adam Hall.⁵ The Henrys kept the remainder except for a 127-acre lot lying northwest of the Pohatcong sold to Alexander White in 1750, by which time they apparently were living in Greenwich Township, the municipality in which the Cook tract was located.⁶

William Henry died in 1756, bequeathing the Greenwich Township property to his wife and six children, and in the following year his widow executed a deed of trust for it and two other tracts for the benefit of their children.⁷ In 1770, a court-ordered division of this real estate was made for the four surviving children one of whom, Elizabeth, had married Robert Kennedy, a Bucks County native of Scotch-Irish descent, in 1764.⁸ While Kennedy acquired title to a large portion of the Cook/Henry landholdings by right of his wife's inheritance and by purchase from the other heirs as well as other individuals to whom portions had been sold, exactly how or when he became the owner of the mill property remains unknown.⁹ Faulty survey descriptions and unrecorded deeds make tracing its history difficult. A 1786 deed reference to "Kennedy's mill lot," however, establishes his ownership by that year and suggests that it may have been part of the 500-acre Hall plantation.¹⁰

The mill evidently had been operating for some years previously, perhaps as early as 1764. Hills' 1781 map of New Jersey identifies the site as "Severns," and a 1772 survey for a nearby road makes reference to "Samuel Severns mill," as does a 1764 deed for property in the vicinity.¹¹ Samuel Severns, however, does not appear on the 1774 Greenwich Township tax ratables list, the only early one surviving for the municipality, nor has any deed been found linking him to ownership of the property which suggests that he rented it. According to an account of the property in an 1870 letter written by Robert Kennedy's grandson, Henry R. Kennedy:

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At this place is the Flouring Mill of Col. West (mentioned in one of the enclosed papers) subsequently transferred to Robert Kennedy, and whence the American army obtained much flour and feed. The old house attached to this property (and which yet remains) was the homestead of the notorious Sam. Severns; who was hanged as a traitor. After the purchase by my grandfather, the refugees and tories attacked the old house, and in one of their shootings killed a dog at my grandmother's feet, but the defence was so determined as to compel their retreat.¹²

While such vivid family traditions, no doubt, have some basis in fact, no corroborating evidence has been found regarding the fate of Samuel Severns or substantiating ownership of the property by a "Col. West."

That Robert Kennedy was active in the American cause, however, can be documented. Revolutionary War records establish that he served as a wagonmaster in 1778 and 1780 in charge of a brigade of five teams.¹³ A letter from Thomas Anderson, Clerk of the Sussex County Committee of Public Safety, to Moore Furman, Deputy Quartermaster General, dated July 7, 1780, commented that

Mr. Kennedy I believe to be a good man and wishes to continue in the service (he was with West) but thinks with others he can't afford it for the wages. Wish you may have it in your power to give him encouragement. He would wish to be employed to draw forage from Pittstown to Hackettstown.¹⁴

The West referred to in this letter probably was Col. Jacob West of the First Sussex Regiment and most likely the Colonel West mentioned by Henry R. Kennedy, especially since the papers enclosed with Kennedy's letter evidently were "Quartermaster's orders for forage dating from 1777, 1778, and 1780."¹⁵

Clearly possessed of entrepreneurial ability, Robert Kennedy's landed interests encompassed the development of mill and quarry properties, in addition to the management of extensive agricultural holdings. According to family history, he was "concerned in the erection of mills, buying sites, putting up mills, and then leasing the same."¹⁶ Besides over 2,000 acres of tenanted farmland and

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extensive woodland tracts, the property described in his 1810 will included slate and stone quarries as well as the Greenwich mill lot.¹⁷ That he did not operate the mill himself, at least in the mid 1790s, is established by a 1794 road survey which mentions "the grist mill now occupied by Adam Runkle near Greenwich Meeting House."¹⁸ Although the present stone mill may have been extant before Kennedy acquired the property (as is implied by his grandson's 1870 letter), if that is not the case, it probably was built by him to replace the earlier structure on the site.

There is other evidence of Robert Kennedy's economic and social standing. Upon the construction of the nearby Presbyterian church in 1775, he was one of only three individuals to install a pew for his own use, the rest of the congregation using benches.¹⁹ His death on April 13, 1812 was noticed by the Trenton newspaper which described him as a "kind father, loving husband, and an affectionate friend [who had] ever been a firm supporter of the rights and liberties of the people" and went on to note that his interment in the Presbyterian burial ground was attended "by a large concourse of his friends and acquaintances."²⁰ The inventory of personal property made shortly after his death totaled almost \$8,800, a sizable amount for early 19th-century Sussex County (of which Warren was then part), and included such indications of wealth and elite life style as a carriage, mahogany furniture, brass andirons, mirrors, books, a clock (presumably a tall case clock) worth \$50 and a "set of silver and china tea ware" valued at \$210.67. He also owned four slaves and considerable livestock: horses, cattle, sheep, hogs, and sixty geese.²¹

The house occupied by Robert Kennedy at his death, which the inventory indicates was a two-story structure with front and back rooms, presumably was the "mansion house" reserved by him for his widow's use and probably the "old house" referred to in Henry R. Kennedy's 1870 letter.²² The 1914 survey map for what is now Route 173 depicts an "old stone house" at the northeast corner of the intersection of the old and new roads with the penciled note "to be demolished."²³ A newspaper article of around the same time concerning the demolition of the "old Kennedy Homestead" related that it was one of the oldest houses in the area (a coin dated 1731 was discovered under one of its windows) and the home of Robert Kennedy, "brigade wagonmaster" during the Revolutionary War.²⁴ The rear wing of the present house, a small structure overlooking the mill much too small to be the dwelling described in the inventory, probably served as the miller's residence.

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Robert Henry Kennedy, Robert Kennedy's only surviving son, inherited a larger portion of his father's estate than the other heirs (his five sisters and a niece) including the 27-acre mill lot, several adjoining tracts, and other parcels, comprising nearly 1,000 acres, as well as two slaves, livestock, farming equipment, and household goods. The bequest was subject to his maintaining his widowed mother in the "mansion house," and, as one of three executors, he had the responsibility of settling his father's estate.²⁵ In 1813, the year after his father's demise, the twenty-six year old heir married Miriam Kay, a union which produced at least seven children over the course of about ten years.²⁶ With his mother ensconced in the "mansion house" (perhaps with dependant relatives such as his unmarried sister, Keturah), and his own family to provide for, it seems likely that Robert Henry undertook the enlargement of the small house by the mill as his residence sometime during this period, a date which coincides with the physical evidence of the main block's construction.

Like his father, Robert H. Kennedy was a prominent and respected citizen. According to family history

No man in his locality was more looked up to and admired than he, and besides filling every official position in his own neighborhood he was chosen to fill higher offices and was four terms in the state legislature. He was appointed an aide of Governor Pennington.²⁷

Kennedy was twice a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in 1830 and 1835 and represented Greenwich Township on the Warren County Board of Chosen Freeholders from 1832 to 1839 and in 1851. Between 1837 and 1840, he served four terms on the Governor's Council, the upper chamber of the New Jersey legislature.²⁸ It was during his tenure as Freeholder in 1835 that the bridge whose stone abutments survive today was erected across the Pohatcong near the mill, and in the same year he was a member of the building committee overseeing the replacement of the old Greenwich Presbyterian Church, donating stone for the new church as well as making a "liberal cash contribution."²⁹

Robert H. Kennedy also appears to have successfully managed his large property and business interests. He evidently was directly involved in operating the grist mill. The 1850 census gives his occupation as miller and the value of his real estate as

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\$40,000, one of the highest property valuations for any Greenwich Township resident in that year.³⁰ According to the 1850 industrial census, the grist mill with a capital investment of \$5,000 utilized two pairs of stones and employed two male workers to produce 1,500 bushels of "toll grain" worth \$900, the largest production of Greenwich Township's seven grist mills.³¹ Active until the end of his life, he died on January 29, 1859 at age seventy-two from drowning while

attempting to stop a break in a mill dam on his property which had given way. By the upsetting of a wagon Mr. K[ennedy] was thrown into the water, and before any assistance could reach him, was drowned.³²

The inventory made upon his tragic death totaled over \$12,000 and like that of his father indicates that his house was substantially and comfortably furnished. Items such as the "high post bed," clock, and brass andirons also appeared in his father's inventory and may have been among the household goods which he inherited from him.³³ Aside from provisions for his widow, second wife Sally Ann Reader (an annuity and the bank stock and furniture she owned before the marriage) and a gold watch bequeathed to his namesake grandson, Kennedy left all of his landholdings and remaining personal property to his only surviving child, Henry Robert Kennedy.³⁴

Henry Robert Kennedy (1815-84) acquired over 1,000 acres of land by inheritance and purchase and had a career much like that of his father, attending to his property and serving three terms in the state Senate.³⁵ He also helped organized a bank in the nearby town of Bloomsbury and served as its president until his death.³⁶ Actively engaged in farming, he lived on a farm about one mile east of his father's residence, part of the original Cook tract where he was settled at least as early as 1843 and which he described in his 1870 letter as "the homestead of Captain Arthur Henry," his grandmother's brother.³⁷ He married Elizabeth Frelinghuysen, daughter of General John Frelinghuysen. The couple had six children and occupied a large, stone house on the former Henry farm.³⁸

After his father's death the mill property was rented to Augustus Hawk, who the 1860 Greenwich Township map indicates operated the mill.³⁹ The 1860 industrial census reveals that the mill, although its output had increased since 1850, was no longer first in production among Greenwich Township mills. Employing one male

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worker, Hawk produced 30 tons of flour worth \$2,062 from 1,550 bushels of wheat and 105 tons of feed worth \$3,160 from 3,400 bushels of corn and oats, placing it fourth of the township's five mills.⁴⁰ How long Hawk remained at the mill and who succeeded him in its operation is unknown. It probably was rented to a number of different individuals over the next several decades.

Upon being stricken by a heart attack while on a visit to one of his sons, Henry Robert Kennedy died intestate on March 26, 1884.⁴¹ His personal property, valued at about \$10,700, was found to be insufficient to pay debts of over \$20,300 (\$7,700 of which was owed to the Bloomsbury bank).⁴² Consequently, his real estate amounting to over 1,000 acres in Hunterdon and Warren Counties was ordered sold to settle the estate. Divided into twenty-four tracts, the property was auctioned at a public sale held on March 3, 1886. Several of his children were among the successful bidders, and lot #8, the 38.93-acre mill lot, was struck off to eldest son John Frelinghuysen Kennedy for \$2,040.⁴³

John F. Kennedy (1840-1916) evidently occupied the premises after acquiring title to the property, if he had not done so previously. Little is known of his life except that he married his third cousin Mary, daughter of lawyer Phineas B. Kennedy, by whom he had at least two children, sons Henry and Phineas.⁴⁴ The mill was in operation in 1894, and an 1899 biographical account of his father notes that he was "on the old homestead."⁴⁵ The 1900 census indicates that he was divorced from his wife and living alone; his occupation was given in the census as "hermit."⁴⁶ That he had a reclusive, troubled life in his later years is suggested by an account in the Belvidere Apollo of an attack by robbers suffered by him. As quoted by a recent local history without giving the date of the newspaper article

John Kennedy, an eccentric farmer who lives alone on a large farm at Kennedy's mills...and is said to be wealthy, was attacked in his house...by five masked men who bound him and tortured him with hot irons, applied to his feet to get him to tell where his money was. He resisted at first, but finally told the burglars where they could get all he had in the house (He had \$23). He is quite a recluse and it was by the merest chance that a neighbor called and found him bound and gagged and weak from ill treatment and thirst.⁴⁷

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In 1914 through a series of three conveyances the property was transferred from John Kennedy to his son Phineas B. Kennedy, including all his personal property "such as house furnishings of every sort, and mill fixtures and equipment."⁴⁸ Two years later John Kennedy died from what was described as "senile dementia" at the home of his son Henry in North Plainfield, New Jersey.⁴⁹ In 1921, Phineas Kennedy and wife sold the tract (reduced to 32.5 acres in size, but including "the machinery in the old stone mill") to the Greenwich Cemetery Association.⁵⁰ The latter sold the portion of the tract lying south of Route 173 to William F. Brown, who in turn conveyed 16 acres with the house and mill to Benjamin Still in 1924.⁵¹

Dr. Benjamin Still, an Elizabeth, New Jersey physician and resident, acquired the property for use as a country residence. In the 1920s, he extensively refurbished the house, making necessary repairs and improvements and installing modern plumbing and heating systems, while taking care to preserve its historical architectural character.⁵² He and his wife sold the property to his daughter, Mary Louise Huntington in 1937, and it changed hands once again in the 1940s before being acquired by the present owner, Pauline Lehr, and her late husband Charles in 1950.⁵³ The Lehrs are responsible for saving the mill, whose roof and interior framing were in danger of collapse, ensuring that both the Kennedy House and Mill survive into another century.⁵⁴

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12. Henry R. Kennedy to Rev. S. M. Hamill, December 31, 1870, Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society, Second Series, Vol. II, pp. 105-106.

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21. New Jersey Wills, #1314S.
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23. F. W. Solmon, County Engineer, Bloomsbury - Still Valley Road, Warren County, New Jersey, November 30, 1914.
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25. New Jersey Wills, #1314S.
26. Elias Davidson Kennedy, page 12.
27. Portrait and Biographical Record, page 397.
28. Snell, pp. 480, 481 & 597.
29. Ibid., page 598.
30. United States Census, Population Schedules, Warren County, Greenwich Township, 1850.
31. United States Census, Products of Industry, Warren County, Greenwich Township, 1850.

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32. Robert H. Kennedy obituary notice, Belvidere Intelligencer, Belvidere, NJ, February 4, 1859.
33. Warren County Inventories, Book 7, page 209.
34. Warren County Wills, Book 3, page 313.
35. Ibid.; "Lands of Hon. Henry R. Kennedy" (sale notice), Warren Journal, February 2, 1886; Portrait and Biographical Record, page 397; Snell, page 481.
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37. Ibid. and Kennedy/Hamill letter, Proceedings, pp. 105-106.
38. Emily Frelinghuysen McFarland and Ross Armstrong McFarland, The Frelinghuysen Family in New Jersey 1720-1970, Cambridge, Mass., (no date), pp. 35 & 36; Elias Davidson Kennedy, page 12; Harpster, pp. 56-57; F. W. Beers, County Atlas of Warren, New Jersey, New York: F. W. Beers & Co., 1874, page 72.
39. Michael Hughes, Farm Map of Greenwich Township, Warren Co., N. J., Philadelphia: Michael Hughes, 1860.
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52. Pauline Lehr interview.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property encompasses Greenwich Township tax parcel block 41, lot 8. Its boundaries are those of that lot as surveyed by Alfred Rosenbaum on October 17, 1950 (see the accompanying copy of the survey plat) but excludes the abutments of the Route 173 Pohatcong Creek bridge at the east corner of that lot.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The nominated property encompasses the remainder of the lands historically associated with the Kennedy House and Mill, now consisting of approximately 7.81 acres between Route 173 and the Pohatcong Creek. The Kennedy mill lot included as much as 38 acres in the 19th century extending north across Route 173 to Greenwich Church and south across the creek, but through subdivision during the first half of this century has been reduced to its present size. The subdivided portions are owned by a number of different parties, and modern dwellings occupy some of the parcels.

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Photographic Identification:

The following information is the same for all of the photographs submitted with the nomination:

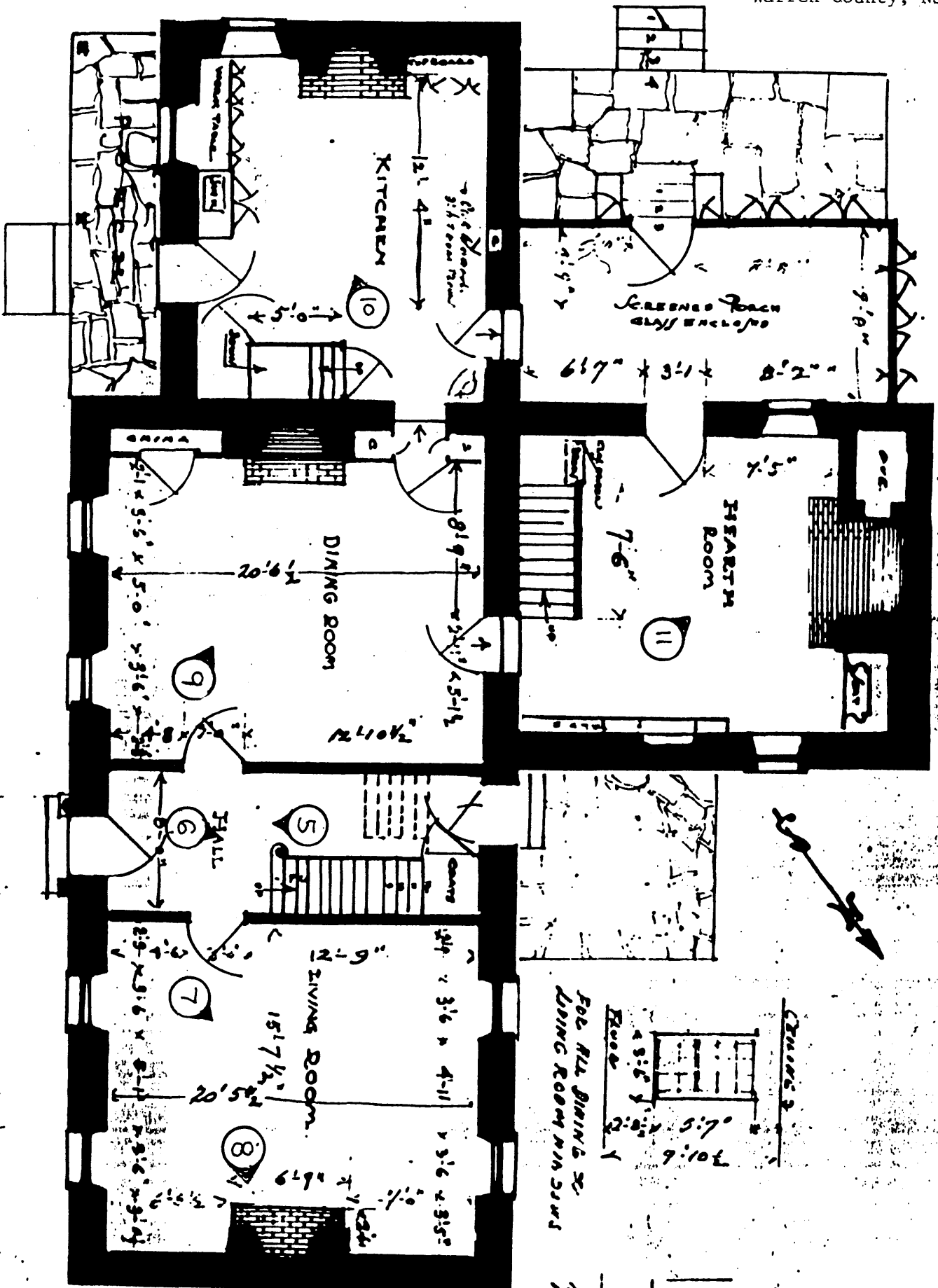
Name: Kennedy House and Mill
Location: Route 173,
Greenwich Township, Warren County, NJ
Photographer: Dennis Bertland
Date of photographs: Summer 1995
Negative repository: Dennis Bertland Associates
P. O. Box 11
Port Murray, NJ 07865

Photograph direction of view:

- #1 House, north view
- #2 " , northeast view
- #3 " , southeast view
- #4 " , entry, west view
- #5 " , center hall, entry, east view
- #6 " , center hall, staircase, northwest view
- #7 " , north room, northwest view
- #8 " , " , mantel detail, north view
- #9 " , south room, southwest view
- #10 " , kitchen, southeast view
- #11 " , west or "hearth" room, southwest view
- #12 " , north bedroom, northeast view
- #13 " , south bedroom, southeast view
- #14 Outbuildings, southwest view
- #15 Wagon house, southwest view
- #16 " " , southeast view
- #17 Smoke house, southwest view
- #18 Grist mill, southwest view
- #19 " " , southeast view
- #20 " " , main level, southwest view
- #21 " " , main level, fireplace detail, northeast view
- #22 Bridge abutment, date stone detail, southeast view

Kennedy House

Greenwich Township
Warren County, NJ

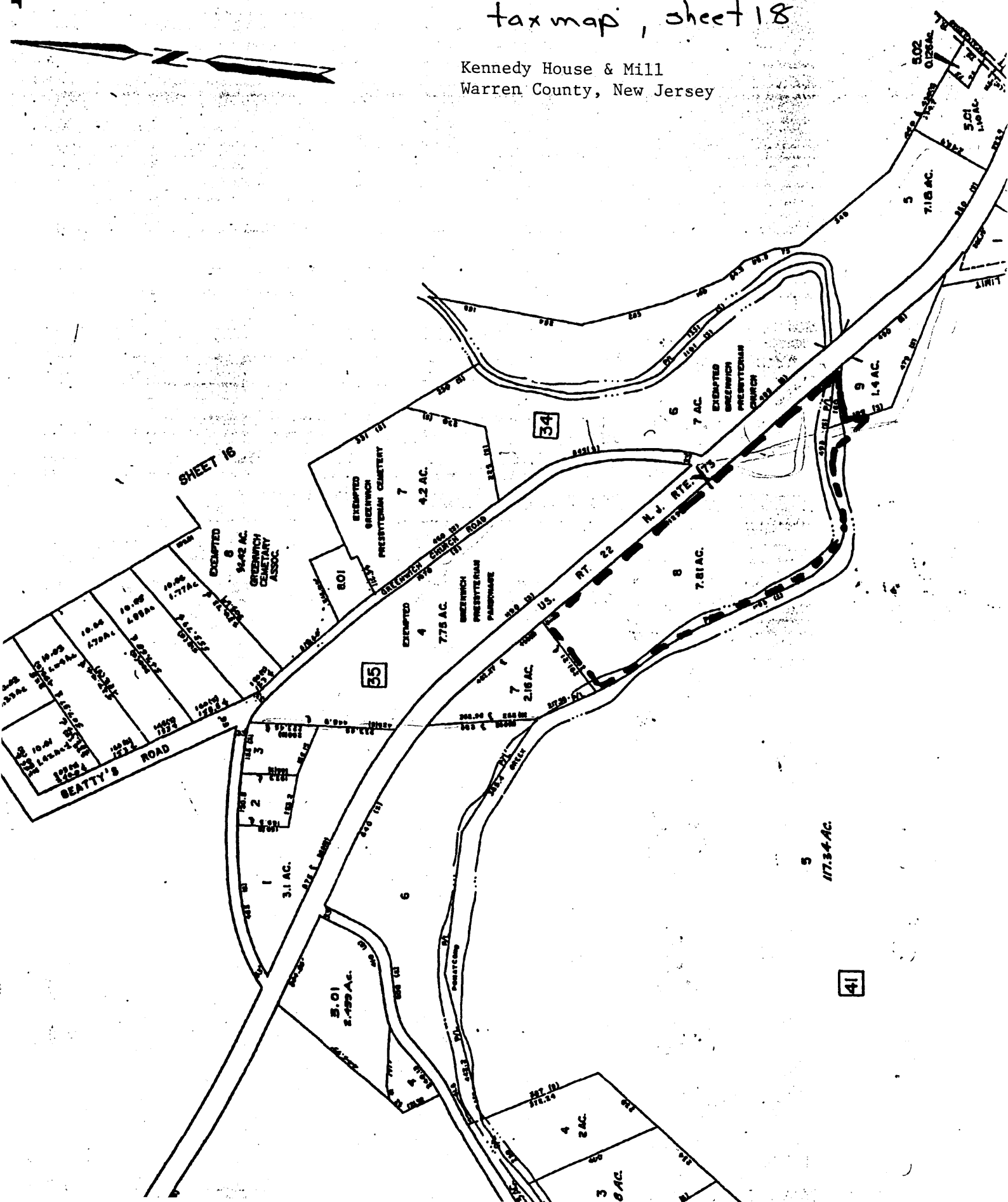
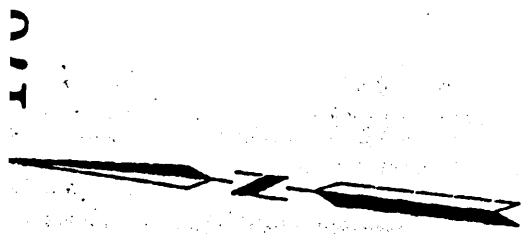


FIRST FLOOR

8 photo ID # & view

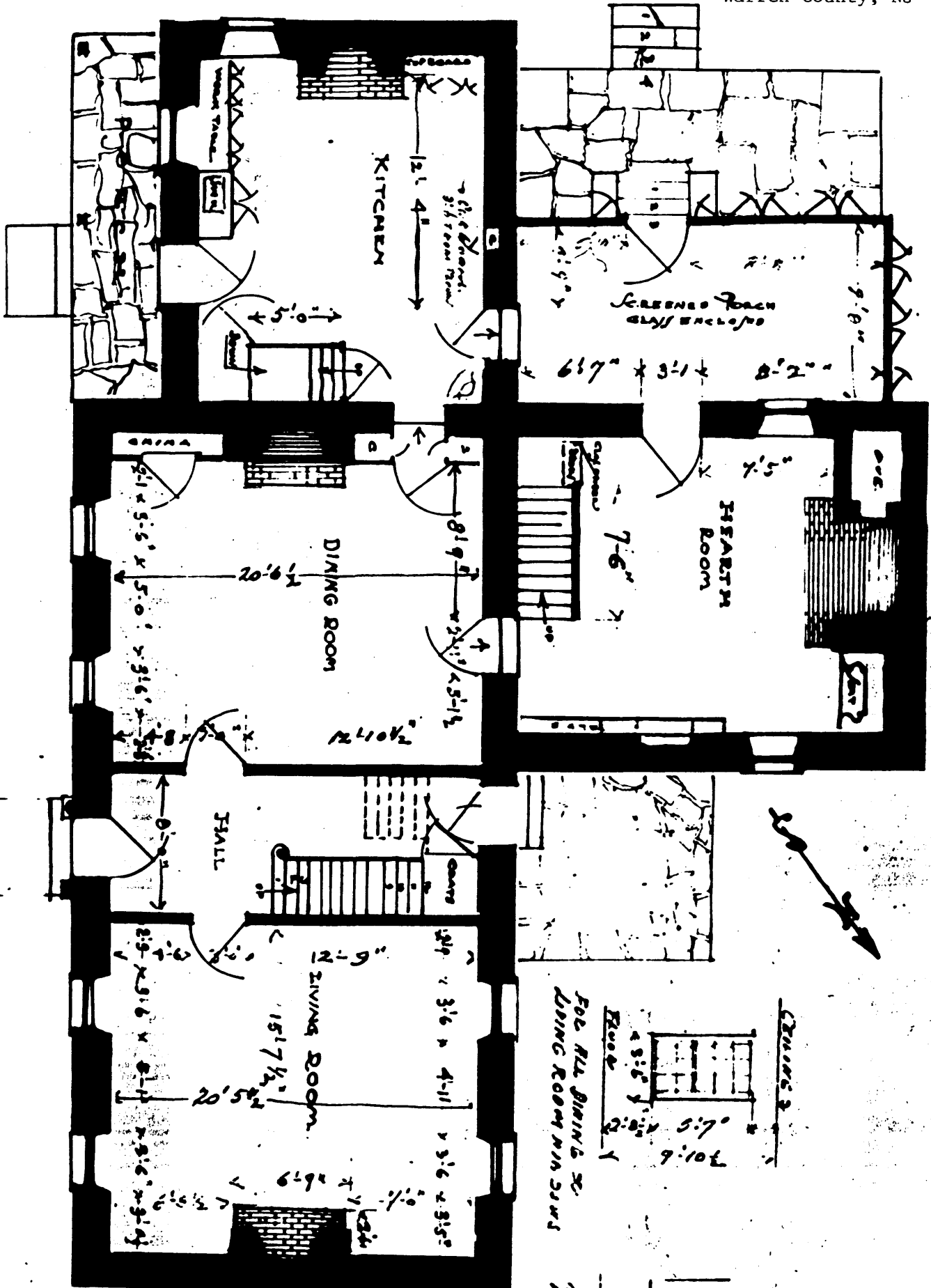
Greenwich Township tax map, sheet 18

Kennedy House & Mill
Warren County, New Jersey



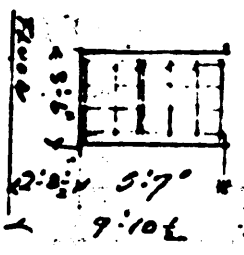
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Greenwich Township
Warren County, NJ

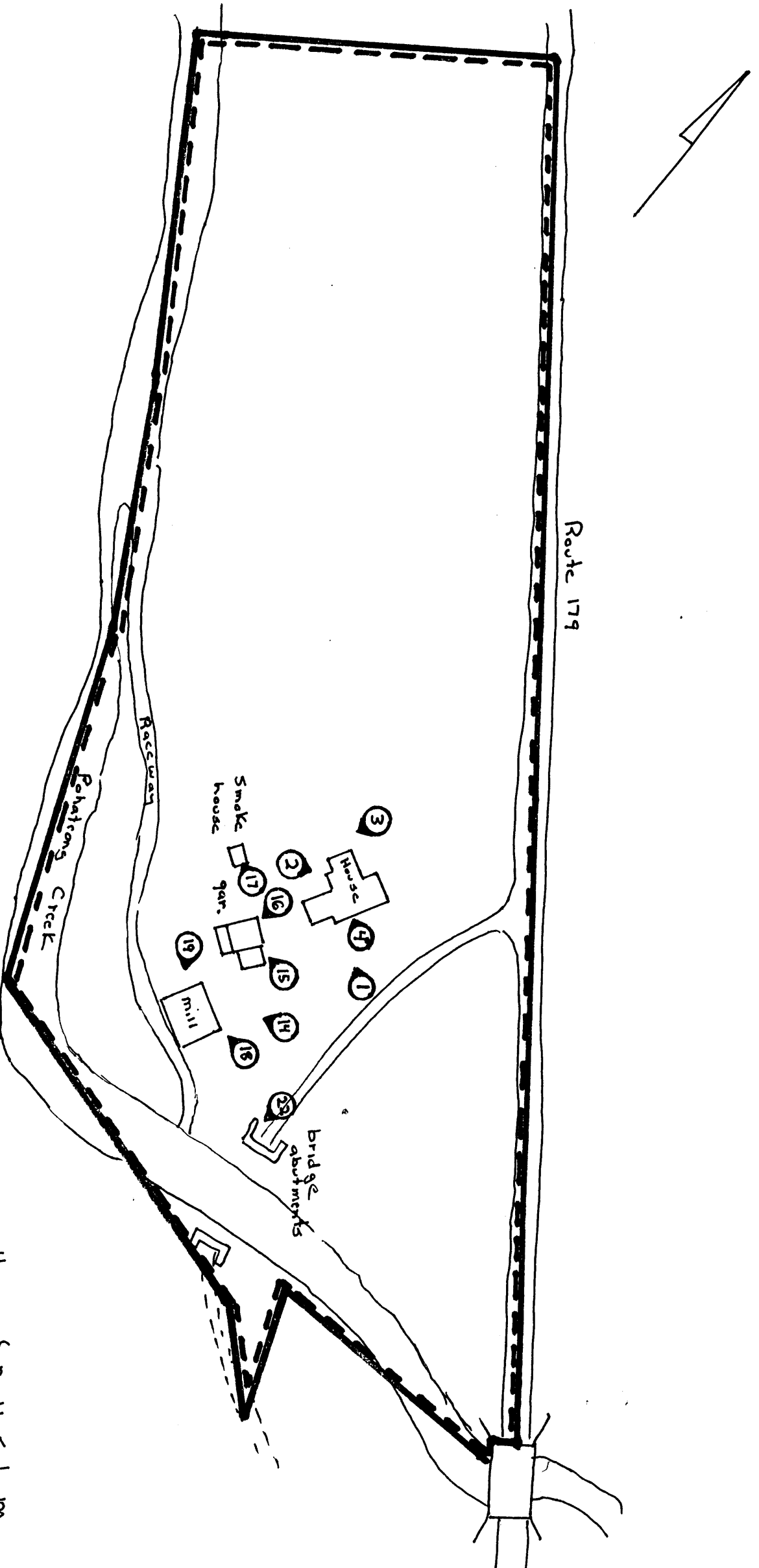


FIRST FLOOR

FOR ALL DIMENSIONS SEE
LIVING ROOM WITH DIMS



APPROX. 1
4' x 11' 0"



Kennedy House & Mill Site Map

--- site boundary

① photo ID# & views

scale 0' 50' 100'

