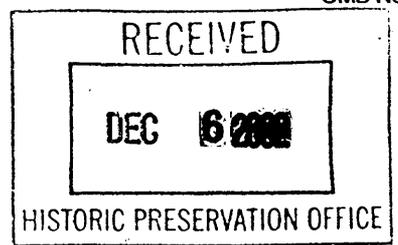


United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



03-0595-1 BC

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" or "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 Andrew Ten Eyck House

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 671 Old York Rd. not for publication

city or town Township of Branchburg vicinity

state NJ code NJ county Somerset code 035 zip code 08876

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

Marc A. Matsil, Assistant Commissioner, Natural & Historic Resources/DSHPO State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that 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
Edson H. Beall 5/6/04

Andrew Ten Eyck House
Name of Property

Somerset, NJ
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>		Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL/ clubhouse

CULTURAL/museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Federal

Colonial Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls brick

clapboard

roof slate

other _____

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

(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

Period of Significance

c. 1800-1850

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

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):

- 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:

SHPO Letter of Opinion HPO-D01-2

Andrew Ten Eyck House
Name of Property

Somerset, NJ
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 18 524607 4490176
Zone Easting Northing

3
Zone Easting Northing

2

4
 See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dennis Bertland & Janice Armstrong

organization Dennis Bertland Associates date December 4, 2002

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 Branchburg Historical Society

street & number 65 Harlon School Rd. telephone 908-722-2124

city or town Branchburg state NJ zip code 08876

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 Reduction Project (4034-0048), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Park Service

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Andrew Ten Eyck House, Somerset Co. NJ

DESCRIPTION

Prominently located on the Old York Road in a rapidly developing section of Branchburg Township, the Andrew Ten Eyck House is a remarkable survivor of that community's early domestic architecture. Occupying a very small lot, the house is the sole remnant of an extensive farmstead demolished in the 1990s for office/warehouse development of the surrounding property. Saved from demolition through the efforts of concerned local citizens, the house is currently undergoing restoration by the Branchburg Historical Society as its headquarters. While the exact construction date remains unknown, the original brick portion of the house apparently dates to the early 19th century and incorporates Federal style detailing typical of that era. The house was enlarged later in the 19th century and the frame rear portion added early in the 20th century. Despite the loss of some early fabric as a result of these additions and subsequent alterations, the Andrew Ten Eyck House retains its architectural integrity and the ability to reflect its architectural significance.

The Andrew Ten Eyck House exhibits three distinct phases of construction. The original brick section can be dated to the early 19th century based on such physical evidence as nails and molding profiles. It consisted of a two-story, gable-roofed main block with a single-pile, side-hall plan (the front section of the house, photo #s 1 – 3) and a one and one-half story, one-room-plan rear wing (the first-story of the middle section, photo #s 2 & 4), both units with an interior end-wall chimney. The lack of any seam in the brickwork indicates that both sections were built at the same time, and the original roofline of the rear wing can be seen on the north wall of the main block (photo # 20). A rear appendage (probably of frame construction), whose foundation was incorporated into that of the present rear wing, may have been contemporary with the first build or was an early addition. Sometime later in the 19th century, probably around the 1860s, the house was enlarged by adding a second story to the rear wing (photo # 4). Major renovations again occurred in 1914 when the original rear appendage was replaced by the frame rear wing, in conjunction with which the brick walls of the middle section were raised several more feet and a new roof built (photo #s 1 – 5).

The Andrew Ten Eyck House is typical of the region's vernacular architecture during the first decades of the 19th century, reflecting building practices long part of the local building vocabulary as well as contemporary innovations and stylistic influences. The main block marries the "two-thirds" Georgian or side-hall plan with the single-pile, two-story form of the I-house, a traditional house type more commonly associated with the Delaware valley culture region in New Jersey. Articulated on the exterior by a regular fenestration pattern and end-bay entry, these houses reflect the 18th-century Georgian idea of symmetry. By assigning such a large portion of their limited floor space to hallways, they also express the importance that their builders placed on polite "concepts of architecture and social interaction," whereby dwellings "had public hallways into which visitors entered, preventing them from immediately entering private rooms." Such ideas had limited acceptance in Somerset County before the 19th-century. Single-pile, side-hall plan houses apparently were never common there, although, besides

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the Andrew Ten Eyck House, there are a few 19th-century examples like those found in the villages of North Branch.¹

The original portion of the Andrew Ten Eyck House is of traditional load-bearing masonry construction and utilizes timber framing to support the floors and roof. Its foundation is constructed of coursed rubble stone and incorporates a full cellar under the rear wing, but only crawl space under the main block. Hand-made brick, presumably of local manufacture, was used to build the house. The brick walls are laid in the American common bond, a pattern infrequently used before the 19th century, with generally seven stretcher courses to each header course, except on the front of the main block, where the traditional Flemish bond was employed (photo #6).² A flat-arched, gauged-brick lintel distinguishes the main block's front entry. A simple flat lintel of brick headers spans the wing's side entry, and the blocked cellar window to its right has a segmental-arched header lintel. The other openings lack such distinctive lintel treatments. As was commonly the practice, the masonry was originally pointed with a sand/lime mortar, sections of which remain. Except for the roof rafters (evidently replaced in conjunction with 1914 roof work, photo #23), most framing members, where visible, appear to be hewn and connected with traditional mortise and tenon joinery. The main block's first and second floors are framed with large girders aligned with the hall partitions, the rather widely spaced joists running north/south to the west of the girders and east/west across the shorter span to the east. The attic floor joists, placed on roughly 36-inch centers, are supported at both ends by wall plates, overhanging the latter to form part of the cornice framing (photo #24). The wing's floor joists clear span from east to west, and those of the upper story were carefully planed by hand and left exposed to view, a once popular treatment that was decidedly old fashioned by the early 19th century. A more unusual (and structurally unsatisfactory) feature is the use of the main floor girder to support the brick partition between the main block's two first story rooms, the girder resting only on crude stone piers instead of a full foundation.

Despite a number of later 19th and 20th-century alterations, the exterior of the house preserves much of its original appearance, and the detailing of its windows, entries and cornice reveals the influences of the Federal and Greek Revival styles fashionable in early 19th-century America. The delicate outer moldings of the main block's architrave window surrounds (photo #6) and rear entry, for example, are typical of the Federal style. Incorporating Grecian ovolo, cavetto and bead profiles, they resembling moldings illustrated in popular carpenter's books of the period like Asher Benjamin's *The Country Builder's Assistant*, first published in 1799.³ The rear entry's six-panel door, the only original exterior door to survive, is likewise typical of early 19th-century work with its bead-edged recessed panels and butt hinges. With its gable end returns, Grecian ovolo bed molding and wide plain soffit and frieze, the main block's roof cornice exhibits Greek Revival characteristics; that these elements are early is evident from the saw marks and oxidation on the backs of the soffit and frieze board exposed to view in the attic (photo #s 7 & 24). The original rear wing retains two original first-story windows, which, in contrast to those of the main block, have plain trim; one of them (the south first-story west window) has an early 19th-century 9-light upper sash with ¾ inch ovolo-molded muntins. Seams in the brickwork document

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that there was a window to the north of the wing's east entry and that the north first-story west window was originally a doorway (photo #4).

The interior of the house also retains much of its original character, and surviving features are consistent with an early 19th-century construction date. Early fabric in the main block includes random width, tongue-and-groove flooring, plaster walls and ceilings, beaded baseboards, most of the architrave door and window trim, and a few doors. The flooring was attached with cut nails, and the ceiling plaster applied to hand split lath; fully machine-made cut nails were not available before the early 1800s and hand split lath was not much used after about the 1830s. The delicate molding profiles used for the main block's door and window surrounds and door panels are typical of the Federal style (photo #s 8 – 11, 13 & 19). Woodwork throughout the main block appears to have been painted gray originally, and the walls whitewashed. The parlor and the bedroom above it (Rooms 102 and 202) retain plastered brick fireplaces of the "Rumford" type, a design first introduced in the late 1700s (photo #11). Both mantels were removed in the 1980s; fortunately, the one taken from the parlor has been recently recovered. Typical of early 19th-century Federal-style work, it is comprised of reeded pilasters, frieze with projecting center and end blocks and cornice with segmental curved shelf, incorporating delicate moldings (photo #12). The ghosts of removed chair rails can be seen in the parlor and 1st-story hall; there is no evidence of any on the second story (photo #s 8, 13 & 19). While one would expect a side-hall plan house to have an open staircase, the Andrew Ten Eyck house surprisingly does not, perhaps a reflection of a certain rural conservatism or frugality. Placed in the corner of the hallway on each story, (Rooms 101 and 201), the second-story and attic stairs are enclosed with bead-edged, tongue-and-grooved boards (photo #s 17 & 18).

Much less remains of the rear wing's early interior finishes. The original kitchen (Room 103) retains its exposed, hand-planed ceiling beams, and early random-width flooring survives beneath the present flooring (photo #s 14 & 15).. Paint analysis indicates that the beams were left unpainted for some time, before being coated with a pinkish white paint. Some early plaster applied directly to the brickwork survives on the north and east walls. A horizontal line is visible on the east wall to the south of Door 104, suggesting a two-tone decorative treatment, and, in fact, paint analysis has documented different sequences above and below the line. The upper-story staircase was always located in the northeast corner of the room (photo #14). However, the ghost of a stringboard on the two northernmost ceiling beams, along with an adjoining patch of different ceiling sheathing within the current stairwell, indicates that the earlier staircase ascended from east to west, no doubt because of the low height of original attic story. It must have been right-angled, newel-turned (in place of a landing) and enclosed like the front staircase. The cooking fireplace was located along the south wall and, judging from the size of its large stone base in the cellar below, must have been a substantial one. It probably was removed in conjunction with the addition of the rear wing and provision of a new kitchen there. The ghost of shelving in the wall plaster in the southwest corner of the room, documents the existence of a cupboard or closet; whether it was contemporary with the fireplace or a later feature is unknown. Traces of whitewash on the stone walls and ceiling beams of the cellar below indicate the use of this space, en-

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tered by a hatchway in the floor of the east porch, for cold storage. The rear appendage, whose stone foundation survives beneath the present rear wing, no doubt provided utility work space and storage and may have protected a bake oven from the weather.

Sometime later in the 19th century, and probably in the 1860s judging from what is known of the property's history, a second story was added to the rear wing (photo #s 2 & 4). While the bricks are slightly larger and darker than those of the first build, the raised walls were constructed in the common bond with sand/lime pointing mortar similar in composition and profile to that used earlier. The windows also have plain trim like those below, and retain evidence of shutters (butt hinge mortises and wire shutter catch). Shutters were probably installed on the main block in the 1860s, judging by the cast iron shutter hardware remaining on several of its windows, or somewhat later. The front entry apparently was reworked sometime during the 19th-century, its outer architrave trim incorporating a different outer molding than that of the rear entry and main block windows. Its Gothic Revival posts suggest that the shed-roofed, 2-bay east porch is possibly contemporary with the 19th-century renovations of the original rear wing (or alternately is an early 20th century reconstruction incorporating earlier elements). The slender posts (1990s copies of the originals, two of which survive) reveal Gothic Revival influences, featuring octagonal shafts with "lamb's tongue" beveled corners and capitals composed of large square "abacus" or top block and bed molding (photo #s 1, 2 & 11). Interior features dating to the 19th-century remodeling include the flooring of the second-story of the middle section (photo #20) and perhaps some of the simple door and window on both stories; although the present floor plan of the upper story, which incorporates an angle stair hall and two small rooms (Rooms 203, 204 & 205), probably dates to the 1914 renovations. The removal of the chair rail from the parlor (Room 102) may represent a Victorian updating. The detailing of the window to the left of the fireplace in the parlor differs slightly from that of the other main block windows, and its may have been installed or reworked in that era (photo #11).

The third major building campaign, which according to local historians occurred in 1914, encompassed replacing the original rear appendage with the present frame rear wing and rebuilding the roof of the older sections of the house, along with other related renovations and perhaps the installation of central heat, if not plumbing (photo #s 4, 5 & 23). The rear wing provided a new kitchen, larder and pantry on the first story (Rooms 104, 105 & 106), and two bedrooms above (Rooms 206 & 207) accessed from an angled hall and new staircase in the middle section (photo #s 14, 16 & 20 - 22). The new hallway (Room 203) also provided access to the main block via a door to Room 201, leaving room for only two small wedge-shaped rooms (Rooms 204 & 205). The walls of the middle section were heightened several feet in brick (maintaining the common bond of the older brickwork, but using darker machine-made brick and Portland cement mortar), and new roofs added to the middle section and main block (photo #s 3 & 4). The original cooking fireplace and chimney were replaced by a smaller brick chimney on the same location which served the cooking stove, placed on a brick hearth in the new kitchen (photo #16). At the same time, the west entry was converted to a window, and the window adjoining the rebuilt staircase blocked up. A larder was added to the east porch.

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Andrew Ten Eyck House, Somerset Co. NJ

The new wing features a brick foundation, clapboard siding, 2/2 sash windows with louvered shutters, four-panel entry doors, and a shed-roofed rear porch with turned posts. The box cornice at the roof eaves incorporates built-in gutters and is returned on the raking eaves, which retain the original crown molding with ovolo/cavetto profile. The same crown molding was installed on the main block's cornice in conjunction with the reconstruction of its roof. The middle section features a similar cornice with built-in gutter. The existing slate roof probably dates to the 1914 renovations, as do the main block's 2/2 sash windows. The main block's Colonial Revival entry porch features similar ovolo/cavetto moldings; it may be contemporary with the rear wing or a somewhat later replacement (photo #s 1 & 2). The interior finishes of the new wing are quite simple. They include narrow tongue-and-groove flooring, bead-board wainscot in the kitchen, simple door and window trim and panel doors (photo #s 16,20 & 21). Central heat was installed sometime before the 1930s, judging from the few cast iron steam radiators surviving, and a bathroom was created in Room 205 and a sink installed in the kitchen.

Relatively few other changes occurred until the last decades of the 20th-century. The fireplace mantels, several doors and other woodwork were removed while the house stood vacant in the 1980s. Upon acquiring the house in 1991, the Branchburg Township Historical Society began a major effort to preserve it. They focused first on necessary structural repairs and the building envelop (including framing repairing to the rear wing, reconstruction of the deteriorated built-in gutters and east and rear porches, and the repair/replacement of deteriorated window sashes) and began the installation of modern utility systems. Paneling of 19th-century date recycled from a demolished local dwelling also was installed in Room 206 (photo #22).

Setting:

Occupying a very small, level lot on the south side of the Old York Road, the Andrew Ten Eyck House is the sole surviving element of an extensive farmstead demolished in the 1990s. Facing north and the road with a setback of roughly thirty feet, the house is surrounded by several mature maples that appear to be about seventy-five years old; the trees are located on the adjoining property (photo #25). The foundation plantings around the house and the concrete sidewalk along its east side were installed in the 1990s during construction of the brick, low-rise office building located about fifty feet from the southwest corner of the house (photo #27). A wooden sign identifying the historic house stands near the northeast corner of the house (photo #1). The adjoining property immediately east and west of the house is maintained as lawn; extensive plantings on the west provide some screening from the office building (photo #s 3 & 25). The office building's concrete entrance walk borders the south side of the property, and its asphalt parking lot and entrance drive (shared by the historical society) are located to the southeast (photo #s 5 & 27). Other large, low-rise office buildings are located to the east of the Andrew Ten Eyck House and across the road to the north (photo #s & 26).

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When the Branchburg Historical Society acquired the property, rusty wire fencing supported by decayed wooden posts delineated the front yard from the road edge. It incorporated a wooden picket gate aligned with the front door, and this gate, which was salvaged when the fence was removed, probably dates to the early 20th century. A photograph taken some years after 1964 documents a wooden picket fence along the south side of the rear yard and a wood or tool shed near the southwest corner of the house. The shed was a small clapboard-clad frame structure with standing seam metal roof, overhanging eaves and side-wall entry.⁴ In a recent interview, the dwelling's last resident, remembered two "brick-lined cisterns," one located east of the side porch in the area of the present concrete sidewalk and another just north of the shed. These may be the "cistern and well of lasting water near the door [of the house]" mentioned in an 1873 newspaper advertisement for the sale of the property.⁵ What, if anything, remains of these features is unknown.

Integrity:

Although subject to a number of modern alterations, the Zeta Psi Fraternity House still possesses the ability to reflect its historical and architectural significance. Major modifications have been confined to the secondary facades and lesser interior spaces, leaving the building's character defining features intact. While some original fabric and detailing have been lost, and the dwelling retains its essential integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

Notes:

¹ Somerset County Historic Sites Survey, pp. 73-77; Dennis Bertland Associates, *Andrew Ten Eyck House Historic Structures Report*, page 3-2.

² Harley J. McKee, *Introduction to Early American Masonry*, page 50.

³ Asher Benjamin, *The Country Builder's Assistant*, plate 1.

⁴ Dennis Bertland Associates, *Andrew Ten Eyck House Historic Structures Report*, page 3-1.

⁵ Carol Girkus Interview, July 10, 2002; "Executors Sale of Valuable Real Estate,....Moses Robbins, executor," *The Somerset Union*, October 10, 1873.

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Andrew Ten Eyck House, Somerset Co. NJ

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Andrew Ten Eyck House is locally significant for its architectural features. Its original brick portion—the main block and first story of the middle section—date from the early 19th century judging from physical and stylistic evidence. Despite the addition of a frame rear wing about 1914 and some other alterations, the house retains much of its original character. The Andrew Ten Eyck House consequently provides an important document of the region's domestic architecture during the Federal period. Along with the Flemish brickwork of its front elevation, the house is distinguished for its Federal style detailing, as evidenced by a parlor fireplace mantel with reeded pilasters and other delicately molded woodwork. The house is also notable for its main block which marries the "two-thirds" Georgian or side-hall plan with the single-pile, two-story form of the I-house, a traditional house type more commonly associated with the Delaware Valley culture region in New Jersey, but not early Somerset County, where 1+½-story, double-pile or single-pile plans and Dutch framing were the norm for modest farmhouses. The Ten Eyck House is located on the Old York Road, an important early stage route, and the adoption of the side-hall I-type variant by its builders documents the increasing acceptance of outside architectural influences in Dutch-dominated Somerset County during the early 19th century. Certainly the inclusion of hallways into such a relatively small living space suggests that its builders placed a high value on what has been described as polite "concepts of architecture and social interaction," including the differentiation of public and private space within dwellings.¹ In the provision of an enclosed, utilitarian staircase instead of the more usual open staircase, however, the house also reveals a certain rural conservatism at variance with its stylish façade, plan and woodwork.

The Andrew Ten Eyck House it has lost its complement of outbuildings, as well as some early fabric, and its setting has been compromised by the construction of the large office buildings in its immediate environs. Nevertheless, the property retains its integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and is eligible for inclusion on the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places. Significant for the period c. 1800-50, the property clearly meets Criterion C, which references those properties "that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction." In addition, archaeological resources relating to the neighborhood's 18th and 19th-century material culture may exist in the immediate environs of the house.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW:

Much of what is now Branchburg Township, including the site of the Andrew Ten Eyck House, was acquired from its Native American owners by the East Jersey Proprietors in the 1680s and subdivided into long lots of several hundred acres or more with frontage on either the North or South Branches of the Raritan River. The Proprietors obtained approximately 4,500 acres of land lying south of Hollands Brook along the South Branch from "Pawarone and Wermine, Indians" by a deed dated October 9, 1685, according to 19th-century historians, and by another deed, dated August 14, 1688, secured several thousand acres to the north of Hollands Brook from "Paywassen...for the consideration

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therein mentioned, received of Capt. Andrew Hamilton, Deputy Governor of New Jersey.” Andrew Hamilton, an East Jersey Proprietor who served several terms as governor of the province, acquired three lots located in these purchases. As recorded in the “Elizabethtown Bill in Chancery” (a 1747 list of East Jersey land titles), they included two adjoining parcels: lot #22, a 500-acre parcel straddling Hollands Brook, acquired on April 25, 1687, and lot #23, a 250-tract abutting lot #22 on the north, in October of that year. By the time of his death in 1703, Hamilton had amassed over 6,000 acres in East Jersey, mostly located along the South Branch and Millstone Rivers.²

A 1770s map confirms Hamilton’s ownership of the site of the subject property, and a 1716 deed traces its devolution from Hamilton to the Ten Eyck family. The map of Somerset County prepared by British army surveyor John Hill during the Revolutionary War is based on Benjamin Morgan’s 1766 survey of Somerset County, which reflects earlier land titles. The map delineates two tracts on the west side of the Raritan at the confluence of its two branches, lot #s 215 and 216, identifying them as the property of “Andrew Hambelton” and as containing, respectively, 250 and 750 acres. What later became the Old York Road runs along the boundary between the two parcels on the map, thus establishing the Ten Eyck House site on lot #216, the larger and southern of the two.³ These two parcels undoubtedly comprised the 1,000-acre tract along the Raritan in East Jersey owned by “Collonell [sic] Andrew Hamilton, Governor of said Province,” referenced in the above mentioned 1716 deed as sold by him to John Jooston, formerly of Ulster County, New York, in 1700. The property subsequently was inherited by the latter’s son and sole heir, Jost Johnson, who transferred a 554-acre portion of the tract to John Vanmeter in 1705. Vanmeter conveyed the same to Solomon Davis in 1713. Three years later Davis subdivided 275 acres from the tract and sold it to fellow Somerset County resident “Andreas Tenyck” for 250 pounds. As described in the 1716 deed for the latter conveyance, the boundaries of the 275-acre lot began “at the very point of the fork where the north and south Branches of the Rarrington [sic] River meeteth” and its first course (and northern boundary) stretched northwest 160 chains along the line subsequently followed by the Old York Road, a distance of about two miles and far enough west to include the house site.⁴

Although when Andreas Tenyck (or Ten Eyck) settled on the property remains unknown, he certainly was a resident of the neighborhood by 1719, in which year he was selected as one of the elders of the newly organized North Branch Dutch Reformed congregation, whose pioneer log church purportedly stood at the confluence of the two Raritan River branches in present-day Branchburg Township. Furthermore, the first entry in the church’s baptismal registry records the baptism of “Mattheus,” son of “Andries Ten Eyk” and his wife “Adriaentje,” on February 21, 1720.⁵ The site of Ten Eyck’s original homestead also is unknown. While the Hill/Morgan map gives the location of many neighborhood dwellings, it depicts none within the area encompassed by his 1716 purchase. Nevertheless, that he lived on the property is clear from his 1768 will, which describes it as “the plantation where I live.”⁶ The most likely location for his homestead is the farmstead later occupied by his son and grandson still standing on the south side of the Old York Road overlooking the confluence of the North and South Branches.

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The son or grandson of Coenraet Ten Eyck, a mid 17th-century Dutch emigrant to New York, Andreas Ten Eyck evidently prospered in New Jersey.⁷ He greatly enlarged his landholdings along the Raritan (including the purchase of a 588-acre tract bordering the North Branch in 1738 and a 300.7-acre parcel located just south of his original acquisition ten years later) and was able to bequeath plantations to four of his five sons (Matthew, Andrew, John and Abraham) and a mill property to the fifth, Peter. His 1768 will provided his wife "Ariontie" with a 20 pound annuity and devised 430 pounds each to his three daughters (Noltie, Jane and Mary), and the inventory made upon his death in the following year totaled slightly more than 845 pounds, a substantial amount for the time and place.⁸

Upon inheriting his father's homestead, Abraham Ten Eyck (1735 – 1817) apparently made it his residence, if not already living there, and farmed the property throughout his life. He was baptized in 1735 and presumably married his wife Sarah before October 10, 1762, when their son Andrew was born. They had at least two other children: Begeltie (Abigail) and Teunes (Tunis), baptized, respectively on February 15, 1769, and April 7, 1776. During the Revolutionary War he served as colonel of the first Battalion of the Somerset County militia, a position reflecting a level of stature and respect in the community.⁹

Tax records for Bridgewater Township (which then included Branchburg Township) provide some information about Abraham Ten Eyck and his farm. Ratable lists survive for every year but 1790 between 1789 and 1797, as well as for 1802, 1803, 1805 and 1809, and he was assessed for 281 acres of "improved land" in every year. His livestock assessment included seven or eight horses in all years but one and averaged 9.1 head of cattle. He was taxed for two or three slaves in the years between 1789 and 1797 and for one or two slaves in the 1800s. In several years during the 1790s he also was assessed for a dog and a "pleasure sleigh."¹⁰ Abraham died in 1817, and his estate records provide further evidence as to his prosperity and success as a farmer. He was able to bequeath farms and slaves to his sons, Andrew and Tunis, and a house in Hunterdon County to his daughter, Abigail Kruser, as well as make ample provisions for his wife Sarah. His estate inventory, dated December 17th, lists nine slaves, household goods including a silver tankard and tableware, livestock, farming equipment, and "obligations thought good" worth \$3,711.57, among other items, for a total of \$6,254.44. Several rooms are identified by name, along with three cellars and a garret, indicating that he occupied a larger dwelling than the Andrew Ten Eyck House.¹¹

When Abraham Ten Eyck wrote his will, dated May 12, 1817, he evidently was living on the property inherited from his father, presumably with his wife and unmarried younger son Tunis at the farmstead overlooking the forks of the Raritan, at which time older son Andrew was living on another farm owned by him. Abraham devised "son Andrew Ten Eyck the farm on which he now lives on and seven acres of wood land lying on the rear of the farm on which I now live joyning [sic] land of William Dilts and lying in the county of Hunterdon and also six acres of land joyning [sic] Joseph Hall." ... and two Negro boys one named Harry the other Quase." To "Son Tunis Ten Eyck" he bequeathed "the farm

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I now live on except the thirteen acres before bequeathed...unto...Andrew,” as well as two black men, Jack and Prince. Tunis also had the obligation “to keep and maintain his mother.”¹² A later deed gives the size of the farm inherited by Tunis as 328 acres and describes the property as extending from the Raritan River to the Hunterdon County line and bounded on the north by the “road from North Branch to Readington church.” Thus, the site of the Andrew Ten Eyck House must have formed part of Tunis’s inheritance and could not have been the farm left by Abraham to Andrew. This is confirmed by an 1822 deed for the sale of land to the south of the Ten Eyck farm which describes the 28-chain-long northern boundary of that tract as “Tunis Ten Eyck’s line.”¹³

Little is known about Tunis A. Ten Eyck (1776 – 1827) or the subject property during his short period of ownership. In 1818, he purchased the six acres that his brother had inherited from their father, paying \$300 for the two “triangles of land” adjoining the south side of his farm and the South Branch.¹⁴ He married Catherine Terhune on November 11, 1825, and died intestate less than two years later at age fifty-one. His 1827 estate inventory totaled \$2,260.40, indicating that he was significantly less wealthy than was his father. While the estates of father and son were comparable as regards household goods, livestock and farming equipment, Tunis left only three elderly slaves and a few hundred dollars in cash, notes and accounts. As is the case with his father, room identification in Tunis’s estate inventory suggests that his residence was not the Andrew Ten Eyck House, leading to the conclusion that he occupied his father’s homestead. The inventory listing of “half the corn on place of Mr, Shirts,” along with half shares of other crops, also suggests that Tunis was “sharecropping” or renting some portion of his large property at the time of his death, not surprisingly since he lacked his father’s workforce.¹⁵ It seems likely that the western half of property constituted a separate farm by that time, perhaps tenanted by “Mr. Shirts,” with farmstead at the Andrew Ten Eyck House site.

Since Tunis left no surviving children, his entire estate passed to his brother and sister subject to his widow’s one-eighth dower share. Within a few months of her husband’s death, Catherine Ten Eyck “agreed to accept & receive from the legal representatives of the said Tunis Ten Eyck a certain sum of money in lieu of said dower” and on April 1, 1828 conveyed her interest in her late husband’s real estate to her brother-in-law for \$2,100. Nine years later, Andrew A. Ten Eyck purchased his sister Abigail’s half interest for \$6,500, thus acquiring full title to the property, and it is this deed of conveyance, dated April 24, 1837, which gives the acreage and boundaries of the homestead farm inherited by Tunis from his father. Andrew’s son, Andrew A. Ten Eyck, Jr., must have acquired some interest in the property from his father, since one year later, he and his wife, Ellen Anne, gave a mortgage for “the equal undivided half part” of the 328-acre farm property to his aunt to secure the payment of \$3,000 on May 1, 1840.¹⁶

Exactly when Andrew A. Ten Eyck (1762 – 1842) made the family property his home is unknown. Although his 1841 will clearly establishes his residency on his father’s homestead at that time, a number of sources suggest that he lived elsewhere in Bridgewater Township during much of his adult life. Andrew A. Ten Eyck evidently formed a separate household upon his marriage to his cousin Mary

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Ten Eyck in 1790 and began farming on his own shortly thereafter.¹⁷ While the 1789 Bridgewater Township tax ratables list “Andrew Ten Eyck, son of A[braham]” under the category of “single man & horse,” for 1791 he is identified as a “householder.” In the following year, he was assessed for 100 acres of “improved land,” along with livestock and one slave. His assessed landholdings increased to 200 acres in 1797 and remained at that level through 1809, the last year for which township tax records survive. Although Abraham Ten Eyck may have owned some portion of the land for which his son was assessed, only a portion of it could have formed part of his homestead farm, since the latter contained 328 acres and Abraham’s land assessment remained 281 acres throughout the period from 1789 to 1809.¹⁸ Nevertheless, the baptism of their five children born between 1793 and 1806 (Abraham, Sarah, Peter, Abigail and Ann Mary or Maria) at the Readington Reformed Church suggests that Andrew and Mary Ten Eyck lived in the western portion of Bridgewater Township at that time¹⁹

The location of the farm that Andrew A. Ten Eyck occupied in 1817 and inherited from his father has not been established. However, an 1820 deed and an 1821 mortgage indicate that he owned property located in northwestern Bridgewater Township around the village of North Branch, and other evidence suggests that he was living in that neighborhood during the 1820s and 1830s.²⁰ His daughter Abigail, who died in 1821, and wife Mary, who died in 1826, both were buried in the cemetery at North Branch, a burial plot belonging to another branch of the Ten Eyck family settled there since the early 18th century.²¹ Two other daughters were married in 1823, and the newspaper announcement of the nuptials of Sarah Ten Eyck and Stites Steel describes them as “both of North Branch,” while that of the marriage of Ann Maria Ten Eyck to merchant Michael Van Derveer notes that the ceremony took place there. By way of contrast, Tunis Ten Eyck and Catherine Terhune were described as residents “of Branchburg” in the newspaper notice of their 1825 marriage.²² Andrew A. Ten Eyck’s name also appears on the list, dated March 1, 1827, recording the first purchasers of pews in the newly built Reformed Church in North Branch. Finally, the 1837 deed by which he acquired his sister’s half interest in the family homestead farm refers to him as “Andrew A. Ten Eyck of North Branch.”²³ During this period he held local government office, serving as a Justice of the Peace as early as 1813 and one of Bridgewater Township’s representatives to the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders in the 1820s, and bought and sold real estate in Somerville and elsewhere in Bridgewater Township.²⁴

Andrew A. Ten Eyck probably did not move to the homestead farm until after acquiring the dower share of his widowed sister-in-law in 1828, and perhaps not until after purchasing his sister’s half interest in 1837. Regardless of the date he settled there, the size of his household makes it highly likely that he occupied the large homestead by the river, not the farmstead serving the western half of the property. In 1830 and 1840, according the Federal censuses of those years, his household had, respectively, eight and ten members, many more than could have been comfortably accommodated in the west farmstead’s small brick dwelling (the Andrew Ten Eyck House) which certainly was extant by that time.²⁵ Throughout this period the west farm probably was tenanted, possibly by one of his married children, or by unrelated tenants, as was the case in the years just before his death.

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The listing for the household of Andrew Ten Eyck in the 1830 census includes three white males (one aged between 60 and 69, one between 30 and 39, & one between 20 and 29), two white females (one aged between 80 and 89, and one between 15 and 19); two free black males (one aged between 10 and 24 and one between 24 and 36) and one female slave (aged between 55 and 100); one household member was an alien. Andrew A. Ten Eyck, Sr., must have been the white male in his sixties. He appears to have remained a widower, since the only other white females in the household were a teenager and a woman in her eighties. The teenage girl probably was his daughter, Jane, who presumably lived at home before her marriage to John Schenck on May 5, 1832. The aged white female probably was his mother Sarah, still alive at the time of his death in 1842. The white male in his twenties most likely was his son, Andrew A., Jr., who the 1850 census indicates would have been about twenty in 1830. The two free black men may well have been the former male slaves, Harry and Quase, inherited by Andrew, Sr., from his father. The identity of the white male in his thirties (possibly a farm worker) is unclear, as is that of the female slave.²⁶ The 1830 census lists Abraham Ten Eyck, presumably Andrew, Sr.'s oldest child, as the head of a thirteen-member household. By this time, Abraham may have moved to the farm he had inherited from his grandfather, Peter Ten Eyck, in 1828, subject to his father's life interest, the latter's 1841 will noting that Abraham and his family had been living there rent free.²⁷

Andrew A. Ten Eyck, Jr., married in 1832, and while he and his wife, the former Ellen Ann Martsel (or Van Marter), may have had a separate household for a time (perhaps at the western farmstead), any such establishment would have been of short duration, since the 1840 census indicates that they were then living with his father.²⁸ The 1840 census lists two households under the name of Andrew Ten Eyck, the larger of which contained three white males (one aged between 70 and 79, one between 1 and 4 and one between 20 and 29), six white females (one aged between 90 and 99, one between 1 and 4, two between 5 and 9, one between 20 and 29, and one between 40 and 49), and one free black male aged between 1 and 9. One household member was engaged in agriculture. Andrew A. Ten Eyck, Sr., undoubtedly was the white male in his seventies, and the white female in her nineties, his mother. The white male in his twenties must have been Andrew A., Jr., who the 1850 census indicates would have been about 29 in 1840; his wife would have been 28 in 1840 and must have been the white female in her twenties. The ages of the four white children also correspond to what the 1850 census indicates would have been the ages of their children. The composition of the other Andrew Ten Eyck household listed in the 1840 census indicates that it could not have been that of Andrew, Sr., or Andrew, Jr.²⁹

Andrew A. Ten Eyck, Sr., died on December 5, 1842, recognized as a "gentleman of integrity and worth," and his estate records, along with other sources, help document that he occupied the family homestead in the years before his death and rented the western half of the farm to a tenant farmer. By his will, dated September 9, 1841, he devised "the farm on which Philip Tunison now lives" to his son, Andrew A. Ten Eyck, and his estate inventory, taken eleven days after his death, lists the "rent due from P. Tunison on farm 1st April 1843 - \$200." He also bequeathed to Andrew A., Jr., "the farm I now live on during his life & then to my Grandson Andrew Ten Eyck son of Andrew A. Ten Eyck." Another bequest to Andrew A., Jr., of "a bed and bedding commonly called his bed, a desk & bookcase, twelve

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chairs & two tables, pots & kettles, & such furniture as would be sufficient to keep house” appears to confirm that Andrew, Jr., was then living with his father.³⁰ Later deeds indicate that the subject property, the western half of the Ten Eyck property, was the farm inherited directly by Andrew A., Jr., from his father and that the eastern half was the homestead farm, the farm in which he received a life interest.³¹ Comparable in value to that of his brother Tunis, Andrew, Sr.’s estate inventory totaled \$2,512.81. However, cash, notes, rent and interest due comprised most of its value, and Andrew, Sr., unlike Tunis, owned very little livestock and no farm equipment or products.³² Andrew, Sr., clearly was not engaged in agriculture when he died, and the homestead farm probably was operated by Andrew, Jr., at that time. Philip Tunison may have been renting the west farm as early as 1840; his household is listed in the 1840 census and, as its one adult male, he presumably was the member engaged in agriculture. The household of Quaske Ten Eyck, a free colored man also engaged in agriculture (and undoubtedly the slave “Quase” inherited by Andrew, Sr. in 1817), is listed near that of Tunison in the 1840 census. It is not unlikely that he lived on the Ten Eyck property and worked for the Ten Eycks or Tunison as a laborer.³³

After his father’s death, Andrew A. Ten Eyck, Jr., evidently continued to occupy and farm the family homestead until 1861 when he conveyed his life interest to his son Andrew. He owned the west farm until 1855 when he sold it to Hunterdon County resident Jonathan Robbins.³⁴ According to one local source recorded in 1913:

Andrew Ten Eyck lived in an imposing house just west of Two Bridges [the family homestead]. He was fond of show; kept many fine horses, wagons and carriages, with harness and whips to match. He often drove four horses, and by word, without lines, giving his commands in loud and stately fashion.³⁵

He also participated in local affairs like his father and grandfather, serving in a militia cavalry troop and holding political office. When Branchburg Township was created from Bridgewater Township in 1845, Andrew A. Ten Eyck, Jr., was elected the first town clerk, as well as to the school committee and as one of the Commissioners of Appeals. The organizational meeting for the new municipality took place “at the house of Isaac H. Hall,” who the 1850 county map and census indicate kept the “White Oak Tavern” located just to north across the road from the west farmstead, the subject property.³⁶

Comparison of the order in which households are listed in the 1850 census with the names on the 1850 county map suggests that Edward Harmer, a young farmer, then occupied the subject property as tenant of Andrew A. Ten Eyck, Jr. The 1850 map depicts one or two houses to the west on the site of the subject property (one may be an inkblot), as well as two others across the road to the north. Deed references and the 1850 census indicate that the “Widow Titus,” the name adjoining the houses, refers to Jane Titus who owned property and lived on the north side of the road. The names “I. H. Hall” and “White Oak Tavern” appearing nearby on the map also reference the buildings on the north side of the road. Deeds indicate that Isaac H. Hall owned property on the north side of the road and the 1850 census gives his occupation as tavern keeper. Edward Harmer, identified in the census as a landless 20-

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year-old farmer living with his wife (Sarah, age 25), is listed just before Jane Titus and after Thomas Van Horn, a black laborer owning a small property, who the 1850 map indicates lived just to the west.³⁷

The agricultural schedule of the 1850 census lists Andrew A. Ten Eyck, Jr., as the proprietor of a farm with 288 acres of "improved land," revealing that operation of the homestead and west farms was combined at that time.³⁸ The original section of the Old York Road, which cut southwest across the Ten Eyck property in front of the White Oak Tavern, was abandoned and replaced by a new road along the present right-angled alignment in 1850. The survey map accompanying the road return indicates that the new alignment followed the boundary between Andrew A. Ten Eyck's "wood lands" to the west and his "improved lands" on the east.³⁹ According to the 1850 agricultural schedule, Ten Eyck's farm was valued at \$14,400, and the farm equipment, \$365. His livestock, worth \$2,300, included 6 horses, 14 milk cows, 15 other head of cattle, 2 oxen, 168 sheep, and 7 swine. Farm production encompassed 120 bushels of wheat, 620 bushels of rye, 1,500 bushels of corn, 800 bushels of oats, 30 bushels of buckwheat, 20 bushels of Irish potatoes, 4 bushels of clover seed, 20 tons of hay, 600 pounds of butter, 90 pounds of wool and 100 pounds of bees wax. The value of "slaughtered animals" was \$98.⁴⁰ Its size and production made it one of the largest farms in Branchburg Township. Such an operation would have required a workforce. In 1850, his household included two young black laborers, and he presumably employed his tenant Edward Harner as well, or had a "share cropping" arrangement with him.⁴¹

The 1850 census identifies Andrew A. Ten Eyck, Jr., as a 39-year-old farmer. He and his wife Ellen Ann, age 38, had six living children: Ellen Marie, 17, Judith S., 15, Andrew A., 12, Martha P., 10, Joseph V. M., 10 and Theodore V. M., 10 months. Besides two black laborers, Robert Van Horn and Henry Ten Eyck, both 17, his household included Caroline Van Horn, age 27, for whom no occupation given but who probably was a domestic servant. Andrew's wife died on June 14, 1852, and a few years later he remarried, wedding "Mrs. Louisa Stoddard, daughter of Jasper Lane" on February 8, 1855.⁴²

The subject property left the ownership of the Ten Eyck family on September 9, 1855, when Andrew and Louisa Ten Eyck sold it to Jonathan Robbins of Alexandria Township, Hunterdon County, for \$10,680. The conveyance included two parcels, a 149.55 acre tract (encompassing the subject property) and a 28.45-acre wood lot to the west.⁴³ The property apparently continued to be occupied by tenants during Robbins' ownership which lasted until his death in 1872.⁴⁴ The 1860 map depicts two houses on the property as belonging to "J. Robbins," the subject house and one to the west near the junction of the Old York Road and the road to Readington Church, and comparison of the order in which households are listed in the 1860 census with the names on the 1860 map indicates that Jonas Robbins, farmer, and George Pittenger, farm laborer, occupied the houses. Jonas, Jonathan's son, evidently resided in the subject house and George in the house to its west.⁴⁵ The household of Jonas Robbins, as listed in the 1860 census, contained five members: Jonas, age 33, a farmer, Sarah Q. Robbins (presumably his wife), age 29, and three young children, Jonathan, age 8, Sarah E., age 4, and Daniel C., age 1. While the census lists Jonas as owning real estate valued at \$15,000 and \$2,000 of personal property, recorded deeds indicate that his father held the title to the farm on which he resided. The household of George

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Pittenger, as listed in the census, contained seven members: George, age 34, a landless farm laborer, Margaret Pittenger (presumably his wife), age 24, and five young children, Mary, age 6, Lucy, age 4, Clarissa, age 3, Jonas, age 2, and Gilbert, age 1. The census lists George Pittenger as owning no real estate, but with modest personal property worth \$100. Jonas Robbins appears to have occupied the farm until his father's death, and by 1870, according to the census of that year, his family had grown to include six children.⁴⁶ The second story probably was added to the brick dwelling's rear wing during his residency, as suggested by architectural evidence, to accommodate his growing family.

Jonathan Robbins died late in 1872, and two years later the former Ten Eyck farm was sold. His will (dated November 2nd and offered for probate on December 23rd) directed his executor, son Moses, to sell all of his estate not otherwise devised. Among other bequests, son Jonas inherited a farm in Alexandria Township and son Sylvester received the farm in Somerset County "now in the tenure of the said Sylvester" (located about a mile northeast of the subject property), as well as 14 acres subdivided from the western half of the 28.45-acre wood lot that he had purchased from Andrew Ten Eyck & wife in 1855.⁴⁷ In the autumn of the following year, Moses Robbins advertised the "farm property of the late deceased" (the Ten Eyck farm) for sale at an auction to be held on October 30th, and the newspaper notice of the sale provides a detailed description of the 179.5-acre property, noting that it contained

14 acres in woodland, the remainder arable land in a good state of cultivation. The improvements consist of a brick dwelling house with cistern and well of lasting water near the door, large frame basement barn with stabling under, large grain house and hovel attached with cistern, large wagon house with cribs under, barracks [and] small tenant house. There are two apple orchards, one just commencing to bear, and other trees of all descriptions.⁴⁸

The auction was unsuccessful, and on April 1, 1874, Moses Robbins sold the property to the Rev. Gilbert Lane, who owned the farm just to its southwest, for \$12,000. The conveyance included three lots: #1 the wood lot of 14.45 acres (the remaining east half of the 28.45-acre wood lot); #2 the main tract of 156.10 acres (corresponding to the 149.55 acre tract Robbins purchased from the Ten Eycks in 1855) and #3 "a narrow strip of land on the northeasterly side of lot #2 being 62 links wide at the southeasterly end and extending northwesterly to the corner of Henry Schenck land as found on the west side of the new road a part of said strip of land now being in possession of Paul K. Dilts and Jane Titus apart in the road" containing 2.75 acres.⁴⁹

During the last quarter of the 19th century, the property changed hands twice, its value decreasing by half, while continuing to be occupied by tenants. Gilbert Lane retained ownership of the farm for ten years, and in 1884 sold it back to Moses Robbins, for \$10,000. Moses Robbins, a Hunterdon County resident, died intestate in 1891, and his son and administrator Henry K. Robbins sold the farm to James Bowman of Hillsborough Township, Somerset County, for \$4,332.50.⁵⁰ Born in Scotland in 1833, James Bowman immigrated to America where he served in the US Army as a captain during the Civil

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War and married Evelina Pitcher in Somerset County on September 9, 1865. He was a merchant in South Branch, a village located on the east side of the Raritan River in Hillsborough Township, and served as that community's postmaster for over forty years. He and his wife had at least six children. By 1900, still a resident of Hillsborough Township, he was "living alone," according the federal census, his wife presumably having died and his children moved away.⁵¹

In 1911, James Bowman conveyed the former Ten Eyck farm to his son William P. Bowman, a New York executive, who in the following year made the property his residence.⁵² William Pitcher Bowman (1868 -1937) began his business career clerking in a general store. In 1890, he obtained a job with a New York firm, and

in 1892 became associated with John A. Roebling Sons and Company [the noted iron and steel manufacturers], and opened a branch office for them in Cleveland, Ohio, where he was manager until 1909. In that year, he was transferred to New York and elected vice president and treasurer of the company.⁵³

Shortly after acquiring his father's Branchburg Township farm, William Bowman built a large Colonial Revival house on the west end of the property, which he proceeded to develop as a country estate called "White Oak Tavern" after the nearby former inn. Materials salvaged from the inn were incorporated the new house. In 1914, he added the frame rear addition to the brick house, which served as a tenant house for the farmer who operated the farm..⁵⁴ Bowman was a widower when he moved back east, and the 1920 census lists him as a single head of household with three servants. In that year he remarried, wedding Mrs. Natalie G. Jewett, who died in 1926 "leaving two daughter by her former marriage." Bowman resided on the farm until his own death on January 22, 1937, in New York after a short illness. Three brothers, two sisters, and a son, Francis P. Bowman, of Plainfield, New Jersey, survived him.⁵⁵

Francis P. Bowman, who later became the president of Chase Manhattan Bank, inherited the Branchburg Township property as his father's sole heir. He and his wife, the former Dorothy Giles, moved to his father's home and continued to rent the brick house and farm to tenant farmers. For many years the property was rented by the Philips family.⁵⁶ In the early 1960s, Carol Girkus and her late husband rented the brick house, which had been vacant for some time, and undertook to paint the interior and make other repairs. They lived there until 1984, at which time the property was owned by Johnson and Johnson, Inc., and made plans to move the brick house to another site, when it appeared that the property would be developed. Mrs. Girkus abandoned these plans after the death of her husband.⁵⁷

The Bowmans sold a 72.56-acre tract encompassing the subject property to Edward and Cecilia Wasser of Somerville, New Jersey, for \$421,020 in 1971, and three years later the Wassers sold it to Johnson and Johnson, Inc. for \$870,720. In 1988, Johnson and Johnson sold the tract to Maurice M. Weill, Trustee for Branchburg Property, Springfield, New Jersey, for \$6,000,000. The farmstead stood vacant and vandalized during the late 1980s, and when plans for the commercial development of the

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property were revealed, the Branchburg Historical Society spearheaded a campaign by local preservationists to save the complex. Its efforts were partially successful, and Weill agreed to donate the house to the Branchburg Township Historical Society in 1990 as part of planning board approval for his proposed office development. In 1991, he conveyed a small lot with the Andrew Ten Eyck House to the Historical Society, after which the barn and other outbuildings were demolished and a large office building erected to the rear of the house. Since then, the Historical Society has been engaged in restoring the Andrew Ten Eyck House for its headquarters.⁵⁸

NOTES

- ¹ Dennis Bertland Associates, *Andrew Ten Eyck House Historic Structures Report*, page 3-2.
- ² J. P. Snell (ed.), *History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, New Jersey*, 1881, pp. 562, 756, 757 & 758; John E. Pomfret, *The Province of East New Jersey 1609–1702*, pp. 244 & 253.
- ³ “Plan of Somerset Cty in the Province of New Jersey/ copied from the original by Lieut. I[J]. Hills., asst. engr.” [c. 1777-80, the original was surveyed by Benjamin Morgan in 1766].
- ⁴ East Jersey Deeds, Book G2, page 190.
- ⁵ Snell, page 496; “Readington Church Baptisms From 1720,” *Somerset County Historical Quarterly*, IV, 1915, page 142.
- ⁶ New Jersey Wills, 375R.
- ⁷ Albert Moore Ten Eyck, *The Ten Eyck Family Record*, pp. 7–12. According to this family genealogy, Coenraet Ten Eyck, the progenitor of the Ten Eyck family in America, emigrated to New Amsterdam from the Netherlands in about 1640 and died in 1687. The genealogy lists Andries as the ninth of Coenraet’s ten children born between 1647 and 1664, and notes that he was born on July 15, 1662, married Barendina Hardenberg, owned a sloop called the “Royal Albert” and settled in New Jersey’s Raritan Valley where he was deacon of the Readington Dutch Reformed Church from 1719 to 1728 and elder from 1727 to 1765. The genealogy, which gives no sources for its statements, also notes the baptism of two of Andries’ daughters, Aafje on November 25, 1718 and Barendina on October 10, 1723. Neither daughter is mentioned in the baptismal registry of the Readington Church. This account appears to be somewhat in error, since if the Andries Ten Eyck who died owning the site of the Ten Eyck house was born in 1662 he would have been about 107 years old at the time of his death in 1769 [NJ Wills 375R]. While he could have been married to Barendina Hardenberg earlier, he certainly had married his wife Adriaentje by 1720, as evidence by the record of baptism of their son Mattheus in 1720. Furthermore, between 1722 and 1739 the couple had at least six other children [“Readington Church Baptisms From 1720,” *Somerset County Historical Quarterly*, IV, 1915, pp. 142–145, 215, 216 & 218]. Perhaps the Andries Ten Eyck in question was Coenraet Ten Eyck’s grandson, instead of his son. Another one of Coenraet’s sons, Matthias, had a son named Andries whose brother Jacob is known to have settled at what became the village of North Branch, a few miles north of the forks of the Raritan [Snell, page 769].

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Andries Ten Eyck's 1768 will names his "cousin Jacob Ten Eyck," as one of his four executors. This cousin may have been Captain Jacob Ten Eyck (1733-1794) the great-grandson of Coenraet Ten Eyck, and the grandson of the latter's son Matthias (1658-1741), who acquired the property near North Branch village on which his son Jacob (1693-1753), the father of Captain Jacob, settled [NJ Wills, 375R and Rosalie Fellows Bailey, *Pre-Revolutionary Dutch Houses and Families in Northern New Jersey and Southern New York*, page 458].

⁸ East Jersey Deeds, book G2, pp. 193 & 198; New Jersey Wills, 375R.

⁹ *Somerset County Historical Quarterly*, IV, 1915, page 216, V, 1916, page 301 and VI, 1917, page 67; Master File, New Jersey Gravestones, Alexander Library Special Collections, Rutgers University ; Snell, page 82.

¹⁰ New Jersey Tax Ratables, Somerset County, Bridgewater Township, 1789, 1791 –1797, 1802, 1803, 1805 and 1809.

¹¹ NJ Wills, 1737R.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Somerset County Deeds, Book K, page 479 and Book U, page 489.

¹⁴ Somerset County Deeds, Book J, page 102.

¹⁵ *The Somerset Messenger*, November 17, 1825, as quoted in "Marriages and Deaths: 1825," *SCHQ*, VII, 1990, page 191; NJ Wills 2192R.

¹⁶ Somerset County Deeds, Book M, page 616 and Book U, page 489; Somerset County Mortgages, Book I, page 650.

¹⁷ *Somerset County Historical Quarterly*, VIII, 1919, page 284; Somerset County Deeds, Book J, page 102; NJ Wills 2840R

¹⁸ New Jersey Tax Ratables, Somerset County, Bridgewater Township, 1789, 1791 –1797, 1802, 1803, 1805 and 1809.

¹⁹ "Readington Church Baptisms From 1720," *Somerset County Historical Quarterly*, VI, 1917, pp. 293, 297, 302 and VII, 1918, pp. 144 & 213.

²⁰ Somerset County Deeds, Book J, page 794; Somerset County Mortgages, Book I, page 650.

²¹ Master file, New Jersey Gravestones, Alexander Library Special Collections, Rutgers University; Snell, page 677; see also foot note #7.

²² *The Palladium of Liberty*, February 27, 1823, as quoted in "Marriages and Deaths: 1823," *Somerset County Historical Quarterly*, VI, 1988, page 29; *The Palladium of Liberty*, September 18, 1823, as quoted in "Marriages and Deaths: 1823," *SCHQ*, VI, 1988, page 32; *The Somerset Messenger*, November 17, 1825, as quoted in "Marriages and Deaths: 1825," *SCHQ*, VII, 1990, page 19.

²³ *North Branch Village and Its Church, A History Written for the Centennial Celebration of the North Branch Reformed Church Sanctuary*, no page number; Somerset County Deeds, Book U, page 489.

²⁴ Snell, pp. 645 & 660; *Minutes of the Meetings of the Justices and Freeholders for the County of Somerset, May 13, 1772 to September 2, 1822*, pp. 306 – 315; Somerset County Deeds, Book D, page 225, Book G, Page 33, Book N, page 278 and Book W, page 274. As an example of his real estate dealings of which there is record, Andrew A. Ten Eyck, Sr. purchased a 5-acre parcel (part of a wood lot formerly belonging to the "plantation" of Martin Schenk, deceased) from John Frelinghuysen in

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- 1810 for \$200 and sold the same property to Tunis Dailey in 1836, in which conveyance it is described as a "house and lot" for \$375 [Somerset County Deeds, Book G, page 33 and Book W, page 274]. A house evidently was erected on the former wood lot during Ten Eyck's ownership.
- ²⁵ US Census, Bridgewater Township, 1830 and 1840.
- ²⁶ US Census, Bridgewater Township, 1830 and 1850; "Somerset County Marriages," *Somerset County Historical Quarterly*, VIII, 1919, page 195; NJ Wills 2840R; *The Somerset Whig*, December 27, 1842.
- ²⁷ US Census, Bridgewater Township, 1830; New Jersey Wills, 2191R and 2840R.
- ²⁸ Hiram E. Deats (comp.), *Revised Printing of Marriage Records of Hunterdon County, New Jersey 1795-1875*, page 286; Ellen Ann's maiden name is given as Martsel in this work but as Van Marter on her gravestone: Master file, New Jersey Gravestones, Alexander Library Special Collections, Rutgers University.
- ²⁹ US Census, Bridgewater Township, 1840 and 1850.
- ³⁰ *The Somerset Whig*, December 27, 1842; New Jersey Wills, 2840R.
- ³¹ Somerset County Deeds, Book V2, page 503 and Book I3, page 263.
- ³² New Jersey Wills, 2840R.
- ³³ US Census, Bridgewater Township, 1840.
- ³⁴ Somerset County Deeds, Book V2, page 503 and Book I3, page 263.
- ³⁵ "Old Militia Days in Somerset," *Somerset County Historical Quarterly*, II, 1913, page 318.
- ³⁶ *Ibid.*; Snell, page 764; J. W. Otley and J. Keily, *Map of Somerset County, New Jersey*, 1850; US Census, Branchburg Township, 1850.
- ³⁷ J. W. Otley and J. Keily, *Map of Somerset County, New Jersey*, 1850; US Census, Branchburg Township, 1850; Somerset County Deeds, Book V2, page 503 and Book S4, page 77.
- ³⁸ US Census, Agricultural Schedule, Bridgewater Township, 1850.
- ³⁹ Somerset County Road Returns, Book B, page 389.
- ⁴⁰ US Census, Agricultural Schedule Bridgewater Township, 1850.
- ⁴¹ US Census, Bridgewater Township, 1850
- ⁴² *Ibid.*; *The Comet*, February 16, 1855 as quoted in "Marriages and Deaths: The Comet," *SCHQ*, I, 1983, page 69
- ⁴³ Somerset County Deeds, Book V2, page 503.
- ⁴⁴ New Jersey Wills 7204J.
- ⁴⁵ D. J. Lake & S. N. Beers, *Map of the Vicinity of Philadelphia and Trenton*, 1860; US Census, Branchburg Township, 1860; New Jersey Wills 7204J.
- ⁴⁶ US Census, Branchburg Township, 1860 and 1870.
- ⁴⁷ New Jersey Wills 7204J; Somerset County Deeds C4, page 77.
- ⁴⁸ "Executors Sale of Valuable Real Estate,....Moses Robbins, executor," *The Somerset Union*, October 10, 1873.
- ⁴⁹ Somerset County Deeds, Book V2, page 503.
- ⁵⁰ Somerset County Deeds, Book, Book S4, page 77 & Book C6, page 538.

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- ⁵¹ "Wm. P. Bowman Dies in New York at age of 68," *The Messenger-Gazette*, January 1, 1937; US Census, Hillsborough Township, 1880 and 1900.
- ⁵² Somerset County Deeds, Book C7, page 134.
- ⁵³ "Wm. P. Bowman Dies in New York at age of 68," *The Messenger-Gazette*, January 1, 1937.
- ⁵⁴ William A. Schleicher, Susan J. Winter, and Robert Bouwman, *Images of America – Branchburg and the River Towns...*, pp. 115 & 134.
- ⁵⁵ "Wm. P. Bowman Dies in New York at age of 68," *The Messenger-Gazette*, January 1, 1937; US Census, Branchburg Township, 1920.
- ⁵⁶ Somerset County Wills, file 16033, Book F1, page 433; Schleicher, Winter, and Bouwman, pp. 115 & 141.
- ⁵⁷ Interview with Carol Girkus, July 10, 2002; Somerset County Deeds, County Deeds, Book 1304, page 581, Book 1685, page 410.
- ⁵⁸ Somerset County Deeds, County Deeds, Book 1238, page 85, Book 1304, page 581, Book 1685, page 410 and Book 1795, page 364; William Schleicher, "The Society's New Headquarters," no date.

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Somerset County Wills
Somerset County Road Returns

NJ Archives, Trenton NJ
East Jersey Deeds
NJ Wills
Bridgewater Township Ratables 1789, 1791-1797, 1802, 1803, 1805, 1809

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Hillsborough Township, 1880, 1900

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Master file, New Jersey Gravestones, Alexander Library Special Collections, Rutgers University.

Schleicher, William. "The Society's New Headquarters," no date.

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Andrew Ten Eyck House, Somerset, Co., NJ

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the nominated property are those of block 61, lot 1.03, the lot encompassing the Andrew Ten Eyck House. The nominated property is bordered by block 61, lot 1.01 on its south, west and east sides and by the Old York Road on its north side. The boundary of the nominated property, which is delineated on the "Andrew Ten Eyck House Site and Boundary Map," begins on the south side of the Old York Road at the northeast corner block 61, lot 1.03, also a corner of block 61, lot 1.01, and from which point runs:

1. South 27° 31' 00" West 80.00 feet to a point; thence
2. North 62° 29' 00" West 47.00 feet to a point; thence
3. North 27° 31' 00" East 80.00 feet to a point on the south side of the Old York Road right-of-way; thence
4. Along the said right-of-way and the north side of lot 1.03, South 62° 29' 00" East 47.00 feet to the place of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary of the nominated property corresponds to those of block 161, lot 1.03, which lot comprises all of the remaining lands appurtenant to the Andrew Ten Eyck House.

PHOTOGRAPHIC IDENTIFICATION:

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

Name: Andrew Ten Eyck House
Location: 671 Old York Road
Branchburg, Somerset Co., NJ 08876
Photographer: Dennis Bertland
Date of photographs: November, 2002
Negative repository: Dennis Bertland Associates
PO Box 11
Port Murray, NJ 07865

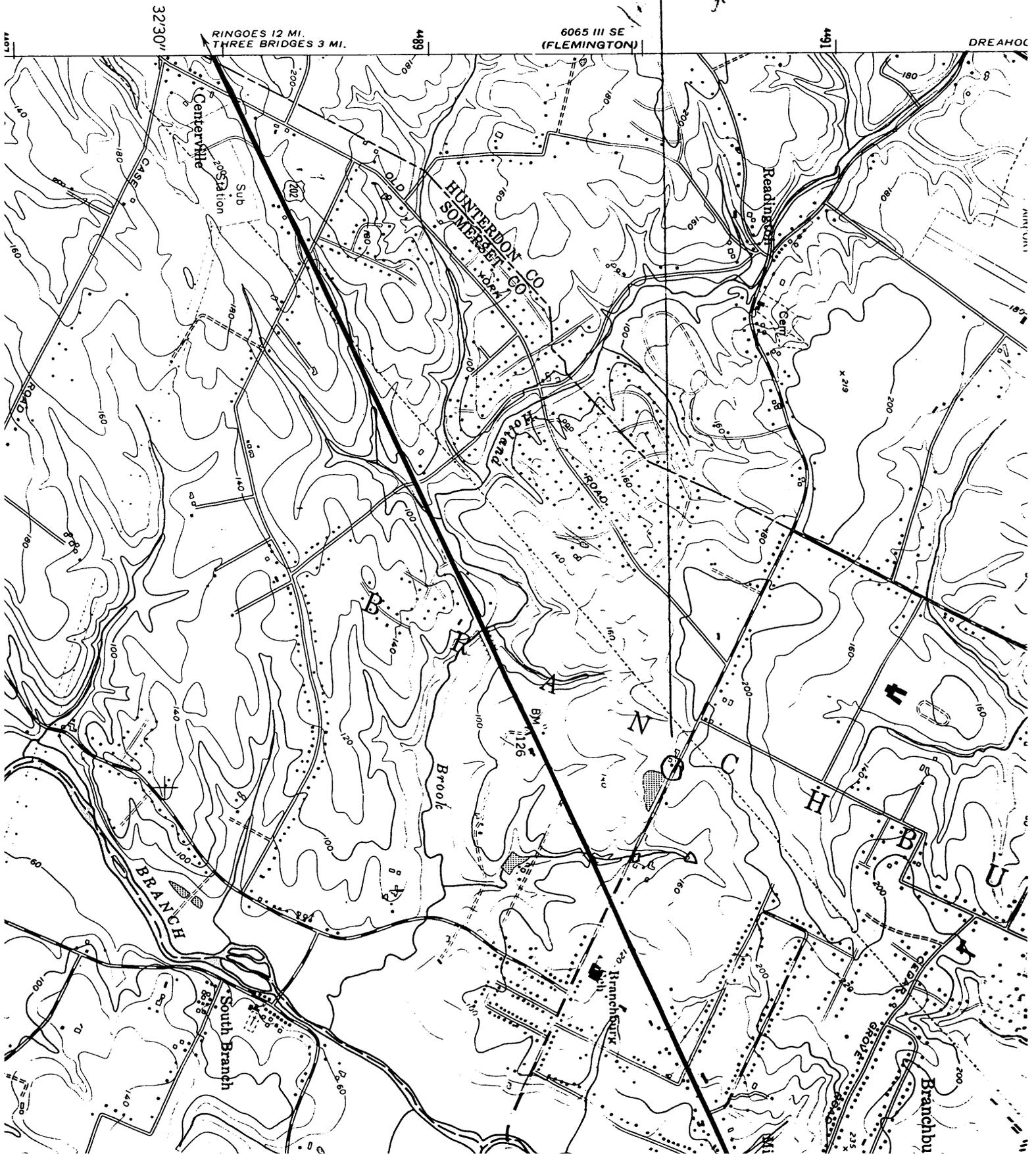
Photograph direction of view:

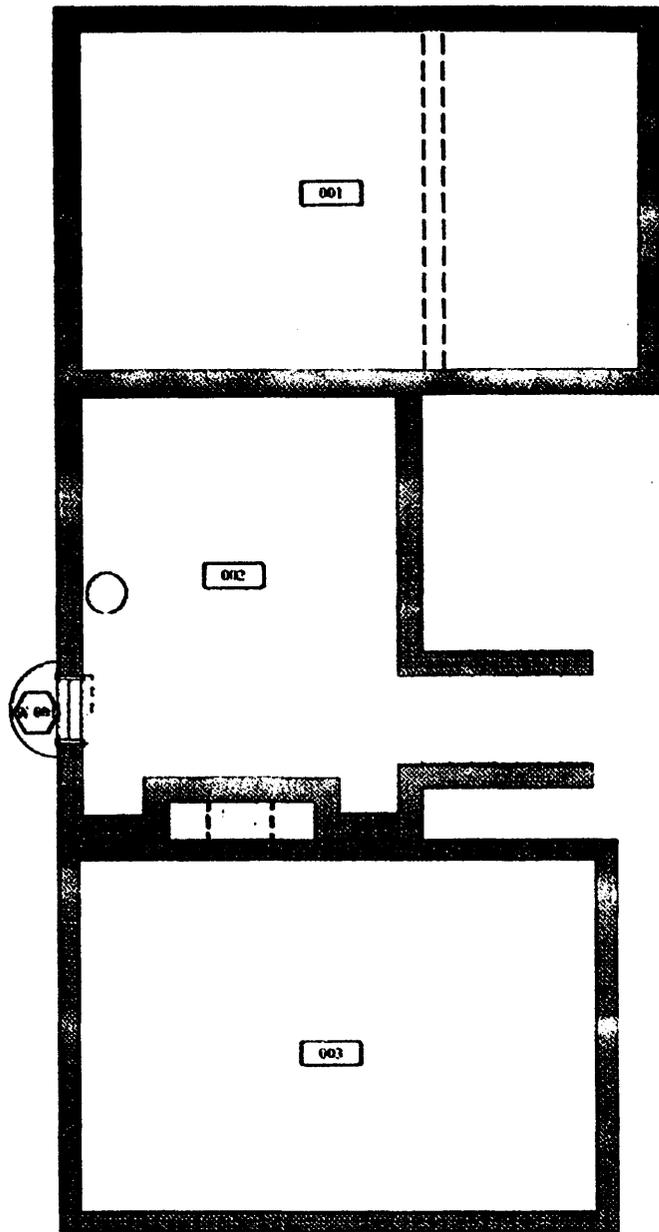
- #1 south & east facades, northwest view.
- #2 south & east facades, northwest view.
- #3 south & west facades, northeast view.
- #4 north & west facades, southeast view.
- #5 east & north facades, southwest view.
- #6 north façade, southwest view.
- #7 north façade, east entry, south view.
- #8 south façade, 1st story window, 2nd bay from east, north view.
- #9 reception hall, southwest view.
- #10 reception hall, southeast view.
- #11 reception hall, northeast view.
- #12 reception hall, inglenook, northeast view.
- #13 reception hall, inglenook fireplace, north view.
- #14 library, southwest view.
- #15 library, northwest view.
- #16 billiard room, southwest view.
- #17 billiard room, northwest view.
- #18 dining room, southeast view.
- #19 kitchen, northeast view.
- #20 1st/2nd floor staircase landing, southwest view.
- #21 2nd story, west bathroom, northwest view.
- #22 2nd story, middle suite study, southeast view.
- #23 2nd story, southwest suite study, south view into southwest bedroom.

Raritan Quad

*Zone 1K
E 524607
N 449076*

*Andrews Topogek
Harrison*





North
1
AT01
CELLAR PLAN
scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"

Andrew Ten Eyck House
Somerset County, NJ

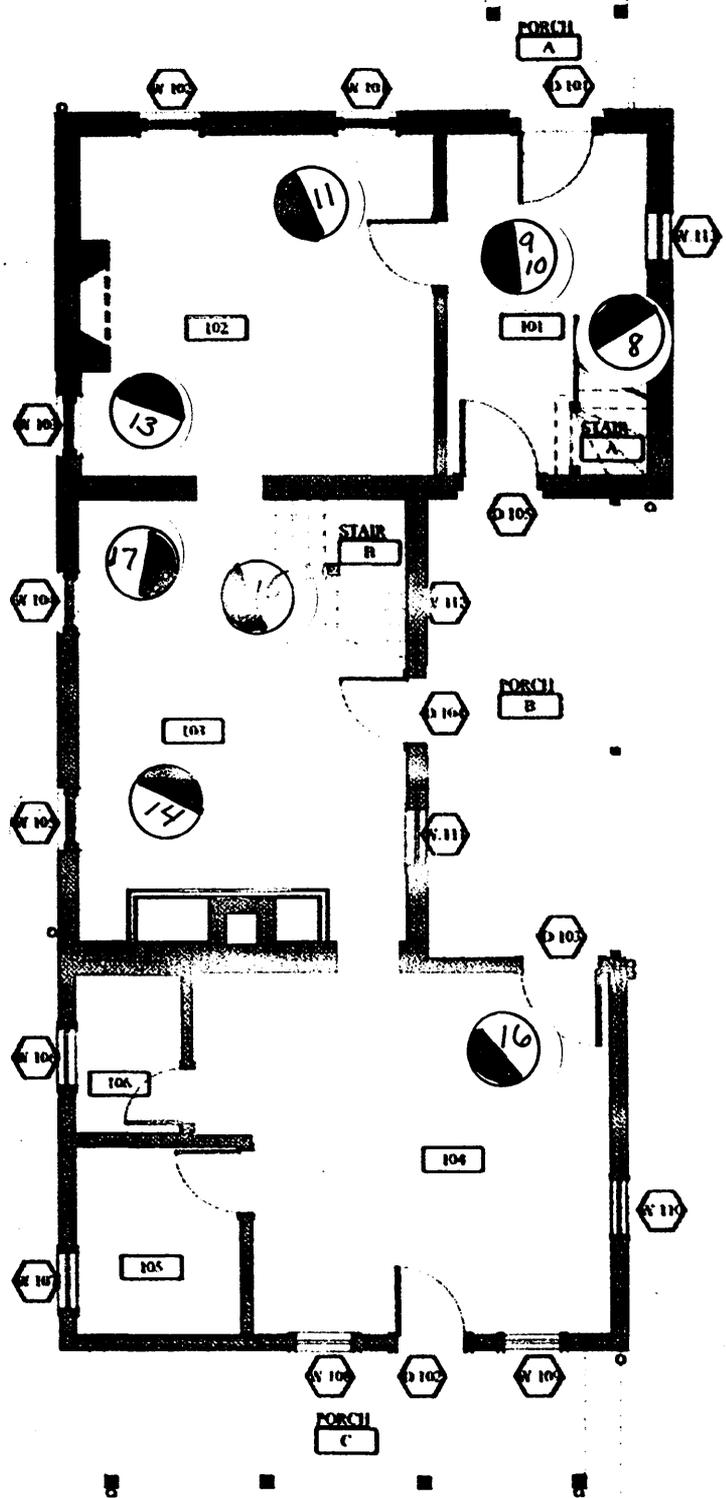


Photo ID#
(direction of view)



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"

Andrew Ten Eyck House
Somerset County, NJ

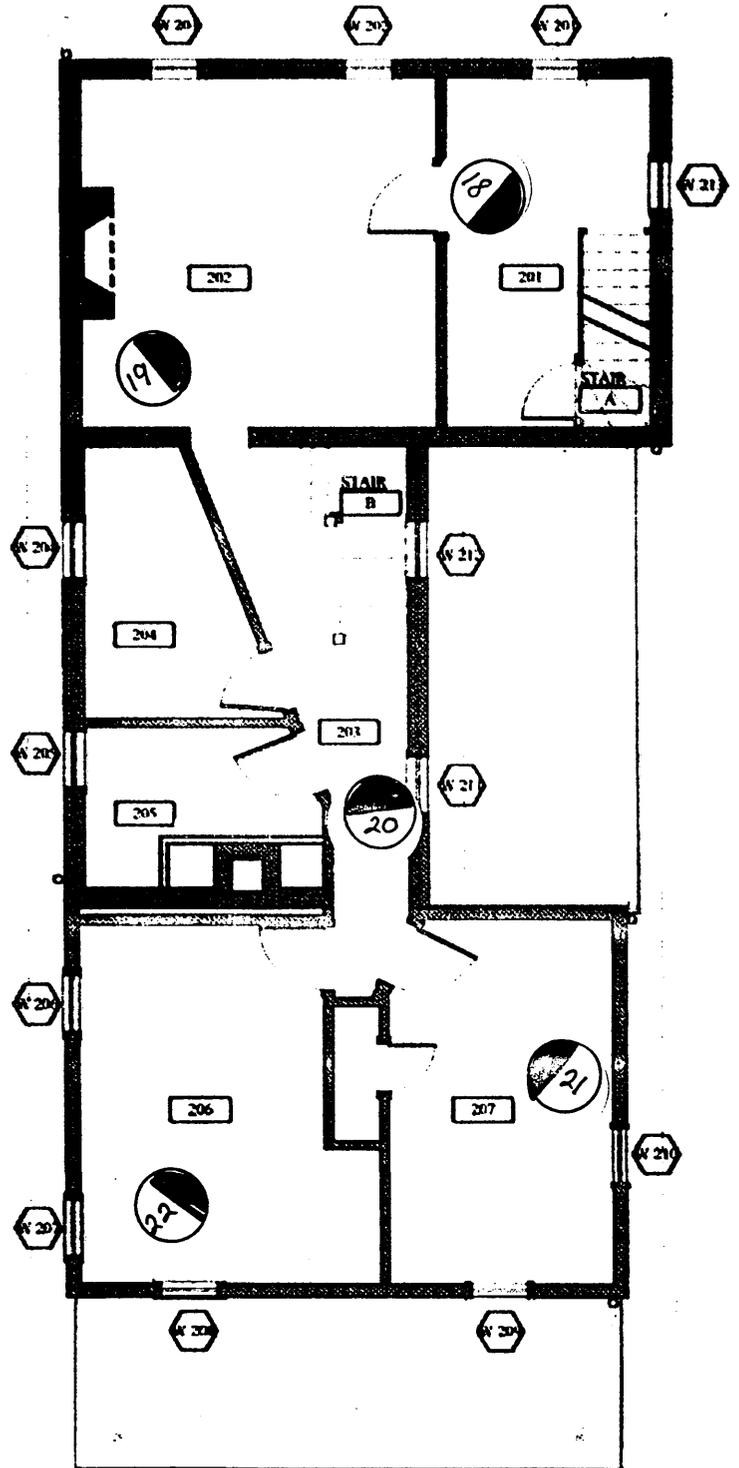
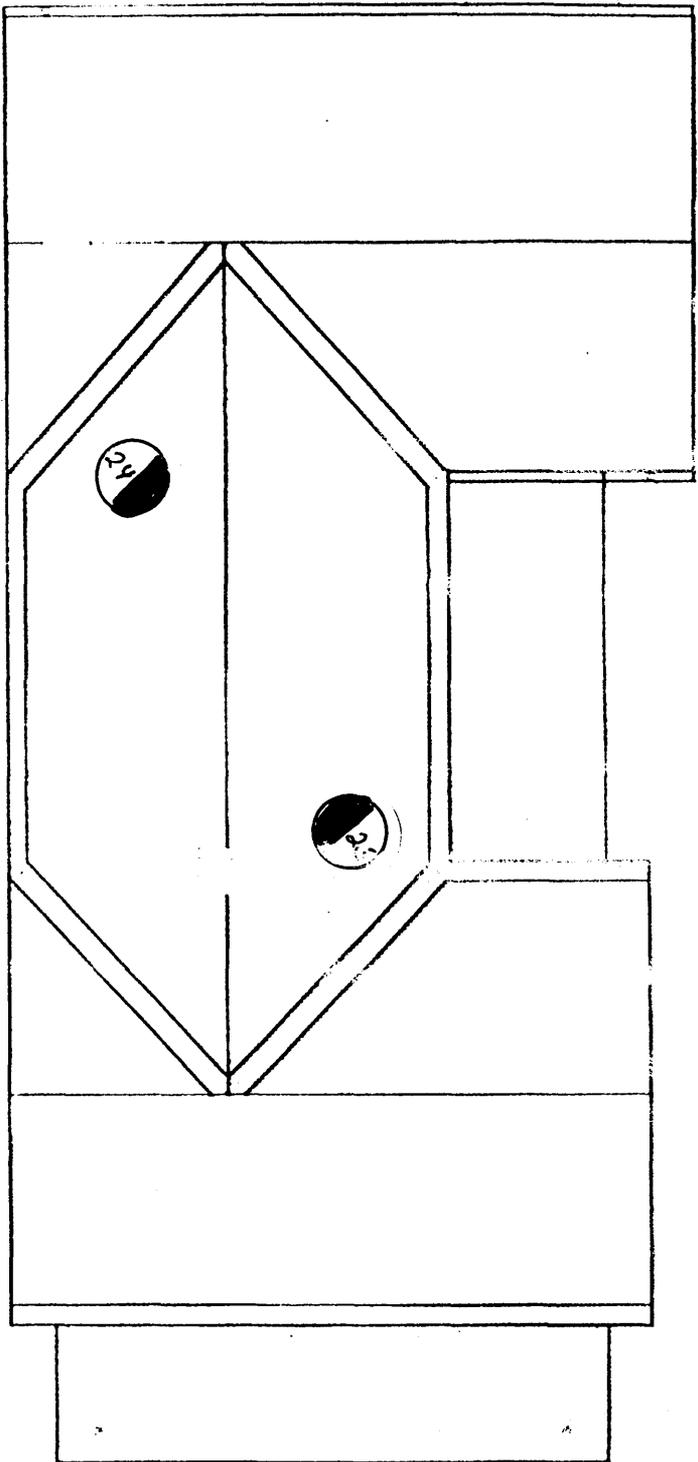



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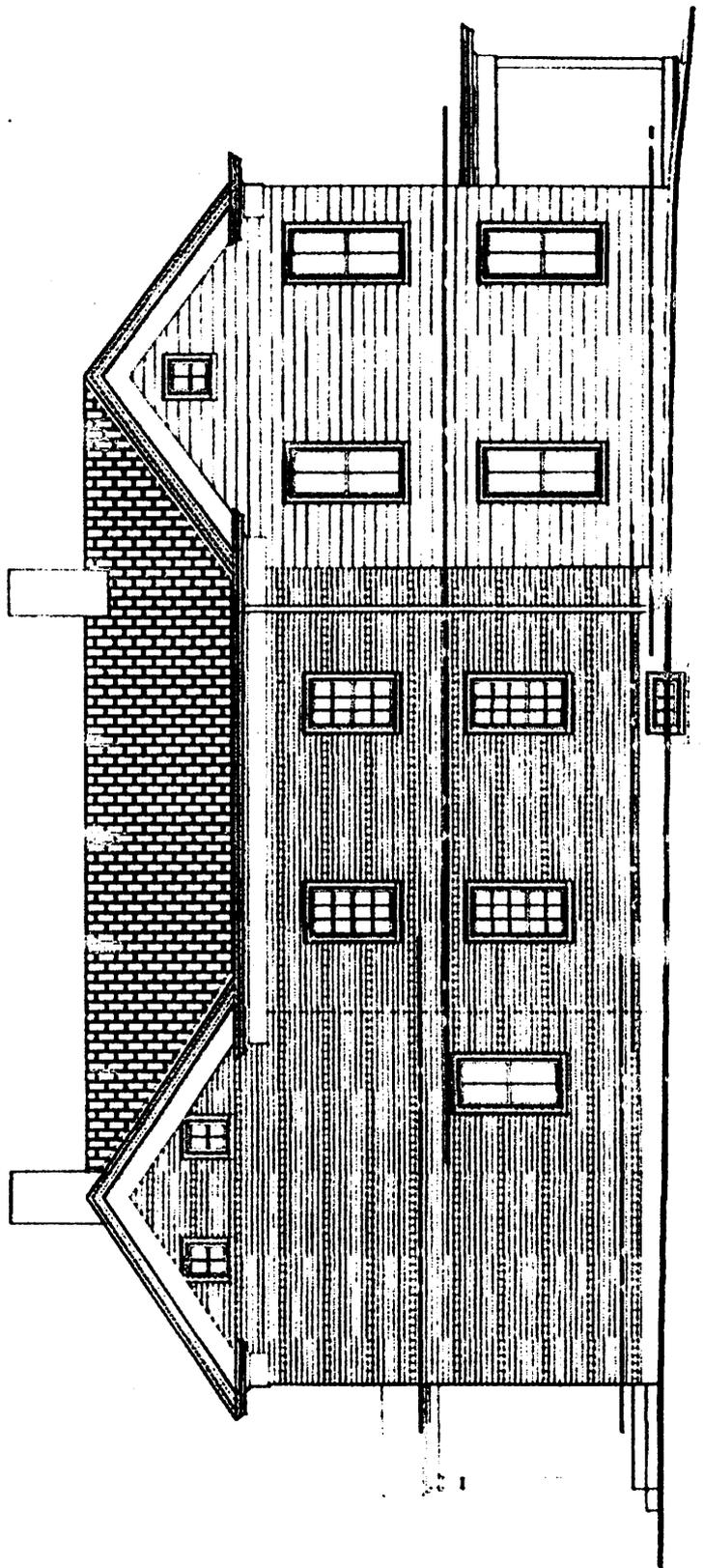

1 SECOND FLOOR PLAN
 scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"

Andrew Ten Eyck House
 Somerset County, NJ

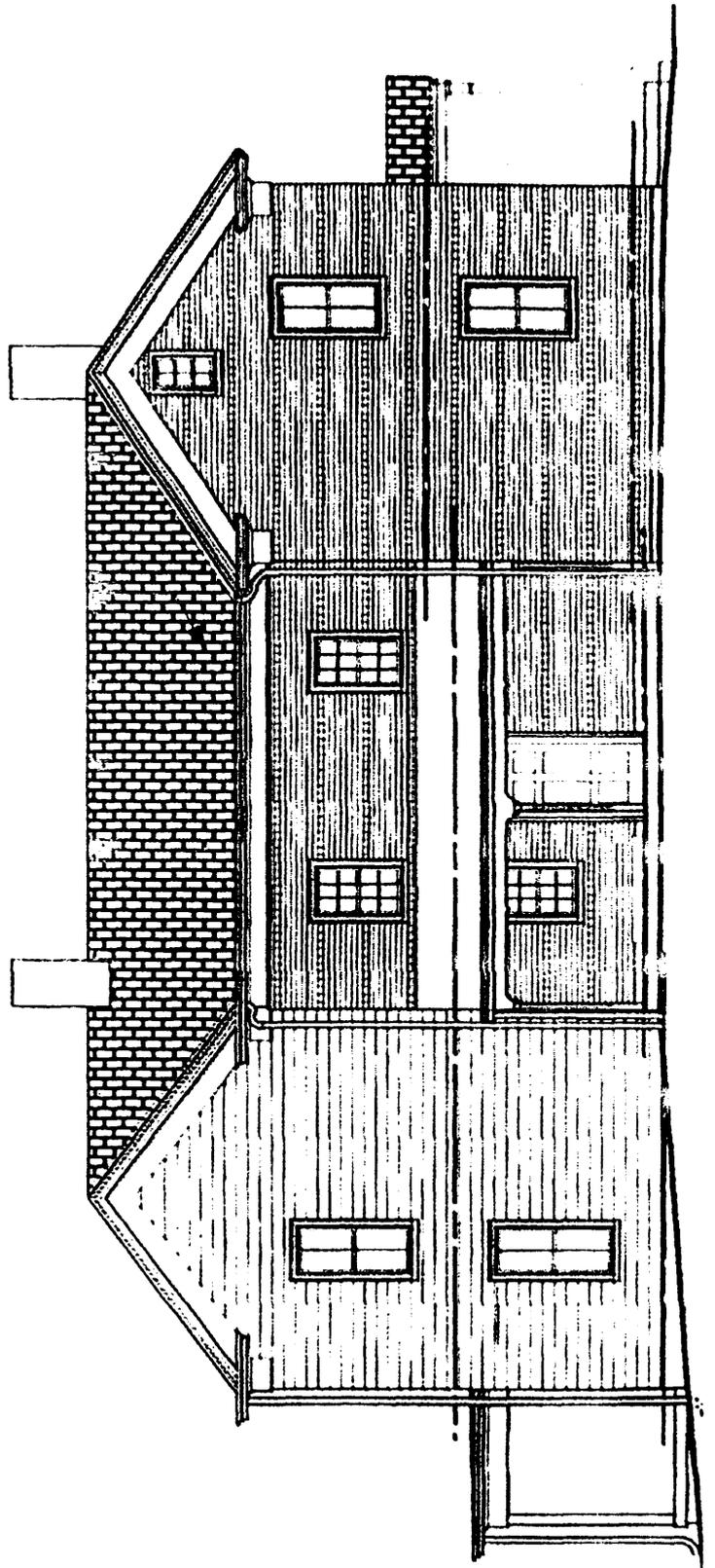


North  1 ROOF PLAN
A101 scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"

Andrew Ten Eyck House
Somerset County, NJ



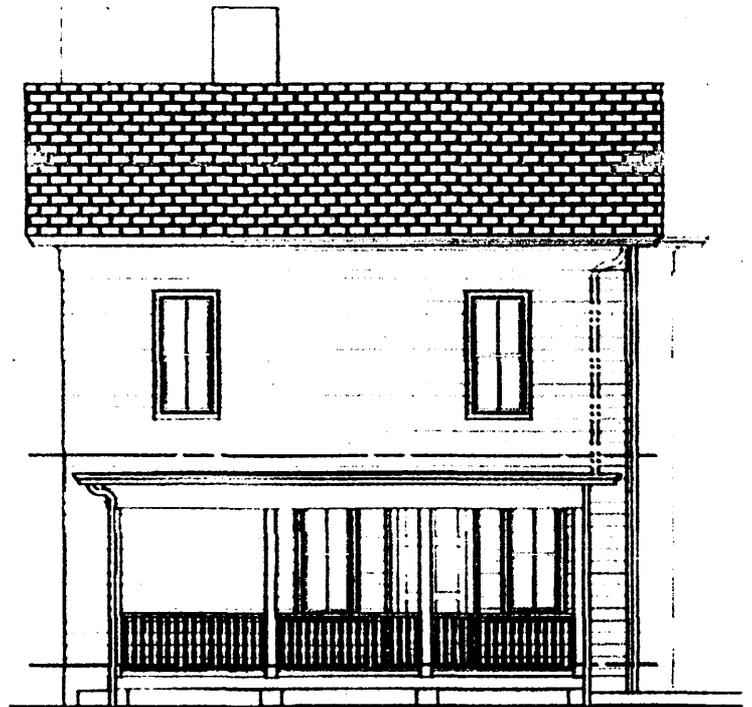
Andrew Ten Eyck House
Somerset County, NJ



Andrew Ten Eyck House
Somerset County, NJ



3 NORTH ELEVATION
A.401 scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"



3 SOUTH ELEVATION
A.401 scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"

Andrew Ten Eyck House
Somerset County, NJ

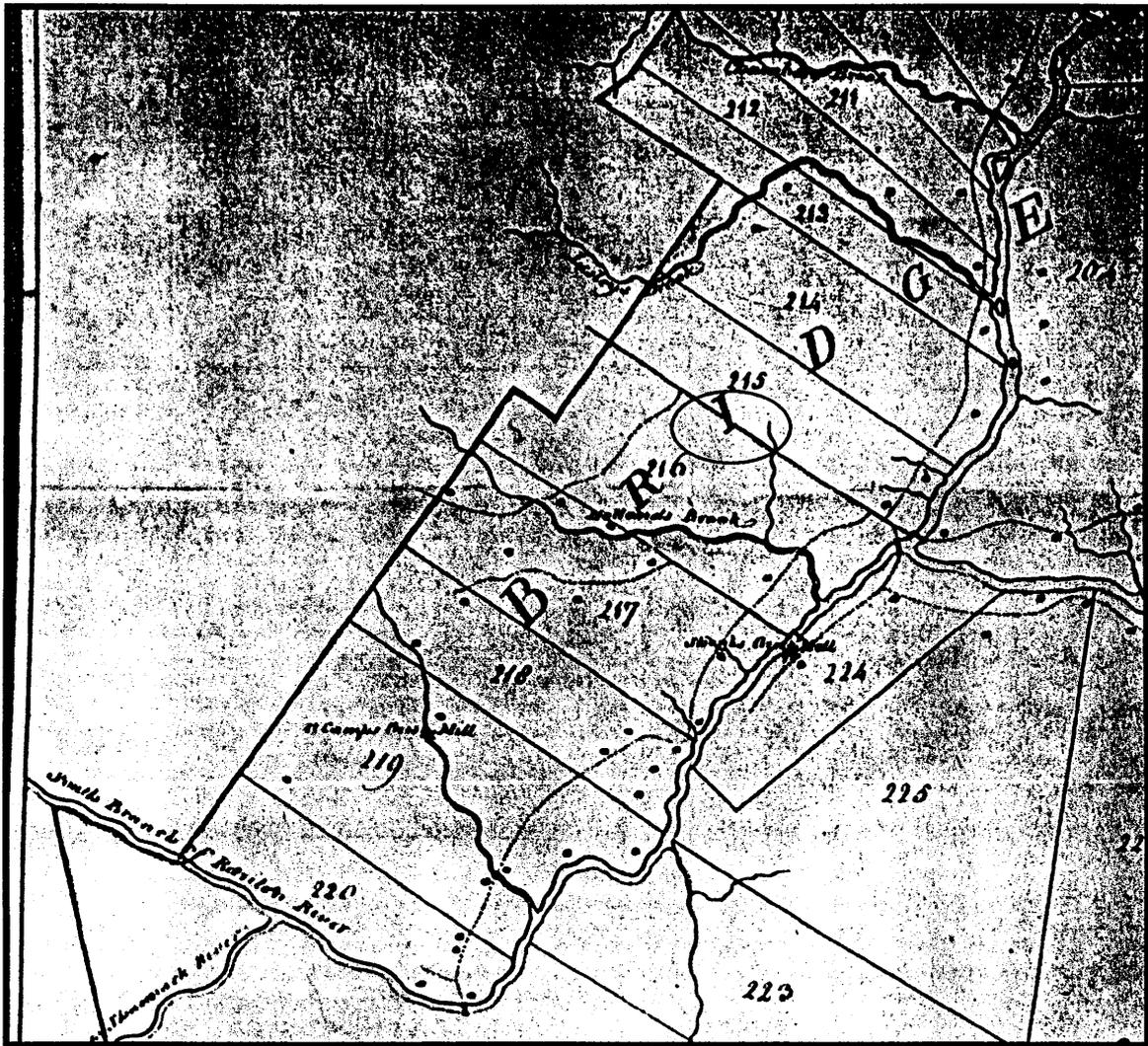


Figure 1. The 1766 map of Somerset County designates lot #s 215 and 216 as the property of “Andrew Hambelton”, a mistake for New Jersey Governor Andrew Hamilton who was assigned the property in the 1680’s. Old York Road divides lot #215 (which contained 250 acres) from 750-acre lot # 216. The site of the Ten Eyck House is located on lot # 216 near the “T” in Bridgewater. [I. Hills & Benjamin Morgan, *Plan of Somerset City in the Province of New Jersey*,” 1766].



Figure 2. The 1850 map depicts one or two houses to the west on the site of the subject property (one may be an ink blot), as well as two across the road to the north. Deed references and the 1850 census indicate that the “Widow Titus,” the name adjoining the houses, refers to Jane Titus who owned property and lived on the north side of the road. The names “I. H. Hall” and “White Oak Tavern” appearing nearby on the map also reference the buildings on the north side of the road. Deeds indicate that Isaac H. Hall owned property on the north side of the road and the 1850 census gives his occupation as tavern keeper. Comparison of the order in which households are listed in the 1850 census with the 1850 county map suggests that Edward Harmer, a young farmer, occupied the subject property as tenant of Andrew A. Ten Eyck, Jr. Edward Harmer was identified as a landless farmer in the census and listed just before Jane Titus and after Thomas Van Horn, a black laborer owning a small property, whom the 1850 map indicates lived just to the west
 [J. W. Otley and J. Keily, *Map of Somerset County, New Jersey*, 1850; US Census, Branchburg Township, 1850].



Figure 3. The 1873 county atlas depicts two houses on the subject property as belonging to the "J. Robbins Est." the subject house and one to the west near the junction of the Old York Road and the road to Readington Church [F. W. Beers, *Atlas of Somerset County*, 1873].

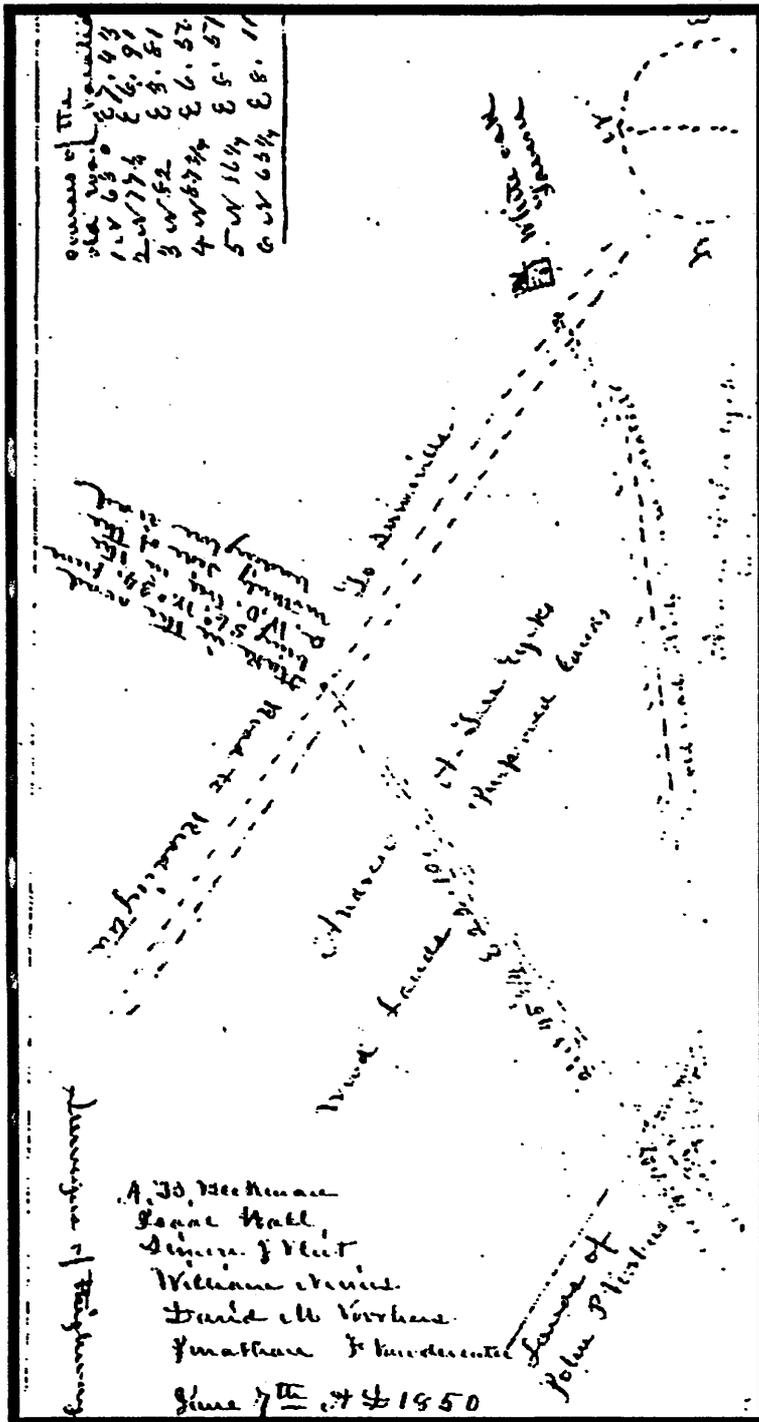


Figure 4. Original section of the Old York Road, which cut southwest across the Ten Eyck property from in front of the White Oak Tavern Road, is abandoned and replaced by a new road along the present right-angled alignment. The survey map accompanying the road return indicates that the new alignment followed the boundary between Andrew A. Ten Eyck's "wood lands and improved lands". North is to the left. [Somerset County Road Returns, book B, page 389].