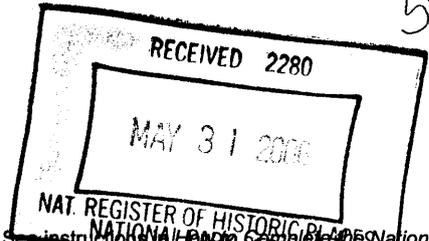


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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



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

1. Name of Property

historic name William H. Johnson House

other name/site number 52 Welton Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901

2. Location

street & no. 52 Welton Street not for publication

city or town New Brunswick vicinity

state New Jersey code 023 county Middlesex zip code 08901

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.)

Amy Cradic 4/20/06
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Amy Cradic, 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:)

Edson H. Beall 7.12.06
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

William H. Johnson House
Name of Property

New Brunswick, Middlesex, New Jersey
City, 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	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Function
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single Dwelling

Domestic: Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian: Italianate

foundation Brick
walls Wood
Vinyl Siding
roof _____
other _____

Narrative Description

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

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

William H. Johnson House
Name of Property

New Brunswick, Middlesex, New Jersey
City, County and State

8. Description

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1872-1904

Significant Dates

1872

Significant Persons

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other Name of repository:
Rutgers University Special Collections Library and Archives

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

William H. Johnson House
Name of Property

New Brunswick, Middlesex, New Jersey
City, County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.1100 acres

UTM References

(Place additional boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

1 1/8 5/471135 44/822β 10
Zone Easting Northing

2 / /////// /////////
Zone Easting Northing

3 / /////// /////////
Zone Easting Northing

4 / /////// /////////
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Property Tax No. District 1213, Block 140 Lot 36

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nancy Zerbe; Janice Armstrong; Stephanie Smith

organization ARCH2 Inc. date _____

street & number 16 Wernik Place telephone 732-906-8203

city or town Metuchen state NJ zip code 08840

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

name/title Michael P. & Elizabeth A. Ciccone

street & number 52 Welton Street telephone 732-247-1451

city or town New Brunswick state NJ zip code 08901

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.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

William H. Johnson House
Middlesex County, New Jersey

DESCRIPTION

The William H. Johnson House is located at 52 Welton Street in the City of New Brunswick, Middlesex County, New Jersey. The house, which was built ca. 1872-1874, is a 3-story, 2-bay Italianate building with a rectangular side hall plan that has a 2-story rear block. Around 1910, a one-story porch addition was added along the rear of the building. The nominated property consists of the house's original 25 by 100 foot lot. The house currently sits on a double lot; however, the adjacent lot was originally associated with 50 Welton Street, a mid-nineteenth century residential structure that collapsed and was demolished in the 1970s. The house is within a streetscape of mid- to late nineteenth century residential structures, all of which are situated close to the street. The adjacent lot and the rear yard, which contain mature trees and plantings, are enclosed by a stockade fence.

Exterior

Built ca. 1872-1874, the William H. Johnson House is a 2-bay Italianate house (see Photograph #1). The house consists of a 3-story rectangular side hall plan main block with a shallow double pitch gable roof and an interior chimney, and a square 2-story rear block with a sloped roof (see Photograph #2). The main block and the rear block are both part of the original design. Circa 1910, the rear 1-story porch on the east facade of the rear block was enclosed to provide additional space for the kitchen (see Photograph #2).¹ Built on a brick foundation, the exterior walls are covered with original clapboard siding on the north (front) façade and synthetic siding on the remainder of the building.

The north (front) facade (see Photograph #3) is clad in clapboard and consists of two bays. The west bay contains a raised entry with eight wood steps and a modern flared double railing leading to the main entrance with Italianate arched double doors. Each door consists of a lower paneled wood square with molding and a central square raised block, a large rectangular glass pane in the middle, and a quarter round window with ca. 1920 replacement glass at the top (see Photograph #4). The doors are flanked by two pilasters with bases, paneled shafts, and consoles. The consoles support an elaborate door hood with a curved pediment, a central finial, and fleur-de-lis on the finial and below the door hood. The door recess has decorative raised side panels and a modern Plexiglas panel. There are two single arched one-over-one windows above the door, one on each floor, with two rectangular panels between the two windows. The second-story window has a bracketed wooden hood that matches the door hood. The third floor window is a single window with a segmental lintel.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

William H. Johnson House
Middlesex County, New Jersey

The front façade's east bay consists of a two-story bay window on the first and second floors with paired windows on the third floor. The windows are all arched, one-over-one windows. The bay window is articulated with rectangular panels below the first floor windows, window hoods above the first floor windows, brackets, fleur-de-lis, and geometric molding. The paired windows are capped by segmental lintels. The north facade is capped by a wide entablature consisting of architrave trim that connects with the third floor window lintels, a wide frieze, and a box cornice. Cornice detailing includes a row of dentils below the cornice as well as eight evenly spaced modillions above large carved brackets.

The east facades of the main and rear blocks feature vinyl siding and two-over-two sash windows with plain trim (see Photograph #2). On the main block, the two windows at the north end of the second floor are modern replacements. The enclosed shed roofed porch, now part of the kitchen, has a brick foundation and a modern casement window.

The south (rear) façade features vinyl siding, 2/2 windows with plain trim, and a bracketed cornice. The rear entry consists of a mid-twentieth century modern glass and panel exterior door and a small roofless wood porch with a wood lattice railing. A modern fire escape leads from the third floor window to the roof of the enclosed porch (see Photograph #5).

The west façade is covered in vinyl siding with plain trim and has no window or door openings (see Photograph #1).

Interior

The main block of the house, with its original nineteenth century arrangement, is three stories high with a rectangular side hall plan and a cellar. The cellar is divided into two large rooms with very high ceilings (see Photograph #6). The south room has three large brick support pillars running from front to back supporting the hallway wall. The outlines of the coal bins are visible; however, the side windows have been covered with insulation and plywood on the outside and the front windows have been filled in with glass block. A brick chimney rises from the cellar through all three upper stories. There were originally two chimneys, but only one of them is extant.

The first floor of the house has a side entrance hallway and two main rooms. The entrance hallway (see Photograph #7) has original embossed wallpaper from the top of the baseboard molding up to a height of approximately four feet in a leaf and bark motif arranged in geometric squares (see Photograph #8), the original staircase, a doorway into

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William H. Johnson House
Middlesex County, New Jersey

both the front and rear rooms, and an original circular plaster ceiling medallion in a floral motif (see Photograph #9). The open front staircase has an ornate chamfered newel post, a molded handrail and slender turned balustrades, a triangular closet underneath the staircase, a small built-in bracketed corner shelf at the top of the stairs, and side panels with a raised scroll pattern (see Photographs #10 & 11). A sketch of a similar stairway appears in an 1856 advertisement for the Buttler and Johnson millwork business.²

Two main rooms are located to the east of the side entrance hallway along the first floor (see Photograph #12). These more formal rooms feature original pine floors and ornate wood molded base boards and plaster crown molding. The front room has a bay window along the front façade with recessed panels below the windows. There is a fireplace with an ornate carved marble mantel and coal grate (see Photograph #13) centered along the east side wall and an original plaster ceiling medallion in floral motif in the center of the ceiling (see Photograph #14). The fireplace is original to the house, but the coal grate is a later addition dated to 1882. Between the front and rear rooms of the main block are original pocket doors with etched glass and built-in curtain hardware (see Photograph #15). The rear room of the main block has a fireplace with an ornate carved marble mantel and coal grate (also dated to 1882) along the rear (south) façade (see Photograph #16) and an original plaster ceiling medallion identical to that of the front room. The west façade of the rear room features two slightly curved walls and a four-paneled door leading to a closet (see Photograph #17). Adjacent to this closet is a modern half bathroom that opens up into the kitchen.

In the first floor of the rear block is a kitchen that is original to the house and now incorporates the enclosed porch (see Photograph #18). A small rear entry hall and staircase with original bead board leads to the second floor of the rear block (see Photograph #19).

The second floor of the main block consists of two large bedrooms with fireplaces and closets, a small room over the front entry hall, and a long hallway leading to the rear block. The second floor front hallway has original embossed wallpaper from the top of the baseboard molding to a height of approximately four feet in a leaf and bark motif arranged in geometric square (see Photograph #20). The front room of the main block has a bay window with a wide molding surround and decorative panels below (see Photograph #21) and a fireplace with a carved marble mantle (see Photograph #22). The fireplace is centered along the east façade and is now flanked by two single windows that were added after the property was expanded to include the adjacent lot. The master bedroom (see Photograph #23) features an unusual gray marble fireplace and built-in linen closet with all of its original hardware (see Photograph #24). The small room at the front end of the hallway (see Photograph #25) has original molding and a picture rail.

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William H. Johnson House
Middlesex County, New Jersey

The second floor of the rear block, which is separated from the main block by a door and a step down (see Photograph #26), consists of a bedroom, a small hallway, and a modern bath. The small bedroom in the rear block (see Photograph #27) retains its original molding and two-over-two windows.

The third floor is reached from the second floor hallway. The wide enclosed attic steps run along the west side of the hallway and have bead board on one wall and plaster on the other (see Photograph #28). A twentieth century renovation into a four-room apartment covered or replaced much of the original fabric.

The majority of the hardware throughout the house is original, including hinges, latches, and the front door escutcheon. More than half of the doorknobs are original white porcelain, and some still have their original lock boxes and matching porcelain keyhole covers (see Photograph #29). Also typical of the mid-1800s, extant early doors feature four recessed panels on both faces (see Photograph #30).

Integrity

Despite a few mid 20th-century alterations, the William H. Johnson House preserves most of its character defining features. Retaining its essential integrity of setting, location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, the property still reflects its architectural significance of the mid-nineteenth century period.

Notes

¹ Sanborn Map 1910

² 1868 New Brunswick City Directory, Advertisement, Isaac Fenn, Stair Builder p. 2.

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William H. Johnson House
Middlesex County, New Jersey

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The William H. Johnson House is architecturally significant under National Register Criterion C as a well-preserved urban example of the mid-nineteenth century High Victorian Italianate style. Built ca. 1872-1874, the house exemplifies the Italianate style with its intricate front façade and its interior features, including the front staircase, moldings, fireplaces, wallpaper, doors, and hardware. The house's exuberant detailing reflects not only a popular architectural style, but also the prominent social status of the house's first owner. William H. Johnson, a master house painter, owned the property from 1872 until his death in 1904.

Historic Overview

New Brunswick's success as a port and market town in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries made the city a key location both socially and economically in the Raritan River Valley. Due to New Brunswick's strategic location on the river, the city's economy between 1700 and 1725 was centered on the products being imported and exported at its docks. The early settlement of New Brunswick by English, Scottish, Scots-Irish, German, French, Dutch and African slaves began near the river and eventually expanded outward. New Brunswick's two main roads were the Upper Road and the Lower Road, which were built around 1800. The Lower Road, which is currently part of Livingston Avenue, led to Burlington, while the Upper Road led to Trenton.¹ The construction of a turnpike in 1807, which is today parts of Livingston Avenue and Route 1, also lent to the economic success of New Brunswick as it opened a direct pathway to the state's capital² and allowed New Brunswick to serve as a stopping point between Trenton and New York. Both the Delaware and Raritan Canal and the New Jersey Railroad were constructed in the 1830s³ and were important economic outlets for the city.

By the late nineteenth century, New Brunswick transitioned from a major transshipment point to a manufacturing town. Rubber products, wallpaper, carriages, millwork, and machinery were some of the many industries in New Brunswick located near the river. Due to the economic change, the need for manufacturing workers led to a population increase and residential development. In 1860, the population of New Brunswick was 11,287 and the value of real estate was \$4,448,200. Personal holdings were recorded at \$5,135,550 while the capital invested was \$1,250,000. By 1870, the population had risen to 15,052 with real estate valuing \$9,932,500. Personal value had increased to \$7,849,500, while capital invested in manufacturing had risen slightly to \$1,464,300.⁴

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William H. Johnson House
Middlesex County, New Jersey

As the city grew outwards, wealthy manufacturers began building houses in the Livingston Avenue / Welton Street area. This section of town was both conveniently located and was away from the industrial area along the river. Prosperous manufacturers who lived in this area included Edwin Elberson, Jacob W. Janeway, and Alfred J. Buttler on Livingston Avenue; Emily Smith on Remsen Avenue; and George Buttler and Samuel Johnson on John Street. Edwin Elberson made his profits at the rubber manufactory near the river. Jacob W. Janeway, whose Italianate house was built in the 1870s, was associated with the Janeway paper hangings factory. Alfred J. Buttler, a pottery-maker and brother of George Buttler of the Buttler & Johnson sash and blind company, built an ornate 1880s Italianate at the corner of Welton and Livingston Avenue.⁵

Site History

Early ownership of the land on which the William H. Johnson House was built can be traced to June 25, 1836, when Abraham Suydam sold the property to James Lorimer Graham as part of a large tract of farmland west of George Street and south of Livingston Avenue. On May 31, 1838, New York City surveyor Daniel Ewen surveyed the entire tract and divided it into lots and parcels. An 1838 map, on file in the Middlesex County Clerk's office, shows the current lot for 52 Welton Street as Lot Number 1844 in Parcel Number 26.⁶

Between 1838 and 1870, the property exchanged hands multiple times.⁷ On July 13, 1872, Samuel L. Johnson (no apparent relation to William H.) and his wife, Mary O., sold Lot 1844 in Parcel 26 to William H. Johnson for \$600.⁸

Mortgage records and agreements (both on file at the Middlesex County Clerk's office) do not provide information on the exact construction date for the William H. Johnson House. Although there is some uncertainty as to when it was built, it appears to have been built ca. 1872-1874. Up until 1872, the property changed hands frequently as part of multiple parcels of land; therefore, it is unlikely anyone was living on the property. According to the city directories, the various owners during the 1860s and 1870s, including Alfred J. Buttler and Samuel L. Johnson, lived elsewhere in New Brunswick. However, when William H. Johnson bought the property in 1872 from Samuel L. Johnson, the property stayed within his family's ownership until his widow sold it in 1906. According to William H. Johnson's obituary, he moved to Welton Street to "make his home" when he married.⁹ Unfortunately, the dates do not exactly match up to this description. According to the 1870 census, William H. Johnson and his wife, Sarah, had an eleven-year old daughter.¹⁰ Therefore, he was probably married by the time his

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William H. Johnson House
Middlesex County, New Jersey

daughter was born in 1859, or 13 years before he purchased the property on Welton Street.

The fact that William H. Johnson probably had the house built after he acquired the property in 1872 is supported by several facts. First, the High Victorian Italianate style was prevalent in the 1860s and 1870s, making this a likely time for this house to have been constructed. Second, during the 1870s and 1880s many prominent businessmen built high style homes along Livingston Avenue and the cross streets such as Welton Street. Third, 52 Welton Street and the adjacent house at 50 Welton Street appear on an 1874 Bird's Eye View of New Brunswick (copy hanging in the New Brunswick Public Library). In addition, city directories through 1874-1875 (published in 1874) list William H. Johnson as living at 33 Church Street in New Brunswick, adjacent to his painting business at 31 Church Street. In the 1877-78 and 1880-1881 city directories, William H. is listed as living at 64 Welton Street; by the time of the 1890 city directory, the house had been re-numbered to 52 Welton Street.¹¹ Finally, the sale prices provide some clue as to whether or not the property was developed. William H. Johnson only paid \$600 for the property, seeming to imply that it was undeveloped.

On May 15, 1906, William Johnson's widow, Sarah, sold the property to Benjamin E. and Charlotte Mills. From 1906 to 2001, the property again changed hands multiple times.¹²

William H. Johnson

William H. Johnson, the longest owner of the house, was born in 1829 in New Jersey and was the son of John Johnson, a painter. In the 1850 census, John Johnson is listed as a painter and glazier with a real estate value of \$5000.¹³ He at that time lived in North Brunswick with his wife, Mary Ann, and four children: 21-year old William H. (also listed as a painter and glazier), 18-year old Mary, 16-year old Abraham, and 5-year old John. In the 1860 census, John is listed as a "Master House Painter" who by then lived in New Brunswick and had \$6000 in real estate value and \$2000 in his personal estate. Although several of John's children are listed as living with him in 1860, William H., who by then would have been 31 years old, is not listed. In the 1865-66 New Brunswick city directory, John Johnson is listed as a "Painter, house and sign" with a business at 34 Church Street and his home at 23 Bayard Street. William H. is not listed in the 1865-66 directory.

The 1866-67 city directory listed "John Johnson, paints and oils" with a business at 34 Church Street and home on Bayard Street. There is a separate listing, perhaps for

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William H. Johnson House
Middlesex County, New Jersey

William H., with simply "Johnson, -----, painter," with his home listing for 23 Bayard Street, William H. Johnson's father's house.

By the time of the 1868-69 city directory, both John and his son William H. are listed along with the name "John Johnson & Son, painters." The business is listed as being at 34 Church Street; John lived at 23 Bayard Street; and William lived near the business at 33 Church Street. In the 1870 census, William H. is listed as being a 41-year-old painter with no real estate assets and a personal value of \$2200. By then, he lived with his wife, Sarah, and their 11-year old daughter, Adilade. In the 1874-75 city directory, he is listed as a "painter and dealer in paints" with a business at 31 Church Street and home at 33 Church Street. In the 1877-78 city directory, William H. is again listed as a "painter and dealer in paints," but by that time his home address is listed as 64 Welton Street. In the 1880-81 and 1883-84 city directories, he is still listed as living at 64 Welton Street; however, his business is listed in the 1880-81 directory as being at 14 Hiram Street. As William's obituary indicated that he "was in the Church Street shop with his father for some time, and later established a store on Morris Street," it is possible that the Hiram Street store was the first location for his own business. By the time of the 1888 directory, William H., "painter," is listed as living at 52 Welton Street with a business at 49 Morris Street. The change of address is attributed to re-numbering of the houses; the Morris Street business is the one referenced in William's obituary.

William H. Johnson died on February 26, 1904, and was survived by his wife, Sarah Williams Johnson, and his grandchildren, Jay Kilpatrick, Ralph J. Kilpatrick, and Frank Kilpatrick of Montclair, the sons of his deceased daughter, Adilade B. Kilpatrick. According to his obituary, printed in *The Daily Times* on February 27, 1904, William died at age 74 at his daughter's home in Montclair. He was described as "formerly a well-known painter of this city" and "a prominent citizen of several years back."¹⁴

Architectural Context and Significance

The William H. Johnson House is an excellent representative example of an urban Italianate style building. The Italianate style developed in England as part of the Picturesque movement that has been described as "a reaction to the formal classical ideals in art and architecture that had been fashionable for about two hundred years."¹⁵ Originating in the United States in the 1830s, the style was primarily represented through the 1850s with simple, less ornate structures. In the 1860s and 1870s, however, more ornate structures were built.¹⁶ The William H. Johnson House, with its ornate detailing, represents the later phase of Italianate houses, known as High Victorian Italianate.

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William H. Johnson House
Middlesex County, New Jersey

The William H. Johnson House represents the High Victorian Italianate in form and detailing. For form, typical characteristics of American Italianate houses are rectangular plan, two or three stories, low-pitched gabled roofs, widely overhanging eaves with decorative brackets, and tall, narrow and sometimes arched windows with crowns. The William H. Johnson House exhibits many of these elements such as the rectangular form, a height of three stories, the low-pitched gabled roof, and wide eaves with scroll brackets and a box cornice.

The most noteworthy aspect of the William H. Johnson House, however, is its ornate detailing. In contrast to many of the simpler workers houses prevalent throughout New Brunswick, the William H. Johnson House exhibits the ornate detailing of the High Victorian Italianate architecture, including the exterior paneled arched double doors, flanked pilasters with bases, paneled shafts, consoles, elaborate door hood, finials, bracketed wooden hoods, and cornice detailing, and the interior staircase, moldings, and fireplaces. These features became popular thanks to both mid-nineteenth century architectural publications and advances in technology.

Architectural publications, including Andrew Jackson Downing's and Samuel Sloan's pattern books, M. F. Cummings and C. C. Miller's *Designs for Street Front, Suburban Houses, and Cottages* (1865), and Woodward's *National Architect* (1869), spread the popularity of the Romantic or Picturesque architectural styles. In 1852, author Lewis F. Allen wrote in his book *Rural Architecture* that "The Italian style of architecture, modified somewhat in pretension and extent, is admirably adapted to most parts of the United States."¹⁷ These books not only played a large role in the spread of architectural styles; they also presented a variety of design options for ornate details. Multiple designs for the features used on the Johnson House façade, including the doors, consoles, brackets, window hoods, pendants, staircases, moldings, and fireplaces could be found in the architectural publications.

Publications promoted the use of ornate detailing; advances in technology made it possible for the detailing to be readily obtainable. Steam powered sawmills facilitated the mass production of architectural components.¹⁸ Many of the ornate elements and interior and exterior trim on the William H. Johnson House, for example, would have been mass produced and supplied by local businesses such as the Buttler & Johnson Company in New Brunswick. In New Brunswick's 1870-71 city directory, the company advertised that they sold "Sashes, Blinds, Doors, Mouldings, Brackets, Door and Window Frames, Newels, Baluster and Stair Rails, Planing, Wood-Turning, and Fancy Scroll Sawing of every description."¹⁹ The Fenn's Stair Building Company, who shared a

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William H. Johnson House
Middlesex County, New Jersey

factory building with the Buttler & Johnson Company, used a staircase matching the William H. Johnson House staircase in their advertising in city business directories.

In addition to representing a popular style, the William H. Johnson House's High Victorian Italianate style represents William H. Johnson's success as a businessman. The house is located in close proximity to Livingston Avenue, which was a prestigious location where many prominent businessmen built their homes in the mid- to late nineteenth century. As architectural historian Carole Rifkind indicated:

Each residential neighborhood acquired a definite and distinct character...express[ing] ethnic background, social class, and economic status...²⁰

According to the National Register nomination form for the Livingston Avenue Historic District, "In the 1870s Livingston Avenue was an abode of the privileged."²¹ The nomination form proceeds to describe the district as "distinctive in character and coherence, distinguishing it from the smaller, more modest houses in New Brunswick's northwest and southeast neighborhoods, from the modern houses in the southwest part of the city, and from the commercial buildings in the city's northeast corridor."²² The 1977-1979 Middlesex County survey of New Brunswick states that "The great majority of the city's buildings...are the blocks of anonymous houses whose designs were never shaped by an architect, or which were slight modifications of a stock plan. These were built on speculation, at relatively low cost, to house the industrial workers whose numbers grew with the late-19th century rise of industry."²³

In contrast to the more working class neighborhoods of New Brunswick, Livingston Avenue and the nearby cross streets contained more high style homes. The Italianate style, for example, is described in the National Register nomination for the historic district as one of the earliest extant styles, with only four cited examples.²⁴ In addition to the few Italianate homes within the Livingston Avenue Historic District, there are a few extant examples on the side streets, including two High Victorian Italianate houses on Remson Street, located around the corner from the William H. Johnson House. Compared to some of the larger homes on Livingston Avenue, the William H. Johnson House is a modest sized house. However, its location near the prestigious Livingston Avenue and its ornate detailing do reflect William H. Johnson's success as a small businessman / tradesman.

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In terms of integrity, many of the houses within the Livingston Avenue Historic District and along Livingston Avenue's side streets have suffered from a loss of integrity. As described in the historic district nomination, "Many of the residences have, however, been altered by the addition of aluminum or vinyl siding and new sash."²⁵ This description would certainly apply to most houses along Welton Street and other surrounding side streets.

In summary, the William H. Johnson House is significant at the local level both as an excellent urban example of the High Victorian Italianate style of architecture and for its representation of its owner's business success. The front façade still maintains its wood clapboard siding, arched one-over-one windows, decorative detailing, and double front doors. On the interior, the house retains most of its original elements including the staircase, moldings, fireplaces, wallpaper, and most of the doors and hardware. The William H. Johnson House is one of the best preserved examples of the High Victorian Italianate architecture in a neighborhood of New Brunswick once considered "an abode of the privileged."²⁶ The house is locally significant for its representative architecture, for being one of only a few examples of the more ornate High Victorian Italianate style, and for its high degree of integrity, with much of its ornate detailing intact.

¹ Noble Preservation Services, Inc., Livingston Avenue Historic District National Register Nomination, Section 8, p 2.

² Ibid.

³ W. Woodford Clayton, *History of Union and Middlesex Counties*, p. 650-656.

⁴ Barbara Cyviner Listokin, *The Architectural History of New Brunswick, New Jersey, 1681-1914: Internal and External Influences*, p. 138.

⁵ Livingston Avenue Historic District National Register Nomination.

⁶ Middlesex County Deed Book 3098, p. 891.

⁷ Middlesex County Deed Book 34, p. 728; Book 49, p. 525; Book 50, p. 130; and Book 92, p. 227; Book 108, p 307; and Book 125, p. 175. James Lorimer Graham sold the property to John S. Bussing on June 1, 1838, and Bussing sold it to John M. Hagaman on May 23, 1849. The property was then sold to Henry George Tyer on October 13, 1849 and to Samuel L. Johnson on September 24, 1863 for a price of \$1,000. Samuel L. Johnson (no apparent relation to William H. Johnson) was George Buttler's partner in the

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William H. Johnson House
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Buttler & Johnson Company. Sometime between 1863 and 1867, Samuel Johnson sold the property to Henry and Sarah L. Richmond who in turn sold it to Alfred J. Buttler on September 13, 1867. On February 14, 1870, Samuel L. Johnson again purchased the property, along with multiple other surrounding lots, for a total of \$6000.

⁸ Middlesex County Deed Book 134, p. 500.

⁹ Obituary of William H. Johnson, *The Daily Times*, February 27, 2004.

¹⁰ U.S. Census 1870.

¹¹ 1890 New Brunswick City Directory, on file at Rutgers University Special Collections and University Archives.

¹² Two deed transfers, one from Benjamin E. and Charlotte Mills to the City of New Brunswick through a tax default and the City of New Brunswick to Henry H. Banker, occurred between 1906 and 1908. On November 7, 1908, Henry H. Banker sold the property to John Joseph Tomney, and Tomney owned the house until March 30, 1931 when he sold it to Bessie L. Taaffe. On November 22, 1946, Nellie Taaffe sold the property to Joanna G. Tomney, Mary A. Dolan, Agnes M. Dolan, and Catherine Dolan. Joanna Tomney and Nellie L. Dolan sold the property to Catherine Dolan on July 11, 1950 and in 1952, Catherine Dolan sold it to Adeline Morris. Adeline and Leroy Morris sold the property to Paul V. and Catherine King on November 10, 1955 and owned it for three years until it was sold to Norman King on March 31, 1958. Norman and Stella King kept the property for less than one year, selling it to Eugenie Myllan on February 14, 1959. Eugenie Myllan sold it to Columbus Harland Smith on August 17, 1970, who later handed it over to the Jersey Mortgage Company on a mortgage default. The Jersey Mortgage Company sold the property to the United States Veteran's Administration in the name of Donald E. Johnson, who then sold it within a year to Elizabeth Rutkowski DeViney and Kevin Clarke. The house stayed in their name until July 13, 1979, when DeViney and Clarke sold it to Peter Shanley and Ann O' Daniel. On June 22, 2001, Peter O'Shanley sold the house to the present owners, Michael and Elizabeth Ciccone, who were former tenants of 52 Welton Street under the ownership of Peter Shanley. (Middlesex County Deed Books).

¹³ U.S. Census 1850.

¹⁴ Obituary of William H. Johnson. *The Daily Times*. February 27, 2004.

¹⁵ Virginia & Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, pp. 212-213.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Robert P. Guter and Janet W. Foster. *Building by the Book*, p. 69.

¹⁸ Ibid., p. 105.

¹⁹ *New Brunswick City Directory*, 1870-1871.

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²⁰ Carole Rifkind, *A Field Guide to American Architecture*, p. 61.

²¹ Noble Preservation Services, Inc., Livingston Avenue Historic District National Register Nomination, Section 8, p. 5.

²² *Ibid.*, Section 8, p. 11–12.

²³ Heritage Studies, *Middlesex County Inventory of Historic, Cultural, and Architectural Resources*.

²⁴ *Ibid.*, Section 8, p. 8.

²⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁶ *Ibid.*

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William H. Johnson House
Middlesex County, New Jersey

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William H. Johnson House
Middlesex County, New Jersey

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Continuation Sheet**

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William H. Johnson House
Middlesex County, New Jersey

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MAPS

1829 Plan of the City of New Brunswick (on file at Rutgers University Special Collections and University Archives.)

1838 Map of certain real estate in the first ward of the City of New Brunswick in the County of Middlesex on the south easterly side of Trenton Ave on the... Abraham Suydam Esq... and conveyed by him with other property to James Lorimer Graham by deed dated June 1866, surveyed and divided into lots and parcels May 31, 1838 (on file at the Middlesex County Clerk's Office, New Brunswick.)

1838 Map of certain real estate in the fourth ward of the City of New Brunswick and the County of Middlesex, on the south easterly side of Trenton Avenue, formerly of Abraham Suydam andconveyed...to James Lorimer Graham.(on file at Rutgers University Special Collections and University Archives.)

1850 Map of the City of New Brunswick (on file at Rutgers University Special Collections and University Archives).

1874 Bird's Eye View of New Brunswick, NJ (on file at Rutgers University Special Collections and University Archives.)

1910 Aero View of New Brunswick, New Jersey (on file at Rutgers University Special Collections and University Archives.).

1818, 1892, 1897, 1904, 1912, 1950, 1977, 1984 and 1989 Sanborn Maps of New Brunswick, NJ

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary is delineated by a heavy line on the enclosed map of New Brunswick. The boundary of 52 Welton Street is as follows:

The property being nominated is located on Welton Street on Block 140, Lot 36. From the east corner the lot proceeds southwest for approximately 100 feet separating Lots 36 and 37 until reaching the south corner. At this point, the boundary proceeds northwest along the property line for approximately 25 feet. From this point, the boundary proceeds northeast for approximately 100 feet separating Lot 35 and 36 until reaching the north corner, which proceeds southeast for 25 feet until reaching the starting point.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary of the nominated property was delineated to contain the William H. Johnson House and the property that was historically associated with it: Block 140, Lot 36 on the city tax map of the City of New Brunswick. The current property also includes the adjacent lot (Lot 37); however, this lot was not included in the nomination as it was only recently acquired. The property is bordered on the north by Welton Street, on the east by Lot 37, on the south by the backyard of homes that face onto Redmond Street, and on the west by Lot 35.

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William H. Johnson House
Middlesex County, New Jersey

Photographs

For all photographs:

Property Name: William H. Johnson House
Property Location: 52 Welton Street, New Brunswick, Middlesex County, New Jersey
Photographer: Nancy L. Zerbe and Janice Armstrong
Date: May, 2005
Location of Negatives: ARCH², Inc.
16 Wernik Place
Metuchen, New Jersey 08840-2422

Photograph No. 1 of 30:
View looking south across Welton Street towards north façade of house.

Photograph No. 2 of 30:
View looking north at south and east facades.

Photograph No. 3 of 30:
View looking west at north façade.

Photograph No. 4 of 30:
Detailed view of entry.

Photograph No. 5 of 30:
View looking north at south façade.

Photograph No. 6 of 30:
Interior view of cellar looking north. Note brick supports.

Photograph No. 7 of 30:
Interior view looking southwest at entry hall and staircase.

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William H. Johnson House
Middlesex County, New Jersey

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Photograph No. 8 of 30:

Detailed view looking southeast of anaglypta in entry hall.

Photograph No. 9 of 30:

Detailed view of original plaster medallion in entry hall.

Photograph No. 10 of 30:

View looking southwest at the staircase. Note wide curved base molding and railing.

Photograph No. 11 of 30:

Detailed view of raised scroll pattern on staircase.

Photograph No. 12 of 30:

Interior view looking southwest from the living room through the dining room and into the kitchen.

Photograph No. 13 of 30:

Interior view looking southeast of white marble fireplace in living room.

Photograph No. 14 of 30:

Detailed view of original plaster ceiling medallion in dining room.

Photograph No. 15 of 30:

Interior view looking southwest at original wood and etched glass pocket doors between the living room and the dining room.

Photograph No. 16 of 30:

View looking southwest of fireplace in the dining room.

Photograph No. 17 of 30:

Interior view looking northwest at original 4 panel and curved crown molding in dining room.

Photograph No. 18 of 30:

Interior view looking west at an original door in the kitchen.

Photograph No. 19 of 30:

View looking northeast of "servant" staircase leading from first to second floor.

Photograph No. 20 of 30:

Interior view looking northeast down the second story hallway.

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William H. Johnson House
Middlesex County, New Jersey

Section number Photographs Page 3

Photograph No. 21 of 30:

View looking northeast at second story bay window located on north façade. Note arched windows with panels below.

Photograph No. 22 of 30:

View looking southeast at the carved marble fireplace located in the front room on the second floor.

Photograph No. 23 of 30:

Interior view looking south at the master bedroom on the second floor.

Photograph No. 24 of 30:

View looking southwest at the gray marble fireplace located in the master bedroom on the second floor.

Photograph No. 25 of 30:

Interior view looking north at a small room on the second floor.

Photograph No. 26 of 30:

Interior view looking southwest down the second story hallway.

Photograph No. 27 of 30:

Interior view looking south at an original door in the rear second story bedroom.

Photograph No. 28 of 30:

View looking northeast of staircase leading down to second floor. Note bead board and simple molding.

Photograph No. 29 of 30:

Detailed view of original porcelain knob and keyhole cover.

Photograph No. 30 of 30:

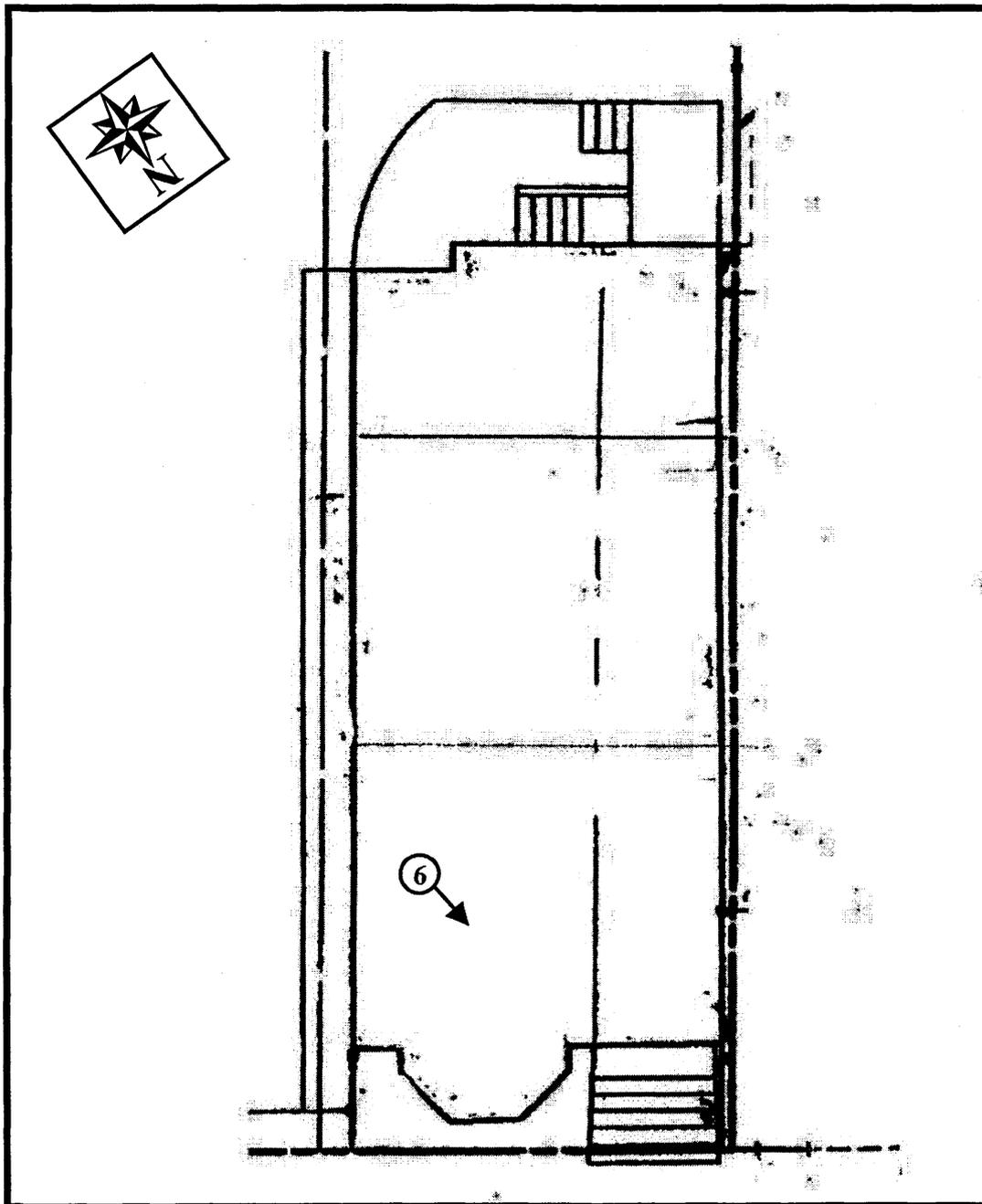
View looking southwest at an original door in second floor hallway.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Photograph Key Page 2

William H. Johnson House
Middlesex County, New Jersey



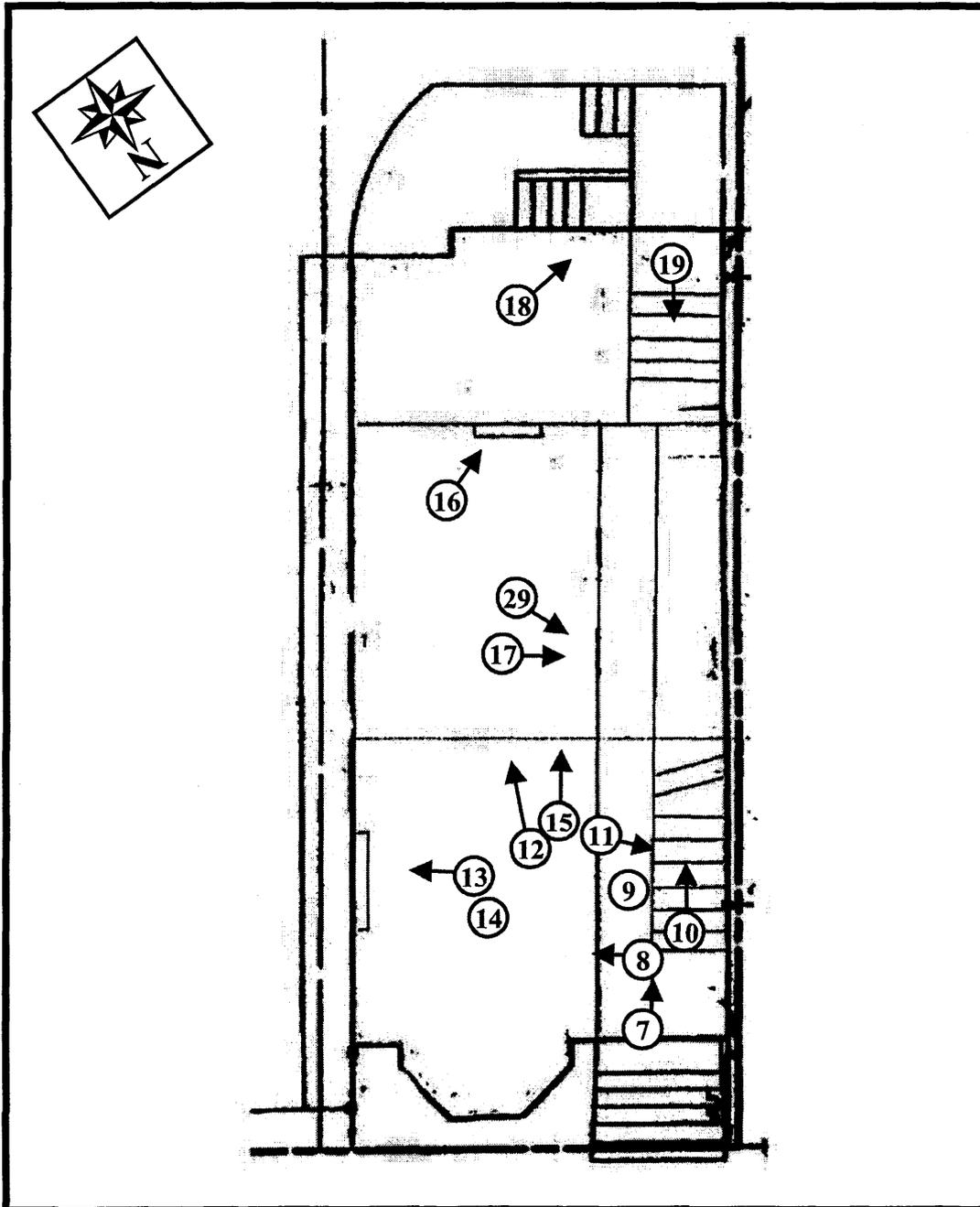
**Boundary and Photo Identification Map
Cellar**

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William H. Johnson House
Middlesex County, New Jersey



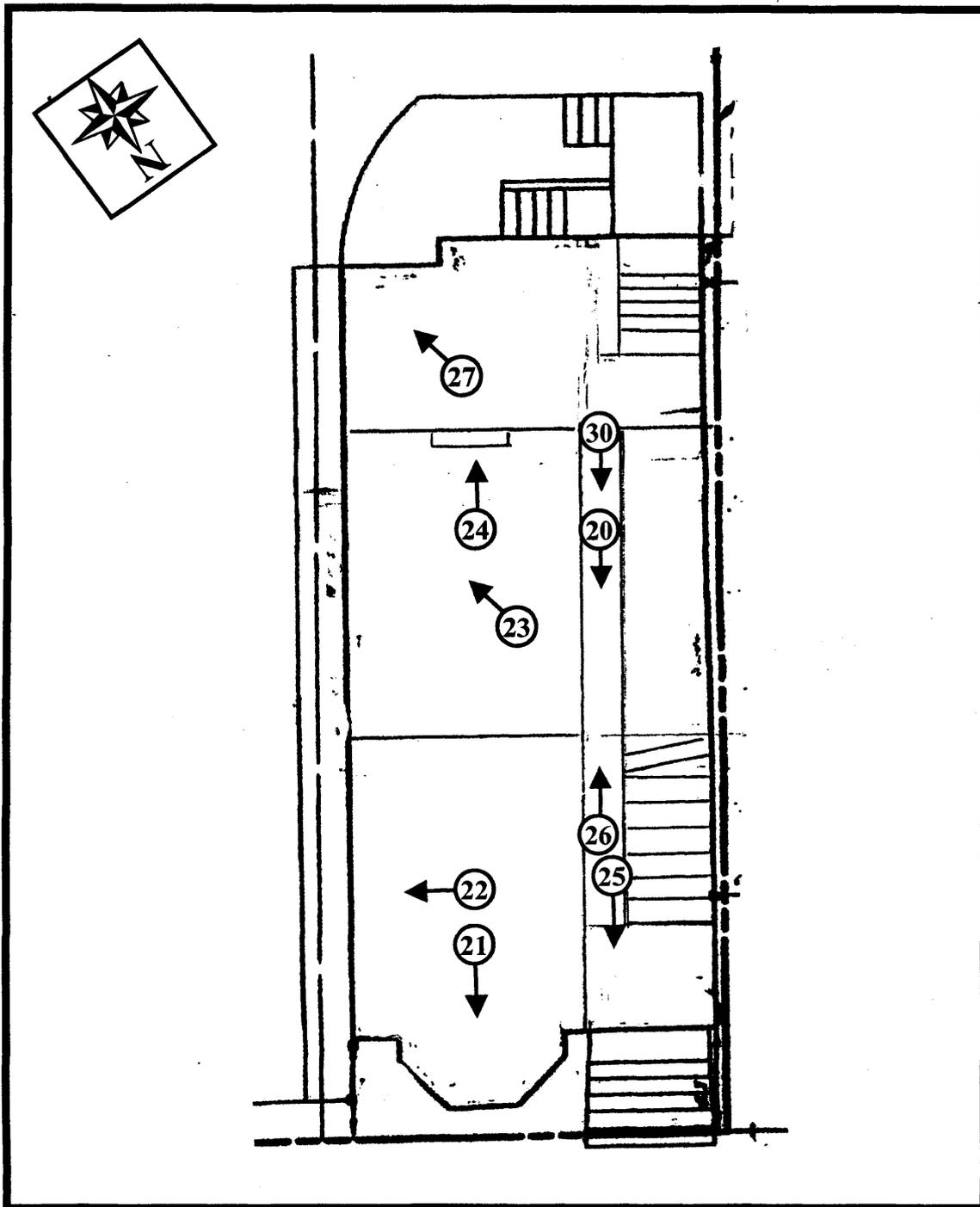
**Boundary and Photo Identification Map
First Floor**

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Section number Photograph Key Page 4

Buttler & Johnson House
Middlesex County, New Jersey



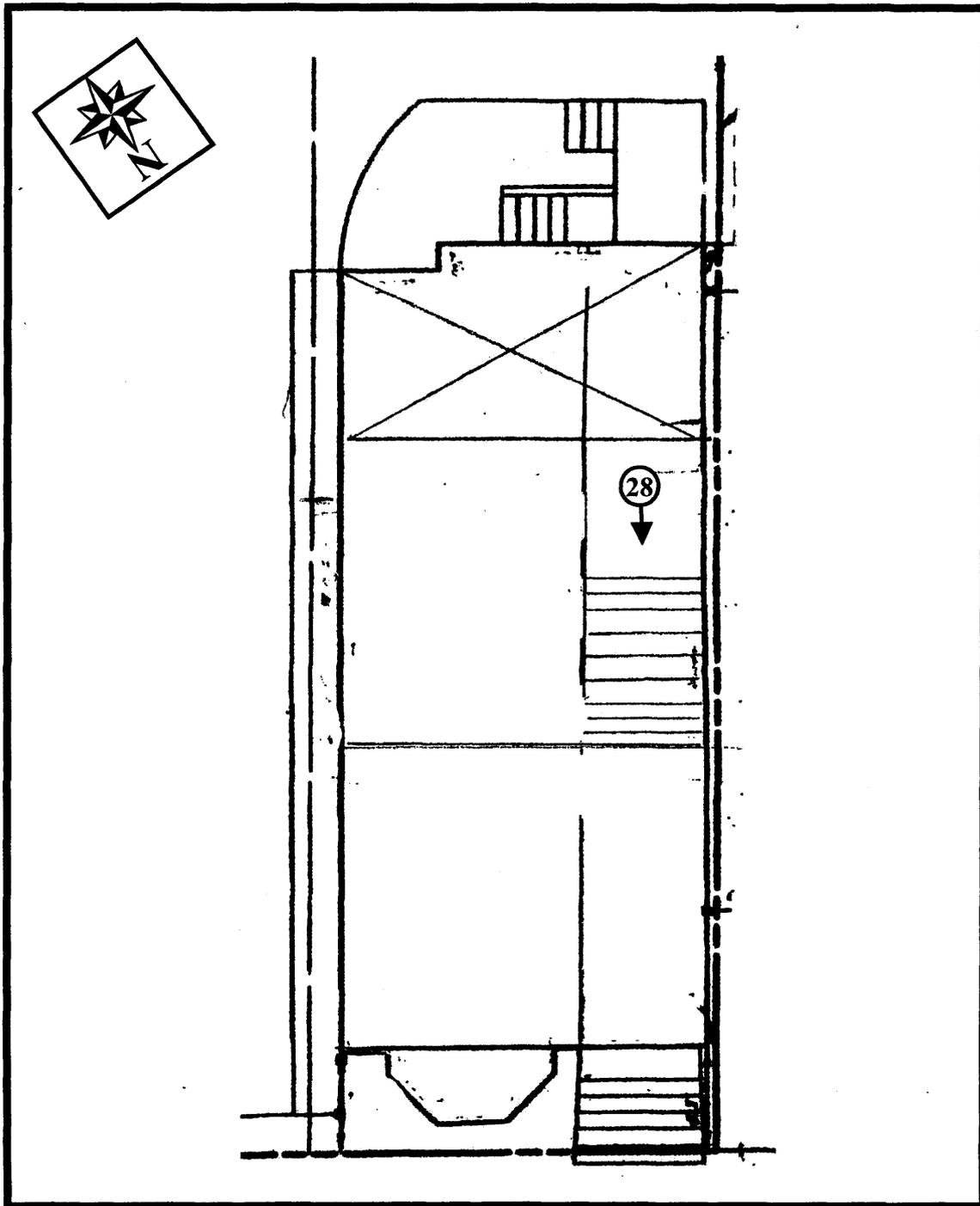
**Boundary and Photo Identification Map
Second Floor**

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

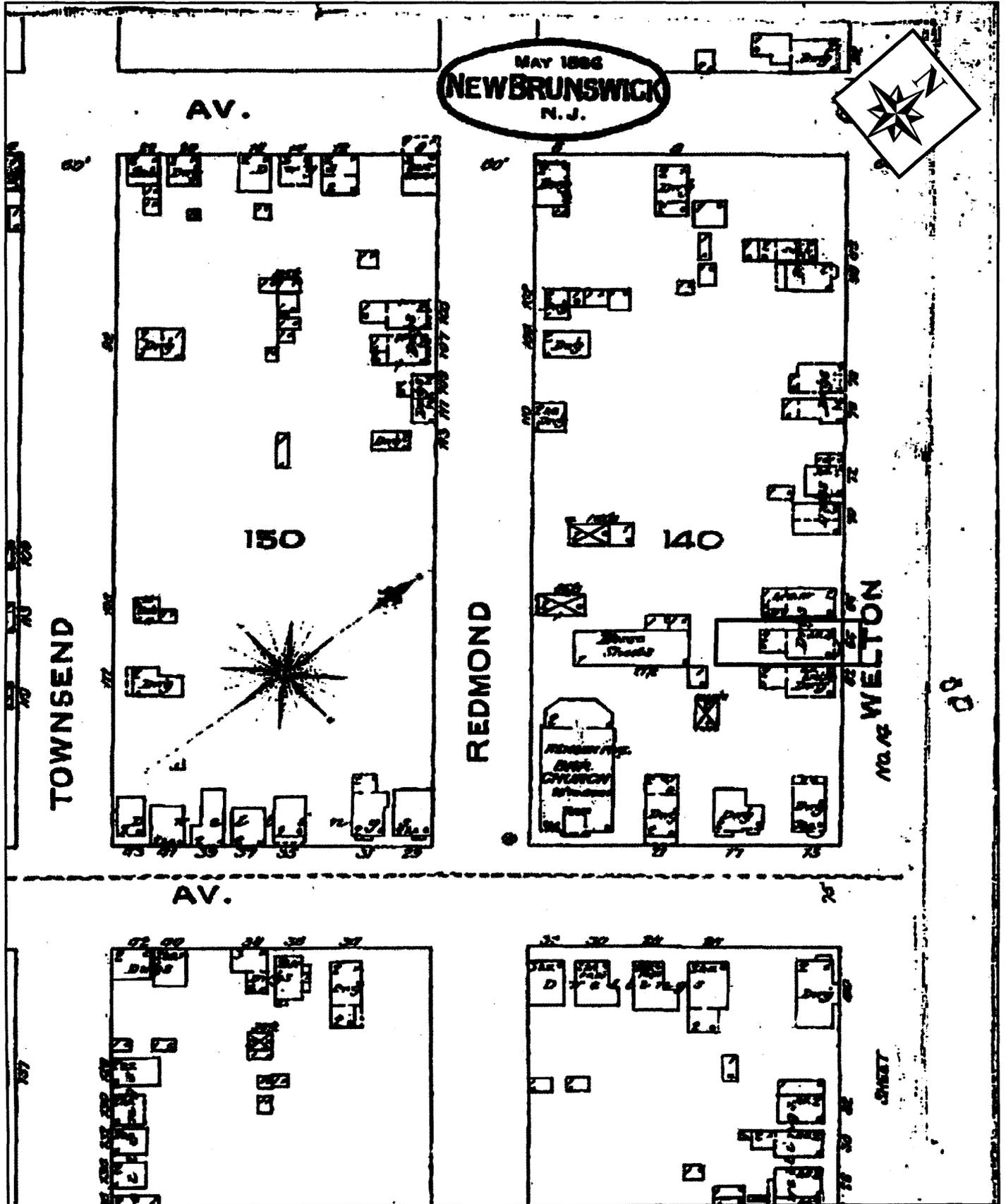
Section number Photograph Key Page 5

Buttler & Johnson House
Middlesex County, New Jersey

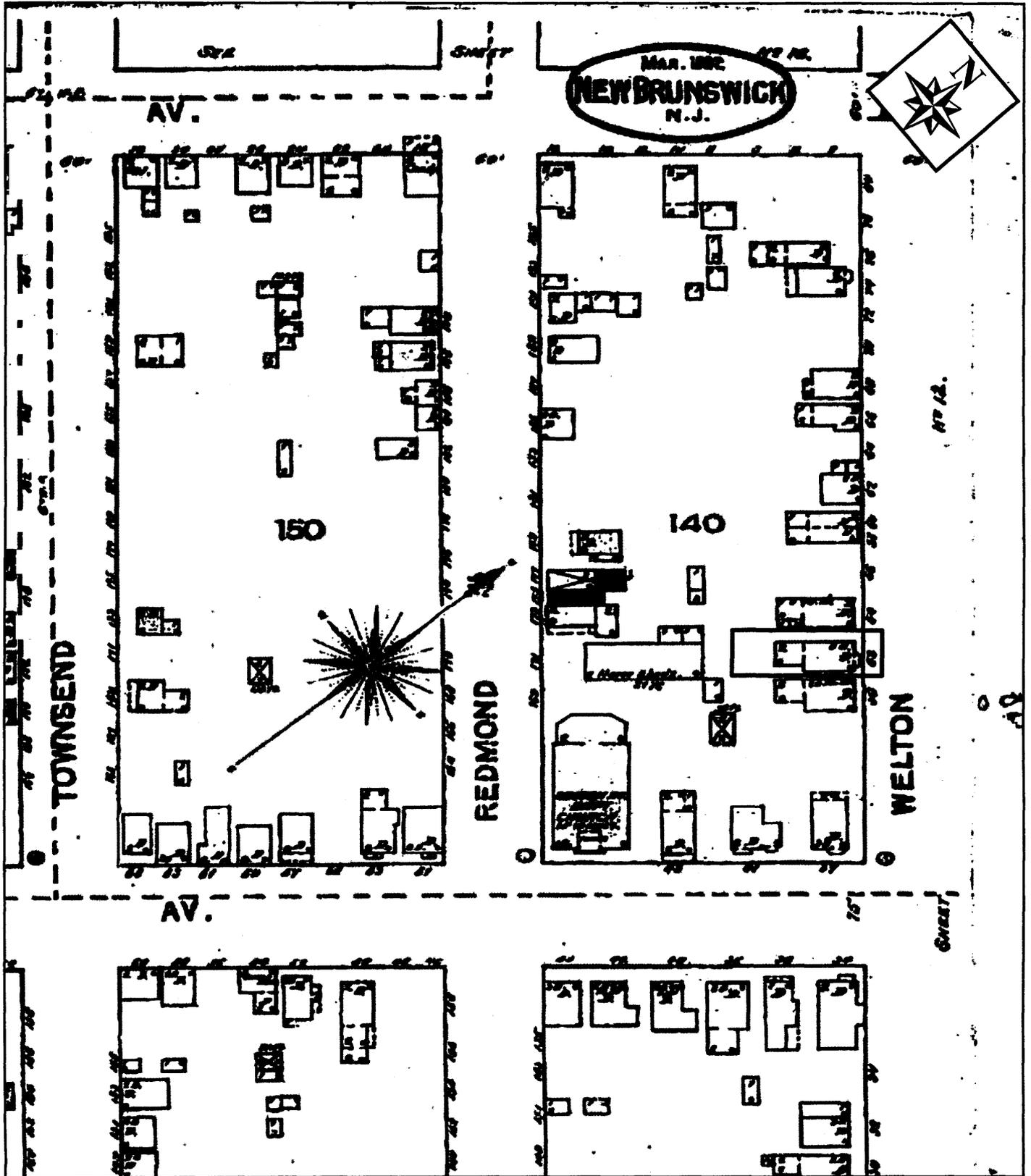


**Boundary and Photo Identification Map
Third Floor**

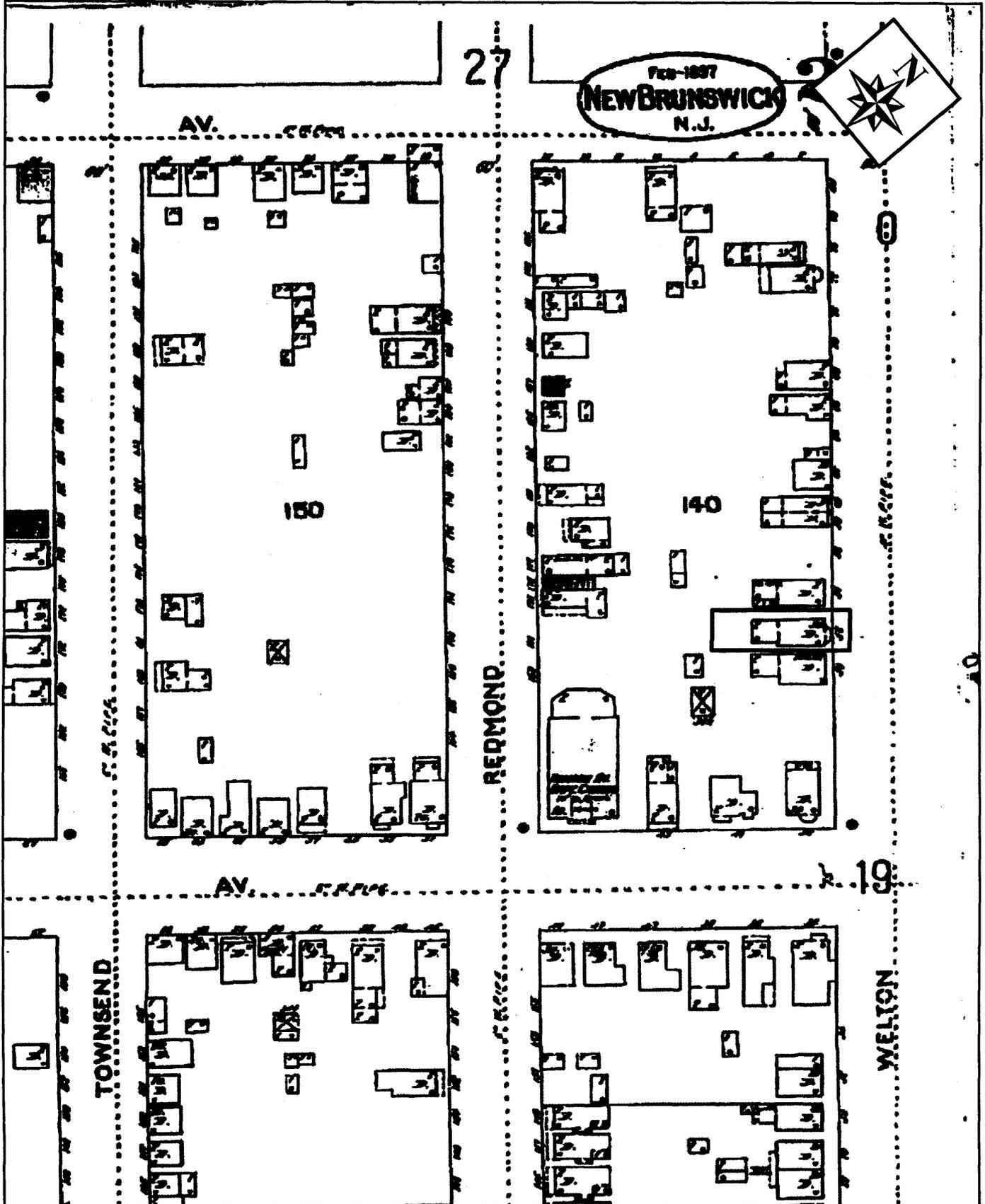
1886 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map
Butler & Johnson House National Register Nomination
New Brunswick, Middlesex County, New Jersey



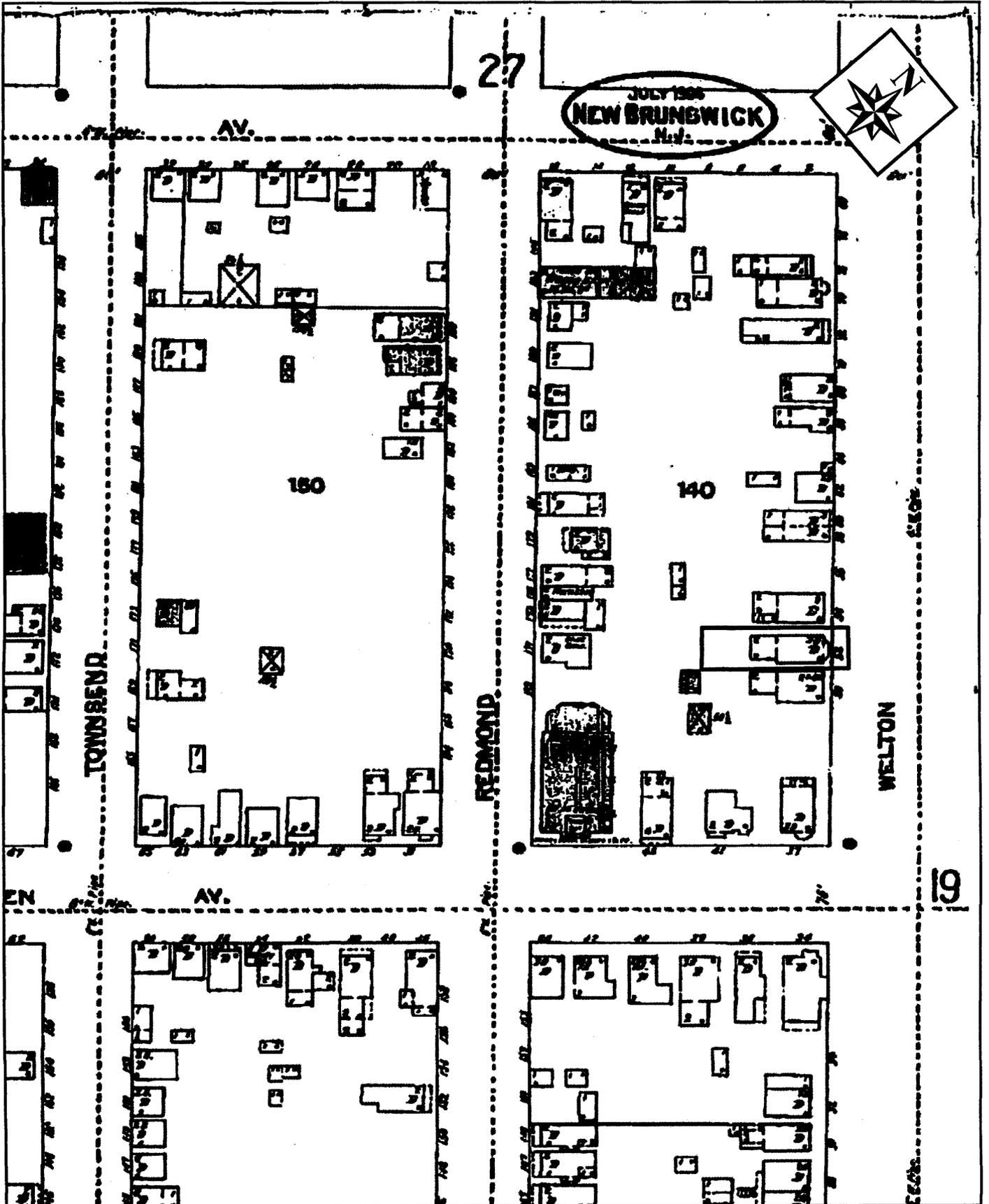
1892 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map
Buttler & Johnson House National Register Nomination
New Brunswick, Middlesex County, New Jersey



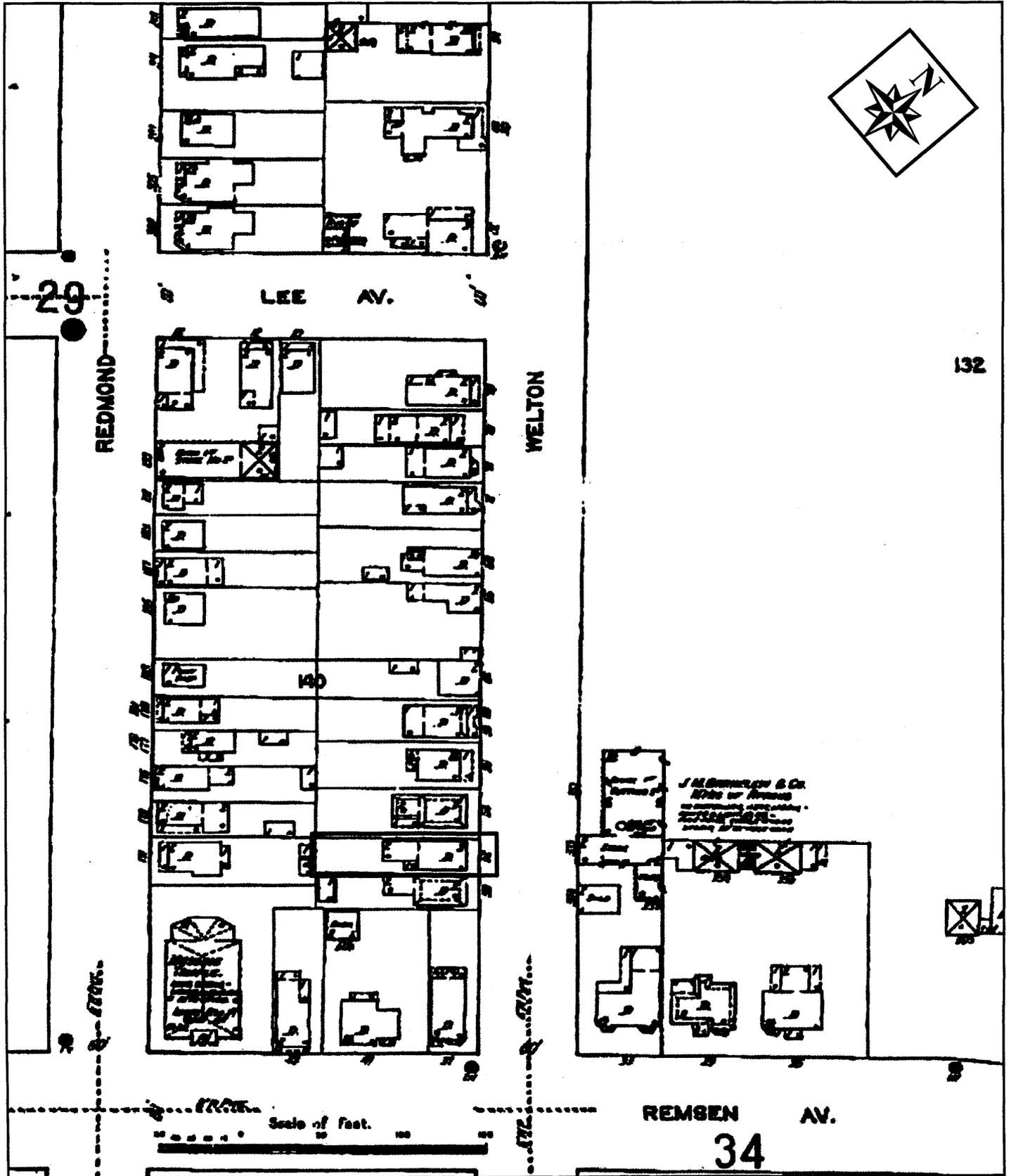
1897 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map
Buttler & Johnson House National Register Nomination
New Brunswick, Middlesex County, New Jersey



1904 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map
Buttler & Johnson House National Register Nomination
New Brunswick, Middlesex County, New Jersey



1912 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map
Buttler & Johnson House National Register Nomination
New Brunswick, Middlesex County, New Jersey



1950 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map
Buttler & Johnson House National Register Nomination
New Brunswick, Middlesex County, New Jersey

