Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

PH0356883

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



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TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS NAME HISTORIC ** AND/OR COMMON Millstone Valley Agricultural District 5 of millstone on 2 LOCATION River Road from-Hillsborough_Road **STREET & NUMBER** to_Millstone Borough ----NOT FOR PUBLICATION CITY, TOWN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Hillsborough-Township hillstone к #h VICINITY OF CODE STATE CODE COUNTY 34 035 Somerset New Jersey CLASSIFICATION CATEGORY **OWNERSHIP** STATUS PRESENT USE XX-DISTRICT __PUBLIC XOCCUPIED X_AGRICULTURE ---MUSEUM __BUILDING(S) X_PRIVATE ___UNOCCUPIED __COMMERCIAL __PARK ___STRUCTURE BOTH **WORK IN PROGRESS** ___EDUCATIONAL X_PRIVATE RESIDENCE ___SITE PUBLIC ACQUISITION ACCESSIBLE __ENTERTAINMENT ----RELIGIOUS __OBJECT _IN PROCESS XYES: RESTRICTED GOVERNMENTSCIENTIFIC __BEING CONSIDERED ___YES: UNRESTRICTED X_INDUSTRIAL ___TRANSPORTATION ___NO _MILITARY ___OTHER: **OWNER OF PROPERTY** NAME Multiple STREET & NUMBER CITY, TOWN STATE VICINITY OF LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION COURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEEDS; ETC County Clerk's Office STREET & NUMBER County Office Building CITY, TOWN STATE Somerville New Jersey **REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS** TITLE New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory DATE 1975 __FEDERAL XSTATE __COUNTY __LOCAL DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Historic Sites Section, Department of Environmental Protection

Trenton

CITY, TOWN

New Jersey

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

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EXCELLENT	DETERIORATED	UNALTERED	X-ORIGINAL SITE
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

James P. Snell's <u>History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties</u>, printed in 1881, describes the early settlement of the section of the Millstone Valley immediately south of Millstone as follows: "About 1690, Capt. Plumstead obtained a large grant on the west side of Millstone River, extending from Peace Brook to Blackwell's Mills, and west a little beyond the road passing by the residence of Joseph Van Cleef. Thomas Barger had the next plantation on the Millstone, extending from Blackwell's Mills to the present (1881) southerly bounds of the township, and west as far as Plumstead's land."

It was in 1844 that Barber and Howe (Historical Collections of the State of New Jersey) described the area of Blackwell's Mills as containing a few dwellings. The development of Blackwell's Mills area can be directly traced to the development of the Delaware and Raritan Canal, which paralleled the Millstone River on the east bank. Just as Millstone, which is to the immediate north, Balckwell's Mills had a small bridge crossing both the Millstone River and the newly constructed Delaware and Raritan Canal.

Presently Blackwell's Mills (Millstone Valley) area conforms to its mid-nineteenth century form - with most of the structures dating from the first and second quarters of the 19th century and a few from the 18th century.

Until ten years ago, when 'modernization' came to the Millstone Valley, the area had lay relatively dormant for some one hundred years. In the third quarter of the 19th century the Millstone Valley area, just south of the rural hamlet of Millstone, was a thriving farming district, with a mill situated alongside of the river.

The mill, Blackwell's Mills (not in the district), is situated on the west bank of the Millstone River about two miles south of Millstone. A mill was first built there in 1746 by Peter Schenck. It was at this point along the river that a bridge was built in the early part of the 19th century and was later connected with the Delaware and Raritan Canal when it was opened in 1834. With the development of a faster route for taking produce to the market via the canal, more farms started to develop along the river banks on the west side.

It was between the mill and the southern boundary of the Village of Millstone that a total of six farms were flourishing by 1850.

The rich agricultural valley south of the town of Millstone appears presently much as it did in the middle of the 19th century to Hillsborough Road. Still primarily used for farming there has been relatively little development leaving the district to portray a 19th century farming region.

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Statistically, there are five early 19th century farms, six mid-19th century farms, one turn of the century farmhouse, and five modern facilities. The modern intrusions, save one, are all small residences well landscaped as to minimize aesthetic incompatibility. The most drastic intrusion is the Betar Company, a large industrial corporation.

It has been difficult to establish dates on the dozen farmsteads. Most of the early 19th century houses, for instance, were altered around the third quarter of the 19th century masking the buildings earlier construction dates. In addition, numerous outbuildings exist which represent multiple periods of development.

Millstone Valley Agricultrual District, consequently, should be considered an agrarian area which reflects traditional farms, farming methods, practices, and mores of the 19th and early 20th century.

The boundaris of the Millstone Valley District were carefully selected. The district area flanks River Road between the Millstone Borough border and Hillsborough Road in Hillsborough Township. Millstone was entered into the National Register on September 13, 1976 so Millstone Valley District will append the earlier district. The nominations were prepared separately, however, because of the political municipal boundaries and the differing thematic concepts of the districts (Millstone - a village; Millstone Valley a farming region), the southern boundary was chosen to exclude the modern housing development just south of Hillsborough Road. The Millstone River makes a natural eastern delineation and the western border merely follows parallel along River Road.

The following is an inventory of all major structures in the district (coordinated with attached map):

- A. Block 205, Lot 17. Modern one story L-form ranch house. See photo A.
- B. Apt Farm. Block 205, Lot 17a. Mid-19th century 2 1/2 story frame and clapboard dwelling Greek Revival form farmhouse. Front facade has three bays with a side hall. Windows are 6/6 sash. Entrance doorway has sidelights and transom. See photo B.
- C. Apt Farm. Block 205, Lot 17A. Early 19th century. This is a two story frame and clapboard dwelling. L-form, five bay front. Windows are 9/9 sash. Interior gable end chimneys.

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- 1. Betar, Inc. Block 205, Lot 17a. Modern large one story flatroofed masonry structure. Intrusion. See photo #1.
- 2. Van Cleef House, Block 205, Lot 18. Mid-19th century. This wooden frame farmhouse with narrow clapboard is a 2 1/2 story, 5 bay, center hall, rectangular structure with a smaller two story wing on the gable end. The window of both portions have 6/6 double hung sash with louvered shutters. The main five bay facade has bracketed window cornices. The main entrance is a double door with a ractangular transom. A one story flat roofed Victorian porch with sawn brackets projects out over the center three bays. The smaller wing, probably the kitchen, has a three bay front and has a late 19th century one story two bay porch with turned posts and sawn bracketing. This porch is currently screened-in. The roof of both sections is gable with returns and has a bracketed cornice. The roofing material is slate. At the peak of the roof of the larger unit are corbelled brick chimneys at both end facade. The window in the attic floor are round-headed.

There are several dependencies including a two story storage outbuilding/shed (now converted into a residence), two large English-form barns extimated to be early 20th century, and a turn of the century small windmill with an elevated water storage tank. See photos 2A & 2B.

- Modern. Block 205, Lot 27. One and 1/2 story stone and frame residence. Situated atop a knoll and well landscaped minimizing intrusion. See photo 3.
- Stryker House. Block 205, Lot 26 Mid-19th century. This house 4. is a 2 1/2 story, 5 bay, center hall, wooden frame farmhouse with a small two story kitchen wing on the gable end facade. Both portions were probably constucted simultaneously. The front facade of the main house has 6/6 double hung sash with louvered The center entrance has a trabeated doorway with shutters. narrow transom and sidelights and is unusually elaborate for the area. The door itself originally had four panels, but the top panels were removed for a window light. The roofing of the main house and the kitchen wing is wooden shingles. The roof is gable with a slight return. A cornice and frieze are evident, but quite plain. The main unit has double gable end corbelled brick Both portions of the building are narrow width clapchimney. board. The foundation is rubble stone. The first floor of the kitchen wing is protected on the front and gable end by a modern porch.

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This property has numerous outbuildings including a modern round roof cinder-block dairy barn, a modern concrete silo, two small 19th century brick buildings, and a dilapidated late 19th century calpboard covered fram shed and barn. See photos 4A, 4B, 4C, & 4D.

- 5. J. Schomp Farmhouse. Block 205, Lot 28. Mid-19th century. This 2 1/2 story rectangular frame house with narrow width clapboards has a four bay front and an offset center entrance. Built into a bank the brick foundation is exposed at the front, but protected by a full-length flat-roofed Victorian porch with turned posts, sawn brackets, and railing enclosed underneath by latticework. The windows are all 6/6 sash with louvered shutters. The roof is gable and has no return. The two corbelled brick chimneys are on the interior and on the gable end as is generally characteristic in New Jersey. There are two outbuildings in particular - a carriage house which was converted into an apartment and garage in modern time and a small modern leanto storage structure. See photo 5.
- 6. Hartom House, Block 205, Lot 29. 1800, mid-19th century. From the highway this house clearly indicates a mid-19th century facade with Italianate detailing. The rear edifice, however, demands attributing an earlier period of construction. Not unlike the other farmhouses in form this building is a 2 1/2 story, four bay, wooden frame, rectangular form unit with a small two story kitchen wing off the south gable end. The windows in the front and sides are all 6/6 double hung sash mostly with louvered shutters. The windows on the front facade of the main house have entablature cornices. The entrance, an off-set center door, is trabeated, but with no rectangular fanlight only sidelights. Protecting the first floor of the front facade of the main house is a flat-roofed frame porch with polygonal post and exceptionally ornately carved bracketing for the The porch roof has bracketed eaves as does the main roof; area. only in pairs. Merely to confuse the matter one must walk around back and examine the rear facade of the house. While the front has a narrow width clapboarding the rear facade (both the main house and a portion of the kitchen wing) has a wide exposure woooden shingle, probably dating back to the early 19th century.

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This rear facade has three bays, but the fenestration is not uniformly placed. The center window above the door, surprisingly, is an exceptional 16/12 sash with three-paneled shutters. This window is flanked by 12/8 sash fenestration. The three chimneys also indicate an earlier 19th century date of construction as they taper slightly at the top, a common 18th - early 19th century New Jersey characteristic. Double chimneys are on the one gable end and a single chimney at the roof peak on the other. The foundation is rubble stone. It was reported that the house had hand hewn beams on the first floor, but the interior of this farmhouse was not investigated. While physically having vernacular Greek Revival characteristics with some Italianate detailing it should not be discounted that portions of this farmhouse predate early 19th century.

- There are three other structures on the property, including a small two story, two bay, nearly square, mid-19th century dwelling. Perhaps a tenant house, this frame and clapboard structure has a gable roof with return, brackets, and frieze beneath the eaves. The windows are 6/6 sash with louvered shutters. The brick chimney is on the gable and with wide batten board on this property is probably also mid-19th century as indicated by the rubble stone, hardware, and framing. See photo #6.
- The Brookie. Block 205, Lot 30. Early 19th century, mid-7. 19th century. While interior evidence indicates that the rear portion of this house was built in the early 19th century (wide plank flooring, interior wood paneling, corner fireplace) the overall appearance of this frame and clapboards farmhouse is mid-19th century. The main unit of the house is a three bay, sidehall, 2 1/2 story building with cross gable. The roof is gable with bracketed overhand and return. The windows are 6/6 sash with louvered shutters and bracketed cornices. The side entrance door is typical Greek Revival with rectangular sidelights and transom. The windows in the cross gables have rounded arches. The roof has gable end corbelled brick chimneys. The front and east facades are protected by a one story flat-roofed porch. The supports of this portico are braced by elaborately sawn brackets. The west wing is a 3 bay, 2 story frame unit with a one story leanto appendix. The roof is gable with overhang and paired brackets. The foundation of both units is random stone. There are at least four notable frame outbuildings on the

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property. All appear to be 19th century and have functioned as carriage houses, storage barns, and sheds. See photo 7A and 7B.

- 8. Block 205, Lot 30B. Modern one story hip-roofed residence. See photo 8.
- 9. Blackwell's Mills Farm. Block 205, Lot 48A. First quarter 19th century. This 2 1/2 story farmhouse is a rectangular 5 bay, center hall, frame and clapboard structure with Federal characteristics. The center door has a roughly-elliptical fanlight with flanking sidelights. The windows are 6/6 sash with louvered shutters. The gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles and has double end corbelled brick chimneys on each gable end facade. The foundation is rubble stone. The center hall has Adamesque sunbursts and there are two rooms on either side of the hall. A large 20th century addition is added to the rear. See photo 9.
- 9A. Barn. Block 205, Lot 30a. 19th Century. English form barn with main floor and hay loft. Linear facades have an appended full length one story leanto. See photo 9A.
- 10. House. Block 205, Lot 48. Early 20th century. This simple two story rectangular narrow frame dwelling has a three bay front. The first floor front facade has projecting bay windows and the second floor has double 4/4 sash windows. The small brick chimneys are on the gable ends of the pitched roof. There is a later two story wing attached to the rear facade and a one story leanto facade to this wing. All covered with aluminum siding. See photo #10.
- 11. Van Cleef Farm. Block 205, Lot 48. Early 19th century, mid-19th century. The small farmhouse is characteristic of the early New Jersey form - 1 1/2 story frame, 3 bay, central entrance, gable roof with end chimneys. It has, however, been altered with two large dormers on each roof pitch, a full-length front porch, and rear and side wings as to have created a basically second half 19th century farmhouse. To the rear of the house, about 300 feet to the west upon a knoll is a two story board and batten storage barn. Between the barn and the house are two other outbuildings - a carriage house and a leanto shed both probably turn of the century. North of the house and actually

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in the rear of Block 205, Lot 48a are two modern but traditional tapering wooden corn cribs which are connected by a breezeway. At the bend in the road is a Dutch-form barn. This barn, with its traditional steep pitched roof and main entrance doors in the center of the gable end with smaller flanking doors, is sheathed with both shingles and vertical board siding. A modern concrete - block dairy barn is attached to the east facade of this barn. Two modern banded concrete silo are behind this dairy facility. A large modern steel frame structure is currently being erected in the rear. This farm property extends south all the way to Hillsborough Road and as evidenced by the ca. 1900 windmill rear the intersection may have been another farmstead. See photos 11A, 11B, 11C & 11D.

- 12. Rancher. Block 207, Lot 3. Modern one story residence at the southwest corner of River and Hillsborough Roads.
- 13. G. Hagaman Farm. Block 207, Lot 4. Mid-19th century. The main farmhouse is a rectangular frame and clapboard, 2 1/2 story, 3 bay, center hall structure with intersecting cross gables. The gable roof has an overhang and return with paired brackets beneath the eaves. The interior brick chimney has an unusual cross-shape. There is a smaller two story, two bay, kitchen wing off the west gable ends. On the property are numerous farm-related outbuildings including a modern banded concrete silo, traditional corncribs, sheds, and storage barns.

The present land use within the boundary of the district is single and multi-family residential, open space (farm) and light industrial (one site).

Some of the natural geographic features which are prominent within the district are: rolling hills which break-up, what would otherwise be, a continuous view up the valley; and a modest bluff that overlooks the Mill-stone River and its flood plain.

Restoration and Preservation Activities

There presently exists a very active Historic District Commission that is playing a vigorous part in the decision making processes that have any effect on the historic districts within the township. The Township of

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Hillsborough has had Historic District zoning for several years and was revised recently. Many citizens that reside within the district take a great pride in the fact that this area of the region has the history that it does and so make a special effort to maintain homes, garages, barns, and even small sheds.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

SPECIFIC DAT		BUILDER/ARCH		
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		_INVENTION		
	COMMUNICATIONS		POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)
1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
1600-1699	ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1500-1599	XAGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Millstone Valley Agricultural District is representative of the farmhouses, outbuildings and large expanses of open land which farmsteads cultivated or left fallow for replenishing purposes in the mid-19th century. While large farms continue to operate in New Jersey, they are disappearing rapidly and there are few places presently in Somerset County in which old farms are not heavily interspersed with modern developments and commercial establishments. As rural settlements were the rule in the mid-19th century American rather than the exception, Millstone Valley Agricultural District personifies the farming traditions and beliefs of that age.

Millstone Valley Agricultural District, a prosperous farming region south of Millstone Village and along the Millstone River and the Delaware and Raritan Canal developed as history marched along River Road which was in existence as early as 1737. Certainly the rich soil of the region attracted the Revolutionary soldiers who marched through Millstone along the river and later those travelling on the canal.

The buildings themselves indicate that the region was preferred farmland settled by relatively wealthy farmers.

Historical Narrative

The history and development of the Millstone Valley, New Jersey closely coincides with the development and improvment of transportation methods throughout the state.

The earliest inland settlement of New Jersey in the early 18th century was heavily dependent upon navigatable riverways as a convenient means by which to reach the virgin wilderness of potential raw industrial materials, timberland, and farmland in the state.

The Millstone River provided such a means creating the Valley of the Millstone settlements.

It was under the twenty-four proprietors that the valleys of the Millstone River began to permanently settled. Their government lasted for twenty years from 1682. Of these proprietors, Sonmans, Hart, Plumstead, Cooper, Lawrie, and Barker had land set off to them in what afterwards became the Township of Hillsborough. Lawrie sold 250 acres of the

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Snell, James History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, N.J. 1898 Van Horn, J. Historic Somerset, 1965. Barber, John W. and Howe, Henry Historical Collection of the State of New Jersey, Newark, New Jersey 1844 Menzies, Elizabeth G. C. Millstone Valley 1969 Cawley, James and Margaret Along the Delaware and Raritan Canal, 1970 Beers, F. W. Atlas of Somerset County, New Jersey. New York, 1873.

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STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER	SIGNATURE	-1/5n	
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meadows on the south side of the Raritan, in 1682, to James Graham, John White, Samule Winder, and Cornelius Courzer. The proprietors in possession, in the same year, sold 3000 acres in the angle of the Raritan and the Millstone Rivers to Capt. Anthony Brockholls, William Rinborne, John Robinson, Capt. Mathias Nicholls, and Samuel Edsall.

About 1690, Capt. Clement Plumstead obtained a large grant of land on the west side of the Millstone River, extending from Peace Brook to Blackwell's Mills, and west a little beyond the road passing by the residence of Joseph Van Cleek (Van Cleef owning the property in question in the 1898). Thomas Barker had the next plantation on the Millstone, extending from Blackwell's Mills to the present southern boundary of the township, and as far west as Plumstead's land.

By the first quarter of the 19th century a bridge crossed the Millstone at what is now Blackwell's Mills Farm, but the primary mode of travel was still the river tiself, and River Road.

River Road, from Griggstown to Millstone, was built before 1937, date of Somerset Court House at Millstone. Hillsborough Road was built through the center of the Thomas Barker tract before 1720, to connect the Harlingen tract to the west with the Millstone River, school house and church, the only ones available before 1727. The most important period of development as far as Millstone Valley was concerned was during the short-lived Canal Era in America. The Delaware and Raritan Canal, which began operation in the 1830's, passed by the farms on the opposite side of the Millstone River. While the Millstone provided farmers and small agri/industrialists with a mode of transportation of sorts its meandering nature and shallowness limited its usage. Consequently, it was not until the completion of the Delaware and Raritan Canal that the farming region developed to its full potential. As a result the majority of the farmsteads reflect mid-19th century characteristics.

It was through the area of the Millstone Valley that the settlement of Somerset County and counties west of Somerset began. Initially settled in the eighteenth century a mill soon was established to provide the necessary services to local farmers. Surplus local farm produce was shipped from the Millstone Valley area to New Brunswick and Perth Amboy.

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The variety of architecture within the historic district runs the entire spectrum of that experienced in the Northeast region of the United States; Dutch colonial, Federal, Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, and Italianate detailing variously applied to basically traditional 2 1/2 story rectangular farmhouse type structures.

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning th the intersection of River Road and the Millstone/Hillsborough Boundary proceed west along the border 2000 feet. Thence, proceed in a southerly direction parallel to River Road to Hillsborough Road. Continue parallel to River Road 1000 feet. Thence, proceed East parallel to Hillsborough Road to Millstone Road. Thence, proceed to the intersection of River and Hillsborough Roads. Thence, proceed East to the Millstone River (Franklin Township boundary). Thence, follow these municipal borders North to the Millstone Boro boundary. Thence, proceed West along this border to the point of beginning. MILLSTONE VALLEY DISTRICT - HILLSBOROUGH TOWNSHIP Somerset County New Jersey

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TAX REFORM ACT

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Lot 17 - C. Irving, John H. & C.I., III Van Cleef - River Road Belle Mead, N.J. 08502

Lot 17A- Betar Inc. 1524 Millstone River Road P.O. Box 896 Somerville, N.J. 08876

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- Lot 18 C. Irving & J.H. Van Cleef Millstone River Road Belle Mead, N.J. 08502
- Lot 26 C.I. III & Barbara M. Van Cleef Amwell Road Belle Mead, N.J. 08502
- Lot 27 James & Stella Loughran River Road Belle Mead, N.J. 08502
- Lot 28 Irving & John Van Cleef Millstone River Road Belle Mead, N.J. 08502
- Lot 29 John & Lillian Polakowski Millstone River Road Belle Mead, N.J. 08502
- Lot 30 L.J. Malinowski & W.J. & M. Komar 1143 Gress Street Manville, N.J. 08835
- Lot 30A- Robert & Teresa S. DeSesso Millstone River Road Belle Mead, N.J.
- Lot 30B- Robert W. & M.T. Moevs Millstone Road Belle Mead, N.J.
- Lot 48 T.N., J.P. & M. D'Altrui Industries 667 Evergreen Parkway Union, N.J. 07083
- Lot 48A- Thomas & Cheryl D'Altrui River Road R.D. 1 Belle Mead, N.J. 08502
- Block 207
- Lot 3 Walter G. & R.M. Wyckoff Millstone River Road Belle Mead, N.J.
- Lot 4 Rance & Ethel Kay Hillsborough Road Belle Mead, N.J.

