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RECEIVED MAR 12 1979
DATE ENTERED MAY 14 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Townley, James, House

AND/OR COMMON Townley-Parcell House, Kean Farm House, Little White House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER ~~Kean College of New Jersey~~
Morris Avenue & Green Lane

CITY, TOWN Union Township VICINITY OF Elizabeth 12th

STATE New Jersey CODE 34 COUNTY Union CODE 035

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME State of New Jersey under the jurisdiction of the Department of Higher Education ✓

STREET & NUMBER 225 West State Street

CITY, TOWN Trenton VICINITY OF STATE New Jersey

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Union County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER North Broad Street

CITY, TOWN Elizabeth STATE New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Historic American Buildings Survey (NJ-535)

DATE 1938 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Liberty of Congress

CITY, TOWN Washington STATE D.C.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Like many rural homes, the Townley-Parcell house began as a very modest structure and grew with changes in family needs and popular style.

The earliest part of the house was built between 1780 and 1800. Encompassing what is now the kitchen and part of the present dining room and pantry, the original structure had a simple box-like design of one or two rooms. At that time the front of the house faced southwest and had a sloping roofline. Strong evidence for the early dating is the very large fireplace base visible from the basement. While the present fireplace in the dining room is small, the wide base indicates that it was once very large -- possibly large enough to accommodate an oven. The present mantelpiece and fireplace facade are mid-nineteenth century additions.

The cellar (dirt floor) basement also provides good samples of early building techniques, including mortis-and-tenon joints, hand forged nails, and tongue-in-groove floorboard treatment. Several of the basement supports are very roughly hewn as no labor was wasted on what would not be seen.

Around 1800 to 1810, an addition was made to the house, with the original roofline changed and the kitchen roof flattened. The cross beams are numbered with Roman numerals, a technique used to assure that joints fitted individually on the ground would be placed correctly when hoisted to the roof. Subsequent chimney renovation to accommodate the height of the addition is revealed in a change of brickwork. The narrow, steep back staircase was added at this time, leading to the unfinished low second story area which served as both storage and sleeping quarters.

The last major addition to the house was made around 1820. The balanced arrangement of the rooms off the side hall and the symmetrical placement of the six windows at the northwest end, evidence a much greater feeling for style than the previous sections. Illustrating this are the knee-wall windows characteristic of the Greek Revival style that were added to the 1810 section of the house when that roof was raised to accommodate a full second story.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1796, 1820, 1850 BUILDER/ARCHITECT James Townley, Owner

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Townley House is a rare surviving example of a late 18th-early 19th century farmhouse in what is today a predominantly urban area and it has historical associates with families that have figured prominently in settling the area and who have contributed significantly to the development of the community.

The James Townley House is more valuable in 1978 than it was forty years ago when it was included in the Historic American Buildings Survey for it is now the only Townley House remaining on its original site in an area where the post office bears the Townley name. Of the six buildings included in the 1930's Union survey, three were Townley Houses. Since the HABS survey was made one house has been razed and the other moved to a location divorced from its original Morris Avenue site.

James Townley's heirs sold the house on July 13, 1848 to Christian and Barbara Duckweilder who transferred the property the same day to Noah Parcell. Noah Parcell was a merchant-farmer who never married. On his death the property passed to his sister, Henrietta Parcell Woodruff, who sold the farm to Julian Kean. Hamilton Fish Kean acquired the farm from his father on January 29, 1917. On April 1, 1954 the State of New Jersey purchased the farm together with other Kean property for the relocation of Newark State College.

Hamilton Fish Kean served in the Senate of the United States from March 4, 1929 to January 3, 1935. Senator Kean's great-grandfather John Kean was a member of the Continental Congress from South Carolina. John Kean, his brother, also served in the Senate from 1899 to 1911, following two terms in the House during the 1880's and an unsuccessful bid for Governor of the State of New Jersey.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

U.S. Department of the Interior, Historic American Building Survey, NJ-535, 1938.
 Bassett, William B. HABS in New Jersey Catalog, ed. by John Poppeliers, Newark:
 The New Jersey Historical Society, 1977.
 Brown, Beverly L. and Sandy. Gateways to Architecture, Union County
 Kean, Robert Winthrop. Four Score Years, 1974.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/3 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 8	5 6 4 6 2 0	4 5 0 3 8 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property nominated is a portion of the 120 acre campus of Kean College of New Jersey. The property is more particularly a rectangular plot south of the intersection of the former alignment for Green Lane with the westerly side of Morris Avenue. The frontage on Morris Avenue is 125'. The frontage on the former Green Lane is 110'.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

C. Harrison Hill, Jr., AIA, Director of Institutional Planning (Terry Karschner, Office of Historic Preservation 609-292-2023)

ORGANIZATION

Kean College of New Jersey

DATE

October 31, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

Morris Avenue

TELEPHONE

(201) 527-2440

CITY OR TOWN

Union

STATE

New Jersey 07083

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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

Deputy

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

[Handwritten Signature]

2-15-79

TITLED Deputy Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection DATE February 16, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

[Handwritten Signature]

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

5.14.79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

[Handwritten Signature]

DATE

May 14, 1979

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



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CONTINUATION SHEET DESCRIPTION ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

Further evidence that the roof was raised at this time is the difference in the clapboards of the upper area, and the single step difference between the newer second story and the 1810 portion. The middle class ideal was to incorporate the simpler unpretentious older building into a balanced whole with the new style.

The full attic area of the 1820 addition uses the same individually fitted and numbered construction techniques as the previous addition, as well as mortis-and-tenon joints. The parallel saw marks indicate the beams were mill sawn, possibly at a nearby mill on the Elizabeth River. The off-centered construction of the split fireplace seen in the attic is an interesting example of rural building problem solving.

In about 1850 the more elaborate external Greek Revival features were added by Noah Parcell. The projecting portico with Greek Doric order columns and guttae and triglyph entablature was added at this time. The uneven fluting on the columns of the portico indicate they were hand-carved. Also at this time the wide classical wall moldings and trims were added to the interior, probably replacing older trims. The heavy marble fireplace facings and the large turned banister were possibly also added, reflecting the beginning of the Victorian influence.

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CONTINUATION SHEET SIGNIFICANCE ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Today the James Townley House provides a vista to the late 19th century for Kean College students. Thirteen thousand students attend the College annually. Further, twenty-five thousand vehicles pass within a few feet of the farmhouse daily on Morris Avenue just as others have on this stage route since 1821. The architectural comparisons between the stately Livingston-Kean House, "Liberty Hall" (NHL), opposite the campus, the modest, middle-class James Townley House, and the magical Normandy farm buildings erected by Hamilton Fish Kean, c. 1920, are exceptional.

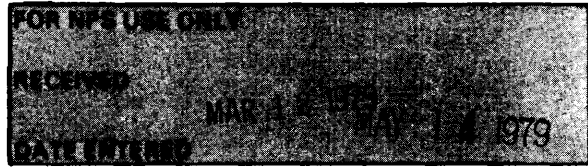
History of the Townley House and Inhabitants

The Townley-Parcell House was originally the principal building on the James Townley homestead. Early township records are fragmentary, but the tax books of 1810 to 1822 list Townley¹ as a householder with fourteen acres, one horse, and two neat cattle. The property consisted of two plots; a three acre tract on the north side of the road leading to Obadiah Elliot's² (which later became Conant Avenue and is today part of the college); opposite was the larger tract where stood the farmhouse and probably the rest of the farm buildings.

Architectural characteristics date the earliest section of the house circa 1790. By 1820, after two major additions by the Townley's that nearly tripled its size, the house was basically as it now stands on the college campus.

The property faced Morris Turnpike (now Morris Avenue), a major 18th and 19th century stage route from Newark and New York to Pennsylvania. As early as 1821 a local stage was running through Morristown to Elizabeth, passing the Townley front door every other day.³ Transportation of the time was at best tiresome and uncomfortable, but having access to one of the busiest and therefore better maintained roads of the state would have made traveling easier for the Townleys than for the more isolated farm families. Although still a rural community, Union definitely felt the effect of the burgeoning industrial and commercial activities of the growing ports and cities of northeastern New Jersey in the early 19th century.

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James Townley died in 1823, leaving the use of his estate to his wife Mary, and after her death or remarriage, to his children, his grandson Abraham and any other grandchildren that might follow.⁴ The Union Township census report of 1830⁵ lists Mary Townley, widow, as a householder in the 70-80 age group.⁵ From this we can estimate that James Townley was about 70 at the time of his death.

The inventory of the Townley estate can be used extensively in recreating middle class New Jersey farm life. In the early 1800's the family farm was still fairly self-sufficient, but manufactured goods were beginning to change the lives and pace of the farming community. The inventory indicates that a variety of tasks were, or recently had been, performed on the Townley homestead. The carpentry tools listed would be used for repairs and simple building. Included are a shaving horse and froe, most likely for making shingles.

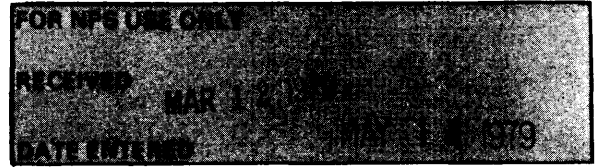
Most farm implements were represented in the Townley holdings: plow, spade, barrels, wagon, wheelbarrow, rakes, scyths, etc. Many of the tools were for grain crops, New Jersey being the "breadbasket" of the East in the nineteenth century.⁶

Most of the activities of the farm were geared to producing products for the family. Five beehive boxes would have provided all the honey the family could use, and possibly extra income for the household as well. Honey was used extensively as a sweetener, especially in rural areas. A link-stuffer indicates that the family made their own sausages. The livestock on the farm, consisting of one pig, one horse, one heifer, and two cows, and undoubtedly chickens as well, would have provided most of the meat, milk, and eggs the family needed.

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Not unexpectedly, most of the family's goods reflect the more mundane but essential tasks of everyday living. Examples of kitchen and household items listed in the Townley inventory are a bread tray and two boxes, two smoothing irons, two pewter platters, earthenware, teakettle, and griddle pot.

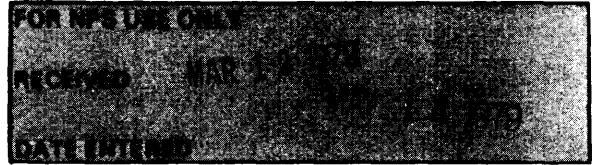
Cloth making articles in the household included a spool wheel and swifts, flax, dye-tub, and yarn. In the 1830's some cloth was still being made at home, but better clothing and special pieces such as the linens mentioned in the estate were more likely to be made from material purchased at a local store.

Furnishings that complete the household include a gun and bayonet; sixteen chairs; a clock and case; three tables; two cupboards; two looking glasses; andirons, shovel and tongs; four beds; bedding and bedsteads.

Despite general improvements in the standard of living, which were only beginning to touch the Townleys, manufacturing came as a mixed blessing to the New Jersey farmer. Negatively, the farmer had to compete with the ever broadening, rich grain-producing frontier while being squeezed by a constantly expanding industrial community on his doorstep. As a plus, however, the growth of Elizabeth expanded the market for farm products.

By 1847, the Townley children had inherited the estate and appointed John, the only son of James, as their attorney with the authority to dispose of the property. The heirs are listed as Abigail and Joseph Burril, Phoebe Sickels, Ann S. Crane, Elizabeth and Elijah Gary, Ezekiel Crane (all of Morris County), Rhoda and John Sanford (Hudson County), Abraham Stiles Townley (Morris County), Mary and Issac Porter (Susquahanna County, Pa.), and Elizabeth and John Townley (New York, N.Y.).

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On July 13, 1848, the land was sold to Christian and Barbara Duckweilder of New York ¹⁰ who on that same day transferred the property to Noah Parcell. ¹¹ The property is described in that deed as being bordered by the lands of Silas Ward, David Magie, and Abner Parcell. Abner Parcell (Noah's father) ran a distilling business and ¹² owned several tracts of land along Morris Avenue and in the vicinity.

The Parcells appear to have been a fairly prominent family, associated with some of the leading families of the area. Noah Parcell apparently never married, but his sister Hannah wed Matthew Wade, and Henrietta married Alfred Woodruff. ¹³ Both these families were associated with the earliest settling of Connecticut Farms, which became Union.

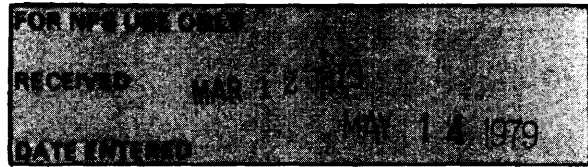
By 1850, the merchant-farmer had come into his own: a businessman with farming as only one of a variety of financial interests. Noah Parcell was an example of this breed of entrepreneur farmer. He was involved in manufacturing toward the end of his life and operated a distilling business inherited from his father, as well as maintaining the farm. Undoubtedly laborers were hired to work the farmland. It is not certain where the distillery was located.

Parcell could afford to embellish his home with finer pieces in accord with the dictates of popular taste. The reigning Empire Style which achieved a sense of massiveness and heaviness in basically small scale furniture was perfect for the dimensions of the compact house. About this time the Greek Revival porch and portico was added, as well as interior refinements.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

SIGNIFICANCE

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 6

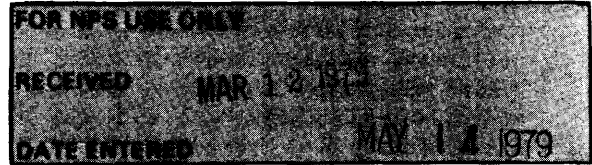
Henrietta Parcell Woodruff, widowed and residing in Elizabeth, inherited the property from her brother. The land was leased to the Elizabeth Nursery Company through 1923.¹⁴ The larger tract was purchased by Hamilton Fish Kean in 1917.¹⁴ In 1923, the smaller tract was sold to Patsey Arace through Henry Crane, named as executor of Henrietta's estate.¹⁵ In the following year Hamilton Fish Kean gained possession of that parcel as well.¹⁶ By the time the land had been willed to Katherine Winthrope Kean it had been incorporated into the area of the Kean estate known as Green Lane Farm. At this time the house was most likely being used by hired farm workers. In these transactions one can trace the name changes of several roads. The road to Obadiah Elliot's which ran between the two tracts, has been called Green Lane and Conant Avenue at various times. Green Lane was¹⁷ a winding county road that included what is now Woodland Avenue.

In 1954, the house was included in the property purchased by the State of New Jersey for the relocation of Newark State College.¹⁸ Since 1958, the college has maintained offices in the house.

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1. "Ratables of Union Township: 1810-1822", Box 44, New Jersey State Archives. (The records end in 1822. Many were lost in a fire in the state building).
2. Book of Deeds W6, Essex Hall of Records, p. 16-18.
3. Harry Weiss. Life in Early New Jersey (Princeton: D.V. Nostrand Company, Inc. 1964), p. 70.
4. Will and Inventory of James Townley of Essex County, #11521 G, New Jersey State Achives.
5. U.S. Census Report, 1830, Union, New Jersey, p. 187.
6. Weiss, p. 47.
7. Weiss, p. 53-54.
8. Will and Inventory of James Townley of Essex County. (While the estate of J. Townley is not excessive there are a few areas that deserve further inquiry. The bond against S. Miller for \$174.44, plus the fact that the two major additions to the house were made in his later years suggest that Townley may have had a source of income outside of the small farm).
9. Book of Deeds W6, p. 16-18.
10. Book of Deeds W6, p. 16-18.
11. Book of Deeds W6, p. 62-64.
12. Will and Inventory of Abner Parcell of Essex County, #505 T, New Jersey State Archives.
13. Will and Inventory of Abner Parcell.
14. Book of Deeds 557, Union County Hall of Records, p. 45.
15. Book of Deeds 921, Union County Hall of Records, p. 221.
16. Book of Deeds 921, p. 221.
17. Appendix I shows these changes and also the present route of Conant Avenue.
18. Book of Deeds 2210, Union County Hall of Records, p. 71-76.