

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only  
received JUN 11 1982  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Pluckemin Village Historic District

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number along <sup>US</sup> Route 206 and Burnt Mills Road N/A not for publication

city, town Bedminster N/A vicinity of 5th congressional district

state New Jersey code 034 county Somerset code 035

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Multiple Ownership

street & number

city, town N/A vicinity of state

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset County Administration Building

street & number North Bridge and East High Streets

city, town Somerville state New Jersey

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title "Preserving Historic Pluckemin" and associated survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1981  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Bedminster Township Planning Board

city, town Bedminster state New Jersey

---

## 7. Description

---

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The village of Pluckemin, located at the intersection of US 202-206 and Somerset County 525 Spur also known as Burnt Mills Road in north-central New Jersey, today consists of two distinct areas: a small modern commercial center immediately at the intersection, most of which is excluded from the nominated area, and a concentration of historic structures north and west of the intersection, which are individually described below.

The 33 buildings in the district, with one major exception, are overwhelmingly related by scale, setback, materials and massing, although they span as much as 100 years in construction dates. Almost all are frame, 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 stories, three to five bays wide, and most have gabled roofs parallel to the road. Facade lines and heights are relatively uniform, creating a unified village streetscape extending north along US 202-206.

West of the intersection, development has been more sparse. North of Burnt Mills Road are four historic buildings immediately west of Route 206. Separated from these by a field is a 20th-century Cape Cod house (#3 - all numbers refer to the individual building numbers in the Description and on the map), west of which is the largest 5-bay, 2 1/2 story, central entry house in the district (#2). This house, with the former school (#1) across the road, creates a western gateway to the village.

Against this background of primarily small 19th-century houses, landmark buildings stand out sharply, the most notable of which is the Greek Revival Presbyterian Church built in 1851 (#14) with a spire added later in the century. Due to its massing, orientation, setback, and height, it functions as the visual center of the village. Its steeple is visible for a great distance, marking the location of the village.

Like most villages of its size, Pluckemin has continued to evolve. Buildings have been removed and others constructed; roads have been built or improved. Today US 202-206 is rather heavily traveled, diminishing the otherwise pedestrian character of the village. Since World War II, improvements have been made to many of the buildings; in some cases these have resulted in a loss (or obscuring) of original detail and materials, but generally the overall forms still exist. This has resulted in the retention of the streetscapes, and the sense of a village, much as it existed 100 years ago and before.

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet Pluckemin Village Historic District,  
Bedminster, Somerset Co., NJ Item number 7

Page 1

Description (continued)

Many houses have been converted, in whole or in part, to office use, with concomitant interior changes. However, like the exterior alterations, these have not affected the appearance presented to the traveler, with the exception of the commercial sign posts erected near the road.

As in most villages, it is not possible to place all the buildings neatly into stylistic categories; however, they share a general uniformity of materials, scale, and setbacks, with diversity of detail arising from the variety of construction dates. The "typical" house is frame with clapboard siding, two stories in height, and three to five bays wide with the entrance in an inner bay (usually centered). The gabled roof is oriented with its ridge parallel to the road. The essential stylistic derivation is from the same sources which produced the Georgian and Federal styles, of which these buildings are, to varying degrees, vernacular examples.

Individual structures are described below. Numbers correspond to the attached survey map. Based on a pedestrian survey by an architectural historian, each building has been placed in one of the following categories:

Pivotal buildings are those which, because of architectural or historical associations, integrity, and/or scale, rank as most important to the village.

Contributing buildings, while not of the same order as those categorized as pivotal, are nonetheless historic structures, in some cases having undergone relatively minor alterations.

Harmonizing refers to either an historic building which has been severely altered, or a modern structure which is compatible in visual characteristics with the overall nature of the village.

Intrusions are modern buildings, or those which present a thoroughly modern appearance, which detract from the character of the village.

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Pluckemin Village Historic District,

Continuation sheet Bedminster, Somerset Co., NJ Item number 7

Page 2

Description (continued)

1. Township Building (former school)  
Burnt Mills Road  
Pivotal  
1912

Two-story, brick and frame, 5 bays wide and 4 deep, with projecting central 3-bay section. Brick first story, laid in 6-course American bond, with concrete sills, foundation, and quoined door surround all scored to simulate stone. Upper portion of the building clad in wood shingle. Roof of main block and projecting element are hipped and sheathed in slate; central hipped roof dormer on the front (north) slope of the roof.

2. Johnson House  
Burnt Mills Road  
Pivotal  
C. early 19th century

Large-scale, 2 1/2 story frame structure, sheathed with clapboards, 5 bays wide and 2 deep, with central entry. Gabled roof with asphalt shingles. Entry is emphasized by sidelights flanked by thin pilasters supporting a denticulated entablature. All windows are 9/6 and there is a 3-bay, 1 1/2 story rear ell. Also on the property are two outbuildings (behind the house) and a small structure, possibly a well house, to the southwest of the main house.

3. Stanley House  
Burnt Mills Road  
Harmonizing

A mid-20th century stuccoed Cape Cod house, 1 1/2 stories, with two gabled roof dormers and a detached rear garage. No photo.

4. Former Village Plant and Gift Shop  
Burnt Mills Road  
Contributing

Appears to have been built in the last quarter of the 19th century; 2 1/2 stories, T-plan, resting on stone foundation. Siding is clapboard and cut shingle. Open one-story porches to each side of the stem of the T create a nearly rectangular form at ground level. Windows are 1/1 except for small diamond-pane window in front gable peak.

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Pluckemin Village Historic District  
Continuation sheet Bedminster, Somerset Co., NJ Item number 7

Page 3

Description (continued)

5. Rispoli House  
Burnt Mills Road  
Contributing

Small, 3-bay by 2-bay gable front house with small sawn barge-board on main (south) facade. One and a half stories high, with clapboard siding. Central front door within one-story, two-bay shed roof porch. Windows are generally 6/6 and 2/2; two 3/3 eyebrow windows on upper floor of right (east) facade. Gabled wall dormer on left facade.

6. Johns Manville Properties Corp.  
Burnt Mills Road  
Contributing

Four by two bay, 2 1/2 story frame duplex now in office use. Siding is aluminum simulating clapboards. Gabled roof is wood shingle. Two front doors sheltered by shed roof porch with turned posts and square balusters. One interior end chimney.

7. Somerset Veterinary Group Building  
Burnt Mills Road  
Contributing

Appears to be two buildings joined together. Left (west) section is 1 1/2 stories high, four bays wide and two deep. Roof is gabled and siding is clapboard. First floor windows are 6/6, with 3/3 eyebrow windows above. Right (east) section of the building is four bays wide and two full stories high. Entrances are sheltered by one-story shed roof porch. Roof is gabled and the siding is clapboard.

8. Travel Host/Colonial Liquors  
Northwest corner of Burnt Mills Road and Route 202-206  
Pivotal

Moved here in the 1890's, the building consists of two parts. Left (south) section is 2 1/2 stories high, two bays wide and four deep, with gable end facing Route 202-206. Siding is clapboard on the second story and textured plywood on the first; full-width one-story shed roof porch on square posts extends across both sections of facade. Windows are 6/6 on the second floor; those on the first are large modern windows divided into 30 smaller panes. Entry is centered in this section.

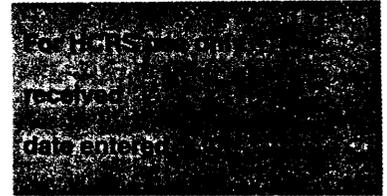
**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Pluckemin Village Historic District

Continuation sheet Bedminster, Somerset Co., NJ Item number 7

Page 4



Description (continued)

The right section is two bays wide and 1 1/2 stories high. Roof is gabled and siding arrangement is the same as that on the main block. Extreme right (northern) portion of the porch has been enclosed and is sided with clapboards. Second floor windows are now 6-light eyebrows, formerly full-height 2/2's, apparently added when the roof was lowered after 1949. First floor windows and doors are modern and are similar to those on the main block.

9. Buffalo Forge Co.  
Route 202-206  
Contributing

Rear half of what was, prior to 1945, a gable-front Esso station, the front section of which was removed. The chimney now on the front facade was near the middle of the larger building. Now a gable-front, 1 1/2 story frame structure, three bays wide and three deep. Entry is in the middle bay, not centered. Two shed dormers on the south and one on the north.

10. Jastrzemski House  
Route 202-206  
Contributing

One and half story, gable-front house incorporating Bungalow elements, believed to date from early in this century. Three bays wide, with central entry. Full width porch with panelled posts spans the front facade. Windows are paired on the front facade and rafter tails are exposed.

11. Colonial Hills Century 21 Realty  
Route 202-206  
Contributing

Erected in 1852 as a Dutch Reformed chapel, with a handsome three-bay prostyle facade with full Doric tetrastyle portico; became John Dolliver's store in the 1890s. By the 20th century the portico had been removed and the fenestration altered to create present three-bay, two story appearance. Currently the door is in the left bay; the center and right bays have been linked by an inserted window. Three windows exist on the second floor. Siding is asbestos shingle.

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Pluckemin Village Historic District

Continuation sheet Bedminster, Somerset Co., NJ Item number 7

Page 5

Description (continued)

12. James F. Hurley Insurance  
Route 202-206  
Contributing

Two and a half stories with gabled roof interrupted by a cross-gable. Three bays wide and one deep, with rear ell. Windows (in 19th century frames) are 6/1 on the first floor and 6/6 on the second. Central entry is beneath a 20th century gabled hood. The broad cross gable contains only a louvered ventilator, and the foundation is concrete (probably only a facing).

13. Montserrat School of Music  
Route 202-206  
Contributing

Two stories high, three bays wide, and one bay deep (plus a rear ell); siding is clapboard, and the ridge of the gabled roof is parallel to the street. Windows are 6/6, and the central entry is in a plain pilaster surround. On the left (south) gable end is a one-story, semi-hexagonal projecting bay, which, like the rest of the house, is on a stone foundation. Also on the property is a new one-story, two-bay building to the south of the house, set well back from the facade line.

- 14, 15, 16. Pluckemin Presbyterian Church Complex  
Route 202-206  
Pivotal

Because of its size, location, function, and historicity, this complex, particularly the church, is the most important landmark in the village. The church, built in 1851-52, is actually the southernmost element in a U-shaped complex of three buildings. The main block of the building is strongly Greek Revival in character, containing on its main (east) facade a distyle Ionic portico in antis, although the pilasters have no volutes. The general arrangement of the facade is similar to, although smaller and simpler than, that of the First Presbyterian Church in Princeton, New Jersey, built 14 years earlier.

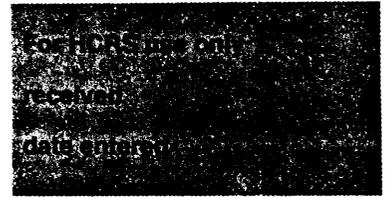
**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Pluckemin Village Historic District

Continuation sheet Bedminster, Somerset Co., NJ Item number 7

Page 6



Description (continued)

The fluted columns support a full entablature, complete with dentils at the top of the architrave, and a plain pediment. The whole of the building, above the stone foundation, is executed in wood; the front facade in flush boarding and the sides in clapboards. Inset in the front facade is the datestone of the building's 1756 predecessor, discovered in this century in two pieces.

On the ridge near the front of the building is the three-stage steeple, added in 1875, which terminates in a spire.

The church is five bays deep. Windows are extremely tall 20/20/20, with louvered shutters. The full entablature of the front facade continues around the rest of the building, adding a degree of refinement. The slate roof dates from 1911.

Northwest of the church is a nine-bay, one-story symmetrical Colonial Revival fellowship hall (#15), built in 1956. It was extended to the rear in 1963. Individually it would be considered harmonizing.

In front of this (or north of the church) is the cemetery of St. Paul's Lutheran Church which stood here from 1756 to c. 1825.

The north side of the U is the 1 1/2 story, clapboarded Sunday School building, which complements the church by its rectangular gable-front mass with steeple. By all accounts this was the former Methodist Church, built in 1832 about where the church now stands, and which had been the local public school (1858-1912). It has been moved on the lot twice, first in 1851 to make way for the church and last sometime before 1888. The front (east) facade is plain except for the central transomed double-leaf entry, beneath a half-bellcast hood, and a single round-arched louvered opening above.

The building (which is #16) is four bays deep, with a smaller three bay element to the rear. The fourth (rearmost) bay was added in this century. At the front of the building is a small two-stage tower sheathed in fish-scale shingles. The square lower element is topped by a square tapering spire, with a dormer-like, segmentally arched opening on each of its faces.

This building is separated from the cemetery by a low stone wall.

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Pluckemin Village Historic District

Continuation sheet Bedminster, Somerset Co., NJ Item number 7

Page 7

Description (continued)

17. Burd House and Blacksmith Shop  
Route 202-206  
Contributing  
1888

The house is 2 1/2 stories high, four bays wide and two deep. The ridge of the gabled roof is parallel to the street, with an interior end chimney on the right (north) end. Siding is clapboard to the eaves level and shaped wood shingle in the gable peaks. Foundation is stone. Windows are 2/2, many with panelled shutters.

The form of the house suggests a construction date before the middle of the 19th century, with alterations late in the century.

The blacksmith shop, on the site of the old Academy building, is 1 1/2 stories high with its gable end to the street. There is a central track door on the first level, flanked by two 6/6 windows. Central 6/6 window in the gable peak, separated from the lower level by a band of board and batten siding. Remainder of the building sheathed in vertical boards.

18. Stadele's Allen Organs  
Route 202-206  
Contributing

Similar to its neighbor immediately to the south, but with more decorative detail. Two and a half stories, four bays wide and two deep. Siding is clapboard, and the ridge of the gabled roof is parallel to the street. Interior end chimney on the left (south). Windows are new 6/6's and 9/6's, and 2/2 in a one-story, semi-octagonal projecting bay on the left facade; an earlier 6/6 window can be seen on the second floor of the right facade. Front facade has broad frieze and molded cornice supported by small paired brackets. Brackets also appear on projecting bay window.

19. Purcell, Ries, Shannon, and Mulcahy  
Route 202-206  
Contributing

Siding is clapboard, framed by full-height corner pilasters supporting a flush-board frieze; latter contains five eyebrow windows. The building is two bays deep, and has two chimneys

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Pluckemin Village Historic District

Continuation sheet Bedminster, Somerset Co., NJ Item number 7

Page 8

Description (continued)

The central entry includes a plain, probably modern door, within a pair of pilasters which support a transom. Five-light sidelights above panels and engaged half-pilasters complete the ensemble. Above the transom bar is a five-light transom topped by a molded entablature.

Windows on the first floor are 6/6; the eyebrow windows are essentially one-quarter this size, each containing three lights. There are full-height windows on the second floor on the gable ends.

20. Attic Trunk Consignment Shop  
Route 202-206  
Contributing

The nearly flat roof and cubical massing of this house give it a marked 1850's appearance. It is five bays wide, two stories high with central entry. Windows are 6/6, and the siding is presently asbestos shingle. Front door is new, and the area immediately above it suggests a blocked-over transom. The cellar extends the full width of the house, but only under the front half.

21. Presbyterian Manse  
Route 202-206  
Contributing

Five bays wide and three deep, with the entry in the central bay. The ridge of the gabled roof is parallel to the street, and there is an interior chimney at the left (south) gable end. Windows are 6/6, and the double-leaf entry is enriched by panelled doors and a two-lighted transom. The siding is clapboard, and the foundation is stone.

The right gable end is entirely blank with the exception of two small 6-light attic windows; this suggests that there was a building adjacent to the north (as there is now) in 1863, when an addition was built on the north end of the house to accommodate its then-new use as a parsonage.

22. Samolsky House  
Route 202-206  
Contributing

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Pluckemin Village Historic District

Continuation sheet Bedminster, Somerset Co., NJ Item number 7

Page 9

Description (continued)

Two and a half story gable roof structure, five bays wide and two deep; the central entry (with two-light transom) is within a one story, three-bay porch with turned posts and single brackets at the cornice. At present the house is sheathed with aluminum siding. Windows are 2/2. Foundation is stone.

23. Pluckemin Inn Tavern  
Route 202-206  
Contributing

Two and a half stories high, with gable end to the street. Two bays wide and three deep. Siding material is modern shingle on the first floor and cedar shakes on the second, which flares outward slightly at the joint between the two materials.

First floor has been altered, but the second contains two pairs of 1/1 windows on the main (east) facade. There is also one 6/1 window in the gable peak.

The building appears to have been built early in this century; one source says it was "established after Repeal."

24. Country Antiques  
Route 202-206  
Pivotal  
Circa 1890

Three bays wide and two deep, with gable end facing the road. The house is frame, with predominantly clapboard siding; gable peak clad in patterned wood shingle. Centered in the peak is a Victorian adaptation of a Palladian window, whose flanking windows contain numerous small panes, denoting the Queen Anne period. Entry, in the left (north) bay, is sheltered by a full-width, one-story porch with turned posts and square-section balusters and valence band.

To the rear are two outbuildings, one of which is two stories high and four by two bays, presently used as an antique shop. There is also a small one-story building. In front of the house is a stone wall and a handsome iron fence.

25. John Boylan House ("1751 House")  
Route 202-206  
Pivotal

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Pluckemin Village Historic District

Continuation sheet Bedminster, Somerset Co., NJ Item number 7

Page 10

Description (continued)

Frame, 2 1/2 stories, five bays by 2, with clapboard siding and central entry. The roof is gabled, parallel to the street, and is presently sheathed in patterned slate. Windows are 1/1, most with pintles and some with shutter dogs. There is an interior brick chimney on the ridge at each end of the house. Each window surround is topped by a small entablature supported by a pair of truncated pilasters. The same detail, on a larger scale, is used on a mantel in the southwest room on the first floor. The enframing of the door is similarly handled and consists of a pair of flanking engaged columns on pedestals supporting a full entablature including a denticulated frieze. The door itself, however, appears to be a product of the Victorian era, a period which saw many changes to the house.

Both gable ends, above the eave line, are covered in the semi-hexagonal butt wood shingles, which flare slightly as they meet the main body of the house. Similar shingles are used in the one-story porch on the right gable end, which shelters a pair of diamond-pane windows.

The interior shows strong evidence of Victorian alterations, including doors, hardware, beamed ceilings, and cupboards. Earlier details include the mantel mentioned above and a corner fireplace on the second floor.

26. Mondello House  
Route 202-206  
Contributing

Although at first glance this house has a strongly Victorian appearance, closer examination suggests that it may be a case of extensive alteration to an earlier structure.

Probably the house originally was a 2 1/2 story, 5-bay, gable roof building with central entry, of which the middle three bays are apparent. The entrance is characteristic of the Greek Revival period and includes five-light sidelights below a five-light transom. The whole is flanked by broad pilasters. This part of the house is sided with clapboards, and the foundation of this part is ashlar with chiseled margins.

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Pluckemin Village Historic District

Continuation sheet Bedminster, Somerset Co., NJ Item number 7

Page 11

Description (continued)

The major Victorian alterations inflated the two front corners into polygonal towers, both on rubble foundations. That on the north (left) is hexagonal, 2 1/2 stories, with a polygonal slate roof with finial. The majority of the siding is staggered butt wood shingle, with clapboards below.

The projection at the southwest corner is rectangular in plan, set at a diagonal to the main block, with flat roof. Siding is handled in the same fashion as its counterpart except the entire first story is clapboarded.

Behind (to the east of) the house is the most outstanding outbuilding in the Village. It is a cobblestone garage, 1 1/2 stories with hipped roof, three bays on each side. The openings are round-headed and segmentally-arched, and the roof is pierced by hipped dormers with tripled 6/1 windows. It was built as a garage c. 1910.

27. Layton House  
Route 202-206  
Contributing

Two and a half story hipped-roof duplex dating from early in this century. The left portion of the facade contains two main entrances on the first floor and a pair of 1/1 windows above. The rest of the front facade is taken up by a very wide, 3-part projecting bay, with three 1/1 windows at each story, entirely beneath the house roof.

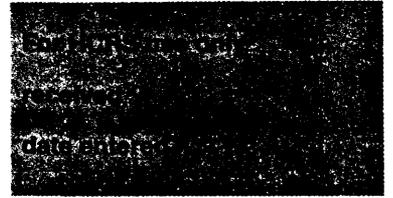
Centered on the front slope of the roof is a hipped roof dormer, with a pair of small 1/1 windows. Like the rest of the roof, it is slated.

Extending across the width of the facade is a one-story porch with large fieldstone piers supporting paired Tuscan columns. To the rear of the house is a 2-story, 3-bay gabled barn.

28. Simonds House  
Route 202-206  
Contributing

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Pluckemin Village Historic District

Continuation sheet Bedminster, Somerset Co., NJ Item number 7

Page 12

Description (continued)

Although probably an early house, the building has undergone a great deal of rehabilitation in the recent past. Two stories, with gabled roof sheathed in asphalt shingle. First floor is four bays wide, with entry in the right (south) bay, in a new surround. Second floor is three bays wide. Windows are all 6/6, with modern shutters. The frieze below the cornice contains large dentils, nearly the size of modillions. To the left of the main block is a two-story, two-bay wing with flat roof and similar cornice treatment. To the right is a modern, one-story recessed wing. There is a two-car garage to the rear.

Siding is presently aluminum. Although much detail has been lost, the house retains its massing and proportion which continue to contribute to the streetscape.

29. House of England Unisex Salon/Delta Electric  
Route 202-206  
Contributing

The house consists of a main block and wing. The main (southern) section is 2 1/2 stories high, three bays wide, and has a gabled roof whose ridge is parallel to the street and which is covered in asphalt shingle. Siding is clapboard and asbestos shingle, and there is an interior chimney at the left gable end. The entry, in the right (south) bay, includes a four-light transom; the rest of the first floor on the front facade is taken up by a large modern window. The second floor has modern flush board siding and three 6/6 windows.

The north wing is 1 1/2 stories high, with gabled roof; it is much wider than the main block, although the stone foundation visible under part of it suggests that a smaller wing may have existed historically. Openings on the front facade consist of a modern door in the left (north) bay, and a large picture window.

As with its neighbor to the north, the remodelings have altered the details of the buildings, but its overall form (especially in concert with #30 below) adds to the character of the street.

30. Daughaday House  
Route 202-206  
Contributing

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Pluckemin Village Historic District

Continuation sheet Bedminster, Somerset Co., NJ Item number 7

Page 13

Description (continued)

This house indicates the probable earlier appearance of #29 above, of which it is almost a mirror image. It is 2 1/2 stories high, three bays wide, with a full-width one-story porch sheltering the entrance in the left (north) bay. Siding is wood shingle, and windows are 1/1 on the first floor and 2/2 on the second. On the right (south) side is a small recessed one-story ell.

31. Strupp House  
Route 202-206  
Pivotal  
Circa first quarter 19th century

This house contains two distinct sections; both are 1 1/2 stories, with gabled roofs parallel to the street, and are believed to date from early in the 19th century. The left section is three bays wide and two deep. Windows, indicative of its age, are 9/6 on the ground floor; those in the half-story above are 3-light eyebrows. The left gable end shows evidence of an exterior chimney, and the window configuration is the same as that on the front facade, although the upper windows have been expanded to 3/3. The door, in the right bay of this section, is within a small shed-roof porch with turned posts, probably dating from the Queen Anne period. The screen door is of the same vintage.

The right (south) section is very similar in overall design, although it is four bays wide with the entry in the second bay from the right. It too has a small, late 19th century porch. Windows have been changed to 2/2 on the first floor; the eyebrow windows remain in the half story. Like the other section, this side is clapboarded, although the south gable end is sided in new shingles. Both sections of the house seem to have been built at about the same time.

32. McKiernan House  
Route 202-206  
Pivotal  
First quarter 19th century - ell may be earlier

The only gambrel-roofed building in the village, and possibly among the oldest, this house consists of a three-bay, 2 1/2 story main block and a 2-story, 2-bay gable-roof (probably earlier) wing to the right (south) which, surprisingly, is not recessed.

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Pluckemin Village Historic District

Continuation sheet Bedminster, Somerset Co., NJ Item number 7

Page 14

Description (continued)

The main (north) block is the gambrel-roofed section. The lower slope of the roof is much larger than the upper. Windows are 6/6, and the basement is higher than those of most houses in the village. This exposes the stone foundation, which, on the front facade, is coursed ashlar whose stones have chiseled edges. Stonework on the north side is not as elaborate.

The entry, in the right (south) bay, is at the top of a brick stoop; it appears to be in nearly original condition, consisting of molded outer pilaster terminating in corner blocks which support a cornice. An inner pair of smaller pilasters, also with corner blocks, flank a 3-light transom; there are no sidelights. In addition, the door itself contains two tall panels, probably indicating that it is original to the enframing, the style of which is later than that of the house.

The 2-bay, 2-story wing to the right (south) has a gabled roof. Its foundation is stone, but not of the quality of workmanship seen in the main block. Windows are 6/6 on the first floor and 6/3 on the second. At present the entire structure is sided with aluminum.

33. Max E. Spann, Inc., Realtor  
Route 202-206  
Contributing

Although changed in some ways, this is still the first residential-scale building encountered by a northbound traveler and makes the transition from highway commercial (outside the district) to small scale village residential character.

The house is 2 1/2 stories high and five bays wide with central entry. The first floor now contains two large picture windows. The roof is gabled, and has two interior end chimneys; a pent roof has been added between the stories. Second floor windows are 2/2, and siding is new wood shingle. A rear ell, at right angles to the main block, contains some 6/6 windows, probably original, as does the rear facade of the main section.

The house was extensively renovated for commercial use in the 1960's; little interior detail remains other than the wide floorboards and a first-floor fireplace. There is no basement.



# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Centennial: The Presbyterian Church of Pluckemin, Pluckemin, New Jersey, 1851-1951 (1951?)

Seidel, John L., The 1778-1779 Continental Artillery Winter Cantonment, Pluckemin, New Jersey-Preliminary Archaeological Research (unpub. Masters Thesis, University of Pennsylvania, 1980). (see continuation sheet)

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 43.5 acres (approx.)

Quadrangle name Gladstone, NJ

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

**UMT References**

A 

1	8
---	---

5	3	0	4	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	4	9	9	5	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

  
Zone Easting Northing

B 

1	8
---	---

5	3	0	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	4	9	9	2	3	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

  
Zone Easting Northing

C 

1	8
---	---

5	2	9	9	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	4	9	9	2	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

D 

1	8
---	---

5	2	9	9	2	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	4	9	9	6	7	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

E 

1	8
---	---

5	3	0	3	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	4	9	9	7	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

F 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

**Verbal boundary description and justification**

See Continuation Sheet - Significance, page 3 and Verbal Boundary Description, page 1

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries**

state	code	county	code
N/A			

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Charles H. Ashton		
organization	Heritage Studies, Inc.	date	March, 1981
street & number	R.D. 4, Box 864, Mapleton Road	telephone	(609) 452-1754
city or town	Princeton	state	New Jersey 08540

# 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

Deputy  
 State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Laura Schmitt*

title \_\_\_\_\_ date 2/22/82

**For HCRS use only**  
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

*John A. Drugel* \_\_\_\_\_ date 7/26/82  
 for Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Pluckemin Village Historic District

Continuation sheet Bedminster, Somerset Co., NJ Item number 8

Page 1

Significance (continued)

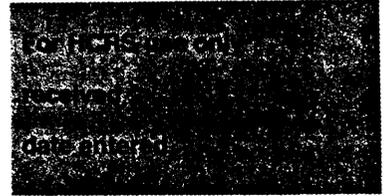
After the Revolution the Village grew slowly, its focus gradually shifting to the vicinity of the St. Paul's Lutheran Church. The church, however, fell into a decline, and after the Revolution the building was taken down. The failure of this congregation and the subsequent religious history of the village reflects a change in the area's ethnic character as the pioneering Germans intermarried with families of differing origins. In 1759 a Dutch Reformed Church (no longer standing) was built north of the village. A chapel for this denomination, in the Greek Revival style, was erected at Pluckemin in 1852. Much altered, it still survives, as a real estate office (#11). In 1832, a short-lived Methodist Church was built on the St. Paul's site, but did not prosper. The residents of Pluckemin, most of whom belonged to the Dutch Reformed Church, made efforts through most of the early 19th century to locate a congregation of that denomination in the village. Rebuffed by the Dutch Reformed Classis of New Brunswick, they appealed to, and were accepted by, the Presbytery of Elizabethtown. The cornerstone of the Presbyterian Church of Pluckemin was laid on July 8, 1851.<sup>5</sup> (#14)

The village became an early, local educational center. In 1791, the first school, one of the earliest in the area, is said to have opened, functioning until 1810. In 1815, a subscription was raised for building a Classical and English Academy, which was erected north of what is now the Presbyterian churchyard. It served as the only school until 1858, when it closed and the public school was opened. The Academy was eventually demolished in 1888 to make way for the Burd House and Blacksmith Shop (#17). In 1858, the 1832 Methodist Church structure was moved for a second time, to its present location (#16), where it functioned as the first public school, until 1912. Previously in 1851, the structure had been moved northwest on the same lot from its original site to make way for the construction of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church. From that time until 1956 it was used as a Sunday School for St. Paul's. In 1912 a brick public school (#1) was built at the southwestern edge of the district, remaining in use until 1958. This brick structure (1) is now used as one of Bedminster Township's municipal buildings.

Pluckemin also functioned as a commercial center for the surrounding agricultural area. In 1860 it had three stores, a hotel, two blacksmiths, a cooper, a cabinetmaker, and other small businesses. A crossroads store still survives, although in a new

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Pluckemin Village Historic District  
Continuation sheet Bedminster, Somerset Co., NJ Item number 8

Page 2

Significance (continued)

location, at the intersection at the southern end of the village (#8). A building that houses a blacksmith's shop also survives (#17). Although many services have been consolidated in a modern shopping center east of the intersection (not included in the district), Pluckemin still combines residential and small-scale commercial use. A few houses have been entirely converted to shops or offices; others house both dwellings and small businesses; in others, business is conducted in outbuildings at the rear.

As a village, Pluckemin consists of detached buildings set relatively close to one another. Often, indeed, the space between buildings is only wide enough for a driveway, so that the overall view of the village reads "town" rather than "country". The buildings are placed fairly close to the road, but are set back far enough to allow for large trees. This row of trees along the road is an important visual component of the village's character, setting this section of Route 202-206 apart from the road south and north of the village.

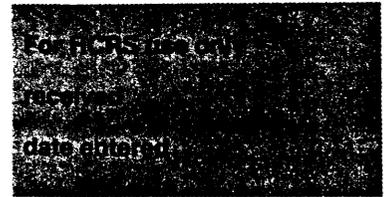
Pluckemin's buildings are vernacular versions of the range of styles popular in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

The most common house forms are derived from Georgian 3-bay and 5-bay plans. Two of the 5-bay type, the Boylan House (#25) and the Johnson House (#3), were probably built in the eighteenth century. The Purcell, Ries, Shannon and Mulcahy Law office (#19) is a 1 1/2 story variant of a type found in Somerset and Morris Counties. Its plain pilasters, eyebrow windows set in a plain fascia, and Venetian doorway indicate a date in the 1840's. However, the house was actually built in two sections, and the construction techniques of the northern 3 bays suggest that they were built in the eighteenth century.

Of the 3-bay sidehall houses the McKiernan House (#32) is the most distinguished. It has a finely tooled random ashlar basement and a simple but well-proportioned Greek Revival doorway. The gambrel, with its long, lower pitch, is distinctive. This roof appears to be a local phenomenon, the most conspicuous example of which was on the Elias Vanderveer House north of the village, now destroyed. The 2-bay wing may be earlier than the main block.

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Pluckemin Village Historic District

Continuation sheet Bedminster, Somerset Co., NJ Item number 8

Page 3

Significance (continued)

The building with the most pretension to architectural style is the Presbyterian Church (#14). It is a serene and sturdy example of the Greek Revival temple form with an Ionic distyle in antis portico. The type was characteristic of the mid-nineteenth century in central New Jersey as surviving examples in Raritan, South Branch, Harlingen, Chester, and East Millstone testify.

Another mid-century style, the Italianate, with some lingering Greek references, is represented by the Attic Trunk (#20). Basically this is a traditional 5-bay house with central stair, made up to date by a portico, broad entablature and almost flat roof.

Other houses exhibit later forms of Victorian detailing; brackets at a semi-octagonal bay window at Stadele's Allen Organ (#18), Queen Anne bays and towers at the Mondello House (#26), an earlier house "modernized" in the late nineteenth century, turned posts, scalloped shingles and a Palladian window at Country Antiques (#24).

In 1881 Pluckemin was described as "but an outlying village containing a church (Presbyterian), hotel, two stores, post-office, two blacksmith-shops, and about forty dwellings."<sup>6</sup> The hotel and the post-office are gone, but Pluckemin remains, as it was then, a small rural village, an island of the past in a changing countryside. Its surroundings will change more rapidly as major court-mandated development is constructed to the north, south and east. However, steps have been taken to preserve Pluckemin as a village.

Local land use ordinances, recently passed by Bedminster Township, contain zoning and preservation provisions aimed at maintaining Pluckemin's traditional character and historic appearance.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Pluckemin Historic District, selected on the basis of a pedestrian survey by architectural historians, were chosen to reflect to the greatest extent possible the architectural and historical character of the village, with the smallest number of non-contributing structures.

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Pluckemin Village Historic District

Continuation sheet Bedminster, Somerset Co., NJ Item number 8

Page 4

Significance (continued)

Initial consideration was given to nominating an area designated in the Township's zoning ordinance as "Village Neighborhood". This area, however, includes the shopping center at the northeast corner of the main intersection, as well as two gas stations on the south corners. In addition, the former school west of the village would have been excluded. The "Village Neighborhood" approximates, but does not recognize with precision, the most dense concentration of historic structures with the fewest intrusions and so the boundaries were adjusted for the National Register nomination.

North of the northern boundary on US 202-206 is vacant land on the east side of the road, and a gas station on the west. This break in historic resources dictated the location of the district boundary in this area.

East of the highway is Knox Avenue (now a paper street), which forms a natural eastern boundary to the district. Extending the boundary to the western edge of the street for a part of its length encompasses the open land behind the houses fronting on Route 206 so as to preserve the sense of a discreet village. The boundary then moves west to exclude two modern houses and the shopping center.

The southern boundary is the northern edge of Burnt Mills Road from Route 206 to the former school. Thus, the land south of Burnt Mills Road and west of Route 206 is excluded, since it contains a gas station, drive-in bank, open land, and a new Cape Cod-style house. Although a small cluster of older buildings exists south of the gas station, it was felt that the discontinuity of the intersection is too great to warrant extending the boundaries to include them.

In the west, the former school (#1) and the adjacent house (across Burnt Mills Road) (#2) were chosen as terminal points because of their character as village, as opposed to rural, structures; the school was built in 1912 and was in that use until 1958. It thus has strong ties to the village community. The house, with its outbuildings, begins the transition from village to rural and as such is a logical terminus in this direction.

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Pluckemin Village Historic District

Continuation sheet Bedminster, Somerset Co., NJ Item number 8

Page 5

Significance (continued)

Much of the western boundary is the eastern edge of the right-of-way of I-287. Although this line is slightly more to the east than the traditional boundaries of properties bordering it, the interstate effectively blocks consideration of any land west of the edge of the right-of-way. The district boundary chosen will also help protect the open land west of the village and cluster of structures, retaining its character as a village within a rural setting.

One other option was considered: extending the boundary to the east to include a house south of Washington Valley Road and east of the gas station on the southeast corner of the intersection. However, inclusion of the house would have necessitated inclusion of at least one intrusion and possibly more. The house, although an old one, has been so altered, that it bears little resemblance to its original appearance.

The result of these deliberations is a district which is very dense in historic structures; one 20th century Cape Cod house has been included (as a harmonizing building), and all intrusions have been excluded.

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

Pluckemin Village Historic District

Continuation sheet Bedminster, Somerset Co., NJ Item number 8

Page 6

Notes:

1. A Bill in the Chancery of New Jersey, New York (1747), 51-52.
2. Plan of Somerset County in the Province of New Jersey, Clinton #229, William J. Clements Library, University of Michigan, drawn by John Hills.
3. The datestone of the original church was found in two pieces in 1901 and 1902. It has been incorporated in the wall of the present church. Its Latin inscription records that the church was planned in December 1756 and that the cornerstone was laid in July 1757.
4. Centennial: The Presbyterian Church of Pluckemin, n.p. (1951), 4-7.
5. Frederick Walter, The Township of Bedminster, n.p. (1964), 53.
6. James P. Snell, History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, New Jersey, Philadelphia (1881), 712.

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Pluckemin Village Historic District

Continuation sheet Bedminster, Somerset Co., NJ Item number 9

Page 1

Snell, James P., comp. History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, New Jersey (Philadelphia: Everts and Peck, 1881).

Walter, Frederick. The Township of Bedminster, (n.p., 1964).

Walter, Frederick, and others. Compilation of the History of Pluckemin (n.p., notes on file at the Local Historian's Office).

Mellick, Andrew D. Story of an Old Farm (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1889).

**MAPS:**

A Bill in the Chancery of New-Jersey, New York (1747).

Plan of Somerset County in the Province of New Jersey, Clinton #229, William J. Clements Library, University of Michigan, drawn by John Hills.

1850 map: Map of Somerset County, N.J. Entirely from Original Survey by Otley, Van Derveer & Keily. (Camden: Lloyd Van Derveer, Surveyor, 1850).

1860 map: "Pluckemin, Somerset Co.", detail from files of Frederick Walter.

1873 map: Beers, Comstock, and Cline. Atlas of Somerset County, N.J. (New York: 36 Vesey Street, 1873).

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Pluckemin Village Historic District

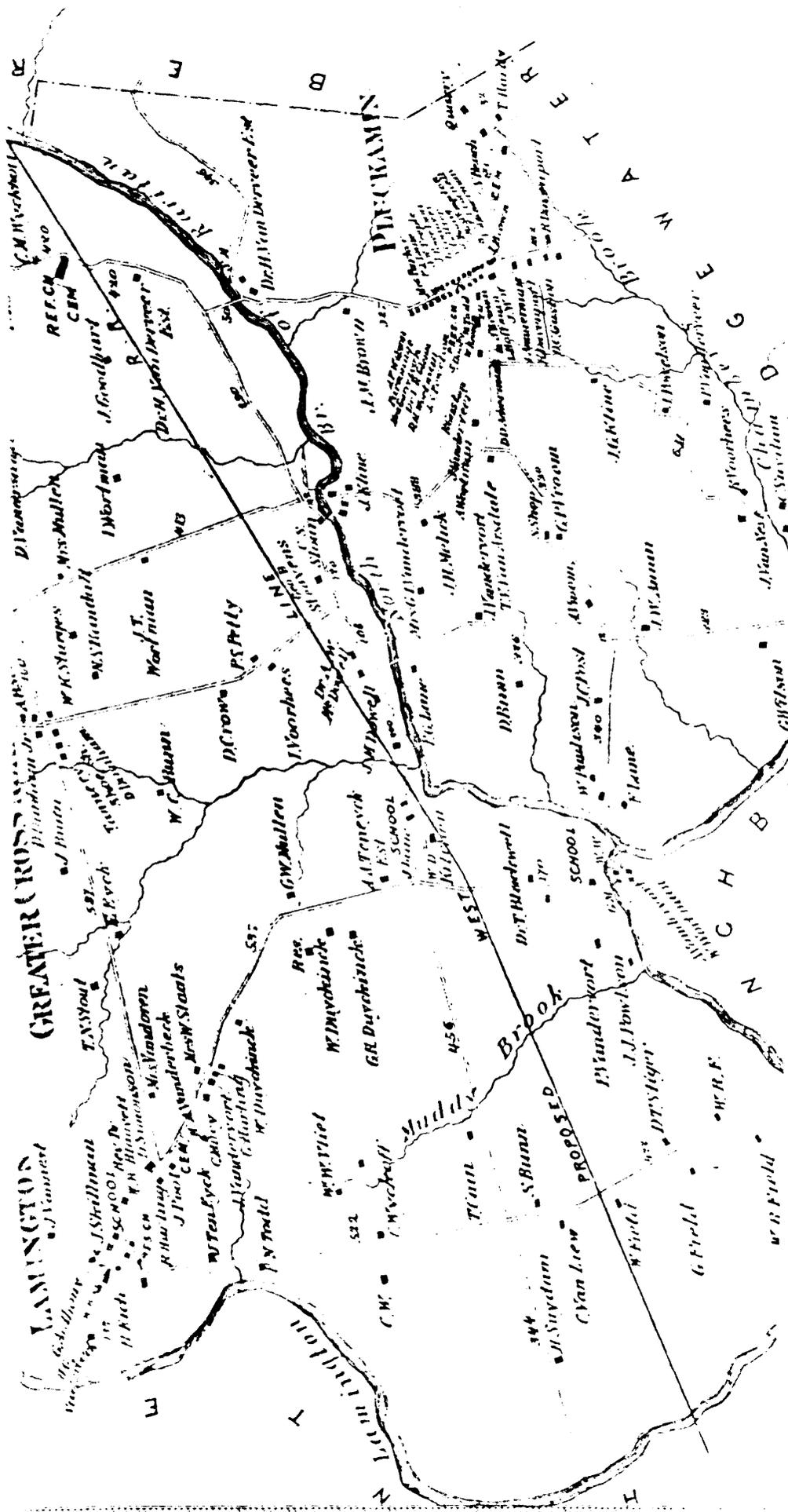
Continuation sheet Bedminster, Somerset Co., NJ Item number 10

Page 1



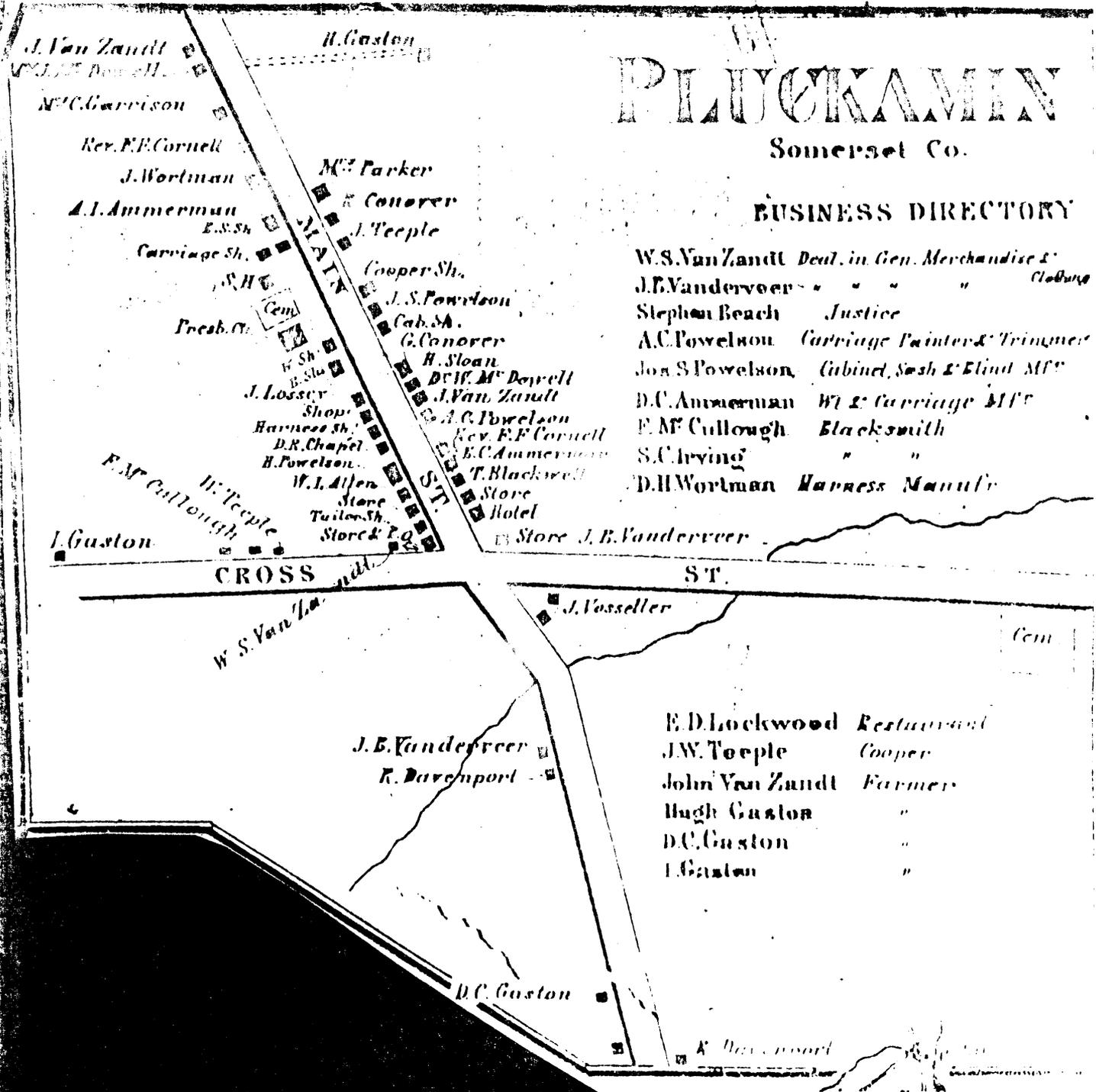
Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Pluckemin Village Historic District is shown on the enclosed map entitled "Pluckemin Village Historic District, Bedminster Township, Somerset County, N.J.", scale 1"=100'. The base map was prepared from a photogrammetric map by Robinson Aerial Surveys, Inc., Sparta, New Jersey, drawn 1970. Four changes, to accommodate buildings constructed, moved, or removed, have been incorporated into the base map.



Pluckemin Village  
 Historic District  
 Bedminster Twp., N.J.  
 Detail of 1860 map

PASTOR OF THE 2d M. R. CHURCH.  
 Calvin Butler, Principal of the Young Ladies' Institute.  
 F. F. Cornell, Presbyterian Clergyman.

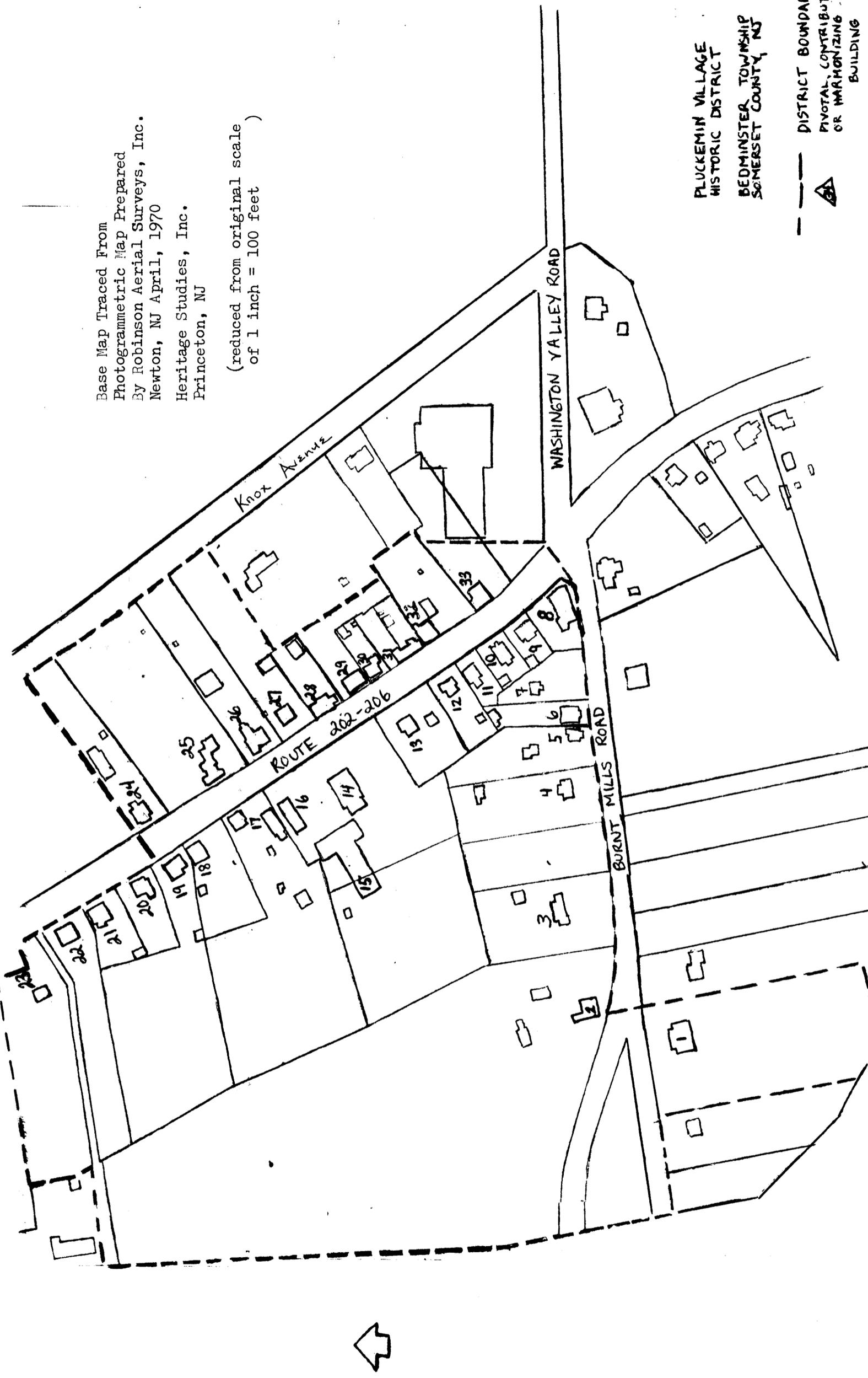


Pluckemin Village Historic District  
Bedminster Twp., N.J.

Portion of 1873 map

Base Map Traced From  
 Photogrammetric Map Prepared  
 By Robinson Aerial Surveys, Inc.  
 Newton, NJ April, 1970  
 Heritage Studies, Inc.  
 Princeton, NJ

(reduced from original scale  
 of 1 inch = 100 feet )



PLUCKEMIN VILLAGE  
 HISTORIC DISTRICT  
 BEDMINSTER TOWNSHIP  
 SOMERSET COUNTY, NJ

--- DISTRICT BOUNDARY  
 ▲ PIVOTAL, CONTRIBUTING  
 OR HARMONIZING  
 BUILDING