

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

NRIS Reference Number: 91001477 Date Listed: 10/11/91

Liberty Corner Historic District Somerset NJ  
Property Name: County: State:

Multiple Name

-----  
This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

*for* Patrick Andrus

10/11/91  
Date of Action

Signature of the Keeper

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

The nomination form did not indicate the level at which this property was evaluated. Sue Pringle with the NJ SHPO clarified that it was at the local level. The form is officially amended to include this information.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

National Register property file  
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Liberty Corner
other names/site number Liberty Corner Historic District

2. Location

street & number Church Street, Lyons Road, & Valley Road
city, town Liberty Corner, Bernards Township
state New Jersey code 034 county Somerset code 035 zip code 07938

3. Classification

Table with 3 columns: Ownership of Property, Category of Property, and Number of Resources within Property. Includes checkboxes for private/public ownership and building/district/site/structure/object categories.

Name of related multiple property listing: NA
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official: Assistant Commissioner for Natural & Historic Resources/DSHPO
Date: 8/6/91

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official
Date

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
[checked] entered in the National Register.
[ ] determined eligible for the National Register.
[ ] determined not eligible for the National Register.
[ ] removed from the National Register.
[ ] other, (explain):

Signature of the Keeper: Patrick Andrews
Date of Action: 10/11/91

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC single dwelling  
AGRICULTURE agricultural field,  
animal facility, outbuildings  
RELIGION religious structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC single dwelling  
AGRICULTURE agricultural field  
animal facility, outbuildings  
RELIGION religious structure

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

MID-19th CENTURY  
LATE VICTORIAN  
OTHER - Vernacular

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Sandstone  
walls Weatherboard  
Shingle  
roof Asphalt  
other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Liberty Corner Historic District is located 3.8 miles south of the village of Basking Ridge in Somerset County. All of the structures are located along the "Y" shaped street pattern formed by three main roads of the village: Church Street, Lyons Road, and Valley Road.

Liberty Corner is in many ways a typical crossroads hamlet, centered among gently rolling agricultural lands with a strong rural character. The town's center is formed by a tiny triangular green at the intersection of the above named roads marked by a flagpole, the successor to the "liberty pole" erected by patriotic colonists in the eighteenth century which eventually gave the village its name. The Liberty Pole site is marked by a large boulder upon which is placed a commemorative bronze tablet.

Church Street is the village's "Main Street," lined with mature shade trees. Predominantly residential, Church Street features a variety of nineteenth and early twentieth century single-family frame houses from 1 1/2 to 2 stories in height. The setbacks are relatively shallow and mostly uniform. Vistas of outlying farmland are visible through the trees to the rear of houses on the north side of Church Street. As the name of the street implies, its centerpiece is the Presbyterian Church (1868-69), an Italianate vernacular structure with attendant outbuildings and cemetery located on the south side of the street.

Wooded and narrow, Lyons Road is characterized by a row of cottages in an English mode, typical of the Eclectic Revival suburban styles of the 1920s, though earlier frame dwellings are located on the west side of the road. The district is bounded on Lyons Road by a stone bridge approximately .3 miles from the village center.

Valley Road is characterized by a concentration of nineteenth century frame houses; many of these incorporate parts of (or entire) late eighteenth century houses. Outstanding among properties on Valley Road is the English farm, where farmhouse, accessory buildings, and acreage remain almost intact from their late nineteenth century appearance, well documented in historic photographs. The entrance to the district from Valley Road is .2 miles from the intersection of Mt. Airy Road and Valley Road, about .4 miles from the village center.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Community Development  
Architecture

Period of Significance

1865-1935  
1865-1935

Significant Dates

1869

Cultural Affiliation

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Liberty Corner has as its core an eighteenth century farming hamlet, though little of the built environment dating from that time remains. Its physical environment reflects the rural village identity it developed during its most prosperous period in the last third of the nineteenth century, as a center for dairy farming in Somerset County, a newly specialized agricultural industry in the years just after the Civil War, and as an area favored by city dwellers from New York and elsewhere "summering" in the country for pleasure and for health.

The district's architectural significance derives from the presence of many well-preserved examples of vernacular domestic architecture, the bulk of which dates from the period 1865-1900, sited on Church Street, Liberty Corner's "Main Street," and Valley Road and Lyons Road, historically important connecting routes between Liberty Corner and neighboring Basking Ridge. The district also possesses a significant 18- and 19th-century farmstead and an important public building, central to the growth and life of the town: the Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church, built in 1868 by local carpenter-builder James Goltra, known for his church designs in Somerset and neighboring counties.

Early Liberty Corner

First named Annan's (or Annin's) Corner, the village was settled in 1722 by John Johnston of Annandale (Annin), a Scottish immigrant who purchased from William Penn a large tract of land which comprises the present village center. His son William (who adopted Annin as his surname in honor of his ancestors Scottish home) built a

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Collection of the Historical Society of the Somerset Hills, Basking Ridge, NJ

Local History Collection, Bernards Township Library, Basking Ridge, NJ

See continuation sheet

- Previous documentation on file (NPS): NA
- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
  - previously listed in the National Register
  - previously determined eligible by the National Register
  - designated a National Historic Landmark
  - recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
  - recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

- Primary location of additional data: NA
- State historic preservation office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 142.369 Bernardsville, NJ Quad

UTM References

A	<u>1, 8</u>	<u>5, 3, 5, 6, 2, 0</u>	<u>4, 5, 0, 1, 7, 8, 0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u>1, 8</u>	<u>5, 3, 5, 7, 8, 0</u>	<u>4, 5, 0, 0, 8, 4, 0</u>
E	1 8	5 3 4 7 8 0	4 5 0 1 2 6 0
G	1 8	5 3 5 3 4 0	4 5 0 1 6 8 0

B	<u>1, 8</u>	<u>5, 3, 5, 8, 2, 0</u>	<u>4, 5, 0, 1, 4, 0, 0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	<u>1, 8</u>	<u>5, 3, 5, 0, 4, 0</u>	<u>4, 5, 0, 0, 9, 0, 0</u>
F	1 8	5 3 5 0 0 0	4 5 0 1 7 2 0

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janet W. Foster/ Acroterion Historic Preservation Consultants  
 organization for the Bernards Township Historical Society date February 25, 1991  
 street & number 71 Maple Avenue telephone 201 984 9660  
 city or town Morristown state N.J. zip code 07960

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1 of 19

Liberty Corner, Somerset County, NJ

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY LISTING

NOTE: The following inventory contains summary descriptions of all properties within the historic district boundaries (see attached district map), each property introduced by its tax block and lot number and is identified by an historic name when known (e.g., "Baldwin Homestead"). The properties fall into five categories:

- 53 Contributing Buildings
- 29 Contributing Primary Accessory Buildings
- 10 Non-contributing buildings
- 1 Contributing Structure (bridge)
- 2 Contributing Sites (Liberty Pole site, Photo 43 & church cemetery)

(Secondary accessory buildings & structures were not generally counted.)

Tax Block 175, Lot 22      Contributing      Excellent Integrity  
Baldwin Homestead      ca. late 18th century and ca. 1830  
Vernacular with Greek Revival detailing      Photos 24, 25

90 CHURCH STREET is a 1 1/2-story, 4-bay shingled frame house with flanking one story additions on a stuccoed rubblestone foundation. The rear slopes to one story, giving a saltbox profile. The gable roof is covered in asphalt shingle; two interior brick chimneys appear on either gable end. Fenestration is irregular, utilizing for the most part 2/2 sash windows and 3-light eyebrow windows. An entrance porch with two fluted Doric columns shelters a wooden front door with 4-light sidelights. 90 Church Street is a good example of a vernacular type known as an East Jersey cottage, and displays excellent integrity.

LANDSCAPE/ACCESSORY BUILDINGS: A 2 1/2 story frame barn, approximately 40'x 25', stands behind the house and probably dates from the 19th century.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 2 of 19

Liberty Corner, Somerset County, NJ

Tax Block 138, Lot 7                      Contributing      Excellent Integrity  
original Federal Vernacular portion ca. 1820, significantly enlarged and Colonial  
Revivalized ca. 1900-1910    Photos 26, 27

83 CHURCH STREET is a 2-story, 5-bay clapboarded frame house on a rubblestone and concrete foundation. The steeply pitched hipped roof is covered in wooden shingles, topped by a wooden balustrade which partially conceals 2 interior brick chimneys. Fenestration is regular, with 2/2 sash windows with functional wooden shutters and a wide entrance door with leaded sidelights. The front door has a single large pane of glass above rectangular wood panels. A well-proportioned entrance porch is supported by two fluted Doric columns. A two-story bay projects from the west facade, with a sunporch extending to the rear. The original house consisted of the westernmost portion of the existing dwelling, and was a 2-story, 3-bay side-hall house typical of the federal period in New Jersey.

LANDSCAPE/ACCESSORY BUILDINGS: A gambrel roof barn at the rear is now a garage, and is an excellent example of a surviving frame outbuilding, probably constructed at the same time the house was enlarged.

Tax Block 175, Lot 21                      Non-contributing                      Photo 23

The house at 82 CHURCH STREET is a 1 story frame ranch house with attached garage.

Tax Block 138, Lot 8                      Contributing      Fair Integrity  
ca. 1860-85, addition ca. 1900-20                      Vernacular - Colonial Revival                      Photo 28

79 CHURCH STREET is a 2-story, 2-bay shingle and clapboard frame house on a stuccoed stone foundation. A single interior brick chimney projects from the steeply pitched hipped roof covered in asphalt shingle. A gabled 2 story addition extends to the east of the main block, while a polygonal 1 story bay extends to the west of it. Fenestration is regular, with a combination of 2/2 and 1/1 sash and a Colonial Revival doorway with slender pilasters and a broken pediment. A side porch has been enclosed with jalousie windows.

LANDSCAPE/ACCESSORY BUILDINGS: A frame barn/carriage shed about 40'x20' is contemporaneous with the altered Queen Anne-Colonial Revival house.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3 of 19

Liberty Corner, Somerset County, NJ

Tax Block 138, Lot 9                      Contributing      Very Good Integrity  
ca. 1885 Queen Anne Vernacular                      Photo 29

75 CHURCH STREET, a 2 1/2-story 6-bay frame house on a rubblestone foundation with a newer 2-bay 1-story addition, has a gable roof covered in asphalt shingle. Two brick end chimneys appear on the new addition and the left side of the original house. Fenestration includes 1/1 and 2/2 sash with wooden shutters, and a single stained glass window on the stair landing on the side of the house. The clapboarded house is a good example of a vernacular Queen Anne design, with decorative shingles in the front-facing gable end and on the square bay window projecting from the west corner of the main facade. A flat-roofed entrance porch with decorative brackets is supported by flat posts with punched-out folk-style geometric figures.

LANDSCAPE/ACCESSORY BUILDINGS: The property includes a 19th century barn/carriage shed, pumphouse, and hitching post.

Tax Block 138, Lot 10                      Contributing      Good Integrity  
Mid-19th century Italianate Vernacular                      Photo 30

67 CHURCH STREET is a 2 1/2-story 4-bay stuccoed house with a slate shingled gable roof pierced by an interior brick chimney. An additional exterior brick chimney is located on the left side of the front-facing gable end of the L-shaped side-hall plan structure. Fenestration is regular, with 2/2 sash on the second story above full-length French windows which open onto the wraparound porch. Beneath a 3-light transom, the original front door is decorated with arched panels, echoed by the single 2/2 arched window in the gable end. The porch is simple, with chamfered posts and square spindles. A molded watertable is visible approximately two feet above ground level.

Tax Block 175, Lot 18                      Contributing      Fair Integrity  
ca. 1915 Arts & Crafts                      Photo 22

66 CHURCH STREET is a 2 1/2 story 3-bay frame structure (sided) on a brick foundation. The gable roof is covered in asphalt shingle. A single brick external chimney appears on the rear gable end. Fenestration is regular, comprised of 6/1 sash, with paired windows in the gable end and a bank of three windows to the left of the entry door. The original wooden door is typical of the bungalow style, with 3/3 lights above long vertical panels. A hipped-roof porch with square posts and closed balustrade extends across the length of the facade.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4 of 19

Liberty Corner, Somerset County, NJ

LIBERTY CORNER SCHOOL                      Contributing (original building only)  
Tax Block 138, Lot 11                      Fair integrity                      Photo 31  
ca. 1904 with ca. 1960 alterations and additions      Colonial Revival

THE LIBERTY CORNER SCHOOL, 61 Church Street, is a 2-story Georgian Revival stone building 7 bays wide, with a central projecting pavillion with a gabled pediment. The original portion of the building was built in 1904. The hipped roof with asphalt shingle extends above a modillioned cornice with dentil course. The masonry features protruding "seamed" joints. The school's original windows have been replaced by inappropriate modern fixed single panes, and the original entry is filled in. Additions ca. 1960 extend to the rear and south of the original block.

Tax Block 175, Lot 17                      Contributing                      Excellent Integrity  
ca. 1865      Italianate Vernacular                      Photo 21

62 CHURCH STREET is a 2 1/2 story 3-bay clapboarded frame house with a gable roof clad in asphalt shingle, pierced by two interior brick chimneys. L-shaped with a side-hall plan, the house features regular fenestration with 2/2 light sash and a single arched 2/2 window in the front-facing gable end. The wraparound porch has replacement posts and balustrade.

LANDSCAPE/ACCESSORY BUILDINGS: A 19th century barn/carriage shed adds to the integrity to the setting.

Tax Block 175 Lot 14                      Contributing                      Good Integrity  
The Manse ca. 1835-50                      Vernacular                      Photo 20

58 CHURCH STREET is a 2-story, 5-bay frame "I" house built on a rubblestone foundation. A single internal brick end chimney extends through its gable roof, which is covered in asphalt shingle. The balanced, symmetrical facade features 2/2 sash and a center door below a hipped-roof porch supported by four slender Doric columns. A shuttered, possibly false, round-arched window is visible in the west gable end. Although it has been sided with synthetic siding, the house retains many simple original features, as well as an integrity of setting. A 2-bay addition to the rear dates from the mid- to late-nineteenth century.

Tax Block 175, Lot 15                      Contributing                      Good Integrity  
ca. 1860                      Vernacular                      Photo 19

54 CHURCH STREET is a 2-story, 3 bay frame house built on a rubblestone foundation with a gable roof covered in asphalt shingle. Regular fenestration consists of 2/2 sash, with a square bay window projecting on the left of the main block. Entry is gained through an added enclosed porch, from which projects a later brick end-chimney.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5 of 19

Liberty Corner, Somerset County, NJ

LANDSCAPE/ACCESSORY BUILDINGS: A frame barn/carriage house is contemporaneous with the original portion of the house.

Tax Block 175, Lot 14                      Contributing      Excellent Integrity  
ca. 1905    Queen Anne/Colonial Revival                      Photo 18

50 CHURCH STREET is an L-shaped, 2 1/2-story 4-bay shingled frame house on a stuccoed foundation. It has an asphalt-shingled hipped roof and a single interior brick chimney. Typical of the Queen Anne Style, fenestration is somewhat irregular, and features a combination of window types, including 2/2 sash, a polygonal bay window, a central dormer with hipped roof, and a round "porthole" window in the gable end of a square bay containing the stairwell which projects on the north facade. A diamond pattern is executed in shingles on the second story of the main facade. The house is in excellent condition and contains many typical Queen Anne features, including textural interest, multiple window types, and a wraparound porch, while the overall massing and simplicity are in line with Colonial Revival taste.

Tax Block 175, Lot 13                      Contributing      Excellent Integrity  
ca. 1910    Colonial Revival    Photo 17

46 CHURCH STREET is a 2 1/2-story, 3-bay shingle and clapboard frame house on a concrete foundation. Its hipped roof is covered in asphalt shingle, and is pierced by four hipped-roof dormers centered on each roof plane. Fenestration consists of regularly spaced 1/1 sash, with shallow bay windows flanking a central front entry, echoed in a smaller bay above the entry. A wraparound porch with Doric columns and square-spindled balustrade has a central gable over the doorway. A porte-cochere supported by simple square posts projects from the southerly side of the house. An excellent example of a simple Colonial Revival house ca. 1910, 46 Church Street retains much original material and an integrity of setting.

LANDSCAPE/ACCESSORY BUILDINGS: A frame garage is contemporaneous with the house.

Tax Block 175, Lot 12                      Contributing      Good Integrity  
ca. 1910    Arts & Crafts/Bungalow                                      Photo 16

42 CHURCH STREET is a 2-story 4-bay L-shaped frame house (sided) on a concrete foundation. Its gable roof is clad in asphalt shingle. Window placement on the primary facade is regular, with 1/1 sash and a side-hall door. Windows are staggered on the north side. Its hipped roof front porch is supported by square columns on rubblestone piers. The 2-bay ell to the south of the main block is likely an addition.

LANDSCAPE/ACCESSORY BUILDINGS: A frame barn to the rear of the house was most likely constructed at the same time as the house.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 6 of 19

Liberty Corner, Somerset County, NJ

LIBERTY CORNER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Tax Block 138, Lot 14  
1869 Italianate Vernacular

Contributing  
Excellent Integrity  
Photos 32, 33, 34

Built in 1869 on the site of an earlier church, the 2 1/2 story clapboarded frame church adheres to the Wren-Gibbs formula, a basic rectangular box on a brick and stone foundation with gable roof, with a three-story tower and steeple centered on the main facade facing the street.

Designed in a vernacular Italianate style by carpenter-builder James P. Goltra, it features two-story round-arched multipaned windows, corner pilasters, and a wooden interpretation of an arcaded corbel course at cornice level. Three pairs of wooden paneled entry doors open beneath Italianate hoods with two-light transoms. The projecting central steeple bay contains both an arched stained glass window and an adaptation of a rose window. A rounded steeple hood with dentil course contains a round-arched ventilator with label molding. The main facade and tower are distinguished by the use of flush-board cladding rather than clapboards. More recent additions do not detract from the overall integrity of the church, which retains a great deal of original fabric, its cemetery, and chapel or parish house.

The session house design emulates that of the church. One and a half stories with a gable roof on a brick foundation, the building is 2 bays wide by 4 bays in length, with an addition to the rear and side. Two sets of double wooden entry doors with long vertical panels open beneath rounded hoods with two-light transoms. Both sets of doors have louvered wooden shutters. Broad overhanging eaves with visible structural brackets and a Gothic-type brace with pinnacle above the quatrefoil window in the center gable furnish the simple decoration.

A mid-20th century parish hall is located west of the session house. It is non-contributing to the historic district. The cemetery to the west side and rear of the church is a contributing site within the historic district. The oldest headstones surround the church, but later 19th century and some 20th century stones stand at the edges of the lot, with decoration and epitaphs mirroring the changing styles of the times.

Tax Block 175, Lot 11  
ca. 1925 Bungalow

Contributing Good Integrity  
Photo 15

40 CHURCH STREET is a 1-story frame bungalow (sided), 3 bays wide on a concrete foundation. The gable roof is covered in asphalt shingle, and contains a central brick chimney. Paired 6/6 windows frame a sharply gabled entry with batten Tudor door with wide strap hinges and an added window.

LANDSCAPE/ACCESSORY BUILDINGS: A garage is contemporaneous with the house.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 8 of 19

Liberty Corner, Somerset County, NJ

Tax Block 175, Lot 8                      Contributing      Excellent Integrity  
ca. 1905-10 Colonial Revival Cottage                      Photo 12

The 2-story, 2-bay frame cottage at 30 CHURCH STREET sits on a concrete foundation, and is sheathed in wooden shingle and clapboard. Configured in an L shape, the house has an asphalt shingled clipped gable roof with a central brick chimney. Fenestration on the primary facade is regular, and is primarily made up of 1/1 sash, with a Colonial Revival side entrance front door surround with pilasters and sidelights. A mullioned square window appears on the stairwell on the west facade. The wraparound porch has slender Doric columns.

LANDSCAPE/ACCESSORY BUILDINGS: A frame garage was built at the same time as the house.

Tax Block 138, Lot 16                      Contributing      Excellent Integrity  
ca. 1820, 1865 Italianate Vernacular with Greek Revival wing                      Photo 36

27 CHURCH STREET is a 2 1/2 story 3-bay frame house (sided) on a rubblestone foundation with a gable roof clad in asphalt shingle. A lateral 1 1/2 story 3 bay wing extends to the east of the main block. The house is L-shaped, with a front-facing gable end. The regular fenestration is comprised primarily of 2/2 light sash under simple squared Italianate window hoods, with 2-light eyebrow windows in the lateral wing. Paired modillions ornament the cornice. An elaborate sawnwork overhang appears above the wing entrance, and a 3-bay front porch with Doric columns extends across the main block. The front door surround is Colonial Revival of fairly recent vintage, with elliptical fanlight, sidelights, and slim pilasters.

LANDSCAPE/ACCESSORY BUILDINGS: The barn and carriage shed are contemporaneous with the house, and are excellent examples of their type. The large well-landscaped lot enhances the integrity of the dwelling and outbuildings.

Tax Block 175, Lot 7                      Contributing      Good Integrity  
ca. 1865-70 Italianate Vernacular                      Photo 11

The 2 story, 3-bay shingled frame structure at 26 CHURCH STREET has a gabled roof covered in asphalt shingle. The building features a projecting central bay under a cross gable, containing double doors beneath a simple flat-roofed entry porch. Windows are regularly spaced, with 2/2 lights, and single round-arched windows in the gable ends. A single brick end chimney exists on the building's west side.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 10 of 19

Liberty Corner, Somerset County, NJ

18 CHURCH STREET is a 2-story, 3-bay frame structure (sided) on a stuccoed stone foundation with an asphalt-shingled gable roof. The windows are replacements, and include a combination of 1/1, 6/6 sash, and skylights inset into the roof. The front porch has been enclosed; a commodious modern porch extends along the west side of a rear addition to the house. Although the original gable-front form is recognizable, it no longer exhibits any historic detailing.

Tax Block 138, Lot 18                      Contributing                      Excellent Integrity  
ca. 1865-70    Italianate Vernacular                      Photo 39

21 1/2 CHURCH STREET is a 2 1/2-story, 3-bay frame house on a stuccoed stone foundation, built in a vernacular Italianate style with a gable roof clad in asphalt shingle. Fenestration consists of a combination of 2/2 and 6/6 sash, with a pair of full-length French windows to the left of the side-hall door with a 2-light transom. An arched 2/2 window with a wooden keystone is located in the front-facing gable end. The front porch has unusual flat supports with folk-style "cut out" decoration; a side porch is trimmed with the same naive decoration. Although its condition at present is poor, it retains many original features important to its architectural integrity, immediately threatened by commercial development.

Tax Block 138, Lot 18                      Contributing                      Good Integrity  
ca. 1865    Commercial Vernacular                      Photo 40

21 CHURCH STREET is a 2 1/2 story frame building that was for many years Koechlein's General store. It is now home to a franchise of a regional convenience store. The gable roof is covered in asphalt shingle. Fenestration is regular, with replacement 6/6 windows on the second floor, and a Gothic-arched 2/2 window in the front-facing gable end. The building is clad in board-and-batten siding and was originally clapboard. The first floor storefront has been altered to include multipaned display windows and a pair of modern commercial doors in a neo-colonial style; a rustic-looking wraparound porch has been added to the southeast side. The historic appearance of the store ca. 1905 is well-documented in photographs reprinted in the Historical Booklet of Bernards Township (1960, 1976).

LANDSCAPE/ACCESSORY BUILDINGS: A large multi-bay two-story frame carriage shed/barn with gable roof is located to the rear of the store. The barn is very well-preserved; historic photographs in the above publication show it to be almost unchanged in approximately 90 years.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 11 of 19

Liberty Corner, Somerset County, NJ

Tax Block 175, Lot 3                      Contributing      Good Integrity  
ca. 1850    Gothic Revival Vernacular                      Photo 8

14 CHURCH STREET is a 1 1/2 story 3-bay brick cottage on a stone foundation, the only masonry residence in Liberty Corner. The gable roof is covered in asphalt shingle. A central projecting bay contains the entrance, a narrow four-panel door with original sidelights and transom, below an elaborate sawnwork gabled entry porch. Windows are 2/2 sash with a shuttered Gothic window in the central gable end and 3-light eyebrow windows. The cornice is embellished with s-shaped brackets. A wing, also brick, has been added to the right of the main block.

Tax Block 175, Lot 2                      Non-contributing      Photo 7

The LIBERTY CORNER POST OFFICE at 6 CHURCH STREET is a late-20th-century 1-story frame commercial building. It replaces a 19th c. post office, a local landmark which was razed in 1969 to make way for this structure.

Tax Block 175, Lot 1                      Non-contributing      Photo 6

The Mobil Station at 2 CHURCH STREET is a typical late 20th century gasoline station, one story high with a flat roof, its walls clad in enameled metal sheeting.

Tax Block 138 Lot 19                      Contributing      Good-fair Integrity  
(former) LIBERTY CORNER FIREHOUSE                      Photo 41  
ca. 1925    Colonial Revival Vernacular

The old firehouse at 15 CHURCH STREET is a 2-story building constructed of stucco on the first floor and shingle-clad frame on the second story, with a hipped roof covered in asphalt shingle. A brick chimney is located on the north-facing corner. Windows are 8/8 sash. Quarter-round Doric columns trim three roll-up garage doors on the main facade. The side entrance has an "eared" Greek Revival surround with a three-light transom above a replacement wooden door. A new firehouse was built outside the district in 1989.

Tax Block 138, Lot 20                      Non-contributing      Photo 42

TriCorner Service Station at 9 CHURCH STREET is a modern brick automobile garage and sales lot, 1 story in height with a hipped roof and neo-colonial detailing, including large multipane display windows on the main facade. Most of its lot is paved in asphalt to accommodate parking and car traffic.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 12 of 19

Liberty Corner, Somerset County, NJ

Tax Block 138, Lot 21, 22      Non-contributing      Photo 42

The Sunoco gas station at the corner of CHURCH STREET AND LYONS ROAD is a late 20th century brick service station, 1 story in height with an enclosed office portion and a two-bay garage portion. The lot is paved to accommodate gasoline pumps and automobile traffic.

Tax Block 175, Lot 45      Contributing      Good Integrity  
ca. 1860-85      Vernacular      Photo 1

3601 VALLEY ROAD is a 2 story frame cottage on a stone foundation. Of indeterminate vernacular style, the house has asymmetrical massing and a screened porch which wraps around three sides on the first floor. The gable roof is covered in asphalt shingle, with a shed dormer on the southerly roof plane. Windows are 1/1 sash.

LANDSCAPE/ACCESSORY BUILDINGS: The small farm complex includes 4 frame outbuildings to the rear of the house, as well as a free-standing wooden arbor.

Tax Block 175, Lot 47      Contributing      Excellent Integrity  
1750 with additions ca. 1865 in Italianate Vernacular style      Photos 2, 3, 74-80

The ENGLISH FARMHOUSE, 3625 Valley Road, is a 2 1/2 story 5-bay frame dwelling built on a stone foundation. The clapboard gable-roofed house is L-shaped, with 6/6 sash windows and a center door with sidelights and transom. A Gothic-arched window is placed in the front-facing gable end. All windows have functional wooden shutters. A brick end chimney is located on the exterior of the north facade. A one-story screened porch extends to the left of the main block, and a 3-bay front porch with simple chamfered posts extends over the entrance. A porte cochere extends from the center rear facade, with a screened sleeping porch above.

LANDSCAPE/ACCESSORY BUILDINGS: The English farm's excellent architectural integrity is enhanced by the existence of a 19th century frame barn complex to the rear of the house, consisting of a carriage shed and a carriage barn, privy, two large 2 story barns, a corn crib, two chicken coops and a pig pen. Pastureland extending to the rear of the outbuildings further enhances the appearance and historical importance of a property which has been continually farmed for over 200 years.

The majority of the farm's land is within Block 175, Lot 19, containing 68.7 acres of gently rolling cultivated fields. Another important parcel is directly east, across Valley Road, known as Block 152, Lot 26.01. This contains 11 acres of grazing meadow, through which runs the Harrison Brook.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 13 of 19

Liberty Corner, Somerset County, NJ

Tax Block 175, Lot 48.01.                      Non-contributing                      Photo 4

3633 VALLEY ROAD is a 2-story contemporary house covered with naturally weathering wood siding, and featuring Modernist details such as strip windows.

Tax Block 152, Lot 23                      Contributing                      Good Integrity  
ca. 1800-20      Vernacular                      Photo 64

3638 VALLEY ROAD is a 2-story, 3-bay frame "I" house (sided) built on a stone foundation, with a gable roof covered in asphalt shingle. Interior brick chimneys are visible on both gable ends. Fenestration is regular, with replaced 6/6 windows. Multipaned display windows have been added to the main facade, flanking the center entry door, a neo-colonial replacement.

Tax Block 152, Lot 24                      Contributing                      Good Integrity  
ca. late 18th c., additions ca. 1885, 1910      Vernacular                      Photo 66

The "telescope" house at 3634 VALLEY ROAD is made up of three distinct wings of varying heights, in total 8 bays long. The northernmost wing is 2 stories high and 2 bays wide, built on a rubblestone foundation with a front-facing gable roof covered in wooden shingles with an interior brick chimney. Fenestration is regular, with 2/2 sash and a side-hall door. The central, and oldest, wing is 1 1/2 stories high with a gable roof covered in wooden shingles, also built on a rubblestone foundation. The center door is flanked by 2/1 windows, with 2-light eyebrow windows in the upper story. A brick interior end-chimney appears to the south of the wing. The southernmost wing is 3 bays wide with a shed roof also covered in wooden shingles, built on a rubblestone foundation. 2/2 windows flank a center double door beneath a shed-roofed wooden entry porch. Each section of the house is sheathed in clapboard. The house represents a common vernacular pattern of lateral addition.

Tax Block 175, Lot 49                      Contributing                      Very Good Integrity  
mid-18th c. with late 19th c. additions      Vernacular                      Photo 5

The 1 1/2-story 3-bay frame cottage at 3639 VALLEY ROAD on a stone foundation features a steep gable roof covered in asphalt shingle, pierced by 2 shingled gabled dormers on the main facade, and a single centered dormer on the rear. Windows are a combination of 2/2 and 6/1 and 6/6 sash. Sheathed in clapboard, the house has a semi-enclosed front porch with simple square wooden posts. The basic form of the house is a typical mid-18th century hall-parlor dwelling. Since it has survived without major additions, it is the "purest" representative of the type remaining in Liberty Corner.

LANDSCAPE/ACCESSORY BUILDINGS: A 4-bay shed roofed frame carriage shed and wooden privy are located to the east of the house.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 15 of 19

Liberty Corner, Somerset County, NJ

Tax Block 152, Lot 18                      Contributing      Good Integrity  
Mid-19th century Vernacular    Photo 58

524 LYONS ROAD is a 1 1/2 story 3 bay frame cottage with a front-facing gable whose roof is covered in asphalt shingle. It is built on a stone foundation. Fenestration is regular, with 2/2 sash and a smaller 2/2 window in the front-facing gable end. Most of the windows have functional wooden shutters. The house has a banked addition to the rear. It recalls mid-19th century pattern book designs for simple workmen's cottages, initiated by Downing in the 1840s but continued by others through the next half-century.

Tax Block 152, Lot 17                      Contributing      Excellent Integrity  
ca. 1930; part of Charles Romph development                      Eclectic Revival      Photo 57

The 1 1/2 story 3-bay frame cottage at 520 LYONS ROAD has a gable roof covered in asphalt shingle. The house is built on a concrete foundation. A steeply pitched gabled brick entrance block is centered on the facade, containing a typical Arts & Crafts style door with 3/3 lights above long vertical panels. An exterior rubblestone end chimney rises on the north elevation between the wood shingled walls. The consciously Picturesque house recalls English cottages.

Tax Block 152, Lot 16                      Contributing      Excellent Integrity  
ca. 1930; part of Charles Romph development                      Eclectic Revival      Photo 56

518 LYONS ROAD is a 1 1/2 story, 3-bay stucco and half-timbered cottage with a gabled roof covered in asphalt shingle. A sloping, steeply pitched bay contains the off-center arched entrance door. Windows are 6/1, regularly spaced. The stuccoed chimney with random brick and stone is centered on the facade. Wooden shingles with wave-cut edges embellish the gable ends. The cottages motifs are the most overtly expressive of an English cottage "look" of all the Romph development houses.

Tax Block 152, Lot 15                      Contributing      Excellent Integrity  
ca. 1930; part of Charles Romph development                      Eclectic Revival      Photo 55

514 LYONS ROAD is a 2 story, 4-bay brick and stucco cottage in the English cottage mode. It sits on a concrete foundation, with a gable roof covered in asphalt shingle. Centered on the facade is a wide brick chimney flanked by tiny quadrant windows. Windows are 6/1 sash, with a side entrance beneath a pediment adorned with a sunburst motif in half-timbering.

LANDSCAPE/ACCESSORY BUILDINGS: A frame garage is contemporaneous with the house.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 16 of 19

Liberty Corner, Somerset County, NJ

Tax Block 152, Lot 14                      Contributing      Excellent Integrity  
ca. 1930; part of Charles Romph development      Eclectic Revival      Photo 54

512 LYONS ROAD is a 2 story, 3-bay, mock-gambrel roofed stucco cottage with a brick end chimney and side entrance with a batten door containing a porthole window. The roof is clad in asphalt shingle. Fenestration is asymmetrical, with mullioned casements combining with 6/1 sash.

LANDSCAPE/ACCESSORY BUILDINGS: A frame garage is contemporaneous with the house.

Tax Block 152, Lot 13                      Contributing      Good Integrity  
ca. 1930; part of Charles Romph development      Eclectic Revival      Photo 53

508 LYONS ROAD house is a modest 1 1/2-story 3-bay cottage with a gable roof covered in asphalt shingle. Fenestration is regular with 6/1 sash and a double dormer window. A rubblestone chimney is centered on the facade, with an arched side porch (enclosed) containing the entrance door.

Tax Block 152, Lot 12                      Contributing      Good Integrity  
ca. 1930; part of Charles Romph development      Bungalow                      Photo 52

506 LYONS ROAD is a 1 1/2 story stucco bungalow 3 bays wide with a gable roof covered in asphalt shingle. Windows are 1/1 sash, with a shed dormer centered over the entrance. The front porch has been enclosed.

Tax Block 152, Lot 11                      Contributing      Good Integrity  
ca. 1935 (?)                                      Eclectic Revival                      Photo 51

504 LYONS ROAD is a 1 1/2 story, 3 bay stuccoed cottage with a gable roof clad in asphalt shingle and a single exterior brick end chimney. Windows are 6/6 sash, flanking a center door with an enclosed pedimented porch. Although it pre-dates post-war developments, it suggests the type of house which came to be called a "Cape Cod", although executed in stucco, it shares characteristics which neighboring Eclectic Revival houses.

Tax Block 152, Lot 10                      Contributing      Good Integrity  
ca. 1930 (?)      Vernacular                                      Photo 50

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 17 of 19

Liberty Corner, Somerset County, NJ

502 LYONS ROAD is 1 1/2 story 3 bay frame house has a gable roof with molded eaves and it is built on a stuccoed foundation. Windows are primarily 1/1 sash, and include gabled dormers on the main facade. Clad in shingle and clapboard, the house has a shed roofed entry porch with trellis-like posts. The gable-end depth of the house, the presence of an eyebrow window on the north side, the use of clapboard and shingles all suggest that this may be an earlier building, perhaps moved to the site, and remodelled for the early 20th century.

LANDSCAPE/ACCESSORY BUILDINGS: Frame 2-bay garage ca. 1930 to rear.

Stone Bridge across a tributary of Harrisons Brook on Lyons Road. The bridge marks the northern boundary of the Liberty Corner Historic District. It is undated, but its traditional stone masonry harmonized well with the character of the village. The walls above the roadway are about four feet high, of random fieldstone set in Portland cement. The bridge walls are about twelve feet long on both sides of Lyons Road. Under the roadway, the water is carried in a cast concrete pipe. The design and materials of the bridge make it a contributing structure to the historic district.

Tax Block 138, Lot 27                      Contributing      Good Integrity  
19th century      Vernacular    Photo 48

505 LYONS ROAD is a 2 story, 3-bay (sided) frame house has a gable roof with asphalt shingle with a center brick chimney. Built on a concrete foundation, the house has paired 6/1 windows flanking a center door and 3/3 windows in the gable ends. A hipped roof front porch has simple wooden posts. A shed-roofed addition extends to the rear of the main block.

LANDSCAPE/ACCESSORY BUILDINGS: A frame barn/carriage house is sited to the rear of the lot. It has a cross gable roof centered over hinged, paired doors at both ground level and attic level. An open shed is forms a lean-to on the south side of the building. It is probably contemporary with the house, in an excellent state of preservation.

Tax Block 138, Lot 26                      Contributing      Good Integrity  
Late 19th century      Vernacular Shingle Style    Photo 47

509 LYONS ROAD is a 1 1/2 story 4-bay frame house on a stone foundation, with a gable roof covered in slate shingle and center brick chimney. Clad in shingle and clapboard, the house has a square bay window projecting from the south facade on the first story. The facade is dominated by a broad cross-gable over a now-enclosed front porch. Stylistic embellishments do not exist.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 18 of 19

Liberty Corner, Somerset County, NJ

Tax Block 138, Lot 25                      Contributing      Fair Integrity  
Mid-19th century      Vernacular                      Photo 46

511 LYONS ROAD is a 2-story, 2-bay gable roofed frame dwelling with a 1-story addition on a stone foundation. The roof is covered in asphalt shingle. Windows are 1/1 sash, with a louvered ventilator in the front-facing gable end. A brick interior chimney is located in the center of the roof. A front porch extending across the gable end is a replacement; the house has been sided with synthetic siding.

Tax Block 138, Lot 24                      Contributing      Fair Integrity  
ca. 1920                      Bungalow                      Photo 45

515 LYONS ROAD is a 1 1/2 story frame bungalow 3 bays wide with a gable roof with asphalt shingle and a center brick chimney. The house has 1/1 sash windows and a center door under a gabled front porch supported by replacement wrought iron posts. A shed dormer is centered on the facade. It appears to have been constructed as a twin to its neighbor, 519 Lyons Road.

Tax Block 138, Lot 23                      Contributing      Good Integrity  
ca. 1920                      Bungalow                      Photo 44

519 LYONS ROAD is the generally better preserved twin to # 515, retaining its wooden clapboards and square wooden porch posts.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 19 of 19

Liberty Corner, Somerset County, NJ

SUMMARY

From historical descriptions of Liberty Corner dating from 1831 to 1881, we can judge that the physical environment has changed relatively little over time. Most of the dwellings that exist today were built between 1830 and 1900. As in the late nineteenth century, few commercial buildings exist. A moderate amount of growth in the 1920s is evidenced by the "development" of Lyons Road as a romantic suburb in miniature.

The linear nature of growth along the three major residential streets without the subsequent development of bisecting side streets reflects the importance of large-scale agriculture in the areas abutting and surrounding the village, continuing through the late twentieth century. This contained development pattern is significant to Liberty Corner's historic and present identity as a rural crossroads. Of the approximately 142 acres contained within the district, 66, or 46% of the total land area, are presently in active agricultural use, as evidence by their farmland assessment for property tax purposes. Additional open space beyond the bounds of the historic district also reinforces the traditional setting for the village.

The historic district contains a distinctive house type illustrative of the period of growth that characterized the village in the years after the Civil War. Best described as a vernacular romantic revival style, the house type features a front-facing gable end, side entrance, and a modicum of either Italianate or Gothic detailing most evident in round- or Gothic-arched windows in the gable end, with or without decorative window heads. The local predilection for Italo-gothic forms culminates in the architecture of the Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church, designed and built by local master builder James P. Goltra.

Though building uses have changed over time, growth patterns and building stock have remained remarkably consistent with the rural village history of Liberty Corner for more than two centuries.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1 of 11

Liberty Corner, Somerset County, NJ

locally famous stone house in 1766, just outside of the present village on Lyons Road. The house, no longer extant, but clearly depicted on a ca. 1895 glass slide, was a substantial and handsome dwelling for its period and served as a church, soldier's hostelry, and school as well as a residence. The Annins held a centennial celebration of the building of "The Old Stone House" in 1866 and described the celebration in an article for the New York Observer dated September 20, 1866. The article describes the house and farm complex as it stood at the time:

"...a thick-walled structure, 36 ft. in width by 48 ft. in length, of quarried stone of brownish hue obtained in the neighborhood. In front of the main edifice...is a small piazza, to which one may ascend by several steps and above which is set a diamond-shaped stone, in which are cut... the initials W.A. and H.S.M. (...William Annin and Hugh Sunderland, Mason) 1766."

The William Annin farm site is an undisturbed area of potential archeological importance, but it falls beyond the boundaries of the district.

The Annins were among several early residents of Scottish origin; others in the early to mid-eighteenth century immigrated from England, Ireland, Holland, and Germany.

It was during the Revolutionary War that Liberty Corner received its present name, when patriotic villagers erected a liberty pole at the crossroads to show their support for the revolutionary cause. Liberty Corner buildings are shown on a map dating from 1781 by Louis Alexandre Berthier, mapmaker for the French troops under Rochambeau, who marched from Morristown to Princeton and then to Yorktown. Rochambeau's men are known to have camped in the fields of the English farm, within the Liberty Corner Historic District.

A description of Liberty Corner in the 1834 History of New Jersey tells of a village that was probably not very different in the first decades of the nineteenth century than it had been in the last decades of the eighteenth: "... 7 miles N.E. of Somerville . . . near Harrison's Brook; contains a tavern, store, and some 20 dwellings, inhabited by intelligent and respectful families, in a fertile and well-cultivated valley." (1) By 1851, the number of buildings had increased by one store, one grist and sawmill, a school and the Presbyterian Church, built in 1838.

Farming was the chief occupation of those living in and around the village, but other occupations are listed in early records of the Presbyterian Church as well, including blacksmith, painter, stage driver, mason, carpenter, physician, and shoemaker.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 2 of 11

Liberty Corner, Somerset County, NJ

Though retaining approximately the same number of buildings and inhabitants throughout the nineteenth century, the identity of Liberty Corner changed subtly in the years following the Civil War. Symbolic of the change was the building of a new, larger Presbyterian Church in 1868-69 (photograph # 32), a social and architectural focal point replacing the modest structure which had served since 1838. The Reverend James T. English took up the post as minister in 1838, and saw the church through its move to the new building, continuing as a respected church and community leader until his death in 1873. English's descendants remain in Liberty Corner today in the family farmhouse on Valley Road. (See photograph # 2).

Liberty Corner and the Dairy Farming Industry

By the late 1860s, Bernards Township was linked to New York City by rail. The depot nearest Liberty Corner was located at Lyons, a crossroads just south of Basking Ridge. Though cattle had long been raised in the grassy meadows of Bernards for both milk and meat, easy rail transport was key to the development of dairying as an industry in the township, greatly and instantly expanding the market for fresh dairy products. Farm journals like the American Agriculturalist encouraged farmers to raise dairy cattle as a profitable pursuit, speculating that of the 40 million people living in the United States in 1867, at least one eighth could not keep their own cow and must buy their milk.

According to historian John Cunningham, "...the milk industry really had no stature until after the Civil War...the railroad helped build the dairy industry. Railroad agents went up and down their lines, encouraging greater production." (2)

Milk depots such as the one formerly located at Lyons were incorporated into the rail lines so that farmers could readily transport their milk to big city markets. Mr. Woodruff English, a member of one of the oldest families in Liberty Corner, recalls that his father and uncles transported the family's milk by cart twice a day to the depot at Lyons. (See photograph #76).

Besides pure milk, other dairy products became increasingly important to dairy farmers in and around Liberty Corner, including condensed milk, which came to be preferred by many Civil War veterans accustomed to army-supplied processed milk and butter. The development of the cream separator in the 1870s led to the mechanization and standardization of butter production in large creameries, rather than on individual farms. Several creameries were located in Bernards Township by the late 1870s, including the S.S. Beach Creamery near Basking Ridge.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 3 of 11

Liberty Corner, Somerset County, NJ

The Products of Agriculture schedule for Bernards Township from June 1880 shows that most Liberty Corner farmers were involved in dairy farming, some to a moderate degree, such as David Annin, whose modest herd of six cows produced 500 gallons of milk and 200 pounds of butter in 1879, or George Baldwin, whose four cows produced milk for 500 pounds of butter on his 58-acre parcel. Farmers with larger herds, such as James Van Derveer and Elias Coriell, produced several thousands of gallons of milk and many hundreds of pounds of butter in the same year. Production in such large quantities justified long-haul shipping and the production of butter, which had been a cottage industry, outside the home in large amounts.

Citing the importance of farming and milk production to the area, Snell's History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties (1881) states that the activities of Bernards Township were

...chiefly agricultural. The farming is of two kinds, grain-raising and dairying. The milk of the dairies mostly goes to supply the Newark market, but of late much is made into an excellent quality of butter at the creameries...several of which exist in the township. The abundance of pure spring water is a great advantage in this regard... There being no large towns, the employment of mechanics is limited. (3)

Cattle breeding grew in importance as demand increased locally for specialized milking herds. In nearby Morris County, prosperous gentleman farmers such as Hamilton Twombly at Florham Farms and Charles Foster at Fosterfields took pains to travel to England where they secured Guernsey and Jersey breeding stock. Smaller farmers such as a Mr. Seiler of Liberty Corner could take advantage of such imported stock to increase their own production. A notice in an 1883 issue of The Jerseyman finds Mr. Seiler "...stocking [his farm] with the best cattle he can find..." (4).

In 1889, William Childs and his brother Samuel of Bernards Township gave the local dairy industry a boost by opening the first of what grew to be an 105-restaurant chain in New York City and elsewhere (including Canada), featuring vegetarian meals and dairy products. Childs' restaurants were known for the unusual cleanliness of their white interiors and white-clad waitresses at a time when most restaurants hired waiters, and for their pure and wholesome food at reasonable prices, favored by "lunching ladies" in the city.

Childs himself was a confirmed vegetarian, and had a strong influence on the menus of his restaurants. He began his profitable career as a boy, by developing a milk route and selling vegetables from his father's farm in Bernards Township.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4 of 11

Liberty Corner, Somerset County, NJ

---

Joining his brothers in the restaurant business was Ellsworth Childs, also of Bernards Township, who had also begun his career as a milk retailer. As the Childs brothers retired, they returned to Bernards Township permanently, joining what was by the turn of the century a growing number of successful and well-to-do New York businessmen in establishing estates throughout the area.

### Liberty Corner as a "Summer Place"

Before direct rail connections were established at Bernardsville in 1872, Liberty Corner was the larger of the two villages, second only to Basking Ridge in terms of revenues and number of schoolchildren enrolled. As a direct result of the rail connection, rapid growth and development descended on Bernardsville, leaving Liberty Corner a relatively quiet crossroads bypassed by much of the activity of the township. Though a lack of commercial growth might have seemed unfortunate at the time, as early as the 1880s Liberty Corner came to be prized for its sleepy, pastoral qualities by a new village element -- the tourists who regularly visited during the summer months to savor the village's quaint country lanes, vistas, and "colonial" atmosphere.

In the years after the Civil War, Americans sought rest and relaxation in increasing numbers. Resort areas, particularly those in mountain and coastal settings, such as New Jersey's shore, grew at a phenomenal rate. An important component of leisure travel in the late nineteenth century was the search for a healthful climate, away from the pollution, unsanitary conditions, and the often adulterated or impure food supplies of large urban centers.

Besides large resorts like Saratoga and Newport which often catered to a wealthy clientele, many smaller country towns within a day's travel of New York and Philadelphia became de facto "resorts," though many had little to offer in the way of sophisticated entertainment or accommodations. Middle class patrons as well as the well-to-do sought simple relief from the ills of the city in small suburban towns like Morristown, the county seat of Morris County, and health cures at the springs of nearby Schooley's Mountain. Those inclined toward religious pursuits camped at Mt. Tabor. Somerset County, too, had its share of seasonal visitors seeking the pleasures of the country.

Basking Ridge and Liberty Corner were historically linked in an important, albeit limited, local tourist trade, with Liberty Corner functioning more as an excursion place and retreat than lodging place. By 1870, Basking Ridge had a new local hotel operated by P.O. Belding, to the pleasure of one newspaper columnist, who felt that ". . . this place has long felt the need for such a house." (5) Liberty Corner, too, had lodgings for travellers in the Liberty Corner Hotel (built in the 18th century as Bullion's Tavern), and operated at the turn of the 19th century by Dennis Van Liew. Later renamed the William Allen Hotel, it is no longer extant.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 5 of 11

Liberty Corner, Somerset County, NJ

Equally important to the tourist trade in a rural area such as Bernards Township were boarding houses. Boarding was both an inexpensive and "homey" way to vacation for the nineteenth century traveler, and an important source of extra income for many farm families. Additionally, operating a boarding house was seen as one of the few "acceptable" avenues of business open to women, particularly single or widowed ones. Popular magazines such as Ladies' Home Journal and The Chatauquan not only advised their readers how to keep summer boarders successfully, but how to behave courteously as a boarder.(6)

By 1880, Basking Ridge had a flourishing village center surrounded by farms, an attractive combination for visitors. A newspaper article noted in September 1880 that ". . . we have had a larger number of boarders this summer than usual." (7) The following summer an observer noted that once again, ". . . many have chosen Basking Ridge as their summer home, appreciating the healthful air and beautiful surroundings." (8) In August 1883, a social column described with approval the outing of ". . . A party of ten, most of whom are boarding at the Park House, came to [Liberty Corner] from Basking Ridge on Tuesday evening to enjoy a supper. At a reasonable hour, they returned, well-pleased with their trip."(9)

Their "trip" was a mere four miles by wagon, a proximity which made such excursions both feasible and popular. Interest in picturesque colonial farms and dwellings, given impetus by the Centennial Exposition less than a decade before, no doubt also contributed to the popularity of Liberty Corner, which included some surviving eighteenth century buildings, (photograph # 65) heightening the experience of a day trip to a "quaint," historical town, already in contrast to the more bustling centers of Basking Ridge and Bernardsville, and certainly to a frantic metropolis like New York.

Interest in antiquarian pursuits and genealogy is evident in a column detailing the early history of Liberty Corner in the April 17, 1897 edition of the Bernardsville News, as well as in the existence of a magic lantern slide showing the stone Annin House (1766) in the collection of the Historical Society of the Somerset Hills.

Around the turn of the century, humbler boarders were joined by the wealthy and prominent, as they established country estates in the Basking Ridge-Liberty Corner area, or rented large "cottages" for the summer. John Jacob Astor, whose brother's estate was in nearby Lyons, frequently stopped in Liberty Corner, reportedly to visit his mistress. An 1897 advertisement for Conkling and Bowers, Real Estate Dealers, in the Bernardsville News asks: "Do you want to rent a furnished house for the summer? Do you want to let your house furnished for the season? . . . We have bargains to offer you . . ." (10) Offerings included several "country seats" of ten or more rooms, including one with "large vegetable garden and plenty of good water." (11)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6 of 11

Liberty Corner, Somerset County, NJ

---

By the end of the First World War, even Liberty Corner was changing, though its popularity as a seasonal place was undimmed. An account in 1918 by the Reverend John Barsam laments the passing of an era and questions the future of the village:

" . . . Liberty Corner has greatly changed its personnel. There are still a few of the descendants of the old families . . . most of them, however, are living elsewhere. Since the coming of automobiles and the opening of better roads the life of the village is also greatly changed. Once Liberty Corner was the center of the social life for the people living within four miles of the village. But now many of the families living in the vicinity have autos and can easily go to larger centers for social contact and recreation . . . There are more houses today . . . than any time before. While some of them are vacant on account of war conditions, it is to be hoped . . . there will be many who will choose Liberty Corner either as their summer or permanent residence." (12)

And, indeed, some did choose Liberty Corner as their home in the years following the Great War. Despite the widespread "migration" described by the Reverend Barsam, the linkage of Liberty Corner to larger centers and the train station by the Passaic Valley Bus Line in the early 1920s made it a small-scale commuter suburb. A Mr. Charles Romph purchased and subdivided land just north of the C.C. Acken property on Lyons Road in 1925 to create a tiny "romantic suburb" of English Cottage style bungalows, built in the late '20s and early '30s. (See photographs 53 - 57). This episode of speculative development, however, proved an anomaly in the history of Liberty Corner.

Increasing automobile traffic necessitated the installation of a traffic "blinker" in 1924 at the center of town. A social column from the Bernardsville News from August 1924 states that "The traffic through Liberty Corner is very heavy, and Sundays many hundred cars pass . . ." Some of the busy motorists were no doubt still seeking the "quaint" in the village, perhaps at a place like the Valley End Farm near the village, opened in 1924 as a "colonial" inn, where patrons might sip tea "from handleless cups" and enjoy the "spacious fireplace" and grandfather clock.(13)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7 of 11

Liberty Corner, Somerset County, NJ

---

### Architectural Significance

The Liberty Corner district contains a collection of vernacular buildings that illustrates several aspects of the history of American architecture from the mid-eighteenth century to the 1920s. Significantly, the village contains no examples of genuinely high style architecture. The following buildings are representative examples illustrating local interpretations of popular architectural style.

#### THE PHILIPS HOUSE: ca. 1750 (photograph # 5)

Located at 3639 Valley Road, the Philips house is an example of a vernacular type known as a half-house or hall-parlor house, built around 1750. Although dormers and a porch were added during the late 19th or early 20th century, the original form of the house still tells of its origins in the eighteenth century. The 1 1/2 story house conforms to the two-room, side-hall plan that was locally common in the period. (The earliest portion of the neighboring English farmhouse, still extant and clearly differentiated from the later 19th century portion, was also a 3-bay, 1 1/2 story half-house.) The hall and parlor form was typical of dwellings built by early immigrants from the British Isles, a logical connection in view of the origins of many of Liberty Corner's early settlers.

#### 14 CHURCH STREET: ca. 1850 (photograph # 8)

One of six remaining 19th century houses built of brick in all of Bernards Township, this small 1 1/2-story cottage combines vernacular Greek Revival and Gothic Revival elements. Construction materials probably came from a nearby brick kiln on Mine Brook Road. The simple features include an entrance with transom and sidelights, eyebrow windows, common to local interpretations of the Greek Revival, and decorative vergeboards and incised ornament on the front porch.

#### 530 LYONS ROAD: ca. 1865-70 (photograph # 59)

Houses of the period immediately following the Civil War in Liberty Corner show a strong preference for the Italianate, interpreted in a vernacular house type of which 530 Lyons Road is a strong example. The basic form of these locally ubiquitous two-story dwellings features a front-facing gable-end with a generally shallow lateral wing. #530 follows this form, and exhibits the decorative features which mark the vernacular Italianate: a deep bracketed cornice, re-entrant eaves, and an arched or hooded window in the gable end. The simple, handsome paneled door with three-light transom opens onto a side hall.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 8 of 11

Liberty Corner, Somerset County, NJ

Number 530 Lyons Road is a particularly well-preserved example of a local house type; other good to excellent examples include 60 Church Street (photograph # 21), 67 Church Street (photograph # 30), 21 1/2 Church Street (photograph # 39), the main block of 27 Church Street (photograph # 36) and 20 Church Street (photograph # 9).

LIBERTY CORNER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: 1869 (photograph #s 32,33,34)

The Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church is the architectural centerpiece of the village, and its only remaining important public building since the razing of the Van Liew-Allen Hotel, the original Liberty Corner Post Office, and Charlie Acken's store to make way for undistinguished late twentieth century commercial buildings. Its eclectic vernacular style contains elements of the Italianate and Gothic Revival, inventively interpreted in wood by a recognized local carpenter-builder, James P. Goltra. Church records show that Goltra contracted with the congregation to build the church for \$8000 and agreed to complete it within six months, salvaging materials from the old church where possible.

Snell's History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties includes a biographical sketch of Goltra, the son of a carpenter-builder who followed in his father's footsteps. According to Snell, although primarily occupied as a builder who erected "...many churches in Bernards and adjoining townships," Goltra was also a storekeeper in Liberty Corner, a justice of the peace, and a judge of the Court of Common Appeals. The Liberty Corner church was apparently one of his last commissions before his death at age 79 in 1871. Stylistically it resembles the work of other recognized area master builders, such as Aaron Hudson's design for the Pottersville Reformed Church (1866) and John Cole's design for the Fairmount Methodist Church (1868).

The church as it stands today displays excellent integrity, with most of its original design features and ornamentation intact, including round-arched windows, a wooden version of an arcaded corbeling, and wooden paneled entry doors beneath Italianate hoods with two-light transoms. In addition to its well-preserved exterior, the church retains its most important interior features. These include pews with rounded paneled ends, and beautifully-executed architectural trompe l'oeil wall and ceiling paintings imitating three-dimensional raised paneling, professionally refurbished in 1984. This interior decoration, in particular, distinguishes the Liberty Corner church from other local vernacular ecclesiastical buildings.

The "session house" or parish house immediately next to the church was also designed and built by Goltra in 1868-69. Its design echoes that of the church, with a bracketed cornice and two sets of paneled wooden doors beneath rounded hoods on the main facade. The front-facing gable is decorated with a simplified quatrefoil window and Gothic bracework. Large elms and maples along the street facade and an iron and wood fence further enhance the setting of the church. Its historic cemetery is the well-maintained burial place of most of Liberty Corner's early residents.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 9 of 11

Liberty Corner, Somerset County, NJ

---

50 CHURCH STREET: ca. 1905 (photograph # 18)

The Liberty Corner Historic District contains several good examples of a simplified Queen Anne/Colonial Revival style popular around the turn of the century, including 50 Church Street. The style was not only suited to burgeoning suburban developments, but also popular for simpler "country places" for the upper middle class, attracted to towns like Liberty Corner for their intrinsic bucolic charms. #50 Church Street displays key elements of the Queen Anne: contrasting cladding textures, somewhat irregular fenestration, including a variety of window types, and a wraparound porch for enjoying health-giving breezes. In its squared massing and overall symmetrical feeling, however, the house tends also toward the Colonial Revival, though in a simplified form.

Other notable Colonial Revival houses in the district include 46 Church Street (photograph # 17) and 83 Church Street (photograph # 26), once a simple Federal Vernacular side-hall plan house substantially enlarged and updated by the addition of then-fashionable colonial detail ca. 1900-10.

"CHARLES ROMPH DEVELOPMENT", LYONS ROAD: ca. 1929-35 (photograph #s 51-57)

A Liberty Corner tax map from 1928 shows the subdivision of a plot of road-front property just north of the C.C. Acken place on Lyons Road, purchased by a Mr. Charles Romph of Church Street in 1925. Appearing on these eight small lots in the late '20s and early '30s were small stuccoed bungalows in a romantic English mode, with whimsical detailing such as "exposed" stones, steeply pitched gabled entries, and half-timbering. The houses at 524-504 Lyons Road are unique in central Liberty Corner, the well-preserved evidence of an attempt at providing "up-to-date" housing for a younger generation of village residents commuting to their jobs rather than farming or pursuing one of the limited trades in the town.

Together with the remaining buildings of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, this small group of early twentieth century houses is worthy of recognition and preservation, adding breadth to a historic district distinguished by a variety of building styles and periods, that, taken together, form a visual record of its history over a period of approximately 250 years.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 10 of 11

Liberty Corner, Somerset County, NJ

---

### Summary

Liberty Corner today retains much of the flavor of its nineteenth and early twentieth century past, with its relatively narrow roads, pleasant, tree-shaded streetscapes, and historic building stock displaying good to excellent architectural integrity. Though it has evolved from a rural crossroads into a tiny bedroom community for interstate-bound commuters, vestiges of its historical identity as a farming center and a "summer place" remain in properties like the English farm, still in agricultural use, and also used as a summer residence by the English family, and in the Presbyterian Church, still the public focal point of a well-preserved "Main Street."

Once one of numerous prosperous farms specializing in dairy production in the late nineteenth century, the English farm is an excellent example of a well-preserved rural complex, its accessory buildings and acreage intact. Though dating from the eighteenth century, its present-day appearance dates from the years just after the Civil War. Photographs ca. 1890 (photograph # 75) show its roadside aspect to be almost completely unchanged in one hundred years.

The Presbyterian Church, too, is a surviving example of the continuity and prosperity of tiny Liberty Corner in the nineteenth century. Its denomination recalls the Scottish ancestry of many of Liberty Corner's early settlers. Built on the site of an earlier church, the larger and more fashionable Italianate vernacular church of 1868-69 represents the pride of the community in its architectural centerpiece, built by a local master builder, James Goltra. Today it survives with its cemetery and auxiliary chapel/parish hall as an excellent example of rural ecclesiastical architecture.

During the preparation of this nomination, commercial renovations, including expanded surface parking, were taking place. These changes threaten to degrade the historic character of the district if they continue. Principal buildings, as well as important surviving accessory buildings and historic open space may be affected. The Township Committee is now entertaining a change in zoning which would allow a commercial zone extending from the intersection of Church Street and Valley Road extending along Church Street to the Presbyterian Church, a change which would almost certainly alter the visual character and historic development pattern on Church Street. The potential for development in the immediate vicinity of the village center may also threaten the viability of the eighteenth century Annin farm as an historical archeological site.

Until January 1990, the view northeast on Church Street was a bucolic vista which contributed to the agricultural character of the surrounding village lands. The beginning of this vista is now marred by a new firehouse, the design of which is totally unrelated to local architectural forms and materials. A municipal historic district ordinance is needed to protect the still-rural village, a fast-disappearing entity in Somerset County and the state of New Jersey.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 11 of 11

Liberty Corner, Somerset County, NJ

Notes

1. Thomas F. Gordon, The History of New Jersey  
(Trenton, NJ: Daniel Fenton, Publisher, 1834), p.168.
2. John T. Cunningham, Garden State: The Story of New Jersey  
Agriculture (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers U Press, 1955)  
p.96.
3. James P. Snell, History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties  
(Philadelphia: Everts and Peck, 1881), p. 749.
4. The Jerseyman, August 17, 1883, p.3.
5. Untitled clipping dated March 17, 1870, in scrapbook of local  
history collection, Bernards Township Library.
6. Ladies' Home Journal, May 1901, p. 20; The Chatauquan,  
vol. 13, 1893 p. 229.
7. Untitled clipping dated September 18, 1880, in scrapbook of  
local history collection, Bernards Township Library.
8. Ibid.
9. The Jerseyman, March 7, 1884 p. 3.
10. Bernardsville News, April 17, 1897, p.8.
11. Ibid.
12. Rev. John J. Barsam, A Historical Sketch of Liberty Corner,  
(Privately published, 1918), p.4.
13. Bernardsville News, April 17, 1924, p.3.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

Liberty Corner, Somerset County, NJ

---

Allen, Katherine S. and Carl H. A History of the Presbyterian Church in Liberty Corner 1837-1987. Privately published, 1987.

Barsam, the Reverend John J. A Historical Sketch of Liberty Corner. Privately published, 1918.

Beers, F.W. Atlas of Somerset County, NJ. New York: Charles Hart, 1873.

Bernardsville News, April 17, 1897; April 17, 1924.

Cunningham, John T. Garden State: The Story of New Jersey Agriculture. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers U Press, 1955.

Gordon, Thomas F. The History of New Jersey. Trenton, NJ: Daniel Fenton, Publisher, 1834.

Historical Booklet of Bernards Township, NJ. Basking Ridge, NJ: Township of Bernards, 1960.

The Jerseyman, August 17, 1883; March 7, 1884; May 20, 1904

"The Old Stone House," New York Observer, September 20, 1866  
(transcription in collection of Historical Society of the Somerset Hills)

Otley, J.W., and J. Keily. Map of Somerset County, New Jersey. Camden: Lloyd Vanderveer, 1850.

Products of Agriculture Record for Bernards Township, Somerset County, NJ, 1880. (on microfilm in the collection of Joint Free Public Library of Morristown and Morris Township, NJ)

Rice, Howard C. and Anne S.K. Brown, eds. The American Campaigns of Rochambeau's Army 1780-1783, vol. II. Princeton: Princeton U Press, 1972.

Snell, James P. History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties. Philadelphia: Everts and Peck, 1881.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

Liberty Corner, Somerset County, NJ

### Boundary Description

Beginning at a point at the northwest corner of the property at the corner of Church Street and Mine Hill Road, known as Block 138, Lot 7, in Bernards Township, Somerset County, New Jersey, and extending southeast along the property line to the intersection with Church Street; then due south across Church Street and west along the southern right-of-way of Church Street to the intersection with the western property line of the land commonly known as 90 Church Street, or Block 175, Lot 22 in Bernards Township, Somerset County; then south-southwest along said property line to the rear lot line, and eastward along the rear or southern property line surrounding the same property to the intersection with the property line surrounding the property known as Block 175, Lot 19, Bernards Township; then south along this said property line, and continuing to follow the same line to the southwestern corner of the property to a point opposite a fifty-foot right-of-way; directly east across the northernmost part of the said right-of-way and continuing due east along the southern property line of the same property, Block 175, Lot 19 to the intersection with Valley Road; due east across the road to the western boundary of the property known as Block 152, Lot 26.01; then south, following the property line of said property around the intersection of Valley Road and Mount Airy Road, and proceeding north to the intersection of the the property line with the southeastern corner of the property known as Block 152, Lot 28; then west-northwest along the northern boundary of Block 152, Lot 26.01 to its intersection with the eastern property line of Block 152, Lot 23; north along the rear (eastern or northeastern) property lines of the properties to the north fronting on Lyons Road up to and including the northeast corner of property known as Block 152, Lot 11; continuing in the same line across the narrowest point of Block 152, Lot 10, and then west along the northern boundary line of said property to the intersection with Lyons Road; north to include the stone bridge carrying Lyons Road over a tributary of Harrisons Brook, and then west across Lyons Road to the western side of the right-of-way and south along the western edge of the right-of-way of Lyons Road to the northeast corner of the property commonly known as Block 138, Lot 27; then along the irregular northern boundary of said property to the intersection with the northern line of a property fronting on Church Street known as Block 138, Lot 14, containing the Presbyterian Church; then west-northwest along the northern property lines of all contiguous properties fronting Church Street to the point of beginning.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 2

Liberty Corner, Somerset County, NJ

---

### Boundary Justification

The village identity of Liberty Corner can be discerned with clarity because of the marked contrast that still exists between the village and its surroundings. The district boundaries have been drawn to reflect this clarity of the resource.

The northern boundary of the district is composed of the rear property lines of the lots fronting on Church Street. North of these Church Street lots there are subdivided or vacant land that do not share in the historical identity of the village.

The rear lot line of properties fronting Lyons Road and Valley Road is the district's eastern boundary. North of Church Street, where the street is known as Lyons Road, the district is made up of small 1920s and '30s houses that illustrate the final phase of village's historical development. Known as Valley Road south of Church Street, the street includes a group of the earliest village houses extant. South of them lies open pastureland, still used by grazing cattle, and the meandering Harrisons Brook, which contributes to the rural setting and historic character of the village. To the east of this eastern boundary lies mid- to-late 20th century residential subdivisions.

The southern boundary of the district lies chiefly along the property line of the historic English Farm. South of the farm is the acreage of the Fellowship Deaconry and an intersection of heavily trafficked roads that emphatically contrasts with the village.

On the west the village is terminated at the point where Mine Brook Road intersects with Church Street. West of this point are scattered buildings, open space, and the new firehouse referred to in the description.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

PHOTOGRAPHS

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 1

Liberty Corner, Somerset County, NJ

---

## PHOTOGRAPHS

Liberty Corner Historic District  
Bernards Township, Somerset County, New Jersey

Photographed by J. Wayman Williams  
January - February 1990  
Negatives held by J. Wayman Williams  
11 Rankin Avenue  
Basking Ridge, N.J. 07920  
(201) 766 6060

<u>Photo Number</u>	<u>Street Address</u>
---------------------	-----------------------

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 1. | 3601 Valley Road, Liberty Corner Historic District.<br>View west from road.                           |
| 2. | English Farm, 3625 Valley Road, Liberty Corner Historic District. View west from road.                |
| 3. | English Farm Barns, 3613 Valley Road, Liberty Corner Historic District. View northwest from property. |
| 4. | 3633 Valley Road, Liberty Corner Historic District.<br>View west from road.                           |
| 5. | 3639 Valley Road, Liberty Corner Historic District.<br>View west from road.                           |
| 6. | Mobil Station, 2 Valley Road Liberty Corner Historic District.<br>View southwest from corner.         |
| 7. | Liberty Corner Post Office, 6 Church Street, Liberty Corner Historic District. View south from road.  |
| 8. | 14 Church Street, Liberty Corner Historic District. View south from road.                             |
| 9. | 18 and 20 Church Street, Liberty Corner Historic District.<br>View southeast from road.               |

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

PHOTOGRAPHS  
Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 2

Liberty Corner, Somerset County, NJ

---

10. 22 Church Street, Liberty Corner Historic District.  
View southwest from road.
11. 26 Church Street, Liberty Corner Historic District.  
View southwest from road.
12. 30 Church Street, Liberty Corner Historic District.  
View southwest from road.
13. 34 Church Street, Liberty Corner Historic District.  
View southwest from road.
14. 38 Church Street, Liberty Corner Historic District.  
View south from front of property.
15. 40 Church Street, Liberty Corner Historic District.  
View south from road.
16. 42 Church Street, Liberty Corner Historic District.  
View southwest from road.
17. 46 Church Street, Liberty Corner Historic District.  
View southwest from road.
18. 50 Church Street, Liberty Corner Historic District.  
View southwest from road.
19. 54 Church Street, Liberty Corner Historic District.  
View southwest from road.
20. 58 Church Street, Liberty Corner Historic District.  
View south from road.
21. 62 Church Street, Liberty Corner Historic District.  
View south from road.
22. 66 Church Street, Liberty Corner Historic District.  
View southwest from road.
23. 82 Church Street, Liberty Corner Historic District.  
View southeast from road.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

PHOTOGRAPHS

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 3

Liberty Corner, Somerset County, NJ

---

24. 90 Church Street, Liberty Corner Historic District.  
View southwest from road.
25. 90 Church Street - Barn, Liberty Corner Historic District.  
View southeast from on property.
26. 83 Church Street, Liberty Corner Historic District.  
View northeast from intersection of Church Street &  
Mine Brook Road.
27. 83 & 79 Church Street - Barns, Liberty Corner Historic  
District. View east from rear of 83 Church Street.
28. 79 Church Street, Liberty Corner Historic District.  
View north from road.
29. 75 Church Street, Liberty Corner Historic District.  
View north from road.
30. 67 Church Street, Liberty Corner Historic District.  
View northwest from road.
31. Liberty Corner School, Liberty Corner Historic District.  
View northwest from road.
32. Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church, Liberty Corner Historic  
District. View northeast from road.
33. Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church, Liberty Corner Historic  
District. View east along Church Street.
34. Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church, Liberty Corner Historic  
District. Interior of church, view north toward chancel.
35. 35 Church Street, Liberty Corner Historic District.  
View north from road.
36. 27 Church Street, Liberty Corner Historic District.  
View east from road.
37. 27 Church Street in foreground, Liberty Corner Historic  
District. View east along Church Street.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

PHOTOGRAPHS

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 4

Liberty Corner, Somerset County, NJ

---

38. 23 Church Street, Liberty Corner Historic District.  
View north from road.
39. 21 1/2 Church Street, Liberty Corner Historic District.  
View north from road.
40. 21 Church Street, Liberty Corner Historic District.  
View northwest from road.
41. Liberty Corner Fire Company #1, 15 Church Street  
Liberty Corner Historic District. View northeast from road.
42. Sunoco Station, Church Street & Lyons Road, Liberty Corner  
Historic District. View northwest from intersection.
43. Liberty Pole Site at corner of Church Street & Lyons Road,  
Liberty Corner Historic District. View east from Church St.
44. 519 Lyons Road, Liberty Corner Historic District.  
View west from road.
45. 515 Lyons Road, Liberty Corner Historic District.  
View west from road.
46. 511 Lyons Road, Liberty Corner Historic District.  
View west from road.
47. 509 Lyons Road, Liberty Corner Historic District.  
View west from road.
48. 505 Lyons Road, Liberty Corner Historic District.  
View northwest from road.
49. No photo 49.
50. 502 Lyons Road, Liberty Corner Historic District.  
View northeast from road.
51. 504 Lyons Road, Liberty Corner Historic District.  
View east from road.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

PHOTOGRAPHS

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 5

Liberty Corner, Somerset County, NJ

---

52. 506 Lyons Road, Liberty Corner Historic District.  
View east from road.
53. 508 Lyons Road, Liberty Corner Historic District.  
View east from road.
54. 512 Lyons Road, Liberty Corner Historic District.  
View east from road.
55. 514 Lyons Road, Liberty Corner Historic District.  
View east from road.
56. 518 Lyons Road, Liberty Corner Historic District.  
View east from road.
57. 520 Lyons Road, Liberty Corner Historic District.  
View east from road.
58. 524 Lyons Road, Liberty Corner Historic District.  
View east from road.
59. 530 Lyons Road, Liberty Corner Historic District.  
View northeast from road.
60. First Fidelity Bank, 534 Lyons Road, Liberty Corner  
Historic District. View east from road.
61. 3648 Valley Road, Liberty Corner Historic District.  
View east from road.
62. 3644 Valley Road, Liberty Corner Historic District.  
View east from road.
63. 3642 Valley Road, Liberty Corner Historic District.  
View northeast from road.
64. 3638 Valley Road, Liberty Corner Historic District.  
View southeast from road.
65. View along west side of Valley Road from intersection with  
Church Street, Liberty Corner Historic District.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetPHOTOGRAPHS  
Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 6

- 
66. 3634 Valley Road in foreground, Liberty Corner Historic District. View northeast along Valley Road.
67. 21 Church Street - Barn, Liberty Corner Historic District. View northwest.
68. 37 Church Street, Liberty Corner Historic District. View north.
69. 35 Church Street in foreground and Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church in background, Liberty Corner Historic District. View northwest on Church Street.
70. Session House of Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church, Liberty Corner Historic District. View north from road.
71. 20 Church Street in foreground, Liberty Corner Historic District. View west on Church Street.
72. View north from Valley Road to Church Street intersection; Liberty Pole site to left, Liberty Corner Historic District.
73. Historic Photo. Liberty Corner, ca. 1905. At left is the old hotel (demolished 1969), owned by Arthur Burnett at the turn of the century. At right is the general store of C.C. Acken (now Krauser's Market) and also the post office, all located at the head of Church Street. Photo reprinted courtesy of Mr. Woodruff English, Liberty Corner.
74. Historic Photo. Valley Road is in the foreground. The cows are grazing in the meadow of the English farm, on what is now Tax Block 152, Lot 26.01. Photograph ca. 1905. Photo reprinted courtesy of Mr. Woodruff English, Liberty Corner.
75. Historic Photo. English family farm ca. 1905, with Holstein cows grazing in the meadow across Valley Road from the house. Photograph reprinted courtesy of Mr. Woodruff English, Liberty Corner.
76. Historic Photo. Hay barracks on English farm, ca. 1905. John Happe is on the right; his assistant is in the cart with milk cans.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

PHOTOGRAPHS

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 7

---

Happe was the resident farmer of the English farm at the turn of the century. Photograph reprinted courtesy of Mr. Woodruff English, Liberty Corner.

77. **Historic Photo.** Outbuildings on English farm, 3625 Valley Road Liberty Corner, ca. 1905. Left: Barn (still extant); Middle: Corn Crib, now relocated but still on property; Right: Wagon House with farmhand. Photograph reprinted courtesy of Mr. Woodruff English, Liberty Corner.

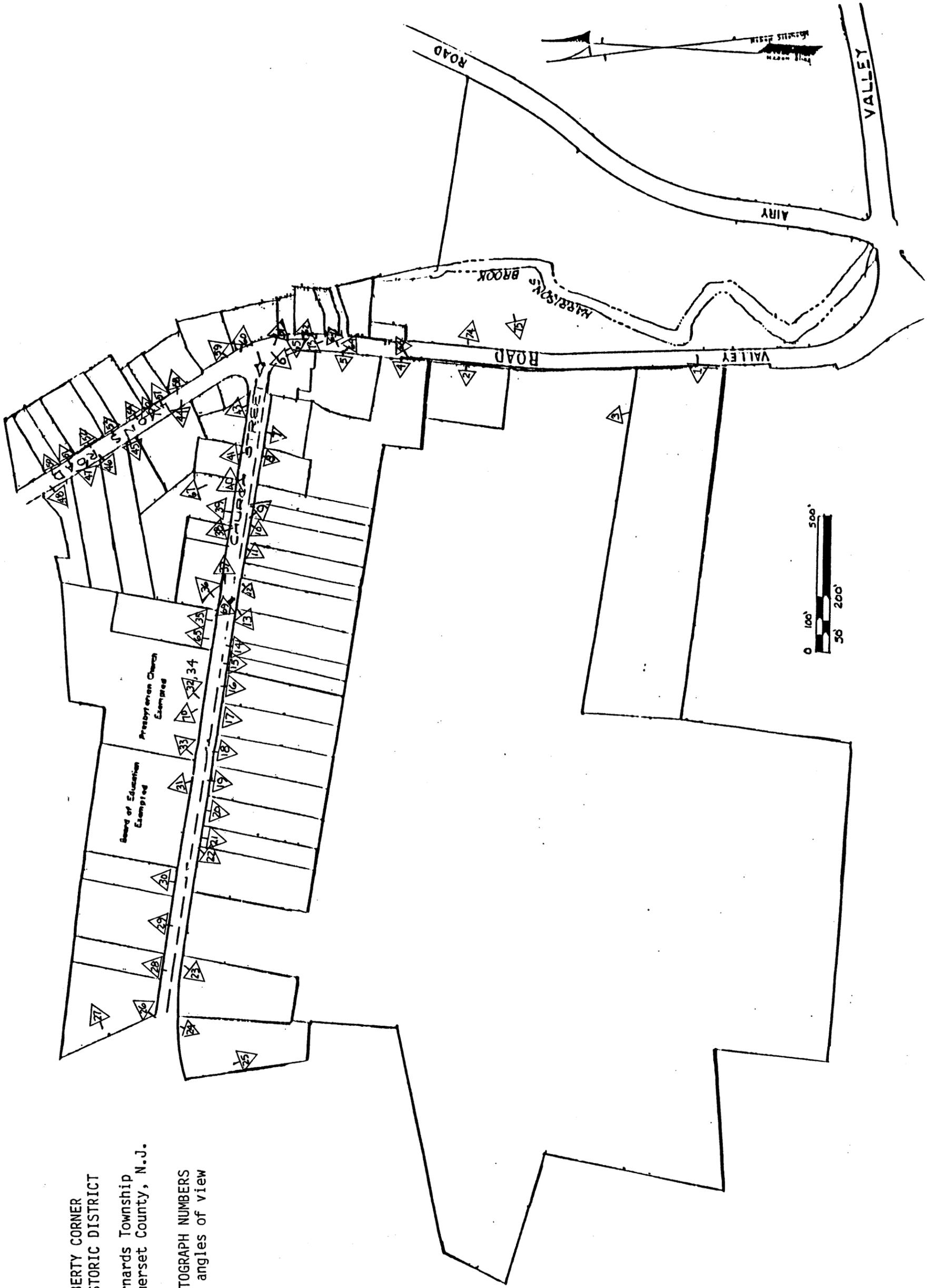
78. **Historic Photo.** Outside the English farm, 3625 Valley Road, Liberty Corner, ca. 1905. Left to right: Thompson daughter; Mrs. N.C. J. English (Ella Jane Hall English); and Mrs. Albina Thompson. Photograph reprinted courtesy of Mr. Woodruff English, Liberty Corner.

79. **Historic Photo.** Horse and carriage by back porch of English homestead, 3625 Valley Road, Liberty Corner, ca. 1905. Left to right: Conover English, William Hall, Ella Jane English (on porch), and "Bob" the horse. Photograph reprinted courtesy of Mr. Woodruff English, Liberty Corner.

80. **Historic Photo.** Family before the front porch of the English homestead at 3625 Valley Road, Liberty Corner, ca. 1905. Left to right: Conover English (grandfather of Woodruff English); Mary Jobes & Elsie Jobes, cousins of the English family from Plainfield; Ella Jane Hall English, mother of Conover; and Nicholas Conover Jobes English, grandfather of Conover. Photograph reprinted courtesy of Mr. Woodruff English, Liberty Corner.

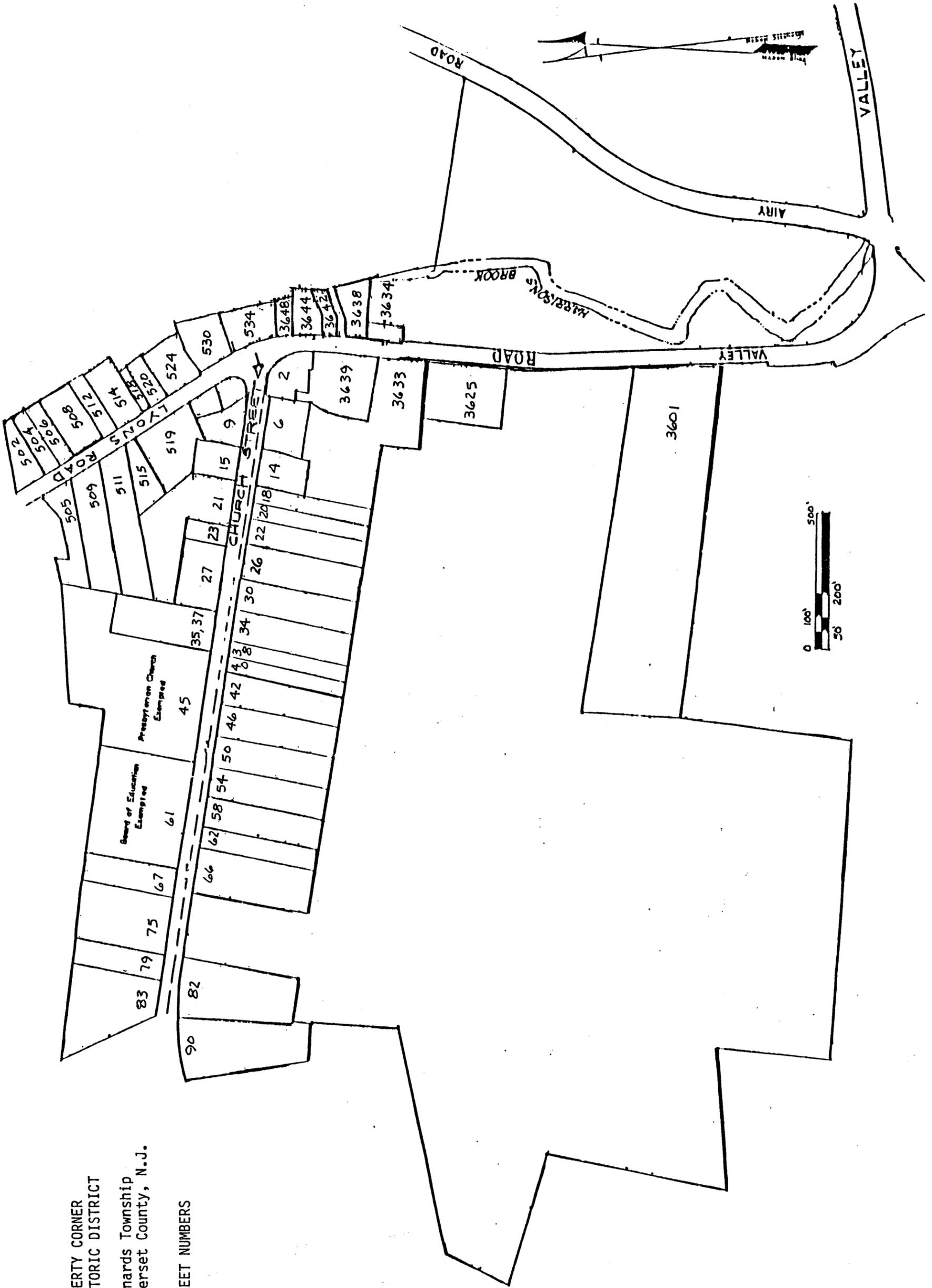
LIBERTY CORNER  
HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Bernards Township  
Somerset County, N.J.

PHOTOGRAPH NUMBERS  
and angles of view



LIBERTY CORNER  
 HISTORIC DISTRICT  
 Bernards Township  
 Somerset County, N.J.

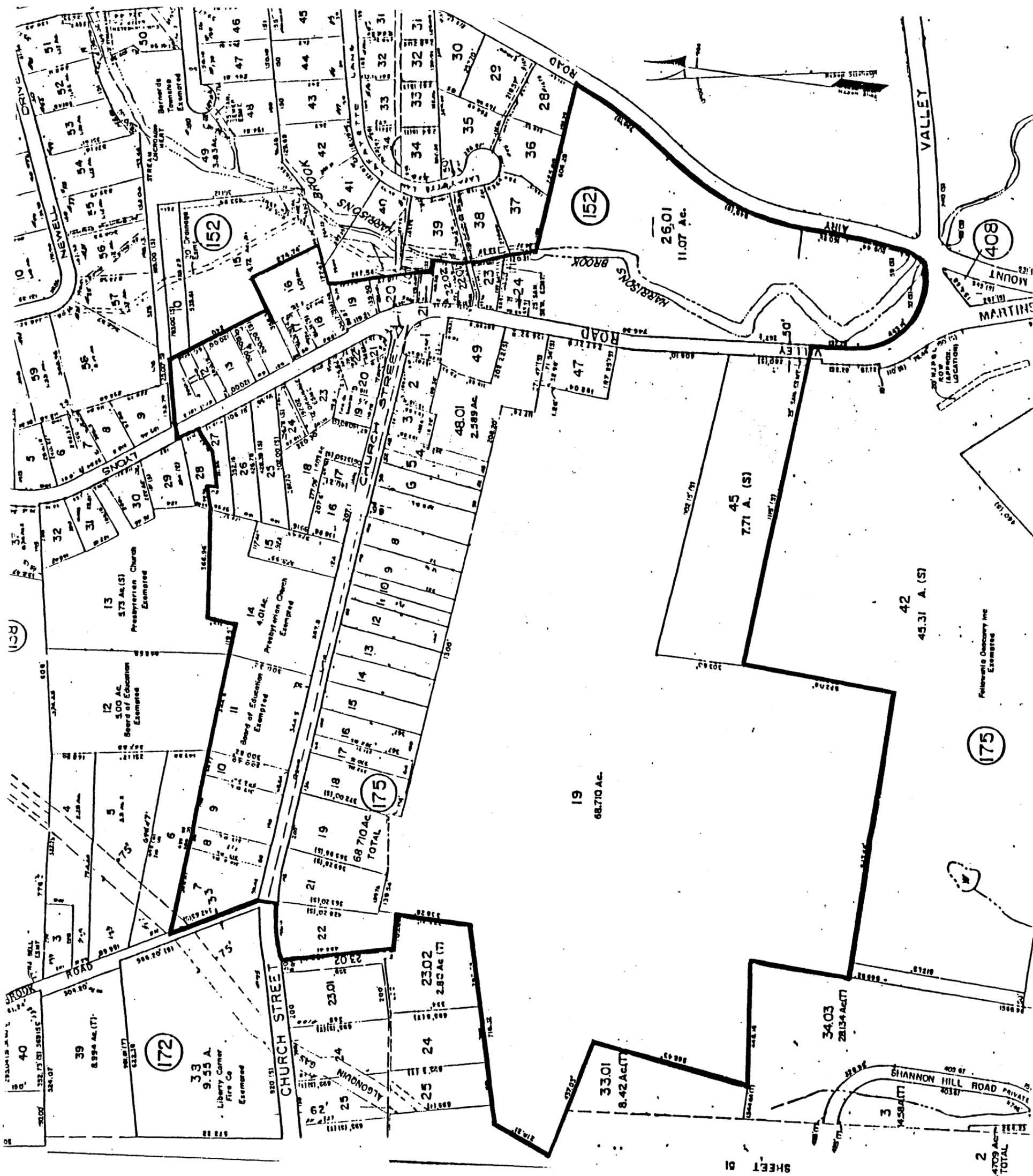
STREET NUMBERS



LIBERTY CORNER  
HISTORIC DISTRICT

Bernards Township  
Somerset County, N.J.

BOUNDARIES and  
BLOCK & LOT NUMBERS



SHEET 01

2  
84709 Ac.  
TOTAL