

PROPERTY REPORT

Property ID: **1215454131**

Property Name: Elizabeth Debow House
Address: 17 N Main ST
Apartment #:
Ownership: Private
ZIP: 08512

PROPERTY LOCATION(S):

| County: | Municipality: | Local Place Name: | USGS Quad: | Block: | Lot: |
|-----------|-------------------|-------------------|------------|--------|------|
| MIDDLESEX | Cranbury township | Cranbury | Highstown | 23 | 109 |

Property Photo:



Old HSI Number:

NRIS Number:

HABS/HAER Number:

Description:

The Elizabeth Debow House at 17 North Main Street is a two-and-a-half-story, five-bay, one-pile Gothic Revival style commercial building constructed circa 1850. The building currently houses a restaurant; it has a two-story rear addition on the rear and a one-story addition further west.

The building has a cross-gabled roof created by a centered cross-gable, which features an arched headed two-over-two wood sash window (possibly original). The roof is clad with asphalt shingles. A stove pipe is located near the south end of the ridge in the location of an original chimney. The molded cornice acts as an interior gutter system; it is supported by a row of thin brackets attached to a wood frieze. The wall surface is clad with wood clapboard siding. Fenestration is symmetrical. Windows are primarily six-over-six wood sash units (possibly original) with louvered shutters on the second floor. The front porch extends along the entire elevation; it has a flat roof, molded cornice, thick brackets, and five Ionic columns (connected by a low railing with square balusters) supporting the porch eaves. An octagonal bay on the porch is aligned with the north end wall; it has a four-over-four window on each panel (possibly original). The central entrance consists of paired, one-light wood panel doors topped by a transom in a molded surround.

The north end wall faces onto a narrow passageway with the neighboring building. The extended eaves supported by the shaped brackets is visible above, along with the cornice returns. The wall surface is clad with vinyl siding. The elevation has a single rank of replacement

Survey Name: Cranbury CLG Survey 2017

Surveyor: Kristen Herrick

Organization: RGA, Inc.

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(Primary Contact)

one-over-one windows near the northeast corner, located below the cornice return. The south elevation is a solid vinyl-clad wall below the molded cornice with shaped brackets and cornice returns.

The two-story rear addition extends along the entire rear (west) elevation of the main block. It has a gabled roof with extended eaves on the north and south side walls. The frame walls are clad with vinyl siding. Fenestration is asymmetrically spaced; windows are replacement one-over-one double hung sash units, with two ranks on the south elevation and one on the north. On the rear of this two-story addition is a one-story addition that is not visible from the public right-of-way.

Character-defining elements of the building include a bracketed cornice, a one-story full-façade porch with a bracketed cornice and Ionic columns, and a central cross-gable.

History: The 1916 Sanborn Atlas shows the main block of the house with its front porch and a rear tee section. The 1933 Sanborn Atlas provides a little more detail, showing the front bay window on the porch but otherwise depicting the house as it was shown in 1916. The building appears on historic aerial photographs beginning in 1940. The aerials are not clear enough to determine the size of the rear addition until that of 1979, which shows the two-story addition. The one-story addition was added between the aerials of 2002 and 2007.

Setting:

The Elizabeth Debow House at 17 North Main Street is sited on a rectangular parcel (Block 23, Lot 109) located on the west side of North Main Street in Cranbury Township, Middlesex County, New Jersey. The building is oriented with its primary elevation facing southeast and is set back approximately 10 feet from North Main Street.

The portion of the sidewalk that spans the east side of the parcel is paved with bricks. A brick driveway leads west from North Main Street past the northeast elevation of the building to a gravel parking lot. The property is lightly wooded to the rear (west) of the building. 17 North Main Street is located in a mixed residential and commercial neighborhood surrounded by properties dating from the mid-nineteenth to the early twentieth century.

Registration and Status Dates:

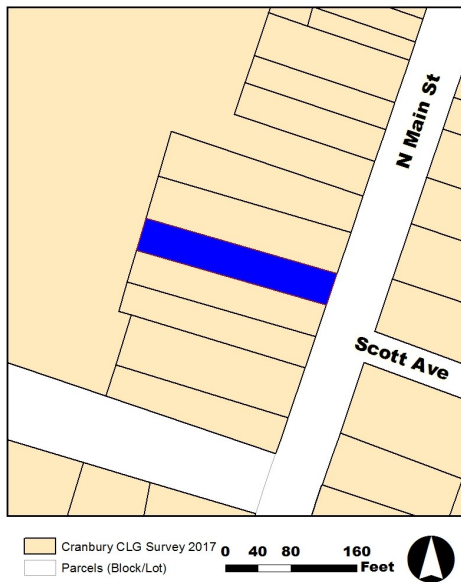
National Historic Landmark?:
National Register: 9/18/1980
New Jersey Register: 8/9/1979
Determination of Eligibility: 3/25/1977
Certification of Eligibility:

SHPO Opinion:
Local Designation: 9/26/1988
Other Designation:
Other Designation Date:

Eligibility Worksheet included in present survey? Is this Property an identifiable farm or former farm?

Location Map:

Site Map:



BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Survey Name: Cranbury CLG Survey 2017
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Organization: RGA, Inc.

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| Author: | Title: | Year: | HPO Accession #: | (if applicable) |
|------------------|---|-------|------------------|-----------------|
| Walsh, Ruth | National Register of Historic Places Nomination for the Cranbury Historic District, Cranbury Township, Middlesex County, New Jersey | 1979 | | |
| Heritage Studies | Preserving Historic Cranbury Village | 1989 | | |

Additional Information:

The 1989 Heritage Studies survey identified the Elizabeth De Bow House at 17 North Main Street as a contributing resource to the Cranbury Historic District. RGA concurs with the previous evaluation and recommends the Elizabeth De Bow House at 17 North Main Street as a contributing resource due to its date of construction and design.

More Research Needed? (checked=Yes)

INTENSIVE-LEVEL USE ONLY:

Attachments Included:

| | |
|-------------|-------------|
| 0 Building | 0 Bridge |
| 0 Structure | 0 Landscape |
| 0 Object | 0 Industry |

Historic District ?

District Name: Cranbury Historic District

Status: Contributing

Associated Archeological Site/Deposits?

(known or potential sites. If Yes, please describe briefly)

Conversion Problem? ConversionNote: 104

Date form completed: 6/26/2017

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