



pattern in the upper sash. The historic entrance is located in the bay immediately north of the cross-gabled wing. It consists of paired doors with a single pane above a square molded panel set within a molded wood surround with dentil trim. A one-story, hipped roof porch with an inset gable and molded wood cornice with dentil trim shelters the entrance. The porch is supported by turned wood posts with dentil bases (altered in 2002) and decorative brackets.

The south elevation, facing Cranbury Brook, features a hipped dormer with a one-over-one, double-hung, replacement wood-sash window. The south clipped gable end is intersected by the rear cross-gable wing. Windows on the first and second floors and in the south clipped gable end are one-over-one, double-hung, replacement wood-sash windows with molded wood lintels. A two-story semi-hexagonal projecting bay with a slightly hipped roof sits below the south clipped gable end, slightly off-center. Windows on the first and second floors of the projecting bay are one-over-one, double-hung, replacement wood-sash windows with molded lintels with dentil trim. Paired paneled wood doors are located in the east bay on the first floor. This secondary entrance is sheltered by a porte-cochere (built circa 1905) with slate shingles and pediment fronts on the east, south, and west sides. The porte-cochere, supported by unfluted Doric columns on brick piers, has a molded cornice with dentil trim and a filigree design in the pediment fronts. The first floor of the rear wing is sheltered by a one-story porch. The rear elevation is not visible from the public right of way. Windows on the first and second floors and in the clipped gable end on the north elevation are one-over-one, double-hung, replacement wood-sash windows with molded wood lintels with dentil trim. A square projecting bay with a pediment front pierces the façade of the dwelling in the east bay on the second floor. Windows on the north face of the projecting bay are one-over-one, double-hung, replacement wood-sash windows within molded wood surrounds. The north elevation of the rear cross-gable wing features one-over-one, double-hung, replacement wood-sash windows with molded lintels with dentil trim.

Character-defining elements of the dwelling include the cross-gabled wings and projecting bays typical of the Queen Anne style, the porte-cochere and one-story front porch with dentil trim, and window surrounds with dentil trim. A two-and-a-half-story carriage house, constructed circa 1910 during the district's period of significance, is located west of the dwelling

**Setting:**

The John S. Silvers Estate at 1 North Main Street is sited on a square parcel (Block 23, Lot 71.01) located on the west side of North Main Street in Cranbury Township, Middlesex County, New Jersey. The dwelling is oriented with its primary elevation facing east and is set back approximately 20 feet from North Main Street. A concrete sidewalk, which runs along North Main Street, spans the east side of the parcel. The property is located approximately 50 feet west of Brainerd Lake. The property is lightly wooded and shrubs and perennial plantings about the dwelling on all elevations. 1 North Main Street is located in a primarily residential neighborhood, surrounded by residential properties dating from the mid-nineteenth to the early twentieth century. A small, gravel public parking lot is located north of the dwelling.

<b>Registration and Status</b>	<b>National Historic Landmark?:</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Dates:</b>	<b>National Register:</b> 9/18/1980	<b>SHPO Opinion:</b>
	<b>New Jersey Register:</b> 8/9/1979	<b>Local Designation:</b> 9/26/1988
	<b>Determination of Eligibility:</b> 3/25/1977	<b>Other Designation:</b>
	<b>Certification of Eligibility:</b>	<b>Other Designation Date:</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Eligibility Worksheet included in present survey?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Is this Property an identifiable farm or former farm?</b>		

**Survey Name:** Cranbury CLG Survey 2017

**Surveyor:** Kristen Herrick

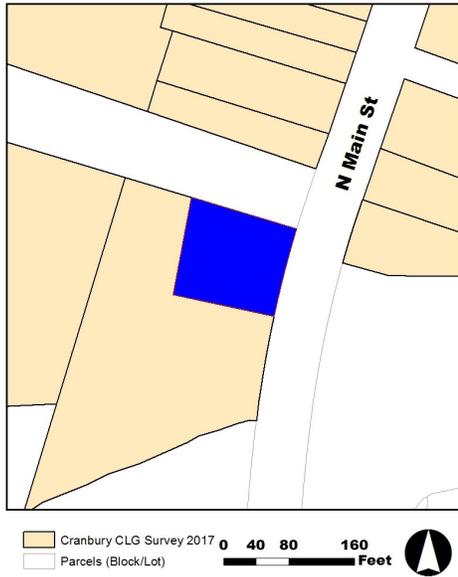
**Organization:** RGA, Inc.

(Primary Contact)

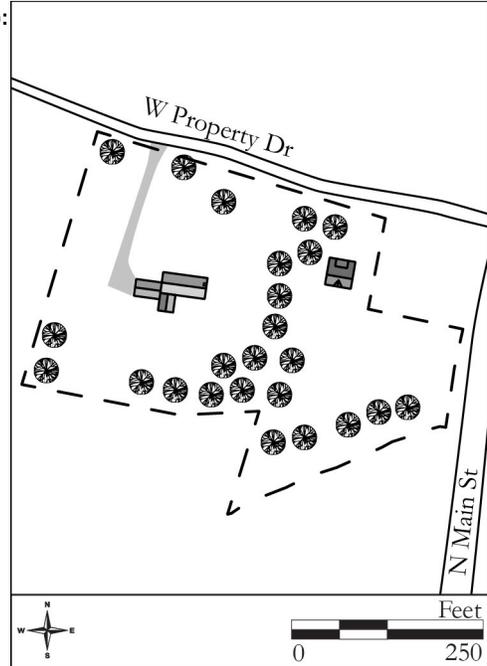
**Property ID:**

**-1104189321**

Location Map:



Site Map:



**BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

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		
Chambers, John Whiteclay II	Cranbury: A New Jersey Town from the Colonial Era to the Present	2012		

**Additional Information:**

The 1989 Heritage Studies survey identified the John S. Silvers Estate at 1 North Main Street as a key-contributing resource to the Cranbury Historic District due to its prominent location along Cranbury Brook and its many Queen Anne style features. RGA concurs with the previous evaluation and recommends the John S. Silvers Estate at 1 North Main Street as a key-contributing resource due to its date of construction, design, and use of materials compatible with the district.

**More Research Needed?**  (checked=Yes)

**INTENSIVE-LEVEL USE ONLY:**

**Attachments Included:**

2 Building	0 Bridge
0 Structure	0 Landscape
0 Object	0 Industry

**Historic District ?**

**District Name:** Cranbury Historic District

**Status:** Key Contributing

**Associated Archeological Site/Deposits?**

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

**Survey Name:** Cranbury CLG Survey 2017

**Surveyor:** Kristen Herrick

**Organization:** RGA, Inc.

**Property ID:**

**-1104189321**

(Primary Contact)

Conversion Problem?  ConversionNote: 36

Date form completed: 6/26/2017

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**Survey Name:** Cranbury CLG Survey 2017

**Surveyor:** Kristen Herrick

**Organization:** RGA, Inc.

(Primary Contact)

**Property ID:**

**-1104189321**

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## BUILDING ATTACHMENT

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**Common Name:** Dwelling, John S. Silvers Estate

**Historic Name:** Dwelling, John S. Silvers Estate

**Present Use:** Residential, permanent

**Historic Use:** Residential, permanent

**ConstructionDate:** 1886      **Source:** Walsh 1979; Cranbury Historical and Preservation Society n.d.

**Construction  
Start Date:**

**Construction  
End Date:**

**Style:** Queen Anne

Vernacular Style?

**Form:** Other

**Physical Condition:** Good

**Type:** Other

**Remaining Historic Fabric:** High

**Roof Finish Materials:** Slate

**Stories:** 2.5

**Exterior Finish Materials:** Metal, Aluminum--Siding

**Bays:** 3

**Exterior Description:**

See Property Form

**Interior Description:**

Not Accessible

**Alteration Dates:**

Alteration(s):	Circa Date:	Date Range:	Source:
Physical alteration	1905	to	Historic photograph of 1 North Main Street dated circa 1905, on file, Cranbury Historical and Preservation Society.

**Architect/Designer::**

Type:	Name:	Person/Firm Description:
Other	John S. Silvers	John S. Silvers was a prominent Cranbury businessman who owned the American Spice Mills during the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries.

*Date form completed:*                      6/29/2017

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**Survey Name:** Cranbury CLG Survey 2017

**Surveyor:** Kristen Herrick

**Organization:** RGA, Inc.

(Primary Contact)

**Property ID:**

-1104189321

## BUILDING ATTACHMENT

**Common Name:** Carriage House, John S. Silvers Estate

**Historic Name:** Carriage House, John S. Silvers Estate

**Present Use:** Unclassifiable Activities

**Historic Use:** Unclassifiable Activities

**ConstructionDate:** 1910

**Source:**

**Construction  
Start Date:**

**Construction  
End Date:**

**Style:** Queen Anne

Vernacular Style?

**Form:** Gable Front

**Physical Condition:** Good

**Type:** Carriage House

**Remaining Historic Fabric:** High

**Roof Finish Materials:** Slate

**Stories:** 2.5

**Exterior Finish Materials:** Wood, Clapboard

**Bays:** 4

### Exterior Description:

The carriage house of the John S. Silvers Estate at 1 North Main Street is a two-and-a-half-story tall, four-bay wide, four-bay deep, frame outbuilding constructed circa 1910 with Queen Anne details. The front-gabled roof is sheathed with slate shingles. An intersecting gable sits on the south bent and a shed roof dormer sits on the north bent of the roof. A metal weathervane crowns the front (east) gable end at the ridgeline. The exterior of the building is clad in wood clapboard siding with wood fish scale shingles in the front and south gable end. On the front elevation, two large brackets support the overhanging eaves. A louvered wood window with a molded lintel (original) sits in the front gable end. Windows on the front elevation are six-over-six, double-hung, wood-sash windows with molded lintels (original). Two paneled wood barn doors are located on the second floor. The first floor features paired six-over-six, double-hung, wood-sash windows with molded lintels (original) in the south bay, a paneled barn door, a single replacement door with nine inset lights, and a paneled wood roll-top garage door in the north bay. Windows on the south elevation are six-over-six, double-hung, wood-sash windows with molded lintels (original). The rear elevation is not visible from the public right-of-way. The north elevation has six-over-six, double-hung, wood-sash windows with molded lintels (original).

History: The carriage house of the John S. Silvers Estate at 1 North Main Street was constructed circa 1910. It replaced an earlier carriage house, built circa 1886 (Figure 1). The subject building first appears cartographically on the 1916 Sanborn map of Cranbury Township as a two-story frame outbuilding with a slate roof. The 1933 Sanborn map indicates that the subject building was used for storage in addition to its primary function as a carriage house. The subject building has undergone little to no change in the century since its construction. The 1989 Heritage Studies survey identified the carriage house as a contributing outbuilding to the John S. Silvers Estate at 1 North Main Street. RGA concurs with the previous evaluation and recommends the subject building as a contributing resource to the Cranbury Historic District due to its date of construction, design, and use of materials compatible with the district.

### Interior Description:

Not accessible

### Alteration Dates:

### Architect/Designer::

*Date form completed:* 8/24/2017

**Survey Name:** Cranbury CLG Survey 2017

**Surveyor:** Kristen Herrick

**Organization:** RGA, Inc.

**Property ID:**

-1104189321

(Primary Contact)

## ELIGIBILITY WORKSHEET - Properties

Property ID -1104189321

### History:

Constructed in 1886 by a prominent Cranbury merchant, the John S. Silvers Estate represents the economic and architectural development of Cranbury in the late-nineteenth century (Walsh 1979). Rapid changes in business, transportation, and agriculture occurred in post-1850 Cranbury, spurred by the arrival of the Camden & Amboy Railroad in town during the 1830s and the township's incorporation in 1872 (Chambers 2012:81). Throughout the second half of the nineteenth-century, John S. Silvers rose to become a prosperous Cranbury citizen as a result of his entrepreneurial success during a time of economic growth in the township.

In 1866, Silvers entered into a business partnership with John S. Davison, who owned a spice company called American Spice Mills in Cranbury. Davison desired to expand his business with the help of a new associate and thus chose Silvers to assist him in his endeavor. Together, Davison and Silver expanded the business to include the sale of coffee. When Davison died in 1890, Silvers' brother William joined the business, which was then renamed J.S. Silvers & Bro. but still referred to as "American Mills." The Silvers brothers soon expanded the business further to include tea, sundries, and American Mills brand grocery items (Chambers 2012:83-84). In addition to his work at the mill, John S. Silvers served as president of the Cranbury Mutual Fire Insurance Company. Silvers then became the president of the First National Bank of Cranbury in 1884 (Chambers 2012:84). Two years later, at the height of his professional and economic success, Silvers constructed the subject property on the north bank of Cranbury Brook.

Historic photographs of the John S. Silvers Estate show that the porte-cochere was added to the south of the dwelling circa 1905 (Figure 1). The subject property first appears cartographically on the 1916 Sanborn map of Cranbury Township as a two-story dwelling with two wings extending to the east and west; two projecting bays, one on the front elevation and one on the south elevation; a porte-cochere, one-story front porch, and one-story porch on the west wing. A two-story frame outbuilding stands to the west. The 1933 Sanborn map indicates no changes to the subject property.

At the turn of the twentieth century, American Mills stood as a prosperous, profitable company that held a strong reputation in the grocery and restaurant industry of central New Jersey. However, by 1927, the company had experienced several periods of abrupt change and financial hardship, including the deaths of both John S. and William Silvers and a fire at the American Mills plant in Cranbury that resulted in the relocation of most production to Hightstown. The Great Depression further eroded the company's financial standing, as larger grocers such as the A&P Company outpaced smaller, independent grocers like American Mills in the wake of the nationwide economic crisis. In 1935, American Mills shuttered its doors and ceased operations (Chambers 2012:129-130).

### Statement of Significance:

The John S. Silvers Estate at 1 North Main Street represents the economic and architectural development of Cranbury in the late-nineteenth century. The arrival of the Camden & Amboy Railroad in the 1830s opened regional markets to Cranbury merchants. John S. Silvers rose to prominence in the 1860s as the owner of American Spice Mills, a wholesale grocer headquartered in Cranbury. American Spice Mills was one of many Cranbury businesses that operated on the busy North Main Street corridor during the late-nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. As Cranbury reaped the benefits of expanding regional markets and financial growth, many residents turned to more ornate Victorian architectural styles for their homes. The John S. Silvers Estate is one of few examples of a high-style Queen Anne residence in Cranbury and remains one of the most prominent homes on North Main Street.

Eligibility for New Jersey and National Registers:  Yes  No      National Register Criteria:  A  B  C  D

Level of Significance:  Local  State  National

### Justification of Eligibility/Ineligibility:

The John S. Silvers Estate at 1 North Main Street is individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criteria B and C. The property is significant at the local level for its association with an affluent Cranbury businessman, John S. Silvers, who built the property during a period of economic development in Cranbury Township. The property is also significant at the local level as an outstanding example of the Queen Anne style.

Total Number of Attachments: 2

List of Element Names: Dwelling, John S. Silvers Estate  
Carriage House, John S. Silvers Estate

Survey Name: Cranbury CLG Survey 2017

Surveyor: Kristen Herrick

Organization: RGA, Inc.

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(Primary Contact)

**Narrative Boundary Description:**  
N/A

*Date Form Completed:* 6/29/2017

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**Survey Name:** Cranbury CLG Survey 2017

**Surveyor:** Kristen Herrick

**Organization:** RGA, Inc.

(Primary Contact)

**Property ID:**

**-1104189321**

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