

PROPERTY REPORT

Property ID: -843074001

Property Name: 131 North Main Street
Address: 131 N Main ST

Ownership: Private
Apartment #: ZIP: 08512

PROPERTY LOCATION(S):

| County: | Municipality: | Local Place Name: | USGS Quad: | Block: | Lot: |
|-----------|-------------------|-------------------|------------|--------|------|
| MIDDLESEX | Cranbury township | Cranbury | Hightstown | 25 | 22 |

Property Photo:



Old HSI Number:

NRIS Number:

HABS/HAER Number:

Description:

131 North Main Street is a two-and-one-half-story-tall, five-bay-wide, two-bay-deep, frame dwelling constructed circa 1926 in the Colonial Revival style. The dwelling consists of an L-shaped footprint formed by a side-gabled main block with a two-story, gable-roof, rear (northwest) addition (added circa 1960, expanded circa 1995). A centered, exterior brick chimney extends above the southwest gable end of the main block. The roofline is accented by a wood frieze on the primary (southeast) elevation (historic, likely original) and gable-end returns (historic, likely original). The roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles throughout. The exterior of the dwelling is clad in vinyl siding. Windows are all vinyl-sash replacement units with aluminum storm windows set within vinyl surrounds. Inoperable, paneled vinyl shutters flank the windows on the primary, northeast, and southwest elevations. The primary elevation of the main block has symmetrical fenestration with eight-over-twelve windows and wood planters on the first floor, and eight-over-eight windows on the second floor. A single six-over-six window is featured in the center bay of the second floor. The central, primary entrance is sheltered by a pedimented portico with a sunburst motif (historic, likely original) supported by square wood columns (historic, likely original). Accessed by a brick and stone stoop, the entrance contains a modern paneled wood door, set within a wood surround with segmented sidelights and fluted Doric pilasters (historic, likely original). The southwest and northeast elevations of the main block both have symmetrical fenestration. Two wood quarter-circle windows (historic, likely original) flank the chimney in the southwest gable end of the main block. The first floor of the southwest elevation is sheltered by a full-length, shed-roof porch, supported by square wood posts with decorative wood brackets (historic, likely original). Beneath the porch, on either side of the chimney, there are wood screen doors. An arched, vinyl window is situated in the northeast gable end of the main block. The northeast elevation of the addition has asymmetrical fenestration with one vinyl-sash window on the first and second floors. A porch extends from the rear (northwest) elevation but is not readily visible from the public right-of-way. The dwelling stands on a parged foundation.

A 1926 one-story-tall, three-bay-wide, frame garage shed stands approximately 20 feet northwest of the dwelling and appears to currently function as an accessory dwelling unit. An asphalt-shingle, side-gabled roof tops the garage and the exterior is clad in vinyl siding. Windows on the garage are vinyl-sash units flanked by inoperable, louvered vinyl shutters. The central entrance is located on the primary (southeast) elevation and contains a wood panel door. All other elevations are not visible from the public right-of-way.

Character-defining elements of the dwelling include its massing, pedimented portico with sunburst motif, wood door surround with Doric pilasters, gable-end returns, wood quarter-circle windows in the southwest gable end of the main block, and southwest side porch.

Survey Name: Cranbury Historic Sites Survey Phase III

Surveyor: Matthew Goldberg

Organization: Richard Grubb & Associates, Inc.

☒ (Primary Contact)

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History: 131 North Main Street was constructed circa 1926 and is an example of an early twentieth-century, Colonial Revival-style dwelling in Cranbury. In 1924, the large tract of land on which the subject dwelling was later built was purchased by Ezekiel S. Barclay at a sheriff's sale (Middlesex County Clerk's Office [MCCO] 1924 Deed Book 771:49). Two years later, Ezekiel sold a small parcel that encompassed the subject property to William F. Perrine, a carpenter (MCCO 1926 Deed Book 2503:641; United States Bureau of the Census 1930). The subject dwelling and garage were likely constructed for Perrine shortly thereafter, and first appear in a 1930 aerial photograph as one of the first residential properties built north of Plainsboro Road on North Main Street (New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection 1930). A 1940 aerial photograph clearly shows the dwelling in nearly its current form (Nationwide Environmental Title [NETR] 1940). Around 1960, a one-story addition was constructed on the rear elevation of the dwelling (NETR 1957, 1963). In the 1980s, the dwelling was partially destroyed in a fire and subsequently reconstructed (Cranbury Historic Preservation Commission 2023). The nature of the fire and what materials were replaced as a result are unclear. The 1989 Heritage Studies inventory of the Cranbury Historic District indicates that the dwelling was clad in wood clapboard siding at that time (Heritage Studies 1989). The rear addition was expanded to its current height and width around 1995 (NETR 1987, 1995, 2002). Sometime between 1989 and the present day, the extant vinyl siding was installed on the exterior of the dwelling.

Setting:

131 North Main Street is sited on a rectangular parcel (Block 25, Lot 22) located on the northwest side of North Main Street in Cranbury Township, Middlesex County, New Jersey. The dwelling is oriented with its primary elevation facing southeast and is set back approximately 55 feet from the road. A gravel driveway extends along the northeast border of the property and a brick path leads to the primary entrance. Mature trees and shrubs are planted within close proximity to the dwelling. The subject property is located in a residential neighborhood surrounded by properties dating from the mid-nineteenth to the late twentieth centuries.

**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

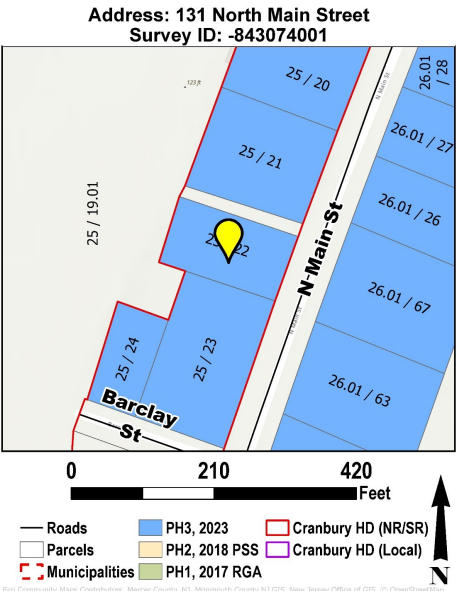
Other Designation:

Other Designation Date:

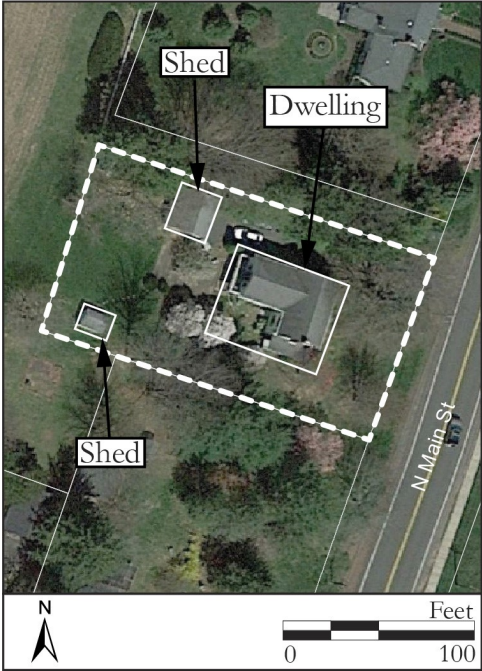
☐ **Eligibility Worksheet included in present survey?**

☐ **Is this Property an identifiable farm or former farm?**

Location Map:



Site Map:



BIBLIOGRAPHY:

| Author: | Title: | Year: | HPO Accession #: (if applicable) |
|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----------------------------------|
| Nationwide Environmental Title Research (NETR) | Historic Aerial Photograph. Electronic Document, http://www.historicaerials.com , accessed May 2023. | 1963 | |
| Nationwide Environmental Title Research (NETR) | Historic Aerial Photograph. Electronic Document, http://www.historicaerials.com , accessed May 2023. | 1987 | |
| Nationwide Environmental Title Research (NETR) | Historic Aerial Photograph. Electronic Document, http://www.historicaerials.com , accessed May 2023. | 1995 | |
| Nationwide Environmental Title Research (NETR) | Historic Aerial Photograph. Electronic Document, http://www.historicaerials.com , accessed May 2023. | 2002 | |

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Research (NETR)

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|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection | NJ-GeoWeb. Electronic Document, https://www.nj.gov/dep/gis/geoweb splash.htm , accessed March 2023. | 1930 |
| United States Bureau of the Census | Population Schedule, Township of Cranbury, Middlesex County, New Jersey. | 1930 |
| Walsh, Ruth | National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form for the Cranbury Historic District, Township of Cranbury, Middlesex County, New Jersey. On file, New Jersey Historic Preservation Office, Trenton, New Jersey. | 1980 |
| Cranbury Historic Preservation Commission | Meeting with the Cranbury Historic Preservation Commission, May 2, 2023. | 2023 |
| Heritage Studies | Preserving Historic Cranbury Village. Prepared for the Cranbury Township Historic Preservation Advisory Committee. | 1989 |
| Middlesex County Clerk's Office | On file, Middlesex County Clerk's Office, New Brunswick, New Jersey. | |
| Nationwide Environmental Title Research (NETR) | Historic Aerial Photograph. Electronic Document, http://www.historicaerials.com , accessed May 2023. | 1940 |
| Nationwide Environmental Title Research (NETR) | Historic Aerial Photograph. Electronic Document, http://www.historicaerials.com , accessed May 2023. | 1957 |

Additional Information:

The dwelling at 131 North Main Street was identified in the 1980 Cranbury Historic District National Register of Historic Places nomination and evaluated as a non-contributing (harmonious) resource in the 1989 Heritage Studies inventory of the district (Walsh 1980; Heritage Studies 1989). Richard Grubb & Associates, Inc. recommends 131 North Main Street as a contributing resource to the Cranbury Historic District due to its date of construction and design. Despite replacement of materials as a result of a fire in the 1980s, the dwelling retains sufficient integrity of design, workmanship, setting, location, feeling, and association to convey the significance of the historic district.

More Research Needed? ☐ (checked=Yes)

INTENSIVE-LEVEL USE ONLY:

Attachments Included:

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Building | <input type="checkbox"/> Bridge |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Structure | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Object | <input type="checkbox"/> 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:** 1202_25_22

Date form completed: 6/21/2023

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PROPERTY REPORT: PHOTO CONTINUATION SHEET

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Photo 2



Photo 3

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Photo 4