

PROPERTY REPORT

Property ID: **-118194307**

Property Name: John Petty House

Ownership: Private

Address: 85 N Main ST

Apartment #:

ZIP: 08512

PROPERTY LOCATION(S):

County:	Municipality:	Local Place Name:	USGS Quad:	Block:	Lot:
MIDDLESEX	Cranbury township	Cranbury	Hightstown	28	10

Property Photo:



Old HSI Number:

NRIS Number:

HABS/HAER Number:

Description:

The John Petty House at 85 North Main Street is a two-story, three-bay, two-pile, frame private residence constructed circa 1861. The main block has wings off each end and a two-part rear addition. A large garage stands behind the house. The John Petty House at 85 North Main Street was constructed in two sections; the rear (northwest) section of the dwelling dates to 1861, while the front (southeast) section of the dwelling was added eight years later. The front section contains the Second Presbyterian Church chapel, built circa 1839 at the corner of Westminster Place and North Main Street, southeast of the subject dwelling. John Petty purchased the chapel in 1869, when a new Second Presbyterian Church was constructed, and attached it to his extant dwelling at 85 North Main Street (Chambers 2012:59; Cranbury Historical and Preservation Society).

The main block has a side gabled roof sheathed with asphalt shingles that features an exterior brick chimney at each end of the ridge. The rebuilt cornice is supported by original thick decorative brackets. The exterior of the dwelling is clad in wood clapboard siding. Fenestration is symmetrical. All windows are replacement six-over-six vinyl-sash units with undersized louvered shutters; those on the first floor are paired. The house has a Colonial Revival entrance consisting of an oversized gable supported by thin pilasters and enclosing the eight-paneled door with its segmented elliptical fanlight and segmented sidelights. The main block has a stone foundation.

The south end of the house faces onto Bunker Hill Drive. The chimney breaks through the asphalt-shingled roof at the ridge. The extended

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Surveyor: Kristen Herrick

Organization: RGA, Inc.

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raking cornice has no brackets, but the cornice returns have two brackets each. The clapboard wall surface has two replacement six-over-six double hung sash windows with undersized louvered shutters on the second floor. The first floor has a relocated window near the southeast corner. A one-story addition on this end of the house has a hipped roof clad with asphalt shingles, frame walls clad with vinyl siding, and six-over-six windows with vinyl sashes and undersized louvered shutters.

The north end of the house is mostly obscured by vegetation. A two-story addition here is centered on the end wall. It has a gabled roof clad with asphalt shingles, frame walls clad with vinyl siding, and six-over-six vinyl sash windows with undersized louvered shutters.

On the rear, the house has a two-story addition and a one-story addition. The two-story addition is a shed-roofed element extending along the entire rear elevation of the main block. It has parapets at each end below a molded cornice. The wall surface is clad with vinyl siding. The rear elevation has four windows, and the end walls have one window (all windows are replacement six-over-six vinyl sash units). The one-story addition is attached to the rear of the two-story addition. It has a nearly flat, hipped roof, vinyl-clad walls, modern door on the south elevation, and four windows on the west elevation.

Character-defining elements of the dwelling include a bracketed cornice and exterior brick chimneys at the north and south gable ends.

History:

The 1916 Sanborn Atlas shows the house mostly as it appears today. The addition on the north end of the main block is not shown, and the one-story rear addition is smaller than the current section. By the time of the 1933 Sanborn Atlas, the north addition had been constructed. Both atlases show the garage. Historic aerials do not assist in dating the one-story rear addition because it is in the shadow of the main block of the house on most aerials.

Setting:

The John Petty House at 85 North Main Street is sited on a rectangular parcel (Block 28, Lot 10) located on the west side of North Main Street in Cranbury Township, Middlesex County, New Jersey. The parcel is bounded to the east by North Main Street and to the south by Bunker Hill Drive. The dwelling is oriented with its primary elevation facing southeast and is set back approximately 30 feet from North Main Street. A concrete sidewalk spans the east and south sides of the parcel. Trees are planted along the curb between the dwelling and North Main Street. A paved driveway leads north from Bunker Hill Drive to a two-story frame garage located west of the dwelling. The property is lightly wooded. The John Petty House at 85 North Main Street is located in a mixed residential and commercial neighborhood surrounded by residential and commercial properties dating from the mid-nineteenth to the early 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?

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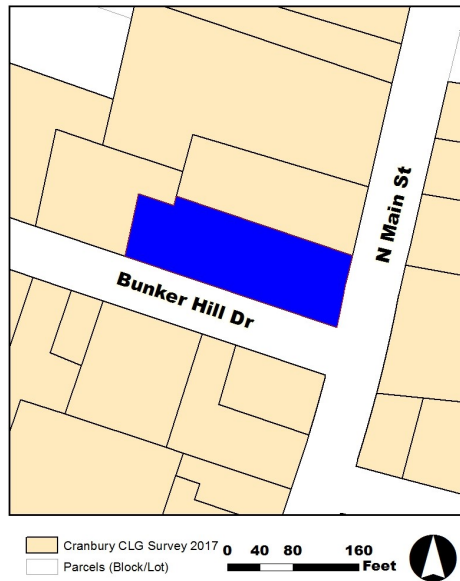
☒ (Primary Contact)

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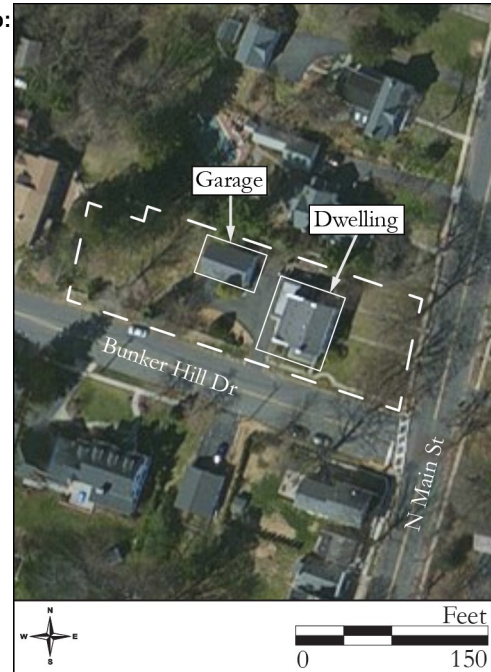
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Location Map:



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		
Cranbury Historical and Preservation Society	Property File, 85 North Main Street			

Additional Information:

The 1989 Heritage Studies survey identified the John Petty House at 85 North Main Street as a contributing resource to the Cranbury Historic District. RGA concurs with the previous evaluation and recommends the John Petty House at 85 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: ☐ Building ☐ Bridge
☐ Structure ☐ Landscape
☐ Object ☐ Industry

Historic District ? ☒

District Name: Cranbury Historic District

Status: Contributing

Associated Archeological Site/Deposits? ☐

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

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Conversion Problem? ☐ ConversionNote: 38

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