

PROPERTY REPORT

Property ID: **143388809**

Property Name: Elwood Van Dusen House **Ownership:** Private
Address: 97 N Main ST **Apartment #:** **ZIP:** 08512

PROPERTY LOCATION(S):

County:	Municipality:	Local Place Name:	USGS Quad:	Block:	Lot:
MIDDLESEX	Cranbury township	Cranbury	Hightstown	28	3

Property Photo:



Old HSI Number:

NRIS Number:

HABS/HAER Number:

Description:

The Elwood Van Dusen House at 97 North Main Street is a two-story tall, three-bay wide, three-bay deep, frame private residence constructed circa 1896 in a vernacular style. The dwelling has a front gable and wing form with a one-story addition to the rear. The house has a simple molded cornice and wood soffits. An exterior brick chimney is attached onto the north elevation, and an interior brick chimney is located near the west wall. The frame walls are clad with aluminum siding. Fenestration is primarily replacement one-over-one units with vinyl sashes, many with two-paneled shutters. On the main (east) elevation, the face of the front gable has a square attic window, a paired unit on the second floor, and a picture window on the first floor with an original stained glass transom. The house has an L-shaped front porch that wraps around the east and south sides of the front gable; its shallow-pitched hipped roof is clad with asphalt shingles and is supported by three thin, unfluted Doric columns connected by a railing of square balusters. The door is located at the rear of the porch and appears to be a replacement unit. The porch features brick piers below the columns and two frame steps leading down to the grade of the front lawn.

The north elevation is a mostly solid wall. The wall cladding is repeated from the main elevation: asphalt shingles on the roof and aluminum walls. The attached brick chimney is the key feature of the elevation. The south elevation faces onto the property drive. The exterior cladding of the house is again repeated: asphalt shingles on the roof and aluminum walls. Fenestration consists of one-over-one replacement vinyl sash units; those on the south elevation of the gable front have two-paneled shutters, and the first floor window on the

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south gable is paired. The house has a stone foundation.

The rear addition is a two-story, gabled section that extends along the entire rear of the house core. Its roof is clad with asphalt shingles; the steep profile means that the view of the addition from the public right-of-way has the appearance of a one-story section. The addition has three small windows on the south elevation and a single window on the north elevation.

Character-defining elements of the dwelling include the original L-shape, the front porch, and the stained glass window.

History: Elwood Van Dusen, a Milltown resident, first lived in the Elias Dey House at 95 North Main Street before building the subject dwelling at 97 North Main Street. Van Dusen worked for the J.S. Silvers Spice Company in Cranbury for over 40 years. The house appears on the 1916 Sanborn Atlas with its current shape: the L-shaped core, its front porch, and the two-story rear addition. A small one-car garage stood southwest of the house. The 1933 Sanborn Atlas shows the house substantially the same. Historic aerial photographs indicate that the freestanding garage was demolished circa 1965. The house has had no additions since 1916. According to historic aerial photographs, the one-story shed was constructed circa 2007.

Setting:

The Elwood Van Dusen House at 97 North Main Street is sited on a rectangular parcel (Block 28, Lot 5) 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 15 feet from North Main Street. A concrete sidewalk spans the east side of the parcel. A loose gravel driveway leads west from North Main Street to the property's lightly wooded backyard. The Elwood Van Dusen House at 97 North Main Street is located in a primarily residential neighborhood surrounded by other residential 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?

Location Map:

Site Map:



BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Author:	Title:	Year:	HPO Accession #:	(if applicable)
Walsh, Ruth	National Register of Historic Places Nomination for the	1979		

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Cranbury Historic District, Cranbury Township, Middlesex
County, New Jersey

Heritage Studies

Preserving Historic Cranbury Village

1989

Additional Information:

The 1989 Heritage Studies survey found that the Elwood Van Dusen House at 97 North Main Street is a contributing resource to the Cranbury Historic District. RGA concurs with the previous evaluation and recommends the Elwood Van Dusen House at 97 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: 90

Date form completed: 7/25/2017

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