

## PROPERTY REPORT

Property ID: 1458521327

**Property Name:** Robert McChesney House

**Ownership:** Private

**Address:** 89 N Main ST

**Apartment #:**

**ZIP:** 08512

### PROPERTY LOCATION(S):

County:	Municipality:	Local Place Name:	USGS Quad:	Block:	Lot:
MIDDLESEX	Cranbury township	Cranbury	Hightstown	28	8

### Property Photo:



**Old HSI Number:**

**NRIS Number:**

**HABS/HAER Number:**

### Description:

The Robert McChesney House at 89 North Main Street is a two-and-a-half-story, five-bay, one-pile, frame private residence constructed circa 1825 and later renovated with Queen Anne style elements. The house has two rear additions: a two-story section aligned with the north end wall and a one-story section aligned with the south end wall.

The main block has a cross-gabled roof sheathed with asphalt shingles. A shallow centered cross-gable breaks through the molded cornice. A square brick interior chimney is located near each end of the ridge. The thick molded cornice doubles as an interior gutter system and is supported by thick brackets that are attached to an expressed wood frieze. The exterior of the dwelling is clad in wood clapboard siding. Fenestration is generally symmetrical. Windows on the main elevation include some two-over-two wood sash units (dating to the late nineteenth century) and some six-over-six wood-sash units (possibly original) with aluminum screen windows and molded wood lintels. Operable louvered shutters flank the windows. A rectangular bay aligned with the north wall is a two-story element. The bay has a shed roof, and the main block's molded cornice with its brackets and frieze wrap around the bay. The bay's second floor is clad with hexagonal wood shingles, and the first floor is clad with clapboards. The face of the bay has a large multi-light window on the first and second floor level, each with undersized louvered shutters, and the flanking panels have a six-over-six double hung sash window (possibly dating to the construction of the bay) flanked by louvered shutters. The central entrance consists of paired one-light, one-panel wood doors in a molded surround. The front porch is a one-story element extending over the center three bays. It has a hipped, nearly flat

**Survey Name:** Cranbury CLG Survey 2017

**Surveyor:** Kristen Herrick

**Organization:** RGA, Inc.

☒ (Primary Contact)

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roof with a bracketed cornice and wood frieze, supported by four Doric columns. The house has a stone foundation.

The north end of the house faces onto the property drive. The asphalt-shingled roof and its brick chimney are highly visible on this elevation. The molded raking cornice features the same decorative brackets attached to the frieze and also displays cornice returns. The wall surface is clad with clapboards, with a painted brick fireback centered on the elevation. The only wall openings are two small four-light attic windows (possibly original) and a six-over-six double hung sash window (possibly original) with louvered shutters on the second floor. The south end is not visible from the public right-of-way but has the same appearance as the north end.

The two-story rear addition faces north and is mostly obscured from the public right-of-way. It has a gabled roof clad with asphalt shingles, a molded cornice with unusual ogee brackets, and a wood frieze. The wall surface is clad with wood clapboards. Windows are six-over-six units (possibly original) with louvered shutters on the second floor. The dominant feature of the first floor is a full-length porch with a shed roof, the same unusual ogee brackets found on the section's walls, and four square posts. A one-story addition is located on the south elevation of the two-story addition.

Character-defining elements of the dwelling include a semi-hexagonal projecting bay with flared eaves, a bracketed cornice, and a one-story front porch.

#### History:

The 1916 Sanborn Atlas shows the main block of the house with its bay and front porch, plus the two-story rear addition with its porch. The outbuilding in the rear of the lot also appears. The 1933 Sanborn Atlas depicts the property the same way. The house appears on the historic aerial photographs beginning with 1940. The only change to the appearance of the house is the one-story rear addition. This section is often in the shadow of the main block and difficult to discern in the historic aerial photographs but does appear to have been constructed by the time of the aerial of 1957. Robert McChesney purchased the 14 acres on which he built the subject dwelling in 1825. In the 1840s, the dwelling was home to Bethuel Bunker, for whom Bunker Hill Drive is named. John C. Barlow, the head bookkeeper for the J.S. Silvers Spice Company in Cranbury, lived in the subject dwelling in the early twentieth century (Cranbury Historical and Preservation Society n.d.)

#### Setting:

The Robert McChesney House at 89 North Main Street is sited on a rectangular parcel (Block 28, Lot 8) located on the east 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 50 feet from North Main Street. A concrete sidewalk spans the east side of the parcel. A paved driveway leads west from North Main Street is a two-story carriage house located west of the dwelling. The property is heavily wooded with an expansive backyard planted in grass. The Robert McChesney House at 89 North Main Street is located in a primarily residential neighborhood surrounded by residential properties dating from the mid-nineteenth to the early twentieth centuries.

#### Registration and Status

National Historic Landmark?: ☐

#### Dates:

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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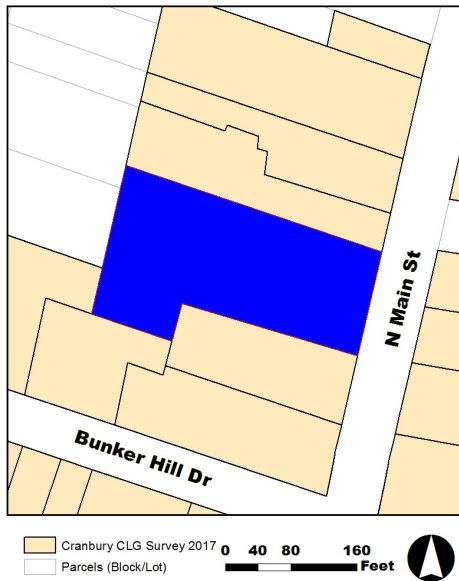
☒ (Primary Contact)

**Property ID:**

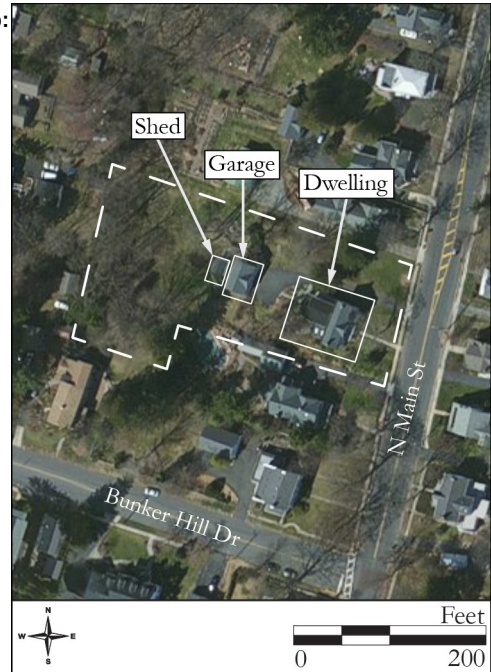
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Location Map:



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		

#### Additional Information:

The 1989 Heritage Studies survey identified the Robert McChesney House at 89 North Main Street as a contributing resource to the Cranbury Historic District. RGA concurs with the previous evaluation and recommends the Robert McChesney House at 89 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: 108

Date form completed: 7/10/2017

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