

PROPERTY REPORT

Property ID: 2092052332

Property Name: Westminster Cemetery of Cranbury
Address: MAPLEWOOD AVE

Ownership: Private
Apartment #: **ZIP:** 08512

PROPERTY LOCATION(S):

County:	Municipality:	Local Place Name:	USGS Quad:	Block:	Lot:
MIDDLESEX	Cranbury township			29	11

Property Photo:



Old HSI Number: **NRIS Number:** **HABS/HAER Number:** 65

Description:

PS&S recommends that the Westminster Cemetery, established in 1838, is a contributing property in the Cranbury Historic District.

The Westminster Cemetery, formerly part of the property of the now-defunct Second Presbyterian Church congregation, consists today of a relatively flat, open burying ground with rows of markers and access and circulation roads. There are 3 vehicle entrances to these roads. The southernmost of these, facing Westminster Place, includes stone pillars that visual evidence suggests date to ca. 1875-1885. The 2 entrances from Maplewood Avenue do not include historic entrance posts. The monuments occur in a variety of stones, but are primarily of marble and granite. The earliest markers are in the southwest corner of the lot near where the former church was located. The iconography of the markers is typical for the period of burial. The markers are relatively consistent in scale, with the largest obelisks being noticeably higher, but not proportionally oversized relative to the smaller, lower markers. There are no visible historic walls or railings marking family areas. A low, granite sign with the name of the cemetery is located at the intersection of Maplewood Avenue and Westminster Place, and appears to date to the 1990s or later.

What is now the Westminster Cemetery was formerly associated with the Second Presbyterian Church of Cranbury. It was not included in the 1980 National Register Nomination for the Cranbury Historic District or in the 1989 Heritage Studies inventory. This congregation was founded in 1838, when 29 members left the First Presbyterian Church after a failed attempt to have the trustees enlarge the original

Survey Name: Cranbury Local Historic District Survey 2018

Principal Investigator: Emily Cooperman

Organization: Paulus, Sokolowski & Sartor

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congregation's building. After the re-unification of the churches in 1935, the Second Presbyterian Church building, which fronted on Westminster Place roughly halfway between N. Main Street and Maplewood Avenue, was demolished. The cemetery remains the property of the First Presbyterian Church. Historic aerial photographs indicate that the cemetery road system has existed as it does today since at least 1931, and indicates no tree plantings within the cemetery since that date.

This property is a contributing property in the historic district because it is an integral part of the historic district and retains integrity and such key historic character-defining features as its historic monuments, historic open plan, and circulation system.

Setting:

Maplewood Avenue is an approximately half-mile long primarily residential street that connects N. Main Street, to the northwest, to Route 130, to the northeast. Maplewood runs parallel to N. Main Street between Scott Ave. and Park Place, after which it turns to the northeast to form a southwest extension of Cranbury-South River Road.

Registration and Status

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

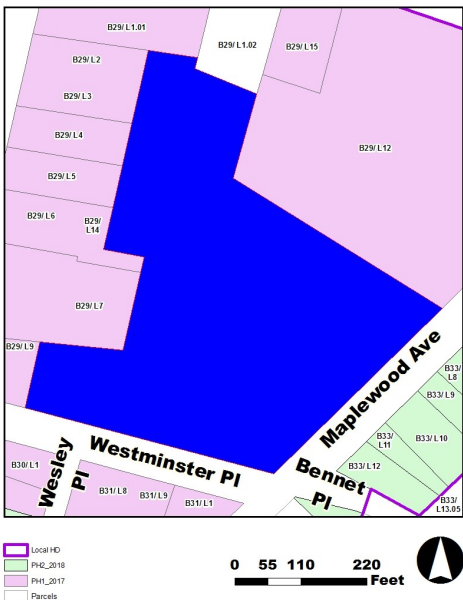
Other Designation:

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)
Chambers, John Whiteclay II	Cranbury: A New Jersey Town from the Colonial Era to the Present	2012	
(None Listed)	1876 Everts and Stewart Map	1876	
Heritage Studies	Preserving Cranbury Township	1989	
Brennan, Peggy and Frank J. Jr.	Images of America: Cranbury, Volume II	1998	
(None Listed)	Aerial and street view photography for 1931, 1940, 1947, 1953, 1957, 1963, 1969, 1970, 1972, 1979, 1987, 1995,		

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2002, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2013, and 2015
available at historicaerials.com and for 1995, 2002, 2006,
2007, 2008, 2010, 2013, 2016, and 2017 available
through Google Earth

Walsh, Ruth	National Register of Historic Places Nomination for the Cranbury Historic District, Cranbury Township, Middlesex County, New Jersey	1979
(None Listed)	1933 Sanborn Map	1933
(None Listed)	1850 Otley and Kelly Map	1850
Brennan, Peggy and Frank J. Jr.	Images of America: Cranbury	1995
(None Listed)	1916 Sanborn Map	1916

Additional Information:

1202_29_11 / / 0000

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:

Date form completed: 6/11/2018

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