

## PROPERTY REPORT

Property ID: 2054872538

**Property Name:** Old American Hotel

**Ownership:** Private

**Address:** 1-5 SCOTT AVE

**Apartment #:**

**ZIP:** 08512

**PROPERTY LOCATION(S):**

County:	Municipality:	Local Place Name:	USGS Quad:	Block:	Lot:
MIDDLESEX	Cranbury township			32	26

**Property Photo:**



**Old HSI Number:**

**NRIS Number:**

**HABS/HAER Number:** 99

**Description:**

PS&S recommends that 1-3-5 Scott Avenue, built circa 1850, is a contributing property in the Cranbury Historic District.

The 2-story, side gable-roofed, rectangular plan main block of this clapboard and aluminum siding-clad historic hotel on a brick foundation is 8 bays wide and 2 bays deep and is fronted on the southwest by a 2-story, composite-roofed, full-width porch and backed on the northeast by a 2-story, partial-width volume on the southeast bays. The rear volume is in turn backed by a 1-story, shed-roofed, centered porch. A 1-story, hipped-roofed el flanks the northwest side of the rear volume. The roofs are predominantly clad in asphalt shingle and the windows throughout have 1/1 replacement wood sash. Two interior brick chimneys are located towards the northwest of the southwest roof slope of the main block and at the center of the northeast elevation of the rear volume. The rear chimney has been stuccoed, with an exposed brick chimney cap. All elevations are clad in aluminum siding except the southwest, main elevation, which is clad in clapboard. The front porch includes historic 2-story, square-section pillars with recessed panels and simple capitals. The second floor porch includes a historic rail with crossed balusters between vertical balusters. The roofline of the porch is articulated by a bracketed cornice. The main volume has 3 primary entrances: a historic, replacement door with a single light over recessed panels and a paneled door surround in the northwest bay, a historic, replacement single-light door with historic single-light sidelights and transom in the southeast, central bay, and a historic, replacement, single-light door with a single-light transom in the adjacent southeast bay. The second floor porch is accessed by 3 doors that correspond to the doors of the first floor, though offset in the southwest bay. The remaining bays of both floors are regularly

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**Principal Investigator:** Emily Cooperman

☐ (Primary Contact)

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**Organization:** Paulus, Sokolowski & Sartor

fenestrated, though offset from one floor to the next in some bays. The northwest, side elevation is regularly fenestrated. The southeast, side elevation is lighted by 2 windows on the first floor of the main block and a single window on each floor of the rear volume. The rear porch covers the central bays of the northeast elevation of the rear volume and includes square-plan posts and a simple rail with square-plan balusters. The 2 halves of the rear volume mirror each other and are each lighted by 2 windows on each floor with a 4-light, historic door in the outer porch bay. The northwest bay of the main volume is lighted by a window on each floor.

Scott Avenue, which connects N. Main Street to Maplewood Avenue, was largely developed during the 3rd quarter of the 19th century, with hotels on both corners of Scott and N. Main by 1876. The predecessor of the American Hotel is documented on the 1850 Otley and Keily map at the north corner of N. Main Street and Scott Avenue. The 1980 National Register of Historic Places Nomination for the Cranbury Historic District reports that the hotel was constructed circa 1850. John W. Chambers reports that Corson's Tavern was built at this location in 1854 and then rebuilt in as the American Hotel in 1869 in the current form of the subject building (Chambers, Chapter 2). The 1876 Everts and Stewart map documents the building in its Main Street location as the "Hotel Mrs. M. I. Bowne." Brennan and Brennan report that the hotel, successively called the American Hotel and the Temperance Inn, was relocated in 1910 by Harry Scott to the northwest corner of the intersection of Scott and Maplewood Avenue, and that after the move the property became a boarding house and a library. A photograph taken circa 1905 depicts the hotel with 6/6 sash windows with shutters, paired doors in the northwest bay, and 2 doors in the southeast bays, 1 with a door surround and 1 with a transom (Brennan and Brennan, 1995: p. 50). The building is documented on the 1916 Sanborn map as a 2-story, rectangular-plan, mixed-use with a 2-story, full-width front porch and 1-story, partial-width, central back porch. The building is divided into 3 main components: 2 dwellings on the southeast and the public library on the northwest. A 1-story carriage house is located to the northwest of the building. The 1933 Sanborn map documents the building as 3 2-story dwellings with a full-width, 2-story, front porch. The 2 dwellings to the southeast are backed by 2-story volumes which are in turn backed by a 1-story central porch. The 1974 photographic inventory of Cranbury historic buildings in the collection of the Cranbury Historical and Preservation Society shows the building with a concrete porch base and 1/1 window sash, strongly suggesting that the window sash was replaced before the mid-20th century.

1-3-5 Scott Avenue is a contributing property in the Cranbury Historic District because it retains integrity and historic character-defining features such as its historic massing, historic southwest elevation clapboard, historic replacement doors, historic porch pillars, historic porch rail, historic bracketed cornice, and historic chimneys.

**Setting:**

Scott Avenue is a short residential street on the north side of Brainerd Lake that connects N. Main Street, to the northwest, to Maplewood Avenue, to the southeast. The residences are predominantly single family dwellings of moderate size.

**Registration  
and Status**

**National Historic Landmark?:** ☐

**National Register:** 9/18/1980

**SHPO Opinion:**

**Dates:**

**New Jersey Register:** 8/9/1979

**Local Designation:** 9/26/1988

**Determination of Eligibility:** 3/25/1977

**Other Designation:**

**Certification of Eligibility:**

**Other Designation Date:**

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

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

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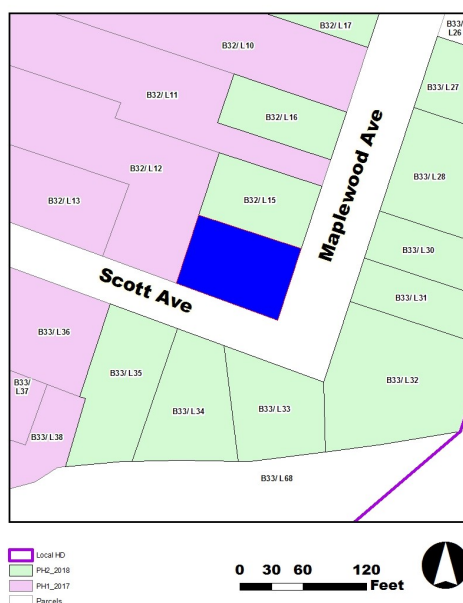
**Principal Investigator:** Emily Cooperman

☐ (Primary Contact)

**2054872538**

**Organization:** Paulus, Sokolowski & Sartor

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)	1916 Sanborn Map	1916	
Brennan, Peggy and Frank J. Jr.	Images of America: Cranbury, Volume II	1998	
(None Listed)	1850 Otley and Keily Map	1850	
(None Listed)	Aerial and street view photography for 1931, 1940, 1947, 1953, 1957, 1963, 1969, 1970, 1972, 1979, 1987, 1995, 2002, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2013, and 2015 available at <a href="http://historicaerials.com">historicaerials.com</a> 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	
Brennan, Peggy and Frank J. Jr.	Images of America: Cranbury	1995	
(None Listed)	1876 Everts and Stewart Map	1876	
Heritage Studies	Preserving Cranbury Township	1989	

**Additional Information:**

1202\_32\_26 / 2STY - 3FAMILY / 1854

More Research Needed? ☐ (checked=Yes)

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**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)

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Conversion Problem? ☐ ConversionNote:

*Date form completed:* 8/27/2018

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