

PROPERTY REPORT

Property ID: 1890815167

Property Name: First National Bank of Cranbury

Ownership: Private

Address: 32 N Main ST

Apartment #:

ZIP: 08512

PROPERTY LOCATION(S):

County:	Municipality:	Local Place Name:	USGS Quad:	Block:	Lot:
MIDDLESEX	Cranbury township	Cranbury	Hightstown	32	5

Property Photo:



Old HSI Number:

NRIS Number:

HABS/HAER Number:

Description:

First National Bank of Cranbury at 32 North Main Street is a one-story tall, three-bay wide, five-bay deep, brick commercial building constructed circa 1884 and extensively renovated in 1953 with Colonial Revival details. The building has multiple additions: a one-story, three-bay wide addition and a two-story, four-bay wide, side-gabled addition on the rear (built circa 1953); a one-story tall, seven-bay wide, side-gabled addition to the northeast (built circa 1976); and a one-story, five-bay wide, hipped roof addition to the northeast (built circa 1984). The roof is clad in slate shingles on the main block and circa 1976 addition, with asphalt shingles on the circa 1953 and circa 1984 additions. An interior brick chimney pierces the roof on the northeast slope of the main block. The exterior of the building is faced with brick on all elevations with vinyl siding in the gable ends and faux board and batten siding on the front elevation of the circa 1976 addition. A faux board and batten frieze runs beneath the eaves on the front and side elevations. A clock perforates the the front gable end of the main block. The front elevation of the main block has two six-over-six, double-hung, replacement wood-sash windows with aluminum storm windows, flanked by inoperable paneled shutters. The 1976 addition has nine-light fixed vinyl windows arranged in a row and separated by simple square pilasters. A bronze deposit box is located in the northwest corner of the main block, below one of the windows. The entrance to the main block, located in the south bay, is a single nine-light, two panel wood door with segmented sidelights above rectangular panels. A broken pediment featuring a carved urn tops the door. This entrance is accessed by a brick stoop with wrought iron railings. Another entrance, two single doors with fifteen inset lights each, is located in the north bay on the 1976 addition. This entrance is recessed and accessed by a concrete stoop and ramp with metal railings.

Survey Name: Cranbury CLG Survey 2017

Surveyor: Kristen Herrick

Organization: RGA, Inc.

☒ (Primary Contact)

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The northeast elevation features a projecting bay with a front-gabled roof and a faux board and batten frieze. This projecting bay, void of any openings, is a remnant of a drive-up service window that was added to the building circa 1953 and removed circa 2014. Windows on the northeast elevation are nine-over-nine, vinyl-sash windows with inoperable paneled shutters on the circa 1953 and circa 1984 additions. The southwest elevation also has nine-over-nine, vinyl-sash windows on the main block and the circa 1953 rear additions. A metal box with a rounded top, labeled "security alarm," is located in the west corner of the elevation, above one of the windows.

History: The original building known as First National Bank of Cranbury at 32 North Main Street was constructed circa 1884. The 1916 and 1933 Sanborn maps of Cranbury Township show the original building as a rectangular, one-story brick building with no additions and a roof clad in slate. In 1953, the original building was extensively altered to its present form (Chambers 2012:166-167). The rear additions and drive-up service windows and lanes first appear on historic aerial photographs in 1953. Historic aerial photographs also show that the one-story, seven-bay wide addition to the northeast was constructed circa 1976 and the one-story hipped roof addition to the northeast was constructed circa 1984. Between 2014 and 2015, the drive-up service lanes were removed from the northeast elevation of the subject building.

Setting:

First National Bank of Cranbury at 32 North Main Street is sited on an I-shaped parcel (Block 32, Lot 5) located on the east side of North Main Street in Cranbury Township, Middlesex County, New Jersey. The parcel extends east from North Main Street to Maplewood Avenue. The building is oriented with its primary elevation facing northwest and is set back approximately 15 feet from North Main Street. A concrete sidewalk, which runs along North Main Street, spans the west side of the parcel. A paved driveway leads west from North Main Street past the building's northeast elevation to an expansive paved parking lot. 32 North Main Street is located in a mixed residential and commercial neighborhood surrounded by properties dating from the mid-nineteenth to the early twentieth century.

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:

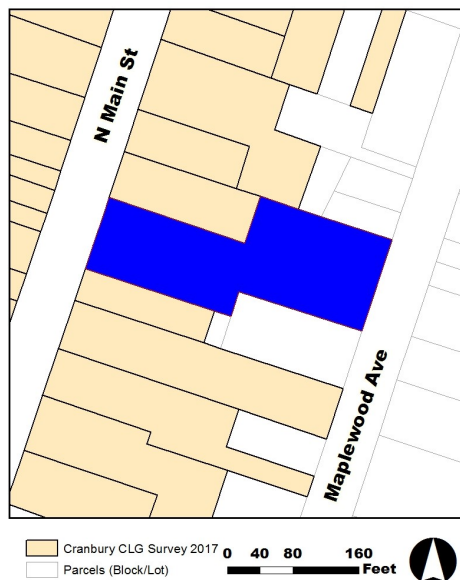
Other Designation Date:

☐ **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

(None Listed)

Additional Information:

The 1989 Heritage Studies survey identified First National Bank of Cranbury at 32 North Main Street as a contributing resource to the Cranbury Historic District. However, the subject building does not resemble the original First National Bank of Cranbury Building, constructed circa 1884. The extensive renovation of the subject building to its current form occurred in 1953, after the district's current period of significance. Therefore, RGA recommends First National Bank of Cranbury at 32 North Main Street as a non-contributing resource to the Cranbury Historic District due to its extensively altered state.

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: Non Contributing

Associated Archeological Site/Deposits? ☐

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

Conversion Problem? ☐

ConversionNote: 28

Date form completed: 6/26/2017

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