

PROPERTY REPORT

Property ID: 697934166

Property Name: Elizabeth Johnson House

Ownership: Private

Address: 15-17 S MAIN ST

Apartment #:

ZIP: 08512

PROPERTY LOCATION(S):

County:	Municipality:	Local Place Name:	USGS Quad:	Block:	Lot:
MIDDLESEX	Cranbury township			35	6

Property Photo:



Old HSI Number:

NRIS Number:

HABS/HAER Number: 87

Description:

PS&S recommends that the property at 15-17 S. Main Street, which includes a double residence and a storage building, both built circa 1845, is a contributing property in the Cranbury Historic District.

The 2-story, gable-roofed, L-plan main block of this clapboard-clad, frame, double dwelling on a parged foundation is 6 bays wide and 2 bays deep and is fronted on the northwest by a 1-story, complexly-roofed, partial wrap-around porch and backed by a 2-story, gable-roofed, partial-width secondary volume offset to the southwest and 2-story, composite-roofed volume offset to the northeast that projects beyond the northeast elevation of the main volume. A 1-story, shed-roofed addition projects from the southwest elevation of the rear volume. A scalloped, gable-roofed dormer, located in the central bay of the northwest elevation, projects above the roofline of the main volume. The roofs are clad in multiple materials and include eave returns. The windows predominantly have 1/1 sash with shutters. A dentiled frieze runs along the northwest, main elevation, and is interrupted in the central bay by sloped shingles that descend from the dormer to the porch roof. An interior brick chimney with a flared cap projects from the central bay of the gable-ridge to the southwest of the dormer. The full-width front porch wraps around the north corner of the residence and joins flush with the projecting rear volume. The porch features a rounded, conical-roofed projection at the corner and includes historic columns with dentiled capitals, a historic rail with square-plan balusters, and a historic dentiled frieze. The porch is accessed on the northwest elevation by a stair in both the northeast and southwest bays and on the northeast elevation in the southeast bay. The primary entrance to the residence, located in the northeast bay of

Survey Name: Cranbury Local Historic District Survey 2018

Property ID:

Page 1

Principal Investigator: Emily Cooperman

☐ (Primary Contact)

697934166

Organization: Paulus, Sokolowski & Sartor

the northwest elevation, includes a historic door with an oval light and historic door surround. A secondary historic single-light door is located in the southeast bay, flanked on each side by a 6/1 window. 2 6/1 windows light the remaining bays of the first floor. A third, historic single-light door is located on the northeast elevation of the rear volume. The second floor is lighted by 4 1/1 windows. A decorative diamond shingle pattern flanks the window in the central bay and is repeated in the scalloped dormer. The southwest, side elevation and southeast, rear elevations are not visible from the public right-of-way. The northeast, side elevation is lighted by 2 windows in the rear volume, a window on each floor of the northwest bay of the main volume, and a fixed, single-light, diamond window on the second floor of the southeast bay.

Historic maps indicate that South Main Street includes some of the earliest development in Cranbury. The settlement began in 1736 with the construction of a mill on the south banks of the Cranbury Brook and, by 1810, developed into a small village. Historic maps indicate that a residence was built on the property at 15-17 S. Main Street prior to 1850. The 1980 National Register Nomination for the Cranbury Historic District records the property as belonging to Elizabeth Johnson, constructed circa 1845 and largely remodeled in the early 20th century. The 1876 Everts and Stewart map identifies the owner as "H. Johnson." The residence is documented on 1916 Sanborn maps as a 2-story, frame, double-residence joined by a 1-story, wrap around front porch. Both residences are backed by a 2-story volume, although the arrangement of the massing differs between the residences and the southwest residence is also backed by a 1-story rear el. The northeast residence includes, to the northeast, an outbuilding composed successively of a 2-story storage volume, a 1-story, shed, a 2-story rear volume, and a 1-story rear el. Slightly beyond this is an 1-story building for fowls. The 1933 Sanborn map documents the same footprint and outbuilding, though the fowl coop had been demolished by this time. Historic imagery indicates that the residence has remained largely unchanged since 1974. Visual evidence suggests that the windows may have been replaced within the last ten years.

The residence is a contributing property to the historic district because integrity and historic, character-defining features such as its historic massing, historic wood doors, historic wood shutters, historic porch columns, porch rails, porch balusters, and porch dentils, historic clapboard and shingle siding, and historic scalloped dormer. The storage building retains its historic wood clapboard and historic doors, windows, and shutters.

Setting:

South Main Street stretches from Brainerd Lake to the southern edge of Cranbury and is characterized by freestanding single-family residences of moderate scale ranging in date from the early 19th century to the early 20th 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?**

Survey Name: Cranbury Local Historic District Survey 2018

Principal Investigator: Emily Cooperman

Organization: Paulus, Sokolowski & Sartor

Property ID:

☐ (Primary Contact)

697934166

Page 2

Location Map:



Site Map:



BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Author:	Title:	Year:	HPO Accession #: (if applicable)
(None Listed)	1933 Sanborn Map	1933	
Brennan, Peggy and Frank J. Jr.	Images of America: Cranbury	1995	
(None Listed)	1916 Sanborn Map	1916	
(None Listed)	1850 Otley and Keily Map	1850	
Brennan, Peggy and Frank J. Jr.	Images of America: Cranbury, Volume II	1998	
Walsh, Ruth	National Register of Historic Places Nomination for the Cranbury Historic District, Cranbury Township, Middlesex County, New Jersey	1979	
(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 historicaerials.com and for 1995, 2002, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2013, 2016, and 2017 available through Google Earth		
Heritage Studies	Preserving Cranbury Township	1989	
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	

Additional Information:

1202_35_6 (17 S MAIN-LIFE EST.) / 2-FAMILY DWELL / 1845

More Research Needed? ☐ (checked=Yes)

Survey Name: Cranbury Local Historic District Survey 2018

Principal Investigator: Emily Cooperman

Organization: Paulus, Sokolowski & Sartor

Property ID:

☐ (Primary Contact)

697934166

Page 3

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: 8/24/2018

Survey Name: Cranbury Local Historic District Survey 2018

Principal Investigator: Emily Cooperman

Organization: Paulus, Sokolowski & Sartor

Property ID:

☐ (Primary Contact)

697934166

Page 4