

PROPERTY REPORT

Property ID: **1285086891**

Property Name: 55 South Main Street **Ownership:** Private
Address: 55 S MAIN ST **Apartment #:** **ZIP:** 08512

PROPERTY LOCATION(S):

| County: | Municipality: | Local Place Name: | USGS Quad: | Block: | Lot: |
|-----------|-------------------|-------------------|------------|--------|------|
| MIDDLESEX | Cranbury township | | | 18 | 2 |

Property Photo:



Old HSI Number: **NRIS Number:** **HABS/HAER Number:** 76

Description:

PS&S recommends that 55 S. Main Street, which includes a residence and garage built circa 1920, is a contributing property in the Cranbury Historic District.

The 2 1/2-story, hip-roofed, foursquare main block of this clapboard and wood shingle-clad frame residence on a painted brick foundation is 2 bays wide and 2 bays deep and is fronted on the northwest by a hip-roofed porch that wrap around the northwest bay of the southwest, side elevation, where it is enclosed with historic sash above a historic knee wall. 2-story, 3-sided projecting bays are located in the southeast bay of the southwest elevation and the southwest bay of the northwest elevation. A hip-roofed dormer lights each the northwest, southwest, and northeast roof slopes. The roofs are clad throughout in asphalt shingle and the windows predominantly have 1/1 historic sash. The first floor is clad in clapboard and the second floor is clad in wood shingle, with a slightly projecting skirt roof dividing the 2 floors. The sidewalls of the dormers are clad in clapboard and each dormer is lighted by a 1/1 window. The front porch, accessed by a stair in the northeast bay, includes historic Doric columns and a historic rail with square-plan balusters. The primary entrance, located in the northeast bay of the northwest elevation, includes a historic door with a large single light. The remaining projecting bay and second floor bays are regularly fenestrated. The enclosed side porch is accessed from the porch by a historic 8-light door and lighted by 1/1 windows. The southwest, side elevation is regularly fenestrated and includes a secondary entrance to the enclosed porch accessed by a straight stair in the southeast bay. The northeast, side elevation is only partially visible from the public right-of-way and is irregularly

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Property ID:

Page 1

(Primary Contact)

1285086891

fenestrated. The southeast, rear elevation and the garage are not visible from the public right-of-way.

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. The 1980 National Register of Historic Places Nomination for the Cranbury Historic District identifies the 2 1/2-story, hip-roofed residence at 55 S. Main Street as having been constructed circa 1920. However, a historic photograph taken circa 1907 includes the residence, indicating that it was most likely built circa 1905 (Brennan and Brennan 1998: 37). This residence is documented on the 1933 Sanborn map as a 2-story frame dwelling with 3-sided projecting bay on its northwest, main and southwest, side elevations, a front porch that wraps around the southwest side, a rear el, and a 1-story garage.

The residence at 55 S. Main Street is a contributing property in the Cranbury Historic District because it retains its historic massing and fenestration patterns, historic wood window sash, historic porch columns and rail, historic porch enclosure, historic doors, and historic surface materials.

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?**

Location Map:



Site Map:



BIBLIOGRAPHY:

| Author: | Title: | Year: | HPO Accession #: |
|---------------|--|-------|------------------|
| (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 | | (if applicable) |

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| | | |
|------------------------------------|---|------|
| | through Google Earth | |
| (None Listed) | 1916 Sanborn Map | 1916 |
| (None Listed) | 1876 Everts and Stewart Map | 1876 |
| (None Listed) | 1933 Sanborn Map | 1933 |
| 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) | 1850 Otley and Keily Map | 1850 |
| Brennan, Peggy and Frank J. Jr. | Images of America: Cranbury | 1995 |
| Walsh, Ruth | National Register of Historic Places Nomination for the Cranbury Historic District, Cranbury Township, Middlesex County, New Jersey | 1979 |
| Brennan, Peggy and Frank J. Jr. | Images of America: Cranbury, Volume II | 1998 |

Additional Information:

1202_18_2 / 2-STY - SFD / 1911

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:

Date form completed: 8/24/2018

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