

# PROPERTY REPORT

Property ID: **1653210543**

**Property Name:** 53 South Main Street **Ownership:** Private  
**Address:** 53 S MAIN ST **Apartment #:** **ZIP:** 08512

**PROPERTY LOCATION(S):**

County:	Municipality:	Local Place Name:	USGS Quad:	Block:	Lot:
MIDDLESEX	Cranbury township			18	3

**Property Photo:**



**Old HSI Number:** **NRIS Number:** **HABS/HAER Number:** 72

**Description:**

PS&S recommends that 53 S. Main Street, which includes a residence constructed in the third quarter of the 19th century and substantially altered ca. the 1930s to its present Colonial Revival-style appearance, and a historic barn and shed, is a contributing property in the Cranbury Historic District.

The 2-story, side gable-roofed, rectangular-plan main block of this clapboard-clad, frame residence on a brick foundation is 5 bays wide and 2 bays deep and is fronted on the northwest by a 1-story, 1-bay, pedimented, central porch and backed on the southeast by a 2-story, gable-roofed, L-plan volume that is in turned flanked on the southwest by a 1-story, composite-roofed volume. A 2-story, hip-roofed, 3-sided bay projects from the southwest elevation of the main volume. A 1-story, hip-roofed historic addition is located on the northeast end of the main volume. The roofs of the front porch and main volume are articulated by a dentilled cornices. The roofs are predominantly clad in asphalt shingle except for the front porch and side volume, which are clad in slate tile. An interior, brick, ridge chimney is located near the northeast end of the main block. The windows predominantly have 6/6, historic wood sash with historic louvered shutters. The front porch, accessed by a flared stone and concrete stair with wrought iron rails, includes historic replacement square-plan posts, a simple frieze, and a cornice with both small and large dentils. The primary entrance, located in the central bay of the northwest elevation, includes a historic door surround with leaded glass sidelights over recessed panels and a segmental arch, leaded glass transom. The remaining bays of both floors are regularly fenestrated. The southwest, side elevation is regularly fenestrated. A painted wood shingle-clad pent eave

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**Principal Investigator:** Emily Cooperman

**Organization:** Paulus, Sokolowski & Sartor

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divides the first and second floors of the southwest bay. The upper floor of the projecting bay and the upper floor of the southeast bay of the rear volume are clad in painted wood shingles of alternating lengths. The northeast, side elevation is lighted on both floors of the main block by a single window and on the front and side elevations of the side volume by 8/8 wood sash windows. The southeast, side elevation is not visible from the public right-of-way. The 2-story, gable-roofed, clapboard-clad barn is located to the east of the residence and includes scalloped bargeboard and historic shuttered openings. The 1-story, asymmetrical gable-roofed, clapboard-clad shed, located to the southeast of the residence, also includes scalloped bargeboards and a historic, simple door.

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 earliest indication of a residence on the lot may be the 1850 Otley and Keily Map, when 3 residences were recorded on the east side of Main Street between Station Road and Cranbury Neck Road. The 1980 National Register of Historic Places Nomination for the Cranbury Historic District indicates that a residence at 53 S. Main Street was constructed circa 1760 for Dr. Hezekiah Stites (1726 – 1796). The nomination also reports that the Stites dwelling was demolished in the 1850s and later replaced by the current building. A historic photograph taken circa 1905 depicts the residence in its historic Italianate style form, with a central wall gable, a partial-width front porch with a spindle frieze, a 2-story, 3-sided projecting side bay, and paired roof brackets (Brennan and Brennan 1995: 48). Brennan and Brennan report that in 1908, Mrs. S. J. Bergen added a round porch extension, new Ionic porch columns, a replaced rail, and a library addition to the residence. A historic photograph taken circa 1937 (Brennan and Brennan 1995: 106) documents the porch extension with shaped balusters and a conical roof adjacent to an enclosed front porch. A pedimented central bay with ionic columns projects beyond the enclosed porch volume. The wall gable and roof are articulated by paired, shaped brackets. Visible beyond the southwest library addition is a frame barn with a standing seam metal roof. The residence is documented on the 1933 Sanborn as a 2-story, irregular plan, frame residence with a 3-sided bay on its southeast elevation and a wrap-around porch on its northwest and northeast elevations linking to the side addition on the northeast. The Sanborn map also documents a 1-story outbuilding, a 1-story shed, and a 1-story hen house east of the house. A photograph from the 1974 inventory of Cranbury historic buildings in the collection of the Cranbury Historical and Preservation Society depicts the residence with its current single bay, replaced front porch, 6/6 windows, a dentilled cornice, and a standing-seam metal roof. Visual evidence suggests that many of the residence's current details are the result of a late 1930s Colonial Revival renovation campaign.

The residence at 53 S. Main Street contributes to the Cranbury Historic District because it retains integrity and historic, character-defining features such as its historic window sash, historic fenestration patterns, historic clapboard and shingle cladding, historic replacement door, surround and replacement door, and historic wrought iron rail. The barn and shed retain their historic massing, historic openings, 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.

<b>Registration and Status Dates:</b>	<b>National Historic Landmark?:</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>SHPO Opinion:</b>
	<b>National Register:</b> 9/18/1980	<b>Local Designation:</b> 9/26/1988
	<b>New Jersey Register:</b> 8/9/1979	<b>Other Designation:</b>
	<b>Determination of Eligibility:</b> 3/25/1977	<b>Other Designation Date:</b>
	<b>Certification of Eligibility:</b>	

Eligibility Worksheet included in present survey?       Is this Property an identifiable farm or former farm?

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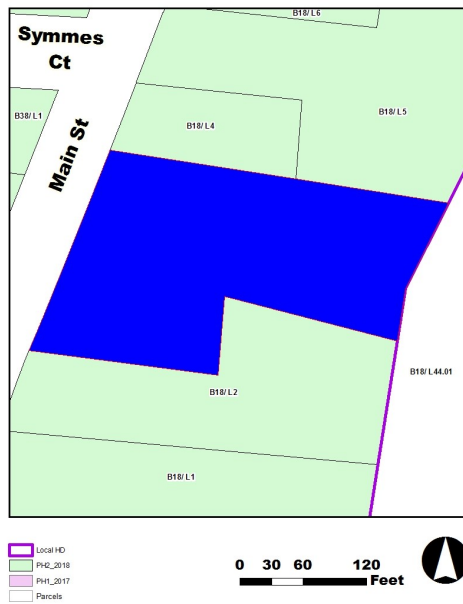
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Location Map:



Site Map:



**BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

Author:	Title:	Year:	HPO Accession #: (if applicable)
Heritage Studies	Preserving Cranbury Township	1989	
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 <a href="http://historicaerials.com">historicaerials.com</a> and for 1995, 2002, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2013, 2016, and 2017 available through Google Earth		
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	
Brennan, Peggy and Frank J. Jr.	Images of America: Cranbury, Volume II	1998	
(None Listed)	1850 Otley and Keily Map	1850	
Brennan, Peggy and Frank J. Jr.	Images of America: Cranbury	1995	
(None Listed)	1916 Sanborn Map	1916	
(None Listed)	1933 Sanborn Map	1933	

**Additional Information:**

1202\_18\_3 / 2-STY - SFD / 1750

More Research Needed?  (checked=Yes)

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**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)

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Conversion Problem?                ConversionNote:

*Date form completed:*            8/24/2018

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