

PROPERTY REPORT

Property ID: 1271961581

Property Name: Mary Groom House
Address: 43 S MAIN ST

Ownership: Private
Apartment #: **ZIP:** 08512

PROPERTY LOCATION(S):

County:	Municipality:	Local Place Name:	USGS Quad:	Block:	Lot:
MIDDLESEX	Cranbury township			18	7

Property Photo:



Old HSI Number: **NRIS Number:** **HABS/HAER Number:** 82

Description:

PS&S recommends that 43 S. Main Street, constructed in the early 19th century, is a contributing property in the Cranbury Historic District.

The 2-story, side gable-roofed, rectangular-plan main block of this clapboard-clad, frame dwelling on a covered foundation is 4 bays wide and 2 bays deep and is fronted on the northwest, main elevation by a 1-story, 1-bay, flat-roofed porch and backed by a 2-story, gable-roofed, partial-width secondary volume offset to the southwest that is flanked on the southeast by a 1-story, partially-enclosed porch that wraps around the rear of the secondary volume and flanked on the northeast by a lower, 1 ½-story side volume that projects 1 bay beyond the main volume toward the northeast. The roofs are predominantly clad in asphalt single and the windows predominantly have 6/6 historic wood sash. Brick ridge chimneys are located near the gable ends of the main volume. The front porch includes replacement, square-plan posts with recessed panels modeled after the residence's historic posts and a historic entablature. The primary entrance to the residence, accessed by the front porch, includes a replacement 15-light door. The remaining bays of the elevation are regularly fenestrated with paneled shutters on the second floor windows. The northwest bay of the southwest elevation of the main block is lighted by a window on each floor. The rear volumes and the northeast, side elevations 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 National Register

Survey Name: Cranbury Local Historic District Survey 2018

Principal Investigator: Emily Cooperman

Organization: Paulus, Sokolowski & Sartor

Property ID:

☐ (Primary Contact)

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Nomination for the Cranbury Historic District records the residence at 43 S. Main Street as the Mary Groom House built circa 1802. The Nomination reports that an original 2-room residence on a fieldstone foundation was later joined with a relocated 4-room residence, with a 2-story rectangular rear volume added later. The earliest indication of a residence on the lot may be the 1850 Otley and Keiley Map, when 3 residences were recorded on the east side of Main Street between Station Road and Cranbury Neck Road. Historic maps indicate that by 1876 a residence on the lot was owned by "J. Forman." A historic photograph taken circa 1902 (Brennan and Brennan 1995: 43) depicts the residence with clapboard siding, a standing seam metal roof, 6/6 windows, a large single light door, paneled shutters on the first floor, and louvered shutters on the second floor. The Nomination identifies the paneled shutters, paneled porch posts, and 6/6 windows that the residence currently retains. Visual evidence suggests that the first floor paneled shutters were moved to the second floor. The 1989 Heritage Studies Inventory identifies the residence's current, multi-light door as a 20th century replacement. Visual evidence suggests that the front porch was constructed in the second quarter of the 19th century, but that the posts may have been reconstructed based on the earlier posts, sometime within the last ten years.

43 S. Main Street is a contributing property in the Cranbury Historic District because it retains integrity and such historic, character-defining features as its historic siding material, paneled wood shutters, wood window sash, and porch entablature.

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:

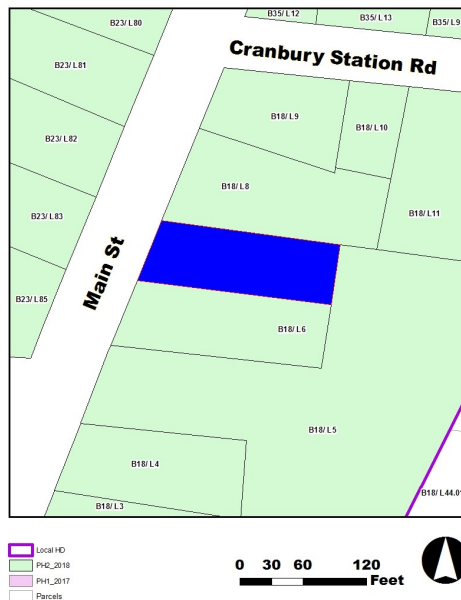
Other Designation Date:

☐ 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 #: (if applicable)
Heritage Studies	Preserving Cranbury Township	1989	
(None Listed)	1916 Sanborn Map	1916	
Chambers, John	Cranbury: A New Jersey Town from the Colonial Era to the	2012	

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Whiteclay II	Present	
(None Listed)	1850 Otley and Keily Map	1850
(None Listed)	1876 Everts and Stewart Map	1876
(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	
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)	1933 Sanborn Map	1933
Brennan, Peggy and Frank J. Jr.	Images of America: Cranbury	1995

Additional Information:

1202_18_7 / 2-STY - SFD / 1802

More Research Needed? ☐ (checked=Yes)

INTENSIVE-LEVEL USE ONLY:

Attachments Included:	☐ Building	☐ Bridge
	☐ Structure	☐ Landscape
	☐ Object	☐ 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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