

PROPERTY REPORT

Property ID: **-524557549**

Property Name: David Chambers-Benjamin Clark House
Address: 11 N Main ST
Apartment #:
Ownership: Private
ZIP: 08512

PROPERTY LOCATION(S):

County:	Municipality:	Local Place Name:	USGS Quad:	Block:	Lot:
MIDDLESEX	Cranbury township	Cranbury	Hightstown	23	68

Property Photo:



Old HSI Number:

NRIS Number:

HABS/HAER Number:

Description:

The David Chambers-Benjamin Clark House at 11-11 ½ North Main Street is a two-and-a-half-story tall, six-bay wide, private residence constructed between 1790 and 1816 in a vernacular Greek Revival style. The dwelling consists of a two-story tall, three-bay wide original core and a two-and-a-half-story tall, three-bay wide addition extending to the south. Character-defining features of the building include molded wood eaves with dentil trim, two brick interior chimneys, and a formal entrance with decorative sidelights, Doric pilasters, and a transom. The side-gabled roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles. The exterior of the dwelling is of brick in Flemish bond. Windows vary from six-over-six to four-over-four, double hung, wood-sash windows with aluminum screen windows. Windows on the southeast elevation are flanked by paneled, wood shutters. Entrance to the dwelling is gained through two doors, one on the main block and one on the center-hall addition. The door on the main block is a three-panel wood door with decorative, segmented sidelights and a transom. The sidelights are set between Ionic pilasters. Dentil trim frames the transom. The center-hall addition has paired, two-panel wood doors topped by a segmented transom and dentil trim. Access is gained to both entrances via brick pad porches. A one-story addition extends from the west elevation of the core. A one-story, front-gabled cinderblock garage clad in wood clapboard siding is located west of the dwelling.

Setting:

The David Chambers-Benjamin Clark House at 11-11 ½ North Main Street is sited on a rectangular parcel (Block 23, Lot 68) located on the west side of North Main Street in Cranbury Township, Middlesex County, New Jersey. The dwelling is oriented with its primary

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Surveyor: Kristen Herrick

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elevation facing east and is set back approximately 10 feet from North Main Street. The portion of the sidewalk that spans the east side of the parcel is paved with bricks. The property is lightly wooded. The David Chambers-Benjamin Clark House at 11-11 1/2 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:

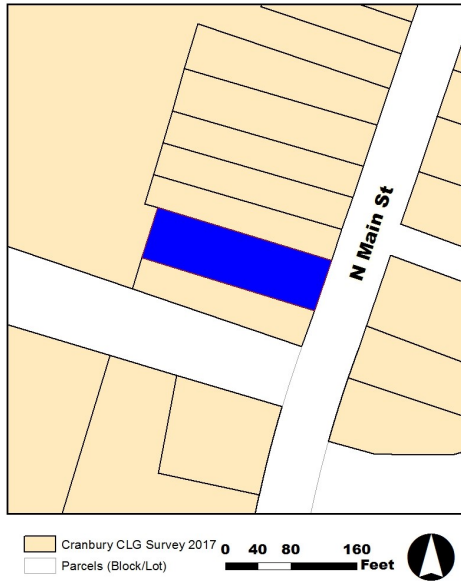
National Historic Landmark?:
National Register: 9/18/1980
New Jersey Register: 8/9/1979
Determination of Eligibility: 3/25/1977
Certification of Eligibility:

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 Cranbury Historic District, Cranbury Township, Middlesex County, New Jersey	1979	
Heritage Studies	Preserving Historic Cranbury Village	1989	
Chambers, John Whiteclay II	Cranbury: A New Jersey Town from the Colonial Era to the Present	2012	

Additional Information:

More Research Needed? (checked=Yes)

INTENSIVE-LEVEL USE ONLY:

Attachments Included: 0 Building 0 Bridge
 0 Structure 0 Landscape

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Historic District ? 0 Object 0 Industry

District Name: Cranbury Historic District

Status: Key Contributing

Associated Archeological Site/Deposits?
(known or potential sites. If Yes, please describe briefly)

Conversion Problem? ConversionNote: 8

Date form completed: 6/26/2017

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Historic Preservation Office

Property ID: -524557549

Element ID: 1500649740

BUILDING ATTACHMENT

Common Name: David Chambers-Benjamin Clark House

Historic Name: David Chambers-Benjamin Clark House

Present Use: Residential, permanent

Historic Use: Commercial, office activity - private business

ConstructionDate: 1816 Source: Cranbury Historical and Preservation Society

Construction 1790 Construction 1816
Start Date: End Date:

Style: Greek Revival Vernacular Style?

Form: Other

Physical Condition: Good

Type: Other

Remaining Historic Fabric: Medium

Roof Finish Materials: Asphalt Shingle

Stories: 2.5

Exterior Finish Materials: Brick, Flemish Bond

Bays: 6

Exterior Description:

See Property Form

Interior Description:

Not accessible

Alteration Dates:

Architect/Designer::

Date form completed: 7/21/2017

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ELIGIBILITY WORKSHEET - Properties

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History:

The David Chambers-Benjamin Clark House was constructed in stages between 1790 and 1816. The northern half of the subject dwelling was constructed by David Chambers, a colonel in the Hunterdon County Militia during the Revolutionary War. He served in the battles of Trenton, Princeton, Monmouth, and Brandywine. The southern half was constructed by Benjamin M. Clark, a local merchant who purchased the property in 1815. Clark operated a general store in the subject dwelling until 1861, when he and his wife sold the property to William Hutchison, Elias Dey, and John D. Clark (Cranbury Historical and Preservation Society n.d.).

In 1878, brothers Joseph D. and Stephen J. Chamberlin purchased the subject dwelling from William and Margaret Warwick. An 1878 map of Cranbury Township indicates that 11 North Main Street served as a store at the time of the purchase (Cranbury Historical and Preservation Society n.d.) In 1884, the Chamberlin brothers rented the first floor of the northern half of the dwelling to the First National Bank of Cranbury. The bank retained its offices in the subject dwelling until 1898, at which time the bank moved to 32 North Main Street (Chambers 2012:93).

During the first half of the twentieth century, 11 North Main Street served a multitude of roles in the community. James O'Neil purchased the property in 1906 and operated a grocery store, as well as an auto supply store. George Puerschner, who owned the property from 1914 to 1954, lived with his wife in the northern half of the dwelling and operated a barbershop in the southern half of the dwelling. The southern half also contained a newsstand, a tobacco shop, and a pool hall (Cranbury Historical and Preservation Society n.d.).

Statement of Significance:

The David Chambers-Benjamin Clark House at 11 North Main Street represents the economic development of Cranbury Township throughout the nineteenth century. The arrival of the Camden & Amboy Railroad in the 1830s opened regional markets to Cranbury merchants. The David Chambers-Benjamin Clark house, an outstanding example of the Greek Revival style in Cranbury, served a variety of commercial roles on the busy North Main Street corridor throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Eligibility for New Jersey and National Registers: Yes No

National Register Criteria: A B C D

Level of Significance: Local State National

Justification of Eligibility/Ineligibility:

The David Chambers-Benjamin Clark House at 11 North Main Street is individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criterion C for Architecture. The dwelling is significant at the local level as an outstanding example of the Greek Revival style.

Total Number of Attachments: 0

List of Element Names: Dwelling, David Chambers-Benjamin Clark House

Narrative Boundary Description:

N/A

Date Form Completed: 7/27/2017

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