

## PROPERTY REPORT

Property ID: **51326606**

**Property Name:** Joseph Carson House **Ownership:** Private  
**Address:** 18 S MAIN ST **Apartment #:** **ZIP:** 08512

### PROPERTY LOCATION(S):

County:	Municipality:	Local Place Name:	USGS Quad:	Block:	Lot:
MIDDLESEX	Cranbury township			23	78

### Property Photo:



**Old HSI Number:** **NRIS Number:** **HABS/HAER Number:** 63

### Description:

PS&S recommends that 18 S. Main Street, constructed circa 1790-1815 with later historic additions and alterations, is a contributing property in the Cranbury Historic District.

The 2-story, gable-roofed, rectangular-plan main block of this clapboard-clad, frame residence on a brick and stone foundation is 6 bays wide and 2 bays deep and is fronted on the southeast elevation by a 1-story, shed-roofed, 1-bay wide porch and backed on the northwest elevation by a 2-story, gable-roofed, partial width volume. The roofs are predominantly clad in asphalt shingle with historic wood brackets and eave returns at the gable ends. The windows predominantly have 6/6 historic wood sash, with double-hung wood French doors on the first floor of the southeast elevation. A substantial interior brick chimney projects from the southwest bay of the gable ridge. The front porch, located off-center in southwest, central bay of the southeast elevation, includes square-plan posts, historic wood brackets, and a historic rail with square-plan balusters. The primary entrance, accessed by the porch, includes a historic door with historic single-light sidelights over a recessed panel and a historic single-light transom. A secondary entrance, located in the northeast bay, is accessed by a brick stair with a simple rail and includes a historic 4-light door. The remaining bays of the first floor are each lighted by a shuttered French door with 2-light transoms. The second floor of the southeast elevation, and both floors of the northeast and southwest side elevations of the main block are regularly fenestrated. Both side elevations include an exposed painted brick fireback on the first floor. The northeast elevation includes a central stone foundation joined with the brick foundation of the rear volume and the southeast elevation. The 1-story

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**Principal Investigator:** Emily Cooperman

**Organization:** Paulus, Sokolowski & Sartor

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rear volume is lighted by a single window on its northeast elevation. The remaining rear volumes and the northeast, rear 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. Historic maps indicate that a residence was built at 18 S. Main Street prior to 1850. The 1980 National Register Historic District Nomination documents that this house was built for Joseph Carson in 1790 as a 3-bay, side hall residence with a rear kitchen wing that was extended into the present kitchen sometime in the early 19th century. The nomination also reports that the house was extended 3 bays to the north in the second quarter of the 19th century and "Victorianized" circa 1860-1870, adding a slate roof with wide eaves, a bracketed frieze, and gable-end returns. The 1989 Heritage Studies inventory reports that the south-facing kitchen may pre-date the original 1790 construction. The 1916 Sanborn Map records the residence as a 2-story, double dwelling joined by a 1-story, full-width front porch and backed, to the northeast, by 2 1-story full-width and partial-width volumes and to the southwest by a 1 1/2-story volume with a 1-story, flanking porch. A 2-story outbuilding is documented to the northwest. Though the 1933 Sanborn Map records the same full-width front porch, images from 1974 photographic inventory of Cranbury historic buildings in the collection of the Cranbury Historical and Preservation Society indicate that the front porch was replaced or reduced to its current size sometime in the mid-20th century. Visual evidence, such as the historic posts and brackets, suggests that earlier porch elements were reused.

18 S. Main is a contributing property in the Cranbury Historic District because it retains integrity and historic, character-defining features such as its historic windows, historic doors, historic wood brackets, historic shutters, historic clapboard, and historic porch posts and a historic porch rail.

**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:**

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