

PROPERTY REPORT

Property ID: **978193685**

Property Name: Reverend Gilbert Tennent Snowden House
Address: 107 N Main ST
Ownership: Private
Apartment #:
ZIP: 08512

PROPERTY LOCATION(S):

County:	Municipality:	Local Place Name:	USGS Quad:	Block:	Lot:
MIDDLESEX	Cranbury township	Cranbury	Hightstown	25	82
MIDDLESEX	Cranbury township	Cranbury	Hightstown	25	29

Property Photo:



Old HSI Number:

NRIS Number:

HABS/HAER Number:

Description:

The Reverend Gilbert Tennent Snowden House (Snowden House; also known as the Truxtun House) at 107 North Main Street is a two-part building consisting of a two-story, two-bay, one-pile core constructed circa 1794 and a two-story, three-bay, two-pile Federal addition south of the core that dates to circa 1810.

The core is the two-story, two-bay section to the north. It is set back from the front wall of the addition. The core's roof is clad with slate shingles. Its frame walls are clad with clapboards. Fenestration is symmetrically spaced, with windows aligned horizontally and vertically. Windows are nine-over-six double hung sash units (possibly original), flanked by louvered shutters. The north elevation is a solid wall; it appears to be clad with aluminum siding.

The larger section of the house is the two-story, three-bay addition (circa 1815), which dominates the main elevation. Its side-gabled roof is sheathed with slate shingles and features cornice returns on the end walls. Two interior brick chimneys are paired across the ridge along the south wall. The section has a molded cornice over a two-part frieze, with a dentil course over a decorative frieze. The walls are stuccoed on the main (east) elevation and clad with wood clapboard on the sides. The main elevation has three two-over-four windows on the second floor with louvered shutters (appearing to date to the late nineteenth century) and two replacement walk-out windows with eight

Survey Name: Cranbury CLG Survey 2017

Surveyor: Kristen Herrick

Organization: RGA, Inc.

Property ID:

Page 1

(Primary Contact)

978193685

inset lights on the first floor. The entrance consists of a six-panel replacement door topped by a semicircular, segmented fanlight. The entrance is sheltered by a full-façade porch with a late nineteenth century metal filigree cast iron posts and a hipped bronze roof. Brick piers support the porch, and a frame set of stairs leads down to the grade of the front lawn. The south elevation is not visible from the public right-of-way. Character-defining elements of the dwelling include two interior brick chimneys and a dentil frieze band.

The property includes two outbuildings: a one-story frame barn and a one-story frame garage.

Setting:

The Reverend Gilbert Tennent Snowden House at 107 North Main Street is sited on an L-shaped parcel (Block 25, Lot 82) located on the west side of North Main Street in Cranbury Township, Middlesex County, New Jersey. The dwelling is oriented with its primary elevation facing east and is set back approximately 70 feet from North Main Street. The property is lined with trimmed hedges to the east. A gravel driveway leads west from North Main Street to a one-story frame garage located north of the dwelling. A one-story frame barn is located northwest of the dwelling. The property is lightly wooded. The Reverend Gilbert Tennent Snowden House is located in a primarily residential neighborhood surrounded by residential 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

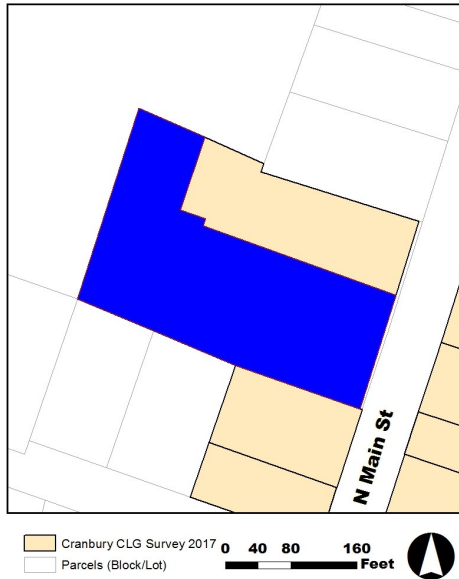
Other Designation:

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	
Cranbury Historical and Preservation Society	Property File, 107 North Main Street		
Chambers, John	Cranbury: A New Jersey Town from the Colonial Era to	2012	

Survey Name: Cranbury CLG Survey 2017

Surveyor: Kristen Herrick

Organization: RGA, Inc.

Property ID:

Page 2

(Primary Contact)

978193685

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Additional Information:

More Research Needed? (checked=Yes)

INTENSIVE-LEVEL USE ONLY:

Attachments Included: 1 Building 0 Bridge
 0 Structure 0 Landscape
 0 Object 0 Industry

Historic District ?

District Name: Cranbury Historic District

Status: Key Contributing

Associated Archeological Site/Deposits?

(known or potential sites. If Yes, please describe briefly)

Conversion Problem? ConversionNote: 14

Date form completed: 7/27/2017

Survey Name: Cranbury CLG Survey 2017

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Property ID:

(Primary Contact)

978193685

BUILDING ATTACHMENT

Common Name: Garage, Reverend Gilbert Tennent Snowden House

Historic Name: Garage, Reverend Gilbert Tennent Snowden House

Present Use: Unclassifiable Activities

Historic Use: Unclassifiable Activities

ConstructionDate: 1960

Source:

Construction

Construction

Start Date:

End Date:

Style: Other

Vernacular Style?

Form: Other

Physical Condition: Good

Type: Garage

Remaining Historic Fabric: Unknown

Roof Finish Materials: Asbestos Shingle

Stories: 1

Exterior Finish Materials: Vinyl Siding

Bays: 1

Exterior Description:

The garage of 107 North Main Street is a one-story tall, one-bay wide frame outbuilding constructed circa 1960. The cross-gabled roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles. The exterior of the garage is clad in vinyl siding. A metal rolltop garage door pierces the garage's southeast elevation. A four-light, fixed vinyl window sits in the southeast gable end.

History: The subject building is associated with the Reverend Gilbert Tennent Snowden House at 107 North Main Street. The 1989 Heritage Studies survey classifies it as a non-contributing resource to the Cranbury Historic District. According to historic aerials, the garage was constructed circa 1960.

Interior Description:

Not accessible

Alteration Dates:

Architect/Designer::

Date form completed: 8/24/2017

Survey Name: Cranbury CLG Survey 2017

Surveyor: Kristen Herrick

Organization: RGA, Inc.

Property ID:

(Primary Contact)

978193685

BUILDING ATTACHMENT

Common Name: Reverend Gilbert Tennent Snowden House, 107 North Main Street

Historic Name: Reverend Gilbert Tennent Snowden House, 107 North Main Street

Present Use: Residential, permanent

Historic Use: Residential, permanent

ConstructionDate: 1794

Source:

**Construction
Start Date:**

**Construction
End Date:**

Style: Federal

Vernacular Style?

Form: Other

Physical Condition: Good

Type: Other

Remaining Historic Fabric: Medium

Roof Finish Materials: Slate

Stories: 2.5

Exterior Finish Materials: Wood, Clapboard

Bays: 5

Exterior Description:

See Property Form

Interior Description:

Not accessible

Alteration Dates:

Alteration(s):	Circa Date:	Date Range:	Source:
Physical alteration	1805	to	Cranbury Historical and Preservation Society, n.d.

Architect/Designer::

Date form completed: 7/27/2017

Survey Name: Cranbury CLG Survey 2017

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(Primary Contact)

Property ID:

978193685

Page 5

ELIGIBILITY WORKSHEET - Properties

Property ID 978193685

History:

The Reverend Gilbert Tennent Snowden House (Snowden House; also known as the Truxtun House) at 107 North Main Street was constructed circa 1794. Snowden served as the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Cranbury from 1790 to 1797. He operated a farm on the subject property, which comprised 200 acres at the time of his death in 1797. In 1805, his son Isaac Snowden added the dwelling's larger, southern wing (Chambers 2012:54-55).

In 1808, Snowden sold the subject property to Thomas Truxtun, a retired commodore in the United States Navy. Truxtun served in the Navy from 1770 to about 1802 and commanded several Navy ships under President George Washington. Truxtun also operated a farm on the subject property, which once contained as many as 500 apple trees. According to local legend, Truxtun harbored Vice President Aaron Burr in the Snowden House as Burr fled New York following the death of Alexander Hamilton. However, Burr's duel with Hamilton occurred in 1804, while Truxtun did not own the subject dwelling until 1808 (Chambers 2012:56-57). Truxtun remained in the Snowden House until 1812, when he and his wife moved to Moorestown. The wrought-iron porch was added to the façade by 1900 (Cranbury Historical and Preservation Society n.d.)

Statement of Significance:

The Reverend Gilbert Tennent Snowden House at 107 North Main Street is one of the earliest surviving private residences in Cranbury Township. Several prominent Cranbury citizens have owned the subject dwelling, including Reverend Gilbert Tennent Snowden, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, and Commodore Thomas Truxtun of the United States Navy. The subject dwelling also represents the Federal style in Cranbury Township.

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 Reverend Gilbert Tennent Snowden House at 107 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 Federal style. The dwelling is also eligible under Criterion B at the local level for its association with Commodore Thomas Truxtun.

Total Number of Attachments: 0

List of Element Names: Reverend Gilbert Tennent Snowden House, 107 North Main Street

Narrative Boundary Description:

N/A

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978193685

Page 6