

PROPERTY REPORT

Property ID: -402301691

Property Name: 18-22 North Main Street **Ownership:** Private
Address: 18-22 N Main ST **Apartment #:** **ZIP:** 08512

PROPERTY LOCATION(S):

County:	Municipality:	Local Place Name:	USGS Quad:	Block:	Lot:
MIDDLESEX	Cranbury township	Cranbury	Hightstown	32	12

Property Photo:



Old HSI Number:

NRIS Number:

HABS/HAER Number:

Description:

This property contains two buildings that are now connected at the rear: the Joshua Edwards House at 18 North Main Street and the A.S. Cole Son & Co. funeral home at 22 North Main Street. The buildings stand on the east side of North Main Street and face west.

History: A.S. Cole & Son Co. began as a furniture store in 1858. Alexander S. Cole later passed the business on to his son William and son-in-law Isaac Hoffman. The company has continuously operated as a funeral home throughout the late-nineteenth, twentieth, and early twenty-first centuries (Chambers 2012:82-83). The property contains a historic lamp post, which dates to circa 1890. The 1916 Sanborn Atlas shows the two buildings as freestanding. The building at 22 North Main Street is identified as "Furniture & Undertaker," with a front porch. The house also has a front porch that appears similar to its current porch, plus a rear tee section. The outbuilding appears on the atlas but is not identified. The 1933 Sanborn Atlas shows the buildings with the same configuration. Historic aerials show the building, but they are often difficult to interpret. The rear section connecting the two buildings appears to have been constructed by 1957.

The Joshua Edwards House at 18 North Main Street is a two-and-a-half-story, six-bay, one-pile residence constructed circa 1835 as a conservative interpretation of the Greek Revival style. The side-gabled roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles and features a molded cornice with returns on the end walls. A rectangular interior brick chimney is located near each end of the ridge. The exterior of the dwelling is clad in wood clapboard siding on the front elevation and vinyl siding on all other elevations. The dwelling's regular fenestration

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consists of one-over-one, double-hung, wood-sash (replacement) windows with aluminum storm windows and louvered shutters. The central entrance is a one-light, three-panel wood door located in the third bay. The front porch extends along the middle four bays of the main elevation; it has a nearly flat, hipped roof with a wood frieze, supported by five turned posts connected by a railing with square balusters. The house has a stone foundation.

The south end of the building stands just off the property line. The brick chimney and return cornices are clearly visible on this elevation. The frame walls are clad with vinyl siding. A single rank of windows is located near the southwest corner; the units are one-over-one double hung sash replacement units with louvered shutters. The north end wall of the building has two square louvered windows on the attic level as the only wall opening.

Character-defining elements of the dwelling include corbelled brick chimneys at each gable end and a one-story porch with turned wood posts.

22 North Main Street is a one-story, one-bay, three-pile funeral home constructed in 1858. The front-gabled roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles and features a full return cornice on the main elevation, creating a pediment area where a round medallion serves as a date stone (reading 1858). A frieze below the return cornice is the location of the historic name of the building. The exterior of the building is clad in wood clapboard siding on the front elevation and vinyl siding on other elevations. The dominant feature of the main elevation is the entrance, which was designed as a modified Palladian window. Paired French doors open below a half-circle fanlight with a keystone and between segmented sidelights. The building was constructed with a stone foundation.

The south elevation of the building has asphalt shingles on the roof and vinyl-clad walls. Three arched headed windows on this elevation have multiple inset lights and are topped by segmented fanlights with central keystone details (likely replacement). The north elevation of the building has a single window like those on the south elevation.

Character-defining elements of the building include a wood frieze and an elaborate Palladian entryway.

The rear additions that connect the two original buildings were constructed in multiple campaigns. The extension off the rear of 22 North Main Street is the only section easily visible from the public right-of-way. It is a two-story, five-bay frame section that extends the mass of 22 North Main Street to the west. The section has a centered chimney, vinyl-clad walls, and multi-light windows on two levels. Two entrances open below small flat-roofed hoods. A two-story addition attaches this rear extension to the two main buildings; it has a gabled roof clad with asphalt shingles, frame walls clad with vinyl siding, and an entrance on the east elevation between the buildings. The entrance consists of a replacement door with inoperable door shutters, opening below a flared, hipped roof portico supported by thin square turned corner columns. A shuttered window is centered above the portico.

In the rear of the property is a two-story outbuilding, constructed with the same alignment as 22 North Main Street. The outbuilding has a gabled roof with a louvered square cupola. The walls are frame, with few windows.

Setting:

18-22 North Main Street is sited on an L-shaped parcel (Block 23, Lot 52) located on the east side of North Main Street in Cranbury Township, Middlesex County, New Jersey. The buildings are oriented with their primary elevations facing northwest and is set back approximately 10 feet from North Main Street. A paved parking lot is located east of the buildings, accessed by paved driveways that extend east from North Main Street, north from Scott Avenue, and west from Maplewood Avenue. A two-story frame outbuilding and a one-story frame garage are located in the parking lot, east of the buildings. 18-22 North Main Street are located in a mixed residential and commercial neighborhood surrounded by commercial and residential properties dating from the mid-nineteenth to the early twentieth centuries.

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

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

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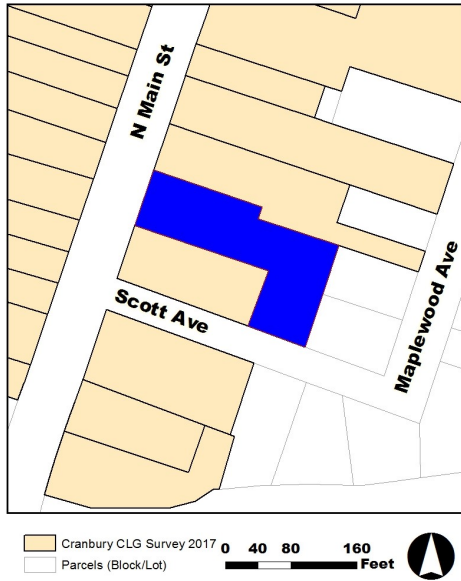
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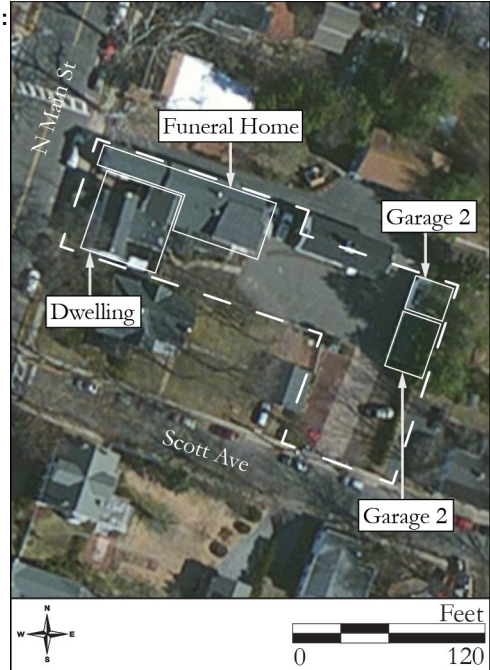
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Location Map:



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:

The 1989 Heritage Studies survey identified 18-22 North Main Street as a contributing resource to the Cranbury Historic District. RGA concurs with the previous evaluation and recommends 18-22 North Main Street as a contributing resource due to its date of construction, design, and use of materials compatible with the district.

More Research Needed? (checked=Yes)

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)

Conversion Problem? ConversionNote: 30

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Date form completed: 7/25/2017

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