

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 95000184 Date Listed: 3/17/95

Amsterdam Historic District Hunterdon NJ
Property Name: County: State:

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick Andrus
Signature of the Keeper

3/17/95
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

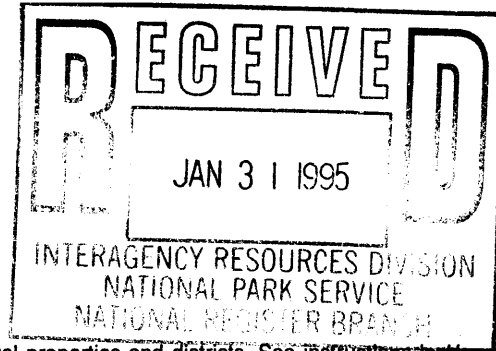
In Section 5 of the form the nominated area has been incorrectly classified as building(s); historic district is the correct classification for this property. The form is officially amended to include this change in classification.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file**
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Amsterdam Historic District
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Amsterdam, Church & Crab Apple Hill Roads not for publication
city or town Holland Township vicinity
state New Jersey code 034 county Hunterdon code 019 zip code 08848

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
[Signature] 1/24/95
Signature of certifying official/Title Assistant Commissioner for Natural & Historic Resources/DSHPO
Date
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
 entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper Patrick Andrews Date of Action 3/17/95

Amsterdam HD
Name of Property

Hunterdon County, NJ
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
30	18	buildings
		sites
1	2	structures
		objects
31	20	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single family

Agricultural/storage

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single family

Agricultural/storage

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Mid 19th/Gothic Revival

Mid 19th/Italianate

Mid 19th/Greek

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls clapboard

stone

roof asphalt

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

N/A

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Community Development

Period of Significance

c. 1830 - 1900

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Various

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

Amsterdam HD
Name of Property

Hunterdon County, NJ
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 60 Riegelsville NJ Quad

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>4</u> <u>8</u> <u>7</u> <u>1</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>3</u> <u>2</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>4</u> <u>8</u> <u>7</u> <u>2</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>2</u> <u>9</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>

3	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>4</u> <u>8</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>2</u> <u>9</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>4</u> <u>8</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dennis N. Bertland

organization Bertland Associates date February 1994

street & number P.O. Box 11 telephone 908-689-6356

city or town Port Murray state NJ zip code 07865

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Amsterdam HDSection number 7 Page I

Amsterdam is a small 19th-century hamlet located in the northwestern corner of Hunterdon County on the southern flank of Musconetcong Mountain, the first range of the Highlands geographical province in western New Jersey. The community lies in a valley which, drained by a small tributary of the Delaware River, is quite constricted to the northeast where the creek cuts between Musconetcong Mountain's main ridge and Gravel Hill but opens to the southwest where the terrain slopes more gently and the creek turns south towards the river. The linear settlement stretches along short Amsterdam Road and eastward along Church Road from its intersection with Amsterdam and Crab Apple Hill Road. The community is surrounded by a mixture of woods and fields with an intermingling of farmsteads and modern dwellings.

The Amsterdam District encompasses the entire hamlet, including some open agricultural land critical to its historical character, but excludes the modern dwellings on the south side of Church Road east of Crab Apple Hill Road and along the latter road. An inventory of the district's resources forms part of this section, and all resources have been categorized as "contributing" or "non-contributing" to the district's historical significance. The contributing resources include thirty 19th-century buildings and one 19th-century structure (a bridge). There are twenty non-contributing resources of 20th-century date: eighteen buildings and two structures (two bridges).

The district contains sixteen principal structures which, except for the three bridges, are all dwellings with attendant outbuildings. District buildings, for the most part, are gable-roofed vernacular structures of frame or infrequently stone or brick construction, dating to the middle decades of the 19th century and exhibiting simple stylistic embellishment typical of that era. Most have been enlarged or refurbished over the years. Modern improvements, while resulting in the loss or obscuring of early fabric and detailing in some cases, have been neither numerous nor disfiguring enough to mar the historic architectural character of the district. Throughout the district dwellings are rather widely spaced on large lots; setbacks from the road, however, are rather short and one house (#10) is set perpendicular to the road for a southern exposure, an orientation typical of the region's early domestic architecture. Houses generally are in good condition and well maintained; surrounding yards similarly are well groomed, often featuring large trees and mature plantings.

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Amsterdam's architecture is representative of the region's vernacular construction practices and building types. Nearly all of the district's dwellings are the traditional, 2-story, gable-roofed house types with single-pile plans, interior gable-end chimneys, and generally regular fenestrations of two to five bays. Such houses are ubiquitous in the Delaware valley's 18th- and 19th-century housing stock. Examples with two-room plans include #s 3, 7, 10, 11, 14 and 15, all of which date to the middle decades of the 19th century. One mid-19th-century district house, #6 has a single-pile side hall plan, and another example of somewhat earlier date, #12, was enlarged with a 2-bay addition creating a single pile center hall plan. Two houses, #s 11 and 14, exhibit one of the region's distinctive building practices, the exposed backs of their interior gable-end chimneys. The form and plan of one house reveals mid-19th-century popular design influences, #16, a brick T-shaped dwelling with side-hall plan.

While the exterior of some of the district's dwellings is quite unadorned, most exhibit at least some decorative detailing. The embellishment of these vernacular structures was derived from several of the architectural styles popular in the 19th century. Gothic Revival influences are evident in the front cross gables of two dwellings, #s 6 and 16, and the entry stoops of two others, #s 10 and 12, with their tracery posts and bargeboards. The round-arched gable windows with heavy hood molds of house #16 are a typical Italianate motif, as are the square porch posts on pedestals with cap, shoulder and base moldings of #6. The turned posts and spindle frieze of the house #7 porch similarly are characteristic of the Queen Anne style.

Outbuildings of 19th- and 20th-century date are commonly found behind the district's houses. They include privies, small barns and sheds, chicken coops, and modern garages. They are typically unadorned frame structures of small size. More extensive complexes of outbuildings, including barns, wagon houses, chicken coops and other structures are found at district farmsteads. Bank barns are a common feature of 19th-century Delaware Valley farmsteads, and the district has five examples of frame construction, #s 3, 6, 10, and 15, and one stone example, #16; what appears to be bank barn foundations survive at two other properties, #s 11 and 12. Wagon houses with gable-end entries are found at #s 3, 10, 12, 15, and 16. One farmstead, #15, has a small stone smoke house, and a 1 and 1/2-story stone outbuilding at #12 may be an out kitchen; another stone out kitchen is attached to dwelling #10.

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The district also contains three bridges, two of which, #s 9 and 13, are mid-20th-century structures. The third, #2, is a 19th-century, single-arched stone bridge whose provenance is unknown. It may have been a private bridge, since there is no record of its construction or of any associated public road.

In the following inventory each principal structure and site is identified by a number which locates it on the accompanying district map. All entries are categorized as "contributing" or "non-contributing" to the significance of the district. All out-buildings included in the inventory are identified as contributing or non-contributing with the designations (C) and (NC).

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Amsterdam Historic District Inventory

- 1 Brick, 1-story, hip-roofed house with basement garage.
Style: None Date: c. 1960s
Non-contributing B20/L6 Neg. # A 3
- 2 Single-arch, stone bridge of coursed rubble stone construction whose barrel vault is outlined with cut stone voussoirs and whose side walls are capped with flat stones. Portions of the wing walls and parapets have collapsed.
Style: none Date: 19th
Contributing B20/L3 Neg.# A 1
- 3 Frame, 2-story dwelling consisting of a 4-bay, gable-roofed, single-pile main block with modern exterior east gable-end chimney, a shed-roofed, west appendage projecting beyond the front, and a 2-bay rear wing with shed extension on the east side creating a 1 1/2-story appearance.
Style: Greek Revival influences;
Colonial Revival remodeling Date: c. 1830-50
- Exterior features include clapboard siding, box cornice with stepped frieze (creating an entablature-like effect) and returns that is carried on the raking eaves, 6/6 and 9/6 sash windows with plain trim and modern panel shutters, and a inner bay front entry with glass & panel door and bracketed gable hood.
- Outbuildings: (1) stuccoed, concrete block and frame 2-bay garage (c. 1960s) with overhead garage doors (NC); (2) frame, shed-roofed outbuilding (late 19th/early 20th) with vertical siding, overhanging eaves, batten door, and

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multi-pane sash windows (C); (3) frame, 1 1/2-story, wagon house (mid 19th) with gable-end entry (batten sliding door), rear shed appendage, vertical and asbestos shingle siding, overhanging eaves, side wall corn crib on stone piers, and 6/6 sash gable window (C); and (5) across the road on B14.01/L2, frame, 3 or 4-bay bank barn (mid 19th) with 1-bay east extension, shed appendage across the south concealing the fore bay, clapboard and vertical siding, overhanging eaves, batten doors, a concrete silo abutting the northwest corner, and a concrete-block 1-story, gable-roofed dairy barn with shed appendage abutting the south side (C).

Contributing B14/L70 & 14.01/2 Neg.# A 5-14, B 27

4 Frame, 1 1/2-story, gable-roofed dwelling.Style: none Date: c. 1950sOutbuildings: (1) concrete block, 2-bay garage (c. 1950s) with frame gables, overhead garage doors, and frame shed appendage (NC).

Non-contributing B14/L41 Neg.# A 15-16

5 Frame, 1 1/2-story, gable-fronted dwelling with interior chimney.Style: Craftsman influences Date: c. 1915-35

It has asbestos shingle siding, 3/1 sash windows, central entry, and a 3-bay, hip-roofed front porch with square posts.

Outbuildings: (1) Concrete-block, 2-bay, garage (c. 1950s) with frame gable and overhead doors (NC).

Non-contributing B14/L40 Neg.# A 17

6 Frame, gable-roofed, 2-story, bank-cellaried dwelling consisting of a 3-bay, single-pile, side-hall-plan main block

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with west gable-end interior chimney (brick stack) and a rear wing with south gable-end interior chimney (brick stack) and shed appendage, a 2-story gabled projecting bay on the east side with semi-hexagonal profile, and west side appendages.

Style: Gothic Revival/Italianate influences

Date: c. 1873-80,
late 19th remodel.

Now covered with aluminum siding, it has a steeply pitched cross gable centered on the front, boxed overhanging eaves, 2/2 and 1/1 sash windows (floor length on the first-story front), glass & panel front door, and an L-shaped porch with box cornice, square posts with molded capitals and pedestals, spandrel brackets, and turned balusters.

Outbuildings: (1) frame, 1-story, hip-roofed well house (early 20th) with overhanging eaves and vertical siding (NC); (2) frame, 1-story, gable-roofed outbuilding (late 19th/early 20th) with overhanging eaves, clapboard siding, wide batten-doored entry, and modern windows (C); (3) frame, bank barn/wagon house (mid/late 19th) consisting of a 1-bay east block and a narrower, slightly lower west block (built in two parts) with shed appendage on the south shed west end at the stable level, overhanging eaves, clapboard and vertical siding, 6/6 sash windows, batten sliding doors, and stone wall paralleling the south side, possibly a barnyard enclosure (C).

Contributing

B14.01/L1

Neg.# A 18-21, 24
B 24-26

7

Frame, 2-story, gable-roofed, 4-bay, single-pile dwelling with interior gable-end chimneys (rebuilt brick stacks) and a shed appendage on the west gable end.

Style: Queen Anne embellishment

Date: c. 1840-50

Exterior features include clapboard siding, box cornice with returns and frieze that is carried on the raking eaves, 2/2 and 6/6 sash windows with plain trim, paired inner bay entries with transoms and glass & panel doors,

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and shed-roofed porch with box cornice, spindle frieze, spandrel brackets, and turned posts.

Outbuildings: (1) frame, gable-roofed privy (late 19th/early 20th) with vertical siding, overhanging eaves, and batten door (C); (2) two frame, shed-roofed chicken coops (early/mid 20th) with overhanging eaves, vertical siding, and multi-pane sash windows; while the larger has a concrete foundation, the smaller one rests on piers (NC); and, across the road, (3) frame, 3 or 4-bay bank barn (mid/late 19th) with overhanging eaves, vertical siding, batten sliding doors, and batten Dutch stable door on the east end; frame south wall on the stable level may be later enclosure of the stable recess (C).

Contributing B14/L39 Neg.# A 22-23

8 Frame, 1-story, gable-roofed, dwelling.

Style: none Date: c. 1970s

It has aluminum siding and gabled projecting bay at one end of the front.

Outbuildings: (1) frame 1-bay garage (1970s) (NC).

Non-contributing B20/L2 Neg.# A 36

9 Reinforced concrete, twin pipe bridge (Hunterdon County bridge #H 31) with concrete wing walls and low parapets.

Style: none Date: c. 1940

Non-contributing Neg.# B 00

10 Frame, 2-story, gable-roofed dwelling consisting of a 3-bay, single-pile main block with gable-end chimneys (brick stacks), a shed-roofed rear addition built in two parts projecting 1-bay beyond the main block's west end, and a stuccoed stone, 1-story west wing (probably a detached out kitchen originally) with gable-end chimney (brick stack).

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Amsterdam HDSection number 7 Page 8Style: Gothic Revival influences Date: mid 19th

It has clapboard siding, box cornice with returns and frieze that is carried on the raking eaves, 6/6 sash windows with modern shutters, off-center front entry, and a 1-bay entry porch with shed roof (probably replacing a flat roof) and tracery posts, spandrel brackets and frieze (possibly recycled bargeboard; see #12).

Outbuildings: (1) frame, 3-bay overshot bank barn (mid 19th) with perpendicular ell at the southwest corner, vertical siding, 6/6 sash windows, batten doors, and batten Dutch stall doors on the recessed stable wall (C).

Contributing B20/L16 Neg.# A 37, B 11-17

- 11 Frame, 2-story, gable-roofed dwelling consisting of a 4-bay, single pile main block with interior gable end chimneys (exposed stone backs and brick stacks), a large, 3-bay rear wing with interior gable end chimney (brick stack) and shed appendage (possibly enclosed porch) and a small gabled appendage on the east gable end.

Style: classical influences Date: c. 1825-45

Among the exterior features are clapboard siding, box cornice with dentil frieze, flush raking eaves, 6/6 sash windows with modern shutters, and an inner-bay entry with 4-panel door.

Outbuildings: (1) 2-level, gable-roofed barn/cottage (mid 19th reworked mid 20th) with stone embanked ground story (now utilized as a garage) and a frame upper story (C).

Contributing B14/L44 Neg.# A 25-32

- 12 Gable-roofed, 2-story, dwelling consisting of a 5-bay, single pile main block (stuccoed stone, 3-bay, side hall-plan unit and a frame, 2-bay east extension) with interior east gable-end chimney (brick stack) and exterior west-gable end furnace flue, and a frame rear wing with shed-roofed appendages.

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Style: Gothic Revival influences

Date: c. 1830-50

Exterior features include clapboard siding, box cornice, flush raking eaves, 2/2 sash windows with modern shutters, transomed central entry, and a 1 -bay, flat-roofed entry porch with tracery posts, spandrel brackets and barge-board.

Outbuildings: (1) stuccoed-stone, 1 1/2-story out building (possibly an out kitchen, mid 19th) with gable-end entry and 4/4 sash windows (C); (2) frame, 1 1/2-story wagon house (mid/late 19th) with gable-end entries, corn crib on piers on the south side, and shed appendage on the north side (C); (3) concrete block and frame, 1-story barn/shed (mid 20th) apparently on the site of and possibly incorporating portions of the foundation of an earlier barn (NC); (4) frame, 2-story, gable-roofed out building (probably a detached stable ell, mid 19th, at the southeast barnyard corner) with stone ground story (extensions of which serving as barnyard walls), vertical siding, and scalloped bargeboard at the eaves (C); frame, 2-story, gable-roofed chicken coop (early/mid 20th) with long, 1-story, shed-roofed east addition, vertical siding, and overhanging eaves (NC).

Contributing

B14/L38.02

Neg.# A 34 & 35,
B 0-2, 4 & 8

- 13 Steel and reinforced concrete bridge (Hunterdon County bridge #H 30) with steel I-beams, concrete deck and modern steel railings, installed in 1978.

Style: none

Date: 1942

Non-contributing

Neg.# B 9 & 10

- 14 Frame, 2-story, gable-roofed dwelling consisting of a 4-bay, single-pile main block with gable-end chimneys (exposed stone backs, brick stacks), a shed-roofed rear addition, and a stuccoed, 1-story, 2-bay east wing with stuccoed exterior east gable-end chimney.

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east wing c. 1950s

Exterior features include clapboard siding, box cornice, flush raking eaves, 6/6 and 9/6 sash windows with modern shutters, and an inner-bay entry; the multi pane "picture window to the east of the entry and the shed pent roof above both are modern features.

Outbuildings: (1) frame, 1 1/2-story wagon house (mid/late 19th) with shed appendage on the north siding and remodeled (c. 1950s) with stucco siding and a triple window replacing the east gable-end entry (C).

Contributing

B22/L1

Neg.# B 3, 5-7

15

Frame, gable-roofed, 2-story, dwelling consisting of a 3 over 4-bay, single-pile main block with interior gable end chimneys (brick stacks) and a rear ell.

Style: noneDate: mid 19th,
poss. part older

It has clapboard siding, boxed overhanging eaves with bargeboard on the east gable. 2/2 sash windows, paired inner-bay entries with glass and panel doors, and a 3-bay porch with box cornice and turned posts.

Outbuildings: (1) Frame, 1-story, shed/chicken coop (mid 20th) with asphalt "brick" siding (NC); (2) frame, gable-roofed privy (late 19th/early 20th) with vertical siding and batten door (C); (3) frame, shed/garage (early 20th) with asymmetrical gable roof, vertical siding and batten sliding door (NC); (4) stuccoed stone, 1-story, gable-roofed smoke house (mid 19th) (C); (5) small frame shed/chicken coop (early/mid 20th) with vertical siding (NC); (6) frame, 1 1/2-story wagon house (late 19th) with small south side appendage, gable-end entry with batten sliding doors, and vertical siding (C); (7) frame bank barn (late 19th) with vertical siding, overhanging eaves, batten doors, and a large 1-story east appendage (C).

Contributing

B14/L36

Neg.# B 28-30

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16

Brick, 2-story, T-shaped dwelling consisting of a 3-bay, side hall-plan main block with exterior west gable end chimney, rear wing with east gable end chimney (brick stack) extending 1-bay beyond each side of the main block, and a frame rear appendage.

Style: Italianate influences

Date: c. 1860-80

Exterior features include central front cross gable, box cornice with returns that is carried on the raking eaves, round-arched gable windows with hood molds, 6/6 sash windows with brick lintels and sills (the first story front windows apparently have been reworked), and a recessed front entry with double doors (round arched upper panels), transom with two clip-cornered lights, and a raked and eared cornice; a front porch probably was removed concurrently with the window reworking.

Outbuildings: (1) frame, 1-story cottage (mid 20th) with shed appendage, asbestos shingle siding, and 6/6 sash windows (NC); (2) small stuccoed well/spring house (late 19th/early 20th) (C); and across the road on lot 98 (3) stuccoed stone overshot bank barn (mid 19th) with frame wall above the stable recess, small frame appendage at the northeast corner, a concrete block milk house on the latter's south side, a shed appendage on the east gable end, a stone-walled barnyard, asphalt "brick" siding, and batten doors; the stable recess has been enclosed with concrete block (C); (4) frame 2-story wagon house (mid/late 19th) with embanked stone ground story, south gable end entry to the upper story, overhanging eaves, and asphalt "brick" siding (C); (5) two frame chicken coops (early/mid 20th) (NC).

Contributing

B14/L35.01
B22/L98

Neg.# B 31-36

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Amsterdam possesses significance in the areas of settlement pattern and architecture. The hamlet exemplifies the smallest of the agglomerate settlements that developed during the 18th and 19th centuries to serve the region's dispersed agricultural population, but whose growth was arrested when bypassed by 19th century transportation innovations. The district has architectural significance as an assemblage of mostly 19th-century buildings whose construction, form, detailing, and spatial organization are representative of the rural region's vernacular architecture in that era. Archaeological resources relating to the area's 19th-century material culture also may be present in the environs of district buildings.

While the neighborhood around what became Amsterdam was settled in the first half of the 18th century, the hamlet evidently did not coalesce until the middle of the 19th century by which time the location had attracted several artisans and acquired a general store and its place name.¹ At a time when the movement of people and goods was largely limited to horse-drawn conveyances, such small communities provided the region's isolated rural population with almost its only centers for commercial and social activity. Bypassed by the Belvidere Delaware railroad which was construction along the east bank of Delaware River in the 1850s, Amsterdam experienced almost no development in subsequent decades. Overshadowed by nearby communities more favored with transportation connections or with water power resources, it continued as a small, service center for several decades thereafter and remained a stable agricultural community into the early 20th century.² While scattered residential construction has occurred in its environs in recent years, the hamlet has grown little since the 19th century.

Amsterdam consequently has managed to preserve much of its 19th-century rural character. A majority of the district's buildings date to the middle decades of the 19th century, although a few may be earlier in part and several others are later. The distinctive historical character of the hamlet results from the survival of these buildings, their scattered spacing and varied setback, and their juxtaposition with the surrounding open countryside. These resources -almost without exception dwellings with attendant outbuildings- are generally well-preserved and exhibit relatively few modern alterations. Their form, construction, detailing, and siting provide a representative illustration of the rural region's vernacular architecture in the middle decades of the 19th century. The predominance of single-pile, 2-story dwellings (#s 3, 6, 7, 10,

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11, 12, 14, and 15) and bank barns (#s 3, 6, 7, 10, 15, and 16) in the district, for example, is indicative of the popularity of traditional building types strongly associated with Delaware Valley material culture with the region's 19th-century rural builders. As is the case with most of the region's modest rural dwellings in the 19th century, the influence of popular architectural styles on district houses is largely confined to simple decorative embellishments such as the Greek Revival inspired cornice of #3 and the Gothic Revival tracery ornamenting the porch of #12.

While the hamlet of Amsterdam did not develop until the 19th century, European settlement in the neighborhood began in the first half of the 18th century. The pioneer agriculturalists of northwestern Hunterdon County were mostly squatters on the vast tracts of land in the region acquired by absentee owners through New Jersey's system of proprietorial landholding.³ The site of Amsterdam lies within the boundaries of a 16,565-acre property which was surveyed for Colonel Thomas Byerly, a West Jersey proprietor, in 1714. After Byerly's death in 1725, his will having devised half of his landholdings to Robert Barker of Middlesex, England, the property devolved to the latter's grandson and heir, Sir Robert Barker, an English soldier who served many years in India, but to satisfy a claim against Byerly's estate, it was divided in half and the L-shaped southeastern portion was sold at a court-ordered sale in 1749. Despite various legal and managerial difficulties, the 7,308-acre remainder, which came to be known as the Alexandria tract and encompassed the west half of what is now Holland Township, was retained by Sir Robert until his death in 1789.⁴

Settlement on the Alexandria tract evidently occurred some years before Sir Robert began to exercise control over the property in the 1760s.⁵ When Barker's agent (New York City merchant William McAdams who was engaged in 1764) first visited the Alexandria tract he found forty families residing there who not only questioned Barker's title to the land but as squatters

had no object in view besides getting whatever they could by constant plowing where they had any prospect of reaping and by cutting down the Timber to convert it into Charcoal for the two Neighbouring Forges.⁶

The recalcitrant settlers, after some effort by McAdams, were brought under lease. Although there was considerable change in the makeup of Sir Robert's tenantry over the years, some names appeared

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repeatedly on his rent roles and more than a few 19th-century residents of the area could trace their descent from early settlers on the Alexandria tract. Names on the tenant lists suggest that the settlers had varied ethnic backgrounds and included many of German origins.⁷

Several months before his death in September 1789, Sir Robert conveyed the title of his New Jersey landholdings to three trustees to avoid possible legal difficulties over the transfer of the property to his heirs. Trustee James Parker, a large New Jersey landowner and businessman who had served as Barker's agent and power-of-attorney since 1784, was given sole authority to arrange for the sale of the lands and receive all monies. Parker, who had recently won a protracted legal struggle with the tenants over Sir Robert's right to the property, had the Alexandria tract resurveyed into thirty farms in the spring of 1789, the new lines evidently corresponding generally to pre-existing boundaries, and attempted unsuccessfully to dispose of it as two lots at public auction in the fall of that year. Over the course of the next decade, however, he was able to sell most of the farms separately to various individuals, some of them former tenants.⁸

Amsterdam's site straddles the boundary between two of the farms resurveyed in 1789 and sold in the 1790s. The land west of Crab Apple Hill Road (called "the road that leads to New Holland" in a c. 1789 boundary description) belonged to farm #19, a 231-acre tract which was sold to James Burson in 1795 for 577 pounds; farm #14, a 296-acre lot sold to Henry Mettler and James Davis for 540 pounds in 1797, included the land east of the road.⁹ An important early road, the road to Durham Ferry, crossed both farms along the course of what is now Church Road. The two parcels were among the eight farms on the Alexandria tract rented to two or three tenants in 1789, and both may have been divided into two farmsteads many years earlier. A map purportedly antedating the Revolutionary War, which was examined by a local historian in the mid-19th century, depicted two houses on each lot.¹⁰

Perhaps in response to demand for smaller properties, the new owners (one of whom, Henry Mettler, had been a cotenant of farm #19 in 1790-92) proceeded to subdivide the two farms into parcels ranging from about 25 to 150 acres in size, and by the early 1800s several small freeholds had been established at what became Amsterdam.¹¹ While most of the freeholders presumably were agriculturalists, one of them James Smith, who acquired a 49-acre lot (dis-

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trict site #s 6, 7, 10 & 11) from James Burson in 1796, was described in the deed of conveyance as a "potter."¹² Some buyers, like Smith and John Sinclair, who purchased an 88-acre parcel (district site #s 12 & 15) from James Davis in 1803, were Alexandria Township residents (Sinclair was a former Barker tenant, as was his father, Peter Cincleare, with whom, according to family history, he emigrated from Germany in 1750); others like Philip Rapp, who bought a 48-acre tract (district site #3) in 1806, and Philip Burgstresser, who acquired a 26-acre lot (district site #16) in the same year, had recently moved across the river from Pennsylvania.¹³ The latter evidently were part of the migration into northwestern New Jersey, occurring before and after 1800, of Pennsylvania Germans attracted by the availability of cheap, worn-out lands, a market which James Parker sought to capture by having his local agent chiefly post advertisements for the sale of his lands in Pennsylvania and at river crossings.¹⁴ Rapp and Burgstresser's acquisitions remained in hands of their descendants for several generations, as did the parcel purchased by Sinclair. Sinclair, who evidently lived nearby on farm #12 (bought from Parker in 1792), may have intended his 1803 acquisition to provide for two of his sons to whom he conveyed it some years thereafter.¹⁵

Throughout the first half of the 19th century further subdivision of the two farms occurred such as the 5.5-acre lot (district site #15) which John Sinclair conveyed to his son Peter in 1817 and the 10-acre lot (district site #7) acquired by John Kooker in 1840.¹⁶ Non-agriculturalists were attracted to the locality during the period. John Kooker was a carpenter, Jacob Ulmer who purchased Peter Sinclair's "house and lot" in 1840 was a shoemaker, and John Snyder who bought a 1.5-acre lot next to Kooker (district site #11) in 1850 was a blacksmith.¹⁷ By 1850 the settlement also had two merchants, John H. Sinclair and Peter Snyder. "Sinclair & Snyder's store" is depicted on the 1851 Hunterdon County map at the intersection of Church and Crab Apple Hill Roads; it presumably stood on the 50-acre property (district site #12) which John H. Sinclair had inherited from his father William in 1838, part of the 80-acres which the latter had received from his father John in 1817.¹⁸

The 1851 county map also provides the first documented use of the name Amsterdam in reference to the settlement. When the place name first became current is unknown; the early association of the name Holland with the area to the south, however, no doubt has something to do with its origins. A c. 1789 inventory of Sir Robert Barker's farms not only refers to the "road that leads to

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New Holland" (Crab Apple Hill Road), as previously mentioned, but also notes the "Holland wood lots" on Gravel Hill in its boundary descriptions of farm #s 14 and 19.¹⁹

By the 1850s the physical and social character of Amsterdam was firmly established. The 1860 Alexandria Township farm map documents the community's physical layout which remains basically unchanged today. The map depicts approximately 29 buildings, many of which have survived, spread along what are now Amsterdam and Church Roads.²⁰ Despite its artisans and merchants, Amsterdam was essentially an agricultural community. The 1850 census reveals that over half of the hamlet's households were headed by farmers or laborers, and it is likely those of the non-farmers with sufficient acreage (like merchant Sinclair and carpenter Kooker) also engaged in agricultural pursuits. Furthermore, Sinclair and Snyder's store was a short-lived enterprise. Upon the financial embarrassment of the two partners, Sinclair lost the farm on which the store was located at a court-ordered sheriff sale in 1855.²¹ While depicted on the 1860 Lake and Beers map, the store may well have been closed at that time, as the 1860 census includes no merchants among the Amsterdam residents (Jacob Welsh, the new owner of the property, was listed as a farmer), and by 1873 the building itself had apparently disappeared since it is not depicted on the county atlas of that year.²²

After losing its store, Amsterdam continued to provide limited services to the rural neighborhood for some years and remained a small stable agricultural community into the early 20th century. The 1873 atlas reveals that members of the Rapp, Burgstresser, and Sinclair families, descendants of the community's early settlers, still resided there, and the 1880 census reveals that farming still was the livelihood of nearly all households.²³ Although almost no building occurred except for modest agricultural structures, the construction of two substantial, stylishly detailed dwellings (#s 6 and 16) in the post-Civil War years attests to some degree of prosperity. While the blacksmith shop evidently had closed by 1881, the county history of that year noted that the hamlet retained its carpenter and shoemaker and listed a saw mill as a third enterprise (the latter, however, probably referred to the saw mill on the Delaware at nearby Holland Station).²⁴ Sometime thereafter, the carpenter and shoe shops ceased operations, and by the early 20th century a local historian could describe Amsterdam, along with two other Holland Township neighborhoods, Mount Joy and Spring Mills, as only "place names under which small hamlets are, or have been,

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known." 25

The same source also noted that improved roads were "somewhat of (a) scarcity" in Holland Township, and Amsterdam, isolated by poor roads and a remote, hilly location, coupled with changes in agriculture which resulted in the abandonment of marginal farmland, experienced little growth throughout much of this century. Two projects affecting its landscape did occur in the middle of the century. Upon the completion of the Gilbert electrical generation plant on the Delaware River nearby in 1930 two transmission lines were erected passing east and west of the hamlet, and around 1940 as part of improvements made to the old road from Spring Mills to Durham Ferry, the section of the road passing through Amsterdam was bypassed between Crab Apple Hill and Alfalfa Hill Roads.²⁶

In recent decades Amsterdam, along with other remote rural neighborhoods in northwestern New Jersey, has attracted new residential development as paved roads and new highways have allowed urban and suburban families to establish their homes there and commute to work. Old farmsteads have been renovated and new dwellings built on large lots subdivided from abandoned hill farms. In Amsterdam, renovations to older buildings have generally been sympathetic to their historic architectural character, and a number of farms in and around the hamlet remain in operation, thus preserving its historic agricultural setting. Both township residents and officials have recognized the special qualities of the community's architecture and landscape which make it a worthy candidate for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places and the desirability of preserving that heritage.

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Notes

¹ Samuel C. Cornell, Map of Hunterdon County, New Jersey, Philadelphia: S. C. Cornell and Lloyd Vanderveer, 1851; United States Census, Schedule of Population, Hunterdon County, Alexandria Township 1850.

² Warren F. Lee, Down Along the Old Bel-Del, Albuquerque, NM: Bel-Del Enterprises, Ltd., 1987, p. 8.

³ Peter Wacker, Land and People. A Cultural Geography of Pre-industrial New Jersey: Origins and Settlement Pattern, New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1975, pp. 127, 213-16 & 220; James P. Snell, (ed.) History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, New Jersey, Philadelphia: Everts & Peck, 1881, pp. 414 415.

⁴ Richard P. McCormick, "The West Jersey Estate of Sir Robert Barker," Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society, LXIV (July, 1946), pp. 4-7 & 38; Snell, pp 414-15.

⁵ McCormick, p. 7; Snell 415.

⁶ James Parker, "Abstracts of W. McAdams Proceedings on Sir Robert Barkers Tract," 1765, James Parker Papers.

⁷ McCormick, pp. 7-10; Snell p. 415; F. W. Beers, County Atlas of Hunterdon, New Jersey, New York: F. W. Beers & Co., 1873, p. 36.

⁸ McCormick, pp. 11-39; Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 9/page 6, Book 5/page 241, and /book 5/page 359.

⁹ D. Stanton Hammond, "Hunterdon County, New Jersey, Sheet C", Map Series #4, Genealogical Society of New Jersey, 1965; Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 5/page 359 and Book 2/page 239; "Bounds of farms on Sir Robert Barkers Tract in Alexandria," no date (probably c. 1789), James Parker Papers.

¹⁰ McCormick, pp. 34 & 35; D. H. Morrow (ed.), Traditions of Hunterdon County, Flemington, NJ: D. H. Morrow, 1957, pp. 173-74, (originally published as a series of articles entitled "Traditions of Our Ancestors" in the Hunterdon Republican in 1869-70 and believed to have been written by John W. Lequear).

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¹¹ Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 15/page 142, Book 15/page 142, Book 15/page 142, Book 18/page 120, Book 9/page 3, Book 7/page 4, Book 13/page 212, Book 12/page 281, and Book 27/page 12, 374; James Parker, "Lease of Lot 19," March 26, 1792, James Parker Papers.

¹² Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 15/page 142.

¹³ Ibid., Book 9/page 3, Book 13/page 212, and Book 12/page 281; Snell, pp. 415 and 429; McCormick, p. 35.

¹⁴ Peter Wacker, Musconetcong Valley of New Jersey, New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1968, p. 51.

¹⁵ F. W. Beers, County Atlas of Hunterdon, New Jersey, New York: F. W. Beers & Co., 1873, p. 36; Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 9/page 6, Book 53/page 333, Book 83/page 330, Book 41/page 458, and Book 233/page 206.

¹⁶ Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 41/page 458 and Book 127/page 219.

¹⁷ United States Census, Schedule of Population, Hunterdon County, Alexandria Township 1850; Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 91/page 261 and Book 98/page 134.

¹⁸ Samuel C. Cornell, Map of Hunterdon County, New Jersey, Philadelphia: S. C. Cornell and Lloyd Vanderveer, 1851; United States Census, Schedule of Population, Hunterdon County, Alexandria Township 1850; Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 112/page 706 and Book 35/page 137.

¹⁹ "Bounds of farms on Sir Robert Barkers Tract in Alexandria," no date (probably c. 1789), James Parker Papers.

²⁰ Michael Hughes, Farm Map of Alexandria Township, Hunterdon Co., NJ, Michael Hughes, 1860.

²¹ United States Census, Schedule of Population, Hunterdon County, Alexandria Township 1850; Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 112/page 706 and Book 127/page 219.

²² J. D. Lake and S. N. Beers, Map of the Vicinity of Philadelphia and Trenton, Philadelphia: C. K. Stone and A. Pomeroy, 1860; Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 112/page 706; United States

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²³ F. W. Beers, County Atlas of Hunterdon, New Jersey, New York: F. W. Beers & Co., 1873, p. 36; United States Census, Schedule of Population, Hunterdon County, Holland Township 1880;

²⁴ Snell, p. 428.

²⁵ A. Van Doren Honeyman, (ed.). Northwestern New Jersey: A History of Somerset, Morris, Hunterdon, Warren, and Sussex Counties. 5 vols. New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1927.

²⁶ "Some Historical Facts about Holland Township." (no date).

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Amsterdam Historic District is delineated on the attached map entitled "Amsterdam Historic District Site Location and Boundary Map", and is verbally described and justified in the following paragraphs. The site and boundary map is an assemblage of the following municipal tax maps: Sheets 13, 14, 20 and 22, Holland Township, Hunterdon County, New Jersey, prepared by Frank W. Bohren, P. E. & L. S. for Bohren and Bohren Engineering Associates, Inc., dated May, 1976.

Beginning in Holland Township at the northwest corner of block 20, lot 6, which point is on the south side of Church Road, the district boundary runs south and east along the west and south sides of lot 6 to that lot's southeast corner, which point is in the west line of block 20, lot 3. From there the boundary runs south 100 feet along the west side of lot 3 and then turns east and proceeds across lot 3 in a straight line to the southwest corner of block 20, lot 16 (also the northwest corner of block 20, lot 1). It continues east along the south side of lot 16 to that lot's southeast corner and Crab Apple Hill Road. Crossing Crab Apple Hill Road, the boundary runs north along the east side of the road to the northwest corner of block 22, lot 71, from which point it runs northeast across block 20, lot 2 to the southwest corner of block 22, lot 1, and then runs east and north along the south and east side of latter lot to Church Road.

The boundary continues east along the south side of Church Road to the northwest corner of block 22, lot 98, and then runs south, east, and north along the west, south, and east sides of lot 98 to Church Road again. Crossing Church Road, the boundary runs west along the north side of the road to the southeast corner of block 14, lot 33.01, and then runs north and west along the east and north side of that lot to its northwest corner. From there the boundary runs west in a straight line across block 14, lots 35, 36, and 37 to the southeast corner of block 14, lot 38.01. It follows the south side of lot 38.01 to that lot's southwest corner continues west in a straight line across block 14, lots 38 and 38.02 to the northeast corner of block 14, lot 44. The boundary proceeds west along the north side of lot 44 to the lot's northwest corner, from which point it runs west across block 14, lots 39 and 42, along a course continuing the north line of lot 44 to the N. J. P and L. Co. right of way. Turning southwest, it follows the southeast side of the right of way across block 14, lot 42, Alfalfa Hill

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Road, block 13, lot 6, and Church Road to the south side of the latter road. From there it runs east along the south side of Church Road to the place of beginning.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Amsterdam Historic District were delineated to include to the greatest extent possible the architectural and historical resources of the village, with not only the fewest non-contributing buildings but also with sufficient amounts of visually and historically critical open space.

On the north side of the district, the boundary was drawn along a line of convenience which roughly follows the border between the open land behind the district houses on Amsterdam and Church Road and the wooded hillside to the north. On the south side of the district west of Crab Apple Hill Road the boundary follows a line of convenience across lot 3 to include the open meadow land along the creek just south of Church Road, which is visually critical to the character and setting of the district. East of Apple Hill Road, the south boundary of the district was delineated to exclude the modern houses on Crab Apple Hill and Church Roads. The power line right of way similarly provides a convenient and appropriate boundary for the west side of the district north of Church Road. South of Church Road the boundary encompasses lot 6 so as to include the downstream abutments of the stone arched bridge (#2).

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- 5 - 18/ 486680 4492820
- 6 - 18/ 486700 4492720
- 7 - 18/ 486160 4492360
- 8 - 18/ 486060 4492580
- 9 - 18/ 486100 4492800

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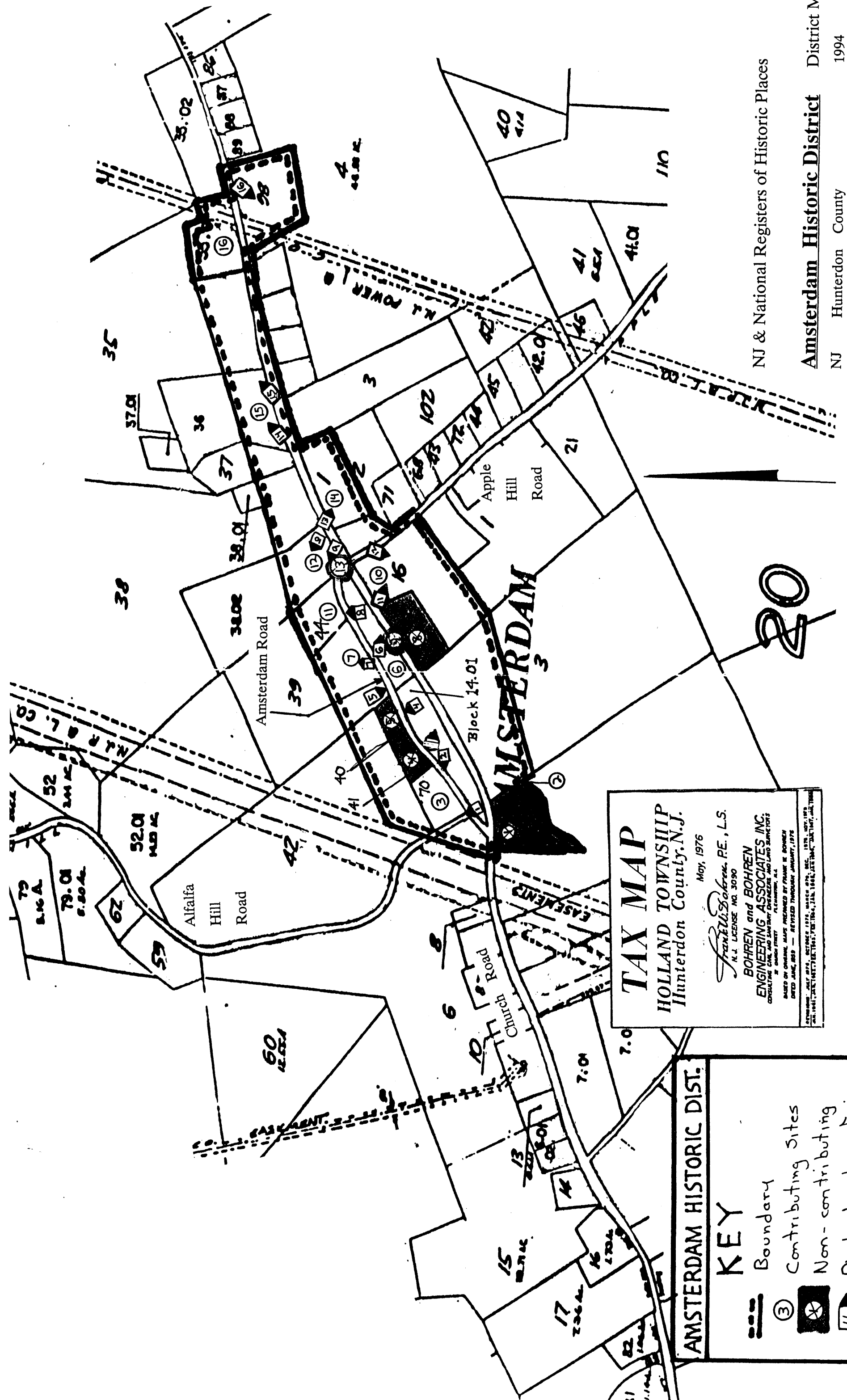
Section number _____ Page _____

Photographic Identification:

The following information is the same for all of the photographs submitted with the nomination:

Name:	Amsterdam Historic District
Location:	Holland Township, Hunterdon County, NJ
Photographer:	Dennis Bertland
Date of photographs:	December 1993
Negative repository:	Holland Township Historic Preservation Commission Holland Township Municipal Building 61 Church Road Milford, NJ 08848

1. Alfalfa Hill Road, NW view.
2. Site #3, W view.
3. Amsterdam Road, SE view.
4. Site #5, NW view.
5. Site #6, SE view.
6. Site #6 (barns), SE view.
7. Site #7, NE view.
8. Site #11, NE view.
9. Amsterdam Road at Church Road, NE view.
10. Site #12, NW view.
11. Site #10, SE view.
12. Site #10, SW view.
13. Site #14, SE view.
14. Site #15, NE view.
15. Site #15 (barn), NE view.
16. Site #16 (barn), SE view.



NJ & National Registers of Historic Places
Amsterdam Historic District District Map
 NJ Hunterdon County 1994
 Township of Holland

TAX MAP
 HOLLAND TOWNSHIP
 Hunterdon County, N.J.
 May, 1976
Frank W. Bohren, P.E., L.S.
 N.J. LICENSE NO. 3090
BOHREN and BOHREN
ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES INC.
 CONSULTING CIVIL AND SANITARY ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS
 2000 STATE STREET ALBANY, N.Y.
 BASED ON ORIGINAL MAPS PREPARED BY FRANK W. BOHREN
 DIED JAN. 1985 - REVISED THROUGH JANUARY, 1976
 ATTORNEY: JULY 1974, REVERES 1974, MARSH 1974, INC. 1974, MAY 1974,
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AMSTERDAM HISTORIC DIST.

KEY

- Boundary
- Contributing Sites
- Non-contributing
- Photo direction of view

