

NOMINATION REPORT

**Israel Crane House
110 Orange Road**

**BLOCK 1304
LOT 12**

**Prepared By:
The Township of Montclair
Mayor and Council
205 Claremont Avenue
Montclair, NJ 07042**

January 2007

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This report has been prepared in accordance with Montclair Code Section 347-135B(1).

347-135B(1):Nomination Proposals. The party proposing for designation under this section shall prepare and submit to the Commission a nomination report for each proposed property, site or district. For individual landmark designations, the report shall include one or more photographs, the tax lot and block number of the property as designated on the Official Tax Map of the township and a physical description and statement of significance and proposed utilization of the site.

I. Executive Summary

The Township of Montclair Historic Preservation Commission was created by ordinance in June of 1994. The Historic Preservation Commission is charged with accomplishing the protection, enhancement and perpetuation of especially noteworthy examples or elements of the township's environment in order to:

- (1) Safeguard the heritage of Montclair by preserving resources which reflect elements of its cultural, social, and architectural history
- (2) Encourage the continued use of historic and/or noteworthy buildings or structures
- (3) Foster civic pride in the history and architecture of the Township
- (4) Promote the economic welfare of the township through the preservation of historic sites and landscapes
- (5) Enhance the visual and aesthetic character, diversity continuity and interest in the township and its neighborhoods
- (6) Discourage the unnecessary demolition or other destruction of historic resources
- (7) Encourage beautification and private investment in the township
- (8) Promote the economic welfare of the township through the preservation of its historic sites and landscapes

As per **Montclair Code Section 347-135A**, criteria for designation, "the Commission shall consider as worthy of designation those buildings, structures, objects, sites and districts that have integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and that meet one or more of the following criteria:

- (1) Are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- (2) Are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- (3) Embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; that represent the work of a master; that possess high artistic values; or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.
- (4) Have yielded or may be likely to yield information important to prehistory or history.
- (5) Are otherwise of particular historic significance to the Township of Montclair by reflecting or exemplifying the broad cultural, political, economic or social history of the nation, state, region or community."

BASE SURVEY

Historic Site# 0713725

Property Name: **Israel Crane House**

Street Address: 110 Orange Rd

Nearest Cross Street: Union St

Apt/Unit #:

Local Place Name:

Municipality: Montclair

Ward (District): 3 (7)

Zip Code: 07042

Block / Lots: 1304 / 12

County: Essex

Map Reference: 46-A/32

USGS Quad: Orange

Lot Size: 133' x 320' - 16'

Owner Name: Montclair Historical Society

Ownership Type: Private

Owner Address:

Ownership Updated:

**Property
Description**

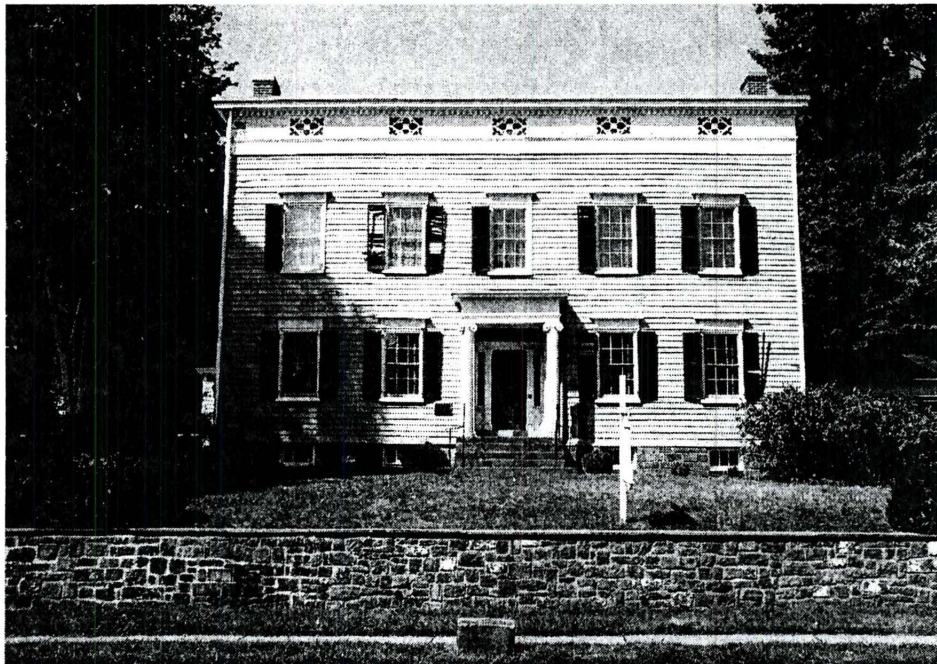
Home of Israel "King" Crane, fifth generation to "Deacon" Azariah and Mary Crane who were founders of Cranetown. Montclair was called Cranetown prior to 1812.

Israel Crane, an entrepreneur with many business interests, built this house when he was only twenty-two. He served as president and later was sole owner of the Newark and Pompton Turnpike (now Bloomfield Ave.) which opened in 1806.

This house, which previously stood on Glenridge Ave., was quickly moved here in 1965 to escape demolition. It has been restored as a historic house museum by the Montclair Historical Society. It serves as headquarters for the society which performs an active role in community affairs.

Building was surveyed by HABS, 1935-37. It was placed on the National Register on March 14, 1973.

**Current
Photograph**



Elevation: East

Image File #: 0713725 - 1.jpg

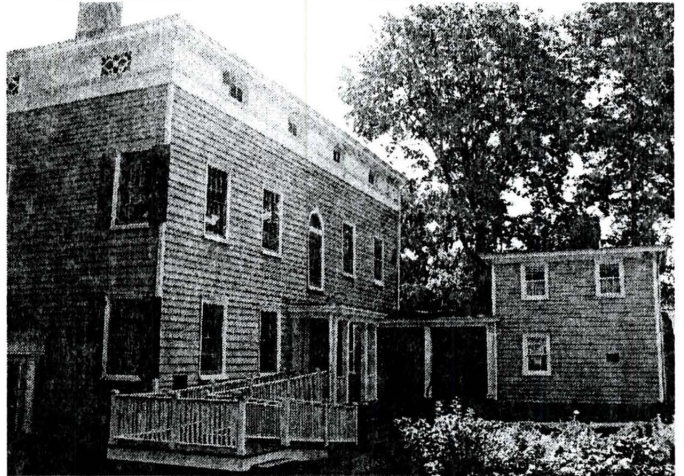
Ref: 8/2005

ADDITIONAL IMAGES

Historic Site# 0713725 Israel Crane House

IMAGE 1 elevation image id R41. 3

IMAGE 4 West elevation image id 0713725 - 4.jpg

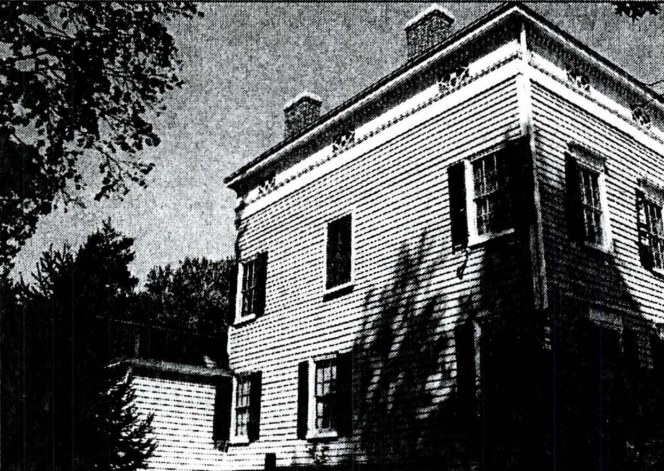


Notes:

Notes: 8/2005

IMAGE 2 South elevation image id 0713725 - 2.jpg

IMAGE 5 elevation image id

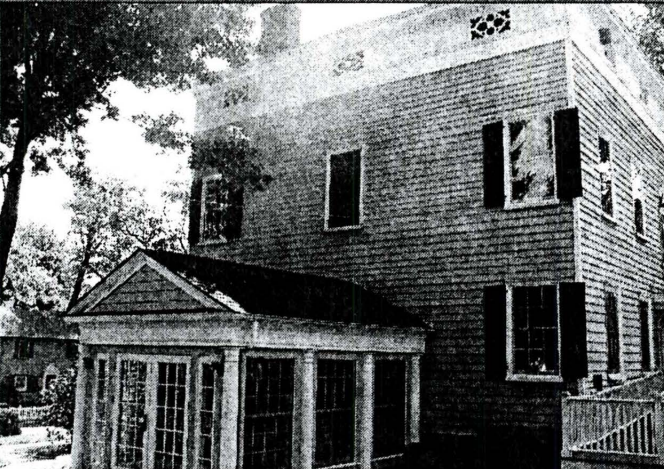


Notes: 8/2005

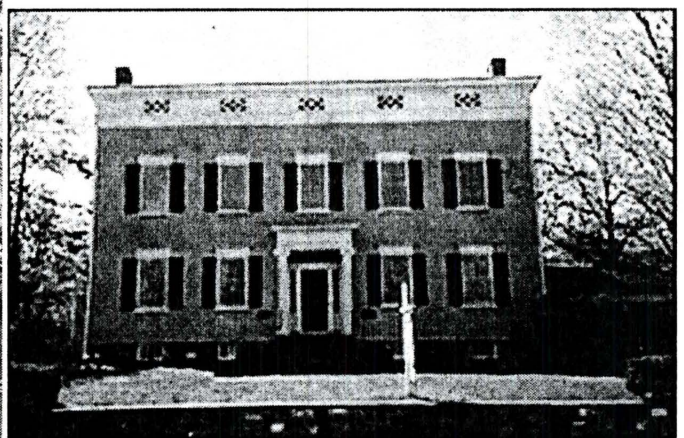
Notes:

IMAGE 3 North elevation image id 0713725 - 3.jpg

IMAGE 6 East elevation image id NJHT Crane Hse1.jpg



Notes: 8/2005



Notes: NJHT web site, 7/2005.

BUILDING SURVEY

Historic Site# 0713725 Israel Crane House

Historic Name: **Israel Crane House**

Common Name: Israel Crane House

Present Use: Recreational and entertainment, Passive recreation - indoor

Historic Use: Residential, Permanent

Constructed: 1796 *Source: Tax Assessor*

Altered: 7836, 1965, 1968 *Source: Montclair Historical Society*

Designer:		Rem. Hist. Fabric:	High
Builder:		Phys. Condition:	Excellent
Style:	Federal	Stories:	2.5
Other Elements:	Greek Revival	Bays:	5
Form:	Other: Extended rectangle	Chimneys:	4
Exterior Finish:	Wood, Clapboard	Roof Finish:	Unknown

Exterior Basement. Fieldstone foundation. Rear extension.
6/6 D.H. windows. Two chimney each at north and south ends. Flat roof.

Elaborate entrance portico with porch of Ionic order. Wood lintels above all windows. Shutters flank all windows.

Cast iron grillwork at third story level covers windows and is set into the frieze of the cornice.

Additions/Modifications:

Ell (kitchen) at rear was added to structure in 1836. When the house was quickly moved in 1965 to escape demolition, the ell was removed. It was reconstructed in 1968 using original material and HABS documentation.

Interior

Setting

Not original site; moved from 150 Glenridge Avenue in 1965.
Suburban, residential. No threats to site.

House is centrally located on site. On the northwest corner of the property is the Country Store Museum, restored in 1976. It was originally the Nathaniel Crane, Jr. house and formerly located on the property immediately to the north. See #108.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Historic Site# 0713725 Israel Crane House

Continuation sheet for Base Survey and Building Survey forms

from Montclair Historical Society web page, July, 2005: <http://www.montclairhistorical.org/collection/collection1.html>

As a means to fulfill its mission, the Society preserves, restores and furnishes the Crane House Museum, as well as other buildings at its Orange Road complex. The Crane House serves as the house museum, exhibition center and meeting space. Next door, the Clark House houses the Terhune Library as well as historic skills classrooms and administrative offices. Two smaller buildings to the rear of the property, the Crafts Building and Historic Country Store and Museum Shop, offer space for exhibition and educational purposes.

Crane House

About the Crane House

This fine Federal-style mansion was home to three generations of the Crane family, descended from one of Montclair's founders. Israel Crane, a successful merchant who constructed the turnpike that opened New Jersey's heartland to early trade, built the house when he was only 22. Dating from 1796 and remodeled circa 1840 with Greek -Revival details. This landmark house was considered grand for its period. Now restored, the home displays an outstanding collection of period furnishings and decorative arts.

The Crane House is situated on traditionally planted grounds with a country store, craft building, kitchen garden, and picturesque gazebo. The Historical Society offices, education center, and Terhune Library are located in the adjacent Clark House, a late - 19th-century residence.

History of the Crane House Museum

Twenty years after the Declaration of Independence, an enterprising young man named Israel Crane built a large and distinguished home on eighty-six acres in the small farming community of Cranetown, which is now Montclair, New Jersey. Always considered "grand" for its locale, the house built in 1796 was a contrast to the one-and-a-half story frame and brownstone houses which surrounded it. The Crane House Museum stands today as one Montclair's most important landmarks and a symbol of the area's distinctive heritage.

Israel Crane, a direct descendant of Cranetown's founding family, prospered through income from the general store beside his home and his cider mill and cotton and woolen mills on a nearby stream. In 1801 he and a partner leased a site in Paterson for one of the first mills to use power from the Passaic River. In 1806 he organized a group to construct a direct route between Newark and outlying areas. Israel Crane became the sole owner and operator of this toll road known as the Newark-Pompton Turnpike. Today's Bloomfield Avenue is part of this turnpike. Brownstone quarries in Newark became a major interest later in his life. Israel Crane's extensive success in business and his influence in the community's civic and religious life earned him the nickname "King" Crane.

James Crane was given the house in 1840 and proceeded to make several alterations in the Greek-revival style. The third floor became a full story surmounted by a classical cornice with iron grilles at the windows. An entrance with Ionic columns replaced the original and a curved staircase was built into the wide hall. These changes are part of the house today. The YWCA bought the house from James's descendants in 1920. For 45 years the house was used for offices, dormitories, and as a social center for African American women and girls.

In 1965 the house in which Israel Crane and his wife had raised their five children was to be demolished. A few citizens banded together to save the only entire building left in Montclair which was associated with the founding Crane family. The Israel Crane House was moved from its original site on the Old Road to 110 Orange Road. The importance of the house was verified by its inclusion in the 1935 national Historic American Buildings Survey, by citation

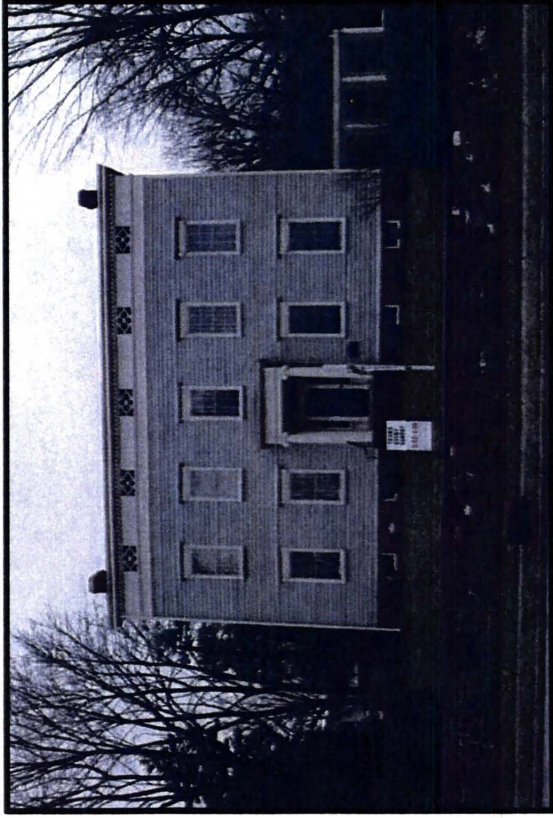
in the New Jersey Historic Sites Evaluation in 1961 as a "rare and important example of northern New Jersey Federal mansion", and listing on both the New Jersey and Federal Register of Historic Places 1972 and 1973.

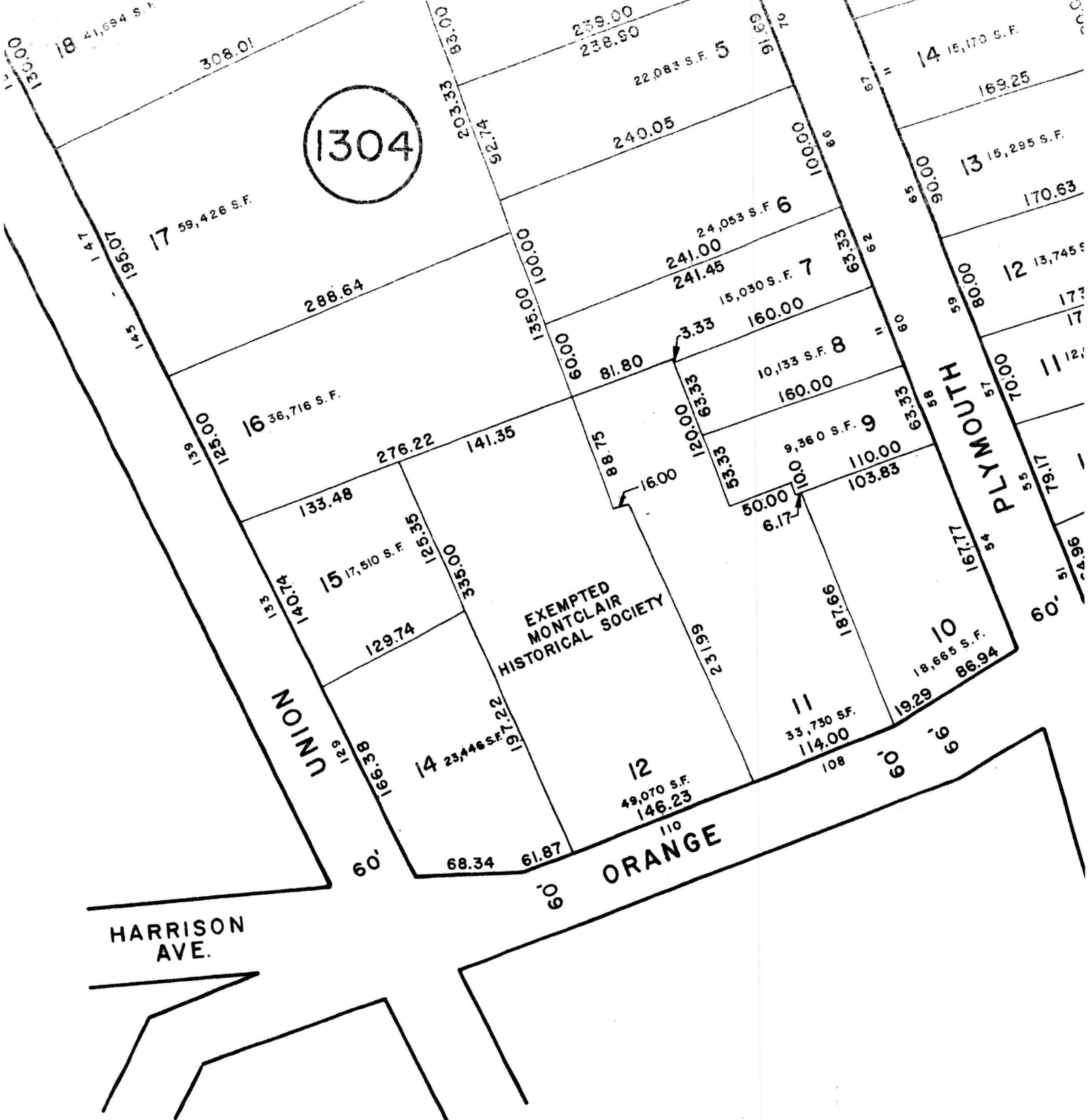
The Collection

The Crane House Museum is one of the few remaining northern New Jersey Federal mansions. Its ten rooms contain a remarkable collection of 18th and 19th century furniture, paintings, and decorative arts, among them ceramics, glassware, silverware, rugs, quilts, samplers, toys and dolls, tools, and household items. Highlights include a painted bedroom furniture set owned by Paul Revere IV, dated 1816; a Roxbury "Tall" Clock; an 1827 harp made by Sebastian Erard; Argand lamps; a 1740 William and Mary highboy; a rare 18th century Aubusson carpet; an early 19th-century schoolroom; a reconstructed antique kitchen with its continuing demonstrations of open hearth cooking and bee hive oven baking; and murals of early Essex County painted by Arthur Watkins Crisp.

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Israel Crane House





BLOCK 1304 LOT 12