

modifications to the rear of the building. On the available evidence, the most likely interpretation for the rubble-filled structure is that it was some kind of storage facility (perhaps for seed), probably dating from the period between 1855 and 1883 when the property was in use as a seed store.

One other foundation was observed in the Alley Excavation Unit. This was a mortared stone wall [11] that stratigraphically pre-dated all of the structural remains discussed above and which appeared to have been abutted by a yard soil containing late 18th- and early 19th-century cultural materials. Although impossible to prove, this wall may have been part of the foundations of one of the many outbuildings noted in the documentary record as being on the 12, 14 and 16 North Warren Street property in the late 18th century.

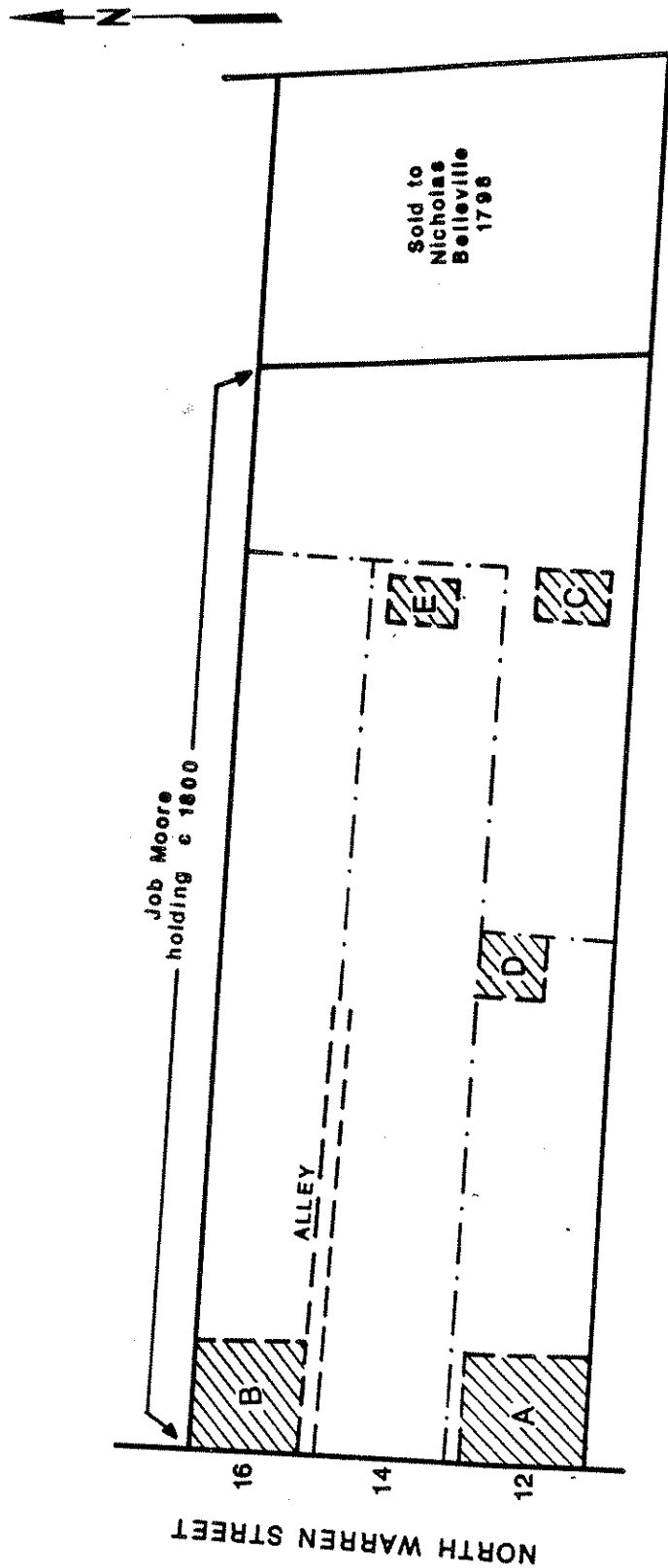
C. Synthesis

1. The Colonial and Early Federal Periods:

The half-acre town lot of which 12 and 14 North Warren Street (with 16 North Warren Street) were originally a part was first developed sometime in the second quarter of the 18th century, probably by William Morris, a member of one of Trenton's most influential early families. By 1746 this property contained a dwelling house, a brick kitchen (probably an outkitchen), a storehouse and a stable. The precise locations of these structures is uncertain, but it is hypothesized that the dwelling and storehouse were located on the street frontage, while the other buildings probably lay to the rear (Figure 6.9). Perhaps the most likely spot for the dwelling would have been the southwest corner of the lot, in other words at the "downtown" end of the King (North Warren) Street frontage (later 12 North Warren Street). If this is correct, then the storehouse was probably situated at the northwestern corner of the lot (16 North Warren Street), as later 18th-century documents indicate that there was room for another structure between the two buildings that occupied the street frontage. Alternatively, the locations of these two street-front buildings may need to be transposed.

By the early 1760s the lot was already in combined residential and commercial usage, a feature that characterized the property and its later subdivisions until the mid-20th century. A shop (a store rather than a workshop) occupied a part of the original house, while the storehouse had apparently been turned into a second dwelling, while retaining its commercial function. A garden, a carriage house, a wood house and a well were specifically mentioned during this period, in addition to the stable noted earlier.

FIGURE 6.9. 12, 14 AND 16 NORTH WARREN STREET
 CONJECTURED SITE PLAN C 1740 - 1820



- 20th century property lines
- A. Dwelling (pre-1746; incl. shop by early 1760s)
- B. Storehouse (pre-1746; incl. dwelling by early 1760s)
- C. Shop (pre-1821)
- D. Outbuilding or cut feature (e.g. cistern) (pre-1821)
- E. Outbuilding (pre-1821)

Property also included a brick kitchen, stables, carriage house, wood house, well and gardens during this period



A sale advertisement for the property in 1774 revealed that what was probably the original dwelling was a two-story frame structure with four rooms to a floor. At this time the building was no longer in use as a store, but a hatter's shop was present elsewhere on the property, possibly in the earlier storehouse/dwelling structure that is hypothesized to have stood in the northwest corner of the lot. It is this 1774 sale advertisement that notes that there was room for another tenement along the street frontage. This document also refers to a kitchen and cellars, and confirms the presence of some of the other features presumed to have been located in the rear of the property.

An important feature of the 12, 14 and 16 North Warren Street property during the last quarter of the 18th century was the use of one of the buildings (apparently the structure sited in the northwest corner of the lot) as a newspaper office and print shop. The second office of New Jersey's first newspaper, the New Jersey Gazette, was maintained here from 1778 until 1783 by Isaac Collins, a well-known figure in colonial publishing. After a brief interlude, another early newspaper, the New Jersey State Gazette, forerunner of the State Gazette, was produced on these premises between 1792 and 1800.

The newspaper operations evidently rented commercial space on the property, the principal owner during this period being Job Moore, a hatter. Analysis of the documentary record indicates that Moore lived in and ran his hatters business out of 12 North Warren Street while leasing part of the property to the newspaper publishers. In 1798 Moore sold off a parcel at the rear of his lot to Nicholas Belleville, but he maintained ownership of the remainder of the property until 1817. In that year he sold the southern two-thirds of the lot (later 12 and 14 North Warren Street) to Richard Hunt and Ebenezer Rose. This transaction effectively ended the property's first major phase of occupation and set in motion a process of subdivision, redevelopment and new building, the basis of which persisted through into the 1980s.

Many of the buildings and features present on Job Moore's property during the first two decades of the 19th century, prior to its redevelopment, probably originated in the 18th century (Figure 6.9). The two 18th-century dwellings on the street front (both of which had experienced some commercial use, either as a store, newspaper office or hatters shop) both seem to have been standing at the time of the 1817 subdivision, while some of the outbuildings to the rear probably also dated from the colonial period.

The early 19th-century documentary record that formalizes the break-up of the Moore property and its subsequent redevelopment provides much vital information on the locations of buildings within the lot. There is a valuable reference to the 18th-century dwelling that occupied the site of what later became 12 North Warren Street which notes that this structure extended 14 inches into the alley that was laid out between 12 and 14 North Warren Street in the 1820s. This effectively pins down the north wall of this dwelling, believed to be the residence and hatter's shop of Job Moore in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

The early 19th-century documentary record is also of some assistance in locating one structure at the rear of what later became the 12 North Warren Street lot. This was a shop that in 1821 lay adjacent to the west line of a parcel sold by Richard Hunt to George Dill. Although this reference post-dates the period of Job Moore's ownership, it pre-dates the redevelopment of the property, which did not begin until the following year at the earliest. It therefore seems reasonable to suggest that this shop was erected at least during Job Moore's period of ownership and quite possibly even earlier than that. It is interesting to note that this shop was located at some distance from the King (North Warren) Street frontage. It was, however, situated fairly close to the site of the Market House that, in the late 1780s, extended back from the Second (East State) Street frontage into the center of the block (Figure 4.4).

Some archaeological evidence was recovered from the period circa 1740 through 1820, although much of it was fragmentary and very limited in terms of its interpretive potential. While the 19th-century structures may have re-used portions of their predecessors' foundations, no clear evidence was found for either of the two 18th-century buildings that are believed to have occupied the North Warren Street frontage. The only portion of the frontage that might have contained remains of these buildings was the alley between 12 and 14 North Warren Street. This zone was not excavated, however, as it was clear from background research and a surface examination that this narrow passage had been intensively used as a conduit for drains and utility lines in the later 19th and 20th centuries. It was therefore presumed that any early archaeological deposits within the alley would have been disrupted by trenching for utilities installations.

Archaeological remains of two possible 18th- or early 19th-century outbuildings or structures were discovered in the Phase 2 field investigations. The deeply-set stone foundation encountered in Excavation Units A and B in the rear room of 12 North Warren Street may have been the footing for an outbuilding with a below-ground use (perhaps an ice house or a root cellar) or it may have been part of a cistern, septic or some other deeply-cut feature. Although

the southwest corner of this square or rectangular structure was observed, its full dimensions were unfortunately not obtainable. At the rear of 14 North Warren Street, among the jumble of foundations uncovered in the Alley Excavation Unit, was one mortared stone wall that apparently dates from the circa 1740-1820 period. Because of its depth and mortar bonding, this foundation can more certainly be identified as the remains of an outbuilding, although its precise function (a stable or carriage house are two possible candidates) is uncertain.

Despite the paucity of definite structural remains dating from the colonial and early federal periods, a large quantity of cultural materials was recovered from the ubiquitous yard soils that were found throughout the rear portions of the 12 and 14 North Warren Street properties. These materials include a wide range of ceramics (tin-glazed earthenware, salt-glazed stoneware, creamware, pearlware, imported Chinese porcelain, redware), glassware (bottle and lamp chimney fragments) and metal objects (an iron padlock and nails).

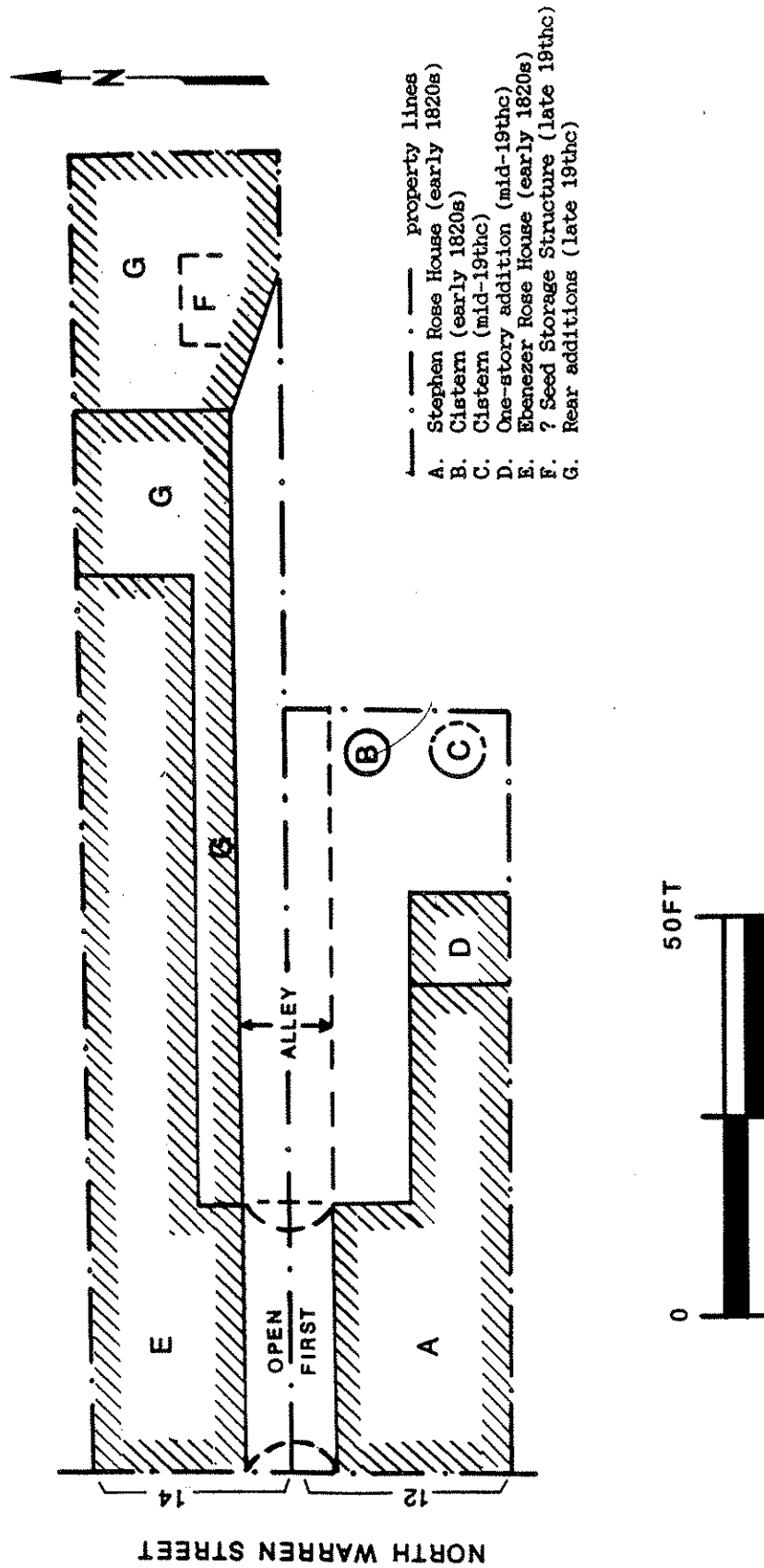
2. From the 1820s Through the 20th Century:

Redevelopment of the southern two-thirds of Job Moore's lot (later the 12 and 14 North Warren Street properties) began in the early 1820s following Stephen Rose's purchase of the bulk of Richard Hunt's parcel. The two Rose brothers, Stephen and Ebenezer, each proceeded to build a house on their adjoining properties. The houses appear to have been fairly similar, both consisting of a three-story brick front section and a two-story brick rear section (Figure 6.10). A nine-foot-wide alley separated the two buildings, although at the second-floor level Ebenezer Rose's house extended over the top of the passage to abut his brother's dwelling.

While the Rose brothers both seem to have built their houses with residential usage chiefly in mind, the first-floor space within these buildings was soon being utilized commercially. By at least the mid-1850s, and perhaps as early as the mid-1830s, the 12 North Warren Street property housed the jewelry and watchmaking business of the Roberts family. This business stayed in operation until 1887 when it was replaced by a drugstore. The latter occupied these premises until the early part of the present century, when a succession of different commercial uses ensued.

By the mid-1850s, the 14 North Warren Street property was being leased, at least in part, as a millinery and tailor's shop. From 1855 until 1884, a seed store was operated out of these premises, first by the Phillips family, and then by J.W. Cornell & Company. After a brief spell as a boot and shoe store, the property was acquired by the Naar family, remodeled extensively and turned into a newspaper office, printing shop and stationery store. This commercial usage

FIGURE 6.10. 12 AND 14 NORTH WARREN STREET
 CONJECTURED SITE PLAN, 1820 - 1880



of 14 North Warren Street by the True American, which took up all three floors of the building, continued until well into the present century, although from 1919 until 1963 the City of Trenton maintained a public comfort station on the ground floor. Up until the 1890s the upper stories of both 12 and 14 North Warren Street were probably in residential use, with the former structure probably retaining this combined commercial/residential function until late in the 20th century.

Much of the structural fabric of Stephen Rose's early 1820s house was still apparent in the front section of 12 North Warren Street in 1987. The front facade on the upper story, the north and south gable walls and probably most of the floor and roof framing of this section of the building appeared to have survived the various remodelings that had taken place in the later 19th and 20th centuries. The rear section of the building had little if any discernible fabric dating from the early 19th century, as a major rebuilding took place between 1908 and 1927, after the property ceased to be used as drugstore. This construction activity essentially involved the erection of a two-story brick building over the full extent of the property behind the original front section of Stephen Rose's house.

The original form of the rear section of Rose's house was visible in the basement, however, where the foundations outlined a rear wing that corresponded in plan with the earliest detailed representation of the structure shown on historic maps (Figures 4.13 and 6.10). Archaeological materials recovered from the builders trench for these foundations in Excavation Unit C confirmed the early 19th-century date of this portion of the basement. Indeed, the greater part of the basement, as recorded in 1987 (Figure 6.2), was probably constructed in the early 1820s building episode.

Archaeological investigation shed useful light on the 19th-century character of the rear portion of 12 North Warren Street (Figure 6.10). Excavation Unit A produced evidence of a one-story brick addition that appears to have been attached to the east of the original rear wing sometime in the mid-19th century. Of greater interest was a pair of cisterns, one replacing the other, that were built up against the late 18th/early 19th-century outbuilding foundation or cut feature discussed above. The earlier of these two cisterns, a finely constructed, beehive-shaped brick structure, was contemporary with Stephen Rose's original house and was capped a generation or so later. The second, larger cistern, the principal feature in Excavation Unit B, was brick-lined and of standard circular type. Abandoned sometime around the turn of the century, when the property contained a drugstore, this cistern's fill included a large quantity of medicinal glassware and other artifacts dating from circa 1900.

Ebenezer Rose's early 1820s house at 14 North Warren Street appeared to have undergone more radical modification than his brother's dwelling to the south. Portions of the north and south walls and parts of the upper story and roof framing in the front section of this building may have survived in 1987. The front facade had been heavily modified, however, and the rear sections of the building contained no discernible traces of the early 19th-century structure. While the front portion of the basement, like its equivalent in 12 North Warren Street, included re-used masonry in abundance, the entire rear section of the building was also cellared (apparently in the late 19th century), thus greatly diminishing the archaeological potential in the yard area behind the building.

Two major phases of rebuilding appear to have occurred in the rear section of 14 North Warren Street towards the end of the 19th century: one in the 1880s (probably following the conversion of the property into a boot and shoe store); the other in the 1890s (after the takeover over the property by the True American). The rear of the building that resulted from this latter modification still existed in 1987. The Alley Excavation Unit, located in the small uncellared portion at the very rear of 14 North Warren Street, revealed foundations (possibly re-used from an earlier structure) associated with the 1880s modifications as well as structural remains of what may have been a mid-to late 19th-century seed storage facility. No clear evidence of early 19th-century features was observed.