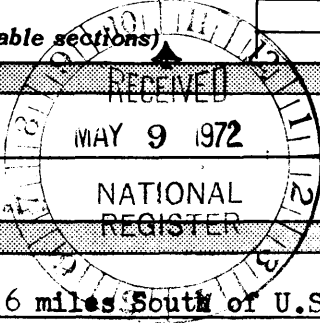


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

STATE: <b>New Jersey</b>	
COUNTY: <b>Hunterdon</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	<b>JAN 25 1973</b>

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)



**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Mr. & Mrs. John M. Matsen**

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**(\*) Bray - Hoffman House**

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Bray's Hill Road (West side, 0.6 miles South of U.S. 22)**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Annandale**

STATE: **New Jersey** CODE: **34** COUNTY: **Hunterdon** CODE: **019**

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**John M. Matsen**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Bray's Hill Road (Sand Hill Road)**

CITY OR TOWN: **Annandale** STATE: **New Jersey** CODE: **34**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
**Hunterdon County Court House Hall of Records**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Main St.**

CITY OR TOWN: **Flemington** STATE: **New Jersey** CODE: **34**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory 158.1**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1972**  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Historic Sites Division, Department of Environmental Protection**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**John Fitch Plaza, P.O. Box 1120**

CITY OR TOWN: **Trenton** STATE: **New Jersey** CODE: **34**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

215  
 1049240

STATE:  
**New Jersey**

COUNTY:  
**Hunterdon**

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
 ENTRY NUMBER: **JAN 25 1973**  
 DATE:

7. Description

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Exterior - General: The house is a large, brick, gambrel-roofed structure. It is of conventional five bay, 2½ story Federal center hall design.

Masonry: The foundation (excluding later porches) is of field stone and measures 48' 2" x 36' 5". The front foundation wall is ashlar faced and extends about two feet above grade. Brickwork of the East (front) and North walls of the house is laid in Flemish bond, and the less prominent West and South walls are of English garden wall bond. Bricks were made at the site, using clay from a nearby hillside. Sills, lintels, and keystones of the doors and windows are made of the same stone as the front foundation facing. Four large chimneys (a pair at each end) extend 38' above grade and are capped with five ornamental brick courses. A small fifth chimney was added to accommodate a modern furnace and is not visible from the front or ends of the house. A large brick beehive oven originally projected from the south wall but was removed circa 1925, when a side porch was added. A front porch was added at the same time.

Fenestration: The five bays on the front of the house are uniformly spaced. Bays at the rear of the house are correspondingly placed, but some of these are blank. The pairs of end windows on the first and second floors are set very wide, having two fireplaces between. Sash is glazed six over six, except for the tall windows at each end of the attic, which are twelve over twelve and surmounted by a semi-circular fan light. The rear door is somewhat off center due to stairway location. A window opens onto the stair landing between the first and second floors.

Roof: Proportions of the gambrel roof seem to be a regional peculiarity in this locale. The span between purlins is only one third of the total roof span, and the roof pitch at the eaves is no steeper than that of gable roofs of the period. Several diagonal slate courses are worked into patterns which somewhat relieve the large expanse of front roof slope. The roof has been rebuilt at least twice, and it is not known if the patterns are old or even if the roofing was originally slate.

Other Buildings: A two story wooden structure, dating to before 1900, served as summer kitchen and wash house. An attached garage was a 1955 structure. A small frame sheep or pig shed was built at about the same time as a stone spring house - 1925.

House Interior: The house is bisected by a wide central hall giving access to the major rooms. Two parlors are on the right upon entering the front door, while on the left the dining room is at the front and the kitchen at the rear. In the corresponding locations upstairs are four bedrooms. A bath is at the front end of the upstairs hall, which may originally have been a small bedroom or a sewing room. The stairway encircles an open well and extends to the attic, with landings between first and second and between second and attic floors.

Continued

8. Significance

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian     16th Century     18th Century     20th Century  
 15th Century     17th Century     19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) Circa 1800 - much woodwork from 1830

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               |  | <u>Local History</u>                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     |   | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |   |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

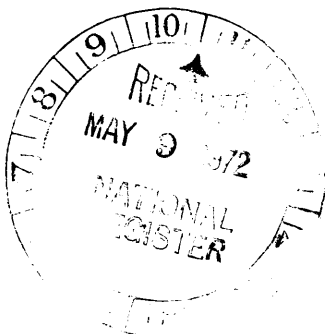
Architecturally this is one of the notable Federal houses of Hunterdon County. It is the third oldest brick house in the county and is a fine specimen for its time and locale. Most of the structure and details are either original or date from the remodeling of 1830.

The house is of some interest in local history. It was probably built circa 1800 by John Bray, of the prominent Hunterdon family. He had the singular distinction of fighting side by side with his father and his son Andrew at the battle of Monmouth. He was Lebanon tax assessor and master of the post office at Bray's Hill. His will mentions a tannery and distillery as well as the subject "plantation" left to his son John W. John W. Bray married a Grandin daughter and later was instrumental in changing the name of Hunt's Mills to Clinton. In 1830 he sold the house to Peter H. Hoffman of a dominant Lebanon family. Hoffman was a founder and charter councilman of Clinton Township, which split off from Lebanon township in 1840. The property remained in Hoffman family ownership until 1920.

Congressional Representation

- Honorable Clifford P. Case - U.S. Senator  
 Honorable Harrison A. Williams - U.S. Senator  
 Honorable Dominick V. Daniels - Congressman  
 (14th Congressional District)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Bray family genealogy in John E. Stillwell "Early Settlers of N.J. and their Descendants", reprint, Genealogical Publishing Co. Baltimore, 1970.  
 Bray and Hoffman genealogy in records of the Hunterdon County Historical Society, Flemington.  
 Abstracts of wills and marriage records in the New Jersey Archives first series.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		40° 38' 13"	74° 51' 34"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 3

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**John M. Matsen, Ph.D.**

ORGANIZATION: **Owner** DATE: **January 25, 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Bray's Hill Road**

CITY OR TOWN: **Annandale** STATE: **New Jersey** CODE: **34**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: *Richard J. Sullivan*  
**Richard J. Sullivan**

Title: Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

Date: May 1, 1972

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

*Robert M. Utley*  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 1/25/73

ATTEST:

*Gene S. Smith*  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 1-17-73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

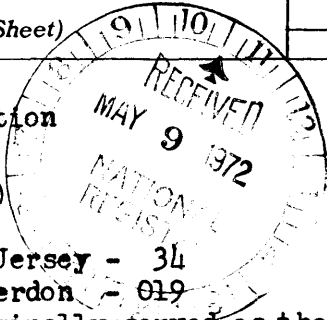
STATE	
New Jersey	
COUNTY	
Hunterdon	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
JAN 25 1973	

(Number all entries)

Continued - 7. Description

Matsen -(Bray-Hoffman House)

New Jersey - 34  
Hunterdon - 019



The present dining room originally served as the kitchen. It is dominated by a large fireplace and high mantel covering most of the South wall. The oven door and a portion of the beehive brickwork arch remain to the right of the fireplace opening. Wainscoating was recently added below the original chair rail. The present kitchen has been reduced in size by construction of a powder room, coat closet, and cabinets in 1955. This room also had a chair rail, the last of which was removed in 1966, and the fireplace mantel is the only woodwork of distinction.

X The hallway and parlors were extensively remodelled in the characteristic fashion of the 1830's, probably by Peter H. Hoffman, who bought the house in 1830. Door and window casings are of corner block construction, with elaborate deeply-carved mouldings. The mantels are of very high relief mouldings and are supported by Greek revival columns. The space below the window sills to the floor is panelled. Plaster mouldings serve as cornices, those in the rear parlor being elaborate. A large oval plaster moulding in the center of the hall ceiling surrounds the light fixture. A wide doorway, closed by double folding doors, joins the front and rear parlors, and this may have been cut during the 1830's remodelling. Hall and parlor doors are grained in a fanciful wood pattern. Wainscoating below the hall chair rail is new.

A large hall closet, taking room from the North West bedroom, was built during the 1830's remodelling. This necessitated the bricking up of the fireplace in that room. Doors from the North West and North East bedrooms have since been cut into this closet. Another closet was recently added in the South West bedroom. Three bedroom fireplaces remain exposed. The North East bedroom mantel is characteristic of the 1830's.

The post and purlin framing and bracing of the roof is trunnel fastened. It is clearly visible in the attic and is suggestive of the framing in the remainder of the house. The attic is unfinished.

Exterior Woodwork: The original shutters have long been lost and replacements are being obtained. A wide cornice and freeze with return accent the roof line. Cornice and front door mouldings are deeply cut.