

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED JAN 26 1976

DATE ENTERED

MAY 17 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Seven Stars Tavern

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

*W of Woodstown at jct of*  
Sharptown-Swedeseboro and Woodstown-Auburn Roads

CITY, TOWN

R.D. 2, Woodstown

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
2nd

STATE

New Jersey

CODE

034

COUNTY

Salem

CODE

033

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

 DISTRICT BUILDING(S) STRUCTURE SITE OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

 PUBLIC PRIVATE BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

 IN PROCESS BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

 OCCUPIED UNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

 YES: RESTRICTED YES: UNRESTRICTED NO

## PRESENT USE

 AGRICULTURE COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL MILITARY MUSEUM PARK PRIVATE RESIDENCE RELIGIOUS SCIENTIFIC TRANSPORTATION OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brooks

STREET &amp; NUMBER

R. D. 2

CITY, TOWN

Woodstown

VICINITY OF

STATE

New Jersey

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Clerk's Office, Salem County Court House

STREET &amp; NUMBER

94 Market Street

CITY, TOWN

Salem

STATE

New Jersey

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Historic American Building Survey  
New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory 2441.1

DATE

1937, 1960

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDSLibrary of Congress  
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

CITY, TOWN

Washington, D.C.

Trenton

STATE

New Jersey

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built in 1762 by Peter Lauterback (later Louderback), Seven Stars Tavern is a 2 1/2 story brick dwelling. The facade, rear, and one side wall all exhibit Flemish bond brickwork with glazed headers. The other side wall (southern) has common bond brickwork with the initials "P L E" and the date "1762" in glazed headers. The initials stand for Peter and Elizabeth Louderback. The north wall also has a date plaque so that the date is visible on two sides. The house has a stone foundation, two inside and chimneys, brick hood-molds over the windows, and a small first floor window that permitting coachmen to be served from the bar without dismounting.

The interior floor plan strongly suggests that the building was originally constructed as a public house rather than as a private residence. The house has a center hall plan with the bar on the south side and two 12' by 14' parlors on the north side. The taproom contains a corner bar, coachman's window, dining area, and a large fireplace with its original mantle. The two parlors each contain a fireplace. These two mantles have reeded pilasters and are surrounded by paneling. The second floor contains five rooms, three of which retain their original mantles. These mantles are all surrounded by paneling with built-in shelves along the upper portion of the paneling (all original). The attic is a single large room that exposes the mortised and pinned rafters at the ridge. A wooden tube extends from the attic to the cellar and was used by patrons to call their orders down to the innkeeper.

The house has its original random width floorboards throughout the first two floors. The original attic floors were used in 1940 to replace rotted floorboards on the first two floors. Many of the windows are original as is evidenced by the sash arrangement of 12 lights over 12 lights and the wide (1 1/4 to 1/2") muntin bars. The interior also contains several original 6 panel doors with their H-L hinges.

Alterations to the house include the addition of a one story brick wing to the south side. This was added by Nathaniel Robbins in approximately 1805. During the 1940's, a modern frame kitchen was attached to this portion of the house. Further alterations were made by Royal B. Hassrick (the architect being William Tabs). These changes included replacing rotted floorboards on the first two floors, replastering where necessary, the addition of chair-rails, the removal of one nineteenth century mantle, and the installation of modern plumbing.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) social history	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

1762

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Seven Stars Tavern has significance in several areas. The areas of greatest significance, however, is architecture in that Seven Stars has importance in this category that transcends the local level.

**ARCHITECTURE:** Seven Stars is architecturally significant in that certain characteristics pertaining to the patterned brickwork first made their appearance on this structure. The house was the first to attempt to combine a gable design with double attic windows. It was also the first time in Salem County that the date was lifted to the level of the top initial and split by it. Furthermore, the house is the only one in the County to have a date plaque on one site and the date and initials in glazed headers on the other.

In addition to its unique features, Seven Stars has several architectural characteristics that were found in various eighteenth century public buildings, many of which, however, no longer exist or have been altered beyond recognition. The tube running from the attic to the cellar (which permitted patrons to place orders with the innkeeper), the coachman's window to permit curb service, the corner bar with an open space for small tavern tables, and the paneling around the mantles were all characteristic of early American taverns.

**MILITARY:** The Seven Stars Tavern also has local significance for its relationship to Revolutionary events. John Louderback, a son of Peter's, lived in the Tavern during the Revolutionary War and obtained a local reputation as a fervent patriot. On various occasions he provided local regiments with food and information. For these activities, the British placed a price on his head. On one occasion in 1778, a small British party raided the tavern in search of Peter. He had, however, received advance warning and managed to escape with his family.

**OTHER: SOCIAL HISTORY.** The Seven Stars Tavern also has local significance as a tavern and public facility and because of the folklore that has persisted about the building. Located on the intersection of the public road to Philadelphia and two other public roads, the tavern has apparently serviced the vicinity for several decades. Because of its location, the tavern served as a resting place, polling spot, and a center for political gatherings. With the absence of newspapers or

(cont.)

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Boyer, C. S. Old Inns and Taverns in West Jersey (Camden: Camden County Historical Society, 1962, 55.  
 Historic American Buildings Survey, HABS-NJ-126  
 Love, Paul. "Patterned Brickwork in the American Colonies" (Ph.D diss., Columbia University 1950, 48 and 53.  
 Salem Sunbeam. Oct. 4, 1927 and July 25, 1931. (cont.)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4 1/2 acres  
 UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>18</u>	<u>47,0860</u>	<u>4392700</u>	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

(Nanci Kostrub - Historic Sites Office, Dept. of Env. Prot., Trenton)

NAME / TITLE Dr. Arthur F. Sewall, Historian

ORGANIZATION	DATE
<u>Salem County Dept. of Community Development</u>	<u>October 7, 1974</u>
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
<u>90 Market Street</u>	
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
<u>Salem</u>	<u>New Jersey</u>

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL  STATE  LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

DATE NOV - 5 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 5/19/76

ATTEST: W. J. Smith

DATE 5-17-76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

Seven Stars Tavern

Woodstown

Salem County

New Jersey 034

**CONTINUATION SHEET**

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other means of communications, both area residents and travellers frequently relied on the Seven Stars Tavern as a source of the latest news and as a source of fraternal companionship.

The tavern has also become the focus of several ghost stories. In his Old Inns and Taverns of West Jersey, Charles S. Boyer states that "probably more ghost stories are woven around the old Seven Stars Tavern than any similar building in the state." At least three separate tales persist about the tavern. One of the legends attributes the ghost to Peter Louderback who is keeping watch over his buried treasure. Another tells of the tavern being haunted by a river pirate whose head was twisted around by the Devil after a visit to the tavern. The final story, which may have been an actual occurrence, claims that the tavern is haunted by a local Tory alleged to have been hanged from a third floor window in the tavern.

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**CONTINUATION SHEET**

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Sickler, J. S. The Old Houses of Salem County (Salem: Sunbeam  
Publishing Co., 1934), 23-30.  
Standard and Jerseyman. July 23, 1930 and Jan. 22, 1931.