

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0693499

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RECEIVED DEC 12 1978  
DATE ENTERED JAN 22 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Van Reyper/Bond House

AND/OR COMMON

Van Reyper/Bond House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

848 Valley Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Montclair (~~Upper Montclair~~) VICINITY OF

11th

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

New Jersey

34

Essex

013

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENC

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Montclair State College

Jerome Quinn, Insitutional Planning

STREET & NUMBER

Normal Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Upper Montclair

VICINITY OF

STATE

New Jersey 07043

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Essex County Court House - Surrogate's Court

STREET & NUMBER

Hall of Records - 469 High Street

CITY, TOWN

Newark

STATE

New Jersey

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

N.J. Historic Sites Inventory 2040.7

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Office of Historic Preservation

CITY, TOWN

Trenton

STATE

New Jersey

# 7 DESCRIPTION

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

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

The Van Reyper/Bond House is sited on the crest of a hill at the foot of the first mountain range west of New York City. The building is basically Italianate in style with a 5-bay center projecting tower dominating the front facade. The tower's grouped round-headed windows, mansard roof and iron crestwork, the house's projecting eaves, bays and 2/2 sash windows are all typical features of this style. The wide veranda, stretching across the symmetrical front and down one side, is typical and lends a stabilizing rhythm to the otherwise vertical thrust of the central mass. The portico features square posts with bracketing and a projecting center bay. The clapboard exterior also has a classical influence in some of its detail, the order of the facades and the symmetry of the interior floor plan. The side and rear facades exhibit irregular fenestration and a mixture of styles.

The first floor plan consists of a center hall with living room to the right, sitting and dining rooms to the left and kitchen in the rear. The living and dining rooms have original marble fireplaces, center ceiling medallions and decorative cornices. The stairway and turned balustrades are original, and the windows in the front (east) facade are atypical floor to ceiling in a French or Italianate manner.

A conservatory was located off the dining room. The center staircase leads to the four bedrooms and two baths on the second floor. The top of the cupola is reached by a winding stairway from the unfinished third floor and affords a panoramic view toward New York City.

# 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES Built in 1872 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Thomas C. Van Reyper - Builder

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Van Reyper/Bond House, built in 1872, is significant for the integrity of its architecture and its association with the Dutch settlement of Speertown, now Upper Montclair. The house is an unusual example of vernacular Italianate, a popular style from mid-century into the 70's.

While the Van Reyper House does have a certain elegance its physical appearance is an awkward one. The main unit of the building is a straightforward two story, 5 bay rectangular frame dwelling with center cross gable so characteristic of 19th century structures throughout the state. Uncommon, however, is the 3½ story tower incorporated into the building for an unorthodox treatment. The unusual combination appears as almost an afterthought upon completion of the major facade. Not architecturally correct the building does nonetheless present an attractive appearance and is almost completely intact in its 3rd quarter 19th century construction.

The progress of the Dutch settlers who left New Amsterdam in 1660 can be traced from Hackensack to Belleville to Stone House Plains (Brookdale) and to Speertown (ca. 1756) on the eastward slope of Second Mountain. During the Revolution and into the nineteenth century, the Speertown Dutch remained distant from their English neighbors a few miles south in Cranetown. But in mid-century, when Thomas C. Van Reyper married Caroline Speer, the ties that linked the two settlements into modern Montclair were beginning to form. In 1871, Peter Speer gave his daughter and her husband a large parcel of land, including the striking hilltop site on which they elected to build their new home.

Thomas, a farmer and master-builder, erected the house at the cost of \$6000 and with the help of workers who were paid \$1 a day. Though it is one of many styles favored in the period, the elegant house and its striking location present an almost classic example of the popular notion of Victorian architecture. Thomas Van Reyper's pride of workmanship is evident in the four-windowed cupola rising from the center of the roof, the ironwork cresting, and the order, symmetry and repose of the design. Even the grillwork surrounding the wide, sweeping veranda is his original work.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Spadden, J. Walker, Montclair in Colonial and War Times, Montclair, N.J., 1911

Whittemore, Henry, History of Montclair Township, Suburban Publishing Company, N.Y., 1894

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.4+ acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Orange

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:21,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	8	5	6	7	4	3	0	45	2	2	9	0	0
ZONE	EASTING							NORTHING					

B 

ZONE	EASTING							NORTHING					

C 

ZONE	EASTING							NORTHING					

D 

ZONE	EASTING							NORTHING					

E 

ZONE	EASTING							NORTHING					

F 

ZONE	EASTING							NORTHING					

G 

ZONE	EASTING							NORTHING					

H 

ZONE	EASTING							NORTHING					

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Bounded by Normal Avenue on the south and Mt. Hebron Road on the north, and facing Mt. Hebron Cemetery on the west of Valley Road.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

(Terry Karschner, OHP, (609) 292-2023)

NAME / TITLE Barbara B. Ryan  
Assistant to the President for Community Relations

ORGANIZATION Montclair State College

DATE June 21, 1978

STREET & NUMBER Normal Avenue

TELEPHONE 893-4213

CITY OR TOWN Upper Montclair

STATE New Jersey

# 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.

Deputy *[Signature]*  
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

DATE 11/27/78

TITLE Deputy Commissioner, Dept. of Environ. Prot.

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

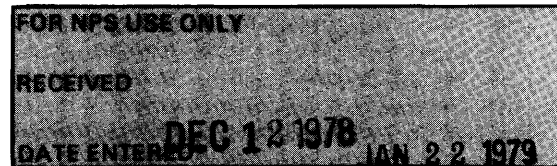
DATE 1-22-79

ATTEST: *[Signature]*  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 1-17-79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



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

Van Reyper Bond House  
Montclair  
Essex County  
New Jersey 034

CONTINUATION SHEET SIGNIFICANCE      ITEM NUMBER      8      PAGE 2

The handsome home became something of a center for the Dutch families of Speertown partly because of its commanding location and partly because Caroline Speer Van Reyper, a dedicated church worker, made her parlors available for the choir, the Christian Endeavor Society, and even Sabbath services when the road to Stone House Plains Church was impassible.

Then in 1892, she and her husband, having prospered in farming and dairying, gave a plot at the corner of present-day Valley and Mt. Hebron Roads, to be the site of the Montclair Heights Reformed Church. The bell in the steeple of that church today still bears an inscription in memory of Caroline Speer Van Reyper.

The Van Reypers also gave the land for the Mt. Hebron Cemetery, on the west side of Valley Road, and the couple are buried in a plot there that was the original family burial ground.

When Thomas Van Reyper died in 1909, his son, Peter Speer Van Reyper, continued to occupy the house, and after him, his son, Thomas, and daughter, Elsie. In 1952 the house passed from family ownership to George Bond, purveyor of ice cream and frozen foods and a long-time neighbor of the Van Reyper family. Mr. Bond, also a friend and advisor to Montclair State College, made known his wishes that the property go to the College after his death. The 80-year tenure of the original family and the respect accorded the house by its only non-family owner account for the retention of much of the original character and beauty of the structure today.

Now the College, together with an enthusiastic and knowledgeable community committee, is undertaking to preserve this handsome structure as a shared cultural resource and to document the Dutch strand of local history which was just starting to merge with the better-known English strand when Thomas and Caroline Van Reyper moved with their two young children into their new home.