

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUN 21 1979
DATE ENTERED AUG 24 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 Sayre Homestead

AND/OR COMMON

Old Sayre Homestead

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Sayre Homestead Lane

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Springfield

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

12th

— VICINITY OF

STATE

New Jersey

CODE

034

COUNTY

Union

CODE

039

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
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mr. & Mrs. William Gural

STREET & NUMBER

Old Coach Road

CITY, TOWN

Summitt

— VICINITY OF

STATE

New Jersey 07901

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Elizabeth

STATE

New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory

Determination of Eligibility -
Federal Highway Administration -
Route I-78

DATE

1960, 1977

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Office of Historic Preservation, 109 West State Street

CITY, TOWN

Trenton

STATE

New Jersey

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Sayre Homestead is an early 18th century building. The building consists of the original 1 1/2 story stone structure and a modern 1 1/2 story masonry addition. It is built into the bank of a hill.

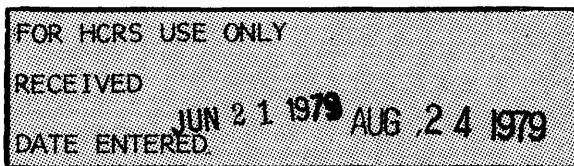
The basic structure consists of 16" thick fieldstone walls laid up in random ashlar with mud mortar, with cut sandstone lintels over the doors and windows. The original structure was 30' X 30' with partitions dividing it into 4 equal parts. There are two chimneys centering at each gable end. One has 2 corner fireplaces, one of which is closed, the other a massive cutstone 6' opening with an oven built alongside, projecting about 18" on the gable end. The open ceiling beams in the room have unusual molded decorations on the edge of the beams planed into the oak with several ridges about 1/2" overall. The original wide floorboards show rough plan marks and the beams are 5" X 9" and about 3' on center. The original steep rise enclosed stair has been replaced with a more gentle rise open stair in approximately the same position as the original.

The second chimney has 2 corner fireplaces and one carved mantel intact. The corner stone with the 1729 date carved into it is on the northwest corner of the house. The new masonry addition consists of a two car garage with a bedroom and bath above. Up until 1954 the building had no water, heat or electricity. Although the structure has undergone several alterations in recent years, the basic structure remains sound and retains much of its original fabric.

The original floor plan had four rooms; two front and two back with doors opening directly into the rooms. The west portion has been altered so that it is now one room. The walk-in fireplace is in this portion. The beams are beaded, running from north to south, and join in a massive summer beam in the center. The beams vary in distance apart from 2'4" to 2'11". The east portion of the original house has corner fireplaces. The SE room fireplace is accessible, but the NE room is a modern kitchen and the fireplace has either been removed or covered over.

All of the joists in the basement are hand-hewn and are approximately 41" apart; with intermediate beams having been added later for additional support (some are vertical sawn and some are modern planed lumber).

The large fireplace support in the west portion of the basement is stone and unusually deep (78'). It is 112 inches wide. Hewn beams provide the lintels. The stairs are not original (there is evidence that the hand hewn beams were removed to install the stairway, which by inspection appears modern).



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Sayre Homestead
Springfield Township
Union County
New Jersey 034
CONTINUATION SHEET

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Description (continued)

All of the rafters in the attic are hewn with mortise and tenon joints at the roof peak. The spacing between the rafters is from 40" to 42". There is no ridge pole, but intermediate supports (modern) brace the rafters.

There are several smoked hewn beams in the attic near the stairs (modern). These beams have the odor of smoked meat, giving credence to the former owners claim about a smokehouse within the house.

The Sayre Homestead is quite isolated from the surrounding environment, which is mostly suburban sprawl. The road called Old Coach Road leading to the property, even though it is quite primitive, may date back only to 1914 when a partition suit was filed in the Union County Chancery Court. The lake is probably man-made and of relatively recent vintage.

Features that were added to the building between 1954 and the present are:

- 1) A corner cupboard was added in the SE room (bought from the Van Cortland Museum).
- 2) The flooring in the west portion is pieced together from various bits of old planking.
- 3) The stairway has been added or at least replaced.
- 4) The stone has been repointed throughout. It was poorly done and is in need of repair. The basement repointing in the corner fireplace supports has incorporated numerous artifacts uncovered on the property throughout the years.
- 5) The hardware is old 18th-early 19th century, but may not be original in all cases.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

ARCHITECTURE.

The Sayre House is one of few remaining early 18th century examples of stone houses in Union County. The basic structure and fabric have been preserved despite alterations. The house has many outstanding features of craftsmanship in the interior finishing. The large fireplace and oven (over 9 feet long and 6 feet deep) and the carved moldings on the edge of the beams attest to its early 18th century date. Projecting out of the gable end, the bake oven in the Sayre House is most unusual. Rather than being rounded off and constructed of brick as most bake ovens were, this one is squared using rough coursed stone. This is perhaps a unique New Jersey feature.

Examination of the house suggests that it was built in the middle of the 18th century. The house is believed to have been built by Isaac Sayre who was born in Southampton, Long Island in 1722. His family moved to Elizabethtown when he was an infant.

COMMERCE.

Isaac Sayre was known to have operated a tavern in the house. During the Battle of Springfield in 1780, many of the Continental soldiers made their quarters in the valley where the house is located. Here they had a good view of the approach of the British from nearby Westfield. Numerous scouts lined the summit bringing messages from General Washington encamped with American army near Morristown, eight miles to the west.

Isaac Sayre died in 1805, his son Isaac, born in 1752, continued to maintain a tavern in the family home. Isaac Jr., was active in the community and was named Overseer of the Highways on April 14, 1794 at a town meeting in Springfield.

When Isaac Sayre Jr. died in 1828, his son Brooks, born in 1770, operated the tavern. One of Isaac Sayre's other sons Anthony Swain Sayre lived in the family home until his death in 1880. The property then passed to Alivosto Sayre, who when he died in 1912 left the house to his son Isaac A. Sayre along with fifty acres of land.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Banta, Theodore M., The History of the Sayre Family, New York: DeVinne Press, 1901
 Clayton, W. Woodford, ed., History of Union and Middlesex Counties, Philadelphia: Everts and Peck, 1882.
 Union County Wills, Book B-2, p.118, Dated September 30, 1912, Alivosto Sayre.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 6 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Roselle

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 555150 4505950

B 18 555260 4505870

C 18 555160 4505730

D 18 555030 4505870

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property occupies city block 184, lots 21 and 24.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Nanci Kostrub Batchelor and Terry Karschner

ORGANIZATION

New Jersey Office of Historic Preservation

DATE

November 1978

STREET & NUMBER

109 West State Street

TELEPHONE

609-292-2023

CITY OR TOWN

Trenton

STATE

New Jersey

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL x

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 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

[Handwritten Signature]

6-5-79

TITLE Deputy Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

DATE

June 5, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

[Handwritten Signature]
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

8-24-79

ATTEST: *[Handwritten Signature]*
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

August 24, 1979

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Significance (continued)

Isaac A. Sayre lived in the house along with his cousin Nellie Sayre. Nellie lived in the house until her death in the early 1950's. In 1954 with no water, heat or electricity, rotting floors and crumbling fireplaces, the building was condemned. Mr. & Mrs. Heath purchased the building, rehabilitated it, constructing an addition and restoring the original house and lived there until 1977.

Recent plans for the construction of Interstate Route 78 hold serious problems for the house through the construction of access ramps and median strip.

The Sayre House is one of the few remaining mid-18th century examples of stone houses in Union County. For over 200 years the building has had very few alterations or modernizations. Also the house was occupied by members of the Sayre family for almost 2 centuries and maintained as a tavern by the family for over 100 years.