

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: New Jersey	
COUNTY: Middlesex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	OCT 30 1973

NH
 ZH18
 N 4486770
 E 542910

1. NAME

COMMON:
Walter C. & Julia Meuly House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Isaac Onderdonk House *use this*

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
685 River Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Piscataway

STATE: **New Jersey 08854** CODE: **34** COUNTY: **Middlesex** CODE: **023**

3. CLASSIFICATION

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

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

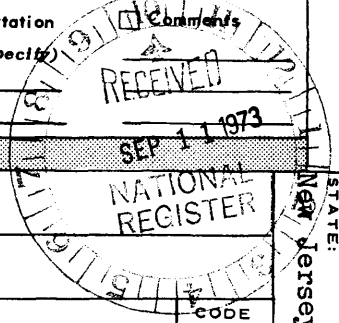
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (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:
Walter C. & Julia Meuly

STREET AND NUMBER:
685 River Road

CITY OR TOWN: **Piscataway** STATE: **New Jersey 08854** CODE: **34**



5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Middlesex County Clerk's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:
Kennedy Square

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

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory - 2465.8

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

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Dept. of Environmental Protection, Historic Sites Section

STREET AND NUMBER:
Post-Office Box 1120

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

STATE: New Jersey
 COUNTY: Middlesex
 ENTRY NUMBER
 DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Onderdonk House is a good example of a brickfilled oak frame house dating to the middle of the 18th century. It is a 30 x 40 feet two story house with generous dimensions for all rooms. It is essentially unaltered, containing the original oak beams (exposed in two rooms), original brick floor in the cellar (partly unexcavated), original wide yellow pine floors throughout, three fireplaces with original mantels and hearths, of which two are located in corners of adjacent rooms so as to use a common chimney, batten doors with H and L hinges, 4 windows with 24 lights, blown glass panes, original shutters and shutter cocks, and the house still covered with wood shingles. The layout of the ground floor is of the simplest - a center hall 10 x 30 feet through the depth of the house, with two rooms 15 x 15 on either side. In one room a stairwell leads to the upper floor which contains 6 rooms. The attic is 30 x 40 feet with a floor of very wide and thick yellow pine boards. The house was built in 3 stages, the first one comprising two rooms and the hall. Later two similar rooms were added on the opposite side, and still later the one story house was converted to two stories. A poorly constructed shedlike addition, serving also as a summer kitchen, was replaced by a garage and laundry of the same dimensions and is separate from the house proper. When purchased in 1939 by the present owners from Max J. Jelin, the house was without facilities such as water, electricity or plumbing which helped to preserve the original character. The furnishings are 18th century in keeping with the period and some are rare and valuable pieces.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) circa 1750

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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Onderdonk family is a rather prominent Holland-Dutch family (van der Donk) which started its American branch in 1637 at New Castle, Delaware, but removed to Long Island about 1670 where it flourished and was instrumental in founding Roslyn, Long Island. In 1745 once Isaac Onderdonk moved with his wife, Antie Rierson, to "River Road" near Bound Brook". Their son, Isaac, was born there in 1756 and was buried in 1798 in the family plot on the farm. He married Sarah Smock from the neighboring Matthias Smock house. Onderdonk children were baptized in 1756 and 1763 in New Brunswick and Six Mile Run (Franklin) respectively. The farm and house remained in the Onderdonk family for 6 generations until 1929. This continuous ownership is responsible for the present condition being close to the original one.

This 2 story house is for the most part unaltered both on the exterior and interior. Original floors, oak beams, shutters, mantels, hearths and brick cellar floor are just a few examples. It is a center hall layout with spacious rooms on both floors.

The house was built in 3 stages. The first having 2 rooms and a hall, the second adding 2 rooms and the third being the second floor.

Congressional Representation

- Harrison Williams - U.S. Senator
- Clifford Case - U.S. Senator
- Edward J. Patten - Congressman, 15th district



9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Genealogy of the Onderdonk family in America. By Elmer Onderdonk, Philadelphia. Privately printed New York, 1910. Available at Rutgers University Library.
 Tax Records, Trenton, N. J. State Library show entries for Isaac Onderdonk in 1780 - 1782 and probably others. (name then spelled Underdunk).

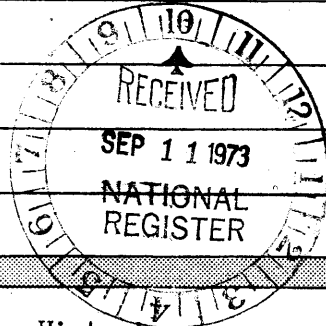
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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
NW	° ' "	° ' "		40 °	31 ' 57 "	74 ° 29 ' 37 "
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **5 acres**

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: **Walter and Julia Meuly, Lois Richman, Historian**

ORGANIZATION: **Department of Environmental Protection** DATE: **Dec. 10, 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER: **P.O. Box 1420, John Fitch Plaza**

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

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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: September 6, 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Ernest A. Connolly
 Associate Director, Professional Services

Date: OCT 30 1973

ATTEST: Walter Meuly
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 10-25-73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS