

PH# 367753

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAR 28 1977
DATE ENTERED SEP 22 1977

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
Whippany Farm

AND/OR COMMON
Frelinghuysen Arboretum

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
53 E. Hanover Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
5th

CITY, TOWN
~~Morris Township~~
Morris & Hanover Township

VICINITY OF

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE
New Jersey 034 Morris 027

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Morris County Park Commission

STREET & NUMBER
Courthouse

CITY, TOWN STATE
Morristown VICINITY OF New Jersey

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
Court and Washington Streets

CITY, TOWN STATE
Morristown New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Historic Preservation Element, Morris County Master Plan

DATE
1976 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS
Morris County Planning Board

CITY, TOWN STATE
Morristown 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

Exterior

The Frelinghuysen residence is a 2 1/2 story, eighteen-room house. Its foundation wall is uncoursed stone (a type of rubble masonry) approximately two feet thick. It employs a wood, ballon frame of rough-sawn timber. The exterior finish consists of whitewashed wood siding. A slate-covered, hipped roof is topped with four painted brick chimneys and a number of dormers.

A profusion of classical details enlivens the facade, including urns, balusters, garlands, dentils, pediments and finials. Corinthian pilasters appear at all corners, and Ionic columns support the porte cochere. In order to relieve the symmetry of the five-bay facade, a semicircular piazza extends from the north end, while a narrow wing (about one bay wide) is set back from the south end.

Interior

Lath and plaster walls and hardwood floors are used throughout most of the interior. Some of the walls are paneled, and the plaster ceilings are finished with simple moldings. The fireplaces are faced with marble or brick. Marble is also used for the bathroom wainscoting. Columns of the Ionic and Corinthian orders are used, with other classical details, though not as lavishly as on the exterior.

Rotch and Tilden's original plans show a formal layout with uncomplicated circulation. The traditional thru center hall is modified so that the back half, dropped three steps, could serve as a small library opening directly to the rose garden. Other rooms on the first floor are drawing and billiard rooms opening to the piazza on the north, with dining room, kitchen, utility rooms and an unspecified "chamber" (possibly intended as an office) to the south.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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

Completed 1892

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Rotch & Tilden

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

For nearly a century the Frelinghuysen family has been active in the business and political life of New Jersey. In an era of great fortunes based on commercial and industrial interests, it was logical that their wealth and social prominence should make the Frelinghuysen's residents of the Morristown area at a time when it was known as the Millionaire City of the nation.

As the son of Fredrick T. Frelinghuysen a former Secretary of State under President Chester A. Arthur, George Griswold Frelinghuysen enjoyed the benefits of a family fortune which was based on dealings in real estate, insurance and mining. A patent lawyer by trade, George G. Frelinghuysen served as President of the Howard Savings Institute, Newark, and as a member of the board of directors of the Mutual Life Insurance Company. With his marriage to the former Sarah P. Ballantine he became President of P. Ballantine and Company, brewers, also of Newark.

The house when its was completed in 1892 was the center of the estate, even though the farm had been in operation for nearly twenty-one years. Originally the estate was occupied from Memorial Day until Autumn. When the family was not in residence, flowers and dairy products would be delivered twice weekly to their New York City townhouse at 1 Sutton South.

From the beginning, the appearance of the land was important to George G. Frelinghuysen. He commissioned James McPherson of Trenton to prepare a landscape design soon after the mansion was completed. The result was in the tradition of English park design, characterized by stately trees and rolling lawns instead of the geometric and formal

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

American Architects and Building News,
September 1894. Arthur Rotch Obituary

American Art Annual, Volume 16.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 127.6 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	18	546090	4516930	D	18	546440	4516710
E	18	546110	4516300	4	18	545920	4516780
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B-18/ 546-220E | 4516-778 N
C-18/ 546-320E | 4516-840 N

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point on Whippany Road 1800 feet NE of its intersection with Morris Ave., thence proceed 1200 feet N; thence proceed 700 feet NW; thence proceed 800 feet NE; thence proceed 700 feet SE; thence proceed 350 feet NE; thence proceed 650 feet SE to Whippany Road; thence proceed 2000 feet SW along Whippany Road to the point of origin.

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: Historic Sites Section

Robert Guter, County/State Liaison

(609) 292-2023

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Morris County Planning Board

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Courthouse

(201) 285-6183

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Morristown

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Janis J. Bush

TITLE

Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

DATE

MAR 14 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Charles A. Peterson
W. J. Peterson

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
DATE 9-22-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

Whippany Farm
Hanover & Morris Townships
Morris County
New Jersey 034
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER PAGE #3

SIGNIFICANCE

The Frelinghuysen name has long been prominent in the business and political life of New Jersey. During Morris County's opulent era, Whippany Farm was one of the estates which gave the Morristown area its reputation of being home to many wealthy people. Matilda Frelinghuysen's philanthropic endeavors in support of music in America and of conservation in Morris County are noteworthy.

Whippany Farm is significant architecturally because it is a fine example of the Colonial Revival period in America. The designers, Rotch and Tilden were well known architects of the period.

The estate is one of the few on which a Mansion, that has not been significantly altered, reflects Morris County's Opulent Era commands a virtually unchanged physical setting. Whippany Farms 127 acres express a totally integrated historical environment uncommon for its era.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Whippany Farm
Hanover & Morris Townships
Morris County
New Jersey 034

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 & 8 PAGE

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Description:

Whippany Farms, since its development as a County Park, has retained most of its original physical configuration as evidenced by a comparison of present-day maps with a detailed atlas map completed in 1910. Most of the roads, although now paved, are identical. Courses of streams have not been altered and the major buildings (house, carriage-house, caretaker's house and greenhouse) are still basically intact. In addition, an attempt has been made to maintain the original landscaping as developed by Mac Pherson.

Four horse-drawn carriages, owned originally by George Griswold Frelinghuysen and used on the estate are still at the arboretum. All were manufactured by Brewster and Company of New York:

1. Canopy-top Beach Phaeton (c.1895)
2. Miniature 42" Extension Brougham (c.1896)
3. Panel Boot Victoria (c.1901)
4. 3 Spring-turn under Rumble Seat Basket Phaeton (c. 1908)

Significance:

Architecture

Whippany Farms appears to be the only Rotch and Tilden designed building in Morris County. And as their work is primarily concentrated in the New England region this may be their only New Jersey commission. Further, Rotch and Tilden infrequently designed Colonial Revival buildings and Whippany Farms may be one of their few extant examples of this style.

Whippany Farms is basically unchanged since the buildings were erected and the grounds were developed in the 1890's.

Other large estates of the turn of the century still exist in New Jersey and Morris County, but most have suffered from the ravages of time and excessive taxes resulting in compromising alterations or land subdivision. Consequently, Whippany Farms exists as a rare example of an opulent country-estate as developed throughout New Jersey, a state clearly and thoroughly influenced by metropolitan high society.

Whippany Farms, in contrast with most other remaining estates, has retained its major buildings and landscaping as developed and demonstrates turn-of-the-century landscaping theory as implemented by botanist-landscaper James Mac Pherson of Trenton, New Jersey. With its 127 acres of rolling land "framed in a setting of forest trees on either of its foreground margins ... the result is a scene of pastoral simplicity and beauty ..." (Mac Pherson, Notes). In a conscious attempt Mac Pherson enhanced the natural features of Whippany Farms with planting for supplant, color and screening,

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Whippany Farm
Hanover & Morris Townships
Morris County
New Jersey 031
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE #2

DESCRIPTION

The main staircase leads from the front hall through a large landing (with fireplace and Palladian window) to the second floor. Two full baths and a number of bed chambers of various sizes comprise the private sector of the house. The attic floor is reached by service stairs. Servants' rooms, one bath, and a trunk room fill the dormered spaces there.

Conversion of the mansion to administrative space has been accomplished with rare sensitivity and virtually no change to its domestic appearance. Only the kitchen has been altered to serve as a meeting room.

Grounds

The Arboretum presently consists of approximately 127 acres divided into two tracts. The South Tract, in Morris Township, has a varied, undulating terrain of swamp, mature forest and open fields. Geologically, the land is most interesting since it is part of the Wisconsin Glacier terminal moraine. The varied ecological conditions support a wide range of native and exotic plant materials. The North Tract, in Hanover Township consists of rich alluvial soils along the banks of the Whippany River.

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Whippany Farm
Hanover & Morris Townships
Morris County New Jersey 034

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

8

PAGE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAR 28 1977
DATE ENTERED	SEP 22 1977

Significance (Con't.)

but meant for the estate to maintain its farm-like atmosphere, even though the Frelinghuysens were one of the wealthiest families in a county which displayed perhaps more millionaires per square mile than any other in the United States in the 1890's.

Landscape Architecture

James Mac Pehresen (1843-1922), of Trenton, New Jersey, was a late 19th-early 20th century authority on horticulture and botany writing extensively on the subjects and performing estate landscaping throughout the region.

Born in Scotland, Mac Phersen went to England as a youngster and schooled there. While in England he enjoyed the benefits of instruction at the famous Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew.

Coming to the United States sometime in the 1880's Mac Pherson originally had hoped to implement his agricultural theories in the south, but found conditions unfavorable and moved north into Trenton. While Mac Pherson concentrated his efforts in the Mercer County area it was only natural for him to accept a commission offered by the Frelinghuysens as his son lived in Morristown.

Whippany Farms is a fine surviving late 19th century country seat. It was in the forefront of architectural development in the 1890's. Whippany Farm is a good example of the transitional phenomenon which occurred when the playful picturesqueness of the 1880's Colonial Revival was gradually supplanted by a more rigid and mannered style, leading ultimately to the correct and restrained Georgian Revival of the early 20th century. Whippany Farm, which dates from 1891, achieves a rough symmetry and simple roof line, but extravagance remains in the flashy overapplication of Adamesque and Baroque details and in the tall Medieval chimneys.

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New Jersey 034
CONTINUATION SHEET

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ITEM NUMBER

PAGE #2

SIGNIFICANCE

design of the French School. In addition to the imposing cut-leaf silver maple which shades the porte-cochere, there are fine examples of chestnuts, black and northern red oaks, American beeches, lindens and Austrian pines. A hand-written account of the estate, as seen through McPherson's eyes, has been preserved, providing an accurate picture of turn-of-the-century landscape practices.

Whippany Farms is an example of Colonial Revival architecture. According to plans dated June, 1891, the Mansion was designed by the Boston Firm of Rotch and Tilden. The dates of their partnership (1880-1894) indicate that this was a late commission. Both partners were products of the Ecole des Beaux Arts; Rotch also studied at MIT. Together they were responsible for the Churches of the Messiah and the Ascension in Boston, and the Church of the Holy Spirit in Mattapan, Massachusetts, as well as the art museum at Wellsley College and numerous libraries. Rotch also designed many large houses for wealthy clients in Bar Harbor, Boston and Washington D.C.

With the death of her parents, Miss Matilda E Frelinghuysen remained at Whippany Farm. She continued to live there until her death. Her interest in music was revealed by her support of the Masterwork Music and Art Foundation, the New England Conservatory of Music and the Metropolitan Opera. Miss Frelinghuysen also donated the land for the Morris County Free Library. In 1964 she began plans for an arboretum that would be established upon her death. When she died in 1969 at the age of 81, the preservation of her estate was assured. The 127 acres were dedicated in May, 1971 as an arboretum in memory of her parents. In addition to the mansion and grounds, a carriage house and staff cottage still stand. The former houses a collection of 19th century carriages. On the mansion can be found a library of botanical and horticulture volumes.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE #2

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American Institute of Architects Journal,
September 1919, George Tilden Obituary.

- . DICTIONARY OF AMERICAN BIOGRAPHY (N.Y., Scribners) 1935.
Entries for Rotch and Tilden.
- . MacPherson, James. "Notes and Observations on Whippany Farm"
(undated manuscript c.1895,
owned by Morris County Park
Commission).
- . Morris County Park Commission. "The Frelinghuysen Arboretum,"
n.d. Brochure containing brief
history and detailed map.

Tullen, Helen. "Old Mansion Still Elegant, "SUNDAY DAILY RECORD,
23 February 1975.p.C1 & ff story & photos.

Withey, Henry & Elsie Withey, Biographical Dictionary of
American Architects Deceased, 1970

Atlas of Part of Morris County, New Jersey. A.H. Mueller
1910 (plate 11).

The National Cyclopaedia of American Biography. Volume 26, 1937. (p. 458 -
entry for George Griswold Frelinghuysen).

Trenton Times. Obituary for James Mac Pherson. 12/11/1922.

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Whippany Farms
Morris and Hanover Twp.s
Morris County
New Jersey 034

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 27 1977

DATE ENTERED

SEP 22 1977

Revised verbal boundary description:

Beginning at a point where East Hanover Avenue and Interstate Route 287 intersect; thence proceed along the E boundary of Route 287 1100 feet SW; thence proceed 2300 feet SE to Whip any Road; thence proceed along Whippany Road 1500 feet NE; thence proceed 750 feet NW; thence proceed 1200 feet NE to East Hanover Ave.; thence proceed along E. Hanover Ave. 1600 feet W; thence proceed 200 feet NW; thence proceed 700 feet NE; thence proceed 200 feet NW; thence proceed 1000 feet SW; thence proceed 300 feet SE to E. Hanover Ave.; thence proceed along E. Hanover Ave. 250 feet W to the point of origin.

Whippany Farms is split in two sections by Interstate Route 287.

The other section begins at a point along the western boundary of Route 287 400 feet NE of E. Hanover Ave.; thence proceed along the western boundary of Route 287 800 feet NE; thence proceed 800 feet NW thence proceed 500 feet SSW; thence proceed 500 feet SW; thence proceed 900 feet SE to the point of origin.