

PH0356662

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAR 3 1976
DATE ENTERED	MAY 24 1976

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 The Henry (Guest) House HAES
 AND/OR COMMON
The Henry Guest House

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
58 Livingston Avenue _ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
New Brunswick VICINITY OF 17 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE
New Jersey CODE 34 COUNTY Middlesex CODE 023

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" 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: <u>Library Annex</u>

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
City of New Brunswick

STREET & NUMBER
City Hall, 78 Bayard Street

CITY, TOWN
New Brunswick VICINITY OF STATE New Jersey 08901

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Middlesex County Records Office, 6th Floor
Middlesex County Administration Building

STREET & NUMBER
John F. Kennedy Square, Bayard Street

CITY, TOWN
New Brunswick STATE New Jersey 08901

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Historic American Buildings Survey, Survey No. N.J.-499

DATE
1942 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Division of Prints and Photographs, Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN
Washington, D.C. STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE <u>1925</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Henry Guest House, built in 1760, is a simple 2 1/2 story rectangular stone dwelling house, extensively altered on the interior around 1819.

The front facade has 5 bays and a center hall constructed of dressed ashlar stone. The windows of both floors are 12/12 sash with louvered shutters and trapazoidal stone arches. The entrance porch, one story high with steps leading up to the doorway, has narrow columns capped by the Ionic order, indicating a 19th century construction, probably also around 1819.

There are two dormers on the front of the gable roof; of late 19th or early 20th century construction and one 20th century dormer on the rear roof.

The gable end chimneys are both brick with corbelled capping and copper flashing. The roof is slate.

The gable end and rear facades are random fieldstone. When the building was moved in 1925 a rear 19th century wing was demolished, consequently, several of the appertures of this facade are modern.

The interior first floor plan is quite simple with a center hall (8' x 20') and one room on each side (20' x 17') with end fireplaces. In the hallway is a side winding stairway which is paneled with 1 3/4" oak planking. The floors are 1 1/4" pine of random (8" to 16") width. The walls are covered with lath and plaster which is filled with animal hair.

The second floor is almost identical in plan to the first.

The attic, which is partitioned approximately in the center, is 7 1/2 feet high at the ridge. The oak rafters are 5" x 5" and all beams and rafters are rough hewn and mortised and tenoned.

Interior details are both colonial and Adamesque. The paneling at the stairway, the stair-rail, and hardware (H-L hinges, shutter hinges, door latch) are 18th Century while the Adamesque mantels and doorways are mostly 19th Century.

The building was moved from the corner of Carroll Place and Livingston Avenue in 1925 to its current location behind the public library. The foundation dates to that period; conforming to the original construction.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
___PREHISTORIC	___ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	___COMMUNITY PLANNING	___LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	___RELIGION
___1400-1499	___ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	___CONSERVATION	___LAW	___SCIENCE
___1500-1599	___AGRICULTURE	___ECONOMICS	___LITERATURE	___SCULPTURE
___1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	___EDUCATION	X MILITARY	___SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
X 1700-1799	___ART	___ENGINEERING	___MUSIC	___THEATER
___1800-1899	___COMMERCE	___EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	___PHILOSOPHY	___TRANSPORTATION
___1900-	___COMMUNICATIONS	___INDUSTRY	X POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	___OTHER (SPECIFY)
		___INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1760

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Henry Guest, Sr.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Henry Guest, a tanner, was a noted local figure in the American Revolution and had intimate ties with national figures such as Thomas Paine and John Adams while his house was probably a British quarters; making the building a center of Revolutionary and post-Revolutionary activity of central New Jersey.

Architecture

The Guest House is one of New Brunswick's last extant colonial buildings. Constructed of well-coursed stone on the front facade and random fieldstone on the sides and rear, the exterior of the house is a good relatively unaltered example of 18th century colonial architecture representative of the county.

The interior was altered around 1819 and, consequently, the colonial details are effectively mingled with late Adamesque characteristics. The stairway, paneling, and hardware, for instance, is 18th century; while the mantels and doorways are early 19th century.

Military

The Guest House is steeped in unsubstantiated traditions concerning the Revolution. The British presumably fired at Guest's hides hanging out to dry; mistaking the leather for soldiers.

British officers were said to have used the Guest House as their headquarters during their occupation of New Brunswick.

And, later, American officers are said to have also used the Guest House as some sort of headquarters.

The British headquarters tale is most plausible as Henry Guest recorded his war losses between December 1, 1776 and June 20, 1777 - the occupation dates for the British in New Brunswick.

During the Revolutionary War, all of the Guest sons served in the Continental Army. Captain Moses Guest, who later owned the house, earned particular distinction as the captor of Lieutenant Colonel John Graves Simcoe, a daring British raider, in 1779. This event is docu-

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

New Brunswick Tax Ratables, 1782, 1785, 1788, 1789.
 New Jersey Historical Society Proceedings, New Series, Volume X (1925),
 p. 334-5.
 "History of the Henry Guest House", New Brunswick, N.J.: 1966
 Daily Home News, New Brunswick, November 17-25, 1924; December 4-11, 1925;
 January 12 & 16, 1925.
 New Jersey Architecture, Lars de Lagerberg, Mass.: 1956

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY lot *less than one*

UTM REFERENCES

A

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

B

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING							

4/30/76

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

NAME / TITLE

Miriam Kiss, Principal Planner (Revisions by Terry Karschner, Historic Sites)

ORGANIZATION

New Brunswick Planning Division

DATE

June, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

78 Bayard Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

New Brunswick

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

[Signature]

TITLE Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

DATE

JAN - 6 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

[Signature]

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

5/24/76

ATTEST

[Signature]

DATE

5-21-76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

Henry Guest House

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE

mented in Simcoe's Military Journal (London, 1787), and an article published by him on November 3, 1779; Moses Guest's Poems on Several Occasions, to which are annexed Extracts from a Journal... (Cincinnati, 1823); the Memoirs of the War of Colonel Henry "Lighthouse Harry" Lee, and other writings of the period. Moses Guest also led the charge which liberated his father's house from British troops quartered there during the occupation of 1776-77.

The correspondence of the Guest family shows them to have been intimately acquainted with Thomas Paine and John Adams. A letter to Paine gives credence to the tradition that he was once sheltered in the house for several days from colonists hostile to his political views.

An 1808 letter from John Adams to Guest thanks him for the gift of a staff which he esteemed more highly than Franklin did his gold-headed cane. Adams said he carried it with him constantly, and had nicknamed it "My Guest". The P.S. to his letter states "Madame desires me to present her Compliments to you and your son for your kind remembrance of her". Thus, the correspondence indicates warm friendship, not only between the two men, but between their families as well.

Henry and Moses Guest's tanning business collapsed following the Revolution so that by 1811 the house, which had already been mortgaged several times, was sold at a sheriff's sale to Henry Guest, Jr., who purchased clear title to the whole of the plot so that his father and brother Moses might continue living in the homestead.

The house was again offered for sale in 1815, following upon the death of Henry Guest, Sr. In the same year Moses and his family left the Guest house to take up residence on French Street. Later, they journeyed to Ohio as pioneers.

The Guest House on Livingston Avenue was finally sold to Charles Gilmore of Warwick, New York, a private of the Continental Army, in 1819. He sold the house later the same year to Abimael Youngs Nicholl of New Brunswick. Nicholl sold it to Adam Anderson, also of New Brunswick, in 1832. The latter mortgaged the property, which was subsequently seized by the sheriff and offered at public sale in 1842. It was then purchased by William Banks of Middlesex County, who put in the high bid of \$1,500. Banks conveyed the property to the Reverend

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John Proudfit, a noted classical scholar and full professor at Rutgers - The State University, in 1843. Dr. Proudfit made considerable additions to the Guest House during the three years that he lived there with his family.

In 1846, Dr. Proudfit sold a portion of Henry Guest's original two-acre lot, together with the house, to Mott Bedell of Brooklyn, New York. Bedell willed the property to his daughter, Mrs. Edward Vail, who became a long-term resident of the Guest House. She, in turn, willed the property to her son, Mott Bedell Vail, by an instrument proved on April 20, 1915. Mr. Vail conveyed the property, in 1923, to Mrs. Katherine J. Ferry, who had bought the house for reasons of speculation. Mrs. Ferry never lived in the house, but rented it to two other women who converted it into a tea-room. This venture evidently met with small success. In 1924, Mrs. Ferry and her husband, Daniel J. sold the property to the Elks Building Corporation. The latter proposed to tear down the Guest House, in order to erect a new club house on its site, at the corner of Livingston Avenue and Carroll Place; however, a campaign begun by Harold Brigham, Librarian, resulted in the relocation of the Henry Guest House to the Public Library grounds, approximately 300 feet to the south of its original site on Livingston Avenue. The new site was part of the two-acre lot which had been owned by Henry Guest. In addition, its proximity to the Public Library allowed the Library Board of Trustees to supervise and care for the building. In 1942, the Guest House was included in the Historic American Buildings Survey, and renovated as a WPA project. Additional restoration activities are being carried out, at present, by the Library Board of Trustees.

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The Henry Guest House

Historical Collections of the State of New Jersey, John Barber & Henry
Howe, New York; 1844.

"The Early History of the Guest House", New Brunswick, N.J.; 1925.
Items Pertaining to the Guest Family, Graham Alexander Stuart, compiler,
Mass.

