

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JAN 29 1976
DATE ENTERED	JUL 21 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 Academy
~~***~~

AND/OR COMMON
"The Brick Academy" -- "The Basking Ridge Classical School" *pl*

2 LOCATION

^{STREET & NUMBER}
15 West Oak Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

^{CITY, TOWN}
Bernards Township (Basking Ridge) VICINITY OF

5th

^{STATE}
New Jersey

^{CODE}
34

^{COUNTY}
Somerset

^{CODE}
035

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Bernards Township

^{STREET & NUMBER}
15 West Oak Street

^{CITY, TOWN}
Basking Ridge VICINITY OF

^{STATE}
New Jersey

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Somerset County Hall of Records

^{STREET & NUMBER}

^{CITY, TOWN}
Somerville

^{STATE}
New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

^{TITLE}
New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory (#237.3)

^{DATE}
1961-1965

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

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

^{CITY, TOWN}
Trenton

^{STATE} BOX 1420
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 Academy is a red brick 2 1/2 story rectangular structure, with the gable end facing the road. The foundation of native stone is at grade level on three sides, which enabled the basement to be used as a classroom in the school. The exterior has never been altered and appears the same as it did in 1809, when the building was constructed. The only exceptions being the absence of shutters on the windows, a newly constructed set of wooden steps on the East side and an asphalt roof over the original wooden shingles. The "S" tie rods are clearly visible on the front and rear gables. These "S" are the ends of interior bracing rods and togethewith the simple pilasters and cornice of the front entrance identify the building as being in the Federal style. The front door, porch and cornices are contemporary to the building. The sash contain 4 over 4 lights on the first and second stories with 6 over 6 lights at the base level.

The exterior brick work is of Flemish bond on the two side walls with a bond consisting of one row of headers followed by five rows of stretchers on the front and rear gable ends. There is a large chimney in the rear gable, which serviced either two or three fireplaces, which have been closed. All the lintels are of brick and are splayed which adds an attractive variation to the overall simple composition of the Academy.

The interior is as simple and austere as the exterior, with the original partitioning remaining. Some additional partitioning has been added to make the building usable as the township hall. There has also been constructed a large walk-in safe in the basement. Portions of the flooring are original as in the interior stairway. The interior walls are plaster with a crude wooden wainscoting half way up as is found in the 18th century schools of the area.

The exterior cornice at the roof level is well executed and hangs over the side and gable walls about 8 inches. At the gable end the cornice forms a return for about 2 feet, which adds considerably to the restrained Federal character of the building. This character is also evident in the front entranceway, which is one of the few locations on the structure where detailing is evident. The four paneled door is encased by simple pilasters topped by modified doric capitals, architrave with dentil and top cornice molding.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 1809-1840, 1850-1903 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Education

The Brick Academy, built in 1809, is representative of the numerous classical seminaries created in New Jersey during the 19th century for educating the male children of wealthy and respectable citizens of the state. The Basking Ridge Classical School enrolling upwards to 40 students was one of the more popular and renowned schools in the state.

As a result of the social types of youngsters entered in the theological academy an inordinate number of its graduates became distinguished figures. Among these were Samuel Southard, William Dayton, Theodore Frelinghuysen, David Kirkpartick, and Robert Stockton. Pupils from as far away as Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and New York were enrolled in the academy.

The Academy continued as a private classical school until 1840 when it closed. Ten years later it became part of the Basking Ridge School District. Through an 1894 Act of the State Legislature the building became part of the public school system and operated as such until 1903 when a new school was constructed.

Religion/Education

Robert Finley (1772-1817), born in Princeton, New Jersey, graduated from the College of New Jersey (Princeton) in 1787. In the same year he became the principal of a grammar school connected with the college. Later in charge of an academy at Allentown he left in 1791 to teach in Charleston, South Carolina. Upon returning to New Jersey he was licensed by the New Brunswick presbytery.

In 1797 he became a pastor at Basking Ridge when he also conducted an academy which became renowned throughout the Middle Atlantic states.

Originally classes were conducted in Dr. Finley's own home, but the popularity of the academy eventually forced the construction of the present brick academy at 15 West Oak Street.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Kammier, Fred et al. Historical Booklet of Bernards Township, Basking Ridge N.J., 1960, pp. 25-26

Scheurman, W.L. & Carswell, Arch W. "The Academy" notes, Basking Ridge, N.J., 1953-1960.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/2 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A

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

B

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING							

C

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING							

D

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING							

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

Richard Rozewski (revisions by T. Karschner, Historic Sites Section, DEP)

ORGANIZATION

Passaic River Coalition

DATE

9/27/74

STREET & NUMBER

25 Holmesbrook Road

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Basking Ridge

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

TITLE Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

DATE NOV 25 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 7/26/76

Acting ATTENDANT, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 5-12-76

Acting ATTENDANT, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

Basking Ridge Classical School

Basking Ridge

Somerset County

New Jersey 034

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

8

PAGE

1

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 26 1976

DATE ENTERED JUL 21 1976

Religion/Education (cont)

Partilly finaced from personal resources, wealthy New York City merchants provided the bulk of the expenses of constructing the academy.

Finley left Basking Ridge in 1817 to become President of the University of Georgia and died in the same year.

Finley's successor, William Craig Brownlee (1783-1860), remained at Basking Ridge for 8 years and continued educating of the wealthy and respectable in the classical seminary.

Later, Brownlee, a University of Glasgow graduate, taught Latin and Greek at Rutgers College for a short time and then became a minister of the Collegiate Reformed Dutch Church in New York remaining until 1848. While there he was the editor of the Dutch Church Magazine and author of many religious publications.

Political

From 1903 to 1924 the structure was used as the meeting hall for the local American Order of Union Workers.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 26 1976

DATE ENTERED JUL 21 1976

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

Basking Ridge Classical School

Basking Ridge

Somerset County

New Jersey 034

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

9

PAGE

1

Major Bibliographical References (cont)

Mott, S.L., editor, Among the Blue Hills - Bernardsville - A History, Bernardsville, N.J. 1973, pp. 37-53.

The Bernardsville News, October 25, 1956, Ridge Society Donates Plaque at Old Historic Township Hall. Page 1.

Basking Ridge Historical Society, The Old Brick Academy, 1971.

National Cyclopedia of American Biography, Robert Finley - Volume IX, p. 179 - William Craig Brownlee - Volume XI, p. 494-5/