

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: New Jersey	
COUNTY: Mercer	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Old Barracks

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Old Barracks (Trenton Barracks)

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
South Willow Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Trenton

STATE: New Jersey CODE: COUNTY: Mercer CODE:

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: State of New Jersey House Commission; administrated by:
Mrs. Kenneth Chorlay, Pres., Old Barracks Ass., South Willow Street

STREET AND NUMBER:
State House, West State Street

CITY OR TOWN: Trenton STATE: New Jersey CODE: 08608

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Mercer County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
South Broad Street

CITY OR TOWN: Trenton STATE: New Jersey CODE:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey (9 sheets and 4 photos)

DATE OF SURVEY: 1935-36 Federal State County Local

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

STREET AND NUMBER:
Washington

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D.C. CODE:

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STATE:

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7. DESCRIPTION

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Old Barracks (or Trenton Barracks), built in 1758-59, is a large two-and-one-half story U-shaped, fieldstone building with a slate-covered gable roof and a narrow two-story wood balcony extending around its inner (eastern) side. Designed to house 300 soldiers, the shorter north and south arms are each 58 feet long and 20 feet wide, the long connecting arm is 136 feet long and 20 feet wide. Attached to the eastern end of the northern arm is a two-and-one-half story over elevated-basement Georgian stone house with gable roof and a wide end chimney at either end. The eastern gable is treated as a pediment; the structure is 39 feet or five-bays wide and 28 feet or two-bays deep. This house has two rooms on the first floor and a single large room utilized as an armory, on the second.

Forty feet, or about one-third, of the northern end of the long connecting arm was reconstructed accurately in 1917 to replace the missing portion that has been demolished in 1813 to open up a way for a street. Except for this section most of the remainder of the Old Barracks is original. Interior walls are plastered and the floors are of random width wide oak boards.

The L-shaped southern section of the barracks, used from 1855 to 1899 as a home for elderly women, was somewhat altered by the insertion of partition walls to create smaller rooms. Most of these walls have been left in place in the south arm and these rooms are furnished with colonial period furniture. In the long arm, the later partition walls have been removed to recreate the original long barracks rooms. Here rooms complete with tables, bunks, military equipment and uniforms used by 18th century soldiers, have been restored. The north arm is used as a museum and contains exhibits relating to the Battle of Trenton as well as to local history. There is also an interpretive room with audiovisual devices that interpret the Battle of Trenton.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

Hessian Barracks, Dec. 26, 1777

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Old Barracks (Trenton Barracks), erected in 1758-59, is the only major structure still standing that is associated with the Battle of Trenton, December 26, 1776. Hessian troops were quartered in this building on Christmas night 1776, when Washington crossed the Delaware and in a brilliant attack the following morning surprised and captured the 1,000-man German garrison of Trenton. The Trenton battlefield, which now lies in the downtown heart of modern Trenton, except for the Old Barracks, is otherwise completely built over and altered.

History

The Old Barracks (then known as Trenton Barracks), begun on May 31, 1758, and completed in March 1759, was erected by the New Jersey General Assembly to provide winter quarters for 300 British troops during the French and Indian War. The Trenton Barracks was one of five similar structures built at Burlington, Elizabethtown, Perth Amboy, and New Brunswick to avoid the necessity of forcibly billeting British troops on New Jersey private householders. The other four barracks no longer stand. Constructed of native undressed stone, the U-shaped Trenton Barracks was two-and-one-half stories high and had a narrow two-story balcony running the length of its inner side. The first troops, the Inniskilling Regiment of Foot, occupied the building in December 1758. Soldiers and officers continued to use the barracks during the winter months until the close of the war, May 1763 when British soldiers were no longer needed in the colony. The economy-minded Assembly then ordered the barrack-master to sell the furnishings and rent the building.

The outbreak of the War for Independence brought the Trenton Barracks back to its original purpose. It was occupied by British, German, and American soldiers at various times, depending on who had control of New Jersey and the village of Trenton, then a small town of about 100 houses. The Battle of Trenton was fought around and near the Trenton Barracks, then serving as quarters for 300 Hessian soldiers, in the early morning hours of December 26, 1776. At a cost of four Americans wounded, Washington captured six cannons,

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

New Jersey, A Guide to Its Past and Present (American Guide Series) (New York, 1939), 405.

Aldin T. Cottrell, The Old Barracks at Trenton (Booklet, 1954)

Louise Hewitt, Historic Trenton

E. R. Walker et al., A History of Trenton (2 vols., Princeton, 1929).

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	0	'	"	0	'	"	40	0	13	10	74	0	46	'	07	"
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"										
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"										
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"										

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **1 acre**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Charles W. Snell, Survey Historian

ORGANIZATION **Division of History, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service** DATE **5/11/72**

STREET AND NUMBER:
801 19th Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington** STATE **D.C.** CODE

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Title _____</p> <p>Date _____</p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____ Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____ Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date _____</p>
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Old Barracks

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

1

8. Significance (continued)

took 948 Hessians prisoner, and 22 more Germans were killed in the battle fought in a heavy snow storm. Lord George Germain, Colonial Secretary of State for King George III, wrote "all our hopes were blasted by that unhappy affair at Trenton." The Barracks was later used as a hospital for sick American soldiers; 600 were brought here after the Siege of Yorktown, in November 1781.

With the end of active military operations, the Legislature, in June 1782, directed that the Trenton Barracks be sold. A public sale in January 1786 brought £ 3,260 for the structure, slightly more than the original cost of construction. The building was then subdivided for use as a number of small private dwellings. In 1813, 40 feet of the north end of the central arm of the U-shaped barracks was demolished to allow the western extension of Front Street to the State House. In 1855 the southern L-shaped section of the barracks was purchased, adapted, and utilized from 1855 until 1899 as a home for elderly women.

In 1899 the Captain Jonathan Oliphant Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution raised \$6,134 by public subscription and purchased the southern L-shaped portion of the Trenton Barracks, thereby saving this section from demolition. In 1902 this same group formed the Old Barracks Association to preserve and restore the barracks. The State of New Jersey purchased the original northern arm of the barracks, then occupied by private dwellings, for \$10,800, and the City of Trenton agreed to close the western extension of Front Street between the two original sections of the building. The Old Barracks Association then deeded its southern wing to the State of New Jersey, with the stipulation that when the Old Barracks was restored to its original condition control and management of the entire building would forever remain with the Association. The reconstruction of the missing 40-foot section of the central arm and restoration of the remainder of the original portions were completed in 1917; Old Barracks has been open to visitors as a museum since that year.