

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
New Jersey

COUNTY:
Morris

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE
FEB 24 1975

1. NAME

COMMON:
Timothy Mills House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
27 Mills Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Morristown

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Fifth

STATE:
New Jersey

CODE:
34

COUNTY:
Morris

CODE:
027

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work <i>in progress</i>	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input 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 <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Morris School District Board of Education

STREET AND NUMBER:
40 Mills Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Morristown

STATE:
New Jersey

CODE:
34

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Hall of Records, Morris County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Court Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Morristown

STATE:
New Jersey

CODE:
34

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey (NJ-632) (NJHSI-2064.33)

DATE OF SURVEY: 1941 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

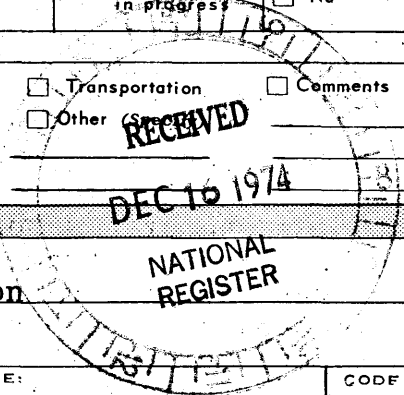
STREET AND NUMBER:
East Capitol Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
DC

CODE:
11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: New Jersey

COUNTY: Morris

ENTRY NUMBER: FEB 24 1975

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DATE:

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins
	(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

Timothy Mills House, Structural Features:

The Timothy Mills House is a typical mid 18th century, one and one half story Colonial New Jersey house with end chimneys, on its original site. It is unusual in houses of this age to find so many of the original structural features remaining and directly accessible for inspection; This has proved to be one of the most useful aspects of the house for teaching and study purposes. These features are as follows:

The "Braced Frame" which can be examined in detail in the basement where the massive summer beam extends down the longitudinal center of the house from the west end wall to the imposing kitchen fire place base. The first floor joists are mortised into this beam which is almost 2 feet wide by 15 inches deep.

The kitchen fireplace base 12 ft. wide, is built of rough stone with a six foot deep, arched brick vault next to the stove ash pit with a small arched opening through which the ashes were removed to be used in soap making or were spread on the fields. The ashes were dumped into the pit through a small opening at the rear of the fireplace. This feature was also found in the Moses Estey House, since removed to Speedwell Village in Morristown.

Another feature which these two houses have in common is the end chimney serving two (in the Mills House) or four (in the Estey House) fireplaces. The West end chimney in the Mills House is an inverted "Y" with branches from each first floor brick fireplace merging just under the roof peak. These fireplaces rest on stone arches built into the basement wall.

The "Braced Frame" can also be seen in the living room which was part of the original kitchen. The kitchen fireplace was removed and the plaster ceiling on hand split lathes was taken down to show the rough hewn beams which, of course, were not exposed unless carefully finished. This alteration, with others, was made in 1928 by the Searles family who received the property in 1880. A taped record of the alterations described by the man who made them is part of the archives of the American Civilization Institute of Morristown.

The second floor, as was usual in the story and a half houses, has a large area left unfinished where the frame construction is totally exposed, showing the roof rafters mortised into the plates and fastened at the peak with a "treenail". There is no ridgeboard nor any "eyebrow" windows. The plate is about 3 feet above the floor here and the posts can be seen studded with various types of nails from early handmade "rosette" nails to 20th century machine made. Here we can also see the original interior partitions which were of vertical chestnut planks, about 12 inches, spaced an inch apart and covered on the inside walls of the two bedrooms, with handsplit lath and plaster. The lath was fastened with tiny, apparently hand-forged nails. The flooring here is of the original wide boards and there is a batten door with wrought iron hinges and a "Christian" door.

cont'd.

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE New Jersey	
COUNTY Morris	
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(Number all entries)

#7 Description.

A most interesting survival is the brick fireplace and bake oven on the outside wall of the east end of the house. These backed up to the kitchen fireplace (removed) and shared the east end chimney with it. This fireplace with its iron crane on pintles in the bricks was probably used for the messier cooking jobs, such as soap making. At a later undetermined time, a shed was added to cover it and its oven. The oven adjoins the fireplace and is of brick with an arched ceiling and is about 3 or 4 feet by 2. The bricks were made on the property and were specially shaped to fit the design of the oven. The oven has its own flue into the chimney, a feature of Dutch ovens, apparently not found in New England houses, for instance.

As suggested earlier, these many features of 18th century houses have usually disappeared -- been covered up, altered and removed. This makes the house, together with the artifacts recovered by excavation and dating back to the first half of the 19th century, a most satisfactory and exciting teaching aid.

The Timothy Mills house is a rectangular form 1 1/2 story frame building with a gable roof and brick chimneys on each gable end. Presently the clapboard is covered by modern shingles. A modern porch covers the center doorway, which was originally flanked by two windows on each side, but a window placement has been inserted between the two windows nearest the one story leanto wing on the east gable end. The windows are 2/2 Victorian lights, except for those on the west gable end (6/6 sash).

The foundation is stone.



8. 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) circa 1740

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<u>Community History</u> |
| <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 | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Mills family was probably typical of the majority of families in pre-Revolutionary Morristown. Hard working and simple in their habits yet willing and able to take their share of responsibility in the church and the community their house is representative of vernacular style typifying life in the 18th century in northern New Jersey.

Timothy Mills (1713-1803) was born in Jamaica, Long Island and came to Morristown with his brother around 1740. He married a local woman, Phebe Lindsley, in 1742 and, it is presumed, built his house about this time. Timothy and Phebe had nine children, all born between 1744 and 1766 in this house. Timothy Mills was a farmer and a cordwinder (shoemaker). Tax ratables during and after the Revolutionary War indicate that he owned a maximum of 3 horses, 11 cattle, and 11 hogs on a modest 60 acre farm in any one year. Mills was also active in serving the community. He held numerous local and county offices throughout his long life. He was, at various times: Freeholder, Overseer of highways, Town collector, Ruling elder of the Presbyterian Church, Surveyor of roads, and Overseer of the poor.

After the 1760's Mills is frequently referred to as Captain Mills, and, although it is uncertain, it is possible that he served in the Colonial Militia during the French and Indian War.

Though too old to serve actively in the Revolution, three of his sons, Jebediah, John, and Timothy, Jr. participated either in the Militia or the New Jersey line.

In 1770, at the age of 60, Timothy moved from the old house to Basking Ridge Road.

Timothy's son, John (1756-1837) and his wife Chloe Wines lived in the old house and raised their nine children there. John Mills served in the Revolution as a private in Captain Kinsey's Company, New Jersey line and also in the Morris County Militia. In addition to farming, John Mills operated a tannery, tanning between 200-300 hides a year. Though an unpleasant occupation, it was nevertheless an important one in the 18th and 19th

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Historic American Buildings Survey. (NJ-632), Library of Congress Washington, D.C.
 Munsell, W.W. History of Morris County, New Jersey. New York: 1880.
 Sherman, Andrew M. Historic Morristown. Howard Publishing Co. 1905.
 Timothy Mills Family Book. American Civilization Institute of Morristown. 1968
 Morris County Ratables: 1778 to 1822.
 New Jersey Archives, Series I and II.

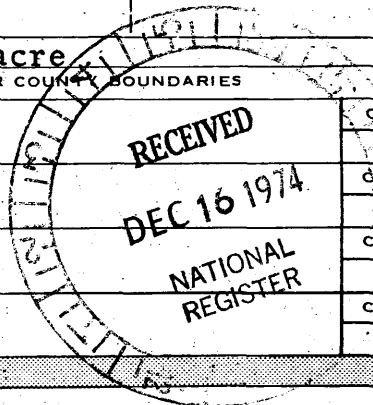
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		40° 48' 05"	74° 29' 24"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **1/4 acre**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Dr. Gene Weltfish (minor revisions by T. Karschner, Historic Sites
 ORGANIZATION: American Civilization Institute of Morristown D.E.P.) DATE: July 31, 1974
 STREET AND NUMBER: 40 Mills Street
 CITY OR TOWN: Morristown STATE: New Jersey CODE: 34

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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: David J. Bardin
 Title: Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection
 Date: December 6, 1974

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

A. R. Wente
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 2/24/75

ATTEST:

Arty Gene Francis
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: Feb 20, 1975

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(Number all entries)

8. Significance (cont'd.)

centuries when leather was in great demand for shoes, boots, saddles and harnesses as well as leather breeches and tools.

John Mills was appointed to many positions of responsibility in the community. He served as Tax Assessor for many years, as commissioner of the Roads, as Poundkeeper, as Overseer of the Poor, and, perhaps most important, as County Loan Officer. Like his father before him he was a trustee of the First Presbyterian Church in Morristown.

John Mills built a new brick house nearby after his children were grown and his son, Silas, occupied the Timothy Mills house.

Silas Mills (1770-1846) was married twice and had two sons, Ezra and John J., both of whom were probably born in the old house. They helped their father with the farming and tanning. When Silas died in 1846 his son John J. Mills came into possession of the house lot. He continued to operate the tannery from 1850 until his death. He lived in the old Timothy Mills house with his wife Beulah Peer until his death in 1880, leaving no heirs. After 140 years, the old house passed out of the Mills family possession.

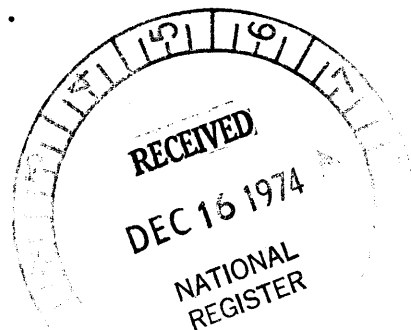
The Searles family owned the property from 1888 to 1942.

The Timothy Mills house at 27 Mills Street is the oldest extant building in the town of Morristown, surpassing in age even the Ford Mansion (Washington's Headquarters) in the Morristown National Historic Park by at least a decade.

9. Major Bibliographical References (cont'd.)

Record of the Presbyterian Church at Morristown, New Jersey.
1880-1885.

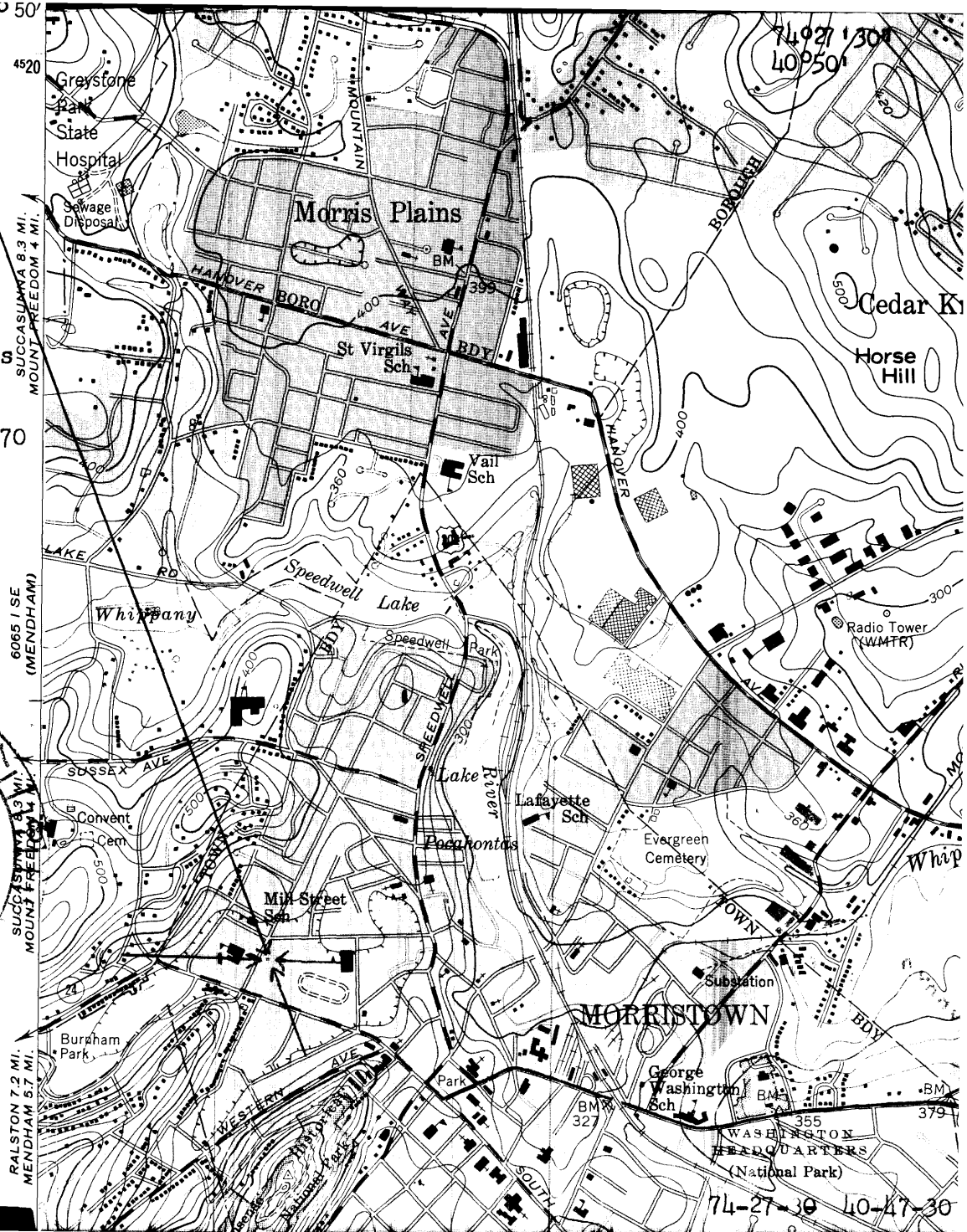
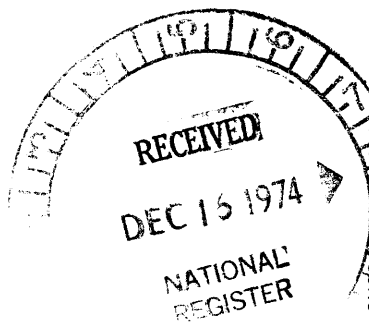
Town Minutes, of Morris Township.



74°30' 40°50'

Timothy Mills House
Morristown
Morris County, 027
New Jersey, 34
Latitude:
40-48-05
Longitude:
74-29-24

U.S.G.S. Map: 7.5 Series
Morristown Quadrangle
scale: 1:24,000
1954, photorevised 1970



74°30' 40°47'30"

74-29-30 40-47-30