National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms* Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Nam	e Ward-Force	. House and Con	nd.+ Family Coo	K House
historic		±* - '	/ ouse & Condit Fa	
and/or common) Force Home or O)/ / ld Force Homest	ead	
2. Loca	ation			
street & number	366 South Livin	gston Avenue		not for publication
city, town	Livingston	vicinity of	congressional district	5th
state	New Jersey code	34 county	Essex	code 013
3. Clas	sification			
Category district <u>X</u> building(s) structure site object	Ownership _X public private both Public Acquisition in process being considered	Status X occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible X yes: restricted yes: unrestricted yes: no	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	X museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other:
4. Own	er of Proper	ty		
name	Township of Liv	ingston		
street & number	357 South Livin	gston Avenue		
city, town	Livingston	vicinity of	state	New Jersey
5. Loca	ation of Lega	I Descriptio	n	
courthouse, regis	stry of deeds, etc. Regi	ster of Deeds an	nd Mortgages, Ha	ll of Records
street & number	469 High Street			
city, town	Newark		state	New Jersey
6. Repr	resentation i	n Existing S	Surveys	
title N.J. His	storic Sites Inve	ntory has this prop	perty been determined ele	gible? yes no
date	1960		federal _X state	e county local
depository for su	rvey records Cultura	l and Environmer	tal Services	
city, town	Trenton		state	New Jersey

7. Description

Condition		Check one
excellent _X_ good fair	<pre> deteriorated ruins unexposed</pre>	unaltered _X altered

Check one ____ original site ____ moved date ____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Thomas Force House is a wood frame building, consisting of three basic sections - a 1 1/2 story center portion built around 1745, a large early 19th century 2 1/2 story gambrel roofed unit, and a 1 1/2 story 1927 garage addition on the west that also extended the width of the original 18th century section and raised its eastern roof plane. The Condit Family Cook House, a small 19th century 1 1/2 story wood frame building with two small rooms, was moved onto the northwest corner of the property in 1964.

The Thomas Force House (located at 366 South Livingston Avenue) is owned by the Township of Livingston, N.J. and presently a museum and headquarters for the Livingston Historical Society. The oldest portion of the Force House (now the present center section of the building) was built in 1745 by Theopolius Ward. The original one and one-half story dwelling (see floor plans) on a stone foundation was constructed of a wood timber frame, covered with clapboard siding, and had a high pitched gable roof with wood shingles. The house consisted of one large main room with a fireplace and stone chimney in the northwest elevation wall and a second story loft. The extension of the lower portion of the rear roof formed a porch area that was enclosed at a later date to form the present lower kitchen area. The original house was a part of the Ward Farm, which according to documents advertising the property for sale in 1762 and 1768 consisted of 225 acres of land partially cleared and fenced for meadows, apple and peach trees, and a nursery, with the remainder of the land in timber or swamp. The advertisement also noted the presence of a stream and saw mill on the property.

This mid 18th century section is a nearly square 18' \times 20', 1 1/2 story, 3 bay, gable roofed dwelling with a side entrance. The dormer which breaks the south plane of the roof was added in 1951. There is a single room on the first floor and the loft above. The exposed hand hewn beams are five inches by eight inches. There is a large stone fireplace with Dutch oven in the west end wall. A small winding stair is tucked into the southwest corner against the fireplace.

A large two and one-half story section projecting toward the roadway was added to the southeast elevation wall of the original house by Thomas Force during the early part of the 1800's. This section of the house was built of wood frame siding with two chimneys on the east gable end, and a gambrel roof with wood shingles and overhanging eaves. This section has a 3 bay, through side hall plan. Windows are 6/6 sash with paneled shutters on the first floor and louvered shutters on the second floor. The windows are shown as 9/6 sash in the 1939 HABS drawings.

8. Significance

prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599	archeology-historic agriculture architecture	heck and justify below community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration/settlement industry invention	Iandscape architecture	religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	1745	Builder/Architect	Theophilus Ward	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Theophilus Ward/Thomas Force House, built around 1745 and expanded significantly in the early 19th century, is one of the few early farmhouses in the Township of Livingston which has retained much of its original character, craftsmanship and details. The well preserved farmhouse and the surrounding park evoke a clear picture of 18th-19th century rural Essex County.

The frame 1 1/2 story mid-18th century dwelling - its single room first floor and loft with the gable end wall containing a large cooking fireplace next to a corner winding stair - is a typical 18th century New Jersey plan, but an uncommon survivor for Essex County. The 2 1/2 story gambrel roofed addition was built by Thomas Force and is representative of rural domestic Federal architecture of northern New Jersey in the early 19th century. Its construction laterally adjacent to the earlier dwelling was a common building pattern in the state.

It was Samuel Force of Woodbridge who bought property in Canoe Brook (Livingston Township) for his sons Thomas and Jonathan. The land, house, and sawmill he bought for Thomas were on the road that is now South Livingston Avenue. The sawmill is gone, its only evidence being some rock construction in Canoe Brook near the Livingston Town Hall. The property was advertised for sale in 1761 and 1762 in colonial newspapers. Purchasers were advised to contact Theophilus Ward living in the house or Samuel Ward of Staten Island. It is uncertain when Samuel Force bought the house, but Samuel's will in 1794 mentions his purchase of property in Canoe Brook as gifts to his sons Thomas and Jonathan. (New York Geneological and Biographical Quarterly Magazine. 1954, p. 160.)

Thomas Force was an early settler in the area, a veteran of the American Revolution, active in local affairs, and one of the original Township officials. He was born in Woodbridge, New Jersey in 1758. Thomas Force served in the Revolutionary War as a Corporal in Captain Henry Squire's Company, the Second New Jersey Regiment, Essex County Troops; was a prisoner on the British prison ship Jersey, and was present at the winter encampment of American Troops at Valley Forge between 1777 and 1778. He married Hannah Smith around 1780-82 and was probably given this farmstead at that time.

In addition to operating his farm and sawmill, Thomas Force was associated with the local and religious affairs of the Canoe Brook area during his lifetime. In 1782, along with other early settlers, he helped erect the first school house in the area, a crude stone building at

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheets

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10. Ge	ographical	Data :	•	4.5 (9) 63.	•			
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			F		<u></u>			
Verbal bounda	ry description and jus							
	See Continuat	ion Sheet						·
List all states	and counties for prop	erties overlag	oping state or	county bou	ndaries	3		
state	<u> </u>	code	county			cod	de	
state		code	county			00		
<u>11. For</u>	m Prepare	d By					arschner, mental Ser	
nåme/title	Russell A. Jon	es, Jr.,	Assistant	to the	Manag	er	8/	1981
organization	Township of Li	vingston		date	2/27/	1981		
street & number	357 South Livi	ngston Av	enue	telephone	(201)	992-5	000	
city or town	Livingston			state	New J	ersey	07039	
12. Sta	te Historic	Prese	rvation	Offic	er C	ertif	icatio	n
The evaluated sig	gnificance of this propert	y within the sta	ite is:					
	national s	tate X	local					
								-
665), I hereby no according to the Deputy	d State Historic Preserva minate this property for in criteria and procedures s	nclusion in the set forth by the	National Registe	r and certify	that it h	as been ev	aluated	
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National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Ward/Force House, Livingston, Essex County, NJ Condit Cook House Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 1

7. DESCRIPTION (Continued)

The main entrance appears to be a mid-19th century modification of what was probably a simple narrower opening. The present wide entrance has rectangular sidelights and transom surrounding a four panel door with rounded arch upper panels. Portrayed in the HABS drawings is a late 19th century one story wooden porch on the southwest, southeast and northeast*

The interior of this section contains a cellar area, two rooms and a hallway on the first floor, three rooms and a hallway on the second floor, and a large exhibit area on the third floor, later partitioned into a hallway and two rooms.

The hall is nearly 10 feet wide featuring a paneled stair with a graceful balustrade and railing against the northwest corner. East of the hall are two identical rooms $(13' \times 15')$ with end wall fireplaces. The second floor repeats the plan. Moldings and doors throughout have typical late 18th - early 19th century details. Particularly noteworthy is the curved shelf mantelpiece with sunburst motif and fluted pilaster in the dining room. The other mantelpieces are quite simple.

The third section of the house, a one and one-half story addition with a high pitched gable roof, was added into the northwest elevation wall of the original portion of the house in 1927 by George B. Tuttle. This wood frame addition, built on a concrete slab foundation, contained a garage area (present barn exhibit area), a narrow room or hallway (present buttery room) extending from the northeast elevation exterior wall to an interior southwest elevation wall and separating the garage area from the original main room and lower kitchen. A doorway at the end of this room leads to another similar narrow room (present storage room) possibly added at this time and is located parallel to the interior southwest elevation wall of the garage.

The interior finish in the two smaller rooms consists of a concrete floor and sheetrock walls and ceiling in the store room, and wide wood flooring boards and plaster walls and ceiling in the buttery. The former garage area has been converted to a display area, resembling the interior of a barn, for the purpose of exhibiting tools and farm implements. The interior of this room has wide wood board floor installed over the concrete floor, and horizontally applied wide wood shiplap boards on the walls. A loft area was created by laying wide boards across a portion of the garage ceiling beams. A window in the northwest exterior wall elevation and a doorway to the storeroom in an interior southwest wall

*elevations of the main house. This bracketed porch was removed between 1940 and 1960.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number

7

Page 2

7. DESCRIPTION (Continued)

were closed off with the wood paneling. During this time, the two overhead garage doors were removed and their openings replaced with a smaller doorway containing a pair of barn style doors. The exterior of this section of the house is wood shingled, as is the rest of the house.

Major changes to the Ward/Force House since 1950 include a masonry exterior front entrance stair, substantial modification to the lower kitchen in the 18th century unit (fireplace and hearth built; partitions, doors and cabinets removed) and display room completed on the attic floor of the gambrel roofed unit.

The Condit Family Cook House. Moved onto this site in 1964, the building is a 12' $3" \times 18' 3-3/4"$ wood frame structure with fireplace, one and one-half stories in height, and containing two rooms. At its original location the Condit Family Cook House was used as a summer kitchen, later as a tenant house, wash house, and store room.

The exact date the Cook House was built is not known - the type of use and materials used in the construction indicate that the building was constructed some time during the later part of the 1700's. This building was originally a part of a large farm of several hundred acres, that was located at the intersection of Walnut Street and South Orange Avenue in the Cheapside section of the Township, and known for many years as the Ira Condit Farm. On this original site, the Cook H ouse was located southward of the main farmhouse at No. 370 Walnut Street, which stood on a knoll facing the intersection of South Orange Avenue and Walnut Street (before its relocation). The site also contained a main farmhouse, several barns and other farm buildings. It is now the location of the Livingston Shopping Mall.

The Cook House is a one and one-half story building constructed with a wood timber frame covered with clapboard siding, a gable roof with wood shingles, and was originally located on a stone foundation which formed a crawl space area beneath the first floor level and contained an outside access door. Most of the original clapboards are still present on the house, with the exception of two small areas on the northeast and southwest elevation walls which have been repaired. The front or northeast elevation wall has two window units and an entrance doorway to the first floor, which contains one room with a fireplace and enclosed stairway. The interior southeast elevation wall is completely bricked, contains a large fireplace with crane and baking oven, and a brick hearth laid in a herringbone pattern. This fireplace was dismantled and rebuilt when the house was moved. Other interior details

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet Item number 7

7. DESCRIPTION (Continued)

include random width wood flooring boards laid, lath and plaster walls and ceiling, a simple wood base molding, and two window units of unequal size located in the rear wall. Located in the northwest corner is an enclosed stairway to the second story loft area. The stairway is enclosed with vertically applied wood panelling, and contains a small storage closet area with door underneath.

The second floor of the building contains an unfinished loft area that was used for sleeping purposes. The open wall cavities in this area show the type of frame construction that was used in the building. Large vertical timbers are located in each corner, and in the center of the front and rear walls, extending upward approximately 22 inches above the random width flooring boards of the second level. In each of the front and rear walls, these timbers support a horizontal hand-hewn beam, secured by mortise and tenon joints with wood pegs. To the underside of both roof support beams are attached two corner braces that extend diagonally downward toward the outer side walls of the first floor. Rough shaped wood studding comprise the framing of the southeast and northwest elevation walls (gable ends) and between the main timbers in the northeast and southwest elevation walls. The roof is formed by eight pairs of rafters, uniformly spaced, notched at the bases, attached to the horizontal wall beam and held together at the ridge line by overlapping joints and wood pegs. The underside of the roof consists of wood lath to which are applied courses of wood shingles and presently serve as a base for the later roof covering of asphalt shingles. A brick chimney extends upward from the first floor fireplace and through the ridge line of the roof at the gable end of the southeast elevation wall. The two end walls contain a three pane window.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 1

8. SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

Northfield Center. In 1786, Thomas was one of the original members who formed the Canoe Brook Baptist Society. One of the earliest meetings of this society was held in the Force home during the same year. Thomas was a member of this church for forty-one years and a Deacon for almost forty years, carrying on the society's work. In 1800, when the Baptist Society incorporated as the Northfield Baptist Church, Deacon Thomas Force gave woodland timbers and sawed some of the lumber for the construction of the first church building at Northfield Center. He also served as an Overseer of Highway in 1787 and 1790, according to records of the Township of Newark. Thomas Force built the 2 1/2 story frame addition around this time.

When the state legislature granted a charter for the formation of the Township of Livingston in 1813, Thomas Force was chosen as one of the original town officers, again serving as an Overseer of the Highway. Thomas Force died in 1827 and is buried in the Northfield Baptist Cemetery. (Newark Sentinel of Freedom. April 10, 1827. Obituary)

Thomas Force by his will dated 10 April 1827 directed his executor, William B. Force, to sell "the land deeded to me by my father" if necessary to cover the debts and legacies. Accordingly, twelve years later, the executor and his wife Martha Ann of Livingston Township, Essex County, conveyed by deed to John Emmons of New York City, for \$5000 the three tracts "with all and singular the houses, buildings".

John Emmons apparently resided in this farmhouse at the time of his death in 1868. He devised his estate to his wife Eliza Ann Emmons for her lifetime, and thereafter to his sons, William and George. By a deed of 10 April 1872, George Emmons and wife Betsey and William Emmons, all of Livingston Township, conveyed to Carl Hinderer of Newark, in same county, for \$11,500, the two tracts, 60 and 5 acres, first described above, and a third tract they had purchased by Deed of 19 March 1872, being 30.33 acres. As a result of proceedings in foreclosure of the mortgage given by Hinderer, the property was seized by the sheriff and conveyed back to the Emmons brothers by deed of 20 January 1874.

One of them, William Emmons, with wife Cecelia, then conveyed to the other, George Emmons, his undivided half of the three tracts by deed of 19 May 1884, and he with wife Adella, conveyed to Frank C. O'Reilly the same 98 acres of deed of 22 July 1885. Ralph O'Reilly, then of Paris, France, conveyed 54 acres thereof to Helen S. Kroeger by deed of 11 March 1925, and she sold it to Herbert Austin by deed of 30 April 1925. Austin laid out the property in building lots, and conveyed nos.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

8. SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

17-18-19-20 to Hermine B. Tuttle in 1927. The property was seized by sheriff and conveyed to Lawrence Greggio in 1935 from whom it passed (with lots nos. 15 and 16) to Harry W. Hauck and wife by one of 1st of June 1937. In 1962 the Township of Livingston purchased Lots 15 through 20 for a historical museum and to complement the adjacent municipal park.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 1

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Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 2

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National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 3

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National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 4

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National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 5

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Livingston Township 1906, Plate 31 - Property Ownership Map.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



1

Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

On December 10, 1962, the Township of Livingston, Essex County, New Jersey, purchased the Thomas Force House and property at 366 South Livingston Avenue, containing .5437 acres of land. The Condit Family Cook House was relocated to a rear portion of this site in August of 1964 to preserve it from demolition. The property reference is Block 160, Lots 15-20.

As shown by the Community Facilities Inventory Map, the Condit Family Cook House and Thomas Force House property is surrounded by Township of Livingston owned parklands on three sides and by an Essex County road on the fourth boundary.

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Theophilus Ward/Thomas Force House and Condit Family cook house NOV 3 0 1981 Livingston Township Essex County. New Jersev 29 1981

MAP REFERENCE: Tax Map Livingston, N.J. Sheet 43

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