

R

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUN 18 1979
DATE ENTERED	JUL 23 1979

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC FOSTER-ARMSTRONG HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER *N of Branchville rd*
River Road (N.J. 521)

CITY, TOWN *Branchville, Nc* Montague Township VICINITY OF 13th, New Jersey

STATE New Jersey CODE 34 COUNTY Sussex CODE 037

2 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" 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	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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: *(if applicable)* National Park Service

STREET & NUMBER 143 South Third Street

CITY, TOWN Philadelphia VICINITY OF STATE Pennsylvania

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Hall of Records

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Newton STATE New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE List of Classified Structures

HABS records (L. Becker NJ 829 7/19/79)

DATE 1976 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Headquarters STATE Pennsylvania
Bushkill

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 Foster-Armstrong House is a large farm house constructed in two sections. The original frame wing, built ca. the 1790's, is two stories high, and five bays wide. The siding is white clapboard, and the gambrel roof with "Dutch kick" (flared eaves) is covered with asphalt shingles. The wing sits on a rubble sandstone foundation. A broad, one story porch runs the width of the wing. A wide brick chimney, with exposed back on the first floor level, is set in the north, or open, gable. A heavy panelled Dutch central entrance door, with a glazed transom, sits under the middle bay.

The south wing, built ca. 1812, is a one-and-a-half story kitchen addition of heavy cut rubble stone, covered on the exterior with rough stucco. The wing is covered with a steeply sloping seam metal roof, which extends over a porch on the front. There is a sloped addition in the rear of more recent date, and a small dormer in the front over the porch, slightly off center.

The interior of the frame section has eight rooms, flanking a central stairhall. Each room has a corner fireplace, many of which are boarded up, and original floorboards and chair rails remain throughout. The most prominent feature in the stone wing is a large beehive over, now boarded up.

The house is currently uninhabited, and the windows are boarded to protect it against intruders. It is intended for eventual use by the National Park Service as a staff residence, and for inclusion on an architectural tour, for exterior inspection.

Also on the property is a large frame storage and equipment shed. A large frame dairy barn, which had stood intact until March of 1977, was partially destroyed by high winds in that month, which caused the collapse of most of the roof and a part of the structure. As the remains constitute a public safety hazard, the structure was recently removed from the site. The foundation has been left exposed for interpretive purposes.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Foster-Armstrong House is significant as a late and well-preserved example of several classic elements of Dutch domestic architecture, and for its association with the many commercial activities of the Foster and Armstrong families in the Montague area of the New Jersey Minisink, from the late 18th century to the mid-19th.

Julius Foster came to the vicinity ^{ca} 1791 and purchased the property on which he built the house, starting with the frame section at some time during that decade. Foster was a millwright by trade, but his later career shows him to have been familiar with a wide variety of domestic and industrial crafts. He had undoubtedly adopted traditional Dutch construction techniques as a result of his previous residence on Long Island, where they were commonplace. Many of the Dutch details in the house, such as the gambrel roof with flared eaves, the exposed back of the large end chimney, and the corner fireplaces in the bedrooms, are unusual for the area at that late date.

James B. Armstrong migrated to Montague in the early 19th century and married Foster's daughter in about 1812. At about the same time, the large stone kitchen wing was added to the house. Foster and Armstrong formed an enduring commercial association along with their familial ties. They operated a ferry on the Delaware River near their house until about 1835, and entertained both passengers and raftsmen who floated logs down the river, at their tavern, which Foster had opened in the house as early as 1789. Other intermittent business enterprises included a general store, a blacksmith's shop, a cider press and a distillery. Armstrong was a shoemaker, and was the area's postmaster for a time. Foster continued his career as a miller, operating a sawmill with his neighbor Abram Shimer, and later a gristmill.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dodd, John B. 'Classified Structure Field Inventory Report!' April, 1976.

Souder, Norman M. Historic Structures Report: Part I. Architectural Data Section on Historic Buildings in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. 1967. pp. 164-165.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.4

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 8	51, 76, 6, 0	4, 51, 7, 218, 9, 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(See continuation sheet)

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Wayne K. Bodle Park Technician

ORGANIZATION

National Park Service

DATE

4/22/77

STREET & NUMBER

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Bushkill

STATE

Pennsylvania

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES NO NONE

See SHPO letter 3/29/79

Deputy Betty Wilson
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National State Local .

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

J. B. Holland Jr.

TITLE

Asst. Dir., Cultural Resources

DATE

5/30/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Charles W. Hamilton
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 7-25-79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Lynn A. Beebe

DATE July 19, 1979

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

JUN 18 1979

JUL 23 1979

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE 2

Historic Structures Report: Part I. Architectural Data
Section on Historic Buildings in the Delaware Water Gap
National Recreation Area, 1967, Federal. Delaware Water Gap
National Recreation Area Headquarters, Bushkill, Pennsylvania.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 18 1979

DATE ENTERED

JUL 23 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

8

PAGE 2

By the late 19th century, most of these commercial activities had subsided, probably as a result of the disappearance of their markets. A bridge constructed from Milford across the river in 1890 ended forever the need for a ferry. By the mid 1880's, lumber rafting on the Delaware was beginning to decline. As early as mid-century the Brick House Hotel in nearby Montague had become the more important stopping place along the Old Mine Road. The commercial functions oriented to the agricultural pursuits which continued to predominate in the area were siphoned off to the larger and more effective service centers, which grew as improved roads and generally better transportation allowed farmers to move their goods greater distances.

The Foster-Armstrong family continued to occupy their homestead until recently, "reduced" by the march of progress to what they doubtless considered the perfectly satisfactory status of "ordinary" farmers. Many of the buildings erected during the family's brief commercial preeminence stood until the late 19th century, and the foundations of some can still be seen today. The Foster-Armstrong House is the most substantial and best preserved late 18th century farmhouse still standing between Montague and the New York State line. It reveals with almost textbook clarity many of the elements characteristic of the Dutch style of house building. As the last remnant of the family's commercial activity, it is an architectural document, linking the area's sleepy present with its livelier past.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUN 18 1979
DATE ENTERED	JUL 23 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Snell, James P. (Compiler) History of Sussex and Warren
Counties, New Jersey. Philadelphia, Everts and Peck, 1881.
pp. 364-369.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUN 18 1979
DATE ENTERED	JUL 23 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

The Foster-Armstrong House is located on United States Army Corps of Engineers tract #11220-1, which includes a total of 14.27 acres. The boundary of the nominated portion of this property begins at Point A, where the tract line between tracts #11220-1 and 11221 meets the northwestern edge of the right of way of N.J. 521. From this point, the boundary extends to the northwest, following the above-mentioned tract line, for 250' to Point B. From this point, the boundary turns to the southwest, still following the above-mentioned tract line, and extending beyond it, into the interior of tract #11220-1, for a total of 300' (B-C) to Point C. From this point, the boundary turns to the southeast and extends for 230' to Point D., on the N.J. 521 right of way for approximately 400' back to point A.