

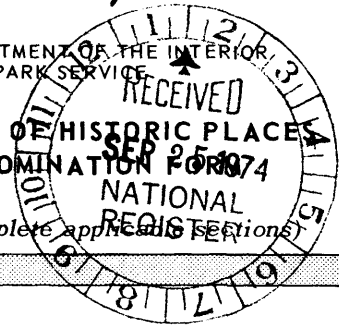
PH 6356832

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applications)



STATE: New Jersey  
 COUNTY: Morris  
 FOR NPS USE ONLY  
 ENTRY DATE: NOV 11 1977

1. NAME  
 COMMON: \*\*  
 Silas Riggs House  
 AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION  
 STREET AND NUMBER: 217 Main Street  
 CITY OR TOWN: Ledgewood (Roxbury Township) CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 13th  
 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 type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	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 type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

Roxbury Township  
Historical Headquarters

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY  
 OWNER'S NAME: Roxbury Township Historical Society  
 STREET AND NUMBER: 217 Main Street  
 CITY OR TOWN: Ledgewood STATE: New Jersey CODE: 34

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION  
 COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Hall of Records  
 STREET AND NUMBER: Court Street  
 CITY OR TOWN: Morristown STATE: New Jersey CODE: 34

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS  
 TITLE OF SURVEY: New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory (2695.3)  
 DATE OF SURVEY: 1961  Federal  State  County  Local  
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Dept. of Environmental Protection, Historic Sites Section  
 STREET AND NUMBER: Post Office Box 1420  
 CITY OR TOWN: Trenton STATE: New Jersey CODE: 34

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: New Jersey  
 COUNTY: Morris  
 ENTRY NUMBER:  
 DATE:  
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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 <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
(Check One)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved <input type="checkbox"/> Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This is a one and one-half story frame dwelling which has been moved, because of highway work, around Ledgewood Circle and set on new foundations on a new site.

The roof is gabled with replica hand-split shingle roofing and single chimney at the ridge near the center. The siding is clapboard. Windows are 6/6 sash. The front door is board-and-batten, and may be the original door. It is located near the center of the front facade.

The original building is 26 feet by 30 feet and consists of three rooms on the upper floor and three rooms (originally four) on the ground floor.

There are two front rooms and two rear rooms, the kitchen being in the larger room. The chimney core is in the center of the house. The large kitchen fireplace has a nearly complete bake oven beside it. Backing this fireplace is a corner fireplace for the front room. The rear of the kitchen fireplace and bake oven back the interior wall of the other front room. Both fireplaces are in working order. A portion of the ground floor reveals finished beams in the ceiling, with beaded edges, which were obviously originally exposed. The remaining first floor ceilings have hewn beams with chamfered edges, also originally exposed. Much of the wide board flooring is intact. This is square edged oak with dust strips on the underside of the first floor.

Eaves are approximately three feet above the upper floor level, forming knee walls in the second floor rooms. These rooms have low ceilings, just over seven feet.

A one story lean-to addition was added in the late 19th century, creating the "salt box" form. This addition was added to the rear, or Northeast. It covered over the weatherboards of the original rear exterior wall and shows red paint.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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

Silas Riggs House  
Roxbury Township  
Morris County  
New Jersey 034

**CONTINUATION SHEET**

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**Description Addendum:**

The house was moved less than one-half mile from its original site. The original site was recorded as being less than one acre of level ground. The present site was selected because of its similarity to the original.

The building was moved enmasse. There were no changes made to the fireplace, chimney or flooring. The house was placed on a concrete block foundation, where the previous site had had a crawl space, and a stone veneer was added in 1964. There were no structural alterations to beams, posts and doorways. A cedar shake roof was applied in 1966, also a tie rod was installed to correct a sag in the roof line. The window frames on the first floor were replaced in 1967 because, as were some of the clapboards from the exterior siding. The house was also painted. Otherwise, there have been no additional changes.

**6. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century            |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

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/Phi-  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry    | losophy                                 | <u>Community</u>                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> Science        | <u>History</u>                                      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture      | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | Architecture                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-  | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature  | itarian                                 | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater        | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music       | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____   |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

**Community History**

Silas Riggs (1779-1847) was born in Mendham, New Jersey and moved to Roxbury Township, then Drakesville, around 1805, shortly after his marriage to Harriet Rose of Southampton, Long Island.

Riggs, a tanner like his father and grandfather may have been drawn to Roxbury Township in anticipation of the growth of area leather business. The nearby Sucksunny Mine created the market for leather, as the iron ore drawn from the mines was transported to more convenient means of conveyence in sizable leather pouches produced by tanners capable of carrying 500 pounds of ore on the backs of mules or horses. Riggs first came to Drakesville (Ledgewood) to start a tannery and was apparently a successful tanner since by 1822 he had seven tan vats and his land holdings had increased from thirty to seventy-five acres.

A year later Silas Riggs inherited part of his father's estate and subsequently built a more substantial residence across the street from his first house. This building, called the Silas Riggs Mansion House, still stands and is presently the office of the Star-Journal.

When the Morris Canal bisected his property in 1826 Riggs secured a contract to dig a section of it; probably the section through his property. Later, he became known as Captain Riggs because he owned and operated three canal boats.

Silas Rigg's son, Albert Rose Riggs (1812-1881), was probably born in the house. He apparently inherited most of his father's estate because it is noted in an 1853 Atlas of Morris County that A. R. Riggs owned the old Riggs House and the Mansion House property, as well as another building.

Albert Riggs was also the Drakesville postmaster and owned and operated a general store. The store, built around 1840 and now known as the King Store, stands alongside the old Riggs House (after the Riggs House was moved in 1962).

Albert's granddaughter, Emma Louise King, presently owns much of the land surrounding the Siles Riggs House including the King Store next door.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Hosking, Annie Stelos and Harriet Meeker. "The History of Roxbury Township". The Rosbury Township Historical Society: 1965.

History of Morris County. W.W. Munsell & Co., New York: 1882

Roxbury Township Tax Ratables from 1779.  
 Morris County Deeds and Wills  
 Map of Morris County, Lightfoot and Geil. 1853.  
 Much research supplied by Mary Shepardson Odbert

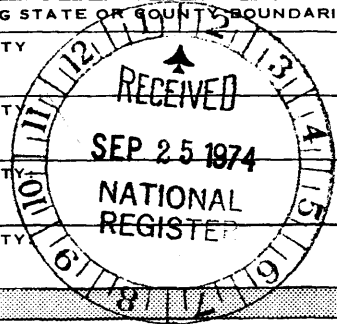
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O P	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE				
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	UTM			
NW	° ' "	° ' "	18 529 260 4525 130			
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

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

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: **John Bruce Dodd, A.I.A.** (Revisions by T. Karschner & C. Tichy Historic Sites Section, D.E.P.)

ORGANIZATION: **for the Roxbury Township Historical Society** DATE: **1/31/1973**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Post Office Box 43**

CITY OR TOWN: **Layton** 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, Environmental Protection  
 Date: September 20, 1974

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

[Signature]  
 Director, Office of National Historic Preservation  
**KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER**

Date: 11/11/77

ATTEST:

[Signature]  
 Keeper of the National Register

Date: 11.10.77

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

Silas Riggs House  
Roxbury Township  
Morris County  
New Jersey 031  
**CONTINUATION SHEET**

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RECEIVED	JUL 7 1977
DATE ENTERED	NOV 11 1977

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Significance Addendum:

The Silas Riggs House was moved in 1962 to prevent its destruction by the new property owners. After its move it was restored by the Roxbury Township Historical Society and is now open to the public as a historic house museum.

The house is a representative example of an early 19th century rural home. The house demonstrates the simplicity of rural living, as it served the basic needs of a family for shelter and yet could be comfortable as well.

The Silas Riggs house is one the oldest extant buildings in Ledgewood and Roxbury Township. The house serves the townspeople by affording them an intimate link with the past.