

NOV 07 1989

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form

This form is for use in documenting multiple property groups relating to one or several historic contexts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900-a). Type all entries.

A. Name of Multiple Property Listing

Historic Resources of Evesham Township, New Jersey

B. Associated Historic Contexts

Early Settlement and Development of Evesham Township, 1684-1810
Domestic Architecture of Evesham Township, 1684-1810

C. Geographical Data

Evesham Township, part of Burlington County, New Jersey, was established in 1688. At that time, the township included all of Mt. Laurel and Medford Townships and parts of Lumberton, Hainesport and Shamong Townships. Medford Township was partitioned from Evesham in 1847, Lumberton in 1860 and Mt. Laurel in 1872. Today, it is bounded on the east by Medford Township, south and southwest by Camden County, and on the north by Mt. Laurel Township. The geography of the township has always differed substantially from south to north; the southern portion, part of the pinelands, has remained largely covered with pines and oaks due to the earth of gravelly loam while the northern area, with arable soil, has been introduced to agriculture, commerce, industry and substantial residential development. The northern part of Evesham continues to grow, linked closely to transportation routes to New York and Philadelphia. The geographical boundaries of this multiple property nomination are those of Evesham's Township current (1989) municipal limits.

See continuation sheet

D. Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this documentation form meets the National Register documentation standards and sets forth requirements for the listing of related properties consistent with the National Register criteria. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Planning and Evaluation.

Aileen C. Scorsone

Signature of certifying official

1/28/89

Date

Assistant Commissioner for Natural & Historic Affairs/DSHPO

State or Federal agency and bureau

I, hereby, certify that this multiple property documentation form has been approved by the National Register as a basis for evaluating related properties for listing in the National Register.

Patrick Andrews

Signature of the Keeper of the National Register

1/18/90

Date

E. Statement of Historic Contexts

Discuss each historic context listed in Section B.

1. Early Settlement and Development of Evesham Township, 1684-1810

A full account of Evesham's history begins in 1664, although its first documented settlement dates to 1684 and its official year of establishment is 1688. From 1664 to 1674, Sir George Carteret and Sir John Berkeley held the entire province of New Jersey, having been given the land and the right to govern it by the Duke of York. During Berkeley and Carteret's ten-year partnership, however, no settlers from Great Britain or elsewhere came to New Jersey. In 1674, John Berkeley sold his half interest in the undivided province of New Jersey to John Fenwick and Edward Byllynge, both Quakers of Great Britain. This sale of land led directly to the English colonization of West Jersey just a few years before the founding of Pennsylvania. Fenwick and Byllynge, soon in financial stress, turned over the rights of sale for their lands to a group of trustees or proprietors including William Penn, also a Quaker. From August 1676 until August 1677, the West Jersey Proprietors sought to bring settlers to the area. They advertised by promotional tracts particularly directed to the Society of Friends. The first of these tracts was authored by William Penn, and by 1683, the vast majority of land in West Jersey had been sold to Quaker merchants and merchant craftsmen of English origins.

The first ship to bring settlers to Evesham Township was the Kent. It arrived in August of 1677 with passengers from Sheffield, Derbyshire, and Nottinghamshire. Nine of the passengers on this ship were commissioned as representing the West Jersey Proprietors. Of these commissioners, five were from London and three from Yorkshire. These two groups located on adjacent lands, known as the London and Yorkshire Tenths. The London Tenth, the region in which Evesham is now located, was designated as the area between the Pennsauken and the Rancocas Creeks. The colony for both tenths was located in New Beverly, which later became Burlington.¹

The first man to purchase lands in Evesham Township from the West Jersey Proprietors was Thomas Eves, also a Quaker. However, it cannot be proven that he lived on his land in Evesham. By 1684, two other Quaker families, the Heulings and the Ballingers, had purchased adjoining tracts in Evesham, and were known to have been residing on and farming their land, thus the terminus post quem of the historic context. Another family, William and Elizabeth Evans, also emigrated to New Jersey from Wales in 1685. A deed record from 1688 shows Evans obtaining 300 acres of land in Evesham at a place called Mt. Pray,² and in 1694, the first Friends meeting in Mt. Laurel was held in the Evans home. Shortly thereafter, in 1698, the first Meeting House was built at Mt. Laurel.

William Evans, who had settled in Evesham in 1685, left the majority of his land to his sons, John and Thomas, in 1728. Prior to his death in 1717, Evans had conveyed land to trustees appointed for the Monthly Meeting of Friends for the use of the Quakers at Evesham and for a place to bury their dead. John remained at Mt. Laurel while Thomas settled in what is now known as Marlton. Thomas purchased a tract of one thousand acres about two miles east of Evesham from Margaret Cook of Philadelphia.³ In 1701, to eliminate any potential dispute with the Indians over the title of this land, Thomas drew up a deed which was signed by King Himolin, the Indian Chief. He exchanged five pounds for his land. Thomas Evans served as a minister of the Friends meeting and maintained an active farm until his death in 1783. Another early Quaker family to settle in Evesham Township was the Wills. Dr. Daniel Wills came to New Jersey from England in 1677 aboard the "Kent". He located 600 acres in Northampton Township, Burlington County. His grandson, James, founder of the Wills' homestead in Evesham, bought 1,888 acres from Michael Wanton in 1737.⁴ He soon sold off portions of that tract to James Lippincott and his own son, Micajah. Micajah, along with William Heulings, Thomas Evans, Thomas Eves, Samuel and Daniel Lippincott, Amos Haines, William Troth, Thomas Venable, Issac Borton and Henry Ballinger, were among the early settlers in Evesham, bringing mills, farming and other industries to the area.

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The development of Evesham Township from the late 1600s to mid-1700s is documented minimally and presumably would have slowed down due to significant events taking place outside the West Jersey Quaker colony. The most notable of these events was William Penn's establishment of a Pennsylvania colony in 1682 which offered an alternative destination for newly arrived immigrant English Quakers and those who had previously settled in West Jersey. During this post-1682 era, "West Jersey became a relative backwater and some of her most prominent initial Quaker settlers took-up residence across the river."⁵

However, in the late 1700s to early 1800s, the improvement of road systems and construction of religious buildings and commercial establishments reflect Evesham's significant growth from its agricultural beginnings. It is known that prior to the 1760s, two main Indian trails were used as roads crossing the township, one from Cooper's Point through Marlton to Barnegat Bay, known as the Manahawkin Trail, and the other from Mount Holly down to the Mullica River.⁶ The Manahawkin Trail, which was to become Main Street in Marlton, was the boundary between two Quaker family plantations, the Inskips and the Eves. In 1758, the Inskips opened a general store along the Manahawkin. A surviving ledger of the store's activities evidences that the store sold a variety of merchandise and functioned as a post office. A road survey shows the trail was upgraded in 1764 and at this time a school, sold in the 1770s, was in existence along its route. On this same road, John Hammitt built the first inn in Evesham around 1780. The inn was to become the first official post office in 1808 earning Evesham the name of "Evesham Post Town." Around the store and inn, a village of services, later known as Marlton, developed. It was the Quakers' charge to foster the growth of such villages and thus aid the settlement of the land in the township. The Quakers had hoped that in settling a territory they would then be able to own and govern its lands. The Quakers, though unsuccessful at obtaining the rights to govern, did in fact influence much of the town development in New Jersey. In 1745, they comprised 50.79% of Burlington county's white population.⁷

Marlton was a successful endeavor, while other villages such as Greentree, started by Thomas Eves in the 1770s, failed to survive. In 1796, another road survey was taken to open up a new road directly to Camden from Marlton. The new road was proposed at the same time that Evesham's growth of small communities such as Marlton, Cropwell, and Medford was taking place. As Evesham developed, the Quaker influence of the founding families became increasingly more visible. Not only did physical improvements such as churches and schools become abundant, but also apparent was the tolerance of other religions and the acceptance of runaway slaves. In addition, the government was administered by Quakers. The majority of the Quaker families intermarried and maintained similar lifestyles on farms. Self-sufficiency was the primary focus of the farmers' occupations, with surplus products being sold at Philadelphia markets. Although Evesham was predominantly agricultural until after the 1820s, the Quakers attempted to invite tradesmen to the area to establish their crafts.

A Friends meeting was organized in Cropwell around 1760; the present meeting house was constructed in 1809. Prior to the construction of their meeting house, the Friends erected a school in 1785. Another school, known as the Pine Grove School, was organized in 1792, also by the Friends of the Cropwell Meeting. Meanwhile, in Marlton, the township's principal village, a Baptist Meeting House was built in 1805. The Evesham Baptist Church was eventually recognized and the Marlton Methodist Episcopal Church was established. The discovery of marl in the village in the early 1800s led to the naming of "Marlton", which is said to have been laid out as a town in 1814.⁸ However, deed research indicates that land was not sold off in smaller lots until the 1820s and '30s. During that time, a descendant of Joseph Eves, Joseph E. Venecomb,

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and Issac Stokes subdivided and sold the land on East and West Main Streets. Records show that taxes were being collected as early as 1810 in the township. The year 1810 is used as the end date of the historic context because it approximates Evesham's entry into a period of agricultural expansion augmented by the discovery of marl, increased immigration, and commercial growth.

Following the early 1800s Evesham Township continued to grow, with institutions such as the London Grove School, built in 1820. By 1830 Evesham Township was found to have eight villages: Evesham, Medford, Colestown, Lumberton, Fostertown, Evesham Cross Roads, Bodine (assumed to be centered around the Bodine Tavern) and Cropwell (assumed to be centered around the Cropwell Meeting House), inhabited by a population of 4,239. Of these eight villages, Evesham, Bodine, and Cropwell are within the current Evesham Township municipal boundaries. Stores, saw mills, grist mills, fulling mills, and cider distilleries were listed as industries and Evesham and Medford as post office towns.⁹ The Evesham Post Town became known as "Marlton" in 1845. The mid- to late-nineteenth century also saw the development of Evesham Township with additional villages such as Milford (now Kresson) around 1846 and Evesboro. At the same time that the villages of Evesham Township were expanding with industries and institutions, the agricultural base of the township remained prosperous due to fertile lands and available marl. The advent of the railroad in 1881 through the northern part of Evesham rapidly changed this area, opening up the agricultural base of the community to other industries.

Today, in spite of late-nineteenth-and twentieth-century developments and the severe reduction of the cultivated lands in Evesham, the township retains many remnants of its beginnings. The crossroads that mark the centers of the nineteenth-century villages are still existent and several of the eighteenth-and nineteenth-century farmhouses that reflect the agricultural base of the northern part of the township remain, although typically without their outbuildings and on smaller tracts of land. Among these farmhouses, examples such as the Jacob Wills, Thomas Eves, and various Evans family houses, continue to convey the architecture and history of early settlement and development in Evesham.

FOOTNOTES

1. Charles H. Ashton, "The Domestic Architecture of Burlington County. New Jersey: 1677-1840," Master's Thesis, Columbia University, 1976, p. 14.

2. William R. Lippincott, Traditions of Old Evesham Township (Reprinted from the Moorestown Republican, 1911), p. 5.

3. Major E.M. Woodward, History of Burlington County, New Jersey (Philadelphia: Everts and Peck, 1883), p. 316.

4. Historical accounts differ on James' relationship to Dr. Daniel Wills. He has been recorded as both Dr. Wills' son and grandson.

5. Peter O. Wacker, Land and People: A Cultural Geography of Pre-Industrial New Jersey: Origins and Settlement Patterns (New Brunswick, New Jersey: Rutgers University Press, 1975), p. 178.

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6. Horner, p. 41.
7. Wacker, p. 183.
8. Woodward, p. 318.
9. Thomas F. Gordon, The History of New Jersey (Trenton: Daniel Fenton, 1834), p. 140.

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2. Domestic Architecture of Evesham Township, 1684 to 1810

As evidenced by the Flemish bond brick houses, the early domestic architecture of Evesham Township represents the Delaware Valley vernacular tradition, documenting this southern New Jersey area's cultural link to the Philadelphia region. In its longstanding adherence to the basic Georgian house form, Evesham's domestic architecture also gives the township a characteristic architectural vocabulary, one rooted in the inherent conservatism of rural communities. The township's oldest known dwelling to survive is the 1776 Thomas Eves House, although historical accounts point to William Evans' house being erected at least by 1694 and to the Heuling and Ballinger families establishing residences by 1684.

Flemish bond brick with glazed headers or "checkerboard" was used in several of Evesham's quality houses, particularly those erected prior to 1800, after which no known examples have been identified in Evesham or elsewhere in Burlington County. The tradition for this brickwork was brought to the Delaware Valley by the English and Welsh settlers, many of whom were Quakers immigrating to America to escape religious persecution in the late seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Whereas northern New Jersey was largely settled and influenced by the Dutch, southern New Jersey or West Jersey was shaped by those who followed William Penn's arrival. Their influence is seen in several of the southern New Jersey counties as well as Philadelphia and northern Delaware in the characteristic Flemish bond, patterned and/or "checkerboard" brickwork as well as the use of initialed gabled end walls, stringcourses, and pents. While the decorative brickwork was one form of this Delaware Valley tradition, brick construction as a whole was prevalent in the early period of Evesham Township and is what survives most from the eighteenth-century period. The brick building tradition was brought to the West Jersey colony by English Quakers who had witnessed the rebuilding of London after the Great Fire of 1666.¹ Stone construction throughout the township's history was rare; frame construction was not to be common until the second quarter of the nineteenth century.

The conservative character of Evesham's domestic architecture was established in the eighteenth century when house plans were designed in the Georgian mode, following patterns in England. These patterns, prevalent among London's middle class housing after the 1660s, typically included a conventional fireplace in the more formal front room, a corner fireplace (also of Swedish influence) in the rear room, and a side stairhall. "This London house type was, in all probability, one of the main factors which influenced the buildings of the settlers in the Burlington County area, including Philadelphia."² Based upon surveys of countywide documentation,³ which offer comparables for analysis of Evesham's resources, variations of the plan existed. One such variation is in the positioning of fireplaces, many being back to back in corners or built into corners of back rooms. A rarity in the county is the 1789 Jacob Wills House, the back to back corner fireplaces of which are located along an interior wall, rather than a party wall. This configuration gives the house its interior chimney which is typical of the post-Revolutionary War period.

Whether two-room, center hall, 2/3 side hall, or corner passage plans, this basic form was to dominate Evesham's housing throughout the nineteenth century, challenged only minimally by the late-nineteenth-century Queen Anne that was to radically redefine house plans in other more urban communities throughout the nation. The Evesham houses known from the period of early settlement and development were usually double-pile plans (two rooms deep) in both the center hall and side hall arrangements. In a modest gesture to style, these early dwellings and those later modeled after the traditional Georgian house form were embellished with fashionable frontispieces, sash, and machine-made trim. The pre-1810 houses were also updated

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stylistically with stucco and applied architectural elements. However, the eighteenth-century prototype persisted. There are a few select examples of handsome Italianate and Second Empire houses erected in the second half of the nineteenth century, many of frame construction.

As Evesham's families grew and prospered, dwellings were often enlarged rather than built anew. Most commonly, Georgian and Federal houses -- of subtle distinction in their vernacular adaptations -- were expanded with side wings. Some were of clearly disparate construction such as the smaller, frame wing to the Jacob Wills House, while others attempted to blend wings with flush facades and level cornice lines, as seen in the Heulings House. There are also examples of Georgian/Federal dwellings being enlarged in the Victorian era, including the Inskip Farm and the David Evans House.

The dwellings of Evesham are typically two to three stories in height and three to five registers wide. The township is not one of mansions, but one of modest-sized village residences and farmhouses. While the village buildings generally retain their settings in clusters, the agricultural properties, upon which the landmarks of early settlement and development generally are found, have witnessed more alterations to their settings. This relationship with the environment has changed from the suburban growth of the community and the drastic decrease in agricultural activity which has also resulted in the loss of most outbuildings.

FOOTNOTES

1. Charles H. Ashton, "The Domestic Architecture of Burlington County, New Jersey: 1677-1840," Masters Thesis, Columbia University, 1976, p. 45.
2. Ibid., p. 54.
3. Ibid., Part II.

F. Associated Property Types

I. Name of Property Type Dwellings

II. Description

As described more fully in the "Domestic Architecture" historic context, the dwellings of Evesham Township reflect the Delaware Valley vernacular tradition that was shaped predominantly by immigrant English Quakers in the late seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. This tradition is typically seen in the Flemish bond, often "checkerboard", houses of brick, the patterning being attained by the use of glazed or vitrified headers. While brick construction is the norm for the township's extant dwellings from 1684 to 1810, stone and frame survivors may exist as well. However, a comparison of the township's 1985 survey with Charles Ashton's countywide study of 1976, suggests that a relatively high percentage of Evesham's early dwellings were of brick, even within the context of a county having a strong brick building tradition. In Evesham, stone was used commonly for foundations throughout the 1684 to 1810 period and frame became the predominant building material in the second quarter of the nineteenth century.

(See continuation sheet)

III. Significance

Dwellings in Evesham Township are important landmarks of the township's growth as an agricultural community and its architectural heritage. Although many of the dwellings were once farmhouses surrounded by outbuildings and fields, their survival preserves an era of history, the remains of which are disappearing to suburban development. As architecture, several of the township's dwellings document early Delaware Valley vernacular traditions and/or representatives of high style design.

IV. Registration Requirements

Residential properties in Evesham Township can be both historically and architecturally significant. Generally, the level of integrity necessary for eligibility will depend upon the type of significance. Historically significant properties may sustain more alteration than architecturally significant ones if it can be shown that they have important associations with the period of settlement and development defined in the historic context and that they can still convey that strength of association with their intact features. Architecturally significant buildings will require a relatively higher level of integrity. To evaluate this, comparisons should be made among surviving like resources in the township to identify those which appear eligible. Factors to be considered include integrity of location, setting, feeling and association, design, workmanship, and materials. The dwellings to be considered eligible for architecture should display several of the following characteristics: Flemish bond brickwork with glazed or vitrified headers, initialed end walls, pents, stringcourses, conventional or corner fireplaces, original hardware such as latches, hinges, or shutter dogs variations of Georgian plans or two-room plans, and original sash configuration, woodwork, and mantels. Important early survivors of frame or stone construction should be considered for eligibility as should buildings of pre-1810 origins that have been expanded or fashionably updated over time.

See continuation sheet

See continuation sheet for additional property types

G. Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods

Discuss the methods used in developing the multiple property listing.

The cultural resources of Evesham Township were surveyed in 1985 by Acroterion under a survey and planning grant awarded to the Township of Evesham by the Office of New Jersey Heritage, Department of Environmental Protection. That survey used a combination of field investigation and documentary source materials including the 1977 "Burlington County Inventory and Survey of Historic, Architectural and Cultural Resources," Evesham entries in the Historic American Buildings Survey, maps, and written and oral histories. The properties were surveyed on individual structure, streetscape, and district forms. Approximately 112 buildings were recorded of which five were identified as eligible for the National Register, one as previously listed, and two for consideration in a thematic or multi-resource nomination.

The multiple property listing used the 1985 Acroterion survey as the primary source for identifying the eligible resources and their historic context. Charles Ashton's thesis, "The Domestic Architecture of Burlington County, New Jersey: 1677-1840," was also an important source in identifying the countywide architectural and historic context and in examining comparable buildings, both extant and demolished. The Evesham resources identified in the Acroterion survey and in some cases, featured in the Ashton thesis, were reviewed in the field for a supplementary, updated assessment, which led to a confirmation of their eligibility. Several other resources included in the survey were re-examined in the field in coordination with the township's preservation planner. Recommendations for the eligibility of approximately ten additional buildings have been filed with the township. It is to be noted that further assessments of integrity will likely be required in the upcoming years as these individual resources are selected for nomination. At the township's discretion, the single resource to be nominated in this initial multiple property listing is the 1789 Jacob Wills House.

See continuation sheet

H. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional documentation:

- State historic preservation office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency

- Local government
 University
 Other

Specify repository: _____

I. Form Prepared By

name/title Carol A. Benenson/N. Catherine Claypoole
organization Kise Franks & Straw (KF&S) date 24 March 1989; Revised 7 July 1989
street & number 219 N. Broad Street, 9th Floor telephone (215) 561-1050
city or town Philadelphia state Pennsylvania zip code 19107

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Dwellings in Evesham are typically two to three stories in height and three to five registers in width with regular fenestration. The survival rate of original porches and/or pents is very low, and period outbuildings are a rarity. Without the availability of sufficient interior survey data, the distribution of building plans (two-room versus Georgian variations) and fireplace types (conventional versus corner) cannot be ascertained. However, existing knowledge of the architectural resources of neighboring areas of settlement suggests that variations and combinations of floor plans and fireplace configurations are the norm rather than a set building form. One generalization that appears to hold, with exceptions such as the 1789 Jacob Wills House, is the location of chimneys along end walls rather than interior walls. This observation is in keeping with pre-Revolutionary War building practices.

The dwellings of Evesham Township reflect a wide range of styles as do those of surrounding communities. These styles include the Delaware Valley vernacular, Georgian, Federal, Greek Revival, Italianate, and Second Empire. While this variety of styles exists, the most prevalent influence on Evesham's domestic architecture throughout the nineteenth century is the traditional Georgian house form, the vocabulary for which was established in Evesham during the eighteenth century. This form, along with the tradition of patterned brickwork, prevalent until circa 1800, are the most character defining features of Evesham's dwellings between 1684 and 1810.

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