

PH0356727

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED OCT 13 1976

DATE ENTERED OCT 22 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC ******
Boisaubin Manor

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER *SE of Morristown on*
Treadwell Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Chatham Township

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF *Morristown*

5th

STATE

New Jersey

CODE
34

COUNTY
Morris

CODE
027

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Robert H. Harvey

STREET & NUMBER
Box 164

CITY, TOWN

Convent Station

VICINITY OF

STATE
New Jersey

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Hall of Records

STREET & NUMBER
Court House

CITY, TOWN

Morristown

STATE
New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory (672.1)

DATE 1961, 1969

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Department of Environmental Protection,
Historic Sites Section

CITY, TOWN

Trenton

STATE
New Jersey

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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

Boisaubin Mansion is a massive three story bold Greek Revival brick mansion house with a central pavilion which has four wooden columns. Built sometime in the second quarter of the 19th century (c. 1822-1834), the house is a rectangular five bay building with a center hall flanked by two windows. The windows are 6/6 sash.

The center doorway has the characteristic fanlight and sidelights, although the sidelights are unusually wide. Above the doorway, illuminating the second floor hall, is an oversize window with sidelights. The remainder of the windows on the second floor, however, are similar to the first floor.

The gable end facades have double chimneys, accomodating at least one fireplace in each major room.

Boisaubin has a wide 13' 6" hallway with a 12' 6" ceiling. This exceptionably wide hall has no stairway, but opens to a side hall with a circular stair with a heavy S-scroll newel post. This side stairway is flanked by two rooms.

On the other side of the main hall is a large parlor room (perhaps originally two rooms) which extends the entire width (50 feet) of the building, broken only by two columns near the center of the room. This long room has two plaster ceiling medallions while the room in front of the side stairs also has one. Several of the fireplace mantels are made of black marble (19th century) and, while possibly not original to the building, certainly enhance the interior.

The second floor has four main rooms; two on a side divided by a 10' 6" high hall.

The third floor was the servants quarters and is now used for storage. A portion of the queen-post framing, which is vertical sawn, is discernable on this floor. The third floor hall has a large elliptical poured glass skylight in the floor.

The cellar is above grade with brick partitions, stone foundations and vertical sawn joists. The rear portico projects over the cellar service area which has a well and a root cellar.

Either in 1912 or 1922 a kitchen wing was added to the west facade of the main building. This one story wing is capped with a handsome balustrade created to simulate that of the front and rear porch railing on the main house.

(cont.)

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Generally, however, save modern conveniences, Boisauvin Mansion has been altered very little since its construction in the 19th century. Indeed, its exterior appearance, is virtually unchanged since it was constructed.

While originally a two hundred plus acre farm plantation and now only a nine acre residence, Boisauvin has maintained a great deal of its landscape integrity, being situated on a knoll with an open lawn in the front and surrounded by many stately trees.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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 1890-1906

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecture

Boisaubin Mansion is one of New Jersey's better examples of Greek Revival architecture and possibly the county's best residential work of the period. While other New Jersey Greek Revival buildings may have more detailed facades, more ornate interiors, or better scale Boisaubin is perhaps unsurpassed in the state in its overall majestic character and setting. Its exterior and interior are simple and functional, yet elegant. The reputed builder, although probably not an architect was, nonetheless, a well trained builder.

Boisaubin Mansion reflects the masculine forthright character of the Greek Revival period. Irregardless of its almost stark appearance it displays an aesthetic sensitivity. As a cultural artifact the mansion represents the home of a man who was certainly reared as an aristocrat, but had been transferred, somewhat reluctantly, into a society which was, at least superficially egalitarian. Cognizant of the consequences flaunted wealth had produced in France, Vincent Boisaubin had built a house impressive in size and setting certainly, but with few of the aristocratic characteristics associated with the French Monarchy in which he grew up.

The mansion, more than anything else, is an American home - a house traditional in form and classical in appearance - representative of American affluence in the early 19th century.

Art

Arthur Burdette Frost was the dean of American illustrators in the late 19th-early 20th century as well as an outstanding sports scenes artist.

In the summer of 1890, Frost moved into Boisaubin and lived here with his family for 16 years, accomplishing, at this time, his most important work.

Frost (1851-1928) was catapulted into prominence in 1874, when a book written by humorist and author Max Adeler (Charles Herber Clarke) was published and containing over 400 illustrations done

(cont.)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See attached

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 9 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 546970 4512880
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Historic Sites Section Staff (Terry Karschner, Historian-Curator)

ORGANIZATION

Department of Environmental Protection

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

Post Office Box 1420

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Trenton

STATE

New Jersey

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Commissioner Dept. of Environmental Prot.

DATE

JUN - 2 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

DATE

10/22/76

ATTEST

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

10/22/76

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by young Frost. The book eventually sold over one million copies and Frost's career had begun in earnest.

By the time of his death in 1928 A. B. Frost had illustrated over ninety books. Among the authors he illustrated for were Lewis Carroll, Charles Dickens, Joel Chandler Harris, Mark Twain, Theodore Roosevelt, Frank Stockton, and William Thackeray.

In addition, Frost's illustrations appeared in the leading contemporary magazines including Harpers, Scribners, Colliers, Century, Pack, and Life. His own books - Stuff & Nonsense, The Bull Calf and Other Tales, and Carlo were considered, at the time, as masterpieces of comedy.

Joel Chandler Harris, creator of the immortal "Uncle Remus" series clearly felt that Frosts drawings in Uncle Remus, His Songs and His Sayings, clearly his most recognized work, helped to establish Brer Rabbit as one of the classic characters in American literature.

Frost was also an important contemporary artist. His work centered around the Eastern sportsman and the game he pursued. He was, according to Eugene V. Connett, a "sportsman's artist" and that "no one ever equaled his ability to depict the mood, the detail, the authenticity of sporting scenes."

While Frederic Remington and Charles M. Russell and many others depicted the Western frontiers Frost was painting the Eastern scene - farmers, plantation life, sportsmen/hunters and the like. Strongly influenced by his instructors Thomas Eakins and William Merritt Chase, in essence, Frosts' oil paintings and watercolors reflected the American precept of late in the late 19th-early 20th century - elite sportsmen engaged in the activity of pursuing wild game in vast open spaces, not for the purpose of securing food, but in an attempt to prove to all of America that the pioneer survival spirit in the rapidly urbanizing East was not yet extinguished.

In 1889, Frost, anticipating an addition to his family, decided to move to larger quarters near Morristown, New Jersey. The Frosts chose a country estate on Treadwell Avenue, Chatham Township, Morris County.

(cont.)

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Just outside of Morristown, the estate, called 'Pleasant Hill' by the former owners, sopped up Frost's finances so rapidly that he humorously renamed the mansion 'Moneysunk'.

The estate, which had a Convent Station post office in 1890, is actually in Chatham Township. Even today (1976) the mailing address is Convent Station, a nearby community, but not an official municipality.

Feeling a need to further his artistic talent, Frost and his family departed 'Moneysunk' in 1906 and moved to Europe.

Historical

Vincent Class Van Schal-Kwyck Boisaubin (1755-1834) was born in Port Louis, Guadeloupe of the French West Indies of Dutch and French descent. Educated in Paris until he was 17. Boisaubin, upon graduating from school, became a member of Garde de Corps of King Louis XVI. Composed only of nobility and commanded by the Duke of Luxembourg Boisaubin served in this guard until he was thirty-three.

Shortly before the French Revolution, Boisaubin took a leave of absence to visit his inherited estates in Guadeloupe. While there the French Revolution began and he was forced to flee to the United States where he purchased a tract of land between Morristown and Bottle Hill in Morris County. Since Boisaubin was stripped of all his wealth it is unlikely he erected this stately mansion at this time as formerly stated by a number of sources. Indeed, the style indicates that it could not have been executed for at least another twenty years.

Most likely Vincent Boisaubin had the manor house built in his declining years, sometime before this death in 1834. As the tax ratables in Chatham Township for Vincent Boisaubin between 1806 and 1822 do not show any abrupt increases (Save in 1814 when his taxes more than doubled, but this is attributed to a war-time tax increase which is similarly reflected by other properties as well) it is estimated that the mansion was constructed, reputedly by W. M. Kitchell, between 1822 and 1834.

(cont.)

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Amidee Boisaubin inherited the estate in 1834 and lived here for 17 years, but perhaps anticipated his own demise, (in 1853) sold the property to Alfred M. Treadwell in 1851.

Alfred Treadwell lived in the estate which he named 'Pleasant Hill' until his death in 1880 whereupon his widow occupied the house for at least seven years.

By 1890, however, A. B. Frost acquired the estate, renamed it 'Moneysunk', and lived and painted here for sixteen years.

In 1910 Henry W. Shoemaker owned the estate and called it 'Kresheim'.

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