

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

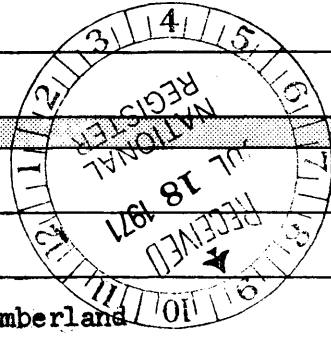
STATE: New Jersey	
COUNTY: Cumberland	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71.9.34.0019	DATE 9/10/71

2112  
N 505 2710

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Potter's Tavern

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Potter's Tavern



2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
49-51 Broad St.

CITY OR TOWN:  
Bridgeton

STATE: New Jersey      CODE: 34      COUNTY: Cumberland      CODE: 011

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisitions: <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
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
City of Bridgeton

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Bridgeton      STATE: New Jersey      CODE: 34

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Clerk, County of Cumberland

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Court House

CITY OR TOWN: Bridgeton      STATE: New Jersey      CODE: 34

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory #508.25

DATE OF SURVEY: 1960       Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Historic Sites Section,

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Department of Environmental Protection, Box 1420

CITY OR TOWN: Trenton      STATE: New Jersey      CODE: 34

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. Description

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The earliest English construction in the Delaware Valley region was "timber-framed". Potter's Tavern is a two and a half story modified salt box English framed house of the type filled between the timbers with salmon brick on edge set in lime mortar. This last feature would seem to indicate 18th century. However, it is not a late example of frame house construction. The corner posts and "girts" are over size and were boxed in at the corners of the building and along the ceiling. The corner of the girt across the front wall of the east room, first floor, was cut off to eliminate the boxed corner, but it remains at full size across the west room adjoining.

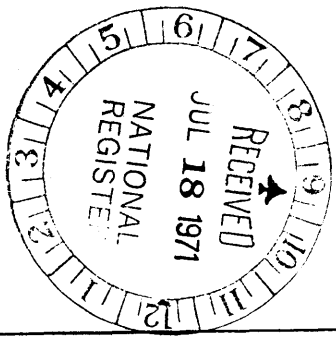
The exterior is sheathed with sawed and reeded clapboards, some of which appear to be original. All of the windows and floors are replacements, but one original sash is still in place, concealed on an inside wall between the rear extension and the later shed which now runs across the rear of the building. This sash displays the heavy muntin characteristic of the first half of the 18th century.

The general plan of the house follows that of early, small English houses in America - a "hall" and a "parlor" or "chamber" constituting the first floor a narrow kitchen extended across the rear of both rooms. The rear room of Potter's Tavern appears to have served as the kitchen. Its floor was originally one step down and the ceiling joists were exposed and are heavily smoked. The roof framing at the "plate" varies at the back from the conventional method used at the front, which seems to indicate that the long narrow rear "lean-to" was built concurrently with the two front rooms. It is therefore likely that the two existing fireplaces in this rear extension were constructed after the original cooking fireplace was demolished.

Evidence indicates that, originally, there were diagonal fireplaces in each front room on both floors. The old chimney therefore contained five flues including the kitchen.

It appears that the exterior doors of the Tavern were plain square openings with transoms above. It had two main exterior doors, one facing Broad St., leading into the west room, first floor; the other facing east and leading into the east room. A winding stairway originally led from cellar to attic, in the southwest corner of the house. Part of it has survived in the second floor. There are traces of alterations made toward the close of the 18th century, probably by Charles Clunn who took title in 1788.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



3 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) 1775 (patriot newsletter)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>journalism</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

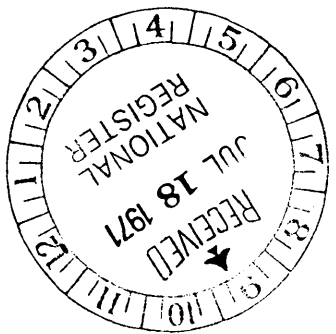
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Potter's Tavern was a popular meeting place just before the Revolution due to its proximity to the Cumberland County Courthouse. As revolutionary sentiment spread through the colonies, the humble tavern, then the principal hostelry in this County Seat, became "Bridgeton's Independence Hall."

In 1775 at Christmas time, patriots published a manuscript newspaper called The Plain Dealer at Potter's Tavern in Cohansey Bridge. Dedicated to the cause of liberty, it called in the strongest terms for separation from the Crown rule. Matthew Potter, tavern keeper, risking a charge of treason, thus became one of the unsung heroes of the Revolution. Some of the leading citizens who wrote articles included Dr. Jonathan Elmer, Dr. Lewis Howell, Richard Howell and Joseph Bloomfield. The latter two became governors of New Jersey.

Architecturally, the Tavern is an excellent example of the type of frame house built in New Jersey during the 17th and 18th century.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Bridgeton Evening News, Bridgeton, N.J. March 23, 1959  
 Boyer, Charles S., "Old Inns and Taverns In West Jersey" Camden County Historical Society, 1962  
 Brumbaugh, Edwin G., F.A.I.A. "Report to the Bridgeton Historical Commission upon investigation related to the restoration of Potter's Tavern" Bridgeton, New Jersey, November 21, 1960  
 Cumberland County Board of Freeholders, "Cumberland County" 1964

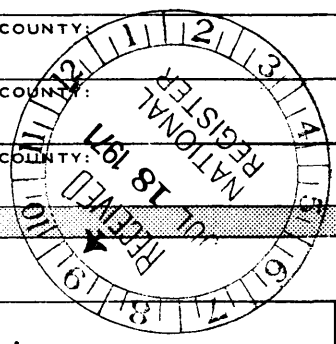
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		39 ° 25 ' 41 "	75 ° 14 ' 18 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 75'x150' - less than one

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Mr. Meade Landis

ORGANIZATION: President, Bridgeton Historical Commission

DATE: March 19, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER: City of Bridgeton

CITY OR TOWN: Bridgeton

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: Richard J. Sullivan  
 RICHARD J. SULLIVAN

Title: COMMISSIONER, Department of Environmental Protection

Date: April 7, 1971

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

James A. Connelly  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

SEP 10 1971

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: William M. [Signature]  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
New Jersey	
COUNTY	
Cumberland	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
71,934,0019	9/10/71

(Number all entries)

Potter's Tavern  
Bridgeton, N.J. 34  
Cumberland 011

Congressional Correspondence:

Rep. Charles W. Sandman, Jr. (2nd District)

Sen. Clifford P. Case  
Sen. Harrison A. Williams

