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

and/or common

Location

Shippen Manor historic

2.

Belvidere Road street & number

Oxford city, town

state

New Jersey

Classification 3.

Category district _X_ building(s) structure site object	both Public Acquisition in process being considered	Status occupied _X unoccupied work in progress Accessible _X_ yes: restricted yes: unrestricted	Present Use agricuiture commercial educational entertainment government industrial	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation
	NA	no	military	X other: Vacant

vicinity of

county

034

code

Owner of Property 4.

County of Warren name

Court House, Second Street street & number

Belvidere city, town

vicinity of

New Jersey state

Location of Legal Description 5.

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Warren County Court House, County Clerk's Office

street & number Second Street

depository for survey records

city, town

city, town	Belvidere			state New Jersey
6. R	epresenta	ation	in Ex	isting Surveys
title ^{N.J.}	Historic Sites	Survey	#2937.5	has this property been determined eligible? yes X no
date	1963			federal _X state county local
denository	for survey records	Office	of New Je	rsey Heritage

Trenton

New Jersey state

			19
ΥD	10.23		

1984 1984

Warren

<u>NA</u> not for publication

o41 code

7. Description

Condition		Check one
excellent	deteriorated	unaltered
good	ruins	<u> </u>
good X fair	unexposed	

Check one <u>Y</u> original site moved date _

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

_ unaltered

Shippen Manor is a large, stone, 18th century dwelling prominently sited on a hillside overlooking the village of Oxford, an 18th and 19th century iron mining and manufacturing center for which it long served as the ironmaster's residence. The embanked house consists of a five bay, $2 \frac{1}{2}$ story main block with broad gables facing front and rear and a smaller, three bay, 1 1/2 story northwing. Built in perhaps as many as four stages in the second half of the 18th century, it retains much early fabric, but also bears evidence of 19th and 20th century modifications.

Exterior and Construction:

The main block of Shippen Manor is a five bay, 2 1/2 story, gable-roofed, stone structure, measuring approximately fifty-five feet wide and thirty-six feet deep. Because of the sloping ground, it has a basement, fully above grade on the east side with the main floor thus becoming a "piano nobile." The roof ridge runs east/west and the broad south slopes continues nearly to the second floor level, as possibly did the north slope originally, creating broad, asymmetrical gables on the front and rear. Roughly centered on the ridge is a massive, square, stone chimney stack; a similar but taller stack rises in line with it several feet in from the south end. On the north end is a brick cross gable with an interior wall chimney, that probably dates to the mid-19th century. The present slate roof with boxed overhanging roof eaves is from the same period as are the two small Gothic Revival entry porches on the west facade. Across the east side stretches a seven bay, two story porch of late 19th century provenance.

Gneiss, a local granitic rock ranging from brown and grey in color and often with reddish iron stains, was used for the construction of Shippen Manor's rubble and coursed rubble stone walls. While the stonework of the main block's north, south and west walls is mostly rubble, incorporating many small chips and irregular shaped stones, that of its east wall is of better quality and includes more sections of carefully coursed, rough squared blocks of varying size. The two massive chimney stacks with simple drip caps and modern covers evidence similar coursed rubble stone work. Large rough squared blocks also were employed for corner quoins. Shaped, but undressed stones were used for the voussoirs of the segmental lintels spanning most of the mainblock's windows and entries and the surrounds of its oculus and demilune gable windows. A simple, stepped water table demarcates the first story level. The pointing of the stone work exhibits much reworking and includes both lime mortars and Portland cement. In places the pointing is cracked or missing.

A full width cross gable was added to the north side of the main block around the 1850s and may have replaced a smaller cross gable or broad sloping roof mirroring the one at the south end. The gable wall is constructed of brick, laid in common bond with five stretcher courses between header courses, except at both corners where it is built up in stone. If the main roof was raised, the stonework at both ends most likely was done to form proper corners as on the front and rear the triangular piece of masonry required was done in stone and well tied-in for

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Continuation sheet 7-1 Shippen Manor, Oxford Twp. 7 Warren County, NJ Item number 7

Page1

appearances. The pointing of both the brick and stone work of the gable wall and of the triangular areas on the front and rear is a course grained, sand and lime mortar. The chimney within the north gable wall has a small, rectangular brick stack with drip cap centered on the gable peak.

The roof and eaves of the main block also are of 19th century provenance, probably reworked at the time of the addition of the brick gable. Typically of mid-19th century styling, the eaves overhang on all sides and are boxed with a crown molding and with a bed molding where the soffit meets the masonry walls. The roof is slate. A slight break in the pitch of the long southern slope between the two south bays is one suggestion that the main block may have been built in more than one section.

The five bay west side of the main block has regular fenestration composed of three central bays flanked by more widely spaced end bays. Entries occupy the north inner bay and the south end bay. While retaining segmentally arched lintels and possibly early framing elements, both were reworked extensively in the mid-19th century. The surround of the north or main entry has an outer applied molding, three pane side lights over recessed panels with similar molding and a quirk and bead molding around the sidelights and door opening. The six panel door is a modern replacement; a hinged sheet of plywood serves as a security door. The south entry has a timber outer frame (possibly early) covered by architrave trim with an inner quirk and bead and an outer applied molding, plain board lined, approximately two feet deep recess, and a four panel door whose recessed panels are outlined with applied molding. The door which retains a twist door bell with oval plate was rehung five inches in when the room to which it leads was framed out and sheet-rocked in the mid-20th century.

Both entries are sheltered by porches of mid-19th century provenance and Gothic Revival derivation. Their concave-curved hip roofs are covered with painted sheet metal and terminate in boxed overhanging eaves with a crown molding, wide soffit, small bed molding, and plain frieze. The front posts and attached rear posts, detailed as "Gothic columns", have compound shafts and boxed capitals and bases with jig-saw cut ornament. The capitals have diamond cut outs and spade pendants on each side. The pedestal-height bases have eared, half round tops; those of the front posts are unpainted, modern replacements. The attached rear posts are mounted on wide vertical planks. The porch ceilings are bead edged, tongue and groove boards of slightly varying widths; the floor decks have been replaced by concrete slabs.

The two first story windows between the two entries and the three central second story windows above retain what are probably original timber frames. Typical of 18th century work they are of mortice and tenon construction with visible pegs and have an outer molding, possibly intergral, consisting of a fillet and cyma reversa. The raked sills of the attenuated lower windows were replaced, probably in the mid-20th century when the lower eight inches of the openings were blocked in and

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National	Park S	ervice			

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received date entered DEC 20 K Page ²

Continuation sheet7-2Shippen Manor, Oxford Twp.7Varren County, NJItem number7

casement windows with five vertical lights installed. The three upper windows also have modern sills but retain early double hung, six light sashes with some blown glass panes. The sashes are secured by plain stops and the upper sashes are fixed; 20th century removable, wood-framed, "half" screens are held by butterfly nuts. On the iron pike pintles driven into the window frames hang 19th century fixed lower shutters mounted on what appear to be hand-wrought strap hinges with flared ends.

Several inches wider than its segmental lintel, the first story window in the north end bay was enlarged and replaced in the mid-19th century. It has a thin, plain timber frame and a narrow central mullion which separates its paired, four light, double hung sashes. The right side fixed louver shutter, similar to the others, remains in place; the left shutter and its pintles have been removed, but survive.

On the second story level the two end bays feature demilume windows with round arched lintels of stone voussoirs. The north window, probably reworked in the mid 19th century, has a three board thick frame with applied outer molding, a thin, raked sill with plain apron, and a five light window with radial muntins and mortise and tenon frame that is hung on two iron butt hinges. The south window has a similar, but unhinged sash. Its frame is two planks thick and is faced by half inch trim with outer applied molding. The thin, unraked sill has a torus profile and a plain apron.

Centered in the gable peak just below the eaves is an oculus window with a surround of stone voussoirs and a heavy timber frame (possibly early fabric) with thin plain outer trim. The round window with ten lights and radiating muntins is possibly a modern replacement.

The south end of the main block exhibits an irregular fenestration with two widely spaced first story windows and on the basement level an entry near the east corner and two windows of which the western most is quite small due to the sloping ground. The two upper windows have the same attenuated proportions and detailing as the two first story west windows except that their lower ends were not blocked up when the mid-20th century casements were installed in the 18th century timber frames. The larger ground floor window, closer to the entry has an early timber frame of mortice and tenon construction, and a thin board lintel, a thick timber sill, and double hung six light sashes. Two spike pintles are driven into the frame on the left.

The small grade-level window to the west bears evidence of considerable reworking. The opening, displaced outward at the west end by a bulge in the wall, was made smaller by the insertion of a row of brick headers on the west side. It has a plain timber frame and lintel exhibiting circular saw marks; no sash survives. The entry has a plain timber frame and lintel, probably of early provenance, and a modern, batten Dutch door hung on cast metal cross garnet hinges.

The fenestration of the five bay east side of the main block, which may have been

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Inventory—Nomination Form Shippen Manor, Oxford Twp. Item number 7 Continuation sheet 7-3 Warren County, NJ

National Register of Historic Places

the principal elevation originally, also is regular. The ground (basement) story has a central entry flanked on each side by a single window. The arrangement of the upper stories mirrors that of the west front with three middle bays and more widely spaced end bays, first story entries in the north inner and south end bays, and an oculus gable window and demilune end bay windows under the eaves.

The central, ground floor entry has a segmentally arched lintel, a heavy timber frame of mortice and tenon construction with visible pegs, and an early batten door hung on long, bevel-edged strap hinges. The rectangular opening cut in the upper part of the door and fitted with a six light sash is a later alteration.

The window to the north of the entry, wider than it is high, has a timber frame and sill, narrow plain trim and mullion and six-light casements of which the south one has had its muntins broken out. A more detailed examination is required to determine whether these mortice and tenon framed windows are recycled double hung sashes or early casements. One iron spike pintle survives on the north side of the frame near the top; the lower pintle hole has been filled in. The south ground floor window has a plain timber frame and sill; only the six light upper sash remains.

On the first story above, the entry in the north inner bay is quite similar to the main west entry and may date to the same mid-19th century remodeling. To accommodate it, the original door opening was widened several inches beyond the ends of the arched lintel. Hidden by the porch floor and visible from below is a timber sill with pegged ends that probably survives from the earlier entry. While the surround nearly matches that of the west entry, the 20th century door has a fifteen light, almost floor length inset surrounded by a small molding.

The doorway at the south end is of mid-20th century provenance and may replace a window. It has a fifteen light door, flanking floor length side lights, and wide stepped outer trim with a small oval molding at the step. The outer trim has a segmentally arched head that evidently traces the outline of the segmental lintel of the window replaced by this doorway.

The removed south end bay window probably matched the three, nearly identical first story windows, whose segmental lintels are obscured by the porch ceiling. The frames of these windows appear to be original. The heavy timber frames are of mortice and tenon construction with visible pegs and have, possibly integral, fillet and ovolo outer moldings. Pegs also are visible at both ends of the thick timber sills. The double hung, eight light sashes are probably early 19th century replacements; to accomodate them it appears that small pieces of wood were inserted in the step of the plain sash stop and small raked boards were added to the inner edge of the sills. Filled pintle holes can be seen in the window frames.

Also spanned with segmental lintels, the three second story windows retain early frames, but have been fitted with mid-20th century casement windows that replaced

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Inventory-Nomination Form	date entered UEC 20 1984
Shippen Manor, Oxford Twp.	
Continuation sheet 7-4 Shippen Manor, Oxford Twp. Warren County, NJ Item num	ber 7 Page ⁴

8/8 sashes visible in old photographs. The timber frames are of mortice and tenon construction with visible pegs and have outer moldings with fillet and quirked cyma reversa. Thin, plain inner frames and dividing mullions were installed to hold the paired, eight light casements; the thin, raked sills probably were replaced at the same time. Modern, wood framed screens are secured by butterfly nuts.

The demilune windows on the east side appear to have been reworked. While both have round-arched, stone lintels, their wooden surrounds differ. The south demilune has a three board thick frame, plain outer trim, and a thin torus profiled sill without apron. It has lost its sash. The north demilune has a stepped, three board thick frame and a thin board sill set on a thick timber. The opening is smaller than the five light, radial mutin sash which is of mortice and tenon construction. It is hung on butt hinges. A spike pintle survives on the south side; a filled hole is visible on the north.

The oculus window at the east peak has the same stone voussoir surround as its west gable twin. While the two board thick, trimless frame is of modern provenance, the sash appears to be early fabric. Mounted blind on a round wooden backing, the round sash has ten bevel-edged muntins radiating from a central rondel with a well weathered acorn knob. The backing is constructed of wide tongue and groove boards, possibly old planks reused, held by batlens.

The seven bay two level porch dominating the east front is evidently of late 19th century provenance, but exhibits 20th century modifications. Supported by a low, coursed rubble stone foundation, the lower level is framed by eight pairs of posts, each pair of which connected by a cross member at the top forms a truss to carry the upper level. Except for the south end truss which has been extensively rebuilt with stock modern lumber, each truss consists of heavy, carefully planed timber posts to which the cross members are connected by mortice and tenon joints with visible pegs. On top of the posts across the front and rear of the porch run heavy timber girts to which they probably also are mortice and tenoned. The girts and posts are further connected by angled braces that are hidden on the outside by a frieze of clapboards nailed to circular saw cut vertical planks. The first floor deck is narrow tongue and groove boards running front to back and nailed to long longitudinal joists. Steps in front of the center bay and at both ends are constructed of carefully dressed, rectangular, stone blocks. The railing has survived only in the three north bays; it consists of a rounded top rail, square spindles, and a bottom rail with raked top. Sometime in the early 20th century the three south end bays were enclosed with large multipane windows set between the posts. On the inside of this space the ceiling and frieze was covered with double bead tongue and groove boards.

The upper porch was altered noticibly in the mid-20th century to accommodate multi-pane glazing which has been removed in recent years. The original railing was removed for the glazing, its mortice holes are visible in the posts, and the posts which are faced on four sides with wire-nailed 1/2 inch boards lost their

simple capitals except on the front and acquired new bases. The replacement railing has a wide bevel edged top on which the windows rested; the area below is framed out with widely spaced 2 X 4 inch studs which until recently were covered on the outside with clapboards. The original porch ceiling, concealed except at the north end by sheet rock, is of tongue and groove boards. The pitched roof is hipped at both ends and covered with asphalt shingles. Its frame, visible at the north end, appears to be constructed of circular saw cut timbers and has a wide tongue and groove board sheathing. The rafters ends evidently form an overhang which is boxed in with plain boards. The plate carrying the rafters is faced on both sides with plain boards.

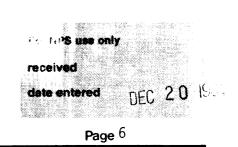
The north gable end wall has an entry on both the ground and first floors opening onto the porch of the wing, two second story windows, and a gable window to the east of the chimney stack. The fabric of the ground floor entry appears to be of 19th century date. The opening is framed by plain 2 X 6 inch planks and the batten door, hung at the inside edge of the frame, has a white porcelain knob and an opening cut in its upper end, now boarded over. A strip nailed to the top of the door may indicate its reuse. The first floor entry treatment also is probably of 19th century provenance. The outer edge of the opening is framed with planks like the doorway below; as the door is hung at the inside edge of the wall, the rest of the recess is finished with plain boards, notably thinner than the planks. The door has nine glass lights above two vertical, recessed panels outlined with applied molding. The knob is brown porcelain.

The three windows are located within the brick area of the gable wall and are probably contemporary with it. The east second story window has a plain timber lintel that extends several inches beyond both sides of the opening, a slightly raked sill, double hung eight light sashes, and probably a plain frame although it is concealed by plywood. The smaller rear window whose lower left corner is covered by the wing's roof, has a plain timber lintel, frame and sill. Its double hung six light sashes are mortice and tenoned and secured by plain stepped stops. The gable window has 6/6 sashes, a raked sill, and plain trim which conceals its frame.

Shippen Manor's north wing is a three bay 1 1/2 story, gable-roofed stone structure, about twenty-six feet wide and twenty foot deep with a ground story fully above grade on the east across which stretches a two-level porch. On the west is a frame, pitched-roofed enclosed porch. The north gable end features a protruding bake oven and a small, square exterior furnace flue built of rock faced cement block.

The stone work of the wing is much the same as that of the main block except that few rough squared stones were used except for quoins and there are no distinctive lintels except for the crude rough-squared stone lintels of the ground story openings. The boxed overhanging eaves match those of the main block and no doubt are contemporary. The slate roof is broken on both sides by a shed-roofed dormer

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



OMB No. 1024-0018

Exp. 10-31-84

Continuation sheet 7-6 Shippen Manor, Oxford Twp. Warren County, NJ Item number 7

of early 20th century date. They have boxed overhanging eaves and triple casement windows.

The east front of the wing has an irregular three bay fenestration. On the basement level a small, slightly off-center window is flanked on both sides by an entry. Spanned by a lintel of two large stone blocks, the window has a timber frame and slightly raked sill of mortice and tenon construction. The six light sash with wide muntins of fillet and ovolo profile undoubtedly is of 18th century date. The entry to the south has an early timber frame and sill, a crude keystoned lintel, and a 19th century batten door, with window cut out and hung on butt hinges. The narrower north entry also has a keystone lintel, a plain timber frame and sill, and a batten door, also with window cut out, but hung instead on strap hinges.

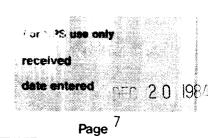
On the floor above, a transomed entry opens slightly to the north of center and two windows are located to its south. The entry has what appears to be its original frame, a hand-planed, timber surround which retains a quirk and bead molding around the four light, mortice and tenon transom. A corresponding molding around the doorway undoubtedly was cut out in subsequent alterations. The wooden storm door, probably early 20th century, has two glass lights above five recessed panels. The inner door, a later 19th centry glass and panel installation, has been taken off its butt hinges, replaced by a new inner entry with hollow core door.

The window to the south of the entry features an early timber frame and sill of mortice and tenon construction with visible pegs. Its 9/6 light double hung sashes are probably of early 19th century date. Two iron spike pintles are driven into the right side of the frame; patched holes are visible on the other. The other first story window appears to have been inserted into an earlier doorway. The opening is much larger than the window and is finished with a wide board surround with inner quirk and bead. The area below the window is filled with brick nogging between vertical studs. The window itself has a plain surround of thin boards and 9/6 light double hung sashes like those of the other window.

The two level, three bay porch stretching across the east side of the wing also probably dates to the late 19th century; its high coursed rubble stone foundation with poured concrete floor, however, is a 20th century alteraton. A truss system of heavy timbers similar to that of the main block porch is used to support the upper level. Its members are circular saw cut. The north end front post has been replaced and plain trim boards nailed to the other three front posts to form bases. There is no railing.

The upper porch, like that of the main block, exhibits a more elaborate finish. The four front posts, detailed as columns, have chamfer-cornered shafts, molded capitals, and replaced bases. The railing which only survives in the two south bays has a top rail with molded base, square spindles, and a bottom rail with raked top. The pitched roof, hipped at the north end and covered with asphalt shingles,

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



OMB No. 1024-0018

Exp. 10-31-84

Continuation sheet 7-7 Shippen Manor, Oxford Twp. Warren County, NJ Item number 7

is framed with vertically saw cut timbers. The overhang is boxed and detailed as a cornice with a crown molding, plain soffit, and bed molding; the rafter plate, faced with a plain board, serves as the cornice frieze.

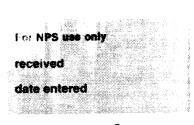
The north gable end of the wing features a modern exterior furnace flue flanked on the first story level by a bake oven to the west and a large window to the east and on the upper level by two small gable windows. The portland cement encased oven dome rests on a corbelled stone base, rectangular in section. It probably survives from the early fireplace and interior chimney that was replaced in the mid-19th century by a brick interior chimney. This latter chimney has lost its brick stack and in turn was supplanted early in this century by the rock faced cement block furnace flue centered on the gable wall. The oversized first story window is a late 19th or early 20th century installation. It has an architrave surround, double hung two light sashes, a small timber sill, and a modern wooden storm window. The two gable windows have timber frames covered with plain trim, raked timber sills, and four light double hung sashes of mortice and tenon construction.

The west side of the wing is obscured by an enclosed porch that appears to be of 20th century provenance but may incorporate earlier fabric. The porch has a pitched roof hipped at the north end and covered with asphalt shingles. Evidently enclosed first, the south end of the porch is clapboard-clad and has a 2/2 sash window with plain trim and a stone foundation. The larger north part has a poured cement foundation and horizontal window bands above a clapboarded base. The windows have not survived. The four panel door with molding outlined recessed panels appears to be reused.

Asside from the addition of the brick north gable, Shippen Manor's construction history is not obvious and will required detailed examination to elucidate. Several features of its internal construction can be noted. The main block is divided into three parts, a three bay central section and one bay end units, by thick stone partitions that extend the full depth of the structure and rise to the roof. A longitudinal stone partition axially aligned with the two stone chimneys further subdivides the main block. In the south end section it reaches the roof, in the middle section the attic floor level, and in the north end section only the first floor, above which it may have been removed during mid-19th century renovations. It is not clear if these stone partitons represent construction stages of unknown sequence, are merely internal divisions or are a combination of both.

A curious feature of the construction of the wing is that its stone walls appear to stop several feet short of the main block above the level of the first floor. The gap has been filled in with much thinner walls, such as the studs and brick nogging visible under the first story south window on the east side. One possible explanation is that the wing was built first and that its south wall was taken down when the north end of the main block was erected.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



OMB No. 1024-0018

Exp. 10-31-84

Shippen Manor, Oxford Twp. Continuation sheet 7-8 Warren County, NJ Item number 7 Page 8

Where visible the first floor of the main block appears largely to have been rebuilt with saw cut, approximately 2X8 inch joists which run east/west. The first floor of the wing is framed with large, clear spanning hewn joists. The rafters of the main roof are hewn and connected with a pegged lap joint at the ridge. The saw cut joists of the north gable have a nailed mitered joint and are supported on both sides by massive circular saw cut timber purlins with diagonal braces.

Interior:

The stone partitions divide the high-ceilinged basement of the main block into five service and store rooms and a crawl space in the northwest corner. These rooms retain considerable early fabric including timber door frames of mortice and tenon construction with molded inner edges, batten and raised panel doors with wrought iron hardware, and a cooking fireplace with an unusually large attached bake oven. The southeast corner room where the fireplace is located has rough plaster walls and evidently served as a kitchen. The fireplace began as a wide opening with timber lintel and stone jambs; subsequently a smaller brick fireplace was built within it which was in turn bricked up. It retains an 18th century cornice shelf, possibly reused from elsewhere. A narrow floor to ceiling closet on the left bears evidence of smoke blackening and white wash on its interior. The bake oven which opened into the fireplace is built between the tall, timber-linteled stone piers of the chimney base in the southwest corner room to the rear. Its dome barely protrudes above its stone casing which is supported about one foot off the floor by a timber lintel. This room evidently was a store room as was the brick floored west middle room. The base of the central chimney visible here and in the east middle room also consists of stone piers with timber lintels. The middle east room, evidently a service room, has plastered walls, window trim and batten and raised panel doors. Most recently it was a laundry with sink and shower. The staircase leading to the first floor rises along its north wall and is enclosed by very wide, hand-planed, tongue and groove boards with quirk and bead edges. The northeast corner room is unfinsished.

The first and second storys of the main block retain much early fabric, but also reveal extensive 19th century and 20th century alterations. As on the ground story their floorplans are defined by the interior stone walls. On the first floor there are five rooms, two at the south end, two in the middle from which hallways have been partitioned, and one on the north end which extends the full depth of the house. The east hall houses the staircase; the west hall serves as an entry. The upper story has a similar arrangement with a few exceptions. The south end rooms are garrets under the eaves; the west middle room was partitioned off for a bathroom and small passage connecting to the staircase instead of a large hallway: and the north end has two rooms divided by a hallway, leading from the passage to the wing and housing the attic staircase.

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Early fabric includes plaster walls and ceilings, several mortice and tenon constructed door frames with visible pegs and ovolo molded edges, architrave door and window trim with inner qirk and bead and outer ovolo and fillet, a number of raised, four and six panel doors with ovolo moldings, some of which are hung on strap and H-L hinges, batten doors scribed to resemble flush bead six panel doors, ovolo molded baseboards, a large denticulated cornice, and most notable the staircase of mortice and tenon construction with square newels, molded hand-rail, turned balusters, and a closed string board above a large triangular raised panel. Notable alterations include the closure or remodeling of all fireplaces and the removal of their mantels, the installation of new hard wood floors and the loss of almost all chairrails, most baseboards, and some door and window surrounds.

On the first floor the two middle rooms and the southwest corner room were reworked extensively in the mid-20th century. The walls of both the east middle room and the corner room were studded out and sheet rocked and new fireplaces installed within the early openings. In the east middle room at least, early decorative finishes, notably the denticulated cornice, survive behind the new work. The kitchen fixtures installed in the west middle room evidently date to this time as does the partition cutting off the entry hall and the large pantry in front of the fireplace. The front hall features a continuation of the denticulated cornice as well as the staircase; the doorway connecting it to the entry hall is lined with what appears to be early 19th century recessed panels, but retains a mitered, 18th century architrave surround on the west side. The large north room probably was created out of two rooms in the mid-19th century at the time of the addition of the north gable. It has plaster walls on saw cut lath, robustly molded architrave door and window trim, regular width pine flooring, and a brick fireplace with cast iron coal grate whose white marble mantel has been broken up by vandals.

Fewer alterations are evident on the second story. The stair hall, the two middle rooms and the two south garret chambers retain much of their early decorative finishes including ovolo molded timber door frames, architrave door and window trim, raised panel doors, some hung on strap hinges, and flush bead panel doors, and ovolo molded baseboards. Also of note are the shallow closets installed on the south side of the chimney in the two middle rooms. The partitions of both are constructed of vertical boards molded and scribed to resemble flush, bead paneling. The doors have the same detailing. The two north rooms undoubtedly were remodeled when the north gable was added; their fabic dates to the late 19th and 20th centuries and includes plaster and sheet rock walls, plain door and window trim, and recessed four panel doors. The bathroom also has sheet rock walls; its fixtures are 20th century.

The north wing has been subject to much more remodeling than the main block. Most recently to accommodate a caretaker's apartment, the principal spaces were renovated with sheet rock over firing strips, new wood work and hollow core doors, obscuring nearly all the extant earlier finishes. The original north gable chimney and fireplace was removed in the 19th century, replaced by the present brick

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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OMB No. 1024-0018

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	7-10	Shippen Manor, Oxford Twp. 7	COMPANY - Second - Land
Continuation sheet	/-10	Warren County, NJ Item number	

chimney which probably served only stoves and the enclosed winder staircase in the northwest corner connecting the three floors. The ground story is an open cellar retaining sections of plaster applied to circular saw cut lath on its walls. The first story has one main room and a small modern kitchen and bathroom at its south end as well as a passage connecting it to the main block. A late-19th century or early-20th century wainscoat of beaded verical boards can be seen in the passage and behind the sheet rock in the main room. No early fabric is visible on the upper story, a single garret chamber.

Condition:

Unoccupied and poorly maintained for over the past ten years of state ownership, Shippen Manor is in only fair condition. Cracks are visible in the stonework, mostly noticably on the east wall near the south corner and on the south wall near the west corner and above a bulge at grade. Water has caused extensive damage to the boxed eaves and to the north ends of the two east porches, which also have lost sections of their railings. Inside and out paint is chipped and peeling. The mechanical systems are antiquated and non-functioning. Vandals have broken out several windows and damaged interior features including the marble mantel and one raised panel door. For security purposes plywood has been nailed to most of the ground level windows and entries.

Surroundings and Site:

Shippen Manor occupies a well landscaped quadrilateral lot of about two acres that slopes steeply downward from west to east. Belvidere Road and Oxwall Place border the property on the south and east respectively, beyond which stretch the lowlands of Furnace Brook and the densely built heart of Oxford. The entire townscape can be taken in at a glance from the porch and windows of Shippen Manor and this proprietorial view was no doubt one reason for its site. The wooded hillside rising to the west provides a dramatic backdrop for the house and contrast to the town.

The area surrounding the house has been extensively landscaped, particularly to the east where grassy terraces break the slope down to the town of Oxford. A gravel driveway enters the southwestern corner of the property and passes parallel to and within 15 feet of the west side of the house. This follows the course of the former railroad spur that led down into the furnace area. The railroad alignment is clearly visible to the south of Belvidere Road and it continues along the northern edge of the property to the west of the complex of ruined outbuildings that is located appoximately 100 feet north of the house. The driveway loops round the north and east sides of the house and leads back to Belvidere Road, rejoining the latter roughly 75 feet east of the main gateway. The areas enclosed by the driveway to the north and south of the house contain trees, shrubs and rock gardens

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For HPS use only received date entered Page ¹¹

Continuation sheet 7-11 Shippen Manor, Oxford Twp. 7 Warren County, NJ Item number

and slope down sharply to the east. Concrete sidewalks and steps run alongside the southern and western sides of the house, the latter extending from the main driveway entrance to the northern tip of the driveway loop. Roughly 13 feet north of the northwestern corner of the house is a large concrete-capped cistern. An underground oil tank is located immediately north of the main block porch in front of the north wing porch.

To the north of the driveway loop in the northwestern corner of the property are the remains of a number of outbuldings. All are extremely ruinous and many building fragments have rolled downhill to the east. The functions of three buildings are uncertain although two barns and a wagon house can be tentatively identified.

These include: <u>Structure A</u>, 18 X 20.5', a mortared stone foundation which possibly had an upper timber story. The east and north walls survive to a height of up to 8 feet and are 18 inches thick. Function unknown, possibly a wagon house.

Structure B, 13.5 X 16', a stone foundation with a concrete sill. There are a water stand pipe and brick rubble inside. The walls are 15 inches thick. The driveway revetiment wall links up with this structure suggesting that access was obtained between structures A and B to the other outbuildings to the north. A millstone lies between these two buildings. Function unknown.

<u>Structure C</u>, 16' wide, length unknown, is an eastward continuation of structure B. Its walls are 18 inches thick. It may have been bonded into structure D. Function unknown.

Structure D, approximately 32' long, width unknown. Only the east wall remains but this survives to a height of 6.75 feet and is 2.75 feet wide. This wall has mortared faces and a dry rubble core, and probably supported a large frame barn as the top of the wall is flat as if for a sill. The southern end of structure D curves into the hillside, presumably in an attempt to buttress the foundation.

Structure E, 19' in one dimension, other dimension not known, adjoining north side of structure A. The west and north walls survive as indistinct lines in the ground surface. The west wall appears to be 7 feet thick but may have tumbled to the east. The north wall is three feet thick. Function unknown.

Structure F, 57' long, width unknown. Only the east wall (up to 5 feet high, 1 foot thick) and part of the south wall survive. A brick, tile and stone foundation showing signs of more than one phase of construction. The basal foundation is stone and extends only 36' in length from the southern end. This is overlain by a brick and tile foundation that extends the full 57 feet. Hollow flue tiles (? re-used from nearby industrial structures) have been used in the corners of this foundation. As with structure D, this foundation probably supported a large frame barn.

The remainder of the property is mostly comprised of lawn and woodland. East of

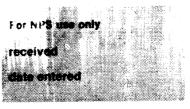
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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

7-12 Warren County, NJ

Shippen Manor, Oxford Twp.



OMB No. 1024-0018

Exp 10-31-84

Page 12

the house is a sloping lawn which is delimited on the south and east by a stone wall. A long path with intermittent series of concrete steps lead from the main block porch down to the gate that opens on to Oxwall Place. A few conifers and maples are located on the upper lawn terraces, and shrubs and overgrown borders line the lawn's north eastern edge. To the north of the lawn, the hillside is wooded. Traces of a lane are visible leading diagonally upslope from Oxwall Pace towards the complex of outbuildings. Concentrations of stone rubble close to the east property wall may relate to other destroyed outbuildings (? springhouse) or to recent road construction activities. To the west of the main driveway the hillside is also wooded and slopes sharply upward to the west. At the southern end of the driveway a stone stairway leads uphill to the west.

Item number 7

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—C	community planning conservation	Iandscape architecture	e religion
prehistoric	archeology-prehistoric		Iaw	science
1400–1499	agriculture		Iiterature	sculpture
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1600–1699	architecture		Iitary	humanitarian
X 1700–1799	art		Inusic	theater
X 1800–1899	commerce		Iphilosophy	transportation
1900–	communications		Ipolitics/government	other (specify)
Specific dates	1750's	Builder/Architect Joseph	& William Shippen	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Shippen Manor, for over 200 years a landmark in the once thriving iron mining and manufacturing center of Oxford, New Jersey, possesses historical, architectural, and archaeological significance commensurate with individual listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Its historical importance lies in its intimate association with the succession of remarkable individuals who either owned or operated the Oxford Furnace property in the 18th and 19th centuries. Most notable among them are Dr. William Shippen, Sr. for whom the successful operation of Oxford Furnace was but part of a web of business, social, and political endeavor typical of his class, time and place; William Henry whose technological achievements at Oxford, the location of the first hot blast in the United States, were of singular importance to the development of America's 19th century iron industry; and the Scranton brothers, Charles and Selden, who built on Henry's foundations to establish a iron-making empire that at one time inluded not only the works at Oxford, but also at Scranton, Pennsylvania.

Shippen Manor is architecturally significant as an unusual and perhaps unique 18th century survivor and for the amount and quality of its extant early fabric. In form and plan it conforms to no known type, but in construction and detailing is clearly a product of the Delaware valley's 18th century vernacular building traditon. The 19th century renovations are of interest as a document of changing domestic needs and tastes in Oxford's period of greatest growth and activity.

The property also possesses a strong likelihood of yielding significant archaeological data relating to the history, use, and material culture of an 18th and 19th century "iron master's" house and its associated buildings. Shippen Manor, thus, preserves a slice of the cultural history of an important place and period.

Traditionally, Shippen Manor is held to have been built in the 1750's by Joseph Shippen, Jr. and his brother Dr. William Shippen, Sr. who in partnership with Jonathan Robeson then owned the Oxford Furnace. Members of prominent Philadelphia area families, these men were large landowners and successful businessmen and active politically and socially in the affairs of Pennsylvania and West Jersey. Only Robeson, however, had a background in iron manufacture. Joseph Shippen inherited the property at Oxford from his father Joseph Shippen, Sr. in 1741.* Either father or son interested Jonathan Robeson in the property's iron resources and, according to mid-19th century owner Col. Charles Scranton, Robeson began construction of the furnace in 1741 and the first pig iron was made on March 9, 1743 (Snell p.78).

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet 9-1.

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Continuation sheet8-1Shippen Manor, Oxford Twp.Warren County, NJItem number8	Page 1	

interest in the furnace tract to the Shippen brothers and in 1765 and 1766 Dr. William Shippen, Sr. acquired full title to the property from his brother which remained in his sole ownership until his death in 1801 (Dickey, pp 6 & 7, Yount #326, Sussex Deeds, Book H/pp 216 & 222).

The 18th century furnace produced pig iron which was sold to neighboring forges or carted to the Foul Rift landing on the Delaware for shipment to Philadelphia and made castings such as cannon balls and firebacks. Several of these firebacks survive and one was taken from the house during repairs made in the 1870s (Yount #345). A forge, blacksmithy, and store evidently were operated in conjunction with the furnace and probably a grist mill and saw mill as well. A considerable work force was required to conduct these enterprises and for the time and place Oxford must have been quite busy and one of the most important settlements in northwestern New Jersey (Dickey pp6 & 7, Boyer p149, and Yount #s 349, 359 & 418).

That the furnace apparently prospered in the 1750s, no doubt in response to demand generated by the region's rapidly increasing settlement and by the French and Indian War, led local historians like the Rev. Andrew Yount of the Oxford Second Presbyterian Church to fix that period as the time of the manor's construction.

Certainly, early features such as the staircase and the ovolo-molded timber door frames are characteristic of the middle decades of the 18th century and earlier and are found in contemporary houses of southeastern Pennsylvania where one would expect precedents for the manor. (Raymond, plates 29, 30, 34, 35, 41 and 48). Other details like the flush bead "paneled" doors and closet partitions and some of the architrave door and window trim which has a stepped instead of mitered joint appears to be more typical of the later 18th century. Historical architect John Dickey postulated that the house was enlarged during the Revolutionary period, another time of prosperity for iron furnace owners, and it seems likely that the house was renovated if not enlarged around that time (Dickey p 27). In any case, Shippen Manor undoubtedly assumed its present configuration of main block and wing, though probably not connected as at present, by the end of the 18th century.

In the 18th century, the manor must have been occupied by the Shippen brothers and Robeson on their periodic visits to Oxford to oversee the property and by their resident managers like Richard Shackleton and Jacob Starn. Around 1770 Joseph W. Shippen moved to Oxford from Philadelphia to manage the furnace for his father, Dr. William Shippen, Sr. He presumbably lived in the house with his common law wife, Martha Axford, and their several children until his death in 1795.

Dr. Shippen evidently was never reconciled fully to his son's liason with Martha Axford. In a codicil to his will written after Joseph's death, he left the several thousand acre Oxford estate, previously the inheritance of his son, to his other children, Dr. William Shippen, Jr. and Susanna Shippen Blair. This bequest was subject to the provision of annuities for his son's "said housekeeper" and their

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National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form	riste etch
Shippen Manor, Oxford Twp. Continuation sheet ⁸⁻² Warren County, NJ Item number 8	Page ²

four daughters and farms for their three sons (Shippen Papers vol. 10, p 219).

After death of Dr. Shippen, Sr. in 1801 it appears that Mrs. Blair's daughter, Susan, and her hubsand, Issac Roberdeau, lived in the manor and managed the property for several years. A traveler in 1804, noted in his journal a visit with the Roberdeaus who entertained him on the piano forte and German flute. The furnace evidently continued in operation carried on by Issac Roberdeau and subsequently by local resident, Conrad Davis (Yount #475, Snell p 79, and Cummins p 65).

In 1809 Morris Robeson, the grandson of Jonathan Robeson, purchased the Blair family's half interest in the Oxford estate. The heirs of Dr. William Shippen, Jr., who died in 1808, retained their half interest but in 1813 when the estate was divided Robeson certainly gained control of the manor property (Yount #582).

While the furnace is thought to have stood idle, for unknown reasons, Robeson made the manor his residence and successfully managed the other business interests of his new property including the mills, store, and farms. Robeson also was active in community affairs serving as a Sussex County judge (until 1824 Warren County was part of Sussex County) and as the first president of the Sussex County Agricultural Society (Yount #324). The inventory made after his death in 1823 identifies the use and furnishing of individual rooms of the house, suggesting that his family lived quite comfortably. It also establishes that there were then two first floor rooms at the north end of the main block, one with a ten plate stove and the other with a fireplace (NJ Inventories 13795).

Robeson left his estate to his wife and children and gave the former the right to dispose of it as she saw fit (NJ Wills 13795). His wife Tacy in 1825 attempted to lure the county seat of newly created Warren County to centrally located Oxford by the proffered gift of \$5000 and a two acres building site and in 1830 advertized the Oxford Furnace estate for sale (Yount #252 and The Belvidere Appollo June 6, 1830).

The advertisement depicts the house as a substantial establishment with many outbuildings and a large, well planted garden. According to the advertisement the "stone mansion house, [was] handsomely situated on the side of a hill -- 60 feet by 40, very convenient, having two kitchen with spring water conducted through them with a bath house, ice

house, and smoke house annexed..."

and had as well a stone-walled garden of one half acre and "a large frame barn..., a carriage house and wagon house, corn cribs, granery etc." The stone foundations to the north of the house may be remains of these outbuildings.

(see continuation sheet 8-3)

National Register of Historic Places ----Inventory—Nomination Form

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Continuation sheet 8-3 Shippen Manor, Oxford Twp. 8 Warren County, NJ Item number 8

The Robeson's were unable to find a buyer for their property, but in 1832 leased it for ten years to William Henry who proceeded to reactivate the furnace. Henry stayed at Oxford only until 1837, but during that short time he largely rebuilt the furnace introducing technological innovations such as the hot blast process of great importance to the American iron industry and establishing the foundations of Oxford's mid-19th century industrial heyday. (Dickey pp 8 & 19, Yount #660).

Henry lived in Shippen Manor from April 1833 until November 1837, when he moved to Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania to supervise his forge there. He left in charge at Oxford and in residence at the manor, Selden Scranton whom he had hired in 1834 and who married his daughter, Ellen, in 1839. In 1840 Selden Scranton and his brother, George W., bought Henry's unexpired lease and equipment at Oxford, but shortly thereafter joined him at what became Scranton, Pennsylvania to establish an anthracite furnace and left a third brother, Charles, to manage the Oxford furnace property. Charles, who also lived in the manor, in 1847 married another Henry daughter, Jane, and started his own company which managed the furnace throughout the 1850's (Dickey pp 7-9, and Yount #660). In 1851, Charles Scranton purchased the entire furnace property from William P. Robeson, son of Morris Robeson, who had acquired full ownerhip of the property in several conveyances in the 1830s and 1840s (Warren County Deeds Book 9/page 509, 12/523, 21/700, and 33/308). In 1859 Charles dissolved his company and formed a new one with his brother Selden, recently returned from Scranton, which operated the furnace and the associated industries until failure in 1878 and dissolution in 1882 (Dickey pp 7-9).

Selden lived, the manor again upon his return and either he or his brother Charles must have been responsible for the mid-19th century alterations which included the brick north gable, the boxed overhanging eaves, the two Gothic Revival entry porches, and the creation of the large north room. The construction of the railroad along what is now the driveway immediately to the west of the house in the early 1850s, however, must have made it undesirable for an owner's residence once the novelty had worn off. Charles evidently moved to the old Axford homestead nearby before 1860 and Selden built a substantial brick Italianate villa on the hillside several hundred yards to the north of the manor in 1863 (Dickey p 9 and Appendix I; Walling map, 1860).

U.S. census schedules indicate that Charles Scranton in 1850 and Selden Scranton in 1860 had several young employees as household members (U.S. Census for N.J., 1850 and 1860). After Selden Scranton moved out, the manor logically became a boarding house catering mostly to the professional segment of Oxford's work force. The longest and most well remembered proprietress of the boarding house was Mrs. Ellen A. Fowler, a cousin of the Scrantons, who ran it from about 1874 until 1906 (Yount #660). Changes continued in this period, notably the remodeling of the north wing (wainscoting on the first floor, etc.) and the additon of the two story east porches which are visible in a photograph purportedly dating to the 1870s (Shampanore, p J11). The massive stone wall which borders the property on the south and east is said to have been built from the stone taken from the shell of

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Shippen Manor, Oxford Twp. Continuation sheet 8-4 Warren County, NJ Item number 8	Page ⁴

the old storehouse which stood at the crossroads and burned in 1882 (Yount #654). The terraces to the east also date to the same period or slightly earlier.

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In the first half of the 20th century, Shippen Manor was occupied by a number of tenants, mostly superintendents of the corporations that succeeded the Scrantons in the ownership and operation of the Oxford industrial complex and mines. Although alterations such as the installation of the bathroom and the wing's shed dormers and exterior furnace flue date to the early 20th century, the major period of change appears to be the mid-20th century, either before or after the Warren Pipe and Foundary Company sold the manor and two surrounding acres to Kenneth H. Wood and wife in 1950 (Warren County Deed Book 347/p 113). The property changed hands once again before being purchased by the State of New Jersey in 1974. Agitation for the preservation of Oxford's historical resources gained momentum in the 1930s and led to the gift of the furnace to the state in 1935 (W.C. Deed Book 277/p 506). Little happened however, until the late 1960s when the state's Divison of Parks For estry and Recreation commissioned John M. Dickey to undertake a feasibility study for the preservation of the furnace. In his study Dickey also superficially examined the Manor and finding it to be "of great interest architecturally" suggested that New Jersey purchase and restore it. The state proceeded to buy the house in 1974 but because of a lack of funding no restoration work was carried out (Dickey p 28 and W.C. Deed Book 553/p 435). Meanwhile, the house stayed vacant, poorly maintained, and steadily deteriorating until in 1984, local preservation efforts culminated in the transfer of both Shippen Manor and Oxford furnace to the County of Warren.

Charged with developing a preservation plan for the Manor, the Warren County Cultural and Heritage Commission as a first step has commissioned an historic structures report on Shippen Manor, which is now underway. In order to afford a measure of protection for the property or to qualify for potential benefits available to properties on the National Register, the county also determined to seek individual listing for the property. This would give Shippen Manor the same status as the furnace property, which was listed on the National Register in 1977.

Consideration was given to seeking listing on the National Register for an Oxford Historic District. Such a district which was listed on the State Register in 1970. However, unresolved boundary problems have precluded its listing on the National Register. Resolving these problems would make listing a long and complicated process. Furthermore, much of the property within the district is in industrial use or undeveloped. There is considerable likelihood that owner objections would preclude its placement on the National Register. Although the relationship of Shippen Manor to an Oxford district is clear, it also has sufficient architectural and historic significance to warrant individual listing on the National Register.

(see continuation sheet 8-5)

Continuation sheet

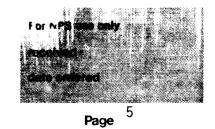
United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

8-5

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Warren County, NJ

Shippen Manor, Oxford Twp.



*The definitive chain of title has yet to be done for the Shippen Manor and Oxford Furnace property. The ownership references in this nomination are based on a partial title search combined with the best reliable information such as John M. Dickey's 1970 <u>Development and Feasibility Study of the Oxford Furnace Historic Site...</u>, Charles S. Boyer's (1931) <u>Early Forges and Furnaces in New Jersey</u>, and Reverend Andrew Yount's 1926-46 "<u>Weekley Bulletin of the Oxford Second</u> Presbyterian Church".

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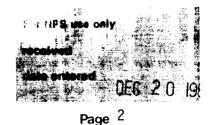
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Continuation sheet 9-1 Bib	liography Item number ⁹	Page 1
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National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Shippen Manor, Oxford Twp. Continuation sheet 9-2 Warren County, NJ Item number 9

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(see continuation sheet 9-3)

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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Shippen Manor, Oxford Twp. Continuation sheet 9-3 Warren County, NJ Item number 9

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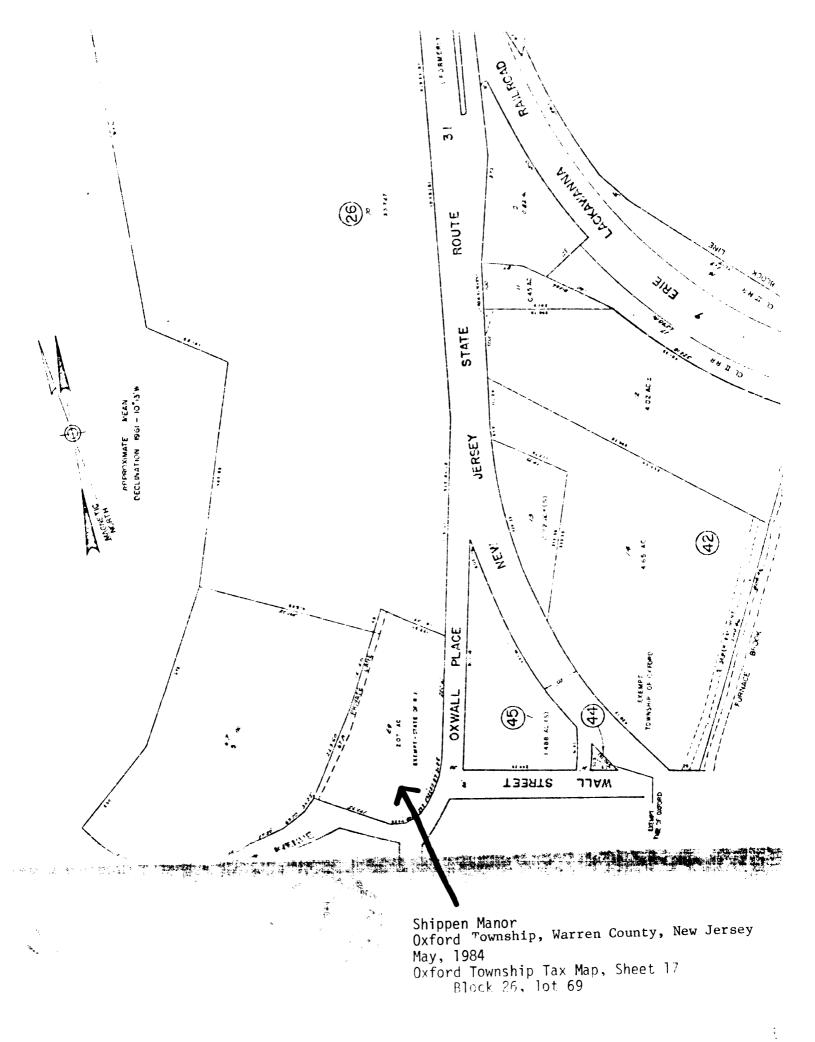
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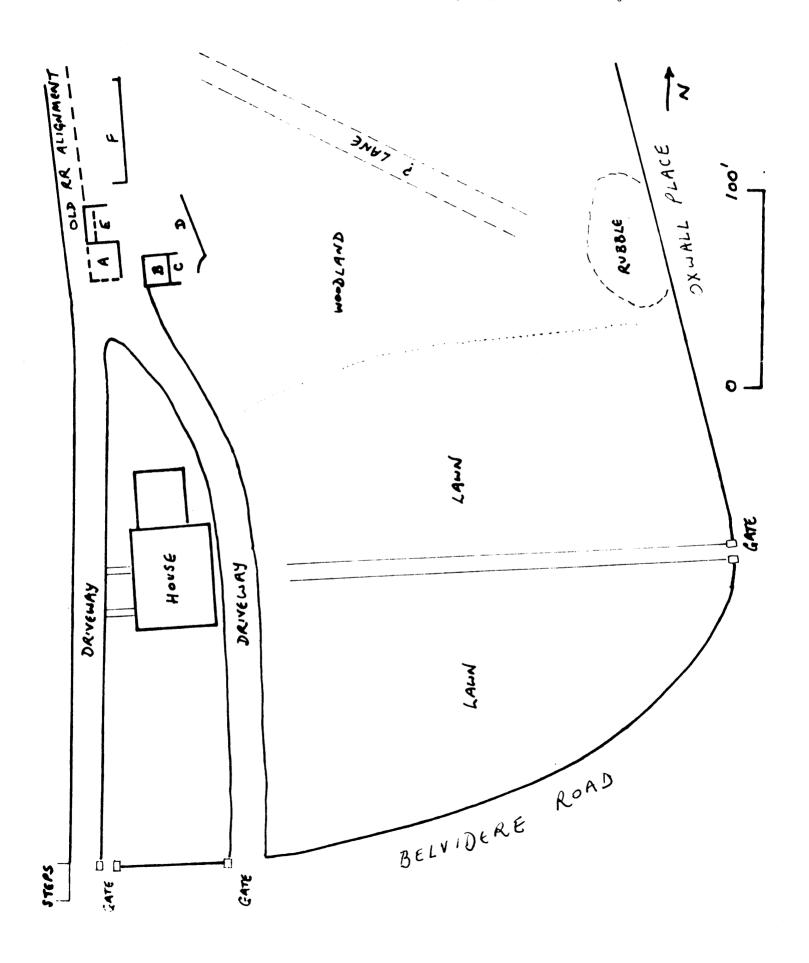
New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory No. 2937.5 Shippen Manor, Oxford Township, Warren County.

The boundaries of the nominated property are those of Block 26, Lot 69 -- Oxford Township Tax Map, Sheet 17 (see attachment). These boundaries conform to the historic limits of the Shippen Manor property as delineated on the 1867 Hopkins map and encompass all directly related site features.

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Shippen Manor Oxford Township, Warren County, New Jersey May, 1984 Site plan; letters are keyed to text.

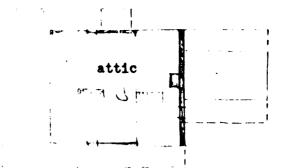


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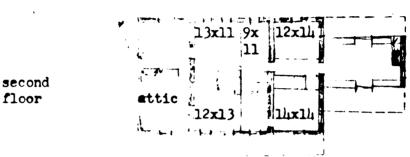
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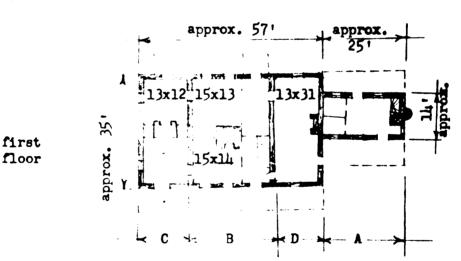
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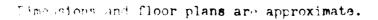
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