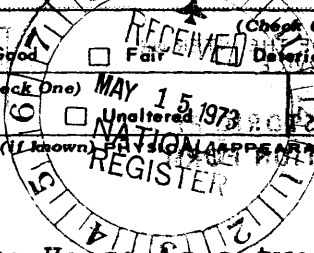




7. Description

CONDITION	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent    <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good    <input type="checkbox"/> Fair             </div> <div style="text-align: right;">                 (Check One)  <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated    <input type="checkbox"/> Ruined    <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed             </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"> <div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered             </div> <div style="text-align: center;">                 (Check One)  <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered             </div> <div style="text-align: right;">                 (Check One)  <input type="checkbox"/> Original             </div> </div>
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	



NATIONAL REGISTER  
 NATIONAL ARCHIVES  
 COLLEGE PARK, MARYLAND  
 20740  
 For Form 102 (7-61)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**Exterior.**

The Joseph W. Revere House is a two-story clapboard house with two interior chimneys in its main section. The principal facade, facing east, is dominated by the steep gable roof, which projects considerably beyond both the front and sides of the building, forming a porch. This overhanging portion of the roof is upheld by five wooden Gothic arches, which support a system of uprights and crossbeams. The doorway is at the center, protected by a projecting glazed vestibule and flanked by two windows. The second floor also has a center door which opens onto a balcony. Two windows are south of this door and one north. A single window is set in the gable end.

The south elevation has five bays, including a single-story bay window set in a central projection under a cross gable roof. The overhang of the main roof forms a porch on either side of this projection.

At the northwest corner of the house is a two-story, three-bay wing with gable roof. At the northern end of this wing is a single-story, gable roofed projection, with an inferior chimney in its northern end.

West of the house is a woodshed, an ice house, and a new garage. Several hundred feet east of the dwelling is a farm house built on the foundation of a destroyed structure, and north of this residence is a barn.

**Interior.**

The main doorway opens into a parlor with a stairway. This room has an elaborate, brown wooden mantel which is the work of a German carver. On either side of the mantel is a doorway. One door leads to the dining room.

The dining room is completely done in murals, painted by Revere, designer and first owner of the house. The ceiling is executed in trompe d'oeil and represents wooden paneling, while that on the walls shows hunting scenes and wildlife. The mural over the black marble mantle is a still life.

The other doorway in the parlor leads into a second parlor featuring a brown wooden mantel, two French windows, and a bay. West of this chamber is a lateral hall with a back stairs. At the southwest corner of the house is a library with Gothic mantels and shelves. The original decorative stenciling of this woodwork has been painted over. The pantry and kitchen are in the wing which projects to the south; the small extension was an addition made later by Revere.

The plan of the second floor follows that of the first. The bedrooms facing north and south are identical; each having exposed arched beams with carved ends, and a wooden mantel

(cont)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE <b>New Jersey</b>	
COUNTY <b>Morris</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
<b>SEP 20 1973</b>	

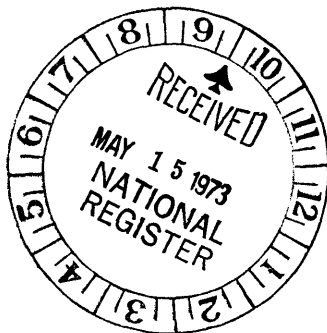
(Number all entries)

"The Fosterfields"  
Morris Township  
Morris County, Code:027  
New Jersey, Code:34

7. Description (cont)

framing the ceramic tiles surrounding the fireplace mantel opening. The third bedroom has a marble mantel and a recessed area for the bed. The rear bedroom over the library also features a marble mantel.

Above the second floor is a storage attic.



8. Significance

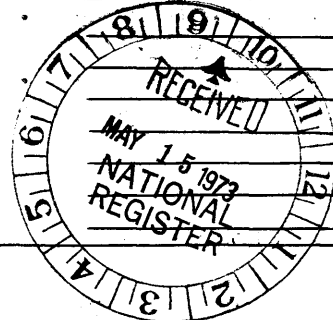
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century  
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1854 1874-1875

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education             | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering           | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <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             | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art          | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture          | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military   |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                 |  |  |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

LITERATURE.

The short stories and poetry of Bret Harte represent a milestone in the development of local color literature in the United States. He was followed by an entire school of local colorists, few of whom could match the clear, exciting descriptions found in "The Luck of Roaring Camp"; or the wide appeal of "Plain Language of Truthful James." His literary moment was fleeting, but at his best Harte illuminated one aspect of American literature as had no other before him.

He is aptly described by one of his biographers as an "argonaut and exile." For most of his life in America, Harte lived with relatives or in a succession of boardinghouse, hotels, and rented dwellings. All but a handful of these have been either destroyed or greatly altered, and of those remaining, "The Willows" is the most interesting and intact residence associated with his career. From 1873 to 1876, he and his family occupied four different houses in Morristown, New Jersey. Harte was away lecturing much of the time. He lived at the Revere House, renting from the retired General, in 1874-5 and perhaps for a longer period. Though Harte called Morristown a "bigoted, self-righteous, hypocritical place," he found its environment superior to that of New York boardinghouses.

Born Francis Bret Harte in Albany, New York in 1836 he moved to California at age eighteen after a childhood of wandering. By 1871 he had written several popular short stories concerning the wilderness in which he worked and soon decided to come back East to write.

But after leaving the West Harte could not maintain his former excellence and flair for "local color" and was forced into second rate mimicry of his earlier achievements.

Hartes' works include: The Lost Galleon and Other Tales (1867), "The Luck of Roaring Camp" (1868), "The Outcasts of Poker Flat" (1869), & Gabriel Conroy (1876). Bret Harte was also the editor of Overland Monthly, and a writer for Atlantic Monthly. A play, Ah, Sin, on which he collaborated with Mark Twain in 1877 was a dismal failure.

(cont)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Harte, Geoffrey B., ed. The Letters of Bret Harte. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1928.  
 Jones, James S. New Jersey Architecture. Volume 4, number 1. "The Willows" January, 1970.  
 O'Connor, Richard. Bret Harte: A Biography. Boston: Little, Brown, & Company, 1966.  
 Spiller, Robert E. et al., eds. Literary History of the United States. New York: Macmillan Company, 1960.  
 Stewart, George E. et al., eds. Bret Harte: Argonaut and Exile. Port Washington, New York: Kennikat Press, Inc., 1935.

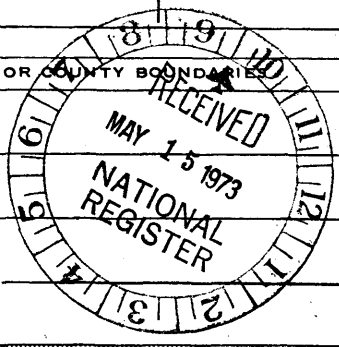
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	Longitude	Latitude		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	74° 30' 51"	40° 48' 10"	(cont.)	0	0	
NE	74° 30' 07"	40° 48' 10"				
SE	74° 30' 07"	40° 47' 46"				
SW	74° 30' 51"	40° 47' 46"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **125**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Robert S. Gamble, Historian; Christopher Redman, Assistant; Terry Karschner, Historian (N.J. Historic Sites)**

ORGANIZATION: **Division of History, Office of Archeology & Historic Preservation, Nat'l Park Service** DATE: **7-19-72 & 1-8-73**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington** STATE: **D.C.** CODE: **11**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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, Environmental Protection**

Date: **January 29, 1973**

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

*Robert M. Terry*  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 9/20/73

ATTEST:

*Wynne H. ...*  
 Keeper of the National Register

Date: 9-19-73

301450 ...

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE New Jersey	
COUNTY Morris	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
SEP 20 1973	

(Number all entries)

"The Fosterfields"  
Morris Township  
Morris County, Code:027  
New Jersey, Code:34

8. Significance (cont)

Harte died in 1902, living in England; a country in which his popularity had not wened.

MILITARY.

General Joseph Warren Revere, commander of the Seventh New Jersey Regiment and, later, the Second New Jersey Brigade during the Civil War, was one of the wars' most capable generals, although nearly fifty years old when the South secede from the Union. Joseph W. Revere, first owner of The Willows, was a grandson of the famous Paul Revere.

ARCHITECTURE.

Joseph Revere designed this house in 1854 hoping to retire on the estate. Although Revere had no formal training as an architect "The Willows" has been described as one of New Jersey's finest examples of Gothic Revival or Carpenters Gothic.

ART.

Revere also had no training as an artist, but apparently had a natural flair or talent for painting; as the elaborate murals, done by Revere, in the dining room attest.

10. Geographical Data (cont)

Boundaries of the historic area of "The Willows" are as follows: from the intersection of Kahdena Road and Mendham Avenue, north along Kahdena Road to its intersection with the property line; west and south along the property line to its intersection with Washington Valley Road; east along this road to its intersection with Mendham Road; east along Mendham Avenue to its intersection with Kahdena Road.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

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Revere, Joseph W., House      Morris County, NEW JERSEY

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVAL

Patrick Andrus 10/9/91