

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>New Jersey</b>
COUNTY: <b>Hunterdon</b>
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE <b>NOV 1 1974</b>

2118  
 N 49953330  
 20000000

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Mechlins Corner Tavern**

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**Peter Mechling's Tavern**

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: **NW of Pittstown**  
~~County Routes 42 and 599~~

CITY OR TOWN: **Pittstown vicinity**  
~~Union Township~~

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
**13th - Joseph Maraziti**

STATE <b>New Jersey</b>	CODE <b>34</b>	COUNTY: <b>Hunterdon</b>	CODE <b>019</b>
----------------------------	-------------------	-----------------------------	--------------------

**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 type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" 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**

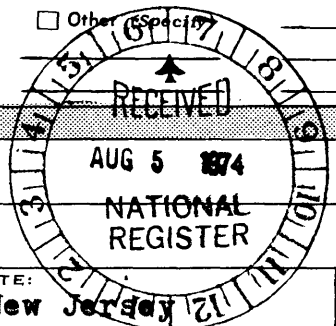
OWNER'S NAME:  
**Clarence Brasch**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Box 238 A R.D. #1**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Pittstown**

STATE:  
**New Jersey**

CODE:  
**34**



STATE: New Jersey  
 COUNTY: Hunterdon

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Hall of Records, Hunterdon County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Main Street**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Flemington**

STATE:  
**New Jersey**

CODE:  
**34**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory (3098.5)**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1973**  
 Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Historic Sites Section, Dept. of Environmental Protection**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Box 1420**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Trenton**

STATE:  
**New Jersey**

CODE:  
**34**

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
 ENTRY NUMBER: **NOV 1 1974**  
 DATE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent  Good  Fair  Deteriorated  Ruins  Unexposed

(Check One) --

(Check One)

Altered  Unaltered  Moved  Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Mechlin's Corner Tavern stands today as an exuberant Greek Revival structure. The tavern site itself dates from the 18th century, though the present tavern building gives all appearances of being c. 1830-40's. (Possibly some of the internal structural framing may have been part of the earlier tavern.)

The exterior proportions of the building exemplify the Greek Revival form on which the bold details of the period are generously applied. The principal unit is 2½ stories, measuring approximately 42 feet by 30 feet. It is five bays across the front. The 6/6 sash windows have a high entablature. There are two door entrances on the front, both under a one story flat roof porch covering the center three bays. The porch has four massive freestanding square columns with four similar engaged columns on the wall of the house. These support a roof with a very bold high frieze and cornice. (The porch presently is dismantled and is being restored to be put back in place.

Large recessed panelled pilasters rise to the frieze at each corner. The frieze is decorated with a double dentil course and is pierced by decorative iron grills over the knee-wall windows at the attic floor. The boxed cornice has a built-in rain gutter, collecting water off the slate gable roof. The plan is basically a four room arrangement with a center stair and chimneys on the gable ends.

The tavern extends lineally approximately 94 feet. The second section is a lower two stories, three bays, and measures approximately 18 feet by 23 feet.

Extending from this is a 1½ story section measuring approximately 34 feet by 17 feet. Both sections have a simple frieze with a single dentil course and a slate gable roof. The first floor of the center section originally was two rooms (separating partition now removed). On the gable end wall is a fireplace. Backing to it in the end section is a larger fireplace. Both were made of large squared stones and were probably used for preparing food for the patrons of the inn and tavern.

The center section has an enclosed winder stair to three small chambers above. The end section has one small room with the above noted fireplace and the remaining 24 feet consists of a carriage shed with an open attic above.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |                                        |                                       |                                                  |                                       |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

circa 1830

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 Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce     | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |                                              |                                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |                                                 |                                              |                                          |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Commerce.

The original tavern at Mechlin's Corner was in operation before the Revolution and probably before the nearby Van Sickle tavern. A check into deeds and tavern licenses indicate that there was a tavern in operation on this site in 1752, or possibly before. Jonathan Robeson owned the property, in addition to an enormous amount of other lands, but the tavern was operated for him by Alexander Gorden for upwards of twenty years.

Stephen Dunham purchased the property from Robeson in 1763, but shortly after, in 1765, sold it to Nehemiah Dunham.

Little is known of the operations of the tavern for nearly fifty years, including the period of the American Revolution.

In 1810 the building was purchased by Peter Mechling who owned the tavern and also operated it for nearly thirty years. It was probably Peter Mechling who built the present structure, circa 1830. Peter retired in 1844 when he sold the business to his son, William Mechling. Apparently, however, Peter continued to assist in the business because in 1850, in the Census Records, he listed his occupation as Innkeeper. The next census has Peter Mechling as being retired and, incidentally, 86 years old (He was 65 ten years earlier).

William Mechling ran the tavern until 1890 when, as an old man, he deeded the property to his youngest son, Hiram Mechling. Hiram died in 1934, ending the reign of the property as a tavern.

Architecture.

Mechlin's Corner Tavern is a particularly fine example of Greek Revival architecture in rural New Jersey.

Constructed as a tavern and embodying the classic Greek Revival form the building was built as a complete unit; each section being dependent upon the others for completeness. The proportions are classical form on which bold details of the period are generously applied. The tavern was evidently completed by a master craftsman of the area who clearly understood his trade as indicated by the simple, elegance and bold details of the building. Unfortunately, the builders name is, as yet, unknown.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

First Century of Hunterdon. George S. Mott.  
History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, New Jersey.  
 James P. Snell. 1881 (p. 512)  
Northwestern New Jersey Volume II. A. Van Doren Honeyman.  
 New York, 1927. (p. 935)  
 "Map of New Jersey." Thomas Gorden, compiler. 1833. (scale:  
 1 inch to 3 miles)  
Robeson Genealogy.  
Tavern Liscense and Petitions. New Jersey State Archives.

(cont.)

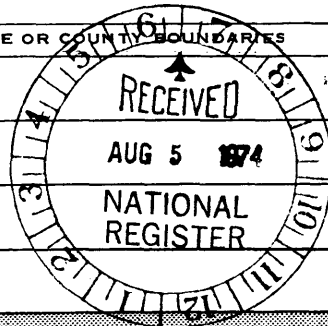
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	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	° ' "	° ' "		40 36 38	74 59 17	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2

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:  
**Terry Karschner, Historian-Curator**

ORGANIZATION: **Historic Sites Section, Dept. of Environmental Protection** DATE: **03/02/1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Box 1420**

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

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: David J. Bardin  
 David J. Bardin

Title: Commissioner, Dept. of Environmental Protection

Date: July 1, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Arthur W. Hays  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 11/1/74

ATTEST:  
Gene Hunt  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 10.29.74

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Medlins Corner Tavern  
Union Township  
Hunterdon County 019 (Continuation Sheet)

STATE	New Jersey	
COUNTY	Hunterdon	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		NOV 1 1974

New Jersey 34  
(Number of Pages)

9. Bibliography (cont.)  
(pps. 431-2, 439, 442-3, and 498)

Deeds.

- Book A-1, p. 545 - State Library Archives.
- Book 1 , pp. 230, 299 - Hall of Records, Flemington
- Book 2 , p. 181 - Hall of Records, Flemington
- Book 7 , p. 286 - Hall of Records, Flemington
- Book 13 , p. 2 - Hall of Records, Flemington
- Book 16 , p. 451 - Hall of Records, Flemington
- Book 83 , p. 203 - Hall of Records, Flemington
- Book 226, p. 360 - Hall of Records, Flemington

Atlas of Hunterdon County, New Jersey. F.W. Beers. New York, 1873. W. Meckling of Union Township on map.

Map of Hunterdon County, New Jersey. Push and Dowling, Civil Engineers. Philadelphia, 1902. H. Meckling property noted.

