

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED **AUG 6 1979**  
DATE ENTERED **NOV 2 1979**

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC "Lansdown"

AND/OR COMMON Charles Stewart Plantation

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER *NE of Pittstown on SR 2*  
Hamden - Clinton Road (County Rt. 2)

CITY, TOWN *Pittstown via*

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE *Franklin Township*  
New Jersey

VICINITY OF  
CODE *13th*  
34

COUNTY CODE  
Hunterdon 019

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Mr. and Mrs. H.J. Bromm

STREET & NUMBER Hamden Road Box 163

CITY, TOWN RD Annandale VICINITY OF Clinton

STATE New Jersey 08801

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

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

STREET & NUMBER Main Street

CITY, TOWN Flemington

STATE New Jersey

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory (1179.5)

DATE 1977  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS New Jersey Office of Historic Preservation

CITY, TOWN Trenton

STATE New Jersey

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Lansdown is a large pre-Revolutionary farm estate along the South Branch of the Raritan River in Hunterdon County.

The house has 3 apparent sections. The main 2 1/2 story unit is probably 3rd quarter 18th century. Constructed of fieldstone, it has a four bay front facade with side hall. The roof is double-hipped with overhanging cornice. There are two rounded arch dormers at the front and rear facades. The large brick chimney is centrally located, a somewhat unusual feature in this region. The windows are mostly 6/6 sash. The doorway has sidelights and a transom, characteristic of the Greek Revival period, indicating 3rd quarter 19th century alterations. Simple brackets under the eaves are also probably of this date. The interior has a through side hall (34' x 9') with a fairly elegant Victorian landing stairway set against the exterior (east) wall. West of the hall are three rooms; a single room (18'6" x 28') at the front and two rooms at the rear (12' x 13' & 13'6" x 14'). The second floor has the full hall, two major rooms and several smaller apparently modern convenience rooms. The third floor presently has 3 bedrooms, bathroom, and storage facilities, but originally was unfinished.

Added to the east wall, the second unit was provided around 1860 and is a 2 story flat-roofed fieldstone section with raised basement. The unit is about 15 feet at the front and 35 feet on the east (2 bays by 2 bays) with exterior end wall chimneys. The flat roof has an overhanging cornice and simple brackets. The windows are all 6/6 sash with the exception of the frame bay window in the rear. There are two major rooms in each floor of this unit.

Off the east facade is a one story frame two car garage which has a fieldstone foundation. Added in the 1920's the foundation of this addition could be an original one extensively repointed.

It is difficult to establish firmly whether the main unit of Lansdown is 18th century or extensively rebuilt in the mid-19th century without a very detailed analysis of the building. As this would include opening up the finished attic it was not felt practical to demand this of the current owners. The basement was mostly finished also, but certain small sections were exposed showing hewn oak beams with mortise and tenon joints. It was not possible to determine whether the beams were consistent throughout the basement of the main unit, but the hewn oak beams visible do suggest that at least parts of the 18th century dwelling is extant.

Plantings and trees surrounding the main house are extensive, making adequate photographs of the building impossible in the growing seasons.

The property is bordered on the east by the Hamden-Clinton Road and the South Branch of the Raritan River. The southern limit is also defined by the river. The west boundary is the Lehigh Valley Railroad right-of-way.

About 40% of the nominated property, including the house, is within the flood hazard limit of the South Branch of the Raritan River as delineated in 1973.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Lansdown was the family estate of Charles Stewart, one of Hunterdon County's most prominent Revolutionary patriots and a member of the Second United States Continental Congress.

### Government/Military

Charles Stewart (1729-1800), born in Gortlea County, Donegal, Ireland, came to America in 1750 and was generally engaged in agrarian pursuits. Marrying the daughter of Judge Samuel Johnston, Stewart's father-in-law deeded part of his plantation to him around 1763. The main part of the house was probably built at this time.

During the American Revolution, Stewart was an active participant.

He was Lieutenant Colonel of the Hunterdon County militia in 1771, commissioned Colonel of a battalion of Minutemen on 1776 and appointed Commissary General of Issues by the Continental Congress in 1777 and remained as such until the war had ended. Later Stewart himself became a member of the Continental Congress (1784-1785).

Stewart died in Flemington in 1800 and is buried in the cemetery of the Old Stone Church of Bethlehem Township, Hunterdon County. His tombstone inscription was written by New Jersey Supreme Court Justice Isaac Smith. It reads, in part: "He was an Early and Decided Friend of the American Revolution and bore the Important Office of Commissary General of Issues".

Charles Stewart lived at Lansdown after 1763. While a resident here he was Commissary General of Issues (1777) and a member of the Continental Congress (1784-1785). Stewart moved to Flemington in 1796 deeding Lansdown to his daughter Martha and her husband John Wilson.

The Stewart heirs farmed the property until 1924. John and Martha Wilson owned the farmstead in the early 19th century. Sometime during the first quarter of the 19th century John Wilson gave equal shares of Lansdown to each of his six daughters.

Daughter Sarah and her husband Moses Hoyt, a sea captain, lived at Lansdown from the second quarter of the 19th century to the 1860's. When Moses died around 1862 the son, Charles Hoyt, appears to have managed the farm. Charles Hoyt lived at Lansdown his entire life and farmed the land into the early 20th century.

### Architecture

Lansdown is a representative example of a vernacular 18th century farmstead in Hunterdon County. Unusual regional features include the double-hipped roof and the central chimney which give an affectation of the Georgian style.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Biographical Directory of the American Congress 1774-1971  
 United States Government Printing Office, Washington C.C. 1971 (p. 1756)  
 Snell, James P. History of Hunterdon County, New Jersey.  
 Lequear, John W. Traditions of Hunterdon Flemington, New Jersey, 1957, (pp 99-103, 130-13)  
 Deats, Hiram E. "Life of Colonel Stewart" Hunterdon County Democrat May 26, 1932.  
 Schmidt, H., Rural Hunterdon

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

49+

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

QUADRANGLE NAME Pittstown

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,8 50,79,60 44,95 44,95 1,0,0

B 1,8 50,80,00 44,95 44,95 0,0,0

C 1,8 50,79,60 44,95 44,95 1,0,0

D 1,8 50,81,80 44,95 44,95 0,0,0

E 1,8 50,81,00 44,95 44,95 1,0,0

F 1,8 50,17,60 44,95 44,95 8,0,0

G 1,8 50,76,50 44,95 44,95 0,6,0

H \_\_\_\_\_

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## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Block 13, Lot 5 - Franklin Township Tax Map

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

C.F. Brasch (revisions by T. Karschner, Office of Historic Preservation)

ORGANIZATION

Hunterdon County Cultural and Heritage Commission

DATE

7/23/1977

STREET & NUMBER

Box 238 A RD 1

TELEPHONE

735-4605

CITY OR TOWN

Pittstown

STATE

New Jersey

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

Deputy STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Betty Wilson*

7-21-79

TITLE Deputy Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

11-2-79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

Nov 14, 1979

ATTEST: *Lynn A. Baker*  
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION