

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: **New Jersey**
 COUNTY: **Mercer**
 FOR NPS USE ONLY
 ENTRY DATE: **DEC 31 1974**

1. NAME

COMMON: **Harbourton Historic District**
 AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: **Junction of Harbourton/Rocktown & Harbourton/Mt. Airy Roads**
 CITY OR TOWN: **Harbourton (Hopewell Township)** CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: **thirteenth**
 STATE: **New Jersey** CODE: **34** COUNTY: **Mercer** CODE: **021**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: **various owners**
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:



5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: **Mercer County Court House (see continuation sheet)**
 STREET AND NUMBER: **South Broad Street**
 CITY OR TOWN: **Trenton** STATE: **N.J.** CODE: **34**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: **Mercer County Architectural Survey**
 DATE OF SURVEY: **1971** Federal State County Local
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: **Mercer County Cultural and Heritage Commission**
 STREET AND NUMBER: **640 South Broad Street**
 CITY OR TOWN: **Trenton** STATE: **N.J.** CODE: **08607** CODE: **34**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **New Jersey**
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

 Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

 Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

 Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Harbourton is a tiny, largely unchanged, "cross-roads" village, consisting of a former general store, a church, a former inn and two residences. The district begins at a point approximately 250 feet northeast of the junction of the Harbourton/Rocktown and Harbourton/Mt. Airy Roads and extends approximately 600 feet to the southwest of that junction. It embraces properties with a depth of approximately 300 feet along the northwest side of the Harbourton/Rocktown Road and 100 feet along the southeast side. The buildings included within the district range in date from the third quarter of the eighteenth century to the mid-nineteenth century. They include:

1) The Harbourton Store. Now a residence, this served as a country store from 1768-1962. From the Civil War to the late 1950's, it also contained a Post Office facility. Many of the store ledgers and postal records are still preserved in the possession of the current owners.

The building was constructed in three phases, the oldest part being the stone section at the intersection of the two roads. It is dated 1768 by a datestone in the west gable. One-and-a-half stories high, its walls are constructed of rubble fieldstone. There is a central door in the facade, flanked by windows in which Victorian sash have been inserted. There are three irregularly placed segmentally-arched openings in the west gable. The original door in this wall leads to the cellar, evidently the original kitchen, for its most striking feature is an enormous in-wall fireplace, of stone with oak lintel. Corbelled masonry at the left end of this construction once supported a corner fireplace in the room above. The fireplace itself has been removed. Above the single room on the ground floor is an attic with heavy hand-hewn rafters. Here it can be observed that the wood shingle roof remains in place beneath the modern roofing.

Behind this one-room house is a shed kitchen constructed of clapboard with clay and straw infilled walls. In the west end is a huge cooking fireplace of stone, bearing traces of a spherical stone oven, which once extended as a beehive beyond the exterior wall. The beams of the ceiling, now exposed, are hung from the rafters in an unusual construction method.

Sometime after construction of the store, probably in the last quarter of the eighteenth century, on the basis of construction methods, a modest two-bay wooden house was built approximately 25 feet northeast of the store along the

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

(cont.)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE	New Jersey	
COUNTY	Mercer	
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ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		DEC 31 1974

Harborton Hist. Dist.
Hopewell
Mercer County 021, N.J. (Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

7. Physical appearance (cont. p. 2)

same facade line. Entered by a door on the left side of its facade, the two-room plan has a center chimney with two fireplaces. The remainder of the partition wall created by the chimney is occupied by a narrow stair at the front of the house. This house type, usually associated with New England, is unusual in Central Jersey.

The third phase of construction, datable on the basis of detailing between 1790 and 1825, plugged the gap between the two earlier structures with what is basically a two-bay side-hall house with double parlors. The two room are serviced by back-to-back corner fireplaces. Paneling around these and a paneled corner cupboard remain in place. The simple open-string stair leads to an upper hall sheathed with vertical beaded boarding, on which traces of the original paint remain.

2) Van Dyke House . Across the Harbourton/Rocktown Road from the former store, this simple five-bay central hall house of the late eighteenth century was originally an inn or tavern. Simple detailing, including Federal-style carpentry fireplaces and four-unit paneled doors flanking the back kitchen fireplace, show the concern for basic design and straightforward craftsmanship. Original six-over-six sash remains in the second floor windows, while the nine-over -six of the first floor, replaced by Victorian sash, has been relegated to the east side of the large white barn on the property.

3) Brewer House. Although this is the most altered of the buildings in Harbourton, it still retains its basic configuration as a five-bay, one-room deep late-eighteenth to early-nineteenth century Federal house. Some original woodwork still remains in the two first floor living rooms, one of which retains vernacular Federal detailing around the fireplace. Inspection of the rafters of the rear wing reveals that the second floor and roof, at least, are of later date than the rest of the house, although the first floor of this section, with its large fireplace, may be contemporaneous with the front section.

In any event, the house plays a vital spatial role at this T corner. In scale with the other buildings in the community, it, like the store building, locks in the configuration of the T-shape town plan. Without it, Harbourton would be open and exposed, rather than a self-contained settlement.

4) Community Church. The present Carpenter Gothic structure replaced an earlier church, a feature of Harbourton since at least the 1830s. A straightforward rectangle, without spire or cupola, it is equally straightforward in construction and de-

(cont.)

Harbourton Hist. **NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**
Dist. **INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**
Mercer County 021
New Jersey 34

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	New Jersey	
COUNTY	Mercer	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
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(Number all entries)

7. Physical appearance (cont. p. 3)
tailing. The chief ornaments of the facade are an oculus in the gable and a pointed-arched door and flanking windows with sturdy moldings. A small modern storm vestibule has been placed before the door. The windows are repeated along the sides of the building. Inside, the original sturdy pews remain and original kerosene lamps in metal bucket sconces are attached to the walls.

5) Errickson House. About 1/10 of a mile southwest of the junction of the two roads, set back some 150 feet, is a masonry bank house of three sections. On the front part of its property, a small twentieth-century bungalow, the only intrusion of a later date in the district, has been built. However it is small, low in scale, and somewhat hidden by a grove of trees. The original section of the house is now the right-hand section of the center block. In plan and construction, it is similar to the 1768 section of the Harbourton store. The first floor consists of one large room with a fireplace occupying almost the entire side wall, with indications of a corner fireplace above. Behind it, a basement passage holds the massive support for a second corner fireplace. The facade of this, and the adjoining section, exhibit, as does the store, a high water table, segmental arches over the lower openings, and unusually large, roughly shaped stones giving the effect of quoins at the corners. The small shed porch is, of course, a modern addition. Interior construction in the oldest portion of the house consists of heavy chamfered oak beams and interior walls of clay mixed with straw. The construction of the left-hand section, two rooms over two with corner fireplaces, is somewhat lighter.

A small, square stone springhouse with shingled roof still functions along a little stream in front of the Errickson House, between it and the twentieth-century bungalow.

5. Location of Surveys

New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory 1516.4 1972
Department of Environmental Protection
Historic Sites Office
Trenton, New Jersey 34



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

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 checked="" 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

The Harbourton Historic District is a remarkably intact surviving example of the "crossroads" towns that once served central New Jersey's agricultural communities. Typically these towns consisted of store, church, tavern and perhaps school. Although the buildings in Harbourton have, with the exception of the church, ceased to serve their original functions, they preserve the compact grouping of such a settlement, isolated from, and yet in close contact with the surrounding fields and farms.

The buildings themselves are typical, if not outstanding examples, of the vernacular traditions of the area in the last half of the eighteenth century and the first half of the nineteenth. In themselves, each is evocative of the forms of early rural life in New Jersey. Together, in their human scale and close spatial relationships, they present an easily read picture of the pace and style of life in a small rural community of an earlier era.

The security of this town depends upon the retention of this intimate human scale, as defined by such factors as the narrow roads, the small sizes of the buildings and their proximity one to another.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Beck, Henry Charlton, The Jersey Midlands. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1962, pp 118-122

Gordon, Thomas F. Gazetteer of the State of New Jersey. Trenton: Daniel Fenton, 1834, p. 157.

Map of Mercer County. Camden: 1849. Archives and History Bureau, New Jersey State Library.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

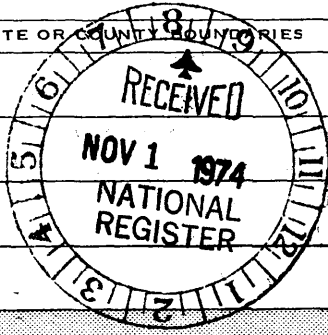
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	40° 21' 06"	74° 51' 18"				
NE	40° 21' 13"	74° 51' 09"				
SE	40° 21' 08"	74° 51' 06"				
SW	40° 21' 04"	74° 51' 14"				

18/512 460
4466 640
CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 7 acres

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: Channing Blake, architectural historian and Constance M. Greiff, director

ORGANIZATION: Heritage Studies DATE: Aug. 8, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: 17 Clover Lane

CITY OR TOWN: Princeton STATE: N. J. 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
Title Commissioner, Dept. of Environmental Protection
Date October 25, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

A. B. Worland
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date DEC 31 1974

ATTEST: Deirdre Emery
DEC 31 1974
Keeper of The National Register

Date _____