

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

| | |
|----------------------|------|
| STATE: New Jersey | |
| COUNTY: Union | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |

1. NAME

COMMON:
Elias Boudinot House - Boxwood Hall

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Boxwood Hall

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
1073 East Jersey, near Catherine Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Elizabeth

| | | | |
|---------------------|------|------------------|------|
| STATE New Jersey | CODE | COUNTY: Union | CODE |
|---------------------|------|------------------|------|

3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY (Check One) | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Private Residence | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educational | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious | _____ | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | _____ | _____ |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Mr. Richard J. Sullivan, Commissioner, State of New Jersey,
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

STREET AND NUMBER:
P. O. Box 1390 Labor and Industry Building, John Fitch Plaza

| | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|------|
| CITY OR TOWN: Trenton 08625 | STATE: New Jersey | CODE |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|------|

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Broad Street

| | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|------|
| CITY OR TOWN: Elizabeth | STATE: New Jersey | CODE |
|----------------------------|----------------------|------|

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey NJ 476 (35 sheets and 9 photos)

DATE OF SURVEY: 1938, 1942 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Division of Prints and Photographs, Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|------|
| CITY OR TOWN: Washington | STATE: DC | CODE |
|-----------------------------|--------------|------|

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|---|--|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| CONDITION | (Check One) | | | | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed |
| | (Check One) | | | (Check One) | | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered | <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered | <input type="checkbox"/> Moved | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built about 1750, "Boxwood Hall" is a two-story frame structure with gable roof and a chimney at either end. The house is about 55 feet wide and 35 feet deep. The frame walls are filled with brick and covered on the exterior by shingles. Five bays wide, a center hall extends through the dwelling from front to rear and divides the four rooms on the first floor into pairs. To the right of hall are a drawing room and library and to the left a sitting room and dining room. These rooms have elaborate cornices and dadoed walls; fireplace walls are panelled and the fireplaces are adorned with pilasters and ornate mantels. The center hall plan is repeated on the second floor where three of the four bedrooms have panelled fireplace walls.

Early lateral wings were demolished in 1870. The existing gable roof and window sash were reconstructed in 1942-43, when other 1870 additions to the house were also removed. The frame, interior panelling, and floors are original. Boxwood Hall is open to visitors as an historic house museum.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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 type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1772-1795

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" 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 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 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 Boxwood Hall was the home, from 1772-to 1795, of Elias Boudinot, commissary-general of prisoners for the American Government and President of the Continental Congress, 1782-83. Although two original lateral wings of his house have been demolished and the existing gable roof has been reconstructed, the main two-story house, including its interior woodwork, is lately original.

HISTORY

Elias Boudinot, IV, was born in Philadelphia in 1740. In 1762 he married Hannah Stockton, the sister of Richard Stockton of Princeton, later a Signer of the Declaration of Independence. Licensed counselor and attorney-at-law, 1760, sergeant-at-law, 1770, he became a leader in his profession, and a trustee of Princeton (1772-1821). Two fellowships founded by him are extant there. He took up residence in Elizabeth, New Jersey, and commuted to Newark where he had offices and practiced law. Boudinot, of French Huguenot descent, was tall, handsome, elegant, eloquent, and emotional.

Supporting gentry rule, legal government, and property rights, Boudinot was a conservative Whig in politics but followed the liberal trend of his colony and his connections, and entered on revolution chiefly by opposing Governor William Franklin of New Jersey. In June 1774, Boudinot became a member of the Committee of Correspondence for Essex County, N.J., but felt a "firm dependence in the mother country essential." In March 1775, with William Livingston, he hurried the New Jersey assembly into approving the proceedings of the first Continental Congress and was a member of the New Jersey Provincial Congress in the 1775 and 1776. On June 6, 1777, by commission dated May 15, Congress appointed Boudinot commissary-general of prisoners, with the pay and rations of colonel, five deputies, and full power even to altering the directions of the Board of War. He organized the care of the American prisoners despite great difficulties, and put in \$30,000 of his own money to do it. He recovered most of it from the Continental Congress despite New England opposition.

In November 1777, he was elected delegate to Congress, but did not attend it until July 1778, and then only on Washington's insistence that it was his only chance to be reimbursed in "hard money," i.e., out of the gold captured from Burgoyne. Boudinot served in the Continental Congress until 1784; he was elected its president on November 4, 1782, acting also as secretary of foreign affairs from June 16, 1783, he served on over 30 committees and usually as chairman, while his social grace and legal acumen were invaluable in dealing with representatives of other countries.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

New Jersey, A Guide to Its Past and Present (American Guide Series)
(New York, 1939), 246

Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. II, 477-478.
L.R. Field, Historic Sketch on "Boxwood Hall" (Elizabeth Sesqui-centennial Committee, 1926).

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 ° 39 ' 49 " | 74 ° 12 ' 37 " | |
| NE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |
| SE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |
| SW | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 4/10 acre

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

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|--------|------|---------|------|
| | | | |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| | | | |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| | | | |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| | | | |

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Charles W. Snell, Survey Historian

ORGANIZATION Division of History, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service DATE 4/4/72

STREET AND NUMBER:
801 - 19th Street, N. W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE DC CODE _____

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Title _____</p> <p>Date _____</p> | <p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____ <i>Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</i></p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST: _____</p> <p>_____ <i>Keeper of The National Register</i></p> <p>Date _____</p> |
|--|---|

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

COUNTY Union

"Boxwood Hall," INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

Elias Boudinot House

(Continuation Sheet)

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

(Number all entries)

8. Significance: (Continued) (1)

He signed the treaties of peace with Great Britain and of alliance with the French king, the proclamations for cessation of hostilities, thanksgiving, discharging the army, and removing the Congress to Princeton, N.J., and presided at that session (June-November, 1783) in Nassau Hall when Washington was thanked for his services "in establishing the freedom and independence of your country."

As a strong Federalist, Boudinot helped ratify the Federal Constitution in New Jersey and conducted Washington into New York City for the first inauguration. Elected to the House of Representatives in the first, second, and third Congresses, he fathered many essential measures and took part in practically all important debates. In 1795 he succeeded David Rittenhouse as director of the United States Mint at Philadelphia. Selling his house in Elizabeth in 1795, he moved to Burlington, New Jersey. He resigned as director of the U.S. Mint on July 1, 1805, and retired to his home at Burlington, N.J. to study the Bible. He wrote and published four religious works in the period 1801-1816. He died at Burlington on October 24, 1821. He was buried in the churchyard of the First Presbyterian Church on Broad Street, at Elizabeth.

HISTORY OF BOXWOOD HALL

1924

Built about 1750, Elias Boudinot purchased "Boxwood Hall" from Samuel Woodruff in 1772. Boudinot resided here until 1795, when he sold his dwelling to General Jonathan Dayton, a Signer of the Federal Constitution. Dayton resided in Boxwood Hall until his death in 1825. In 1870, William C. DeHart demolished two original lateral wings, added a rear service wing, removed the gable roof, and superimposed two additional stories and a mansard roof over the two original stories of the main house. The structure was used for many years as a boarding house. It was operated until 1939 as The Home for Aged Women of Elizabeth.

In the late 1930s the Boxwood Hall Memorial Association was formed by interested citizens to prevent the building from being demolished. They raised funds by popular subscription, purchased the property, and deeded it to the State of New Jersey. Boxwood Hall was restored in 1942-43 through a WPA project and opened to the public in the latter year as a historic house museum.

501