

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

JAN 11 1977

DATE ENTERED

SEP 13 1977

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

## NAME

\* HISTORIC

Morris Mansion and Mill

AND/OR COMMON

## LOCATION

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Hanover Street

\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Pemberton

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6th

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

New Jersey

CODE

34

COUNTY

Burlington

CODE

005

## CLASSIFICATION

## CATEGORY

 DISTRICT BUILDING(S) STRUCTURE SITE OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

 PUBLIC PRIVATE BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

 IN PROCESS BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

 OCCUPIED UNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

 YES: RESTRICTED YES: UNRESTRICTED NO

## PRESENT USE

 AGRICULTURE MUSEUM COMMERCIAL PARK EDUCATIONAL PRIVATE RESIDENCE ENTERTAINMENT RELIGIOUS GOVERNMENT SCIENTIFIC INDUSTRIAL TRANSPORTATION MILITARY OTHER:

## OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. Helen E. Prescott

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Box 696

CITY, TOWN

Wrightstown

STATE

New Jersey

\_\_ VICINITY OF

## LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the Clerk of Burlington County

STREET &amp; NUMBER

49 Rancocas Road

CITY, TOWN

Mount Holly

STATE

New Jersey

## REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory 2399.2

DATE

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Historic Sites Section

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 type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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

The mansion and mill are both on the north bank of Rancocos Creek but they are situated opposite sides of what was once a "U" shaped bend in the stream. The mill is on low ground southeast of the bend and the mansion is on high-terraced ground northwest of the bend. Since the complex was built, the creek shifted to the north, leaving the old stream bed a low lying bog. The 2 1/2 story mansion faces south. It has a central hall plan with an open stair at the north end. There are double parlors either side, and a 1 1/2 story, mansard kitchen wing out back. The house is of 4 bays with the following condition. The hall occupies one bay in the center of the house. The east parlors occupy one large bay and the west parlors occupy 2 smaller bays. The east parlors once constituted a 1 1/2 story house on their own. This is suggested by the following. Their walls are masonry where as the walls of the floor above, and the rest of the house, are frame. Secondly, they have 4 windows and an entrance door on the east side of the house. The door is in the center forming the 5 bay facade of a 2 room house. The frame second floor of the east facade does not follow this fenestration arrangement. It is probable that the second floor of this part of the house was built at the same time as the major western portion of the house. At this time the facade orientation obviously shifted from the east to the south, so it was probably not considered necessary to conform to the eastern fenestration pattern. Between the western parlors is a pair of fireplaces back with marble mantled in the Rococo Revival style. The front east parlor has a nich which once contained a stove. There are several fireplaces on the second floor some of which fed into a chimney, on the eastern side of the house, which has since been removed. The third floor has a full garet story with 3 federal shallow arch dormers facing south. There is also a fanlight lunet in the eastern gable.

The entrance facade has a 3 bay tuscan porch, which post dates the construction of the main part of the house. The hall is entered through a typical Greek Revival portal with transom and side lights. There is a side porch enclosing the fanlight eastern entrance door.

The exterior is stuccoed over on 3 sides with coarsing to resemble cut stone. The west facade is clapboard.

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The interiors are worthy of note. The 2 west parlors are connected by a pair of arches which occur either side of the back to back fireplace block. Most of the windows and doors have heavy molding except the front east parlor which has lighter moldings with corner blocks and bulls eyes.

The mill structure is 2 1/2 stories, and 3 sections. It consists of 6 framing bents, with massive 14" by 14" posts and 14" by 22" girders. All the timber is vertically sawn and fastened. The two end sections each have a water turbine. Water originally flowed through large brick arches; these have been covered by fill.

Much equipment appears to remain in the two turbine spaces. Little original equipment remains on the upper floors. However the structure remains intact. The white cedar weatherboards nailed with cut nails have been covered over with asphalt siding. The original planed, tapersplit roof shingles have twelve inch exposures and still remain as the underlaying roof surface. The second floor loading door is on strap hinges. The original windows are 12 over 12 sash; the front windows have been replaced with six over six sash. There are three dormers across the front. The front entrance has been added in recent years. The mill is probably from the first quarter of the 19th Century. Mills had been on this site as early as 1752. Possibly parts of the foundations are from an earlier mill. This mill is well built and is still in very good structural condition.

Along the water side of the mill are the remains of a stone raceway. The only known remains of a one time forge on the property, is the considerable bog iron in the swamp.

A map of the property is attached,

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

## Industry:

The Morris Mansion and Mill constitute the visable remains of an 18th Century industrial complex. It is one of a number of similar enterprises which sprang up along Rancocos Creek, in the 18th and early 19th Centuries. It is therefore an integral part of the development of New Jersey as one of the first states to industrialize.

## Military:

The complex was a major concern of two individuals. (Thomas Reynolds and General John Lacey) whose respective roles in the American Revolution are worthy of considerable note.

## Architecture:

The mansion is a large and imposing, though undistinguished, example of that period in New Jersey architecture when Greek Revival details were beginning to be infused into the Federal House form.

Thomas Budd owned a large share of property in West Jersey. He arrived in Burlington in 1668. His brothers followed from London 10 years later. The best known of the early Budds is Thomas who was active in local politics. He and one of his brothers (William), bought land in a town called Hampton Hanover. In 1752 David Budd, grandson of William, conveyed to Robert Smith, Daniel Smith, and Patrick Reynolds each one quarter interest in the land sufficient for the erection of a mill. Patrick Reynolds and his 3 associates operated the mill calling themselves "The Company". The name of the town was then changed to New Mills. Their mill complex consisted of a grist mill, saw mill, and forge.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Thomas Reynolds Personal Papers, Bureau of Archives & History  
 Boyer, Charles S. Early Forges and Furnaces in New Jersey, University  
 Press, Philadelphia, 1903.  
 Smith, Samuel The History of the Colony of New Jersey, James Parker,  
 Burlington, New Jersey, 1965.  
 Atkinson, H. Dorothy, Some Highlights of Burlington County History,  
 Moorestown Chapter, D. A. R., 1941.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	8	5	6	2	9	4	0	4	4	2	4	3	6	0
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

B 

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Address

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

New Jersey Historic Sites Staff

April, 1976

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

Box 1420

TELEPHONE

609 292 2024

CITY OR TOWN

Trenton

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*David J. B...*

TITLE

Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

DATE

Apr. 7 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

*William J. ...*

DATE

9/13/77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

*Charles ...*

DATE

8-2-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Much of the property was acquired by Thomas Reynolds, son of Patrick Reynolds prior to the Revolution. Reynolds was offered a Colonel's appointment in the Continental Army. On December 26, 1776 he was arrested, taken from the house, and imprisoned on a British ship in New York Harbor. He was later exchanged for a British Officer. One of his daughters, Anastasia, married General John Lacey. Lacey was a former Bucks County (Pennsylvania) Quaker who was disowned by his meeting for Revolutionary activities. During the Revolution, he was a general in the Pennsylvania Militia. He achieved distinction at the Battle of Crooked Billet. Lacey owned and operated a forge on the property, the house and mill themselves were owned by his wife. In 1810 the entire property passed to their son Thomas Reynolds Lacey. During the following years the property passed through a succession of owners. It was at last purchased, in 1864, by Anthony S. Morris whose family owns it to the present day.