

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET
FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED NOV 17 1976
DATE ENTERED SEP 16 1977

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

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

The Hutchings Homestead

AND/OR COMMON

The Cannon Ball House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

126 Morris Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Springfield

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

12th

VICINITY OF

STATE

New Jersey

CODE

034

COUNTY

Union

CODE

039

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

The Springfield Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER

126 Morris Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Springfield

VICINITY OF

STATE

New Jersey

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Essex County Surrogate's Vault

STREET & NUMBER

Springfield Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Newark

STATE

New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE HABS NJ-6-190

New Jersey Sites Inventory 2910.1

DATE

1935

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

Historic Sites Section Dept. of Environmental Protection

CITY, TOWN

Washington D.C.

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 | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Cannon Ball House was built as early as 1741.

The structure itself appears to be an example of early Georgian architecture. It is a two-story house, two rooms in depth of a type common in that era. The original building had two chimneys and a hole in the west wall that was pierced by a cannon ball during the Battle of Springfield in June 1780. The plan of the house is a typical two-deep plan with wide central halls and direct access to all rooms.

The structure has been restored to the original position, but it is not on its original foundation.

The walls are made of wooden shingles, brick plaster of cow's hair and clay handmade wooden lathes. The front, westside and part of the rear of the house still have the original clapboards.

None of the windows are original except two, one at the stair landing and one at the west side attic. The rest have been restored to their original appearance of 6 over 6. The original front door is now in the back of the house where the kitchen addition, built in 1921 currently stands.

The east chimney is original. The chimney at the western side collapsed in 1921 when the house was raised to make a cellar. A single chimney was added in the rear to connect the modern furnace.

Most of the floors in the house are original, with many of the floorboards nearly 12 inches wide and secured with handmade nails throughout.

The fireplace were closed up when the house was raised. The one on the first floor now has a closet in back of it. The fireplace in a room in the southeast corner of the first floor was moved from its cross corner location to the center of the east wall. The fireplace on the second floor also has two closets in back of it.

The house has undergone extensive interior restoration during the last 6 years to restore the house to its original appearance.

The barns in the rear of the house were built around 1905.

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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER |
| <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES

circa 1741

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Cannon Ball house built about 1741, was one of only four houses to survive the Battle of Springfield on June 23, 1780.

In the spring of 1780, the British, felt they had to break up the American momentum by capturing the military arsenal at Morristown and trapping Washington's army in their Jockey Hollow Encampment.

The Hessian General, Baron Von Knyphausen, crossed over to New Jersey with his men on June 6, 1780. After arriving in Elizabethtown, they marched to the village of Connecticut Farms now known as Union. Their main objective was to reach Springfield but they were unable to do so, instead they burned the village of Connecticut Farms and retreated to Elizabethtown.

On June 23, Knyphausen left Elizabethtown again to proceed to Springfield with approximately 3000 men. He then divided the forces into two units and advanced to the Rahway River Bridge, 1/4 mile from the town of Springfield. They were then met by approximately 1,500 American soldiers under the command of General Nathaniel Greene and Major General Henry Lee.

After several hours of battle, the British gained possession of a hill on the west side of the Rahway River. General Greene ordered a retreat of the colonial force. They positioned themselves on the Short Hill, some distance away from the town. Knyphausen decided that the American position was in place too difficult to attack and decided to retreat to Elizabethtown, rather than lose more men attempting to take the hill. As they retreated, Knyphausen gave the order to burn the town.

Tradition has it that the reason the Cannon Ball House was spared was because it was probably used as an emergency hospital for the wounded. Thomas Fielding in his book The Forgotten Victory, states, "only four houses, belonging to known British sympathizers were spared - evidence that the New Jersey loyalists were in charge of the burning." The later would seem to be the best answer as there is no evidence to support the former.

The only damage incurred by the house, which is the reason

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. League of Woman Voters, Springfield, Springfield, 1955 pp 6-8
2. Guttman, Howard M, "The Battle of Springfield", The Crossroads Vol, X #9, Newark, 1973.
3. The Battle of Sprinfield, Springfield 1955.
(Commemorative Booklet)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/2 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A

| | |
|------|---|
| 1 | 8 |
| ZONE | |

| | | | | | |
|---------|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 5 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 0 |
| EASTING | | | | | |

| | | | | | | |
|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 5 | 0 | 6 | 6 | 1 | 0 |
| NORTHING | | | | | | |

B

| | |
|------|--|
| | |
| ZONE | |

| | | | |
|---------|--|--|--|
| | | | |
| EASTING | | | |

| | | | |
|----------|--|--|--|
| | | | |
| NORTHING | | | |

D

| | |
|------|--|
| | |
| ZONE | |

| | | | |
|---------|--|--|--|
| | | | |
| EASTING | | | |

| | | | |
|----------|--|--|--|
| | | | |
| NORTHING | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Nanci Kostrub - Historic Sites Section

ORGANIZATION

Department of Environmental Protection

DATE

(609) 292-2023

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 1420

TELEPHONE

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

TITLE

Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

DATE

February 2, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

9/16/77

DATE

9-15-75

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| RECEIVED | NOV 17 1976 |
| DATE ENTERED | SEP 16 1977 |

Cannonball House
Springfield Twp.

Union County New Jersey 034

CONTINUATION SHEET

#1

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE

for its historic name, is when a cannon ball pierced its western wall. Ironically, the Americans were probably the ones to fire the volley since they were defending the town from that direction as the British were moving west.

The house is maintained as a museum to house local artifacts, including the cannon ball that pierced the house in 1780.

The Cannonball House derives its significance from two sources. First, because it is one of only four buildings to survive the Battle of Springfield which resulted in the burning of the rest of the town. Secondly, its use today as a historic house museum to both house local artifacts and interpret the Battle serves to help keep the citizens of the town aware of their local history and awaken an interest in historic preservation.