UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

IATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS **TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS** NAME HISTORIC The Edward Sharp House AND/OR COMMON **2 LOCATION** STREET & NUMBER 200 Cooper Street NOT FOR PUBLICATION CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT CITY, TOWN Camden VICINITY OF lst STATE COUNTY CODE CODE Camden 007 New Jersev 034 CLASSIFICATION CATEGORY OWNERSHIP STATUS **PRESENT USE** DISTRICT PUBLIC ___AGRICULTURE ___MUSEUM X BUILDING(S) X. PRIVATE __UNOCCUPIED ___COMMERCIAL _PARK ___STRUCTURE _вотн ----WORK IN PROGRESS XPRIVATE RESIDENCE ___EDUCATIONAL __SITE PUBLIC ACQUISITION ACCESSIBLE -ENTERTAINMENT ____RELIGIOUS X_YES: RESTRICTED ___OBJECT ___IN PROCESS ___GOVERNMENT ___SCIENTIFIC ___BEING CONSIDERED -YES: UNRESTRICTED __INDUSTRIAL __TRANSPORTATION NO ___MILITARY __OTHER: **OWNER OF PROPERTY** NAME C. Philip Murray, Jr. STREET & NUMBER 200 Cooper Street CITY, TOWN STATE Camden VICINITY OF New Jersey LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION COURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Camden County Courthouse STREET & NUMBER Federal and Market Streets CITY, TOWN STATE Camden 08101 New Jersev **6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS** TITLE Camden County Inventory of Historic Sites DATE ---FEDERAL ---STATE ----COUNTY ---LOCAL 1977, 1978 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Gail Greenberg, Historian, Room 406 Courthouse CITY, TOWN STATE

Camden New Jersey

7' DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE	
XEXCELLENT GOOD FAIR	DETERIORATED RUINS UNEXPOSED	UNALTERED	<u>X</u> ORIGINAL MOVED	SITE DATE

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Edward Sharp House, built between 1810-1812, is also known as "The Pebbledash House" because of the rough finish of the 2 1/2 story structure built of rubble stone. It was described in a local newspaper advertisement, 1825, as a "superb mansion in Camden."

When it was advertised for sale by the sheriff in the summer of 1821, it was described:

"The main building in 32' on Cooper Street and 44' on Queen Street, with well finished back building, 18' in width by 36' in length making the whole depth of the buildings 80' on Queen Street. The whole contains 13 rooms and 2 kitchens..."

The late Federal-style structure, was built by Gideon V. Stivers who was said to have been inspired by Asher Benjamin's 1806 <u>American</u> <u>builder's</u> <u>Companion</u>.

The original lot measured 40' x 180'. It was listed as lot #42 in Jacob Cooper's Plot of the "Town of Camden, in the Township of Newton, in the County of Gloucester, in the State of New Jersey" as land out by Cooper in 1773.

The house has two original entries, one on Second (originally Queen) Street. The main entry on Cooper Street, which is the front facade, has a wood arched doorway with fanlight window over the door in the Federal manner. There are round hooded dormers on the roof.

The front facade, 32' wide, shows a balanced pattern of windows and door as does the Second Street facade also with an arched doorway. The lock and key here are original. When the property was purchased by Dr. Samuel Harris in 1825, at a sheriff's sale, the rear extension was probably added and used for his medical office, until his death in 1844. Architectural evidence appears to bear this out as a rear wall parallel to the original structure, curves back to meet the original structure in such a manner so as to prevent blockage of the windows. This, and a kitchen built in 1954, are the only structural alterations to the original structure. Central heating, electricity and plumbing were installed 1950-1952. The floor and wall boards placed in the kitchen were said to have been removed from another Stivers-built house in Salem, by prior owners, Mrs. & Mrs. Weiderspohn.

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8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AF	EAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1600-1699	X_ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
¥_1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY INVENTION	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	X_OTHER (SPECIFY) medicine
SPECIFIC DAT	ES c. 1810-12	BUILDER/ARCH	HITECT Gideon V. Stiv	ers

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecture "The Edward Sharp House" at 200 Cooper Street has much significance architecturally and historically. It is a fine example of a late Federal house in Camden County and the only extant building of this period in Camden City. It's fine Federal interior is intact with few alterations and minimal removal of original fittings.

Gideon V. Stivers, architect and builder of the house, was a highly respected Camden master carpenter and bridge-builder. Born in Belleville, New Jersey, 1786, he was probably the son of Gideon Van Winkle Stuyvers. He arrived in Camden in 1810, and opened a shop on the southeast corner of Fourth and Market Streets. The area became known as "Shingle-Shaving Hill" because of a duck pond into which shingle shavings were thrown. In addition to the Sharp House, Stivers also is credited with being architect-builder of Camden City's first City Hall located on Federal Street (1828-29); St. Paul's Episcopal Church on Market Street (1833-34) which is still in existence and is unchanged except for an addition and new exterior walls; a covered wooden truss bridge, without a draw, over the Cooper Creek (1833). Other structures attributed to him as the builder are a bridge at the Falls of the Schuylkill and an early span across the Delaware River between New Hope, Penn. and Lambertville, N.J. From 1830-37, Stivers served as mayor of the City of Camden and he was also a vestryman at St. Paul's Church.

Politics Edward Sharp, for whom the house is named, was a major agitator for the building of a bridge across the Delaware River to Windmill Island. A ferry would then take travelers to the Philadelphia termini. Sharp purchased 98 acres from Joshua Cooper in 1803, and laid out Bridge Avenue (only a few streets from his house), a broad street through the center of the land which he sub-divided and called "Camden Village". In 1820, Sharp petitioned the State Legislature for authority to build a bridge across the Delaware. The eastern terminus was to be at the foot of Bridge Avenue. The bill authorizing construction was passed but the span was never built. In 1819, the country experienced an economic depression. Sharp's business associates in the Pennsylvania and New Jersey Communication Company which was formed included Charles Penrose, Pierce Butler Waln, Edward Pennington and Andrew Beyara of

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGR	APHICAL REFE	RENCES		
Boyer, Charles S. <u>Ar</u> Boyer, Charles S. <u>Ra</u> Camden, N.J. 1967, Boyer, Charles S. <u>Sp</u> <u>Genealogical Magazine</u> Heston, Alfred. <u>Sout</u>	ambles Through Old ed by J.D.F. Morga pan of a Century. e of New Jersey (V.	Highways &n). 3-4, 1927-2	Byways of West Jer 9). N.Y. Lewis Hi	<u>sey</u> (C.C.H.S., st. Pub. Co. 1924.
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LIST ALL STATES AND	COUNTIES FOR PROPERT	IES OVERLAPPI	NG STATE OR COUNTY BO	DUNDARIES
STATE	CODE	COUNTY		CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED NAME / TITLE Gail Greenberg Hist ORGANIZATION	BY corian for Camden C	ounty	DATE	
Camden County Cultura	1 and Heritage Com	mission	March 12,	1979
STREET & NUMBER Room 406, Courthouse			TELEPHONE (609) 757-8	191
CITY OR TOWN		······	STATE	
Camden			New Jersey	
12 STATE HISTORIC				ON
	UATED SIGNIFICANCE OF		LOCAL XX	
NATIONAL	STAT	E		
As the designated State Historic P hereby nominate this property for criteria and procedures det forth by Deputy STATE HISTORIC PRESERVE THEMOS	inclusion in the National R the National Park Service.		fy that it has been evaluat	
TITLE D.			DATE	
Deputy Commissio	ner, Dept. of Envi	<u>ronmental P</u>	rotection	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS	PROPERTY IS INCLUDED	IN THE NATION		
IN Sally &	4 Odhi		DATE 😕	29/80
ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL	REGISTER		DATE 2	2280
CHIEF OF RECISTRATION.				

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DESCRIPTION

The house contains 13 rooms and 10 fireplaces including a kitchen fireplace in the basement. The fireplace surrounds and mantels vary in detail and material. The first and second parlors have marble chimney pieces (original); the unusual connecting door is of tiger-strip maple and mahogany. The second parlor chimney piece is of dark marble.

The amply proportioned rooms have late Federal woodwork also inspired by Asher Benjamin's design books.

All interior walls to the second floor are stone and plaster 18" - 22" thick. The floors are of Jersey hard pine. There is a lunette window at the foot of a small but graceful curving stairway, on the third floor. Interior fixed louvers at the end of the front hall are original. The back door louvers were made in the Victorian period.

The plaster ceilings found in the house were cast in place. Door trim, was hand planed of a single piece of wood and in place.

The upstairs bedrooms have wooden fireplace mantels inspired by Asher Benjamin's pattern book. One mantelpiece is faced with King of Prussia marble. Except for the mantel; some floorboards on the second floor and some windowpanes and door knobs, all interior details are original.

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SIGNIFICANCE

Pennsylvania and Caleb Newbold, Isaac Mickle, Samuel Howell, Henry Chew and Dr. Samuel Harris of New Jersey. Undoubtedly, these men met and were entertained often in Sharp's mansion. From 1815-17, Sharp served in the New Jersey Assembly representing Gloucester County of which Camden City was then a part. The economic panic that hit in 1819, brought failure to the Comany and to Sharp, personally. His house was seized for a debt of \$6000. <u>Dr. Samuel Harris</u> purchased the house at auction in 1825.

<u>Medicine</u> Dr. Harris was the first physician to settle in Camden and conduct his practice there; he came from a family deeply committed to the medical profession. His father, Dr. Isaac Harris was a pioneer in the organization of the New Jersey Medical Society. Dr. Samuel Harris (1781-1843) settled in Camden in 1811 and after purchasing the Sharp house he opened his office there and also established a drug dispensary; this became the only place, and the first, where medicine could be purchased. Dr. Harris was also connected with St. Paul's Church, having been one of its founders in 1830 and a vestryman until his death.

In 1836, when the Camden and Philadelphia Steamboat Ferry Company was incorporated Dr. Samuel Harris and Gideon V. Stivers were among the first directors. Harris was President at his death. The other directors included the leading business and political figures of the day. (They were also, no doubt, entertained at the Sharp-Harris home.) The Federal Street Ferry was purchased by the company and in 1838, it obtained a charter for a canal through Windmill Island, from the Pennsylvania Legislature, which shortened the ferry route across the Delaware River. The House was also at one time used as the temporary office of the State Bank during remodeling of the bank building at Second and Market Streets.

The house, its builder and inhabitants, and the land on which it stands are thus closely connected to each other as well as to the early history of the City of Camden.

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10. Geographical Data

thence easterly along the southerly side of Cooper St. 38.33' to the westerly line of Lot B, sold to Charles Janney; thence southwardly along said westerly line of Lot B, 107.42; to the northerly line of a 4' wide alley; thence west along the northerly line of said alley 38.33' to the easterly line of Second St., thence northerly along the easterly line of Second St. 107.42' to beginning. Tract 2. BEGINNING at point on the easterly side of Second St. 111.42' south from the southerly line of Cooper St. said point being the southerly line of four' wide alley and a corner to Lot H, sold to Randel E. Morgan; thence south along the easterly line of said Second St. 18'; thence east 111' to the westerly line of a four' wide alley ; thence north along the westerly line of said alley 18' to the northerly line of said Lot H, thence west along the northerly line of said Lot H and along the southerly line of a four' wide alley 1 to place of beginning.

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