

6-15-73

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

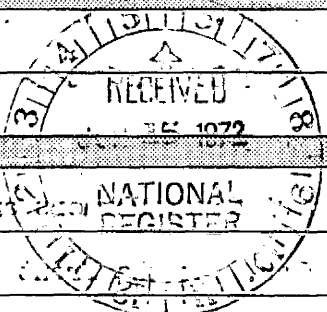
STATE:	New Jersey
COUNTY:	Morris
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 3 1973

HIS E 545520
Z 18 N 45/6/20

1. NAME

COMMON: **Acorn Hall**

AND/OR HISTORIC: **Acorn Hall**



2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: **68 Morris Avenue**

CITY OR TOWN: **Morristown**

STATE: **New Jersey** CODE: **31** COUNTY: **Morris** CODE: **027**

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 type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	Society	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	Headquarters	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: **Morris County Historical Society**

STREET AND NUMBER: **68 Morris Avenue**

CITY OR TOWN: **Morristown** STATE: **New Jersey** CODE: **31**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: **Morris County Clerk's Office (Morris County Hall of Records)**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Court Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Morristown** STATE: **New Jersey** CODE: **31**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: **New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory #2061.21**

DATE OF SURVEY: **Circ. 1961** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: **Historic Sites Section, Department of Environmental Protection**

STREET AND NUMBER: **P.O. Box 1120, John Fitch Plaza**

CITY OR TOWN: **Trenton** STATE: **New Jersey** CODE: **08625** DATE: **APR 3 1973**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **New Jersey**

COUNTY: **Morris**

ENTRY NUMBER

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DATE

7. Description

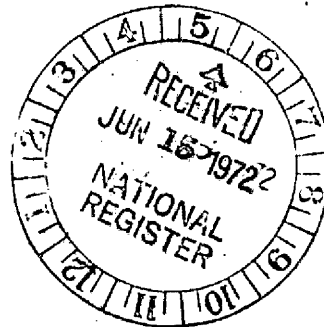
CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original appearance of Acorn Hall is much as it is today. A three story, white, clapboard Mid-Victorian house, with half-basement, containing a kitchen. It is typically Italianate in style, with a large, square tower and a diverse assemblage of chimneys and porches, bay and coupled windows, dormers and brackets, with a sprawling, asymmetrical floor plan. At the front of the house, French doors open on to a long portico whose intricate latticework contains a repetition of the letter "s", the initial of the original owner. A similar porch at the rear overlooks the garden and grounds, reaching to the Whippany River, along which runs the Morris County Park Commission's "Patriots Path". At the side stands a gigantic black oak, said to be 250-300 years old and after which the house was named.

When the house was built in 1853, the original owner, a man of some wealth, furnished it lavishly in Rococo style. Much of the interior remains untouched today, retaining the original furnishings and wall treatments.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



8. Significance

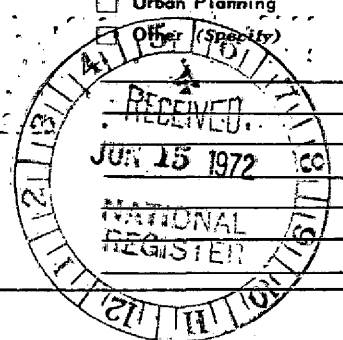
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1853

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 checked="" 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 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 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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The moving van has never pulled up to the door of Acorn Hall, nor have any of its owners been inspired to modernize the house, other than the addition of plumbing and electricity. Indeed, through a happy set of circumstances, the house has remained essentially as it was when it was built in the 1850's. In the double parlors, the Brussels carpeting, which was woven for the rooms, remains. The original drapes and delicate lace curtains hang at the windows. The gold leaf of the stencilled wall panels, molding, Rococo mirrors and window cornices is bright. The original suite of furniture (perhaps Baudouine) is in the front parlor, while the back parlor contains a Belter-style suite which once belonged to William Henry Harrison, as well as a magnificent Rococo Chickering grand piano. Even the mantle arrangements, gilded bronze candelabra with representations of Paul and Virginia and of Robinson Crusoe, and the wax flowers under glass bells are original to the rooms.

The house was built by Dr. John Schermerhorn in 1853, and bought, completely furnished and appointed, by Augustus Crane, a prominent local banker, 4 years later. Mr. Crane's daughter Mary married John Hone, great-great nephew of Philip Hone (mayor of New York and author of the famous Diary of Philip Hone), and grandson of Commodore Matthew

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Groff, Sibyl McC. New Jersey's Historic Houses, South Brunswick and New York: A. S. Barnes & Co, 1971, pg. 12.
 Schoeffler, Jessica. Morristown Parade, Morristown, N.J.: J. Schoeffler, 1967.
 Maass, John. Home, Sweet Home, to be published 1972 (See attached letter)
 McDannald, A.H., ed. "James Leonard Corning", The Encyclopedia Americana, N.Y.: 1941.
 Horan, James D. Confederate Agent, N.Y.: Crown, 1954.

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
NW	° ' "	° ' "		40	47	49
NE	° ' "	° ' "		74	27	39
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **5 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Patricia S. Eldredge, Vice President

ORGANIZATION: **Morris County Historical Society** DATE: **Dec. 31, 1971**

STREET AND NUMBER:
68 Morris Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: **Morristown,** STATE: **New Jersey** CODE: **31**

12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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: *Richard J. Sullivan*
 Richard J. Sullivan

Title: Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

Date: JUN 1 1972

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

Robert M. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 4/3/73

ATTEST:
John W. ...
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 3/23/73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) (1)

STATE	
New Jersey	
COUNTY	
Morris	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER -	DATE
APR 2	1972

(Number all entries)

Acorn Hall
New Jersey Code: 34
Morris Co. Code: 027

Section 8. Continued

Perry. When Augustus Crane died, he left the house to his surviving daughter Julia Crane Corning, wife of Dr. J. Leonard Corning, neurologist and discoverer of spinal anaesthesia. At her death, the house went to her deceased sister Mary's son Augustus Crane Hone, whose daughter gave the house to the Morris County Historical Society recently. Most of the changes made in the house have been of the period, -- most notably, the addition of the several tables, vases and small items brought back from Japan by Commodore Perry in 1854, and the Harrison suite of furniture. (Virginia Harrison was a great-grandmother of the last owner. Her son, Brig. Gen. John Breckenridge Castleman, before his distinguished service in the Spanish American War, was a member of Morgan's Cavalry in the Civil War and a leader of the infamous Confederate plot known as The Northwest Conspiracy.)

Although some prominent and interesting people have been connected with the house, the real significance of Acorn Hall is its authenticity. It is not an assembled Period House. It is authentic because it is original. As art and architectural historians from three universities and two museums have commented, Acorn Hall presents an unusual opportunity to experience Mid-Victorian splendor at its best.

Congressional Representation

Peter Frelinghuysen, Jr., Congressman (5th District)
Clifford P. Case, U. S. Senator
Harrison A. Williams, U. S. Senator

