

PH0356689

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED NOV 23 1976  
DATE ENTERED JUN 29 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 **\*\*** Old Bridge Historic District

AND/OR COMMON  
Old Bridge

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 11518  
See Continuation Sheet

CITY, TOWN East Brunswick VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 4th  
STATE New Jersey CODE 34 COUNTY Middlesex CODE 023

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Multiple

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN VICINITY OF STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. County Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN John F. Kennedy Square STATE New Jersey  
New Brunswick, New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Historic Sites Section, DEP

CITY, TOWN Box 1420, Trenton STATE New Jersey

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

The buildings within the Old Bridge district range from the early 19th century to the late 19th century and are mostly vernacular in character.

Approximately some 80 structures are in the district, including 2 schoolhouses, 2 churches, a small store, private dwellings, and small commercial businesses. There are 2 modern structures in the district and 10 early 20th century buildings. The remainder of the buildings are early 19th century, mid-19th century, Victorian, and late 19th century.

The district is bordered on the east by Route 18, and on the south and west by the South River.

The streets included in the district are River Road, Kossman Street, Pine Street, Chestnut Street, Rutgers Place, Main Street, Emerson Street, Squire Street, Maple Street, and Oak Street.

Old Bridge was described as a village of about 35 dwellings in 1844 (Historical Collections of New Jersey p.309) and that large quantities of pine and oak wood, apparently cut locally, were sent by boat to New York from the docks at Old Bridge. A few dwellings date to this period.

Although not specifically mentioned in Historical Collections because the soil of East Brunswick was a red shale and sandy loam composite very adhesive when wet, the manufacture of pottery and ceramics was a prominent industry in the region. One known pottery site, operated by the Bissett family in the 19th century, is located within the district off River Road along the river.

For a time the village was called "Herbertsville" in deference to General Obidiah Herbert, a prominent businessman and entrepreneur who lived at 146 Main Street in the early 19th century.

As the head of navigation on the South River Old Bridge became an important 18th century merchandizing port. When the Camden and Amboy Railroad, New Jersey's first, was completed in 1832, its scheduled stop at Old Bridge assured the continued growth of the village.

The current community as delineated by the district lies mostly to the north of the railroad, dating generally from the advent of the railroad to the arrival of the automobile in the 20th century.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

Old Bridge is a small 19th century community in the township of East Brunswick, Middlesex County. It is the only extant 19th century village within the township; the township having been violently developed during the last quarter-century.

### Industry

The Bissett pottery works which was on River Road north of the Main Street bridge has had segments of the small pottery operation excavated. The artifacts are on file at the New Jersey State Museum and date mostly from the 1840's, although limited pieces indicate an earlier date (ca. 1806-15). Historically, the Bissett family settled in the region as early as 1755 when John Bissett acquired property in the area. Although no actual evidence is known to exist, tradition dates the pottery works back to the mid-18th century. Documents indicate that the Bissett family continued the operation at least up to 1860.

Because of the rich, very fine clay and sand deposits along the Raritan and its tributaries, this area developed into a major center for pottery and stoneware; indicating the potential for other pottery sites within the district, particularly along South River.

### Education

Old Bridge has two schools; one corresponding to its earliest period of development, while the other is contemporary with the village's final 19th century expansion. These school buildings are a vast contrast to one another, reflecting the change in popular educational philosophy. The small early 19th century school was a private one in which only select individuals were able to attend. The later school was public and a substantial three story brick structure.

### Art

James Crawford Thom (1835-1898)

James Crawford Thom, son of James Thom the sculptor, was born in New York. He studied with Innes, master artist, as well as with a number of French Barbizon Painters. He resided and exhibited in London from 1864-1873. He was a landscape and genre painter, and often painted figures in broadly painted settings, similar to Innes. After the death of his first wife, he visited the Old Bridge area, found it attractive and moved there for the remainder of his life. His daughters boarded at the Herzog private school in Old Bridge. Thom then married Sara Jane Bloodgood. One painting, "Winter in Old Bridge," was owned by the Old Waldorf Astoria in New York. A house on Kossman Street, where he lived, has interior doors painted by him while he lived there. Members of the family have his original works. His paintings are being sold (Continued)

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(see continuation sheet)

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 108 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	18	5	5	39	15	0	4	47	14	10	0	B	18	5	5	45	0	0	4	47	38	0	0	
ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING													

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point where New Jersey State Highway Route #18 intersects Main St; thence proceed 300 feet SSE to the point where Route 18 intersects the South River, follow the course of the river N to Main St.; thence proceed along Main St. 350 feet SW to River Road; thence proceed along River Road 200 feet WNW; thence proceed 800 feet SW to the intersection of Maple St. and Rutgers Pl.; thence proceed along Maple St. 600 feet E to the intersection with Chestnut St.; thence proceed 500 feet NE to the South River; thence proceed 700 feet along the South River; thence proceed 600 feet SSE to the intersection with Main St.

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Terry Karschner, Historian-Curator

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Section, Dept. of Environmental Protection

DATE

July, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 1420

TELEPHONE

(609)-292-2023

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. Burt*

TITLE

Commissioner, Dept. of Environmental Protection

DATE

9/26/1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Robert B. Rethig*

DATE

6/29/77

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST

*Charles A. ...*

DATE

6/14/77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	NOV 23 1976
RECEIVED	
DATE ENTERED	JUN 29 1977

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

Old Bridge Historic District  
East Brunswick Twp.  
Middlesex County New Jersey 034  
**CONTINUATION SHEET**

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

1. 42 River Road. (Prior to 1803.)

Two story wood frame structure. Foundation of the original house area consists of stone and a mud-like cement. The braces under the living room are large rocks. Original logs which support the living room are still in place. Living room contains the original seven foot fireplace, containing an enclosure where the oven was located.

2. 56 Kossman Avenue. (18th century.)

Two and one half story building with fireplaces on each end. Slate roof. Open porch across front with wainscot ceiling. The house has all its original doors. Clapboard exterior. Original part of house consists of the present dining room with fireplace and kitchen dining area, plus second floor master bedroom and present dressing area. Center Hall - newel post and bannister of original cherry wood. Original front door with window insets around frame. Dining Room - original fireplace with old type brick. Exposed hand-hewn beams. Windows are 2 over 2 vertical panes. Living Room - as all other rooms has 10" floor moldings. Windows are 6 over 6 with wide frames and inset panels below, extending to floor. Floors - all are random plank floors.

3. 692 Old Bridge Turnpike. (Mid-19th century.)

Two story frame building with original narrow clapboard under wood shingles. The windows are 6 over 6 with louvered shutters. The house contains handhewn beams as well as wide pine floor boards. Nails are hand cut. The plaster in foundation contains horse hair. Heating - by empire stoves. Originally had a well in the cellar. A musket ball and stoneware jug have been found on the property.

4. 33 Kossman Avenue. (Late 18th century.)

Two story wood frame under clapboard. Windows are 6 over 6. The main beams are hand-hewn and pegged. The cellar beams are logs which were flattened on top. The house has two chimneys, one at each end. The dining room contains a brick fireplace with blanket warmer cupboards on each side. Floors are wide pine boards 1" thick. Nails are of old square cut type. Exterior walls of house - first floor are all brick lined. House is rectangular New England style with small center hall. Brick walls were put together with slime rather than mortar. Cellar beams are logs flattened on top (chestnut). Doors are original batten, with black hardware. House retained 1 example of old gas lamp:

5. Old Bridge Baptist Church, Kossman Avenue. (1844.)

In 1844, members of Independent Bethel Baptist Church of Washington and Herbertsville passed a resolution authorizing the purchase of stones for a meeting house.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	NOV 23 1976
DATE ENTERED	JUN 29 1977

Old Bridge Historic District  
East Brunswick Twp.  
Middlesex County New Jersey 034

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE

Original stones, weighing several hundred pounds, are still intact in the foundation. In 1893, it was decided to turn the one story frame building around so that it would face Kossman Avenue (formerly Willow Avenue) instead of Maple Street. In 1894, the cornerstone was laid for the new basement addition, and the frame building was raised to its present position. In 1897 the former name was changed to the present one, Old Bridge Baptist Church.

6. Simpson Methodist Episcopal Church, Maple Avenue. (1860)

Named in honor of Bishop Matthew Simpson, college and seminary president, and probably the outstanding figure of Methodism during the middle 19th century. He was a trusted friend of Abraham Lincoln, and received the honor of paying the nation's final respects to the assassinated Lincoln. The church edifice, a wooden structure about 32-50 feet, with a steeple and bell, was erected in 1860, at a cost of \$2,000. Trustees in its history were prominent members of society. It organized a Sunday school and possessed an impressive library.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 23 1976

DATE ENTERED JUN 29 1977

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

Old Bridge Historic District  
East Brunswick Twp.  
Middlesex County New Jersey 034

7 3  
PAGE

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

Streets in Old Bridge are numbered according to lots and not in reference to structures. Consequently, gaps will appear in the inventory, but all major structures (including modern intrusions) are represented in the following inventory:

Maple Street--Numbers 6-26

6 Maple Street. 3rd quarter 19th century. This is a two story vernacular L-form clapboard dwelling with a low pitch roof. One story enclosed porch. (see photo #4)

10 Maple Street. Mid-19th century. This modest duplex is a 2½ story frame structure covered with asphalt shingles. The front facade has four bays with two entrance doors on each end. The windows are modern. The roof is gable and has two gable end brick chimneys. (see photo #4)

12 Maple Street. Late 19th century. This house is a 2½ story vernacular clapboard structure. The front gable end facade, which is 3 bays, faces the street. The roof is gable covered with corrugated metal sheathing. Small interior brick chimney. One story enclosed front porch. Concrete foundation. (see photo #19)

14 Maple Street. Late 19th century. This 2½ story frame house is shingled and has a gable roof. The front gable end facade faces the street. Three bay with a side entrance and a one story front porch. Additions. Concrete foundation. (see photo 19)

Simpson Methodist Episcopal Church 16 Maple Street. 1860. One story church with gallery. Simple design enhanced by bell tower. The front facade has 3 bays--two round arch 12/12 windows and a centered double door entrance. Below the roof peak is a date stone. The linear facade also has three bays and the windows are 20/20 sash with flat cornices. Named in honor of Bishop Matthew Simpson, an outstanding figure of Methodism in the mid-19th century. Recently acquired as a possible historical museum.

18 Maple Street. Late 19th century. This is a 2½ story 3 bay vernacular frame dwelling. The form is rectangular.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 23 1976

DATE ENTERED

JUN 29 1977

Old Bridge Historic District  
East Brunswick Twp.  
Middlesex County New Jersey 034

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 4

20 Maple Street. Late 19th century. This frame structure is a middle-class 2½ story L-form house which has numerous porches.

24 Maple Street. 3rd quarter 19th century. Possibly built earlier, this corner house is a modest two story L-form frame structure with asbestos shingles. (see photo #18)

Main Street - Numbers 146-198 and 153-173 to South River.

General Obadiah Herbert House, 146 Main Street. ca. 1810. The main section of this house is a 2½ story, three bay, square frame and clapboard unit with a stone foundation. The side hall entrance has a Greek Revival motif, but all other indications suggest an earlier 19th century date of erection. The windows are 6/6 sash. There is a brick chimney at the gable end. A long 5 bay two story wing is appended to the gable end which is possibly 18th century. (see photo #7)

154 Main Street. Last quarter 19th century. This is a 2½ story Victorian L-form dwelling. Slate gable roof with end returns and brackets. The corniced windows are 2/2 sash with lowered shutters. The first floor has a projecting bay. Frame and clapboard. (see photo #21)

156 Main Street. ca. 1825. This is a square 2½ story frame and clapboard house and has paired gable end brick chimneys on the east elevation with exposed firebacks. The front facade has three bays with a side entrance. The windows are 6/6 sash. The doorway has side and transom lights. A 20th century one story front porch projects over all three bays. A large two story clapboard unit, not original to the main section, is appended at the rear. (see photo #21)

160 Main Street. Late 19th century. 2½ story frame gingerbread dwelling. Middle class structure.

162 Main Street. Late 19th century. 2½ story, 3 bay, L-form dwelling. Middle class structure.

Library. 166 Main Street. Early 19th century, 4 bay, rectangular clapboard dwelling. The roof is gable. The windows are 6/6 sash and have louvered shutters. A one story Victorian

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 23 1976

DATE ENTERED JUN 29 1977

Old Bridge Historic District  
East Brunswick Twp.  
Middlesex County New Jersey 034

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 5

porch projects over all four front bays. Originally one room deep, a rear two story unit was added later, probably in the early 20th century. Presently the village library. (see photo #4)

170 Main Street. Vernacular late 18th century dwelling house. This 1½ story clapboard building has three bays and is one room deep with a lean-to shed on the gable end. (see photo #3)

172 Main Street. Possibly mid-19th century. This 2½ story frame structure is covered with permabrick and has a projecting one story enclosed porch on the front facade. Consequently, it was difficult to determine its date of construction. Only the overall form of this 3 bay building provided the mid-19th century date, since there was no interior investigation conducted. (see photo #3)

174 and 176 Main Street. 3rd quarter 19th century. Number 176 Main Street is a 2½ story plain Victorian house which is stuccoed on the exterior. The gable end faces the road while the original building is surrounded by one story 20th century enclosures, including a flat-roofed commercial wing which is 174 Main Street. (see photo #3)

178 Main Street. Last quarter 19th century. Two story middle class frame house. Three bay gable end front facade facing street.

180 Main Street. Simple mid-19th century 2½ story frame dwelling with Greek detailing. (see photo #2)

184 Main Street. 3rd quarter 19th century. This is a 2½ story L-form house with the 3 bay gable end front facade facing the street. The windows are 2/2 sash, but have Greek motifs. (see photo #2)

186 Main Street. Late 19th century. Simple 2½ story frame structure with 3 bay gable end front facing street. Small interior brick chimney. Modern enclosed one story front porch. (see photo #2)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED NOV 23 1976
DATE ENTERED JUN 29 1977

Old Bridge Historic District  
East Burnswick Twp.  
Middlesex County New Jersey 034

7 6  
PAGE

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

Commercial structure. 190 Main Street. Early 20th century frame structure.

192 Main Street. Early 20th century. This is a square 2 story hip-roofed dwelling with an enclosed one story front porch.

194 Main Street. Last quarter 19th century. Rectangular 2½ story vernacular frame dwelling. Gable end facade facing street. The roof is gable and has a small interior brick chimney at the ridge. The attic window has a diamond casement form. A one story porch is on the front and a one story wing in the rear.

Tavern. 198 Main Street. ca. 1925. Formerly the site of the Charles Layton gristmill, the present building may have been on the mills foundation. The structure is a large 2½ story commercial operation.

Post Office. 153 Main Street. Modern.

Store and House. 155 Main Street. This is a typical early 20th century 2 story frame building with a hip roof. (see photo #20)

Gas Station. Intersection of Matawan, Main and Kossman Streets and Old Bridge Turnpike. ca. 1920. This is a small concrete block hip-roofed serviced station. (see photo #20)

165 Main Street. First quarter 20th century, possibly later. This is a used car showroom and the lot has several cars on the premises. (see photo #20)

General Store. 169 Main Street, intersection of Emerson Street. Mid-19th century. At a key intersection and only 500 feet from General Herberts house, this may have been his general store. The building is a 2½ story rectangular frame structure with modern asbestos shingles and a corrugated metal roof. Another section is 1½ stories and its garret entrance has a block and tackle apparatus for simplifying transferral of merchandise. A modern one story flat-roofed addition is on the west facade of the larger unit. (see photo #20)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED NOV 23 1976
DATE ENTERED JUN 29 1977

Old Bridge Historic District  
East Brunswick Twp.

Middlesex County New Jersey 034

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

7

PAGE

7

173 Main Street. Early 19th century. This one room deep house has five bays, a center hall entrance, and is 2½ stories. The roof is gable and has a central intersecting gable. There is a brick chimney on each gable end. The windows of this main unit are all 2/2 sash with louvered shutters. The front facade has a full length one story porch. Numerous additions are to the rear and modern garages to the east.

Freight Station. Late 19th century. This one story railroad freight station is characteristic of the railroads' rebuilding program of the late 19th and early 20th century on the Camden and Amboy Railroad. The building is a long low one story batten board structure with a low-pitched roof hanging over a portion of the platforms. This building is deteriorating and currently unused. (see photo #1)

Foundation. South of Main Street and South River intersection on the west side of the river. This random stone foundation was estimated to be about 20 by 20 feet. It may have been the site of the Camden and Amboy's original station location, or perhaps a signal station. (see photo #0)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	NOV 23 1976
DATE ENTERED	JUN 29 1977

Old Bridge Historic District  
East Brunswick Twp.  
Middlesex County New Jersey 034

CONTINUATION SHEET      ITEM NUMBER      7      PAGE      8

Kossman Street -- Numbers 1-55 and 2-32, and 56.

6      Kossman Street - 3rd quarter 19th century. This L-form 2 story frame vernacular house has a gable roof and small gable end chimney. The entire first story front facade is obscured by a modern enclosed porch.

8      Kossman Street - mid-19th century. This small 2 story rectangular frame house has 3 bays and a center entrance. The gable roof has composition shingles and a small central brick chimney. A small one story porch is on the front facade. Aluminum siding.

James Crawford Thorn House - 10 Kossman Street. 3rd quarter 19th century. Artist James Thorn lived in this house from about 1870 to his death in 1898. The structure, a middle class L-form Italianate-style house is easily the most impressive on the street with its red double doors on the side, its curved arched windows with cornice, the brackets under the eaves, and the projecting Victorian bay. The roof is gable and covered with slate. The entire structure is covered with asphalt shingles. Excellent condition.

12      Kossman Street - mid-19th century. This is a modest 2 story frame house with four bays and a center intersecting gable. The gable roof has a small concrete chimney. The windows are 2/2 sash and there is a one story front porch.

14      Kossman Street - early 19th century. Originally a duplex, this building is a rectangular 4 bay frame and clapboard unit. The roof is gable with a brick chimney on each end. A one story porch protects the center two bays.

Crandall School - 20 Kossman Street. Circa 1900. The Crandall School is a non-descript two story brick schoolhouse with exposed basement floors typical of the educational facilities built throughout the state at the beginning of the 20th century. The roof is hip. Currently still used as a school. Municipal ownership.

22      Kossman Street - late 19th century dwelling.

24      Kossman Street. Modern 1 1/2 story dwelling.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	NOV 23 1976
RECEIVED	
DATE ENTERED	JUN 29 1977

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

Old Bridge Historic District  
East Brunswick Twp.  
Middlesex County New Jersey 034

7 9

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

26 Kossman Street - early 19th century. This early 19th century clapboard vernacular dwelling is 2 1/2 stories with a slate gable roof. The front facade has three bays. The windows are 6/6 sash. A screened-in one story porch is on the front facade.

28 Kossman Street - 3rd quarter 19th century. This is a simple 2 1/2 story rectangular clapboard dwelling with elements of gingerbread detailing. The three bay gable end front faces the street. One story front porch.

30 Kossman Street - mid-19th century. This house is a small 2 story 2 bay frame structure with a one story wing.

32 Kossman Street. This mid-19th century vernacular frame dwelling has two stories and two bays.

56 Kossman Street, at River Road. Early 19th century. The main unit of this building is a 2 1/2 story 3 bay clapboard section with a slate gable roof. The windows are 6/6 sash. The side doorway has side and transom lights. Attached to the gable end facade is a two story clapboard wing, probably Victorian, with 2/2 windows. A small one story modern addition extends the building even further. An early 20th century one story porch surrounds most of the earliest unit.

1-9 Kossman Street (see 152-156 Main Street).

11 Kossman Street - early 19th century. This two story clapboard dwelling was built in two sections. The south unit has three bays and a side entrance. The windows are 6/6 sash with louvered shutters. The doorway has transom lights. The north section has three bays (center entrance) on the first floor, but only two bays on the second floor. The windows are 6/6 sash with louvered shutters. The roof of the entire building is a low pitched gable covered with tin. Only the north unit has a gable-end chimney. There is a three bay porch covering both doors and the intermediate window. (See photo #10).

13 Kossman Street. This late 19th century 2 1/2 story frame L-form structure has been extensively altered.

17 Kossman Street, corner of Rutgers Place. This two story frame house is one room deep and has five bays.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	NOV 23 1976
DATE ENTERED	JUN 29 1977

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

Old Bridge Historic District  
East Brunswick Twp.  
Middlesex County  
New Jersey 034

CONTINUATION SHEET

7 10  
ITEM NUMBER PAGE

Bethel Baptist Church - 21 Kossman Street. 1844, 1893. Built in 1844, this simple 3 bay front one story frame church with tower and spire was turned 180 degrees in 1893 to face Kossman Street rather than Maple Street. At that time a new basement was built and the church raised somewhat. The front of the church has 3 bays -- a gothic arched double door entrance, which is reached by stairway, flanked by two gothic arched stained glass windows. The front facade is clapboard below the eaves and board and batten above. The roof is gable, atop of which perches the tower.

25 Kossman Street - mid-19th century. This vernacular frame dwelling is two stories and has three bays.

27 Kossman Street - late 19th century. This house is a 2 story L-form frame structure, constructed by a moderately wealthy owner.

31 Kossman Street - 1849, seriously altered. Originally a small one story schoolhouse, this building has been so extensively remodeled that its integrity is questionable.

33 Kossman Street - early 19th century. This two story clapboard house has 5 bays and a center entrance. The shingled roof is gable with an intersecting center gable. Both gable ends have brick chimneys with corbelled tops.

35 Kossman Street - mid-19th century. This 2 story frame house has 3 bays with a 2 bay wing. Altered.

43 Kossman Street - late 19th century. 2 1/2 story frame residence.

45 Kossman Street - late 19th century. 2 1/2 story frame residence.

47 Kossman Street - 3rd quarter 19th century. 2 1/2 story vernacular structure. Altered.

49, 51, 53, Kossman Street. Modern 1 1/2 story small private residences.

55 Kossman Street. Circa 1850, late 19th century. This is a 2 1/2 story residence extensively altered in the late 19th century and tiled. Oriel window.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
NOV 23 1976
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED JUN 29 1977

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

Old Bridge Historic District  
East Brunswick Twp.  
Middlesex County  
New Jersey 034

7 11

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

River Road -- Numbers 24-46 and 23-45.

24 River Road. Modern ranch house.

30 River Road. Modern ranch house.

34 River Road - 2nd quarter 20th century. 1 1/2 story vernacular dwelling.

38 River Road - 2nd quarter 20th century. One story vernacular dwelling.

42 River Road - early 19th century, modern alterations. While basically projecting a modern appearance this two story frame building is actually early 19th century as evidenced by the hewn oak, wide floors, and fireplace on the interior. Most of the integrity is gone, however.

44 River Road. Modern dwelling.

46 River Road - Second quarter 20th century residence.

23 River Road. Modern 1 1/2 story residence.

27 River Road. Modern 1 1/2 story residence.

31 River Road (see 55 Kossman Street).

37-41 River Road (see 56 Kossman Street).

Villa Eugenie - 45 River Road. Early 19th century. This 2 1/2 story frame building has modern asbestos shingles. The main unit is a 5 bay rectangular form with a central entrance. The doorway has sidelights. The roof is gable and there are two inside chimneys at the ridge. Numerous additions.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED NOV 23 1976
DATE ENTERED JUN 29 1977

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

Old Bridge Historic District  
East Brunswick Twp.  
Middlesex County  
New Jersey 034

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 12

Pine Street -- Numbers 2-18 and 1-19.

1 Pine Street - early 20th century one story dwelling.

Old Bridge Volunteer Fire Company - 3 & 5 Pine Street.  
Modern firehouse.

7 Pine Street - late 19th century. This simple 2 story  
2 bay frame dwelling has a complementary shed.

9 Pine Street - early 19th century. This is a 2 1/2 story  
4 bay frame duplex.

11 Pine Street - late 19th century. This is a 2 1/2 story  
frame 4 bay duplex. Possibly moved onto site.

15 Pine Street. Modern residence.

17 Pine Street - late 19th century. 2 1/2 story L-form  
frame house.

19 Pine Street - 3rd quarter 19th century. Possibly built  
earlier. This is a vernacular 3 bay 2 story dwelling facing  
Chestnut Street.

4 Pine Street - late 19th century. L-form vernacular  
frame 2 bay dwelling.

8 & 10 Pine Street (see Old Bridge Turnpike).

14 Pine Street - mid-19th century. This is a simple 2 story,  
3 bay frame residence. Building faces Chestnut Street.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	NOV 23 1976
DATE ENTERED	JUN 29 1977

Old Bridge Historic District  
East Brunswick Twp.  
Middlesex County New Jersey 034

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 13

The village or section of Old Bridge in the township of East Brunswick is both publicly and privately owned. Its present use is best described as being private residential, government owned (post office), educational (Crandall Public School), religious (two churches), park (adjacent 42 acres), services (fire department), highways (accessibility from major roads in all directions), and a small number of commercial businesses. It is a small modest community of moderate income people who live quietly, almost isolated from its rapidly developing surroundings.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

Old Bridge Historic District  
East Brunswick Twp.  
Middlesex County  
New Jersey 034  
**CONTINUATION SHEET**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	NOV 23 1976
DATE ENTERED	JUN 29 1977

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

at reputable galleries in New York and New Jersey.

Old Bridge is significant historically and culturally because it is representative of a way of life of the 19th century. It was a self-sustaining community where large quantities of produce, wood and other merchandise was received and shipped by way of the South River to New York and Philadelphia. After 1832 it was a station on the Camden and Amboy branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad.

Located on the navigable part of the South River, the village attracted settlers as early as the 17th century (1685) due to its favorable geographical position.

Old Bridge derives its name from the fact that the first bridge spanning the South River was built there, and as other bridges were built across the river, the first one became known as "the Old Bridge." It is said that George Washington crossed this bridge on his way back from the battle of Monmouth. Old Bridge was early known as South River Bridge.

During the Revolutionary War, the village was the scene of an incident. In early 1777, when the British were in possession of New Brunswick and Amboy, a large force of their soldiers crossed into Old Bridge, destroying property, seizing cattle and other goods. They were met by a small detachment from Amboy who conducted them by boats by way of the South River back to Amboy. One can wonder if the patriots of Old Bridge tried to stop their march.

For a time Old Bridge was called Herbertsville in honor of General Obadiah Herbert. He settled in the village in 1810 becoming a large property owner and leading spirit in its business and social life.

Transportation by water, railroad and land had a definite influence on the growth and commerce of Old Bridge. Situated on the South River, the village occupied an excellent position on the most direct route to markets north and south from New York to Philadelphia. In 1734 one Arthur Brown gives notice that he plies a boat between New York and South River, and will carry goods to Allen's Town, Burlington and Philadelphia. This was the first water travel line between New York and Philadelphia. In 1823 a steamboat route was established between New York and Washington, where a regular line of stages with facilities for freight conveyed passengers to the Delaware River at Bordentown. It was known as the "Citizens Line." Steamboat travel was soon superceded by the completion of the Camden-Amboy Railroad from South Amboy to Bordentown in 1833, diverting most travelers to train service. The low railroad rates also attracted the masses of immigrants disembarking at New York City, and the farmers from New England seeking new land in the West. The Amboy route accommodated 133,000 passengers in 1860. During the period when the railroad came through, Old Bridge grew considerably.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	NOV 23 1976
DATE ENTERED	JUN 29 1977

Old Bridge Historic District  
East Brunswick Twp.

Middlesex County New Jersey 034

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

8

PAGE

2

Old Bridge was early the junction of several paths and roads. The Minnisink Trail was the earliest Indian path to the coast. Lawrie's Road or the Amboy-Burlington Road, authorized by the East Jersey Proprietors in 1684, offered the public its first overland transportation route. From 1825-55 the road was used to transport large quantities of peaches brought by wagon to Washington from West Jersey for shipment to New York. The mails were also carried across New Jersey on this route from the late 17th through the mid-18th century. In 1740 the Amboy-Bordentown stage line was established, flourishing after the Revolution.

The railroad and overland roads brought a measure of prosperity to Old Bridge, provided access for the agricultural output of the interior and encouraged the growth of industry in the village.

Shipbuilding. General Obadiah Herbert constructed docks and warehouses to accomodate the demands of commerce. He was engaged in the shipment of wood, produce and other goods to New York. He had several ships built at Old Bridge and a shipyard was in existence for a few years.

The wood trade, a related industry, furnished employment to many watermen who made the village their headquarters. Old Bridge sent immense quantities of pine and oak to New York City. Cedar, maple and ash were cut to meet the demand for lumber, firewood and shipbuilding materials. M. O. Rolfe, an early township historian, claimed that timber "as converted into mercantable form was the most important article of commerce in the Township during the period of its rapid development..." An additional benefit was the land cleared for cultivation.

In conclusion, the commerce of Old Bridge undeniably evolved and developed based on the fact that the village was geographically located on the navigable South River--an open waterway to markets north and south. Roads, train stations and industry added to the impact of local commerce in the early to mid-19th century, and heightened the contrast between the agricultural interior and the bustling village on the perimeter.

Obadiah Herbert (1775-1856) was prominent in social, military and political life. He built docks and warehouses, operated a general store and speculated in real estate. He entered the military as Lieutenant in 1806, was commissioned as Major in 1812, as Colonel in 1817 and Brigadier General of the State Militia in 1832. He was an able commander, patriot and Whig party leader. His organization and discipline helped develop the state militia. He married Margaret Van Wickle in 1811; Catherine Stout in 1836.

Religion. In 1747 the Reverend Mr. Skinner administered to the inhabitants on regular trips to the district. The Old Bridge Baptist Church was organized in 1844, and a Sunday School in 1862. Samuel Sprout, a Baptist preacher, was the carpenter and builder of the church. The Reverend John Jones was its first preacher. The

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	NOV 23 1976
DATE ENTERED	JUN 29 1977

Old Bridge Historic District  
East Brunswick Twp.  
Middlesex County      New Jersey

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER      8      PAGE

3

Simpson Methodist Episcopal Church, named in honor of Bishop Simpson, a prominent historian of his religious denomination, was organized in 1860, along with a Sunday School. Prior to the church, Methodist services were held in the school-house by circuit preachers.

Education. Miss Conover's Boarding School (1849) was a private establishment. The school was easily accessible from New York and Philadelphia. A one room school-house (public - mid 19th century) was attended by about 125 students. Older pupils attended high school in New Brunswick and Jamesburg. This building is now a private residence.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED NOV 23 1976  
DATE ENTERED JUN 29 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Old Bridge Historic District  
East Brunswick Twp.  
Middlesex County

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE 1

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION CONTINUED:

Feet WSW; thence proceed 500 feet SSE to Kossman St.; proceed along Kossman St. 500 feet SW to the intersection of Chestnut St.; thence proceed 750 feet W to the intersection of Old-Bridge-New Brunswick ~~Sunpike~~ proceed along the Old Bridge-New Brunswick Tpk. 450 feet SSE; thence proceed 450 feet SSW to the intersection with Route 18; thence proceed 250 feet SE to the point of origin.

LEBROCK  
4.577

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

*P. 11. 23. 78*

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 17 1977
DATE ENTERED	JUN 29 1977

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

Old Bridge Historic District  
East Brunswick Township  
Middlesex County - 023  
New Jersey - 34

**Justification of Boundaries:**

The southern border of the Old Bridge Historic District is a swampy meadowland included in the district because of an association with pottery manufacturees of the area. The river, the South River, was originally an important waterway to Perth Amboy, a significant 18th and 19th century seaport. Presently underdeveloped this area of land is on a flood fringe ensuring its present landscaping and may be quite important in its association with historical archeology concerning the pottery industry. Some amateurs have indicated acquiring a collection of pottery sherds from the site, particularly along the river's channel. Also, derelict dock foundations are in evidence along the river further suggesting former habitation.