

DATA SHEET

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

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 DATE FEB 10 1975

1. NAME

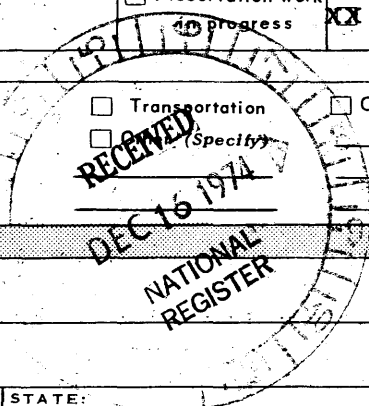
COMMON: Boyle / Hudspeth-Benson House
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 100 Basking Ridge Road			
CITY OR TOWN: Passaic Township (Millington)		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 5th	
STATE: New Jersey	CODE: 34	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"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both Public Acquisition: <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 type="checkbox"/> No.	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No.
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments



4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Mrs. Phyllis Hall Sims		
STREET AND NUMBER: 100 Basking Ridge Road		
CITY OR TOWN: Millington	STATE: New Jersey	CODE: 34

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Morris County Courthouse		
STREET AND NUMBER:		
CITY OR TOWN: Morristown	STATE: New Jersey	CODE: 34

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory		
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local		
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Historic Sites Section, Dept. of Environmental Protection		
STREET AND NUMBER: Box 1420		
CITY OR TOWN: Trenton	STATE: New Jersey	CODE: 34

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: New Jersey
COUNTY: Morris
ENTRY NUMBER: FEB 10 1975
DATE:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Boyle, Hudspeth-Benson House is a rambling farmhouse structure, built in four distinct sections. The central portion was erected prior to 1750, the left wing was built in the early 19th century and the "L" to the rear is contemporary to the right servants wing of 1900.

The original farmhouse of c. 1750 is a 1 1/2 story colonial of post and beam construction. The fenestration and style are akin to that of the New England 3/4 house.

The lowest level foundation walls are rubble masonry; there is use of some brick around the windows and the interior is plastered or whitewashed; the exterior shows signs of pointing as well as some areas that were painted. The wall at some locations is over 2 feet thick.

The structural system as best can be seen by the undersigned is composed of posts, girders, beams, and planks and rafters. The building was constructed by placing a plate around the masonry foundation wall, putting posts in the corner and at intermediate points with corner braces; upon this a plate was placed and girders were used for the interior spans. The girder and, I assume, the plate at the exterior wall had holes at intervals in the center of them. The beams were reduced in size at each end to fit into these holes. (mortise and tenon construction) On top of the beams, planking was placed which composed the ceiling below and the floor above. This was raised to the second level and then rafters were installed on the highest plate. All the wood members were handhewn and showed adze marks. No nails were used in the original construction. The members in some locations showed sign of dryrot and termites and in other locations they were reinforced. Much of the original structural system remains even though a center stair from the second level to the third (assuming that the basement is the first level) was enlarged.

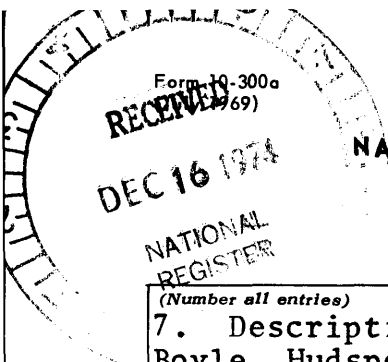
In the original portion of the building there are three fireplaces --- one on the first level and two on the second level. The fireplace at the lowest level has a rather large opening, approximately 4 ft. 6 inches high by 6 or 7 ft. wide. The second level has two fireplaces, one is a corner fireplace with a usual size opening, and the other is against the exterior wall and of usual dimension. The third level has no fireplaces.

The first level fireplace has been closed off and its flue used for an oil burner. The other two fireplaces have had new facings. All three fireplaces could easily be renovated to show their original configurations.

At the rear of the original portion of the building there is an eight panel door, which seems to be original construction. All the windows in this portion also seem to be original, and in the front are nine over six light windows. They are double hung and have no balancing weights. All seem to be handmade.

The floors were originally wideplank boards, but additional floors have been put on top of these. The walls are plaster; the ceiling is exposed on the second level; the first level has been fireproofed. The third level has plastered ceilings.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



Form 10-300a
(1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	New Jersey	
COUNTY	Morris	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		FEB 10 1975

(Number all entries)

7. Description (cont'd.)
Boyle, Hudspeth-Benson House
Passaic Township
Morris County, 027
New Jersey, 34

On the second level there is a chair rail and moldings around the windows and elsewhere which are handmade. Presently the exterior has cedar shakes, but while in the attic there was evidence of horizontal clapboard siding. The roof again when looking from the underside in the attic was cedar shakes; presently there is an asphalt shingled roof.

The lowest level or the basement had access from ground level at the right hand side and a stair from the outside grade at the rear. The lowest level had a kitchen which used the large fireplace for cooking. To the rear is another room thought to be the milk room and possibly used for storage. The second level accessible from the first by a stair or from grade (the foundation was built into a slope so access could be either into the second level or first level). This second level is now partitioned into a living room and den. This seems to be approximately the same partitioning as originally except for some slight modifications. There is a stair which allows access to the third level, which has two bedrooms and then access to an attic. The orientation is such that the basement/kitchen and the first floor living room face almost directly south for the warm sunshine during the winter. Both bedrooms on the third level face east. This is most likely to have morning sunlight and arose the occupant for the days work. These bedrooms also have windows on adjacent walls for crossventilation. The west wall has a stair and most likely was blocked off from the hot summer sun.

The second section, built in the early 19th century is of 2 1/2 story colonial design and contains 6 over 6 lights in its three rooms. The large room on the first floor, now used as a library, has been paneled over in pine and also suffers from the addition of french doors on either side of the brick fireplace. The library was originally partitioned into two rooms. All interior doors are of the batten style, with much of the original hardware being lost. The two second story bedrooms are in keeping with those of the earlier section.

To the rear of the 19th century wing is an "L", constructed about 1900. It contains a modern kitchen, dining room and a hall, which is presently used as the entrance hall. The entire wing is paneled in pine. There are two more bedrooms and a bath in the second story of the "L". Also added in 1900 was a servant's room to the right of the old farmhouse; it contains a bedroom, bath and two grade level rooms below. These two rooms are at the same level as the old kitchen of the farmhouse.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

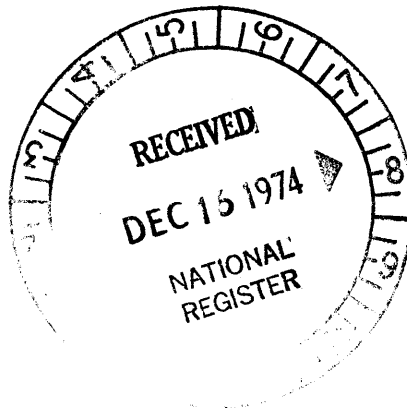
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7. Description (cont'd.)
Boyle, Hudspeth-Benson House
Passaic Township
Morris County, 027
New Jersey, 34

Adjacent to the farmhouse is a well preserved native stone "smoke house", as well as a rebuilt "spring house" to the rear. Also there is a four stall barn and to its rear a four room farmhouse of c. 1860. It is in poor condition and much deteriorated due to vandalism.

The 33 acre site is mature wood-lot, not having been farmed for more than 80 years. The change of ecology from upland hardwoods through flood plains and marsh grasses all exist on the property and make a good compact picture of the rise of a hardwood climax forest.



B. 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) c. 1750 c 1900

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 | <u>Community</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | <u>History</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecture:

Originally built by "planter" Solomon Boyle, around the time of his marriage in 1732 to a young French girl, Susannah, the structure is among the earliest in the area. It is a fine example of early mortise and tenon construction; furthermore the design, floor-plan and orientation of the building and the barn are significant in interpreting early colonial life-style in New Jersey.

Residents:

Solomon Boyle (1694-1771) emigrated from Ireland in the early 18th century. He purchased 600 acres from the East Jersey Proprietors to the West of and adjoining the Berkeley tract. He married several times and had eight children. He was overseer of the highways in the early 1740's. His children built the mills for which Millington is named in the mid 18th century and Solomon II was a colonel during the revolution. The family even after acquiring prominence, retained title until the late 19th century.

Mary Hudspeth-Benson (1824-1904) was born in Vermont; coming to the Greenville section of Jersey City in 1844, when it was still a village. Here she began her efficient work devoted to the help of others. Mrs. Benson, twice widowed, lost her youngest son in a tragic accident; after his death she began a life of social service, devoting her time and money to those in need.

Long before the existence of juvenile court, Mrs. Benson sheltered and sponsored wayward children. She eventually expanded her work to include establishing holiday programs for the children.

Mrs. Benson soon found that feeding and clothing the poor along with putting the disheartened jobless back into work was not enough. Her interests became more widespread and lasted well into her later years, when in the late 1890's, she led the effort which made Jersey City streets clean again. One improvement after another came to her mind. She alone is credited with the establishment of a park in the Little Italy section (now Mary Benson Park) and a reading room for the train men, so that: "they might not waste their off-duty hours".

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

- 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**
1. Litell, Passaic Valley Genealogy
 2. New Jersey Colonial Documents, Calendar of Wills 1771-80
 3. Mrs. Phyllis H. Sims (Mrs. Benson's granddaughter)
 4. Mr. J. Owen Grundy, City Historian, Jersey City, New Jersey
 5. New York Times, December 3, 1904
 6. The Evening Journal, December 2, 3, 5, 1905 March 29, 1965
 7. Jersey City Under Commission Government, 1921
 8. Scannell's New Jersey First Citizens. 1917-19
 9. Jersey City of Today c. 1900

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				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	40°	41'	22"	74°	31'	27.5"			
NE	40°	41'	22"	74°	31'	17"			
SE	40°	40'	43"	74°	31'	17"			
SW	40°	40'	43"	74°	31'	27.5"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 33

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

NO
COPY

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

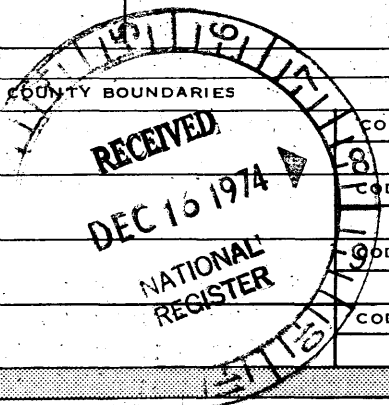
11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Stanley Lacz & Richard Rozewski (minor revisions by T. Karschner,

ORGANIZATION: **Passaic River Coalition** DATE: **7/30/74**

STREET AND NUMBER:
25 Holmesbrook Road

CITY OR TOWN: **Basking Ridge** STATE: **New Jersey** CODE: **34**



12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION	NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION
<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name: <u>David J. Bardin</u> Title: <u>Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection</u> Date: <u>December 5, 1974</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Arthur Jensen</u> Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date: <u>2/10/75</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>[Signature]</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date: <u>2-6-75</u></p>

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
New Jersey	
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(Number all entries)

8. Significance (cont'd.)
Boyle, Hudspeth-Benson House
Millington
Morris County, 027
New Jersey, 34

Mrs. Benson continued her work in Jersey City, even after she had moved to Millington at the turn of the century. Once interest in her projects began to wane, it became more important for her to visit the city to follow them through. It was on one of these visits that she caught cold, which resulted in her fatal illness.

The family home in Jersey City was razed shortly after the death of her son, Judge Robert S. Hudspeth in 1929; thus leaving the Millington home as the only existing residence of the Jersey City humanitarian.

Since most of her work was done in secret, it was the final result, which made her known as "the most prominent woman of the city" and its most noble and lovable social worker of the late 19th century.

