

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

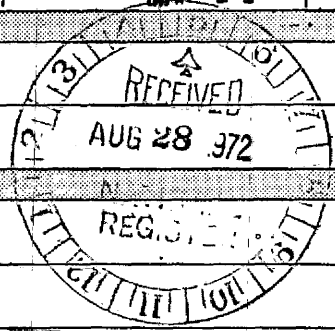
(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: New Jersey	
COUNTY: Mercer	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAR 14 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
The John Welling House

AND/OR HISTORIC:



2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Curlis Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Pennington

STATE: New Jersey CODE: 34 COUNTY: Mercer CODE: 21

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<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	Yes: <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Howell

STREET AND NUMBER:
Curlis Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Pennington

STATE:
New Jersey

CODE:
34

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Mercer County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:
Broad Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Trenton

STATE:
New Jersey

CODE:
34

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
HABS

DATE OF SURVEY: 1936 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:
Washington

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
D.C.

CODE:
11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

HB
 218
 N 4463290
 E 518460

STATE: New Jersey	FOR NPS USE ONLY
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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						
<p>This early 18th century two story Dutch Colonial farmhouse, a rarity in this area, has the standard two door, two window front facade with two room plan, split by a center wall. Four modern windows, two of which replace the original ones at the left side of each door, open up these large chambers, whose end walls are filled with fireplaces. In the middle of the west wall, which retains the original hand split three foot long shingles, sits the eight foot high masonry fireplace back. Under the modern box cornice on the front wall remain four strips of the original rough grained beaded clapboard, while below this lies late 19th century circular sawn clapboards. The carpenter alternated the directions of the rough circular saw marks, producing a herringbone effect. The north wall also displays wide rough grained clapboards, which are unbeaded.</p> <p>The question arises whether the whole house, with its back roof extended down and back over a shed area, thus creating the "saltbox" form, was built at one time or in two phases. Various factors suggest the later conclusion. The masonry basement wall stands six feet in from the back or lower side of the house. The floor joists of the first floor run longitudinally, braced by heavy oak lateral beams in the front two thirds of the house, whereas the back section's support run laterally. The east wall's rough clapboards of the oldest type stop at a certain vertical line, where the shed could have been later joined to the house. The chamfered 6 by 10 inch beams under the second floor differ from the square edge 6 by 8 inch ones in the back.</p> <p>It would seem that the house was enlarged to the rear and improved inside, either concurrently or separately, sometime after Welling bought it, perhaps as his family expanded. The interior shows much larger unit panelling than one could expect in this area about 1730 or 1740. The fireplace wall of the living room in particular shows unusually proportioned and arranged panels that betray the imagination of a capable itinerant joiner. Two three panel doors by the same hand swing in the "borning room", on the left side of the shed addition. Furthermore, there are several other four and five unit doors throughout the house about the same period. The two front doors, which are cut in half and hung on hand wrought strap hinges below four and five light transoms, have six panels and triple piping molding. This same work reappears on the cabinets behind the old kitchen fireplace and may date slightly later.</p> <p>The original huge fireplace with oak beam lintel in the living room was filled in during the 18th century with a very wide elliptical brick arch over square and diagonal recessed jambs. This improvement can perhaps be assigned to c.1740. The original kitchen fireplace, now a dining room, was long ago closed up and veneered with a Federal style mantle piece.</p> <p>The tiny "borning room" in the back left part of the house displays a corner fireplace with bowed mantle and reeded panels decorated by notching in Adamesque patterns, c.1800. This feature corresponds to a full blown version in the neighboring John D. Hart house, suggesting that the work was done at one time by a traveling craftsman, who was also responsible for similar mantles in the John White Homestead in Lawrenceville. (Continued)</p>						

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)

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 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	<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			

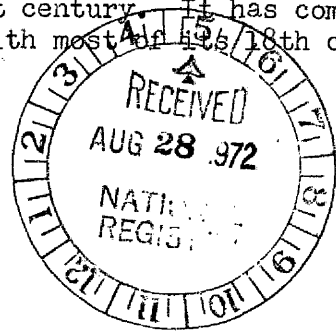
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1727 John Welling, of Welsh descent, moved from Jamaica, New York to the Hopewell Valley area where he leased this small farm house from Terit Lester. One year later he bought it and its 223 acres of land. The whole had been conveyed to Lester by John Muirhead and John Fitch by John Reading and James Trent, Commissioners of the Loan office. During the Revolutionary War the village was occupied by British and Hessian troops. Tradition states that an alert resident took a Hessian soldier captive and held him prisoner in a small room in this house. Welling died in 1790.

His great granddaughter Elizabeth Welling married John D. Hart as her second husband. He built, perhaps shortly after that occasion, the clapboard house next door. The executors of Hart, James Stevenson and Simon W. Phillips, conveyed the property to Charles Welling by deed on April 3, 1839. It remained in the Welling family until 1921. During the 19th century it served as a tenant house. Former Congressman Charles Howell and his wife have lived there since 1928.

This Dutch clapboard and shingle house is one of the last remaining of its kind in Mercer County. It documents house construction of the 1720s in this area and injects a non-English strain into the area's building heritage. It shows a fascinating "modernization", probably of the first half of that century. It has come down to us in fairly well preserved condition with most of its 18th century interior features.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Early Settlers in Trenton and Ewing, Trenton, W.S. Sharp Printing Co., 1883
 O'Connell, Margaret J., Pennington Profile, Privately printed, 1966

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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 . .	0 . .		40 0 19 . 17 .	74 0 46 . 59 .	
NE	0 . .	0 . .				
SE	0 . .	0 . .				
SW	0 . .	0 . .				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: one and a half acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Constance Greiff and Channing Blake

ORGANIZATION: Heritage Studies DATE: 9/8/71

STREET AND NUMBER:
17 Clover Lane

CITY OR TOWN: Princeton STATE: New Jersey CODE: 34

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: August 14, 1972

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

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

Date: 3/14/73

ATTEST:
[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 3-8-73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) (1)

STATE	
New Jersey	
COUNTY	
Mercer	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAR 14 1972

(Number all entries)

John Welling House

New Jersey Code: 34
Mercer Code: 021

Section 7: Continued

Upstairs there are two large bedrooms and two small chambers under the back of the house.

Some of the interior walls are clay with horse hair, sandwiched between hand split lath. Original hand wrought iron hardware peppers the doors. Old shingles, of the same variety as those on the west wall, survive under the present copper roof. An old spring house of recently reconstituted random masonry sits in front of the house while a smokehouse, dated 1810, with stone block walls and fragrant charred wood beams stands to the rear.

Congressional Representation

Clifford P. Case - United States Senator
Harrison A. Williams - United States Senator
Frank Thompson, Jr. - Congressman (4th District)

