

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
	JUN 18 1973

MS
E 548340
ZMS
N 4523680

1. NAME

COMMON:
William Livingston House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Bowers-Livingston-Osborn-Benedict House *use this*

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
25 Parsippany Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Parsippany

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"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	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"/> 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 <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mr. and Mrs. J.E. Dutton

STREET AND NUMBER:
25 Parsippany Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Parsippany

STATE:
New Jersey

CODE
34

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Morris County Hall of Records

STREET AND NUMBER:
Court Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Morristown

STATE
New Jersey

CODE
34

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey (N.J.-630)

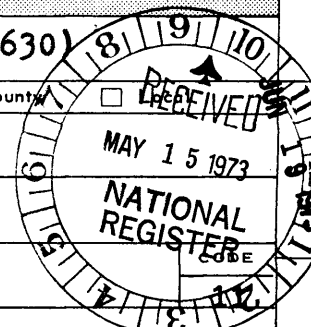
DATE OF SURVEY: **1939** Federal State County

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
D.C.



STATE: **New Jersey**

COUNTY: **Morris**

ENTRY NUMBER: **548340**

DATE: **MAY 15 1973**

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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
	(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

Exterior.

The Livingston House is a 2½ story clapboard building which has a gambrel roof with gable end returns. The dimensions are approximately 60 by 35 feet. There are front and rear porches; both extending the entire length of the building and being late nineteenth century additions. Originally, there were two gable end chimneys on each end, but one chimney was removed when the bay window was installed. As is the case with the bay window, most of the exterior alterations were done around 1890, when the house apparently received major renovations. The alterations, however, do not detract significantly from the form of this eighteenth century Dutch Colonial farm.

There is a nineteenth century well alongside the Livingston House and a small early nineteenth century building across the street; originally in the rear of the Livingston House, but recently moved across the street for caretaker's quarters.

Interior.

There are eight rooms in the Livingston House; two on each side of the wide center hall on both the first and second floors.

The cellar is a full one, partially paved with cobblestones, an unusual distinction. Hewn logs in the basement support the first floor with aid from a few supporting posts.

All eight rooms show evidence of the late nineteenth century remodeling as mentioned earlier. No original hardware remains, ceilings on the first floor are of pressed metal, some windows have been changed, and the floors have narrow, late Victorian floorboards. Also, the bay window caused one chimney and two fireplaces to be removed. The remaining not original, but appear to be early nineteenth century work.

The hall also has been somewhat altered with a late Victorian ballustrade, but sections of the old chairrail remain.

The front door appears quite old and may be original.

The attic is quite large and, for the most part, unaltered. The attic has knee-wall windows. The main timbers are hand hewn and wooden pegged.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



8. Significance

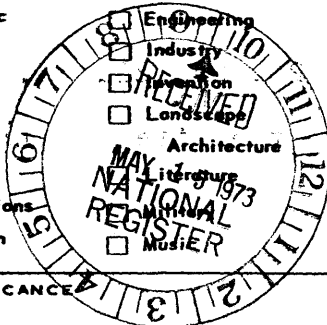
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1768 1777-1780

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" 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)
built as a
tavern |
| <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"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecture.

Although somewhat diluted by Victorian remodeling this house still exhibits the basic form and construction of a colonial building. Many of the alterations on the outside are merely superficial and can be removed with a little effort.

Political.

The major significance is that the first governor of New Jersey (after Independence had been declared) lived in this building during much of the Revolutionary War.

Constantly harassed by the British, Governor William Livingston and his family made frequent moves throughout the Revolution. His longest stay was in Parsippany where he leased a house and farm for the years 1777-1780 from Lemuel Bowers, a County Judge, among other things.

Several military maps of the period pinpoint the Livingston House. The map done by Robert Erskine, the American map maker, does not single out the house, perhaps in fear of informing the British of Livingston's whereabouts. However, the British were apparently aware of his location since the English maps indicate where the Governor's house was located. Furthermore, there was one documented attempt to capture Livingston while living in Parsippany.

Due to the trend of the war in 1780 the Livingston Family was able, in the middle of the year, to return to their residence, Liberty Hall, in Elizabeth, New Jersey.

The property was once again solely owned and operated by Lemuel Bowers.

Tavern.

Indications are that Bowers bought the property just to 1761 and that the house might have been built as a tavern, as tradition suggests, since Bowers was

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Fowler, Alex D. Benedict House. 1971. Unpublished paper.
HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY. New Jersey-630-Thomas
 Osborn House, 1939.
 "Minutes of the Court of General Quarter Session for Morris
 County". Book 1-7.
Morris County Deeds. Book N
Morris County Mortgages. Books A&C
New Jersey Archives. Volumes 17, 20, 24, 26, 32, 35, Second
 Series Volume 4.
 Sedgwick, Theodore J. A Memoir of the Life of William Livingston.

(cont.)

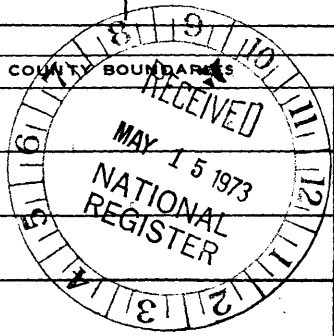
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	° ' "	° ' "		40° 51' 52"	74° 25' 35"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **9**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Terry Karschner, Historian-Curator (aided by Alex D. Fowler)

ORGANIZATION: **Historic Sites, Dept. of Environmental Protection** DATE: **1-05-72**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Post Office Box 1420

CITY OR TOWN: **Trneton** 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
 Title: Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection
 Date: January 29, 1973

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

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

Date: 6/19/73

ATTEST:
W. J. [Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register
 Date: 6 14 73

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

STATE	New Jersey	
COUNTY	Morris	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		JUN 19 1973

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

William Livingston House
Parsippany
Morris County, Code:027
New Jersey, Code:34

8. Significance (cont)

licensed to maintain a tavern for the period 1756-1760. Bowers was a prominent person in the community, but not terribly stable financially as by 1768 and again in 1769 he advertised his property for sale. Disappointed at not having found a buyer and pressed by his creditors Bowers somehow retained the farm (obviously aided by the rent paid by Governor Livingston) until 1785, when he died insolvent.

Thomas Osborn bought the farm at the Sheriff's sale in 1785.(HABS names the house "The Thomas Osborn House". Habs-NJ-630)

9. Bibliography (cont.)

J&J Harper: New York, 1833.
Smith, Mary L. "The Governor William Livingston Residence at Parsippany, New Jersey 1776-1780." Read at the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. August 1, 1927.

CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATION

Senator Clifford P. Case
Senator Harrison A. Williams
Representative Joseph Maraziti, 13th District

