

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: Pennsylvania	
COUNTY: Bucks	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: **Summerseat School-- George Clymer House (Somerset)**

AND/OR HISTORIC: **Summerseat (Thomas Barclay House)**

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: **Clymer Street and Morris Avenue**

CITY OR TOWN: **Morrisville**

STATE: **Pennsylvania** CODE: COUNTY: **Bucks** CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input 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
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____
			Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: **Superintendent of Schools, District of Morrisville**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Legion and Hillcrest Avenues**

CITY OR TOWN: **Morrisville** STATE: **Pennsylvania** CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: **New Municipal Building**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Washington Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Morrisville** STATE: **Pennsylvania** CODE:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

76

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

"Summerseat" was built in the 1770's for Thomas Barclay, a Philadelphia merchant, and acquired by George Clymer in 1806. "Summerseat" is a two-story brick and stone Georgian structure built over an elevated basement. It has a gabled and slate-covered roof. The house is five bays or about 52-feet wide and 36-feet deep. The wall of the front or east facade is of brick, the end walls are covered with cement and are probably also of brick, while the west or rear wall is of field-stone. First and second story windows on the east or main facade are topped by flat arches of gauged brick; windows on both stories of the west or rear elevation and of the basement on all elevations have segmental arches of gauged brick. First and second story windows are adorned by exterior solid shutters.

The center door in the east facade is topped by a rectangular transom and a triangular pediment. This entrance opens into a central hall that runs through the house to the rear. The stairs are set against the left (south) wall near the rear and are lighted by a large window set over the landing in the west (rear) wall. The four rooms, on each floor, each with their own fireplace, are divided into pairs by means of the two central halls. The house was restored in 1931 and renovated for use as a school administrative building in 1935. The walls, floor, and some of the woodwork appear to be original. The building is in good condition and is still used for educational purposes.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

179

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 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 checked="" 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 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

"Summerseat," built about 1770, was from 1806 to 1813 the home of George Clymer, a signer of the Declaration of Independence for Pennsylvania, a merchant, and politician. The Georgian house was restored in the 1930's and is used for public school purposes.

Brief Sketch of the Life of George Clymer, 1739-1813

George Clymer was born in Philadelphia on March 16, 1739. His parents died in 1740 and he was raised by his uncle William Coleman, a prosperous Philadelphia merchant. Clymer also became a successful merchant and in 1765 married Elizabeth Meredith, the daughter of his senior partner. Becoming active in politics around 1773, Clymer from the first was an ardent and active advocate of the Revolutionary cause. Appointed to the Continental Congress on July 20, 1776 with Rush, Smith, Ross, and Taylor, to replace the Pennsylvania delegates who refused to sign the Declaration of Independence, Clymer, though not present when it was adopted, realized "his dearest wish" when he signed the document, for he had been among the first to advocate complete independence.

Clymer served three terms in the Continental Congress and was a member of many special and standing committees. In September 1776 he was commissioned, with Richard Stockton of New Jersey, to visit, inspect, and report on the Northern Army at Ticonderoga, New York.

Reelected to a second term in March 1777, he served on the boards of war and of the treasury, and on the committee to protect Philadelphia. He worked so hard at these tasks that after three months he was obliged, temporarily, to retire. His report on a mission to Fort Pitt in 1777-78 led Congress to organize an expedition against Detroit. In September 1777, following the Battle of Brandywine, the victorious British army ransacked his home in Chester County, where he had removed his family for reasons of safety, on a detour in their march to capture Philadelphia.

Clymer served his third term in the Continental Congress from November 1780 to November 1782. Also a member of the Pennsylvania Assembly for a part of this time, he advocated reforms in the penal code and the public employment of convicts. In 1787 he was an effective delegate to the Federal Constitutional Convention and signed the Constitution. He was a member of the first United States Congress in 1788. After this

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

177

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. IV, 234-235. Article by James C. Ballagh.
 Elizabeth Fields and Dr. J. E. Fields, "The Signers Lived Here," Daughters of the American Revolution Magazine, May 1951, 6.
Pennsylvania, A Guide to the Keystone State (American Guide Series) (New York, 1940), 39, 413.
New Jersey, A Guide to Its Present and Past (American Guide Series) (New York, 1939), 409.
 Dorothy H. McGee, Famous Signers of the Declaration (New York, 1955), 173-74.

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 ° 12 ' 28 "	74 ° 46 ' 48 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **2 acres**

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

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Charles W. Snell, Survey Historian**

ORGANIZATION: **Division of History, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service** DATE: **2/9/71**

STREET AND NUMBER: **801 - 19th Street, N.W.**

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington** STATE: **D.C.** CODE: _____

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 _____

Title _____

Date _____

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

 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

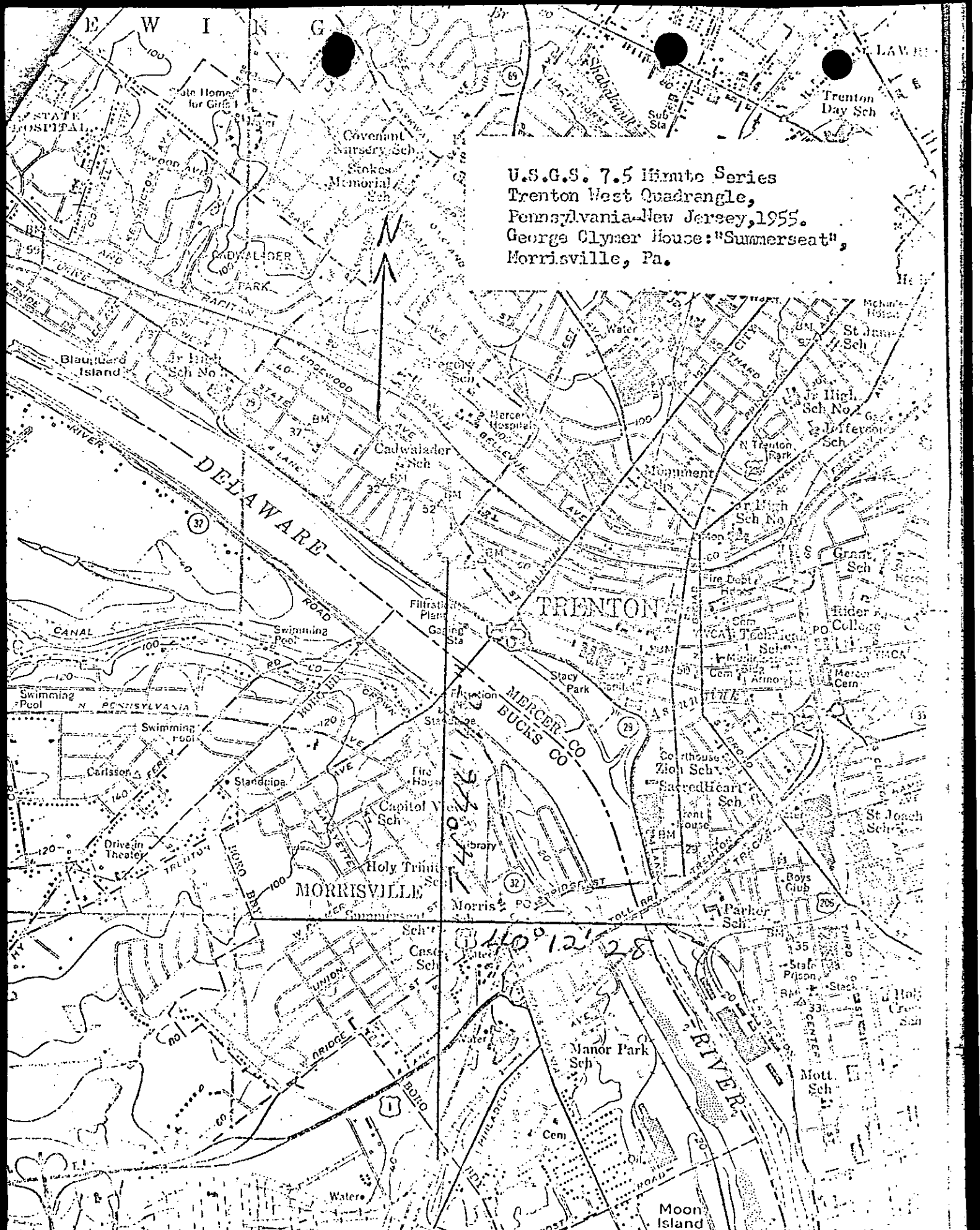
STATE Pennsylvania	
COUNTY Bucks	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. Significance: (1) Summerseat (George Clymer House)

term, Washington appointed him as head of the excise tax department of Pennsylvania and then as a commissioner to the Cherokee and Creek Indians in Georgia, for the purpose of negotiating a treaty with them. He retired from public service in 1796. During the last period of his life he served as the first president of the Philadelphia Bank and of the Academy of Fine Arts and, in 1805, was vice-president of the Philadelphia Agricultural Society. In 1806 Clymer acquired a large Georgian house, which he called "Summerseat," in Morrisville, Pennsylvania. Here he died on January 24, 1813. He was buried in the Friends Meeting House Cemetery in Trenton, New Jersey, located across the Delaware River from Morrisville.

178



U.S.G.S. 7.5 Minute Series
 Trenton West Quadrangle,
 Pennsylvania-New Jersey, 1955.
 George Clymer House: "Summerseat",
 Morrisville, Pa.

440° 12' 28"