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

and or common Thackara House

Thackara House

2. Location

street & number 912 Eldridge Avenue

city, town West Collingswood

state

historic

New Jersey 034

3.	Cla	ssifi	cation	

Category district _x_ building(s)	Ownership public x private	Status _x_ occupied unoccupied	Present Use agriculture commercial	museum park
structure site	both Public Acquisition	work in progress Accessible	educational entertainment	<u> </u>
object	in process being considered NA	<u>x</u> yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no	government industrial military	scientific transportation other

vicinity of

county

Camden

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. Glendin A. Koster

street & number 912 Eldridge Avenue

city, town	West	Collingswood	$\underline{N/A}$ vicinity of	state	New	Jersey	08107

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number

Camden

street & numb

city, town

state New Jersey 08101

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

	1.	Camder	n County	/ Inve	ntory o	f Histo	coric Places	
title	2.	Collin	ngswood	Histo	ric Sit	es Surv	x_{vey} has this property been determined eligible? yes \underline{x} n	0
	1.	1980,	revised	l edit:	ion		(1) (2)	
date	2.	1985					$ federal state \frac{(1)}{x} county \frac{(2)}{x} local$	al
				1.	Camden	County	y Cultural and Heritage Commission	
depo	sitā	ry for su	rvey reco	r ds 2.	Office	of New	ew Jersey Heritage	
		1. 25	0 South	Park	Drive,	Haddon	on Township, New Jersey 08108	
city,	tow		I-404 TI			•	state New Jersey 08625	_

OMB No. 1024-0018 Expires 10-31-87

For NPS use only

received AUG | 2 1987 date entere **SEP 1 0 1987**

N/A not for publication

code

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7. Description

Condition		Check one
excellent	deteriorated	unaltered
<u> </u>	ruins	altered
fair	unexposed	

Check one _____ original site ____ moved date ____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Situated on the south side of Eldridge Avenue and fronting Newton Creek, the Joseph Thackara House is a five-bay, two and one-half story mid-eighteenth century brick dwelling with an early one and one-half story lean-to frame wing on the east gable end and an unkeyed modern brick two car garage addition on the west gable end. The main brick section is well preserved.

Executed in Flemish bond, the symmetrical front or south, facade features: central raised three-over-two entrance door with flat-arched brick head above pegged wood lintel; six-over-six sash windows with integral projecting wood sills and cyma reversa brick molds; segmentally arched-head basement window openings (one altered) punctuating a molded brick watertable above a coursed fieldstone foundation: brick belt course and flush wood joist ends at previous full-front first-story pent roof; and, simple wood box cornice with unmolded crown and bed.

The Eldridge Avenue facade, originally the rear elevation, is laid in a variation of English bond with a header course every fourth course. Six-over-six sash windows, evidence of an original pent roof, wood box cornice, and segmentally arched-head basement window openings are features shared with the front facade. It should be noted that there is no water table, the first floor east window opening holds an eight-over-eight sash window, and the raised panel door dates to the Victorian period. The box cornice, which features a cyma recta crown and a quarter round cove bed, is more elaborate than that of the south elevation suggesting that the vernacular south cornice "moldings" are not original.

That the cornice moldings would have originally matched is certain, as a brick ledger course and projecting (in the addition on east gable end) or flush (exposed west gable end) joist ends indicate an original pent roof below the third floor on both gable ends. A contemporary extant detail where the eaves are connected with a pent roof can be observed at the Peter Wentz House in Skippack, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania (1758). At Thackara House, the date, 1754, and the initials, T.J.M, set with glazed headers in the west gable establish the date of construction and the identity of the builders, Joseph and Mary Thackara. The roof is punctuated by two single-flue chimneys at the east, and a single chimney with two flues on the south face at the west. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles; however, an early wood shingle roof installed with hand-cut nails is extant underneath.

Minor alterations have not compromised the integrity of the original room interiors. Fine panelled fireplace walls with floor-to-ceiling closets flanking generous center fireplaces are at both ends of the living room, which was originally divided by a beaded board partition. Three fireplace walls feature beautifully articulated wood cornices consisting of cyma recta, fillet, cyma reversa, facia, soffit, quarter-round, and cove moldings. Similar fireplace walls exist at Hope Lodge in Whitemarsh, Pennsylvania (1743-8).

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The present dining room originally featured a whitewashed exposed beam ceiling (extant above existing plastered ceiling) and is thought to have served as the kitchen prior to the addition of the frame lean-to wing. This conclusion is reinforced by the room's eight-over-eight sash window (kitchens often had a larger window), and the size of the brick vault for this fireplace in the cellar. The dining room mantle is early, but not original, and dates to the fireplace alterations at the time of the addition. A fourth fireplace, in the southwest bedroom chamber, is set in a panelled wall with molded cornice and flanking closets. The south closet features peg boards with extant vernacular whittled pegs.

All original room partitions, other than masonry walls, are of vertical random width, hand-planed, tongued-and-grooved boards, some of which are more than sixteen inches wide. All ceilings are plaster on lath; all floors are of random width boards fastened with hand forged nails. (Some floors have been covered with hardboard and linoleum tile.) Baseboards are beaded, windows feature molded projecting heads above plastered jambs, and much of the original wrought iron hardware, such as H-L hinges and thumb latches, has survived.

A cellar with brick floor extends under the main structure which is built on an uncoursed fieldstone foundation. A central load bearing masonry wall runs east-west; brick vaults support the chimneys. Both cellar and garrett framing is of mortised, tennoned, and pegged hand-squared timbers. The garrett is unfinished but floored, with over ten feet of head room at the ridge and a flat arched window opening in each gable end. Of note in the west gable end is the casement window sash which, with its wider central horizontal muntin, was detailed to look like a double-hung window.

8. Significance

<u>X</u> 1700–1799 <u>1800–1899</u>	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture architecture art commerce communications	community planning conservation economics education engineering x_ exploration/settlement	Iandscape architecture Iaw Iiterature military music philosophy politics/government	e religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	1754	Builder/Architect Jose	eph and Mary Thackara	. builders

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Joseph Thackara House is the only mid-eighteenth century brick dwelling in West Collingswood and is associated directly with the third generation of one of the six earliest families in the area. The house is the best preserved and one of the few extant Eighteenth Century farmhouses on Newton Creek, one of the earliest areas of settlement in what is now Camden County. A map drawn by First Settler Thomas Sharp in 1700 shows a structure on this site at that time.

Mark Newbie, William Bates, George Goldsmith, Thomas Thackara, Robert Zane and Thomas Sharp, all Irish Quakers, settled on a 1750 acre community tract between Newton Creek and Coopers Creek in March 1682. This settlement, known as Newton Colony, was the first permanent English settlement in Old Gloucester County. The community tract was subdivided in 1683 and Thomas Thackara took as his share 250 acres facing Newton Creek and adjoining the tract of Mark Newbie. A small plot which Thackara gave that same year as a burial ground for his friend Newbie was extended in 1684 by additional land which Thackara conveyed to the Newton Meeting to provide land for the Old Newton Burial Grounds and a site for the first Meeting House. Thomas gave 60 acres to his son-in-law, John Whitall, in 1696 and willed the remainder to his son, Benjamin, in 1702. Benjamin gave 50 acres to his brother-in-law, John Eastlack, in 1706 and died leaving the remainder of his estate to his son, Joseph, in 1727.

Joseph Thackara, grandson of First Settler Thomas Thackara, and the builder of Joseph Thackara House, married Hanna Albertson, widow of John Albertson and granddaughter of Mark Newbie, in 1731. Thus, in the third generation, these two first families were joined. Joseph Thackara and his second wife, Mary Young, (married 1752) are known as the builders of the present brick house and it is their initials with the date, 1754, which are set in glazed brick in the west gable of the house.

The present house is near the site of the first cabin of Thomas Thackara as shown on Thomas Sharp's map in 1700 (see attached). The inventory of Thomas Thackara's estate at his death in 1702 describes the cabin's rooms as kitchen, the little room and the new room. The inventory of Benjamin Thackara's estate at his death in 1727 shows the cabin expanded to included a kitchen, a chamber (the little room), an inner room (the previous new room), a new room and a cellar. The inventory of Benjamin Thackara's estate also includes 47,500 bricks, which represents almost exactly the number of bricks used in the building of Thackara House, suggesting that the house, completed by Joseph in 1754, was a project begun by his father before his death.

9. Major Bibliographical References

(See Continuation Sheet)

	•		
Acreage of nominated p Quadrangle name UTM References	property 2/3 acre Camden		Quadrangle scale <u>1:24000</u>
A 1 8 4 9 2 4 7 Zone Easting	7 10 4 14 1 7 3 4 0 Northing	B Zone	Easting Northing
		D	
The nominated Borough Tax M	cription and justification d property includes Bl Map and is roughly 100 counties for properties ove)' by 275' is siz	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code
11 Earm I	Prepared By	Revised by Marga	ret Westfield, 402 Bellmawr Avenu
street & number 912	Eldridge Avenue	tel	ephone (609) 858-3432
	allingarood		
city or town West Co		sta	te New Jersey 08107
12. State I	Historic Pres	ervation (nte New Jersey 08107 Officer Certification
12. State The evaluated significan natio As the designated State 665), I hereby nominate to according to the criteria Deputy	Historic Pres nee of this property within the onal state Historic Preservation Officer this property for inclusion in and procedures set forth by	state is: <u>X</u> local for the National Histor the National Register a	Difficer Certification
12. State The evaluated significan natio As the designated State 665), I hereby nominate to according to the criteria Deputy State Historic Preservati	Historic Pres nee of this property within the onal state Historic Preservation Officer this property for inclusion in and procedures set forth by	ervation (state is: <u>X</u> local for the National Histor the National Register a the National Park Serv L	Difficer Certification
12. State The evaluated significan natio As the designated State 665), I hereby nominate for according to the criteria Deputy State Historic Preservati title Assistant Comm For NPS use only	Historic Pres the of this property within the bonalstate Historic Preservation Officer this property for inclusion in and procedures set forth by ion Officer signature missioner for Natural this property is included in restriction	ervation (state is: <u>X</u> local for the National Histor the National Register a the National Park Serv LLL (Resources	Difficer Certification The Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89- and certify that it has been evaluated New July 27, 1987
12. State 12. State 13. State 13. State 14. State	Historic Pres the of this property within the bonalstate Historic Preservation Officer this property for inclusion in and procedures set forth by ion Officer signature missioner for Natural this property is included in restriction	ervation (state is: <u>X</u> local for the National Histor the National Register Resources the National Register Resources	Difficer Certification The Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89- and certify that it has been evaluated New July 27, 1987

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Thomas Thackara was an Assemblyman from the Third, or Irish, Tenth at the first session of the General Free Assembly of the Province of West Jersey held in Burlington November 21-27, 1681. He was later chosen as a first Justice from the Third Tenth and became a first Justice of Old Gloucester County when it was incorporated. He also served as a Land Commissioner. His son, Benjamin Thackara, was a Freeholder for Old Gloucester County.

Joseph Thackara held several positions of great responsibility in his community. The Minute Book of Newton Township, 1723-1821, shows that he was elected Overseer of the Poor, 1744-45; Constable, 1746-47; Surveyor of Highways, 1749-53; and, Surveyor of Roads, 1756. Most of the tax monies collected were dispensed by the Overseer of the Poor and by the Surveyor of Roads and Highways. This would suggest that Joseph Thackara was a man of integrity and trust, a characteristic further upheld by the number of times his name appears as appraiser, bondsman, executor, and witness to the wills of his neighbors. Joseph died December 4, 1761 and willed to his son, Stephen, "the plantation where I live." Stephan's will at his death August 4, 1767, left to his son, James, "the improved part of the land where I live."

In 1790, James Thackara sold to James Sloan a small strip of land adjoining the Old Newton Burial Grounds for the Newton Union Burial Grounds to provide a burial place for non-Quakers and 22 Revolutionary War soldiers who had been disowned by the Meeting for bearing arms. His brother, Joseph Sloan, purchased the balance of the Thackara Plantation from James Thackara in 1799 thereby ending 118 years of ownership by the Thackara Family.

Through successive owners, the plantation was prosperously farmed through the nineteenth century as the surrounding area developed and the railroad, located two hundred yards west of Thackara House, provided access between Philadelphia and Atlantic City. In 1887 the plantation was purchased by Edward C. Knight who, through his agent Richard T. Collings, had already acquired most of the Robert Zane survey to the east. The land was then sold in tracts to the Collingswood Land Company who subdivided it into city blocks and lots.

Architecturally, the Thackara House is significant as a straight-forward example of a mid-eighteenth century brick colonial Quaker farmhouse executed with the detailing and construction methodology distinctive of its period. Remarkably intact in comparison to other private homes of its age, the house has been "modernized" with great sensitivity and contextual response. Additions were planned to be reversible without damage to the historic fabric; required replacement elements (such as window sash) have been in-kind, with original

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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fabric salvaged and stored on site. Although the pent roofs have been removed, the brick ledger course and roof joist ends remain, illustrative of the structural support technique. Unlike the Stokes-Lee House, Collingswood's other surviving eighteenth-century home on Newton Creek, the Thackara House has not been stylistically remodelled over the years. Variable-width beaded board partitions and board-and-batten doors, raised panel doorways with over panels, fine panelled fireplace walls with integral closets and double-ogee crown cornice moldings, exposed hewn construction and joinery details in both garrett and cellar, original stairways, and definitive dating are all factors which contribute to the building's architectural significance and usefulness as a rare surviving example of its period in history.

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Thackara House Record of Title (Sheet 1)

Date	Book	Page	
12 Apr 1677	Lib.B	50	West Jersey Deeds 1677-1693: Indenture 12 April 1677 between Wm Penn, Gawin Lawrie, Nicholas Lutas and Edw Byllinge and Robt. Turner, Joseph Sleigh, Robt. Zane and Thomas Thackery and Wm Bate a grant to land in West Jersey, America. N.J.A., 1st Series, Vol. XXI, N.J. Records 1664-1705, describes as "one undivided 90th share of the 90 equal hundreds of the Province."
10 Mar 1681-2		351	N.J. Archives (as above) p. 351 for Mark Newbie, Wm Bate, Geo Goldsmith, Thos Thackery, Robt Zane and Thomas Sharp, 1600 a. between two branches of a creek at ARWAWMOSSE bounded by Wm Coopers Creek (Revels Bk, p.25).
16 Sep 1681	A	98	Gloucester County Deeds: Thos Sharp recorded the deed to the above 1600 a. on 12 Feb 1718.
1 Mar 1683		358	N.J. Archives as above: for Thomas Thackery, 250 a. on Newton Creek adjoining Robt. Zane. (Revels Bk, p. 59)
11 Jan 1688	G3	423	Gloucester County Deeds: Thomas Thackery recorded this survey as 264½ a.
1 Mar 1696	G3	334	Thomas Thackara to son-in-law, John Whitall, 60 a.
1702			N.J.A. Index of Wills. Thos Thackara, by last will and testament, to his son, Benjamin, a minor, in trust, estate less 60 a. conveyed to John Whitall.

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(Thackara House, West Collingswood, Camden County, NJ)

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1	1706	A	106½ 107	Benjamin Thackera to brother-in-law, John Eastlack, 50 a. Gloucester County Deeds.
1	1727			N.J.A. Index of Wills, Vol. 2, p. 462, Benjamin Thackara, by last will and testament, to his son, Joseph (except for 50 a. conveyed to John Eastlack.)
4 Dec 1	1761	LibII	106	Calendar of Wills, N.J.A. Vol XXXIII, p. 425, Joseph Thackera to son, Stephen, the plantation where I live.
4 Aug 1	1767	D	165	Gloucester County Deeds: Stephen Thackera, to son James, the improved part of the land where I live; to son Joseph, 50 a. of unimproved land surveyed from head of my lands; to son, Thomas, 50 a. of unimproved land adjoining Joseph. (Abstract of Wills, Vol IV, N.J.A. Vol XXXIII, p. 426.) Thomas died in minority and lands descended to James. Joseph conveyed his lands by Indenture to James.
24 Oct	1799	D	165	Gloucester County Deeds: James Thackery and Jane, his wife, to Joseph Sloan and Elizabeth, his wife, lands of Stephen Thackery by will registered in the perogative office at Trenton, 170 a.
27 Jan	1814	Т	383	Gloucester County Deeds, Joseph Sloan and Elizabeth, his wife, to Joseph Jones.
10 Aug	1833	13	485	Gloucester County Deeds: James W. Caldwell, High Sheriff of Gloucester County to Isaac Jones and his heirs. (This is sheriff's sale of the property of Aquila Jones and Joseph Jones to settle debts. Property seized 25 Apr 1833).

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(Thackara House, West Collingswood, Camden County, NJ)

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25 Mar 1839	B4	272	Gloucester County Deeds: Isaac Jones and Amy, his wife, to John Campbell. (Description as in Tract #5).
17 Mar 1883	108	196	Camden County Deeds: Heirs of John Campbell (Sr) to John Campbell (Jr) (John Campbell, Sr. died intestate on or about 6 Jul 1882)
25 Mar 1887	129	122	John Campbell and Elizabeth M, his wife, to Edw C. Knight.
30 Apr 1887	129	578	E.C. Knight to Collingswood Land Co. (Tract #5)
2 Jan 1907	314	630	Collingswood Land Co. to Collingswood Building Co. (Lots 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101 and 102) (This is 175' deep strip south of Eldridge Ave. between Taylor and Comly).
26 Mar 1907	316	169	Collingswood Building Co. to A. Gertrude Evans (Lots 99 & 100).
20 Aug 1907	320	472	David Evans and Gertrude to Wm. A. S. Cook.
4 Dec 1923	547	310	Ella M. Cook to Kate Courtney and John Henry Lanctot (Lots 93, 95, 99 and 100 and parts of lots 96, 97, 98, 101 and 102) (Ella M. Cook) (Wm A. S. Cook died 3/31/23 - left to widow Ella M. by name of Ella S. Cook).
15 Apr 1924	562	92	Kate Courtney Lanctot & Vir. to Gertrude F. Howell (transfer of title to husband and wife).
15 Apr 1924	562	93	Gertrude F. Howell to John Henry Lanctot and Kate Courtney (wife) (Lots 93, 95, 99, and 100 and parts of Lots 96, 97, 98, 101 and 102, Sec B sup Ground Plan, Collingswood Land Co.)
7 Jan 1935	829	490	John Henry Lanctot and Kate Courtney (wife) to John Hancock MLI Co (present property plus lot north of Kraflow)

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20 Oct 1942	962	72	John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Co. to James McKeeman and Esther F.
24 Dec 1944	1002	500	James McKeeman and Esther F. to Ruth Thompson.
24 Nov 1953	1786	110	Ruth Thompson to Jack L. Lyons and Marion E. Lyons.
30 June 1955	1930	259	Jack L. Lyons and Marion E. Lyons to Glendin A. and Elizabeth D. Koster. (present owners)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

(Thackara House, West Collingswood, Camden County, NJ)

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Clement, John. "Sketches of the First Emigrant Settlers in Newton Township, Old Gloucester County, West New Jersey." Camden, New Jersey: Sinnickson Chew, 1877.
- Stewart, Frank H. "Gloucester County Under the Proprietors." Reprinted from "The Constitution", 1941 by Gloucester Historical Society, 1976.
- Camden County Deeds, Courthouse, Camden, N.J. Books and pages as shown on title trace herewith.
- Gloucester County Deeds, Courthouse, Woodbury, N.J. Book A, pp.98, 106¹/₂, 107, Book D, p. 165, Book G3, pp. 334, 423.
- New Jersey Archives, First Series, vol. XXI, New Jersey Records, 664-1705, pp. 351, 358.
- New Jersey Archives, vol. XXX, Abstract of Wills, vol. 11, 1730-1750, pp. 198, 208, 238, 334, 354.
- New Jersey Archives, vol. XXXII, Abstract of Wills, vol. III, 1751-1760, pp. 168, 426.

New Jersey Archives, vol. XXXIII, Calendar of Wills, p. 425.









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AVE., COLLINGSWOOD, NEW UERSEY 03107 • 25 SEPT. 1984 • MARSARET WASTFIELD SECOND FLOOR, THACKARA HOUSE 912 ELDRIDGE Not to Scale

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