

STATE: **New Jersey**
 COUNTY: **Morris**
 FOR NPS USE ONLY
 ENTRY NUMBER: **NOV 13 1972** DATE: **NOV 13 1972**

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:
Boonton Public Library

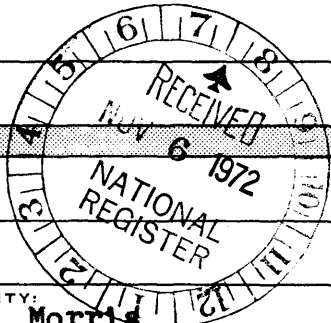
AND/OR HISTORIC:
James Holmes Library

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
619 Main Street at Church Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Boonton

STATE: **New Jersey** CODE: **34** COUNTY: **Morris** CODE: **027**



2/19 N 4525200
 HZ E 549600

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 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 | Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Comments: Library |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Boonton Public Library, Board of Trustees

STREET AND NUMBER:
619 Main Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Boonton** STATE: **New Jersey** CODE: **34**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:
Court Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Morristown** STATE: **New Jersey** CODE: **34**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory #462.2

DATE OF SURVEY: **1972** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Department of Environmental Protection, Historic Sites

STREET AND NUMBER:
Post Office Box 1420

CITY OR TOWN: **Trenton** STATE: **New Jersey** CODE: **34**

STATE: **New Jersey**
 COUNTY: **Morris**
 ENTRY NUMBER: **NOV 13 1972**
 DATE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3-2-73

7. Description

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|---|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| CONDITION | (Check One) | | | | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input checked="" 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

Exterior

Mr. Holmes acquired this property in 1856 with house and buildings. An early photograph (c. 1870) shows the house as a two story structure with a porch across the entire five bay front with a center entry. The house appeared to be of the simple Greek Revival style, dating from the late 1840's. The porch and bay window on the second floor appear to be later.

A later photograph (circa 1895) shows the house with the same porch, however, the house is enlarged, appearing much as it is today. A full third floor was added with a low pitch roof and wide bracketed overhangs. The depth of the building also appears to have been increased. In the cellar the foundation of the front portion is brick and probably corresponds to the smaller house. The foundation is extended to the rear in stone probably corresponding to this major enlargement.

Interior

As presently existing the first floor has been extensively altered for library facilities. Remaining is a simple Greek Revival type mantel. The second floor has been converted to apartments. The third floor is nearly intact, having been unused for many years. It was finished in 1894 as a meeting room.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



8. Significance

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

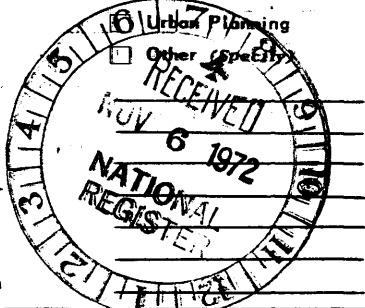
Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1849, 1893

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | |

Urban Planning
 Other (Specify)



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Eliza Ann Scott purchased the corner lot in Boonton in 1849 from the New Jersey Iron Company. The Iron Company's activities were confined to mining the land nearest the river and by 1848 they had decided to sell their remaining property for housing development. Scott, upon buying the land, was required by agreement to erect a building or dwelling on the premises within one year. In all probability she erected what is now known as the Holmes Library, although much altered, in 1849, and, because of its suitable location it was apparently used as a store or stores. At that time the building was a two story structure, box-like in general appearance with a fairly flat roof. The front facade had three entrances for, assumedly, three separate stores.

In early 1856 Eliza Scott sold her corner lot property to James Holmes. Holmes, born in Massachusetts, was engaged by the New Jersey Iron Company of Boonton to be the superintendent of the nail factory in 1850. In 1851 the works came under the ownership of Fuller, Lord, & Company. One of the highest paid employees in the 'company' town of Boonton Holmes invested his money wisely and gradually became so prosperous that he was even able to withstand the sudden collapse of the Iron Mills in 1876. Holmes, from then on, being independently wealthy from his real estate income, devoted his remaining years to community service. He was, at various times, the Mayor of Boonton for three years, a founder and first president of the Boonton National Bank, and a member of the State Board of Education. When he died in 1893 he bequeathed \$8,000 and his home to the then recently formed Boonton Public Library Association.

Holmes had stipulated that his manor house be used as a library and that \$3,000 was for the purchase of books and the enlarging of the house. The remaining \$5,000 was to be put in a Library Trust Fund for the future.

It was at this time the Holmes Manor was converted into a three story building (major renovations were performed throughout) and the third floor was leased to Arcana Lodge (Masons). Later this floor was occupied by a

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Biographical & Genealogical History of Morris County, New Jersey. Volume II. Lewis Publishing Company: New York, 1899
Boonton Weekly Bulletin. March 2, 1893. James Holmes obituary.
 Hughes, Thomas. "Map of the Town of Boonton". 1857.
Morris County Deeds. Books I-5 (page 360) & 0-4 (page 504).
 "Short History of the Boonton Library". Circulated by the Boonton Library Association, 1944.
 "Souvenir of the Dedication of the New Jersey Fireman's Home at Boonton, New Jersey". June 23, 1900.
 (see continuation sheet 2.)

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 ° 54 ' 19 " | 74 ° 24 ' 40 " | |
| NE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |
| SE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |
| SW | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |

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

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

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
|--------|------|---------|------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Terry Kerschner, Historian-Curator

ORGANIZATION: **Historic Sites** DATE: **October 24, 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Post Office Box 1420

CITY OR TOWN: **Trenton** 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, Environmental Protection**

Date: **October 26, 1972**

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

Robert G. ...
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: **11/13/72**

ATTEST:
[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: **Nov. 9, 1972**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) 1.

| | | |
|------------------|------------|------|
| STATE | New Jersey | |
| COUNTY | Morris | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | | DATE |
| NOV 13 | 1972 | |

(Number all entries)

Boonton Public Library
619 Main Street
Boonton
Morris County, Code: 027
New Jersey, Code: 34

8. Significance (continued)

branch of the American Federation of Hosiery Workers. The Boonton Times, a local newspaper, occupied the west side of the first floor and later a physician used this side for his office. The library also functioned as a telephone and telegraph office for many years with the librarian working as operator of both.

The James Holmes Library, then, has played an important part in the development of Boonton -- first, as a community shopping place, next, as a home of one of its most illustrious citizens, and then as a social, educational, communication, and health center always serving the community and its needs. Presently, it is still the town library.

CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATION

Clifford Case, Senator
Harrison Williams, Senator

Cornelius E. Gallagher , Representative, Fifth District



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) 2.

| | |
|------------------------------------|------|
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(Number all entries)

Boonton Public Library
619 Main Street
Boonton
Morris County, Code: 027
New Jersey, Code: 34

9. Bibliography (continued)

Teush, William L. Photos taken of James Holmes and his wife and their home. 1870. Mr. Teush was a photographer in the town of Boonton. Unpublished documentary materials located in the Boonton Public was used.

