

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED APR 12 1977  
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**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**

HISTORIC ~~The~~ Coffee House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 214 North Maple Avenue  
CITY, TOWN Basking Ridge VICINITY OF 5th  
STATE New Jersey CODE 034 COUNTY Somerset CODE 035

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Kenneth A. & Marjory L. Turner, Jr.

STREET & NUMBER 214 North Maple Avenue  
CITY, TOWN Basking Ridge VICINITY OF STATE New Jersey

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Somerset County Adm. Bldg. - County Clerk's Office  
STREET & NUMBER North Bridge Street & East High Street  
CITY, TOWN Somerville STATE New Jersey 07920

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE New Jersey Historic Preservation Survey #413.8  
DATE 1970  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Historic Sites Section, Department of Environmental Protection  
CITY, TOWN Trenton STATE New Jersey

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The "Old Coffee House" situated on the northeast corner of the intersection of Madisonville Road and North Maple Avneue in Basking Ridge, is a typical New Jersey frame farm house that so frequently did double duty as farm and tavern in the 18th and early 19th centuries.

The building as it exists today has two distinct parts -- what appears to be the earliest part (possibly 1780+) has low 7'-0 ceilings and its original plan is typical of the early farm house with large keeping room complete with 5'-0 fireplace and oven to the side; tight stair to loft above, lean to shed on the north and covering the oven, and a salt box type lower section to the east remains, although the big fireplace has been reduced in size and the "body" of the oven removed. The cast iron door frame and ash chute remain. The original ceiling had been plastered over hand split lath, the bricks are sun dried, and a thin skim white coat has been applied over a mud plaster base coat. Several batten doors consisting of wide tapered boards and fastened with hand made nails hewn, except for rafters which appear to be early mill sawn. There is no basement under this section of the house. In some areas beams have rotted away and have been replaced with a concrete slab with old floor boards replaced. A projecting angled bay window of Victorian style, circa 1870, has been installed where orginally there would have been two small sash. What had been the two small chambers on the easterly side have been converted to one long room, now used as a kitchen. The little tight stair to the loft has been removed and a window and cabinet have been installed in this area. Also the original "hood" type framed overhanging porch roof has been replaced with a new porch and roof supported by square 6x6 columns.

The larger full two story part of the building is also constructed of hewn timber framing with a full basement. This section also contains some early batten doors and hardware which could have been reused from part of the earlier structure. However the partially exposed foundation wall in the keeping room of the newer part, and the fact that there are many large pegs driven from inside the newer setion which are exposed in the older part, could indicate that this smaller wing was possibly moved and attached to the more substantial building. The floor level of the later part is also about 30" higher than the earlier part, with the older section probably serving as the kitchen and for less elegant activities than the new "parlors". The larger section has cut nails in the flooring. Trim in the front parlor is quite Classic Revival in feeling, with square corner blocks and pilastered trim. The ceilings have heavy moulded plaster at cornice and applied ornamental plaster brackets and medallions at center of ceilings with hook built in for lamp or chandeliers. There is also a similar treatment in the deep projecting angled bay on the south end of this room, in the evolution of changes that seems to have occurred. The windows appear to have been made larger and lower than those in the rear parlor and are 6/6 lights, with a small flat wood 12" panel under them. There are a large pair of pocket sliding doors (5'-0) which open into the rear parlor. This room has a slate arched Victorian mantel and coal grate, corner fireplace. The slate has been marbelized and would reflect a change made to the original construction (circa 1810) made around 1860+ when the plaster ornamentation was also installed.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
___PREHISTORIC	___ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	___COMMUNITY PLANNING	___LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	___RELIGION
___1400-1499	___ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	___CONSERVATION	___LAW	___SCIENCE
___1500-1599	___AGRICULTURE	___ECONOMICS	___LITERATURE	___SCULPTURE
___1600-1699	___ARCHITECTURE	___EDUCATION	___MILITARY	___SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
___1700-1799	___ART	___ENGINEERING	___MUSIC	___THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	___EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	___PHILOSOPHY	___TRANSPORTATION
___1900-	___COMMUNICATIONS	___INDUSTRY	___POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	___OTHER (SPECIFY)
		___INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1806

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Built by/for Daniel Doty

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Coffee House was an early 19th century crossroads tavern. The structure was built as a farm house and residence for a store shortly after the completion, in 1804, of the cross roads at what became the hamlet of Madisonville. It was the nucleus about which this small community developed. In 1814 the property was purchased by Jacob Burt who started a tavern known as the Coffee House. It became the center of activity and entertainment for the farms and other small communities within several miles.

It is significant that the name Coffee House became synonymous with Madisonville, and has remained so. Numerous references used the name Coffee House instead of Madisonville and most older residents refer to the area as Coffee House. Coffee House corner is noted on some of the present Bernards Township maps.

On September 6, 1804 Daniel Doty bought 17 acres including a store from David Simpson for \$468. This was the first recorded deed to the Coffee House property. His children are recorded as being born in Basking Ridge because of his association with the Presbyterian Church. One of his sons was Dr. Samuel S. Doty, a leading physician in the state. Daniel Doty owned the fulling mill at Logtown in 1801 but he was not listed as a Bernards resident until after the purchase of the Coffee House property.

The line between the Coffee House property and that of Thomas Riggs, to the south, angled across the proposed new road, being some 36 feet south of the center of the road at the intersection. Apparently Daniel Doty and Thomas Riggs agreed on the road as the new boundary and the store was moved to a location in front of the Coffee House as described in later deeds. The 1806 tax records list Daniel Doty and Isaac Southard as each half owners of the store. The Day Books of Doty and Southard's Store for the years 1806 and 1809-11 are in Special Collections, Rutgers University Library.

Isaac Southard, born in 1783, married Daniel Doty's daughter Mary in January 1807. Doty and Southard were also partners in several land purchases. A letter to Isaac Southard in 1811 addressed him as 'Merchant, Basking Ridge, N.J.' indicating that he was active in the store. He served in the War of 1812. In 1816-17 he was tax collector for the 3rd District and listed his office in Basking Ridge. He moved to Somerville and became County Clerk in 1820. He was the State Treasurer in 1837 and a U.S. Representative 1839-41.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See enclosed continuation sheets

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	8	5	3	8	7	0	0	4	5	0	7	5	4	0
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

B 

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING					

C 

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING					

D 

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

the nominated property occupies township lot 6, block 91, and is roughly 4 acres in size

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Kenneth A. Turner Jr./President

(Nanci Kostrub, Historic Sites Section, DEP, Trenton 609-292-2023)

ORGANIZATION

Basking Ridge Historical Society

DATE

December 14, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

214 North Maple Avenue

TELEPHONE

201-766-1141

CITY OR TOWN

Basking Ridge

STATE

New Jersey 07920

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

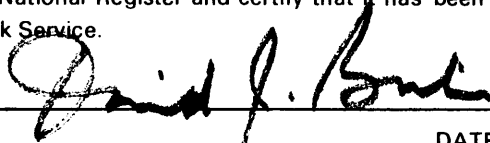
NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE

Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

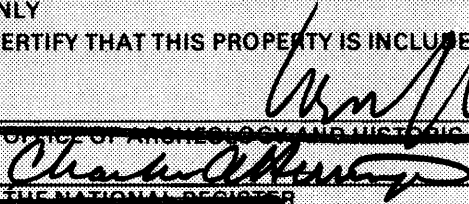
DATE

MAR 28 1977

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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST



DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

4/2/77  
4-2-77

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The entrance hall runs through from front to back with the original rear door and charrail surviving. An open string, straight run of stairs with a delicate fruitwood pear shaped handrail, having a tapered newl, "Shaker" in character, and square ballusters leads to the second floor. The present front door is Victorian in character with round beaded heavy applied moulded panels, and the floor is T&G 6" pine boards.

The second floor has but two large bedrooms, with the one above the front parlor having the same angled projecting bay window carrying up t the second floor. There is a third small room the width of the downstaris hall just outside the enclosed beaded board partitioned attic stair. The attic is an open loft area with two small bedrooms partitioned on the south end with rough cut tongue and grooved 1x8" boarding fastened with machine cut nails. The doors of these rooms are batten type with a 6" hinged transom board above the door head, also "Shaker" in character. The floorboards are worn smooth in several areas from use, possibly from boarders sleeping billets.

The exterior of the building consists of weather boarding 6" to the weather which appear to have been part of a general updating of the building in the mid 1870's when the bay windows, heavy cornices, and wide overhangs appear to have been added. There are a few decorative scroll type, widely spaced, modillions under the cornice and low pitched pediment type canopyied window heads over the windows which were undoubtedly added at this time, and I feel quite certain not part of the original construction which would have been far simpler. A shed dormer has been added to the front of the old wing. Other than this and the porch column change, there have been no exterior structural changes since 1870+.

The outbuildings are also of comparable value and interest with a circa 1860 carriage house with Gothic Revival featues and the 18th century barn and carriage shed still in agriculutral use, housing sheep and farm equipment.

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A diary of Lydia Albro, a later owner, says that the present Coffee House was completed in 1806. Other evidence seem to support this. Several entries of Daniel Doty in the 1806 Store Book mention materials and labor. James Hanvil, who was then living near Logansville, was paid for brick and shingle work. The Coffee House is thus the oldest existing house in Madisonville. The Coffee House barn was built in 1810 according to entries for shingles and nails 'used at the barn' inside the front cover of the later Store Book. Daniel Doty seems to have lived in the house and operated the store as many of the entries are in his handwriting.

Isaac Southard acquired title to the Coffee House property, possibly through the partnership, for there is no public record. In April, 1814 Jacob Burtt purchased the property from Isaac Southard for \$2,550 and submitted an application for a tavern license to the Somerset County Court of Quarter Sessions. Jacob Burtt was a past resident of the Madisonville area as his name appears frequently in the Store Books. The license was granted and Jacob Burtt was to operate the Coffee House for three years. In the Somerset County Court of Common Pleas in April, 1817 Isaac Southard was awarded a judgement against Jacob Burtt for \$3,400. It was levied against 2 horses, 2 cows, 7 beds and bedding, and the value of his real estate. Also in April 1817 the tavern license application was submitted to Hezekiah Norris for Elija(?) Norris who had rented the Coffee House.

Jacob Burtt advertised the sale of the property in January, 1818 in the Palladium of Liberty, a Morristown newspaper. This ad describes the tavern, store, etc. and also indicates that the land was farmed. A small house and blacksmith shop mentioned in the ad were actually owned by John McMurtry. The actual sale to settle the debt, however, was by Martin Schenk, Somerset County Sheriff, on March 10, 1818. Isaac Southard repurchased the property for \$1,650. Daniel Doty received the license in 1818 and moved back into the Coffee House, this time as a tavern keeper. The property was sold in 1819 to Joseph Doty, Daniel's son and Issac Southard's brother in law. It was later rented to a series of innkeepers.

Madisonville was undoubtedly named for President James Madison as the name first appeared on an adjacent deed as Madison Village in 1809. A manuscript map of a large tract of land, drawn in 1818 by S.W. Edwards, includes Madisonville in the southwest corner. The map shows all of the associated buildings at that time and uses the name Madisonville Coffee House. The Coffee House is also identified as Joseph Doty's house on a map of Israel Rickey's property, 1821-23.

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By Acts of the N.J. General Assembly in 1790 and 1797 taverns were to be licensed yearly by the County Courts of Quarter Session. A tavern keeper was expected to have two or more feather beds than necessary for his family, be well provided with house room and provender, and provide stabling for four more horses than his own. The original Somerset County tavern license applications are in the ARchives of the New Jersey State Library, Trenton. The tavern keepers of the Coffee House, as indicated by the applications on file are as follows:

1814-16	Jacob Burtt
1817	Elija(?) Norris
1818	Daniel Doty
1822-23	Michael VanNorden
1824-25	Barnet Sedam
1826-27	John Freeman
1828-29	Levi Clauson

Thomas Gordon's Map of New Jersey, printed in 1828, shows the Coffee House with a tavern symbol.

When John Fairchild bought the property in 1832 he apparently moved in and became the first resident owner in many years as there are no more tavern licenses on record. Benjamin Albro Jr., who bought from Fairchild in 1841, was a New York City merchant as was also his brother Henry who purchased the property in 1846. The property eventually passed on to Henry Albro's daughter Lydia. The Albros added the bay windows and did most of the interior remodeling. Lydia Albro died in 1905 and left the Coffee House to Clara Dayton, whose mother had lived with her for a number of years.

The Dayton's remained in the house until 1954 when the estate was purchased by their grandson who owns it to the present day. The present owners of the Coffee House, a grandson, Kenneth A. and Marjory L. Turner Jr. bought the buildings and four acres from her estate.

Even after the Coffee House was no longer a tavern its name had become associated with Madisonville and many times was used instead. A deed to Peter Irvine in 1841 for property across the roads starts "Beginning at the Cross roads at a place called the Coffee House". The name Coffee House is used in John Littels's 1845 Map of Passaic Valley from the Stone House Village to

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Chatham, N.J. A letter in 1899 mentions going over to the Coffee House for a visit. A map drawn in 1912 by Joshua Doughty Jr., Somerset County Engineer, showing Roads, Towns, Places, Houses, Etc. in Mercer, Somerset, and Morris Counties, N.J. of Local Historical Interest uses the name Coffee House. Coffee House was used on the call board at the Basking Ridge Fire House. Coffee House corner is identified on some of the present Bernards Township maps.

It has been many years since the Coffee House was last a tavern but it was of such importance at that time that its name remains with us today.

The Coffee House and its outbuildings are a fine complex that show the development of different styles and the economic progress of the inhabitants. The continued use as a residence, well maintained and carefully restored by its present owners, provides a good example of how buildings of historic merit may be usefully employed, yet preserving their finer features without being a museum or lost as a landmark because of neglect.



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Maps

Map #MSS43, 7500 Acres of Land Surveyed for William Penn, 1741, New York Historical Society.

Map No. III and Schedule Numb. III, James Alexander, 1745, Elizabeth-Town Bill in Chancery, an original in Morristown, N.J. Library.

Erskine - DeWitt Maps 70-A, 104-A, 106-A, 1779-81, New York Historical Society Photo copies, Morristown, N.J. Library.

Manuscript Map by S.W. Edwards, 1818, original on display in Old Mill In. Rt. 202, Bernardsville, N.J.

Map of the Israel Rickey Property, 1821-23, original in Archives of Basking Ridge Historical Society, 15 W. Oak Street, Basking Ridge, N.J.

A Map of the State of New Jersey, Thomas Gordon, 1828, an original in Rutgers University Library, New Brunswick, N.J. A portion published in the Mapping of New Jersey, John P. Snyder, 1973, Rutgers University Press, page 97.

A Map of Passaic Valley from the Stone House Village to Chatham, N.J. by John Littell, 1845, Lith. by Lewis & Brown an original in New Providence Historical Society, New Providence, N.J.

Map Showing Roads, Towns, Places, Houses Etc. in Mercer, Somerset and Morris Counties, N.J. of Local Historical interest, Joshua Doughty Jr., Civil Engineer, 1912, original in Special Collections, Rutgers University Library.

1975 Bicentennial 1976 Road Map of Bernards Township, Somerset County, N.J.

New Jersey State Library Archives, Trenton, N.J.

Deed Book B-2 page 312, William Penn to John Budd, 1718.

26R, Israel Rickey Will, 1729.

Tax Records of Bernards Township, Somerset County, 1778-1806.

Tavern License Applications for Somerset County, 1814-1828.

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Office of the Somerset County Clerk, Administration Building, Somerville,  
N.J.

Deed Books as listed under Property Ownership.

Somerset County of Common Pleas, April Term 1804, April Term 1817.

Somerset County Court of Quarter Sessions, Oct. Term 1828, April Term 1829.

Somerset County Road Book A #2, page 197, 198.

Newspapers

The Fredonian, New Brunswick, N.J., January 4, 1816, December 12, 1816, October 2, 1817, Rutgers University Library, New Brunswick, N.J.

The Palladium of Liberty, Morristown, N.J., February 5, 1818, Morristown, N.J. Library.

Special Collections, Rutgers University Library

Day Books of Doty and Southard's Store, 1806, 1809-11, AC. 151.

Letter to Isaac Southard, AC. 1933.

Acts of the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey, 1790, page 617-619, 1797, page 180-188 (licensing inns and taverns).

Bernards Township Library, 32 S. Maple Avenue, Basking Ridge, N.J.

A Card File of local geneological history compiled by Nettie Allen.

History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, New Jersey, James P. Snell, 1881, Everts & Peck, Philadelphia, pages 562, 642, 643, 646, 736, 739.

Bernards Township Natural Resource Inventory, 1975, Vol. 2 Table 35, Overlay (OL) Map 6.

Historical Booklet of Bernards Township, N.J., 1960.

Albro Family Papers, owned by Kenneth A. Turner Jr.