

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0668958

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAY 17 1978
DATE ENTERED SEP 6 1978
DATA SHEET

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

LAMBERTVILLE HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

32 Bridge Street, at Union

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Lambertville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

13th

VICINITY OF

STATE

New Jersey

CODE

34

COUNTY

Hunterdon

CODE

019 ✓

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

___DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

___STRUCTURE

___SITE

___OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

___PUBLIC

PRIVATE

___BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

___IN PROCESS

___BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

___UNOCCUPIED

___WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

___YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

___NO

PRESENT USE

___AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

___EDUCATIONAL

___ENTERTAINMENT

___GOVERNMENT

___INDUSTRIAL

___MILITARY

___MUSEUM

___PARK

___PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___RELIGIOUS

___SCIENTIFIC

___TRANSPORTATION

___OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

John C. Allen, Jr.

STREET & NUMBER

32 Bridge Street

CITY, TOWN

Lambertville

VICINITY OF

STATE

New Jersey

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Hall of Records, Court House

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Flemington

STATE

New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory (#1712.4)

DATE

1966

___FEDERAL STATE ___COUNTY ___LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Office of Historic Preservation, Department of
Environmental Protection

CITY, TOWN

Trenton

STATE

New Jersey

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Lambertville House was constructed in two major phases. The stone unit was erected in 1812, and the massive masonry addition was added sometime in the third quarter of the 19th century.

Originally built in 1812 by Captain John Lambert, the tavern was a 3 1/2 story random fieldstone structure. With its center hall, paired gable end chimneys, and interior details, it is clearly a vernacular Federal style late 18th-early 19th century building. Originally with two windows flanking the center door, the first floor facade now has large modern commercial windows with small panes.

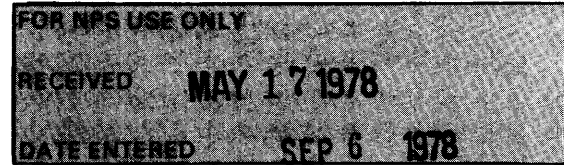
The first floor interior arrangement is not unlike a private residence with center through hall and a room front and back on either side (the rooms have been opened up into single dining rooms, however). The first floor has numerous notable decorative 19th century features including two Adamesque mantels, windows, and door framing with Greek shoulder moldings. The chimney placement on the original building finds the west rooms with corner fireplaces, while the east rooms are flat against what was originally the outside wall.

The second floor is divided into numerous rooms to accommodate guests. The basement is made up of heavy hewn oak beams (approximately 12" x 12") on a random fieldstone foundation about 18 inches thick.

The stone unit was engulfed by a large masonry Victorian Italianate addition, probably sometime in the third quarter of the 19th century. This unit provided an additional three bays on the front facade and raised the roof to four stories at the front while extending five bays along Union Avenue. The result on Bridge Street is a four story Victorian Italianate eight bay hotel having a very slightly pitched roof with a central cross gable. There are paired brackets under the eaves, decorative frieze, and windows that are all 6/6 sash. Hiding the stone unit from view is an excellent two tier Victorian veranda with iron brackets and posts on the first floor and sawn brackets and wood posts on the second level. The veranda has a flat roof. On the west gable end, the gable roof is hidden by a false front created by the raising of the front facade to four stories.

The interior of the addition is divided up into commercial stores on the first level, and part of the inn, but has most of the original small hotel rooms intact on the second, third, and fourth floors.

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Lambertville
Hunterdon County
New Jersey 031
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7. DESCRIPTION (continued)

Off the rear of the store unit is a small 1 1/2 story frame kitchen, probably constructed circa 1920. Surrounding this kitchen with an L is a one story flat-roofed section, built in 1961.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1812

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Commerce

Originally built in 1812 and enlarged in the third quarter of the 19th century the Lambertville House is the oldest functioning tavern in the city and one of the oldest in New Jersey.

Architecture

Architecturally, the original store portion still exhibits Federal characteristics as evidenced by the fine Adamesque mantels in the main dining room. It is a rare extant example of the style in Lambertville.

Three stories high, the inn as originally constructed became a dominant landmark for travelers. Constructed in the same year as the Lambertville-New Hope Bridge, the Lambertville House was a successful speculative investment on the part of the original owner, Captain John Lambert (of the family after whom the village was soon named). Previously the road had been a secondary one, but construction of the covered wooden span across the Delaware re-oriented the focus of the town establishing Bridge Street as a major thoroughfare between New York and Philadelphia.

Sometime in the third quarter of the 19th century, probably after the Civil War, the Lambertville House was enlarged at least doubling its former size and projecting an overall Victorian Italianate form, one of the best representations of this style in a commercial edifice in the city.

While most boarders were probably exhausted and uneventful travelers who received little notoriety when registering, an occasional visitor would merit special consideration. Such guests include President Andrew Johnson, General U.S. Grant, Senator Thaddeus Stevens of Pennsylvania, Lincoln's son Robert Todd, and Edward, Prince of Wales. Theatrical troupes ranging from the Sanford Philadelphia Opera Company and the Peak Family of Swiss Bell Ringers to Pearl White, heroine of the "Perils of Pauline" have also enjoyed Lambertville House accommodations.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Gallagher, Sarah A. Early History of Lambertville, New Jersey. Trenton, 1903. (p. 24).

Petrie, Alfred G. Lambertville, New Jersey. Lambertville, 1949, revised 1970.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	8	5	0	4	6	2	0	4	4	6	8	1	4	0
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

B

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property occupies city block 1035, lot 17 and is approximately 150' X 100' in size

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Terry Karschner, Historic Preservation Specialist

ORGANIZATION

Office of Historic Preservation

DATE

10/1977

STREET & NUMBER

109 West State Street

TELEPHONE

(609) 292-2028

CITY OR TOWN

Trenton

STATE

New Jersey

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL XX

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.

Deputy

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Terry Karschner

4-27-78

TITLE

Deputy Commissioner
Department of Environmental Protection

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DATE

9.6.78

9.5.78

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8. SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

Communications

Captain John Lambert's uncle (also John Lambert) was elected to the United States Senate during the Jefferson administration, and through his influence the first Post Office was established in Lambert's Ville in 1814. Captain Lambert was the first postmaster and the tavern functioned as its edifice.

Captain Lambert died around 1826, and the tavern went through a series of owners and proprietors but always remained an inn.

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Lambertville
Hunterdon County New Jersey 034

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9. BIBLIOGRAPHY (continued)

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Philadelphia, 1881. (p. 270).

Atlas of Philadelphia and Vicinity. 1860

Beers, F. W. Atlas of Hunterdon County, New Jersey. New York, 1873.

Tavern Licenses. Hunterdon County 1814-1826. John Lambert, Jr.

Biographical Directory of the American Congress 1774-1971. U.S. Government
Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 1971. (p. 1257).

Boyer, Charles S. Old Inns and Taverns in West Jersey. Camden, New Jersey,
1962 (pp. 214-16).