

PH 0084760

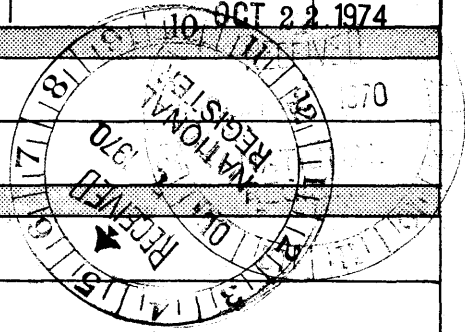
Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: New Jersey	
COUNTY: Burlington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	OCT 22 1974



1. NAME

COMMON:
Atsion Village

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
~~Rt. 206 5 miles south of Indian Mills~~

CITY OR TOWN:
Atsion

STATE: **New Jersey** CODE: **34** COUNTY: **Burlington** CODE: **005**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			Yes:
<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 checked="" 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)
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

Comments: **State-owned Historic Site**

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
New Jersey Department Environmental Protection

STREET AND NUMBER:
P.O. Box 1390, John Fitch Way Plaza

CITY OR TOWN: **Box 1420 Trenton** STATE: **New Jersey** CODE: **34**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Mount Holly** STATE: **New Jersey** CODE: **34**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory # 188.1

DATE OF SURVEY: **1961** Federal State County Local

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

STREET AND NUMBER:
P.O. Box 1420, John Fitch Way Plaza

CITY OR TOWN: **Trenton** STATE: **New Jersey** CODE: **08625** **34**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **New Jersey**

COUNTY: **Burlington**

ENTRY NUMBER: **001**

DATE: **OCT 22 1974**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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 type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Little is known of the original Atsion and forge and village started by Charles Read in 1768. All traces of these structures await archaeological work. Foundations remain of the grist mill, barn and several house sites. Neither the forge or furnace have been exactly located.

Most of the village that remains today is from the Richards (1808-1841) and Patterson (1863-1875) eras of the town. The Richards mansion and store have been restored. A cotton factory houses and church from the Patterson era are in deteriorating condition.

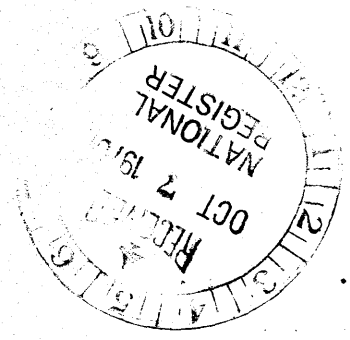
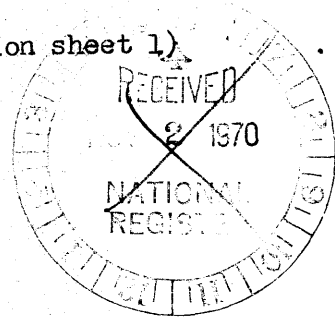
The entire village sits on unconsolidated sands in a poor drainage area typical of the Pine Barrens in which it is located. The Atsion River flows through the center of the village.

The mansion built in 1826 has been restored externally. It is an excellent example of Greek Revival architecture. There are two porches with cast iron water pipe as columns, a large porch across the south side of the house and a small porch to the north. The entire house is rough coated with plaster to simulate stone

The interior consists of four rooms on the first floor, and a T-shaped hallway with stairs that lead to a large-windowed landing. The second floor has six bedrooms. The third floor was also divided into six rooms. There are four fireplaces on both the first and second floor and a kitchen fireplace in the basement.

The village is now bi-sected by State Highway # 206

(see continuation sheet 1)



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. Statement of 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) (1766 - 1842 (iron) 1863 (cotton) 1885 (real estate))

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate) 1826-mansion

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Atsion Village is significant as a remnant of an early industrial community. This bog iron community lasted from 1768 until 1841, and was revitalized with a cotton factory in 1863 and a real estate development called Raleigh in 1885. Neither the cotton factory nor development were successful.

The mansion (described in appearance) and the store are architecturally significant. The store is also rough casted with scoring to look like dressed stone. The first floor included an office counter space with shelves and a large open area. Both the basement and second floor were used for storage space. A small room located to the right rear of the building was also used for storage.

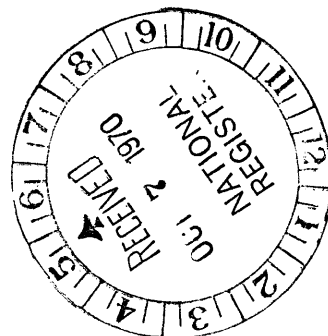
These two buildings should have Historic American Buildings Survey citation.

The mansion and store are fine examples of Greek Revival architecture and among the few remaining in South Jersey. The rough cast plaster is a unique effect to imitate stonework.

The entire community is significant as an example of a late 18th and early 19th century industrial and commercial venture.

(see continuation sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Atsien Books, Original Account, ledged and time books, owned by
 Burlington County Historical Society, Burlington, Co., N.J:
 Pierce Arthur D. Iron in the Pines Rutgers University Press, New
 Brunswick, New Jersey 1957
Family Empire In Jersey Iron Rutgers University Press
 New Brunswick, New Jersey 1964
 Boyer, Charles, Early Iron Forges and Furnaces in New Jersey University
 of Pennsylvania Press. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 1931

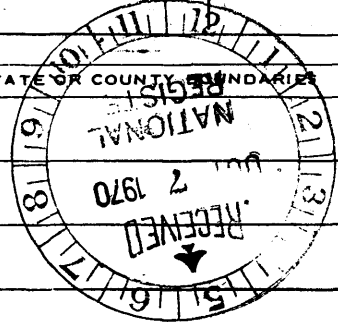
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			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
NW	39° 44' 45"	74° 44' "	0	.	.
NE	39° 44' 45"	74° 43' "	0	.	.
SE	39° 44' 45"	74° 43' "	0	.	.
SW	39° 44' 45"	74° 44' "	0	.	.

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **703**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



NW 18/522910
 4399340
 SE 18/524280/4399310
 SW 18/522900/4399320
 SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Charles I. Wilson Jr., Archaeologist

ORGANIZATION: **Historic Sites Section, Department Environmental Protection** DATE: **7 - 1970**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Box 1420, John Fitch Way Plaza

CITY OR TOWN: **Trenton** STATE: **New Jersey 08625** 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. ...*

Title: **Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection**

Date: **September 11, 1970**

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

AB ...
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 10/22/74

ATTEST:
...
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 10-21-74

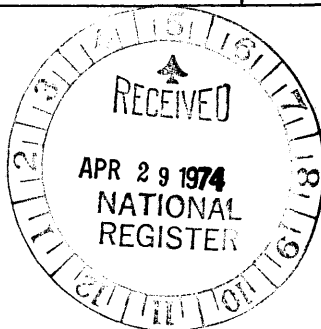
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE New Jersey	
COUNTY Burlington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	OCT 22 1974

(Number all entries)

Atsion Village
Burlington County 005
New Jersey 34



7. Description: (cont.)

The store is rough coated with plaster in a manner similiar to the mansion. The store has a belfry that gives it the appearance of a church. The belfry contained the bell used to call the employees to work.

The mill is an L-shaped 3½ story Jersey sandstone and timber building. It is vacant and in a deteriorating condition. No panes of glass are left in any of the windows. Its approximate size is 80' X24', attached to a 60' X 50' section. The third level was added by Raleigh when he converted the mill to paper production.

The church is 1 story white clapboard structure, with a twentieth century vestibule. The church is altered. It has 3 bays on the long side of the building with 6/6 sash and louvered shutters.

The school house was built in 1921. It is 1 story, frame and clapboard construction. The entrance is on the gable end. The building is no longer used as a school.

There are three workers homes remaining. One of these was built around 1880 of frame and clapboard construction. It is 2½ stories, with a gable roof that has a slight return. There is a raised stone foundation with two interior chimnies. The clapboard is unpainted. Another worker's house, probably built during the iron ore era at Atsion, appears as a log caoin today. The logs are not original. It is a two story building with an added center dormer. The windows on the first floor are 6/6 sash, the second are 4/4. There is a center front entrance with a bay on each side. The chimney is interior. The caretaker's house, built c. 1930, is white clapboard, 2½ stories. It is highly altered and retains little of its original work.

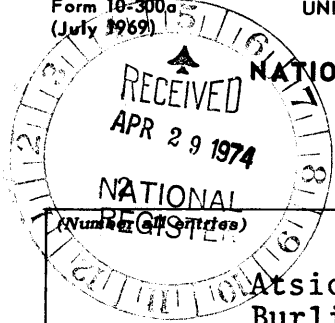
2. Location (cont.)

The Atsion Village District is continuous with the latitude and longitude lines. This was done to include house sites (1) along the north side of the lake, a former railroad station (2) to the east of the town and a cemetery (3) along the south lake shore.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE New Jersey	
COUNTY Burlington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	OCT 22 1974



Atsion Historic District
Burlington County 005
New Jersey 34

8. significance (cont.)

Atsion had four booms or revivals at different periods of history. The name itself comes from the Indian term for cedar color, which is the tone the stream running through the area had. The dam and the mill were constructed by a man named Estell around 1765. Charles Read purchased the area around the same time. He then built the forge. Read had set out to be the greatest iron master in New Jersey. He owned Etna, Tauton, Atsion and Basto by 1768. However, poor financial planning caused him to sell 449/1000 interest in Atsion. His controlling shares were sold in 1773.

Laurence Salter and David Ogden took control at this time. Later Ogden sold his shares to two other men and with Salter, these three men formed Atsion Company. In 1774 the furnace was built, making Atsion independent of Batsto. During the Revolutionary War, Atsion supplied iron to the Pennsylvania Troops. Business boomed and three saw mills and a grist mill were added.

By 1804 hard times had hit the village, and the works were sold to Jacob Downing. He purchased a blast furnace, an air furnace, a forge, a sawmill, two grist mills, ore beds, and 20,000 acres. Downing's era produced pots, stoves, kettles, and firebacks.

Again, business failed and the bank sold the property to Samuel Richards, the son of the owner of Batsto, in 1822. He reopened and rebuilt the works. They sold products in the Philadelphia and Trenton area. Business expanded to merchants in the New York area and a schooner was built to run down the river with products. The mansion and the store were built in this boom era. At this time the company employed 100 men and peaked to around 600 people during busy seasons.

Samuel Richards died in 1842 at the peak of Atsion's success. He left half of the estate to his daughter and half to his son. His daughter's husband, W. W. Fleming, took over the business. When the iron business fell off, he converted the works into paper production and built a paper mill. In 1854, the business failed again and Fleming fled the country, assigning his assets to his creditors. The area then went through various owners until 1862 when Col. William Patterson bought the area and renamed it

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

3

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE		New Jersey
COUNTY		Burlington
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
	OCT 22 1974	

(Number all entries)

8 Atsion Historic District
Burlington 005
New Jersey 34

Fruitland. He planned a real estate project, selling lots in the area. By 1871, the area was sold once more and was converted to a cotton mill. This was a profitable venture and the town expanded. A school and shops were built. When this owner, Raleigh, died his heir formed a land improvement company. This second land boom failed as the first had.

In 1892, Joseph Wharton acquired the property and used it as a storage area for products from Batsto.

What remains of the various companies formed in Atsion is the mill, the mansion, the store, a church and two homes. Foundations of other workers' houses and a grist mill and barn still remain. New discoveries may have revealed the furnace, but further archeological work must be done before this is certain. There is no other development on the land beyond some 1920 structures like the school.

