

# DATA SHEET

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: Salem	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	FEB 20 1975

### 1. NAME

COMMON:  
- Dickinson House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

### 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Brickyard Road *NE of Alloway on*

CITY OR TOWN: *MC*  
Alloway Township

STATE: New Jersey      CODE: 34      COUNTY: Salem      CODE: 033

### 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

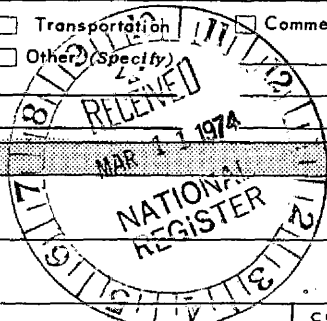
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Gerald R. W. Watland (estate of)

STREET AND NUMBER: 325 East 58th Street

CITY OR TOWN: New York      STATE: New York      CODE: 36



### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: County Clerk's Office Salem County

STREET AND NUMBER: 92 Market Street

CITY OR TOWN: Salem      STATE: New Jersey      CODE: 34

### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Building Survey N.J. 6-243

DATE OF SURVEY: 1936       Federal       State       County       Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington      STATE: D.C.      CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: New Jersey

COUNTY: Salem

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER: FEB 20 1975

DATE:

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 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

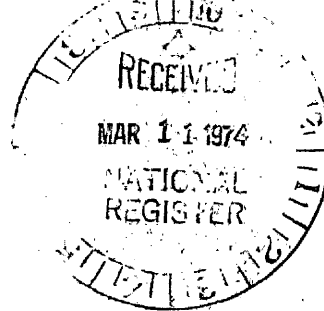
The Dickenson House, whose outside dimensions are 20 feet by 34 feet, is of solid brick construction, 2½ stories high. The facade is three bays wide, with the entrance door in the center. It is one room deep. The house sets on a high basement, with exposed cellar windows above grade and beveled brick water table. Small pent roofs between first and second floor windows shed water away from foundation. The main cornice is of the boxed with bold crown and bed moldings. The steeply pitched roof is covered with wood shingles. There are no dormers. Massive brick chimneys rise at each end of the house and are contained within the exterior walls. Small brick pilasters are worked into the shafts and terminate in corbelled caps. Window are divided into nine lights over nine lights with heavy muntins on the first floor. Second floor windows are divided nine lights over six lights.

The attraction of the exterior is the patterned brick gable end. It is completely covered with a design in glazed brick headers. It is said to be the most decorated of its type and is fairly uncommon. At the first floor level there is a series of vertical solid and sprouting diamonds which rise to an inverted "V" midway in the second floor, which separates the date "1754". The upper gable contains the initials J<sup>D</sup> M which stand for John and Mary Dickinson, the builders.

INTERIOR

The plan is said to be of Swedish derivation. One enters into the principal first floor room with a large fireplace and staircase winding up to the second floor at the right side of the fireplace. The fireplace wall was paneled in wood, originally, and is now installed in the Chicago Historical Society, as the "New Jersey Room". It is unique in design. A heavy wood cornice with dentils surrounded the room. The other main room on this floor is a "Parlour". The fireplace wall here is fully paneled to the left of the fireplace but terminates at the right side of the chimney breast. The rest of the fireplace wall is plastered. Wide old floor boards exist throughout the house. The second floor has two bedrooms. A stair hall and new bathroom have been created by using the space of the third, open bedroom at the top of the stairs. Both bedrooms have fireplaces and paneling. The wall at the top of the stairs is also paneled. Another stair rises from the second floor to a full attic.

(see continuation sheet)



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. Significance

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1754

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<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 type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

**ARCHITECTURE:**  
 John Dickinson, who built the Dickinson House, was a great, great grandson of John Fenwick, who bought a large tract of land in southern New Jersey from William Penn, upon which a part of this house stands. The house was originally built in 1754. This date can be attested to by the fact that the date, 1754, and the initials of the original owners, Mary and John Dickinson, appear on the south gable. Besides the builder and the date, the entire southern elevation is covered with blue glazed brick. This brick work is said to be one of the finest examples of the glazed brick pattern to be found in the state if not the nation.

There are claims that the first residents of The Dickinson House were forced to pierce holes in the original doors in order to protect themselves in case of attack by the Indians.

Ownership of the house passed through several hands over the years. The Dickinson family owned the house until 1780 when it was sold to Rachel R. Fisher. In the 19th Century there were two owners, Charles Stokes and George Watson. The Watsons sold the house in 1915 and since then the house has been owned by several people.

(see continuation sheet)

CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATION

Hon. Harrison A. Williams  
 Hon. Clifford P. Case  
 Hon. Charles W. Sandman 6th District

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Historic American Building Survey  
 Devlin, Harry "What Kind of House Is That?" Parents Magazine Press, New York, 1969.  
 Love, Dr. Paul (unpublished doctorate thesis), "Patterned Brickwork in the American Colonies" Michigan State University Lansing Michigan.  
 Sickler, Joseph S. The Old Houses Of Salem County Sunbeam Publishing Company, Salem, New Jersey, 1969.  
 Sim, Robert J. "Some Old Farms And Farm Houses In New Jersey" New Jersey Department of Agriculture Circular #299  
 Chicago Historical Society "Chicago History" Volumel Number4 1946.

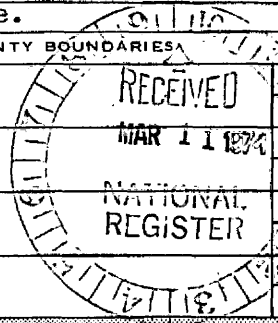
**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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	° ' "	° ' "		39 ° 36 01 "	75 ° 20 ' 01 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one acre.

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS  
 WM 18/4741330  
 438384 HL

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Kathleen J. Diller, Historian

ORGANIZATION: Historic Sites Section DATE: March, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: Department Of Environmental Protection Box 1420

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

**12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name: <u>Richard J. Sullivan</u>                  Title: <u>Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection</u>                  Date: <u>August 10, 1973</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>[Signature]</u>                  Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date: <u>2/20/75</u></p> <p>ATTEST:  <u>[Signature]</u>                  Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date: <u>2/20/75</u></p>
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet) - 2

STATE		New Jersey	
COUNTY		Salem	
FOR NPS USE ONLY			
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE	
		FEB 20 1975	

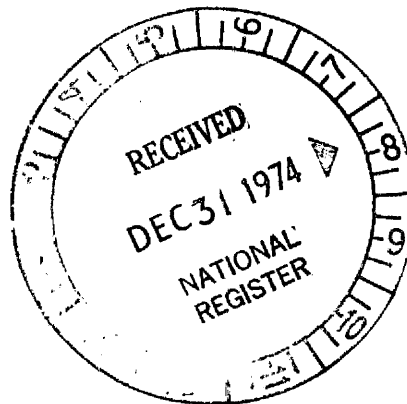
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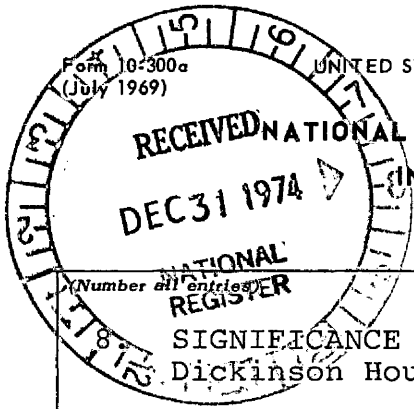
7. DESCRIPTION CONTINUED

Dickinson House, Salem County, New Jersey 34

Alterations to the Dickinson House include the removal of the paneling around the fireplace in the principal room. This paneling was purchased by an enterprising South Jersey antique dealer and sold to a dealer in New York, who later sold it to the President of the Chicago Historical Society, who later donated it to the Society.

Other alterations include a one story addition to the rear that currently serves as the kitchen and a one story wing to the opposite gable end from the pattern work. This addition is used as a garage. The front porch was removed and replaced by a reproduction wooden stoop with bench seats. The pent roof across the facade has been restored. An unoriginal double front dormer has been removed.





Form 10-300a  
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) - 3

STATE New Jersey	
COUNTY Salem	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
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8. SIGNIFICANCE CONTINUED

Dickinson House, Salem County, New Jersey 34

The Dickinson House has architectural significance both for its appearance and for its influence on other buildings. The patterned brickwork on the gable end has been described as "almost baroque in design and absolutely unique." (Love, p. 44) Several students of early American architecture have described the design as the most ornate pattern found in America. With its sprouting diamonds, clusters, ellipses, solid diamonds, and other designs, the pattern on the Dickinson House embraces all the diaper designs then known to American and English masons. The design on the Dickinson House has been copied on numerous occasions and its influence can be seen throughout several of the American colonies. In his Ph. D. dissertation on patterned brickwork in America, Paul Love concluded that the design on the Dickinson House has influenced the pattern on several other houses in Salem County such as the Samuel Bassett and the Samuel Swing Houses, several houses along the eastern shores of Maryland and Virginia, and even the Lastrapes House in St. Landry County, Louisiana.

The Dickinson House also has architectural significance on the local level because of other aspects of the house. Excluding the patterned brickwork, the house has many features that typify the type of building erected during the mid-eighteenth century. The Flemish bond brickwork with glazed headers on the facade, the wooden stoop with bench seats, the pent roof, the box cornice, the corbelled inside end chimneys, the interior floorplan with the staircase to one side of the fireplace, and the interior paneling are all characteristic of country homes found throughout the Middle Atlantic States.

The minimal number of alterations and the existence of so many original details make the Dickinson House an excellent example of the type of home built and occupied by relatively well-to-do colonists.