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JAN 25 1979

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# 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

Amanda Blake Store

AND/OR COMMON

## LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

104 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Port Republic

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2

STATE

New Jersey

CODE

COUNTY

Atlantic

CODE

001

## CLASSIFICATION

**CATEGORY**

**OWNERSHIP**

**STATUS**

**PRESENT USE**

\_\_\_ DISTRICT

\_\_\_ PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

\_\_\_ AGRICULTURE

\_\_\_ MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

\_\_\_ UNOCCUPIED

\_\_\_ COMMERCIAL

\_\_\_ PARK

\_\_\_ STRUCTURE

\_\_\_ BOTH

\_\_\_ WORK IN PROGRESS

\_\_\_ EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

\_\_\_ SITE

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

**ACCESSIBLE**

\_\_\_ ENTERTAINMENT

\_\_\_ RELIGIOUS

\_\_\_ OBJECT

\_\_\_ IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

\_\_\_ GOVERNMENT

\_\_\_ SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

\_\_\_ YES: UNRESTRICTED

\_\_\_ INDUSTRIAL

\_\_\_ TRANSPORTATION

\_\_\_ NO

\_\_\_ MILITARY

\_\_\_ OTHER:

## OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Harold H. Swoger

New owner - 10/78  
MR + MRS FRED NOYES  
MILL ROAD  
PORT REPUBLIC, NJ 08241

STREET & NUMBER

7 Highlandview Road

CITY, TOWN

Carnegie

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Pennsylvania 15106

## LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Atlantic County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Mays Landing

STATE

New Jersey 08330

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input 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		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Amanda Blake Store, situated on a lot at the corner of Main Street and Blake Lane, is a two-story rectangular building of wood frame and cedar clapboard construction. A one-story addition with a shed roof extends along the entire length of the west facade and a portion of the rear (north) facade. A wood deck front porch with a shed roof extends along the entire front (south) facade effectively uniting the main structure with the one story west addition.

Another wood deck porch on the Blake Lane facade (east) extends from an entrance door on Blake Lane around the corner of the building to connect with the addition at the middle of the rear (north) facade.

The second floor of the main structure has two double hung windows on the front and rear facades and five similar windows along the sides. The roof of this main structure is of hip type construction with asphalt shingles. The one story addition and the side (Blake Lane) porch have rolled asphalt roofing. The front porch (Main Street) has a metal roof.

Architectural details include three bay windows which extend onto the front porch. The detailing of these windows along with the beveled porch posts topped by ornate scrollwork provide a victorian motif to the front of the building. The bay windows served as store fronts for the Amanda Blake Store in the main structure and the U.S. post office which occupied the west addition.

The interior has undergone several alterations which have changed the original floor plan to some extent. In the main structure the front room which served as a store has been enlarged by the removal of a rear wall. At one time the Blake Street entrance hall had a stairway to the second floor which has since been removed. A small bathroom and heater room has been installed in this area. The rear half of the west addition has been converted into a commercial type kitchen which served a (by-reservation-only) restaurant which was operated approximately fifteen years ago in the original store.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input 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 1884

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Amanda Blake Store, built in 1884, is the one remaining structurally intact store of several which at one time flourished as a part of the small city of Port Republic. This store was not only a vital part of the community, in that it provided all of the items necessary in the days before automobiles came along, but was also the home of the "Independent Order of Mechanics," a fraternal lodge; a United States Post Office for twenty-two years, and a social center for the small city, a gathering place for news, conversation and entertainment.

William Blake, an early resident of Port Republic, had a farm in Chestnut Neck. William and his wife had fourteen children, one of whom was Amanda, the youngest. When his wife died, he and his two unmarried daughters, Annabelle and Amanda, were persuaded to give up the farm and run a store then operated by one son Mark Wesley Blake who alternated between going to sea, and keeping the store in town. This building on Main Street was rented from a Mr. Cake. Mr. Cake, the owner, gave short notice to Mr. William Blake to move stock in trade and all goods, hoping Mr. Blake would find it impossible to do so, and be forced to sell his inventory to Mr. Cake.

The three sons of William, determined their father should continue in his prosperous trade and built what has been and is now still called, "The Amanda Blake Store".

In 1884, Mark Wesley Blake gave the land, which was his garden. John, who had a lumber yard in Pleasantville, gave the lumber; and the third son Louis, put up the money for the carpenters. This then became the store run by William and his daughter Amanda.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See information attached:

1. GSA Form 6775
2. Letter from S. Margaret Harmon; Biography of Ms. Harmon
3. Copies of deeds

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .21 acres computations from New Gretna map

QUADRANGLE NAME \_\_\_\_\_ QUADRANGLE SCALE \_\_\_\_\_

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 8	5 4 3 7 1 0	4 3 7 4 3 2 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION BLOCK 5500, LOT 12, CITY RECORDS OFFICE, PORT REPUBLIC, N.J.  
 Not applicable, but property is bounded on the east by J.F.T. 12-12-78  
 Blakes Lane and on the south by Main Street.

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

Mrs. Pat Fallucca Chairperson, Building Committee 3/14/78

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

Port Republic Historical Society 3/14/78

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Mill Road, P.O. Box 195 609-652-7157

STATE

Port Republic

New Jersey 08241

# 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.

Deputy

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

*Paty Wilson*

9-5-78

TITLE Deputy Commissioner

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 1-25-79

ATTEST:

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE Jan. 26, 1979

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE #2

SIGNIFICANCE

Amanda learned the milliners trade and the small back room contained her workroom. The big front room stocked groceries, meats, salt pork, hams, salt mackerel and bacon. There were bins for whole corn, cracked corn and oats. Mail kegs in a row were in front with boards across the top where customers sat. On shelves were dress goods by the yard, work clothes, shoes, underwear, ribbons, thread, needles, sunbonnets, etc.

In the evening, the store was a social center for the men who swapped stories about clamming and hunting. The store was lighted by kerosene lamps which hung from the ceiling and had to be let down and serviced everyday. A big drum stood in the corner from which kerosene was pumped. In the back room were stove pipes, small kerosene stoves and stove top ovens. A small celler dug under the back room was reached by a trap door. This was, of course, for perishables such as butter.

The big lodge room held a raised platform in front and was used for many years as the meeting place for the Independent Order of Mechanics Lodge.

Amanda Blake was appointed postmistress on February 27, 1918 and retired from that position on January 31, 1940 at the age of seventy.

With only two years of formal education, this lady was a competent bookkeeper and business woman. The remaining store, which still bears her name is structurally the general store exactly as it looked years ago when its was a lively center of community activity.