

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

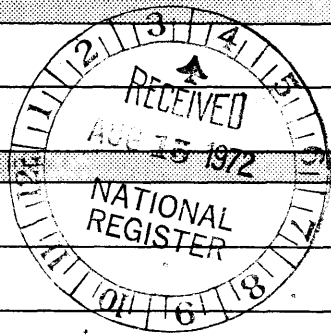
STATE: <b>New Jersey</b>	
COUNTY: <b>Middlesex</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER <b>MAR 7 1973</b>	DATE

4/3  
 E 546000  
 N 4050560  
 2/18

1. NAME

COMMON:  
**Metlar House**

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**Knapp or Bodine House**



2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**1281 River Road**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Piscataway**

STATE: **New Jersey**      CODE: **34**      COUNTY: **Middlesex**      CODE: **023**

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 type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Mr. and Mrs. John P. Newton**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**1281 River Road**

CITY OR TOWN: **Piscataway**      STATE: **New Jersey**      CODE: **34**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Middlesex County Registry of Deeds**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**John F. Kennedy Square**

CITY OR TOWN: **New Brunswick**      STATE: **New Jersey**      CODE: **34**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory #2464.3**

DATE OF SURVEY:       Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Historic Sites Office**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Box 1420**

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

STATE: <b>New Jersey</b>
COUNTY: <b>Middlesex</b>
ENTRY NUMBER <b>MAR 7 1973</b>
DATE

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7. Description

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input 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

I

The Metlar House consists of portions built at three different periods. The earliest portion which faces nearly west (or up-river) has one room eighteen feet square on the ground level and a room above built under the roof with a sloping ceiling. At one time a small one story lean-to was attached to the rear or northern wall and probably served as a kitchen. There is no connection between the second story room and the second floor of the remainder of the house. A cellar room is below with a six foot ceiling and a "cold hole" in the floor.

The construction is of the braced frame type with a rubble foundation and brick lining. The exterior is clapboard with a six and one half inch exposure. The floor beams are of oak with mortise and tenon construction held with wooden pins. The floors are of one and one quarter inch random width pine, some of the boards being in excess of eighteen inches in width. A fireplace and chimney are located in the end or western wall. The chimney is in the room. A rather simple pine mantel and a small cupboard built into the chimney are original workmanship. It is interesting to note that an identical mantel was built for the Matthias Smock House, presently owned by Dr. Paul Jennings, which is of similar age and is located two miles further west on the River Road.

II

The center portion of the house was built next. The exact date is not known. The basic construction is similar to that of the earlier portion. Again, a brick lined braced frame construction was used with pegged mortar and tenon joints. The timbers appear to be spruce. The interior woodwork, as contrasted with the plain trim in the older rooms, is more elaborate and has a Greek Revival flavor--wide and tapering upright members and heavy horizontal members at the top of the doors and windows.

This portion of the house has a gracious seven foot wide entrance hall which runs the full depth of the house. The newel post and bannister are of walnut and there is a landing with a window overlooking the back garden. The glass around and over the front door is handmade.

III

There is also a double living-room on the ground floor sixteen by thirty-two feet in size with sliding dividing doors in the middle. Each half of the room has identical slate and marble faced fireplaces, one of which is intended only for use as a ventilator. It is possible that the marble mantels were rather late additions and replaced earlier wooden ones. The floor is of matched pine boards with a natural finish. The floor boards are laid with cut nails but are of uniform width. Some window sash in this portion of the house are original with handmade glass--some were replaced with modern matching sash when the house was restored in 1956. The original sash and solid blinds are handmade of a rather oily greenish yellow semi-hardwood. The doors and trim are of pine and painted.

The outside clapboards are similar to those in the early section but have a different exposure to the weather. The siding under the front porch roof is of plain matched boards running horizontally.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1728, built by Peter Bodine

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   | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature  | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" 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

Probably one of two houses (the other being Ivy Hall or the Low House) remaining from the rather extensive settlement which flourished at Raritan Landing, the height of navigation on the Raritan River in the 18th century. The development in this area preceded that in New Brunswick and other present day towns and centers.

The first portion of the house was built by Peter Bodine in 1728. Peter Bodine occupied his house for five years and sold it in 1733 to Hendrick Lane who died in 1761. Lane's widow, Margaret, sold it in 1780 to William French. The next owner appears to have been Isaac Lawrence who purchased it in 1814. No further record has been found until William Phillips sold the house and property to Samuel Knapp in 1853. The 1860 census indicated that Knapp owned 220 acres of land and was a merchant and farmer. The house and property were purchased from Knapp in 1894 by George W. Metlar who also purchased Ivy Hall in 1870 and Ross Hall in 1880. The present Metlars Lane was named for George Metlar. George Metlar at one time owned everything along River Road to Highland Park's boundary. George Metlar's son, John V.D., inherited the house and 70.55 acres of land from his father in 1914. John V.D. Metlar sold from time to time portions of this property and in 1955 conveyed the house and 0.73 acres of land to the present owners.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Middlesex County Registry of Deeds.

Piscataway Township 300th anniversary calendar and date book published by the Piscataway Three Hundred Committee, 1966.

Sunday Home News, May 22, 1966 special section written for the 300th anniversary of the founding of Piscataway Township. Material compiled by Mrs. Doris Peck.

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	° ' "	° ' "		N-40° 30' 44"	E-74° 27' 25"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: .734

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
**John P. Newton**

ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: **June 14, 1971**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**1281 River Road**

CITY OR TOWN: **Piscataway** STATE: **New Jersey** CODE: **34**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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. Sullivan*  
**Richard J. Sullivan**

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

Date: August 7, 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

*Robert M. Utley*  
**Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation**

Date: 3/7/73

ATTEST: *W.D. Mumby*  
**Keeper of The National Register**

Date: 3.5.73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. Description (Continuation Sheet) 1

(Number all entries)

Metlar House  
N.J Code #34  
Middlesex County 023  
7. Description (Cont'd) (1)

A cellar is located below the central portion of the house. Because of the ground toward the Raritan River, the cellar floor at the front is at ground level. At onetime a kitchen and dining-room with fireplace were located in the cellar portion of the house. A Dutch door leads from the cellar to the space below the front porch.

The second floor sections of the two newer portions of the house contain six bedrooms and two baths. One of the bedrooms is a "dark" bedroom with no outside windows. There are two different floor levels as in the first floor areas.

An attic ~~extends~~ over the whole of these second floor areas. Large semi-circular windows face both the front and rear and are almost identical to those in the Buccleuch Mansion which faces the Metlar House almost directly across the river.

The third portion of the house which was probably built some time about the period of the Civil War was similarly constructed but has no distinguishing characteristics. The dining-room and kitchen found here are reached by stepping down two feet from the livingrooms. An old Dutch door opens onto the front porch and stairways lead both to the cellar and to the second floor.

Congressional Representation

Honorable Clifford P. Case, U. S. Senator  
Honorable Harrison A. Williams, U. S. Senator  
Honorable Edward J. Patten, Congressman, Fifteenth Congressional District

