

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Ephraim and Sarah Tomlinson House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 710 West Laurel Road

☐ not for publication

city or town Stratford Borough

☐ vicinity

state New Jersey

code NJ

county Camden

code 007

zip code 08084

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I certify that this ☒ nomination

☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property

☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. ☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

☒ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the
National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.

☐ removed from the National
Register.

☐ other, (explain:) _____

[Signature]

4/8/19

Ephraim and Sarah Tomlinson House

Name of Property

Camden, New Jersey

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

☒

private

☐

public-local

☐

public-State

☐

public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

☒

building(s)

☐

district

☐

site

☐

structure

☐

object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing

Noncontributing

1

0

buildings

0

0

sites

0

0

structures

0

0

objects

1

0

Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

HEALTH CARE/hospital

EDUCATION/school

RELIGION/church school

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls BRICK

roof ASPHALT

other STONE: Marble

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8 Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria considerations

(mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1844

Significant Dates

1844

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Primary location of additional data

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☒ Other

Name of repository:

Camden County Historical Society

Ephraim and Sarah Tomlinson House

Name of Property

Camden, New Jersey

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

1 Latitude: 39.819847 Longitude: -75.015056 3

2 4

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lucy Davis

organization Mid-Atlantic Regional Center for the Humanities date July 2018, rev. 2/2019

street & number 325 Cooper Street telephone (609) 481-0055

city or town Camden state NJ zip code 08102

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Stratford Classical Christian Academy

street & number 41 Warwick Road telephone _____

city or town Stratford state NJ zip code 08084

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Ephraim and Sarah Tomlinson House

Name of Property

Camden, New Jersey

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Section number 7 Page 1

Summary Paragraph

The Ephraim and Sarah Tomlinson House is a three-story, five-bay Greek Revival brick house built as a single-family dwelling in 1844. It is located at 710 West Laurel Road in the Borough of Stratford at the border of the Borough of Laurel Springs, Camden County, New Jersey. It is situated immediately north of the North Branch of the Big Timber Creek. The east elevation's primary entrance features a Greek Revival portico with marble stairs, wooden Ionic columns, and matching pilasters. The south elevation features a one-story Greek Revival porch with five Ionic columns matching those of the portico (one is a modern replacement). Above this is a stone slab inscribed with "E. & S. Tomlinson A.D. 1844," denoting the original occupants, Quakers Ephraim and Sarah Tomlinson. The second and third story are separated by a narrow string course of grey marble, and the windows of the third floor are shorter to give the impression a Greek-style frieze. A square cupola caps the home. The exterior of the house retains a moderate degree of integrity as evidenced by historical photos, with changes including the replacement of windows with modern vinyl in all but the cupola, replacement of shutters in 2007, and removal of a c. 1860 rear addition and porch in the late twentieth century. The interior has been extensively renovated for institutional use but retains several important original features, particularly on the first floor, including three fireplaces, crown molding, and door and window surrounds.

Narrative Description

Setting

The Ephraim and Sarah Tomlinson House stands on a low hill on the west side of the 700 Block of West Laurel Road. Originally wooded and rural, the once-sprawling property has been subdivided over the years and now is surrounded by suburban developments and minor commercial construction. Directly west is a former school building dating to the house's time as a military academy and later a Christian school. The house is flanked to the north and south by parking lots.

Exterior

The house is constructed of red brick laid in running bond. Bricks begin at grade, consistent with construction during a time when stone and the labor to lay it up was increasing in cost and locally-produced brick was increasing in quality while decreasing in cost. The east elevation, facing West Laurel Road and serving as the front of the house, features a prominent Greek Revival-style entryway with marble stairs and two large Ionic columns supporting a classical entablature [Photo 1]. Scars on the marble stairs indicate the presence of a now-removed handrail. The front door, a modern replacement for an original dark-colored door, is flanked with Ionic-style pilasters of similar massing to the columns. Above the door is a rectangular transom light with original glass. Above the second story windows there is a slightly-projecting string course of brick. A marble string course above this separates the second floor from the third floor, which features short frieze band windows.

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The south elevation is dominated by a one-story Greek Revival-style porch [Photo 2]. The five Ionic columns supporting the roof now stand on cement blocks. Four of these are of wood and original to the home; the eastern-most column has been replaced by a PVC replica. This porch originally had a platform deck as evidenced by historical photos [Historical Photo 1]. The deck has been removed and replaced with a short set of concrete stairs. Windows on this side are situated in a typical pattern for South Jersey homes of the era, with first and second story windows stacked between twin chimney stacks. Chimneys have been demolished, but short segments of them are visible. Above the porch, a white marble plaque reads "E. & S. Tomlinson AD 1844." This plaque is situated above and between the second floor windows, between the projecting brick course and the marble course [Photo 3]. The rear extension projects out several feet perpendicular to this elevation. The southern face of it contains a side door with a short set of concrete stairs. Photos from the late nineteenth century show this entrance was once protected by a Greek Revival style portico, similar to the front entrance on a smaller scale, with columns and a garden lattice [Historical Photo 1].

The north elevation is unadorned except for a continuation of the brick and marble courses of the façade and a fire escape which was added during its institutional use in the early twentieth century [Photo 4]. The roof on this side retains two chimney stacks. Both have been capped, and one shows signs of having been repaired. As with the southern elevation, the windows are stacked between the two chimneys.

The west elevation contains the two-story addition, which is flush with the ground, rather than built atop the raised basement as with the rest of the house, requiring a short set of stairs to access it from inside the home. A second addition shown in photographs from the twentieth century has been removed [Historical Photo 2]. A scar from this demolition and from a removed doorway are visible in the brickwork [Photo 5]. Sanborn maps from the early twentieth century show a small frame porch on the rear of the home until at least the 1940s but no trace of this porch remains. Bricks on the east and south elevations are fine and smooth. By contrast, the west elevation bricks are rougher and show significant spalling. This indicates that the builder used a higher quality, more expensive brick on the elevations visible from Laurel Road.

The grounds have been altered substantially to include a parking lots, concrete steps leading up the low hill on which the house is built, and a driveway for institutional use.

Basement

The basement is raised and unfinished, with stone floors and a mixture of brick and stone walls. Wooden partitions and doors further separate spaces. There are four arched fireplaces, all of which have been sealed with brick. Three of them measure four feet by six and one half feet, while the fourth is smaller at four and a half feet by four feet. The latter corresponds with a partially-demolished chimney on the back addition [Photo 6].

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First Floor

The front entry opens to a central hall [Photo 7]. Floors are hardwood, but not original to the home. Dominating the hallway is a wooden switchback staircase with original railing and balusters, which continues up through the third floor [Photo 8]. The skirt board [Photo 7] is decorated with a recessed, gouge-carved, rectangular pattern, which is echoed under windows in other rooms of the first floor. Balusters on the first floor to the second are original and of a rather plain design. Newels and hand rails are also original. A modern carpet runner has been added. Continuing through a double door to the left (south) leads to an impressively detailed room. This room retains its original plaster crown molding. Most notable is a fireplace of black and white marble. The mantle has been replaced with a slab of black granite, and another slab of black granite has been used to seal it. However, the remainder of it is original to the house [Photo 9].

All door and window surrounds in this room are original and highly ornamented with a patterned frieze. The door surround of the central double-doorway leading to the kitchen is of solid wood, original to the home, and is two feet wide to either side of the door. The frieze reaches from the top margin of the door itself to the ceiling. Directly above the door is a narrow beaded band, and above that a pattern of two horizontally-stretched raised diamonds, laid in wooden bands about one-half inch wide, with a narrow, vertically-stretched diamond in the center. This pattern is echoed above another narrow band of wood, with three vertically-oriented raised diamonds flanking and separating two very horizontally-stretched diamonds. Side panels are of a simplified column form [Photo 11]. The room's other double-door, leading back to the central hall, has the same form to its surround but the frieze details have been removed to reveal the underlying wall [Photo 12]. This diamond pattern is repeated in a simpler form on the room's other doors. Above the single-doorways, the heavy, projecting, angular crown molding is applied directly above a band with a raised pattern of three diamonds, the central stretched horizontally and the left and right stretched vertically. The lines of the outer two diamonds are significantly wider than that of the center. The door is framed on either side by pilasters with one central depression, tapering in width from bottom to top and reminiscent of fluting on the exterior columns [Photo 13]. This surround design is repeated on other first-floor doors. Window surrounds follow the same form as the single-door surrounds, but under the sill is an extended apron reaching the baseboard of the room with a central pattern of concentric rectangles similar to those on the side panels of the stairway. [Photo 14].

A short passage refinished in modern low-pile carpet and linoleum tile over a wood floor allows access to the side entrance, truncated servant stairs, basement, a completely renovated and modernized bathroom, and the back addition. This later block has a lower floor bed than the main block of the house and is accessible by a short staircase [Photo 15]. A wooden ceiling with exposed joists has been retrofitted with speakers and recessed lighting.

To the north of the central hallway is a large room with another fireplace, this one with a mottled bronze-and-black marble surround. The casing on either side of the fire box is styled to resemble pilasters, with the simplified column forms of the door surrounds. Above this is a heavy, unadorned, twelve-inch tall entablature and a narrow mantle. Above hangs a large wood-framed mirror with carved

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designs, accented with black and gold paints. This Eastlake Style mirror is not original to the house but likely dates to the late nineteenth century as a replacement mantle shelf. This fireplace has been sealed with a plain slab of black granite [Photo 16]. A third marble fireplace is retained in the next room, accessible from a door on the western wall. Much of this piece has been replaced with the same black granite used in the other two remaining fireplaces. What remains of the original shows it was of a black marble mottled with a gold color. This fireplace retains its marbled grey and white hearth. A cast iron fireback ornamented with grape, vine, and floral motifs shows no sign of fire damage and is likely a replica added after the fireplace ceased to be used for any functional purpose. A memorial plaque was affixed to the entablature in 2008 when the house was used as the Stratford Classical Christian School [Photo 17].

Second and Third Floors

All rooms on the second floor have been extensively renovated for institutional use. The floors have been carpeted with the same industrial carpet as in first-floor areas. Dropped ceilings have been installed to hide utility conduits. Surviving cornice molding can be seen when ceiling tiles are removed. Bathrooms have been retrofitted to accommodate multiple toilet stalls consistent with the last use of the building as a private school. The second floor of the back addition follows the same design and layout of the first floor. The door surrounds on both the second and third floors are framed by pilaster-like surrounds [Photo 18]. The balusters at the upper end of the second floor railing and on the railings between the second and third floors are replacements.

The third floor is much like the second. The “frieze band” windows on this floor are considerably shorter than on the second floor coinciding with the Greek Revival form of the house. The dropped ceiling here conceals insulation and bare attic beams with original mortis and tenon joints. A small closet under the stairs leading to the cupola has original baseboards, but is occluded by HVAC equipment and twentieth century built-in storage units. The cupola is the most intact area of the house [Photo 19]. It retains original six-over-six face pinned windows and plaster walls. The stairway leading to it has a railing constructed with cut nails. On the walls are signs of the house’s changing uses. One wall features three signatures of Benjamin A. Tomlinson, son of builder Ephraim Tomlinson, who lived in the house for his entire life. The graffiti was done when he was age 7 (written beneath his signatures), giving an approximate date of 1854-55 [Photo 20]. Next to the door allowing roof access, a hand-written list details major modernizations and renovations to the property from 1901 to 2007 [Photo 21]. The text of this list is partially transcribed in the image gallery at the end of this document.

A door in the cupola allowed roof access. The roof is very shallow and hipped. The north slope retains two capped chimneys corresponding with the fireplaces shown in Photos 14 and 16. Both chimneys on the south slope have been partially demolished to be nearly flush with the roof, as has the chimney on the rear addition.

Integrity

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The exterior of the house retains a moderate degree of integrity. Comparison with photographs dating to the mid-nineteenth century show very few major changes. The most notable are the removal of the second rear addition and a small frame rear porch. The side porch deck has been removed and replaced with simple concrete stairs. The shutters are modern replacements of the original fabric, added during a 2007 renovation, and windows except for those on the cupola are vinyl replacements. A fire escape has been added to the north elevation. The interior has been more extensively altered. The first floor retains several important features such as fireplaces, decorative door and window surrounds, doors, crown molding, and stairs. While the second and third floors are less intact due to nearly a century of institutional use, they do have some original features: door and window surrounds, and at least some of the original crown molding is extant under the dropped ceiling. The cupola is nearly untouched since the construction of the house except for the siding and roof access door.

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Significance of Architectural Style

The Ephraim Tomlinson house is significant for its architecture under National Register Criterion C as an example of vernacular Greek Revival domestic architecture with restrained Quaker aesthetics. The house was originally built in 1844 for Ephraim and Sarah Tomlinson, Quakers and founders of a small industrial village centered on the site that later grew into the towns of Stratford and Laurel Springs, New Jersey. It shows the prosperity of the man who built it and a desire to display that wealth and his position in the growing community.

The isolation and the sparse population of rural South Jersey during the time that Greek Revival architecture was in vogue resulted in very few surviving examples in the area, and even fewer domestic examples. The closest comparable example of a Greek Revival style mansion house is the mansion at Smithville village, Easthampton Township, Burlington County, National Register-listed as part of a larger industrial village district. The Tomlinson house, with its intact Greek Revival elements, is the sole Camden County example of a pre-Civil War dwelling, designed as the residence of the owner of a similar small rural industrial complex.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Greek Revival architecture took hold in the Philadelphia/Camden area after the American Revolution, as the newly-independent nation began to reject British influence on their culture and increasingly looked to the classical world. The first rendition of this trend was the Federal style that dominated American architecture from the 1790s into the first decades of the nineteenth century.¹

Greek Revival architecture elaborated upon the classical elements of the Federal style, most executions of it adopting a temple form based on those of the ancient world. Many of the most prominent architects of the style practiced in the Philadelphia area, primarily within the city limits. Benjamin Latrobe's Bank of Pennsylvania, completed in 1801, was the first major work in the style. Located on Second Street, the bank stood until 1867 and influenced a generation of architects.² The style was further popularized in the area by William Strickland and John Haviland, who created the Second Bank of the U.S. and the Cridland Villa, respectively.³ Both of these properties were completed in 1818 and ushered in a period of dominance for the style. Haviland further popularized the style with his three-volume pattern book *The Builder's Assistant*, released between 1818 and 1821. It was the first American publication to present classical Greek orders.⁴

1 Hamlin, Talbot. *Greek Revival Architecture in America*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1944.)

2 "Bank of Pennsylvania" *Philadelphia Architects and Buildings Project*.

(https://www.philadelphiabuildings.org/pab/app/pj_display.cfm/17750)

Baigell, Matthew. "John Haviland in Philadelphia, 1818-1826." *The Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, Vol. 25, No. 3 (Oct., 1966), p. 199-200.

4 "Haviland, John." *Philadelphia Architects and Buildings Project*.

(https://www.philadelphiabuildings.org/pab/app/ar_display.cfm/22166)

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The influence of these monumental public buildings and the pattern books gradually trickled into the vernacular designs of the South Jersey hinterlands. In particular, the works of Asher Benjamin (1771-1845), including his *American Builder's Companion*, helped spread the style from institutional to residential use by providing instructions on fabricating the most distinctive features.⁵ As interpreted by the builder, the style was often less about the ideals of the Revolution and the classic world and more about displaying the prosperity of the client.

The portion of old Gloucester County that eventually became Clementon Township, Camden County, and later Stratford and Laurel Springs was remote, isolated, and sparsely populated at the time that the house was built. Railroad service reached the area in 1854 when the Camden and Atlantic City Railway established a station in Kirkwood, several miles north of the site. Laurel Springs' railway station, a replica of which stands at West Atlantic Ave and Stone Road, dates to 1877, when the Philadelphia and Atlantic City Line was established.⁶ This latter line created a vacation community based around Laurel Lake with a popular picnic and recreation site, Lakeside Park, on the Laurel Mills Pond (now Laurel Lake).⁷ Lakeside Park was popular at least into the 1890s, as evidenced by advertisements in Philadelphia and Camden city directories.

This isolation and the sparse population during the time that Greek Revival architecture was in vogue resulted in very few surviving examples at all in South Jersey, and even fewer domestic examples. The Smith Mansion in Smithville, Atlantic County, New Jersey, built in 1840, is a local contemporary surviving example in the style [Supplemental Photo 1]. Later, more subdued examples exist in Cherry Hill. Both the Smith Mansion and the Tomlinson House display hallmarks of the Greek Revival. Both have symmetrical five-bay brick façades with a central doorway opening to a center hall. The Smithville mansion has a more imposing entry sheltered by a three-bay porch. The main entry of both house is elaborated with a transom. The Smithville ensemble includes side-lights, as well. Both have two-full height lower stories with a stringcourse separating the upper attic story. The Tomlinson House has vertically aligned double hung windows in its attic story providing a terminal vertical emphasis to its façade, while the patterned grids placed in the oblong openings of the Smith Mansion attic convey a horizontal emphasis. This emphasis continues in the Smith Mansion's low roof balustrade, whereas the Tomlinson House is crowned by a cupola. The Smith Mansion clearly conveys the character of its time of construction. Because the Tomlinson House has not been restored, it is currently less able to convey its mid-nineteenth century. However, visible historic fabric and survival of early fabric behind later partitioning provides the potential to return it to its early character and appearance.

The most prominent Greek Revival features of the building are the front portico's Ionic columns, pilasters, and entablature; the Ionic columns of the side entrance porch; and the graduated windows of the third floor, visually separated from the second floor by marble and brick courses to give the

5 Quinan, John. "Asher Benjamin and American Architecture." *The Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, Vol. 38, No. 3, (Oct., 1979), p. 244.

6 Heston, Alfred Miller. *Heston's Handbook to Atlantic City*. (Philadelphia: Franklin Print Co, 1896), 37-41.

7 Boyer, Charles S. *Old Mills of Camden County*. (Camden: Camden County Historical Society, 1962), 47.

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impression of a frieze band. All of these elements combine to make the Tomlinson House a finely detailed, locally significant example of Greek Revival architecture.

The Tomlinson Family in South Jersey

The Tomlinson family's influence in South Jersey dates back to the Colonial era. Joseph Tomlinson emigrated to Camden, New Jersey in 1686 from London, and was apprenticed to Thomas Sharp in the trade of dyeing.⁸ He was a well-educated Quaker who belonged to the Horsleydown Friends Meeting before his relocation.⁹

The Laurel Mills site passed into the hands on John Hillman in 1745, who built the first grist mill on the site sometime before 1750.¹⁰ In 1821, Benjamin Tomlinson gained control of the site and its mill.¹¹ He was granted the right to improve navigability to Chew's Landing on the Big Timber Creek by building locks, dams, and floodgates and to remove the floodgates above Chew's Landing in December of 1823.¹² Benjamin was a farmer who raised cattle and sheep, taking them to Philadelphia for slaughter. He married Frances Haines on December 13, 1804.¹³ They had one son, Ephraim, who built the nominated house.

The Ephraim Tomlinson House for whom the house was constructed was born on December 22, 1806. Frances died from complications of childbirth on January 5, 1807. Ephraim was raised in part by his aunt, Elizabeth, whose own daughter Sarah Tomlinson Inskeep was born just five days after him.¹⁴ His grandfather, William Haines, willed his young grandson five hundred pounds and interest, to be paid on his twenty-first birthday, seven days after the death of his daughter.¹⁵

Despite being first cousins, Ephraim and Sarah married in February 1832. Ephraim, a birthright Quaker, was expelled from the Haddontown Friends Meeting for this and, though he continued to attend meetings for his life, he never again joined the church, despite being asked to, because he would not express regret for his marriage. Sarah did eventually join the church, and both were buried in the meeting house's graveyard on their deaths.¹⁶

8 Prowell, George Reeser. *The History of Camden County*. (Philadelphia: L. J. Richards, 1886), 672.

9 William I. Tomlinson Papers, Camden County Historical Society.

10 Farr, William R. *Waterways of Camden County*. (Camden: Camden County Historical Society, 2002), 92.

11 Farr, *Waterways*, 93.

12 *Acts of the Forty-Ninth General Assembly of the State of New Jersey*. (Princeton, NJ: Princeton Press, 1824), 51-56.

13 Tomlinson Papers, CCHS.

14 Tomlinson Papers, CCHS.

15 Haines, George and Richard Haines. *Ancestry of the Haines, Sharp, Collins, Wills, Gardiner, Prickett, Eves, Evans, Moore, Troth, Borton, and Engle Families*. (Camden, NJ: Sinneckson Chew & Sons Company, 1902), 85.

16 Tomlinson Papers, CCHS.

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Beginning in 1834, Ephraim Tomlinson demolished the standing structures on the Laurel Mill property including the saw mill, grist mill, and house.¹⁷ On July 17, 1838 the new gristmill on the site began operation. It was the largest in Gloucester County, which encompassed modern-day Camden County at the time, and by 1841 it had three runs of stone.¹⁸ That same year, he built a sawmill on the property. Tomlinson used mule teams to deliver flour, rye, corn meal, and meat to remote iron and glass works in the New Jersey Pine Barrens, traveling as far as Cape May and Absecon.¹⁹

In 1844, the same year that Camden County separated from Old Gloucester County, he built the Ephraim Tomlinson House, referred to in this document as the Brick House as per Tomlinson family papers.²⁰ The house had room to hold his expanding family, which at that time included daughters Elizabeth, Frances Haines, and Martha Hilyard Tomlinson, and sons William Inskeep and Edwin Tomlinson. Another daughter, Ann, died in infancy. The Laurel Mills site eventually expanded to a small community that included twelve homes for Tomlinson's workers, a blacksmith shop, and a store.²¹ Tomlinson opened a school a school for both his own children and those in the area in 1844, which he operated at his own expense until 1875 when it was sold to the school district.²² The schoolhouse later served as the Laurel Road Community Church and was once used as a set by Philadelphia film pioneer Siegmund Lubin (the film is presumed lost in the 1914 fire at Lubin's studio).²³

Tomlinson bought a second property in the Glendale settlement in Voorhees Township on March 21, 1836 from the estate of Charles French. The 231-acre plot was then valued at \$4592.50. In 1851 he improved this property with a general store, which stood at the junction of Berlin-Haddonfield Road and White Horse Road, near the contemporaneous Glendale United Methodist Church. The store opened on June 1 with Thomas C. Rogers as the first storekeeper; Rogers had previously been a teacher at the Laurel Mills School and kept the Laurel Mills general store on Saturdays. The grist mill at Laurel Mills supplied the Glendale store with over 18,000 pounds of flour during its first two months of operation, as well as rye flour and corn meal, a sign of South Jersey's growing population.²⁴ He was appointed postmaster of the village, a position he held until the post office was disestablished.²⁵ Tomlinson also purchased property in Marlton, a farm he named Sunnyside, on which he established a mill, raised thoroughbred cattle, and built a second house.²⁶

¹⁷ Tomlinson Papers, CCHS.

¹⁸ "Laurel Springs Started by Tomlinson Family." *Courier-Post*, May 19, 1964.

¹⁹ Tomlinson Papers, CCHS.

²⁰ Mickel, Isaac. *Reminiscences of Old Gloucester; or Incidences in the Counties of Gloucester, Atlantic, and Camden*. (Philadelphia: Townsend Ward, 1845), 51.

²¹ Tomlinson Papers, CCHS.

²² Prowell, *Camden County*, 313.

²³ Tomlinson Papers, CCHS.

²⁴ Tomlinson Papers, CCHS.

²⁵ Prowell, *Camden County*, 657.

²⁶ Tomlinson Papers, CCHS.

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In 1850, the Laurel Mills property was home to Ephraim and Sarah and their children Elizabeth, Frances, William, Edwin, Martha, Ephraim, and Benjamin, who ranged in age from 17 to 4 years old. Also on the property were Joseph R. Marpole, a miller, laborers James Pernan, Hahhan Hillis, James Moore, and William B. Maclan, and store clerk Robert Montgomery. The real estate owned by the family was valued at \$64,000.²⁷

Ephraim Tomlinson became the director of the State Bank of Camden in 1861 and held the position when the bank went national in 1865. He remained at the bank until in 1883, when he retired to his Glendale property.²⁸ The Brick House in Stratford was given to Benjamin Albert Tomlinson, who also took over the mill.²⁹ The house and mill remained in family ownership until they were sold to John E. Stafford in 1923. Sanborn maps of the property for the previous year show a small rear porch, no longer extant.³⁰ On Ephraim's death in 1893, his Glendale farm was transferred to his son Edwin, who died in 1896, and then to Ephraim's son William, who died in 1899. The farm and its store was then sold to Benjamin Stafford.³¹

The saw mill and several barns were lost to fire of an unknown origin in March, 1920.³² John E. Stafford electrified the grist mill and operated it as a feed mill until 1956.³³ On April 29, 1959, the mill was destroyed by a juvenile serial arsonist who volunteered with the Garden Lake Fire Company of Lindenwold.³⁴ No visible traces of either structure nor the related buildings remain.

After the Tomlinson Era

In the 1920s, the Brick House became a maternity hospital after being wired for electricity. In 1930, it operated in this capacity as the Margaret Y. Stone Memorial Home.³⁵ In 1935, it reopened as the Francis Military Academy, later Stratford Military Academy.³⁶ A 1945 Sanborn Fire Insurance map shows that the school replaced the no longer extant second back addition with a larger block, also two stories in height. A one-story concrete block addition was attached to the north elevation.³⁷ Aerial photographs indicate that this second addition was removed in the 1950s.

27 U.S. Census Bureau. *United States Federal Census, 1850*. Via ancestry.com (Accessed February, 2018).

28 Prowell, *Camden County*, 680.

29 Tomlinson Papers, CCHS.

30 Sanborn Map Company. *Laurel Springs, Camden County, New Jersey Including Laurel Springs Manor and Stratford*. New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1922/

31 Tomlinson Papers, CCHS.

32 Tomlinson Papers, CCHS.

33 "Mill Destroyed by 'Fire of Unknown Origin.'" *Berlin Breeze*, April 30, 1959.

34 "Boy Says He Set Fires." *Philadelphia Evening Bulletin*, May 9, 1959.

35 Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Map of Laurel Springs, 1930, Sheet 6.

36 "Stratford Military Academy." *Borough of Stratford, Camden County, New Jersey*. (<http://www.stratfordnj.org/military-academy.html>)

37 Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Map of Laurel Springs, 1945, Sheet 1.

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Operated by Colonel William T. Hade, the Stratford Academy was open to boys from kindergarten to grade 8. It remained open until at least 1978.³⁸ After the school closed, the house was vacant for several year until its 1981 conversion to a YWCA. Some outbuildings were removed. The Y provided facilities for swimming, day care, counseling, and workshop elsewhere on the property³⁹.

In 2007 the entire site was sold to the Stratford Classical Christian Academy, who paid \$1.3 million for it. The SCCA had previously held classes at the Stratford Presbyterian Church on Warwick Road. Coincidentally, the church held services at the Stratford Military Academy before its current location was built.⁴⁰ The SCCA closed in 2015 due to financial difficulties and the house has been vacant since that time.

³⁸ Portee Sargent.. *Porter's Directory of Private Schools*, 1978.

³⁹ Riordan, Kevin. "YWCA Approved at Former Military School." *Courier-Post*, October 23, 1981.

⁴⁰ Touchstone, Chandler. "History of SCCA's Campus." Stratford Classical Christian Academy, March 26, 2013. (<http://www.njclassical.com/newsite/the-history-of-sccas-campus/>)

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Verbal Boundary Description

The National Register boundary of the property is that portion of Stratford Borough Block 87.01, Lot 4.01 that is defined as follows: beginning at the intersection of a line formed by the extension of the north edge of the parking lot south of the Tomlinson Mansion and the internal site driveway to the west of the house, and following the line to the southeast to where it intersects with the west edge of West Laurel Road, then extending northeast along the west edge of West :Laurel Road to the south edge of the pavement of the driveway extending off West Laurel Road into the former school complex, then extending northwest along the south side of the driveway and parking area to the east side of the internal north-south driveway, and then extending generally southeast along the east side of the driveway to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

The historic character of much of the large tax parcel has been lost by construction of new buildings representative of its later educational use. These later buildings, which do not contribute to the resource's significance under Criterion C were omitted from the boundary. The boundary was drawn, however, to include two older deciduous trees located north of the house that contribute to its setting,

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Photo Log

Name of property: Ephraim Tomlinson House

City of Vicinity: Borough of Stratford

County: Camden State: New Jersey

Photographer: Jacob Lechner

Date Photographed: March 16, 2018

Photo 1 of 21. Ephraim Tomlinson House. East façade of house toward west.

Photo 2 of 21. Ephraim Tomlinson House. Entrance porch, south side, from parking lot toward northwest.

Photo 3 of 21. Ephraim Tomlinson House plaque, south side wall, toward northwest.

Photo 4 of 21. Ephraim Tomlinson House. North side toward south.

Photo 5 of 21. Ephraim Tomlinson House. West and north sides toward southeast.

Photo 6 of 21. Interior. Basement fireplace corresponding with demolished chimney on west elevation addition, toward east.

Photo 7 of 21. Interior. First floor central hall toward east.

Photo 8 of 21. Interior. First floor central hall toward west showing central staircase.

Photo 9 of 21. Interior. Fireplace mantel. South parlor toward south.

Photo 10 of 21 Interior. Cornice band, first floor, toward south.

Photo 11 of 21 Interior. Door surround, east wall, south parlor, toward east.

Photo 12 of 21 Interior. First floor door surround toward north to central entrance hall.

Photo 13 of 21 Interior. First floor door surround toward north.

Photo 14 of 21 Interior. Window surround, north parlor, toward north.

Photo 15 of 21 Interior. First floor rear addition stairway toward east.

Photo 16 of 21 Interior. Sealed first floor fireplace toward north.

Photo 17 of 21 Interior. First floor fireplace with cast iron fireback, toward north.

Photo 18 of 21 Interior. Second floor door surround.

Photo 19 of 21 Cupola from roof, toward northwest.

Photo 20 of 21 Cupola. B.A. (Benjamin Albert) Tomlinson autograph.

Photo 21 of 21 Cupola, south wall. Handwritten list of alterations to the house.



Ephraim and Sarah Tomlinson House

New Jersey and National Registers Nomination
710 West Laurel Road, Stratford Borough
Camden County, New Jersey

Scale: 1:1,000

Boundary and Tax Map

0 35 70 140 Feet

Legend

- ▲ coordinates
- SR & NR boundaries
- photo location
- Tax Parcels

0.66 Acres



NJDEP,
Historic Preservation Office
August 2018

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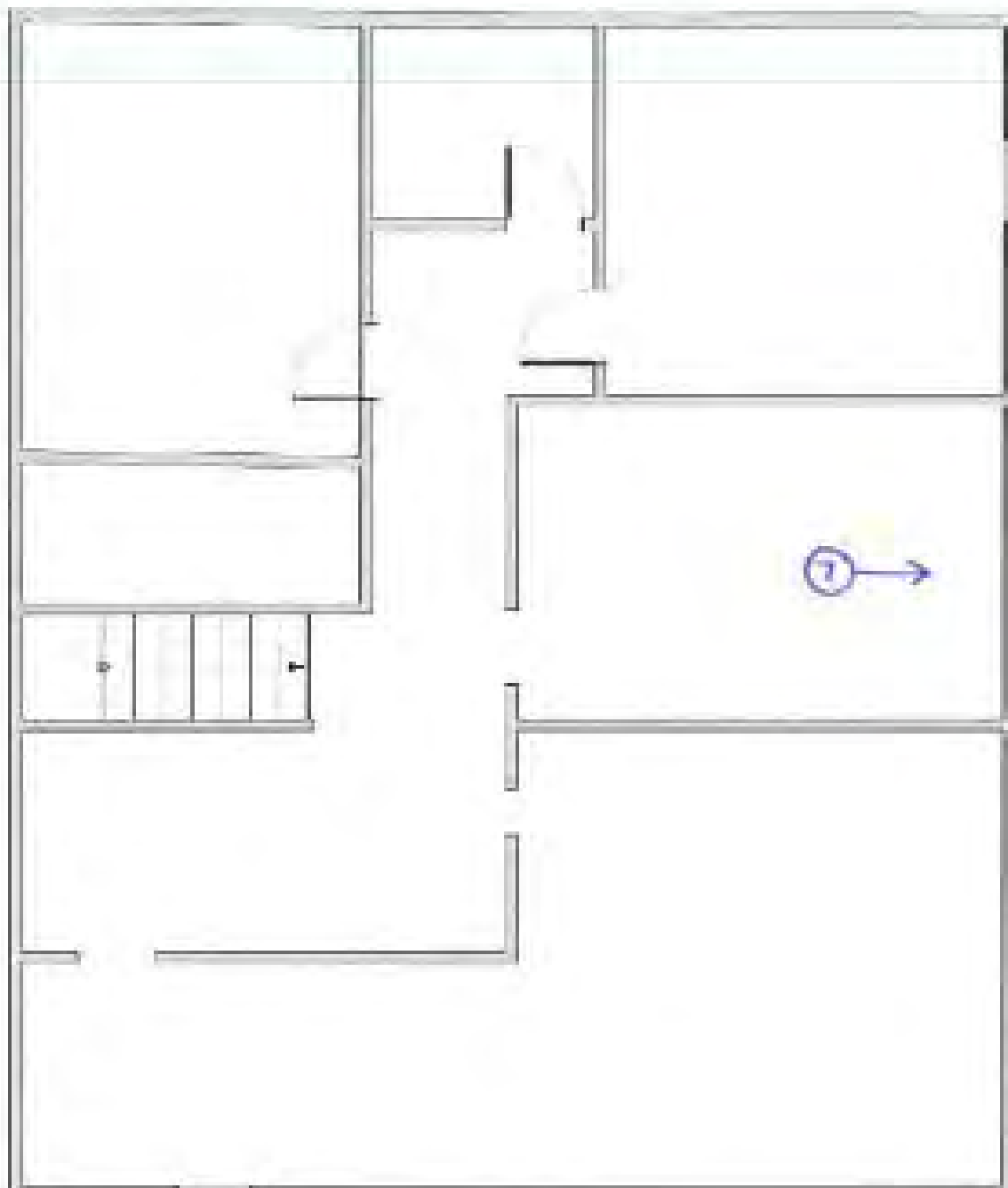
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Basement plan with photo angle.

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First floor plan with photo angles.



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Second floor with photo angle.



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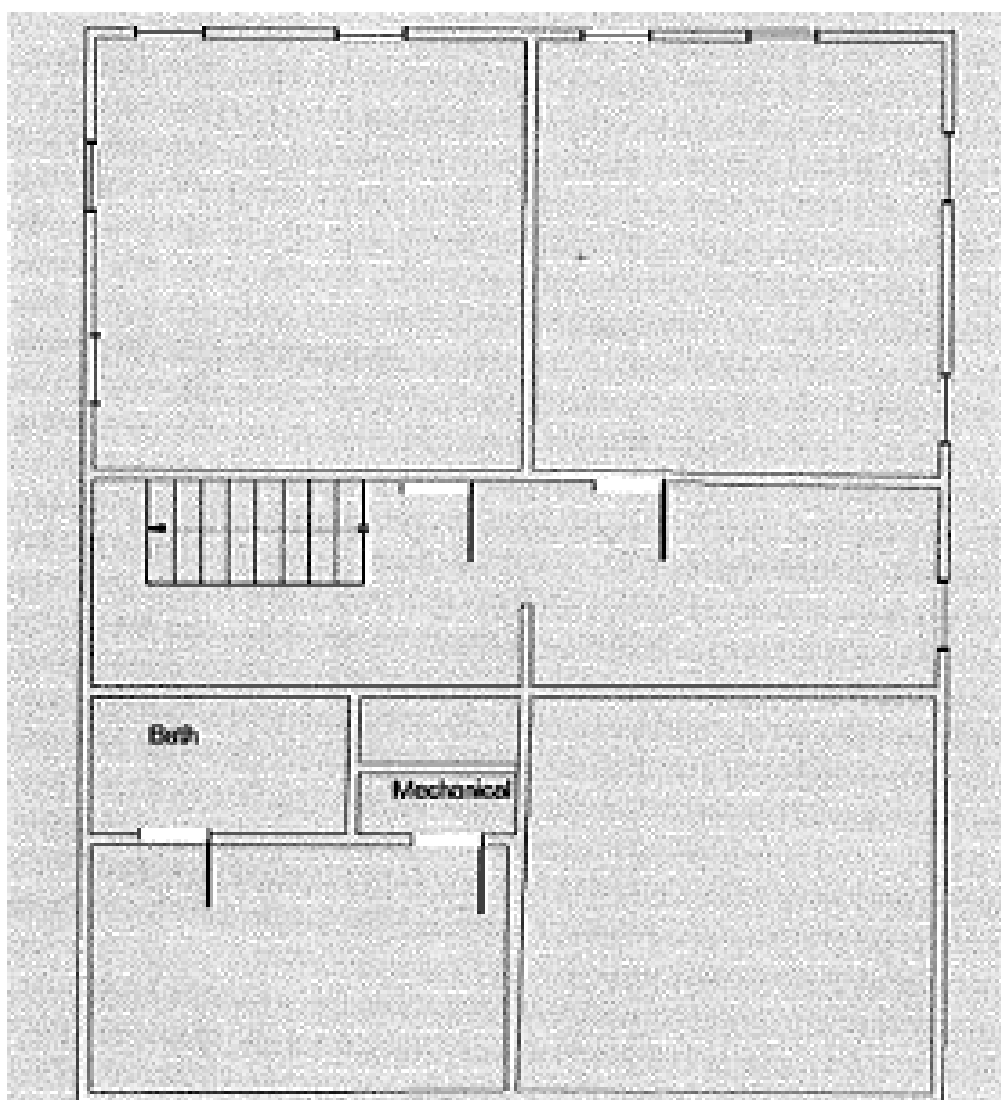
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cc



Third floor



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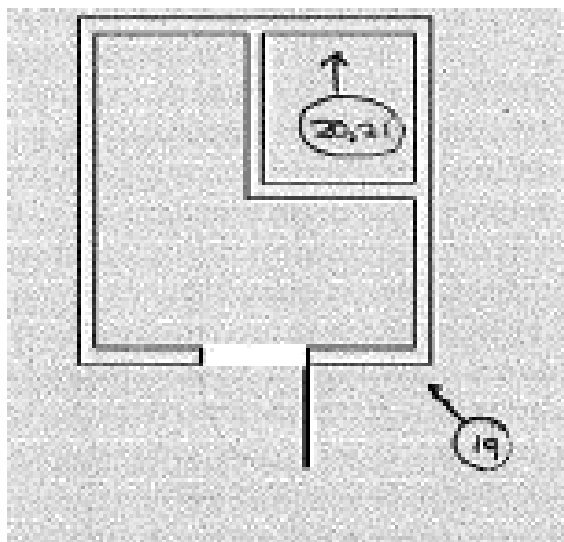
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Cupola with photo angles



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Historical Images

Historical Image 1: Ephraim Tomlinson house, late 19th century (prior to 3/23/1889). Taken from southeast near Laurel Road.



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Historical Image 2: Ephraim Tomlinson House, 1975.



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Historical Image 3: Ephraim Tomlinson, Sarah Tomlinson, and four of their children in front of the house, c. 1860.



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Historic Image 4: Detail of Edward H. Saunders Map of Camden County, 1857, showing Tomlinson property, mills, store, blacksmith shop, and schoolhouse.



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Supplemental Image 1: Laurel Grist Mill, Spring 1959, days before it was destroyed by fire.



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Supplemental Photo 1, The Smith Mansion. Smithville, Easthampton Township, Burlington County (image from the County of Burlington Parks Department).

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1 of 21. East façade of house toward west.



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Photo 2 of 21. Entrance porch, south side, from parking lot toward northwest.



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Photo 3 of 21. House plaque, south side wall, toward northwest.



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Photo 4 of 21. North side toward south..



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Photo 5 of 21. West and north sides toward southeast.



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Photo 6 of 21. Basement fireplace support corresponding with demolished chimney on west elevation addition, toward east.



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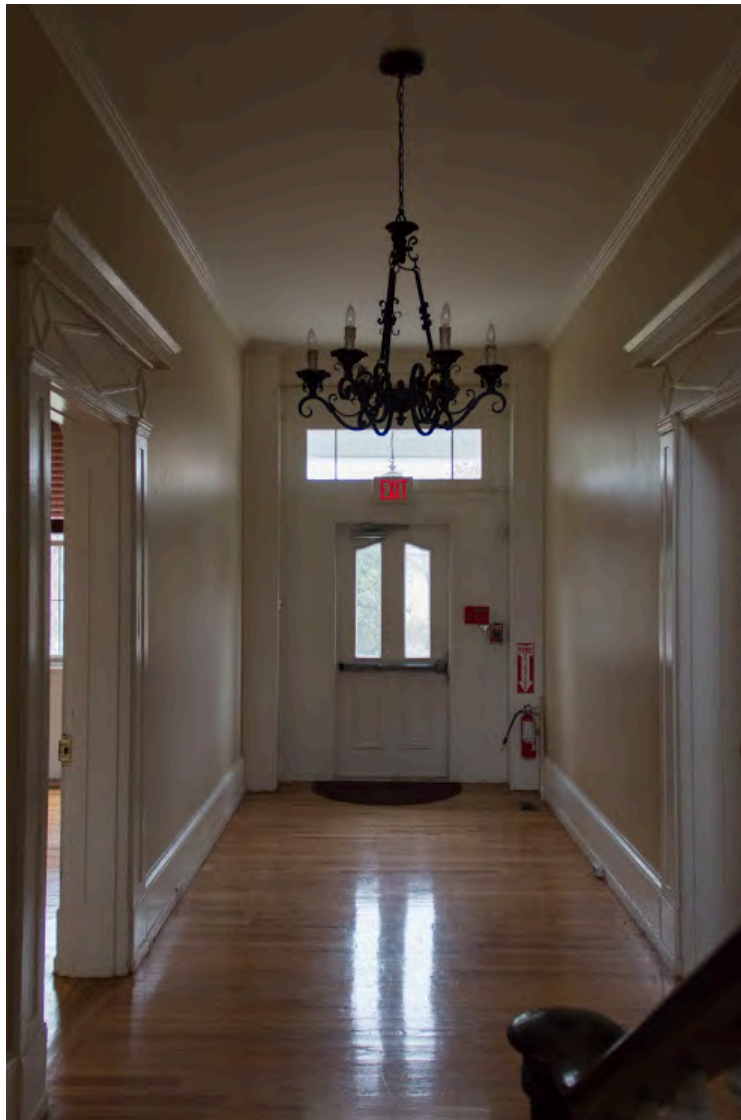
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Photo 7 of 21. First floor central hall toward east.



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Photo 8 of 21. First floor central hall toward west showing central staircase.



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Photo 9 of 21. Fireplace mantel. South parlor toward south.



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Photo 10 of 21. Cornice band, first floor, toward north.



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Photo 11 of 21. Door surround, east wall, south parlor, toward east.



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Photo 12 of 21. First floor door surround toward north to central entrance hall.



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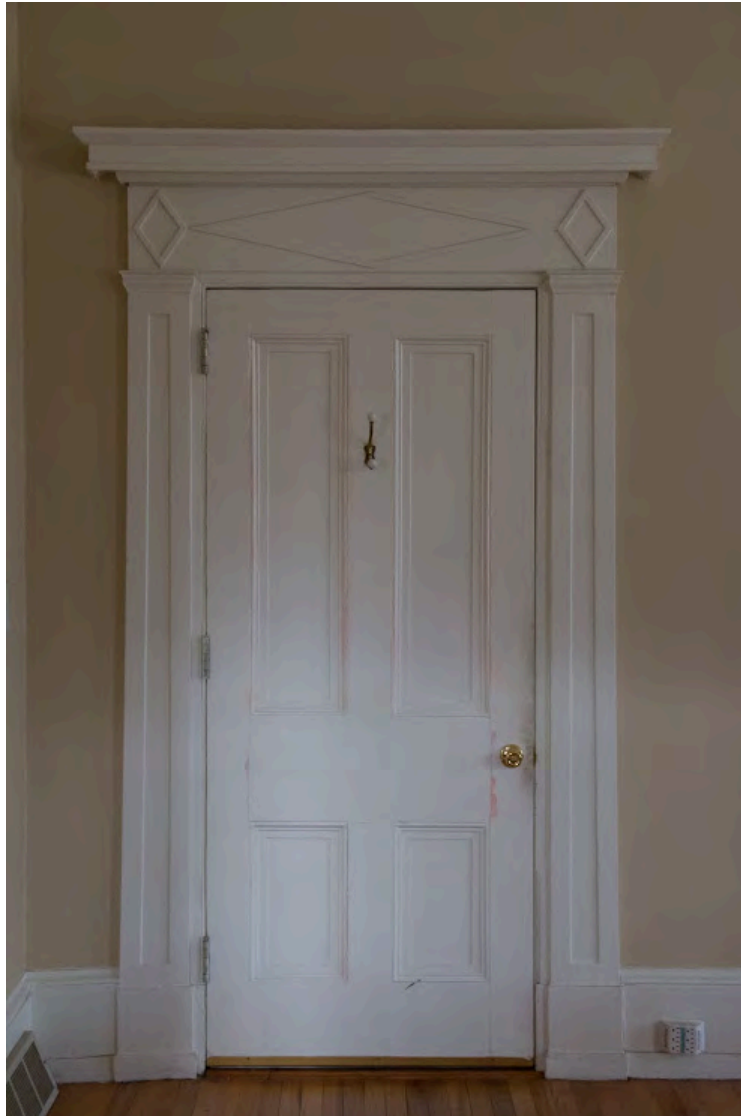
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Photo 13 of 21. First floor door surround toward north.



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Photo 14 of 21. First floor window surround toward north.



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Photo 15 of 21. First floor rear addition stairway, toward east..



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Photo 16 of 21. Sealed first floor fireplace toward north.



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Photo 17 of 21. First floor fireplace with cast iron fireback, toward north.



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Photo 18 of 21. Second floor door surround.



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Photo 19 of 21. Cupola from roof, toward northwest.



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Photo 20 of 21. B. A. (Benjamin Albert) Tomlinson autograph, cupola.



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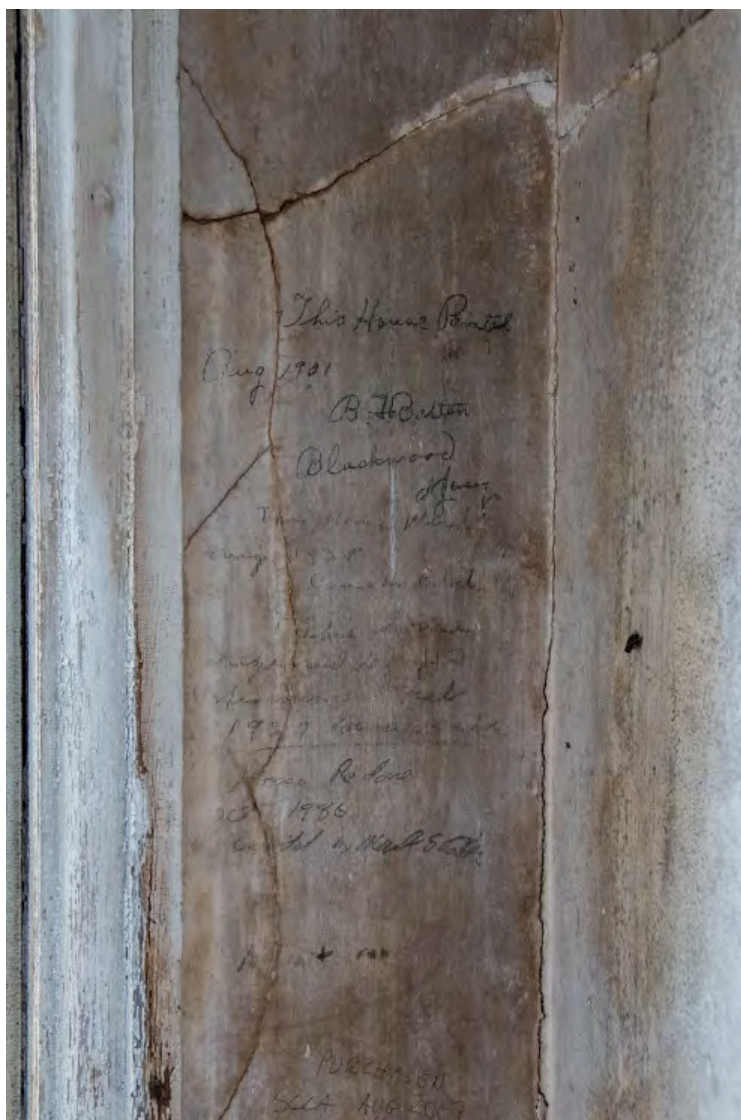
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Photo 21 of 21. Hand-written list of alterations to the house, 1901-2007, cupola. Text reads: "This House Painted Aug 1901 B. F. Bolton Blackwood New Jersey. This House Wired, Aug. 1925 Camden Elect. This house repaired [illegible] Feb. 1927. This house Redone, Oct. 1986. [Illegible]. PURCHASED BY SCCA AUG 2007"





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Christian Academy**

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1895 TOMLINSON
A.D.
1-12





























William A. Mahoney
1871-1911
Born in New York City
Died in New York City





Wm. L. Garrison
Boston
Mass.

This House Painted
Aug 1901

B. H. Barton

Blackwood

House
This House Painted
Aug 1900

Compton & Co.

This House
Painted
1900

House Repaired

1906

W. H. H. H. H. H.

1900

PURCHASED
SEPT AUG 2007

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Tomlinson, Ephraim and Sarah, House

Multiple Name:

State & County: NEW JERSEY, Camden

Date Received: 2/22/2019 Date of Pending List: 3/7/2019 Date of 16th Day: 3/22/2019 Date of 45th Day: 4/8/2019 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: SG100003592

Nominator: SHPO

Reason For Review:

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal | <input type="checkbox"/> PDIL | <input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver | <input type="checkbox"/> National | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input type="checkbox"/> Period |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> CLG | |

☒ Accept ☐ Return ☐ Reject 4/8/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary AOS: Architecture, Greek Revival; POS: 1844; LOS: local
Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria NR Criterion: C.

Reviewer Lisa Deline

Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2239

Date 4/8/19

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
NATURAL & HISTORIC RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER
MAIL CODE 501-03A
P.O. BOX 420
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0420
TEL: # 609-292-3541 FAX: # 609-984-0836



CATHERINE R. McCABE
Commissioner

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

February 11, 2019

Julie Earnstein, Acting Chief
National Register of Historic Places
Mail Stop 7228
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Dr. Earnstein:

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copy of the nomination for the Ephraim and Sarah Tomlinson House located in the Borough of Stratford, Camden County, New Jersey.

This nomination has received unanimous approval from the New Jersey State Review Board for Historic Sites. All procedures were followed in accordance with regulations published in the Federal Register.

Should you want any further information concerning this application, please feel free to contact Katherine J. Marcopul, Administrator, New Jersey Historic Preservation Office, Mail Code 501-04B, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0420, or call her at (609) 984-5816.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ray Bukowski".

Ray Bukowski
Deputy State Historic
Preservation Officer



Deline, Lisa <lisa_deline@nps.gov>

[EXTERNAL] Photo 16 Ephraim Tomlinson House (Stratford, Camden County, NJ)

1 message

McVarish, Doug <Doug.McVarish@dep.nj.gov>

Mon, Apr 8, 2019 at 11:37 AM

To: "Joeckel, Jeffery" <jeff_joeckel@nps.gov>

Cc: "lisa_deline@nps.gov" <lisa_deline@nps.gov>, "Craig, Bob" <Bob.Craig@dep.nj.gov>

Jeff:

Attached is the tiff photo. I apologize for the oversight.

Douglas McVarish

Douglas C. McVarish

Historic Preservation Specialist 2

New Jersey Historic Preservation Office

NJDEP

P.O. Box 420

Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0420

(609) 633-2396

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**NJ_Camden County_Ephraim Tomlinson House_0016.tif**
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