UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This report of condition is based upon a physical examination of the building occurring on December 20, 1971.

Drawings prepared by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of National Parks, Buildings and Reservations - Branch of Plans and Design-Survey No. 6-198 - Historic American Buildings Survey, Sheets 1-22, Dated June through October, 1935 were avail able for reference and are referred to in this report.

The building is exactly as shown on the drawings, with one exe ception, this being the deletion of the covered porch on the front and left (south) side of the house, and the addition of a flight of open stairs leading to the front entrance. These stairs and landing at top being more in character with the building.

As indicated on the drawings, the original building was erected in 1723, with the addition added at an indeterminate time. The addition appears to be constructed in the late 1700's as the method of construction bears the characteristics of that period. The addition comprises a two story element added to the north side of the house, housing the library, kitchen and servants dining room on the first floor, two bedrooms at the second floor level and a dining room added to the rear of the house on the first floor level.

The building has been modernized with the addition of electric-_ ity, central oil-fired heating system, plumbing in kitchen on first floor and bathroom on second floor. Connections of city water and sewer are provided. Kitchen appliances are installed including range and refrigerator, for present occupants of house.

The physical condition of the house is as follows:

Exterior

High Roof: Needs replacement of the asphalt shingles as there appear to be leaks to the attic through the roof and chimney flashing.

Low Roof: Over kitchen and dining room - This tarred tin roof has deteriorated so that immediate replacement is required. Wood Shingle Siding: Has been reduced in thickness by weathering and should be replaced on the rear (west elevation) and south elevation, and spot replaced on the front (east) elevation. Wood Clapboard Siding: Occurring on the addition north and west (rear) elevations, is in basically good condition and should only be spot replaced. The clapboard siding at the attic level, north and south elevations, is generally in poor condition and requires a more extensive replacement.

Exterior Wood Trim: Is in basically good condition with the exception of the built-in gutter on the front (east) elevation of the house, which should be re-covered with copper sheet and de-

teriorated sections replaced.

Shutters: All shutters are basically intact, however, they ward in period. The shutters should be removed, restored to operating condition and replaced, all in the same style.

Windows: The window in the southeast corner of the living room, adjacent to the fireplace (12/12) and the windows in the Gear

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2. Historic

The first accounts of explorations in Monmouth County state that Captain John Bowne in 1663 tried to buy land for settlement from Indian sachems. In the Spring or Summer of 1664, John Bowne and Richard Stout led five families to settle in Monmouth County. In 1665, Governor Richard Nicolls issued a patent for the two earliest settlements in Monmouth County- Middletown and Shrewsbury - and John Bowne was one of the patentees.

Capt. Bowne built a home in Crawford's Corner. He had two sons - Obadiah and John. In 1714, his some John acquired the property where the building which has gotten the name "Burrowes" Mansion" was completed in 1723. It is reported that the construction was personally supervised by John, Jr. because a sense of rivalry entered in as John was trying to excel the house built by his father.

It is believed the building was acquired by John Burrowes in 1769, the year in which a dated cast iron air furnace was installed in a fireplace in the master bedroom. John Burrowes mark ried the widow of his former business partner, Hope Taylor Watson. She had two daughters from her marriage to Capt, John Watson; Sarah, born 1740, married Asher Holmes, who later became a colonel in the Continental Army and the muster master for Monmouth County, and Elizabeth, born 1744, who married General John Stillwell.

Their marriage produced seven children, three of whom died in childbirth. Rachel, born 1751, married Dr. Thomas Henderson; Hope, born 1759, married Jonathon Forman; and Catherine, born 1758, remained unmarried. John, Jr., born 1753/4, who later became a major, married Margaret Forman, the sister of Eleanor Forman, who was the wife of Philip Freneau, the Poet of the Revolution and a resident of Matawan (Middletown Point).

3., Military The first New Jersey Company formed for the Revolutionary War was mustered in the garden of the Burrowes Home. Its organizers were the son of the "Corn King", John Burrowes, Jr., appointed a major, and Jonathon Forman, who became his brotherin-law. The latter had just left the College of New Jersey and was not yet of age. Andrew Brown, an old sea captain, marshalled the large meeting of men, women and children to take leave of

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	Ellis, Franklin, History of Monmouth County, New Jersey												
	R.T. Peck & Co., Philadelphia, 1885. Holmes, Frank R., Ed. History of Monmouth County, New Jersey												
	1004-1920 Lewis Historical Pub Co The N V 1000												
	MILLS, W. Jay, MISTORIC HOUSES Of New Jersey, J.B. Linnings++								tt.				
	Philadelphia, 1902 pp. 175-182 Matawan Journal - Various articles												
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Major John Burrowes Mansion New Jersey Code: 34

Mounmouth Co. Code: 025

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) (1)

New Jersey					
Monmouth					
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(Number all entries) Section 7. Continued

bedroom and bathroom (both 9/9) appear to be the only remaining original windows in the building, all other windows having been replaced at various times. All windows should be restored to original -12/12 on first floor large windows, 9/9 all remaining windows. Front entrance: Exceptionally fine condition requiring touching-up restoration only.

Brickwork: Should be re-pointed and acid-cleaned with some rebuilding of the chimney above the high roof. The added exterior chimney on the north side should be removed and the original interior chimney restored.

General: The building should be repainted after proper removal of the many basic coats of paint, caulked and made weathertight. The landscaping requires professional attention, however, the shrubbery and trees around the front and sides are in character and scale with the building.

Interior

Basement: Ventilation is required to keep dampness at a low level. The floor framing of the addition was modified to allow for the interior stair from the servant's dining room to the cold cellar and a portion of the foundation wall between the cold cellar and store room was removed to allow access to all parts of the basement.

The foundation walls appear to be in good condition with no indication of movement or leakage around the perimeter. There is some settlement of the bearing wall between the furnace room and store-room, increasing to the center.

The first floor framing in the original building requires reinforcing due to excessive splitting and shrinkage of the wood beams with excessive shrinkage and loosening of the mortise & tenon beam to girder connection. Certain of the girders require jacking with permanent screw jacks to raise to original level. This is apparent over the wall between the furnace room and store room, most critical area around the passage opening in the bearing wall between the rooms. Minor replacement of beams is required due to insect damage and/or rot.

* The present partial covering attached to the underside of the beams should be removed for better ventilation and required restoration or replacement of the first floor framing.

First Floor: The condition of the floors, walls and ceilings is good to excellent, with little restoration required. The ceiling of the living room will, however, require removal and replacement with careful attention to the integrity of the ceiling molding. The replacement will be required as corrective work is performed on the second floor floor-framing hereinafter described.

Flooring: Refinishing only as required.

Walls: Removal of covering, minor patching and re-covering with period wallpapers.

Ceiling: Minor patching and re-finishing required.
Wood trim, Moldings, Cornices, Paneling, Mantel, etc.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Major John Burrowes Mansion

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

New Jersey Code: 34 Monmouth Co. Code: 025

(Continuation Sheet) (2)

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(Number all entries) Section 7. Continued

Excellent in condition and appearance. Requires removal of layers of painted finish, restoration as required and re-finishing, the paneling over the angled fireplace in Room 2 should be restored to its original condition with the removal of the added mantel.

Second Floor: There is a faulting of the second floor floor-framing occurring in the master bedroom (Room 8) where the entire floor slopes downward to the north, and the hall slopes downward to the south from the stair, the low point occurring at the column production between the rooms. Removal of portions of the wall finish adjacent to this column, and portions of the living room ceiling will be required to properly examine and correct this settlement of the floor-framing.

Flooring: Requires only refinishing

Walls: Require patching, removal of existing covering and installation of period wallpapers.

Ceiling: Require patching and refinishing generally. Removal and replacement will be required in certain central areas, as the attic floor-framing has settled in a manner similar to the second floor floor-framing.

Wood trim, Moldings,, Paneling, Etc.: Generally good in condition and appearance. Requires removal of layers of painted finish, extension and restoration as required, and refinishing. Remove mantel in rear bedroom (Room 13).

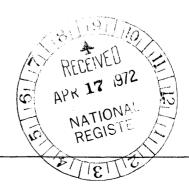
Doors: Replaced as required to original style.

Attic: The floor framing has settled generally towards the middle of the original building following the pattern of the second floor settlement immediately adjacent to the center bearing wall.

The roof framing is in generally good condition with the following exceptions: Sagging of original roof ridge and possible replacement of charred members in the addition.

The servants rooms are in poor condition due to infiltration of water. The walls and ceilings should be removed and replaced.

Summary
The overall condition of the house is good, with major areas in original condition. The basic exterior structure appears to be sound. This house is an outstanding example of its period and its restoration and preservation are mandatory.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Major John Burrowes Mansion INVENTORY NOW NOW AND

Monmouth Co. Code: 025

(Continuation Sheet) (3)

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fathers, brothers, husbands and friends. The occasion was one of great solemnity, and was conducted with patriotic firmness and subdued grief. When the roll had been called the drum and fife struck up the air of "Duncan Davie", and the first New Jersey company marched away to embark for Long Island and join General Washington's forces."

The bountiful granaries of John Burrowes were objects of many raids by the Tories. Major John Burrowes, Jr. had made himself obnoxious to the Tories because of his opposition to British rule. He had left his wife at the home of his father and was in the habit of secretly visiting her. Some Tory families in the neighborhood, learning of this, plotted to capture him during one of his visits, but he had successfully eluded them. Mowever, on one occasion, the Tories succeeded in getting word to the first battalion of a brigade known as the New Jersey Royal Volunteers, otherwise often called "Skinner's Greens" from the name of their commander (Cortland Skinner) and the color of their uniforms.

Just prior to June 3,1778, a party of about 70 of the Greens from Sandy Hook landed near Major Kearney's (Keyport), headed the Mill Creek, (Middletown Point) and marched to the John Burrowes Mansion, made him prisoner, burned his mills and both his storehouses besides a great deal of furniture. The existence of the house proves that something escaped the conflagration but how, tradition does not inform us. They also took as prisoners Lt. Col. Smock, Captain Christopher Little, Mr. Joseph Wall, Captain Joseph Covenhoven and several other persons, and killed Messrs. Pearce and Van Brockle and wounded another man mortally.

Sufficient warning was given to allow Major Burrowes to escape through the back door (or window) in his night clothes, swim the creek and elude his pursuers. His wife who had aided in her husband's escape, heard one of the officers coming upstairs and, coming from her room, faced him on the stairway. The officer asked for her shawl to use as a bandage for one of his wounded men. When she refused, he took the shawl and in the scuffle struck her on the breast with the hilt of his sword (another account states he thrust his sabre into her breast). She recovered but it is claimed that her death was due to the effects of the attack.

When Dr. Thomas Henderson (Mr. Burrowes' son-in-law) learned of the capture of the elder Burrowes he set out with some of his men (he was a lieutenant colonel) including Colonel Wikoff for Middle town to secure the person of William Taylor, a prominent citizen and a cousin of the elder Burrowes' wife, who was suspected of favoring the loyalists. Taylor was captured and lodged in the county jail as a hostage until an exchange was effected through Sir Henry Clinton.

1/ Mills, W. Jay, <u>Historic Houses of New Jersey</u>, J.B. Lippincott, Philadelphia, 1902 p 176.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Major John Burrowes Mansion
New Jersey Code: 31

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

Monmouth Co. Code: 025

(Continuation Sheet) (1)

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(Number all entries) Section 8. Continued

It is interesting to note that Major Burrowes, who was honorably discharged at the end of the war, met his death by drowning in the St. John's River, Florida. The father, John Burrowes, Sr., was elected Sheriff of Monmouth County, which office he held until his death in 1785.

While this event was a dramtic military incident connected with the house, the Burrowes family and the enumerated male members of the family by marriage distinguished themselves in their military and patriotic service to their country throughout the Revolutionary Period.

4. Political

While the direct political significance of the building itself is minor, the personages associated with the house were prominent because they were early participants in the political life of the new country.

The first legislature that assembled in New Jersey called "The General Assembly of the Patentees and Deputies" met at Portland Point (Atlantic Highlands) in June, 1667. The first Assembly under the Proprietors convened at Elizabethtown in May, 1668 and John Bowne claimed to be a deputy representing Middletown and Shrewsbury. He later held other positions of trust.

His son, John Bowne, the builder of the Burrowes Mansion was a prominent man in the province. He was a member of the Second Provincial Assembly in 1704 and the Third Provincial Assembly in 1707. He was a candidate for the office of Speaker of the Assembly in Lord Cornbury's administration but was expelled from the house on a charge of having taken part in the raising of a large sum of money in the province to be paid to Cornbury as a bribe for corrupt official action. No such charge could ever have been brought against the rigid virtue and uprightness of the first John Bowne of Monmouth.

John Bowne was an ancestor of Abraham Lincoln as Mordecai Lincoln married a granddaughter of Capt. John Bowne and the eldest son was named John Lincoln.

John Burrowes was a delegate to the Freehold Conference July 19, 1774 and the provincial convention of the New Brunswick Conference July 21, 1774. Dr. Thomas Henderson (son-in-law of John Burrowes) was a member of the U.S. Congress in 1789. He served as vice-president of the Legislative Council of New Jersey from 1793 to 1794. Col. Asher Holmes (son-in-law of Mrs. Burrowes) served in the Legislative Council of New Jersey from 1786 to 1788.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) (5)

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(Number all entries)

Major John Burrowes Mansion New Jersey Code: 34 Monmouth Co. Code: 025

Section 6. Representation in existing surveys:
New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory # 1934.2
Circ. 1961
State
Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Parks & Forestry
Bureau of Parks, P.O. Box 1420
Historic Sites Section
Trenton, New Jersey Code: 34
08625

Congressional Representation

James J. Howard, Congressman (3rd District) Clifford P. Case, V. S. Senator Harrison A. Williams, V. S. Senator

