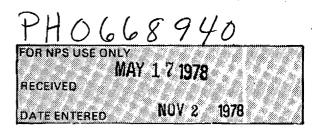
Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

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

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7 DESCRIPTION

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Ford House (Fordville), built in 1857-58, is a rectangular (40' x 32') 3 1/2 story stone masonry dwelling with a two-story kitchen wing off the gable end.

The exterior of the main unit has a five bay front facade with a center hall entrance. The windows on each floor are 4/4 sash with louvered shutters and cut stone lintels and sills. The roof is gable with paired sawn brackets under the eaves. There are four corbelled brick chimneys on this unit-two on each gable end. Projecting out over the first floor is a full-length Victorian porch with flat roof and square support posts with sawn brackets and scroll-work. Entry via the front door establishes a center through hall (8'10" wide) with a small side stairway. North of the hall are two parlors, front and back, of identical size (16' x 17'), a narrow six foot wide hall into the kitchen wing, and two small rooms at the rear, including a modern bathroom.

Contemporary with the main unit is a two story stone masonry kitchen wing (approximately 30' x 15'). This unit has a two bay front facade. The windows are all 6/6 sash with louvered shutters. The window sills and lintels are cut brownstone as in the main unit. The roof is gable with paired sawn brackets under the eaves. On the south gable end, at the roof peak, is a square brick chimney. Off the front is a one story three bay porch with square supports and sawn brackets identical to the main unit. Attached to the gable end of the kitchen is a one story frame leanto, probably late 19th century in origin.

Off the back of the kitchen wing is a small, modern framewing.

Situated atop a knoll on the west side of Ford Hill near the corner of Park Avenue, Fordville overlooks nearby woodland and is surrounded in front by a wooden picket fence. The property has numerous vegetation and landscaping.

The masonry of Fordville is gravel walls. The gravel wall combined limestone, sand and stone (in this case it appears to be coarse small sandstones) in a slacking process creating adhesion and forming a solid and durable concrete wall.

8 SIGNIFICANCE PERIOD AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW PREHISTORIC _ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC __COMMUNITY PLANNING __LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE ____RELIGION __1400-1499 _ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC __CONSERVATION __LAW ___SCIENCE __ECONOMICS __LITERATURE __SCULPTURE __1600-1699 __EDUCATION __MILITARY __SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN __1700-1799 __ART ___ENGINEERING __MUSIC ___THEATER X_1800-1899 __COMMERCE ___PHILOSOPHY __EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT ___TRANSPORTATION -1900-__COMMUNICATIONS __INDUSTRY __POLITICS/GOVERNMENT __OTHER (SPECIFY) __INVENTION

SPECIFIC DATES 1857-58

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Ira J. Lindsley

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecture

Fordville is a good representative example of the type of high style vernacular architecture being practiced by master builders in Morris County in the mid-19th century. This substantial farmhouse reflects the mores and traditions of a middle class farming family of the Victorian period in New Jersey.

The gravel wall construction technique was advocated by Orson S. Fowler in A Home for All or The Gravel Wall and Octagon Mode of Building..., a book published in 1853. Lindsley's use of this construction method at Fordville represents perhaps the first usage in New Jersey.

Interestingly, this farmhouse is one of the few vernacular midl9th century structures in New Jersey of which the builder is known and his design sources are established. From his father, Ira Lindsley inherited at least two architectural pattern books-Asher Benjamin's The Architect and Practical House Carpenter (1854 edition) and Gervase Wheeler's Homes for the People in the Suburb and Country (1858). These texts, along with several day books are in the possession of James Lindsley of Germantown, New York. Lindsley may have consulted other pattern books of the period, but these have not remained in the family.

Ira J. Lindsley (1828-1863) was a mason and builder in Morris County, New Jersey from around 1850 to 1863. The structures he is known to have built are generally simple Victorian structures evidently closely following architectural pattern books of the period.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Letter concerning Ira Lindsley." April 5, 1977. Written by James T. Lindsley, descendant. Shewglie, Germantown, New York 12526

Munsell, W.W. History of Morris County, New Jersey. New York, 1882.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Fordville H anover Township Morris County

ITEM NUMBER

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FOR NPS USE ONLY

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SIGNIFICANCE

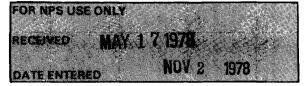
Born in Morristown in 1828, Ira Lindsley was the son of Joseph Morris Lindsley who listed builder among his numerous occupations and professions (farmer, distiller, weaver, politician, sheriff). Apparently educated at the Morris Academy and serving an apprenticeship with his father, Ira Lindsley worked in Brooklyn during its phenomenal development in the late 1940's. In the 1850's, Lindsley married and returned to Morristown and soon acquired the reputation and clientele which had been established by his father. Joseph Lindsley, however, constructed buildings with predominantly Federal style edifices such as the Morris County Courthouse (National Register) and Maccullough Hall (Morristown Historic District-National Register) in Morristown, while Ira Lindsley concentrated his efforts on Victorian buildings such as Acorn, Morristown (National Register) and Fordville, although he adhered to traditional forms of the earlier period.

During the Civil War, Lindsley formed Company C of the 15th Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers in 1862 and became its captain. In 1863 Lindsley was killed in Battle of Chancellorsville near Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Agriculture

Edwin Ford (ca. 1800-ca. 1880) was a prominent farmer in the Morris County area in the mid-19th century. A direct descendant of John Ford, one of the earliest settlers of the area, Edwin Ford had this 3 1/2 story stone masonry farm building erected in 1857 on the site of an earlier colonial house. Little is known of Edwin Ford save his agrarian pursuits. According to the 1860 Census, Ford owned some 290 acres of which 150 acres were arable. His farm and other buildings were valued at twenty thousand dollars with similar personal holdings. In the house lived Edwin, his wife, five female children, and six other persons, including a domestic servant. (Eighth United States Census). UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



Fordville Hanover Township Morris County

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SIGNIFICANCE

The substantial size and simple elegance of the house establishes Fordville as a noted aesthetic landmark in rural Hanover Township. UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Fordville Hanover Township Morris County New Jersey 034 CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

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