

PH 0500844

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 12 1977
DATE ENTERED	JAN 9 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

X
X

HISTORIC Thomas French (Jr.) House

AND/OR COMMON
** French-Hollinshead House

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 512 Camden Avenue

CITY, TOWN Moorestown VICINITY OF 6th District

STATE New Jersey CODE 34 COUNTY Burlington CODE 005

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mr. and Mrs. Harry B. Bowman

STREET & NUMBER 512 Camden Avenue

CITY, TOWN Moorestown VICINITY OF STATE New Jersey

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Burlington County Clerk's Office Pre-1785 records, State Archives, Trenton, N.J.

STREET & NUMBER County Office Bldg. - 49 Rancocas Road

CITY, TOWN Mt. Holly STATE New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE New Jersey Inventory of Historic Sites

DATE
_FEDERAL STATE _COUNTY _LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Historic Sites Section - Box 1420

CITY, TOWN Trenton STATE New Jersey

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Thomas French House is a 2 1/2 story central hall plan house with double parlors. The historic entrance is on the south side. The house was built in stages, beginning with a one room building in the present southwest corner. It grew to a 3 bay side hall plan and ultimately to a full 5 bays. The east-front parlor is notable for its simple molded cornice, its chair-rail, and its Georgian corner cupboard which has a round arch opening, carved pilasters, and a carved key stone. Behind the study is the living room whose size was increased by moving the wall which separates it from the study. This brought both corner fireplaces into the living room, one of which has been enclosed. The remaining fireplace has a fine Federal Adams mantle with thin free standing columns and carved bull's eyes in the end panels. The woodwork is not notable in the other rooms but much of the old glass and floor boarding remains, and the overall sense of an 18th century house is well conveyed.

The exterior is stucco on 3 sides with a plain brick front. The five frontal ~~bays~~ are irregularly disposed, and on eof the ground floor windows has been moved over half a bay. All ground floor windows are 9 over 9, with 9 over 6 upstairs. The building is surmounted by a box cornice with gable end returns. There is also a 2 bay front portof simple character.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> _PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> _ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> _COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> _LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> _RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> _1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> _ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> _CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> _LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> _SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> _1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> _AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> _ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> _LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> _SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> _1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> _EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> _MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> _SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> _ART	<input type="checkbox"/> _ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> _MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> _THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> _1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> _COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> _EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> _PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> _TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> _1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> _COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> _INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> _POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> _OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> _INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

One can see, in the irregular bays of the French house, an interesting example of the way in which houses grew in the 18th century, gradually completing themselves to a full 5 bays. This was a vernacular phenomenon which was quite widespread in South Jersey. In addition the house contains some fine Georgian and Federal woodwork.

Dating back to the early 18th century, the French house is probably the oldest house in moorestown. It grew with the town, and constitutes an excellent tie with the past.

The oldest portion of the house was begun around the beginning of the 18th Century. Thomas French, Jr., the builder, was a man of local prominence during that period. He held a number of church and township level offices and ultimately was elected county Freeholder. His son, Thomas III inherited the property and continued to farm it, but it is not recorded that he held any public office. The farm passed in turn to Edward French, who owned it during the American Revolution. The house was probably occupied by both British and American troops. On February 15, 1777, Continental troops appropriated cedar rails, hay, and grain from the farm. Thomas Morris, who lived on the farm, reports that in June 1778, British troops slaughtered several cattle and made away with some timber and clothing.

The house and surrounding property remained in the the French family until 1837. For a time the house was used as a school for girls. In 1858 the property was acquired by Elwood Hollinshead and remained in the Hollinshead family until 1965. The farm retained a considerable acreage until 1914, when the Hollinshead family began to sell off the land. The present tract consists of 2.6 acres.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See additional reference sheet for bibliography.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Moorestown Tax Map Sheet #29C
Block 216 F, Lot 11

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.6 A

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	8
ZONE	EASTING

5	0	2	8	5	0
EASTING					

4	4	2	2	8	9	0
NORTHING						

B

ZONE	EASTING

EASTING					

NORTHING							

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property consist of an irregular rectangle fronting 50 feet onto Camden Avenue and going back 180 feet.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Nan Pillsbury, Ph.D.

ORGANIZATION

Historical Society of Moorestown

DATE

January, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

401 Mill Street

TELEPHONE

(609) 235-6080

CITY OR TOWN

Moorestown

STATE

New Jersey

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

David C. Beck

TITLE

Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

DATE

Feb. 7 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DATE

1.9.78
1.6.78

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE

1. "History of Burlington and Mercer Counties", Woodward and Hageman, 1883.
2. Purdy, James C. "Moorestown Old and New". (1st Ed. 1886) 2nd Ed. 1976. Hist. Soc. Moorestown Pubs.
3. DeCou, George. "The Historic Rancocas." 1949. The News Chronicle, Pubs.
4. DeCou, George. "Moorestown and Her Neighbors." 1973 3rd Ed. Hist. Soc. Moorestown, Pubs.
- *5. French, Howard B. "Genealogy of the Descendants of Thomas French, Vol. I, 1909, Vol. II, 1913. Privately printed, Phila., Pa.
- *6. Title search of property and building in County and Stte records in Mt. Holly and Trenton, N.J., respectively by Harry B. Bowman.