

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

ABEL & MARY NICHOLSON HOUSE

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United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: ABEL & MARY NICHOLSON HOUSE

Other Name/Site Number:

2. LOCATION

Street & Number: 127 Fort Elfsborg-Hancocks Bridge Road

Not for publication: __

City/Town: Salem

Vicinity: Elsinboro Township

State: New Jersey County: Salem Code: 033

Zip Code: 08079

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property

Private: X

Public-Local: __

Public-State: __

Public-Federal: __

Category of Property

Building(s): X

District: __

Site: __

Structure: __

Object: __

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

1

__

__

__

1

Noncontributing

__ buildings

__ sites

__ structures

__ objects

__ Total

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register: 1

Name of Related Multiple Property Listing:

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4. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby 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.

Signature of Certifying Official

Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of Commenting or Other Official

Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

5. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is:

- Entered in the National Register
- Determined eligible for the National Register
- Determined not eligible for the National Register
- Removed from the National Register
- Other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

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6. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic: Domestic Sub: Single dwelling

Current: Vacant / Not in use Sub:

7. DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification: Colonial: Postmedieval English

Materials: Brick construction

Foundation: Brick

Walls: Brick

Roof: Asphalt shingles

Other:

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Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.Overall Description:

The 1722 Abel and Mary Nicholson House is a remarkably intact example of patterned-end brick architecture featuring a diaper pattern and date in vitrified brick. When constructed, the original block of the house appeared much as it does today. Originally accessed from the Alloway Creek,¹ the structure today is reached down a half-mile dirt lane through a culturally intact landscape of farm fields, wetlands, and forest. In 1859, a frame kitchen was replaced by a longitudinally placed two-and-a-half story, brick addition.²

1722 Exterior Description:

The 1722 building is a three bay, two-and-a-half story brick house, positioned on a high brick foundation. The single-pile structure measures 36 feet 6 inches by 22 feet with a gable roof, pierced by a brick chimney at both the east and west ends. Originally, both the north and south facades had hipped pent roofs above the first floor, across their entire length, as evident by the brick wall patterns. Three walls of the structure are decorated above the basement level with a checkerboard pattern using vitrified brick, laid in Flemish bond. The fourth, east wall, displays English bond, modified above the watertable to allow for a diaper pattern of vitrified headers and the date 1722 in the gable.

The decorated east wall displays a high level of masonry craftsmanship. The diaper design consists of a pattern five diamonds wide at the base and five diamonds vertically. The 1722 date, centered in the gable above the diamond pattern, is made of vitrified headers and is seven courses high. Originally, the east wall was penetrated by two small windows on the southern side of the elevation, now closed up with brick, one on the second floor and one at the attic level.

The south elevation is three bay, symmetrically arranged with a centrally placed door on the first floor, flanked by two, twelve over eight-pane sash. On the second floor, two windows with eight over eight-pane sash are aligned directly over those of the first floor. In like manner, two basement windows of four-pane each, with relieving arches containing alternating vitrified headers, align directly below the upper floors. The narrow window muttons of the first and second floor probably date to mid-nineteenth century alterations, as does the six-panel door, which matches those in the 1859 addition. Ghosts in the brick flanking the door provide evidence of former benches with backs. The south façade faces the waterway that originally provided the principal access, and consequently the brick watercourse is decorated with two steps between the corners and the central door opening, as compared to one step on the north façade. On either side of the original opening are carved or scratched initials (some appear to have been fired into the brick) that are speculated to represent, among others, the initials of the original owner, Abel Nicholson, the mason John Mason, and a bricklayer William Petty.³ A large stoop

¹ Eighteenth-century map showing lands of Abel Nicholson. Original on file at the Salem County Historical Society, Salem, New Jersey

² Watson & Henry Associates, "Preservation Plan for the Abel Nicholson House," 1998, p. 12.

³ Robert W. Craig, national Register of Historic Places Registration Form, 1997, Section 8, p. 4.

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with seven granite steps and brick sidewalls, laid in common bond, provides access to the front entrance. The date of this stoop is unclear.

The north façade is similar to that of the south wall. It is symmetrically arranged with a centrally placed door on the first floor, flanked by two, twelve over eight-pane sash. The second floor has two windows with eight over eight-pane sash aligned directly over those of the first floor and two basement windows with relieving arches are aligned below. Additionally, the north elevation has two small window openings to the east of the central door, at the first and second floor levels. These two windows illuminate an interior stair tower. A batten door fills the altered door opening. Although no stoop is present on the north façade, ghost marks for benches with backs flank the north door opening in similar fashion to that of the south.

Most of the west gable façade is blocked by the 1859 addition. However, the southern portion of this west wall is visible because the 1859 addition is inset three ft. from the south façade of the 1722 structure. In the visible portion of the west wall can be seen two small windows that were bricked up at the time of the 1859 construction. A bulkhead door to the basement is located at ground elevation, the width altered to accommodate the foundation of the addition. As with the south and north facades, the west wall is laid in a patterned brick checkerboard Flemish bond that can be seen on the exterior. This pattern covers all of the west wall except where the wall abutted the original frame kitchen.⁴

The gabled roof was originally covered with wood shingles. Two chimneys pierce the east and west ends of the roof, each displaying elaborate corbeling and with traces of a band of parge. The west chimney is now abutted by a chimney of the 1859 addition.

1859 Exterior Description:

The 1859 addition is six-bay, two-and-a-half-story, brick with a gable roof pierced by a brick chimney at both the east and west ends. The structure sits upon a brick foundation and is constructed using common bond. The addition was constructed to abut the 1722 block, and the north façade is flush with that of the earlier block, while its south façade recesses three feet. The ridge of the roof is several feet lower than that of the 1722 block, thus allowing the original structure to dominate the whole.

The first floor of the south elevation has two six-panel doors, each flanked by two, 6 over 6-pane sash windows. The three openings to the west are several inches lower than those to the east, taking into consideration that on the first floor, the west room of the addition is a step lower than the east room. The second floor, divided by a drip course, has four identical windows which align with those of the first floor. Below the drip course, traces of joists and patches in the brickwork provide evidence of a shed that once abutted the entire south façade. This shed is documented in photographs by Thomas Yorke, taken in 1887 and now in the possession of the Salem County Historical Society. The attic contains two gabled roof dormers with 6 over 6-pane sash windows, the dormers are finished with horizontal weatherboards.

The west elevation contains no openings on the first or second floor. A bulkhead, aligned on the south corner allows access into the basement. A 6 over 6-sash pane window is located in the

⁴ Watson & Henry Associates, p. 8.

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attic, off center to the north. Centered in the gable is a marble block bearing the initials of the owner at the time of the addition, William Nelson and the 1859 date of construction. A later, exterior brick chimney stack was added to the exterior. At the first floor level, off center to the north there is evidence of an oven opening. Quite distinct on the west wall are the ghost lines of a former one-and-a-half story shed addition. This shed was photographically documented by Lars De Lagerberg.⁵

The north elevation is similar to the south elevation with a few differences. At the first floor level, there is a wider space between the two central windows to accommodate a winder stair within. There is no belt course. Only one gable dormer is centered on the roof.

1722 Interior description:

The primary access into the 1722 house faces south towards a watercourse, historically the initial mode of primary transportation to the property at the time of construction. This "front" door opens directly into the hall, a 19' by 15'6" room, dominated by a fireplace, roughly centered on the west wall. Although it appears that the firebox was made smaller at a later time, the original firebox is extant behind as can be seen through a hole in the masonry. The fireplace mantelpiece in this room, as well as all rooms within the dwelling, appears to be original. The hall mantelpiece is comprised of bolection molding with mitered returns. Above the shelf, the wall returns to plaster with corbeling above to provide support for the hearth above. The fireplace is flanked by a closet to the south and a closet and passage to the north. The two-panel closet doors are set into a vertical beaded board wall and each is topped by a square opening, now filled, that once contained wooden ventilation grills. Inside the south closet, a bricked-up window is visible, closed at the time of the 1859 addition. To the right of the north closet is the passage to the 1859 addition but may originally have served as passage to a one-story kitchen removed at the time of the 1859 addition. The north and south wall of this room are plastered and pierced by both a window and a door. Chair rail is extant on the south wall; on the north wall it is removed and stored elsewhere in the house. The east wall, separating the parlor from the hall, is constructed of vertical beaded (both sides) boards of single thickness. It is pierced by three doors on the northern half. The northern-most door is board-and-batten and allows access to a half-winder stair to the second floor. To the south of the stair door is a paneled door that now leads to a closet, but evidence suggests this was originally an entrance to an internal cellar stairs. The most southern door on this wall is a batten door that provides access to the parlor. Above the parlor doorway a pair of four-inch hearts are cut in the boards. The ceiling is split lath and plaster.

The eastern room on the first floor, the parlor, is 19' by 13' with the enclosed stair tower occupying the northwest corner. The beaded board east wall is the reverse of the single-depth partition separating hall from parlor. This room is dominated by its centrally positioned fireplace, smaller in size than the one in the west room. This firebox has also been modified, and the mantelpiece is similar but not identical to that in the hall. To the south is a closet that appears to be original, although later covered over with gypsum wallboard. The door of the closet appears to be a board-and-batten replacement. Above the door opening is an opening for a wooden grill, now missing. North and south walls are plastered; some of which is covered by later gypsum wallboard, and pierced by a window. The ceiling is lath and plaster.

⁵ Lars De Lagerberg, "New Jersey Architecture, Colonial and Federal," Walter Whittum Inc., Springfield, MA, 1953.

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The half-winder stair leads from the hall to a small passage on the second floor. This stair tower contains light from a small window on the north wall, a replacement for a eighteenth century pivoting window, the evidence for which survives on the window above illuminating the attic stairwell. The interior walls of the stair are beaded board while the exterior is plastered. From the passage on the second floor, two paneled doors lead both east and west into each of the two chambers. A third door, against the north wall, leads to the half-winder stair to the attic.

The east chamber has a fireplace centered on the east wall with an arched lintel, plastered firebox, and simpler moldings than those on the first floor. The overmantle contains two molded panels with a later added shelf between. Ghostlines on the floor provide evidence of a now removed closet which stood to the south of the fireplace and exterior evidence and historic photographs provide evidence that a window, now bricked in, provided light to this space. The north and south walls are plastered, and each is pierced by a window. The ceiling in this room has been replaced by plywood.

The west chamber is similar to that of the east. A central fireplace dominates the room; however, there is no overmantle panel. To the south is a closet with bricked up window, apparently done at the time of the 1859 addition. Above the paneled door into the closet, a later wooden grill replaces the original. This closet contains an extant seat plastered into the north side, abutting the chimney, and evidence of one on the south side, giving rise to the speculation that this space was possibly used as a private retreat during a time when privacy was less taken for granted. On the north side of the fireplace a later door now allows passage into the 1859 addition.

From the stair passage, a half-winder stairs gives rise to the unfinished attic. Most of the framing on the window on the north wall of this space appears to be original, and the pivot hole in the top of the frame visibly defines the original window type. A portion of the board wall that originally enclosed the stair at the attic level survives, and a board partition may have originally separated the attic into two spaces. One extant window opening is on the west gable. A similar window was once located on the east wall, now bricked in. An early, framed window sash, hung with "H" hinges survives on the floor of the attic. The roof is supported by eleven rafter sets, hewn on two sides and pit-sawn on the other two. The floorboards have been partially removed, the remaining are wide boards with tongue-and-groove joints.

The cellar is divided into two spaces separated by a brick wall that aligns with the board partition of the first floor. The original interior cellar stair descended in the northwest corner of the east space. Each space has a window on the north and south walls. Both south windows are stepped down by four courses, presumably to allow more light from the south. An exterior bulkhead door is located in the southwest corner of the west room, and entrance into the cellar of the 1859 addition is gained through an opening in the west wall, north of the fireplace support. Each space is dominated by an arched chimney support. Walls have been whitewashed, and the floor is brick or packed soil.

1859 Interior description:

The first floor of the 1859 addition has four exterior doors, two in each room, on both the north and south facades. The western most room on the first floor is the kitchen and is dominated by a large cooking fireplace on the west wall, with a cooking crane. The back wall of the fireplace has a later face of brick that conceals the bricked opening for an exterior bake oven, the outline

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of which is clearly visible on the exterior of the west wall. On the south side of the fireplace, a four-panel door opens to a shelved closet. On the north side is an enclosed half-winder stairs with the first two steps projecting into the room and a closet beneath, with a two-panel door. The north and south walls are nearly identical with a door centered between two 6 over 6-pane sash windows. The east wall contains a boxed cellar stair in the northeast corner with a small storage cupboard above. A later-built cabinet and sink have been added along the east wall. A door providing entrance to the east room of the 1859 addition is located on the south side of the east wall.

The east room is a step above the kitchen; the connecting door is located in the southwest corner. An enclosed half-winder stair with two steps projecting into the room is located in the northwest corner of the room; a closet with a four-panel door is located beneath. As in the kitchen, the north and south walls are symmetrically laid out with doors flanked by 6 over 6-pane sash windows. The east wall contains a fireplace with a closet and four-panel door to the north and a 6-panel door abutting the north wall that provides entrance to the 1722 structure. A small chimney closet with four-panel door flanks the south side of the fireplace wall. The room contains a simple baseboard and a wide chair rail. To the south of the chimney, a section of lath and plaster has been removed to reveal the ghostlines of a former gable of the original kitchen.

Above the kitchen the second floor space is divided into two rooms of unequal size. The stairs from the kitchen terminate in a small hall that contains a north facing window, a door on the east wall that gives entrance to the north room, and a door to the south that provides access to the south room. An enclosed half-winder stair to the attic is located directly above the stair from the kitchen.

The north room measures 11' by 7' and was converted to a bathroom in the mid-twentieth century. One window opens on the north wall. A cupboard with a one-panel door is recessed into the wall above the stairway, rising from the east room of the 1859 addition.

To the south is a 17' by 7'6" space that has two south facing windows. This simple room contains a 4-panel door closet on the west wall. A passage in the south side of the east wall was cut through at a later time from original construction, the door of which is two panel and appears to be a reused closet door from the 1722 portion of the structure.

These two unheated spaces above the kitchen, that were originally segregated from the remaining portion of the structure, are presumed to have been living space for farm or domestic help. This type of living situation, within the primary dwelling, is typical regionally until the early twentieth century.

The second floor east room is above that of the first floor and of similar size. A fireplace is centered on the east wall with a four-panel door closet to the south. An opening to the north, with a later door, provides access into the 1722 portion of the structure. The north and south wall each contain two 6 over 6-pane sash windows. The west wall contains a later opening in the south corner, providing access to the spaces above the kitchen, and the enclosed terminus of the stair from the first floor (with a transom for light above), in the northwest corner. A four-panel door encloses a recessed cupboard above the stair.

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The attic in the 1859 addition is accessed via the half-winder on the west end of the structure. The third floor space is finished with lath and plaster and framed openings in the knee wall. Three dormer windows pierce the roof slope, two on the south slope and one on the north, and a window in the west gable is located just north of center. All windows contain 6 over 6-pane sash.

The cellar of the addition is accessed from the interior via a stair in the northeast corner of kitchen. The cellar is divided into two spaces. The stair descends into the east room. The north and south wall each contain two windows. Centered on the east wall is a chimney support. To the north is the opening into the cellar beneath the 1722 structure, to the south, the wall contains additional evidence of the early kitchen that stood on the site.

The west section of the cellar contains a bulkhead door on the south of the west wall, upon which is centered, the support for the hearth above. Two windows, one now filled in with brick, pierce the north wall and one, off center to the east, is located on the south wall. A twentieth-century heating plant and the water pump fill much of this space.

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State Significance of Property, and Justify Criteria, Criteria Considerations, and Areas and Periods of Significance Noted Above.

The Abel and Mary Nicholson House is located in Elsinboro Township, Salem County, New Jersey. Built in 1722, the main two-and-a-half story, three-bay structure is an outstanding example of a Delaware Valley, brick, patterned-end house whose integrity allows it to stand alone as the only known, pristine survivor of an Anglo-American building tradition that existed for three-quarters of a century. When constructed, it was at a scale and with a level of detail that made it a mansion in relation to other dwellings of the period in the area; the crowning touch was the diaper pattern on the east end, culminating in the construction date. The 1722 block of the structure has existed for over 275 years in an unaltered state, enhanced by a patina of age, with only routine maintenance, no major remodeling or restoration, and without the intrusion of electricity or a central heating system. The 1859 addition, with a comparable level of architectural integrity enhances the significance of the property.

Dwellings of similar national significance in other areas include the Fairbanks House in Norfolk County, Massachusetts (designated a NHL in 1960), Bacon's Castle in Surry County, Virginia (designated a NHL in 1960), and Drayton Hall in Charleston County, South Carolina (designated a NHL in 1960). The Fairbanks House, Bacon's Castle, and Drayton Hall represent an early period of construction in the New England region, the Virginia Tidewater region and the Southern region respectively. The Abel and Mary Nicholson House has the potential of filling this early construction period gap for the Mid-Atlantic region by representing a building style (patterned brickwork) that in the Mid-Atlantic region (specifically New Jersey) "reached a higher state of elaboration and acceptance than anywhere else in America."⁶ While the Fairbanks House, Bacon's Castle Drayton Hall, and now the Abel and Mary Nicholson House appear to be of regional significance, it is just that regionality that makes them nationally significant. In the earliest years of United States history, we were not one nation but rather separate regions comprised of the various thirteen colonies. One speaks of New England colonial history and traditions, Southern colonial history and traditions, Tidewater colonial history and traditions, and finally Mid-Atlantic colonial history and traditions. The Abel and Mary Nicholson House is nationally significant because it represents the Mid-Atlantic region in the regional grouping of structures significant for their early building tradition.

Situated along the Alloway Creek, a tributary of the Delaware River, in rural Salem County, New Jersey, is a cluster of little altered brick dwellings dating from the first period of durable architecture. The building technique for these structures incorporated decoration by the use of vitrified brick headers and, on some examples, the inclusion of the date of construction and/or initials of the owner. More than half of all surviving patterned-end brick houses are in southwestern New Jersey, and, according to Michael Chiarappa, "...the most elaborate and community-derived brick building tradition in colonial and post-Revolutionary America..." is in this area.⁷

⁶ Craig, Robert W., "Abel Nicholson House," National Register of historic Places Registration form, National Register, History, and Education, National Park Service, Washington, DC, 1996, p.8-1.

⁷ Michael Joseph Chiarappa, "The First and Best Sort: Quakerism, Brick Artisanry, and the Vernacular Aesthetics of Eighteenth-Century West New Jersey pattern Brickwork Architecture," Ph.D. dissertation, University of Pennsylvania, 1992, p. 324.

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Of the extant patterned brick houses, the Abel and Mary Nicholson House is perhaps “the finest and most complete surviving example of patterned brickwork from the earliest years of the phenomenon in Salem County, where patterned brickwork reached a higher state of elaboration than anywhere else in America.”⁸ The Abel and Mary Nicholson House is the second-oldest known house of this type in Salem County and contains the best preserved interior of any known to survive in New Jersey and probably the nation. While many patterned brick structures support decoration on only one wall, this structure is decorated on all elevations including an elaborate diamond decorated east gable wall with the date of construction--1722. The other three walls are less elaborately decorated with checkered string courses, also using vitrified headers.

The tradition of patterned brick houses started in the American colonies in the 1670's and continued until as late as the 1810's.⁹ This tradition appears to have reached a peak in France in the sixteenth century and in England in the seventeenth century. Influenced mainly by the English tradition, the patterned brickwork in the American Colonies reached its peak in the eighteenth century.¹⁰ In Salem County, the only earlier surviving example of a patterned brick structure is the 1720 Darkin House, also in Elsinboro Township. While early examples seem to have exhibited more austerity, all known examples after 1722 are decorated with the owner's initials in addition to the date.

Recently revealed clues about the one-story frame structure that previously abutted, and may have pre-dated the 1722 dwelling, give rise to speculation that the house was a three room plan on the ground floor at the time of construction. This room arrangement provides new implications that the hall, with its elaborate fireplace surround, and other attributes took on a more social or ceremonial function. Also contained in the parlor is a writing closet, the strong evidence for which (a “desk” surface, bookshelves, windows to admit light, and ventilation grill) has been found in only two other examples in the Delaware Valley, Graeme Park near Horsham, PA, and the Pusey House near Avondale, PA, whose evidence is not as clearly defined as in the Nicholson example.¹¹ Other architectural details of note are the in situ beaded-board walls, interior centrally placed stair tower, and second floor closet with bench. The 1722 structure has never been fitted with central heating or electricity.

In addition to its extraordinary architectural integrity, the dwelling has well documented associations with the earliest Quaker settlement and the first permanent English settlement in the State of New Jersey. The builder, Abel Nicholson, arrived in West Jersey in 1675 with his father, Samuel Nicholson, a Quaker supporter of John Fenwick, the colony founder. Samuel purchased 2,000 acres in Elsinboro Township and a 16 acre lot in the City of Salem where he constructed his house. It was in this house that the first Salem Meeting of the Society of Friends

⁸ Craig, Section 8, p. 1.

⁹ Paul Love, “Patterned Brickwork in the American Colonies,” Ph.D. dissertation Columbia University, 1950, p. 173.

¹⁰ Watson and Henry Associates, p. 21.

¹¹ Bernard L. Herman, Letter to Penny Watson & Cristina Radu, Watson and Henry Architects, December 15, 1998.

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was organized in 1676.¹² Samuel Nicholson donated his house to the Salem Meeting in 1680 and relocated to his Elsinboro property. Upon Samuel's death in 1693, his estate was divided between his eldest son Samuel Jr. and Abel, who inherited the father's homestead farm. Also in 1693, Abel married Mary Tyler, the daughter of another Quaker, William Tyler who settled in Salem in 1688. At the age of 50, Abel and Mary Nicholson built the brick structure abutting or replacing the earlier structure built by his father.

Upon Abel's death in 1752, his youngest son John inherited the farm.¹³ It is uncertain when the property left Nicholson family hands, but in 1852, William Nelson inherited the property from his father Davis Nelson. It is William Nelson who is believed to have constructed the brick addition and placed the date stone marked "W N 1859" in the west end gable.

Dr. Carl R. Lounsbury, Architectural Historian for The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, has said of the Abel and Mary Nicholson House, "From early paint, original hinges, locks, and shelving, to floorboards, roof framing, and chimneypieces, the house is as nearly intact as any that I have seen. For this alone, it transcends its regional significance and joins the ranks of iconic early American structures such as Bacon's Castle in Virginia (1665) and Drayton Hall near Charleston, S.C. (1742). The Abel Nicholson House was a harbinger of a distinctive regional building tradition."¹⁴ Dr. Bernard Herman, University of Delaware, Department of Art History, stated that "From its diapered and dated gable end to its original ground floor writing closet, this building captures the ambitions and worldview of the region's first landed elites." The Abel and Mary Nicholson House is "... a kind of architectural Rosetta stone that gives new direction to understanding the larger tradition."¹⁵

¹² Thomas Cushing, M.D. and Charles E. Sheppard, Esq., "History of the Counties of Gloucester, Salem, and Cumberland, New Jersey with their Prominent Citizens," Everts & Peck, Philadelphia, 1883, p. 320.

¹³ Abel Nicholson Will, 853 Q,B,7,1751, p. 249, New Jersey State Archives, Trenton.

¹⁴ Carl R. Lounsbury, Letter to Penelope Watson, AIA, Watson & Henry Associates, dated January 5, 1999.

¹⁵ Bernard L. Herman, Letter

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Chiarappa, Michael Joseph, "The First and Best Sort: Quakerism, Brick Artisanry, and the Vernacular Aesthetics of Eighteenth-Century West New Jersey Pattern Brickwork Architecture," Ph.D. dissertation, University of Pennsylvania, 1992.
- Craig, Robert W., National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, Abel Nicholson House, 1997.
- Cushing, Thomas, M.D., and Charles E. Sheppard, Esq., "History of the Counties of Gloucester, Salem, and Cumberland, New Jersey with their Prominent Citizens," Everts & Peck, Philadelphia, 1883.
- De Lagerberg, Lars, "New Jersey Architecture, Colonial and Federal," Walter Whittum Inc., Springfield, MA, 1953.
- Herman, Bernard L., Letter to Penny Watson & Christina Radu, Watson and Henry Architects, December 15, 1998.
- Lounsbury, Carl R., Letter to Penelope Watson, AIA, Watson & Henry Associates, January 5, 1999.
- Love, Paul, "Patterned Brickwork in the American Colonies," Ph.D. dissertation, Columbia University, 1950.
- Watson & Henry Associates, "Preservation Plan for the Abel Nicholson House," 1998.
- Abel Nicholson Will, 853 Q,B,7,1751, New Jersey State Archives, Trenton.
- Eighteenth-century map showing lands of Abel Nicholson. Original on file at the Salem County Historical Society, Salem, New Jersey.

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: # N J 305
- Recorded by Historic American Engineering Record: #

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Primary Location of Additional Data:

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State Agency

Federal Agency – H.A.B.S.(Library of Congress)

Local Government

University

Other (Specify Repository): Salem County Historical Society, Salem, NJ

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage of Property: 5 Acres

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	18	458160	4374310

Verbal Boundary Description:

The Abel and Mary Nicholson House is located in Elsinboro Township, Salem County, New Jersey, approximately four miles south of the city of Salem and two miles from the Delaware River. The house occupies the highest point of a 5-acre parcel, abutted by farmland and tidal creek. The structure is located at the end of a half-mile dirt lane, accessed from the Fort Elfsborg-Hancocks Bridge Road (County Road 624).

BEGINNING at a point for a corner; said point being located at coordinates N 251,704.51, E 213,590.65, NJSPCS, NAD'83 datum; said point is also North 85° 14' 00" East, 800.00 feet from a marble monument found at a common corner to lands now or formerly The Francis Corporation and lands now or formerly Tidemarth, Inc.; said marble monument is located at coordinates N 251,638.03, E 212,793.42, NJSPCS, NAD'83 datum; thence

(1) along the dividing line between lands retained by The Francis Corporation and lands conveyed by The Francis Corporation, and along the southerly end of a 35 feet wide right-of-way hereinafter described, North 85° 14' 00" East 436.00 feet to a point for a corner; thence

(2) still along said dividing line, South 04° 46' 00" East, 500.00 feet to a point for a corner; thence

(3) still along same, south 85° 14' 00" West, 436.00 feet to a point for a corner; thence

(4) still along same, North 04° 46' 00" West, 500 feet to the place of BEGINNING.

CONTAINING 5.0 acres of land more or less.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary includes the building that has historically been part of the Abel Nicholson property and that maintains historic integrity. The original tract contained 2,000 acres and had access to the Alloway Creek. Most recently this building was a part of a 167-acre farm, on the north side of Alloway Creek, northwest of the Village of Hancock's Bridge. The other 162 acres were purchased by the State of New Jersey as open space in 1998.

ABEL & MARY NICHOLSON HOUSE

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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