

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED NOV 12 1975
DATE ENTERED DEC 30 1975

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

HISTORIC Buck, Jeremiah, House

AND/OR COMMON Elmer, Jonathan, House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 297 East Commerce Street

CITY, TOWN Bridgeton

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

STATE New Jersey

VICINITY OF

2nd
COUNTY Cumberland CODE 34001

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" 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:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mrs. Margaret F. Huber

STREET & NUMBER 297 East Commerce Street

CITY, TOWN Bridgeton

VICINITY OF

STATE New Jersey

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Cumberland County Court House

STREET & NUMBER Broad and Fayette Streets

CITY, TOWN Bridgeton

STATE New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Jeremiah Buck House is a 2½ story Federal dwelling. It is constructed of brick in a Flemish bond pattern. It has a box cornice with dentils across the facade. There are parapeted inside end chimneys on both sides and a large widow's walk with square balusters. The railing has small dentils on the outside. There are two pedimented dormers with returns and dentil work. The windows are 6 lights over 6 lights flanked by three panel shutters on the first floor and louvered shutters on the second. The main entrance is covered by a large portico with dentils and full entablature. It is supported by thick Doric columns. The six panel front door is flanked by reeded pilasters and louvered shutters and surmounted by an arched fanlight with detailed trim.

Inside, the house has a central hall plan with a fanlight at either end. The fanlight between the hall and dining room is similiar, although slightly smaller, than the exterior one. The stairway, which is off the hall, is open to the third floor and has turned balusters. It is alleged to be a replica of a stairway in Independence Hall in Philadelphia. The interior trim around the doorways and window openings consists of reeded pilasters. There are five wooden mantles with reeded pilasters and carved friezes, each of which has high and narrow chimney closets tucked on either side. There is also one original black and white marble mantle imported from Italy.

Over the decades, several alterations have been made to the house. Most significant, there are two unoriginal wings added to the rear of the house, thus giving it a U-shape. Each of these wings is two stories in hight. The eastern wing is rectangular with a flat roof, while the western one has a gable roof. Interior alterations consist primarily of providing for a modern kitchen, bathrooms, and heating, electrical, and plumbing facilities.

RECEIVED

MAY 29 9 26 AM '75

BUK OF PARKS
TRENTON OFFICE

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	
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE	
__1600-1699	*__ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER	
*__1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION	
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	*__INDUSTRY	*__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	*__OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		__INVENTION		Medicine	

SPECIFIC DATES 1808

BUILDER/ARCHITECT J. Buck, builder

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Buck House enjoys significance in several areas, all of which have contributed to the historical importance of the house.

Industry: Jeremiah Buck, the builder, purchased the East Lake grist mill in 1807 when he bought the land for his house. In 1809, Buck constructed a dam to enlarge the pond, modernized the grist mill, and built a saw mill. Two years later, he enlarged his industrial operation by erecting a cotton and woolen factory. Until the depression after the War of 1812 when financial problems forced Buck to assign his assets to his creditors, Buck's industrial and manufacturing complex played a crucial part in Bridgeton's early economic development.

Medicine: Dr. William Elmer, who purchased the house from Buck in 1820, was Bridgeton's foremost physician. One of the earliest graduates of the Medical School of the University of Pennsylvania, Elmer quickly established himself as Bridgeton's most popular doctor as measured by the size of his practice and his popularity. After he inherited a considerable sum from his father, he gradually began to phase out his practice and by the end of the 1820's he was virtually retired.

Politics/government: Jonathan Elmer, son of Dr. William Elmer and grandson of the famous revolutionary politician Jonathan Elmer, resided in the Buck house all his life and devoted his entire adult life to local politics. He served on the Cumberland County Board of Freeholders for nearly fifty years, twenty-one of which he was Director. He also served several terms on City Council. The length of his political service is unprecedented in Bridgeton political history.

Architecture: The Buck House is the premier extant example of Federal architecture in Bridgeton. Its grandeur in both size and architectural detail more closely resembles the stately townhouses of cosmopolitan areas. The large portico and columns, the five carved wooden mantles, the one black and white marble mantle imported from Italy, the open winding stairway, the large interior fanlights, and the reeding on the interior trim are all representative details found on the more ornate Federal houses. The absence of substantial interior alterations make the house even more significant.

The chain of title runs as follows: Jeremiah Buck, 1808-20; Dr. William Elmer, 1820-36; Jonathan Elmer, 1836-94; Thomas H. Bowen, 1894-1919; Mrs. Gertrude A. Huber, 1919-37, Mr. and Mrs. L. Albertson Huber, 1937-present

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cushing, Thomas and Sheppard, Charles E. History of the Counties of Gloucester, Salem, and Cumberland (Philadelphia, 1883), 594-97.

"We Women," December, 1958, p. 10.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A

1,8	48,0	4,9,0	4,36	1,6,0
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		

B

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		

C

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		

D

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

see address

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Dr. Arthur F. Sewall, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Bridgeton Bicentennial Commission

STREET & NUMBER

274 East Commerce Street

CITY OR TOWN

Bridgeton

DATE

April 1, 1975

TELEPHONE

609-451-7129

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

[Handwritten Signature]
 DSHPO

DATE

Oct 17 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting

DATE

12/30/75

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

12/29/75

SEALER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

[Handwritten initials]