

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED DEC 29 1976

DATE ENTERED AUG 10 1977

**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

Gibbons Mansion

AND/OR COMMON

Mead Hall

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

36 Madison Avenue

--- NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Madison

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5th.

--- VICINITY OF

STATE

New Jersey

CODE

34

COUNTY

Morris

CODE

027

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input 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

Drew University

STREET & NUMBER

36 Madison Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Madison

--- VICINITY OF

STATE

New Jersey 07940

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Morris County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Court & Washington Streets

CITY, TOWN

Morristown

STATE

New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory (#1867.4)

DATE

1960's

--- FEDERAL STATE --- COUNTY --- LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Historic Sites Office, Department of Environmental Protection

CITY, TOWN

Trenton

STATE

New Jersey

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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

Mead Hall (Gibbons Mansion) is an exceptional 2 1/2 story brick Greek Revival mansion house. Built in 1834, the structure is in the form of a squat T; a central temple backed by rear extending short wings. The center portion of the building has a five bay, center hall facade over which projects a portico with 6 wooden fluted columns of the Ionic order. The portico entablature is relatively simple, but is capped by a cornice with brackets and finally topped by a balustrade with turned balusters. The roof is flat with four brick chimneys with terra cotta pots in the front and also four chimneys in the rear.

The large windows are all 6/6 double hung sash and have stone lintels which are trimmed with Greek fretwork. The central doorway is quite ornate and has the characteristic Greek Revival rectangular fanlight and sidelights. The sidelights, however, are framed by two small Ionic columns and two pilasters. The door itself is an eight panel side opening door. Above the door is an entablature and the fanlight atop of which are stone lintels which are similar to those over the windows, but much larger. The second floor window above the doorway is similar to the design of the entrance, although simpler.

Leading up to the front portico are 10 brownstone steps which surround the entire protected area. At the corner base of these steps are two rectangular hitching-posts of similar stone construction.

The foundation is dressed brownstone. The rear wings are of identical construction as the center section and were obviously built as one. The wings are two bays by two bays wide.

The front door of Mead Hall opens to an exceptionally wide hallway (25 feet) with spectacular details. The floors are black and white square tiles creating a checkerboard pattern. The ceilings have ornate cornices, the walls early 19th century baseboards and an Empire mirror (apparently original to the furnishing of the mansion), and the doorways elaborate entablatures. An exceptional door, however, is directly

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	DEC 29 1976
DATE ENTERED	AUG 10 1977

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Mead Hall - Gibbons mansion

Madison Boro

Morris County

New Jersey 034

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE #2

DESCRIPTION

opposite the entrance and is a double door entrance to Gibbon's dining room which is given the major focal point. This doorway is flanked by two fluted Ionic columns and topped by an entablature. Above the doorway is an early gold-lamenated clock which is reported to be original to the mansion. In the center of the hall, on the ceiling, is a huge elliptical skylight which provides sunlight as a result of the additional oval skylight window on the second floor.

The hall itself has a T-form with a stairway off to the side and one in the rear. The side stair has a bulbous massive newel post and bannisters, but its size is somewhat restrained considering the large dimensions on the entire building.

The original floor plan, at least on the first floor, has been basically retained and this is fortunate since it is so exceptional with its hall size and room formations.

The dimensions of Mead Hall are overwhelming for a New Jersey Greek Revival residence. The building is 150 feet at its widest point and 100 feet deep. The front portion is 90 feet long and 15 feet deep with 10 wide brownstone steps up to the entrance door. The Ionic columns are 36 feet high.

The entrance hall is 50 feet long and 25 feet wide; easily the largest hallway in any second quarter 19th century building in New Jersey.

To the right of the hall as one enters the front door is the bathroom; to the left is the office and library of William Gibbons. All the way to the end of the hall is a magnificent double door which opens to a spacious formal dining room. The dining room is flanked by several offices.

The second tier has a similar T-form hall and floor plan, but there are some fifteen offices on this floor at present, several of the rooms, originally bedrooms, being partitioned into more space.

The basement level originally served as quarters for the black servants (not much more than slaves in actuality), and is currently used for offices, maintainence, and storage.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Mead Hall - *Gibbons mansion*

Madison Boro

Morris County

New Jersey 034

CONTINUATION SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED DEC 29 1976

DATE ENTERED AUG 10 1977

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE #3

DESCRIPTION

By the 1930's Drew Theological Seminary had become a University and in an attempt to stimulate endowments from alumni and others a plan was initiated which carried the campus into the 20th century.

Unfortunately, the plan required that most of the old campus buildings be destroyed. Only Mead Hall, Brothers College, the Samuel Browne Refectory, Embury Hall (1834) and Asbury Hall (1834) would remain standing. (Both Embury and Asbury Halls still stand today and were outbuildings associated with the Gibbons Mansion, but each building has undergone such serious alterations as to make them probably ineligible for the Register.)

The architect for this massive reconstruction, Charles Z. Klauder of Philadelphia, evidently recognized the overwhelming importance of Mead Hall as his library adjacent to the mansion projects an exterior almost identical to that of Mead Hall, while the interior was totally modern.

This rectangular two story library, linked to Mead Hall by a breezeway, has a front wooden portico with twelve Ionic columns, is constructed of brick and has a brownstone foundation. The exterior details painstakingly reproduce those of Mead Hall.

Overall, Mead Hall has been magnificently maintained by its owners and occupants. The only exterior change, for instance, which can be discerned from a wood-cut of the mansion completed shortly after Mead Hall's construction, are exterior louvered shutters which are presently missing.

Also, the basement and second floors have been tampered with more than the main floor, but still embody a good percentage of the original early 19th century details, although some rooms have been differently divided.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) recreation
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1833-1834

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Mr. Jenkins, New Brunswick

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecture

Mead Hall is perhaps New Jersey's most pretentious Greek Revival edifice. Its overall dimensions and quality are unsurpassed in the state for a private residence built in the second quarter of the 19th century. Alan Gowans in his book Architecture in New Jersey states that "New Jersey does not and never did have anything like the number of small temple-houses that dot the landscape of western New York, northwestern Pennsylvania, or northern Ohio; but it can show some fine examples of Greek Revival houses nonetheless. This mansion built by William Gibbons between 1833 and 1836 was one of the finest...Architecturally it is Southern...with the typical two-story portico without pediment and generous (even lavish) proportions - a kind of stage for upper-class social and political life". (Gowans, Architecture in New Jersey p. 58).

Today, Mead Hall stands almost alone in New Jersey as a southern plantation brought north because of the preferences of its owner. While its basic southern proportions are clear, Mead Hall is nonetheless restrained in its detail, perhaps resultant of the limitations of its northern builder, a Jenkins of the New Brunswick area in Middlesex County, New Jersey.

Commerce

William Gibbons of Savannah, Georgia had this mansion built in the 1830's. In addition to owning immense land and plantation holdings in the south, Gibbons operated one of the most important steamboat businesses on the east coast.

The original Gibbons fortune was created long before the Revolutionary War by Williams' father, Thomas, a famous southern lawyer who purchased waterfront property in New Jersey and New York in the New York Harbor in the early 19th century and developed a mammoth ferrying service.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Mead Hall, Drew University, Madison, N.J.
 Barber, John W. & Howe, Henry, Historical Collections of the State of New Jersey, Newark, 1844
 Beers, F.W., Atlas of Morris County, New York, Beers, Ellis & Soule, 1868
 Cunningham, John T., University in the Forest, Florham Park, N.J. 1972

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/2 acre

UTM REFERENCES

300 (center of Hall)

A	1,8	5,4,8	5,0,0	4,5	1,2	3,3,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING				
C							D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Terry Karschner Historian/Curator

ORGANIZATION Historic Sites Section, Department of Environmental Protection DATE

STREET & NUMBER P.O. Box 1420 TELEPHONE 609-292-2023

CITY OR TOWN Trenton STATE New Jersey

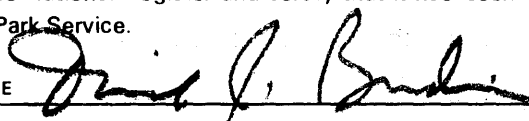
12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE XXX LOCAL

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

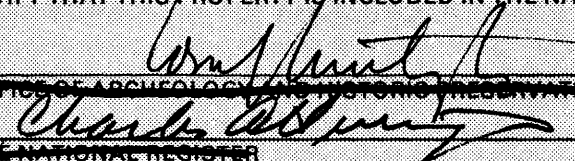


TITLE Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

DATE DEC - 1 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST:  DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER DATE 8/10/77
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER DATE 8/10/77

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	DEC 29 1976
DATE ENTERED	AUG 10 1977

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Mead Hall

Madison Boro

Morris County New Jersey 034

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE #2

SIGNIFICANCE

Ferry privileges became enormously valuable and a powerful New York syndicate acquired monopoly rights from the New York legislature for all steamboat traffic in New York. The syndicate assumed the rights which included waters up to the New Jersey shoreline. In 1815 Thomas Gibbons, with the aid of his son, William challenged this New York monopoly.

At first it turned into an open conflict between the opposing parties, but the ultimate decision was an edict from the United States Supreme Court in 1824, known as the Gibbons/Ogden Decision in which Chief Justice John Marshall ruled that only Congress could regulate inter-state commerce. As a result New York and all other states became a free port, open to all steamboat competition.

Thomas Gibbons died in 1826 and willed his business and estates to William, who at 32, became one of Americas few millionaires of the early 19th century.

While born and raised in Savannah, William settled permanently in New Jersey in the 1830's.

Passing by an undeveloped wilderness west of Battle Hill (now Madison) on the Elizabethtown-Phillipsburg Turnpike Gibbons and his wife were overwhelmed by the verdant beauty of the region and selected a local entrepreneur, Abraham Brittin, to assemble as much land as possible in and around where Mead Hall was eventually located.

Once built the estate was locally known as the Gibbons mansion even though the family continued to call the manor "The Forest".

Work started on the mansion in 1833. Unfortunately, despite a large collection of manuscript data about William Gibbons little has been discovered concerning Gibbons mansion's actual construction.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	DEC 29 1976
DATE ENTERED	AUG 10 1977

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Mead Hall
Madison Boro
Morris County
New Jersey 034
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE #3

SIGNIFICANCE

It is known that the bricks for the mansion were kilned at Benjamin Pierson Lum's brickyard in nearby Chatham. The solid mahogany interior trim was imported from Santo Domingo and was hand carved in England. The wooden columns were reportedly designed and carved in London.

William Gibbons and his family moved permanently into the mansion in the spring of 1836. Gradually the house was filled with furnishing commiserate with the economic status of the family. Heirlooms were shipped up from Savannah.

Since Gibbons continued to own extensive properties in Georgia he often made lengthy excursions to the south, but still preferred life at Madison.

Recreation

In addition to his position as a wealthy businessman, Gibbons also gained national prominence as a race-horse breeder. Two of his most important horses were "Bonnetts of Blue" and her colt "Fashion", by far the most famous, being labeled the "Queen of the American Turf" in the 1840's. A contemporary lithograph done by N. Currier, titled "Race of Peytona and Fashion..." pictures the horse in his prime.

William Gibbons died in 1852 and was buried next to his wife in the family plot of the Madison Presbyterian Cemetery. The mansion was subsequently willed to his son William Heyward Gibbons who had little personal interest in the estate. Heywood, a Confederate sympathizer and officer, was ruined by the Civil War and put "The Forest" on the market in 1867 for a reported \$160,000.

In the same year Daniel Drew paid nearly \$140,000 for the mansion, stable, granary, cottage, furnishings, and some 95 acres of land.

Education/Religion

Daniel Drew (1797-1879) acquired the Gibbons estate for the express purpose of creating the Drew Theological Seminary.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	DEC 29 1976
DATE ENTERED	AUG 1977

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Mead Hall - *Sibbons Mansion*

Madison Boro

Morris County

New Jersey 034

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

8

PAGE #4

SIGNIFICANCE

Drew was a calculating unscrupulous capitalist who had a sanctimonious devotion to Methodism.

As a cattle drover and horse trader in the Hudson and Mohawk valleys Drew, by an enterprising shrewdness, became a preeminent cattle buyer shortly after the War of 1812 being the first person to drive cattle from Ohio, Kentucky, and Illinois across the Alleghanies.

In 1834 Drew entered into the steamboat business competing with Cornelius Vanderbilt over the passenger/freight rights on the Hudson.

With capital accumulated from his steamboating service Drew opened the Wall Street broker firm of Drew, Robinson, and Company which for its decade of operation further enhanced his fortune.

In 1853 Drew began his long and stormy reign with the Erie Railroad, which, through his manipulations raised him to national prominence as an unscrupulous businessman. The Erie Railroad in 1868 was confronted by Cornelius Vanderbilt who forced Drew and his allies, Jay Gould and James Fisk into an alliance. Drew and his friends, however, swindled Vanderbilt of millions to which Vanderbilt responded by having them ordered arrested. Eventually, the enemies joined forces and bilked the nation of a fortune by controlling bank credit, stocks, and foreign exchange.

Daniel Drew was eventually financially ruined by associates Gould and Fisk in the 1870's. By 1876 Drew had filed a schedule of bankruptcy which listed his liabilities as exceeding one million and his assets as being negligible. He spent his last years being dependent on his son, William Drew of New York City.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Mead Hall
Madison Boro
Morris County
New Jersey 031
CONTINUATION SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	DEC 29 1976
DATE ENTERED	377

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE #5

SIGNIFICANCE

In his days of wealth Drew has spent roughly a quarter of a million founding the Drew Theological Seminary at Madison which was centered around the Gibbons Mansion Mead Hall. Drew soonafter in honor of his wife whose maden name was Mead.

Drew Theological Seminary received its charter from the New Jersey legislature in 1868. It was supported and attended by devotees of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mead Hall was the core of this Seminary functioning as classrooms and residences for professors who taught at the school. Drew became a University in 1928.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED DEC 29 1976

DATE ENTERED

AUG 10 1977

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Mead Hall - *Gibbons mansion*

Madison Boro

Morris County

New Jersey 034

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 1

Bibliography (continued)

Gowans, Allan, Architecture in New Jersey, Princeton, Van Norstrand, 1964 (Vol. VI New Jersey Historical Series).

Josephson, Matthew, The Robber Barons/ The Great American Capitalists 1861-1901, N.J. 1934

McAllister, Ward, Society As I Have Found It, N.J. 1890.

Manuscript Collections:

Mr. Robert W. Carver, 634 Fairmont Ave. Chatham, N.J.
(local historian)

Mrs. Charles Delmonico, 41 Mt. Kemble Avenue, Morristown N.J. (descendant of William Gibbons through daughter Isabel m. Frank Lathrop) Acct. Jrnl. Drew University Library

Mrs. Lincoln Pierson (deceased - Mother of Ruth Churchill SEE NOTE BELOW) Rutgers University Library
(Donald A. Sinclair, Curator Special Collections)

Mr. Carl Scherzer, 13 Colles Ave. Morristown, N.J.
(local historian)

Morris County Surrogates Office:

Last Will and Testament of Thomas Gibbons (copy - original will probated in Essex County, N.J. See: Book of Wills D, p.344)

Last Will and Testament of William Gibbons (original)
Inventory listing possessions of William Gibbons (original)

Munsell, W. M. History of Morris County, N.J., N.J. 1882.

Scribners, Dictionary of American Biography, N.J. 1930,
(Volume 5, pp 450-51)

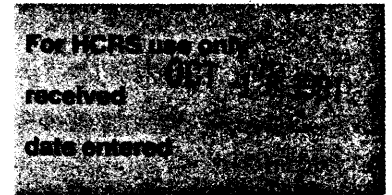
Sitterly, Prof. Charles F., The Building of Drew University, N.Y. Methodist Book Concern, 1938.

Tipple, Extra, Squire (ed.) Drew Theological Seminary 1867 - 1917, N.J. Methodist Book Concern, 1917

Tuttle, William Parkhurst, Bottle Hill and Madison, Madison, N.J.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Gibbons Mansion (Mead Hall)

Continuation sheet Madison, Morris County, NJ Item number 10

Page 1

Geographical Data - Clarification
Addendum

The Rose Memorial Library (1930) is physically linked to the Gibbons Mansion (Mead Hall). It is briefly described in the original nomination (#7, page 3, paragraphs 3, 4) and was intended as part of that application. Because of the expansive nature of Drew University, the land immediately surrounding Mead Hall was not considered as part of the original submission.

A photograph of the Rose Memorial Library is attached.

T. Karschner
8/26/1981