

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:  
**New Jersey**

COUNTY:  
**Somerset**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
<b>71.3.34.0007</b>	<b>3/4/71</b>

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**The General John Frelinghuysen House**

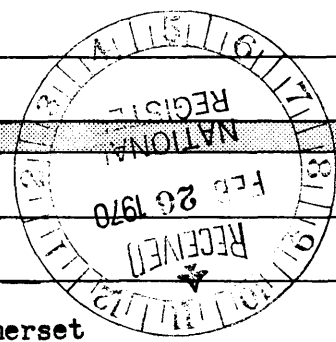
AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**Frelinghuysen Homestead**

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Somerset St. and Wyckoff Ave.**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Raritan**

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>Somerset</b>	<b>035</b>



**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments <u>apartment house</u>

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Borough of Raritan**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**16 Anderson St. (Borough Offices)**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Raritan**

STATE:  
**New Jersey**

CODE:  
**34**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
**Somerset County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Somerville**

STATE:  
**New Jersey**

CODE:  
**34**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**The Historic American Buildings Survey**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1936**  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Library of Congress**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Washington 20540**

STATE:  
**District of Columbia**

CODE:  
**08**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **New Jersey**

COUNTY: **Somerset**

ENTRY NUMBER: **71.3.34.0007**

DATE: **3/4/71**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. Description

CONDITION	part <span style="float: right;">(Check One)</span>				
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins
	(Check One)			(Check One)	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Frelinghuysen House consists of four fairly distinct parts, the two-story brick house, the one and one-half story frame wing on the west, a mid-nineteenth century two story wing adjacent south of the west half of the brick house and a 1923 two-story addition adjacent south of the east half of the brick house, replacing an earlier porch. The latter two parts have little or no historic interest, are poorly built and contain all the existing plumbing.

The mantelpieces from the two downstairs fireplaces and the front doorway were removed from the house in 1923. The stairs, which originally included a curved balcony on the second floor, and the interior trim, are certainly original and of remarkable elegance.

Much of the structural lumber in the roof framing was re-used from an earlier building of an entirely different type. Most of the exposed nails are cut, with hammered heads (1790-1820), although the heavier builders-hardware is wrought. The gambrel, with unusually narrow upper slopes is original and with a comparatively archaic framing system. The front gable is later and may well be contemporary with the front porch.

The exterior of the brick house is equally sophisticated. The front wall is in Flemish bond with a chamfered water-table, of dark red-brown brick; the sides and back are in the same brick in running bond. There are relieving arches over the first floor windows in the front wall, which also show some uncertain evidence of having been made narrower. Since the brownstone sills fit the present openings, and appear contemporary with the second floor sills, this was probably a builder's error. The sash in the front and east wall, 6/6 panes, have delicate muntins in considerable contrast to the sash in the back (south) which have 12/12 panes of much smaller glass and heavier muntins.

The brick masonry gables, flush with the chimney, extend above the lower planes of the gambrel, with cut stone coping. At the base of the chimney and again at the eaves, the coping levels to a flat step, to receive the gambrel break line above and the cornice below. This feature which is characteristic of Federal houses, and was much used in Ohio in the late 1820's and '30s, has rarely been used so delicately or with so much rational basis.

One interesting feature is the fact that several partitions between rooms on the second floor of the wing are made of comparatively large scale pieces of wood paneling, obviously from some other building of considerable size and monumentality.

The house's narrow gambrel and its framing is in the Dutch tradition, more clearly than the other Somerville houses and more than most Princeton homes.

The elegance of the millwork details and the gable end treatment at the roof, the ceiling height and spacious dimension of the rooms, and particularly the Adamesque carving of the mantels, indicate a date after 1785. Except for the outer member, the wood mouldings around interior doorways are somewhat smaller in scale, but identical in profile to those in "Strawberry Mansion", one of the best early Federal houses in Philadelphia built in 1797-99 by Judge William Lewis. There was a good deal of Philadelphia influence in the upper Raritan Valley during the latter half of the eighteenth century, making a reasonable allowance for cultural lag,

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

(see continuation sheet)

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian;       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century  
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  | _____                                    |

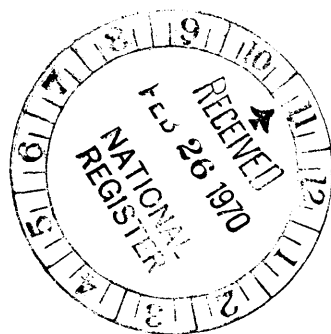
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house stands as an excellent example of late 18 century - early 19 century Federal architecture in New Jersey.

In addition, this house has been the homestead of the Frelinghuysen family which has long been significant in New Jersey history. Erskine's map shows a Colonel Frelinghuysen's house in the same general location or somewhat west of the present house. (There is some question as to when the house was actually built.) If it did exist before 1778, it probably belonged to Cornelius Middagh. The most recent edition of the N.J. State HABS catalogue dates the house to c. 1810. It was probably built by General John Frelinghuysen (1775-1833).

More recently, President Warren G. Harding signed the Knox-Porter Resolution which officially ended World War I by proclaiming peace between the United States and Germany, (1921) in this house.

*(see letter attached)*



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Rosalie F. Bailey: Pre-Revolutionary Dutch Houses and Families  
New York, 1936

Talbot W. Chambers: Memoir of the Life and Character of the Late  
Honorable Theodore Frelinghuysen, New York, 1863

The New Jersey Almanac and Travel Guide,  
Cedar Grove, 1966

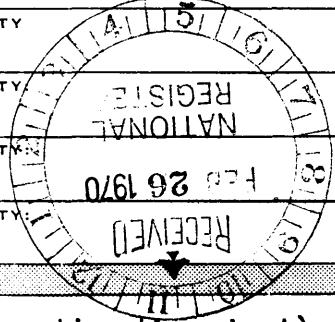
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		40	34	05
NE	° ' "	° ' "		74	37	46
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Robert M. Lunny, Director (see continuation sheet)

ORGANIZATION: The New Jersey Historical Society DATE: 8/6/70

STREET AND NUMBER: 230 Broadway

CITY OR TOWN: Newark STATE: New Jersey 07104 CODE: 34

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: Richard J. Sullivan  
Richard J. Sullivan

Title: Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

Date: February 1, 1971

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest Allen Community  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

MAR 4 1971

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:  
William J. Huntley  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: MAR 3 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	New Jersey	
COUNTY	Somerset	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	713.34.0007	DATE
		3/4/70

(Number all entries)

General Frelinghuysen House  
Somerset St. and Wyckoff Ave.  
Raritan, New Jersey  
Somerset County

Code: 34  
035

6. N.J. Historic Sites Inventory #2592.1 state 1960  
Historic Sites Section  
Box 1420 John Fitch Plaza  
Department of Environmental Protection  
Trenton, N.J.  
Mercer County

Code: 34  
021

7. this would indicate a probable date for the building of the brick portion of the house at the time of General Frelinghuysen's inheritance from his fater in 1805.

11. Mr. John Dickey, Restoration Architect  
Media, Pa.

Charlotte Tomaszewski, Research Assistant  
Historic Sites Section  
Department of Environmental Protection  
Trenton, N.J.

