

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUL 23 1979
DATE ENTERED SEP 12 1979

**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 Holmes-Tallman House

AND/OR COMMON
Brown's Corner House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER *NW of Jamesburg at*
Gerner-South River - Cranbury Road and Brown's Corner Roads.

CITY, TOWN *Jamesburg v.c.* VICINITY OF *South-Brunswick-Township* —NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT *4th*
STATE *New Jersey* CODE *34* COUNTY *Middlesex* CODE *023*

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" 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 Mr. and Mrs. George Baker

STREET & NUMBER
RFD, South River- Cranbury Road
CITY, TOWN *Jamesburg* VICINITY OF _____ STATE *New Jersey*

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, MIDDLESEX COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

STREET & NUMBER *John F. Kennedy Square*
CITY, TOWN *New Brunswick* STATE *New Jersey*

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Middlesex County Inventory of Historic and Architectural Resources

DATE *1979* —FEDERAL —STATE COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS *Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission*
CITY, TOWN *841 Georges Road, North Brunswick* STATE *New Jersey*

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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 Holmes-Tallman House is a Carpenter's Italianate large farmhouse or villa. Of wood, on a brick foundation, it originally consisted of a 3-story cubical main section, with a 2-story wing to the rear. A 1-story addition, consistent in style with the original construction, was made to the wing at the end of the nineteenth century.

There are five bays on the front of the main section and four on the sides. A 1-story porch surrounds the front and both sides. Its roof, with bracketed eaves, is carried on tapered paneled piers, square in section, which rest on high, square, paneled bases. The piers have a necking of eyelet jigsaw work. Matching pilasters mark the building's corners.

Entrance is through a doorway with corsetted architrave and segmental transom. There is a double-leafed paneled door. All other openings on the first floor are French windows with projecting lintels decorated with eyelet work similar to that on the piers. Similar lintels surmount the 2/2 sash of the second floor. Fenestration of the attic story consists of paired, arched single-pane windows. All openings, except the door, are hung with movable louvered shutters.

The house is covered with a shallow hip roof, crowned by a square cupola pierced by double arched windows. Two brick chimneys rise on either side. Wide overhanging eaves on both roof and cupola rest, like those of the veranda, on open brackets with acorn drops.

Trim on the wing repeats that of the main section at smaller scale. There is a small conservatory on the southwest side of the wing.

In plan, the first floor of the main section features a conventional central stairhall. To the left are a pair of square rooms separated by sliding doors, each with a fireplace. To the right is a double parlor, also with two fireplaces, but open through its entire length, although marked at the center by a segmental arch resting on floriated consoles. There are four rooms and a bath on the second floor and six in the attic. The 2-story wing has two rooms on the first floor, one, according to the present owner, the original dining room, the other the kitchen, with a back stair running along the wall dividing the wing from the main section. The 1-story wing, added by the present owner's grandfather, consists of a single room, the present kitchen, with adjacent pantry. There is a cellar under all of the house except the 1-story wing. It still contains the hot-air furnace installed c.1870. This consists of a square brick chamber containing a cast-iron firebox. The door to the stokehole is inscribed "Janes/Patent N.Y.".

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 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 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

The Holmes-Tallman House is an outstanding example of the large, square "Carpenter's Italianate" farmhouse elaborated with full attic and cupola. It is unique in Middlesex County and one of the finest of its type in New Jersey. It is all the more significant for its remarkable state of preservation. Not only are the exterior and setting intact, but so is all the interior architectural decor, including lighting fixtures, carpets, and some furnishings purchased for the house by Jacob Tallman over a century ago.

Such houses were ultimately derived from the wedding of Italianate villa and palazzo forms with a plan type utilized since the eighteenth century. They translated into wood designs featured for masonry construction in pre-Civil War pattern books. The closet parallel to the Holmes-Tallman House is Villa #3 in Riddell's Architectural Design of 1861.

A building appears at approximately the location of the Holmes-Tallman House on the 1850 map of Middlesex County, belonging to A. Gulick. However, according to family tradition, the house was built by Francis Holmes, c. 1860, and purchased by the present owners great-great grandfather, Jacob B. Tallman in 1870. Stylistically the 1860 date is certainly more likely, and it may be assumed that the present house replaced an earlier building on the same site.

Tradition is confirmed by title transfers. Francis Holmes purchased two parcels of property from the estate of Aaron Gulick, executor, in 1858 and 1860. In 1869 these were sold by² Holmes to James Gulick, who resold them the following year to Jacob B. Tallman.² The house has remained in the hands of his descendants ever since.

Although no specific threat to the Holmes-Tallman House is imminent, it is located at the junction of roads serving two of the fastest-growing municipalities in Middlesex County, South Brunswick and Monroe. Pressure to ease traffic congestion in the southern portion of the county is growing and proposals to widen the roads or redesign the intersection are expected to surface in the near future.

¹Middlesex County deeds: 86, 110; 86, 112

²Ibid.: 119, 680; 124, 628

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Junior Leagues of New Jersey. New Jersey: A Heritage for Now and Tomorrow.
N.P. (1976).

Riddell, John. Architectural Designs for Model Country Residences.
Philadelphia (1861).

See Continuation Sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 *

QUADRANGLE NAME Jamesburg

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 54, 59, 9, 0 4, 46, 8, 84, 0

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Beginning at the intersection of South River-Cranbury and Brown's Corner Road, thence southeast 1300 meters along Brown's Corner Road, thence southwest 800 meters, thence northwest 1000 meters, then along South River-Cranbury Road to the place of beginning.

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 Constance M. Greiff, Director

ORGANIZATION Heritage Studies, Inc.

DATE 2/1979

STREET & NUMBER RD #4, Box 864, Mapleton Road

TELEPHONE 609-452-1754

CITY OR TOWN Princeton

STATE New Jersey

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE 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.

Deputy [Signature]

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

7-5-79

TITLE Deputy Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

[Signature]
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 9-12-79

ATTEST: [Signature]
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE Sept. 11, 1979

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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Holmes - Tallman House
South Brunswick Township
Middlesex County
New Jersey 034
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

7. DESCRIPTION (continued)

Decorative devices on the first floor are rich. There is a tessellated tile floor in the hall. The stair, with turned balusters, paneled polygonal newel, and floriated ends, rises through three stories, curving at the landings. There is a statuary niche at the first landing. The hall and all first floor rooms have richly molded composite cornices floral centerpieces. All fireplaces throughout the house are supplied with arched, marbled slate mantels, only two of which have been repainted. There are original wideboard floors throughout, except on the first floor of the wing.

The setting for the house is evocative of the era of its construction. Curving drivies and randomly distributed specimen trees characterize the landscaping. A relatively modern garage has been erected southwest of the house. However, further to the southwest is the original carriage house, a simple gable-roofed building. Along the road front to the northwest are distributed three cast-iron urns with griffon handles, resting on square cast-iron bases with applied lions' heads.

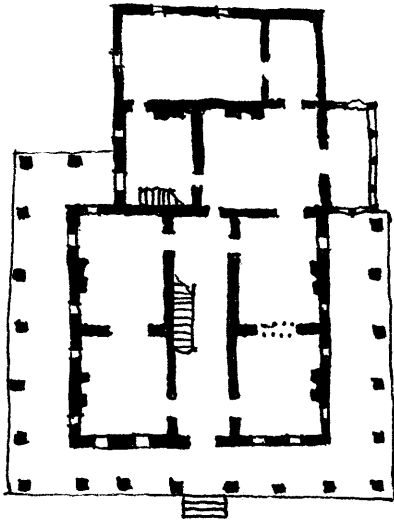
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FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

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New Jersey 034

ITEM NUMBER

9

PAGE

1

CONTINUATION SHEET

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (continued)

"Map of Middlesex County, New Jersey." J. W. Otley and J. Keily. Camden (1850).

Interview with Mrs. George H. Baker. January 1979.