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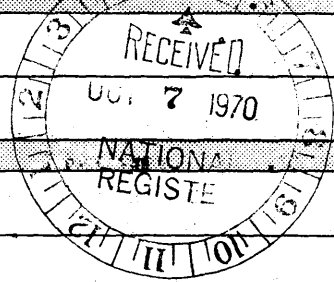
Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	<b>New Jersey</b>
COUNTY:	<b>Atlantic</b>
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
70-12-34-0012	12/18/70



**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Somers Mansion**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Shore Road and Somers Point Circle**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Somers Point**

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>Atlantic</b>	<b>001</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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input 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 <b>State-owned historic site</b>

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**P.O. Box 1390, John Fitch Plaza**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Trenton**

STATE:  
**New Jersey**

CODE:  
**34**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Mays Landing**

STATE:  
**New Jersey**

CODE:  
**34**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Historical American Building Survey - NJ-#281**

DATE OF SURVEY:  
**1936**

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Washington**

STATE:  
**D. C.**

CODE:  
**08**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **New Jersey**

COUNTY: **Atlantic**

ENTRY NUMBER: **70-12-34-0012**

DATE: **12/18/70**

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7. Description

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(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 Somers Mansion was built on a high bluff overlooking Great Egg Harbor Bay area 1725. It was built on a tract of land willed to Richard Somers by his father John. It was originally part of a 3,000 acre tract conveyed to his father in 1695.

The original house was enlarged circa 1760 and greatly changed in the late 19th century. It remained in the family until 1937 when it was deeded to the Atlantic County Historical Society. In 1941 the structure and one acre of ground was give to the State.

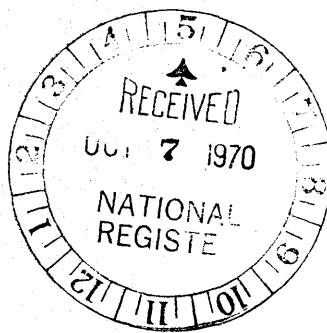
The building is a 2½ story brick structure with a gambrel roof oriental in an east west direction. It is on a stone foundation with brick walls. The walls are laid up in a Flemish Bond with glazed headers. There are windows and a door on each floor. They are non-symmetrical along the north and south side of the building. The east and west side lack windows or doors.

There were two rooms on each floor of the original building. The western rooms on each floor had a large fireplace, a closet and a concealed stairway.

Most of the paneling brick work and floor are original. The balcony at the second floor level and all the window sash were replaced as part of a restoration program in the late 1930's.

The restored building is now in a very commercial area adjacent to the causeway that connects Somers Point with Ocean City.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



8. Significance

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian     16th Century     18th Century     20th Century

15th Century     17th Century     19th Century

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SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)    **1720's**

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AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

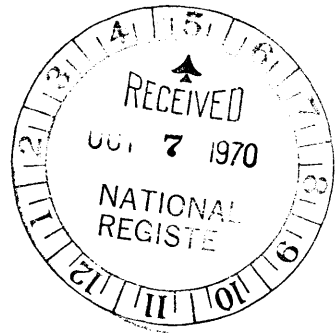
<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Somers Mansion is significant for its architecture and as the ancestral home of the Somers Family.

The Somers Mansion is the oldest house now standing in Atlantic County (incorporated 1837). It was built circa 1725 for Richard Somers I. The first historical reference to the house is from 1726, when the house was used as a Quaker meeting. Its gambrel roof and Flemish Bond exterior are unusual for the Southern New Jersey area. The building has Historic American Building Survey citation.

The Somers family migrated to Philadelphia in 1681 and to West Jersey in 1695. John Somers owned over 3,000 acres and operated the first ferry across Great Egg Harbor Bay. His descendents Richard I, Richard II and Richard III are all notables in New Jersey history. Richard II was a judge and colonel in the New Jersey militia during the American Revolution. Richard III was a naval hero at the Battle of Tripoli. He was Commander of the Nautilus when he was killed in 1804.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Boucher, J. Absegami Yesteryear, Atlantic County Historical Society, Laureate Press, Inc., Egg Harbor City, New Jersey, c. 1963

Rundstrom, Olive Somers Point 275 Anniversary, City of Somers Point c. 1968

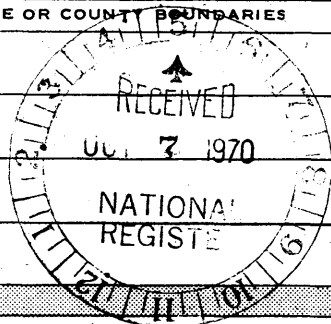
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	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	° ' "	° ' "		39°	18'	33"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		74°	35'	54"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 1/2 acres

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: Charles I. Wilson Jr., Archeologist

ORGANIZATION: Historic Sites Section, Department of Environmental Protection DATE: August 4, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER: Box 1420, John Fitch Plaza

CITY OR TOWN: Tranton STATE: New Jersey CODE: 08625 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 Fuller

Title: Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

Date: September 11, 1970

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

Arnet A. Connolly  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

DEC 18 1970

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

William J. Huntzger  
Keeper of The National Register

NOV 27 1970

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE New Jersey	
COUNTY Atlantic	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
7012,340013	12/18/70

(Number all entries)

Somers Mansion  
Shore Road and Somers Point Circle  
Somers Point  
New Jersey

6. New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory #2843.1  
1961 - State  
Historic Sites Section, Department of Environmental Protection.  
Box 1420, John Fitch Plaza  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625 code-34

