

PH 0501522

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED
JUL 27 1977
APR 26 1978

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 ****
Pearson-How, Cooper, Lawrence Houses, ~~Micro-District~~
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 453-451
CITY, TOWN 459, -457-455, -453 High Street
Burlington VICINITY OF COUNTY Burlington CODE 04
STATE New Jersey CODE 34 COUNTY Burlington CODE 005

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH <i>Called for. Valley</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 Burlington County Historical Society *own Pearson-How, Cooper*
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection *and*
STREET & NUMBER 547 High Street
Box 1390, John Fitch Plaza
CITY, TOWN Burlington VICINITY OF Trenton STATE 08016
New Jersey 08625

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Burlington County Court House
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN Mount Holly STATE New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Historic Sites Inventory
Historic American Buildings Survey, N.J. (73)
DATE 1960
1936 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Historic Sites Inventory 1390 John Fitch Plaza
Library of Congress
CITY, TOWN Trenton STATE New Jersey
Washington D.C.

7 DESCRIPTION

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

A description of the Pearson/How, Cooper and Lawrence houses is as follows:

PEARSON/HOW HOUSE

The house is a 2 1/2 story brick structure built (circa 1705) in the provincial vernacular Georgian style. The front facade is 4 even spaced bays; above the watertable is Flemish bond with glazed headers, below is English bond. All other walls in this unit of the house are common bond. The windows are 9 over 9 double hung and peg construction, with 3 panel shutters. There is a rear addition (late 17th to early 18th century) of frame construction, with clapboard siding. The roof on the main unit is a shingle covered medium gable, with simple gable fronted dormer, box cornice and gauge moulding. Across the front facade is a skirting roof. The front door consists of 8 beveled panels with a transom.

The floor plan is as follows. The first floor consists of four, two bay rooms with no entry hall. The front (High Street side) room, northern end of the house, contains a centrally located Georgian fireplace, chair-rails and a wainscotted enclosed screw stair case. The front room south contains a simple Georgian corner fireplace and chairrails. In the rear room north is a simple Georgian fireplace with bedmolding, two large panels and side cupboards. The rear room to the south contains a corner type Georgian fireplace with box cornice and dovetailed bedmolding. The room contains a fine Georgian corner cupboard and the walls are wainscotted.

The second floor contains four, two bay rooms and a central hall. The central access hallway is defined by wainscotting partitioning. Contained in the front room north is a central fireplace with side cupboards. The front room south is the same as the previous room with the exception that there is no fireplace. The two rear rooms are pine paneled. The room south contains a corner fireplace with corner cupboards.

The attic contains two, four bay rooms. These rooms are separated by a wainscott partition. The rafters are exposed and are hand hewn.

All floors in the house are random width planks and much of the original glass and hardware still remains through out.

The basement floor is dirt and there are two fieldstone squinches supporting the corner fireplaces and a stone arch under the front north central fireplace. All the beams are milled and exposed.

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DESCRIPTION

The second section of the house is two stories and irregular in shape. This unit was added c. 1767 by either Edward Tonkin or his son Israel. On the first floor there is a rear hall with two enclosed stair cases, one leading to the cellar, the other to the second floor. In the hall itself is a 6 panel door with transom. This leads to the exterior of the house. Adjoining the rear hall are two large rooms; one used for dining, the other for food preparation. Both of these rooms contain large corner fireplaces much simpler in design than those of the central portion. The kitchen has a small cupboard built in under the enclosed servants stairwell leading to the second floor.

The second floor consists of two large rooms and a bath. These rooms have been modernized and retain little of their original woodwork. There are wide floor boards throughout the house. There also remains some of the original hardware and glass intact.

The exterior of this section is exposed commonbond brick work with random size window sashes. Attached to the rear of this section is an open shed with a brick floor.

In the central basement are three large stone arches supporting the upstairs fireplaces. The cellar floor is dirt and the walls are comprised of fieldstone. The rear addition basement consists of two rooms -the room directly below the dining room and rear hall has a dirt floor and a supporting arch for the upstairs fireplace. Also contained in this room is the back of a medium size baking oven. The room under the kitchen was evidently used for the cooking and baking. In it is a large corner fireplace with iron lintel and brick floor. All the beams in the cellar are exposed and show evidence of being mill sawed.

During the early 1940's the house was restored through a W.P.A. project.

OUTBUILDINGS

Situated behind the Pearson/How house is a one story, one room concrete, cinder block structure with a flat tin roof and industrial type windows along the south side. This building is presently used as a museum, containing 17th and 18th century artifacts. Directly behind the Cooper house is a one story, concrete cinder block structure with a shingled, gable roof. This

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DESCRIPTION

building is a one room library; it contains the deeds to both the Pearson/How and Cooper houses and other historical information on the City of Burlington.

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DESCRIPTION

COOPER HOUSE

The Cooper House was erected circa 1780 by Samuel How, Esq. and is a 2 1/2 story stuccoed brick structure, 3 bays wide with end bay entrance. The roof is a tin covered medium gable with gable fronted dormer and central interior end chimney. All windows in this unit are 9 over 9 double hung and the shutters are 3 panel on the first floor and louvered on the second. The doorway has a square transom with a recessed fanlight and bullseye incised corner blocks. The cornicing is a heavy medallion type. There is also a shed type 2 story wing which has been altered.

A floor plan for the house is as follows. The first floor, main unit, contains one three-bay room. There are chair-rails and a central Greek Revival fireplace with a shelf, bedmolding and corner blocks. In the rear wing first floor there are three two-bay rooms and a stair hall. The first room, rear wing, contains a corner fireplace and is used as a library. Behind this room is a plain dining room and kitchen. The stair case (in the stair hall) leading to the second floor is a quarter turn pace with turned balustrade and clyma handrails.

The second floor main unit has one three-bay room front and one one-bay room rear, with a side access hall. Both rooms contain chairrails. The rear wing, second floor, has two two-bay rooms, stair hall and bath. These rooms are used by the custodian of the Cooper house.

The attic is divided into two small rooms, the walls and ceilings of which are plastered. Entry to the attic is achieved through an enclosed single flight stair.

Throughout the house are random width floorboards and chair-rails remain, along with some of the original hardware and glass.

The basement has a dirt floor; stone foundation and two stone squinches supporting the central fireplace.

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DESCRIPTION

LAWRENCE HOUSE

The John Lawrence House was erected in two sections, the first being the central portion which predates the rear and is believed to be 18th century construction. Research information obtained from the Burlington County Archives would indicate a possible range of date from 1742 to 1769. Bernard B. Malfeson acquired the property in 1820 and remodeled the front unit in the Federal Style. This portion is two stories; the floor plan for the first floor is as follows - a large hallway with Greek Revival door containing 8 panels and modified fanlight, chair-rails and a quarter pace stair with clyma hand rails, elaborate balusters and newel posts. Separating the hallway is an elliptical arch with keystone and reeding, all resting on pilaster strips. Adjoining the main hallway are two large rooms facing front and rear. Both rooms contain chair-rails and centrally located Georgian fireplaces with bedmolding, corner blocks and a plain broken front shelf. There are also two windows with panels below. These open to form an entrance to the side porch.

The second floor contains three rooms and an enclosed "U" shaped staircase to the attic. Two of these three rooms contain fireplaces which are similar in description, except smaller in size, to the ones on the first floor. The third room is situated directly above the main hallway and is much smaller in size than the other two rooms. The attic is finished and contains two rooms facing East and West. The room to the east has a simple Georgian fireplace with bedmolding.

The exterior of the central portion was stuccoed to imitate cut stone blocks c. 1844. The front is 4 bays wide, the windows are 6 over 6 double hung sash with 3 panel shutters. There also is a Greek Revival door and a three step stoop. Across the east side of the house is a large open porch. The roof is a shingled medium gable with box cornice and a double Federal chimney.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) State History
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Pearson/How, Cooper and Lawrence Houses are well preserved examples of Southern New Jersey, Federal, Greek, and provincial vernacular Georgian styles, dating from the early to the late 18th century. The owners of these three houses have played a significant role in the local history of Burlington and in part the history of New Jersey. A statement of significance for each house is as follows:

PEARSON/HOW HOUSE

The Pearson/How House is an excellent example of the provincial vernacular Georgian style, which was prevalent in South Jersey, during the 18th century. This house survives complete with its original detailing, including the wainscotting, Georgian corner cupboards, the exterior skirting roof and gauge molding. In addition, owing to its facade articulation with four even bays, it is considerably above average in terms of classical refinement. The house was built approximately 1705 by Issac Pearson.

Issac Pearson was born circa 1685, working 1710 to 1749. In 1710 he married Hannah Gardiner in the Friends Meeting of Burlington. He was elected a member of the General Assembly on October 6, 1738, and four years later was commissioned Assay Master of Weights and Measures. The Pearsons resided in the house from approximately 1710 to 1749. Issac was a member of the Guild of Silversmiths and was the first silversmith of New Jersey. Being a man of many talents he was also the first clock maker in the Colonies to make both the works and the case of the clocks. A signed Pearson clock is on loan and stands in the parlor of the house. Pearson died in 1749 and was buried in the yard of the Society of Friends, Burlington.

Samuel How, Esq. was an owner of the house from 1782 until the late 1830's. Samuel How was one of the Judges of the Interview Court of Common Pleas for the County of Burlington. Samuel transferred the land to the Heritage family on June 9, 1783. The Pearson/How House has been furnished as close as possible with furniture dating between 1700 and 1769.

Mr. G. Edwin Brumbaugh, F.A.I.A., a noted architect who was instrumental in the restoration on the Cloisters in Ephrata, Pennsylvania, also did the restoration of the Pearson/How House in 1760.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Book X-11 of Deeds, pg. 198, & c., 1888
 Book 348 of Deeds, pg. 450, & c., 1900
 Book 438 of Deeds, pg. 235, & c., 1908

Brumbaugh, C. Edwin, FAIA Architect, Gwynedd Valley, Penna. 19437

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 17272'.8"

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>18</u>	<u>512140</u>	<u>4435960</u>	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the Pearson-How, Cooper and Lawrence Houses, Micro-District is as shown as the green line on the accompanying map entitled "Pearson-How, Cooper and Lawrence Houses, Micro-District" 1977.

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

George A. Chidley IV: Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Section, Dept. Env. Prot. N.J.

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

John Fitch Plaza, Box 1420

TELEPHONE

292-2023 or 2024

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.

Deputy

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

[Handwritten Signature]

TITLE

Assistant Commissioner, Dept. of Environmental Protection

DATE

6/13/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: *[Handwritten Signature]*
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

4/26/78

DATE

4-12-78

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SIGINIFICANCE

John B. Lawrence, father of James, born approximately 1726 in Monmouth County, New Jersey, was admitted to the N.J. Bar in 1747. He was elected to represent the County in the Assembly. He also was mayor of Burlington City in 1769 as well as member of the Provincial Council from 1771 to 1775.

Along with other citizens, John Lawrence persuaded the Hessians under Col. Donop not to pillage the city on December 11, 1776, and he entertained the latter and some of the officers at dinner. He was obliged to accompany the British to Bordentown to avoid arrest by the Americans when their gun boats attacked the city. Subsequently, he returned and was arrested for this and other unpopular actions and was confined in the Burlington County Jail.

James Lawrence, born on October 1, 1781, was the 11th son and last child born of the two marriages of John Lawrence. His mother, Martha Tallman Lawrence, died while he was an infant. John Lawrence then retired to Canada. James was left in the care of his two elder sisters throughout his adolescent years.

In 1794 James entered his brother's law office in Woodbury; but upon deciding he was not interested in a legal career he returned to Burlington. With preliminary studies made in navigation, he enlisted in the Navy as a midshipman in 1796, and merited a Lieutenant's commission in 1802. He served as an officer aboard the Wasp, Ganges, Vixen, Argus, Hornet, and Constitution; his many contacts with naval activities in various parts of the world made him eligible for quick promotion.

In 1813 Lawrence was assigned head of the New York Navy Yard. Shortly after, war with England, declared on June 18, 1812, made sea duty imperative. While commanding the Hornet, Lawrence captured the first line British Man-of-war Peacock on February 24, 1813 in a 15 minute engagement off the coast of South America.

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SIGNIFICANCE

COOPER HOUSE

The Cooper House was built circa 1780 by Samuel How, Esq., and is a fine example of the early 19th century townhouse. This dwelling features the South Jersey characteristic of mixing "Greek" and "Federal" elements which can be seen in the fanlight and the delicately articulated fenestration, combined with the square transom doorway, with its bullseye incised corner blocks. This is further illustrated by the stuccoed and scored (to represent cut stone blocks) exterior facades, and by the heavy cornicing.

The house was rented by William and Elizabeth Cooper from Samuel How. William was a merchant and shared a shop on High Street, in Burlington. The Coopers were a large family, having 11 children. The 11th child born to William and Elizabeth, in 1789, was James Fenimore Cooper, that prolific chronicler of historical romances. James lived in the house for 13 months, before being taken to Oswego, New York, where his father had acquired a generous portion of land. He later returned to Burlington with his father for a short period, while William attended the meetings in Philadelphia of the United States Congress. The Deerslayer, The Leather Stockings, The Prairie, and The Last of the Mohicans are among the most famous literary works of James Fenimore Cooper.

LAWRENCE HOUSE

The Lawrence House, constructed during the period 1742-1769, served as the residence of John Lawrence, a prominent lawyer in Burlington County. The two-story stucco house is a provincial adaptation of the Federal Style. The building is distinguished by its two Federal gable end chimneys, its large windows, box cornice and elegant Greek Revival door with recessed fan light.

The interior features an early Federal elliptical archway with keystone and reeding. Also featured are the chair-rails, centrally located fireplaces, and elaborate newel posts.

Deeds on record reveal that the house of Captain James Lawrence's birth was never actually owned by any member of the Lawrence family. The Lawrences evidently were the tenants of the property while it was owned by Israel Tonkin.

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SIGNIFICANCE

Lawrence was transferred to the Chesapeake; his orders were to intercept enemy ships in the Boston Harbor area. This attracted the attention of Captain Broke, veteran commander of the British ship, Shannon who promptly challenged Lawrence to battle. In disregard of the much superior size and armament of the English vessel Captain Lawrence immediately accepted the challenge and for this audacious bit of bravery, has been both severely criticized and highly praised by Naval Experts. --

Adverse tides and winds brought the two ships into such close contact that the forces of the larger Shannon were able to board the lower decks of the American vessel, and the hand to hand fighting which followed is recorded as the most bloody in Naval History. Final surrender came only when too few of the Chesapeake's crew were left to maneuver the ship. While most of the men of both vessels were either killed or severely injured, little damage was inflicted by gun fire. Captain Lawrence, conscious of his mortal wounds received early in the battle, urged his men to greater efforts. He was carried below decks with a final admonition of "Don't give up the ship!", which has since become the motto of the U.S. Navy.

Both ships were taken to Halifax Harbor where Lawrence died four days later on June 5, 1813.

Captain Lawrence was buried in three different locations - first, at Halifax; later at Boston, and finally in the graveyard at Trinity Church, New York City, where he now rests.

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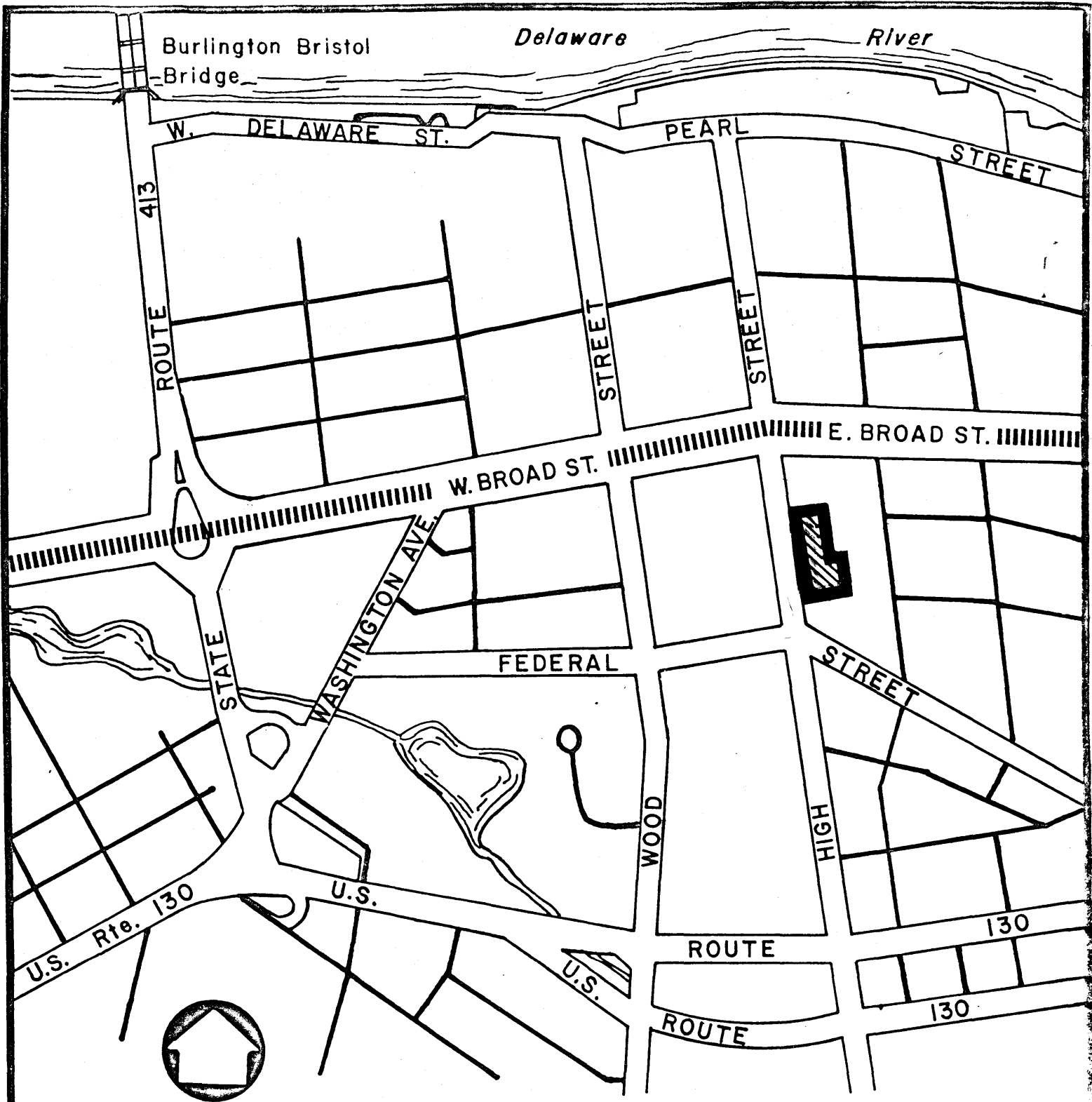
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City of BURLINGTON
**PEARSON-HOW, COOPER, LAWRENCE
 HOUSES, MICRO-DISTRICT**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
 DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



JUL 27 1977