

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: New Jersey	
COUNTY: Mercer	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
MAY 17 1974	

H/B
 ZM18
 E 518410
 N 4452220

1. NAME

COMMON:
General Philemon Dickinson House ("The Hermitage")

AND/OR HISTORIC:
The Hermitage (Rutherford House)

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
146 Colonial Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Trenton

STATE New Jersey	CODE 34	COUNTY: Mercer	CODE 021
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>apartment house</u>

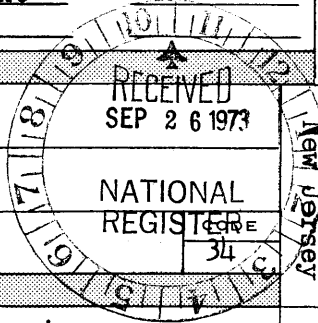
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mr. Frank Majofski

STREET AND NUMBER:
1595 Pennington Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Trenton

STATE:
New Jersey



5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Courthouse (Mercer County)

STREET AND NUMBER:
South Broad Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Trenton

STATE:
New Jersey

CODE:
34

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory #813.5

DATE OF SURVEY:
1972 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Department of Environmental Protection - Historic Sites Office

STREET AND NUMBER:
John Fitch Plaza, P.O. Box 1420

CITY OR TOWN:
Trenton

STATE:
New Jersey

CODE:
34

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" 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 existing portion of "The Hermitage", built in 1784, is a large two-story house with low-hipped roof, two interior chimneys, and stone walls that are covered on the exterior with stucco. The present front or north elevation of the house is the original architectural rear. The original 1760 frame house, which formed a rear ell to 1784 stone portion, was demolished in 1905 when Colonial Avenue was built close to the north elevation of the stone section. A long one-story porch which once extended across most of the original front or south elevation (now the rear facade) has been removed. The Dickinson House is about 70 feet long and 29 feet deep. Both the front and rear facades are seven bays wide. Five these bays have full length paired windows, one bay has the entrance, and the seventh bay contains a full-length triple window. The triple windows in the 7th bays, on both folds, and the triple window in the second story over each entrance door, are topped by bracketed hood molding that gives a Palladian effect. The low rectangular attic windows are masked by ornamental cast iron grills and are set in an entablature frieze. The eaves are widely overhanging, although not bracketed.

The entrance doors are set in the third bay from the east side of the house and the north elevation door is sheltered by a small one-story porch. Architectural evidence indicates that the exterior of "The Hermitage" was considerably revised and remodeled in the mid-19th century.

A hallway extends through the house and a curved stairway is set against the west wall of the hall. Two rooms on the left and two rooms on the right open off the hall on the first floor. In 1905 the residence was converted into an apartment house. Original walls appear to have left in place and partitions inserted were needed. The original room plan is still apparent and five marble mantels are still in place. There are three apartments on the first floor, three more on the second, and one in the attic.

Used a private apartment house, "The Hermitage" is not open to visitors.

Congressional Representation

- Clifford Case - U.S. Senator
- Harrison Williams - U.S. Senator
- Frank Thompson - U.S. Congressman, 4th District

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

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 type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built in 1784, "The Hermitage" was the home from 1776 to 1809 of Philemon Dickinson, major general and commander-in-chief of the New Jersey militia during the War for Independence, who fought in several campaigns with Washington's army.

The exterior of the house was considerably remodeled in the mid-19th century and the interior altered for use as an apartment house in 1905.

History

Philemon Dickinson, a younger brother of John Dickinson, the "Penman of the Revolution," was born at "Croisia-dore," Talbot County, Maryland, in 1739. In his boyhood the family moved to a new estate in Kent County near Dover, Delaware, and he was educated at home by a tutor. Dickinson entered the College of Philadelphia (now the University of Pennsylvania) from which he was graduated in 1759. For some time prior to his father's death in 1760 he managed the latter's enormous estates in Kent County, Delaware, and in Talbot, Dorchester, and Queen Anne Counties in Maryland. He then settled in Philadelphia, where he read law with his brother John, whom he later joined in signing the non-importation agreement of November 1765. He married in 1767. When New Jersey voted to raise 10 battalions of infantry in 1775, Philemon, who had an estate, "The Hermitage" near Trenton, was appointed colonel of the Hunterdon County battalion, and in October was commissioned brigadier general of New Jersey militia. In 1776 Dickinson was elected to the Provincial Congress of New Jersey. In 1776 Dickinson leading 400 New Jersey militia and 50 Pennsylvania riflemen, he defeated a British foraging party of about the same strength sent out by Cornwallis to capture flour stored in a mill near Somerset Court-house on the Millstone River. He recaptured 40 wagonloads of plunder, 100 horses, and many cattle and sheep.

In June 1777 Governor William Livingston appointed Dickinson major general and commander in chief of the New Jersey militia. In November 1777 he conducted a raid on Staten Island, which was occupied by the Loyalist regiments of General Cortland Skinner and the Waldeckers of General Campbell. Warned in advance, the British narrowly escaped capture. In 1778, Sir Henry Clinton, having evacuated Philadelphia, began retreating across the Jerseys toward New York City. Dickinson, leading about 1,000 New

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Historic Roadside in New Jersey (The Society of Colonial Wars in the State of New Jersey) (Plainfield, New Jersey, 1928), 57, 59.

Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. V, 302-303.

September 20, 1971, letter of Mr. David Poinsett, Supervisor, Historic Sites, State of New Jersey, Department of Environmental Protection, to Mr. Horace J. Sheely, Jr., NPS, with file data (3074.15 - on the "Hermitage").

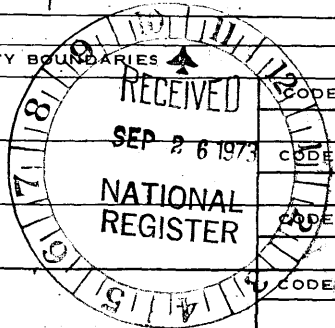
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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°	13'	37"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	74°	47'	02"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1/4 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE: ;	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Charles W. Snell, Survey Historian

ORGANIZATION **Division of History, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service** DATE **3/30/72**

STREET AND NUMBER:
801 19th Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington** STATE: **D.C.** CODE: **11**

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: September 18, 1973

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

DR. Mortensen
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 5/17/74

ATTEST:
Charles Henry Co.
Acting Keeper of The National Register

Date: 3-16-74

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE New Jersey	
COUNTY Mercer	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 17 1974

(Number all entries)

8. Significance
"The Hermitage"
Mercer County - 021

Jersey militia and cooperating with Brigadier General William Maxwell's New Jersey Continental brigade 1,300 men, obstructed roads, destroyed bridges, and harassed the British in accordance with Washington's orders. This delay enabled the Continental Army to come up with the British and Dickinson's accurate reports on the location of the enemy enabled Washington to bring on the Battle of Monmouth, June 28, 1778. Most of Dickinson's troops, however, departed on June 29 to look after their corps. On July 4, 1778, Dickinson acted as second to General John Cadwalder of Pennsylvania in his duel with General Thomas Conway. Dickinson was for a short time chief signal officer of the Middle Department (1778-79). On June 23, 1780, again leading a body of New Jersey militia and acting under the command of General Nathanael Greene, Dickinson took part in the battle of Springfield, New Jersey.

Defeated for governor by William Livingston in 1778, 1779, and 1780, Dickinson was appointed in 1781 commissioner of the newly created state loan office, and in 1781 was elected to the Continental Congress from Delaware, where he was a property owner. Elected to the New Jersey Council, he served two terms as vice-president of that body (1783-84). In 1785 Congress appointed him, Robert Morris, and Philip Schuyler commissioners to select a site for a Federal capital. The question was not settled, however, until the adoption of the Constitution. Defeated for United States Senator by William Paterson, Dickinson was later elected to fill Paterson's unexpired term (1790-93) when the latter succeeded William Livingston as governor of New Jersey. Dickinson died on February 4, 1809.

HISTORY OF "THE HERMITAGE"

The original "Hermitage", a frame structure no longer standing, is believed to have been erected by the Rutherford family on a large estate near Trenton around 1760. Philemon Dickinson purchased the property in July 1776 and in 1784 greatly enlarged his frame residence by the addition of the large and existing stone house that is known as "The Hermitage". After his death, his family occupied the estate until 1850, when the property was acquired by Edward J. C. Atterbury, who resided there until his death in 1887. In 1904-05 Harry C. Valentine converted the stone house into apartments and demolished the earlier frame portion in order to make way for the construction of Colonial Avenue. By that date Trenton had expanded out to "The Hermitage" and the former country estate was subdivided. "The Hermitage" is still utilized as an apartment house and is not open to visitors.

