

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

|                              |      |
|------------------------------|------|
| STATE:<br><b>New Jersey</b>  |      |
| COUNTY:<br><b>Burlington</b> |      |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY             |      |
| ENTRY NUMBER                 | DATE |
|                              |      |

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Francis Hopkinson House**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**101 Farnsworth Avenue, at Park Street**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Bordentown**

STATE: **New Jersey**      CODE:      COUNTY: **Burlington**      CODE:

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

| CATEGORY<br>(Check One)   | OWNERSHIP  |   | STATUS  | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC   |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building<br><input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure<br><input type="checkbox"/> Object | <input type="checkbox"/> Public<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private<br><input type="checkbox"/> Both                                    | Public Acquisition:<br><input type="checkbox"/> In Process<br><input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress | Yes:<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted<br><input type="checkbox"/> No |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)  |  |   |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural<br><input type="checkbox"/> Commercial<br><input type="checkbox"/> Educational<br><input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Government<br><input type="checkbox"/> Industrial<br><input type="checkbox"/> Military<br><input type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Park<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence<br><input type="checkbox"/> Religious<br><input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)<br><u>Chamber of Commerce Office.</u>          | <input type="checkbox"/> Comments  |

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: **Hopkinson House Incorporated.**  
**Mr. Harold B. Wells, Agent. William Wells and Mrs. Edward Hann**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**6 Park Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Bordentown**      STATE: **New Jersey**      CODE: **08505**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Burlington County Court House**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Mount Holly**      STATE: **New Jersey**      CODE:

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**15 Sheets and 3 photos Historic American Buildings Survey**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1935-36**       Federal       State       County       Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Division of Prints and Photographs, Library of Congress**

STREET AND NUMBER:

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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 Hopkinson House was built in 1750 by John Imlay, a merchant. The structure is an L-shaped two-and-one-half-story brick structure with a gambrel and dormered roof. The main house, which faces west, is about 41 feet or five-bays wide and 30 feet deep. A two-story brick wing, 30 by 16 feet, extends to the rear from the northeast corner of the main house. A two-story frame wing, 15 by 22 feet and containing kitchen and servant's bedroom, is attached to the east or rear end of the brick arm.

The center door in the main house is sheltered by a segmental hood, and the door is topped by a rectangular transom and flanked by sidelights. The door opens into a center hall that extends through the house from front to rear. The hall is divided into two sections by means of wide folding doors that are topped by an arched fanlight. The front portion serves as an entrance hall, and the rear section as the stair hall, with the stairs set against the right or south wall. To the left of the hall is a large (24 by 15 foot) living room and to the right there is a library, 22 by 15 feet in size. The walls are plastered and the floors have 11-inch wide boards; the mantels appear to date at least from the early 19th century. These two rooms and hall are now utilized by the Bordentown Chamber of Commerce as an office and museum and are open to visitors. A narrow hall extends from the central stair hall south across the rear or east side of the main house. The first floor of the rear brick wing contains the dining room and the second floor two bedrooms. This wing now forms an apartment unit. The second and third floors of the main house each have four bedrooms. These make up a second apartment unit. Neither apartment is open to visitors.

The exterior of the house, except for a metal roof, appears to be little-altered. The interior, however, appears to have undergone considerable alteration in details such as replacing woodwork and trim. The basic floor plan of the house, however, has not been greatly changed. The structure is in excellent condition.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century            |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1773-1791**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input checked="" 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 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

From 1774 to 1791 Francis Hopkinson, a Signer of the Declaration of Independence for New Jersey, lawyer, judge, politician, and amateur poet, political satirist, author, composer, artist, and inventor, made his home in Bordentown, New Jersey. His somewhat-altered brick house, erected in 1750, is in excellent condition.

Brief Sketch of the Life of Francis Hopkinson, 1737-1791

Francis Hopkinson was born October 2, 1737, in Philadelphia, the son of a prominent lawyer. He graduated from the College of Philadelphia in 1757, studied law under Benjamin Chew, and in 1761 was admitted to the supreme court of Pennsylvania. He held a number of minor posts as collector of customs in New Jersey and Delaware and also tried his hand as a dry goods merchant. In 1768 he married Ann Borden of Bordentown, New Jersey; in 1774 they took up residence in his father-in-law's house (the Hopkinson House) in that town, and he returned to law. In 1774 he was appointed a member of the governor's council and in 1776 was elected to the Continental Congress. He voted for and signed the Declaration of Independence for New Jersey. From November 1776 to August 1778 Hopkinson was chairman of the Continental Navy Board; from July 1778 to July 1781 he held the office of treasurer of loans; and in July 1779 he became Judge of Admiralty for Pennsylvania, serving in this position until 1789. In this latter year Washington appointed him Judge of the United States Court of the eastern district a position that he held until his sudden death from apoplexy on May 9, 1791. He was buried in the Christ Church Burial Grounds, 5th and Arch Streets, Philadelphia.

In addition to his public career, Hopkinson also displayed musical, literary, and artistic talents. He took up the study of music in 1754, wrote original pieces and songs in 1757-59, and published some of his works in the period 1763-65. In December 1781 Hopkinson composed and conducted the cantata, Temple of Minera, to celebrate the alliance between France and the United States.

Beginning in 1757 and continuing through the 60's, Hopkinson wrote and published numerous poems. In 1774 he became active as a political satirist and pamphleteer, producing many essays supporting the Revolutionary cause.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dictionary of American Biography, ( Vol. IX, 220-223. Article by George E. Hastings.  
 Elizabeth Field and Dr. J. E. Fields, "The Signers Lived Here," Daughters of the American Revolution Magazine, May 1951, 5.  
New Jersey, A Guide to Its Present and Past (American Guide Series) (New York, 1939), 152, 167, 208, 213-14.  
 Mrs. John H. Imlay, "The Hopkinson House" (mimeographed leaflet, The Greater Bordentown Chamber of Commerce, April 1970).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY |                         |                         | O<br>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°   | 08        | 54"     |
| NE  | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        | 74°   | 42'       | 50"     |
| SE  | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        |   |           |         |
| SW  | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        |   |           |         |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **1 acre**

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

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|--------|------|--------|------|
|        |      |        |      |
|        |      |        |      |
|        |      |        |      |
|        |      |        |      |

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: **2/4/71**

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

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington** STATE: **D.C.** CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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(Continuation Sheet)

|                  |      |            |
|------------------|------|------------|
| STATE            |      | New Jersey |
| COUNTY           |      | Burlington |
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|                  |      |            |

(Number all entries)

8. Significance (1): (Francis Hopkinson House)

Some of his most effective writing was in verse, "The Battle of the Kegs" (1778) is probably the best known of all his works in this style. When the British were in possession of Philadelphia they plundered Hopkinson's home in nearby Bordentown.

Hopkinson also possessed artistic ability, and at various times designed or assisted in designing, the seals of the American Philosophical Society, the State of New Jersey, and the College of Philadelphia, predecessor of the University of Pennsylvania. For the new Continental government he designed seals for the Admiralty, the Treasury, and the Great Seal of the United States, beside a variety of work on the Continental currency. In addition to this, in 1777, he prepared a design for the flag of the United States.

On his death in 1791, the Hopkinson house passed to his son Joseph, composer of "Hail Columbia" (1798) and the "President's March." The house remained in the Hopkinson family until 1915, when it was acquired by Judge Harold B. Wells. The structure is still owned by the Wells family today.