Form 10-300 (July 1969) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE:			
New Jersey			
COUNTY:			
Middlesex County	•		
FOR NPS USE ON	LY		
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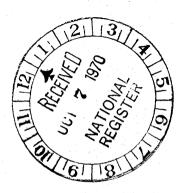
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This colonial mansion was constructed of Flemish and English bond brick with a stone foundation. It is three and a half stories on a raised basement with gambrel roof and cupola. The window lintels have keystones and there are brown sandstone copings on the ends of the gables. The south wing was added in c.1809 when it became the Brighton Hotel. In all there are 42 rooms, 5-room apartment with bath, a 3-room apartment with bath, 5 baths, 4 shower rooms and 4 2-piece lavatories.

The interior is frame but there are heavy brick partition walls throughout the building. Construction is of heavy timber with wide plank floors and plaster walls. Ceiling heights are up to 14 feet. Most of the windows are double hung.

The roof is asphalt shingle. Fire escapes have been added to the building. A retaining wall has been constructed along the front of the property. Masonry garages with frame roofs have been constructed on the rear part of the property.

This formal town house originally overlooked Arthur Kill and the lower Raritan River. The formal gardens were destroyed by additions to the original house and the amount of land associated with the house has been reduced, to six tenths of an acre. Surrounding buildings and modern utilities ebstruct the view of this once grand structure. The porches, windows and much of the interior has been altered in order for it to function as a hotel.



PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)	
☐ Pre-Columbian	16th Century	
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	19th Century
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicate	le and Known) 1764;	1776 -Arrest of Gov. W. Franklin. Gen.
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch	eck One or More as Appropr	Howe's Headquarters)
Abor iginal	Education	M Political Urban Planning
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	:	

convenient house for the Governor be constructed.

The house was completed on September 15, 1764. Chief Justice Frederick Smyth and his family were the first occupants, (May 1766 - May 1771). William Franklin, the last Royal Governor, and his wife, Elizabeth moved in October 1774 into the house. William, son of Benjamin Franklin, remained loyal to the Crown and was arrested by Continentals in this house on June 16, 1776.

While Perth Amboy was occupied by the British troops, the house was the headquarters of Commander General William Howe.

The building was sold by the Board of Proprietors in 1785. It has served as a hotel (The Brighton), a Presbyterian Church clergy home, and later again as a hotel, (the Westminster).

The house is one of the last surviving colonial governors residences in the nation and the only surviving building constructed for the royal governor in New Jersey. The house, although in a poor condition, has all the hallmarks of an eighteenth century manor. The details of its construction from its stone foundation and brick fabric to its gambrel roof and its massiveness indicate its former splendor.

The interior, although greatly altered, could be rebuilt from the vestiges that are half-hidden throughout the structure. Older photographs, lithographs and verbal descriptions give glimpses of now removed details.



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Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

New New	Jersey
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COUNTY

Middlesex County

12.34.0000

FOR NPS USE ONLY ENTRY, NUMBER

(Number all entries)

Proprietory House, The 139-151 Kearny Ave.

Perth Amboy, New Jersey

Code: 34

Middlesex

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6. N.J. Historic Sites Inventory #2422.7 Historic Sites Section Department of Environmental Protection Box 1420, Trenton, N.J. Mercer

Code: 29

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Form 10-301 (Dec. 1968)

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

STATE	
New Jersey	
COUNTY	
Middlesex	
FOR NPS USE OF	NLY
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
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(Type all entries - attach to or encl	ose with map)	ENTRY NUMBER	2/34
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AND/OR HISTORIC: The Proprietory House	, William Franklin He	ouse	
2. LOCATION			
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3. MAP REFERENCE			
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