

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: New Jersey
COUNTY: Burlington
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE  <div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold;">APR 21 1975</div>

### 1. NAME

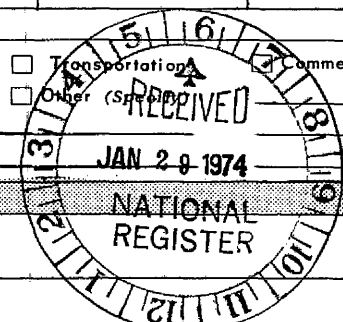
COMMON: School House (Town House)
AND/OR HISTORIC:

### 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 2 mi E of Bridgeton on Salem Rd. Salem Road			
CITY OR TOWN: <del>Willingboro</del> Bridgeboro vic.		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Sixth	
STATE New Jersey	CODE 34	COUNTY: Burlington	CODE 005

### 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY <small>(Check One)</small>	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input 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 <small>(Check One or More as Appropriate)</small>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input 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)



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Township of Willingboro			
STREET AND NUMBER: Salem Road			
CITY OR TOWN: Willingboro		STATE: New Jersey	
		CODE 34	

### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Office of the Clerk of Burlington County			
STREET AND NUMBER: 49 Rancocas Road			
CITY OR TOWN: Mount Holly		STATE: New Jersey	
		CODE 34	

### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory			
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Historic Sites Section			
STREET AND NUMBER: Box 1420			
CITY OR TOWN: Trenton		STATE: New Jersey	
		CODE 34	

STATE: New Jersey
COUNTY: Burlington
ENTRY NUMBER:  APR 21 1975
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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		

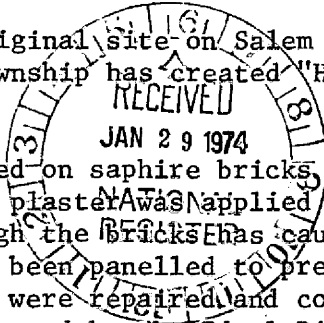
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This approximately square brick building has a slightly pitched hipped, standing seam tin roof with a central ventilating cupola. The cupola probably had been louvered, though it is presently enclosed. There are two shuttered six over six sash windows on each of the four elevations. There is a six panel entrance door.

The interior had originally a raised platform for the teacher's desk, now removed. The original plaster ceilings are now covered by panelling.

The structure is on its original site on Salem Road in front of the Municipal Complex. The township has created "Heritage Park" around the building.

The building was constructed on sapphire bricks, which were made in Willingboro. The interior plaster was applied directly on the bricks and moisture seeping through the bricks has caused the plaster to crumble. The interior has been panelled to prevent further deterioration. The front stairs were repaired and covered with cement in 1964. The building is now used by the Ideal Bicentennial Commission for exhibits and meetings.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**6. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) c 1866

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input checked="" 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

EDUCATION:

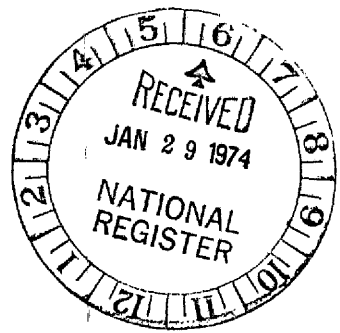
In approximately 1850 the complexion of Willingboro was changing from the agriculture to the suburban. With additional growth of the township came the need for an improved or new school house. At a township meeting held on March 13, 1860 a resolution to provide funds for the construction of a new school was passed. Due to the heavy taxation needed to support the Civil War the building of the new school was put off until 1866. At the cost of \$995.00 this school was built.

In 1876 records show the school running as a traditional one room, brick building housing all grades under one teacher. The teacher, at this time, was hired for a three month period at a salary of thirty dollars a month. In 1878, an additional teacher was employed to assist during the winter months. Due to the second employee, salaries were reduced to twenty five dollars. By 1913, the township had grown to such an extent that the school was no longer able to accomodate the students. A larger structure was built adjacent to the school.

POLITICAL:

After the building of the new school the old school house building was used for the meetings of the Township council, the governing body of the community. In 1960 the newer school was converted to a municipal building and the old school has since been used for community action groups.

(See continuation sheet)



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Kaser, Louis J., Ed. The Story of Public Schools of Burlington County, New Jersey, New Era Press, 1943.

Woodward, E. M. History of Burlington and Mercer Counties, Evert and Peck, Philadelphia, 1883.

Deed of Transfer of Land for School Purposes, 1796. (p. 1)

**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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		40 ° 01 ' 49 "	74 ° 53 ' 46 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

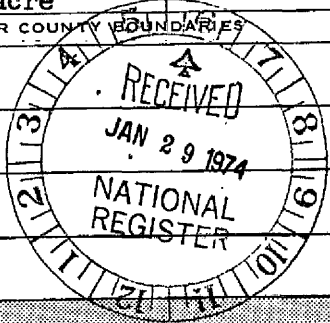
18/508870  
4430920

CD

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

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: Historic Sites & John T. McHugh, Manager, Township of Willingboro

ORGANIZATION: Historic Sites Section DATE: Sept. 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: Box 1420

CITY OR TOWN: Trenton STATE: New Jersey CODE: 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 J. Sullivan  
Title: Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection  
Date: November 26, 1973

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

[Signature]  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 4/21/75

ATTEST:  
[Signature]  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 4-17-75

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAR 14 1975
DATE ENTERED	APR 21 1975

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

8

PAGE

one

School House (Town House)  
Willingboro  
New Jersey 34  
Burlington 005

8. Significance (continued)

The School House, also known as the Town House, stands in the center of the town in stark contrast to the contemporary Willingboro which surrounds it. Over the years, it has served the community well as a school, township hall, polling and meeting place and church. As the oldest building in the community, the School House is the focal point of the town's cultural heritage. The area has been greatly developed in the past decade. This structure remains as an important link in the continuity of culture between the earlier, smaller community and the present one. Its presence alone recalls the history of the past century.

The first education in Willingboro was provided by the Quakers in c.1677. The first building erected as a school was completed by 1700. Nothing remains of this building.

In 1803, the town's educational authorities proposed a jointly owned structure be built to be used and maintained as common property by the town and the school. This building was sufficient until the town began to grow.

By 1860, improvements were necessary. As noted above, the decision to build another school was made, but actual construction was delayed due to the disruptions fo the Civil War. The new school was built on the site of the older building in 1866.

Education was always an important social and political force in Willingboro. The School House, serving as a town meeting hall as well as the major educational facility was the scene of many important functions and gatherings of the town. For example, in 1867 the State Legislature passed an act establishing a public school system throughout the State. The citizens of Willingboro, with a history of commitment to education, were angered by a law that would take control of this matter out of their authority. A special town meeting was held at the School House and a set of resolutions establishing their own educational system was approved. Eventually the town submitted to the State when a second law was passed by the State that virtually forced rebellious towns like Willingboro to comply with the original act.

