

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED **OCT 30 1975**

DATE ENTERED **JAN 1 1976**

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 John Smith House

AND/OR COMMON

1812 House

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Washington Valley Road

__ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Morristown

__ VICINITY OF

5th

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

New Jersey

CODE

034

COUNTY

Morris

CODE

027

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input 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 type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. & Mrs. John Beattie

STREET & NUMBER

Washington Valley Road

CITY, TOWN

Morristown

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

New Jersey

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Morris County Court House; Hall of Records

STREET & NUMBER

Ann Street

CITY, TOWN

Morristown

STATE

New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

NJ HSI 2062.4

Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE

1959, 1962

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress, DEP Box 1420

CITY, TOWN

Trenton

New Jersey

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

It is the only house of its period within many miles which was built of brick. It is entirely original with no structural changes of any kind. Only the kitchen, not considered part of the original house, has been modernized.

The house is in two sections. The frame portion predates the brick section and is believed to be 18th century construction. Research from early deeds and an 18th century newspaper ad, would indicate a possible range of date from 1747 to 1788. This portion is 1 1/2 stories and consists downstairs of one large room with a huge fireplace and a smaller room to the rear with a corner fireplace. Both fireplaces use the same flue. Above these rooms, reached by narrow, well worn stairs, is a loft now used as a bedroom. In the cellar beneath this section is a cistern. The well, now filled in, was near the front door. Attached to this frame section to the east is the present kitchen, believed to have been a lean-to at one time. It has only a crawl space beneath. According to Smith family tradition the frame portion of the present house was originally the Arnold homestead. The frame section was originally located nearer the Whippany River and was brought up and annexed to the present house in 1812.

The second section is a two story house built of a pinkish red brick with the date 1812 inlaid in black brick on the west end. On the east side of this section are massive chimneys of varying heights, 3 in all. The original roof is still intact and is built of slate supported by handsome hand hewn beams in the attic. The bricks were made on the property from clay found in the lowlands south east to the house. This is the only brick house in the Washington Valley area, encompassing some three square miles.

The brick section consists of three rooms and a hall downstairs and three rooms and a hall upstairs, with two fireplaces downstairs and two upstairs. The mantels in this house are classically beautiful, especially the one in the upstairs front bedroom. The ones in the older section are simple by comparison.

There are wide floorboards throughout the house, though in one room they have been covered by new flooring. The hardware on all the doors is original. Most of the windows are 9 over 6 sash with much of the original glass still intact. The front hall stair railing is a young cherry sapling and remains as beautiful as when it was constructed in 1812.

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In the basement are three large stone arches supporting the upstairs fireplaces. The cellar floor is of brick and has an unusual brick drainage down the center.

The outbuildings consist of a stone smokehouse and weathered barn with its original boards and in some places original stain. A corncrib and a hen house complete the outbuildings. Some years ago a large barn was torn down. A stonewall runs in front of the house and down one side giving it a sense of privacy. The lime kiln is south east of the house on Washington Valley Road.

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1812

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

John Smith House is significant for two reasons: Architecture and Agriculture.

Architecturally this house is very much intact in form and interior features from to 1812 construction. It is one of the few brick houses in the area and has the date 1812 delineated in the brick gable end using dark bricks. This is an uncommon practice for this area; it is more typical for South Jersey. Agriculturally it is significant because of the work and planning that John Smith's son Johnathan did in restoring the productivity of the wheat crop and around Morris County.

John Smith and his descendents lived in this house for four generations; one hundred and sixty-five years; from 1789 until 1959.

The land was originally part of the homestead farm of Jacob Arnold, who was the owner and proprietor of the Arnold Tavern where General Washington made his headquarters in Morristown during the first winter encampment 1778-9. Jacob Arnold, according to the Smith family tradition owned the frame portion of the house. The land was sold to Peter Mackie at a sheriff's sale in 1793.

On August 24, 1798, John Smith purchased 140 acres of land from Mackie for £1420 York money, according to the original deed.

John Smith was born in Caldwell, Essex County. At the age of 14, he served 20 days as a wagoner in the Revolution, carting baggage for General Winds brigade of militia at New Windsor.

He was a member of the Presbyterian Church in Morristown from 1788 until his death in 1855. From 1809-1854, he served as Overseer of the Highways. He was one of the original subscribers to the Washington Valley Schoolhouse in 1813 and served as a trustee for many years.

At John Smith's death in 1855, the property passed to his eldest son, Jonathan Hugh Smith.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hoskins, Barbara et al. Washington Valley - An Informal History, Ann Arbor, Edwards, 1960.
Morris Township Minute Books: 1740-1855
History and Register of the First Presbyterian Church, Morristown, N.J. 1882.
Verbal information supplied by Mrs. Alice Smith, now deceased.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 539900 4517070
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Mrs. Walter Hoskins

Revisions-Nancy Kostrub

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites DATE

Morris County Historic Sites Committee Office, Trenton, N.J. Nov. 15, 1974

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

1 Miller Road

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Morristown

New Jersey

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL XX

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

David J. Brand

TITLE Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

DATE

September 22, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

11/1/96

ATTEST:

Ronald M. Steinberg

DATE

12/30/75

MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting

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Significance (cont)

Johnathan was known as a "scientific" farmer. Morris County had at one time been a large wheat-growing section, but then something happened and the wheat grew to straw. Johnathan after careful inspection, discovered that lime was needed to revive the soil. In order to remedy the situation, he had limestone from Ralston hauled to the farm and accordingly built a lime kiln in the bank east of the house. As a result of the use of lime, the wheat yielded a better crop than ever. The ruins of the Kiln can still be seen on the property.

Besides farming, he built roads and culverts for the county and served on the Morris Township Committee from 1838 until 1855. Like his father, he also served as a trustee to the Washington Valley School House for many years. He was also a member of the South Street Presbyterian Churches' First Board of Trustees when it was formed May 17, 1841.

The property passed to his son Zenas after his death in 1881. He continued to farm and had a large dairy herd. At his death in 1929, the property passed to his three daughters who lived there until their deaths. In 1959 the property was sold out of the Smith family possession.

The John Smith House is unique to the area and has withstood any major alterations for over 160 years. The Smith family did many significant things to aid in the development of Morris County in the mid-19th century.