Form 10-300

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory - Nomination Form

(Type all entries — complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:

Somers Mansion
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Shore Road and Somers Point Circle
CITY OR TOWN:

Somers Point
STATE:

New Jersey

3. CLASSIFICATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY (Check One)</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Occupied</td>
<td>Yes: Restricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site, Structure,</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Unoccupied</td>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Object</td>
<td>Both</td>
<td>Preservation work in progress</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Educational
- Entertainment
- Government
- Industrial
- Military
- Religious
- Museum
- Park
- Private Residence
- Transportation
- Other (Specify)
- Comments

State-owned historic site

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

P.O. Box 1390, John Fitch Plaza

CITY OR TOWN:

Trenton
STATE:

New Jersey

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Atlantic County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:

Mays Landing
STATE:

New Jersey

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

Historical American Building Survey - NJ#281

DATE OF SURVEY:

1936

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Library of Congress

CITY OR TOWN:

Washington
STATE:

D. C.
The Somers Mansion was built on a high bluff overlooking Great Egg Harbor Bay area 1725. It was built on a tract of land willed to Richard Somers by his father John. It was originally part of a 3,000 acre tract conveyed to his father in 1695.

The original house was enlarged circa 1760 and greatly changed in the late 19th century. It remained in the family until 1937 when it was deeded to the Atlantic County Historical Society. In 1941 the structure and one acre of ground was given to the State.

The building is a 2½ story brick structure with a gambrel roof oriental in an east west direction. It is on a stone foundation with brick walls. The walls are laid up in a Flemish Bond with glazed headers. There are windows and a door on each floor. They are non-symmetrical along the north and south side of the building. The east and west side lack windows or doors.

There were two rooms on each floor of the original building. The western rooms on each floor had a large fireplace, a closet and a concealed stairway.

Most of the paneling, brick work and floor are original. The balcony at the second floor level and all the window sash were replaced as part of a restoration program in the late 1930's.

The restored building is now in a very commercial area adjacent to the causeway that connects Somers Point with Ocean City.
8. Significance

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)
- □ Pre-Columbian
- □ 16th Century [ ]
- □ 18th Century [x]
- □ 19th Century
- □ 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(s) (If Applicable and Known) 1720s

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)
- □ Aboriginal
- □ Prehistoric
- □ Historic
- □ Agriculture
- □ Architecture
- □ Art
- □ Commerce
- □ Communications
- □ Conservation
- □ Education
- □ Engineering
- □ Industry
- □ Invention
- □ Landscape
- □ Literature
- □ Military
- □ Music
- □ Political
- □ Religion/Phil.
- □ Science
- □ Sculpture
- □ Social/Humanitarian
- □ Theater
- □ Transportation
- □ Urban Planning
- □ Other (Specify)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Somers Mansion is significant for its architecture and as the ancestral home of the Somers Family.

The Somers Mansion is the oldest house now standing in Atlantic County (incorporated 1837). It was built circa 1725 for Richard Somers I. The first historical reference to the house is from 1726, when the house was used as a Quaker meeting. Its gambrel roof and Flemish Bond exterior are unusual for the Southern New Jersey area. The building has Historic American Building Survey citation.

The Somers family migrated to Philadelphia in 1681 and to West Jersey in 1695. John Somers owned over 3,000 acres and operated the first ferry across Great Egg Harbor Bay. His descendants Richard I, Richard II and Richard III are all notables in New Jersey history. Richard II was a judge and colonel in the New Jersey militia during the American Revolution. Richard III was a naval hero at the Battle of Tripoli. He was Commander of the Nautilus when he was killed in 1804.
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

**LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>39° 18' 33&quot;</td>
<td>74° 35' 54&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>39° 18' 33&quot;</td>
<td>74° 35' 54&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td>39° 18' 33&quot;</td>
<td>74° 35' 54&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>39° 18' 33&quot;</td>
<td>74° 35' 54&quot;</td>
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</table>

**APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:** 14 acres

**LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES**

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<th>LATITUDE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>39° 18' 33&quot;</td>
<td>74° 35' 54&quot;</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>CODE</th>
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**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Charles T. Wilson Jr., Archeologist

ORGANIZATION: Historic Sites Section, Department of Environmental Protection

ADDRESS: Box 1420, John Fitch Plaza, Trenton, New Jersey 08625

DATE: August 4, 1970

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

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 [X]

Name: Richard J. Fulk

Title: Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

Date: September 11, 1970

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: December 18, 1970

ATTEST:

Keeper of the National Register

Date: November 27, 1970
6. New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory #2843.1
1961 - State
Historic Sites Section, Department of Environmental Protection.
Box 1420, John Fitch Plaza
Trenton, New Jersey 08625  code-34