

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0668931

FOR NPS USE ONLY	DATA SHEET
RECEIVED	MAY 17 1978
DATE ENTERED	OCT 19 1978

**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
Benjamin Howell Homestead
AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
709 South Beverwyck Road NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Parsippany ~~Troy Hills Township~~ VICINITY OF 5th

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE
New Jersey 34 Morris 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
John Sheehy *Helen E. Sheehy*

STREET & NUMBER
709 South Beverwyck Road

CITY, TOWN VICINITY OF STATE
Parsippany New Jersey

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Hall of Records

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN STATE
Morristown New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory

DATE
October 1976 FEDERAL XX STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Office of Historic Preservation, 109 W. State Street

CITY, TOWN STATE
Trenton New Jersey

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Superficially, the Benjamin Howell homestead appears to be a single 2 1/2 story, 5 bay, center hall farmhouse built late in the 18th century.

Closer inspection, however, suggests that this farmhouse was built in two sections.

The western two bays were probably built shortly after Benjamin Howell acquired the farm from Gershom Mott in 1760. The small dwelling that Howell built measures 18 feet by 29 feet. Currently one single room, this unit was originally two rooms with corner fireplaces and a corner cupboard in the back room. The front (south) room was slightly larger than the rear (north) room (15' x 17'9" vs. 12'3" x 17'9"). The second floor plan repeats the first. This floor, however, still has the original two room arrangement divided by a partition, and the corner fireplace bases are still intact although closed up. The lines of the 3 bay, side hall east unit are identical to the earlier western unit on the exterior; the only visible differences being the slight break in the roof line at the joining of both units and a clearer delineation of the fenestration in the rear facade. The east unit is 3 bays with a side hall and two rooms deep. The hallway is 9 feet wide and 28 feet long, with a half-turn stairway with landing in the rear against the west wall. The dining room to the front (16'6" x 17'6") is slightly larger than the rear room (11'3" x 14'), currently a kitchen and toilet. The dining room has an end wall fireplace, which is closed. The second floor repeats the first, having two major bedrooms and a small (9' x 9'3") bedroom in the front upstairs hallway.

The 1 1/2 story frame addition off the east gable end functions as a sun porch and bedroom and probably was constructed sometime in the early 20th century. The interior dimensions of this single room unit are 13'6" x 17'3".

Visually, this farmhouse projects an austere appearance of a simple late 18th century 2 1/2 story frame building with a 5 bay, center hall plan and broad gable end chimneys. The west gable facade has two windows widely separated by the enclosed brick chimney base. The rear facade is much more irregular than the front, giving a much clearer indication of the two distinct dates of construction. The east gable end of the 1793 unit has a six panel door side entrance along the front of the 1 1/2 story 20th century wing and an outside cellar entrance along the rear.

The windows of the Howell Farmstead are primarily 6/6 sash with paneled shutters except for a 9/6 sash window and two Victorian 2/2 sash windows on the east gable end. The 1 1/2 story 20th century wing, however, has modern casement windows surrounding the first level.

The center door has six panels with transom and sidelights. The sash on the side lights is somewhat unusual.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
—PREHISTORIC	—ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	—COMMUNITY PLANNING	—LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	—RELIGION
—1400-1499	—ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	—CONSERVATION	—LAW	—SCIENCE
—1500-1599	—AGRICULTURE	—ECONOMICS	—LITERATURE	—SCULPTURE
—1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	—EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	—SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
—1700-1799	—ART	—ENGINEERING	—MUSIC	—THEATER
—1800-1899	—COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	—PHILOSOPHY	—TRANSPORTATION
—1900-	—COMMUNICATIONS	—INDUSTRY	—POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	—OTHER (SPECIFY)
		—INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1763, 1793

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SETTLEMENT

Benjamin Howell (1725-1798) was one of the most prominent settlers of the Parsippany-Troy Hills area. Howell first came to Morris County around 1749, but it was not until 1760 that he acquired the present homestead.

As an active citizen of Hanover Township, Howell was a member of the Hanover Township Committee of Correspondence (1775), Justice of Peace (1776), and Deacon and Elder of the Parsippany Presbyterian Church (1773-98).

According to local tax ratables, Howell had a substantial farm in Hanover Township. Owning one of the largest farmsteads in the region, he cultivated some 180 acres and had five horses, 18 cattle, and eight hogs (Tax Ratables. Hanover Township. 1778-1788). An inventory taken following Benjamin Howell's death in 1798 further relates his farm produce on hand as being 30 bushel rye, 20 bushel potatoes, 32 gallons cider, 13 tons hay, 40 pounds flax, 20 pounds tallon, 42 pounds cheese, and 20 pounds of butter. (Will and Inventory. Benjamin Howell 1799). Also included in the inventory of merchandise owned by Howell was one Negro woman. This classification of slaves' property was typical for the period.

Born 1725 in Southampton, Long Island, New York deeds indicate that Benjamin Howell had moved to Hanover Township early as 1749. A deed given by Gershom Mott conveyed this Homestead and 160 acres of land to Benjamin Howell in early 1761. Howell erected the west 2 bays of the present 5 bay dwelling shortly after and enlarged the house later in his life to its present appearance in 1793.

MILITARY

Benjamin Howell, a member of the Hanover Township Committee of Correspondence in 1775, did not participate militarily during the Revolution because of his advanced age, but the farmstead was an important site for Washington's military conferences during the winter of 1779-1780 while encamped at Morristown.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Will of Benjamin Howell (1010 N) 1799.

Tax Ratables of Hanover Township, Morris County 1778-1788. Howell, Mrs. Catherine S.

"The Howell Homestead of Troy Hills." Proceedings New Jersey Historical Society. New Series, Volume VI, Number 3, July, 1921.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 7.6 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	18	55,134,0	45,218,4,0	B	18	55,135,0	45,217,30
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	18	55,124,0	45,216,2,0	D	18	55,114,0	45,216,10
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION E 18 551080 4521760 F 18 551170 4521810

Block 764, Lot 27 of Parsippany-Troy Hills Tax Map. Beginning at a point on South Beverwyck Road 950 feet S of its intersection with Parkside Drive; thence proceed 215 feet NE; thence proceed 165 feet NMW; thence proceed 825 feet ENE; thence proceed 277 feet SSE; thence proceed 787 feet SW; thence proceed 125 feet W; thence proceed 405 feet NMW to the point of origin.

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

Terry Karschner, Historian-Curator

ORGANIZATION

Office of Historic Preservation

STREET & NUMBER

109 West State Street

CITY OR TOWN

Trenton

DATE

8/1977

TELEPHONE

(609) 292-2028

STATE

New Jersey

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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.

Deputy

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Terry Karschner

4/27/78

TITLE

Deputy Commissioner, Dept. of Environmental Protection

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

William Leborich

DATE 10/19/78
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: William Leborich
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 10/17/78

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Howell Homestead
Parsippany-Troy Hills Township
Morris County

NEW JERSEY

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ARCHITECTURE

The Howell Farmstead is a good example of 18th century construction practices in which an earlier unit is appended by carefully constructing the later section to melt into the earlier unit. The west two bays are the pre-Revolutionary unit, making this one of the oldest buildings in the area.

The overall appearance of the structure, however, is that of a Federal-style farm dwelling. Added to in 1793, its symmetric design, geometric austere line, and authentic character make this one of the best farm buildings of its type in Morris County.

From its construction in 1763 until the second quarter of the 20th century six generations of Howells lived in this farmstead. This was one of the most prominent families of Morris County.

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Howell Homestead
Parsippany-Troy Hills Township
Morris County New Jersey 034

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

History of Morris County, New Jersey. W.W. Munsell & Co., New York, 1882. (pp. 25, 46, 59, 66, 76, 224, 228).

Benjamin Howell Ledgers. Princeton University Library. Manuscripts (Microfilm).

Descendents of Edward Howell... Emma Howell Ross. 1968. University Press, Mass. (p. 17).