NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(TYPE ALL ENTRIES - COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS)

1. NAME

COMMON:
Hancock House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Hancock Bridge

STATE:
New Jersey

COUNTY:
Salem

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (CHECK ONE)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

OWNERSHIP
- Public
- Private
- Both

PUBLIC ACQUISITION
- In Process
- Being Considered
- Preservation work in progress

STATUS
- Occupied
- Unoccupied
- Restricted
- Unrestricted
- No

ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
- Yes
- No

PRESENT USE (CHECK ONE OR MORE AS APPROPRIATE)
- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Educational
- Entertaining
- Government
- Industrial
- Military
- Museum
- Private Residence
- Religious
- Scientific
- Transportation
- Other (Specify)

COMMENTS
- State-owned historic site

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

STREET AND NUMBER:
Box 1390, John Fitch Plaza

CITY OR TOWN:
Trenton

STATE:
New Jersey

CODE:
34

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Salem County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Salem

STATE:
New Jersey

CODE:
34

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY:
1935

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORD:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
District of Columbia

CODE:
08
The Hancock House is typical of many that were built in Salem County during the eighteenth century. It was built in 1728 and enlarged in 1734 by William and Sarah Hancock.

The house was built on a large parcel of land that extended on both sides of Lower Alloway Creek adjacent to a bridge that had been built in 1708. Tidal water and salt marsh extended to the bridge. The bridge was within 100 yards of the house and lead to Salem six miles away.

The building is brick on a stone foundation with the gable oriented in an east west direction. The brick is a Flemish bond pattern with glazed headers. The western end is laid up in a zig-zag pattern from ground level to the attic floor line. Above this point there are the initials H.W.S. and the date 1734. These are made with glazed bricks.

The windows are of the sash type, 16 over 16 and are placed symmetrically across the front and rear of the 1728 section. The windows and door are placed proportionally across the front and side of the house. Small windows, four lights, each were placed in the rear of the closets along the gable ends.

There are two rooms on each floor of the 1734 sections and three rooms and loft in the 1728 section. All the rooms have fireplaces. Dormers on each of the sections are different but original. The fireplaces, molding, floors and paneling are original.

The only significant difference in the physical appearance of the building is the encroachment of a highway and twentieth century structures. There are still 2 1/2 acres of land around the property.
The Hancock House is significant for a massacre during the American Revolution and for its architecture. The attack was in reprisal for the fact that the citizens of Hancock's Bridge sent 300 head of cattle to Washington's army at Valley Forge, Pa., during the bitter winter of 1777-1778.

During the Revolution Thirty men were stationed in the house in order to guard the bridge and to aid foraging parties through the area. On March 21, 1778 Major Simcoe with approximately 300 British soldiers, mercenaries and fellow travelers, attacked the house, killing the sentries. They then charged the house forcing the men to the attic where they were bayoneted to death.

Architecturally the brickwork is typical of many early houses in the Salem area. Blue-glazed headers and stretchers were used to create patterns in the brick which often included geometric designs and the initials of the owners. Only a few of these houses remain. The Hancock House is the only one that is state-owned.
### 9. Major Bibliographical References

Sickler, Joseph S. *Old Houses of Salem County*, Salem Sunbeam Publishing Co., 1934

Stewart, Frank H. *Salem County and the Revolution*, Salem Standard and Jerseyman, 1934

### 10. Geographical Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Corner</th>
<th>Latitude</th>
<th>Longitude</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>0 ° 57' 57''</td>
<td>74 ° 30' 07''</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>0 ° 30' 07''</td>
<td>0 ° 57' 57''</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td>0 ° 57' 57''</td>
<td>0 ° 30' 07''</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>0 ° 30' 07''</td>
<td>0 ° 57' 57''</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Approximate Acreage of Nominated Property:

2.5

### 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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>Code</td>
<td>County</td>
<td>Code</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>Code</td>
<td>County</td>
<td>Code</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 11. Form Prepared By

**Name and Title:** Charles I. Wilson, Jr. Archeologist

**Organization:** Environmental Historic Sites Section, Department of Protection

**Address:** Box 1120, John Fitch Plaza, Trenton, New Jersey 08625

**Date:** July 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 [X]
- State [ ]
- Local [ ]

**Name:** [Signature]

**Title:** Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

**Date:** September 11, 1970

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

**Signature:** [Signature]

**Title:** Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

**Date:** December 18, 1970

**ATTEST:**

**Signature:** [Signature]

**Title:** Keeper of the National Register

**Date:** November 27, 1970
**Hancock House**
**Hancock's Bridge**
**New Jersey,**
**Salem**

6. **N.J. Historic Sites Inventory #1360.3**
   1961 State Historic Sites Section Department of Environmental Protection
   Box 1420, John Fitch Plaza
   Trenton, N.J. 021

   Code: 34