**DATA SHEET**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM**

*(Type all entries – complete applicable sections)*

### 1. NAME

- **COMMON:**
  - Dickinson House

- **AND/OR HISTORIC:**

### 2. LOCATION

- **STREET AND NUMBER:**
  - NE 9 Alloway 
  - Brickyard Road

- **CITY OR TOWN:**
  - Alloway Township

- **STATE:**
  - New Jersey

- **CODE:**
  - 34

- **COUNTY:**
  - Salem

- **CODE:**
  - 033

### 3. CLASSIFICATION

- **CATEGORY (Check One):**
  - District
  - Site
  - Structure
  - Object

- **OWNERSHIP:**
  - Public
  - Private
  - Both

- **PUBLIC ACQUISITION:**
  - In Process
  - Being Considered

- **STATUS:**
  - Occupied
  - Unoccupied
  - Preservation work in progress

- **ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC:**
  - Yes:
  - Restricted
  - Unrestricted

**PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate):**

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

### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

- **OWNER'S NAME:**
  - Gerald R. W. Watland (estate of)

- **STREET AND NUMBER:**
  - 325 East 58th Street

- **CITY OR TOWN:**
  - New York

- **STATE:**
  - New York

- **CODE:**
  - 36

### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

- **COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:**
  - County Clerk's Office Salem County

- **STREET AND NUMBER:**
  - 92 Market Street

- **CITY OR TOWN:**
  - Salem

- **STATE:**
  - New Jersey

- **CODE:**
  - 34

### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- **TITLE OF SURVEY:**
  - Historic American Building Survey N.J. 6-243

- **DATE OF SURVEY:**
  - 1936

- **DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:**
  - Library of Congress

- **STREET AND NUMBER:**
  - Washington

- **CITY OR TOWN:**
  - Washington D.C.

- **STATE:**
  - D.C.

- **CODE:**
  - 11
The Dickinson House, whose outside dimensions are 20 feet by 3½ feet, is of solid brick construction, 2½ stories high. The facade is three bays wide, with the entrance door in the center. It is one room deep. The house sets on a high basement, with exposed cellar windows above grade and beveled brick water table. Small pent roofs between first and second floor windows shed water away from foundation. The main cornice is of the boxed with bold crown and bed moldings. The steeply pitched roof is covered with wood shingles. There are no dormers. Massive brick chimneys rise at each end of the house and are contained within the exterior walls. Small brick pilasters are worked into the shafts and terminate in corbelled caps. Window are divided into nine lights over nine lights with heavy muntins on the first floor. Second floor windows are divided nine lights over six lights.

The attraction of the exterior is the patterned brick gable end. It is completely covered with a design in glazed brick headers. It is said to be the most decorated of its type and is fairly uncommon. At the first floor level there is a series of vertical solid and sprouting diamonds which rise to an inverted "V" midway in the second floor, which separates the date "1754". The upper gable contains the initials "J.D.M" which stand for John and Mary Dickinson, the builders.

The plan is said to be of Swedish derivation. One enters into the principal first floor room with a large fireplace and staircase winding up to the second floor at the right side of the fireplace. The fireplace wall was paneled in wood, originally, and is now installed in the Chicago Historical Society, as the "New Jersey Room". It is unique in design. A heavy wood cornice with dentils surrounded the room. The other main room on this floor is a "Parlour". The fireplace wall here is fully paneled to the left of the fireplace but terminates at the right side of the chimney breast. The rest of the fireplace wall is plastered. Wide old floor boards exist throughout the house. The second floor has two bedrooms. A stair hall and new bathroom have been created by using the space of the third, open bedroom at the top of the stairs. Both bedrooms have fireplaces and paneling. The wall at the top of the stairs is also paneled. Another stair rises from the second floor to a full attic.

(see continuation sheet)
### 8. Significance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)</th>
<th>15th Century</th>
<th>16th Century</th>
<th>17th Century</th>
<th>18th Century</th>
<th>20th Century</th>
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#### SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

- 1754

### AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Aboriginal
- Prehistoric
- Historic
- Agriculture
- Architecture
- Art
- Commerce
- Conservation
- Education
- Engineering
- Industry
- Invention
- Landscape
- Literature
- Military
- Music
- Political
- Religion/Philosophy
- Science
- Sculpture
- Social/Humanitarian
- Theater
- Transportation
- Urban Planning
- Other (Specify)

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

**ARCHITECTURE:**

John Dickinson, who built the Dickinson House, was a great, great grandson of John Fenwick, who bought a large tract of land in southern New Jersey from William Penn, upon which a part of this house house stands. The house was originally built in 1754. This date can be attested to by the fact that the date, 1754, and the initials of the original owners, Mary and John Dickinson, appear on the south gable. Besides the builder and the date, the entire southern elevation is covered with blue glazed brick. This brick work is said to be one of the finest examples of the glazed brick pattern to be found in the state if not the nation.

There are claims that the first residents of The Dickinson House were forced to pierce holes in the original doors in order to protect themselves in case of attack by the Indians.

Ownership of the house passed through several hands over the years. The Dickinson family owned the house until 1780 when it was sold to Rachel R. Fisher. In the 19th Century there were two owners, Charles Stokes and George Watson. The Watsons sold the house in 1915 and since then the house has been owned by several people.

(see continuation sheet)

### CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATION

- Hon. Harrison A. Williams
- Hon. Clifford P. Case
- Hon. Charles W. Sandman 6th District
Historic American Building Survey
Devlin, Harry "What Kind of House Is That?" Parents Magazine Press,
Love, Dr. Paul (unpublished doctorate thesis), "Patterned Brickwork
in the American Colonies" Michigan State University Lansing Michigan.
Sickler, Joseph S, The Old Houses Of Salem County Sunbeam Publishing
Sim, Robert J. "Some Old Farms And Farm Houses In New Jersey" New
Jersey Department of Agriculture Circular #299
Chicago Historical Society "Chicago History" Volume Number 1, 1946.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES

DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
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<td>NE</td>
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<td>SW</td>
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LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES

DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY

OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>39° 36' 01&quot;</td>
<td>75° 20' 01&quot;</td>
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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:
Less than one acre.

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

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

NAME AND TITLE:
Kathleen J. Diller, Historian

ORGANIZATION
Historic Sites Section

STREET AND NUMBER:
Department Of Environmental Protection Box 1120

CITY OR TOWN:
Trenton

STATE:
New Jersey

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. Sullivan

Title:
Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

Date:
August 10, 1973

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date:
July 30, 1975

ATTEST:

Keeper of the National Register

Date:
February 20, 1975
7. DESCRIPTION CONTINUED

Dickinson House, Salem County, New Jersey

Alterations to the Dickinson House include the removal of the paneling around the fireplace in the principal room. This paneling was purchased by an enterprising South Jersey antique dealer and sold to a dealer in New York, who later sold it to the President of the Chicago Historical Society, who later donated it to the Society.

Other alterations include a one story addition to the rear that currently serves as the kitchen and a one story wing to the opposite gable end from the pattern work. This addition is used as a garage. The front porch was removed and replaced by a reproduction wooden stoop with bench seats. The pent roof across the facade has been restored. An unoriginal double front dormer has been removed.
The Dickinson House has architectural significance both for its appearance and for its influence on other buildings. The patterned brickwork on the gable end has been described as "almost baroque in design and absolutely unique." (Love, p. 44) Several students of early American architecture have described the design as the most ornate pattern found in America. With its sprouting diamonds, clusters, ellipses, solid diamonds, and other designs, the pattern on the Dickinson House embraces all the diaper designs then known to American and English masons. The design on the Dickinson House has been copied on numerous occasions and its influence can be seen throughout several of the American colonies. In his Ph. D. dissertation on patterned brickwork in America, Paul Love concluded that the design on the Dickinson House has influenced the pattern on several other houses in Salem County such as the Samuel Bassett and the Samuel Swing Houses, several houses along the eastern shores of Maryland and Virginia, and even the Lastrapes House in St. Landry County, Louisiana.

The Dickinson House also has architectural significance on the local level because of other aspects of the house. Excluding the patterned brickwork, the house has many features that typify the type of building erected during the mid-eighteenth century. The Flemish bond brickwork with glazed headers on the facade, the wooden stoop with bench seats, the pent roof, the box cornice, the corbelled inside end chimneys, the interior floorplan with the staircase to one side of the fireplace, and the interior paneling are all characteristic of country homes found throughout the Middle Atlantic States.

The minimal number of alterations and the existence of so many original details make the Dickinson House an excellent example of the type of home built and occupied by relatively well-to-do colonists.