DATA SHEET

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

1. NAME

COMMON: Sarah and Samuel Nicholson House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Amwellbury Road (closest to intersection with Featherbed Lane)
CITY OR TOWN: Elsinboro Township
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 2nd - Charles Sandman
STATE: New Jersey
COUNTY: Salem

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)

☐ District ☑ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object

OWNERSHIP

☐ Public ☑ Private ☐ Both

STATUS

☑ Occupied ☑ Unoccupied ☑ Preservation work in progress

ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC

☐ Yes: ☑ Restricted ☑ Unrestricted

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☑ Agricultural ☑ Government ☑ Park

☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☑ Religious

☐ Educational ☐ Military ☑ Scientific

☐ Transportation ☑ Comment ☑ Other (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: B. Harold Smick, Jr.

STREET AND NUMBER: Amwellbury Road
CITY OR TOWN: Elsinboro Township
STATE: New Jersey
COUNTY: Salem

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Salem County Court House
STREET AND NUMBER: 94 Market Street
CITY OR TOWN: Salem
STATE: New Jersey
COUNTY: Salem

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory 1025.4 - HABS 0-259
DATE OF SURVEY: ☑ Federal ☑ State ☑ County ☑ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Historic Sites Office
STREET AND NUMBER: Box 1420
CITY OR TOWN: Trenton
STATE: New Jersey
COUNTY: 34
ENTRY NUMBER ONLY: 3025.4
ENTRY DATE: FEB 24 1975
PR P O V E N TO THE PUBLIC

RECEIVED NOV 23 1974
NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE: New Jersey
COUNTY: Salem
ENTRY NUMBER ONLY: 34
The Sarah-Samuel Nicholson house is a 2 1/2 story, 2 level brick home with a one story frame addition (1948). It was built to serve as the residence of the Nicholsons. Patrick Rocat did the carpentry work, while Joseph Moore did the plastering.

The brickwork is Flemish bond with glazed headers. The South wall has patterned or diaper work across it. On that wall are the date of construction "1752" and the initials S N S (Sarah and Samuel Nicholson). The house has a box cornice and plain window trim, while the windows have brick hoodmolds above them. It has a pent roof across the front of the house that originally turned and extended several feet along either side. According to pictures taken during the 1930's, an identical pent roof also extended across the rear of the house. The rear also has a brick watertable across it. The doorway has fluted pilasters, architrave, cornice, dentils, and louvered door shutters (that have been added later). The house has inside end chimneys on either end and 9 X 9 windows.

Inside, the house has original random-width hardwood floors throughout. Each room also has a broad chairrail along each wall. Each room has a working fireplace, most of which have their original mantles. The fireplace in what was originally the kitchen is one of the largest in Salem County. Next to it is an equally large brick alcove that served as a warming oven. The living room and the two bedrooms directly overhead have back-to-back corner fireplaces. Originally, this section of the living room was two rooms with one fireplace to serve each room. The cellar is paved with bricks with buttressed abutments to make several compartments.

The house was repaired, but not significantly altered, by Thomas Fogg in the 1850's. It underwent significant restoration by Bernard A. Hilliard in 1948. Among the alterations were the closing up of a large hearse door in the rear and the addition of a one story frame wing that served as a garage. Since 1963, the Smicks have undertaken additional restoration including replacement of the original cedar shake roof with colonial blend gray asphalt shingles and adding a detached garage with dormers.
6. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- [ ] Pre-Columbian
- [ ] 16th Century
- [x] 18th Century
- [ ] 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

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/Philosophy
- Science
- Sculpture
- Social/Humanitarian
- Theater
- Transportation
- Urban Planning
- Other (Specify)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecture

The Sarah-Samuel Nicholson house is most significant architecturally. Built in 1752, the house is one of the great houses of pre-revolutionary New Jersey that did not undergo extensive "modernization" during the Greek revival or Victorian periods. The only substantive alterations include the frame addition, the sealing off of the hearse door, and the removal of an interior wall to provide a larger living room. Thus, in many respects the house retains much of its original appearance.

In many respects, the Nicholson house typifies the more elegant houses constructed prior to 1776. The Flemish bond brick, the patternwork on the South wall, the large kitchen fireplace, the back-to-back corner fireplace, and the interior floorplan are all characteristic of South Jersey architecture. The Nicholson house vividly illustrates the type of home occupied by the wealthier colonists and the manner and style in which these persons lived. Few other existing homes demonstrate so clearly the lifestyle of the prosperous settlers during the first century of Fenwick's Colony.

Political

The Nicholson house also has political significance of local importance. Samuel Nicholson was the son of Abel Nicholson and the grandson of Samuel Nicholson, both of whom were among the original settlers of Salem County, arriving with John Fenwick in 1675 aboard the "Griffin". After moving to his permanent residence in 1752, Samuel Nicholson played an active role in local politics and held several local offices. He openly supported the patriots during the Revolution, although age and illness limited his activities to verbal support.

The owners of the house are as follows: Samuel Nicholson, 1752-1794; Samuel N. Thompson, 1794-1837; Thomas Fogg, 1837-1885; Joshua Collins, c. 1897-1911; Dilwyn Cuff, 1911-1934; Clifford Cuff, 1934-1948; Bernard A. Hilliard, 1948-1963; B. Harold Smick, Jr., 1963-present.
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° 32' 49&quot;</td>
<td>75° 29' 31&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>39° 32' 49&quot;</td>
<td>75° 29' 08&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td>39° 32' 07&quot;</td>
<td>75° 29' 08&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>39° 32' 07&quot;</td>
<td>75° 29' 31&quot;</td>
</tr>
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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 75 acres

STATE: New Jersey
CODE: 34
COUNTY: Salem

FORM PREPARED BY:

Historic Sites Staff; Research: Art Sewell, Salem County

ORGANIZATION: Department of Environmental Protection

DATE: June 21, 1974
STREET AND NUMBER: Box 1420
CITY OR TOWN: Trenton

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 [x] Local [x]

Name: David J. Bardin
Title: Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection
Date: November 21, 1974

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

David J. Bardin
Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

ATTEST:

Date: November 21, 1974

Robert W. Quirk
Keeper of The National Register
Sarah and Samuel Nicholson House
Elsinboro Twp.
Salem County 033
New Jersey 033

10. Geographic Data Cont.

Follow the property lines of lot 26, Tax Map Sheet number 9, on the South side of Amwellbury Road. Thence Proceed North across the road, following the line of property of lot 10, Tax Map Sheet number 8.