BAKER-BREARLEY HOUSE

HISTORIC LOCATION

CITY, TOWN: Lawrenceville
STATE: New Jersey

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY: BUILDING(S)

OWNERSHIP: PUBLIC

STATUS: OCCUPIED

PRESENT USE: PRIVATE RESIDENCE

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: County Clerk's Office, Mercer County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER: South Broad and Market Streets

CITY, TOWN: Trenton, New Jersey
STATE: New Jersey

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: Township of Lawrence

STREET & NUMBER: P.O. Box 6006

CITY, TOWN: Lawrenceville
STATE: New Jersey

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: County Clerk's Office, Mercer County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER: South Broad and Market Streets

CITY, TOWN: Trenton, New Jersey
STATE: New Jersey

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN: Trenton
STATE: New Jersey
The Baker-Brearley House is a two and one half story center hall Gregorian residence situated off Meadow Road in an open area. The structure is brick laid in Flemish bond on the principle facade with two interior end chimneys and a water table. The first floor windows have simple square wooden trim. A simple wooden cornice runs above the second floor windows. The front steps are no longer present and the door is not the original.

The east wall has the date of construction 1761, in glazed headers. There is evidence on the east wall of an addition. According to a local resident who lived in the house as a child, the addition was one and one half stories and constructed of brick. It contained a large fireplace and was most likely used as the kitchen with quarters for the slaves, which the original builder was known to have.

The foundation is random size dark shale, perhaps from the Carter Road, a Lawrence Township quarry, as no similar stone is present on the building site. The foundation is laid with mortar. The cellar floor is covered with brick. The oak, handhewn framing is in evidence in the cellar.

A center hall divides the symmetrically arranged four rooms of the first floor. Each room has a corner fireplace that backs the fireplace in the adjoining room. The house contains most of its fine Georgian paneling the best of which is located in the east rooms. The original chair railings are still in place. Much of the original hardware survives. The symmetry of the four rooms on the second floor has been somewhat altered by the introduction of a bathroom on the north side. The bedrooms on the south side have fireplaces but those on the north have none.

There are two modern sheds and a modern greenhouse on the property as well as the ruins of an earlier barn.
SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

PREHISTORIC
1400-1499
1500-1599
1600-1699
1700-1799
1800-1899
1900-

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

- ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
- ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
- AGRICULTURE
- ARCHITECTURE
- ART
- COMMERCE
- COMMUNICATIONS
- COMMUNITY PLANNING
- CONSERVATION
- ECONOMICS
- EDUCATION
- ENGINEERING
- EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
- INDUSTRY
- INVENTION
- LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
- LAW
- LITERATURE
- MILITARY
- MUSIC
- PHILOSOPHY
- POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
- RELIGION
- SCIENCE
- SCULPTURE
- SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
- THEATER
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Baker-Brearley House is a fine example in Lawrence Township of a mid-century Georgian country house. The glazed headed date in the gable end is a rare occurrence in North Jersey. The Brearley family was one of the earliest settlers of the area and represents a family that was politically active on the State and local level.

The Baker-Brearley House was constructed in 1761 as evidenced by the glazed header treatment in the gable end. This an embellishment that is more predominant in South Jersey and is rare north of Burlington County. There is, however, another example of this approximately two miles away. The John Rogers House, also dated 1761, is listed on the National Register. The Rogers House is more distinctive in treatment having a patterned brick work gable end wall and the initials of the builders also worked into the gable end. It is possible that the same master craftsman/architect was responsible for both of these houses. Given the southerly treatment, it is likely that the architect was from Burlington City.

It is unclear who was responsible for the construction of the house. A deed search does not clarify this point. The property on which the house is located was owned by John Brearley II, son of the first Brearley settler in the area. It is known that James Brearley, the son of John Brearley II lived in the house. Either James or John II was responsible for the construction of this house. The house became known as the Baker-Brearley House after James' son John married Matilda Baker.

The house is handsomely proportioned Georgian residence in brick. The exterior is simple, perhaps in keeping the Quaker beliefs. While the window glazing and a few first floor doors are Victorian alterations, the interior woodwork remains remarkable intact. The finest paneling in the east room. Raised paneling and heavy Georgian moldings surround each fireplace. The chair rails are still intact as are the second floor doors and most of the original floor boards.

John Brearley I first settled in the area, later to be known as Lawrence Township, in the early 1690's. The Brearley family members were involved in State and local politics, holding positions ranging from Overseer of the Roads to State Chief Justice.

The Baker-Brearley House has been acquired by the municipality. An interpretation master plan is being developed.
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 22.61

QUADRANGLE NAME Princeton

UTM REFERENCES

ZONE EASTING NORTHING
A 1 18 5 2 5 1 4 0 4 4 6 0 1 7 0
B 1 18 5 2 5 4 2 0 4 4 6 0 1 8 0
C 1 18 5 2 5 6 1 0 4 1 4 5 1 9 3 1 0
D 1 18 5 2 5 2 1 0 4 4 5 1 8 8 0
E G H

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

George M. Gottuso Municipal Manager

ORGANIZATION Township of Lawrence

DATE March 13, 1979

STREET & NUMBER Municipal Square, P.O. Box 6006

TELEPHONE (609) 896-9400, Ext. 11

CITY OR TOWN Lawrenceville

STATE New Jersey

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___ STATE ___ LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-685), 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

TITLE Deputy Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

DATE June 19, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 8-31-79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE August 31, 1979
BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:


Minutes Book of Maidenhead Township, 1712-1867, New Brunswick: Rutgers University Library.

"Married by Same", Trenton Federalist, January 14, 1805.


Quinn, Virginia Faucett, (Personal Interview-Baker-Braarley House) March 7, 1979

Sketch Map and Petition of October 29, 1811 - Maidenhead Great Meadow


TRACT 1

DESCRIPTION OF BAKER-BREARLEY HOUSE TRACT

Beginning at a point in the center line of Meadow Road the following courses and distances from the intersection of the Center line of Meadow Road with the southeasterly line of Princeton Pike a) N82°33'42"E 620.74 feet to a point thence b) N81°49'24"E 417.75 feet to a point thence c) N81°56'57"E 504.61 feet to the point of beginning and running thence:

1. N81°56'57"E 400 feet to a point thence:
2. S38°25'56" 592.55 feet to a point thence:
3. N86°37'35"E 176.42 feet to a point thence:
4. N84°23'08"E 35 feet more or less to the center of the Shipetaukin Creek thence:
5. S45°36'52"E along or near the center of the Shipetaukin Creek, 230 feet more or less to a point thence:
6. S7°36'52"E along the same, 60 feet more or less to a point thence:
7. S19°23'08"W along the same, 70 feet more or less to a point thence:
8. S3°36'52"E along the same, 55 feet to a point thence:
9. S81°56'57"W 756.86 feet to a point thence:
10. N24°12'48"W 922.80 feet to the point and place of beginning.

Containing 12.34 Ac. +
TRACT 2

DESCRIPTION OF BAKER-BREARLEY HOUSE TRACT

Beginning at a point in the center line of Meadow Road the following courses and distances from the intersection of the center line of Meadow Road with the Southeasterly line of Princeton Pike a) N82°33'42"E 620.74 feet to a point thence b) N81°49'24"E 417.75 feet to a point of beginning and running thence:

1. N81°56'57"E along the center line of Meadow Road 504.61 feet to a point thence:

2. S24°12'48"E 922.80 feet to a point thence:

3. N81°56'57"W 504.61 feet to a point thence:

4. N24°12'48"W 922.80 feet to the point and place of beginning.

Containing 10.27 Ac. +