

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: New Jersey	
COUNTY: Union	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUN 19 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
Drake House Museum

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Home of Nathaniel Drake

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
602 West Front Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Plainfield

STATE: **New Jersey** CODE: **34** COUNTY: **Union** CODE: **039**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
City of Plainfield

STREET AND NUMBER:
Watchung Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: **Plainfield** STATE: **New Jersey** CODE: **34** 07060

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Union County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Elizabeth** STATE: **New Jersey** CODE: **34** 07200

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
N. J. Historic Preservation Survey

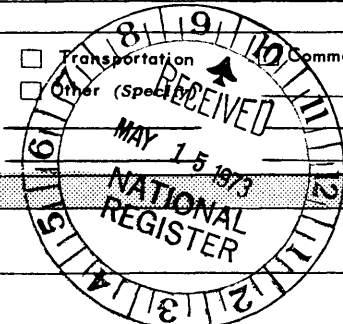
DATE OF SURVEY: **February 1970** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Historic Sites, State of N.J., Department Environmental Protection

STREET AND NUMBER:
P. O. Box 1420

CITY OR TOWN: **Trenton** STATE: **New Jersey** CODE: **34** 08625

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



11
218
4400000

STATE: **New Jersey**
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7. Description

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original Drake House consisted of a center hall 4 room storey and half structure with "Dutch" type corner fireplaces serving each room with a "lean to", Summer kitchen on the West End. The house faces South at a slight angle to present Front Street and is situated on a high bank above Green Brook to its North. It originally had a straight gable roof and had a shingled roof and walls with 30" cedar shingles - front and rear were symmetrical with 2 windows on either side of the center door - (2 original windows exist). Interior partitions were of "Pallisado" vertical plank construction with lath and plaster each side (part of this has been exposed) The original mantels were removed, but paneling and mantel from a similar house (Capt. Benj. Laing) which was demolished, has been reinstalled in the Dining Room. Other mantels reflect the changes of taste and rooms have been furnished and treated accordingly.

The original house had no windows along the front or rear at second floor level, and this construction can be seen thru a glass panel. There were probably 2 chambers on second floor with windows only on gable ends.

The 1865 alterations created a Ball Room on the second floor - left basic four rooms on first floor alone, but added a 3 storey tower in rear, raised the roof with sweeping gambrel treatment, surrounded the structure with porches, 3 dormers and an octagonal turret on top of the porch on West end. Clapboard 6" to weather and vertical batten boarding at 2nd floor covered the cedar shingles and scalloped colored slate the roofing.

Congressional Representation

Clifford Case - U.S. Senator
 Harrison Williams - U.S. Senator
 Mathew Renaldo - Congressman (12th District)



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The "Drake House" originally constructed in 1746 by Nathaniel Drake. It is one of the few remaining 18th Century dwellings remaining in Plainfield. Most of the original building remains, altho added to in 1865 and embellished with Gothic revival towers and appurtances. It shows an interesting and representative development of the simple Colonists farmhouse to the veneered reflections of a successful Victorian Businessman's taste at the outbreak of the Civil War. The towers, sweeping rooflines, bays and applied ornamentation are beautiful in their grotesque way and certainly eye catching.

The Historic significance puts General George Washington at the Drake House on June 26, 1777 as a Command Headquarters Post - During "The Battle of the Short Hills" - an important engagement with the entire Continental Army then stationed at Middlebush, Plainfield, New Providence and Pluckemin, numbering about 7,000 troops - engaging Lord Cornwallis and Lord Howe and about 15,000 men in a running fight, resulting in the withdrawal of the main British Forces from New Jersey.

Nathaniel Drake, his two Sons and Negro Slave participated in the fighting and served with the Contenental Army.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Whitehead's History of Perth Amboy
 Original Map of Plainfield, 1832 (In Drake House Collection)
 Bevin's Map of Plainfield 1853
 Early pencil sketch of Drake House by Whitfield Vermule , Circa 1820?
 Baily's Birdseye View of Plainfield 1874
 Photo "Old Harburger House" History of Plainfield by F. T. Smiley, 1901

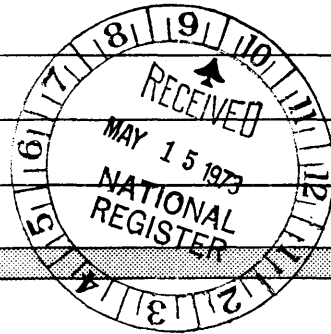
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		40° 36' 49"	74° 25' 57"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Charles H. Detwiller, Jr.

ORGANIZATION: Historical Society of Plainfield & North Plainfield DATE: March 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:
 c/o Drake House Museum, 602 West Front Street

CITY OR TOWN: Plainfield STATE: New Jersey CODE: 07060 34

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Name: Richard J. Sullivan
 Title: Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection
 Date: January 29, 1973

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

Robert W. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 6/19/73

ATTEST:
W. Smiley
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 6 14 73