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**United States Department of the Interior**
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
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See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

## 1. Name

historic Morristown Multiple Resource Area

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number multiple — NA not for publication

city, town Morristown — ___ vicinity of

state New Jersey code 034 county Morris code 027

## 3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| X district | ___ public | X occupied | ___ agriculture | ___ museum |
| X building(s) | ___ private | ___ unoccupied | X commercial | X park |
| ___ structure | X both | ___ work in progress | ___ educational | X private residence |
| ___ site | **Public Acquisition** | **Accessible** | X entertainment | X religious |
| ___ object | ___ in process | X yes: restricted | X government | ___ scientific |
| | ___ being considered | X yes: unrestricted | ___ industrial | ___ transportation |
| | NA | ___ no | ___ military | ___ other: |

## 4. Owner of Property

name multiple

street & number

city, town ___ vicinity of state

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Morris County Court House

street & number Washington Street

city, town Morristown state New Jersey

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Morristown Historic Sites Survey — has this property been determined eligible? *X yes ___ no
*#30,32-34,36-38,40,42,44-46 Court Street

date 1981 — ___ federal ___ state ___ county X local

depository for survey records Office of New Jersey Heritage, CN 404

city, town Trenton state New Jersey 08625

# 7. Description

| Condition | | Check one | Check one |
|---|---|---|---|
| ___ excellent | ___ deteriorated | ___ unaltered | X original site |
| ___ good | ___ ruins | X altered | ___ moved date _____ |
| X fair | ___ unexposed | | |

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

Set in the hill-rimmed valley of Whippany River about 30 miles west of New York City, Morristown is the county seat of Morris County and a regional center of increasing importance due to its location along the New York metropolitan area's ring road, Interstate 287. Founded in the early 18th century, Morristown is primarily a residential community whose varied neighborhoods of 19th and 20th century houses surround a central business district that spreads outward along the arterial streets. The prosperous community is home to an ethnically and racially diverse population of 16,614 and occupies an area of 29.5 square miles.

Water power sites and agricultural lands along the Whippany attracted Morristown's 18th century founders, who were primarily people of English stock moving out from East Jersey. They built two churches and a court house that became the focal point around which a village gradually coalesced. The surrounding hills were also of importance to the community's subsequent history, providing a refuge for Washington's army during the Revolutionary War and a picturesque and salubrious setting that attracted the residence of people of means in the later 19th and early 20th centuries.

Substantial houses and villas with landscaped grounds and later great mansions and estates were erected in and around Morristown for these newcomers and wealthy old time residents. Concurrently, new commercial buildings and more modest dwellings were built to house the growing service sector and its workers. Large new churches and a variety of clubs and cultural institutions also appeared, replacing the small wooden meeting houses and schools of an earlier age. Transportation improvements, most notably the mid-19th century construction of the Morris and Essex railroad through Morristown, made this growth possible. The result was the transformation of the small village clustered around the green into an expansive suburban community with distinctive neighborhoods surrounding a commercial and institutional core.

The physical character of Morristown remains much as it was established during its late 19th/early 20th century period of residential growth and commercial expansion. Modern redevelopment, however, accelerated by the construction of Interstate 287 has destroyed that character in parts of town. Much of historical and architectural significance survives and a number of the most important properties have been restored by private non-profit groups and in the case of Washington's Headquarters by the National Park Service. Several individual sites and two districts also have been recognized by inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. A comprehensive historic sites survey of Morristown done in 1981 found that additional resources in the community appeared to be eligible for the National Register. This Multiple Resource nomination includes the expansion of the two districts, the Morristown and the Speedwell Village Historic Districts, and the listing of five individual sites.

Historic Districts:

I. The Morristown Historic District, listed on the National Register in 1973, consists of a primarily late 19th century residential area south of South Street between DeHart and Madison Streets and a late 19th/early 20th century commercial strip along South Street, punctuated by landmark institutional buildings of that period and extending westward to include the Green. There are also a notable number of houses dating to the 18th/early 19th century and to the early 20th century scattered throughout the district. Although the district contains 218 structures, an

inventory of only 14 buildings and sites was made. The district boundaries were drawn somewhat arbitrarily, excluding contiguous areas with similar resources and in several cases running through individual buildings.

For the multiple resource nomination the district was enlarged to include related adjacent areas and its boundary line was redrawn carefully and described verbally. A complete inventory for both the extant district and added areas was compiled. The enlarged district contains 566 structures and sites and has an irregular boundary that largely follows property lines.

The district inventory was based on the 1981 Morristown Historic Sites survey, revised and updated to reflect current conditions. The 1981 survey included a typology of the various traditional and popular house types found in Morristown, most of which are represented among the district's dwellings. The traditional types present are associated almost exclusively with the folk architecture of the east Jersey/Long Island culture region or evolved from the symmetrical facades and floorplans of the Georgian style. By the end of the third quarter of the 19th century, they fell out of favor, superceded by the first of the popular types that began to appear in Morristown around the mid-19th century. The popular types make up a sizable portion of the district's housing stock dating c. 1870-1910. In the second half of the 19th century and in the early 20th century, there also were built in the Morristown district, large, stylistically sophisticated houses with, except for some in the Colonial Revival style, little or no relationship to either the traditional or popular types.

A typology of the various traditional and popular house types found in the Morristown district follows:

Traditional Types:

A-type A 1½ story, one-room-deep dwelling with either a one-room plan or a two-room, "hall and parlor" plan. The former generally has a two-bay facade, the latter a three or four-bay facade. Interior gable-end chimney placement is characteristic. It has been called a British cabin by folklorist Henry Glassie and, more parochially, an east Jersey cottage by cultural geographer Peter Wacker. Widely distributed in northern New Jersey, the type is associated with both the Delaware Valley and the East Jersey/Long Island culture region. It was much more prevalent and remained more popular to a later date in the latter area.

C-type A 1½ story, two-room-deep, two-room-wide dwelling usually with a three or four-bay facade or, infrequently, a five-bay facade. Various three or four-room plans were employed. While interior gable-end chimney placement is most common, some were built with central chimneys. The latter in eastern New Jersey is attributed to New England influence. The origins of this type are both English and continental European. Examples are found in both the Delaware Valley and in the East Jersey/Long Island region and like the A-type, are far more numerous and were built until a later date in the latter area. The type has been classified as a deep East Jersey cottage by cultural geographer Peter Wacker.

D-type A 1½ story, two-room-deep dwelling with a side-hall plan and a regular three bay facade. It usually has either one or two chimneys within one gable end or, less frequently, an interior chimney. This house resulted from a Georgian-inspired transformation of the two-room-deep, 1½ story types. They were more widely built for a longer period in the East Jersey/Long Island area than in the Delaware Valley.

E-type A 1½ story, two-room-deep dwelling with a center-hall plan and a symmetrical five-bay facade or, infrequently, a three bay facade. The house was built usually with one or two chimneys within both gable ends; the choice of two interior chimneys appears to have been infrequent. It also resulted from a Georgian-inspired transformation of the two-room-deep, 1½ story types. Quite scarce in the Delaware Valley, examples are commonly found in the East Jersey/Long Island region.

F-type A 1½ story, one-room-deep dwelling with a center-hall plan and a symmetrical three or five-bay facade. Interior gable-end chimney placement is characteristic. This type is evidently a Georgian version of the A-type. It is also little known in the Delaware Valley and fairly common in the East Jersey/Long Island area.

I-type A two story, one-room-deep dwelling with either a one-room plan or a two-room "hall and parlor" plan. The former has generally a two-bay and sometimes a three-bay facade; the latter a three or four-bay facade. Cultural geographers hold the origins of the type to be English and its principal cultural hearth in America to be the lower Delaware Valley and Chesapeake Bay regions. New England was a secondary hearth. Widely built in the Delaware Valley, the type is uncommon in the East Jersey/Long Island region.

G-type A two story, one-room-deep dwelling with a side-hall plan, an interior gable-end chimney, and a regular three-bay facade. This type is a Georgian transformation of the I-type whose distribution it generally mirrors.

H-type A two story, one-room-deep dwelling with a center-hall plan, a symmetrical three or five-bay facade, and usually a chimney located within both gable ends or, in some later examples, interior chimneys flanking the central stair hall. This type is also a Georgian transformation of the I-type; it was more common at a later date in northeastern New Jersey than the I or G-types.

J-type A two story, two-room-deep dwelling with generally a two or three bay facade and with one or, less frequently, two chimneys located within one gable end. It has either a two-room plan or a three-room plan. Its origins are evidently urban; houses of this type were built in 17th century London after the Great Fire and in 18th-century Philadelphia. Along with a duplex version, the type is found in many villages and towns of the Mid-Atlantic region. In the Delaware Valley it is widely though sparsely distributed about the countryside as well.

K-type A two story, two-room-deep dwelling with usually a three or four-bay facade or, infrequently, a five-bay facade. It has the same floor plans and chimney placement as the C-type. Its origins are also both English and continental European. This type has been called by cultural geographers both an English house and a Georgian house with a continental floor plan. Examples are present in both the Delaware Valley and East Jersey/Long Island regions, though it is perhaps more common in the former region.

L-type A two story, two-room-deep dwelling with a side-hall plan and a regular three-bay facade. It has usually one or two chimneys within one gable end or, less frequently, an interior chimney. It is two-thirds of the classic Georgian center-hall house. The type is widely distributed throughout the Mid-Atlantic region; duplex versions are common in the towns of the region and triplexes to a lesser extent. Although usually symmetrical the facades of later duplexes are much more varied by gables and projecting bays.

M-type A two story, two-room-deep dwelling with a center-hall plan and a symmetrical five or, later, three-bay facade. It has usually one or two chimneys within both gable ends and, less frequently, two interior chimneys. This is the classic Georgian center-hall house which continued to be built throughout the region long after the Georgian style had ceased to become fashionable, thus becoming a traditional type. The later three-bay version tends to greater verticality and is a result of the mid-19th century popularity of the Italianate palazzo cube house.

Popular Types:

N-type A two story, two-room-deep, gable-roofed dwelling with its gable end as the principal facade, usually two or three bays wide, and with some form of side-hall plan. Some later examples have gambrel roofs. Chimney placement includes both paired stacks within one side wall and one or two interior stacks. The origins of this type appear to be in the emphasis of the Greek Revival style on the gable end which could be treated as a pediment. It is widely found in the towns of northern New Jersey and become increasingly common in the country as well, in the north of the state. Both a four-bay duplex version and a double gabled duplex variant--two units joined side to side--are found in Morristown. A 1½ story version is also present.

$N_1$-type An N-type with a fairly shallow, cross-gabled wing projecting from one side creating an L-shaped plan. It is also widely distributed in the towns of northern New Jersey. Both a double-gabled duplex variant and a 1½ story version are present in Morristown.

$N_2$-type An N-type with fairly shallow, cross-gabled wings extending from both sides creating a T-shaped plan. Again it is widely distributed in the towns of northern New Jersey. Both a duplex version and a four-unit variant with a cross-shaped plan appear in Morristown.

O-type A two story, two-room-deep, hip-roofed dwelling with a square boxy form, usually a two or three-bay facade, and commonly some side-hall plan. This type appears to be a much simplified, vernacular version of Queen Anne or Shingle style house designs. It is frequently encountered in New Jersey towns and cities and is widely distributed in some other urban areas in the country. Duplex O-types are quite common and a 1½ story version is also found.

$O_1$-type An O-type with a gable roof instead of a hip-roof. A 1½ story version is sometimes found. It also has a fairly wide distribution in New Jersey towns and around the country.

P-type A two story, gable-roofed, L-shaped dwelling with the gable end of the shorter section facing the street and with the roof ridge of the longer section parallel to it. The evident origins of this type are in the L-shaped Italianate villa which has a square tower located in the elbow of the two sections.

R-type A two story, gable-roofed dwelling in which the front roof slope is continued to form the roof of the front porch, thus giving the appearance of a 1½ story dwelling. This type probably is derived from some Queen Anne or Shingle style "cottage" designs. Less common than the N or O-types, it is also found in the towns of northern New Jersey.

Mention must also be made of the commercial architecture of the Morristown Historic District which ranges in date from about the 1850s to the 1920s and contributes to its historic character. Those structures dating from the mid-19th to the early 20th century are typically two to four story, brick buildings with low pitched or occasionally mansard roofs and with a regularly fenestrated facade above plate-glass shop fronts. The 19th century examples exhibit detailing typical of the Victorian revival styles, most commonly including a large bracket cornice at the eaves and above the shop front. A few dating to the 1880s are asymmetrically massed and have Queen Anne derived embellishment.

Beginning in the 1890s the Classical Revival supplanted the High Victorian styles and the facades of commercial buildings began to sport full entablatures, corner pilasters, and other classically correct detailing. Other features found on some include pediments, porticos, roof balustrades with or without urns, and Adamesque swags and wreaths. The use of pressed metal and terra cotta tiles also became common at this time and some years later around the World War I era decorative cement block and patterned brick work entered the local building vocabulary. Around the same time and into the 1920s a few massive four and five story buildings, much larger than earlier commercial structures, came to be built. In the 1920s low rise stores without upper floor offices or apartments became popular. The decorative embellishment of these later commercial buildings often exhibits Art Deco as well as Classical Revival influences.

The proposed additions to the Morristown Historic District are distinct areas of varying size and character that can best be discussed individually. Three small areas were added on the north side of the district to the east of the Green: The first consists of three well-preserved buildings on the west side of Morris Street, two 1860s N-type dwellings (#s 307A and 307C) with simple Carpenter Gothic detailing and an early 20th century, brick, 1 story structure (#307B) with Craftsman-inspired embellishment that is said to have housed a tombstone cutter's business originally. These buildings occupy small lots and have short set backs from the street.

The second addition, located on Pine Street north of Dumont, is a group of three, frame, vernacular Queen Anne dwellings dating to the turn of the century, an O-type with corner tower (#365) and twin N-types (#s 366 and 367). They are similar to their contemporary neighbors within the 1973 district on Pine Street and King Place. The third addition consists of three houses on King Street and two on Elm Street. The King Street houses all dating c.1910-18 include two stuccoed O-types (#s 170 and 174) with Mission and Colonial Revival style influences and a double decker N-type (#173). They likewise relate well to their neighbors (#s 171 and 172) which the original district line bisected.

The two larger and much more elaborate houses to the east on Elm Street (#s 89 and 90), relate more closely in terms of style and period to the architecture of the heart of the district below South Street. The first is a boxy cross-gable roofed structure with elaborate Carpenter Gothic bargeboards that dates to the 1860s. Its neighbor to the north of about 1890 is an outstanding example of the asymmetrically massed and elaborately embellished Queen Anne house; exterior features include a corner

tower, decorative shingling, and a wraparound porch. Both houses occupy large lots and are well set back from the street. Behind each one stands a substantial carriage house.

Much larger than these district appendages is the rambling addition that stretches eastward from Elm Street along Franklin Street and Altamont Court to include Franklin Place and two off-shoots to the north on Hill Street, the larger one of which turns back westward to include the northern end of Elm Street, Blachley Place and the railroad station complex. This addition has 76 structures, including residential and commercial buildings that date from about 1830 to 1920 and two mid-20th infill buildings, a harmonizing Cape Cod style dwelling (#11), and an intrusive brick ranch style professional office (#107). For the most part, the buildings are well-preserved and have suffered few disfiguring alterations; synthetic siding has been applied to a few and a number of others have had their porches enclosed.

The houses on Franklin Place, the eastern end of Hill Street, and the southern end of Elm Street have rather large lots and are generally well set back from the sidewalk. On Franklin Street, Altamont Court, and western Hill Street, the lots tend to be much smaller and setbacks shorter. The commercial buildings on Blachley Place and Morris Street abut each other on small lots and have no setbacks from the pavement. Also present in the addition are a small triangular park at the Blachley Place corner (#21), a well-landscaped parking lot at the corner of Elm and Franklin Streets, and several vacant lots, most importantly three on Franklin Place for which is intended what apparently will be sympathetic infill.

The oldest houses in this addition to the district are a large, brick, L-type on Elm Street (#76) of about 1830-40 and its slightly earlier frame neighbor on Franklin Street (#111). The first has a notable Greek Revival entry and later Colonial Revival embellishment. The second apparently began as an L-type and was enlarged and remodeled in the Colonial Revival style; it retains a Federal entry with tracery sidelights and gouge carved trim. Fairly modest frame houses dating to the 1860s and early 1870s and evidencing simple Italianate and Carpenter Gothic embellishment stand on Franklin Street, the western end of Hill Street and on Elm Street. They include a few L-types (#s 78, 79, 114A and 143), a much remodeled M-type (#75), and less than one dozen N and $N_1$-types. Of the latter #s 121,122,132 & 134 are representative, while #137 with its square Italianate corner tower and wraparound porch is more individualistic. Some of these houses received subsequent Queen Anne (#114 and 123) or Colonial Revival embellishment (#132). More stylistically sophisticated and often larger houses of late 19th century date are found on Franklin Place, the east end of Hill Street, and scattered along Franklin, Elm, and western Hill Streets. Of particular note among them are: a Second Empire house (#104) with mansard roof, symmetrical facade, and bracketed cornice and porch; an elaborately detailed Queen Anne house (#101) with octagonal corner tower and porte cochere; two cross-gable Queen Anne houses (#s 103 and 138) with elaborately embellished front gables; an eclectically detailed, High Victorian P-type (#144); two Stick Style houses (#s 77 and 108); two Shingle Style houses (#s 119 and 120); and a Shingle/Queen Anne hybrid with tapering octagonal corner tower and pantile roof (#116).

Also dating to the later 19th century are the frame, 1½ story cottage and adjoining mansard-roofed carriage house (#100) on Ford Avenue. They originally were appurtenant to a now removed Franklin Place house.

The post Victorian architecture of Altamont Court is similar in scale and density to the houses of the adjoining sections of Hill and Franklin Streets. A mix of modest O-type, N-type and 1½ and 2 story dwellings that exhibit a combination of Mission, Craftsman, and Colonial Revival style influences were built within 5 years after the short street was opened in 1913 through the large lot of an earlier house. Typical features of examples such as #s 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 10, 13, 15 and 16 are stucco, wood shingle and clapboard siding, heavy eaves brackets, and massive porch posts or lattice supports. Altamont Court is the first street in Morristown to have been laid out with a cul-de-sac termination, a formal design element emphasized by the twin houses that the developer placed facing west at the east end, perpendicular to all the others.

The western extension of the addition's larger Hill Street appendage comprises a small commercial area with a number of distinctive elements. The Key component is the 1914 Morristown railroad station, a grey brick structure with "Italian" and Mission style influences and with formally landscaped grounds that was entered on the National Register in 1979. One element of the station complex, the similarly detailed "Express Office," apparently was excluded from the nomination; the enlarged district boundaries extend across Lafayette Avenue to include it.

Cutting off a small triangular park with a Spanish American war memorial, (#21), short Blachley Place is fronted by 2 story, brick commercial buildings (#s 23, 24, 25 and 26) with elaborate Classical Revival detailing. Dating to around 1900, they are remarkably well-preserved and retain unaltered store fronts, an unusual surviving feature in Morristown. Around the corner on Morris Street, the scale of the commercial strip is broken by two 19th century, frame N-types (#s 309 and 312) that have acquired store fronts and a Colonial Revival low rise commercial building (#311) from the 1920s.

Two early 20th century buildings, however, continue the scale of Blachley Plce, #313, a curve-front yellow brick structure with Mission influences and brick #310 which also exhibits Classical Revival detailing.

Behind the Blachley Place row and appurtenant to #23 is a well-preserved brick, jerkin head roofed auxiliary structure that was identified in the 1918 Sandborn Atlas as a "plumbing warehouse" and whose row of small windows suggest that it might have incorporated a stable. To the west and fronting on King Street is a small, frame flat-roofed building that has acquired a modern Colonial Revival facade. It probably dates c1890-95 and was identified in the 1918 atlas as a "cabinet shop." To its rear is a frame, gable roofed outbuilding with 2/2 and 6/6 sash windows that probably dates to the early 20th century and may incorporate an earlier barn.

Along the east side of Elm Street opposite Blachley Place stretches the long, frame complex of Slages Building Supply (#80). It consists of a large, 3 story, flat-roofed building at the south end connected by a 5 bay, two story, flat-roofed middle portion

with a vehicular pass-through to a slightly higher 5 bay north component with a low pitched hip-roof in part. While most of the well-preserved complex probably dates to the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the middle portion apparently incorporates a mid-19th century storehouse. Since about that time, this complex and adjoining lot 10/block 170 on Hill Street has been utilized as a lumber yard.

Another large addition to the Morristown Historic District extends eastward from Madison Street to James Street between South and Green Street. It includes the bulk of the "Little Dublin" neighborhood, whose western edge only lies within the 1973 boundary. Its 86 structures are with few exceptions modest, frame, one and two family dwellings that range in date from about 1850 to 1890 and have simple stylistic embellishment. A few early houses are present as are two inobtrusive, mid-20th century Cape Code cottages (#s 163 and 164). Commercial uses are found on South Street, part of that street's commercial strip, and mid-block on Maple Avenue.

The houses of "Little Dublin" are closely spaced on very small lots with short setbacks, giving the neighborhood the greatest residential density of the district. Several vacant lots are present, notably of lower Madison Street. The integrity of the neighborhood's buildings varies considerably. The majority are basically well-preserved, particularly along James Street, and many have undergone sympathetic renovation in recent years. However, the application of synthetic siding is also quite common and a number of houses, notably a cluster on lower Madison Street, have been subject to disfiguring alterations in the course of remodeling.

The earliest houses in the district addition are an 18th or early 19th century D-type on South Street (#431) whose facade is obscured by a modern low rise storefront and an almost pristine, gambrel-roofed L-type on James Street (#147) whose simple, Federal style detailing suggests an early 19th century date. The other district dwellings are vernacular interpretations of several of the architectural styles popular in the second half of the 19th century, including the Italianate, Carpenter Gothic, Second Empire and Queen Anne. Italianate built-up box cornices with brackets and/or returns are found on some such as #s 150, 157, 158, 257, 275 and 276. Perhaps the best Carpenter Gothic example is #151, an $N_1$-type with point-arched gable window and serrated bargeboards. Second Empire mansard roofs are found on a few including #s 201, 206, 207 and 227. Queen Anne derived projecting bays, decorative shingling and turned porch posts appears on many others such as #s 156, 159, 160, and 282. Several, however, such as #s 162, 208 and 237 evidence no decorative embellishment and in appearance resemble earlier traditional houses.

The bulk of the addition's housing stock consists of L-types (#s 157, 158, 161 and 201 are examples), N-types and $N_1$-types (#s 151, 159, 160, 256 and 282) and several O-types (#s 283, 155). Duplexes such as #s 183, 184, 200, 257, 276 and 283 are also prevalent. Variety is provided by two G-types (#s 166 and 167), an A-type cottage (3238), and a duplex J-type (#232).

The commercial uses include a vernacular, frame, late 19th century building on Maple Avenue (#279) now used as a garage, a c. 1920s brick building on South Street with Mission influences (#429), and across the street the early 20th century Plaza Building

(#405). The later, a 2 story structure built to follow the curve of its corner location, has a well-preserved terra-cotta facade with classically derived detailing and intact storefronts. It is among the notable commercial buildings of the district.

An addition with a markedly different character comprises the southern end of Miller Road, the adjoining portion of Ogden Place, the rear portions of the houses fronting the east side of Miller Road, and two properties at the corner of Miller Road and Macculloch Avenue. This addition has eleven structures, nine large houses dating to the 1890s and the early 20th century, a contemporary carriage house (#324) that has been converted into a dwelling, and a parochial school (#192), an intrusive brick structure built in the 1950s on the site of an earlier dwelling.

The high style houses of upper Miller Road and Ogden Place represent a natural extension of the original district. Of particular note are a gambrel-roofed Colonial Revival house (#298) with Chinese Chippendale roof balustrade, corner pilasters, and pedimented dormers, a brick Georgian Revival house (#307) with modillion bracketed cornice, fanlighted entry, and Palladian gable window, and a long, low, Period Revival house (#326) with multi-color slate roof and casement windows.

The next district addition includes 18 houses fronting on the west side of Wetmore Avenue from mid-block between Colles Avenue and Doughty Street to mid-block between Doughty and Schuyler Avenue and along a short stretch of the east side of Mount Kemble Avenue around Doughty Street. Continuing the pattern of northern Wetmore Avenue, the houses are closely spaced on small lots and have short setbacks from the street. They date from the late 19th and early 20th century and are mostly modest frame O-types with Queen Anne and Colonial Revival inspired detailing. Good examples are #s 553, 555, 557, and 561. A number of duplexes and four family houses also are present such as #s 316, 554, 558, 559, 560, and 564. Integrity is mixed; some are well preserved and others have been covered with synthetic siding. The one modern intrusion is a c. 1960 split level (#565).

Another small addition to the 1973 district includes seven frame houses fronting on the western end of Colles Avenue and the adjoining part of Mt. Kemble Avenue to the north. In age and character they are similar to their late 19th century neighbors on Wetmore Avenue and are closely spaced on small lots with short setbacks. They include twin O-types (#s 36 and 37) with Colonial Revival embellishments, two O-types (#s 320 and 321) and two N-types (#s 314 and 322) with Queen Anne derived detailing, and a somewhat later stuccoed O-type (#315) which exhibits Craftsman/Mission style influences.

The last and by far the largest addition to the district extends westward around the Green, along the first blocks of Washington Street and Speedwell Avenue, and then forks into a small appendage on Prospect Street and a much larger one that emcompasses both sides of Western Avenue as far as the town line. There are 160 structures present, of which about 50 are commercial buildings facing the Green and the adjoining streets and the remainder, with three institutional exceptions, are dwellings on Court Street, Prospect Stret, and Western Avenue. These buildings range in date from about the 1840s to the 1920s except for a c. 1820 cottage (#525), the landmark 1828 county

court house (#461), and some modern infill including several commercial buildings (#s 331, 333 and 443) and a mid-20th century ranch house (#472). Many of the commercial buildings have suffered modern alterations, most notably on the north side of Washington Street. However, much appears to be reversible and many others retain enough early fabric to maintain the essential integrity of the streetscapes. In the residential areas modern changes have been limited for the most part to the occasional application of sythetic siding and the remodeling of porches and entries. The houses tend to be rather closely spaced on small lots with short setbacks; the commercial buildings abut one another and the sidewalk.

The residential architecture of the western addition consists of fairly modest frame dwellings with simple stylistic embellishment typical of the 19th and early 20th centuries. On Court Street stand several vernacular L-type dwellings dating to the mid 19th century or some years earlier; most distinctive are #54 with its low pitched gable roof and bracketed cornice and #57 with its hip roof. Also present are a contemporary, stuccoed masonry K-type (#53) and two later N-types (#s 52 and 57). More variety is found on Prospect Street, where a number of houses are larger and more stylistically sophisticated. Of note there are two P-types (#s 369 and 372) and an $N_1$-type (#371) with square towers and Italianate/Second Empire embellishment that date c. 1868-76, a contemporary brick L-type (#368) with mansard roof, and an O-type and a gambrel-roofed N-type (#370 and 371) of c. 1910-15 that exhibit Shingle and Colonial Revival influences. On Western Avenue the great majority of the modest frame houses date to the 1870s and 1880s and exhibit Carpenter Gothic and Queen Anne derived detailing. Most are N-type and $N_1$-types; a scattered of O-types, L-types, and P-types also are in evidence. Representation houses include #s 475, 478, 490, 491, 511, 513, and 522. One much earlier dwelling is a D-type (#525) dating c. 1820-22. Fronting the east side of the street at the north are several stuccoed O-types (#463, 465, 468 and 470) and an R-type (#34) with Mission and Colonial Revival derived detailing that date c. 1910-18.

Perhaps a majority of the commercial buildings of the western addition are three and four story structures of 19th century date with such typical Victorian detailing as bracketed cornices, mansard roofs with dormers, and decorative window hoods or cornices. The best examples are #s 343, 450, and 453; the most distinguished and well preserved example is the old Iron National Bank Building (#451). Scattered among them are several dating c.1900 with Classical Revival embellishment; they include #494 with its terra-cotta ornament and full entablature, #336 with its balustrade and urns, and #368, a more simply detailed gambrel-roofed structure that retains its original store fronts. Of the early 20th century commercial buildings most notable are the Morristown Theatre (#445) which has a patterned brick facade and the massive Park Square Building (#333) which has Gothic/Tudor Revival ornament. Much of the modern infill is in general harmonious; #s 332 and 334 are examples.

Most important of the three institutional buildings is the Morris County Court House (#461) which is listed individually on the National Register. It consists of the original Georgian/Federal courthouse of 1828 and the harmonizing Colonial Revival additions to the south and west.

# 8. Significance

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ___ prehistoric | ___ archeology-prehistoric | ___ community planning | ___ landscape architecture | ___ religion |
| ___ 1400–1499 | ___ archeology-historic | ___ conservation | ___ law | ___ science |
| ___ 1500–1599 | ___ agriculture | ___ economics | ___ literature | ___ sculpture |
| ___ 1600–1699 | X architecture | ___ education | ___ military | ___ social/ humanitarian |
| ___ 1700–1799 | ___ art | ___ engineering | ___ music | |
| X 1800–1899 | ___ commerce | ___ exploration/settlement | ___ philosophy | ___ theater |
| X 1900– | ___ communications | ___ industry | ___ politics/government | ___ transportation |
| | | ___ invention | | ___ other (specify) |

**Specific dates** NA **Builder/Architect** Multiple

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

As has been recognized by a variety of private and governmental actions, Morristown possesses important architectural and historical resources. Stemming from one of these actions, the 1981 Morristown Historic Sites Survey, the Morristown multiple resource nomination includes the expansion of the two National Register historic districts and the listing of five individual sites.

Morristown Historic District

In its statement of significance, the 1973 nomination for the Morristown Historic District focused on the 19th and early 20th century residential and institutional architectural resources of the district as well as on a number of prominent local citizens living there at the time. The district's houses include many well-preserved, high style and vernacular examples of the various 19th and early 20th century revival styles and establish much of the district's distinctive character. The landmark churches and public buildings present are architecturally distinguished interpretations of the Gothic, Romanesque, Classical and Renaissance Revival styles; several are the work of nationally noted architects. The additions to the district encompass architectural resources of similar character and significance.

The 1973 nomination, however, made almost no mention of the late 19th and early 20th century commercial buildings that are also a contributing element of the district. These buildings possess significance as a good illustration of the commercial architecture common to the towns and small cities of that time. Present are both exuberant and restrained examples of the several Victorian Revival styles and the Classical Revival, as well as some that suggest the influence of 1920s Art Deco. Notable commercial buildings are found around the Green and adjoining streets, such as #s 127, 333, 342, 343, 444, and 455, along South Street including #s 382, 405, 406, 407 and 410, and on Blachley Place, #s 23, 24, 25 and 26.

Speedwell Village District

The significance of the Speedwell Village stems from the achievements of the Vail family who operated the Speedwell Iron Works in the 19th century, most notably the work of Alfred Vail who along with Samuel F. B. Morse perfected the electromagnetic telegraph there in 1837-38.

Inexplicably excluded from the 1970 nomination, "Willow Hall", the home of George Vail, is a key element of the district and a significant example of mid-19th century Gothic Revival villa architecture in its own right.

Individual Sites

The Glanville Blacksmith Shop and the adjoining livery stable are significant as well preserved survivors of a service industry that has disappeared entirely from Morristown, as it has from urban America in general. The Mount Kemble Home, a well-preserved and

stylistically eclectic structure occupied by the same charitable organization since 1890, is a local architectural and social landmark. "Lindenwold", "Oak Dell" and "Spring Brook House" are architecturally distinguished survivors of the many great mansions that were built during Morristown's turn of the century gilded age.

A more detailed discussion of the significance of these five structures is found on their individual forms.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Speedwell Village HD -±57; Morristown HD - ±213; ind. sites - ± 1 ea.

Quadrangle name Morristown Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References (see attached continuation sheet)

| | Zone | Easting | Northing | | Zone | Easting | Northing |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | | | | B | | | |
| C | | | | D | | | |
| E | | | | F | | | |
| G | | | | H | | | |

**Verbal boundary description and justification**

See continuation sheet.

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries** NA

state code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dennis N. Bertland, consultant

organization Morris County Historical Society date Spring, 1984

street & number Box 11 telephone 201-689-1705

city or town Port Murray state New Jersey

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ___ state X local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer signature Helen C Sewake

title Assistant Commissioner for Natural Resources date 9/11/86

For NPS use only

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

Patrick Andrus date 11/13/86

for Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Beth L Savage date 11-13-86

~~Chief of Registration~~

GPO 894-785

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NPS Form 10-900-a
(3-82)

OMB No. 1024-0018
Expires 10-31-87

**United States Department of the Interior**
**National Park Service**

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

[redacted] 10/1/86

Continuation sheet | Item number | Page

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Morristown MRA
State Morris County, NEW JERSEY

Cover accept Patrick Andrus 11/13/86

| Nomination/Type of Review | | | Date/Signature |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Glanville Blacksmith Shop | Substantive Review | for Keeper | Patrick Andrus 3/25/87 |
| | | Attest | Beth Savage 3/25/87 |
| 2. Lindenwold | Entered in the National Register | Keeper | Delores Byers 11/13/86 |
| | | Attest | |
| 3. Mount Kemble Home | Entered in the National Register | Keeper | Delores Byers 11/13/86 |
| | | Attest | |
| 4. Oak Dell | Entered in the National Register | for Keeper | Delores Byers 11/13/86 |
| | | Attest | |
| 5. Spring Brook House | Entered in the National Register | for Keeper | Delores Byers 11/13/86 |
| | | Attest | |
| 6. Morristown Historic District (B.I.) | Entered in the National Register | Keeper | Delores Byers 11/13/86 |
| | | Attest | |
| 7. Speedwell Village Historic District (B.I.) | Substantive Review | Keeper | |
| FR 10/28/86 Last dates 11/13/86 - 11/15/86 | | Attest | |
| 8. | | Keeper | |
| | | Attest | |
| 9. | | Keeper | |
| | | Attest | |
| 10. | | Keeper | |
| | | Attest | |