

PH0063444

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Pennsylvania	
COUNTY: Delaware	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70.11.42.0004	DATE 11/16/70

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Thomas Massey House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

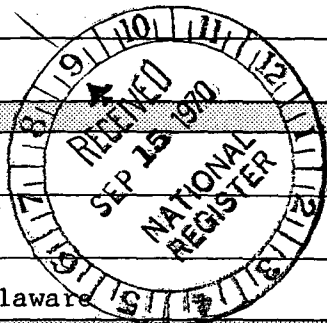
2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Lawrence Road, opposite Springhouse Road

CITY OR TOWN:  
Broomall

STATE:  
Pennsylvania

CODE: 1237 COUNTY: Delaware CODE: 045



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) This historic landmark house, now in process of restoration.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments
--	--	--	--	--

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Township of Marple

STREET AND NUMBER:  
South Sproul and Springfiled Roads

CITY OR TOWN:  
Broomall

STATE:  
Pennsylvania

CODE:  
42

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Delaware County Recorder of Deeds Office #2175 p. 1036

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Court House

CITY OR TOWN:  
Media

STATE:  
Pennsylvania

CODE:  
42

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Catalogue of Original and Measured Drawings of Historic American Bldgs. HABS

DATE OF SURVEY: 1965  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Marple Township Public Library

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Broomall

CITY OR TOWN:  
Broomall

STATE:  
Pennsylvania

CODE:  
3742

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Pennsylvania

COUNTY: Delaware

ENTRY NUMBER: 70.11.42.0004

DATE: 11/16/70

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

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

Log House

The earliest appearance of the Thomas Massey House probably was a story-and-a-half log house on a wooded hill about half a mile east of The Great Road of Marple (Now South Sproul Road, State Highway #320) about 250 feet south of the north boundary line of the 300-acre plantation, with a lane leading to the Great Road, and perhaps a secondary road along the north property line from the Great Road of Marple to the Philadelphia-Strasburg Road (now West Chester Pike #3) It probably had one room with large fireplace on the ground floor and one loft room above it.

It was built between 1683, when the earliest English settlers came to Marple Township, and sometime before 1696 when the present brick structure was built. No evidence discovered indicates that it was a Swedish log house with corner fireplace.

Brick House

In 1696 a brick structure was built by Thomas Massey who purchased the plantation from James Tanfield that year. It was an addition built to the east end of the log house, according to evidence uncovered in the brick section. The log house probably continued in use with its cooking fireplace until it was torn down to make way for a stone addition built by Thomas Massey's son Mordecai about 1730.

Stone House

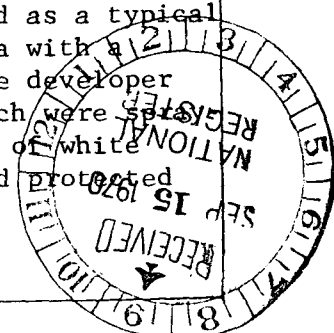
Mordecai's stone house is joined to the brick house on the west. About 1840 another stone addition was made adjoining Mordecai's house, probably a one story and loft building of stone. A second story was added probably about 1860, with stone walls on north and west and clapboard on the south.

Present House

The three-century house continued to be used as a typical farmhouse until the 1930's when it was modernized by addition of a furnace, bathroom, plasterboard on walls and ceilings, and electric lights. Fireplaces were bricked up and covered with the plasterboard, and plasterboard was nailed directly over fine poplar paneling in the middle section.

All but an acre of the 300-acre property was developed as a typical suburban residential, shopping center, light industrial area with a centrally located school. The old farmhouse was used by the developer to store window and door frames etc. for the new houses which were painted, coating walls, ceilings and floors with many coats of white paint. Fortunately for the restorationists the plasterboard protected the original plaster and paneling.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	<u>Local History</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture - Farm	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	<u>Early Pa. History</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<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

Architecturally, the Massey House is significant because it covers the span of Pennsylvania history from the first settlers until the present. Three centuries of architecture are represented, the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. It stands on its own foundations on its original site. There is evidence for the log house that was built sometime between the time the first English settlers arrived in Marple Township in 1683 and 1696 when the brick house was built as an addition to the log house.

The brick house, undoubtedly built with bricks manufactured on the site, represents a style of architecture reflecting English architecture of the period. Features of the brick house are the same as some found in Marple, Cheshire, England, home-town area of the first Marple settlers. Changes through the years covered up but did not destroy the original fireplace, black walnut window frames, summer beam, floor boards and joists and ceiling beams. Architectural evidence made it possible to restore the roof to its original pitch, using many original rafters which had been cut off.

The 1730 stone addition built after the log house was razed has been restored with original fireplaces, woodwork, poplar paneling never painted, one original outside door, and paint matching the original paint.

The second stone addition, the first story built about 1840 and the second story about 1860, has original fireplace and paneling.

The Massey House was built by Thomas Massey who came with a group of Friends who had known persecution in England. Pennsylvania was a land of opportunity and of religious freedom where 20-year-old Thomas could come as an indentured servant in 1683 and be the owner of a 300-acre plantation by 1696 and become a township constable and official of the Friends Meeting before his death in 1708. The history of the house and its owners is representative of the lives of plain Pennsylvania farmers.

The house remained in the ownership of descendants of Thomas Massey until 1925.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Ashmead, Henry Graham, History of Delaware County, Pennsylvania, P. 581  
Pennsylvania Folklife Magazine, Autumn 1968, published by Pennsylvania Folklife Society, Inc., Lancaster, Pa., P. 10  
Inventory of Historic Sites of the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission 1970, P. 113  
 Woolley"s, Preston Parkinson, The Utah Woolley Family, 1968

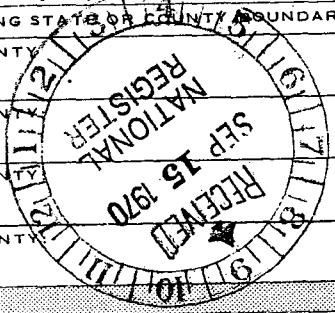
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	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
NW	° ' "	° ' "		39°	57'	56" N
NE	° ' "	° ' "		75°	21'	6" W
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: ABOUT 1 ACRE

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Clarissa B. Smith, Chairman Massey House restoration committee

ORGANIZATION: Thomas Massey House Restoration DATE: 5/18/70

STREET AND NUMBER: Township Building, S. Sproul & Springfield Roads.

CITY OR TOWN: Broomall STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 4237

**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

Name S. K. Stebbins

Title Executive Director

Date Sept 8, 1970

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

Ernest Allen Connally  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

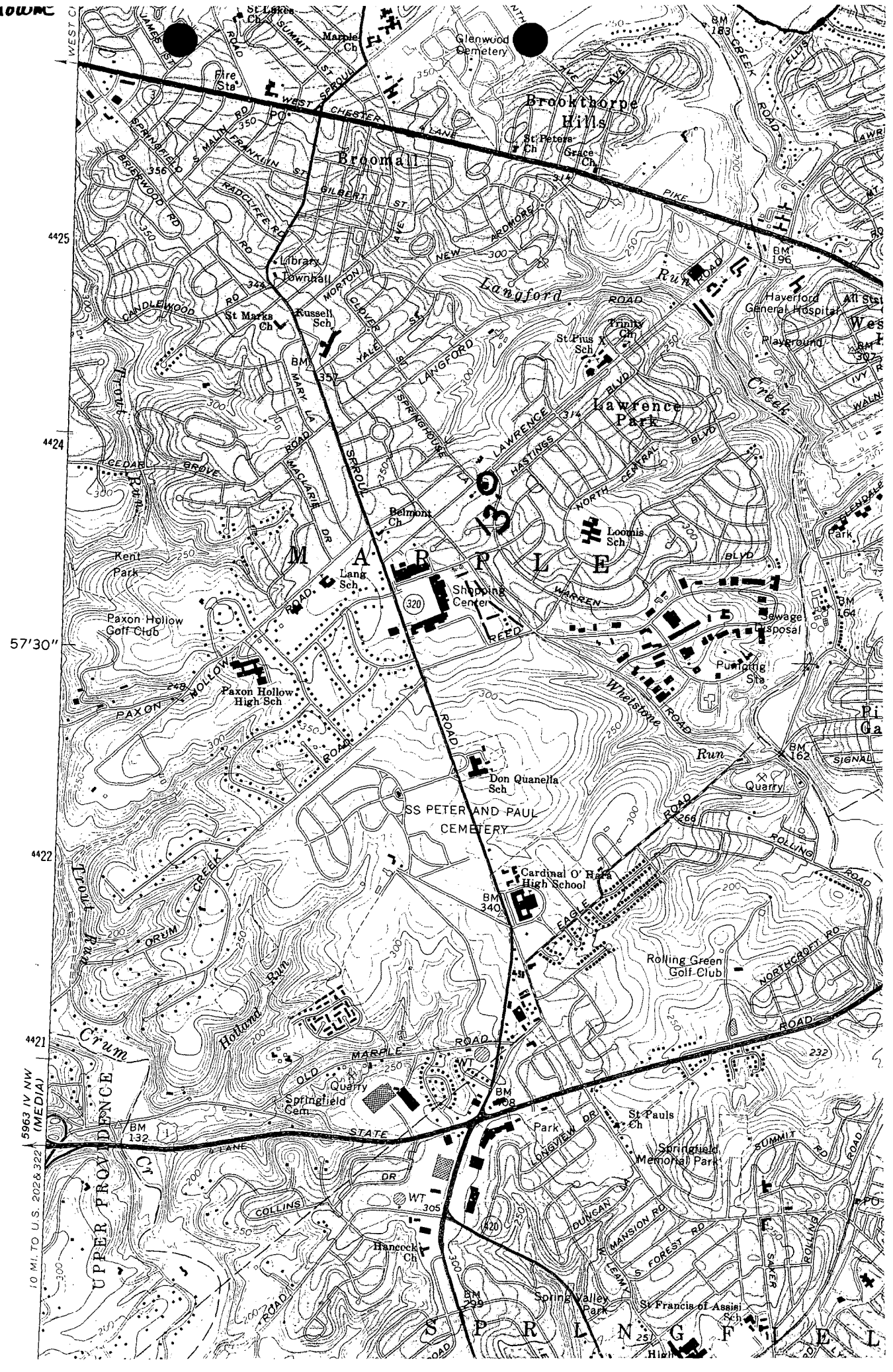
NOV 16 1970

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: S. A. Woodford  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date NOV 13, 1970

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



5963 IV NW (MEDIAL)  
1.0 MI. TO U.S. 202 & 322