

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Pennsylvania</b>	
COUNTY: <b>Delaware</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME  
*The ~~...~~ The Lazaretto*

2. LOCATION  
*Wanamaker Ave at 2nd St  
ESSINGTON*

STATE: *PA* CODE: *42* COUNTY: *Delaware* DATE: *0/45*

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"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" 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	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
**J. William and C. Robert Mills**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Wanamaker Avenue at Second Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Essington** STATE: **Pennsylvania** CODE: **42**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Delaware County Court House**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Front and South Avenue**

CITY OR TOWN: **Media** STATE: **Pennsylvania** CODE: **42**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Historic American Buildings Survey**

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Library of Congress**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Washington**

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington** STATE: **D. C.** CODE: **11**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NOTE: Building contains two residences, antique shop and fruit supply store.

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## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The main building faces the river which was lined with a balustrade, two block houses and a wharf. The one block house which still stands, with its window within an inset arch, is the only Federal Style structure on the Lazaretto complex.

The main building is a very handsome mid-Georgian brick structure with slightly projecting central pavilion and flanking wings, very much in the tradition of seventeenth century English and eighteenth century American medical structures. Prototypes for the Lazaretto can be traced back at least as far as Robert Hooke's Bethlehem Hospital, or Bedlam, designed in 1674 and completed two years later. Demolished in 1816, this structure consisted of three pavilions with hipped roofs and cupolas within balustrades, connected by two long pitch roof winds with pedimented centers. Although on a far grander scale than the Lazaretto, the basic elements can be easily compared; the projecting three storey central pavilion with hipped roof, four corner chimneys, cupola and balustrade, the two storey flanking wings with gabled roofs, and the regular fenestration.

Although the ward wings have been made over into apartments, the central pavilion retains its original interior. Very much in the tradition of a grand Georgian home, there is a center hall plan, two rooms deep. The stairway with plain unfluted pilasters to dado height at the first floor landing, is to the left of the hall. The railing, with rampings and easings between the first and second floors, and the thin square balusters with channel mouldings on all four sides are very graceful.

The left front room on the first floor was probably the office and receiving room. The very handsome Welford-type mantel, perhaps by Zane and Chapman, with gouge carving and composite columns, has composition work baskets, flowers, garlands and urns.

The right front room was probably the dining room and opens into the right rear room by means of a folding paneled partition.

Each room on the three floors of the center section has a fireplace except the first floor left rear room. The built-in cupboards and outside door in this room suggest that this was a pantry and preparing room. Several feet from this outside doorway is an old brick structure, now a garage, whose window retains its original wooden shutters. The scar of a brick passageway around the exterior of the "pantry" doorway suggests that at one time this outbuilding was the kitchen, and a 1911 magazine clipping in the Anna Broomall Notebooks at the Delaware County Historical Society show that the end chimney was along the east wall where the garage doors have now been out.

The second and third floor rooms and the first floor right rear room are all similar in plan with a built-in cupboard to either the right or left of the fireplace. Each mantel is simply but well moulded, and the fireplace surrounds are plain except in the second floor right front room and the first floor back right room where the mantel shelves are supported

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7. Description (con't)

by unfluted pilasters. The latter retains its original iron fireback.

The dados, innerside of the doors, and mantels have been re-painted and the original color combinations were blue and yellow, green and beige and pink and yellow. The outside of the doors and some of the mantels were stained to look like either walnut or mahogany.

Despite the fact that the rooms are filled with old airplane parts, they are in good original condition and could easily be restored.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input 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) **1800**

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <b>Medical</b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input checked="" 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

During the eighteenth and earlier part of the nineteenth centuries, the quarantine of afflicted persons was the only effective means of controlling epidemics. Quarantine stations, or lazarettos, were particularly necessary near seaports, where arriving vessels could bring in smallpox, cholera, yellow fever, and other diseases. The first quarantine station in Pennsylvania was near Fort Mifflin in Philadelphia, but was moved to Essington in 1800 when Philadelphians became alarmed over the proximity of the former. To operate the Lazaretto, the state legislature created a Board of Health with the power to levy taxes, yet controlled by Philadelphia. In 1798 a body called "Mangers of Marine City Hospital" was charged with selecting a site and establishing a quarantine station. The name Lazaretto first appears in the minutes of the Board of Health during the search for a site in early 1799. On May 5, 1799, the board reported having selected land "near the mouth of the Darby Creek on Tinicum," and reported its purchase of ten acres from Thomas Smith on May 21, 1799. The Board of Health started construction of the quarantine buildings immediately and by the close of 1800 had completed the steward's quarters or main building, a physician's residence, quarantine master's house, custom house, wharf, and various small buildings. Over the span of years that the Lazaretto operated there were seven major buildings and many minor ones on the property. Today the main building, one block house, the physician's residence (now headquarters for the Riverside Yacht Club), and two small brick building remain.

It is clear from admonitions of the College of Physicians that the Lazaretto was intended to serve primarily for the quarantine of sick persons arriving on ships from foreign ports as well as American ports when necessary. But it was also to receive patients from Philadelphia.

In 1880 the Federal Government took over quarantine operations and moved them to Marcus Hook. By the turn of the twentieth century the Philadelphia Athletic Club had turned the Lazaretto into a pleasure resort for the wealthy. In 1913 Colonel Robert C. Glendinning and George C. Thomas set up a School of Flying with six planes. The good harbor and docking facilities gave these men an opportunity to pioneer in seaplane flying and they founded the Philadelphia Seaplane Base in 1915.

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8. Significance (con't)

With the approach of war in 1916 the entire operation was taken over by the Army Signal Corps to train a squadron of flyers. The base was called Chambers Field and the Lazaretto was its main barracks and headquarters.

After World War I the Lazaretto saw a period of decline until Philadelphia decided to put it up for sale in 1936. Frank Mills purchased the property and, with his brothers, is still operating the seaplane base.

The Lazaretto is of great importance not only for the role it played in the development of public health, but for its architectural beauty which makes it one of the most handsome Mid-Georgian structures in the United States.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ashmead, Henry G. History of Delaware County. Philadelphia, 1889.  
 Board of Health Minutes, City Archive, Philadelphia  
 College of Physicians Minutes, College of Physicians, Philadelphia  
 Scharf and Westcott. History of Philadelphia, 1609-1684. Philadelphia, 1884.

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°	51'	38"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		75°	18'	02"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **6 Acres**

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

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Pennsylvania Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks**

ORGANIZATION: **Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission**      DATE: **Dec, 1970**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Box 1026**

CITY OR TOWN: **Harrisburg**      STATE: **Pennsylvania**      CODE: **42**

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 \_\_\_\_\_  
**State Liaison Officer**

Title **Executive Director**  
**Pa. Historical and Museum Commission**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

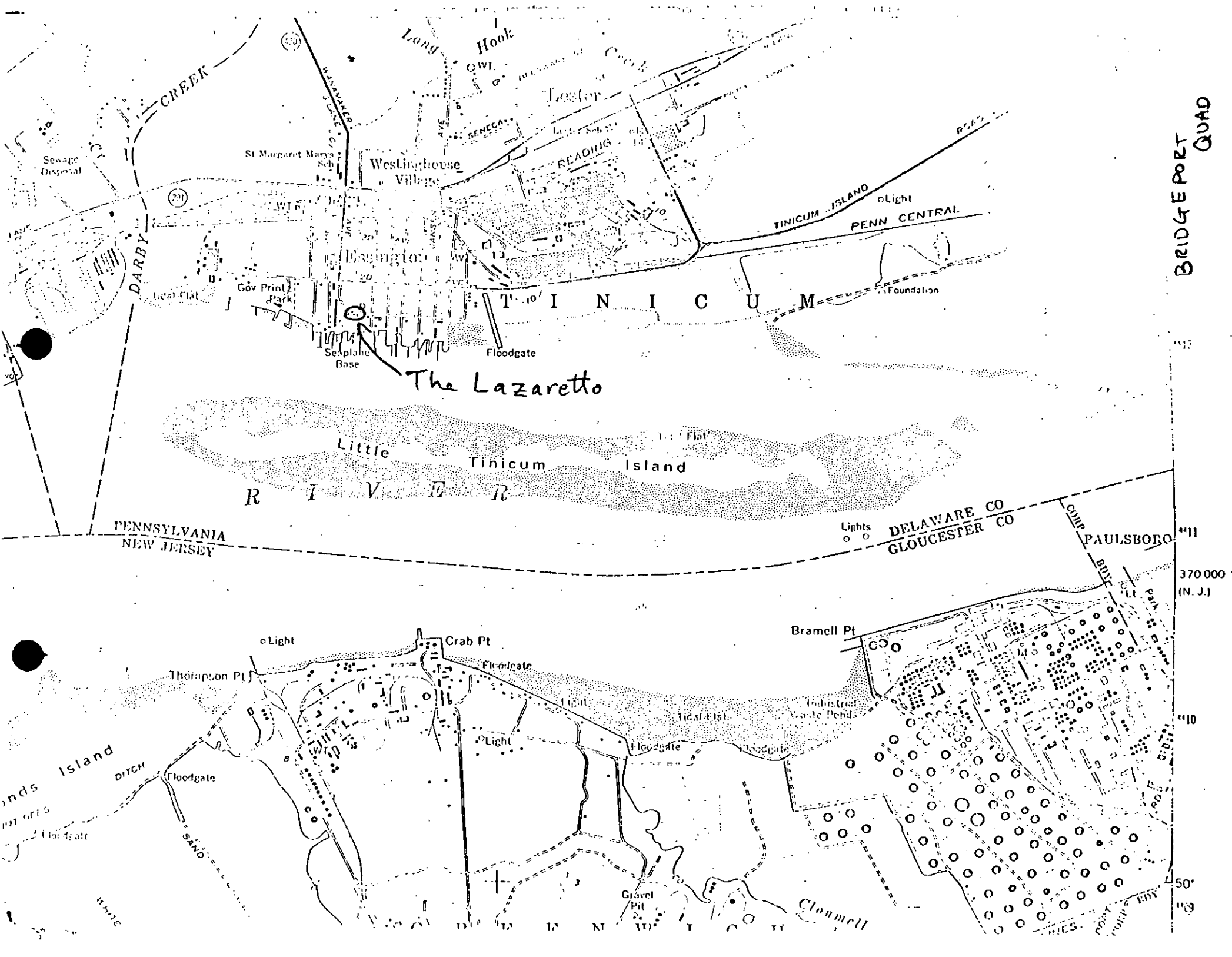
Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



BRIDGE PORT QUAD

The Lazaretto

Little Tincum Island RIVER

DELAWARE CO GLOUCESTER CO PAULSBORO

370 000 (N. J.)

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