

The Hutchings House
"Cannon Ball Inn" House
126 Morris Avenue
Springfield, Union County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

The Hutchings House
"Cannon Ball ~~House~~" House
126 Morris Avenue
Springfield, Union County, New Jersey

Owner: Mr. William N. Heard

Date of Erection: 1770

Architect:

Builder:

Present Condition: Good; chimney and fireplace on east wall have been removed; the building has been raised two feet above the ground, a new basement excavated, and a rear chimney erected

Number of Stories: Two

Materials of Construction: Foundation - concrete blocks

Exterior walls - front wood shingles, siding on other three sides, front cornice, rear none

Interior walls - plaster

Roof - pitch, wood shingles

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MAP BY JOHN LAWRENCE, 1741, CALLED THIS GESTALOS HOUSE

OWNED AT ONE TIME BY JACOB S. HUTCHINGS

Historical Data:

This house is shown on Brskine's Revolutionary Map; it is unmarked, however, and how the name "Hutchings House" and the date 1770 came to be used is not clear.

Lossing, after a visit to Springfield on September 13, 1848, has the following to say about this house:

The church and every house and barn but three were burned. One of the latter now stands close by the tavern of Mr. Reynolds. It is a very well built house and exhibits an orifice in the north-western gable made by the passage of a cannon ball." (vol. I, p. 324)

This is the house of the survey. The name Cannon Ball Inn was applied to it because a cannon ball lodged in the chimney of the house during the Battle of Springfield in 1780.

The early records are not clear. We find that on November 4, 1840, the property was conveyed by Sheriff Jonathan Osborn to Calvin D. Bonnel and wife, and apparently re-conveyed on the same date from George Hutchings to Calvin D. Bonnel. These deeds do not mention the house or the former owner of the property. During the next fifty years the house had six owners. In 1896 it came into possession of the Heard family and has remained in their possession.

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New York, Harper Brothers, 1860

Terrill, Walter D. Union County Survey
Historian

Walter D. Terrill

Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour W. Williams

SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, A.I.A.
District Officer

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