

1989

# Hetfield House included on national register

By SUZETTE STALKER

The Hetfield House, which has served as a tribute to Mountain-side's history for 230 years, was honored for the second time this year by being named to the National Register of Historical Places by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

The house was built by Deacon Andrew Hetfield, a Revolutionary War veteran, in 1760, and has been owned by only one other family since that time. It is being preserved and maintained by the Mountain-side Historic Preservation Committee and the Mountain-side Restoration Committee, Inc.

In July, the Hetfield House was named to the New Jersey Register of Historical Places. Fern Carter Hyde, chairman of both Mountain-side committees, announced that the home was selected for the national register in July and that her organizations were informed of the decision this week.

"We think this is a great honor," remarked Hyde, who added that the home is one of 1,000 places throughout New Jersey which have been selected for the honor. "We're very thrilled, and we hope that

someone will donate a plaque which we can put on the outside of the house."

A letter to Hyde from Nancy Zerbe, administrator of the DEP's Division of Parks and Forestry, Office of New Jersey Heritage, states that inclusion in the national register places the Hetfield House on "the official list of cultural resources significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering or culture.

"Listing in the national register ensures that properties affected by undertakings that are federally executed, licensed, or financially assisted will be subject to review and comment in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966," the letter continued.

This means that the Hetfield House, according to Hyde, is protected from being altered or razed and enables her committees to apply for grants toward further restoration of the landmark. She added that it may also help her committees to obtain additional furnishings for the house.

Historic sites are selected for the national register based on their longevity as well as their "historical

significance," said Hyde. The Hetfield House was home to more than one veteran of the American Revolution, and its first owners had ties to Declaration of Independence signer Abraham Clark.

The house's cozy interior reflects changes in American architecture and decor from the colonial to the Victorian era, since the house's three sections were built at different times during the greater part of a century. A walk down the upstairs hallway takes visitors from a tiny 18th century loft to an airy white-walled study built in the 1840's.

An array of personal mementos belonging to past occupants of the Hetfield House are on display inside the home, including a glass case containing wire-rimmed spectacles, a candle snuffer, and beaded fans used by ladies during Victorian social occasions. There is also a taffeta wedding dress from 1840 exhibited in the downstairs parlor, among many other items.

On Monday, Mountain-side's old tax records were transferred from Borough Hall to the Hetfield House, which will enable interested persons to more readily research information about the house.