



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Federal Hall National Memorial
15 Pine Street, N.Y. 5, N.Y.

May 9, 1960

MAY 11 1960
022 B1 B11 000694
IN REPLY REFER TO:
337/D-25A

H30

Memorandum

To: Regional Director
From: Supervisory Park Historian, Statue of Liberty NM
Subject: Historic Structures Report - Wick House

The attached study of the Wick House at Morristown by Walter Hugins, was loaned to me when I was in Philadelphia, as a general guide in preparing historic structures reports on Castle Clinton and Federal Hall.

This report has served its purpose and is returned for Regional Office files.

Thomas M. Pitkin
Thomas M. Pitkin
Supervisory Park Historian

Attachment

REGION FIVE		INITIAL AND DATE
MAY 11 1960		
☒ History	REG. DIRECTOR	
☒ Nat. His.	ASST. REG. DIR.	
☐ Archeo.	OF RATIONS	
☐ Pub.	MIT. STATION	
☐ Museum	ADM.	
☐ Sec'y	REC. RES. PLAN	
	RANGER ACT'S	

to general

Region Five
421 Walnut Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

September 16, 1959

Velly
9/16

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Morristown National Historical Park
From: Regional Director
Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part II - Wick House

In reply to your memorandum of August 5, we suggest that the rehabilitation of the Wick House proceed as planned and the terrace in question be left undisturbed for the time being.

(Sgd.) Daniel J. Tobin

Daniel J. Tobin
Regional Director

In duplicate

Copy to: Chief, EODC, w/copy of inc.

MHNelligan/cp

General
Daily
Area



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

August 5, 1959

IN REPLY REFER TO:
H30

REGION FIVE		INITIAL AND DATE
AUG 6 1959		
☒ REG. DIR. CTOR		
☒ ASST. DIR.		
☒ OPERATIONS		
☒ INTERPRETATION		
☒ ADM.		
☒ REC. RES. PLAN		
☒ RANGER ACT'S		

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Five
From: Superintendent, Morristown NHP
Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part II - Wick House

Dr. Hugins was unable to find any information about the terrace of the Wick House. Russell Baker's report of December 24, 1934 is the only information on the subject.

We still feel strongly that the terrace should be removed and the area repaved as stated in our memo of June 22. There is no real proof that the stones were there in the 18th century and it is a real visitor hazard.

*Copy in the chance of
documented removal.*

Francis S. Ronalds
Francis S. Ronalds
Superintendent

In duplicate

*There must be another
solution than removal. That
old fence looks more authentic
than any new wall we
might build.*
SSP

Info	OPERATIONS	Act	Initial and Date
	Lands		
	Engineer		
	Architect	☒	<i>DRH</i>
	Land Archt		
	Programs		

Passarelli
8/4
Nelligan
8/7

Region Five
421 Walnut Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

August 4, 1959

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Morristown National Historical Park
From: Regional Director
Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part II - Wick House

In our memorandum of June 30 (last paragraph) we suggested that the Park Historian obtain more definite information about the terrace of the Wick House. Has any progress been made on this; if so, we would appreciate a copy of the historian's report.

(Sgd.) Daniel J. Tobin

Daniel J. Tobin
Regional Director

In duplicate

CPassarelli/MHN/cp

General ✓
Daily
Area

Region Five
421 Walnut Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

June 30, 1959

Nellygo
6/30

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Morristown National Historical Park
From: Regional Director
Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part II - Wick House

This is in reply to your memorandum of June 22.

After discussing the question of the terrace with Architect Wistar, we have arrived at the following understanding as to how it can best be handled, which we trust will be agreeable to you:

The terrace will not be removed as part of the rehabilitation of the Wick House proper, except as may be necessary to rehabilitate the foundation. Stones removed will be replaced so as to correct tipping, etc., due to frost and erosion; at the same time, Mr. Wistar will recommend such measures as he thinks are advisable to provide a safe walk across the terrace to the door.

In the meantime, we suggest that the Park Historian seek to obtain more definite information about the terrace - its authenticity, particularly, and its restoration by Architect Tom Waterman, than is presently available in either the Historical Data Section of the survey report or your memorandum.

(Sgd.) Daniel J. Tobin

Daniel J. Tobin
Regional Director

In duplicate

Copy to: Chief, HODG

MHNelligan/mm
General
Daily
Area



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H30

Morristown National Historical Park
Morristown, New Jersey

June 22, 1959

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Five

From: Superintendent, Morristown NHP

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part II - Wick House

Reference is made to Mr. Palmer's June 19 memorandum, commenting on Mr. Wistar's report which we have not as yet seen.

We agree with Mr. Wistar that the cobblestone terrace between the house and the well be removed, and the area be repaved. We do not believe that sufficient historical justification for its retention as part of the 18th-century scene can be found in Mr. Baker's archeological report of 1934, for this terrace could have been laid at any time between 1750 and the early 20th century. Moreover, the existing terrace is largely if not completely a reconstruction, dating from CCC days and after.

To us, the most important objection to the retention of this terrace is from the standpoint of visitor safety. No serious accidents have yet occurred, but the smooth rounded stones and the crevices between them are a constant hazard, in fair weather as well as under wet or icy conditions. Since this terrace is not a vital or necessary part of the historic scene, and is of questionable authenticity, we believe strongly that nothing would be lost by its removal and much would be gained from a safety standpoint.

Francis S. Ronalds
Francis S. Ronalds
Superintendent

In duplicate

Copy to: Director
Chief, EODC

Info	OPERATIONS	Act	Initial and Date
✓	Lands		
✓	Engineer		
✓	Architect		
✓	Land Archt		
✓	Programs		

REGION FIVE		INITIAL AND DATE
JUN 24 1959		
REG. DIRECTOR		
ASST. DIR.:		
ADMIN.		
OPERATIONS		
INTELLIGENCE		
ADM.		
REC. RES. PLAN		
RANGER ACT'S		



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

June 22, 1959

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H30-DCA

REGION FIVE		INITIAL AND DATE
JUN 23 1959		
☒	REG. DIRECTOR	
☒	ASS. REG. DIR.	
☒	OPERATING	
☒	INTER. STAFF	
☒	AD. A.	
☒	PL. RES. PLAN	
☒	RANGER ACT'S	

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Five

From: Acting Chief Architect

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part II, Wick House,
Morristown National Historical Park

☒	Arch. Div.
☒	Nat. Hist.
☒	Archeo.
☒	Publ.
☒	Museum
☒	Secy.

The Historic Structures Report, Part II, Wick House,
Morristown National Historical Park, has been reviewed by the
interested Divisions in the Washington Office and is recommended
for approval.

Charles W. Lessig
Charles W. Lessig
Acting Chief Architect

Copy to: Chief, EODC (2)
Supt., Morristown

Info	OPERATIONS	Act	Initial and Date
	Lands		
	Engineer		
☒	Architect		RBL 6/25
	Land Archt.		
☒	Programs		JWL 6/25

Wm. H. Hagan
John H.

Region Five
421 Walnut Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

June 24, 1959

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Saratoga National Historical Park
From: Acting Regional Director
Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part II - Wick House,
Morristown NHP

By memorandum dated June 12 (copy attached) your office was inadvertently sent a copy of the above mentioned report. If you have not already done so, would you please forward the memorandum and report to Superintendent Francis Ronalds, Morristown National Historical Park.

(Sgd.) George A. Palmer

George A. Palmer
Acting Regional Director

In duplicate

Copy to: Director
Supt., Morristown
Chief, EODC

CPassarelli
General
Daily
Area

*note -
Passarelli forwarded
report Morristown
6/26/59*

Region Five
421 Walnut Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

June 19, 1959

Nelligan
6/19

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Morristown National Historical Park

From: Acting Regional Director

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part II - Wick House

This office concurs in the corrective measures recommended in this report, with one exception, that the cobblestone terrace between the house and well be removed, the ground regraded to a better slope away from the house, and the area repaved similarly to the bituminous and gravel path that leads from the parking area. As we read the quote from Historical Assistant Baker's archeological report of 1934, given on page 4 of the Archeological Data Section, Part I of the report, the present paving is possibly original; if so, of course it should not be disturbed until further study and administrative decision.

Otherwise, we are pleased to recommend approval of Mr. Wistar's report, which, incidentally, is in our opinion a clear, well-organized and readable presentation for which he is to be commended.

(Sgd.) George A. Palmer
George A. Palmer
Acting Regional Director

In duplicate

Copy to: Director
Chief, EODC
Operations Division

MHNelligan/cp
General
Daily
Area

6/12/59

Morristown - Wick House - HSR, Part II

ARCHITECTURAL DATA SECTION

Interpretation

✓	History
	Nat. His.
✓	Archaeol.
	Publ.
	Museum
	Sec'y.
✓	Dr. Veltigan

Looks sound. I agree.

6/16 Nihil obstat

6/19

Operations

6/17/59

6-22

Info	OPERATIONS	Act	Initial and Date
	Lands		
	Eng. 2-1		
	Architect	✓	
	Land Archt Programs		

Assistant Regional Director

6/18

I would approve report for

TI on p. 5 concerning archaeological survey.
If this is original as indicated in Part I
then laying work needs further study.
Regional Director

not anticipated in file survey.

Good

See p. 4 Part I.

Region Five
421 Walnut Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

June 12, 1959

Valley
6/12

Memorandum

To: Director

From: Acting Regional Director

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part II - Wick House,
Morristown NHP

Attached for your review are two copies of the Architectural Data Section, Part II, Historic Structures Report for the Wick House, Morristown, prepared by Architect Tom Wistar.

As you will note in the memorandum of June 11 from Chief, EODC (copy of which you have received), it is hoped that this project can be started this fiscal year. Therefore, we are submitting this section of the report without the Administrative Data and Historical Data Sections which normally would accompany it - on the understanding that the Park Superintendent and Park Historian will, without delay, supply the offices concerned with any adverse comments or alternative proposals they may wish to have considered along with the report. We also suggest waiving the drawings requirement set forth in Section 303.1 of the NPS Building Construction Handbook. We trust this arrangement will be satisfactory.

The report should be reviewed by no later than June 23, 1959.

(Sgd.) George A. Palmer

George A. Palmer
Acting Regional Director

In duplicate

Attachments 2

Copy to: Supt., Saratoga, w/copy of report
Chief, EODC

MHNelligan/cp

General
Daily
Area
Operations Division



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Eastern Office
Division of Design and Construction
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

June 11, 1959

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H2623 H B O Mon

REGION FIVE		INITIAL AND DATE
JUN 12 1959		
REG. DIRECTOR		
ASST. REG DIR		
OPERATIONS		
✓ INTERPRETATION		
ADM.		
REC RES. PLAN		
RANGER ACT'S		

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Five

From: Chief, EODC

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part II - Rehabilitation of the Wick House

Attached are four copies of the Architectural Data Section of the subject report as prepared by Architect Wistar for review and distribution.

Because of the proximity of the end of the fiscal year it is hoped that the necessary approvals of this report may be obtained quickly and that the project may be allowed to commence on the basis of the recommendations contained therein. As this project involves rehabilitation and repair and does not include any restoration or alteration, we conclude that the submission of working drawings is not required.

We hope that the project can be accomplished by day labor and purchase order.

By copy of this memorandum we suggest that an immediate search be instituted by the Superintendent for the procurement of suitable old hard fired brick for the rebuilding of the chimney and obtaining the proper kind of heart oak weatherboard for the east wall siding.

Edward S. Zimmer
Edward S. Zimmer
Chief

Attachments 4

Copy to: Superintendent, Morristown NHP
Chief of D & C - 2

R. S. C. M.

HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT
ARCHITECTURAL DATA SECTION PART II

Preliminary to the Rehabilitation of

THE WICK HOUSE

Morristown National Historical Park
Jockey Hollow, Morristown, N. J.

by

Thomas Winter, Jr. Architect

June, 1959

RECOMMENDED

Charles R. P. ...

Supervising Architect, Historic Structures

June 11, 59

Date

Edward S. Zimmer
Chief, BOD

6-11-59

Date

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III. PHOTOGRAPH (Jack E. Boucher, 1959)

facing Page 2.

View of East End of House

FOREWORD

The Wick House, dating from about 1750, like most old structures has undergone a considerable number of alterations in the course of the past two centuries. These changes involved, at one time or another, the elimination of the fireplaces in the two south rooms, rebuilding the chimney, moving the attic stairs, changing partitions, adding windows, relocating doors and replacing siding.

After its acquisition by the National Park Service, the house was painstakingly restored in 1935 to what is considered to have been its state during the time of the encampment of the Continental Army in Jockey Hollow near Morristown, New Jersey in the winters of 1777 to 1781. The research and construction for this restoration was under the direct supervision of Park Service architect, Thomas T. Waterman.

For further exposition of the historic background and architectural development of this house, the reader is referred to the Historic Buildings Report prepared by Park Historian Walter E. Hugins, dated September 20, 1958, to which this report is intended to be supplemental.

Since the preparation of the Hugins report a thorough architectural investigation of the present condition of the house's fabric, as recommended therein, has been made by this writer. There follows a detailed description of the findings of this investigation and recommendations for its proper rehabilitation.

I. PRESENT CONDITION OF STRUCTURE AND FABRIC

Because this building had undergone a thorough restoration and rehabilitation in comparatively recent years its structure and fabric is in basically good condition today. Little more than the original frame of the house survived this restoration of some 25 years ago.

1. Foundation Walls: The stone foundation walls are in good condition with the exception of the eastern end of the north wall where the cellar is located. Here the hydrostatic pressure in the ground has pushed this retaining wall in, near its bottom, to the extent where the wall has cracked at the mortar joints and some of the stones have begun to fall in. This portion should be rebuilt.

2. Frame: The extent of damage to this house caused by powder-post beetles or termites was a principle cause of concern. However, after a thorough checking of all parts of the structure, the writer could find only one framing member that showed damage from this source to a dangerous degree. This condition was found in a floor-beam joist in the west end of the structure, the third joist in from the south wall. Some of the timbers show evidence of past infestation, but treating with an insecticide solution is believed to have exterminated the pests and the extent of damage is negligible--certainly not to the point of effecting the strength of the timber.





R7

—

Incipient dry rot is present in a few of the floor beams but not to the extent of requiring replacement. The sill timbers of the house were found to be sound. These seem to be replacements at the time of the 1935 restoration.

The entire frame of the structure, which is believed to be original, including both floors, walls and roof members appear to be generally sound, with the exception of a girt in the east attic wall, and the headers and rafters about the chimney which have rotted, due to the absence of any effective flashing.

3. Exterior: The large shingles on the roof are in good condition and excepting for a shingle here and there do not need replacement at this time. The clapboards on the north and west walls and the shingle on the south wall also do not need attention. The siding on the east end wall, however, is in need of repair and should be entirely replaced. This wall, in spite of continual patching, is in poor condition. This is partly due to the fact that it is subjected to a frequent quick drying process by the morning sun and partly due to the fact that the new oak clapboards used in the patching were not sufficiently weathered and have shrunk and opened up at the lapped joints. The condition of this wall is shown in the accompanying photograph.

Doors, shutters and windows do not need replacement excepting the attic window sashes and sills.

4. Chimney: The chimney, which has undergone several rebuildings, is in a generally deteriorated condition. According to Waterman, in the last rebuilding (1935) the old brick--some of which anti-dates the rebuilding of the mid-nineteenth century was reused, supplemented by nineteenth century brick from the Thompson House in the Park. This brick is the light pink soft variety and has crumbled and eroded badly. Above the roof the chimney has been patched with darker brick.

5. Interior: The floorboards of the first floor, with the exception of a section in the northeast room and south entrance hall, are all replacements of the 1935 restoration. These are old wide oak floorboards. Though considerably worn in spots, the writer feels they should be kept, as their equivalent would be hard to find these days. Their bearing quality is unimpaired and they are protected from further wear by rubber mat runners where the visitors walk. The attic floor boards, which form the first floor ceiling, do not need replacing.

The horizontal board sheathing on the inside of the exterior walls, for the most part, belong to the 1935 restoration and are in excellent condition. The interior partitions are constructed of very wide vertical boards and belong to the 1935 restoration. Two or three of these boards are defective with knotholes missing and occasional insect eaten areas but again are not affected to an extent to justify replacement. Their equivalent would be extremely hard to find today.

II. RECOMMENDATIONS

In drawing up the following recommendations for the rehabilitation of this old house the writer has kept in mind the wise maxim that the preservation of as much of the old fabric as is reasonably possible is paramount to a proper rehabilitation or a restoration. He is aware that no part of this house other than its framing is in its original state and that it underwent a major restoration 25 years ago, which could be more properly called a reconstruction. However, the replacements were so carefully selected that it would be difficult to match them today. He, therefore, emphasizes repair or stabilization rather than replacement or reconstruction.

However, in certain cases the present deterioration process cannot be arrested by patching or repair, and it is therefore recommended that the following parts of the building be replaced:

1. Repair to Foundation Walls and Gravel-space Area:

The north wall of the cellar under the east end of the house will have to be rebuilt. The area above the loose stones must be taken down but leaving the supporting corner of the house at the east end. This wall should be relaid--using the same stone and be parged on its outside face with waterproof cement and given a coat below grade of bituminous emulsion. An open type tile drain should be laid along the outside of the wall at a level just below the cellar floor level to pitch toward a tile drain which will drain into the present wall hole which stands some twelve feet outside the north door.

The area next to the cellar wall should be backfilled with sand. A brick apron, two brick lengths in width, should run along this wall from the doorway and should pitch to drain to the outside corner to take care of the surface drainage. The present grade does not slope away from the north side of the house.

In the opinion of the writer the very rough laid boulders which cover the area north of the house between the house wall and the wall-head and which is not original presents a serious hazard to the visitors to walk on. This condition should be rectified. Where these boulders have been removed preparatory to rebuilding the above mentioned wall and in the line of travel for visitors entering the house, the stones should be replaced with the same bituminous base and gravel path which now leads from the parking area to the north doorway of the house. The area should all be regraded to slope away from the house.

*Take
up
road.*

The recently cut opening in the wall dividing the cellar from the crawl space should be deepened to provide more ready access to the crawl space and additional earth should be removed from this unexcavated part to achieve a thirty inch crawl clearance below the floor beams throughout. Care should be taken, however, not to excavate below exterior walls and chimney foundation. Here the earth should be hatched up to the present level.

The third floor beam in from the south wall under the south-east room is partly with dry rot and past insect infestation. This member should have a 2" x 8" joist placed along each side, notched at their ends to bear on ledger blocks spiked to the sides of the house sill at one end and to a summer beam at the other end.

The house sills and joist ends on all exterior walls should be pointed on this inside face with creosote.

2. Rebuild Chimney:

The chimney should be taken down to a level three brick courses below the lowest juncture with the shingle roof and replace with harder-fired old brick. Concealed copper flashing should be built in. The unused flues should be capped with slate at their tops. A smoke test should be made on the lower portions of the chimney and any holes filled. A lag cement wash should be troweled on top of the chimney.

3. Inside East Wall:

The present oak siding should be removed from the entire east wall and replaced with new heart oak siding of the same width but of sufficient length to reduce the number of end joints to a minimum. It is imperative that the new wood siding be sufficiently weathered or kiln-dried so as not to shrink or curl and split when drying. The building paper in back of the siding boards should be removed and not replaced as this moisture barrier tends to hold the dampness on the back face of the boards while the exterior face is dried out. This aggravates the damaging effects of the drying process. These

boards should be dipped for 3 minutes in a 5% penta solution stain to match the existing siding on the other faces of the house before erection. Any studs on this wall which show signs of rot should be replaced and all should be painted with creosote or penta chlorophenol.

4. Preservation and Maintenance:

Once a year--preferably in May or early June--all the main framing members including house sill, floor beams, roof plate, and rafters should be treated with a 5% oil solution of pentachlorophenol brushed on or sprayed. This is a wood preservative as well as an insecticide. 1/4 inch diameter holes should be drilled into the center of the wood members, in the collar and crawl space and attic where infestation is indicated. These holes should be located especially near the sources of possible moisture such as sills and ends of floor joists mortised into them under the first floor. Fill these holes with the solution by means of a hand pressure oiler that has a long flexible stem. Plug these holes after filling. For powder-post beetle control where brush application is preferred a chlorinated hydrocarbon type of insecticide, such as a 2% chlordane solution, in a base of a refined kerosene oil is most effective. The refined kerosenes will penetrate the wood better.

If the presence of termite infestation is suspected in the region of the house preventive measures should be taken

at this time. A 12 inch deep trench 6 inches wide should be dug immediately next to the foundation walls around the entire house and apply a 1% chloridene water emulsion at the rate of 2 gallons to 5 linear feet of trench. These types of water emulsion are non-toxic to plants and should not effect their growth. On the inside of the exterior walls and around the central chimney foundation the earth should be given a soaking of the same water emulsion. This treatment of the soil should be effective for a period of five years.

To combat dampness in the crawl space lay down over the entire area a layer of smooth, surfaced roll roofing paper weighing at least 55 lbs. per 108 sq. ft. If this is done the ventilator openings in the crawl space and cellar can be kept closed in winter. They should be kept open, however, during the rest of the year to provide maximum ventilation.

The surface of all unpainted exterior wood, including wall siding and staked and roof shingles, should be given an application of pentachlorophenol and boiled linseed oil and all painted exterior surfaces should be repainted, once every five years. This should be done at this time.

It is estimated that the rehabilitation to the Wick House as outlined herein can be accomplished within the construction funds programmed of \$8,350.00.