

MORR 074
CRBIB W 010468
337/135486

HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT-PART I

WICK HOUSE

MORRISTOWN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

Prepared By

Bruce W. Stewart
Park Historian

August 15, 1962



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

IN REPLY REFER TO:
H30-DCA

DEC 11 1962

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Northeast

From: Acting Assistant Director, Design and Construction

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part I, Wick House,
Morristown

The interested Divisions have reviewed the subject report and concur with your recommendation and with your provisos in respect to the placement of a telephone and the amount, type, and location of lighting. You may record my approval as of this date.

John A. Reshoff
John A. Reshoff

cc:
Chief, EODC (2)
Superintendent, Morristown

REGION FIVE		Initial and Date
Reg. Director		
Asst. to RD(PA)		
Program Coord.		
Asst. Reg. Dir-Adm		
Finance & Prop.		
Land & Water		
Personnel		
Asst. Reg. Dir-En		
History & Archaeology		
Natural History		
Oper. & Maint.		
Ranger Services		
Asst. Reg. Dir-Rp		
Co-op Services		
NP & Rec. Area		
Rec. Res. Surveys		

Mark Long

H30

Northeast Region
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

November 28, 1962

Nelly
11/21

Memorandum

To: Director
Assistant
From: Regional Director
Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part I, Wick House,
Morristown

Enclosed is a copy of the subject report which inadvertently was
not transmitted with our memorandum of October 29.

J. Carlisle Crouch

Assistant Regional Director

Enclosure

cc:
Chief, EDC
Supt., Morristown

MHJelligan: jy

✓ General
Daily
Area

Northeast Region
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

M30

October 29, 1962

Kelly
10/29

Memorandum

To: Director

From: Regional Director

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part I, Wick House, Morristown

This report, which recommends introduction of electricity and telephone service into the Wick House, in Jockey Hollow, Morristown National Historical Park, has been recommended for approval by the EODC, by memorandum dated September 24. This office, too, recommends that it be approved.

Installation of a telephone in an inconspicuous, but convenient location is not expected to present any technical difficulties, other than taking it underground an appropriate distance from the Wick House.

However, the amount, type, and location of the lighting required is obviously a technical matter which should be carefully studied. For this reason, we should like to request the assistance of the Museum Branch in working out a suitable lighting scheme with the EODC, the assistance of which we are also requesting in a separate memorandum, this date.

(Sgd.) Ronald F. Leq

Regional Director

cc:
Chief, EODC
Supt., Morristown
MHNelligan:ftc
General
Daily
Area

Historic Structures Report, Part I

Wick House, Morristown

Assistant Regional Director (CIU)

9/7/62

History & Archeo.

✓	History
	Nat. His.
✓	Archeo.
	Pub.
	Museum
	Sec'y.

Is not very specific as to lighting arrangements.
I have never had difficulty in adjusting to the interior light.
I doubt whether candles were used much during daytime.
I think we should keep the natural effect.

No mention is made of the relationship of the Wick home to the other farm features - barns, sheds, well, garden, walks, etc, nor to the natural terrain & its features - the roads, trees, etc. J.C.

Savage

Operations & Maintenance

~~Next action~~

~~Select~~ 9/18

E. Cronch

~~Return~~ 9-20

no mention of surroundings of structure, historical lanes, gardens, facades, type of materials used in walks, roads, fences, garden & planting. Believe any lighting installed should be placed so that the visitor will be unaware of its coming from an electrical source - examples a glow from the fireplace, soft light coming from the windows - Until lights are installed wonder if guides have tried using the large flashlight for experimental purposes?

Lighting (interior) should be installed as poor as possible. The transition from sunlight to darkness is confusing and causes constant comment. There are devices and subtle ways of doing this. Weather heating for the guard should also be installed.

Popkins
10/8

MR - Provides for: light (elect.)

heat (elect.)

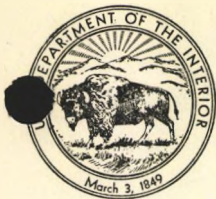
cleaning (elect.)

for detection (elect.)

telephone - no indication

Dr. Kellogg

no mention of chimney - should be visible (a design)
Recommend OK of Pt I, Pgs of Pt II & EODC
(Museum Bldg?)



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

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H30-H

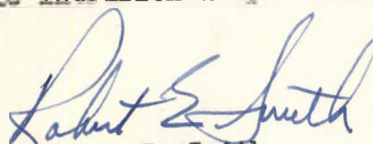
September 24, 1962

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Northeast Region
From: Chief Architect, EODC
Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part I, Wick House, Morristown

The subject report has been reviewed by the interested personnel of this office and was recommended for approval by Mr. Hall, Chief, EODC, this date.

Careful study should be given to the location of lighting fixtures and wiring so they will present as little intrusion as possible.


Robert E. Smith
Chief Architect

Copy to: Assistant Director, Design and Construction
Superintendent, Morristown

REGION FIVE		Initial and Date
SEP 26 1962		
Reg. Director		
Asst. to RD(PA)		
Program Coord.		
Asst. Reg. Dir-Adm		
Finance & Prop.		
Lands & Water		
Personnel		
Asst. Reg. Dir-Cu		
Asst. Reg. Dir-Cu	HHN	
Natural History		
Oper. & Maint.		
Ranger Services		
Asst. Reg. Dir-Rp		
Co-op Services		
MP & Rec. Area		
Rec. Res. Surveys		

Passarelli
8/28
Willy
8/28

Northeast Region
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

M30

August 28, 1962

Memorandum

To: Chief, EDC
From: Assistant Regional Director
Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part I, Wick House,
Morristown

Enclosed for your review is a copy of the subject report. May we have your comments at your earliest convenience.

(Sgd) L. Carlisle Crouch

Assistant Regional Director

In duplicate

Enclosure

CPassarelli

General
Daily
Area
Programs



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

August 16, 1962

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H-30

REGION FIVE		Initial and Date
AUG 20 1962		
Reg. Director		
Asst. to RD(PA)		
Program Coord.		
Asst. Reg. Dir-Adm		
Finance & Prop.		
Lands & Water		
Personnel		
Asst. Reg. Dir-En		
History & Arch.	8/28	
Natural History		
Oper. & Maint.		
Ranger Services		
Asst. Reg. Dir-Rp		
Co-op Services		
NP & Rec. Area		
Rec. Res. Surveys		

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Northeast Region

From: Superintendent, Morristown NHP

Subject: Historic Structures Report - Part I - Wick House

As requested in your memorandum of July 23, 1962, we are submitting four copies of the above report.

We have included our recommendation for bringing electricity and telephone service into the house. Please expedite.

Francis S. Ronalds
Francis S. Ronalds
Superintendent

Encl.

Northeast Region
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

H30

July 23, 1962

Kelly
7/20
Vigors
7/20
~~Dianna~~
7/20/6
Chris
7/24

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Morristown

From: *Acting* Regional Director

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part I, Wick House

In response to your memorandum of ^{*}July 17 regarding provision of electricity at the Wick House, this is to advise that an Historic Structures Report, Part I, should be prepared for this project. It should consist of the usual sections, including a museum section. The historical data section need be little more than a brief summary of the structure; but it and the museum section, as well as the administrative data section, should contain recommendations on bringing electricity to or into the house for cleaning equipment, and minor heating and lighting.

We advise this procedure because the Wick House is one of the Service's outstanding restorations, providing heat and lighting in historic houses is somewhat technical and because rebuilding the central chimney is scheduled by the EODC.

The funding, etc. of the power line, mentioned in your memorandum of July 17, will be the subject of a separate memorandum.

(Sgd) J. Carlisle Crouch

* Filed under D-22

Acting Regional Director

In duplicate

Copy to: Director
Chief, EODC

MHNElligan/cp
General
Daily
Area
Programs
Mr. Barnes

Chas
7/23

Northeast Region
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

DEE

July 23, 1962

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Norristown

From: Regional Director

Subject: Power Line Extension - Wick House

Please refer to inquiry contained in last paragraph of your memorandum of July 17 regarding the availability of 1962 PT construction funds to finance power line extensions at the Wick House Area. The power line and the telephone line extensions are considered as service connection charges and do not qualify for inclusion in the construction program.

Your memorandum of May 22 on the same subject indicates that the cost to be borne by the Government in connection with this project was to be financed from R&H funds. Our memorandum of June 14 concurred with this method of financing.

Regional Director

In duplicate

Copy to: Chief, R&H

General
Daily
Area
Programs

REURON:ash



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

IN REPLY REFER TO:

July 17, 1962

D22

REGION FIVE		Initial And Date
JUL 18 1962		
Mr. Director		
Mr. Assistant Director		
Mr. Chief of Office		
Mr. Deputy Chief of Office		
Mr. Executive Secretary		
Mr. General Counsel		
Mr. Inspector		
Mr. Maintenance		
Mr. Planning		
Mr. Recreation		
Mr. Research		
Mr. Safety		
Mr. Training		
Mr. Transportation		
Mr. Visitor Services		
Mr. Wildlife		
Mr. Miscellaneous		

[Handwritten signature: J. B. ...]

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Northeast Region

From: Superintendent, Morristown NHP

Subject: Power Line Extension - Wick House

Mr. Neabauer stated that Assistant Regional Director Crouch has requested further information regarding electrical wiring in the Wick House.

Floor plan showing location of electrical outlets

We are attaching a copy of the floor plan, showing our tentative locations. Secondary wires entering and meter installed on the east side of the house. Rmex and electrical tubing for the distribution system in the attic with thin-wall conduit and wall receptacles at six locations as marked in the plan. Outlets to be approximately 5 1/2 ft. from the floor.

Type of light or receptacles

Wall light with plug-in canopy similar to "Swivelier" Duo-Light Cat. #7101, data sheet attached.

Identification of uses

For the operation of cleaning equipment, electric heaters and subdued lighting.

Management plan of use within the house

The electric energy is to be confined strictly to the above listed uses. Under no circumstances may electricity be used for coffee making or similar personal conveniences.

Upon advice from the Power Company as to construction costs for the power line, may we investigate the possibility of a lump sum payment for the costs, together with an estimate for the wiring and lighting installation, and submit a revised PCP in lieu of #U-23-17. Would 1963 FY construction funds be available for immediate obligation? Please advise.

[Handwritten signature: Francis B. Ronalds]
Francis B. Ronalds
Superintendent

Attachment

APPROVAL SHEET

RECOMMENDED

/s/ Francis S. Ronalds
Superintendent

Date August 15, 1962

S/A Robert E. Smith
Chief, RDC

Date 9-24-62

Ronald F. Lee
Regional Director

Date 10/26/62

APPROVED

Director

Date _____

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1. Administrative Data

a. Name and number of building:

Wick House - Building #23

b. Proposed use and justification:

This historic house was restored and furnished by the National Park Service in 1935, and is second only to the Ford Mansion in historical significance in the Park. A typical 18th-century farmhouse, it was associated with the 1777, 1779-80 and 1780-81 encampments of the Continental Army, and has long served as a popular and effective historic house museum.

c. Provision for operating the house:

The house is completely furnished in period and will continue to be operated, as in the past, by appropriated funds.

d. Rehabilitation costs:

Original valuation of the house	\$2500
Rehabilitation costs - 1934	12500
Rehabilitation costs - 1960	<u>4751</u>
Present valuation General Ledger	\$19,751
Account 100.6	

e. Electricity and telephone service should be extended to the Wick House for the following reasons:

Visitor protection

Fire protection

Employee protection

Operation of cleaning equipment

Heating during the winter months

What follows is a summation of the Historic Buildings Report done by Historian Walter Hugins, dated September 20, 1958. For further information on the historical, architectural, and archeological data, see this report as well as the "Report on the Restoration of the Wick House" by Thomas T. Waterman, undated, (1937?) pp. 3-20.

2. Historical Data

The Wick House was built about 1750 by Henry Wick, a farmer from Suffolk County, Long Island. During the winter of 1777 the house served as quarters for several invalided Continental Army officers¹. When the army returned to Morristown in December, 1779, the two brigades of the Pennsylvania Line encamped on portions of the land belonging to the Wick farm. Their commander, Major General Arthur St. Clair, used the house as his quarters. The Pennsylvania troops returned the following winter, but encamped on another site. The mutiny of the Pennsylvania Line on January 1, 1781 occurred close enough to the Wick House, however, to account for the Tempe Wick story.

Henry Wick died in December, 1780 willing the property to his wife, Mary Cooper Wick. Upon her death in 1787 the homestead went to her youngest daughter Tempe, and remained in the ownership of Wick descendants until 1871². No significant description of the house has been found in any eighteenth-century documentary source, so physical knowledge of the structure is based upon archeological and architectural data.

¹Journal of Joseph Bloomfield, Jan. 19, Feb. 13, May 14, 23, 26, 1777, Morristown National Historical Park

²History of the First Presbyterian Church, Morristown, N.J., Part 11: The Combined Registers. 1742-1885 (Morristown, 1885), 258-59. Wills of Henry Wick, Jan 26, 1771, and Mary Wick, Mar. 13, 1786 (Morris County Wills, 11b. 22 (1781), p.239; and B-144). Tempe Wick Tuttle's daughter Mary C. Blackly sold the property to Mason Loomis by deed of July 1, 1781 (Morris County Deeds, D-8-1).

Electricity in the Wick House would permit greater provision to be made for visitor safety. As it is today, the visitor coming from the bright sunlight into the kitchen is almost blinded. He must stand until his eyes become adjusted to the light coming through the open door and window. The furniture and kitchen utensils placed about the room present a hazard for walking. In both the bedroom and dining room, inadequate light also presents a potential danger. *is here*

Electricity would permit greater provision to be made for the safety of the house itself. A hidden telephone could be used to summon help in case of fire, or other emergency. In addition, a fire alarm system could protect the house when it was closed and no employees were present.

3. Architectural Data

Prior to its restoration in 1934, the Wick House had the appearance of a story and a half cape cod cottage. Restoration began with the stripping of all modern materials, leaving the frame entirely exposed. The framing of the front wall indicated that fenestration and type of wall covering was not original. The central door had not been changed in position, but had been heightened as the old gains for the head piece showed the original height of the door.

All the studs, posts and braces across the front were found to be notched out to receive battens, indicating that the wall had originally been shingled. The framing also revealed the fenestration of the other three walls of the house. The kitchen door was unchanged in location and size, the door frame being modern but the door itself very old. No changes

had been made in the roof framing, although the aperture framed for the chimney suggested that it once had been larger. An examination of the ceiling indicated that the timbers had once been exposed, so all plaster was removed. All the inside partitions were found to be new. The chimney had been rebuilt in the nineteenth century.

For the most part the exterior restoration of the Wick House was guided by explicit evidence. A piece of old oak weatherboard found in the house served as a model for the restoration of the walls. Old sash was used at the windows whenever possible, or used as a pattern for new sash. Most of the old shutters were reusable. The exterior walls were not painted. In regard to the interior restoration, it seemed unlikely that the walls were originally plastered, so the wall treatment of the rear rooms was followed throughout. The outside walls were sheathed horizontally and the partitions were constructed of vertical boards. The entry doors in the rooms were fixed by the plan of the entry itself. The woodwork in the front rooms was painted with iron-oxide paint. No work was done in the two kitchen chambers except the clearing off of later coverings from the sheathing, and repairing it and installing new sash frames and trim. Sheathing had to be replaced on the east wall of the kitchen chamber.

The modern stair in the kitchen was removed, showing the old sheathing of the old stair, only the header of the wall remained, showing the original location. There was no information as to the actual stair detail. It was rebuilt as simply as possible.

The original chimney had been replaced in the middle of the nineteenth century. It was known from the smoked ceilings of the front rooms that they had once had fireplaces. With the evidence found in an examination of the base of the chimney, and with the precedent of other houses of this type, the chimney was ^{As brick & contemporary} rebuilt using old brick whenever possible. The fireplaces were restored with only a simple trim, with no mantel shelf, as was characteristic of the period.

Sheathed and battened doors were used throughout. They were hung on jamb studs that extend from the floor to the ceiling timbers. The original flooring in the house had largely been replaced by modern. It was replaced, whenever possible, by flooring from old houses nearby.

During the succeeding two decades repairs have been made to the house as needed, including the partial replacement of the siding on the east wall and a rebuilding of the chimney. (w/modern high - ms)

Without lighting the interior floors, walls, fireplaces, etc. are dimly seen by the visitor. Only with difficulty can he grasp the true size and layout of the rooms. Electricity would also lessen the difficult job of keeping the interior of the house clean.

4. Archeological Data

One archeological investigation was made in 1933-34. Trenches were dug around the existing foundations. What had probably been the front stoop was uncovered underneath the steps. In the rear of the house a large stone floor was found extending away from the house to the west for a distance of eighteen feet. Walter Hugin's report of September 19, 1958 states that further investigation would not be warranted by the findings in and around the house.

5. Furnishing and Exhibition Data

The Wick House is completely furnished as a typical farmhouse of the colonial period. Its interior reflects the day to day life of a prosperous farmer of the eighteenth century. As an interpretive device, the Wick House is outstanding. Without some minor lighting, however, much of its effect is lost. The authentic period furniture, the cooking utensils, etc., cannot be seen to best advantage. Originally the house was not shrouded in darkness, as some light would come from candles and the fireplaces. One subdued light in each room would make both the house and its exhibits "come alive" to the visitor.

HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT-PART I

WICK HOUSE

HOMEDTOWN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

Prepared By

Bruce W. Stewart
Park Historian

August 15, 1962

Name of Area Horriestown National Historical Park

Prepared by Bruce H. Stegert

Date August 15, 1962

HOW TO USE

EASTERN OFFICE, DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

Architects

Date _____

Engineer _____

Date _____

Landscape Arch.

Date: _____

NATIONAL OFFICE

Interpretation:

Date _____

Operations

Late 1930s

RECOMMENDED

Francis S. Ronalds
Superintendent

Date August 15, 1962

Chief, NODC

Date _____

Regional Director

Date _____

Chief of Design and Construction

Date _____

APPROVED

Director

1986

1. Administrative Data

a. Name and number of building:

Wick House - Building #23

b. Proposed use and justification:

This historic house was restored and furnished by the National Park Service in 1935, and is second only to the Ford Mansion in historical significance in the Park. A typical 18th-century farmhouse, it was associated with the 1777, 1779-80 and 1780-81 encampments of the Continental Army, and has long served as a popular and effective historic house museum.

c. Provision for operating the house:

The house is completely furnished in period and will continue to be operated, as in the past, by appropriated funds.

d. Rehabilitation costs:

Original valuation of the house	\$2500
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Rehabilitation costs - 1960	<u>4751</u>
Present valuation General Ledger	\$39,751
Account 100.6	

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²History of the First Presbyterian Church, Morristown, N.J., Part 11: The Combined Registers, 1742-1832 (Morristown, 1935), 233-39. Wills of Henry Wick, Jan 26, 1771, and Mary Wick, Mar. 13, 1786 (Morris County Wills, Lib. 22 (1781), p.239; and B-144). Seape Wick Tuttle's daughter Mary C. Blackly sold the property to Mason Lewis by deed of July 1, 1781 (Morris County Deeds, B-3-1).

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had been made in the roof framing, although the aperture framed for the chimney suggested that it once had been larger. An examination of the ceiling indicated that the timbers had once been exposed, so all plaster was removed. All the inside partitions were found to be new. The chimney had been rebuilt in the nineteenth century.

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The modern stair in the kitchen was removed, showing the old sheathing of the old stair, only the header of the well remained, showing the original location. There was no information as to the actual stair detail. It was rebuilt as simply as possible.

The original chimney had been replaced in the middle of the nineteenth century. It was known from the sooted ceilings of the front rooms that they had once had fireplaces. With the evidence found in an examination of the base of the chimney, and with the precedent of other houses of this type, the chimney was rebuilt using old brick whenever possible. The fireplaces were restored with only a simple trim, with no mantel shelf, as was characteristic of the period.

Sheathed and battened doors were used throughout. They were hung on jamb studs that extend from the floor to the ceiling timbers. The original flooring in the house had largely been replaced by modern. It was replaced, whenever possible, by flooring from old houses nearby.

During the succeeding two decades repairs have been made to the house as needed, including the partial replacement of the siding on the east wall and a rebuilding of the chimney.

Without lighting the interior floors, walls, fireplaces, etc. are dimly seen by the visitor. Only with difficulty can he grasp the true size and layout of the rooms. Electricity would also lessen the difficult job of keeping the interior of the house clean.

4. Archaeological Data

Our archaeological investigation was made in 1933-34. Trenches were dug around the existing foundations. What had probably been the front stoop was uncovered underneath the steps. In the rear of the house a large stone floor was found extending away from the house to the west for a distance of eighteen feet. Walter Hugin's report of September 19, 1938 states that further investigation would not be warranted by the findings in and around the house.

9. Furnishing and Exhibition Data

The Wick House is completely furnished as a typical farmhouse of the colonial period. Its interior reflects the day to day life of a prosperous farmer of the eighteenth century. As an interpretive device, the Wick House is outstanding. Without some minor lighting, however, much of its effect is lost. The authentic period furniture, the cooking utensils, etc., cannot be seen to best advantage. Originally the house was not shrouded in darkness, as some light would come from candles and the fireplaces. One subdued light in each room would make both the house and its exhibits "come alive" to the visitor.

Morristown National Historical Park
Morristown, New Jersey

September 19, 1958

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Five
From: Superintendent, Morristown NHP
Subject: Historic Structure Survey Report - Wick House

We attach 4 copies of the subject report, prepared by
Historian Hugins, for your review and distribution.

We are hopeful that a full-scale architectural investigation
of the Wick House can be scheduled by an EODC Architect in the very
near future, so that this rehabilitation project can get underway
this fall.

Francis S. Ronalds
Superintendent

In duplicate

Attachments (4)

HISTORIC BUILDINGS SURVEY REPORT

WICK HOUSE

MORRISTOWN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

Prepared by

Walter E. Hugins
Park Historian

September 20, 1958

MORRISTOWN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK
MORRISTOWN, NEW JERSEY

Name of Area

Prepared by

(SGD.) WALTER E. HUGINS

Date

SEP 19 1958

REVIEWED

EASTERN OFFICE, DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

Architect

Date

Engineer

Date

Landscape Arch.

Date

REGIONAL OFFICE

Interpretation

Date

Operations

Date

RECOMMENDED

(SGD.) FRANCIS S. RONALDS

Date

SEP 19 1958

Superintendent

Date

Chief, EODC

Date

Regional Director

Date

Chief of Design and Construction

APPROVED

Date

Director

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1. Administrative data

a. Name and number of building:

Wick House, Bldg. No. 23

b. Proposed use and justification:

This historic house was restored and furnished by the National Park Service in 1935, and is second only to the Ford Mansion in historical significance in the Park. A typical 18th-century farmhouse, it was associated with the 1777, 1779-80 and 1780-81 encampments of the Continental Army, and has long served as a popular and effective historic house museum. Rehabilitation of this structure has been approved as part of the MISSION 66 program of the Park.

c. Provisions for operating the house:

The house is completely furnished in period and will continue to be operated, as in the past, by appropriated funds.

d. Preliminary estimate of cost of rehabilitation:

The sum of \$10,000 has been programmed for rehabilitation in the current fiscal year.

2. Historical data

The Wick House was built about 1750 by Henry Wick, a farmer from Suffolk County, Long Island, who in 1748 had acquired a tract of 1,114 acres of land along the Passaic River in Morris County.¹ Known as Wick Hall in 1777, the house served as quarters for several invalided Continental Army officers during that winter.² When the Army returned to the Morristown area in 1779-80, encamping in Jockey Hollow, the two brigades of the Pennsylvania Line were assigned sites on the Wick farm, their commander, Maj. Gen. Arthur St. Clair, being quartered in the Wick House.³ The Pennsylvania troops returned the following winter, but encamped on another site; the mutiny which swept their ranks on January 1, 1781, was close enough to the Wick House, however, to account for the legend of Tempe Wick and her horse.⁴

¹By deed of May 31, 1746, from Joseph, Benjamin and John Rawle and William Cooper (Morris County Deeds, H-122), this tract was sold to Henry Wick "of the County of Suffolk in the Colony of New York" and his father-in-law Nathan Cooper of Morris County. Two years later, on August 10, 1748, Cooper deeded his interest to Henry Wick "of Morristown" (Morris County Deeds, B-142).

²Journal of Joseph Bloomfield, Jan. 19, Feb. 13, May 14, 23, 26, 1777; Bloomfield to Henry Wick "at Wick Hall," April 16, 1778; both in manuscript collection, Morristown National Historical Park.

³A house identified as "Weeks" is shown on two undated (ca. 1780) surveys by Robert Erskine (New-York Historical Society): No. 104B, Road from Morristown thro' Jockey Hollow, and No. 106A, Contraction in the Jerseys. The Rochefontaine map of January 16, 1780 (Library of Congress) identifies a building on this site as "Mjr Genl St Clair's Quarters."

⁴Gen. Anthony Wayne to Col. Thomas Craig, Nov. 15, 1780; Craig to Wayne, Nov. 20, 1780; Wayne Mss., Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Diary of Capt. Joseph McClellan, Pennsylvania Archives, Second Series,

Henry Wick died on December 21, 1780, a few days before the mutiny, willing his property to his wife Mary Cooper Wick. Upon her death in 1787, the property was divided among her children, the homestead going to her youngest daughter Tempe, and remaining in the ownership of Wick descendants until 1871.⁵ No description of the house has been found in any 18th-century documentary source, so physical knowledge of the structure must be based upon archeological and architectural data.

XI (1896), 612. Letters of Lieut. Enos Reeves, Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography, XXI (1897), 72-75. For the Tempe Wick story see Joseph F. Tuttle, "Washington in Morris County," Annals of Morris County (n.d. [1854?]), 58-59.

⁵History of the First Presbyterian Church, Morristown, N. J., Part II: The Combined Registers, 1742-1885 (Morristown, 1885), 258-59. Wills of Henry Wick, Jan. 26, 1771, and Mary Wick, March 13, 1786 (Morris County Wills, lib. 22 [1781], p. 239; and B-144). Tempe Wick Tuttle's daughter Mary C. Blachly sold the property to Mason Loomis by deed of July 1, 1871 (Morris County Deeds, D-8-1).

3. Archeological data

Following the establishment of Morristown National Historical Park in 1933, the National Park Service undertook the restoration of the Wick House. The first step was an archeological investigation of the house and surrounding area, performed by a CCC crew under the supervision of Historical Assistant Russell Baker. Trenches were dug around the existing foundation, which revealed that "the whole foundation was in a very poor state of preservation and finally resulted in complete new walls in several places." Baker's report stated further:

What probably was the front stoop was uncovered underneath the present steps. The steps themselves were constructed of brick - the comparatively soft and salmon colored type - but the main portion of the stoop was made of broken bricks and stones, packed and kept in order by an outside layer of bricks. About eighteen inches away from this central portion, but in conformity with its outline, was uncovered a row of stones. . . .

By far the most important find . . . was the large stone floor in the rear of the house. This extends away from the house to the west for a distance of eighteen feet and connects with the old well located there. It extends almost the entire length of the house but was undoubtedly broken into on the east end in order to make room for a modern drain which was laid there. . . .

While screening the soil in the basement, a small brick platform was uncovered. It was 33 inches long by 29 inches wide and was located in the northeast corner exactly 28 inches from each wall. . . . It was covered with about six inches of dirt. . . .⁶

This is the extent of the archeological findings in and around the house, and it is unlikely that further investigation would be fruitful.

⁶Russell Baker, "Report on Historical Investigations and Archeological Research at the Wick House," December 24, 1934, pp. 4-7.

4. Architectural data

Early in 1934 an architectural study was made of the Wick House by Architects Thomas T. Waterman and Daniel C. Jensen. Plans were drafted and a programme of restoration outlined, Drawing MOR-1035A (3 sheets), Wick House (Proposed Restoration), being approved by Director Arno B. Cammerer on June 9, 1934. A P.W.A. project was approved and work began on August 13, 1934, under the direct supervision of Mr. Jensen.⁷

Prior to its restoration the Wick House had the appearance of "a commonplace story and a half Cape Cod cottage." As Architect Waterman reported:

It was covered with narrow white painted clapboards and the shutters were the traditional dark green. The facade had two 15 light windows on each side of a modern center door, which was sheltered by a flimsy recent porch. The roof was covered with thin machine sawed shingles, and from the center projected a small central chimney. The side elevations were identical, having two 15 light (off center) windows on the first floor, two 12 light (centered) windows on the second floor, and a 6 light window in the apex of the east gable which was lacking in the west gable. The rear elevation had a small four-light window at the east end, then (spaced to the west) a sheathed door, a pair of 15 light windows, and at the west end of the elevation a similar size opening with 12 light sash.⁸

Although all window frames were recent, six old sashes remained, dating to the mid-18th century; they had 7 by 9 inch lights and 1-1/8 inch wide muntins. Two of the sash were three lights wide and three high, and two were three wide and two high. None of the exterior trim was old, but nearly all the sheathed shutters were, having been made of

⁷See Drawing MO-1027 (1 sheet), dated Feb. 1934, Wick House, Existing Conditions, drawn by D. C. Jensen. For the beginning of the project see Jensen to Charles E. Peterson, July 27, Aug. 18, 1934.

⁸Thomas T. Waterman, "Report on the Restoration of the Wick House," undated (1937?), pp. 3-4.

one wide board, kept from warping by three horizontal cleats. Some shutters had the original hinges and hooks.⁹

According to Waterman's description, the interior of the house was plastered throughout, with no early finish showing. The west window in the west kitchen chamber had the oldest trim, a quarter round bead at the sash rebate and a backband formed of the same moulding, evidently run from a muntin moulding plane. The rear exterior door was the only old door remaining, the others being sheathed and battened of 19th-century construction. There were no mantels in any of the rooms as all fireplaces had been eliminated except that in the kitchen. Here there was a built-in oven at the right of the fireplace with a painted brick facing around both oven and fireplace. The domical-formed oven was very deep and was closed by a cast-iron door dated 1848. The stair to the attic ascended in the southeast corner of the kitchen. Examination of the closet under the stair indicated that the east wall of the kitchen was sheathed behind the stair and that the finish and construction of the stair were modern. The front entry had a closet at the north end partitioned off with modern boards. Modern partitions had also been constructed in the attic. There was a stone cellar under the eastern part of the house, the rest being unexcavated.¹⁰

Restoration began with the stripping of all modern materials, leaving the frame entirely exposed. The framing of the front or

⁹Ibid., pp. 4-5.

¹⁰Ibid., pp. 5-6.

south wall, according to Mr. Waterman, indicated that the fenestration and type of wall covering had been changed from the original.

The central door had not been changed in position but had been heightened. The old gains for the head piece showed the original height of the door in the jamb studs that went from sill to plate. Flanking these . . . were the posts carrying the chimney girts. These were complete with their braces. . . . The west brace had been cut back at its intersection with the plate to allow for the insertion of a window and the east one was nicked for the same purpose. Similar braces occurred at the end posts, that at the east end being also nicked. The evidence of the cut braces pointed definitely to a change in fenestration. . . . It also showed that all studs in the central area between the extreme projection of the braces had been changed. . . . The old gains cut in the plate showed their former position and further showed that originally there was only one window in the south wall on either side of the door instead of two. . . .

All of the studs, posts and braces across the front were found to be notched out to receive battens, some of which were still in place. The presence of these battens showed that this wall of the house was shingled at an early date, and probably originally. The spacing of the battens showed that the exposure of the shingles was about fifteen inches. . . . Frequently on Long Island houses with shingled front and clapboarded side walls will be seen, as at the Wick house, where only the front was battened to receive shingles.

Similarly, the framing clearly revealed the fenestration of the other three walls of the house. The kitchen door was unchanged in location and size, the door frame being modern but the door itself very old. No changes had been made in the roof framing, although the aperture framed for the chimney suggested that it had once been larger. An examination of the ceiling plaster and lath indicated that the ceiling timbers had once been exposed, so all plaster was removed, even that on hand-split lath; the ceiling beams and the soffits of the attic

floorboards were sooty and, in the kitchen, had once been whitewashed. Sheathing was found behind the plaster on several interior partitions, in all but the two front rooms. From this evidence it was apparent that the south wall was the only old wall of the entry remaining, all the inside partitions being new. When the chimney was rebuilt in the mid-19th century, all the original finish in the north part of the entry, including the stair, was removed. The line of the ascent of the stair was shown in the ceiling framing.¹¹

As Waterman reported, "the exterior restoration of the Wick house was guided by explicit evidence except in the case of the actual surface treatment of the entrance door." The shingles for the front wall were hand split to the size shown by the cleats and were applied with hand-wrought nails. The absence of cleats on the other three walls of the building made it clear that these walls had been weatherboarded; a piece of an old oak weatherboard found in the house was used as a model for the restoration. Window frames were made, and the old sash was reused wherever possible or used as a pattern for new sash. Most of the old shutters were reusable. The sash and shutters were painted with iron-oxide paint, in accordance with old paint found on them. The exterior walls were not painted, "as they were usually left unpainted until after 1800." In regard to the interior restoration, it seemed unlikely that the walls were originally plastered, so the wall treatment of the rear rooms was followed throughout, sheathing the walls horizontally on the outside walls and constructing the partitions of vertical boards. The entry doors in the rooms were fixed by the plan of the

¹¹Ibid., 6-12.

entry itself. The woodwork in the front rooms was painted with one coat of iron-oxide paint. The window trim throughout the house was conjectural, following the precedent of the Payne house at Easthampton. No work was necessary in the two kitchen chambers or the pantry except the cleaning off of later coverings from the sheathing, and repairing it and installing new sash, frames and trim; sheathing had to be replaced on the east wall of the east kitchen chamber and the north and west walls of the west kitchen chamber. Poplar, the wood of the original, was used throughout for the new finish; a supply of thirty-year-old wide boards was found and acquired for the work.¹²

The modern stair in the kitchen was removed, showing the old sheathing. Although the old stair was evidently destroyed in the alterations of ca. 1850, ~~but~~ the header of the well partly remained, showing the original location. There was no information as to the actual stair detail so, Waterman reported, "it was rebuilt as simply as possible, of old material, all dated 1934. The location determined the north partition of the entry, as well as the position of the door at the foot of the stair. The use of a steep staircase within sheathing is unusual and was due to the absence of a second floor and the primitive character of the building construction."¹³ According to Waterman,

The most unfortunate change that had been made in the building was the replacing of the original chimney with another about the middle of the 19th century. . . . it was known from the smoked ceilings of the front rooms that they once had fireplaces. In its state in 1933,

¹²Ibid., pp. 12-15.

¹³Ibid., pp. 15-16.

however, there were no fireplaces in either of the front rooms, this space being occupied by a deep oven in the kitchen. This condition led to the belief that the chimney had been rebuilt, and the date 1848 on the oven door suggested the period of the change. A careful examination of the brickwork was made which showed that a great many bricks had been reused from an older structure. The base of the chimney was examined by excavation and . . . on the east . . . the foundation evidently continued over to the line of the cellar wall. This would have made it coincide with the line of the old west partition of the southeast room. . . . The framing of the ceiling and roof confirmed the size as shown by the foundation.

With this evidence it was determined to rebuild the chimney which was done in exact accordance with the information uncovered and with the precedent of early houses of the type. The old brick was used supplemented by brick from ruins of the 19th century Thompson house, in the park. The area allowed by the foundation was not very great, but two small fireplaces were obtained for the front rooms and a large but shallow one for the kitchen as well as an oven in the center opening from the rear of the kitchen fireplace. This was the usual arrangement of this building type, and the dimensions, which were considered scanty were found to be usual in early work in Connecticut and Long Island. . . . ¹⁴

The fireplaces were restored with only a simple trim, with no mantel shelf, as was characteristic of the period; paneling was used above the fireplaces. ¹⁵

Sheathed and battened doors, rather than paneled doors, were used throughout; they are hung on jamb studs that extend from the floor to the ceiling timbers, a head piece having been mortised into the jamb studs at the proper level. The front door of the house is hung in a similar way, and though the head piece is missing its location is evident. The restored exterior door is built of two thicknesses of

¹⁴Ibid., pp. 17-18.

¹⁵Ibid., p. 14.

sheathing, that on the exterior set vertically to shed the rain and that on the inside set horizontally. The two thicknesses are fixed together by wrought iron spikes driven from the outside and clenched from the inside, arranged to form a pattern of diagonal intersecting lines.¹⁶

The original flooring in the house had largely been replaced by modern. In the southwest room portions of an old oak floor were still in place, but since matching flooring could not be found it was moved to the entry and relaid. The flooring in this room and the southeast room was replaced in the restoration with old pine flooring from two houses nearby. Similarly, the modern kitchen floor was replaced with an antique oak floor from an old house in the area. Most of the old floor remained in the west kitchen chamber except under the north window; this area and the pantry and east kitchen chamber were relaid with old oak flooring to match. The cellar walls were in poor condition, and the west wall was largely rebuilt. Evidence of cellar steps and a patched area in the east wall led to the reconstruction of the cellar bulkhead at that point. Further investigation and additional evidence discovered late in 1935 resulted in a change in its location to the front or south wall of the house.¹⁷

During the succeeding two decades, minor repairs have been made to the house as needed, notably the partial replacement of clapboard siding on the east wall. A recent inspection of this structure revealed the necessity for extensive rehabilitation, consisting of selective replacement of floor joists, repair or partial reconstruction of the

¹⁶Ibid., pp. 16-17.

¹⁷Ibid., pp. 19-20; see also Russell Baker and Daniel C. Jensen to Elbert Cox, October 23, 1935, regarding the cellar bulkhead.

chimney, replacement or extensive repair of the east wall, repair of the roof, and repair of the doors, shutters and windows. In addition, some of the flooring is extremely worn and should be replaced. A thorough architectural investigation should be made to determine the extent of rehabilitation necessary.



1. Exterior view of chimney, showing the deterioration of brickwork.



2. Chimney in attic, showing crack in brickwork.



3. Chimney in attic, showing missing brick.



4. Condition of floor joists in cellar.



5. Another view of floor joists.

HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT

PART III

WICK HOUSE

MORRISTOWN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

APPROVAL SHEET

Recommended: _____
Director

Regional Director

Chief, EODC

Approved: _____
Superintendent

HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT

COMPLETION REPORT PART III

REHABILITATION OF

THE WICK HOUSE

MORRISTOWN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

BY

Theodore C. Sowers, Museum Curator

S. Sydney Bradford, Historian

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REHABILITATION OF THE WICK HOUSE

This project was supervised by the Superintendent. There are no drawings for the rehabilitation of the house and the only specifications available are those contained in the various Purchase Orders written for the different aspects of the work done on the structure. No new evidence of any kind resulted from the repair of the house.

REPAIR OF THE CHIMNEY - Purchase Order 29-82 provided for the furnishing of "materials, labor and equipment to remove soft brick chimney to firm brick below roof and rebuild, with pink Cherry Valley common brick . . . , to the exact size, shape and height of existing chimney. . . . New chimney to be adequately flushed at roof line." As far as is known, the chimney was wholly rebuilt and all the old bricks were replaced by new ones. The cost of this project was \$500. See photographs 1 - 5.

REPAIR OF THE FIREPLACE AND NORTH BASEMENT WALL - Purchase Order 29-29 called for the "repair [of the] fireplace as directed" and the reconstruction of the north basement wall using lime-cement and rock. Some brick was replaced in the fireplace, plus some repointing. The north basement wall was rebuilt, using the old stones, and an open type drain was laid outside of the wall, just below the level of the cellar floor. A brick apron, two bricks in width was placed parallel to the top of the wall in order to carry away surface drainage. See photographs 6 - 8.

In conjunction with this work the crawl space under the west end of the building was deepened to thirty inches. See photograph 9.

All of the preceding cost \$860.00.

REPAIR OF THE WINDOWS - Purchase Order 29-26 provided for the removal of "loose putty from windows, . . . broken and cracked glass, replace with antique glass as furnished by government, and reputty." Provision was also made to "apply to windows, shutters and painted door (1) coat of lead and oil primer and (1) coat of lead and oil finish paint in present color." This was done for \$90.00.

REPAIR OF THE SIDING OF THE EAST WALL - White oak lumber for the siding of the east wall was purchased but subsequently it was decided to retain the present siding and hold the new lumber for future use. A coat of boiled linseed oil, with 5% pentochlorophenol added, was not only applied to the east wall, but to the complete exterior of the Wick House. This work was provided for by Purchase Orders 29-49 and 29-86 and cost a total of \$2,540.39. See photographs 10 and 11.

The preceding rehabilitation work was carried out between September, 1959 and April, 1960.



1. North and west sides of the chimney, showing the poor condition of the brick work.

NPS Photo.



2. North and east sides of the chimney, showing the poor condition of the brick work.

NPS Photo.



3. North and west sides of the repaired chimney.

NPS Photo.



4. North side of the repaired chimney.

NPS Photo.



5. Repair of the chimney below the roof.

NPS Photo.



6. The reconstruction of the north basement wall.

NPS Photo.



7. The rebuilt cellar wall.

NPS Photo.



8. Brick apron.

NPS Photo.



9. The deepened crawl space.

NPS Photo.



10. The warped siding of the east wall of the Wick House.

NPS Photo.



11. The east end after oiling.

NPS Photo.