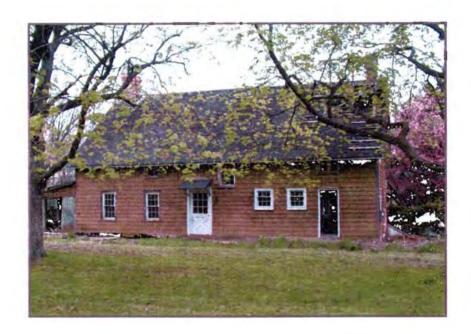
# Wyckoff-Garretson House

Franklin Township, New Jersey

Prepared for the Meadows Foundation with funding from The Somerset County Historic Preservation Grant Program



Prepared by:

Mark Alan Hewitt, Architect

Volume II: Illustrations & Appendices

### WYCKOFF-GARRETSON HOUSE FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP, NEW JERSEY

Prepared by:

Mark Alan Hewitt, AIA Architect

With

Janet Foster, Director Acroterion, LLC

James B. Huffman, PE Engineer

Hunter Research, Inc. Archaeologists

Clifford W. Zink Preservation Consultant

Prepared for:

The Meadows Foundation 1289 Easton Avenue Somerset, New Jersey 08873

Revised
15 December 2001

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#### VIII. Illustrations

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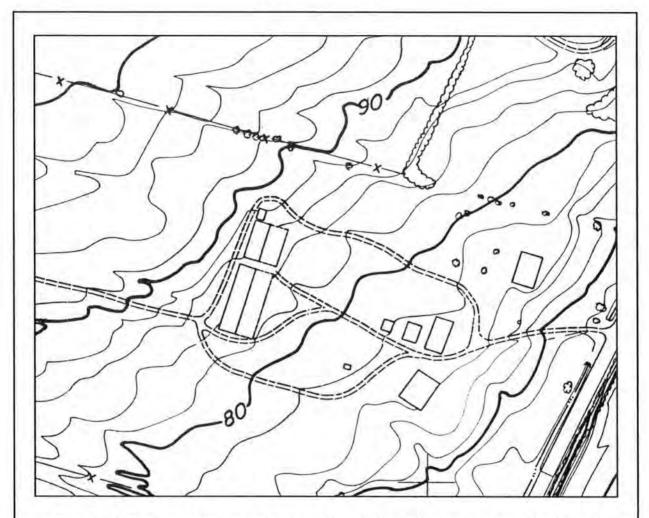
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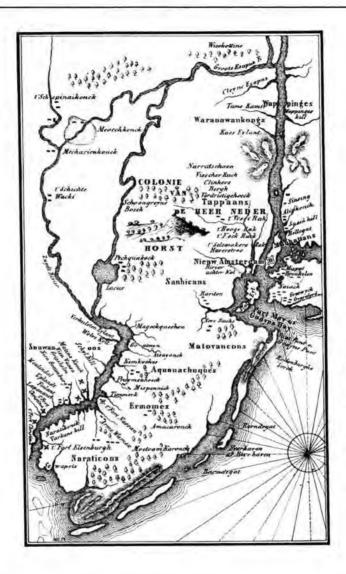
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Wyckoff-Garretson property as surveyed by the State of New Jersey c. 1975 for the Six Mile Run dam project. The house is at the right. Note the carriage house and barn to the south of the house, with two smaller farm structures.

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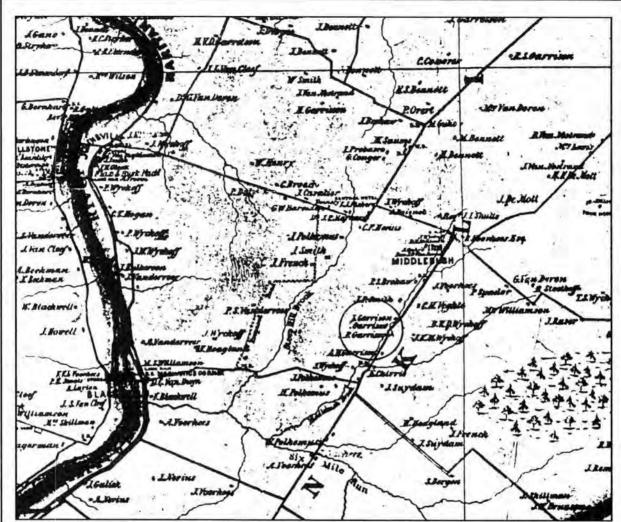
## **Wyckoff-Garretson House**



New Jersey, 1656.
Map by G. & W.
Endicott, 1846.
From Richard P.
McCormick: New
Jersey: From
Colony to State,
1981.

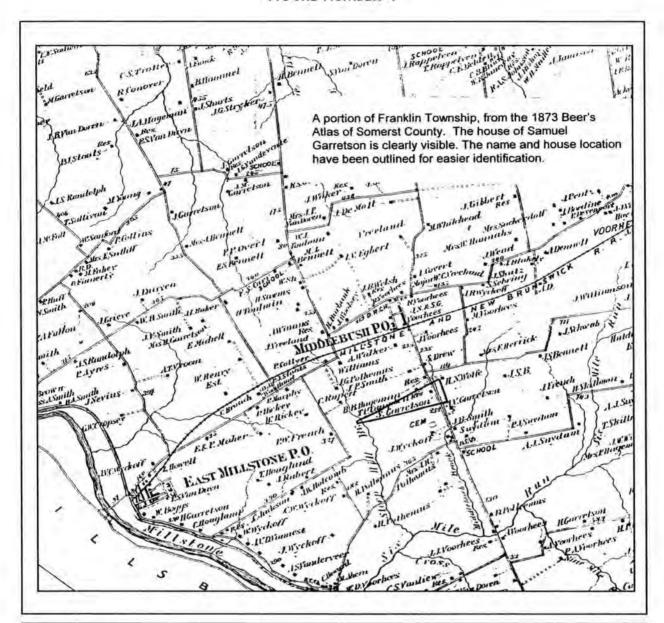
Historic Structures Report

# **Wyckoff-Garretson House**

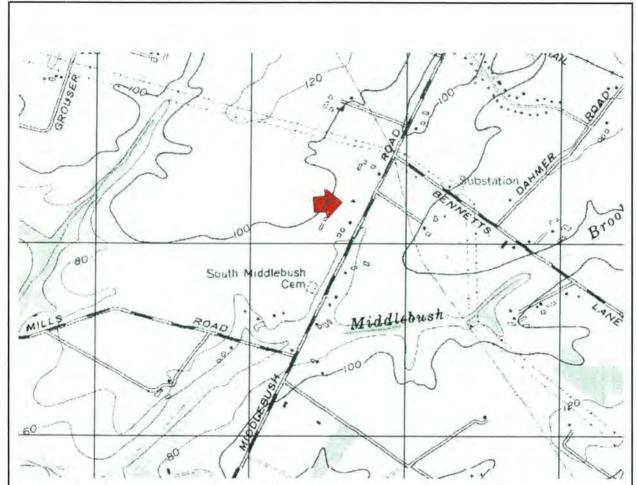


A portion of the Map of Somerset County, New Jersey, published by Otley, VanDerveer, and Kelly, 1850. The circle indicates the location of three Garretson properties along South Middlebush Road.

# **Wyckoff-Garretson House**

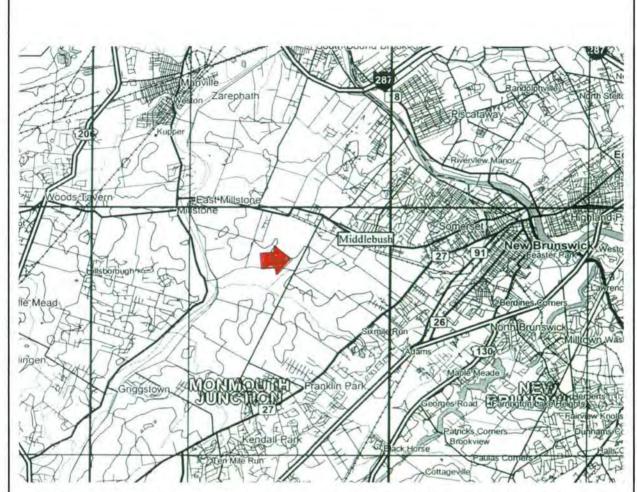


### **Wyckoff-Garretson House**



Location of Wyckoff-Garretson house on WGS84 USGS map, between Bennet's Lane and Blackwells Mills Road on South Middlebush Road.

## **Wyckoff-Garretson House**



Contemporary map of New Jersey, west of New Brunswick, showing Six Mile Run, Middlebush village, and the location of the Wyckoff-Garretson House.

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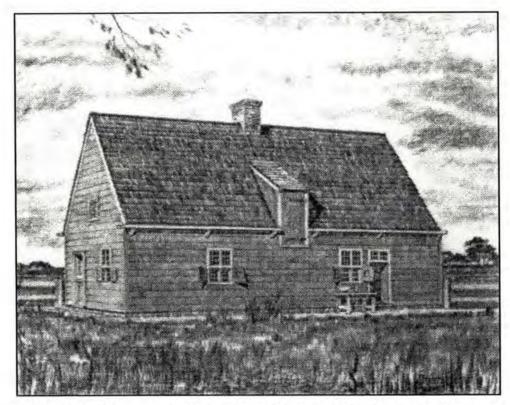
# **Wyckoff-Garretson House**



Pieter Claessen Wyckoff house, Flatbush, Brooklyn, New York, c. 1722, with portions dating to the late 17th century. This is the house of John Wyckoff's grandfather, and the most direct influence on the New Jersey domiciles of the clan.

Historic Structures Report

## **Wyckoff-Garretson House**



Jan Martense Schenk house, Flatland, Brooklyn, c. 1675, dissassembled and reconstructed in the Brooklyn Museum. The basic 17th century model for Long Island and Hudson Valley Dutch houses.

Historic Structures Report

## **Wyckoff-Garretson House**



Cornelius Stoofhoof house, Middlebush, New Jersey (NR-NJ-674), dated by HABS as circa 1742. This 1941 photo shows the marked resemblance to the Wyckoff-Garretson house, especially in the earlier main block.

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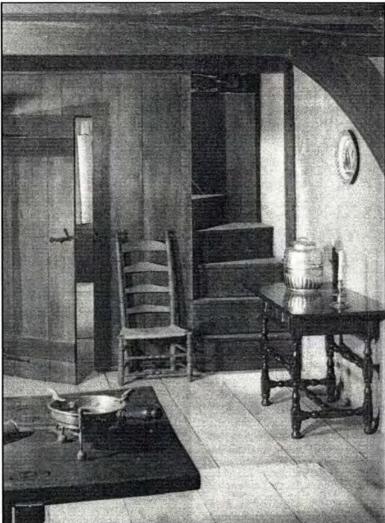
### **Wyckoff-Garretson House**



Nicholas Schenk house, Carnarsie, Brooklyn, circa 1775. With its spring eaves and gambrel roof, this is the classic "Dutch Colonial" dwelling in the common imagination.

Historic Structures Report

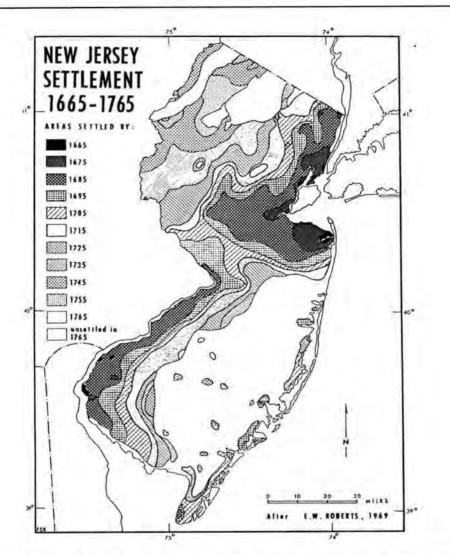
# **Wyckoff-Garretson House**



Interior of Jan
Martense
Schenk house,
as restored in
the Brooklyn
Museum. Note
staircase and
anchor beams,
similar to
Wyckoff house.

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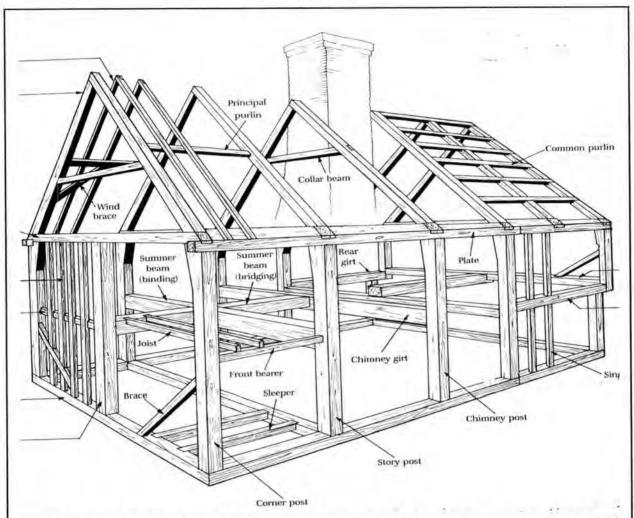
# **Wyckoff-Garretson House**



New Jersey settlement, from Stansfield, A Geography of New Jersey, 1983.

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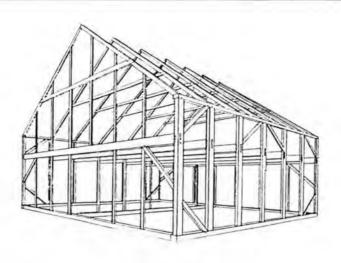
# **Wyckoff-Garretson House**

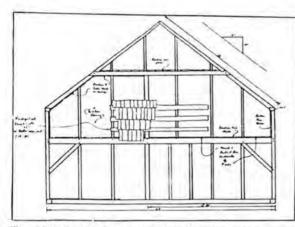


English house framing from the Massachusetts Bay Colony, using two-story gunstock posts, summer beams and widely spaced girts. From Cummings, Framed Houses of the Massachusetts Bay, 1625-1725.

Historic Structures Report

### **Wyckoff-Garretson House**





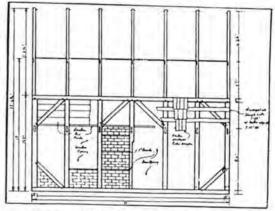
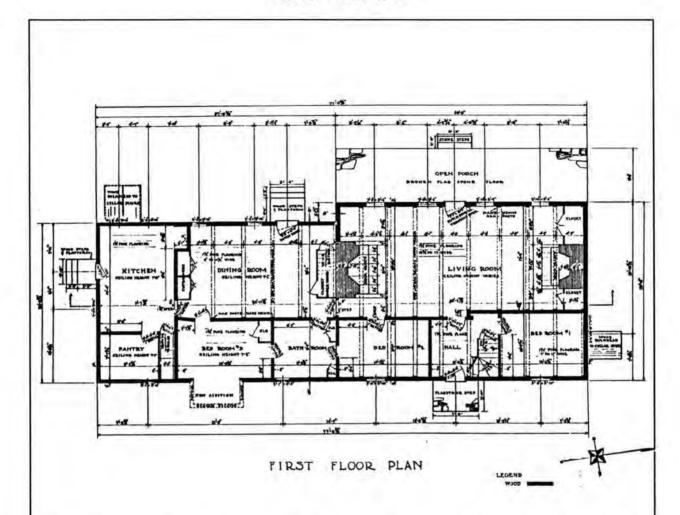


Fig. 9. Dutch American anchor-bent framing: seven anchor bents 4 feet on center, with one front room and two rear rooms. Hand house, Dutch Neck, Mercer Co., N.J., ca. 1740; demolished 1978. (Drawing, C. W. Zink.)

Clifford Zink's documentation of the Hand house, c. 1740, a New Jersey example of Dutch American anchor bent framing as found in the Wyckoff-Garretson house.

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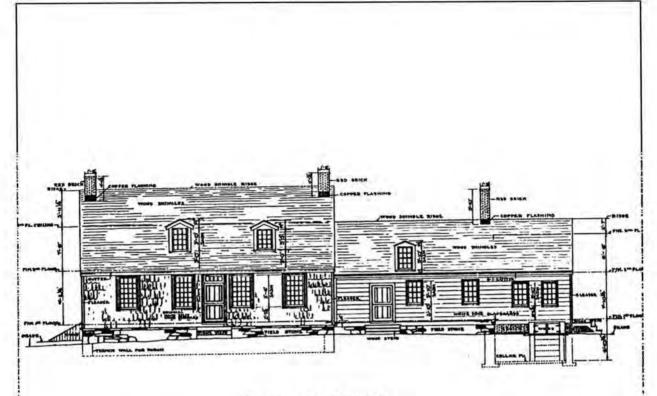
## **Wyckoff-Garretson House**



First floor plan of the Symen Van Wickle house, (NR-NJ-749) Franklin Township, New Jersey, dated by HABS as "about 1722, with later additions." This and several other Middlebush area houses were recorded by HABS in the late 1930s and early 1940s.

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### **Wyckoff-Garretson House**



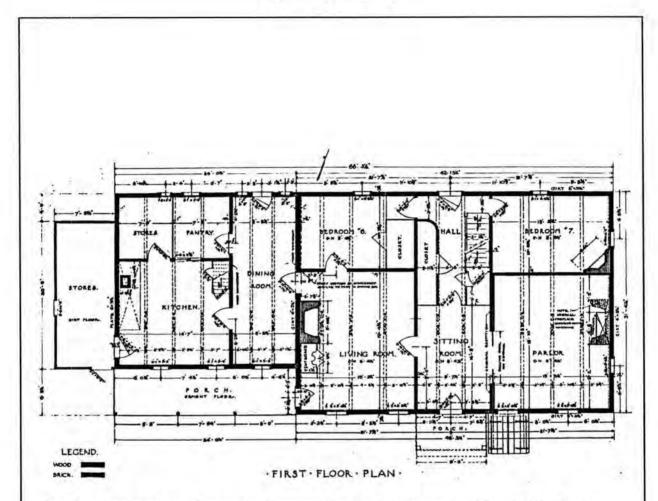
EAST ELEVATION

East elevation of the Symen Van Wickle house, also leased to the Meadows

Foundation. Original 18th century block on the left. The proportions, dimensions, construction and orientation of the dwelling indicate a close kinship with the Wyckoff-Garretson house nearby.

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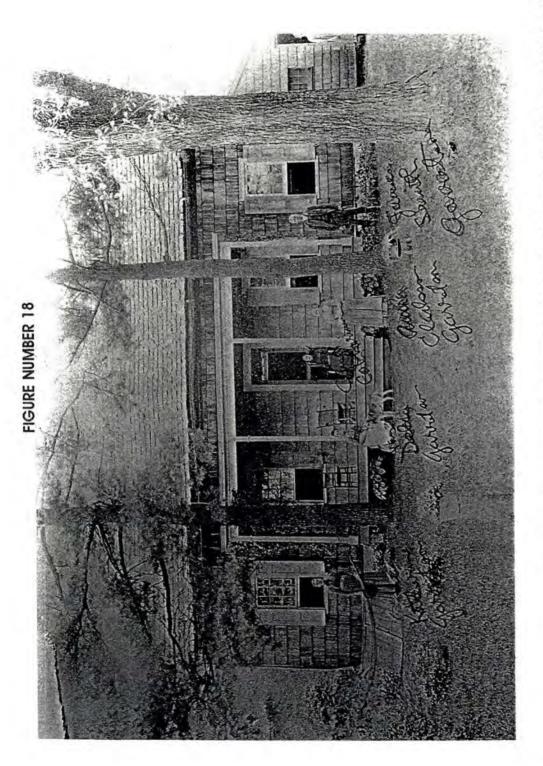
### **Wyckoff-Garretson House**



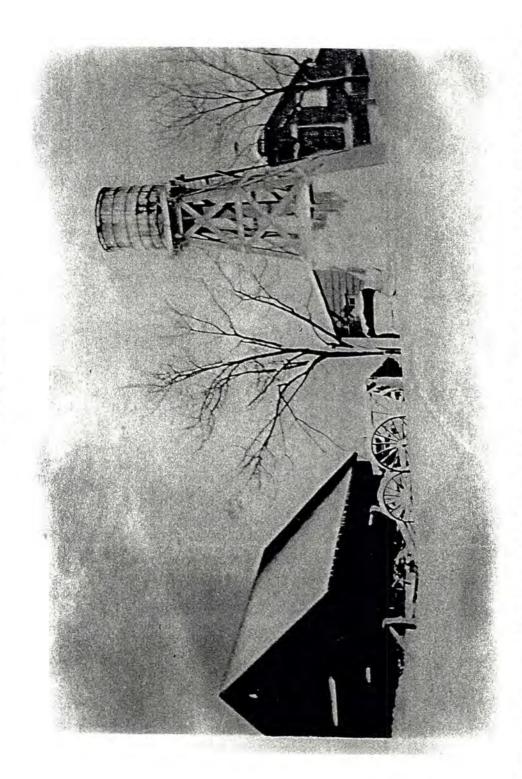
First floor plan of the Cornelius Stoothoff house, drawn by HABS in 1941. The main block, on the right, displays a close resemblance to the John Wyckoff and Symen Van Wickle houses, and may have been "remodeled" at a similar period in the mid-18th century.

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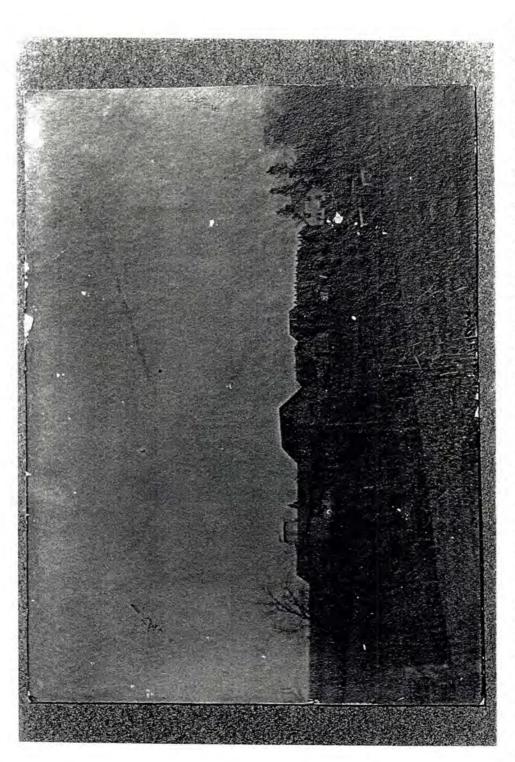
### **Wyckoff-Garretson House**



grown up here and owned the property from 1847 to 1857, although he never lived here as an adult. He "retired" to East Millstone and died about 1890. This photograph shows him and other relatives in front of the house before its A photograph of the Wyckoff-Garretson House, taken before 1890. James Smith Garretson (1807-ca. 1890) had alteration with the large dormer.



Undated photograph of the barns at the Wyckoff-Garretson House. Both have the characteristic broad roofs and gable-end dominant form of a traditional Dutch-framed barn.



projecting gable ends of the house, a modification which also seems to be contemporary with the construction of the A view of the Wyckoff-Garretson Farm, date unknown although probably early 20th century. The large dormer appears to be on the house, and the two-color paint scheme on the south gable end gives emphasis to the facade dormer. Two Dutch barns and other outbuildings stand to the south of the house.

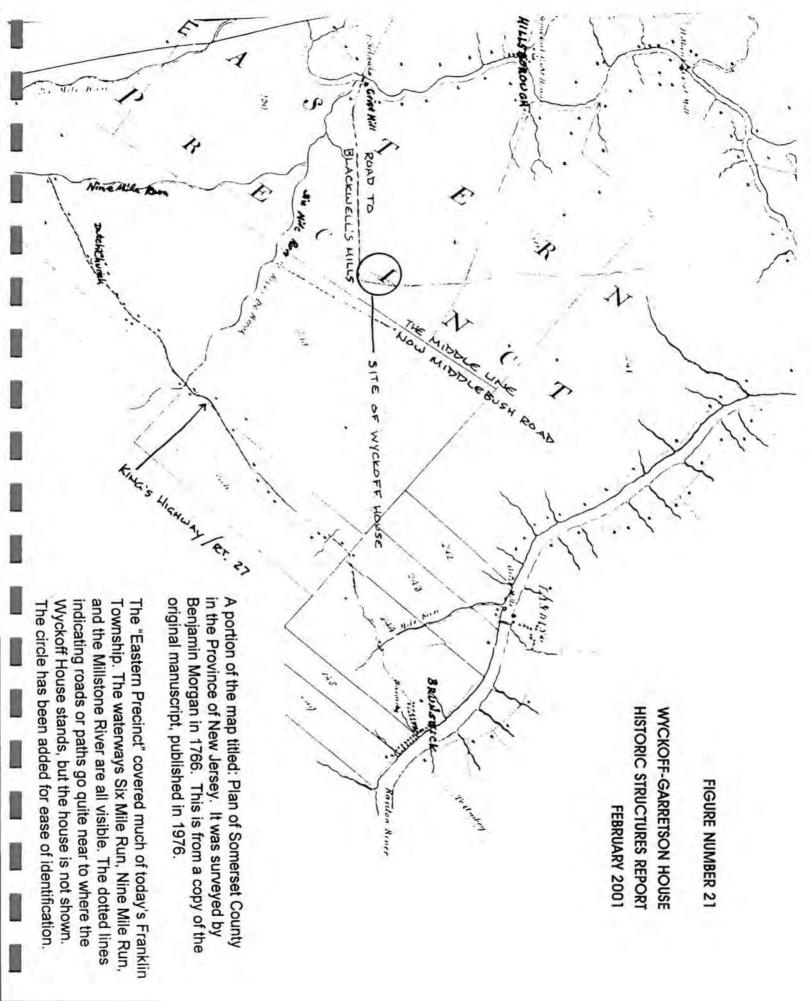


Figure 1. Wyckoff/Garretson House, Southern Section, Basement Floor Plan.

Figure 2. Wyckoff/Garretson House, Southern Section, Plan View of Joists in Basement Ceiling (Plan of Floor Framing in First Floor).

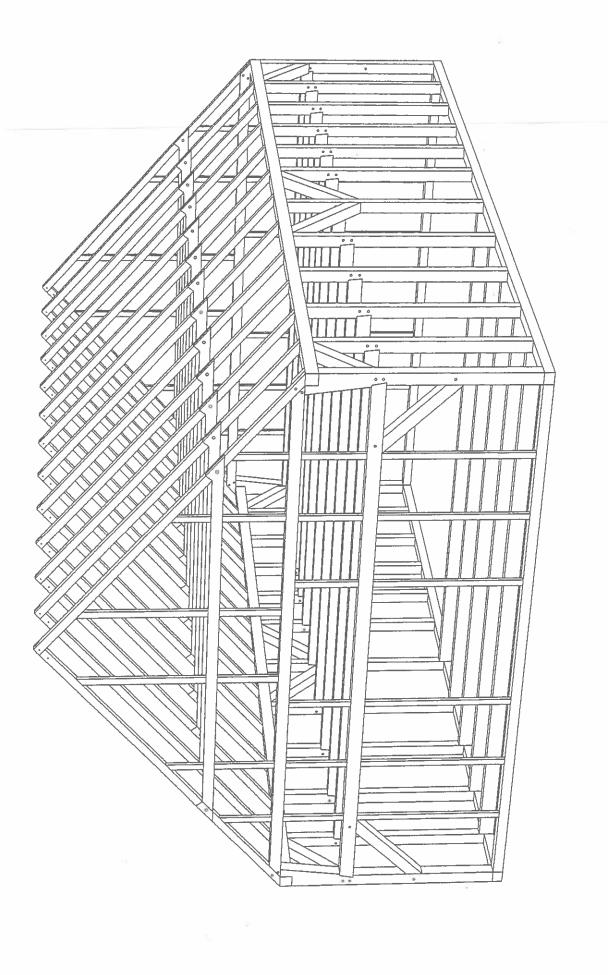
Figure 3. Wyckoff/Garretson House, Southern Section, Interior Elevations of Basement South and North Walls.

North

South

Figure 4. Wyckoff/Garretson House, Southern Section, Interior Elevations of West and East Walls.

A



FRAMING PERSPECTIVE - SECOND BUILD

MYCKOFF-GARRETSON HOUSE SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

MARK ALAN HEWITT, AIA

15 MARCH 2001



Plate 1. View looking southwest showing the side walls, wood lintel and chimney massing for the fireplace in the basement of the southern section of the house; the blocked brick-arched opening in the rear of the fireplace gave access to the bake oven (Photographer: Vincent Maresca, November 2000) [HRI neg. # 00050/D1:9].



Plate 2. View of Excavation Unit 3 looking northeast showing the shale and brick base for the 18th-century bake oven set in the back of the fire-place in the basement of the southern section of the house; note the crude stone in-filling of the bake oven opening within the main foundation for the south wall of the house; scale in feet (Photographer: Vincent Maresca, November 2000) [HRI neg. # 00050/3:7].

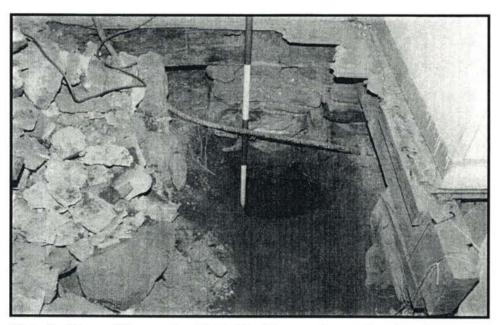


Plate 3. View of Excavation Unit 4 looking southeast showing the reexcavation of a portion of Grubb Unit #6; the stone foundation for the partition wall in the northern section of the house is visible behind the range pole; scale in feet (Photographer: Vincent Maresca, November 2000) [HRI neg. # 00050/3:8].

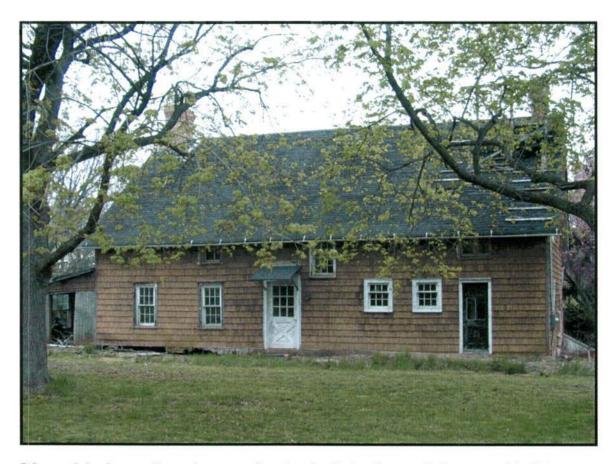


Plate 4. View of Excavation Unit 2 looking northwest showing the late 19th/early 20th-century crude stone paving adjacent to northeast corner of house; scale in feet (Photographer: Vincent Maresca, October 2000) [HRI neg. # 00050/3:7].



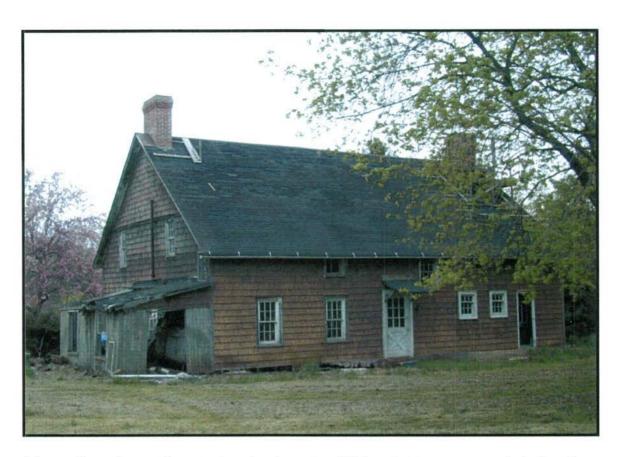
View of the Wyckoff-Garretson House from the southwest, June 2000. The gable end facade is part of the earliest build, circa 1725.

#### WYCKOFF-GARRETSON HOUSE



View of the house from the west showing both the first and the second build. Only the center door was present in 1805.

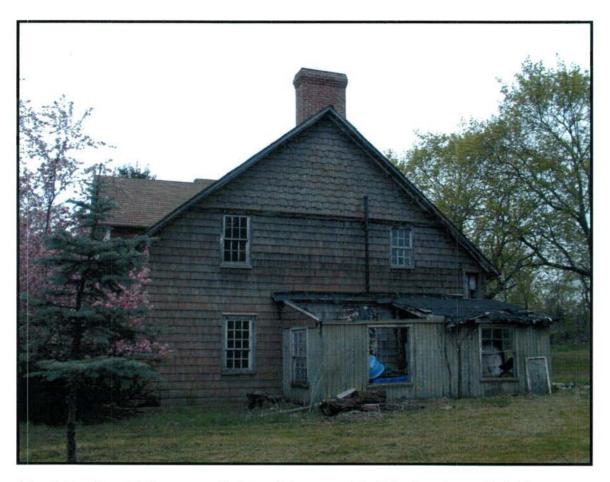
#### WYCKOFF-GARRETSON HOUSE



House from the northwest, showing lean-to addition that was removed during the study period.

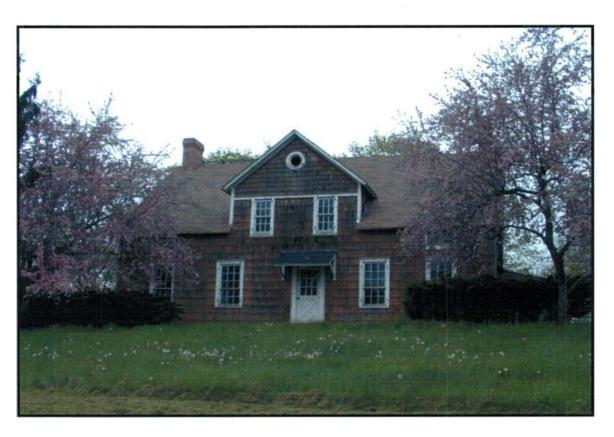
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#### WYCKOFF-GARRETSON HOUSE



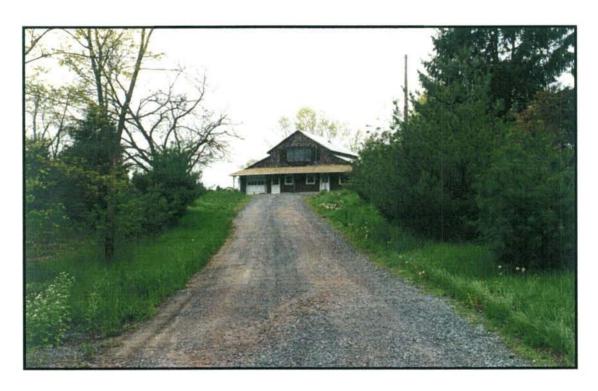
North facade with lean-to and view of dormer added during the early 20th century.

## WYCKOFF-GARRETSON HOUSE



East facade of Wyckoff-Garretson house, from Middlebush Road. The site slopes gently down to the road.

### WYCKOFF-GARRETSON HOUSE



Approach drive to Wyckoff-Garretson site, following approximate path of historic access to farmstead. The carriage barn is at the top of the drive.

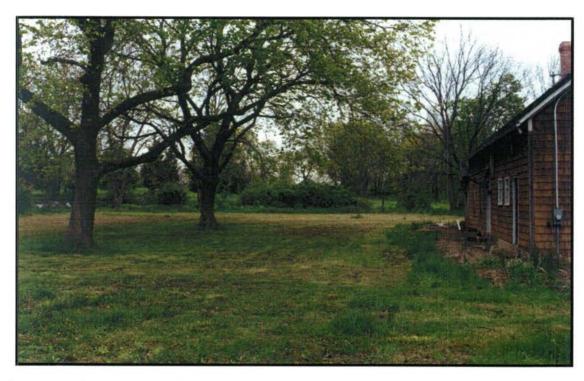
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#### WYCKOFF-GARRETSON HOUSE



Open parking area in front of carriage barn; view looks north toward contemporary dwelling occupying the former barn site.

#### WYCKOFF-GARRETSON HOUSE



Lawn on the west side of the house; view looking north toward historic hedgerow marking the edge of a field. The two maple trees should be protected.

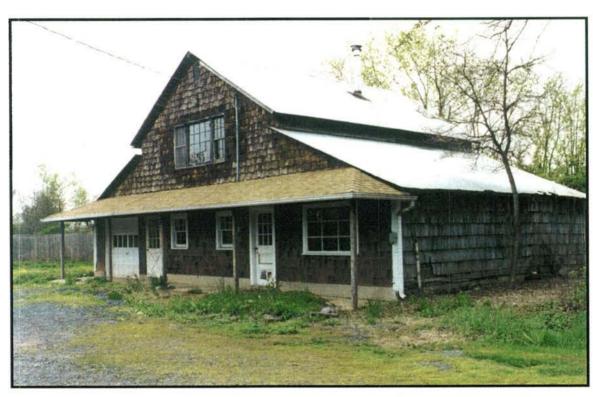
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## **WYCKOFF-GARRETSON HOUSE**



View of carriage barn and house, looking north. This relationship between outbuildings and dwelling is typical of the Dutch-American farmstead.

#### WYCKOFF-GARRETSON HOUSE



Carriage barn from the northeast. The building shows Dutch influences, but was probably constructed in the late 19th or early 20th century.

## WYCKOFF-GARRETSON HOUSE



Perspective-corrected image of the north facade of the Wyckoff-Garretson house, before removal of the lean-to.

## WYCKOFF-GARRETSON HOUSE



Similar view of north facade in late fall 2000, without the lean-to. Note the exposed chimney at the lower right, and former door.

Historic Structures Report

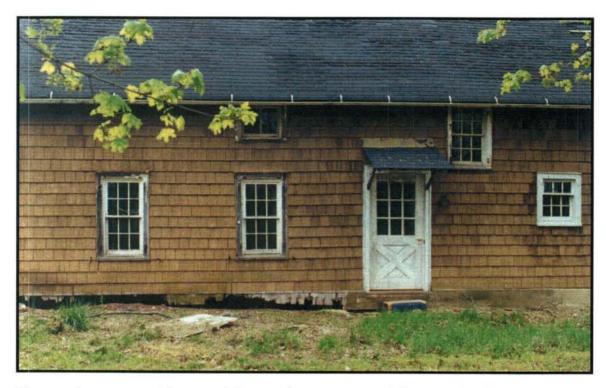
## WYCKOFF-GARRETSON HOUSE



Perspective-corrected image of southern half of west facade, showing the portion of the house constructed by John Wyckoff. All of the openings have been changed since the early 19th century.

Historic Structures Report

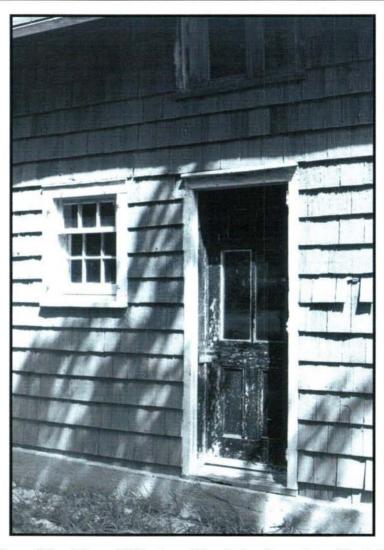
#### WYCKOFF-GARRETSON HOUSE



Perspective-corrected image of the northern portion of the west facade, showing early 19th century window openings from the Garretson build, in 1805.

Historic Structures Report

#### WYCKOFF-GARRETSON HOUSE



West facade, Door No. 11 and Window No. 1. In the original building, the door was a window and the window a closed wall.

#### WYCKOFF-GARRETSON HOUSE



Close-up view of missing sill, foundation wall damage, and rotted shingles at base of west wall.

## WYCKOFF-GARRETSON HOUSE



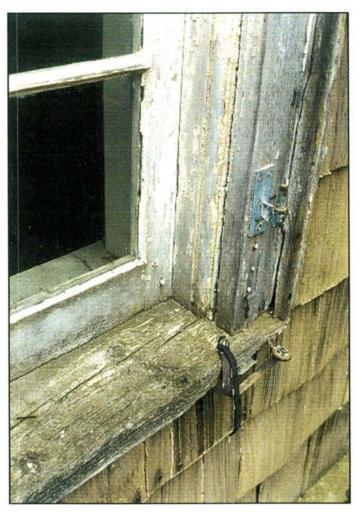
Second story windows on the north and south gable ends. Left: Window No. 24 on the south end, first build. Bottom: two views of Window No. 18 on the north gable. These sash were originally 2 over 2, but were later modified to 6 over 6.





Historic Structures Report

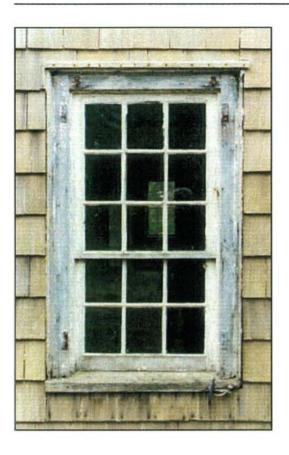
### WYCKOFF-GARRETSON HOUSE

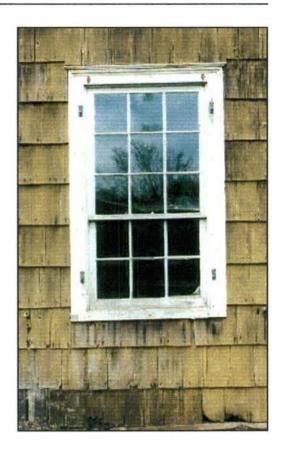


Detail photo of typical casing and sill from the first floor 9 over 6 windows of the east facade. Here the casing appears to date from the early 19th century. Though the windows have not been painted for years, much of the wood may be conserved using consolidants or epoxy patches.

Historic Structures Report

## WYCKOFF-GARRETSON HOUSE





9 over 6 windows on the east facade. Modern galavanized shutter pintles and other hardware are mixed with earlier work. The windows are in fair condition and may be conserved.

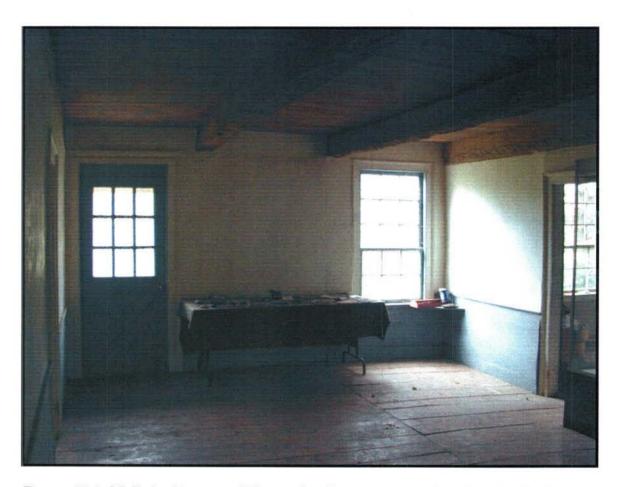
Historic Structures Report

#### WYCKOFF-GARRETSON HOUSE



Room 105, Northeast parlor or dining room.

### WYCKOFF-GARRETSON HOUSE



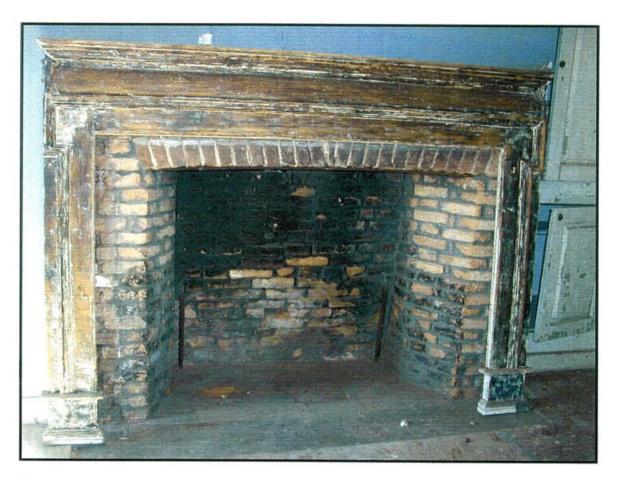
Room 104, Hall, looking east. The anchor beams were reduced in depth when a plaster ceiling was added. Note the break in the floor boards.

#### WYCKOFF-GARRETSON HOUSE



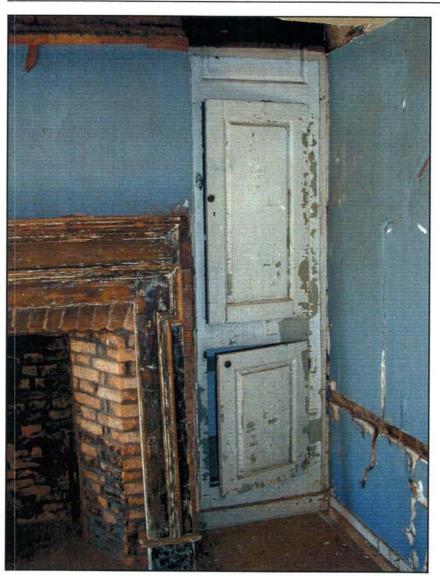
Room 103, Front chamber or "Groot Kammer," before probes revealed the ceiling and chimney configuration.

### WYCKOFF-GARRETSON HOUSE



Room 103, fireplace opening and mantelpiece following the removal of sheetrock. The plaster line revealed that the mantel dates from construction of the English fireplace, c. 1750. The firebox post-dates the original build.

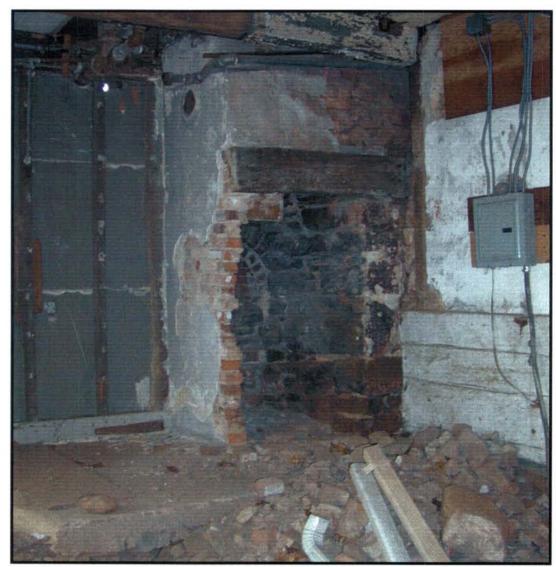
# WYCKOFF-GARRETSON HOUSE



Room 103: cupboard adjoining fireplace is a typical feature of the mid-18th century, also found in the Van Wickle and Stoothoff houses. The moulding profiles support other evidence that this and the fireplace are part of a Wyckoff renovation of the first house.

Historic Structures Report

## WYCKOFF-GARRETSON HOUSE



Room 102, former kitchen, looking north toward truncated cooking fireplace. The floor in this room was removed for foundation repairs ten years ago.

## WYCKOFF-GARRETSON HOUSE



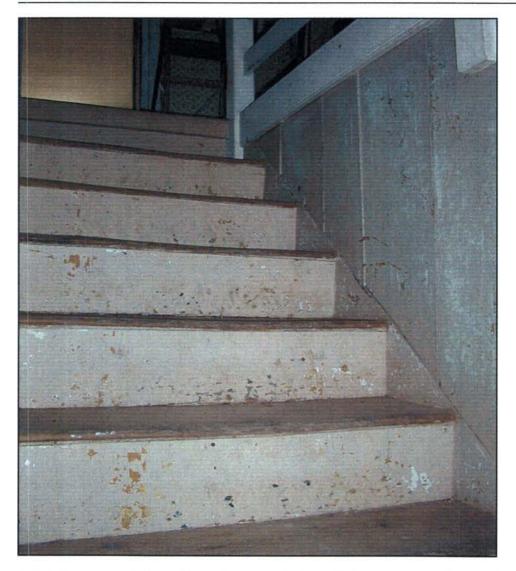
Room 102, south wall. Original plaster and studs reveal the construction methods and the sequence of the two builds.

### WYCKOFF-GARRETSON HOUSE



Room 102, close up view of corner, south and west walls. The joint reveals the new post, corner brace and anchor bent of the 1805 build.

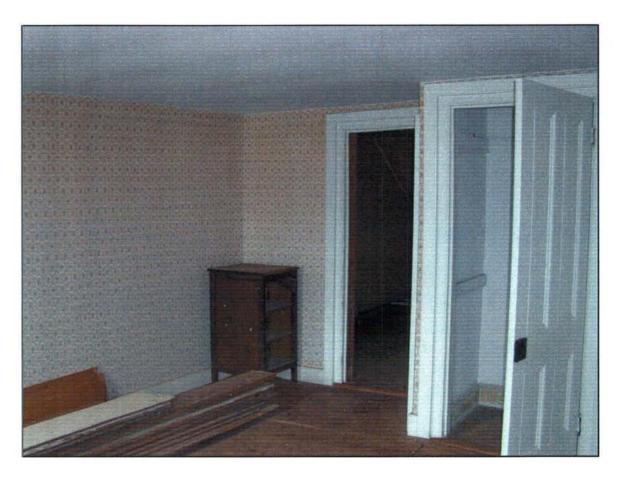
## WYCKOFF-GARRETSON HOUSE



Straight risers of the stair to the second floor. The upper portion of the stringer, as well as the risers and treads, appear to date from the first build.

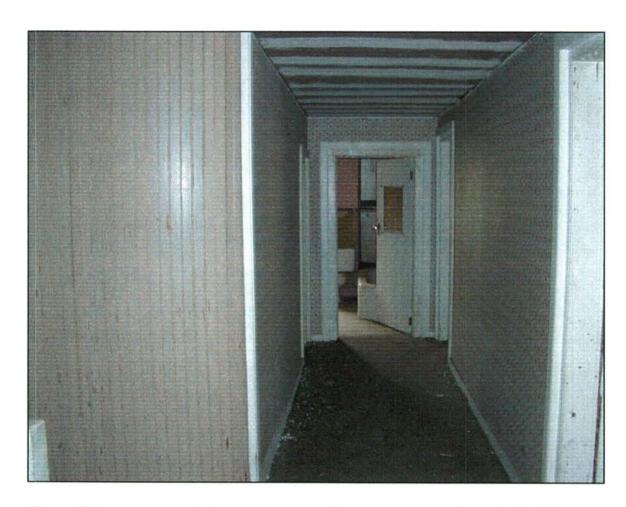
Historic Structures Report

## WYCKOFF-GARRETSON HOUSE



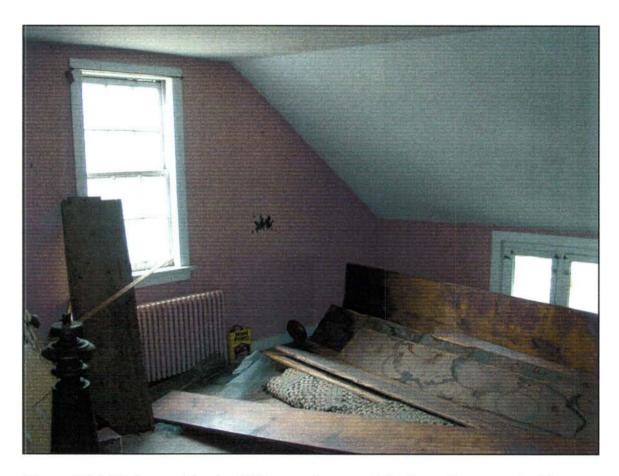
Bedroom No. 3, Room 206. This room was part of an early 20th century remodeling of the house, probably still under Garretson ownership.

### WYCKOFF-GARRETSON HOUSE



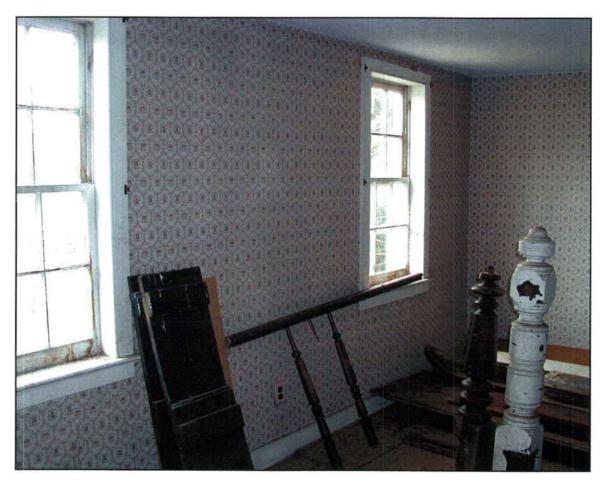
Room 201, upper stair hall, looking toward bathroom on north end of building.

## WYCKOFF-GARRETSON HOUSE



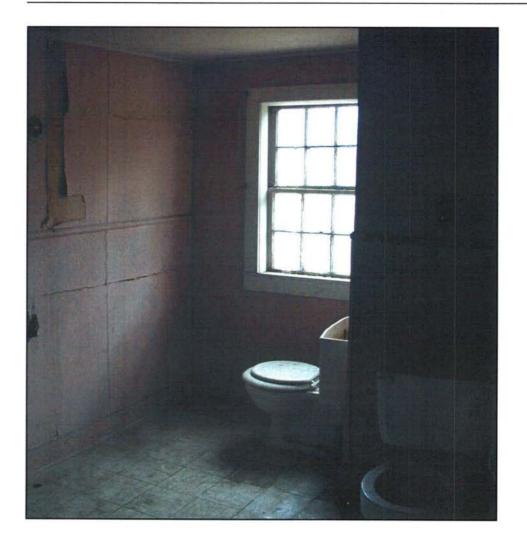
Room 207, Bedroom No. 4. This room is part of the later Garretson build.

## WYCKOFF-GARRETSON HOUSE



Room 206, looking toward the windows in the wall added when the 20th century dormer was built.

# WYCKOFF-GARRETSON HOUSE



Room 204, the modern bathroom on the north end of the main hall. Finishes are mainly from the 20th century.

# WYCKOFF-GARRETSON HOUSE



Room 202, the smallest of the bedrooms with only a tiny window on the west wall. Our probe revealed the join between the first and second builds.

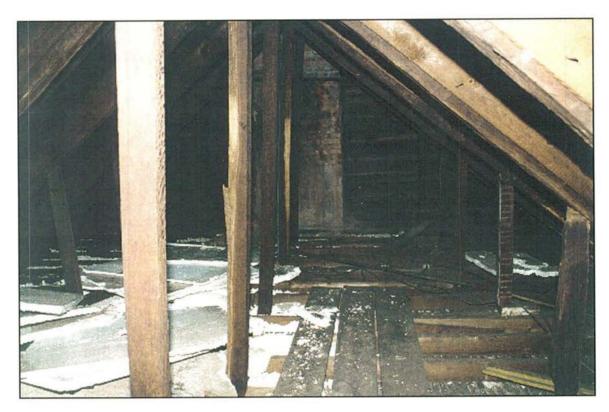
## WYCKOFF-GARRETSON HOUSE



Room 200, Bedroom No. 1 on the southwest side of the first build. The probe has exposed the unusual gunstock post and English style corner joint. The unusual element is the middle tie beam, now cut by the window at the left, that seems unnecessary from a structural point of view.

Historic Structures Report

#### WYCKOFF-GARRETSON HOUSE



Room 301, view of the attic looking south, toward the oldest chimney and rafters of the first build. Note the vertical struts at every bent, and the intermediate roof framing (2x6) between each main rafter. Many of the rafters are also sistered with modern 2x6's.

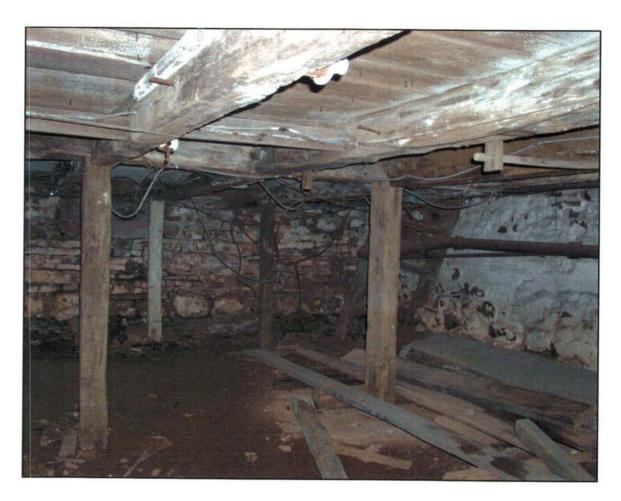
## WYCKOFF-GARRETSON HOUSE



Room 301, attic, looking toward the modern dormer. The old rafter in bent number II remains in place in the foreground. The other framing is conventional lumber, in good condition. This dormer may be removed easily and the older framing re-established, since even the plate remains.

Historic Structures Report

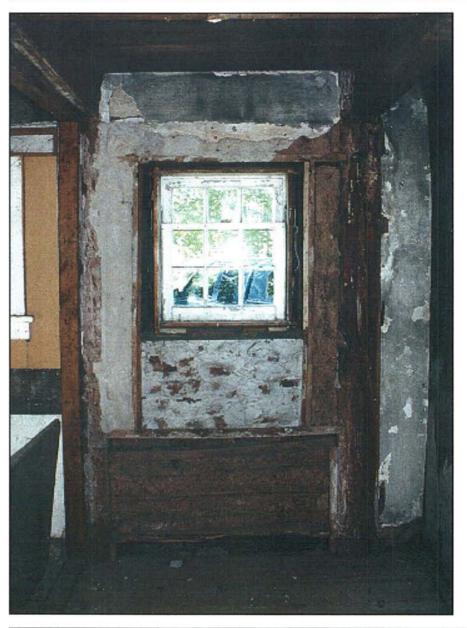
## WYCKOFF-GARRETSON HOUSE



Cellar looking north toward join between first and second build. The walls show signs of whitewash, and are built directly on the shale bedrock. Posts have been added over the years to reinforce the floor above.

Historic Structures Report

## WYCKOFF-GARRETSON HOUSE



Room 100, rear chamber, looking at Window No. 2. The anchorbent frame is evident, as is the frame for the older window.

Historic Structures Report

## WYCKOFF-GARRETSON HOUSE



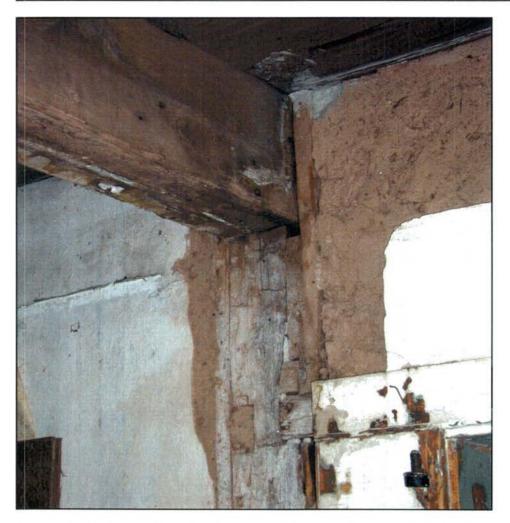
Room 100, detail of joint between the anchor beam and the post.

## WYCKOFF-GARRETSON HOUSE



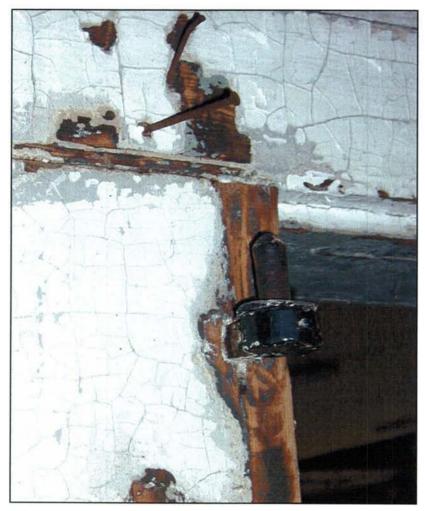
Room 100, view of corner post and diagonal brace at southwest corner. The upper board is a recent addition and will be removed.

## WYCKOFF-GARRETSON HOUSE



Room 100, detail of anchor beam and inner wall post adjoining Room 103. This wall retains its original finishes and construction details, including the door frame below right.

## WYCKOFF-GARRETSON HOUSE



Room 100, detail of 18th century iron pintle used to hang the original door in opening No. 6. The nail above is a cut nail. The original finish is the Venetian red found in the trim of the first build.

## WYCKOFF-GARRETSON HOUSE



Detail of the apex of the rafters at bent number VI in the new, or Garretson build, following repairs to the joint by Island Housewrights. The Dutch carpenter here uses a scarf joint, rather than the more common half lap or bridle.

Historic Structures Report

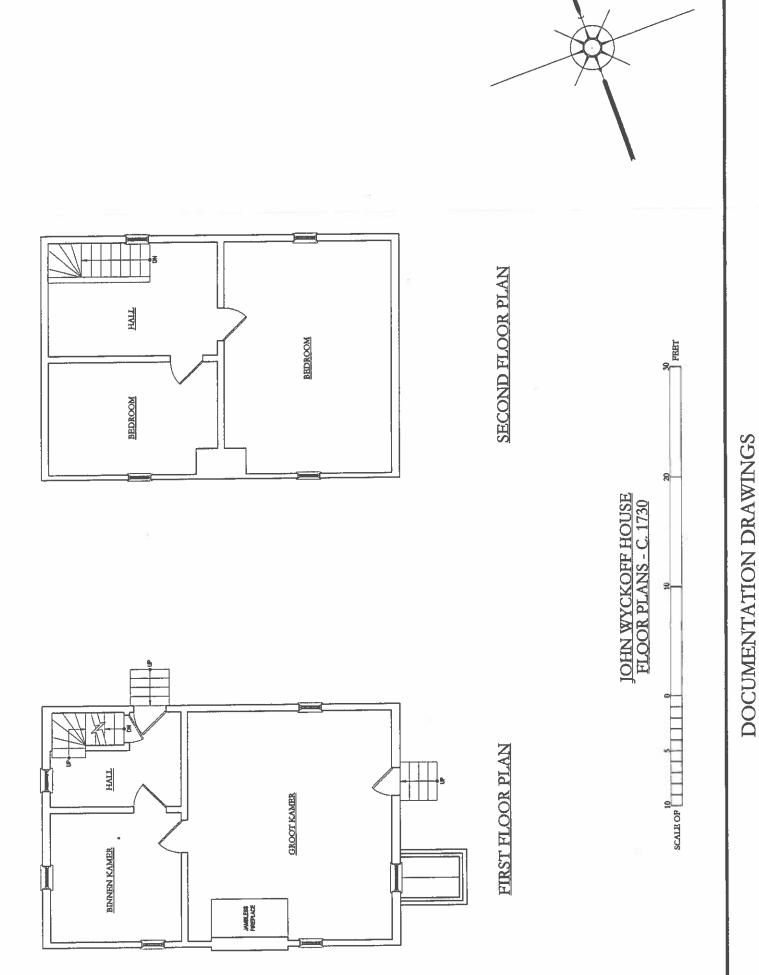
## WYCKOFF-GARRETSON HOUSE



Detail photo showing the outside southeastcorner of the house. To the right are the shiplap boards of the original cladding. To the lef is evidence of two kinds of shingles--larger handsplit types and the more recent 7" expossure.

Historic Structures Report

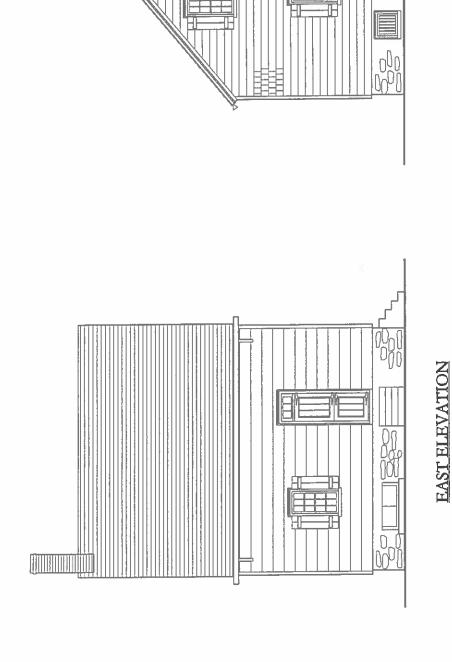
## WYCKOFF-GARRETSON HOUSE



WYCKOFF-GARRETSON HOUSE

SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

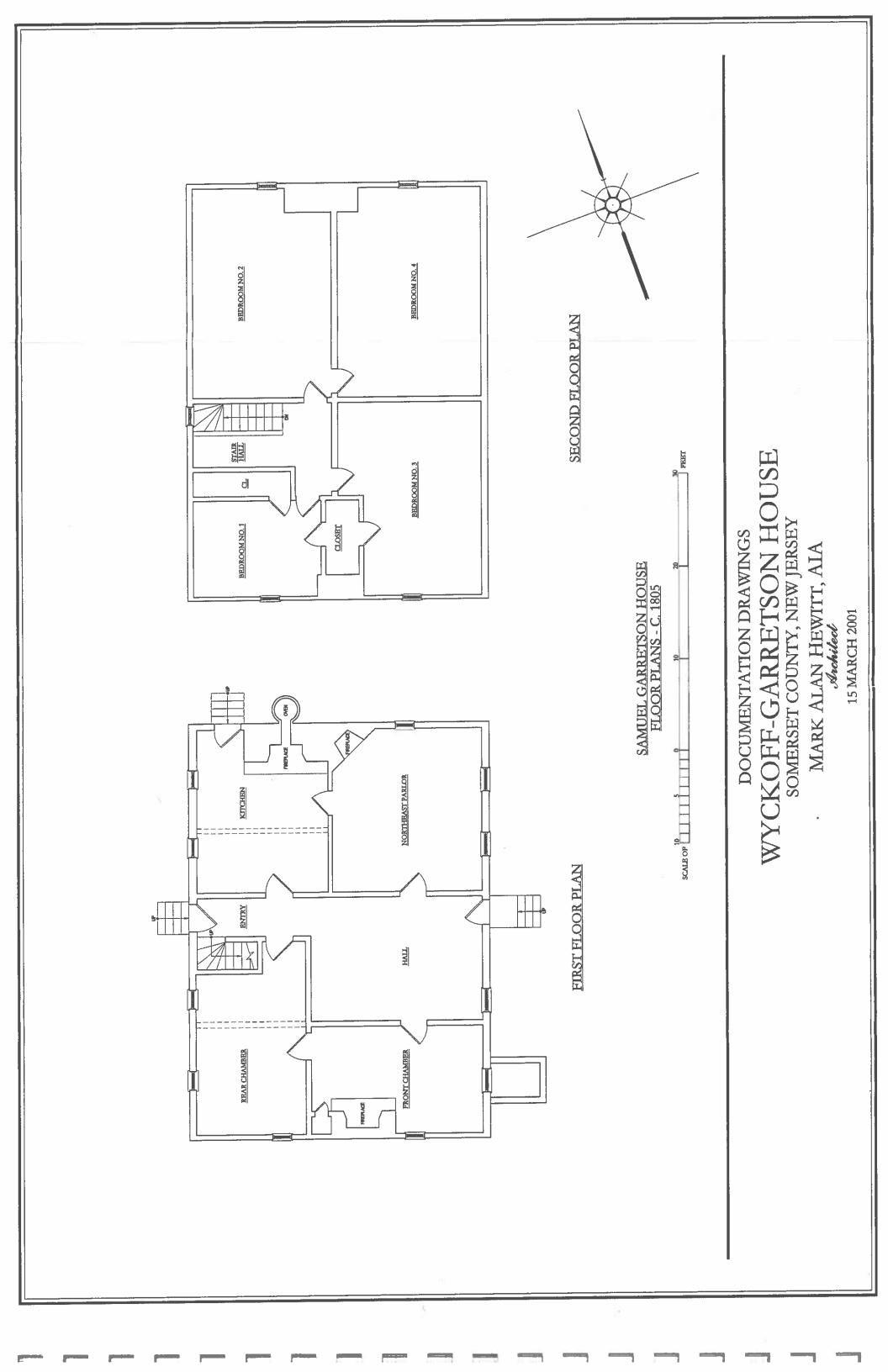
MARK ALAN HEWITT, AIA

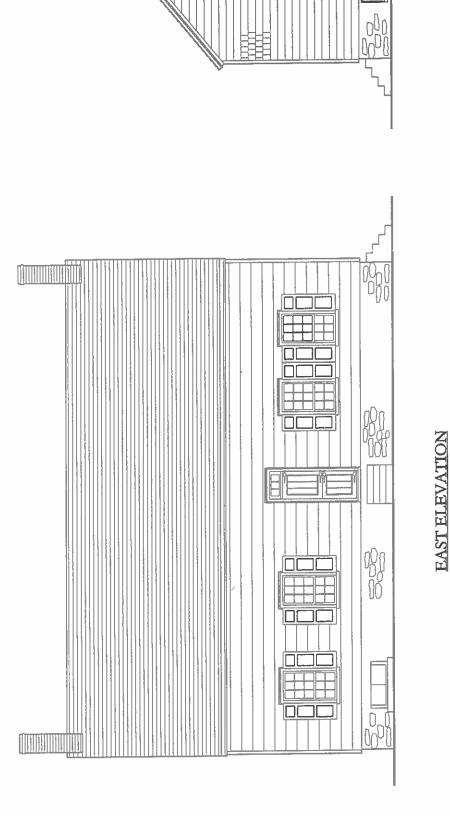


SOUTH ELEVATION

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JOHN WYCKOFF HOUSE EXTERIOR ELEVATIONS - C. 1730 DOCUMENTATION DRAWINGS
WYCKOFF-GARRETSON HOUSE
SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
MARK ALAN HEWITT, AIA





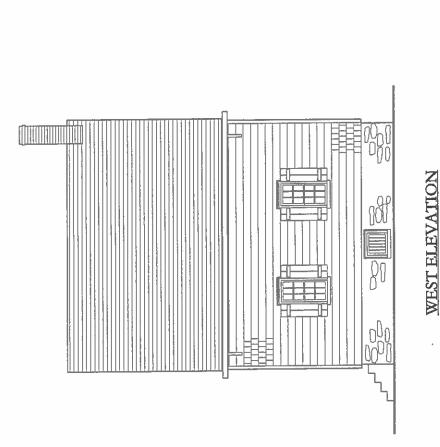


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SAMUEL GARRETSON HOUSE EXTERIOR ELEVATIONS - C. 1805

SCALE OF 10 20 30 30 FEBT

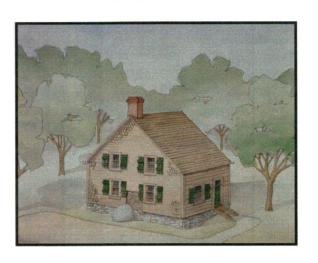
WYCKOFF-GARRETSON HOUSE SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY MARK ALAN HEWITT, ALA





JOHN WYCKOFF HOUSE EXTERIOR ELEVATIONS - C. 1730 WYCKOFF-GARRETSON HOUSE SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY MARK ALAN HEWITT, AIA

## IX. Appendices



#### Drawings

See above.

#### IX. Appendices

- 1. Janet Foster. Paint Analysis of 33 Samples, Wyckoff-Garretson House. November 2000.
- 2. Hunter Research, Inc. Preliminary Archaeological Assessment, Wyckoff Garretson Property. June 2000.
- 3. James B. Huffman, PE. Letter on Structural Stabilization Issues, Wyckoff-Garretson House. 29 July 2000.
- 4. Mark Alan Hewitt, AIA. Preliminary Scope of Work for Stabilization, Wyckoff-Garretson House, August 3, 2000.
- 5. Meeting Minutes, Meadows Foundation Committee on Wyckoff-Garretson House, August 3, 2000.
- 6. Dr. Gordon Jacoby. Lamont-Doherty Tree Ring Laboratory, Columbia University. Preliminary Memorandum on Dendrochronology, Wyckoff-Garretson House, 19 January 2001.
- 7. Island Housewrights Corp. Stabilization Project, Wyckoff-Garretson House. May 29, 2000.
- 8. Mark Hewitt. Field Notes and Sketches of Moulding Profiles. Wyckoff-Garretson House, 5 pages. 12/2000.
- 9. Historic American Buildings Survey. NJ-479. Symen Van Wickle House Documentation Drawings, June 1939.

#### INTRODUCTION

The Wyckoff-Garretson House, located in Franklin Township, New Jersey, was begun in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, with a major addition made in the mid-to-late 18<sup>th</sup> century. The house is of frame construction, with the heavy timber framing system typical of Dutch culture influence in 18th century New Jersey. The five bay, center-hall, story-and-a-half form is indistinguishable on the exterior from English-framed houses of the same era. The orientation of the house toward the east/southeast is typical for its time and place, when country houses typically faced south to take advantage of the winter sun. The basic form of the 18th century house is clearly visible, although the house had a large dormer inserted on the façade in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

#### **PROCEDURE**

Paint analysis was undertaken on the exterior and interior of the Wyckoff-Garretson House to determine, if possible, original and subsequent finishes for the exterior siding and moldings, and interior rooms. Thirty three (33) samples were removed, including substrate, and examined in cross-section under the microscope. The magnification was 40-60 power and the light used to examine them registers 3200 degrees K, which closely approximates natural daylight. Colors were matched to the Munsell Color System, (2000 edition), and are reported by their Munsell match.

The full sequence of finishes seen under the microscope is set out on the charts in this report. Sample locations are described in each chart, and also located on elevations and floorplans of the house prepared by Mark Alan Hewitt.

#### **OBSERVATIONS**

#### **Exterior**

Only eight samples were taken from the exterior of the house. The house has been re-sided, and severe weathering and lack of maintenance has deteriorated the shingles and other woodwork on the exterior, although these shingles only date to about 1900. Under the shingles on the front of the house, early, perhaps original wooden siding, remains. It is laid flush with a lapped edge. It is severely weathered, and retains traces of only two layers of white paint. The tantalizing find of fragments of dark red paint embedded within the wood fibers of one sample are not complete enough to allow speculation that this is surviving from a complete paint layer. More testing of exterior boards, when revealed through further selective demolition, should be carried out to determine if any original finishes survive.

Other documentary evidence suggests that during the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century in New Jersey (and other American colonies, too), many wooden houses were left unpainted, although the more expensive and hard-to-reproduced elements of a house, such as sash windows and decorative door and window frames were painted white. This is because although expensive, lead white ground in oil was a superb protective coating for exterior wood. Homeowners of more refinement and income may have painted the clapboards ochre or "barn red", contrasting with the white trim. Sometimes only the façade was painted, while the sides and rear of a house were left to weather. Only extremely wealthy homeowners, usually urban or the owners of pretentious "country houses" would have painted clapboards white before 1800; the materials were just too rare and costly to bother, particularly when the cost of replacing a rotten clapboard or shingle was so cheap.

Only the front door frame, which has moldings which make it appear to be quite old, has enough layers of paint to suggest that there are original finishes are surviving. There, the earliest color is a bluish-gray. The second layer of paint is a tan color, which matches a color found on a window frame. Since both the windows and doors were altered slightly during the enlargement of the house in the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, it is likely that the bluish-gray color is from that period, and not from the "original", ca. 1710 period of the house's appearance. Use of gray as a house color became popular in the Federal period, ca. 1780 –1820, although it was more oftern used as a body color with the familiar lead-white trim continuing to be used for its protective qualities. The yellowish-tan found on the door and window frames seem to be more "Victorian" in nature, as is the green cornice. In all cases, exterior surfaces are so weathered that complete paint sequences are not assured, and so the results are only glimpses of colors used, but not a completely verifiable sequence.

Later paints used on the exterior were most often white, although the most recent (ca. 1950) application of paint on the shingles was a gray-green, a color favored as "colonial" during much of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

#### Interior

The results of the sampling show a high degree of consistency between the samples. Nevertheless, they are all not identical, underscoring the importance of multiple samples of the same architectural feature within the same room. Reasons for the difference include abrasion of a paint finish during its appearance in the room or purposeful removal by scraping or stripping as part of the preparation for repainting. There is evidence that in the main first floor rooms of the house a program of chemical paint stripping was carried out on all the woodwork. This destroyed valuable evidence of the paint sequence, although the original finish settled between wood fibers, and is thus observable under the microscope.

The samples taken indicate that the woodwork in the house was consistently painted in a single color in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. This makes sense given the architectural simplicity of the rooms. The plaster walls would very likely have been whitewashed in the 18th century. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century paints were used on the walls, although generally limited to white with color concentrated on the woodwork, and there is evidence that in the 20<sup>th</sup> century wallpapers were used throughout the house.

The 18th century paints were hand-ground pigments in oil, and had a variability across the painted surface which is quite difficult to "match" to a single color paint chip. This color variability gives historic paints their charm and color richness. It is even apparent at a microscopic level, however, with different samples "matching" to slightly different color chips. However, there is no question that these represent a single episode of painting within the house, and the color variation is within the range expected for the material. The variation evidenced in discrete samples does not indicate a sophisticated decorating scheme in which different elements are intentionally painted in differing shades of the same hue.

The original paint finish on much of the interior woodwork was a deep reddish-brown color. On some samples it is brighter and more orange and in other samples darker and more burgundy, but this reflects the nature of a hand-made paint derived from native iron-oxide pigments. The warm red color of the bents or vertical supports visible in the rooms was repeated on the wooden partition walls and the door frames, providing a strong visual emphasis to the structure of the house. The beautifully finished original wooden members of the Wyckoff House attest to an interest in revealing, indeed in reveling, in the workmanship of the house frame. Thus, setting it off in a thin wash of bright color would only add to its interest. The walls at this time would most likely have been whitewashed annually by a fastidious housewife, in the process scraping off earlier coats of whitewash before applying a new one.

Identical interior decorating programs have been documented in Abbot Lowell Cummings' work for SPNEA in early (17<sup>th</sup> century) New England houses. It is not surprising, since earth-derived pigments, in the iron oxide family of reddish-browns, were some of the most easily made colorings for architectural use. Handmade plaster walls were harder to paint particularly with the handmade paints, as the plaster took up paint unevenly, producing blotchy areas of color. In addition, the expense of oil-based paints limited their use in all but the wealthiest households, so paint was usually an accent in an 18<sup>th</sup> century American interior.

In another interior decorating detail typical of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the baseboard in Room 100 is noted as having originally been painted black. This practice has been observed by this author in several 18<sup>th</sup> century houses, large and small, in New Jersey. It seems that the baseboard was not considered part of the rest of the wooden trim of a room, but as part of the floor itself, and was painted black to minimize its appearance, as well as the appearance of dirt. Typical 18<sup>th</sup> century households kept furniture along the perimeter of a room, moving it out as needed. If the

baseboard was constantly banged by tables and chairs being moved a into and out of place, and then hidden behind such pieces, it is no wonder that cheap paint, made from lamp black (common candle soot) was used on baseboards rather than a more expensive pigment.

Rooms 100 and 103 have woodwork that retains second-coat finish of oil-based paint which is now in quite poor condition, flaking and scaling. The same condition is found as the original layer in woodwork in Rooms 104 and 105. The base color is light grayish blue and above it is a shiny-looking, olive-greenish colored layer. This is in fact the classic indicator of the mid-and late 18th century's favorite interior decorating scheme, Prussian Blue paint with an overglaze.

Prussian Blue was the first synthetic pigment to be successfully mass-produced, and as it was the first blue paint suitable for architectural use, it was enthusiastically received by the western world. Up until its invention in 1704, blue finishes could only be obtained by grinding expensive lapis, or by creating dyes rather than true paints. Created by a German (Prussian) scientist, the secret of making a blue pigment suitable for architectural use was a closely guarded one. However, by the 1720s, English and French chemists had figured out the process, too, and the pigment was mass-produced on a wide scale by the 1750s.

It was expensive, and used by itself it was rather transparent, with little "hiding power" of the surface beneath. However, when the Prussian Blue was mixed with lead white paint, and given more "hiding power" by the addition of lamp black to the mix, a useful blue to blue-gray color paint resulted. However, it was still somewhat fugitive, and subject to discoloration by direct sunlight. To increase the color intensity and to "stretch" the use of the expensive pigment, a layer of Prussian Blue paint ground in white lead was very often covered with a glaze, a semi-transparent coating with more oil and less pigment in it than a true paint.

The glaze, with a high content of drying oil, gave a shine to the walls which was welcomed in an era when increasing the amount of light and reflectivity in candle-lit rooms was a constant pre-occupation. However, the oil would naturally yellow over time, a process which accelerated in the total darkness created when the glaze was covered over with a new layer of paint. When seen today, an 18th century Prussian Blue glaze appears to be an unhealthy-looking olive-green color, the combination of blue pigment and yellowed oil.

It is this that is seen in the paint analysis. The original color of the Prussian Blue woodwork could have varied from bright blue to turquoise to aqua, and probably included all these colors in a subtle blend. The finer the Prussian Blue pigment was ground, the deeper a blue it appeared. Less finely ground, the paint appeared more greenish or aqua. Even when finely ground, the pigment also had a tendency to lump as it was applied, notoriously leaving brush marks which showed bluer strokes where the painter had applied more pressure. Newly painted Prussian Blue rooms would have been lively with shades of blue and blue-green, and may have included visible striations on the woodwork.

The paint analysis finds the Prussian Blue paint/glaze finish as a second finish in Rooms 100 and 103, but as a first finish on elements in the hall, Room 104, such as the wainscot and chair rail. This suggests that the Prussian Blue decoration was completed as part of the enlargement of the house sometime later in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The same remodeling also introduced the built-in cupboard into Room 103, adjacent to the fireplace, because this cupboard also has no traces of the early red paint but an original blue-gray paint with glaze on top. The paint evidence also suggests that the mantle in Room 105 is a late-18<sup>th</sup> century original; its rather crude neo-classical design a naïve original rather than a badly done reproduction of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The matching of the earliest paint colors, first dark red and then a blue-green, with the earliest paint layers on the paneled door found within the house strongly suggests that the door belongs in the house, and was part of the interior of the first floor of the house. The survival of the door and its paint sequences gives some idea that repainting and redecorating were not commonly pursued activities at the Wyckoff House in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Second floor rooms were partitioned and finished later than the first floor, based upon the molding profiles, door types and hardware, and paint. Vertical plank walls which had been in place in the attic from the earliest phase of construction were incorporated into the renovation, and at least some of the woodwork was finished in popular 19<sup>th</sup> century graining to approximate an oak-like wooden surface. There is no evidence of the Prussian Blue paint and glaze finish on the second floor, although it is unlikely that it would have been used beyond the more finished rooms of the house even if they existed in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Paint analysis confirms that the windows in the projecting front gable were added later than those in the side gables, but the time difference represented by two additional paint jobs in the gable end windows is unclear. Window sash from the first floor matches the second floor in that historically only white paints were used on the sash, indicating that the sash did not necessarily "match" the wood trim in the rest of the room. This is not uncommon in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, for the same reason that exterior window sash were painted white even when other woodwork on the house was not – for the protective qualities of the lead-white paint.

#### Conclusion

This paint analysis only begins to reveal details of color and paint sequencing for the Wyckoff House. Specific questions about room decoration or dating of alterations may be aided by additional, more detailed and directed paint analyses of specific areas.

The consistency of colors throughout the house is typical of 18<sup>th</sup> century decoration, and provides clues to the construction of the house.

Sample	E-1	E-2	E-3	E-4	E-5
Location	Cornice	Plank wall on facade	Front door	First floor window	Shingle from
L		on lacade	irame	frame	north gable (protected
1				name	by lean-to)
Substrate	Wood	Wood*	Wood	Wood	Wood
Earliest	White paint	Wood	White	Wood	Wood
layer	(primer?)		(primer?)		
,	(4)		(printer.)		
			Gray -blue		
			Munsell	100	
			10B 3/2		
			-	_	
	Green		Tan	Tan paint	
	Munsell 2.5G 2/4		Munsell	traces in	
	2.3G 2/4		7.5YR 6/2	wood fibers Munsell	
			White	5 YR 4/2	White oil-
			Winte	3 1K 4/2	based paint
			White		oused paint
					Heavy dirt
	Ì		White	,	layer
		7771 1	White		White
	White	White			
	Wilsia	White	C		
	White	WHILE.	Gray-green		Gray-green
Recent layer			Bright white	Bright white	paint
The state of the s			Digit witte	Digit witte	
Comments		Very	Very	Very	
		weathered	weathered	weathered	
		paint and wood surface	paint and wood surface	paint and wood surface	
<u> </u>	L	surface	Surface	surface.	

Sample	E-6	E-7	E-8	I-1a	I-1b
Location	South gable end, shingle	South gable, wood supports for shingles	East façade, plank boards under shingles	2-panel door found in house; panel	2-panel door found in house; rail
Substrate Earliest	Wood*	Wood*	Wood* Small fragments	Wood	
layer		Heavy dirt layer  No paint finish evident on this sample	of paint lodged between wood fibers: Dark red Munsell 7.5R 3/4	Dark red Munsell 10R 3 / 4*  Blue-green Munsell 7.5G 5/2  Green- blue Munsell	
Recent layer	Yellowed white oil- based paint  Heavy dirt layer  Bright white paint  Gray-green paint  Heavy dirt layer		Yellowed white oil-based paint	Creamy-tan Munsell 10YR 7/4 White Heavy dirt layer	
Comments	Very weathered	Poor condition - showing insect damage	Most paint worn off of wood.	* very thin layer, flat finish.	

Sample	1-2	I-3	I-4	I-5	15.6
Location	Room 100 Beaded beam	Room 100 Bent beside present exterior door	Room 100 Bent beside staircase	Room 100 Staircase partition boards	Room 100 Door frame to Room 103
Substrate	Wood	Wood*	Wood		
Earliest layer	Thin layer of red-brown, flat-finish paint Munsell 10R 4/6 White oil-based paint (fragmented layer) wood-pulp-based wallpaper	Thin layer of red-brown paint Munsell 10 R 3/4  Light blue paint Munsell 7.5B 7/2  wood pulp-based wallpaper		Wood Thin layer of red-brown paint Munsell 10R 3/4 wood pulp-based wallpaper	Wood Thin layer of red-brown paint Munsell 10 R 3/4  Light blue paint Munsell 7.5B 7/2  wood pulp-based wallpaper
Recent layer	1	off-white paint		off-white paint	off-white paint
Comments		weathered paint and wood	Very weathered paint and wood surface	Very weathered paint and wood surface	

Sample	I-7	I-8	I-9	I-10	I-11
Location	Room 100	Room 100	Room 100	Room 101	Room 102
w.	Baseboard	Plank over	Plaster wall	Rear hall,	Door frame
*		bent in east	above	door frame	to hall
		wall	exterior door	to Room 102	(Room 101)
Substrate	. Wood.	Wood	Plaster*	Wood	Wood
Earliest layer	Glossy black paint  Light blue oil-based paint  Munsell 10B 6/2	Thin, shiny-looking layer of redbrown paint Munsell 10 R 3/4  Light blue paint Munsell 7.5B 7/2 Olive-color glaze Munsell	6-7 thin layers of white paint. Not whitewash, but high chalk content, as fizzing occurs in presence of weak acid	Dark gray- paint, penetrated into wood fibers Munsell 5Y 2/1 Bright blue- green paint Munsell 7.5BG 5/2	Discolored gray-green glaze over white primer (very poor condition) Munsell 10YR 4/1  Dark red paint 7.5R 3/4  Dark green. (Thin, glossy glaze) Munsell 10G 3/1
	Yellowed white oil- based paint	Yellowed white oil-based paint			Light blue- green-gray Munsell 5G 6/1 Creamy white Pale gray
		Heavy dirt layer		Heavy dirt layer	Creamy white
Recent layer				White paint	White
			~		White
Comments			* Mud and straw substrate		

Sample	I-12	I-13	I-14	I-15	I-16
Location	Room 103	Room 103	Room 103	Room 103	Room 103
en .	Wall below	Wall above	Inside built-	Panel above	Doorframe for hall
	front	fireplace	in cupboard	built-in	door (to Rm 104)
	window	_	door	cupboard	·
Substrate	Plaster*	Plaster*	Wood	Wood	Wood
Earliest layer	White finish	White finish	Bright	Blue-gray	Blue-gray
*	coat, very	coat of	orange-red	paint	Paint
	thin.	plaster, very	paint	Munsell	Munsell 2.5PB 3/2
		thin.	Munsell 10R	2.5PB 3/2*	
			5/10		Gray-green finish
	~	Approx. 15		Gray-green	with distinct shine
	Gray-blue	successive		finish with	Munsell 5GY 7/1
	paint	layers of	Heavy dirt	distinct	(discolored Prussian
	(discolored	thin, even	layer	shine	blue glaze?)
-2	due to	white paint.		Munsell	White 1 - 1 1 - 1
	yellowing of	(Some reaction to		5GY 7/1	White lead-based
	oil) Munsell 5B 7/2			(discolored Prussian	oil paint, now
a a	3 <b>B</b> 772	acid; high chalk		I.	yellowed
		content but	Light green	blue glaze?)	White paint
	Evidence of	in oil base,	paint	White lead-	winte paint
	glue and	not water-	Munsell	based oil	White paint
	wallpaper	based finish)	2.5GY 8/2	paint, now	winte paint
8	applied.	oused mish)	2.501 6/2	yellowed	.,
x 	ирриса.	· · ·		yenowed	
				White paint	
9					Heavy dirt layer
4.0	Gray-blue		Blue-gray	White paint	
	paint (latex)		paint (latex)		
	Munsell		Munsell		
ų.	5B 6/2	-	2.5 B 7/2		
197	*:		-		
				Heavy dirt	
Recent layer				layer	
Comments	Smooth surface	Sand and clay		* Very thin	
**)	but rough consistency –	mixed into plaster,		layer, flat finish	
	not machine-	forming a		THISH.	
	ground gypsum	rough-textured			
	plaster.	surface.			
		Browner than sample I-12	- 1	-	
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sample 1-12		L	

Sample	I-17	I-18	I-19	I-20	I-21
Location	Room 103 Door frame for door to rear chamber (Room 100)	The second secon	Room 104 Wainscot	Room 104 Chair rail	Room 104 Ceiling – over corner cupboard
Substrate	Wood	fireplace Wood	Wood	Wood*	Wood*
Earliest layer	Orange-red* Munsell 10R 4/6 or Blue-gray Munsell 7.5 B 6/2 Gray-green finish(shiny)	Thin layer of whitewash.  Heavy dirt layer	Dark blue- gray paint with high gloss finish Munsell 10B 2/2	Blue-gray paint Munsell 10B 4/2 Creamy white paint* Orange-red* Munsell	
	Munsell 5Y 5/2 (Prussian			7.5R 4/6 White*	Yellowed
	Blue glaze?) Yellowed white oil-			Tan*	white/ gray- tan/glaze- Graining?
	based paint		•	Light green*	Creamy white
				Bright blue Munsell 10B 6/6	Bright blue Munsell 10B 6/6
					White paint
					White paint
Recent layer	White paint		Light blue latex paint		White paint
Comments	* very thin layer; flat finish			* Sequence of paint layers disrupted – fragments of paint partially dissolved and re-deposited.	* Sequence of paint layers disrupted – fragments of paint partially dissolved and re-deposited.

Sample	I-22	I-23	I-24	I-25	I-26
Location	Room 104	Room 104	Room 104	Room 105	Room 105
	Sash	Sash	Rear hall,	Ceiling	Fireplace
	window	window	door frame	board	mantel
		frame	to closet		
Substrate	Wood	Wood	Wood	Wood	Wood
Earliest	Creamy			Gray-blue	Gray-blue
layer	white oil-		733	paint	paint
	based paint	5.		Munsell	Munsell
	remains in			5B 7/2	5B 7/2
	fragments in	_		Glaze	(fragmentary
	wood fibers.			(discolored)	in fibers of
	(thoroughly			5G 4/1	wood)
	scraped off				
	before later			Heavy dirt	Brown paint
	repainting)			layer	Munsell
					10R 4/2
	White paint	White paint	White paint	White paint	
~	winte paint	white paint	winte paint	winte paint	
4.	Light blue			Bright	
	flat finish			white, flat	Light blue
Most recent	paint (latex)			finish paint	flat finish
layer	.,	y 7		(latex)	paint (latex)
	4	east			House dies
**************************************	· · ·				Heavy dirt
					layer
Comments					

Sample	I-27	I-28	I-29	I-30	I-31
Location	Room 201 Plank wall in staircase	Room 201 Tongue & groove wall in staircase	Room 201 Vertical plank door into Room 200	Room 202 Interior side of plank door	Room 205 Window sash
Substrate	Wood	Wood	Wood	Wood	Wood
Earliest layer	Red-orange, thin paint Munsell 10R 3/6			White – high oil content	White oil- based paint Heavy dirt
	Yellowed white paint with thick caramel- colored glaze = Primitive Graining				layer
	Light tan Caramel color glaze Graining		Light tan Caramel color glaze Graining		Creamy White paint
	White (primer) Pale blue- gray 5B 8/2	White paint Pale blue Gray	White paint	White paint	White paint
Recent layer	Pale green paint Munsell 2.5G 9/2 Tan paint	Pale green paint Munsell 2.5G 9/2 Tan	White paint	White paint	White paint Heavy dirt layer
Comments					

Sample	I-32	I-33		
Location	Room 205 Plank cupboard around fireplace	Room 206 Window sash	s	
Substrate	Wood	Wood		
Earliest layer	Pale gray- green paint Munsell 10GY 8/1	White paint  White paint		
Most recent layer	White paint	White paint		
Comments				8.

PRELIMINARY ARCHAEOLOGICAL
ASSESSMENT
WYCKOFF/GARRETSON PROPERTY
FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP
SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

Mark A. Hewitt, A.I.A., Architect The Meadows Foundation, Inc.

June 2000

MARK ALAN HEWITT, AIA ARCHITECT 104 MINE BROOK ROAD BERNARDSVILLE, NJ 07924

# PRELIMINARY ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT WYCKOFF/GARRETSON PROPERTY FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY June 2000

#### I. INTRODUCTION

This report provides a preliminary archaeological assessment of the historic Wyckoff/Garretson property, a 1.5-acre parcel (Block 74, Lot 12) located on the west side of South Middlebush Road, just south of the village of Middlebush in Franklin Township, Somerset County, New Jersey. This parcel contains part of the nucleus of the Wyckoff/Garretson farmstead, a Dutch-American farm established early in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. On the property stand the original farmhouse, notable as a well-preserved example of traditional Dutch-American timber-framing, a late19<sup>th</sup>-century carriage or wagon house, the remains of a well house and a modern shed (Figure 1).

Today, the Wyckoff/Garretson House is owned by Franklin Township, and the parcel of land on which the house sits is owned by the State of New Jersey. Both the house and land are managed by the Meadows Foundation, Inc., a private non-profit group devoted to the preservation, restoration and interpretation of a series of historic properties in the Middlebush/Somerset section of Franklin Township. The Wyckoff/Garretson property is included within the Six Mile Run Historic District, which is listed in the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places (SR 7/14/93; NR 10/25/95).

In the late 1980s a program of archaeological investigation was conducted at the Wyckoff/Garretson site by a group of volunteers led by Richard Grubb. Although the results of these investigations were never formally written up, it was generally considered that the site held considerable potential for yielding significant archaeological resources relating to the occupation of the farm. On this basis, three main tasks were undertaken during the course of the current investigations. First, the results of the earlier archaeological work were reviewed. This entailed interviewing Richard Grubb, gathering together and digesting the original field documentation, and examining the artifacts recovered from these excavations. The second task involved producing a map of the property from an original field survey using a total station theodolite. The third task was the excavation of a single three-foot-square unit adjacent to the rear wall of the house at the junction of the northern and southern sections of the building.

This work has been performed by Hunter Research under contract to Mark A. Hewitt, A.I.A., Architect, whose assistance we gratefully acknowledge. We also acknowledge the input and skills of other specialists involved with this project: Janet Foster for historical information; Clifford Zink for his architectural analysis of the house; and Tom D'Amico for his preservation planning expertise. Richard Grubb also kindly gave us the benefit of his time and knowledge of the Wyckoff/Garretson property and loaned us various materials relevant to our work.

#### II. PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH

A program of voluntary archaeological study was carried out at the Wyckoff/Garretson property in 1987 and 1988 under the direction of Richard Grubb (presently the principal of Richard Grubb and Associates of Cranbury). This activity included extensive excavation within the west (rear) portion of the north section of the house, partial excavation of two units outside the house (one adjacent to the front porch and the other just southwest of the building), and shovel testing in the yard area around the house (Figure 1). The results of these excavations are briefly summarized below, following a review of the field documentation provided by Richard Grubb plus additional paperwork retrieved from the house earlier this year.

Substantial quantities of artifacts were recovered from the excavations in the interior of the house, and a sample of these has been on display inside the house for over a decade. Other undisplayed materials recovered from the Grubb excavations also are stored on the ground floor in the northern section of the house. In addition, several boxes of unprovenienced artifacts (chiefly ceramics) are present at the house, but these were not excavated by Grubb and are believed to have been brought to the property by a former tenant. The artifacts known to have been recovered from the Grubb excavations have not been formally processed and catalogued. A brief qualitative overview of this material is given below.

#### A. Summary of Grubb Excavation Units

#### 1. Excavations within the Northwest Room of the Wyckoff/Garretson House

The crawl space beneath the former kitchen in the west (rear) room of the north section of the house was archaeologically investigated through six excavation units [Excavation Units 1 to 6] (Figure 1 and Figure 2; Plate 1). Two sub-floor deposits were identified. An upper sub-floor layer of sandy silt [5YR 5/6] was removed that was roughly 0.40 feet thick to the west and up to 0.80 feet thick in the eastern part of the room. This layer contained a mix of late 18<sup>th</sup>- through early 19<sup>th</sup>-century artifacts. A lower sub-floor layer of silt [5YR 4/4] also was recognized and may represent an earlier yard deposit (which possibly accumulated outside the original house). This layer was consistently 0.40 feet in thickness, extended across the crawl space area, and contained predominantly late 18<sup>th</sup>-century artifacts. Below the lower sub-floor deposit was a layer of silt with decayed shale [5YR 5/4],

a soil horizon that was originally interpreted as the subsoil. However, the presence of mid-18th century artifacts in this layer suggests that this subsoil-like material may represent upcast soil from the basement dug for the southern (earliest) section of the house.

Three specific features of interest were identified within the crawl space area (Figure 2). The first was a small expanse of what appears to have been a sheet midden, which extended beneath, and had been cut by, the western foundation of the north section of the house. This deposit was observed in both Excavation Units 3 and 5 and contained a concentration of creamware and pearlware sherds and a large variety of broken glass fragments. Because pearlware found in archaeological deposits in New Jersey typically date from after 1779, the western foundation for the northern section of the house must have been constructed sometime after that date.

A second feature, possibly a builders' trench for a footing or the edge of a refuse pit, was identified along the southern edge of Excavation Unit 4 and continued to the south and east under the existing floor. The fill of this feature produced mid- to late 18th-century artifacts, including sherds of white salt-glazed stoneware, Chinese export porcelain, white slipped redware and possibly also pearlware.

The final feature encountered in the crawl space excavations was the corner of a shale foundation located in the southeast corner of Excavation Unit 6. This feature appears to pre-date the current building, because the framing for the current northern section of the house does not articulate with this block of masonry. More specifically, the fieldstone footing for the current north/south partition wall in this section of the house only abuts this shale corner foundation, and the floor-joist framing system does not sit squarely upon the corner (Plate 1). It also may be pertinent that the lower subfloor (and possible yard) deposit within the center of Excavation Unit 6 contained a large quantity of brick and stone debris, perhaps indicating the demolition of part of this earlier foundation.

To the west of the shale foundation, and below the yard/sub-floor deposit, a pit-like feature (one foot deep and extending one foot north/south by 0.70 feet east/west) was identified running parallel to the wall edge. The pit was filled in with charcoal, shell, and stone. Burnt ceramics, including sherds of undecorated and "scratch blue" white salt-glazed stoneware and one possible piece of creamware, were recovered from the upper portion of the pit fill. This pit was identified in the field documentation as a hearth, but it also could be a filled-in builders' trench for the shale foundation.

The concrete pad that overlies the hearth for the fireplace in the north wall of the northwest room was not removed. The northern edge of Excavation Unit 6 was placed along the southern edge of the pad and revealed a fieldstone hearth base and a short segment of a north-south fieldstone foundation, which supported a decayed wooden joist. This foundation appears to be the northern continuation of the footing for the north-south partition wall that abuts the corner of the shale foundation (Plate 1 [left side of view]).

#### 2. Excavation Units Outside the House

Two excavation units were excavated outside the house. One unit [Unit S7, E22] was located to the south of the front concrete porch (Figure 1). Only the top 0.20 feet of the southern two quadrants of the unit was excavated, revealing layers of sand from sand blasting of the exterior of the house. The second unit was located west of the southwest corner of the house adjacent to a concrete sidewalk [Unit N0, E11]. This unit produced a mix of mid-19<sup>th</sup> through 20<sup>th</sup>-century artifacts to a depth of approximately one foot below the ground surface. At this level, a stone and brick footing was found extending beneath the concrete sidewalk. This feature possibly represents the remains of a porch footing. A dense sheet midden or refuse pit was located in the western half of the unit, beginning at a depth of 1.50 feet and extending to at least two feet below the ground surface. This feature yielded a dense concentration of shell along with other artifacts, such as sherds of slipped redware, pipe stem fragments, and pieces of metal and bone. As with the first excavation unit, this unit was not fully dug into culturally sterile soils.

#### **B. Summary of Grubb Shovel Testing**

Shovel testing in the yard surrounding the house revealed a relatively uniform soil sequence (Figure 1). The top of the soil column comprised a clayey silt layer [Level I, 5YR 3/4] averaging 0.60 to 0.90 feet in thickness [Level I]. The majority of the cultural materials were recovered from this uppermost layer. The second layer was a clayey silt with decayed shale [Level II, 5YR 3/4] averaging one foot in thickness and terminating at the shale bedrock [Level III]. Bedrock was encountered at an average depth of one foot below the ground surface along the northern property boundary, but to the south of the house it was found at average depth of almost two feet. A thin clayey silt humic layer [5YR 4/4] was identified at a depth of 0.40 feet below the ground surface within the shovel tests located northwest of the house. This thin humic layer may relate to the cultivation of a kitchen garden that was formerly located in this general area.

Three features were identified during the course of the shovel testing. The first was located within a shovel test excavated along the western side of the current basement bulkhead entrance. A brick feature was identified at 2.30 feet below ground surface, although it is unclear if this was random rubble or evidence of a structural feature of some sort. The two other features were both identified close to the north wall of the house. The first, located five feet north of the northwest corner of the one-story addition adjoining the north wall of the house, was noted as a sewer pipe lying directly on the bedrock at a depth of two feet below the ground surface. The second feature was located east of the covered cistern. Here, a brick and stone rubble layer was identified at 0.60 feet below the ground surface. This rubble may represent the remains of a one-story shed-like addition that is visible at this location in a late 19<sup>th</sup>-century picture of the house.

Two broad patterns were evident in the artifacts distributed across the yard area. The first is best described as a fan-like spread of cultural materials and fuel waste radiating out to the north and northwest of the house for a distance of approximately 40 feet. Beyond the 40-foot limit, the density of artifacts dropped off noticeably. The second pattern was a concentration of 18<sup>th</sup>-century ceramics, consisting of creamware, pearlware and glazed slipped redwares, observed within 40 feet of the north

face of the house. Although mixed with 19<sup>th</sup>-century ceramics; the yard area north of the north wall of the house seems to have served as an area for sheet trash disposal in the later 18<sup>th</sup> century. Based on the mixing of 18<sup>th</sup>- through 20<sup>th</sup>-century artifacts within Level I, the yard area around the house may have undergone cultivation sometime during in the late 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The recovery of coal and 19<sup>th</sup>-century ceramics from the upper part of Level II offer further evidence of cultivation around the house.

#### C. Overview of Artifacts Recovered from Grubb Excavations

Cultural materials recovered from the earlier excavations at the Wyckoff/Garretson property were examined to better understand the temporal framework governing the occupation of the house and yard and their component parts. The formal excavation units inside the house and shovel tests in the surrounding yard produced a material culture assemblage typical of a domestic farmhouse setting.

Faunal remains (pig and chicken bones) and energy-related refuse (coal, coal ash, and slag) were found both inside the building and throughout the yard, as were building materials (nails, brick fragments, mortar, etc.). Several items classifiable as "small finds" also were recovered, including buttons, gun flints, pipe stems, hair combs and an 1807 half cent, as were several glass fragments related to vessel and lighting forms. These types of artifacts are typical of a domestic setting, but do not (except for the dated coin) provide clear information about the period of occupation. More useful to this end are the ceramics that, as with most sites of this type, represent the bulk of the assemblage.

Refined earthenwares comprise the main group of ceramic materials from the excavations. Creamware, the first of these wares to be introduced into the American colonies, is represented in the collection by fragments of plates, including one molded with a "Royal" pattern border and another that was a deep ovate serving vessel. The most commonly represented type of refined earthenware in the ceramic assemblage is decorated pearlware, which is present in a variety of tableware forms (round, octagonal, and oval plates, serving platters, bowls, saucers, pitchers, etc.). Pearlware decoration types seen in the assemblage include "mocha" or factory-made slipped decorated vessels, hand painted vessels (of both polychrome and "Large Blue Flower" motif varieties), and transfer printed vessels. These pearlware types were the tablewares of choice for American consumers in the years following the War of 1812 through into the 1840s. Another type of decorated pearlware present in the assemblage, blue and green "feather edge" wares, can be given a wider time range, as this type gained popularity as early as the mid-1770s. Also represented in the collection are certain later types of refined earthenware: whiteware, yellowware and ironstone. These types commonly occur in assemblages of the later 19th century (whiteware is typically ascribed a start date of 1815, yellowware a date of 1827, and ironstone around 1840).

Ceramic sherds that do not belong to the refined earthenware category also are represented in the assemblage, and it is here that evidence for the earlier historic occupation of the site can be seen. Four fragments of white salt-glazed stoneware (one with basket pattern molding and two exhibiting

"scratch blue" decoration), a sherd of blue painted tin-glazed earthenware, and one of Rhenish-type grey stoneware were recovered from units inside the kitchen. These types reflect an 18<sup>th</sup>-century occupation. Coarse earthenwares (redwares and red bodied slipwares) also were recovered in small numbers, as were imported porcelains and non-diagnostic stonewares.

Viewed as a whole, the ceramic assemblage can be seen as falling within a date range extending from around 1720 to the last quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The bulk of the material, however, dates from around 1790 to 1840. The paucity of 18<sup>th</sup>-century ceramics and coarse earthenwares (which are usually extremely abundant on sites of this type) suggests that other areas of the property, not extensively investigated by the Grubb excavations, should yield stronger evidence of the earlier phases of occupation.

## III. YEAR 2000 ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD INVESTIGATIONS

Archaeological field survey investigations were carried out between June 2 and June 6, 2000. Two principal tasks were undertaken: inspection and mapping of the property and excavation of a single three-foot-square unit adjacent to exterior of the west wall of the house (Figure 1).

#### A. Survey and Mapping

Systematic inspection and mapping of the 1.5-acre Wyckoff/Garretson property resulted in the identification of several cultural features in addition to the three standing buildings (the house, the carriage house and the shed). Immediately north of the shed addition appended to the north side of the house is a slate-capped cistern filled with water. Southwest of the house, two earthen berms were noted, both less than a foot high. One berm wraps around the southwest corner of the house at a distance of roughly five feet from the building; the second is further from the house and runs eastwest and roughly parallel to the north of the driveway leading to the rear of the property. A local farmer related that these berms were created to prevent run-off entering the house from the fields to the west.

Just north of the carriage house and south of the rear driveway, a 0.70-foot-wide concrete footing was identified for a structure measuring 24 feet east-west by 16 feet north-south. This is believed to be the foundation for a small early 20<sup>th</sup>-century garage that is visible in historic photographs. Opposite the front of the carriage house, on the east side of the driveway, there is a cluster of features relating to a series of wells that have served the property over the years. These are represented at the ground surface by a concrete cap, the remains of a cinderblock structure that contained an abandoned well cap, and a small brick footing, apparently an enclosure for an earlier well replaced by the cinderblock structure. Historic photographs show a well house structure in this area. Finally, a series of three depressions were noted in front of the house at the toe of the slope on the east lawn. The origin of these depressions is unknown.

#### B. Excavation Unit H-1

Based on architectural evidence observed inside the house, a three-foot excavation unit [Unit H-1] was placed outside the building adjacent to the mid-point of the western wall in anticipation that this would reveal a joint in the foundation between the original southern section of the house and its later extension to the north (Figure 2 and Figure 3).

The soil sequence in this unit essentially mirrored stratigraphic information derived from the earlier shovel testing program. The top 0.80 feet of the sequence comprised a concrete sidewalk set on a thick layer of gravel. Beneath the gravel was a thin, 0.30-foot-thick layer of silty clay loam with shale [context 2], which in turn overlaid a 0.50-foot-thick clayey loam with shale layer [context 4]. Both layers contained a mix of 18<sup>th</sup>- through 20<sup>th</sup>-century artifacts and coal, as well as a few fragments of brick and shale. Context 4 may correlate with the lower of the two sub-floor deposits identified in excavations within the house. A shallow posthole [0.80 by 0.40 feet by 0.10 feet deep] cut into these layers about one foot from the west wall of the house and may represent evidence for a rear porch during the late 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The western end of the unit contained a 20<sup>th</sup>-century pit or drain feature [context 10, 11] running parallel to the wall of the house. This had been excavated down to bedrock and lined with tar roof shingles; it is clearly of later 20<sup>th</sup>-century origin.

The remainder of the soil sequence below context 4 comprised a layer of clayey loam with dense shale [context 14], which overlay shale bedrock. The upper portion of the loam and shale layer appears to be part of a redeposited C horizon, as it contained one piece of white slipped redware. The lower part of this layer may represent intact but weathered subsoil. A similar deposit appears to have been noted at the base of the units excavated inside the house. Solid shale bedrock [context 15] was recorded at a depth of 1.75 feet below the present ground surface.

Excavation of this unit revealed a joint in the foundation construction below and just south of the back door entrance to the house (Plate 2). The southern section of foundation [context 3] was constructed of cut shale placed up against a cut [context 16] for the basement under the southern section of the house. Unfortunately no artifacts were recovered from the fill of this builders' trench, which might have assisted in the dating of the southern section of the house. The western footing was constructed of a poorer quality fieldstone foundation [context 5] with a shallow builders' trench [context 12] because this section of the house has a crawl space rather than a full basement. Again, no artifacts were recovered from the fill of the builders' trench [context 13] for the northern section of the house, although the abutting relationship of the northern fieldstone foundation to the southern shale foundation clearly indicates that the present northern section of the house was added on to the southern section.

#### C. Discussion

The archaeological information recovered from the Grubb excavations of the late 1980's and the limited work conducted this year combine usefully with the historical and architectural data to support the hypothesis that the southern half of the house represents the main part of the original dwelling on the property; data also support the notion that this structure was later extended to the north to produce an overall building footprint double the size of the original main section. Although few early to mid-18th-century artifacts have been recovered from the site, this is not unusual. Farmsteads of colonial origin typically produce large quantities of cultural materials only from the late 18th century onwards. Mid-18th-century ceramic types are present in small quantities sufficient to demonstrate occupation of the property in the colonial era, and it is fair to assume that more extensive excavation elsewhere on the property would produce considerably more data of this sort.

The stratigraphic evidence of Excavation Unit H-1 plus the material culture evidence support an interpretation that the southern section of the house is on its original site and has not been moved and that occupation of the site probably begins in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. The northern extension, from the evidence of ceramic types found both inside and outside the house, would appear to have been constructed towards the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, certainly after *circa* 1780, and perhaps even around 1800 when the Garretson family took over the property from the Wyckoffs.

The archaeological evidence found beneath the floor of the kitchen in the rear (west) portion of the northern section of the house is of considerable interest. The identification of two sub-floor deposits probably has some bearing on the building sequence, and it is quite possible that the lower deposit represents an accumulation of soil in the yard outside the original southern section of the house. Especially tantalizing is the corner of a shale foundation exposed beneath the center of the northern section of the building. The fact that this is shale (like the main foundation for the southern section) rather than fieldstone (the material used for the foundation of the northern section), and does not appear to relate to the framing of the northern section of the house, suggests that it may be related to an earlier wing that was attached to the original house. This earlier wing was later taken down and replaced by the current northern section. The original southern section of the house has no obvious kitchen space or large cooking fireplace, although the basement may have been used as a kitchen. The shale corner foundation may be part of an original kitchen wing that was appended to the north of the earlier southern section of the house. Further archaeological investigation beneath the interior of the northern section of the house could probably clarify this aspect of the development of the house.

Insufficient work has been undertaken in the yard to fully characterize the archaeological potential of the property. In general terms, the front yard is less likely than the rear yard to contain significant archaeological data. The focus of the agricultural outbuildings and farmyard activity lay to the south and southwest of the house. (This is apparent from both historic photographs and field evidence.) It is reasonable to propose that archaeological evidence of barns and other farm buildings will lie to the south of the carriage house/well house area where a Dutch barn is known to have stood. The area of most intense domestic activity will have extended behind and to the sides of the house but to the

north of the farmyard zone. This domestic activity area, the most likely source of important archaeological information, may be broadly defined as extending for roughly 125 feet to the south of the house (i.e., to the well house area) and for a similar distance to the west (or rear) of the house. Archaeological evidence also will probably survive to the north of the house, perhaps extending for 75 to 100 feet from the building, although there may have been less intense activity here because the focus of the farming operations seems to have been in the opposite southerly direction. (Incidentally, this is a feature of several of the historic Dutch-American farm properties along South Middlebush Road.)

# IV. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

Ideally, the handling of archaeological issues on the Wyckoff/Garretson property should be driven by a long-term archaeological resource management plan that allows for the study and preservation of archaeological resources as appropriate within the broader context of the restoration, development and interpretation of the house and surrounding site. The preparation of a comprehensive archaeological resource management plan is premature at this stage, however, and would benefit from the generation of additional archaeological information, both from further analysis of the investigations undertaken in 1987-88 and from additional testing inside the house and in the surrounding yard. On this basis a series of short-term investigative tasks are recommended as follows:

- 1. Detailed examination and recording of the interior of the basement of the southern section of the house—preparation of a detailed basement floor plan, interior elevations of the basement walls and a plan of the basement ceiling; photographic recording of key architectural features in the basement; coordination with the project architectural historian. Close examination of the basement should reveal information about the evolution and construction of the building that will have a bearing on the archaeological interpretation of the site.
  - 2. Clean-up and re-examination of the previously excavated area in the rear (west) room of the northern section of the house—removal of loose rubble and re-exposure/re-examination of archaeological features found by Grubb in 1987-88. The possible earlier shale foundation, interior builders' trenches and pit features found by Grubb should be re-interpreted in light of the current understanding of the building's development sequence.
  - 3. Supplementary excavation in the interior of the northern section of the house—selective excavation of soils in the rear (west) room, where not previously excavated, and beneath the floor of the hallway [Room 101], the northern part of the central room [104] and the northeast parlor room [105]. If made accessible through removal of floorboards, the crawl space of the non-basemented northern section of the house is likely to yield useful archaeological information about the construction and

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development sequence of the house.

- 4. Further excavation around the house perimeter—selective unit excavation in key locations around the exterior of the building to recover datable materials from builders trenches and investigate the condition of the foundations.
- 5. Further test excavations in the yard area—an expanded program of shovel testing with allowance for unit excavation/sampling of features. This testing program should aim to delimit areas of archaeological sensitivity that can be avoided in development of the site or be examined at some later date through formal archaeological data recovery. This work should focus primarily on the rear and side yard areas.
- 6. Full inventory and analysis of cultural materials—artifacts recovered from the earlier Grubb excavations, the excavation unit dug in May 2000 and from any future excavations should be cataloged and analyzed in the broader historical and cultural context of the property.
- 7. Reporting of archaeological activities—all archaeological investigative activity undertaken at the Wyckoff/Garretson property should be reported upon fully in a professional manner in accordance with the reporting guidelines of the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office.

Finally, because the Wyckoff/Garretson property is both publicly owned and listed in the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places, actions affecting the house and grounds are subject to review by the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office and the New Jersey Historic Sites Council under the New Jersey Register of Historic Places Act (NJSA 13:1B-15.131). In this context, all future archaeological investigative activity should be conducted with the concurrence of these state preservation agencies.

#### C.W. ZINK & ASSOCIATES

Preservation Planning & Architectural Restoration 54 Aiken Avenue, Princeton, New Jersey 08540 609-924-4833 Fax 609-924-9553 cwzink@attglobal.net

May 18th, 2000

Mr. Mark Hewitt AIA Box 289 104 Mine Brook Road Bernardsville, New Jersey 07924

Re: Wyckoff-Garretson House

Dear Mark,

Our preliminary examination of the house on Tuesday leads me to believe that it is a very important and rare example of the earliest period of Dutch American settlement in Somerset County. The house has survived remarkably intact for almost 300 years with a considerable amount of original fabric, thanks in no small part to the efforts of the Meadows Foundation. With the appropriate research, restoration, and interpretation, the Foundation could make the Wyckoff-Garretson House and its surrounding farmstead, a major showplace of Dutch American vernacular architecture in New Jersey.

The house exhibits classic Dutch American building characteristics, including framing, floor plans, finish treatments, and the sequence of construction. The framing is well preserved, with the only apparent damage by the chimney flashings and the northeast sill. The exposed anchorbent posts in the northwest room exemplify seventeenth century Dutch American house construction, as exhibited in the Jan Martense Schenck House in the Brooklyn Museum and as visible in the Symen Van Wickle House.

As there have been questions about the date of the house, I think we can make a preliminary assessment of the building sequence based on Janet Foster's research, on the documents in the house collected by the Foundation, and on our initial architectural investigation. It appears that the west section was built in the early eighteenth century with seven anchorbents, possibly by John Wyckoff after he acquired the property in 1713. The east section appears to have been added in the mid-eighteenth century with six anchorbents copying the west section framing, and alterations were made to the west section at the same time, including the stairway. This work was possibly undertaken by John Wyckoff's son after he inherited the property around 1742.

Alterations including new windows and interior finishes were made in the early nineteenth century, possibly by the Garretson family after acquiring the property in 1800. Additional alterations occurred in the mid-nineteenth century (including drop ceilings), in the early twentieth century (including the south dormer), and post World War II (including new bathrooms and kitchen, and drywall installation). More recent work has included removal of the kitchen and floor in the northeast room and rebuilding of the chimneys above the roof. The construction period and significance of the east shed addition was not apparent during the site visit.

Mr. Mark Hewitt May 18th 2000 Page 2

With the exception of the c1800 work, the nineteenth and twentieth century alterations appear to be relatively insignificant. The primary significance of the Wyckoff-Garretson House lies in its eighteenth century form and in the considerable amount of eighteenth century fabric that remains intact. While several original features have been removed, it appears that the house contains significant information concerning these, such as the early doors that we found in the garret and the basement. The relationship of the corner cupboards to the house needs to be examined.

My initial recommendations for the first phase of this restoration project are:

- Stabilize the house by installing temporary flashing around the chimneys to stop the
  ongoing damage from additional water penetration, and to secure the envelope as much as
  possible from vandalism, including by providing a secure basement hatch.
- Remove all non-historic and unattached items and materials from the house, with the
  exception of the display cases, a worktable, and chairs, to facilitate access to the historic
  fabric. No historic components or materials should be moved or removed.
- Probe selected areas of the house to uncover key architectural evidence of the original
  construction and condition of the house, including access holes in the ceiling and walls of
  the southwest room. This probing should be carefully undertaken to avoid any damage to
  original fabric.
- Complete the initial archaeological investigation and assessment.
- Complete the initial archival research, and undertake preliminary research on related buildings.
- Photograph the interior and exterior of the house to document its current appearance and condition, including overall and detail views, with both color and black and white film.
- Produce plan, elevation, and framing drawings with as much detail as possible to document the present appearance and condition.

While the scope of the second phase would be further defined by the results of the first, by how the Foundation determines to use the house, and by the funds available, it would conceivably include:

- Removal of all components and materials that are not historically significant, i.e. bathroom fixtures & plumbing, drywall, modern trim, etc.
- Detailed architectural investigation and documentation through photographs and drawings, including full framing drawings, to fully understand the original construction and the historic development of the house.
- Dendrochronology of the framing of both the east and west sections to help clarify the respective dates of construction.

Mr. Mark Hewitt May 18th 2000 Page 3

- Paint analysis of the historic finishes and mortar analysis for the historic stone and brick masonry.
- Archaeological investigation of portions of the site critical to its adaptive reuse.
- Archival and architectural research to establish the context of the house within Somerset County and central New Jersey.
- Replacement of the northeast sill and appropriate restoration of the structural integrity of the northwest wall, including temporary sealing of the adjacent exterior. Additional securing and security measures may also be warranted.
- Recommendations for the restoration and use of the house.
- Construction documents and cost estimates for the restoration of the house.

Given the importance of the Wyckoff-Garretson House, I believe that the Foundation has the opportunity to raise the funds necessary to restore it and perhaps even to develop the historic context of the farmstead, such as by relocating a Dutch Barn to the former barn site west of the house.

We appreciate the opportunity to help you, Janet, and the Foundation on this project.

Sincerely,

Clifford Zink

# JAMES B. HUFFMAN, P.E.

762 Village Road West, Princeton Jct., NJ 08550 609-275-5846

29 July 2000

Mark Alan Hewitt, Architect P.O. Box 289 104 Mine Brook Rd. Bernardsville, NJ 07924

RE:

Wyckoff-Garretson House, Somerset County, NJ

Structural Stabilization Issues

Dear Mark:

This report is based on our preliminary structural assessment of the Wyckoff-Garrettson House. Accessible areas have been surveyed, but no finishes have been removed, nor have probes of any type been done. The purpose of this report is to identify critical structural stabilization issues and make specific recommendations for minimally invasive stabilization activities. It is intended as an interim step in the overall context of the preparation of the HSR. A more detailed description of structural systems and conditions will be included in the final HSR.

Overall, the structure of the Wycoff-Garrettson House is in remarkably good condition. Most of the principal framing members appear to be in satisfactory condition, and the known problem areas can be addressed in a relatively straightforward manner.

There are currently the following immediate needs with respect to structural stabilization:

- Limiting bulk water intrusion,
- 2. Arresting ongoing water damage, and
- 3. Stabilization of the eastern portion of the north wall.

There are, of course, other related issues, including overall moisture balance in the building, and specific reinforcement, repair or replacement items. These issues will be discussed in more detail in the HSR.

# A. Water Intrusion & Water Damage

There are several locations where bulk water is entering the building. These locations include the roof penetrations for the chimneys, the perimeter of the foundation, and missing window glazing.

The chimney repair and reconstruction appears to be substantially complete. However, no step flashing or counter-flashing has been installed. Repeated wetting by rain has resulted in moderate damage to the roof deck, rafters, and the gable end walls in the immediate vicinity of the chimneys. It is recommended that the deck be repaired and step flashing and counter flashing be installed promptly in order to stop rainwater from entering in this area. Ideally, this work would be done in conjunction with stripping the roof and installing new shingles, but the installation of the flashing should be done in any case, regardless of the schedule for re-roofing. Because the existing shingles are old and relatively brittle, it may be necessary to use some self-adhesive sheet materials (such as Ice and Water Shield) and/or temporary patching compounds (fibered roof cement) in order to flash the chimneys. In any case, the counterflashing can be permanently installed.

Rainwater from the roof is discharged at the perimeter of the building, immediately adjacent to the foundation. In addition to the "splashback", which unnecessarily wets the sidewall shingles, some of this water is entering the basement and crawl spaces. This problem is especially severe on the north side, where surface runoff flows toward the building, and where grade clearance is inadequate. It is recommended that gutters and leaders be repaired as necessary, such that all roof drainage is discharged at least 6 feet away from the building in locations where the grade is positive. The area immediately adjacent to the north side of the building should be regraded to provide at least 6 inches of grade clearance and a swale to carry surface water around the end(s) of the building.

The above-grade portion of the exterior of the stone foundation walls have been parged. The parging is relatively thick, and it is clear that it was installed after the existing wall shingles, leaving the butts of the shingles are effectively "buried" in the cement parging. The detail was poorly conceived, and has resulted in the diversion of rainwater into the area where the wood sill rests on the stone masonry foundation. There is substantial evidence that both the shingles and the sill plates have suffered water damage as a result of this detail. The full extent of the damage is not known. (See Recommendation for Additional Probes, below.) It is recommended that the parging be sawn and/or chipped away to a line approximately 1" below the bottom of the sill plates or the bottom of the shingles, whichever is lower. Temporary metal flashing can then be inserted behind the base course of shingles to divert rainwater outside and beyond the foundation. This relatively simple step will arrest the ongoing water damage in this area. A more permanent solution can be designed after other related decisions have been made, and the deign implemented in concert with other related repairs.

A few glass panes are missing from windows, and there is evidence of long-term water damage in some locations. Prompt replacement of missing panes is recommended.

Both in the crawl space and in the basement there are a number of wood support posts, the bases of which rest on damp concrete, at or below grade, or directly on damp or wet earth. These conditions have resulted in some deterioration at the bases of the wood members, and are an invitation to attack by wood destroying insects. It is recommended that all wood supports be kept at least 8" clear of damp concrete, masonry, or earth. Appropriate combinations of low masonry piers and wood posts may be designed which will protect the wood without detracting from the historic fabric. In the interim, however, it is

recommended that steel jack columns be installed under the summer beam and joists in the basement, and that the existing posts be removed and stored in a dry location. Likewise, the miscellaneous wood supports in the crawl should be replaced with drystacked CMU piers and wood shims, or with short steel jack columns.

#### B. North Wall Stabilization

The base of the north wall has clearly suffered from long-term water damage. Along the north wall of the basement, sections of the sill plate, some joist ends, and a section of flooring have been replaced over the years. The outer portion of the timber sill plate is most likely deteriorated, even where the inside face is solid. (See recommended probes, below.)

At the north and east sides of the northeast room, the sill plates are missing entirely, and the bases of the posts and studs have suffered moderate water (and possibly insect) damage. Along the east wall, the deteriorated sill plate was apparently replaced with concrete. Twentieth century studs in this wall rest directly on the concrete. The north wall is currently "suspended" from the second floor joists, which are supported, a few feet inboard, on a row of temporary posts. This reversed arrangement can result in a substantial increase in the shear load at the joint between the floor joist and the post, especially when there is snow on the roof. For this reason (along with the obvious security and moisture issues) it is recommended that the area be closed, and that structural support be provided at the bases of the posts. An examination of the six affected posts indicates that severe water damage extends only between 4 and 12 inches upward from the original bottom elevation of the posts. These post bases can be repaired using a combination of epoxy consolidant, epoxy putty, and "dutchmen" (how appropriate!) cut from like material (white oak or chestnut). Sound support and secure closure can then be completed using treated plates, short posts, and plywood. The attached sketch shows a section of the recommended repairs and closure.

#### C. Recommendation for Additional Probes

In addition to the probes being considered as part of the architectural research and documentation program, it is recommended that a few probes be made from the outside to examine the condition of the sill plates. If the damage is modest, no repairs will be necessary. Any extensively damaged areas may require partial replacement, perhaps with concealed CCA treated material. This work should be done prior to any planned sidewall shingle replacement.

# D. Preliminary Recommendations for Structural Repair and Restoration

- Review moisture balance.
- 2. Reduce moisture transmission into building through earthen floors in basement and crawl spaces; install 8 mil polyethylene sheeting covered with 3/8" stone.
- Isolate wood posts in basement and wood supports in crawl space from earth and damp concrete.

- 4. Consider providing a simple, minimal heating system, both for moisture reduction and occupant comfort.
- 5. Repair and repoint the stone foundation. Provide a new water detail, possibly including flashing, to eliminate the existing undesirable condition where parging and wall shingles meet.
- 6. Clean mold and mildew from first floor framing and deck.
- 7. Complete permanent foundation, sill, wall, and floor replacement in the northeast room.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding the above observations or recommendations.

Sincerely,

James B. Huffman, PE

# SCOPE OF WORK - PRELIMINARY STABILIZATION & INVESTIGATION WYCKOFF GARRETSON HOUSE, FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP

After preliminary review by the architect, historical, archaeologist, framing expert and structural engineer, it is our conclusion that the house should be made weathertight and be stabilized from any further damage while work proceeds on a phased restoration of the 18<sup>th</sup> century fabric of the two Dutch "builds." The stabilization work should encompass:

- Replacement of the asphalt shingle roof with a new fibreglass shingle "timberline" Class
  A roof as a near term solution to the roofing problem.
- Flashing the chimneys with copper in a stepped, counterflashed design consistent with modern practice. The reglets for this flashing currently exist in the rebuilt chimneys. Flashing and counterflashing may be easily installed once the roof shingles have been removed.
- Shoring the extant plates and structural members in the excavated rear room of the house and sealing of the space with plywood and vapor barriers to prevent moisture and pests from entering the space. No further work is recommended on the sills or frame until a full evaluation can be made. (See Huffman detail drawing).
- Installation of copper gutters and leaders to deal with roof runoff. All of the above measures are reversible and necessary to preserve the exterior of the house from further damage.
- Plastic (epoxy) or dutchman repairs to the rotted rafters and posts in the attic by a qualified restoration carpenter.
- A thorough insect and pest control evaluation by a qualified firm; followed by treatment for the pests that is non-toxic and which protects the existing fabric.
- Installation of central security and fire alarms in the house, connected to the township's central police/fire facility.
- 8. Installation of a caretaker in the carriage house to watch over the house and site.

#### **ENGINEER'S LONG-TERM RECOMMENDATIONS**

- A. Review moisture balance. Test materials and atmosphere for moisture content.
- B. Reduce moisture transmission into building through earthen floors in basement and crawl spaces; install 8 mil polyethylene sheeting covered with 3/8" stone.
- Isolate wood posts in basement and wood supports in crawl space from earth and damp concrete.

- Consider providing a simple, minimal heating system, both for moisture reduction and occupant comfort.
- E. Repair and repoint the stone foundation. Provide a new water detail, possibly including flashing, to eliminate the existing undesirable condition where parging and wall shingles meet.
- F. Clean mold and mildew from first floor framing and deck.
- G. Complete permanent foundation, sill, wall, and floor replacement in the northeast room.

#### PROBES AND ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATION OF MATERIALS AND COMPONENTS

# **Foundation**

Recommend: mortar analysis around the foundation to identify differences in composition, and thus identify different phases of foundation construction.

# **Exterior Cladding**

Recommend: Remove several shingles to examine nail attachments for age and authenticity. Check nailer boards underneath to look for evidence of earlier shingles set and removed. Check how nailer boards are attached to the frame - are they original?

Recommend: Removal of selected shingles and concrete parging around base of exterior walls to assess damage to sill plates.

# Cellar

Recommend: Thorough documentation of cellar walls, floor framing and earth floors. Selected archeological investigation of cellar for evidence of early 18th century work.

# **Entries**

Recommend: Careful removal of existing door enframement and observation of inner framing to determine originality of transom shown in photo and other information about original door.

Recommend: Removal of interior salvage materials so doors and windows can be more closely examined and measured.

# North Fireback

Recommend: Further archaeological investigation of the chimney base and investigation of the fireplace inside and out to determine configuration and originality of original bake oven.

### North Shed/Lean-To

Recommend: Removal of existing shed and careful observation above ground and archaeological research below ground to determine the size, age and possible use of the original shed on this end

# Rooms 100 and 104

Recommend: Scientific paint analysis to examine remaining paint flecks to determine if original to the wood, and composition of the paint. Use paint to help determine relative age of finishes and sequence of construction.

# Room 102

Recommend: Paint analysis, and greater examination of the fireplace to determine the sequence of construction and demolition.

# Room 103

Recommend: Careful removal of the sheetrock to examine the framing, and any paint evidence which might be on it. Particular attention must be paid to the fireplace and corner cupboard. Evidence of an earlier jambless fireplace may be evident in notches in the framing.

# **Room 110**

Recommend: Remove stored materials in this space to give a better opportunity to examine the visible structure, and take samples of finishes.

# Second Floor

Recommend: Removal of sheetrock in hall and at selected walls in bedrooms to determine whether early partitions are extant.

Recommend: complete removal of all debris and stored materials not connected with the house (storage in carriage house may be possible).

Recommend: selected probes in north and south gable walls to locate early vertical studs and determine the location of the first chimneys.

# **Wyckoff-Garretson House Historic Structures Report Team**

Mark A. Hewitt Janet Foster Clifford Zink Jim Huffman Richard Hunter

#### NOTES on the MEETING WITH MARK HEWITT re: THE WYCKOFF-GARRETSON HOUSE

#### August 3, 2000

Meadows members present: Kathleen Williamson, Mark Else, David Brook, David Munyak, Betty Scott, Bill Scott, Nick Gallo, Michelle Brierty, and Jim McDonald.

Copies of the Historic Structures Report, the Fee Proposal Addendum and the Historical Chronology of the Wyckoff- Garretson House were distributed by architect Mark Hewett to those attending, and additional material was promised by Mark Else to those who requested it.

Mr. Hewitt stated that he has submitted an archeological report by Richard Hunter Associates based on the site search they have conducted. The entire property was surveyed. It has been theorized that the house was built, essentially in two halves, the first section circa 1710 by John Wyckoff, and the second, by his son Cornelius Wyckoff, circa 1750, with the same basic structure. The archeologist took a pit between the two halves. His findings bore out the theory of separate construction periods. There is also the possibility of the foundation of what could have been a kitchen L addition along one wall under the second section. However, there is additional archeological information to be found. The report identified additional sites that are archeologically sensitive. Mr Hunter recommends documenting the cellar, additional digging in the south portion of the house, and documentation of the stonework in the chimneys.

The Historical Chronology of the Wyckoff House as documented by Janet Foster through deed and historical research says that the house is of classic 17th century Dutch construction. Mr. Hewitt stated. "The remarkable thing that Clifford Zink, Janet Foster and others have surmised from this (research) is that we have,- the Meadows and the state really owns the finest, what we think is the finest example of an early Dutch house in the United States. There is really nothing like this preserved anywhere else." With that in mind they recommend that in the long term, the Meadows, the state of New Jersey and the Township restore the house fully as an 18th century house museum. There are excellent records for this house. The deed research shows how the Wyckoff and Garretson families have kept the house over the years. The Garretsons changed the windows, replaced the flashing on the house and roof, but very little of the actual structure has been altered Some of the walls are actually 17th century. The exterior shingles probably date to the 19th or early 20th century. Interestingly, they are patterned to be "in the spirit of how the 18th century Dutch buildings used their shingles." The windows have been replaced, , but many may be in their original casings. This will be discovered in phase two. The overhead beams are oak on one side of the house, chestnut on the other.

The Historic Structures report includes a proposal for the following additional work
(1) Interior and exterior probes of the framing, finishes and other building components; (2)
Paint and mortar analysis and documentation of the findings; (3) Additional archeology, which would include the cellar, and immediately around the house within its 'footprint'; (4)

additional comparative research on East Jersey and Hudson Valley Dutch frame houses.; (5) Dendro-chronology of selected cores from the anchor bents to ascertain the dates of construction; (6) interim assessment and construction documents for an exterior stabilization of the building, protecting but not altering it's framing or fabric. The additional work is required because a much wider degree of detail is necessary, ie, a more detailed paint analysis, to determine age and color, mortar analysis to determine the difference between the mortars in the early and later parts of the house, more precise comparative research with other Dutch houses of the period, and a more detailed wood analysis.

The request for additional funds is also being made to hire a restoration contractor to do some "selective demolition," to remove some of the later renovations in order to be able to restore the house to its original condition. Mr. Hewitt spoke specifically of the fireplace in the front room as an example.

Mr. Hewitt said that before the additional work can be done, all of the contents of the house must be removed, and asked that this be done by August 31<sup>st</sup>. If so, he proposes to complete the work by December 31, 2000.

The recommendations for stabilization of the structure, which is in relatively good condition in terms of moisture content, mold and mildew because it is in its natural state and "breaths," letting the moisture out relatively well. Temporary measures suggested are, first, put on a new asphalt shingle roof until a new cedar shake roof can be installed; second, flash the two chimneys; third, repair portions of the frame; forth, use four-by-four lumber to shore up the rear of the house, with a cement board on the outside, which should prevent much of the water run-off from entering the house. Also replace the gutters and do some swaleing on the outside of the house. None of these measures are intended to be permanent.

Mr. Hewitt recommended a pest control report be done, and a tenant installed in the Carriage House as soon as possible. There was evidence that during in the past couple of weeks some vandalism had occurred. The necessity for some type of alarm system was discussed. Mr. Hewett agreed that this was indeed a necessary item to which he has no objections. He asked, however to be informed of any action taken in that regard. He approved the installation of locks on the windows as a security measure.

Re: removing the contents of the house, Mark Else suggested the last two Saturdays in August, August 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, as work days, to get the task accomplished. The 19<sup>th</sup> was scheduled.

David Munyak suggested putting sandbags along the bottom edge of the house to divert the rain water. Mr. Hewitt approved the idea, since it would avoid any digging, which might disturb the archeological site.

David Brook suggested using cheap aluminum flashing instead of the proposed copper flashing, since this repair is temporary. Mr. Hewitts's reply, "another good suggestion.."

A vote to officially approve the recommendations discussed at this meeting was taken, and passed unanimously.

Mark Else said he would study the grant to see what monies are available.

Mr. Hewitt will prepare drawings of the stabilization proposals, as well as cost estimates, and, hopefully, all can be done with the HSR grant.

#### Questions:

Mark Else asked who wanted copies of HSR documents completed by Hewitt and Associates to date, and all members of the committee responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Hewitt was asked to define the term "Sheet Midden." : Essentially a spill, left untouched, and covered over by earth.

Mr. Hewitt ended his presentation and left with our thanks

TREE-RING LABORATORY LAMONT-DOHERTY EARTH OBSERVATORY of Columbia University 61 ROUTE 9 W PALISADES, NY 10964 USA

TEL. 845-365-8616

FAX. 845-365-8152

DATE:

TQ: Mark A. Hewitt, AIA P. O. Box 289 104 Mine Brook Rd. Bernardsville, NJ 07924 908 630 9416 mahewitt@bellatlantic.net

908 630 9417 fax

## MESSAGE:

Attached is a brief report on the dating of the samples from the Wyckoff-Garretson house.

PAGES:

(INCLUDING COVER SHEET)

SENT BY:

Gordon Jacoby

druid@ldeo.columbia.edu

Tree-Ring Dating of the Wyckoff-Garretson House

The unfinished state of the Wyckoff-Garretson house provided us opportunities to obtain a variety of samples for the dating of this structure. A total of 18 samples were collected, seventeen of were identified as White Oak and one as American Chestnut.

Our sampling for the old section was largely confined to the presumed original basement. Here we collected seven samples- of which six were either in their original position or for which the original position could be reasonably inferred. Five of these samples were successfully crossdated. A vertical support had a waney edge but the best sample (WG-6) that we could obtain had some missing rings near the cutside where during coring the sample broke. Using an estimate for the number of missing rings we estimate this timber to have been cut in 1732. Three of the other crossdated (WG-2, WG-3, WG-5) samples did not contain waney edges, placing the cutting dates later than the outermost year on these samples (1723, 1738, 1737). The only crossdated sample (WG-1) that had an intact waney edge, was cut after the fall of 1821. From this date (in the context of other dates from the house) we believe this to be a replacement beam.

Thus, the dating of the old section did not prove to be straightforward. Taking into consideration the dating of these samples it seems likely that the currently intact basement was built after 1732 and presumably after 1738. If we assume that in the shaping of the beams a relatively small number of the outer rings were lost an estimated age for the construction of this structure might be in the 1740-1750's range.

Dating of the newer section proved to be more straightforward, with successful crossdating of four in place samples having intact waney edges. Most of the sampling took place in the rear room. Two pieces of wall lathe with bark (WG-8, WG-11), the fireplace lintel (WG-9) and a floor joist (WG-12) all had 1804 as the last complete outer ring. The wall lathes and the fireplace lintel showed the beginning of the earlywood (springwood) of the 1805 year. Additionally, an out of place sample (WG-16) also had 1804 as the last complete ring. These dates place the construction of the new section during of after the summer of 1805.

Respectfully Submitted,

23 April 2001

Gordon Jacoby and Dave Frank
Tree-Ring Laboratory
Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory
61 route 9W
Palisades, New York 10964
845 365 8616 365 8152 fax
druid@ldeo.columbia.edu

45.

Sample	Species	Location	Condition	State of outer rings	Meas. rings (+addritional?)	Dated	Year of cutting
WG-1	W. Oak	Basement old section. Beam 5A. in-situ	*	waney edge	113 complete rings	1709-1821	>fall 1821
WG-2	W. Oak	Basement old section, Beam 5B, in-situ	*	sapwood ?	117 complete rings+ >3 rings at outside not meas.	1604-1720	>1723
WG-3	W. Oak	Basement old section, Detached- but tenon fits mortise M1	ŏ		173 + ~>3 rings at outside not meas.	1563-1735	>1738
WG4	w. Oak	Basement old section, Beam NN. in-situ	ŏ	waney edge	33 complete rings		
WG-S	W. Oak	Basement old section, Beam 5C @ wall, in-situ	ķ		144 rings + probable additional	1595-1737	>1737
WG-6	W. Oak	Basement old section, Core from vertical support 5C	ok, lost rings from coring break	waney edge	Inner Itag- 54 rings+ earlywood at outer edge, outer 1570-1723 frag- 3 complete rings, partial inner ring and earlywood on waney edge, likely a few mgs missing (est 3)	1570-1723	-1732
WG-7	A. Chest- nut	New Section, detached 10'x10' beem with mortise and tenon	ŏ		77 complete rings	r	Ē.
WG-6	W. Oak	New Section, exterior wall lath, in-situ	ž	bark	73 complete rings+eartywood @ wancy edge	1732-1804	early summer 1805
WG-9	W. Oak	New Section, fireplace lintel, in ok situ	, ok	waney edge	164 rings + hint of earlywood @ waney edge	1641-1804	early summer 1805
WG-10	W. Oak	New Section, sawn 3'x8' floor roist, in-situ	4		129 complete rings	1627-1755	>1755
WG-11	₩. Oak	New Section, exterior wall lath, in-oilu	ķ	bark	54 complete rings + some early wood @ bk edge.	1751-1804	early summer 1805

WG-12	WG-12 W. Oak	New Section, sawn 3*x8" Roor joist, in-situ	sapwood very decayed, stabilized	<b>wa</b> пву <b>edg</b> e	96 complete rings inner series, 20 rings outer series 1692-1787 &1785-180	81785-1804	>fall 1804
WG-13	WG-13 W. Oak	New Section, detached hewn with mortise and tenon	*		85 complete rings, likely additional outer		
WG-14	W. Oak	New Section, detached sawn with hewn scarring	ŧ		67 complete rings, + at least 1 ring on outside not 1710-1776 measured	1710-1776	FE 1×
WG-15	W. Oak	Basement old section, detached	very decayed	мапну <del>edg</del> е	none measured (-45 rings)	580	3.00
WG-16	WG-16 W. Oak	Detached, on table, mortise and tenon, labelled "IV"	ok,insect rot exp. at sapwood	жапеу едде	56 complete rings, no evid. for earlywood at outer. 1749-1804	1749-1804	>fall 1804
WG-17	WG-17 W. Oak	Detached, on table, mortise and tenon	*	knot?, waney edae?	none measured (-40 rings), 3 stemmed sample, boor for analysis		
WG-18	WG-18 W. Clak	Detached, mortise and tenora	ok ok	¿ poowdes	69 mgs		

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# ISLAND HOUSEWRIGHTS CORP

Building Restoration 6019 Amboy Road Staten Island, NY 10309

Tel. (718) 948-4150 or (732) 873-0058

May 29, 2000

# Stabilization Project - Wyckoff-Garretson House

Att: Mark Else

As per our site visit, there are several conditions which need immediate attention. It is not advisable to leave posts in rear of building supported only using the tenons of the ceiling joists. The bottoms of the posts should be supported. The existing block foundation wall needs to be evaluated as to its structural integrity. Assuming the block is stable, a 12" stone foundation could be built on top of the block to support a new sill. The stone wall would be about 19' long. A sill could be made up of three to four layers of pressure treated 2x stock. The existing five posts (each approximately 5" x 8") need to have damaged bottoms repaired. The floor joists could be suspended from the new sill using hangers. I believe that re-grading the rear yard would allow for proper drainage, and it would not be necessary to jack up the building. There are also other damaged sills and posts, which need to be repaired.

When the rear of the building is properly supported, the roof work can be started. The rear roof needs a complete tear-off. There is no flashing on the chimneys, and as a result the roof framing and sheathing around the chimneys needs repair. There is no siding on the sides of the front dormer.

I would suggest using a 30 or 40 year structural shingle (timberline) on the rear. The chimneys should be flashed using lead-coated copper. The front dormer could be sided with shingles. I understand that the dormer may ultimately be removed. In this case, 1/4" luan plywood could be used as an economical way to make the dormer watertight.

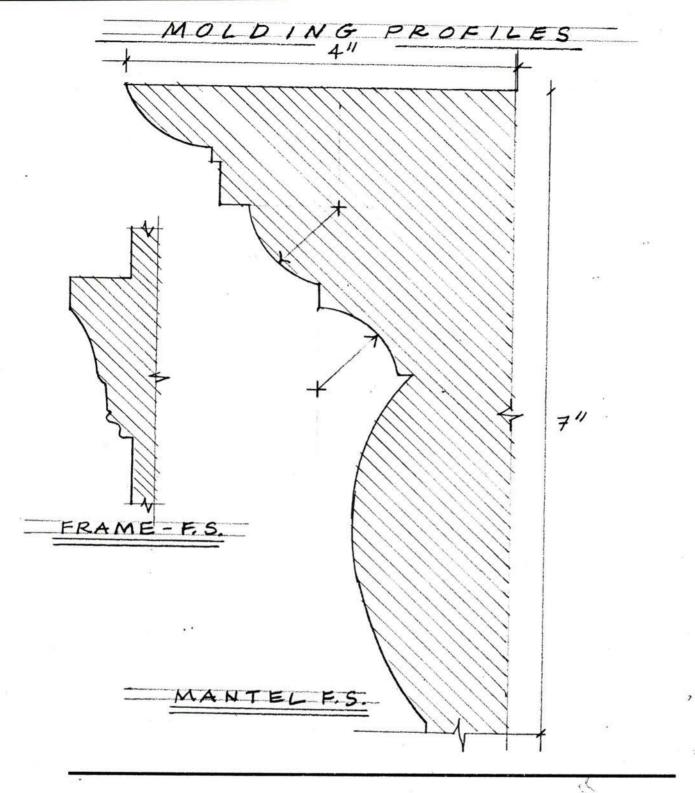
A rough estimate for the roof work would be \$7,650.00. The rear foundation wall needs as the excavated for me to be able to give an accurate estimate as to the repair.

Peter Beyl

Island Housewrights Corp

50 Olcott St.

Middlebush, N.J.

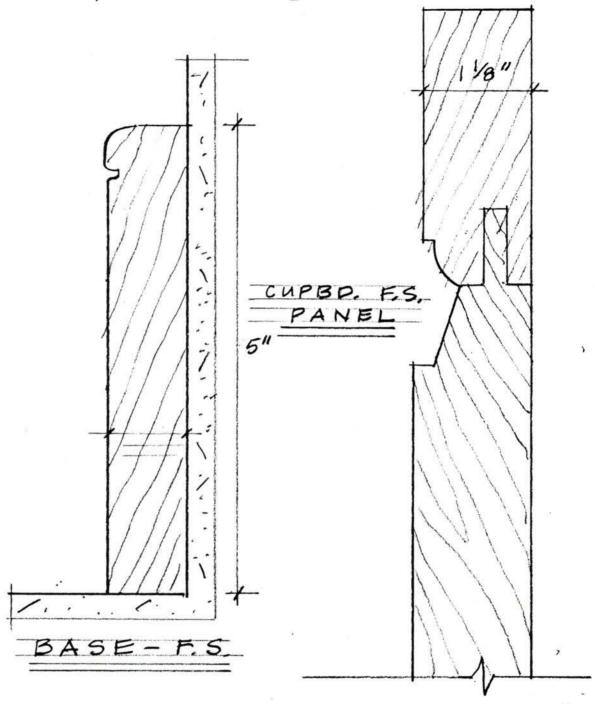


# WYCKOFF-GARRETSON HOUSE HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT

Field Notes

Date: Dec. 20, 2000

ROOM 103

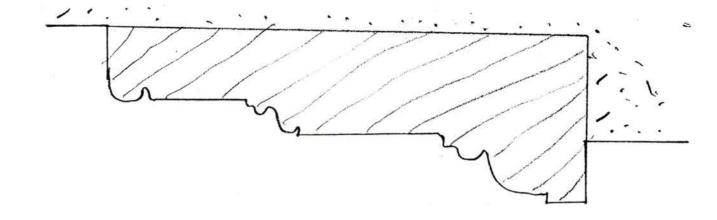


# WYCKOFF-GARRETSON HOUSE HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT

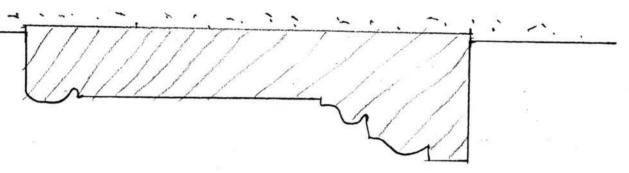
Field Notes

Date: Dec. 20, 2000

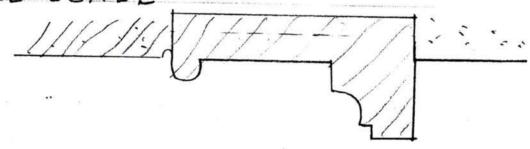
ROOM 103



FULL SCALE



FULL SCALE



WAINSCOAT - RM 104 FULL SCALE

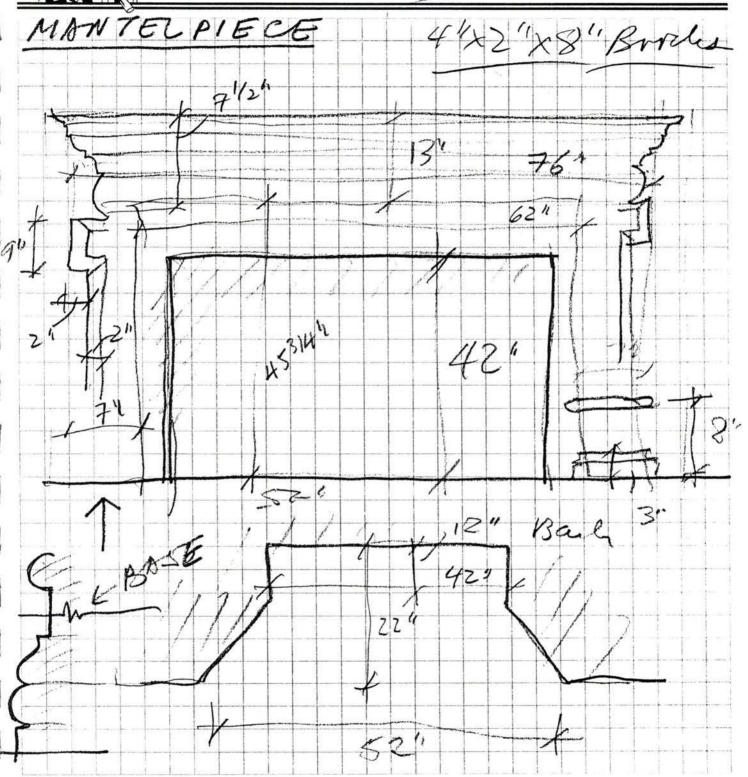
WYCKOFF-GARRETSON HOUSE HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT

Field Notes

Date: Dec. 20, 2000



# **WARREN LUMBER & MILLWORK**



FLEMINGTON, NJ ANNANDALE, NJ ALLENTOWN, PA

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Page 1 HARS N.J. 18. Bock.v

Symen Van Wickle House Easton Turnpike, Franklin Township Near New Brunswick, Somerset County, New Jersey

Owner: Mrs. T. J. Bogan

Date of Erection: About 1722; dining room and kitchen

wing of later date

Architect:

Builder: Symen Van Wickle

Present Condition: Excellent

Number of Stories: One and one-half

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - frame construction, brick filled, clapboards except the east elevation of the main house which has original shingles

Interior walls - plaster with exposed beams on older portion, paneling fireplace wall living room

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - pitch with overhang on front of the main unit, dormers of later date

Historical Data:

In 1680 John Inians and associates bought from the Indians for Lady Elizabeth Carteret a tract of land

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on the south side of the Raritan River. It was laid out in five hundred acre lots each with a half mile river frontage. The lots went into the hands of speculators. On May 29, 1703 Evert Van Wickle, Gerardus Beekman, and Leffert Pieterse of Kings County, Long Island, bought from Thomas Cardale of Jamaica for two hundred pounds a four hundred and fifty acre tract; it began at Richard Jones' lot. It is thought that Evert bought out the others. He is also said to have purchased eight hundred acres from William Dockra.

Evert Van Wickelen or Van Wickle, a carpenter, emigrated about 1664 and settled at Flatbush, Long Island. He married in 1690 and had six children; one of these was Symen who married about 1722. The earliest record of Symen in New Jersey is in November 1722 when he was sponsor at a baptism in New Brunswick. He probably settled on his father's tract and built the house at the time of his marriage. Family tradition has it that the house was built by the younger Evert's father; however, the genalogy shows that the younger Evert's father was Symen. The will of Symen dated 1753 and probated in 1755 mentions a son Evert and also mentions his homestead on the Raritan. It is not known which of the children owned the house after Symen, but it probably was Nicholas.

The next knowledge of a sale is in 1795 when Peter Antonides and wife sold to Robert T. Kemble. Antonides probably bought from Dennis Van Duyne. Dennis' father William in his will of 1773 mentions the plantation that he left to his son as having been bought of Matthias Smock and which had belonged to Nicholas Van Wickle.

According to the Somerset County records, in May 1797 the lot where the house stands was purchased by Hendrick Suydam from Robert Kemble. There are two tracts mentioned in this - the first one of 95.2 acres described as lying in the eastern precinct of the

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County of Somerset. We are certain that this is the house piece because a graveyard is mentioned as being accepted and reserved and this appears in every deed from that date to the present. We know also that this tract bordered on the land of the Reverend Abraham Beach. Reverend Beach had married Anne Van Wickle, daughter of Evert who had built a house about the time of his marriage in 1752 on the north part of his grandfather's tract. The Hendrick Suydam who purchased the house was probably the son of another Hendrick Suydam who was a son-inlaw of the first Evert Van Wickle. He died somewhere between 1833-1838 leaving three daughters one of whom was married to Nicholas Van Wickle of Monmouth County. This Nicholas was probably a grandson of Symen's son Nicholas3. The two other daughters sold their share to Nicholas.

On August 25, 1862 the property was sold by Nicholas and his wife to John W. Brooks. At that time the tract was mentioned as a plantation and it contained one hundred and sixty-eight acres more or less. There are ten transfers recorded from that date until 1926 when the executors of Edward E. Smalley sold the same one hundred and sixty-eight acres to Michael Hechtman. Hechtman that same year sold the piece with the house and the graveyard to Ellen B. Welsh, Incorporated. Six other transfers are recorded between that date and 1932 when John E. Kreh sold to Catherine M. and Margaret M. Donaldson from whom the present owner Mrs. T. J. Bogan purchased in the past year (1938). This deed is as yet unrecorded.

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Mather, Edith H. "Van Wickle of Somerset and Middlesex Counties, New Jersey" Proceedings of New Jersey Historical Society
Volume 54, Number 2 (April 1936) Page 118

A search of Somerset County court records

Yalf E Mult Supervising Historian

Approved:

SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A. I.A

District Officer

rewind June 1939\_JPT

