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HISTORICAL DATA INVESTIGATION

The Jacob Ford, Jr. Mansion, Washington's Headquarters

Prepared For The
Morristown National Historical Park
Morristown, New Jersey

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PURPOSE

The chief aim of this investigation was to ascertain whether pertinent primary and secondary source documents contain information describing the construction, physical evolution and use of the house of Col. Jacob Ford, Jr., hereafter referred to as the Ford Mansion. Questions of special interest were noted by the mansion's curator as follows:

1. Dates of construction.
2. By whom constructed.
3. Specific materials and techniques used in construction.
4. Amount and definition of remaining fabric.
5. Changes made since construction and probable dates of changes.
6. Construction date of kitchen wing.
7. Original location of kitchen wing.
8. Original configuration of main stair.
9. Relation of original stairway to southwest rooms on first and second floors.
10. Existence of outside door on room now interpreted as General Washington's office.

The secondary aim of the investigation was to characterize the contents of the various source materials so that future

researchers might use them with greater efficiency. A detailed examination of the physical fabric was not part of this investigation, although references to architectural features, based on a brief evaluation in the company of the curator, are included.

The Ford Mansion has been the subject of architectural and documentary research on several previous occasions, some of it as exhaustive as the sources then available allowed. A 1930's press release, for example, states that "...the historians of the park staff are making a careful check of all possible documentary sources for information pertaining to the Ford Mansion..."¹ In light of past work, the current investigation, carried out at intervals between December, 1981 and July, 1983 was meant to evaluate the extant literature devoted to the house, to assess the contents of sources discovered or put in better order subsequent to the last investigations and to summarize the value of the total documentary package.

METHODOLOGY

The methodology for this investigation was limited to documentary research, with the exception of a cursory examination of the fabric of the Ford Mansion. Primary and secondary source materials were almost entirely those owned by the Morristown National Historical Park (MNHP) and deposited in its library or filed in the office of the curator. In several instances, clues suggested by the MNHP materials were pursued in generally available secondary sources or in primary and secondary sources owned by the Joint Free Public Library of Morristown and Morris Township. Avenues of inquiry pursued at the Joint Free Library included a search of the picture and map files and a review of local newspaper coverage for the period. Neither the scope of work outlined by the client nor the available budget permitted any research beyond the local sources mentioned, except for some time spent at Avery Architectural Library, Columbia University.

The research sequence was roughly as follows:

1. The research notes, drawings and reports by Waterman were examined in order to furnish a general frame of reference for the investigation.
2. The restoration photographs from the 1930's and the 1960's were likewise examined.

3. All card file references to the Ford family were culled, regardless of given name or date.
4. The Lloyd W. Smith collection was reviewed for the existence of pertinent materials. Because of the manner in which this collection is catalogued, it was necessary to scan or read in detail approximately 200 autographs.
5. The papers of the Washington Association were reviewed.
6. Limited source material outside the MNHP collection was examined, including holdings of the Joint Free Public Library of Morristown and Morris Township and the Avery Architectural Library, Columbia University.
7. The Ford Family Papers, when returned from the Northeast Document Conservation Center, were read in detail.

In all cases, even minimally suggestive material germane to the fabric of the house was noted, on the assumption that new data or future researchers might render it more revelatory.

SOURCES

Despite its need for a considerable amount of restoration based on a detailed fabric analysis, the Ford Mansion had entered the 20th century in a remarkable state of overall integrity, but for a house so distinguished in its own day, both architecturally and associatively, documentary descriptions have always amounted to little more than passing references. This should come as no surprise from the perspective of its most eminent tenant. Washington, after all, was concerned with the domestic arrangements of the widow Ford only peripherally. The long period of ownership by the Ford family had raised hopes that substantive documentation would one day emerge. The most likely source for the kind of materials prized by architectural historians would be a collection of papers of Jacob Ford, Jr. dating from the period of construction or shortly thereafter. Considering Ford's socio-economic position and the high-style nature of the house he had built, it seems possible, even likely, that he participated to some degree in its design, but no personal library or inventory has come down to us suggesting that he owned or had access to any of the architectural plan books or builder's guides (such as Gibbs, Batty Langley, et.al.) that a gentleman of his day might use to help compose a dwelling. No correspondence

exists between Ford and a carpenter-builder, nor have any pertinent receipts been found. In short, no useful sources from the earliest period of the house are known to exist.

Traveler's accounts of the period are equally disappointing, as are readily available collections of autograph and archival material from local sources. It should be noted, however, that there is potential for discovery of new materials in both local (i.e. Morris County) and state archives. Such references, if they exist, are likely to be found among papers bearing no primary relation to the house - chance discoveries in other words - unless a new cache of Ford papers comes to light.

The iconography of the house includes several well known representations, but all depict general views of the structure after it had assumed its 19th century appearance. Because of the architectural prominence of the house, a search was made for late 19th and early 20th century commentary and illustrations that might have resulted from the reawakened interest in "Colonial" architecture. Only one detail of this kind is known, a drawing of the Palladian frontispiece published by Charles Follen McKim in 1875.² This, however, merely establishes that McKim admired the house and that the quality of its detailing might serve as a precedent for Colonial Revival practitioners.

Another potential source of information is the archive of the Washington Association, owner of the Ford Mansion from 1872 until it was turned over to the federal government. The

Association's papers include a number of references to physical alterations, mostly in the nature of repair and maintenance. Although memoranda, notes and receipts of the Association were kept, it would be dangerous to assume that they necessarily represent a complete record.

Of all the sources now available, the most comprehensive is the collection of Ford Family Papers, recently catalogued by the Northeast Document Conservation Center. In addition to miscellaneous papers and those of collateral descendants, the archive contains voluminous papers of three generations of direct Ford descendants:

Gabriel Hogarth Ford (1765-1849), the son
of Jacob Ford, Jr.

Henry Augustus Ford (1793-1872), son of
Gabriel H. Ford

Millen Ford (1835-1878), the son of
Henry A. Ford

The following section of this report, the actual Historical Data Investigation, examines in detail the contents of the four major documentary sources:

1. Ford references, general manuscript collection.
2. The Ford Family Papers.
3. The Archive of the Washington Association.
4. Research and Restoration file, 1930's - 1960's.

HISTORICAL DATA INVESTIGATION

Part One

FORD REFERENCES, General Manuscript Collection

The following items were pulled and examined:

Ford, Benjamin	LWS #428-8
Ford, David	LWS 562-154 MS# 717 MS# 718
Ford, Gabriel	LWS 4789-1 MS# 757
Ford, Henry J.	LWS 2205-1
Ford, J. A.	folders 4849
Ford, Jacob	MS# 80 MS# 83 MS# 84 MS# 268 MS# 649
Ford, Jacob and Jacob, Jr. (several items catalogued on blue cards as "PHO...PARK")	
Ford, Nathan	MS# 718
Ford, Paul	folders 4881
Ford, Prof.	LWS 2206-1
Ford, Rev. J.	LWS 217-1
Ford, Samuel	LWS 562-154
Ford, Timothy	MS# 717
Ford, Worthington	folders 4986

SUMMARY:

None of the catalogued items bears any relationship to the Ford Mansion. The most promising autographs, those of Jacob and Jacob, Jr., are mostly letters to William Alexander (Lord Sterling) and William Livingston.

Part Two

Ford Family Papers

The entire collection was skimmed in order to determine whether some sections might repay more detailed attention than others. Sections I through V appeared to be the most obvious candidates for close scrutiny. Section IV, "Substantially Documented Families, 1738-1904," proved to have no relevance to this investigation. Section V, "Miscellaneous, 1753-1892," appeared to be more promising, but consisted almost entirely of financial materials, indentures, receipts, bills in chancery, etc.

The excerpts that follow were extracted from Section I, papers of Gabriel Hogarth Ford, covering the period 1787 to 1849. Sections II and III, the papers of Henry Augustus Ford and Millen Ford, were read and the portions dating from 1819 to 1855 were audited with special care, since they include the bulk of personal and family papers. Like a large percentage of the Gabriel Ford papers, those of Henry Augustus and Millen treat matters of litigation, family and business correspondence and a host of other matters extraneous to this investigation.

It should be noted that some dating discrepancies exist between the actual chronological arrangement of entries in

Gabriel Ford's papers and the system created by the Northeast Document Conservation Center. According to the NDCC, for example, Day Book B ends with the year 1822. Entries seemingly from that Day Book, however, continue into the 1830's, as reflected in sections I have quoted.

The reader who refers to the primary source materials in toto will also realize that Gabriel Ford sometimes kept a long- and a short-form book for the same period of time. When identical notations were found in these books, only one was quoted.

I. Gabriel Hogarth Ford (1761-1849)

A. Personal and Family Papers, 1787-1849
Box 1, Folders 1-24

Miscellaneous, Folders 1-2: Nothing relevant to the house is found in this section.

Account Book A (1791-1819), Folders 3-6:

ca. 1814, under the heading "Memorandum", Ford records the following chronology:

- 1774 The house was built by Col. Jacob Ford, Jr.
- 1793 Lombardy poplars were planted before the door.
- 1796 Lombardy poplars were planted along the road.
- 1797 Lombardy poplars were planted by the drawing room window.
Rousilet Pear was planted in the back yard.
- 1796 Stable had new sills, roof and enclosure.
House painted in the autumn.
- 1797 Barn was raised up with new sills.

SUMMARY:

This is rather an odd list of notations, with its emphasis on such ephemeral items as poplars (a prominent feature in some of the engravings or drawings of the house, incidentally).

Since Gabriel Ford would have been thirteen years old at the

date he cites for construction of the house, his memory of the event seems trustworthy.

Day Book B (1813-1822), Folders 7-10:

1815

December 12

"Kitchen floor laid new with three new sleepers - and hearth laid with quarry stone, paid Zeph. Grant stone cutter in New Ark @ 2/6 per square."

December 19

"Iron back put in the dining room chimney - cost \$7.82."

1816

February 16

"Carpet laid down in dining room 40 yards of carpeting at 12/ \$60 rug \$6 1/2."

November 13

"Kitchen steps hewn and laid solid for \$5 by Jos. Lindsly."

1817

January 22

"Bin built in kitchen garret out of the staves of the old cistern 5 by 10 by 6 by 3, 4 by 4 deep holds 125 bushels."

July 12

"Dining room papered..."

1819

December 8

"Gutters were put up to the house of double cross tin by John Woolley at the price of 2/ a foot for gutters and leaders, and putting up, the hooks being provided for him by me: the gutters measured 10 1/2 feet, the leaders 37, in all 170 1/2 feet and come to \$42.62 1/2 the 34 hooks at 1/ make in all \$46.87 1/2."

"Cellar steps made new."

"Partition put up between kitchen and [mil?]k room."

1820

August 8

"Paint for steps and porch..."

August 11

"Porches to the front and office doors and steps to the back door [?] made and painted and 3 new door sills - they took 50 inch and quarter white pine plank..."

September 2
 "Dormant [sic] windows changed from circular to ridged roofs..."

1821
 June 13
 "Gutters 88 feet 4 in. at 1/10 - Leaders 42 feet at 1/6 - Leaders under ground into the Cistern 8 feet 10 in. at 2/6 in all \$31.20 for the north side of the house and kitchen and gable end of the kitchen; all of the best double cross tin..."

1831
 Heading at top of page:
 "Work at Barn and House", followed by wage notations for "M. G. Lindsly and John."

1836
 Page headed "Repair of Kitchen."

May 6
 "Iron work and oven [?]"

May 30
 "Putting up breastwork and shelf in the kitchen."

SUMMARY:

Several items of possible significance are found among the foregoing entries. The 1819 reference to a kitchen partition may relate to Waterman's conjectures about such features.³

The 1819 and 1821 references to gutters and leaders (together with the lack of earlier references to related maintenance) suggest that the house had none before 1819.

The "office" referred to in the entry for August 11, 1820 must be the same room used for that purpose by Washington. This substantiates the continuance into the 19th century of the 18th century door mentioned by Waterman.⁴

The September 2, 1820 reference to "dormant" (i.e. "dormer") windows establishes their existence at least that early, thereby

contradicting Waterman's assumption that they were added by Gabriel Ford after the death of his mother, Theodosia, in 1826. ⁵

Fireplace renovations mentioned in the entry for May 30, 1836 appear to have a bearing on Waterman's findings as described in 1938. ⁶

Day Book C (1823-1841)

1823

July 16

"Kitchen sealed [scaled?] all round and corner closet and shelves made by Solomon Gr[?]mire[?]; Roman cement plaistered [sic] on hearth..."

July 26

"Carpet purchased for dining room..."

1824

August 16

With reference to "White's patented Hydraulic Cement":
"The kitchen hearth was laid with the overplus [?] mortar."

1828

January 14

"Roofs of my dwelling house and kitchen new laid and finished by Matthew Lindsly..."

1831

July 1

"Shingles received of Nathan Sayre and Son." "3800
long cedar shingles 7 1/2 inches wide..."

1835

January 8

"Grate in northwest chamber set by Mr. Moore today."

January 22

"Grates bought of Backus and Hague in Newark 1
[Russian?] Iron Parlor grate with blower and ash pan complete
3 cast iron frames and grates with blowers and ash pans."

1837

October 14

"Hearth stone of Little Falls quarry for the dining room measuring 9 square feet 7 inches at 4/ a foot was made, smoothed and delivered here from New Providence by Robert T. Wilson stone

cutter amounting to \$4.75; he also laid it solid in line and sand mortar for 4/. The jambs and mantel of like stone for the office he offered to deliver for \$3 ready for setting in plaster of paris - and to deliver and lay a kitchen hearth of like stone 7 feet by 4 feet 2 inches dressed with a chisel, being 29 feet 2 inches at 3/ a foot amounting to \$11: "But brick are but eighth of that cost and just as good."

SUMMARY:

Although the entries from Day Book C begin approximately a half century after construction of the house, they do include some descriptions of changes that, in general, were the subject of attention during the two periods of restoration. These refer to altered fireplace elements (hearths, jambs, mantels, etc.) in kitchen, parlor, dining room and office. As the last part of the 1837 entry indicates, some of these changes may have been contemplated but never implemented. Waterman et.al. were ignorant of these documentary sources and may possibly have attributed some of these later changes, in cases where they were still extant, to a somewhat earlier period. In general, the Day Book C entries are interesting in their specificity, and illuminate some first third of the 19th century building practices and prices, but have little direct bearing on the point of this investigation.

Part Three

Washington Association Archive

The random contents of this archive are contained, for the most part, in a series of numbered folders, generally in chronological order with several obvious exceptions. Despite inconsistencies of ordering, I have dealt with them as arranged. Anything related to the house has been singled out, as well as some general selections to give a sense of the Association's activities.

Folder #1

1890, 1891, 1984

The largest number of bills (four) are payments to E. L. Holbrook, "dealer in antique furniture, china, bric-a-brac, clocks, curiosities, rare books, paintings and engravings, New York City." Purchases included a sword, a hat and pewter objects.

Folder #2

1895

Itemized bill for new bathroom and kitchen fixtures.
Bills for wine, liquors, catering, etc.

Folder #3

1896

Bills from Morristown Gas Light Co., Morris Aqueduct, etc.
Receipt for "two pairs of slippers formerly in the possession of Martha Washington with affidavit from Edward Whipple" \$100.

Folder #4

1897

Bills for Claret, Rum, Margaux, Brandy, chartreuse and cigars.

Bills from John Thatcher, painter and Reeve and Burr, carpenters and builders.

Folder #5

1898

Various bills.

Folder #6

1899

Various bills, including one for "putting bills out for Centennial Anniversary of the death of General Washington."

Folder #7

1900

Various bills, including one from Tiffany and Co. for 20 badges - \$90."

Folders #8-12

1901-1906

Miscellaneous.

Folder #13

1907

Bills for acquisition of antiques.

Folder #14

1908

Bills for day-labor wages.

Folder #15

1909

Bills from "Every Grapelli, General Contractor and Builder, Italian laborers supplied for gardens and farms."

Folder #16

(ca. 1910)

Miscellaneous.

Folder #17

1910

Miscellaneous.

Folder #18

1890-1895

Miscellaneous letters and invitations.

Folder #19

1896

Miscellaneous letters.

Folder #20

1897

Miscellaneous letters, including one dated June 5 to Phipps and Alpuente, admonishing, "Let the brass band bring some more of Sousa's marches; and the Hungarian Band bring notes of some additional two-steps and waltzes."

Folders #21 and 22
1900-1901
Miscellaneous letters.

Folder #23
1900, Annual Report: "The Lafayette rooms have been ventilated by pipes leading from openings in the floor into the flues of the large chimney."

1901, Annual Report: "Covers have been placed on the hips of the roof of the Headquarters building."

"Porches have been erected over the entrances to the Lafayette rooms..."

"...new porches built at the Headquarters."

1902, Executive Committee Report: "...new posts and beams were placed to support the main floor."

"In the Lafayette rooms repairs were made to the plumbing, new radiators were installed and new pipes were put in the kitchen."

1902, Annual Report: "Painting and carpenter work upon the Headquarters building throughout..."

1903, Annual Report: "Under the direction of the President, plans and elevations and photographs of all sides of the Headquarters Building have been taken by a capable architect, which would assist in any restoration of the building that might become necessary."

1904, Annual Report: "Two large dormer windows have been installed in the roof in the rear of the Headquarters building."

"The Armory floor has been painted and varnished."

The Main Hall floor has been varnished and all outside steps and platforms have been painted and varnished...some repairs have been made in the plumbing. A new matting has been laid in the dining room. New carpets have been laid on both flights of stairs."

1905, Annual Report: "...the leaders and gutters have been repaired and repairs have been made upon the walls."

1909, Annual Report: "New shingles have been laid on the roof. Storm sash have been supplied and used on fifteen windows."

1913, Annual Report: "Roof gutters and leaders repaired."

1932: Various receipts and work orders including the notation, "Re-inforced floors with beams in parlor, dining room and room in rear of dining room...opened two closed fire-places and made repairs."

Folder #24
1874-1881
 Miscellaneous cancelled checks.

Folder #25
1885-1889
 Miscellaneous bills and cancelled checks.

Folder #26
1876-1879
 Miscellaneous bills.

SUMMARY:

Whenever the papers in this archive begin to comment on the fabric of the house they are likely to grow frustratingly imprecise (see the 1902 Annual Report excerpt, for example, that refers to painting and carpentry work "throughout"). The 20th century records do, however, contain a greater percentage of architectural references than those from the 19th century. These are found concentrated entirely in Folder #23.

Missing in the earlier records are inventories, catalogues or any other sources that would summarize, even in rough form, what Ford family contents were acquired with the house. Also lacking is any comprehensive assessment of the condition of the house when the Association bought it. The associative and commemorative purposes of the Association are expressed clearly in the many bills and notations for dinners, concerts and hand-bills to celebrate events associated with Washington, and bills for purchase of objects with associative (or presumed associative) value (see, for example, the Martha Washington purchase

noted in 1896, Folder #3). With such concerns foremost, it should not be surprising that the house was treated primarily as a reliquary, important in itself, but perhaps more important for the objects and resonant memories it enshrined. Preservation was just beginning to grow into a rational discipline by the time the Washington Association gave up the mansion, so the lack of precise records and professional restoration techniques during the association's stewardship is to be expected.

Part Four

Research and Restoration File

The following materials are stored in no particular order in file folders in the MNHP library. Existing titles are set in quotation marks with descriptions following, where necessary.

Folder #1 (15 items)

"Ford Mansion"

Miscellaneous correspondence (1930s-1960s) of MNHP superintendents; newspaper clippings and pamphlets

Folder #2 (1 item)

"Archaeological Excavations at Washington's Headquarters/ Press Release for October 16, 1937."

Three-page synopsis of work done by "C.C.C. boys" revealing existence of original grade line around house.

Folder #3 (1 item)

"Washington's Headquarters"

Forty-two pages of handwritten notes in manila envelope, these appear to be lists of artifacts discovered during archaeological excavations, noted by date, gridded location and description of object.

Folder #4 (1 item)

"Daily Archaeological Field Notes/Washington [sic] Headquarters/Fall 1937."

Standardized typed and mimeographed survey sheets (138) with data plotted on grids, plus one handwritten note.

Folder #5 (14 items)

"H22 Ford Mansion Furnishing Plan."

Two copies of 1971 furnishing plan by Leonard E. Brown, plus memos and lists relating to furnishing and housekeeping, 1964-1970s.

Folder #6 (4 items)

"Washington's Headquarters Historic Grounds Report, 1975."

Three copies of report by William V. Massey accompanied by memo from staff historian, plus pamphlet, "A Colonial Garden in the 20th Century."

Folder #7 (8 items)

"H30 Historic Building Survey - Ford Mansion."

Memos relative to proposed architectural changes, 1959-1964.

Architectural detail drawing "Newark Sunday News" article describing appropriations for rehabilitation work.

Folder #8 (4 items)

"Andrew Chamberlain Holland Survey."

Paint analysis notations.

Catalogue cards for furniture and artifacts, 1941, 1943 and 1946.

Typed catalogue sheets for furnishings inventory.

Memo re: historic and architectural data.

Folder 9 (1 item)

"Specifications for Alterations and Additions to the Heating Systems..." 1939.

Folder 9a (13 items)

"620-132-A Heating System, Washington's Headquarters." Construction Reports.

Folder 10 (11 items)

"Historic Structures Report"

Parts II, III and supplement, prepared by Sherman W. Perry, 1963, plus related correspondence.

Folder 11 (8 items)

"Restoration of the Ford Mansion - Weig."

Correspondence, 1960s.

Final Construction Report [1939?]

"Washington's Headquarters, Its History and Restoration," Melvin J. Weig, 1939.

Folder 12 (1 item)

"Waterman Report"

"Architectural Report on the Restoration of Washington's Headquarters...", Thomas F. Waterman, n.d.

Folder 13 (1 item)

"Restoration of Ford Mansion, 1939 papers."

"Documentary Justification for the Restoration of Washington's Headquarters," 1939.

Folder 14 (2 items)

"Ford Mansion - Repair Log"

Carbon of "Completion Report on Rehabilitation," 1948.

Repair and Rehabilitation Log, 1953-1954.

Folder 15 (multiple items)

"Extra Photos, 8 x 10/Rehab. Ford Mansion/ 1963-64."

Folder 16 (1 item)

"Gabriel Ford's Diary"

Abstract of above.

SUMMARY:

The materials in this collection function as practical correlatives to the primary source documents examined in the Ford Family Papers. The summary of those papers reveals the few minor discrepancies between the restoration of the 1930s and subsequently discovered documentation. The work of Waterman et.al. is remarkable for its clarity, attention to detail and, in general, its disinclination to rely on conjecture. When conjecture and reliance on general precedent⁷ were necessary, however, as in the case of the exterior steps (replaced in the 1930s with sandstone, but now known to have been wood), even such a careful approach could stumble.

Although the Research and Restoration file sheds no fresh light on any of the outstanding questions, it has become historical in its own right. It offers perspective on the development of restoration practice and philosophy

and on the evolution of the historic preservation movement (as evidenced by Charles B. Hosmer's use of the Waterman memos in Preservation Comes of Age).

Conclusions

The documentary sources available for this investigation are too late to answer the most important questions that have been raised about the fabric of the mansion. In only a few instances do Gabriel Ford's Day Books refer back to circumstances surrounding his father's treatment of the house. Several of Gabriel's entries do establish features or alterations of his time or (presumably) earlier that effectively dispute previous suppositions about the fabric (see individual section summaries).

All of the meager substantive data discovered are found in Part Two of the investigation. Parts Three and Four offer some peripheral information; Part One is of no value.

The best way to summarize the results is to repeat the investigatory questions listed in the introductory statement of purpose and to follow each with whatever negative or positive information is germane.

1. Dates of construction: In his Account Book A, in an entry dated ca. 1814, Gabriel Ford states, "1774 The house was built by Col. Jacob Ford, Jr." He draws no distinction between house and kitchen wing.

2. By whom constructed: The names of 19th century carpenters and builders are given, but nowhere is a master builder credited with first construction.

3. Specific materials and techniques used in construction: In the absence of bills, receipts or inventories dating from the time of Jacob Ford, Jr., there exists no documentary record of construction materials and techniques. Even when Gabriel Ford notes construction projects undertaken during his lifetime, his statements are liable to be general, as in "Stable had new sills, roof and enclosure."

4. Amount and definition of remaining fabric: No general conclusions can be drawn since no comprehensive description of the mansion exists dating from the time of Jacob Ford, Jr. Certain facts can be deduced from the answers to question #5 below.

5. Changes made since construction and probable dates of changes: Numerous 19th and 20th century changes can be documented from the Gabriel Ford papers and from the Washington Association Archive. These are mostly a matter of small details - changes to fireplaces, installation of plumbing, etc. - which do not impact the overall appearance of the fabric.

Some of the more substantial alterations noted in the Gabriel Ford papers include the following:

1815 - "Kitchen floor laid new...and hearth laid with quarry stone..." (p. 12).

1817 - "Bin built in kitchen garret..." (p. 12).

1819 - "Gutters were put up..." (p. 12).

"Partition put up between kitchen and [mil?] room." (p. 12).

1820 - "Dormant [sic] windows changed from circular to ridged roofs..." (p. 13).

1836 - "Putting up breastwork and shelf in the kitchen." (p. 30).

The summary on page 13 treats the significance of some of these changes as they relate to questions raised by Waterman et.al.

6. Construction date of kitchen wing: No documentary evidence can be found to date the kitchen wing. A search was made for local maps of the period around 1774. Only one earlier map was found, a "Plan of the Town Spot of Morris Town in Morris County from a distance of three miles from the Court House, made out from a view of the same," dated ca. 1750. This merely confirms a later construction date, since the mansion does not appear. No map depictions have been found from ca. 1774 that show the mansion's main block with or without the kitchen wing.

7. Original location of kitchen wing: See question #6, above.

8. Original configuration of main stair: Probably the most perplexing question about the house, this problem has not been solved by any of the documentation examined

here. There is simply no reference to the original appearance of this stair.

9. Relation of original stairway to southwest rooms on first and second floors: See question 8, above.

10. Existence of outside door on room now interpreted as General Washington's office. No 18th century references have been found relative to this question. The door is, however, referred to by Gabriel Ford in 1820 (p. 27); since this entry predates his mother's death by six years it is unlikely that the door in question was added by him. On the basis of evidence examined here, the existence of the office door in the 18th century remains circumstantial.

The best hope for resolving outstanding questions about the mansion lies in the discovery of documentary sources heretofore unknown. The chances seem slim, but documentation does continue to appear. In 1980, for example, a Ford family copy of The Painter's, Gilder's and Varnisher's Manual, published in New York by William Jackson in 1836 was donated to the Joint Free Public Library of Morristown and Morris Township. Even indirect evidence of this nature can be extremely useful, though of course this particular book is too late to be helpful.

Papers other than those of the Ford family might be valuable sources, but even the existence of such documentation is conjectural. For example, the Lindsley (variously spelled) family of carpenter-builders is mentioned by Gabriel

Ford as having worked on the house during his lifetime. Since the construction (and by implication the design) of the Morris County Court House of 1827 is attributed to Carter and Lindsley, we may assume that the Lindsleys were master builders of some local prominence by the first quarter of the 19th century. If the family can be traced locally to the 18th century and if they were builders at that time, some connection between them and the Ford Mansion might emerge. Such reasoning is purely hypothetical but it represents the kind of imaginative source-hunting that may turn out to be the only way of continuing this investigation.

NOTES

- ¹ This description is found in Folder #2 of the Research and Restoration file, dated October 16, 1937.
- ² McKim was the de facto editor of the New York Sketch Book when he published this drawing by Bassett Jones.
- ³ On page 1 of a memorandum for the Chief of Planning dated November 8, 1938, Thomas T. Waterman, Park Service Associate Architect, notes that "This [uncovering the kitchen beams] showed that a stud partition was either contemplated or built on this line. The present partitions, however, are not constructed with studs, but of heavy vertical planks, lathed and plastered on both sides. All of the features of these partitions make it seem that they were built not long after the building itself."
- ⁴ Waterman states on page 2 of a December 5, 1938 memorandum for the Acting Chief of Planning, "In the office a point was made that during Washington's occupancy of the house there was a door in the west wall where the window now exists."
- ⁵ The reasoning that led Waterman to believe that Gabriel Ford must have modernized after his mother's death is found on page 1 of a memorandum for the Chief of Planning dated by Waterman February 2, 1939.
- ⁶ The previously cited November 8, 1938 memorandum devotes the last paragraph to a discussion of the kitchen fireplace.
- ⁷ Waterman's 2-page report (undated in the MNHP file copy) titled "Justification for the reconstruction of the main stair, Washington's Headquarters..." has become a Landmark in the documentation of architectural restoration.