

WAME 1075
OF BUREAU 10000

339/D-1197

Crown
11/14/58

Region Five
421 Walnut Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

November 11, 1958

Memorandum

To: Chief, RMC
From: Regional Director

Subject: Historic Buildings Survey Report - Wick House,
Harrisburg National Historical Park

You have copies of Mr. Vint's memorandum of October 21 recommending this report for acceptance and approval subject to limiting the work to rehabilitation. We will agree that an architectural investigation should be made to determine what will be involved in the rehabilitation of the structure.

We assume the proposed visit to the Wick House by Architect Peterson mentioned in your memorandum of October 3 will be for the purpose of determining what is needed in the way of architectural research. It is, of course, desirable that the work be completed in advance of the next travel season, and we hope the necessary plans for its accomplishment can be completed soon.

If we can be of any assistance in any phase of the work, we will be glad to do so.

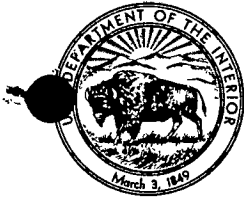
Daniel J. Tobin
Regional Director

In duplicate

Copy to: Supt., Harrisburg, SD

JCCrouch/ral

General
Daily
Area
Operations



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

IN REPLY REFER TO:
H30-D

October 21, 1958

REGION FIVE		INITIAL AND DATE
OCT 23 1958		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	REG. DIRECTOR	T 10/14/58
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ASST. REG. DIR.	[Signature] 10/17/58
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	OPERATIONS	[Signature] 10/27/58
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	INTERPRETATION	[Signature] 10/23/58
<input type="checkbox"/>	ADM.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	REC. RES. PLAN.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	RANGER ACTS	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	His. Archt.	[Signature] 10/28/58
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Archit.	[Signature] 10/27/58

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Five

From: Chief of Design and Construction

Subject: Historic Buildings Survey Report - Wick House, Morristown National Historical Park

The subject report transmitted with your memorandum of September 22 has been reviewed by the interested Divisions in the Washington Office and is recommended for acceptance and approval, in that the work proposed will be limited to rehabilitation. We concur that a thorough architectural investigation should be made to determine the extent of the rehabilitation which will be necessary.

[Signature]
Thos. C. Vint, Chief of Design and Construction

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

Info	OPERATIONS	Act	Initial and Date
	Lands Engineer		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Architect		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Land Archt. Programs		[Signature] 10/28/58
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	[Signature]		[Signature] 10/28/58

Region Five
421 Walnut Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

October 6, 1958

Wally
10/6

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Morristown National Historical Park
From: Acting Regional Director
Subject: Historic Buildings Report - Wick House
Morristown National Historical Park

The subject report has been reviewed in this office. On the understanding that the work proposed will be limited to rehabilitation - i.e., replacing any deteriorated materials or correcting any defective structural conditions - we are pleased to concur with the report.

(Sgd.) George A. Palmer

George A. Palmer
Acting Regional Director

In duplicate

Copy to: Director
Chief, EOBC
Operations Division

MHNelligan/cp

General ✓
Daily
Area



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Eastern Office
Division of Design and Construction
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

October 3, 1958

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H30

REGION FIVE		INITIAL AND DATE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	REG DIRECTOR	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ASST. REG DIRECTOR	10/6
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	OPERATIONS	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	INTERPRETATION	10/7
<input type="checkbox"/>	ADM	
<input type="checkbox"/>	REC RES. PLAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	RANGER ACT'S	

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Five

From: Chief, EODC

Subject: Wick House, Morristown National Historical Park

We have the Historic Buildings Report on the Wick House prepared by Historian Hugins and referred to this office by you on September 24.

We would like to withhold comment on this structure until Architect Peterson can visit the house, which he hopes will be in a couple of weeks. The building was restored under his direction in 1934 and he hasn't seen it since then.


Edward S. Zimmer
Chief

Copy to: Superintendent, Morristown NHP
Chief of D & C
Mr. Souder, Lionville, Pa.

9/22/58

Historic Buildings Survey Report - WICK HOUSE
MORRISTOWN

Interpretation

B A really fine report, attuned to specific development needs. No definite recs by Supt. Curious detail about stone floor in rear of house. What about this?

Cotter

Operations Baker's archeological description as quoted is ambiguous & inadequate. If a plan does not exist of this or structure, the important flooring of stone should be re-vestigated. *J.C.*

Crosby

Believe Supt. should have made recommendations as to extent of Rehab. Don't believe repairs will be extensive except chimney which should be rebuilt above roof line. *see.*

Assistant Regional Director

This is first house restoration in Reg Five. I would keep it that. Insist Architects follow waterman's plan regardless of what they may think of it. *S.A.D.*

Regional Director

Accept the previous restoration as sound - and simply rehabilitate the present structure.

W. 9/20/58

Dr. Nelligan (Last)

C. Passarelli
Nelly
9/22

Region Five
421 Walnut Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

September 22, 1958

Memorandum

To: Director
From: Regional Director
Subject: Historic Buildings Survey Report - Wick House
Morristown National Historical Park

In accordance with the procedure outlined in FO-11-56, attached for your consideration is the Historic Buildings Survey Report for the Wick House, Morristown National Historical Park, prepared by Park Historian Walter E. Hugins. By copy of this memorandum, we are forwarding a copy of the report to EODC for review and comment.

The report should be reviewed by no later than October 2. Our comments will follow.

(Sgd.) Daniel J. Tobin

Daniel J. Tobin
Regional Director

In duplicate

Attachment

Copy to: Supt., Morristown
Chief, EODC (w/c report)
Operations (att. Mr. Nelson)

CPassarelli

General ✓
Daily
Area



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Morristown National Historical Park
Morristown, New Jersey

September 19, 1958

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H30

REGION FIVE		INITIAL AND DATE
SEP 22 1958		
REG DIRECTOR		
ASST. REG DIR		
OPERATIONS		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INTERPRETATION	<i>ML 9/15</i>	
ADM.		
REC RES. PLAN.		
RANGER ACT'S		

Memorandum

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

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

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

Francis S. Ronalds
Francis S. Ronalds
Superintendent

In duplicate

Attachments (4)

HISTORIC BUILDINGS SURVEY REPORT - PART I

WICK HOUSE

MORRISTOWN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

Prepared by

Walter E. Hugins
Park Historian

September 20, 1958

Name of Area MORRISTOWN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK
MORRISTOWN, NEW JERSEY

Prepared by [(SGD.) WALTER E. HUGINS]

Date SEP 19 1958

REVIEWED

EASTERN OFFICE, DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

Architect _____ Date _____

Engineer _____ Date _____

Landscape Arch. _____ Date _____

REGIONAL OFFICE

Interpretation _____ Date _____

Operations _____ Date _____

RECOMMENDED

[(SGD.) FRANCIS S. RONALDS]

Superintendent

Date SEP 19 1958

Chief, EODC

Date _____

Regional Director

Date _____

Chief of Design and Construction

Date _____

APPROVED

Director

Date _____

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1. Administrative data

a. Name and number of building:

Wick House, Bldg. No. 23

b. Proposed use and justification:

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

c. Provisions for operating the house:

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

d. Preliminary estimate of cost of rehabilitation:

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

2. Historical data

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

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

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

³A house identified as "Weeks" is shown on two undated (ca. 1780) surveys by Robert Eyskine (New-York Historical Society); No. 1048, Road from Morristown thro' Jockey Hollow, and No. 106A, Contraction in the Jerseys. The Rochefontaine map of January 16, 1780 (Library of Congress) identifies a building on this site as "Mjr Genl St Clair's Quarters."

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

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

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

⁵History of the First Presbyterian Church, Morristown, N. J., Part II: The Combined Registers, 1742-1885 (Morristown, 1885), 258-59. Wills of Henry Wick, Jan. 26, 1771, and Mary Wick, March 13, 1786 (Morris County Wills, lib. 22 [1781], p. 239; and B-144). Tempe Wick Tuttle's daughter Mary C. Blachly sold the property to Mason Loomis by deed of July 1, 1871 (Morris County Deeds, D-3-1).

3. Archeological data

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

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

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

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

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

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

4. Architectural data

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

⁹Ibid., pp. 4-5.

¹⁰Ibid., pp. 5-6.

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

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

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

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

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

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

¹¹Ibid., 6-12.

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

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

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

¹²Ibid., pp. 12-15.

¹³Ibid., pp. 15-16.

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

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

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

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

¹⁴Ibid., pp. 17-18.

¹⁵Ibid., p. 14.

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

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

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

¹⁶Ibid., pp. 16-17.

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

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



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



2. Chimney in attic, showing crack in brickwork.



3. Chimney in attic, showing missing brick.



4. Condition of floor joists in cellar.



5. Another view of floor joists.