

Joseph Johnson House  
west side of New York Road  
(U.S. Route 9), 0.3 mile  
north of Nacote Creek  
Port Republic  
Atlantic County  
New Jersey

HABS No. NJ-728

HABS  
NJ,  
1-POREP,  
3-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

JOSEPH JOHNSON HOUSE

HABS No. NJ-728

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Location: West side of New York Road (U.S. Route 9), 0.3 miles north of Nacote Creek, Port Republic, Atlantic County, New Jersey.

Significance: An interesting example of a vernacular dwelling with Georgian/Federal Style detailing.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: The date of erection is uncertain. When photographically documented in 1960, it was believed that the house was constructed ca. 1760. However, since that time, the house has been dated to ca. 1835. This is the date accepted by William B. Bassett, author of Historic American Buildings Survey of New Jersey (1977).
2. Architect: Unknown.
3. Alterations and additions: The interior was remodelled in the 1880's. Partially destroyed by fire in 1965.

PART. II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: A vernacular structure, influenced by the design tradition of the Georgian and Federal styles.

b. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: Original section 24'-2" x 20'-7". Two-and-a-half-stories. Overall length including L-shaped addition is 53'-4".
2. Foundations: Of native Jersey stone or "bog ore", walls are 15" thick and 4'-9" high. A pier of Jersey stone is in center of cellar supporting the summer beam. The pier is 15" x 15" x 9'-7". Stone foundations rest on footings of bricks.
3. Walls and structural system: 4" x 4" timbers as studding, spaced on average of 22" on center with brick nogging. Beaded weatherboard on exterior; sawn lath on interior, plastered. Studs show adz marks and pit saw markings. Weatherboard is random width averaging 4-1/2" to 1-1/4", exposed to the weather. Fastened with cut nails.

4. Porches: Porch added since 1925.
5. Chimneys: Single brick chimney under weatherboarding at west side of building. Bricks are 4" x 4" x 8". Probably has two flues since a fireplace is in cellar as well as main room on first floor.
6. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: Original door, apparently unchanged, is 36" x 80" with three horizontal panels atop two vertical panels. Rear of door is planked. Thickness 1-1/2". Present main entrance is a later addition.
  - b. Windows: Double hung windows, apparently changed. Upper sash are six pane with much original glass remaining. Lower sash are single pane and the trim does not match. Plain trim.
7. Roof:
  - a. Shape, covering: Gable roof covered with cedar shingles nailed to 1" x 3" boards fastened to roof joists. Joists are 3" x 4-1/2" sawn timbers. No ridge board. Pegged joints.
  - b. Cornice: Plain molded cornice following entire roof line on original section of house. Made of wood, probably pine. 12" overhang on north and south exposures.
  - c. Dormers: Two dormers on south elevation. They each measure 52" high x 36" wide with round headed sash.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: Original house--main floor: Large room, 20'-7" x 24'-2", stair hall to east of main room. Second floor: Two bedrooms and stair hall. Attic or garret has finished floor only. Full basement with brick floor under original section only. Remainder of house added later.
2. Stairways: Stair to second floor has treads 37" wide with 7-1/2" rise x 10" tread surface. The stair may have been rebuilt in the 1880's. Small enclosed stair to garret from second floor.
3. Flooring: Of random width boards averaging 9" x 11". Fastened with cut nails to log joists flattened on top. Second floor ceiling shows exposed beaded beams 3" x 7-1/2" in size.

5. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: Four paneled doors with flat vertical planked backs, about 1-1/4" thick.

6. Decorative features and trim: Wood trim, very plain. A 7" wide chair rail is found in main room on first floor, 35" high from floor.

7. Hardware: Iron hinges, hook and eye latch on front door apparently a recent addition.

8. Mechanical equipment:

a. Heating: A single brick fireplace with wood mantel on main floor, in the original section. No central heating plant in evidence.

b. Lighting: Did have electricity, fixtures removed.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: Front elevation faces south at 185°.

2. Enclosures: No fences, but overgrown hedge encloses front elevation.

3. Walks, driveways: Gravel drive, badly overgrown.

Originally prepared by: Jack E. Boucher, Photographer  
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Edited and revised by: Druscilla J. Null  
Historian  
Historic American Buildings  
Survey  
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