

Hendrick Hendrickson House
Pleasant Valley, Holmdel Township
Monmouth County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-544

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13-EV.V.
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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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1-

Hondrick Hendrickson House
Pleasant Valley*, Holmdel Township
Monmouth County, New Jersey

Owner: The Bell Telephone Laboratories, Inc.,
New York City. 1966 MONMOUTH COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
WILL BE MOVED TO NEW SITE

Date of Erection: 1725-1750

Architect: Unknown

Builder: Hendrick Hendrickson (1703-1753), original
owner

Present Condition: Original, unaltered and now vacant

Number of Stories: One and one-half, cellar and garret
in main unit; one and one-half
without cellar or garret in minor unit

Materials of Construction:

Foundation - fieldstone masonry
Exterior walls - timber frame, clapboarded
Interior walls - lath and plaster on frame
studding in first story; plaster on
board partitions in upper story
Chimneys - brick built into inside of gable
end walls
Roof - gable, with deep overhanging eaves;
modern wood shingles

Historical Data:

The identification of this ancient Dutch homestead by discovery of the name of its original and succeeding owners has been found possible by search of title in the public records, the results of which are reported as follows:

* The House stands in a grove of trees in the eastern part of the Pleasant Valley region, and is not visible from the highway, the road from Crawford 's Corner to Everett. See sketch map on coversheet of the Survey drawings.

In his will^(a) dated 16 November 1727 and proved 29 January 1727/8, Daniel Hendricks^(b) of Middletown Township, Monmouth County, gentleman, devised to his son Hendrick the plantation whereon the latter "dwells, formerly Benjamin Stout's", requiring him to pay 300 pounds to his seven sisters.

Hendrick² Hendrickson, devisee and eldest of the four sons of Daniel Hendrickson abovesaid, and his wife Tryntje Janse Van Dyke, was born 1700-1703 in the Pleasant Valley section of Middletown Township, and died 21 February 1753 aged 50 years (per gravestone inscription). He married about 1725 Neeltje Schenck, daughter of Garret Schenck and his wife Neeltje Voorhees, also of Pleasant Valley. After his death she married Elias Golden in 1761^(c). Evidently this Hendrick² Hendrickson built the house (here surveyed) about the time of his marriage, 1725, supposing his father granted him the plantation at that time as was customary, and he was certainly living there in 1727 as in the above cited will confirming the property to him. Administration upon the estate of Hendrick Hendrickson, later of Middletown, deceased intestate, was granted on 28 March 1753 to Daniel Hendrickson Jr., William Hendrickson, Garret Schenck and Daniel Hendrickson.

(a) Abstract of will publ. in N.J. Archives XXIII, 222, and full copy in George Beckman, Early Dutch Settlers of Monmouth Co., 1901, p. 115. Transfer of the plantation from Benjamin Stout to testator as cited in the will does not appear on record.

(b) Daniel Hendrickson, the pioneer of one line of the family in Mon. Co., came from Flatbush, L.I., to Middletown in or before 1695, and died there in Jan. 1728. His house has been surveyed as HABS-NJ-498. It stands north of the one here considered being at the crossroads at Holland.

Garret³ Hendrickson, born 22 January 1743, died 2 December 1801, second of the four sons of Hendrick Hendrickson abovesaid and his wife Neeltje Schonck, evidently came into possession of his father's house, and some part of the surrounding plantation, when he arrived at the age of 21 years, for he devised it in his will of 1801. He served as a Lieutenant in the County Militia during the war of Independence, and was taken prisoner by the British in 1782. He married 1st by license dated 8 December 1755, Catherine Denise, born 8 May 1732, died 8 September 1771, daughter of Tunis Denise, and 2nd Helena Van Lieu, born 26 September 1753, died 1 January 1785, and 3rd Nelly Van Doorn, who died 11 February 1834 aged 91 years, widow of Hendrick Smock^(c). The will of Garrit Hendrickson of Middletown, dated 12 December 1801 and proved 7 January 1802, devised "unto my son Hendrick all the plantation I now live on, with an addition of about three acres of meadow lying about the tan vat, and one other lot of land taken at the west end of the long field bequeathed to me by my brother Daniel Hendrickson".

Hendrick⁴ Hendrickson, born 19 July 1764, died 6 June 1837, was named as a son and as devisee of the paternal homestead in the will of Garret Hendrickson cited above. By his wife Phebe Van Mater, born 21 December 1773 and died 12 March 1836, a daughter of Cyrenius Van Mater, Hendrick Hendrickson had sons, Garret H. and Cyrenius Hendrickson to whom his estate descended upon his decease. By quitclaim deeds of division, dated 12 June 1837 Garret H. Hendrickson and his brother Cyrenius Hendrickson divided the paternal estate, whereby the former received "All those two certain tracts and parcels of land and salt meadow lying and being in the township of Middletown, being the easterly part of the Homestead Farm formerly owned and occupied by our father Hendrick G. Hendrickson, containing 143 acres more or less".

(c) Beekman, cited in note (a), p. 133, and R. F. Bailey, Pre-Revolutionary Dutch Houses and Families of Northern New Jersey and Southern New York, 1936, pp. 403 et seq.

From Garret H.⁵ Hendrickson and wife Angeline, of Raritan Township^(d) evidently residing in the ancestral house, the property passed by deed of 1st April 1852 to Daniel P. Schanck Jr., of the same place, in which conveyance it is described as being "Part of the farm formerly of Hendrick Hendrickson, containing 145.67 acres more or less, ----- that were conveyed to Garret H. Hendrickson by deeds of quitclaim from Cyrenius Hendrickson 12th June 1837, together with all and singular the buildings", etc.

Daniel P. Schanck Jr., the grantee abovesaid, held the property until 26 March 1862, on which date he and his wife of Holmdel Township, conveyed the same to Henry Denise Hendrickson of the same place, for \$27,000. This grantee was the son of Syrenius Hendrickson, abovesaid and his wife Ida Van Mater. But the farm was seized by the Sheriff and conveyed by deed of 12 March 1873 to John W. Herbert and Joseph I. Thompson.

On 1st August 1899, the several heirs of said Herbert conveyed to his widow, Agnes D. Herbert, his undivided half interest in the farm of 143 acres describing it as lying in Holmdel Township. On 27 January 1916, the executors of said Agnes D. Herbert, deceased, conveyed the same to Kate Herbert Kelly and Jean R. Herbert, who in turn passed it on 13 November 1929 to The Bell Telephone Laboratories, Inc., of New York City, who remain the owners at the time of our survey of the house in May 1939, they using this and adjacent farms for trans-ocean telephone experiments.

(d) Created from Middletown Twp. in 1848. From it were subsequently set off Matawan and Holmdel Twp. in 1857.

Bibliography:

Reports on search of title in the Land and Probate records of Monmouth County by Forrest N. Hargrove, H.A.B.S. abstractor, and in those of the Provincial Secretary (now deposited in the office of Secretary of State) by Oscar F. Benjamin, H.A.B.S. research editor, received 22 May and 8 July 1940

Lewis D. Cook
Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A.I.A.
District Officer

now 10/2/40