

The Aaron Ball House
Mt. Pleasant Turnpike Road
East Hanover Township
Morris County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-561

HABS
NJ
14-HANO
3.

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

HABS
N.J.
14-HANO.
3.

The Aaron Ball House
Mt. Pleasant Turnpike Road
East Hanover Township
Morris County, New Jersey

Owner: Mr. and Mrs. Alexander S. Seymour

Date of Erection: 1798-1800

Architect:

Builder: Aaron Ball

Present Condition: Excellent

Number of Stories: One story, garret, and cellar

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone
masonry

Exterior walls - timber
frame with clapboard
siding

Interior walls - stud
partitions, plaster

Chimneys - brickwork
built inside of southwest
gable ends

Roof - gambrel on major
unit, gable on lesser
one

Historical Data:

By a deed of 19 June 1799, Samuel Ball Jr. and wife Mary, of Hanover Township, Morris County, conveyed to (his son) Aaron Ball of the same place, a lot of 3 3/4 acres there, beginning at the road from Morristown to Newark, near the meeting house, at a point 30 feet west of the "corner of the dwelling

house, of Joseph Smith, the same being his old dwelling houseⁿ, thence in the line of his land south 38 degrees west 6.60 chains to the line of Keturah Youngs land, thence in her line north 59 degrees west 5.47 chains to the corner of a lot formerly belonging to David Young decd., thence in the line of the same 6.35 chains to the aforesaid road, thence in that road south 59 degrees east 5.75 chains to the place of beginning, and reciting that this lot is part of one conveyed to grantor by Ephraim Sayre and wife Hannah by their deed of 8 March 1798.

This Ephraim Sayre of Bottle Hill (Madison), Morris County, born 8 March 1746 in the house still standing there (of which measured drawings have lately been made by the Historic American Buildings Survey as NJ-146), was a farmer, tanner, as well as a deacon of the Presbyterian Church in that village. He died 24 October 1819, having a widow Hannah (Meeker) Sayre and having had eleven children, none of whom, however, appear to have married into the family of Ball*.

Deacon Samuel Ball Jr., the grantor first abovenamed, was born in 1734, and died 12 January 1810 aged seventy-five years and six months per gravestone inscription in the Hanover Præsbyterian Churchyard across the road from this house. His son Aaron Ball, baptized 4 September 1768 in that church, and to whom he conveyed the small tract of 3 3/4 acres in 1799 as stated, evidently built thereon the house here surveyed as indicated by its details being of late 18th century work. Its gambrel roof, a feature most commonly and excellently used by the Dutch builders in Bergen and Passaic Counties, probably assigns the actual design of the house to a carpenter of that nationality rather than to one of English antecedents.

*Sayre family, by Theo. M. Santa, publ. N.Y.C. 1901, page 137

Aaron Ball, abovesaid, and his wife Elizabeth, of Hanover Township, by their deed of 16 October 1817, conveyed the same property to Benjamin Cook of the same place, and by a deed recorded on 19 June 1882 this house and lot passed from him to James Cook at Sheriff's sale. The last named, being also of Hanover, conveyed it to Josephine A. Cokefair of Livingston, in the same county by his deed of 10 December 1919, and the executors of the estate of this grantee passed it to Alexander T. Seymour and Barbara W. Seymour both of Glen Ridge, by deed of 16 November 1936, describing it as being in the Township of East Hanover, and as bounded northeast by the Mt. Pleasant Turnpike, northwest by the Hanover Church lot, southwest by lands of S. A. Reeves, and southeast by those of James Cook.

Bibliography:

A search of title in Morris County Land and Probate records by Cornelius McPhillips, H.A.B.S. title abstractor

Lewis D. Cook
Supervising Historian

Approved:

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