

The Swaim Homestead  
South Springfield Avenue  
Springfield, Union County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of New Jersey

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

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The Swaim Homestead  
South Springfield Avenue  
Springfield, Union County, New Jersey

Owner: Mrs. Agnes P. M. Mosher

Date of Erection: Original unit 1744  
Main unit about 1825

Architect:

Builder: Anthony Swaim

Present Condition: Excellent; very few changes  
have been made

Number of Stories: One and one-half original section  
Two and one-half later addition

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - frame  
construction, pinned  
frame of chestnut and  
pine, clapboards;  
kitchen wing brick

Interior walls - plaster  
walls and ceiling,  
originally exposed beams  
in earlier section

Hewn pine floor boards  
14" wide

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - pitch, wood shingles

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Historical Data:

The house was built by Anthony Swaim in 1744 for himself and his wife Abigail. A date stone, originally in the rear wall chimney, now in the front dining room fireplace, reads "Anthony Abigail Swaim, 1744". In the old Springfield cemetery is the headstone reading "Anthony Swaim, who died in 1758 when he was forty years of age". His wife died in 1764. There were six children by the marriage; all of them were under age at the death of Abigail Swaim. The guardians were Samuel Brook and Samuel Miller. The will stipulated that when the oldest son John came of age the property was to be divided. There appears to be no further record until 1850.

From the deed in Mrs. Mosher's possession we learn that the house was sold in 1850 by Abram Denman to John Martin Gerhold who retained possession until 1882 when the property was conveyed to John S. Parcell. In 1913 it was sold at auction to Harper Brothers, Newark. In 1926 they conveyed it to the Hubert Realty Company in Elizabeth from whom Mrs. Mosher acquired it in 1929.

Bibliography:

"Springfield House Built in 1744  
Maintains Its Charm to Present"  
Plainfield Courier News (Date  
not ascertained)

Material from Mrs. Mosher given  
to Harry Maslow

Walter P. East  
Supervising Historian

Approved:  
Seymour Williams  
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, A.I.A.  
District Officer

Rev. Jan. 26 '37 TLU