

The John Woolston House
Near Ewansville, Burlington County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-365

HABS
NJ
3-EWANSV.

1-

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

The John Woolston House
Near Ewansville, Burlington County, New Jersey

Owner: J. Raymond Stiles

Date of Erection: Western end about 1710;
eastern section about 1800

Architect:

Builder: The older section probably John Woolston, Jr.
Eastern unit probably Jacob Woolston

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: Two and one-half

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - brick
Flemish bond - pent roof
along front of older unit

Interior walls - plaster

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - pitch

Historical Data:

The father of the builder of the older section was John Woolston, Sr., born in England in 1640. He married first a sister of Thomas Ollive one of the four commissioners of the London Friends Company, and secondly Hannah the only daughter of William and Hannah Cooper of England who moved from Burlington to Cooper's Creek about 1678.

Woolston was in prison in Northampton jail in England for his quaker activities; to escape further persecution he joined the London Company of Friends and secured passage on the ship Kent in 1677; he landed near the mouth of Rancocas Creek and lived there temporarily making his way finally to the site of Burlington which the members of the York and London Friends founded at that time.

It was either John Woolston, Sr., or his son John, Jr., who received the title to the property near Ewansville on Columbus Road or at least to some portion of the present farm along the Rancocas Creek.

John, Jr. married Lettice Newbold in 1683. He is the possible builder of the western end of the present dwelling and family tradition indicates the date to have been about 1710. The New Jersey Archives record a survey under the date November 30, 1682 for John Woolston, Jr. of 300 acres beginning at an Indian town at the mouth of the brook including eight acres of meadow on line between first and second tenths.

John Woolston, Sr. died at Jacksonville in 1698. His son John, Jr. died in 1712 on the present Woolston farm two years after he settled there and was buried in the family plot on the farm. His wife Lettice and daughter Susannah likewise were buried there. A grave-marker stood on the Woolston farm until about ten years ago when it was lost. It has since been found. This marker reads

To The Memory
of
Susannah Langstaff, Daughter
of
John and Lettice Woolston
who died December
18th, 1739, aged 46 years

Fare well al friends and Husband Dear
I am not dead, but sleeping here -
My debts are paid my grave you see
Prepare for death and follow me.

The will of John Woolston, Jr. noted in the New Jersey Archives is dated September 15, 1712. The administration of the estate was granted to John Woolston, III. From John Woolston the title descended, according to the records of the Secretary of State's Office, Trenton, to Jacob Woolston in 1752. From Jacob, Sr. the property passed to Jacob, Jr. His will, made in 1830, orders a "division to take place between sons Benjamin, Richard, Newbold, and Edward of two plantations where I now live and one where John Woolston lives." Richard came into possession of the property in part by the will of Jacob, part by deed from Isaac Hillard, Sheriff, part by deed from Benjamin Woolston, and the remainder from Sara W. Champion.

From Richard Woolston, the property came into the possession of Walter E. Woolston in 1907. Walter Woolston sold the section containing the dwelling to William H. Absalom et als. in January 1932 and from Absalom et als. it was conveyed to J. Raymond Stiles the present owner in February, 1932.

Bibliography:

Nelson, W. (Editor) Calendar of Records
in Office of the Secretary of State
1664-1713 Paterson, The Press Printing
and Publishing Company, 1877 (Archives of
the State of New Jersey, First Series,
XXI)

A search of records in the Secretary of
State's Office, Trenton, by F. A. Eckhart,
Burlington County Office

Material from Nathaniel R. Ewan, Survey
Photographer

Walter C. Rutt
Supervising Historian

Approved:

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

W

8/30/57