

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 16 1976

DATE ENTERED JUN 18 1976

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC *1/16/76*

John Abbott II House

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

2200 Kuser Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Trenton

VICINITY OF

4th

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

New Jersey

CODE

034

COUNTY

Mercer

CODE

021

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Township of Hamilton

STREET & NUMBER

2090 Greenwood Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Trenton

VICINITY OF

Mercer

STATE

New Jersey

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Mercer County Court House, clerks office

STREET & NUMBER

South Broad Street

CITY, TOWN

Trenton

STATE

New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

March 16, 1971

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Historic Sites Office Box 1420

CITY, TOWN

Trenton

New Jersey

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The John Abbott II house is presently nearing completion of its restoration. It consists of two sections, one 18th and one 19th century. The east 2 1/2 story section dates c.1730 and is 20 feet across the front and 29 feet deep. A one story reconstructed leanto along the entire depth of the east wall projects out 11 feet. The two story section to the west is c.1830-40. It increased the front by 25 feet and is 20 feet deep.

The 18th century house consists of an exposed hewn oak braced frame structure with plastered walls over brick nogging. The exposed corner posts are flared, commonly known as gun stock posts. The ceiling beams of both the first and second floors were originally intended to be exposed, finished with chamfered and beaded beams and planed underside of floor boards. The 19th century plaster ceilings have been removed in restoration. The second floor retains its natural unfinished wood surfaces. The first floor rooms had ceilings painted red at a later 18th century date.

Vertical board partitions were reconstructed on both the first and second floors from clear evidence in the ceiling, walls, and floors. The floors on the first floor had been replaced in the 19th century, however, the second floor and attic floor boards are original. There are three rooms on each floor.

The kitchen, 20 feet by 17 feet is a south room. It contains an enclosed winder staircase reconstructed from the outlines of the previous stair left in the plaster walls. Details were copied from the continued existing staircase from the second floor to the attic. The large kitchen fireplace, 12 feet across, and chimney were to a large extent intact. The chimney above the roof line and into the attic was reconstructed as well as portions of the fireplace and brick bake oven. A closed off smaller 19th century fireplace built within this fireplace was removed leaving the complete back wall of the original fireplace and opening to the removed bake oven. The brick sidewalls of the fireplace and brick hearth were reconstructed from the existing outline and remains in the base of the fireplace. A new hewn oak lintel, replacing the missing lintel was added to support the existing brick chimney breast above.

On the north is an entrance room and small parlor. The previously removed corner fireplace was reconstructed following the original outlines in the floor and ceiling. The original chimney remained on the second floor. There was no evidence of fireplaces on the second floor in any of the three rooms. The attic flooring is original though the entire roof structure has been reconstructed based on an early photo. A cross gable roof was added in the late 19th or early 20th century as well as extensive porches (now removed).

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Continuation Sheet

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7. Description (continued)

The leanto was reconstructed based on remaining evidence of foundations. It originally extended about 20 feet along the east wall and projected out 11 feet. In the reconstruction it was extended the entire depth of the house to include a room for utilities. Uncovered in this room was a portion of an early stone and brick floor. Also in this room is the protruding brick bake oven, reconstructed from remaining uncovered foundations and outlines on the masonry fireplace wall from where it was removed.

The 19th century addition consists of an entrance hall with an open staircase and a parlor with fireplace on the first floor. On the second floor are three bedrooms. One had been made into a bathroom and closets; in the restoration this was remade into a toilet room and small office.

The exterior is all new fabric. The roof is cedar shingles. The entire exterior was covered with random (approx. 4") 19th century siding which was mutilated by 20th century asbestos siding. All siding was removed and replaced. Wide random width rough sawn, beaded weatherboards, were used on the 18th century section. Clapboards similar to those removed were put on the 19th century section. All new 9 over 6 sash were added to the 18th century section, the size and location based on marks left in the stud walls. The batten doors on strap hinges are also new, but are in the original locations.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES c 1730-1840 BUILDER/ARCHITECT John Abbott I & II

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE
ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The early portion of this house, though altered, retained many early 18th century features. Notable is the large kitchen fireplace with bakeoven and chimney. Also intact are the open beam ceilings and gunstock corner posts, features of early 18th century construction.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

Samuel The Abbott House witnessed an episode in the events of the Revolutionary War. It was the scene of a British confiscation of monies issued by the Colony of New Jersey, and so stands as an unique example of intelligence gathering by the British and evasion of the enemy forces by the main protagonist, one John Tucker, Treasurer of the Provisional Congress of New Jersey, former President of New Jersey, Justice of the Supreme Court.

Quote from letter by Tucker to New Jersey Assembly, "that on being informed the British Army under General Howe was on their march through this province and that their design was to reach Trenton, where the deponent lives, thought it most prudent to remove all his papers with some of his most valuable effects out of Trenton together with the unsigned public money - that he did accordingly on or about the 30th of Nov 1776 remove to the house of Mr. John Abbott about £5818.16 unsigned Congress money under the care of John and Samuel Abbott." (Feb. 4, 1777)

Howe and his army arrived at Trenton on Sunday Dec. 8, 1776. According to Tucker, on the 9th of December a detachment of 20 troops under the command of a Lieutenant Hackshaw by order of Lt. Col. Abercrombie raided the Abbott House and seized the public money. The British had learned of the location from a Mary Pointing of Trenton, and had been directed to the Abbott farm by one John Jolly of Princeton.

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Historic Significance (cont)

On the day the British arrived in Trenton (December 8) Tucker left for Burlington with 2,500 in signed Public money and upon arrival paid that amount to Mr. Treasurer Smith. On his return Tucker was waylaid by a group of 20 Tory Light Horse at Crosswicks Bridge.

Tucker's description:

"as I was returning home on Saturday and cannot omit informing you of the cruel treatment I met with from a number of my own Country men, about 20, called in Crosswicks by the name of the Tory Light Horse - John Leonard at their head. Leonard presented a pistol to my breast and swore if I offered to stir he would put a brace of balls through me. That he had General Howe's order to take me prisoner." (January 20, 1777)

Tucker was held a prisoner for three days, given bail by Robert Pearson and protection was granted to him by a Colonel Rall. The next year Tucker was asked to appear before the New Jersey Assembly to justify the loss. Illness prevented his appearance. Tucker advised the Assembly call John Abbott and Randall, both of whom corroborated his account.

The questions asked of Tucker by the Assembly in written form are as follows:

- a. How much of the public money he had in his hands; how much signed.
- b. When the enemy came to Trenton.
- c. Where he delivered it.
- d. How much he was robbed of and by whom.
- e. What were numbers of bills.
- f. How was it secured at the place he left it.
- g. What reasons had he to believe he had secured it.
- h. Did the Abbott's know contents of boxes.
- i. Was chest locked and who held key.
- j. Why was all money not sent to State Treasurer in Burlington.

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- k. Is any of the money now being passed in the state
- l. Was he asked by any British officers to sign any money.

The Assembly "resolved that nothing in course of above questioning has shown any guilt by Mr. Tucker in loss of £5,000 of Public money taken by enemy."