

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED MAR 25 1976

DATE ENTERED JUL 1 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

Mansion
The Abbott-DeCou ~~Mansion~~

AND/OR COMMON

Homestead of Samuel and Lucy Abbott 1797

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

58 Soloff Drive

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

~~Trenton~~
Hamilton Township, 08610

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

4th

Lebowich

VICINITY OF

STATE

New Jersey

34

CODE

COUNTY

Mercer

CODE

021

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

William J. and Elizabeth Clark

STREET & NUMBER

58 Soloff Drive

CITY, TOWN

Hamilton Township

VICINITY OF

STATE

New Jersey

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Mercer County Clerk's Office Vol. 1952-p9755

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Trenton

STATE

New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

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
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>1797</u>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Abbott-DeCou Mansion is a Georgian detached house of flemish bond brick, with 2 full stories, and 5 bays on the main (west) facade. The house is a central hall plan with 2 rooms on each side. The central hall has an open stair with landing at the east end.

The parlor which occupies the *southwest* corner of the ground floor has the most elaborate moldings in the house, with the only complete cornice. All other cornices extend only above the fireplace flues. The parlor cornice is double sized over the central fireplace flue which has an ear molded fireplace with a simple frieze and mantle. The remainder of the *west* side of the ground floor is occupied by a small living room, with a central wall fireplace which feeds into a common flue with the parlor fireplace. This interior flue connects with 2 upstairs fireplaces and emerges at the ridge, about 8 feet from the *west* gable end. The flue in the living room is framed in with raised panel cupboards with a simple molded fireplace and mantle. The central hall, the parlor, and the living room all have dove tail molded chair-rails. The kitchen and dining room occupy the *east* side of the ground floor. There is strong evidence that these two rooms, at one time, had a pair of corner fireplaces formed against the south end wall. This is suggested by the fact that the kitchen was once a parlor. There is also a huge arch support in the cellar whose existance could only be explained by a double corner fireplace above. The dining room has a simple molded fireplace with frieze and mantle. The south wall is ferred out so as to contain a raised panel cupboard.

There are four bedrooms, each of which is above a principal on the ground floor. The central hall on the second floor has a bathroom at the west end. There is also a narrow stair between the bedrooms on the north side which leads to the attic.

The *north* facade of the house has 4 bays 2 of which are on the south side of the central door. The *west* side of the house has a one room flat roof addition, and the letters "A S L 1797" formed in burned headers on the gable.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
___PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	___COMMUNITY PLANNING	___LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	___RELIGION
___1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	___CONSERVATION	___LAW	___SCIENCE
___1500-1599	___AGRICULTURE	___ECONOMICS	___LITERATURE	___SCULPTURE
___1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	___EDUCATION	___MILITARY	___SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
___1700-1799	___ART	___ENGINEERING	___MUSIC	___THEATER
___1800-1899	___COMMERCE	___EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	___PHILOSOPHY	___TRANSPORTATION
___1900-	___COMMUNICATIONS	___INDUSTRY	___POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	___OTHER (SPECIFY)
		___INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1797

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Samuel Abbott

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The commodius, well crafted, house is an unusually fine example of Quaker Georgian Architecture. As such, its elegantly proportioned, 5 bay design represents a high style sophistication which was seldom reached in 18th Century New Jersey. Yet its simple solid character marks it as distinctly Quaker. The house is in a good state of preservation with much of the original hardware, woodwork, and glass. There are also a number of early spring bolt mechanisms remaining on the doors.

The Abbott DeCou site is rich in archeological resources of several eras.

The mansion is associated with the life of "Aunt Martha" DeCou, whose contribution to local civic affairs was considerable in her lifetime.

History

Samuel Abbott bought the land, on which the mansion stands, from one Joseph Watson in 1789. He and his wife Lucy, built the mansion in 1797. Their initials are formed in the brick work in the north gable. Samuel Abbott deeded the house to his son in 1828. In 1888 the mansion was purchased by the DeCou family. Mrs. DeCou, who was known locally as "Aunt Martha", was deeply interested in community affairs. The DeCou School was named in her honor as she contributed a large plot of ground in the rear of the school for a playground. The DeCou Fire Company is also named in her honor. Mrs. DeCou died in 1934 at the age of 97. In 1941 Mr. and Mrs. J. Norman Welsh purchased the mansion and undertook considerable restoration. Today the house is owned by Mr. and Mrs. William J. Clark.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Helen Almy West, A History of Hamilton Township, 1954, Page 19 & 20.
 Lee's History of Mercer County, 1910, Vol. II-6, Pg. 509, Pg. 108.
 Everts and Peck, History of Burlington and Mercer Counties, 1883, pg.797

 Trenton Federalist, 3/3/1828, Pg.3
 New Jersey State Gazette, 12/24/1831
 The Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey, Vol. 10, page 38-39.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 15 acres

UTM REFERENCES

18 523-440 4448-300							
A	1.8	523900	4448320	B	1.8	523960	4448080
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1.8	523760	4448040	D	1.8	523740	4448250

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

see address

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
New Jersey	34	Mercer	021
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

William J. Clark

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

58 Soloff Drive, Trenton, Hamilton Township,

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Trenton

STATE

New Jersey

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL x

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Janis J. Band

TITLE

Commissioner, Dept of Environmental Protection

DATE

Jan 7 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Active

W. J. Minter

DATE

7/1/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

Charles A. ...

DATE

6.18.76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

LE ... 6.22.76

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CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE

There is an off axis 2 bay porch on the *south* facade and a one bay porch over the *front door*. These have full entablatures and square cut columns, reminiscent of the craftsman style. These porches were added Ca 1900. Windows are predominantly 12 over 12 on the ground floor, with the northern most window of the kitchen converted to a door. Upstairs windows are predominately 9 over 6. The interior has random width floor boards and a number of exposed mechanism spring latches. Several of the doors have brass locks.

To the *east* of the house is a mound of stones and earth, which formed the second story entrance to a barn that no longer exists. The present 2 story barn is of recent construction. There is also and a deep cylindrical well adjacent to the house.

The property itself is rich in archeological resources with numerous arrowheads, broken dishes and other artifacts.