**NAME**

**HISTORIC** The Abbott-DeCou Mansion

**AND/OR COMMON** Homestead of Samuel and Lucy Abbott 1797

**LOCATION**

**STREET & NUMBER** 58 Soloff Drive

**CITY, TOWN** Hamilton Township, 08610

**STATE** New Jersey

**CLASSIFICATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>PRESENT USE</th>
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<td>AGRICULTURE</td>
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<td>COMMERCIAL</td>
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<td>BOTH</td>
<td>WORK IN PROGRESS</td>
<td>PARK</td>
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<td>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</td>
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<td>EDUCATIONAL</td>
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<td>YES: UNRESTRICTED</td>
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**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

**NAME** William J. and Elizabeth Clark

**STREET & NUMBER** 58 Soloff Drive

**CITY, TOWN** Hamilton Township

**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

**REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

**TITLE**

**DATE**

**DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS**

**CITY, TOWN**
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 existence 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.
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.
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES
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

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA
ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 15 acres

UTM REFERENCES

ZONE EASTING NORTHING
A 12 532 640 84448 300
B 12 532 319 60 4448 080
C 12 532 376 60 4448 040
D 12 532 319 60 4448 250

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION
see address

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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>CODE</th>
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FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
William J. Clark

ORGANIZATION

STREET & NUMBER
58 Soloff Drive, Trenton, Hamilton Township,

CITY OR TOWN
Trenton

STATE
New Jersey

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:
NATIONAL __ STATE ___ LOCAL __

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

TITLE
Commissioner, Dept. of Environmental Protection

DATE 5/22/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 7/11/76

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 6/18/76
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 a deep cylindrical well adjacent to the house.

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