



MAURICE STEPHENS HOUSE (SITE OF HUNTINGTON'S QUARTERS)

Valley Forge National Historical Park



Historic Structure Report

MAURICE STEPHENS HOUSE
(Site of Huntington's Quarters)

HISTORIC STRUCTURE REPORT

Valley Forge National Historical Park
Valley Forge, Pennsylvania

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PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report was prepared by the Historic Architecture Program (HAP) for the Valley Forge National Historical Park (NHP), located in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, according to a Project Agreement dated April 16, 2004. The Historic Architecture Program, located in Lowell, Massachusetts, is staffed by historical architects, architectural conservators, and historians who provide technical support regarding the preservation and treatment of historic structures to parks and affiliated National Park Service sites, primarily within the Northeast Region.

Production of this report would not have been possible without the assistance of a number of individuals. Foremost among these were Valley Forge NHP Superintendent Arthur Stewart and Deputy Superintendent Barbara Pollarine. Special thanks must also go to the park's Chief of Maintenance, Jeff Kangas, and the park's Historical Architect Tim P. Long, both of whom gave freely of their time and knowledge and provided invaluable insights into the history of both the building and the park.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Research Performed

This report was produced by the Historic Architecture Program of the National Park Service's Northeast Regional Office. The purpose of this report is to document the construction history of the Maurice Stephens House located at Valley Forge National Historical Park, in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. This report fulfills the *Cultural Resource Management Guideline (D.O. 28)* requirements for the documentation of historic structures prior to treatment of such structures.

The contents of this report were produced using all known historic documentation relating to the house, including historic deed and census materials; historic maps and photographs; and the park's "Classified Structure Field Inventory Report," carried out by John B. Dodd in August 1979 (included as Appendix C of this report). In addition to the use of the above-referenced materials, a thorough physical investigation of the structure was performed by the author in conjunction with the park's Historical Architect Tim P. Long, HAP Historical Architect John Ingle, and HAP Program Manager Peggy Albee.

Major Research Findings

The Maurice Stephens House consists of a two- and one-half story, five-bay main house and a two-story east extension historically called an "ell." The masonry structure is located in the area of the park historically known as the Grand Parade. As late as 1976 (see Appendix B), it was thought that at least part of the house served as Brigadier General Jedediah Huntington's quarters during the Encampment Period of the Continental Army in the winter of 1777-78. However, historic documentation detailed in the main body of this report strongly suggests that General Huntington's quarters were in a log house formerly on the property, and not in the existing masonry house.

All of the physical and documentary evidence uncovered to date indicates that the main house was built in 1816 as a single-family residence for "Esquire" Maurice Stephens, who owned it until 1825. The ell was definitely a later addition, probably built ca. 1840-1841. The porches and south-elevation bay window that were such prominent parts of the house's appearance for many years were probably not added until ca. 1860-1870.

Recommendations for Treatment

Introduction

The treatment recommendations proposed by this report for the Maurice Stephens House are based on the following facts:

- The park is currently contemplating the rehabilitation of the Maurice Stephens House for use as a future visitor contact point, due to the structure's prominent location on the Grand Parade.
- It is the park's desire to return the building's exterior appearance to a period in time that it feels will better "fit" with the historic landscape defined by the events of the winter of 1777- 78 on the Grand Parade.
- At this time no "period of significance" for the structure has been determined, since its date of construction (1816) is too late to have been considered by park planning documents, including the park's General Management Plan and its defined period of significance.
- Since this structure did not exist until 1816, only its complete removal would help to restore the site as it existed during the Encampment Period. However, a truly accurate restoration of the landscape at that time will never be possible unless Huntington's Quarters is rebuilt, and there is at present insufficient evidence to do so. Furthermore, the site is very large, so that the building as it stands today only slightly compromises its visual and historic integrity. Removal of this important cultural resource is thus not warranted, nor is it in keeping with National Park Service protection policies for historic structures as defined in the NPS' *Cultural Resource Management Guideline (DO- 28)*.

Ultimate Treatment Recommendation: Rehabilitation

The park's desired use of the Maurice Stephens House as a "visitor contact point" strongly supports an ultimate treatment of rehabilitation with components of restoration. One of the primary goals of the structure's rehabilitation should be to return it to its appearance at a single point in time. The house has endured the addition and removal of many prominent architectural features over the years, such that its appearance today is not representative of any particular period. The extant architectural elements are themselves inconsistent in appearance, and the house relates to its site in an apparently disjointed relationship.

Any rehabilitation effort will need to proceed carefully to achieve a historically coherent appearance for both the house and the site. For this reason, a list of the building's character-defining features (CDFs) was prepared, based on the known construction history of the building, and included in the section of this report titled "Treatment and Use." These CDFs must guide all future rehabilitation efforts.

Recommended Period for Rehabilitation

Based on the information just presented, and on the known architectural and cultural history of both the Maurice Stephens House and the Grand Parade site, it is the recommendation of this report that the exterior of the building be rehabilitated to its appearance circa 1840- 1860. The selection of this period in time would serve to retain the earliest and most significant architectural additions to the original building (mainly the ca.- 1840 ell), while at the same time allowing the removal of all later anachronistic, Victorian and 20th- century accretions. Furthermore, many of the elements that would be character- defining features CDFs for periods later than ca. 1860 period have since been removed or altered, such that the existing building is not reflective of any particular period in time.

It is also recommended that the interior of the building be rehabilitated for uses deemed appropriate under the park's General Management Plan or other future planning documents, again keeping in mind the character- defining features outlined in the section "Treatment and Use."

Areas of Architectural Concern

Structural Problems

The piecemeal removal of said Victorian and 20th- century accretions resulted in areas of poor workmanship – where the early 20th- century roof dormers were removed in 1978 – and structural concerns – e.g., masonry settling where the bay window was removed ca. 1976. These need to be addressed as work on the house progresses.

Dampness

The park has been concerned for several years about water infiltration and moisture penetration in the basement of the Maurice Stephens House. The author of this report found a certain amount of dampness in the basement of the building in 2004, and some settlement cracks in the masonry walls of the southeast corner of the main house. Nevertheless, his draft report recommended only the further monitoring of these conditions, to obtain more information about the causes and effects of the underlying conditions before any system was installed.

While the draft of this report was being prepared in the spring and summer of 2004, the park arranged for two hydrology investigations to be conducted, one by an NPS civil engineer and one by a civil engineer with a private firm. Both engineers agreed that moisture- control efforts should commence as soon as possible.¹ Their recommended actions would involve substantial ground disturbance, so an archeological mitigation project was executed in the fall of 2004. This

¹ NPS trip report, Civil Engineer Mark Spadea, Northeast Regional Office, NPS, to Superintendent, Valley Forge NHP, March 4, 2004; e- mail from Phil Koziol, of Clough, Harbour & Associates LLP, to Tim Long, June 17, 2004.

required that the south and north porches and the concrete slabs on which they sat be removed prior to the work.

Masonry Weathering

Uneven weathering of the exterior masonry walls of the building has occurred, which is easily seen at the building's west elevation. Mortar analysis should be undertaken to determine an appropriate lime-based mortar for repointing. The replacement mortar should match the original mortar in terms of sand size and color,² and joint tooling. Existing inappropriate mortar joints should be carefully removed using only hand tools.

² Based on those samples determined to date to the earliest period of the building, particularly one taken from the southeast corner of the structure.

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

The Maurice Stephens House is located at Valley Forge National Historical Park (NHP) in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, and is listed as Park Structure #112 (LCS ID: 022346). Constructed in 1816, the building is considered a “contributing” structure, which should be preserved and maintained.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the NPS’ *Cultural Resource Management Guideline (DO- 28)* in anticipation of the park’s desire to rehabilitate this historic and cultural resource. The only other study previously carried out documenting the structure is the park’s “Classified Structure Field Inventory Report” prepared by John B. Dodd in August 1979 (see Appendix C).

Materials generated in the production of this historic structure report will be stored and maintained at the Northeast Region’s Historic Architecture Program, located in Lowell, Massachusetts.

DEVELOPMENTAL HISTORY

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Introduction

The Maurice Stephens House (LCS ID 022346) is located south of Route 23 on the lands of the Grand Parade at Valley Forge National Historical Park (NHP). According to the incised date stone found in the upper portion of the building's original east gable wall, the main portion of the house, which consists of the five- bay, two and one- half story masonry structure, was constructed in 1816. Oral history, recorded in Henry Woodman's *The History of Valley Forge*, also indicates that this was the site of Brigadier General Jedediah Huntington's quarters during the Continental Army's winter encampment at Valley Forge in 1777- 78.¹

Unfortunately, it is not known exactly where General Huntington's quarters were located on the property, or in what type of structure he was housed. In 1798, the Federal Direct Tax assessed Maurice or "Morris" Stephens for a 16- foot by 25- foot log house, a 15- foot by 20- foot stone milk house, a 18- foot by 40- foot log barn, and his 250- acre property, 150 acres of which had been willed to him by his maternal grandmother, Elinor Evans, in 1758 while he was still a minor.² The log house described probably existed on the property during the encampment period, since the inventory of Elinor Evans' estate indicates that she lived on the property when she died in 1761.³ A codicil to Elinor's will executed in 1761 further stipulated that the dwelling on the property be rented until Maurice reached his majority, the proceeds going to his mother Elizabeth (daughter of Elinor), wife of David Stephens, who "...took no care for her support."⁴

The Provincial tax record for the property indicates that in 1769 it was occupied by a Zachariah Davis.⁵ Woodman states that Davis' "house" served as General Huntington's "quarters" during the Colonial Army's encampment period at Valley Forge. It must be remembered, however, that Woodman's writings regarding Valley Forge – first published in 1850 – were second- hand accounts of the encampment period.⁶ Woodman goes on to state that on the property there were also a number of "huts" erected, one of which was occupied by Baron Steuben, who would drill the soldiers on the Stephens property.⁷ The distinction made by Woodman between a

¹ Henry Woodman, *The History of Valley Forge* (John U. Francis, Sr., Oaks, Pa., 1922, 3rd edition), p. 136.

² Historical Society of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, Norristown, PA.

³ Ann F. Rhoads, Douglas Ryan, and Ella W. Aderman, *Land Use Study of Valley Forge National Historical Park* (Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania, March 1989), pp. 159- 162.

⁴ John B. Dodd, "Classified Structure Field Inventory Report, Maurice Stephens House, Site of Gen. Huntington's Quarters" (Valley Forge NHP, August 1979), Worksheet 1B.

⁵ Historical Society of Montgomery County.

⁶ Woodman's writings regarding Valley Forge are based upon his father's first- hand accounts of the encampment, which he passed on to his son during walks of the area when he was a boy.

⁷ Woodman, p. 137.

“house” where Huntington had his quarters and “huts” erected on the Stephens property is strong evidence that the log house described in the 1798 Federal tax was the structure occupied by General Huntington during the encampment period at Valley Forge.

Maurice Stephens is first listed in the Provincial tax record for the property in the year 1779, but it is not known exactly when he moved onto the property. The first Federal census, taken in 1790, indicates that “Morris” Stephens of Montgomery County lived with one other person listed as a “free” person, who was not white.⁸ Given that this is the only Maurice or “Morris” Stephens listed in the census for Montgomery County, it is reasonable to presume that it was Maurice and another individual who occupied the log house on the property at that time.

Unfortunately, the picture of the Stephens farm is more confusing when one looks at the early 19th- century census records listing Morris Stephens as the head of the house. Maurice – who never married, according to family genealogy recorded in Rhoads’ 1989 *Land Use Study of Valley Forge* – appears to have lived with seven or eight other individuals, as recorded in the 1800 and 1810 censuses. Did all of these people occupy the 16- by 25- foot log house listed on the 1798 federal tax records for the property? Based on what is known about Maurice Stephens from this period in time, this very well may have been the case. While Woodman states that Maurice Stephens was not “very energetic,” his real estate holdings had increased from the 150- acre property his grandmother had willed to him as a minor to a 250- acre farm valued at \$2,277 in 1798 (see Appendix A). Further, during this time period, Maurice (also known as “Esquire Stephens”) was commissioned as the local justice of the peace, a position he held for 35 years.⁹ As such, it is highly unlikely that “Esquire Stephens” would have participated in the everyday work necessary to run a farm of this size. Instead, it is likely that the individuals listed on the census records from this time period for the property included farm hands, possibly a family given the ages and genders recorded, or other personal family members who he may have taken in following the passing of his mother and father in 1795 and 1786, respectively.

Tax records for the property, summarized in Appendix A, indicate that in 1805 the property was reduced by 32 acres to 218 acres, with the valuation of the property being likewise reduced to \$2,112. These numbers would remain fairly consistent until 1812, when the valuation of the property increased dramatically to \$9,246. As the acreage of the farm remained at 218, the increase in valuation must have pertained to improvements made to the property, probably the construction of a building or buildings. In 1814, the value of the property was reduced by \$1,000, while the amount of land associated with the property was reduced by only a single acre. These numbers suggest that around 1812 the first significant improvements were made to the property since 1798, which were reassessed in 1814 at a lower valuation than first assigned.

In *The History of Valley Forge*, Henry Woodman states that Maurice Stephens “erected a large and commodious barn and house” upon the property prior to his death in 1827. The increase in the valuation of the property from \$2,246 in 1811 to \$9,246 in 1812 (reduced to \$8,246 in 1814) almost certainly pertains to the construction of the barn and house referenced by Woodman. A second significant increase in the valuation of the property took place between the years 1815 and 1819, when the assessed value of the property increased from \$8,246 to \$9,765, while the size of the property remained at 217 acres.¹⁰ The stone and frame barn, as described in a 1909

⁸ Historical Society of Montgomery County.

⁹ Woodman, p. 136.

¹⁰ Tax records for the property from 1816- 1818 were not found.

advertisement of the property, measured 50 by 100 feet. By contrast, the original portion of the 2½- story house measured 40 feet 6 inches by 30 feet 6 inches. As such, the barn – with its 5,000- square- foot plan – was more than four times the size of the house. This significant difference in the size of the structures strongly suggests that the \$6,000 assessment made in 1812 (as reduced in 1814) pertained to the construction of the stone barn, while the \$1,519 assessment to the property applied between 1816 and 1819 pertained to the construction of the house.

Analysis of the previously described changes in the property’s tax valuations verifies the 1816 construction date of the house, as inscribed on the date stone found in the upper portion of the east gable of the original building.



Figure 1. Inscribed date stone in the east gable of the Maurice Stephens House.

Further evidence that supports the home’s 1816 construction date was ascertained through an evaluation of the nails used in the construction of the building. Flooring nails removed from both the west parlor and the attic of the main building were found to consist of L- headed machine cut nails (with burrs on parallel sides, slightly rounded tips, and iron fibers running perpendicular to the shaft of the nail), more than likely produced between the years 1810 and 1830. While this span of dates does not help to pin point the exact year of building’s construction, it does support the premise that the structure dates from the early 19th century. Other details of the building’s construction – including the home’s floor plan, the fireplace configurations, and the trim elements used in finish carpentry – are also indicative of a building constructed in the first quarter of the 19th century.

Thus all of the physical and documentary evidence uncovered in this study support an 1816 date of construction for the building, which the date stone tells us was constructed by, or more likely for, “Esquire” Maurice Stephens.

1816- 1825 (The Maurice Stephens Period)

As constructed, the Maurice Stephens House was a 2 ½- story, five- bay, center- entry stone house that faced south across the Grand Parade. According to the 1820 census, Maurice who never married, lived in the house at that time with five other individuals including a boy between the age of 10- 16, a young man between the age of 16- 26, a girl between the age 10- 16, a woman between the age 26- 45, and an older woman over the age of 45.¹¹ The census also indicates that Maurice was the head of the household, was over the age of 45, and was involved in agriculture at that time. Tax records show no significant changes in the valuation of his property or in the amount of land that he owned from the time of the construction of his house until he sold the property in 1825. The only other information that was uncovered about Esquire Stephens during this time period is found in Henry Woodman's *History of Valley Forge*, where he states that for some years before his death in the fall of 1827 "he was blind, and his faculties were impaired."¹²

1825- 1863 (The William Henry Period)

In 1825, Maurice Stephens sold his house and property to one William Henry.¹³ Henry, who at the time of the purchase lived in Philadelphia County, moved to the house soon thereafter, and made a number of substantial improvements to both the property and the house. In addition to purchasing the 217 acres owned by Stephens, which Woodman states had "laid a common [was not improved] since the Revolution, and probably longer," Henry purchased an additional 33 acres of land contiguous to the farm, increasing the size of the farm to 250 acres. Woodman, writing in 1850 while Henry still occupied the farm, further states that the land that had not been improved by Stephens was "enclosed, and now is under a high state of cultivation."¹⁴ He continues:

additional buildings have been erected upon it...so that it now stands conspicuous as one of the largest and most highly cultivated farms in that portion of the ground of the encampment. William Henry is at present one of the representatives in the legislature of Pennsylvania.

The most significant change made by Henry to the house is thought to have been his addition of the 1 ½- story stone ell, whose north and south exterior walls butt into the east elevation of the main house. Since the date of this addition is not recorded anywhere, an evaluation of its architectural components and tax records related to the property (see Appendix A) was undertaken to try and determine the addition's date of construction. Such an addition would be expected to cause a modest increase in the valuation of the property, given the value of the existing property. When Henry first purchased the property along with the additional 33 acres, the tax assessment for 1826 was based on a valuation of \$9,444 for the property. The first

¹¹ Historical Society of Montgomery County.

¹² Woodman, p. 136.

¹³ Deed, Maurice Stephens to William Henry, 268 acres and 40 perches, December 9, 1825; Book 61, Page 590; Historical Society of Montgomery County.

¹⁴ Woodman, p. 137.

increase in the value of the property during Henry's tenure occurred in 1829 when the tax valuation rose to \$11,250. Following a decline in the valuation of the property through the 1830s, a second increase occurred between the spring and fall valuations carried out in 1840, which changed from \$6,891 to \$7,500. A third and far more dramatic increase occurred between the spring and fall valuations in 1841, which almost tripled the assessment value to \$21,535. A final increase in the value of the property occurred in 1859, when the assessment was increased from \$11,700 to \$12,349. This followed a consistent devaluation of the property since its \$21,535 high in 1841. Thus, the addition of the ell – based solely on increased tax valuations of the property – probably occurred during one of the following periods: ca. 1828- 1829, ca. 1840-1841, or ca. 1858- 1859.

A number of the original architectural attributes of the ell strongly suggest that the structure was added to the main building sometime prior to the 1859 valuation increase. These attributes including the first- story open beam ceiling, showing vertically sawn second- story floor joists; the board- and- batten doors of the closet and stairway, and the winder stairway, associated with the ell; the localized use of clinched hand- wrought nails used at the plank- framed stairway enclosure; the large kitchen fireplace reversed from its original westward- facing orientation; the building's low- profile gable end eave and cornice; and the curved plaster reveals of the ell's windows at the first and second stories of the structure.

Likewise, the 1829 valuation increase also probably does not reflect the addition of the ell, since the machine- cut nails removed from the floorboards of the second- story room are “modern” machine- cut nails produced after the late 1830s.

In summary, the remaining physical evidence in the ell includes the materials used in its construction (post- 1830s nails and vertically sawn lumber), the construction methodology employed (mortise- and- tenon joinery and curved window reveals¹⁵), and the retention of the large kitchen fireplace. Combined with the analysis of the increases in the tax valuations of the property, a strong case can be made that the ell was probably added to the main portion of the house ca. 1840- 1841. While the increase in the valuation of the property, which tripled during this period, is excessive for the addition of the ell alone, these numbers cannot be dismissed, since the size of the property remained constant at 268 acres between the years 1834 and at least 1843. The addition of the ell may have been only one of a number of improvements made at this time, or the dramatic change in the valuation of the property may be due to both improvements made to the property and a change in the tax valuation methods employed during this period.

1863- 1896 (The Piersol Period)

In 1863, William Henry sold the property for \$23,000 to Dr. Jeremiah M. Piersol of Philadelphia.¹⁶ The 1870 census records for Montgomery County did not list Dr. Piersol as a resident, which strongly suggests that he was an absentee owner of the property, at least after 1870. An 1877 map showing the property indicates that the estate at that time was known as “Cedar Hill Farm,” and was the residence of “Jns. Robb,” who probably leased the property

¹⁵ A typical 1840s detail in the area, according to Dodd (see Appendix C).

¹⁶ Deed, William and Elizabeth Henry to Dr. Jeremiah M. Piersol, 267 acres and 86 perches, April 2, 1863 (recorded July 21, 1863); Book 129, Page 189; Historical Society of Montgomery County.

from Dr. Piersol. In 1882 George Piersol, the only son of Dr. Jeremiah Piersol, inherited the property, although it is not known if he ever actually lived in the house.

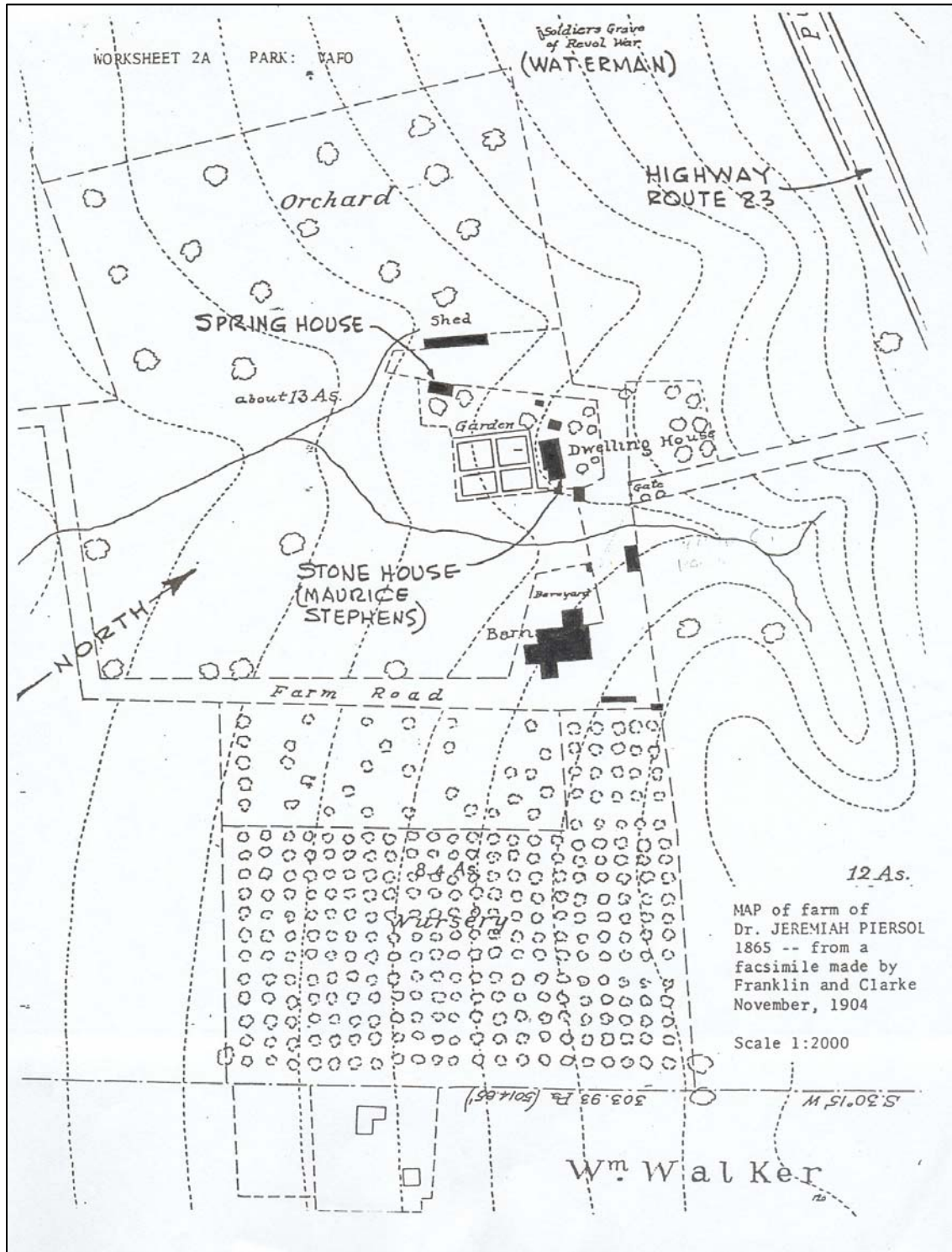


Figure 2. Map of the farm of Dr. Jeremiah Piersol, 1865.

It is likely that it was during Dr. Piersol's ownership of the property that the south and north porches and the bay window seen in a 1902 photograph of the house were added (fig. 3).¹⁷



Figure 3. The Maurice Stephens House, south (front) and west elevations, 1902.

The south porch and the bay window on the main house, and the south porch on the ell, were probably built at the same time. This is based on the presence of identical bracket details on the original columns of the south porch of the main house and on the south porch of the ell.

Both the south porch and the bay window of the main house were constructed upon a mound of earth known as a berm. Figure 3 shows wooden stairways set into its west and south sides. At either end of the berm, two large deciduous trees were planted in a balanced configuration. It seems likely that the berm, its stairways, and its trees were all added at the time the south porches and bay window were built.

The size of the trees planted on the berm in the 1902 photograph suggests that if they were planted when it was constructed, then the south porches and the bay window probably predate the 1902 photograph by 25 to 40 years, i.e., around 1870. The brackets associated with the porch columns further support this period of construction, since they incorporate influences of both the Stick Style and Second Empire designs, which did not become widely utilized in American residential construction until after the Civil War.

¹⁷ Alternatively, it may have been late in the Henry era.



Figure 4. South elevation, showing the early porch and bay window on the main house, and the early porch on the ell, n.d.



Figure 5. Detail of figure 3: west end of the north (back) porch, showing bracket and porch overhang details that differ from those of the south porches.

The architectural details of the north porch of the main house suggest that this element was added at a slightly later date than the south porches and the bay window. Close examination of the 1902 photograph shows that the brackets used to support the north porch differed from those found on the south porches. Further, the north porch was constructed with an overhang that projected beyond the west wall of the house, unlike the south porch on the main house, which was constructed flush with the wall.

Despite their slightly different dates of construction, the south and north porches were all probably built during the Piersol era (circa 1870), based on architectural details such as their bead-board ceilings, which are still extant.

Another change made during this era was the addition of a hood over the north doorway of the ell, which is seen in figure 7. Though no longer in place, the brackets for the hood, which are chamfered in the same manner as the rafters of the building's north porch, are stored on site.

It is believed that the brick ash- boxes in the basement of the structure were added during the Piersol period, as part of an upgraded hot- air heating system.

1896- 1909 (The Todd Period)

In 1896 George Piersol sold the property to I. Heston Todd, an operator of limestone quarries and kilns in the area, and one of the founders of the Centennial and Memorial Association of Valley Forge.¹⁸ It was Todd (who was also a member of the first Valley Forge Park Commission) who donated the land upon which the Washington Memorial Chapel was constructed.¹⁹ Todd immediately transferred the property to Charles M. Todd, probably his son. Charles Todd kept the property until 1909, when he was forced to sell it due to bankruptcy proceedings.

Aside from the 1902 photograph of the building, the only other known documentation of the building that dates from the Todd period is an advertisement of the property that appeared in the *Norristown Daily Herald* when the property was sold in 1909. The advertisement, which appeared in the September 23 issue, read as follows:

On a 237 acre tract: 2- 1/2 story stone dwelling house, 40' 6" x 30' 6", 3 rms on 1st flr, 4 rms, bath on 2d, attic, one story bay window on side, porch front and back, cellar and garret, heat, hot and cold water; 2- story stone kitchen addition 21 x 18, one rm on each flr, porch front; stone spring house 30 x 15; stone and frame barn 100 x 50, 15 ft overshoot, frame barn and wagon house, 56' 6" x 30' 6", 12 stalls; frame wagon house 24 x 16; chicken house; one spring and two wells.

1909- 1919 (The Hensel, Naumen, and Dallas Period)

In 1909 Charles M. Todd was forced to sell the property as described previously to William V. Hensel. The property remained a part of the Hensel estate until 1916, when the property was sold by Elizabeth Hensel- Nauman and John Nauman to David Dallas. In turn, Dallas sold the property to the State of Pennsylvania for \$46,943 in 1918 following condemnation of the site by the state, though it appears that the state did not take possession of it until June 1919.

At some point in time between 1902, when the early photograph of the building (fig. 3) was taken, and 1919, when the property became a part of the state park, a number of significant alterations were made to the building. As can be seen in figure 6, which appeared in Woodman's 1919 edition of *The History of Valley Forge*, three large dormers were constructed on each side of the original house's roof. The original double- hung sashes in the gable end windows were replaced with the casement sashes now in place. Also during this period, the porches were rebuilt using Tuscan- order columns set upon poured concrete bases.²⁰

¹⁸ Deed, Estate of Jeremiah M. Piersol to I. Heston Todd, April 1, 1896; Book 412, Pages 175, 195.

¹⁹ Dodd, Worksheet 1C.

²⁰ It is not known if both porches were reconstructed at the same time; however, given their similar ages and their existing details, it is likely that this was the case, or else they were redone within a few years of one another.

Two other changes made during this time period, as seen in the 1919 Woodman photograph (fig. 6), were the enclosure of the south porch of the ell and the construction of the stone retaining wall around the berm. The enclosure of the ell porch can be seen more clearly in figure 7, as well as the replacement casement window sashes at attic level.

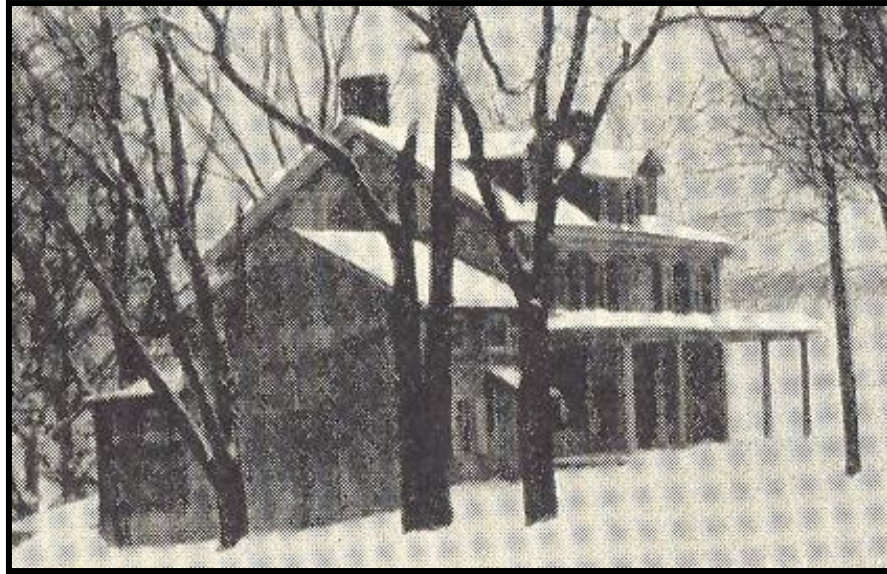


Figure 6. The Maurice Stephens House, reprinted from Henry Woodman's 1919 edition of *The History of Valley Forge*.



Figure 7. North and west elevations, showing the early doorway hood on the north elevation of the ell, the enclosure of the ell's south porch, and the 20th- century attic casement sashes.

1919- 1976 (The State Park Period)

As explained previously, in 1919 the State of Pennsylvania took possession of the Stephens property, which by this time had been reduced to 191.65 acres. The property, which became an integral portion of the Valley Forge State Park (the first such park established in Pennsylvania, in 1893), initially continued to be utilized as a farm, where a flock of 115 sheep were kept in the old stone barn. According to the park's administrative history, the purpose of the sheep was to help keep the grass down on about 1,000 to 1,500 acres of the park.²¹ The house thus became the "shepherds quarters," described in September 1919 as "a very good house" situated "on the main road through the Park about two hundred yards from the Washington Chapel."²²

During the years 1943- 1944 the house was renovated for use as a meeting place for the Park Commission, following what must have been a relatively localized fire at the house. An excerpt from the Commission's Restoration Proposals for November 1942 read as follows:

Restore Huntington Quarters. Stone. Part standing. Retain original wing and rebuild section burned and restore spring- houseEstimated Cost - - - \$18,350.00

The mention of "part standing" is not understood, since no portion of the building is believed to have been so affected by the fire to have caused any portion of it to have collapsed. Little evidence of the fire remains today. In addition, the entry reflects a misunderstanding of the evolution of the building, in which the ell was incorrectly presumed to have been the earliest portion of the building. No further documentation of this renovation effort has been found. It is believed that the partition that originally divided the first- story west room of the structure into front and back parlors was removed during the 1943- 1944 work, creating a large meeting room. At least part of the first story was also open to the public; the park's Administrative History indicates that from about 1945 until 1956, visitors to the park could view a bronze replica of the Houdon's statue of George Washington, which at the time was temporarily housed in the "bay window" room of the structure.²³ John Dodd's 1979 "Field Inventory Report" for the property indicates that prior to 1951 the house was also used as administrative offices, and after that date it was used by the State Park for quarters (see Appendix C).

²¹ Harlan D. Unrau, *Administrative History, Valley Forge National Historical Park* (National Park Service, September 1984), p. 190.

²² Unrau, p. 190.

²³ Unrau, pp. 287, 323.



Figure 8. The Maurice Stephens House, 1945, following renovations to the structure for use as the State Park Commission’s meeting place.

Surprisingly, the Valley Forge Park Commission minutes of December 19, 1955, indicate that the structure at that time was again in poor condition “showing signs of severe deterioration.” Park Superintendent Kenworth was ordered to inspect and repair the structure, after which the building was to be “heated, painted and placed in a presentable condition.” The minutes also indicate that a new roof and water service were to be included as part of the work.

In 1974, the Pennsylvania General Assembly passed Act No. 320, which provided almost \$10 million for capital construction improvements to 15 of the state park’s buildings, in preparation for the upcoming Bicentennial celebration.²⁴ The group included “Huntington’s Headquarters.” Some work was done in the original kitchen in 1975, under the direction of Marketechs of York, PA, which was designing exhibits for the house at the time.²⁵

In March 1976, the National Heritage Corporation of West Chester, PA – a preservation architectural firm – was awarded a contract to “restore” many of the encampment structures. The firm produced drawings for the Maurice Stephens House in March 1976 (see Appendix B) showing numerous changes that would largely return the house to its appearance after the addition of the ell.²⁶ Among these were the removal of the porches, the bay window, and the dormers on the main house. However, little was accomplished before the state park was

²⁴ Unrau, p. 509.

²⁵ Dodd, Worksheet 1E.

²⁶ Timothy P. Long, Historical Architect, Valley Forge NHP, to Sharon Ofenstein, August 23, 2005.

transferred to the National Park Service four months later.²⁷ It is possible that the bay window was removed during this period; it was gone by August 1979.²⁸

1977- Present (The National Park Service Period)

After the National Park Service took over Valley Forge Park on July 4, 1976, at least a portion of the Maurice Stephens House was utilized as a men's seasonal dormitory. The NPS continued to work on the house, using the 1976 drawings as a guide. The dormers were removed from main house in 1978.²⁹ Park maintenance files for the building indicate that between 1980 and 1982 the exterior of the building was painted, a new wood- shingle roof was installed on the main house, repairs were made to the "tin" roof of the ell, stucco repairs were made to the walls of the ell, and the building's window sashes were reglazed and painted. It is possible that the enclosed south porch on the ell was removed at this time. In addition, repairs were made to the pillars of the porch on the north side of the main house, and many of the window shutters and blinds – believed to be original to the house – were removed from the building. In 1985 the interior of the building was painted.

A year later, the interior of the building was again rehabilitated, this time for use as a nature center and visitor contact station. Since that time, the upstairs rooms of the main house have been utilized as park offices, and until recently the downstairs continued to be used as a nature center. The ell today is utilized for storage, as is the attic and basement of the main house.

An ambitious roofing project was begun during the summer of 2004. The standing- seam metal roof of the ell was replaced with wood shingles, since early wood shingles had been found under the metal roof. On the main house, deterioration required that the entire crown molding be replaced. A drip edge was then installed, and a new wood- shingle roof was applied there, as well.

The south and north porches were removed from the main house in the summer of 2004. The south porch had been damaged by a falling tree and was structurally unsound. Both porches had flaking lead paint that presented a health hazard to persons visiting the nature center in the building. Finally, the porches' concrete pads had to be removed in order for archeological mitigation to be conducted around the building prior to the planned installation of an exterior perimeter drain system.

²⁷ Long to Ofenstein, August 23, 2005.

²⁸ Dodd, Worksheet 2B.

²⁹ Dodd, p. 2.

CHRONOLOGY OF DEVELOPMENT AND USE

Original 1816 Configuration and Details

Exterior Elements

Tax records and the date stone found in the east gable end of the main building indicate that the original house, which consisted only of the 2 ½- story, five- bay main portion of the building, was constructed in 1816 by Maurice Stephens. The building's original facade faced south towards the Grand Parade. It contained the main entrance, distinguished by a transom and raised panels on its reveals. The doorway was flanked by four windows with six- over- nine, double- hung sashes. At the second story were five evenly spaced windows with six- over- six, double- hung sashes.¹ There may have been solid three- panel shutters at the first- story windows and two- panel louvered blinds at the second- story windows: the earliest photograph of the house (fig. 3) shows these in place.

The south foundation wall of the main house had two window openings, near the east and west ends of the house. These are a little below grade today, but they were originally at grade. These openings measure 27 by 19 inches. Their heavy wooden frames held horizontal wooden bars, which was typical of local construction. Such barred openings were aligned on opposite basement walls (usually front and back) to promote air circulation within a space often used for root storage and similar purposes. Sashes were typically not used in such openings at all.²

The north side of the house, originally the back elevation, had two doorways. One led to the center stair hall; the other led to the house's original kitchen, which was a full- depth room typical of local center hall- plan houses of the period. Interestingly, the architectural hierarchy of these two rooms was reflected in the treatment of the exterior trim of the two doorways. The surround of the doorway leading to the more formal stair hall has reveals decorated with raised panels (similar to the main, south entrance), while the reveals of the doorway to the kitchen have flat panels.

Window openings on the north side of the house were in the same locations as they are today. The three openings at the first story held six- over- nine, double- hung sashes, while the five openings at the second story had six- over- six sashes. There was also one window between the first and second stories, in the center of the elevation. It held six- over- six, double- hung sashes,

¹ The presumed configuration of the original sashes is based on the size of the window openings and one original sash remaining in the north wall of the structure. See John B. Dodd, "Classified Structure Field Inventory Report, Maurice Stephens House, Site of Gen. Huntington's Quarters" (Valley Forge NHP, August 1979), page 1 (Appendix C of this report). No photographs have been found showing the original sashes in place; the existing two- over- two sashes date to the second half of the 19th century.

² Timothy P. Long, Historical Architect, Valley Forge NHP, to Sharon Ofenstein, July 18, 2006, and Feb. 14, 2008.

and illuminated the landing of the house's main stairway. The presumably original top sash of this window remains today, but the lower portion of the window opening was filled in when the Victorian- era porch was constructed on the north side of the house. Again, there may have been solid shutters at the first- story windows and louvered blinds at the second- story windows: the earliest photograph of the north elevation (fig. 7) shows these in place. The north foundation wall of the main house had two window openings that were identical to those in the south foundation wall.

The west elevation had no doorways, and only two windows, at the attic level. They contained double- hung, two- over- four sashes (fig. 3). The east elevation had an entry to the basement at the south end of the wall, where the existing bulkhead is located. The wall also had two windows at the attic level, similar to but wider than the west window openings. As a result, they probably held double- hung, three- over- six sashes.

Two interior chimneys original to the construction of the building are situated on the ridge near the east and west end walls. The east chimney served the original large kitchen fireplace in the first story and a fireplace in the southeast chamber (bedroom) in the second story. The west chimney, which is slightly longer and narrower than the east chimney, contains four flues; these originally served fireplaces in two west parlors in the first story and two west chambers in the second story. Thus, the only original occupied spaces that were unheated (excluding the attic) were the northeast chamber, the room at the south end of the second- story center hall, and the first- story center hall.

The roof was originally covered with wood shingles nailed to 1- by- 2- inch skip- sheathing boards spaced approximately 8 inches on center (o.c.), suggesting that original shingles were likely 24 inches long. The roof of the structure is supported by paired rafters measuring 3 by 4 inches and pegged together at the ridge with collar ties located approximately one- quarter of the way down their lengths. The rafters, which pass through the exterior masonry walls, rest on a plate that is supported from beneath by the ends of the attic floor joists. These joists, which also pass through the masonry wall, are themselves supported by a second wood plate that rests on the masonry of the exterior walls.



Figure 9. Roof framing details, side view: rafter ends sit on a plate, which is carried by the attic floor joists, which sit on a second plate (2004 photograph).



Figure10. Roof framing details, direct view: rafter ends sit on a plate, which is carried by the attic floor joists, which sit on a second plate (2004 photograph).

The box cornice, moldings, and reeded frieze boards were nailed to the ends of the attic joists, which extended through the masonry wall and the plate upon which these joists rested. As Dodd pointed out in his report, the cornice as originally constructed terminated at the gable walls, and probably only had flush board returns on the gable ends. Investigation of the eaves by park Historical Architect Tim Long confirmed Dodd's supposition, finding that the outlookers upon which the larger existing eaves were constructed were mortised through the end rafter pairs at a later date, and nailed with "modern" machine cut nails probably produced after 1840.



Figure 11. Nonoriginal eave extension, or "outlooker," mortised into original gable end rafter (2004 photograph).



Figure 12. Detail of cornice and eave configuration, which likely dates from ca. 1840- 1860 (2004 photograph).

The foundation and exterior walls of the building are constructed of random- laid stone including limestone, quartzite, and sandstone, probably all quarried on or near the original property. Ashlar quoins are employed at the corners of the building.

There are several repointing campaigns visible in the main block of the house. However, a remnant of the building's earliest mortar joints was discovered after the south porch was removed, revealing a stucco finish coat and behind that the ridge (or crown) pointing of the original construction campaign. The pointing mortar was rich in lime, and white to light pink in color, with little aggregate. The joint was finished with a crisp, convex, v- shape. Thus, the original appearance of the building seems to have been exposed fieldstone with finely pointed mortar joints. A subsequent repointing may be represented by a bed- joint found at the southeast corner of the main house (fig. 13). Its mortar is similar to the original, but it contains more aggregate, and its convex v- shape is of lower profile (fig. 14).³

Later, but before the addition of the porch circa 1870, the fieldstone of at least the south façade was smoothly stuccoed. (The other, less- prominent elevations may not have been so treated.) The stucco was removed sometime prior to 1902 (see fig. 3), but it survived where covered by the porch. The newly exposed masonry elsewhere was repointed with a modified raised, flat beaded pointing.



Figure 13. Early v- shaped mortar joint extant at the southeast corner, main house (2004 photograph).



Figure 14. Detail of early v- shaped mortar joint.

³ Timothy Long to Sharon Ofenstein, Feb. 14, 2008.

A curious detail can be seen in the upper portions of the building – a change in the stone used in the construction of the walls of the house. This difference in stone can be seen clearly in the 1902 photograph (fig. 3) and in modern photographs. There is no possibility that this anomaly resulted from a later enlargement of the original house into its present form. This is based on the building's consistent interior configuration, and on the similarity of its exterior and interior original architectural details, such as the reeding used on the cornice and on interior doorways and mantels. It thus would appear that most of the building's existing stonework is original to the construction of the building.



Figure 15. Main house, west elevation, showing the change in masonry partway up the wall.

Interior Elements

The house was built over a full basement, with a masonry center wall that divides the space into north and south rooms; this serves as the building's primary interior bearing wall. The joists that support the first floor of the house are let into pockets in the north and south masonry walls of the building, and they rest on a plate carried on top of the central wall of the basement. Two chimney bases were constructed at the west side of the basement for the original east north and south parlors, and for the west chamber fireplaces. At the east wall of the basement a larger single fireplace/chimney base was constructed for the original kitchen fireplace and the fireplace in the southeast chamber. Interior access to the basement was provided by a stairway beneath the main stairway of the house, i.e., in the north room of the basement. Originally this stairway could be reached from either the house's first-story central stair hall or the kitchen, by using a small passageway that ran between the two rooms below the main stairway. Later, apparently as part of the 1975 or early 1980s work on the building, access from the center stair hall to the passageway was blocked by the construction of the existing paneled-wood partition between the two spaces.

As previously mentioned, the first story of the original 1816 house was divided into four rooms: the kitchen; the center stair hall; and the original north and south parlors. The kitchen, which runs the full depth of the house, was constructed at the east side of the original building. In the northeast corner of the kitchen is a doorway to an enclosure that housed an original back stairway. The stairway had winders at its foot and head, as did the stairway above it, running from the second story to the attic. Next to the original stairway door is a second doorway that now leads to the later ell. In all likelihood, this doorway originally accessed a pantry closet that was located beneath the back stairway, but which has since been removed due to the creation of the passageway to the ell. Next to the pantry closet along the east wall of the room was the original kitchen fireplace, which Dodd states measured 7 feet wide, 4 feet 5 inches high, and 32 inches deep. The cabinetry found in the southeast corner of the room is of a later date, as is the existing kitchen floor, which appears to have been laid directly upon the kitchen's original wood floor.

In the center of the house at the first-story level is the stair hall, which for the most part retains its original architectural configuration. The only changes of note that appear to have been made to this space since the building was constructed is the addition of a paneled partition beneath the central stairway that now blocks access from the hall to the basement stairway, and the reconstruction of the stairway itself.

At the west side of the first story of the house, separate front and back parlors were originally constructed, each with an entry into the central hall. The interior partition wall once located between these two rooms probably had a doorway connecting the two spaces near the east side of the partition, though this could not be confirmed, and is based primarily upon the change in the floorboards in this area of the existing room. Other changes that occurred to the original double parlors included the removal of a closet once located on the north side of the original south parlor's fireplace; the removal of a pair of closets that once flanked the original north parlors fireplace; and the removal of what is presumed to have been original chair-rail moldings from both of the parlors. Interestingly, the original tongue-and-groove floors of the existing parlor and the central hall (which range in width from approximately 3 ½ to 5 inches) are laid directly on the floor joist below, without any subfloor.

The second- story and attic levels of the house appear to retain their original architectural configurations. The only changes of note in the second story of the house are the replacement of a number of the interior doors; the removal of the lower sash from the window at the center stair landing; the reconstruction of the stairway; and the installation of bathroom fixtures in the room at the south end of the center hall. In the attic of the house, the only changes of note are the replacement of the original double- hung sashes of the gable- end windows with the existing casements (installed in the early 20th century), and localized areas of the ceiling that were disturbed by the insertion and later removal of the rooftop dormers.

Of interest to the architect and historian is the fact that the spaces of the first- and second- story rooms of the house were treated in different manners depending on the social and functional hierarchy of the space. As an example, in the first story of the house, the height of the doorway from the hall to the utilitarian kitchen is noticeably less than that of the two doorways that lead from the hall to the house's original formal north and south parlors. This same treatment is repeated in the second- story stair hall, where the height of the doorways from the central stair hall to the east bedrooms is less than the doorways to the west bedrooms and the room at the south side of the hall. This hierarchy of spaces is reinforced by the formal central stairway to the second story, presumably reserved for family and visitors, as opposed to the secondary winder stairway in the east rooms of the house – probably originally only used by tenants or servants living on the premises.

Alterations Circa 1840- 1863

The physical evidence associated with the building, its architectural details, and an analysis of changes in the tax assessments for the property during the 19th century all suggest that the kitchen ell at the east side of the Maurice Stephens House was constructed ca. 1840- 1841. As discussed in the “Historical Background and Context” section of this report, the physical evidence includes the use of “modern” machine- cut nails throughout the ell, combined with the use of vertically sawn lumber for the joists and rafters, and sawn lath at the second- story ceiling. Architectural details of the period include the ell's existing six- light sashes; the curved plaster embrasures associated with the window openings of the ell; the building's simple cornice and low- profile rakes; the board- and- batten doors and winder stairway; the plank- wall stairway enclosure; and the large kitchen fireplace. Taken together with the fact that the north and south walls of the ell butt into the contiguous east wall of the main house, there can be little doubt that the ell was constructed after the main house.

As constructed, the ell is believed to have had a wood- shingle roof, since remnants of such shingles are said to have been found beneath the later metal roof prior to its removal. The original 1- by 2- inch skip sheathing boards also attest to the likelihood of the original roof having been covered with wood shingles. The porch seen on the south side of the ell in the ca.- 1900 photographs of the building was probably not original to the construction of the ell, given the low slope of the roof that appears to have also had a metal roof associated with it. Based on the details of the building's south porches, the earliest porch of the ell seen in figure 3 of this report was constructed at the same time that the south porch and bay window were added to the main portion of the house, which is not believed to have occurred until sometime after 1860.

Historic photographs of the ell also suggest that the first- story windows of the ell originally had paneled shutters, as did the first- story windows of the main house. However, unlike the main house – which also had louvered blinds at the second- floor windows – the second- story windows of the ell do not appear to have ever had any type of blind or shutter associated their openings.

The ell abutted the original east chimney of the main house, so Henry was able to alter the chimney stack at the first- story level to provide a fireplace for the new kitchen area. Basically, the back wall of the original kitchen’s firebox was removed, opening it to the ell, and the front of the firebox was walled up, closing it off from the original kitchen. A portion of the chimney base in the basement of the main house had to be filled in to accommodate the difference in levels between the original and ell floors. Dodd suggests that Henry installed a cast- iron cooking stove into the new fireplace.⁴

Access to the new kitchen in the ell from the original kitchen was created by converting a small pantry in the latter room’s east wall into a passage between the two rooms. At the same time, the back stairway of the main house appears to have been converted into a closet. This stairway was no longer needed to connect upstairs servants’ quarters with the kitchen, since the room was no longer a kitchen. The role was filled by a new stairway in the northeast corner of the ell, which ascended to the second story of the ell, presumably the new servants’ quarters. It had winders at its foot only.

A second significant alteration presumed to have been made during the William Henry period of ownership (1825- 1863) was the extension of the exterior cornice and eaves on the main portion of the house. The architectural details of this change – already discussed in the previous section of this report – indicate that the eaves were extended using lookouts mortised into the end rafters of the building and fastened with “modern” machine- cut nails, which were first produced after the late 1830s.

Alterations Circa 1863- 1909

A number of significant architectural additions are believed to have been made to the exterior of the house during the Piersol family period (1863- 1896) and the Todd family period (1896- 1909), based on historic photographs taken at the turn of the 20th century and the building’s remaining architectural fabric.

Circa 1870, a one- story bay window was added to the south elevation of the main house, to the east of the main entrance. This window would have “modernized” the room that had been the house’s original kitchen, which may have become a dining room after the ell kitchen was added. To facilitate the bay window’s construction, the grade along the south wall of the main house appears to have been raised, forming the berm seen in the earliest photographs of the house (figs. 3- 4).

⁴ Dodd, Worksheet 1E.

At the same time, it appears that a porch was constructed along the remainder of the south elevation of the main house, as well as a porch on the south elevation of the ell, both of which can be seen in figure 3. The porch on the north side of the house was probably also added during this period, though differences in its architectural details suggest that it was not built at the same time as the porches on the south side of the house. The addition of the door hood over the ell's north entrance may have occurred concurrent with the addition of the north porch, since elements of both are chamfered in a similar manner.

The original window sashes of the main house were replaced with the existing two- over- two sashes around this time. This is inferred from the chamfering found on the two- over- two window sashes, which is similar to the chamfering on the brackets of the north porch and the ell's door hood.⁵

The original (ca. 1840- 1860) wood shingles on the roof of the ell were replaced with a standing-seam metal roof at some point; it probably occurred at this time, since the same type of roof was used on the new porches. The original crown molding on the eaves of the ell was apparently replaced with a simple canted board, which remained in place until the ell reroofing in 2004.

Substantial improvements were made to the house's utility systems during this period, as well. At some point, cast- iron inserts for the burning of coal were added to the two fireplaces in the two parlors on the west side of the main house. The inserts had heavy floor grates that would allow ash to fall to the basement below. Thus, the two large brick ash bins at the two west chimney foundations in the basement (fig. 16) were probably added at this time, to receive the ash. Dodd opines that this was done in the late 19th century.⁶ Stylistically, the inserts are consonant with the Piersol period (1863- 1896).



Figure 16. Ash box in Room 002 (south basement). In an attempt to fireproof the ash box, the structure was covered with a wood board- and- batten fixed lid that was lined on the interior side with metal. The remains of the cleanout door and frame once located at the bottom of the box rest on the lid of the ash box.

⁵ Although these porches have been removed from the house, examples of their brackets are stored in the ell's second- story room.

⁶ Dodd, p. 6.

The efficiency of the coal- burning inserts seems to have been enhanced by a duct- and- damper system that regulated the flow of air to their fires. Round ducts in the chimneys bases (fig. 17) carried air to the first- story fireboxes. Dampers within the ducts were activated by long rods that ran up through the first floor, connecting to handles set in the two brick hearths just in front of the lip of the inserts (fig. 18). Rotating the handles would control the air supply to the inserts, producing either a hotter or cooler burning of the fires within them.



Figure 17. Duct with damper in Room 002 (south basement). The damper was controlled by a rod attached to a handle set into the hearth of the first- story fireplace above.



Figure 18. Damper handle set into the floor in front of the first- story fireplace in Room 102 (parlor).

It is not known if any changes were made at this time to the two bedroom fireplaces above the two parlor fireplaces. It is possible that Room 203 (southwest bedroom) received a stove: the fireplace's firebox infill has a small hole that resembles a stovepipe hole at its base.⁷

Circa 1900, during the Todd period, a system of central heating was installed.⁸ This is based on the existence of a furnace flue in the east chimney, and on a hot- air register set into the infilled firebox in Room 202 (fig. 19). Dodd says that the addition of the flue was part of a larger reworking of the chimney stack at the first- story level. The large kitchen fireplace in the ell was made shallower; this created enough room to add a shallow fireplace facing into the original kitchen, and the new furnace flue. It is not known what effect this work had on the fireplace above it, in the southeast bedroom. The firebox is currently covered with a board.



Figure 19. Heat register set into closed firebox of Room 202. Interestingly, this photograph shows all three generations of the house's heating system, including the original fire place, the late 19th- century hot- air register system, and the 20th- century radiator system.

At some point the ceilings of the two basement rooms were completely covered with boards, and a board partition was erected to further subdivide the north cellar room. (It no longer exists, but physical evidence of its presence remains.) Dodd suggests that this work was done ca. 1900, when the hot- air heating system was installed.

Finally, the second- story bathroom was in place by 1909, and the house had hot and cold running water. This is known from a real estate notice for the property that appeared that year in the *Norristown Daily Herald*. Unfortunately, none of the original bathroom or kitchen plumbing fixtures appear to have survived later remodeling campaigns.⁹

⁷ Dodd, p. 6.

⁸ Dodd, Worksheet 1E.

⁹ It is unknown when the house was electrified.

Alterations Circa 1909- 1919

During the Hensel, Naumen, and Dallas periods of ownership, three dormers containing paired casement sashes were added to both the north and south slopes of the main roof of the house. At the same time, casement sashes replaced the earlier double- hung sashes in the gable- end walls of the main house. While the addition of these elements could have occurred anytime after the 1902 photograph of the structure was taken, no mention of these features was made in the 1909 real estate notice. Additionally, since Charles Todd was forced to sell the property in 1909 due to bankruptcy proceedings, it is unlikely that he had the finances to make such improvements to the building during his later years on the property. We do know that the dormers were on the house by 1919, thanks to the photograph of the house that appears in Woodman's book of that date, *The History of Valley Forge* (see fig. 6).

The 1919 photograph of the building also reveals that by that year, the porch on the north side of the house had been rehabilitated, with the original columns (seen in figure 3, dated 1902) having been replaced with Tuscan- order columns. The same type of columns was introduced at the south porch (fig. 20), presumably at about the same time. The stone retaining wall around the berm was in place by now, and the south porch of the ell was enclosed.



Figure 20. Front porch of house, added ca.1860- 1880, and modified with Tuscan- order columns ca. 1902- 1919.

On the interior of the building, few changes are recognizable from this period in time. One change that probably occurred was the installation of the existing hot- water radiator system. This also could have occurred earlier, when plumbing was introduced into the house. Unfortunately, the existing radiators appear to be from different eras, and the scope of work for this report did not provide for enough time to identify their various installation dates.

Alterations Circa 1920- 1976

Between the years 1919 and 1977, the Maurice Stephens House was a part of Pennsylvania's Valley Forge State Park. The earliest changes believed to have been made to the structure during this time period were the result of a localized fire that apparently occurred in the early 1940s. As a result of the fire, it appears that most of the center stairway – except for the landing floor – was replaced from the first story to the attic.¹⁰ Its style is clearly 20th- century. Other areas of the house that show evidence of a fire include the undersides of the sheathing boards near the ridge of the main house's roof, and evidence of fire at the joists above the left side of the basement's southwest ash box. How extensive the fire was is not known, since little documentation from this era has been found, but the commission's Restoration Proposal for the year 1942 included the statement "Retain the original wing (the ell) and rebuild section burned...."

By 1945 the building became the Commission's meeting place, with portions of the first story of the structure being used as interpretive space. Based upon the use of the building at this time, it seems likely that the partition between the north and south parlors of the main house was removed at this point, and that the extant raised- panel partition blocking the original doorway to the passage under the main stairway was added. It is also likely that the floor of the original kitchen was overlaid with the present narrow pine floorboards.

The approach of the nation's Bicentennial in 1976 caused a number of repairs to be made to structures at Valley Forge State Park, including the Maurice Stephens House. All exterior doors were replaced with replica doors, the bulkhead at the southeast corner of the main house was rebuilt, and the ell's exterior walls were restuccoed. On the interior, the deteriorated flooring in the first story of the ell was replaced, and the firebox in the original kitchen was again closed to create the configuration extant today. Fixed exhibits were installed in the first- story rooms. Finally, the second- story bathroom was apparently upgraded at this time, or shortly thereafter. It is also probable that the enclosed porch on the south elevation of the ell was removed at this time.¹¹

In March 1976 a set of architectural drawings was prepared for the house, documenting the actions that would be needed to "restore" it to an earlier appearance. Virtually none of the work was done before the National Park Service acquired the house in July of that year. However, the bay window on the south elevation of the main house may have been removed; it was shown on the drawings, but had been removed by the time of Dodd's inventory in August 1979.

¹⁰ Dodd, p. 7.

¹¹ Dodd, p. 3.

Alterations Circa 1977- Present

Changes to the Maurice Stephens House during the National Park Service years have been mostly related to maintenance. The early 20th- century dormers on the south and north roof slopes were removed in 1978.¹² The openings were infilled with new rafters and patched with plywood.

It is also likely that the base cabinet at the south end of the east wall of Room 103 (original kitchen) – and presumably the shelves above it – were added around this time. This is based on the fact that the cabinet appears to have been built after the south- wall bay window was removed,¹³ and on the fact that it would have been most useful while the house was being used as park housing.

Maintenance records for the park indicate that between 1980 and 1982 unspecified portions the exterior of the building were painted, a new wood- shingle roof was installed on the main house, repairs were made to the “tin” roofs, stucco repairs were made to the ell, and the building’s window sashes were reglazed and painted. At the same time, most of the building’s remaining shutters and blinds (fig. 21) were removed, and minor repairs were made to the porch columns on the north side of the structure.

In 1985, architectural conservator Frank Welsh sampled exterior window trim and cornice paint, and prepared a three- page report. He found that the earliest (1816) prime and finish color on all elevations was off- white (Munsell Color Notation System 5Y 9/0.5). Also in 1985, the interior of the building was painted, and the first story was rehabilitated for use as a nature center and visitor contact station. At some point the stairway from the basement to the first story was rebuilt with modern lumber and open treads.

In 1995, the park commissioned Welsh to perform a paint analysis for the entire first and second- story interiors of the original 1816 house and 1841 ell. The basement and attic spaces were not studied.¹⁴

¹² Dodd, p. 2.

¹³ Long to Ofenstein, July 18, 2006.

¹⁴ Frank S. Welsh, “Comparative Microscopical Paint and Color Analysis: Site of General Huntington’s Quarters,” January 1995; 24 pp.



Figure 21. Northwest view of house, showing original second- story blinds still in place.

At the time of the author's inspection of the building in the summer of 2004, the park was working with a contractor on the replacement of both the ell's metal roof and the main house's wood- shingle roof with wood- shingle roofs (see figures 9- 12 and 28). The plywood patches over the former dormer openings in the roof of the main house were structurally sufficient for the new shingles, and so were retained despite their poor workmanship.¹⁵

During the course of the work, it was found that the integrity of the main house's crown molding had been compromised by rot and wood- boring bees. The entire molding had to be replaced before the new shingles could be installed. One of the park's carpenters reproduced the crown molding, and the project was finished in 2005.

The installation and later removal of the bay window circa 1976 had serious adverse consequences for the masonry of the south wall. There is no evidence that a lintel was installed to support the wall above the opening that was created when the bay window was built. Then, when the bay window was removed, bracing of insufficient strength was used to temporarily support the wall above the opening while it was being infilled with new masonry. This allowed the masonry above the opening to bear down on the infill masonry and compress its mortar joints before they could harden. The greatest settlement occurred between the two second- story windows over the former bay, whose adjacent jambs have shifted downwards. The interior ceiling over the two first- story windows on the infill exhibits a sizeable concave bow, indicating that the second- floor joists have been pushed down as they sit in pockets in the exterior wall.¹⁶

¹⁵ Long to Ofenstein, Aug. 15, 2006.

¹⁶ Long to Ofenstein, Aug. 25, 2005.

Editor's Note: Since the draft of this report was written, the park has installed a temporary stabilization system to support the second- story floor in the affected area until the sagging wall section can be rebuilt. The system uses beams to hold up all of the floor joists that pocket into the sagging section of masonry wall have been braced from the basement up through to the attic with beams and screw jacks. The rafters have also been lifted, to eliminate the former sag in the roofline, and to facilitate reroofing.¹⁷

The park has been concerned about water infiltration and moisture penetration in the basement of the Maurice Stephens House. This author found a certain amount of dampness in the basement of the building in 2004, and some settlement cracks in the masonry walls of the southeast corner of the main house. Nevertheless, only monitoring of these conditions is recommended at this time, in order to more fully understand the cause and effects of the underlying conditions before any system is installed.

Editor's Note: While the draft of this report was being prepared in the spring and summer of 2004, the park arranged for two hydrology investigations to be conducted, one by an NPS civil engineer and one by a civil engineer with a private firm. Both engineers agreed that mitigation efforts should commence as soon as possible.¹⁸ Their recommendations included the following:

- *removing the foundation of the former bay window;*
- *regrading to divert surface runoff away from the house;*
- *waterproofing the exterior foundation wall below grade;*
- *intalling an exterior perimeter drain system;*
- *installing new collectors for roof down drains;*
- *installing a moisture barrier (damp- proof course) in the basement walls; and*
- *installing an interior under- floor drain and vent system.*

These hydrology issues are expected to be addressed as part of a Line Item Construction preservation project at the Maurice Stephens House tentatively scheduled for 2009.¹⁹ In anticipation of the resultant ground disturbance, an archeological mitigation project was designed by the NER Regional Archeologist, approved by the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Officer, and carried out under contract by John Milner Associates in autumn 2004. This required that the front and rear porches and the concrete slabs on which they sat be removed prior to the work.

¹⁷ Long to Ofenstein, July 6 and August 25, 2005.

¹⁸ NPS trip report, Civil Engineer Mark Spadea, Northeast Regional Office, NPS, to Superintendent, Valley Forge NHP, March 4, 2004; e- mail from Phil Koziol, of Clough, Harbour & Associates LLP, to Tim Long, June 17, 2004.

¹⁹ Long to Ofenstein, July 6, 2005.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Exterior Elements

South Elevation

Foundation: Stone. Stone foundation of removed bay window remains at the east end of the elevation, rising about 1 ½ feet above the current grade.

Walls: Stone for the main house; the outline of the roof of the former porch is clearly visible. Stone covered with stucco for the ell; stucco is replacement material dating to ca. 1975.

Roof: Gable roofs on the main house and ell, covered with replacement wood shingles. Classical wooden cornice; design dates to ca. 1840- 1860, while crown molding is a 2004 reproduction.

Original interior brick chimneys at the east and west sides of the main house. The west chimney originally served four individual fireplaces; the east chimney served two fireplaces.

Doorways: Original main entrance centered on the first story of the main house. The doorway features what appears to be an original three- light transom and raised- paneling on its reveals. Its six- panel door is a replacement installed as part of the ca.- 1975 renovations. The ell has a doorway at the west end of the elevation. It has no transom nor paneled reveals; its six- panel door is also a ca.- 1975 replacement.

Windows: Nine on the main house: four with double- hung, two- over- two sashes at the first story, and five with double- hung, two- over- two sashes at the second story. All openings are original except for the two first- story east windows, which were part of the infill introduced after the ca.- 1976 removal of the bay window here. (Both are in the same locations as two original windows that were removed when the bay window was installed) All two- over- two sashes date to the late 19th century. Original sashes at the first story were six- over- nine with panes measuring 10 by 12 inches; original sashes at the second story were six- over- six with panes of the same size.

Three on the ell: one with double- hung, six- over- six sashes at the first story, and two with double- hung, three- over- three sashes at the second story. All openings and sashes are original to the construction of the ell circa 1841, based on photographs and paint analysis.¹

There are also two original window openings in the foundation wall of the main house. The opening at the west end of the south wall is fairly intact. It retains its heavy original oak frame, with pegged corners and a bead running around the inner edge. The jambs on both sides are mortised to accept six square wood bars running horizontally. All six bars are intact; they are positioned so that their flat sides are 45 degrees from the vertical (i.e., they would appear diamond- shaped in section). As explained previously in “Chronology of Development and Use, Original 1816 Configuration and Details, Exterior Elements,” the presence of such bars indicates that these window openings held no sashes, to promote cross- ventilation in the basement. In front of this opening is a masonry “window well” several feet deep and topped by a plywood cover. This was a later construction to keep the opening from being covered by a series of fills that raised the grade along this elevation.

The window opening at the east end of the south wall has been bricked up, probably when the bay was built here ca. 1860- 1880. However, its heavy original frame retains mortises for the same type of horizontal bars. No “window well” was needed here, since the original opening was covered by the bay.



Figure 22. South elevation.

¹ Frank Welsh, exterior paint analysis, window trim and cornice, 1985 (three pages).



Figure 23. South elevation, east side, showing the masonry infill of the former opening for the one- story bay window, and the remaining foundation of the bay window. (Photograph taken in 2004.)



Figure 24. South and west elevations of the main house.

East Elevation

Foundation: Stone.

Walls: Stone for the main house; stone covered with stucco for the ell. Stucco is replacement material dating to ca. 1975.

Roofs: Both the main house and the ell have projecting raking eaves, whose design dates to ca. 1840- 1860. The crown molding of the eaves dates to 2004. It was reproduced to match the ca. 1840- 1860 profile of the deteriorated crown molding on the main house. (The ell's previous crown molding was a simple canted board, doubtlessly a replacement introduced when the standing- seam metal roof was installed over the original wood- shingle roof.)

Doorways: One, a bulkhead at the south end of the east elevation. The bulkhead contains a pair of doors that apparently date to the ca.- 1975 restoration carried out by the state.

Windows: Two on the main house, symmetrically positioned at the attic level. Each contains a pair of three- light vertical casement sashes. The openings are original; the sashes replaced original double- hung sashes (probably three- over six) ca. 1909- 1919. The east elevation of the ell has no windows.

Misc.: A date stone inscribed "M.S 1816" is embedded in the peak of the east gable end of the main house.



Figure 25. East and south elevations, showing the attic casement sashes, the gable date stone, and the basement bulkhead.



Figure 26. East and north elevations.

North Elevation

Foundation: Stone.

Walls: Stone for the main house; the outline of the roof of the former north porch on the main house is clearly visible. Stone covered with stucco for the ell; stucco is replacement material dating to ca. 1975.

Roof: Gable roofs on the main house and ell, covered with replacement wood shingles dating to 2004- 2005. Classical wooden cornice; design dates to ca. 1840- 1860, while crown molding is a 2004 reproduction.

Doorways: Two at the main house, one centered on the elevation and one offset to the east. The centered doorway leads to the center stair hall; it has raised paneling on its reveals, reflecting the interior formality of the hallway. The offset doorway leads to the original kitchen. Its reveals have simple flat panels, reflecting the utilitarian nature of the kitchen. Both doorways lack transoms but contain six- panel doors that are identical to the one at the main (south) entrance, being replacements installed during the ca.- 1975 renovations.

One at the ell, at the west end of the north elevation. It has unpaneled reveals, no transom, and a six- panel replacement door.

Windows: Eight on the main house: three with double- hung, two- over- two sashes at the first story; four with double- hung, two- over- two sashes at the second story; and one with a single six- light fixed sash between the first and second stories, illuminating the landing of the main stairway. All openings are original, but the landing- window opening had its bottom half infilled when the north porch was added here ca. 1860- 1880. The top sash remains in place. All two- over- two sashes date to the late 19th century. Original sashes at the first story were six- over- nine with panes measuring 10 by 12 inches; original sashes at the second story were six- over- six with panes of the same size.

The ell has one opening with six- over- six, double- hung sashes at the first story and two openings with three- over- three, double- hung sashes at the second story. As on the south elevation, photographs and paint analysis indicates that the openings and sashes are original to the construction of the ell circa 1841.

There are also two original window openings in the foundation wall of the main house. The opening at the west end of the north wall retains its heavy original oak frame, but it is in poor condition. Both jambs are mortised to accept six square wood bars running horizontally, but the bars are missing. In front of this opening is a masonry “window well” several feet deep and topped by a plywood cover. This was a later construction to keep the opening from being covered by a series of fills that raised the grade along this elevation by 2.2 feet.²

² *Archeological Excavations, Maurice Stephens House, Valley Forge National Historical Park, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania*, John Milner Associates, Inc., May 2005, p. 20.

The opening at the east end of the north wall has been infilled, but it retains its original frame with mortises for horizontal bars. It is also fronted by a masonry “window well” several feet deep and topped by a plywood cover.



Figure 27. North elevation, showing the two entrances, and the shortened double- hung window that originally illuminated the stair landing.



Figure 28. North elevation of the ell during reroofing in 2004.



Figure 29. North elevation of the main house, showing the more elaborate raised- panel reveals of the west doorway (leading to the center hall), and the simple surround of the east doorway (leading to the original kitchen).
(Photograph taken in 2004.)



Figure 30. Main house, east end, detail of extended cornice and return.
(Photograph taken in 2004.)

West Elevation

Foundation: Stone.

Walls: Stone. A change in the masonry is evident part way up the wall. The reason for this is not known.

Roof: The main house has projecting raking eaves, whose design dates to ca. 1840-1860. The eaves' crown molding dates to 2004. It was reproduced to match the ca. 1840-1860 profile of the deteriorated crown molding on the main house.

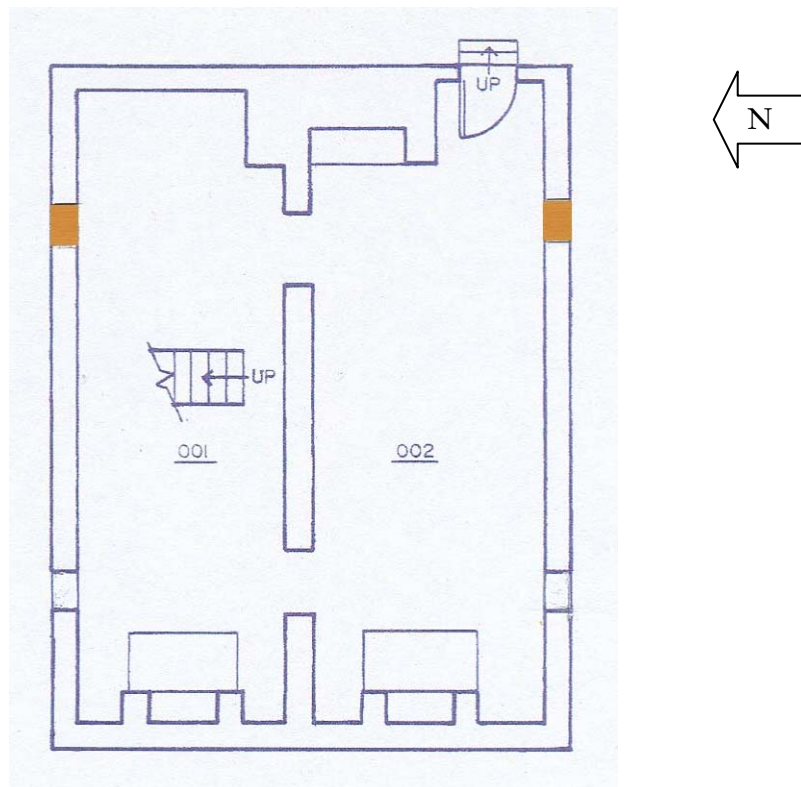
Windows: Two on the main house, symmetrically positioned at the attic level. Each contains a pair of three- light vertical casement sashes. The openings are original; the sashes replaced original double- hung sashes (two- over- four) ca. 1909- 1919.

Doorways: The west elevation of the house has no doorways.



Figure 31. North and west elevations.

Interior Elements



Basement

Room 001 (North Basement)

Floors: Dirt; poured concrete pads at west end of room.

Baseboards: None.

Walls: Rubblestone, which appears to be laid with clay and lime mortar and stuccoed with same.

Ceiling: Exposed first- floor joists and floorboards; portions of room finished with 5- inch tongue- and- groove board ceiling attached with machine- cut nails (late 19th- early 20th century).

- Doorways: Original doorway with six- panel door at top of stairway gives access to first story. Two doorways without doors in the south wall access Room 002 (south basement).
- Windows: Two original window openings, in the upper portion of the north wall. The east opening has been bricked up. The brickwork is penetrated by fill pipes for the two fuel- oil tanks in the basement, which supply the oil- fired heating burner. The west opening is covered with plywood with vent holes cut in it. The frames of both openings retain wooden turn- buttons for now- missing sashes or screens; these appear to have been added sometime around 1900.³
- Chimneys: Part of the east chimney foundation sits in the southeast corner of the room. The northwest chimney foundation and its added ash box remain at the west wall of the room.
- Stairway: The stairway up to the first story is in its original location, but it has been recently reconstructed with open treads.
- Utilities: Equipment includes a Weil- McLain oil- fired furnace vented through the east chimney. Two 275- gallon oil tanks sit along the north wall at the east end of the room. The electrical service is located in the southwest corner of the room.

³ Timothy P. Long, Historical Architect, Valley Forge NHP, to Sharon Ofenstein, Feb. 14, 2008.



Figure 32. Room 001 (north basement), east side.



Figure 33. Room 001 (north basement), showing added ash box at the west wall and an original window at the north wall. Note also the board ceiling.

Room 002 (South Basement)

- Floors: Dirt; poured concrete pad at water heater at east side of room.
- Baseboards: None.
- Walls: Rubblestone, which appears to be laid with clay and lime mortar and stuccoed with the same.
- Ceiling: Exposed first- floor joists and floorboards; portions of the room have a ceiling of 5- inch tongue- and- groove boards attached with machine- cut nails (late 19th- early 20th century).
- Doorways: Bulkhead doorway in the southeast corner of room. Original but made narrower ca. 1975, with replacement door. Two doorways without doors in the north wall access Room 001 (north basement).
- Windows: Two original window openings, in the upper portion of the south wall. The east opening has been bricked up. The west opening is covered with plywood with vent holes cut in it. The frames of both openings retain wooden turn- buttons, presumably for nonoriginal sashes no longer extant.
- Chimneys: The main portion of the original east chimney foundation sits in the northeast corner; the original southwest chimney foundation and its added ash box are at the west wall. The base of the east chimney is partially infilled; this was done ca. 1840, to support the large fireplace added when the ell was built.
- Misc.: An electric hot- water heater sits in the northeast corner, and a wall- hung dehumidifier is at the south wall. A plumbing line to the septic field is in the southeast corner.



Figure 34. Room 002 (south basement), east wall, south portion of the original chimney, showing how the base was partially infilled to allow the creation of a large fireplace in the added ell.

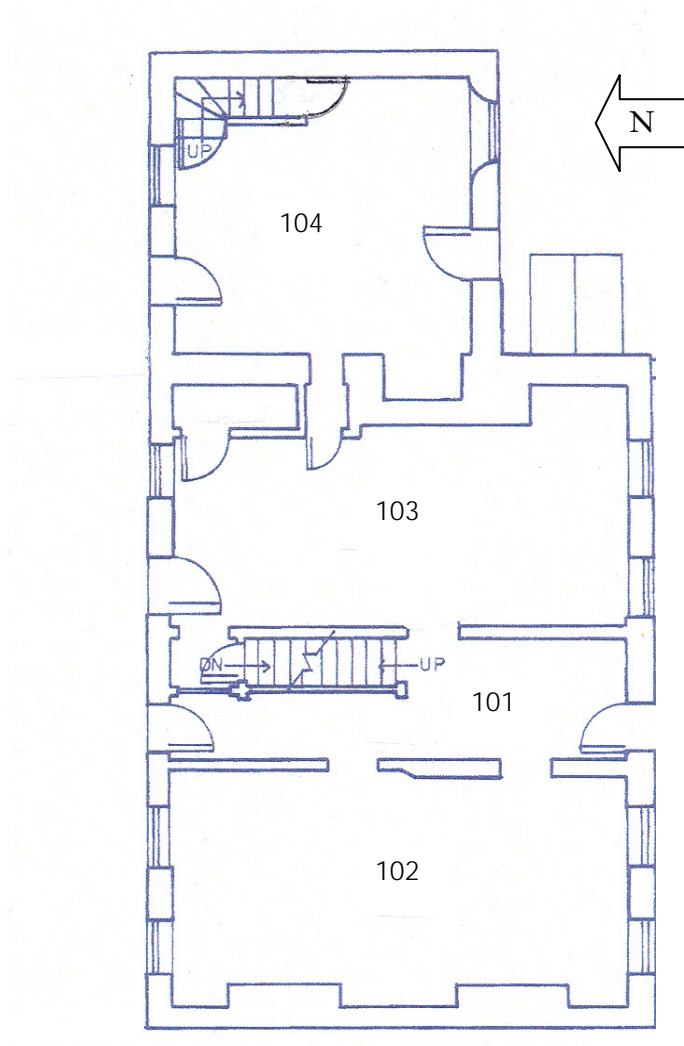


Figure 35. Room 002 (south basement), southeast corner, showing the narrowed bulkhead doorway, along with a later dehumidifier and drain pipe.



Figure 36. Room 002 (south basement), north wall, west end, showing the doorway to Room 001. Also shown is the manner in which the first-floor joists rest upon a plate supported by the masonry wall between the two rooms.

First Story



Room 101 (First-Story Center Hall)

Floors: Original, random- width, tongue- and- groove boards, most measuring between 4 and 5 inches wide. Boards run under the partition walls. No subfloor appears to exist under the original floor.

Baseboards: Original, 6 ½ inches high, having 1- inch quirked ovolo with lip. The baseboard along the west side of the stairway is slightly different, and is probably replacement material installed when the stairway balustrade was rebuilt.

Walls: Original plaster on hand- split lath applied with cut nails.

Ceiling: Original plaster.

- Doorways:** Two original exterior doorways, one each in the south and north walls of the room. Both contain six- panel doors (ca.- 1975 replacements). Three original interior doorways: one in east wall to original kitchen, two in west wall to parlors (doors removed during state ownership).
- Windows:** An original three- light transom is part of the south exterior doorway. A window with a single six- light sash is located at the stair landing. This window is discussed in “Exterior Elements, North Elevation.”
- Moldings:** A chair rail is present, whose top edge measures 28 ½ inches above the floor. It extends up the stairway, reflecting the position of the original ramped handrail of the stairway.
- Casings:** Original doorway casings consist of reeded boards 5 ¾ inches wide, with corner blocks made by mitering and combining pieces of the trim. Boards are halved at the now- infilled doorway to the passage below the stairway, which originally gave access to the basement stairway and original kitchen.
- Stairway:** The main stairway ascends along the north end of the east wall. It consists of a straight run to a landing, and a short “return” run from the landing to the second story. The location of the stairway is original, but all of its components except for the landing floor are replacements; this is believed to be the result of a fire in the early 1940s. The path of the original balustrade’s handrail can be seen in the chair rail on the east wall that follows the rise of the stairway.



Figure 37. Room 101 (first-story center hall), looking north; the doorway to the original kitchen is at right.



Figure 38. Room 101 (first-story center hall), looking south; shows the transom above the south (front) doorway.



Figure 39. Room 101 (first-story center hall), north exterior doorway. Also shown is the paneling that infills an original doorway to a passage beneath the main stairway, which provided access to the basement stairway and the original kitchen.



Figure 40. Room 101 (first-story center hall), west wall, reeded casing of a doorway to the parlor.



Figure 41. Room 101 (first-story center hall), showing the center stairway and the east-wall doorway to the original kitchen.

Room 102 (Parlor- originally north and south parlors)

- Floors: Original, random- width, tongue- and- groove wood boards, most measuring between 4 and 5 inches wide.
- Baseboards: Original, 7 ¹/₈ inches high, having a quirked ogee cap molding with a large pointed bead at the top.
- Walls: Original plaster on hand- split lath applied with cut nails.
- Ceiling: Original plaster.
- Doorways: Two original doorways in the east wall, to the center hallway. Their doors are thought to have been removed ca.1975.
- Windows: Two original windows in each of the south and north walls. The reveals of the openings are paneled. The sashes have been discussed in “Exterior Elements.”
- Moldings: There is no chair rail in this room. They did exist originally, but have been removed. They probably matched the window aprons and engaged with the same.
- Casings: Original casings at both doorways and all windows. The casing of the east wall’s south doorway and the south windows consists of reeded boards 5 ³/₄ inches wide with corner blocks made by mitering and combining pieces of the trim. The casing at the east wall’s north door way and windows consists of 6- inch- wide casings with a center Gothic bead and a Grecian ogee molding on each side, with mitered corner blocks of the same.
- Fireplaces: The south- wall fireplace has an original mantel measuring 80 by 63 inches; the firebox opening measures 54 by 41 ¹/₂ inches. Decoration includes pilasters with carving matching the trim at the east wall’s south doorway; there is also chip- carving in the band at the lower part of the frieze and at the bed molding of the shelf, emulating dentils.
- The north- wall fireplace has an original mantle measuring 74 by 60 ¹/₂ inches; the firebox opening measures 54 by 39 ³/₄ inches. The pilasters of this mantle match the trim found at the east wall’s north doorway and windows.
- Both fireplaces have metal coal- burning inserts, and ash drops to brick bins in cellar.



Figure 42. Room 102 (parlor), east wall, showing the two doorways to the center hall.



Figure 43. Room 102 (parlor), south wall.



Figure 44. Room 102 (parlor), west wall, showing the south fireplace and mantel.



Figure 45. Room 102 (parlor), west wall, showing the north fireplace and mantel.



Figure 46. Room 102 (parlor), east wall, showing the reeded casing of the doorways to the center hall.



Figure 47. Room 102 (parlor), detail of the paneled window reveals).

Room 103 (Original Kitchen)

- Floors: Replacement (ca. 1945) 2 ½- inch pine flooring over original, random- width, tongue- and- groove boards 4 to 5 inches wide.
- Baseboards: Original, 6 inches high, having a quirked ogee cap molding with a large pointed bead at the top. A quarter- round toe molding was added when the existing floor was installed.
- Walls: Mostly original plaster on hand- split lath applied with cut nails. The south wall was patched following the removal of the bay window ca. 1976.
- Ceiling: Original plaster.
- Doorways: Five original doorways: two at the west wall, one at the north wall; and two at the east wall. The south doorway in the west wall leads to the center hall; its door was removed ca. 1975. The north doorway in the west wall leads to the passage below the center stairway, giving access to the basement stairway; its door is original. The doorway in the north wall leads to the exterior; its six- panel door is a ca.- 1975 replacement. The north doorway in the east wall leads to a closet that originally contained the back stairway to the second story; its door is original. The south doorway in the east wall leads to the passage to the ell, which was originally a panty; its doorway is also original. As noted by Dodd, the hardware on these original doors, and other doors throughout the house, are later anachronistic reproductions.
- Windows: Three original windows: one at the north wall, and two at the south wall. All have double- hung, two- over- two sashes. The north- window sashes date to the late 19th century; those of the south windows are reproductions dating to the removal of the bay window ca. 1976.
- Moldings: There is no chair rail in this room.
- Casings: The original casings at the doorway and window openings consists of 3 ¾- and 5 ¾- inch casings, with double- quirk bead moldings measuring 1³/₈ by 1 inch at the outer edges.
- Fireplace: The original kitchen fireplace on the east wall was closed up ca. 1840 when the kitchen ell was added. A smaller fireplace was created here ca. 1896- 1909, but this was closed and covered with plaster ca. 1975.
- Misc.: The frame of the base cabinet at the south end of the east wall probably postdates ca. 1976. However, it has early (late 19th- early 20th c.) mismatched doors reused from an unknown location. The room appears to have always been the full depth of house, typical of the time it was constructed and the locale.



Figure 48. Room 103 (original kitchen), east wall, showing the doorways to the closet (original back stairway) at left and to the passage to the ell (original pantry) at right.



Figure 49. Room 103 (original kitchen), east wall, showing the cabinetry at the south end of the wall.



Figure 50. Room 103 (original kitchen), south wall (largely reconstructed after the removal of the bay window).



Figure 51. Room 103 (original kitchen), west wall, showing (left to right) the doorway to the center hall, the doorway to the passage to the basement stairway, and the north exterior doorway.



Figure 52. Room 103 (original kitchen), west wall, doorway to the center hall, showing the casing with the double-quirk molding used in the house.



Figure 53. Room 103 (original kitchen), typical baseboard used in the house, with toe molding added when the current floor was installed.

Room 104 (First Story of Ell)

- Floors: Boards 5 inches wide; installed ca.- 1975 to replace original (ca.- 1840) flooring rotted due to its lack of a basement.
- Baseboards: Original (ca. 1840), 6 inches high, with a three- quarter- inch upper bead.
- Walls: Stucco applied directly to the exterior masonry walls.⁴ The original (ca. 1840) stairway enclosure at the northeast corner of the room is of plank- frame construction, using random beaded vertical boards secured with wrought nails for cinching purposes.
- Ceiling: The exposed beaded floorboards of the second- story floor, and the chamfered floor joists that support them; all are whitewashed.
- Doorways: Five doorways: one in the south wall, one in the west wall, one in the north wall, and two at the stairway enclosure in the northeast corner of the room. All are original to the construction of the ell ca. 1840. The south and north doorways are exterior doorways; their six- panel doors are ca.- 1975 reproductions. The west doorway leads to the passage to Room 103 (original kitchen); it has no door. The doorways to the stairway enclosure and the closet under the stairway have period board- and- batten doors, with the boards beaded on both sides, and chamfered battens. The battens are fastened with wrought nails as are the casings on the inside of the doorway to the stairway enclosure. However, these nails were used for clinching purposes, and do not denote 18th- century elements. Original hardware has been replaced with anachronistic modern reproductions that are completely inappropriate for the period of the building.
- Windows: Two original window openings, one in each of the south and north walls. Both openings have curved reveals, which Dodd states is a typical ca.- 1840s feature in the area. The sashes have been discussed in “Exterior Elements.”
- Moldings: There is no chair rail in this room.
- Casings: Original doorway casings consist of 3 ¼ - inch boards with an inner bead measuring five- sixteenths of an inch. Aprons are 3 inches wide with a lower bead measuring three- eighths of an inch. The window openings have no casings due to the curved reveals; they do have 3 ¾- inch stops with a 1- inch inner bead.
- Fireplace: The fireplace at the south end of the west wall is set into the chimney stack of the original kitchen. The fireplace itself dates to the construction of the ell ca. 1840; its current appearance dates to ca. 1900, when it was made shallower to allow the creation of another shallow fireplace (back- to- back with it) facing Room 103 (original kitchen). The existing firebox measures 54 inches tall by 57 inches wide

⁴ John B. Dodd, in his “Classified Structure Field Inventory Report, Maurice Stephens House, Site of Gen. Huntington’s Quarters” (Valley Forge NHP, August 1979), incorrectly states on page 3 that the walls are plaster on hand- split lath secured with cut nails.

and is 3 feet deep. The mantle is 89 inches long, 7 inches wide, and 5 inches tall; judging by its robust appearance, it was probably reused from the original (1816) kitchen fireplace. The fireplace has a fieldstone hearth.

Stairway: The stairway within the vertical-board enclosure at the northeast corner of the room is original to the construction of the ell. There is one step up to its doorway; beyond the door are winders and a straight run to the second story.



Figure 54. Room 104 (first story of the ell), west wall, showing the doorway and passage to the original kitchen. The fireplace to the left of the doorway was created in the original east chimney ca. 1840 when the ell was added; it was made shallower ca. 1896- 1909.



Figure 55. Room 104 (first story of the ell), east wall, north end, showing the enclosure for the stairway to the second story of the ell. The doorway to the closet under the stairway is located at the south end of the enclosure.



Figure 56. The ell stairway from Room 104 to Room 207, showing the winders at the foot of the stairway. View is from Room 207, looking down; doorway to Room 104 is at bottom left.



Figure 57. Room 104 (first story of the ell), southeast corner.

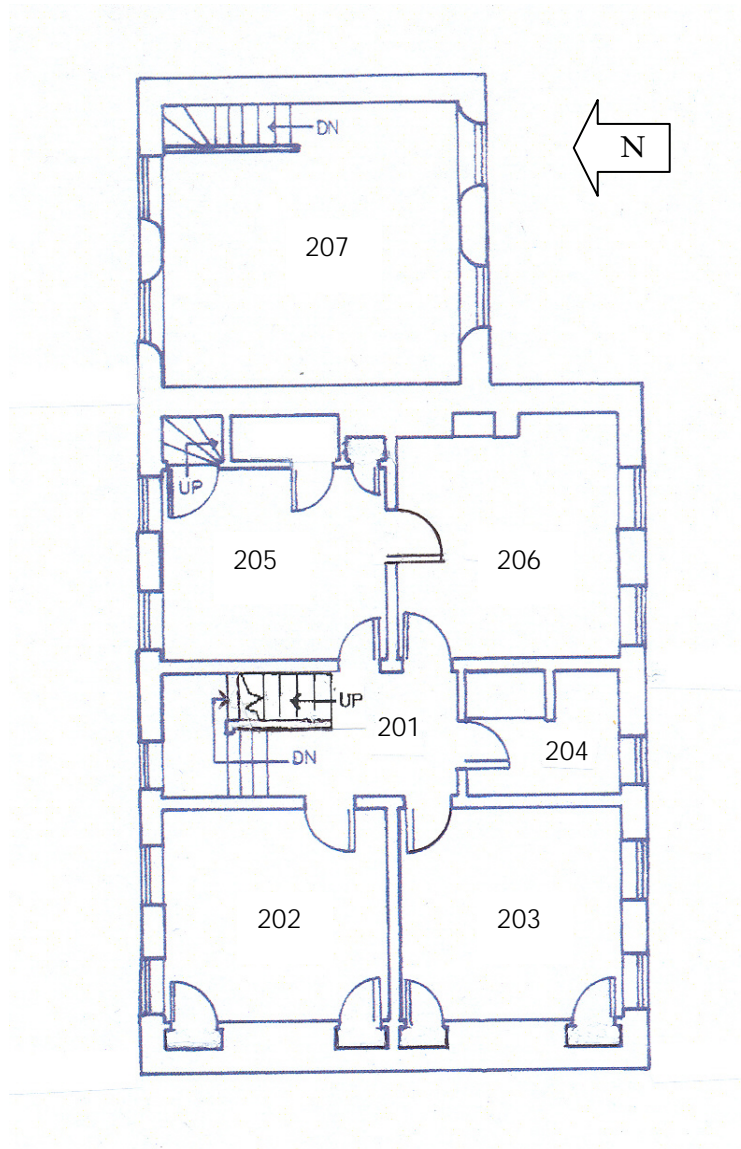


Figure 58. Room 104 (first story of the ell), north wall, showing the curved window reveals typical of ca.- 1840s construction in the region.



Figure 59. Room 104 (first story of the ell), west wall, showing the fireplace fitted with shelves for storage.

Second Story



Room 201 (Second- Story Center Hall)

Floors: Original, random- width boards, covered by wall- to- wall carpet.

Baseboards: Original, 6- inch- high baseboards on the west and south walls, having a 1- inch quirked ovolo with lip. The south end of the east wall, which is covered by two doorways, has no baseboard; the north end has an original, simple beaded baseboard that follows the ascent of the main stairway to the attic.

Walls: Original plaster on hand- split lath applied with cut nails.

- Ceiling:** Original plaster on lath.⁵
- Doorways:** Five original doorways: two in the west wall, to Rooms 202 and 203; one in the south wall, to Room 204; and two in the east wall, to Rooms 205 and 206. The doorways to Rooms 202 and 204 retain original six- panel doors; the doorways to Rooms 205 and 206 have replica six- panel doors; and the doorway to Room 203 has a plywood replacement door.
- Windows:** One, at the stairway landing. The opening is original, but its bottom half was infilled ca. 1860- 1880 when the north porch was added. The extant single, six- light fixed sash is the top sash of the original pair.
- Moldings:** Original chair rail on west and south walls; its top edge measures 27 inches above the floor.
- Casings:** The original casings at the doorways and the window are the same as those used in Room 103 (original kitchen), with double- quirk bead moldings measuring 1⁵/₈ by 1 inch at the outer edges.



Figure 60. Room 201 (second- story stair hall), west wall, showing the original six- panel door to Room 202 (right) and the plywood replacement door to Room 203 (left). Note the doorway trim and the original chair rail.

⁵ Dodd (p. 4) says that all second- story ceilings have replacement plaster. However, he cites no documentation for this statement, and the physical evidence does not support it. He may have observed a patched area or two looking down from the attic, but not all ceilings would have been visible in this manner.



Figure 61. Room 201 (second- story stair hall), east wall, showing the doorways to Rooms 205 and 206 (left and right, respectively).

Figure 62. Room 201 (second- story stair hall), south wall, showing the doorway to Room 204 (the bathroom), with an original six- panel door.



Figure 63. Room 201 (second- story stair hall), looking north at the stairway to the attic and the partially infilled window opening at the stair landing.

Room 202 (Northwest Bedroom)

- Floors: Original, random- width boards, covered by wall- to- wall carpet.
- Baseboards: Original, 6 inches high, with double- quirk bead moldings at the upper edges measuring $1\frac{5}{8}$ by 1 inch (matching the doorway and window trim in the room).
- Walls: Original plaster on hand- split lath applied with cut nails.
- Ceiling: Original plaster on lath. (See footnote 2.)
- Doorways: Three original doorways, one at the east wall and two at the west wall. The east- wall doorway leads to Room 201 (second- story center hall); it retains an original six- panel door. The two west- wall doorways lead to shallow closets flanking the fireplace; they have original eight- panel doors.
- Windows: Two original windows, in the north wall. Their sashes have been discussed in “Exterior Elements, North Elevation.”
- Moldings: There is no chair rail in this room.
- Casings: The original casings at the doorway and window openings are the same as those used in Rooms 103 and 201, with double- quirk bead moldings measuring $1\frac{5}{8}$ by 1 inch at the outer edges.
- Fireplace: One, at the west wall. The original mantel measures $68\frac{1}{4}$ inches wide by $55\frac{3}{4}$ inches high, with chip- carving around the firebox opening, which measures 43 inches wide by 37 inches high.⁶ The firebox has been infilled, and has a heating grille and later radiator.



Figure 64. Room 202 (northwest bedroom), west wall, showing the fireplace and the shallow closets flanking it.

⁶ Measurement by Historical Architect Long.



Figure 65. Room 202 (northwest bedroom), west wall, detail of the fireplace mantle.



Figure 66. Room 202 (northwest bedroom), north wall, showing the windows with unpaneled reveals.

Room 203 (Southwest Bedroom)

- Floors: Original, random- width boards, covered by wall- to- wall carpet.
- Baseboards: Original, 6 inches high, with double- quirk bead moldings at the upper edges measuring $1\frac{5}{8}$ by 1 inch (matching the doorway and window trim in the room).
- Walls: Original plaster on hand- split lath applied with cut nails.
- Ceiling: Original plaster on lath. (See footnote 2.)
- Doorways: Three original doorways, one at the east wall and two at the west wall. The east- wall doorway leads to Room 201 (second- story center hall); it has a plywood replacement door. The two west- wall doorways lead to shallow closets flanking the fireplace; they have original eight- panel doors.
- Windows: Two original windows, in the south wall. Their sashes have been discussed in “Exterior Elements, South Elevation.”
- Moldings: An original chair rail $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide is present, whose top edge measures 29 inches above the floor. Room 203 is the only bedroom to have a chair rail.
- Casings: The original casings at the doorway and window openings are the same as those used in Rooms 103, 201, and 202, with double- quirk bead moldings measuring $1\frac{5}{8}$ by 1 inch at the outer edges.
- Fireplace: One, at the west wall. The original mantel measures $69\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide by 59 inches high. The firebox measures $43\frac{5}{8}$ inches wide by $39\frac{1}{4}$ inches high;⁷ it has been infilled, and has a stovepipe- like hole covered by a later radiator.



Figure 67. Room 203 (southwest bedroom), west wall, showing the fireplace and the shallow closets flanking it.

⁷ Measurement by Historical Architect Long.



Figure 68. Room 203 (southwest bedroom), original chair rail molding.

Figure 69. Room 203 (southwest bedroom), detail of the typical double-quirk/beaded molding found throughout the second-story rooms.



Figure 70. Room 203 (southwest bedroom), west wall, fireplace with original chip-carved mantle.

Room 204 (Bathroom)

- Floors: Sheet vinyl, probably over plywood.
- Baseboards: Original, 6 inches high, with a simple bead at the top; a quarter- round cap and toe moldings have been added. There is a cut in the south- wall baseboard.
- Walls: Original plaster on hand- split lath applied with cut nails.
- Ceiling: Original plaster on lath. (See footnote 2.)
- Doorways: One original doorway, in the north wall, leading to Room 201 (second- story center hall). It retains an original six- panel door.
- Windows: One original window in the south wall. Its sashes have been discussed in “Exterior Elements, South Elevation.”
- Moldings: An original chair rail 3 ¾ inches wide is present on the south wall and on the west end of the north wall. Its profile and height (29 inches above the floor) are the same as the chair rail in Room 203 (southwest bedroom). At the south wall, it is integral with the window apron; at the west side of the north wall, it lines up with the former location of the chair rail on the west wall.
- Casings: The original casings at the doorway and window openings are the same as those used in Rooms 103, 201, 202, and 203, with double- quirk bead moldings measuring 1 5/8 by 1 inch at the outer edges.
- Misc.: Modern bathroom fixtures, including a vanity at the west wall of room, and a shower/tub and toilet at the east wall of the room.



Figure 71. Room 204 (bathroom), looking south, showing the chair rail serving as a window apron, and the vanity on the west wall.



Figure 72. Room 204 (bathroom), as viewed from Room 201 (second-story stair hall).



Figure 73. Room 204 (bathroom), looking southeast at the toilet and a vent chase in the corner of the room.



Figure 74. Room 204 (bathroom), north wall, doorway to the second-story stair hall and its original six-panel door.

Room 205 (Northeast Bedroom)

- Floors: Original, random- width boards, covered by wall- to- wall carpet.
- Baseboards: Original, 6 inches high, with double- quirk bead moldings at the upper edges measuring $1\frac{5}{8}$ by 1 inch (matching the doorway and window trim in the room).
- Walls: Original plaster on hand- split lath applied with cut nails. The south wall shows deflection due to settling of the masonry during the removal of the first- story bay window and the infilling of its opening.
- Ceiling: Original plaster on lath. (See footnote 2.)
- Doorways: Five original doorways: one in the east wall, one in the south wall, and three in the east wall. The east- wall doorway leads to Room 201 (second- story center hall); it holds a replacement six- panel door. The south- wall doorway leads to Room 206 (southeast bedroom); it has an original six- panel door. The northernmost doorway in the east wall leads to the original back stairway to the attic; it has an original six- panel door. The middle doorway in the east wall leads to a large closet (the former location of an original back stairway to Room 103); it holds an original six- panel door. The southernmost doorway in the east wall leads to a small original closet; it has an original eight- panel door.
- Windows: Two original windows, in the north wall. Their sashes have been discussed in “Exterior Elements, North Elevation.”
- Moldings: There is no chair rail in this room.
- Casings: The original casings at the doorway and window openings are the same as those used in Rooms 103, 201, 202, 203, and 204, with double- quirk bead moldings measuring $1\frac{5}{8}$ by 1 inch at the outer edges.
- Fireplace: No fireplace in this room.
- Stairway: The attic stairway within the plastered enclosure at the northeast corner of the room is original to the construction of the main house. There are winders at the foot and head of the stairway, with a straight run between them. An identical stairway originally linked Room 205 with Room 103, but was removed when the ell was added ca. 1840.



Figure 75. Room 205 (northeast bedroom), north wall.



Figure 76. Room 205 (northeast bedroom), east wall, showing three doorways in their original locations. Left to right, they lead to the enclosure for the back stairway to the attic, a large closet (the former location of a back stairway to Room 103), and a small original closet.



Figure 77. The original back stairway from Room 205 to Room 301 (east attic room), showing the winders at the head and foot of the stairway. View is from Room 301, looking down; doorway to Room 205 is at bottom left.)

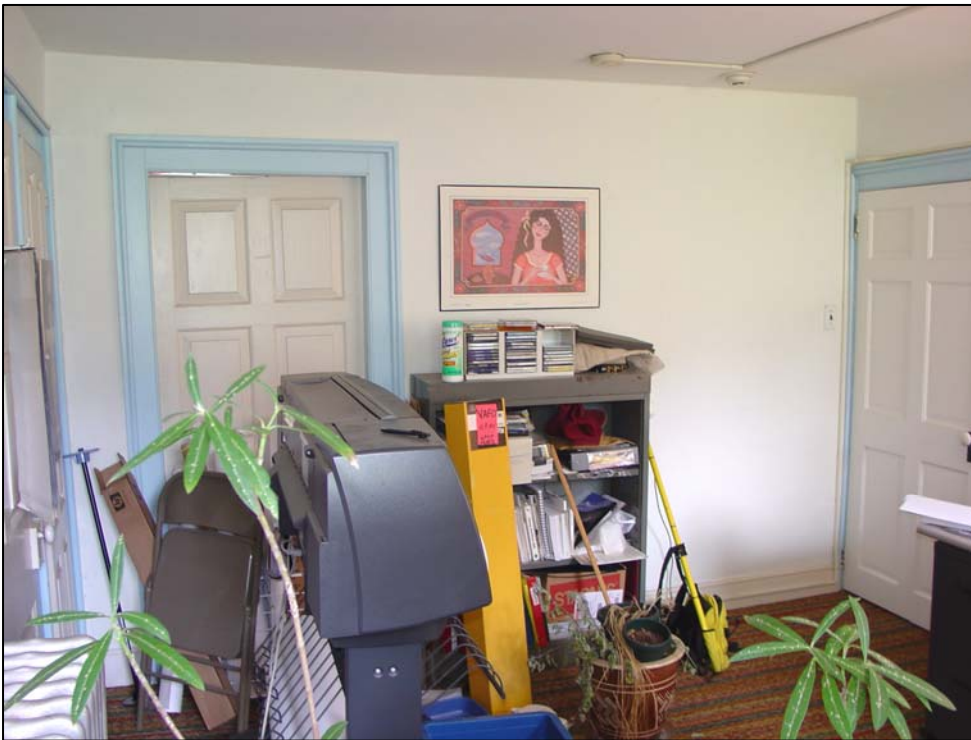


Figure 78. Room 205 (northeast bedroom), south wall, showing the doorways to Rooms 206 (southeast bedroom) and 201 (second-story stair hall).

Room 206 (Southeast Bedroom)

- Floors: Original, random- width boards, covered by wall- to- wall carpet.
- Baseboards: Original, 6 inches high, with double- quirk bead moldings at the upper edges measuring $1\frac{5}{8}$ by 1 inch (matching the doorway and window casings in the room). The south- wall baseboard is also 6 inches high, but it is flat stock, with no top bead. This indicates that it is replacement material. The original was probably removed after the first- story bay window was removed ca. 1976, and the south masonry wall here deflected downward.
- Walls: Original plaster on hand- split lath applied with cut nails.
- Ceiling: Original plaster on lath (see page 65, footnote 2).
- Doorways: Two original doorways, one in the west wall and one in the north wall. The west- wall doorway leads to Room 201 (second- story center hall); it holds a six- panel replacement door. The north- wall doorway leads to Room 205 (northeast bedroom); it contains an original six- panel door.
- Windows: Two original windows, in the south wall, both with double- hung, two- over- two sashes. Their sashes have been discussed in “Exterior Elements, South Elevation.”
- Moldings: There is no chair rail in this room.
- Casings: The original casings at the doorway and window openings are the same as those used in Rooms 103, 201, 202, 203, 204, and 205, with double- quirk bead moldings measuring $1\frac{5}{8}$ by 1 inch at the outer edges.
- Fireplace: One, at the east wall. The original mantel measures $54\frac{3}{4}$ by $52\frac{1}{4}$ inches, with chip- carving and reeding around the firebox opening, which measures $39\frac{3}{4}$ inches by $37\frac{1}{4}$ inches. The firebox has been infilled, and has a heating grille in it.



Figure 79. Room 206 (southeast bedroom), east wall, showing fireplace mantle.



Figure 80. Room 206 (southeast bedroom), south wall, showing some deflection due to the insertion and later removal of the bay window in the first story of the house.



Figure 81. Room 206 (southeast bedroom), north wall, showing original doorway to Room 205 (northeast bedroom).

Room 207 (Second Story of Ell)

- Floors: Tongue- and- groove beaded boards 4 to 8 inches wide fastened with machine-cut nails.
- Baseboards: None.
- Walls: Stucco applied directly to the exterior masonry walls.⁸
- Ceiling: Original plaster. There is a scuttle with a plywood cover in the ceiling that leads to the attic over the ell; it measures 13 by 17 inches. The age of the opening is not known. It may date to the electrification of the house, when access to the attic for wiring would have been needed.
- Doorways: None. The only access to the room is via the stairway in the northeast corner, ascending from Room 104 (first story of the ell).
- Windows: The south and north walls of the room each have two original window openings with curved reveals. The sashes have been discussed in “Exterior Elements.”
- Moldings: There is no chair rail in this room.
- Casings: The window openings have no casings, because of the curved reveals. Window aprons are 3 inches wide, with a three- eighths- inch lower bead. The casings and cover of the scuttle are recent.
- Stairway: The beaded- board railing along the stairwell appears to be original, based on the similarity of its details to those of the stairway (beaded boards and clinched hand- wrought nails).

⁸ Dodd (p. 3) incorrectly states that the walls are plaster on hand- split lath secured with cut nails.



Figure 82. Room 207 (second story of the ell), south wall, showing windows with three- over- three, double- hung sashes and curved window reveals typical of ca.- 1840s construction in the area.

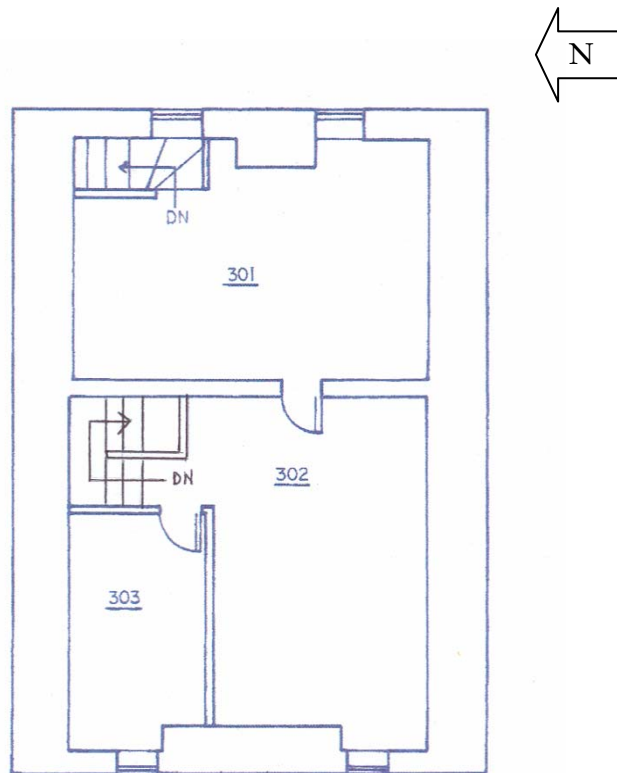


Figure 83. Room 207 (second story of the ell), looking west and showing the ell's attic scuttle.



Figure 84. Room 207 (second story of the ell), northeast corner, railing along the stairwell of the stairway down to Room 104 (first story of the ell).

Attic



Room 301 (East Attic Room)

- Floors:** Original, tongue- and- groove boards 12 to 20 inches wide, nailed to joists measuring 2 ½ by 7 inches, let into the exterior masonry walls and supported at mid- span by a summer beam 10 by 7 inches.
- Baseboards:** Original, simple beaded baseboard along the stairway only.
- Walls:** Original plaster on hand- split lath applied with cut nails. Chimney protrudes at the center of the east wall.
- Ceiling:** Original plaster, with areas of exposed infill where 20th- century dormers were removed from the south and north roof slopes in 1978.
- Doorways:** One original doorway, in the west wall leading to Room 302 (center attic room); it holds an original board- and- batten door.
- Windows:** Two original windows, in the east wall flanking the chimney. Their sashes have been discussed in “Exterior Elements, East Elevation.”

Stairway: An original stairway at the northeast corner of the room descends to Room 205 (northeast bedroom). It retains its original balustrade, which is described in detail in Dodd's report (Appendix C, p. 7).



Figure 85. Room 301 (east attic room), east wall, showing windows flanking chimney, and stairway to Room 205 (southeast bedroom).



Figure 86. Room 301 (east attic room), east wall.



Figure 87. Room 301 (east attic room), west wall, showing the doorway to Room 302 (center attic room).

Room 302 (Center Attic Room)

- Floors: Original, tongue- and- groove boards 12 to 20 inches wide, nailed to joists measuring 2 ½ by 7 inches, let into the exterior masonry walls and supported at mid- span by a summer beam.
- Baseboards: Original, simple beaded baseboard 5 inches high along the stairway only.
- Walls: Original plaster.
- Ceiling: Original plaster, with areas of exposed infill where 20th- century dormers were removed from the south and north roof slopes in 1978. There is a scuttle without cover in the ceiling that leads to the attic over the ell; it measures 13 by 17 inches. The age of the opening is not known. It may date to the electrification of the house, when access to the attic for wiring would have been needed. It is the same size as the scuttle in the ceiling of Room 207 (second story of the ell).
- Doorways: Two original doorways, one at the east wall, the other at the west wall, in the partition forming Room 303 (northwest attic room). Both contain original board- and- batten doors. There is also the main attic stairway at the north wall, which descends to Room 201 (second- story center hall).
- Windows: One original window opening, in the west wall, south of the chimney. Its sashes have been discussed in “Exterior Elements, West Elevation.”
- Casings: The casing of the scuttle is recent.
- Stairway: The stairway balustrade is a replacement, probably due to fire damage in the early 1940s.



Figure 88. Room 302 (center attic room), looking north at the center stairway and the replacement balustrade. Also shown are the doorway to Room 303 (northwest attic room) at left, and an area of ceiling disturbed by the addition of an early 20th- century dormer (removed in 1978).



Figure 89. Room 302 (center attic room), west wall, showing dormer infill, casement sashes, and chimney.



Figure 90. Room 302 (center attic room), southeast corner, showing the doorway to Room 301 (east attic room), with a board- and- batten door. Also shown is the ceiling scuttle to the attic, and an area of ceiling disturbed by the addition of an early 20th- century dormer (removed in 1978).

Room 303 (Northwest Attic Room)

- Floors: Original, tongue- and- groove boards 12 to 20 inches wide, nailed to joists measuring 2 ½ by 7 inches.
- Baseboards: None.
- Walls: Original plaster on hand- split lath applied with cut nails.
- Ceiling: Original plaster, with areas of exposed infill where 20th- century dormers were removed from the north roof slope in 1978.
- Doorways: One doorway, at the east wall, leading to Room 302 (center attic room). It holds an original board- and- batten door.
- Windows: One window opening, at the west wall, north of the chimney. Its sashes have been discussed in “Exterior Elements, West Elevation.”



Figure 91. Room 303 (northwest attic room), looking west. At right is an area of ceiling disturbed by the addition of an early 20th- century dormer (removed in 1978). (Note: the door at the right side of the photograph is being stored in the room and is not part of the space.)



Figure 92. Room 303 (northwest attic room), east wall, doorway and door to Room 302 (center attic room).



Figure 93. Room 303 (northwest attic room), west wall, casement sashes installed in the early 20th century.

TREATMENT AND USE

CHARACTER- DEFINING FEATURES

Introduction

The “period of significance” for Valley Forge NHP, as defined in the park’s current General Management Plan, is the 1777- 1778 Revolutionary War Encampment Period. As explained previously in the Executive Summary of this report, a strict interpretation of the GMP would suggest that the 1816 Maurice Stephens House should be removed. However, the park’s GMP is now being updated, and it is understood that the revised document will extend the period of significance to an as- yet undetermined date. Depending upon the new “period of significance” chosen, at least the main block of the Maurice Stephens House might fall within the period, and perhaps the later ell, as well.

Still, the main contribution of the Stephens House to the park is not associational, but rather visual. As the “Huntington’s Headquarters” link becomes more tenuous, the appearance of the Stephens House becomes more important. The house might not have been standing in 1777, but its general style, massing, and building materials are not inconsistent with that period. The Stephens House is essentially a landscape feature that helps create a sense of time and place in this rural Pennsylvania locale. The character- defining features (CDFs) of the house, then, are those that reflect local architecture of an early date.

This approach would at first glance argue against the retention of the ell, which is thought to have been built ca. 1840- 1841, but perhaps as later as ca. 1860. However, the ell’s form and appearance is so antique that it could easily have been built in the 18th century. (Indeed, for many years the ell was assumed to be the earlier part of the house.) Elements dating to changes made after 1860, by contrast, tended to display architectural attributes that clearly identified them as incongruous Victorian and Colonial- Revival features.

With these thoughts in mind, the following character- defining features have been identified.

Exterior Character- Defining Features

The house's relation to its site:

- on a rise overlooking the countryside
- surrounded by trees and grass

The house's design and form:

- the two and one- half story main block
- the one a one- half story ell
- the simple gable roofs, ridge parallel to the façade of the house
- the two large, symmetrical interior end chimneys (original size)

The house's construction materials:

- the thick rubblestone walls and foundations
- the wooden trim
- the wooden roof shingles

The house's doorway locations and fenestration:

- the classic five- bay symmetrical pattern on the façade (south elevation), with a center entrance
- the more utilitarian pattern on the rear (north) elevation, with asymmetrical doorway and window openings
- the original double- hung sashes in the ell: three- over- six at the first story, and three- over- three at the second story

The house's classical wooden trim:

- the deep, paneled reveals of the exterior doorways
- the use of a simple rectangular transom above the front doorway
- the existing six- panel exterior doors (reproductions of the original doors)
- Note: the main house's existing cornice, returns, and eaves extend out farther than appropriate for an early appearance, but they may well be contemporaneous with the addition of the ell, and so should be retained in order to avoid creating an appearance that never actually existed.

Interior Character- Defining Features

The house's floor plan:

- the main house's center- hall plan with stairway
- the undivided, front- to- back size of Room 103 (the original kitchen), which is a local characteristic
- the one- room plan of the ell

The house's ceilings and walls:

- all existing plaster walls and ceilings, which seem to be original, except for the south wall of Room 103, where the opening for the former bay window was closed up
- the curved plaster reveals of the ell's window openings, which is a local characteristic
- Note: the paneled wooden partition in Room 102 blocking the doorway to the passage under the main stairway is not historic, but it is stylistically consonant with original features in the parlor

The house's wooden floors:

- all existing floors, which seem to be original, except for that in Room 103 (narrow boards installed ca. 1945) and that in Room 104 (5- inch boards installed ca.1975)

The house's interior doors:

- all existing interior doors of the house, except for the plywood door between Rooms 201 and 203. (The doors from Room 201 to Rooms 205 and 206 are replica six- panel doors.)

The house's interior trim:

- all baseboards, chair rails, paneled reveals, and doorway and window casings. (All are original, except for the replacement baseboard on the south wall of Room 206.)

The house's stairways:

- the location and design of the main stairway (the balustrade is a ca.- 1945 anachronism).
- the back stairway from Room 104 to Room 207, and the back stairway from Room 205 to Room 301

The house's fireplaces and mantels:

- all existing chimney breasts and mantels (their fireboxes suffer from many post- 1860 changes)

TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

A number of actions need to be taken to return the exterior of the Maurice Stephens House to its appearance ca. 1840- 1860. All work should take care to respect the character- defining features previously outlined.

Landscape

Remove the South- Elevation Berm

The berm along the south elevation of the main house was built added ca. 1860- 1880 to facilitate the construction of the bay window and the south porch; the stone retaining wall was a 20th- century addition. The bay window and the porch have been removed, but the foundation of the window remains, and the hydrology studies mentioned in this report's Executive Summary have identified the foundation as a contributing factor to moisture infiltration into the basement.

The berm should be removed or reduced in size to return the site to an earlier appearance, following a thorough archeological investigation. An alternative to removing the berm completely would be to remove only the berm's retaining wall, and to fill that area with soil to obtain a more gradual transition between the two levels of ground.

Regrade Along the North Elevation

Minor regrading of the land along the north side of the house should also be undertaken, to restore the site to a pre- 1860 appearance, and to improve drainage away from the house.

Masonry Foundation and Walls

Repair the South Elevation, East End

As explained in the "Chronology" section of Part I, the installation and later removal of the bay window at the east end of the south elevation of the main house circa 1976 caused the second-

story masonry wall above that location to sag. The greatest settlement occurred between the two second- story windows over the former bay, whose adjacent jambs have shifted downwards. The interior ceiling over the two first- story windows on the infill exhibits a sizeable concave bow, indicating that the second- floor joists have been pushed down as they sit in pockets in the exterior wall.¹

The temporary stabilization system installed by the park to support the second- story floor in the affected area has accomplished this goal. In addition, it has eliminated the former sag in the roofline, which facilitated the reroofing work in 2004. However, the masonry wall needs to be rebuilt, such that it can itself again support the second- story floor joists and the roof rafters.

Remove Evidence of the South and North Porches

The removal of the south and north porches of the main house has left marks on the masonry of those walls. These marks consist of roofing tar and other remains of flashing materials. They should be cleaned off the walls in a manner that does no damage to the masonry.

Repoint Appropriately

Uneven weathering of the exterior masonry walls of the building is an issue that can be easily seen at the building's west elevation. This is a result of micro- climatic conditions around the structure, acid rain, abrasion, the physical differences between the types of stone used in the building's original construction, and the use of hard cement- based repointing mortars.

While the weathering process of stone is a natural phenomenon, and the types of stone used in the building's construction cannot be changed, the physical damage caused by the use of inappropriate cement mortars can be addressed. There is also a visual component: no less than four types of mortar joints are currently found on the building, which contributes to the confusing appearance of the masonry surfaces.

It is thus recommended that a mortar analysis of the building be undertaken to determine an appropriate replacement lime- based mortar. Such a study should be undertaken as soon as possible, since the deterioration resulting from the use of inappropriately hard mortar increases with the amount of time that such materials are left in place. The replacement mortar selected should contain sand whose grains and color are similar to sand in samples determined to date to the earliest period of the building. (One such sample can be found at the southeast corner of the structure; see figures 12- 13). The existing mortar joints should be carefully removed, using only hand tools, and the new joints should be neatly shaped to match the profile of the historic mortar joints that remain.

¹ Timothy P. Long, Historical Architect, Valley Forge NHP, to Sharon Ofenstein, Aug. 25, 2005.

Doorways and Windows

Recreate South- Elevation Access

Now that the ca. 1860- 1880 south porch on the main house has been removed, a study should be undertaken to try and determine the earlier means of access to the front entrance of the house, and the configuration of the original bulkhead.

The porch of the same date on the south elevation of the ell has likewise been removed. An appropriate stairway or porch should be reconstructed to access the doorway at this elevation, following the investigation and recommendations of a historical architect and an archeological study.

Replace Sashes of Main House

The existing double- hung, two- over- two window sashes date to the late 19th century. They should be replaced with double- hung sashes six- over- nine sashes on the first story, and six- over- six sashes on the second story, using the remaining six- light sash in the north wall of the structure as a pattern for sash reconstruction. Likewise, the casement sashes (early 20th- c.) in the gable- end windows of the house should be replaced with appropriate double- hung sashes, two- over- four at the west windows, and probably three- over- six at the wider east windows.

Rehang Shutters and Blinds

The early photographs show that the main house had three- panel solid paneled shutters at its first- story windows and two- panel louvered blinds at its second- story windows from an early date, and quite possibly from the time of its construction. The ell is seen to have three- panel solid shutters at its first- story windows only. These elements were still in place when John Dodd conducted his field inventory in August 1979 (see Appendix B), although he indicates that the shutters on the ell were replacements. There are no shutters or blinds on the house today. Shutters and blinds are crucial to the early appearance of the house, and appropriate ones should be reintroduced. If any original ones still exist, they can be rehung, and used as templates for reproducing missing ones. If no examples remain, reproductions can be made based on the descriptions contained in Dodd's report.

Structural Systems

The removal of Victorian and 20th- century accretions seems to have resulted in areas of poor workmanship, as explained in the Executive Summary section of this report. Examples include the removal of the bay window at the east end of the south elevation of the main house, and the removal of the dormers from the roof of the main house. Any instances of poor workmanship should be corrected, to facilitate future maintenance. Recommendations for the repair of the south- elevation masonry have been discussed previously in “Masonry Foundation and Walls.” This work should address the need to support the interior floor joists and rafters in this area in their original manner. The temporary support system now holding them should then be removed.

Utility Systems

Since the interior of the building will be rehabilitated for modern uses, it is recommended that an appropriate fire- suppression system be installed in the building, taking care to preserve those character- defining features outlined previously in this section. At the same time, an assessment of the existing electrical, plumbing, and heating systems should be undertaken. These should be upgraded where necessary, again protecting the building’s interior CDF’s during the work.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A.

Property Value Data for the Maurice Stephens House, 1798- 1859

From the Historical Society
of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania

Norristown, Pennsylvania

MAURICE STEVENS PROPERTY (VAFO) - PROPERTY VALUE ONLY

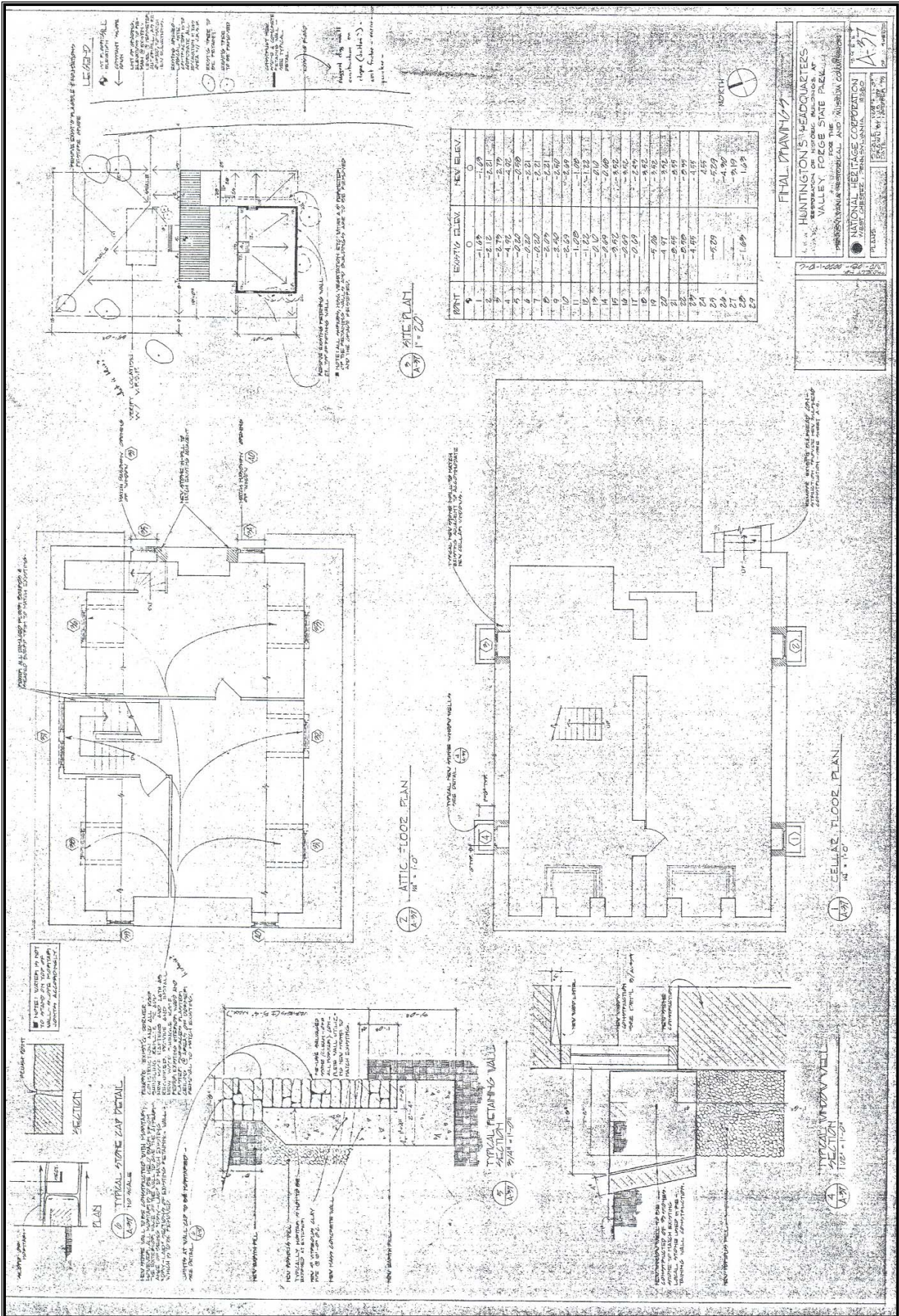
	acres	value		
1798	250	\$2,277.00	Morris Stephens	
1799	250	\$2,280.00	Morris Stephens	
1800	250	\$2,280.00	Morris Stephens	
1801	250	\$2,280.00	Morris Stephens	
1802	250	\$2,280.00	Morris Stephens	
1803	250	\$2,280.00	Morris Stephens	
1804	250	\$2,280.00	Morris Stephens	
1805	218	\$2,112.00	Morris Stephens	
1806	218	\$2,112.00	Morris Stephens	
1807	218	\$2,112.00	Morris Stephens	
1808				missing ?
1809	218	\$2,112.00	Morris Stephens	
1810	218	\$2,112.00	Morris Stephens	
1811	218	\$9,246.00	Morris Stephens	
1812	218	\$9,246.00	Morris Stephens	
1813	218	\$9,246.00	Morris Stephens	
1814	217	\$8,246.00	<u>Maurice Stephens</u>	
1815	217	\$8,246.00	Maurice Stephens	
1816				missing ?
1817				missing ?
1818				missing ?
1819	217	\$9,765.00	Maurice Stephens	
1820				missing ?
1821	217	\$9,946.00	Maurice Stephens	
1822				missing?
1823				missing?
1824				missing?
1825				missing?
1826	250	\$9,444.00	William Henry	
1827				missing?
1828	250	\$9,444.00	William Henry	
1829	250	\$11,250.00	William Henry	
1830	250	\$11,250.00	William Henry	
1831	250	\$11,250.00	William Henry	
1832	268	\$6,935.00	William Henry	missing?
1833				missing?
1834	268	\$6,935.00	William Henry	
1835 (Spring?)	268	\$6,935.00	William Henry	
1835 (Fall)	268	\$7,275.00	????????? William Henry	
1836				missing ?
1836				missing ?
1837	268	\$6,935.00	????????? William Henry	
1837				missing ?
1838 (Spring?)	268	\$6,891.00	William Henry	
1838 (Fall)	268	\$6,891.00	William Henry	
1839 (Spring?)	268	\$6,891.00	William Henry	
1839 (Fall?)	268	\$6,891.00	William Henry	
1839 ?				missing ?
1840 (Spring?)	268	\$6,891.00	William Henry	

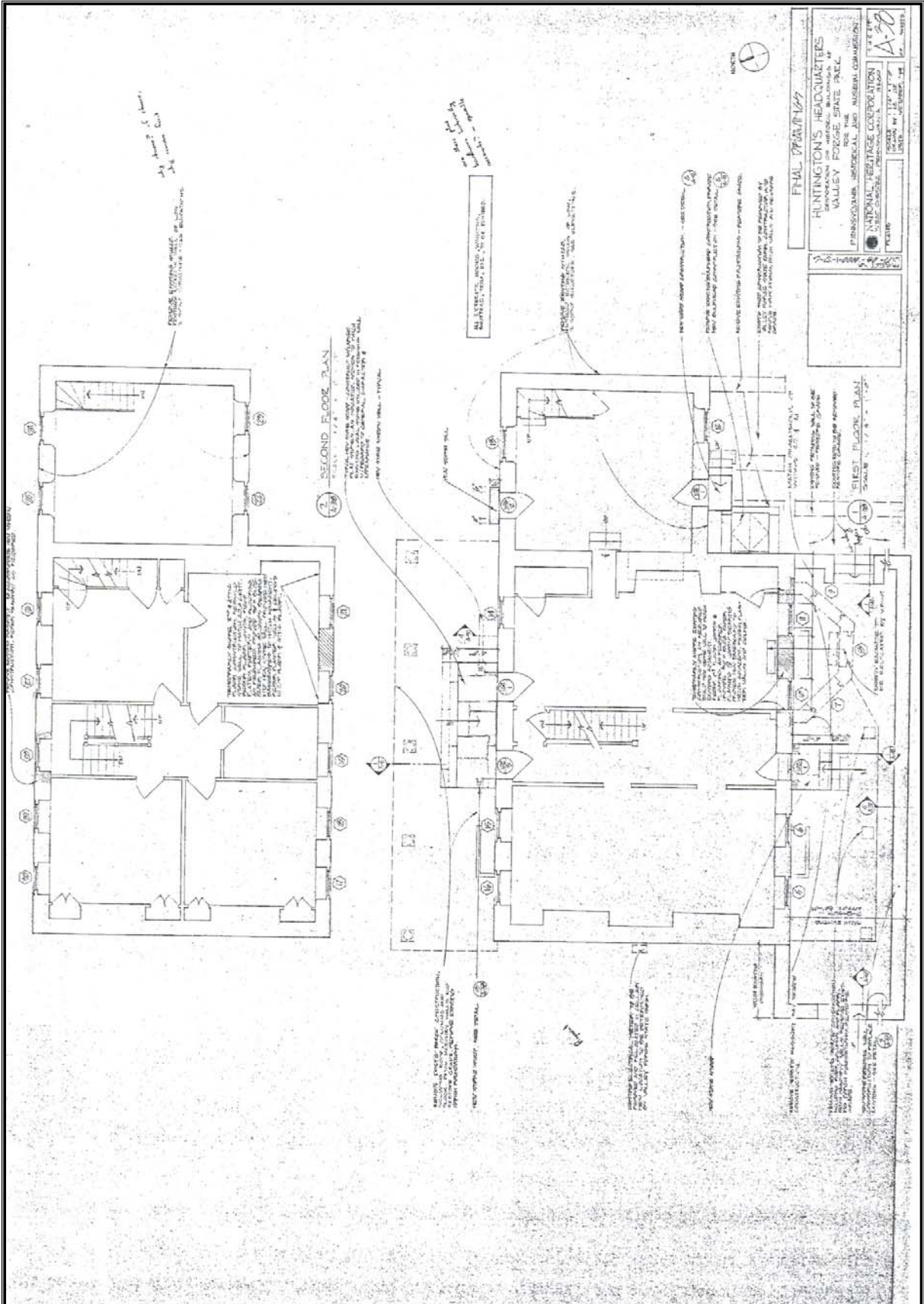
1840 (Fall)	268	\$7,500.00	William Henry	
1841 (Spring?)	268	\$7,500.00	William Henry	
1841 (Fall?)	266	\$21,535.00 ????????	William Henry	
1842 ?				missing ?
1843	268	\$16,000.00 ????????	William Henry	
1845 ?				missing ?
1846 ?				missing ?
1847 ?				missing ?
1848 ?				missing ?
1849 ?				missing ?
1850 ?				missing ?
1851 ?				missing ?
1853	238	\$11,900.00 ????????	William Henry	
1854	238	\$11,900.00	William Henry	
1855 (Spring?)	238	\$11,900.00	William Henry	
1855 (Fall?)	235	\$11,750.00	William Henry	
1856	235	\$11,750.00	William Henry & Wm Henry Jr.	
1857	235	\$11,700.00	William Henry & Wm Henry Jr.	
1858	233	\$12,349.00 ????????	William Henry & Wm Henry Jr.	
1859	233	\$12,349.00	William Henry & Wm Henry Jr.	
1860 ?				missing ?

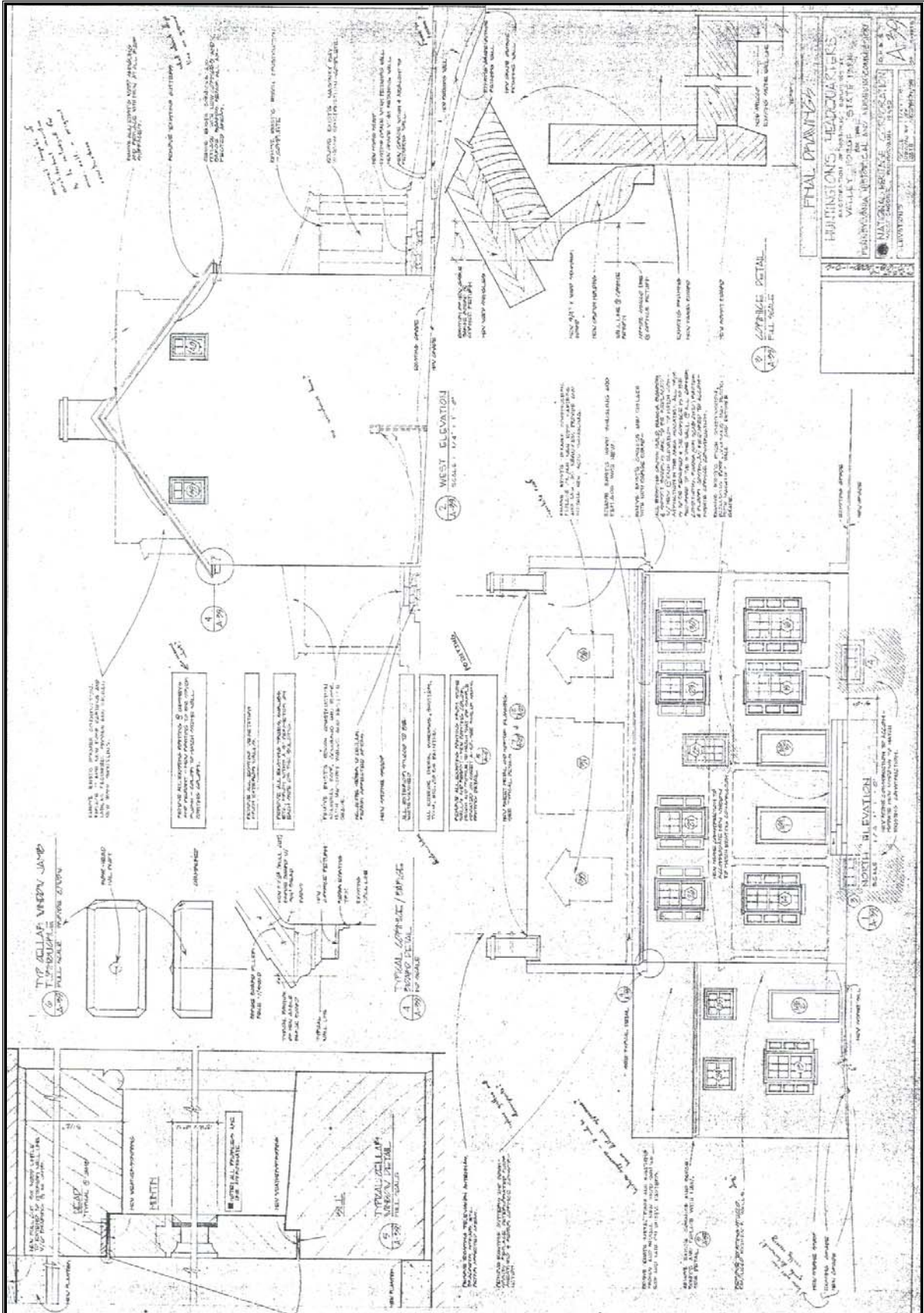
APPENDIX B.

Renovation Drawings for “Huntington’s Headquarters”

October 1975







FINAL DRAWINGS
 HOUSTON'S CLEROUX PARK
 VALLEY HOUSE SIXTH FLOOR
 HOUSTON, TEXAS
 NATIONAL ARCHITECTURAL CENTER
 LEVINE'S

WEST ELEVATION
 SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

NORTH ELEVATION
 SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

TYP. COLLAG VENEZ JAMB
 FULL SCALE

TYPICAL CORNER / JAMB
 FULL SCALE

APPENDIX C.

Classified Structure Field Inventory Report, Maurice Stephens House (Site of Gen. Huntington's Quarters)

By John B. Dodd

August 1979

CLASSIFIED STRUCTURE FIELD INVENTORY REPORT

(Attach 4"x5" B&W Photo) #2530

REGION Mid-Atlantic PARK/AREA NAME VALLEY FORGE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK NPS ORGANIZATION CODE NO. 4860
 STRUCTURE NAME MAURICE STEPHENS HOUSE, Site of Gen. Huntington's Quarters STRUCTURE NO. 112

ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE: National State Local

TREATMENT RECOMMENDED: Est. Cost of Treatment Recommended: \$ 107,000

Preservation Date of this Estimate: April, 1978
 Restoration
 Reconstruction Est. Interim Cost (other than routine maintenance) pending completion of Recommended Treatment: \$ None
 Partial Reconstruction
 Adaptive Restoration

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: 600 ft south of Rt 23, 200 ft east of axis of Memorial Chapel

UTM REFERENCE: CLASS VI LAND ACREAGE (if not part of a complex or district: _____ acres.
 A 1 8 4 6 2 7 6 0 4 4 3 9 0 4 0
 Zone Easting Northing

STUDIES REQUIRED:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	Historical Studies Plan	← KEY:	N - not needed
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	Historic Resource Study		P - programmed
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R	Historic Structure Report Parts 2, 3, 4		C - completed
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	Historic Furnishing Study		U - underway
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R	Historic Structure Preservation Guide#		R - required, but not yet scheduled

#included in Primary Stone Buildings.

STRUCTURE: Type of, and composition: 2-story, 5-bay farmhouse with 1-1/2-story, 2-bay addition to east, both masonry; original section has

Physical Description: full attic and cellar, addition has small attic, no cellar; initial orientation has been reversed--main entry originally faced south with rear towards present Rt 23.

Date: main section probably built in 1816 by Maurice Stephens; addition possibly built 1841 by William Henry. Remodelled by State Park 1950s and 1975.

Size: original section 40 x 30-1/2 ft; addition 18 x 21 ft.

Foundations: rubble fieldstone, random laid; east wing, same.

Walls: original (west) section, uncoursed, well-laid, split-face sandstone, 18" thick at grade, with 20th C. gray cement mortar joints, mortar smeared over edges of stones, trowelled with ribbon joint. In east gable, a recessed square with rounded corners and splayed edges, all stuccoed, is incised with M.S. 1816.

East wing: butted into walls of original section, rubble fieldstone, random laid, 19" thick at grade, stuccoed.

Windows: 2/2, no parting beads, 1st Fl panes 14-1/2 x 29-3/4", 2nd Fl panes 14-1/2 x 23-3/4" (making the original sash 6/9 on 1st Fl and 6/6 on 2nd Fl with 10 x 12" panes); rails, stiles and muntins on interior side of present sash

Continued . . . page 2 (continue on reverse if necessary)

PRESENT CONDITION: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated
 Ruins Unaltered Altered Original Site Moved

Report prepared by:

John B. Dora
 Signature

August, 1979
 Date

INVT-5325-75

lower part of frieze; chip carving below bed moulding of shelf, simulating dentils; shelf, moulded on edge and shaped to follow profile of pilasters and central tablet, 3" moulding with ogee and Gothic bead; metal hearth insert, reducing opening, painted black with gold rose moulding at corners; brick outer hearth; ash drop to brick bins in cellar below, probably late 19th C. (Note: Fireplaces were later converted to carry hot air system and house now also has radiator heating system).

1st Fl, north parlor: 74 x 60-1/2" high with opening 54 x 39-3/4"; moulding at surround, 1-1/4", consisting of Grecian ovolo, cove and raised bead; pilaster style side trim, carved to match trim at door and, therefore, different from mantel in south parlor; 3/4" bead on outer edge of board flanking pilasters; frieze 19-1/2" deep with reeded center tablet, moulded band at lower part of frieze with upper moulding an ovolo, lower moulding a cove and four plain fillets between; shelf shaped to follow profile of pilasters and center tablet, and with moulding along edge almost identical to that of south parlor mantel; bed moulding 2-3/8" deep consisting of quirked ovolo, fillet, quirked ovolo and cove. Hearth details, including insert, all same as that of south parlor.

Keeping room (east): a cooking fireplace, originally 7 ft wide, 4'-5" high and 32" deep, with rubble fieldstone supporting butts in the cellar which still remain; fireplace closed with a plaster wall in 1975. (See notes Worksheet, Item 9).

2nd Fl, southwest bedroom: overall 69-3/4 x 59" high with opening 30-1/4 x 29", now closed; balanced moulding at surround, 2-1/8" wide with 7/8" quirked ogee with raised bead on each side and flat recess in center, square medallion at corners with chip carved star; pilaster style side trim with two vertical bands of reeding with flat fillet between; quirked ovolo with reeded moulding below in 3" band across lower part of an otherwise plain frieze; central tablet in frieze with large horizontal, reeded diamond in center and smaller, vertical reeded diamonds in four corners; shelf shaped to follow profile of pilasters and central tablet, 5-3/4" wide, broadened to 7" wide, 4" deep, built up with overlaid boards with square edges and with bed moulding consisting of Gothic bead at top over a single quirked bead, separated from a cove moulding on the lower edge by a band of fretted Greek key design; inner hearth closed with masonry with small stove pipe opening at base now shielded by radiator; outer hearth carpeted over.

2nd Fl, northwest bedroom: 68-1/4 x 55-3/4" with original opening 30 x 28-1/2"; almost identical to that in southwest bedroom; major differences are:
a) band at lower part of frieze is a 3-1/4" moulding of four equal Gothic beads;
b) bed moulding at shelf is a large Gothic bead at top over a quirked ovolo with a single quirked bead at the lower edge; c) grille covers opening in masonry fill of inner hearth; d) Greek key fret is slightly different.

2nd Fl, southeast bedroom: 54-3/4 x 52-1/4" with opening 39-3/4 x 37-1/4"; double moulding at surround, 4-1/4" overall with 1-1/4" inner quirked ovolo, and a 1-3/4" outer ogee with raised bead; frieze decorated with 4-5/8" wide end blocks and 15-1/2" central tablet, all vertically reeded; 1" corner bead on plaster return at right end of chimney breast, repeated as 1" bead on trim board on left edge of mantelpiece; shelf shaped to follow profile of reeded pieces on frieze, 3-3/4" wide extended to 4-1/2", edge carved with two quirked ovolos; band of horizontal reeding below shelf; inner hearth closed by board

Continued . . . page 7

and outer covered with carpet.

East wing: utilizes the chimney, and incorporates a part of the stonework of, the fireplace of the keeping room of the main section; all rebuilt 1975; 68 x 72" high overall with opening 57 x 54", 31-1/2" deep; rubble stone, plastered on interior at back and sides; some recent concrete work; stone lintel; flagstone hearth; plain surround board, plain 13" deep frieze, both with 5/8" bead; full length shelf 7-1/4" wide, with 5/8" bead on lower edge; built-up supporting mouldings consisting of ovolo over ogee and ovolo bed moulding, making the shelf 4-1/2" deep overall.

Stair: replacement, except apparently for flooring at landing; believed to have been damaged by fire in 1930s or 1940s;¹ open well stair with closed string; 1st Fl to attic in four flights; risers 6-1/2" on first two runs, 7-1/4" on second two (2nd Fl to attic), treads about 10"; chair rail in 1st Fl hall is carried on wall up stair and around 2nd Fl hall and is ramped up stair but new balustrade is not ramped; newels 5-3/8" square with flat birch cap; pendants on both floors match newel caps; birch rail, almost flat on top, 3-3/4" wide, 2-1/8" deep, raised bead on lower edge, balusters 1-1/8" square; face string with small ogee edge moulding, decorated with bead with flanking ogee mouldings.

Cellar stair, Main wing: probably in original location but also replacement; utility, open tread style.

Back stair, Main wing: located in northeast corner; no evidence that it had ever run to cellar; single flight 1st Fl (keeping room) to 2nd Fl, and single flight overhead from 2nd Fl to attic; entire first flight removed, probably when East wing was constructed since access to wing was created under stair through what had initially been the under-stair cupboard; stair space was then converted to cupboard where signs of the original stair are still visible; stair on each flight was same, a straight run with winders at foot and at head; enclosure, plastered wall. 2nd Fl to attic: risers about 6-1/4", straight treads about 10"; string with 1/2" quirk bead; moulding at original door on inside, 1-7/8" overall, ogee and raised bead. Original 6-panel doors at both openings (4 panels over 2 with wide lock rail); original thumb latches removed but outlines visible on both doors; recent inappropriate half latch replacement on 1st Fl door; on 2nd Fl door Victorian rim lock replacement remains, 3-1/4 x 5", with 2-1/4" ceramic knob; trim board at attic floor opening 11" deep with 7/8" bullnose cap and 1/2" bead on lower edge; balustrade at attic level consisting of tapered octagonal newel posts, one reaching to ceiling, balusters 1-3/4 x 1", rail 3-1/4" deep, 1" wide with 2-1/2" cap with bullnose on each edge; 1/4" bead on lower edge of rail; all original.

East wing: single run 1st to 2nd Fls (wing has no cellar) with winders at foot, single step beyond door into room; enclosed with random beaded board partition; modern rail; risers varying 7-3/4" to 8-1/4", straight treads averaging 9-1/2", well worn; no string; original balustrade at 2nd Fl opening, supported at one end by plank in lieu of post, 9-5/8" wide by 1", 1/4" bead at inner edge, set in behind top tread and into floor board; supported at opposite end by 5" board, beaded both edges, set in original plaster on north wall; three horizontal boards 6 x 1", beaded both edges, mortised into board on wall, clenched-nailed to end plank, serving as rails.

1. VFPC Report 1939-43, p.14: "Restore Huntington Quarters. Stone. Part standing. Retain original wing and rebuild section burned and restore spring-house. Estimate based on Varnum's Quarters' restoration.

ESTIMATED COST--\$18,350.00"

Continued . . . page 8

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, MID-ATLANTIC REGION

WORKSHEET: CLASSIFIED STRUCTURE FIELD INVENTORY REPORT

1. PARK: . . . VALLEY FORGE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK
2. STRUCTURE'S NAME (HISTORIC): MAURICE STEPHENS HOUSE, Site of
Gen. Huntington's Quarters
3. OWNER(S) BEFORE ACQUISITION: . Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
4. H.P.O. NOS.: STATE: 5. LOCAL:
6. STRUCTURE'S ADDRESS: . 600 ft south of Rt 23
200 ft east of axis of Memorial Chapel
Valley Forge NHP, PA
7. UTM LOCATION(S): (Note: Linear Structures such as roads, long walls, etc.
need at least two; sites of over 10 acres need four)

118	4	612	71610	414	319	01410

- | | | |
|------|---------|----------|
| Zone | Easting | Northing |
|------|---------|----------|
8. ESTIMATED DATE(S) OF CONSTRUCTION: Main section 1816 by Maurice Stephens
East wing possibly 1841 by William Henry .
State Park remodelling ca 1950 and with
 9. ARCHITECTURAL AND/OR HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: Marketechs of York, Pa (Display Con-
sultants) in 1975

This house at first seems to consist of a formal 19th C. block attached to the west end of an early small stone house, and the details of the two sections superficially appear to substantiate this analysis. The low ceiling with exposed beams, the Roman ovolo used at exterior trim and the simple flush rake detail all impart an 18th C. flavor to the wing, while the higher ceilings and many of the details of the main block are characteristic of a later period.

Close examination of the stonework, however, leads to the conclusion that the larger block was built first, in its entirety, and that the wing was added at a later date, for the wall between the two parts is continuous with the other walls of the larger section, while the north and south walls of the smaller wing butt, with a neat vertical joint, into the east end wall of the larger section.

Continued . . . Worksheet 1A

10. RELATION TO SCENE:

See Worksheet 1E

11. STRUCTURE'S PRESENT CONDITION:

Although it is at present in fair structural condition, this house is in need of the following repairs:

1. Restoration of exterior cellar stair.
2. Dampproofing of cellar.
3. Replacement of lintel to support hearth of north parlor fireplace and repair of adjacent masonry. Investigation of south parlor fireplace and similar repair, if necessary.
4. Repair of flue and replacement of boiler.
5. Restoration of exterior stone masonry and stucco.
6. Re-roofing of east wing.

Continued . . . Worksheet 2B

12. TREATMENT RECOMMENDED:

EXTERIOR

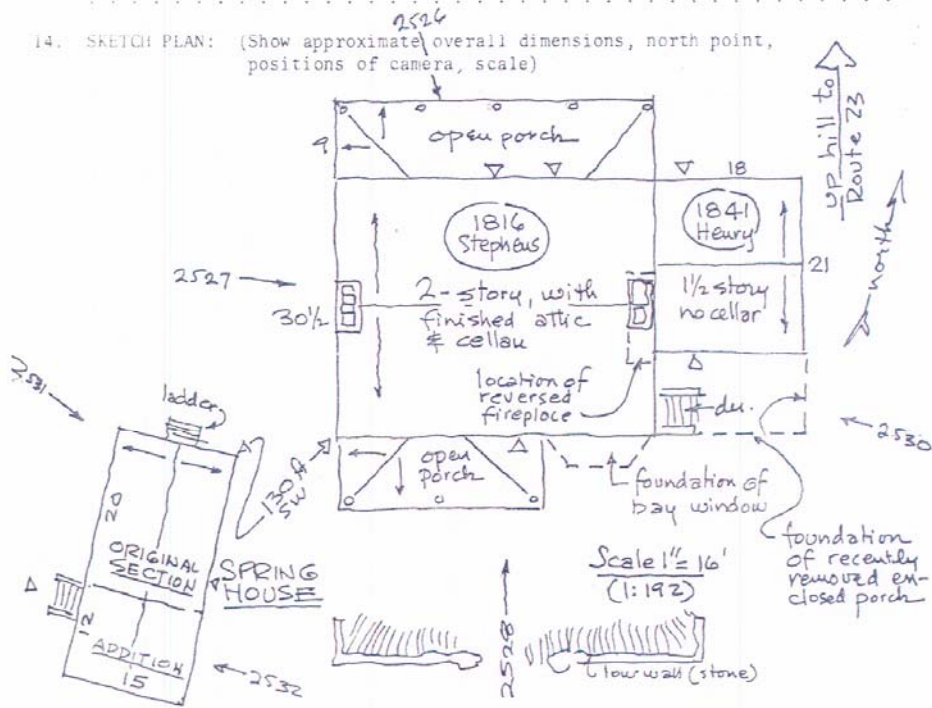
	STABILIZATION
	PRESERVATION
X	RESTORATION
	TOTAL RECONSTRUCTION
	PARTIAL RECONSTRUCTION
	ADAPTIVE RESTORATION
	NO WORK REQUIRED

INTERIOR

	STABILIZATION
	PRESERVATION
X	RESTORATION
	TOTAL RECONSTRUCTION
	PARTIAL RECONSTRUCTION
	ADAPTIVE RESTORATION
	NO WORK REQUIRED

13. PARTS NEEDING SPECIAL ATTENTION: None

14. SKETCH PLAN: (Show approximate overall dimensions, north point, positions of camera, scale)



WORKSHEET 3 PARK: V.V.F.O. STRUCTURE: MAURICE STEPHENS HOUSE . . .

15. WAS NATIONAL REGISTER FORM APPROVED? (Attach copy)

YES NO

16. ADDITIONAL DATA FOR ITEM . . . ABOVE.

17. ESTIMATED COSTS:

For PLANNING STUDIES (Identify) \$

For HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT \$ 20,000 . . .

PART 1 PART 2 PART 3 PART 4

For EXTERIOR STABILIZATION \$

For ADDITIONAL EXTERIOR TREATMENT AS RECOMMENDED . . \$ 30,000 . . .

For ADDITIONAL INTERIOR TREATMENT AS RECOMMENDED . . \$ 45,000 . . .

For ANY OTHER WORK NOT COVERED ABOVE (Itemize) . . . \$ 12,000 . . .

Fire & Intrusion Alarm System

Historic Structure Preservation Guide included in
Primary Stone Buildings (on Washington's HQ LCS)

For TOTAL COST OF TREATMENT, AS RECOMMENDED \$ 107,000 . . .

18. PREPARED BY: John Bruce Dodd DATE: April, 1981

It has been theorized that the east wing was possibly an addition to a 16 x 25 ft log house and that the eastern fireplace, which has been reversed, was originally a part of the log house; however, the fireplace is an integral part of the main block, its foundation is quite massive and extends clear to the cellar floor. A cellarless log structure would have had a much shallower foundation. No sign of underpinning can be seen.

The main section was constructed entirely at one time, as the following observations will indicate:

1. No changes exist in the homogeneous stonework of the cellar walls. (The stone center partition which engages the chimney foundation in an awkward manner is somewhat later than the outside walls despite some similarity in stonework, mortar and plasterwork.)
2. The first floor joists of sawn 4 by 10s and the flooring above them are similar throughout the length of the building and the flooring continues unbroken under partitions.
3. The attic floor boards, which are very wide and are cut with two tongues on one board, two grooves on the next, do not change at any point in this section of the house.

The entire house, including both the main block and the wing, exhibits characteristics of the early 19th C. A few examples follow:

1. Both sections are finished with plaster which, where visible near the roof plate line in the attic areas, was applied over hand-split lath attached with cut nails. Further investigation of plaster throughout the house would be most desirable, however.
2. Curved window reveals present in the wing are a detail typical of the 1840 period, particularly in this area.
3. Window sash in the main section have been replaced with vertical 2/2 light sash but at the main stair landing and in the wing, the 6/6 sash with 10 x 12 in. panes remain. The latter are typical of the period and the sash in the main section could be replaced with panes of the identical size, arranged in 6/9 configuration on the first floor and 6/6 on the second; such a substitution would fit perfectly.
4. Doors, where original, have panel arrangements and proportions of the period and the remaining fixed-pin butts and marks of earlier hardware reinforce this view.
5. The mouldings at the door trim in the hall and living rooms are balanced, with carved box corners.
6. The handsome mantels in the living rooms are delicately gouge-carved

Continued . . . Worksheet 1B

and much reeded work is used at the pilasters and on the friezes. The bedroom mantels are similarly treated.

It seems reasonable to conclude, therefore, that the main block was built by bachelor Maurice Stephens in 1816, as proclaimed by his date stone "M.S 1816" in the east gable. Maurice had owned the property, with 150 acres since it was willed to him, while he was still a minor, in 1758 by his grandmother Elinor Evans, who had bought it from William Penn in 1742. A 1761 codicil to Elinor's will stipulated that the dwelling on the property be rented until Maurice reached his majority, the proceeds going to his mother Elizabeth (daughter of Elinor), wife of David Stephens, who ". . . took no care for her support."¹

No records of the dwelling of that period exist today. Woodman states that the farm, ". . . at the time of the war, was occupied by a person named Zachary Davis; and at his house General Huntington had his quarters."² National Heritage Corp stated that tax lists show that the house and 75 acres were rented from 1772 to 1785 to Davis, who would have been host to Huntington during the Encampment.³ In 1798 the Federal Direct Tax List assessed "Morris" Stephens for a 16 x 25 ft log dwelling and a 15 x 20 ft stone milk house; this log house may have been the residence of Huntington or, perhaps, a hut was built for him within reach of the spring house. It should also be noted that Woodman, whose father served as a soldier with Washington at the Encampment and who was shown when he was a boy the historic locations of various elements of the Camp by his father, recalled, "On this property there was a number of huts erected, though I do not know of any fortifications or breastworks being thrown up on it. It was in a hut on this property, that Baron Steuben resided during a part of the time of the encampment, being engaged in teaching the soldiers military tactics; and it was upon it that the soldiery were exercised by him on these occasions."⁴

Maurice Stephens, according to Woodman, ". . . erected a large and commodious barn and house. ." but ". . . did not improve his farm to any great extent. ."⁵ Such a description would fit the large section of the house but not the east wing; Woodman is rather obviously referring to land cultivation in the latter comment regarding farm improvement. Stephens was not idle or isolated, however, for he served as a justice of the peace for more than 35 years.⁶ In 1825, two years before his death, he sold it to William Henry of Philadelphia County who evidently improved the

1. Title Search, Historical Project, VFNHP, 1978. See also LCS on Varnum's Quarters.
2. Henry Woodman, "The History of Valley Forge," Oaks, PA, Reprint 1922, p.136
3. National Heritage Corp Report, "Historical Research," 1974, p.26
4. Woodman, p.137
5. Ibid, p.136
6. Ibid, p.136

Continued . . . Worksheet 1C

property greatly, erected additional buildings,¹ added other land to it and converted "common" or grazing land for grain cultivation, so that by 1850 Woodman could say, ". . . it now stands conspicuous as one of the largest and most highly cultivated farms in that portion of the ground of the encampment. William Henry is at present one of the representatives in the legislature of Pennsylvania."²

In 1841 Henry, who already had to accommodate six of his nine children (cf. 1850 census) and other dependents, probably built the east wing as a kitchen and hired hands quarters, changing the service stair with its winders into closets and cutting a doorway through the stone wall next to the keeping room fireplace.

Henry sold the property in 1863 with 237 acres to Dr. Jeromiah M. Piersol, who died in 1872. The next owner was I. Heston Todd, an operator of limestone quarries and kilns, one of the founders of the Centennial and Memorial Association of Valley Forge and a member of the first Valley Forge Park Commission; he also donated the land for the Washington Memorial Chapel. The house, as part of Todd's estate, was advertised in 1909 as:

"On a 237 acre tract: 2-1/2 story stone dwelling house, 40' 6" x 30' 6", 3 rms on 1st flr, 4 rms, bath on 2d, attic, one story bay window on side, porch front and back, cellar and garret, heat, hot and cold water; 2 story stone kitchen addition 21 x 18, one rm on each flr, porch front; stone spring house 30 x 15; stone and frame barn 100 x 50, 15 ft overshoot, frame barn and wagon house, 56' 6" x 30' 6", 12 stalls; frame wagon house 24 x 16; chicken house; one spring and two wells."

(Norristown Daily Herald, 23 September, 1909, which includes also descriptions of five other houses, limekilns, offices and sheds).³

After two more owners, the property passed to the State in January, 1919. Subsequently, all these ancillary buildings were, unfortunately, demolished.

A 1902 photograph in Park files shows the house as Todd acquired it and as described in the newspaper report above, with Victorian porches at the north and south sides of the main block with bracketed posts and wide collars below the brackets, and one at the south side of the wing and the bay window at the south end of the original keeping room, which in mid 20th C. housed the Houdon statue of Washington, now in the Visitor Center.

1. It is, of course, possible that some of the additional houses had been built earlier by Maurice Stephens.
2. Woodman, p.137
3. Title Search, VFNHP Historical Research Team, 1978.

Continued . . . Worksheet 1D

A few physical details are worthy of further discussion:

1. The previously mentioned kitchen fireplace was originally built as a 7 ft long, 4-1/2 ft high cooking fireplace. We suggest that Henry, when he added the wing in 1841, probably had a cast iron cooking stove installed in his new kitchen, reversing the fireplace to open into the wing to the east; we believe it was Todd who subsequently revised the structure again to provide two shallow fireplaces back to back and incorporated a small furnace flue in the same chimney. Persons associated with the State Park recall the existence of two fireplaces in the 1950s. Prior to about 1951, the house was used for administrative offices; after that date, it was used as quarters, at which time, probably, the western side of the fireplace was sealed off with wall-board. In 1975, under the direction of Marketechs of York, Pa., who were designing exhibits for the house, the fireplace assumed its present backwards aspect, with the western side completely closed and plastered.
2. The main stair has been rebuilt, probably in the mid 20th C. The VFPC request for funds in 1943 included a plan to "rebuild section burned" but the only evidence of rebuilding seems to be in the stair (see footnote, LCS, p.7). Many people contacted who were associated with the Park from the 1950s onwards do not recall any reference to a fire, and it is unlikely, therefore, that damage had been major.
3. The twin parlors at the west side (possibly the northerly one was Maurice Stephens' dining room) have been joined by removal of the dividing partition. Differences in the trim between the two areas, which are picked up in the mantels, attest to the previous division and the flooring still indicates where the partition had been. The two fireplaces have been converted to serve as warm air registers; we theorize that this was done when Todd installed his furnace. Prior to this the bottom grates were used as ash dumps and two large brick bins remain below for this purpose.
4. Some rudimentary archaeology has been performed to the north and east of the house. This work needs to be coordinated and evaluated. The extant reports are quite sketchy but no 18th C. artifacts were found.
5. The 1906 Park map (J. O. Clarke) shows a large barn nearly 100 ft long to the east of the house at a distance of about 350 ft, and a smaller frame structure slightly to the north and between the two. The former is probably that mentioned by Woodman as having been built by Maurice Stephens.
6. The spring house was restored by National Heritage Corp. in 1975. The northern section, 15 x 20 ft, is the older and the size corresponds to the "stone milk house" listed on the 1798 Direct Tax List. This, therefore, is the sole remaining 18th C. structure at this site.

In summation, no part of the present stone house stood in 1778 and it

Continued . . . Worksheet 1E

seems highly possible that General Huntington had constructed for him a log hut, near the log house of Maurice Stephens, and that he and Stephens' tenant Zachary Davis used the same water source during the Encampment.

Although the form of the house is closely identifiable with the 18th C. Georgian related structures in the area, its details exhibit a clear transition from classic lines to the Victorian decoration which was to become ubiquitous. Its interior is, in fact, quite elegant. Maurice Stephens' house deserves careful preservation for its own intrinsic architectural merit; a small amount of appropriate restoration could return it to its early character.

10. RELATION TO SCENE:

Although it seems likely that no part of the house was standing in 1778, it is possible that the northern end of the spring house had already been built by the time of the Encampment. In addition, Woodman, whose recollections were apt to be correct since his information was based on what his father had shown him while he was a young boy, had no doubts that Gen. Huntington had lived in a log hut near the stone house and that Steuben had also made his quarters in a log hut on land within the Maurice Stephens property. Furthermore, Woodman affirms that Steuben's drilling of the soldiers also took place on this property.

The Maurice Stephens farm, therefore, is associated with Steuben and the building of the Army as well as with Gen. Huntington, and the house, which is architecturally fine in its own right, stands as a landmark locating these sites. By virtue of its exterior appearance, not far removed from the traditional 18th C. form, the house is also able to contribute to the scene by recalling the scattered farms that occupied the land at the time of the Encampment, a land that was dotted with more buildings than now remain.

The house is in too conspicuous a location to be suitable for use as personnel quarters but we suggest that it could be a desirable structure for use as exhibit space and meeting rooms by the Valley Forge Historical Society to augment or replace its present quarters at the Chapel.

7. Repair and replacement of first floor solid panel shutters.

Because of its prominent site, we recommend at least partial restoration to the prosperous 1840s of William Henry. Subject to the findings of an in-depth Historic Structure Report, we suggest the following:

8. Removal of both of the existing Colonial Revival porches. Reconstruction of a small kitchen porch at the south side of the wing should be considered.
9. Restoration of attic windows at both gables to their original configuration, with vertically sliding sash with 2/4, 10 x 12 inch lights. Alteration of the masonry openings at the east gable will be required.
10. Cutting off of projecting rake of upper roof gables, replacement of simple beaded board, set against wall; return of cornices on themselves at points short of the building corners.

Interior restoration, if programmed, to return the house to the 1840s period, would include:

11. Restoration of the cooking fireplace to its original location and shape, facing west into the original kitchen of the main block of the house.
12. Replacement of three doors, removed in 1975, from hall to parlor and kitchen.
13. Replacement of door hardware in east wing with appropriate mid 19th C. utilitarian thumb latches and butt hinges.
14. Replacement of hardware in original kitchen.



Historic Architecture Program
Northeast Region
Boott Cotton Mills Museum, 4th Floor
115 John Street
Lowell, MA 01852