

Abraham Van Campen House
Old Mine Road
Millbrook Vicinity
Pahaquarry Township
Warren County
New Jersey

HABS No. NJ-822

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4-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

HABS
NJ,
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4-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ABRAHAM VAN CAMPEN HOUSE

HABS No. NJ - 822

Location: East side of Old Mine Road, 2.5 miles south of Bushkill Pa., Millbrook vicinity, Pahaquarry Township, Warren County, New Jersey

USGS Bushkill Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 18.499730. 4544870.

Moved in 1974 to south side of Old Mine Road, northwest of Vancampens Brook, Millbrook, Pahaquarry Township, Warren County, New Jersey.

USGS Flatbrookville Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 18.503000. 4546590.

Present Owner: Unites States Government

Present Use: Dwelling

Significance: Historically notable for its original owner, Abraham Van Campen (1770-1848), grandson of Colonel Abraham Van Campen, the farmhouse is a good example of the frame architecture of the Valley during the second half of the 18th and the early 19th centuries. The interior is significant for its fine vernacular woodwork.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Date of erection: The one-and-a-half-story portion of the house dates from circa 1790, while the two-and-a-half-story portion dates from 1817. See Original Plans and Construction below.
2. Original and subsequent owners: Reference is to the Records Rooms of the County Clerk and Surrogate, Warren County, New Jersey, unless otherwise noted.

1766 Deed: 26 November 1766 Recorded 30 July 1821
 Book R-2, page 517 Sussex County
 Colonel Abraham Van Campen (d. 1767), of Walpack Township,
 to
 Abraham Van Campen (1736-1811), of Walpack Township,
 Consideration: "for and in consideration of the
 natural love and affection that he hath for his
 said son Abraham Van Campen," and 5 shillings

Acreage: (1) 118 (2) 30 (3) "about 200 acres"
Grant: (1) adjacent to Col. Van Campen's house lot (2)
island (3) "the House lott"; being "part or one half of a
larger tract of land purchased by the said Abraham Van
Campen [Colonel] Esq from John Van Horn & others by deed of
Indenture bearing date the eighth day of March 1732"
(Burlington, Deeds Book R, page 87); for additional
background see report for the Colonel Abraham Van Campen
House, HABS No. NJ - 430.

Abraham Van Campen (1736-1811), of Walpack Township,
to
Abraham Van Campen (1770-1848)

Grant: (Deed unlocated; Abraham the Elder probably
gave the land to his son Abraham at the time of
the latter's marriage, which has not been dated;
the first child is known to have been born to
Abraham the Younger in 1790.)

- 1811 Will: Probated 30 May 1811
Book A, page 223 Sussex County
Abraham Van Campen (1736-1811)
Bequests: to Abraham, "all the land he has heretofore
cleared" and half the barn, barrack, and
outhouses.
- 1845 Deed: 5 August 1845 Recorded 27 Aug. 1845
Book 2, page 228
Abraham Van Campen and Sarah, ux.,
to
John Blair, of Blairstown,
Consideration: \$4,360.
Acreage: (1) 114 (2) 111 68/100 (3) 99 (4) 30
(5) (6) 60 82/100 (7) 30 (8) 20 (9) 6 (10)
15 (11) 111 1/2 (12) 13
Grant: Mortgage, October 1835, covered lots (2) and
(3), Book 3, page 98; (6) "being the same Tract
that Abram Van Campen now lives on and upon which
is the House & Barn & other Improvements &c";
(11) "the Conklin Tract," (12) "the Andrew Van
Campen House lot" (excepting 3 acres sold to
widow Ann Van Campen; Lots are identified
according to numbers assigned in Partition Deed
of the real estate of Col. Abraham which was
conveyed to his son Abraham (1736-1811), divided,
in Book of Partitions, Vol. I, p. 162, between
the heirs of James, and Abraham (1770-1848),
1831; (6) was Lot 3, Share 3.

- 1846 Deed: 12 January 1846 Recorded 14 Jan. 1846
Book 25, page 458
John I. Blair and Nancy, ux., of Blairstown,
to
John Zimmerman, of Lower Smithfield Township, Monroe
County, Pennsylvania,
Consideration: \$4,700.
Acreage: (1) 60 82/100 (2) 30 (3) 6 (4) 20 (5)
(6) 111 1/2 (7) 114 (8) 20 (9) 15 (10) 13 (11) 99
Grant: (1) "being the same land and premises that
Abraham Van Campen now lives on and contains the
house, barn, and other buildings, and known in
the division of the Van Campens as lot No. 3 and
share number three...." (2) the "Willow house
lot" (3) "the meadow lot" (10) "the Andrew Van
Campen House lot".
- 1892 Will: 12 January 1887 Probated 28 December 1892
Book 9, page 43
John Zimmerman
Bequests: balance of real and personal estate to three
daughters, Emma J. Turn, Mary Ann Van Campen, and
Hannah M. Vanauken.
- 1893 Deed: 24 June 1893 Recorded 6 Jan. 1896
Book 156, page 178
Walter and Mollie Van Campen, Flora Van Campen, Ida Van
Campen, May Van Campen, and Anna Van Campen, Children of
George M. Van Campen,
to
Mary A. Van Campen, mother of the grantors,
Grant: release of rights to real estate of which John
Zimmerman, father of Mary A. Van Campen died
seized.
- 1901 Deed: 27 April 1901 Recorded 5 July 1901
Frank and Emma J. Turn,
to
Mary A. Van Campen
Consideration: \$700.
Acreage: (1) 60 82/100 (2) 111 1/2 (3) 99 (4) 7
74/100 (5) 4 34/100 (6) 11 1/2 (7) 10 75/100 (8) 21
(9) 14
Grant: all their 1/3 right to the real estate of
John Zimmerman.
- 1901 Deed: 27 June 1901 Recorded 5 July 1901
Hannah M. Van Auken and John M. Van Auken, Emma Z. Treible
and George S. Treible, Edith M. Van Auken, (spelled in this
Deed, "Vanaucken") heirs at law of John Zimmerman,

deceased, of Middle Smithfield Township, Pa.,
to

Mary A. Van Campen

Consideration: \$800.

Acreage: same as above, Frank and Emma J. Turn
to Mary A. Van Campen, 1901; plus a "Mill Lot" of 16
11/100 acres

Grant: their 1/3 interest in the land conveyed by John
Blair to John Zimmerman, Book 25, page 458.

- 1936 Deed: 23 October 1936 Recorded 13 Nov. 1936
Book 281, page 237, Document 46968
George Van Campen and Gerard S. Van Campen, Executors of
Mary A. Van Campen (Will 29,99), late of East Stroudsburg,
Pennsylvania,
to
Van Campen Estates, Phillipsburg, New Jersey
Consideration: \$1.00
Acreage: (1) 60 82/100 (2) 111 1/2 (3) 99 (4) 7 74/100
(5) 4 34/100 (6) 11 1/2 (7) 10 75/100 (8) 21 (9) 14
(10) 16 11/100 (11) 48/100
Grant: (1) (2) and (3) same conveyed to John Zimmerman
by John I. Blair, Book 25, page 458.
- 1937 Deed: 23 September 1937 Recorded 7 October 1937
Book 285, page 76, Document 49418
Gerald S. Van Campen and Anna Van Campen (ux.), of Knowlton
Township, N.J., and Walter Van Campen and Sadie M. Van
Campen (ux.),
to
Van Campen Estates
Consideration: \$1.00
Grant: all rights in the estate of John Zimmerman,
devised to Mary A. Van Campen and heirs; the
grantors are the sole heirs of Walter M. Van
Campen, deceased, son of Mary Ann Van
Campen; Walter M. and Molly Van Campen attempted to
convey the premises in 1893, Book 90, page 585;
Walter M. Van Campen died before his mother, Mary
A. Van Campen (d. 9 Oct. 1927). Tracts same as
above Deed, 1936, to Van Campen Estates.

- 1942 Deed: 20 February 1942 Recorded 2 March 1942
Book 302, page 178, Document 61094
Van Campen Estates, Inc., Phillipsburg, Warren County, New
Jersey,
to
Margaret Ware Wilckens, of New York, New York
Consideration: \$1.00
Acreage: 83 91/100 (Survey a 1941, Wilson M. Hopkins)

Grant: "Being a Part of the First Tract, All of the Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Tracts and a part of the Ninth Tract conveyed to Van Campen Estates, Inc., by two certain deeds...." above, 1936 and 1937.

- 1957 Deed: 23 December 1957 Recorded 24 Dec. 1957
Book 409, page 162
Margaret Ware Wilckens, Widow, of Blairstown,
to
Novella Retivov, of New York, New York,
Consideration: \$1.00
Acreage: 83.91
Grant: same premises conveyed to Margaret Ware
Wilckens, by Van Campen Estates, Book 302, page
178, with certain enumerated reservations; this
deed intended to convey all of the remaining
lands of the grantor in Pahaquarry Township,
"namely, the former residence of the Grantor and
approximately four acres surrounding the same on
the Easterly side of the public road...."
- 1970 Deed: 27 August 1970 Recorded 23 Oct. 1970
Book 517, page 361
Novella Retivov,
to
United States of America
Consideration: \$ 30,000.
Acreage: 5.32
Grant: part of the same conveyed to Novella Retivov
by Margaret Ware Wilckens, 1957.

3. Builder: For the one-and-a-half story dining room wing (c. 1795), no information is available. However, the Ledger of John Turn, Sr., "House Carpenter" from Middle Smithfield Township, indicates that in 1817 Turn constructed a house for Abraham Van Campen-- undoubtedly the two-and-a-half-story frame portion of the present building.
4. Original plans and construction: In 1766, Colonel Abraham Van Campen divided his land in Pahaquarry Township between two of his sons, Abraham (1736-1811) and Moses (1743-1818): Moses received the Colonel's own house (HABS No. NJ - 430), and Abraham received "the House Lott" on which he built a substantial dwelling in 1768 (HABS No. NJ - 825).

Sometime before 1800, Abraham conveyed land to his son Abraham (1770-1848). By Abraham's will, probated in 1811, Abraham the Younger received "all the land he has heretofore cleared," and perhaps this "grant" included his house lot.

As Abraham the Younger's first child arrived in 1790, it seems likely that he must have built a residence at about that time. The one-and-a-half-story structure (minus the shed addition) appears to date from that period.

The two-and-a-half-story portion was erected in 1817 by John Turn, as mentioned above. On May 3rd, Turn noted four days work by Simeon Rosenkrants "hewing timber for house" (Ledger, p.4). During June and July 1817, Turn recorded 26 1/2 days work "at house"; in October, "twenty Eight and half days work at house at one Dollar & twenty five Cents per day," totaling \$35.81; and by the first week of November he noted "forty nine and half days work at house at seventy five Cents per day," totaling \$37.12 1/2

Outbuildings:

By his will, 1811, Abraham Van Campen (1736-1811) bequeathed to his son Abraham (1770-1848), "the half of my barn, barrack and outhouses." Especially interesting is the reference to a barrack, a hay and cattle storage structure consisting of four poles and an adjustable roof. The barrack, used in Continental Europe during the Middle Ages, was brought to the New World by the Dutch and German emigrants.

In August, 1812, John Turn, Sr., charged Abraham Van Campen \$110.00 for "finishing a frame barn." (Ledger, p. 4) On December 23rd of the same year, Turn recorded in his Ledger that Abraham Van Campen owned him \$1.50 for one and a half days work, Laying [the] threshing floor."

5. Alterations and additions: The shed addition to the house which contains the present kitchen was built recently.

B. Historical Events and Persons Associated with the Building

1. Abraham Van Campen (b. July 12, 1770, d. November 28, 1848), farmer. Active in the government of Pahaquarry Township, he served as Judge of Elections (1825), Freeholder (1843-1844), and Committeeman (1827-1831, 1833, 1836). (Snell, p. 698-699).

This Abraham may have held other offices, such as Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, Warren Co., which are listed simply as "Abrabam Van Campen"; at this point, this Abraham was usually referred to as "Sr."; Abraham Jr. was the son of James Van Campen. Abraham was married to Sarah Cope (or Cape), (1771-1847), of Philadelphia.

2. John I. Blair (b. August 22, 1802). A railroad magnate of the nineteenth century, Blair was President of Warren Railroad Company; Lackawanna Coal and Iron Company; and Delaware Lackawanna and Western Railroad. He also served as one of the first members of the board of Directors for the Union Pacific Railroad, President of Belvidere National Bank and two other banks, and a Trustee of the College of New Jersey at Princeton. (Snell, p. 655).
3. John Zimmerman, farmer. Active in town government, he served as Committeeman in 1849-1850, 1860-1861, 1863-1865, 1870-1880 (Snell, pp. 698-699).

C. Sources of Information

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Map (ca. 1834-1836) of the Van Campen and Ribble lands, showing road system. From the Papers of Wells Van Campen. Now in the possession of the National Park Service, Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. House identified as occupied by "Abraham Van Campen Sr."

Turn, John, Sr. Ledger, 1811-1854. Original in the possession of the Monroe County Historical Society, Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania.

Van Campen, Abraham. "Will." Will Book A, p. 223. Sussex County Courthouse, Newton, New Jersey.

Van Campen, Howard. "Van Campen Family in Pahaquarry." Typed ms., Monroe County Historical Society, Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania.

2. Secondary and published sources:

Snell, James P. History of Sussex and Warren Counties, New Jersey. Philadelphia: Everts and Peck, 1881.

Prepared by: Lynn Beebe Weaver
Project Historian
HABS
August, 1971

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: The Abraham Van Campen House is a frame structure built in two stages; the kitchen wing 1790, and the main house, built in 1817. Of special significance is the carpentry work by John Turn, Sr., in the 1817 section, including a fine staircase with balusters inspired by the Temple of the Winds, and two corner fireplaces with vernacular mantels decorated with gouged, Neo-classical motifs.
2. Condition of fabric: Fair.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The house measures 48'-5" across its five-bay front by 32'-4" deep. The south portion is one-and-a-half stories tall, while the northern end is two-and-a-half stories.
2. Foundations: Rubble stonework.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: The original clapboard-covered frame house is hardly recognizable from the exterior as it has been covered over with white asbestos shingle siding.
4. Structural system, framing: Wood framing with hand-hewn and saw-cut spanning members. Large beams are mostly hand-hewn while smaller members such as joists are cut with up and down saw. The gabled roof structure appears to be original with large pegged central cross beam.
5. Chimneys: Two, one on the north end, large portion, serving the four corner fireplaces and another on the south end serving the large cooking hearth on the ground floor. Both are stone with exposed stone face on the exterior wall, first floor, as with many houses of this type.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Front entrance has double paneled doors with sidelights, three lights each, and a thirteen-light transom with pediment above. This decorative entrance appears to be very old, perhaps original. The rear just opposite the main entry appears to be original with early hardware.

- b. Windows and shutters: Most windows appear to be original, nine-over-six-light and six-over-six-light double-hung sash. The windows in the gables are four-light in the main house and nine-light in the kitchen wing. Shutters on the front windows, large portion, are wood paneled on the first floor and wood-louvered on the second floor.
7. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Gable, composition shingle covering.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: The eave cornices are deep and are returned on the gable on the two-and-a-half-story section.
- C. Description of Interior:
 1. Floor plans:
 - a. First floor: The first-floor plan has a spacious central hallway with stairs to upper floor. To the right are two parlors with corner fireplaces and to the left is the original kitchen with walk-in fireplace. A small kitchen addition has been added to the front, completing the rectangular shape.
 - b. Second floor: The second floor has two rooms directly above the parlors. The small room at the head of the stairs, characteristically a sewing room and clothes closet, has been converted to a bath. There are two bedrooms over the original house.
 - c. Basement: There is a full basement under the 2 1/2 story section.
 2. Stairways: The main stairway is a straight-run stairway with turned balusters and newel post. In the southwest corner of the southern portion, a winding stairway connects the first and second floors. The attic is reached by a stairway in the center hall. The basement is reached by stairs under the main stairway and by an exterior stairway.
 3. Flooring: Floor boards throughout are original and very wide.
 4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster on lath with wainscot wood paneling in part of original kitchen. Ceilings are plastered around exposed structure in some cases. Basement walls and ceiling have exposed structure.
 5. Doorways and doors: Interior doors are the eighteenth-century raised, six-panel type and board and batten.

6. Decorative features and trim: The interior has virtually unspoiled eighteenth-century detailing. The wide hall has a handsome staircase and wood-paneled soffit. There are chair rails throughout over a wide, flat horizontal board dado. The mantels are very early. Of particular note are the two corner fireplaces (first-and-second-floor northwest corner rooms) with vernacular mantels decorated with gouged, Neo-classical motifs.
7. Hardware: The hardware is early, consisting mostly of open spring latches and cast iron butt door hinges.
8. Mechanical Equipment: Modern lighting and floor furnace heater in front hall. No ductwork in house.

D. Site:

The building faces east on the top of a small rise above the Old Mine Road. Outbuildings are gone with exception of one combination shed-corn crib.

Prepared by: John McRae
Project Supervisor
HABS
1971

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) in cooperation with the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, supervised by the National Park Service and funded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The project, which extended from 1967 to 1971, was under the general direction of James C. Massey, Chief of HABS. This structure was measured and drawn in the summer of 1971 under the direction of John M. McRae (University of Florida), Project Supervisor, by Jack L. Finglass (Carnegie-Mellon University), Martin J. Rosenblum (University of Illinois), architects, and Stephen J. Kirk (University of Kansas), student assistant architect, in the HABS field office at Columbia, New Jersey, in the project area of the Tocks Island Reservoir and the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. The historical data was written by Lynn Beebe Weaver, project historian, in 1971. This written data was edited for transmittal to the Library of Congress in the summer of 1980 by Alison K. Hoagland of the HABS staff. The photographs were taken by George A. Eisenman in 1971.