

The Jacob Evans House  
Marlton-Medford Road  
Near Marlton, Evesham Township  
Burlington County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-540

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5.

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Seymour Williams, F.A.J.A., District Officer  
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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Owner: Dr. Edgar J. Haines of Medford, New Jersey

Occupants:

Date of Erection: Main unit 1769, per brickwork figures  
in east gable end; lesser unit 1715 and re-  
built 1769-1782; frame east end unit and  
porches about 1840

Architect: Unknown

Builder: Jacob Evans, owner

Present Condition: Original

Number of Stories: Two and one-half, over cellar

Materials of Construction:

Foundation - stone masonry

Exterior walls - brick in older units,  
now stuccoed; frame in latest units

Interior walls - brick party-walls;  
frame partitions

Roof - gable, now standing seam tin-  
roofed

Chimneys - brick, built inside gable  
end walls

Historical Data:

Three clues to the identity of original owners and to the dates of erection of this three-part house are provided by these items found in the building:

- (1) Iron latchplate perforated with the initials T. E. and figures 1715, now screwed to outside of south entrance door to minor unit of house. (See photograph herewith, and drawing No. 23).

- (2) A latchplate of profile similar to that above mentioned, likewise marked I. E. 1769. (See photograph herewith, and drawing No. 23).
- (3) Figures 1769 formed of bricks in the east gable end wall of the larger unit of the house, and now concealed by garret of the minor unit built against that wall. (See drawing No. 9).

Search of title to this property back through successive owners as recorded in the County and Province provides the following authentic information.

By an unrecorded deed of 2 August 1701, Margaret Cook of Philadelphia conveyed to William Evans Jr. of Burlington County, N. J., for 120 pounds a tract of 1000 acres in the latter place, and "on the site now occupied by J. K. Evans' residence, he built his mansion." (a) By a similarly unrecorded deed of "ye six day of ye eighth month in ye year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and one", Himeron, "being an Indian King," gave to William Evens of Burlington County, for 5 Pounds the quitclaim and release to "all that tract of land situated in West Jersey upon ye brainches of ancokus creek which was surveyed unto walter newbery, it being one thousand acres". (b)

It is found on record, accordingly, that this 1000 acre tract, 112½ acres of which were in the bounds of Burlington town, was conveyed from one Walter Clark of Newport, R.I., by deed of 8 May 1689 to Walter Newberry, of same place, merchant; from Newberry on 27 July 1695 to Arthur Cook of Philadelphia, merchant; and from John and Thomas Cook, sons and devisees of said Arthur Cook, decd., by deed

(a) Woodward & Hageman, Hist. Burlington & Mercer Counties, N.J., 1883, p. 313. Evesham Twp., Brlgtn. Co.

(b) Original deed in possession of Joseph Stokes Evans, says De Coñ, Moorestown and her Neighbors, p. 127; photostat copy lent to present writer. This Indian deed is mentioned in reference (a) p. 324 but misquoted there, naming Thomas Evans as grantee and the date as 1801. In fact, he was but 8 yrs. old in 1701, and died in 1783.

of 1st April 1700 to his widow, Margaret Cook. (c)

William<sup>2</sup> Evans (d) who thus acquired this large estate, settled thereon, being among the pioneers of Evesham Township. He had married in 10th month 1693, Elizabeth Hanke, according to the records of Darby Monthly Meeting (Penna.). She became a woman preacher or "minister among Friends". In his will dated 21st of 12th month (Feb.) 1728/29, proved 24 March next, he as William Evans of Evesham, Burlington County, yeoman, provided for his wife Elizabeth, children: Thomas, Jane, and John (a minor), son-in-law William Hudson, and grandson William Evans, describing his Home Farm of 50 acres adjoining his son Thomas' farm, 50 acres between Henry Ballinger and John Sharp, and 6 negro slaves. The inventory of his personal estate amounted to L901:7:7, including bonds, bills and book debts of L166, silver tankard and 6 spoons. (N.J. Archives, XXIII, 1st, Abstracts of Wills).

(c) N. J. Archives XXI, 525, abstracts of Liber B, part 2 of West New Jersey Deeds.

(d) William<sup>1</sup> Evans, carpenter, mar. in 8 mo. 1663 Jean Hodges per records of Banbury Monthly Meeting of Friends, England, came to West New Jersey and settled on Northampton River (Rancocas Creek) about 1677, among the first settlers of Evesham Twp., Burlington County. He d. 1688 and his widow "Jane Evans of Eshem" (sic) in 1697 leaving a will dated 16 February and proved 2 Nov., in which she devised personal property to Sarah the widow of Thomas Evans decd., to son William Evans and to Elizabeth Nichols. The son Thomas Evans "of Wellingburrow", Brlghtn. Co., on the north side of Rancocas Creek, by his will of 2 May 1692, proved 23 Sept. 1693, named his wife Sarah (Hackney), minor daughter Sarah Evans, brother William Evans, and sister Agnes. The inventory of his estate allowed 76 Pounds for his house and 400 acre plantation "at Coerxing near William Evans." The surviving brother William<sup>2</sup> Evans is the party above considered. (N. J. Archives XXIII, 157, Abstracts of Wills.)

Thomas<sup>3</sup> Evans of Evesham Township(e), mentioned in his father's will of 1729 as then owning a 50 acre farm adjacent as above cited, is evidently the subject of the initialed 1715 latch plate first mentioned above. The inference therefrom is that he built the first unit of this house in that year of his first marriage. The second and larger unit of the house was erected 54 years later, in 1769, and by his son Jacob Evans, as indicated by the initialed 1769 latchplate mentioned second above. From the fact that the garret of the lesser unit of the house conceals the brick dated gable end of the larger one, it is obvious that this, the 1715 unit, has been rebuilt or had a second story added subsequent to 1769. In the basement, a vertical joint between the foundations of the two units also indicates their having been built at different times.(f)

In his will dated 17 June 1782 and proved 10 February 1783, this Thomas Evans of Evesham Township, devised 10 Pounds to Lower Evesham (Quaker) Meeting; his lower cedar swamp at Atcoatco to his grandson Samuel, son of Isaac Evans; a silver tankard to his son Jacob for lifetime and then to the latter's son Thomas; 5 acres of the "Shingle Lot" cedar swamp to son Jacob, 5 at Atcoatco to the sons of his son William Evans decd., and as much each to sons Joshua and Caleb; "my upper lot" to grandson Samuel, Thomas and Isaac, the eldest living sons of his sons Joshua and Caleb; a cedar swamp to his grandson Enoch Evans and to his own sons Jacob, Joshua and Caleb; a book to his daughter-in-law Sarah Evans; a desk to his grandson William, son of William Evans decd., and pewter to his daughter Martha wife of Thomas Dudley.(g)

(f) "Thomas Evans, son of William Evans the pioneer of what is now Mt. Laurel Township, located in what is now Evesham Township, on the farm now occupied by J.K. Evans, about two miles from Marlton village, on the road to Medford. ....and on the site now occupied by J. K. Evans' residence, he built his mansion, for it was a mansion in those days. The door hangings and other iron work about the house.....were made by the blacksmith of that period. At the rebuilding of the Evans temple, the door latch and plate were preserved and placed upon the front door of the present residence. Upon them are marked his initials T. E."(a)

(g) N. J. Archives XXXV, 138, Abstracts of Wills.

It is apparent from the 1769 latchplate and from this 1782 will that testator, Thomas<sup>3</sup> Evans, had disposed of his homestead previous to the latter date. Apparently, he, being a widower, continued residence there in the rebuilt house of the son. In fact, by a deed of 10 June 1753, the eldest son Jacob Evans had purchased from his father 215 acres of the homestead farm for 300 Pounds, being the home farm and its 1715 house.

Jacob<sup>4</sup> Evans, the builder of the two brick units of the house, born in 1725, married first Rachel Eldridge and second, in 1756, Mary Cherrington. From him the property passed to his son Thomas<sup>5</sup> Evans.

Thomas<sup>5</sup> Evans, of Evesham Township, in his will dated 18 July 1813, devised to his wife Mary 500 Pounds, the "goods which she bought with her after our marriage", "the southeast room below stairs in the mansion house where I now dwell, and likewise the northwest below stairs room in the house where my son Joseph Evans now dwells, to make use of either of them", a \$150 annuity during widowhood to be paid by his sons Joseph, Jacob and Thomas Evans, and "the privelege in the northwest room upstairs in the house where my said son Joseph lives, also a privilege in common of the cellar, pump and oven, also the same privilege in and about the house where I now dwell."

To his son Joseph Evans he devised "the plantation where he now dwells, excepting 65 acres to be laid off at the easterly end.....as shall be most convenient for both tracts"; to his son Jacob Evans 5 acres woodland thereof and the remaining 60 acres to his six daughters equally.

To the son Jacob Evans he devised "that part of my plantation in Evesham as hath been used and occupied by" him, and to the son Thomas Evans "that part of my said plantation in Evesham where I now dwell and occupy", with 300 Pounds.(h)

Jacob<sup>6</sup> Evans, son and devisee abovenamed in 1813 continued to occupy his part of the paternal farm. In his will dated 29 July 1839, he devised "unto my two sons Isaac S. and Amos Evans all that farm and plantation whereupon I now live and the farm and plantation that I purchased of my cousin Thomas Evans, adjoining thereto, to be equally divided between them."<sup>(1)</sup> Apparently, the two sons divided the homestead so that Isaac obtained a 78½ acre part on which this house stood.

Isaac S.<sup>7</sup> Evans, by his will dated 26 June 1876, bequeathed "unto my nephew Joseph K. Evans my farm situate in the township of Evesham, containing about 78½ acres of land."

Joseph K.<sup>8</sup> Evans who thus in 1876 acquired the venerable homestead, was residing there in 1883.(a) In his will dated 9 June 1919, he devised the farm to his step-sons Edgar J. and Joseph P. Haines. Finally, by deed of 31 March 1923 the latter of these two devisees, being of Moorestown, conveyed to the former, Dr. Edgar J. Haines of Medford, both Burlington County, his half interest in the property, describing the farm as lying on both sides of the road from Marlton to Medford, in Evesham Township.

Reference:

Search of title in land and probate records of Burlington County by Goodwin D. Stackton, H.A.B.S. draftsman, recd. 16 Feb. 1940

*Lewis D. Cook*

Supervising Historian 18 September 1941

Approved:

*Seymour Williams*

SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F. A. I. A.  
District Officer

(1) Burlington County will Book E, p. 355. Jacob Evans mar. Elizabeth Snowden and had issue: Abigail, Rachel, Elizabeth, Esther, Isaac S., Amos and Mary.