

The Gill Homestead  
At Tavistock, Camden County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of New Jersey

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

The Gill Homestead  
At Tavistock, Camden County, New Jersey

Owner: The First Camden National Bank and Trust  
Company

Date of Erection: Between 1742 and 1752

Architect:

Builder: John Gill, II

Present Condition: Fair

Number of Stories: Two

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - frame  
construction, siding

Interior walls - plaster

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - pitch, wood  
shingles

Historical Data:

The land upon which this house was built was originally a part of a four hundred acre tract of unlocated land in the third tenth of Edward Bylling which was transferred to William Welsh. Welsh sold his land to Thomas Cox of Middlesex County, England, in 1685. That same year Cox gave his power of attorney to Francis Collins to have the land surveyed,

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which was done by Thomas Sharp in 1688. Cox left the land to his son John of Saint Martins-in-the-Fields who sold it to his nephew, another John Cox, a London grocer. John Cox arranged to have the tract resurveyed by John Gill. Gill found that it contained only 353 acres instead of the 400 acres it was suppose to have. In 1741 Gill bought the tract for L90.

The land passed by will, proved in 1748, to John Gill II. John Gill built the house of the survey. The property remained in the Gill family until it was sold to Horace Roberts in 1917. However, the Gills had ceased to occupy it for many years; it was occupied by tenants farmers after the time of John Gill IV. Roberts sold it to Frank Middleton. The property came in the possession of the First Camden National Bank and Trust Company in 1934.

The only historical incident in connection with the house occurred in 1777. On October of that year Count Donop crossed from Philadelphia to attack Fort Mercer. He stopped at Haddonfield and made his headquarters at the Gill House.

Bibliography:

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Walter C. Rutt  
Supervising Historian

Approved:

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