

The William Force House
343 South Livingston Avenue
Livingston, Essex County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-556

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N.J.
7-LIV
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

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

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The William Force House
343 South Livingston Avenue
Livingston, Essex County, New Jersey

Owner: Harry W. Hauck

Dates of Erection: About 1775 and 1796

Architect:

Builders: Samuel Force and son Thomas Force

Present Condition: Excellent

Number of Stories: One and one-half and two and
one-half, with cellar

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - timber
frame shingle covered

Interior walls - lath
and plaster on studding

Chimneys- brick in main
house and stone in kitchen
wing, all on inside of
exterior walls; porches,
garage, and hot house all
later additions

Roof - modern asphalt
shingles

Historical Data:

Samuel Force, by a deed of 15 March 1796,
conveyed a 60 acre tract from his farm "at a place
called Northfield" in Springfield Township, Essex
County to his son Thomas Force, the southeastern

quarter of the tract being separated by the road leading from Canoe Brook to Caldwell in its southwest to northeast course (now Livingston Avenue). Its gable end facing the upper side of this highway and near the intersecting southwestern line of this tract, the farmhouse here surveyed was built. This Thomas Force acquired also a 5 acre tract called the Pond Lot, on the lower side of the road, from his brother James Force and wife Betsey by their deed of 1st Dec. 1802, which squared out a reentrant northeast corner of his farm, being part of the land which grantor had received by deed from his father Samuel Force. And by a deed of 15 Aug. 1799, Thomas Force acquired also the 41.69 acre tract from John Mulford and wife Abigail on the northwest side of the road, being the saw mill lot. "The old saw mill of Deacon Thomas Force located on Canoe Brook, midway between the Northfield road and the turnpike was revived in 1852 by John Emmons ."

And being in possession of this real estate, this Thomas Force by his will dated 10 April 1827 directed his executor, William B. Force (for whom we name this house) to sell "the land deeded to me by my father" if necessary so to cover the debts and legacies. Accordingly twelve years later, the executor and his wife Martha Ann of Livingston Township, Essex County, conveyed by deed of 16 Feb. 1839 to John Emmons of New York City, for \$5000 the three tracts above described "with all and singular the houses, buildings", etc. (The part of Springfield Township in which the farm was situated had been set off, with part of Caldwell, in 1813 as Livingston Township).

This John Emmons resided in Livingston Township, abovementioned, and apparently in this house, at the date of his will 30 May 1868, in which he devised all his estate to his wife Eliza Ann Emmons for her lifetime, and thereafter to his

*Wm. H. Shaw, History of Essex & Hudson Counties, New Jersey, 2 Vols. publ. 1884; Vol. II, p. 858

sons William and George, and he died 8 June following. By a deed of 10 April 1872, George Emmons and wife Betsey and William Emmons, all of Livingston Township, conveyed to Carl Hinderer of Newark, in same county, for \$11,500, the two tracts, 60 and 5 acres, first described above, and a third tract which they had purchased by Deed of 29 March 1872, being 30.33 acres. But as a result of proceedings in foreclosure of the mortgage given by Hinderer, the property was seized by the sheriff and conveyed back to the Emmons brothers by deed of 20 Jan. 1874.

One of them, William Emmons, with wife Cecelia, then conveyed to the other, George Emmons, his undivided half of the three tracts by deed of 19 May 1884, and he with wife Adella, conveyed to Frank C. O'Reilly the same 98 acres by deed of 22 July 1885. Ralph O'Reilly, then of Paris, France, conveyed 54 acres thereof to Helen S. Kroeger by deed of 11 March 1925, and she sold it to Herbert Austin by deed of 30 April 1925, in which the property is described as being in Livingston Township and bounded on the southwest by the northerly line of lands belonging to the City of Orange, and on the southeast by Livingston Avenue. Austin laid out the property in building lots, and conveyed nos. 17-18-19-20 to Hermine B. Tuttle by deed of 14 Nov. 1927. The property was seized by sheriff and conveyed to Lawrence Greggio by deed of 20 Nov. 1935 from whom it passed (with lots nos. 15 and 16) to Harry W. Hauck and wife by one of 1st of June 1937.

Bibliography:

A search of title in Essex County Land and Probate records by Cornelius McPhillips, abstractor, H.A.B.S.

Architectural Analysis:

This two-part farmhouse is the result of Thomas Force's addition of the major unit of two stories and garret about 1796 to his father Samuel Force's earlier cottage of the so called "salt box" New England type, which lesser unit thus became the kitchen service wing. This is evident in the double framing of the common wall, the two inches difference in levels of first floor lines, and in the window in the attic of the kitchen being now closed over by the subsequent erection of the higher gable end wall of the main house against it. In general plan, this house resembles the Henry Wade house at No. 554 on the same avenue (NJ-619). The veranda, porches, garage, and the hot house are of course modern anachronisms, but the structure of the house and the interior finish remain as original with such allowances to improvements as plumbing, heating, and drainage.

Lewis D. Cook

Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams

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