

Thomas Sinnickson House  
"Gamble Farmhouse"  
Near Aldine  
Alloway Township, Salem County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-638

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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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Thomas Sinnickson House  
"Gamble Farmhouse"  
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Owner: (and occupant) Newton W. Grice

Dates of Erection: About 1760 and 1897

Architect: Unknown

Builders: Unknown (possibly one Gamble)

Present Condition:

Original, with two story frame west end replacing one story brick kitchen demolished in 1897\*. Pent roof restored. Front porch and windows cut in east end are modern additions.

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

Materials of Construction:

Foundation - stone masonry  
Exterior walls - brick in original unit,  
frame in modern end  
Interior walls - brick party wall and  
frame partitions  
Chimneys - brick  
Roof - gable

Historical Data:

A search made in the Land and Probate records in Salem County and in the office of the Secretary of State has been unable to discover the owners# of this house previous to Thomas Sinnickson

\* Information by the present owner

# Cut on two different bricks in the front wall of the house are found "M. Wood" and "H.S.", neither of which names have been identified, unless they are those of bricklayers or of tenants.

in 1817(a). Apparently it was part of the 1750 acre estate in Pennsylvania and in Salem County which was devised to son John Gamble and his heirs by the will of William Gamble of Dublin, Ireland, merchant, dated 17 July 1749 and proved 29 November 1773.(b)

By a deed of Division of the real estate of Thomas Sinnickson, deceased intestate, dated 9 September 1817, the appointed commissioners assigned to one of the heirs, his brother Andrew Sinnickson(c), the farms and lots numbered one to ten on a map

(a) Thomas Sinnickson, eldest son of Andrew Sinnickson of Penn's Neck, Salem County, was b. there 21 Dec. 1744 and d. in the city of Salem, intestate and without issue; gravestone in St. John's Chyd. He mar. by license of 4 July 1769 Sarah Hancock, dau. of Judge William Hancock (whose house has been surveyed as NJ-54). To Thomas Sinnickson was devised by the will of his said father, dated 1784 and proved 1791, the tract of land in the Precinct of Penn's Neck "which I put into his possession about seven years ago, and which is now in the tenure of Gamaliel Garrison," obviously not the farm here considered. He built a house in the city of Salem and resided there most of his life, having been notable as a member of Congress 1797-99, Judge of Salem County Court and County Treasurer. (Pedigree of Sinnickson, Thos. Shourds, Hist. and Genealogy of Fenwick's Colony, publ. 1876, pp. 191).

(b) Abstract of will, publ. in N.J. Archives XXXIV, 194

(c) Andrew Sinnickson 4th, second son of Andrew Sinnickson of Penn's Neck, was b. 2 March 1749 and d. 23 July 1819 in the city of Salem, his gravestone being in St. John's Chyd. there. He mar. 1. Margaret Bilderback and had sons Henry and Andrew, 2. Margaret Johnson and had issue Mary, Robert, Thomas and John, 3. Sarah (Copner) Sinnickson, widow, and had a dau. Ann, and 4. Elizabeth Morris by whom Rebecca and Sarah. (T. Shourds, cited above).

annexed thereto, describing No. 6 as "A farm situated in the Township of Upper Alloways Creek in Salem County, known by the name of the "Gamble Farm", a tract of 296 acres fronting on the south side of a branch of Alloways Creek and extending southeastward across the road which led to Cumberland.\* No recital of title antecedent appears, and the deduction is that Thomas Sinnickson purchased the farm from John Gamble, or his heirs by a deed unrecorded.

Andrew Sinnickson of the town of Salem, who thus came into possession of the farm and its house (here considered), by his will of 24 November 1817, proved in 1819, ordered "All of the before mentioned legacies.....to be made up out of the sale of the farm in Upper Alloways Creek, known by the name of the Gamble Farm, laid off to me by the Commissioners appointed on the Division of the Real Estate of Thomas Sinnickson, deceased"..... "And my will further is that if my two sons Thomas and John do choose to take the before mentioned farm in Upper Alloways Creek at the sum of \$4000 and pay off the before mentioned legacies, they may not make sale of it but hold it between them as joint tenants."

Thomas and John Sinnickson took up the option on the farm as made in their father's will above cited, for by deed of 23 August 1824 John conveyed his half part to his brother Thomas, describing the whole as comprising 300 acres, both parties being described as living in Salem City.

Thomas Sinnickson(d) who thus came into full possession of "Gamble Farm" in 1824, with wife Elizabeth, and being of the town of Salem, gave deed of 4 July 1829 conveying to Isaac Johnson and Jacob Hitchner of Pittsgrove Township for \$3100 the said 300 acre farm "Together with all and singular the buildings", etc., reciting his title from the first named Thomas Sinnickson as outlined above.

\* The road from Ballenger's Mill to the Village of Aldine. The house stands on the northwest side of it.

(d) Thomas Sinnickson, 1786-1873, a Judge of Salem County Court, member of the State Legislature and Member of Congress 1828-29, buried in St. John's Chyd., Salem, (Shourds, cited above).

Johnson and Hitchner, the grantees abovenamed, being still of Pittsgrove, sold to Nicholas Olmsted of Upper Alloways Creek for \$250 by deed of 1st April 1830, some 30 acres of the 300 acre Gamble Farm, reciting the title from Thomas Sinnickson as outlined above, and including the farmhouse here surveyed.

Nicholas Olmsted being of Pilesgrove Township, passed title to Aaron D. Harris of Upper Alloways Creek Township by deed of 30 March 1837, in consideration of \$400. Harris held the property until 5 March 1872, and evidently occupied it, for on that date he and his wife Mary, being of the latter township, in which the farm is located, conveyed it for \$5600 to Franklin Frazer of the same place as part of 73 acres. On 25 October following, James Gosling and Ruth P. Frazer, administrators of the estate of Franklin Frazer of Bridgeton, deceased, conveyed to William S. Harris of Upper Alloways Creek the same 73 acres by their deed of that date.

Harris and his wife Anna D., of the place last named, passed the farm back to Aaron D. Harris then of Deerfield Township, Cumberland County, by deed of 8 January 1876, he being possibly the same named owner in 1837 above cited, in consideration of \$4800. On 20 March following, the grantee Harris and his wife passed title to Christena Boon of Upper Pittsgrove Township, Salem County, for the same price. The last named being of Alloway Township, gave her deed on 2 January 1897 conveying the same farm to Winfield Scott Grice and his wife Mary Jane of Upper Pittsgrove.

These grantees died in 1925 and 1929, respectively, leaving surviving two sons, Clayton Grice and Newton W. Grice, of whom the former conveyed his interest in this 73 acre farm on the road from Ballenger's Mill to Aldine to the latter by deed of 24 June 1931, both being then of Daretown

Salem County, and the said Newton W. Grice is the owner and occupant of the house at the time of our survey thereof in 1939. He is in the agricultural supplies business in Daretown.

**Bibliography:**

A search of title in Land and Probate records of Salem County and of those deposited in the office of the Secretary of State, by Oscar F. Benjamin, Research Editor, as reported 5 February and 13 May, 1940

*Lewis D. Cook*  
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Supervising Historian

Approved: .

*Seymour Williams*  
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SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A.I.A.  
District Officer