

William Ennes House
Old Mine Road
Sandyston Township, Sussex County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-431

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...

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

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William Ennes House
Old Mine Road
Sandyston Township, Sussex County, New Jersey

Owner: Dr. H. Smetana
70 Haven Avenue
New York City

Date of Erection: 1751

Architect:

Builder: William Ennes (probable)

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: One and one-half

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - stone; one
story frame addition later date

Interior walls - plaster,
open beams

Inside stone chimney, brick
top above roof

Roof - pitch

Historical Data:

This house is built on land formerly owned by Richard Gardner, one of the proprietors. The land was bought from Gardner by William Ennes in 1753. Ennes was the son of a Scotchman who settled in Ulster County, New York. He came to the Delaware Valley in 1738 and was prominent as the school teacher of the Minisink

region. It is assumed that he built the house. On a stone between the two windows on the east elevation appears the date 7-3-1751 which is accepted as the date of erection; however, the farm was not in the possession of William Ennes at that time, but since Richard Gardner never occupied the farm, it is assumed that a tenant may have erected the house and the tenant may have been William Ennes who might have leased the farm before purchase or else purchased it under contract not receiving the deed until 1753.

William Ennes lived and died in the Minisink region. He raised a family of eleven. One of his daughters married Simon Cortright, who is the next known owner. Simon was prominent in the region serving three terms in the Legislature and fifteen years as Judge of the Court of Common Pleas. He was a large land owner; in addition to his inheritance he purchased over 1000 acres in the vicinity. After Simon's death the property passed to Jacob Kyte, and then from Jacob Kyte to his son John who was the owner in 1881; however, a photograph taken in 1890 calls the house the Alexander Ennes House; it is not known just why. The next owner after John Kyte is Mark Siegler, who sold to Hiram Snook from whom the present owner purchased in 1935.

There is interesting local tradition in connection with this house. It is assumed that the foundation and the stone section about window sill high was built originally as a kind of fort for defense against the Indians and that it was turned into a house later. The date 1751 is supposed to represent that change. The owner calls it old Normanock Fort.

Structurally, this is an extremely interesting house. The most interesting feature is the fireplace which stands a couple of inches from the main wall of the house. This in itself seems to lend credence to the tradition that it was a fort; further, the small window

in the west elevation is called the fort window. It is a small deep set window.

Bibliography:

Bailey, R. F. Pre-Revolutionary Dutch Houses and Families in Northern New Jersey and Southern New York New York, The William Morrow and Company, 1936

Local tradition

Walter E. Rutt
Supervising Historian

Approved:

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

DW 9/3/37

William Ennes House

HABS No. NJ-431

.1 mi. W of Old Mine Road
Montague Vicinity
Sandyston Township
Sussex County
New Jersey

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An addendum to
Ennes House
Old Mine Road
Hopatcong Vicinity
Sussex County
New Jersey
in HABS 1941 Catalog

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY

WILLIAM ENNES HOUSE

HABS No. NJ-431

An Addendum to
Ennes House
Old Mine Road
Hopatcong vicinity
Sussex County
New Jersey
in HABS 1941 Catalog

Location: .1 mile west of Old Mine Road (State Route 521), 1.7 miles northwest of Hainesville, Montague vicinity, Sandyston Township, Sussex County, New Jersey.

USGS Milford Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator
Coordinates: 18.514450. 4568420.

Present Owner: United States Government.

Present Use: Vacant

Significance: This small stone dwelling, one of the three remaining structures which formed the village of Minisink, was built in 1751, according to an inscription. It was the home of William Ennes, one of the first teachers in Sussex County. Though added to at turn of the twentieth century and again in 1952, the original one-room-and-loft house has had only minor alterations.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Date of erection: 1751, according to a date scratched in the side of the house.

2. Architect: Not known

3. Original and subsequent owners:

1753 Date: 5 Oct. 1753

Richard Gardner, Proprietor of New Jersey
to William Ennes

Both Bailey and Decker refer to this deed as including the house, but no source is given and it could not be located (1970).

WILLIAM ENNES HOUSE
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The following are recorded in the Sussex County Hall of Records,
Newton, New Jersey:

- 1775 Date: 15 July 1775 Rec. 15 June 1790
Deed Book Vol. A p. 430
William Ennes of Delaware Township in the County of
Northampton in the Province of Pennsylvania, schoolmaster
to
Daniel Ennes of Sandyston in the County of Sussex in the
Province of East New Jersey, Blacksmith.
2020 pounds for 3 tracts
1) "Water Pond", 8 acres from Cornelius Westbrook, 29 June
1775.
2) 9 3/4 acres, 36 perches, from Cornelius & Martin
Ryerson, no date
3) 13 acres, from Richard Gardner, no date.
- 1811 Date: 3 Oct. 1811 Rec. 11 Oct. 1811
Deed Book Vol. W p. 571 P. 571
Daniel Ennes and Magdelane (wife)
to Alexander Ennes
\$1000 for 8 tracts including: 8 acres, 9 3/4 acres 36
perches, and 13 acres from William Ennes.
- 1832 Date: 8 June 1832 Rec. 3 June 1835
Deed Book Vol. R-3 p.111
Alexander Ennest & Roanna (wife)
to Daniel Ennest
\$724 for 104 acres
- 1844 Date: 12 August 1844 Rec. 17 Sept. 1844
Deed Book Vol. C-4 p. 642
Daniel Ennis & Jemima (wife)
to Alexander Ennis (the same Alexander as in 1832)
\$1700 for 104 acres
- 1847 Date: 31 August 1847 Rec. 1 May 1850
Deed Book Vol. I-4 p. 573
Andrew Shiner late Sheriff
Alexander Ennis by Sheriff
to David Thompson
\$302.33 for 170 acres
- 1850 Date: 1 May 1850 Rec. 1 May 1850
Deed Book Vol. I-4 p. 575
David Thompson and wife
to Samuel T. Sigler
\$1756 for 95.07 acres

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- 1876 Date: 2 March 1876 Rec. 8 April 1876
Deed Book Vol. T-6 p. 242
Mark Sigler, admr. of estate of Samuel Sigler, dec'd.
to Eli Fuller
\$ 2394.20 for 94.82 acres
- 1877 Will of Eli Fuller
Written: 19 Aug. 1866 Probated: 20 Sept.
1877
Will Book Vol. H p. 89
All lands and real estate of dec'd. to James B. Fuller
- 1878 Date: 2 Feb. 1878 Rec. 4 Feb. 1878
Deed Book Vol. Z-6 p. 135
James B. Fuller to Seth W. Sigler
\$1800 for 94.82 acres
- 1900 Seth W. Sigler died intestate 2 June 1900
- 1901 Date: 20 April 1901 Rec. 23 April 1901
Deed Book Vol. T-9 p. 488
Elizabeth Sigler (widow of Seth W.)
to Samuel L. (T.) Sigler
Jesse Sigler
- 1901 Date: 21 Dec. 1901 Rec. 26 Dec. 1901
Deed Book Vol. W-9 p. 28
Jessie L. Sigler & wife to Samuel T. Sigler
94.82 acres
- 1904 Date: 6 Dec. 1904 Rec. 15 Dec. 1904
Deed Book Vol. B-10 p. 445
Samuel T. Sigler to Ida Snook
\$725 for 94.82 acres
- 1909 Date: 30 April 1909 Rec. 12 July 1909
Deed Book Vol. 0-10 p. 532
Ida Snook to Hiram C. C. Snook
\$750 for 94.82 acres
- 1935 Date: 1 May 1935 Rec. 3 June 1935
Deed Book Vol. 344 p. 376
Hiram C. C. Snook & wife to Hans Smetana and Juliane
5.106 acres
- 1946 Date: March 1946 Rec. 10 April 1946
Deed Book Vol. 418 p. 147
Juliane Smetana to Hans Smetana

1963 Date: 21 Jan. 1963 Rec. 21 Jan. 1963
Deed Book Vol. 748 p. 129
Hans Smetana & Florence (wife)
to
Hans Smetana & Florence (wife)
Roswitha Maria Smetana
Hans Riner Smetana

4. Builder: The inscription TB 1751 appears scratched into a stone on the side of the house. Local tradition has it that the initials may be those of Tobias Brink who is known to have been in the area at the time. Mr. C. Van Etten Crane, however, says that Tobias Brink was illiterate and always signed with an X. Mr. Crane contends that another early settler in the area, Thomas Bonnell, could read and write and is a more likely person to have built the building.
5. Original plans and construction: Main floor appears to have been one room originally. A ladder at the east corner led to the attic, according to Dr. Smetana.
6. Alterations and additions: The southeast wall originally had a door on the northeast end. Sometime before 1890 (date of oldest photograph) the door was changed to a window.

The southwest stone wall was removed and the partition moved inward, allowing room for a stairway. A small shed-roofed addition was added to the southwest, probably around 1900.

Dr. Hans Smetana acquired the house in 1935 and subsequently restored it, reinstalled the old mantle which was in the barn, and raised the addition roof to a gable. Around 1952 he added another wing to the southwest.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

William Ennes (b. 1711) was one of the first school teachers in Sussex County when he came to the Minisink area in 1738.

C. Sources of Information

Decker, Amelia Stickney. That Ancient Trail. 3rd Edition, Trenton, 1962, p. 113.

Bailey, Rosalie Fellows. Pre-Revolutionary Dutch Houses and Families in Northern New Jersey and Southern New York. Dover Press, 1968 (1st Ed. 1936), p. 577.

Larrabee, Edward C. M. "New Jersey and the Fortified Frontier System of the 1750's." Ph. D. dissertation, Columbia University, 1970.

Prepared by: Wesley Shank
William C. Badger
Project Historians
HABS
August 1970

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: A simple stone dwelling of the mid eighteenth century.
2. Condition of fabric: good

B. Description of Exterior

1. Over-all dimensions: This one-and-a-half-story stone house measures 23'-4" across its two-bay front by 24'-10" deep L-shaped frame additions on the southwest more than double the size of the house.
2. Wall construction, finish and color: Northeast gable wall is gray ashlar. Northwest and southeast stone walls are gray rubble stonework. Northeast gable wall is wood frame above eaves line, with white clapboards. Rest of building (two frame additions to the southwest) is white clapboards. The inscription "TB1751" is carved on a stone between the two windows on the southeast side. The initials are 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " high; the numbers 2" high.
3. Structural system, framing: Original building has stone bearing walls on three sides with heavy timbers spanning clear from northwest to southeast for the first floor and the attic floor. Additions are of wood frame construction, no structure visible. Tie beams in attic are sawn and are mortised into sawn rafters.
4. Porches, stoops, bulkheads: Bulkhead door on southeast side has modern outside doors on stone steps and walls.
5. Chimneys: Original chimney on northeast side is stone to roof line, brick above. A new brick chimney for furnace runs next to this. The interior chimney is not attached to wall behind it, but is a few inches clear.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: No doors at present in old stone section.

b. Windows and shutters: Windows in the southeast stone wall are spanned by segmental arches in stone and have sliding sash of nine-beside-nine lights, with the middle lights overlapping. The windows in the northeast gable are six-light casements. The northwest elevation has one four-light casement window with the opening splayed on the interior. The sash in the frame additions generally have six-over-six lights.

7. Roof: There are three gable roofs, side by side. The roof of the original building has thick wood shingles, moss-covered. The two additions have mineral-surfaced gray composition shingles.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The old stone house contained one room on the main floor, with a loft upstairs. The first addition on the southwest end contains a bathroom and a kitchen. The second addition provides another living room.
2. Stairways: Stairways to the loft and the basement are located at the southwest end of the stone section. The stairway to the loft is enclosed and has 8" risers and 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ " treads.
3. Flooring: Pine boards varying 9" to 13" in width are nailed down in stone section. In the loft, a new floor of old boards has been laid to provide space for thermal insulation. The additions have linoleum flooring.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: In the stone section of the house, the walls are plastered and there is a chair rail on the newer wooden wall against the stairway. The ceiling has exposed beams with beaded edges supporting beaded planks. No ceiling in the loft of the stone section.
5. Doorways and doors: There are four-panel doors in the first addition, a plank door to the loft, and modern doors elsewhere. The doorways have a 4" plain board molding.
6. Decorative features and trim: The chestnut beams on the main floor have beaded edges. Beams in basement smoothly hewn and chamfered. Trim throughout house is very simple.
7. Hardware: Wrought latches throughout.

D. Site:

The gable end of the house faces northeast. The house sits about .5 mile east of the Delaware River on flat land.

Prepared by: William C. Badger
Wesley Shank
Project Historians
HABS
July, 1970

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 1967 under the direction of Robert C. Giebner (University of Arizona), Project Supervisor, by student assistant architects David L. Bouse (University of Nebraska), William L. McQueen (University of Illinois), and Dennis E. Walo (Texas A & M University) 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 Wesley Shank and William C. Badger, project historians, in 1970. The written data was edited for transmittal to the Library of Congress in the summer of 1980 by Alison K. Hoagland of the HABS staff.

WILLIAM ENNES HOUSE
Old Mine Road, Sandyston Township
Hainesville vicinity
Sussex County
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Addendum to:

WILLIAM ENNES HOUSE

.1 mi. w of Old Mine Road

Montague Vicinity

Sandyston Township

Sussex County

New Jersey

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C St. NW
Washington, DC 20240

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
WILLIAM ENNES HOUSE

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This report is an addendum to a ten-page report previously transmitted to the Library of Congress.

The previous addendum to the William Ennes House documentation listed the structure as being in Sandyston Township in the vicinity of Montague, Sussex County, New Jersey. Sandyston Township is actually in the vicinity of Hainesville, Sussex County, New Jersey.