

MEMORANDUM

DATE June 1, 1972  
HS-F72-3

TO: David N. Poinsett, Supervisor

FROM: Charles R. Tichy, Architectural Restoration Consultant

SUBJECT: Evaluation of Century Buildings at Washington Crossing State park  
(18th)

A brief survey was made of the possible 18th century buildings in Washington Crossing State Park. The most noteworthy of the 18th century buildings are the Bear Tavern, Harbourt Tenant House, McKonkey House and possibly the Nelson House.

1- Bear Tavern

This originally was a two story frame house with one room on each floor, probably third quarter 18th century. The original unit is to the south-east and measures about 15 x 18 feet. The east gable wall consists of a huge fireplace with a winding stair to both the cellar and second floor. The fireplace has been enclosed but is probably still intact. The stair opening to the second floor is covered over. The ceiling has exposed finished beams; the corner, a corner cupboard.

A small addition about 9 x 18 feet was attached to the rear. This has a corner fireplace, now enclosed, backing the large fireplace. This may have been part of the original house. This wing has since been extended, probably late 19th century, and raised two stories. The house was extended about 22 feet to the west with the same roof line, floor levels, and depth. This is also probably 18th century. A fireplace on the gable end wall is now enclosed. A possible stair against the inner gable wall was removed and replaced by a recent open stair.

2- The barn for the Bear Tavern has been moved. This is late 19th century construction.

3- Harbourt Tenant House

This was originally a one room, stone, 1½ story house. It has a date stone with initials and the date 1764. It is similar to the original section of the Bear Tavern. On the west gable wall is the large fireplace, intact with mantel, and a winding stair to both the left and cellar. The exposed ceiling beams are finished with a bead.

A side hall, three bay, two story wing was added probably in the second quarter of the 19th century. Dormers were added to the left of the original unit. A 20th century leanto was added across the rear of both sections.

4- McKonkey House

This building requires considerable additional research. It apparently was in near ruins in the late 19th century as indicated in old photos. It was then privately restored in the early 20th century. Persons renting the house until 1922 say that the building is much the same today as it was then. The building undoubtedly underwent reconstruction and restoration in the early 1900's before the State acquired it. The doors, hardware, and paneled fireplace walls are possibly all reproductions. Evidence in the attic indicates a different roof pitch at one time.

5- McKonkey Barn

This stone barn is about 42 x 29 feet. Much of the wood interior framing and roof rafters appear to be replaced. Some of the original openings have been altered. These alterations were probably about 1929.

6- Nelson House

In 1934 the Nelson House was a large 3½ story Victorian inn. It measured about 48 x 30 feet with about a 38 x 17 foot wing. This was supposedly enlarged from an 18th century stone house. This earlier house was about 28 x 30 feet with a 38 x 17 foot wing. The main section was 2½ stories, three bays, with a side hall. About 1935 the house was reduced to the approximately 38 x 17 foot wing. This consisted of the spring house and kitchen. The spring house was raised and made into toilets. The kitchen, about 21 x 17 feet is two stories. It has the large fireplace and a stone sink. A winding stair goes to the second floor. The roof rafters are circa mid-19th century.

7- Blackwell House

This house presently consists of three large apartments. The building is stone, stuccoed over and scribed to imitate stone blocks. The earliest section is probably late 18th century and is in the east wing. This is approximately 31 x 18 feet and two stories. It is three bays with a center door. On the first floor are two rooms; the east room had been the kitchen. The large kitchen fireplace on the end wall is closed off but probably is intact. Marks remain on the wall where an earlier stair had been. The fireplace and chimney on the opposite end wall for the parlor had been entirely moved. The second floor had been altered for closets and bath.

About 1830 the building was extended about 14 feet to the east. This probably became the kitchen wing with bedrooms above. A large cistern, now filled in, collected rain water below this addition. A stair between the two sections connects the different levels. The original unit was extensively remodeled, probably at this time. The window frames, doors and frames, and parts of the chair rail remain from the original unit.

Later, possibly in the 1850's - 60's, a large unit was added to the west of the original unit, about 38 feet and about 49 feet deep. This became two separate apartments, each three bays and 2½ stories.

Blackwell Outbuildings

There is a stone root cellar, stone smoke house, and stone pump house, all probably 19th century. The barn, heavily altered, measures 27 x 40 feet.

It probably dates from the third quarter of the 19th century.

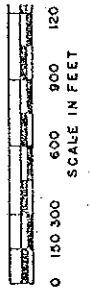
8- Phillips Farm

Remaining is a corn crib, tool shed and several modern buildings. The large corn crib has a hewn oak frame which may be early 19th century. The roof and slats for the walls appear mid-19th century. These may be later repairs to an earlier frame. The interior of the tool shed was not seen but appears to be mid 19th century on the exterior.

Charles R. Seely

# PICTORIAL MAP WASHINGTON CROSSING STATE PARK

SCALE



WASHINGTON CROSSING STATE PARK PENNA.

DELAWARE RIVER

CHURCH ROAD

DETTLEBACH LANE

TUSVILLE

WASHINGTON GROVE

PLAYGROUND

McKENNEY FARM HOUSE

CONTINENTAL PLAYGROUND AREA

GULLIVAN GROVE

MEMORIAL ARBORETUM

BACK OFFICE

PLAY FIELD

GREEN GROVE PLAYGROUND AREA

WASHINGTON CHESTNUT GROVE

OUTDOOR THEATRE

"CEDAR BLISS"

NATURE CENTER

NATURE TRAIL

NATURE CENTRE WORKSHOP

GROUP CAMP AREA

8

2

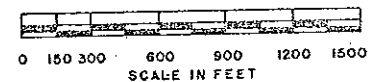
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DELAWARE CO. PA.

PENNINGTON D.



SCALE



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SCALE IN FEET

PICTORIAL MAP  
WASHINGTON CROSSING STATE PARK