

SITE REGISTRATION PROGRAM
NEW JERSEY STATE MUSEUM
Bureau of Archaeology
205 West State Street
(609) 292-8594

SITE NO.: 28-Me-252
Site Name: JOB PHILLIPS FARM
Atlas Coordinates:
U.S.G.S. Coordinates:
National Register:
State Register:
Date:
File:

County: MERCER

Municipality: HOPEWELL

Location: SE side of Church Road, 350 ft. south of Brick Yard Road.

Period of Site: Constructed 1764, enlarged. Present addition dates to c.1830s.

Type of Site: Farmstead

Cultural Affiliations: Anglo-American

Owner: NJDEPE, Division of Parks and Forestry
Washington Crossing State Park
355 Washington Xing Penn Road
Titusville, NJ 08560-1517

Telephone: (609) 737-0617

Attitude towards preservation: Good, house leased to historic preservation professional as dwelling.

Surface Features: 1764, one-story stone house with two-story addition.

Prominent Landmarks:

Vegetative Cover: Lawn

Nearest Water Source: Spring

Distance: 400 feet

Soil Type:

Erosion: Septic field

Statified:

THREAT OF DESTRUCTION: Underground utilities

PREVIOUS WORK:

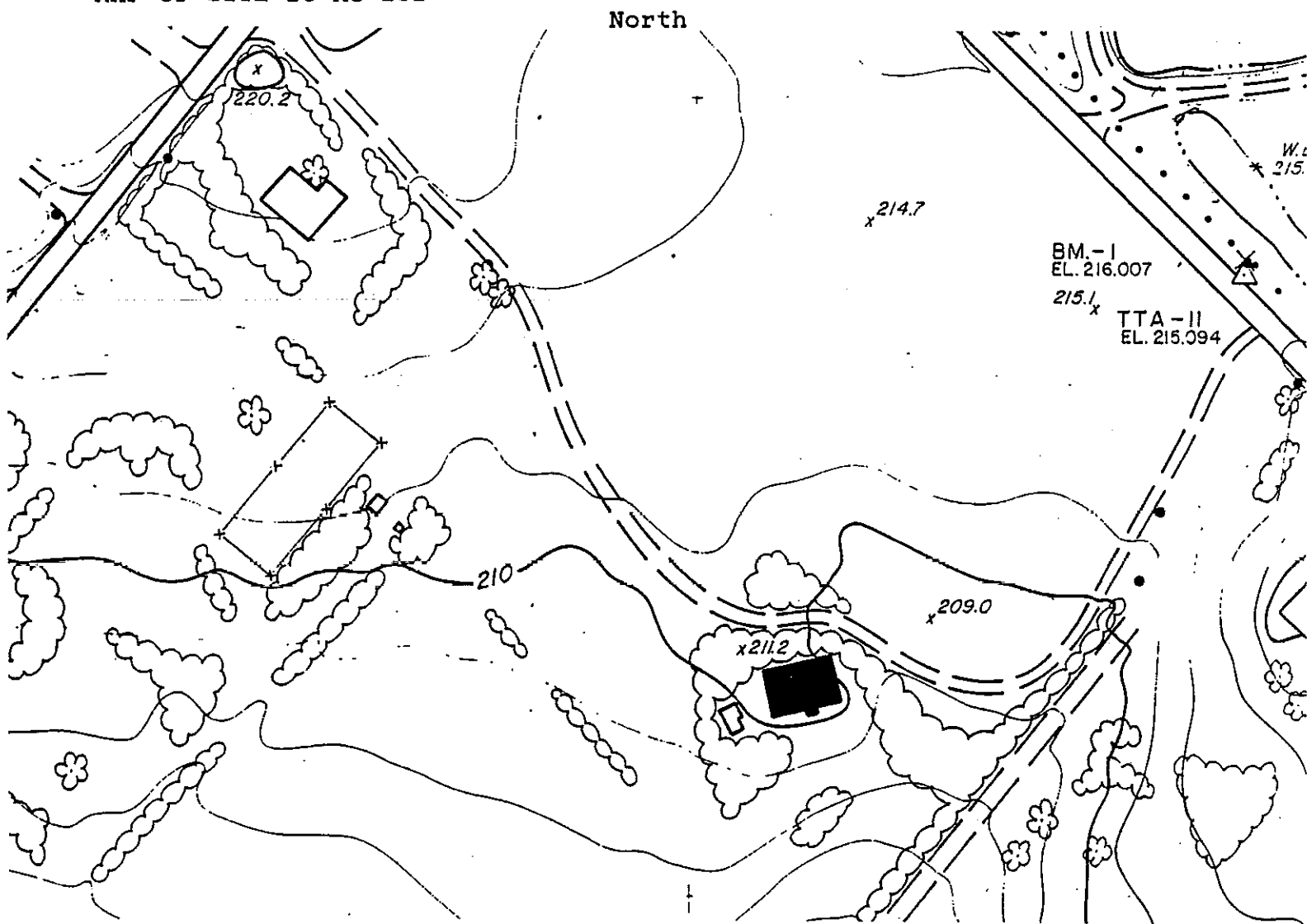
By whom: Date: Collection stored: Previous Designation:

Recorder: Garry Wheeler Stone, Principal Historic Preservation Spec.
State Park Service, Region II Office
275 Englishtown-Freehold Road
Englishtown, New Jersey 07726 Telephone: (908) 462-5868

Collection Stored:

Date Registered: March 1993

MAP OF SITE 28-Me-252



SCALE: 1 inch = 100 feet

OBSERVATIONS, REMARKS, OR RECOMMENDATIONS:

REFERENCES:

Hayden, Philip Aldrich, "The Cow and the Calf: Evolution of Farmhouses in Hopewell Township, . . . 1720-1820." Thesis, the University of Delaware, 1992 (figures 8-11 and pp. 179-181).

THE COW AND THE CALF:
EVOLUTION OF FARMHOUSES IN HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP,
MERCER COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, 1720-1820

By
Philip Aldrich Hayden

A thesis submitted to the Faculty of the University of
Delaware in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree
of Master of Arts in Early American Culture

May 1992

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Figure 8. Exterior, Job Phillips House. The original stone house, left, dates to 1764. The frame section, partly visible on the right, is c. 1830 and replaces an earlier addition. (Photo, author)

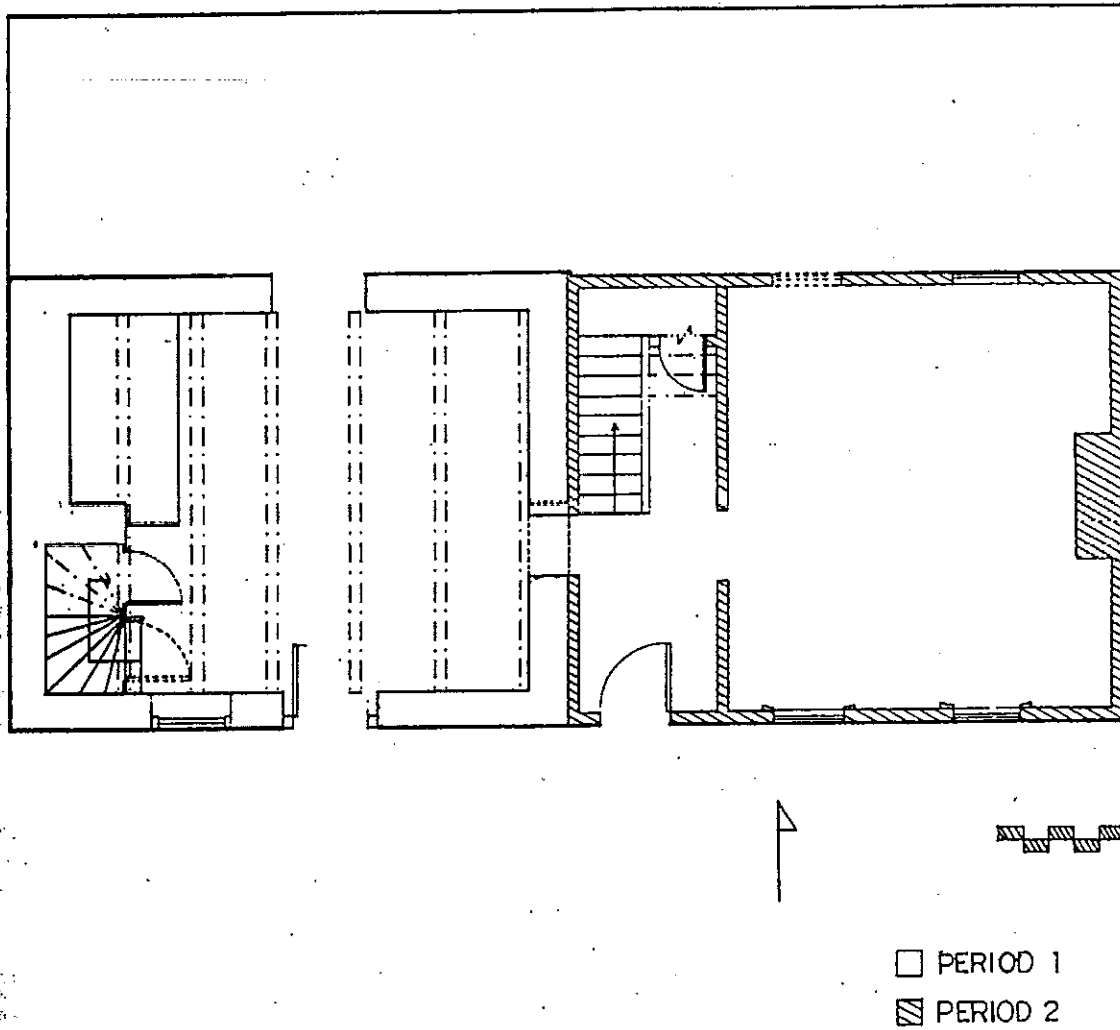


Figure 9. Plan, Job Phillips House. Plan of the first floor. (Drawing, author)



Figure 10. Interior, Job Phillips House. View of the fireplace wall and closeted stairs. (Photo, courtesy Richard W. Hunter)

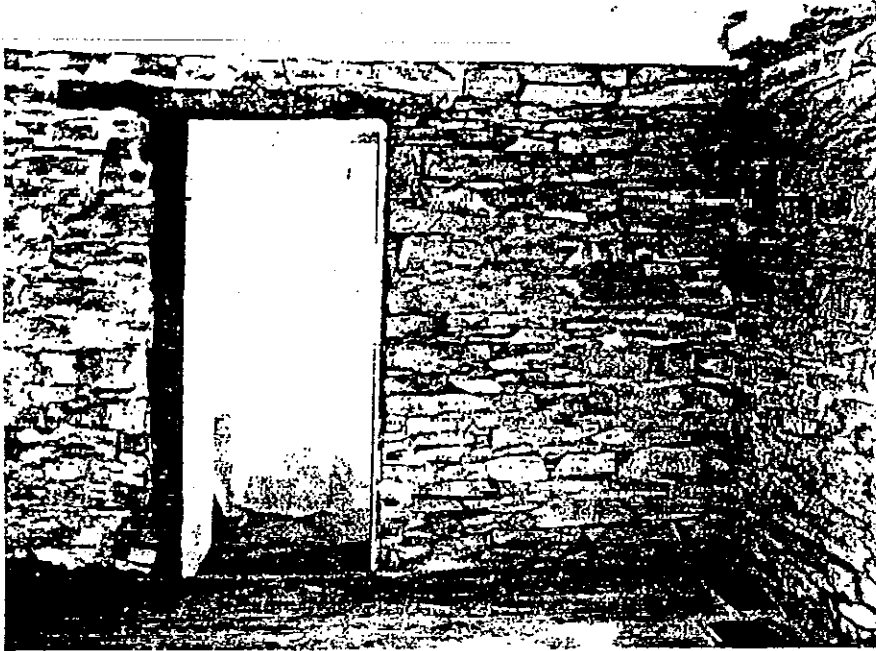


Figure LL. Interior, Job Phillips House. View of the eastern wall showing the dimensions of the original opening that once led into an earlier building, and its present size, reduced to accommodate the existing addition. (Photo, courtesy Richard W. Hunter)

9. JOB PHILLIPS HOUSE, 1764, with additions

Block 121 Lot 27

Church Road

This is one of the best preserved eighteenth-century dwellings examined. Today part of the Washington Crossing State Park, the original farmstead included a 190 acre tract of improved land stretching from the banks of the Delaware River east to the valley ridge. The dwelling stands near the back of the lot on the edge of a plateau some 140 feet above the river.

The original eighteen by twenty foot stone dwelling contains a datestone marked "Octr 4 1764" with the initials "JPP," presumably for Job (1735-1822) and Phebe Howell Phillips. They received a license to be married on 13 April 1764 and were wed in May.¹ A 1783 road return for the new way "leading to the Delaware River" notes Job Phillips as living on the property. Phillips died in 1822 and the property passed to his son Joseph. Joseph died intestate in 1831 and the property was divided among his heirs.² His son, Joseph R. Phillips, however, continued to farm the property and eventually consolidated it again from the various heirs.³ In 1838 he sold it to Alfred Holcombe from whom the title descends.⁴

Throughout the eighteenth century, Hopewell tax ratables

According to tax ratables,
Joseph took over control
of the 61 acres sometime
between 1785 and 1802

listed Job Phillips with 161 acres of improved land and 40 acres of woodlot. By 1802 Job had given his son Joseph 61 acres on which he probably constructed the frame dwelling formerly on the parcel and now destroyed. With his farm now reduced to 100 acres, Job still paid \$2.07 in taxes, placing him in the third highest decile.⁵

The original stone section (see figures 9 & 10) rose on a high watertable over a full basement of roughly coursed fieldstone. A substantial masonry arch shaped over a wooden form springs from the floor and butts against the northwestern corner of the foundation to support the masonry fireplace and chimney above. The grain of the wooden form is still visible in the mortar. Heavy wooden lintels set over the doors and windows carry the masonry loads above (see figure 11). On the exterior, however, elaborate decorative stone relieving arches cap both the basement and first floor openings. Just above these lintels, a one inch thick wooden plate inserted into the north and south walls carries decoratively beaded ceiling joists. The masonry envelops the ends of these joists and continues up to the roof plate. Here another wooden plate caps these walls and a simple roofing system of bridled rafters with half-dovetailed collar ties is birdmouthed over the plate.

The interior retains an original raised-panel door, with HL

hinges, and nailing blocks for a chair rail set into the masonry. Structural evidence also indicates that an earlier addition existed next to the eastern gable on the site of the current framed block. The doorway between the two sections may have been a window originally. Disturbed masonry around the lower edges suggests that it was enlarged into a doorway, presumably to provide access into the earlier addition. The opening was then reduced in width when the present wing was added in the early nineteenth century, perhaps after 1831 when Joseph R. Phillips took over the farm.

NOTES:

1. Lewis D. Cook, "Job Phillips Family," The Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey 48 (January 1973): 36.

2. Will of Job Phillips, 1822, (3211), Hunterdon County Probate, NJSA. Probate of Joseph Phillips, 1831, (3909), Hunterdon County Probate, NJSA.

3. John W. Phillips to Joseph R. Phillips, 1838 (69:189), Hunterdon County Registry, NJSA; Joseph Barber to John R. Phillips, 1835 (69:188), Hunterdon County Registry, NJSA; John H. Phillips to Joseph R. Phillips, 1835 (69:191), Hunterdon County Registry, NJSA.

4. Joseph R. Phillips to Alfred Holcombe, 1838 (A:51), Mercer County Registry, NJSA.

5. This frame dwelling (Block 121 Lot 28), now destroyed, stood near Phillips' stone house on what became the southern parcel. See Hunterdon County deeds 53:362, 68:416, 69:188, & 69:189, and Hunterdon County Road Returns (1:123); NJSA