

WASHINGTON'S CROSSING  
THE GREATEST UNDEVELOPED PATRIOTIC ASSET OF THE COUNTRY

Memorandum by Charles K. Hammitt.

The purpose of the Washington's Crossing National Park Association is to cooperate with the Commissioners of Pennsylvania and the New Jersey Department that has charge of this work in popularizing and carrying to a successful conclusion the developments of a National Park that will properly mark this great historic spot and make it a mecca for all patriotic citizens throughout the entire country.

Trenton as the nearest large city and the scene of the battle which proved to be the beginning of the final success of the American Forces is naturally most closely interested as is Mercer County -- but the significance to the states of New Jersey and Pennsylvania within whose borders the Coup was planned and executed and to the original thirteen states particularly as well as to all the states that have since entered the union is scarcely less appealing: as the patriotic American Citizen wherever born cannot fail to look with awe and reverent pride on this turning point in the American Revolution, where Washington and his faithful followers met the supreme test and laid the foundation stone of the greatest system of Government ever evolved for God and Humanity.

A part of its purpose is to afford opportunity for every inhabitant to personally participate in making this section a credit to the nation, a proper exemplification of the great event and a fitting recognition of the services rendered at that crucial time, which may become a shrine of patriotic devotion and source of patriotic inspiration to millions of the present and future generations.

To this end it would enlist the contribution and cooperation of states, nation, organizations, associations, and individuals--and to enable all, young or old, poor or rich, to become members make the contribution of one dollar or more constitute a life membership and furnish each member with an attractive memorial certificate suitable for framing.

By thus enlarging the scope to include all the states (instead of only Pennsylvania and New Jersey) in the development of this project, expansion of plans would naturally result and additional land have to be acquired. A thought in this connection would be that sufficient land be secured on the two sides of the river so that a section could be especially used by the original thirteen states and that each of the other states should have an allotment which it could develop in its own characteristic manner.

While the site is peculiarly adapted for a monument of the birth of the nation and a perpetual memorial of the long struggle for liberty with consequent hardship and self-sacrifice for a principle perhaps never equalled in the history of the World, it seems equally as fitting to make it also mark the progressive growth of the nation to its present greatness so that the student of the endeavors and achievements of a liberty loving people throughout the first century and a half of its existence.

Memorandum from Hammit

This Park on both sides of the river connected with a fine memorial bridge and a monument in midstream suggesting Washington and his followers actually crossing the river together with Art Gallery, panorama and historical museum to exhibit events of interest to the American people and other things of historical interest to the American people and other things of historical value or characteristic of the people that would add to the general attractions with monuments of those prominent before and during the war and of great men and women who have since as during the war and of great men and women who have since as Statesmen, Military Chiefs, inventors, captains of industry, leaders of thought, and otherwise contributed in various ways toward making this Country what it is; distributed throughout the Park could be arranged so as to give not only national significance but also prominence to the part citizens of the several states have served toward advancing the general welfare and greatness of the purposes that dominate the people.

While enormous investment would be required by such an enterprise, ample means to secure the services of experts in every branch and to make this a magnificent expression for the American people need not tax any individual, any state, or the nation excessively.

A single percapita tax of 1¢ by each state and similar tax by the nation and the voluntary membership fee already mentioned would take care of the financial needs for making the Park and maintaining it.

Such a park at Washington's Crossing approachable from all directions by modern highways and rail with proper convenient entertainment would start a pilgrimage of patriotic citizens from the entire country that would continue for many generations and become the inspiration of increasing patriotism among those who contribute their mite to its development and of those who visit it as one of the shrines of their patriotic devotion.

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July 22, 1921

## Washington Crossing State Park

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Washington Crossing State Park lies seven miles above Trenton on Route # 29 between Trenton and Lambertville. The area, which includes over 800 acres, was once reportedly the campground of the Lenni Lenapi and the Delaware Indians. Later it was settled by farmers from England and the European mainland.

The idea for a park on the site where Washington crossed the Delaware seems to have originated with Mr. William Doyle of Trenton. It may also be that the donation of a marker by the Society of Cincinnati aroused interest in establishing a park at the site. A committee of the Knights of Columbus held a public meeting at the Taylor Opera House in Trenton on October 12, 1909. At that time the resolution was passed recommending to the governor of New Jersey that a commission be appointed for the purpose of properly marking the point where Washington Crossed the Delaware River preceding the Battle of Trenton.

The movement for establishing such a memorial officially began in 1910 with the appointment of a fifty member commission by Gov. Two years later a subsequent five-member commission purchased the first 100 acres of the Blackwell estate. In 1915 the functions of the Commission were merged into the Department of Conservation and Development which enlarged and developed the project.

The original plans for the park included the construction of a substantial memorial bridge for both vehicular and foot traffic. The Park itself was to be on both the Pennsylvania and New Jersey sides not less than half a mile along the Delaware River and extending at least a quarter mile inland from the River on the New Jersey side. Also planned was the acquiring of Scudder's Falls, the purchase of the ferry house where Washington ate breakfast on December 26, 1776, the erection of a monument in the Park, landscaping road construction and use as a national military camp ground.

More specific information on park plans are found in a 1921 letter from Mr. Charles Leavitt, landscapist, to Mr. Alfred Gaskill, Director of the Department of Conservation and Development.

When the original plan was drawn by me in 1913 for the development of the park, land had been acquired east of the canal running along Pennington Road to Bear Tavern. The ferry house, the land immediately around it, the two adjoining house lots the land between the high road and the canal and between the canal and the river's edge had not been obtained. All these, however, were indicated in my first design.

Now, however, that an area so much smaller is contemplated for the park, it is essential that the ten acres authorized for development be carefully chosen. My map shows the ground I recommend. This land extends north from the Pennington Road about twelve hundred and sixty feet on both sides of the State highway and paralleling it, in a strip approximately three hundred and fifty feet wide. The whole plot, as it should, has the effect of bordering the river bank.

It commands the land to the east, over which the troops started their Trenton march after landing, but more important, it commands the river and the river banks on both sides and the McConkey Ferry House.

I can see no objection to disposing of the property the State owns lying to the east of this acreage. It is superfluous from the historic standpoint of the actual crossing and the cost of upkeep would necessarily be high for so great an area. If this land, when sold, is subdivided, the house lots on the east end would have access to the indicated park road through rights-of-way and bring high valuations.

My design provides an entrance to the park at the intersection of the Pennington Road with the State Highway, which is the first warning coming up from Trenton of the crossing, and here I propose a treatment of Colonial gates and walls with a commemorative tablet. There is a dangerous curve, as the Mercer County Highway Engineer has already noted, in the Pennin

My design provides an entrance to the park at the intersection of the Pennington Road with the State Highway, which is the first warning coming up from Trenton of the crossing, and here I propose a treatment of Colonial gates and walls with a commemorative tablet. There is a dangerous curve, as the Mercer County Highway Engineer has already noted, in the Pennington Road, and this should be straightened. In fact, I show the Pennington Road brought in at right angles with the river road, not only for practical purposes, but to obtain a balanced design. The park road of eighteen feet of pavement curves up the meadow in a graceful line, following the ground closely so as to avoid as much change in the original topography as possible.

About two hundred and sixty-five feet south of the McKonkey Ferry House, the road widens out to an overlook, which point is the natural crest in the topography and would provide with a termination and approach, well up on the hillside, the possible memorial bridge. Should the bridge cross the river parallel to the existing old bridge, it would reach the Pennsylvania side somewhere between the old Pennsylvania tavern and the old Pennsylvania Ferry House to the north. I cannot urge too strongly, in the development of Washington Crossing Park, the cooperation of New Jersey and Pennsylvania. With the overlook at elevation ninety-nine, the bridge would cross the railroad, the canal and the highway with sufficient head room.

A little Colonial garden is shown opposite the McKonkey Ferry House and to the North, the Labertville gate, which is not accented as much as the Trenton gate to the south. The State Highway, to my mind, needs particular treatment to establish an old-time feeling. Bordering the pavement, strips of grass ten feet wide are shown, with large shade trees and low walls, which in some places would retain of the very beautiful native sandstone.

To me, it seems most essential, from an historic and sentimental standpoint, that the park, as a memorial, in addition to the ten acres for the whole park frontage, for as far as New Jersey was concerned, the waters edge and the ferry house were the stage on which this most important drama was enacted. Already bungalows and other undesirable buildings are creeping down the river bank. Yet it is the very essence of the memorial that the shore should be kept as in Washington's day. To date the State has not acquired the shore. That should be the next legislative action.

The first land to be purchased by the state was the Blackwell estate. Later purchases were made from the Nelson Family, Dr. Ira Strittmatter the Kinbles, Johnstons and Nasons. More recently over 300 acres have been added under the Green Acres program.

The buildings and grounds within the Park have a diversified history. Part of the Blackwell home is currently the residence of park employees and their families. The building was the original farmhouse of the family from which the estate was purchased. The present Sullivan Grove picnic area was originally the farm nursery and the current Park office was once a chicken coop. The barn still stands today and is used for storage and as a garage. A wagon barn, which also stood on the estate, burned in the 1930's when sparks from a wood stove ignited a fire.

The McKonkey Ferry Museum located adjacent to the Park entrance symbolizes the building in which General Washington rested after the crossing. This combination ferry house and tavern provided a place for lodging and refreshment for patrons of the ferry. The ferry has been mentioned in battle records as the Johnson or Johns ferry but was reportedly operated by William McKonkey, son of Samuel McKonkey, owner of the ferry on the Pennsylvania side, at the time of Washington's visit.

Across from the McKonkey Ferry house stands the barn which was once a barn on the Johnson farm. The building was renovated in the 1930s and once housed a drafting room for the Trenton Park Development staff. The original meetings of the Washington Crossing Association were held in this building. Presently it contains a large diorama of the crossing of the Delaware, dioramas of several Revolutionary War battles and a display of early American flags.

The present Newlson House, located near the river in Washington Grove, dates to the Colonial Period. At the time of park construction it was part of a hotel owned by the Nelson family. The main Victorian building with its nineteen rooms and ballroom was torn down by the W.P.A. reportedly after a projection from a passing railroad car demolished part of the building. Hopes for saving the hotel were abandoned but the original structure was saved as an historic building. The building is thought to have been the original ferry house on the New Jersey side.

Washington Grove along the shore of the Delaware has always been one of the most popular picnic areas in the Park. The shoreline of the Delaware in the eighteenth century was supposed to have reached the area where the fireplaces are today. A natural levy of large flat stepping stones reportedly once extended into the river and was most likely used as part of a ferry stop.

At the crossing of routes ~~527~~ 579 and 546 stands a house which reportedly was once a tavern, Bear Tavern. The origin of the name is uncertain. One theory is that the tavern was named after the Bear family which owned the house another is that the tavern was simply named after the animal as was the custom. The tavern apparently was a stopping place for farmers taking their goods and animals to market in Trenton. A corral is supposed to have been across from the Tavern on what is now Park property.

In addition to the buildings mentioned, three others stood on Park property. / One, made of stone, was torn down while the other two were moved by horse and windlass and now stand across from the Park Office entrance on Rt. 546.

Throughout the years many gifts have been presented to the Park. Major donations include the Colonial Garden outside the McKonkey Ferry House, the gateways to the Canal Ramble, the crossing monument and the George Washington Memorial Arboretum. More recent contributions have been donated to the Park's Nature Centre and outdoor theater.<sup>2</sup>

Plans for the Nature Centre came into being after the acquisition of the Harbourt tennant house. Through the efforts of the superintendent, the Natural Areas Section of the Bureau of Parks and the Trenton Naturalists' Club, the Centre opened in 1964. The state subsequently hired two naturalists, Mr. Joseph Butchko and Mr. Harry Volkens. Mrs. Rachel Horne, a member of the Trenton Naturalists' Club, volunteered.

Displays were prepared with the help of groups such as the 4-H, and Boy Scouts. Washington Crossing Association members helped to survey the first nature trail and trails were cleared by the naturalists and park summer help. In 1967 the Centre was moved to the former Lippincot House where the display area was enlarged and more trails cleared. The original center has been kept as a workshop. Current Centre activities include special programs for school groups, lectures, pre-school classes, adult nature programs and trail walks.

An outdoor theater originated in 1963 in an area which the superintendent had envisioned for outdoor performances in the park. A part of that area included a pond and a natural dell. The possibilities of utilizing the area interested several persons, particularly a group which had formed to further park development, the Washington Crossing Association. The Association planned to use the outdoor performances as part of its fund-raising activities. With the assistance of Mr. <sup>Weasner</sup> (Weisener) of Twin Pine electric and Mr. Chris Hansen of Wright Electric, two large generators for lights and cable for electric wiring were made available.



Preparations were completed and the first performance was held in the summer of 1964 to celebrate the New Jersey Tercentenary. The Pennington Players under the direction of Don Pope and guidance of Mr. Jack Rees, presented the historic Shaw play THE DEVIL'S DISCIPLE.

Mr. Arno Safran who saw the production of THE DEVIL'S DISCIPLE talked about the possibility of continuing the project the following year with a festival of the performing arts. Mr. Safran along with Mr. Rees, Mrs. <sup>Annette</sup> (Mitchell) Carter and Supt. Dirk van Dommelen succeeded in arranging a program which was then accepted by the Board of the W.C.A..

The State agreed to ask to N.J. Power and Light Co. to install a power line. Mr. C. Hansen installed lights in a light shack constructed by Park personnel from old lumber. The back stage building was constructed by members of the Association. The stage was leveled by park personnel and covered with woodchips. The prison crew installed terraces. In 1965 improvements were made in the theater and stage.

The Open Air Theatre became quite popular and grew to be one of the major Park attractions. While earlier activities included concerts the more recent emphasis has been on plays and musicals. <sup>4</sup>

Plans for an outdoor historic drama grew from activities at the open air theater. Since the 1967 theater season suffered a <sup>financial</sup> loss due to rain the Supt. began to seek additional means to support theater activities. At the end of 1967 and the beginning of 1968 he contacted The New Jersey Council on the Arts through a suggestion of Assemblyman Charles Farrington. Mr. Byron Kelley, Executive Director was reached via Mr Samuel Pratt and a grant for a historic play or symphony was requested. Mr. Kelley agreed to the request, but the Council advised that a historic pageant be produced.

The superintendent, Mr. Rees and Mrs. Carter looked for talent to write a pageant or historic drama. Paul Green of the Institute of Outdoor Drama was sent an outline of the project. This did not find sufficient support. Contacts were made in Princeton at the suggestion of William McCleery, editor of the Princeton University Magazine. Suggestions were also received from many prominent historians.

Mrs. Carter spoke to Prof. Lynn of the Westminster Choir College who suggested Princeton composer Frank Lewin. Mr. Lewin, an admirer of the theater and many of its productions, agreed to compose the music if a playwright could be found. Mr. Arthur Lithgow, Director of the McCarter Theater expressed interest. His first thoughts were of a folk opera. As more information was gathered from the Institute of Outdoor Drama, the form of the production became an outdoor historic drama or more like a symphonic drama.

Meetings followed with Mr. William Boyan, President Jack Rees, Annette Carter, Dir van Dommelen and Messrs Lewin and Lithgow. The Council on the Arts offered \$2000.00 seed money but stipulated that the state would reserve rights. Agreement could not be reached since the cost was estimated at least \$40,000. In October of 1968 Messrs. Lewin and Rees attended the yearly conference of the Institute of Outdoor Drama at Chapel Hill, N.C. Both returned very enthusiastic about the project. The costs for a full production, however, were quoted as being well over \$100,000 for sixty nights plus improvements of the physical theater. A meeting was held with the advisory board of the W.C.A.. Those present included Mr. Joseph Truncer, Mr. Kemble Widmenr, Mr. Donaldson, Mr. Numan, Mr. Falcey, Mr. Boyan, Mr. Rees, Mrs. Cater and Supt. van Dommelen. Mr. Falcey said he would carry on the project.

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Meetings followed at Frank Lewin's residence in 1969. The scenario was presented at the April and June meetings. The historical framework was the time covered from the landing of the American army after the crossing the Delaware River to the conclusion of the Battle of Princeton. The story will be of ordinary people actively participating or caught against their will in the events of the American Revolution, around the Trenton and Princeton area. Mrs. Mary Roebling expressed interest after being contacted by Dirk van Dommelen. Mrs. Hazel Herman acted as her representative.

The group concluded that a steering committee needed to be formed and that possibly a separate corporation be created to carry out the plans. A larger and better theater plant seemed desirable to carry out plans and to save the present dell for more intimate theater productions. On September 28, 1969 a meeting was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Carter. The sixteen persons at the meeting decided to form a corporation for the purpose of establishing an outdoor historic drama in Washington Crossing State Park. Support and encouragement was received from Mr. Joseph Truncer, Chief of the Bureau of Parks, Forests and Recreation and from Byron Kelley of the N.J. Council on the Arts. Temporary officers elected at that meeting included Annette Carter, president, Jack Rees, vice president, Charlotte Tomaszewski, secretary. Mr. Charles Roll was appointed treasurer at a later date.

Plans are continuing and include the selection of a site, design for a theater and completion of the script. The Westminster Choir School has expressed an interest in being active in the production.

Over the years since its dedication in 1926, the Park has served a variety of uses. Primarily a picnic and recreational area for several years, it became important to local residents when travel was restricted during blackouts. blackouts restricted travel during the Second World War. At that time the YMCA sponsored film programs and dances in the Sullivan Grove pavillion.

Park attractions include historic sites and displays a nature center and an outdoor theater. The Park has drawn many special group activities including the National Campers and Hikers Rally, the Wally Byam Travel Trailer Camp Convention, Trenton Kennel Club Dog Show, Delaware Valley Horsemen's Association Trail Ride, Boy Scout Camporee and summer day camp, and cross-country track meets.

Future plans for the park emphasize this mutliple use. With the national bicentennial of the American Revolution in 1976, attention will be focused on this historic area. Commemoration of the local events of the Revolution, the crossing of the Delaware and the local battles will become important throughout New Jersey. Current aims are that Park plans will include features like a yearly Outdoor Historic drama based on this history and improved visiting facilities for interpretation.

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~~Members~~ Washington Crossing Association - Officers

1963-64 : Pres. Alfred Schuster; V.Pres. Edgar Lewis; M Sec. Mrs. Mitchell Carter; Treas. Clarke Newman.

1965: Acting Pres.-Col. Edgar E. Lewis;and V. Pres; Alfred F. Schuster - Pres - temporarily on leave; Mrs. Mitchell Carter, Jr. - Secretary; Clarke Newman Treas.

Board of Directors: (in addition to above)

Hon. J. Conner French; Hon. Arthur S. Lane; Hon. Sido Ridolfi; Mrs. Sido Ridolfi; Mrs. Lucy Yazujian; Mr. James H.S. Wilson and Mr. M William Brennan- Program Chairman; Mr. Frank Quinn, Public Relations Chairman; Mr. Raymond Wesner, Budget and Finance Chairman; Mrs. William E. Swift; Hon. Charles R. Howell; Mr. Donald J. Tome; Mrs. Mitchell Carter, Jr.; Hon. J. Wilson Noden; Mr. Gerald Loustalot; Chief Malcolm Joiner; Mr. Carlton Force; Mr. Dirk van Dommelen

1966 - Pres. Jack Rees; Mrs. William O'Brien, V.P.; Mrs. J.C. Errickson, Sec.; Clarke Newman, Treas.

Board- William C. Brennan; Mitchell Carter; George Heffernan; Carl Peters; Arno Saftan; Dirk van Dommelen; Mrs. Eric Wildgrube, Robert Zelle

1968 - William Boyan, Pres; Ray Schullley, V. P.; Mrs. Joan Errickson, Sec.; W.J. Borden, Treas.

Board - William Brennan, Mitchell Carter, Jr.; Mrs. Agnes Heffernan; Gerard Kuster; Clarke Newman; Mrs. James Reed; Jack M. Rees; Dirk van Dommelen.

1969 - Ray Schullley, Pres.; Mrs. Tia Boyan, V.P.; Mrs. Irene Wildgrube, Sec.; James Reed, Treas.

Board - W.J. Borden, William Boyan, William Brennan, Mitchell Carter, Mrs. Agnes Heffernan, Mrs. Agnes Kuster, Arthur Lichtenberg, Clarke Newman, Mrs. Kay Reed, Jack M. Rees, Dirk van Dommelen

## Outdoor Theater Programs

1965 - Princeton High School Choir, Hopewell Township Central High School Chorus and Band, Allegria String Quartet, Princeton Opera Association - Sister Angelica, Old Maid and the Thief, Fellowship Singers of Delaware Valley, Plain and Fancy - Pennington Players, Jazz Concert - Clark Terry, A View from the Bridge - ? , Three Penny Opera - Theater Arts Guild of Freehold, Life With Father - Langhorne Players

1966 - Sleeping Beauty Ballet - The Litran Players, Brigadoon - Pennington Players, Allegria String Quartet - chamber music, Jazz Concert - Tony di Nicola, The Fantasticks - Theater in the Park, Out of This World - Theater Arts Guild of Freehold, Hansel and Gretel - Princeton Opera Association, A Hatful of Rain - The Mercury Players, The Curious Savage - Pennington Players, Barnaby - The Langhorne Players, Spoon River Anthology - The Princeton Community Players.

1967 - Die Fledermaus - Trenton State College Workshop, Anything Goes - Pennington Players, The Gordon Henkel Jazz Octet, Mary Mary - The Yardley Players, The Princeton Chamber Players, La Risk Bohme - Princeton Opera Association, Trenton Chamber Players, Rashomon - Theater Arts Guild of Freehold, Waltz of the Toreador - Pennington Players, Phil Woods Jazz Concert, Chamber Players of Delaware Valley, The Loud Red Patrick - Langhorne Players, Jazz Quartet - Tony di Nicola, Dark of the Moon - St. James Community Theater of St. James Players

1968 - The Trenton Symphonette Orchestra, Oklahoma - Pennington Players, The Lydian Woodwind Quintet, La Traviata - Princeton Opera Association, The Lady's Not for Burning - Princeton Community Players, The Rider Trio, Annie Get Your Gun - Neshaminy Summer Stock, How to Succeed in Business - The Villa Park Players, Dark at the Top of the Stairs - The Langhorne Players, The Summoning of Everyman - St James Players of the St James Community Theater

1969 - The Sound of Music - Pennington Players, Faust - Princeton Opera Association, We Bombed in New Haven - Princeton Community Players, Sunshine '69 - Produced by Tom & Billie Durand, Cuttalossa - Original Musical - Sponsored by V.R.W., Camelot - Villa Park Players

John Honeyman ~~Memorial Fountain~~

John Honeyman, a large Scotch-Irish man who lived in Griggstown, volunteered to be a spy for the American Army. He had two documents, and honorable discharge from the British Army after serving in the France and Indian War and a letter announcing Honeyman's appointment as General James Wolf's bodyguard, which would help him gain the confidence of the British. He posed as a butcher and whenever he had information he would allow himself to be captured after putting up a struggle. He gave out the information to Washington only. Later his escape would be planned and he would return to the British. Only Washington, Honeyman and Honeyman's wife, Mary, knew of these arrangements to insure his family's safety.

On the afternoon of December 22, 1776 John Honeyman was walking down the snow covered River Rd. just west of Hessian-held Trenton. He spotted two American soldiers some distance away. He saw a cow in a nearby field and went over to nudge her along. When the cow dodged he ran after her yelling and whipping at the cow. The two soldiers ran over to him and after a chase captured him. He was then brought to Washington, the fourth time since he had become a spy. The first two had been in Philadelphia and the other in Hackensack. He told Washington that the Hessians were not building any boats. He had not heard of any plans of the British to move overland from New Brunswick. He reported that Colonel Johann Gottlieb Rall had not built any fortifications and was now planning a large celebration on Christmas Eve. Washington began planning his attack on Trenton after hearing this good news. He dismissed Honeyman who was taken to the guardhouse to await at court-martial the next morning.

M O R E

Sometime that night a haystack nearby caught on fire and Honeyman's guard left him to help put out the blaze. Someone mysteriously unlocked the guardhouse door letting Honeyman escape.

Honeyman returned to Trenton where he reported that Washington's troops were hopelessly disorganized and were on the verge of mutiny. So Colonel Rall carried on with his plans for the Christmas Eve celebration. Honeyman slipped out of Trenton unnoticed and went to New Brunswick. Luckily for the patriots Colonel Rall did not read a message from a Tory farmer which warned him that Washington's troops were preparing to move. However, on Christmas morning, 1776, Washington was able to capture Trenton and from there to go on to win the Revolutionary War.

Since the people in Griggstown were primarily patriots, they hated Honeyman. One night a crowd gathered at their home and threatened to burn the house. When the leader of the group saw a letter from Washington protecting John Honeyman's family, he persuaded the group to leave.

Twice John Honeyman was indicted, once for high treason and the other for aiding and comforting the enemy, and was quietly released. Another time when his possessions were going to be sold the sale never took place. Instead he was reimbursed in 1783 for three horses and a mare stolen from him by the Continental Army.

One day a group of soldiers rode into Griggstown and to the surprise of the townspeople stopped at Honeyman's house. Among these soldiers was George Washington who went ~~in~~ onto the porch holding out his hand to John Honeyman and thanked him for his service to the country. Finally he could lift up his head in pride.

Ten years after the war he moved to Lamington where he became a prosperous farmer. Reports claimed that the government rewarded him for his services but these were not confirmed.



On August 18, 1822 ~~W~~ John Honeyman peacefully died at the age of 93. He had 5 sons and 2 daughters to carry on his patriotic name.

Today few people know of his service to the country. However, his name lives on at Washington Crossing State Park where there is a fountain placed by the Patriotic Order Sons of America on December 26, 1930. The water in the fountain was declared unpotable after the 1952 flood but the memorial still stands. It bears the following inscription:

DEDICATED IN MEMORY OF

JOHN HONEYMAN

WHO SERVED WASHINGTON AND

THE CONTINENTAL ARMY

AS A SPY

DRINK OF THE FOUNT OF LIBERTY  
LET POSTERITY INHERIT FREEDOM

This and a small, plain grave in Lamington are the only memorials to the man who helped turn the tide of the American Revolution and who did it out of silent love of his country.

fence, grade and improve said lands". It contains no repealer of the former act.

From the minutes of the Commission it appears that in 1913 and again in 1914 a supplementary act was introduced, but not passed, giving the commission power to acquire not exceeding 350 acres of land at or near Washington's Crossing; "to lay out, improve, preserve, care for and maintain the said lands as a park", etc; to erect a suitable memorial and to expend such moneys as shall be appropriated by the Legislature from time to time. It provided also that the Commission might sell or exchange such lands and buildings as was advisable.

#### ADMINISTRATION

As organized under the act of 1912 the Commission was composed of the Governor, State Treasurer, State Comptroller, L. V. Silver, Trenton; William L. Doyle, Trenton; William Libbey, Princeton; Charles Blackman, Atlantic City; Jesse Joroloman, Jersey City. The Governor was chosen chairman, Mr. Doyle vice-president and treasurer, and Mr. Silver secretary. (Minutes June 14, 1912).

From the minutes and records submitted the following points have been gathered:

The Blackwell tract was contracted for at \$19,000 but as it exceeded 100 acres, the limit fixed by law, it was agreed that \$18,000 should be paid for that area and the balance taken for \$1,000 when legislative authority was secured. (Minutes January 13, 1913) (The financial statement shows that \$19,000 was paid and the deed filed with the Treasurer is for 100 acres). (Deed gives \$18,000 consideration. Compt-

books show 18,000 paid.)

The minutes of July 15, 1912, November 4, 1912 and December 3, 1912 refer to options on other properties but no other evidence of them is found.

The minutes of January 22, 1914 refer to an annual report but no copy has been found.

The bill to enlarge the powers of the Commission referred to above was approved for enactment January 22, 1914 and introduced as Senate No. 108 (Minutes November 24, 1914). This bill was reported out by a Committee substitute. It gives the Adjutant General the place of the Governor on the Commission, but appears to be otherwise as noted above.

Reported that the house has been rented and Mr. Doyle directed to rent the farm if possible. (Minutes November 24, 1914). This was accomplished by the agreement with George E. Anderson.

February 23, 1916

February 23, 1916

Mr. Lewis V. Silver,  
118 W. Overbrook Ave.,  
Trenton, New Jersey

Dear Mr. Silver:

On February 8 I received a package containing the ~~xxxx~~ records of the Washington Crossing Park Commission and after going over them acknowledge the receipt of the following:

Minutes of meetings of June 14, 1912; July 14, 1912; July 29, 1912; October 7, 1912; November 4, 1912; November 12, 1912; December 3, 1912; December 24, 1912; January 13, 1913; February 3, 1913; April 7, 1913; May 6, 1913; June 4, 1913; January 22, 1914; November 24, 1914, apparently a complete set.

Copy of Rules.

Copy of letter dated November 5 from Mr. Doyle to Colonel Libbey. All items noted in this are found except the second, "Option of purchase for balance of Blackwell Farm", and the fourth, "Outline of our understanding as to employment of Mr. Chas. W. Leavitt, Engineer of Park Plans." The paragraph "I have told Mr. Silver that I did not think it was necessary to turn over any other records, and that he should keep, intact all other papers" may be questioned since all property of the State confided to the Washington Crossing Park Commission should now be in the custody of this Department.

Copies of laws of 1910 and 1912 and draft of the act introduced 1914 but not passed.

Statement of expenses from July 3, 1912 to May 7, 1913.

Financial statement from October, 1914 to July, 1915.

From the minutes it appears that there are in existence the following documents and property that have not been turned over:

1. A map of the Blackwell Farm.
2. Options on adjacent properties.
3. An electrotype (Minutes ~~Xxe~~ ~~Xx~~ February 3, 1913). Photographic negatives paid for April 7, 1913; copy of annual report referred to in minutes January 22, 1914.

I understand that nothing has been done toward the erection of a monument, as authorized by the act of 1912, the order for a tablet to cost \$500. made on January 13, 1913 and approved May 6, 1913 having been revoked on June 4, 1913.

Kindly advise me with respect to the questions raised above and arrange to have deposited here any other State property in your custody,

Very truly yours,

/s/ Alfred Gaskill  
Director

## MEMO. RE WASHINGTON CROSSING

Mr. Lewis V. Silver, Secretary of the Washington Crossing Park Commission transmitted his records on February 8 and I acknowledged receipt by a letter dated February 23; copy attached.

### LEGISLATIVE

It appears that the Washington's Crossing project was inaugurated by "An act creating the Washington's Crossing Commission and defining its powers and duties". (Chapter 33 P.L. 1910) By this act the Governor was authorized to appoint 50 persons to constitute "A Board of Commissioners by the name and style of "Washington's Crossing Commission". This commission had power to select such lands at Washington's Crossing as in their opinion were suitable for the purpose of a State Park and was authorized "to expend such sums of money as may be included in any appropriation bill", but apparently no appropriation was made.

This act was superseded by "An act to authorize the acquisition, by purchase or condemnation, of lands for a park and the erection of a monument commemorative of Washington crossing the river Delaware and for the appointment of a commission ~~with power~~ to acquire said lands and erect such monument". (Chapter 32, P.L. 1912) By this act the Governor, the Comptroller, the Treasurer and five citizens of the State, to be named by the Governor, were constituted a commission with power to acquire not exceeding 100 acres of land at or near Washington's Crossing, and to erect a suitable monument on said lands when acquired at a total cost for land ~~and monument~~ and monument not exceeding \$25,000. This sum was regularly appropriated.

The act provided that the lands acquired "shall be kept and maintained as a public park and shall be known as Washington Crossing Park and that the commission hereby appointed shall have the power to fence, grade and improve ~~the~~ said lands". It contains no repealer of the former act.

From the minutes of the Commission it appears that in 1913 and again in 1914 a supplementary act was introduced, but not passed, giving the Commission power to acquire not exceeding 350 acres of land at or near Washington's Crossing; "to lay out, improve, preserve, care for and maintain the said lands as a park", etc; to erect a suitable memorial and to expend such moneys as shall be appropriated by the Legislature from time to time. It provided also that the Commission might sell or exchange such lands and buildings as was advisable.

### ADMINISTRATION

As organized under the act of 1912 the Commission was composed of the Governor, State Treasurer, State Comptroller, L. V. Silver, Trenton; William L. Doyle, Trenton; William Libbey, Princeton; Charles Blackman, Atlantic City; Jesse Joroloman, Jersey City. The Governor was chosen chairman, Mr. Doyle vice-president and treasurer, and Mr. Silver Secretary. (Minutes June 14, 1912).

From the minutes and records submitted the following points have been gathered:

The Blackwell tract was contracted for at \$19,000 but, as it exceeded 100 acres, the limit fixed by law, it was agreed that \$18,000 should be paid for that area and the balance taken for \$1,000 when legislative authority was secured. (Minutes January 13, 1913) (The financial statement shows that \$19,000 was paid and the deed filed with the Treasurer is for 100 acres).

Add.

Records of the Washington Crossing Commissions

X Letters:

John A. Roebling's Sons Co.  
Insulated Wire Department  
Trenton, N.J.

5796-M

December 8th, 1909

Professor Wm. Libbey,  
Princeton, New Jersey

My dear Sir, --

I am favored with your letter of the 7th inst., in which you request my views as to a plan to be adopted by our Commission for the proper marking of the point where Washington crossed the Delaware River, preceding the battle of Trenton.

In a general way, I favor the plan which has found general expression, and the plan that I originally outlined to the Committee of Knights of Columbus, preceding the public meeting held under their auspices, in Taylor Opera House, Trenton, N.J., Oct. 12th, at which time the resolution, recommending to the Governor of New Jersey, the appointment of the present Commission for the purpose named, was adopted: viz,

First:- the erection of a substantial memorial bridge of such proportions as to make it worthy of the site it will appropriately adorn; ample in size for both vehicular and foot traffic; an ornamental bridge of artistic lines, to be designed by engineers of standing in bridge construction.

Second:- a park located on both the Penna. and New Jersey sides, not less than a half mile along the Delaware River, and extending at least a quarter mile inland from the river on the New Jersey side; acquirement by purchase or condemnation proceeding, if that be possible, the farm-house

Add. 3

building in which General Washington breakfasted while en route to Trenton; restoration of this building to its original proportions and conditions, as near as maybe possible; the house to be moved if necessary, to another location, in order that it may harmonize with the genral plan that may be adopted for the park; the building to be preserved as a museum, where may be gathered the momentoes of the battle of Trenton and the circumstances surrounding the same.

Third:- immediate acquirement of the water-~~power~~ power from Scudder's Falls to the City of Trenton, which I feel will aid in the building of a boulevard from the Washington Crossing park to a point, and connecting with the proposed river-side drive in the City of Trenton; the purchase of the water-power and its corporate rights, will aid in the building of the boulevard materially, and cheapen its construction. The portion of the power company lying within the city limits can undoubtedly be disposed of to advantage, and the amounts realized therefrom aid in the reduction of the purchase price; the ownership of this water-power will I believe, likewise simplify the problems of the Trenton River-side Drive Commission, and as well, the building of the boulevard herein proposed.

Fourth:- the location and ~~xx~~ and erection in the center of the park of a mound on which ~~xx~~ shall be placed a massive granite base or foundation to receive the present monument now located at the park, and which was ~~xx~~ erected and designed by the Society of the Cincinnati. The preservation of this monument will be a fitting recognition of this society's interest in marking this important event in the American struggle for liberty. While the monument as at present constituted, is rather plain and unpretentious, I for one, should like to see it perpetuated, believing as I do, that with appropriate surroundings, what now appears perhaps a rather common=place piece of handiwork, will then become an object of general admiration and praise.

Add. 4

Fifth:- as soon as it can be made possible, the employment of a competent landscape engineer, to whom shall be submitted the several ideas submitted by the Commissioners, with instructions to prepare and to report back to the Commission a plan or plans in which these several ideas may be developed.

Sixth:- submission to our neighboring commonwealth or its Commission, as soon as may be practicable, the plan which may be adopted, soliciting their co-operation, and at the same time suggesting to them the construction of a similar boulevard to the one herein described, leading from the bridge on the Penna. side, to and connecting at Morrisville, Pa., with the main highway to Philadelphia, thus affording a direct route from Philadelphia to the Crossing, through Trenton and thence to New York and the New England territory.

Seventh:- recommendation to the proper authorities of the construction of a modern wagon road, leading from the park to the village of Titusville, continuing the existing road now on the East side of the canal, through the park, and to the village as above proposed.

Eighth; and as a finale, if we wish to extend the scope of the original intent of ~~the original~~ those who have made the Commission possible, let us petition the proper authority of the U.S. Government, to designate and purchase sufficient land adjoining the park on both the Penna. and New Jersey sides, as a national army camp grounds, wherein the United States Regulars and all arms of the service may gather from time to time throughout the year for practice in the art of warfare. The ground also to be made available for the Militia of any State in the Union, and at such times as may be agreed upon for practice by the U.S.A. ~~officer~~ Officers in charge.



Add.5

It would seem when the general contour of the land in this location is considered, the healthfulness of the location, its close proximity to the Capitol of the United States at Washington, the usual favorable climatic conditions prevailing, that it would be an ideal spot for such a camp.

I am, dear sir,

Very sincerely yours,

(signed) Wm. L. Doyle

Treasurer.

Princeton, N.J.

May 5/10

My dear Governor Fort,

I feel greatly complimented by your courtesy in appointing me a member of the Washington's Crossing Commission, and take pleasure in accepting the honor.

I shall be glad to serve in any way to accomplish the objects of the Commission.

With kind regards I am

Yours very truly

William Libbey

To

His Excellency

Governor Fort.

Add.6

May 27th, 1910.

My dear Professor Libbey,

Permit me to congratulate you upon your re-election as Secretary of the newly organized Washington Cfo Crossing's Commission, and to transmit herewith record of the minutes of the Meeting. There is a considerable lot of additional printed and written matter which was received to-day, and which I shall be pleased to deliver to you in person at the next meeting, or to send by express, if you prefer. Since the lot is rather bulky to send by mail. The Commission has a most auspicious start at to-day's meeting, but there is a lot of work ahead before our fond hopes in this matter shall be realized.

I am,

Very sincerely yours,

(signed) Wm. L. Doyle

Prof. W.J. Libbey,

Princeton, N.J.

###

June 2nd, 1910

My dear Professor Libbey,

I am in receipt of your favor of the 1st inst., acknowledging mine of the 27th ult. Respecting the options referred to, I would advise that I have had my attorney prepare the transfer from Vice Prest. Fiske, to the Washington Crossing Commission. I have been advised by him that the transfer papers have been completed, and were forwarded to Mr. Fiske during the past week, with the request that the transfers be executed and returned to him. He wished to examine the transfer of the options, to see that they were properly executed, and has promised as soon as they were received and examined by him. that he would return them to me. I

Add. 7

I think it will be worth while to have the transfer of the options recorded in Mercer County. I will confer with my attorney regarding

this however, and if it is considered advisable to do this, I will <sup>it</sup> have/done, unless Mr. Fiske should do it in the meant time.

Just as soon as the papers are completed, I will have pleasure in returning them to you.

Yours very truly,

(signed) Wm. L. Doyle

Professor Wm. Libbey,

Princeton, N.J.

##

August 18th, 1910

4320-M

Professor Wm. Libbey,

Princeton, N.J.

My dear Professor Libbey,--

I have your note of the 16th inst, and have pleasure in sending you herein the original membership list of the Washington's Crossing Commission, with four copies attached. The other papers, which came into my possession at the time of the organization of the Commission, I had expected to give you long before this, assuming that the executive committee or the general committee would have had a meeting previous to this time. All papers will go forward to your Princeton address by express tomorrow, and I hope they will reach you safely.

I quite agree with you that it would be advisable for the general committee to have a meeting in the early part of September, and the executive committee as soon as appointed, a meeting prior to the meeting of the general committee.

In connection with the deep water ways plans for Trenton, I hope

Add. 8

In connection with the deep water ways plans for Trenton, I hope to meet Congressman Moore, of Penna. within the next few days, and incidentally arouse his interest and support if possible, in the Crossing project.

With kindest regards, I am,

Yours very truly,

Wm. L. Doyle

###

4371-M

August 22nd, 1910

Professor Wm. Libbey,

Princeton, N.J.

Dear Professor Libbey,--

I am enclosing herin Adams Express receipt for the package of papers which came into my possession at the meeting of the Washington Crossing Commission. Copy of the minutes of the meeting I believe I forwarded to you previously.

Trusting the papers have arrived safely, I am,

Yours very truly,

(signed) Wm.L. Doyle.

####

5072-M

October 8, 1910

Professor Wm. J. Libbey,

Princeton, N.J.

Dear Mr. Libbey,--

I have one or two bills which the Commission have contracted; viz. Attorney's fee for the transfer of options, \$5.00, Frederick L. Hulme, bill for services and expenses in securing options, \$298.25,

Add. 9

5072-M

October 8, 1910

Professor Wm. J. Libbey,  
Princeton, N.J.

Dear Mr. Libbey,—

I have one or two bills which the Commission have contracted; viz, Attorney's fee for the transfer of options, \$5.00, Frederick L. Hulme, bill for services and expenses in securing options, \$298.25, Real Estate Title Company, information and map of lands proposed to be purchased, \$200.00.

In order that these bills may be paid from the appropriation made by the last Legislature, it is necessary to have them in the hands of the Comptroller before the 31st inst. I will ask, per request of the Comptroller, that you transfer to me a certified copy of the minutes of the meeting, showing the election of officers as a Commission. It is necessary to have the bills approved by the President and one member of the Commission.

Trusting you will let me have a certified copy of the minutes at your early convenience, I am,

Yours very truly,  
(signed) Wm. L. Doyle

Add. 10

5149-M

October 12, 1910

Professor Wm. Libbey,

Princeton, New Jersey.

Dear Professor Libbey,---

I thank you for your favor of the 11th inst., with the enclosure stated therein. I have forwarded the bills referred to in my previous letter to the Comptroller for payment, and will now forward the copy of the minutes as he has requested.

Thanking you very much for your promptness, and with best wishes,  
I am,

Very sincerely,

(signed) Wm.L. Doyle

####

July 8, 1912

WASHINGTON CROSSING COMMISSION OF NEW JERSEY

Rules adopted by the Commission to govern their Proceedings.

---

Rule 1st. -- OFFICERS:

The Officers of the Commission shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and an Executive Committee of .....members.

Rule 2nd. --DUTIES OF PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT:

It shall be the duty of the President to preside at the meetings of the commission, to appoint the Executive Committee, and to perform all other duties pertaining to the office of President.

It shall be the duty of the Vice-President to assume the place of the President in his absence, and to be ex-officio a member of all Committees.

Rule 3rd.--SECRETARY:

It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep a record of the proceedings of all meetings, and of other matters pertaining to the work of the Commission, of which a record shall be ordered; he shall notify officers of their election, and members of their election and appointment to committees; he shall issue to members of all meetings, the place of meeting; and conduct the correspondence of the Commission with the concurrence of the President or vice-President.

The Secretary shall maintain a complete roll of the membership of the Commission. His books and records to be open to the inspection of any member of the Commission; his records shall be reviewed at the meeting preceding the annual meeting of the Commission, by the Executive Committee, and result of the review reported to the Commission.

Rule 4th,--- MEETINGS---QUORUM:

Add. 12

Rule 4th,-- MEETINGS--QUORUM:

The regular meetings of the Commission shall be held on the first Tuesday of each month at the State House; the annual meeting shall be held at the same place on the first tuesday of June in each year. At any regular meeting of the Commission, .....members shall constitute a quorum.

The Executive Committee shall consist of .....members, and in addition, the officers of the Commission. The Secretary of the Commission shall act as Secretary of the Executive Committee, and shall record the transactions of that body. ....members shall constitute a quorum.

Rule 5th, --SPECIAL MEETINGS:

A special meeting of the Commission may be called by the President or Vice-President, upon written application of .....members, at such place as President or Vice-President may designate. Three days notice in advance of such meeting to be mailed to the members of the Commission by the Secretary: the notice shall specify the place of meeting; the supposed necessity for the meeting, and the nature of the business to be considered. Upon request of members present, the regular order of business shall be followed at a special meeting when called; any two members offering objection however, only the business for which the meeting was called shall be considered.

Rule 6th,--ADOPTION OF PLANS for PARK and MONUMENT:

The adoption of the general plan for fulfillment of the Act of the New Jersey Legislature creating this Commission, in order to be effective must receive not less than five affirmative votes of the Commission. Said plan or plans having previously been presented in detail at two regular meetings of the Commission.



Add. 13

Rule 7th,--ORDER of PROCEDURE:

At regular meetings the following order shall be observed:

1. Roll Call
2. Reading of minutes of previous meeting.
3. Report of Secretary
4. Report of Committees
5. Elections
6. Unfinished business.

The usual Parliamentary Rules shall govern the proceedings at each meeting.

Add. 13. (Minutes of Commission)- ( Second Comm.)

The first meeting of the Washington Crossing Park Commission, created by the last Legislature, under a bill known as Senate Bill No. 52

The Commission is composed of the Governor, State Treasurer, State Comptroller, L.V. Silver, Trenton, William L. Doyle, Trenton, Colonel William N. Libbey, Princeton, Charles Blackman, Atlantic City, and the Rev. Jesse Jaroloman, Jersey City.

Under the date of June 9th, the Governor, as the Chairman, sent out a call for the first meeting of this Commission to be held in the Governor's office at the State House, Friday, June 14, 1912 at twelve o'clock noon for the purpose of organizing and electing a chairman to act in the place of the Governor, and transact any such business as may come before them. The Commission was called to order by Commissioner Voorhees, who acted as temporary chairman. There were present at this meeting, Commissioner Voorhees, Commissioner Edwards, L.V. Silver, William L. Doyle, Charles Blackman, and Rev. Jesse Jaroloman.

The first business before the commission was the election of Chairman and Secretary. Commissioner Silver was nominated and elected as Secretary, and Commissioner Doyle was nominated and elected as Chairman. Commissioner Voorhees moved that Chairman Doyle and Secretary Silver draft a set of rules to govern the transactions and any such business which may come before the Commission. This was seconded by Commissioner Edwards.

Time of meetings.- It was decided after a consultation of the commissioners that Mondays would suit the majority of them as the time to meet, and was so adopted that the Commission should be called on Monday between three and four o'clock P.M.

Add 14

A chairman Doyle agreed to procure, if possible, the surveys and other information which was gathered by the Commission appointed some time ago, in trying to procure land at Washington's Crossing.

Adjournment.- It was moved to adjourn at the call of the chair.

(signed) Louis O. Silver

Secretary

P.S. After the meeting, Commissioners Silver, Jaroloman and Blackman, through the kindness of Mr. Edmund C. Hill, who loaned them his automobile, went up to Washington's Crossing and looked over the ground as to a fit place for the monument.

//

The Second Meeting of the Washington Crossing Park Commission, held on Monday July 15, 1912 in the Governor's office at the State House.

Called to order- The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Doyle at 2:45 P.M. There were present, Commissioners Doyle, Voorhees, Joralemon, Blackman and Silver.

Minutes. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Adoption of Rules The Committee on Rules and Regulation presented their report, and after taking up the report in sections and making amendments, it was moved by Commissioner Joralemon and seconded by Commissioner Voorhees that the rules be adopted as amended. Carried by the entire body present. The Committee was discharged and given a vote of thanks for their efficient work.

Communications. The following communications were received, one from Mrs. Carrie E. Snook, regarding her property which was read and the Secretary was ordered to answer same by stating at the present time her lands would not be required for park purposes.

MORE

Add. 15

Also communication from Commissioner Voorhees enclosing a letter from John McPherson regarding a position for the purpose of putting the park in good tilth. Letter was placed on file.

Also communication from Mrs. Libbey stating that Colonel Libbey was in Stockholm and would not be home until August.

Also communication from Governor Wilson that he would be unable to attend the meeting.

Bills- The following bills were received.

Stoll Blank Book and Stationery Co. . . . .	.\$ 9.10
Frank Smith, printing 2000 letter heads and envelopes. . . . .	.28.23
Frank Smith, printing . . . . .	6.50
Miss Florence E. Steel, stenographic services. . . . .	14.70
L.V. Silver, postage . . . . .	2.00

All of the above bills were approved by the Commission and ordered paid.

Stenographer - It was moved by Commissioner Voorhees and seconded by Commissioner Blackman that the Secretary be authorized to employ a Stenographer.

Location- Commissioner Joralemon moved and it was seconded by Commissioner Voorhees that the entire Commission go up to Washington Crossing at the next meeting and look up the matter of location of such lands as may be required at this time for the erection of a monument.

Stationery- It was moved by Commissioner Blackman and seconded by Commissioner Joralemon that the Secretary procure 1000 letter heads and envelopes for the use of the various members of the Commission. Carried.

Time of meeting- It was moved by Commissioner Joralemon and seconded by Commissioner Voorhees that the hour for the next meeting of the Commission

Add. 16

should be 2 P.M.

Adjournment- It was moved and carried that the Commission adjourn at 4.16 P.M.

Surveys and Options - Commissioner Doyle presented to the Commission a fine large map containing surveys made by the last Commission of which Mr. Doyle was a member. Also the various options which have been secured by them on the lands which might be deemed available for the purpose of the Park. This was greatly appreciated by the Commission.

(signed) L.V. Silver, Secretary

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The third meeting of the Washington Crossing Park Commission, held July 29, 1912 in the Governor's office at the State House. This was a special meeting which was called by the Chair on the request of Commissioners Blackman, Silver and Doyle. The meeting came to order at 2:30 P.M.

Roll Call\* The roll call showed that there were present Commissioners Voorhees, Doyle, Blackman, Joralemon and Silver.

Minutes- The minutes of the last meeting were not read. The same to be read at the next regular meeting.

Meeting called,- This meeting was called to take the place of the regular meeting in August, as several of the Commissioners were to be absent from the State at that time. The special meeting was for the purpose of going to Washington Crossing to select a site for the proposed park and monument.

Bills- The following bills were received and ordered approved.

Frank Smith, printing . . . . .	\$ 3.50
Horace " . Fine, rubber stamp . . . . .	.65
Florence E. Steel, stenographic services . . . . .	19 .80

Add. 17

Temporary adjournment. It was moved by Commissioner Voorhees and Seconded by Commissioner Blackman that the Commission adjourn temporarily to go to Washington Crossing to fulfill the purpose of this meeting as stated above. The Commission found in waiting the automobile of Adjutant General Wilbur F. Sadler, Jr. also one furnished by Commissioner Doyle through the kindness of the John A. Roebling's Sons Co.

Grounds - After the Commission had taken a thorough look over the various parts of the lands offered, a site was finally selected by a unanimous vote of the Commission, and a motion was made by Commissioner Voorhees and seconded by Commissioner Joralemon that Vice-President Doyle secure an option on the Blackwell property.

Committee,- It was moved by Commissioner Voorhees and seconded by Commissioner Blackman that the Chair appoint a Committee to wait upon Dr. Strittmatter and secure from him a price and option on his property which adjoins the Blackwell estate. Further the Secretary was instructed to write to Dr. Strittmatter and ask him when it would be convenient for him to meet said committee.

Adjournment- No further business coming before the Commission at this time, adjournment was moved until the next regular meeting of the Commission in September.

(signed) L.V. Silver, Secretary

Add. 18

Mercer County Board of Taxation  
Office, Mercer County Court House

Trenton, N.J. Aug. 3, 1912

Mr. L.V. Silver, Sec'y  
Washington Crossing Park Commission.

Dear Sir:-

In reply to your inquiry of Aug. 1, I am pleased to give you the assessments on the following list of properties.

Harry Boice	\$2500 and \$300
Throdore B. Hunt	\$3000 (90 acre farm)
Chas. W. Clifford	\$ 250
Austin C. Cooley	\$1200
W. F. Hildebrand	\$2000
W.W. Johnson	\$ 200
Edmond Kent	\$2750, \$2500, \$1000 (3 tracts)
Sarah L. McCarty	\$250
Edward H. Sharuby	Nothing on record.
Carrie D. Snook	\$3500
Jas. Van Hise and wife	\$4500 (80 acre farm)
Ira J. Blackwell Est	\$5500 (110 acres)
" " " "	\$5600 (135 acres)

There is nothing on record for Alice Boice Boice, Elizabeth Kent or Clara D. Van Hise.

Very truly yours,

(signed) Allan B. Walsh, Sec'y

State of New Jersey.

Introduced January 22, 1912.

By Mr. Leavitt.

Referred to Committee on Federal Relations.

An Act to authorize the acquisition, by purchase or condemnation, of lands for a park and the erection of a monument commemorative of Washington crossing the river Delaware and for the appointment of a commission to acquire said lands and erect such monument.

Be it enacted by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. The Governor, the Comptroller, the Treasurer and five persons, citizens of this State, to be named by the Governor, and who shall serve without pay, shall be and they are hereby constituted a commission, with power to acquire, by purchase or condemnation, in the name of the State of New Jersey, lands not to exceed five acres in extent, at or near the point where Washington crossed the river Delaware on the night preceding the battle of Trenton, and with power to erect upon said lands, when acquired, a suitable monument of design and material to be by said commission determined, commemorative of the crossing of the river Delaware by Washington, as aforesaid, at a total cost, for the acquisition of said lands and erection of said monument, not to exceed twenty-five thousand dollars, and the said sum of twenty-five thousand dollars, or such part as may be needed, is hereby appropriated for such part as may be needed, is hereby appropriated for such purpose, out of any moneys in the treasury of the State not otherwise appropriated, such moneys to be expended only on the requisition of the Governor, and the Comptroller is hereby directed to issue warrants for the payment of the same upon such requisition being made by the Governor and the Treasurer of the State shall on such warrants of the Comptroller pay out the moneys hereby appropriated for the purposes aforesaid.



2. The lands so, as aforesaid, to be acquired, shall be kept and maintained as a public park, and shall be known as "Washington Crossing Park", and that the commission hereby appointed shall have the power to fence, grade and improve said lands; provided, the entire cost, including the acquisition of said lands and erection of said monument shall not exceed the sum hereby appropriated.

3. This act shall take effect immediately.

##

Options on properties secured by the former Commission appointed by ~~me~~ by Governor Kort.

Blackwell option, dated February 16, 1910, containing 110 acres,  
price . . . . . \$20,000.

Alice B. Boice and Harry B. Boice to Charles J. Fisk, dated March 12, 1910,  
containing (number of acres not stated), price . . . . . \$2,300.

Charles W. Clifford & Wife to Charles J. Fisk, dated March 7, 1910,  
containing 1 81/100 acres of land, price to be . . . . . \$ 5,000.

Autsink C. Cooley and Wife to Charles J. Fisk, dated March 12, 1910,  
containing 1 acre of land, price to be . . . . . \$ 4,000.

William F. Hildebrand and wife to Charles J. ~~Fisk~~ Fisk, dated February 26,  
1910, containing 80 acres of land, price to be \$100 per acre.

Theodore B. Hunt and wife to Charles J. Fisk, dated March 3, 1910,  
containing 104 32/100 acres of land, price to be . . . . . \$11,000.

Willard W. Johnson and wife to Charles J. Fisk, dated February 23,  
1910, containing 1/2 acre of land price to be . . . . . \$ 1,100.

Elizabeth Kent and husband to Charles J. Fisk, dated February 15,  
1910, containing 98 54/100 acres of land, price to be \$100 per acre.

Sarah L. McCarty to Charles J. Fisk, dated February 26, 1910,  
containing 1/2 acre of land, the price to be . . . . . \$ 1,000.

Add. 21

Edward H. Sharuby and wife to Charles J. Fisk, dated February 17, 1910,  
containing (number of acres not given), price to be . . . . . \$ 1,300.

Carrie D. Snook and Theodore S. Snook to Charles J. Fisk, dated February 23,  
1910, containing four acres of land, price to be . . . . . \$3,500.

Clara D. Van Hise and husband to Charles J. Fisk, dated March 5, 1910,  
containing eighty (80) acres of land, price to be . . . . . \$10,000.

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The Fourth regular meeting of the Washington Crossing Park Commission  
met October 7, 1912, at Trenton, N.J. in the Governor's Office at the State House.

Called to order and Members present\* The meeting was called to order by  
Vice-President Doyle at 2:25 P.M.

There were present at this meeting, Commissioners Doyle, Voorhees, Libbey,  
Blackman, Joralemon and Silver.

Minutes- The Minutes of the two previous meetings were read and approved.

Stationery- Commissioner William Libbey called attention to the letter  
heads printed for this commission that his name had been printed wrong,  
and it was moved and seconded and motion carried, that said letter heads  
be destroyed, and some new ones printed with the proper correction.

Bills- The following bills were read and approved, and were ordered  
forwarded to the Governor for his approval, to be paid when the funds of  
the Commission are available, November 1st, 1912, -

Hibbert Printing Co .....	\$ 11.
Fank Smith .....	1.50
The Capital Stationery .....	5.25
Florence E. Steel, Stenographer .....	33.15

Strittmatter letter- The matter in reference to the letter of Dr. Strittmatter was taken up, and commissioner Doyle stated that the letter from the Doctor was a very nice one, and the Doctor stood ready to meet with the Commission at any time they cared to see him, but on certain days. It was decided that Vice-Prest. Doyle invite Dr. Strittmatter to be present at the next regular meeting of the Commission.

Blackwell Option - Vice-President Doyle stated that he was working on the option of the Blackwell estate, and would probably be able to give the Commissioners a more definite answer at the next regular meeting.

Landscape Engineers - Commissioner Silver moved, and it was seconded by Commissioner Libbey, and motion carried, that Vice-Prest. Doyle write to several landscape engineers and secure the services of one of them to perfect some ideas in plans as to what might be most needed in the number of acres, and other matters pertaining to the Park, and spend such money as may be necessary for this preliminary work; same to be paid when the funds of the Commission are available.

Debate - The Commissioners indulged in several minutes talk of the general plans of the Park, but nothing was definitely settled.

Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 4 P.M. to meet again at the next regular meeting, the first Monday in November.

/s/ L.V. Silver

Secretary

#####

The 5th regular meeting of the Washington Crossing Park Commission was held on Monday, November 4, 1912 in the Governor's office, at the State House. As there was no quorum present there was no regular meeting, and it was decided to have another meeting at the earliest possible time convenient to the Vice-Chairman.

Present- There were present at this informal meeting, Commissioners Doyle, Joralemon, Libbey and Silver.

Guest, - As an invitation has been extended to Dr. Strittmatter at the previous meeting, we had the pleasure of having Dr. Strittmatter with us at this formal meeting, and the Commissioners talked over the matters pertaining to the Doctor's tract of land. The Doctor informed the Commissioners that he purchased said land absolutely for park purposes and would not sell it for anything except for said use. The said tract contains about one hundred and twenty-three (123) acres and the Doctor would be willing to sell for park purposes for \$10,000. The Commissioners enjoyed having Dr. Strittmatter with them, and felt that he had made a very fair proposition to them for his tract of land.

Blackwell option, - Vice-Chairman Doyle outlined the details of the option that he had secured from Mr. A.D. Blackwell, at a price to be \$19,000. Mr. Doyle stated that he did not believe that it would be possible to secure said property for any less figure. Commissioner Joralemon rather opposed the price and after some discussion it was decided that Vice-Chairman Doyle write or go and see Mr. Blackwell and see if it would not be possible to secure these lands for less than \$19,000.

Governor Wilson - It was suggested that Colonel Libbey see Governor Wilson and try to arrange to have him present at the next meeting of the Commission, which would be called by the Vice-Chairman, so as to have the full Commission present and be able to act upon the Blackwell option.

Adjournment. - This informal meeting adjourned at the call of the chair

Add 24.

The adjourned 5th regular meeting of the Washington Crossing Park Commission was called by Vice-Chairman Doyle to be held on Tuesday, November 12, 1912 at the Governor's office, at the State House, at 2:30 P.M. Governor Wilson presided.

Present, - All of the commissioners were present at this meeting, namely, Commissioners Voorhees, Edwards, Libbey, Joralemon, Blackman, Doyle, Silver and Governor Wilson.

Blackwell Option, - The first matter of importance which came up was the Blackwell tract of land. Vice-Chairman Doyle asked the Governor for his suggestion in the matter as to the advisability of purchasing this tract; also pointed out to the Governor the various tracts of lands which had been outlined on the map, showing that this said tract was the strategic point for the park and a proper place to begin. Governor Wilson after listening to the remarks made by the various Commissioners, thought it advisable that this tract be the first one purchased, and that an option be secured on the Dr. Strimatter tract. Before voting on the purchase of this tract, Vice-Chairman Doyle read a letter from Mr. A.D. Blackwell giving his reasons for not being able to come down on the price as quoted on the option, namely \$19,000. Commissioner Joralemon was opposed to the price, and moved that we did not accept the Blackwell tract. The motion was lost as the only one voting for said motion was Commissioner Joralemon, the other Commissioners opposed. Commissioner Voorhees then moved that we purchase the Blackwell tract of land at \$19,000, which was seconded by Commissioner Libbey. Said motion was carried, the only one opposing was Commissioner Joralemon, and he requested that his vote be so recorded on the minutes.

Bills, - the following bills were read and approved.

Hibbert Printing Co., for 1000 letter-heads . . . . .	\$5.50
Florence E. Steel, stenographic services . . . . .	.12.30

Add. 25

Change of Meeting - It was suggested by one or two of the Commissioners that the meetings of the Commission be held on Tuesdays instead of Mondays, and in canvassing the Secretary found that almost unanimously it would suit the Commissioners to meet on Tuesdays, and it was decided that the next regular meeting would be held on Tuesday, at which time, if necessary a vote would be taken to change the by-laws from Monday to Tuesday of each month.

Property- In Detailing some of the Commissioners plans to Governor Wilson, Vice-Chairman Doyle stated that the house on the Blackwell tract would be very desirable to the Commission and to the park, as it could be renovated at a very small cost, and would make a place suitable for patriotic organizations of the State of New Jersey to make that their headquarters as to having special meetings or other functions from time to time, and a part of the property could be made available for the living quarters for the Superintendent of the Park.

Adjournment- The meeting adjourned at 3:30 P.M.

/s/ L.V. Silver

Secretary

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The sixth regular meeting of the Washington Crossing Park Commission was held in the Governor's Office, at the State House, on Tuesday, December 3, 1912. Said meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Doyle at 3 P.M. and presided over by Acting Governor John D. Prince.

Present\* There were present at this meeting, Acting Governor John D. Prince, Vice-Chairman Doyle, Commissioners Voohees, Edwards Joralemon and Silver.

Report- The first business to come before the Commission was a report made by Vice-Chairman Doyle, as Chairman of the land purchase committee. Mr. Doyle stated that the deeds for the Blackwell tract were being drawn, and also stated that he had secured and duly executed the option on the Blackwell tract. Also asked that options be secured on other properties adjacent to

the Park property, which may be needed for the Park. A motion was made by Commissioner Silver and seconded by Commissioner Voorhees that Vice-Chairman Doyle be authorized to secure options on such properties as he may deem advisable and necessary.

Architect- Vice-Chairman Doyle also made a report on having secured the services of Mr. Leavitt of New York, as a landscape architect, and stated that he was highly pleased with Mr. Leavitt as he had shown so much enthusiasm in this work, and there was no doubt in his mind but that Mr. Leavitt was the very man that the Commission needed for said purpose. Vice-Chairman Doyle also stated that Mr. Leavitt was surveying the Blackwell property and would be prepared, in the course of two or three weeks, to present plans to the Commission for inspection.

Committee, - A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Doyle and seconded by Commissioner Silver that a Committee of two be appointed to draft such bills as may be necessary to further the project of the Washington Crossing Park Commission, and said bills to be presented to the Legislature this Winter. Acting Governor Prince appointed on this Committee, Commissioners Doyle and Voorhees.

Special meeting- Inasmuch as several of the Commissioners would not be able to attend the regular meeting of the Commission in January, it was suggested that Vice-Chairman Doyle call a special meeting sometime during December, after plans had been received from Mr. Leavitt, the architect. All the commissioners were in favor of this special meeting.

Bills, - The following bills were read and approved;-

- G.A. Mishler, for bag for use of the Secretary. . . . . \$12.
- Florence E. Steel, for stenographic services . . . . . 13.95

Adjournment, - The meeting adjourned at 3:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, *s/ L.V. Silver*  
*Secretary*

Add. 26

The minutes of the last regular meeting were not read.

The Second Special Meeting of the Washington Crossing Park Commission was called for by Vice-Chairman Doyle on December ~~24~~, 1912, at 12 o'clock noon, in lieu of the regular meeting on January 6, 1913, as stated in the minutes of our last regular meeting.

Present, - There were present at this special meeting, Governor Wilson, Vice-Chairman Doyle, Colonel Libbey, and L.V. Silver. As there was not a quorum present the meeting was not called to order.

Engineer, - We had with us at this meeting, Mr. Leavitt the Landscape Engineer. He had with him a set of plans which were shown to the Governor and the various details gone over with him. After so doing, the plans and general ideas as stated and set forth were sanctioned by the Governor.

Form of Plans, - Mr. Leavitt stated that he would have these plans done in india ink and framed, but before having them framed he would give the Commissioners an opportunity to sign their respective names, Governor Wilson agreed to this.

Present, There were also present at this informal meeting, Adjutant General Wilbur Sadler and Congressman Allan B. Walsh. Both of these gentlemen were very much pleased with the plans as presented by Mr. Leavitt.

Call of meeting, The Vice-Chairman stated that he would have a call issued for another meeting of the Commission in a few days, urging the presence of every Commissioner, so that the plans could be adopted in the whole; also the presentation of bills to carry on the plans as presented. said bills to be presented at this coming Legislature.

Adjourned, As there was nothing further to come before this informal meeting, it adjourned at 12:45.

Secretary,



Add. 27

State of New Jersey  
Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury

Important

Trenton, November 1, 1912

To Secretary

Washington Crossing Park Commission

State of New Jersey

Pursuant to Joint Resolution No. 8, approved April 21, 1909, and in accordance with Section 1 thereof, you will please submit to me, upon the within form and according to the instructions herewith relative thereto, the information recited in said section 1, to wit:

"On or before the 10th day of January in each year, all State Institutions, Departments, Boards, Commissions, Officials and Bodies dependent in whole or in part upon legislative appropriation for support, SHALL submit to the State Comptroller, upon forms prepared and provided by him, an estimate of their needs for the coming fiscal year and for supplementary appropriation for the current fiscal year, if such supplemental appropriation is necessary."

As these statements must be condensed, compiled and tabulated by me and prepared and printed in pamphlet form and submitted to the Legislature by February 1, 1913, a very prompt submission of the required estimates is an absolute necessity, and such submissions failing to reach me by January 10, 1913, at latest, must necessarily be omitted from said pamphlet, and as said pamphlet submitted to the Legislature will have a direct bearing upon the appropriations incident to the support of the interests under your care, promptness in conforming hereto is of vital importance.

INSTRUCTIONS.- In the space designated as Items, describe in detail for what the appropriation is required, and enter the amount required for each item so designated in the column headed Supplemental Appropriation, if the amount is desired to be used during the fiscal year ending October 31, 1913, and in the column headed Annual Appropriation if the amount is desired to be used during the fiscal year ending October 31, 1914. Have the submission

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approved by management, if Institution; Head, if Department; President of  
Chairman and Secretary if Board, Commission or Body, and by Self if Official.

Respectfully,

Comptroller

Conforming to Joint Resolution No. 8 Approved April 21, 1909, and Section 1  
thereof Washington Crossing Park Commission herewith submits the estimate  
of appropriations required for the periods for below stated.

ITEMS in detail for which appropriation is required	SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION FOR fiscal year ending October 31, 1913		Annual APPROPRIATION FOR fiscal year ending October 31, 1913	
	Amount of Items	Total	Amount of Items	Total
Additional land. approximately 200 acres		35,000		
For principle Highway				35,000
For restoring original Road of Lane				5,000
Preparation of land.				10,000
For water supply & sewage system.				5,000
For engineering expenses, Supervision & expenses incident to the work of the Commission				25,000
General planting				<u>10,000</u>
				\$90,000

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At the adjourned 5th regular meeting of the Washington Crossing Park  
Commission, held on Tuesday, November 12, 1912, in the Governor's office at  
the State House, the following resolution was adopted: All members of the  
Commission being present.

Add. 28

Commissioner Voorhees moved that we purchase the Blackwell tract of land, which was seconded by Commissioner Libbey, and which was carried.

The purchase of this tract was referred to Commissioner Doyle as he was requested by the Commission at an earlier meeting to secure the option on same.

/s/ L.V. Silver  
Secretary

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The seventh regular meeting of the Washington Crossing Park Commission was held Monday, January 13, 1913, in the Governor's office at the State House.

The Commission was called to order by Vice-Chairman Doyle, at 3:30 P.M. Present. There were present at this meeting, Governor Wilson, Commissioners Doyle, Libbey, Voorhees, Joralemon and Silver, Governor Wilson having other business was unable to remain during the entire meeting.

Plans,- Just previous to the calling of the meeting to order, Mr. Charles Leavitt, Jr., the engineer, presented to the Commission, and India Ink sketch of the plans, and the commissioners present went over them very carefully and were very much pleased with them. They were then signed by Governor Wilson, and the other commissioners present. Commissioner Blackman's signature was placed thereon by Colonel Libbey, at the request of Commissioner Blackman, he authorizing us to do so in a letter under date of January 10, 1913.

Deeds, \$ Commissioner Doyle spoke of having the deeds for the Blackwell tract prepared and as far as he knew, they could be recorded either Monday or Tuesday of this week. A transcript of the minutes authorizing Mr. Doyle to purchase this land was forwarded to Nelson Gaskill, the Assistant Attorney General. Commissioner Doyle, stated that the deeds would be made out for \$18,000, covering the purchase of 100 acres, as required by Law in the bill,

Add. 28

but that he has secured a long option on the remaining number of acres for

\$1,000 to be purchased and paid for when money for same is available.

Bill,- Vice-Chairman Doyle also spoke of having prepared with Commissioner Voorhees, a bill to be presented to this Legislature asking for an appropriation of \$125,000 to further the work of the Park Commission. The Secretary also filed with the Comptroller, a schedule for said appropriation.

Schedule approved,- A motion was made by Commissioner Voorhees and seconded by Commissioner Libbey that the schedule be made an Act of this Commission and approved. Motion carried.

Blackwell deed,- Commissioner Doyle stated that he has arranged with the Blackwell family so that they might have possession of the house on the tract, until January 1, 1914, but that the Commission would have the right to enter the premises at all times.

Tablet,- Commissioner ~~Voorhees~~ Joralemon moved, and motion seconded by Commissioner Voorhees, that a committee of two, including the Vice-Chairman, be appointed to secure a tablet, the price of which is not to exceed the sum of \$500. The chair appointed on this Committee, Commissioners Joralemon and Libbey.

Photographs,- It was moved by Commissioner Voorhees and seconded by Commissioner Silver, that twelve large photographs and twelve each of the vignette views be made from the large sketch presented to the Commission by Mr. Leavitt. Also to have the sketch of the plans framed. Vice-Chairman Doyle was appointed to look after the same. Motion carried.

Engineers plans accepted,- It was moved by Commissioner Voorhees and seconded by Commissioner Joralemon that the plans and sketch be accepted as presented by the Engineer, including his services for same the sum of \$2,500. Also the work thus far done by the Committee who have this part of the work in charge, be approved. Motion carried.

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Add. 29

Bills, - The following bills were submitted and approved,-

Florence E. Steel, for stenographic services during Dec.  
and part of January . . . . . \$19.20  
L.V. Silver for stamps . . . . . 5.00  
Chas. W. Leavitt, Jr. for professional services . . . . . \$2500.00

It was moved by Commissioner Voorhees and seconded by  
Commissioner Doyle that these bills be paid. Motion carried.

Adjournment, - A motion was made to adjourn to meet again at the call  
of the Chair, or at the next regular meeting in February, if no sooner  
convened. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,-

/s/ L.V. Silver , Secretary

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The following letters were sent to Governor Wilson, and State  
Treasurer Daniel S. Voorhees:-

Hon. Woodrow Wilson,  
Governor of New Jersey,  
Trenton, New Jersey.

Mr. dear Governor,-

I have the pleasure of informing you that by a unanimous vote of the W  
Washington Crossing Park Commission, which met in the Governor's office,  
at the State House, Monday, February 3, 1913, you were elected an honorary  
member of said Commission.

Very respectfully,

Secretary

Hon. Daniel S. Voorhees,  
State Treasurer,

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Hon. Daniel S. Voorhees,  
State Treasurer,  
Trenton, N.J.

My dear Commissioner,- I have the pleasure of informing you that by a unanimous vote of the Washington Crossing Park Commission, which met in the Governor's office, at the State House, Monday, February 3d, 1913, you were elected an honorary member of said Commission.

We wish to put ourselves on record of appreciating the work you have done on this Commission, and will take the liberty from time to time to call upon you to render such service that we feel you will be able to give us in connection with furthering our plans, which we feel you have at heart, and trust that you may see your way clear to meet with us frequently.

Respectfully,

Secretary.

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE WASHINGTON CROSSING PARK COMMISSION  
IN HONOR OF THE HON. DANIEL S. VOORHEES.

It is a pleasure to this Commission to Place on record its cordial appreciation of the warm support and faithful efforts on its behalf of

THE HON. DANIAL S. VOORHEES

Our work has been lightened by his kindly council; and his careful attention to the furthering of the objects we had in view have materially aided in their realization.

If we are successful in providing a fitting and dignified memorial of the acts of our patriotic ancestors at "Washington's Crossing" it will in no small degree be due to his helpful cooperation in the formation of our early plans, and his skilful handling of the involved problems of securing the means to carry them out.

means to carry them out.

The Commission expresses the hope that he will accept the honorary membership voted him, as an invitation to continue his active connection with their work and that he will live long to enjoy the fruit of our common labors in this worthy cause.

The regular monthly meeting of the Washington Crossing Park Commission was held on Tuesday, May 6, 1913, in the Governor's office at the State House.

Called to order, - The meeting was called to order at 2:30 P.M. by Governor Fielder, presiding.

Present, - There were present at this meeting, Vice-Chairman Doyle, Commissioners Grosscup, Edwards, Joralemon and Silver.

Tablet Commission, - Commissioner Joralemon, as Chairman of the Tablet Committee presented sketches and photographs for the contemplated tablet, all of which were carefully examined by the commissioners present, and one in particular approved. Commissioner Doyle moved, same seconded by Commissioner Grosscup that the report of the tablet committee be received and that the committee secure a tablet not to cost over \$500. Carried.

Bills, - The following bills were presented and approved, -  
John C. Nevius, Civil Engineer for surveying the Blackwell farm at Washington Crossing . . . . . \$223.50  
Smith Press, for printing letter heads etc. ; . . . . . 18.20  
Florence E. Steel, for stenographic services during the month of April 1913 . . . . . 13.25

Communications, - Communications were received from President Wilson and Commissioner Libbey stating they would be unable to attend this meeting.

Status of Commission, - Commissioner Doyle took up the matter of the status of our commission at this time, and after a lengthy discussion. the

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Add. 91

status of our commission at this time, and after a lengthy discussion, the Governor stated that he saw but one thing to do, and that would be to have the Legislature take up the matter of our bill again, and try and get at least \$12,000. Inasmuch as Commissioner Grosscup stated that the Legislature passed a resolution on this day not to take up any other bills except the two which were before them for the special session, it is possible that nothing can be done at this time.

P.R.R. Commissioner Doyle presented a letter from the Pennsylvania R.R. Co., offering the commission a tract of land on the opposite side of the Blackwell tract, containing two houses, for the sum of \$1250. Same was held in abeyance.

Annual meeting,- Commissioner Joralemon proposed that at the next regular meeting of the commission, which would be the annual meeting, the first Tuesday in June, that the commissioners all go to Washington Crossing and hold meeting there.

Adjournment,- The meeting adjourned at 3 P.M.

/s/ L.V. Silver

Secretary

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LIST OF EXPENSES OF THE WASHINGTON CROSSING PARK COMMISSION, from

July 1912 to May 1913.

1912			
July	3rd	100 two cent stamps . . . . .	\$2.00
"	6th	Frank Smith for 1500 letter heads & Envelopes . . . . .	.28.23
"	10th	Stoll Stationery Co., sundrey supplies . . . . .	9.10
"	12th	Frank Smith, 500 letter heads & supplies . . . . .	6.50
"	18th	Frank Smith, 500 envelopes. . . . .	3.50
"18th		Horace E. Fine Co., one rubber stamp & pad . . . . .	.65
"	14th	Florence E. Steel, stenographic work . . . . .	14.70



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Add. ~~30~~  
1912

July 29th	L.V. Silver, postage . . . . .	\$ 5.00
" 29th	Florence E. Steel, stenographic work . . . .	19.80
Aug. 7th	Hibbert Printing Co. . . . .	11.00
" 7th	Frank Smith . . . . .	1.50
Sept. 28th	Capital Stationery Co. . . . .	.7 5.25
Oct. 7th	Florence E. Steel, stenographic work . . . . .	33.15
" 16th	Hibbert Printing Co. . . . .	5.50
Nov. 1st	Florence E. Steel . . . . .	12.30
" 12th	G.A. Mishler, one bag. . . . .	12.00
Dec. 3rd	Florence E. Steel, stenographic work for Nov. .	13.95

1913

Jan. 13th	L.V. Silver, for postage . . . . .	5.00
" 13th	Florence E. Steel, for stenographic work . . . .	19.20
" 13th	Chas. W. Leavitt, for plans etc. . . . .	2500.00
" 13th	Blackwell Estate, 100 acres of land and house	18000.00
Feb. 3rd	A.V. Mannings Sons, for framing pictures. . . .	58.26
" 3rd	Florence E. Steel, for stenographic work . . . .	12.10
" 7th	Hughes and Morris, insurance on plans and dwelling. . . . .	29.40
" 7th	Artists Packing and Shipping Co., packing plans	2.50
" 7th	L.V. Silver, rubber stamps postage. . . . .	5.35
" 7th	James J. McGoogon, preparing options. . . . .	25.00
" 7th	Oscar R. Applegate, photographs. . . . .	226.80
" 7th	Florence E. Steel, two months service . . . . .	21.60
May 6th	John C. Nevius, Civil Engineer . . . . .	223.50
" 6th	Smith Bros. printing etc. . . . .	18.20
" 6th	Florence E. Steel, stenographic work, Apr. 1913	13.25
Oct 30th	W.L. Doyle, Automobile hire and R.R. Fare to New York City . . . . .	35.20

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Add. ~~30~~

Oct. 30th Florence E. Steel, for stenographic services  
from June 1st to Oct. 3d, 1913 . . . . . 12.50  
\$22,391.99

RECAPITULATION.

APPROPRIATION FROM STATE . . . . . \$25,000.00  
EXPENDITURES . . . . . 22,391.99  
2,608.01

A special meeting of the Washington Crossing Park Commission was held  
1914  
Thursday January 22d, in the Governor's office, at the State House.

The meeting was called to order by Governor Fielder at 2:15 p.m.

Present, There were present at this meeting, Commissioners Fielder,  
Doyle, Edwards, Grosscup and Silver. Telegrams were read from Commissioners  
Libbey, Joralemon and Blackman, saying they were unable to attend.

Minutes, - The minutes of the last meeting which was held on June 4, 1913  
were read and approved, after making the correction in same to read  
"expenditures \$22,391.99 instead of \$22,344.29.

Annual report, - The annual report prepared by Vice-Chairman Doyle  
was read and with several suggestions made by the Governor is to be  
presented to the Legislature as drafted. A motion was made to this effect  
by Commissioner Edwards and same was carried.

Bill, - The bill prepared by the Commission to amend the original bill  
of 1912 was read by Vice-Chairman Doyle and with suggestions being made by  
the Governor and the other Commissioners is to be prepared by Assistant  
Attorney General Gaskill and presented to the Legislature at an early date,  
through the courtesy of Senator B.B. Hutchinson of Mercer.

As the Commission is without funds or authority regarding the building  
or lands now owned by the Commission the meeting adjourned to await the passing  
of this bill by the Legislature giving the commission authority to take care

of this property which is now in their hands. The meeting adjourned at 2 P.M.

38  
The Fourteenth Meeting of the Washington Crossing Park Commission was held on Tuesday, November 24, 1914, in the Governor's office at the State House.

The Meeting was called to order by Governor Fielder at 11:15 A.M.

Present, - There were present at this meeting Governor Fielder, Commissioners Doyle, Edwards Grosscup, Libbey, Joralemon and Silver. A letter was received from Mrs. Blackman stating that the Commissioner had been very ill in the Hospital, and was unable to attend the meeting.

Minutes, - The minutes of the last meeting which was held on January 22, 1914, were read and approved.

Reports, - Commissioner Doyle made a report on Senate Bill No. 108, which was presented to the Legislature by Senator Hutchinson, and amended by Senator Hennessey for the purpose of giving the commissioners the authority to take care of the Park, and make such exchange of property that might be deemed advisable from time to time by this Commission. Mr. Doyle reported that the bill did not pass.

Commissioner Doyle reported that he had sold the hay on the farm of the Park grounds for \$75.00 and had received a check for same, and had also rented the house to Mr. Rickard J. Yard, for a rental of \$15.00 per month, subject to the will of the Commission, as to the length of time Mr. Yard may remain a tenant there. Mr. Doyle further reported that he had collected rent for October and November. The agreement between Mr. Yard and Mr. Doyle for the Commission was that the rental be payable in advance. Commissioner Edwards made a motion that the reports of Commissioner Doyle be accepted and approved. Motion carried.

Commissioner Doyle also reported that he had an interview with the Assistant State Comptroller regarding the funds in possession of the Washington Crossing Park Commission at this time, and was informed that he could

Add. 25

Add. 34

deposited that money in any Bank in Trenton, in the name of the Washington Crossing Park Commission.

Funds,- Commissioner Silver moved that the funds be deposited in a Bank in Trenton, and subject to the check of the Washington Crossing Park Commission. Said check to be signed by Vice-President Doyle and Secretary Silver.

Lease of Farm, Commissioner Edwards moved that Commissioner Doyle should make an effort to issue the farm if possible, for the coming year, the lease to expire November 1, 1915. Carried.

Legislation- Commissioner Edwards made a motion that Commissioner Doyle again present a bill similar to the one presented to the Legislature last year, through the kindness of Senator Hutchinson to the coming Legislature, Carried.

Bills,- The following bill was presented, - E. B. Morris Company,  
for balance of Insurance due them . . . . . \$ 3.10  
It was ordered paid.

The Meeting adjourned at 12 noon Sharp.

/s/ L.V. SILVER  
Secretary

For the purchase of the McKonkey Ferry House and adjoining land to the Delaware river as described in agreement dated December 27, 1921.

\$8,000.00 Bill passed to payment March 31, 1922.

M O R E

3  
Add ~~to~~ Letter from:  
State of New Jersey  
Department of Conservation and Development

Mr. John L. Kuser,  
Peoples Brewing Co.,  
Trenton, N.J.

October 21, 1921

Dear Mr. Kuser:

I am sending you by this mail a package containing the following bearing upon the proposed park at Washington Crossing, that the committee appointed by the Board may be prepared to open negotiations with Doctor Strittmatter, and to take such other steps as are advisable.

1. A letter written to Dr. I.P. Strittmatter July 19, 1921, his reply dated July 22, 1921, and my acknowledgment dated July 25, 1921.
2. Memorandum respecting the value of the land that should be acquired from Doctor Strittmatter.
3. A photostat reproduction of Mr. C.W. Leavitt's plan of the authorized small park, and a copy of Mr. Leavitt's letter accompanying.

On this plan are marked in pencil the present State holding; the Strittmatter lot about the McKonkey ferry house (Washington's headquarters); the block of three adverse holdings with buildings on them which must be acquired; and the Strittmatter and the Nelson lots below the highway. The lines at the right of the print represent the present road layout from the County Engineer's maps. They need not be particularly considered at this time.

4. Notes made by me when Mr. Leavitt's plan was first received, and a memorandum relative to cooperation with the county freeholders.
5. Photostat copy of a plot of all the properties about Washington Crossing, which the old Washington Crossing Park Commission considered in connection with its plan. The options referred to have, of course, long expired, and the greater part of the Ira J. Blackwell tract is now State property. The outline of the proposed small park is sketched on this plan in red.

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Add. 5

6. A photograph of the large park plan made in 1913.
7. Memorandum by Charles K. Hammitt received October 13, 1921, thru Mayor of Trenton.

The Department's present authority is found in an item of the current appropriation act, which reads:

For the purchase of the McKonkey ferry house and the development of not more than ten acres of the State park at Washington Crossing . . . \$10,000. The Comptroller has ruled that as the ferry house cannot be acquired without taking some land about it, the 2-4/5 acres included in the small Leavitt plan may be considered as within the statutory requirement.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Alfred Gaskall, Director

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Memorandum Of Joint Conference - June 5, 1928

The Pennsylvania Washington Crossing Park Commission and the Board of Conservation and Development of New Jersey with invited guests held a joint conference on Tuesday, June 5, at Washington Crossing and at Hilltop, the estate of Mr. John L. Kuser. There were present the following.

From Pennsylvania

Members of the Washington Crossing Park Commission

Allen W. Hagenback, President

W. Clayton Hackett, Secretary

Henry Y. Peikering

Edwin B. Malone

Samuel C. Eastburn

William D. Ridgway

Thomas Scott

Ernest H. Harvey, Assistant Secretary

Hon. Charles E. Dorwothe, Secy. Dept. of Forests and Waters, -(Representing the Governor of Pennsylvania)

Gen. Frank D. Beary, Adjutant General

Hon. James L. Stuart, Secretary of Highways

Hon. Benson E. Taylor, Secretary of Property and Supplies

Hon. Artur P. Townsend, Budget Secretary

Hon. Frederic A. Godcharles, State Librarian

Hon. Horace W. Schantz, President pro tem of Penna. State Senate

Hon. Henry W. Watson, Member of Congress from Bucks County

Hon. Charles J. Buckman

Dr. W. Albertson Haines, Member of General Assembly from Bucks Co.

Judge William C. Ryan Bucks County Courts

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From New Jersey

Governor A. Harry Moore  
Members of the Department of Conservation and Development  
Howard F. McConnell, President of Board  
John L. Kuser Member of the Board  
William E. Florance, Member of the Board  
Walter E. Robb Member of the Board  
Henry L. Moeller Member of the Board  
Albert W. Drake Member of the Board

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Henry B. Kummel, Director, Dept. Conservation and Development  
C. P. Wilber, State Forester, Chief of the Division of Forests and Parks.  
J. Gilbert Borton, Land Agent

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Hon. Charles A. Eaton, Member of Congress - Fourth District, N.J.  
Hon. Ernest R. Ackerman, Member of Congress, Fifth District, N.J.  
Col. Mahlon R. Magerum, Board of Taxes and Assessments  
Mr. Cornelius C. Vermeule, of East Orange, N.J.  
Maj. Cornelius C. Vermeule, Jr. Summit, N.J.  
Mr. Rudolph Kuser of Trenton, N.J.  
Mr. B.C. Kuser of Trenton, N.J.  
Mr. and Mrs. John L. Kuser, Jr. of Trenton, N.J., Mrs. Kuser acting as the  
gracious hostess of the occasion.

Invited guests and representatiges of the press of Pennsylvania, New Jersey  
and New York. Total attendance at the luncheon was 112.

The party assembled at the Pennsylvania Park and after a brief inspection  
of that park and point of embarkation of Washinton's Army, and a short address  
by Mr. S.C. Eastburn of the Pennsylvania Commission, the party crossed to  
Memorial Garden and the Historic Museum. The party then proceeded to Hilltop,  
where it was the guest of Mr. John L. Kuser at luncheon. Following the lunch-  
eon the conference organized by the election of Mr. Allen W. Hagenback, P  
President of the Pennsylvania Commission as chairman, and Henry B. Kummel of the  
Department of Conservation and Development of New Jersey, Secretary. Mr. McConnell,  
President of the Board of Conservation and Development, in behalf of that board,  
offered the following resolution:

Whereas, the States of Pennsylvania and New Jersey have established Memorial  
Parks in each state at the point, where on Christmans Night, December 25, 1776  
General Washinton and his armay crossed the Delaware River amid the floating  
ice; and

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Add ~~37~~

Whereas, this crossing, the march to Trenton by his ill-clad army, the sudden attack on the Hessian troops, and the signal victory inspired new hope and courage in the hearts of the colonists, and gave that life to the cause of liberty which led to the final success of the American Arms; and

Whereas, the suitable marking of this historic spot is a matter which concerns not alone the adjacent states, but all states of the Union; therefore

Be it Resolved, that it is the judgment of this conference, consisting of the Governors of Pennsylvania and New Jersey, the Pennsylvania Washington Crossing Park Commission, the New Jersey Board of Conservation and Development, the United States Senators and Congressmen of these two states, and invited guests here assembled, that the action of the two states in establishing and maintaining Memorial Parks on both sides of the Delaware River at Washington Crossing should be supplemented by the Federal Government through the erection of a Memorial Bridge of adequate design; and

Be it further Resolved, that Senator Reed of Pennsylvania and Senators Edge and Edwards of New Jersey, and the Congressmen from each state, be urged to use their utmost efforts to secure the prompt enactment of the necessary legislation and appropriation to provide such a Federal Memorial at Washington Crossing; and

Be it further Resolved, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Senators and Congressmen of Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

The Chairman, in introducing the following speakers, spoke most enthusiastically of the determination of his Pennsylvania colleagues to do everything they could to forward the movement for a Memorial Bridge. He then called on Mr. Charles E. Dorworth, Secretary of the Department of Forests and Waters of Pennsylvania, and personal representative of Governor Fisher of Pennsylvania, who brought to the conference assurance of the Governor's interest in this project, and pledged support. He also strongly endorsed Pennsylvania; ~~who brought to the conference~~ the movement in his own behalf,



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and as secretary of the State Department having fiscal control over the Pennsylvania park. Brief addresses favoring the Bridge and pledging support were made by Congressmen Watson of Pennsylvania, and Congressman Charles A. Eaton of New Jersey, representing the Congressional districts in the two states in which the bridge approaches will be located.

The resolution was then put to a vote and was unanimously adopted.

By a rising vote a resolution of thanks was extended to Mr Kuser for his abundant hospitality and to his aides for the successful handling of the entertainment.

The Chairman then declared the meeting adjourned.

/s/ Henry B. Kimmel

Secretary

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Note:

Following ~~are~~ were the members of the Pennsylvania Commission

- |                               |                          |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Allen W. Hagenbach, President | Allentown, Pa.           |
| W. Clayton Hackett, Secretary | Easton, Pa.              |
| Samuel C. Eastburn            | Langhorne, Pa.           |
| Louis H. Hitchler             | Oxford, Pa.              |
| Edwin B. Malone               | Washington Crossing, Pa. |
| Henry Y. Pickering            | Yardly, Pa.              |
| Fred B. Gerner                | Allentown, Pa.           |
| William D. Ridgway            | Bethayres, Pa.           |
| Thomas Scott                  | Bristol, Pa.             |

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Add. 39

July 25, 1921

Dr. I.P. Strittmatter,  
999 North Sixth Street,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Sir:

It is a pleasure to have your letter of July 22 with its intimation that you are disposed to consider with this Department the acquisition by the State of a part of your property at Washington Crossing.

It is reasonable of course that you should be compensated for your outlay, tho it is doubtful if the Board of Conservation and Development will care to make the initial offer. However, with your permission I'll take the matter up with the Board and communicate with you further. This may require a little time, as a number of the members are now out of reach.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Alfred Gaskill

Director.

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June 16, 1921

Mr. Alfred Gaskill, Director  
Department of Conservation and Development  
Trenton, New Jersey.

My dear Mr. Gaskill:

Confirming your letter of April eighteenth, I have prepared a landscape plan, drawing #1713-", for Washington Crossin Park, showing, in accordance with the Legislature's recent act, an area not more than ten acres in extent and including the historic McKonkey ferry house. This plan I left with you at the Trenton State House on June tenth. Referring to our several interviews and to the visit which we, together with Senator Heath and Assemblyman Blackwell, paid to Washington Crossing on June tenth, I beg to call your attention to the following;

When the original plan was drawn by me in 1913 for the development of the park, land had been acquired east of the canal running east along Pennington Road to Bear Tavern. The ferry house, the land immediately around it, the two adjoining house lots, the land between the highroad and the canal, and between the canal and the river's edge had not been obtained. All these, however, were indicated

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Add. ~~40~~

in my first design.

Now, however, that an area so much smaller is contemplated for the park, it is essential that the ten acres authorized ~~for~~ for development be carefully chosen. My map shows the ground I recommend. This land extends north from the Pennington Road about twelve hundred and sixty feet on both sides of the State Highway and paralleling it, in a strip approximately three hundred and fifty feet wide. The whole plot, as it should, has the effect of bordering the river bank. It commands the land to the east, over which the troops started their Trenton march after landing, but, more important, it commands the river and the river banks on both sides, and the McKonkey ferry house.

I can see no objection to disposing of the property the State owns lying to the east of this acreage. It is superfluous from the historic standpoint of the actual crossing and the cost of upkeep would necessarily be high for so great an area. If this land, when sold, is subdivided, the house lots on the east end could have access to the indicated park road through rights-of-way and bring high valuations.

My design provides an ~~an~~ entrance to the park at the intersection of the Pennington road with the State Highway, which is the first warning coming up from Trenton of the crossing, and here I propose a treatment of Colonial gates and walls with a commemorative tablet. There is a dangerous curve, as the Mercer County Highway Engineer has already noted, in the Pennington Road, and this should be straightened. In fact, I show the Pennington road brought in at right angles with the river road, not only for practical purposes, but to obtain a balanced design. The park road of eighteen feet of pavement curves up the meadow in a graceful line, following the ground closely so as to avoid as much change in the original topography as possible.

About two hundred and sixty-five feet south of the McKonkey ferry house the road widens out to an overlook, which point is the natural crest in the topography and would provide with a termination and approach, well up on the hillside, the possible memorial bridge. Should the bridge cross the river parallel to the existing old bridge, it would reach the Pennsylvania side somewhere between the old Pennsylvania tavern and the old Pennsylvania ferry house to the north. I cannot urge too strongly, in the development of Washington Crossing Park, the co-operation of New Jersey and Pennsylvania. With the overlook at elevation ninety-nine, the bridge would cross the railroad, the canal and the highway with sufficient head room.

A little Colonial garden is shown opposite the McKonkey ferry house and, to the north, the Lambertville gate which is not accented as much as the Trenton gate, to the south. The State Highway, to my mind, needs particular treatment to establish an old-time feeling. Bordering the pavement, strips of grass ten feet wide are shown, with rows of large shade ~~tax~~ trees and low walls which in some places would retain, of the very beautiful native sandstone.

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Add. ~~72~~

To me, it seems most essential, from an historic and sentimental standpoint that the park, as a memorial, in addition to the ten acres just described, should include intact the land down to the water's edge for the whole park frontage, for, as far as New Jersey was concerned, the water's edge and the ferry house were the stage on which this most important drama was enacted. Already bungalows and other undesirable buildings are creeping down the river bank. Yet it is the very essence of the memorial that the shore should be kept as in Washington's day. To date the State had not acquired the shore. That should be the next legislative action.

I am

Very truly yours,  
Charles W. Leavitt.

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The plan of necessity covers the property not owned by the State at the western corner of the Blackwall farm. Provision will have to be made soon to acquire this. Provision should also be made to acquire the strip of land between the State highway and the canal, and then the broader strip between the railroad and the river bank. In the development of the latter the cooperation of the P.R.R. should be sought.

If this plan is accepted, and the remainder of the State property sold, restrictions should attach to the deed requiring buildings on land adjoining the park to face the river, and have their approaches upon the park drive - this that back-yard nuisances may be avoided.

Questions.

Is it advisable to purchase the old barn and the land about it as indicated in the sketch? I doubt it. Whatever of the Stritmatter land is acquired above the State road should be so located and guarded that adjacent nuisances will be avoided.

When acquiring the adverse holdings between the State land and the Ferry House consider whether the buildings there should be moved back beyond the State line, or whether the owners should be satisfied and the buildings moved off altogether. The former will probably be less costly and more acceptable to the present owners. The latter may be advisable as a means of securing a higher class of building next the park frontage.

Question Mr. Leavitt.

Is it intended that the whole frontage along the State highway shall have a retaining wall, or is that only to be in front of the overlook?

Is the low wall indicated on the lower side of the State highway to be carried across the whole front of the park, or is that also to be only on the bridge site?

What sort of structure is to be erected at the concourse and Trenton gate? Is it to be of stone, or concrete, or of other material? The same question respecting the Lambertville gate and the Crossing Overlook.

June 15, 1921

AG  
Director

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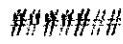
NOTES RELATIVE TO NEW WASHINGTON CROSSING PARK PLAN

The new plan by Charles W. Leavitt contemplates-

1. Developing an area of approximately 10 acres with its long axis parallel to the river, this contrasting notably with the older plan, whose long axis was at right angles to the river.

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2. The principal feature is a drive well up on the bluff from which the greatest advantage of outlook is secured. This road is continued past the old Ferry House.
3. Provision is made for a moderate area north of the Ferry House in order that the latter shall not be crowded next whatever development may occur upon the adjoining property. The garden ~~area~~ sketched east of the Ferry House may, or may not, be developed.
4. A concourse at the Trenton gate solves several difficulties respecting the approaches, makes the crossroads safer, and will tend to push objectionable features upon the adjacent property into the background. This concourse feature should be developed in cooperation with the Freeholders of Mercer County.
5. There is no provision for, nor immediate prospect of, a Memorial bridge across the river, the possibility of such a development has been kept in mind. What is called the "Crossing Overlook" can be converted into a bridge approach at a minimum cost.
6. The plan takes advantage of all standing trees. The planting proposed is not excessive.



Memorandum re. Washington Crossing.

Mercer County Freeholders Bray, Hutchinson, Wycoff (with County Engineer Harris) and later Royle, called to consider the development of the Park.

The County desires to cooperate with the State but finds it difficult to adjust the Pennington road to the Leavitt plan on account of damages asked by property owners. The four Freeholders agreed that it would be reasonable and proper for the County to develop the southern end of the plaza at the Trenton gate, the State undertaking the northern half.

But the Leavitt plan requires some modification at this point, because his layout of the river road is not exactly right.

It was agreed that the County Engineer should furnish a blueprint of the location and that an effort should be made to adjust the Leavitt plan to it. Publication shall then be made of the project in order that discussion shall help along in adjustment. The Freeholders were inclined to agree with my view that there can be no question of damages on account of property that may have to be taken at that point, since the improvement must be a positive benefit to every adjoining owner.

July 20, 1921

AG  
Director.

Mr. Alfred Gaskill, Director of  
Department of Conservation & Development  
Trenton, New Jersey.

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of yours of July 19th, inquiring about price of 2.79 acres of ground on which are situated the McKonkey ferry house and barn. I have been holding this property since the ninthe of January, 1904, and have refused, at various times the sale of lots on the river front, hoping t at the State at some time would see fit to take it over.

In 1910 after the Knights of Columbus, at their meeting in Trenton drew the attention of the people of New Jersey to the advisability of doing something at Washington's Crossing, I gave the state an option for the 123 acres, making the price just what the property stood me at that time.

The option was allowed to lapse. My price, as I remember, was about \$10,000.00 for the 123 acres, while the state paid \$19,000.00 or threrabouts for the Blackwell tract, which contained less than 100 acres and no river frontl

Strittmatter letter

Since owning the property, I have spent \$1600.00 on the house and barn in order to hold them together and in the hope that I could make the property carry itself;; but the farm being poor; and the state having run its road between the only water supply (an extremely good one) and the house and barn, it has been impossible to make very little more at times less than the taxes on the place, which were increased from \$38.00 in 1904 to \$145.00 in 1921.

It is, for this reason, very hard for me to fix a price on the part of the farm, which of course, is most valuable because it contains the buildings that make the ground rentable. I would, therefore, request of you that you would offer a price that you think would be fair, under the above circumstances, and I will be very glad to go over it with you.

I am somewhat disappointed at the appropriation, permitting you to take only so small a piece of ground.

Thoroughly convinced that this section of the country ought to serve as an educational medium for the present geration, I have donated to Rt. Rev. Bishop Walsh, two and one-half acres, on condition that he would put up a c church, which would anser the purpose of church and community educational center. I was very much pleas d with what he did in so short a time ----- since the latter part of April; when he received the deed of the ground.

Very sincerely yours,

I.P. Strittmatter

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July 19, 1921

Dr. I. P. Strittmatter  
999 North Sixth St.  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Sir:

This Department now having jurisdiction in respect to the reation of a memorial at Washington Crossing, is provided with an appropriation a part of which is to be spent for the pruchase of the McKonkey ferry house, that a small tract of land about it to be joined with the front of the property now owned by the State and developed into a park.

I am therefore approaching you fo r the purpose of inquiring the price at which you will sell the piece of land indicated in the enclosed sketch, with the buildings now upon it.

Understanding that you have long been desirous of aiding in the establishment of a worthy memorial at this point, the Board hopes that it may be able to reach with you an agreement concerning the transfer of the property desired.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Alfred Gaskill  
Director.

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FOOTNOTES

1. From Mr Leavitt's letter to Mr Gaskill dated June 16, 1921.
2. ~~Officers and their names are as follows:~~ See Appendix 1.
3. The Schedule of performances are as follows:  
Summer 1964 - The Devil's Disciple, Pennington Players, performances
3. See Schedule of Performances; Appendix \_\_\_\_\_
4. See Donations to Park Appendix.
5. The actual dedication of the Park was held on June 8, 1926.  
As part of the celebration an Indian village was constructed and local citizens dressed as Indians. Others appeared in a variety of Colonial costumes - Continentals, Hessians and British -. Rain forced the ceremonies indoors to the local dance hall where festivities continued.  
( information from Malcolm Joiner.)
5. Diorama