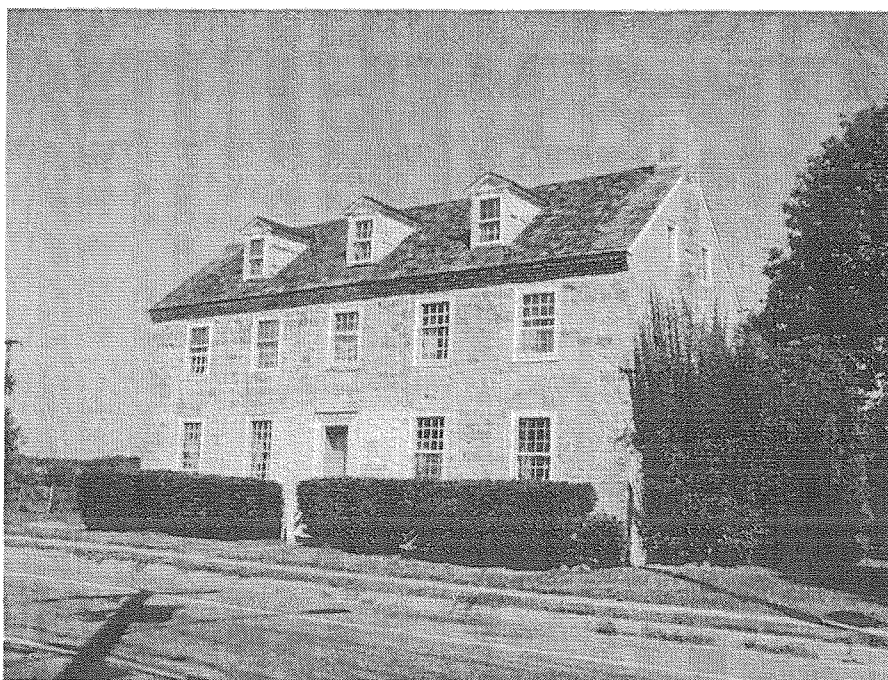


**MID-ATLANTIC HISTORIC BUILDINGS SURVEY**

**THE OLD STONE TAVERN**

Little Creek  
Little Creek Hundred  
Kent County, Delaware



**CENTER FOR HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN**



2002

MID-ATLANTIC HISTORIC BUILDINGS SURVEY

THE OLD STONE TAVERN

Little Creek  
Main Street, Route 9  
Little Creek Hundred  
Kent County, Delaware

by  
Karen Marshall

with  
Kelli Dobbs  
Rebecca J. Sheppard

Photographs by Rebecca J. Sheppard

Center for Historic Architecture & Design  
University of Delaware  
Newark, Delaware  
2002

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## I. INTRODUCTION

The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control for the State of Delaware acquired the Old Stone Tavern in Little Creek in 1978. The building was initially assigned to the Division of Fish and Wildlife where it underwent modifications for office use. It was recently transferred to the Division of Parks and Recreation within the same department. Representing that division, Program Manager Cara Blume requested that the building be documented by the Center for Historic Architecture and Design (CHAD) at the University of Delaware. Graduate research assistant Karen Marshall, under the supervision of CHAD staff member Kelli Dobbs, reviewed existing materials and researched the Manlove Hayes family. CHAD Associate Director Rebecca Sheppard supervised the measured drawings of the cellar and first floor of the building and reviewed the final report. Of specific concern were water damaged joists and the building's relationship to Manlove Hayes, Jr., a founding father of the Delaware Railroad.

The Old Stone Tavern was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973, at which time a title search was completed. Current research concurred with the nomination and sought to provide an increased understanding of the history and significance of the property through primary and secondary sources. In addition to the measured drawings, a more comprehensive architectural description was also undertaken. The building is currently maintained by the Division of Parks and Recreation, which performs repairs to the building in anticipation of a restoration or adaptive reuse plan.

## SITE INFORMATION

Site Name: Old Stone Tavern

CRS#

Location: Main Street (Route 9)  
Little Creek  
Little Creek Hundred  
Kent County, Delaware

Date of Field Work: September 2000 – May 2002

Type of Documentation: Partial Intensive (Level II)  
Annotated Field Notes (0)  
Digital Color Photos ()  
CAD drawings (2)

## II. PROPERTY NARRATIVE

### Historic Significance

The Old Stone Tavern is one of two remaining examples of early nineteenth century architecture in Kent County, Delaware, utilizing Piedmont stone. All three of the documented buildings that reflect this construction style in Kent County can be traced directly to Manlove Hayes (d. 1849). These are the Old Stone Tavern (c. 1822), the Octagonal Schoolhouse (1834) and the stone addition at Hayes' personal residence, York Seat (1826.) The York Seat property is no longer standing.



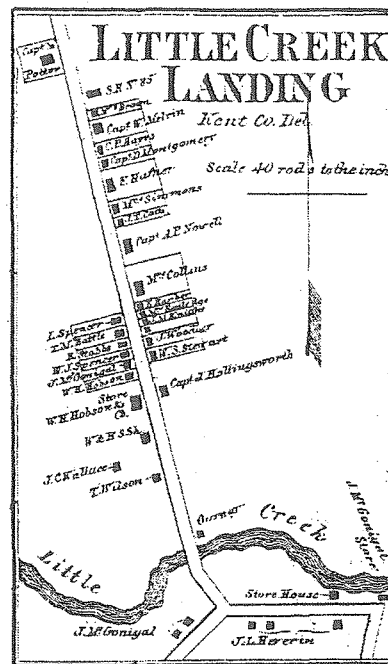
Figure 1. Shown on the 1868 Beers Atlas of Delaware for the Little Creek Vicinity is the proximity between the Old Stone Tavern in Little Creek Landing, the Octagonal Schoolhouse at Cowgill's Corner, and the addition to York Seat at York Farm.

There has been considerable confusion as to the identity of the original owner of the Old Stone Tavern. In addition, the commonly held name of the Old Stone Tavern is a misnomer. The property was never a tavern nor was it referred to by that name in civil or personal records, where it is actually cited as either the Stone House or more frequently the Stone Mansion. Two other commonly held names, the Bell House and the Nowell

House, correctly reflect two owners of the property. Research indicates that the current structure was designed and built by Manlove Hayes and his third wife's (Nancy Ann Bell Emerson Hayes) first cousin, John Bell, circa 1822, signifying the joining of several prominent farming families in the Little Creek area. The property was later managed by Manlove Hayes, (Jr.), one of the founding fathers of the Delaware Railroad Company, from 1843 – 1856

### Architectural Description

The Old Stone Tavern is located on the east side of Main Street (Route 9), just north of Wilson Lane, in Little Creek, Kent County, Delaware. The lot, which fronts west on Main Street, is 160 feet wide and 210 feet deep and contains .771 acres. The Little Creek Methodist Church bounds the property to the south; marshland lies to the east and a residential property to the north.



#### Little Creek Landing Business Directory

W. H. Hobson & Co...Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries, Boots, Shoes, Hats, Caps, Hardware, Tinware, Paints, Oils, Drugs, &c.  
 J. McConigal...Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hardware, Tinware, Queensware, Boots, Shoes, Hats, Caps, Paints, Oils, Drugs, Liquors, &c.  
 Samuel W. Nowell...Resident.

Figure 2. The location of the Old Stone Tavern is shown on the 1868 Beers Atlas. Samuel W. Nowell, resident, is the owner.



The main block is a two-and-one-half-story, single-pile, center-hall plan, stone dwelling measuring 49 feet 6 inches wide by 21 feet deep with a wood shingled gable roof. A two-story, single-pile frame addition sheathed in shiplap weatherboard and constructed in the twentieth century adjoins the east elevation of the building. Located east of the addition is a one-room stone outbuilding with a wood shingled gable roof. The shed's west (front) elevation contains a single bay with a wood door.



*Figure 3: Perspective of west and north elevations showing the Period I stone block, Period II frame shed addition, and stone outbuilding.*

The west (front) elevation of the dwelling features a five-bay symmetrical Georgian design and is distinguished at the eave line by a corbelled cornice of rubbed brick, laid in Flemish bond. This cornice is repeated in the two other early nineteenth century stone buildings identified in this report, the addition to York Seat (1826) and the Octagonal Schoolhouse (1834.) The front elevation of the residence is formed from dressed and cut masonry. The masonry for the remaining three elevations is uncut. Remnants of a stucco finish survive on all exterior walls of the main block.

Large decorative quoins form structural corners. Three dormers, decorated with Victorian detailing, pierce the front roof. Detailing with deep reeded moldings and

vigorous bullseye corner blocks decorate the front door. This treatment echoes styles popularized through the writings of Asher Benjamin whose seven books on house carpentry and architecture were widely circulated at the time.

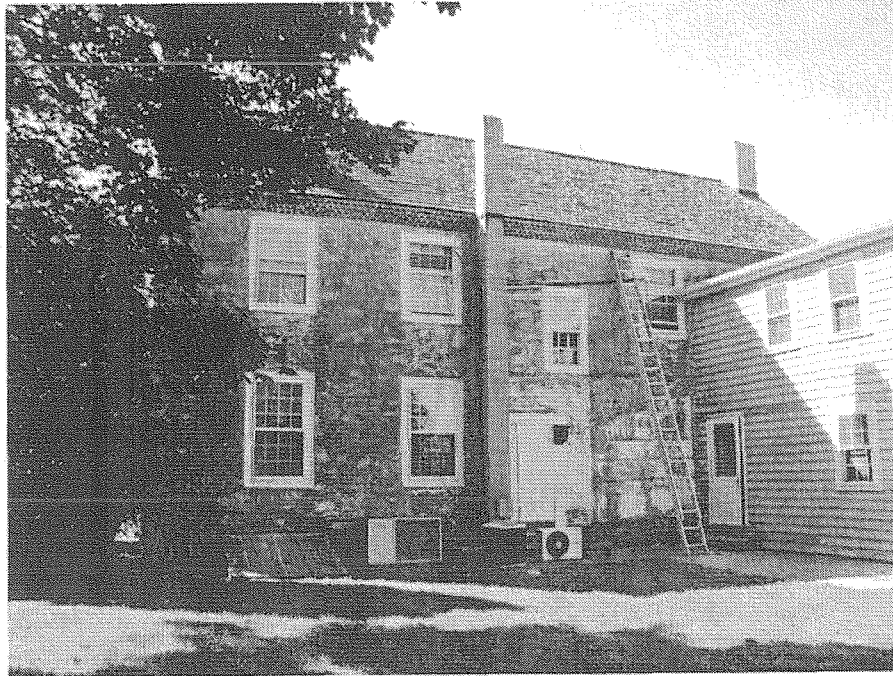
Two twelve-over-twelve light, double-hung, sash windows flank each side of the central six-panel glazed front door. Temporary wood steps lead to the door and brick paving connects the entrance to the town sidewalk. The foundation is a stucco-covered brick façade over stone. A window in the foundation filled with bricks is located under the window to the left of the front door. The five second floor windows are eight-over-twelve light, double-hung sash windows. Interior brick chimneys punctuate the shingled roof at each gable end. Three symmetrical dormers with Victorian detailing, filled by double-hung sash windows with four-over-four glazing, light the attic.

On the north gable end, the foundation is stone and does not have a brick facade. This is repeated on the remaining elevations. Originally a first floor window flanked both sides of the central chimney, but the one to the west has been removed. A single window of the same style as those on the front elevation remains in the east bay. Two fixed six-pane windows flank the chimney on the third floor. A date stone appears to have been removed from the wall between the attic windows.

The two-story, frame 30 foot by 15 foot period II addition abuts the east end of the north gable wall and covers the northern third of the east elevation. Asphalt shingles cover the gable roof of the addition and shiplap weatherboard sheathes the three exposed walls. The addition rests on a cement foundation. On the north elevation of the addition, the first and second floors each contain two openings with six-over-six-light, double-hung sash windows. The east gable end of the addition is blank. The south elevation has a wood door and a six-over-six-light window on the first floor. There are two six-over-six-light windows on the second floor. One cement step leads to the entrance. The lower pane of the window over the door is missing. A concrete patio on the south wall of the addition extends along the main block to where an entrance door has been covered. This concrete area was once covered by a porch that led to a rear entrance of the house. A July 27, 1973, condition report noted that this porch needed to be removed.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Joan Norton and Vincent Rogers, "Old Stone Tavern Condition Report," Historic Preservation Section, Delaware State Historic Preservation, July 27, 1973.



*Figure 4: Perspective of the east elevation of the main block and the south elevation of the addition. The area under the ladder shows evidence of one-story shed addition with shelving affixed to the wall. (See Appendix B, photographs K-0000-5 and 6 for further documentation.)*

The Period II addition partially obscures the east elevation of the main block. A centrally located twentieth-century cinder block exterior chimney effectively divides the east elevation into two sections, north and south. To the north of the chimney is a sealed entrance to the first floor. A single six-over-six-light double-hung sash window lights the interior staircase landing above the doorway. The Period II addition covers the northernmost bay, which originally contained a window on the second floor. The second bay from the north contains an eight-over-eight-light, double-hung sash window on the second floor. Below this opening, the first floor stucco shows evidence of an earlier one-story shed addition, probably a kitchen, with shelves located along the stone wall.

The southern half of the east elevation has two symmetrically placed windows on each floor. The first floor windows contain twelve-over-twelve-light double-hung sash, while those on the second floor are eight-over-twelve-light. A brick-filled cellar window is located in the foundation behind the modern chimney. A set of wooden bulkhead doors located below the southernmost window, lead to the cellar. The south gable elevation of the main block has two fixed six-pane windows on the third floor flanking

the central interior chimney with a hole in the masonry where a missing date stone appears to have been centered between the windows. There are no other openings visible on this elevation.

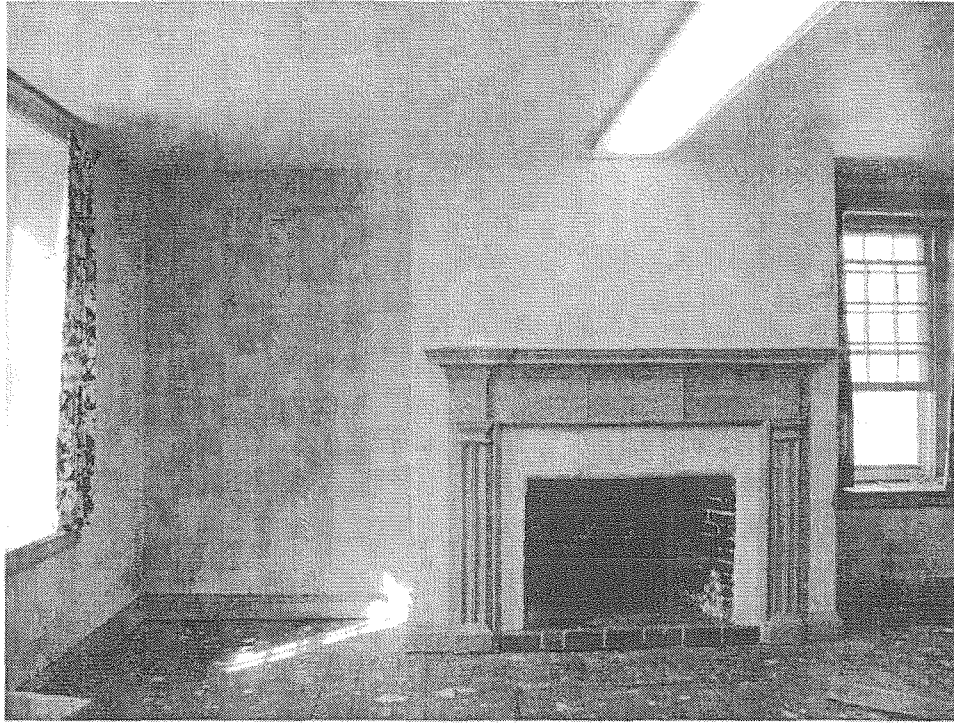


*Figure 5. Interior, center hall perspective of main block. Front door details include deep reeded moulding, bulls-eye corner blocks, and a fanlight. The floorboards in the room run east to west.*

The first floor plan consists of a central hall with a parlor on either side. (See Appendix A, First Floor Plan.) Doorframes and lintels in the hall and southern parlor are decorated with deep reeded moldings and vigorous bullseye corner blocks similar to those on the exterior entrance. A formal staircase with paneled walls located on the north side of the hall ascends to the second floor. Located under the staircase landing is decorative wood framing for the exterior doorway that has been plastered over. A framed door under the risers leads to the cellar. The floorboards are narrower on the first floor than on the second and more regular in width. They run north to south in the two parlors and east to west in the entry hall.

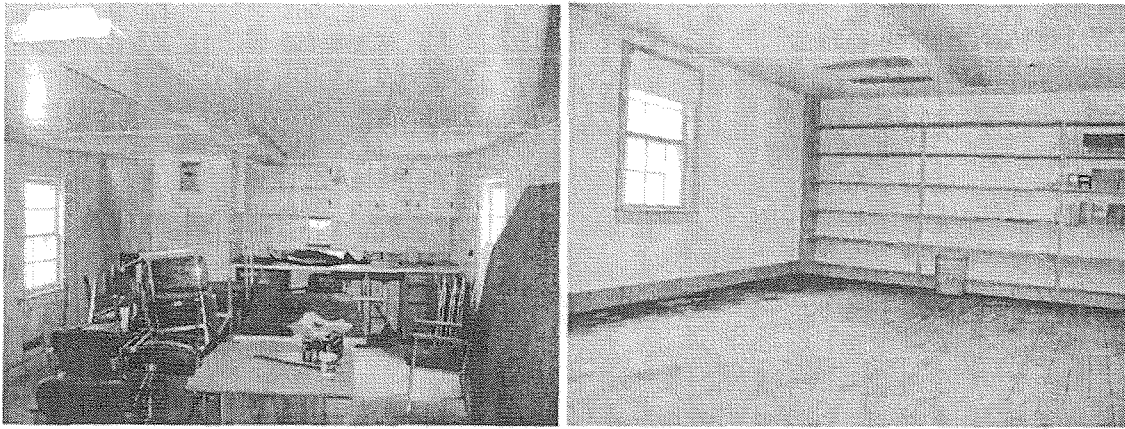
The south parlor is the more elaborately decorated of the two first floor rooms. The four paneled window casings are more broadly splayed than those in the north room. Decorative moldings on the window and doorframes are repeated from the entry hall. The fireplace and reeded mantle are larger than that in the north parlor, with closets built

into both sides of the chimneystack. The doorframe to the north parlor is extant but there is no door from the entry hall.



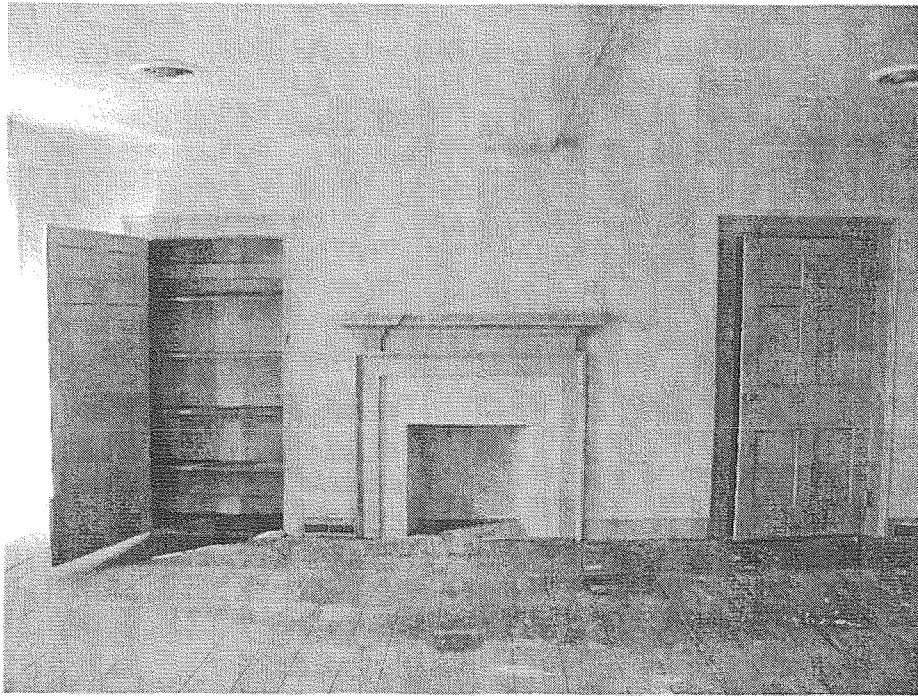
*Figure 6: Interior, north parlor view. The plaster on the wall to the left of the fireplace has been disturbed where the original window was removed.*

A paneled door leads from the entry hall to the north parlor. The plaster has been disturbed on the north wall beside the fireplace suggesting the removal of a window. A reeded mantel and fireplace surround decorate the gable north wall and closets are built on each side of the chimney stack in a fashion similar to the south parlor. The remaining window flanking the fireplace has a paneled window casing. This design element is repeated in the two windows on the west wall of the room. A paneled door near the center of the room on the east wall leads to the addition.



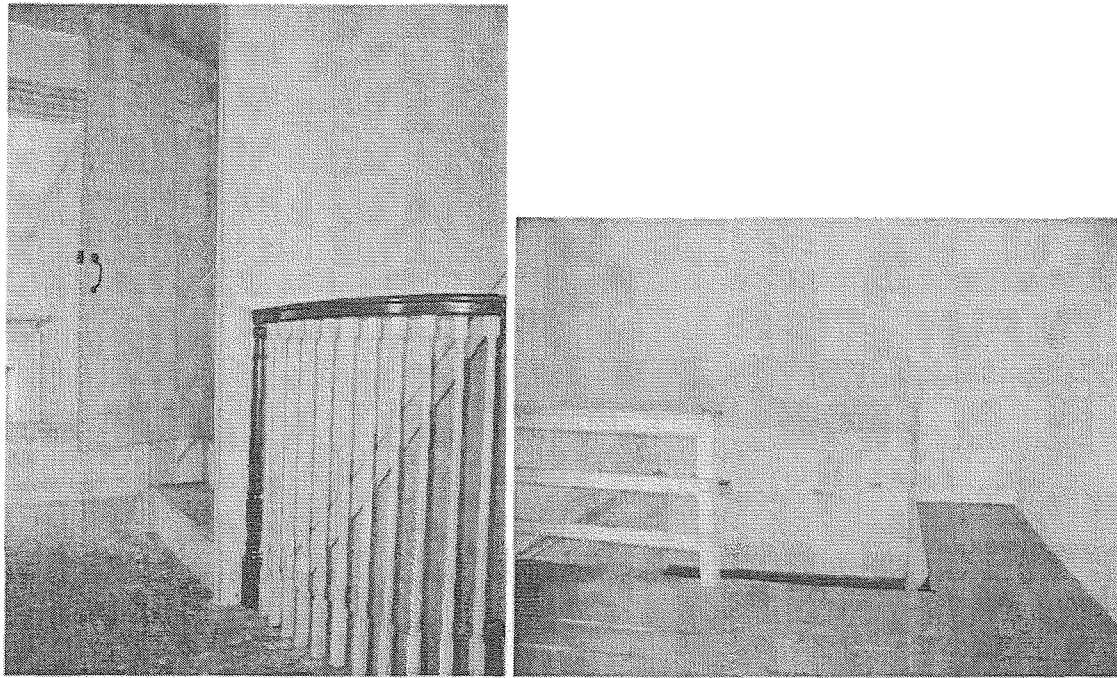
*Figure 7: Interior first floor (looking east) and second floor (looking west) views of the addition.*

The first floor of the addition contains a modern kitchen with a linoleum floor. A winder stair in the northeast corner leads to the second floor. The west wall of the kitchen is painted plaster. The remaining walls are painted wallboard. Four windows light the room. The room above the kitchen has irregular floorboards and shelving on the east and west walls. There is no evidence of a door that may have led from the north, second floor room of the main block. This room is also lit by four windows.



*Figure 7: Interior, second floor view of north parlor.*

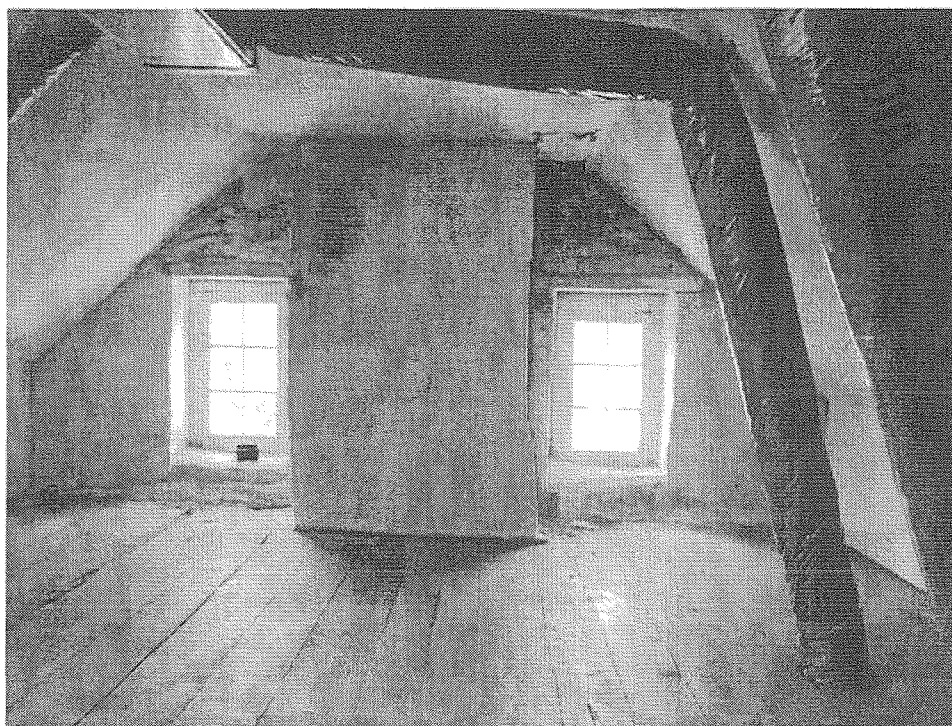
The second floor of the main block opens from the center stairway onto a landing. The landing leads to a modern bathroom and two chambers. The bathroom is located on the west wall of the landing between the two chambers. Located on the east wall of the landing is an enclosed staircase, leading from the hall and surmounting the main stair, providing access to the finished attic. The south chamber is decorated with bullseye corner blocks, reeded molding, a decorative fireplace mantle, built-in chimney closets and paneled window casings. The windows and casings in the north chamber are less finished than in the southern chamber. There are full closets to either side of the fireplace set into the plastered wooden north wall. There is no evidence of a door that might have led to the Period II addition.



*Figure 8: From left to right, second and third floor landings and balustrades.*

The stairway leading from the second floor landing opens directly to the third floor landing that is lit by a dormer window located on the west wall. There is a small storage room to the right of the window that forms a brief hallway leading to a north attic room. This room is also lit by a dormer window on the west wall and two windows flanking the plaster sheathed interior brick chimney. Water damage is evident on the north wall above the windows and the chimney. The floorboards for this room begin at the door leading into it. A doorway from the landing leads to a south attic room that is a

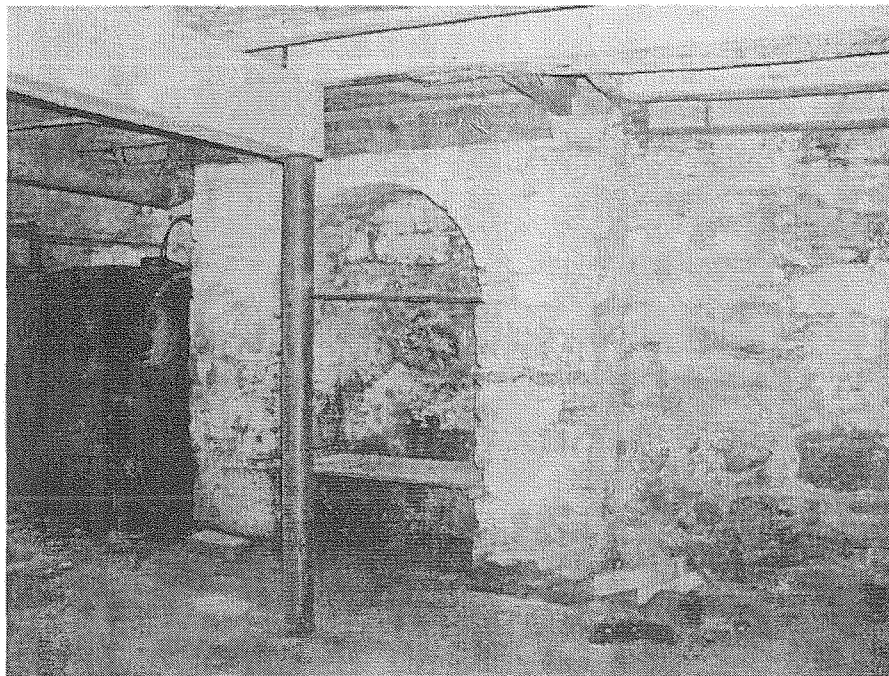
mirror image of the north room although longer. The boards in this room extend into the landing and stop at the doorway to the north attic room.



*Figure 9: Interior view of the north wall of the north attic room. Note the extensive water damage over the windows.*

The first floor of the main block rests on twenty-one inch stone bearing walls. The dwelling has a partial cellar, accessible either through a small four-paneled door leading to an interior stair under the formal staircase in the entrance hall or through the rear bulkhead. The interior stair has been removed, probably at about the same time the exterior door in the rear elevation was sealed. The full southern basement room is now accessible through the exterior entrance. It extends from the south wall of the main block, under the center hall, and partially under the north parlor. The foundation stone wall at the northern end of the room is located near the foundation wall for the Period II addition. The joists under the center hall run east to west and the joists under the south first floor parlor run north to south. These joists are heavily whitewashed and hewn and the floorboards above are tongue and groove, maybe beaded. Five of the joists were water damaged and have been replaced since the original survey in 2001. (See Appendix A, Cellar Plan.)





*Figure 10: Interior cellar view of the supporting brick arch and 2002 replacement joists and stabilization work.*

Boards for the partition wall between the southern first floor parlor and the center hall extend through the floor into the basement. Mill sawn at one point, they were nailed into the joists. The brick arch supporting the fireplace in the southern room springs three feet, six inches above the floor and crests at five feet above the floor. On top of the northern stone wall foundation, recessed six inches, is the joist for the northern basement room that is currently partially in-filled. This room is visible through a small window opening in the foundation wall. The joists in that room span north to south and are not whitewashed. They are potentially more modern replacement joists. The joists for the center hall rest on the stone wall foundation. These bear on the wall about three and one-half inches. There is a brick arch supporting the north parlor stack that was only partially visible. It is not clear if this room was always a crawl space as it is today. The cellar area for the Period II addition also appears to be a crawl space.

### **Historical Background**

Little Creek was developed beginning in the mid-eighteenth century as a line town dividing two neighboring plantations named "London" and "Simpson's Choice." The latter property was owned by Robert and Mary Bell. Little River formed its first fast

landing at the “line,” and thus the town began as a trading port and shipping location for agriculture and maritime produce. By 1887 agriculture was giving way to commerce based on the river and the main business in the town was oysters.<sup>2</sup> The Stone Tavern was historically thought to have been a tavern but records show that it was always a dwelling house. The Stone Tavern was built circa 1822 on land from the Simpson’s Choice plantation deeded by Mary Bell Hunter (Robert’s widow) to their son John Bell.

The two-acre lot upon which the Old Stone Tavern was built in Little Creek Landing (hereinafter referred to by its current name of Little Creek) was originally subdivided from the Simpson’s Choice tract that originally belonged to Robert and Mary Bell. Robert Bell died in 1748 and his wife remarried. In 1764, Mary Bell Hunter deeded approximately two acres of the tract to each of her three children: Henry, Lucy, and John.<sup>3</sup> Her son Henry’s acreage included the frame “Tavern House,” where his mother lived until her death in 1772. Lucy and John received the other two adjoining lots. It is important to note that the tavern that Henry inherited was his parents’ original home, not the Old Stone Tavern discussed in this paper. This probably initiated the historic confusion over the name of the 1822 dwelling. Although the original owner of the Stone Tavern is not named in records, by tracing the Bell family land transactions it is clear that the Stone Tavern was built around 1822 on the two acres that John received from his mother in 1764.

John and Henry Bell each married the daughters of one of their neighbors, Daniel Lewis.<sup>4</sup> Henry and Elizabeth Lewis Bell had at least one child: John Bell. John (1741 – 1787) and his wife Mary Lewis Bell (1753 – 1835) had six children. Their surviving daughters were Nancy Ann, Mary, Elizabeth, and Margaret.

In 1787, John Bell died leaving his wife Mary his estate, including their dwelling house and lot. These properties were to pass to his eldest daughter, Nancy Ann, at his wife’s death. His brother Henry was named executor of his will.<sup>5</sup> The two acres deeded to him by his mother were not specifically mentioned. Records show that Henry Bell sold several parcels of land to settle the estate.

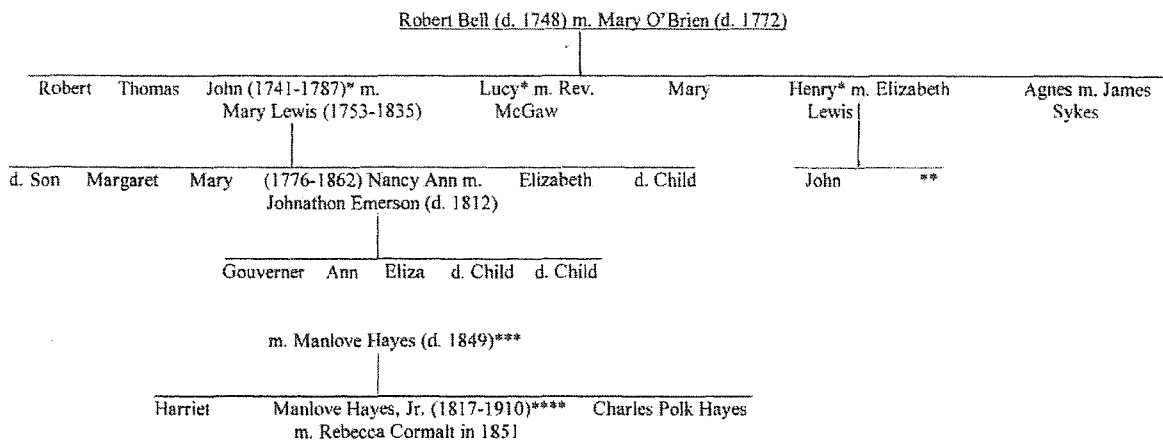
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<sup>2</sup> National Register of Historic Places Nomination for Little Creek, Delaware.

<sup>3</sup> Deed reference

<sup>4</sup> Massey, George Valentine, Ancestry of Ralph Courmalt Wilson of Dover. Dover: DE, 1961, p. 40.

<sup>5</sup> Scharf, J. Thomas, History of Delaware 1609 – 1888. Philadelphia: L. J. Richards & Co., 1888, p. 430.



\*Recipients of two acres each from their mother in 1764. John received the two acres where the Stone Tavern/Mansion was built.

\*\*Was in possession of the two acres on which the Stone Tavern/Mansion was built in 1801.

\*\*\*Named with John Bell on 1829 seizure and sale of the Stone Tavern/Mansion by Sheriff Nehemiah Clark.

\*\*\*\* Hailed as "Father of the Delaware Railroad." Managed the Stone Tavern/Mansion property from 1843-1856.

Note: The chart is to provide clarity for family relationships that are potentially confusing. It is not intended or designed to be comprehensive.

*Figure 11: Chart of Bell and Hayes family relationships.*

In 1794, John and Mary Bell's attractive and engaging daughter, Nancy Ann (1776 -1862), married Jonathon Emerson. Emerson came from a highly respected Quaker family and was heir to York Seat a large farm including eight hundred acres of the land that had been originally granted by Charles II to his brother James, the Duke of York.<sup>6</sup> The Emersons settled at York Seat and had five children. Jonathon Emerson died in 1812 and two years later his widow, Nancy Ann, married Manlove Hayes.

Hayes had "moved to Dover in 1801 and was engaged in the mercantile business, and in buying grain, which, with other products, was transported in his vessels to the city of Philadelphia."<sup>7</sup> He had previously been married twice and had two children from those unions. In the same year, Bell family records placed the two acres on which the Old Stone Tavern now stands in the hands of John Bell's nephew, John Bell, when he granted one-half an acre of his uncle John's original two acres to the Little Creek Methodist Church.<sup>8</sup> The church property still borders the Old Stone Tavern parcel.

Nancy Bell Emerson and her new husband combined their households and Manlove Hayes assumed the management of York Seat for the Emerson heirs. The

<sup>6</sup> Massey, *Ancestry*, p. 41.

<sup>7</sup> Scharf, *History of Delaware*, p. 430.

<sup>8</sup> Delaware State Archives, Kent County Deed Record C-3-76 (May 14, 1829.)

Hayes' had three more children together -- Harriet, Charles Polk, and Manlove, who would later become an extremely distinguished farmer hailed as "father of the Delaware Railroad." In 1818, Hayes purchased two hundred acres of the York tract including the homestead from the Emerson estate. Seven years later, to accommodate his large family, he added a stone addition to the York Seat homestead with a noted corbelled brick cornice. Research indicates this was "the first farmhouse of that material in the area."<sup>9</sup> Hayes "spared no expense in bestowing on his children the advantages of academic and collegiate instruction, and these generous views were in harmony with those entertained by his intelligent and estimable wife, who as a 'Friend' was widely known for her Christian charities."<sup>10</sup>

On May 14, 1829, the first documentary source references the Old Stone Tavern (hereafter referred to as the Stone Mansion) in Little Creek "when it (the Stone Mansion) was sold, with a two-acre lot, by Sheriff Nehemiah Clark in execution of a judgment against John Bell and Manlove Hayes."<sup>11</sup> There is no clear statement concerning the source of the partnership between Manlove Hayes and his wife's first cousin John Bell (Henry and Elizabeth Bell's son.) By looking carefully at tax assessments for Little Creek Hundred between 1817 and 1828, however, convincing evidence emerges that John Bell owned grain storage and a wharf area on Little Creek<sup>12</sup>. This presents a strong possible association with Manlove Hayes who was a successful grain merchant. Bell also owned a store on his uncle's two-acre property in 1817.

These same tax assessments also provide a completion date for the Old Stone Tavern between 1820 and 1822. In 1820 an assessment of \$1,732 was transferred from St. Johns Hundred to Little Creek in Bell's name most likely prompting the construction of the Stone Tavern. In 1817, Bell was assessed for 2 acres of land with a small frame store and smoke house on the property valued at \$915. In 1820 he was assessed for \$2,647. In 1822, he was assessed for 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ <sup>13</sup> acres of land with a good Home Dwelling,

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<sup>9</sup> 1973 National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination Form

<sup>10</sup> Scharf, History of Delaware, p. 431.

<sup>11</sup> Archives, C-3-76 (May 14, 1829.)

<sup>12</sup> Delaware State Archives, Kent County Tax Assessment, Little Creek Hundred (1817, 1822, 1828.)

<sup>13</sup> In 1820 Bell deeded  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre to the Methodist Church that still borders the property accounting for the slight decrease in the land.

small frame store and smoke house. The total assessment for 1823 was \$5,422, the increase clearly due to the "significant dwelling house" now on his property.

The action against John Bell and Manlove Hayes began in December 1827 to settle a debt of \$1,827 and resulted in the seizure of John Bell's property including the Stone Tavern in 1828 and the sale of the residence to the Farmers Bank of Delaware on May 14, 1829.<sup>14</sup> In 1828, the following tax assessment totaling \$3,864 was made of John Bell's property:

$\frac{3}{4}$  acres land, stone dwelling, frame storehouse, stables, cribs in good or fair condition  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  acres – log dwelling  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  acres land by tenure  
1 acre grain store and wharf  
97 acres of land, old brick barn  
30 acres marsh  
Livestock and  $\frac{1}{3}$  interest in sloop<sup>15</sup>

The only change from the 1822 assessment was a decrease in the sloop ownership from  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{1}{3}$  interest. The lower assessment in 1828 from 1823 may be an indication of economic problems besetting Bell or due to fluctuating currency rates.

Between 1836 and 1840, Manlove Hayes (Jr.) left York Seat to serve as post of assistant in an engineering corps engaged in locating and building the East Tennessee Railroad.<sup>16</sup> He returned home in 1840, shortly after his father had purchased the Stone Mansion from the Farmer's Bank as surety on "his old friend" John Bell's bond. His memoirs note that Bell had died insolvent but do not give a date.<sup>17</sup> The house was converted into bachelor quarters for his brother who had set about farming.

My brother Charles had gone there to live in the Stone House, the farm being stocked for him by my father and the house comfortably furnished for bachelor quarters. Charles had a fondness for flowers and plants and aimed to secure the best varieties of grain and seed. The newly imported breeds of stock, "Prince Albert and Victoria" (Durham bull and heifer), Chinese hogs, Shanghai geese, etc., were samples of his newly-acquired possessions. He was encouraged in these ideas by our half-brother, Dr. Emerson. My mother and sisters had taken great interest in setting him up housekeeping, so his immediate wants were provided for and success depended upon his industry, economy and good management. Success in farming at that time meant simply a comfortable living; to keep the balance on the credit side was evidence of successful farming, but it

<sup>14</sup> Delaware State Archives, Kent County Deed Records, Deed

<sup>15</sup> Delaware State Archives, Kent County Tax Assessment, Little Creek Hundred (1828.)

<sup>16</sup> Massey, *Ancestry*, p. 43

<sup>17</sup> This is a puzzling reference because records for the death of a John Bell in Little Creek Hundred are only recorded for 1828-1835 and 1851-1852 and language from deeds indicates Bell was deceased in 1828.

was not the road to fortune. Farmers lived well, but economy was practiced by most of them and their wives, except in the matter of receiving visits from relatives and friends, who were entertained lavishly, hospitality being esteemed one of the highest virtues.<sup>18</sup>

Manlove noted that a large family and the considerable debt to Farmer's Bank had overburdened his father.<sup>19</sup> When Charles Hayes moved to Philadelphia in 1843, Manlove Hayes (Jr.) convinced his father to allow him to assume responsibility for the York Seat and Little Creek (Stone Mansion) farms.<sup>20</sup> His clear reference to a farm indicates that additional acreage was associated with the Stone Mansion. This may have been the ninety-seven acres of land that John Bell was assessed for in 1828.

At their father's death in 1849 the farm at Little Creek (Stone Mansion) was devised to Charles Hayes and York Seat was devised to Manlove Hayes, Jr. Hayes notes that York Seat was burdened with considerable debt that he was able to free himself from and begin to turn a profit within a few years.<sup>21</sup> Records show that Charles transferred title to the Stone Mansion to his brother in 1851 and the property passed out of the Bell and Hayes family in 1858 when the house was sold to Abraham Nowell.<sup>22</sup>

As a result of the property history, there can be little question that Manlove Hayes (Sr.) and John Bell designed and caused the Old Stone Tavern/Stone Mansion to be built on the original two acres deeded to John's so named uncle by his mother in 1764 between 1820 and 1822. Hayes would go on to build his own stone extension to York Seat in 1826. That the property consisted of some portion or all of the ninety-seven acres of land with the brick barn that John Bell was assessed for can be surmised due to the description provided by Manlove Hayes' (Jr.) when his brother Charles lived in the home from 1840 to 1842 and again when he referenced managing the home and farm from 1843 until 1856.

The Old Stone Tavern/Stone Mansion was noted for its unusual composition of cut stone and for its corbelled brick cornice.<sup>23</sup> In 1826, Manlove Hayes built a cut stone extension to his farm that featured a corbelled brick cornice. In 1834, a third stone

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<sup>18</sup> Hayes, *Reminiscences*, p.

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid*, *Reminiscences*, p. 40.

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid*, *Reminiscences*, p. 43.

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid*, *Reminiscences*, p. 50.

<sup>22</sup> Delaware State Archives, Kent County Deed Record,

<sup>23</sup> 1973 National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination for the Old Stone Tavern.

structure was built also with a corbelled brick cornice, one of the first district schools opened in the county under the free-school law. It would come to be referred to as the Octagonal Schoolhouse. Manlove Hayes (Jr.), noted in his memoir, "My father took great interest in getting the schoolhouse built, and, I believe designed the building (octagonal)...<sup>24</sup> He also had access to Piedmont stone, which was not found in Kent County nor used to construct any other buildings at that time, due to his shipping interests. Hayes was also named in the suit against John Bell when the Stone Mansion was seized and was named surety on the farm's bond and purchased it from the Bank at "burden."

### **Manlove Hayes, (Jr.) (1817 – 1910)**

Although Manlove Hayes (Jr.) never lived in the Stone Mansion, this distinguished Delawarean's association with the building is an important aspect of its significance. Born on his father's estate at York Seat, Manlove Hayes (Jr.) "had the advantage of a cultured circle of relatives and friends, his half brother Gouverneur Emerson being a physician and agriculturist...Another half brother was a lawyer, and for years the presiding judge of the District Court of Lancaster and York Counties...(his mother's) Aunt Agnes married James Sykes, a jurist and a member of the Continental Congress..."<sup>25</sup>

Through a combination of vocation and fate, Manlove Hayes, Jr. came to be a founding father of the Delaware Railroad. His early training as an engineer for the East Tennessee Railroad, his considerable competence as a farmer and his lifelong residence near Dover gave him the vision to see that rapid transportation of produce for farmers and access to the capital by railroad was essential for the Delaware peninsula to prosper. These abiding interests came together in 1852 when he was elected Representative of the County to the Legislature. He was present in 1853 when an amendment to the charter of the Delaware Railroad to authorize necessary extensions and funding was proposed and opposition in the House devised a counter amendment. He notes in his *Reminiscences* "It

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<sup>24</sup> Hayes, *Reminiscences*, p. 16.

<sup>25</sup> Massey, *Ancestry*, p. 41.

was plain to be seen that under existing circumstances, if such amendment was adopted, the entire project would be defeated.”<sup>26</sup>

In 1910, the year of his death, the Board of Directors of the Delaware Railroad Company made special note of Hayes’ tireless campaign for the original bill and its successful passage resulting in the subsequent development of the railroad line. “Being a member of the General Assembly of Delaware at its regular session of 1852, Mr. Hayes introduced, earnestly advocated and was largely instrumental in securing the enactment of, legislation which then made possible the construction of the Delaware Railroad; and his interest in the Company’s progress and welfare never abated.”<sup>27</sup>

Manlove Hayes would go on to serve forty-five years as Director of the Delaware Railroad and forty years as Secretary and Treasurer. He wrote the History of the Delaware Railroad and Its Connections in his capacity as Secretary and Treasurer in 1882. It is a thoughtful and concise history. He was careful to note the importance of the railroad to farming interests, particularly the peach industry which flourished as a result of the improved steamship and railroad transportation available to farmers beginning in the 1860s. He stressed its particular importance to the peninsula during the “Hard Times” in the mid 1870s when the peach industry played a vital role in the southern Delaware economy.

In addition to his role with the Delaware Railroad, the Wilson Genealogy notes that Manlove Hayes was one of the chief organizers of the First National Bank of Dover, a founder of the Dover Library in 1885 and its first president. He served as a trustee at Delaware College; the Class book of 1910 was dedicated in his honor and to his memory.

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<sup>26</sup> Hayes, Reminiscences, p. 53.

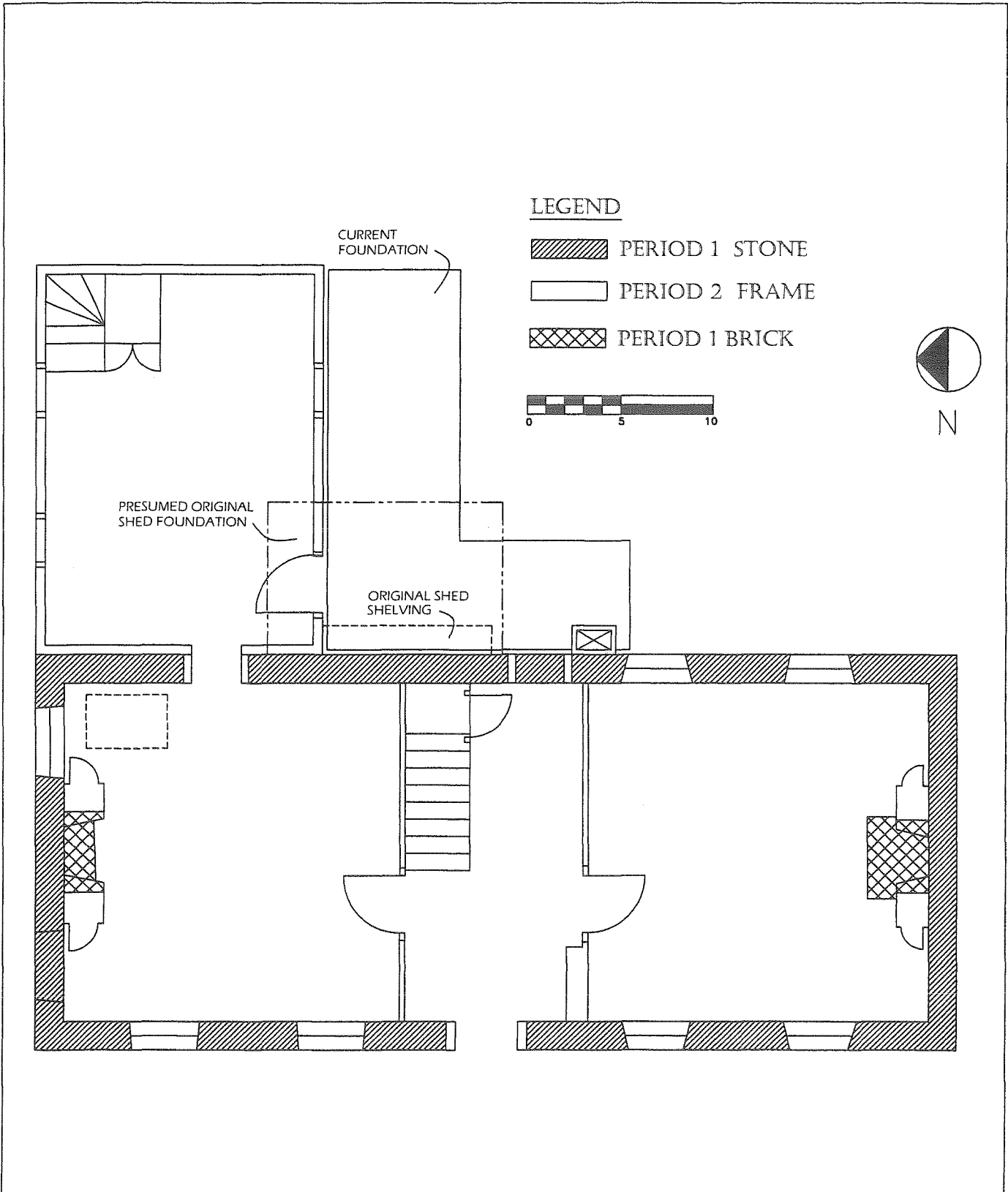
<sup>27</sup> Hayes, Reminiscences, p. 63.



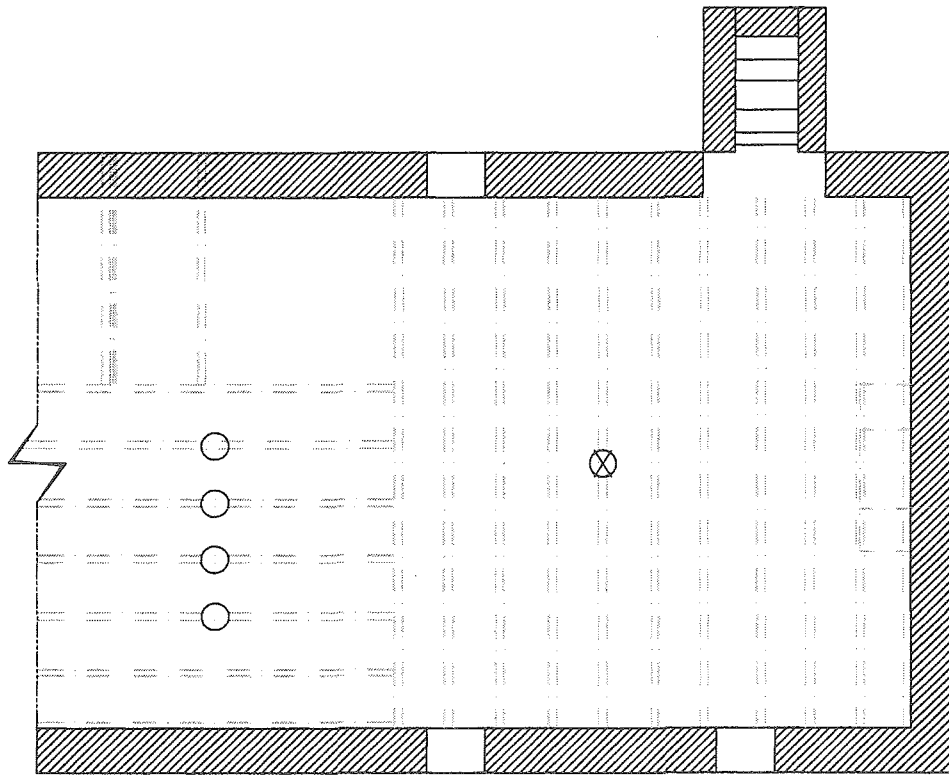
**Appendix A**

**FIRST FLOOR PLAN**

**BASEMENT/CELLAR FLOOR PLAN**



|   |   |                                      |                              |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <p><b>THE CENTER FOR HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN</b><br/>UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE</p> <p>ALISON HALL ACADEMY STREET NEWARK, DE 19716<br/>Phone (302) 831-8097 ■ ■ ■ ■ Fax (302) 831-4548</p> | <p>PROJECT NAME:<br/><b>STONE TAVERN</b></p>              | <p><b>FIRST FLOOR PLAN</b></p>       |                              |
|   | <p>PROJECT LOCATION:<br/><b>LITTLE CREEK DELAWARE</b></p> | <p>DRAWN BY: JEROEN VAN DEN HURK</p> | <p>SCALE: AS NOTED</p>       |
|   |   | <p>REVISIONS BY: DAVE ARENA</p>      | <p>DATE: 8/00 &amp; 5/02</p> |

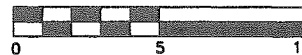


LEGEND

 PERIOD 1 STONE

| ○ | BADLY DAMAGED JOISTS

| ⊗ | VERY BADLY DAMAGED JOISTS



THE CENTER FOR HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN  
UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

ALISON HALL ACADEMY STREET NEWARK, DE 19716  
Phone (302) 831-8097 ■ ■ ■ ■ Fax (302) 831-4548

PROJECT NAME:  
STONE TAVERN

PROJECT LOCATION:  
LITTLE CREEK  
DELAWARE

CELLAR PLAN

DRAWN BY: JEROEN  
VAN DEN HURK

SCALE: AS NOTED

REVISIONS BY: DAVE ARENA

DATE: 8/00 & 5/02

**Appendix B**  
**PHOTOGRAPHS**

# MID-ATLANTIC HISTORIC BUILDINGS SURVEY

## INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS

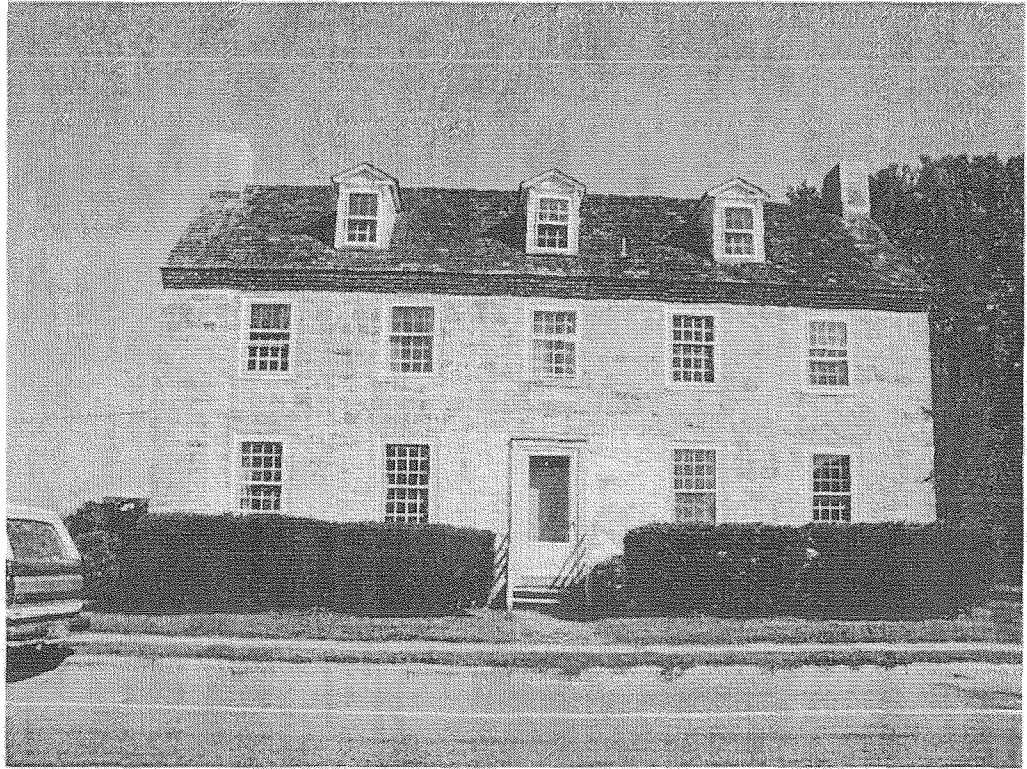
Old Stone Tavern  
Main Street (Route 9)  
Little Creek  
Little Creek Hundred  
Kent County, Delaware

CRS# K-0000

Photographer: Rebecca J. Sheppard  
When?

- K-0000-1:** Elevation of west front façade looking east.
- K-0000-2:** Perspective of west and north elevations looking southeast showing early nineteenth century stone block, twentieth century shed addition and detached Period I stone outbuilding
- K-0000-3:** Perspective of north elevation detail. Stone block and frame shed addition.
- K-0000-4:** Perspective of east façade looking west showing the early nineteenth century stone block, twentieth century shed addition and cement block stack and modifications to the rear entry door.
- K-0000-5:** Detail of modifications and repairs to east façade including evidence of a shed addition (probably a kitchen) and shelving along the stone block.
- K-0000-6:** Main block masonry detail: with cut field stone quoins. Southwest corner, looking southeast.
- K-0000-7:** Perspective of west and south elevations of stone. Note missing date stone between the two south windows.
- K-0000-8:** Interior stone block first floor center hall. Detail of the front door on the west wall with deep-reeled molding with bulls-eye corner blocks and fanlight.
- K-0000-9:** Interior center hall stairway, cellar entrance and sealed rear door detail. Also note paneling, newel post and balustrade detail. Regular width floorboards laid east/west.

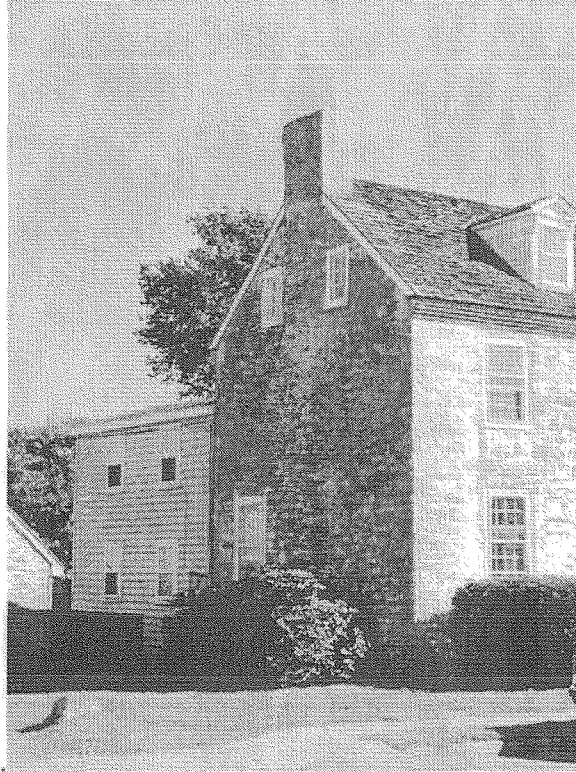
- K-0000-10:** Interior, stone block, north parlor first floor. North wall fireplace, mantle and sealed window detail. Regular width floorboards laid north/south.
- K-0000-11:** Interior, stone block, first floor south parlor. Fireplace mantle decoration and west window paneling detail
- K-0000-12:** Interior, stone block, first floor south parlor. View of east window paneling detail and south wall fireplace and elaborate reeded mantle detail.
- K-0000-13:** Interior, stone block stairwell. East wall landing window and second floor stair well wooden railing detail.
- K-0000-14:** Interior, stone block, second floor. Detail of attic winder stair entrance. View of north parlor looking north. Irregular width floorboards run north/south in all rooms.
- K-0000-15:** Interior, stone block. Stairwell detail from second floor.
- K-0000-16:** Interior, stone block second floor. View of north parlor looking north. Previous entrance to the frame, Period II addition to right of fireplace.
- K-0000-17:** Interior, stone block, second floor. Detail of south parlor fireplace mantle and built-in storage closets.
- K-0000-18:** Interior view of third floor attic stairway landing.
- K-0000-19:** Interior perspective of third floor attic landing dormer window and storage room.
- K-0000-20:** Interior view looking north toward the plaster sheathed interior stack in the north attic room.
- K-0000-21:** Interior cellar view of the supporting brick arch and 2002 replacement joists and stabilization work.
- K-0000-22:** Interior view Period II addition first floor kitchen looking east. Winder stair to the left of the louvered door closet on the east wall.
- K-0000-23:** Interior perspective west and south walls of the Period II addition second floor room.
- K-0000-24:** Looking east, exterior view of the Old Stone Tavern in relationship to the Methodist Church.
- K-0000-25:** Exterior view of the east elevations of the Period I main block , Period II addition and the detached shed looking west.



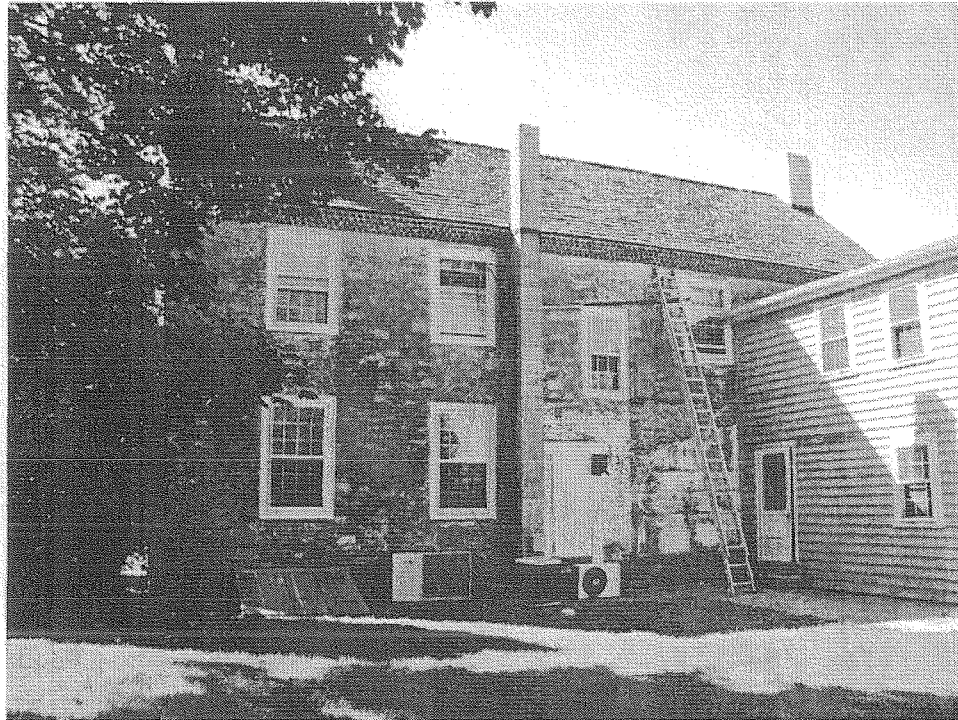
K-0000-1: Elevation of west front façade looking east.



K-0000-2: Perspective of west and north elevations looking southeast showing early nineteenth century stone block, twentieth century shed addition and detached Period I stone outbuilding

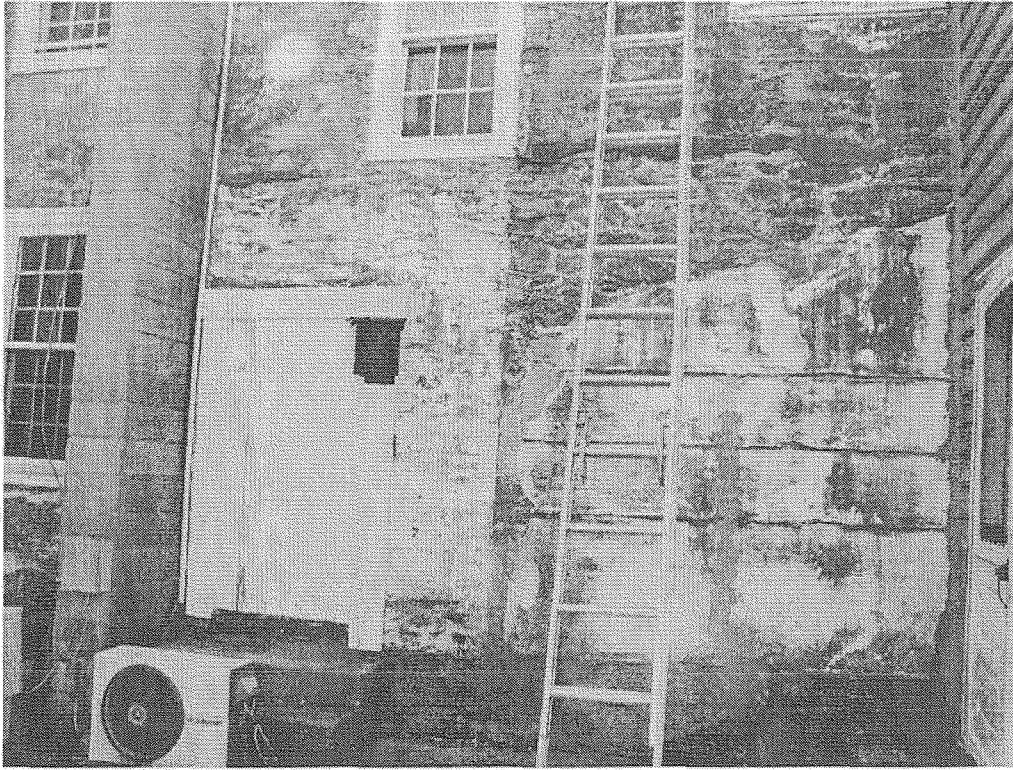


**K-0000-3:** Perspective of north elevation detail. Stone block and frame shed addition.

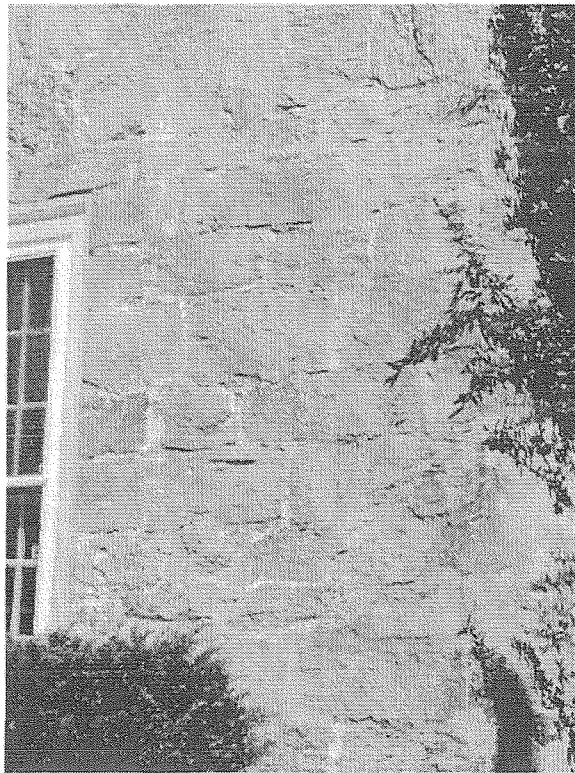


**K-0000-4:** Perspective of east façade looking west showing the early nineteenth century stone block, twentieth century shed addition and cement block stack and modifications to the rear entry door.

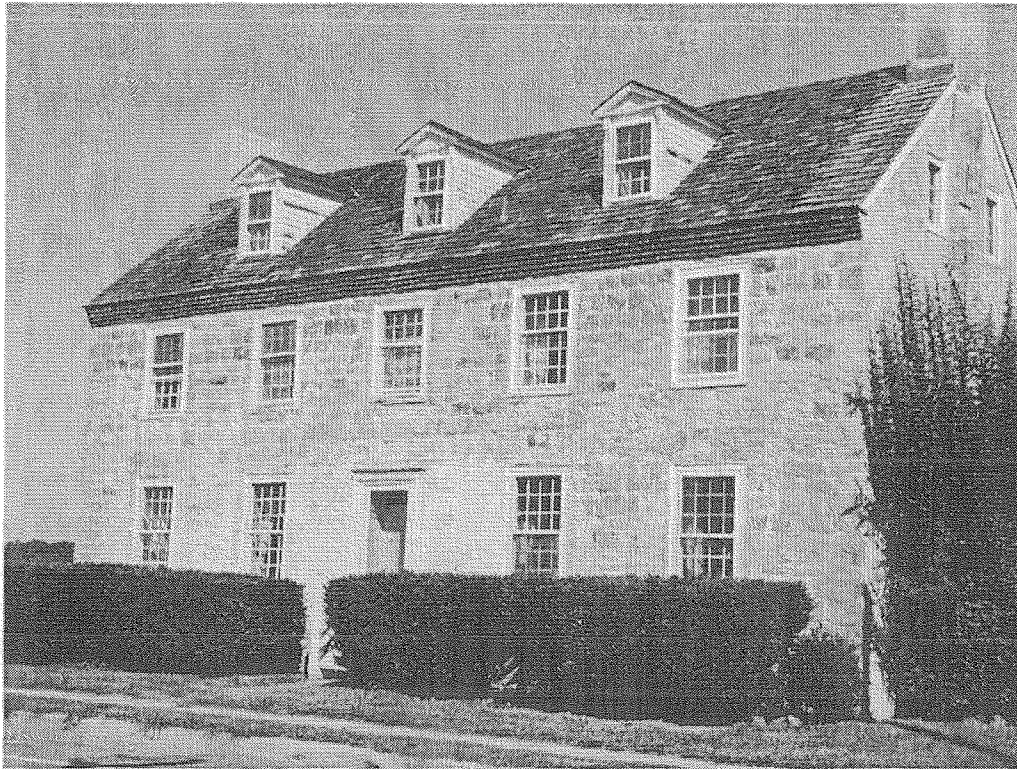




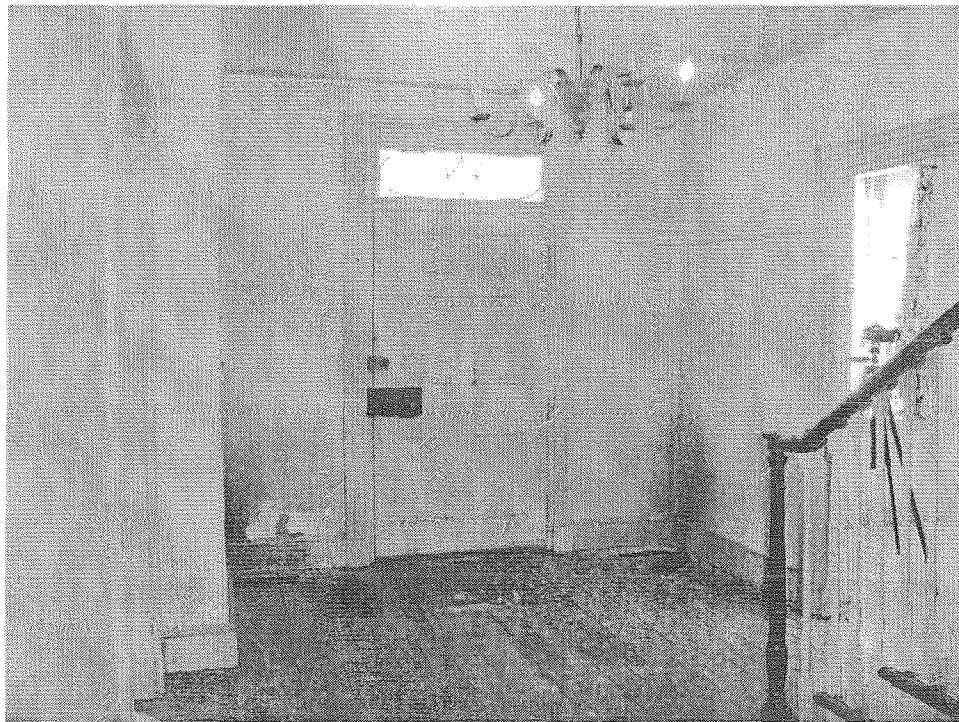
**K-0000-5:** Detail of modifications and repairs to east façade including evidence of a shed addition (probably a kitchen) and shelving along the stone block.



**K-0000-6:** Main block masonry detail: with cut field stone quoins. Southwest corner, looking southeast.



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**K-0000-8:** Interior stone block first floor center hall. Detail of the front door on the west wall with deep reeded molding with bulls-eye corner blocks and fanlight.



**K-0000-9:** Interior center hall stairway, cellar entrance and sealed rear door detail. Also note paneling, newel post and balustrade detail. Regular width floorboards laid east/west.



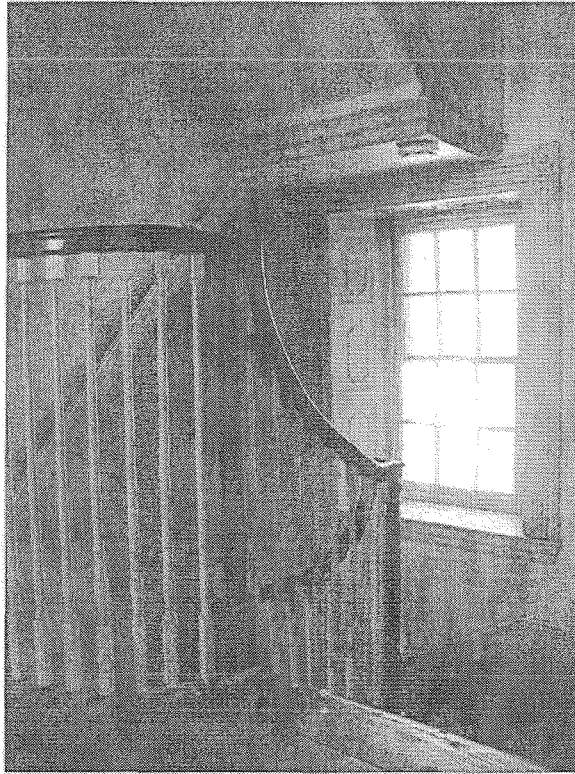
**K-0000-10:** Interior, stone block, north parlor first floor. North wall fireplace, mantle and sealed window detail. Regular width floorboards laid north/south.



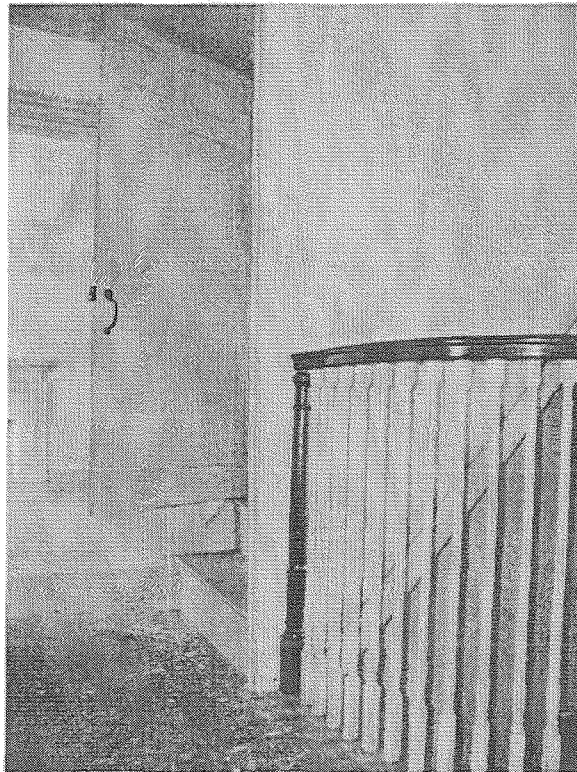
**K-0000-11:** Interior, stone block, first floor south parlor. Fireplace mantle decoration and west window paneling detail.



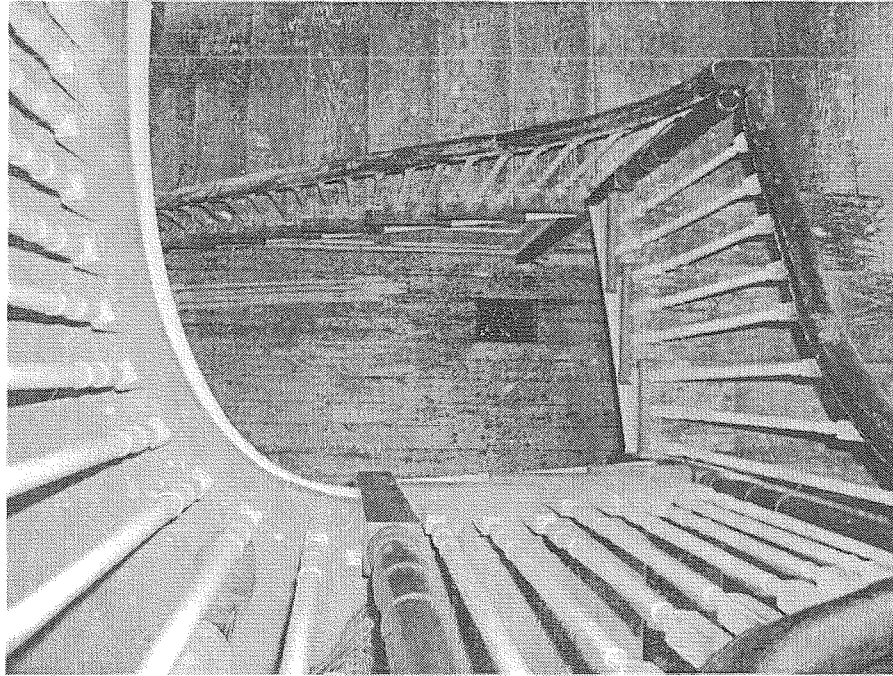
**K-0000-12:** Interior, stone block, first floor south parlor. View of east window paneling detail and south wall fireplace and elaborate reeded mantle detail.



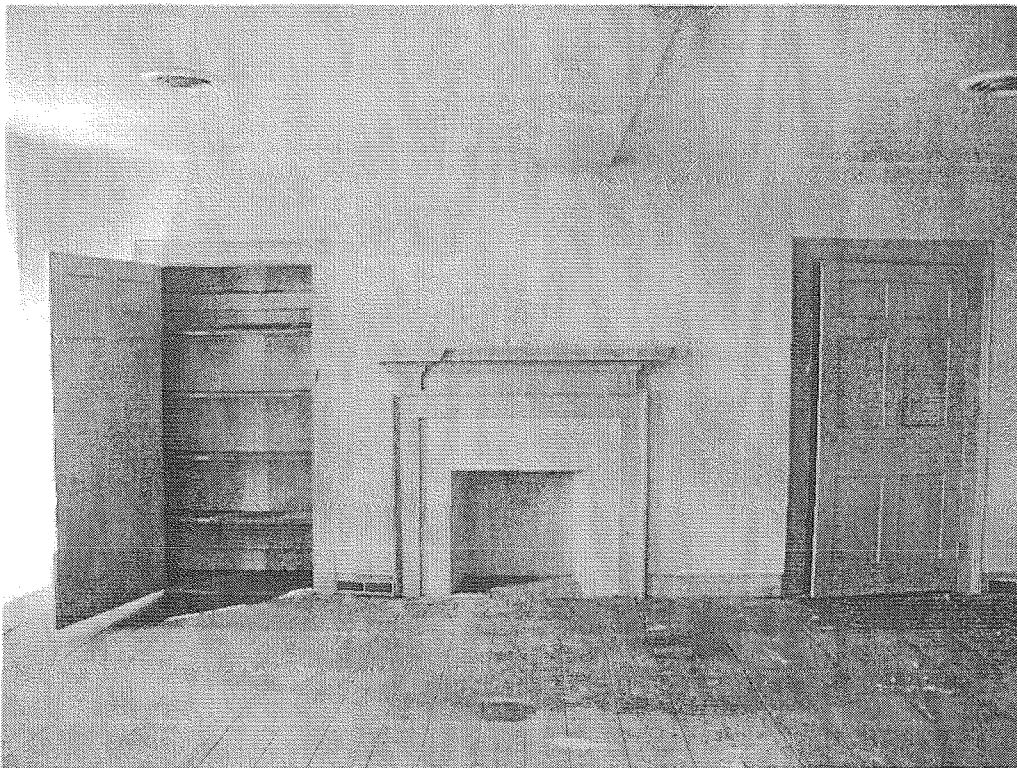
**K-0000-13:** Interior, stone block stairwell. East wall landing window and second floor stair well wooden railing detail.



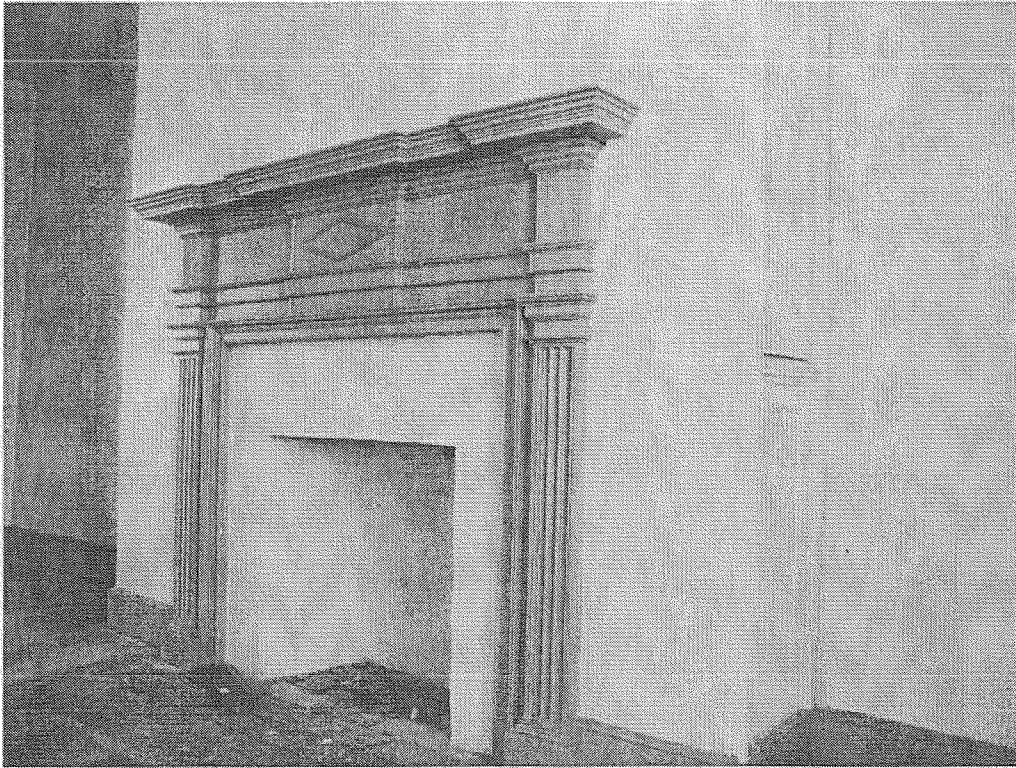
**K-0000-14:** Interior, stone block, second floor. Detail of attic winder stair entrance. View of north parlor looking north. Irregular width floorboards run north/south in all rooms.



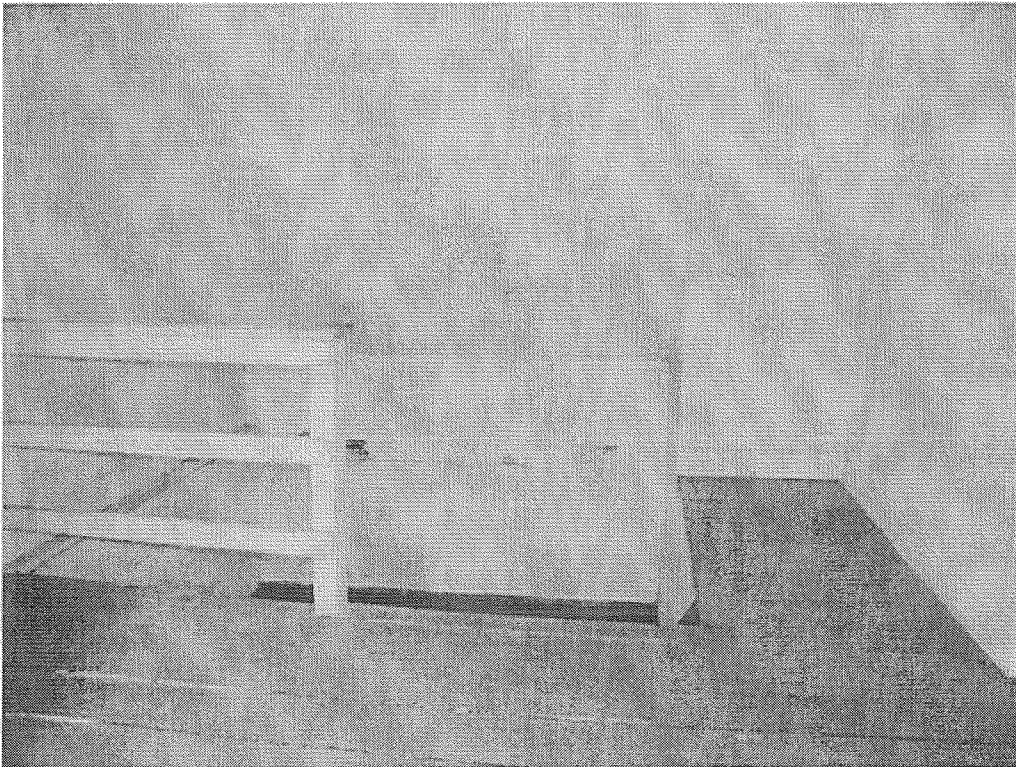
**K-0000-15:** Interior, stone block. Stairwell detail from second floor.



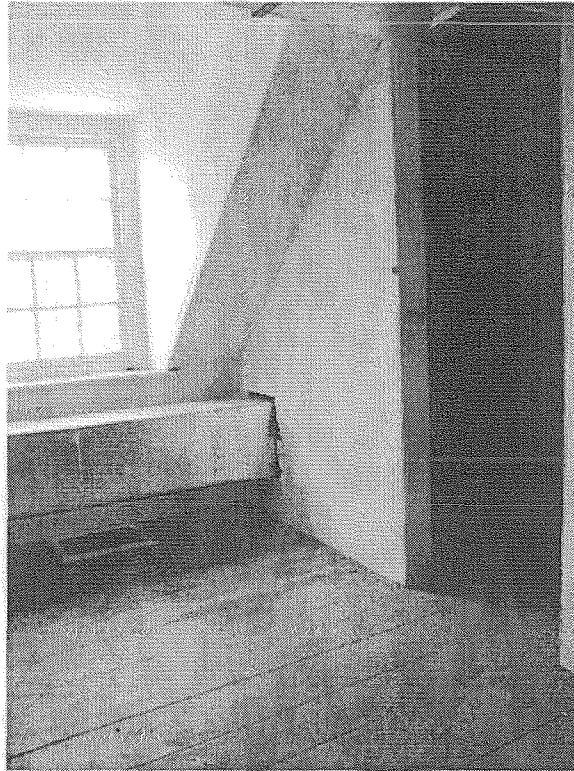
**K-0000-16:** Interior, stone block second floor. View of north parlor looking north. Previous entrance to the frame, Period II addition to right of fireplace.



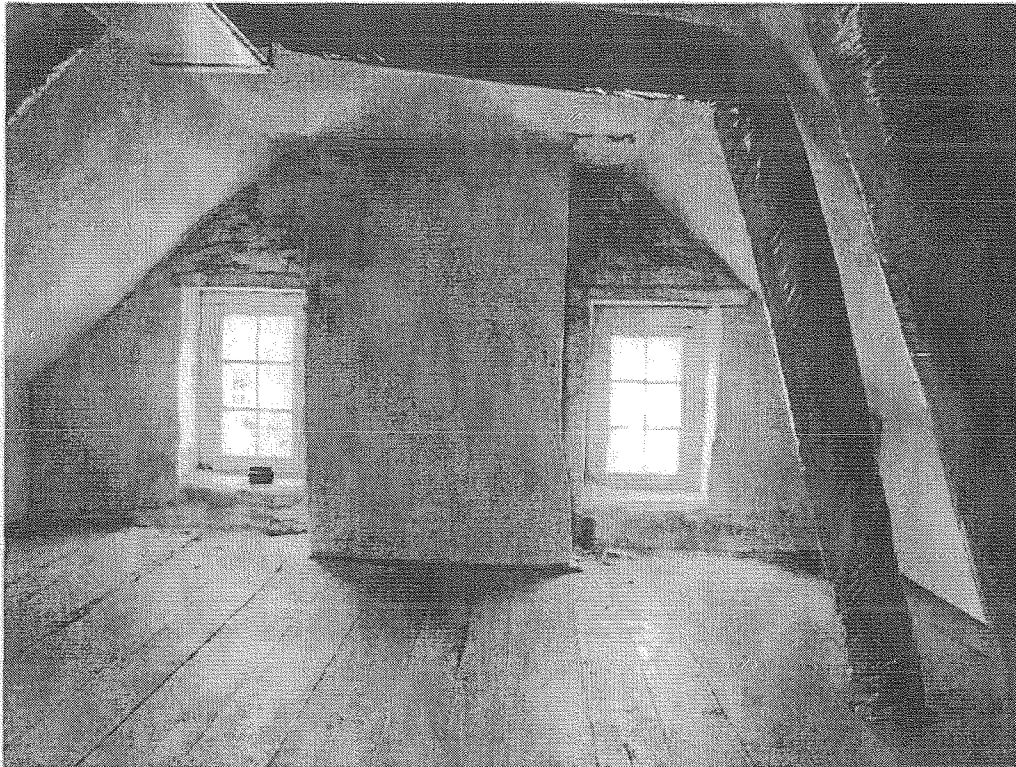
K-0000-17: Interior, stone block, second floor. Detail of south parlor fireplace mantle and built-in storage closets.



K-0000-18: Interior view of third floor attic stairway landing.

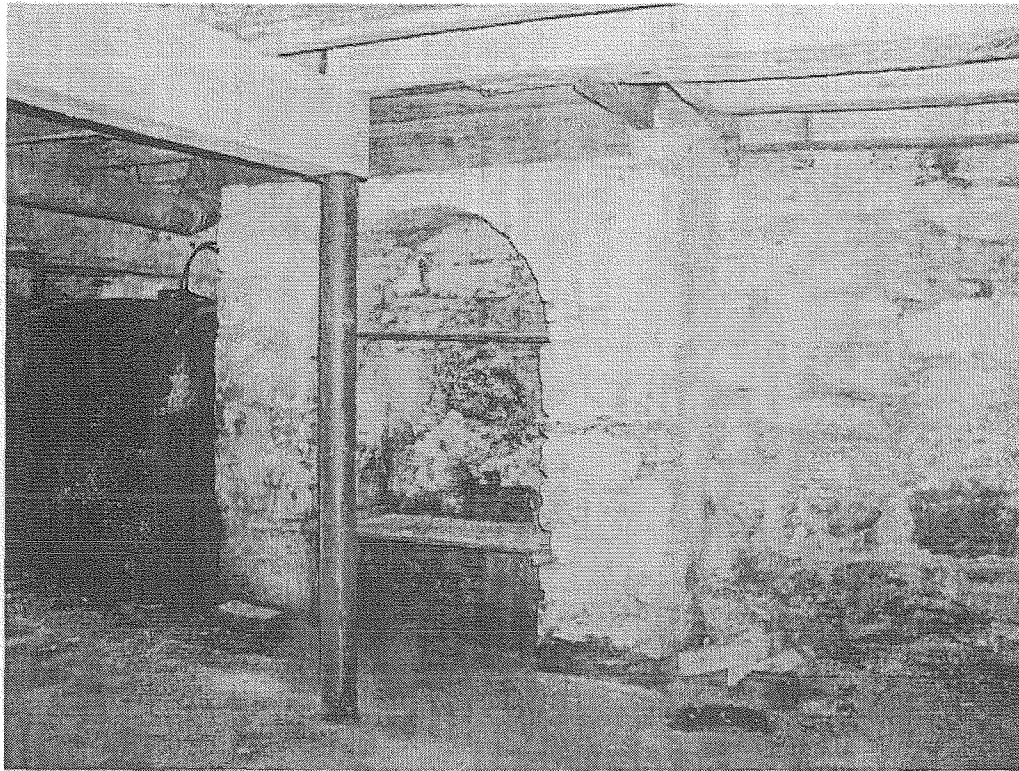


K-0000-19: Interior perspective of third floor attic landing dormer window and storage room.

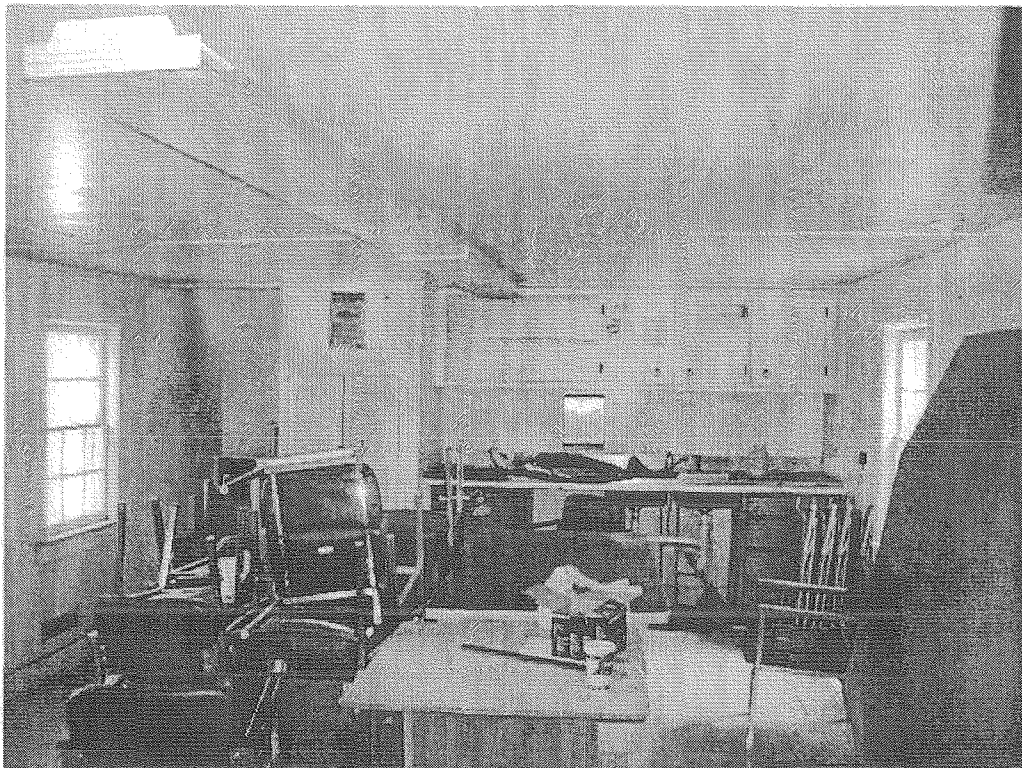


K-0000-20: Interior view looking north toward the plaster sheathed interior stack in the north attic room.

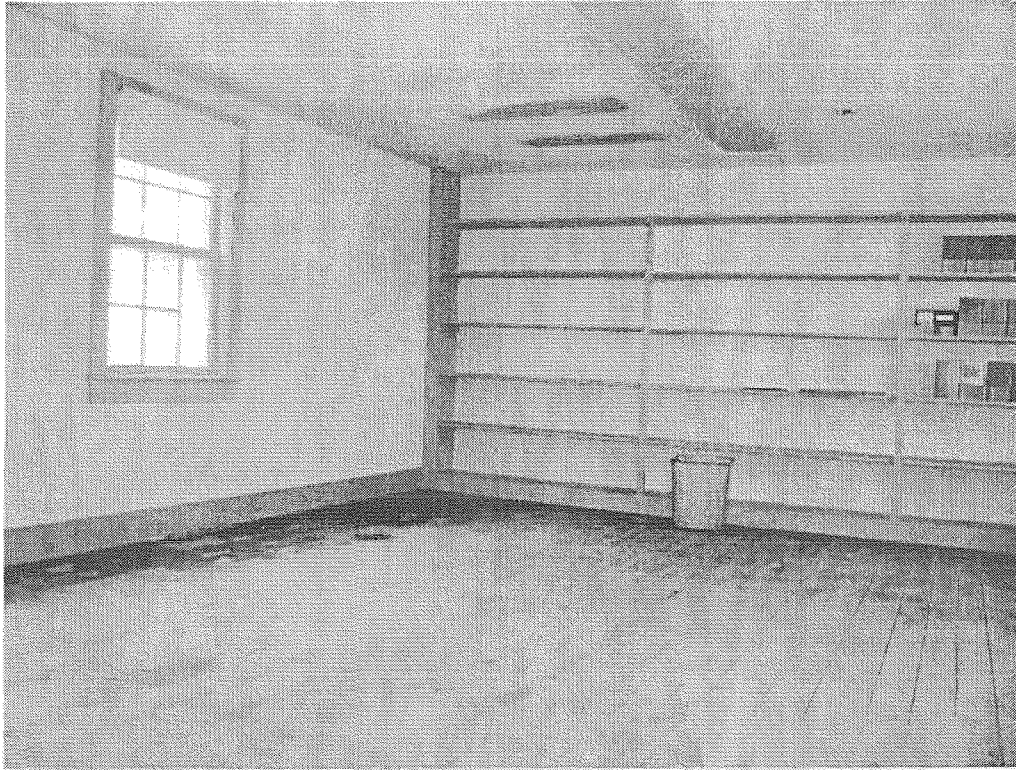




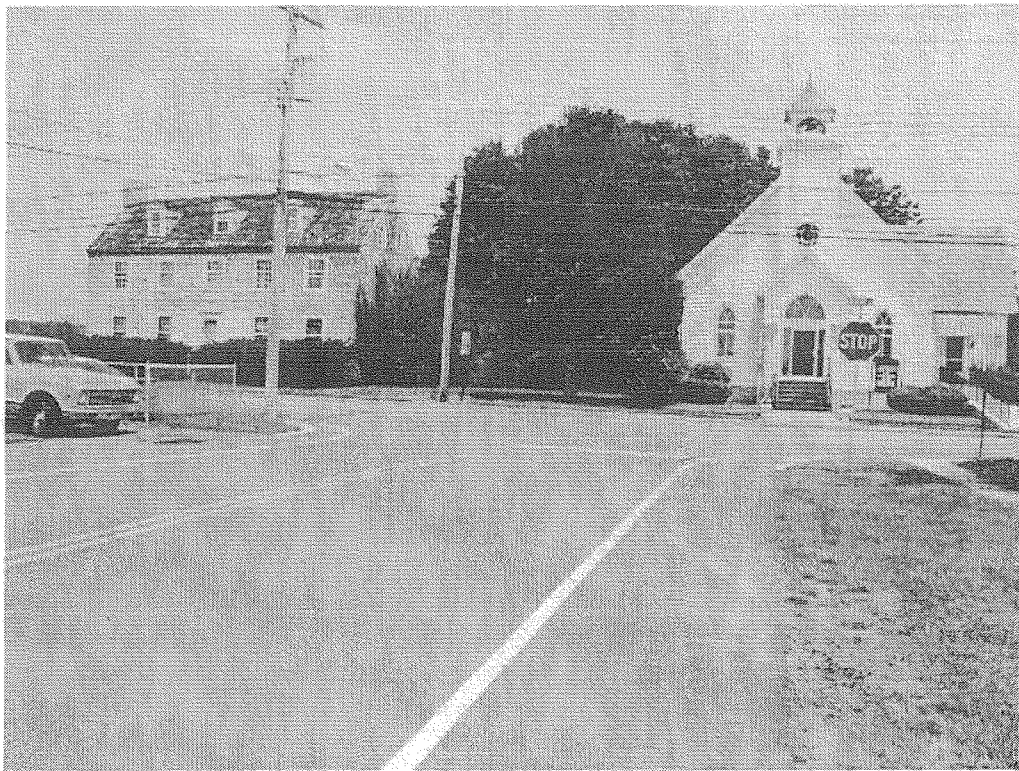
K-0000-21: Interior cellar view of the supporting brick arch and 2002 replacement joists and stabilization work.



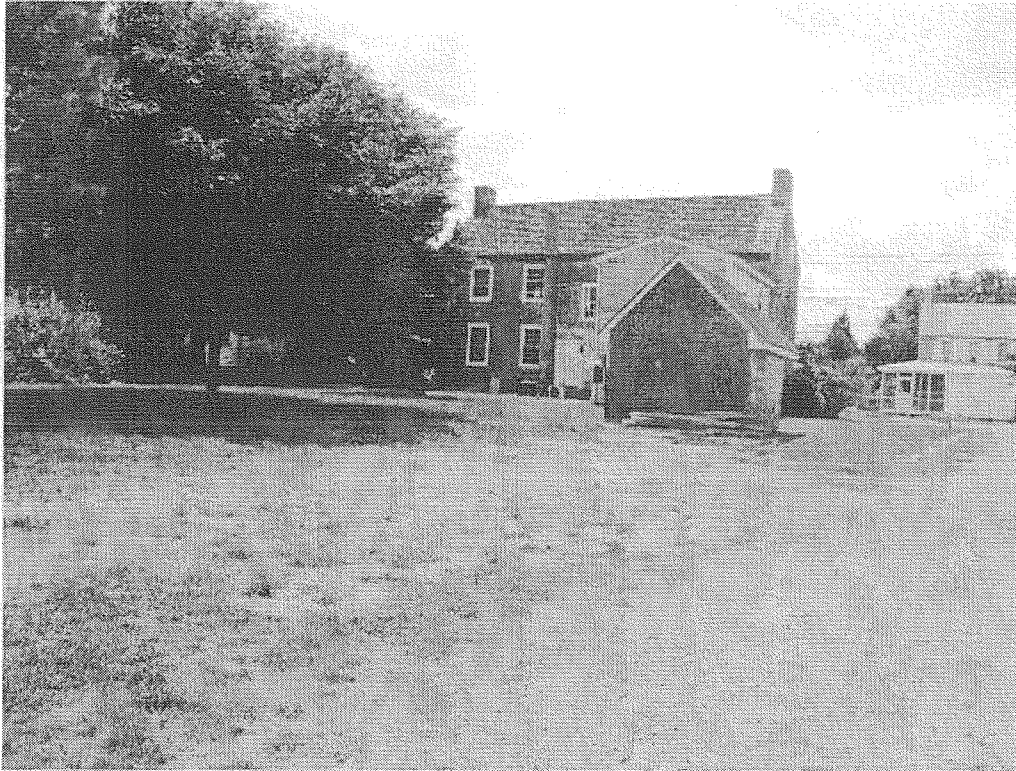
K-0000-22: Interior view Period II addition first floor kitchen looking east. Winder stair to the left of the louvered door closet on the east wall.



K-0000-23: Interior perspective west and south walls of the Period II addition second floor room.



K-0000-24: Looking east, exterior view of the Old Stone Tavern in relationship to the Methodist Church.



K-0000-25: Exterior view of the east elevations of the Period I main block , Period II addition and the detached shed looking west. The drive in the foreground continues east to a large field that is currently fallow. This may have been the acreage associated with the property when Manlove Hayes, Jr. referred to the property as a "farm."

**Appendix C**  
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