

Construction of the Dwelling on John Pidcock's land

Extracted from

An Historic Structure Report, November 2004

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Overview

The purpose of this paper is to understand the historical and scientific findings of the Historic Structures Report (HSR) of the stone house on land occupied by John Pidcock before 1680 so that new information can be incorporated into the John Pidcock history. This paper contains a synopsis of the information in the two-volume HSR. The material is discussed from a Pidcock perspective. The HSR is quoted extensively supplemented by other Pidcock research, identified within the body of the text by square brackets [] and/or the initials of the Pidcock researcher (e.g. CPT: Catharine Pidcock Thomas, JLM: John Leon Moore) or appearing as footnotes, appendices or as specifically identified sections. Many of the footnotes are requests for clarification, or completeness in this publicly funded research document, which would make it even more useful as an interpretation resource.

The Historic Structure Report (HSR) contains:

- **Copies of the G. Edwin Brumbaugh 1948-1951 survey:** analyses, diagrams and restoration that are in the Brumbaugh collection at Winterthur Museum.
- **Computer generated dimensional drawings of the house.** These were made by a rotating laser beam that bounced light off hard surfaces and recorded its reflection time at different x and y coordinates through-out each room as the beam spiraled down a cam, generating and recording successive measurements. This process is detailed enough to record a fly across a room on the window sill. The computer generated pictures were verified and enhanced by visual inspection.
- **Paint Analysis.** An extensive section with pictures, analyses indoor and outdoor paint slices. Paint dating is inferred from knowing when a paint composition or color was introduced to common use, from the amount of dirt under or between layers and from whether the sample matches paint from other samples taken from within the house. The suggestion that a surface has been left exposed without paint is based on a lot of dirt below the oldest paint layer. [Presumably this situation could also occur if the atmosphere was dusty and the wood was poorly cleaned before the initial paint job.] The time frame for historical painting is bracketed by 1757 when the west wing was built and 1895 when the house was sold at foreclosure to the Higs, who left it abandoned.
- **Masonry Analysis** - The report contains observations of stone size, color, and placement and a comparison of binder and sand in 22 of possibly 24 mortar samples. Masonry and materials of distinctly different style or composition indicate separate building or repair projects. Stones, sand and lime are naturally occurring materials that show variation in color and size within a range characteristic of their source site. The techniques and mortar recipes of pre-industrial masonry were handed down from one generation to the next. So, some variation in materials is expected, even in a single project, and projects that span generations may still look similar if built using local materials and pre-industrial techniques. Similarity suggests but does not conclusively indicate the same construction project nor does variation in stone or sand color or size (within the range of the source – such as Pidcock’s creek) preclude it.
- **Historic Report of the Residents.** This portion of the report uses public records to determine building norms for the period and location. It references and elucidates some of John Pidcock’s numerous court appearances, painting a portrait of his character with which CPT concurs. CPT’s understanding (documented in this paper) of the text of some tax and court records differ from the Historic Structures Report. Oddly, the Thompson and Neely 1830 & 1840 census records reported on www.ancestry.com do not match the HSR report.

The HSR sets up a neutral room naming scheme, where units are labeled “A” (west wing), “B” (center), “C” (east wing). Diagrams from the Historic Structures Report follow the Glossaries at the end of this paper. Figures 2-4 show the evolution of the House before the Revolutionary War. Figure 17 a-d are reduced copies of the computer generated dimensional drawings of all interior spaces in the house. The diagrams identify

each space by 2-3 digits (floor # - 0 for cellar, 3 for garret - followed by 2 digit room #). This paper sometimes use a shorthand of just the section letter and floor number.

Experts contributed highly informative chapters to the HSR detailing each type of analysis.

I compiled a Glossary of Architectural Terms that helped me (and I hope others) understand the HSR. HSR chapters have not been well edited for consistency or completeness, so there are some contradictions between chapters and typos throughout. For example, the mortar chapter refers to Appendix X (which doesn't exist, but can be deduced by its expected contents to be now named Appendix H).

Some seeming contradictions could have been avoided by each expert using the HSR established neutral naming scheme e.g. "B108" or "B1" for the central room of the 1st floor of the central section of the house rather than "Pidcock section" (if not an historic expert) or "original stone central cabin" (if not an architectural expert).

Further clarity could have been achieved if the HSR had standardized method of reporting vertical measurements. Some measurements (e.g. the depth to which the pocket supporting the west end of the summer beam in "B0" is filled in with loose stone), are listed as **differences**, some (e.g. the sagging, abandoned joist at the east end on "B0") are listed as distance from the **current ceiling** and others (e.g. the vertical mortar study of the south foundation of unit "B0") from the **current floor**. This results in apparent contradictions such as the architectural section indicating the average height of "B0" is 6'1", but the mortar section listing "M11" at 6'8" below the current floor joist (even the higher ceiling in unit "A" is only 6'7" from the floor). Reading through Brumbaugh, Brumbaugh quoted by HSR and individual researchers in the HSR, the reader learns the "B0" floor was raised any where from 8" – 15 1/2". This makes it hard to determine from the written record, where the "B1" floor was when "B" was a wooden structure attached to a stone structure and whether the "B1" floor elevation was changed when "B" was initially built in stone and/or when "C" was built and the "B" hearth expanded.

Further confusion could have been avoided by making sure all sections were complete – the mortar section omits data for samples M17 & M18 and stops, **mid-sentence while discussing the significance of mortar sample M09 leaving discussion of all higher numbered samples out**. **M09** is a very soft mud/clay mortar, more rustic and primitive than the other mortar samples, even those in close proximity. It was used to set a beam in the south foundation of the unit "B" cellar. Sample **M12**, found on the west wall of room "B108", contains horsehair mixed in the binder. Pidcocks are very interested in an interpretation of these two anomalies that use older formulations than the other 20 samples (which are all quite similar to each other or are recognizably modern repairs).

This synopsis attempts to combine all the data to tell a single consistent and logical story about the evolution of the house. Sometimes the HSR offers several alternative interpretations. I've picked one or indicated that I'm offering my own based on other evidence.

The structural analysis is based on what currently exists. Past modifications and repairs may have removed or obliterated all evidence of former structures, openings or supports. The structural analysis provides a relative time scale: “this was done before that”. It does not provide an absolute time scale because isotopic dating based on formerly living matter such as wood and dendro-chronology (dating through comparison of wood samples of known age from the same area) were not done (probably for some very good reasons such as availability of reliable standards, granularity of dating precision and cost). The wood in question is in unit “B”: a) plates (horizontal beams) imbedded in the north and south exterior stonework directly over 1st floor door and windows, b) in the cellar - the abandoned, dangling easternmost floor joist, c) the lintel and sill of the north wall opening.

An absolute time frame is provided by the actions of the occupants of the land as recorded in court, tax and church records. The relative dating leaves ambiguity as to in whose occupancy work was done. However, construction time frames can be refined if a logical connection can be made between an alteration and an event in the lives of the residents.

There is one more “glitch”. The adoption of the Gregorian calendar in England and its colonies caused a two month “jump” between dates **recorded** before 1/1/1752 and those after. In reading modern transcriptions of records predating 1752, it is not always clear how this two-month discrepancy was handled – were the original date names preserved or was 2 months added to the dates to make them consistent with subsequent dates.

This document is arranged to present the architectural evidence, including paint and mortar analysis first, organized by HSR building unit naming scheme (“A”-“C”) annotated with the corresponding Historic Period (“I” -“V”) as identified in the HSR.

- **House Plan**
- **Architectural Description**

Then the historical evidence is presented and the two bodies of evidence combined. Finally, additional Pidcock information is added and Appendices and Glossaries supplied to help in understanding terms, procedures or to expose the reader to archaic language subject to ambiguous interpretation.

Architectural Analysis

Unit “A”: 1757 West Wing – Period II

House Plan

Unit “A” is a “Hall and Parlor” plan house. Houses of this plan have a living room with one or two exterior doors, a fireplace and a corner box (winder) stairs. The parlor has no exterior access. This plan shows sophistication and privacy over the “Hall” plan house. The hall contained a cooking fire or sometimes the kitchen was located in the basement.

Other Quaker¹ architectural features are horizontal cornices on east and west gable ends and pediment hood over the front door. It was similar to the John Hart house built in the Scots-Irish settlement of Warminster, PA in 1750 a picture of which is shown in the HSR.

Architectural Description

Exterior:

This two story stone structure was built next to a pre-existing structure. The mortar was re-pointed in the 1950 restoration. The exterior stone and foundation date to 1757 when an inset above the front door of Unit "A" identifies that this section was added by R + H T in 1757 {Robert + Hannah Thompson}.

The walls are granite-like field stone, predominantly brown with quantities of warm grey stones mixed in and believed to be quarried on the site or in the local vicinity. Large stones have been used in the corners as quoins. The unit "A" house has expensive details like masonry arched windows and a water table. Window and door openings are supported by segmented arches. The water table is a stone ledge set approx 10" above the 1st floor level and 2'9" above the existing grade. At this level the foundation walls are 21" thick. They are 19" thick above the water table and 17" thick on the 2nd floor.

There is no water table on the east side of unit "A" where it abuts unit "B" suggesting a structure already stood there when unit "A" was built. However, the east wall and chimney in unit "A" is integral to unit "A", suggesting that the unit "B" building was not stone at that time – else it's west wall could have become unit "A"'s east wall.

The windows are plank frame construction with a vertical sliding sash. The panes are 9 over 6 on the sunny south front windows and 6 over 6 on the colder west & north side windows. Only the first floor windows are shuttered. There was a small window above the horizontal cornice at the south-west and north-east (now an opening into unit "B" garret) ends of the garret of unit "A".

The stone chimney is cut at more geometric angle and is not of the same origin as the gable stone². The roof is continuous over units "A" & "B". It is made of hand hewn 1 1/4" thick, 30" long cedar shakes on oak lath with irregular exposure 13 1/2 - 14 1/4'. Brumbaugh reframed the roof in 1950 when he discovered evidence that the uniform roof pitch of units "A" & "B" differed from unit "C" and reconstructed accordingly. The supports of a matching cornice on the east end of the unit "A" can be seen protruding from the west wall of the 2nd floor of unit "B".

Cellar:

Unit "A" is a rectangular plan 30' 6" wide (East-West) direction by 22' deep (North-south). Ceiling height is ~ 6' 7" measuring from the average dirt floor level to the underside of the floor joists. The foundation is uncoursed rubble stone (brown and

¹ What are "Quaker" architectural housing features? Is implication Hannah's (Quaker) input on design?

² HSR does not say if it was common practice to construct the chimney from different material cut at different angles than the rest of the 18th century stone house or whether this is a sign of a later modification of one or both chimneys.

granite-like field stone with warm grey stones mixed in). From the cellar interior, with minimal disturbance, the bottom of the foundation walls were found to be just below the dirt floor. The cellar has numerous coats of whitewashed.

Arched masonry chimney breasts protrude out of the walls 4'6" supporting the upper level fireplaces and hearths in unit "A". The chimney breasts, like the rest of the masonry are parged and white washed.

Unit "A" has white oak floor joists, 3" wide x 7" high set ~ 20" on center into pockets in the North and South stone walls. The joists are supported by a 5"x5" oak beam running E-W. The beam is supported by timber frame structures, described in detail, set against the fireplace chimney breasts. The HSR describes two further joist support systems, shown in Figure 17a as a row of 3 post footprints < 2' in from the S-W foundation wall and 4 post footprints ~2' off the inside of the north foundation under the exterior door.

In the North East Corner of Unit "A" cellar is a square post adjacent to a wooden stair that accesses the 1st floor of unit "B". The post is visibly older than the stair, and has many layers of white-wash. The post (north of the current stairs), notched for treads and notched into the last joist, bears evidence that at one time the winder stairs in unit "A" went down to the basement.³ The floor boards in the room above end at the joist that the post supports though there are now additional floor boards and short joists closing the area where the box winder would have been. A 1½" thick vertical groove in the north end of the chimney breast on the other side of the current stair is almost void of white-wash and indicates there was once a board fit into the masonry at this location, boxing in the winder stairs. Stairs to the cellar were usually left open unless the cellar was occupied, such as a kitchen.⁴

[The first floor of unit "A" is raised above ground level to accommodate grade-level basement windows in the north and south foundation walls, to light the unit "A" cellar. These windows, like the rest in unit "A" are set in exterior arched openings.]

South of the unit "A" eastern fireplace mass is a framed opening that leads to the cellar of unit "B". The frame is comprised of square white oak members mortised and tenoned together, and set below a beam that is pocketed into the chimney breast. The opening is probably original to the construction of unit "A" because there is no evidence of a previously uninterrupted eastern foundation of unit "A", such as stone masonry jutting from the south foundation wall or from the chimney breast. There is also no evidence, such as stub walls, of a pre-existing full cellar foundation under unit "B"

1st Floor:

The north - south running wall that separates the two 1st floor rooms in unit "A" is 2 layers of vertical board lath & plaster. The unit "A" south (front) door is a sandwich door

³ Thus, unit "A" originally had cellar access without disturbing its east stone wall or unit "B".

⁴ CPT: The boxed stairs plus the white-wash indicate the cellar was in regular use, at least as a food storage space and possibly as a cooking space, suggesting separate Thompson and Neely family cooking spaces between 1766 and 1788. Hannah may have cooked on the 1st floor hall hearth of unit "A" and used the cellar for food storage.

with 6 raised panels on the exterior and chevron on the inside. The north door is the same on the outside but is just vertical panels on the inside. The former unit “A” cellar door has been cut into 2 sections at the lock rail. There is now a display cabinet above and boards yielding head room for stairs (from “B108” to “A001”) below. The door between units “A” and “B” is board in 3 panels fastened with 3 horizontal battens. The battens are exposed in the unit “A” room. This door may be an original exterior door of unit “B”. It would logically have been hung with the battens facing the interior).[Brumbaugh’s report makes the same observation. CPT infers that when the Thompsons and Neely’s lived side-by-side in the house before unit “C” was built, the Thompsons hung this door as the door into their dwelling from unit “B” occupied by the Neely’s. A former docent passed on the story, told to her by Neely descendants, that the Neely children had to knock on the door, if they wanted to visit their grandparents].

The unit “A” 1st floor walls are plastered and have single beaded base board & chair rail at the same height as the window stools. The north window has its original sashes. Only the frame is original for the south window. The floor is yellow pine that has shrunk over the years to leave gaps between the boards wide enough to catch a high heel shoe. Wooden filler strips of a lighter color were added in the 1980s for visitor safety.

The western-most floor in the ground floor parlor [western most room] does not have these fillers, indicating it didn't suffer as much wear & tear as the more public room. The parlor is heated with a fireplace and the northern end of the west wall contains paneled floor-to-ceiling closets.

The HSR asserts the woodwork in unit “A” was unpainted when Washington visited in 1776.⁵ In the early 19th century, the first floor was painted with a lead white undercoat and a light blue finish made from lead white and Prussian Blue (a new color in 1710 and that was expensive) with a linseed oil transparent glaze. The paint looked light green to Brumbaugh because the oil glaze had yellowed with age. The blue was mixed with white as a brightening agent [which would have reflected well by candle light – park staff].

2nd Floor:

Note the distinction between formal and informal private rooms on the 2nd floor. Formal rooms have raised panels on doors and articulated casing. Paint analysis indicates all the woodwork in the 2nd floor west room [A200] is original. The north side window is again original. This room is also paneled with closets across the west wall. It is heated with a Rittenhouse stove.

The other 2nd floor chamber [A203] is very simple for unit “A”. No baseboards or fireplace [even though there is one directly below]. Once there were closets on both sides of the chimney in this room Today only the 3 shelves remain of the closet to the left of the chimney, but mortises cut into the floor indicate there once was a closet door. A door was eventually cut into the back of the south-side closet providing 2nd floor access between units “A” and “B”.

⁵ This assertion is based on dirt below the first coat of paint. Park staff think it unlikely that an expensive and well appointed addition was built and the woodwork left unprotected for ~ 50 years.

The second floor walls are hard sand plaster, not painted until possibly the 20th century⁶ leaving these private rooms of the 2nd floor unpainted for the longest time. Prussian blue was expensive, yet it was eventually used, even on the 2nd floor.

Garret:

The A300 garret has a single west gable window to the south of the chimney. There is access to the unit “B” garret through a doorway that replaced a formerly east facing window to the north of the chimney before the 2nd story of unit “B” was built. Looking at unit “A” from the unit “B” garret [B301], the stone flashing course of the horizontal cornice is evident along the floor below the former window. The interior walls in unit “A” were whitewashed suggesting it might have been used as a garret bedroom.

Unit “B”, Central Section

Period I: Oldest section of the house

Unit “B” is the unit of most interest to Pidcocks and so this report covers unit “B” information in greater detail than other information in the HSR. For completeness and comparison, G. Edwin Brumbaugh’s observations about this section of the structure are reported in Appendix I.

Unit “B” has been extensively repaired and remodeled. In so doing, some evidence of abandoned former construction remains and other key evidence of earlier construction has been lost.

House Plan

Though there are many questions surrounding the original construction, it is at least apparent that Unit B existed as a 1-story volume (hall plan) for a period of time.

Unit “B” contains the original cooking fireplace and chimney mass from the period I dwelling and defines the basic plan of the original dwelling. The Period I dwelling was a single cell, English colonial “Hall” plan house, probably constructed of log or timber frame and either built directly on grade or on a low stone foundation and crawl space. See Diagrams from HSR section - Plates 2a-b for a pictorial representation. This style was ubiquitous in colonial PA. As late as 1798⁷ most houses in Upper Bucks were 1-story structures, occasionally built of stone or timber but most commonly log: 18' x 20' characterized by a large cooking fire place on one gable end with enclosed winder stair or ladder to garret or loft in opposite corner of same gable. The opposite, west-facing gable contained a window [to shed late afternoon light on the fireplace – park staff]. Door(s) on one or both connecting walls. Hall was multi-purpose: cooking, eating, domestic

⁶ CPT: If the initial coat, were applied sooner, that would move the timing of the last historic coat from the 20th century to the 19th, before the house was abandoned.

⁷CPT thinks weight may have dictated preference for stone in 2 story construction.

HSR: Harry C. Adams used the 1798 Direct Tax to survey housing construction:

1201 log dwellings of which 639 were one story	32 frame houses
566 stone houses of which 300 were two story	2 brick houses, 1 brick & stone house
96 stone and log houses	11 used some other construction

workspace, sleeping. Unheated garret: food storage, & sleeping.

Architectural Description

Exterior:

Unit "B" is 18'9" x 22'2" in depth. Stone exterior darker in color and larger stones than unit "A". 2nd floor stones match 1st floor stones. Stones may have been quarried in immediate vicinity. There are quoins on the south east corner but not the west corners.⁸

There is 4" rabbet (offset) in the south and north wall joins between units "A" & "B". This rabbet is a flange extending from the 1st floor stone work of unit "A" to accept the west end foundation log of the south and north timber walls of unit "B" tying them together and into the unit "A" east corners. This is primary evidence for the notion that unit "A", built in stone was designed to connect to a timber (as opposed to stone) 1 story unit "B". This 4" offset can also be seen inside, where the door connecting units "A" and "B" is inset 4" into the west wall of unit "B".

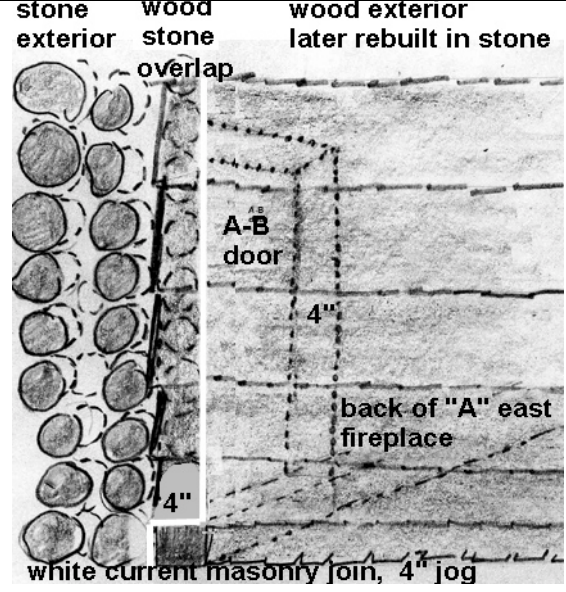
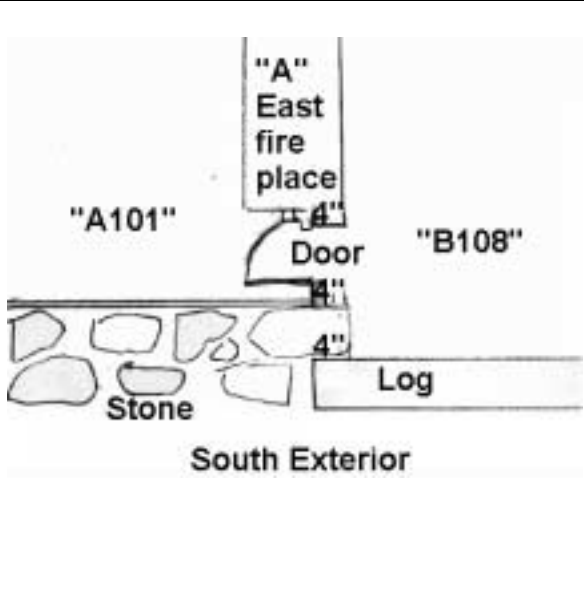
⁸ It can be surmised that when unit "B" was built in stone there was no need for quoins on the southwest corner because it joined to an existing stone building.

The 4" Rabbet.

These sketches represent CPT's understanding of the information the HSR is trying to communicate about physical evidence for early existence of a wooden cabin on the unit "B" site. Confirmation or clarification would be GREATLY appreciated.

Historic Structures Report p. 26 Diagram illustrating 4" Rabbet. CPT labeled diagram, assuming the symbol for doorway, indicates this is an aerial view, showing the structure footprint.

CPT supplied vertical view showing 4" overlap of original timber wall and new 4" stone insert. Dotted lines represent layers not visible from the exterior



The stone wall of unit "A" above the water table is 19" thick, which is enough to be 2 stones deep. Presumably the depth of the walls of unit "B" is comparable. This suggests originally the stone structure lapped the wooden structure as a 4" stone insert. Later, the log wall was replaced as a thicker stone wall.
 CPT measurements:
 South unit "B" exterior:
 Vertical "A"- "B" seam to "B" door = 40.5".
 Interior unit "B":
 West wall to south door 37" stone + 3 1/2" door frame molding = 40.5".
 The "A": "B" door is recessed into west wall an additional ~ 3.5"

. 4" beam upon which wooden walls rested remains, either embedded in and supported by or set against back of new unit "A" east fireplace. Later wooden wall north & south walls rebuilt in stone resulting in 4" jog to the east in both the north and south new stone walls of unit "B". Original west wall of unit "B" either removed or partially laminated into new east wall of unit "A".
 Measurements indicate vertical seam runs along EAST exterior wall of unit "A" not a WEST exterior wall of a pre-existing hypothetically stone unit "B".

The south front door is board & batten, north and south walls each have a single 1st floor window with 6 over 6 panes and board & batten shutters that do not match those of unit "A". The wood plate (beam), immediately above the south wall door, runs the full length

of unit “B”. Approximately 20" from the east end of unit “B” there is a join in this plate. The plate is 3" high and unknown depth. There is a wooden plate at the same height on the north side. It stops short of unit “C” [well before] where the brickwork flue for the beehive oven occurs. The plates may be the top of the walls of a 1 story stone house.⁹ Garret joists would have been set on this “opalet”, but unit “B” roof rafters after construction of unit “A” do not appear to have rested on these plates.

Brumbaugh replaced a stone shed to the north of unit “B” with a wooden shed [B109].

Brumbaugh Report

Brumbaugh wrote that the first floor of unit “B” appeared to have been 15 ½ “ lower than at present based on:

- a) Elevation of a single, old, sagging floor joist, located at the east end of the cellar, embedded in the fireplace foundation and rotted away from the south building foundation wall
- b) Removal of a section of hearth revealed the dressed stone face of the fireplace jamb extended down to the same level.
- c) Location of a roof line inferred from pointing in mortar exposed on the west wall of the unit “B” 2nd floor, the oak plates directly above the 1st floor door and windows on the north and south exteriors of unit “B” and possibly regularly spaced joist locations visible from the exterior, just above the plates.

Both Brumbaugh and the HSR describe the contradictions in the unit “B” flooring system. The current floor joists (hand hewn but not significantly aged or weathered) are exceptionally well preserved for a cellar location, and may be replacements. They run N-S and measure 4”x8” set at a 2’ center. They rest upon, rather than following the 18th century custom of being mortised / framed into, the central E-W summer beam (which, itself exhibits vertical saw marks but little evidence of aging. The HSR observes that the east end of this beam extends from the fireplace [extension] foundation. The original pocket in the west foundation wall [backside of unit “A”’s east foundation wall] was 8” lower than where the beam currently sits and loose stones have been set in the pocket to support the beam at its new location.¹⁰

⁹ CPT finds this argument visually appealing but logically weak for 3 reasons: A) The survey of 18th century housing materials survey indicates stone construction was preferred when supporting a multi-floor house while timber was predominant for single floor units. B) Building unit “B” in stone as a 2 phase operation implies three major stone construction projects in the 9 years from 1757-1766 (assuming the Neely marriage necessitated the two story stone addition). C) The plates are not at the correct height to match the 1 story garret roof outline and plates to support a roof would hardly stop short to make room for an oven flue. CPT thinks Brumbaugh’s suggestion that the plates supported joists for the 2nd floor of a two story stone addition is more likely. The shorter plate to the north may be explained thus: There are no floor boards (and hence no need for their support) in the second floor space occupied by the unit “B” chimney in the north east. On the south east however, a stair way must be framed and supported.

¹⁰ The HSR doesn’t standardize “B0” height measurements, some (such as with this pocket) are listed as differences. Some are listed as height differences from the current ceiling and others from the current floor. This inconsistency results in apparent contradictions such as the architectural section indicating the average height of “B0” is 6’1”, but the mortar section listing a vertical study of “B0” south foundation mortar samples “M10” at 3’6”AFF(?), “M11” at 6’8” below the current floor joist, and “M12” above the floor joist pocket.

Brumbaugh notes the hearth foundation covers the rotten fragment of an oak lintel and the line of an early opening in the north wall. This is one possible trace of building on the site prior to 1702, but it conflicts with both the lower floor height evidence and his late excavation of the cellar ideas. View of the lintel is now obstructed by duct work, but the sill is visible and the HSR cites it as possible evidence of an earlier structure¹¹. A butt joint (rather than an interlocking join) in the N-W corner of “B0” indicates that the north wall was in existence when the wall between units “A” and “B” was built.¹²

The house is now open to the public, so HSR research made no attempt to excavate the fireplace mound or to disturb the hearth. The present fireplace opening is 60" high. 52"-58" is typical [indicating it was a “one of a kind”, and originally might have been even taller]. In order for the fireplace to be raised the lintel would have to be re-installed at the higher level and the entire smoke chamber rebuilt. The HSR discounts Brumbaugh’s finding of the dressed fireplace jambs extending 8 ½ “ below the current floor as evidence that the floor was raised, saying the jambs have to start in a trench below grade anyway. If the fireplace could be excavated, signs of soot and lime, indicating a cooking place below the current heart level would be definitive.

Cellar:

Comparison of 14 mortar samples from the cellars of units “A” & “B” shows similar mortar with fine grain brown sand, possibly taken from deposits along Pidcock creek. The mortar match suggests both cellars were dug at same time.

The mortar does not support the idea that a pre-existing south wall was raised 18” as proposed by Brumbaugh according to the HSR¹³ to bring an original unit “B” floor to within a step of the level of the newly built unit “A” 1st floor, because there is no clear horizontal demarcation line of different mortars to indicate a later addition. The cellar has a spot with another mortar made with lighter colored sand and a high inclusion of lime that was used to execute a repair.

The evidence in favor of a formerly lower floor is in the old floor joist visible at the eastern end of unit “B0” that is embedded in the fireplace mass at its north end but has rotted free of the south cellar wall and now dangles, in the north and south windows and doors in unit “B” abutting the wooden plates and an empty socket in the unit “B” cellar south-east corner. The mortar patch in direct contact with the abandoned pocket above and to the west is a more rustic clay mix than that found elsewhere in the cellar above and below the pocket.

The cellar floor of unit “B” is only a few inches lower than unit “A” even though the 1st

¹¹ CPT wonders if this opening, which now provides access to the shed crawlspace, could have provided access to a crawlspace under an earlier version of unit “B”.

¹² CPT posits that if the cellar under “B” was dug out, while a shored-up, cabin above remained, a big opening would facilitate dirt removal and would only be restricted to a single, narrow door-way when building the west wing with its east wall fireplace commenced.

¹³ CPT: This distance is in slight discrepancy with the distance of 15 ½ ” Brumbaugh speculated the original unit “B” floor was raised, in “Report to the Washington Crossing Park Commission on the Restoration of the Thompson-Neely House” - - by Architect G. Edwin Brumbaugh

floor in unit “B” insignificantly lower in unit “A”. Consequently the height of the ceiling in the unit “B” cellar is ~ 6’1” as compared to 6’7” in unit “A”. The unit “B” cellar is parge-pointed [damp-proofed] instead of white-washed like unit “A”. A wood frame, neatly mortised together, hangs from the room above’s floor joists, providing an area to elevate stored items off the dirt floor.

According to the HSR, the cooking fireplace of unit “B” was originally built on grade as part of a pre-existing structure that had a crawl space [because no sign of a preexisting cellar foundation remains, a crawl space is assumed]. However, Brumbaugh thinks the original kitchen may have had an earth floor, or one of split boards on logs because of a 4’ high stone retaining wall against the east side of unit “B”, south of the fireplace. The wall is visible as a ledge along the west wall of the unit “C” cellar kitchen.

Unlike the typical 18th century chimney, which was built over an arched chimney breast supporting it’s weight from below as may be seen in the cellar of unit “A”,¹⁴ in unit “B”, the fireplace mound was simply dug around and underpinned with stones [indicating the fireplace predates the cellar]. This mound extends 7’ from the east wall and >10’ from the north wall. A join in the masonry, 3’6” from the east wall, can be clearly seen as a vertical seam on the south face of the fireplace mound in the basement and as a north-south running horizontal line where the hearth extends beyond the fireplace jambs into the 1st floor unit “B” room. In addition to the vertical joint in the foundation of the fireplace, there is a significant variation in the masonry bulk of the extension from top to bottom. This variation is also apparent in the east cellar wall directly adjacent to the fireplace foundation. While the uncoursed stone of the foundation walls and fireplace mass are parge-pointed with thick mortar joints at the upper portion of the walls, the lower halves are much more tightly lain and comprised of smaller stones and are not pointed. There is not a definite line marking the distinction and it is not noticeably repeated on the south foundation wall of unit “B”.¹⁵

At the bulkhead, in the south wall, the stone size is small again. The foundation appears to be original, and is tied into the lowest step of the bulkhead. The stone of the bulkhead cheek walls varies from the building foundation in color, size and texture and form a butt joint with the upper steps. The opening appears to have been closed slightly with a narrow strip of new masonry. The masonry opening may have existed without the current bulkhead cheek walls in earlier times.¹⁶

1st floor:

¹⁴ CPT: Possible support for assigning 17th century construction to the unit “B” fireplace.

¹⁵ CPT wonders if difference in masonry, half way up the fireplace mound and east wall might indicate the cellar under unit “B” was originally a crawl space and only partially excavated to the east when unit “A” was built. The full excavation being completed when the hearth was extended.

¹⁶ CPT wonders whether the mysterious empty pocket in the south foundation to the east of the bulk head might be related to stairs, parallel and below the stairs between “B2” and “B1”, running between “B1” and “B0” which have since been removed.

One oak step exists between units “A” and “B”. This step does not protrude into unit “B’s” floor space. It sits above the base board, filling in the 4” offset to the west and supporting the doorway between units “A” and “B”. It has been worn down at least 4” over time.

Mortar sample M19, taken above and to the north of the cellar door on the west wall of unit “B” contains horsehair to strengthen the binder. This mortar formulation is older than any other mortar sample in the house. This sample also confirmed that this 1st floor west wall was always interior to a building. The unit “A” east fireplace is integral to this wall.¹⁷ The layers of paint on this cellar door match early layers throughout the house [indicating the stairway was cut before / when the house was painted in the 18th century. The mortar around the door frame is different from that found typically in the wall.

The fireplace is 9’ long by 3’ wide by 5’ high. The back wall is uncoursed rubble masonry with layers of white wash. The 6” wide north jamb and 12” wide south jamb are larger stones laid in a coursed ashlar pattern, the formal pointing is a unique element in this rustic space. The wooden lintel is faced with a beaded board and capped with a 1” thick mantle shelf, supported by 3 simple 1” wood brackets. The hearth is made of irregular sized flagstone. The south face of fireplace is plastered and has a baseboard that dies into the jamb of the door to unit “C”. Paint analysis indicates the door connecting units “B” & “C” was built when unit “C” was built.

The ceiling of the 1st floor kitchen in unit “B” was coated with lime white-wash that was removed in the 20th century. In the first floor room “B108”, Brumbaugh attributes the beam staining to smoking, whitewashing, cleaning or to the 1926 restoration and reconstruction.

Initially the kitchen wood-work was unpainted. When the house interior was repainted in the 19th century, the kitchen was painted grey with dark brown baseboard that can still be seen on the south side of the fireplace on the passage into unit “C”.

Period III: 1766 Addition - Elizabeth Thompson & William Neely wed House Plan

The construction probably occurred before the economic upheaval of the revolution, near 1766 when Elizabeth and William Neely married.¹⁸ The second story transformed the hall-plan unit “B” house to a chambered hall-plan house, the second most popular style of the period in rural PA.

Architectural Description

The exterior walls of the single room plus garret log cabin of unit “B” were rebuilt in stone and a 2nd story added to it sometime between 1757-1788.

The ladder to the garret of the log cabin was replaced by winder stairs to the 2nd floor and cellar when the 2nd floor was added. The treads of the unit “B” box stair appear to be old

¹⁷ CPT wonders if 4” or less of the original unit “B” wall, with its older mortar formulation, could abut the unit “A” wall and the two be plastered as one to present the current thick 1st floor wall.

¹⁸ CPT: Rebuilding in stone supported the weight of a 2nd story and made the house units match.

and contain traces of the original paint scheme. The underside of this stairway, was white-washed, indicating there was once a parallel stairway to the cellar under the stairway to the 2nd floor.

2nd Floor:

The current 2nd floor is 8' above the 1st floor. 2" x 7" chamfered floor joints spaced at 2' centers run N-S and are mortised into a chamfered 6" x 8" summer beam. The summer beam is pocketed into the masonry of the cooking fireplace.

The west facing wall of the current 2nd floor unit "B" room shows the outline of a former pitched roof abutting the 2nd story of unit "A" and sloping downward to the south. The idea is that finished mortar would appear on the outside of the building and unfinished mortar would appear in the garret. A diagonal line can be drawn separating the two types of finishing and this showing the pitch of the roof. With some imagination, one can see a diagonal darkening of the large flat stone in the center of the exposed masonry, possible darkened from soot.

However, this roof line is too high, for the former roof to have rested on the exterior plates. The HSR provides a conjectural drawing that posits the plates supported garret floor joists, which in turn supported false plates that supported the roof rafters to explain this vertical offset.

CPT Notes the plates are embedded in the current stone walls. They indicate nothing about the roof line of an earlier wooden structure abutting unit "A", whose trace we may see outlined here. The wooden plates embedded in the north and south stone walls may indicate the wooden cabin was first replaced by a single story stone cottage, with a different roof line or a roof line generated as proposed in the HSR. However, 1757 to 1766 is only 9 years to complete three major architectural projects. There doesn't seem to be a reason to convert the single story wooden structure to stone, unless one wanted to have it bear the weight of a 2nd floor and there is no surviving evidence to support a two stage building effort. A 2 story stone unit "B" may have replaced a 1 story wooden unit "B". An alternate explanation of the plates is that they in some way supported an earlier flooring system for the 2nd floor, which has since been replaced. Brumbaugh reported seeing possible evidence of regularly spaced joists above the plates. This is not mentioned in the HSR.

The present 2nd floor joists of unit "B" date from the 1920s restoration when evidence relating to the use of wall plates was probably removed. The plates are high enough to have been nailers for a flat porch ceiling framing but there is no further evidence of front and back porches at Unit "B".

The way the tops of the 1st floor windows and door abut the plates is cited as possible evidence that the 1st floor, windows and door were raised. Looking below the windows and door for evidence of such a move is useless. Below the north side window, the stonework is disturbed indicating there was once a door where the window now stands. Adjacent to the window and slightly below the sill there remains a square nailer for a railing set in the wall at the previous doorway. Masonry under the south door is obscured

by the steps. The south window is directly above the bulkhead, where again there has been extensive remodeling. The HSR states the unit "B" windows and doors are reconstructions. Above the 2nd floor window there is a narrow wood lintel instead of arches. Brumbaugh believes the south window on the 2nd floor may be original to the earliest unit "B" dwelling.

On the 2nd floor there was once an east-west running dividing wall. It is unknown when it was built or removed, but the trace appears as a discoloration of the ceiling joists. The 2nd story ceiling was stained with a red stain, then soot, then white-wash.

Garret:

The unit "A" roof-line was extended over unit "B" yielding additional garret space accessible through a door where the original unit "A" east facing garret window on the north side of the chimney had been.

Unit "C" - The East Wing - Period IV: 1788

House Plan

The plan of unit "C" is a variant on the "Tradesman" plan also called the "Penn" plan because William Penn promoted the suitability of the plan for Philadelphia houses. The traditional tradesman plan is a double pile (2 rooms deep), single room wide plan featuring an entrance door directly into the front parlor room, usually corner fireplaces, and a winder stair. Unit "C" is bank sited with a basement kitchen opening to grade on the east side. The choice of design may have been conservatism or may have been based on land topology. It is unusual to locate the stairs in an unheated hall instead of between rooms. The dark, cramped stairwell with its curiously low banister is surprising, given the care in selecting and cutting the exterior stone of this new section and the use of stoves to heat rooms. By 1787 dedicated dining rooms were being constructed into house designs and the financial success of the family supported this use. The rear parlor, situated across the hall from the stairs to the cellar kitchen functioned as a dining room and still has the original corner cupboard. It was heated by a free standing Franklin stove. Given the smells of the adjacent unit "B" kitchen, the front parlor was probably informal.

Paint analysis indicates the connecting door between the front room of unit "C" and the kitchen of unit "B" appears to be original to the construction of unit "C". A more typical "Side Passage" plan would have given better isolation from kitchen smells at the expense of losing room width.

Architectural Description

The north door from the unit "B" kitchen may have been turned into a window at this time to avoid congestion with the new cellar door. This window matches the south facing 1st floor window of unit "B". So maybe a north facing door and window from the stone house were swapped. A shed may have been built off the unit "B" kitchen, providing additional grade level storage as a convenience to Hannah Thompson who was 74 in 1788. The door to the shed from the kitchen may be where a north facing window used to be. The door and window swap occurred after the first floor of unit "B" was constructed

in stone because one can see the filled in stone repair job under the current window. Based on the assumption that the stone 1st floor construction was necessitated by the weight of a stone 2nd story, the swap probably occurred after 1766.¹⁹

Unit “C” was built for the Neelys in 1788 by C. N. Prine, as inscribed on the quoin. Robert Thompson presumably paid for the construction. He owned the house until 1804 and willed it to his grandson Robert Thompson Neely.

Exterior:

The stonework on the south facade of unit “C” continues the uncoursed, rubble masonry of units “B” & “A” but employs larger and more carefully selected stone than the earlier stone work. The stone is similar to the 2nd floor of unit “B”.²⁰

All 4 floors were finished in unit “C”. The windows in unit “C” are sash reconstructions from the original design. There is sizeable use of glass, including the 6/3 window over north door to fit in the stairwell. The stone lintel of the south door is unique.

The only woodwork in Unit “C” that portends of post-colonial architecture is the front door surround. Featuring fluted pilasters and punch and gouge work in the frieze, this Federal style piece rivals contemporary examples in Philadelphia. There is a transom window over the main door. Inside unit “C”, molding profiles from doors, door trim, baseboards, and chair rails match earlier 18th century work of the Federal style.

The south cellar room is a kitchen, accessible by stairs from the unit “C” hall and on grade from outside. It has parged walls and baseboards. Brumbaugh notes a former retaining wall, visible in the HSR laser diagrams, forms a ledge along the west wall. The kitchen has a wood floor on floor joists above the dirt floor. A little drawer is carved within the fireplace lintel. The beehive oven and crane are mortared in.

The paint in unit “C” was originally light yellow ochre trimmed in red ochre at the base board and chair rail. This was typical of the late 18th century. Later it was re-painted light blue with dark brown trim and with limestone white-wash walls.

The mantels for the 1st floor are unusually elaborate but lack classical proportion. The corner fireplace in the south east room is awkwardly wedged behind the east-west running wall and curved wall, an unexplained feature holding the mass of the cooking fireplace chimney rising from the cellar. Stoves and stove inserts were a relatively new heating innovation in 1788. They were a significant improvement over the open hearth. The direct and convenient access to the old kitchen suggests it was still in use after 1788.

Closets built between rooms on both 1st & 2nd floor indicate William Neely's interest in possessions as indicated by his 1818 inventory.

¹⁹ CPT thinks this occurred in or after 1788 when William and Elizabeth Neely moved to unit “C” and Robert and Hannah Thompson had the full use of units “A” and “B” and no longer needed to use the fireplace in unit “A” for cooking.

²⁰ Elsewhere the report says the stone used in both floors of unit “B” are similar to each other.

Period V 1895 - present Disrepair & Reconstruction

The High family bought the property at foreclosure in 1895. They ran the mill and left the house abandoned. In 1913 the Pidcock family began holding reunions there and the children climbed and played in the exposed rafters until the property was bought by the State of Pennsylvania in 1926 and restoration begun.

The first restoration occurred in the early 1930s.

The Depression and World War II delayed further study of the house until Architect G. Edwin Brumbaugh undertook its study and restoration after 1945.

Historical Analysis

Owners and/or Occupants of the Property		
CPT identification, not all these people are listed in HSR		
Name	Dates of Occupancy	Comments
John Pidcock Sr.	At least 1679- ~1731	Name appears on 1680 map, so established at this location before that date. Map also shows Stacy Mill in Trenton. Mahlon Stacy arrived 1679 on the "Shield".
Benjamin Pidcock and John Pidcock Jr.		Benjamin, in what looks like an estate sale, sold surplus farming goods in 1738. John Pidcock Jr. submitted Pemberton 1701 Survey of the land, as proof of ownership, when contesting land repossession and redistribution by Penn family representative, Lt. Governor James Hamilton in 1753.
John & Hannah Delaplaine Simpson	1740-1747	Married 1736 in Abington Friends Meeting, 5/4/1739 transferred Abington to Wrightstown Meeting. January 1743/4 transferred Wrightstown to Buckingham Meeting. John Simpson died Oct. 1, 1747. Probably leased from John Pidcock ²¹ .
Robert & Hannah Delaplaine Simpson Thompson	1747-1804	On March 1, 1748, Hannah (Mar. 14, 1713/4 - June 16, 1803) married Robert (Nov. 1722 - Nov. 8, 1804). On his death, he left his daughter, Elizabeth, an undeveloped parcel of land, but willed the dwelling and mill to her son, his grandson, Robert Thompson Neely.
William & Elizabeth Thompson Neely	1748-1818	Elizabeth may have lived in the house her full life (Nov. 29, 1748 – Feb. 13, 1834). She married William Neely June 24, 1766. He died July 10, 1818.
Robert Thompson & Sarah Beaumont Neely	1769-1848 *	Robert Thompson Neely (July 6, 1769 – Nov. 20, 1848) * may have relocated to newer house on the other side of Pidcock's Creek.
The report lists further owners under whom the house fell into disrepair. John Thompson Neely, Reuben High, Irwin High.	1848-1926	John Neely inherited the third of the land containing the house and mill. At his death in 1877 he was nearly bankrupt. His sons lost the land to foreclosure in 1895 to Reuben High. The Highs operated the Mill into the 20 th century but left the house abandoned. ²²

²¹ based on John Simpson inventory recorded lease of Mill, no record of Pidcock to Simpson sale and John Pidcock submitting Pemberton survey as proof of ownership in 1753.

²² CPT did not read this section of the HSR.

Owners and/or Occupants of the Property		
CPT identification, not all these people are listed in HSR		
Name	Dates of Occupancy	Comments
Pidcock Family Association ²³	Once/year 1913 to present	Oral tradition of the Pidcock home-site and graves was passed on to Pidcock Association founder, George M. Pidcock, by his grandmother, Mary Godown Pidcock, wife of Jonathan Pidcock (1783-1861), grandson and namesake of Jonathan Pidcock (1729-1812). The latter Jonathan Pidcock is believed to be the grandson of John Pidcock the immigrant. He may have grown up in the original Pidcock dwelling before its occupancy by the Simpsons. He relocated to Lambertville, NJ where he continued as a tradesman and established the Good Hope Grist Mill before the Revolution. Military records confirm that he sold flour to Washington's troops repeatedly. ²⁴
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania	1926 to present	Land acquired as an Historical Park. First restoration in the early 1930s. Further work delayed by the Depression and WW II.
Brumbaugh Restoration	1945-1949	Renovation with some historic reconstruction.

Land Occupancy based primarily on Pidcock research supplements and offers alternate interpretation to material presented in the HSR. Although the HSR does not rule out John Pidcock building a log cabin containing the existing hearth on the site of the central portion (unit "B") of the house, it leans toward the interpretation that the Simpsons built it. This chapter tells why I think it is more likely that John Pidcock built the cabin.

[CPT: Although the architectural portion of the report finds it likely that the initial structure on the site was a log or clapboard cabin, the historical portion of the report, written by Sandra Lloyd, devotes some time to researching early stone houses in the area perhaps in deference to the tradition that the stone center section of the house was built in 1702 by John Pidcock and was the "oldest standing stone house in Bucks Co. PA".]

It is unlikely, though not absolutely impossible that the stone center section of the house was built as early as 1702. There may have been one-story stone buildings in Bucks Co. in 1702 but they would have been extraordinary exceptions especially in the sparsely populated area of Upper Makefield and Solebury. Jeremiah Langhorne, Chief Justice (d. 1742) lived in a one story stone house ("Mansion") with a steep pitched roof. He was one of the wealthiest and most politically prominent men in the county. It is conceivable that John Pidcock built a stone house sometime before his death in 1731, but also maybe he didn't.

²³ This information is from Pidcock sources, not HSR.

²⁴ CPT thinks Jonathan Pidcock must have learned the milling trade somewhere, and a likely scenario would be that John Simpson was engaged by John Pidcock, as a miller, to expand the services of the Pidcock complex to local inhabitants. Jonathan Pidcock could have learned the trade from Simpson.

It is more likely that it was built after 1720, maybe as late as 1740. This construction date makes it inappropriate to state with authority that it is the “oldest standing stone house in Bucks Co.”²⁵ In 1876 W.H. Davis, “History of Bucks Co. PA” describes Upper Makefield as “a wilderness” in 1692. The book shows a drawing of “The Oldest house in Bucks Co.” It is a log cabin in Wrightstown dating from 1705/6. It has a great chimney-stack in the middle with eaves almost down to the ground and all rooms on one floor.²⁶

HSR: Chapter 1 - John Pidcock

Charles II granted the land to William Penn in 1681. Under Penn, all Pennsylvanians got the right of trial by jury and there was religious tolerance for all Christians. Penn’s surveyor was Thomas Holmes, who laid out the first three counties: Bucks, Philadelphia and Delaware. In the original plan the manor lands were reserved for the Penn family’s personal use and development.

John Pidcock was in Pennsylvania ~ 1684 and perhaps as early as 1679. “Pidcocks” appears on a map purported²⁷ to have been drawn in 1680 suggesting he was there prior to Penn’s acquisition. He lived in southern Solebury township where it borders Upper Makefield township. His land was “505A lying within the Governor’s Manor of Highlands as plotted by Holmes”. Pidcock obtained a warrant in 1701 from Penn who signed the document at his country manor, Pennsbury.²⁸ The tract was surveyed in 1702 but a deed was not recorded for the property until 1753, well after Pidcock’s death.

Crucial details about John Pidcock remain elusive, but he lived more by wiles and hands than the peaceable rule of law. He probably lived between 1660-1735. His birthplace is unknown but the family descendants think the Pidcocks were from Derbyshire, England.²⁹ There is no evidence that he was Quaker, the primary religion of those who

²⁵ This is an example of sections contradicting each other. Based purely on historical evidence, Sandra Lloyd posits the stone structure may have been built for or during the Simpson occupancy. Hannah grew up in a two story stone house in Germantown, the youngest of 3 children of a well-to-do merchant. The house may have been a wedding present from her parents. The architectural study however indicates the west wing, built in 1757, predates a stone (but not a log) central section.

²⁶ So in 1876 the stone central section of the house was not believed to predate 1705/6.

²⁷ Map in “New Jersey as a Colony and as a State, *One of the Original Thirteen*” Volume I, 1902 by Francis Bazley Lee. Associate board of Editors: William S. Stryker, LL.D., William Nelson, A.M. Garret D. W. Vroom, Ernest C. Richardson, Ph.D. located in the New Jersey State Archives. Stryker was an acknowledged expert of the area who authored “The Battle of Trenton”.

²⁸ Appendix VII: Description of colonial Pennsylvania land practices and Appendix IV: chain of title to the Pidcock tract.

²⁹ 2005/6 Y-DNA analysis reveals that American Pitcocks / Pidcocks, who may descend from William Pidcock who arrived initially in 1679 on the *Friends Adventure* and settled eventually in Burlington, NJ, do descend from the Pidcock/Pitcock family of Derbyshire, England. However, modern day American Pidcocks who trace their ancestry back to Jonathan Pidcock (1729-1812) and Pidcoes who trace their ancestry back to Emanuel Pidcock, both living in this area in the early 18th century and believed to be grandsons of John Pidcock, do not descend from the Derbyshire Pidcocks and are not even related to each other. This discovery leaves open at least three possibilities: 1) Due to an “undocumented conception” or adoption in his ancestry of which he might have been unaware, John Pidcock was not biologically related to William Pidcock or the Derbyshire Pidcocks. 2) Although there is no historical or modern record of an unrelated family of Irish Pidcocks, family legend claims John Pidcock was an Irish immigrant. The Irish family may not have been distinguished and the Pidcock name has since become extinct there. 3) He chose

came to Bucks Co. in the 1680s; so he was in a minority. There is some family tradition that he may have married a Native American. This too would have been outside the typical pattern. The profile of Pidcock created by the limited evidence of the following court records is of an “outsider”, a strong willed man with a sometimes, violent temper.

6 month 25, 1686 Plaintiff to recover £25 from Gilbert Wheeler, defendant.

Gilbert Wheeler countersued that John Pidcock trespassed. Subsequent lawsuits involving both men suggest a close but volatile relationship. Gilbert Wheeler, “a fruitier from London” purchased a proprietary share of land in Burlington, West Jersey in 1679. The tract included an island in the Delaware River that became part of Falls township, Bucks Co. PA. Gilbert Wheeler opened a tavern in Falls, PA that doubled as a court house and polling place. Gilbert Wheeler was also not a Quaker and was also a frequent litigant in court with a similar “contentious disposition”. The cases against Wheeler ranged from debt collection, to selling liquor to the Indians, to late payment of taxes, to extortionate ferry charges.

The evidence for John Pidcock being Gilbert Wheeler’s indentured servant comes from this **1686** court note:

“John Pidcock being indicted and arraigned for making an assault on his master Gilbert Wheeler hath pleaded guilty to the sd. Indictnt and the Court awards Judgemt on his sd Confession.”

Either Gilbert Wheeler

- o paid for a separate passage for John Pidcock³⁰, or
- o John Pidcock sold his services to Gilbert Wheeler for a cash advance³¹.

Pidcock paid additional pounds “to the govnr” and was required to appear again in 4 months to demonstrate his “good behavior”. He did so on 8 day, 10 m 1686 and because of good behavior had his court fees dropped.

Between **1689-1690** Polycarpus Rose filed a plea of trespass and assault on 6 m 26, 1690 but withdrew the case two days later. Gilbert Wheeler filed a suit 6 m 26, 1690 against John Pidcock and the court ruled that John Pidcock pay Gilbert Wheeler £2-14s-0d court costs. The court ruled against John Pidcock again in 7 m 29, 1690 in a suit filed by Joseph Growdun.

the name Pidcock for himself when he arrived in America. To date no other family surname matches the DNA pattern of Jonathan Pidcock’s descendents. The Pidcoe DNA pattern is however very common.

³⁰ CPT: **July 12, 1679** Gilbert Wheeler arrived from London with his wife Martha, his children William, Briant, and Martha Wheeler, and his servants: Charles Thomas (Thompson), Robert Benson, and Katherine Knight. There was no mention of John Pidcock. (Early Shipping to the Jersey Shore of the Delaware, pp. 145-46). In fact, John Pidcock does not appear on any early ship passenger roll (not all rolls survived or were complete), leaving open the possibility that he arrived in America as part of the crew on a ship. On Feb. 25 1684/5 John Pidcock, 2nd mate of the Lusitania, of St. Mary Islington Parish in Middlesex, England made a will directing how an estate of £300, based on rent revenues, was to be distributed amongst his kin should he not return. Could this be the same John Pidcock, making a trip back to England to settle his affairs? It would certainly be in keeping with his own nautical skills and those of his descendents, who, a century later kept the NJ side of Coryell’s Ferry and navigated Durham boats on the Delaware.

³¹ CPT thinks the latter is more likely because a 1680 NJ map shows Pidcock already established on the PA shore of the Delaware and makes no mention of Gilbert Wheeler. Furthermore, court records show that John Pidcock had a recurring cash-flow problem. Also, he would have needed capital for some of the improvements he made on his land such as adding a house.

1690-91 suits filed by Thomas Pierce involved complicated transactions of various goods amongst several men. The details of who owed what to whom are murky, but the goods mentioned in this case are revealing: buckskin, 3 raw doeskins, 18 boards about 350 feet, 2 small guns with 1 lock and 31 pounds of red lead. The suit demands payment from Pidcock to which he ultimately agrees and he provides a partial payment:

“a Cannoe in pte at 20s and the rest promise to pay on demand if sd pierce did not ...”

Goods: furs, lumber, guns, paint support the family tradition that Pidcock was a trader who bought and sold raw materials in the newly settled area of Upper Bucks Co., PA. Offering a canoe as partial payment further suggests he had other boats available for his own use and that water travel on Pidcock creek and the Delaware River was important. Finally the suit indicates that by 1690 Pidcock was operating independently and had fulfilled the terms of his indenture to Gilbert Wheeler.

John Pidcock obtained a mortgage from Edward Hunlock. The first was filed on **10 m 12 1690**, for 400 A land. Two months later on 12 m 10, 1690 John Pidcock brought the deed and payment schedule to court but refused

“do so [acknowledge transaction] without shewing any causes for his refuserry.”³²

In other words John Pidcock obtained the mortgage but did not want to have it filed as an official document. John Pidcock’s action may have reflected a certain defiance of proper legal procedure, a tendency further indicated by his various court appearances.

Despite his action in 1690, John Pidcock tried to legitimize ownership by seeking a warrant for its survey from William Penn in 1701. Despite the warrant, no deed that records the property has survived although such a deed is mentioned in the minutes for a Session on 2 m 19 and 20, 1703 that provide a clear chain of title for Pidcock’s property from its original grant to Thomas Rowland through Gilbert Wheeler to John Pidcock.

“The Prop’ry, by Lease and release, dat 13 & 14, July 1681, Granted to Thomas Rowland 2500 Acres, whose Brother and only heir, Jno Rowland by deed dat 9, 7 mo, 1690 granted 500A to Gilbert Wheeler of Bucks of which 400A was laid out above Highland and Conveys to John Pidcock by deed, date 21, 3 mo, 1701. This was laid out to Pidcock in 1684 but never conveyed to him before, there is an Overplus which he desires to be Cutt off, and a Patent Granted.”³³

1702 The land was surveyed by Phineas Pemberton and actually was 505 acres. The same discrepancy is noted in the warrant for the land registered by William Coleman in 1753 that finally established a formal deed for the Pidcock property.

³² The full transcript in Appendix III, indicates Hunlock offered the terms of the mortgage to John Pidcock in public and John Pidcock did not accept them. The very fact that Hunloke tendered a schedule which Pidcock was free to accept or refuse relieves Hunloke of any further obligation in this matter. Either John Pidcock took out a mortgage from Edward Hunloke and then refused to follow its terms or John Pidcock requested a mortgage of Edward Hunloke and then decided not to take it. If the former is the case – a more court-worthy scenario now-a-days, one would expect a judgment against Pidcock. Since such judgement is not made and no further entries occur, CPT is inclined toward the latter interpretation.

³³ See Appendix IV: Chain of Title to the Pidcock Tract for alternate research and interpretation.

The **1876** map of the Manor of Highlands in William W. H. Davis "*The History of Bucks Co. PA*". P. 470 shows the survey of John Pidcock's land and adjacent land owned in 1701 (p. 2-13 from Pennsylvania archives, 3 series, vol. 4, place 26). The citation also documents that Pidcock used the mortgage he obtained in 1690 to purchase land from Gilbert Wheeler whose land lay immediately to the south. Curiously the property had been "laid out"³⁴ or presumably turned over to Pidcock as early as 1684 when Pidcock was still indentured to Gilbert Wheeler. This rather unusual situation, plus the fact that Pidcock served as one of the executors for Wheeler's estate in 1703 suggests that the relationship between the two men, though occasionally explosive, was apparently quite close.

The warrant for the former Pidcock land filed by William Coleman in 1753 suggests that no deed for it existed at that time. However in 1937 Bucks Co, historian B. F. Fackenthal claims he has in his possession 3 of the 6 deeds for the so-called Pidcock tract in the Archives of Bucks ³⁵.

As a land owner, Pidcock paid taxes in 1693 on property valued at £32-2s-8d in Makefield township (Solebury township was not formed until 1702) . 26 other men paid taxes in Makefield with properties ranging from valuation of £146-12s-2d (for Henn Margeras) to 6 shillings.³⁶ Gilbert Wheeler paid taxes in Falls for £100-8s-4d. Within the context of his Bucks Co. peers, Pidcock had achieved a certain level of financial security just 7 years after being an indentured servant. The security surely included a house for which there is evidence in yet more court records.

March 8, 1698 John Pidcock, yeoman of Bucks:

"On or about 21 day January last past [Pidcock] willfully and maliciously in his own house within the Jurisdiction of this court violently assaulted and knocked down beat and abused John verier of the said County mason. So that his head was extremely swelled cut and battered to the great hazard of his Life and very much to his damage all which against the peace of our soveraigne Lord the king his Crown and Dignity and against the Laws of this province."

³⁴ CPT thinks land was "laid out" in the sense that John Pidcock was already occupying it before 1680. Pidcock family tradition holds that Pidcock acquired the land by "squatters rights", having occupied it and improved it before it was given to William Penn.

³⁵ The 6 deeds to which B. F. Fackenthal referred were deeds subsequent to the Watson survey and William Coleman's ownership of the land. These were the deeds by which Coleman sold the land to 6 Philadelphia Capitalists.

³⁶ The Pennsylvania land tax extended targeted tax breaks for debt, marriage, and child-rearing.³⁶ Elected local assessors determined the "clear value" of a taxpayer's estate, meaning its value after subtracting debts, exempted household goods and tools ("implements used in trade and getting a livelihood").³⁶ The exemption for the poor was mainly a tax break for parents. The assembly articulated this policy in 1693 in its first land tax. No taxes were to be levied on people "who have a great Charge of Children and become Indigent in the world & are Soe farr in Debt, that the Cleare vallue of their Reall and Personall Estate doth not amount to Thirty pounds." The tax rate was 1 penny/pound upon the cleare vallue of all real & personall Estates & 6 shillings per head upon such as are not otherwise rated. Pidcock's property is valued just above £30 thresh-hold. All those who ranked below him owed the 6s minimum. The report correctly states that Pidcock's "clear" property value is low compared to others in the area, but fails to indicate what is excluded from "clear value" and muddles the distinction between property value and tax rate for low-end payers.

John Pidcock entered a “not guilty” plea. The court heard evidence offered by one William Smith attested saith that John Pidcock struck James Verrier on the head first with a piece of a Loafe of bread and after broke a stoole upon him and after gave him a blow upon the head with a stoole and & further Saith not”.³⁷

The dispute may have occurred related to masonry work Verrier performed for Pidcock.³⁸ Pidcock probably has a house by 1690 when he got the mortgage. It is speculated that he used the prevailing primary construction material, wood except for the fireplace.

1698 John Pidcock entered into a series of suits with Edward Hunloke, administrator of the will of Thomas Bowman. This is the same man [Hunloke] who gave Pidcock the mortgage in 1690.

Hunloke charged John Pidcock failed to “deliver the assets” of the deceased to the court and he also failed to pay appropriate court fees to settle the estate. The court fined John Pidcock and demanded he turn over “all the bookes, papers, writeings and other Estate.” The court ruled Hunloke be paid £3 owed the Estate for the “services of negro Will done in East Jersey after the decease of Thomas Bowman whose negro the said Will was.”³⁹

What is remarkable about these proceedings is that John Pidcock apparently had considerable access to Thomas Bowman’s property whether his papers or his slave, Will, and he acted in ways that were contrary to the desires of Bowman’s own executor. The Court frowned on this of course but it does speak to the considerable evidence about Pidcock’s personal style and defiance of accepted legal procedure. Further it adds detail to the oral history that connects John Pidcock with Thomas Bowman, that appears in written histories of the early 20th century. Bowman’s Hill abuts John Pidcock’s property. An historical account of Bowman’s Hill written in 1913 by J.E. Scott describes Bowman as an “erratic merchant from England” who came to Pennsylvania in 1683. Bowman’s name appears in the records of Bucks Co. Court as early as 1684 and intervals thereafter until his death at John Pidcock’s in 1697-98. Scott asserts John Pidcock tended the dying Thomas Bowman. A 1929 letter from G. Edwin Pidcock to Ernest H. Harvey, superintendent of Washington’s Crossing Historical Park contains a hand drawn map (HSR p 2-2) of Pidcock and Bowman(?) burial places on Bowman’s Hill based on family oral tradition from his uncles George M. Pidcock and Augustus Pidcock. The two men went up Bowman’s Hill in ~ 1874 and agreed on the burial location.

It can be deduced from John Pidcock’s numerous appearances in court for debts (if he owed money, he sometimes didn’t even show up), his considering mortgaging his land at least once (to Edward Hunloke in 1690), his indenturing his services at least once (to Gilbert Wheeler sometime before and including 1686), his slowness in settling Thomas Bowman’s and Gilbert Wheeler’s estates and thus relinquishing access to those assets,

³⁷ William Smith (Wrightstown MM) and James Verrier (Abington MM) were both Quakers, a religion that takes a person’s word very seriously – hence “further Saith not”.

³⁸ That Verrier was a Mason and that Smith, a surveyor from Wrightstown who had served 4 years indenture under Phineas Pemberton, witnessed this altercation suggests the argument pertained to building on Pidcock’s property.

³⁹ See Appendix II for a more complete transcript of the proceedings.

that Pidcock had a cash flow problem. This could have been caused by the nature of the trading business or by the cost of expansion of the Pidcock complex along the Delaware at the foot of Bowman's Hill.⁴⁰

John Pidcock was feisty and made frequent court appearances often ending up on the losing side. He acted with passion and independence in personal, political and business matters.

HSR: Chapter 2: c. 1738-1747: John Simpson (1712-1747) & Hannah Delaplaine (1714-1803)

The Delaplaines were French Quakers and well to do merchants. Hannah, the youngest of 3, grew up in a two story stone house with gambrel roof in Germantown. There were 2 other stone houses in Germantown before 1736.

John and Hannah Simpson re-located to Bucks Co. between 1737-1742. Wedding date and activities at nearby Quaker Meetings in Solebury Township trace the location of the family within the township as they transfer their membership from Abington to Wrightstown to Buckingham Monthly Meetings.⁴¹

John & Hannah bought 505 A from John Pidcock in 1738 when John Simpson was 26.⁴²

It is likely that the Simpsons chose the current house site, next to the grist mill. John Pidcock, a trader, might have built his house anywhere on the property.⁴³ There is no physical or documentary evidence linking unit "B" to John Pidcock.

Abraham Chapman and John Watson inventoried John Simpson's estate, moving from space to space, as can be seen by the grouping of items in the list. John Simpson's inventory at death (1747) correlates with 1 room over a crawl space plus a garret or sleeping chamber above.

⁴⁰ CPT's review of New York Historical manuscripts: Delaware papers, Records of the Court of Quarter Sessions & Common Pleas of Bucks Co. PA < 1700, Docket 1684-1703, Records of the Courts of Quarter Session & Common Pleas of Bucks Co. PA 1700-1703, Records of the Bucks Co. PA, Criminal Court 1697-1786, Prothomory's Office 1730-1737 Bucks Co. Court of Common Pleas, Bucks County Historical Society MSC 613 Fol I & II and Bucks Co. PA Sessions records has not revealed evidence for the land "sales" alleged in Anne Hawkes Hutton's "House of Decision". Ms. Hutton replied to Pidcock family correspondence on the issue, that the work had been done by a graduate student and the notes were stored somewhere in her basement – too difficult to find. The HSR makes no reference to Ms. Hutton's work.

⁴¹ See Appendix V for documentation of Hannah Delaplaine Simpson Thompson family religious life.

⁴² The HSR, otherwise rich in footnotes, provides no documentation or reference supporting this assertion.

⁴³ CPT thinks site by Pidcock's creek and the protected waterway behind the 2-mile long Malta Island and with easy access for Indians living on Bowman's Hill would also be good for a trader. Water was the highway of the time. CPT wonders if John Pidcock Sr. being a trader necessarily precludes early 18th century development of the property to include mill(s) run by his son John or rented to a trained miller in the area, such as Simpson. CPT thinks that regardless of whether or not there was a mill on the property when the Simpsons arrived, if John Pidcock built a cabin on this site, the Simpsons would have used it because in John Simpson's inventory, furnishings are listed as "old", bespeaking a family that did not waste or buy new unnecessarily. They lived the Quaker Simplicity Testimony.

Administration of John Simpson
 October 12, 1747
 Bucks County Administration Book A, # 578
 Bucks County Historical Society

An Inventory of the Estate of John Simpson late of Solebury, Dec.d. as the same was valued by Abr.
 Chapman [and] John Watson D.rs
 Amount of to £ 1144.11.6
 Filed on 25 July 1748

An Inventory of the Goods and Chattles belonging to John Simpson late of Solebury in the County of Bucks Miller at the Time of his Decease			
Items	£	S	d
Personal			
Imprimis Purse (cash) and Apparel	72	6	3
Outside in barns & family storage areas			
Part of one Hogshead of Mollossoes and 2 Barrels of Sugar	24	15	7
2 rideing Horses £20. 1 Mare and 2 Colts £6	26		
1 horse Colt 2 Years old £3. 2 Mares and 2 Colt £20	23		
4 Cows. £10. 4 Do. £10.5. 4 young Cattle £7	27	5	
3 Bulls 2 years Old £3.15. 5 Calves £3	6	15	
4 Horses and 2 Old Mares in the Team and Gears	30		
Hay in the Yards £10. Oats in the Stack £3	13		
Wheat in the Barn £3 Flax 15s old Wagon £9	12	15	
A Cart £5 12 Casks of Flour in the Mill £10.16	15	16	
old Sleds, a Spade, Shovl, pitch Forks		12	
2nd floor Garret or 1st Floor Hall room			
one small Bed, & [chaff?] Bed with Bed Cloaths and Bedstead	6		
3 [Chaff?] Beds and Beding with their Bedsteads	6		
1st Floor Hall room			
small Chest old Desk and Chest of Drawers	5		
2 small Tables £1-10 5 old Chairs 9 s	1	19	
12 pewter Plates and 2 Dishes	1	10	
11 old Plates and 6 small Dishes	1	4	
3 old Iron Pots, a Skillet £1 Frying Pan, Gridiron & fleshfork	1	8	
12 Trenchers & 3 Pails 2/6, 2 Tubbs 3/, Teapot Kettle &c 7/6		13	
Box-iron & Heaters 6/ 2 pot rackings and fire Tongs 12/		18	
3 old Axes and Grubing Hoe 10/ a Large Bible 15/	1	5	
A small Bible and [?] Books		5	
A Crosscut Saw and a Handsaw	1	15	
3 Drawing Knives and a Coopers ax		10	
Business Property (mostly)			
One Moiety (i.e. half) of a Sawmill late William Hills (It is not clear whether the Saw Mill was on this property)	45		
A Lease on the Mill for 8 Years ⁴⁴			

⁴⁴ CPT believes John Simpson was renting the Mill, perhaps this indicates the whole Mill complex, from the Pidcock family. CPT thinks John Pidcock's grandson, Jonathan, must have served a milling apprenticeship, to become qualified to run the Good Hope Mill, Lambertville, NJ. Perhaps he served and completed this apprenticeship with Simpson before 1747.

An Inventory of the Goods and Chattles belonging to John Simpson late of Solebury in the County of Bucks Miller at the Time of his Decease			
Items	£	S	d
Flax Seeds £1, Beef and Pork £8, 4 old Spinning wheels 16 s	9	16	
A Saddle and Bridel £2, a Gun £1-2-6 [Lining & wolling ?]	3	12	6
2 Pigs 10/, Mall and Wedges 5/, old Sickles 3/		18	
Employees			
An Aprintice Lad named Jacob Wood	5		
2 Servant men Viz. Edward and Patrick Caveny	10		
Off Premises (mostly)			
10 Yards of Woolen Cloth at the Fullers	1	10	
Wool 10/ an Old Looking Glass and earthen Ware 5/		15	
20 Barrels of Flour Sold Benjn. Thayre a 12/pCt	24		
Flour & Ship Stuff (hard-tack) sent to Philadia to be sold	34	18	
Bonds Bills Notes and Assumptions as by a List or Schedule hereunto amended appears	247	11	6
In the Hand of Andrew Hodge for Iron	23		
Book Debts outstanding	456	13	8½
Casks and other Lumber (indicative of saw mill & cooperage?)	1	5	
Appraised the third Day of 10 [mo?] Ano Dmi 1747 £1144-11s-6½d [signed] John Watson Abr Chapman			

John Simpson's inventory suggests he was an industrious and hardworking man. He may have built a grist mill, barns and possibly a saw mill on the Pidcock tract. John Simpson achieved considerable financial success in a short time and at a young age. Including outstanding debts and bonds, owed to him, totaling more than £700, his estate totaled £1144.11.6½⁴⁵

John was only 35 when he died.⁴⁶ Hannah remarried quickly and not in accordance with Quaker practice but the Quaker meeting seems to have been sympathetic to Hannah Simpson's plight, having to keep the mill running and raise 5 children.⁴⁷

Robert Thompson moved decisively to settle Simpson's estate and take care of the enterprise. In marrying John Simpson's widow and executrix he assumed control of the mill and Simpson's assets which passed to him upon marrying Simpson's widow. On 3/31/1748 he made a vendue in his own name of livestock and other personal effects. In the final accounting filed 12/14/1757 through the orphan court, John Simpson's remaining estate is reckoned at court £605-1s-11½d.⁴⁸

⁴⁵ CPT deduces ⅓ of his estate was loaned out, indicating he was also a generous and helpful man, again living out his Quaker values.

⁴⁶ CPT speculates he died suddenly in a milling accident. The huge and heavy equipment, made milling a dangerous occupation. Hannah was 33 with 5 children under 10 and a mill upon which the neighborhood for ~ 10 miles around depended.

⁴⁷ Appendix V

⁴⁸ According to the HSR, The report of the auditors was made at the next court and showed a balance in Thompson's hands as administrator of £605, 1 s. IV/z d- Credit was taken for payment of debts and obligations to a long list of creditors, among them were Hugh Thompson and Thomas More. A charge of £20, 7s. 6d. was made for "the children's schooling" and of £2 "for finishing a barn." However, CPT's reading the records, suggests the auditors wondered why how John Simpson's estate could be so decreased

Robert Thompson was a Scots-Irish journey man miller working with John Simpson. He came to this country with his widowed mother and 3 brothers: Hugh (1720-1797), a school master and active in the Newtown Presbyterian church, William (1724-1815) and John (1726-1799) both of whom were Millers.⁴⁹ Thompson was a devout Presbyterian, a successful entrepreneur who attained renown for charitable interests as a businessman. He disbursed funds for the orphan court.⁵⁰

In 1753 Robert Thompson finally secured a patent for the surface of the 505A Pidcock tract by buying back the land from the 6 Philadelphia businessmen investing in a copper mining venture on the property.

Continental Army Deployment Winter of 1776

Major Ennison Williams wrote letters to the Council of Safety in Philadelphia from "Thompson's Mill" 2 ½ miles below Coryell's Ferry from 12/12-21/1776. While in Bucks Co., PA, Washington wrote to his brother, John, that he discovered himself "in a very bad situation". He was "in a Neighborhood of very disaffected People. The public Spirit and Virtue of the People has manifest but too small a regard to their Rights and Liberty." On 12/21/1776 he described his situation as critical and truly alarming.

He demanded that the Pennsylvania Council of Safety give its serious attention to the problem and warned his general officers to take care. "that .. these Persons do not betray us".

Bucks County millers and farmers stymied efforts to buy food with worthless Continental dollars. "those Millers who have wheat refuse to grind it." There is no record of a Thompson wheat or flour sale.⁵¹

General William Alexander Lord Stirling used a house on the Delaware that he called "Blue Mount" in his correspondence (12/12/1776 Washington's papers at the Library of Congress) and others called by its actual name, Beaumont's Ferry. Robert Thompson Neely married Sarah Beaumont, daughter of this John Beaumont. In sharing information with Washington Crossing Historical Park it would be easy for a 20th century Neely descendent to recall the tradition that Lord Stirling had been lodged at their ancestor's home along the Delaware but be unclear whether the ancestor was Robert's or Sarah's parent.

The Davis History records that during the Revolution mention is made that Captain

from the inventory. They take a month to investigate whether John Simpson owed debts not recorded in the inventory. They learn Robert Thompson had had trouble collecting the debts owed to John Simpson, even though some of the debtors were men of substance. CPT should add this documentation (Orphan Court March 14, 1759) to Appendix III because its wording may be open to interpretation.

⁴⁹ John handled the paying of local millers and provisioning our French allies during the Revolution. The Thompson family history tells of a raid on his home staged by the Doan brothers (neighbours, who were Tory) when a Trenton miller was due and John was known to have the payment money.

⁵⁰ CPT deduces from his inventory that when he died 46% of his estate was in loans to others.

⁵¹ There are records of Jonathan Pidcock's flour sales to Washington's army from his Lambertville Mill.

James Moore died of camp fever at Thompson's house and that Dr. Ryker was housed and Lt. James Monroe recuperated at William Neely's house.⁵² This structure has always been referred to as the Thompson-Neely house implying that both families lived in it, but perhaps separately.

CPT: With the addition to unit "B" the Thompsons could have lived in unit "A". The Thompson house would have consisted of a white washed cellar accessible from unit "A" by boxed stairs and extending below both units, a cooking hearth in the 1st floor hall room, 1st floor heated and paneled parlor, 2nd floor heated and paneled bedroom, unheated hall and unheated second bedroom and a white washed garret extending over both units.

The Neelys and their 3 children, Jane (b.3/18/1767), Robert (b.7/6/1769) and Elizabeth (2/16/1772-7/5/1772) could have lived in unit "B". The Neely house would have consisted of a cellar accessible from the unit "B" boxed stairs and extending below both units, a 1st floor hall kitchen, north and south facing 2nd floor bedrooms. The 2nd floor access through the closet to the unheated unit "A" bedroom may not have been cut through yet (so then, just as later, with the addition of unit "C", there was no connection between family living units above the ground floor). Unit "B" has no access to the overhead garret.

Reconstruction of Family Living Arrangements Inventories

With the addition of unit "C", the Thompson and Neely families now occupied the house as follows. The Thompsons continued to live in Unit "A" and "B" (cellar, 3 first floor rooms, 3 second floor rooms, garret). This is confirmed by order and grouping of items in the inventory taken on Robert Thompson's death.

⁵² Recent Park personnel research at the David library indicates Monroe's autobiography states he recuperated elsewhere.

In creating this inventory, Thomas Smith and Peter D. Cattell began by counting the cash.

Inventory of Robert Thompson
 BCHS Administration #3236
 December 6, 1804

Inventory of all and Singular the Goods and Chattles of Robert Thompson Miller of the Township of Solebury in the County of Bucks Deceas'd Appraised the 6th Day of December 1804 by us Thomas Smith and Peter D. Cattell		
Item	dollars	cents
Personal		
Cash	81	
Apparel	35	
One Silver Watch	16	
Contents of Out Buildings		
Yellow Bay Mare	100	
Brown Horse	70	
Bay Mare	80	
3 Hogs	30	
5 Shoats	24	
9 Pigs	14	
5 Barrels of Pork	55	
5 Caggs of Lard	17	50
1 Barrel of Shad	8	
9 Barrels of Cider	13	50
Red Bull	20	
Red Cow	18	
Black Cow	18	
Pided [i.e. splashed marings] bull	9	
Grisled Heffer	9	
Red Heffer	14	
Corn in Crib	133	
18 Sheep	27	
20 Tons of hay in Barrels	200	
Wheat in Barrels	50	
Rye in Stack	128	
Team Waggon	35	
Light Waggon	24	
Sledge	3	
Harrows and Ploughs	13	
Hay in Barn	60	
Cutting box and Knife	3	
3 Hay forks	1	
Wind Mill	5	
3 Small Chaises [?] and 2 Chains	2	25
Spread Chains	50	
1 Bushel & 1 half bushel	1	
Tally: \$1307.75 total on this page		

Inventory of all and Singular the Goods and Chattles of Robert Thompson Miller of the Township of Solebury in the County of Bucks Deceas'd Appraised the 6th Day of December 1804 by us Thomas Smith and Peter D. Cattell		
Item	dollars	cents
C(r?)owbar and S(h?)ovels	1	50
Dung forks and Hoes	2	
Cider Barrels	5	
Cooper Tools	12	25
Axes	1	
3000 Staves	30	
Packing hoop and Branding Irons	13	75
Grindstones	1	50
Mill Rounds	1	50
Crosscut saw		75
Wind Mill	10	
Ten plate stove	10	
Mill Spindle and vines(?)	5	
C(?)y Casks	2	
Potatoes	10	
Old iron	2	
Mall rings Slag and pinchers	1	
Broadaxe		75
Quilers and Neck yoke	2	
Grain in Ground	2?	
Cellar		
Meat in Cellar	2	
1st Floor unit "A" Rooms		
Clock	2	
1 Oval Table	1	50
6 Winsor Chairs	3	
2 arm Winsor Chairs	1	50
Desk and Bookcase	7?	
Round Table	2?	
One Case of Drawers	8?	
One Case Do [i.e. 2 nd Case of Drawers]	6	
2nd Floor & Garret Rooms		
Bed and Beding [bed # 1]	30	
Double Coverlid	6	
Table	1	
Bedsteads bed and beding [bed # 2]	20	
Bedsteads and Cord [bed # 3]	2	
1 Reel 3 Spinning weels	1	50
2 Old Chests	1	
Old bedsteads		50
Small axx and handsaw	1	25
One blew and white coverlid and 3 Blankets	10	
Bedsteads Chalf bed and beding [bed #4 & beding]	12	
One Do.[i.e. bed # 5 & bedding]	10	
One Do.[i.e. bed # 6 & bedding]	12	
One Do.[i.e. bed # 7 & bedding]	15	

Inventory of all and Singular the Goods and Chattles of Robert Thompson Miller of the Township of Solebury in the County of Bucks Deceas'd Appraised the 6th Day of December 1804 by us Thomas Smith and Peter D. Cattell		
Item	dollars	cents
Kitchen & possibly attached shed		
Wheat Riddle		25
Tally \$332.00 on this page		
Large copper kettle	18	
Large iron pott	2	50
Iron pott and Skellet	1	25
Gridiron and Andirons	1	50
4 Pott Rackens	4	
Sahovel and Tongs	2	
Large Andirons	3	
2 Smoothing irons	1	
10 Old Chairs	2	50
1 Large arm Chair		75
3 Iron potts	2	
Tea kettle and Frying pan	2	
12 Pewter plates and 1 Pewter dish	3	
1 Coffey pott		25
3 Candle sticks and 1 Lamp	1	
Knives and forks		75
12 Spoons 3 Ladles and flesh fork	2	
2 Pewter basons and kunk shell	1	25
2 Tin canisters Pepper box and Molasses cup		75
1 Funnel and 4 Tin Cups		50
Dough trough and Settle	2	
3 Tubs and 2 Buckets	1	25
3 [?] bale buckets, 1 Tub and 1 Churn	1	50
2 Lard tubs, 1 Cagg and 1 Cask	2	
1 pair Andirons	1	50
7 Milk potts and 6 dishes	1	50
6 Silver Teaspoons	2	
A lot of Chainey and 1 Quart Decanter	1	50
A Lot of Queensware	1	12
3 pair of Sheep sheers and 1 Do. Common	1	25
2 Gimblets and Rasors	1	
5 Glass bottles and 3 small pewter basons	1	25
Specticle		50
2 Barrels of Wiskey	2	40
Half barrel Cask		75
Books		
Large Bible	2	
Testament		50
Edwards on Original Sin		50
Witherspoon on the Doctrines of Salvation by Grace		50
Old Bible		50

Inventory of all and Singular the Goods and Chattles of Robert Thompson Miller of the Township of Solebury in the County of Bucks Deceas'd Appraised the 6th Day of December 1804 by us Thomas Smith and Peter D. Cattell		
Item	dollars	cents
Tally: [\$112.27 on this page]		

Plus Bond or “book” debts totaling \$1550.31 [CPT: investments or debts owed to him]⁵³

Robert Thompson, Miller of the Township of Solebury , whose estate, exclusive of real estate exceeded \$3000 left money to his relatives, including John Simpson, his step-son and neighbour.⁵⁴ He left his grand daughter, Jane Neely Poor, her husband’s debts. He left a 150 A plantation to his daughter Elizabeth Neely. On her death, in 1834 she willed this land “and all the appurtenances there unto (meaning land rents but apparently no buildings)” to her grand daughter and name-sake Elizabeth. Robert Thompson passed the house and rest of his estate onto his grandson, Robert Thompson Neely. Since William Neely was the executor, it can be assumed he concurred with this skip generation inheritance. After William Neely’s death in 1818 the family is listed as a single household in the census records.⁵⁵

The Neelys lived in unit “C” (3 cellar rooms, one of which was the kitchen. The kitchen was accessible from the unheated hall and across the hall was a heated dining room. There was a front heated parlor. On the second floor were two bedrooms on the third floor was a garret bedroom and a loft for storing things).

In creating the William Neely inventory, David Wynkoop & Solomon McNair first counted the cash, then visited the out buildings, then entered by the front door and after inventorying the front parlor, followed the stairs up to the 2nd floor and garret. On the way down, they inventoried the dining room and closets and then proceeded down the stairs to the cellar kitchen, laundry and storage rooms.

Inventory of William Neely

⁵³ Every page shows discrepancies indicating that either items are missing or their valuation misread or the tally/page misread or math errors.

⁵⁴ Unmentioned in the HSR, this list of bequests is prefaced with “... I give to my Step-grandson John Cauthorn the sum of Twenty pounds a year from my discease for and during his natural life and after his discease the sum of Fifty pounds equally among his children to be paid by my grandson Robert T. Neely but upon the condition that the said John Cauthorn bring no account whatsoever against my Estate.” Comparing the size of this bequest to the £10 he gives his namesakes: his brother Hugh’s grandson - Robert Thompson, his brother John’s son – Robert Thompson and his step great grandson – Robert Simpson (John Simpson Jr.’s son) and the restrictive wording suggests that while relations were harmonious between the Thompsons and the John Simpson family, they were less so with the descendants of his younger sister, Hannah Simpson who married David Cauthorn. In this will, Robert Thompson seems to acknowledge that he owes at least one Simpson heir a great deal and has some fear that a claim will be made against the estate as a result. No mention is made of the other two Simpson children: the oldest, Mary Simpson married James McMasters and the youngest, James Simpson who married Martha Shoemaker.

⁵⁵ This statement is a non-sequitor, based on CPT’s census research. After William Neely’s death his son Robert Neely and later his grandson, John Neely have their own households. Meanwhile, in the 1820 census, his widow Elizabeth appears in her daughter Jane Neely Poor’s household. Between 1820 and 1830 the Poores leave the township and so Widow Elizabeth Neely appears alone as head of household in 1830.

BCHS Administration #4504

August 10, 1818

[Note: the microfilm copy is labeled "Very Faint" and it is hard to read]

An Inventory of the Goods, Chattles, Rights to Creditors of William Neely late of Solebury Township Deceased as appraised this sixth day of August in the year of our Lord One thousand Eight Hundred & Eighteen by viz David Wynkoop & Solomon McNair		
Currency	dollars	cents
Cash	285	63
Notes & Bonds Principal & Interest	579	47
Outside		
Farm Waggon & Harness	105	
Ploughs	15	
Harrows	12	
Stock of Horses	260	
Stock of Cattle	185	
Stock of Swine	75	
Rakes & Forks	1	
Cleaning Fan	15	
Cutting Box	2	
Forks & Shovels	2	
Hay	100	
Wheat in the Barrick	75	
Rye in the Barrick	25	
Oats in the Barrick	130	
Wheat in the Granary	15	
Rye in the Granary	10	
Corn in the Crib	60	
Corn in the Ground	96	
Wheelbarrow & Shaving Horse	4	
Grindstone Axes Mall & Wedges	5	
Carriage & Harness	75	
Outside Total ("Amt brought up")	: \$ 2532.60	
1st Floor Front Parlor		
*Clock	60	
*Desk & Book Case	30	
Books	20	
Tea Stand	5	
Two Small Tables	1	50
2nd Floor & Garret bedrooms		
*No. 1 Bed & Bedding	30	
*No. 2 Bed & Bedding	25	
*No. 3 Bed & Bedding	45	
*No. 4 Bed & Bedding	25	
*No. 5 Bed & Bedding	35	
*No. 6 Bed & Bedding	12	
*No. 7 Bed & Bedding	8	
1st Floor Rear Dining Room		
*Dining Table	5	
*Breakfast Table	3	

An Inventory of the Goods, Chattles, Rights to Creditors of William Neely late of Solebury Township Deceased as appraised this sixth day of August in the year of our Lord One thousand Eight Hundred & Eighteen by viz David Wynkoop & Solomon McNair		
Currency	dollars	cents
*Dressing Table	5	
*Case of Drawers	10	
Pewter Ware	6	
*Chest	2	
Linen & Linsey	15	
Table Linen	20	
*Bedding (1 st digit hard to read)	50	
*Bed Linen	31	
Inside Total (“Amt brought up”):	\$3002.10	
Cellar Rooms (kitchen, laundry, storage)		
Warming Pan	2	
Warming Pan	12	
*Looking Glasses	10	
Andirons Shovels & Tongs	8	
Safe & Chest	5	
Kitchen Ware	15	
Ten Plate Stove	20	
Pot & Kettle	5	
Churn & Washing Machine	5	
Soap Tubs	5	50
Saddle & Bridle	5	
Gun	5	
Plate	15	
China & Glass ware	12	
Flax & [?] Linen	12	
Tubs & Firkins	3	
Cider Barrels	6	
Two Casks & Cider	10	
Meat Casks	5	
Gridirons & Bake Oven	1	50
Total \$ 3164.10⁵⁶		

The within names David Wynkoop & Solomon McNair Personally appeared before me one of the justices of the Peace in and for the County of Bucks and was duly qualified that the within Inventory is a just Valluation of the Above inventory this Seventh Day of August Eighteen hundred and Eighteen.

Samuel McNair

Elizabeth Neely may have continued to live in unit “C” until her death in 1834. One can see all the items marked with * in William Neely’s inventory being passed on in her will.

Will of Elizabeth Neely

⁵⁶ CPT: There is a little discrepancy in the first two amounts brought forward probably due to reading faint figures: 1st amount brought forward is \$500.50 high – this may be debts owed to him, which claim to be included in this inventory, but are not listed. The 2nd amount brought forward is \$26.00 high the \$50 for bedding is annotated as hard to read, maybe it was 76 where the 6 was mistaken for a zero.

BCHS Will Book 11, p. 281, #6676
Administered December 8, 1834

...I give and bequeath to my granddaughter Elizabeth T. Neely my farm of 150 acres with all the appurtenance thereunto belonging. Also three of my best beds, one pair of Bedsteads & curtains of her choice, one dining table, one Breakfast table, one dressing table, my book case & desk my corner cupboard and all that is therein. My large blue chest and all that is therein, my highcase of drawers and two of the largest looking glasses, also my clock and case, with all such goods as are marked with her name. Item I give and bequeath to my granddaughter, Jane Poor and Hannah D. Opdyke my Ross lot (so called) to be equally divided between them. Also each one bed with sufficient bedding for the same. Item I give and bequeath to my son Robert T. Neely the sum of two hundred dollars, my watch, and also the residue of my estate if any there be. Lastly I nominate and appoint my son Robert T. Neely and my grandson John T. Neely and my granddaughter Elizabeth T. Neely my Executors of this my last will and Testament, and I also hereby revoke and annul all former Wills made by me heretofore In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 10th day of September A.D. 1827.

Census Records

The HSR refers to the 1790 census and the 1800 census. CPT found some discrepancies (particularly in the number of people living in the house) and extended the research up to 1840 including looking for the presence of neighbour families mentioned in this text.

The 1790 census records show separate Robert Thompson and William Neely households.

1790 Bucks Co. PA p. 207, Robert Thompson

6 Free white males >15 [Robert Thompson+ 5 mill workers?], 2 Free white females [Hannah+?], 2 other free persons

4 households later, p. 207, William Neely

2 Free white males >15 [William + Robert Neely], 1 Free white male <16, 4 Free white females [Elizabeth+?], 1 other free person

John Simpson - Elizabeth Neely's ½ brother, **John Thompson** – Robert's brother and **Emanuel Pitcock** all live nearby.

1800 Solebury Township, Bucks Co. PA [alphabetical listing]

Robert Thompson

1 male <10, 1 male 10-15, 2 male 16-25, 1 male > 45 [Robert]

1 female <10, 1 female 10-15, 2 female 16-25, 1 female 26-44, 1 female > 45 [Hannah]

Others people may be mill workers and their families.

William Neely

1 male 10-15, 1 male 16-25, 2 male 26-44, 1 male > 45 [William]

2 female 10-15, 1 female 26-44, 1 female > 45 [Elizabeth]

Poor & Neely

2 male <10, 1 male 10-15, 1 male 16-25, 3 male 26-44 [Robert Thompson Neely], 1 male >45 [John Poor]

1 female <10, 3 females 10-15, 3 females 16-25 [Sarah Beaumont Neely], 2 females 26-44 [Jane Neely Poor], 2 females >45

Simpsons live near by but no Pidcocks.

1810 Solebury Township, Bucks Co. PA [alphabetic listing]

William Neely p. 940

1 male 10-15, 1 male > 45 (William), 1 female <10, 1 female 10-15, 1 female > 45 (Elizabeth)

Robert T Neely (b. 1769) p. 940 Sarah Beaumont Neely died 1806.

1 male 10-15, 3 male 16-25 (John T. Neely), 1 male 26-44 (Robert Thompson Neely), 1 male > 45

1 female 10-15, 1 female 16-25, 1 female 26-44, 2 female > 45 , 3 free blacks

Simpsons and John Pidcock live nearby

1820 Solebury Township, Bucks Co. PA

Robert T. Neely

1 male 10-15, 1 male 16-18, 3 males 16-25, 3 males >45 [Robert Thompson Neely],
1 female < 10, 2 female 26-44

John Poor

1 male 10-15, 1 male 16-25, 1 male > 45 [John Poor]
1 female < 10, 1 female 10-15, 2 females 16-25, 2 female > 45 [Elizabeth Neely & Jane Poor]

John Pidcock and Simpsons live nearby

1830 Solebury Township, Bucks Co. PA p. 33⁵⁷

Robert T. Neely

1 male 20-29, 1 male 60-69 [Robert Thompson Neely], 1 female 40-49

John T. Neely

2 males < 5, 1 male 30-39 [John T. Neely]
2 females < 5, 1 female 15-20, 1 female 20-29

Widow Neely

1 male 10-15, 1 female 10-15, 1 female 20-29, 1 female 80-89 [Elizabeth]

1840 Solebury Township, Bucks Co. PA p. 107-8⁵⁸

John T. Neely

1 male 5-10, 1 male 10-14, 1 male 15-19, 1 male 20-29, 1 male 40-49 [John T.], 1 male 60-69 [Robert T. Neely]
1 female 5-10, 2 females 10-14, 1 female 15-19, 1 female 20-29, 1 female 40-49

John Pidcock and Simpsons live nearby

Period V 1895 - present Disrepair & Reconstruction

The Thompson-Neely story ends in 1877 with the death of John Thompson Neely who was nearly bankrupt. His sons lost the property to foreclosure in 1895 and the house fell into disrepair. Reuben High bought it in 1895. In 1926 the state of Pennsylvania bought the property from Irwin High. The first restoration occurred in the early 1930s. The Depression and World War II delayed further study of the house until after 1945.

In 1913 the Pidcock family began holding reunions there and the children climbed and played in the exposed rafters until the property was bought by the State of Pennsylvania in 1926 and restoration begun.

The Site in John Pidcock's Time

Local information about Pidcock Tract

One of the 6 Indian villages in the area was located at the mouth of Pidcock's creek, "Wund-ach-gachunic" meaning "hill next to the water". The white mispronunciation was "Win-ah-haw-caw-chunk". This settlement is mentioned specifically in the 9th day, 7th month 1690 Deed from Gilbert Wheeler to John Pidcock where by Gilbert Wheeler acknowledges receipt of £20 silver in payment for 400 acres. This deed further acknowledges that John Pidcock has already "seated and improved and is now in the

⁵⁷ The HSR asserts in 1830 & 1840 the John Thompson Neely household lists 14 men suggesting he housed mill workers, but 1830 census records from www.ancestry.com don't support this assertion.

⁵⁸ The HSR asserts in 1830 & 1840 the John Thompson Neely household lists 14 men suggesting he housed mill workers, but CPT's census records from www.ancestry.com don't support this assertion.

possession.” The Deed goes on to mention “all houses, barns, buildings, orchards, gardens, water courses, privileges, improvements.”

There was probably a still and public house because in 1682 Pidcock was fined for keeping a disorderly house.

It does not mention either a Mine or Mill in 1690.

Archeology findings describe the Native American village at the mouth of Pidcock creek thus: “The Pidcock sites are multi-component, stratified river floodplain locales that include three vertically separate components: Late Archaic, late Middle Woodland, and Late Woodland. Excavated artifacts include a cache of seven jasper and seven flint pre-forms from the Late Archaic component and two Fox Creek-like points, argillite bi-faces, and various ceramic types from the late Middle Woodland component. Also represented is a clearly demarcated late Middle/Late Woodland boundary, documenting the replacement of argillite by flint as the lithic material of choice, as well as changes in ceramic types. Further, the recovery of buried intact Late Woodland materials substantiating the co-occurrence of pottery types with both Upper Delaware River Valley and Delmarva Peninsula origins has been documented. “

Archaeological Investigations at The Pidcock Sites, Bucks County, Pennsylvania,
Stephen W. Tull

Other of the Indian villages in the area included a settlement on the west side of Bowman’s hill and Playwickey, part of the delineation of the extent of William Penn’s first walking purchase with the Indians in 1682. So we know there was a Native American trail system in the area.

From JLM: Native American settlements, in this region, were typically located by forested hillside (in this case, Bowman’s Hill, providing game, water (in this case the Delaware and Pidcock’s creek) and flat land for growing corn. Trees were cut down as needed for fuel, so over time an ever increasing area was cleared and replanted in corn. Thus while in general Upper Makefield may have been tractless wilderness, as described by Davis, the area around “Win-ah-haw-caw-chunk” would have been cleared and building materials could be easily transported there by boat from the river or creek. The location of the current dwelling on a rise in the land, overlooking creek and river would have been logical not only for a Miller’s family, but also for a trader’s family.

The Mine. I’ve read hear-say documentation that the Indians said it was originally worked by white men, whether early Swedes and Dutch or another of the ventures in the Pidcock complex. **Deed May 31, 1723** From John Pidcock to Frances Willoughby for mineral rights on 400 acres above Falls. Bucks County Historical Society MSC 613 Fol II – 4 typed pages, Photostats of the original in the Pemberton Papers. This earlier claim of Frances Willoughby does not seem to be an issue in **1753** when the 6 man mining consortium buys the land and sells surface rights to Robert Thompson while maintaining mining rights. At some time a mine was dug but abandoned and rediscovered by John Thompson Neely who vainly tried to reactivate it.

The reports of land “occupancy” in John Pidcock’s time, suggests that what was “on Paper” did not necessarily match what was happening “on the ground”. This is not surprising when land is granted and sold amongst wealthy men in England without any means of communication with the native population, few trails, dense woods, and news transmitted by the occasional traveler.

“Ownership” / Occupancy Time line

Year	On Paper	On the Ground
<1680		Pidcock complex marked on NJ map
March 4, 1681	King Charles II, granted the Province to William Penn, ESQ	
July 13 - 14, 1681	William Penn Esquire to Thomas Rowland	
July 15, 1682		William Penn’s 1st walking purchase’ northern boundary was the intersection of River Rd. (rte 32) & Taylorville Rd at Jericho /Towissinck/Knowles creek Does NOT include Pidcock land
July 15, 1682		John Pidcock is convicted of keeping a disorderly house [so he has a tavern] and fined 110 £ fine. In William Penn’s time, there is a hefty fine for selling liquor to the Indians.
August 21 and 24, 1682	Title confirmed to William Penn, Esq., by James, Duke of York, in two deeds.	
1684		This land was laid out to Pidcock in 1684 but never conveyed to him before, there is an Overplus which he desires to be Cutt off, and a Patent Granted.” ⁵⁹
1684		Gilbert Wheeler accused John Pidcock of trespassing. Pidcock said he was trying to collect 24£ back pay. Court said he must be paid, but fines him 3£ trespassing. ⁶⁰
1686		John Pidcock indicted & arraigned for making an assault on his master g wheeler hath pleaded gilty to the sd Indictment and the court awrds judgement on sd Confession. Jon Pidcock shall pay the govnrn a fine of 3£ & be bound to his good behavior & to appear at

⁵⁹ Recorded in the 2 m 19 & 20, 1703 Session minutes. See Appendix IV: Chain of Title to the Pidcock Tract for alternate research and interpretation.

⁶⁰ Records of the Courts of Quarter Session & Common Pleas of Bucks county, PA < 1700. Docket 1684-1703 p.57

⁶¹ Records of the Courts of Quarter Session & Common Pleas of Bucks county, PA < 1700. Docket 1684-1703 p.58

		next Court. ⁶¹
Sept. 9, 1690	John Rowland, Heir at Law of Thomas Rowland, Deceased to Gilbert Wheeler. "For 500 acres, part of the above two several quantities and then to be located. In pursuances of which there were surveyed to Gilbert Wheeler a certain tract of land situated above the Falls of Delaware, and known by name of Win-ua-haw-caw-chunk, laid out for 400 acres." Recorded in Bucks County, Deed book No. 1, p.383 & c.	Gilbert Wheeler says in court he bought the land on which Pidcock dwells from Thomas Rowland. Before 1700 John Pidcock's name appears 39 times in Court records, 13 of these in disputes with Gilbert Wheeler.
11/23/1690/1		Mortgage of 400 acres of land by John Pidcock to Edward Hunlock ⁶²
12/10/1690		Pidcock refuses, without explanation, to acknowledge Hunlock mortgage schedule. ⁶³
1693		John Pidcock paid taxes on property valued at £32-2s-8d in Makefield Twnshp., Bucks Co. PA Gilbert Wheeler paid taxes in Falls, PA.
1698		John Pidcock, in his own house, assaulted James Verier, mason, as witnessed by William Smith, surveyor. ⁶⁴ Based on the occupations of those present, CPT thinks some kind of a Pidcock complex, building project is involved.
March 31, 1701	Warrant from the gouvernour unto John Pidcock	
May 31, 1701	Gilbert Wheeler to John Pidcock "WHEREAS, there is a tract of land lying and being about the Falls of Delaware, and is part of 500 acres of land which John Rowland by Deed Poll bearing date the 9 th day of 7 th month 1690, did grant unto Gilbert Wheeler, which said land is called and known by the Indian name of Win-ua-haw-caw-chunk, and was laid out to John Pidcock for 400 acres, which land the said John Pidcock hath seated and improved and is now in possession of him the said John	

⁶² Records of the Courts of Quarter Session & Common Pleas of Bucks county, PA < 1700. Docket 1684-1703 p.135 case 131 Gilbert Wheeler judge.

⁶³ Records of the Courts of Quarter Session & Common Pleas of Bucks county, PA < 1700. Docket 1684-1703 p.246

⁶⁴ Records of the Courts of Quarter Session & Common Pleas of Bucks county, PA < 1700. Docket 1684-1703 p.371-2, 374

	Pidcock.” Consideration Recorded in Bucks County, Deed book No. 3, page 41 &c	
December 17, 1701	Re-survey by Phineas Pemberton done March 12, 1701,	
2/20/1703		Deed of Mortgage 400 acres. John Pidcock mortgager. Robert Heaten & Henry Hudlestone mortgagees ⁶⁵
5/28/1704	Report of the Quarter Sessions & Common Pleas, Bucks Co. PA 1700-1730	John Pidcock & John Clark, executors of Gilbert Wheeler, sued for slowness in disbursing estate. ⁶⁶
May 31, 1723		Deed from John Pidcock to Frances Willoughby for mineral rights on 400 acres above Falls. ⁶⁷
10/17/1730	Report of the Quarter Sessions & Common Pleas, Bucks Co. PA 1700-1730	Request for a road between John Pidcock’s and Wrightstown ⁶⁸ , from which CPT infers that John Pidcock is alive.
1731		Court record refers to property boundary line late of John Pidcock, from which CPT deduces he has died.
Sept. 19-20 1737		2 nd Indian Walking Purchase includes this tract
June 1738		Benjamin Pidcock has, what looks like, a farming estate sale.
1740		Copper mine opened, indicating more than just Simpson’s Mill(s) on property. ⁶⁹
1740		John & Hannah Simpson family take up residence
1747		John Simpson died. His inventory mentions 8 year lease.
July 16, 1752	sale by Richard Peters of 65 acres land formerly owned by Adian Vrosen, merchant from Rotterdam, Holland now deceased	
July 17, 181752	Warrant of Survey for full (440+65acres=505 acres)	
Jan 18, 1753	Return, signed by James Hamilton, granted a patent from Thomas & Richard Penn for the full 505 acres for the 440 acres from Rowland estate plus the 65 acres from estate to make up the full 505 acres in the Pidcock	

⁶⁵ Records of the Courts of Quarter Session & Common Pleas of Bucks county, PA 1700-1730 p. 388

⁶⁶ Records of the Courts of Quarter Session & Common Pleas of Bucks county, PA 1700-1730 p. 391

⁶⁷ Bucks County Historical Society MSC 613 Fol II – 4 typed pages, Photostats of the original in the Pemberton Papers.

⁶⁸ Records of the Courts of Quarter Session & Common Pleas of Bucks county, PA 1700-1730 p. 556

⁶⁹ Dr. Eastman quoted in “The History of the Pidcock Family and Association”

	tract to William Coleman in trust for 6 Philadelphia & Bucks County capitalists : Lt. Gov. James Hamilton, Chief Justice William Allen, Lawrence Growden – recorder of Bucks Co., Langhorne Biles, William Plumstead & Joseph Turner.	
April 27, 1753	Surveyed at the Request of Nicholas Scull, Surveyor General, [signed] John Watson, Jr.	
7th June 1753	William Coleman in right of John Pidcock, 505 acres, Bucks County Returned &c., see the Return on Record Warrant of 18 July 1752 “John Pidock Returne Received and Copied. This is of no use see another return made by John Watson”	
June 16, 1753	June 16, 1753 William Coleman of the City of Philadelphia, Merchant conveyed the above described tract by six separate deeds each for 1/6 of the 505 acre property to the 6 investors: Hon. James Hamilton, William Allen, Lawrence Growden, Langhorne Biles, William Plumstead, Joseph Turner	
June 19, 1753	6 investors convey the fee to Robert Thompson, reserving all mineral rights.	

Additional Comments:

1680 NJ Map identifies Pidcocks at this location, so his trading post must be well known by then. At this time there are no roads, just Indian foot trails. The river is the major transportation route. This map provided the proof that he occupied the land before it was given to William Penn by Charles II. On the 1680 NJ map, the Pidcock complex is shown as a box bisected by a horizontal line; no key to the symbol’s meaning is provided. However, it represents more than a dwelling - something of general interest to travelers, like “Falls and Stacy’s Mill” shown across the river near Trenton.

Bowman’s Hill marks the Solebury / Makefield Township dividing line. It marked the line between John Pidcock’s land and the London Company tract.

July 15, 1682 William Penn’s first walking purchase. The land purchase was measured by the distance a man could walk in a day and a half, starting from the mouth of the Neshaminy Creek. It is believed Penn walked the distance himself covering what is now Bristol, Falls, Middletown, Newtown, Lower and part of Upper Makefield townships. The John Pidcock tract lies north of that creek – so John Pidcock acquired his land directly from the Indians and lived here with them.

1731 Court record refers to property boundary line late of John Pidcock, from which CPT deduces he has died. Since 1700 he has appeared another 21 times in court records.

However, he and Gilbert Wheeler seem to have reconciled because he is Gilbert Wheeler's executor and some of these later cases are Gilbert Wheeler's heirs trying to get John to finish dealing with the Estate. John seems to have had a recurring cash flow problem because in a number of these cases he is the defendant for debt. More than once he may even have mortgaged the land and it is possible that in the early days he indentured himself to Gilbert Wheeler – he at least worked for him. Court is held in Bristol. If John thinks the case will go against him, he simply doesn't show up.

Sept. 19-20 1737 2nd Indian Walking Purchase includes this tract, so the Indians have gone by the time of the Revolution. This second purchase done by Penn's heirs was considered unfair by the Indians. The colonists used trained runners. The Indian idea was the distance a man could walk, taking time to stop and rest and cook meals.

June 1738 John Pidcock's assumed son, Benjamin, sold 3 horses, 4 milk cows, 2 calves, 2 plows, 2 pair of plow irons, 4 pair of iron traces, 3 iron pots, a feather bed, and furniture. This looks like an estate sale, indicating that John farmed as well as running the trading post.

1740 John Simpson, a Quaker Miller takes up residence on the property. No deed of transfer is on record, so this may be a rental agreement. In fact when John Simpson dies in 1747 an inventory of his estate lists Lease on the Mill for 8 years.

John Simpson is credited with building the first grist mill here on the north side of Pidcock's Creek by the Delaware. It served folks from Bristol to Tinticum. He also owns ½ interest in a saw mill (with William Hills) that may have been situated a little upstream on Pidcock's creek. Flour was shipped in wooden casks to Philadelphia. The earliest Mill in Solebury Township was on Great Spring Creek operated by Robert Heath since 1707. Heath occupied the land by lease because the deed is to his son, Richard, in 1710.⁷⁰ Before the erection of this mill the people had to go to the Neshaminah and the Pennypack." That Robert Heath leased the land for his Mill offers precedent for the notion that John Simpson had a financial arrangement (lease?) with Pidcock for situation of the Mill on land still owned by a Pidcock in 1740. John Simpson employed a journeyman miller, Robert Thompson (who learned his trade in the Nashamie Mills), an apprentice lad, Jacob Wood and 2 indentured servants, Edward & Patrick Caveny.

Oct. 1, 1747 John Simpson, age 34, dies unexpectedly, leaving his widow Hannah Delaplaine with 5 children under the age of 9 including a baby, born in March, and the Mill responsibilities. She was granted letters of administration of his estate. The inventory of his effects appraised at 1144 £ included his interest in the saw mill, flour to be sold locally and shipped to Philadelphia, flax & wheat in the barn, hay in the yards, oats in the stack, livestock including 14 horses, 19 head of cattle and 2 pigs.

⁷⁰ Early Settlers of Solebury Township, Bucks county, PA" compiled b from deeds, Wills, and the Records of Friends Meetings by Eastburn Reeder. Published by the Bucks County Historical Society.

March 1, 1748 Hannah Simpson marries Robert Thompson who according to the prevailing law & custom of the time, became the administrator per se, and took charge of the estate.

November 29, 1748 Hannah and Robert Thompson's only child, Elizabeth is born.

Robert Thompson grew wheat, corn, rye, buckwheat and produced flax and wool.

John Pidcock never took out a patent on the land, because he acquired it by squatters rights having arrived, settled and improved the land before the Penns arrived, and there is no record of him paying Gilbert Wheeler 24 £ for the deed. Robert Thompson and James Hamilton, Lt. Gov. of PA & direct representative of the Penns colluded to use this loophole to their mutual advantage. Robert Thompson was interested in getting clear title to the land through possession of the tract in fee so he could pass it on to his descendents and James Hamilton was interested in getting possession of an old copper mine on the property and the mineral rights under this land. The land was repossessed in the Penns' name for failure of payment of quit rent. Then Lt. Gov. Hamilton doles it out with clear titles.

Was John Pidcock's House Wood or Stone?

One section of the report concludes, that while it is not impossible, structurally, for the house to date from John Pidcock's time (~1679 - ~1740), historically, it is not likely.

The most telling historical evidence for this conclusion is a comparison of John Pidcock's net worth, based on his taxes in 1693, as compared to others on the Makefield township tax rolls where he ranks 20th of 27.

This question of whether John Pidcock could have built the stone middle section of the house is illustrative of the discrepancies between different sections of the report. The historical section says, no structural evidence that he didn't build it, but historical evidence makes it unlikely. However, in the architectural section, the report cites evidence, listed in the table below, of a pre-1757 single story log or clapboard cabin containing the current hearth of the middle section, but rules out the possibility that he built a stone cabin on this site.

Knitting The Architectural and Historical Analysis Together

The Early Pidcocks/Pitcocks

This section contains CPT conclusions based on Y-chromosome DNA analysis, military payment, court and church records.

Sometime prior to 1680 John Pidcock established a trading post on the west bank of the Delaware just north of Bowman's hill⁷¹. John Pidcock was literate and could sign his name – legal documents never mention him making a mark. While not personally wealthy, he enjoyed close relationships with two wealthy, landed gentlemen: Thomas

⁷¹ 1680 NJ map found in "New Jersey as a Colony and as a State by Francis Bazley Lee", 1902.

Bowman of Burlington and Justice of the Peace, Gilbert Wheeler of Falls. Thomas Bowman died at Pidcock's home. Pidcock was co-executor of Gilbert Wheeler's estate.

The next generation contained William⁷², John, Benjamin, Emanuel⁷³ and Robert Pidcock. They covered a wide range: from lawyer to laborer, from literate to Benjamin making his mark, from Benjamin being one of four founders of Thompson Memorial Presbyterian Church on the original Pidcock property to lawbreaking for assault, adultery and horse theft. Some lines moved to western PA (Emanuel's), had only daughters (Benjamin's), died as young men, were undistinguished, or moved totally out of the area (Robert's). Y-chromosome DNA analysis of the male descendants of these men reveal 3 distinct paternal lineages, with only William's matching the Derbyshire Pidcocks. Pidcock is an unusual name, so it is surprising to learn these early 18th century NJ and PA Pidcocks are not related to each other. Somewhere in John's paternal ancestry there may be a case of undocumented conception (adoption or infidelity) of which John & William were unaware.

No Pidcock inventories, wills or family Bibles survive spelling out relationships amongst the first three generations of Pidcocks. Some inferences can be made by occupation, education or behavior. For example, Jonathan Pidcock was a Lambertville, NJ miller who sold flour to Gen. Washington's troops – he had to have learned his trade somewhere – learning from Simpson at Pidcock's complex would be logical. The Pidcock/Pitcock DNA study will, in time be able to cluster living male Pidcocks /Pitcocks /Pidcoes and working backward with oral & written research, deduce these early relationships.

Land Occupancy & Ownership

This section contains CPT's conclusions based on written records (maps, property documents, court proceedings, tax records, inventories and wills).

John Pidcock's complex was established before 1680 on the west bank of the Delaware. He thus arrived before the land was given to William Penn and established squatters' rights by settling and improving his site. Although on paper, the land was initially sold to others, he was taxed on it in 1693. William Penn acknowledged his right to the land in 1701 and authorized a resurvey by Phineas Pemberton.

John Pidcock had periodic cash flow problems resulting in a number of court cases involving debts he owed or his attempts to collect payments. To get the capital to expand and improve the Pidcock complex, he indentured himself to Gilbert Wheeler (~1684-6) and at least considered mortgaging his land on more than one occasion.

⁷² William may be descended from William Piddock who departed Burlington, NJ bound for London on the "Friends Adventure", Ed. Blades, Cmdr on April 25, 1679. List of Immigrants to America 1600-1700, Baltimore Gen. Pub. Co., 1968. The History of the Pidcock Family and Association is in error on the direction of William Pidcock's passage. Both Pidcocks and Pitcocks who trace their ancestry to early 18th century Pennsylvania or Burlington NJ and have Y chromosome DNA matching the Derbyshire Pidcocks may descend from this line.

⁷³ The Pidcoe line descends from Emanuel.

The Pidcock complex is marked on a 1680 map as being of interest to travelers. He had a trading post facilitating trade between Native Americans and Europeans. He served alcohol. He had a mine on the property. He or his son eventually added grist and saw mills. John Simpson leased the mills and lived with his family on the property 1740-7.

In 1748 Robert Thompson, a journeyman miller, married widow Hannah Simpson and assumed control of the mill and John Simpson's assets. Robert and Hannah Thompson's only daughter married miller William Neely in 1766. The Thompsons raised their daughter and four surviving Simpson children in the log cabin. Pidcocks remained in the vicinity.

This tract was repossessed by Lt. Governor Hamilton, the representative of William Penns' sons and surface rights were sold to Robert Thompson in a complex legal arrangement in 1753. John Pidcock II protested based on the Pemberton survey to no avail. The land and house passed down in the Neely family until they lost in bankruptcy to the High family in 1895.

House Construction

This section contains CPT's conclusions based on the findings of the HSR.

The stone house that stands today is constructed of local materials: field stone and mortar containing sand that could have come from Pidcock's creek. Logs for an early cabin could have been cleared from the site. The site has easy Delaware river access for transport of other materials.

House Construction – Historic Periods & Architectural Units from HSR		
Period	Construction	Evidence
I	Wooden Cabin with loft (1 st floor, unit "B") containing current stone fireplace, built on grade or with possibly below grade crawl space.	<p>Evidence that cabin predates unit "A":</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No east watertable in unit "A" indicates there is a structure to the east already. • Unit "B" Gable outlined in mortar finish on east formerly external wall of "A" <p>Evidence for 17th century construction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade-level unit "B" fireplace construction unlike 18th century arched breast cellar fireplace supports <p>Evidence for wooden cabin when "A" built:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4" rabbet tying wood/stone together at grade level. • stone unit "B" uses unit "A" east wall with its embedded unit "A" chimney, not vice versa. • Unit "A" & "B" foundation contemporaneous, no evidence of early unit "B" foundation.
II	2 story west wing (unit "A",	Stone over unit "A" south door indicates this

House Construction – Historic Periods & Architectural Units from HSR		
Period	Construction	Evidence
	including 3 rd floor unit “A” garret and cellar under units “A” & “B” accessed from unit “A”).	was built by Robert & Hannah Thompson in 1757, when he had gained clear title to the property and after their children were grown.
III	2 story + garret unit “B” stone replacement. 2 nd floor may have been partitioned into two rooms by E-W wall. Stairs from 2 nd floor to cellar. Unit “A” only accessible through 1 st floor doorway at this time.	Stone unit B has quoins in SE corner but not on west corners indicating stone structure to the west already exists. The likely date for the stone addition is 1766 when Elizabeth Thompson and William Neely married. ⁷⁴ Thompson & Neely families probably always lived side by side but separately.
IV	2 story Unit “C” built with 3 rd floor garret and cellar kitchen below. All floors accessible via back hall staircase. Units “A”/”B” are only accessible through the 1 st floor doorway. CPT thinks unit “B” 1 st floor raised at this time to make it level with unit “C” which needed the higher floor to accommodate headroom in its cellar kitchen.	South-east Stone Quoin indicates Prine built this section in 1788. Evidence for raised 1 st floor in unit “B”: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empty or partially filled in joist pockets in basement. • Old floor joist embedded in SE “B0” original fireplace mass (not hearth extension), now rotted away from South cellar wall. • Awkward placement of unit “B” 1st floor door and windows flush with north & south plates, which may have supported 2nd floor, indicating that 2nd floor was not raised (no need because no connection with unit “C” 2nd floor”) • Unit “C” has higher roofline.
IV	CPT: The Neelys moved into section “C” and the Thompsons expanded into section “B”, making modifications to make it more convenient.	Evidence of modifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rebuilt & expanded hearth when floor raised. • Cellar access rerouted from “B” to “A” necessitating north door/window swap to avoid congestion. • 2nd floor access from “A” to “B” through closet south of “A2” east bedroom.
V	Rafter repair in unit “B” removed plates explanation.	1920s repair and reconstruction

⁷⁴ 18th century letters and the organization of the inventories of Robert Thompson and William Neely suggest the families lived separately within the Thompson-Neely house from the very beginning. Architectural modifications during the 18th and early 19th century support this thesis.

House Construction – Historic Periods & Architectural Units from HSR		
Period	Construction	Evidence
V	Brumbaugh replaced a stone shed with clapboard on the north side of unit “B.	Park Reconstruction
V	Park renovations to provide & remove toilet, caretakers’ apartment in unit “C”. Addition of a modernized temperature control & security systems to protect artifacts.	Park Renovations

Appendix I: “Report to the Washington Crossing Park Commission on the Restoration of the Thomson-Neely House” - - by Architect G. Edwin Brumbaugh

John Pidcock’s Stone House:

Whether John Pidcock’s stone cabin, ascribed to 1702, was a re-building or extension of an earlier “Framed house” on the same site is an interesting, but relatively unimportant question. Certainly the center, or **Pidcock** section of the present house is one of Bucks County’s very earliest stone houses.

That the entire west section was added while the stone cabin was still one story in height is proven by two bits of evidence.

1. The stone “flashing course” and framing for **outlookers** of pent eaves are both preserved in the attic, showing that this feature originally existed on the outside of the east gable wall of the addition above the cabin’s roof.
2. This east wall is still pointed. Interior plaster was removed carefully during the current operations, and pointing was found only above the original roof line of the **Pidcock** cabin. These investigations confirmed the **size** and form of this early cabin.

Many changes have occurred in this part of the building since 1702. If John Pidcock actually rebuilt in stone on the same site, some parts of his 1702 cabin would belong to an earlier era, and some evidence at the building supports this theory. The evidence uncovered in this part of the house is contradictory in places, and difficult to follow, but it will be cited for the record:

1. The original first floor line appears to have been **15 ½ ”** lower than at present. A single joist is still in place at that level against the east wall of the cellar beside the fireplace foundation. Removal of a section of the hearth revealed that the dressed stone face of the fireplace jamb extended down to that level.
2. On the other hand, the floor joists, while early in workmanship, are exceptionally well preserved for a cellar location, and may be replacements. The fact that they now rest upon, instead of being framed into, the summer beam is not typical of early construction.
3. A stone retaining wall, about four feet high exists in the east cellar, against the outside of the east gable of the **Pidcock** house, south of the fireplace. This could mean that the cellar of that house was excavated after the Revolution, when the east wing was added. In other words, John **Pidcock’s** kitchen may have had an earth floor, or one of split boards on logs, long since replaced.
4. The hearth foundation of the early kitchen, much deeper than required to support a hearth of reasonable size, covers the rotted fragment of an oak lintel and the line of an early opening in the north wall of the cellar. This is one possible trace of **building** on the site prior to 1702, but it conflicts with the evidence of a lower floor height and late excavation of the cellar.
5. The oak plates built into **both** north and south walls, on the outside above the first floor doors and window, quite evidently indicate a lower ceiling height in the original house. This also agrees with the height of pointing on the wall above,

mentioned earlier. A careful study of the exterior wall above these plates reveals possible original joist locations at regular intervals. These do not agree with the present ceiling joists in size or spacing.

To the above evidence should be added the fact that almost all the interior finish was found to be of late construction and detail.

But two original items remained:

1. the door and frame leading from the kitchen to the west section, and
2. the window frame on the south side at the second floor level.

Both of these features, which agree in detail, are early enough to have been part of a seventeenth century “framed house.” At least, they belong to the **Pidcock** era, and have been followed in restoring features in the center section. Each had been moved from its original location before the Revolutionary War period. It has not been deemed advisable or necessary to remove all interior finish, although we know that it was erected after the Revolution. Instead, it has been modified to conform to the early period, and the result may be assumed to be close to its appearance in 1776.

Appendix II: Mortar Sample Analyses from HSR

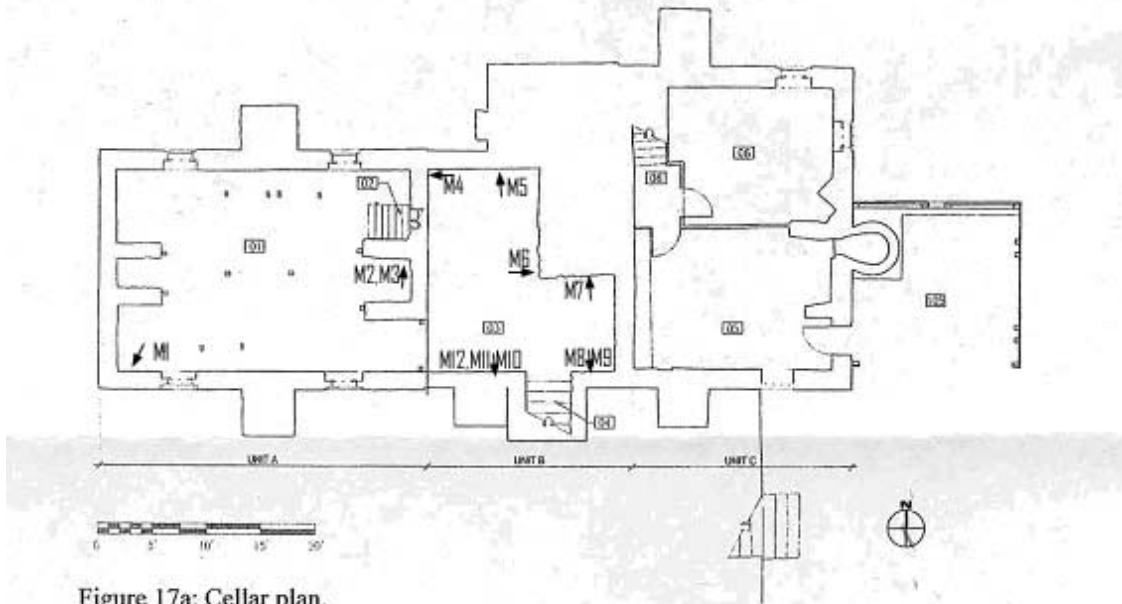


Figure 17a: Cellar plan.

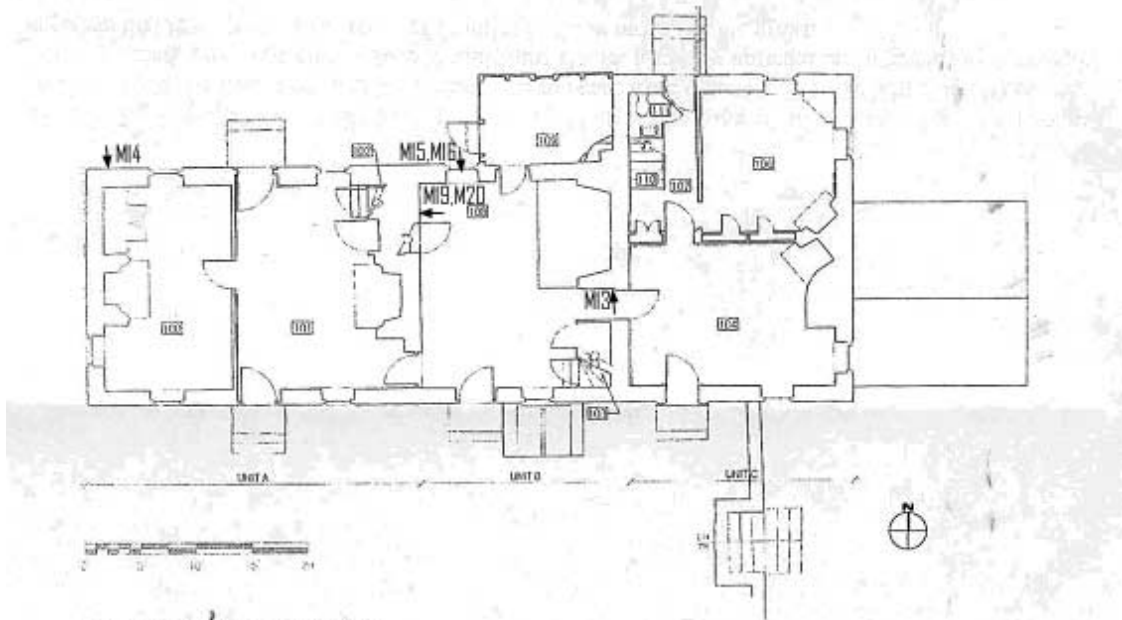


Figure 17b: First floor plan.

Figure 17: Floor plans of entire Thompson-Neely House. The floor plans illustrate how the Thompson House, to the west, and the Neely House, to the east were connected on the first floor. They were not connected, however, on the second and third floors, a highly unusual arrangement that strongly suggests that there was a separation of families in these more private areas.

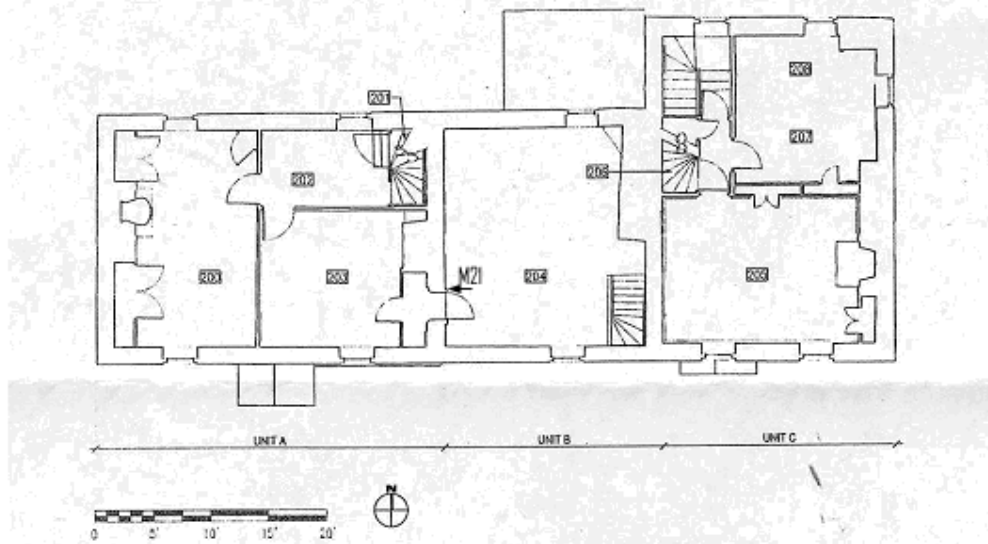


Figure 17c: Second floor plan.

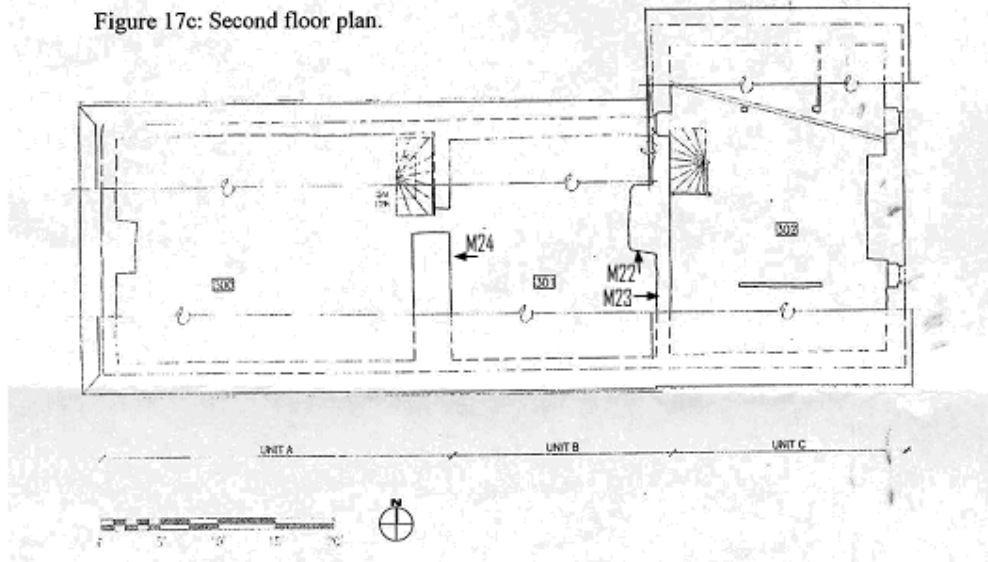


Figure 17d: Attic plan.

Figure 17: Floor plans of entire Thompson-Neely House. The floor plans illustrate how the Thompson House, to the west, and the Neely House, to the east were connected on the first floor. They were not connected, however, on the second and third floors, a highly unusual arrangement that strongly suggests that there was a separation of families in these more private areas.

Analyses from HSR sample locations keyed to preceding two Mortar Maps		
Sample ID	HSR Observation	Commentary
M01 S-W corner "A" cellar	Hard, warm grey mortar. Relatively small, uniform sized aggregate. Fine, brown sand.	Like M02

M02 Inside "A" cellar, east fireplace breast	Hard, grayish tan mortar with relatively small, uniform aggregates. Fine, brown sand. Covered with whitewash	Does not appear to be all 18 th century mortar. Another sample is very hard Portland cement 1920-1950
M03 Inside "A" cellar, east fireplace breast	Moderately hard grayish tan mortar with relatively small uniform aggregates. Fine, brown sand.	More lime inclusion and lower strength than M02
M04 North end west wall "B" cellar	Greyish tan mortar, relatively small, uniform size aggregates with white lime inclusions. Fine, brown sand.	Like M05
M05 North wall "B" cellar	Hard, grayish tan mortar with relatively small uniform size aggregates with white lime inclusions. Fine, brown sand.	Like M03 and M04
M06 West extension fireplace mass "B" cellar	Moderately soft grayish tan mortar with small uniform white lime inclusions. Fine, brown sand.	
M07 South edge fireplace mass "B" cellar	Moderately hard grayish brown mortar with small uniform white lime inclusions. Fine, brown sand.	
M08 Adjacent to empty beam pocket	Moderately hard grayish brown mortar with generally small, uniform sized aggregates. Darker than M10 & M11 but not as dark as M09 and M12. May be different batch curing conditions.	
M09 Top of empty beam pocket	Very soft, grey-brown mortar. Generally small, uniform aggregates and white lime. Sand: very fine, brown with large flecks of lime inclusion.	This is a more rustic, mud/clay type mortar in direct contact with the abandoned beam pocket. This very soft mortar was used to set a beam in the south foundation. If the entire wall below the pocket were the same, this primitive mortar would be significant. However, it is found in isolation and appears to be part of a modification. It is classed as an unexplained anomaly.

M10 3'6" AFF (above front foundation?) cellar level	Hard, grayish tan mortar with generally small uniform aggregates and white lime inclusion. Sand: fine, brown with flat shaped lime inclusions	
M11 6'8" below 1 st floor joist directly above M10	Hard, grayish brown mortar with generally small uniform size aggregates and white lime inclusion.	
M12 At top of 1 st floor joist pocket, cellar level	Hard, grayish brown mortar with generally small uniform size aggregate and white lime inclusion. Same very fine brown sand.	
M13 South jamb fireplace 1 st floor "B"	Moderately soft grayish brown mortar with 1/8" diameter lime inclusion. Fine brown sand.	
M14 North exterior unit "A"	Moderately hard warm grey with lime inclusion up to 1/16". Sand: uniform brownish grey. Also very hard modern mortar	M14 is not original unit "A" mortar
M15 Bed mortar By window north wall exterior "B"	Soft tannish- grey 1/8" diameter lime inclusions. Very fine light brown sand with large brown grains.	Appears original to construction of unit "B" north wall exterior bed mortar.
M16 Point mortar by window north wall exterior "B"	Soft, light tannish-grey, with pronounced lime inclusions heavily eroded. Sand: very fine, tan color different from bed sand of M15	Sand different from M15 bed sand.
M17 & M18	Either CPT overlooked mention of these 2 samples or they were excluded from the report.	In scientific work, a skip in the numbering scheme or removing samples from the suite without explanation is suspect.
M19 Unit "B" 1 st floor west wall	Very soft brown mortar with horsehair reinforcement. Sand: fine, brown with large quartz grains.	Most primitive mortar type sample in the building. No evidence this wall was ever exposed to the exterior and painted.
M20 Unit "B" 1 st floor cellar stair jamb	Moderately hard, grayish brown mortar with uniform sand and minor lime inclusions. Sand: fine brown color.	Believed to be a later mortar, dating to the cutting of the cellar door opening, probably early 20 th century.

M21 Unit "B" 2 nd floor, west wall	The significance of the pointing is discussed in the text.	CPT: Top left mortar finished as exterior wall. Bottom right mortar left unfinished as in an unexposed, interior garret.
M22 Unit "B" garret south side chimney	Either CPT overlooked mention of these samples or they were excluded from the report.	
M23 Unit "B" garret east wall		
M24 Unit "B" garret west wall		

Mortar M1-M8 & M11 are similar.

"Hard grayish tan mortar. Relatively small, uniform sized aggregate and limestone inclusions. Fine, brown sand."

M01 described as "warm grey" and limestone not mentioned in M01 & M02. M03 described as having more limestone than M02, Hardness not discussed for M04 but it is described as "like M05". M06 described as moderately soft.

All cellar mortar (M01-M012) except M9 & M10 employ the same fine grain brown sand, probably taken from Pidcock's Creek.

M9 is from the empty pocket on the south wall and M08 is opposite it in the south wall of the fireplace mass.

M12 appears to represent rebuilding the cellar wall. M11 & M12 do not support Brumbaugh's theory that the south wall was extended upward to support a raised floor in unit "B". There is no horizontal mortar line with mortar like M12 used above, and mortar like M01-M08 used below. M11, which is ABOVE M12 matches the majority of the cellar (M01-M08),

Appendix III: Extended Extracts of the John Pidcock Court Cases.

The Proposed Mortgage from Edward Hunlocke

CPT did not see the 12th day 10th month 1690 mortgage request between John Pidcock and Edward Hunlocke in "*The Records of the Courts of Quarter Sessions and Common Pleas of Bucks Co. Pennsylvania*". Cases are run together in the court books and appear to be repeated and / or carried over in several entries, so I may have missed it. I am very wary of records where month and date appear to be transposed when compiling records from several books with transcriptions of old court proceedings, especially if they are two months apart (because of the Gregorian calendar 2 month date shift).

"*The Records of the Courts of Quarter Sessions and Common Pleas of Bucks Co. Pennsylvania*" p. 246 reads:

"A deed of Mortgage of 400 acres of land by John Pidcock grantor to Edward Hunlock Grantee dated the 10th of the 12th mo: 1690 with a Schedule thereunto annexed was tendered in open Court by sd Hunlock to Said Pidcock to be acknowledged according to law in open Court wch Said Pidcock refused to do without Shewing any Cause for his so refusing."

The Altercation with James Verier witnessed by William Smith

William Smith: 1698 March 8: Grand Jury presented John Pidcock for beating and wounding James Verrier ... pleaded not guilty ... Jury William Paxson, Joseph Clows, Enoch Yardley, William Duncan, Stephen Beakes, Andrew Elliot (Elliot?), Henry Hudleston, Ruben Pownel, Jeremiah Langhorn, William Biles Jr., William Elliot, John Hough. Bill read as follows: We the grand Jury for the body of said County (Bucks) do present John Pidcock of the said county for that he the said Pidcock did on or about the 2i day of January last wilfully and maliciously in his own house violently assault knock down beate and abuse James Verier of the Said County mason so that his head was extreamply Swelled Cut and battered to the great hazard of his Life and very much to his damage... A true bill, Joshua Hoops foreman. Pleaded not guilty. "Jury returned and called over.

John Pidcock Called appeared.

verdict we find John pidcock guilty of the Crime whereof he stands Indicted.

It was therefore considered by the court that John pidcock should pay a fine of Ten shillings to the Governor and give security for his good abearing toward James Verier and all the kings subjects. "

(Records of the Courts of Quarter Sessions and Common Pleas of Bucks County Pennsylvania, p 371)

Settling the Estate of Thomas Bowman

"former Jdgmt of Court which he the said Hunlocke obtained agt the said Pidcock he had not performed neither to deliver the assets of Thomas Bowman deceased nor to pay the Court Charges and - therefore craved Execution agt the said Pidcock whereby the said Judgement may be fulfilled. Whereupon the Court ordered that Execution Issue agt the estate of the said John Pidcock for one pound eight shillings and ten pence half peny charges of Court and for all the bookes papers writings¹ or other Estate the said John pidcock hath got in his Custody of the said Thomas Bowman."

This exchange resulted in:

"An Attestation of John Bowns read in Court declaring the payment of three pounds to John Pidcock for the Sevice of negro will done in East Jersey after the decease of Thomas Bowman whose negro the Said will: was and the John pidcock not making it appear to the Court that he hath paid the Said 3 £: to Edward Hunlocke Administrator of the Said Bowmans Estate.

Wherefore it was Considered by the Court that the Said Edward Hunlocke Shold recover the Said 3 £ of the Said John Pidcock according to a former Judgmt of this Court which sd Hunlocke obtained agt the sd Pidcock being assets in his hands of the sd Bowmans Estate Except Eleven Shillings¹ which appeared to the Court the sd Pidcock had Layd out in Shooes and stockings for the sd negro and that he have Exceution to Levie the Same on the goods & Chattles of the Said John Pidcock for the sum of 2£-9s"

Settling of the Simpson Estate

Although this court record is irrelevant to Pidcocks, it is included because it indicates there was some concern about Robert Thompson's administration and settlement of the Simpson estate, whose appraised value of £1144-11s-6½d shrank to £605.1.11 before it

was disbursed 12 years later. It suggests that the full value of the estate could not be realized because Simpson's debtors contested the debts and Robert Thompson was unable to collect. Robert Thompson was allowed to deduct the cost of educating his step children from the estate, but not the cost of raising and providing for them. During this period, Robert Thompson himself prospered and was able to build a 2 story stone addition to the house.

Orphan Court March 14, 1759

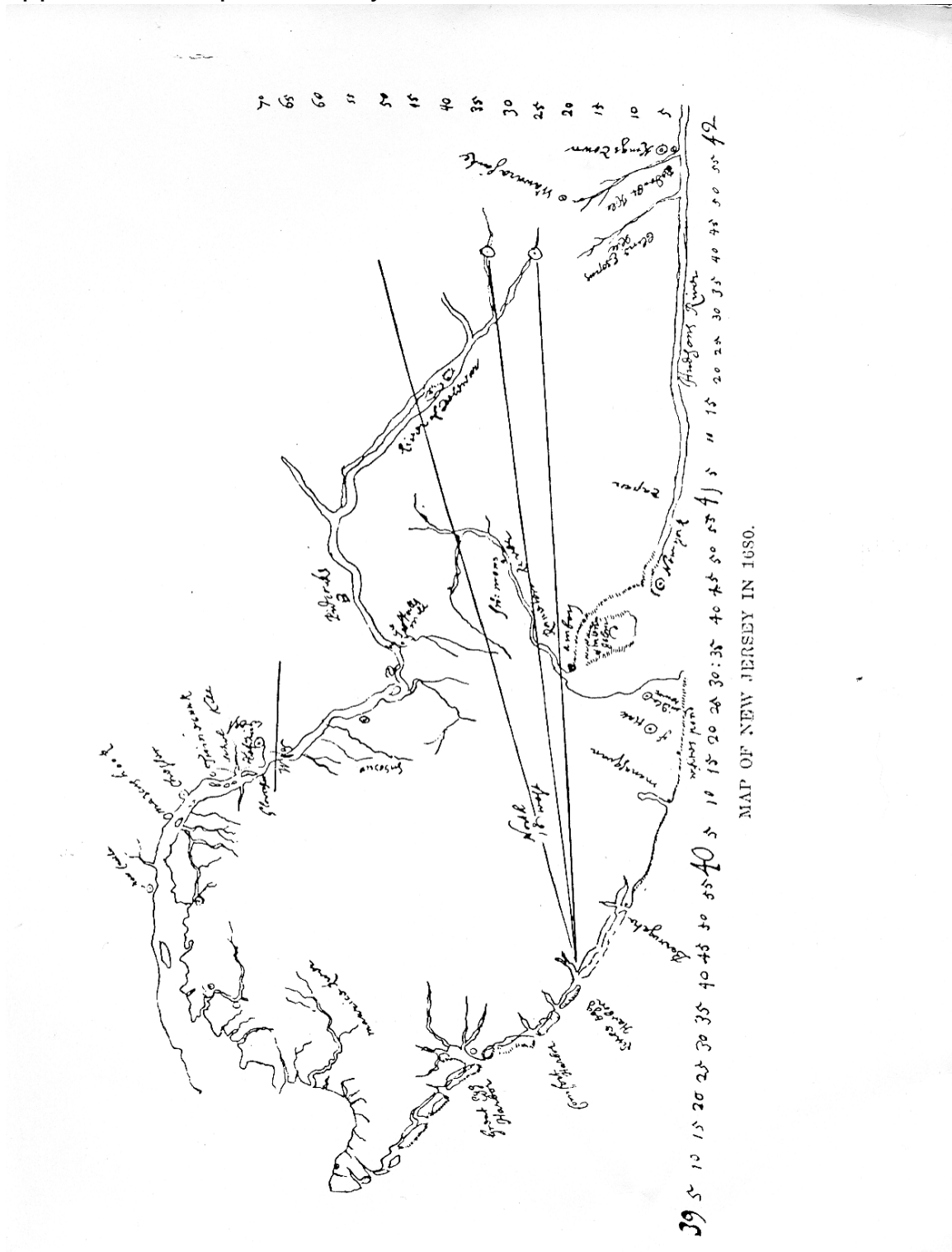
The person: the account of Robert Thompson, Administrator of John Simpson late of Solebury was referred at December Court 1757 (which has been continued till this Court) Now File an account stated and settled by them the 9th Instant whereby it appears there is a balance in the Administrator's hands of £605.1.11 But as in this account the estate has credit only for the Sum in the inventory and is charged with the outstanding and Desperate debts £112.16.11 And with £20.7.6 For the children's schooling. It is considered by the Court and ordered that the said administrator's accounts be again referred to the same men to wit George Ely, Jonathan Ingham and William Kitchen and that the said Administrators do Produce to them an Account of Sales of the Intestate's estate as well as an Office Copy of the Inventory and all that has come to his hands. And that the said Referees, Do examine and whether the several outstanding and ____ Debts were included in the Inventory or not. And Report the Particular names of the persons and some Did from Estate acknowledge, and it is likewise ordered that the same referees Do allow of no account the charges against the Intestate children, the Expense attending the bringing up of the children not being properly chargeable as an account of administration, But that the administrator may charge his expense to each child's particular account, who has occasioned the expense after distribution is made. And lastly it is Ordered that the referees report to the next court.

- Leut. Growden

A list of the Desperate Debts due to the Estate of John Simpson Deceased as appear by his old Books, Bonds, Bills as follows: £104.6.8

We on inspecting the foregoing names observed to Robert Thompson that there were some few among them that were responsible Men and queried why he had ranked them among desperate Debts. He answered such owe chiefly trifles and he had spoke with all he could and they had assured him they were nothing indebted to the estate. He further said he was doubtful whether anymore could be recovered. All which is Humbly submitted to the court by your friends Geo. Ely, John Ingham, Wm. Kitchen 6m 12 1759

Appendix V: Maps & Surveys



Map of New Jersey in 1680

W^m Penn
 in Chief of the Province of Pennsylvania & Territories thereunto annexed

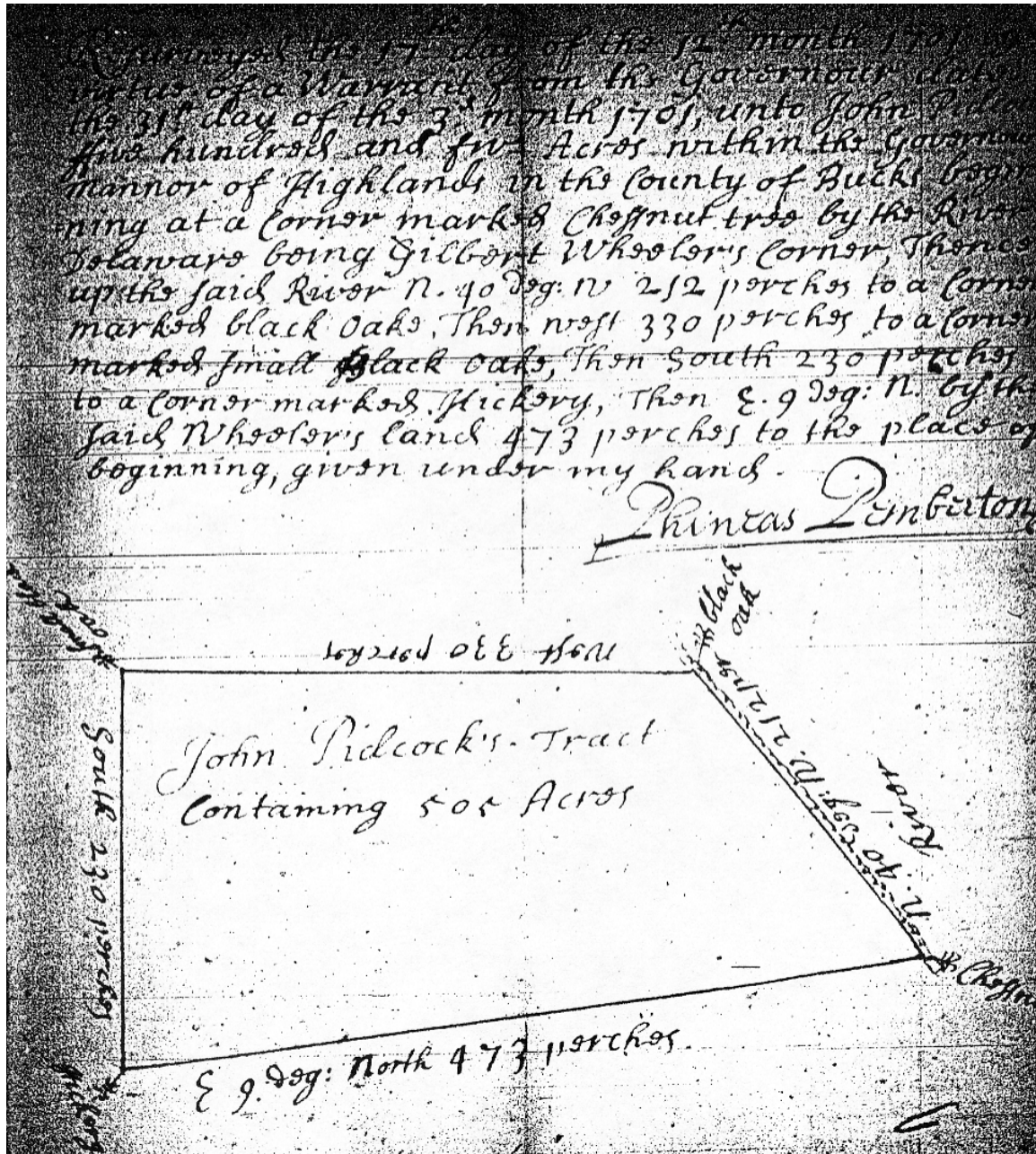
Whereas there is a certain parcel of Land situated within four hundred
 part of two hundred Acres laid out to Gilbert Wheeler a settler of Pennsylvania
 purchased within my Province of Highlands on which John Pidcock in whose name
 he now is has requested a Re-survey: This therefore we do require his followers
 to survey or cause to be surveyed the said tract of two hundred Acres according to
 the bounds and lines of survey and make Returns thereof into my Secretarys
 Office under my Seal and that at Newbury the 31st Day of 4th Moth 1744

Given under my hand and seal at Newbury the 31st Day of 4th Moth 1744
 W^m Penn
 Secy.

The Secy
 James Logan

This is hereby certified to the Surveyors
 of the Province of Pennsylvania & Territories thereunto annexed

Warrant of Re-survey signed by William Penn



Phineas Pemberton Survey of Pidcock Tract 1701

Appendix IV: "Chain of Title to the Pidcock Tract"

CPT supplied this section based on the "Chain of Title to the Pidcock Tract, Solebury Township, Bucks Co. PA" prepared by Dr. A. B. Fackenthal, Jr. with the assistance of the much respected researcher, Mr. Warren S. Ely, Genealogist, Member of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and Librarian of the Bucks County Historical Society. The purpose of the research appears to have been to establish that Robert Thompson's Mill could have sold flour to Washington's army because once that fact is established, the chain of Title is less thorough. The work was done prior to Dr. Fackenthal's Oct. 19, 1931 Historical address on the Thompson Neely House to the Bucks County Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution at the unveiling of their tablet placed on the Thompson-Neely House. The document is 6 typed, legal size pages. Copies are stored with the Pidcock Papers in the Spruance Library in Doylestown, PA. Footnote material from Wilson-Thompson Genealogy, pp166-7, a well respected historical account that the HSR quotes extensively.

March 4, 1681

King Charles II, granted the Province to William Penn, ESQ. By Royal Charter [to pay a £16,000 debt Charles owed his father, Admiral Penn]

August 21 and 24, 1682

Title confirmed to William Penn, Esq., by James, Duke of York, in two deeds.

July 13 and 14, 1681

William Penn of Worminghurst, County of Sussex, England, Esquire To

Thomas Rowland by Lease and Release

Warrant of Survey for two grants of land

No. 1 – 1,000 Acres

No. 2 – 1,500 Acres

[2 parcels in the Manor of the Highlands. Highlands were originally intended for Penn family use].

September 9, 1690

John Rowland, Heir at Law of Thomas Rowland, Deceased (Thomas Rowland died intestate) to Gilbert Wheeler, Yeoman

"For 500 acres, part of the above two several quantities and then to be located. In pursuances of which there were surveyed to Gilbert Wheeler a certain tract of land situated above the Falls of Delaware, and known by name of Win-ua-haw-caw-chunk, laid out for 400 acres."

Recorded in Bucks County, Deed book No. 1, p.383 & c.

May 31, 1701

Gilbert Wheeler to John Pidcock

"WHEREAS, there is a tract of land lying and being about the Falls of Delaware, and is part of 500 acres of land which John Rowland by Deed Poll bearing date the 9th day of 7th month 1690, did grant unto Gilbert Wheeler, which said land is called and known by the Indian name of Win-ua-haw-caw-chunk, and was laid

out to John Pidcock for 400 acres, which land the said John Pidcock hath seated and improved and is now in possession of him the said John Pidcock.”

Consideration Recorded in Bucks County, Deed book No. 3, page 41 &c

John Pidcock obtained a Warrant of Re-survey, and the tract was accordingly re-surveyed for him by Phineas Pemberton, **December 17, 1701**

It appears that no patent had been taken out by John Pidcock, therefore he must have taken squatters possession, and improved the property. This should have fully protected his title against any one, excepting only the Penns, but alas, as shown elsewhere herein, James Hamilton one of the parties interested in getting possession, was himself the Lieutenant Governor, and the direct representative of the Penns. Taking advantage of the tract not having been patented Robert Thompson, by some Modus Operandi, which does not appear, had the warrant transferred to certain Philadelphia and Bucks capitalists, viz: Hon. James Hamilton, Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania; Chief Justice William Allen; Lawrence Growden, Recorder of Bucks county; Langhorne Biles; William Plumstead and Joseph Turner.⁷⁵

July, 17, 1752 Warrant of Survey and **Jan 18, 1753** Return, signed by James Hamilton, granted a patent from Thomas & Richard Penn for the full 505 acres for the 440 acres from Rowland sale plus the 65 acres from **July 16, 1752** sale by Richard Peters of land formerly owned by Adian Vrosen, merchant from Rotterdam, Holland now deceased, to make up the full 505 acres in the Pidcock tract to William Coleman in trust for 6 Philadelphia & Bucks County capitalists : Lt. Gov. James Hamilton, Chief Justice William Allen, Lawrence Growden – recorder of Bucks Co., Langhorne Biles, William Plumstead & Joseph Turner. Rent = 1 shilling sterling/100 acres. [this is probably quit rent, a sort of real estate tax due to the crown].

John Pidcock II challenged these proceedings. The challenge was based on Phineas Pemberton's **March 12, 1701** survey made by virtue of a warrant from the gouvernour, dated **March 31, 1701** unto John Pidcock. It correctly locates the tract within the

⁷⁵ From Wilson-Thompson Genealogy, pp166-7: After the death of Simpson the quit rents were allowed to run into arrears, and on January 18, 1753, a patent was granted by the Proprietary Commissioners to William Coleman of Philadelphia, merchant, for the whole tract of 505 acres. The patent was however the culmination of a contract between a syndicate of prominent business men who were interested in securing mining privileges on the tract, copper ore having been mined thereon in a small way for a number of years. These men were Governor James Hamilton, Chief Justice William Allen, Lawrence Growden, Langhorne Biles, Joseph Turner and William Plumstead to whom William Coleman transferred the title to the whole tract on June 19, 1753, one day after the date of the patent, and they on the succeeding day, June 20, transferred the same to Robert Thompson, reserving to their use, however, "full and free liberty, license and authority to dig, search and work for copper ore, lead ore, iron ore and all other ores and minerals in and through any part of said premises and said ores there from time to time and at all times hereafter to be found and to have take carry away, and to convert to their own use and behoof (three full and clear fifth parts of all royal mines excepted and reserved to the proprietaries)" and "said grantors at all times to make reasonable satisfaction to the said Robert Thompson and his heirs for all damages which he or they shall suffer for by digging, searching for, getting, and carrying away such ore and working said mines, said damages to be valued by two indifferent persons mutually chosen."

Governour's Manor of Highlands in the County of Bucks and is signed Phineas Pemberton, who affixes no title to his name. This survey was returned, now with the following endorsement on the reverse side: "John Pidock Returne Received and Copied. This is of no use see another return made by John Watson"

1753 return: William Coleman in right of John Pidcock, 505 acres, Bucks County Returned &c. **7th June 1753**, see the Return on Record Warrant of **18 July 1752** No. Two hundred fifty three, William Pringdale Book A-64, Page 195 Draught of 504 acres, 100 perches of Land and Allowance at 6 per cent for Roads, &tc. Situate in the Township of Upper Makefield in the county of Bucks, Surveyed at the Request of Nicholas Scull, Surveyor General, **April 27, 1753** [signed] John Watson, Jr.

June 16, 1753

William Coleman of the City of Philadelphia, Merchant conveyed the above described tract by six separate deeds each for 1/6 of the 505 acre property to the 6 investors:

- 1 – Hon. James Hamilton)
- 2 – William Allen)
- 3 – Lawrence Growden) each deed for one-sixth of the
- 4- Langhorne Biles) property, as Tenants in Common
- 5 – William Plumstead)
- 6 – Joseph Turner)

These deeds were not recorded, but three of them: No. 3, 4, and 6 are at hand and are to be presented to the Washington Crossing Park Commission, [so presumably the park has the deeds to Growden, Biles and Turner. The Chain of Title contains a copy of the Growden deed].

June 19, 1753 the 6 investors convey the fee to Robert Thompson, reserving all mineral rights. This gives Robert Thompson a clear title that he can pass on to his direct descendents.

Although the Chain of Title follows the land ownership up to its acquisition by the State of Pennsylvania, once it establishes that the mill was in Robert Thompson's possession during the Revolutionary war, it is less rigorous. Some dates and the fact that Robert Thompson willed the house and mill to his grandson and namesake Robert Thompson Neely, not to his daughter, Elizabeth Neely and her husband William are omitted.

Dr. Fackenthal included his own interpretation of the facts in the Chain of Title. I have omitted these, preferring to record known facts and provide my own interpretation.

Based on these correlating facts:

1. Lack of existence of a deed of transfer from Pidcock to Simpson (at a time when this type of information was recorded)
2. John Pidcock II contesting the 1752 warrant of survey and patent to William Coleman

CPT surmises that Pidcock believed he still owned the land in 1752.

March 31, 1701 Warrant for Resurvey of John Pidcock's Land (one sided document)

William Penn, True and Absolute Proprietary & Governor in Chief of the Province of Pennsylvania & Counties Annexed;

Whereas there is a certain parcel of Land reputed to contain four hundred acres, part of the five hundred acres laid out to Gilbert Wheeler in right of Thomas Rowland, purchased within my Mannor of Highlands, on which John Pidcock in whose possession it now is has requested a Resurvey; These therefore are to require thee forthwith to Resurvey or cause to be resurveyed the said tract of four hundred acres according to the first bounds and lines of survey, and make Returns thereof into my Secretaries office;

Given under my hand and Seal at Pennsbury, the 31st of ye 3rd Month 1701,

[signed] William Penn
Edward Penington, Surveyor General of the Province of Pennsylvania & Territories

Upon the Surveyor General's Decease thou art required to execute this Warrant by a Copy thereof to be transmitted to thee by the Secretary and made Return to him,

[signed] Edward Shippen
[signed] Thomas Story
[signed] James Logan

This being largely discoursed of at Buckingham when [the] Rent was paid at their Request, I have passed this but desire the Govenour will be pleased to consider it.

1702 return of the re-survey of John Pidcock's tract of 505 acres (a one-sided document)

I do certify that by virtue of a warrant from the Proprietary and Governor dated the 31st of the 3rd month 1701, There is Returned into the General Surveyor's office the Resurvey of a parcel of Land Resurveyed to John Pidcock the 17th of the 12th month 1701, Certified by Phineas Pemberton which being Examined & Revised in the said office is as followeth, viz.:

Situate in the Manner of High Land in the County of Bucks, beginning at a Corner marked Chestnut tree by the River Delaware at Gilbert Wheeler's Corner, from thence extending up the said River North 40 degrees westerly two hundred and twelve perches to a Corner marked black oak. Thence west three hundred and thirty perches to a Small black oak, Thence South two hundred and thirty perches to a Corner Hickory, thence North eighty one degrees easterly by the said Wheeler's Land, four hundred seventy three perches to the place of beginning. Containing (505) five hundred and five acres.

Returned into the Secretary's office

The [] day of the [] Month 1702
Taylor

[signed] Jacob

May 31, 1701 Gilbert Wheeler conveys land to John Pidcock.

“Whereas, there is a tract of land lying and being about the Falls of Delaware, as is part of 500 acres of land which John Rowland by Deed Poll bearing date the 9th day of 7th month 1690, did grant unto Gilbert Wheeler, which said land is called and known by the Indian name of Win-ua-haw-caw-chunk, and was laid out to John Pidcock for 400 acres, which land the said John Pidcock hath seated and improved and is now in possession of him the said John Pidcock.

... with all buildings, gardens, ways, waters, watercourses. Consideration. (Bucks Co. Deed Book #3, p 41)

Dec 17, 1701 Resurvey done by Phineas Pemberton for John Pidcock, showed actually 505 acres. **1701/2 re-survey of John Pidcock's tract of 505 acres** (a two-sided document)

On the front:

Resurveyed the 17th day of the 12th month 1701 by virtue of a Warrant from the Govenour dated the 31st day of the 3rd month 1701, unto John Pidcock, five hundred and five Acres within the Govenour's Mannor of Highlands in the County of Bucks, beginning at a Corner marked Chestnut tree by the River Delaware, being Gilbert Wheeler's Corner, thence extending up the said River N 40 deg W 212 to a Corner marked black oak, thence west 330 perches to a Corner marked small black oak, thence south 230 perches to a Corner marked hickory, thence E 9 deg N by the said Wheeler's land, 473 perches to the place of beginning, given under my hand.

[signed] Phineas Pemberton

[map of re-surveyed land]

On the rear is the 1753 denial:

"67 William Brigdale GN John Pidcock's Return; revised and copied; this is of no use see another return made by John Watson; compared by Altenberg & Davis"

July, 17, 1752 Warrant of Survey and Jan 18, 1753 Return, signed by James Hamilton, granted a patent from Thomas & Richard Penn for the full 505 acres for the 440 acres from Rowland sale plus the 65 acres from July 16, 1752 sale by Richard Peters of land formerly owned by Adian Vrosen, merchant from Rotterdam, Holland now deceased, to make up the full 505 acres in the Pidcock tract to William Coleman in trust for 6 Philadelphia & Bucks County capitalists: Lt. Gov. James Hamilton, Chief Justice William Allen, Lawrence Growden – recorder of Bucks Co., Langhorne Biles, William Plumstead & Joseph Turner. Rent = 1 shilling sterling/100 acres.

April 27, 1753 Survey done by John Watson, Jr for Nicholas Scull, Surveyor Genl erroneously places tract in Upper Makefield. The reverse side says “ William Coleman in right of John Pidcock – 505 Acres in Bucks county Returned & c 7th June 1753. See return on Record of Warrent of ye 18th July 1752. John Pidcock’s return of 505 ac in

Bucks County. Returned & c for ye use of wm. Coleman. See ye return on Record dated 7th June 1753.

No. Two hundred fifty three, William Pringdale
Book A-64, Page 195

Draught of 504 acres, 100 perches of Land and Allowance at 6 per cent for Roads, &c. Situate in the Township of Upper Makefield in the county of Bucks, Surveyed at the Request of Nicholas Scull, Surveyor General, April 27, 1753

[signed] John Watson, Jr.

June 16, 1753 William Coleman conveyed the tract by six separate deeds, each for 1/6 of the 505 acre property to the 6 investors. (Although these deeds were not recorded Washington's Crossing Park Commission has the ones to Growden, Biles & Turner and they spell out this whole arrangement)

John Pidcock II challenges these proceedings. The challenge is based on Phineas Pemberton March 12, 1701 survey made by virtue of a warrant from the gouvernour, dated March 31, 1701 unto John Pidcock. It correctly locates the tract within the Governour's Manor of Highlands in the County of Bucks and is signed Phineas Pemberton, who affixes no title to his name. This survey is returned, now with the following endorsement on the reverse side: "John Pidock Returne Received and Copied. This is of no use see another return made by John Watson".

Appendix V: Religious Life of Hannah Simpson Thompson family

Material from Friends Historical Library at Swarthmore, PA and the Presbyterian Historical Library in Philadelphia, PA

Hannah & John Simpson were married under the care of Abington Meeting in 1736.

They transfer from there to Wrightstown Meeting and in 1743 to Buckinham Meeting (no mention of children in the entry accepting the transfer).

No record of where Hannah and Robert Thompson were married in 1748.

From the minutes of the Women's Monthly Meeting held at Buckingham, Bucks County, PA:

2nd month 1748: " This meeting appoints Ellen Blackgasser and Pheby Smith to speak with Hannah Thomson formerly Hannah Simson concerning her disorderly marriage and make report then to next meeting."

10th month 1749: "At this meeting the misconduct of Hannah Thompson in her marriage came under consideration and she not appearing to make any satisfaction, therefore the meeting appoints the clerk to draft a testimony against her and bring it to next meeting for approbation."

11th month 1749: "At the meeting the clerk produced a testimony against Hannah Thomson which was left for a longer time."

1st Month 1749/50: "Hannah Thompson brought a paper of acknowledgement and condemnation for her outgoing in her marriage which was read and accepted".

So Hannah was NOT read out of meeting for her marriage with Robert Thompson. She remains active (she was appointed to a committee for clearness for marriage in 1764) and was a regular attender (because she was never listed as someone that folks have to go visit for lack of attendance),

Their daughter, Elizabeth (born 1748), married William Neely. Their marriage is recorded in th dutch Reform Church. Elizabeth was baptised into the Newtown Presbyterian Church as an adult on Nov. 9th 1790.

William and Elizabeth Neely signed the Quaker Marriage certificate of John Simpson, son of John & Ruth Simpson, and Mary Elizabeth Blackford on 12th day 10th month 1795. There was no problem with non-Quakers attending weddings. John Simpson was probably Elizabeth's nephew via her ½ brother John Simpson, son of Hannah and John Simpson.

Hannah and Robert Thompson are buried in the graveyard of Newtown Presbyterian Church where both Robert Thompson's brothers and son-in-law William Neely were trustees. Their grave stones are illegible now, but thanks to the Thompson-Wilson

genealogical information about the grave yard, you can find the graves and the grooves in the stone conform to their names.

When Solebury Presbyterian, the predecessor of Thompson Memorial Presbyterian was founded in 1811 William Neely was one of the 1st four elders. Another was Benjamin Pidcock.

Appendix VI: 1679 Description House along the Delaware

This early journal excerpt is included for its description of a timber house, along the Delaware in 1679.

THE FALLS OF THE DELAWARE IN 1679

In the course of their journey through New Jersey Dankers and Sluyter arrived at the Falls of the South River (the Delaware), on Friday, November 17, 1679, according to the date given in the *Journal*:

Resuming our route, we arrived at the falls of the South river about sundown, passing a creek where a new gristmill was erected by the quakers, who live hereabouts in great numbers, and daily increase. But it seems to us as if this mill could not stand long, especially if the flow of water were heavy, because the work was not well arranged. We rode over here, and went directly to the house of the person who had constructed it, who was a quaker, where we dismounted, and willingly dismissed our horses. The house was very small, and from the incivility of the inmates and the unfitness of the place, we expected poor lodgings. As it was still daylight, and we had heard so much of the falls of the South river, or, at least, we ourselves had imagined it, that we went back to the river, in order to look at them; but we discovered we had deceived ourselves in our ideas. We had supposed it was a place where the water came tumbling down in great quantity and force from a great height above, over a rock into an abyss, as the word *falls* would seem to imply, and as we had heard and read of the stalls of the North river, and other rivers. But these falls of the South river are nothing more than a place of about two English miles in length, or not so much, where the river is full of stones, almost across it, which are not very large, but in consequence of the shallowness, the water runs rapidly and breaks against them, causing some noise, but not very much, which place, if it were necessary, could be made navigable on one side. As no Europeans live above the falls, they may so remain. This miller's house is the highest up the river, hitherto inhabited. Here we had to lodge; and although we were too tired to eat, we had to remain sitting upright the whole night, not being able to find room enough to lie upon the ground. We had a fire, however, but the dwellings are so wretchedly constructed, that if you are not so close to the fire as almost to burn yourself, you cannot keep warm, for the wind blows through them everywhere. Most of the English, and many others, have their houses made of nothing but clapboards, as they call them there, in this manner: they first make a wooden frame, the same as they do in Westphalia, and at Altona, but not so strong; they then split the board of clapwood, so that they are like cooper's pipe staves, except they are not bent. These are made very thin with a large knife, so that the thickest end is about a pinck (little finger) thick, and the other is made sharp, like the edge of a knife. They are about five or six feet long, and are nailed on the outside of the frame, with the ends lapped over each other. They are not usually laid so close together, as to prevent you from sticking a finger between them, in consequence either of their not being well joined, or the boards being crooked. When it is cold and windy the best people plaster them with clay. Such are most all the English houses in the country, except those they have which were built by people of other nations. Now this house was new and airy; and as the night was very windy from the north, and extremely cold with clear moonshine, I will not

readily forget it. Ephraim and his wife obtained a bed; but we passed through the night without sleeping much.⁷⁶

⁷⁶ Journal of a Voyage, p. 172 reproduced in “A History of Trenton 1679-1929, 250 years of a Notable Town with links to Four Centuries”, The Trenton Historical Society, Volume. I

Appendix VII: Guide to Land Records and the Pidcock tract

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania posted this Guide at

<http://www.hsp.org/default.aspx?id=860>

It describes the land recording process in Pennsylvania in the 17th and 18th century. It is helpful in understanding

Brief History of the Land Purchase Process

The mass immigration of Europeans to the Americas in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries made the implementation of land laws and a patenting process one of the top priorities of William Penn's heirs. From 1732 to 1776, Penn's benefactors owned all of the unappropriated land in the Province of Pennsylvania and were responsible for its orderly disposal. The heirs of these lands were Penn's three sons, John, Thomas, and Richard, and Richard's sons, John and Richard. Lands inherited by the Penns were located in Bucks, Chester, Philadelphia, and Lancaster Counties. Along with this territory, they also inherited a land distribution system based upon proprietary principles and an obligation to continue the practice of purchase treaties with the Indians, which had been instituted by William Penn. The Penns encouraged rapid settlement of the colonies, adding to their territory multiple times through land purchases in 1749, 1754, and 1768, to make room for the influx of European immigrants that continued to come to this area during their proprietary period. With these purchases, their lands grew to include York, Cumberland, Berks, Northampton, Bedford, Northumberland, and Westmoreland Counties.

As proprietors, the young Penns had absolute authority to dispose of their lands. Using the Land Office and land distribution policies instituted by William Penn, they updated surveying procedures to accommodate as many settlers as possible from 1732 to 1765. Two categories of land were established to reflect land settlement up to that point: improved and unimproved land. During William Penn's proprietorship, much of the land settlement was never recorded formally so squatting on land was common practice. Land that had been settled under this policy was considered improved land. All other lands vacant were considered unimproved lands. In order to regulate the settling of their lands and to retrieve payment from squatters who settled before 1754, the Penns further updated the application system, which consisted of a series of documents including application, warrant, survey, and patent. These records documented the name of the person applying for the land, the number of acres desired, county and townships in which the land was located, and an actual drawing of the boundary lines. The Penns also appointed four proprietary agents to administer the application process. These agents were secretary of the Land Office, surveyor general, deputy surveyor, and receiver general, listed in the order that their services were utilized in the land surveying process.

The first step in the land purchase process, application, consisted of a brief letter from the purchaser submitted to the Land Office. Applicants were required to provide information on the number of acres, general location desired, and reason for the application. The applications were submitted to the secretary with the appropriate fee. The secretary then issued warrants and orders of survey to the surveyor general to have the land in question surveyed. Under the policies of the Commonwealth, applications became a more

formalized document but content in the applications changed little, except that land had to be specified as either improved or unimproved lands. Applications for improved land came to be known as entries.

Under the proprietorship of William Penn's sons, three types of warrants were issued compared to the one warrant to survey that was used under Penn's policy. These warrants include warrant to survey, warrant to accept a survey, and the warrant of entry. Warrants of survey are the most common type of warrant found in the documentary family collections. This document was granted to purchasers buying vacant unimproved land and was prepared by the secretary after an application was submitted. In most cases, warrants were issued to the surveyor general the same day that the application was submitted. Warrants list the person purchasing the land, the county and a general description of where the land was situated, property adjoining the land being surveyed, the purchase price (usually "15 pounds ten shillings for 100 acres and quitrent of one half penny sterling for every acre thereof."), and also the name of the deputy surveyor who would be ordered to complete the survey. Also stated are the terms of sale to be met within a given period, usually six months. These conditions remained the same under Commonwealth policies. After warrants were submitted to the surveyor general, an order to survey and the original warrant were sent to the deputy surveyor of the county listed on the warrant.

The deputy surveyor and his crew including axmen and chainmen, completed the surveys for lands being purchased. During the surveying process, axmen worked ahead of the surveying crew to clear trees and underbrush. Chainmen then measured distances by running horizontal lines along the ground according to directions given them by the deputy surveyor, who manipulated the compass. Survey maps were usually begun at a corner of an adjoining tract or at an obvious topographical feature. Tracts of land were measured along the ground, but corner markers were usually emblazoned on trees, preferably hardwoods such as hickory, chestnut, or oak. Stone piles and posts were also common land markers. Small depictions of trees or other markers are often included on survey maps. Under the policy of the Commonwealth, the diagram was also to include depictions of all streams, roads, railroads, canals, and a listing of township and county lines. In addition to landmarks, the surveyor also noted all adjoining owners and vacant lands on the map. Lines belonging to adjoining tracts that had already been surveyed were considered fixed and could not be adjusted. This information was imperative for preparing connected warrant tract maps.

Once the surveys were completed they were sent back to the surveyor general who checked the calculations to make sure that the acreage agreed with the warrant. An entire tract was to include six percent allowance for roads and highways, so that an acre actually included 169.6 square perches rather than the standard 160 square perches. An overplus of more than 10 percent of the land listed on the warrant was not permitted.

Interpreting Indentures

The back of the document will often indicate what type of indenture it is (deed, patent, mortgage, release, etc.) It may also list the names of the parties. On the front of the deed,

most of the important information will be near the top of the document. This typically includes the date, the names of the parties involved, the location of the tract of land, and the acreage. Occasionally names of decedents' estates or executors were also provided, and some deeds might include information about the property's previous ownership. Women's names were often recorded, especially when they were a member of the party selling the property. Including them on the deeds ensured that their dower rights were transferred with the land. In some instances when they're not named in the indenture, there will be a portion at the end where a woman will sign away her right to the land.

The middle of the document often restates the location of the tract of land and the acreage. Any other aspects of the property that are included in the transfer (buildings, mills, messuages) are typically mentioned in this section. Payment information is usually provided as well, and if the indenture is a mortgage, the specific terms of repayment will be stated.

Deeds could be transferred to subsequent owners, and these transfers of property are sometimes noted on the back. These transfers are official and can be considered a separate transaction. In addition to transferring property, deeds could also be used to transfer estate rights, rights to live on a property, water rights, and mining/mineral rights. (See **Other Resources**)

*County and township lines shifted over time, so a piece of land that was once in one township could now be in another (or even be in a different county). It is important to not try to translate the township and/or county name into its current location.

Legal Glossary

Application

A request for land, usually a certain amount in a particular place

Brief of title

A document tracing the history of a certain property. Briefs of title summarize information contained in deeds and other records and may cover a very extensive period of time. Briefs of title are not official records and could have been created by anyone interested in or associated with the property. They are not recorded in the Commonwealth or City office.

Conveyance

Synonymous with deed

Deed

1. A signed and usually sealed instrument containing some legal transfer, bargain, or contract.
2. Evidence of a person's legal ownership.

Deed of Ejectment

Removal of a right to be on a property

Deed of Partition

The grantor dividing up the land to sell, or the grantor selling to a group of people who will then divide it amongst themselves.

Deed Poll

A deed made by one party, in which the rights of the grantor are transferred to the grantee.

Fee Simple

Indicates that the fee was paid completely (no mortgage)

Freehold

An estate for life or in fee. A right or title to land.

Headright system

The most common method of obtaining land during the 17th and early 18th century was the "headright." The system was designed so as to encourage emigration. Each individual who paid for the transportation costs of an emigrant received 50 acres of land. For someone to receive a patent through the headright system they would have to petition the county court for a "certificate of importation." The certificates were then recorded in the county court minute books. These certificates established relationships, approximate arrival time in the Colony and the locality in which the emigrant settled in. Once the individual had obtained the certificate of importation he took it to the Secretary of the Colony who then issued a "right" of 50 acres per headright. The "right" was then taken to a county surveyor where a plat and map was drawn along with the measurements. Once the survey was completed, the papers were returned to the Secretary of the Colony and a patent was issued. The issuance of the patent however was conditional:

Condition 1: annual payment to the Crown of 1 shilling for each 50 acres owned

Condition 2: within a three year period a house to be built and stock to be kept or the cultivation of at least 1 acre of land.

Husbandman

Farmer

Indenture

1. any deed, contract, or sealed agreement between two or more parties.
2. (formerly) a deed drawn up in duplicate, each part having correspondingly indented edges for identification and security.

Lease/Release

Holdover from the English way of selling land. A lease would be created for the lessee, and a release was made very shortly thereafter (often the next day), in which the grantor released all of his rights to the land. After the Penn period releases more frequently refer to heirs releasing their rights to be on the deceased's land. This enables them to receive a portion of the value of the land, instead of the land itself.

Mortgage

An indenture using the same language as a deed, but that stipulates projected due dates for payments

Patent

The final deed from the proprietor or the state passing clear title of a property to its initial purchaser.

Proprietary Share of Burlington, NJ

Quitrent

A rent payable by a freeholder or copyholder to his lord that released him from liability to perform services.

Return of Survey

Written restatement combining the warrant and survey and signifies that the purchase price and all fees have been paid.

Survey

The actual process of going upon the land, measuring and marking the courses and distances, and drawing a tract diagram.

Vendue Public sale or auction

Warrant

A written order to survey and usually restates the amount and location requested in the application.

Yeoman

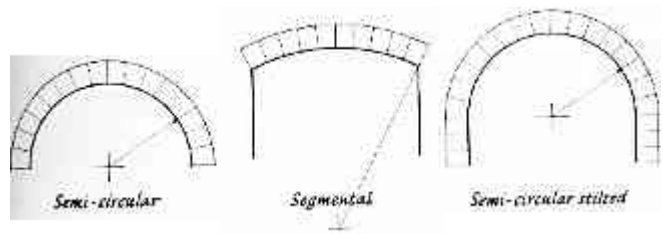
A common man, or one of the commonly of the first or most respectable class; a freeholder; a man free born. A landed person

Glossary of Architectural Terms

Sources:

1. "Illustrated Dictionary of Historic Architecture", Cyril M. Harris, editor, Dover Publications edition, 1983
2. "Illustrated Glossary of Architecture 850-1830", John Harris & Jill Lever, Faber & Faber Ltd, London, 1969
3. "Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary"
4. Vernacular House Forms in 17th century Plymouth Colony, The Plymouth Colony Archive Project, <http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/users/deetz/Plymouth/folkhouse.htm>
5. www.online.spsu.edu/~janets/vocabula.htm
6. www.delawarequarries.com/glossary.html

Arch – A curved structure formed of wedge-shaped blocks of brick or stone held together by mutual pressure and supported only at the sides. **Segmental Arch** – the segment of a semi-circle drawn from centre below the springing line, the point at which an arch rises from its support (ref. 2)



Ashlar – Squared hewn stone laid in regular courses with fine joints. (ref. 2) also called "cut stone" (ref. 6)

Ashlar Masonry – Masonry composed of rectangular units of burnt clay or shale, or stone, generally larger in size than brick and properly bonded, having sawn, dressed, or squared beds and joints laid in mortar (ref. 1)

Baseboard – A board situated at or forming the base of something: specifically a molding covering the joint of a wall and the adjoining floor.

Batten / Baton / Batoon – a) A narrow strip of wood applied to cover a joint along the edges of two parallel boards in the same plane. b) A strip of wood fastened across two or more parallel boards to hold them together. (ref. 1)

Bead – A small convex molding (ref. 2)

Beam – A horizontal member carrying a load (ref. 2)

Bevel – The angle that one surface makes with another when they are not at right angles (ref. 3)

Box - enclosed

Bulk-head – A projecting framework with a sloping door giving access to a cellar stairway or shaft. (ref. 3)

Butt Joint- An external corner formed with the meeting of 2 square edged stones, either one overlapping the other. (ref. 6)

Casing – a) The exposed trim molding, framing, or lining around a door or window; may be either flat or molded. B) Finished millwork, of uniform profile, which covers or encases a structural member such as a post or beam. (ref. 1) **Articulated**, as in "articulated casing" to unite by means of a joint (ref. 3)

Chamfered – a) A bevel or cant such as a small splay at the external angle of a masonry wall. B) a wavy molding c) a groove or furrow, d) an oblique surface produced by beveling a edge or corner, usually 45 ° angle, as the edge of a board or masonry surface. (ref. 1)

Cheek – A narrow upright face forming the end or side of an architectural or structural member, or one side of an opening.

Chevron – A zig-zag moulding. (ref. 2)

Chimney breasts aka breasts (spelling in HSR) – The projection in a room, containing fireplace and flues (ref. 2). A projection into a room of fireplace walls forming the front portion of the chimney stack (ref. 1)

Cornice - A cornice is the molded and projecting horizontal member that crowns an architectural composition. Any moulded projection which crowns or finishes the part to which it is fixed e.g. a wall, door or window (ref. 1 & 2). The exterior trim of a structure at the meeting of the roof and wall.

Course – Continuous level range of brick or masonry throughout a wall (ref. 30)

Double pile house - A house two rooms deep (ref 4)

Dressed Stone – Stone that has been worked to a desired shape: the faces to be exposed are smooth; usually ready for installation (ref. 1), Worked and finished stones used on any elevational treatment. (ref 2)

Eave – The lower edge of a sloping roof; that part of a roof of a building that projects beyond the wall (ref.1)

Fascade / Façade – The face or front of a building.(ref. 2)

Federal Style – In the U.S.A. the Classical Revival style from ca. 1790-1830 (ref. 1)



Fieldstone – An uncut, well-rounded stone such as found in a field (ref. 6)

Fire box – a chamber that contains a fire (ref. 3)

Flag stone – A hard, evenly stratified stone that splits into flat pieces suitable for paving (ref. 3)

Flashing – Sheet metal used tin waterproofing roof valleys or hips or the angle between a chimney and a roof. (ref. 3)

Fluted / Fluting / Flutes – The vertical grooves on the shaft of a column, pilaster or other surfaces. (ref. 2)

Frieze – That part of an entablature between architrave and the cornice or any similar decorative band or feature (ref. 2)

Gable – The vertical triangular portion of the end of a building having a double-sloping roof, from the level of the cornice or eaves to the ridge of the roof (ref. 1)

Garret – a) Space within a roof structure; sometimes called an **attic**. B) A room, usually with sloping ceilings, just beneath the roof of a house. (ref. 1)

Hearth – The floor of a fireplace (usually brick, tile, stone) together with an adjacent area of fireproof material (ref. 1)

Jamb – The vertical side of a doorway, window, archway or fireplace opening (ref. 2)

Joint:

Mortise – A hole, groove, or slot into which some other part of an arrangement of parts fits or passes; esp. a usually rectangular cavity cut into a piece of timber to receive a tenon (ref. 3)

Tenon – A projecting member in a piece of wood or other material for insertion into a mortise to make a joint (ref. 3)



Joist – One of a several parallel beams upon which floor boards or ceiling laths are fastened (ref. 2). One of a series of parallel timber beams used to support floor and ceiling loads, and supported in turn by larger beams, girders, or bearing walls; the widest dimension is vertically oriented (ref. 1).

Lath – A thin narrow strip of wood nailed to rafters, joists, or studding as a groundwork for slates, tiles or plaster.

Lintel – A horizontal structural member (such as a beam) over an opening which carries the weight of the wall above it; often of stone or wood. (ref. 1). The horizontal member that spans an opening (ref. 2)

Loft – Unceiled space beneath a roof, often used for storage

Mantel – The shelf above a chimney piece (ref. 2)

Molding – A member of construction or decoration so treated as to introduce varieties of outline or contour in edges and surfaces. (ref. 1)

Mortar – A plastic building material (as a mixture of cement, lime, or gypsum plaster with sand and water) that hardens and is used in masonry or plastering (ref. 3).

Mortar bed – A troweling layer of mortar, in a [lastic state on which building units will be set. (ref. 6)

Nailer - not found in these dictionaries

Opalet – not found in these dictionaries

Outlooker – A member which projects and supports that part of the roof construction beyond the face of a gable (ref. 1)

Palaster (spelling in HSR) / Pilaster – A rectangular column projecting slightly from a wall (ref. 2)

Parge coat– A thin coat of cement plaster applied to a masonry wall for refinement of the surface or for damp-proofing (ref. 5)

Pediment – a) In classical architecture, the triangular gable end of the roof above the horizontal cornice. b) **In later work**, a surface used ornamentally over doors or windows; usually triangular but may be curved (ref. 1).

Plate – a) In wood frame construction, a horizontal board or timber connecting and terminating posts, joists, rafters, etc. b) A timber laid horizontally (and on its widest side) in a wall or on top of a wall or on the ground to receive other timbers or joists. (ref. 1)

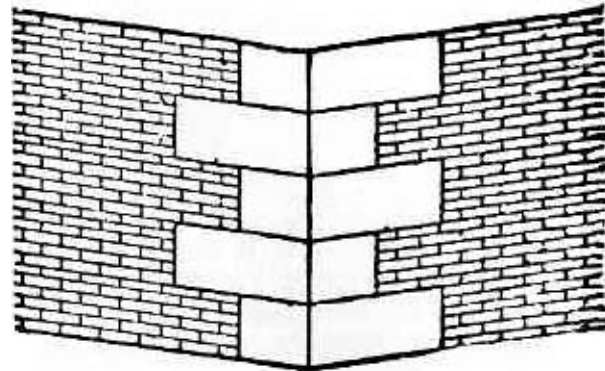
Pointed work – In masonry the rough finish which is produced by a pointed tool on the face of a stone. (ref. 1)

Pointing / Repointing – a) In masonry, the final treatment of joints by the troweling of mortar or a putty-like filler in the joints. B) The material with which joints are filled. (ref.

1). The mortar finish to brick jointing. In old brickwork, the replacing of decayed mortar with new.

Punch & Gouge work – not found in these dictionaries

Quoin / coin / coign – a) The corner of a building, b) The stones or bricks which form the corner of a building, c) a wedge (ref. 1). The external angles of a building and the rusticated or otherwise emphasized stones applied to the angles. (ref. 2). In masonry, a hard stone or brick used, with similar ones, to reinforce an external corner or edge of a wall or the like (ref. 1)



Rabbet / rebate – a) A longitudinal channel, groove, or recess cut out of the edge or face of a member; esp. one to receive another member, or one to receive a frame inserted in a door or window opening, or the recess into which glass is installed in a window sash (ref. 1). A groove cut on the edge of a board to receive the edge of another board, specifically for doors and windows (ref. 2).

Rafter – One of a series of inclined members to which a roof covering is fixed. (ref. 1)

Riser – In a staircase, the vertical part between the two treads of the stair (ref. 2).

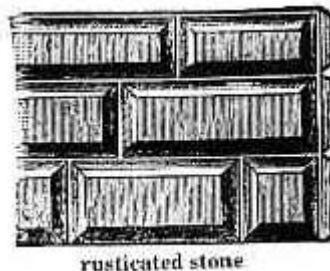
Roof Trusses – A structural support of a roof (ref. 1)

Rubble Masonry – Walls made with rough uncut stones (ref. 2) Rough stones of irregular shapes and sizes; used in rough, **uncoursed** work in the construction of walls, foundations and paving.

Coursed Rubble - is built in regular layers or courses of uniform height.



Rusticated – A mode of building masonry, in which the individual blocks or courses of stone are emphasized by deeply recessed joints, and often by a roughened surface (ref. 2).



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Sandwich – to insert or enclse between two things of another quality or character (ref. 3)

Sash – Any framework of a window; may be movable or fixed; may slide in a vertical plane (as in a double hung window) or may pivot (as in a casement window) (ref. 1). A glazed wooden frame, made so as to slide up and down by means of pulleys. A sash window is a double hung vertically sliding sash (ref. 2).

Shake – Any thick, hand-split shingle or clapboard, usually edge-grained; formed by splitting a short log into tapered radial sections (ref. 1)

Shingle – Thin rectangular pieces of wood, with one end thicker than the other, used as roofing tiles (ref. 2)

Sill / cill– a) A horizontal timber, at the bottom of the frame of a wooden structure which rests on the foundation. (ref. 1). The horizontal base of a door or window frame. The threshold of a door (ref. 2).

Summer Beam – a) A horizontal beam supporting the ends of floor joists or resting on posts and supporting the wall above. B) any large timber or beam which serves as a bearing surface. [Term used in Brumbaugh report to describe the central beam in “B0”.]

Tenon – A projecting member in a piece of wood or other material for insertion into a mortise to make a joint (ref. 3)

Transom – A horizontal member dividing a window (ref.2), a) A horizontal bar of wood or stone across a window. B) The cross-bar separating a door from the fanlight above it. C) a window divided by a transom bar (ref. 1)

Tread – In a staircase, the horizontal part of a step. (ref. 2)

Trim – The lighter woodwork in the finish of a buildings especially around openings (ref. 3)

Underpin – To form part of, strengthen or replace the foundation (ref. 3)

Water Table / Weathering – An inclined surface on top of a projection such as a cornice, sill or the offsets of a buttress, to throw off rainwater. Sometimes called a water table or off-set (ref. 2)

White Wash – Lime and water mixture for whitening a surface. (ref. 3)

Winder steps – A step, more or less wedge-shaped, with the tread wider at one end than the other, as in a spiral stair (ref.1)

Window stool – A narrow shelf fitted across the lower part of the inside of a window opening. (ref. 6)