



Parking Lot: 71 Somerset Street, Somerville (parking lot located across from Circle Floors).

Restrooms: Located adjacent to the office.

Open

Wednesday to Saturday:

10 a.m. - Noon & 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Sunday: 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Closed

All state and federal holidays (and all Wednesdays following Monday or Tuesday holidays.) Visitors are encouraged to confirm site hours. Reservations are required for all groups of 10 or more people.

Admission

Free

Facilities for People with Disabilities

The site is partially accessible for people with disabilities. For further information regarding disability access, please contact the site. Text telephone (TTD) users, please call the New Jersey Relay Service at (800) 852-7899.

For Your Safety, Comfort and Enjoyment:

Please enjoy the site responsibly. Smoking, food and beverages are not permitted in historic buildings. Handling of artifacts, interior photography or other media recording are not permitted. Your cooperation will help ensure the survival of the museum collections for the enjoyment and education of future generations.



For Further Information:

The Wallace House
71 Somerset Street
Somerville, NJ 07886
Phone: (908) 725-1015

The Wallace House



"By late accounts from New Jersey, we are informed that General Washington's headquarters were at Mrs. Wallace's, about twelve miles from New Brunswick."

*-Royal Gazette dated New York,
December 19, 1778*

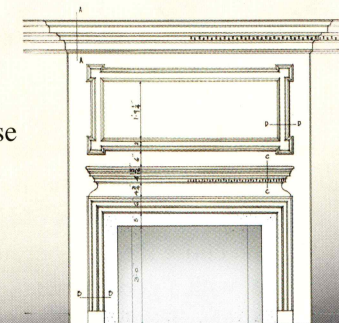
A New Jersey State Historic Site

Administered by
NJ Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Parks and Forestry

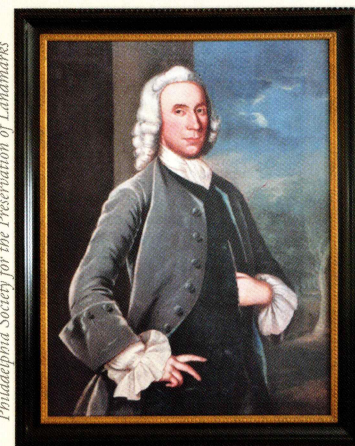
State Park Service
www.njparksandforests.org

The Wallace House

John Wallace completed his home along the banks of the Raritan River in the autumn of 1776. He called the property "Hope Farm" and planned to use it as his wartime place of retirement. Built in the Georgian style, the house reflects a symmetrical design and has a gable roof, two interior chimneys on the main wing, five-bay facade, paneled entrance doors and four commodious rooms on the first and second floors. A kitchen wing adjoins the east end of the main structure.



The Wallaces



John Wallace, 1751 by John Hesselius

John Wallace was the son of The Reverend Mr. John Wallace, a Presbyterian Minister of Drumellier, on the Tweed, Tweeddale, Scotland and his wife, Christian Murray. Born in 1717 at his father's Manse, he emigrated to Newport, Rhode Island in 1742. He eventually settled in Philadelphia where he became a wealthy fabric importer of textiles and sundry dry goods.

In 1749, Wallace married Mary Maddox, daughter of a very prominent Philadelphia family. They had three children – Joshua, Ann and William. Joshua and William were civic minded and became active in politics - serving as members of the State Legislature. Ann Wallace married John Hardenbergh, son of The Reverend Jacob and Dinah Hardenbergh, owners of the original plot of land upon which the Wallace House is built.

Common Pleas for the County of Barren
Mary Wallace, 1751 by John Hesselius
and the Reverend Mr. John Wallace, a Presbyterian Minister of Drumellier, on the Tweed, Tweeddale, Scotland and his wife, Christian Murray. Born in 1717 at his father's Manse, he emigrated to Newport, Rhode Island in 1742. He eventually settled in Philadelphia where he became a wealthy fabric importer of textiles and sundry dry goods.
Upon their deaths, their youngest son William inherited the property. After his death in 1796, the farm lay unused by the family. His brother Joshua eventually sold the property in 1801. Several families owned the farm over the next century, but in 1897 the Revolutionary Memorial Society purchased it. In 1947 they gave the property to the State of New Jersey.
Mary Wallace, 1751 by John Hesselius



General Washington Takes up Residence

In the winter of 1779, General George Washington's Continental Army stayed at Middlebrook on and near the Watchung Mountains, within six miles of Hope Farm. Washington chose the area because it was defensible, with a good network of roads, plenty of timber for the soldiers' huts and a sympathetic populace. However, the area had few dwellings suitable for The Commander in Chief's headquarters. Because John Wallace had the largest house in the area, he was asked to share his home with Washington and his staff. After agreeing on terms of compensation, Wallace consented to share his home. His house became Washington's headquarters for the next six months.

After spending 11 days at his new headquarters, Washington left for Philadelphia to report to Congress for six weeks. When he returned to the Wallace House in February 1779, his wife Martha, aides and servants accompanied him. The General and his staff kept busy by hosting American and foreign dignitaries, preparing



Independence Hall, Philadelphia

dinner parties and planning strategies for the upcoming spring military campaign. It was at the Wallace House that Washington and his staff planned the successful 1779 campaign against the Iroquois League, fierce allies of the British.

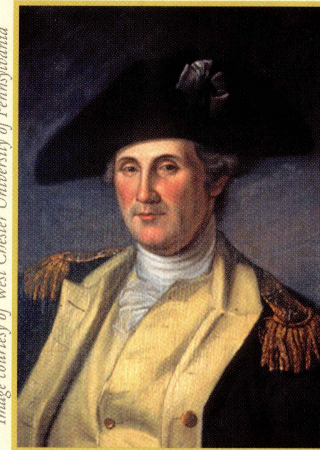
Camp broke on June 3, 1779 and Washington, upon his departure, paid John Wallace \$1,000 for the use of his house and furniture.

Special Events

Throughout the year, visitors can enjoy a variety of special events, including period music and dance performances, open hearth cooking demonstrations, agricultural and domestic history programs, private group evening tours and a variety of Christmas programs.



Middlebrook 1778-79: A Forgotten Cantonment



*George Washington, 1781
by Charles Willson Peale*

When cold weather arrived in November of 1778, General Washington and his troops ceased their campaigning. The main army marched to Somerset County, New Jersey, where they would spend the next six months. At several locations near the village of Bound Brook, the army built huts and settled in. Because most of the troops were in the vicinity of a stream called the Middlebrook, the entire cantonment bore that name.

The Middlebrook Cantonment, although generally neglected by historians, was a successful and memorable winter for the American army. Chosen for its available drinking water, timber, firewood and good defensive position, Middlebrook was a major improvement over the previous disease-ridden winter at Valley Forge. Thanks to a revamped and orderly approach to "hutting," very few men lost their lives from sickness.

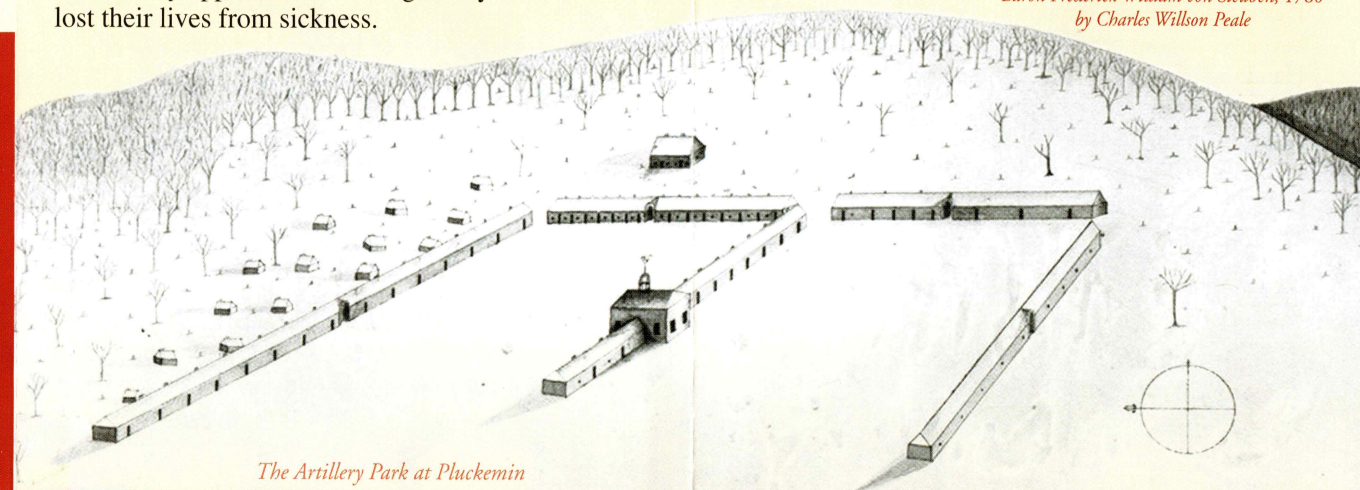
The troops were reasonably well fed and supplied, while the training administered by General Steuben continued to mold them into a disciplined, professional army. In addition, over 26,000 freshly arrived uniforms from France vastly improved the men's martial appearance.

The Artillery Park at Pluckemin featured a sophisticated complex of permanent structures under the command of General Henry Knox. The focal point of the Artillery Park was an academy building for training officers—the first military academy of the United States.

On June 3, 1779 the Continental Army broke camp at Middlebrook and moved north to resume active campaigning. The following winter would find them staying again in New Jersey at a place where troops would experience the worst winter weather of the War, Jockey Hollow.



*Baron Frederick William von Steuben, 1780
by Charles Willson Peale*



The Artillery Park at Pluckemin