



## Allen House Tour Outline

**GOAL:** To present to visitors a taste of typical tavern and public in late 18<sup>th</sup> century Monmouth County.

- I. **Introduction** [to be done outside, weather permitting, after greeting the people at front door]
  - A. History of inhabitants
    1. Built in 1710 by Manhattan businessman Richard Stillwell and his wife Mercy Sands as their country retreat.
    2. Josiah and Zilpha Halstead bought property in 1754 and used as a tavern, “The Blue Ball”.
    3. Josiah made several improvements to house to accommodate overnight patrons.
- II. **1710 Kitchen**
  - A. This wing was built in 1754 by Josiah
    1. Needed a “commercial” kitchen for tavern cooking. Hence, 2 beehive ovens.
    2. Large hearth fireplace
    3. Located right off of the tap room.
    4. Had slaves and indentured servants as help.
    5. Loft above probably used by the slaves or servants as their sleeping quarters.
  - B. Dutch features
    1. large beams, low ceiling
- III. **Tap Room**
  - A. Visitors relax at:
    1. Mismatched tables and chairs.
    2. Drank rum and ales brought in from NY or locally made apple jack.
    3. Dutch influence: split front door.
    4. Playing cards or conducting business at tables.
    5. Used ceramic mugs and redware or pewter plates.
  - B. Bar is located in this room.
    1. Not the original bar. Not sure of original location or style.
    2. Being able to lock up the liquor was a common practice.
- IV. **Meeting Room**
  - A. Multipurpose room, used for conducting business and holding circuit court.
  - B. Also used by Christ Church vestry meetings and other various local government meetings.
  - C. Style is more refined than tap room, contains Windsor chairs.
- V. **The Stairs**
  - A. More specialized use of rooms in home of well-to-do:  
sleeping and entertaining small groups in best bedroom on first floor
  - B. Architectural detailing similar to parlor, but with cupboards built into fireplace surround
  - C. Bed hangings could take as much as 50 yards of fabric
  - D. Furniture: high chest of drawers and dressing table made in Middletown and belonged to Taylor family