

Holmes-Hendrickson House

of Monmouth County Historical Association

Constructed in the Year 1754

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By way of INTRODUCTION...

Welcome to Holmes-Hendrickson House! This unique house is set in beautiful Holmdel, NJ, once known as Pleasant Valley. Built in 1754, it is a combination of Georgian and Dutch vernacular architecture that borrowed cultural and architectural elements from both Dutch and English settlers. William Holmes, the youngest son of Jonathan Holmes and Teuntje Hendrickson, purchased land from his parents in 1752. During the brief time he owned the land, William built the house in 1754 in addition to other improvements to the property and then sold it to his cousin Garret Hendrickson in 1756.

The house consists of several rooms that reflect the Georgian style of functionally distinct spaces, such as the BACK BEDROOMS, and the more multipurpose Dutch style represented in the GREAT ROOM and the FRONT PARLOR.

Garret Hendrickson operated a successful mixed-use farm, which raised livestock, such as horses, dairy cows, and pigs, and grew crops including barley and corn. Garret also raised sheep and planted flax for wool and linen.

Originally, the house stood just over a mile from its current location. In 1929, Bell Telephone Laboratories acquired the land and built their Holmdel office. The house was occasionally used for storage over the next 30 years. As the business grew and the need for another parking lot was realized, Bell Labs contacted Monmouth County Historical Association about the house, offering it to the association for the sum of \$1. In 1959, land near Holmdel Park was donated for the relocation of the house. In November 1959, the house was lifted from its original foundation and traveled to its new site on the back of a specially reinforced truck. Today, the house stands in the same orientation as its original location.

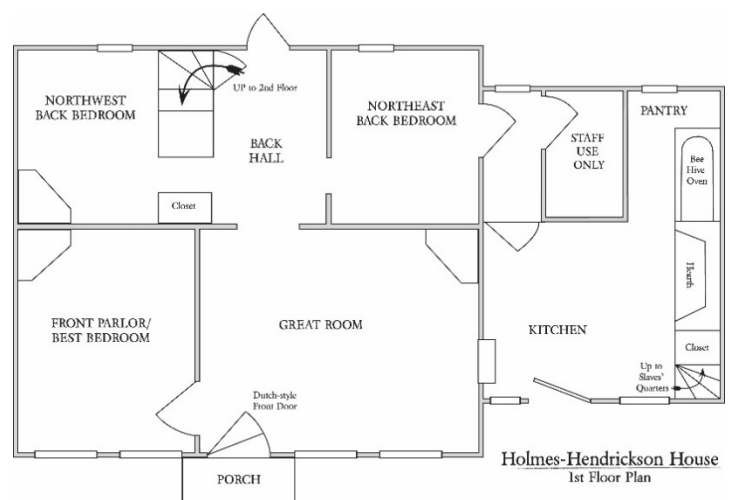
The house is the most unaltered of the Association's properties. Today, Garret Hendrickson would be sure to recognize his home immediately.

THE KITCHEN

As in any home today, the kitchen is the heart. It boasts a BEE HIVE OVEN, an open hearth with a CRANE for cooking, and displays items that were typically used by the families that lived in the house throughout the years. These items include: treen (wooden, from the tree) and pewter plates, horn cups, and polychromatic Delftware. There is also a staircase leading up to the slaves' quarters over the kitchen.

THE GREAT ROOM

The GREAT ROOM is a perfect example of the multifunctional Dutch style. It is a large open space with exposed wooden beams. The family would eat and entertain visitors in this room beside the fireplace. Several important items located in the room include a clock by Anthony Ward, the Dutch style cabinet known as a "kast" where family linens were stored, and a secretary desk. You can also see a typical Dutch door on the south side. Its purpose was three-fold – to keep the farm animals out of the house, to keep the small children in, and to provide additional light and air ventilation.



FRONT PARLOR

The FRONT PARLOR, now decorated as a guest bedroom, is also called the BEST BEDROOM. It contains everyday items as well as fine and colorful tin-glazed polychromatic Delftware, a linen press that is both English and Dutch style, a true looking glass, a man's shaving bowl, a curling iron for wigs, and a tea table with a birdcage mechanism for tilting and rotating. The women would often

entertain their friends in this bedroom separately from the men.

Note the amount of bedding used on the rope bed. Fabric and yard goods were very expensive in the 18th century and this was a way to show off wealth to visitors.

NORTHWEST BACK BEDROOM

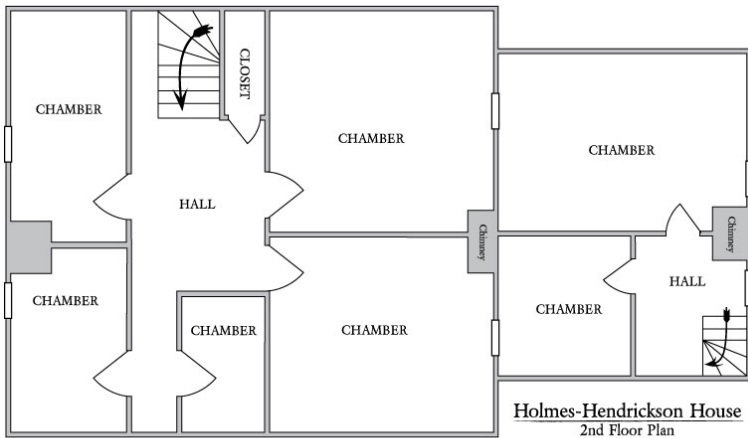
The NORTHWEST BACK BEDROOM contains an unusual bed called a Press bed, which folds up against the wall like today's Murphy beds. Other items include an infant's cradle, a foot warmer by the fireplace, a bed warmer, and tools to tighten the ropes on the beds. This room has the only closet in the house and it was used for privacy while dressing or as a late-night powder room. Another interesting object is the child's commode.

NORTHEAST BACK BEDROOM

In the NORTHEAST BACK BEDROOM, there is a men's sword chair with only a back and right arm. It also contains a Bible Box which held the family's Bible, a rope bed, and an adjustable candle holder. Note the in-the-wall linen storage – essentially a second closet – and that there is no fireplace in this room.

UPSTAIRS ROOMS

The four UPSTAIRS ROOMS are quite large and spacious with slanting walls, full-sized windows, and 7ft+ ceilings. These rooms, plus the two additional storage spaces, are thought to have been used for work and storage by Garret and his family rather than living spaces.



BASEMENT

The BASEMENT is not the original one, but mimics the original one that the house sat on. It is approximately 8ft deep and sectioned into smaller rooms, where the root vegetables and food stores would have been located. It also has a fireplace and may have been used as a summer kitchen during the hot summer months. It is a well-ventilated space to store milk pans and make cheese and butter.

THE FAMILY – WHAT WE KNOW

After Garret purchased the property, the house became a very busy, typically chaotic household full of children. At this time, he was married to his first wife, Catherine Denise, and had six children, five of whom survived childhood.

Approximately three years after her death in 1771, he married Helena VanLieu. They had five children during their 11-year marriage. Once again a widower, Garret married a third time to Nelly Smock in 1785.

Garret died in 1801, willing the farm to his oldest son Hendrick and to Nelly, who had the use “of the two back rooms of [his] dwelling” until her death in 1834.

Hendrick filled the house with nine children from his marriage to Phoebe Van Mater. In 1830, he turned over ownership to his two sons, Garret and Cyrenius. They then divided the farm in half with Cyrenius owning the portion where the house stood. In 1899, the property passed to Agnes Herbert and then her daughters in 1915

The house's last private owners, sisters Kate Herbert Kelly and Jean Herbert, sold the property to Bell Telephone Laboratories in 1929.

REVOLUTIONARY TIES...

On the snowy evening of February 8th, 1782, a raiding party of 40 British refugees, led by Lieutenant Stevenson, came ashore at Sandy Hook and proceeded westward, attacking farms along the way and carrying off prisoners, horses, and supplies. Garret Hendrickson's farm was on his path. Garret Hendrickson served as a First Lieutenant in the Monmouth militia. He lost the use of his right arm during a skirmish in June of 1780. Stevenson's raiders arrived at the Hendrickson farm and captured Garret, his brother Hendrick, and several others. Garret's son Hendrick and his friend William Thomson managed to hide themselves in the attic and escaped to the house of Captain John Schenck, who quickly assembled a rescue party. After a wild chase along snowy trails and a good deal of musket fire, the prisoners were rescued and the plunder recovered. The only fatality was William Thomson, Hendrick's young friend. The only other loss was Mrs. Hendrick's silk gown that was used by a raider to wrap a prize ham.

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