

51st Annual



Christmas
in
Greenwich

December 13th, 2020

CUMBERLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PO Box 16

Greenwich, New Jersey 08323

Email cchistsoc@verizon.net Website <http://cchistsoc.org>

VIDEO ONE:

JOSEPH DENNIS HOUSE – Circa 1690

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Flanagan

One of Cumberland County's oldest timber frame buildings is the Joseph Dennis House built circa 1690. Joseph Dennis was not the first builder/owner, but is the first person specifically mentioned as the owner in a 1749 survey. The house has a massive summer beam and all of the original framing was hand hewn which is typical of first period construction. The interior was not originally plastered, but had exposed clapboard and framing. In around 1820-1830, a north room was added for silk worm culture, popular at the time. Until the exhaustive research done by Joan Berkey in her book *Early Wood Architecture of Cumberland County, New Jersey* (from which the information in this paragraph is excerpted) the home was called The Silk House

VIDEO TWO:

NOAH FLANIGAN/THOMAS E. STATHEM, M.D. HOUSE – 1834

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Reinhart

Noah Harris Flanigan purchased 33 acres of land from Providence Sheppard on February 3, 1831, and built a three-story brick house in 1834, naming it Mount View. This house is a good example of the post-colonial period of architecture. Notice the original hardware, the four fireplace mantles and the original floorboards that span the width of the house upon which the walls were constructed. The exterior ornamental ironwork was added many years later by Thomas Ewing Stathem, M.D. You can note the name of the foundry "W CARNELL MAKER GLASSBORO NJ" cast on the upright of the top step. Dr. Stathem, a surgical doctor in the Civil War, died on July 10, 1891 and is buried in the cemetery of the Greenwich Presbyterian Church.

VIDEO THREE:

PRESBYTERIAN PARSONAGE – Circa Mid-18th Century

For many years, the old Presbyterian Parsonage was believed to have had been built in the late 1800's, when the Presbyterian congregation bought the structure in 1870. The house was originally built in three sections, and was sold and moved a mile down the road, in 1898, after being cut into two sections and then being reconfigured as it stands today.

During its present renovation, it has been revealed that the house started as a one and a half story early timber frame house of the mid 1700's with second and third additions added in the late 1790's and early 1800's.

BULLS EYE HOUSE – Dr. Holmes House – 1760

One of the masterpieces of Colonial Greenwich, this frame house was built before 1775. This home is outstanding for its fineness or architectural detail. It is an example of beaded clapboard, meaning there is a ridge on the lower edge of each board. The beautiful classis doorway is noteworthy because of the four “bulls eye” glass. These large pieces of glass, in several shades of blue and green are actually the pontil marks of hand-blown window glass. The dentil cornice over the classis doorway is another of the masterpieces of Colonial Greenwich. The moldings in the formal room inside matches this dentil work.

WILLIAM AND ELIZABETH WAITHMAN HOUSE – Circa 1680

The first recorded sale of this small house on Ye Greate Street was in 1776 by Constant Waithman, who may have come to own the house as the grandson of William and Elizabeth Waithman. It is possible that Constant’s grandfather may have built the house on land given to him by his mother-in-law, the widow Daniell’s before his marriage in 1680 to her daughter Elizabeth. The house is recognized as one of four heavy timber frame houses in Cumberland County built with what is known as a “Summer Beam,” an archaic building support member that was used in the 17th century to carry the second-floor joists for support of the 16-inch-wide flooring. The house remained, on and off, with the Waithman family until 1863. The present owner has furnished the house with several antique pieces from the local Cumberland County area. Most notable is the William Morris tall case clock from Bridgeton.

VIDEO FOUR:

BACON’S NECK SCHOOL

Mr. William Adair & Mr. Tom Grammer

This building was built in 1882 and remodeled in 1915. Construction was paid by subscriptions and salaries collected from parents. It consisted of two rooms, grades 1 through 3 and grades 4 through 7. The Pupil’s Association held annual reunions and published “The Old Slate” beginning July 1915 through 1939. Bacon’s Neck School was restored by Sam Sadtler in the last ten years. He sought to preserve the spirit of Bacon’s Neck School while turning it into a home, which is now owned by Bill Adair and Tom Grammer. One can even find a blackboard wall in the schoolroom of the schoolhouse! Farms and other historic buildings surround the Bacon’s School.

THE PIER HOUSE – Circa 1890

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Reinhart

The Pier House was built circa 1890 originally as a double house. Evidence of this is visible in the basement and behind the attic knee walls. The home was completely remodeled as the present single dwelling in 1927 by Chris Johnson, a prosperous oysterman. The home features a large hall and open stairway to the 3rd floor.

Chestnut (also argued as possibly oak) was used in the paneling of the den as well as in all the trim throughout the 1st floor.

A railroad crossed the landscape on the east side of Pier House to the Buena Vista Piers. The train carried one train load of oysters in 100 lb. canvas bags daily during oyster season. The Greenwich Piers Hotel welcomed visitors across the street before it was razed in the 1930's by the same Chris Johnson noted above.

VIDEO FIVE:

JAMES BUTLER – 1917

Ms. Grace Thompson

James Butler built this house in 1917 on land he purchased from his relative, Charles Ewing. The land of the house and of the Tea Burning Monument was originally part of the Ewing farm.

The style of the Butler house is called American Forsquare, which was popular roughly between 1895-1930. The house is two stories with a pyramid roof and 2 dormers in the attic. The original clapboard on the house is cyprus wood which is great for retaining moisture but terrible for the paint. Thus, this house and many others of this style have been overlaid with modern siding. The interior of the house, being post Victorian but not modern, has plaster walls, Greek molding around the doorways and a spaceious feel about it. There are two fireplaces, back to back but separated with one in the living room and other one in the dining room.

CAPTAIN BRIGGS' COTTAGE - 1789

Ms. Penelope S. Watson

This small two-level country house is shown in an 18th century drawing of the village. After years of neglect, the cottage was reclaimed in 1985 by architect Penny Watson. The home has been moved two times and was originally located at the end of Ye Greate Street, facing up the street toward the village. In 1955, it was moved down by the river and used as a workshop. The cottage was moved to its present location in 1985. While the upper end of this house was probably built in the mid to late 18th century as a tenant house for the Sheppard family, who owned the adjacent wharf, the interior was not plastered until the lower section was added in the mid-19th century.

VIDEO SIX:

HEARTHSTONE COOKING DEMONSTRATION

Hearthstone cooking demonstration is done by Kathryn Saxton-Granato COO and Program Specialist of South Jersey Curations, LLC.! The video is a collaboration between South Jersey Curations, LLC and the Cumberland County

VIDEO SEVEN:

GINGERBREAD DISPLAY

This video is the home of the festive, beautifully decorated gingerbread creations from the 11th Annual Gingerbread Contest, sponsored by the Cumberland County Historical Society. Be sure to check it out to see the unique structures that were constructed by all ages and to hear the winners of the competition!

We are pleased you visited with us today and hope your visit was enjoyable and informative.

Please come back again!

A special Thank You to the many volunteers who made today's event a success, as well as to our Greenwich residents who so graciously opened their home to our visitors and CCHS staff. Your generosity has not gone unnoticed. Without you, there would be no Christmas in Greenwich.

Special thank you to Jocelyn Centrone for recording and editing this event together!

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The mission of the Cumberland County Historical Society is to preserve and promote the history and heritage of Cumberland County through acquisitions, collections, exhibits and research, educational programs and publications, for the benefit of current and future generations.