

The Joseph Henry North House, ca. 1866

Welcome to the Joseph Henry North House. Built between 1858 and 1866, this home is a true New England farmhouse in the heart of southern NJ. Dr. North, born and raised in Maine, brought the lumber for his new house with him when he and his wife Eliza Hall moved to Hammonton. Built in the tradition of many New England dwellings, the home was originally a connection of buildings front to back so that the occupants could milk the cows in the barn without having to go outside in the cold of winter.

Dr. North, a well-known physician and the first physician to reside in Hammonton, even traveled to Washington, D.C. during the Civil War years to tend to the troops. Of his seven children, four of the North sons were also physicians including Joseph North who was a much respected dental surgeon in Atlantic City, NJ.

Please take note of the buggy stoop out in front of the house next to the lamp post. This was found under the street on Railroad Ave. by a road crew working in the area. Dr. North's medical office had been located there and this was used to help his patients navigate the big step out of their buggy.

An owner of this home after the Norths, Louisiana Wetherbee (her father had been in the cavalry in the territory of Louisiana when she was born. Her sister, Florida lived on Pleasant Mills Road in Hammonton) allowed Joseph North to reside in the home until his death. Louisiana's grandson Alex Wetherbee (a former mayor of Hammonton) visited us and recalled that old Dr. North, while living in the cottage in the back, was the first person he ever knew to eat cold cereal for breakfast. Apparently, he would pop corn and add milk which was unheard of for the time.

The home has undergone some changes over the years. When the McMullens purchased the house ca. 1940, the home was apparently in need of some updating. Mr. McMullen took the best lumber from the back of the home to repair the front and it was during this renovation that the barn and other buildings including a two story handyman cottage, were removed. The McMullens also enclosed a porch and that room is now the kitchen. There was also originally an open staircase to a third floor and the wallpaper which still hangs on the wall in the small closet of the front blue bedroom upstairs dates to the 1870's.

When we first purchased the house in 1984, the upstairs was being used as an apartment but thanks to the visit by Alex Wetherbee, he recalled the original configuration of the rooms and we were able to return the home to its original layout. The room to the right of the front door was his grandmother's parlor and the room to the left of the front hall, closer to the kitchen, was the music room and now the den. His grandmother, Louisiana was also largely responsible for the beautiful gardens and cedar trees in the yard. Thanks to Louisiana we enjoy colorful blooms throughout the spring and summer.

During our 33 years here, we removed the blue vinyl siding to expose the original clapboard and added the laundry room/first floor bath, wrapped the side porch around to enlarge that great porch (which could also be wonderful screened or enclosed), added central air, finished a portion of the basement and fondly cared for this home.

We have loved living in the North House and have attached more information about the North family and their home. Included is an evaluation completed by Atlantic County historian Joan Berkey. Enjoy the materials and enjoy your visit.

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Mr. Brian Howell and Mrs. Lisa Maiale Howell
728 Central Avenue
Hammonton, NJ

June 4, 1998

Dear Lisa and Brian,

I was a real pleasure exploring your wonderful historic home yesterday. Thanks for the opportunity to see another one of the county's treasures.

While I was there, I observed the following:

Stylistically, the main block of the house appears to date ca. 1850-1875; it has Greek Revival details (the pediments over the windows) and Italianate details (the long, tall windows).

Cinder block walls in the basement appear to be "new" (i.e. within the last 50 years); the portion of stone foundation remaining under the front entrance suggests that this section of the house originally had a stone foundation wall similar to that found in the rear section of the house. This is now confirmed by one of the historic photos found at the Atlantic County Historical Society. The sill (the framing member in the basement that sits on the foundation wall) along the west wall, front section, has been replaced.

Floor joists in the front and rear sections of the house are the same: both vertical, machine sawn, not circular machine sawn. They are approximately the same size and follow a similar framing pattern. To me, this suggests that both the front and the rear sections were built concurrently, probably in the third quarter of the 19th century (1850-1875). However, the extra thick wall support on the second floor (outside of the bathroom) and the difference in window trim between the two sections suggests that the front and rear portions were possibly built at different times. It is also possible that the rear portion was moved to its present location from another site, as buildings were often moved in the 1800's!

The "points" overtop the exterior windows are actually modest pediments, common to the Greek Revival style which was popular from 1830-1860, although house styles prevailed for longer periods in rural areas like Hammonton. Of course, these pediments have been stripped of the molding which would have capped them.

The front porch was probably added sometime during the first quarter of the 20th century (1900-1925). It is Colonial Revival in style, and is now considered an historic element of the house, even though it was not original to the building. I suggested that you use round replacement columns, and keep the wainscot in the gable end, rather than cover it with clapboard.

On the interior, there was originally a set of stairs which led to the attic (hence the wallpaper in your daughter's closet, which appears to date ca. 1870). This stair case was probably accessed through a walkway between the two upstairs bedrooms (much like the arrangement on the first floor with the main staircase).

I suggested that if you did not want to restore the "points"/pediments to their original appearance, that you merely cover them over with what you want and not remove any of the existing, historic wood so that some future owner will be able to easily undo your work and restore the pediments' original appearance.

We discussed painting the house an off-white, including trim, and then using the deep green on the shutters and possibly the front door. I agreed with countersinking, puttying, and priming nail holes on the exterior, and with scraping rather than powerwashing to remove loose paint.

The attic rafters appear to be recent (within past 50 years) replacements, certainly consistent with the fire damage you describe finding when you purchased the house.

The 6/6 windows and interior moldings appear to be original.

I am enclosing copies of the one historic photo I was able to Xerox. Unfortunately, I could not locate the source in our accession book at the Historical Society. As to the other historic photo, it is from the Silas Morse Collection (GPN #291) [that stands for glass plate negative] and probably dates from the turn of the century. It is a view looking roughly east and shows the front facade and most of the west elevation. Two corbelled chimneys are visible on either end of the main block, with 2 other chimneys visible, one running along the rear wall through the dining room and your son's bedroom. There is no front porch or portico; there is a stone foundation; it appears there is a cedar shake roof; there is a side porch with gingerbread trim (no railing); there are no gutters; there is a basement window under the rear (S) living room window; the shutter holdbacks are not "S" in shape, rather they are more like a small paddle. The shutters appears to be moveable louvers. The corner boards and window trim are painted a dark color (green?), while the body of the house and the windows appear to be light, almost white, in color. There are three distinct sections beyond your home's current configuration.

As I mentioned to you on the phone, I will find out the cost to have a copy of this photograph made.

Again, thanks for giving me the opportunity to see your wonderful house!

Joan

HISTORIC HAMMONTON HOME

728 Central Ave



MLS #	489223
Class	RESIDENTIAL
Type	Single Family
Area	Hammonton Town
Asking Price	\$267,000
City/Community	Hammonton
Zip	08037
Status	Active
Bedrooms	3
Full Baths	2
Half Baths	0
Lot Size	Less than One Acre
SIDING/EXTERIOR	Wood
DRIVEWAY	Blacktop
BASEMENT	6 Ft. or More Head Room, Inside Entrance, Partially Finished
FLOORING	Hardwood, Tile, W/W Carpet
HEATING	Forced Air, Gas-Natural, Multi-Zoned
AIR CONDITIONING	Central, Multi-Zoned
WATER HEATER	Gas
WATER	Public



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KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY ATLANTIC
SHORE



Volume 3

Nicholas E. West came into the world near Monmouth Beach, Ocean township, Monmouth county, New Jersey, on May 17, 1840. He is the son of James and Jane (Woolley) West. These two families, the Woolleys and the Wests, represent two of the oldest families inhabiting the New Jersey coast. For generations old ocean has sung its rymthical measure and boomed its wild intonations in the ears of their forefathers, until it would be difficult for their descendants to exist away from its shores. His education was acquired in what was then called the "pay schools," which he attended near his father's home. Like so many young men of the coast, his first commercial enterprise was in the fishing business; later his attention was concentrated upon the oyster trade, in which his operations were quite extensive, and it forms an important part of his present business. In 1893 he established the Green Gables restaurant, delightfully located north of Pleasure Bay, where his clam bakes and course dinners have gained world-wide reputation. His place is frequented by many of the leading men from all parts of the United States, and among his patrons he can also claim many who visit the coast from the old world. It is in his capacity as host that Mr. West's cheerfulness of disposition is so conspicuous an element in the success of his establishment.

Politically Mr. West is hampered by no party prejudices; he claims the right to think and act independently on all questions of public interest, and in exercising his prerogative in this respect endeavors to choose that which is most likely to redound to the benefit of the people.

Mr. West married Miss Hannah Letson, by whom he had three children: McClellan, Marcus and Genta. Mrs. West passed away in February, 1900.

JAMES NORTH, M. D., D. D. S.

Dr. James North, of Atlantic City, New Jersey, is a representative of an old and distinguished family, the founder of which in the United States was John North, of Clooneen, Kings county, Ireland, who came to America in 1730, accompanied by his wife Lydia; they settled in Pemaquid, Maine. His was a broad and many-sided character; he won respect for his knowledge, not only in book lore but for such as he acquired through actual experience. His unswerving patriotism, too, secured for him the hearty good will and fealty of the men of his community. No matter of interest to the town in which he lived was too insignificant for him to be identified with if it pointed toward improvement. His death occurred in 1740. He was a descendant of Robert North, of Walkeringham, County of Nottingham, England, who was an English subject during the reign of Henry V, and also of Sir Edward North, first Baron North of Kistling (the father of Sir Thomas North), who translated "Plutarch's Lives," from which Shakespeare obtained much material for several of his marvelous dramatic productions.

Captain John North, son of John North, was born in Ireland, and came to this country with his father in 1730. During the French and Indian wars he was commander of Forts Frederic and St. George. By occupation he was a surveyor, and he bore the distinction of being the first judge of the court of common pleas at the organization of Lincoln county in 1760. He was twice married, his first wife being Elizabeth Lewis, and his second Elizabeth Pitson, daughter of Judge Pitson, of Boston, Massachusetts. Captain North died March 25, 1763.

Hon. Joseph North, of Augusta, Maine, son of Captain John North, was born at St. George's River, Maine. He was the representative from Gardinerstown during

the provincial congress in 1774-75, and was commissioned colonel by the council on February 14, 1776. Like his father, he received the appointment of judge of the court of common pleas for Lincoln county in 1788 and for Kennebec county in 1789. His brother, General William North, of Revolutionary fame, was the friend and aide of Baron Stephen. Joseph North married Hannah Flagg, daughter of Gershon Flagg, of Boston, Massachusetts, the latter named being a descendant of Lieutenant Gershon Flagg, who was killed by the Indians at Wheelwright's Pond, in the town of Lee, New Hampshire, July 6, 1690. Hon. Joseph North died April 17, 1825.

Joseph North, son of Hon. Joseph North, was engaged in mercantile pursuits at Clinton and Augusta, Maine. He it was who constructed the first bridge that spanned the Kennebec river at Augusta. On November 3, 1801, he received from the Humane Society of Massachusetts a gold medal for acts of bravery. His wife was Lydia, daughter of Dr. John McKecknie, a learned Scotch physician, who accompanied Arnold on his expedition to Quebec. Joseph North died in September, 1832.

His son, Dr. Joseph Henry North, an eminent physician of Hammonton, New Jersey, was a graduate of the Maine Medical School, at Brunswick, in the class of 1835. He first took up the practice of medicine in West Waterville (now Oakland), where he remained for a number of years. In 1838 he removed to Hammonton, Atlantic county, New Jersey, and there enjoyed a large and lucrative professional practice. His reputation as a skilled physician was not confined wholly within his own town; so well and favorably was his success known in the treatment of fevers that he was called upon to take charge of the great fever hospitals in and about Washington during the Civil war. Dr. North was a profound student, aside from his professional researches, a brilliant conversationalist and a man of genial temperament, and well esteemed. He was also extensively engaged in the sale of real estate, and to his energy and interest Hammonton owes much of its material advancement. He married Eliza Hall, daughter of Hon. Joseph H. Underwood, of Fayette, Maine. Four of their sons were physicians, practitioners in Atlantic county. Dr. North died September 19, 1893.

James North, M. D., D. D. S., son of the last named, Dr. Joseph Henry North, was born in West Waterville, Kennebec county, Maine, on September 2, 1855. In 1879 he came to Hammonton, New Jersey, in whose schools he received his preliminary training; later he attended the State Normal School at West Chester, Pennsylvania, and then took a course at Bryant & Stratton's Business College of Philadelphia. He determined to enter the medical profession, and became a student in the Jefferson Medical College, from which he was graduated in 1880, beginning his professional career in Hammonton, where he was successfully engaged for two years. At this time he determined to practice dentistry, and he entered the Philadelphia Dental College, from which he was graduated in 1883 with the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery. Upon obtaining his diploma he located in Atlantic City in the spring of the same year, and by his peculiar adaptability and professional skill he has built up the largest and most lucrative practice in southern Jersey.

Dr. North is a member of a number of social, fraternal and professional organizations, in all of which he occupies a high and honorable place. He is a thirty-second degree Mason, a Knight Templar, past master of Trinity Lodge, past high priest of Trinity Chapter, and a noble of the Mystic Shrine, past sacheem of Pequot Tribe, past grand of American Star Lodge, past noble chief of Ocean Castle and past regent of the Royal Arcanum. He is a member of the American Medical Association, the Atlantic County Medical Society, the Atlantic City Academy of Medicine, the State Dental Society, the Moore Literary Society, the Fortnightly Club, of which he is vice-president, the Atlantic City Hospital Association, the Morris Guards, Joe Hooker-