



General Info

- Two Story, three-bay vernacular Quaker-German village mill house with two room garret, and foundation cellar, one-story masonry kitchen addition with attic and roofed “dog-trot” connection between the two.
- Size: Two story section 25-1/2 x 30 feet; kitchen 17 x 16-½ feet, dog trot 7- ½ x 16-½ feet. Open lean-to over oven 6 x 6-1/2 feet.
- Estimated ca 1773, probably built for Isaac Potts, operator of the family grist mill. Some sources place the construction date as early as 1759. In 1777-78 the property was owned by Isaac, but rented to his aunt, Deborah Hewes, who sublet it to Washington. The General’s wife, Martha lived here with him during the later months of the Encampment and the administrative business of the army was transacted on the First floor.
- The house remained under private ownership until 1879 when Hannah Ogden, a member of the Jones family, which had owned it since 1826, sold it to Major William Holstein, whose wife Anna Morris Holstein was Regent of the newly formed Centennial and Memorial Association of Valley Forge. In 1886 Holstein transferred title to this Association and the business of restoration was immediately began.
- In 1905 the property was conveyed to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for inclusion in the already existent Valley Forge Park.
- House restoration work conducted in 1887, 1933, and 1975-6.

Kitchen Section

- Kitchen remodeled in 1840. Major restorations in 1887, 1933. 1975-76 reconstruction, with roof height taken to marks identified in the stonework of the north wall of 2-story section of the house.
- An 1840 drawing showed the wing as a small 1-story structure, possibly built of logs; an 1860 photograph shows it as a low 2-story wing of stone; in both pictures, the wing adjoins the main building with no dog trot; the first known picture in which the dog trot appears is subsequent to the 1887 remodeling of the whole building by the Centennial and Memorial Association of Valley Forge.
- Work included partial replacement of masonry, reconstruction of fireplace and beehive oven (and its shed protection), new floor on both stories and new roof.
- Kitchen is connected to the main building by roofed “dog trot” enclosed on east by stone wall and flanked on the west by a stone arch, arch is sprung from the north wall of the house and is elaborated by a keystone.

Exterior

- Foundation is rubble sandstone, partly exposed in 1976 by re-grading.
- Walls: on west and south facades, coursed rough-dressed sandstone non-coursed, rubble sandstone on all other walls including kitchen. 20" thick at 1st floor, 16" at attic, white bevel mortar joints.
- Stone walls were repointed in 1975 with Portland cement mortar.
- Windows: All Replacement. In the Garret there is an 8-light oculus, 34" diameter brick surrounds; wood frame with keystone motif at each quarter.
- Window Trim: All Replacement.
- Shutters: All Replacement. 3- Panel with iron strap hinges and tie backs.
- Exterior Doors: Hardware all replacements. Trim probably original.
- West main entry: Possibly original, Cantilevered hood, probably partly original, domed plaster ceiling.
- 4-light transom (Glass above the West main entry door). Glass panes possibly original.
- South Entry: Probably original. Three brownstone steps (1976 re-grading).
- Rear Entry: Probably original. Four Steps are brownstone (1976).
- East Entry to Dog Trot: All replacement.
- Dog Trot: from 1976 with a brick floor and a hatch to attic space.
- South and North Kitchen doors are from 1976.
- Roof: Wood shakes, no gutters.

Interior

- Floors: replacement random pine in the 1st Floor hall and rear parlor and 2nd Floor hall; original elsewhere
- Walls: Plaster, mostly replaced. Original hand-split lath.
- Ceilings: Plaster, mostly replaced.
- Interior Doors all original, hinges mostly original. Locks and hardware have been replaced.
- Cabinetwork: first floor front parlor, original china cupboard.
- Window seats original.
- Paint analysis were conducted to determine original paint colors
- Panelling original: Georgian panelling remains on the fireplace wall of each of the four major rooms.
- Fireplaces: Probably all rebuilt and surrounds replaced in 1886. Further repair and installation of dampers in 1976.
- Staircase: mainly original. Treads and risers all replaced on first four runs and flooring replaced on all landings. The molded handrail is of softwood, unfinished and well-worn with the grain quite raised. X-rays suggest that it has had earlier paint or finish removed.