

If you were here in the early 1900s

A Working-Class Neighborhood

Trenton City Hall Mural
(Artist: Everett Shinn, 1911)

At this spot, you would have been standing in a city street, outside the fenced-in grounds of the Trent House. A brick woolen mill loomed to your right and modest row homes to your left. Pause for a moment, you may be able to conjure up the taste of acrid coal smoke, the smell of frying food, and the sound of millhands speaking their native German, Italian, or Polish.

This area took root as a working-class neighborhood about a half century prior to 1900. As factories sprang up along canals and railroads, the Trent House's owners subdivided more than 200 acres of land. The neighborhood became known as Bloomsbury, adopting the name given to the Trent House around the time of the American Revolution.

Irish, English, and German immigrants were among Bloomsbury's earliest occupants. Over the decades, the neighborhood welcomed new immigrant waves from Italy and Eastern Europe, as well as African Americans from the South.

Princeton Worsted Mills

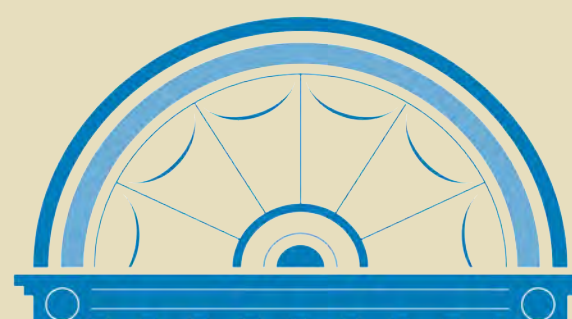
As the Trent House stood witness to urbanization, the property survived as an island of privilege, an acre and a half of green space fenced off from its humbler surroundings. The Stokes family called the property Woodlawn and hired cooks, maids, and gardeners who tended to the house and its grounds.



Row home, Bloomsbury Street, 1958



Trent House (Woodlawn), 1899



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The 1719 William Trent House Museum respectfully acknowledges its location within the ancestral homeland of the Lenape, or Delaware as they are now commonly known, and their forebears.