

If you were here in the 1750s



Governor Morris

Governor Morris's Kitchen Wing

At this spot, you would have been looking into a large kitchen. Enslaved, indentured, or employed servants prepared food here, carrying meals through a covered passageway to the dining room in the main house. The smell of cooking filled the air. You might hear muffled voices and tired footsteps from the upstairs sleeping quarters.

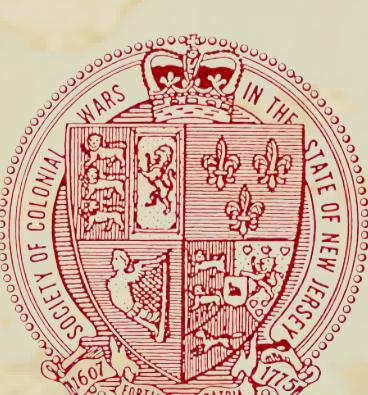
The Trent House's first kitchen was in the cellar. In 1742, Lewis Morris, Governor of New Jersey, leased the house. Noting the cellar to be damp, he ordered the building of a new kitchen wing.

The kitchen wing stood two stories tall with a massive cooking hearth. It even had an indoor well, saving servants from having to haul pails of water from outside.

The kitchen wing mirrored the Trent House's social hierarchy. It was an activity center for the now-anonymous enslaved persons and servants who took care of wealthy residents and their distinguished guests.



Reconstruction sketch



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Kingsbury
House



Trent House, circa 1750-53



Milk pan



Kitchen wing foundation, 2020

After a century of use, the kitchen wing was antiquated. It was replaced by an even larger Victorian-era wing in 1853, which was removed in 1934 to create the lawn and well before you. In 2019-21, the kitchen wing's stone foundations surrounding the well shaft were revealed by archaeologists, who recovered several thousand artifacts. Some, like a redware milk pan, speak for the lives of ordinary people who toiled in the kitchen

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.