

Welcome to the 1719 William Trent House

William Trent was a wealthy Philadelphia merchant who built the brick mansion at the center of the lot behind you in 1719-21. The house served as the primary residence for Trent, his wife Mary Coddington, their young son William, servants, and enslaved individuals of African descent. The Trent House is one of the finest Georgian-style mansions to survive in the Delaware Valley.

The Trent House was at the center of a 1,000-acre plantation comprising a gristmill, sawmill, fulling mill, bakehouse, and about a dozen tenant houses. The village clustered nearby on Assunpink Creek, surrounded by cultivated fields and wood lots. The settlement became known as Trent's Town, later shortened to Trenton.

As Trenton grew from a hamlet into a market town and port, and then to a city and state capital, the Trent House remained a residence for prominent members of society, including three New Jersey Governors. The property with the historic mansion has been owned by the City of Trenton since 1929 and is furnished and managed by the non-profit Trent House Association.

You are invited to walk the grounds, view the exhibits in the visitors center, and take a guided tour of the house. As you explore, keep an eye out for wayside signs to learn more about the site's evolution and diverse inhabitants.



THE TRENT HOUSE GROUNDS TODAY



Trent House - when completed in 1721, the symmetrical brick building was one of the largest private residences in New Jersey. There is a wide central hallway and four rooms on each of the two main floors, with a total of nine fireplaces and a kitchen hearth in the basement. A mid-1930s WPA Colonial Revival project restored the house to its current exterior appearance.

Visitor Center - built in the 1890s as a carriage house, this brick building became a caretaker's cottage in the mid-1930s and now houses exhibits and offices. Stop in the Visitor Center to view exhibits about the long history of the site and to schedule a house tour.

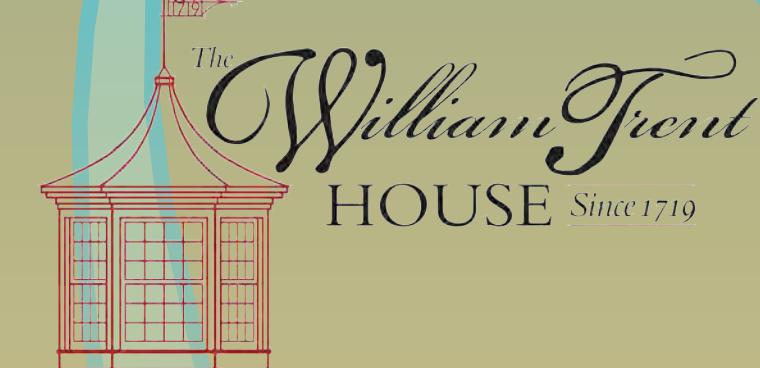
Garden - our small-scale garden offers visitors an opportunity to experience Lenape cultivated and wild-gathered plants, vegetables and herbs typically grown in an English colonial kitchen garden, and an African diaspora kitchen and market garden. Adjacent to the garden are a beehive and an orchard of heritage apple trees.

Ice House - this earth-covered, brick-vaulted chamber likely dates to the mid-19th century, though heavily restored in the mid-1930s. In winter, the residents of the Trent House had the chamber filled with blocks of natural ice, carved from local ponds. The ice, which melted very slowly, kept perishable goods cool in summer and could be shaved for use in drinks or making ice cream.

Well - this reconstructed wellhead marks the location of a colonial well shaft discovered during restoration in the mid-1930s. The well was once located inside a kitchen wing added to the Trent House in 1742.

Allée - two rows of English cherry trees, planted in the early 2000s, recreate a small portion of a colonial allée that led south from the house to the wharf on the Delaware River at the foot of Ferry Street.

Bloomsbury (former Fair) Street - this public street, now a walkway, was laid out in the 1830s and carried traffic until being brought back inside the Trent House grounds during the 1970s. Modest row houses and a textile mill stood west of the street.



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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.