

Timeline

Sketch of Trent House, circa 1789-92



Henriette de Wofoin, circa 1800



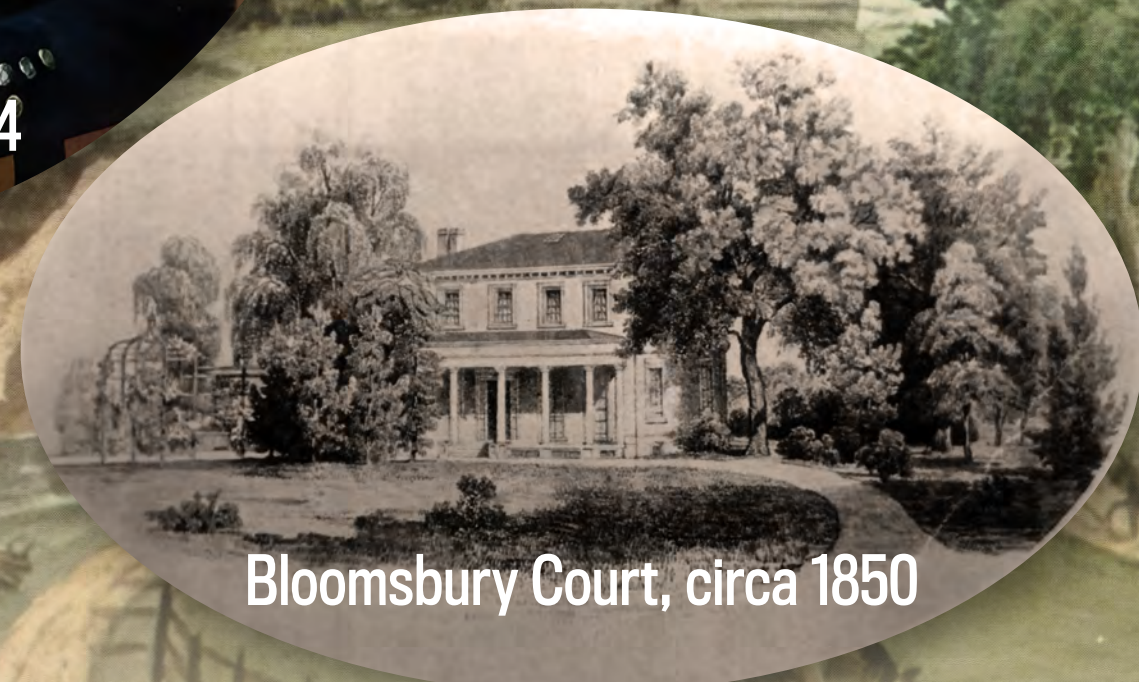
Daniel W. Coxe, 1804



Joseph Wood, circa 1850



Bloomsbury Court, circa 1850



Trenton Sur La Delaware, 1798. The Trent House is the building in the right foreground.



Antebellum, 1784-1860

Industrialization and Subdivision

- 1792** Chevalier de Wofoin, a minor French nobleman and sugar planter, purchased the Trent House. The chevalier and his son Louis and daughter Henriette were refugees from the revolution by enslaved people on the Caribbean island of Saint Domingue in the area of modern-day Haiti. The chevalier and his son were both killed upon their return to the island.
- 1802** Daniel W. Coxe, a wealthy Philadelphia merchant and land developer, acquired the Trent House. Over the next 30 years, he and his family periodically spent summers at the mansion and leased it to various tenants. Coxe intensified efforts to subdivide and develop Bloomsbury, including building a substantial flour mill on the Delaware River.
- 1835** Philemon Dickerson, an attorney from Paterson, acquired the Trent House and its surrounding 85 acres. Dickerson became New Jersey's governor the next year.
- 1837** The Trenton Water Power extended its canal with a branch south of Assunpink Creek, opening up several mill sites for development to the west of the Trent House, spurring industrial growth and urbanization.
- 1838** James and Ann Redmond purchased the Trent House on a much reduced 2.55-acre lot, making it their family home for the next 14 years. The surrounding neighborhood industrialized with iron, paper and textile factories. Irish and German immigrants lived in nearby rowhomes.
- 1852-59** Joseph Wood, a prominent Trenton merchant, real estate developer and one of the city's more notable mayors, purchased the Trent House, likely as an investment. He moved into the Trent House in 1859, only to die the following year. His family renamed the mansion "Woodlawn."
- 1856** Governor Rodman McCamley Price and his family leased the Trent House for three years. They enjoyed improvements made by their landlords, Joseph Wood and Jeremiah Stull, including a new east wing.

Gilded Age, Industrial Boom, 1861-1913

The Stokes Family

Permelia Stokes, daughter of Joseph Wood, and her husband Edward H. Stokes inherited Woodlawn. Their son, Edward A. Stokes, also lived in the house. The Stokes owned the house for 78 years, making them the longest tenured family in the Trent House's history.

1861

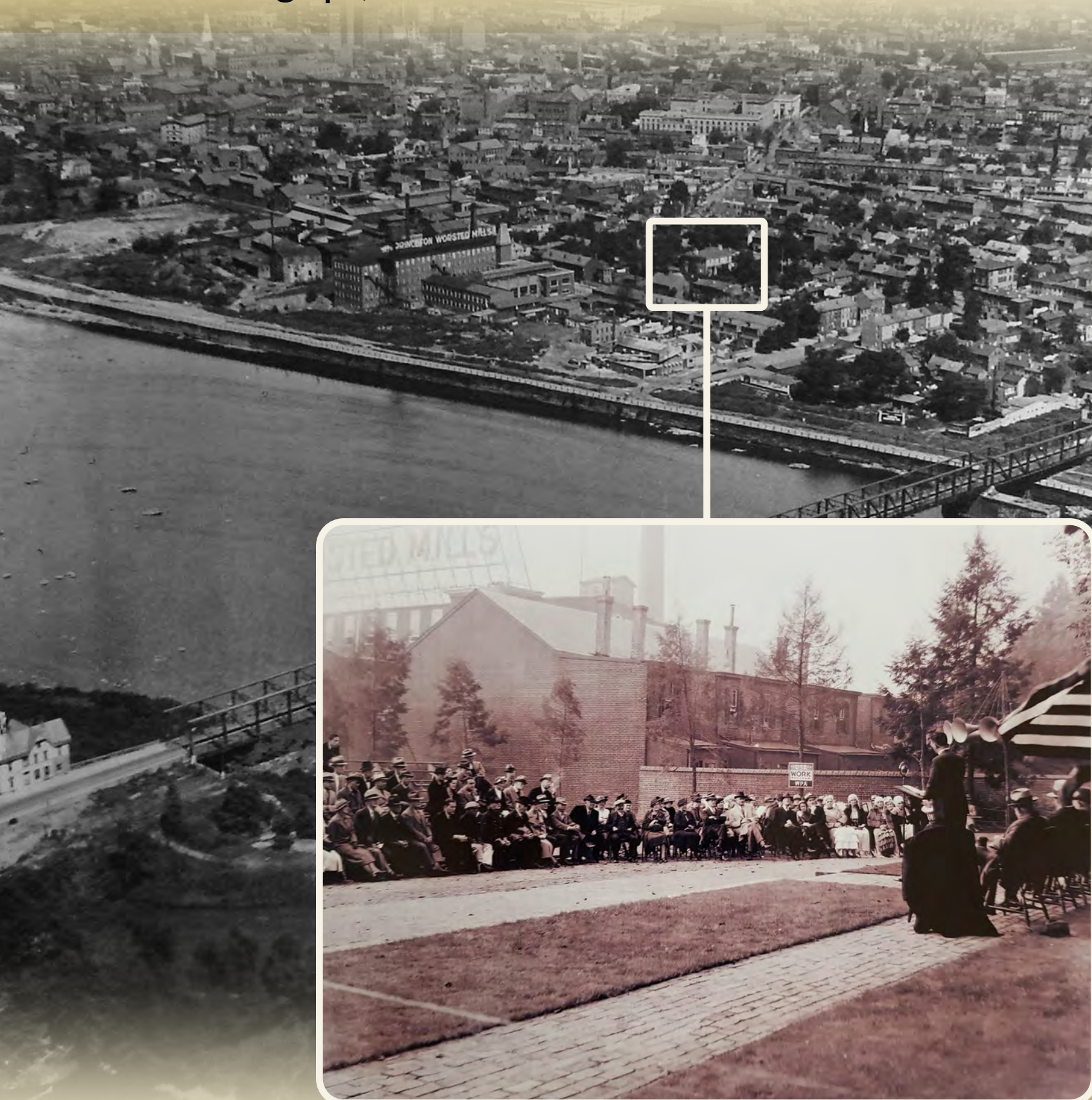
By this date, the Stokes family added a one-story greenhouse across the full width of the Trent House's east wing. The Stokes were avid gardeners. The landscaped grounds included a summer house, ice house, barn, carriage house, and outhouse.

1874

As the century ended, a once Irish and German-dominated neighborhood welcomed immigrants from Italy and eastern Europe, creating a culturally diverse community. The grand mansion of the Trent House and its fenced-in grounds stood out as a small island of green in a dense setting of rowhomes, storefronts, and factories.

1900

Aerial Photograph, 1926

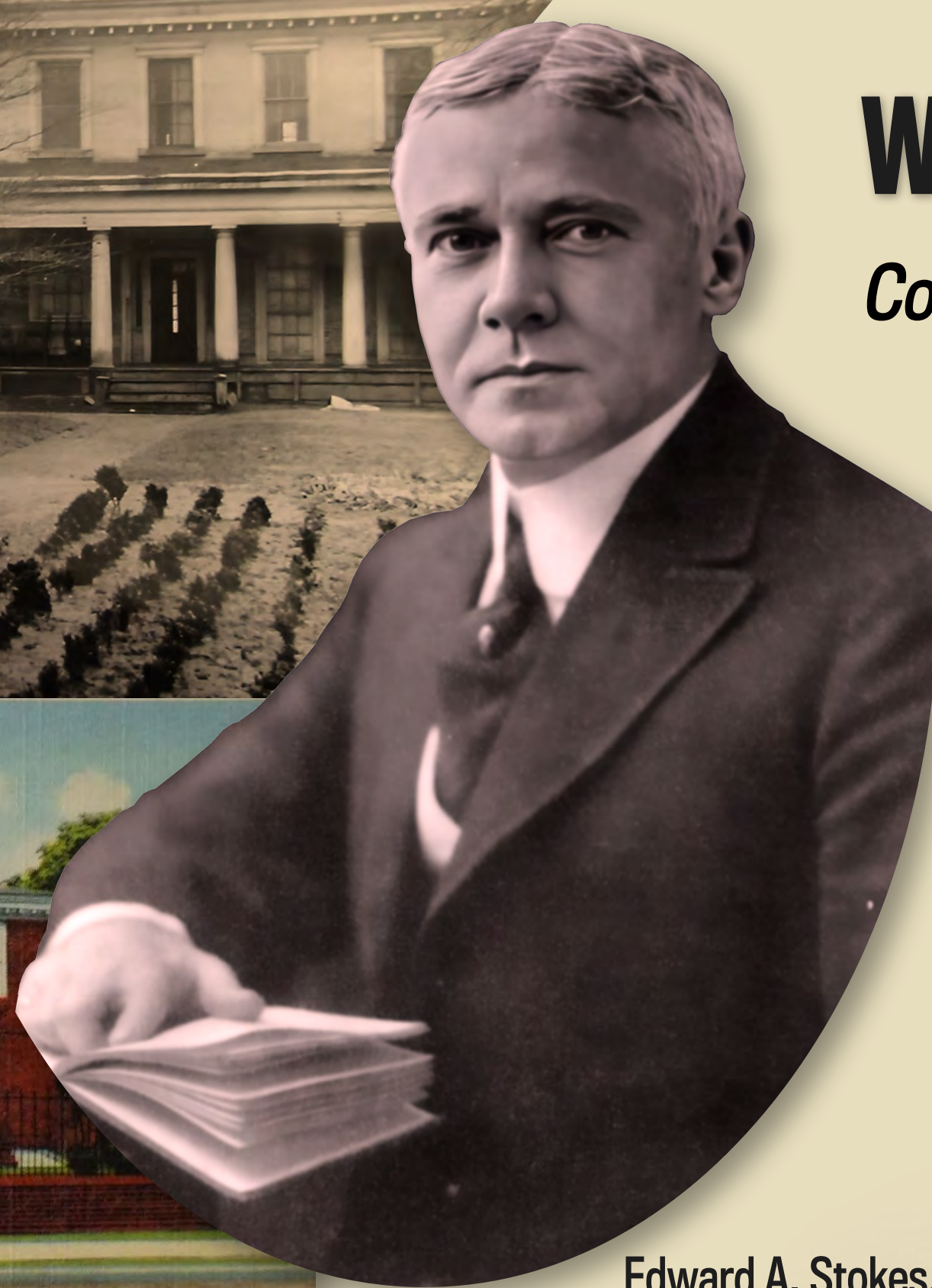


Trent House, 1934, prior to restoration

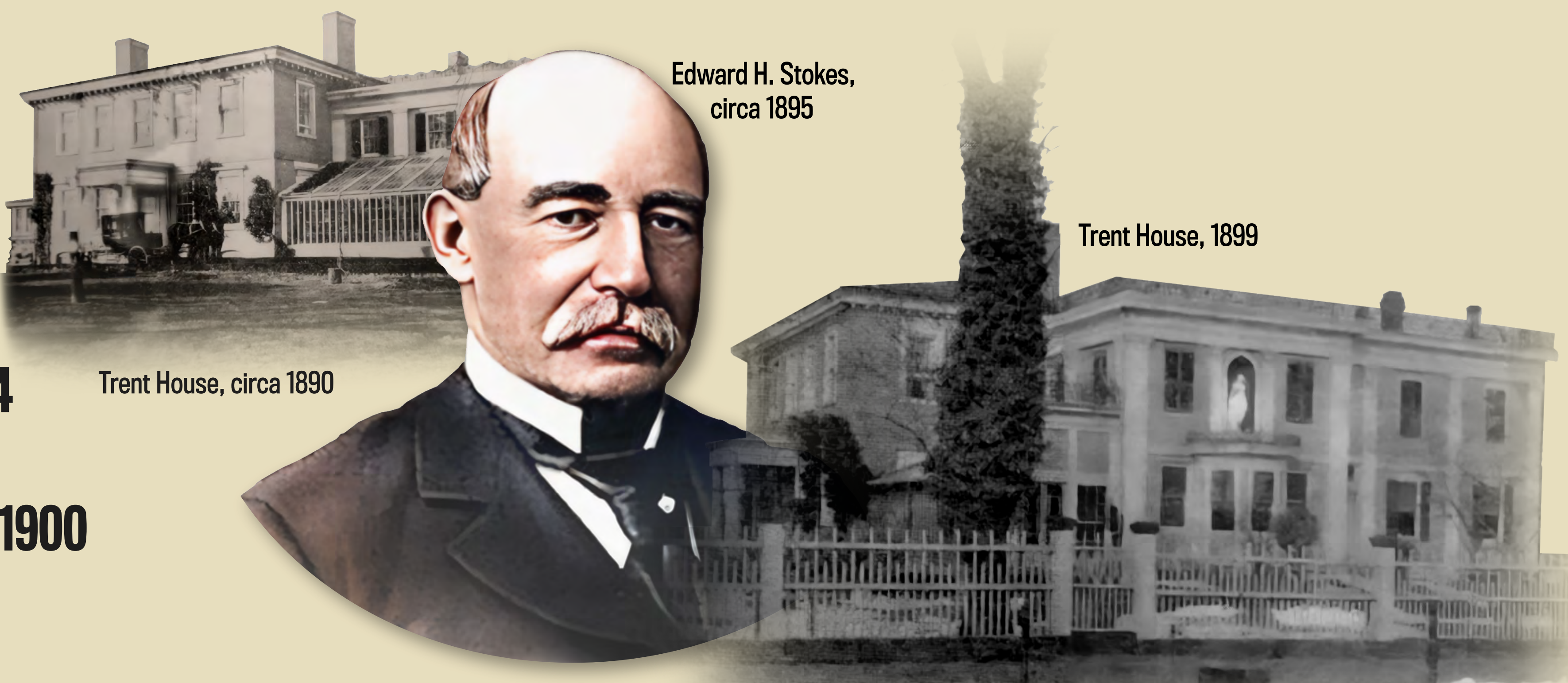


Dedication ceremony, circa 1936

Trent House, circa 1940, following restoration



Edward A. Stokes, circa 1920



Edward H. Stokes, circa 1895

Trent House, 1899

World Wars, Depression and the Great Migration, 1914-1945

Colonial Revival Restoration

- 1929** Edward A. Stokes gifted the Trent House and its grounds to the City of Trenton to be restored to its original appearance for use as a public library, museum, or art gallery.
- 1933-36** Restoration of the mansion began with funding support provided by the federal New Deal, mostly through the Works Progress Administration (WPA). Trenton architects J. Osborne Hunt and Albert E. Micklewright designed the project with Samuel Mountford finishing it after Hunt's death. At times 80 to 100 craftsmen and laborers worked on the project. They removed the east wing and completed exterior and interior restoration to return the house to a colonial appearance.
- 1938-41** The Garden Club of Trenton took charge of the site's landscaping. They engaged landscape architect Isabella Pendleton to design its colonial-revival gardens and pathways.
- 1939** Trent House officially opened as a museum.

Aerial view, circa 1970



Civil Rights, New Immigration, 1946-present

Historic Preservation

After World War II, city and state government planners viewed the Trent House's Bloomsbury working-class neighborhood as rundown, a problem that was compounded by industrial decline and discriminatory housing practices.

1946-58

The Trent House Association was formed to aid in the preservation of the William Trent House as an historical museum in cooperation with the City of Trenton.

1957

A vast urban renewal project, orchestrated by the city and state, demolished the Bloomsbury neighborhood, replacing it with state office buildings, a riverfront freeway and surface parking. The sole survivor of old Bloomsbury is the Trent House.

1959-1970

The Trent House achieved National Historic Landmark status and listing on the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places.

1970

The Trent House underwent significant corrective and restorative measures including refurbishing of the interior, drainage improvements, an ADA-compliant lift, and a landscape renewal project to remove aging gardens and trees.

1995-2007



Trent House best parlor, circa 2010