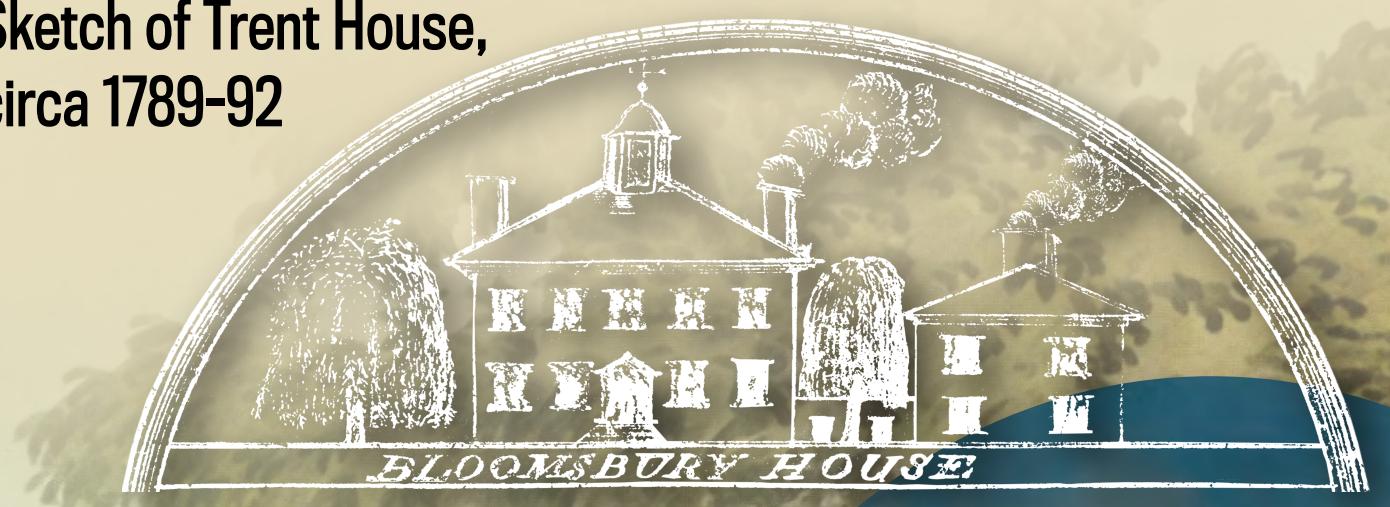


Timeline

While the Trent House, like our city, is named for William Trent, the most authentic story of the Trent House and its grounds is ultimately one that captures the countless individuals who have lived, worked, and left their mark here. As you learn about the house's history, take a moment to envision how its landscape has been thousands of years in the making.

Sketch of Trent House,
circa 1789-92



Henriette de Wofoin,
circa 1800



Joseph Wood, circa 1850



Daniel W. Coxe, 1804



Bloomsbury Court, circa 1850

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

Gilded Age, Industrial Boom, 1861-1913

The Stokes Family

Permelia Stokes, daughter of Joseph Wood, and her husband Edward H. Stokes inherited Woodlawn. **1861**
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.

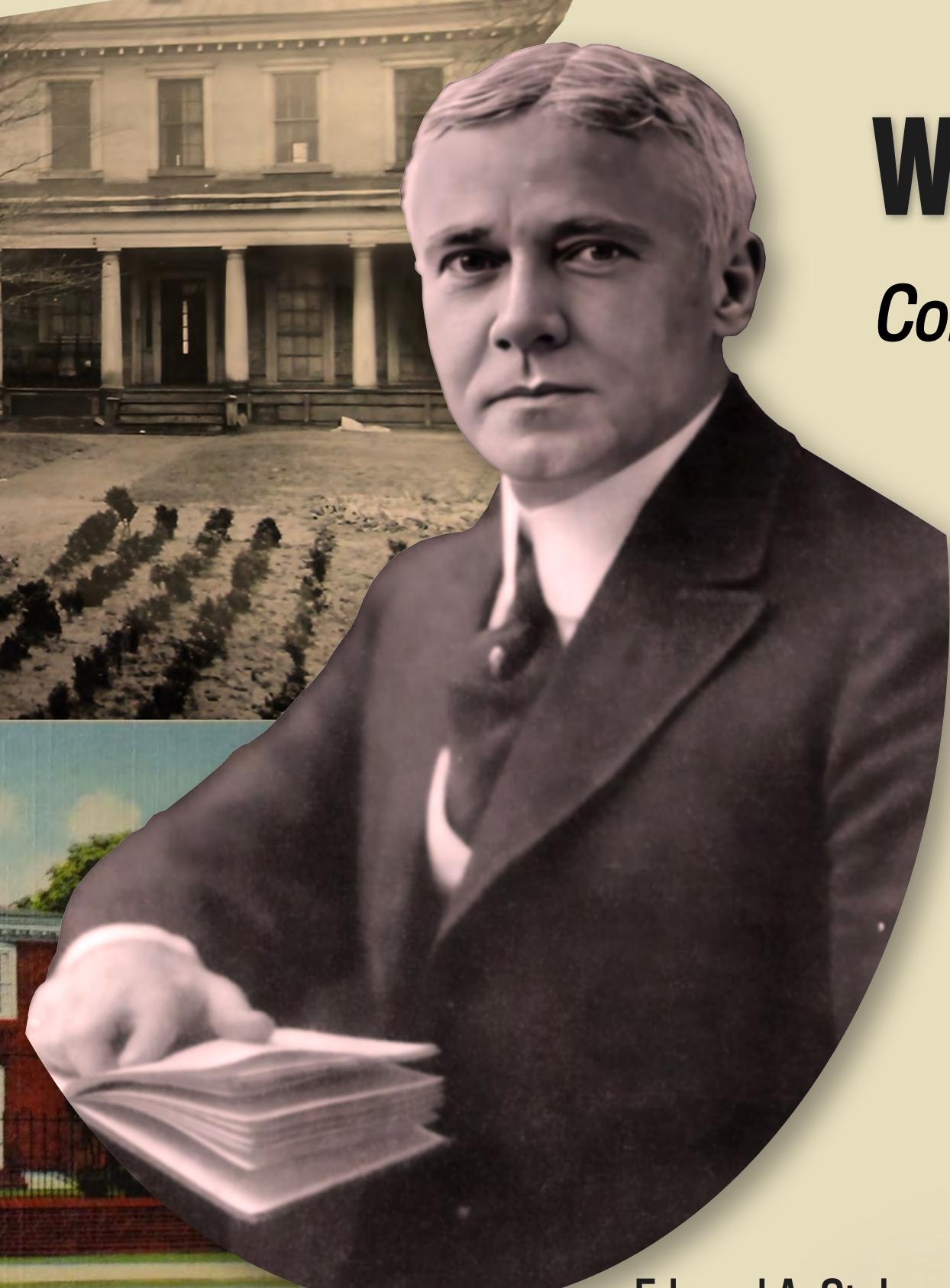
By this date, the Stokes family added a one-story greenhouse across the full width of the Trent House's east wing. The Stokes were avid gardeners. The landscaped grounds included a summer house, ice house, barn, carriage house, and outhouse. **1874**

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.

Aerial Photograph, 1926



Trent House, 1934, prior to restoration



Edward A. Stokes, circa 1920

Dedication ceremony, circa 1936

Trent House, circa 1940, following restoration

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**

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 Assumpink Creek, opening up several mill sites for development to the west of the Trent House, spurring industrial growth and urbanization.

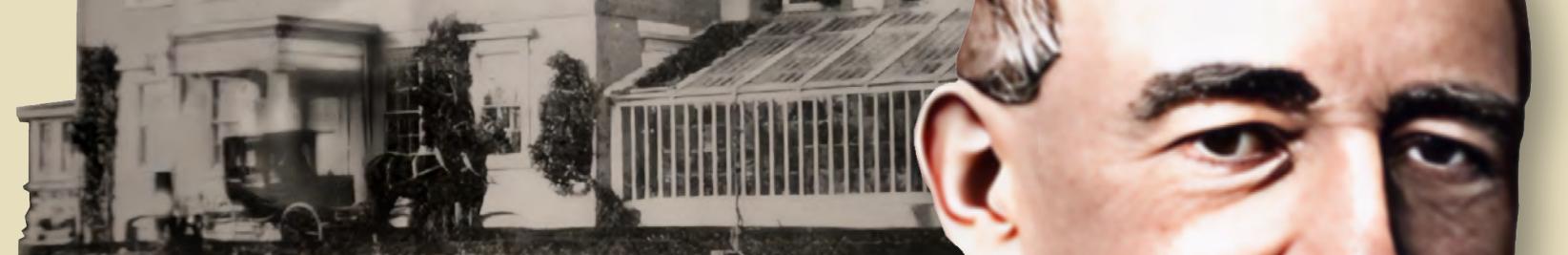
1838 James and Ann Redmond purchased the Trent House on a much reduced 2.55-acre lot, making it their family home for the next 14 years. The surrounding neighborhood industrialized with iron, paper and textile factories. Irish and German immigrants lived in nearby rowhomes.

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.

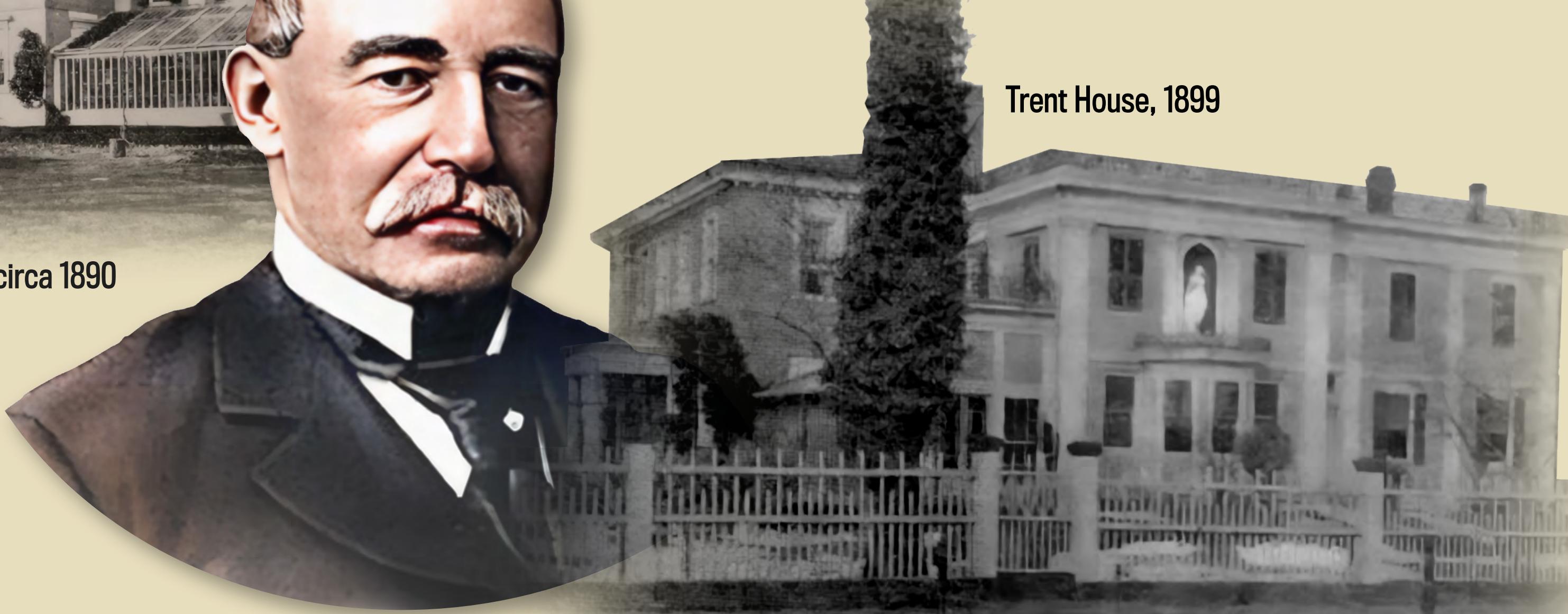


Edward H. Stokes,
circa 1895



Trent House, circa 1890

1900



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.

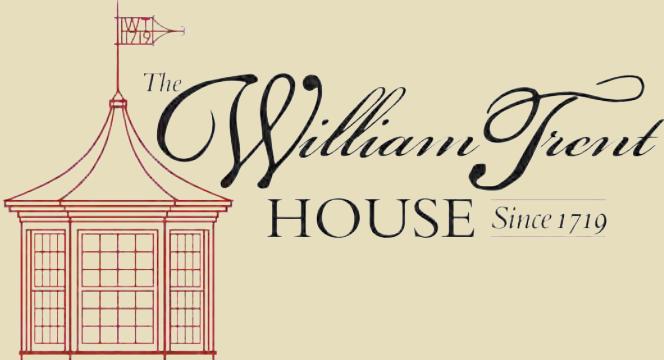
1939 Trent House officially opened as a museum.



Trent House best parlor, circa 2010



NEW JERSEY
HISTORIC
TRUST



Funding for this sign made possible by a grant from the New Jersey Historic Trust. Content development by Hunter Research, Inc. Graphic design by Douglas Scott. Image Credits: Trenton Sur La Delaware by Edouard Charles-Victurnen, courtesy New Jersey Historical Society; Portrait of Joseph Wood and photographs of Edward H. Stokes and Edward A. Stokes, courtesy Trenton Free Public Library.

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.