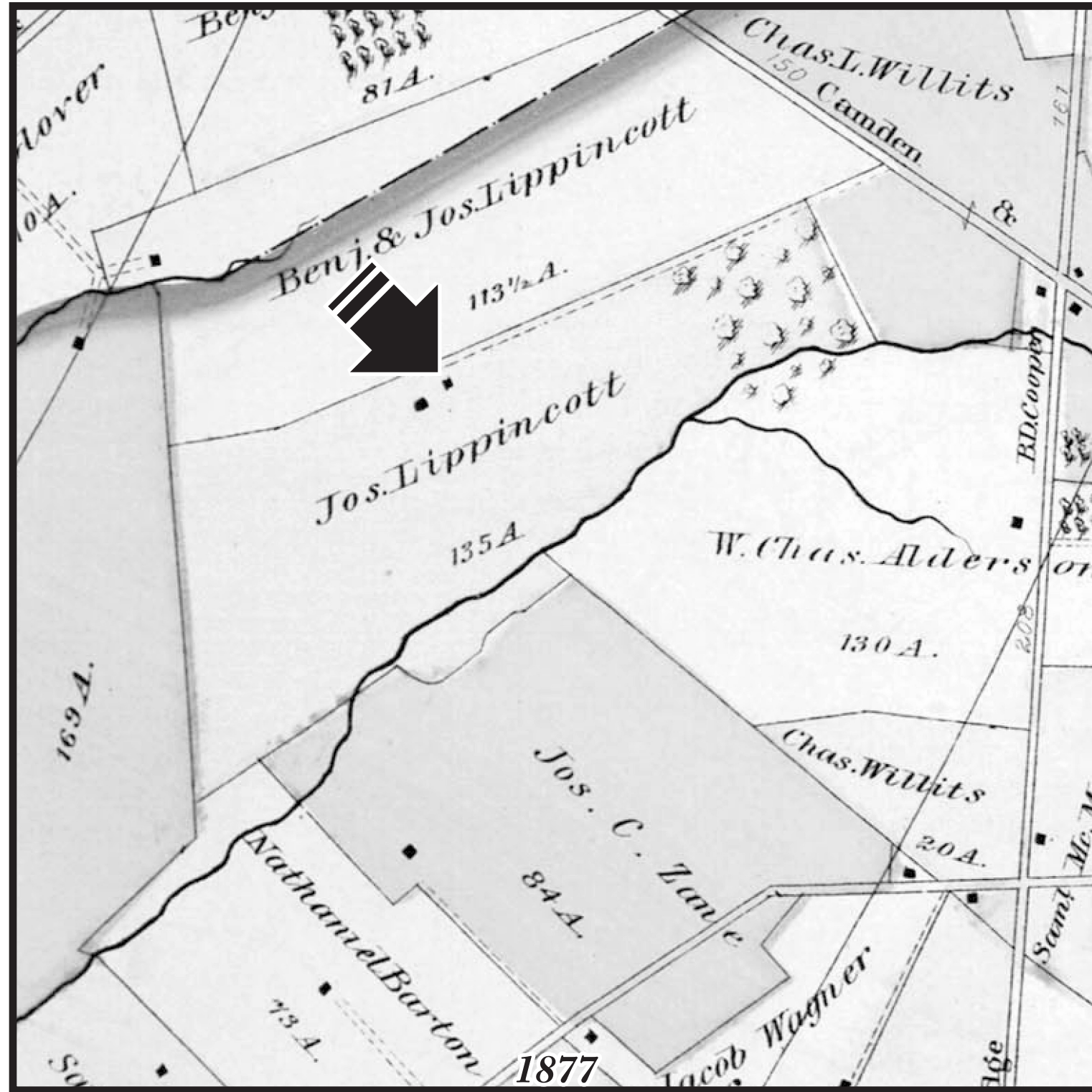


COLONEL JOSEPH ELLIS HOUSE

ALSO KNOWN AS THE HINCHMAN-ELLIS-LIPPINCOTT HOUSE ❖ 1009 SYCAMORE STREET ❖ BUILT CIRCA 1720 & AFTER 1760



Colonel Joseph Ellis was significant as a political office holder and important commander of local militia during the Revolutionary War. He played a significant role in the defense of the Delaware Valley during the British occupation of Philadelphia in 1777-78. In 1777 he declined a commission as a brigadier general of the New Jersey State Troops, instead staying with his Second Regiment of the Gloucester County Militia. (What is now Camden County was part of Gloucester County until 1854.)

Ellis was elected a Gloucester County representative to the New Jersey Provincial Congress in 1775. He represented Gloucester in the New Jersey Assembly in 1778 and 1781-1785. From 1787-1794 he served on the Legislative Council, predecessor of the New Jersey Senate.

The Colonel Joseph Ellis House was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on 23 September 1994, in the New Jersey Register on 28 February 1990, and was designated a Haddon Heights Historical Landmark in June 1992 by local Ordinance 903.

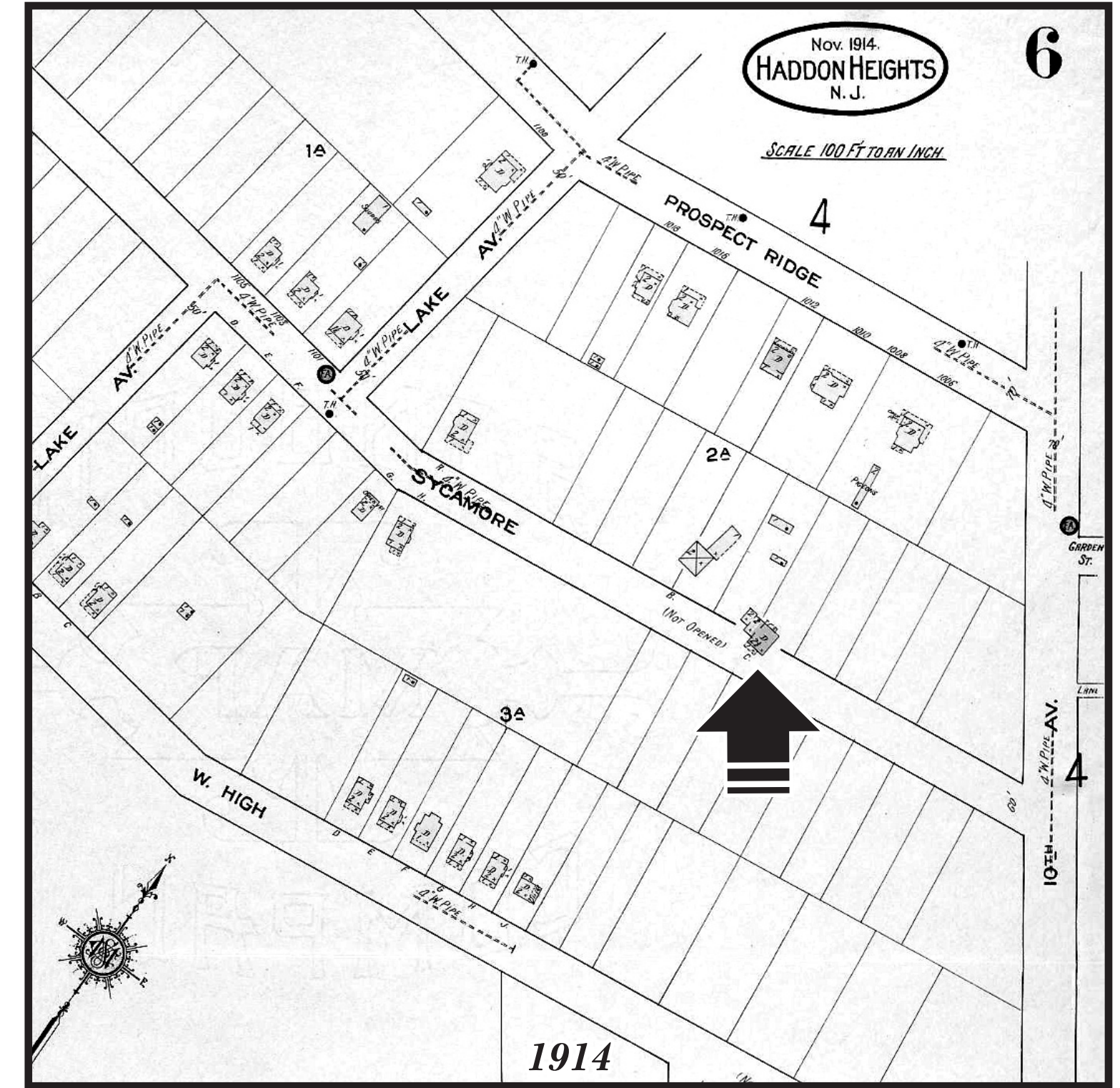
The Colonel Joseph Ellis House stands on land that was a small portion of a 1,000-acre tract that Quaker John Hinchman purchased in 1699. In his 1713 will, John Hinchman gave to his eldest son, also named John, 300 acres of land including this house site.

The center section of the house is believed to have been constructed by John Hinchman's second son, Jacob, in about 1720. In 1748, ownership of the property passed to Jacob Hinchman's

daughter, Mary, who married Joseph Ellis in 1760 and had a daughter, Abigail, in 1761. Abigail Ellis married Dr. Samuel Bloomfield in 1779.

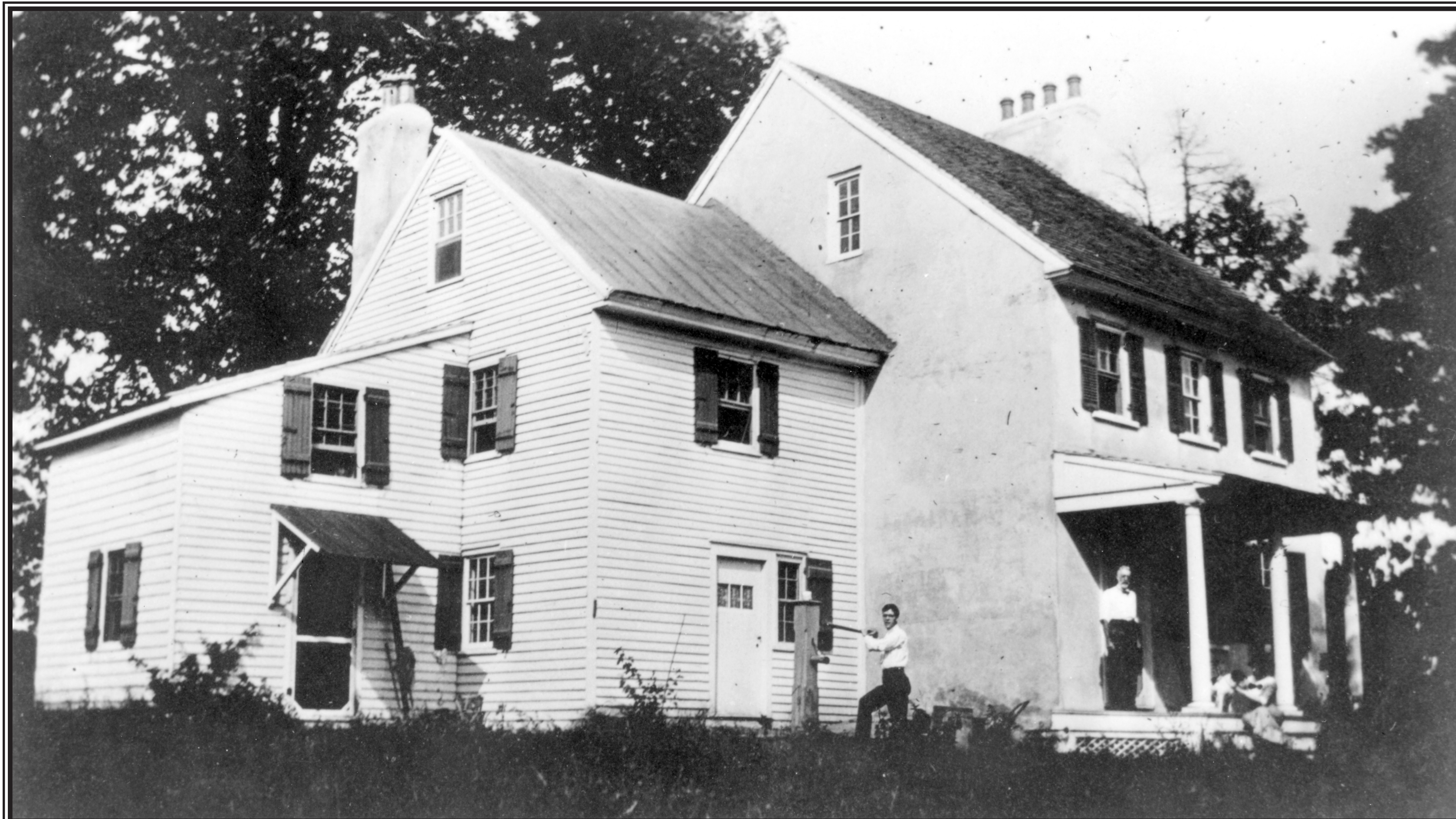
After Dr. Bloomfield's death in 1806, Abigail moved to Bridgeton. She leased the property to Moses Burrough, who occupied the plantation until it was sold to Nathan Lippincott for \$3,200 in 1809. The property remained in the Lippincott family for over 100 years.

The house was reached from the White Horse Pike via Lippincott Lane, a portion of which survives between W. Atlantic and Seventh Avenues. When the property was subdivided as part of Haddon Heights' development, the house was scheduled for demolition (see 1914 Sanborn Map at right), but ultimately only the front porch was demolished. In 1985 the McAdams family, who lived in the house from 1940-2001, rebuilt the porch, inspired by the historic photo below.



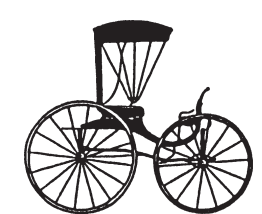
The existing house is composed of two separate houses that were joined together. The eastern 2½ story, 3 bay brick section was built here, but the center section – a 2½ story, one-room over one-room house – was moved to this location. Moving houses was common in the 18th and 19th centuries as it was less expensive than new construction. Language in Nathan Lippincott's 1836 will suggests there were two “plantations” here, and the 1877 map, at top left, shows two houses on the site.

The center c.1720 section is the oldest known house of frame construction in Camden County, and one of the oldest in New Jersey. The smaller frame section, at left, is a 1½ story shed-roofed mid-18th century addition that was probably moved here with the center section. The large brick portion to the right is Federal style and was probably built during the ownership of Joseph Ellis or Samuel Bloomfield.



This historic photograph dates to 1911 and shows the early 19th century porch and the flat front lawn (with well pump near the kitchen door) prior to the topography changes that occurred when Sycamore Street was cut through.

Haddon Heights
Historical Society



In memory of
Lynn Laitman