

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name William and Margaret Mecum House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 168 Lighthouse Road not for publication

city or town Pennsville Township vicinity

state New Jersey code NJ county Salem code 033 zip code 08070

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. See continuation sheet for additional comments.

R. H. Booy — Ass't Commissioner 1/11/18
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

NJ DEP
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet for additional comments.

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:) _____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

William and Margaret Mecum House
Name of Property

Salem, New Jersey
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)		
		Contributing	Noncontributing	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	1	0	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	0	0	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	0	0	structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	0	0	objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Traditional Patterned Brickwork Buildings of NJ MPS

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

GEORGIAN

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls BRICK

roof ASPHALT

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8 Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria considerations

(mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # NJ-233
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1737- c. 1770

Significant Dates

1737

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

unknown

Primary location of additional data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

William Mecum House

William and Margaret Mecum House
Name of Property

Salem, New Jersey
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 20.1

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (see continuation sheet)
Datum: NAD 83

1. Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

2. Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____



Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Douglas McVarish/Senior Historic Preservation Specialist
organization New Jersey Historic Preservation Office date August 2017
street & number 501 East State Street, 4th Floor telephone (609) 633-2396
city or town Trenton state NJ zip code 08625

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name William Mecum and Christopher Gray
street & number 168 Lighthouse Road telephone (856) 934-4483
city or town Pennsville state NJ zip code 08070

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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William and Margaret Mecum House
Name of Property
Salem, New Jersey
County and State
Patterned Brick Houses of New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Description Narrative

Summary paragraph

The William and Margaret Mecum House (Photo 1) consists of a two-story, three-bay, patterned brickwork house, built in 1737 and enlarged about 1770, featuring a Flemish checker brick façade and vitrified brick initials and construction date in the southwest gable peak. The house has been expanded several times, most recently in 1958 when a single-story in-law suite was added to its southwest end. The nominated property, encompassing 20.5 acres north of Lighthouse Road in Pennsville Township, Salem County, includes the area immediately surrounding the house and a long, tree-lined driveway (Photo 2) extending to the house from the road. In addition to the house, the property includes several early 20th century abandoned agricultural outbuildings none of which contribute to the architectural significance of the property and none of which is enumerated in this nomination. The property also contains the sites of eighteenth and nineteenth century farm outbuildings of which archaeological deposits can be considered likely.

Property Details

The house presently consists of four major sections and a rear shed-roofed porch addition (Photo 3). The core of the house is the 1737 two-story, patterned brickwork block (Plate 4). A second brick block, two bays wide and matching in height, lacking patterning is attached to the northeast end of the original block. A two-story, wood-framed addition, which houses the kitchen on the first floor is appended to the northeast side of the brick addition, while a late 1950s, single-story, “mother-in-law” suite is attached to the southwest wall of the original block.

The original 1737 core of the house is three bays wide and two stories high. A ghost on the southwest gable end indicates that the block was originally of one-and-one-half stories, crowned by a gambrel roof, which was enlarged to two stories under a gable roof, probably later in the eighteenth century. The façade of both stories is laid in Flemish checker bond with vitrified headers (Photo 5). The façade trim probably dates from this enlargement. The focus of the façade is the central entry with its elaborate pedimented, wood surround (Photo 6) featuring small fretwork dentils and guttae, console brackets, and a keystone door lintel (Photo 7). The central entry is flanked by six-over-six, double-hung, sash windows topped by flat arch lintels with central keystones composed of wood. The entry contains a six-panel door with a porcelain doorknob. The main entry is reached by a set of brick and concrete steps with simple wrought iron railing. A screened door protects the recessed front door.

Paired basement windows are placed in rectangular openings beneath segmental brick header arches. First and second story windows are flanked by operable, paneled, wood shutters installed in the nineteenth century. Three second floor windows are vertically aligned with the first story openings. Each has a six-over-six, double hung sash and lintels and shutters matching those in the first story (Photo 8). An angled brick water table (Photo 5) constructed of slightly projecting alternating brick headers and stretchers marks the first floor level, while the cornice is punctuated by modillion blocks.

A portion of the façade above the northeast first story window has been repointed, and another portion below the southwest first story window was relaid using twentieth century bricks. The roof is sheathed in

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asphalt shingles, and a parged chimney, square in cross-section, rises from the southwest end of the roof ridge.

The oldest addition added two bays to the northeast end of the original block (photos 3 and 4). This addition was built in the nineteenth century probably during Andrew Mecum's ownership. Its façade wall is laid in six-course American bond. The builder of it took the care to extend the water table of the original block across the wall of the addition. Its asymmetrical façade has a doorway in its west first story bay flanked by paneled shutters and a raised six-over-six, double hung, sash window in its northeast bay, also flanked by paneled shutters. Two six-over-six, double hung, wood sash windows are vertically aligned with first story openings. The modillioned cornice continues uninterrupted across the façade of the addition, suggesting a c. 1840-1860 construction date.

Two more recent additions have been made to either end of the house. The northeast addition (Photo 9), whose date of construction is unknown, is one and two-stories in height and wood-framed in construction. A shed-roof, one-story breakfast room projects beyond the front wall plane of the block to the west. This clapboarded addition has a single, six-over-six, double hung, sash window centered in its west wall set beneath a molded wood lintel. The outer wall of the breakfast room is fenestrated with paired six-over-six, double hung, wood sash windows.

The southwest addition (Photo 4), added in 1958-1959, is a single-story in-law suite. Its east wall projects several feet beyond the plane of the adjacent brick block, providing space for an outside entry door in the wall. A canted, bay window projects from the center of the south wall. This bay window is sheltered by a deep, overhanging eave. A shouldered exterior brick chimney rises next to the southwest wall of this block (Photo 10).

The northeast end wall of the house illustrates the nearly symmetrical profile of this block with a central, gabled, two-story core flanked by shed roof ells to either side (Photo 8). The central portion of the wall has a pair of six-over-one, double hung sash windows centered in the first story wall. The northeast wall of the breakfast room has a similar window. All three are topped by molded lintels. The north portion of the wall contains the "informal" entry to the house, recessed into the east wall and accessed by brick and concrete steps with wrought iron railings. This entry is sheltered by an aluminum canopy ornamentally supported by a single turned wood post.

The east portion of the northwest (rear) wall is marked by a projecting single-story, shed-roofed, projecting block (Photo 11). This block has a six-over-one, double hung, sash window at its northeast end which provides illumination for the vestibule/utility room. The shed roof merges with the roof of a shed-roofed, wood-framed, screened porch, added in 1954. This porch, which is set on a wood foundation, has applied latticework covering the lower portions of the screened openings, and exposed rafter tails, extends to a junction with a brick heater chimney, placed at the west end of the rear wall of the brick addition.

As is typical of patterned brick houses, the rear elevation of the 1737 block is less formal than the front, lacking the patterning of vitrified headers (Photo 12). Instead of Flemish bond, this wall is laid in three-

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course American bond. A simple brick belt course extends below the second story windows and an angled brick stretcher water table marks the first-floor level. This wall provides evidence of early house features, now missing. The former presence of a pent roof below the second story window is shown by a recessed horizontal band with boards exposed and by filled joist pockets above. Newer bricks beneath the west first story window indicate the location of a former door, and small rectangular holes provide evidence of the places of attachment of a wood stoop with flanking benches to either side of the entry which would have been either an original or an early feature.

Historic photos depict a segmental arched basement opening with a multi-light window. At some point during the mid-twentieth century, this window was replaced by a door, and concrete steps and a concrete bulkhead with two-leaf, side-hinged, steel doors were added.

The first floor of the rear wall of the brick addition is partially obscured by the screened porch (Photo 10). This wall's rear door now provides access to the porch. East of the door is a six-over-six, double hung, sash window with plain molded trim. The small square window to its east was placed to illuminate the corner stairs while a single window is located near the center of the second floor.

A single-story, wood-framed addition projects substantially from the northwest wall plane at the southwest end of the house (Photo 9). Its northwest gable end is fenestrated with paired, six-over-six, double hung windows. The lower west wall of the 1737 block is obscured by this addition. This wall has two different sizes of six-over-one, double hung, sash windows set in a deep reveal at the north end of the west wall. The gabled south end is illuminated by paired six-over-one, double hung sash centered in a gable. The southwest gable end wall (Photo 13) of the 1737 block contains "WM" with the W formed by two interlocking "V"s and the smaller initial "M" below which is "1737" defined by vitrified header bricks. A smaller "M" formed by vitrified headers centered above the "WM." An element found in other South Jersey patterned brick houses is the outward flare at the bottom of the "1" of the date." A four-light attic widow is placed above and to the north of the "WM". The ghost of a second window with a brick header lintel is visible to the south of the date.

Interior Description

1737 Block

The 1737 first story room (Photo 14) referred to on the floor plan as the "old living room" includes original wide, plank pine floorboards and elaborate floor-to-ceiling woodwork in the southwest wall. This woodwork includes a molded mantel surmounted by molded panels, a paneled door providing access to an understair closet, and the lower portion of a winder stair at the north end of the space. The fireplace is placed in a stuccoed surround with the opening outlined with a vertical stretcher lintel and horizontal headers along the sides. The visible portion of the stairway has a plain wood newel, square in cross-section and turned wood balusters. A doorway at the south end of the southwest wall provides access to the west block.

Nineteenth Century Block

The first story of the c. 1840-1860 block is referred to on the floor plan as the "dining room" (Photos 15

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and 16). It is plastered and wallpapered. The base of each wall is marked by a simple wood baseboard. A cornice is lacking. A closed stringer stairway rises from the northeast corner of the room. This stairway has a plain wood newel, square in cross section, and plain wood balusters, also square in cross section. A six-panel, wood door is placed in the center of the southeast wall. This door, which provided exterior access, is no longer used. A door in the northwest corner of the room provides access to the rear screened porch, while a doorway near the south end of the west wall provides access to the first story of the original block.

1946 Kitchen Addition

Typically, visitors to and residents of the house enter through the northeast entry door in this addition. This door opens to a small utility room containing a washer and dryer and shelves mounted to pegboard. To the west is a half bathroom. A door in the southeast wall provides entry to the northwest end of the long and narrow kitchen (Photo 17). This kitchen, which achieved its present configuration in the 1950s, has built-in cabinetry and appliances in the east wall with a double sink centered beneath the paired windows. A wood stove is placed in the southwest corner of the kitchen. An archway in the center of the southeast wall provides access to a breakfast room, while a second doorway, south of the wood stove, provides access to the dining room located in the first story of the nineteenth century brick block.

The breakfast room, which measures 15 feet long, and 8 feet deep (Photo 18), features paired double hung, sash windows in its southeast wall and single, double hung, sash windows in the northeast and southwest walls. Its walls are wallpapered and are marked by plain baseboards and a recently installed chair rail.

1954 Porch

A shed-roofed, screened porch, which measures approximately 18 by 19 feet in floor area, projects from the central portion of the northwest wall of the house (Photo 19). This porch was constructed in 1954. Its roof is supported by regularly placed wood posts, square in cross-section with angle braces extending from the posts to the plate. Closely spaced rafters are exposed beneath the roof deck. The lower portion of the screen is obscured by applied lattice privacy screening, and a door is placed in the central northwest bay.

1958 Addition

The major portion of the southwest block is a single large room. A Colonial Revival mantle and fireplace is centered on the west wall and simple wood baseboards extend along the lower walls. There is no cornice. A doorway in the northeast corner of the room leads to the private living quarters of one of the owners.

As noted by one of the owners, the suite at the southwest end of the house (Photo 19) has been altered since its construction. An area that originally contains a kitchenette, now forms the northwest corner of the combined living room/office. The living room measures 18 feet 6 inches wide by 22 feet six inches deep and features an operable fireplace in its southwest wall. Behind the living room is a block containing a bedroom and bathroom that measures 14 feet nine inches wide by 16 feet 8 inches deep. This area was inaccessible for photography.

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Second Story

The accessible portion of the second floor is reached by a winder stair in the northwest corner of the living room. The stairway leads to a hallway along the north side of a bedroom and bathroom. The bedroom (Photo 21) has a four-panel, wood door hung on H-L hinges and equipped with a box lock. A fireplace (Photo 22) with a plain paneled wood mantelpiece and an irregular stretcher and header brick fireplace surround is placed in the northwest corner of the room. To the east of the bedroom is a narrow bathroom (Photo 23) with built-in cabinets and sink along its southwest wall and a tub with shower along its northeast wall. The second floor bedroom above the kitchen was inaccessible.

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Significance Statement

Summary Paragraph

The William and Margaret Mecum House is a characteristic example of a traditional patterned brick house of Salem County, New Jersey that exemplifies the one-and-one-half story, gambrel roof cottage type that was later enlarged to two full stories. The nature of the Georgian style façade improvements indicate that this house witnessed two episodes of patterned brickwork, about a generation apart. As specified in the Registration Requirements for the Traditional Patterned Brickwork multiple property submission, the Mecum house possesses a façade laid in Flemish checker brickwork, and possesses initials and a date in vitrified brickwork in its southwest gable end. For its association with the traditional patterned brick architecture of southern New Jersey, the property meets National Register Criterion C with local significance in architectural history.

Architectural Significance

As noted in the context statement for patterned brickwork in New Jersey, southern New Jersey is the principal home of traditional patterned brickwork in the United States. Its patterned brick houses have been called by vernacular architecture and folklife historian Michael Chiarappa among “West Jersey’s most powerful and meaningful artifacts.”¹ The core of the Mecum House exemplifies the characteristics of a West Jersey patterned brick house in its use of a Flemish checker façade highlighted by vitrified headers and a southwest gable end with the original owners’ initials [WMM] for William and Margaret Mecum and date of construction in vitrified brickwork. The Mecum House is an example of the gambrel roof subtype. As typical of surviving examples of this subtype, the house was enlarged to a full two stories and given a gable roof later in the eighteenth century. At the same time, its façade was elaborated upon through of then popular Georgian woodwork including an elaborate central door surround with punch and gouge detailing in its pediment, flat-arched lintels with central keystones, and a modillioned cornice. Although the house has been enlarged several times, the original 1737 patterned brick core is clearly visible and retains all aspects of integrity. The enlargement of the house to two stories included a second-story façade of Flemish checker, matching the first-story façade of the 1737 work. Thus the enlargement of the house represented a strengthening of its Georgian-style characteristics, while extending its attachment to patterned brickwork. This work was probably a reflection of strengthening prosperity within the Mecum family.

Property History

The William and Margaret Mecum House properties is one of few properties in southern New Jersey that has remained in the ownership of the same family since the initial land grant issued in 1702. The patriarch of the Mecum family in North America was Edward Mecum, a ship carpenter, who came to the American colonies from England in the late 17th century. On March 5, 1702, he purchased a tract of 336.75 acres called Lacroy’s Point in Penns Neck, Salem County from Didloue [Didluf] Casperson.²

¹ Michael J. Chiarappa, “The Social Context of Eighteenth-Century West New Jersey Brick Artisanry,” *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture IV* (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1991), 31.

² William Nelson, editor, *Documents Relating to the Colonial History of the State of New Jersey: Calendar of Records in the Office of the Secretary of State, 1664-1703, Volume XXI* (Paterson: The Press Printing and Publishing Company, 1899), 631.

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William Mecum (I)(1698-1747), one of the sons of Edward, received the initial portion of the site of the house in a quitclaim deed from the Penn family in the early 18th century and purportedly built the first house on the site shortly after.³ In 1737, he, bought two additional tracts in Penns Neck, Salem County. The first, measuring 40 acres, was purchased from the West Jersey Proprietors on March 3. A further 120 acres, located several miles away near Oldmans Creek, was purchased from the West Jersey Proprietors on June 22.⁴ In the same year, as evidenced by the patterned brick date, Mecum had the original portion of the present house erected, possibly on the site of an earlier house. Mecum and his wife, Margaret Vickery, had two children, a son, William (1730-1790), and a daughter, Margaret.⁵

William Mecum devised ownership of his real estate to his son William (II), when he turned 21(in 1751), with the provision that he pay his sister 20 pounds when she turned 21.⁶ The younger William owned the property until his death in 1790. Circumstances thus indicate that the house was enlarged to two stories during his ownership. This enlargement was probably built to accommodate his large family, which included six children. He signed his last will and testament on March 19, 1790, which provided that his three sons, William (III)(1772-1806), George Washington, and Andrew, should each receive 1/3 of his real estate with the division made when William turned 22. Were William to die before 22 without issue or George or Andrew die before 21 without issue, the share of the deceased was to go to the surviving brothers.⁷

William Mecum II (1730-1790) left a sizeable estate, valued at a total of 670 pounds, 9 shillings, and 6 pence. Livestock included a black horse, a white horse, a black mare with foal, an old black mare and black horse, ten cows, a milch cow, two heifers, two pairs of oxen, five bulls and 9 sheep and nine lambs. His enumerated household goods included two bedsteads and bedding, one chest, a low chest of drawers, a dressing table, eight Windsor chairs, a dining table, two tables, law books, hand iron and tongs, an ink stand, two beds and bedding, tea ware in the closet, a high chest of drawers, an arm chair and small table, a big spinning wheel, five iron pots, a griddle, a warming pan and bottles, Queens ware, pewter, and ten chairs.⁸

Eventually William’s son Andrew acquired full ownership of his father’s property. The process by which he acquired full ownership, however, is not clear from either the Salem County land or probate records that have been examined. Andrew Mecum and his wife Nancy Wright had a single child, James Wright Mecum (1809-1878), who, in turn, inherited his parents’ real estate, including the Mecum Farm. James W. lived in Salem, yet he was actively involved in the management of his farm properties. This involvement may explain the further improvements made to the Mecum House during his period of ownership.⁹ James’ life was summarized in the *Biographical, Genealogical and Descriptive History of*

³ Joseph S. Sickler, *The Old Houses of Salem County (Second Edition)* (Salem: Sunbeam Publishing Company, 1949), 38.

⁴ New Jersey Colonial Deeds Salem S, Folios 37-38.

⁵ Lewis Publishing Company, *Biographical, Genealogical and Descriptive History of the First Congressional District of New York* (New York: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1900), II:418.

⁶ New Jersey Colonial Documents, 328.

⁷ New Jersey Post-Revolutionary Documents, 249-250.

⁸ Salem County Probate Inventory, 1864I, March 23, 1790.

⁹ The American Historical Society, *Cyclopedia of New Jersey Biography* (New York: Memorial History Company, 1916),

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the First Congressional District of New Jersey:

When a young man he spent several years in the county clerk's office and was the owner of several valuable tracts of land in the township of his nativity. He was progressive in his methods, and his close application to business, his enterprise and careful management brought to him a handsome competence. The manual labor on the farms was left to others, his income enabling him to hire a sufficient force to cultivate the land.¹⁰

In these years the William Mecum House was leased to a tenant farmer. A document in the Salem County Historical Society indicates that a portion of the farmland was devoted to a four-season orchard on which a variety of now-forgotten apple varieties were grown. The same document contains a sketch of a wagon house and barn that formerly stood on the site.

James W. Mecum's will made the following provision for his country real estate:

...as it is my desire that the entire family shall have the choice of being together, I therefore will that my executrices and executors in view thereof have full power and authority to rent my real estate and the rents issued and profits thereof together with the interest accruing on my personal estate shall be for and constitute a fund for the support of my said family at the Homestead dwelling above mentioned and also for my son Charles.... I give, devise and bequeath...all my real and personal estate to my children George, Ellen, Maria H. and Charles to be equally divided between them share and share alike.¹¹

James Wright Mecum had six children. One, James Harrison Mecum, died in 1863. Two sons, Charles and George lived to adulthood, and eventually Charles Mecum (1855-1934) was devised ownership of the farm. Charles attended Burlington College and later graduated from the Law Department of the University of Pennsylvania. A lawyer, he was also a real estate investor, having constructed the Mecum Block at the corner of Broadway and Walnut in Salem in 1898. Charles Mecum lived in the City of Salem and continued to lease the nominated property to tenants, at least some of whom were African American farmers.¹²

In 1946, the heirs of Charles Mecum sold the then 270-acre farm to James H. Mecum, Jr. Mecum was the first member of the family for several generations to live on the property, and he renovated it to reflect twentieth-century needs.¹³ The major change to the building was the reconstruction of the wood-framed block at the northeast end of the house to house the current kitchen, a utility room and bathroom, a breakfast room, and an upstairs bedroom. In 1952, James H. and Dorothy R. Mecum sold the property to Mary S. Mecum for \$20,860. Two years later, the present screened porch in the rear of the house was erected. In 1959, Mary Mecum transferred ownership of the property back to James H. and Dorothy R. Mecum. About the same time, a one-story "in-law apartment" was added to the west of the original

50.

¹⁰ Lewis Publishing Company, II:419.

¹¹ Will of James W. Mecum, September 10, 1878.

¹² Sickler 1949: 38.

¹³ Ibid.

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block, the last principal change to the house.

At that time, the property continued to be farmed, but in 1954, the silo was taken down, and in 1970 the barn collapsed. In the early 1970s, the 270-acre farm parcel was substantially reduced in size when the United States Government Fish and Wildlife Service bought 250 acres for a portion of the Supawna Meadows National Wildlife Refuge which more than four square miles of Salem County.

Dorothy Mecum died on April 17, 1985 and James H. Mecum, Jr. died on March 8, 1996. In James' will, he devised the rest and residue of his estate to his son, William A. Mecum and his grandson Christopher C. Gray, to share and share alike.¹⁴ The present 20-acre tract continues as a privately owned "inholding" within the boundary established for the Federally-designated Supawna Meadows National Wildlife Refuge.

¹⁴ Salem County Deed Book 966:261, June 30, 1997.

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Mecum Family Genealogical File

William Mecum House File.

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Geographic Data

Latitude/Longitude points (corners of nominated parcel)

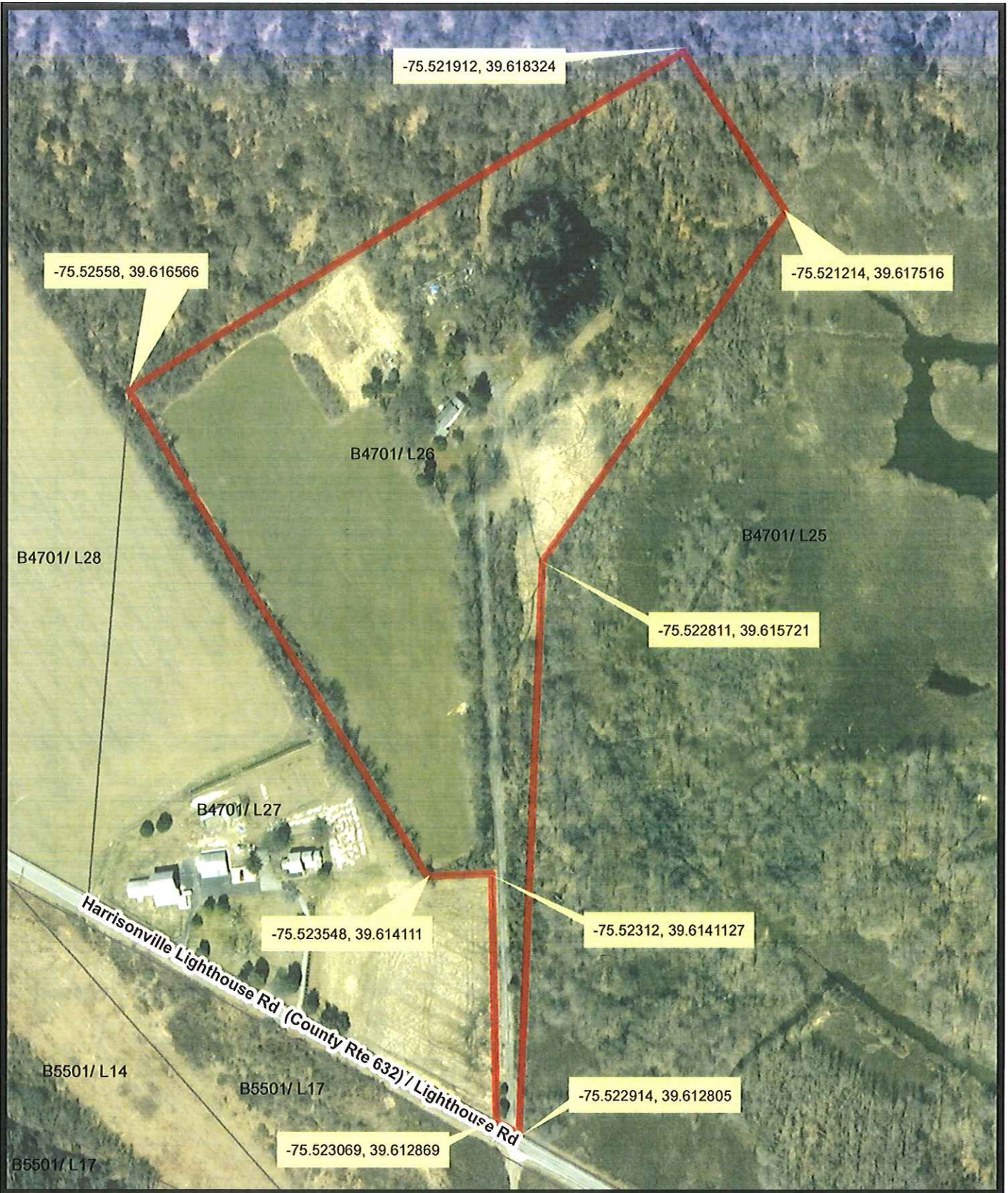
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3. Latitude: 39.617516 N	Longitude: -75.521214 W
4. Latitude: 39.615721 N	Longitude: -75.522811 W
5. Latitude: 39.612805 N	Longitude: -75.522914 W
6. Latitude: 39.612869 N	Longitude: -75.523069 W
7. Latitude: 39.614127 N	Longitude: -75.52312 W
8. Latitude: 39.614111 N	Longitude: -75.523548 W

Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property encompasses the entirety of Pennsville Township Tax parcel Block 4701, Lot 26.

Boundary Justification

The indicated boundary represents the portion of the original Mecum Homestead property that has remained in Mecum family ownership for the entirety of its history.



William and Margaret Mecum House

National Register Nomination
 Pennsville Township,
 Salem County, New Jersey

Boundary and Tax Map

Scale: 1:3,000



Legend

- NR Boundary
- Tax parcels

20.1 Acres



NJDEP,
 Historic Preservation Office
 August 2017



William and Margaret Mecum House

National Register Nomination
Pennsville Township,
Salem County, New Jersey

Boundary and Tax Map

Scale: 1:400



Legend

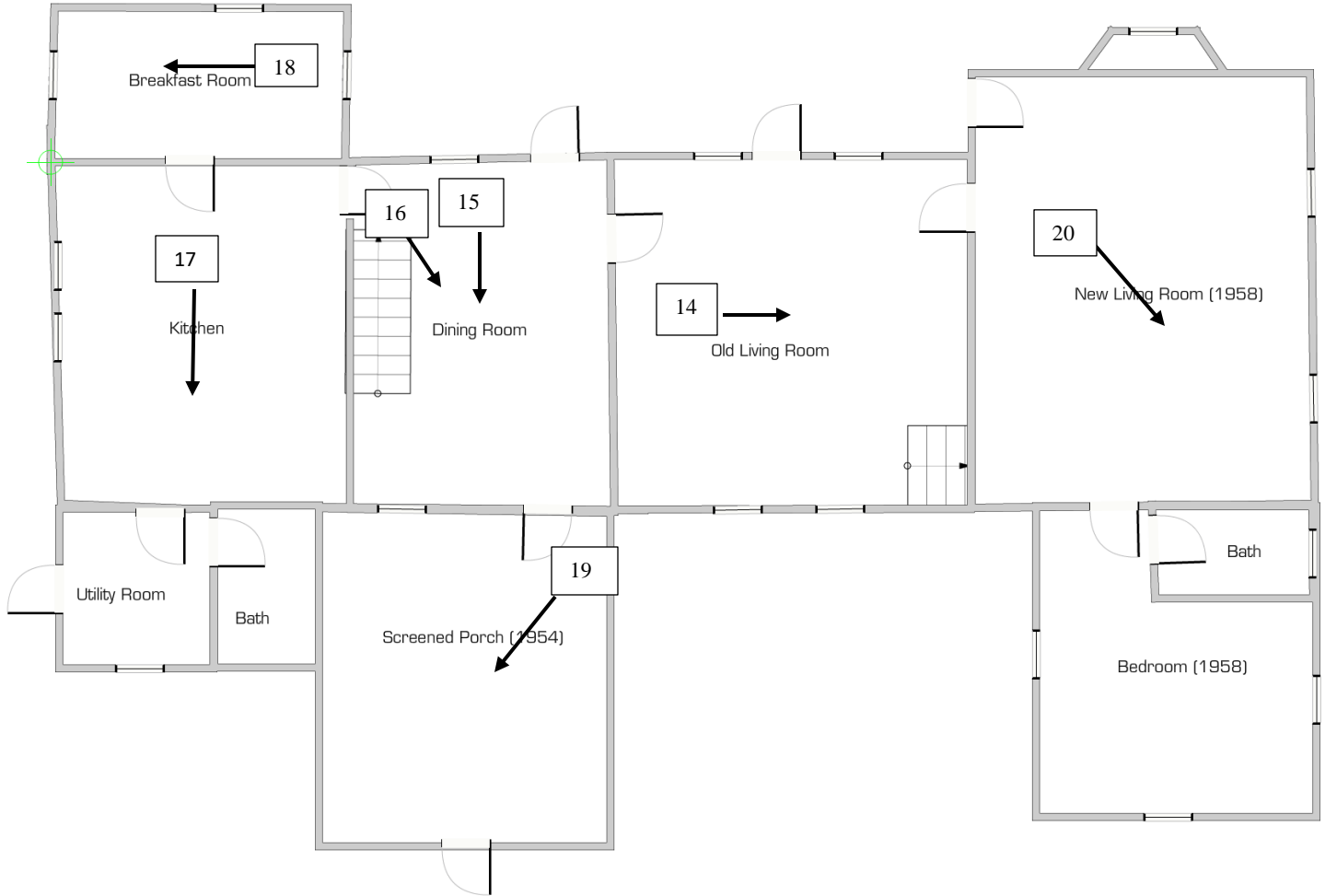
-  Photo Locations
-  Tax Parcels

20.1 Acres

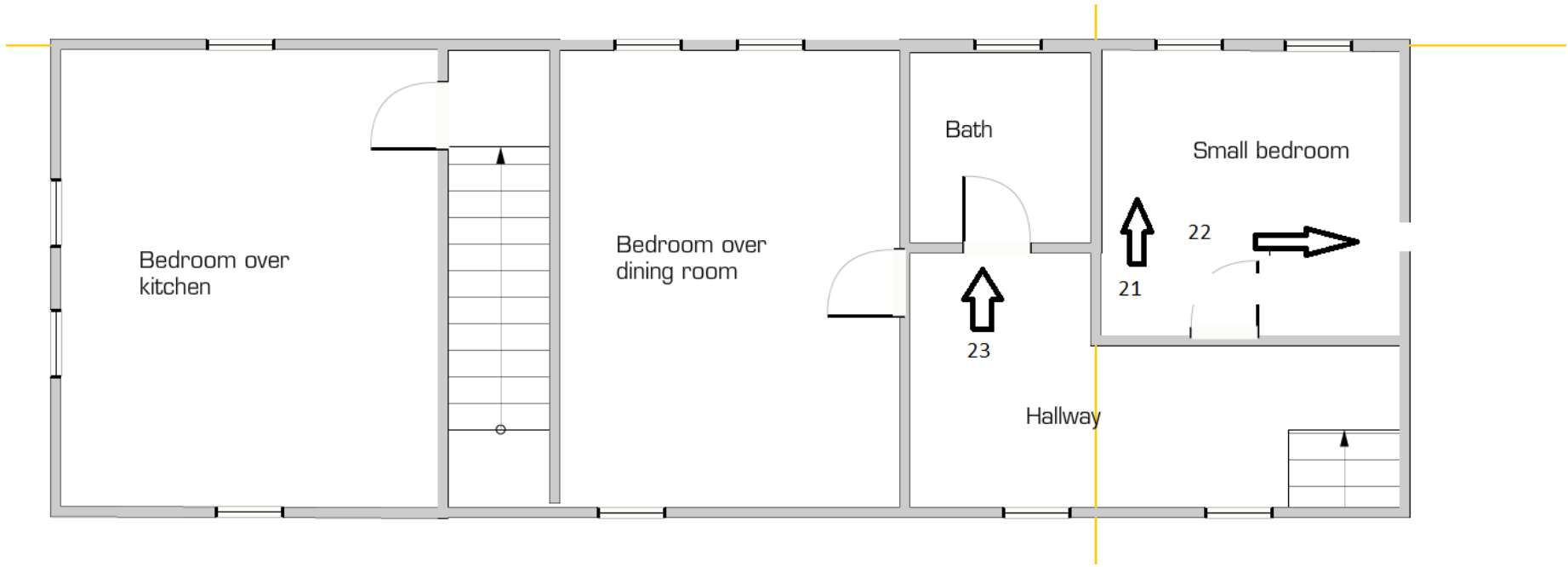


NJDEP,
Historic Preservation Office
August 2017

William and Margaret Mecum House
Salem County, New Jersey
Schematic Floor Plan and Photo Angles
First Floor



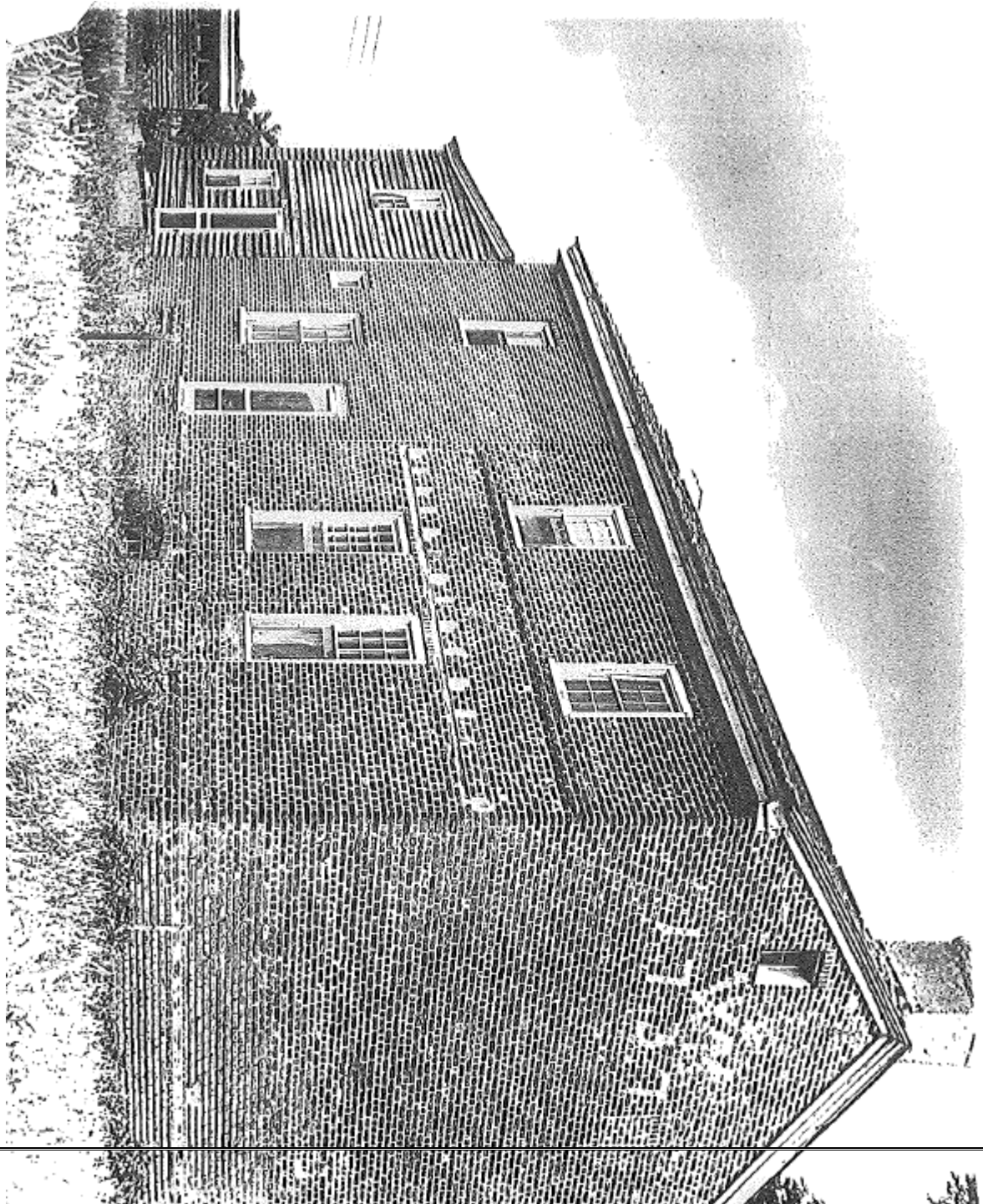
William and Margaret Mecum House
Salem County, New Jersey
Schematic Floor Plan and Photo Angles
Second Floor



William and Margaret Mecum House
Salem County, New Jersey
Historic Photo #1



Undated view of rear of William Mecum House. From Salem County Historical Society





William and Margaret Mecum House
Salem County, New Jersey
Historic Photo #2



MECUM HOUSE, 1737, LOWER PENNS NECK, SHOWING GEORGIAN FACADE

Southeast façade c. 1949 (from Sickler 1949:38)

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List of Photographs

William and Margaret Mecum House
Salem County, New Jersey
Douglas C. McVarish, photographer
July 2017

1. Mecum House from edge of driveway toward northwest.
2. Approach driveway toward south. Lighthouse Road in distance.
3. General view of the southeast façade toward northeast.
4. Central blocks of house toward northwest.
5. Close-up of brickwork of original block showing Flemish bond and water table toward northwest.
6. Close-up of main entry toward northwest.
7. Close-up of entry pediment showing punch and gouge work, toward northwest.
8. Close-up of second story windows of original block showing paneled shutters and flat-arched wood lintels with keystones toward northwest.
9. Northeast side of house toward southwest.
10. Southwest and northwest side of 1958 addition toward south.
11. West end of northwest (rear) elevation toward southeast
12. Southwest end of northwest (rear) elevation toward southeast.
13. Close-up of southwest gable end showing initials and date of construction toward southeast.
14. View of old living room (1737 block) toward southwest.
15. Dining room toward north.
16. Dining room toward northwest. Note door to screened porch at rear.
17. Kitchen toward northwest. Note utility room through doorway at rear.
18. Breakfast room toward northeast.
19. Interior of screened porch toward north.
20. View of new living room (1958 addition) toward west.
21. West second floor bedroom toward south.
22. West second floor bedroom fireplace and mantel toward southwest.
23. Second floor bathroom toward southeast.

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Photo 1. Mecum House from edge of driveway toward northwest.



Photo 2. Approach driveway toward south. Lighthouse Road in distance.

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Photo 3. General view of the southeast façade toward northeast.



Photo 4. Central blocks of house toward northwest.

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Photo 5. Close-up of brickwork of original block showing Flemish bond and water table toward northwest.

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Photo 6. Close-up of main entry toward northwest.

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Photo 7. Close-up of entry pediment showing punch and gouge work toward northwest.

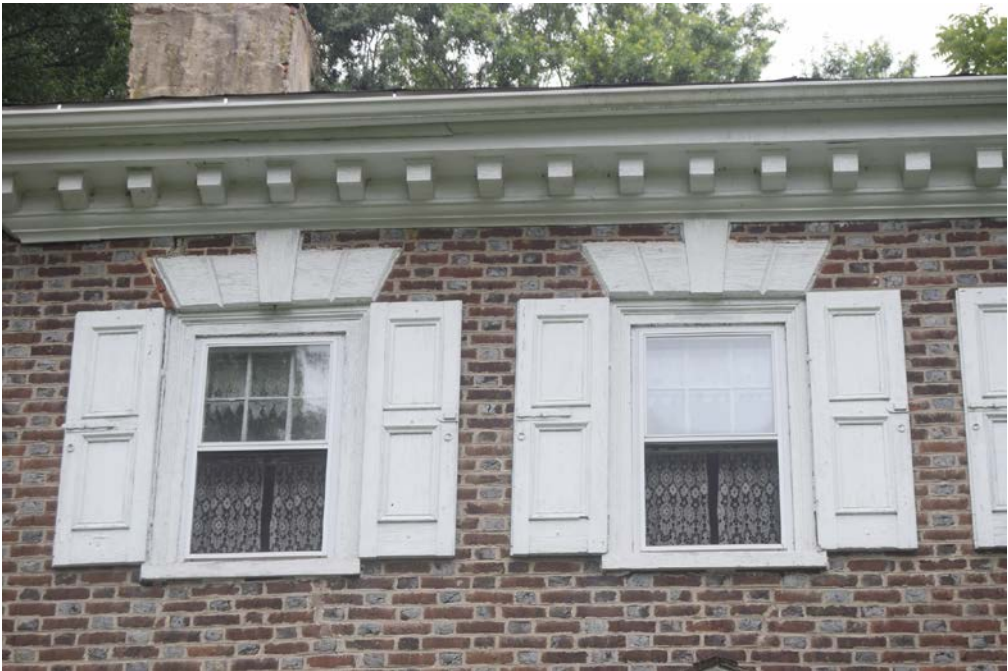


Photo 8. Close-up of second story windows of original block showing paneled shutters and flat-arched wood lintels with keystone toward northwest.

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Photo 9. Northeast side of house toward southwest.



Photo 10. Southwest and northwest elevations of 1958 addition toward south.

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Photo 11. West end of northwest (rear) elevation toward southeast.



Photo 12. Southwest end of northwest (rear) elevation toward southeast.

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Photo 13. Close-up of southwest gable end showing initials and date of construction toward southeast.



14. View of old living room (1737 block) toward southwest.

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Photo 15. Dining room toward north.



Photo 16. Dining room toward northwest. Note door to screened porch at rear.

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Photo 17. Kitchen toward northwest. Note utility room through doorway at rear.



Photo 18. Breakfast room toward northeast.

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Photo 19. Interior of screened porch toward north.



Photo 20. View of new living room (1958 addition) toward west.

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Photo 21. West second floor bedroom toward south.

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Photo 22. West second floor bedroom fireplace and mantel toward southwest.

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Photo 23. Second floor bathroom toward southeast.