

## The Primitive Hall Restoration Chronology

1738, the 14<sup>th</sup> of the 9<sup>th</sup> 1738, then my impostum brok and the Same year I Bilt my nu  
Hous. "Joseph Pennock, Family Bible



1843 Sketch of Primitive Hall by Isabella Pennock Lukens. The earliest image of the Hall



1870 The Victorian treatment of Primitive Hall, The features included large glass panes 2  
over 2 lite windows, prominent front and side gables with pointed arch windows,

brackets, and wrap around porch. Windows were added and opening were changed removing the earlier structures. The designer and craftsmen of this phase are not known.



1920 Primitive Hall as acquired by Stuart Huston. The Hall has fallen into disrepair. The facade applied to the earlier core structure and the auxiliary buildings will be removed. Other than photographs there is limited documentation of the Victorian features added and removed.



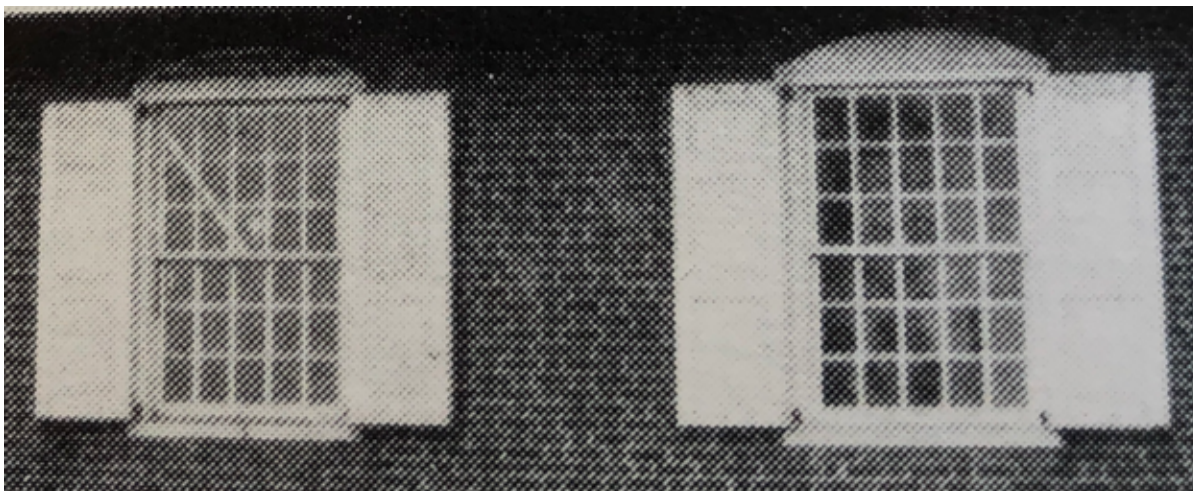
1930 The 18<sup>th</sup> Century Primitive Hall<sup>1</sup> is beginning to emerge. Key restoration decisions

are displayed on the Clarence W. Brazer's architectural drawings dated 1925. The influences of Brazer's designs are pervasive in the restoration. Over the next 60 years the restoration work will follow his plans. He proposed design changes to restore the Hall to a 1738 period. Windows were redesigned, pent eve added based on brick scars, and Cove eve

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<sup>1</sup> Photograph from Eleanor Raymond, "Early Domestic Architecture of Pennsylvania, 1930, copy from the Schiffer Ltd. 1977, Reprinting.

built based on brick scars. Two external doorways, two internal doorways, and six window openings were infilled. Choice<sup>2</sup> of external opening to be maintained was made by the presence of ghosts of segmented arches. Openings without these scars were not considered original to the 1738 building and were closed.

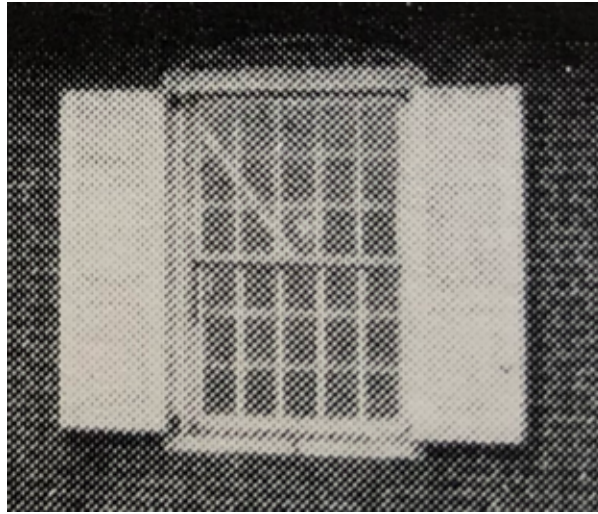


South Elevation windows. The window to right shows ghost of segmented arch filled in doing the Victorian window modification. The ghost has been “chalked” to give a clear view of the segmented arch. To the left, the window shows a similar arch ghost. Segmented brick arches will be applied to each opening.

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<sup>2</sup> Stewart Huston responded in the attached interview that closure was determined because the opening was not part of the original 1738 building. He did not indicate how that was determined. The author makes the case that ghost arch lintels were the indicator.

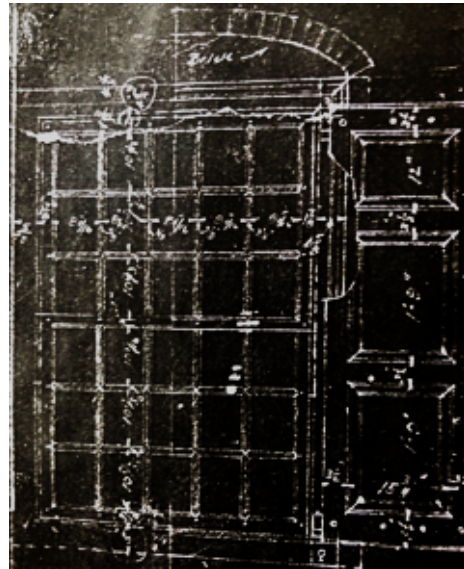




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### **1925, The Clarence W. Brazer Primitive Hall Design Portfolio**

The architectural drawings of the Brazer design portfolio were given to Primitive Hall by John Milner. Importantly, they place our considerations at the beginning of the restoration process, 1925-1930.



South Elevation 15 x 15 window.

This is the design of the south 4-bay elevation windows that so distinguishes Primitive Hall. The segmented brick arches were reconstructed as part of window placement. Designed and installed in 1925-1930.



Gable end elevation 9x6 window .  
Designed and installed in 1925-1930



West Gable Elevation. The dashed figures indicate infills.  
The pent eve and cove molding were restored fitting to the  
scars on the brick face.

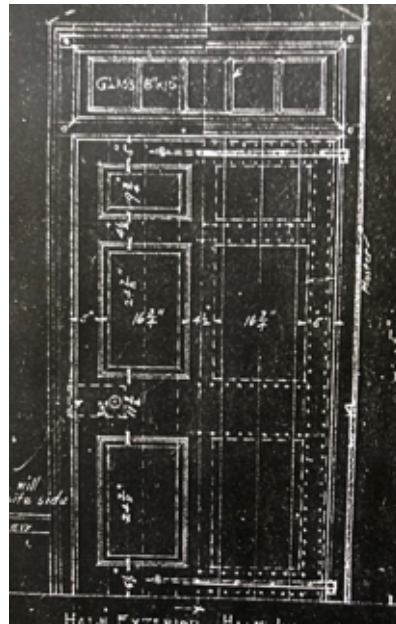


East Gable Elevation. The dashed figures indicate infills.

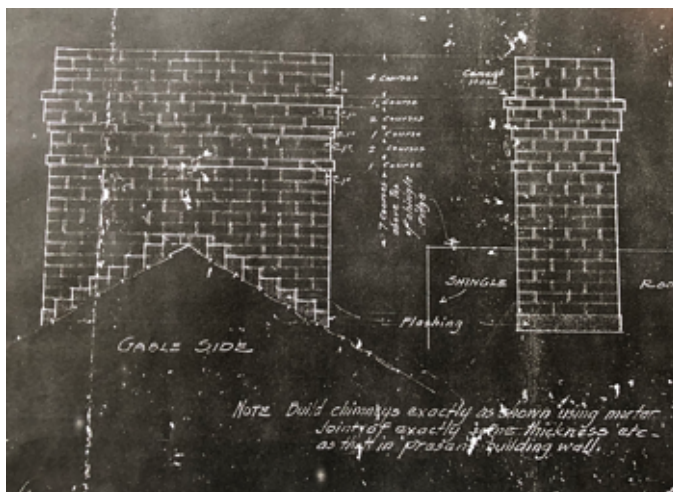


North Gable Elevation. Included is a proposed attached kitchen. This kitchen design was not implemented.





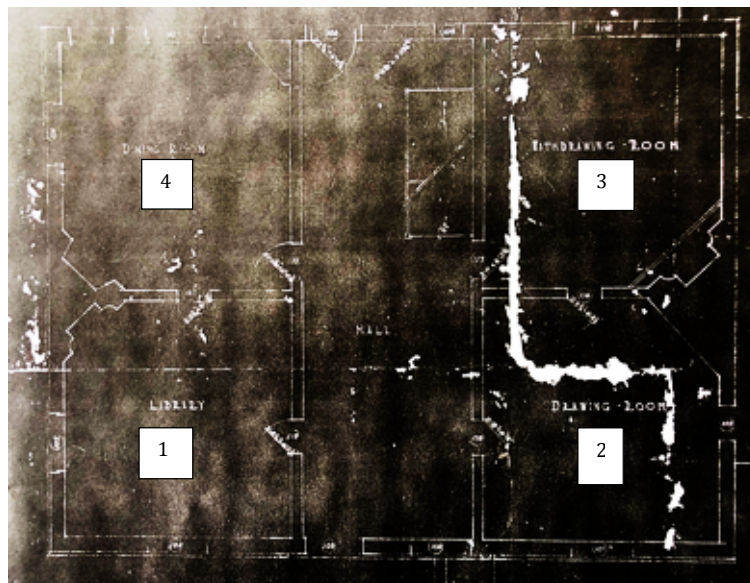
Front Door Design



Corbelled Chimney Design



Cove Molding Design and Application Frame

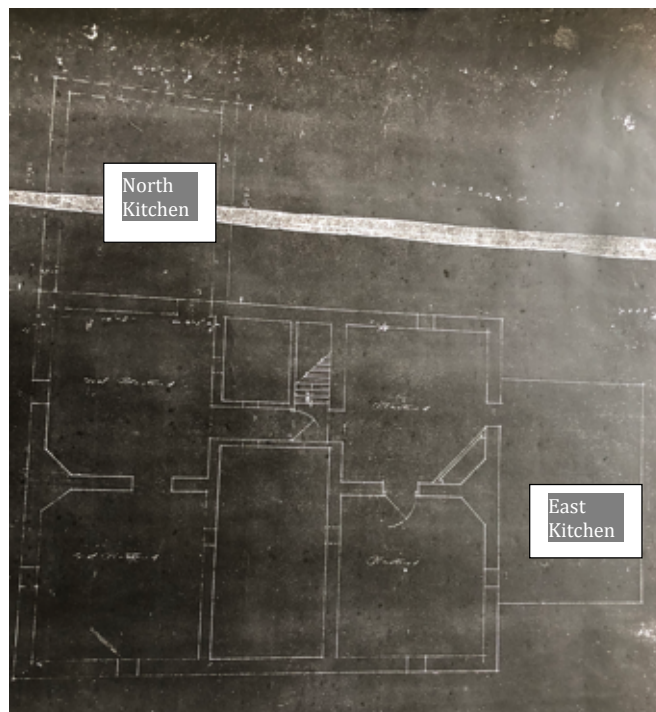


Interior first floor room plan with original use designation as noted by Clarence W. Brazier. Rooms named 1.Library, 2.Drawing Room, 3.Withdrawing Room, and 4.Dining Room





Interior first floor plan. Door closures X designation. The door configuration and two kitchens supported the 19<sup>th</sup> century use of Primitive Hall as a two-family residence with east and west quarters.



1925 Hall Foundations. The Brazer 1925 drawings show foundation outlines for two kitchen Ell's. Through the 19<sup>th</sup> century Primitive Hall was divided into a two Pennock family residence with separate kitchens. The north kitchen had been removed long before the beginning of the restoration. The east kitchen was removed as part of the restoration.



1959 HABS Photograph, South Elevation External restoration complete except for east gable door and north elevation door removals.



1959 HABS Photograph, North Elevation. Core restoration complete except for door removal and north kitchen reconstruction.

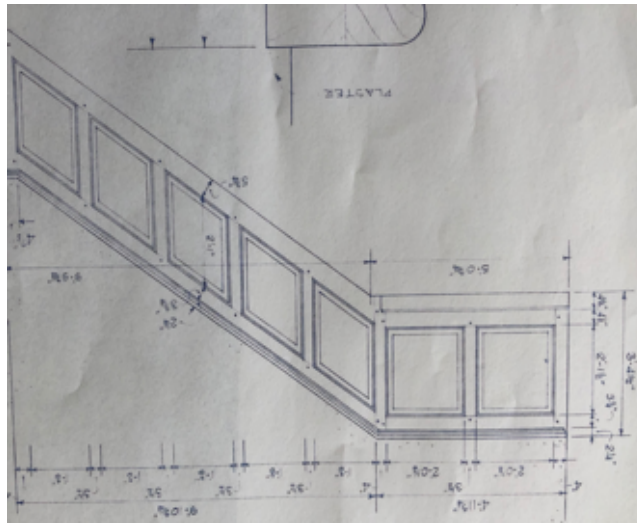
### **1973 The interior Restoration.**

In 1973 the Primitive Hall Foundation Board made the decision that the interior restoration of Primitive Hall should be completed. The work to be done included replacement of missing wood architectural details by reproduction of original materials, removal of paint on wood materials, plastering of walls, cleaning and repair of original flooring and laying of brick paving of central hallway. A title search was completed by Alice Kent Schooler. The interior restoration work was carried out by the National Heritage Corporation.



1959 HABS Photo. Of Hall Stairway. A number of the restoration needs are shown. Missing wainscoting requires replacement and paint requires removal on stairway banister. The brick hallway floor has been laid.

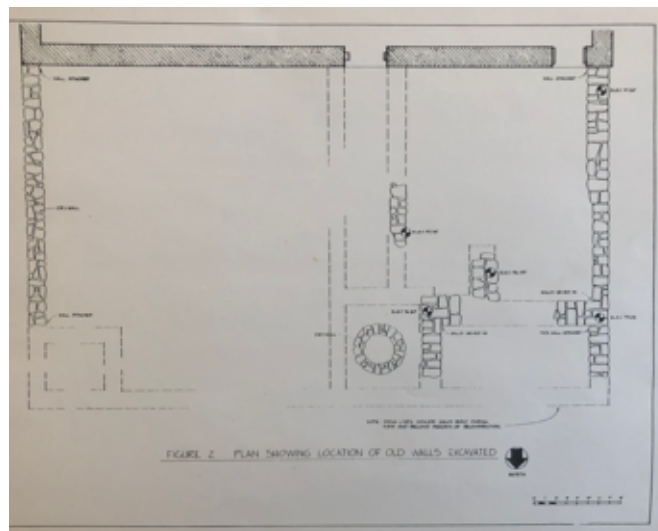




Architectural drawings for the reconstructed stairway wainscoting of hall stairway wall. Similar drawings are in the Primitive Hall's National Heritage Corporation collection for additional molding reconstruction. As further research the writer plans, working with John Milner, to observe the restored areas and estimate the amount of original material remaining as compared to duplicated materials.

Primitive Hall was planned to serve as a museum, thus minimal living services were required in the historic core. Changes required included electrical, communications, security, heating and air conditioning. Plumbing, kitchen facilities and rest room were included in a new kitchen ell addition attached at the rear.

### 1973, The 18<sup>th</sup> Century Kitchen



The earliest stone foundations located by archeological study. This foundation and the well indicate the dimensions and location of a

## 18<sup>th</sup> century kitchen and enclosed garden.

The 1799 West Marlborough tax has the first mention of a kitchen. The tax also suggests that work is still being completed on the interior of the Hall. It is possible that work was going on in the north west room and that this kitchen was constructed late in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

This thought is further developed in Archeological Report by the researchers of the National Heritage Corporation. They undertook an Archeological study of the kitchen and courtyard area.

Their report summary,

*"The evidence from the archaeological excavation of the kitchen area attached to the north side of "Primitive Hall" indicates that a kitchen-courtyard complex did, in fact, exist here. The ceramics and other artifacts date the structures as not earlier than 1770 (probably, the 1790's) and no later than 1850.*

*It is apparent that an attached dependency had been originally intended when the north wall of "Primitive Hall" was laid up; but for some reason, its construction was delayed. It is most likely that in 1738 the kitchen in some other outbuilding was used.*

*There was neither enough brick nor stone left on the site to specifically indicate the material of the walls; but, the projecting bricks on the north wall of "Primitive Hall" were originally intended to key-in to a brick wall. It is probable that in early eighteenth century the cooking was done in some as yet undiscovered, detached outbuilding."*

### **1999, The Reconstructed Kitchen**

The design and location of the Hall's 1738 kitchen was a question long considered. Proposals for its construction was made by four different architectural firms. Stewart Huston worried over the issue for many years and passed on with it unresolved. He had purchased the bricks for a reconstructed kitchen, but did not proceed and sold the bricks to the Brosius family. Early kitchens of that time required an open cooking hearth, a bake oven and a dug well for a source of water. The location of a well can be an indicator of the location of a former kitchen. The north east corner location had those qualities. However, there was a problem.

Archaeological research reported in a 1974 study by the National Heritage Corporation made a compelling argument that the north west attached 18th century kitchen was not present until late in the century. A likely kitchen function was the building that the family lived in prior to moving to Primitive Hall.

In 1999 the Primitive Hall Foundation Board moved forward to establish a kitchen at the north west corner of Primitive Hall building. In practice the writer finds the current location of the reconstructed kitchen works well for telling the story of life at the Hall in 1738 and as well as a support facility for programs at the Hall. Visitors can view the historic

core and then move easily to the kitchen. The location also preserves unimpeded front views of the historic core.



The Kitchen was designed by Raymond Sipe, Architect.