



Historical Hopewell Farmhouses: 18th Century “Cow and the Calf” Farmhouses and Kitchens

Friday, November 20, 2020
7:30 pm Internet Webinar
via Zoom

Presented by Philip A. Hayden

Please go to
HopewellValleyHistory.org
to register for this event.



Philip A. Hayden is Principal Senior Architectural Historian at Richard Grubb & Associates, Inc., a consulting firm based in Cranbury, New Jersey

specializing in archaeology, historic preservation, and cultural resources regulatory compliance across the northeast. He received his Bachelor's degree from Connecticut College with a dual major in American History and Historic Preservation and his Master's degree from the Winterthur Program in Early American Culture and the University of Delaware.

Mr. Hayden has held curatorial and administrative positions with the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, the Historical Society of Princeton, the New Jersey Historical Society, and the New Jersey State House. His specialties range from eighteenth and nineteenth-century framing practices to twentieth-century railroad history. A resident of Rocky Hill for most of his life, Mr. Hayden is now based in Annapolis, Maryland.

Traveling through Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in 1817, diarist William Cobbett remarked how the farmhouses consisted of a “*considerable large and very neat house... and of a small house, which seems to have been tacked on to the large one; and the proportion they bear to each other... is as nearly as possible the proportion of size between a cow and her calf.*” He might have been describing anywhere in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Using Hopewell Township as a case study, and relying on buildings as evidence, this talk explores how the traditional rural New Jersey farmhouse underwent a spatial and functional transformation between 1750 and 1820. Two-story farmhouses with attached one-story kitchen wings on the gable end emerged as the regional house type of choice, and was both the product of tradition and a harbinger of change. What were the first vernacular houses like in Hopewell? How did they evolve and why? What does the “cow and calf” tell us about the evolving character of New Jersey’s agrarian landscape at the turn of the Nineteenth Century?

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Brian M. Hughes, County Executive; Aaron T. Watson, Executive Director.

