

The Benjamin Cooper House
Point and Erie Streets
Camden, Camden County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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The Benjamin Cooper House
Point and Erie Streets
Camden, Camden County, New Jersey

Owner: The Mathis Shipbuilding Company

Date of Erection: 1734

Architect:

Builder: Benjamin Cooper

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: Two and one-half

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - stone,
extension stone and
brick

Interior walls - plaster

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - hip with dormers;
pent roof between the
first and second floors
front

Historical Data:

Benjamin Cooper, the grandson of William Cooper, the first of the Cooper family in South Jersey, built this house at Pyne Point in 1734. The gable end marking show that he and his wife Hannah were the

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The gable end markings show that he and his wife Hannah were the builders. He died in 1772 leaving the house to his son Joseph.

During the British occupation of Philadelphia in the winter of 1777 and 1778, the Cooper House was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Abercrombie of the Thirty-seventh British Regiment; because of this, this house is commonly known as the Abercrombie House. Colonel Abercrombie and his troops were stationed at Pyne Point to furnish protection from American Troops for parties cutting wood for use in Philadelphia and for the transports.

Later on when Colonel Abercrombie was transferred to Philadelphia the British canoneers on the Pennsylvania side used the house as a target. They must have been very poor shots, because the only known hit is in the attic where there is a "red oak girder cut and splintered by a twelve pound shot which entered through the roof, struck the girder and fell to the floor."

In later years, the house with its groves and gardens was used as a pleasure resort by the people of the surrounding settlements of Camden Village, Kaighnton, Dogwoodtown, Fetersville, and Cooper's Ferry. All of these places are now included in Camden City.

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Rec. Jan. 26 '37 P.W.