

Great Geneva
Between Camden and Lebanon a short distance
east of Route 113
Camden Vicinity
Kent County
Delaware

HABS No. DEL-139

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

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GREAT GENEVA

Location: Between Camden and Lebanon a short distance east of Route 113, Camden Vicinity, Kent County, Delaware

Original Owner: Robert Willcocks, in 1748, sold it to Jonathan Hunn

Present Owner: Don Concillio

Brief Statement of Significance: This house, built before 1748, is typical of the area in its plan and detail, and has extensive, original paneling on the second floor.

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

Great Geneva, near the Tidbury Branch of St. Jones Creek, is a two-story-and-attic, three-bay brick house with a small frame kitchen wing.

The house was built before 1748 for it is mentioned in a survey of that date. In all likelihood, it was built about 1730, but there is no documentary evidence prior to 1748.

The plan of Great Geneva is an adaptation of the "Resurrection Manor plan" that came up from Maryland and was so generally used throughout Sussex and Kent. The house faces north.

The house-door opens into the "great room", wherein are the fireplace and the closed winding stair to the upper rooms. The "added" room is at the east side.

The house was reft of all the original paneling and other woodwork on the ground floor when the place was a shambles some years ago; entire replacement had to be made when the present occupants rescued the house. There is good original paneling upstairs.

Great Geneva, by all accounts, was an important station on the "Underground Railroad."

Prepared by Harold Donaldson Eberlein
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