



Oxford Furnace was located in a part of what was Greenwich Township, located along the Pequest River. The Oxford Furnace was built in c. 1741 to be close to local ore mining and began operation a

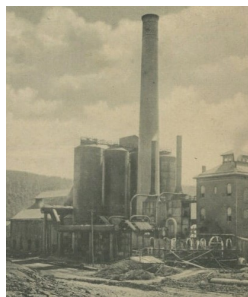
year later. The original furnace had an 8-foot bosh and was 38-feet in height. The output was from thirteen to seventeen tons of pig iron a week. The Furnace produced pig iron, **firebacks** (1744-1760s) and possibly cannonballs for the Continental Army .



By the 19th century, so much charcoal had been used for the furnace (350 bushels of charcoal per ton of iron produced), that all of the hills within the hauling distance were laid bare. As a result, the furnace discontinued from about 1809 to 1831.

By the time the Morris Canal was open and running (1831), fuel became attainable once again. During this time, William Henry successfully used hot blast in 1834 and obtained a patent for it. This process enabled the furnace to produce 4 tons a day. When the stack was enlarged and made higher, it produced up to 10 tons a day.

In 1884, the furnace went out of blast. A **second**



furnace, built in 1871 was put into operation until about 1895 when it was “blown out”. It was rebuilt in 1910 until 1921 when it was blown out again during the post World War I depression (not the Great Depression). From 1921-22, the Furnace was acquired by Replogle Steel and in 1925, they leased the property. Two years later, the properties were

acquired by Warren Pipe & Foundry until it was purchased by Alan Wood Steel and later Anthony Ferrante. The Furnace and Manor were purchased by the State of NJ in 1974 and acquired by the County of Warren in 1984. The Furnace was added to the National Registry of Historic Places in 1974.



GUIDED TOURS

The museum is open the first and second Sundays May to December, excluding holidays. Hours vary depending upon programming. December tours are by reservation only. Museum admission is free, but donations to the Friends of Shippen are always welcome. Shippen Manor is a family-friendly site.

Private and Group Tours outside of museum hours will be by appointment only and based on the availability of docents.

OUR MISSION

In October 2019, the Commission was restructured as the Warren County Bicentennial Cultural and Heritage Advisory Board and is tasked with a continuation of the preservation, interpretation, and education of Shippen Manor and Oxford Furnace for future generations.

Its mission was to develop county programs in order to promote public interest in local and county history, the arts, cultural values, goals, and traditions of the community, as well as the state and nation.

The Friends of Shippen is a non-profit corporation consisting of volunteers that was formed to assist Cultural & Heritage Affairs’ operations and provide guided tours of the Manor.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer at Shippen Manor, please contact Gina at (908) 453-4381.

SHIPPEN MANOR MUSEUM

8 Belvidere Avenue
Oxford, NJ 07863

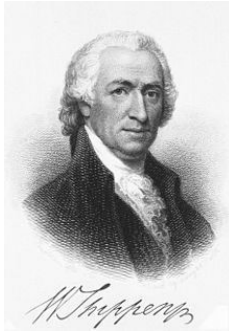


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About Shippen Manor Museum

THE SHIPPENS

The Shippens were a socially prominent and wealthy Philadelphia family. Joseph Shippen, Sr. acquired title to the site of what was to be Oxford Furnace, New Jersey around 1741. The Manor was built circa 1754 by Joseph, Sr. and his brother, Dr. William Shippen, Sr. In the late 1760s, Joseph W. was installed by his father, William Sr. to manage the property and secured the services of Martha Axford (only daughter of Oxford's original settler, John Axford) as house manager. Over the next several years, Joseph W. and Martha engaged in a relationship that resulted in seven children. To date, no evidence has been found of a marriage taking place. When Joseph W. died intestate (without a will) in 1795, his father came to live in the Manor to "administer his son's estate and oversee furnace operations." William is said to have grown fond of his grandchildren in spite of his disapproval of Joseph W. and Martha's (d. 1798) relationship and provided for all his grandchildren in his will. He owned the Furnace, Manor and other properties until his death in 1801 when his son, Dr. William Shippen, Jr. and daughter, Susan Shippen Blair became the heirs. They possessed the property until 1809.



After the Shippen era, the Manor and Furnace were sold to (David) Morris Robeson, grandson of the original iron master, Jonathan Robeson. From 1834 to 1837, iron master William Henry lived at the Manor while operating the Furnace. The Scranton brothers, who ran the furnace after Henry lived at the Manor until the 1860s when it became the "Fowler House" (boarding house). From 1911-1924, the Valentine family lived at the Manor. **Sterling Galt Valentine** was the superintendent of the Empire Steel & Iron Co. 1922 to about 1947, Carl Loux served as the superintendent of the iron works for Alan Wood Co. He and his family lived at the Manor. In 1950, the Manor and two acres were sold to Kenneth H. Wood and the family lived here until about 1953 when Edna Evelyn Kappler purchased the property. The Kapplers were the last private family to live at the Manor. In 1974, the property was sold to the State of New Jersey and 10 years later, acquired by the County of Warren.

THE MANOR

Archaeological excavations at Shippen Manor have uncovered a wide range of information about the previous inhabitants of the site and the many changes that the manor and grounds have undergone since the 1740s. Numerous 18th and 19th c. subsurface features such as wells, builder's trenches, refuse pits, and middens, in addition to various architectural elements have been discovered. Further information about the Manor was obtained through primary sources such as inventories, letters, wills and diaries. The site of the structure demonstrates the position of the Shippens in local society. During the time that the Shippens owned the Manor, the property contained over 4,000 acres of land, including land on the Delaware River and a grant from the King of England to operate a ferry in Belvidere. This iron plantation was self-sufficient, surrounded by tenant farms, various mills, a store as well as the iron furnace.



The Manor is Georgian in style, constructed from local stone with walls that are two feet thick, as well as three immense chimneys. The ground floor consisted of six rooms. Upstairs there were two bed chambers and four garret rooms (now offices and museum storage).

When the Manor was built, it was designed to be functional rather than luxurious.

Three colors dominated the interior of that portion of the house restored to the colonial period: white, blue-gray and red. Through analysis of paint chips, taken from throughout the Manor, we have been able to reproduce the colors used in the restoration of the Manor. The baseboards in this portion of the house were painted black, this prevented dirt from showing on the lower section of the white walls. Where you see breaks in the black baseboards, this indicates a contemporary addition. The pine floors in the Reception room, Dining room, and Victorian parlor are original.



According to an advertisement of sale in the 1830s, the Manor property included: 60' x 40' stone mansion house, two kitchens with spring water conducted through them, a bathhouse, icehouse and smoke house annexed to the kitchens, a large frame barn (room for 30 horses), a carriage house and wagon house, corncribs, granary and other outbuildings. It has a half-acre garden enclosed by an expensive stone wall and contained asparagus beds and other vegetables, shrubbery and a variety of grafted fruit trees. A two-story stone store was built in the southeast corner of the Manor property in 1844 and served as a store, post office and school. When it burned, the stones were incorporated into the wall and the Company Store was built on Wall Street (which was razed in 2007).