



On This Site in 1784

Stacy Potts' house

SW corner of Warren & Bank, opposite St. Michael's

Stacy Potts' house was chosen to serve as the official residence of the President of the Continental Congress. After his election as President, Colonel Richard Henry Lee stayed here from November 1, 1784 until January 5, 1785. On Friday, December 10, historians believe that General Lafayette spent the night here, as Lee's guest, before his formal visit to Congress the next day.

The Potts house was a large, two-story building with 10 rooms, including six with fireplaces. It boasted a kitchen, a fine garden, and stabling for 6 horses. It sat on a 2 acre lot with a stream running through the property, surrounded by a cedar post-and-board fence.



This photograph of the building was taken just before it was demolished.

Potts was a shrewd businessman. He owned, among other things, a steel mill near the Old Barracks, a paper mill, and a large tannery located just behind his house. He was appointed Mayor of Trenton in 1806, and served with gusto for 8 years. He was an incorporator or stockholder in most of Colonial Trenton's progressive ventures, including a water works company, the Trenton Library Company, the Trenton Academy, and John Fitch's steamboat company.

Potts and his first wife, Esther, had five children. Esther died in 1769. Potts had five more children with his second wife, Margaret. He died in 1816 at the age of 85.