



The John Wentz House

BY CAROL KALOS, WISSAHICKON VALLEY
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As BBCC residents travel east on Route 73, after Wentz Park at 1150 Skippack Pike, they see the lovely “John Wentz House,” built about 1795. It sits across the street from an engineering firm’s office at 1149 Skippack, which was formerly the famous Wentz Tavern, also called the Rising Sun Inn. Constructed in 1764, it was the first brick building in Montgomery County. Over its many decades, it functioned not only as a wayside inn, but it became a polling place and a center for local commerce and government meetings.

Whitpain...Crossroads in Time (1977) states that John Wentz was the son of the tavern’s first innkeeper, Abraham, and John served as a trusted local official and the Justice of the Peace for twenty years. His property remained in the respected Wentz family until 1888.

According to the Pennsylvania Historic Resource Survey (1999), the “John Wentz House” date stone is located at the chimney near the top of the roof. The two-story, Colonial-style home is built of fieldstone, once covered with stucco, and it has two additions at the rear, the more recent one from the 1920s. Today the front of the house shows its exposed cut fieldstone, and decorative pillars surround the handsome side-entrance, where two lion statues greet the old house’s visitors.

The author, Carol Kalos, is president of the Wissahickon Valley Historical Society, a nonprofit, all-volunteer organization. Its mission is to promote and preserve the history and historic resources of Ambler Borough, Whitpain Township, and Lower Gwynedd Township. It offers monthly speakers, and visitors and new members are always welcome: Info@WValleyHS.org.

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