

Chapter Two Hobart Manor Historic Context and Associations

Development of Paterson and Wayne Township, New Jersey

The history and significance of Hobart Manor is closely tied to nineteenth century development around Paterson. Although there had been Dutch farmers in the area in the 17th and 18th centuries, it was the establishment of manufacturing on the great falls of the Passaic that attracted the prosperous business men associated with the history of Hobart Manor.

The power of the falls of the Passaic River changed Paterson and, in turn, the adjacent townships, such as Wayne. Following the earliest settlements of Indians along the river, Paterson grew into a small Dutch farming village of ten structures by 1790.¹ In 1791 Alexander Hamilton, then the first Secretary for the Treasury, was determined to ensure the political freedom of the fledgling nation by developing its economic, industrial and commercial independence. Hamilton and a group of entrepreneurs therefore founded the Society for Establishing Useful [sic] Manufactures (S.U.M.) to exploit the power of Great Falls.

To use the power of the Passaic, the water had to be channeled from the top of the falls into a canal or "race" constructed back and forth down the hillside until the water was

¹ Information about the industrial history of Paterson is taken from reports prepared by the Paterson Archaeology Lab, Department of Economic Development, Paterson, New Jersey, in 1978 and 1980 unless otherwise stated.

returned to the river at the bottom of the Falls. In this way, headraces and tailraces were provided to many mill sites along the grade of the hill. Pierre L'Enfant, planner for the federal city of Washington, was selected to design a three-tiered raceway system, but his schemes were too grand and expensive.^{2/} Instead Peter Colt was put in charge and modified and extended the raceway system from 1792 to 1838.

The first industry concentrated along the waterway system in the 1790s was cotton. The War of 1812 brought a great demand for American production of cotton textiles. A new boom began with Thomas Rogers' manufacture of locomotives in 1835 and throughout the 1840s Paterson had very strong economic activity, including other industries such as breweries, foundries, furniture makers, flax mills, blacksmiths and nail mills. Though the locomotive industry continued to bring Paterson greatest recognition through the 1850s, the cotton business fell sharply as a result of the decline in use of water power, and because of increased competition generated by newer larger mills in New England. As the cotton industry failed, production of silk began to take its place for the latter was an industry which required clean water in processing to the standards of John Ryle, the Englishman who brought silk manufacture to Paterson in 1839. By 1858 Ryle had developed the most extensive silk mill in the country at Paterson and the labor force required by the silk and locomotive industries combined was easily met by mass immigration

² Shriner, Charles A. Four Chapters of Paterson History. (Paterson, NJ: Lont & Overkamp Publishing Co., 1919) pp. 61-62.

of Irish escaping famine and depression in their own country in the 1850s. The "Silk City," as Paterson was called, continued to experience waves of immigration through the second half of the 19th century. These immigrants combined to make a staggering increase of three hundred percent in the Paterson's non-agricultural employment force between 1860 and 1900. John W. MacCullough is a fine example of a Scottish immigrant who came to this country to develop his trade. Through Buffalo, he made his way as a successful wool merchant to the textile center of Paterson in the early 1870s. It is likely that both kin and the thriving industrial community drew him to the region and to build his castle, Ailsa Farms.

Along with industrial growth came all the features of a mature city including prominent lawyers and politicians. In 1871, Garret A. Hobart began his political career as city solicitor of Paterson not long after completing his legal training under the tutelage of Socrates Tuttle.^{3/} The Hobart and Tuttle families had known each other from their similar New England beginnings, and the promise of practicing law brought both Garret Hobart and Socrates Tuttle to settle in Paterson in the first half of the nineteenth century.^{4/}

As the nature of employment changed in the second half of the nineteenth century, so too did the surrounding countryside. The population center extended out from Paterson and nearby

³ Paterson News. "Hobart and Griggs, of Paterson, Prominent on National Scene." Wednesday, August 25, 1965.

⁴ David Magie, D.D. Life of Garret Augustus Hobart. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1910. pp. 22-24.

townships within Essex, Bergen, and Passaic Counties. The last of these, Passaic, was formed in 1839, and Wayne township, approved in 1846, was taken from Manchester Township.^{5/} Though just a few miles from Paterson's center, Wayne remained essentially a farming community in 1860. Dairy cows and beef cattle, mules and oxen, horses and sheep and other livestock dotted the hills of 8,411 improved and 5,110 unimproved acres in Wayne.^{6/} Sizable quantities of wheat, rye, Indian corn, oats, potatoes, buckwheat, hay and wool were produced along with butter and honey. In the latter part of the 19th century the area evolved as a manufacturer of explosives at the Rend-Rocks Powder Works and the Laflin & Rand Powder Company. These operations were driven by massive steam engines which were obtained from nearby Paterson.^{7/} In addition, Wayne developed a second industry of brick making out of the rich beds of clay in the southern part of the township. Also driven by steam engines, these yards included the Van Blarcom & Clark, Madison Brothers, The Mountain View Brick Manufacturing Company, Robert Beattie Brickyard, Healy & Voorhis and John M. Powers.^{8/}

Throughout the twentieth century both Paterson and Wayne have continued to develop in response to the ebbs and flows of industry. Paterson more particularly has suffered with the

⁵ William E. Berce. Under the Sign of the Eagle. (Wayne, NJ: Louis J. Vorgetts, 1965) pg. 222.

⁶ Berce. pg. 223.

⁷ Berce. pg. 226.

⁸ Berce. pg. 226.

doldrums of economic hardship perhaps initiated most severely by the demise of the silk industry after the great silk workers strike of 1913 and the subsequent depression.

Remnants of the days of industrial prosperity exist in properties such as Hobart Manor and Lambert Castle. These buildings by their size, style, materials and situation reflect the aspirations of their builders and family owners. Although many nineteenth century homes, like Carroll Hall, have been demolished, others like Lambert Castle have become the sites of a museum, historical society, and an educational center. Hobart Manor is well-suited to serve in a similar capacity for the College and region. Each of these buildings remains a symbol of the architectural traditions that characterized the early development of the region.

History of Persons Associated with Hobart Manor

Those figures associated with Hobart Manor from the 1870s to the present include persons and institutions important in both local and national history.

John Watt MacCullough

Though little information has been found, John Watt MacCullough is noted in local history as a Scottish immigrant who rose to prominence in the mid-nineteenth century wool industry of this country, and in his later years in Paterson. His success in this industry made it possible for him to construct the original manor house, Ailsa Farms, in the late 1870s. The castle, as it

was often called, reflected his growing economic status.

MacCullough's home, Ailsa Farms, and nearby Lambert Castle, built by Catholina Lambert in 1892, remain important symbols of how great wealth, accumulated by a few industrial barons, was reflected in the architecture of Paterson. Lambert, like MacCullough, was a master of the textile industry, the former's specialty being silk. The locations of Ailsa Farms and Lambert Castle on hill tops illustrate where and how such persons chose to display their success. As industrial development became more intensified, those with the means, chose to retreat to the privacy, clean air and quiet of nearby hilltops or countryside. As the landscape of the past is changed, the history and situation of estates such as Ailsa Farms and Lambert Castle remain important documents of local and regional history. That John MacCullough chose to build his estate in the midst of Wayne Township farm territory is significant for several reasons. The hilly terrain surrounding him was particularly well suited for sheep raising which was common to Wayne in the late 19th century. The original siting of the property was important in terms of MacCullough's personal and professional goals, the nature of the surrounding region and the reasonable proximity to Paterson.

Garret A. Hobart

Garret A. Hobart, twenty-fourth Vice President of the United States, served President William McKinley from 1896 until 1899, when he died of heart failure. Born and raised in Monmouth County New Jersey, and educated at Rutgers University, Mr.

Hobart's interest in a legal career brought him to Paterson in early adulthood. In time Hobart became important in both New Jersey State and national politics establishing a reputation as a man with high ideals for statesmanship. He served the state as Republican candidate to the State Assembly, 1873, as chairman of the Republican State Committee from 1880-1891 and as the New Jersey member of the National Republican Committee from 1884-1896 when his United States Vice-Presidential responsibilities began.⁹ Though Mr. Hobart never resided at Ailsa Farms, it was purchased in 1902 shortly after his death by his wife Jennie Hobart. The Hobart family association with the property is significant because of the historic association with political prominence, prosperity, great wealth, philanthropy, and high style architecture.

Mrs. Esther Jane (Jennie) Hobart

Mrs. Hobart and her family are noted for their own achievements in both national and local politics and in philanthropy. Mrs. Hobart, daughter of Socrates Tuttle, a prominent Paterson attorney and one-time Mayor, met Garret Hobart when he was employed by her father's law firm. Over the years, Mrs. Hobart assumed the role of the First Lady of Paterson while residing in town at Carroll Hall. Carroll Hall served as the Hobart family's permanent residence even after the purchase of Ailsa Farms in 1902. In the same year of purchase, Mrs. Hobart

⁹ William Nelson and Charles A. Shriner. History of Paterson and Its Environs. Vol. II. (NY: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1920) pg. 149.

deeded the Ailsa Farms property to her son Garret Hobart Jr., who after the First World War undertook a substantial remodelling and expansion of the manor house. This country estate became the permanent residence to Garret Hobart, Jr. and his family, with the senior Mrs. Hobart as a frequent guest. Throughout the 1920s and 1930s Ailsa Farms was the site of numerous Hobart gatherings including distinguished guests from prominent political, business and philanthropic backgrounds. Though the date that Mrs. Hobart, Sr., made Ailsa Farms her permanent residence remains disputed, she was no doubt living there full-time by 1939 when Carroll Hall was razed.¹⁰ Mrs. Hobart remained involved throughout her life in Paterson's civic and philanthropic organizations, such as the Woman's Club, Old Ladies' Home, and the New Jersey Historical Society; she is also remembered as founder of Paterson's Memorial Day Nursery.¹¹ While serving as wife of the Vice President of the United States, Mrs. Hobart was often credited as the White House hostess during the chronic illness of Mrs. McKinley. In fact, according to one obituary, her reputation as hostess succeeded her in both Washington, D.C., and all of New Jersey.¹² Her purchase of and association with Hobart Manor is an important addition to the building's significance.

¹⁰ New Jersey Historical Society Proceedings. Vol 59, 1941. "Necrology of Members."

¹¹ New Jersey Historical Society Proceedings.

¹² "Paterson Morning Call" Thursday, January 9, 1941. "Mrs. Garret A. Hobart Dies." pg. 18.

Garret A. Hobart, Jr.

Garret Hobart, Jr., and his family resided permanently at Ailsa Farms from 1919 until 1948 at which time Mrs. Caroline Frye Hobart sold the property to the State of New Jersey. Like the previous generation of Hobarts, Garret Hobart, Jr., was a successful businessman and an active participant in Paterson's civic organizations. He served as an original member, vice president and president of the Passaic County Park Commission; as a member of the Board of Public Library Trustees for Paterson; as a member of the Paterson Board of Trade; as a member of the Paterson Historical Society; as vice president of the Paterson Savings Institution; and as director of the Public Service Corporation of New Jersey.¹³ Throughout this time, he maintained his permanent residence at Ailsa Farms, using the estate as both home and a place to develop and expand his business and civic interests. Hobart Manor reflects his active life and business needs and the types of entertaining spaces and guest accommodations he afforded in the 1915-1919 remodelling of the manor. After Hobart Jr.'s death in 1941, his family maintained the property until it was purchased by the State in 1948. To this day, the building remains essentially the same as designed by Fred W. Wentworth for Garret Hobart, Jr., and his family in the early twentieth century.

¹³ Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society. January 1942.

Paterson State Teachers' College

Long before it moved to the Hobart estate in 1951, the New Jersey State Teachers' College had begun its own notable history. Authorized by the State Board of Education as the "Normal School" in April of 1855, it provided the first curriculum in the area to serve as a teachers' college.¹⁴ Through a tumultuous early history, the Normal School grew, declined and again grew and by 1923 what was then called the [Paterson] City Normal School was elevated to the status of State Normal School.¹⁵ The State Teachers College relocated to the Hobart estate in 1951 and has since grown into one of nine New Jersey State Colleges. The current curriculum provides liberal arts training and thirteen master's degree programs to over 9,000 students primarily from northern New Jersey and the tri-state region. Together, the College and the Hobart Manor combine Paterson history and tradition in architecture and social significance.

Architects for the Remodelled Hobart Manor

Between 1915 and 1919 the architectural firm of Fred W. Wentworth and Frederick J. Vreeland was retained to remodel the original house and make a large three-story wing addition to the northeast. As illustrated in a photographic essay of Mr. Wentworth's work (Illus. 5-7), the remodelled building was clearly responsive to a demand for grand entertaining spaces. The new wing provided living quarters for numerous guests.

¹⁴ "State Teachers College at Paterson, New Jersey, An Historical Sketch." no author designated. no date. pg 1.

¹⁵ State Teachers College history, pg. 10.

children, and servants in addition to suites for the estate's master and his mother.

Architects Wentworth and Vreeland became partners in the early 1900s and remained in partnership for well over a decade in Paterson.^{16/} As Wentworth is credited with the work for the Hobarts, his history is given particular note here. Born in Foxboro, Massachusetts, and educated in architecture at Dartmouth College until 1899, Wentworth then traveled south to New Jersey to develop his career. By 1901 he had compiled an impressive list of achievements in both New Jersey and nearby New York. His application to the American Institute of Architects, submitted in 1901, cited his responsibility for the designs of the Banking and Office Building for the People's Bank and Trust Company, the Exchange for New York and New Jersey Telephone Company, the Edson and Aldrich Memorial Library (Liberty, New York), the residence of Mr. Bud W. Spenser (Passaic, New Jersey) and the residence of former general, John W. Griggs (Paterson, New Jersey).^{17/} Wentworth was elected to the AIA in 1901 and was taken into Institute fellowship in 1926.

In 1929 the firm of Wentworth and Vreeland published an account of Wentworth's recent work. Among the theatrical architectural projects cited in this publication were: the Ridgewood Theatre of Ridgewood; the Stanley Theatre of Jersey

¹⁶ Henry F. and Elsie R. Withey. Biographical Dictionary of American Architects Deceased (Los Angeles, CA: New Age Publishing Co., 1956) pg. 644.

¹⁷ American Institute of Architects Archives. Frederick W. Wentworth application to the American Institute of Architects. 1901.

City; the Fabian Theatre of Hoboken; the Ritz Theatre of Elizabeth; and the Branford Theatre of Newark. Other institutional facilities designed by Wentworth were also noted: The Masonic Temple of Paterson; the Temple Emanuel of Paterson; the Passaic County Tuberculosis Sanatorium of Haledon; the Broadway Baptist Church of Paterson; the Maywood Presbyterian Church of Maywood; the Young Men's Christian Association of Paterson; the Alexander Hamilton Hotel and Garage in Paterson; the Kitay building in Paterson; Paterson's Barnert Hospital; the National Bank of America in Paterson; Policy Traffic Building in Paterson; Wayne School in Preakness; School #13 in Paterson; the Monroe School in Monroe; the Fabian Mausoleum in Paterson; and the YMHA and the YWHA buildings in Paterson. Beyond recognition for these notable and numerous designs, Wentworth had a distinguished list of clients whose residences brought him further acclaim. In addition to Garret Hobart, Jr., and others mentioned previously, these clients included William A. Arnold, Esq., of Paterson, and LeGrand Parish, Esq., of Mountain View. Perhaps to illustrate his well-rounded nature and talent, Wentworth also took credit for the design of the PSI UPSILON fraternity house at Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire. Throughout this list of notable achievements, Wentworth is perhaps most recognized for his theatre designs throughout the State of New Jersey. 18/

At Hobart Manor, Wentworth redesigned the MacCullough castle and made a substantial addition of a northeast wing. The large

18 Withey. pg. 644.

Tudor style mansion that resulted reflects the work of an important local architect, the social prominence of the Hobart family, a concern for grand entertaining spaces, a need for numerous guest and servants' quarters, and more generally an era of economic prosperity that is increasingly difficult for the present generation to recall and appreciate. Largely unchanged by its adaptation to institutional use, Hobart Manor remains an educational tool of a bygone era; one that William Paterson College might take advantage of through careful restoration of the facility.