

BATSTO THROUGH THE YEARS

Pinelands Short Course

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The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey

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BATSTO THROUGH THE YEARS

The Batsto Time Line

1766 – 1784	Pre – Richards/Revolutionary War
1784 – 1876	Richards era
1876 – 1954	Wharton era
1954 – Present	State of New Jersey

BATSTO THROUGH THE YEARS

Long before NJ was settled by Europeans, it was inhabited by Native American Indians called Lenni Lenape.

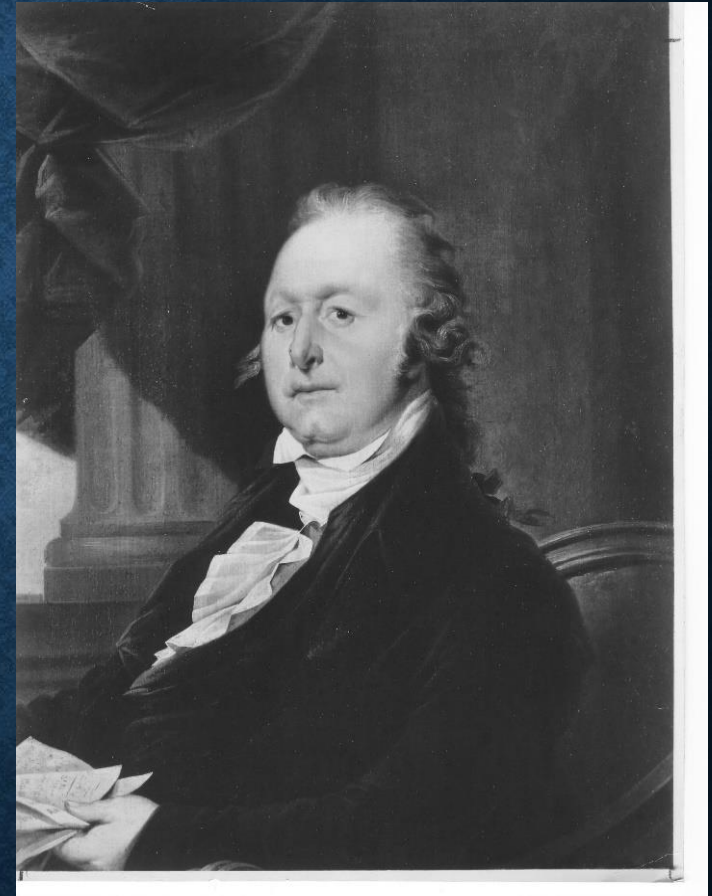
The word Batsto is derived from Swedish word “Batstu”, meaning “bathing place”.

Batsto Village is the site of a former bog iron and glassmaking industrial center.

IRON FURNACE

Industry began at Batsto in 1766 when Charles Read constructed an iron furnace. Between 1766 and 1784 Charles Petit, John Cox and Joseph Ball were among the owners of Batsto Works.

The portrait is of Joseph Ball.



BATSTO THROUGH THE YEARS

Iron Furnace



**Before there was a
furnace...there was bog ore...**

Ground water in the coastal plains of New Jersey contains large concentrations of iron. This water seeped through the sands and sand pockets of the area carrying dissolved iron (Fe^{++}) and manganese (Mn^{++}). Upon reaching oxidized environments such as grottos, springs and swamps, these dissolved metals encountered so-called "iron bacteria" (e.g., *Lepothrix*), causing the chemical reactions that precipitate the ore masses. A thin film of rust forms on its surface and floats. The iron oxide combines with sand and gravel to form a low-grade iron ore that is deposited along stream banks.

BATSTO THROUGH THE YEARS: IRON ORE



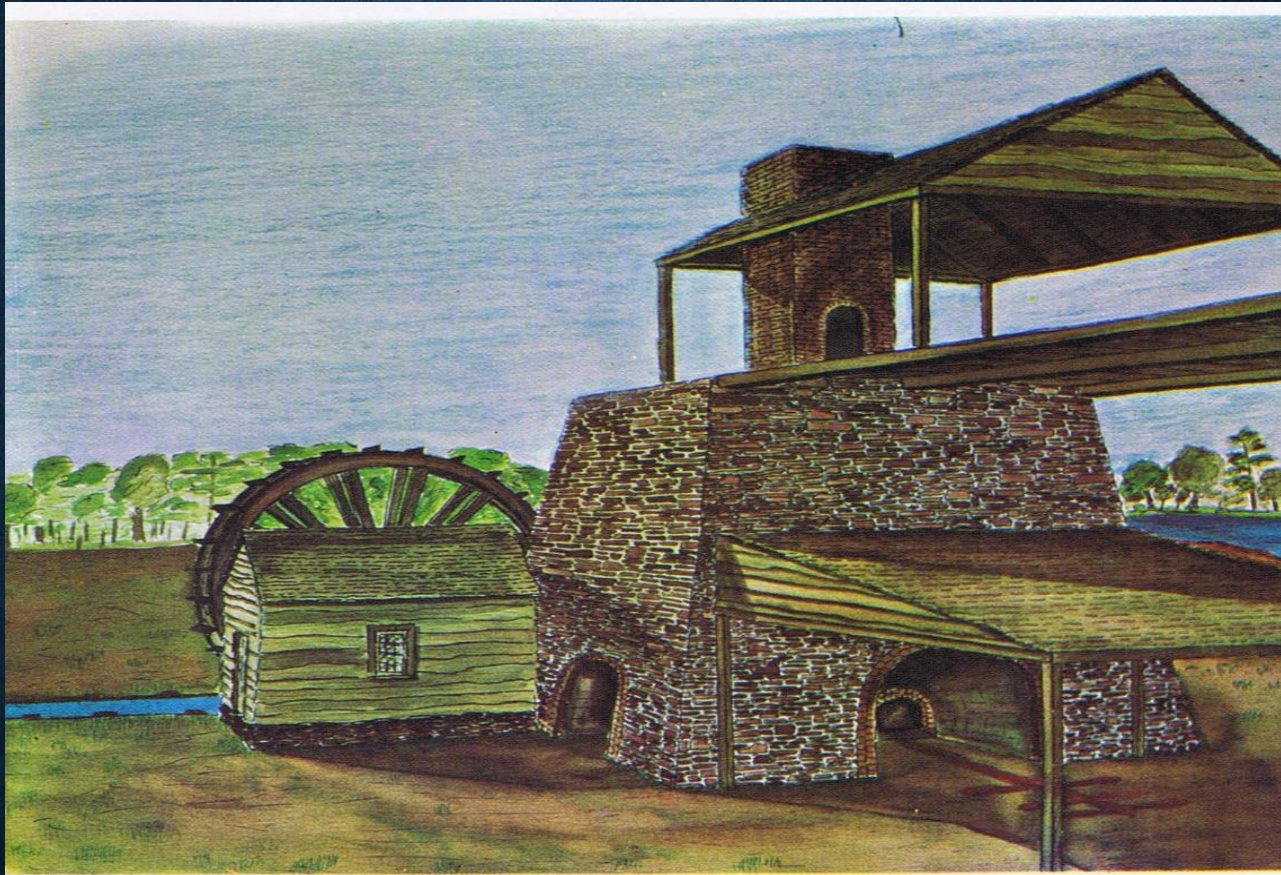
BATSTO THROUGH THE YEARS: CHARCOAL MAKING

Charcoal fueled the furnaces, both iron and glass. Charcoal was made at Batsto by slowly smoldering wood, mostly oak, in a charcoal kiln.

This process took about two weeks to burn the moisture and impurities from the wood. The charcoal was then used in the furnaces.



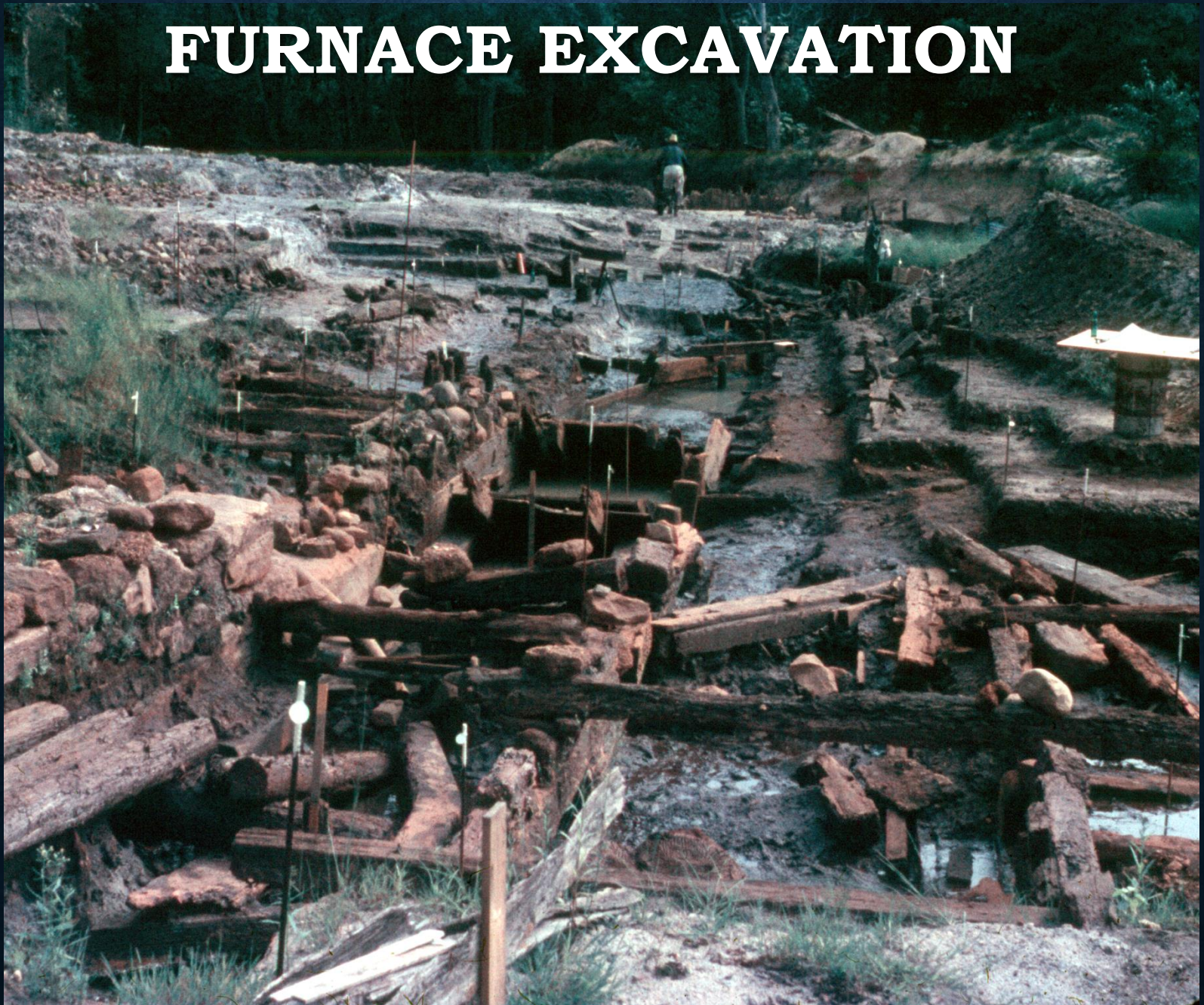
BATSTO FURNACE



Batsto Furnace

(Artists conception by Bill Wood)

FURNACE EXCAVATION



PRODUCTS OF BATSTO IRON

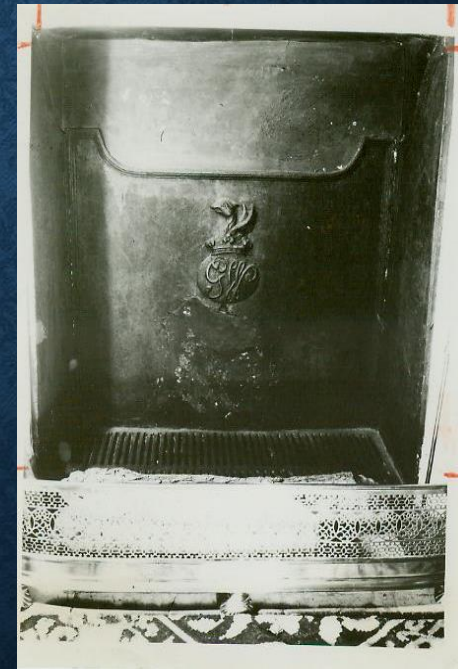


PRODUCTS OF BATSTO IRON

Cannon Balls
manufactured at Batsto



Fire back
manufactured at
Batsto for
Washington's Mt.
Vernon.



PRODUCTS OF BATSTO IRON

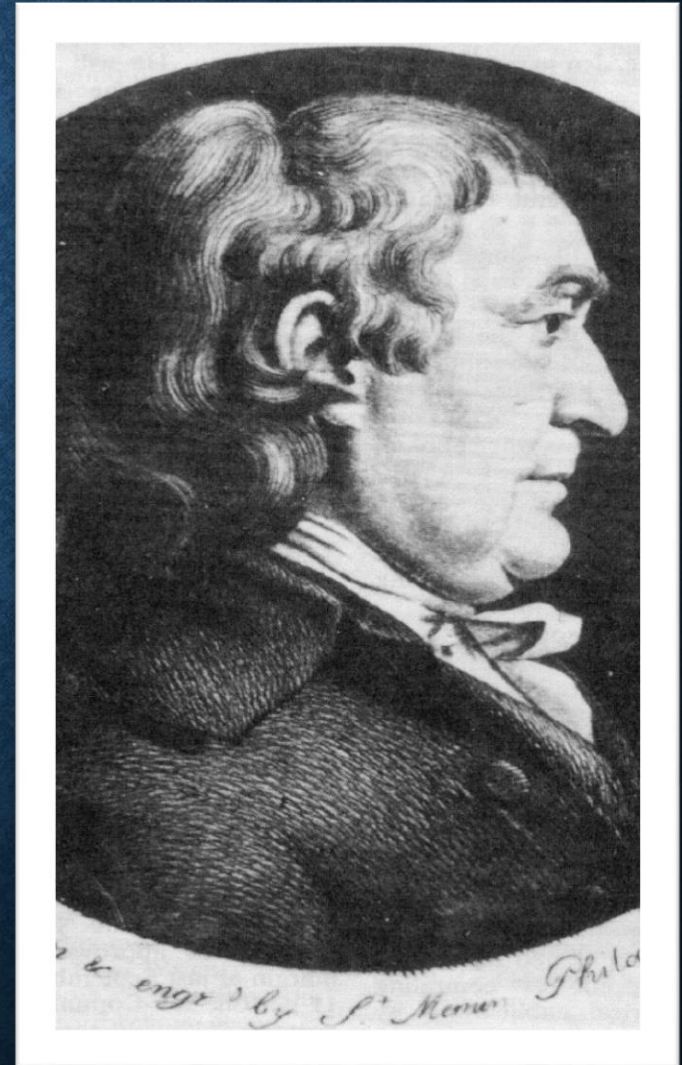
Water pipe, stoves, fire backs, salt pans, and Revolutionary War munitions (cannon, mortar, ball and shot) were among the products of Batsto iron.

- George Washington exempted men working at Batsto from military service....Batsto was that important !

BATSTO THROUGH THE YEARS: IRON FURNACE

In 1784 Batsto was
purchased by William
Richards.

The family would own
this property and
business for 92 years !



BATSTO THROUGH THE YEARS: RICHARD'S ERA

Richard's Mansion

In 1784, William Richards started construction of what was referred to by many as "The Big House"

Additions by the Richards' family occurred in 1810 and 1830



BATSTO THROUGH THE YEARS: RICHARD'S ERA

William Richards and his first wife, Mary Patrick were the first to reside at Batsto. In total they had 11 children.



Mary Patrick Richards

Mary Patrick passed away in 1794. In 1797, William married Margaretta Wood. Together they would have 8 children.



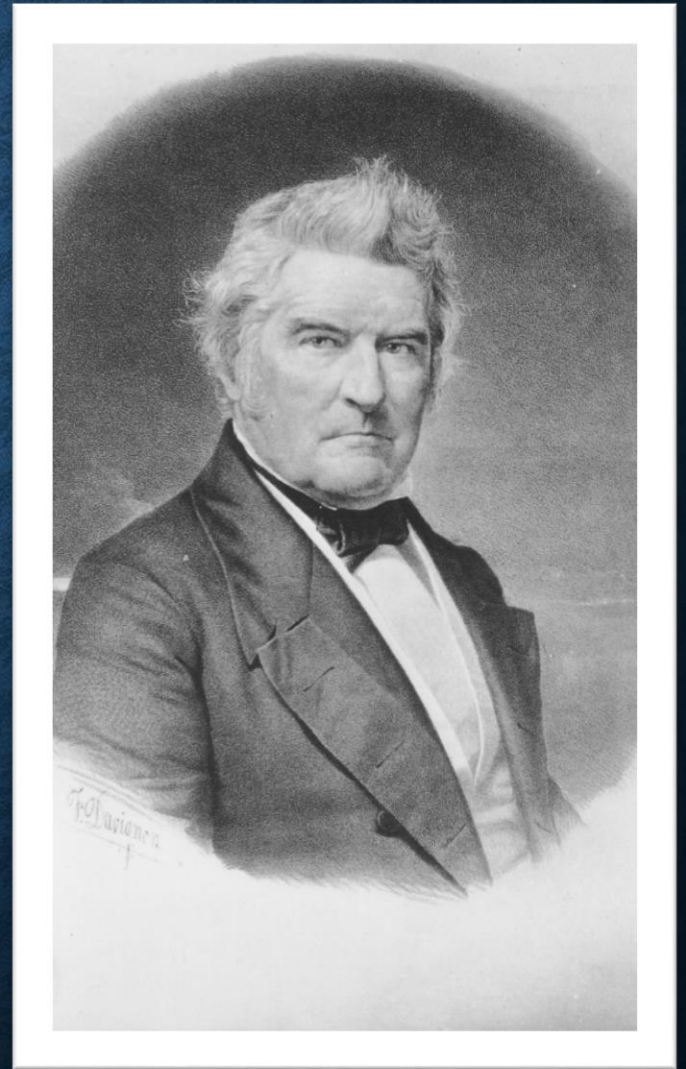
Courtesy of Mr. Thomas Devan

BATSTO THROUGH THE YEARS: **IRON FURNACE**

With the retirement of William Richards, in 1809, his son, Jesse, took over management of the iron business.

Jesse and his wife, Sarah Haskins, had 7 children.

About this time the mansion was expanded to its present size.



BATSTO THROUGH THE YEARS: GLASS WORKS

The Glass Works were built by Jesse Richards in May of 1846.

It was created to replace sagging bog iron business.

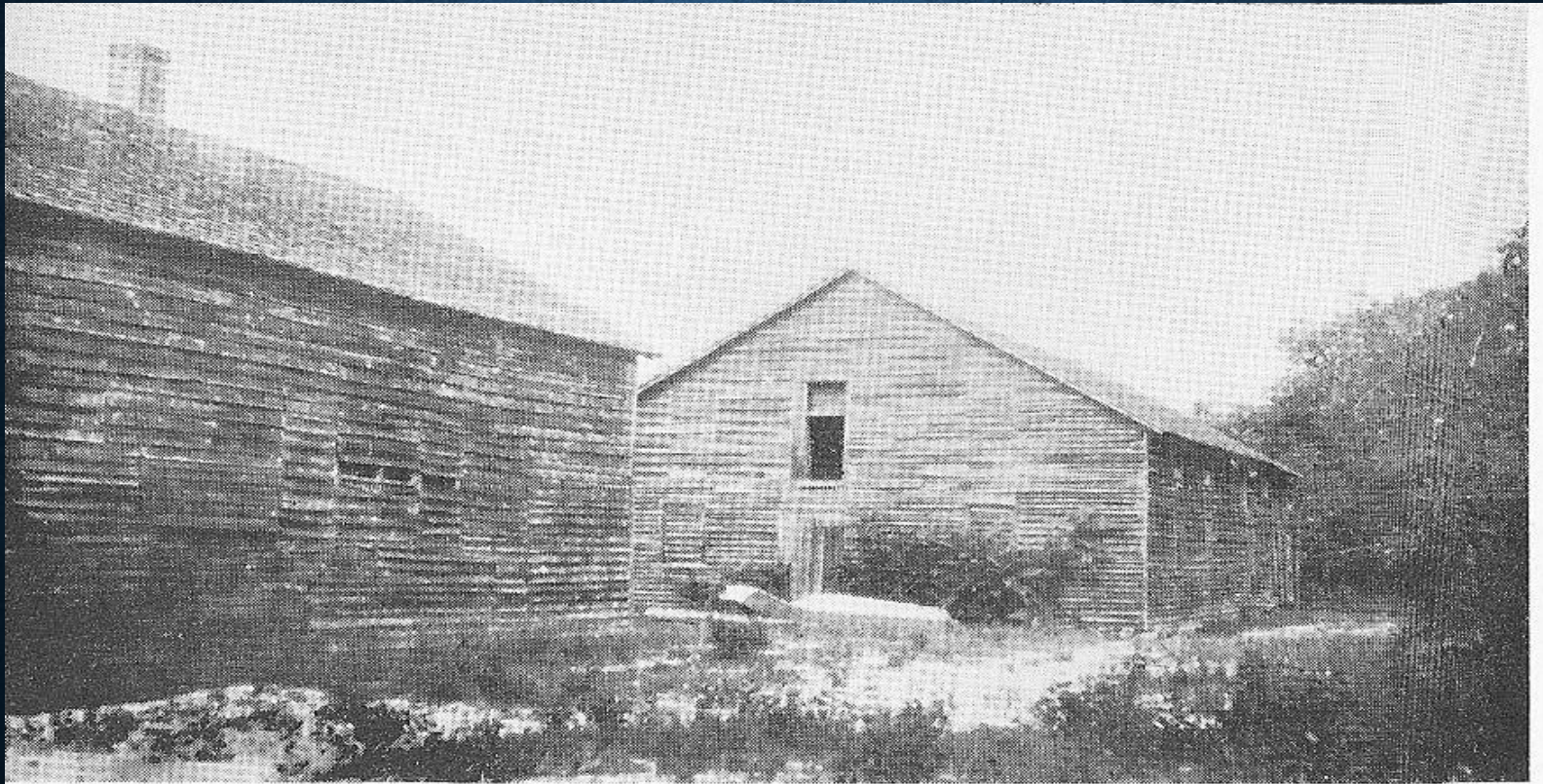
It was during Jesse Richards' management and ownership that many of the current buildings were constructed, modified, or rebuild.

BATSTO THROUGH THE YEARS: GLASS WORKS

- First glass blown in September of 1846 using “new cylinder” method
 - “Lights” were primary product
- In 1852, the second glass furnace came on line.
- Seven buildings in total comprised the plant



BATSTO THROUGH THE YEARS: GLASS WORKS



Courtesy of Benjamin Richards Townsend

BATSTO THROUGH THE YEARS: GLASS WORKS

However, competition, high factory cost, and poor quality plagued the business in later years.

Jesse Richards died in June 1854. His oldest son Thomas carried on at Batsto.

The furnace went out for the last time on June 15th, 1867

What do salt water taffy and Batsto have in common?

***BATSTO THROUGH THE YEARS:
EXCAVATION OF THE GLASSWORKS***

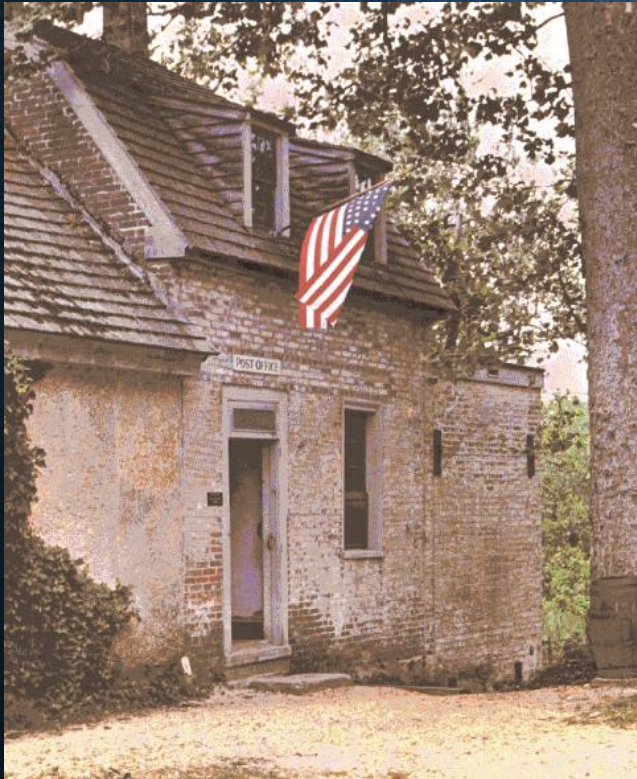


BATSTO THROUGH THE YEARS

As a convenience to the residents of Batsto, the general store, the post office, and the gristmill were built during Jesse Richards' time at Batsto.



BATSTO THROUGH THE YEARS POST OFFICE



Opened in 1852 By Jesse Richards

Closed in 1870 when the local economy began to fail.

When Joseph Wharton purchased the property, he had it re-opened in the 1880's.

Closed again in 1911 after Joseph Wharton's death.

BATSTO THROUGH THE YEARS

POST OFFICE

- Opened again in 1966 by the Batsto Citizens Committee
- Operates without a zip code due to its historical significance
- One of the four oldest post offices currently operating in the U.S. with out zip codes:

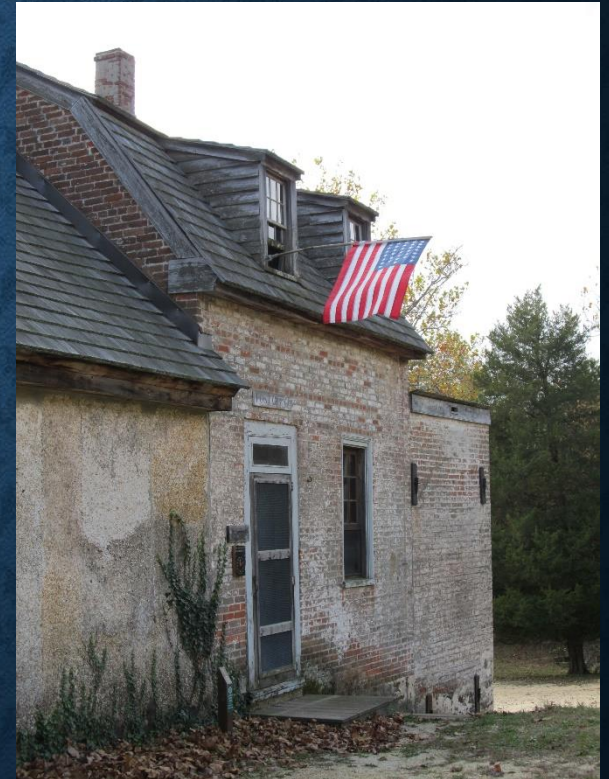
Batsto

Williamsburg, Va.

Hodgenville, Kentucky

The Ben Franklin Post Office,

Philadelphia



BATSTO THROUGH THE YEARS

ICE HOUSE



Blocks of ice were cut from Batsto Lake in the winter and placed in the subterranean room for storage of milk, butter, and and other food products.

BATSTO THROUGH THE YEARS

GENERAL STORE



Early eastern portion was built prior to Revolutionary War.

An addition was constructed in 1847 by Jesse Richards

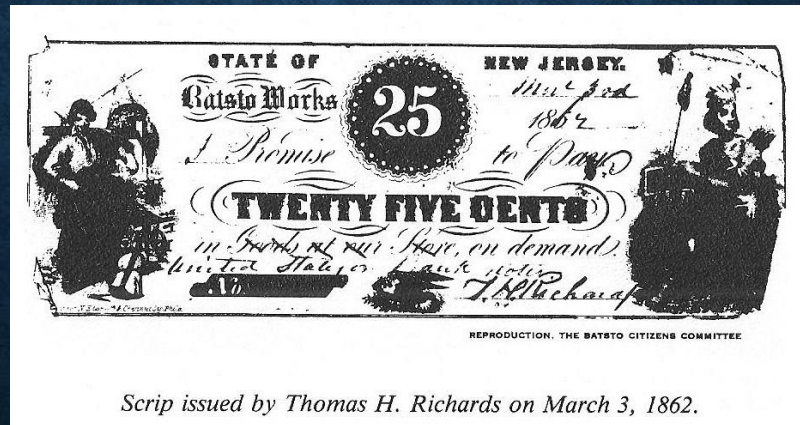
The store supplied goods to Batsto village residents and workers as well as people in the surrounding area.

BATSTO THROUGH THE YEARS

GENERAL STORE

Employees made purchases on their account against future wages.

The employees of Batsto village were paid in Batsto scrip which was only good to purchase goods at the general store.



BATSTO THROUGH THE YEARS

GRIST MILL



- Built in 1828
- The water wheel was driven by lake water and provided power.
- It was used to grind and process wheat, corn and other grains sold in the general store.
- It is a subject of a potential rebuilding project

BATSTO THROUGH THE YEARS CORN CRIB AND GRISTMILL



BATSTO THROUGH THE YEARS

MULE BARN

The mule barn was constructed in 1828 of Jersey stone. It contains 8 stalls and hay storage.



BATSTO THROUGH THE YEARS

STONE HORSE BARN

The horse barn was built in 1830 and constructed of Jersey stone. There are 4 stalls with hay storage.



BATSTO THROUGH THE YEARS: BLACKSMITH AND WHEELWRIGHT 1830



The blacksmith shop was used for shoeing horses and mules.

The blacksmith made and repaired farming tools and domestic hardware such as hinges, latches, and locks.

BATSTO THROUGH THE YEARS: BLACKSMITH AND WHEELWRIGHT 1830

The wheelwright made and repaired wheels and, with the blacksmith, repaired horse-drawn vehicles.



***BATSTO THROUGH THE YEARS:
BLACKSMITH SHOP TODAY WITH OUR
RESIDENT BLACKSMITH, TOBY, AND HIS
STUDENT, ANDREW***



BATSTO THROUGH THE YEARS: END OF THE RICHARDS' ERA

After the death of Jesse Richards, his two sons, Thomas and Jesse, took over the operations at Batsto. Over the next 20 years, the iron furnace and the glass works would cease operations. By 1868, Batsto was in receivership and by 1874, it was put up for Master's sale.



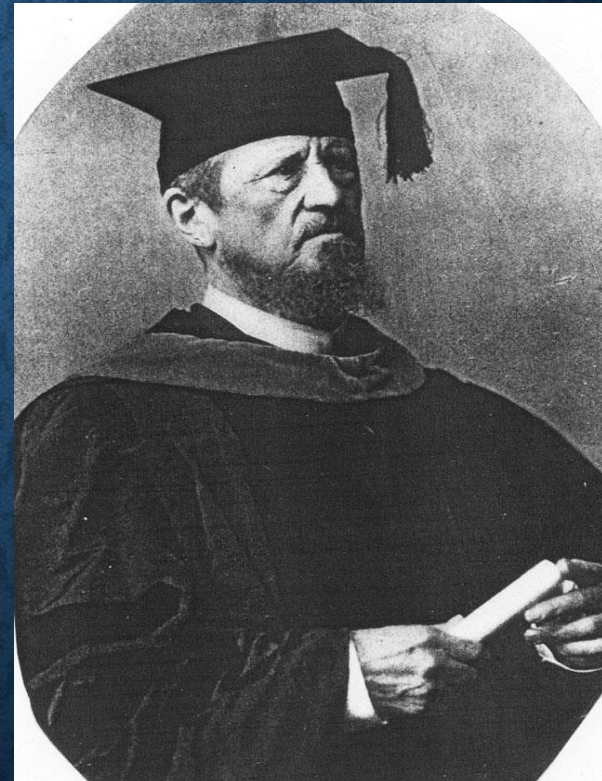
BATSTO THROUGH THE YEARS: THE END OF THE RICHARD'S ERA

In 1876, Joseph Wharton, an industrialist from Philadelphia, began purchasing the lands around Batsto.

For \$14,000, Wharton was able to secure deed to over 40,000 acres.

He also paid off a lien on the property for \$19,000.

***BATSTO THROUGH THE YEARS:
THE WHARTON YEARS***



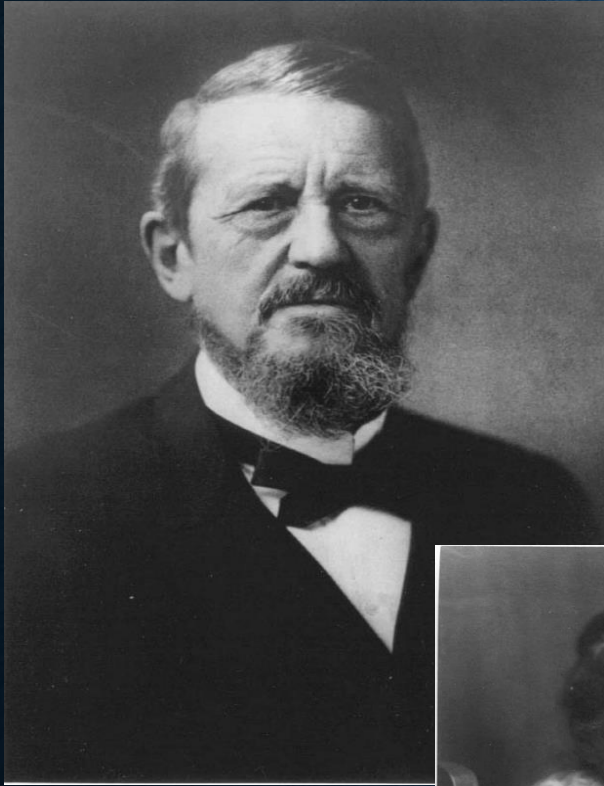
BATSTO THROUGH THE YEARS: THE WHARTON YEARS

Wharton made changes to the mansion for an additional \$40,000.

The mansion is comprised of 36 rooms and the architecture is Italianate



BATSTO THROUGH THE YEARS: THE WHARTON YEARS



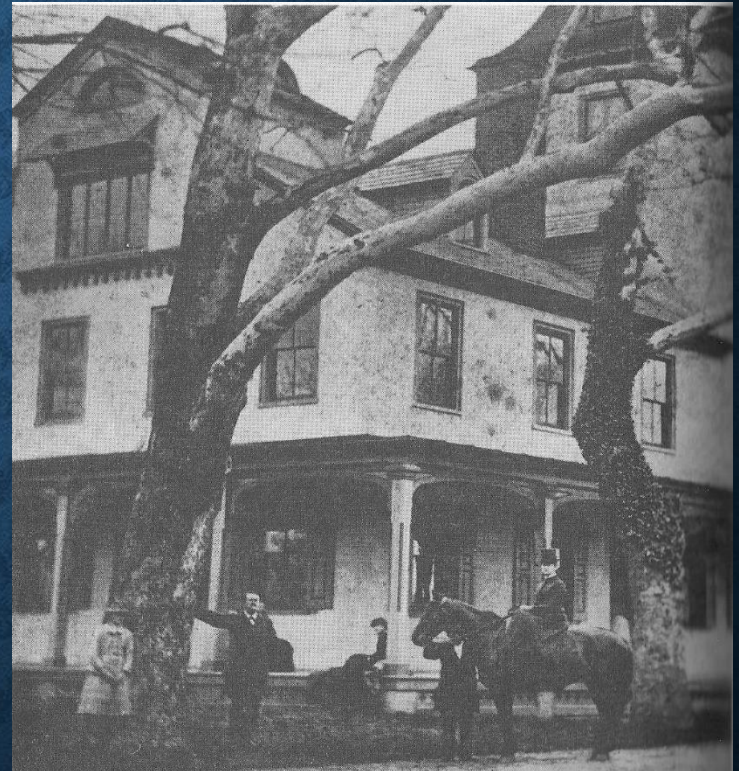
Joseph Wharton, his wife, Anna Lovering, and his family lived at Batsto in the spring and fall.

The Wharton family spent the winter months at their home in Philadelphia and the summer months at their home in Jamestown, Rhode Island.

BATSTO THROUGH THE YEARS: THE WHARTON YEARS



The Whartons on the porch at Ontalauna, (left to right) Anna Lovering Wharton, daughters Anna and Joanna, Joseph, daughter Mary Lovering Wharton



The Whartons at the Batsto Mansion, (left to right) daughter Anna, Joseph (with his wife behind), daughters Mary Lovering and Joanna (on the horse)

BATSTO THROUGH THE YEARS FIRE TOWER



***BATSTO THROUGH THE YEARS
WHARTON MANSION SERVANTS***



BATSTO THROUGH THE YEARS: GENTLEMAN FARMER

While at Batsto,
Joseph Wharton was
involved in
agricultural pursuits
such as growing
peanuts, cranberries,
and processing sugar
beets. He was also
involved with the
establishment of a
conservation nursery.



BATSTO THROUGH THE YEARS

SAWMILL 1882



A sawmill has existed on the Batsto site for more than 200 years

Current sawmill was built in 1882 by Joseph Wharton

The mill cut lumber and shingles and carted them to nearby Elwood

Products were shipped by rail all over the east coast of U.S.

BATSTO THROUGH THE YEARS

SAWMILL 1882



The mill still operates and cuts shingles for use in repair of buildings in village

BATSTO THROUGH THE YEARS

CARRIAGE BARN

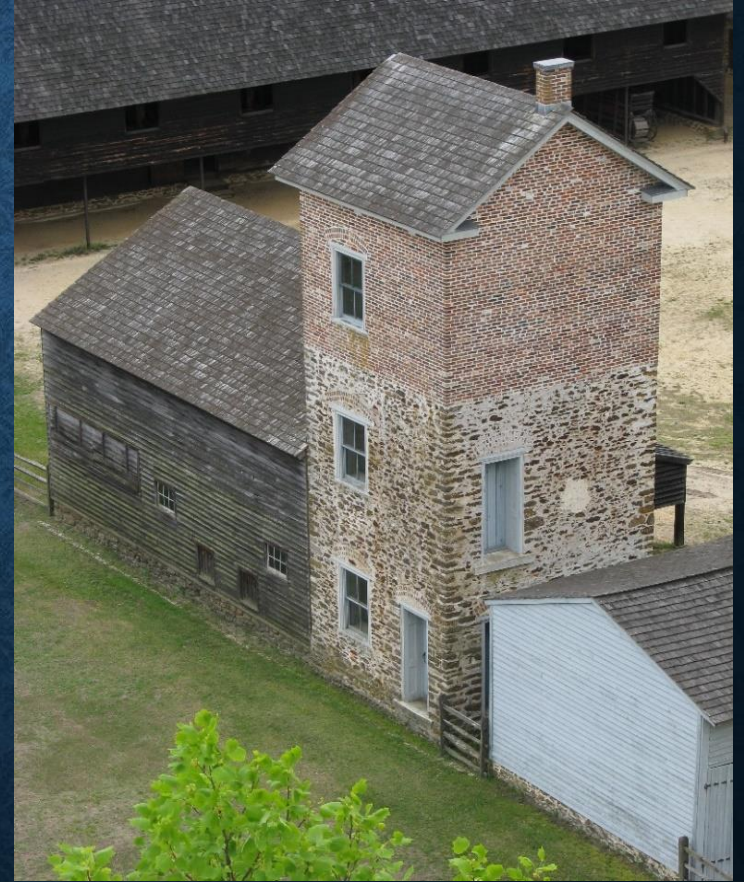


The carriage barn housed various horse-drawn vehicles

BATSTO THROUGH THE YEARS

PIGGERY

Hogs were slaughtered and processed in the piggery. The tower contained a water tank which supplied water to a cast iron cauldron located at ground level



BATSTO THROUGH THE YEARS RANGE BARN AND UNDERGROUND SILOS



Cattle were kept in the range barn. The underground silo was built by Joseph Wharton for the storage of silage.

***BATSTO THROUGH THE YEARS
RANGE BARN AND UNDERGROUND SILOS***



***BATSTO THROUGH THE YEARS
WORKER'S COTTAGES***



BATSTO THROUGH THE YEARS

WORKER'S COTTAGES

The workers employed at Batsto lived in houses like this one.

Built in the early 19th century, the single family dwellings typically had three rooms downstairs and two rooms upstairs.

There were also some duplex homes, each having two rooms downstairs and two room upstairs along with an attic.

The eleven cottages in the village are all that remain from the fire of 1874

During the Wharton era, rent was about two dollars per month.

BATSTO THROUGH THE YEARS: BATSTO RESIDENTS



BATSTO

1902

BATSTO THROUGH THE YEARS WORKER'S COTTAGES



BATSTO THROUGH THE YEARS END OF THE WHARTON ERA

Joseph Wharton died in 1909 and ownership of Batsto continued within the Wharton family.

Joseph Wharton's sons-in-laws, J. Bertram Lippincott and Harrison S. Morris, were named executors.



BATSTO THROUGH THE YEARS: 1954 TO TODAY



BATSTO THROUGH THE YEARS: 1954 TO TODAY

The Batsto lands were originally offered for sale to the State of New Jersey in 1912 but the purchase referendum was voted down in 1915.

In 1954, the Wharton Tract were again offered for sale to the state, and the referendum passed.

The purchase of 96,000 acres, at a cost of \$3,000,000 was finalized in 1956.

In 1964 Historic Batsto Village opens to the public.



Are you interested in history?

Do you enjoy sharing it with people?

Well then, you might have an interest in helping us at historic Batsto Village at Wharton State Forest.

We are in need of a few good people who can help interpret the history of the mansion and guide visitors through.

This is a volunteer opportunity and would take place on any day of the week you can help out.

If you think you might want to get involved, contact Wes Hughes at (856) 236-0113 or whughes76@gmail.com

