

HISTORIC BATSTO VILLAGE

BATSTO, NEW JERSEY



A NEW JERSEY STATE HISTORIC SITE

Administered by

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

Division of Parks and Forestry

STATE PARK SERVICE

BATSTO VILLAGE HOURS

Visitor Center: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM Daily

Interpretive Programs:

Wednesday through Sunday: Sept. - May

Daily: Memorial Day - Labor Day

Museum Shop: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM Daily

Village Grounds: Dawn to Dusk

Closed: New Year's, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Veterans' Day, Election Day, Martin Luther King Day, Lincoln's Birthday and President's Day

ADMISSION

A parking fee is charged from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day on weekends and holidays.

Mansion Tour Fees: \$3 for ages 12 and up; \$1 for ages 6 to 11; under 6 years of age free. Call for availability.

Group tours require reservations and are limited to 15 people.

The Visitor Center and Mansion are partially accessible for people with disabilities.

FACILITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

For information regarding disability access, please contact the historic site. Text telephone (TTD) users, please call the New Jersey Relay Service at (800) 852-7899.

FOR YOUR SAFETY

Please do not climb fences or trees. Strollers must be left outside of the historic buildings. Do not feed the wildlife.

FOR THE COMFORT AND ENJOYMENT OF ALL

Please do not pick the flowers. Smoking, food and beverages are not permitted in the historic buildings or Visitor Center. Handling of artifacts and interior photography, videotaping and audiotaping are not permitted. Your cooperation will help ensure the survival of the museum collections for the enjoyment and education of future generations.

Picnicking is allowed in the picnic area located to the north of the main parking lot. Grills available.

Restrooms are located in the Visitor Center and in Village House #27.

For further information:
Wharton State Forest

Batsto, 4110 Nesco Road, Hammonton, N.J. 08037

Phone: 609-561-0004



The Batsto Story

Batsto Village is the site of a former bog iron and glass-making industrial center (1766 - 1867). Currently, it reflects the agricultural and commercial enterprises that existed at the site in the late 19th century. "Batsto" is derived from the Swedish word "Batstu", meaning "bathing place". It is believed the Lenni - Lenape Indians borrowed the term because old deeds of the area mention an "Indian Batstu".

REVOLUTIONARY WAR PERIOD

Batsto was founded in 1766 by Charles Read of Burlington, New Jersey, who was the most noted ironmaster in West Jersey prior to the Revolution. He built the Batsto Iron Works near the mouth of the Batsto River. It was the first known bog iron furnace to be established here.

By 1773, John Cox, a Philadelphia merchant and trader, became owner of the Batsto Iron Works. During his ownership, and that of Joseph Ball to whom he had sold Batsto in 1779, the Works became an important supplier to the Continental Army during the American Revolution. Such wartime products as munitions, camp kettles, iron fastenings and fittings for artillery caissons, wagons, and ships were manufactured.

THE RICHARDS ERA 1784 - 1876

The Batsto Iron Works was sold in 1784 to William Richards, whose descendants, most notably his son Jesse and grandson Thomas, continued to own and operate Batsto for the next 92 years. The Richards family constructed most of the current village buildings and facilitated the establishment of the post office which opened in 1852.



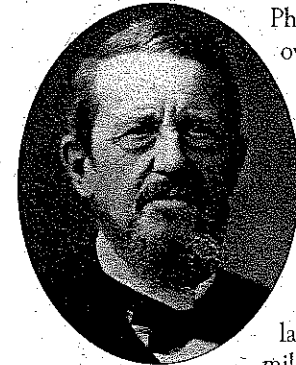
Jesse Richards

During the Richards era, Batsto was noted for its produc-

tion of pig iron, cast iron water pipe and its various specialty castings such as firebacks. After the demise of the iron industry in 1855, Batsto became known for its production of window glass. By 1867, even glass manufacturing declined. With its enterprises at a standstill, Batsto fell into receivership.

THE WHARTON ERA 1876 - 1909

Batsto was purchased by Joseph Wharton, a Philadelphia industrialist, at a masters sale in 1876. Although his initial plan to dam the streams and rivers on his South Jersey properties and sell the water to Camden and Philadelphia failed, he had, over the years, sought other means of profit by engaging in various agricultural pursuits and expanding the manufacture of forest products.



Joseph Wharton

Wharton made considerable changes to the village landscape. He built the sawmill and underground silo. He enlarged the mansion and transformed its appearance to reflect the Italianate style of architecture. He also cleared vast areas of land to cultivate crops, including cranberries. By the end of the nineteenth century, Batsto had become Wharton's "gentleman's farm".

1909 - PRESENT

Joseph Wharton died in 1909 and his extensive land holdings in the Pine Barrens were managed by the Girard Trust Company of Philadelphia until 1954, when the State of New Jersey purchased the property. Today, his former lands comprise the core of Wharton State Forest.

Batsto Village is listed on the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places. Batsto and all of Wharton State Forest are also part of the Pinelands National Reserve. This Reserve, the first of its kind in the country, was established by Congress in 1978 to protect the unique natural and cultural resources found in the Pinelands.

1. Visitor Center - Information, exhibits, museum shop and restrooms.
2. Picnic Area - Open daily dawn to dusk.
3. Ore Boat - Excavated from the bottom of Batsto Lake in 1957. It was used to transport raw bog iron ore to the Batsto Furnace in the early 19th century.
4. Mansion - The mansion was home to ironmasters William Richards, his son Jesse, and grandson Thomas, until it was purchased by Joseph Wharton, a Philadelphia financier and industrialist, in 1876. Wharton enlarged the mansion and transformed its appearance to reflect the Italianate style of architecture.
5. Ice and Milk Houses - Ice cut from Batsto Lake was stored here. Stacked in layers and covered with sawdust, the ice kept year round. Milk, butter and other dairy products were stored in the area adjacent to the ice house.
6. Woodhouse - Wood for the mansion cookstoves was stored here. Currently it houses a display of agricultural implements.
7. Carriage House - This building housed various horse-drawn vehicles.
8. Horse Stable - Riding horses and carriage horses were kept here. There are ten stalls. Produce was also stored here.
9. Threshing Barn - This barn contained a threshing machine which separated the grain from the straw and chaff.
10. Piggery - Hogs were slaughtered and processed in this building. The adjacent tower contained a water tank which supplied water to the bowl-like cast iron cauldron located at ground level.
11. Range Barn - Cattle were kept in this barn. The adjacent underground silo, built by Joseph Wharton, was for storing silage (fodder).

12. Stone Horse Barn - Built in 1830 and constructed of Jersey ironstone, this barn housed horses. There are four stalls, with hay storage above.
13. Blacksmith and Wheelwright Shop - The blacksmith shop was utilized for shoeing horses and mules. The blacksmith made and repaired farming tools and implements along with some domestic hardware such as hinges, latches and locks. The wheelwright made and repaired wheels, and with the blacksmith, repaired horse-drawn vehicles.

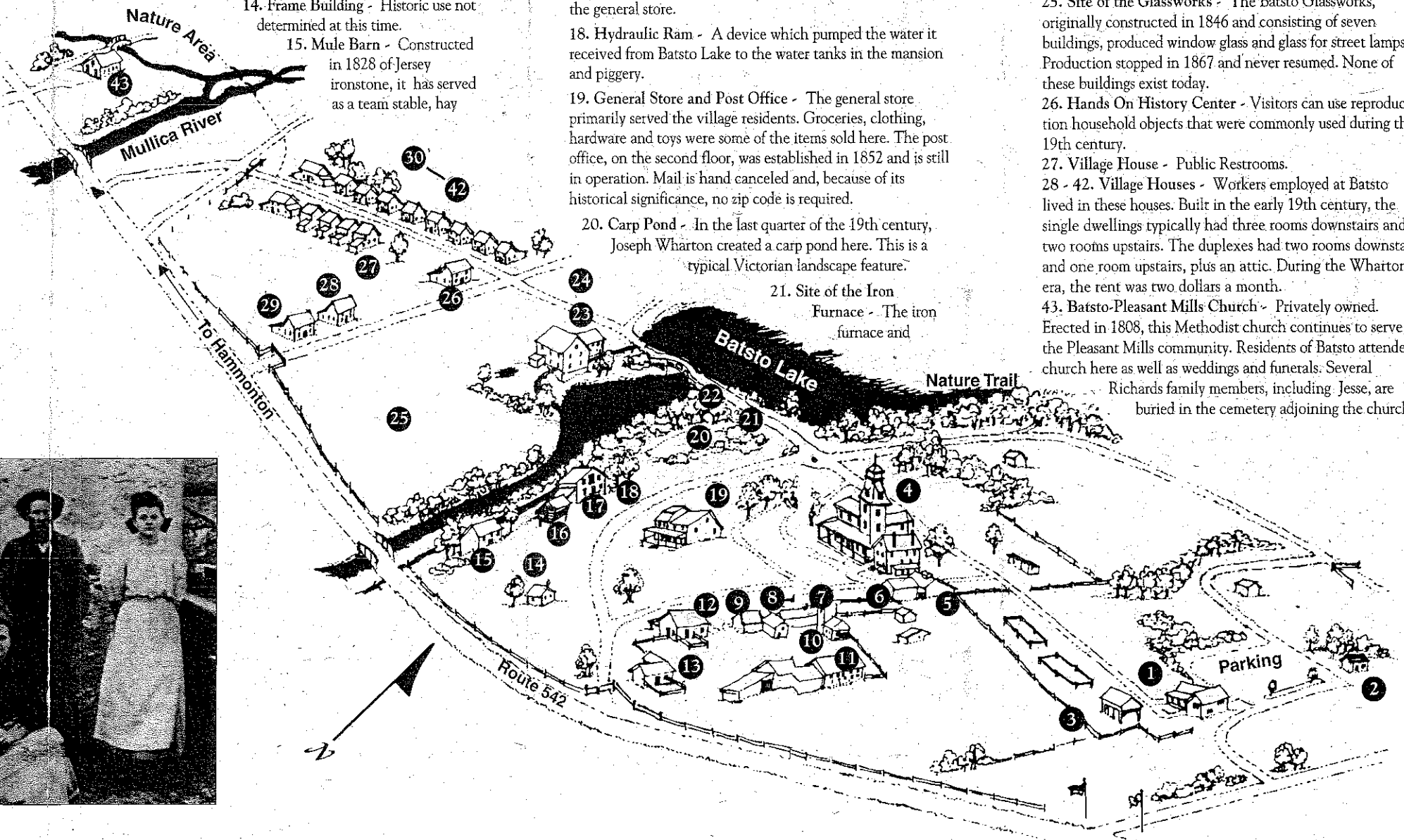
14. Frame Building - Historic use not determined at this time.
15. Mule Barn - Constructed in 1828 of Jersey ironstone, it has served as a team stable, hay

16. Corn Crib - Corn was stored and shelled here. The sheller, located on the second story, was operated by a belt and shaft-system powered by the gristmill's water turbine.
17. Gristmill - This water-powered gristmill was built in 1828, and originally operated with a wooden water wheel. In 1882, the water wheel was replaced by a more efficient "side winder" water turbine. The mill ground and processed wheat, corn and other grains which were stored and sold in the general store.
18. Hydraulic Ram - A device which pumped the water it received from Batsto Lake to the water tanks in the mansion and piggery.
19. General Store and Post Office - The general store primarily served the village residents. Groceries, clothing, hardware and toys were some of the items sold here. The post office, on the second floor, was established in 1852 and is still in operation. Mail is hand canceled and, because of its historical significance, no zip code is required.

20. Carp Pond - In the last quarter of the 19th century, Joseph Wharton created a carp pond here. This is a typical Victorian landscape feature.

21. Site of the Iron Furnace - The iron furnace and

- other buildings necessary to the production of iron ore were situated here. None of these buildings exist today.
22. Charcoal Kiln Exhibit - Charcoal was needed to produce iron. Wood from nearby forests was burned in a kiln like this one. Heat would expel tar and moisture, leaving charred remains.
23. Sawmill - Built in 1882, this water-powered circular sawmill produced lumber products for sale and for use on site. The mill also contains a shingle maker.
24. Annie M. Carter Interpretive Center
25. Site of the Glassworks - The Batsto Glassworks, originally constructed in 1846 and consisting of seven buildings, produced window glass and glass for street lamps. Production stopped in 1867 and never resumed. None of these buildings exist today.
26. Hands On History Center - Visitors can use reproduction household objects that were commonly used during the 19th century.
27. Village House - Public Restrooms.
- 28 - 42. Village Houses - Workers employed at Batsto lived in these houses. Built in the early 19th century, the single dwellings typically had three rooms downstairs and two rooms upstairs. The duplexes had two rooms downstairs and one room upstairs, plus an attic. During the Wharton era, the rent was two dollars a month.
43. Batsto-Pleasant Mills Church - Privately owned. Erected in 1808, this Methodist church continues to serve the Pleasant Mills community. Residents of Batsto attended church here as well as weddings and funerals. Several Richards family members, including Jesse, are buried in the cemetery adjoining the church.



Batsto residents in front of Gristmill, c. 1910.