



Mayor David C. Goodwin, seated, is shown signing a 10-year lease with the Hamilton Historical Society to use the 239-year-old Abbott House as its headquarters and a museum. Witnessing the event are Mrs. Gena D. Hawthorne, secretary, Recreation Committeeman Raymond I. Dwier and Society President Robert Simpkins.

Abbott House To Serve As Headquarters

Talk of restoring the John Abbott house on Kuser Road has been going on for several years. Now that talk is being converted into action and the Hamilton Historical Society will use it for its headquarters and restore the old farm house for use as a museum. The property is owned by the township and the society has acquired a ten-year lease to begin its work.

The original section of the Abbott house was built in 1730. It has had just two occupants in its 239 years; the Abbott-Pancoast family for 109 years and the Ivins-Tindall family for 130 years. The last private owners were Mr. and Mrs. George Ivins Tindall Jr., who sold it to Hamilton under the Green Acres program.

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The 239-year-old John Abbott House on Kuser Road will be Hamilton's newest museum and headquarters for the Hamilton Historical Society according to an agreement between the Society and the Hamilton Governing Body.

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Abbott House

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It was in this house that Samuel Tucker, Treasurer of the State of New Jersey, on December 8, 1776, fearing the advance of Howe's Army, hid the signed and unsigned paper money, together with valuable State and personal papers. A Lieutenant Hackshaw, the next day led a detachment of British soldiers, under the guidance of one Mary Pointing, to the Abbott House, where they captured Tucker's property and carried it to New Brunswick. Tucker's affidavit to this effect, presented to the New Jersey Legislature, February 1777, was later the cause of a newspaper controversy between him and Governor Livingston, who wrote under the name of "Scipip" in the New Jersey Gazette.

The original part of the John Abbott house contains only three rooms downstairs and three rooms upstairs. The ceilings are only 7 feet high. The hand-hewed beams are beneath the plastered ceilings and the large open-hearthed fireplace with baking ovens are still intact, but not visible at the present. Many of the doors still have the original hardware. Random width pine floors up to 15 inches in width are well preserved.

The larger addition was built around 1840. This addition included four rooms and two large halls. About forty-five years ago the outside appearance of the house was changed by adding a large porch to two sides of the house. The roof line was made even when this addition was added.

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