

## Twin Trees

Richard Leedom Sr., a Northampton resident in the mid 1700s, owned a store and a grist mill as well as the Black Bear, a tavern located at the intersection that we know as Bustleton Pike and Second Street Pike. The village was actually known as Leedomville for a period of time. Leedom lived in quarters above the tavern; however, in 1779 he purchased a small house located across the street on Second Street Pike. He expanded the original house by building a beautiful two story fieldstone structure, as well as additional buildings including a wagon house, smoke house, grainery and outhouse. The original home is thought to have been built circa 1740 to 1760 by a Quaker carpenter named Isaac Watson.

It is believed that The Committee of Correspondence held meetings in this house prior to the drawing up of the U.S. Constitution. It is also thought to have housed a general store and it was probably the site of Richboro's first Post Office. There were two buttonwood trees in the side lawn and a pair of chestnut trees in the front lawn, doubtlessly leading to the property being known as Twin Trees.

On June 5, 1975, Twin Trees was placed on the National Register of Historic Places, our nation's catalog of historically and architecturally significant sites and structures. Entry upon the National Register gives recognition to the historical and/or architectural merits of the structure.

The original section of the house was built of rough field stone as was common at the time. A large walk in fireplace containing a beehive oven for cooking and a door for the passage of firewood continue to be focal points in the keeping room. Built-in cabinetry and a large stone sink are also keeping room features of the old house. The second floor had two rooms. One room with a small fireplace is thought to have been the "borning room." Random width pine floor boards throughout the original house and its 1779 addition were hand hewn and secured with hand wrought nails.

The two story farmhouse addition built in 1779 has ceilings which reach a towering 9' 6". The first and second floors, connected by a beautiful wooden staircase, have two rooms on each side of a center hall. Eight fireplaces are in this addition totaling ten in the entire historic structure. The deep basement provided cold storage and there is also a cold vault outside for food preservation.

A ladder in the attic gave access to a door in the cedar roof in case of fire. Scorched timbers in the basement would suggest that there was a fire at some point, not uncommon due to the numerous fireplaces needed to heat homes of that period.

All of this history lives behind the walls of the Campbell and Thomas Funeral Home in Richboro.



MAIN HOUSE, LOOKING SOUTH



MAIN HOUSE, LOOKING WEST

