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Erected in 1762 by Edward Stiles. Very Good+ in VG+ Dust Jacket. There are handsome chimney pieces in each room with dark Pennsylvania marble facings about the fireplaces and ornamental panels so nicely made that no joints are visible.

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Within, a great hall extends through the house to a wide cross hall at the rear, where a broad and handsome staircase with wing flights above a gallery landing is located.

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The main house rises two and a half stories above a high foundation of hewn stone with iron-barred basement windows set in stone frames. Across the front and sides of the house the second-floor level was marked by a penthouse roof, broken over the entrance by a balcony reached by a door from the second story. Thus the surrounding countryside—but especially to the northwestward along the high, wooded banks of the Schuylkill River and Wissahickon Creek—became a community of great estates with elegant country houses which have no parallel in America other than the manorial estates along the James River in Virginia.

Interior Design & Decorative arts

The denticulated molding has fluted dentils with horizontal connecting members forming a sort of continuous H pattern. In the kitchen the brick oven, the copper boiler and the fireplace with its crane still remain.

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In elegance and distinction the façade is unexcelled in early American city architecture. Erected about 1750; Betsy Ross House, 239 Arch Street.

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Thus from the very outset brick construction has been favored in preference to wood in Philadelphia.

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About the middle of the eighteenth century the plain horizontal transom above outside doors was generally replaced by the more graceful semicircular fanlight, the glass area of which was divided by sash bars or leaded lines into numerous radiating patterns of more or less grace and beauty.

Topical architecture: a library of classified architectural motives and details (Book, 1901) [sdk.mavlink.io]

This variation in the windows of different stories is by no means an uncommon feature of Philadelphia houses, and, as in this instance, often came about as the result of alterations. Dining Room, Stenton; Library, Stenton.

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