

## GULICK HOUSE II

Old houses mended, Cost little less than new before they're ended —*Colley Cibber*



*Gulick House, Lawrence, New Jersey*

+Roadtrip: Back To School+

[Lambertville 1] [Lambertville 2] [Lambertville 3] [Outside Gulick House] [Inside Gulick House]  
pix by: shady

We entered through a lower-level entrance. As usual, I was at the rear... the slowpoke taking a bunch of pics along the way... and when I paused from shooting pics, I realized that everyone had scattered and I was left alone in the basement. I made my way through the dark, and up the stairs to the first floor...



I had no idea what to expect as I climbed the stairs... and I definitely was not prepared for what I saw when I reached the first floor... a vast, elegant expanse of hardwood floor gleaming in the sunlight and an ornately banistered, twisting grand staircase leading all the way up to the third floor (*below*). Cheech peeked down over the banister at me from three stories above as I passed under the beautifully arched great entry, my eyes wide in disbelief as I explored the abandoned fairy-tale mansion...



The ceilings in the house average at about 12 feet tall on the first floor, and 9-10 feet tall on the upper floors (a typical house has 8 foot ceilings), making the place seem even *more* vast. A Colonial Revival-style stone-tiled sunroom was added in the 1920's (*below, second from right*). There is also a study with floor-to-ceiling windows and a fireplace. In fact, there are fireplaces in nearly every room... and some rooms even have *two* fireplaces



I made my way through room after room... I cannot even emphasize the enormous scale of the place! Everywhere I turned, I saw *more* and *more* amazing examples of historic architecture on display... elaborate ceiling moldings (*above, left*)... an old claw-foot tub (*below, right*)... arched windows... old-fashioned dumbwaiter... the list goes on. The place is still in pretty good shape, most of the rooms are still intact and *gorgeously* built. It's disturbing to think that someone might want to tear down such a fantastic, well-preserved example of architecture without a thought toward it's obvious historical value...



A dark, narrow servant's hallway leads throughout the walls of the place (*above, left*). We found recently used candles, clothing, and a dead bird on the bathroom floor as we explored the house. I lost count of the number of rooms, as well as the number of fireplaces... and I totally got lost *more* than once.



After some time inside of the house, we decided to head back down the stairs, through the lower level and back out into the sunlight again.

A neighbor was kind enough to come over and speak to us for a few minutes, telling us a little about the history of the house and land. Fortunately, it seems that the concerned neighbors keep a very close eye on the place, keeping it safe from intruders and others wishing to do it harm. We were fascinated by the wealth of history behind the Gulick House. As we headed back toward the truck, ready to head home, we felt very lucky to have stumbled across it and had the chance to have a look at it. This is truly a magnificent house and it really deserves to be preserved as the historic landmark it is. At this moment, the fate of the house remains unknown.

If you are concerned about the proposed demolition, and would like to voice your opinion about the Gulick House and it's fate, you can send your comments to the *Lawrence Ledger*.  
*Thank you.*

Our visitor Christy writes, "Ok, I'm *STILL* looking at your site.... I just ran across your pictures of the Gulick house. Amazing! If the random pictures of rubble weren't there, it would look like someone just moved out. I'm appalled that they would even consider tearing

## James T Callahan Photographer

A Personal Photography and Writing Repository

## William Gulick House Chronology

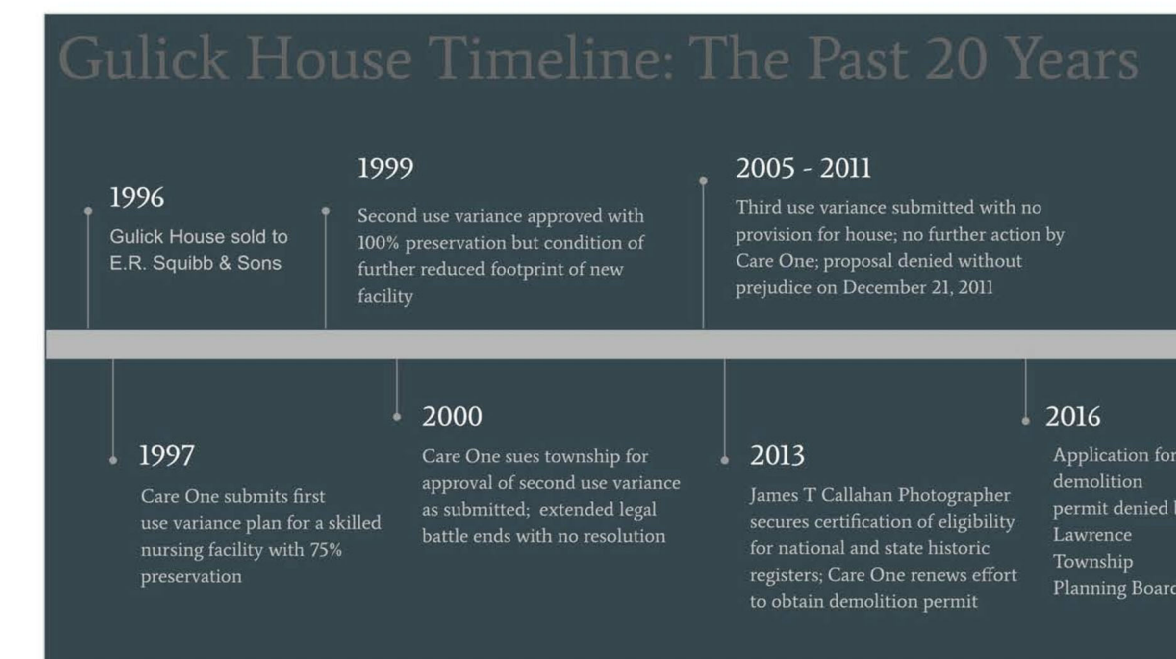


### 2015

The fate of The Gulick House in Lawrence Township once again moved to the forefront as its owner, Care One LLC, applied again for a demolition permit in November 2015. The application was presented at a meeting chaired by the Lawrence Historic Preservation Advisory Committee (HPAC). The committee denied the permit 4-1, with the expectation that the decision would be appealed. The appeal hearings began on April 20th at a meeting of the zoning board but adjourned before a final decision could be rendered. The application was ultimately denied.

I was notified of the proceedings by our local consortium of preservation individuals and asked to attend to give testimony based on my extensive involvement with the house, and the fact that I received a Certification of Eligibility in 2013 for the national and state historic registers based on criterion C for architectural significance. Care One's counsel had put forth at the meeting that the house is *not* historically significant based on a 1987 report stating that it was best not to rely solely on architectural significance. However, the certification letter I received from the NJ Historic Preservation Office in July of 2013 takes that argument off the table.

That significant accomplishment is part of my vision for and the important work of the 19th Century House Project. While neither the certification nor a successful registers nomination can prevent demolition, it is a step in the right direction. With the backing of the State and the publicity the certification afforded in garnering support of the citizenry, it gives a lot more weight to our efforts. Local support is the most important element of campaigning to save a historic structure.



Timeline info graphic I created in 2016 for the Gulick House restoration project

## PRESERVATION NEW JERSEY Gulick House

Year Listed: 2007  
Status: Endangered

City: Lawrence Township  
County: Mercer

### UPDATES:

7/2010 Update: There has been no change in status with regard to the Zoning Board application. It is still listed as a pending application. However, there are no current development plans on file at this time. It is owned by a realty company. No work has been done to the house and it sits vacant without a use.

9/2011: A three-alarm fire has significantly damaged the interior of the Gulick House. The fire has been attributed to faulty electrical wiring. The property is managed by Care One, LLC, based in Fort Lee. While the full extent of the damage is not known, firefighters broke windows and cut away portions of the building's floors in order to fully extinguish the blaze. Township historian Dennis Walters was quoted: "The owners have allowed the house to deteriorate. The windows are boarded up, it's an eyesore, but at the same time, in a historic and architectural sense, it's a very beautiful thing. This is the price we pay for neglecting our history."



### DESCRIPTION:

This exceptional, high style, Italianate house was built in the third quarter of the 19th century by prominent local farmer William Gulick. Renovated several times - most notably in colonial revival style during the 1920s or '30s - the house consists of three sections: a five-bay-wide, three-story main building that faces Route 206, a two-story sun room on the west end, and a smaller, two-story wing that extends to the north.

The plan of the main wing consists of a center hall that runs front to back, a double parlor to the west, and a single large room to the east. Its first floor, which contains most of the home's ornate and highly finished spaces has tall ceilings and four large fireplaces with wood mantels. Much of the 19th century wood and plasterwork is still in place. The extraordinary "U" shaped main stair runs completely through to the third floor, its openings allowing a spectacular view through the building.

The house remained a private residence until pharmaceutical giant Bristol Myers Squibb purchased it in 1988 and considered converting it to a guesthouse and conference center. In recent years developers have submitted various plans to Lawrence Township for building an assisted living facility on the property. Some of these proposals have incorporated the house, but the latest plan under consideration contemplates its demolition.

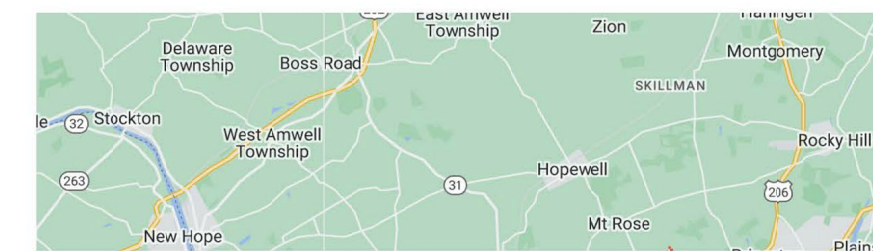
The Gulick House is one of the finest examples of Italianate high style domestic architecture in central New Jersey, and its preservation is important to the character of Lawrence Township. PNJ hopes this Endangered Sites designation will help the interested parties to refocus on the need to preserve this building as a part of any development of the site. We recommend that the building be placed on the state and national registers of historic places, making it eligible for matching grants from the New Jersey Historic Trust. We also encourage any potential developer to look into the Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credits for historic buildings used as income producing properties.



### CONTACT:

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**Front**



**Front**



**Rear**



**Right Si**



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MAXIMILLIAN HAYDEN  
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PROJECT TITLE:  
**RELOCATION AND RESTORATION  
OF THE GULICK HOUSE  
LAWRENCEVILLE-  
PRINCETON ROAD  
LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP, NJ**

ZONE: EP-1  
LOT: 6601  
BLOCK: 2

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NJ LIC. NO. 21A100960600  
PA LIC. NO. RA-013733-B  
MA LIC. NO. 953397-AR-R

PROJECT NAME:	Gulick
DATE:	7.14.22
SCALE:	AS NOTED
DRAWN BY:	MJH

REVISIONS:	

Exterior Photos  
1996

DWG TITLE:

**P2**

DWG #:

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PROJECT TITLE:  
**RELOCATION AND RESTORATION  
OF THE GULICK HOUSE  
LAWRENCEVILLE-  
PRINCETON ROAD  
LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP, NJ**

ZONE: **EP-1**  
LOT: **6601**  
BLOCK: **2**

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PROJECT NAME:	Gulick
DATE:	7.14.22
SCALE:	AS NOTED
DRAWN BY:	MJH

REVISIONS:	

Exterior Photos  
2021  
DWG TITLE:

**P3**  
DWG #:



**Front**



**Rear**



**Left Side**



**Right Side**

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**RELOCATION AND RESTORATION  
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LAWRENCEVILLE-  
PRINCETON ROAD  
LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP, NJ

ZONE: **EP-1**  
LOT: **6601**  
BLOCK: **2**

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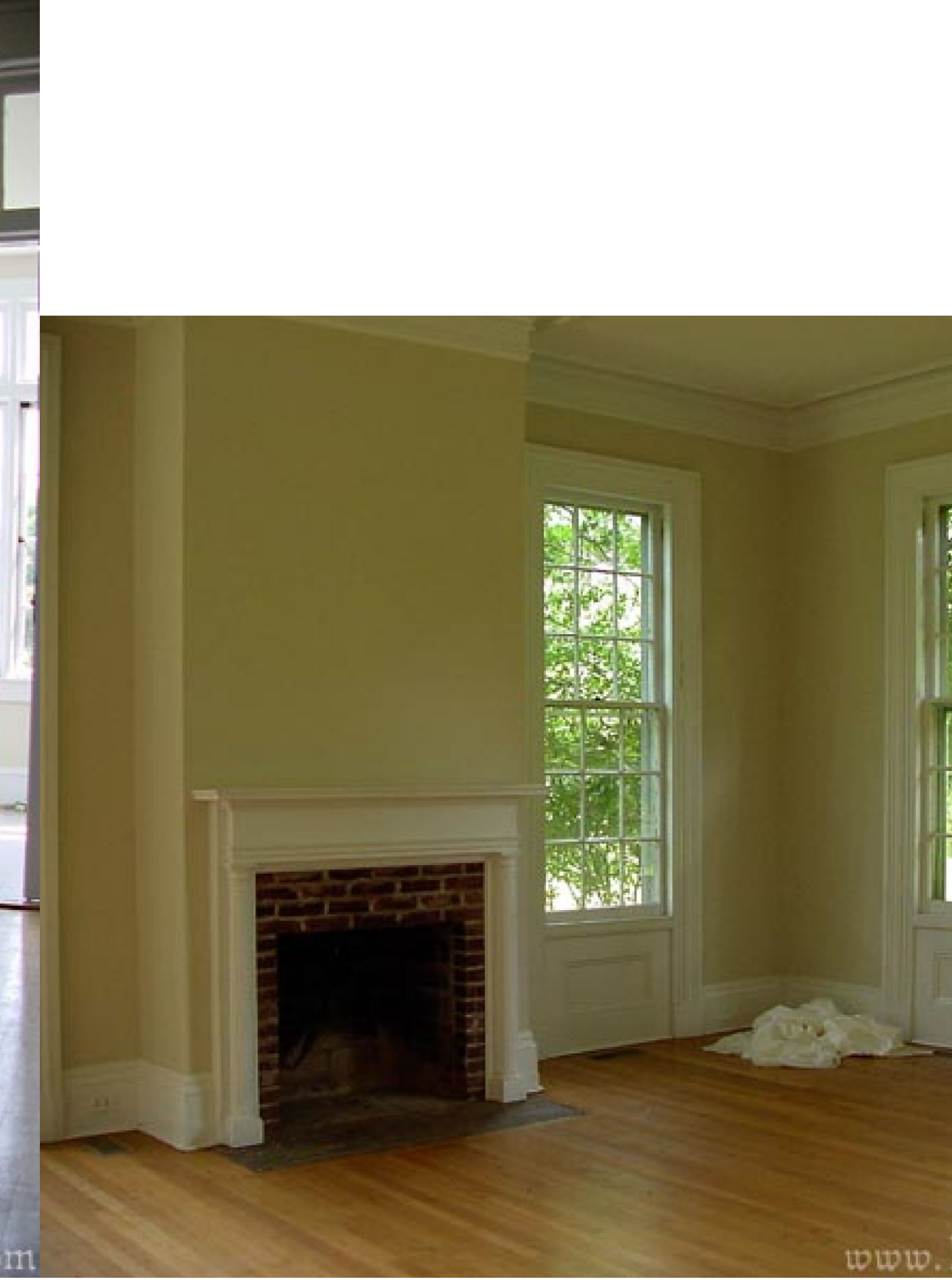
NJ LIC. NO. 21A100960600  
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MA LIC. NO. 953397-AR-R

PROJECT NAME:	Gulick
DATE:	7.14.22
SCALE:	AS NOTED
DRAWN BY:	MJH

REVISIONS:	

Interior Photos  
2003  
DWG TITLE:

**P4**  
DWG #:



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ZONE: EP-1  
LOT: 6601  
BLOCK: 2

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PROJECT NAME:	Gulick
DATE:	7.14.22
SCALE:	AS NOTED
DRAWN BY:	MJH

REVISIONS:	

Hayden House  
2006-2009

DWG TITLE:

**P6**

DWG #: