



Getting Here

GPS Address:

17 von Steuben Lane
South Bound Brook, NJ 08880

I-287: Traveling NORTH

Exit 10 onto Rt. 527 North/Easton Ave. toward South Bound Brook. Proceed 1 mile (becomes Main Street, South Bound Brook). Turn right onto von Steuben lane and continue straight to enter the driveway and parking area.

I-287: Traveling SOUTH

Take exit 10 onto Route 527/Easton Ave. toward South Bound Brook. Exit the ramp, get into the left lane and make left turn onto Route 527 North, and proceed as above.

Hours:

- ◆ 2nd Saturday monthly (except July/Aug): 10am -12 noon
- ◆ By appointment: call or email
- ◆ During events: Check our website

For Event Schedule & Information:

www.staatshouse.org

Contact Us:

Phone: Phone: 732-369-3583

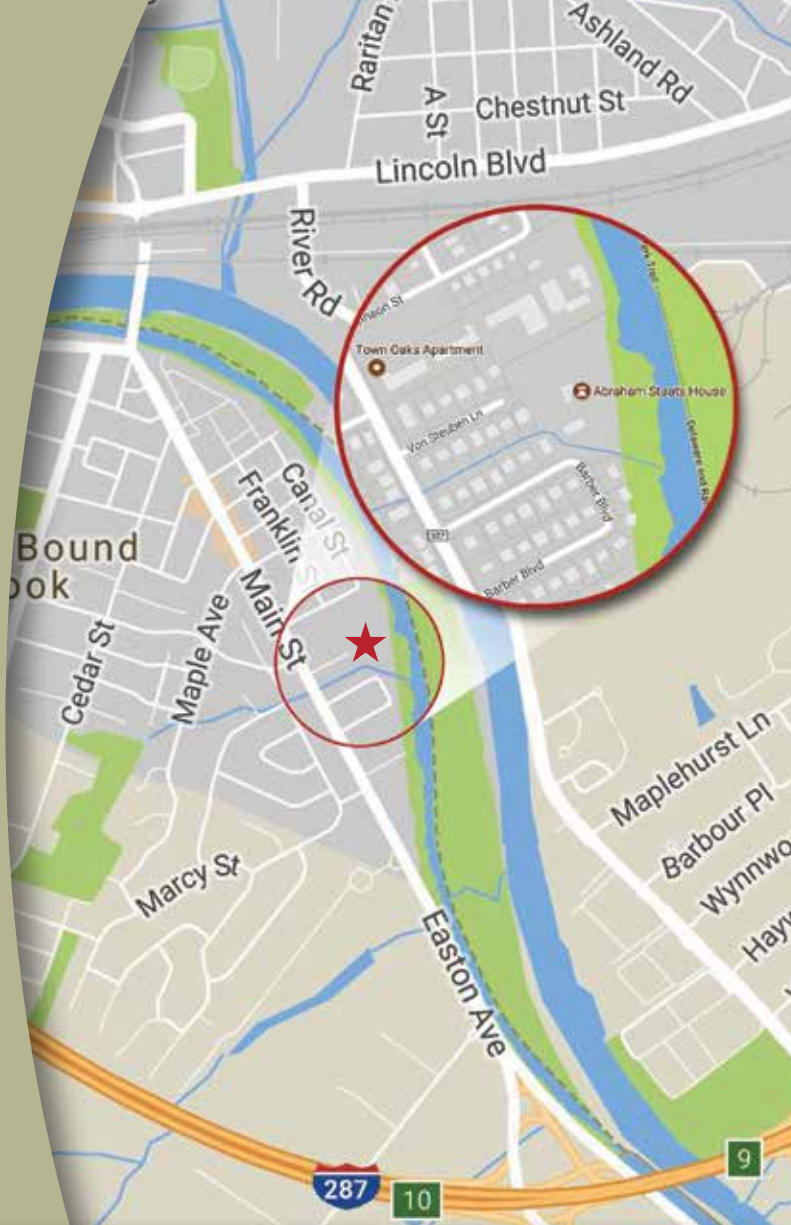
E-mail: info@staatshouse.org

Website: www.staatshouse.org

Visit us on Facebook!

The mission of the Friends of Abraham Staats House, Inc. is to support the ongoing restoration, preservation and interpretation of the historic Abraham Staats House, built in 1740 along the Raritan River. The Staats' family home was associated with significant people and events during the American Revolution, as well as with the growth of the community in the early 19th century, when the Delaware & Raritan Canal was constructed. Our goal is to foster an understanding of the home's history and its significance and relationship to South Bound Brook, the surrounding communities, the state of New Jersey and our nation.

The Friends of Abraham Staats House, Inc. is incorporated under the Law of the State of New Jersey, Section 501c(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended and corresponding provisions of future U.S. revenue law. This program is made possible, in part, by the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the Department of State through the State/County History Partnership Program Grant, and administered in Somerset County by the Somerset County Cultural & Heritage Commission.



Welcome



The
**Abraham
STAATS
HOUSE**

Headquarters of the "Drillmaster" General Baron von Steuben during the 1778-79 Middlebrook Cantonment of the American Revolutionary War

www.staatshouse.org

Abraham Staats

and his family lived in the home during the American Revolutionary War. Staats was a prominent landowner, farmer and citizen of his community. He taught mathematics, surveying and navigation and served as a tax and toll collector.

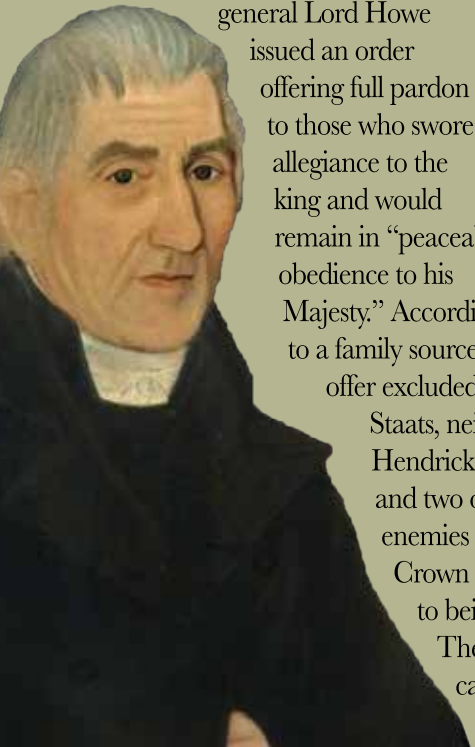
He was also an ardent patriot. When the British occupied New Brunswick during the war, the Staats hid some merchants' valuables under the floor of their barn. A slave in the Staats' household, who came to be known as "Tory Jack," reputedly helped the patriot cause by spying on British forces in the area and reporting back to the Americans.

Abraham Staats was, it seems, considered an arch traitor by the British. In 1776, British

general Lord Howe issued an order offering full pardon to those who swore allegiance to the king and would remain in "peaceable obedience to his Majesty." According to a family source, his offer excluded

Staats, neighbor Hendrick Fisher and two others as enemies of the Crown and subject to being hanged.

They were never caught.



The Colonial Farmhouse

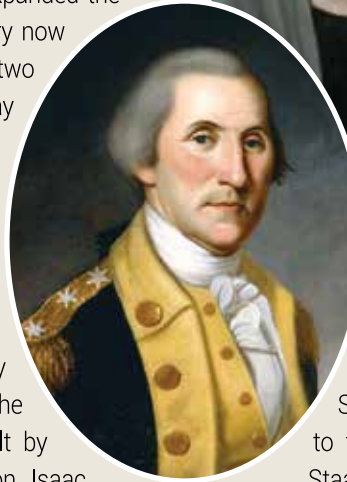
was built on the 305-acre property purchased in 1738 by the Staats family, and believed to have been built by Hendrick Staats circa 1740. This original structure - two main rooms with a garret above - is the central and oldest part of the house.

The home and property passed to Abraham Staats in 1770, at the time of his marriage to Margaret DuBois. The couple began raising their family during the American Revolution and had two young daughters at the time that their home was used as the military headquarters of General Baron von Steuben.

After the War

Abraham and Margaret continued to farm the property and raised a family of five daughters and a son who stayed connected to the family homestead throughout their lives. While there, the Staats expanded the original structure, adding a new entry now known as "the Old Hall," and two adjacent rooms. Abraham died on May 4, 1821. The 1821 inventory listing his household goods and property provides an excellent insight about the Staats family at that time.

The Staats and their descendants remained in the home for nearly 200 years, making many improvements and expanding the house, including the east wing built by Abraham and Margaret Staats' son Isaac about 1825. The house also includes the early kitchen as well as a second kitchen addition. The property was sold out of the family in 1935.



Baron von Steuben

was a Prussian officer appointed Inspector General of the Continental Army by General George Washington. When the army overwintered in this area during the Middlebrook Cantonment of 1778-79, von Steuben used the Staats' home as his headquarters from March to June 1779, and spent the time training and drilling select troops.

In May, he held a "Grand Review" for Gen. George Washington, hosting a reception and dinner on Staats' property for the visiting French diplomat Conrad Alexandre Gérard, Spanish envoy Don Juan de Miralles, and sixty military personnel and guests.

The military skills that General von Steuben taught the Continental Army were instrumental to the outcome of the American Revolutionary War of 1775-1783.

The Abraham Staats House Today

The house was privately owned until 1999, when it was acquired by the Borough of South Bound Brook with grant assistance provided by Somerset County. The Abraham Staats House was placed on the NJ State and National Registers of Historic Places in 2002.

The house is maintained by the Borough of South Bound Brook with support from the South Bound Brook Historic Preservation Commission as well as the Friends of Abraham Staats House, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of local history and the Abraham Staats House through programming, events and grant-based activities.



Top: General Baron von Steuben Middle: Margaret DuBois Staats Bottom: General George Washington