

PERSEN HOUSE SCAVENGER HUNT

The information on the back on this sheet provides interesting facts about each of these items, and may even help you find some of the trickier ones!

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Clothing in the Wall

3

STEEL BEAMS

Encased in Wood

2

Sun Face

4

Jambless Fireplace

Burn Marks 5

6

Dutch Door

Stockade Posthole 7

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Plaster Encasing Hay and Horsehair

10

French Wallpaper

12

30-Inch Cedar Shingles

13

Matthew's Bedroom

11

Inside Gutters

ARTIFACTS

1. **Clothing in the Wall** – It was common for articles of clothing, such as jeans, shirts, or aprons, to be stuffed in between the wall and window to act as insulation.
2. **Sun Face** – A metal fireback placed on the back wall of a fireplace to protect the stone or bricks from heat damage, as well as to act as a radiator, and called a “Sun Face” because it was commonly adorned with the image of a smiling sun, as you can see in this one.
3. **Steel Beams Encased in Wood** – When the original 18th century beams were replaced during the house’s renovations, the architects used steel for its needed strength and encased it in wood to give a more period-appropriate appearance. The reason that solid wood wasn’t used is that today’s mass-produced lumber is actually weaker than it used to be when the original beams were installed.
4. **Jambless Fireplace** – The “jambs” are the stone sidings found underneath the mouth of the fireplace, and would serve to better radiate heat out into the room. This fireplace, as you can see, is lacking jambs, thus its title as “jambless”.
5. **Burn Marks** – These two charred pieces of wood are remnants of when the British came through and burned Kingston, this house included, in October of 1777.
6. **Dutch Door** – This type of door is characterized by a horizontal division so that the top-half can be opened while the bottom-half remains closed. The purpose of this door was to allow air and light into the house while keeping animals and dirt out and young children in. See if you can find all three in the house!
7. **Stockade Posthole** – Covered by a temporary floor, but shown in this photograph, this posthole provides evidence that at one point the stockade ran right up against the edge of this house.
8. **Gysbert’s Inventory** – In 1664, Gysbert VanImbroch, the house’s original owner, had everything he owned inventoried for the sake of his heirs (those who would inherit these belongings after he died), on 12 pages and amounting to over 11,000 items!
9. **Plaster Encasing Hay and Horsehair** – Agents such as hay, horsehair, or pig’s hair were mixed into plaster to help bind it together, similar to how metal fencing or fibers are used in concrete mixes today.
10. **French Wallpaper** – This paper was installed in the 19th century, and hand painted by a French company that still exists today and still makes that same pattern.
11. **Inside Gutters** – For a while, Phases 3 and 4 were not connected, leaving a small alley between them. These gutters, also called valleys, are still visible and provide evidence of this alley.
12. **30-Inch Cedar Shingles** – When Phases 3 and 4 were eventually joined, the owners did not bother to take down the roof from phase 3, and instead built right on top of it. This old roof is still standing, as well as its cedar shingles, also called “shakes”.
13. **Matthewis’s Bedroom** – As owner of the tavern, Matthewis would not have relied on the fireplaces on the floor below to heat his room, and instead used a wood stove.