



## Where General Greene Supplied and Fed the Grand Army Winter 1777-1778

The house is one of only five surviving colonial-era residences where George Washington and his senior officers stayed during the Second Middlebrook Encampment in the winter of 1778-1779. Collectively known as the Five Generals' Houses, these sites include the Van Veghten House, Staats House, Wallace House, Vanderveer House, and Van Horne House. Several other Somerset County buildings sheltered Continental Army officers, but those structures no longer survive.

Now a stately two-story brick residence, the house stands on the north bank of the Raritan River and traces its origins to Michael Van Veghten, who purchased acreage from the East Jersey Proprietorship and built a home on the site. The exact construction date is unknown. However, a baptismal record for Michael's son, Derrick, born in 1699, notes that he was "born on the Raritan." The dates on the historical marker reflect the earliest documented reference to the house: a 1725 map showing a building on the site labeled "Van Veghten."

In the photograph above, the lower section on the left contains an original colonial open-hearth fireplace and was long believed to be the oldest portion of the structure. More recent analysis of the brickwork, along with interpretations by historic architects, suggests that two walls on the opposite end may be the earliest surviving elements. Additional clues—such as unusual double walls and irregular beam lengths in the basement—add to the mystery. The evolution of the house, therefore, remains only partially understood. Visitors are invited to examine the evidence and join the discussion; a short interpretive video is available on site.

Today, the Van Veghten House serves as headquarters for the Somerset County Historical Society. It sits at the rear of an industrial park off County Road 533 (Finderne Avenue) and is not visible from the roadway—finding it is part of the adventure.