

National Trust for Historic Preservation

Re: Washington's Hollow,
Hopewell Township, Mercer Co., NJ

Dear Sirs:

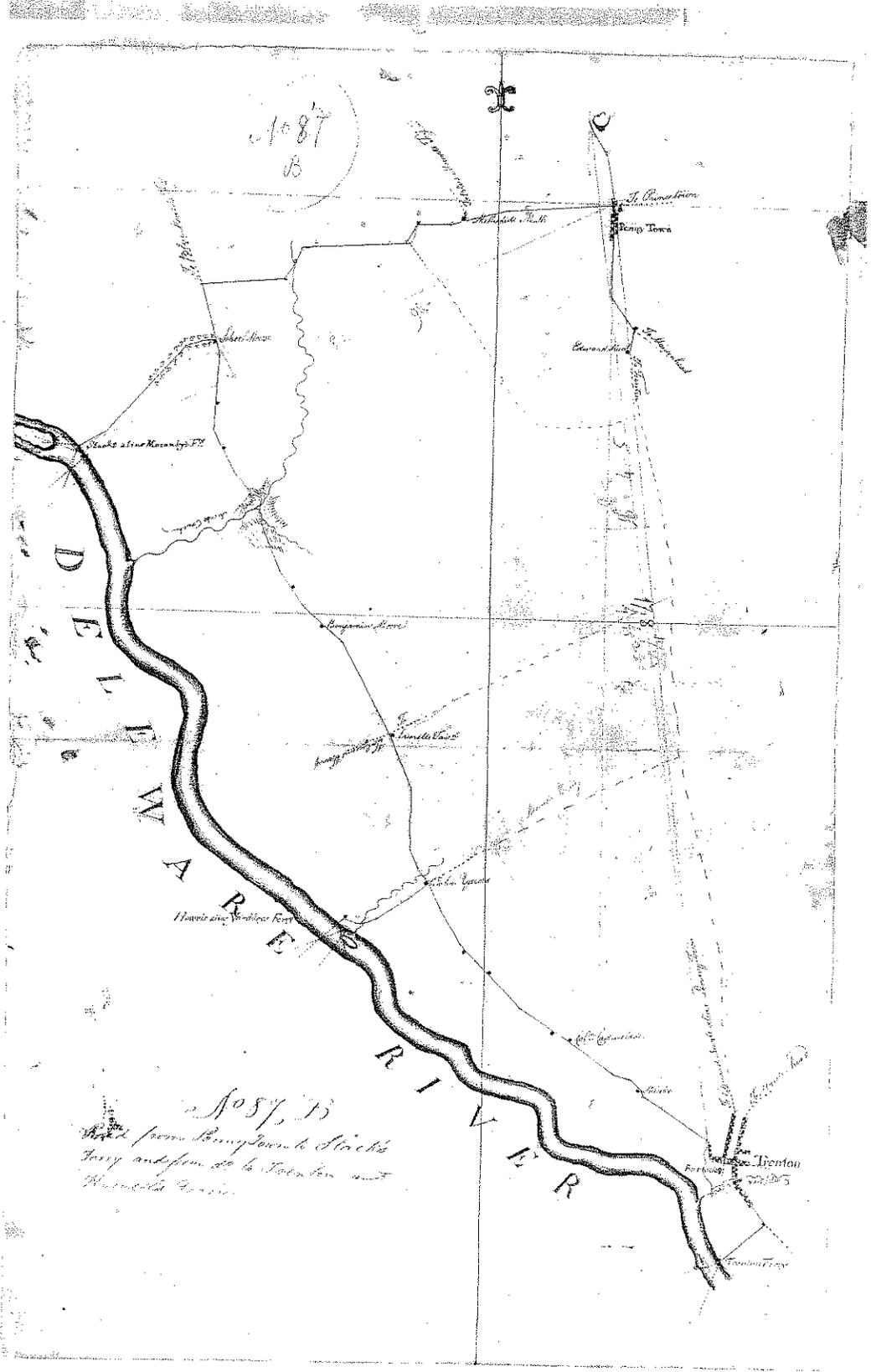
I write on behalf of the Hopewell Township Historic Preservation Commission, a legal entity of Hopewell Township, in support of a nomination to include Washington's Hollow on the Trust's 11 Most Endangered List, now being prepared by Ashley Kerr, a Township resident.

Washington's Hollow is a 60 foot deep ravine through which the beleaguered American Army, in the early morning of December 26, 1776, with enormous struggle in the darkness, on an icy rutted road in the howling wind and driving snow, laboriously lowered and raised its 20 cannon and crossed two creeks. These cannon, some of which were part of Henry Knox's prize at Ticonderoga and present at the Siege of Boston, were later that morning positioned at the top of King and Queen Streets, as well as below the town of Trenton, and accomplished the first significant victory of the Revolution after the invasion of Long Island, four long defeat-filled months before. On that morning the War for Independence was reborn.

There is currently a nomination for Local, State, and National Landmark status being developed by a committee of interested citizens in the vicinity of the Hollow, and throughout Hopewell Township. The Historic Preservation Commission of Hopewell Township supports that nomination.

The site is created by opposing wooded slopes, about 300 feet apart through which the large Jacobs Creek flows west to the Delaware River two miles away. Land on either side of the Creek rises 40 feet quickly and another 20 feet gradually to the plateaus on the north and south. A small tributary flows into Jacobs Creek from the north, and 500 feet to the west of that, a large creek flows in from the south. The historic road is first mentioned in 1711 south of the creek, where it enters the ravine just west of an eminence. The road then crossed the large intersecting creek, and Jacobs Creek, just east of their intersection, landing on the north bank of Jacob's Creek. It turned eastward on the level flood plain, extended about 500 feet to the mouth of the smaller intersecting creek, and then followed it upward to the plateau in the cut formed by the creek through centuries of time.

The above details are shown on the map prepared by Robert Erskine, Washington's Surveyor General, in 1779. The modern road comes down the opposing slopes as it did in 1776/1779, but now extends eastward on the south side of Jacobs Creek and crosses that creek further to the east on an Iron Truss Bridge, built in the ravine in 1882. In all,



1087
B

DELAWARE RIVER

1087 B
 Point from Newburgh to Stock's
 Ferry and from do to Henton and
 Henton's Ferry

New Town

Henton

Point above Newburgh Pt

Point below Newburgh Pt

Ferry

Henton's Ferry

Point above Henton

Point below Henton

Point above Newburgh Pt

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