

remodeled and almost entirely rebuilt after its occupancy by the Hessian troops during the Revolution.

The youth of the village received their education generally in private schools, but in May 1753 a number of the "sons of the principal families in and about Trenton, being in some measure sensible of the advantages of learning, and desirous that those who are deprived of it through the poverty of their parents, might taste the sweetness of it with ourselves" proposed a scheme for raising two hundred and twenty-five pieces of double Spanish dollars, towards building a house to accommodate an English and Grammar school and paying a master to teach children whose parents were unable to pay for schooling. The scheme proposed was called the Delaware Island Lottery, which, now known as the Lottery of the Innocents, was drawn on Fish Island in July and with the proceeds a one-story building was erected on the lot now owned and adjoining the First Presbyterian Church, "on the south east corner of the meeting house lot."

Beginning in 1755 and on through the period of the French and Indian war the settlements in New Jersey were in a constant state of apprehension of attacks from hostile Indians, the allies of the French.

In its position between the important cities of New York and Philadelphia, Trenton was frequently visited by British troops stationed in that section to protect the English colonists. During such visits the soldiers were billeted for lodging and subsistence on the inhabitants of the place. In the winter of 1757 a petition to the General Assembly, asked that there be barracks erected, stating that "such is the situation of Trenton being so great a thoroughfare, and consequently so many soldiers continually passing and repassing upon their several commands, and quartered upon us both night and day, that unless by the assistance of this Honorable House we can by some wholesome law and legal remedy be eased of this present distress, the country will no longer be able to bear the burden, nor the officers have it in their power to keep their straggling soldiers under due command and subjection." An act was passed April 15th, 1758, by the Council and General Assembly to provide for the erection of the barracks, and soon afterward a lot of about an acre was purchased on the west end of what is now called Front street for £40. Work was begun on the building May 31st, 1758, but was not finished until March 1759, although soldiers were lodged in it as early as November of 1758. In December 1759 the addition farthest to the east was added for the exclusive use of the officers in charge of the English troops. The barracks were originally designed to accommodate about three hundred men, but