

there were afterwards as many as four hundred and fifty soldiers quartered there at a time. The building cost about £3,100 and was built of undressed stone. It was two stories high, one hundred and thirty feet in length, eighteen and a half feet in width, with two wings, each fifty-eight feet in length, projecting at right angles from the front. For several years the barracks were constantly filled with troops, but in 1765, peace having been restored with France, they became unoccupied and the General Assembly ordered the perishable articles therein to be sold, and the building simply kept in repair or rented, but a year later they were obliged to refurnish. During the Revolutionary War the barracks were occupied at various times by companies of British troops and Hessian mercenaries. After the battle of Trenton it was filled with American militia and so continued until the end of the war as a place for quartering the soldiers of either army. In 1787 the barracks was sold by an order of the General Assembly for £3,260. When in 1813 Front street was opened westward one block, forty feet of the building was taken down and this detached the north wing from the main building. This north wing was converted into three residences which still remain. The porches of the main building were taken down and this portion of the barracks has since 1855 been occupied by the Widows' and Single Women's Home Society.

An important era in the history of the young Republic was now approaching, and upon the ground where the thriving city of Trenton stands, actions took place which turned the tide of affairs in favor of the struggling colonists. The Declaration of Independence signed on the 4th day of July 1776, was celebrated in New Jersey with great rejoicing. By October Washington had assembled at New York nearly 20,000 men. But the exultation soon gave way to gloom and despair after the disastrous defeat on Long Island and soon after at White Plains and other points in New York and New Jersey. With the coming of December Washington with only 3,000 men remaining had been driven back through Newark, Elizabeth and New Brunswick to Princeton. Now 1,500 of the remaining army, thoroughly disheartened deserted their colors because their time had expired, and by the middle of December the leader was compelled to evacuate New Jersey and cross into Pennsylvania.

Cornwallis with the British Army had closely followed Washington in his retreat across New Jersey and reached and occupied Trenton just as the American Army left it. Detachments of the British troops, mainly Hessians, under Count Donop, were stationed at Mount Holly, Burlington, Bordentown and Trenton. The force at Trenton under the immediate command of Colonel