



## *On This Site in 1784*

### **Conrad Knott's home & tailor shop**

*West side of Warren*

A tailor named Conrad Knotts lived on this site in 1784, in what historians describe as a “a little house.” In Colonial times, tailors made clothes for both men and women. Shirts, stockings, hats, and capes were ready made, but coats, weskits, breeches, stays, and gowns were custom made for individuals. So, no matter what a person’s social or economic status, everyone was a potential customer of the neighborhood tailor.



Despite his simple trade, Knotts seems to have been a well respected man; on August 25, 1784, the State Legislature appointed him to the three-man team who would find appropriate housing for the President of the Continental Congress while he was in Trenton. The threesome were also responsible for securing an appropriate place for the Continental Congress to meet “to dispatch the public business” that winter.

Working quickly, the threesome chose Stacy Potts’ large home on Warren Street as the official dwelling for the Congressional President. Meeting space for the Congressmen was a fairly easy decision, the Long Room in the centrally located French Arms tavern seemed made to order for such a distinguished gathering.

When the townspeople were surveyed to find homes or rooms where the visiting Congressmen might stay while they were in Trenton, Knotts offered a room with a fireplace that might be used as a temporary office. He could not, however, offer anyone room and board. Perhaps it really *was* a little house.

**To learn more about Trenton in 1784 and the events celebrating the 54 days Trenton was our nation’s capital, visit our website at: [www.trenton1784.org](http://www.trenton1784.org).**