

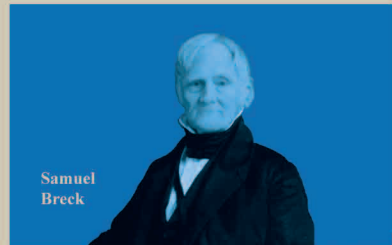
SWEETBRIAR MANSION

Samuel Breck built Sweetbriar Mansion in 1797 to escape the Yellow Fever epidemic, which killed 10,000 Philadelphians between 1793 and 1800.

Due to his education in France, Breck soon made Sweetbriar a gathering place of French diplomatic corps, which included his friend Marquis de Lafayette. Breck was also friendly with Dr. Benjamin Rush and Joseph Bonaparte, brother of Napoleon. Breck became a state senator and congressman; founded the Savings Fund Society; and was Trustee of the University of Pennsylvania.

Sweetbriar is built of local rubble-stone covered with stucco, a popular building practice in the 18th century. The style, although Federal, shows the continuing influence of Georgian symmetry. There are many French influences, which may be due to Breck's years spent in France.

In 1869 Sweetbriar became part of Fairmount Park, and in 1876 Sweetbriar bordered the Centennial Exposition grounds. The house was restored in 1932 by the Junior League of Philadelphia and in 1976 by the City of Philadelphia. Since 1939 Sweetbriar has been maintained by The Modern Club of Philadelphia, a philanthropic organization, which works in cooperation with the City of Philadelphia.



Samuel
Breck



1797

Sweetbriar Mansion is named for the sweetbriar rose.