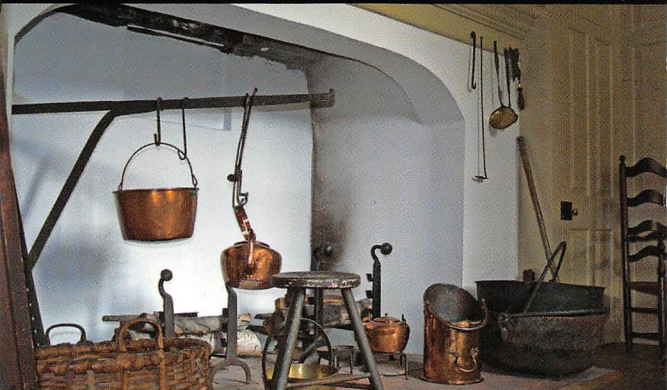


Independence National Historical Park



Hercules' Kitchen at Germantown White House

Hercules' Kitchen

Deshler-Morris House, circa 1752.



Hercules was enslaved by the Washingtons in Philadelphia. He ran the kitchen at the President's House in Philadelphia and their summer house in Germantown. He was a fine chef who cooked for the family and honored guests of the President. Hercules was able to sell leftover food to make money for himself. After being sent home to Mount Vernon, he escaped from slavery on the President's birthday, in 1797.

"The chief cook... a celebrated artiste... as highly accomplished a proficient in the culinary arts as could be found." --George Washington Parke Custis, the Washingtons' grandson