

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Smith, Henry Farm
other names/site number Hidden Spring Farm

2. Location

street & number 950 Swatara Creek Road
city, town Middletown (Londonderry Twp.)
state Pennsylvania code PA county Dauphin code 043 zip code 17057

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private
Category of Property: district
Number of Resources within Property: Contributing 2, Noncontributing 1 buildings, 1 sites, 1 structures, 1 objects, Total 3

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official: Dr. Brent Glass, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
entered in the National Register.
determined eligible for the National Register.
determined not eligible for the National Register.
removed from the National Register.
other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/ Single Dwelling
Agriculture/ agricultural out-
building

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/ Single Dwelling
Commerce/ Business**7. Description**Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)Federal

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stonewalls Sandstoneroof Shingle

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Henry Smith farm includes three contributing nineteenth century resources: the house, barn, and vaulted cellar. Sitting on a small knoll above the flood plain of the Swatara Creek, this complex is surrounded by open fields on the north, west, and east. A clump of trees runs along the southern boundary of the property. The Smith house is a five bay, double pile, two story, brownstone house built in 1806. Patterned in the Georgian plan with two rooms on either side of a central hall, this house has an open stairway rising in the rear. Overall the house displays regional vernacular influences with Federal style architectural elements. The facade of the house was lengthened before 1840 with a two bay kitchen addition on the east gable end of the house. This addition is two stories in the front, but only one in the rear, exemplifying a form sometimes known as the flounder house. A reconstructed bake oven extends from the east gable of the kitchen. The barn, also built of brownstone in 1845-47, displays the typical form of a bank barn built in south central Pennsylvania at that time. It has a classic cantilevered front and extended granaries in the rear. A small vaulted cellar built of rubblestone is situated southeast of the house. A large frame wagonshed was built south of the barn some time in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century. It is not considered contributing to the farm complex because its construction techniques and materials are not in keeping with the nominated buildings.

While the front facade of the main block of the house displays five bays, the rear elevation is only three bays, and each gable end contains two bays. Typical of Georgian symmetry, brick chimney stacks rise from each gable end of the house. The house has a shallow-molded, unadorned cornice on both the front and rear elevations. As is typical of many Germanic homesteads in the locality, the house has a datestone. This one is located between the easternmost second floor windows. Evidently written by an untutored hand, it reads, "Bilt by Henrey and Catharine Smith, 1806." The "S" in Smith is backwards as well.

The house's molded door and window frames are mortised, tenoned, and pegged. The original double hung sash of 9/6 configuration are being restored over the entire house. Evidence of the 9/6 configuration was found in the stops on the inside of the window frames. Typical of full Federal plan houses, there is a central front door with a corresponding back door. There was also an opposing door system in the kitchen addition as well. However, the back kitchen door has been infilled with brownstone because it did not match the other doors in panel configuration or framing and therefore appeared to have been added later. Both front doors have a brownstone sill

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Both the front and back doors of the house are rather restrained in ornament in that instead of having raised panels, they have beaded edge recessed panels on their exterior side and are clinch-nailed to vertical beaded boards on the inside. A reeded transom bar separates the door and transom. The rectangular front transom with an oval and modified diamond design is illustrative of the Adamesque influence of the Federal period.

A Germanic feature of this house is the outside entrance to the cellar provided on the front of the house. Located at the western end of the facade, between the first and second bays, the entrance features an arched bulkhead. Scholars have identified provision of cellar entrances in addition to main entrances to living quarters on the facades of houses as a Germanic trait.

The house was entirely stuccoed some time in the nineteenth century. Previous owners began removing the stucco, and the current owners plan on completing this process. Apparently, the hoods over the front doors were added some time in the twentieth century. They are scheduled to be removed as part of the restoration. When the present owners purchased the house, the roofing material on the northern side was slate, put on during the Second Empire period, while standing seam covered the southern side. The owners have replaced the entire roof with cedar shingles.

Similar to other full Federal plan houses, this house retains the four over four room plan. The first floor front parlors on either side of the hallway are somewhat larger than the rooms to the rear. The east parlor has fine quarter round window molding and recessed panel reveals, but the west parlor windows are more elaborately crafted with dog-eared framing which has a rope design on the inside edge. The window surrounds in the rear rooms are reduced in size and detail. Similarly, the baseboard of the front parlors is not only larger but has a molded top, while the baseboard in the rear is smaller with just a single beaded edge.

Befitting the finest room in the house, the fireplace surround and mantel in the west parlor is highlighted with fluted columns, a molded and reeded frieze, and a central elliptical, incised medallion which has radiating scallops. The fireplace is flanked by a two-door closet framed with fluted Doric columns. The arched closet framing is accentuated with a molded keystone.

The small walk-in fireplace of the east parlor has plastered jambs with a single beaded surround and a shallow molded mantel. The original fireplace at this position had been removed by previous owners. Both parlor fireplaces rest on massive stone corner arched supports which extend from the walls in the cellar below. Each of these supports face in a different direction. The west gable end support faces southeast while the eastern one faces northwest. The ends of these masonry supports hold the summerbeam running east and west beneath the floor joists. The fact that the joists rest on top of the central summerbeam instead of being mortised and tenoned into it indicates the Germanic influence of the builder.

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All of the first floor rooms retain their original chair rail. The missing chair rail on the second floor has been restored to its original location. All of the interior walls and ceilings are plastered as they were originally except the eastern two rooms of the first floor which have had their joists and summerbeam exposed. Six raised panel doors are found throughout the house. All are of the same dimensions except the hall door into the northeast room which is narrower.

All of the door surrounds in the hallway are wide molded and dog-eared except the back door and the door into the northeast room. A stairway displaying fine craftsmanship goes up in the northeast corner of the hall. Instead of the usual turned balusters, these balusters are fluted on all four sides and have beaded edges. A modestly turned newel post and standards guide the open stairway to the attic. The curtain wall beneath the first floor stair has finely executed rectangular and triangular recessed panels.

The second floor windows have narrow molded surrounds and solid board reveals. Only the second floor windows of the kitchen addition have plastered reveals with solid board sills. A small shallow fireplace has been restored to the northeast corner bedroom. Two narrow columns at each side highlight the fireplace surround with two corbelled brackets supporting a shallow molded mantel.

The first floor of the kitchen addition features a walk-in fireplace which is covered with vertical battened doors. To the rear of this fireplace is the cast iron door opening into the bake oven which has been restored on its original location. During restoration the original door sill and flue were uncovered. The rebuilding of the bee hive oven incorporated these remnants. Brownstone found in excavation were used for the base of the oven and a gable roof gives protection for the plastered dome. At the south side of the walk-in fireplace are two small closets with simple vertical battened board doors. These occupy the space beneath the narrow dogleg stairs rising to the low room above the kitchen.

Built at a right angle to the house, the barn faces onto a limestone walled barnyard. Almost twice as long as deep, the barn has granaries which extend about eight feet from the main block of the barn on both sides of the barn wall. There is exceptionally fine masonry work on this brownstone barn with smooth dressed quoins. The southern wall is masonry constructed all the way to the apex of this gable, but the northern end has masonry which is topped by framing ca. 12 feet from the apex. Standing seam sheaths the gable roof.

This barn represents the last stage in the evolution of stone barn construction in south central Pennsylvania. The earliest stone barns had telescoped slits for ventilators, and later ones had small rectangular openings filled with wooden bars serving as ventilators. This barn has large framed rectangular openings filled with strips of wood placed at an angle in a slot on the framing. There are three large ventilators in the

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southern gable end with two above the stable section and one in the apex. Five ventilators were built into the northern end with three in the stone section and two above in the framed section.

The stables at each gable end are lighted with three sets of louvred windows of four-paned sash. (The louvres consist of diamond shaped rails pegged horizontally into the frames.) There are windows of similar configuration between the doors underneath the cantilever. The barn retains most of its double "Dutch" doors with strap hinges on the front elevation except the central and southwest corner doors which have modern steel doors which were installed by a previous owner. At each rear gable end a vertical board and batten door opens out at second floor height. This was convenient for loading and unloading grain from the granaries.

The barn displays standard construction form in its hewn framing elements. However, the timbers on the threshing floor level are marked with peck marks. This was a Germanic form of labeling the timbers in order that they be reassembled in the correct bent.⁴ The barn's roof truss system consists of principal rafters connected with collars to hold the purlins upon which the common rafters rest. This medieval type of roofing structure was completely unnecessary to carry a load of wooden shingles. It would have been appropriate to carry the weight of a water soaked thatch roof.

The vaulted cellar, situated southeast of the house, is nearly square in shape inside. Only the western rubblestone wall is exposed. An earthen mound covers the remainder of the structure. The interior was plastered and whitewashed. The entrance is through a low door on the west end of the building, and there is one niche on the opposite wall which possibly served to hold storage containers. Evidently a spring flows beneath this structure which supplemented the cooling and storage facilities of the cellar in the house.

The frame wagon shed, with its gable ends at right angles to the barn stands just south of the barn and is exactly the same length of the gable ends of the barn. Unlike the hewn timbers of the barn, the framing members of the wagon shed are sawn and are nailed together instead of pegged. Corn on the cob could be stored in the cribs on either side of the central wagon and equipment storage area. Large sliding doors open into the main storage area. It was considered noncontributing to this complex because of its comparatively late building techniques.

The present owners in their restoration efforts have been careful to retain the house's fine vernacular Federal details throughout the house. They have also replaced elements such as the second floor chair rail and bake oven in the exact location of their original placement. The Smith house has been skillfully rehabilitated so that both the Germanic vernacular and Federal style elements of the original builder can be still found throughout the building.