

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Henry Smith Farm

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Endnotes

1 Christopher Martin, "Hope Deferred": The Origin and Development of Alexandria's Flounder House, Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture, (Columbia, Missouri: Univ. of Missouri Press, 1986) p. 111.

2 Joseph W. Glass, The Pennsylvania Culture Region: A View from the Barn (Ann Arbor, Mich.: UMI Research Press, 1986) pp. 62-66.

3 Robert C. Bucher, "The Swiss Bank House in Pennsylvania," Pennsylvania Folklife, Winter 1968-69, Vol. 18, No. 2. Joe Getty, Carroll's Heritage, (Westminster Md.: Johnson Graphics, 1987) pp. 62-65

4 Chris S. Witmer, "The Development and Use of Germanic Half-Timbered Threshing Barns of Lebanon Township, Dodge County, Wisconsin," unpublished Master's Thesis, University of Wisconsin, 1983.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1806-1847

Significant Dates

1806, 1847

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Henry Smith house is one of the best preserved examples of early nineteenth century architecture, particularly early brownstone houses and vernacular houses influenced by the Federal style, in the local area. The barn is also a well preserved, representative example of local, mid-nineteenth century bank barns. Both buildings are the tangible evidence of the south central Pennsylvania farmer who built larger and more substantial buildings as he reaped more bounty from the soil. Both buildings also retain features of an earlier period as well.

The Smith farm was part of 221 acres patented to John Laird in 1765. Laird willed the tract to his son, James, in 1777, and James sold part of it to Jacob Smith (I) in 1799. (Laird was assessed in 1798 with a one story, part stone house measuring 26 X 26 feet.) The present house and barn were built on a tract of 81 acres, part of what Henry Smith willed to his son, Jacob (II), in 1840. This tract remained virtually intact until it was subdivided in the 1970's. The buildings presently sit on 10 acres.

Henry Smith was the eldest son of Jacob Smith who died before 1805. At the time of his death, Jacob owned almost 800 acres of land. According to Orphans Court records, Henry elected to take 376 acres of his father's land at the valuation set by the Court. At that time, his land adjoined the Swatara Creek, William Laird, Nicholas Sheffer, Jacob Roop, Jacob Hershey, and Iron Mine Run.

The Smith family were evidently of German extraction as evidenced in vernacular features of the contributing buildings on this farm. Like his neighbors, the Shoops and Hersheys, Henry Smith placed a datestone on a building he erected, and each chose the inscription to be done in English. This documents their decision to be acculturated into the dominant society of the area. Although the general outward appearance of their buildings conform to contemporary styles, some elements, mostly internal, reflect their cultural heritage. The Scotch-Irish had settled in Derry Township before 1730 and continued to be the dominant ethnic group until the time of the Revolution when German settlers became numerous. (Londonderry Township was formed from the southern portion of Derry Township in 1826.²)

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The Smith farm lies in the fertile limestone land along the Swatara Creek and just southwest of the rolling ridges known as the Sand Hills. Soon after Smith purchased the land in 1805, he erected a new house. It was used continuously as a farmhouse until the mid-twentieth century. Although the house may appear plain by today's standards, the hauling of brownstone several miles down out of the hills over rough roads indicates money was expended to create a monument in the local community. The inscription of a datestone gives further proof of Smith's pride in his dominion over the landscape. The house was built not just for Smith, but for future generations of Smiths as well. Another indication of the family attachment to this farm is the fact there was a family burial ground on it. Henry directed through his Will that he be interred on his farm, and when Jacob Smith sold the farm to **Jacob Hess** in 1857, he reserved the graveyard for the use of "Jacob Smith and his heirs forever." Evidently since this time the graveyard has been moved or destroyed. *Headstones in barn, face about 25 years ago.*

The Smith house is one of the earliest extant brownstone houses in the area. Peter Berst, a local stone mason, erected the first brownstone house in the area near Waltonville in 1800. He was the first to develop the brownstone quarries on his land. Both his house and barn were demolished ca. 1945. The location is marked today with a small graveyard walled with brownstone.

Not only is the Smith house noteworthy as an early, large brownstone house, it is outstanding in the comparison of its interior integrity with other local farm houses built in the Federal style of the area. The Jacob Nissley house, located just over the Londonderry Township line in Derry Township, is an example of a five-bay, stone farm house having had several renovations. Built of limestone, but with brownstone quoins, this ca. 1800 house has had interior walls removed, a Victorian staircase installed, and fireplaces rebuilt.

Another house along the Hummelstown-Middletown Road is the Frederick Hummel house. Located just south of Stoverdale, it too is five-bay and built of limestone with brownstone quoins. The integrity of this house has been compromised by an unsympathetic addition on its southern gable and the colonialization of its doorway.

Neither the Nissley nor the Hummel farm retain their barns. The Hummel barn, an outstanding bank barn with limestone gable ends outlined with brownstone quoins, was demolished this spring. The Stover barn at Stoverdale, built of uncoursed brownstone similar to the Smith barn, was demolished in 1987.

The Jacob Hershey house located in Londonderry Township at the mouth of Iron Mine Run is a four-bay brownstone house built in 1820. It appears to have been built in the transitional Germanic-Georgian style, but the floor plan was obliterated in a 1940's period renovation. Another four-bay brownstone house is located on the north side of Wood Road between Stoverdale and Bullfrog Valley Road in Derry Township. It has an

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asymmetrical facade with window placement reminiscent of a continental style house. Although it was built in 1806 like the Smith house, its exterior features lack the Federal influence of the Smith house.

The Jacob Hershey barn is a small brownstone bank barn built in 1816. It has telescoped slits for ventilators. The integrity of this barn was compromised with a large T-shaped addition built to the west side in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century.

Another brownstone barn, the Daniel Shoop barn located north of the Smith farm, was built in 1827. Not as large as the Smith barn, it does not have the large ventilators found in the Smith barn nor the Germanic peck marks.

The Smith farm remains the best overall representative of vernacular brownstone architecture in the Londonderry Township area.

Endnotes

11. Daniel Rupp, History of Dauphin, Cumberland, Perry, Bedford, Adams & Franklin Counties, Pa. (Lancaster, PA.: Gilbert Hills, Prop. & Pub., 1846), p. 340.

2 Dauphin County Historical Atlas of 1875 (Harrisburg, Pa.: Dauphin Co. Historical Society, 1985), p. 32.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Egle, William H., History of Dauphin and Lebanon Counties, Pa. (Philadelphia: Everts & Peck, 1883), p. 419.

Stump, Betty J., edit., A History of Derry Township 1729-1976, pp. 19-54.

Dauphin County Historical Atlas of 1875 (Harrisburg, Pa.: Dauphin Co. Historical Society, 1985), pp. 31-33, 66.

The Ingomar Papers: Reminiscences of the Early Nineteenth Century in a Pennsylvania Village (Hummelstown Area Historical Society, 1976).

Hartwell, Richard, Interview, July, 1988.

Rainey, Philip, Conversations, June, July, 1988.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

Preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings

Survey # _____

recorded by Historic American Engineering

Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 1 acre

UTM References

A 18 354000 452565
Zone Easting Northing

B _____
Zone Easting Northing

C _____

D _____

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Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at a point just north of a stone bridge 931 feet east from the Swatara Creek Road; thence south 353 feet to a point; thence east 385 feet to a point; thence north 353 feet to a point; thence west 440 feet to the point of beginning.

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Boundary Justification

The boundary includes all the historically associated buildings of the Henry Smith Farm

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jerry A. Clouse

organization N/A

date October, 1988

street & number 118-A South Railroad Street

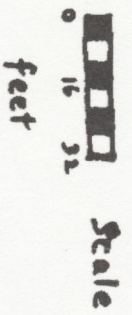
telephone 566-0990

city or town Hummelstown

state PA zip code 17035

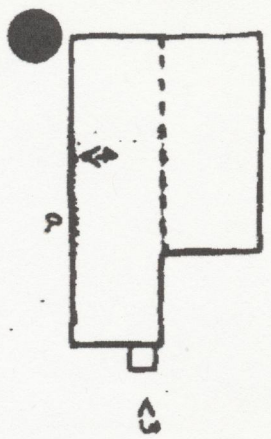
Henry Smith Farm
 Londonderry Twp, Dauphin Co.
 July, 1988 J. Clouse

10 >

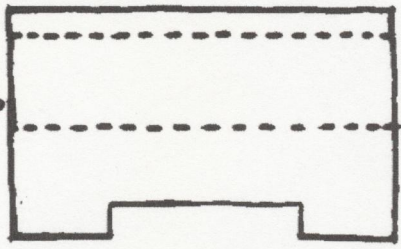


- a. House
- d. Vaulted cellar
- e. Wagon Shed
- f. Barn

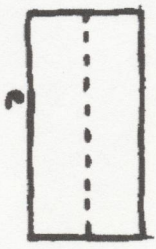
3 >



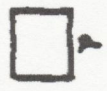
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