

FOR NPS USE ONLY
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DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC ¹⁵⁶ Knapp Farm

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 1/2 mile SW of Bethlehem Pike (Rt. 309) on the west side of DeKalb Pike
DeKalb Pike & Knapp Road

CITY, TOWN North Wales VICINITY OF _____ NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 13

STATE Pennsylvania CODE 42 COUNTY Montgomery CODE 091

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME North Penn School District

STREET & NUMBER
400 Fern Street

CITY, TOWN Lansdale VICINITY OF _____ STATE Pennsylvania

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Montgomery County Court House Historical Society of Montg. Co.

STREET & NUMBER Airy & Swede Street 1654 DeKalb St., Norristown, PA

CITY, TOWN Norristown STATE Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Montgomery County Planning Commission

DATE 1975 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Montgomery County Planning Commission

CITY, TOWN Norristown STATE Pennsylvania

7 DESCRIPTION**CONDITION**

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Knapp Farm consists of a main house and several out buildings, the most complete being the barn. The house is a 2½ story, four bay, double door "German" house of random fieldstone covered with stucco. The eastern section has a slightly different proportion to its openings (doors, windows) than the western section indicating the two sections were built at different times. (Interior details also support decision.) Although no specific dating is possible, architecturally the main 4 bay house is 18th century, probably just preceding the Revolutionary War. The porch was added ca. 1900, covering the original stone walkway. Also added, ca. 1850-75, is a one story brick and stuccoed kitchen, opening the large east wall fireplace from the back.

The east section has an expected German floorplan, except in reverse. A small winding staircase is enclosed in an oak stairwell just to the right of the entrance. A large, deep (now boarded) fireplace filled most of the east wall. Originally a wall separated kitchen from small back parlor. The south wall now has two windows, but the eastern most was originally a door. All evidence indicates that the original entrance was on the south, with entrance into the small parlor with the large kitchen and stairwell in back. The western section is slightly raised and requires several steps to pass through the central stone and plastered partition. There is a large front (N) parlor with "french" doors and a smaller (south) parlor with a franklin stove fireplace. Both rooms have fireplaces, both being smaller and not as deep as the eastern kitchen fireplace. The second and third floors have been altered (probably in 1830-40) to accommodate bedrooms on both upper floors. Dormers were added on the south in the late 19th century. The original doors and overall character of the original upper rooms can still be seen in the Northeast bedroom. The room has wide random sized pine board floors (all rooms have original floors) exposed hand hewn joists and plain vertically placed wide plank pine door approximately 5'5" in height with simple metal latch.

The house maintains a general proportion and symmetry between the two (east and west) sections, suggesting a close date between them. On closer inspection, details like door size, placement of windows on the east and west wall, width and size of fireplace stacks, etc., the asymmetrical, almost careless, placement of second floor stairwell window, above the northeast door, finally suggest predating the eastern section 5 to 10 years, earlier than the west (East, ca. 1760; West, ca. 1770). The original barn burnt; the present barn and all attached utility sheds date from 1894.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The present stone house is known to have been in existence prior to the Revolutionary War. It was built, very probably, by John Roberts, Jr. who obtained possession of the land in 1756 and held it till 1768.

For more than half a century this was the home of the Moore family - Dr. Samuel Preston and his brothers Mordecai and Charles, who were sons of Dr. Richard Moore of Maryland who had been a physician of the Washington family. It is alleged by the present owner that George Washington stopped and stayed there sometime during October, 1777. Between 1807 and 1821 the property exchanged hands several times. In 1835, John Hawley Worrell bought the land and farm for his daughter, Mary, and her husband Abiram P. Knapp. The present occupants are the grand children of Abiram and Mary, and the Knapp family has lived on the house and worked the farm since that time.

The house itself is one of only a few remaining unaltered 18th century farm houses in Montgomery township. The house has been maintained to a late 18th century character and all interior details of woodwork, window and door moldings etc. are either original or enlarged during A. Knapp's residence in the early 19th century. However, the house is essentially as it has been for over a hundred years, with no 20th century intrusions beyond indoor plumbing and electricity.

In an area of infringing mega-malls and heavily trafficked highways, the Knapp farm is an unique reminder of a house type and life style that has all but vanished from Montgomery township an area originally of fiercely independent farmers until suburban sprawl stripped the area of its individuality and unique personality. The Knapp farm is an excellent example of 18th century traditions, fast disappearing in Montgomery township.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Montgomery County Planning Commission, Inventory of Historic and Cultural Resources, Montgomery County Printing Dept., Norristown, Pa., 1975.

Bean, Theodore W., History of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, Everts & Peck, 1884.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	8	4	7	8	9	9	0	4	4	5	3	1	1	0
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

B

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Ruth K. Oberholtzer / Madeline Cohen, Curator

ORGANIZATION

daughter of C. Howard Knapp / GHP/HMC

DATE

July 8, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

209 South Fifth Street / Box 1026

TELEPHONE

717-787-4363

CITY OR TOWN

North Wales / Harrisburg

STATE

Pennsylvania

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

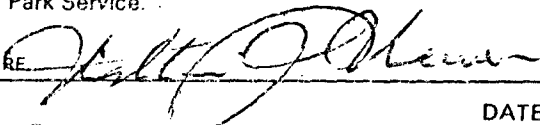
NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE Executive Director
Pa. Historical and Museum Commission

DATE

7/24/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Roberts, Ellwood, Editor, Biographical Annals of Montgomery County, PA.
Vol. II., T. S. Benham & Co. & Lewis Publishing Co., N.Y. 1904.

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Inc., Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1953.

1860 Map of the Vicinity of Philadelphia from actual Surveys by D. J.
Lake & S. N. Beers assisted by F. W. Beers, L. B. Lake & D. G. Beers.

1848 Map of Montgomery County Pa. from original surveys. Under direction
of Wm. E. Morris; 1848.

The North Wales Record, Sept. 1, 1883. Article signed by E.M.

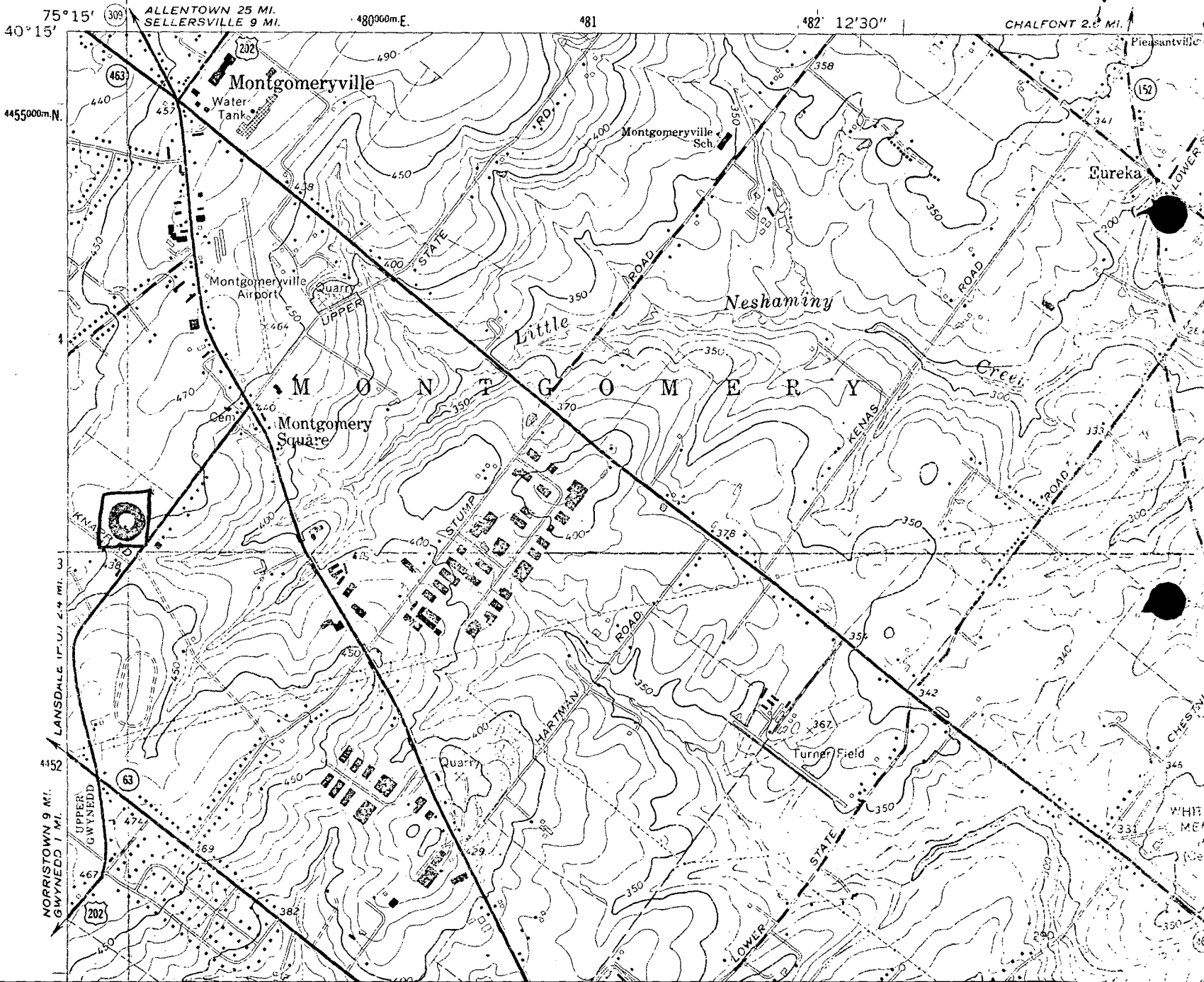
Ambler Gazette, November 9, 1911. Article signed by E.M.

Scrapebook of newspaper articles by Edward Matthews, Montgomery County
Historical Society, Norristown, PA.

Meier, Lewis Alois, Early PA. Medicine 1682-1799. Keiger Publishing Co.
1971.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

5964 1/4 SE
(TELFORD)



ALLENTOWN 25 MI.
SELLERSVILLE 9 MI.

480°00m.E.

481

482 12'30"

CHALFONT 2.0 MI.

75°15' 309

40°15'

4455000m.N.

KNAPP FARM

Montgomery County
Zone 18

478 990

4453 110

NORRISTOWN 9 MI.
UPPER GWYNEDD 1 MI.
LANSDALE 17.0 MI. 2.4 MI. W.

4152

63

202

163