

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: PENNSYLVANIA	
COUNTY: MONTGOMERY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
THE KN^ERR LOG HOUSE

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
MENG ROAD

CITY OR TOWN:
DELPHI

STATE PENNSYLVANIA	CODE 42	COUNTY: MONTGOMERY	CODE 091
-----------------------	------------	-----------------------	-------------

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure 	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	UNOCCUPIED
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	PRIVATE RESIDENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
MORRIS KN^ERR

STREET AND NUMBER:
MENG ROAD

CITY OR TOWN:
DELPHI

STATE: PENNSYLVANIA	CODE 42
------------------------	------------

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
MONTGOMERY COUNTY COURTHOUSE

STREET AND NUMBER:
SWEDE AND AIRY STREETS

CITY OR TOWN:
NORRISTOWN

STATE: PENNSYLVANIA	CODE 42
------------------------	------------

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:	CODE:
--------	-------

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

PENNSYLVANIA

MONTGOMERY

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

 Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

 Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

 Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

PAST APPEARANCE:

THE KN^ERR LOG HOUSE WAS AN EARLY 18TH CENTURY, 1½ STORY GERMANIC LOG STRUCTURE WITH A BASIC THREE ROOM GROUND FLOOR PLAN AND GABLED ROOF. THE HOUSE WAS BUILT WITH CENTRAL FIRE-PLACE IN THE KITCHEN; A LONG, NARROW DOWNSTAIRS SLEEPING ROOM; AND A LARGER, FORMAL SITTING ROOM THAT CONTAINED A SIX OR TEN PLATE STOVE.

IN THE CORNER OF THE KITCHEN THERE WAS A PANELLED STAIR-CASE, WITH BEADED DOOR AND STAIRS, LEADING TO A HALF STORY ABOVE. THE INTERIOR WALLS WERE PLASTERED AND WHITEWASHED, RAFTER BEAMS EXPOSED, AND THERE WAS A HEAVY STONE WALL BEHIND THE FIREPLACE THAT SERVED AS A FIREWALL IN SUCH GERMANIC HOUSES. UPSTAIRS ROOMS, BOTH CEILING AND WALLS, WERE COVERED WITH LONG PLANK PANELS AND WHITEWASHED.

PRESENT APPEARANCE:

THE KN^ERR LOG HOUSE HAS UNDERGONE CERTAIN ALTERATIONS, BUT HAS GENERALLY RETAINED ITS ORIGINAL ARCHITECTURAL INTEGRITY. EXTERIOR ALTERATIONS ARE MOST CONSPICUOUS. SEVERAL LARGER WINDOWS HAVE BEEN ADDED IN THE GABLE END AS WELL AS ONE GABLE END BEING RECONSTRUCTED. ALSO, ONE END AND THE OTHER GABLE END HAVE BEEN SHINGLED; A TIN ROOF, ADDED OVER THE ORIGINAL ROOF OF HAND-SPLIT OAK SHINGLES; AND A MODERN BRICK CHIMNEY IN THE CENTER OF THE ROOF.

INTERIOR CHANGES HAVE BEEN FEWER. THE PANELLED STAIR-WAY WITH ITS RATS-TAIL LATCH, AND THE PANELLED ROOMS UPSTAIRS REMAIN INTACT, AS WELL AS THE DOWNSTAIRS FIREPLACE AND FLOOR PLAN.

SOME INTERIOR WOODWORK SUCH AS THE FIREPLACE MANTEL HAS DETERIORATED, BUT MOST REMAINS IN GOOD CONDITION INCLUDING AN ORIGINAL, CRUDELY HAND CARVED CLOTHES RACK IN AN UPSTAIRS ROOM.

OF PARTICULAR INTEREST IS THE FACT THAT THERE HAS NEVER

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Pennsylvania	
COUNTY Montgomery	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

Knurr Log House:
Present Appearance:

Besides the kitchen garden immediately in front of the house there are numerous outbuildings associated with the farmstead. All structures are ranged along the southern slope of a rather high hill. Looking south the present barn is situated to the left of the house. It is a mid-19th century Pennsylvania bank barn constructed of wood with masonry foundation and shingle roof. The forebay does not project but appears flush with the lower wall. Between house and barn a series of two chicken houses and a corn crib stand in a row up the slope. Attached to the right of the house is a tool and wood shed, and further down the hill to the right and in front of the house is a large nearly square depression, said by the owner to have been a clay pit for nearby potters.

The 50 acre tract encompasses one side of a natural basin on the slopes of Mine Hill. The area with its meadow, tilled fields and woodlots comprises the farm worked by the Knurr family for over 150 years. The poor quality of the soil has worked to keep the farm small and unmechanized. At present the tract is surrounded by second growth timber and in many respects can be regarded as a classic settlement site.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

ARCHITECTURALLY, THE KN^ERR LOG HOUSE SYMBOLIZES BOTH THE PRECISENESS AND CRAFT OF THE PENNSYLVANIA GERMANS. ITS STRUCTURE, WHILE NOT BASED ON METRIC SPECIFICATIONS, IS NONETHELESS GEOMETRICALLY PRECISE, SO THAT ALL LOGS USED WERE PRECUT AND, WHEN ASSEMBLED IN PLACE, FIT TOGETHER PERFECTLY ACCORDING TO A SPECIALLY DEVISED FORMULA. ALSO, THE KN^ERR FARM IS STILL LARGELY UNMECHANIZED AFTER 150 YEARS WITH MANY DETAILS OF FARM OPERATION BEING CONDUCTED BY HAND FOLLOWING GERMAN TECHNIQUE AND TRADITION.

THUS, ARCHITECTURALLY, THE KN^ERR LOG HOUSE REPRESENTS A SUBSTANTIAL BUT COMFORTABLE APPLICATION OF GERMANIC CONSTRUCTION IN RURAL PENNSYLVANIA, AND CULTURALLY, IT TYPIFIES A UNIQUE WAY OF FOLK LIFE CERTAINLY WORTH RECOGNIZING AND PRESERVING.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brumbaugh, G. Edwin. "Colonial Architecture of the Pennsylvania Germans," The Pennsylvania German Society, Proceedings and Addresses..., 1930. Norristown, Pa.: Norristown Herald, 1933. Vol. XLI, pp. 111, 60; plate 105.

Harley, J. K. A History and Geography of Montgomery County, Pa. 1883, pp. VII, 9-108; map Rev. Edition, Philadelphia, 1891. pp. VII, 9-114; map.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	40°	16'	12"	75°	28'	48"			
NE	40°	16'	12"	75°	28'	28"			
SE	40°	16'	0"	75°	28'	28"			
SW	40°	16'	0"	75°	28'	48"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **50 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Arthur J. Lawton

ORGANIZATION: **B and L Associates** DATE: **June, 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER:
216 Mt. Pleasant Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: **Ambler** STATE: **Pennsylvania** CODE: **42**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name William J. Wewer
WILLIAM J. WEWER

Title **Executive Director, Penna. Historical and Museum Commission**

Date 12/17/74

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST: _____

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

