

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

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 KEMMERER HOUSE (Irongate)

AND/OR COMMON

Residence of Mr. and Mrs. Russell L. Pellett

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

3 Iroquois Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Emmaus

VICINITY OF

15th

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Pennsylvania

CODE

42

COUNTY

Lehigh

CODE

077

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Russell L. Pellett

STREET & NUMBER

3 Iroquois Street

CITY, TOWN

Emmaus

VICINITY OF

STATE

Pennsylvania

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Lehigh County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Fifth and Hamilton Streets

CITY, TOWN

Allentown

STATE

Pennsylvania

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

1972

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission  
William Penn Memorial Museum

CITY, TOWN

Harrisburg

STATE

Pennsylvania

**7** DESCRIPTIO

## 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

This sizable brick masonry structure dates from about 1840-1850 but retains many of the characteristics of similar structures two generations earlier. Its main (southern) facade has five equally spaced bays with the central one at grade being a transomed, side-lighted entrance door. Originally there was a square columned entrance portico with simple Greek Revival detail.

On the interior, it is evident from the height of the ceilings, the type of fireplace and the profiles of the millwork that the date of its construction antedates the period of the Civil War. A small story wing (once detached "summer kitchen") is definitely of an earlier period and suggests that the present main house is a latter-day replacement of an earlier one that used the same stone foundations. Another feature re-enforces this; in the cellar of the existing house is an 18th century "root cellar" (a further, deeper excavation beneath the basement floor) entered by a flight of steps and closed with wood batten doors. The oldest (1750) house still intact in nearby Emmaus has an identical sub-cellar for the storage of food and wine.

The main interior stairs have been refurbished, the hall retaining them has had one wall removed to enlarge the present living room; also the dividing wall separating the original paired parlors has gone to provide a single, ample living room space. The dining room and kitchen on the east side of the house retain their original areas but are thoroughly modernized.

Upstairs the original configuration of rooms is still apparent but modern clothing storage closets have been constructed for each bedroom and a bath provided. The attic space has also been completely finished so that the original structural timbering is now out of sight except for the main struts.

This house with its nearby companion, Pennsylvania-German forbay barn, is a trim, simple example of domestic farm architecture of about 150 years ago. It is a typical example of the successors to the Germanic-Georgian farmstead of the last half of the 18th century. Set back in a completely fenced yard which once contained orchard trees, ornamental flower beds and a kitchen garden, it would have been framed by a pair of evergreens and several specimen trees of English box.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" 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 Kemmerer House is a fine example of a 19th century farmstead. The general character, proportion and plan of the house reflect earlier Georgian prototypes. The house is certainly in a "grand" tradition and the location and use reflect the influx of cultural tastes and values into the Lehigh farming area.

Frederick X. Camerer was the original settler of the Kemmerer Homestead. John George, his son, received part of the original parcel. John George's son, Henry Walter, also worked the farm. Henry Walter Kemmerer was probably responsible for the building of the main house at the time of his father's death (1851).

The Kemmerer House, kitchen wing and barn form a handsome complex that beautifully exemplify the character and taste of 19th century Lehigh County farming community.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Kemmerer Family Association, Kemmerer Family History.

Lehigh County Historical Society, Anniversary History of Lehigh County, Vol. III.

Lehigh County Historical Society, John K. Heyl

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .5 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 457600 4488560  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B           
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C         

D         

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 Madeline L. Cohen/Office of Historic Preservation  
Mr. & Mrs. Russell Pellett & John K. Heyl

ORGANIZATION Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Comm. DATE September, 1976  
April 3, 1972

STREET & NUMBER Box #1026 TELEPHONE 717-787-4363  
3 Iroquois Street

CITY OR TOWN Harrisburg STATE Pennsylvania  
Emmaus

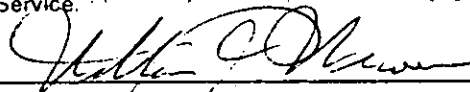
# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL    STATE    LOCAL X

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  
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

DATE 12/21/76

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



35'  
4492  
4492  
4489  
4488  
32'30"  
4487

(ALLENTOWN EAST) CENTER VALLEY 7 MI.  
PHILADELPHIA 60 MI.  
5965 III SW

KEMMERER HOUSE (IRONGATE)  
 Lehigh County  
 ZONE 18 457 600 4488 560