

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Pennsylvania	
COUNTY: Lancaster	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: Hans Herr House	USE THIS COPY FOR DUPLICATING
AND/OR HISTORIC: Christian Herr House	

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 1851 Hans Herr Drive <i>(West Lampeter Township)</i>			
CITY OR TOWN: Lancaster			
STATE Pennsylvania	CODE 42	COUNTY: Lancaster	CODE 071

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
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Vacant and awaiting restoration.</u>
Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Lancaster Mennonite Conference Historical Society		
STREET AND NUMBER: 2215 Millstream Road		
CITY OR TOWN: Lancaster	STATE: Pennsylvania	CODE 42

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Lancaster County Court House		
STREET AND NUMBER: 42 Duke Street		
CITY OR TOWN: Lancaster	STATE: Pennsylvania	CODE 42

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historical American Building Survey			
DATE OF SURVEY: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: D. C.	CODE 11	

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins
	(Check One)			(Check One)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

"The basic structure and proportion of the Hans Herr House have remained unchanged since its construction in 1719. The building is rectangular in plan, 37'-9" x 30'-10". Constructed of local sandstone, the house is 1 1/2 stories in height, containing a root cellar, ground floor, attic and upper attic.

The stone vaulted root cellar extends under one half of the ground floor, the other half being constructed on grade. The ground floor was originally divided into four rooms with the only access from the exterior provided by a doorway into the kitchen room (containing large fireplace). The attic may have been divided by partitions, but there is not sufficient evidence at this time to indicate that. The first floor and attic were originally connected by a corner "winder" stair in the kitchen room. The attic and upper attic were connected by a ladder stair. Access to the root cellar was gained through an outside "Bulkhead" entrance and possibly by a stair from the kitchen.

The exterior of the building was originally penetrated by small stone trimmed windows, several of which have remained basically intact in the attic and upper attic. The exact character of these original windows is not yet known, but it is obvious that the ground floor windows have all been enlarged, both in height and width. It is currently thought that these window modifications were made as part of a limited "modernization" of the house in the late eighteenth century."

John D. Milner, Registered Architect

Present Appearance:

"The Hans Herr House today appears much the same as it did after its construction in 1719. The following alterations have, however, been made to the original building:

1. Original first floor partitions have been removed.
2. Interior "modernized" in the late eighteenth century by installation of new beaded board partitions and an elaborate corner cupboard.
3. Original winder stair has been removed and replaced by present ladder stair.
4. Ground floor window openings enlarged.
5. Main entrance door decreased in size.
6. Miscellaneous other alterations to be determined during the current restoration studies.

The attached photographs illustrate the present appearance of this building."

John D. Milner, Registered Architect

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1719**

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 checked="" 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 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

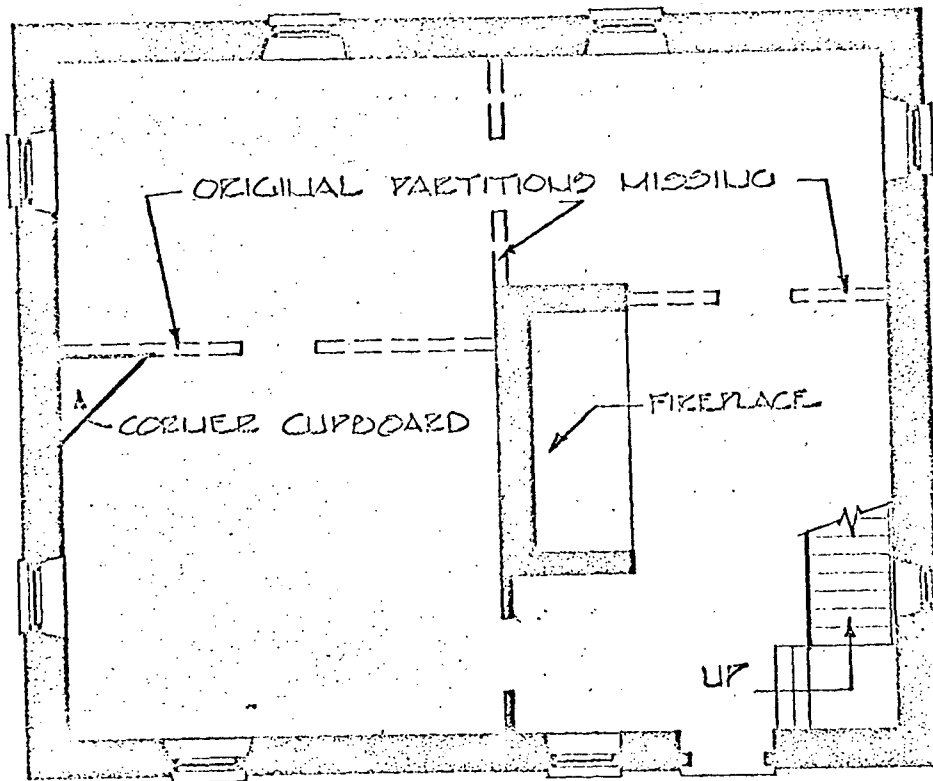
The Hans Herr House is the oldest dwelling house in Lancaster County. It was built in 1719 by the first settlers locating in what is now Lancaster County. This farm is part of a five hundred and thirty acre tract deeded to Christian Herr by William Penn, June 30, 1711.

The Herr's were of Swabian descent, known in Europe since 1009. The family were members of the nobility until 1450 when they renounced knight-hood and war, becoming nonresistant waldensians and later mennonites. The Herr family later emigrated to America, and settled in what is Lancaster County, to obtain religious toleration.

Not only is the Hans Herr House the oldest dwelling house in Lancaster County, but it also has the distinction of being the oldest mennonite meeting place in America. The Herr's only lived in their house for a few years. After the Herr's vacated the house it was used as a place of worship for well over a century. Later, when a new place of worship was built, the Herr House was unoccupied for another one hundred years.

The Hans Herr House has been photographed countless times and also has the distinction of serving as the subject matter for a painting by the American artist Andrew Wyeth. Wythe had an interest in the old stonehouse because it was built by a distant relative of his mother.

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HAIS HERR HOUSE - FIRST FLOOR PLAN