

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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**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 Michael Dohner Farmhouse

and/or common

2. Location

street & number South of Rt. 30, just each of intersection with Rts. 283 and 896 not for publication

city, town East Lampeter Township vicinity of congressional district 16

state Pennsylvania code 42 county Lancaster code 071

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: <u>Community Building</u>

4. Owner of Property

name Greenland Holding Corporation

street & number Box 128

city, town Birchrunville vicinity of state Pennsylvania 19421

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Lancaster County Courthouse

street & number 42 Duke Street

city, town Lancaster state Pennsylvania

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 11/28/79 federal state county local

depository for survey records Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

city, town Harrisburg 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 house is of fieldstone construction, five bays long and two bays deep, and was built in two sections.

The westernmost portion is the oldest, having been built three bays long and two bays deep, one story high with a steeply sloping roof enclosing a two-level loft, in a configuration typical of the German continental house. The eaves were later raised to accommodate a full second story, with the roof peak remaining at the original elevation.

There was a door on each side of the original house at the easternmost bay, both leading into the Kuche or kitchen. The door on the north side has since been filled in and replaced with a window. The first floor door and window openings on the sides of this portion of the house, and the first and second floor window openings on the west gable end, have segmental stone arches at the heads, except the center bay on the north side which is a flat arch. The westernmost first floor window on the north side is significantly smaller than the others, and many have been the "seelenfenster" or "soul window" from which the souls of the dying were believed to depart. All window sash in the house is now double-hung, although original windows in the oldest portion were probably casements. Stone window jambs are still in place in the peak window of the west gable end.

The plan is a "Flurkuckenhouse" plan typical of the German continental house. A massive interior fireplace, located off-center toward one end of the house, faces a kitchen which spans the width of the building. The remainder of the first floor is divided into a Stube or living room, and a smaller Kammer or bedroom. A stair in the corner of the kitchen, still in existence, led to a two-level loft, now the second floor and attic.

A two-story addition of two bays was later added to the east end of the house, continuing the same roof and eave lines. There is a door in the interior bay of this portion on the south side, and a door centered in the east end. All window and door openings in this later section have flat heads and windows were probably original double-hung from the outset. There is a dutch door, probably original, on the south side of the later section. Other exterior doors are gone.

The roof of the entire building is wood shingle, with molded cornice partially returning at the gable ends. A second, smaller cooking fireplace at the interior end of the later section gives the present building two interior chimneys, now with brick tops.

There is a one-story, three bay porch with concrete slab and wood posts and shed roof across the end end of the house. White paint on the lower portion of the exterior wall on the south side, and exposed joist ends on the east end of the north side suggest previous porch structures in those locations.

The later section contains a kitchen and one other room on its first floor, as well as a stair to the second floor. The first floor plan of the earlier section has retained its original configuration. The second floor of the house now contains five rooms and a bath. There is a basement, with both inside and outside access, under the later section only.

About fifty feet south of the farmhouse is a stone and frame springhouse. The fieldstone lower level, which is partially below existing grade, contains a room with a large fireplace and doors on either side, adjoining by a one-story spring room, with curved stone retaining wall and shed roof. The second story is of frame construction containing a loft which can only be reached from the outside.

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 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 c. 1732 **Builder/Architect** Michael Dohner

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The original portion of this house is an excellent example of the "Continental House", a traditional medieval form brought by the Germans and Swiss from Europe in the late 17th and early 18th centuries.

Although the building has been altered and expanded, much of the original form is clearly visible. The plan of the first floor of the older portion is that of the typical "Flurkuckenhaus" or half-kitchen house, with the enormous interior cooking fireplace deminating the kitchen, which spans the width of the house. The other two rooms, originally the "Stube", or living room and the "Kammer", or master bedroom, are unchanged as a location and shape.

The exterior stonework is excellent, particularly the segmental and flat relieving arches over the door and window openings, an element characteristic of this style and period. The lines of the original steeply sloping roof can still be seen, especially at the west gable end. Also in the gable ends, the peak windows still retain the original stone jambs.

The alteration and expansion of the original house is believed to have been done in the late 18th or early 19th century. The house as it stands today provides an excellent example of the growth of a very early farmhouse to fit the needs of its occupants through the 18th and 19th centuries. As such it makes an interesting companion to the nearby Hans Herr house, which is of the same period in origin, but was never altered or expanded and is now restored.

The house was built by a member of one of the earliest Mennonite families in the area, the Dohners (originally Downer or Doner), and remained in that family for 125 years. Members of that family still take a strong personal interest in the house as part of their family's history.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .413

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UMT References

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Verbal boundary description and justification

Starting at point south of parking lot moving east for 150 feet, then southeast 87.5 feet, then southeast 112.5 feet then southwest 112.5 feet the northwest 137.5 feet then north for 125 feet to starting point.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title J. Kelly Murphy III

organization J. Kelly Murphy III, AIA date November 5, 1979

street & number Beaver Hill Road, P.O. Box 71 telephone 215-827-7307

city or town Birchrunville 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Ed Weintraub*

ED WEINTRAUB, Director date 3/10/80

title Office of Historic Preservation

For HCRS use only

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

date _____

Keeper of the National Register

date _____

Altest: _____

Chief of Registration

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET Dohner Farmhouse ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

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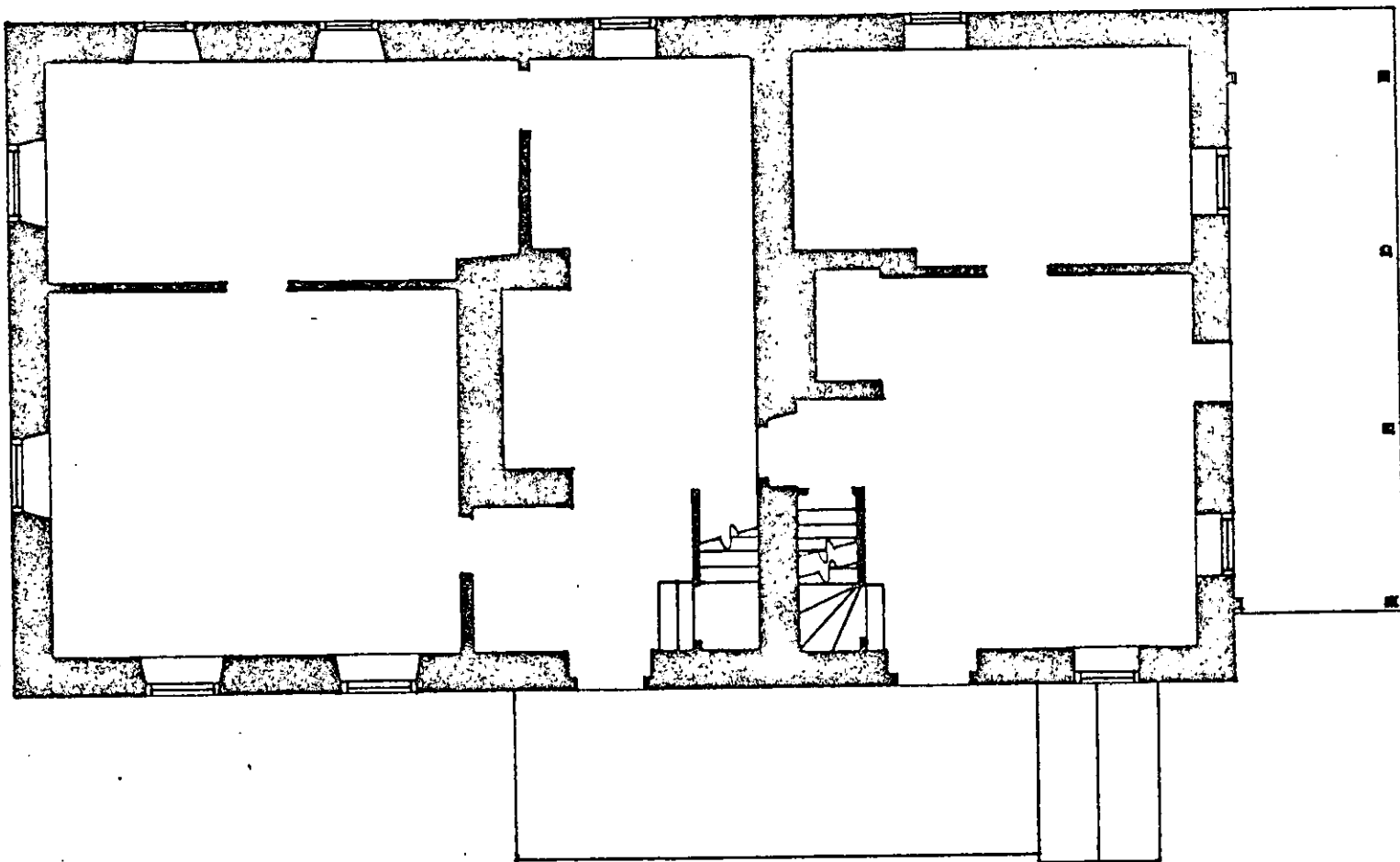
Dohner

The Dohners and the Doners of America

Landis, Ira D.

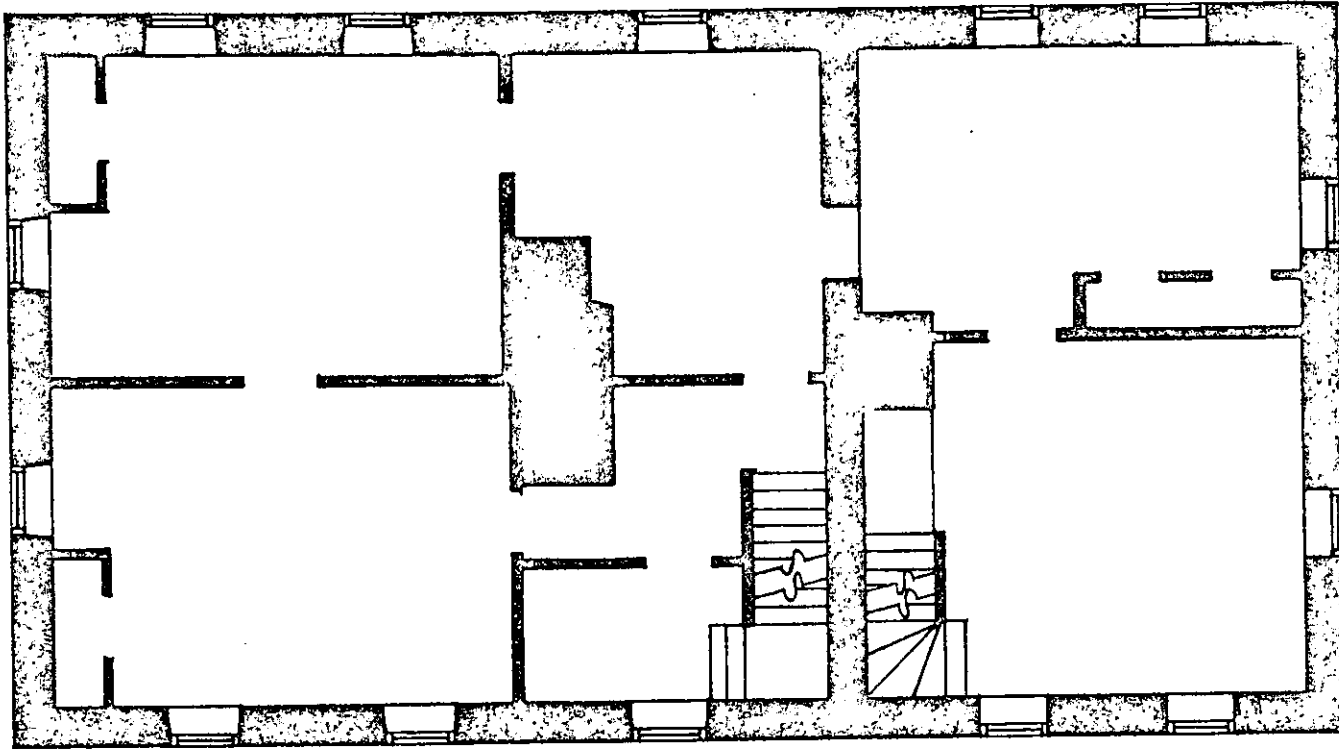
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Michael Dohner Farmhouse
Lancaster County
Floor Plans



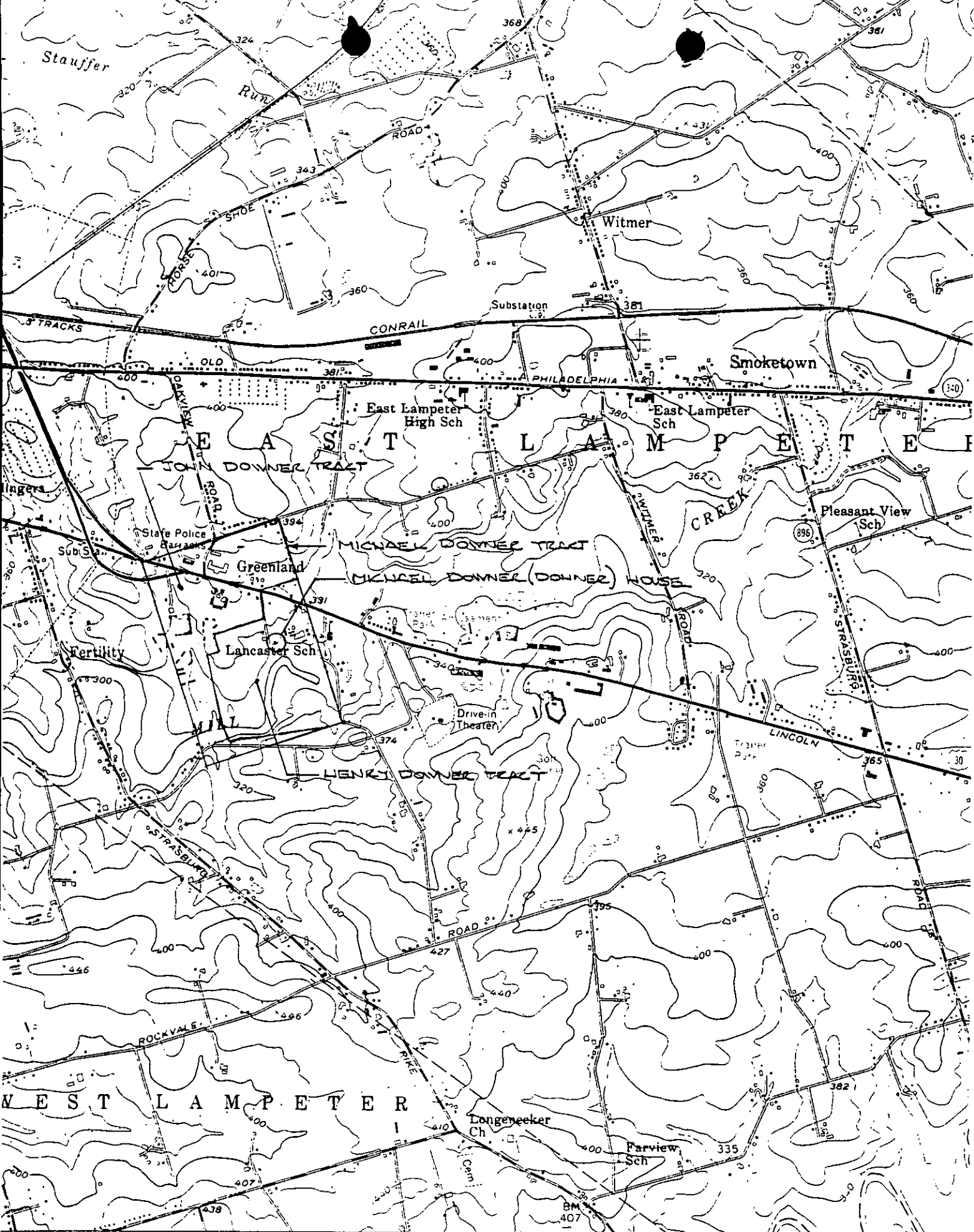
FIRST FLOOR PLAN - AUGUST 1979

DOHNER FARMHOUSE
LANCASTER PA.



SECOND FLOOR PLAN - AUGUST 1979

DOHNER FARMHOUSE
LANCASTER PA.



394 395 243000 FEET STRASBURG JUNC PA 12'30" 197 398

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QUARTER
 5763

SCALE