

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Stauffer, Christian House

and/or common NONE

2. Location

street & number Millcross Road

N/A not for publication

city, town East Lampeter Twp.

N/A vicinity of

state Pennsylvania

code 042

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	N/A being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Donald LeFever

street & number 1425 Valley Road

city, town Lancaster

N/A vicinity of

state PA. 17603

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Lancaster County Courthouse

street & number 42 Duke Street

city, town Lancaster

state PA.

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Lancaster County Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1983  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Bureau for Historic Preservation

city, town Harrisburg

state PA.

## 7. Description

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 moved date           N/A          

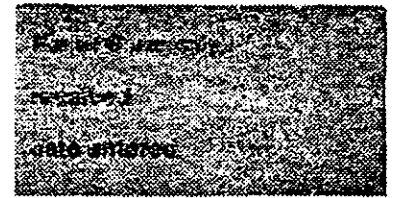
### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Built in 1769 the Stauffer House is situated on the east side of Millcross Road in Lampeter Township, Lancaster County. The surrounding countryside is a mix of agricultural use and suburban tract house development. The Stauffer House sits on an approximately five acre plot overlooking a small pond to the west. Associated with the house are a one-story summer kitchen (mid nineteenth century), a two-story bank barn (late eighteenth century) with multiple additions (nineteenth and early twentieth centuries), a one-story granary (circa 1900), and a one-story brick garage (early twentieth century).

The Stauffer House is a two-story, half-passage plan dwelling reflecting the melding together of the Pennsylvania-Germanic and Anglo-American Georgian design plans. The four bay, two pile limestone original block exhibits a dressed and coursed rough ashlar primary (south) elevation and rubble laid secondary elevations. Windows in the original portion of the building are six over six. First story windows on all elevations are slightly taller than second story windows and above each first story window is a stone arch. The original block contains three entrances, two on the south elevation and one on the north elevation. On the south elevation there is an entrance to the cellar. Stone steps provide access to the cellar entrance. The entrance on the first story of the south elevation is at the second eastern most bay. A stoop originally provided access but is no longer extant. The entrance on the northern elevation is adjacent to the first story entrance on the south elevation. Above all entrances are arches similar to those above the first story windows. The roof on the original block contains two brick chimneys, one at the center of the roof and one at the east gable end. The roof on the original building has wood shingles.

The two story, two bay, one pile frame addition to the Stauffer House was built in the 1890's. Built on a stone foundation the addition extends from the east gable end of the original block. The north elevation of the addition sits back from the north elevation of the original block by about three feet. The roof of the original section overlaps the roof of the addition by about three feet. Windows in the addition are six over six. The addition has an entrance on both the north and the south elevation. The addition also has a porch that projects from the south elevation. The porch is supported by three stone piers and has a roof that extends along the entire south elevation of the addition. A cement stoop provides access to the porch. The gable roof on the addition has wood shingles and there is a chimney at the east gable end.

In plan the interior of the original building contains on the first floor a formal Stube and parlor bisected by a 4'4" wide entry passage leading into the Kuche adjacent to the Kammer at the back of the house. The second floor plan was originally divided into five rooms with a common stair landing placed between the rear chambers and the Stube and parlor chambers sharing a common partition wall. Later in the nineteenth century a partition was inserted in the parlor chamber thus creating a narrow passage directly over the first floor entry. The cellar plan consists of two primary finished spaces - a room under the Stube and Kammer, and a room under the parlor. The attic was always left as unfinished open space. The space in the addition is divided into two rooms of relatively equal proportions.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

Stauffer House, Lancaster County, PA.

Continuation sheet

Item number

7

Page 1

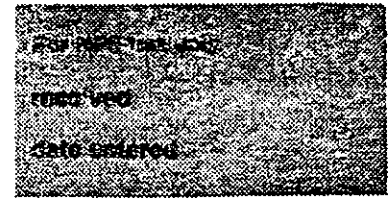
While the first and second floor plans reflect the mixture of customary Continental living spaces with more academic Georgian formal notions, the construction and finish of the building's original block retains more characteristically Pennsylvania-German features. Chief among these are the roof frame, ceiling infill, cast plaster ornament, and heating scheme. At the same time, some of these Continental features are tempered with interpretations evocative of the acculturative processes at work in eighteenth century southeastern Pennsylvania.

The roof frame, decidedly Continental in design, is divided into three structural bays with the middle bents composed of half-principal under-frame construction. The halved principals flare outward at width from the floor (7 1/2") to their juncture with principal ties (11"). Trenched across the backs of the principals at their respective tops are through purlins bedded in the masonry at each gable end and supporting the common rafters carrying the roof covering. The underframe bents are further stiffened with multiple arch braces and secondary butt purlins. The feet of common and principal rafters are joined to the attic floor joists and binding beams. Originally the roof possessed kicked eaves, but in the course of the late nineteenth century the kick framing elements were removed.

The cellar and first floor ceilings of the Stauffer House are framed and finished with infill. The method involved wrapping short riven pales with clay and straw and then wedging them into rabbets and ledges cut along the sides of the joists. In the cellar the ceiling was finished with a skim coat of plaster applied to the straw wrapped pales with the joists left exposed and whitewashed; in the first floor ceiling the entire infill and framing fabric was completely concealed with plaster. Both ceilings were completed with an aggregate of fine gravel and clay poured between the joists and over the wrapped infill prior to laying the floor.

Among the rarest and most significant features in the Stauffer House are the first floor decorative finishes, carefully preserved original evidence, and remains of an original cast iron heating system. The most noteworthy ornamentation are the cast plaster ceilings in the entry and the Stube. Cast in raised relief in the entry is the legend "CST 1769", and set in the Stube ceiling is a multifoliate Catherines Wheel.

The Stube is further distinguished by original paint evidence delineating the placement of profiles of the wall benches and a hanging cupboard. In the ceiling is an original finished plaster stove pipe collar, and balanced on the bridging beam is a brick stove flue. The evidence thus describes a Stube with wall benches probably fronting onto a table standing in the southwest corner of the room, a hanging cupboard in the northwest corner and a cast-iron six plate stove standing away from the walls toward the northeast corner. A stovepipe rose vertically from the stove and exited through a plaster collar piercing the ceiling just east of the Catherines Wheel. In the Stube chamber above, the stove angled off toward the brick flue bedded in the northeast corner of the room where it exited through a handthrown coarse-bodied redware collar.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

Stauffer House, Lancaster County, PA.

Continuation sheet

Item number

7

Page

2

Elsewhere on the first floor similar evidence of the buildings original fixtures and finish survives. A corner cupboard hung in the southwest corner of the first floor parlor. In the northeast corner of the same room was a corner fireplace constructed in the English style and graced with a heavily molded mantle cornice. Access to the upstairs rooms was gained via open stair in the northwest corner.

During the last decade of the nineteenth century a two story, two bay frame wing was added to the east gable end of the building. Built to accommodate the growing family of the building's new owner, the addition included a "modern" kitchen and a small pantry on the first floor and bedrooms on the second floor. At the same time that the addition was made the original staircase, which is composed of quirked and filleted panelling and beaded board frame, was extended to the attic to provide better access to the attic. The landing was also enlarged at that time. Sometime after the 1890's addition was made wood siding and a porch were added to the south elevation of the original block.

Associated with the Stauffer House are several contributing outbuildings. The earliest is a late eighteenth century frame bank barn with a principal rafter, common purlin roof frame and post and rail wall construction. The barn was extended with multiple ells sometime in the late nineteenth or early twentieth centuries. North of the house is a one-story frame kitchen with a stone and frame north gable end. The summer kitchen contained a recessed porch in its southern gable entry and the interior was roughly finished and provided a large brick jammed cooking fireplace. Also contributing is a late nineteenth century pyramidal roof, two-bay carriage house converted to a modern garage. With the exception of some alteration to the doors, this brick building appears as it did at the time of its construction. The final contributing element is an early twentieth century gable front drive-in corncrib clad with vertical board and slatted siding.

In the past few years much restoration work has been done to the Stauffer House. This work was made necessary by years of neglect and disuse. Wood siding that was applied to the original portion of the building at the time the frame addition was built was removed in 1985. At the same time the stone portion was repointed and a new roof was added. Also shutters from the stone portion were removed and are currently being refurbished. On the interior the plaster walls on the staircase and in the first story hall deteriorated to the point where new plaster had to be applied. Fortunately the walls in all other rooms are intact. The floor had also deteriorated throughout the house and new flooring was necessary, though original material has been retained wherever possible. Again because of extensive deterioration the interior of the addition was almost completely gutted and new material, both flooring and walls, has been applied. Despite this restoration work the Stauffer House maintains the design qualities that makes it eligible for listing on the National Register for architectural significance.

# 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/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1769, c.1890

**Builder/Architect** Not known

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Christian Stauffer House is a significant example in Lancaster County of the melding of the traditional Germanic or Continental house form with Anglo-American Georgian design. The floor plan of this house blends Germanic and Georgian designs and is the earliest documented example of such German and Anglo-American acculturation in Lancaster County. Other interior features, such as ceiling infill, are distinctly Germanic architectural elements that have seldom survived among Lancaster County buildings.

Christian Stauffer was a German immigrant who came to America in 1749 and to Lancaster City two years later. In 1763 Stauffer, who was a farmer-merchant, purchased 340 acres along the Conestoga Creek. Over the next half-century the Stauffer House became the focal point of an area that came to be known locally as "Stauffer's Hollow." During these years the Stauffer family became moderately successful Lancaster County farmers. After the Stauffer family sold the property in 1836, the house went through a succession of owners, including the Fritz's who built the eastern addition to accommodate an expanding family. The current outbuildings were also added to the property during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries though precisely who added these buildings is unknown. Despite the various owners, the property was farmed throughout the nineteenth century and its owners were recognized as prosperous by local standards.

The first floor plan of the 1769 section of the Stauffer House reflects a mixture of traditional Continental living spaces with a Georgian front parlor and hallway. The first floor contains a front Stube (parlor) and a rear Kammer (downstairs chamber) to one side, and a Kuche (kitchen) to the other side. These three rooms are commonly found in this arrangement in Continental houses. However, unlike traditional Germanic homes where the Kuche stretches from front to back, the Kuche in the Stauffer house is relegated to the back of the dwelling. A second formal parlor appears in front of the Kuche in the Stauffer House. The introduction of this second front parlor creates a front hallway and two front rooms that resemble a half-passage Georgian plan. Also in keeping with Georgian design, the chimney was placed in a gable end wall rather than in the center of the building as was done in Continental houses.

As far as can be determined, the Stauffer House's floor plan is the earliest documented example of the combination of Germanic and Georgian living spaces in Lancaster County. Later examples of this amalgamated plan exist in Lancaster County. However, they represent a later generation of builders who blended Germanic and Anglo-American building customs.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet Christian Stauffer House Item number 8

Page 2

While the floor plan exhibits Anglo-American influences, other interior features are distinctly Germanic in origin. Several of these features are examples of Germanic building practice that have rarely survived in Lancaster County dwellings. The roof frame, for instance, utilizes a halved principle rafter system with both butt and through purlins that were common to Continental houses. Also decidedly Germanic in appearance is the practice of ceiling infill. This tradition has been documented in other Lancaster County dwellings, but remains today only in the Stauffer House. Another Germanic element, cast plaster ceiling ornamentation in the form of a date and initials in the entry and a Catherines Wheel in the Stube, has few known surviving parallels in situ.

The Stube also contains evidence of original Germanic interior finishes rarely found in Lancaster County. The northwest corner of the room contains evidence, in the form of an original plaster-finished collar, showing that the room was heated originally by a free standing stove. Free standing stoves located in the Stube were a hallmark of Continental houses. Along the south and west walls were built-in benches, and in the northwest corner was a hanging cupboard, both of which were typical of Germanic dwellings. Evidence of such original interior finishes can be found in other houses throughout southeastern and south-central Pennsylvania, but few, if any, examples are better preserved than those found in the Stauffer House.

Thus the Stauffer House is a significant example of the melding of Germanic and Anglo-American floor plan designs. This dwelling also contains interior Germanic elements that are quite rare in Lancaster County today.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Ellis, Franklin and Samuel Evans, History of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania:  
Philadelphia: Evans and Peck (1883), 686-88.  
Colket, M.B., "The Stauffer-Stouffer Family of Pennsylvania," Publication  
(see Continuation Sheet)

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 5

Quadrangle name Lancaster

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

A 

1	8	3	9	2	8	8	0	4	4	3	5	0	3	1	0
Zone		Easting				Northing									

B 

1	8	3	9	2	9	8	0	4	4	3	5	0	9	1	0
Zone		Easting				Northing									

C 

1	8	3	9	3	0	9	0	4	4	3	4	9	2	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing									

D 

1	8	3	9	2	9	4	0	4	4	3	4	8	0	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing									

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing									

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing									

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing									

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing									

### Verbal boundary description and justification

(see Continuation Sheet)

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

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dr. Bernard Herman/Dr. Paul E. Doutrich and William A. Sisson

organization University of Delaware/PHMC date June 3, 1986

street & number N/A telephone (717) 657-2882

city or town Newark/Harrisburg state Delaware/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 LARRY E. TISE, State Historic Preservation Officer date 9/10/86

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

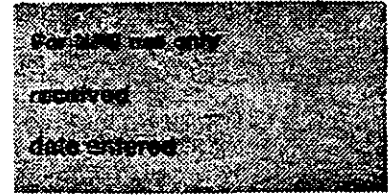
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Christian Stauffer House Item number 9, 10

Page 2

Bibliographical References

of the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania; Lancaster Co. Historical Soc.:  
v. 15, 250-55.

Lancaster County Deedbooks, (Lancaster County Courthouse).

Tax Records, Lancaster County, Lampeter Township, 1798, 1815 (Lancaster  
County Historical Society).

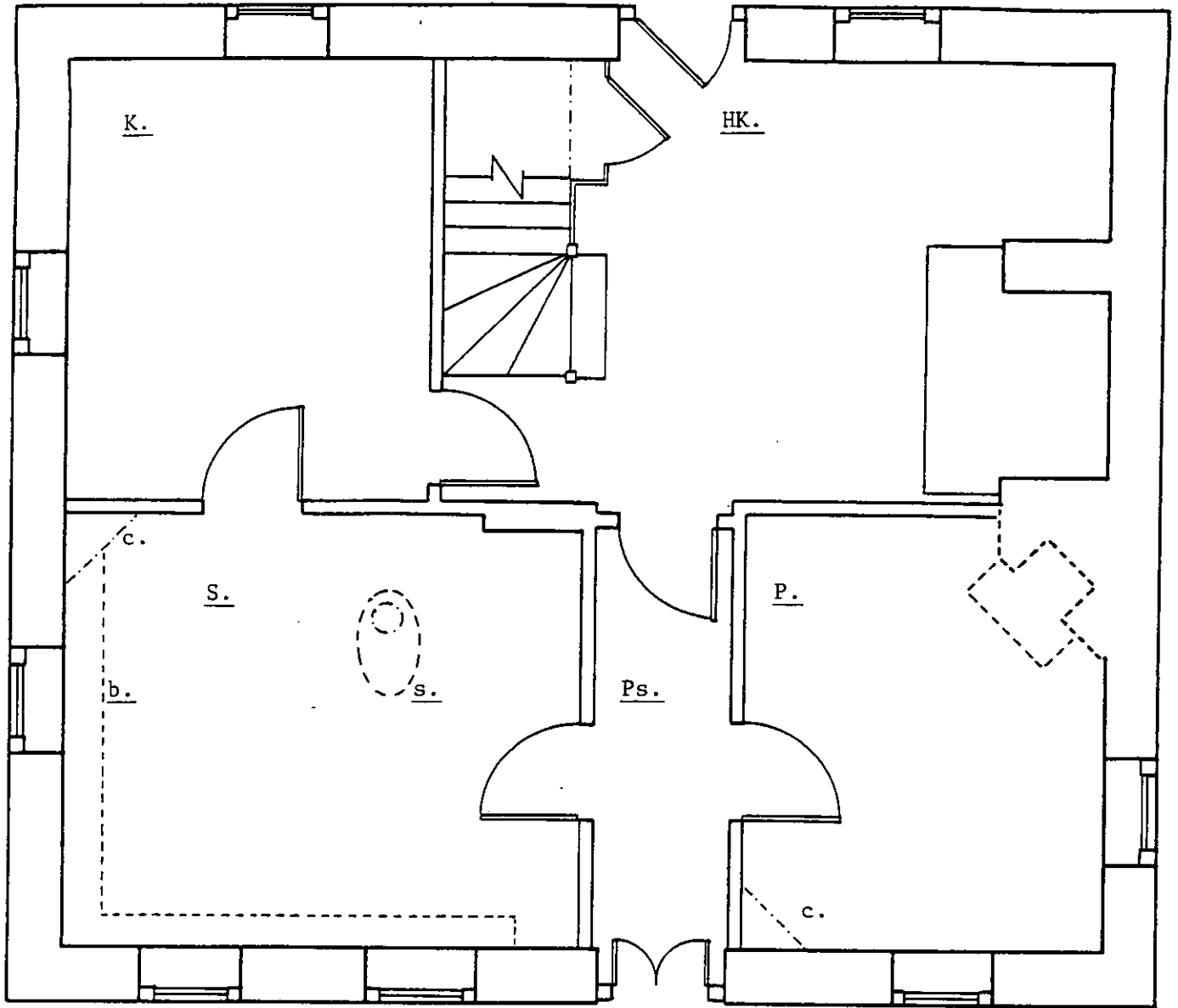
Weaver, William Woys, "Weizenthal and the Early Architecture of  
Neu-Strasburg" unpublished M.A. thesis, University of Virginia, 1973.

Geographical Data

Beginning at a point on Millcross Road approximately 200 feet  
northwest of the intersection of Millcross and Eden Road and traveling  
northwest along Millcross Road approximately 1000 feet; then, traveling at  
a right angle northeast approximately 400 feet to a point; then at a right  
angle traveling approximately 800 feet to the southeast to a point; then,  
at a right angle traveling in a straight line 600 feet to the southwest to  
the starting point.

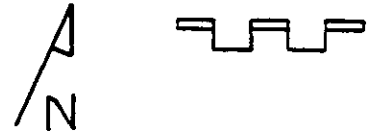
These boundaries were selected to include the Stauffer House and  
buildings that have become a part of the complex between 1769 and the early  
20th century. The outbuildings reflect the functional evolution of the  
complex.



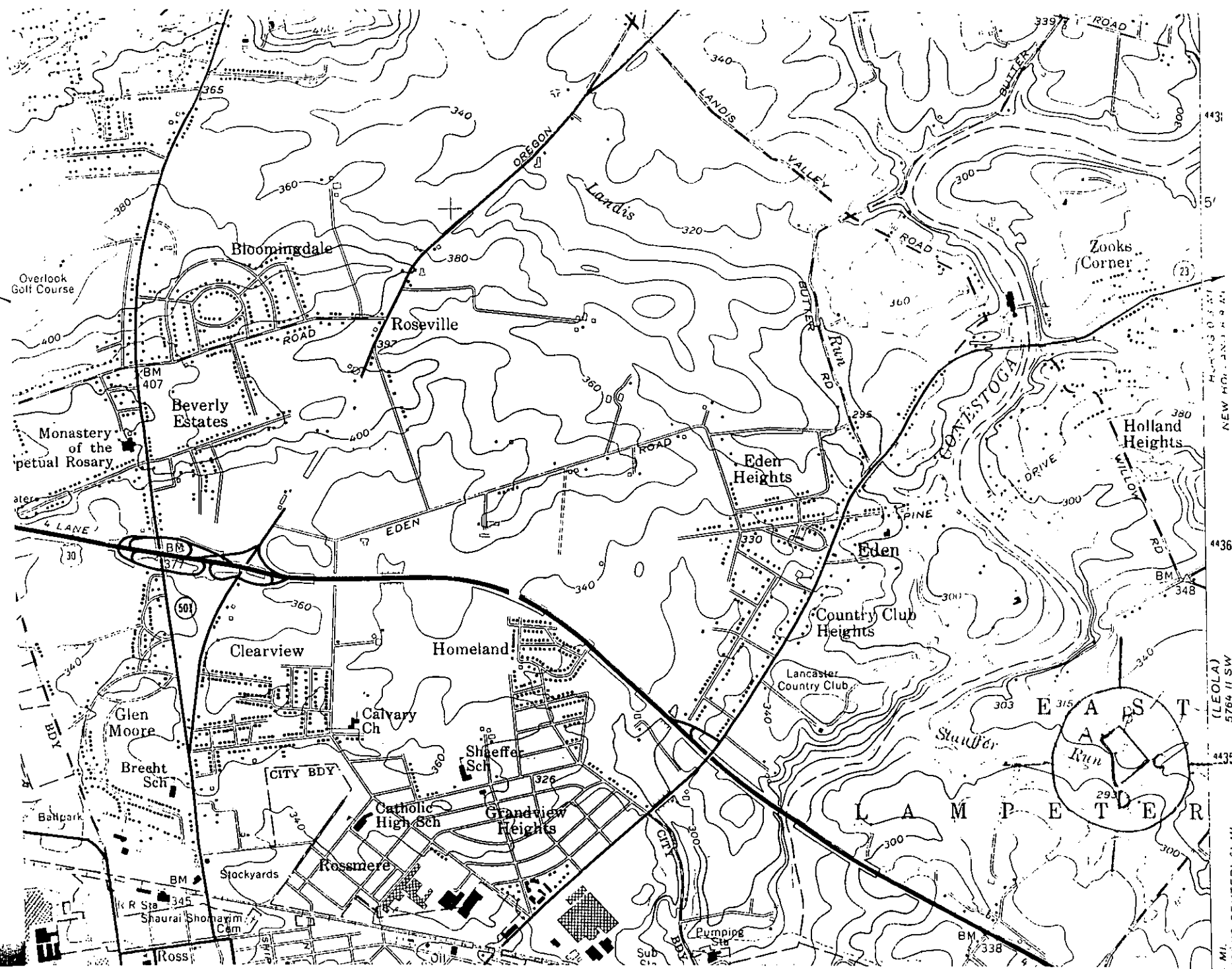


Ps. = passage  
 K. = kammer  
 S. = stube  
 P. = parlor  
 HK. = hall/kitchen

b. = bench  
 c. = hanging cupboard  
 s. = stove and stovepipe



Stauffer House, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. First floor plan (reconstructed from period evidence). Scale in feet. Drawing: Bernard Herman



CHRISTIAN STUFFER HOUSE  
 Lancaster Co  
 Lancaster Quadrangle  
 Zone 18

B E3 180 N4435090  
 C E3 090 N4434920  
 D E392940 N4434800



443  
 4436  
 4435  
 WS 11 4975  
 (740 L)  
 4435  
 1:62,500 (CIVIC CENTER) 1:62,500