

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NOV 1 11 1986

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

For NPS use only
received
date entered

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

1. Name

historic John Casper Stoever Log House

and/or common NA

2. Location

street & number 200 West Main Street

NA not for publication

city, town New Holland

NA vicinity of

state PA

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	NA	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Susan B. Severs

street & number 1288 Barclay Drive

city, town Lancaster

NA vicinity of

state PA 17601

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Lancaster County Recorder of Deeds

street & number Court House

city, town Lancaster

state PA

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Architectural-Historical Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1983 federal state county local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County

city, town Lancaster

state PA

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u> </u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The John Casper Stoever Log House is a 1½ story log building located at the southwest corner of West Main Street and Custer Avenue in New Holland Borough, Lancaster County. It abuts a late eighteenth century brick dwelling. It is in an urban environment of a small east Lancaster County town of just over 4,000 residents. When it was constructed in the 1730's, it was located on a 295 acre parcel of land that was intended to be part of a new community of Central European immigrants.

As built, the 36½' x 22' building was a traditional continental plan dwelling of four rooms placed around a large central hearth. (see figure 1). While this floor plan is very common in the Germanic settlement areas of Southeast Pennsylvania, the construction technique is less common. This particular log building makes use of corner posts with the horizontal logs mortised and tenoned into the posts. The gap between the logs varies from one to three inches and is chinked with small pieces of wood, clay and some straw. The logs were cut straight on the inner and outer surfaces, while the tops and bottoms were left in the round. Diagonal bracing was not used on the exterior face of the logs to tie the corner post to the sill or to the plate.

On the interior, hand-split lath were placed in diagonal rows and secured by well formed handmade rose-head nails. Evidence of a wide chair rail in each room is shown by the close laid horizontal lath. The rooms were plastered throughout. The log walls extend above the first floor and into the upper half story about thirty inches. At this point, they form a plate for the rafter feet. A knee wall is formed where the logs stop. The gable roof rises above this point. The rafter blades are formed by squared timbers tenoned together. There is no evidence of purlins or cross bracing. The gable ends were half-timbered. The west gable end is mostly intact as it rests against the outside wall of the adjoining brick building. The infill material on the east gable has been removed but the supporting timbers remain. The roof has two dormers on its north

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet John Casper Stoever Log Hse. Item number 7

Page 2

face. The roof covering is presently metal sheets.

The exterior covering is asbestos shingle over novelty siding. The original treatment of the outside face of the logs has not been determined at this time.

The entire building sits on a stone foundation. A basement keeping room is located under the west portion. Entrance to this area was through an exterior bulkhead located on the south side of the building.

The building retained its original appearance until sometime in the late nineteenth century. At this time, perhaps in the 1880's a one story rear addition was added and the Germanic floor plan converted to a center hall plan. (see figure 2) The affect of the modernization was to convert the "old fashioned floor plan" to a modern arrangement. The work was done in such a fashion so that the needed changes could be made with the least amount of effort and expenditure. The major change was the removal of the central hearth. Its original location and size can be determined by examining the base which still remains. The new wing, which contained a new kitchen, covered the original entrance to the basement. This required that an interior stair be added. The wing has a stone foundation and a keeping room under its eastern half. Access is by a trap door. New access was also needed to the upper floor due to the removal of the original stair in the kitchen. The new stairs include an open stair on the east end and a small back stair on the west end.

Within the original block of the building, the interior room arrangement was altered by adding a central hall. This required that the original partition between the front and rear rooms be partially removed. A new wall on the east side of the hall was tied onto the original dividing wall. The hall's west wall was formed by the original wall that split the house into east and west sections. Its original material can be seen where modern coverings and plaster have been removed. The original front

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet John Casper Stoever Log House form number

7

Page 3

entrance to the building was converted into a window and the two front doors were added, one replacing a window and one being a new opening. Most of the windows were converted into 2 over 2 sash. Their width is the same as the original but they extend a short distance lower down the wall. The present dormers were built to replace the originals and are larger than the former ones. The glass entranceway was added during the 1920's.

PRESERVATION ACTIVITY

The Stoever Log House was purchased in 1975 by its present owner. Her plans are to restore the building to its original appearance and to keep the building for her own use. Restoration work has proceeded slowly since a great deal of research has been need to document the building. It is the owner's intention and desire that the building remain true to its original character and that it not be made overly "German-Colonial".

NPS COUNTING INFORMATION

This property contains one contributing building.

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. 1740 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The John Casper Stoever Log House is a rare example of an eighteenth century corner posted log building. As such it is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under criterion C in that it illustrates a little used construction technique of the early Pennsylvania German settlement and it also includes a rare surviving example of half-timbering. The log house is also significant for its association with John Casper Stoever, Jr. (1707-1779), one of the first Lutheran ministers to serve in this country.

Log construction in Southeast Pennsylvania is readily associated with the Germanic settlement of that region. They were its most common users and helped transmit its use to other cultural groups. By the end of the eighteenth century, log buildings were the most common shelters used to provide housing, worship, and agricultural needs in the Mid-Atlantic States. Almost without exception, the type of log construction employed meant the use of horizontal logs with the corners notched to accept and lock into place the rows above and below as well as the perpendicular walls. The choice of corner notching and manner of log preparation is varied depending on the skill and cultural background of the builder. Much less common than corner notching was the use of corner posts with the horizontal logs mortised into tenons cut into the corner posts.

The rarity of examples of corner post log construction is such that it has been generally overlooked by architectural historians and material culture scholars. Over the past thirty years, a great deal of research on vernacular architecture has been published. The two major works on log construction, Kniffen and Glassie "Building in Wood in the Eastern United State: A Time-Place Perspective" and Glassie's Pattern in the Material Folk Culture of The Eastern United States do not identify corner posting as a technique used in America except in French settlement areas. A recent work by Terry Jordan American Log Buildings lists

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet John Casper Stoever Log Hse. Item number 8 Page 2

the Golden Plough Tavern in York, Pennsylvania as his only example and states "corner posting is rare" (p. 92).

A recent study of Pennsylvania corner posted log buildings by Nancy Shed has tentively identified about 100 such buildings across the state. In Lancaster County, there are five such buildings including the Stoever House. While this high number of examples across the state would tend to argue against the importance of the Stoever House, most of the examples reported in the study are not from the period of first settlement as is the Stoever House. The fact the much larger number of examples found in central and western Pennsylvania and dating during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries would demonstrate the extreme importance of early examples such as the Stoever House. Lancaster County was a pathway for settlers moving to the west and to the south into inland Pennsylvania and into Maryland and Virginia. As immigrants came through the Germanic areas of settlement they observed and absorbed the material culture and a number of other cultural traits from the Germanic settlers. Therefore the Stoever House and the other log buildings of southeastern Pennsylvania help illustrate the dissemination of cultural traditions along western and southern paths of settlement.

The Stoever House is also important in that it is one of the few intact examples of eighteenth century half-timbering in the region. This form of exterior covering is very fragile and must be renewed on a periodic basis. When it has been observed in the recent past, all that has remained on the majority of buildings has been some traces of plaster on the adjoining timbers.

John Casper Stoever, Jr. was the son of John Casper Stoever, Sr. Both were Lutheran ministers and they arrived in this country in 1728. They had left their home in the Rhine Valley in Germany because of religious persecution. The elder Stoever had been ordained in Germany

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet John Casper Stoever Log Hse. Item number 8

Page 3

but his son was not ordained until 1733. The elder Stoever did not stay in Pennsylvania but rather moved to Virginia almost immediately after landing in Philadelphia. The younger Stoever had been practicing his ministry in East Lancaster County and in New Holland starting in 1730. Stoever, Jr. remained in New Holland until 1745 or 1746.

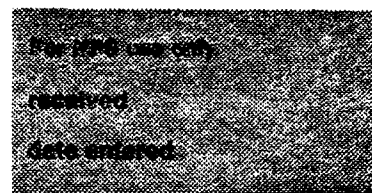
The land on which the house is sited was surveyed to Stoever, Jr. in 1735 and deeded to him in 1741. Early records of New Holland and of the Lutheran Church indicate that Stoever did not have a meeting house separate from his dwelling. Most likely he conducted services in his home. This pattern is similiar to that used by other Germanic religious groups in the first half of the eighteenth century. In fact the pattern, both of use and of floor plan, is exactly that of the Hans Herr House near Lancaster.

John Casper Stoever, Jr. was a prominent figure in the development of the Lutheran Church. As a young man he had a difficult time being ordained because of conflicts among the small group of Lutheran ministers in this country. Ministers in Delaware, New Jersey and New York refused to consider him for ordination. When he was finally ordained, it was by Christian Schulz who had arrived in America only a short time before the ceremony. Schulz returned to Germany soon afterward. This left the younger Stoever the only German Lutheran minister in Pennsylvania. While Stoever, Jr. would later be overshadowed by the arrival of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, and with whom he would argue frequently, Stoever was the senior German Lutheran minister in Pennsylvania until his death in 1779.

The Lutherans in and around New Holland were Stoever's first permanent congregation. Prior to his arrival there he served small groups of Lutherans in the immediate Philadelphia area. When he left New Holland in the mid-1740's he went into the Lebanon, PA area to practice his

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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



Continuation sheet John Casper Stoever Log House Item number 8

Page 4

calling. While in Lebanon, Stoever also took up farming and operated a mill. According to letters of Muhlenberg, in later life Stoever had acquired a small fortune and did not depend on his congregations for support.

When Stoever left New Holland, he sold his property to Wendle Zwecker, a trustee of the Lutheran church in New Holland. It remained in the Zwecker family until 1770 when it was sold to Henry Peter of Philadelphia. Following Peter's ownership, until 1904 title to the property was transferred several times. In 1904 it was sold to the Varns Family of New Holland. Their occupancy til 1975 is the longest period that it was owned by a single family line.

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE ATTACHED SHEET

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1/3
Quadrangle name New Holland

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	8	4	06	8	90	4	43	9	34	0
Zone		Easting				Northing				

B

Zone		Easting				Northing				

C

Zone		Easting				Northing				

D

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 ATTACHED SHEET

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

state NA code NA county NA code NA

state NA code NA county NA code NA

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Stephen G. Del Sordo, Historian

organization Private Consultant

date July, 1986

street & number 305 Oakley Street

telephone 301-228-5685

city or town Cambridge

state MD 21613

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 Dr. Larry E. Tise, State Historic Preservation Officer date

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**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet John Casper Stoever Log Hse. Item number 9 Page 1

Stephen G. Del Sordo "Review - American Log Buildings by Terry G. Jordan"
Winterthur Portfolio (in press)

Franklin Ellis and Samuel Evans History of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania,
(Philadelphia: Everts and Peck, 1883)

Charles H. Glatfelter German Lutheran and Reformed Churches in the
Pennsylvania Field, 1717 - 1793 (Breinigsville, PA: The Pennsylvania
German Society, 1980)

Henry Glassie Pattern in the Material Folklife of the Eastern United States
(Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1968)

Terry G. Jordan American Log Buildings (Chapel Hill: The University of
North Carolian Press, 1985)

Fred B. Kniffen and Henry Glassie "Building in Wood in the Eastern United States
States : A Time-Place Perspective" Geographical Review 56(1966):
40-66

James T. Lemon The Best Poor Man's Country (New York: W.W. Norton
and Company, Inc, 1972)

Lars P. Qualhen The Lutheran Church in Colonial America (New York:
Thomas Nelson and Son, Inc., 1940)

Martin G. Weaver A History of New Holland, Pennsylvania (New Holland:
The New Holland Clarion, 1928)

Abdel Ross Wentz A Basic History of Lutheranism in America (Philadelphia:
Muhlenberg Press, 1955)

Rev. Roy Lutz Winters "The First Stoevers" Publication of the Lebanon
County Historical Society 10(n.d.) 191-206

G. Edwin Brumbaugh "Colonial Architecture of the Pennsylvania Germans"
Proceedings of the Pennsylvania German Society XLI(1933): 4-59+

Nancy S. Shedd Corner-Post Log Construction: Description, Analysis, and
Sources; A Report to Early American Industries Association,
unpublished manuscript, March, 1986

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet John Casper Stoever Log Hse. Item number 10

Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

The nominated acreage is the legal parcel on which the log building is sited. While originally built on a 295 acre parcel, it was intended to be located on a small town lot. The boundaries are as follows:

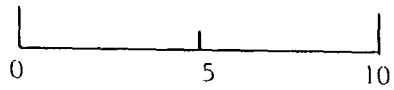
Beginning at the curb line on the southwest corner of Custer and West Main Streets and proceeding south along the west curb line of Custer Avenue to the rear lot line of the parcel and then proceeding west along the south rear lot line approximately forty feet and then proceeding north along the west lot line passing between 200 west Main Street and the adjoining brick building to the south curb line of west Main Street and then proceeding east along the said curb line to the place of beginning.

FIGURE 2

JOHN CASPER STOEVER
LOG HOUSE
c1730s

200 West Main Street
Lancaster County
New Holland, PA

1985 configuration



s.g. del sordo, 11/85

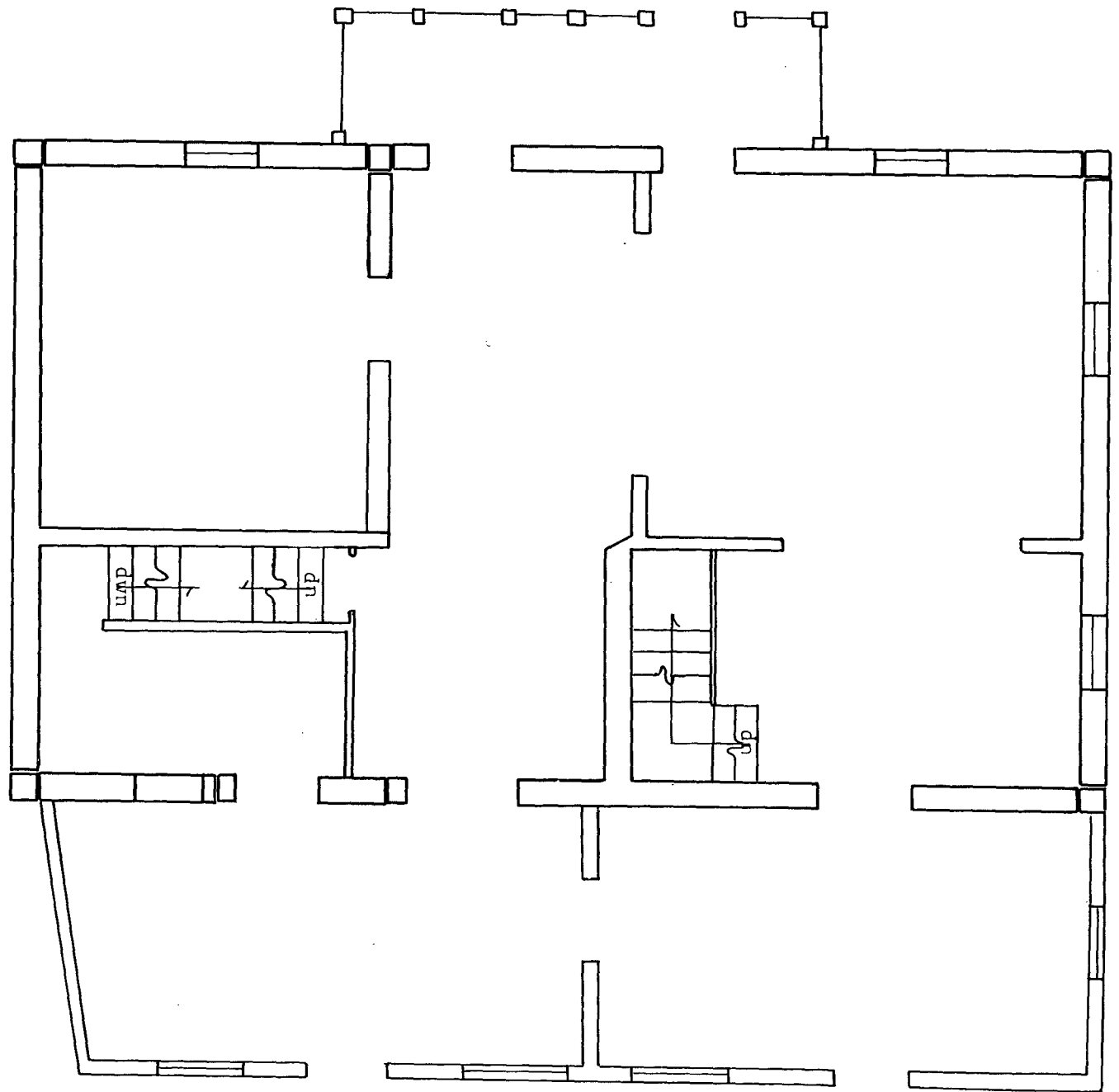
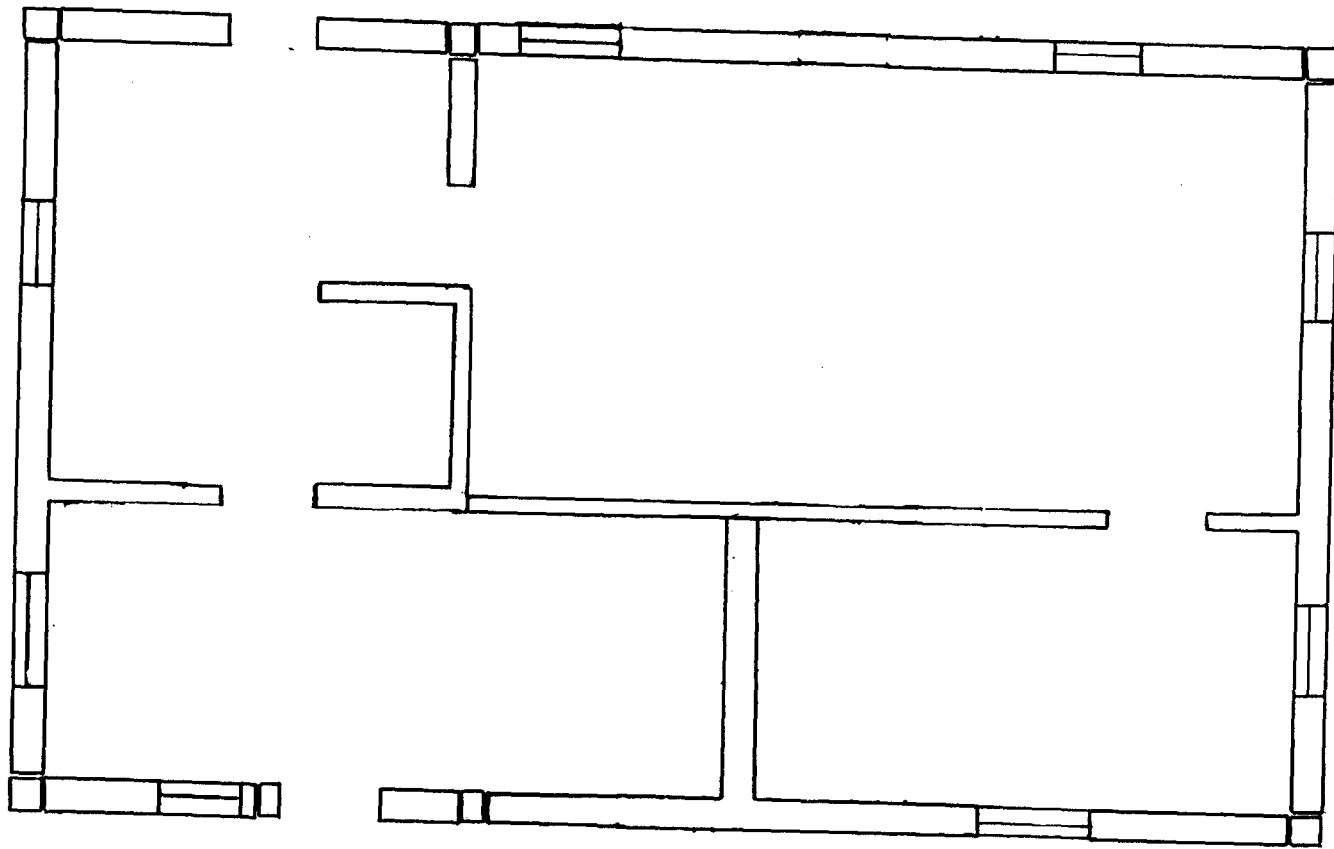
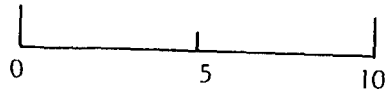


FIGURE 1

JOHN CASPER STOEVER
LOG HOUSE
c1730s

200 West Main Street
Lancaster County
New Holland, PA

1730's configuration



s.g. del sordo, 12/85

576 11 NW
(EPHRATA)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

HARRISBURG 49 MI.
EPHRATA 7.2 MI.

76°07'30"
40°07'30"
4442000m N.

405000m E. 1.5 MI. TO U.S. 322

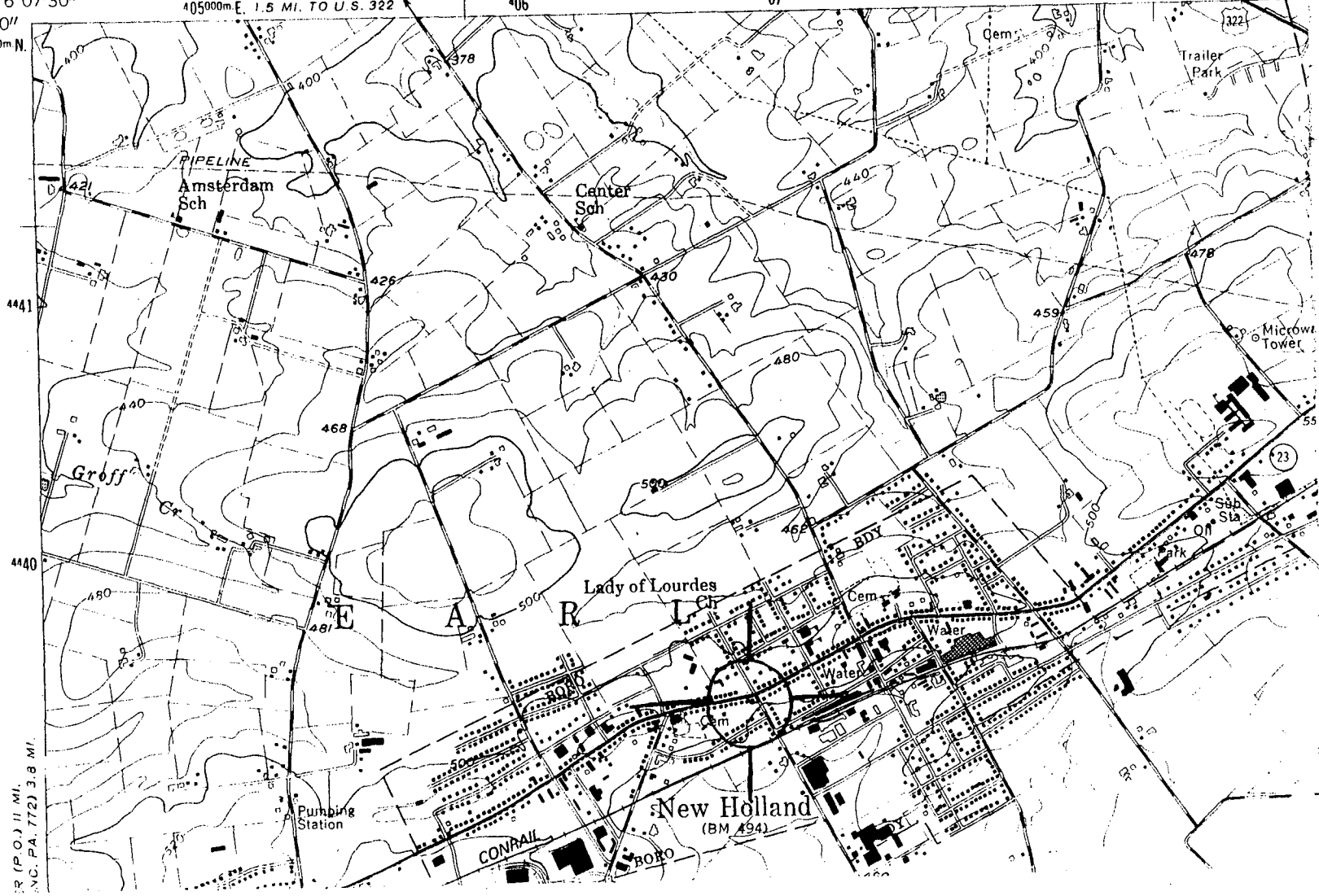
406

407

5'

408

409



R (P.O.) 11 MI.
N.C. PA. 772) 3.8 MI.