

De Turck House
200' west of State Route 662 on Nanatamy Creek
1/4 mile south of Oley
Oley
Berks County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-1023

HABS
PA
OLEY
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...

DE TURCK HOUSE

Location: Pennsylvania, Berks County, Oley, $\frac{1}{2}$ mi. S. of Oley, 200' W. of State Route 662 on Manatawny Creek.

Present Owner: Dwight Moyer & William Cotwals, Oley, Pennsylvania.

Present Occupant: Vacant.

Present Use: Used to house migrant workers.

Brief Statement of Significance: This building is an interesting example of the small stone house built by the early settlers in this area, which usually preceded the erection of a larger house.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original owners: The De Turck Family
2. Date of erection: 1767

B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure: The De Turck family were Huguenots, in America the descendents of Isaac De Turck who immigrated to the English colony on the Hudson in 1708. Soon after his arrival in New York, he married the widow Marie nee De Heroken (Harcourt) Weiner, and they moved to the Oley Valley in 1712. Isaac De Turck died in 1721, age 36. The De Turck place became a center of Moravian activity in the Oley Valley, and in February, 1742, the third of seven conferences was held in John De Turck's barn in an unsuccessful attempt to unite the various Protestant groups in the area. The conferences between the Moravians, Seventh Day Baptists, Dunkards, Mennonites, Separatists, Lutherans, and Reformed were led by Count Zinzendorf, and included Heinrich Muhlenberg, Conrad Weiser, and David Nichtsman among others.

C. Sources of information: Birch, Edith White, The Huguenot Settlers of Pennsylvania, The Historical Review of Berks County, Vol. VI, no. 3 (April, 1941), p. 80.

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Part 2, Vol. XLIX, 1921, pp. 31-47 and
Part 3, Vol. XLIX, 1921, pp. 135-155.

Montgomery, Morton L., History of Berks
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PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

This small one-and-a-half story and cellar structure is a very handsome example of the stone buildings which were built by the German and Huguenot settlers in the Oley Valley. It has the usual features of the gable roof, chimney, and pent roof across the front, which gives it its distinctive character.

Although the shutters, pent roof, and original door are now gone, the structure remains unchanged. The walls and roof of the little house are sound, except for a large crack in the masonry of the north wall; the exterior woodwork is in need of restoration, and the interior is in a bad state of repair.

The walls and foundations are of stone, and the large stone chimney rises above the gable roof at the north side. There are two doors opening into the first floor, and one into the cellar. The original front door which had tulips and birds painted in the panels is missing, the side door is original, and the painted birds in the panels are still discernible.

The double hung sash windows are small eight over eight pane sash. The shutters are no longer in place, but are supposed to be in the hands of a private collector. They also were painted with tulip and bird motifs.

The roof is a simple gable, covered with shingles.

The interiors are extremely simple with one room to the first and one room to the attic floor. The cellar is divided into two rooms, a kitchen and a cellar. There is a stairway rising from the northeast corner of the first floor to the attic. No stairs connect the first floor to the cellar. The floors are of wide, unpainted boards. The wall finish is plaster over the stone. There are two fireplaces, one large one in the cellar and a small one on the first floor.

The house is situated on a slope that goes down to the stream on the north side of the house. This affords an outside door into the cellar, which is above ground level at the north side.

Prepared by
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August 15, 1958

Addendum to:

De Turck House (John De Turck)
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on Manatawny Creek, 1/4 mile south
of Oley
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