

Kaufman House
2 miles southeast of Oley on a road east of
State Route 662
Oley Vicinity
Berks County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. 1042

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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

KAUFMAN HOUSE

Location: Pennsylvania, Berks County, Oley Vicinity, 2 mi. S. E. of Oley on a road E. of State Route 662

Present Owner: David Kaufman, 108 North Fifth St., Emmaus, Pennsylvania (1958)

Present Use: Tenant farmhouse

Brief Statement of Significance: The buildings on the Kaufman farm are the finest complete known example of a Pennsylvania-German farm group in the Oley Valley.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Original and Subsequent owners:

1. David Kaufman (died 1762). David Kaufman immigrated to this country with his mother and brother Jacob, settling in Germantown in 1720. David was the first Kaufman to settle in the Oley Valley where he moved in 1727.
2. Jacob Kaufman (died 1824). After David Kaufman's death in 1762, his widow released the property to Jacob Kaufman, their eldest son, on January 7, 1763. Jacob Kaufman lived on the homestead all his life.
3. Jacob Kaufman, II (1757-1843). The second Jacob Kaufman inherited the property after his parents' deaths. He married Susanna Keim in 1807.
4. Jacob Kaufman, III (1813-1852), son of Jacob (II) and Susanna Kaufman.
5. Frank Y. Kaufman, son of Jacob Kaufman, III.

B. References:

1. Berks County Historical Review, Vol. IV, April 1941, p. 81.
2. Brumbaugh, G. Edwin, Colonial Architecture of the Penna. Germans, Pennsylvania German Society Proceedings, 1930, Vol. 41, plates 43-50.
3. Croll, P. C., Annals of the Oley Valley, (Reading, Pennsylvania: The Reading Eagle Press, 1926), pp. 85-90.
4. Montgomery, Richard S., Houses of the Oley Valley, The Dutchman, Winter, 1954.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

The older section of the Kaufman house has the usual German characteristics - the large central chimney and square proportions with a large, steeply pitched, gable roof. The slightly smaller stone wing, added in 1834, is similar in its proportions and the simplicity of the door and window treatment. The roof has a lower pitch appropriate to its later date.

The fabric is in good condition and the house is well-maintained by the present owner as a tenant farm house.

The house is approximately fifty-five feet by twenty-seven feet. The walls and foundations are of stone. There is a one story porch with a shed roof across the back of the house which is much later than the two sections of the house.

There are two chimneys - one rising from the ridge, and near the center of the larger portion of the house, the other at the end of the smaller portion.

There are two doors, side by side, into the two sections of the house. The six panel doors are set in simple frames and the one in the larger section has an unsupported gabled hood.

The windows in the earlier half are small, six over six pane, double hung sash; those in the later half are nine over six.

The roof is a steep gable covered with shingles. There are no dormers.

In plan, the earlier half is in the medieval form of two rooms divided by a large central chimney. The front and rear doors open into the kitchen which is the smaller of the two rooms and has a large open fireplace. The later half of the house forms a separate apartment with a stair hall next to the older half. On the other side of the stair hall are two rooms, living room and kitchen.

The stairway of the older half rises from the kitchen, while that of the later half rises from the hall. The second floor of the older half is divided into two bedrooms and a hall, with a large walk-in closet opening from the larger chamber. The second floor of the later half repeats the plan of the first floor, except that a part of the hall is cut off to make a third chamber.

The walls and ceilings are plaster with chair rails and wainscoting in some of the rooms. There is a panelled corner cupboard in the large, second chamber of the older half. A large, cyma recta molding crowns the lintel of the kitchen fireplace.

The farm house faces south toward the road. To the east are an older house, a spring house, and three barns, all enclosed by fences.

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