

John Jacobs House
(Margaret Hopper Log House)
Intersection of State Route 401 (Conestoga Road)
and Spring Valley Road
Bacton (East Whiteland Township)
Chester County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-1209

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PA,
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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. PA-1209

JOHN JACOBS HOUSE

(Margaret Hopper Log House)

Location: Intersection of State Route 401 (Conestoga Road) and Spring Valley Road, Bacton (East Whiteland Township), Chester County, Pennsylvania (Reference: Map of Chester County by County Commissioners 1956).

Present Owner: Margaret B. Hopper, Paoli, Pennsylvania.

Brief Statement of Significance: This log house, from the late 18th century, was built much later than the average log houses in the area. It is the simplest form of this type of structure in the county.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: John Jacobs 1758-1771; Thomas Ives 1771-1776; Joseph Bolton 1776-1777; Sarah Rawle & Samuel Burg 1777-1796; Jacob Lapp 1796-1801; John Norris & family 1801-1823; John Jacobs 1823-1827; Joseph B. Jacobs 1827-1840; Benjamin Jenkins 1840-1859; Benjamin Coulter & heirs 1859-1906; John F. Quay 1906-1923; Frank Gerrard 1923; S.A. Rittenbaugh 1923-1927; Caroline Engstrom 1927-1929; James A. Walker 1929-1945; Betty A. Burnham 1945-1946; C.S. Staats 1946; Margaret B. Hopper 1946 to date.
2. Date of erection: Unknown. Probably built late 18th century by John Jacobs, with later 19th and 20th century additions.
3. Architect, builder, suppliers: Unknown.
4. Original plans, construction: None known. Original house was a simple one-and-a-half-story log structure, 19' -6" by 18', with one room with a loft.
5. Notes on alterations and additions: A one-and-a-half-story frame wing, 14' -4" by 15', was added to the southwest elevation in the early 19th century. A one-and-a-half-story board and batten wing was added to the southeast in the early 20th century. This wing was originally a post office and was converted to a kitchen in the mid 20th century. The roof of the original log house was later raised for a second-story room.
6. Important old views and references:

Views: None Known.

References: Sources of information to be found in the Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, Pa. - Classified printed and manuscript

files under the heading: East Whiteland Township, Lands.

- B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure: This structure is a very simple log house, built later than the average log houses in the county.
- C. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated: None known.

Prepared by Bart Anderson-August 1958
Curator, Chester County Historical Society

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

- 1. Architectural Character: The original house was a simple one-and-a-half-story structure. There is a frame addition to the south, probably early 19th century, and a 20th century frame addition to the east of this.
- 2. Condition of Fabric: Very good.

B. Description of Exterior:

- 1. Over-all dimensions: The original log house is 19' -6" by 18' and is one-and-a-half-stories. There is a one-and-a-half-story frame wing, 14' -4" by 15', added to the southwest and a one-and-a-half-story board and batten wing added to the southeast.
- 2. Foundations: Stone.
- 3. Wall construction: Log with frame additions.
- 4. Chimneys: Exterior stone chimney on the north side (not original).
- 5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Openings are original; doors have been replaced.
 - b. Windows: Openings have been widened and changed; windows are not original.
- 6. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Medium pitch wooden shingle gable roofs.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: Rebuilt somewhat in mid 1940's.
 - c. Dormers: None.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plans: Original house had one room on the first floor with a loft above; later the roof was raised to accommodate a room. The 19th century southwest addition is one room now used as a dining room. A loft above has been converted to a room. The 20th century southeast addition was originally a post office, later converted to a kitchen.
2. Stairways: Rebuilt.
3. Flooring: Original.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster.
5. Doorways and doors: Mostly replaced.
6. Trim: Not original.
7. Hardware: Some original.
8. Lighting: Modern electricity.
9. Heating: Fireplace in first floor of original house.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: In fork of road, house faces east.
2. Enclosures: None.
3. Outbuildings: Spring house and barn. For barn see Eleanor Raymond, Early Domestic Architecture of Pennsylvania, William Helburn, 1931, Plates 105 and 152.
4. Walks; driveways: None.
5. Landscaping, gardens: Well planted.