

Yellow Springs Summer House
Intersection of Yellow Springs Road (LR 15216)
and Art School Road
Chester Springs (West Pikeland Township)
Chester County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-1198

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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-1198

YELLOW SPRINGS SUMMER HOUSE

Location: Intersection of Yellow Springs Road (LR 15216) and Art School Road, Chester Springs (West Pike-land Township), Chester County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner: Good News Productions, Inc., Chester Springs, Pennsylvania. (Acquired by Historic Yellow Springs, Inc. in 1974; restoration is planned)

Statement of Significance: Yellow Springs is one of the oldest and most successful spas in the country. This Summer House is part of the Yellow Springs Tavern complex (see HABS No. PA-1131). The structure is an open gazebo with a central spring, built circa 1840 and attributed to Hugh Walters, architect.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners:

1. William Penn 1705 to Joseph Pike.
2. Joseph Pike 1727 to Elizabeth Pike.
3. Elizabeth Pike 1733 to Richard Pike.
4. Richard Pike 1752 to Samuel Hoare and Nathaniel Newberry.
5. Nathaniel Newberry 1756 to Samuel Hoare his 1/2 interest.
6. Samuel Hoare 1773 to Andrew Allen.
7. Sheriff Ezekiel Leonard 1789 to Samuel Hoare.
8. Samuel Hoare 1789 to Thomas Ruston Kennedy.
9. Thomas Ruston Kennedy 1806 to James Bones.
10. James Bones 1831 to Anthony Wayne Olwine.
11. Anthony Wayne Olwine by sheriff's sale 1838 to Margaret Holman
12. Margaret Holman 1845 to George Lingen.
13. George Lingen 1847 to Charles F. Hoffendahl a 1/3 interest.
14. George Lingen 1847 to Henry Neef a 1/3 interest.
15. George Lingen 1848 to Henry Neef a 1/3 interest.
16. Charles F. Hoffendahl 1850 to Henry Neef a 1/3 interest.
17. Henry Neef 1851 to Thomas G. Hollingsworth & Robert F. Walsh.
18. Jacob S. Yost, U. S. Marshal, 1860 to Susan R. Snyder.
19. Susan R. Snyder 1868 to Charles W. Deans et al.
20. Charles W. Deans et al 1869 to Chester Springs Orphans School.
21. Sheriff J. E. McFarlan 1870 to Robert Cresswell.
22. Robert Cresswell 1880 to David Simpson.
23. David Simpson 1882 to M. Simpson McCullough.
24. M. Simpson McCullough 1885 to George Pearson et al.
25. George Pearson et al. their interests to R. H. Van Horn 1886-1888.
26. R. H. Van Horn 1888 to J. T. F. Hunter.
27. J. T. F. Hunter 1891 to Farmers and Mechanics Bank of Phoenixville.
28. Above bank 1914 to Magdalene Society of Philadelphia.
29. Magdalene Society of Philadelphia 1916 to Penna. Academy of Fine Arts.
30. Penna. Academy of Fine Arts 1952 to Good News Productions, Inc.

2. Date of erection: Circa 1840; at least by 1845 when it appears on the prospectus of Dr. George Lingen (copy included in data for Yellow Springs Tavern HABS No. PA-1131).
3. Architect, builder, suppliers: Attributed to Hugh Walters, a Philadelphia architect (see 1839 newspaper article in data for Yellow Springs Tavern HABS No. PA-1131). Builder and suppliers are unknown.
4. Original plans, construction: Unknown, but structure appears unchanged.
5. Alterations and additions: Few, if any, changes.
6. Important old views and references:

Views: Copy of the oldest and only 19th century view known is included in the data for the Yellow Springs Tavern (HABS No. PA-1131).

References: Clipping, printed and manuscript files in the Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, Pennsylvania under heading: West Pikeland Twp. Chester Springs.

B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure:

See data for Yellow Springs Tavern (HABS No. PA-1131).

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. Description:

The Summer House is an open wooden gazebo with a central spring. It is octagonal, measuring approximately 15' across, and is one story. It is composed of wooden posts with carved spandrels forming arches to support the roof. There is a pierced wooden railing with surrounding benches between each post. The polygonal hip roof is covered with wooden shingles and has a small louvered, octagonal cupola. The flooring is paved with a central opening for the spring.

B. Site:

The Summer House is attractively set, facing south. There are some old shade trees nearby. The walks around it are overgrown. This structure is part of the Yellow Springs Tavern complex (HABS No. PA-1131). Also see Yellow Springs Bathhouse (HABS No. PA-1197).