

Peter Treible House (Rouch House)
North side of River Rid. (LR45012),
approximately 3.5 miles northeast
of Shawnee on Delaware
Shawnee on Delaware vicinity,
Smithfield Township
Monroe County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-1161

HABS
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45-SHAWD.V,
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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings

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

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. PA-1161

PETER TREIBLE HOUSE
(ROUCH HOUSE)

Location: Located on the north side of River R. (LR45012), just southwest of the township line, approximately 3.5 miles northeast of Shawnee on Delaware, in Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, Shawnee on Delaware vicinity, Smithfield Township, Monroe County, Pennsylvania.

USGS Bushkill Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 18.495600.4542060.

Present Owner: United States Government.

Present Use: Demolished.

Significance: This fine example of an early stone house in the Delaware Valley served the township and local residents as a post office from October 1843 until April 1867 and a tavern for much of the nineteenth century.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1832. Date stone in southwest gable of the dwelling with initials P.T. (Peter Treible).
2. Original and subsequent owners: The following is an incomplete chain of title.

1810 April 24, 1810 Deed of partition for the lands of George Meyer, Sr., deceased, of Lower Smithfield Twp., Northampton County, Pa. Peter Treible and wife Susanna received 112 acres and 25 perches from the estate of George Meyer, father of Susannah. Lot #1 was assigned to Peter Treible (Orphan's Court, Easton, Northampton County, Pa., Volume 8, pp 291, 292, 293, 294 and pp 249, 250, 251.)

1866 Mar. 24, 1866. Susannah Treible, widow of Peter Treible, Sr., deceased to son John Treible and wife Eliza and son Isaac Treible and wife, a tract containing 137 ¹/₂ acres. Isaac Treible and wife conveyed 63 acrs of this property to his brother John for \$3150 (Volume 13, p 550, Stroudsburg Deeds) Recorded Vol. 13, p 552 and Misc Bk, Vol. B, pp 520 and Misc Bk, Vol. B, pp 520 and 501, Stroudsburg.

- 1888 March 27, 1888. Reuben Treible, administrator of the estate of his father John Treible who died May 7, 1887 intestate, to Edward Treible (son of John) for \$4295. The property comprised 137 1/2 acres (Recorded Deed Book, Volume 37, p 634 Court House, Stroudsburg, Pa.)
- 1889 April 1, 1889. Edward Treible and wife Clara conveyed the same property for \$1.00 and other considerations (consisting of 72 1/2 acres and 63 acres) to Mary Treible (widow of Reuben). recorded Deed Book, Volume 39, p 10, Court House, Stroudsburg, Pa.
- 1890 Apr. 19, 1890. Widow Mary Treible conveyed the same property to John H. Brown and wife Sophia of Tunkhannock, Wyoming Co., Pa. (Recorded Deed Book, Volume 40, p 87, Stroudsburg, Pa.)
- 1892 Feb. 24, 1892. John H. Brown of Smithfield Twp., Monroe Co., Pa. conveyed the same property to William Treible and wife Mary for \$5000 (Recorded Deed Book, Volume 42, p 436, Stroudsburg, Pa.).
- 1908 Apr. 1, 1908. William Treible and wife Mary conveyed the same property to Francis Houston of Norwood, Delaware Co., Pa. for \$3500 (Recorded Volume 64, p 586 and Misc. Book, E. p 502, Stroudsburg, Pa.).
- 1931 Feb. 1931. Francis Houston, widower of Smithfield Twp., Monroe Co., Pa. conveyed the same property to William Mason Houston of Philadelphia for \$1.00 and other considerations. The property consisted of 2 tracts, one of 74 1/2 acres and the other of 63 acres. (Recorded Feb. 6, 1931, Vol. 13, p 93, Stroudsburg, Pa.).
- 1939 May 15, 1939. William M. Houston and wife of Philadelphia, Pa. to L. Stuart Houston of New York City for \$1.00 and other considerations, the same two tracts of land and buildings, totaling 137 1/2 acres. (Recorded July 13, 1939, Vol. 132, p 223.)
- 1957 May 11, 1957. L. Stuart Houston and wife Martha of Lexington Ave., New York City, to Pardee Place of East Stroudsburg, R.D. and Kenneth F. Place, Lewisburg, Pa., trading as Place and Place for \$29,000, the same property of 137 1/2 acres. (Recorded Vol. 233, pp 60, 61).

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1960 Sept. 15, 1960. Pardee Place and Kenneth Place conveyed 2.6 acres of the above mentioned tract, on which was located the stone dwelling house, to Ervin E. Rouch and wife Maria L. for \$5,000, located in Smithfield Twp., Monroe Co., Pa. (Recorded vo. 272, p 99, Stroudsburg, Pa.).

3. Alterations and additions: A frame structure was added to the original stone house about 1898. Restoration by the Rouch family 1960-1966; family supervised carpenters.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

The house was used as a post office and tavern or inn. Peter Treible was the postmaster from Oct. 30, 1843, until July 9, 1853. From 1853 until 1867 Daniel Brown was postmaster of the settlement known as Treibleville. The office was discontinued on April 22, 1867. This house was located on the early main road from Shawnee on Delaware to Walpack Bend on the Delaware (formerly known as Decker's Ferry). The Rev. Wilson Treible (born 1850 died 1945), grandson of Peter Treible, was the first principal of East Stroudsburg Schools in 1871 and later was a Methodist minister. His six children were all teachers. A daughter, Mrs. R. A. Hutchins of Erie, Pa. was State Chaplain of D.A.R. in Pennsylvania in 1952.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Old views: Photocopy of photograph of southwest elevation circa 1900 is included with this documentation. Photographer unknown.

2. Bibliography:

- a. Primary and unpublished sources:

Census Data: 1810 Census, L. Smithfield Twp (Henry Marx Rm., Easton Public Library); 1820 Census, 1830 Census, L. Smithfield Twp. Pa.; Family # 452-Peter Treible, Innkeeper); 1860 Census, Family #383; 1870 Census, Families 182, John Treible, #180, Reuben Treible. (National Archives, Washington, D.C.).

Coorespondence dated May 16, 1957 from Mrs. Richard A. Hutchins, Erie, Pa. (dau. of Rev. Wilson Treible) to Elizabeth D. Walters, East Stroudsburg, Pa.

County Court Records.

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- a. Deed of partition, Aug. 24, 1810, Orphan's Court Office, Easton, Northampton Co., Pa. (Volume 8, pp. 291, 292, 293, 294 and pp 249, 250, 251).
- b. Land purchases by Peter Treihle, Court House, Stroudsburg, Pa., Misc Book, Vol B, p 520; and Misc Book Vol B, p 501, Dec. 14, 1864 (Peter Treible owned total of 228 acres).
- c. Will of Peter Treible, Vol. 2, p. 172, Court House, Stroudsburg, Pa.

General Services Administration, Washington, D.C. 20408
(Report of Treibleville Post Office and Peter Treible post master).

Zion Lutheran Cemetery Inscriptions, Middle Smithfield Twp. Monroe Co., Pa., Monroe Co. Historical Society, Stroudsburg, Pa.

1806 Tax list, L. Smithfield Twp. Northampton Co., Pa.
(Archives Bldg, Easton, Pa.)

Secondary and unpublished sources:

Hoffman, S. Luther, The Unwritten History of Smithfield Twp. Monroe County, Pennsylvania, Printed by the Artcraft Press, East Stroudsburg, Pa. 1938, p 52.

Mathews, Alfred, History of Wayne, Pike and Monroe County, Pa. R.T. Peck and Co., Phila. Pa. 1866, pp 1062.

Souder, M. Norman. "Historic Structures Report I, Architectural Data Section on Historic Buildings, Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area", Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service. July 1967.

Maps:

1860 Map of Monroe and Carbon Co., Pa. by Loomis, Way and Palmer Co. Monroe County Historical Society, Stroudsburg, Pa.

1875 Atlas of Monroe County, Pa. by F.W. Beers and Company, Monroe County Historical Society.

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Prepared by Elizabeth D. Walters
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Monroe County Historical
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August 1968
and edited by
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Project Historian
Historic American
Buildings Survey
August 13, 1970

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The house is a well-preserved example of the nineteenth century stone house typical in the Delaware Valley. The house, built in 1832, has been restored and much of the original hardware and woodwork is still in place. The frame addition to the stone house was built circa 1898.
2. Condition of fabric: Excellent.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The over-all dimensions of the stone house are 32'-3" (four-bay front) x 24'-4" (double-pile) in plan and 33'-0" from the basement floor to the ridge. It is two-and-one-half stories in height.

An addition measuring 16'-5" (two bays) on the front elevation and 35'-11" in depth lies contiguous to the northeast side of the stone house. The addition, which forms an L-plan for the entire structure, is of the same height and number of stories as the original house.

2. Foundations: The random rubble stone foundation is fully exposed on the southeast (front) elevation. The addition also has a rubble stone foundation.
3. Wall construction, finish, and color: The original dwelling is constructed of random rubble stone with ashlar quoins. The addition is of timber frame and covered with 7" clapboarding painted white.

4. Structural system, framing: In the stone house, the structural system is load bearing wall with wood joists running in the north-south direction. In the frame addition, floor joists run east-west, except in the attic roof framing where the line of the original gable is carried over the addition.
5. Porches, stoops, balconies: The front porch, laid on a rubble stone foundation, extends the length of the house and was built after 1898 when the addition was constructed. The porch floor is wood, as are the balustrade, steps, posts and roof framing. Some of the earlier porch columns are extant on the site. These are of octagonal cross section.

On the rear, a small porch sheltering a walkway from the stone house to the frame house has recently been built.

6. Chimneys: There are two stuccoed chimneys from 1832 and one of modern brick located on the northeast side of the frame house. The stuccoed chimneys were originally on each end of the stone house; no fireplaces appear in the frame house. Another fireplace, probably used for cooking, was located in a small room attached to the frame addition, and taken down during the recent restoration.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: On the first floor, there are two doorways on the front, a decorated one in the stone house and a simple one in the addition. Both open onto the porch. In back, there is only one door, but formerly there were three: a backdoor of the stone house and two from the frame house. One of these possibly led to a small back room which has now been removed, and where a small kitchen was located. In the basement, access is now under the porch on the front (southeast) side. Formerly, the basement access was through a large door on the southwest end of the stone house; this opening is now a large window.
 - b. Windows and shutters: All of the movable windows are double hung: they are generally nine-over-six on the main floor, and six-over-six on the second floor. On the back of the frame house, two large modern bay-type windows have been added. The attic has two small four-light windows on each end.

The main floor has two types of shutters: white solid panel shutters on the stone house; green louvered shutters of the frame. On the second floor, the window on the southwest end has half-louvered shutters painted green; all other shutters on the second floor are fully louvered.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The roof consists of one long gable across the front of the house, and a small intersecting gable covering the projecting part of the addition on the back. The covering is asphalt shingles over the original roof which was slate.
- b. Cornice, eaves: There is a decorative cornice below the eaves on the front side of the stone house; the pattern is alternating diamonds and ovals. A date plaque is located under the ridge on the southwest end of the stone house. The inscription reads: "P-T 1832", thought to mean Peter Treible built 1832. No decorative detail appears on the exterior of the frame house.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. Basement: The basement was formerly two large unimproved spaces, one under each house. Recently, a concrete floor was installed in a portion of the stone house, and a small apartment occupies the space. The area below the front porch has been enclosed recently. The original large door on the south-west end of the stone house is now a large window. The front portion of the stone house basement has a vinyl tile floor, and has a large open fireplace base on the northeast wall. To the rear of the house there is a projecting triangular fireplace base in the west corner. The floor here is dirt, as is the floor of the portion below the addition. The original foundation wall of the stone house has been penetrated to connect the two portions of the basement. The enclosed winder stairway of the stone house extends down into the basement.
- b. First floor: On the main living floor, the house is clearly divided into two parts; there was never an interior doorway connecting the stone house with the addition, one had to go outside to get from one house to the other (the front porch served this function in the front). The stone house has three rooms on the main level: the present entry hall (formerly the kitchen) with two outside doors, a winder stairway, and a large fireplace, probably used for cooking; a large living room; and a smaller room with a corner fireplace. This room was formerly a dead-ended room with access only through the living room. Recently a door was cut connecting it with the entry hall. In the frame house, there are two rooms on the ground floor: the

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kitchen on the front and the large dining room on the rear. A small enclosed conservatory provides the main access from the stone house to the frame addition. Besides the winder stairway in the stone house, there is a straight-run stairway between the kitchen and the dining room.

- c. Second floor: Upstairs, the house is divided into roughly the same areas as the first floor: the stone house contains a sitting room with an unusual fireplace and 2 bedrooms. A doorway connects the stone house to the frame house, where there are two bedrooms and a bath.
 - d. Attic: The attic is unfinished. It is divided into two parts by the old end wall of the stone house. The two four-light windows are still in existence. Two stairways lead to the attic: the winder stair in the original house and a straight-run stair starting from a closet in the addition.
2. Stairways: The stairway in the stone house is an enclosed winder stair with doors on both the landing and head. It is located adjacent to the fireplace in the entrance hall and runs from the first floor to the attic.

In the addition, an enclosed straight stair runs from the first floor to the attic, dividing the addition into two rooms.

3. Flooring: Bull pine planks, nailed.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: In the stone portion, the first floor contains horizontal boarded wainscot and chair rails. The second floor has chair rails. The remaining walls and ceilings were replastered in the early 1960s.

The kitchens in the addition has been treated in a similar fashion to the first floor. However, it has a one inch beaded board ceiling and false timbers.

5. Doorways: The interior doors throughout the house are four panel. Some doors have a bead at the corners of the openings.
6. Decorative features and trim: Originally, a hutch-like cabinet stood beside the large first-floor fireplace. There is a notable wooden mantel at the second floor fireplace in late Federal Style with curious oval rosettes and rippling fluting. The first floor mantels are more simple.

7. Hardware: Most of the interior doors contain the original thumb latches.

D. Site:

The axis through the front and back doors in the 1932 house is 15⁰ west of north. The property is located approximately 3 1/2 miles north of Shawnee on River Road at the foot of a wooded slope, about 1,000 feet up from the banks of the Delaware River. The property is located above the road and consists of the house, a garage, and two cave-like storehouses built into the side of the hill behind the house. There is a large front yard overlooking River Road; the driveway is gravel and the walks are slate.

Prepared by Kenneth N Clark
Project Supervisor
Historic American Buildings Survey
June 1968
and
Wesley Shank and Wm. C. Badger
Project Historians
Historic American Buildings Survey
July 1, 1970.

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) in cooperation with the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, supervised by the National Park Service and funded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The project, which extended from 1967 to 1971, was under the general direction of James C. Massey, Chief of HABS. This structure was measured and drawn in the summer of 1968 under the direction of Kenneth N. Clark (University of Arizona), Project Supervisor, by student assistant architects Andrei T. Banks (Howard University), Gary W. Kreger (University of Virginia), and John R. Naughton (University of Illinois) in the HABS field office at Bangor, Pennsylvania in the project area of the Tocks Island Reservoir and the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. The historical data was written by Elizabeth D. Walters, historian with the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area in 1968 and project historians, Wesley Shank and William C. Badger in 1970. The written data was edited for transmittal to the Library of Congress in the summer of 1980 by Kent R. Newell of the HABS staff. The photographs were taken by George Eisenman in 1968.