

Levi Springer Smoke House/
Spring House/Summer Kitchen
Fan Hollow Road
Uniontown Vicinity
Fayette County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5482-A

HABS
PA,
26-UNITON
2-A-

PHOTOGRAPHS

DRAWINGS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
Mid-Atlantic Regional Office
National Park Service
U.S. Custom House, Room 251
2nd & Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS
PA
26 UNIONTOWN,
2-A-

LEVI SPRINGER SMOKE HOUSE/SPRING HOUSE/ SUMMER KITCHEN

HABS No. PA-5482-A

- Location: on lane .3 of a mile southeast of Fan Hollow Road, .5 mile northeast of US Route 40, vicinity of Uniontown, Fayette County, Pennsylvania
- USGS Uniontown Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:
17.607440.4419370
- Present Owner: Fayette County Commissioners, Fayette County, Pennsylvania
- Present Occupant: "Friends of the Springer Homestead" (a restoration group) holds the lease; Barry Cunningham, caretaker. An historic house museum is being established in the main building.
- Significance: The Springer House is the second-generation dwelling of one of western Pennsylvania's pioneer families. The main building was built in 1817, as construction of the National Road approached Uniontown from the east. Conceived as a stage hotel for that road, it eventually served as a farm house. The smoke house itself is significant as one of the many outbuildings which were developed on the site of this residence.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

See HABS No. PA-5482 for specific historical information on the Springer House and surrounding site.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural Character: The Springer house is the second generation dwelling and business for one of western Pennsylvania's earliest pioneer families. It is an outstanding example of the nineteenth-century tavern type, indicated by the wide porches along both levels and both sides of the long elevations, and the extra doors entering onto them.

No less than ten outbuildings were added to the site during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, in addition to the smoke house/spring house/summer kitchen remaining from the eighteenth century (HABS No. PA-5482 A, "1" on the site plan). It is built as two nearly separate units, staggered in relation to each other and sharing only part of a party wall, and having two adjacent pitched roofs in parallel. The smoke house section is fitted with wrought-iron hooks on its tie beams and still shows evidence of the central fires built directly on the floor. Despite its smoke house function, there are two windows, one each in the north and south walls. The gable of this section projects forward over a paved work area in front, making, together with the summer kitchen, a pair of gables in the same plane. The summer kitchen is a similar squarish building, but built staggered forward of the smoke house (only their front gables coinciding). The summer kitchen is also downslope from the smoke house and has a cellar, containing the spring; the room above is entered from under the smoke house's projecting roof, and has two windows, to the front and to the south side. An additional door faces downslope, above the door to the spring. There is a fireplace on the rear (east) wall and a small enclosed cupboard to the right of it; the opposite corners both show evidence of triangular corner shelves. The earliest photograph of the site (HABS photo 22) shows that the wooden gables of this building were once stepped in three levels, as a parapet.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

See HABS No. PA-5482 for specific sources of information.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey in cooperation with the America's Industrial Heritage Project, National Park Service. The measured drawings and historical report were prepared in 1989 by Charles Bergengren, under the direction of Alison K. Hoagland, HABS Senior Historian, who edited the historical report in 1992.