

YOST LOG HOUSE
Lewis Lane & Morris Road
Whitpain
Montgomery County
Pennsylvania

HABS NO. PA-6016

HABS
PA
46-WHIT,
3-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

YOST LOG HOUSE

HABS NO. PA-6016

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PA
46-WHITE,
3-

Location: 300 Morris Road, Whitpain Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

Significance: The Yost Log House illustrates the vernacular, early settlement type of residence common in this area of Pennsylvania during the colonial period.

Description: This 23' by 14', one-and-one-half story rectangular structure was moved from its original location in 1970. It now faces south on the Haas property, near a driveway leading from Lewis Lane. The western section, 14' wide, is made from logs chinked with mortar; ceiling joists protrude through the wall. The condition of the logs vary, with several near ground level appearing to have been replaced recently. The eastern part of the cabin is red field stone laid randomly, with larger stones at the corners approximately 4' above. Here the joists are not visible. A stone foundation runs under both sections, though the current concrete foundation is not visible. Along the rear, signs indicate the cabin originally sat lower. Wood shingles cover the gable roof, which has a flat-roofed dormer. The entrance has a Dutch board-and-batten door. On the south elevation is a pair of four-light casement windows; the same type appear on the west elevation. On the rear are two single-hung sash windows: in the log section is a three-over-six-light, while the stone section has a four-over-four-light window. In each gable end are four-light casement windows, and the eastern end has an interior stone chimney.

The interior of the cabin has one room on each floor. The floors are wide plank. Along the east wall of the first floor is a stone fireplace, located north of center to provide room for the staircase. The fireplace was rebuilt after the move and now also has a wood mantle and a mechanical spit, both of which were added after the move. The stone section was sealed with gunnite, then covered with plaster painted white. In the southeast corner is a board-and-batten door covering the narrow stairway to the second floor. The second floor also has exposed rafters. While the rafters appear to be original, the roof was replaced after the move.

History: The cabin's original date of construction and its builders are unknown. Neither tax nor title records provide enough information to determine when the cabin was built, though a 1798 tax record includes a description which indicates that it was here at least by that time. It is also not clear whether the stone section was original or an addition. At this point the cabin faced east, on a tract of farmland on Yost Road south of its present location.

By the middle of the 19th century the cabin connected south to a two-and-one-half story addition. Probably at this time a wood partition was added to the cabin, separating the wood from the stone section. The interior was whitewashed, and a pipe ran from the fireplace to a cast-iron stove in the wooden section. Both parts of the house were cover by untreated clapboards. Photographs from immediately before the relocation suggest that the door had been closed, and entrance to the cabin came through the main block. In 1967 Mrs. Donald Spacht inherited the property from her uncle, who had lived there for over sixty years.

Sources:

Gerhart, Marjorie H. "The Haas House and 'Yost Log Cabin,'" Crossroads in Time, Whitpain, p. 340-45.

Price & Dickey, Architects. "The Yost Road Log Cabin, Whitpain Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania," (unpublished report prepared for Dr. & Mrs. F. Otto Haas) Media, Pennsylvania, 24 October 1969.

Historian: William Wright, summer 1994