

Slateford House (Munsch House,
Mount Minsi Farm)
Private road .4 miles north of T709
and .7 miles west of U.S. Rte. 611
Portland vicinity, Upper Mount Bethel
Township
Northampton County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-1249

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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

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. PA-1249

SLATEFORD HOUSE
(Munsch House, Mount Minsi Farm)

Location: On private road .4 miles north of T709 and .7 miles west of U.S. Rte. 611, in Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, Portland Vicinity, upper Mount Bethel Township, Northampton County, Pennsylvania.

USGS Stroudsburg Quadrangle, Universal Transverse. Mercator Coordinates: 18.489180.4533230.

Present Owner: United States Government.

Present Use: Vacant.

Significance: The Slateford farm was established in the first quarter of the nineteenth century, retaining two of its early structures. The main house, built before 1850, exhibits finely crafted interior and exterior ornamentation.

PART I. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The farm house was built in the first half of the nineteenth century. Except for the addition of a lean-to on the rear, the house is a good example of a central-hall-plan dwelling.
2. Condition of fabric: Very good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The original portion of the two-and-one-half story house measures 40'-4" (five bay) x 30'-6" (two bay, double-pile). The single story addition on the northeast corner measures 17'-4" x 18'-1".
2. Foundations: Random rubble stone.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: The original unpainted weathered clapboard siding is completely covered with buff colored stucco.
4. Structural system and framing: Wood frame. The roof frame is composed of large hewn mortise, tenon and pegged timbers and is typical of German frame construction.

Supported by large squared timbers, the main beams parallel to the ridge carry the common rafters which in turn carry the purlins.

5. Porches: A screened porch nine feet wide extends two-thirds the length of the south (front) facade; the western third of the porch is open. The porch, with four evenly spaced heavy support columns and a shed roof, was added in the early twentieth century.

There is also a small screened porch at the kitchen entrance.

6. Chimneys: Two interior end chimneys are located off center of the gable ends. The flues, however, have been rectified and pierce the roof at the ridge.

7. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: The main entrance door is a large 8'-0" high door with two wood panels below a glass window. All other doors are six-panel wood doors except two four-panel doors in the kitchen and dining room.
- h. Windows and shutters: Six-over-six-light sash windows exist throughout the original house with two-over-two-light windows in the kitchen addition. The shutters have been removed, but the hangers remain.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The gable roof is covered with slates quarried on the premises and are exposed 8" to the weather. The ridge and edges are capped in concrete tiles that appear to have been homemade.

The front porch is covered with roll composition roofing. The shed roof on the kitchen is covered with composition shingles and the kitchen porch roof is covered with corrugated metal.

- b. Cornice, eaves: The boxed cornice on the south (front) elevation is ornamented with geometric floral patterns as found on the mantel and window trim.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. First floor: The central-hall plan consists of two rooms flanking each side of the center stair hall. The kitchen in the northeast corner addition is adjacent to and centered on the dining room.

- b. Second floor: The second floor is a repeat of the first floor except part of the northeast corner room was partitioned off for a bath.
 - c. Attic: The attic is completely floored with an exposed framing structure.
 - d. Cellar: The cellar is divided into two large rooms and a wine cellar with an iron vault door.
2. Stairs: The center hall contains the stairway which runs from the basement to the attic. The open stair from the first to the second floor has a 7" riser and 12" tread. The stairs to the attic and cellar are enclosed.
 3. Flooring: The original wood flooring varies in width from 6"-13".
 4. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls and ceilings are painted plaster, partially covered with paper. In the center hall on the first floor, high wainscot was applied to the walls at a later date.
 5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Six-panel 6'-4" high doors exist throughout the house except for later four-panel doors in the addition.
 6. Decorative features and trim: Geometric floral pattern rosettes are found on the window trim, mantel and exterior cornice. The chair rails remain throughout.
 7. Hardware: Various examples of early door latches remain, including elbow latches and open-spring latches.
- D. Site:
1. General setting and orientation: The house is located on a high ridge overlooking the valley, facing south.
 2. Outbuildings:
 - a. Small dwelling: The small dwelling is thought to be the original dwelling house on the farm. Located southeast of the main house, it stands one-and-one-half stories in height and measures 25'-8" x 25'-0" in over-all dimensions, including a small lean-to on the rear.

Laid on a rubble stone foundation, the wood frame structure is covered in wane boards and is capped by a simple pitch gable roof covered with slates. Like the house, concrete tiles cover the ridge. A small rustic projection shelters the main entrance. A large brick chimney exists on the north facade; the exterior, which is exposed, is covered in concrete, while the large walk-in interior fireplace measures 9'-6" and retains the original plain bracketed mantel.

Entrances into the dwelling consist of one exterior door composed of three glass panes over two panes with two wooden panels beneath and access to the basement is through an exterior vertical plank door on the northeast corner. A six-over-six-light sash window, adjacent to a four-pane window, pierces the front facade, while a leaded stained glass window pierces the north side. There is a four-over-two-light sash window in the attic and two two-over-two windows in the rear addition.

The first floor plan is composed of two small rooms and a bath in the addition. The enclosed stairway in the northeast corner runs to the attic which is completely floored.

- b. Spring house: This outbuilding is a well preserved example of an early nineteenth century spring house.

Located northeast of the main house, the single-story stone structure measures 21'-2" x 14'-1" and is rectangular in plan. The gable roof is covered with slates and the ridge is capped with concrete tiles.

The structure contains two unconnected rooms; the south end is a wash room and the smaller room to the north end is a spring room. The original door on the wash room is hung on wrought iron strap hinges, while the door to the spring room is missing. The only window is located on the east wall of the wash room and is leaded stained glass.

Prepared by Roy C. Pledger
Project Supervisor
Historic American
Buildings Survey
August 1969.

PART II. 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 1969 under the direction of Roy C. Pledger (Texas A&M University), Project Supervisor, by student assistant architects Robert J. Dunay (Virginia Polytechnic Institute), William H. Edwards (University of Illinois), and Martin J. Rosenblum (University of Illinois) in the HABS field office at Hidden Lake, Pennsylvania in the project area of the Tocks Island Reservoir and the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. 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 Jack E. Boucher in 1969.