

John Conrad House (Sheidy House)
Sheidy Road (Township 489)
Mount Pleasant Vicinity
Penn Township
Berks County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-259

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PA,
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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-259

JOHN CONRAD HOUSE

(Sheidy House)

- Location: On Sheidy Road (Township 489), between State Route 183 (Bernville Road) and the Tulpehocken Creek; Mount Pleasant Vicinity, Penn Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania.
- Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: (USGS Bernville Quadrangle Map) 18.407700, 4473820.
- Present Owner: United States Government.
- Present Occupant: None; last occupant was the Sheidy Family.
- Present Use: The house and barn were dismantled and moved to new locations. The remainder of the outbuildings were demolished in 1977 by the United States Army Corps of Engineers as part of the Blue Marsh Lake Dam Project.
- In 1976-77, Robert Daugherty dismantled and moved the house to Kintnersville, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, where it is stored in a barn. Mr. Daugherty plans to reassemble the parts as a one-and-a-half-storied structures, not as originally built.
- The barn was disassembled and moved to the farm of Jacob B. Stoltzfus near Myerstown, Lebanon County, Pennsylvania. The rebuilt barn is smaller than the original barn.
- Significance: This is an excellent example of a typical Pennsylvania German family farm that has developed continuously since the middle of the eighteenth century. The well-planned farm ensemble (termed die Bauerei) includes a mid-nineteenth century log house, a large bank barn, and a full complement of traditional outbuildings. The farm is located in an area, settled in the eighteenth century by German immigrants, which provides a good example of a homogeneous Pennsylvania German community.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: The original house was probably log, built circa 1750 when Stephen Brecht acquired the property. There was also probably an early log barn on the site. The present log house was built in 1832-33. The exact date of construction was unknown until the house was dismantled and three names and a date were found under the plaster on the original (west) kitchen ceiling boards. The date was January 22, 1833.

Until this evidence was discovered there were two conflicting stories about the date of the house. Some believed the house was half log and half frame built at two different times. The east half was thought to be the original log house on the property, built circa 1750. The frame west half was thought to have been added in the middle of the nineteenth century. All this was proved to be incorrect when the house was dismantled.

The bank barn dates from the middle of the nineteenth century. The outbuildings were built at various times during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries as the farm expanded.

2. Architect: None.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The following is an incomplete chain of title to the land on which the farm is located. Chain of title information before circa 1875 is often based on educated guesses using the best available information. The records for Berks County before 1875 are vague and often incomplete. To this day there are no property assessment maps for Berks County. Reference is to the Office of the Recorder of Deeds, Berks County, except where noted.

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- 1745 Deed dated November 27, 1745, recorded in Philadelphia in Patent book 12, page 340 Proprietors of the Province of Pennsylvania (John Penn, Thomas Penn, and Richard Penn)
to
Stephen Brecht (Brecht, Bryard, or Bright)
- 1754 Deed dated April 20, 1754, recorded December 21, 1764, in Book 4, page 94
Stephen Brecht (by will to his sons)
to
George Adam Brecht (the house and 150 acres)
David Brecht (and only)
Hans Wendel Brecht (land only)
- 1754 Deed dated April 20, 1754, recorded December 21, 1764, in Book 4, page 94
George Adam Brecht and Maria Catherine, his wife
to
Jacob Conrad
- 1766 Deed dated July 19, 1766, recorded in Philadelphia in Patent Book AA, Volume 8, page 153
Proprietors of the Province of Pennsylvania
to
Jacob Conrad (additional land)
- 1796 Deed dated September 6, 1796, recorded January 28, 1797 in Book 15, page 408
Jacob Conrad and Maria Catherine, his wife
to
Joseph Conrad (their son)
- 1821 Deed dated July 17, 1821, recorded December 15, 1821, in Book 32, page 127
Joseph Conrad
to
John Conrad
(The original farm was divided into two distinct farms at this time in order to give the sons of Joseph Conrad--John and Jacob--a separate establishment each. The part herein described refers to John Conrad's farm, while the other farm is discussed separately. See the HABS report on the Joseph Conrad farm, HABS No. PA-260, for further documentation and description.)

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- 1866 Transfer by Will recorded January 30, 1866, in Will Book 11, page 453
John Conrad
to
John A. Conrad (his son)
- 1891 Deed dated January 20, 1891, recorded January 20, 1891, in book Misc. 37, page 80
Dr. John A. Conrad
to
Reeuben Landis, assignee of Dr. John A. Conrad (to satisfy the debts of Dr. John A. Conrad)
- 1892 Deed dated April 1, 1892, recorded April 2, 1892 in Book 202, page 22
Reuben Landis, assignee of Dr. John A. Conrad
to
William Speicher, in trust for Dr. John A. Conrad
- 1895 Deed dated June 22, 1895, recorded June 22, 1895, in Berks County Prothonotary's Office, Sheriff's Deed Docket book 14, page 157
William Speicner, in trust for Dr. John A. Conrad
to
John B. Knorr
- 1895 Deed dated October 22, 1895, recorded October 25, 1895, in Book 250, page 193
John B. Knorr
to
George O. Fahrenbach

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1919 George D. Fahrenbach died, leaving the property to Sarah F. Warner, Frank A. Fahrenbach, George W. Fahrenbach, John H. Fahrenbach, Mary R. Bender, and Charles D., her husband

1933 Deed dated May 19, 1933, recorded June 16, 1933, in Book 755, page 245
Estate of George D. Fahrenbach
to
Calvin T. Sneydy and Naomi, his wife

4. Builders: When the house was dismantled, the names of three builders and a date were found under the plaster on the original (west) kitchen ceiling boards. The names were Peter Kershner, John Bender, and Harry Minnick. As they were not family members, it is assumed that outsiders were brought in to construct the house. The house, barn, and outbuildings conform to the building traditions of the Pennsylvania Germans, so the builders were probably local craftsmen.
5. Alterations and additions: The rear wing was added ca. 1870-1890. The front porch was also probably added at this time. Interior alterations included dividing the kitchen, which comprised the west half of the main block, into two rooms and a hall, and converting the east bedroom to a kitchen.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

The area along the Tulphocken Creek, where the Conrad Farm is located, is a good example of a homogeneous Pennsylvania German region. The area was settled early in the eighteenth century by German immigrants from the Rhineland area of present-day Germany. The settlers continued many German traditions and this area has remained predominantly German even into the twentieth century.

William Penn had traveled to Germany during the late seventeenth century seeking German recruits for his colony. The land this farm is on was purchased by Stephen Brecht directly from the Penn family, probably a result of Penn's activities in Germany.

The group of German immigrants who settled in Berks County came from a German colony in Schoharie, New York. In 1723 fifteen

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families traveled down the Susquehanna River to the Tulpehocken Creek to settle. The Conrad family possibly dates back to this colony. A John Conrad was one of the colonists. He was at Schoharie as early as 1710, and was recorded as having a wife, Maria Barbara, and five children in 1717. Conrad traveled to the Tulpehocken Valley between 1723 and 1725, and was a landowner in the region by 1732.

The original owners, the Brechts (Breghts, Bryards, or Brights), are a very prominent local family with branches throughout the area. Beatrice Sheidy, for example, the daughter of Calvin T. Sheidy, the last private owner of the farm, is the granddaughter seven times removed of Stephen Brecht.

The Conrads, a Moravian family, were also a well known local family engaged in local commerce and industry. The family ran into difficulty and lost control of the farm in the 1890s. The farm had been operated on an absentee basis for many years, which allowed the farm to decline markedly from its earlier fine condition. When the Sheidys purchased the farm in 1933 they upgraded it to excellent condition before it was acquired for the Blue Marsh Lake Project in the 1970s.

The location of the farm is significant not only because of the Pennsylvania German community, but because of the proximity to the Union Canal. The Canal was to connect the Schuylkill and Susquehanna Rivers with a navigable lock canal. Although never completed, the Canal operated through this area between 1828 and 1884, providing a direct social and economic link with other parts of Pennsylvania. Even with this contact the Mount Pleasant area retained most of its Germanic traditions by choice.

The architecture and layout of the Conrad farm, as well as many other farms in the area, is Germanic in character. The German settlers transplanted their traditions to the New World where they were carried on by subsequent generations. The specific Germanic architectural features of the Conrad Farm will be discussed in the architectural description.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

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Berger, Mrs. Walter, Allentown, Pennsylvania, telephone conversation, 1977.

Berks Title Insurance Company of Reading, Pennsylvania, Deed Title Search, in the possession of Beatrice E. Sheidy, Bernville, Pennsylvania.

Daugherty, Robert, Kintnersville, Pennsylvania, dismantled John Conrad House, telephone conversations and correspondence, 1977.

Dries, John, Bernville, Pennsylvania, long-time employee on John Conrad Farm, oral interviews, 1976.

Graeff, Marie, Bernville, Pennsylvania, local historian telephone conversation, 1977.

Jones, Thomas E., Schaefferstown, Pennsylvania, restoration consultant relocating some log structures in the Blue Marsh Lake Project Area, Treasurer of the Log House Society, telephone, conversations and correspondence, 1971.

Long, Amos, Jr., Annville, Pennsylvania, local historian and author, telephone conversation, 1977.

Meiser, George M., IX, Limekiln, Pennsylvania, local historian, telephone conversations and correspondence, 1977.

Reifsnyder, Mrs. William, Bernville, Pennsylvania, telephone conversation, 1977.

Sheidy, Beatrice E., Bernville, Pennsylvania, local historian and resident of John Conrad Farm, oral interviews, telephone conversations and correspondence, 1976, 1977.

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Philadelphia District, Brian Haverin, Chief, General Design Section, Frain Guss, District Historian, Anthony Bley, Photographer, telephone conversations and correspondence, 1977.

2. Photographs: Beatrice Sheidy of Bernville, Pennsylvania, has in her possession a series of photographs that document the late nineteenth and twentieth century development of the farm. A photo marked 1895 or 1896 gives a clear view of the farm and all the major outbuildings. The barn and the large outbuildings are painted red with white trim, and the corncrib is in its original location, fully 90 degrees from

its present location. There are no silos, heifer barn (an earlier, small pig barn is there instead), or chicken houses shown at this time. A series of other photos show a windmill (photo dated 1914), and all the other outbuildings and details added in the twentieth century as part of the modernization process. There are also showing Conrad's Covered Bridge which crossed the Tulpehocken Creek just west of the farm.

3. Bibliography of secondary sources:

"Bible Belt Politician," Life, 1950, p. 124. Photo of local politician with John Conrad House in background.

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Davis, F. A. Illustrated Historical Atlas of Berks County. Reading, Pennsylvania: Reading Publishing House, 1876.

Dornbusch, Charles H., and John K. Heyl. Pennsylvania German Barns. The Pennsylvania German Folklore Society, Volume 21: 1958. Breinigsville, Pennsylvania: The Pennsylvania German Society, 1958.

Duggan, Dick. "Let's Visit the Sheidy Farm," The Berks-Lehigh Farmer, Volume 4, No. 3, (September, 1959), pp. 4-6.

Graeff, Marie Knorr, ed. 1723-1973 Anniversary Magazine of the Tulpehocken. Womelsdorf, Pennsylvania: The Tulpehocken Settlement Historical Society, 1973.

Klees, Fredric. The Pennsylvania Dutch. New York: Macmillan Company, 1950.

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- Moser, Nick. "Penn Township," Reading Sunday Eagle Magazine, December 1, 1957, pp. 1-3.
- Onuferko, Martha. "Family Brings Log House Home," The News, Frenchtown, New Jersey, July 7, 1977.
- "Pictorial Review," Reading Sunday Eagle, September 22, 1963 and November 15, 1964.
- Santamour, William C. "Farmhouse Coming Apart at the Beams," Reading Eagle, May 15, 1977.
- Township Map of Berks County Pennsylvania from Actual Surveys by L. Fagen. Philadelphia: H.F. Bridgens, 1862.
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- Westenbaker, Thomas Jefferson. The Founding of American Civilization: The Middle Colonies. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1938.
- Weslager, C. A. The Log Cabin In America From Pioneer Days to the Present. New Brunswick, New Jersey: Rutgers University Press, 1969.

Prepared by Thomas Kheel
Project Historian, 1976
Deborah S. Burns
Historian, 1978
Historic American
Buildings Survey

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This is an excellent example of a well-planned ensemble of Pennsylvania German farm buildings. Many features of the farm, which can be traced to German architecture, reflect the Germanic heritage of the builders. The mid-nineteenth century log house is of unusual construction; the horizontal logs are set into corner posts instead of being notched at the corners. The multi-level bank barn is one of the largest in the area. There are two masonry arched root cellars (known locally as "arches" or Geweibkeller), one in the cellar of the house and another built into the side of a hill. The farm has numerous outbuildings situated conveniently around the farm.
2. Condition of building fabric: House disassembled and in storage, barn dismantled and reconstructed on a smaller scale, the remainder demolished in 1976 and 1977.

B. Description of the Exterior of the House:

1. Over-all dimensions: The main block is rectangular, 38' -9" (four-bay front) by 26' -11" (two bays). A wing, 18' -10" x 16' -5", projects from the south (rear) elevation. The main block is two-and-a-half stories with the wing being one-and-a-half stories. The house is situated on a sloping site, fully exposing the basement on the south (rear) elevation.
2. Foundations: The foundation is constructed of randomly laid, rough limestone masonry.
3. Wall construction, finish, and color: The main block of the house is built of roughly hewn squared logs laid horizontally, and then mortised, tenoned and pegged into hewn vertical corner and intermediate posts. Diagonal braces flush with the wall are added for strength and stability. The Germans used many methods for constructing their log buildings, but most were notched at the corners. The use of corner posts is unusual in general, but a common form of log construction in this particular area. This type of construction seems related to half-timber construction. The corner and intermediate posts are constructed like the frame of a half-timbered building, but instead of mud or brick infill, the infill is of horizontal logs. Both log and half-timber were common construction types in Germany. It was this technology that the German immigrants transported to their American settlements. For other structures in the area using the same type of log construction see HABS reports on

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the Stamm House, built either late 18th century or early 19th century, where the first story is log set into corner posts, while the second story is dovetailed (HABS No. PA-266); the Konig-Speicher House, built probably late 18th century, remodeled early 19th century (HABS No. PA-258); and the Dundore House, built circa 1840 (HABS No. PA-261).

The rear wing of the John Conrad House is of frame construction. The entire house is sheathed with clapboarding, painted white with green trim.

4. Structural system, framing: The exterior walls of the main block are load bearing logs set into corner and intermediate posts. Although the log walls had an intermediate post, the plates were single logs over 38' in length, and the end plates were single logs 26' in length. This evidence further confirms that the house was built at one time. Most interior walls are light weight, stud framing, except for a central log wall. All of the log joints are mortised, tenoned, and pegged with Roman numerals clearly numbering the members. The rear wing is of frame construction. There is no ridge pole in either attic; the rafters are lapped and pegged. The logs and timbers are made primarily of oak.
5. Porches: There is a six-foot deep wooden porch running the full length of the northwest (front) elevation of the house. The porch has a turned column at each end and two sets of paired columns towards the center. Simple brackets connect the columns with the porch roof. A plain railing with a swinging gate at each front door surrounds the porch.

There is a porch across the northeast (side) elevation at the basement level of the rear wing. The porch is supported by plain columns. A balustrade around the top was added circa 1940. This porch protects an entrance to the cellar kitchen.

There is a one-bay, gabled entrance porch on the northwest elevation of the main block. This was probably the entrance to the original kitchen. When the house was being dismantled evidence was found indicating a two-story porch across the southeast (rear) elevation probably original to the main block.

6. Chimneys: There is a brick chimney running from the basement through the roof on the northeast wall of the main block. In the attic the chimney curves in order to puncture the roof at the peak of center. This chimney served a large walk-in fireplace in the cellar. Another brick chimney is found at the southeast end of the rear wing venting the fireplace in the cellar kitchen. When the house was dismantled evidence was found indicating a large cooking fireplace on the southwest wall in the original kitchen. The logs of that wall framed a large opening approximately 8' square and the Sheidys said they had removed the remains of a chimney between the second floor and attic.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: There are two doors providing entry into the main block on the northwest (front) elevation. The wood paneled doors each have two long, narrow, arched lights surrounded by heavy moldings. Evidence found when the house was dismantled indicated that the north front door may originally have been a window.

Below the door on the southwest (side) elevation of the main block, the entrance to the original kitchen, there is a door facing northwest into the side of a hill, which leads to an outdoor bakeoven, smokehouse, and root cellar.

The cellar level of the main block is entered by a set of double doors on the southeast (rear) elevation. Two single doors, one on the east, the other on the west elevation, lead into the cellar kitchen in the rear wing.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Most of the windows are six-over-six-light, double-hung wooden sash. There are two four-light casement windows in each gable end. Many of the individual lights are glazed with wavy, antique glass. Most windows have movable paneled shutters which are fitted with the original metal latches and hardware.
8. Roof: The house has a gable roof covered with standing seam tin roofing. The tin was placed over split wooden shingles, the undersides of which are visible in the attic.

C. Description of the Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. First floor: The first floor of the main block originally had the traditional Pennsylvania German floor plan of three rooms. The room which ran the full depth of the house on the west side was originally the kitchen (die Kich). Its large size was justified by the many domestic activities performed in the kitchen, and it served as the center for household activities. There were two rooms on the east side. The front room was originally the parlor (die Schtubb) and the room behind that was a bedroom (die Kammer), traditionally reserved for the parents or grandparents.

There were two front entrances, a common Pennsylvania German design. One led into the parlor and the other led into the kitchen. This seems to be a substitute design for a hallway, providing individual access into each major room. Traditionally the entrance to the parlor was for formal occasions, while the kitchen entrance was used every day. If the evidence is correct that the east door was originally a window, then this house was unusual not to have two front entrances. There was also a service entrance to the kitchen which led to the domestic outbuildings.

The three-room arrangement with two entrances, this type and variations, was common in this community. For other examples see HABS reports on the Joseph Conrad House, built circa 1815 (HABS No. PA-260); the Dundore House, built circa 1840 (HABS No. PA-261); the Isaac Stamm House, built circa 1855 (HABS No. PA-112); the Eliza Stamm House, built circa 1865 (HABS No. PA-113); the Jacob Gruber House, built 1895-6 (HABS No. PA-262).

The interior has been altered. The original kitchen has been divided into a hall with enclosed winding stairs to the second floor, and two storage rooms to the right. The parlor remains the same, but the bedroom was converted into a modern kitchen.

- Access to the rear addition is at the end of the hall. The addition is one room used for storage above the cellar kitchen. The end wall has a built-in closet and two straight-run stairs, one leading to the cellar kitchen and the other to the attic.
- b. Second floor: The stairs rising from the entry hall lead to a landing forming a small upstairs hall. There are two bedrooms on either side of the hall. A small bathroom is located at the end of the hall against the back wall. There are stairs to the attic of the main block running above the main stairs. Access to the attic stairs is through the front bedroom on the west side. The second floor of the rear addition is an attic, accessible through the south bedroom.
- c. Cellar: There is a single cellar room under the east half of the main block. Originally there was a large walk-in fireplace on the east wall. Access to the cellar is either from stairs running under the main stairs or through double doors to the exterior on the southeast (rear) elevation. An interior masonry-arched root cellar (Gewelbkeller) is under the west half of the main block. Access to the root cellar is through the cellar kitchen in the rear wing. The cellar of the rear wing contains a kitchen. Access to the kitchen is through the east cellar under the main block, the stairs on the south wall, and through two exterior doors. On the southeast wall of the kitchen is a large, iron butcher's stove placed in front of a fireplace and using the fireplace as an exhaust. A door on the southwest elevation of the cellar kitchen leads to an exterior masonry-arched root cellar built into a retaining wall. Above the entrance to this root cellar is the inscription "AHC 1878."
2. Stairways: All stairways are composed of tight, winding risers enclosed in wooden stairwells. This type of stairway, locally known as snail or Schnecke stairways, was the typical form used in eighteenth and nineteenth century Pennsylvania German houses.
3. Flooring: The first floor has even width oak flooring mostly covered with linoleum. The second floor has oak floor boards. The two northeast bedrooms have even width yellow

pine floor boards. The front bedroom on the southwest side has floor boards painted to resemble oak. The rear bedroom on the southwest side has brown painted floor boards. The attic floor is of wide, rough, wooden planks. The cellar under the east half of the main block has a concrete floor. The cellar kitchen flooring is partly wooden boards and partly concrete (near the butcher's stove). Both arched root cellars have floors of running bond, brick paving, which is conventional in root cellars of this area.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: Most rooms have plaster on lath walls covered with decorative wallpaper pasted over the plaster. The cellar kitchen walls are narrow, vertical, tongue and groove wooden strips (about two inches wide), with one simulated seam between each actual seam.
5. Doorways and doors: All doors are made of wooden panels and the doorways are surrounded by simple moldings. The doors are now painted white, but some were once painted to resemble oak.
6. Trim: All of the rooms have simple baseboards painted white. The two east bedrooms have chair rails.
7. Hardware: Most of the doors are fitted with simple wrought iron latches with porcelain knobs.
8. Lighting: The farm was electrified in 1926 drawing power from the nearby Staudt-Kalbach Mill. Some of the rooms still have the early push button electric switches. A 1930s vintage Art Deco light fixture hangs from the ceiling in the modern kitchen (the former first floor bedroom).
9. Heating: There are at present no fireplaces in the main block of the house. Originally there was a large walk-in fireplace in the cellar under the east half of the house and a large cooking fireplace on the southwest wall of the original kitchen. It is possible that parts of the house were heated by iron stoves. The Pennsylvania Germans used iron-plate stoves as early as the eighteenth century. The cellar kitchen in the rear wing has a large fireplace with a butcher's stove in front of it. Central heating was installed in 1935. At this time the fireplace in the east cellar was closed and used for the central heating system. Indoor plumbing was also installed in 1935.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The house is oriented to the northwest, facing Sheidy Road at a slight angle. Sheidy Road runs in a northeasterly direction through the middle of the property. Sheidy Road was originally a private lane approaching the farm. The road separates the house from the barn and most of the outbuildings, as is customary in Pennsylvania German farm planning.

The outbuildings associated with domestic tasks, such as the root cellar, smokehouse and bakeoven were clustered around the house, while outbuildings associated with farming, such as the corn crib, chicken house and wagon shed, were clustered around the barn. This type of arrangement is typical of many Pennsylvania German farms. See HABS report on the Dundore Farm (HABS No. PA-261).

The house is approximately 150' west of the Tulpehocken Creek and the Union Canal. The land between the house and the creek slopes gradually. The private farm lane was changed to a public road (originally called Womelsdorf Road) when the Union Canal was being built. A covered bridge, called Conrad's Covered Bridge, was built to carry the road across the Tulpehocken Creek in 1839. When the covered bridge was demolished in 1960 and replaced by a concrete bridge, the path of Sheidy Road was straightened. This left the house at its present oblique orientation to the road.

2. Landscape design: Large locust trees and, until recently, white fencing line the approach to the farm along Sheidy Road between State Route 183 (Bernville Road) and the house. The property is well planted with Norway Spruce trees (circa 1935) and other shrubs, trees and flowers. Large walnut trees surround the barn. A small, ornamental stone springhouse (approximately 6' square) was built circa 1940 at the head of a spring about 50' south of the house. A small fountain built circa 1940 is in the yard to the east of the house.

The house, barn and outbuildings are situated to take advantage of the rolling contours of the land. The multi-level buildings built into banks provide access on various levels as well as natural light and ventilation. This type of setting is a characteristic feature of Pennsylvania German farms.

3. Outbuildings:

a. Barn and barnyard:

The large bank barn dominates the farm. Its design is typical of most Pennsylvania German barns. The barn is situated on a sloping site providing access on both the north and south elevations.

The barn is constructed of massive hand hewn oak timbers with mortise and tenon joints. Knee braces and angle braces perpendicular to the slope of the rafters support the roof. Fine built-in ladders are dowelled into the columns of the supporting trusses to provide access to the haylofts. The barn has two main levels with lofts. The barn is sheathed with vertical boards. The gable roof is covered with standing seam tin roofing which was placed over original wooden shingles. There are three ventilator cupolas on the ridge of the roof. These are rectangular with louvered arches on each side topped with pyramidal roofs with brackets and finials.

The barn is one of the largest in the area measuring 110' by 40'. The original barn was six structural bays with four sets of large double doors on the north (uphill) side. The barn has been lengthened. There is a projecting forebay (also known as the vorbau or vorschuss) on the south (downhill) side which provides a sheltered area in front of the stable entrances. A straw shed, 75' by 18', was added to the south elevation circa 1896.

The barn is painted white with "Calvin T. Sheidy 1921 Valley View Farm" painted in black letters on the south wall of the straw shed (painted circa 1940). Window frames are painted green. Hex signs, hand painted by a locally prominent artist, Johnny Ott, in the 1940s, add color to the south elevation.

The lower level is the stable area. This level is one continuous room with concrete floor and tin ceiling, in accordance with state milk regulations. A single row of metal cattle stanchions running the full length of the barn were added in 1944 to replace the individual stalls.

The south elevation of the barn originally had eight doorways leading into the individual stalls. These doorways were two peice "Dutch" doors, but the top sections have been replaced by nine-light factory-type windows and some of the doors have been permanently closed. This alteration was done when the individual stalls were replaced. A vacuum tube pipe system was installed in 1936 as part of an automatic milking machine system. Iron columns, some filled with concrete, have been added to provide additional support for the upper level. The columns supporting the projecting straw shed are also iron and support wooden columns with knee braces.

The upper level of the barn was the threshing floor. The central area is entered through the four sets of double doors on the north elevation. There are walls built between the bays to contain the grain being processed. The bays to the left and right were storage mows for straw and hay. There are two sets of four grain storage bins in the far end bays. A steel track arrangement runs the full length of the inside peak of the roof to provide for movement of hay and straw with a hay hook. The lower and upper levels are joined by a series of "hay holes" through which hay and straw were dropped for use on the lower level.

There are two concrete silos at the east end of the barn. One measures 12' x 35' and the smaller one is 8' x 35'. Both are made of thin concrete blocks set vertically and held in place by horizontal rows of metal reinforcing tie rods bolted around the outside. Both silos have an attached chute which contains a series of movable doors and a ladder for service. They have flat roofs with pipe railings surrounding the top. They were both constructed by the Terre-Hill Silo Company of Terre-Hill, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in 1937 and 1938 at a cost of \$800 and \$1200 respectively.

There is a barnyard enclosed by a stone fence on the south side of the barn along Sheidy Road. The barnyard is approximately 50' by 100'.

- b. Chicken houses: There are two small frame chicken houses west of the barn. They were built circa 1935. One has a gable roof, the other a shed roof. Both have numerous windows for ventilation.
- c. Corn crib: A frame corn crib is located west of the barn near Sheidy Road. This structure was once parallel to Sheidy Road but was moved 90 degrees to allow for the addition of a basement garage. The main level above the garage is the corn crib. This floor has a central area for vehicle storage flanked by drying bins with horizontal-slat siding for ventilation. The attic level has two built-in grain bins with two chutes to the main level for easy movement of grain.
- d. Implement shed: The implement shed is located north of the barn. This frame structure measures 95' by 35'. It is a single story with a gable roof that was built circa 1940 and enlarged in 1945. It was built to house farm machinery. The interior framing was arched to allow for the height of the machinery. The footings supporting the floor were made by filling wooden barrels with concrete.
- e. Limekiln: This structure is situated across the Tulpehocken Creek, west of the barn. It is a stone kiln of dry wall construction. It was used for burning limestone into fertilizer. It was built into an embankment and the limestone and coal were loaded from wagons above and removed below after the fire was out. The structure is about 10' high. It was last used in 1917.
- f. Pig-heifer shed: This structure is located east of the barn. It was built to house pigs, but was converted and enlarged circa 1940 for use as a barn for heifers. The structure is frame with one-and-a-half stories; there is hay and straw storage space in the attic. The two building stages are evident in the gambrel roof: the east end is roofed with tin and the west end has wooden shingles. There are two conical sheet metal ventilators on the roof. The name Louden is stenciled in black paint on each ventilator.

- g. Privy: The privy is located west of the barn. It is frame with a gable roof. It was built by a local Works Progress Administration group and placed on the site circa 1935.
- h. Wagon shed: The wagon shed is located west of the barn. This one-story frame structure is built into a bank. There are two large semicircular-arched doors with long strap hinges that open into the wagon storage area. The structure has a gable roof with a scalloped bargeboard. A chicken shed was added to the west elevation circa 1900. A storage attic is reached through a wide door on the uphill side.
- i. Windpump: This was a metal, water pumping windmill used to fill a cistern behind the barn. The water would flow by gravity to the house and barn. Only pieces of the metal tower were visible in 1976.

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Project Historian, 1976
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PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

The Tulpehochen Creek Survey was undertaken in 1976 by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) and the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) in cooperation with the Philadelphia office of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers in compliance with Executive Order 11593 as a mitigative effort in the construction of Blue Marsh Lake. Under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, and Kenneth L. Anderson, Principal Architect, the documentation was prepared on site by project supervisor Perry Benson (University of Pennsylvania); student architects Robert E. Clarke (University of Notre Dame), Gregory Lee Miller (University of Illinois), Robert Moje (University of Virginia), Daniel F. Clancy (University of Pennsylvania), and Steven M. Shapiro (University of Maryland); and HABS project historian Thomas H. Kheel (Cornell University) and HAER project historian Stuart Campbell (University of Delaware). The drawings were completed in the HABS office in 1977 and 1978 by Mr. Clarke and HABS architects Susan M. Dornbusch and Bethanie C. Grashof. The HABS data was edited for transmittal in 1978 by Deborah S. Burns of the HABS staff.