

Sconnelltown House
East side of Birmingham Road (LA 15198),
between State Route 842 (West Miner Street)
and Sconnelltown Road (LR 15087)
Sconnelltown (East Bradford Township)
Chester County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-202

HABS,
PA,
15-SCON,
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. PA-202

SCONNELLTOWN HOUSE

Location: County Road #15198, north of County Road #15087, East Bradford Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania (Reference Map of Chester County [by County Commissioners/ 1956]).

Present Owner: Dr. Dr. William Plummer III, Birmingham Road, Scconnelltown, West Chester R.D., Pa.

Brief Statement of Significance: This house, in the Battle of Brandywine area and dating probably from the mid-eighteenth century, represents a fairly rare example of a house type which was once very common. It also incorporates a sloping dormer.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: Samuel Noyes and daughter 1681-1712; James Logan 1710-1712; Robert Jefferis 1712-1731; Robert Jefferis, Jr. 1731-1762; George Strode 1762-1768; Daniel Gest 1768-1775; Richard Strode 1775-1782; John Dilworth 1782-1824; Amos Dilworth 1824-1837; Cheyney Jefferie 1837-1856; Cheyney James 1856-1860; Wm. Ingram 1860-1865; A. P. Ingram 1865-1876; David Scull 1876-1878; Paschall Hacker 1878-1885; Alfred E. Baker 1885-1894; Barclay White 1894-1899; R. M. White 1899-1908; C. B. Taylor 1908-1911; C. B. Cloud 1911-1927; J. H. Wharton 1927-1928; W. C. Grow 1928-1955; Wm. Plummer III 1955 to date.
2. Date of erection: Probably mid-eighteenth century.
3. Architect, builder, suppliers etc.: Unknown.
4. Original plans, construction etc.: None known. Original house had two rooms on first floor with board partitions. Second floor the same. Main chimney in north gable and a second in the south-west corner of house. - Bake oven was off the north chimney. - Same wall had stairway and a small closet with window.
5. Notes on alterations and additions: At some time there had been a wing to the south. Partitions have been removed and a large door put into the east wall so building could be used as a barn. In the 1798 direct tax, Department of Internal Revenue, the property is listed under the name of John Dilworth. The house is described as of stone, 1 story, 18' by 26', two windows of 5 lights, 1 of three lights and 2 of four lights. The 78 acres also had an 18' by 16' log wheelwright shop, a log and stone barn 16' by 30' with two log stables, 16' by 16' and 10' by 11'. John Dilworth is called a cartwright in the 1782 deed when he bought the place.

6. Important old views and references:

Views: None known.

References: Sources of information all to be found in the Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, Pa. Classified printed and manuscript files under headings: East Bradford Township.Lands.

B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure: The house is in the Battle of Brandywine area. It is a fairly rare example of a type that was once very common - a story and a half stone or log house which the 1798 direct tax, Department of Internal Revenue shows was very prevalent. The survival of the sloping dormer is also rare in the area, though it was common once.

C. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated: None known.

D. Supplemental Material:

1. "Register & Examiner," West Chester, Pa. December 13, 1836

PUBLIC SALE.

"In pursuance of an order of the Orphans' Court of Chester county, will be sold at Public Sale, on seventh day, the 17th of 12th month next, at one o'clock in the afternoon, on the premises, a certain messuage and PLANTATION, late the property of Amos Dilworth, deceased, situate in the township of East-Bradford, in the county of Chester, adjoining lands of Jacob Jefferis, John James, Benjamin Price, and others, containing NINETY ACRES, or thereabouts. The improvements are a good stone dwelling house; a large barn, partly stone and partly log; an excellent frame wagon house and corn-crib therein; good stone tenant house; a new spring house, over a never-failing spring of excellent water. A stream of water passes through the barnyard, which, with but little expense, may be made as convenient a watering place as could be desired. There is a well at the door of the dwelling, with a pump therein; also, a stream of water passing through the yard. The land is of the first quality, and in a good state of cultivation, divided into fields of convenient size, and very well watered, and a portion thereof well timbered. This property is situated about two miles west of the borough of West Chester, in a healthy and highly respectable neighborhood. Any person wishing to view the said premises previous to the day of sale, will be shown them by applying to Elizabeth Dilworth, residing thereon, or to Emmor Davis, residing near the property. Possession may be had the first day of April next. Conditions at sale.

ELIZABETH DILWORTH,

JESSE MERCER,

Admr's.

EMMOR DAVIS

By the court. H. G. Worrall, Clerk"

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural Character: This is a fairly rare example of a one and one-half story log or stone house type which was once very common. It is in poor condition and has been used as a barn for several years.
2. Condition of Fabric: Very poor.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: One and a half stories; 20' by 27'.
2. Foundations: Stone.
3. Wall construction: Stone; masonry.
4. Chimneys: Stone chimneys in north gable and a corner one in southwest corner.
5. Openings
 - a. Doorways and doors: Original openings remain except for small closet window which has been filled in and a large barn door has been put into the east wall.
 - b. Windows and shutters: See above. An original or very early shutter remains on the window to the left of the front door in the west wall. The south windows have been made into doors to enter a wing which had been added to that side - has been taken away.
6. Roof
 - a. Shape, covering: Steep pitch - wood shingles.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: Original.
 - c. Dormers: One sloping dormer on the west roof

C. Technical Description of Interiors

1. Floor Plans: House had had two rooms on each floor with board partitions all of which have been removed. North wall had cooking fireplace and stairway and a closet; south wall had corner fireplace in southwest corner; no fireplaces on second floor. First floor has been used as a barn of recent years.
2. Stairways: Along side chimney, north wall.
3. Flooring: Old.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: First floor has open beaded beams, 4" by 9" in ceiling.
5. Doorways and doors: Front door old.
6. Trim: Moulded window sills remain - old baseboard also remains.
7. Hardware: Front door and shutters have old hardware.
8. Lighting: None.
9. Heating: Kitchen fireplace remains; corner fireplace in south-west corner torn out.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: On slope very near road, house faces west.
2. Enclosures: None.
3. Outbuildings: Barn remains.
4. Walks, driveways etc.: None.
5. Landscaping, gardens etc.: None.

Prepared by Bart Anderson - August, 1958
Curator, Chester County Historical Society