

HERSHBERGER FARM, OUTBUILDING
.4 mile east of Business Route 220,
.35 mile southeast of Cessna
Cessna Vicinity
Bedford County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5392-C

HABS
PA
5-CESS.V
IC-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
Northeast Region
Philadelphia Support Office
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HERSHBERGER FARM, OUTBUILDING HABS No. PA-5392-C

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Location: .4 mile east of Business Route 220, .35 mile southeast of Cessna, Cessna vicinity, Bedford County, Pennsylvania

USGS Bedford, Pennsylvania Quadrangle
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:
17.4440500.711570

Present Owner: Bedford County Air Industrial Park Authority
203 South Juliana Street
Bedford, Pennsylvania 15222

Present Occupant: Vacant

Significance: Like the adjacent farmhouse, this brick-nogged frame outbuilding was built ca. 1820 by one of the German farmers who settled this region. Originally a dwelling, it offers potentially unique opportunities to document methods of construction and finishing details of a traditional house of this time and place.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Because of the marked similarities in the construction techniques and materials used in the 1½-story outbuilding and the farmhouse, the two structures appear to be roughly contemporaneous. Both techniques and materials (such as nails) support an 1820s construction date for the two buildings. The outbuilding may date either slightly earlier or slightly later than the farmhouse.
2. Architect: Unknown.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The chain-of-title for the land on which the outbuilding stands is the same as that for the farmhouse, HABS No. PA-5392-A.
4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: Unknown.
5. Original plans and construction: There is no evidence that the structure's original basic plan has been altered. It includes two rooms of approximately equal size on the second floor and a single large room on the first floor, with winder stairs in the northeast corner of the building. A ca. 1900-1910 photograph shows a small one-story wing with a shed roof and vertical plank siding attached to the south end, probably used for storage.

Informants and census data suggest that the structure was a dwelling for much of the nineteenth century, but later was converted to other uses.

6. Alterations and additions: No major alterations are evident in the second story or basement of the structure. The first story was converted into a garage and workshop at some point in the twentieth century, with workbenches added. A former window at the north end of the west wall, first floor, was converted into a doorway after the ca. 1900-1910 photograph was taken, and the small addition at the south end was removed. A sliding wood door was added in the south end to allow vehicles to be driven into the first story.

B. Historical Context:

The history of the farmstead and its relationship to the surrounding area was discussed in the overview report, HABS No. PA-5392.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The 1½-story outbuilding which is part of the Hershberger farmstead displays some of the distinctive charac-

teristics found in the farmhouse, such as a brick-nogged, diagonally braced post-and-beam frame. It may date to the same period, which is thought to be in the 1820s. As is the case with any vernacular structure, precise dating is impossible, lacking documentary evidence, which does not exist here. Similar details of construction could have been preferred by the long-time German occupants of this farmstead over a very long period of time. Whatever its date, this structure, like the farmhouse, presents the opportunity to document traditional early construction techniques which may not survive elsewhere in the region.

As noted above, this structure appears to have been a dwelling for most or all of the nineteenth century. Therefore, its architectural similarities to the Hershberger Farmhouse are not unexpected.

2. Condition of fabric: Through both alteration and neglect, every aspect of this structure has become seriously deteriorated.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The 1½-story outbuilding measures 22'3" x 16'. It contains a full cellar and a finished second story.
2. Foundations: The structure sits on a one-story rubble stone foundation, built into a steeply-sloped hillside. The foundation may not extend completely under the building at the up-hill (south) end, but this is difficult to determine because the cellar walls are bulging inward and the thickness of the wall itself is unknown. If there is a difference between building size and foundation size, it is slight. Thickness of the foundation at the below-ground level entrance door is approximately 20".
3. Walls: The building was sided with 7" lap siding applied with 2" cut nails. The corners are finished with 3" plain board verticals.
4. Structural system, framing: The structure is framed with 7-8" hewn corner posts and sills, which are pegged together and have some diagonal corner bracing. Studs are 5" sawn material which extends to the full height of the square (to the rafter plates). The studs are placed on 29" centers, with 24" of soft brick and lime mortar filling the wall cavity. Slightly wider spacing (41") occurs between the corner posts and the closest stud, with 36" of brick-nogged cavity. Nogging extends only to the second floor level, with a hollow wall cavity above that point. The 3" x 7" sawn joists supporting the second floor are mortised through the wall studs; there is no second-floor supporting sill. Details of the framing and wall construction are shown in Photograph #PA-5392-C-2.
5. Porches: The building has no porches.
6. Chimneys: A 12" square brick flue begins at the second floor level

and extends through the roof ridge at the south gable end of the building. A tile flue pipe emerges from the north end of the roof, 3' below the ridge on the west slope of the roof.

7. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: The building has two door openings on its west facade, one on the east, and a sliding garage door on the south end. A doorway on the north end has been infilled with brick. Doors were four-panel (now broken or missing). Doorways are trimmed with 3" plain board facings. An opening in the north wall of the foundation contains a 36" board-and-batten door just 5.5' high.

b. Windows and shutters: One first-floor window opening on the east measures 24" x 60". Two second-story window openings appear on both the west and east sides of the building. They measure 24" square and have no surviving sash. End window openings in the second story measure almost 4' square on the south end and 3' square on the north. No sash remains. Plain 3" boards trim the openings.

A 28" wide x 26" high opening in the north end of the foundation had wooden bars mortised into its frame. They do not survive.

8. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: The building has a moderately-sloped gable roof of rusted standing seam metal.

b. Cornice, eaves: No cornice; no boxing under slightly overhanging eaves.

c. Dormers, cupulas, towers: None.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The basement and first floor of the building are single rooms. The second floor is divided by a partition (parallel with the gable ends) into two rooms of almost equal size. See the attached sketch plans and Photographs #PA-5392-C-3 and #PA-5392-C-4.
2. Stairways: Winder stairs which turn 90° are located in the northeast corner of the building. They are enclosed with beaded tongue-and-groove pine paneling, some of which has been replaced with narrow tongue-and-groove wainscoting material. There are no cellar stairs; access is by two stone steps to an outside door.
3. Flooring: Debris covering the floors of this building makes observation difficult. They appear to be random-width pine, laid parallel to the roof ridge. The first floor is laid on log joists, 7-8" wide, hewn top and bottom (see Photograph #PA-5392-C-4). The second floor

is laid on 3" x 7" sawn joists, visible in Photograph #PA-5392-C-3).

4. Wall and ceiling finish: Walls and second floor ceiling are plastered on sawn lath. The exposed ceiling of the first floor room has been whitewashed. The second floor rooms have been wallpapered.
5. Openings: See section B.7. above. Trim does not vary between interior and exterior.
6. Decorative features and trim: None not already described.
7. Hardware: None.
8. Mechanical Equipment: None.
9. Original furnishings: Not applicable.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The 1½-story outbuilding is oriented in the same manner as the main block of the farmhouse, facing west toward the lane and Route 220. It stands just upslope from the house.
2. Historic landscape design: Little is known about the historic landscape design. The ca. 1900-1910 photograph indicates that a picket fence formerly enclosed the yard west of the structure and butted against the southwest corner of the outbuilding. Informants report that a small terraced garden was located just east of the building in the mid-twentieth century, and archaeological traces of this garden were found. A stone-lined well (probably original to the farm) is located 15' west of the building, and formerly was covered by a small roof.
3. Outbuildings: A frame summer kitchen or smokehouse formerly stood near the southeast corner of the 1½-story outbuilding, and archaeological remains of an icehouse or root cellar were encountered 10' east of the structure.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Architectural drawings:

No architectural drawings of the outbuilding are known to exist.

B. Historic views:

The ca. 1900-1910 photograph of the rear of the farmhouse also shows part of the outbuilding, but was not photographically reproduced for the reasons already discussed. The outbuilding does not appear in the 1950s photograph of the farmhouse. No other views were located.

C. Interviews:

Same sources as listed in the report on the Hershberger Farmhouse,
HABS No. PA-5392-A.

D. Bibliography:

None specific to the outbuilding, HABS No. PA-5392-C.

E. Likely sources not yet investigated:

None known.

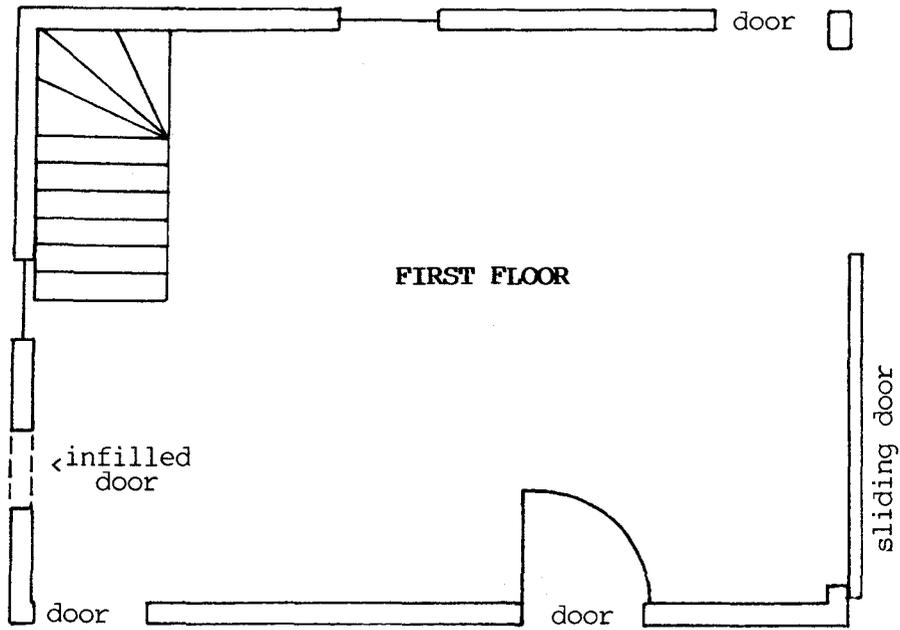
F. Supplemental material:

None.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

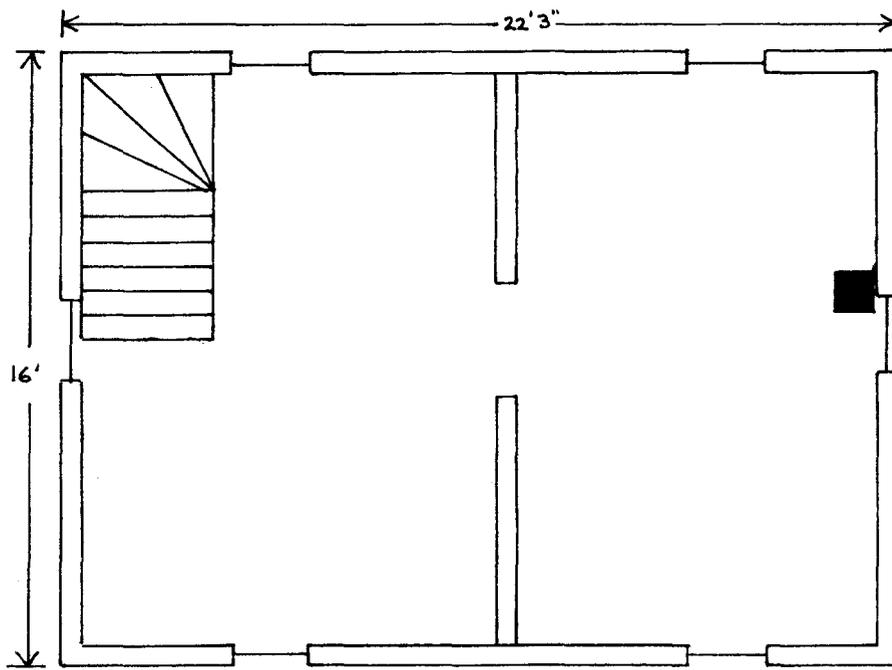
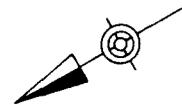
Same as discussed in the report on the Hershberger Farmhouse, HABS No. PA-5392-A.

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Affiliation: Heberling Associates
Date: May 1, 1990



HERSHBERGER OUTBUILDING

FLOOR PLAN



SECOND FLOOR