

LOWER MACUNGIE TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OLD HOUSE REGISTRY INTRODUCTION

Because so many old homes have disappeared over the past few decades as roads have expanded and housing developments have sprung up in our township, we in the Historical Society are trying to develop and maintain a record of the remaining old homes. We are interested in how they were built, their dimensions, special features, and their appearance. Our older homes have unique features and history shared by few or no other homes. These houses are special and call for special care.

We are defining old homes as those built before 1900. However, we will also include any others of such a unique nature as to warrant attention.

Other buildings, such as barns, springhouses and bakeovens disappear from the landscape even faster than the dwelling houses. They also contain much information about how people lived in earlier centuries and should be a part of this registry.

The following pages are worksheets that will help you to describe your home's dimensions, features, and history. Feel free to attach any additional information you feel is pertinent. Number additional pages with a letter (for example page 3, b; page 3, c). Place the name of your home (the one you selected for page 2) at the top of each page.

You should make copies of the completed worksheets for your family, and one to keep with the house. We would like to receive a copy of your report, including pictures. Our address is P.O. Box 3722, Wescosville, PA 18106; phone 610-967-3653.

The information you send us will be filed with material provided by other owners of older homes and buildings. The Historical Society hopes to collect as much data from as many different homeowners as possible, so future generations of historians and citizens may have this resource.

Name of house:

Date:

Current owner:

Address of building:

Year the dwelling house was built:

Is this an exact or approximate year?

What is your source of information for the year the house was built?

Name of architect, if known:

Architectural style of building, if known:

Type of construction (e.g. log, stone, brick, frame, stucco over stone):

How many stories?

Type of foundation (e.g. stone/basement; stone/no basement):

Type of siding (e.g. asphalt over frame; brickcoting):

Type of roofing material (e.g. slate, asphalt shingle):

Additional information:

Are there any interesting architectural features? What historical information do you know or have you heard about your house (e.g. built by, built as, former owners, bought from)? Can you provide a chain of title? Are you aware of any alterations that have been made? Add extra pages if needed.

Name of house:

Date:

OUT-BUILDINGS

Type of building (e.g. springhouse, barn):

Type/s of construction (e.g. log, stone, brick, frame):

Type of foundation (e.g. stone/basement; stone/no basement):

Type of siding (e.g. asphalt over frame; brickcoting):

Type of roofing material (e.g. slate, asphalt shingle):

Additional information:

Are there any interesting architectural features? What historical information do you know or have you heard about this structure (e.g. built by, built as, former owners, bought from)? Are you aware of any alterations that have been made? Add extra pages if needed. Copy this page for additional buildings.

Name of house:

Date:

PROPERTY MAP

Please draw a sketch map of your property. We are not interested in boundary lines, but the relationship of your house to roads and other buildings on your property. Include the north-south orientation. If you know the location of buildings no longer standing, mark these also. Indicate the kind of all structure and the age, even if only as "new garage" or "very old springhouse."

Name of house:

Date:

FLOOR PLAN

Draw a simple sketch of the main floors in your home, showing the walls, doors, and location of windows. It would be useful if you could provide sketches of the basement/s and attic/s and indicate if floor joists in the basement and rafters in the attic were hand-hewn or sawn.

Feel free to add notes and indicate anything that you find of particular interest, e.g. door, window, cornice moldings, chair rails, built-in cupboards etc., and indicate if they appear to be original or modern additions.

Name of house:

Date:

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs can describe features better than words. If you use a digital camera, provide a CD with the images as either print-quality jpegs or tiffs, not low-resolution images for Internet viewing.

The pictures we are looking for are of the front, back, and sides of your house, other buildings such as barns and springhouses, detail shots of old doors and windows, moldings on the interior, fireplaces, stairways, and any other structures you feel are special or interesting in your home.

The elevation shots (all sides of your building) are particularly useful. Make a photocopy of each photo and mark the orientation of the elevation (i.e. north, south, east or west end of house). If you can key this to the site map on page 4, this would be very helpful. Attach each photograph to its photocopy, or make sure you identify the photocopy with the same number or name as the digital copy.