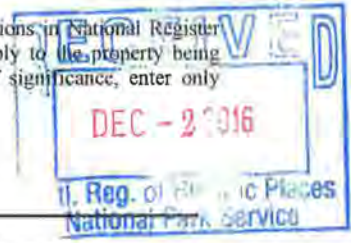


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

SG1-501

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: Strassburger, Reuben and Elizabeth, Farmstead

Other names/site number: Hartzell-Strassburger House

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 407 Keystone Dr.

City or town: Sellersville State: Pennsylvania County: Bucks County

Not For Publication: n/a Vicinity: x

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

	<u>11/16/2016</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission – State Historic Preservation Office</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
 determined eligible for the National Register
 determined not eligible for the National Register
 removed from the National Register
 other (explain:)

Jan Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

1.17.17
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
Public – Local
Public – State
Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
District
Site
Structure
Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>4</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- Domestic
- Commerce
- Agriculture/Subsistence
- Industry/Processing/Extraction
-
-

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- Recreation and Culture
-
-
-
-

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EARLY REPUBLIC

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Roof – Wood Shakes, Walls – Brick,
Foundation – Stone (Shale), Siding and Trim - Wood

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Located at the intersection of Bethlehem Pike and Keystone Drive, the Reuben and Elizabeth Strassburger Farmstead contains a two story, six bay wide, two room deep farmhouse. It is Federal in style and was constructed of brick c.1830. The house is adjacent to Bethlehem Pike and faces towards Keystone Drive. A two story, four bay wide, two room deep addition that was used as a store was constructed onto the rear (north side) of the farmhouse c. 1848. The addition of the store to the building gives the farmhouse a slightly off center T shape. On the east side of the farmhouse is a summer kitchen, also built c.1830 that is connected to the farmhouse by a covered passage. Outbuildings include a large, stone Pennsylvania barn (c.1830) and a tenant house (c.1850). In addition, there are ruins of a c.1865 blacksmith shop along Keystone Drive, southwest of the house. (See figure 4.) All five resources on the property are considered contributing resources. These include the farmhouse with attached store addition, summer kitchen, the barn, tenant house, and ruins of the blacksmith shop. The blacksmith shop is counted as a contributing site. A white picket fence with flame tops surrounds the farmhouse. (See photo 1 and 2.) A privacy fence also runs around the boundary of the property. The property retains all seven aspects of historic integrity, which are setting location, materials, design, workmanship, feeling and association. The property is maintained in excellent condition by the owner, the Historical Society of Hilltown Township.

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Narrative Description

Farmhouse

Exterior of c.1830 section

Built c.1830, the farmhouse is currently used primarily as a museum. It is oriented on the property so that it faces almost due south. (See figures 4 through 8.) The farmhouse has a side gable roof covered with wood shakes. It measures 40 feet wide by 30 feet deep. Two pairs of interior chimneys are on each gable end. The rake board on each gable end is narrow and very simple in design. (See photos 4 and 5.) The cornice along the façade has very elaborate corbelled brick work. The top course of bricks are turned at an angle so the corners point forward in a dog tooth pattern. Next is a row of stretchers followed by a row of headers that alternate in depth so the bricks are like dentils. To finish off the cornice is a row of stretchers. (See left side of photo 15.)

Brick construction of the walls of the farmhouse is in common bond with the typical repeating pattern of six rows of stretchers followed by a row of headers. (See left side of photo 15.) In the mid-1990s there was a grant funded project to remove the mortar between the bricks of the farmhouse and repoint them. However, the mortar was removed inappropriately using a power saw, damaging brick as well. The grant expired and the bricks were not repaired or repointed.

Above each window on the second floor of the main façade is a soldier course of bricks. (See photo 3 and 4.) While the windows on the gable ends and back of the house have a row lock course of brick across the top of each window. (See photo 5 and 15.) On the main façade the wall on the first floor is covered with a rough plaster, dashed with small angular pebbles. (See photo 16.) On the west gable end of the house, facing Bethlehem Pike, there are two S shaped anchor bolts at the first and second floors. On the same gable end is a half circle date board near the peak of the roof with an eagle motif. This likely replaced an original date board or date stone as it does not appear original to the house. The topography at the west gable end is lower and as a result the foundation is exposed. Along the west gable end there is a water table between the foundation and first floor defined by a slightly protruding stretcher course of brick. (See photo 13.)

Along the 40 foot length of the main façade is an eight foot deep porch, the roof of which is supported by chamfered posts. The porch flooring is wood, tongue and groove, painted gray. The step up to the porch is a rough cut blue shale slab with an adjacent iron boot scraper. Below the porch is a foundation of native red shale masonry. The foundation of the house as a whole is also constructed of mortared red shale, which is a very common local stone. (See photos 2,3 and 4.)

Windows in the farmhouse are six over six double hung sash on the second floor, with nine over six double hung sash on the first floor. There are also small, four over two double hung attic windows in the gable ends. On the first floor of the main façade the windows are flanked by

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wood shutters with a three panel design. Most of the remaining windows, including the smaller attic windows, have extant shutter hold backs and pintles, however the shutters have been removed. (See photos 3, 4, and 15.)

There are multiple entrances to the farmhouse. Two front doors are on the main façade. (See photo 3.) On the west half of the main façade there is a double leaf door with architrave trim and five light transom above. The deep door casings have parallel reeded bands. The two leaves have four panels arranged with three horizontal panels in the upper section and a vertical lower panel. The only revealed hardware is a simple round brass door knob. (See photo 17.) The other front door in the main façade of the farmhouse is a single, split leaf door, or a Dutch door. It is on the east half of the main façade. The door is in a five panel pattern, with three horizontal panels in the upper section and two vertical panels in the lower section. It has the same trim and casing as the two leaf front door, but has a four light transom above. An unusual feature of this door is the absence of any external hardware, therefore it can only be opened from the interior. This front door is also flanked on one side by an early 20th century lantern style electric light fixture. (See photo 18.) Other entrances to the farmhouse are located on the east gable end to the passage way to the summer kitchen. This door is identical to the Dutch door in the main façade, including the lack of exterior hardware, rendering it impossible to enter from the exterior. There is also a bulkhead door entrance to the basement on the east gable end. In the west gable end there is a door of simple design to access the basement. There is evidence that a door in the north side (rear), east half of the main farmhouse, was partly bricked in to create a window. The door was transformed to a window after the store addition was built. The c.1848 store addition made a door at this location impractical and redundant, since a door was included in the rear (east side) of the store addition.

Interior of c.1830 Farmhouse

The general floor plan of the farmhouse is a center hall with two rooms on each side. (See figure 5.) From the outside, the center hall is accessed from the single split leaf Dutch door. Rooms on the first floor are the parlor which is accessed from the main double leaf entrance door. The sitting room is behind (north of) the parlor. The kitchen, with the cooking fireplace, is to the east of the sitting room. To the south of the kitchen is the dining room. There is also a center hall and four rooms on the second floor. All the rooms on the second floor are bedrooms. (See figure 6.)

Wood plank flooring exists throughout the farmhouse. The walls and ceilings throughout the first floor of the farmhouse are covered with plaster. On the first floor, the rooms all have chair rail and shoe moldings. The chair rail extends up the stairs in the center hall. Window jambs are deep due to thick brick walls. Window and door surrounds have plain trim. (See photos 23 and 25.) Many doors in the house have original hardware that is hand wrought, including the double leaf entrance to the parlor (See photos 19 and 20.) Hand wrought upper and lower sliding bolt locks, H - L hinges, a knob latch and an interior lift latch are all extant on the double leaf door and, based on the wear marks and patina on the hardware it is early 19th century and original to the house. There are no signs that hinges, latches or locks have been removed or replaced from the door. The double leaf door also has parallel rows of nails in pattern around the rim and in

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three strips across the upper part. The Dutch door to the center hall is less elaborate in style. It has a nailing pattern, lift latch and a sliding bolt lock. (See photo 19 and 20)

The fireplace in the kitchen has a wood mantle and folding wood doors. (See photo 25.) The fireplace doors are replacements, added in the late 1930s. When the house was acquired for use as the headquarters of the Pennsylvania German Society. The current fireplace doors show little signs of age or effect from smoke, confirming that they were added relatively recently. The tenant house has a fireplace with folding doors. The folding doors were likely added to imitate the configuration of the fireplace in the tenant house.

The center hall stair case has turned balusters with a newel post topped by a round knob. (See photo 26.)

On the second floor, the center hall has a railing along the stairs and there is an enclosed stair case to the attic. (See photos 31 and 35.) Of note on the second floor is a fireplace in bedroom #1 with a mantle that has a frieze with reeded triglyphs and horizontal diamond shapes in the metopes. (See photo 33) Another fireplace on the second floor in bedroom #4 is similar in style to the cooking fireplace in the kitchen on the first floor, but it does not have folding doors. (See photo 37.)

In bedroom #3 the east wall is covered with horizontal plank paneling instead of being covered with plaster. (See left side of photo 36.) The reason for this horizontal paneling in only the one room of the house is not known, but it may be a later addition to cover or replace damaged plaster from a leaking roof or wall.

The attic of the house features heavy timber frame construction, mortise and tenon joinery and purlins running parallel to the eaves. (See photo 43.) On the west gable end the two chimney stacks are clearly visible as is the half round holder for the date board. (See photo 41.) The east gable end in the attic has a single chimney stack that is slightly tilted. (See photo 42.)

The basement of the farmhouse features a large square support for the cooking fireplace in the kitchen on the first floor. (See photo 45.) Running along the entire length of the house from the east to west gable end is a twelve by twelve inch support beam. (See photo 46.) There are splices in this support beam. The large beam rests on a wall that runs perpendicular to the beam and on a brick support post. An unusual feature of this beam is that it contains cut out rectangular through mortises, but there are currently no tenons inserted. This may indicate that it was reused from a previous structure on the property or that the perpendicular supports that were inserted in the beam were removed due to rot and failure. The floor joists are inserted in notches in the top of the beam.

The other unusual feature in the basement of the farmhouse is a stucco covered brick wall that runs in the center of the basement from the front to the back of the house. It is perpendicular to, and supports, the large beam. This center wall has a small window in it. (See photo 47.)

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Exterior c.1848 Store Addition

The store addition measures 36 feet by 20 feet and was built c.1848 onto the rear (north side) of the farmhouse, parallel to Bethlehem Pike. (See photos 6, 7, 11, 12 and 13.) The main façade of the addition faces west and the back of the addition faces east. Its gable end faces north.

The roof of the store addition, like the farmhouse, is covered with wood shakes. There are two small brick chimneys, one on the north gable end and the other in the west slope of the roof of the main façade of the store near the farm house. (See photo 12.) The exterior chimney in the north gable end vented a stove. There is a hole in the ceiling as evidence in the gable end that there was a stove pipe. The other chimney in the roof of the store also likely vented a stove in the store addition, however there is no evidence of a stove in that section of the store.

The brick corbelled cornice of the store addition is similar to the main farmhouse but less elaborate. It has header end bricks arranged in an alternating dentil pattern on the main façade (west side) and a stretcher course corbel at the rear (east side) of the addition. (See photo 12 and 15.)

Walls of the store addition are brick laid in a modified common bond. Typically common bond has six stretcher rows and then one header row. The brick walls of the store addition are seven rows of stretchers followed by a row of alternating headers and stretchers. (See photo 15.)

While it may appear that the bricks of the store addition, have been repointed, they have not been, at least not in the memory of any of the current or former board members of the historical society that owns the property. There was a failed attempt c.1995 to repoint the bricks on the main farmhouse however the project was halted when the contractor used a power saw to remove the mortar. This left the bricks on the farmhouse with nearly empty mortar joints in contrast to the store addition which retained its original mortar.

The windows in the store addition consist primarily of six over six double hung sash windows. The exception to this are two small four light attic windows in the gable end. There is a small porch across the main façade facing Bethlehem Pike (west side). The porch measures twelve feet by seven feet. The main entrance door to the store addition has double leaves with a glass upper section and simple three part vertical recessed panel in the lower section. (See photo 14.)

Interior of c.1848 Store Addition

The first floor plan of the store addition consists of two rooms, one to the south and one to the north. (See figure 5.) The north room is accessed by the entrance door. The store addition has plaster ceilings and walls, and wood plank flooring. The south room is larger than the north room and has a built in shelf unit for product display. The north room, in addition to having the main entrance door, has an internal stair case to the second floor. (See photos 27, 28 and 29.) The north room also has a small bathroom that was added in June of 2015 that has a composting toilet. (See photo 30.)

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The second floor of the store addition has a similar floor plan to the first floor. (See figure 6) The south room is larger and more open and was likely used for storage. (See photo 38.) The north room has been divided and with a narrow hall with a room on each side. The rooms were divided c.1937 by wood partitions, rather than by plaster walls. (See photo 39 and 40.) One room, on the east side, appears to have been a small bedroom, or it may have served as storage. The room on the west side was converted to a bathroom. This bathroom was likely added for the use of members of the Pennsylvania German Society, which used the house as its headquarters in the late 1930s. The bathroom was removed in 2013 due to a failing on-site septic system.

The attic of the store addition has pegged rafters. (See photo 44.) In the basement of the store addition most of the support structure has rotted and has been replaced with recently added pressure treated support structure. (See photo 48.)

Summer Kitchen

The summer kitchen was constructed at the same time as the farmhouse, c.1830. It measures twelve and half feet by thirteen feet. It is connected to the east gable end of the farmhouse by a six foot long covered passage. The gable roof is covered with wood shakes. There is a large stone chimney in the east gable end. Walls are plank wood siding. There are two six over double hung sash windows on the north and south sides and a small four light window in the east gable end. (See photos 5 through 8). There is a simple designed Dutch door in the west gable end. (See photo 9.)

The interior of the summer kitchen consists of one room dominated by a large cooking fireplace. The fireplace has original folding doors and cooking hardware. The walls are vertical plank paneling. Floors are wood planks. Ceiling joists are exposed. (See photo 10.)

Barn

The barn (c.1830) is constructed of local red shale on the lower level. The upper section of the barn is vertical wood siding. The roof is covered with well-worn red asphalt shingles. Lightning rods are on each gable end and at the center of the roof. The forebay side of the barn faces south. It measures 52 feet wide by 32 feet deep. (See photo 49.) On the east gable end there are the ruins of a carriage house addition built c.1850 that would add an additional 17 feet to the width of the barn. (See photo 50.) The barn with the carriage house addition would measure a total width of 69 feet.

The barn is a Class II, Type A, Standard closed forebay Pennsylvania Barn, according to Robert Ensminger's classification system in *The Pennsylvania Barn*. The forebay of the barn has features that Ensminger identifies as Peilerecks, which are short wrap-arounds at each end of the stone wall that supports the forebay. (See photos 49, 50, 55 and 56.) The Peilerecks are about two feet deep and 18 inches wide. The Peilereck on the west end has a vertical board that once had pegs for hanging implements. (See photo 55.) The east Peilereck has several shelves for storage. (See photo 56.) The ramp side of the barn faces north. The ramp has a five foot long

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barn bridge. (See photos 51, 52 and 53.) Along the ramp side is a wide rolling barn door. Along the forebay side there are five entrance doors. There is also a door in the west gable end. At several locations in the lower stone section of the barn there are small square louvered windows that are pegged (See photo 54). In the upper vertical wood sided part of the barn there are two six light windows on the forebay side, and on the west gable end there are three six light windows. One window at the peak of the west gable and the other two lower on the wall and diagonal to each other.

The lower stone section of the barn is the stable. (See photo 57 and figure 9.) The upper section of the barn has double threshing floors adjacent to each other in the center with a hay mow on the west side above the granary and a storage area. On the east side there is an open storage area. (See photos 58, 59 and 60 and figure 10.) The barn support structure is heavy timber framing with mortise and tenon construction, pegged joints, with purlins supporting the roof that run along the length of the barn.

Tenant House

To the southeast of the farmhouse there is a c.1850 tenant house that is currently used as an archives and meeting room (See photo 64). The tenant house faces southwest toward Keystone Drive. The main block of the tenant house measures 32 feet wide by 18 feet deep. It has a wing attached to the back that measures 20 feet by 16 feet, and has an unusual overhang. (See photos 61, 62 and 63.) The overhang on the wing is supported by two six by six posts. The wing is not an addition to the house, it was built at the same time as the main section. The tenant house has an L shape. The gable roof of the tenant house is covered with slate shingles. There are three brick chimneys in each gable end of the tenant house, including the wing. There is a brick dentil pattern along the cornice of the main facade. The walls of the main section of the tenant house are constructed of brick and covered with smooth stucco, with the exception of the rear where the bricks are painted white. The walls of the wing are covered with horizontal wood plank siding.

Windows in the tenant house are six over six double hung sashes, except for four light attic windows in the gable ends. There is a porch along nearly the entire length of the main façade, which measures 30 feet wide and is 7 feet deep. The porch roof has vertical wood sided ends that are trimmed at the ends in a saw tooth pattern. Chamfered posts support the porch roof. (See photo 61) The porch floor is tongue and groove wood boards painted gray. Entrances to the tenant house are in the main façade, in the wing along the driveway, and in the wing under the overhang. (See photos 62 and 63.) Of note on the interior of the tenant house is a stone cooking fire place in the gable end of the wing with folding raised panel doors. (See photo 65.) The second floor of the tenant house has a short hall with a bathroom and three bedrooms radiating from the hall.

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Blacksmith Shop Ruins

To the east of the tenant house along Keystone Drive that are the remnants of a stone blacksmith shop. It was built c. 1865. The shop measured about 20 by 20 feet and was one story. (See photo 66.) There is some remaining masonry construction that indicates the site of the building.

Historic Integrity

The most significant change to the Hartzel Farmstead has been the reduction in the size of the property. When Reuben Strassburger purchased the property in 1849 it was about 42 acres. It has been reduced to 2 acres. The general area has been developed particularly to the northeast where a recent subdivision was constructed. However, when on the property and near the buildings there is a feeling of a 19th century farmstead. The white picket fence, which surrounds the farmhouse, greatly adds to the immediate setting of the farmstead (See photos 1, 2, 11, 12 and 13.) There is also a low stone wall that runs a short distance starting at the west gable end of the house along Bethlehem Pike and short distance up the driveway. (See photos 2 and 13.) The stone wall also greatly enhances the setting of the property. The house and barn and other outbuildings retain a high degree of architectural integrity. Materials of the buildings have been retained. The wood shake roof is not likely the original, however wood shakes are a historically accurate treatment for a c.1830 farmhouse. The interior of the building also retains a high degree of integrity. Hardware on doors are all original. A more recent change (c.1937) are the added folding doors on the cooking fireplace in the kitchen.

There was a change to the floor plan with the addition of a bathroom in 2015 in the north room of the store addition. The bathroom is small, about 10 by 10 feet. and a door salvaged from the barn was used to make the new bathroom fit in with the store space. (See Photo 30.) The bathroom is a convenience for visitors to the house and particularly useful for special events. The second floor of the store addition also has under gone some changes. The wood partition walls were added c.1937 to add a bathroom and a bedroom. On the exterior of the store addition all the windows are wood, however the windows on the west main façade that faces Bethlehem Pike were replaced in-kind with wood replacements c.1990. The barn on the property retains a high degree of integrity as well. There are some windows in the upper section that were added c.1930 and the roof is older asphalt shingles that likely replaced slate or wood shingles. Based on historic aerial photos (See figures 15 to 17) and historic research there were other buildings on the property that have been demolished. For example historic real estate advertisements for the property when it was for sale list also a large frame warehouse and open sheds, a hog stable, a wood shed, a milk house, wash house, cider press house. In addition, a privy had to be on the property as well. The 1938 aerial photo shows a building near the south, forebay side of the barn/barn yard, which is no longer extant. The blacksmith shop is visible on a 1938 aerial photo but gradually deteriorates until it is no longer easily seen on a 1971 aerial. Overall, the property is in excellent condition and retains integrity of location, setting, materials, design, feeling and association.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Period of Significance

c.1830-c.1865

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Reuben and Elizabeth Strassburger Farmstead, located in Hilltown Township, Bucks County, is locally significant under National Register Criterion C as a collection of agricultural buildings from the early to mid-19th century. The c.1830 farmhouse on the property is an excellent example of a vernacular version of Federal architecture. The farmhouse has a c.1849 store addition. Adjacent to the farmhouse is ac.1830 summer kitchen. There is also a c.1830 enclosed forebay Pennsylvania barn with Peilerecks, which is an L-shaped support for the forebay. In addition, there is a c.1850 tenant house and the ruins of a c. 1865 blacksmith shop. The period of significance is c.1830 to c.1865 to include the construction dates of the contributing resources on the property. The Strassburger Farmstead represents a rare surviving example of intact domestic and agricultural buildings, with the added quality of having been the location of a locally important store site.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

History of the Property

The property that the Reuben and Elizabeth Strassburger Farmstead now resides on was once owned by the Hartzel family. In fact the Historical Society of Hilltown Township, which owns the house, refers to it as the Hartzel-Strassburger House. Isaac Norris, a merchant from Northern Liberties in Philadelphia sold 530 acres of land in Hilltown Township to Henry Hartzel in 1748. Henry Hartzel had arrived in America in 1732 and settled in Rockhill Township. Henry Hartzel died in 1784 at age 90 and willed part of his parcel of land in Hilltown Township to Michael Hartzel, his eldest son. His will states: "I give and devise unto my Eldest Son Michael Hertzal a certain Tract, piece or Parcel of land part of the tract of land which I purchased of Isaac Norris Esq. Situate in the Township of Hilltown in the County of Bucks..." By 1794 Michael Hartzel was also deceased and he willed the parcel of land to his son Henry Hartzel. The 1798 Federal Direct Tax record for Hilltown Township was checked and Henry Hartzel, Sr. is listed as owning 80 acres of land and two log houses, one 20 by 17 feet and the other log house 20 by 18 feet. His son Henry Hartzel Jr. is listed in the 1798 tax as owning 177 acres and a frame barn 40 by 25 feet. The 1798 Direct Tax clearly indicates the presence of buildings on the property, however they are not the buildings currently extant on the parcel.

Henry Harzel Jr. died in 1827 and his property of 177 acres was sold by the administrators of his estate to Jacob Hartzel in 1830. The administrators advertised the farm in the Doylestown Democrat & Farmers Gazette. In the January 6, 1829 issue, the following advertisement appeared:

"By order of the Orphans Court, a public sale will be held on the premises in Hilltown Township on Saturday, January 10th at 1 pm for a certain tract of land late the property of Henry Hartzell

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deceased situate in Hilltown Township, adjoining the lands of Andrew Hartzel, Michael Nees, et al, containing 177 acres 130 perches. The improvements include a good two-story dwelling house, new barn 35 x 52, stable underneath, milk house, wash house, cider press house and other outbuildings. Three wells of water convenient to the buildings, apple orchard and all other kinds of fruit trees. A good portion of meadow and woodland, the latter being about 66 acres, the remaining land is arable and in a high state of cultivation. The above property is within 29 miles of Philadelphia and 23 miles of Bethlehem, the new Bethlehem road passing through the premises. ---Andrew Hartzel and John Fluck, administrators”

This advertisement likely describes the barn that is currently on the property. The “new barn” in the advertisement nearly matches the size of the barn currently on the property. The barn was recently measured at 32 by 52 feet, not including the ruins of the carriage house. It is less clear that the house in the advertisement is the one that is currently on the property. The advertisement does not include dimensions for the house, except for it being two stories, and the materials of the house are not specified. A new brick house would have been a selling point for the property and yet it is not mentioned in the ad.

After Jacob Hartzel purchased the property he sold part of it, 120 acres, to John Moyer in 1830. John Moyer sold 34 acres and a contiguous 7 acre woodland lot to Reuben and Elizabeth Strassburger in 1849. Reuben Strassburger was a merchant from Schwenksville in Montgomery County. He first appears in the tax records for Hilltown Township in 1848 and is taxed for his store only, he owned no land. In 1849 and subsequent years Strassburger is taxed for both the business and 41 acres of land. The store addition to the house is clearly a later add on to the house based on physical evidence which includes differences in brick cornice corbel details and differences in the common bond brick pattern. (See photo 13) Therefore, Strassburger did not have the house and store built at the same time. Rather John Moyer or Jacob Hartzel had the brick house currently on the property built around 1830. When Reuben Strassburger started his business in Hilltown Township in 1848 he built the store addition onto the c.1830 house.

Locally the house is known as the Hartzel – Strassburger House and indeed it is possible that the brick house with summer kitchen addition were built by Jacob Hartzel or another member of the Hartzel Family. The Hartzels and Strassburger families were also related by marriage. Reuben Strassburger’s sister, Louisiana Strassburger, married Elias Hartzel and Reuben’s sister Mary married Jesse Hartzel.

Reuben Strassburger was a prominent business man in Schwenksville, Montgomery County. In 1847, Reuben Strassburger (b.1823) married Elizabeth Ziegler Schwenk (b.1821) and shortly thereafter moved to Hilltown Township and set up a store. Reuben Strassburger is listed in the federal 1850 census of population in Hilltown Township as a 27 year old merchant. Listed with him in the 1850 census are his wife Elizabeth (age 29) and children Clara (2 years) and Jacob (9 months). In addition, with the family is Henry Strassburger a 23 year old tailor, Reuben’s brother, as well as Levi Gerhart (23), Gideon Appenzeller (27), and Lucyann Eckhart (20), all laborers. The property also was counted in the 1850 federal agricultural census. The farm is listed as having 34 improved acres and 6 acres unimproved. There were 6 milk cows and 6 swine. Produced on the farm the previous year were 150 bushels of Indian corn and 600 pounds

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of butter. Being a merchant by trade Reuben Strassburger had little time for farming, so he hired the Levi Gerhart and Gideon Appenzeller, the laborers counted in the 1850 census of population, as tenant farmers. This explains the presence of and the need for the c.1850 tenant house on the property. Lucyann Eckhart the other laborer was a household servant. Henry Strassburger, listed as a tailor in the 1850 census, provided services and produced goods for sale in the store.

The 1850 William E. Morris map of Bucks County shows the property as being R Y Strassburger's Store. (See figure 12.)

The 1860 census of population shows Reuben Strassburger (37) with his wife Elizabeth (39) and children Jacob (11), Anna (9), Kate (7), and Magdalena (2). (Clara passed away in 1855 at age 8.) Also listed in the 1860 census are William Yocum (21), farmhand, and Mary Derstine (18) and Hannah Rozell (16), both domestic servants. The farmhand likely work the land and occupied the tenant house on the property. The servants likely living in the main house possibly on the second floor of the store addition.

Deed records for the property indicate that in 1861 Reuben Strassburger sold the tenant house and six acres to Thomas Proctor, a farmer. This separated the tenant house from the other buildings on the farmstead and reduced Reuben's land to 27 acres. (The 7 acre woodland lot purchased in 1849 with the 27 acres was sold to Samuel Schwenk, Reuben's brother-in-law, in 1854.) Thomas Proctor died soon after the transaction and the six acres and tenant house were inherited by Christopher Proctor, a blacksmith. This explains the ruins of the c.1865 blacksmith shop currently on the property.

Reuben Strassburger's grandson was Ralph Strassburger who was extremely wealthy and an avid historian and genealogist, among other avocations. He wrote and published a voluminous history and genealogy of the Strassburger family and other prominent related families. The book, fully titled is *The Strassburger family and allied families of Pennsylvania; being the ancestry of Jacob Andrew Strassburger, esquire, of Montgomery county, Pennsylvania*. It was written in 1922. In the book Ralph Strassburger details his grandfather Reuben's life. In *Strassburger and Allied Families* is also a historic photo of the house taken c.1900. (See figure 20.) There is also considerable history of the property in the book including the following boast by Ralph Strassburger:

“During the Civil War quantities of supplies consisting of boxes of food, bandages, etc., were forwarded from this Hilltown home to the Union troops and prisoners in the South. In 1869, he [Reuben] disposed of the store and house in Hilltown to a good advantage and returned to Schwenkville.”

Reuben Strassburger advertised his property for sale in the Bucks County Intelligencer dated August 11, 1868:

“[R. Y. Strassburger], intending to relinquish the store business, offers his valuable STORE STAND and PROPERTY, containing about EIGHTEEN ACRES of excellent land. The buildings thereon consists of a two-story Brick DWELLING HOUSE, 30 by 40 feet; a two-story

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Brick Store Room adjoining the same, 18 by 36 feet; also a large outside kitchen; a large frame warehouse and open sheds convenient to the store room; a barn and wagon house, 36 by 70 feet, stone stable high, with two threshing floors, carriage house adjoining the same; hog stable, wood shed and all other necessary out buildings. The buildings are put up of the best material, and are as good as new. The store stand is one of the best in the county of Bucks.”

The buildings in the advertisement nearly match the sizes as they are currently. The house was recently measured at 30 by 40 feet. The store addition, 20 by 36 feet. The barn measured 32 by 52 feet and it had a carriage house addition, now in ruins. The carriage house ruins would add about 17 feet to the barn. The barn has two threshing floors adjacent to each other. The warehouse and sheds are no longer extant.

While the ad above lists 18 acres for sale, deed records indicate that in 1869, Reuben Strassburger sold the house and store, with about 15 acres of land to Henry A. Moyer. An additional lot of farmland of 12 acres was included in the sale for a total of 27 acres. Henry Moyer was a shoemaker who operated his business in the store addition. In 1869 Reuben Strassburger moved back to Schwenksville and reestablished his business there. Reuben passed away in 1872 when he fell from a freight car on a train that was operating in the yard near his business in Schwenksville. His wife Elizabeth died in 1907. (See figure 19 portraits of Reuben and Elizabeth Strassburger.)

The 1876 atlas map of Bucks County shows the property owned by H.A. Moyer Est. and described as a shoe shop with 15 acres. (See figure 13.) Henry A. Moyer died c.1875 and the property was sold by his estate to Isaiah Moyer in 1878. The estate of Henry A. Moyer advertised the property for sale in 1877 in the Bucks County Intelligencer:

“On November 6, 1877 there will be a sale on the premises of Henry A. Moyer, deceased, of Hilltown on the Sellersville-Line Lexington turnpike road, about 1 ½ miles below the former. Tract #1 is the well-known store stand, formerly Strassburger’s Store, on 15 acres of highly improved land divided into convenient fields under good fences. A young apple orchard in the prime of bearing together with a great variety of fruit trees, grapes, etc. Improvements include a brick dwelling house suitable for two families with a large store room attached and newly refitted. A large barn in good repair and all other necessary outbuildings. The stand is in a good neighborhood, convenient to the railroad station. Very desirable home and business place. Tract #2 is 12-acres of arable land in a high state of cultivation divided into two fields. They will be sold together or separately by Joseph G. Moyer and Henry G. Moyer, Auctioneer is J.R. Krout.”

On the 1876 atlas map, next to the house and shoe shop of the H.A. Moyer Estate, is 6 acres with the tenant house owned by Christopher Proctor and the initials BSSh, which indicates a blacksmith shop.

Note also on the 1876 map is the proposed Delaware and Lancaster Railroad dividing the property. This railroad was chartered in 1868 and parts of it were built in Chester County, but it was never built through Montgomery County or Bucks County. The railroad was to connect

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Lancaster, Pennsylvania to New York City crossing the Delaware River near Point Pleasant, Pennsylvania.

The 1880 agricultural census was checked for both Christopher Proctor owner of the 6 acres, tenant house and the blacksmith shop and for Isaiah Moyer owner of the farmhouse and shoe shop/store and 27 acres. Christopher Proctor, the blacksmith, with his 6 acres of land did report some farm production in 1880. His property produced 40 bushels of Indian corn, 22 bushels of oats, 25 bushels of potatoes, and 100 pounds of butter. In the 1880 census of population Christopher Proctor is a 56 year old blacksmith, but his son Thomas age 20 is living with him and his son's occupation is farmer. Thomas likely worked the 6 acres.

The larger parcel of about 27 acres owned by Isaiah Moyer in 1880 was far more productive. The property had 25 fruit bearing trees and 15 bushels of apples were produced. Also notable is production of 500 dozen eggs from 100 hens. The 1880 census of population lists Isaiah Moyer as a 26 year old farmer with his wife and his four daughters all four under age 6. Living with them is his father-in-law, 57 year old Aaron Nace whose occupation is farm laborer.

The 1891 atlas map of Bucks County continues to show the properties as the Moyer Shoe Shop 15 acres and C. Proctor BSSh, the blacksmith shop with 6 acres. (See figure 14.)

The properties changed hands several times in the late 19th and early 20th century. In 1920 the property with the farmhouse, store and barn were purchased by Lewis and Lizzie Steele. They retained the property until 1928. The 1927 Pennsylvania agricultural census reveals the owner as L.G. Steele with 27 acres in total, but no acreage in farmland. Production on the farm in 1927 was practically nonexistent as the census reports only 6 apple trees and 2 pear trees. One hundred hens are reported, and the farmhouse had a furnace heating system, a telephone and electricity supplied by a power station. Lewis Steele and his wife Lizzie were cigar makers in Hilltown Township according to the 1920 census of population. It is possible they made cigars at the property rather than farming, thus the low agricultural production. In 1927 the six acre parcel with the tenant house and blacksmith shop was owned by Michael Mayer. He had one and a half acres in farmland, all of it in hay. Four apple trees, one peach tree and four pear trees, along with a horse and 400 hens were on the six acre parcel in 1927. The tenant house had a furnace, a radio and electricity supplied by a power station. The Mayer's owned an automobile and a truck.

The two properties: one with the farmhouse, store addition, barn and about 27 acres; and the other with about 6 acres, the tenant house and blacksmith shop were both purchased by Franklinville Realty in 1930. This brought back together the property that was the original 34 acre parcel purchased by Reuben Strassburger in 1849. The president of the Franklinville Realty Company was Reuben's grandson, Ralph Strassburger, the previously mentioned avid historian and genealogist. Ralph Strassburger owned Normandy Farm [NR Listed 2001] located in the small hamlet of Franklinville in Whitpain Township, Montgomery County. He had nearly unlimited wealth, having married Mae Bourne, daughter of Frederick Bourne, the President of the Singer Sewing Machine Company. He and Mae received a gift of \$4,000,000 on their wedding day in 1911 from her father. With this wealth Ralph Strassburger was able to acquire

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many properties around Franklinville including the former Franklinville Schoolhouse [NR Listed 2014] and several other farms totaling about 1500 acres. He also acquired as much of the land as possible around the Reuben Strassburger Farmstead as well. He was a member of, and served as president of, the Pennsylvania German Society. A 1937 article in the Sellersville Herald states that Ralph Strassburger was dedicating his grandfather's home for the headquarters of the Pennsylvania German Society. A brief caption under photos of the event states in part that "...the house had been completely renovated and furnished with early Pennsylvania antiques." Among the important people at the meeting when the house was dedicated to the society were Allentown Morning Call publisher David A. Miller and it was noted in the caption that former State Librarian and Director of the State Museum, Frederick Godcharles was a member of the Pennsylvania German Society, but was not present at the dedication. The house was not used long as the headquarters for the society as Ralph Strassburger resigned as president c.1940. He moved to France where he owned a large estate. His departure from the U.S. was due in part to his isolationist pro-German political views and he was indicted in 1947 for tax evasion.

Ralph Strassburger died in 1959 in France and his wife Mae died in 1975. Their only son Peter Strassburger inherited all of their considerable estate, including the Reuben and Elizabeth Strassburger Farmstead. In 1986 Peter donated the property to the Historical Society of Hilltown Township which is the current owner of the property.

Architectural Significance

The farmhouse on the Strassburger Farmstead is an example of vernacular Federal architecture. It is more accurately a Federal house with some folk housing elements. The Federal features include the transoms over the doors, the detail brick cornice with dog tooth pattern, corbels and dentils. Typically Federal also are the paneled doors and shutters. In addition, the 9 over 6 windows are indicative of Federal architecture. On the interior the floor plan is also Federal in influence with a central hall and two rooms on each side. (See photos 1 thru 16 and figure 5 floor plan.) The fireplaces, particularly the one on the second floor in bedroom #1 are Federal in design as well. (See photo 30.) The Strassburger farmhouse also has characteristics of a folk house type similar to what Henry Glassie describes in *Pattern in the Material Folk Culture of the Eastern United States*. On page 54 of Glassie's book he states "The farmhouses most usual in the Mid-Atlantic region, however, combine [Federal] with earlier folk features...They are two rooms deep, have internal gable end chimneys, a placement of windows and doors which approximate symmetry, and a low pitched roof like the [Federal] houses..." (See figure 21, photos from Glassie's *Patterns in the Material Folk Culture*.) These houses often have two front doors like the Strassburger farmhouse. In addition, Fred Kniffen identified a folk house described as a four over four house. This house type has a four bay symmetrical fenestration on the first and second floor and is two piles (2 rooms) deep. The Strassburger farmhouse is a variation of this but has six over six fenestration on each floor and two front doors. Furthermore, both Glassie and Kniffen associate this house type with the southeastern Pennsylvania German cultural hearth. The house type diffused south and west with Pennsylvania German settlers and can also be found in central southern areas of Pennsylvania and in Maryland, West Virginia and Virginia. Features of the Strassburger farmhouse such as the two front doors and Dutch doors on the Strassburger farmhouse reflect folk traditions. Also, the interiors of the front doors have a

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nailing pattern that follow folk traditions, possibly medieval building concepts, rather than being a Federal stylistic feature.

The two front doors on the farmhouse are an interesting architectural characteristic. Two entrances on a main façade exist for a variety of reasons including folk culture building tradition, as part of an addition for an extended family, or for a building with multiple functions such as use as a doctor's office with a residence. The most plausible reason for two front doors in the Strassburger farmhouse is a social/cultural explanation. The wider more formal front entrance door on the left side of the main façade of the farmhouse is the entrance where formal company entered the building. Those with status in the community (an elected official, a church leader, or prominent business person, etc.) were greeted at the larger more formal door and escorted into the larger more formal room. Everyday company, close friends and extended family entered through the smaller door on the right and were entertained in the smaller, less formal dining room, which was closer to the kitchen, and the noises and smells associated with it.

There is a possibility that the farmhouse may have been restored by a preservation architect in the mid- to late-1930s. Ralph Strassburger hired an architect, G. Edwin (Ed) Brumbaugh, to work on the restoration of his property in Montgomery County, Normandy Farm. Normandy Farm was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2001. Ed Brumbaugh was a pioneering historic preservation architect and a specialist in Colonial Revival architecture. The library at Winterthur Museum in Delaware has some of Brumbaugh's records in their collection. These include drawings for the redesign of Normandy Farm. However, the collection does not include any evidence that Brumbaugh worked on the Strassburger Farmstead. There is some evidence, both physical and documentary, that the farmhouse on the Strassburger Farmstead was restored by a knowledgeable restoration professional. On the second floor of the store addition there are wood partition walls that don't show significant age and one room created by the partition is a former bathroom. (See photo 36 and 37.) Partitions of this type are common in early colonial houses, so some knowledge of how to create them was utilized in their design and construction. In addition, the kitchen fireplace in the farmhouse has wood folding doors that also were added in the late 1930s.

The documentary evidence that a thoughtful restoration of the farmhouse occurred is found in the article in the Sellersville Herald dated November 18, 1937. The article documents when Ralph Strassburger dedicated the house as the headquarters of the Pennsylvania German Society. In the article it is mentioned that the house "has been entirely renovated..." Therefore, when Ralph Strassburger purchased his grandfather Reuben's farmstead, considerable work was done on the house. Ralph Strassburger was avid about history and architecture and he would have wanted as authentic renovation as possible. He may have been comfortable enough with his own knowledge of historic restoration to direct the project himself, or he formally hired, or informally got advice from, Ed Brumbaugh to complete the restoration. Unfortunately there is not enough evidence to determine Brumbaugh's involvement in the restoration of the farmhouse.

The barn on the property is also an important example of vernacular architecture. In his book *The Pennsylvania Barn* Robert Ensminger establishes a classification system for Pennsylvania Barns. The barn on the Strassburger Farmstead is an example of what Ensminger classifies as a

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Class II, Type A, closed forebay, standard barn. This barn type has gable end stone walls, or as in the case of the Strassburger barn, the stone walls are only up to the lower stable height. The upper part of the barn constructed completely of frame. The overall time period for construction of closed forebay barns is 1790 to 1890, with most constructed in the time period of 1830 to 1860. The Strassburger barn was built c.1830. The closed forebay barn also is geographically concentrated in the eastern part of Pennsylvania primarily in the areas outside of Philadelphia and in the Lehigh Valley. In addition, this type of barn sometimes had a short, L-shaped end to the stone wall called a Peilereck. The Strassburger barn does have Peilerecks. (See photos 49, 50, 55 and 56.) Ensminger describes a Peilereck in detail:

“Another practice common only in the eastern counties of the core region, was to finish the exposed end of the stone gable walls on the forebay side of the barn with large, quoin stones, producing L-shaped edges. The result is a shallow, recessed alcove between the wider, outer wall edge and the front stable wall.”

The word Peilereck is Pennsylvania German in origin, meaning pier corner or pillar corner, indicating the cultural influence of the architectural feature. The Peilereck was meant to add support to the forebay. However, it also had the function of providing a place for storage. Some Peilerecks had shelves added and some had pegs added to the interior. These features are both present in the Strassburger barn. Some barns with Peilerecks also had doors added to make little closets or cupboards.

Another interesting feature of the barn is the bridge that carries the barn ramp to the large door. (See photos 51, 52 and 53.) This was created by ending the ramp about five feet before the rear wall and adding a short extension to the barn. According to Ensminger the barn ramp bridge and rear extension was done to create a storage space or shed under the bridge. He refers to the feature as a ramp shed. In addition, Ensminger considers the rear extension Pennsylvania barn with a ramp shed its own barn classification: Type III, rear extension, C-1 ramp shed barn. However, this is contestable as a type of barn of its own, rather the elements are part of barns of any classification. The Strassburger barn is best classified as a standard, closed forebay barn with Peilerecks. The fact that the Strassburger barn has a rear extension and ramp shed and was built c. 1830 makes it an early example of a barn that has this feature. In addition, the barn is rare geographically as few barns in the local area have rear extensions and ramp sheds.

Comparable Properties

Comparable properties were located using the Pennsylvania Cultural Resources Geographic Information System (PA CRGIS). Unfortunately, there has not been a thorough survey of historic properties in Hilltown Township recently. Most Bucks County municipalities have not updated their historic resource inventories through survey in many years. The preparer also reviewed historic maps, and conducted a reconnaissance level “windshield” survey of the area to identify comparable properties.

A property found using the PA CRGIS is the Erwin-Stover House, which was determined to be eligible for the National Register by the SHPO in 1982. Built c.1800 and added on to c.1860 with

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a rear addition, the Erwin-Stover house in Tinicum Township, Bucks County is a property with similar characteristics to the Strassburger Farmhouse. The Erwin-Stover house is Federal in style and had a c.1860 Italianate style update as well. The Italianate features are the brackets along the cornice. The house has two front doors in the same configuration as the Strassburger farmhouse. (See Figure 22.) The fenestration of the Erwin-Stover House is not as symmetrical as the Strassburger farmhouse, however, which gives the appearance that it may have been built in two phases. However, there is no seam on the main façade that would indicate two phases of construction. The door on the left part of the main façade of the Erwin-Stover House is wider and more formal with side lights and a transom above. Unlike the Strassburger farmhouse, the wider door is not double leaf. On the right side of the main façade is a smaller door, less formal, narrower and without side lights. Side lights and transoms around doors are very typical of Federal architecture. The Erwin-Stover House also has a rear addition that gives the building an overall T-shape like the Strassburger farmhouse. The barn on the property of the Erwin-Stover House also has similar architectural characteristics as the Strassburger barn. It is a standard, closed forebay barn with Peilerecks and has a small ramp shed opening that is enclosed. (See figure 23.)

In the village of Tylersport in adjacent Salford Township, Montgomery County there is a barn with a ramp shed similar to the Strassburger Barn. (See Figure 24.) It is located on the southeast corner of Allentown Road and Ridge Road. This barn appears to be older than the Strassburger Barn and the ramp shed is better described as a ramp bridge, since it does not have height sufficient for storage and is formed by a stone arch. According to an 1848 and 1871 map of Salford Township (then Upper Salford Township), the property was a combination of residence, store, and was farmed, based on the presence of the barn. This is similar to the multiple functions of the Strassburger Farmstead. The Tylersport property was owned by Augustus Thomas, a dry goods merchant who operated the business for many years. The house on the property was recently demolished. The barn retains a high degree of integrity but is in fair condition at best. This property was identified as part of the reconnaissance survey conducted for this nomination and historic map research assisted in the historic research for the property.

Another property found as part of the windshield survey is located at 732 Hilltown Pike (See Figure 25). This house displays more high style elements of Federal architecture than the Strassburger Farmhouse. It is built of stone and has a main entrance door that has a pediment above, transom, and fluted trim. These elements are Federal features and are a contrast to the more reserved features of the Strassburger farmhouse. The house was also a store, which may have been in the small addition accessed by the second entrance door on the main façade. According to 1850 and 1876 historic maps of Hilltown the property was owned by John Frick and was a store. There is a large, but unremarkable barn on the property. John Frick was a farmer according to the 1870 federal census. Therefore, the store function was not the primary use of the building and in fact may have been leased by John Frick to a merchant.

Based on the PA CRGIS research, field work, and historic map analysis there are other properties in Bucks and Montgomery Counties comparable to the Strassburger Farmstead. This does not diminish the historic significance of the Strassburger Farmstead, instead it enhances the fact that the Strassburger Farmstead was among several properties with multiple functions

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including agriculture and retail commerce. Geographically, these properties have common locations. The Strassburger Farmstead, while not located in the heart of a village, it is along the well-traveled Bethlehem Pike. Some historic maps do call the area Pennville. Similarly, the Tylersport property and the Hilltown Pike property are located in or near small villages. Tylersport is along the Allentown Road, also an important early road. The Frick residence and store on Hilltown Pike also is in a small village known as Fricks and is near the village of Leidytown, also along Hilltown Pike.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.04

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 40.337772 | Longitude: -75.302770 |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Bucks County tax parcel map ID 15-001-122-001 (2015) contains the farmhouse/store, barn and tenant house of the Strassburger Farmstead. See the attached aerial photo, tax parcel map and site plan.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The current tax parcel retains all of the extant historic resources associated with the Strassburger Farmstead that retain historic integrity.

Strassburger, Reuben and Elizabeth, Farmstead
Name of Property

Bucks County, PA
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: David Kimmerly
organization: Mid-Atlantic Historic Preservation Services LLC
street & number: 1137 Park Ave
city or town: Lansdale state: PA zip code: 19446
e-mail dkimmerly@midatlantichps.com
telephone: 215-740-1650
date: December 2015

The preparer wishes to acknowledge the contribution of the Historical Society of Hilltown Township for their assistance with preparing this nomination and in particular the work of Tammy Schane, Van Jurin and Beverly Slifer. Their previous research and investigations into the history of the property made this nomination possible.

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Strassburger, Reuben and Elizabeth, Farmstead
Name of Property

Bucks County, PA
County and State

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Strassburger Farmstead

City or Vicinity: Sellersville

County: Bucks County

State: PA

Photographer: David Kimmerly

Date Photographed: September and October 2015.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 1 – Strassburger Farmstead, environmental view, camera direction west.

Photo 2 – Environmental view of main façade of farmhouse (south side), camera direction north.

Photo 3 – Main façade of farmhouse, camera direction north.

Photo 4 – Lateral view, west side, main façade (south side) of farmhouse, camera direction north.

Photo 5 – Lateral view, east side and main façade (south side) of farmhouse, and summer kitchen, camera direction northwest.

Photo 6 – Lateral view, east side, of farmhouse and summer kitchen, camera direction west.

Photo 7 – View of rear (north side) and east side of farmhouse showing store addition and summer kitchen, camera direction southwest.

Photo 8 – Detail view of the summer kitchen, east side gable end and south side, camera direction southwest.

Photo 9 – Detail view of west gable end and entrance door of the summer kitchen, camera direction northeast.

Photo 10 – Interior view of the summer kitchen, camera direction east.

Photo 11 – Environmental view rear (south side) showing store addition gable end and Bethlehem Pike in foreground, camera direction south.

Photo 12 – View of main façade (west side) of store addition and gable end of house, camera direction southeast.

Photo 13 – View of west gable end and main façade (south side), camera direction northeast.

Photo 14 – Detail of double leaf doors main entrance to store addition, camera direction east.

Strassburger, Reuben and Elizabeth, Farmstead

Bucks County, PA

Name of Property

County and State

- Photo 15 – View of seam between house (left) and store addition (right) showing brick cornice and corbel detail.
- Photo 16 – Detail of shutters, windows and stucco on farmhouse, camera direction northeast.
- Photo 17 – Detail of double leaf entrance door, camera direction north.
- Photo 18 – Detail of split leaf Dutch door, camera direction north.
- Photo 19 – Interior view of double leaf entrance door to parlor, camera direction southwest.
- Photo 20 – Detail of pull down top lock and nailing pattern on inside of double leaf entrance door, camera direction south.
- Photo 21 – Interior view of split leaf Dutch door in center hall, camera direction south.
- Photo 22 – Detail view of latch on inside of Dutch door, camera direction south.
- Photo 23 – Interior of dining room, camera direction northeast.
- Photo 24 – Interior of sitting room, camera direction northwest.
- Photo 25 – View of cooking fireplace in kitchen, camera direction southeast.
- Photo 26 – View of center hall staircase, camera direction northwest.
- Photo 27 - Interior view of south room in store, camera direction northwest.
- Photo 28 – Interior view of main entrance door to north room of store, camera direction west.
- Photo 29 – Interior of store, north room, camera direction north.
- Photo 30 – Interior of north room of store showing bathroom (2015), camera direction east.
- Photo 31 – View of second floor center hall, farmhouse, camera direction south.
- Photo 32 – Interior view of second floor, bedroom #2, camera direction northwest.
- Photo 33 – View of fireplace in second floor, bedroom #1, camera direction west.
- Photo 34 – Interior view of second floor, bedroom #1, camera direction southwest.
- Photo 35 – View of second floor center hall, camera direction north.
- Photo 36 – View of interior second floor, bedroom #3, camera direction southeast.
- Photo 37 – View of fireplace in bedroom #4, camera direction east.
- Photo 38 – Second floor of store addition south room, camera direction north.
- Photo 39 – Second floor of store, north room hall, camera direction north.
- Photo 40 – North room, second floor of store, bathroom, camera direction southeast.
- Photo 41 – West wall of attic interior, camera direction facing west.
- Photo 42 – East wall of attic interior, camera direction west.
- Photo 43 – Detail view of support structure in attic, camera direction north.
- Photo 44 – Rafter support structure over store addition and north wall, camera direction north.
- Photo 45 – View of basement fireplace support for cooking fireplace on east gable end, camera direction southeast.
- Photo 46 – View of large support beam in basement, camera direction south.
- Photo 47 – Window in wall in basement, camera direction northwest.
- Photo 48 – View in basement of the store addition showing support structure, camera direction north.
- Photo 49 – View of stable side (south side) of barn, camera direction northeast.
- Photo 50 – View of stable side of barn and east gable end showing carriage house addition, camera direction northwest.
- Photo 51 – Ramp side (north side) of barn, camera direction south west.
- Photo 52 – View of west gable end of barn showing ramp and barn bridge, camera direction east.

Strassburger, Reuben and Elizabeth, Farmstead

Bucks County, PA

Name of Property

County and State

- Photo 53 – Detail of the barn bridge, camera direction east.
Photo 54 – Detail of small louver window showing pegged corners, camera direction south.
Photo 55 - Detail of Peilereck on west side of forebay, camera direction west.
Photo 56 – Detail view of Peilereck on east side of forebay, camera direction east.
Photo 57 – Interior view of stable area of barn, camera direction northeast.
Photo 58 – Interior of upper threshing area and hay mow of barn, camera direction southwest.
Photo 59 – Threshing floor and hay mow in barn, camera direction southeast.
Photo 60– View of roof support structure of barn, camera direction west.
Photo 61 – Northwest gable end and main façade (southwest side) of tenant house, camera direction east.
Photo 62 – View of rear (northeast side) of tenant house, camera direction southwest.
Photo 63 - Tenant house main façade (southwest side) and southeast gable end, camera direction west.
Photo 64 – Interior view of meeting/research room in tenant house, camera direction southwest.
Photo 65 - Fireplace in tenant house, camera direction north.
Photo 66 – View of blacksmith shop ruins, camera direction east.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Strassburger, Reuben and Elizabeth, Farmstead
Name of Property

Bucks County, PA
County and State

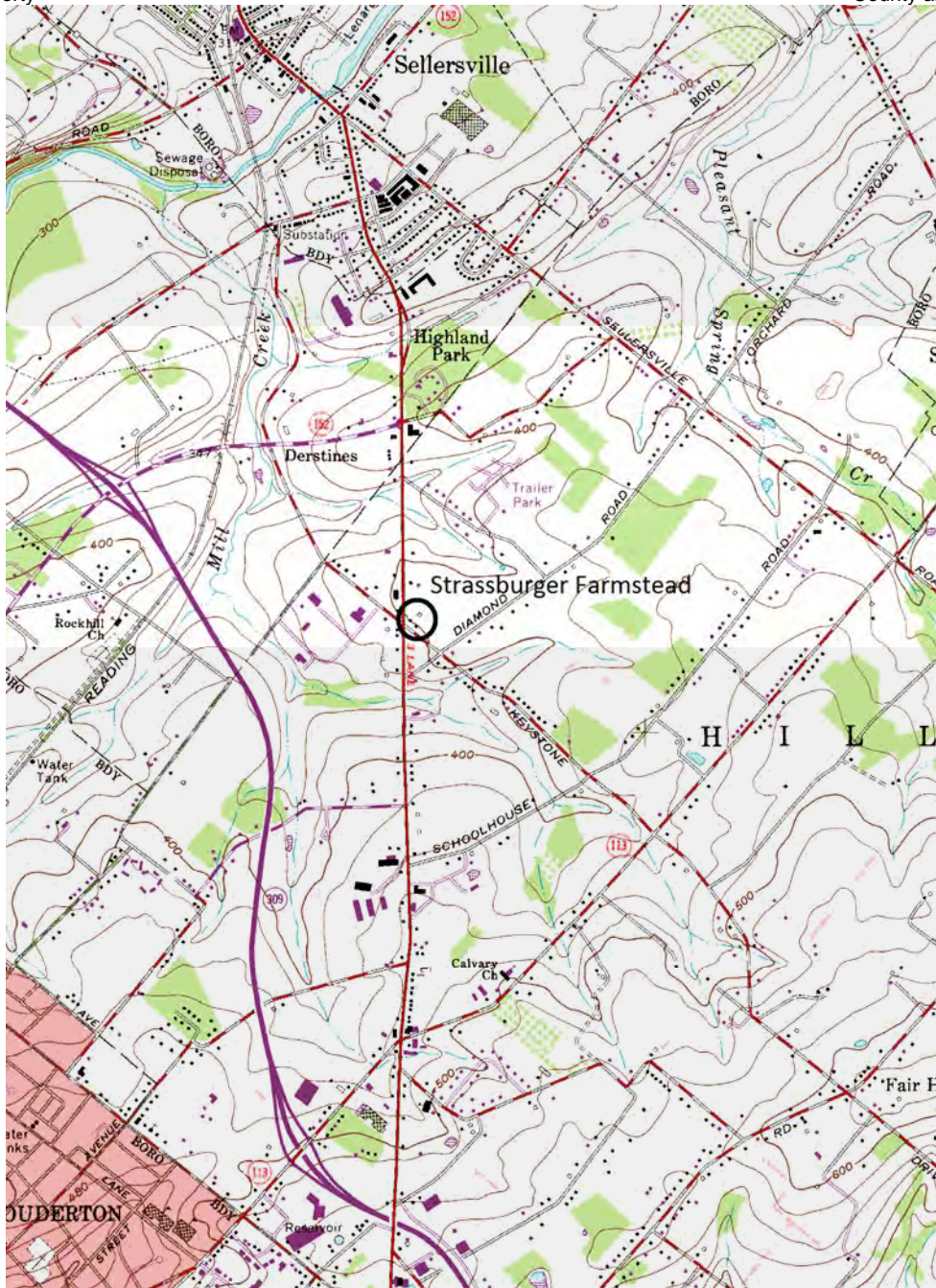


Figure 1

Strassburger Farmstead
U.S. Geological Survey Map
Quad: Telford
Bucks County, PA
Latitude: 40.337772 Longitude: -75.302770

Strassburger, Reuben and Elizabeth, Farmstead
Name of Property

Bucks County, PA
County and State

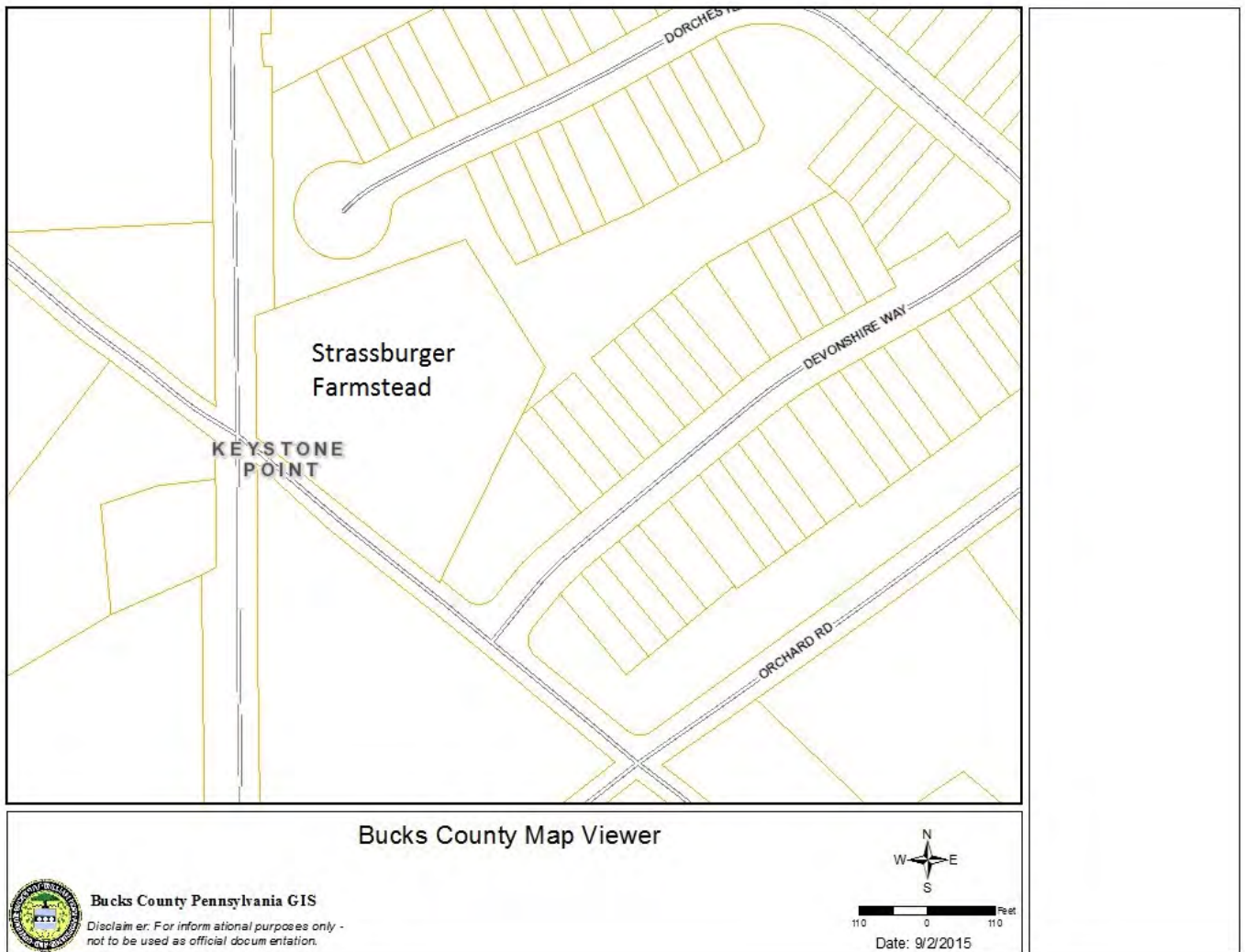


Figure 2

Tax Parcel Map
Strassburger Farmstead
Bucks County, PA
Parcel ID - 15-001-122-001 (2015)
2.04 acres

Strassburger, Reuben and Elizabeth, Farmstead
Name of Property

Bucks County, PA
County and State



Figure 3

Google Earth Aerial Photo
Image Date October 2011
Strassburger Farmstead
Bucks County, PA

Strassburger, Reuben and Elizabeth, Farmstead
Name of Property

Bucks County, PA
County and State

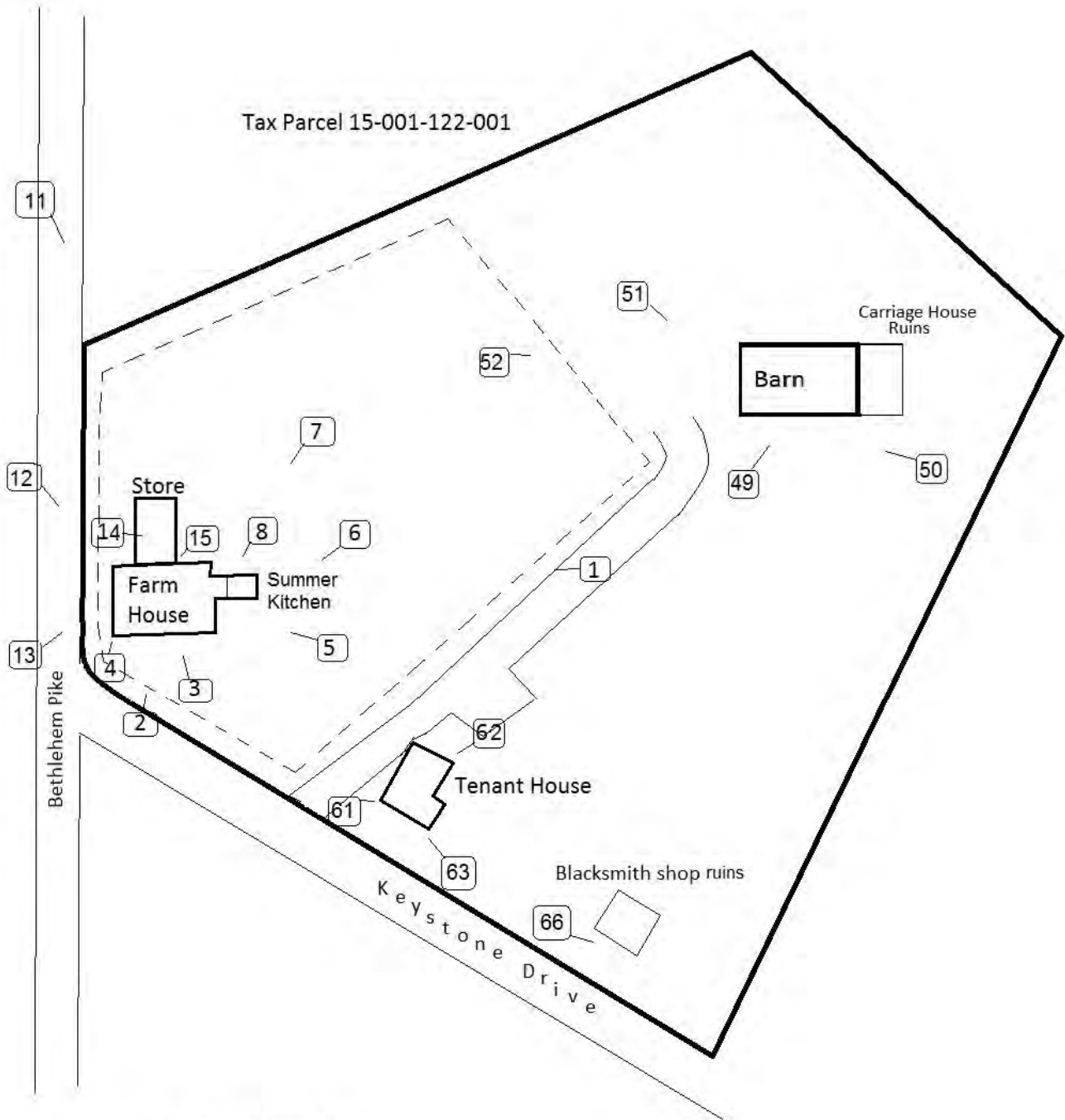
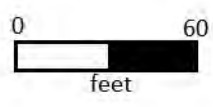


Figure 4
Site Plan
Strassburger Farmstead
Bucks County, PA

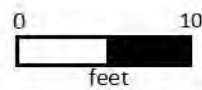


Strassburger, Reuben and Elizabeth, Farmstead
Name of Property

Bucks County, PA
County and State



Figure 5
First Floor Farmhouse
Strassburger Farmstead
Buck County, PA



Strassburger, Reuben and Elizabeth, Farmstead
Name of Property

Bucks County, PA
County and State

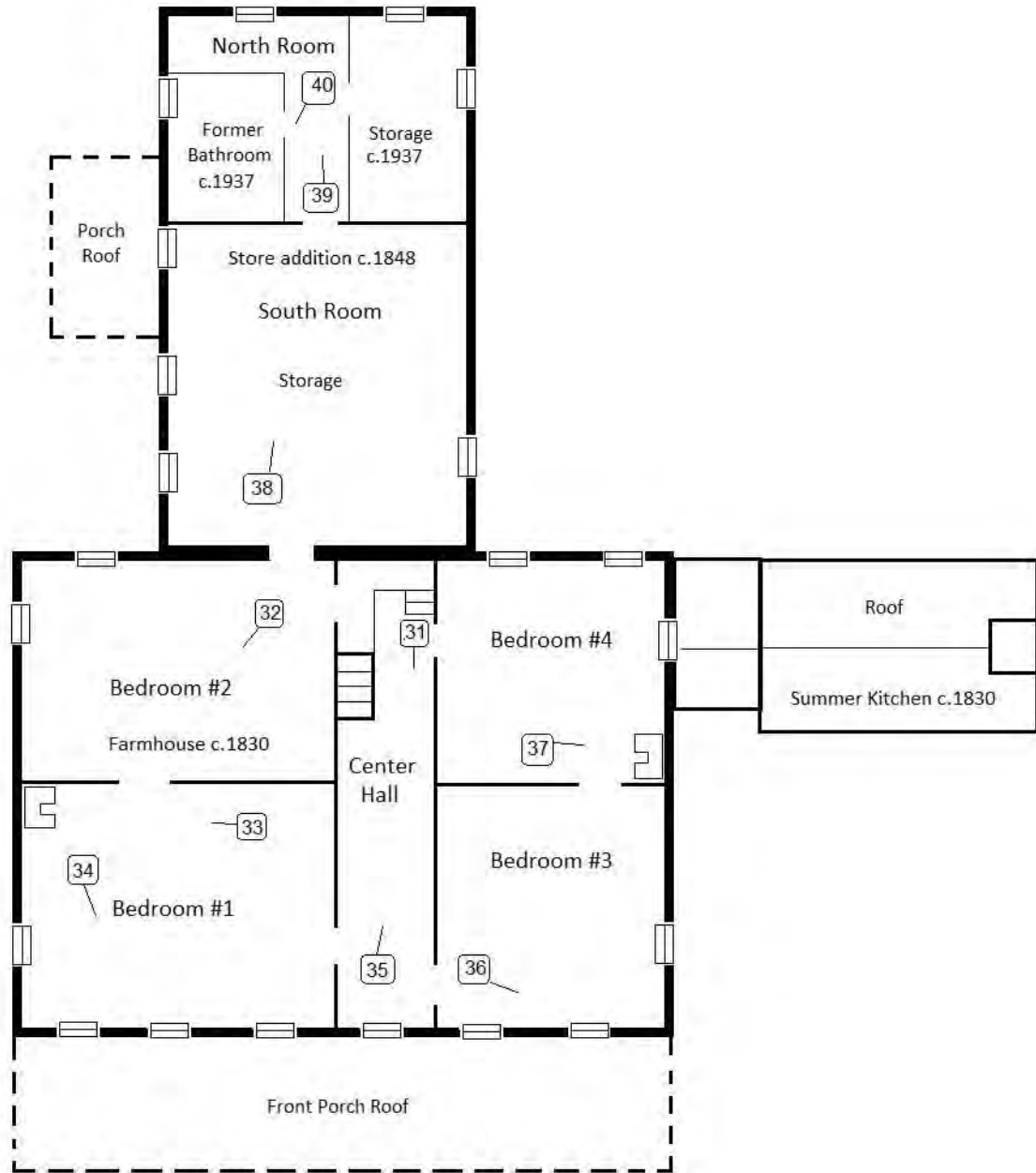
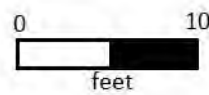


Figure 6
Second Floor Farmhouse
Strassburger Farmstead
Bucks County, PA



Strassburger, Reuben and Elizabeth, Farmstead
Name of Property

Bucks County, PA
County and State

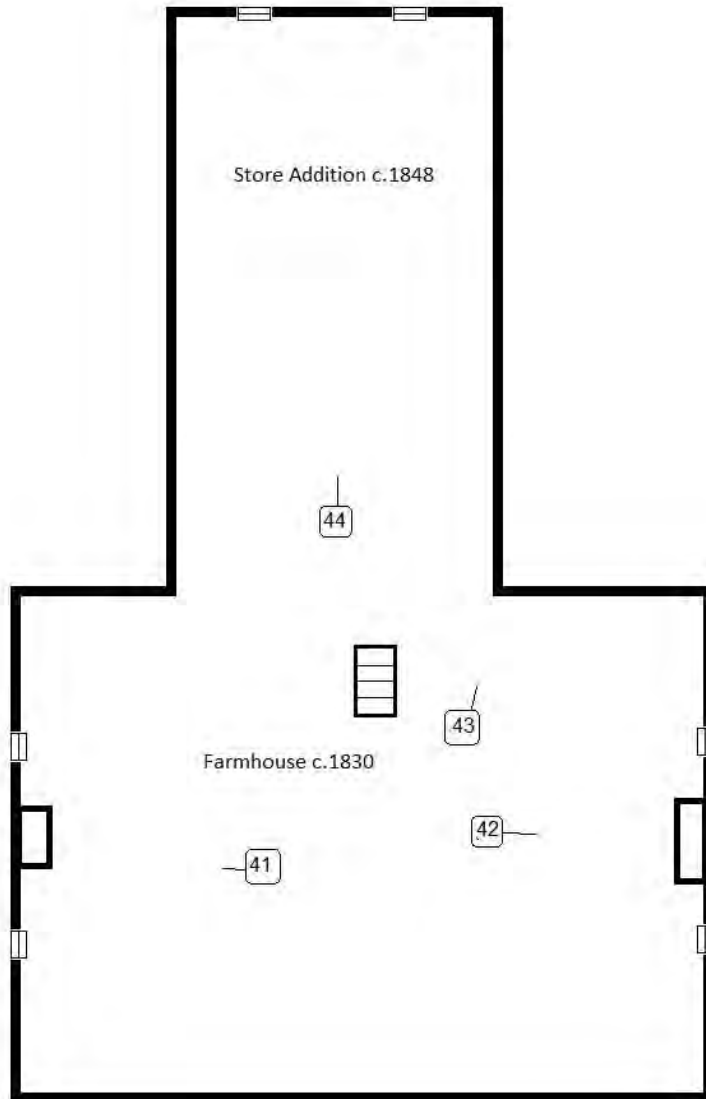
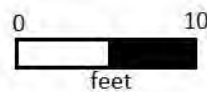


Figure 7
Attic Farmhouse
Strassburger Farmstead
Bucks County, PA



Strassburger, Reuben and Elizabeth, Farmstead
Name of Property

Bucks County, PA
County and State

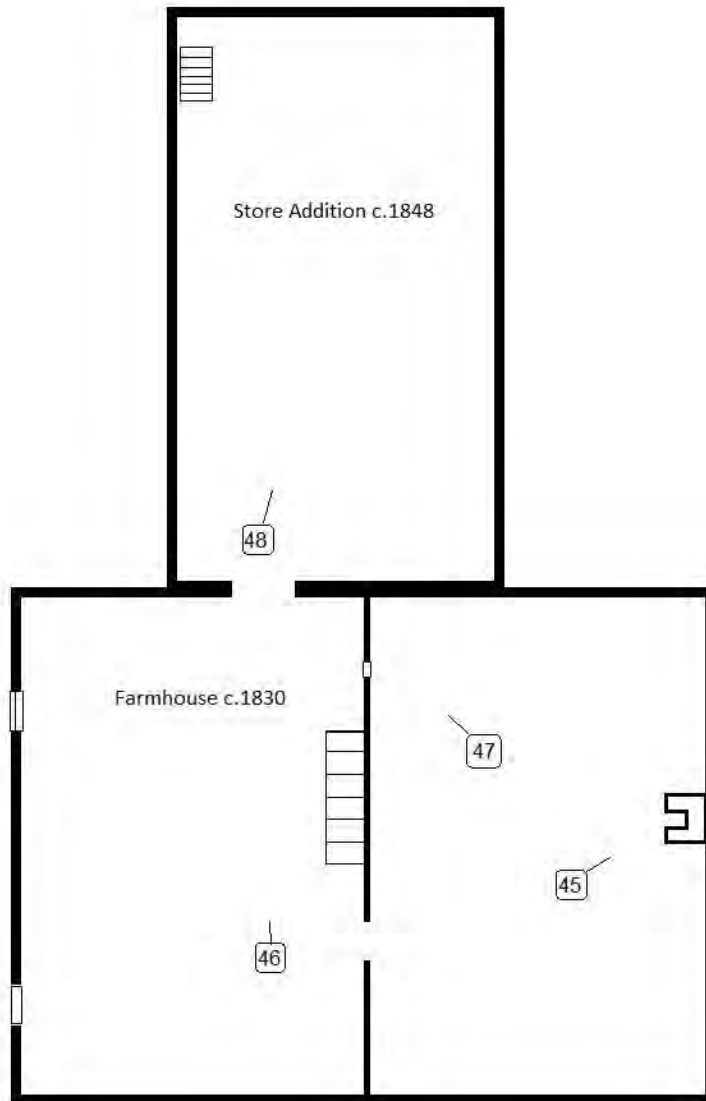
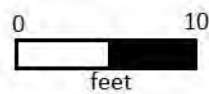


Figure 8
Basement Farmhouse
Strassburger Farmstead
Bucks County, PA



Strassburger, Reuben and Elizabeth, Farmstead
Name of Property

Bucks County, PA
County and State

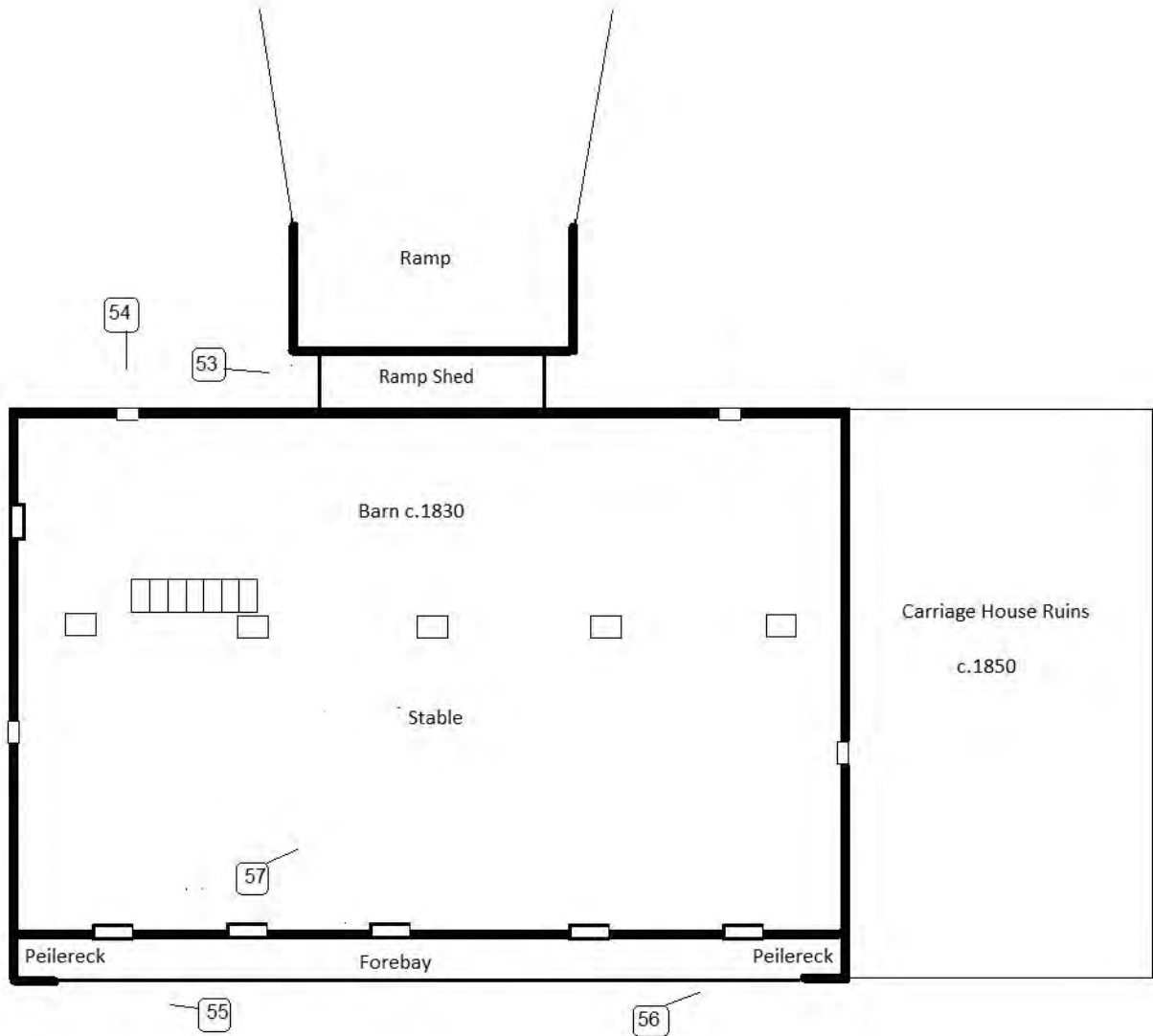
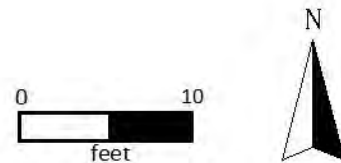


Figure 9
Lower Level Barn
Strassburger Farmstead
Bucks County, PA



Strassburger, Reuben and Elizabeth, Farmstead
Name of Property

Bucks County, PA
County and State

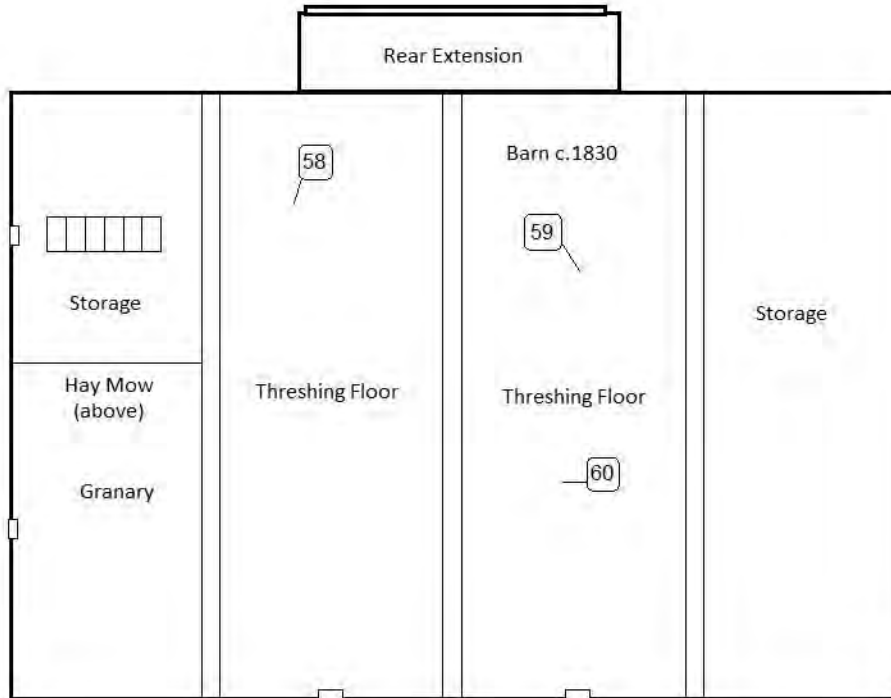
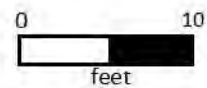


Figure 10
Upper Level Barn
Strassburger Farmstead
Bucks County, PA



Strassburger, Reuben and Elizabeth, Farmstead
Name of Property

Bucks County, PA
County and State

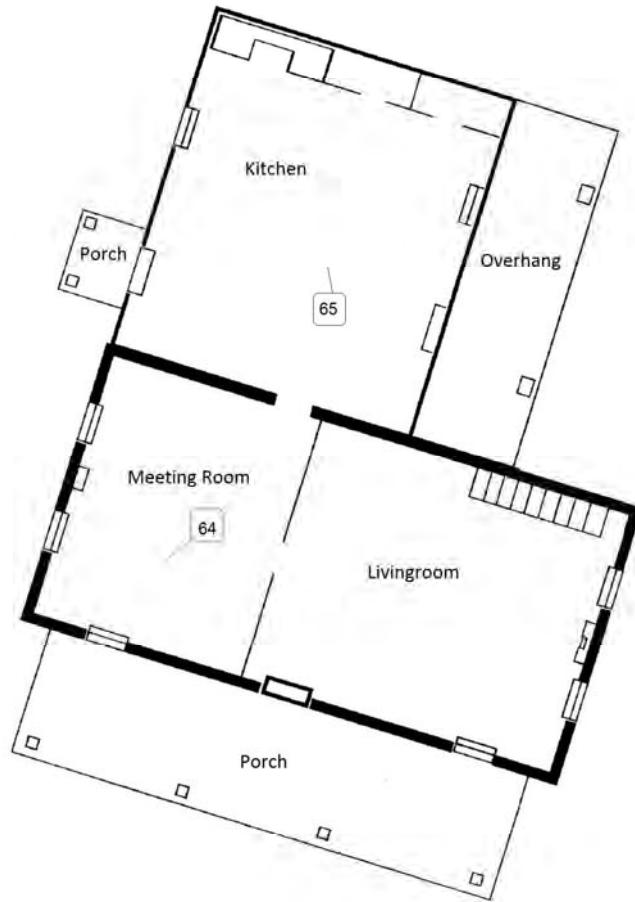
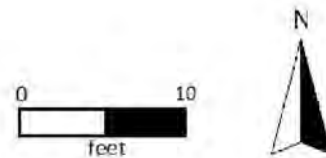


Figure 11
Tenant House Floor Plan
Strassburger Farmstead
Buck County, PA



Strassburger, Reuben and Elizabeth, Farmstead
Name of Property

Bucks County, PA
County and State



Figure 12

W.E. Morris Map, 1850
R Y Strassburger's Store
Strassburger Farmstead
Bucks County, PA

Strassburger, Reuben and Elizabeth, Farmstead
Name of Property

Bucks County, PA
County and State



Figure 13

J.D. Scott Bucks County Atlas Map, 1876
H.A. Moyer Estate Shoe Shop, Store
C. Proctor Blacksmith Shop (BSSh)
Strassburger Farmstead
Bucks County, PA

Strassburger, Reuben and Elizabeth, Farmstead
Name of Property

Bucks County, PA
County and State

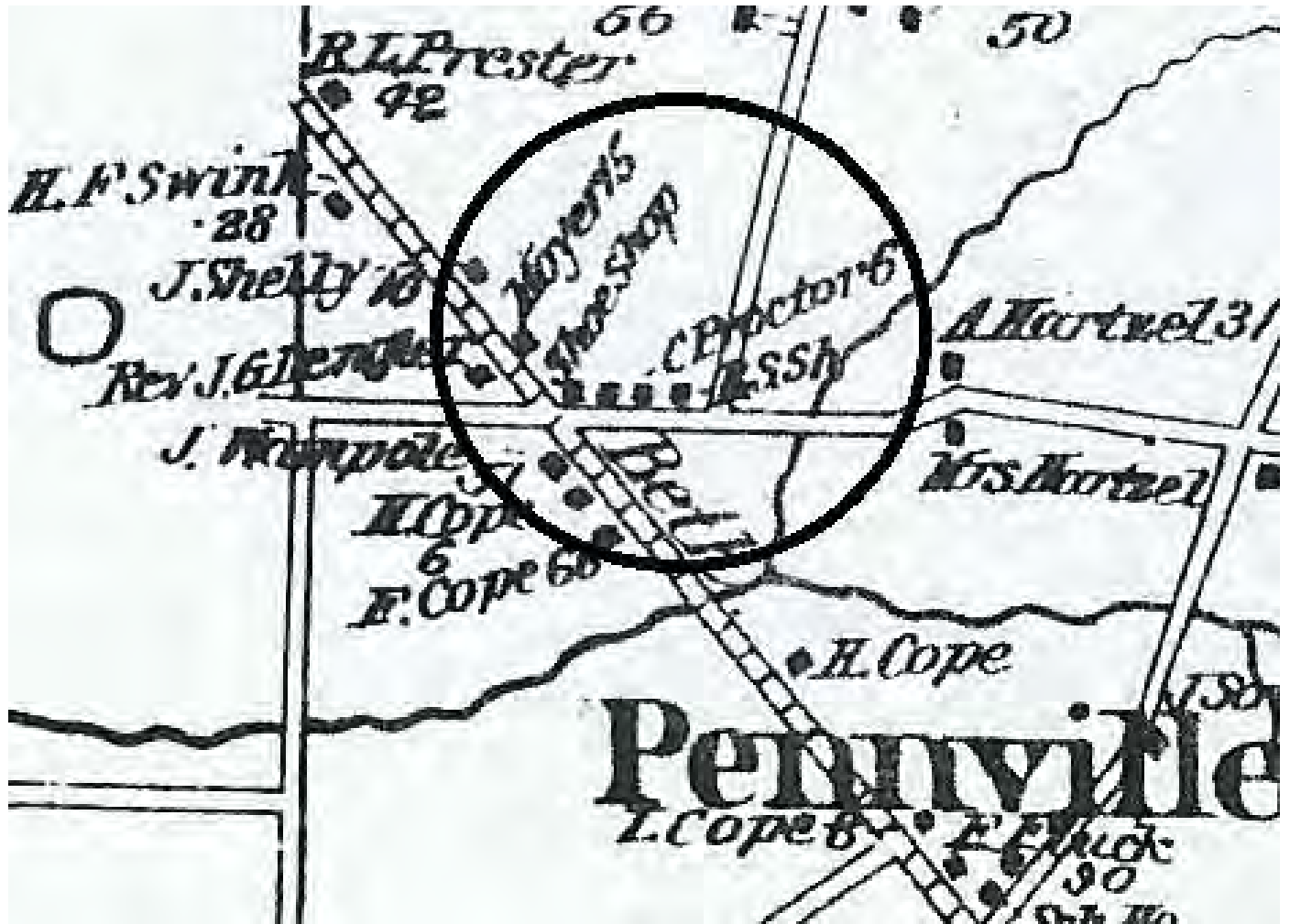


Figure 14

E. P. Noll Bucks County Atlas Map, 1891
Moyer Shoe Shop
C. Proctor Blacksmith Shop (BSSh)
Strassburger Farmstead
Bucks County, PA

Strassburger, Reuben and Elizabeth, Farmstead
Name of Property

Bucks County, PA
County and State



Figure 15

Penn Pilot Historic Aerial Photos, 1/9/1938
Showing 1849 Reuben Strassburger 34 acre parcel
Strassburger Farmstead
Bucks County, PA

Strassburger, Reuben and Elizabeth, Farmstead
Name of Property

Bucks County, PA
County and State



Figure 16

Penn Pilot Historic Aerial Photos, 9/13/1958
Showing 1849 Reuben Strassburger 34 acre parcel
Strassburger Farmstead
Bucks County, PA

Strassburger, Reuben and Elizabeth, Farmstead
Name of Property

Bucks County, PA
County and State



Figure 17

Penn Pilot Historic Aerial Photos, 8/16/1971
Showing 1849 Reuben Strassburger 34 acre parcel
Strassburger Farmstead
Bucks County, PA

Strassburger, Reuben and Elizabeth, Farmstead
Name of Property

Bucks County, PA
County and State



Figure 18

Google Earth Aerial Photo
Image Date October 2011
Showing 1849 34 acre parcel and current 2 acre parcel
Strassburger Farmstead
Bucks County, PA

Strassburger, Reuben and Elizabeth, Farmstead
Name of Property

Bucks County, PA
County and State



Figure 19

Photo Portraits of Reuben Strassburger and
Elizabeth Ziegler Schwenk Strassburger
Taken c.1860

Source: *Strassburger and Allied Families of Pennsylvania*
Strassburger Farmstead
Bucks County, PA

Strassburger, Reuben and Elizabeth, Farmstead
Name of Property

Bucks County, PA
County and State



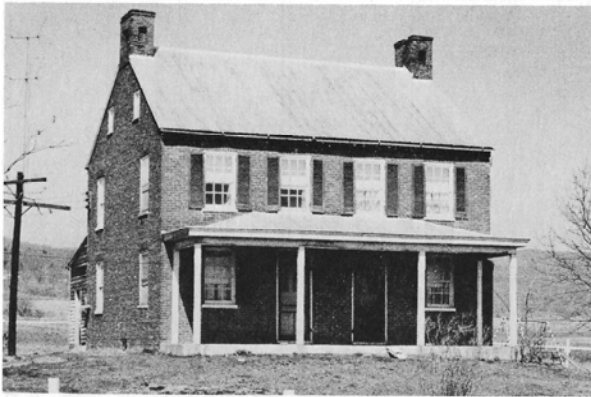
Figure 20

Photo of Reuben and Elizabeth Strassburger Farmhouse
Taken c.1900

Source: *Strassburger and Allied Families of Pennsylvania*
Strassburger Farmstead
Bucks County, PA

Strassburger, Reuben and Elizabeth, Farmstead
Name of Property

Bucks County, PA
County and State



A



B



C

FIGURE 17

MID-ATLANTIC FARMHOUSES

A. North of Thurmont, Frederick County, Maryland (March, 1968). B. Southwest of Millersville, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania (July, 1967). A and B represent the usual subtypes of the most common Mid-Atlantic house type: both have four openings on the front of the first story; A has two windows and two doors (as in Fig. 16 E); B has three windows and one door. Both have the small internal gable end chimneys, and the symmetrical arrangement of windows on the ends which are characteristics of the type which includes them. Both also have the window shutters and front porches and B has the partially above-ground basement found on many Mid-Atlantic houses. C. East of Gettysburg, Adams County, Pennsylvania (October, 1967). Basically two houses built end to end, this house has a built-in, two-story porch on the rear of a kind found regularly in south-central Pennsylvania and adjacent Maryland.

Figure 21

Mid-Atlantic folk house types identified by Henry Glassie
These have characteristics similar to the Strassburger Farmhouse
Source: *Pattern in the Material Folk Culture of the Eastern U.S.*,
p. 58 and 59
Strassburger Farmstead
Bucks County, PA

Strassburger, Reuben and Elizabeth, Farmstead
Name of Property

Bucks County, PA
County and State



Figure 22

Erwin-Stover House, c.1800, Tinicum Township, Bucks County, PA
Comparable Property for the Strassburger Farmstead
Photo taken by David Kimmerly, October 2015
Strassburger Farmstead
Bucks County, PA

Strassburger, Reuben and Elizabeth, Farmstead
Name of Property

Bucks County, PA
County and State



Figure 23

Erwin-Stover Barn, c.1850 Tinicum Township, Bucks County, PA
Comparable Property for the Strassburger Farmstead
Source: Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor web site
Campsite Reports web site, accessed 2015
Strassburger Farmstead

Strassburger, Reuben and Elizabeth, Farmstead
Name of Property

Bucks County, PA
County and State

Bucks County, PA



Figure 24

Tylersport Barn of Augustus Thomas, Salford Township, Montgomery
County, PA

Comparable Property for the Strassburger Farmstead

Photos: David Kimmerly, 2015

Strassburger Farmstead

Strassburger, Reuben and Elizabeth, Farmstead
Name of Property

Bucks County, PA
County and State

Bucks County, PA



Figure 25

732 Hilltown Pike, (John Frick House and Store) Hilltown Township,
Bucks County, PA
Comparable Property for the Strassburger Farmstead
Photo: David Kimmerly, 2015
Strassburger Farmstead
Bucks County, PA























HARTZEL
STRASSBURGER
HOMESTEAD
BUILT CIRCA 1840

OPEN HOUSE
SUN OCT 11
130-4PM
2PM TALK
ARROWHEAD
DONATION

















Rally to the Rescue!
MILES WANTED
MILES 24 HOURS
BAKERS BRIGADE
AT ONCE!
RECRUITING OFFICE
All the Washington Area Community, Inc.

Small blue informational card with text and a logo.

Small blue informational card on the windowsill.




Small blue informational card on the wall to the right of the door.



KING



Hillman  Sen C

EXIT

NO
FOOD
OR
DRINK
IN
THE
HOMESTEAD











The small size of this fireplace suggests one "not generally associated with 18th or early 19th century fireplaces."
- Bill Reynolds, Heritage Conservancy, 2011

Cabbage cutter
- Last 17th
- 18th century





FAIR HILL 1st →
← 2nd STATE ROAD

TURNPIKE 1st →
← FAIR HILL

CHURCH ROAD

SELLERSVILLE

FAIR HILL 2nd →
← TELFORD 2nd ←

Historical Marker
Step & Store
1800s-1900s
1000-1500-2000

LOW MOISTURE
PART SKI
MAGNOLIA
DICED

EXIT



TO INFORMED
BY PROMISING
EVENTS
BECOME A
MEMBER OF THE
HISTORICAL
CITY OF
GLENN
MEMBERSHIP





DO NOT ENTER

NO OPEN FLAMES
NO SMOKING









Federal Style
Fireplace
Mantel





DO
NOT
ENTER

STAY INFORMED
ON EVENTS
BECOME A
MEMBER OF THE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY OF
HILLTOWN
TOWNSHIP





FREE

PRIORITY MAIL

IN MEMORY OF JACK C. FOX
1927 - 2005

President of the Historical Society of Hillsboro Township (1979-2004)

Steadfast in his loyalty, committed to his community, and sensitive to the needs... Jack inspired us to believe that our history was a privilege to the present and a challenge yet to be written in the future. It is in his memory that we attempt to fulfill the legacy he left us.

Priced individually - see









DATED

Carl

Solario

35418 3243

DATED

EGS















































STAY IN...
ON EV...
BECOM...
MEMBER O...
HISTOR...
SOCIET...
HILLTC...
TOWNS...

NO SMOKING



PACI BAGS





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 12/2/2016 Date of Pending List: 12/27/2016 Date of 16th Day: 1/11/2017 Date of 45th Day: 1/17/2017 Date of Weekly List: 1/25/2017

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject 1/17/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria

Reviewer Edson Beall Discipline Historian

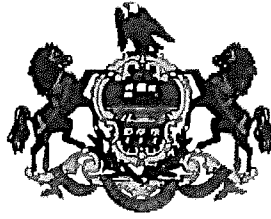
Telephone _____ Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

KATHARINE M. WATSON, MEMBER
144th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

WARRINGTON GREENE
1432 EASTON ROAD, UNIT 4-1
WARRINGTON, PA 18976
PHONE: (215) 343-8090



House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

COMMITTEES

CHILDREN & YOUTH, CHAIRMAN
RULES
TRANSPORTATION

CAUCUSES

ALZHEIMER'S
DIABETES
FIREFIGHTERS & EMERGENCY SERVICES

September 28, 2016

Ms. Andrea MacDonald, Bureau Director
Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office
Commonwealth Keystone Building, 2nd Floor
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0093

Re: Strassburger Farmstead, Hilltown Township

Dear Ms. MacDonald:

As the state legislator representing Hilltown Township, located within the 144th District of Bucks County, I am pleased to take this opportunity to offer my support to the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Board in recommending the Strassburger Farmstead for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

The Strassburger Farmstead sits on pristine grounds and includes the Hartzel-Strassburger Farmstead, Pennsylvania Standard Ramp Barn and tenant house which has been turned into a museum. The Historical Society of Hilltown Township, dedicated to promoting history, schedules historical demonstrations and speakers throughout the year, which, along with the artifacts on display in each building, provide excellent educational tools. In addition, the Farmstead portrays a commerce center which provided for the area's needs, and includes a blacksmith shop, shoemaker, store, farm, garden, and orchard.

As a proud Bucks County resident, I am happy to support the initiative to have the Strassburger Farmstead listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katharine M. Watson".

KATHARINE M. WATSON
144th Legislative District

KMW/mk



HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP

13 West Creamery Road
P.O. Box 260
Hilltown, PA 18927
(215) 453-6000 Fax (215) 453-1024
www.hilltown.org

September 27, 2016

Ms. Andrea MacDonald, Bureau Director
Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office
Commonwealth Keystone Building, 2nd Floor
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0093

RE: Strassburger Farmstead

Dear Ms. MacDonald:

On behalf of the Hilltown Township Board of Supervisors, I am writing to express our support to add the Hartzel-Strassburger Homestead to the National Register of Historic Places. The Historical Society of Hilltown Township continues to bring history alive to the public. People tour the Strassburger Farmstead (Hartzel-Strassburger Homestead, Pennsylvania Standard Ramp Barn, and Tenant House which has been turned into a Museum), and learn how people from our pasts lived their daily lives. The public learns our history through historical demonstrations of all types of trade, speaker programs on historical people, places, and artifacts, etc. The Society has a large volunteer base from all kinds of organizations surrounding our area.

The Strassburger Farmstead is worthy to be on the National Register of Historic Places. We are proud of the Strassburger Farmstead and our Historical Society.

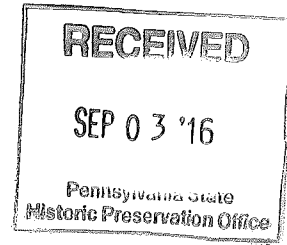
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald D. Delamater".

Donald D. Delamater
Township Manager

1 Meadow Drive
Perkasie, PA 18944
September 27, 2016

Andrea MacDonald, Bureau Director
PHMC, PA SHPO
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120



Dear Members of the Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Board,

I wish to present my full, enthusiastic support for the Hartzel-Strassburger Homestead to be listed on the National Register for Historic Places. I was President of the Historical Society of Hilltown Township when the NRHP application process started about 5 years ago. The Society's mission is to preserve and communicate Hilltown's rich heritage. We strive to enhance Hilltown's identity through its history and cultural heritage. The Hartzel-Strassburger Homestead has become a center for preserving and for learning about the heritage of Hilltown Township and its neighboring communities. National Register status for the Homestead will significantly assist the Society in its mission to serve the Hilltown and surrounding communities.

The Hartzel-Strassburger Homestead is a prime example of 19th century commerce in rural America. The Homestead is along a major transportation route since colonial times, the Bethlehem Pike (Route 309). It was the Line Lexington-Sellersville Turnpike until 1917. The Society has turnpike company's accounts book in its archive. Hilltown Township was a farming community until the 1960s when suburban development started. The Homestead is an exemplar for the many early commercial establishments found throughout farming communities: stores, blacksmith shop, hotels, taverns, etc. The Homestead's history includes the Strassburger's dry goods store, shoe store with a cobbler shop, blacksmith, farming, and tenant house. The Homestead's architecture is unique. There is strong possibility that original part was constructed by a local house-builder named Hartzel. Hartzel built a house situated in nearby West Rockhill Township, with a signed door lintel and saw tooth corbelled brickwork like the Homestead.

Obtaining National Register statue would greatly aid the Society to continue its significant progress in preserving and communicating the history and heritage of Hilltown Township. Other Society's goals are to expand and enhance its community outreach programs, along with much needed repairs to the Hartzel-Strassburger Homestead. Since the photographs were taken the following improvements have occurred: a) the c. 1830s barn has been cleaned up and is being used as an exhibition space for farming and rural life artifacts; b) the Society is creating a research archive for its historical documents, photographs and records; c) displays of local history have been created in the tenant house; d) preparing the blacksmith shop for archaeological research, then possible historic restoration. No structural changes have occurred on the property. Thank you for your time in reviewing the NRHP application for the Hartzel-Strassburger Homestead.

Sincerely submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ivan Jurin".

Ivan Jurin, Vice-President
Historical Society of Hilltown Township

Barbara A. Salvadore
1018 Forest Road
Perkasie, PA 18944
484-432-9680

September 28, 2016

Ms. Andrea MacDonald, Bureau Director
Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office
Commonwealth Keystone Building, 2nd Floor
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0093

RE: Strassburger Farmstead in Hilltown Township, PA.

Dear Ms. MacDonald:


As a former Hilltown Township Supervisor, and, as a member of the Historical Society of Hilltown Township, I have observed both individual and group passion, community support and endless hours that the Historical Society of Hilltown Township members, and community members, have placed into researching and sharing our local history and lifestyle. In addition, there are continuous efforts to preserve (save) and renovate the buildings on the Strassburger Farmstead property for future generations.

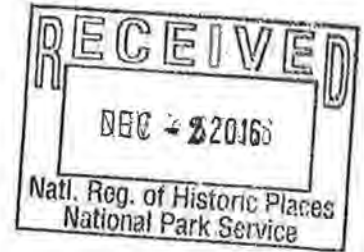
Our local history is brought alive to our public through regular speaker programs and educational programs, on-site events and demonstrations, with a year-round calendar of events distributed to the community.

The Farmstead represents a significant part of the history of our community.

The Strassburger Farmstead is worthy to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,


Barbara A. Salvadore



November 18, 2016

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief
National Register and National Historic Landmark Program
National Register of Historic Places
U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1201 "I" (Eye) Street, NW, 8th floor
Washington D.C. 20005

Re: NR nomination discs

Dear Mr. Loether:

The following nomination forms are being submitted electronically per the "Guidance on How to Submit a Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places on Disk Summary (5/06/2013)":

- Mill-Rae (Rachel Foster Avery House, Philadelphia County)
- Reuben and Elizabeth Strassburger Farmstead, Bucks County
- Jacob and Juliana Middlekauff House, Adams County

Please note that we are recommending Mill-Rae for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at a **National** level of significance. We do feel that the significance of the property does rise to a national level, and that the nomination form narratives provide a strong argument for it.

The enclosed discs contain the true and correct copies of the nominations for Mill-Rae, the Reuben and Elizabeth Strassburger Farmstead, and the Jacob and Juliana Middlekauff House. The proposed actions are for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If you have any questions regarding the nominations please contact David Maher at 717-783-9918.

Sincerely,

David Maher
National Register section
Preservation Services