

THE GENERAL DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER FARMSTEAD

The farmstead purchased by General and Mrs. Dwight D. Eisenhower consists of 189 acres, 75 perches adjoining the southwestern bounds of Gettysburg National Military Park. Since the time of this original purchase from Allen Redding November 1, 1951, two other tracts adjacent to the farmstead have been acquired. The Eisenhower holdings presently include, in addition to the Redding farm, a 22-acre, 85 perch tract adjacent to the farmstead on the east purchased from the Brandon farm; a 21-acre, 158 perch parcel bordering the northeast line of the original farmstead and known as the Flaherty tract. The Cumberland Township school property of 151 perches, known as the Pitzer School House, and which adjoins the farmstead on the northwest, was purchased by Gen. Arthur S. Nevins, Agent for the W. Alton Jones Foundation, and sold to Col. John Eisenhower August 15, 1957. A few acres of the farmstead have since been transferred to the John Eisenhower property, reducing the General Eisenhower holdings to a total of 230 acres, 57.1 perches.

Two additional tracts: the Earl W. Brandon farm of 124 acres, 80 perches, adjoining the Eisenhower farmstead on the south; and the Bernard W. Redding farm of 161 acres, 158 perches, adjacent to the township road north of the Eisenhower farmstead, were purchased by the W. Alton Jones Foundation of New York, the former on July 17, 1954, and the latter April 26, 1955. On September 12, 1962, the two parcels, with the exception of the 22-acre, 85 perch parcel purchased by General Eisenhower from the Brandon farm, were sold to the United States Government and became part of the National Military Park.

THE FARMSTEAD BUILDINGS

The General Eisenhower farmstead buildings consists of a brick and stone house, a large stock barn and certain small utility structures. George S. Brock of Washington, D. C., was the architect of the house; it was constructed by the Charles H. Tompkins Company, also of Washington. Architecturally, it is a typical Pennsylvania farmhouse remodeled and enlarged.

The house, which incorporates a portion of the earlier farm house of substantial construction, was a two-story, red brick building of ample dimensions for the many uses of a farm home. In the development of plans for the new two-story structure, which was designed to meet various family and guest needs, the overall dimensions of the house were enlarged to provide greater space. The length of the brick section is approximately 68 feet, 2 inches, a dimension which includes the retained 18-foot long section of the original farm house. A single-story stone section at the south end extends the overall length an additional 31 feet, 8 inches. The northern part of the house is 40 feet, 4 inches wide, and this width is reduced by 12 feet in the section extending southward. The stone section at the south end is 26 feet, 8 inches wide. The main entrance to the house, which was completed in March, 1955, is on the west side.

A bake oven, which was part of a summer kitchen located several yards south of the original house, has been retained as a part of the south wall of the stone section.

Relative to the interior, on the ground floor a spacious living room occupies the northern part of the house. Adjacent to this room is the

dining room and sun porch, the latter on the east side of the building. The kitchen and service rooms adjoin the dining room. A passage way leads to the library which occupies the stone section at the southern end of the house.

On the second floor, family bedrooms occupy the north end above the living room. Five guest bedrooms occupy the remainder of the second floor.

Nearby the main house, to the northwest, stands a small, single-story brick house used on occasion as guest quarters. Several yards southwest is an outdoor cooking oven and small utility buildings.

HISTORICAL NOTE

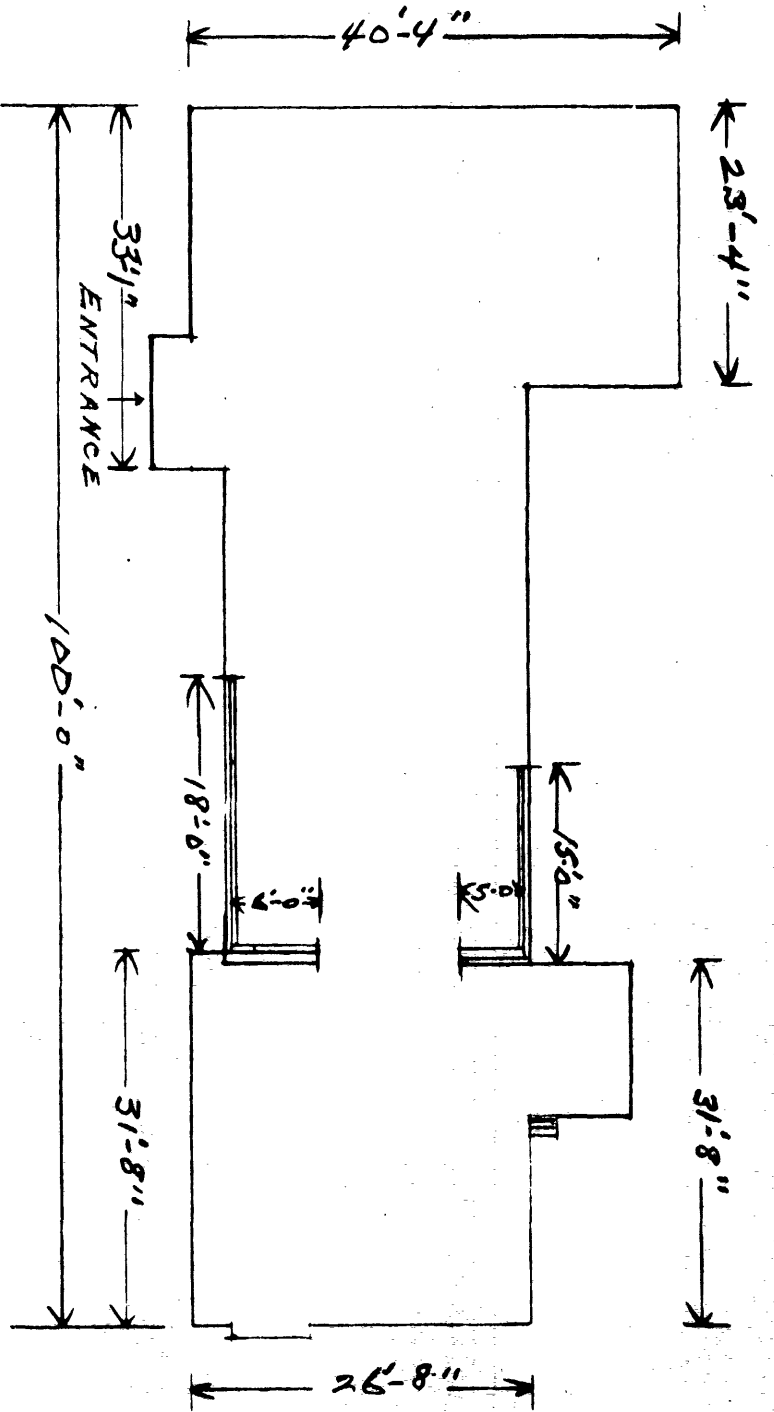
The General Eisenhower farmstead, historically, is part of the "Manor of the Maske," one of many large, choice tracts of land retained by the Proprietors of Pennsylvania from the original grant made by King Charles II to William Penn, March 4, 1681. Because of the lack of accurate geographic knowledge of the New World, Penn's claims conflicted with those of the Calverts, the Proprietors of Maryland. Many years of bitter disagreement and border strife were to follow before the Mason-Dixon Line, begun in 1763 and completed four years later, on the line of 39 degrees, 44 minutes northern latitude, was established as the boundary between the two colonies. The southern border of the Manor of the Maske, which is also the southern bounds of the local (Adams) County as well as the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, is a section of the Mason-Dixon Line.

In the region west of the Delaware River, Penn organized in 1682 three counties--Philadelphia, Bucks, and Chester. Settlement quickly expanded westward and in 1729 the county of Lancaster was formed. By 1749, the settlements west of the Susquehanna River having multiplied, York County was organized and in 1800 Adams County was established. Intrusions of white settlers upon Indian lands brought frontier friction in the country west of the Susquehanna. Occupation by white settlers was rendered safe in 1736 by the purchase from the Indians of a vast area of this region.

The first permanent white settlements in the eventual Adams County area were promoted both by the Penns and the Calverts. Settlements were nearly always initiated by religious groups, and the first of these was established in 1734 as the Catholic Little Conewago congregation in the southeastern part of the present county. This group, composed largely of English Catholics from Maryland and a few Germans from Pennsylvania, was soon followed by the Scotch-Irish who secured settlement rights further westward along the Great Conewago, Marsh, and Rock Creeks. Settlers in this area became the most numerous and influential element in the county. This settlement, with the expansion of the Scotch-Irish into the new Carroll's Delight Manor in the present Fairfield area, set off in 1735, the English and Irish Quakers in the northern area in the 1740 and 50's, and the Holland Dutch in the southeastern part of the county in the 1760's brought to the county all of the important elements which made up colonial America.

Cumberland Township, which includes the General Eisenhower farms, lies within the "Manor of the Maske," a tract of land, which when defined in

1766, consisted of 43,500 acres. In the Great Charter granted to William Penn by King Charles, it was provided that the agreement was made absolute on the "payment . . . to us, our heirs and successors, of two beaver skins, to be delivered at our castle in Windsor, on the first day of January each year." Penn held his title by quit-rent and he could, consequently, give good title only by exacting quit-rents. This pleasant method of meeting the requirements of the agreement resulted, in another section of Penn's original holdings, in a stipulated annual requirement by Henry William ("Baron von" Stiegel of the Lancaster area. Upon granting land for the establishment of a church in Lancaster, Stiegel required the payment each year to himself, or his heirs, of "one red rose forever."



Triple lines represent original or existing

GENERAL EISENHOWER HOUSE

OUTSIDE DIMENSIONS