

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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Continuation sheet 34

Item number 7

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✓ Name: Jenckes House
Location: 81 Jenckes Hill Road, Lincoln
✓ Classification: Building; Private; Occupied; Accessible--restricted;
Private Residence
Owner: Mr. and Mrs. William Silver (same address)
Condition: Good; Altered; Original site

Description:

The Jenckes House is a small, gable-roof, 1-story structure, five-bays wide, with a center chimney, and clapboard wall cover. The central entry is framed by flat boards and 4-pane sidelights; the exterior door is made of board planks and hangs on iron strap hinges. The windows have flat surrounds, molded caps, and 4-over-4 sash. A screened porch covers the east end of the south-facing house. A new kitchen wing extends back from the northeast corner.

The floor plan of the Jenckes House resembles the standard five-room pattern: a small hall faces the center door; there is a large room at each side of the front of the house, a center room behind the chimney at the back of the house, a small corner room at the northwest corner; a similar room at the northeast corner was probably incorporated into the new kitchen wing. The stair to the attic space, however, is not tucked into the space in front of the center chimney as is usual, but rises in a single run behind the chimney; and there is but a single fireplace opening--a large cooking hearth in the southeast room. The interior of the Jenckes House is finished simply, with wide plank floors, plastered walls and ceilings, molded chair rails, and four-panel doors. Fine panelled blinds cover the windows and handsome panelled cupboards, fabricated from old materials, have been added to the small northwest room.

Three outbuildings are set in back of the house: a small shed-roof barn, a gable-roof garage with a shed-roof addition on its side, and a small shed. The first two are faced with vertical boards on the front, horizontal boards on the sides; the third is shingled. A well house sits in the front yard. The property is surrounded by stone walls and by rail fences.

Period: 1700-1799, 1800-1899, 1900-present
Areas of significance: Architecture
Specific Dates: c. 1760; c. 1810; 1950s
Builder/Architect: Unknown

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Significance:

The Jenckes House is a fine colonial house set on one of Lincoln's oldest roads in a still-rural area of the town. Built by one of the numerous Jenckes (or Jenks) family in the mid-eighteenth century the house remained in the family until the early twentieth century. The primary significance of the Jenckes House is architectural; the progression of modifications and additions to the house (and their harmonious result) and the character and quality of the restoration make it a unique structure in Lincoln.

The Jenckes House was built in two parts. It originally faced east--three bays wide, with a gable roof, its chimney and cooking hearth at the west end. It seems likely that there were but two rooms on the first floor; the attic was reached by a sharply rising stair built against the east end of the house, that is, against the wall now located under the side porch. The unusual configuration of this early house has not been found in any other Lincoln house.

Early in the nineteenth century, the west side of the house was built--a single run stair was constructed adjacent to the chimney (the original stair has since been removed); a large, 2-bay-wide chamber was added to match the main room of the original house; two small rooms were built across the back of the house; and a door was placed in the center of the south wall, now the main facade. The result of the addition is that the Jenckes House now resembles, from the exterior, the common, one-and-a-half-story, flank-gable, five-bay house seen throughout this area. Even on the interior, the room arrangement resembles the five-room plan which one would expect in a structure of this age--the center chimney with only its single hearth and the single-run stair on the side of the chimney indicate the two-stage construction.

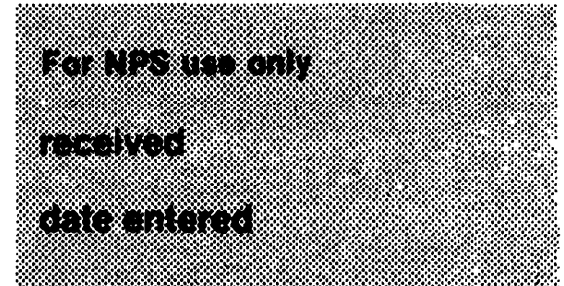
In the mid-20th century, two further additions were made to the house. A porch was added to the east end enclosing the original facade. A modern kitchen wing was added to the northeast corner of the house, apparently incorporating the small corner room of the first section of the house. In the mid-1950s, an extensive restoration of the house was started. Using old materials, the present owners have added window blinds, new flooring in some areas, chair rails, doors, and cupboards in the northwest chamber. While the result is not what would be described today as a "correct" restoration, the additions were accomplished with discrimination and an appreciation for the house.

Acreage: c. 1 acre

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UTM Reference: A 19 296040 4641880

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary of the Jenckes House is the line of Lincoln Assessor's Plat 25, lot 3; this boundary includes the house, its outbuildings, and its immediate surroundings.

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