Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

** Historic

Seigle Homestead

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Rieglesville-Warren Glen Road, Finesville

CITY, TOWN
Finesville

VICINITY OF
Peohatecon-Township

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
13th

STATE
New Jersey

CODE
34

COUNTY
Warren

CODE
041

3 CLASSIFICATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>PRESENT USE</th>
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<td>UNOCCUPIED</td>
<td>AGRICULTURE</td>
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<td>ACCESSIBLE</td>
<td>EDUCATIONAL</td>
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<td>BEING CONSIDERED</td>
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4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Irene Magditz and Ann Vanfossen

STREET & NUMBER
Finesville, R.D. 1

CITY, TOWN
Phillipsburg

VICINITY OF

STATE
New Jersey

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Warren County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Belvidere

STATE
New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory

DATE
1976

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Historic Sites Office, Dept. of Environmental Protection

CITY, TOWN
Trenton

STATE
New Jersey
Unique among surviving log structures in northwest New Jersey is this 2 1/2 story, gable roofed house built on a bank cellar of irregular and rough coursed limestone. The rectangular hewn log structure has a roof peak parallel to the shorter walls creating a structure that is two rooms deep instead of the more typical regional form of two rooms to the front.

Clapboards presently cover the front or south wall and the two gable ends. The regularly spaced 6/6 sash windows are not old on the house. The lower west window in front was, until recently, a door reached from the outside by a long flight of steps. The rear lower east entry remains. While the front cellar entry - which is at ground level and the window to one side are likely to be original the remaining fenestration appears to have been altered to some degree.

The covering of clapboards has been removed on the rear of the north wall exposing the hewn logs - said to be black walnut - which range from 8 to 12 inches square. The corners are joined with V-shaped notches which are considered basically a German characteristic. The chinking is accomplished by wedge shaped limestones and lime mortar.

Each of the three floors is supported by a hewn summer beam running nearly midway between the front and rear walls. The beam of the first floor is roughly 18 inches square, the second 14 inches square, and the attic 12 inches square. The joists, both hewn and vertical saw-cut, are morticed into these summers. Those of the second floor extend between the logs in the back and presumably in the front; to make a level floor the lower leg has been notched for some. Those of the attic floor appear to rest on the log walls.

The lofty attic is framed with hewn beams that are notched and pegged; the intermediate rafters having vertical saw-cuts and mitered later replacements. The end rafters are joined to hewn plates that rest on the east and west gable walls. The other rafters are probably joined to the floor joists. Each gable wall consists of two tie beams and several short uprights. Nailed vertically to the gable frames are random boards varying from about 16 to 18 inches in width. These are likely the original covering.

A large stone chimney, shaped like a 30-60-90 degree triangle provides four corner fireplaces - two each on the first and second floor. The chimney assumes a rectangular shape in the attic level and has a drip course several inches below the top. The front part of the embanked cellar facing south served as a kitchen and has a timber-linteled fireplace with an opening roughly 6 feet wide and opening 5 feet high. On the first floor both the front room and the slightly smaller rear room have arch-linteled fireplaces with openings roughly
Architecture

The Seigle Homestead is the only surviving two story log structure in Warren County, and one of the few log houses in New Jersey.

This log house is traditionally held to have been built by members of the Seigle family about 1793. While the date of erection cannot be documented, members of the Seigle family did own the property on which it stands throughout the 19th century and well into the present century. A clover mill (subsequently converted to a grist mill), a pottery, and a store were built and or operated by members of this family in the hamlet which grew up around their homestead. Of German origin the Seigles were probably among those of that nationality who came into the area from Pennsylvania in the last decades of the 18th century to take advantage of the increased accessibility and availability of agricultural land. According to one local history Benjamin Seigle was the founder of the family and was "a large purchaser of land in the vicinity."

Over the course of the 18th Century and into the early years of the 19th Century log construction was a commonly used building method in Northwest New Jersey.

The log house is a product of cultural tradition and natural conditions created by a specific population to satisfy their needs for an efficient shelter. The log cabin is a simple and direct expression of a fundamental need developed and transmitted from one generation to another by means of oral tradition rather than via formal methods.

Studies indicate that features employed in the log house have precedents in Old World building forms. (Further research needs be done to carefully delineate origins of regional topographic patterns). Nevertheless, as developed in America the log house was not completely European because particular architectural features were often meshed in a new combination forming something as unique as the American log cabin.

The construction of log houses in America appears to have lacked an orderly development (or one yet to be discerned) and instead of an early prototype undergoing gradual evolution over a period of centuries,
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>CODE</th>
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

(revisions by Terry Karschner, Curator Historic Sites Office, DEP Trenton, New Jersey)

NAME / TITLE

Dennis Bertland, Planner

ORGANIZATION

Warren County Planning Board

DATE

November, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

Belvidere

TELEPHONE

(609)-292-2023

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL  STATE  LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Title Commissioner, Dept. of Environmental Protection

DATE January 10, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 11/2/77

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 11/2/77
four feet by four feet three inches. The mantel in the front room is a primitive Georgian type with wide bead-edged boards around the opening and a simple molded shelf. There are no other mantels extant. The upstairs back chamber has a small shallow fireplace.

Some of the other interior features appear to be early if not original. An enclosed winding staircase rises in the northeast corner of the back room of the first floor. The original stairway down to the cellar has been removed and substituted for by a more recent cellar stairway in the front room abutting up against the east log wall. Other early details are some simple molded door trim, a chamfered panel door, and random-width pine floors. The construction of the interior partitions was not investigated closely. One partition, however, in the cellar that probably enclosed a small storage room has been removed. Another partition creating a stair hall in the back of the first floor has also been removed.

The exterior dimensions of this house are 20'7" by 26'7". The two rooms on the first floor are 13'1" by 18'4" and 11'2" by 18'4".
the time span was telescoped making the definition and interpretation of forms difficult. In addition, builders of differing backgrounds were meshed together in a new environment which further accelerated what would have been a slow process of change. The different methods of corner notching, for instance, while representing Old World importations became, in time, a coalescence of many influences.

While the Swedes and Finns of the Delaware Valley were most likely responsible for the first log houses in America they were by no means the most persistent nor the strongest influence. The German log house tradition was heavily superimposed on the early Swedish-Finnish log building and advanced generally westward, but also crept across the Delaware River into Northwest New Jersey.

Generally, these temporary log houses were built in the hope that they would be eventually replaced by larger more stylistic dwellings. Undoubtedly, many were. Often, however, these plans did not materialize and several generations were raised in the log house. Consequently, a few of these sturdy log dwellings are still standing today. Because of their relatively crude exterior appearance log houses were frequently disguised by later clapboarding and as a result numerous similar camouflaged log dwellings most likely still exist in the northwest portion of the state.
BIBLIOGRAPHY


Bertland, Dennis N. Early Architecture of Warren County, 1976.

Snell, James P. History of Sussex and Warren Counties, New Jersey, 1881.


Weslager, Clinton A. The Log Cabin in America, 1969.