



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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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 The Deery Family Homestead

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 1 1/2 miles north of Chester Springs  
Art School Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN West Vincent Township

VICINITY OF

5th

STATE Pennsylvania

CODE 42

COUNTY Chester

CODE 029

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mr. and Mrs. H. Richard Dietrich & Luden's Incorporated

STREET & NUMBER Art School Road / Reading, Pennsylvania

CITY, TOWN Chester Springs

VICINITY OF

STATE Pennsylvania

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Chester County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER High Street

CITY, TOWN West Chester

STATE Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places

DATE 1976

FEDERAL  STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

CITY, TOWN Harrisburg

STATE Pennsylvania

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

## MAIN FARM

The original main house, a fieldstone farmhouse built in two stages, has been adjoined on two sides by later buildings, so that only the south (front) elevation and the east end elevation are now fully exposed (photo #1). The oldest section appears to be the west end, which has been left exposed on the interior of a later structure. One bay wide and two bays deep, it is a two-and-a-half story random fieldstone structure with a large stone chimney at its east end, now the center of the building. The chimney has a massive base and a large cooking fireplace opening into what is apparently the more recent end, suggesting that it may originally have belonged to a log house to which the stone house was joined. An offset in the vertical seam in the stonework between the older and newer sections gives the appearance that the earliest stone building was connected to an adjoining structure to the east at the first floor only.

The second stone addition is two bays in length, a low entrance door centered between them. The stonework is somewhat more refined, and massive corner quoins, absent from the earlier section, appear at the east end. Stonework and drip course on this addition are similar to those of the earlier structure. Stone caps were later added to both chimneys.

The gable roof has a boxed cornice. Pent eaves on both ends form pedimented gables. There is also a restored pent running the length of the entrance facade above the first floor windows.

Fenestration on the south and east elevations consists of six-over-six windows on the first and second floors. There is only one window on the first floor level at the east end. However, on the north elevation the second floor windows are two-over-two. The first and second floor windows on the west end are also two-over-two. These latter two elevations are adjoined by newer buildings. Doors have been added to provide interior access into the original house. A single 4-light attic window is in each gable end.

Built about eight feet from the north wall of the original house is a newer house, a two-bay by two-bay plastered stone building two-and-a-half stories high (photo #2, at left). Although grade has been leveled around the old house, the floor levels of this building are three steps above those of the earlier structure. This later building has a gable roof with brick chimney at one end, and a soffited overhang with moulding applied to the fascia boards. Windows are six-over-six on the first and second floors, the third floor having three-over-six on the sides and six-over-six at the gable ends. A wing was later added to the north, and a two story addition to the east wraps around the south side to connect it to the older house.

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The Derry Family Homestead  
Chester County, Pennsylvania

7

1

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

A large fieldstone addition (photo #2) has been built in recent years, adjoining the southwest corner of the old house, and including an extension of its west end. Near the corner of the second house is a stone bake oven, six feet square, with a frame gable extending over the oven opening. A new stone wall has been placed under one side of the overhang to support it. To the east of the old section is a vaulted root cellar set into the bank, with a frame room enclosing its entrance from grade.

The major outbuilding is a very large stone bank barn (photo #3). Although records indicate a barn on the property before 1800, the inscription "M & Peter Derry 1819" is etched in mortar above the window in the west gable end. The east end has a frame gable end and bears a 1940 date.

A stone and frame wagon shed with an upper level once used as a corn crib is located nearly adjacent to the east end of the barn. Its location suggests that the eastern portion of the barn was constructed after the wagon shed.

HENRY DERRY FARM (photo #A+)

Set near the base of a hill facing south, this house is approached from the downhill side and, although not a bank house, gives the appearance of imposing height. The site affords excellent protection from the weather. It is taller than most two-and-a-half story structures, its upper level nearly a full third floor. It is built of plastered stone. Five bays wide and two bays deep, the facade is symmetrical in composition with the entrance door centered. Windows on the first and second floors are six-over-six; third floor windows are three-over-six on the front and back, and six-over-six at the gable ends. The pent across the front facade above the first floor windows extends around the west end to form a porch roof over the kitchen entrance.

The gable roof has a box cornice and partial returns at the gable ends. Both stone end chimneys have drip courses; the eastern chimney is exterior, and may have been rebuilt at some time.

Just behind the main house and near its northwest corner is a smaller house, now connected to the larger one, which may predate it. It is also of plaster over stone, one-and-a-half stories high, three bays

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The Deery Family Homestead  
Chester County, Pennsylvania  
CONTINUATION SHEET

7

ITEM NUMBER

2

PAGE

wide by one bay deep. Windows are six-over-six on the main floor and three-over-six above. The house is set into the bank, with no windows on the north, or uphill side. It has a large stone chimney at one end, and gable roof with cornice and molding similar to that of the main house.

A large root cellar, set into the bank just to the west of the smaller house, has two chambers and a vaulted ceiling.

A large stone bank barn is to the west of the house along the line of the hill, also facing south. An overhang on the lower level is cut under the main barn structure, rather than sheltered by a frame forebay as is more typical. The gable ends, however, are frame, clad with German siding.

Two small stone buildings, east of the house, were apparently storage buildings or shops.

GEORGE DEERY HOUSE (photo #5)

Built before 1819, the George Deery house is of random fieldstone with large corner quoins. It is two-and-one-half stories high, two bays wide across the south elevation and two bays deep on the west. The house has a gable roof and a chimney at the east gable end.

The west elevation has one window and a door at the basement level. Both the first and second floors have two two-on-two light windows, late nineteenth-century replacements for the original windows. The attic has two four-light windows.

The south elevation has one two-on-two light window, a door and another two-on-two light window. The second floor has two two-on-two light windows. The south elevation windows, like those on the west, are late nineteenth century replacements. A pent eave, not original, spans the south elevation between the first and second floors. The box cornice across the south elevation is a modern replacement. A random fieldstone terrace, which is topped by a wooden fence, has been added to the south elevation.

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The Derry Family Homestead  
Chester County, Pennsylvania

7

3

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

TENANT HOUSE

This is a typical small farmhouse of the area, two rooms wide and one room deep on each floor, and built of plastered stone. It is three bays wide across the front with centered entrance door. Two-and-a-half stories high, the eave line is high enough to permit third floor windows on all four sides. Windows are six-over-six on the first two floors, and three-over-three on the third floor. Small four-light windows are at each gable end. The ground slopes away to the back of the house, permitting small cellar windows at the back and one end.

Chimneys at each end of the gable roof have been rebuilt in brick. Both the box cornice and gable end fascia boards are adorned with a simple ogee moulding.

A brick-floored porch with shed roof has been recently added across the front facade. Exposed ends of wood members protruding from the face of the house just above door head height suggest an earlier pent or porch roof. A stone well is at one end of the porch.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
				Self-sustaining family compounds

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Deery Family Homestead is of interest as an early example of a thrifty agrarian economy dependent upon a strong family unit. In one hundred and sixty-nine years, the Deery family turned a rugged pioneer farm into one of the most productive acreages in Vincent Township.

777-78  
?

George Deery reportedly settled here in 1760. The Derry farm was on the road which led from Washinton's encampment at Valley Forge in 1775-1776, to his hospital at Yellow Springs. As they were near enough to take a portion of the overflow from the crowded facility, the Deerys opened their house and barn to the Continental soldiers. Their root cellars, smoke house and orchards were well-known as was the abundant hay for the horses.

In the 1798 glass tax, Deery was credited with 215 acres assessed at \$2720.00. This included 1 barn, 20' x 40', a dwelling house, 18' x 40' kitchen included, "waggon" house, and spring house, all in stone. Also included in the assessment were two log houses and one log spring house. The present stone house follows identically the measurements and number of windows of that in the glass tax.

The stone house listed in the 1798 glass tax was built in two parts. The earlier part, as judged by the stone work, was about 18' x 18', "one room down and one room up," and may have been the house shown on the 1721 map. The second part with more embellishment and finer stonework, brings the house to its completed size as recorded in the glass tax record.

When "Old" George's son, George, married a neighbor, Susanna Knerr, his father gave him the northwest portion of the farm to work. No deed was written. This second Deery farm grew into a self-sustaining compound, its supportive outbuildings independent of and similar to the parent compound. There is presently a small house built into a bank, two bays wide and one bay deep, which shows evidence of having been built about 1750 and 1760. This structure has been connected to a larger house in which Henry, grandson of "Old" George, was born in 1810. This house, built between 1798 and 1810, burned at some time but was rebuilt on the same foundations, augmented in size and style.

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The Deery Family Homestead  
Chester County, Pennsylvania  
CONTINUATION SHEET

8

ITEM NUMBER

1

PAGE

Another son, of "Old" George, Peter, married and lived with his parents. Peter farmed the middle and southern portion of the farm. All construction on the farms after 1806 (when Peter was 20) can be attributed to Peter's workmanship. He enlarged the barn at the original farm to its present dimensions in 1819. At some time prior to 1819, the grandparents moved out of the old house into a stone dwelling on the southeast corner of the property. Here again is the beautifully laid fieldstone, fine pointing, large quoins and heavy walled construction. It may be assumed that Peter built this house for his parents. There was also a barn here which burned in the 1920's, but no evidence of the numerous buildings found at the two other complexes.

The farming operation was always primary on this property, but it did extend to ancillary activities such as mining which sprang up all through the area in the nineteenth century. These mines were open pit and were moderately lucrative for 30 to 50 years until 1880 or 1890. There were two on the Deery property. A lime kiln was also operated on the farm by the mid-1800's. According to local old-timers, lime stones were brought in by farmers as picked up on their fields, and burned for a long time until they were ash. The ash was then redistributed on the land. These were small operations.

The farm remained in the Deery family for one hundred sixty-nine years until 1929. The Deerys and subsequent owners have realized the agricultural potential of the land. The present owner has retained and restored the main house to keep the original elements evident and has left uncovered sample areas to show the mud and hair mortar, the construction of the roof and various other architectural details of interest.

The Deery Family Homestead had all the appurtenances necessary to a thriving eighteenth century Pennsylvania farm including--in addition to the usual barns, wagon sheds, hen houses and piggery--orchards, water ways, dam, lime kiln, mines, carpenter shop and smithy shop. Records also mention some rope making.

The Deery Farm is a fine example of industrious early Pennsylvania proud immigrant ownership adapting to changing ways of life, embracing the new, but never completely erasing the old.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

The History of Pennsylvania in North America, Vol. I - Robert Proud-  
 (Philadelphia: Jachariah Poulson, Jr.) 1797-98  
 1798 Glass Tax, Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, Pa.  
 Tax Poll, Vincent Township, Chester County, Pa., 1744-1745  
 others, at Historical Society, West, Chester.

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 115

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	4481,7,0	444,07,4,0	B	1,8	4484,2,0	444,05,0,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,8	4486,0,0	444,01,4,0	D	1,8	4481,8,0	443,78,0,0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See continuation sheet. E 18 447.660 4440220  
 F 18 447650 4440440

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Estelle Cremers, F. Langdon Edmunds, Eleanor M. Morris, J. Kelly Murphy III

ORGANIZATION

French & Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust, Inc. August, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

Box 360, R. D. #2 (215)469-6287

CITY OR TOWN

Pottstown Pennsylvania

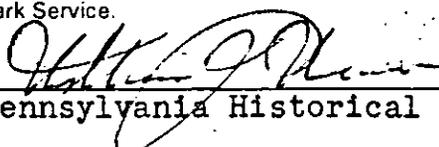
**12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

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

Executive Director, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

DATE

11/2/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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THE DEERY FAMILY HOMESTEAD (PA.)

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

Beginning at a point in West Vincent Township at the western corner of the intersection of Chester Springs Road and Kimberton Road, thence northwesterly and northerly along the southwestern and western side of said Kimberton Road, thence westerly and southwesterly along the southern property line of parcel #23.1 (West Vincent Township Tax Map, 1970), thence northwesterly along the southwestern line of parcel #22 (West Vincent Twp. Tax Map, 1970), thence southwesterly, south southwesterly, northwesterly, southwesterly, westerly, southwesterly and south southwesterly along the northern boundary of parcel #23.1A (West Vincent Twp. Tax Map, 1970), thence southeasterly, south southeasterly and west southwesterly along the northeastern, eastern, and southern property line of parcel #23.3 (West Vincent Twp. Tax Map, 1970), to the intersection with the West Vincent/West Pikeland Townships line, thence southeasterly along said township line to the northwestern side of aforesaid Chester Springs Road, thence northeasterly along said side of said road to its intersection with Kimberton Road and the beginning point.

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