

FT's Oldest Remaining House

Near the intersection of Chesterville Road (Route 841) and New London Road (Route 896) way up off the road and with its entrance on Den Road sits a house with a crooked chimney. The original part of this house is recorded as the oldest house in Franklin Township.

The land this house sits upon was part of 500 acres deeded from William Penn to Robert Ashton in 1705. Somewhere between 1737 and 1742 Hugh and Elizabeth Furey purchased an 135-acre tract of the original deed and farmed the land. After Hugh's death and in 1758 Elizabeth purchased an additional tract of 150 acres with a log structure.

"Petition for a Tavern" records indicate William Alexander, then Matthew Porterfield, ran a tavern from the log dwelling ten years prior to Elizabeth Furey's purchase. She continued as a tavern keeper and farmer. Elizabeth had at least eight children, four of them surviving her death in 1777. Her son Joseph ran the tavern until 1811.

In the early 1800s portions of Elizabeth Furey's properties changed hands many times, usually between various heirs and family members. About 107 acres, including the log tavern were purchased by Joseph's son John and his

wife Susan Steele Furey. John and Susan were farmers, not tavern keepers, and renovated the house for a family dwelling. John died in 1834 with instructions to sell the property and put the profits in interest for his heirs. Susan did as instructed, but then bought the property back the same day.

It is thought that Susan added the first two-story addition onto the log dwelling around 1835. Another 2-story bow addition was added sometime in the late 1800s.

The property was sold in 1887 to neighbors Joseph and Mary Jane Pierce shortly after Susan's death. The Pierce's sold 100 of the acres to Edward Pierce who lived there 17 years.

The property's 20th century history includes:

- A sale of the property to James McMullen, remained for 50 years.
- McMullen's heirs sold the farm to a developer in 1968.
- The developer sold 3.2 acres and the original dwelling to the Koseys in 1970.
- In 2004 Lou and Barbara Mandich purchased the property from the Koseys.

Source: Thanks to the Mandich's for sharing the research done on their property. **"History of Louis and Barbara Mandich Home, 148 Den Road, Franklin Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania,"** was researched and reported by Mary Dugan, of House Histories.



From the front of the house the two 1800's additions are prominent.



Now stuccoed, the original log dwelling of the Furey tavern and home.



Side view of the original log dwelling shows the crooked chimney. It is thought an extension of the original chimney was needed after the additions.