

The Hausmann/Smith House at ChicoryLane

By Catherine Smith. Research and analysis by Douglass Reed

The original log house was likely commissioned by Andreas Hausmann, a first-generation Pennsylvania German, born 1769 in Northampton County, Pennsylvania, of parents and grandparents who emigrated from the Palatine region in (later) Germany.

In 1796 Hausmann purchased land in (then) Haines Township (then) Northumberland County, (now) Gregg Township in Centre County. Over a decade between 1815-1825 a large log house was gradually constructed on the property. Now, more than two hundred years later, that well- built log house still stands. Beginning in the late 19th century and continuing in the 21st century, cyclical maintenance, improvements and upgrades by the house's owners including John and Catherine Smith have cumulatively transformed the original structure into a modern version of log house.

The Hausmann/Smith house is significant for its size, height, quality of the log crib, and skilled construction by master builders. Present-day analysis characterizes its architectural style as multi-cultural, notably Pennsylvania German with mixed European features that can be attributed to the Swiss, Finns, Germans, English and Dutch.

While origins and influences are part of the story, creative adaptation was vital to the evolution and dissemination of log housing in America. The house at ChicoryLane exemplifies a distinctively American log house.

Chronological time line of construction events

1796	Andreas Hausmann purchases property
1815	Project planning and Initiation, basement laid
1817-1818	Trees felled for the house and logs allowed to dry
1819	Logs hewed, crib raised, floors framed, rafters and roof framed, gables enclosed
1823-1824	Spaces between logs chinked and daubed, central chimney installed
1824-1825	Furring strips, siding, trims, porch, doors, windows added Interior partitions and staircase, wood trims, mantels, baseboards, lath, plaster
1875-1899	Cyclical maintenance mostly to exterior
1900	Maintenance upgrades
1940s	Modern Infrastructure
1950s	Exterior north and west wall one-story walkway added
1974	John and Catherine Smith purchase property, begin house rehabilitation with help of family and skilled friends

