

# The Jacobsburg Record

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## Restoration of The Henry Homestead Needs Our Additional Gifts and Pledges We Need \$8735 to Finish the Project

Work on the Henry Homestead restoration is progressing so fast, we may be able to see it completed in early January.

We do not want to borrow funds to cover the final costs. Therefore, this is a plea for contributions in either cash and/or pledges, the latter to be paid in early 1980. Remember, all monies so contributed are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.

FOR RESTORATION OF THE HENRY HOMESTEAD WITHIN  
JACOBSTOWN STATE PARK AT BOULTON

I contribute in Cash \_\_\_\_\_

Pledge \_\_\_\_\_

Date Due \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please send to: Mrs. Geary A. Gum, 247 N. Liberty St.  
Nazareth, PA. 18064



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This Jacobsburg Record is devoted entirely to our Restoration project at the Henry Homestead. I would like to bring you up to date on the progress being made in the Restoration and the reasons for the appeal on page one.

We are delighted that the work of Restoration at the Homestead is almost complete. The big remaining job involves interior painting and finishing. We are very much pleased with the results to date.

Our contractor, James Hartnett, and our architect, John Dickey, have put forth every effort to please us in every detail. We now anticipate that the contractor's work will be finished by January 1, 1980. This is prior to our projected date of completion on March 1, 1980. This is wonderful!

However, our payments are now due earlier than we expected. This is one of the reasons we are calling for your help now. We are hoping that some of you may be able to fulfill your pledges sooner than you had indicated.

Your response to the original appeal for money for the Restoration of the Homestead was extremely gratifying. You will remember that we received a matching grant of \$40,000 from the Department of the Interior--Heritage and Recreation Service through the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and the Bureau of State Parks.

We matched the \$40,000 and then the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission granted an additional \$20,000. The Pennsylvania Bureau of State Parks is installing a parking lot and access road.

At the November meeting of the Board of Directors, Matthew Morris, campaign coordinator gave the following report, as of October 25:

Amount pledged	\$58,465
Cash received to date	<u>47,165</u>
Pledges still due	\$11,300

Our goal was \$65,000 (\$60,000 for Restoration plus \$5000 for expenses and fixtures not allowed by terms of the grant)

We have \$2200 in change orders from the original specs (regrettable but absolutely necessary)

<u>So</u>	\$67,200
	<u>- 58,465</u>
	\$ 8,735 still needed

We are asking you to respond to this need by paying up unpaid pledges, increasing your pledge, repeating the gift you gave previously, or coming forth with a new gift.

Some of you have already responded generously to personal appeals for increased pledges or gifts. We are most grateful to you.

We are hoping that all of you will respond to our need. No gift is too small--large gifts are welcomed. We can use all gifts profitably. I am sure you will be proud of your part in the finished project.

Please go on to read the excerpt from the architect's report which follows. Then you will understand more fully what an interesting building we are restoring.

Thank you with all my heart for your support--past and future.

Catherine S. Beers

## CONSTRUCTION OF THE ORIGINAL ADDITIONS TO THE LOG HOUSE

We continue here from "Historic Structures Report. The Henry Homestead, Boulton, Pennsylvania, for The Jacobsburg Historical Society," prepared by Reed Laurence Engle, October 20, 1978, the Office of John M. Dickey, AIA, Media, Pa. The following is a continuation of our July/August excerpt, 1979.

William Henry III returned from Philadelphia in April of 1811 to manage the Boulton gunworks in partnership with his brother, John Joseph, who remained in Philadelphia. It is probable that William stayed initially in Nazareth while the log cabin was made habitable, but he then moved into the cabin and began the major alterations that more than doubled its size.

An advertisement for sale of the Boulton works from the Easton Spirit of Pennsylvania detailed the buildings north of Henry Road; since the land and stone "boarding house" south of the road were not listed for sale, it is probable these properties had not yet been transferred to the Henry brothers. The advertisement mentioned:

the factory

84' by 32' with a slate roof...one shop 20' x 24', one good (mostly new) house, forty-four by twenty-six feet, well adapted for a boarding house, and one other log house for workmen.<sup>8</sup>

The mostly new house was without doubt the homestead and indicates that by December of 1815, William had completed his basic alterations of the log house. William's later notes would indicate that the basic alterations of the cabin were completed by 1813.<sup>9</sup>

The advertisement is also of interest because it suggests that the homestead was to be used as a boarding house for factory workers. This concept is further strengthened by William's entry in his account book one week after his marriage to Mary Albright in March: "April 1, 1817. Took unto use the house and lot situate on West side of the Bushkill Creek... and on the 14th April took the different workmen to board and lodge" (there).<sup>10</sup>

The homestead was perhaps "well adapted" for a boarding house run by a single man, but hardly for one so recently married.

Henry's addition to the east of the log house was a 28' wide by 26' deep, 2½ story, half-timbered house with 8" hewn corner posts spiked to the log house with wrought iron straps. The interstices of the timbers were nogged with a soft, hand-made, salmon-colored brick set in lime mortar (Engle's report shows a photograph). The building technique used, though "essentially medieval,"<sup>11</sup> was common to many Moravian buildings found in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and North Carolina, and reflects the requirement for a more stable construction than is possible with the log house. The half-timber technique is found in several other buildings at the Boulton complex.<sup>12</sup>

Henry built his addition to the east of the log structure, which was probably the reason for the reversal of the earlier roof line; in building as he did, Henry was able to have a basement kitchen and a front elevation that both were at grade.

Henry built a large stone cooking fireplace and a brick bake oven on the west wall of the new ground-level kitchen, with a chimney of brick beginning at ceiling level. A fireplace opened into the first floor hall while probably a Moravian masonry stove was used on the second floor. The presence of a glazed window to the west of the chimney in the second floor hall suggests that the second floor addition was heated. The chimney carries summer beams to support the first and second floor joists (Engle's report shows photos).

The arched dormers on the south elevation were probably built by Henry but their structural association with the porch indicates they were added at the same time as that structure (photo shown). There is evidence, however, that the original sash were casements opening into the rooms. The southwest dormer still carries its original jambs under newer trim and clearly shows notches for casement hinges (photo shown). Casings have been replaced on the other windows making determination of the sash type difficult; however, shims used under the raised floor in the second floor log house mortises suggests that all the second floor windows were originally casements. Murtagh states (p. 130) that casements were a typically Germanic, if not necessarily Moravian, architectural feature.

The exterior of the house appears to have been covered with random clapboards originally only on the south (front) elevation, and on the balance of the half-timbered addition, the log walls exposed on the west and north elevations. The furring strips and clapboard on the front elevation are held by wrought head cut nails typical of the period 1790-1810; the strips and clapboard on the north and west elevations are held by fully machined nails common from 1815 to the late 1830's. The half-timbered section needed the clapboard to protect the nogging and mortar from the weather, but the extension of the clapboard across the logs on the south elevation was probably for appearance. The clapboard was not painted originally; that behind the front porch roof has never been painted.

The roof of the addition was originally of wood shingles, indicated by remnants of shingles found in the attic and under the porch roof. The advertisement listing the Boulton buildings for sale in 1815 clearly stated that the factory and shop buildings were of slate, but did not credit the homestead with this more desirable fire-resistant covering.

The present front porch was an afterthought, as William Henry's "Blotter Book"<sup>13</sup> indicates that he was considering building the porch in February of 1820, seven years after completion of the half-timbered addition. The porch is not a structural extension of the house, but rather a self-supporting addition strapped to the corner posts of the half-timbered addition and log plate. The post and brace construction, pre-numbered mortise and tenon joints with large exposed pegs, suggest that it was assembled on the ground and lifted into place.

It is probable that Henry used the double hung sash on the first floor and kitchen windows in his original construction. The basement windows appear to retain their original 8 over 8 sash, while the first floor windows are small and probably originally used 6 over 6. Evidence for these windows can be seen in the small oil painting of the homestead dating from the 1870's.<sup>14</sup> That painting also shows two windows and a door on the south

elevation of the log house first floor, an area now containing a bay window, and a 6 over 6 window replaced by the bay on the east elevation.

Most likely the springhouse was built after William's marriage and during the subsequent expansion of agricultural activities at Boulton preceding the erection of the barn in 1820-1822. The springhouse, now divided by partitions into three rooms flanking a center hall, appears to have been designed as one space, with a brick paved floor and shed roof.

The interior plan William Henry chose for the addition was based both on existing topography and his Moravian cultural background. Because Henry built into a bank, he was able to locate the kitchen on the lower floor and free the upper floors for other uses, a common Moravian pattern. The probable original opening to the north log house cellar, and Henry's central placement on the west wall of his new fireplace, suggested a stairway on the south side of the new central entry.

The homestead, as modified by Henry, incorporates many Moravian variations that most likely were suggested by the early usage of the homestead as a boarding house. The eleven-foot wide center hall running front to back on the second floor is of a gracious scale and forms, in fact, the largest room in the addition on that floor. Moravian construction was noted for its wide halls<sup>15</sup> and it is somewhat surprising that Henry divided the first floor center entry hall with an east/west partition. However, the partition seen in the context of a boarding house is a logical expedient providing privacy for the downstairs rooms in both the log house and new additions.

The first floor plan (illustrated in the report) was typical of houses of the period, with vertical plank walls, lathed and plastered, forming a large common room or parlor on the east and a center hall divided by a plank partition and chimney into two smaller spaces.

The second floor plan (also illustrated in the report), modified in later alterations, also conformed to a typical Moravian style. The older log house loft was retained as a Schlafsaal, or common dormitory space, most likely used for boarders, and later for storage. The new addition contained two rooms and the center hall formed by beaded, vertical boards which were exposed. The western wall of the center hall, above the original log house rafter plate, was formed of vertical beaded boards and included a glazed casement sash to the south of the chimney, probably to "borrow" light for the center hall, also suggesting that the Schlafsaal was not heated.

Henry's original plan did not include the present closet on the south end of the second floor hall, but only an open stair landing created by two horizontal rails which continued down to the first floor.

The interior finish of the original homestead was simple. Beaded boards appear to have been used for baseboards, casings, and window trim throughout the house. Wide random boards of hemlock tongue-and-grooved and face nailed, formed the original floors, except in the kitchen where brick pavers were used. Although the brick nogging necessitated the plastering of the addition rooms, lath nails indicate that Henry originally did not plaster the interior faces of the logs in that section

of the homestead or any of the ceilings throughout the house. Although plank partitions on the first floor were plastered eventually, those on the second floor were only white-washed. It is of interest that the log walls are still exposed in the closets and in the "pipe room" on the second floor, never having been finished in subsequent alterations.

The Henry homestead as altered originally by William Henry III is a building of great interest. Of a generous scale, it is a half-timbered structure with wide center halls, a Schlafsaal and smaller rooms on the second floor, and second floor casement windows, all features of Moravian construction. Yet the first floor entry foyer with its stair to the second floor and rear center room with included fireplace/stove indicate Henry's willingness to modify and initiate a plan more suitable to his initial needs for both a personal residence and housing for the workers from the factory.

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<sup>8</sup>The Easton, Pennsylvania, Spirit of Pennsylvania, Vol. 1, #1, December 29, 1815.

<sup>9</sup>Manuscript family records in possession of Mary Henry Stites of Boulton.

<sup>10</sup>William Henry Account Book, reproduced in Slate Belt Bicentennial Heritage, Albert M. Toth et al., Northampton County, 1976, facing p. 87.

<sup>11</sup>Murtagh, William "Moravian Architecture and Town Planning," Chapel Hill, 1967, pp. 106, 09, 115, 117, 133.

<sup>12</sup>This construction is found in the "Franklin Fort" building, the small house southwest of the "Fort" on the south side of Henry Road and in the house built for Robert Henry in the 1870's now owned by the Morris family.

<sup>13</sup>Blotter Book, 2/24/1820, in the possession of Mary Henry Stites of Boulton.

<sup>14</sup>Owned by Mary Henry Stites of Boulton.

<sup>15</sup>The Single Brothers' and Sisters' Houses at Lititz are examples of the Moravian house of this type as seen in Murtagh, op. cit., p. 103.



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