

Historic Site Background

Site Name: Zimmerman House
Other Names: Crawford Furniture Store, Sorisio Antiques
Site Address: 30 Rhoda Ave., Leechburg, PA 15656
Researched by: Kathy Starr
Date Researched: January 16, 2007

Owner: Regina and Mario Sorisio
Owner Address: 40 Rhoda Ave.
Owner Phone Number: 724-842-1121

Documents available from owner: *Historia '73*, Annual Publication of the Allegheny Kiski Valley Historical Society

Year(s) built: Daniel Zimmerman had the house built by a contractor, Elisha Cunningham, in 1832 at a cost of \$625. It was a two-story, 8-room brick structure with open porches on both floors and a spring running through the basement. This waterway is still intact in 2007. All building materials were hand hewn or handmade from resources on the property or nearby including the brick.

This date based on: A transcription of Mr. Cunningham's estimate as printed in the *Historia '73*

Additions/alteration dates: Mr. & Mrs. Sorisio purchased the house in 1975 from the Bill and Kathy Crawford. They have restored the house to its 1830's style with finishes, colors and trims that are authentic to that time period. At the time of this writing, January 2007, the Sorisio's have met all the requirements for the house to qualify as a National Landmark.

These dates are based on: Interview with Mr. & Mrs. Sorisio, who related information from John D. Zimmerman and Helen Zimmerman Beecher,

This site has been used for: A farmhouse residence, a furniture store and an antique shop.

This information based on: Interview with Mr. & Mrs. Sorisio

Physical description of the site: Slightly less than 3 acres.

What else is known about the site. The original tract of 275 acres was purchased in 1783 by Samuel Witherill from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for \$80. Actually, 41 pounds, 18 shillings, 7 pence. Mr. Witherill sold the land to John Young in 1796 who owned it until 1810 when he sold it to Jacob Klingensmith for 400 pounds. Jacob Klingensmith sold the 216 acres on May 10, 1832 to Daniel Zimmerman for \$1,400. Daniel Zimmerman gave 29.5 acres to his son Jacob Zimmerman in 1844. When the Daniel Zimmerman estate was settled in 1889, Sarah Shearer was given 5 acres that is still Shearer property. Henry Zimmerman bought 160 acres in the settlement of Daniel's estate. In 1908 Henry Zimmerman sold one acre to the school board for \$100 to erect a high school building. It was a two story yellow brick at Weinel's Crossroads.

Henry's son John Zimmerman lived in the house and raised his family there. He sold it to Cathy and Bill Crawford in 1964.