JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY.

4 May 2016

Paul Loether
Chief, National Register for Historic Places and
National Historic Landmarks Program
1201 Eye Street NW, 8th Floor (2280)
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Loether

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the designation of the Keim Homestead in the Oley Valley of Pennsylvania as a National Historic Landmark. The property includes a main dwelling and an ancillary house, both constructed *circa* 1753, and two nearby family graveyards.

This property represents a particularly important survival of early German-American domestic vernacular architecture. The main dwelling is an excellent example of a *Flurküchenhaus* floor plan, which was a predominant house type in the German-settled regions of Pennsylvania as well as the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. The Keim ancillary house illustrates a variant of a building type that usually combined living and work space under the same roof and is closely associated with Pennsylvania German farms. The turner's workshop inside this building remains in remarkably well-preserved condition. Both buildings retain most of their original fabric and exhibit a high degree of integrity.

The Keim Homestead is a nationally significant property. I strongly endorse its designation as a National Historic Landmark.

Best wishes,

Gabrielle M. Lanier
Professor, Interim Head, and Public History Coordinator
Department of History

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