

20 April 2016

Paul Loether
Chief of NRNP-NHL

Ref: NHL Nomination of the Keim Homestead

Dear Paul;

In reviewing the agenda for the upcoming NHL Committee meeting I noticed that the Keim Farmstead is also under consideration. As one Germanic site to another I would like to offer our total and enthusiastic endorsement of this nomination.

I have had occasion to visit the Keim Homestead which includes the main house and a remarkable surviving ancillary building that functioned as a turner's workshop. The house incorporates elements derived from the Germanic European vernacular tradition. It is an outstanding example of the Flurküchenhaus house type, very similar to what we have here in Old Salem and thus an excellent example of cultural transference from Pennsylvania/Delaware Valley down the Great Wagon Road into the Backcountry of North Carolina. The pent roofs, interior chimney, vaulted cellar, tile roof, common rafter with purlin roof construction are but a few of the common architectural characteristics that link this amazingly intact site to the Germans in the North Carolina.

The ancillary building is a rare example of an architectural form that also derived elements rooted deeply in German-speaking Europe and then modified in the American environment. With its embanked site, this building served, in effect, as an extension of the main dwelling under a separate roof. The Keim Ancillary building currently contains a remarkably well preserved turner's workshop room, certainly one of the earliest I have encountered.

The Keim Homestead is a nationally significant touchstone of the Germanic architectural presence in 18th and early 19th century America and worthy of National Historic Landmark designation. We highly recommend approval of the nomination.

Sincerely,

John C. Larson
Vice President for Restoration