

The Junkin House

The Junkin House is one of the oldest historic structures in Silver Spring Township. It is located on North Locust Point Road across from the Climbnasium.

Joseph Junkin left Northern Ireland for Philadelphia in the early to late 1730s. He spent some time in Chester County. In 1745, he moved to Pennsborough Township, Lancaster County which is now current day Silver Spring Township, Cumberland County, where over several years he purchased a total of approximately 413 acres.

In the 1700s the area west of the Susquehanna River, Lancaster County reached all the way to Pittsburgh. In 1750, Cumberland County was formed - in 1780s Silver Spring Township was established, up to that time the township was Pennsborough, then East Pennsborough, and then Silver Spring. For more information on the Pennsborough history, please visit: <https://eastpennhistory.org/2017/04/11/a-brief-history-of-east-pennsboro/>

Joseph Junkin built the Junkin house in 1747 and it is considered the first Junkin family homestead in America.

Junkin died in 1777, leaving the property to his two sons and to John Carothers. Carothers sold the property to John King, who today New Kingstown is named after.

Junkin's two sons, Joseph, Jr., and Benjamin, remained in the area. Benjamin died in New Kingstown and is buried in the Zion Cemetery west of New Kingstown. Joseph, Jr. moved to Hopewell, Mercer County, in 1805 after selling his home and land to Joseph Kananga.

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission recognizes the house and surrounding property as the first location that served more than 250 Communicants in the first Covenanter Communion in America for the Reformed Presbyterian Church.

The Cumberland Valley Preservation Society (CVPS) at Silver Spring took ownership of the house in December 2020. The house is scheduled to be moved during the summer of 2021.

CVPS plans to establish a museum to showcase historic items, artifacts, and manuscripts from a local historian, Bud Gaskin. The plan includes an amphitheater constructed of stone from the original foundation and the historic Bell Tavern. Programs will consist of demonstrations on masonry and food preparation from the 18th century. The second floor will hold office space to support the New Kingston Vision, Hogestown Heritage, and preservation society.

The Society is currently in Phase 2A of the project, including moving the house approximately 200 feet to the east. The house will require in-depth restoration once it is moved. The efforts have been a subject of local media interest.

Preserving history is vitally essential to the mission of the Cumberland Valley Preservation Society of Silver Spring. The Junkin House is its first major project. The Society's mission will expand as it includes other historic sites. The importance of historic preservation and the actual process of doing so will be on display and serve as impetus and inspiration for potential future projects of this type.



