






Driving Tour of Sites & Chronology for Conococheague Uprising of 1765

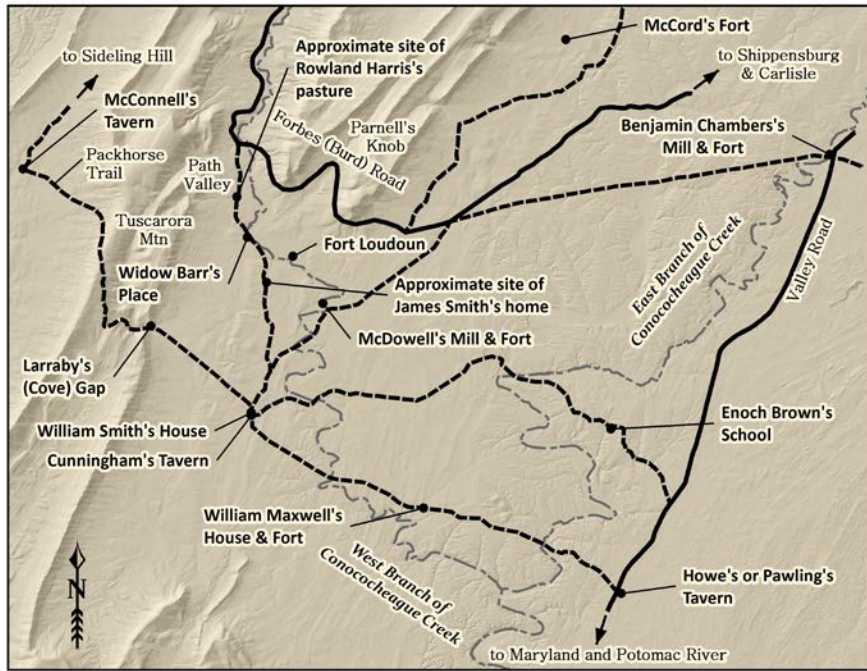
This driving tour includes most of the sites in the Conococheague Uprising of 1765.

The exact locations of other related sites—the Sideling Hill ambush (probably somewhere between Fort Littleton and Sideling Hill), Rowland Harris's pasture (probably along PA 75 north of the town of Fort Loudon), and Lt. Charles Grant's kidnapping (Grant was captured near Fort Loudoun and brought into unknown woods)—remain uncertain and are not part of this tour.

The driving distance from and back to the Allison-Antrim Museum is about 62 miles. The driving time without stopping is 1 hour and 34 minutes. Allow more time for visiting public sites. Respect the privacy of private residences and private land.

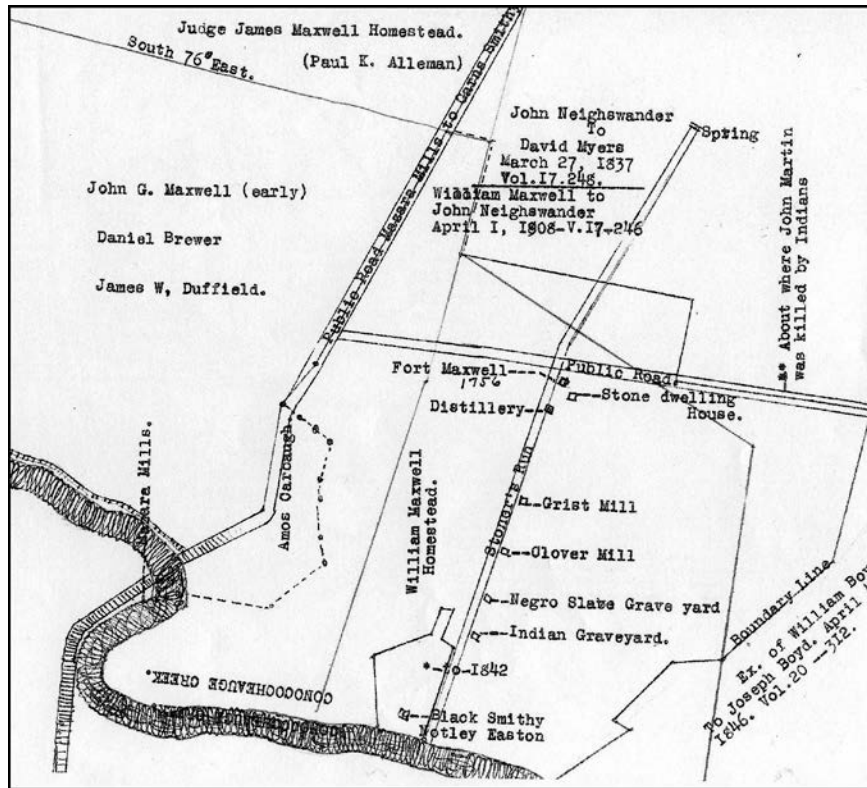
	Site	Driving Route
 <p style="text-align: center;">Allison-Antrim Museum</p>	<p>Allison-Antrim Museum 365 South Ridge Ave, Greencastle, PA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Starting point for driving tour 	
 <p style="text-align: center;">Wayside marker Lime kiln ruins in distance</p>	<p>Pawling's Tavern site - wayside marker (approx. at) 1499 Milnor Rd., Greencastle, PA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Henry Pawling moved here in the 1740s & built his tavern on the Valley Road Resting place for Col. Dunbar's retreating British army in 1755 Illegal Indian trade goods stored here and discovered by settlers in early 1765 Packhorses with goods embarked for Fort Pitt on March 5, 1765 	<p>3.2 miles - 6 minutes Go southwest on S Ridge Ave - 0.05 mi Turn right onto Leitersburg St. - 0.3 mi Turn left onto S Carlisle St. - 0.3 mi Turn right onto US-11 N - 0.2 mi Turn left onto Williamsport Pike/PA-163 - 0.03 mi Turn left to stay on Williamsport Pike/PA-163 - 2.1 mi Turn left onto Milnor Rd. - 0.1 mi</p>
 <p style="text-align: center;">Limestone house on Wm. Maxwell property built circa 1810</p>	<p>Wm. Maxwell property - private residence at 6922 Montgomery Church Rd., Mercersburg, PA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site of 2,000-acre "Castle" estate of Justice William Maxwell (died 1777) F&I War fort built here March 5, 1765 protest against traders March 9, 1765 Black Boys' raid, exploding stored gunpowder 	<p>7.6 miles - 13 minutes Turn around to go west on Milnor Rd. Turn left onto Williamsport Pike - 1.2 mi Turn right onto Worleytown Rd. - 4.1 mi Turn left onto Letzburg Rd. - 0.9 mi Turn left onto Montgomery Church Rd. - 1.4 mi Look for limestone house on left, 100 yds. before Stoner's Run (small creek)</p>
 <p style="text-align: center;">Liberty gas station</p>	<p>Cunningham's Tavern site - now a gas station at 102 North Main St, Mercersburg, PA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> March 5, 1765 protest against traders Black Boys' meeting place Birthplace of PA governor and US senator William Findlay (1768-1846) 	<p>5.8 miles - 8 minutes Continue west on Montgomery Church Rd. - 0.4 mi Turn right onto Garnes Rd. - 0.8 mi Turn left onto PA-16 - 4.6 mi Liberty gas station is on left, just past stoplight at Park Ave. & Oregon St.</p>
 <p style="text-align: center;">Purple arrow points to former location of the William Smith house</p>	<p>William Smith House site - now a grassy lot between the MMWP fire house and Veterans Way in Mercersburg, PA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home of Justice Wm. Smith (d. 1775) March 5, 1765 protest against traders Black Boys' meeting place Smith house dismantled in 2011 	<p>150 yards - less than 1 minute Continue north on PA-16 (N. Main St.) - 150 yds Smith house site is on left Stone blocks from dismantled house are now stored on opposite side of N. Main St.</p>

 <p>Pyramid marks Buchanan birthplace on packhorse trail through Cove Gap</p>	<p>Site of packhorse trail & soldier/settler confrontations in Cove (Larraby's) Gap Buchanan Birthplace State Park near 3660 Stoney Batter Rd, Mercersburg, PA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Packhorse train route on March 5, 1765 • March 7, 1765 confrontations between Fort Loudoun troops & raiders. 6 prisoners & 9 guns captured • site of James Buchanan's 1791 birth 	<p>4.0 miles - 6 minutes Continue north on PA-16 - 3.4 mi Turn slightly right at Buchanan Birthplace markers, onto Stoney Batter/State Forest Rd., and into state park - 0.6 mi</p>
 <p>McConnell's Tavern</p>	<p>McConnell's Tavern – <u>private residence</u> at 114 Lincoln Way West, McConnellsburg, PA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 5 & 6, 1765 protests against traders with illegal Indian goods • Resting place for packhorse trains before March 6, 1765 ambush at Sideling Hill • Tavern (c. 1760) is on National Register 	<p>7.5 miles - 11 minutes Exit state park - 0.6 mi Turn right on PA-16 (becomes Lincoln Way in McConnellsburg) - 6.9 mi Tavern is log building on right - a few houses west of stoplight at US-522 junction</p>
 <p>Fort Loudoun</p>	<p>Fort Loudoun State Historic Site at 1720 Brooklyn Rd., Fort Loudon, PA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garrisoned by half-company from "Black Watch" regiment in 1764-65 • March 9 & May 10, 1765 confrontations by hundreds of armed settlers • Nov. 16-18 siege over captured guns • Replica fort stands on original fort site 	<p>11.0 miles - 16 minutes Continue 1/2 block northwest on Lincoln Way/PA-16 - 0.05 mi Turn right onto North 1st St. - 0.3 mi Turn right onto West North St. - 0.1 mi Turn left onto US-522 N. - 0.5 mi Merge onto US-30 East - 9.5 mi Turn right onto Brooklyn Rd. and into state park - 0.5 mi</p>
 <p>Marker installed in 2013</p>	<p>Widow Barr's Place - historic marker (near 2165 Fort Loudon Road, Mercersburg, PA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site of F&I War skirmish in Feb. 1756 • May 6, 1765 gunfight between Fort Loudoun troops and Black Boys • Widow Barr's house stands on <u>private farm road</u> 1/3 mile west of marker 	<p>3.3 miles - 6 minutes Return out on Brooklyn Rd - 0.5 mi Turn left onto US-30 West - 1.7 mi Turn left onto PA-75 at stoplight - 1.1 mi</p>
 <p>Mountain View Elementary School</p>	<p>James Smith home site - said to have been in the area of Mountain View Elementary School (at 2311 Lemar Rd, Mercersburg, PA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home of James Smith (1737-1812), Black Boys' leader 	<p>1.0 mile - 1 minute Continue south on PA-75 - 1.0 mi Mountain View Elementary School is at intersection of PA-75 & Lemar Road</p>
 <p>Allison-Antrim Museum</p>	<p>Allison-Antrim Museum 365 South Ridge Ave, Greencastle, PA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End point for driving tour 	<p>15.4 miles - 22 minutes Continue south on PA-75 thru Mercersburg, merge onto PA-16 and go thru Greencastle - 15.0 mi Turn right onto S Ridge Ave. - 0.4 mi</p>



Map created in ArcGIS by Jill L. Schooley, GISP

from *The Conococheague Uprising of 1765*



William Maxwell's property - from *Palmer Papers*

Chronology for Conococheague Uprising of 1765

Previous Events

1755-1763	French & Indian (F&I) War
May 1755	French-aligned Indians capture 18-year-old James Smith
July 1755	Gen. Braddock's British army defeated. Army retreats, leaving PA frontier unprotected
1756-1758	Ohio Indians (Delawares, Shawnees & Mingos) raid Conococheague Settlement approximately 40 times - 233 killed, 103 captured. Farms burned. Inhabitants flee
Late 1758	Treaty of Easton and capture of Fort Duquesne end Indian raids on Conococheague
1759-1760	James Smith leaves Indian captivity and returns to Conococheague
Feb. 1763	Treaty of Paris formally ends global Seven Years' War, including F&I War
May 1763	Pontiac leads Ottawas in attack of Fort Detroit
May-June 1763	Other Indians attack and capture 8 other forts and lay siege to Forts Pitt, Ligonier & Bedford. Ohio Indians raid settlements west & north of Conococheague Settlement
mid-1763	James Smith forms and leads Conococheague rangers, preventing local raids until disbanded when funding stops. James Smith joins John Armstrong's regiment, which campaigns to Indian sites along the Susquehanna River's West Branch in the fall
Aug 1763	Col. Henry Bouquet defeats Indians at Battle of Bushy Run. Relieves Fort Pitt
Oct 1763	Royal Proclamation of 1763 forbids settlement west of Alleghany Mountain and allows Indian trade by licensed traders
Oct 22, 1763	Gov. James Hamilton approves "An Act to prohibit the selling of Guns, Powder, or other Warlike Stores to the Indians." Act remains in effect through June 1765
Nov 1763	John Penn (Wm. Penn's grandson) replaces James Hamilton as PA governor
Dec. 1763	Paxton Boys murder Conestoga Indians at Conestoga and Lancaster
Feb. 1764	Several hundred Paxton Boys march on Philadelphia, intending to kill other peaceful Indians. But negotiations with Ben Franklin and Gov. Penn turn them back
Mar-May 1764	Ohio Indians raid areas to north and west of the Conococheague Settlement
June-July 1764	Ohio Indians raid Conococheague Settlement—34 killed, 2 wounded, 6 captured: - 19 to 20 killed in June 5, 1764 raid south of Fort Loudoun - 11 killed and 1 wounded in July 26, 1764 raid of Enoch Brown school
July 7, 1764	Gov. John Penn proclaims Delawares and Shawnees are enemies and offers rewards for their scalps and capture
July 1764	Ensign James Smith leads scalping party down Ohio River
Summer 1764	Col. Henry Bouquet prepares for his Ohio Expedition, using Fort Loudoun as a staging ground. 200 provincial soldiers desert army, taking guns and horses with them
Aug-Sept 1764	Bouquet's Ohio Expedition marches to Fort Pitt. Indians leave Conococheague Settlement, ending raids
Oct-Nov 1764	Bouquet negotiates with Ohio Indians at Muskingum River. Lt. James Smith acts as interpreter. Delawares return over 200 captives, but Shawnees on Scioto River promise to return theirs later. Tenuous peace is reached. Indian hostages at Fort Pitt escape. Settlers fear "third Indian war." British army command fears whites will provoke war
Nov 1764	Half company (35-40 men?) of 42nd Highland Regiment garrisoned at Fort Loudoun
Nov 1764	George Croghan, Robert Callender and Philadelphia merchants make a secret agreement to provide £20,000 worth of trade goods to the western Indians, far exceeding the £2,000 General Thomas Gage (commander of British troops) allotted Croghan for Crown presents to be given in peace negotiations
Dec 1764	Gov. Penn rejects Gen. Thomas Gage's suggestion to reopen the Indian trade
Jan 1765	Col. Bouquet instructs post commanders to assist in George Croghan's shipment of presents
Jan-Feb 1765	Croghan delivers 65 packhorse loads of trade goods to Fort Pitt while Robert Callender stores 16 to 17 wagon loads of goods at Pawlings Tavern (Howe's) for future shipment

Events of Conococheague Uprising of 1765 - (Driving stops written in bold letters)

- March Local settlers know or suspect illegal gunpowder, lead, and weapons for Indian trade are stored at **Pawling's Tavern** (Howe's). Discovered scalping knives alarm locals
- March 5 Two trains of 32 and 59 packhorses with Indian goods, headed for Fort Pitt, leave **Pawling's Tavern** (with just a fraction of Callender's Indian trade goods)
- March 5 Groups of 30 to 50 armed protestors confront packhorse trains at **William Maxwell's home, Cunningham's Tavern, William Smith's House** and **McConnell's Tavern**. Packhorse drivers are threatened and guns fired
- March 5 PM James Smith gathers 10 of his former rangers and sets up ambush near Sideling Hill
- March 6 1PM Packhorse trains reach "within a mile or two" of Sideling Hill and are shot at by Smith's men disguised as Indians with blackened faces (hence, "Black Boys"). 2 to 4 horses killed. 59 to 63 (out of 81) loads of goods burned, worth £3,000 per one claim
- March 6 PM Drivers are unharmed and retreat to **Fort Loudoun**. Robert Callender offers rewards to troops for retrieving unharmed goods and capturing ambush suspects. Post commander, Lt. Charles Grant, agrees to send a squad
- March 6 9PM Sgt. Leonard McGlashan leaves Fort Loudoun with squad of 11 other troops
- March 7 AM From midnight through morning, on way to Sideling Hill and back, troops have several angry confrontations with armed men in **Larraby's (Cove) Gap** and further up Tuscarora Mountain. Troops capture 6 locals and 9 guns. Troops search **McConnell's Tavern** and then retrieve rum and other undamaged goods from ambush site. Troops shoot at locals and use bayonets to clear mobs. Take captives, guns, and retrieved goods to **Fort Loudoun**
- March 7 PM Robert Callender and two others, accompanied by Justice James Maxwell, take Reese Porter from his house and hold him at **Fort Loudoun** with other prisoners
- March 8 Hundreds of Conococheague settlers arm and gather. They threaten the lives of Callender and Maxwell and prepare to rescue prisoners at **Fort Loudoun**
- March 9 200 to 300 armed men, led by James Smith, confront Lt. Charles Grant and his troops at **Fort Loudoun**. Grant releases his prisoners on bail, but keeps confiscated guns.
- March 9 Black Boys search for ammunition at **Pawlings Tavern**. Finding none, they go in blackened-face disguise to **William Maxwell's house**, where they find and blow up 8 barrels of gunpowder
- March Robert Callender moves remaining Indian trade goods stored at **Pawlings Tavern, William Maxwell's**, and other nearby houses to **Fort Loudoun**
- March-July Black Boys set up patrols on roads in Conococheague Settlement. Inspect both private and military groups to prevent shipment of Indian trade goods. Issue passes to allow approved material to proceed. **William Smith's house** and **Cunningham's Tavern** serve as the central meeting places for the Black Boys during this period
- March Cumberland Valley inhabitants petition Gov. John Penn to keep and enforce his ban on "warlike stores" to Indians. Express fear of third Indian war if Indians are re-armed
- Mar-April General Thomas Gage (commander of British troops) and Sir William Johnson (head Indian agent) investigate and disapprove of George Croghan and his associates shipping more Indian goods than authorized
- March Gov. John Penn and his Attorney General go to Carlisle to investigate and indict those involved in the Sideling Hill ambush. Some depositions and arrest warrants made, but suspected "robbers" and "rioters" hide from sheriff and "three Presbyterian parsons."
- April 16 Grand Jury judges there is insufficient evidence to prosecute anyone for Sideling Hill ambush
- May 5 Goods for Fort Pitt sent by Joseph Spear and transported by 40 to 60 packhorses are unloaded at **Fort Loudoun**
- May 6 AM Drivers are pasturing unloaded horses at Rowland Harris's when about 30 armed men with blackened faces confront them. Black Boys tie up drivers and whip them. Kill 5 horses, wound 2, and burn wooden saddles and blankets
- May 6 One driver escapes to **Fort Loudoun**. Lt. Grant orders Sgt. McGlashan and 12 other troops to rescue packhorse drivers at Rowland Harris's pasture. Finding no Black Boys there, the troops travel south

Events of Conococheague Uprising of 1765 (cont.)

- May 6 At **Widow Barr's place**, 50 to 80 Black Boys (those at Harris's joined by others from **Cunningham's Tavern**) surprise and shoot at troops, starting a gunfight. Black Boy James Brown is shot in the thigh. Sgt. McGlashan takes one prisoner and uses **Widow Barr's house** as a fort. Troops are allowed to leave when they give up their prisoner. Black Boys proceed back to **Cunningham's Tavern**.
- May 10 150 to 200 armed men led by James Smith, and Justices William Smith, John Allison and Reyonald, arrive at **Fort Loudoun** and demand to inspect and take inventory of the Joseph Spear's goods stored there. Lt. Grant refuses to let them inspect the goods, fearing that the men intend to destroy the goods instead. Justices say they have no regard for military passes and that all goods required passes from magistrates. Protestors leave peacefully
- May Black Boys continue to inspect private and military shipments on local roads and issue passes for approved goods. **William Smith's house** and **Cunningham's Tavern** are still the common rendezvous for the Black Boys
- May George Croghan holds peace conference with more than 500 Ohio Indians at Fort Pitt. Indians renew their peace promises and Shawnees release their remaining white captives. Croghan reports this to Gov. Penn and others before heading down the Ohio River to reach peace agreements with Illinois Indians and Pontiac
- May 8 Ohio Delawares formalize peace agreement with Sir William Johnson in New York
- May 28 James Smith and four others kidnap Lt. Grant while riding a mile from **Fort Loudoun**. They hold Grant captive in the woods overnight
- May 29 Smith and others release Grant after he signs a £40 bond securing he will return the 9 guns collected after the Sideling Hill ambush. But Grant does not return the guns
- May 29 Fort Loudoun commissary, Thomas Romberg, claims to have found and made a copy of an inflammatory advertisement supposedly recruiting men to the Black Boys and saying their church and governor will pardon their misbehavior and crimes
- May or June 2 officers and 45 men march from Fort Pitt toward **Fort Loudoun** to rescue the kidnapped Lt. Grant. They turn back on way with the news that Grant had returned
- May or June Justice William Smith issues a warrant for the arrest of Sgt. McGlashan for shooting James Brown at **Widow Barr's**
- June 4 Based on news of Indian peace agreements and the Shawnees' return of white captives, Gov. Penn repeals Indian trade restrictions, effective June 20, 1765
- June 7 Report of attack by "Cumberland County inhabitants" on goods sent by Joseph Spear, but location not stated. Black Boys store and then burn these goods
- June 16 Gen. Thomas Gage writes to Gov. Penn: "the Inhabitants of Cumberland County . . . appear daily in Arms, and seem to be in an actual State of Rebellion. It appears, likewise, that the Rebels are supported by some of the Magistrates, particularly one Smith, a Justice of the Peace, and headed by his Son [i.e., his brother-in-law James]"
- June 27 Gov. Penn summons William Smith to meet with him in Philadelphia on July 30th
- June 27 Gov. Penn writes to the justices of Cumberland County sending copies of Romberg's advertisement and orders that they "quell and suppress the first appearances of any riots & disorders in the County, to preserve the publick peace, & to bring the Offenders to Justice." Orders a report of affairs, particularly concerning Lt. Grant's kidnapping
- Summer George Croghan reaches peace agreements with Illinois and Great Lakes Indians and Pontiac. (Final peace agreement between Sir William Johnson and Indians is made at Fort Ontario in July 1766)
- July-Oct Black Boys stop their inspections of shipments and cease confrontations with troops
- July 18 Cumberland County Magistrates meet at **Fort Loudoun** in response to Gov. Penn's letter. No arrest warrants issued by them
- July 30 Justice William Smith defends himself before Gov. Penn saying that Lt. Grant illegally interfered with the civil law and took bribes from Robert Callender. Smith retains his magistrate position
- Aug 24 Lt. Grant writes to Gen. Gage defending his actions and asking for guidance on what to do with the 9 guns confiscated after Sideling Hill ambush. He notes that William Smith "Stands in a fair light with the Governor"

Events of Conococheague Uprising of 1765 (cont.)

- November Garrison at Fort Loudon prepares to abandon **Fort Loudoun** and move to Fort Pitt. Black Boys are resentful that their 9 guns are still confiscated and fear that Lt. Grant will take them away. The Fort Pitt commander sends an ensign and 30 troops to escort the Fort Loudoun troops west
- Nov 16-18 100 to 200 armed Black Boys surround **Fort Loudoun** and demand the return of the 9 guns. For 2 days and 2 nights they fire hundreds of shots at the fort and its sentries
- Nov 18 Lt. Grant agrees to give the 9 guns to Justice William McDonnell under bond, with the agreement he holds them until "the Governor's pleasure is known". (The Governor later directed that the guns be given back to their owners.) James Smith and others sign bond in which they agree not to attack the troops further. Troops from Fort Pitt arrive 2 hours later and peacefully escort the **Fort Loudoun** garrison away. This marks the end of the 8-month Conococheague Uprising of 1765

Aftermath

- Jan 1766 Gov. Penn removes William Smith as a magistrate and issues a writ for the arrest of James Smith
1766 Merchants still fear attack by Black Boys but none come. James Smith and other Black Boys are never arrested
- June 1766 James Smith leaves Conococheague to explore Tennessee and Kentucky



Justice William Smith's house before 2011 dismantlement
(lower limestone story was original house)