

Lower Gwynedd Historic Committee
Regular Meeting
Thursday, August 18th, 2022

Committee Members Present:

Joseph W. Langella Jr.
Allison Klingler
Michelle Mayer
Matt Metcalf

Supervisors Present:

Janine Martin

Lower Gwynedd Staff Present:

None

Call to Order:

The hybrid meeting was called to order at 6:00PM in person at the Ingersoll / Claytor House

Business:

This meeting consisted of a tour of the Ingersoll / Claytor House and Grounds currently located behind the Lower Gwynedd Township Building. The House is a 3-story, 6-bay stone home with a basement / cellar that houses a natural spring. Also on the Grounds is a 2-story, 7-bay stone and wood Barn with a semi-legible date stone of about 1783 and the initials "E.C." It is believed that the original portion of the house was built around the same time by the same person.

This property was, at one point, referred to as "Spring House Farm" due to the natural spring in the cellar and it is largely believed that the Spring House area was named after this farm.

History of Ingersoll:

It is believed the original structures were built by either Ezekiel Cleaver (1729 - 1785) or his son Ellis Cleaver (1758 - 1829). The original House seems to have been 2-stories and 3-bays across. The home stayed within the Cleaver Family or the Cleaver Estate until sometime between 1880 and 1890, when it became at least partially owned by Charles and Barbara Smith.

In 1894, the House, Barn, and surrounding farmland was purchased by Francis and Margaret Bond who later gifted the property to their nephew Edward Ingersoll and his new wife Emily Ingersoll as a wedding present in 1907. The Ingersoll family owned the property until 1984, although it was likely unoccupied since 1961 when Emily Ingersoll passed away.

It is believed that between the 1900s and 1920s, at least one addition was added to the House, adding about 10ft to the rear (where new bathrooms were built), the third story, and the Eastern

3 bays. It is believed that the wooden portions of the Barn as well as the most Eastern column and stone wall were also additions, but the dates they were added cannot be determined.

In 1984, the Ingersoll children (Mary Claytor, Elizabeth Bartow, Warren Ingersoll, and Emily Large) sold the property to Lower Gwynedd Township for \$1.

Current State of Ingersoll:

The Ingersoll House and Grounds are currently being used for mild storage (plows in barn, filing cabinets in house, etc) by the Township.

The House currently has 3 living areas on the 1st floor, 4 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms on the 3rd floor, and 2 bedrooms and 1 bathroom on the 3rd floor as well as various closets. It should be noted that there was no kitchen, however it was believed that at least one of the fireplaces in the basement was used for cooking / baking.

Overall the structure seems to be in good shape. Some windows have been replaced and the original windows have been boarded up. There is an updated piece of HVAC equipment on the 1st floor, though it was not integrated properly into the historic home. All of the house's interior paint is peeling and is likely lead-based paint. There were raccoon traps set, so there may be an ongoing pest control problem. The exterior of the Barn also seems to be in good shape.

Before leaving, members of the Committee were asked to brainstorm ideas for how to use Ingersoll in the future and to present these ideas at the next meeting.

Closing:

The meeting was called to close at 7:30PM.

Meeting Minutes prepared by:

Allison Klingler