

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED  
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME** Griffith, Wm. R. House  
HISTORIC CATHEDRAL HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON  
The Cathedral House of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

**2 LOCATION**  
STREET & NUMBER  
215 North Front Street  
CITY, TOWN  
Harrisburg  
STATE  
Pennsylvania 17101  
VICINITY OF  
CODE  
12  
COUNTY  
Dauphin  
CODE  
043  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
17  
NOT FOR PUBLICATION

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>OWNERSHIP</b>	<b>STATUS</b>	<b>PRESENT USE</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**  
NAME Saint Stephen's Church  
STREET & NUMBER  
221 North Front Street  
CITY, TOWN  
Harrisburg  
STATE  
Pennsylvania 17101  
VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**  
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC  
STREET & NUMBER  
CITY, TOWN  
STATE

Recorder of Deeds Office; Dauphin County Court House  
Front and Market Streets  
Harrisburg  
Pennsylvania 17101

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**  
TITLE The Historic American Buildings Survey (Residence of the Dean: PA-39)  
DATE  
1935  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
CITY, TOWN  
Washington, D.C. 20540  
STATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED    DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Cathedral House is a 1840-43 brick Greek Revival residence with the urban lot proportions of 28'x90' (approximately). The residence is three bays wide 3 stories high. The third story windows are flat to the surface in a stuccoed entablature under the cornice and are one sash high. The first and second story windows are 6 over 6. The roof is low and hipped. The 1936 Historic American Building Survey drawings show the main facade (west) with a three arched veranda and the present portico at the side. A 1950 restoration removed the veranda and moved the portico to the front facade. The door has a plain transom and side lights. The portico is the major classic element with free-standing Ionic columns, entablature and flat cornice projecting from the doorway. The front block measures 28' x 40' with a narrower back block measuring 15' x 50'. The back block has a bay window on the south first floor and a wooden balcony running its length at the 2nd story. The brick is Flemish bond on the front facade, common bond to the sides. The interior has a hallway and stair on the north wall with one room to its south (originally two rooms in a typical two-third Georgian plan). The stairwell has a continuous serpentine line with no clear landing and turns back on itself to reach the 2nd floor.

# SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="radio"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Cathedral House is situated on "Lot 62" of the town plan both conceived and prepared by John Harris, founder of Harrisburg, on land patented to his father by William Penn's son Thomas. John Harris' handwritten "Lot Book" notes the original lot sale in its 1785 Valuation Section. The red brick house was originally built for William R. and Eliza Griffith between 1840 and 1853 when a two and one-half story brick building is specified on his Deed of sale. However, William R. Griffith, gentleman, is listed in the 1843 Harrisburg Directory (by J. A. Spofford) as residing at the location; so it can be assumed the original building was completed at this time.

Cathedral House appears today from Front Street almost as it did when first completed. The main section's original pilastered entranceway with German silver-plated hardware, the interior side hall, reception room, living room magnificent three-level stair baluster with string ornaments- all complete with classic windows, shutters, and woodwork- are the very ones which greeted the first owners in the 1840's.

Cathedral House, an integral part of "Old Middtown" Harrisburg, occupies a choice Susquehanna River-front location just above flood danger. It was designed and built during the booming years which followed the relocation of Pennsylvania's government to the "Old Capitol" building (which also reflected Greek Revival elements). The house is attributed to Stephen Hills, master carpenter, who renovated the Dauphin County Courthouse for state capitol use and planned and built the Old Capitol in Missouri.

The residence is a fine example of Central Pennsylvania's use of the urban Georgian plan, yet with a simplicity and a quality of craftsmanship and design that identifies its local setting.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Pennsylvania's Architecture (by Irwin Richman); Pennsylvania Historical Studys

John Harris "Lot Book"; John Harris' original handwritten ledger book regarding his projected town (later Harrisburg) and noting both ground-rents and sale of lots (1775-1790's).

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .23 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	18
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3	3	9	6	2	0
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4	4	5	8	1	6	0
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B 

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C 

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D 

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Philip A. Rauth, Jr. / Madeline Cohen

ORGANIZATION Saint Stephen's Episcopal Cathedral / OHP/PHMC DATE June 15, 1976

STREET & NUMBER 221 North Front Street / Box 1026 TELEPHONE

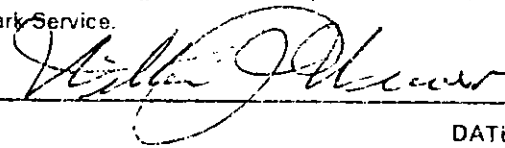
CITY OR TOWN Harrisburg / Harrisburg STATE Pennsylvania 17101

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL  STATE  LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE 

TITLE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE 7/20/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

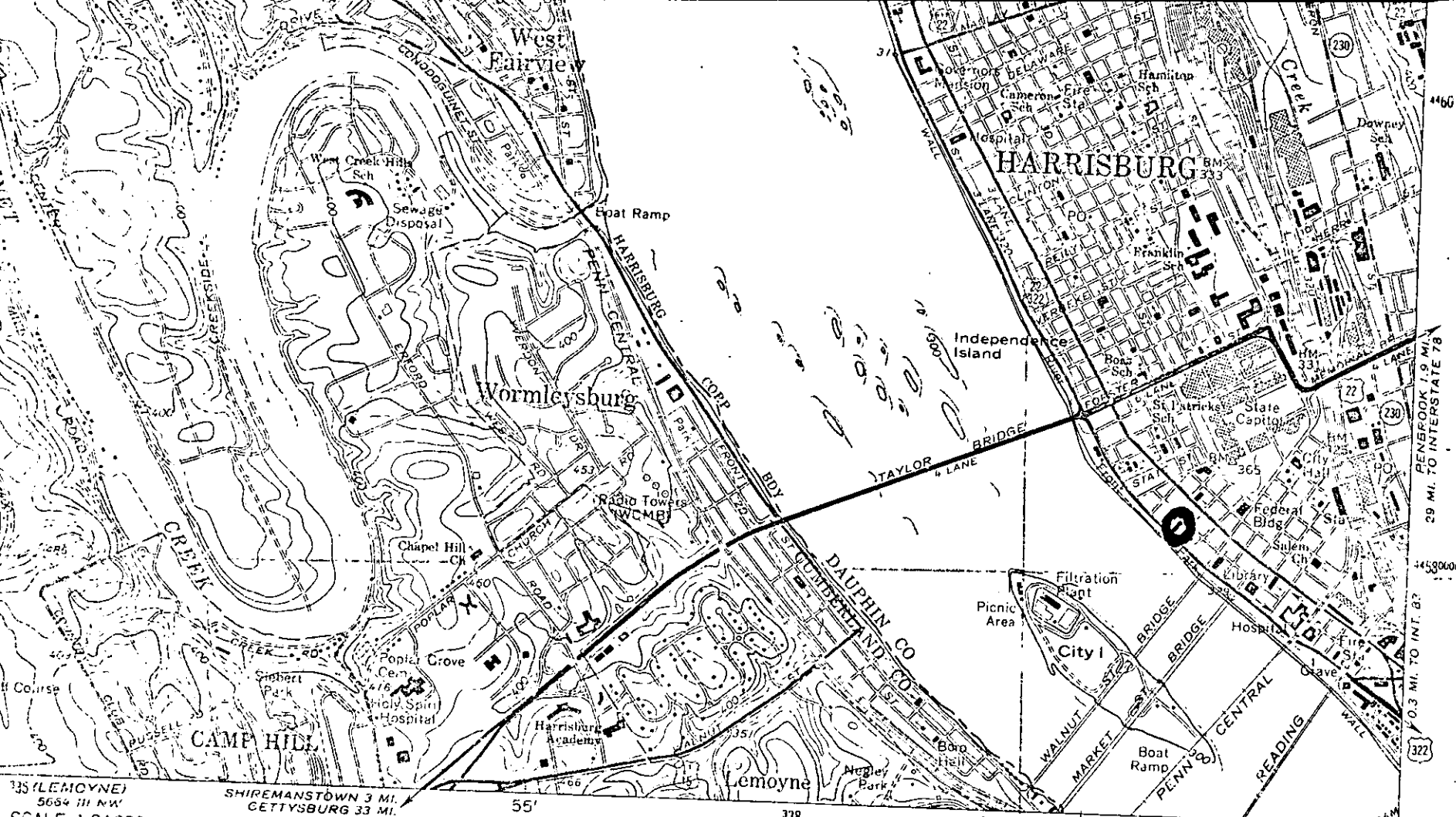
DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

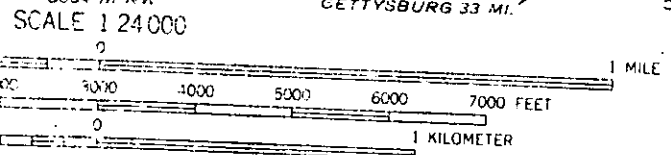
DATE

ATTEST:

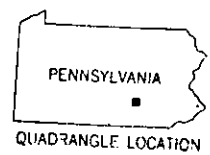
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



335 (LEMOYNE)  
5664 III NW  
SHIREMANSTOWN 3 MI.  
GETTYSBURG 33 MI.



CUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
M IS MEAN SEA LEVEL



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	—————	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface	—————
Secondary highway, hard surface	—————	Unimproved road	- - - - -
Interstate Route	⊖	U. S. Route	⊖
		State Route	⊖

**HARRISBURG WEST, PA.**  
SW/4 HARRISBURG 15' QUADRANGLE  
N4015—W7652.5/7.5

1969

AMS 5664 IV SW—SERIES V8:1

WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
ADDITIONAL MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

29 MI. TO INTERSTATE 78

0.3 MI. TO INT. 82

40°15'  
76°52'30"

(STELTON)  
5664 III NE

INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C.—1972  
3400000 E