

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUN 12 1979
DATE ENTERED AUG 17 1979

**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

HISTORIC FORT HUNTER HISTORIC DISTRICT
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER *U.S. 22*
North Front Street (US Route 22) NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CITY, TOWN *Harrisburg Fort Hunter* CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 17
STATE *Pennsylvania* CODE *42* COUNTY *Dauphin* CODE *043*

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME *Dr. J. Wister Meigs / Arthur Meigs / Mrs. Sarah Brown*
STREET & NUMBER *575 Ridge Road / 3224 Cathedral Ave. /*
CITY, TOWN *Hamden, CT / Wash ington, D. C. /* STATE *Milford, CT*
VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. *Dauphin County Courthouse*
STREET & NUMBER *Front and Market Streets*
CITY, TOWN *Harrisburg* STATE *Pennsylvania*

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE *Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places*
DATE *4/21/76* FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS *Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission*
CITY, TOWN *Harrisburg* STATE *Pennsylvania*

CONDITION

 EXCELLENT GOOD FAIR DETERIORATED RUINS UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

 UNALTERED ALTERED

CHECK ONE

 ORIGINAL SITE MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Fort Hunter District is located on the banks of the Susquehanna River and Fishing Creek. This area has seen continuous settlement since the early 1700's and once was the site of an early supply fort and garrison. Today there are eleven structures on the property as well as the remains of a section of the Pennsylvania Canal and the possibility of extensive archaeological remains.

BUILDING INVENTORY (Numbers keyed to maps and photographs)

1. ARCHIBALD MCALLISTER MANSION: The mansion is large symmetrical Georgian style structure laid out on a T plan. The main block measures 55'8" by 30'4". The main section was constructed circa 1814, two additions have been made to the rear of the structure. First addition measures 20'1" by 36'1" and was added mid-19th century. The second addition (20'1" by 22'3") was made during the late 19th century. The mansion was placed on the National Register on June 7, 1976.
2. SPRING HOUSE: To the northeast corner of the mansion, built into the banks of Fishing Creek is a small stone spring house. The springhouse has a gable roof with boxed cornices and returns. One door enters from the south. This structure dates from the late 1800's.
3. EVERHART COVERED BRIDGE: This covered bridge was moved from US Route 22 on to Fort Hunter land in 1940 to save it from demolition. It has a King post truss and one span of 36 feet.
4. LARGE FRAME BARN: Circa 1876 a large frame barn was constructed across the road from the Mansion house. It is felt that this was the site of an original log barn as mentioned in the tax lists of 1798. This large frame barn measures 100'4" by 62'2" however sheds and roof overhangs bring this structure to 120'4" by 68'2". Its gable roof is decorated with ornate bargeboards, finials and a hexagonal cupola. The louvered windows have decorative moldings. The barn at Fort Hunter is one of the finest examples of a high style Victorian barn in Pennsylvania.
5. CORN CRIB: 20th Century addition to property.
6. FARM HOUSE: Located to the rear of the frame barn nearest the Pennsylvania Canal is an early 19th Century board and batten farm house. The original structure measures 18'9" by 39'5". Numerous additions in the form of sheds and porches have been made to this structure.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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7. GARAGE: Early 20th century frame structure with tin gable roof.
8. BLACKSMITH SHOP: This excellent and well preserved example of a blacksmith shop was built in the early 1800's. The shop itself measures 33'2" by 44'11" but with its attached sheds has a total dimension of 58'5" by 72'2". This one story board and batten structure has a gable roof with a louvered ventallator. Not only does the hearth still remain but most of its tools and equipment are still present.
9. STABLE BARN: To the north of the blacksmith shop is a stone gable roofed barn. In the Tax Lists of 1798 a stone and frame barn of 32' by 66' feet was listed. However investigations have not proven whether this is the same structure. Numerous shed additions have been made to this structure. The interior ground floor has large standing stalls.
10. HUNTER'S HOUSE OR OLD HOTEL: This two and one half story stone and frame structure was once the early tavern known as "Hunters House". The original section of this structure appears to be the western stone end, of three bays. It then appears that the eastern two bay frame section was added as well as the front facade covered with horizontal siding. Windows in the structure are 6 over 6 with paneled shutters on the first story and louvered on the second. A spring house and bake oven to the west were connected to the tavern at the time of its extension. This structure measures 51'4" by 51'6" with the 20'2" by 17'7" springhouse/bakeoven on the northeast corner. This structure is presently used as apartments.
11. ICE HOUSE: Only the stone walls of this once 10' by 12' structure remain, located on the steep slope between Hunter's House and the highway.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Fort Hunter: It is generally believed that the fort stood on the high ground immediately east of, and beneath the original rear portion of the McAllister Mansion.

GARRISON: It is believed that the garrison was located about 100 yards south of the 1876 barn.

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HUNTER'S MILL: Hunter's Mill was a stone grist mill of 28' by 30' and was probably located about five hundred yards east of Hunter's House.

From 1798 tax records the structures were present on the site but their exact location is not known today.

Smoke House, wood
Saw Mill
Still House, 22' by 45'
Tenant House, 12' by 15'
Cyder House, 31' by 39'
Hays House, 22' by 22'

PENNSYLVANIA CANAL: The remains of canal bed can be seen east of the stone barn and farm house.

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE-- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> 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 type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" 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

The Fort Hunter District is approximately six miles north of Harrisburg. U. S. Route 22 passes through the district west of the McAllister Mansion. Boundaries of the district are formed by the Susquehanna River, the remains of the Pennsylvania Canal and Fishing Creek.

When the events of the French and Indian Wars threatened the lives and fortunes of settlers on the Pennsylvania frontiers, a chain of fortifications which could protect the pioneers was built. This chain reached from Fort Harris (Harrisburg) through Central Pennsylvania to Fort Augusta (Sunbury), and on the northern Pennsylvania.

There is evidence that in about 1720, Benjamin Chambers became the first person to settle at the confluence of the picturesque Susquehanna River and its small tributary, Fishing Creek. Chambers' early residence, a grist mill, and other properties were eventually inherited by his son-in-law, Hunter, and his small settlement became known as Hunter's Mill.

About 1754, Hunter's Mill was included in the chain of forts erected against French and Indian invaders. Fort Hunter was used as a supply fort. At times, it had a garrison of about 100 men. Old documents tell of a defense ditch, stockades, and barracks for the militia. The storage facilities of the grist mill, most likely, served for the storage of military supplies. By 1763, the threat of warfare had passed and military installations gradually began to disappear.

After the revolutionary war, a young officer, Archibald McAllister, acquired the Fort Hunter properties. In 1814, he erected a large stone residence, upon the high ground overlooking the Susquehanna. There is reason to believe that his first home was the smaller stone structure which, with its large kitchen and open fireplace, is now the annex to the mansion. McAllister attracted to his settlement many workmen and settlers. When he died in 1835, his son, John, inherited a prosperous community.

In 1870, Daniel Dick Boas bought Fort Hunter from the McAllisters and, in turn, left it to his daughter, Mrs. John W. Reily.

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The large frame Victorian barn was built during the Boas ownership. Nine nieces and nephews became heirs to the properties on the death of Mrs. Reily in 1932. One of the heirs, Margaret Wister Meigs (Mrs. Edward B. Meigs), recognized the historical significance of Fort Hunter, acquired the shares, and established a museum in 1933. In 1956, she deeded the lands, the mansion, and other buildings to the Fort Hunter Foundation for further development.

The Fort Hunter District was an early important center for supplies and commerce. A small community grew up around the Hunter's Mill in the late 1700's and early 1800's. The construction of a supply fort and the garrison of approximately 100 men helped to establish the area as a center for commerce and trade. After the French and Indian Wars the area again reverted to its agricultural and commercial importance until the late 1800's.

Architecturally the district is a fine collection of formal and folk-styles structures. The McAllister Mansion is a superb example of a large symmetrical Georgian mansion. The 1876 Victorian barn is one of the finest remaining in Pennsylvania. The Hunter's House is reminiscent of most central and eastern Pennsylvania inns and the board and batten farmhouse is a rare survivor of a form of folk housing once prevalent in Pennsylvania, very little of which remain today. The blacksmith shop in itself is an important survival. Archaeologically the area is rich with the possible remains of not only farm structures but of the garrison and fort.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES
 Records of tax assessment and deeds, Pa. Archives, Dauphin Co. Courthouse.
 McAllister Family Paper, Pennsylvania Archive
 Hunter, William. Ports of the Pennsylvania Frontier
 Dauphin County Histories, Pennsylvania Archives
 Duc de la Rochefoncanlud, Lian Court Travel Memoirs 1796

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA *32 sec cont sheet*
 ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY *20.8*
 QUADRANGLE NAME Harrisburg West, PA QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000
 UTM REFERENCES
 A

18	3371980	44671420
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

 B

18	338120	4466960
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

 C

18	337940	4466900
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

 D

18	337890	4466930
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

 E

18	337690	4467340
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

 F

18	337820	4467460
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

 G

 H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION
 (See Continuation Sheet)

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
 Susan M. Zacher
 ORGANIZATION
 Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission
 STREET & NUMBER
 Box 1026
 CITY OR TOWN
 Harrisburg
 DATE
 TELEPHONE
 STATE
 Pennsylvania

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 *Ed Weintraub*
 TITLE ED WEINTRAUB, Director DATE 6-4-79
Office of Historic Preservation

FOR NPS USE ONLY
 I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER
William D. Shall
 KEENER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER DATE 8-17-79
 ATTEST: *Lyne J. Beebe* DATE August 17, 1979
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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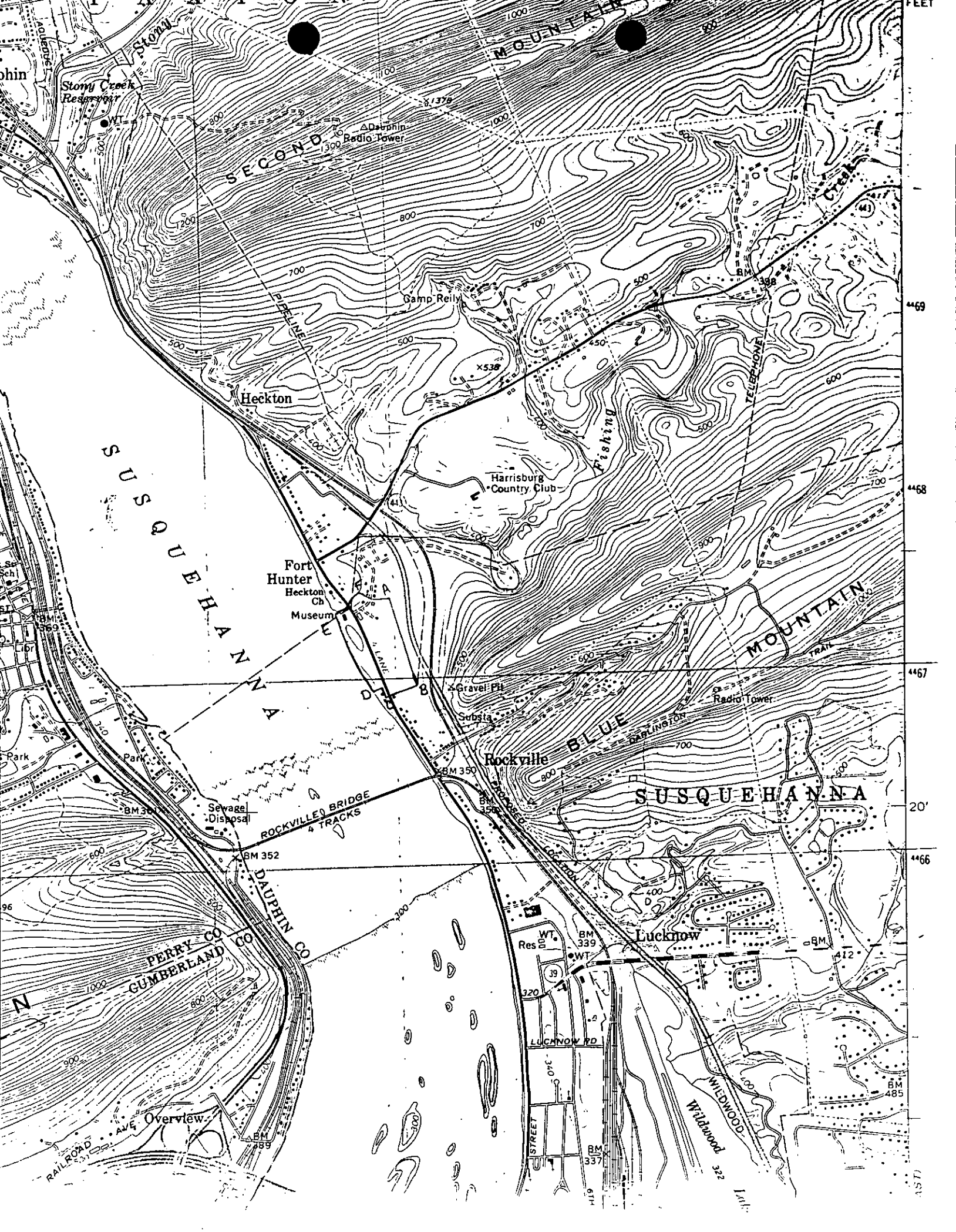
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Starting at a point at the confluence of Fishing Creek and the Susquehanna River moving southeast along the eastern banks of the Susquehanna River for 1500 feet then east for 130 feet then south for 250 feet then north east for 630 feet then northwest for 1650 feet then west to road 750 feet then west to Fishing Creek 500 feet then along east bank of Fishing Creek 670 feet to starting point.



phih

Stony Creek Reservoir

Stony Creek

SECOND MOUNTAIN

Adaphin Radio Tower

Camp Reily

Heckton

Harrisburg Country Club

Fort Hunter Heckton Ch Museum

Rockville

SUSQUEHANNA

BLUE MOUNTAIN

ROCKVILLE BRIDGE & TRACKS

Lucknow

PERRY CO GUMBERLAND CO

Overview

RAILROAD AVE

STREET

Wildwood

FEET

4469

4468

4467

20'

4466

4465