

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

JOHN AYRES HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Rt. 225, 4000 ft. N of intersection of Rt. 325 NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Middle Paxton Township

VICINITY OF

17

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Pennsylvania

42

Dauphin

013

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Green

STREET & NUMBER

Box 166, R. D. #1

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Dauphin

VICINITY OF

Pennsylvania 17103

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Dauphin County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Front & Market Streets

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Harrisburg

PA

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Pa. Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

1977

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Pa. Historical & Museum Commission

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Harrisburg

PA

7 DESCRIPTION**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 John Ayres House is a large 2½ story limestone house. It is 5 bays across its main facade (south) and two bays deep with a lower two story kitchen and utility room to the rear connected by an enclosed passageway.

The earliest section of the extant building dates from the first decade of the 19th century and replaced log and "wooden" structures described in the direct glass tax of 1798. The 1800-1810 section is 3 bays wide at the western end of the main facade with enclosed brick double chimneys in the western wall. The kitchen was probably built at this time. In the first quarter of the 19th century a 2 bay extension was added to the east of the main facade with brick double chimneys a two bay extension was added to the east of the main facade with brick double chimneys in the eastern wall. At that time (1815-1825) a dormer was cut into the roof of the earlier section to complement the one in the roof of the newer section. The 20th century alterations include the addition of large open porches on the south, west and eastern (both the main house and the kitchen) sides and a closed sunporch to the west. A utility room was added in the early 20th century to the rear of the kitchen extending the 2 story stone section from 2 bays to 4. This addition is designed to match the kitchen section in materials, style and proportion.

The interior of the Ayres House maintains its federal style decoration around most of the doorways, the windows and the woodwork moldings. The 1800-1810 section has been altered with the living roof doorway widened and the original partition separating the front and back rooms having been removed. The 1815-1825 addition to the west has also been modernized with two small rooms behind the doorway and extending it into a passageway. The doorway between the eastern section's front room and back relates to the house's use as a tavern. Two large panelled doors open at the center and when open lie flat against the back room wall. The kitchen interior has been altered to accommodate modern kitchen appliances. The large cooking fireplace is intact in the northern wall of the kitchen.

Also located on the property are several fine outbuildings:

1. Gazebo: Stone pillars supporting octagonal asbestos shingled roof.
2. Carriage House: 1½ story stone structure with hipped roof and hipped roof dormers. c. 1895.
3. Stable: 1½ story stone stable with hipped roof and louvered venalator. Hayloft is located on the loft area.

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4. Early Stone Pig or Sheep Barn: One story stone structure with hipped roof. (c. 1895).
5. Spring House: One story, gable roofed, stone spring house.
6. Tennis Courts: Built 1939

Landscaping and tennis courts were added by the present owners.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" 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

William Ayres, his wife Margaret, and family, including his son John who was born 2/9/1754 came from Philadelphia and settled in Dauphin County at the foot of Peter's Mountain where the turnpike crosses in October 1773. This land had been acquired from John Black and his wife Margaret and the original warrant was registered in the Land Office in Philadelphia. The parcel of land was situated in Upper Paxtang Township, bounded by the lands of William Clark on the east, by lands of Samuel Cochran on the south, by lands of Jane Given's on the west and by Peter's Mountain on the north. John Ayres bought from his father for the sum of 600 pounds the said tract of land together with all and singular the improvements, buildings etc. John subsequently became the owner of the homestead and established and added there to a certain tract called Ayresburg. According to land records of 1794 John had a warrant for 400 acres in Upper Paxtang Township, 1794, whether this was "Ayresburg" it is not known.

Whether John had disastrous harvests or business reverses cannot be ascertained, however, whatever the disaster, certain portions of the land were sold at Sheriff's sale December 9, 1819 to Arch'd McAllister and Robert Harris with the consideration that John and his family have the use and occupation of the stone dwelling house in which he and his family lived at that time.

According to a biography of the life of William Ayres, John's son, who later became a prosperous attorney and business tycoon, in 1818 he (William) was induced to return to Peter's Mountain where he kept the hotel at the crossing (John Ayres stone mansion) and assisted in farming.

Crude and rough was the mode of transportation in the early days of Dauphin County as well as the entire state. Following the pack horse and at the turn of the 19th century there came the era of turnpikes and with the conestoga and the stagecoach. Traveling and transportation facilities continued to improve and by 1800 the age of turnpikes was fairly well established.

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Regular stagecoach service was provided between Harrisburg, Philadelphia, Lancaster, Reading, Sunbury and other important towns in the state. Taverns were appearing all along the way to accommodate the public who were traveling long distances and they became an important part of the transportation system. The mail, newspaper, everything came by stage while the passengers were regarded with almost awe as they told of the doings in the big city. It was for such purposes that the hotel at the foot of Peters Mountain which was run by the Ayres formely became noted as a place of refreshment, rest and a center of exchange of news to travelers and inhabitants of the country side. John Ayres died August 17, 1825 and the "Oracle of Dauphin" noted that he was the last of the Revolutionary Patriots in his neighborhood.

The John Ayres house althouth altered over the years is a fine example of the early tavern which grew and adapted to its changing surroundings. Subsequent owners have enlarged the main house, added a carriage house and barn, landscaping and tennis courts. Today the early tavern of John Ayres has evolved into a small estate.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Commemorative Biographical Encyclopedia of Dauphin Co.; 1896.
 Dauphin Co. Historical Review, December 1954. Article by J. Allen Barrett
 Direct Tax 1798
 Dauphin County Deeds

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 7.5

QUADRANGLE NAME Halifax, Pa.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,8 3,347,00 4,47,370,0

B 1,8 3,347,80 4,47,350,0

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 1,8 3,346,60 4,47,346,0

D 1,8 3,346,10 4,47,371,0

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Starting at a point on the E side of Rt. 225 moving E for 400' then N for 850' then W following 600' contour for 250' to Rt. 225, then S along Rt. 225 for 900' to starting point.

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

Madeline Cohen / Barbara Philoott

ORGANIZATION

PHMC

STREET & NUMBER

Box 1026

CITY OR TOWN

Harrisburg

DATE

TELEPHONE

717-787-4363

STATE

Pennsylvania

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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

ED WEINTRAUB, Director
Office of Historic Preservation

DATE

FDR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

