

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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JUL 31 1975
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DATE ENTERED JAN 19 1976

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 Harrisburg Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Bounded by Susquehanna River, Forster Street, Third Street, and Hanna Street

CITY, TOWN Harrisburg

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 17

STATE Pa.

VICINITY OF 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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Multiple

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Dauphin County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER Front and Market Streets

CITY, TOWN Harrisburg

STATE Pa.

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Pa. Inventory of Historic Sites and Landmarks

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Wm. Penn Museum - Historical Sites Survey Box 1026

CITY, TOWN Harrisburg

STATE Pa.

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Harrisburg's historic district consists of the 19th century residential district of Pennsylvania's capital city. Within the twenty blocks of the area are approximately 500 structures, of which 1/3 to 2/3 date from before 1900. The overall visual impression conveyed by the district's architecture is that of a late 19th century urban scene in a busy and prosperous city. The visual consistency of the district is occasionally interrupted by very recent structures, but most such disruptions are not major. The most important intrusions are modern office and commercial buildings; recent residential structures generally blend with the historic section. The most serious intrusions are along Second Street, where a number of commercial buildings and a large apartment at Second and South Streets disrupt the continuity of the district. Streets running perpendicular to Front Street are generally not affected. The Shipoke end of the district is more seriously affected than other areas; besides showing flood damage, it is in close proximity to the Penn Central Railroad bridge, the Harrisburg Hospital, and a modern motel in the vicinity of Mary and Strawberry Streets.

Throughout the district, Victorian-era row houses alternate with earlier (mostly Federal) structures. The mixture of architectural styles produces an overall effect of harmony and a sense of historical continuity. This oldest section of Harrisburg is distinct from more recent areas which consist of either office, state, and commercial buildings or very recent row homes. The age and character of the historic district are immediately visible with respect to architectural styles, trim, and materials used.

Buildings included in this historic district were chosen according to criteria of architectural and/or historic merit. Many buildings do not have distinguished history, but instead exemplify architectural styles well. The late 19th century selections were chosen on this basis; those without outstanding facades were included. Most of the earlier structures (mid- and early 19th century) were included for both architectural and historical reasons. Those structures within the district's boundaries which were eliminated were either too recent to include, or did not possess any worthy characteristics.

The historic district is bounded on the west by Harris Park, overlooking the Susquehanna River. The park is a wooded area of several acres, with a foot path over most of its length.

Please read attached "inventory" for a detailed description of specific structures.

DEC 15 1975

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HARRISBURG HISTORIC DISTRICT

Dauphin County

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The northern area of this district, an area bounded by Forester, Locust, Front and Third Streets, contains a number of intrusions such as parking lots, commercial structures and apartment buildings. The hand drawn map submitted with this nomination is not drawn to exact scale. Noting this, more space is devoted to the labeling of areas as "parking", than is actually displaced by these areas. With one exception all parking areas are street level and therefore overshadowed by larger structures surrounding them.

The northern third of this district developed as one of Harrisburg's primary residential areas. The proximity of the state office complex and the main business district made this area a desirable place for middle and upper class homes. Visually, the parking spaces in the district do not stand out as blatant infringements on the district but are areas commonly expected and found in most medium size cities. In nature, the various parking lots are areas of temporary occupancy.

Commercial structures and apartment buildings located in the northern section of the district are older commercial or reconvered residences and are compatible with the general appearance of the district. Perhaps the most conspicuous of these is the Y.M.C.A. building, a five story decorated tile and brick structure which notably enhances the conglomorate fabric of the district. By far, the more modern commercial and apartment structures either reinforce the older buildings by contrasting design or have little effect on the overall feeling of historicity in the area.

Many of the non-residential buildings and parking areas having existed for years are recognized features of the neighborhood. Some of the newer intrusions may be directly related to the Harristown project. The Harristown project is a redevelopment project for the City of Harrisburg. These intrusions do not pose a significant problem to the district since both the redevelopment authority and the city have a sympathetic understanding of the district. The city has enacted an historic district zoning ordinance and has an Architectural Review Board which rules on all demolition and construction within the district. This district encompasses all of the area included in this National Register submission. In short, the intrusions are neither numerous, nor extraordinary and detract little from the general atmosphere of the area.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
1000-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) (urban planning)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

PRECISE DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Harrisburg was originally intended by William Penn to serve as a stopping point for people on their way west. John Harris' ferry was one part of the fulfillment of this purpose. The town of Harrisburg, incorporated in 1785, became the state's capital in 1812. By 1860 the town had developed into an industrial center as well as a political one, with iron and gas works, and rolling mills.

The historical district of Harrisburg contains the original core of the city and thus illustrates its social and industrial development. After the town became the state capital, and as industry developed, the area of desirable riverfront property became the home of politicians, lawyers, judges, bankers, and manufacturers. The homes of these people are evidence of their prosperity and social position. John Harris' mansion remains as testimony of the founder's life and accomplishments. The MacClay house was the home of a statesman of the commonwealth and of the early Republic. The Victorian era in the U.S. is recalled in the especially noteworthy Cameron mansion. This structure, an outstanding example of later Victorian architecture, was also the home of Civil War Secretary of War and U.S. Senator, Simon Cameron. Cameron was also a wealthy entrepreneur and a political manipulator, very influential in Pa. politics.

Harris Park appropriately unifies the district. The park is one of the oldest public parks in the U.S., established by a very early gesture towards the idea of including green spaces in the planning and structure of urban areas. It has been used by residents of the immediate area since its inception. The park also contains the grave of John Harris, original settler at the site, for whom the city is named.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Annals of Harrisburg. Compiled by George H. Morgan, Harrisburg: George A. Brooks, 1858.
Harrisburg: The City Beautiful, Romantic, and Historic. George A. Donchoo, The Telegraph Press, Harrisburg, 1927.
History of Harrisburg & Dauphin County, 1900-1925. George P. Donchoo, The National Historical Association, Dayton, Ohio, 1925.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 192

UTM REFERENCES see attached continuation sheet

A	<u>18</u>	<u>340810</u>	<u>4457270</u>	B	<u>18</u>	<u>340610</u>	<u>4457100</u>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	<u>18</u>	<u>339100</u>	<u>4458560</u>	D	<u>18</u>	<u>339550</u>	<u>4458790</u>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION
 Beginning where Forster Street crosses the Susquehanna River and proceeding east along the south side of Forster Street to the southwest corner of Susquehanna Street; thence along the west side of Susquehanna to the southwest corner of North Street and Susquehanna Street; thence east along the south side of North Street to the southwest corner of Third Street and North Street; thence south along the west side of Third Street to the northwest corner of Third and Pine streets; then ce west along the

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE David C. Stacks/Sally McMurry DATE June 23, 1975
 ORGANIZATION Wm. Penn Memorial Museum - Historical Preservation
 STREET & NUMBER Box 1026 TELEPHONE (717) 787-4363
 CITY OR TOWN Harrisburg, STATE Pa.

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE X 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 [Signature]
 TITLE Executive Director DATE 7/29/75
Pa. Historical Museum Commission

FOR NPS USE ONLY
 I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION DATE 1/19/96
 ATTEST: [Signature] DATE 1-15-76
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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north side of Pine Street to the northeast corner of Pine Street and Kelley Alley ; thence south along the east side of Kelley Alley to the northeast corner of Cranberry Street; thence west along the north side of Cranberry Street to the northwest corner of Cranberry and Court Streets; thence south along the west side of Court Street to the northwest corner of Locust and Court Streets; thence west along the north side of Locust Street to the northwest corner of Locust and Second Streets; thence south along the west side of Second Street to the northwest corner of Strawberry and Second Streets; thence west along the north side of Strawberry Street to the northeast corner of Strawberry and Front Streets; thence south along the east side of South Front Street to the southeast corner of South Front and Mary Streets; thence east along the south side of Mary Street to the southeast corner of Mary and South Second Streets; thence south along the west side of South Second Street to a point where South Second Street crosses the Reading Railroad Bridge corridor; thence west along the north side of the Railroad Bridge corridor to a point where the Railroad Bridge corridor meets South River Street; thence south along the west side of South River Street to the northwest corner of South River and Vine Streets; thence west along the north side of Vine Street to the northeast corner of South Front and Race Streets; thence south along the west side of Race Street to Hanna Street to a point where Hanna Street meets the Susquehanna River; thence north along the east bank of the Susquehanna River to the beginning point.

~~UTM REFERENCE POINTS:~~

West section--Harrisburg West quad

East section--Harrisburg East quad

Point	Zone	Northing	Easting	Point	Zone	Northing	Easting
A	18	4458800	339220	A	18	4457440	340650
B	18	4458250	339220	B	18	4457160	340650
C	18	4457230	340330	C	18	4457160	340530
D	18	4457230	340540	D	18	4457440	340530
E	18	4458800	340560				

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The boundaries of the district include the Walnut Street Bridge as defined in a separate National Register form. All other bridges are in the district in so far as they are within the physical boundaries of the district. Portions or totalities of bridges outside the physical boundaries of the district are not included in the district. The rationale for determining the boundaries of the district are as follows:

- Susquehanna River - a natural boundary
- Forester Street - a 6-8 lane street, an artificial Boundary
- Hanna Street - no structures or sites remain past this street to the south
- Eastern boundary - irregular to eliminate non-historic structures.



Harrisburg Historic
 National Register District