

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Pennsylvania</b>
COUNTY: <b>Montgomery</b>
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON: <b>Pottsgrove Mansion</b>
AND/OR HISTORIC: <b>John Potts House</b>

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: <b>West of Pottstown on Benjamin Franklin Highway (High St.)</b>			
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Pottstown</b>		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: <b>Fifth</b>	
STATE: <b>Pennsylvania</b>	CODE: <b>42</b>	COUNTY: <b>Montgomery</b>	CODE: <b>091</b>

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: <b>Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Administered by Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission</b>		
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>Box 1026</b>		
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Harrisburg</b>	STATE: <b>Pennsylvania</b>	CODE: <b>42</b>

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: <b>Montgomery County Courthouse</b>		
STREET AND NUMBER:		
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Norristown</b>	STATE: <b>Pennsylvania</b>	CODE: <b>42</b>

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: <b>Catalog of Historical Buildings, Sites and Remains In Pa.</b>			
DATE OF SURVEY: <b>1949</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local		
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: <b>William Penn Memorial Museum</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>Box 1026</b>			
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Harrisburg</b>	STATE: <b>Pennsylvania</b>	CODE: <b>42</b>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Pottsgrove Mansion is a large oblong-shaped two-story-over-partially-raised-basement stone house with gable roof and an inside chimney at either end. The building is about 46 feet wide, 28 feet deep, and 22 feet high. The two-foot thick walls are comprised of dressed sandstone on the front (south) facade and of random fieldstone on the sides and rear; interior partition wall are 18 inches thick. A deep pent roof at the second floor level and a broad cove wooden cornice at the roof level extend around the house.

The main facade is five-bays wide and contains a center door and symmetrically arranged windows with 12 over 12 lights. First-story windows are topped by segmental arches of gauged brick and flanked by exterior paneled shutters. Second-story windows are square-headed, have interior paneled shutters, and are set up against the cornice. The center doorway, unframed by classic pilasters, has a rectangular transom over the door, providing light for the entrance hall.

A lower two-story stone service wing, added in the period 1790-1805, is located at the northwest (rear) corner of the mansion and extends at right angles to the north. At the east end of the main house, and built on the main axis, is a small one-story stone kitchen wing. The east wing was destroyed by fire in 1870 and reconstructed in its present form in the period 1941-52.

The house has a typical center hall plan, with the 10-foot wide hall extending through the structure from front to rear and dividing the four rooms into pairs. To the west, or left, of the hall is the living room and, behind this, the library; to the right of the hall, is the front corner, is the dining room and in the rear corner, the children's dining room. The hall is divided into two halves by means of a flat-arch with pilasters. The main staircase with turned balusters is located in the north (rear) half and set against the east wall. The hall side of the doors to the dining and living rooms are topped by pediments. Six of the eight main rooms have corner fireplaces, with their fireplace walls fully paneled; the other two rooms are heated by stoves. Windows in the principal rooms have seats and deep reveals. Their wood cornices, wainscoting, and paneling is heavy and strong. The floors are of wide pine boards.

The second floor contains four bedrooms which are divided into pairs by the centerhall and also a powder room, which is located at the south end of the hall. The cellar is divided into five rooms, with thick walls and arched doorways. The attic has two levels which are lighted by windows set in two banks in the gable ends. The first level contains five unfinished chambers, one of which has a fireplace, and the upper

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Pennsylvania	
COUNTY Montgomery	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7. Description Continued page 1

is a large storage area.

In the 1941-52 restoration a Greek Revival cornice and three dormers, added about 1835, a later 19th century two-story wood porch at the east end, and a metal roof were removed from the main house. The present cove cornice was reconstructed from a section of the original cornice found still in place the pent eave roof rebuilt on the base of structural evidence, and the existing wood shingle roof added. The stacks of the two end chimneys were restored to their 18th century appearance and the one-story stone east wing was reconstructed on the basis of the original foundations and structural evidence found in the east gable wall of the main house. Some of the stonework on the front (south) facade was also rebuilt.

The fabric of the main house otherwise, however, is almost entirely original, including the flooring, main staircase, and paneling. On the interior it was only necessary to replace a few missing pieces. Pottsgrove Mansion is in excellent condition and is open to visitors as a furnished historic house exhibit.

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century            |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1752-54**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                      |   |  |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input type="checkbox"/> Political      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry    | losophy                                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> Science        | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | Architecture                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature  | itarian                                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music       | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Pottsgrove Mansion, erected in 1752-54, is an excellent example of an Early Georgian stone country house. The interior fabric is almost entirely original and the exterior has been carefully restored to its 18th century appearance.

History

Pottsgrove Mansion was built by John Potts, wealthy iron-master and founder of Pottstown, in 1752-54. The house remained in the hands of the Potts family for several generations after the death of the builder in 1768. Around 1835 the exterior was given a few Greek Revival touches. In the late 19th century, however, the building became the Mill Park Hotel. In 1940 the mansion, by then in a very dilapidated condition, was purchased by the descendants of John Potts, and in 1941 ownership was transferred to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. Between 1941 and 1952, the structure was carefully restored, under the supervision of the architect G. Edwin Brumbaugh, to its original 18th century appearance. In 1952 Pottsgrove Mansion was formally opened to visitors as a historic house exhibit.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dorothy and Richard Pratt, A Guide to Early American Homes-North (New York, 1956), 183-83.

Pennsylvania-A Guide to the Keystone State (American Guide Series) New York, 1946, 429-30.

Richard Pratt, Houses, History and People (Philadelphia and New York, 1965) 66-75.

Paul Chancellor, ed. A History of Pottstown, Pennsylvania (Pottstown, 1953)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0 0 0	0 0 0		40	14	52
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0		75	39	36
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SW	0 0 0	0 0 0				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 3

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Charles W. Snell, Survey Historian

ORGANIZATION: Division of History, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service DATE: 8/13/70

STREET AND NUMBER: 801 19th Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington 20006 STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: William J. Wewer  
 Title: Executive Director, Penna. Historical and Museum Commission

Date: 10/24/73

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Keeper of The National Register

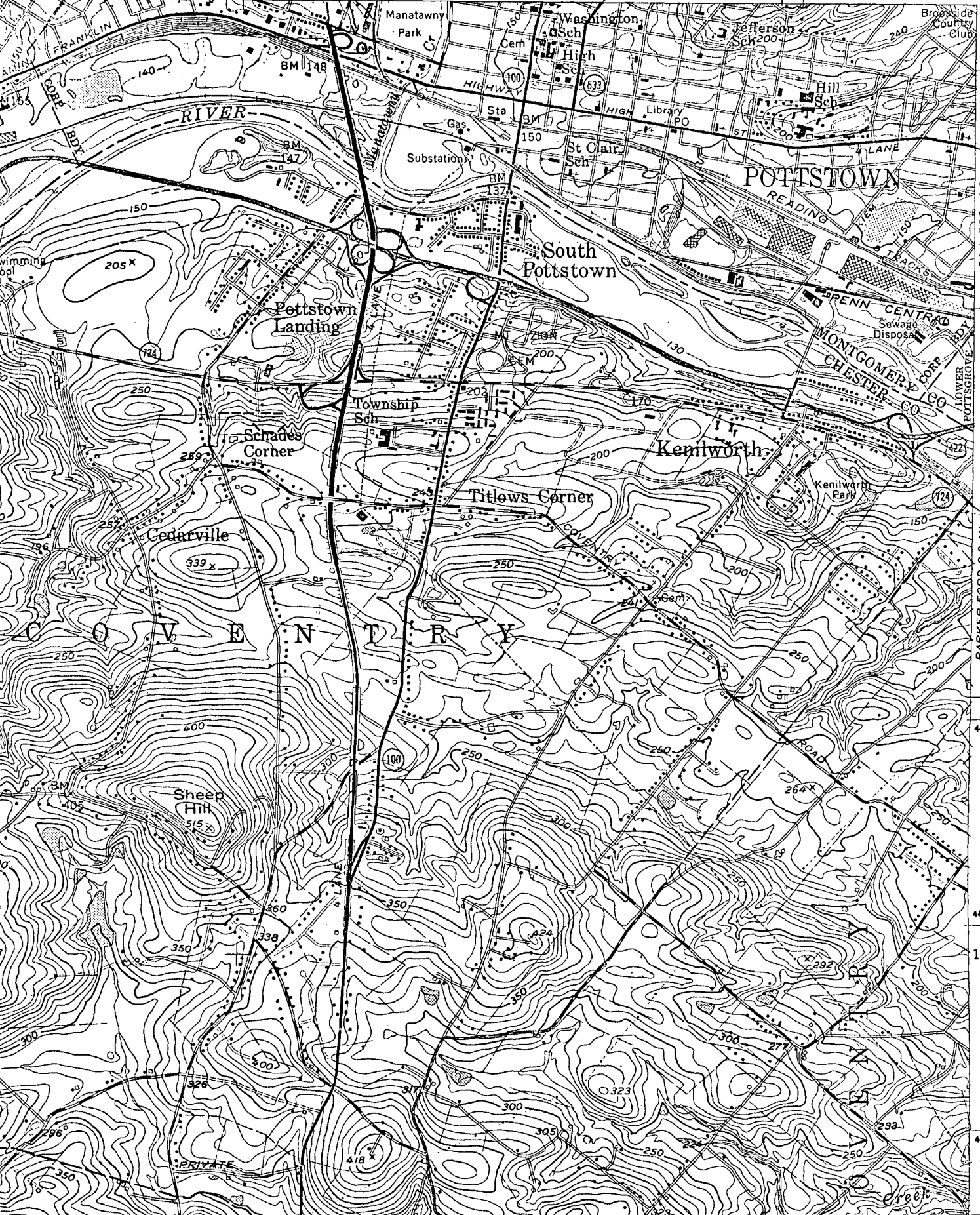
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

LR 146  
LR 46002

POTTSTOWN QUADRANGLE  
PENNSYLVANIA  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5864  
GASSANA

2580 000 FEET 43 40' BOYERTOWN (P.O.) 6.4 MI. PENNSBURG 13 MI. 445 NEW HANOVER 4.5 MI. 446 75°37'30" 40°15'



340 000 FEET 4455  
SANATOGA 1.6 MI.  
NORRISTOWN (P.O.) 18 MI.  
4452  
4451  
12'30"  
4450

C O V E N T R Y

Sheep Hill  
515 x

PRIVATE

Pottstown, Pa.

N4007.5 - W7537.5/7.5

1956

Photorevised 1968

AMS 5864 II NW - Series V831