

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

28

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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

HISTORIC THE GIBSON HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
210 Liberty Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Jamestown

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

24th

STATE
Pennsylvania

CODE
42

COUNTY
Mercer

CODE
085

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 checked="" 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 | 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 type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: |

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
William Gray

STREET & NUMBER
210 Liberty Street

CITY, TOWN
Jamestown

VICINITY OF

STATE

Pennsylvania 16134

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Mercer County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Mercer

STATE

Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places

DATE
12/13/77

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

CITY, TOWN

Harrisburg

STATE

Pennsylvania

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 Gibson House is a two story square structure with a hipped roof and central cupola. The building shows elements of Georgian, Greek Revival, and Italianate styles of architecture. Constructed of homemade bricks, it is three bays wide and two stories high. The hipped roof is almost flat and is topped with a cupola. The mansion occupies one entire block and is surrounded by a wrought iron fence.

Greek Revival influences can be noted in the repeated use of Corinthian columns on the portico and sideporch. The columns on the portico are classically styled round columns. There are two Corinthian pilasters used as part of the door's entablature. The columns on the porch are square and are not as finely detailed as the ones on the front of the structure. They are grouped in a series to support the roof which is accentuated by triangular pediments and a dentilated cornice. The porch was originally open, with a wrought iron railing between the columns, but during the 1950's it was enclosed. A small section of the original railing was attached to the enclosure above the windows on the front of the porch.

The facade of the house reveals several Italianate characteristics, most notably, the bracketed cornice and the flat pediments over the windows. The windows on the first floor are set into projected bays which are constructed of wood. These bays are decorated by relief carvings between the individual windows. The roof over the bays are supported by twin groupings of brackets.

The flat pediment over the portico is supported by brackets and is accentuated by a dentilated cornice. The door has a complete entablature with narrow sidelights and a rectangular fanlight.

The second story windows are quite narrow, a characteristic of the Italianate style. A twin window is located in the center bay. The window treatment includes the use of flat pediments supported by brackets. An elaborate carving adorns the top of each pediment.

An unusual feature of this house is the corner treatment which extends across the top of the structure beneath the bracketed cornice. The bricks are projected forward and form a frame around the house. Relief carvings, similar to those on the bay windows are placed between the brackets of the cornice.

The cupola is constructed with three windows on each side. It has a flat roof with a bracketed cornice. Several other houses in the area have similar cupolas.

The interior of the mansion is basically a Georgian floor plan with a center hall having two rooms on either side of it. There is an elaborately carved staircase leading to the second floor. The doorways and mantles are of solid cherry with very detailed carvings. There are also elegantly carved panels under the windows in the front bays. Plaster cornices with gilt paint accent the ceilings. The floors are

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THE GIBSON HOUSE - Mercer County

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

parqued.

The house was originally flanked by fountains. One is still in existence but is no longer in working condition. The yard was beautifully landscaped and contained a rare Chinese Gingko tree.

Behind the house is a large two story carriage house. This out building is of a similar style to the Main house. Part of the original brick driveway is still visible at one entrance to the carriage house.

The carriage house is identical to the house in shape and style, a two story square structure with a hipped roof and a cupola. Windows in the carriage house have rounded arches and are nine over six lights. The main door also has a rounded arch as does the smaller door to the left of the main door. A one story gable roof brick structure has been added to the right elevation.

Some years ago the house was converted from a residence to a restaurant. At that time a concrete block addition was added to the structure to house the kitchen. The addition was meant to be covered with bricks similar to those on the house but the work was never completed. Later the basement of the building was remodeled and a tavern was opened there.

The carriage house and addition are also used for restaurant purposes.

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 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 circa 1855

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built about 1855, the Gibson House was the home of Dr. William Gibson and his wife Susan. Dr. Gibson settled in Jamestown in 1836 and set up a flourishing medical practice. Besides serving as the town's physician, Dr. Gibson was involved in several business ventures and social activities which were beneficial to the community.

Dr. Gibson was an active participant in the formation of the railroad industry in Jamestown. He supported the Pittsburgh and Erie Railroad which was completed as far as Jamestown in 1859. In 1862, Dr. Gibson became president of the Franklin and Jamestown Railroad. He also started several minor commercial ventures.

Dr. Gibson was one of the men who incorporated the Jamestown Seminary, a boarding school which drew students from the surrounding areas and several states. In 1874 Dr. Gibson became president of the Jamestown Banking Company. An opera house was built in the second floor of Dr. Gibson's office building across the street from his home. Here the community enjoyed the performances of traveling shows and local talent.

In 1867 Dr. and Mrs. Gibson traveled abroad on the famed Quaker City Excursion which Mark Twain wrote about in his book Innocents Abroad. The two men formed a friendship on the voyage and served as an unofficial committee which sent greetings to Alexander I of Russia. Many people in the Jamestown area report stories that Samuel Clemens visited with the Gibsons on several occasions but it seems their friendship was hurt after the publication of Innocents Abroad. It is contended that Clemens based the character of the doctor in his book on Dr. Gibson.

Dr. Gibson also supported the missions of the United Presbyterian Church. He donated two large buildings to the church and the income was to be used to distribute copies of the scripture in the Middle East.

Gibson House is one of the most impressive buildings in Jamestown and the residents of the area see the building as a reminder of the past history of the community. Jamestown was once a flourishing transportation center, but the decline of the railroads has resulted in a decline in the community.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Leary, Norma E. Through the Arch. Sharon, Pennsylvania: Victor Printing Company, 1976.
Olsson, Barbara J. "Architectural Survey of Four Buildings in Jamestown, Pennsylvania." Unpublished research project: Pa. State University, Capitol Campus, 1974.
Olsson, Barbara J. "A History of Jamestown, Pennsylvania." unpublished thesis: Pa. State University, Capitol Campus, 1976.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .5 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Greenville West, Pa. QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 17 514,614,510 4,519,315,000
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

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

Barbara J. Olsson, Vice-President

ORGANIZATION

Jamestown Area Historical Society

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Jamestown

STATE

Pennsylvania 16134

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 WILLIAM J. WEWER, Executive Director
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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|---|-----------|--------------------|----------------------|---|------|---------|----------|
| A | <u>17</u> | <u>514,614,510</u> | <u>4,519,315,000</u> | B | | | |
| | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING | | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |
| C | | | | D | | | |
| E | | | | F | | | |
| G | | | | H | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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|-------|------|--------|------|
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Barbara J. Olsson, Vice-President

ORGANIZATION
Jamestown Area Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER

CITY OR TOWN
Jamestown

DATE

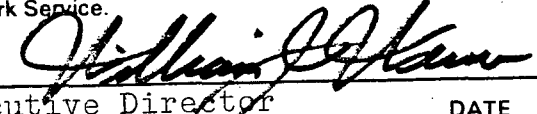
TELEPHONE

STATE
Pennsylvania 16134

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STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE


TITLE WILLIAM J. WEWER, Executive Director DATE 3/16/78
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER DATE

ATTEST: CHIEF OF REGISTRATION DATE

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N 4593500
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