

JAN 26 REC'D

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Pettit's Ford

and/or common N/A

USE THIS COPY
FOR DUPLICATING

2. Location

street & number 4400 Colonial Road

N/A not for publication

city, town Dover N/A vicinity of

state PA. code 42 county York 17315 code 133

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Colonel James H. Aarestad

street & number 4400 Colonial Road

city, town Dover N/A vicinity of state Pa.

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. York County Court House

street & number 28 E. Market St.

city, town York state Pa. 17401

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Preservation Section, Dover Township Plan
has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date February 27, 1978 federal state county local

depository for survey records Dover Township Bldg., 2480 W. Canal Road

city, town Dover state Pa. 17315

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Thomas and Ann Pettit House and associated outbuildings and facilities make up the property known as "Pettit's Ford" (or Fording). It is sited on the Conewago Creek in Dover Township of York County, Pennsylvania facing the Davidsburg Road.

The structure is a two-and-a-half story rectangular building of red sandstone, sawn and rubble construction. The dimensions are 22 feet wide by 50 feet in length. Five bays wide, the windows and front door are dressed above with alternating (buff and red) radiating, sawn-stone lintels. Two single-stack chimneys, flush with the gables, straddle the ridge on either side of the house and serve seven (six working) fireplaces. The building marker located just below the east wall gable is a sunburst design, and a perfect circle of red stone, deeply cut, declares "Thomas and Ann Pettit 1798." The stone is circumscribed by radiating sawn key stones set in contrasting red and buff sandstone. The roof is new (1979) of asphalt shingle material, cut and weight like cedar shakes.

Within the house, window-well panels, door frames, chair rails, and some doors and fireplace millwork are original. All floors on the second and third stories are random-width heart-pine original. Pegged and Roman numeral-marked rafter beams are exposed on the third floor. Fireplaces are set against the east and west walls in the inside corners of four rooms of the first floor and three on the second. An open center stairway serves the house to the third story. Original chestnut beams are exposed in the kitchen and dining room.

Structurally the house has not been altered except for the addition of a side screen porch (circa 1923) and one-story shed-style extension to the kitchen on the north side (1975). The structural integrity of the original exterior is intact. The additions could be dismantled without injury to the house.

The other structures are in excellent condition also. They include a small stables (two box stalls)/carriage house of German barn siding and cedar shake roof (circa 1902). The former summer kitchen serves as a bath house (3 rooms) and is of German barn siding with a tin roof (circa 1878). The two-car garage is located on the former site of the summer house. It was built in 1956 and has the same type of German barn siding and cedar shake roof as the stables. A 30/50 swimming pool, with covered patio (wood/cedar shake roof) and adjacent pump and filter house complete the complex. The landscaping of the property is felicitous with spruce, plane, oak, maple and pine trees, all of various ages, some by expert opinion of notable age, (exceeding 100 years).

1. A ford existed for many years at this crossing at the Conewago by the then Shippensburg (now Davidsburg) Road, a principal highway to the West in colonial days. On March 4, 1833 the York County Commissioners asked for "bids on a bridge at Pettit's Fording on the Shippensburg Road near Davidsburg...185 feet long...double floored...to be roofed with white pine shingles." The bridge was destroyed in the flood of 1884. Kauffman pp. 270 and 412.

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 checked="" 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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) association with early local leadership
Specific dates 1798	Builder/Architect Thomas Pettit			

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The house Thomas Pettit built in 1798 on the banks of the Conewago Creek is significant for two reasons: Its high quality of architectural design, craftsmanship and integrity, and its association with the early agricultural development of York County and Dover Township and the prominent county leaders and farmers who lived at Pettit's Ford.

The house exemplifies the stone architecture once common to the region and is significant for its Georgian style, notable detail, size, and the excellence of the craftsmanship and preservation. No other red sandstone house in the region possesses its particular sophistication of masonry design and excellence of workmanship. Examination of the coursed and uncoursed, random and regular rubble stone construction bears this out. The boasted, contrasting colored transom and keystones over the nine front windows and door are particularly noteworthy. From the time of its construction to this day it has been recognized as a notable structure of grace and beauty.

Thomas Pettit was the grandson of James Pettit, "among the first of the Jersey colonists to locate in York County." A Huguenot refugee, he established in 1740 "a considerable estate on the Conewago." The Pettits were leaders in the development of Dover Township. Records show them petitioning for the Shippensburg Road in 1749, serving as constables, tax collectors and later as militiamen during the revolution. Thomas Pettit was a member of the 3rd battalion, Pennsylvania Militia (Captain John Sharp's Company from Dover Township). As a landowner and farmer his 258-acre "Plantation" at "Pettit's Fording" consistently earned the highest tax assessment (e.g. 1793, \$4998.00). A subsequent owner was Edmond Gross, Surveyor-General of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for three terms, who sold the property to Lewis Bosserman, organizer of the First Peoples Bank of Hanover. Through marriage the house and farm then came into the hands of George William Harlacher in 1898. He was one of the most creative and prominent farmers in the region at the turn of the century. For example, an issue of the nationally circulated National Stockman and Farmer (Nov. 5, 1908) features a picture of the house on its cover. The lengthy article describes many agricultural innovations, including the development of a special strain of wheat known as "Conewago Red." In 1923 the house and a limited number of acres (approximately 5) were purchased by a prominent York Industrialist, Dr. Charles M. Nes. A founder of the York Rolling Mills, appointed by President Grant as member of the Pennsylvania Exposition in 1873, he personally supervised the restoration of the house. Since then the property has changed hands five times until it came into possession of the current owner in 1979. As nearly as can be determined it has been continually occupied since 1798. In all, seventeen owners have held deed to this familiar landmark on the Conewago Creek in York County, Pennsylvania.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Dover Area High School, Bloodroots VI, Oral History Program Publication, Dover, Pa. 1981 pp52-59
 Prowell, George R., 2 vols. History of York County of Pa., Chicago; J. H. Beers & Co., 1907 pp 101 and 149.
 Lighty L.W., "A Plain Dairy Farmer", National Stockman & Farmer, Nov. 5, 1908, p. 8
 Kaufman, Charles Fahs unpublished manuscript, 2 vols. History of Dover Township, Dover Area High School Library, July 21, 1961.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 4.77

Quadrangle name Abbottstown

Quadrangle scale 1: 24,000

UTM References

A

1	8	3	3	5	0	5	0	4	4	2	9	2	8	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

C

1	8	3	3	5	0	2	0	4	4	2	8	2	4	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

E

1	8	3	3	5	1	0	0	4	4	2	9	9	8	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

G

Zone	Easting				Northing									

B

1	8	3	3	5	1	5	0	4	4	2	9	1	3	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

D

1	8	3	3	5	1	5	0	4	4	2	8	9	7	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

F

Zone	Easting				Northing									

H

Zone	Easting				Northing									

Verbal boundary description and justification

BEGINNING at a point near the stop sign at the junction of Colonial Road and the Davidsburg Road, known as State Highway #31, at the joining of lands now or formerly of G. William Harlacher, thence North sixteen (16) degrees twenty-four (24) minutes fifty-five (55) seconds

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Colonel James H. Aarestad

organization N/A

date January 20, 1983

street & number 4400 Colonial Road

telephone (717) 292-3671

city or town Dover

state Pa. 17315

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

title Larry E. Tise, State Historic Preservation Officer

date 3/16/83

For 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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Pettit's Ford, York County

Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 2

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Pettit's Ford, Dover, Pennsylvania

West across Colonial Road three hundred twenty-four and thirty-one hundredths (324.31) feet to a boundary stone at a fence post near the stables at Pettit's Ford; thence North twenty-five (25) degrees twelve (12) minutes forty-one (41) seconds West along lands (cornfields) of G. William Harlacher three hundred thirty-five and eighty-one hundredths (335.81) feet to a boundary stone at a fence post near the covered patio; thence North thirty-six (36) degrees twenty-six (26) minutes zero (00) seconds West along lands of the same five hundred twenty-five and nine hundredths (525.09) feet to a boundary stone at a fence post on the Northeast corner; thence South fifty-three (53) degrees twenty-seven (27) minutes zero (00) seconds West along land on the same one hundred eighty-two and zero hundredths (182.00) feet to the Conewago Creek in the middle of the dam; thence South thirty-eight (38) degrees nineteen (19) minutes thirty-six (36) seconds East along the Conewago Creeek four hundred eighty-two and sixty-six hundredths (482.66) feet to a point; thence South nineteen (19) degrees fourteen (14) minutes thirty-six (36) seconds West five hundred eighty-seven and zero hundredths (587.00) feet to a nail in the middle of the bridge of the Davidsburg Road which crosses the Conewago Creek; thence North eighty-eight (88) degrees fifty-three (53) minutes forty-three (43) seconds East along the center line of the Davidsburg Road two hundred and zero hundredths (200.00) feet to a nail and the place of BEGINNING.

ABBOTTSTOWN QUADRANGLE
PENNSYLVANIA
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
NW/4 HANOVER 15' QUADRANGLE

(NEW CUMBERLAND
1:62500)

(NEW CUMBERLAND 1:62500)

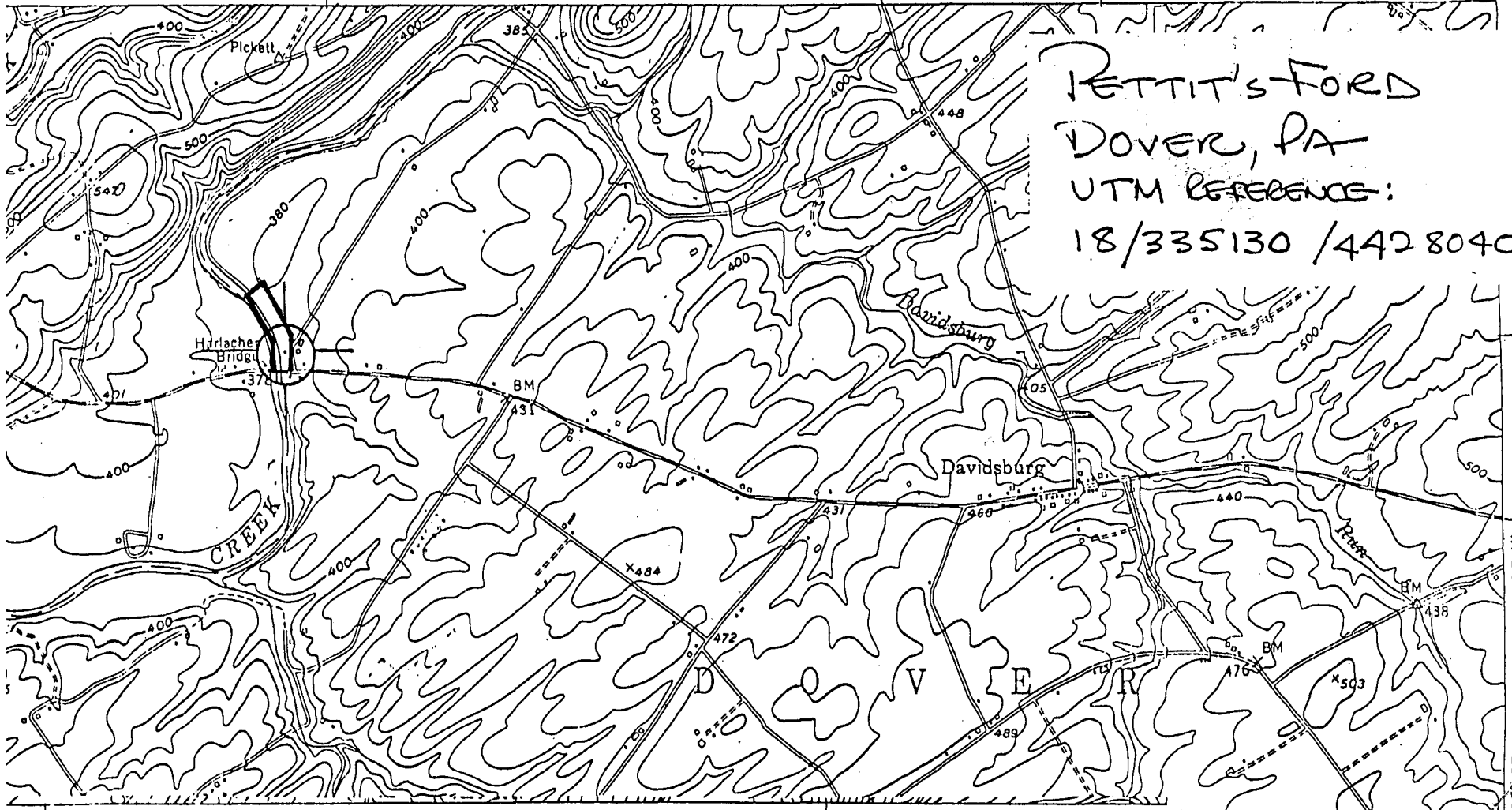
55'

HARMONY GROVE 1 MI.

2 240 000 FEET

76°52'30"
40°00'

RETTIT'S FORD
DOVER, PA
UTM REFERENCE:
18/335130 /4428040



240 00
FEET

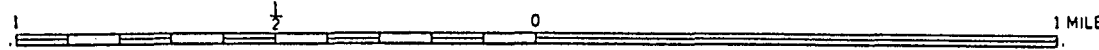
WEIGENSTOWN (JUNC. PA. 74) 2.7 MI.

2 220 000 FEET 57'30"

(HANOVER)

55'

SCALE 1:24000



1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET

1 .5 0 1 KILOMETER

CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

7 1/2°
TRUE NORTH
MAGNETIC NORTH

Handwritten scribbles and marks at the bottom of the page.