

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**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 Joseph E. Hall House

AND/OR COMMON Hall-Nicholson House; former Rebecca M. Arthurs Memorial Library

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 419 W. Main

CITY, TOWN Brookville --NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Pennsylvania VICINITY OF 12 th

COUNTY CODE Jefferson CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Wm. Mark McKinley

Intended as rental property:
Mixed single family
and office use

STREET & NUMBER 420 W. Main Street

CITY, TOWN Brookville STATE PA 15825

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER Main Street

CITY, TOWN Brookville STATE PA

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE none

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN STATE

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE C. 1848

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Joseph E. Hall House is an example of a Greek Revival building type referred to as the "temple with wings" or upright and double wing house.

The structure of the house involves a very heavy interlocking and pinned wood frame with 10" square posts and sills; 2½ by 6" studs, 15" o.c.; 3 by 4" diagonal wall braces; and 2½ by 10" joists, 15" o.c. This frame is covered with one-inch thick pine horizontal siding, tongue and groove on the front elevation and on the gable ends of the wings (for smooth, ashlar appearance) and lap sided elsewhere.

The upright portion of the house has a gable roof with ridgepole perpendicular to the street. The wings are gabled and are oriented perpendicular to the upright.

Dominating the front of the building, corresponding in width to the upright, is a two-story Ionic porch with four, fluted columns; tall entablature and shallow pediment. The front wall of the upright possesses four two-story pilasters, molded and embellished, which harmonize with the columns in front. Pilasters also adorn the wings, on corners and in intermediate position, and are seen to appear on the side walls of the upright, above the wings. The pilasters serve a functional as well as stylistic purpose in that they box in the 10 by 10" posts of the load-bearing structure.

Excepting the historical addition of two modest Victorian porches fronting the wings and the enclosure and glazing of the rear porch, the exterior appearance largely expresses original construction.

The interior plan includes, on the first floor, an oval entrance hall traversing the width of the upright and a "great room" behind this. Completing the plan on this floor is a drawing room in the east wing and a dining room in the west.

The second floor plan offers a corresponding oval stair hall, a large bedroom positioned above the "great room," and the attic of the wings. Examination of the floor of the large bedroom indicates

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that it had at some time in the past (though probably not originally) been partitioned, furnishing a front hall, behind the stair hall, and two smaller rooms. In 1977 the attic areas above the wings were adapted to functional use as a bath (west) and auxiliary bedroom. This work involved lowering their floors 14" - enough to provide needed head room without sacrificing the spatial atmosphere of the rooms below.

The basement plan includes a large kitchen beneath the "great room," a finished room beneath the east wing and an unfinished basement area beneath the west wing.

There are several ~~characterful~~ ^{distinctive} interior features. The oval entrance hall has a steep winding staircase with cherry handrail, graceful spindles and volute. Fireplaces, with original mantles, are found on the end walls of both wings and the front wall of the "great room" (1st floor plan); on the front wall of the master bedroom; and in the basement, a large cooking fireplace in the kitchen and also a fireplace on the end wall of the east room.

The east parlor, or drawing room, features a Greek Revival mantle; built-in cupboards with glazed doors (mullioned consistent with the treatment of attic windows of wing gables and rear pediment); and matching heavy casing on windows, cupboards and doors.

The dining room has a wooden mantelpiece, built-in cupboards, and chairrail.

The "great room" offers an exceptionally well-preserved ornamental molded plaster ceiling of classical design with central plaster medallion. This room has a marble mantelpiece and built-in glazed cupboards.

The house possesses a great measure of integrity of fabric with the interior plan unaltered excepting the recent partitioning of a

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small closet and a powder room at the rear of the drawing room and a small kitchen at the rear of the dining room and the lowering of attic floors mentioned earlier. It should be mentioned, however, that this partitioning was undertaken with sensitive regard for the original decor, to the extent that new trim reproduced the antique model as required. Many windows, as one would expect, had been replaced in the course of time with, in many cases, larger sash installed. In some instances window openings had been ungainly enlarged. In the current work these are being rebuilt to appropriate size.

The Joseph E. Hall House stands on 135.2 perches of land (see enclosed boundary description). This parcel of land has an integrity of its own, being established in the J. S. King to R. J. Nicholson transaction of 1871.

Two small outbuildings share the property and are contemporaneous with the house. First, there is a two-story board and batten outbuilding connected to the rear elevation of the west wing. This building was originally separate but some years ago the south wall of this wing was removed and a link established to the outbuilding. In the current restoration (1977-) the removed wall has been reconstructed and the connecting construction is to be removed. Secondly, there is a hipped roof board and batten, double-wall ice house standing south of the outbuilding, aligned with it and proportioned to it. A wooden vent projects from the peak of the ice house roof.

The Joseph E. Hall House stands in an excellent state of preservation. The current work will prepare the house for single family rental (1st and 2nd story) and for possible office use (basement plan). The work is fundamentally a restoration with necessary adaptations kept consistent with the character and detailing of the original.

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 c. 1848

BUILDER/ARCHITECT not established

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Joseph E. Hall House (c. 1848) is one of few superb examples of the Greek Revival "temple with wings" house available in mid-western and north-central Pennsylvania. This area, settled relatively late and in large measure by immigration from the north and east, was achieving its initial period of prosperity in the Greek Revival era. Jefferson County developed at this time as an important lumbering area under the influence of expertise and capital of experienced lumbermen and lumber companies from New York state and New England. The Hall House expresses a sound understanding of Greek Revival design (undoubtedly based on builders guides) and a wholehearted acceptance of the style. Its craftsmanship and sturdy construction seem appropriate to its location in a thriving lumbering region. Finally, the Hall House served as residence for some of Brookville's most prominent citizens and entrepreneurs, establishing it as a place of distinction, both architecturally and in point of residency.

The ^{well}prototype for the comprehensive classicism of the Hall House could very be Minard Lafever's "Design for a Country Villa" published as a frontispiece or cover of his The Modern Builders Guide of 1833 (reproduced in American Builders and their Architects, Volume 1, Figure 322). The Lafever design compares closely to the general appearance and configuration of the Hall House, offering a shallow-pedimented four post portico; centralized entrance; two-bay wings; and oval entrance hall with staircase winding counter-clockwise at the right of the entrance.

A pertinent, regional comparison is afforded by the Timothy Ives House (1843) in Coudersport, Potter County (reproduced in Dickson, p. 51 and in Stotz, p. 142). While Potter County is bordered on the north

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by the New York state line and thus more likely influenced by the New York and New England culture regions (which more fully adopted Greek Revival than did Pennsylvania) - nonetheless, the Ives House displays more local adaptation of pure neo-Greek design (asymmetrical entrance, steeper roof slope, lesser use of matched siding for smooth appearance). On the whole, however, the effect is similar and as Professor Dickson indicates "if it carries something of the air of a playhouse pretending to manorial magnitude, does also its prim reserve convey a sense of genteel and orderly living" (Dickson, 1954, p. 51).

Jefferson County was established in 1830 with Brookville laid out as the county seat. In the same year a contract was drawn up for construction which routed the Waterford and Susquehanna Turnpike (incorporated, 1817) into the town. Brookville's Main Street thus became a link in this major east-west highway. The Hall House was built along this thoroughfare with the turnpike bounding the property on one side.

Throughout much of the 19th century the county's principal business was lumbering. The period 1830-37 was a boom era for the lumber trade but the business prospered long thereafter. Joseph E. Hall was one of the foremost local lumbermen.

Hall's father, a stone mason, brought the family from (then) Lycoming County in 1827, when Joseph was about 9 years of age. In his early manhood, Joseph embarked upon a very successful career both lumbering and merchandizing. In September of 1848 Joseph paid Octavius Pickering \$200 for the approximately one acre plot from which the present tract derives. County assessment records indicate that the house was completed (at the latest) by 1851 or '52. The 1850 U. S. Census lists the value of the Hall property as \$3500 (a sure indication of a house) and enumerates the family as follows: Joseph E. Hall, 32, male, Lumberman; Elizabeth, 29, f.;

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Melissa, 7, f.; Emma, 4, f.; Gilbert S., 2, m.; Clara J., 1 mo., f.; and Mary E. Sloan, 16, f. (possibly a servant).

In 1855 Hall entered into a partnership with Edward H. Darrah, scion of a New England lumbering family, for the purpose of manufacturing squared timber products. This partnership lasted eight years. In 1866 Hall sold his home to J. S. King and soon thereafter removed to Paxton, Illinois where he died in 1885. Hall's brother, Enoch, eight years his elder and a cabinetmaker remained in Brookville and, throughout his life, was engaged in lumbering and merchandizing.

Following Hall's departure the house served as principal residence to a succession of important local figures. John S. King, occupant from 1866 to 1871, was a merchandizer and was cashier and board member of the Brookville Bank from its inception in 1866 until its closing in 1874.

King sold the property to Robert J. Nicholson, one of the most active lumbermen of his era. Nicholson occupied the Hall House until his death in 1884 (Eulogies at this time in the local press demonstrate how closely Nicholson was identified with the economic interests of the area, how greatly he was respected and beloved as a public spirited citizen and paternalistic employer. A Reverend T. Henderson wrote that the "business places of town closed during the hour of the funeral and the bell at the Court House of his chosen county was tolled as an expression of the loss in his death, as a public calamity."- Brookville Democrat, March 5, 1884).

In 1885 the house became the residence of Richard Arthurs, Sr. (1811-92). Arthurs was one of the early settlers in the county and was her first district attorney. He was cashier of the 1st National Bank in Brookville during its entire existence (1865-74) and by virtue

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of his various enterprises became one of the wealthiest men in the county.

The property remained in the Arthurs family until 1956 when it was deeded for the purpose of a public library, the Rebecca M. Arthurs Memorial Library. The library has now moved to new quarters and the present owner, Dr. Wm. Mark McKinley is restoring the Hall House to residential use.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

American Buildings and their Architects, Volume One, the Colonial and Neo-Classical Styles, by William J. Pierson. Garden City, New York, Anchor Books, 1976.

- see continuation

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Brookville

QUADRANGLE SCALE _____

UTM REFERENCES

A 17 6,07,0,0 4,5,8,1,6,0

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

- see continuation

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Gregory Ramsey

ORGANIZATION

STREET & NUMBER

228 N. Allegheny Street

CITY OR TOWN

Bellefonte

DATE APR 13 1978

TELEPHONE

(814) 355-3249

STATE

PA 16823

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

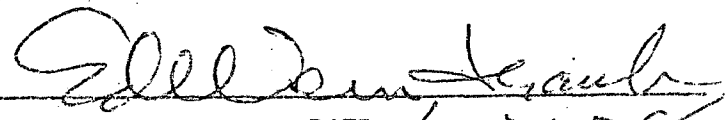
NATIONAL

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 Ed Weintraub, Director
Office of Historic Preservation

DATE

6-21-78

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

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

American Buildings and their Architects, Volume One, the Colonial and Neo-Classical Styles, by William J. Pierson. Garden City, New York, Anchor Books, 1976.

- see continuation

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Brookville

QUADRANGLE SCALE _____

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,8 66,07,0,0 4,5,8 1,6,0

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

- see continuation

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

Gregory Ramsey

ORGANIZATION

DATE: APR 13 1978

STREET & NUMBER

228 N. Allegheny Street

TELEPHONE

(814) 355-3249

CITY OR TOWN

Bellefonte

STATE

PA 16823

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

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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Caldwell, Joseph A. Caldwell's Illustrated Historical Combination Atlas of Jefferson County, Pennsylvania. Condit, Ohio, J. A. Caldwell, 1878.

Dickson, Harold E. A Hundred Pennsylvania Buildings. State College, Pa., Bald Eagle Press, 1954.

McKnight, William James. Jefferson County, Pennsylvania: Her Pioneers and People, 1800-1915. Chicago, J. H. Beers, 1917.

Scott, Kate M. History of Jefferson County, Pennsylvania. Syracuse, New York, D. Mason & Co., 1888.

Stotz, Charles Morse. The Architectural Heritage of Early Western Pennsylvania. Pittsburgh, University of Pittsburgh Press, 1936, 1966.

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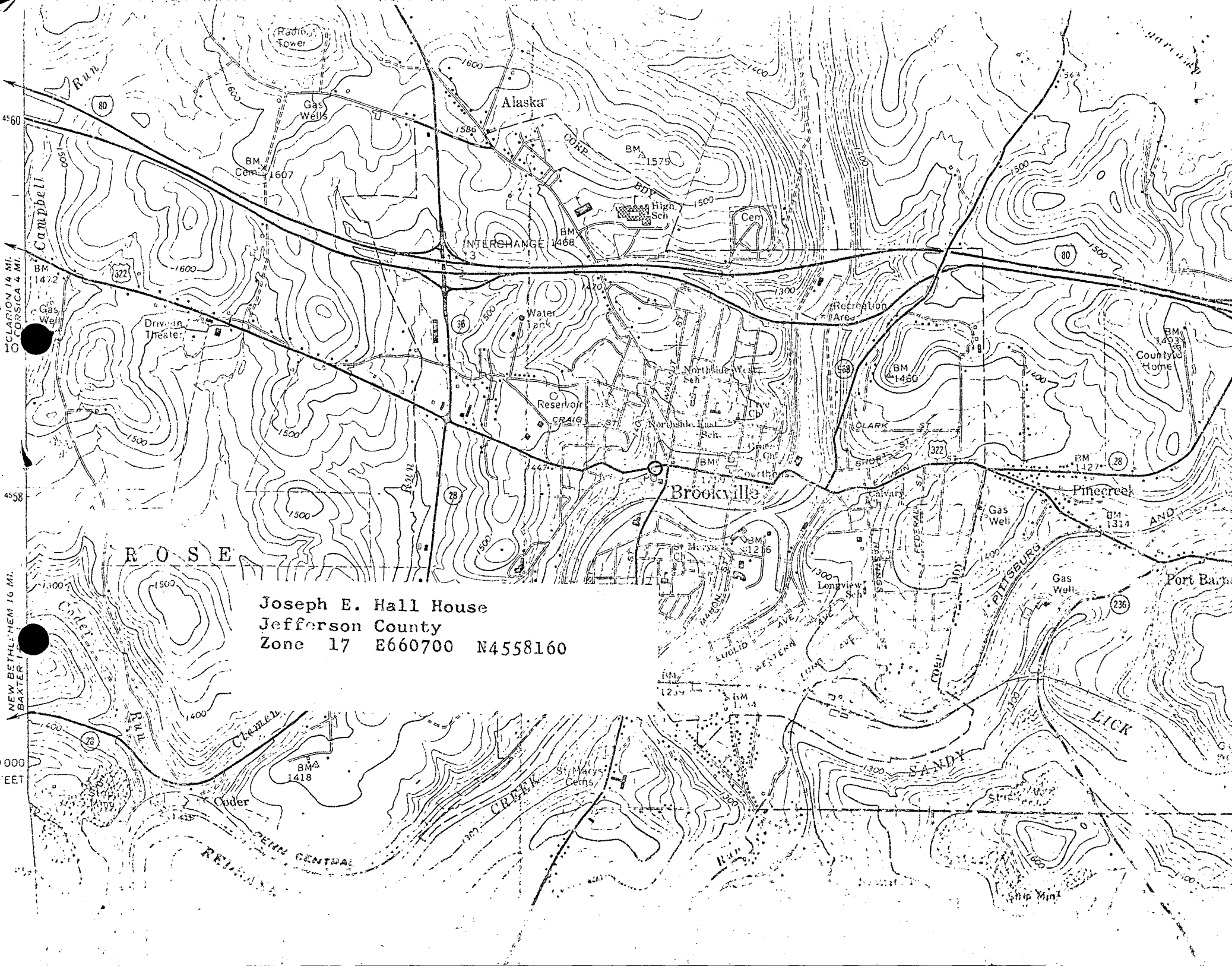
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Boundary Description (Cited from Jefferson County Deed Book 437/794)

Beginning at a post on the South line of Main Street (formerly known as the Waterford and Susquehanna Turnpike) on NW corner of said premises, thence N 48° E along Main Street 140.2 feet to a post, thence S 9°40' W along the land of Mabel McKinley, formerly John McCracken Hotel and land of U. S. of America, formerly Robert Moore a distance of 299 feet to a post, thence N80°W along the North boundary of Madison Avenue a distance of 136 feet to a post, thence N10°50'E along land of William Darr and land of James Long 250' to a post.



Joseph E. Hall House
Jefferson County
Zone 17 E660700 N4558160