

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Unknown

AND/OR COMMON

Callahan House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

U.S. Route 209

CITY, TOWN

(south end of) Milford

STATE

Pennsylvania

VICINITY OF

CODE

42

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Tenth, Pennsylvania

COUNTY

Pike

CODE

103

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" 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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" 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 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

United States Army Corps of Engineers

STREET & NUMBER

United States Customhouse, Second and Chestnut Streets

CITY, TOWN

Philadelphia

VICINITY OF

Pennsylvania

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Pike County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Milford

STATE

Pennsylvania

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT. Part 1: Architectural Data Section on Historic Buildings.  
Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

DATE

1967

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

DWGNRA Headquarters

CITY, TOWN

Bushkill

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 Callahan House is a long, 1 1/2 story frame clapboard house built in two sections. The first, closest to the road, dates from the late 18th century. The later addition, to the rear, was built probably no later than about 1820. The sections are flushly aligned end-to-end, but a slight change in the steep pitch of the seam metal roof near the center indicates where the sections meet. Both sections are characterized by steep gable roof lines, with wide brick chimneys at either end. The chimney backs are exposed on the exterior at the first floor level, a characteristic Dutch building technique in the region. A porch runs along the northeastern side of the newer wing of the house. The slender posts and wide beaded edge ceiling boards are original. The entrance door has eight recessed panels, with narrow sidelights in an early beaded frame. At the rear of the newer section are two eyebrow windows just below the eaves.

The interior has undergone some alteration, but a substantial amount of original details remain. These include original mantels on the end fireplaces, with simple geometric mouldings, and closets and cupboards to the sides, chair rails in a few areas of the first floor, and original floorboards. The most substantial alteration of the interior has occurred at the intersection of the two wings, where a kitchen, bathroom, and twentieth century central stairway have been added.

The house was originally aligned parallel to a narrow road which ran along the Sawkill Creek, and connected to a highway graded considerably lower than the current roadbed of U.S. 209. The current alignment is perpendicular to U.S. 209. The house is about ten feet below the level of the highway, as it enters a sweeping curve at the entrance to a modern concrete bridge across the Sawkill. This alignment obscures the house from the roadway, and constitutes an obvious intrusion on its visual integrity.

# 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 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)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

Social History

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Callahan House is one of the best preserved examples of the earliest type of frontier house on the Pennsylvania side of the Upper Delaware Valley. Its almost relentless simplicity contrasts appealingly, and instructively, with the later and more elaborate frame and stone farmhouses farther south along the River Road, and especially with the numerous stylishly decorative Victorian homes in the adjacent town of Milford. Seen hurriedly, and at the last minute - if at all - by the motorist speeding by on the nearby U.S. 209, the house forcefully conveys an impression of the area before the dominance of the automobile. The more leisurely view, from the now infrequently used Mott Street Bridge, reinforces this impression.

The Callahan House's quiet, if slightly shabby, dignity is even sufficient to turn its greatest liability - its nearness to the highway - into a kind of backhanded asset. The contrast between the scale and pace of life symbolized by the highway, and that by the small house and its place on the still visible roadbed along the Sawkill Creek tells a little bit of the history of the area in a single impression. The house, and its period of significance, seems almost submerged by the highway.

Little information of a solid nature exists concerning the house and its history. It holds a secure place in local folklore, which credits it with being the oldest standing house in Pike County, with having served as an inn, presumably for coach passengers along the River Road and the occasional straggler along the Sawkill Creek Road, and, according to one local history buff, with having been a station on the Underground Railroad before the Civil War. If the latter proves to have been the case, the Callahan House would prove to be a significant structure indeed. Pike County during the Civil War was a Democratic stronghold, and a center of entrenched discontent, if not outright opposition to the pursuit of that conflict.

Additional research may well bring to light evidence to prove or disprove these legends, or give the house other sources of significance. For the present, the Callahan House possesses a sufficient degree of quite anonymous, unspectacular connection to the history of the region to warrant its recognition as an historically important structure.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dodd, John B. Classified Structure Field Inventory Report, April, 1976

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3.2

UTM REFERENCES

A	18	51167110	451737310	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Callahan House is located on United States Army Corps of Engineers, Tocks Island Lake (TIL) Tract # 12522, which includes a total of 3.75 acres. The boundary of the nominated property begins at the intersection of the northern tract line with the right-of-way of U.S. 209 (A). The boundary then proceeds south for 250' along said right-of-way to point (B), where it turns west, and

cont'd.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Wayne K. Bodle Park Technician

4/22/77

ORGANIZATION

National Park Service, Delaware Water Gap NRA

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Bushkill

STATE

Pennsylvania

## 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_ NONE \_\_\_

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is \_\_\_ National \_\_\_ State \_\_\_ Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

Verbal Boundary Description

10

4

runs perpendicular to the highway for approximately 210', where it intersects with the right-of-way of local road T-426. (C). From this point the boundary follows said right-of-way for approximately 320' in a northwesterly direction to point (D). The boundary is completed along the northern edge of the property by the tract line (A-D) on the enclosed map, which runs approximately 50' northeast before turning sharply to the southeast, where it runs for approximately 200' back to the intersection with U.S. 209.

