

*This form to Washington*  
OR 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

BONIFELS

AND/OR COMMON

Elk County Country Club

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

off Laurel Mill Road, west of Ridgway

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Ridgway

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

23rd

VICINITY OF

STATE

Pennsylvania

CODE

42

COUNTY

Elk

CODE

047

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<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:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Elk County Country Club

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Ridgway

STATE

Pennsylvania 15853

VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Elk County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Ridgway

STATE

Pennsylvania

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

2/14/77

FEDERAL  STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

CITY, TOWN

Harrisburg

STATE

Pennsylvania

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT                     DETERIORATED  
 GOOD                             RUINS  
 FAIR                             UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Bonifels is a large, two and a half story stone mansion located on a hilltop overlooking the town of Ridgway. T-shaped in plan, with small, one story wings as the inner corners of the T, the house has hipped roofs with hipped roof dormers, a conical tower and a crenelated square tower. Bonifels' walls of rusticated stone add a castle-like massiveness to the structure. Chimneys are of the same material. The fenestration is uneven and the windows, one over one with double-hung sash. There is a Palladian window in the 3rd story gable. All windows have heavy stone lintels and sills. The cornices are denticulated. The conical tower has a row of stone dentils as well.

One story porches as the front and sides have hipped roofs supported by sets of three pillars set on stone bases.

The structure is vacant but is in good condition. Much of the original interior woodwork remains in place.

[ ] STATE  
 PERIOD  
 -- PREHIST  
 -- 1400-14  
 -- 1500-15  
 -- 1600-16  
 -- 1700-17  
 1800-18  
 -- 1900-  
 SPECIFI  
 STATEN  
 Bo  
 lo  
 ho  
 ty  
 Bo  
 ma  
 M  
 co  
 bo  
 Dy  
 T  
 t  
 d  
 c  
 o  
 g  
 t  
 W  
 b  
 i  
 H  
 l  
 b  
 a  
 M  
 s  
 i  
 o  
 f  
 l  
 M  
 A  
 C  
 l

**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW**

<b>PERIOD</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

**SPECIFIC DATES**      1898-1900

**BUILDER/ARCHITECT**

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Bonifels commands an impressive view and itself is an impressive structure located on a high hilltop overlooking the town of Ridgway. Built as the home of Norman T. Arnold it is a fine example of the elaborate castle-type mansions built during the late 1800's.

Born in New York State, Mr. Arnold moved to Pennsylvania as a young man. He studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1884.

Mr. Arnold located in Ridgway shortly after being admitted to the bar, coming here from Wilcox, where he and Mrs. Arnold both taught the winter before in the public schools. He began the practice of law here with Dyson Rishell, under the firm name of Rishell and Arnold.

Though Mr. Arnold made a fine record as a lawyer, and compelled recognition of his fine ability in his profession from all who came in contact, demonstrating that he had a wonderful legal mind and was a safe and wise counselor, yet he had such a talent for business and could see so many opportunities for making money in the business world, that he finally got into business so deeply and with such good results, that he decided to abandon his practice as an attorney.

While still associated with Mr. Barbour in the law firm, Mr. Arnold began to invest in real estate and he laid out and sold most of the lots in the fine new addition to West Ridgway which is known as Orchard Park. He also handled other Ridgway real estate and was quite successful in that line. About 1896 Mr. Arnold got interested in coal business, and bought up thousands of acres of coal land in Jay Township, this county, and later disposed of large holdings to the Shawmut Mining Company. With Mr. J. H. Beadle and others, Mr. Arnold still owned coal properties in that section and at Penfield, Clearfield County. He was also largely interested in real estate, coal and railroad properties in West Virginia. Some ten or twelve years ago, Mr. Arnold purchased the lands just west of Ridgway from which he has made his beautiful Mountain Park Farm, and a few years later erected the beautiful marble residence known as "Bonifels."

Mr. Arnold was also a trustee of the Alleghany College, Meadville, the American University of Washington, D.C. and the Chautauque Institution at Chautauque, New York. However he is best remembered for his work and local support of the Y.M.C.A. and the Methodist Episcopal Church of Ridgway

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

"The Chautauquan Daily" August 13, 1906

"The Ridgway Record", August 6, 1906

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .5

QUADRANGLE NAME Portland Mills, Pa.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 17 618,7163,0 4,518,715,8,0

B               

C               

D               

E               

F               

G               

H               

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

A .5 acre square of 150 feet x 150 feet from the four corners of the house.

**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

Susan M. Zacher

ORGANIZATION

Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

STREET & NUMBER

Box 1026

CITY OR TOWN

Harrisburg

DATE

TELEPHONE

STATE

Pennsylvania

**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

*Ed Weintraub*

TITLE ED WEINTRAUB, Director  
Office of Historic Preservation

DATE 10-16-78

**FOR NPS USE ONLY**

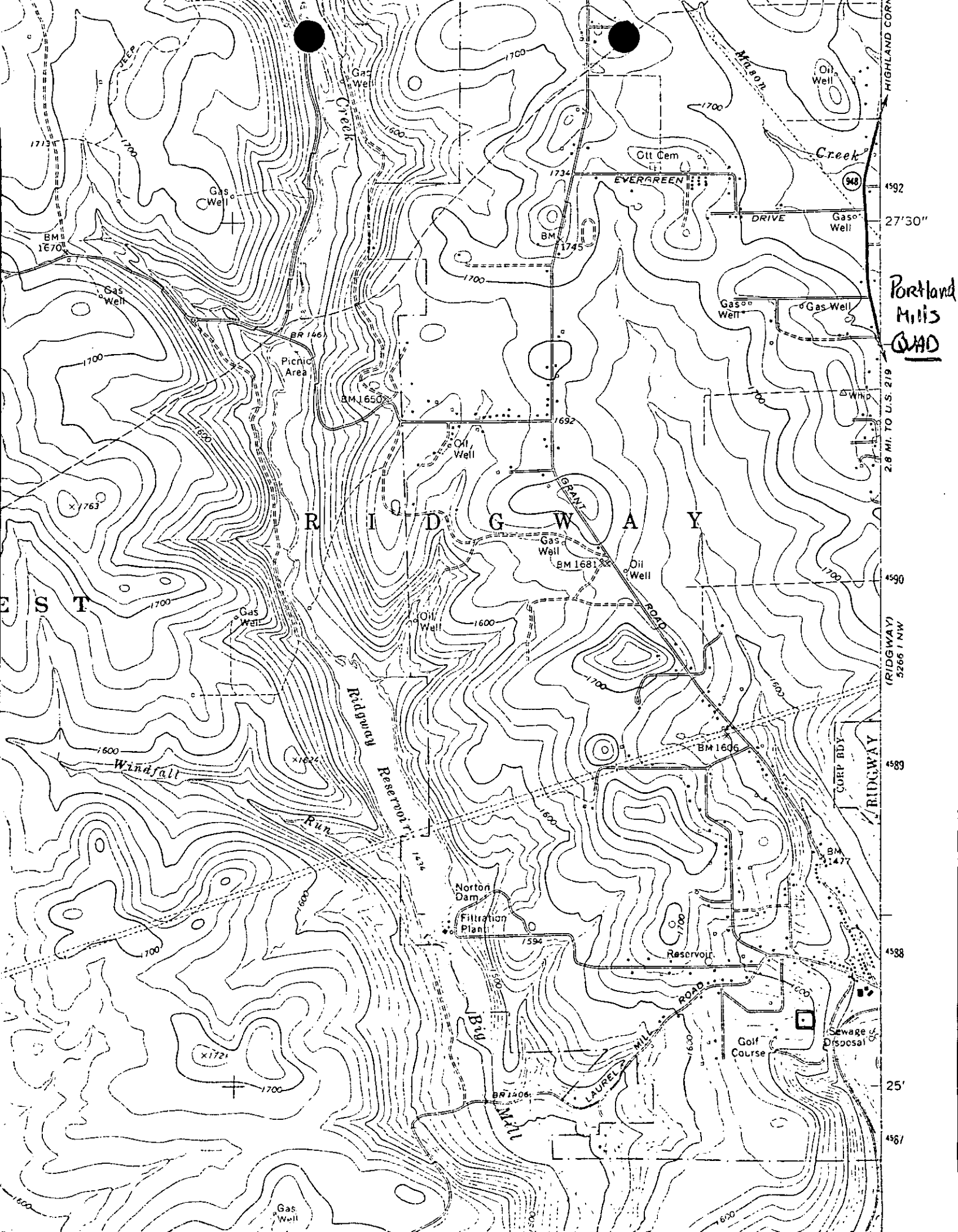
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION



Portland Mills QAD

HIGHLAND COR. 2.8 MI. TO U.S. 219  
52661 NW  
27'30"  
4592  
4590  
4589  
4588  
25'  
4567

R I D G W A Y

E S T

Windsfall

Ridgway Reservoir

Norton Dam  
Filtration Plant

LAUREL MILL ROAD

Golf Course

Sewage Disposal

EVERGREEN

Creek

DRIVE

Gas Well

Gas Well

Gas Well

Oil Well

Oil Well

Gas Well

Picnic Area

Oil Well

Gas Well

Gas Well

Gas Well

Gas Well

Gas Well

Gas Well

Gas Well

Gas Well

Gas Well

Gas Well

Gas Well

Gas Well

Gas Well

Gas Well

Gas Well

Gas Well

Gas Well

Gas Well

Gas Well

Gas Well

Gas Well

Gas Well

Gas Well

Gas Well

Gas Well

Gas Well

Gas Well

Gas Well

Gas Well

Gas Well

Gas Well

Gas Well

Gas Well

Gas Well

Gas Well

1713

BM 1670

1700

1763

1700

1600

1700

1700

1600

Creek

Gas Well

Gas Well

Gas Well

Gas Well

Gas Well

Gas Well

Gas Well

Gas Well

Gas Well

Gas Well

Gas Well

Gas Well

Gas Well

Gas Well

1700

1734

BM 1745

1700

1692

1600

1700

1600

1594

1600

1600

1700

1700

1700

1700

1700

1700

1700

1700

1600

1600

1600

948

948

948

948

948

948

948

948

948

948



BR 146

BM 1650

GRANT ROAD

Gas Well

Oil Well

Gas Well

Oil Well

Oil Well

Oil Well

Oil Well

Oil Well

Oil Well

Oil Well

Oil Well

COAL

COAL

COAL

COAL

COAL

COAL

CORP BDY

RIDGWAY

BM 1477

Reservoir

Reservoir

Reservoir

Reservoir