

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Pennsylvania	
COUNTY: Delaware	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Pont Reading

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
2713 Haverford Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Ardmore

STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42 COUNTY: Delaware CCODE: 045

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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 (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mr. and Mrs. David B. Robb

STREET AND NUMBER:
2713 Haverford Road

CITY OR TOWN: Ardmore STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Delaware County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Front and South Streets

CITY OR TOWN: Media STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: Dist. of Columbia CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Penna.
 COUNTY: Delaware
 ENTRY NUMBER:
 DATE:
 FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The construction of Pont Reading spans three centuries with the middle section (photo #1) containing logs from the original 1683 building. The logs are visible in the old kitchen which now serves as a pantry. The remainder of the middle section (photo #1) is a three story stuccoed stone structure that dates from before 1730. The two story portico with its four Doric columns was added during the Federal Period and the pediment dormers were added in the nineteenth century. This section now has a dining room on the first floor and bedrooms on the second and third floors.

The one and one-half story stuccoed rear section (photo #2) with end porch was built prior to the American Revolution. It has a gabled roof, single chimney, and shed dormers. It was once used as the winter kitchen but now serves as a den and its huge fireplace is equipped with cooking utensils and the original functional rotating spit.

The 1813 addition (photo #3) is a two story three bay front structure with low-hipped roof and single chimney. The roofline on the front facade is marked by a pediment with boxed cornice and a semi-elliptical window. There is a porch with two supporting pillars over the front door and six-over-six sash windows, with the first floor windows having paneled shutters and second floor windows having louvered shutters. The floor plan consists of a central hallway with a parlor and library on the first floor and two bedrooms on the second. The stairway, doors and trim in this section are of curly maple (see color photo #4) with Regency moldings, and the mantles are of Chester County veined marble.

Pont Reading now displays original Queen Anne and Chippendale furniture of the period, many pieces carved by Philadelphia craftsmen, and a great deal of fine silverware. Daniel Humphreys' gaming table, dating back to the 17th century, is located in the library, and the house contains many fine prints and sketches of the ships designed by Joshua and Samuel Humphreys, including the best-known portrait of the Constitution.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Daniel Humphreys, a Welshman, purchased six or seven thousand acres in 1683 and constructed a rude log cabin which he called Pont Reading. Humphreys began the family business of milling, married in 1695 and raised a large family. One son, Charles, served as a member of the First Continental Congress in 1774 representing Delaware County, and opposed the Declaration of Independence. Another son, Joshua, brought notoriety to Pont Reading as a master shipbuilder. He built the frigate Randolph, the first war vessel constructed during the Revolution; in 1794, he designed and built the famous United States; and built six frigates, including the Constitution (Old Ironsides) that captured some 1,500 British ships during the War of 1812.

Joshua occupied Pont Reading from 1803-1838 and made many exterior changes to the farmhouse to formalize its appearance. To the interior he added beautiful curly maple woodwork and blue marble mantles. Joshua's second son, Samuel, followed his father as Naval Constructor-in-Chief and was even offered a job as naval advisor to Alexander I of Russia. Samuel's son, Andrew Atkinson Humphreys, graduated from West Point, and distinguished himself during the Civil War as a division and corps commander in the Army of the Potomac and as Chief of Staff to General Meade in 1863. Following the war, Humphreys became Chief of Engineers of the U.S. Army.

Except for the years 1923-1948, Pont Reading has always been occupied by the Humphreys family.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Antiques Magazine, August, 1958.

Eberlein, Harold D. and Cortlandt V. Hubbard. Portrait of a Colonial City, Philadelphia, 1939.

Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Humphreys Family Papers.

National Geographic, August, 1960

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES							
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE	
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0			0			39°	59'	49"	75°	18'	12"
NE	0			0								
SE	0			0								
SW	0			0								

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Pennsylvania Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks

ORGANIZATION: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission DATE: August, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:
Box 1026

CITY OR TOWN: Harrisburg STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: [Signature]
State Liaison Officer

Deputy Title: Executive Director, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

Date: 3/22/72

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

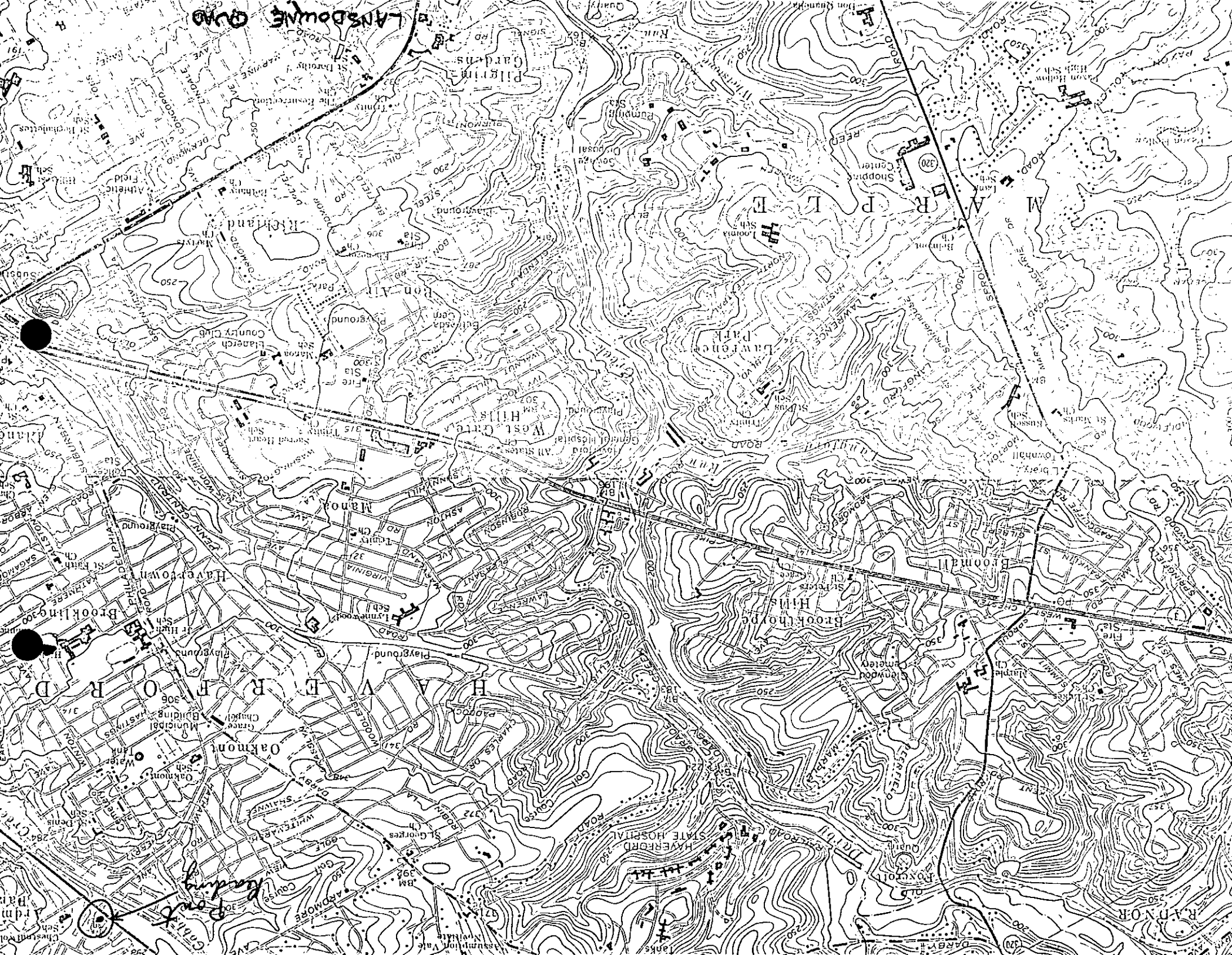
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: _____

ATTEST:
[Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____



Lansdowne, Pa. 1967

1:24000