

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Pennsylvania
COUNTY: Lebanon
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: Heinrich Zeller House
AND/OR HISTORIC: Fort Zeller

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Off Rte. 419, west of Newmanstown			
CITY OR TOWN: Newmanstown		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 16th	
STATE Pennsylvania	CODE 42	COUNTY: Lebanon	CODE 075

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<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 (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Eugene R. Hoffman			
STREET AND NUMBER: R. D. #1			
CITY OR TOWN: Newmanstown		STATE: Pennsylvania	CODE 42

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Lebanon County Courthouse			
STREET AND NUMBER: South Eighth Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Lebanon, Lebanon County		STATE: Pennsylvania	CODE 42

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1973 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: William Penn Memorial Museum/Historic Preservation			
STREET AND NUMBER: Box #1026			
CITY OR TOWN: Harrisburg		STATE: Pennsylvania	CODE 42

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE

COUNTY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" 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 Heinrich Zeller House, more commonly known as Fort Zeller, represents a remarkable transference of European architecture styles to America. Built by Heinrich Zeller (Henri Sellaire), the house is in reality a transplant from Zeller's native Alsace.

The Zeller House, constructed in 1743, was built into the bank over an everflowing spring. The stream from this spring still flows through an arch under the basement entrance. The house is basically a one and one-half story structure, although the gable end gives the appearance of being a two and one-half story structure. The exterior walls of the house are of 2½ foot thick, stucco covered limestone. The stone walls are carried only halfway up into the gables. Vertical siding is used from here to the peak of the roof. The high gable roof, presently tin, was originally covered with handmade beaver tail tiles of red clay. The roof has a wide sailing overhang with the first floor ceiling beams projecting beyond the wall.

The original fenestration of the house consisted of small tunnel-like square windows. These windows are framed by cut sandstone sills, posts, and lintels. Three such windows are located, one on each floor of the southwest gable. The northeast gable has but two such windows, one on each level. Small four pane windows are located in the peak of each gable. c. 1850 several larger windows were installed. Two of these six over six pane windows are located in the south facade and one above the basement entrance. Also, at this time, two small gable dormers were placed in the south slope of the roof.

The entranceways of the house are particularly interesting. The main entrance in the south facade has a carved sandstone frame which includes an armorial device in the keystone position. The door itself is but 5½ feet high, and is constructed of chamfered boards pegged in a herringbone design. The arched doorway to the basement is also constructed in this style, as is the rear door in the north facade. All doors are divided horizontally at the lock rail.

The interior of the house is divided into two areas by a 12 foot wide freestanding fireplace. The fireplace opens only into the long kitchen room. A simple stairway leads to the second floor from a corner of this room. The remaining room is divided into two rooms by an interior partition. The interior as a whole is crude and devoid of ornamentation. A fire early in this century destroyed some of the interior although the general features including the wattle and daub walls are still preserved.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) c. 1745

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 | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Zeller or Sellaire family fled the Alsatian region of France shortly after the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes. The Sellaire family castle still stands on a wooded crag north of Strasbourg. As with many other French Huguenots, the Zellers fled first to Holland. At the invitation of Queen Anne the family moved to England and shortly thereafter emigrated to America. Arriving in New York in 1710, the family settled in the Schoharie region of that state. In 1723 they moved to the present Mt. Aetna area of Lebanon County. The tract of land where the Zeller House is located was acquired from Thomas and Richard Penn in 1743. The original log house built on the property is no longer extant. Legend tells of the present houses construction in 1723 and that Heinrich Zeller only remodelled it in 1743. However, no documentation can be found to prove this earlier date.

Much local legend abounds about the Zeller House. Stories of its construction by Lady Clothide de Valois, Sellaire in 1723, of its heroic defense against savage Indians by a young girl, and of its various occupants form an integral part of the local folklore. However, the house derives its primary significance from its architecture. The house has not been seriously altered and still preserves most of its original appearance. Its Alsatian/Swiss appearance gives ample evidence of the persistence of European tradition among the original settlers of this area.

The property is presently well maintained and is operated as a small museum.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Pennsylvania Commonwealth of, Pennsylvania Forts and Blockhouses. 1896.

Waterman, Thomas T., The Dwellings of Colonial America. Chapel Hill, N.C., University of North Carolina Press, 1950.

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

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	°	'	"	°	'	"	40	°	20	'	56	"	76	°	13	'	33	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"												
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"												
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"												

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
William K. Watson, Historian

ORGANIZATION: **Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission** DATE: **December, 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:
William Penn Memorial Museum, 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 WILLIAM J. WEWER

Title Executive Director
Pa. Historical & Museum Commission

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST: _____

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		40 ° 20 ' 56 "	76 ° 13 ' 33 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

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National State Local

Name William J. Wewer
WILLIAM J. WEWER

Title Executive Director
Pa. Historical & Museum Commission

Date 2/10/75

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST: _____

Keeper of The National Register

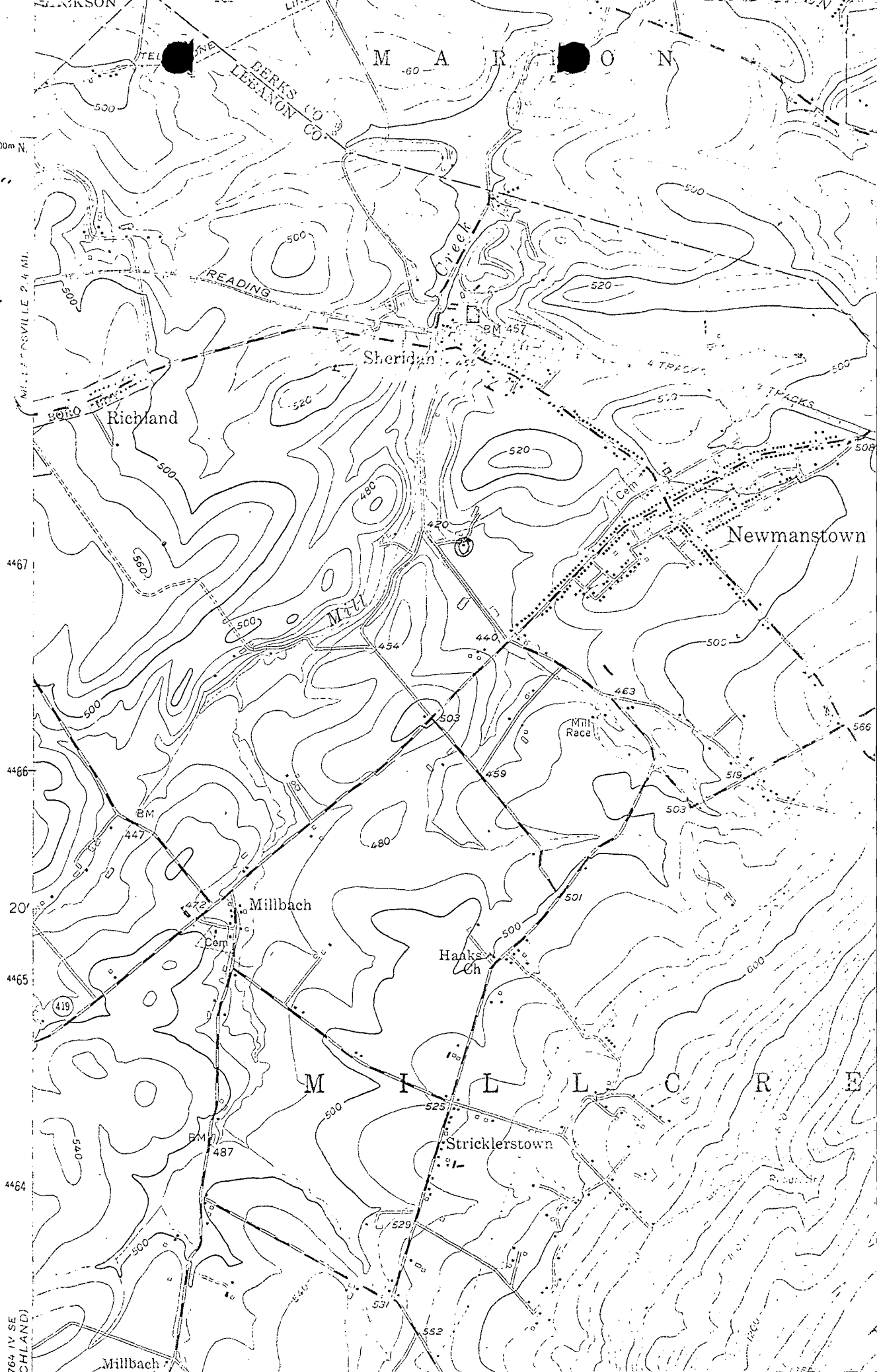
Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

LAT.
40° 20' 56"

LONG
76° 13' 33"

70° 20' 15"
74
46° 20' 56"



4465000 N.

MILLVILLE 2.4 MI.

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764 IV SE
CHLAND