

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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date entered

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 Davies House

and/or common Twin Spruce

2. Location

street & number Berkley Road

N/A not for publication

city, town East Berkley

N/A vicinity of

congressional districts

6th

state Pennsylvania

code 42

county Berks

code 011

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input checked="" 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 Mr. and Mrs. Paul Troutman

street & number P.O. Box 471 R.D. 2

city, town Reading

N/A vicinity of

state PA

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Berks County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Reading

state PA

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Berks Co. Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1980

federal state county local

depository for survey records Berks Co. Conservancy/PHMC

city, town Wyomissing, PA / Harrisburg, PA
state

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance.

The Davies House is a 2½ story fieldstone building constructed between 1767 and 1772. It is Georgian in style with Federal detailing added in the early nineteenth century. It is located on the Old Centre Turnpike in Ontelaunee Township, Berks County.

The original portion of the house has three bays and is of roughcut fieldstone with quoined corners and a stone watertable, visible on the northern facade. An addition to the south has two more bays. The north facade features a pedimented gable end with bulls eye window and modillion cornice trim. Covered by scored stucco in the late 1800's, the fieldstone has again been exposed. The eastern facade, facing the Centre Turnpike, has a double door entry with four light transoms and raised panels above and beside the door, 6/6 windows, and a porch addition with octagonal columns and modillion cornice molding. The gabled tin roof was originally covered with wood shingle (still visible in the attic).

Two other sections have been added to the west. The first is stone with a later frame second story, beyond which is a one story, half gable addition. A stone smokehouse/cold cellar and an outhouse still exist on the property.

The interior of the house retains most of the original detail. The entry hall is Georgian, while the front room of the original building has a Federal fireback. The library (southern addition) has an ornate gougework mantel and cornice, interior shutters, built-in cupboards and arch and keystone framing the fireplace which is almost identical to one in the Fisher House (National Register - Oley Valley).

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 checked="" 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 1767-1772
c. 1831

Builder/Architect William Parvin
Edward & Luke Davies

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Davies House is an excellent example of regional adaption of the Georgian style. It is also the only remaining building associated with the Parvin and Davies families, both important to the economic development of the East Berkley area which flourished in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

The house was built by William Parvin between 1767 and 1772. His father, Francis, was the original landowner of East Berkley and built both a grist mill and a saw mill on nearby Willow Creek. These were demolished early in the twentieth century. The mills were located on the Old Centre Turnpike, the road between Reading and Leesport originally referred to as the "road to Parvin's mill." The Old Centre Turnpike served as the major route of commerce between the coal regions to the north and Reading and Philadelphia to the south. The mills and house were taken over by the Davies family in 1806. Their enlargements and refinements of the house were completed by 1835.

The Davies house is one of the few Georgian houses in East Berkley which retains its stylistic features in both interior and exterior. Constructed and elaborated on by leading families of the area, its integrity continues to reflect their adaptation and interpretation of then-prevalent styles.

9. Major Bibliographical Reference

Montgomery, William, History of Reading & Berks Co., p. 1032.
Roads of Berks Co., Book 1, Court of Common Pleas, Berks Co. Courthouse,
Reading, PA, pp. 15, 24-26.
Will Book #2, Register of Wills Office, Berks Co. Courthouse, Reading, PA.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .32
Quadrangle name Temple Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A	<u>18</u>	<u>42,069,0</u>	<u>44,754,30</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

See additional sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>	county	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>
state	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>	county	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ricki Hurwitz
organization N/A date 5-14-82
street & number 607 N. Duke Street telephone (717) 397-0735
city or town Lancaster state PA 17602

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

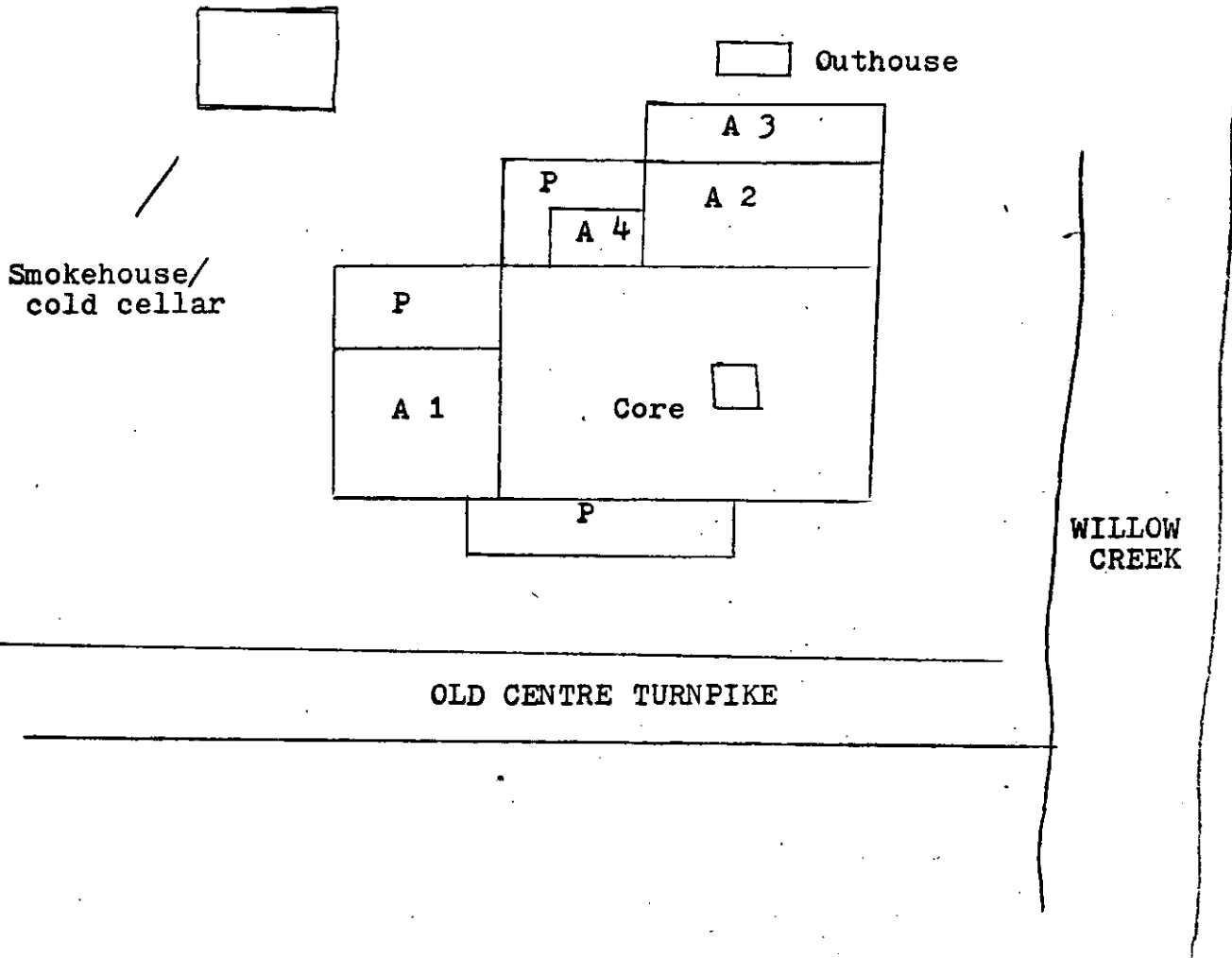
title Larry E. Tise, State Historic Preservation Officer date

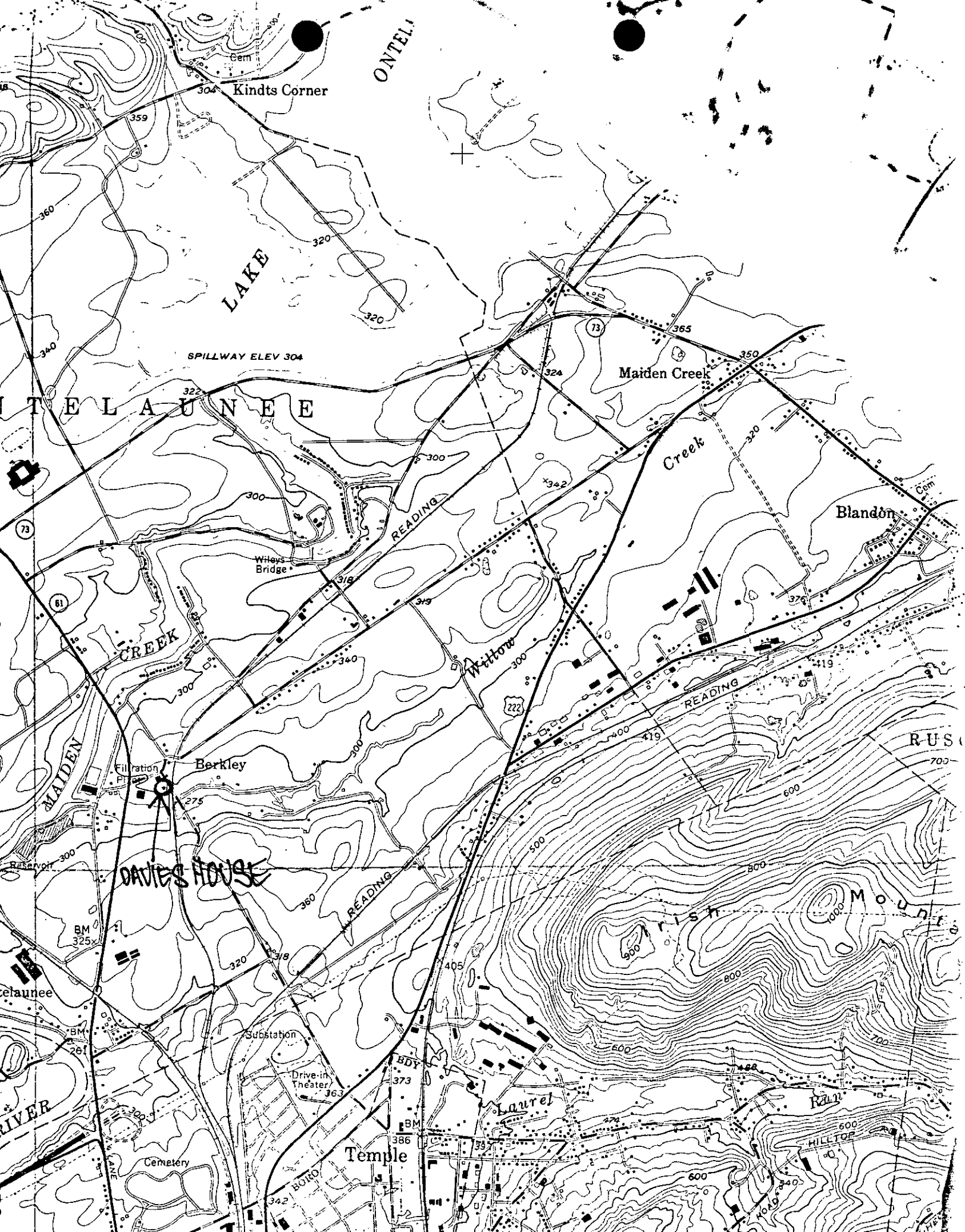
For NPS use only I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register date
Keeper of the National Register Attest: date
Chief of Registration

Davies House
Berks County

Site Plan

PLAN OF DAVIES HOUSE
(Not to scale)





LAKE

ONTELE

Kindts Corner

SPILLWAY ELEV 304

TELE LAUNEE

Maiden Creek

Creek

Blandon

CREEK

READING

Willow

READING

RUS

Berkley

DAVIES HOUSE

READING

Irish Mount

elaunee

Substation

Drive-in Theater

Laurel

Temple

HILLTOP

RIVER

Cemetery

BORO