

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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 HARRISBURG TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

and/or common OLD CITY HALL

2. Location

street & number 423 Walnut Street N/A not for publication

city, town Harrisburg N/A vicinity of congressional district 17th

state Harrisburg code 42 county Dauphin code 043

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input checked="" 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	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Stephen E. Solms, Historic Landmarks for Living

street & number 8-10 Letitia Street

city, town Philadelphia N/A vicinity of state Pennsylvania

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dauphin County Courthouse

street & number Front and Market Streets

city, town Harrisburg state Pennsylvania

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

1.) Harrisburg Historic Sites Survey", Thomas R. Deans Associates, Fall 1981
the.) See continuation sheet has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date August 19, 1981, City of Harrisburg federal state county local

depository for survey records Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Bureau for
Historic Preservation

city, town Harrisburg state Pennsylvania

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____ N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The front and largest portion of Harrisburg Technical High School is a four-story, steel frame and concrete detached building occupying much of the 400 block of Walnut Street in downtown Harrisburg, directly across from the State Capitol complex. The rear portion of the building is a two-story, brick and iron frame structure, with concrete floors. The imposing front portion of the building was constructed in 1910 to provide expanded facilities for the City's innovative program of public technical education.

Old Tech was designed by noted Harrisburg architect, Charles Howard Lloyd, in the "English Collegiate" or "collegiate Gothic" style, emulating Great Britain's traditional college buildings. The structure's principal facade and its eastern and western walls are surfaced with tapestry, brick veneer and brownstone trim, with all three walls being similar in detail and fenestration. The foundation water table is rusticated in the Cyclopean fashion, with smooth cut brownstone block covering the first floor exterior walls. The cap of the first story, on the eastern side of the northern facade, is treated with rectangular cut brownstone panels, which correspond to the placement of the windows below. Several of the first story windows are single, however, most of the fenestration is grouped in triplets. The second, third and fourth story windows, which are also both single and grouped in triplets, are highlighted with flush to-the-wall brownstone quoins. Both vertical and horizontal lines are accentuated in the facade organization through the use of richly textured brownstone trim (believed to have been quarried in nearby Hummelstown). The verticality of the structure is emphasized by the extension of the vertical window lines, through the various spandrel areas between each floor. The horizontal aspect is accentuated by a substantial brownstone belt course between the second and third stories and by an additional course just above the fourth story and below the building's cap. This cap area, as well as the spandrel areas between the vertical brownstone window line extensions, are surfaced brownstone, cut designs and emblems, which are grouped in threes to correspond vertically with the triplet windows above and below.

An attractive design feature is the trim over the bowed second story windows, on the eastern side of the front facade, containing brownstone cut ribbon designs and central emblems. These windows add variety to the facade's organization, as they are the only bowed windows with this kind of trim detail on the building's northern wall. In addition to the texture of the brownstone and brick treatments, facade relief is achieved as the facade is broken by three different plane projections. The main entranceway, which slightly protrudes from these facade projections and unifies them visually at the first floor, dominates the first story facade of the building. The entry's basically Gothic configuration, with a slightly arched or bowed entrance opening, leads into a recessed Romanesque and vaulted ceilinged vestibule. The piers of the entranceway are heavily and attractively embellished, again in locally quarried brownstone. Above the entranceway arch is mounted a carved owl displaying a scroll, no doubt intended to inspire traditional educational values in faculty and students engaged in the innovative vocational education program. The entranceway entablature is capped with a brownstone arched parapet, reinforcing the Gothic appearance.

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Continuation sheet

Description

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The 1905 rear portion of Old Tech (also designed by Lloyd) was constructed as a shop addition to an 1836 brick school building, demolished to provide a clear site for Old Tech's 1910 front edifice. The rear portion features corbel brick treatments, double hung two-over-two windows with transoms above and brick relief in the respective recessed spandrel panels. Its appearance reflects the "heavy mill construction" believed necessary to support vocational education equipment. The roof of the main portion of the rear section of the building is slightly hipped, but is gabled on the southernmost wing of the structure. Several of the window openings were bricked-in, as interior uses changed.

Both the original 1905 rear portion and the 1910 Old Tech building were well maintained and preserved. Changes in their original appearance are very minor and for the most part are compatible. Exterior alterations include the removal of a small parapet from the top of the right hand bay of the facade, the installation of several contemporary window units, replacement of the original one-over-one wooden sash (although several of these still remain) and the removal of one set of doors, which formerly enclosed the recessed vestibule.

The 1929 conversion of Old Tech to Old City Hall left the exteriors essentially unchanged, but embellished interior spaces for use by municipal officials and departments. The most significant features of Old City Hall's interior are the main lobby, the grand staircase, and the former Mayor's office. The Italian Renaissance styled lobby is graced with scagliola columns and pilasters, from which brass light fixtures are suspended, rising to support a 17-foot high ceiling, trimmed with neo-classical moldings and central chandelier. The lobby floor is terrazzo and marble. Ascending from the heart of the lobby is the grand steel frame staircase, which separates into symmetrically unified towers and distinguishes the vertical massing of the building throughout all four stories. Its course joins the spacious sixteen feet high central hallways of the second, third and fourth stories, each adorned with ornate brass light fixtures. The architectural culmination of the fourth story hallway is reinforced by a series of skylights, which have been concealed. The former Mayor's office, just off the ground floor lobby in the northwestern corner of the building, is appropriately fashioned in the "English Collegiate" style with raised oak paneled walls, molded plaster emblems, gothic tracery plastered ceiling and low suspended chandeliers. Three sets of massive oak paneled double doors lead into this significant interior space, which was occupied by Harrisburg's chief executives.

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"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
			<input type="checkbox"/> science
			<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
			<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
			<input type="checkbox"/> theater
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1905, 1910 **Builder/Architect** Charles Howard Lloyd (architect)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The City of Harrisburg's landmark Technical High School, popularly known as "Old Tech" and the "Old City Hall", possesses historical significance in three areas: Education, as a model early 20th century vocational training school; Architecture, its original educational use and subsequent governmental re-use having been well designed by Harrisburg's most prolific and noted architect, Charles Howard Lloyd; and Politics/Government, as the seat of municipal government during Harrisburg's evolution as a twentieth century industrial center and state capitol.

Americans were first introduced to "manual training" as an integrated part of school curricula by an exhibit of the Moscow Imperial Technical School at the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia in 1876. In the 1870's and 1880's, educators hotly debated the wisdom of including manual training in school programs. At the turn-of-the-century, relatively few states and cities had schools with manual training and home economics programs. While the National Association of Manufacturers advocated manual training in the schools (as a way to circumvent union regulations of apprenticeships), trade unions often opposed such programs as training grounds for strike breakers. The National Society for the Promotion of Industrial Education, founded by liberal educators in 1906, attempted to modify resistance from the American Federation of Labor. Not until 1910 did an A.F. of L. committee headed by former United Mine Workers president John Mitchell, recommend that the labor movement press for public trade schools to provide a balanced combination of general education and shop instruction.

As a prosperous manufacturing and industrial center, Harrisburg was among the earliest cities to develop modern vocational education. In 1904, the City's Board of School Directors dispatched a blue ribbon committee to Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. to study emerging "manual training programs." In the late 19th century, as in most industrial towns, Harrisburg's youth obtained formal academic instruction in classrooms, such as those at Central High School (1893) at Capitol and Foster Streets (demolished) or obtained on-the-job training as trade apprentices.

Determined to provide academic and vocational instruction within the public school system, Harrisburg Superintendent of Schools, Lemuel O. Foose, in 1905 caused a shop building to be erected as an addition to the existing Lancastrian School Building (1836) at Walnut and Aberdeen Streets; across from the State Capitol Building, at what was to become the site of the City's much respected Technical High School. The Lancastrian School (renamed DeWitt) was Harrisburg's first public school building and the site continued in educational use for nearly a century. The heavy equipment and machinery associated with vocational education required an addition of "heavy mill construction", which new Superintendent of Schools, E. G. Downes hailed as "a victory for modern education". "The city or town of any considerable size today

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that makes no provision in its schools for manual training . . . is not considered to be in the march of educational progress", Downes said, marking Tech's first anniversary. Following the example of Central Manual School of Philadelphia, Harrisburg's Tech High offered specialized instruction in literature, foreign languages, mathematics, biology, industrial arts, history, chemistry, government, physics, architecture and economics. The three year course in the DeWitt School addition offered initially to 55 pupils saw its enrollment grow to 644 boys by 1920, with 50% continuing to college and engineering schools.

As the vocational program expanded with the growth of the school age population, the DeWitt building soon became obsolete because it was limited in size and could not support the physical requirements for a vocational training facility. It was razed and replaced, in 1910, by the present principal portion of the Technical High School building. The 1905 brick structure to the rear was retained, however, because it had been expressly designed and constructed to handle machinery and equipment. Well before most comparable communities, Harrisburg thereby achieved a facility for those seeking other than academic careers, at the time heralded as a model of vocational education.

By 1921, the Harrisburg School System, with an even larger school age population, commissioned and considered plans to expand the Technical High School. Tech's expansion, however, was never realized, as the School Board decided to build two new schools at the northern and eastern extremities of the City, William Penn and John Harris high schools respectively, both with vocational education components. Although Harrisburg's original Tech High closed forever in 1926, the "Harrisburg Tech Golden Legion", boasting 1,357 alumni and four surviving teachers to this day attend yearly reunions to reminisce about Harrisburg's "most famous school" and its legendary football record with cross-town rival Central High. The "Legion" has recently begun restoration of old Tech trophies, for display at the Dauphin County Historical Society.

Significantly, the original 1905 shop addition to the DeWitt School Building, the 1910 Technical High School building itself, the 1921 expansion plans (which were never executed), and the 1929 alterations permitting Tech's adaptive re-use as Harrisburg's Old City Hall were all designed by prominent Harrisburg architect Charles Howard Lloyd. Born in 1873, Lloyd was educated at Cowles Art School in Boston and subsequently launched his prolific architectural career in Harrisburg. From 1892 to the Great Depression, Lloyd built a reputation that won him many of the most important commissions for varied and significant buildings in Harrisburg, particularly those associated with education. Lloyd's surviving Harrisburg area works include the original Harrisburg Public Library Building (1892), the Old Waterworks (brick buildings, 1903), Steele Elementary School (1915-1918), Shimmell Elementary School (1913-1916), Commercial Bank (1908), Edison High School (1919), William Penn High School (1921-1926), Zembo Mosque (1928-1930), the Tracy Mansion (1918), Potts Apartment Building (1906), the Blackstone Building (1920) (determined eligible, National Register), the Kunkle Building (National Register) addition (1925), Lincoln Elementary School (1905), Stephens Memorial Methodist Church (1909), State

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Street United Methodist Church (1922), Hamilton School (1910), Elphinston Apartments (1910), Boas School (1922) and the Cameron School (1897). While many of Lloyd's buildings still stand, many others have been demolished, especially the homes of Harrisburg's "first families" of the early 20th century, which gave North Front Street its unique distinction. Lloyd's demolished works include the residences of Edwin S. Herman (1907), E. Z. Wallower (1910), E. J. Stackpole (1907), and Archibald G. Knisely (1905, as well as the Donaldson Apartments (1906), the Telegraph Building (1910) (National Register), the Board of Trade Building (1899), the Haldemann Haly Operating Room of Harrisburg Hospital (1899), Camp Curtin Junior High School (1904), the Riverside Apartments (1906-1912), the Dauphin Hotel (1907), Burns and Company Furniture Store (1907) and the Wickersham Elementary School (1897).

Charles Howard Lloyd's skill and imagination facilitated the adaptive re-use of Harrisburg's Technical High School site for educational and governmental purposes, during a quarter century period when demolition and new construction, not rehabilitation, were the common practice. Lloyd was Old Tech's design common denominator, from the original vocational shop (1904), to the new high school building (1910) and its conversion for municipal use as Old City Hall (1929). Lloyd was an eclecticist, who adapted different historical motifs to his varied works. Appreciating the School Board's desire to gain acceptance of manual training as "legitimate" education, Lloyd selected the English Collegiate style for his 1910 exterior design of Tech High, invoking the Gothic motif then as now associated with the noted British universities, Oxford and Cambridge. Fortunately, the impressive institutional facade of Old Tech undoubtedly contributed sixteen years later to the decision to adaptively re-use Old Tech as Harrisburg's City Hall. Lloyd then applied the exterior theme in up-grading the interior spaces for governmental use.

After the completion of the two new schools in 1926, the Technical High School was sold to the City of Harrisburg. Before this time, Harrisburg never had a City Hall where all municipal offices were contained in one building. The Select and Common City Councils met in the County Courthouse, and the Mayor's Office and police department were housed in various downtown buildings. With the vacation of the Technical High School, the building became the logical candidate for adaptive re-use as a long-needed City Hall. Pursuant to plans devised by architect Lloyd, renovations were completed under Lloyd's supervision in the Spring of 1929, and city government moved in in June of that year. Not including the alarm systems, total cost for the building, repairs, alterations, furniture and equipment ran an estimated \$578,000.

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For 53 years, Old City Hall, served as the seat of the capital city's municipal government and was the backdrop for the decision making process which guided the growth and development of the Capitol City through that period.

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School, Dauphin County

Continuation sheet Harrisburg Technical High/ Item number 6.

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Representation in Existing Surveys - continued

- 2.) "Downtown Harrisburg Historic Resource Study", Downtown Harrisburg
Historic Preservation Project, Jeb Stuart, Fall 1981.

Bibliographical References

Cremin, Lawrence A. - The Transformation of the School. New York: Alfred
A. Knopf, 1969.

Frew, Kenneth "In Search of City Hall" Harrisburg Heritage, April, 1978.
Vol. 4, No. 4.

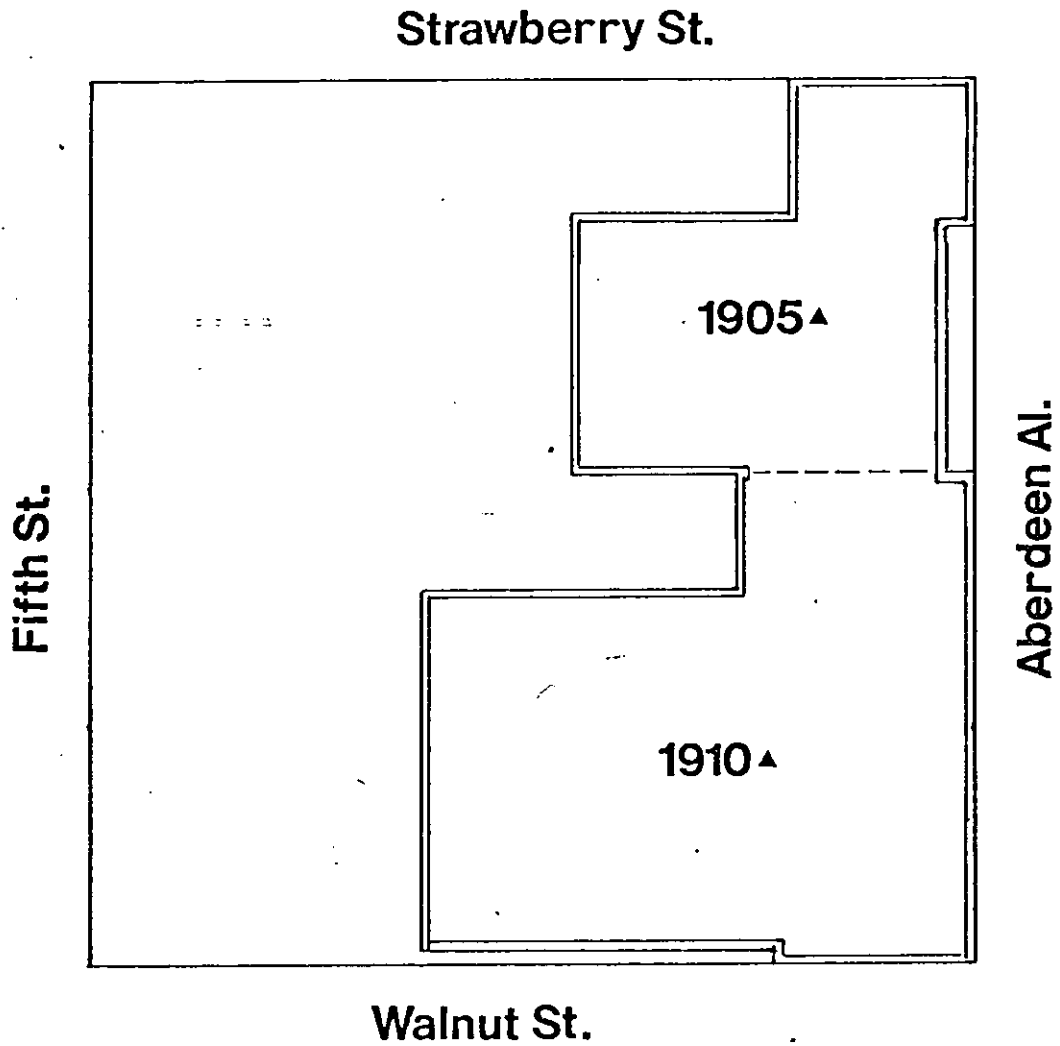
Harrisburg Telegraph, May 21, 1909.

Harrisburg Patriot, May 1 and May 8, 1978. "Old Tech is Gone, But Pride Remains."

"Municipal Building." Brochure published by City of Harrisburg, July 30, 1929.

Frew, Kenneth. Competition: The Harrisburg of Architect Charles Howard Lloyd
(1892-1932). An unpublished manuscript 1982. Copyright registration number:
TXu 106-953.

Harrisburg Technical High School, Dauphin County
SITE PLAN



▲ Construction date

9. Major Bibliographical References

- ATTACHED -

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property 1.1 acre

Quadrangle name Harrisburg West

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	8	9	1	1	0	0	0	2	3	6	0	0	0
Zone		Easting						Northing					

B

Zone		Easting						Northing					

C

Zone		Easting						Northing					

D

Zone		Easting						Northing					

E

Zone		Easting						Northing					

F

Zone		Easting						Northing					

G

Zone		Easting						Northing					

H

Zone		Easting						Northing					

Verbal boundary description and justification The subject property is bounded by Walnut Street, on the north, Aberdeen Street on the west, Strawberry Street on the south, and Fifth Street on the east, thus comprising a city block with a frontage of 210 feet on all four sides.

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

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title James A. Stuart, III, Downtown Projects Director

organization City of Harrisburg date November 1982

street & number City Government Center telephone (717) 255-6412

city or town Harrisburg state Pennsylvania

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 *Larry E. Tise*

title Larry E. Tise, State Historic Preservation Officer date 11/24/82

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

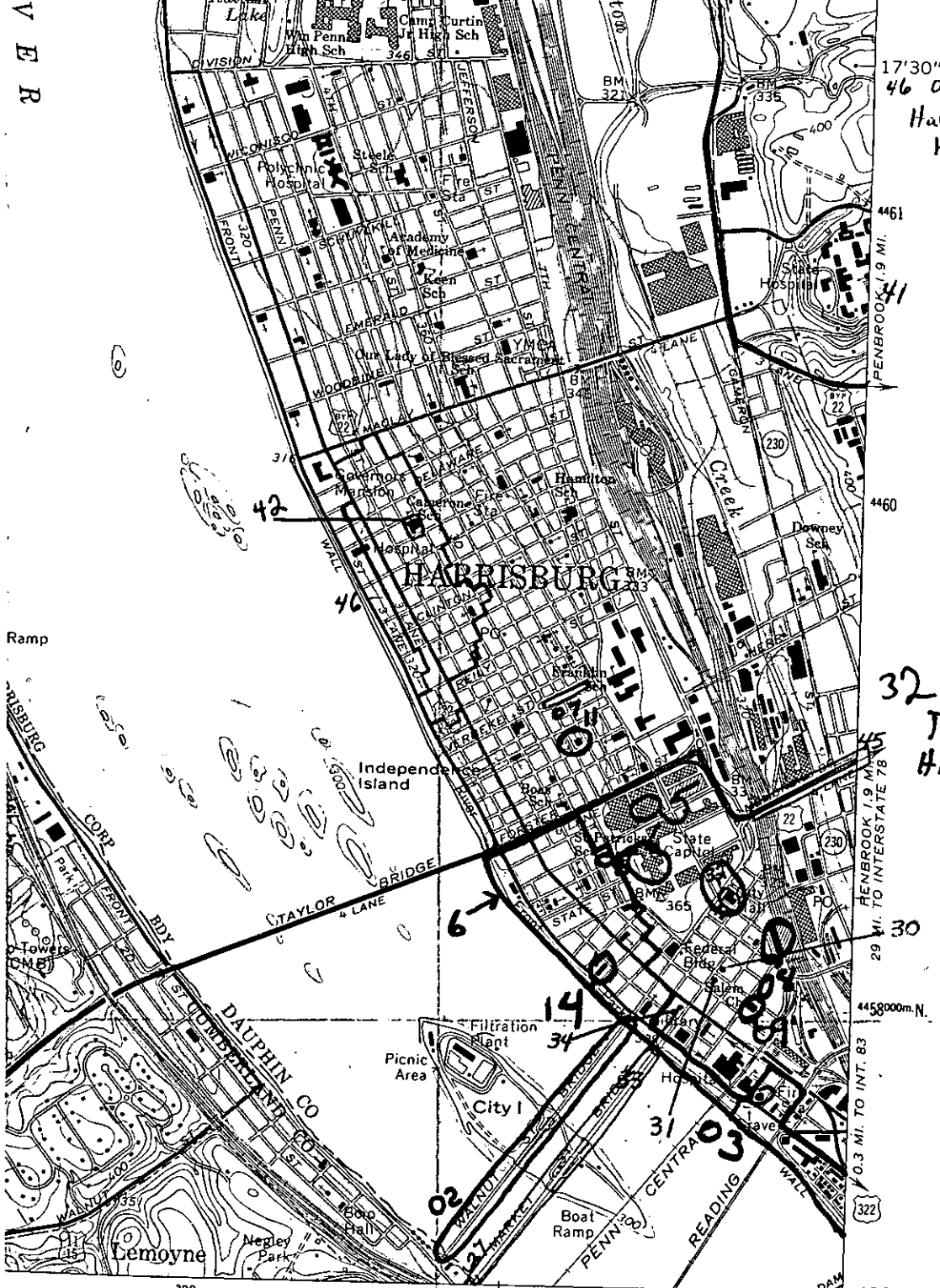
date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date

Chief of Registration

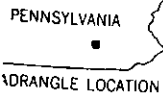
V E R



17°30"
46 Old Uptown
Harrisburg
Hist. Dist.

32 Harrisburg
Technical
High School
→

Ramp



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C.—1972
339 340000m.E 76°52'30"

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Primary highway, hard surface _____
- Secondary highway, hard surface _____
- Light-duty road, hard or improved surface _____
- Unimproved road _____
- Interstate/Route
- U. S. Route
- State Route

(STEELTON)
5664 III NE

HARRISBURG WEST, PA. (2 QUADS)

SW/4 HARRISBURG 15' QUADRANGLE
N4015—W7652.5/7.5

1969

AMS 5664 IV SW—SERIES V831