

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

 NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
 INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR N.P.S. USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

40  
O.K.
 SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
 TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS
**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

THE WILLIAM A. HEISS HOUSE AND BUGGY SHOP

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

523 Green Street (lot 127) and (lot 125)

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Mifflinburg

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

17

STATE

Pennsylvania

CODE

42

COUNTY

Union

CODE

119

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

 DISTRICT  
 BUILDING(S)  
 STRUCTURE  
 SITE  
 OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

 PUBLIC  
 PRIVATE
 BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

 IN PROCESS  
 BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

 OCCUPIED  
 UNOCCUPIED  
 WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

 YES: RESTRICTED  
 YES: UNRESTRICTED  
 NO

## PRESENT USE

 AGRICULTURE  
 COMMERCIAL  
 EDUCATIONAL  
 ENTERTAINMENT  
 GOVERNMENT  
 INDUSTRIAL  
 MILITARY  
 MUSEUM  
 PARK  
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
 RELIGIOUS  
 SCIENTIFIC  
 TRANSPORTATION  
 OTHER:
**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Norman Heiss

STREET &amp; NUMBER

R. D. #2

CITY, TOWN

Mifflinburg

VICINITY OF

STATE

Pennsylvania 17844

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Union County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

South Second and St. Louis Streets

CITY, TOWN

Lewisburg

STATE

Pennsylvania

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

9/7/78

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Pennsylvania Historical &amp; Museum Commission

CITY, TOWN

Harrisburg

STATE

Pennsylvania

# 7. DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

—EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
—FAIR

—DETERIORATED  
—RUINS  
—UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

—UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

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

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

There are three structures associated with the Heiss family and Heiss Buggy Works. The Heiss house, survey lot #127, 523 Green Street, stands on a 46 foot lot on the north side of the street. It is a two story, frame, five bay structure with an extension at the back along the west (right) side. It was built in 1870 and sold to Mrs. Catherine (Reuben) Heiss in 1872. Her son, William Heiss, was the coach maker. His first shop stood at the east side of this house. It burned about a decade ago. Meanwhile, in 1889, he had moved into the present shop.

The house has a central hall and stairway with the original balustrade; also a second stairs in the extension. There are five rooms downstairs, and four rooms and a bathroom upstairs. The latter was originally a bedroom. There is also a balcony.

There is a stoop in front; brackets are original. Vertical boards at the corners of the exterior suggest pre-Victorian details. The house is sheathed with German siding. The back of the house is charred from the above mentioned fire. Dampness has eroded some of the interior plaster on walls and ceilings. The stone foundation wall at the rear will require restoration. The furnace and the wiring are obsolete.

The Buggy Shop: This is a rectangular, wood frame, board and batten structure, 63 feet in length and 24 feet in width. It was built in two sections along a slope, with a cellar at the rear. The front (blacksmith shop) was built by William A. Heiss in 1889; the back, later the same year. It originally had an "L" on the west side at the rear, with a platform and ramp at its front.

In front it has three bays, two stories with an attic in the gable. There are seven bays at the sides. The blacksmith shop contains the original double forge, bellows, etc. In a room behind it is an early gasoline engine which powered the machines in the early 20th century. There is storage space in the section at the rear; this is true also of the cellar. The second floor at the front contains the woodworking area, where the boxes were constructed; also the stitching machines, where the tops were formed. Behind this room is the paint shop, with an early 20th century concrete floor and storage space. The building remains unpainted after 89 years. The corrugated iron roof is in poor condition. The sheathing needs repairs; also work on the window frames, doors, sash and glass.

#### The Display-Storage Center

This rectangular frame, 2 story structure was erected by William A. Heiss in 1895, and measures 50 feet in width and 33 feet in depth. It's on the south side of Quarry Road 1 lot west of the buggy building. The 2 floors and cellar were used for display purposes and storage. The first floor (with 4 bays) has several temporary partitions, 1 room serving until recently as an apiary. The upper floor is a single room. Ramps, used to move the vehicles from floor to floor have rotted away, and the stone foundation at the rear has sagged. A small cupola with weather vane crowns the building, which still appears to have its original paint, tan with red trim.

# 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"/> 400-1499	<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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1870, 1889, 1895

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The William A. Heiss House and Buggy Shop are a valuable historic resource to the town of Mifflinburg, the "buggy town". The shop contains all the buggy making tools and equipment, as well as parts of buggys in various stages of completion.

The town of Mifflinburg was laid out in 1792 and developed slowly as a small rural community. In the early 1800's the town's economy centered upon its stores, shops and hotelries. It wasn't until 1841 that Mifflinburg began a industry which would mushroom and make Mifflinburg the buggy capitol of Pennsylvania. From 1841 hundreds of buggy's and sleighs were manufactured by the more than 25 buggy shops of Mifflinburg.

But the end of this booming business was in sight, by 1890 the call for buggy's decreased and when the car made its appearance all but a few shops closed down.

The Heiss Buggy Shop is a well preserved example of the buggy making operation, its greatest value is its almost untouched appearance since its closing down.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bicentennial History of Union County, Pa. (1976) by Charles M. Snyder.

Harrisburg Patriot, Dan Cupper's feature article, May 15, 1978.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

(3 lots: 125'x50, 125'x46', 2.3 acres)

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.7

QUADRANGLE NAME Mifflinburg

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,8 | 3,2,7 | 4,6,0 | 4,5 | 3,1 | 1,0,0

B 1,8 | 3,2,7 | 4,6,0 | 4,5 | 3,1 | 0,6,0

ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
C 1,8 | 3,2,7 | 4,8,0 | 4,5 | 3,1 | 1,2,0

ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(See Continuation Sheet)

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

Charles M. Snyder'

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

Box 86

TELEPHONE

717-966-0233

CITY OR TOWN

Mifflinburg

STATE

Pennsylvania 17844

# 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 ED WEINTRAUB, Director  
Office of Historic Preservation

DATE

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

HEISS HOUSE & BUGGY SHOP, Union County

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

Heiss House

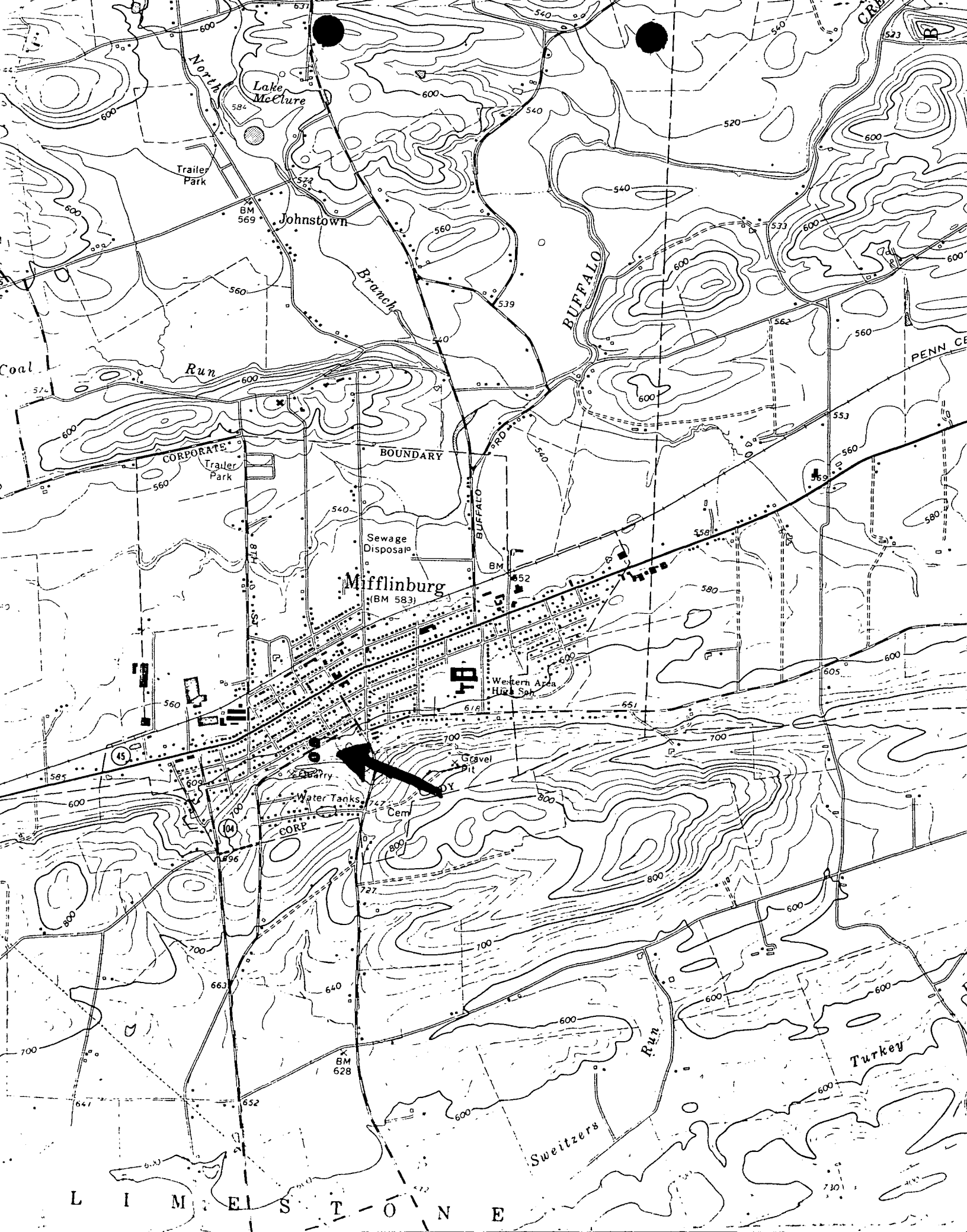
Starting at a point on south side of Green Street moving east for 46 feet then south for 125 feet to north side of Quarry Road then west for 46 feet then north for 125 feet to starting point.

Shop

Starting at a point on southside of Green Street moving east for 50 feet then south for 125' to Quarry Road, then west for 50 feet then north for 125 feet to starting point.

Display Area

Starting at a point on southside of Quarry Road moving east for 337 feet then southwest for 337 feet then west for 323.9 feet and north for 284.6 feet to starting point.



Lake McClure

Trailer Park

Johnstown

Branch

BUFFALO

Run

CORPORATE

Trailer Park

BOUNDARY

Millflint  
(BM 583)

Sewage Disposal

Western Area  
Hike Sp.

Water Tanks

Gravel Pit

Cem

Turkey

Switzers

L I M E S T O N E

Mefflinburg, PA 15' Quadrangle  
1965 Photorevised 1973