

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED	
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

BENJAMIN GRIFFEY HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

R.D. #1 (N. side Rt. 44, 1/4 m. east of Lycoming County)

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Allenwood

VICINITY OF

17

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Pennsylvania

42

Union

119

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Frank and Donald Reaser

STREET & NUMBER

R. D. #1

CITY, TOWN

Allenwood

VICINITY OF

STATE

Pennsylvania

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Union County Courthouse, Register and Recorder

STREET & NUMBER

South Second & St. Louis Streets

CITY, TOWN

Lewisburg

STATE

Pennsylvania

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Union County Planning Commission Survey, 1976

DATE

1976

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Union County Planning Commission Office, Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Lewisburg

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 type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This is a high, 2½ story, rectangular five-bay, brick (covered with a layer of smooth stucco) house with an L extension on the left (east) side. It was set behind a formal square garden (now neglected). It measures 54 feet across the front, and 30 feet from front to back plus the L which extends another 27 feet. A two story bay window with three facings just left of center dominates the front. A steep pitched gable rises behind it. The bay window is flanked by two decorative porches. The windows, some single, others double, have rounded arches. A line of cut stone runs along the foundation, and brick quoins add emphasis at the corners.

The main entrance is at the right of the bay window, and includes a double Victorian door with a red glass (rectangular) transom. The hallway contains a magnificent staircase which extends to the attic. The living room to the left of the hall has 15 foot ceilings and a molded design at the center. There is also a brown marble fireplace. Doors and woodwork are of walnut.

A fireplace of late design (that is 19th century) in the kitchen is fitted with iron doors.

The house is now in fair condition. Porches have rotted, spoutings have fallen and the foundation needs attention.

# 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 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 checked="" 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      circa 1886                                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      Benjamin Griffey

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This unusually fine Victorian house was erected circa 1886 by Benjamin Griffey a local builder for his own residence. Benjamin Griffey built many of the industrial structures throughout the county during the mid-1800's. Following a disastous fire in 1850 he rebuilt the White Deer grist mill. He also built the White Deer Woolen Mills in 1848-50. This 6 story wooden structure powered by an 85 horsepower overshot waterwheel housed a woolen cloth and felt hat operation which supplied blankets to the Union soldiers during the Civil War.

Griffey's skill as a builder can be seen in the fine construction of his own home. Unfortunately the house has been neglected in recent years and now needs urgent attention. In the first part of the 20th century the house descended through a daughter to the Fairchild Family. Helen Fairchild, who grew up in the Griffey House, became a local hero during the World War I. Trained at the Philadelphia General Hospital she was one of the few nurses to serve and die at the Front in France. An American Legion Post, #412, in Philadelphia was named in her honor.

The Griffey House is one of the finest rural Victorian houses in Union County.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Records of Post 412 American Legion, Philadelphia; also file of Helen Fairchild, Veterans' Affairs Office, Union County Courthouse, Lewisburg, Pa. 17837

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .2

QUADRANGLE NAME \_\_\_\_\_

QUADRANGLE SCALE \_\_\_\_\_

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 335000 45153920

B \_\_\_\_\_

C \_\_\_\_\_

D \_\_\_\_\_

E \_\_\_\_\_

F \_\_\_\_\_

G \_\_\_\_\_

H \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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, Union County Planning Commission

ORGANIZATION

Union County Bicentennial Committee

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

South Second & St. Louis Streets

TELEPHONE

524-4461

CITY OR TOWN

Lewisburg

STATE

Pennsylvania

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

LOCAL X

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

*William J. Wewer*

TITLE WILLIAM J. WEWER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

DATE 3/17/78

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

*Griffey-Fairchild-Reaser House*  
*Bregg Twp* Zone 18 53920  
E 335000

