

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR N.P.S. USE ONLY

44

 NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
 INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

HISTORIC

CHAMBERLIN IRON FRONT BUILDING

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

434 Market Street

—NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Lewisburg

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

17

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Pennsylvania

CODE

42

COUNTY

Union

CODE

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 checked="" 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	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 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:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Derr Brothers (Ronald E. and Charles Robert)

STREET & NUMBER

434 Market Street

CITY, TOWN

Lewisburg

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Pennsylvania 17837

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Union County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

South Second & St. Louis Streets

CITY, TOWN

Lewisburg

STATE

Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

10/19/77

—FEDERAL STATE —COUNTY —LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

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 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 rectangular, three story brick Italinete structure with a two story addition in the rear measuring 56 feet across the front and 160 feet in depth. There are 7 bays of large arched windows across the front and 10 bays on the exposed west side. The addition has 4 bays. The roof of the main structure is flat, while the extended two story rear section has a gable roof. Window sash at the exposed side have been modified to provide larger panes, but the original 12 pane 2 over 2 sash remain at the rear. A predominant feature is the cast iron front, reputed to come from an iron foundry in nearby Danville.

Because of the cast iron, there is no wall, per se, on the front of the building. The entire facade is composed of detailed architectural elements: columns or pilasters, windows and frames, cornices with brackets and fringe. Cornices serve as a horizontal banding element on each floor and architecturally oppose the vertical thrust of the pilasters, brackets, and arched windows. Vertical continuity is sustained by every pilaster being topped by an ornate cornice bracket at each floor. The arches above the elliptical arched windows spring from the base of the bracket, establishing a consistent rhythm across the facade. All decorative elements are repetitive. In addition, each paneled pilaster has a decorative element just below the halfway point that relieves the vertical thrust of the column and establishes a visual relationship with the ornate fringe design above. It is a rare regional example of an iron front building.

The exposed side of the building along Fifth Street features identically spaced windows on the second and third floors of the main building. The lintels and heads of the two over two windows are similar - although the lintel has a slight overhand -- heightening the symmetrical effect. Irregular window and door treatment on the first floor, however, breaks this regular pattern.

The front exterior of the building has been altered only on two occasions. In the 1930's the iron pilasters on the ground floor were removed and a recessed bay was cut into stores on both sides of the building. Later, in the 1950's, the bay on the west side was filled in with a solid glass front. In 1973 a fire engulfed the third floor destroying the roof which has since been repaired. The east wall of the building is structurally unsound and has been shored up with braces.

Interior: There is a central stairway, dividing the first floor into two commercial establishments; they are now combined into one. The structure is framed with massive wooden beams, some spanning 28 feet between the walls. Piers and posts support the thrust along the center. The decorative metal ceiling on the first floor is still intact. A curved metal molding at the top of each interior wall picks up the decorative pattern of the ceiling panels.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

PREHISTORIC
1400-1499
1500-1599
1600-1699
1700-1799
X 1800-1899
1900-

__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
__AGRICULTURE
X ARCHITECTURE
__ART
X COMMERCE
__COMMUNICATIONS

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

__COMMUNITY PLANNING
__CONSERVATION
__ECONOMICS
__EDUCATION
__ENGINEERING
__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
__INDUSTRY
__INVENTION

__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
__LAW
__LITERATURE
__MILITARY
__MUSIC
__PHILOSOPHY
__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

__RELIGION
__SCIENCE
__SCULPTURE
X SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__THEATER
__TRANSPORTATION
__OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Lewis Palmer

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The building was erected in 1868 by Lewis Palmer, Lewisburg's noted architect and builder for three Chamberlin Brothers--William H., J.W., and R. H. Chamberlin also had built on the premises several other buildings, a shop, stables, and shed, all of frame construction. On February 10, 1883 the building was sold by Chamberlin's widow to Alfred Hayes, a local attorney for \$10,000. In 1917 William V. Hayes and Alfred Hays, Jr. sold the building to the Odd Fellows for \$19,500. It was sold again on June 28, 1978 to Derr Brothers. The Chamberlin Iron Front Building offered a new mode of architecture for the region --northern Italian Renaissance Revival with elliptical arched windows, a facade of cast iron, and an entablature between each story; the cast iron facilitating the widening of the windows.

This building is identified with two very prominent Lewisburg names; Lewis Palmer and Chamberlin. Lewis Palmer a young architect from Tyrone, Blair County, came to Lewisburg in 1855, and during the last years of his life dramatically changed the buildings and skyline for Lewisburg. He built the Lewisburg Academy (Taylor Hall) and the College at Lewisburg which is now known as Roberts and Old Main, the two oldest and among the first on the campus of Bucknell. These two buildings had been planned by Thomas U. Walter, who is remembered for his dome on the Capitol in Washington D. C.

Palmer not only erected these two, but added features of his own. He built the Union County Courthouse, still in use, as well as the Chamberlin Building and a number of outstanding private dwellings. He remains the most distinguished builder in the 19th century in Union County.

The Chamberlin Building Building has been an extremely important commercial structure. The building has had many occupants: groceries, general store, shoe store, feed store. In the 1870's the west side of the first floor, which was larger, held the Himmelrich General Merchandise Store for 40 years.

From 1904-1924 it housed J. F. Groover General Store. In 1924 Groover moved to the east side, and continued there until 1948.

Meanwhile the Wolf Shoe Store had occupied the east side from 1904 until 1924. From 1924 until 1933 the Post Office used the west side. At the rear of the building, the Slifer Brothers had a feed store through the first quarter of the 20th century.

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Chamberlin Iron Front Building, Union County

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

Later the rear portion was occupied by the University Printing Company until 1953. The Bucknell college newspaper The Bucknellian was edited and printed there.

From 1948 until 1975 Reish Brothers Electrical operated a retail business and electrical service on the first floor. In 1975 Derr Brothers acquired title to the building from the International Order of Odd Fellows, the previous owners. They also operate an electrical business.

The International Order of Odd Fellows, who had already been using the building as a meeting place, purchased the building for a lodge hall in 1917. They continue to meet on the second floor until the present day. At one time, the Lodge had attained statewide prominence. State conventions were frequently held in Lewisburg at their Lodge Hall. The building was a major focus for fraternal and musical activity in the town. The upper two floors were used for this purpose. The Knights of the Golden Eagles Lodge and the Junior Order of American Mechanics used the building for meeting and band rehearsals. The Royal Arcade Lodge and the Redman Lodge also met there. Several bands, including the old Lewisburg Bank, used the upper floors. The local Masonic Lodge for many years used rooms on the third floor.

Quite unique for Lewisburg at the time, one of the upperrooms was a lending library for blacks.

The Chamberlin Iron Building is an anchor building in the streetscape of downtown Lewisburg, a town which is now seeking to develop appropriate uses for its extant 19th century commercial buildings.

Standing at the intersection of 5th and Market Streets, the building, by its size and mass, creates an important visual western entry into the main business district of the town. It is one of the few examples of an iron front building in the region. The present owner is seeking to restore this landmark building to its original appearance. Because of the building's prominence and ornamental design qualities, it is an appropriate object for preservation.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Deed recorded in Register & Recorder's Office, Union Co. Courthouse, lot purchased 1859 by William H., J.W., and R. H. Chamberlain
 "Lewisburg Union Argus" January 8, 1856, December 23, 1856
Bicentennial History of Union County, Charles M. Snyder, 1976.
Geneological and Biographical Annals of Northumberland Co., Chicago; 1911.
Contemporary Evaluation of Lewis Palmer Source. "Lewisburg Sentinel" 1856.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .2

QUADRANGLE NAME _____ QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	3,4,1,1,6,0	4,5,3,6,1,9,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Starting at a point on corner of Market St. and 5th Street moving E for 56' along S side of Market St. then SE for 160' to Pin Alley then SW for 56' to E side of 5th St. then NW along E side of 5th St. for 160 feet to starting point.

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

Thomas R. Deans

ORGANIZATION

Woodward & Deans

STREET & NUMBER

311 North Front Street

CITY OR TOWN

Milton

DATE

TELEPHONE

STATE

Pennsylvania 17847

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

Ed Weintraub 2-9-79

TITLE ED WEINTRAUB, Director
Office of Historic Preservation

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

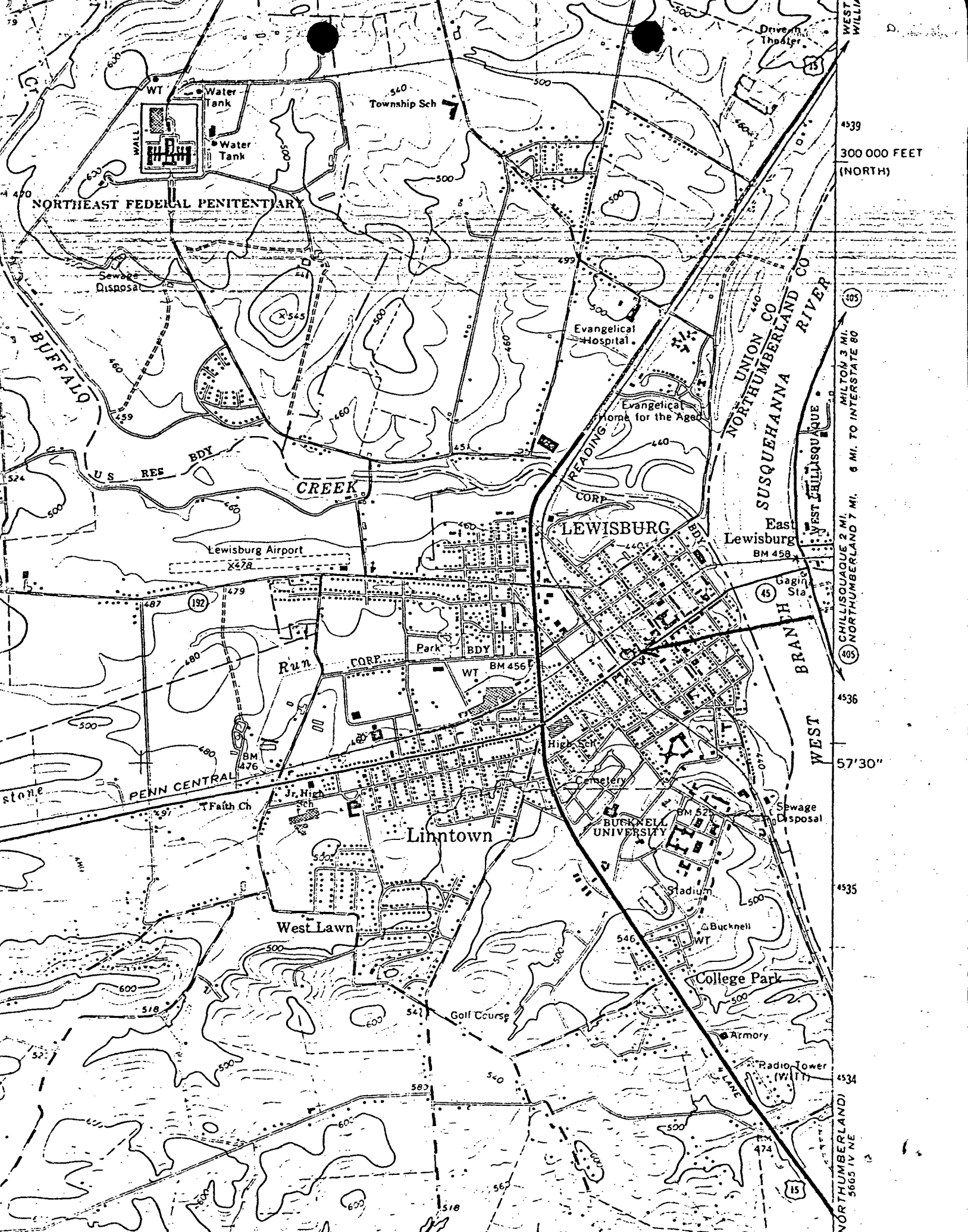
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION



NORTHEAST FEDERAL PENITENTIARY

Township Sch

BUFFALO CREEK

CREEK

LEWISBURG

Linntown

BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY

College Park

East Lewisburg

PENN CENTRAL

SUSQUEHANNA RIVER
NORTHUMBERLAND CO
UNION CO

WEST CHILLASAUQUE
WEST WILLIA
MILTON 3 MI.
CHILLSAUAQUE 2 MI.
NORTHUMBERLAND 7 MI. 6 MI. TO INTERSTATE 80

4539

300 000 FEET (NORTH)

4536

57'30"

4535

4534

NORTHUMBERLAND)
5665 IV NE

5415" X 165"

Lewisburg Quadrangle
1965 PhotoRevised 1973