CITY, TOWN

Harrisburg

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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Pennsylvania

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS 1 NAME HISTORIC Robinson House AND/OR COMMON White House 2 LOCATION STREET & NUMBER 120 Main NOT FOR PUBLICATION CITY, TOWN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Wellsboro VICINITY OF CODE COUNTY STATE CODE Pennsylvania 117 Tioga 3 CLASSIFICATION **CATEGORY** OWNERSHIP **STATUS PRESENT USE** _DISTRICT X.PUBLIC X.OCCUPIED __AGRICULTURE __MUSEUM X.BUILDING(S) __PRIVATE __UNOCCUPIED __COMMERCIALPARK _STRUCTURE __вотн __WORK IN PROGRESS _EDUCATIONAL __PRIVATE RESIDENCE __SITE **PUBLIC ACQUISITION ACCESSIBLE** ENTERTAINMENTRELIGIOUS __OBJECT __IN PROCESS XYES: RESTRICTED **X** GOVERNMENT __SCIENTIFIC __BEING CONSIDERED _YES: UNRESTRICTED _INDUSTRIAL _TRANSPORTATION __NO __MILITARY _OTHER: 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY NAME County Commissioners of Tioga County STREET & NUMBER 118 Main CITY, TOWN STATE Pennsylvania Wellsboro 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION COURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Courthouse STREET & NUMBER 118 Main CITY, TOWN STATE Pennsylvania Wellsboro 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS TITLE Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places DATE __FEDERAL X_STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL 1/12/77 **DEPOSITORY FOR** SURVEY RECORDS Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission



CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

__EXCELLENT

__DETERIORATED

__UNALTERED

X_ORIGINAL SITE

__GOOD

__RUINS
__UNEXPOSED

__MOVED DATE____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Robinson House is retangular, two stories, five bay Greek Revival Style with a rectangular shaped wing in the rear. The 116' x 72' house has cut stone foundation and partial basement. The roof is medium gabled and pedimented with plain boxed cornices and friezes. The pediments are flush board. Wall construction is nailed frame end board covered with clapboard.

The windows are double hung sash with single lights. The original 6 over 6 windows were replaced in the 1890's. A small 6 bay extension on the side wall was also added at this time.

The front (south) of the house is five bays wide and has a one story pertico with engaged and freestanding wood Sonic Columns. The center, main facade door is wood with plain trim head and sides. It has recessed side panels with windows. The door is molded wood and has a four section semi-circular window.

The house has two plain single unit brick chimneys located on the gable ends. They serve four fireplaces. A third chimney was added after 1900 to accommodate a furnace.

The interior has two staircases leading to the second story; one at the rear of the main building which has a door at the bottom and the main staircase which is located in the center of the building. This main staircase along with the hall divides each story forming two rooms in the gabled portion of the main building. These rooms are a mirror image on the first story with identical fireplaces at the end of the rooms.

In the non-gabled area the first story is divided into two rooms. One is a kitchen/dining area which is entered from the hallway through Dutch doors. The other room is now entered by going through the bay window area. The original door between the front and rear rooms here has been closed over and a closet constructed. Upstairs there is one room, a closet and the rear staircase. This non-gabled section is lower than the gabled portion of the main building.



PERIOD AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE --- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW _PREHISTORIC ARCHEULUGY-PREHISTORIC __COMMUNITY PLANNING __LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE __RELIGION __1400-1499 _ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC __CONSERVATION __LAW _SCIENCE __1500-1599 __AGRICULTURE __ECONOMICS __LITERATURE __SCULPTURE XARCHITECTURE __1600-1699 __EDUCATION __MILITARY __SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN _1700-1799 __ART __ENGINEERING __MUSIC __THEATER X 1800-1899 __COMMERCE __EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT __PHILOSOPHY __TRANSPORTATION __COMMUNICATIONS ___1900-__INDUSTRY __POLITICS/GOVERNMENT X.OTHER (SPECIFY) __INVENTION Local History

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Robinson House is a fine example of a local adaptation of the Greek Revival style. Its simplistic lines, undecorated freize and simple portico add to the homes a quiet clean look.

Once the home of John L. Robinson, president of Wellsboros only bank and was the scene of Wellsboros most sensational crime. On the night of September 16, 1874, John L. Robinson and his family were forced from their beds and were tied and handcuffed by seven robbers. After unsuccessfully trying to open the banks vault the robbers came to the Robinson home and forced Eugene H. Robinson, John Robinson's son and the banks cashier, to open the vault. The rest of the family were tied and the house was nailed shut. The robbers made off with \$50,000 in cash and securities. Eventually two of the robbers were caught and most of the cash was returned. But the robbery and its circumstances were the sensation of the time.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

History of Troga County 1883. History of Troga County 1897. ATLAS of Troga County 1875. Old Troga 1877.

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