

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Pennsylvania
COUNTY: Fayette
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE APR 26 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
The Thomas Gaddis Homestead

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Fort Gaddis

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
R.D. #3 (OFF ROUTE 119, 2.9 MILES SOUTH OF UNIONTOWN)

CITY OR TOWN:
South Union Township, Uniontown

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
22nd

STATE:
Pennsylvania

CODE:
42

COUNTY:
Fayette

CODE:
051

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	Presently vacant, to be	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	restored	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Donald Shoaf, Jr.

STREET AND NUMBER:
R.D. #3, Box 777A

CITY OR TOWN:
Uniontown

STATE:
Pennsylvania

CODE:
42

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Fayette County Courthouse (Deed Book 1142, p. 414)

STREET AND NUMBER:
East Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Uniontown

STATE:
Pennsylvania

CODE:
42

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

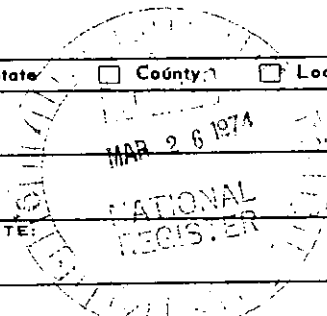
STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: **Pennsylvania**

COUNTY: **Fayette**

ENTRY NUMBER: **APR 26 1974**

DATE: **APR 26 1974**

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

By 1798, the Thomas Gaddis Homestead consisted of a hewed log structure approximately 20 feet in width by 50 feet in length and 1½ stories in height. The original structure, however, was built sometime between 1758 and 1770 and was probably quite similar to the structure as it stands today, approximately 26 feet in length and 20 feet in width. The log wall on the north end of the present structure would indicate an exterior wall, thereby indicating the extra 24 feet on the north end was a later addition.

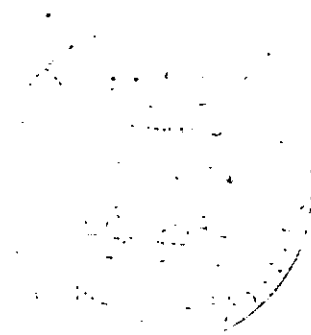
Photographs dated to 1900 show a portion of this addition as well as a porch on the west side. By 1909, the addition and the porch were gone, leaving only a free-standing chimney on what was once its north wall. By the 1920's, the chimney was also gone.

Today, the Gaddis Homestead is a one-room log structure, 1½ stories high, 26 feet long and 20 feet wide. The building is symmetrical in shape with central front and rear opposing doors, and six over six double hung sash windows to the left and right of both doors. The ends of the house are currently covered with rolled asphalt siding. Early photographs reveal an enclosed end door on the second floor of the north end. The gable roof is currently covered with rolled asphalt roofing. Ceiling joists extend through the walls a short distance.

The main floor consists of one room with a gable-end cooking fireplace. To the left of the fireplace, between it and the stairway, is a built-in storage area. The adjacent, turning stairway, leads to a half-story room above the main floor. The room is open except for a small fireplace at one side of the chimney.

The structure is perhaps the oldest building in Fayette County.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian; 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

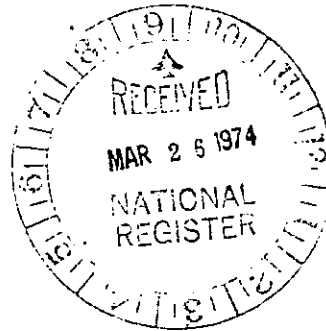
- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Thomas Gaddis Homestead was built as a settlers' fort a short distance south of present-day Uniontown, Pennsylvania, on land which Gaddis, who had moved from the Apple Pie Ridge area of Virginia to the then West Augusta County of Virginia (now Fayette County Pennsylvania), apparently selected for his new home. On April 3, 1769, Gaddis filed his intent to purchase the land. The Rolls Patent Office Survey recorded his "Hundred Acre Springs" as containing 323 and 3/4 acres.

The homestead was built sometime between 1758 and 1770 and became the home for Gaddis, his wife, and their eight children. It also served as a local settlers' fort during the Revolutionary War. Gaddis served as a Colonel in the Virginia militia and was apparently in command of the defense of a segment of what later became southwestern Pennsylvania. On several occasions, he mustered his troops to defend their property and in 1778, marched against the Indians.

The present one-room log structure is a remnant of the original homestead and is the oldest known building in existence in Fayette County Pennsylvania.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Alberts, G.D., Report of the Commission to Locate the Sites of the Frontier Forts of Pennsylvania, 1896.
- Ellis, Franklin, A History of Fayette County, L.H. Everts and Co., Philadelphia, 1882, pp. 674, 680-681, 692.
- Fulton, T. Ray, "Fort Gaddis," Fort Necessity and Historic Shrines of Redstone Country, Ft. Necessity Chapter of Penna., Sons of the American Revolution, Uniontown, Pa., 1932.
- Hadden, James, A History of Uniontown, the County Seat of Fayette County, Pennsylvania, New Werner Co., Akron, Ohio, 1913, pp. 378, 686.
- Mulkearn, Lois and Edwin V. Pugh, A Traveler's Guide to Historic Western Pennsylvania, University of Pittsburgh Press, Pittsburgh, 1954, pp. 219-220.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "	39 °	52 ' 02 "	79 ° 44 ' 38 "
NE	° ' "	° ' "			
SE	° ' "	° ' "			
SW	° ' "	° ' "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Ronald L. Michael, Professor of Anthropology/David M. Berman, Curator

ORGANIZATION: California State College/Penna. Historical & Museum Comm. DATE: Feb, Mar 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: California State College/Wm Penn Memorial Museum

CITY OR TOWN: California/Harrisburg STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: William J. Wewer

Title: Executive Director, Pa Historical and Museum Commission

Date: 3/21/74

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

A. B. Banta
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 4/20/74

ATTEST: Constance
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 4-24-74

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Thomas Gaddis Homestead N. Union Twp., Fayette Co. (Added Information)

Section number 8 Page 2

Added Criterion: Criterion B
Significant Person: Gaddis, Thomas
Added Area of Significance: Politics/Government

The Thomas Gaddis Homestead nomination does not mention Thomas's locally significant role in the Whiskey Rebellion. The property was listed on the National Register in 1974 under military and architectural significance. (The Gaddis house is a three bay, 1 1/2 story v-notched log building, currently in a highly deteriorated state.) According to one source, the Gaddis house was built on the Catawba Trail in 1774 by Thomas Gaddis, one of the founders of the Great Bethel Baptist Church in Uniontown. Gaddis was third in command under Col. William Crawford in the fatal campaign against the Indians in 1782. (1)

Among the political and propertied elite of Fayette County, Gaddis was early involved in the excise protest, being one of those who met at Pittsburgh on August 21, 1792. He was appointed at that time to be part of the Committee of Correspondence to carry the petition of objections to Congress. (2)

Gaddis represented Union Township, Fayette County at the Parkinson's Ferry meeting on August 14, 1794. He was also a member of the Fayette County Township Committees who met the day previous to the vote for submission on September 11, 1794. At that time they made the declarations required by the Standing Committee of Redstone. Consequently, they did not require the Fayette County voters to individually sign the oath of submission papers. As a result they only reported to the United States Commissioners that a majority of Fayette County citizens voted for submission. This resulted in no Fayette County person being exonerated for previous traitorous acts. (3)

Gaddis was one of only two men from Fayette County arrested and taken to Philadelphia to prison. He was charged with treason for "traitorously assembling" at Uniontown on August 10, 1794. State Representative Albert Gallatin stated in a letter that Gaddis was accused of setting a pole in Uniontown. At his trial on May 9, 1795 a verdict of "ignoramus" was found on the account of treason. However, he was found guilty on the charge of misdemeanor for raising the liberty pole. (4)

Albert Gallatin wrote to his wife Hannah in May, 1795, "I am obliged to attend every day at court, but have not yet been called upon. I am told the bill upon which I am to be examined is not yet filled. I guess it is against Colonel Gaddis; but I have, so far as I can recollect, nothing to say which is my opinion can hurt him. You remember that Gaddis is the man who gave an affidavit to (Gen. Henry) Lee against me. He came yesterday to me to inform me that he meant to have me summoned in his favor, as he thought my testimony must get him discharged. I did not speak to him about his affidavit, nor he to me, but he had a guilty look. I guess the man was frightened, and now feels disappointed in his hope that his accusing me would discharge him." (5)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Thomas Gaddis Homestead N. Union Twp., Fayette Co. (Added Information)

Section number 8 Page 3

Jonathan Rowland gave a deposition on April 22, 1795 for the trial. He said that Gaddis was against the excise but was against mob rule as well. He stated that the day of the liberty pole raising in Uniontown, the inhabitants of Fayette County were

requested to meet four miles from town. Gaddis went to see what it was all about. He met several hundred on their march to town and consequently appeared to be their leader. A yoke of oxen was pulling a pole behind them. He quoted Gaddis as saying that the boys were determined to go to town to set up a liberty pole, and it was not in his power to dissuade them. Gaddis did request that the people be civil and to affront no man or his property. Rowland added that Gaddis was not armed. (6)

Another version of Gaddis's involvement is listed in a local history. It stated that a liberty pole was raised on the Morgantown Road south of Uniontown, on the farm of Thomas Gaddis, who was of the principal leaders of the whiskey boys in this county. It went on to say that the pole at Gaddis's and the one in Uniontown were cut down by Gen. Ephraim Douglass in defiance of all threats. (7)

The actual story of Gaddis's role in raising the liberty pole at Uniontown will probably never be known. It is known that he was actively involved in the whiskey excise protest. In addition, as a locally prominent person, he was selected as a good example for seizure and imprisonment by the Federal government.

(1) George Swetnam and Helene Smith, A Guidebook to Historic Western Pennsylvania (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1976), p. 134.

(2) Dorothy E. Fennell, "From Rebelliousness to Insurrection: A Social History of the Whiskey Rebellion, 1765-1802" Ph. D. dissertation, Univeristy of pittsburgh, 1981 pp. 48-50. John B. Linn and William H. Egle, editors, Pennsylvania Archives, Second Series, Vol. IV, (Harrisburg, Pa.: State Printer, 1876), pp. 29-31.

(3) Pennsylvania Whiskey Rebellion Collection, 1792-96 MS 16, 804 Library of Congress, 1976, A Meeting of Committees of Several Townships of Fayette County held at Uniontown, September 10, 1794.

(4) Henry Adams, The Life of Albert Gallatin (New York: Peter smith, 1943), p. 148. Microfilm M986 Reel 1, Criminal Case Files of the U. S. Circuit court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, 1791-1840, Roll 1, Case Files, 1791-1799, U. S. vs. Thomas Gaddis, May 9, 1795.

(5) Adams, p. 147, Letter May 8, 1795 Gallatin to wife Hannah.

(6) Microfilm M986 Reel 1, U.S. vs. Thomas Gaddis

(7) Franklin Ellis, edit., History of Fayette County, Pennsylvania with Biographical

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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Continuation Sheet**

Thomas Gaddis Homestead N. Union Twp., Fayette Co. (Added Information)

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Sketches (Philadelphia: L. H. Everts & Co., 1882), p. 167.

