

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Springer Farm

and/or common N/A

**2. Location**

street & number ~~25 miles East of Fan Hollow Road~~ PA 51 N/A not for publication

city, town N. Union Township N/A vicinity of congressional district 22

state Pennsylvania code 42 county Fayette code 051

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>n/a</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<u>n/a</u> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

**4. Owner of Property**

name Fayette County Commissioners, Fayette County Courthouse

street & number East Main Street

city, town Uniontown N/A vicinity of state Pennsylvania

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Fayette County Courthouse

street & number East Main Street

city, town Uniontown state Pennsylvania

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Fayette County Historic Site Survey

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1979  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Fayette County Planning Commission

city, town Uniontown state Pennsylvania

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<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

Located just northwest of the City of Uniontown, the Springer property today contains a 2½ story brick house, a 1½ story brick springhouse/smokehouse and a frame barn.

The Springer House, measuring 65' by 35.6', is a 2½ story rectangular brick structure with a squared sandstone rubble foundation. The front facade brick is laid in Flemish bond; the other three elevations in common bond. Its medium pitch gable roof is currently covered with raised seam tin but was originally slate. Paired brick chimneys flank the gable ends. The windows are 6 over 6, double hung sash with sandstone lintels and lugsills. Two tier porches with turned walnut posts and plain balusters span the length of the house on the front and rear elevations.

The interior has a central hall plan. Decorative trim surrounding doorways, chair rails and original hardware remain. Several of the original wooden mantelpieces have survived.

Of the numerous outbuildings which once dotted the farmstead during the Springer occupancy, only two survive today. The first, a vertical sided barn located approximately 250 feet to the west of the house was possibly constructed before 1850. Currently it shelters the cattle of a local farm corporation which leases the surrounding acreage for agricultural and pastoral purposes.

Thirty-seven feet to the east of the house stands an irregularly shaped combination springhouse and smokehouse of common bond brick construction, possibly contemporary with the main house. Iron meat hooks are still visible on the ceiling beams of the smokehouse.

A brick lined cistern, three feet to the left of the house is only one of several cisterns and wells which originally provided water for the Springer household. Other previously existing outbuildings included a blacksmith shop (the foundation of which is still visible), several smaller barns, corncribs, storage sheds, privies, and other unidentifiable structures.

The photos submitted reflect the current condition of the structures (except historic photos). While the current condition of the structure is fair to poor, the house is structurally sound, its bearing walls are in excellent condition. A local non-profit preservation organization is currently involved in stabilization and hopes to fully restore the structure. To date the only work accomplished is roof patching, strengthening of porch supports and the painting of the barn roof.

## 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 checked="" 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 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** c. 1817 **Builder/Architect** Levi Springer

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Size and richness of detail, make the Springer House an unusual farmhouse in Western Pennsylvania. Although built in a material and style common to Western Pennsylvania, its double tier porches, hardware and size (14 rooms) bespeak of the wealth once associated with this agricultural property. The only alterations to its original features appear to be changes in roofing material, fire boxes and doors. Probably by Levi Springer, one of Fayette County's early settlers, the Springer Farm was a prominent agricultural unit farmed by Levi Springer and his descendents from the early 19th century to 1910. Though only two of its numerous outbuildings remain, the Springer Farm retains integrity as a fine agricultural complex.

Levi Springer emigrated from Apple Pie Ridge in Virginia during the 1770's and occupied a 389½ acre tract of land called "Unity" for which he received a patent in 1786 from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. On his property, bordering the National Road in present North Union Township, Levi constructed a 2 story log dwelling house prior to 1798 (from the Direct Tax of 1798). This may be the extant log structure situated at the western most corner of the original Springer tract and currently under separate ownership and separated by some distance. Sometime during the early 19th century, possibly as early as 1817 as determined upon examination of the Property Assessment Rolls and physical evidence, the present 14 room mansion supplanted the earlier log structure as the Springer family home.

Several years after Levi's death in 1823, his son Dennis Springer purchased the homestead and established himself as one of the area's most prominent farmers with an estate almost unequalled in size and magnificance in the county at that time.

After his death in 1866, the farmstead descended to his children who maintained it until 1910 when, at public auction, it was sold to local coal entrepreneur and millionaire, J.V. Thompson who annexed it to his neighboring Oak Hill estate, thus bringing the Springer occupancy to an end.

Although the house has been allowed to deteriorate somewhat in recent years, it remains structurally sound, retaining most of its integrity and sense of antiquity.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1.10 24.6 WHO 7-2382  
Quadrangle name Uniontown, Pa Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UMT References

A	1 7	6 0 7 2 2 0	4 4 1 9 4 2 0	B	1 7	6 0 7 5 0 0	4 4 1 9 4 4 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	1 7	6 0 7 6 8 0	4 4 1 9 4 2 0	D	1 7	6 0 7 6 9 0	4 4 1 9 1 8 0
E	1 7	6 0 7 5 0 0	4 4 1 9 1 6 0	F	1 7	6 0 7 2 4 0	4 4 1 9 2 6 0
G				H			

### Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation Sheet

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Denise L. Grantz

organization N/A date 3-14-80, 4-8-82

street & number 509 Redstone Street telephone 412-246-9380

city or town Republic state Pennsylvania 15475

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

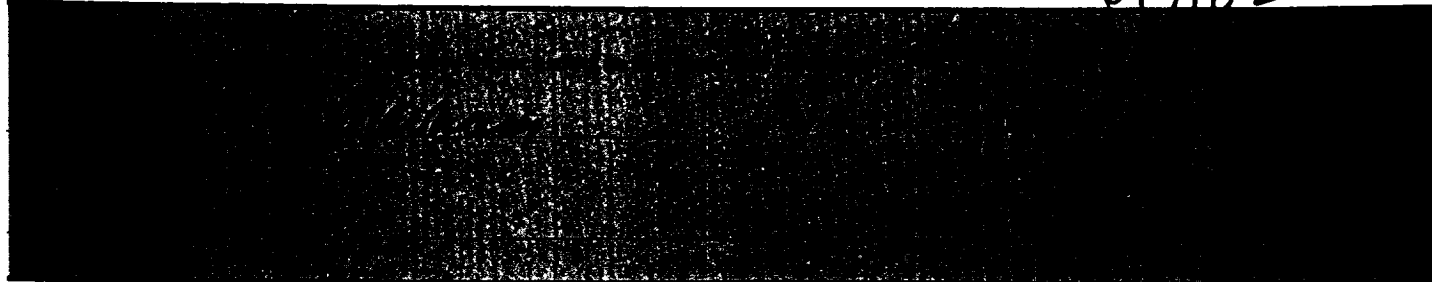
national  state  local

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Larry E. Tise, Executive Director  
title Pa. Historical & Museum Commission

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
date 6/7/82



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Springer House, Fayette County  
Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 1

Anonymous, 1810-82 Fayette County, Treasurer's Office, Property Rolls, Union Township, Uniontown, Pennsylvania.

Anonymous, Warranty Atlas of Fayette County, Pennsylvania, Recorder of Deeds Office, Uniontown, Pennsylvania.

Ellis, Franklin. History of Fayette County, Pennsylvania. 2 vols. Philadelphia: L. H. Everts Company, 1882; reprint ed., Evansville, Indiana: Unigraphic Inc., 1977, pgs. 672, 690-91.

Hansel, Sarah Springer Craig. 332 Derrick Avenue, Uniontown, Pennsylvania. Personal Communication, January, 1980.

Stotz, Charles Morse. The Architectural Heritage of Early Western Pennsylvania. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1966, p.101.

United States . Direct Tax of 1798. Tax Lists for the State of Pennsylvania, Ninth Tax Division. Second Assessment District (Fayette County). Union Township.

Wiley, Samuel T. Biographical and Portrait Encyclopedia of Fayette County, Pennsylvania. Chicago: John M. Besham & Company, 1897, p.228.