



# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR  
 DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Chambersburg and Bedford Turnpike Road Company Toll House is located on the north berm of U. S. Route 30, approximately one mile west of the Village of St. Thomas in St. Thomas Township of Franklin County, Pennsylvania. The toll house is situated on a slight slope near a spring run and faces east.

The dwelling is a two story, three bay structure built of coursed native limestone. Stones of fairly uniform size and shape were used in construction of the east or front elevation and the north and south gable walls while the west wall displays more randomly cut rubble stones. Generally, larger coursed stones appear at the second story level. Since the toll house is built on a slope at the edge of the road, its north elevation is considerably higher than the south wall. There is no decorative masonry associated with the exterior of the building.

Window and door openings are placed randomly in the walls. Prominently centered in the south elevation is the door which opens off the edge of the highway, illustrating the role of this building as a turnpike toll house. This door has a wide frame joined with wooden pegs and trimmed with ogee molding. The door, apparently not original, has six low relief panels, two of which have been replaced with glass. The main residential entrance is located in the north end bay of the east wall.

All windows have two over two pane double hung sashes which appear to date from the late 19th or early 20th century. Some of these windows have wide frames like that of the toll keeper's door. Others have narrower frames which appear to be replacements. Only two windows are present at the upper story of the front elevation while the first story has three openings. The upper level windows are set high in the wall against the eaves.

A one story shed roofed porch supported by turned wooden posts extends along the front elevation. A strip of wood attached to the south wall between the first and second stories suggests that a porch or overhang was present at one time.

The roof is covered with sheet metal. A brick chimney is located inside the north gable end while a modern rock faced block flue rises against the west wall.

Plans have been made to restore the house which appears to be in fair to good condition and stands on a tract containing 35.46 acres. Only the toll house and its immediate surroundings are being nominated. From 1818 to 1820, the toll house lot consisted of  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre which belonged to the Chambersburg and Bedford Turnpike Road Company.

# 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 checked="" 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 ca. 1818

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of this early 19th century building lies in its role as a toll house along a very important turnpike road. Architecturally the house follows folk building patterns in southern Pennsylvania and the Cumberland Valley where construction with the native stone was widespread.

On January 15, 1818, John and Mathlena Mish sold  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre of land along the established wagon road from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh to the Chambersburg and Bedford Turnpike Road Company for \$100. (Deed Book 10, Page 775) Presumably the Turnpike Company erected the toll house shortly after they acquired the property. Indeed, the exterior architectural detail would suggest a ca. 1818 construction date. The toll house lot was held by the Turnpike Company until April 6, 1920, when it was sold to John M. Small for \$60; thus reverting to the farm of which it had been a part prior to Turnpike ownership. (Deed Book 199, Page 142).

According to an 1887 History of Franklin County published by Warner, Beers and Company, the Pittsburgh Turnpike was formed about 1820. The state of Pennsylvania contributed heavily to the portion of the pike known as the Chambersburg and Bedford Road subscribing \$175,000. The history describes the turnpike as follows: "The road from Chambersburg to Pittsburgh was often lined with long files of broad wheeled wagons with their high bows covered with heavy canvas, and drawn by those teams of powerful draught horses, for which Pennsylvania was once famous, many of whose necks were mounted with bearskin housings and tinkling bells."<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Warner, Beers and Company. ed. 1887, History of Franklin County, Pennsylvania, Evansville, Indiana; Unigraphic, Inc. (1975) 220.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Franklin County Land Records.

Warner, Beers and Co. ed. 1887, History of Franklin County, Pennsylvania,  
Evansville, Indiana; Unigraphic, Inc. 1975.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .25 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	8	25	9	4	7	0	4	4	2	1	7	0	0
ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING							

B 

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING							

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Paula Stoner Dickey, Consultant, Architectural History

ORGANIZATION

Prepared for the St. Thomas Bicentennial Comm.

DATE

January 3, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

335 South Ridge Avenue

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Greencastle

STATE

Pennsylvania

# 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

TITLE

WILLIAM J. WEWER, Executive Director

DATE

Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

4/10/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

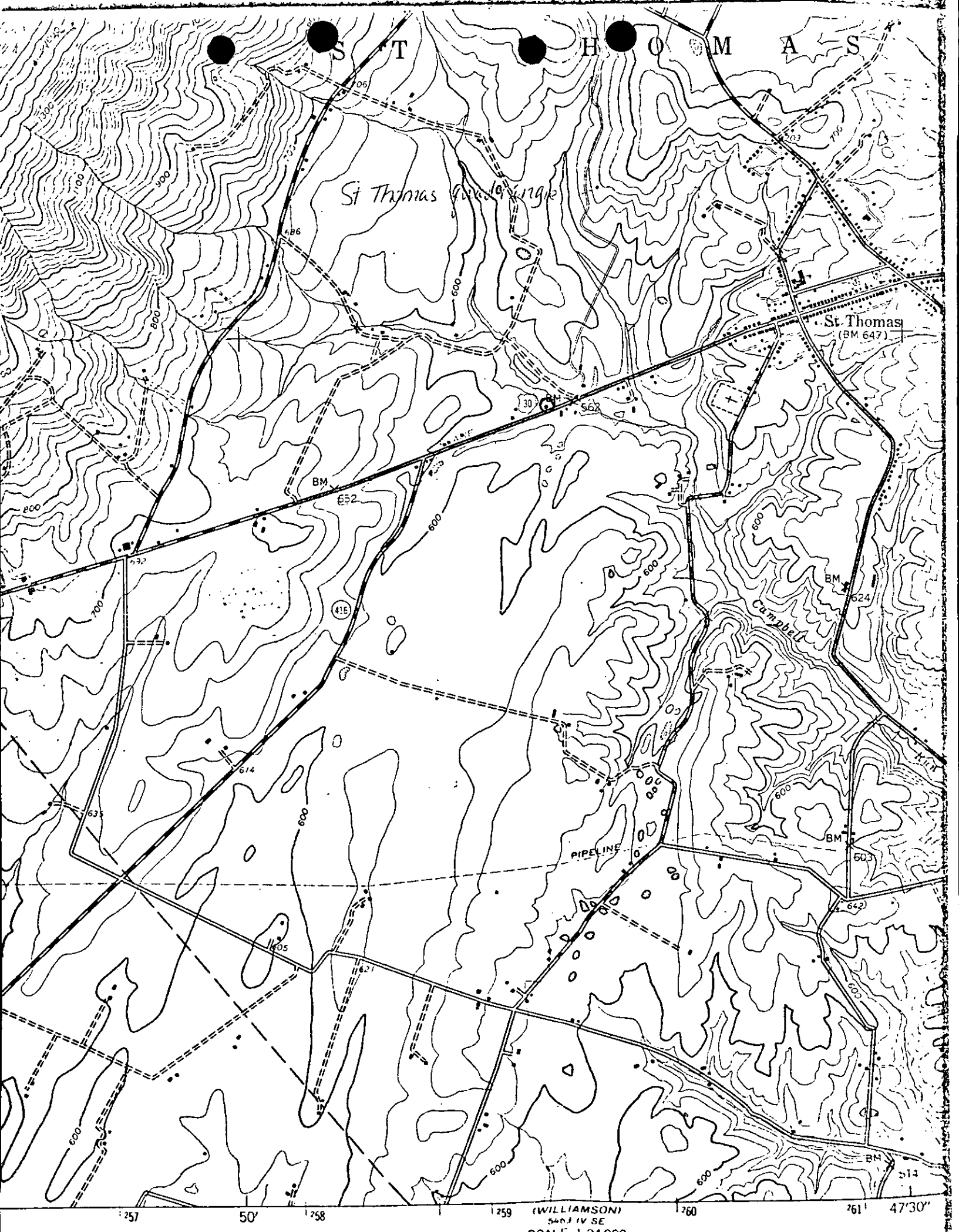
DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



ST THOMAS

St. Thomas Middle School

St. Thomas  
(BM 647)

Campbell

PIPELINE

257 50' 258 259 (WILLIAMSON) 260 261 47'30"

540 J IV SE

SCALE 1:25000