

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Pennsylvania
COUNTY: Franklin
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: Commanding Officer's Residence
AND/OR HISTORIC: Finley, James, House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Building No. 505, Letterkenny Army Depot			
CITY OR TOWN: Chambersburg		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Ninth	
STATE: Pennsylvania	CODE: 42	COUNTY: Franklin	CCODE: 055

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: U.S. Army Materiel Command		
STREET AND NUMBER: 5001 Eisenhower Avenue		
CITY OR TOWN: Alexandria	STATE: Virginia	CODE: 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Franklin County Courthouse, Register and Recorder's Office		
STREET AND NUMBER: 1 North Main Street		
CITY OR TOWN: Chambersburg	STATE: Pennsylvania	CODE: 42

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: None		
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local		
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:		
STREET AND NUMBER:		
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE:

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input 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

The James Finley House was constructed ca. 1778 on a 200 acre tract in Letterkenny Township. The house is a two-and-one-half story limestone farmhouse typical of those found in south central Pennsylvania in the eighteenth century. The five-bay structure features a medium pitch gable roof, single end chimneys, and plain boxed cornice with partial returns on the gable ends. The original stone section was three bays in width. A two bay brick addition is of unknown date. Fenestration on the first floor is twelve over twelve sash with nine over six sash on the second floor. Shutters flanking the windows on the accompanying 1942 view have been removed. Arches with radiating voussoirs and keystone are found above the first floor windows.

In the cellar and attic of the house, pegged timbers shaped by a carpenter's adze can be seen. Indentations on the wall of the cellar suggest that it was used for some special purpose such as storage of kegs or barrels. A one story porch that spans the west elevation and one-half of the south elevation was open formerly and now is enclosed.

In 1935, the property was described as being improved with "a two-and-one-half story stone and brick house, brick summer kitchen, milk house, brick and frame bank barn with three floors, wagon shed attached hop pen, garage implement shed, and other buildings." The house has been extensively renovated through the years to accomodate changing tastes and remains today in excellent condition.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century            |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input 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 Commanding Officer's Residence, Letterkenny Army Depot, is one of the oldest surviving dwellings in Franklin County, and is important, as well, for its association with a family prominent in local affairs.

James Finley (Findlay), in 1768, received by transfer 200 acres purchased by his father, John, in 1763. The grant was part of a 560 acre tract purchased by the elder Finley. The Finley family is known to have resided in the area as early as 1755. John Finley was an elder in the Presbyterian Church and formerly a Justice of the Peace in Cumberland County--the county in which the property was situated between 1750 and 1782.

No precise construction date is available. James Finley was assessed, in 1782, for 328 acres of land, four horses, seven cows, and two stills. From 1778-1782 he was among the heaviest taxpayers in Letterkenny Township. From this information one might surmise that a house of the size of the Finley dwelling was constructed in the late 1770s.

The house originally stood on the 20 mile road linking Shippensburg and Fort Loudon, cut through the wilderness in 1758. The road was also known as the Forbes Road since it was utilized as a supply route for the support of General John Forbes' Army in his expedition against Fort Duquesne during the French and Indian War. The route of the Loudon Road is identical to that of the present-day Coffey Avenue which bisects the grounds of the Letterkenny Army Depot.

James Finley, builder of the house, and his brother, John, both served as privates in the Cumberland County militia during the Revolutionary War. Colonel Joseph Armstrong, Commander of the Fifth Battalion, Cumberland County militia, was the brother-in-law of the Finley brothers. In 1783, James Finley was appointed a Justice of the Peace for Cumberland County for a term of seven years, but became one of the three Justices of the Peace for the newly organized

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(Continuation Sheet)

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(Number all entries)

8. Significance

Commanding Officer's Residence  
James Finley House

Franklin County.

James Finley died in 1812, bequeathing "all the land that I now live on, containing 250 acres, bounded by lands of James Riddle, Esq., and John Finley and others", to his youngest son, William. The land was held in the Finley family until 1841 and after a succession of owners, the United States Government, by a Decree of Taking in 1942, obtained the house for the use of the Commanding Officer of Letterkenny Army Depot.

Though altered from its original appearance the house is a tasteful example of rural vernacular architecture of the late eighteenth century and illustrates well the life style of the early residents of this section of Pennsylvania

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Booklet prepared by the Public Information Office, Letterkenny Army Depot.  
History of Franklin County, Warner, Beers, and Company.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	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
NW	° ' "	° ' "		39°	59'	57"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		77°	38'	19"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Harvey Freedenberg, Student Aide

ORGANIZATION: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET AND NUMBER:  
William Penn Memorial Museum and Archives Building

CITY OR TOWN: 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, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

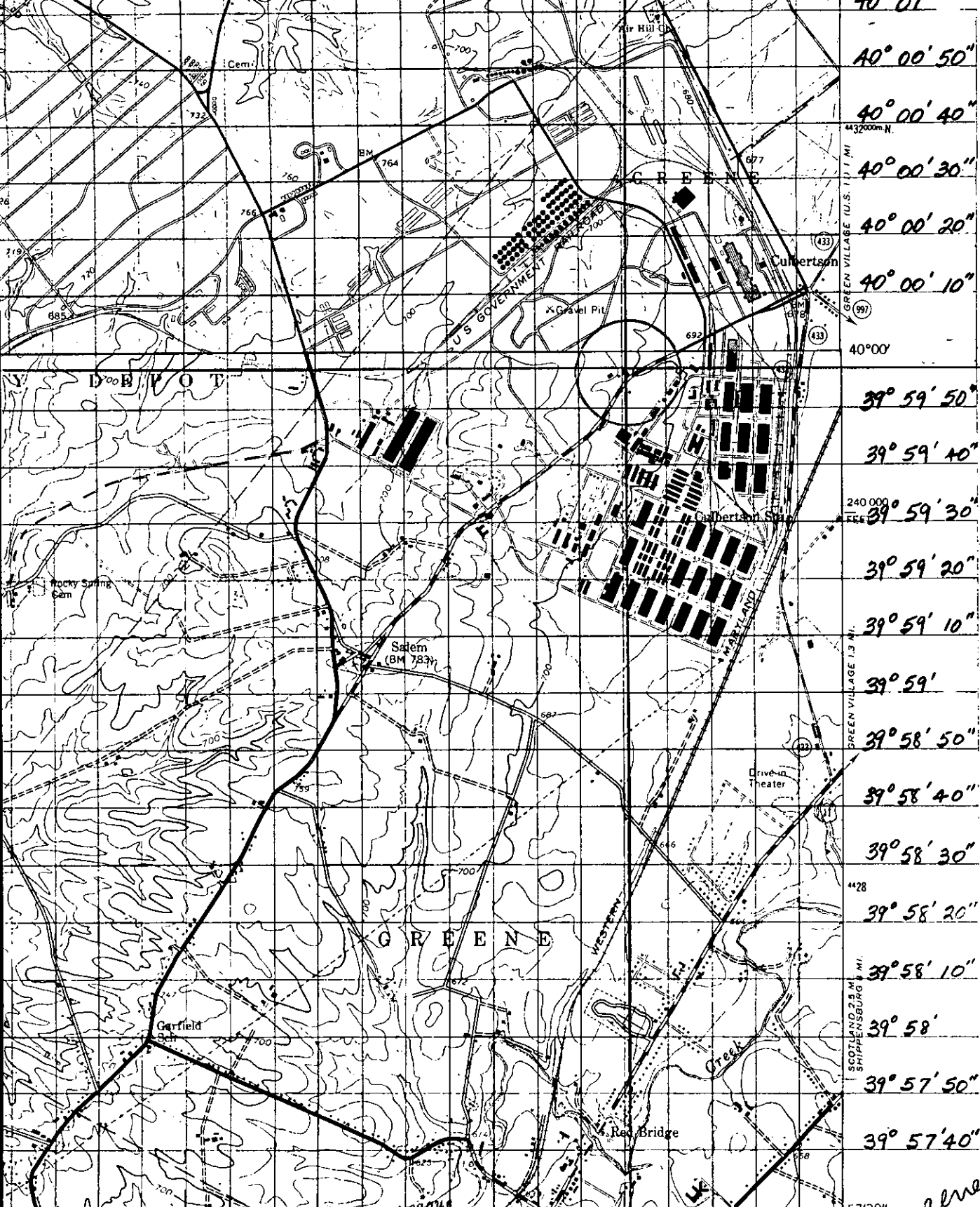
Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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