

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

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 HAYS BRIDGE HISTORIC DISTRICT

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Montgomery Township Routes 331 and 328  
CITY, TOWN Mercersburg vicinity VICINITY OF 9th  
STATE Pennsylvania CODE 42 COUNTY Franklin CODE 055

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME David S. & Paula S. Dickey Bridge Owned by:  
Franklin County Commissioners  
STREET & NUMBER 335 South Ridge Avenue L. S. Pensinger, Secretary  
CITY, TOWN Greencastle VICINITY Chambersburg STATE Pennsylvania

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Franklin County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER  
CITY, TOWN Chambersburg STATE Pennsylvania 17225

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places  
DATE July, 1977  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission  
CITY, TOWN Harrisburg STATE Pennsylvania 17120

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Hays Bridge Historic District is located near the confluence of the West Branch of the Conococheague Creek and Licking Creek southeast of Mercersburg in Montgomery Township, Franklin County, Pennsylvania. The rural historic district includes a private tract of 11.18 acres and two 19th century bridges on township roads. The terrain is hilly with steep limestone cliffs rimming the east bank of the Conococheague.

The private property is improved with a 19th century house and barn. Between them passes Montgomery Township Routes 331, a dirt road. They are situated on gently sloping ground between the Conococheague and Licking Creeks and face south.

The house is a three story, four bay stone dwelling constructed of coursed local limestone. A modern shed roof porch extends along the front elevation. Built of concrete block, reinforced concrete and supported by metal poles, it would appear to follow closely the configuration of the original wooden porch. The house is built into a slope having the full ground story exposed at all but the west elevation.

The walls show rather uniformly shaped stones at the front elevation. Decorative masonry includes a diamond shaped stone centered in the second story of the front elevation. Rough key stones are suggested above some main story openings.

Windows and doors appear to be grouped in pairs toward the east and west ends of the front and rear elevations. Original window frames many of which remain are wide, joined at the corners with wooden pegs. The exterior window casings have no decorative trim or backband. There is no evidence of the windows ever having had shutters. All windows have modern sashes except for one ground story opening which retains an early and possibly original six pane sash. One second story window at the west end of the front elevation has been enlarged slightly. Small windows are present in the end walls.

Entrances are located in the two center bays of the front elevation. Both entrances are treated identically with framing like that of the windows. Each door has a transom. The westernmost entrance has its four light transoms above a 19th century six panel door on which two of the panels have been replaced with glass. The other door is modern. All the ground story entrances are located in the south or front and north elevations. The north wall entrance is flanked by a pair of stone piers with a frame gable roof which are not original.

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Description: (continued)

The roof is sheathed with corrugated sheet metal and terminates with barge-boards set directly against the end walls. Plain boxing finishes the eaves. Brick chimneys are located inside the end walls. The larger chimney at the east end has been rebuilt.

Interior

The interior of the house is divided into two rooms at the main story, each with a fireplace, a tightwinder staircase and cupboards in the end wall. Each of these rooms was subdivided with 20th century partitions which have been removed recently. The south room features doors with high raised panels held within casings having quarter round molded trim. The mantel piece has decorative reeding and a pair of oval plaques, one at each side. The other room at the main level has cavetto trim on the door casings and mantel piece which appears newer than that in the south room. The small mantel in the north room is not original to the large service fireplace there. The doors have low relief panels. The second story is divided into four small rooms served by two short hallways. Two of these rooms have fireplaces in the end walls. The basement like the main story is divided into two rooms, each with its own door to the exterior. The easternmost room has a large service fireplace with a deep brick hearth. This room is finished with plaster, painted woodwork and door casings with quarter round trim. Most rooms retain original random width flooring. Notable about the attic is the early insulation system employed. The attic floor boards carry a layer of lime and clay mortar, giving the attic an earthen floor approximately one inch thick. This treatment has been associated with 18th century construction in southern Pennsylvania.

West of the house is the bank barn, a stone end structure with framed gables sheathed with german siding. The end walls are pierced with narrow vertical slits for ventilation. The house and barn are in fair to good condition and have been prepared for restoration which is about to begin. They stand amid apple trees, part of a working orchard.

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Description : (continued)

Several hundred feet south of the house is a double arched stone bridge, county bridge #128, which carries Montgomery Township Route 331 over the Conococheague Creek. Known as Hays Bridge it would appear to date from the first half of the 19th century but the construction date and engineer are not known. Constructed of coursed local limestone the bridge is 100 feet long. The bridge has two 50 foot arches which are supported by a concrete substructure. Only a one lane bridge, the tape deck is 15 feet and only has a 10 ton limit. In 1971 the bridge was repaired and completely repainted.

Southwest of the stone bridge just above the confluence of Licking Creek and the Conococheague Creek is "Red Bridge" or "Witherspoon's Bridge", a covered bridge (county bridge #120) carrying Township Route 328, also a dirt road, across Licking Creek. Built in 1883 by S. Stouffer, the Burr truss bridge is 87 feet long, 14 feet wide with strong wing walls extending 45 feet. It is of timber frame construction with a corrugated sheet metal roof. This bridge was repaired and painted in 1974. This is the only remaining covered bridge in Franklin County.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Scenic Value
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Hays Bridge Rural Historic District consists of an early 19th century farm complex with a stone house and barn, a stone arched bridge, also presumably dating from the early 19th century and a covered bridge dated 1883. The district which includes slightly more than 11 acres is located near the confluence of Licking Creek and the Conococheague Creek in Montgomery Township, Franklin County, Pennsylvania.

The complex is significant primarily for its architecture reflecting prominent regional vernacular construction techniques. It is also important for its representation of 19th century engineering abilities particularly with regard to the two bridges, both of which have withstood major floods and modern day traffic and remain in good condition. Since the house and barn were at one time part of a farm, they are also important for their contribution to regional agricultural history. The district also has great scenic value. Located just above the confluence of the two creeks, rimmed with limestone hills and cliffs, and crossed by two unpaved township roads, the Hays Bridge Historic District has an attractive setting with little modern intrusion.

The architectural significance of the structures should be elaborated upon briefly. The house, barn and one of the bridges are constructed of native limestone and are part of an important building tradition in southern Pennsylvania where limestone is a prominent part of the landscape. Most stone buildings in this region date from the 18th and early 19th centuries. The house would appear to have been built during the latter part of the first quarter of the 19th century as suggested by its exterior masonry and woodwork and its interior woodwork. It seems to have had some refurbishing later in the 19th century. The interior floor plan, consisting of two rooms on an axis at the main story with fireplaces in the end walls and tightwinder staircases illustrates Pennsylvania vernacular building traditions suggesting British origins.

Unfortunately records of ownership for this property are scarce. Local traditions relate that it was known as the Hays farm. It was owned by David E. and W. A. Hays in 1864. Pre-

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Significance : (continued)

sumably the farm was inhabited by the Hays family prior to that time. However, no one by the name of Hays is listed on the 1798 U.S. Direct Tax for Montgomery Township. Adjoining this property to the east is Irwinton which was the home of the Irwin family. One of the Irwin daughters married William Henry Harrison, Jr. and was mistress of the White House. Another daughter married John Scott Harrison and became the mother of Benjamin Harrison.

Stone bridges were once numerous in Franklin County. Today because of increased traffic and modernization of roads, few of these structures remain. Those still in use are treated with destruction. Although not as old as the stone bridges, even fewer covered bridges are to be seen in southern Pennsylvania.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Franklin County Land Records.  
 Franklin County Probate Records.  
 Meroy and Beers, Atlas of Franklin County, Pennsylvania, 1868.  
 Knightstown, Indiana: The Bookmark, reprint, 1974.  
 Unger, Frederick Fleming. Old Bridges of Franklin County.  
 Mercersburg, Pennsylvania: The Mercersburg Journal. 1941.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 11.18 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	2556,5,0	440,822,0	B	1,8	2556,8,0	440,800,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,8	2555,2,0	440,778,0	D	1,8	2554,9,0	440,794,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Paula Stoner Dickey, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Preservation Associates

DATE

July 11, 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  
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

DATE

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

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Acreage: 9.88

Zone 18	A	E 255 650	N 4408 220
	B	E 255 680	N 4408 000
	C	E 255 520	N 4407 780
	D	D 255 490	N 4407 940

Starting at a point NW side of Stone Arch Bridge then NW for 180.15 feet then W for 423.03 feet then SW for 469.96 feet then east for 303.74 feet then south for 146 feet then north east for 241.18 feet then 150 feet then southeast for 654.76 feet then northeast for 110 feet then northwest for 265.1 feet then west for 74.2 feet then northwest for 120.45 then north west for 165 feet to stone arch bridge then 50.16 feet to starting point.

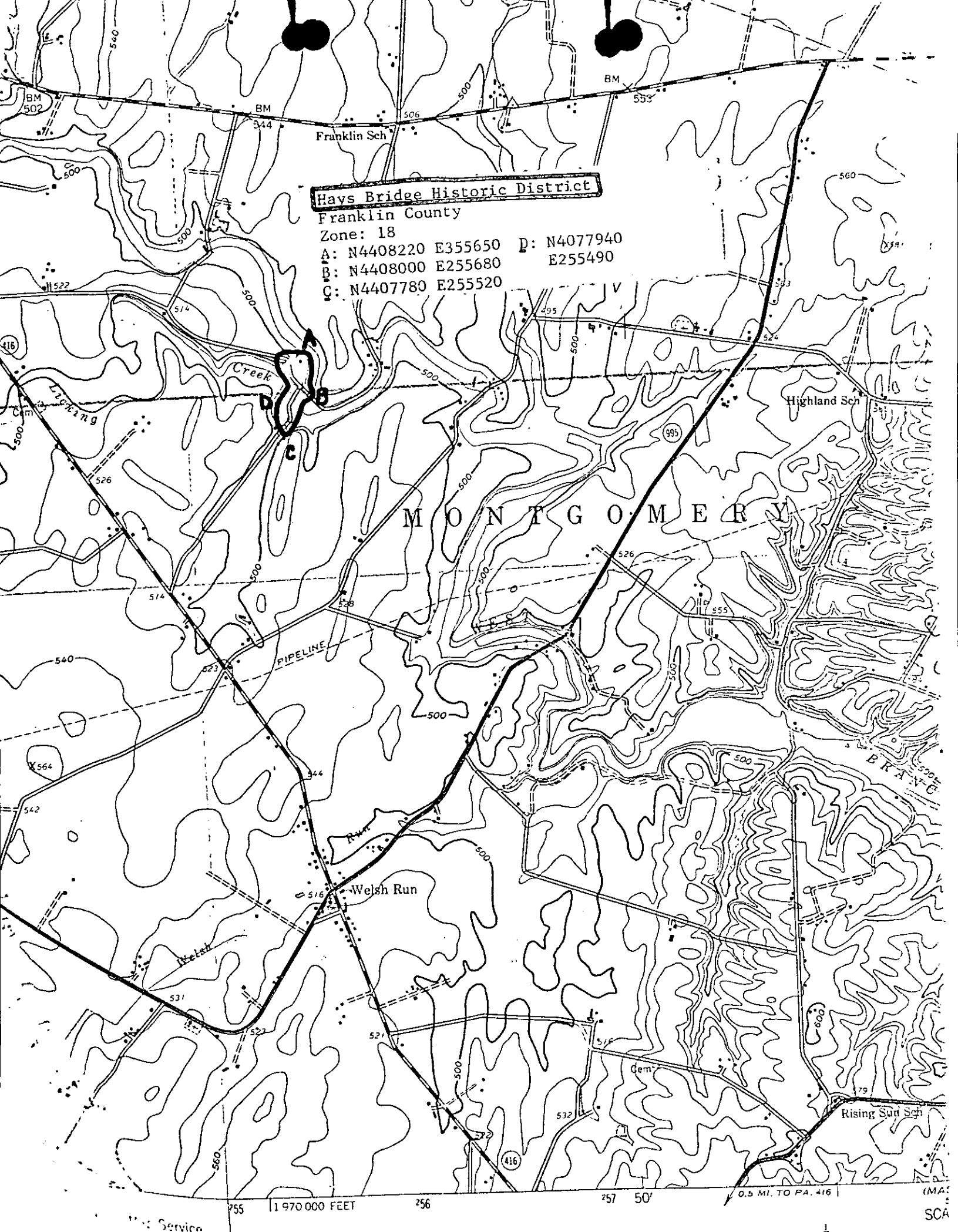


**Hays Bridge Historic District**

Franklin County

Zone: 18

A: N4408220 E355650 P: N4077940  
B: N4408000 E255680 E255490  
C: N4407780 E255520



MONTGOMERY

1970 000 FEET

0.5 MI. TO PA. 416

(MA: 1

SCA