

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

For HCRS use only
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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 Mitchell-Shook House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Leitersburg Street, L.R. 28004 not for publication

city, town Greencastle vicinity of congressional district 9

state Pennsylvania code 42 county Franklin code 055

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input 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:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Henson

street & number Leitersburg Street

city, town Greencastle vicinity of state Pennsylvania 17244

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Franklin County Courthouse

street & number Memorial Square

city, town Chambersburg state Pennsylvania

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 2-25-80 federal state county local

depository for survey records Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

city, town Harrisburg state Pennsylvania

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 Mitchell-Shook House is located on the south side of Leitersburg Street in the southeast corner of the Borough of Greencastle in Franklin County, Pennsylvania. Although the house is situated within the town limits of Greencastle, it was once the main dwelling on a large farm. It stands on an area of level ground and faces southeast.

The house is a two story, five bay L-shaped structure built of roughly coursed native limestone. Stones forming the front wall are finely hewn chisel-faced blocks with narrow mortar joints. Above the openings at the front elevation are precise flat arches, each containing seven stones. Roughly coursed stone work is employed at other areas of the building. A two bay stone addition dating from about 1940 has been attached to the southwest end wall. An early 20th century frame extension forms the southwest facade of the ell.

Openings appear to be spaced evenly across the front elevation. All windows have massive frames with pegged joints and ovolo trim. At the first story front, they have six over six pane sashes which are not original. The upper story windows have older twelve over eight light sashes. Along the northeast elevation of the main section and ell first story windows (except for the east corner window) have twelve over twelve light sashes while twelve over eight light sashes are used across the second story.

The main entrance is located in the center bay of the front elevation. The woodwork trimming the opening is slightly later in style than that of the windows. The door architrave consists of symmetrical moldings with decorated corner blocks. Above the six panel door is a four light transom. Another entrance is located in the approximate center of the northeast elevation. Although the shutters have been replaced, they appear appropriate for the house. At the first story they are paneled and at the second story they have movable louvers.

The roof is covered with wooden shakes. Brick chimneys are located inside the end walls.

The ell extension has a shed roof which slopes down toward the southwest. The frame addition at the southwest elevation of the ell raises this part to a full two stories.

Across the entire front of the original section of the house, is a two story porch with a flat roof. It is supported by four square columns and dates from the 1940's.

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The main entrance opens into a central stair hall with one room on either side. At the base of the stair is small, delicate turned newel with a section left square near the top to receive the hand rail which is attached with a mortise and tenon joint secured with a peg. The hand rail is curved. The balusters, two per step, are square. The ends of the risers are finished with scroll cut trim. Door architraves in the hallway have deeply cut symmetrical moldings and decorated corner blocks.

The room to the south of the hall, a parlor, has a fireplace and cupboard in its end wall. The fireplace mantel is trimmed with stylized pilasters with deeply cut symmetrical moldings. Above the pilasters are two small rectangular tablets. A third tablet is centered in the frieze. The cornice or mantel shelf is formed by repeated moldings which project above each of the tablets. Adjacent to the fireplace is a cupboard with similar moldings. The cupboard doors have recessed panels with ogee molded trim. On the opposite side of the fireplace is a door leading to the 1940's addition. This opening was once a window.

The room north of the hallway is also formal in appearance. Its main architectural feature is its country Federal mantelpiece with extensive use of reeded trim. It follows the same basic form as the parlor mantelpiece with stylized pilasters and three tablets across the frieze. Vertical reeding trims the pilasters and the small tablets above them. Horizontal reeding with diagonal reeded bands forms the central tablet. Below the frieze is a narrow strip of zig-zag reeding which gives a noteworthy primitive effect to the mantelpiece. Other woodwork includes paneled window jambs with ogee trim and similar trim on door panels.

Behind this north room are two more original rooms within the ell extension to the rear. As is usually the case, the main architectural features in these rooms are the fireplaces. In the first room, closer to the front of the house, the woodwork at the fireplace consists of an architrave with multiple ogee and astragal moldings. Above either end of the architrave are small rectangular tablets. At the top a narrow shelf is supported by a large ogee cornice molding. Adjacent to the fireplace is a set of cupboards with recessed panels with ogee trim.

In the end room, originally a kitchen is a large service fireplace with a cast iron crane. The mantelpiece consists of a simple molded shelf supported by curved brackets at each end.

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MITCHELL-SHOOK HOUSE, Franklin County

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There are additional small rooms along the southwest side of the ell within the frame addition. The second floor of the house follows the same basic plan as the first story except where the width and height of the second story was extended with the frame addition.

At the second story south room of the front elevation some late 19th century woodwork is visible which probably was the result of fire damage to the room. Some evidence of fire damage can be seen in the floors. Original woodwork includes reeded trim on the window jambs.

The house appears to be in good condition and retains a significant amount of original material. Major alterations include the addition of the two story porch across the front and renovations to the fireboxes of the fireplaces. The additions to the house have not appreciably altered the original interior treatment.

Another building associated with the house is a one story brick out kitchen with a frame second story added. The brick section probably dates from the third quarter of the 19th century. It is built in common bond with a 6:1 stretcher to header row ratio. Southwest of the house is a frame wagon shed and ruins of a frame bank barn are located south of the house. There is also said to have been a log house on the property south of the main structure. There is no visible evidence of it remaining, although it is on an 1853 map of Greencastle.

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 checked="" 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. 1810 Builder/Architect Builder: James Mitchell

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Mitchell-Shook House is primarily important for its architecture. Its significance is derived from its stone construction and from its exterior and interior details which mark it as an excellent example of vernacular architecture showing the combined influence of pre-1800 massive construction techniques and Federal style design motifs. These influences suggest that the house was probably built between 1800 and 1810. It is not listed in the U.S. Direct Tax of 1798.

In addition, the house is noteworthy for its connection with the Mitchell family, who, according to local histories held this tract of land as early as 1737, an early settlement date for Franklin County. The house is believed to have been built by James Mitchell. Unfortunately there are few records extant which give information about the early history of the property.

The stone construction exhibited by this house is a prominent feature of Franklin County architecture and that of the Cumberland Valley where limestone outcroppings are an important part of the local environment. Stone was easily accessible as a building material and was used extensively during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Over the period that stone was used prominently, variations in masonry technique occur and help to serve as dating tools for architecture of the region. The finely worked stone facade with flat arches above the openings exhibited by this house is indicative of construction during the 1790-1810 period.

The woodwork in the house shows the influence of the Federal style in the overall delicacy of form and extensive use of reeded trim. An unusual feature of this house is the mix of the massive window framing with ovolo trim of the exterior, typical treatment of the 18th century, and the presence of the more delicate moldings and trim of the front door at the exterior and the interior woodwork, which is typical of the early 19th century.

Historical Background

There is evidence that this property was in the Mitchell family for some years prior to the construction of the stone house which probably occurred about 1800. The original settler on the land was John Mitchell whose son James owned the farm during much of the first half of the 19th century. The 1798 U. S.

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Direct Tax for Franklin County lists only one Mitchell, Mary, in Antrim Township. Mary Mitchell was assessed for one log house 20' by 22', one story high with one window and one window pane. She was also assessed for one kitchen. In the tax records the property was described as containing 240 acres adjacent to the land of William Allison.

Nothing more is known of the Mitchell property until March 29, 1855 when Andrew Rankin and Benjamin Snively, executors for James Mitchell, late of Antrim Township sold the farm of 178 acres and 112 perches to Jacob Shook. (Deed Book 35, Page 594). According to James Mitchell's will, made March 17, 1853, the "Mansion Farm" was to be appraised and offered first to Benjamin Snively and if he didn't want it, the property was then to be offered to Mitchell's daughter, Elizabeth Martin. If she didn't want the farm at the appraised price it was to be sold at public sale. Apparently both refused because the farm was offered at public sale on October 24, 1854.

The property remained in the Shook family until 1973, being passed from Jacob Shook to David Z. Shook and from David Z. Shook to his six children. The farm eventually became the property of one daughter, Mary Shook Osborne Campion who held it until her death in 1973. The house and 2.39 acres were purchased by the present owners in 1974.

Both the Mitchell and Shook families were locally prominent. James Mitchell was married to Mary Steele, daughter of the Reverend and Captain John Steele, a local leader and officer in the American Revolution. It is not known whether Mary Steele Mitchell was the same Mary Mitchell assessed in the U.S. Direct Tax of 1798. The adjacent property owner mentioned in the tax, William Allison, was the father of John Allison who laid out the town of Greencastle in 1782.

9. Major Bibliographical Reference

Franklin County Land Records
Franklin County Probate Records
U.S. Direct Tax, 1798

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 2.39

Quadrangle name Greencastle

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	8	2	6	6	7	2	0	4	4	0	6	7	0	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H

Zone				Easting				Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification Starting at a point on the SW side of Leitersburg St. (LR 28004) SW along Southside of farm road 248' then South 300', then NW 420' to LR 28004, then NW along SW side of LR 28004, 450' feet to starting point.

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, Architectural Historian

organization Preservation Associates, Inc. date October 1979

street & number 109 West Main Street telephone 301-432-5466

city or town Sharpsburg state Maryland 21782

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

Ed Weintraub, Director
Office of Historic Preservation

date

6/24/80

For HCERS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

9. Major Bibliographical Reference

Franklin County Land Records
Franklin County Probate Records
U.S. Direct Tax, 1798

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2.39

Quadrangle name Greencastle

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A 18 | 266720 | 4406700
Zone Easting Northing

B | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
Zone Easting Northing

C | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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title Ed Weintraub, Director date
Office of Historic Preservation

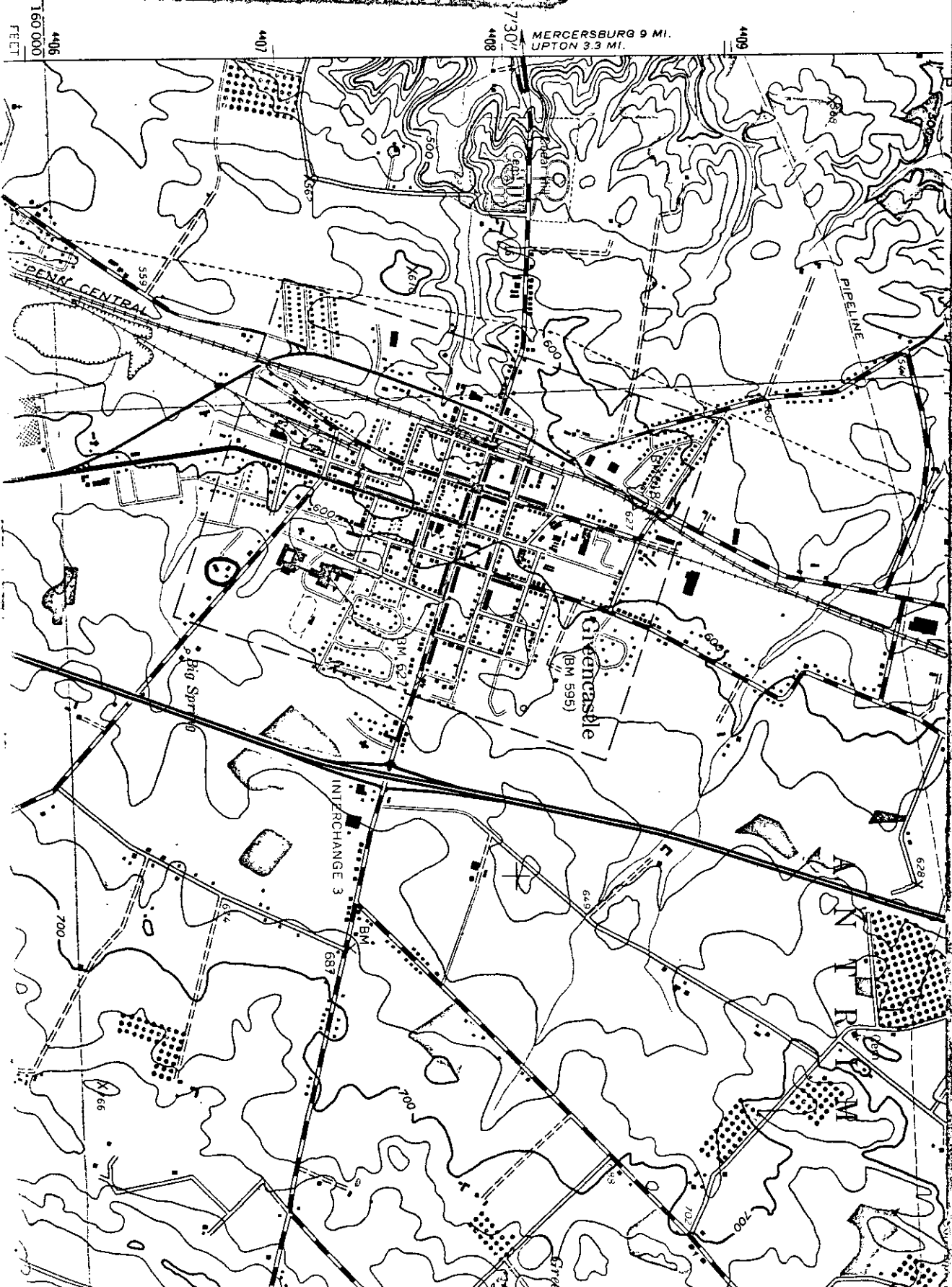
For HCERS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

Mitchell-Snook Farm
Franklin County
Zone 18 E266720 N4406700



4406
160000
FEET

7307
4408
MERCERSBURG 9 MI.
UPTON 3.3 MI.

4407

4409

INTERCHANGE 3

Cynthiana
(BM 595)

PIPELINE

BANK CENTRAL

Big Sprng

WATER