

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

43

 NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
 INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

 SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
 TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS
1 NAME

HISTORIC

Zion Reformed Church
 AND/OR COMMON
2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Northwest corner of intersection of South Main and West Liberty

CITY, TOWN

Chambersburg

STATE

Pennsylvania

VICINITY OF

CODE

42

9

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"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Zion Reformed Church (United Church of Christ)

STREET & NUMBER

South Main and West Liberty Streets

CITY, TOWN

Chambersburg

VICINITY OF

Pennsylvania

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
 COURTHOUSE,
 REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Franklin County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

One North Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Chambersburg

STATE

Pennsylvania**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

September 20, 1978
 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

 DEPOSITORY FOR
 SURVEY RECORDS

Pennsylvania Historical and 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 Zion Reformed Church is three bays wide and seven bays long. The original brick structure, finished in 1813, was enlarged by an 1883 addition. The church faces northward; the steeple is found on this end. The main entrance is in the northern side; another entrance is located to the rear. The eastern and western sides of the building have two tiers of windows, the upper tier of windows being much larger than the 8/8 ones with paneled shutters on the lower tier.

The interior of the church continued the colonial design. The last changes made to the inside were in 1950, when a new wine glass pulpit and chancel railing were installed, as were new colonial pews complementing the wood and design of the pulpit and railing. Six wrought iron chandeliers hang in the auditorium, five of them duplicates of the original candle-burning light removed in 1835. In 1977 the restored crystal chandelier was hung in the sanctuary. The floor is carpeted.

Originally there were galleries on the north, east, and south sides of the interior. Pews on the main floor were arranged parallel to these galleries. The pulpit was on the west side, the two major entrances were on the east side.

In 1835 extensive changes were made to the interior. Circular, open stairs in colonial style were placed within the built-up areas of the north end of the church, leading from the ground level to the gallery. The gallery at the south end was torn down, and the pulpit, the exact duplicate of one in a Philadelphia church, was placed in this end of the auditorium. A gallery was built on the west wall. The ceiling was lowered seven or eight feet.

Further changes were made in 1847. The one room auditorium was remodeled to accommodate two levels - the lower for the Sunday School, the upper for the auditorium. The ceiling and galleries were raised; the lower windows were shortened and the upper ones lengthened, giving the lower floor a height of about ten feet.

The pulpit was moved to the southern end and elevated three feet above the floor, following the 1883 addition. A new walnut pulpit, reading desk, altar and chancel rail were erected; the chancel was wainscoted to a height of six feet in the same wood; and the galleries on the east and west sides were removed.

A fire in 1902 necessitated reconstruction of the organ and choir gallery. By 1911 electricity was installed throughout the building. A mahogany reredos was added to the church chancel in 1923, and a mahogany choir screen in 1939.

The last major remodeling took place in 1950 when two large steel beams were installed in the ceiling of the Sunday School room to strengthen the auditorium. The floor to the Sunday School room was also lowered several feet. The new pulpit, chancel railing, and pews were installed. Since then, the interior has remained basically the same.

The founders of Zion Reformed Church met December 26, 1809 and adopted measures for the erection of a new church building. Money was raised, and the cornerstone was laid June 29, 1811. Built on top of a limestone foundation set seventeen feet below the surface, the structure is of red brick in Flemish bond. It was completed in 1813. This building was 60 feet long and forty-five feet wide with a steeple that was 156 feet high and extended 15 feet from the northern end.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

ZION REFORMED CHURCH

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 2

The roof was covered with slate. A large copper ball topped by a gold-leafed weather vane crowned the steeple. A 12 feet wide wide brick pavement ran along the front, or northern side of the building. The classical Georgian architecture of the church is in the style of Christopher Wren of England.

This structure was 5 bays long and 3 bays wide. The eastern side had 5 windows on the upper tier, 3 on the lower, and 2 doors. The western side had 4 windows in both the upper and lower tiers. The entrance on the southern side was flanked by 2 windows on the lower tier and a semi-circular window in the attic. The northern side contained the main entrance, plus upper and lower windows on each side of the tower. Two semi-circular windows surrounded a circular one above the 2nd tier, and a large arched central window was found above these. This structure has remained basically the same, save for the one later addition.

In 1835 several changes were made to the exterior. The recesses on either side of the steeple were built up, and gallery stairs were placed within the built up areas. This change increased the length of the building to the 75 feet. Two additional entrance doors were placed on the northern end, and those on the eastern side were replaced by two Gothic windows with enormous shutters in harmony with the other 3 windows in the eastern wall.

The steeple was later shortened by about 15 feet. In 1847 the windows on the lower tier were shortened, and those on the upper tiers lengthened to accommodate changes made to the interior.

A 10 foot addition to the rear enlarged the church in 1883. The south wall was entirely rebuilt, and a separate roof was put over this area. An entrance door flanked by two windows in the style of the lower tier were placed at this end; a window was also placed in both the eastern and western sides of the addition. An arched, stained glass window was placed in the center of the upper level.

Other small changes made to the appearance include an asbestos shingle roof placed on the building in 1948. In 1950 two of the three entrances at the north end were replaced by windows, leaving one central entrance to the church. A new iron fence was built around the church area in 1903, and in 1975 the brick was sandblasted and restored to its original finish. Even with the changes made through the years, the exterior of the church remains essentially the same today as when completed in 1813.

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 checked="" 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 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

1811

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Zion Reformed Church is a fine example of classical Georgian style of architecture popularized by Christopher Wren, the renowned architect of England. This style has been preserved even with an addition to the exterior and changes to the interior.

When erected, the Zion Reformed Church has the largest auditorium in Chambersburg and was used for major public gatherings. When the famous orator, Roman Catholic Archbishop Hughes, visited Chambersburg in 1842 and wanted to address the citizens, he used the Zion pulpit. In 1867 Schuyler Colfax, then Speaker of the House and later Vice-President, addressed the Franklin County Bible Society in the Zion Church. It was one of the most imposing edifices for miles.

The Zion Reformed Church is also significant in the area of religion. It has met the religious needs of a growing community. The Sunday School of Zion Church, organized in 1829, was the first Sunday School in Chambersburg. Within a year's time the enrollment of 45 pupils and 13 teachers has increased to 266 pupils and 30 teachers. Because there were no other Sunday Schools in the community, both teachers and students from other denominations participated.

Other significant religious events have taken place here. The Synod of 1835, which decided the removal of the Church's institutions of learning from York to Mercersburg, met at the Church.

Another interesting sidelight to the Zion Reformed Church, is that it is one of the three rose-rent churches in Chambersburg. A major ritual each June is paying the annual rent of a single rose to a descendant of Benjamin and Jane Chambers in accordance with a stipulation made in the original deed.

A DOCUMENT

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .752 acre

UTM REFERENCES Chambersburg, PA 1:24,000

A	1 1 8	2 7 2 4 1 2 1 0	4 4 2 3 4 8 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Starting at a point at the corner of South Main and West Liberty Streets, thence west 256 feet along West Liberty Street, thence north 128 feet, thence east 256 feet, thence south 128 feet along South Main Street to point of beginning.

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

Chester and Eleze P. McKenzie / Brenda Reigle

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Zion Reformed Church / PHMC

August 13, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

South Main & West Liberty Sts. / Box 1026

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Chambersburg / Harrisburg Pennsylvania

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL X

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

Ed Weintraub

TITLE ED WEINTRAUB, Director Office of Historic Preservation

DATE

9/25/79

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

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .752 acre

UTM REFERENCES Chambersburg, PA

1:24,000

A 18 | 2724210 | 4423480
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
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B | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 D | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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TITLE ED WEINTRAUB

DATE

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

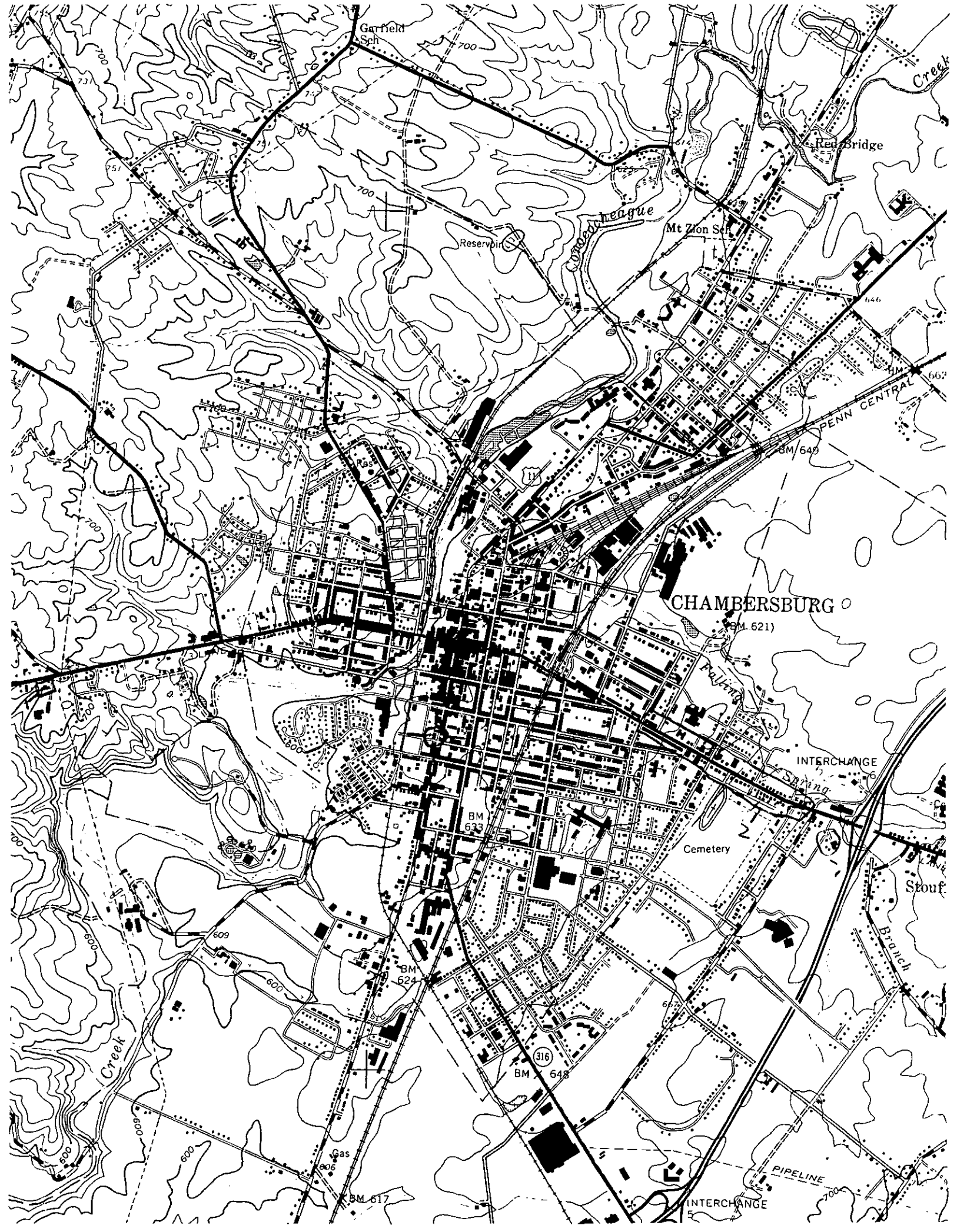
DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Garfield Sch

Red Bridge

Reservoir

Mt Zion Sch

CHAMBERSBURG

BM 621

BM 633

INTERCHANGE

Cemetery

BM 624

BM 648

Stouf

BM 617

PIPELINE

INTERCHANGE