

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: PENNSYLVANIA
COUNTY: BERKS
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
KEIM HOMESTEAD

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
LEGISLATIVE ROUTE T500, 1.1 MILES WEST OF LOBACHSVILLE

CITY OR TOWN:  
PIKE TOWNSHIP

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
SIXTH

STATE: PENNSYLVANIA CODE: 42 COUNTY: BERKS CODE: 011

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 type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
AMERICAN FOLKLIFE SOCIETY

STREET AND NUMBER:  
R.O. #2

CITY OR TOWN:  
OLEY

STATE:  
PENNSYLVANIA

CODE:  
42

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
BERKS COUNTY COURTHOUSE

STREET AND NUMBER:  
6TH AND COURT STREETS

CITY OR TOWN:  
READING

STATE:  
PENNSYLVANIA

CODE:  
42

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY

DATE OF SURVEY:  
1958

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STREET AND NUMBER:  
18TH AND C STREETS

CITY OR TOWN:  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

STATE:  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

CODE:  
001

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STATE: PENNSYLVANIA

COUNTY: BERKS

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent     Good     Fair     Deteriorated     Ruins     Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered     Unaltered.

(Check One)

Moved     Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

THE TWO MOST SIGNIFICANT BUILDINGS ON THE KEIM HOMESTEAD ARE THE 1½ STORY STONE CABIN, AND THE 2½ STORY STONE MANORHOUSE. BOTH OF THESE STRUCTURES ILLUSTRATE THE CHARACTERISTIC PENNSYLVANIA-GERMAN FORMS COMMON IN THIS SECTION OF PENNSYLVANIA.

THE SMALL STONE CABIN WAS BUILT BY JOHANNES KEIM SOMETIME BETWEEN 1706 AND 1732. THE CABIN IS CONSTRUCTED OVER A SPRING, ON A SLOPING SITE, WITH THE BASEMENT LEVEL EXPOSED ON THE SOUTH AND WEST SIDES. THE CABIN IS APPROXIMATELY 17 FEET BY 25 FEET AND IS CONSTRUCTED OF NATIVE LIMESTONE LAID IN IRREGULAR RANDOM COURSES. DOOR AND WINDOW PLACEMENT IS ASYMMETRICAL. THERE ARE TWO DUTCH DOORS, ONE IN THE SOUTH GABLE LEADING INTO THE BASEMENT, AND ANOTHER IN THE WEST FACADE LEADING INTO THE FIRST FLOOR. BOTH DOORS ARE OF WIDE VERTICAL BATTENS AND BOTH HAVE THEIR ORIGINAL RAT-TAIL HINGES. THE CASEMENT WINDOWS ARE SET IN WIDE WOODEN FRAMES. THE WINDOWS ARE OF VARYING SIZES, THE SMALL ONES OF ONE SASH OF FOUR PANES, AND THE LARGER ONES, OF TWELVE PANES. THE LARGE WINDOWS IN THE FIRST FLOOR BACKROOM ARE PERHAPS EVIDENCE OF THE NEED FOR LIGHT TO WEAVE BY, FOR THE KEIMS WERE NOTED WEAVERS. ALL THE DOORS AND WINDOWS ARE SURMOUNTED BY SEGMENTAL BRICK ARCHES. THE STEEP PITCHED GABLE ROOF IS PRESENTLY COVERED WITH SQUARE AND ROUNDED SLATE OF THE 19TH CENTURY. A LARGE SQUARE CHIMNEY PIERCES THE ROOF IN THE CENTER OF THE ROOF LINE.

BOTH THE CELLAR AND THE FIRST FLOOR ARE DIVIDED INTO TWO LARGE ROOMS BY THE MASSIVE FIREPLACE AND CHIMNEY. THE INTERIORS ARE VERY PLAIN. INTERIOR WALLS ARE PLASTERED, BUT THERE IS NO DECORATIVE WOODWORK. A STEEP OPEN STAIRWAY LEADS FROM THE LARGER OF THE FIRST FLOOR ROOMS TO THE ATTIC LOFT. EXCEPT FOR A SMALL BELFRY ADDED IN THE 19TH CENTURY, THERE HAVE BEEN NO SERIOUS ALTERATIONS TO THE ORIGINAL BUILDING FABRIC.

THE KEIM MANORHOUSE IS A 2½ STORY STONE BUILDING CONSTRUCTED IN TWO SECTIONS. THE ORIGINAL SECTION WITH ITS LARGE CENTRAL CHIMNEY WAS CONSTRUCTED C. 1750. THE TWO BAY EXTENSION TO THE NORTHEAST GABLE WAS ADDED C. 1780. THE ENTIRE HOUSE IS COVERED BY ONE LONG GABLE ROOF, NOW COVERED WITH TIN. BOTH SECTIONS OF THE HOUSE ARE CONSTRUCTED OF LIMESTONE WITH LARGE QUINS AT EACH CORNER.

THE ORIGINAL 1750 SECTION IS TWO BAYS WIDE AND TWO DEEP WITH THE FRONT AND REAR DOORS LOCATED IN THE EASTERN BAY. ALL OF THE WINDOWS ARE SIX OVER SIX SASH WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE SMALL FOUR PANE ATTIC WINDOWS. ALL OF THE WINDOWS HAVE SOLID TWO PANEL SHUTTERS. BOTH WINDOWS AND DOORS ARE SURMOUNTED BY SEGMENTAL BRICK ARCHES. THERE IS A PENT ROOF BETWEEN THE FIRST AND SECOND FLOORS ACROSS THE REAR OF THE HOUSE. A PENT ROOF, NO LONGER EXTANT, RAN ACROSS THE GABLE AT THE ATTIC LEVEL. A SMALL CANTILEVERED BALCONY WAS ALSO LOCATED ON THE FIRST BAY OF THE SECOND FLOOR FACADE.

THE 1780 ADDITION IS ONE/THIRD THE SIZE OF THE ORIGINAL HOUSE. DOOR AND WINDOW PLACEMENT IS SIMILAR TO THE ORIGINAL SECTION EXCEPT THAT THERE IS BUT ONE WINDOW ON EACH FLOOR OF THE GABLE END. THE WINDOWS AND DOORS HAVE FLAT STONE LINTELS INSTEAD OF BRICK ARCHES. THE CHIMNEY IS LOCATED IN THE GABLE END.

ALTERATIONS TO THE EXTERIOR FABRIC HAVE BEEN RELATIVELY MINOR. A WINDOW WAS ADDED TO THE LEFT OF THE REAR DOOR OF THE 1750 SECTION. THE ONLY OTHER MAJOR CHANGE WAS THE ADDITION OF TWO SHED ROOF PORCHES TO THE WEST GABLE AND FRONT FACADE.

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COUNTY	BERKS	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	

(Number all entries)

7. DESCRIPTION (KEIM HOMESTEAD)

THE FLOOR PLAN OF THE KEIM MANORHOUSE IS LAID OUT IN TYPICAL GERMANIC FASHION. BOTH FLOORS OF THE ORIGINAL SECTION ARE DIVIDED INTO THREE ROOMS. ON THE FIRST FLOOR A MASSIVE WALK-IN FIREPLACE DIVIDES THE KITCHEN (KUCHE) FROM THE GREAT ROOM (STUBE) AND THE BEDROOM (KAMMER). AN ENCLOSED SPIRAL STAIRCASE LEADS FROM THE KITCHEN TO THE SECOND FLOOR WHICH HAS AN IDENTICAL FLOOR PLAN. THE 1780 ADDITION HAS A SMALL KITCHEN WITH A WALK-IN FIREPLACE AND A SITTING ROOM ON THE FIRST FLOOR AND A HALL AND ONE BEDROOM ON THE SECOND.

THE INTERIORS OF BOTH SECTIONS ARE LARGELY ORIGINAL. ALL CEILINGS ARE OPEN BEAMED. PARTITIONS ARE OF WIDE VERTICAL BOARDS. ALMOST ALL OF THE ORIGINAL HARDWARE AND FIREPLACE IRONWARE STILL SURVIVES. CHAIR RAIL RUNS ALONG THE WALLS OF THE 1780 SECTION, BUT IS NOT FOUND IN THE ORIGINAL SECTION.

IN ADDITION TO THE TWO HOUSES, THE PRESENT KEIM HOMESTEAD INCLUDES AN 18TH CENTURY BARN, A 20TH CENTURY DAIRY BARN AND VARIOUS OUTBUILDINGS AND SHEDS. THE HOMESTEAD IS PRESENTLY OWNED BY THE AMERICAN FOLKLIFE SOCIETY WHO ARE PRESENTLY RESTORING THE TWO HOUSES.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian;       16th Century;       18th Century;       20th Century  
 15th Century;       17th Century;       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1706-1732, c. 1750, 1780

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   | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature  | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music       |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |                                      |  |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

JOHANNES KEIM, A NATIVE OF LINDAU, GERMANY, CAME TO PENNSYLVANIA IN 1698. AFTER HE HAD ESTABLISHED CLAIM TO LAND IN THE OLEY VALLEY, HE RETURNED TO GERMANY. IN 1706, HE RETURNED TO PENNSYLVANIA AND SETTLED ON HIS CLAIM, LIVING FIRST IN A LOG CABIN. THE STONE CABIN WAS BUILT SOMETIME BEFORE 1732 WHEN KEIM MARRIED FOR A SECOND TIME. A PAINTED WOODEN PLAQUE IN THE SOUTHEAST GABLE INDICATES THAT THE LARGER HOUSE WAS BUILT IN 1732. HOWEVER, THERE IS ALSO EVIDENCE THAT THIS STRUCTURE WAS BUILT BY JOHANNES' SON, JACOB, IN 1750. THE KEIM HOMESTEAD REMAINED IN THE KEIM FAMILY UNTIL 1912 WHEN THE LAST OF THE FAMILY DIED.

THE KEIM HOMESTEAD DERIVES ITS PRIMARY SIGNIFICANCE FROM THE ARCHITECTURE OF ITS TWO HOUSES. BOTH THE STONE CABIN AND THE MANOR-HOUSE ARE EXCELLENT ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE GERMANIC INFLUENCE IN PENNSYLVANIA ARCHITECTURE. THE LARGE CENTRAL CHIMNEYS, STEEP PITCHED GABLE ROOFS, THREE ROOM FLOOR PLAN, PENT ROOFS, ETC. ARE TYPICAL OF THE EARLY PENNSYLVANIA-GERMAN HOUSES OF THIS AREA. THE ORIGINAL CONDITION OF THE DWELLINGS TOGETHER WITH THEIR ARCHITECTURAL STYLE CONSTITUTE AN IMPORTANT INDEX OF DESIGN FOR THE OLEY VALLEY AS WELL AS THE PENNSYLVANIA-GERMAN CULTURE AT LARGE.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

KEIM DEB. RANDOLPH. THE KEIM AND ALLIED FAMILIES. HARRISBURG, PA. HARRISBURG PUBLISHING COMPANY, 1898.

CROLL, P.C. ANNALS OF THE OLEY VALLEY. READING, PENNSYLVANIA: READING EAGLE PRESS, 1926.

MONTGOMERY, R. S. "H USES OF THE OLEY VALLEY," THE DUTCHMEN. VOL. VI, No. 3, WINTER, 1954-55.

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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	40° 24' 45"	75° 45' 00"				
NE	40° 24' 45"	75° 44' 48"				
SE	40° 24' 28"	75° 44' 48"				
SW	40° 24' 28"	75° 45' 00"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 20

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
RICHARD H SHANER

ORGANIZATION: AMERICAN FOLK LIFE SOCIETY DATE: JANUARY 22, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:  
RD #2

CITY OR TOWN: OLEY 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

*Richard H Shaner*

Title

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
PA. HISTORICAL & MUSEUM COMM.

Date

3/7/74

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

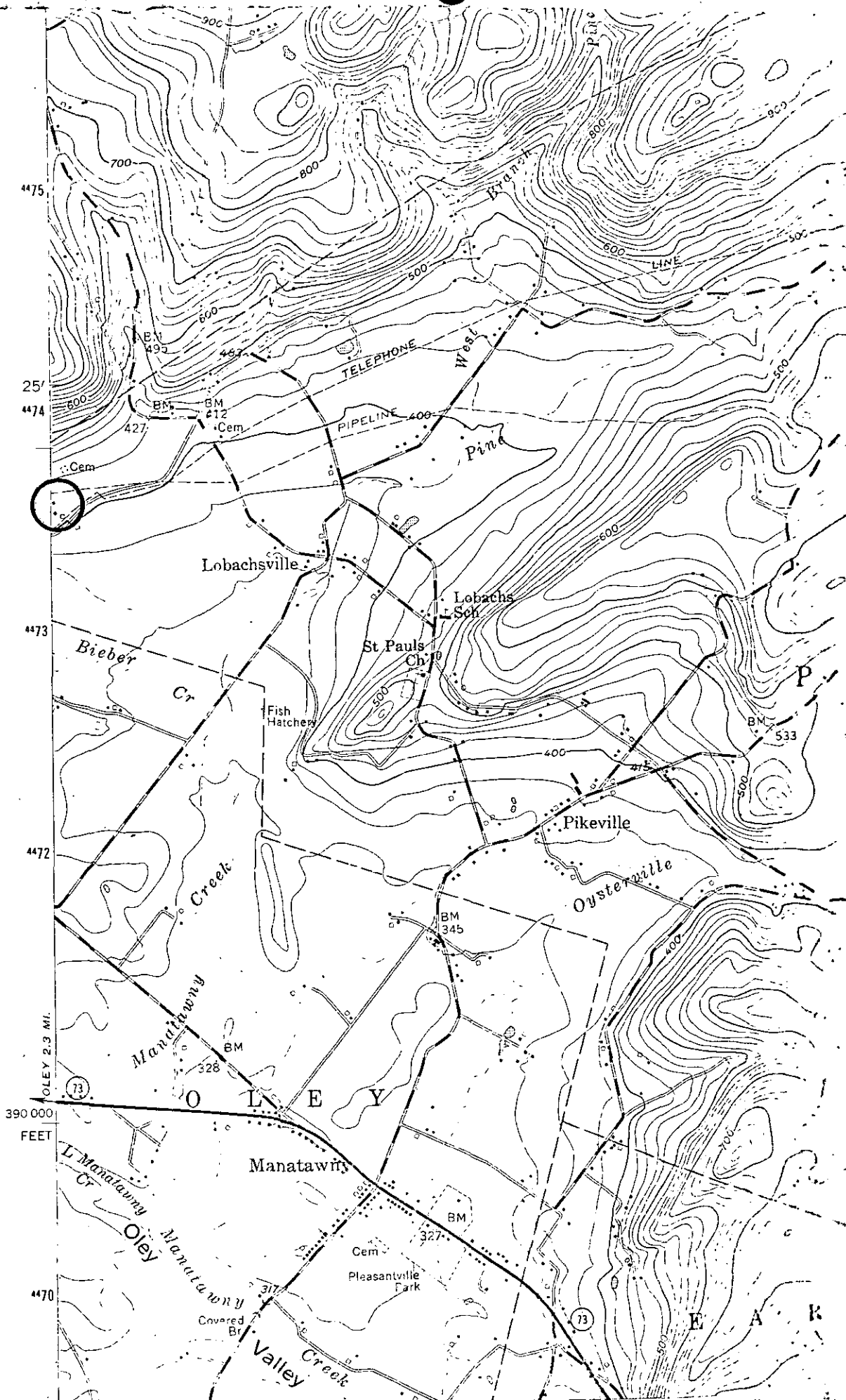
Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



NORTH

OLEY 2.3 MI.  
390 000  
FEET

4475  
25'  
4474  
4473  
4472  
4470

900  
700  
800  
500  
600  
400  
300  
200  
100  
0  
LINE  
TELEPHONE  
PIPELINE  
West  
Pine  
Lobachville  
Lobachs Sch  
St Pauls Ch  
Fish Hatchery  
Pikeville  
Oysterville  
Manatawny  
Manatawny Cr  
Manatawny Cr  
Valley Creek  
Bieber Cr  
Cem  
Cem  
Cem  
Pleasantville Park  
BM 493  
BM 427  
BM 412  
BM 533  
BM 345  
BM 328  
BM 327  
73  
73  
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