

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

OK
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date entered

7

1. Name

historic WOMELSDORF HISTORIC DISTRICT

and/or common

2. Location

street & number

not for publication

city, town Womelsdorf

vicinity of

congressional district

6

state Pennsylvania

code

42

county Berks

code 011

3. Classification

Category

- district
- building(s)
- structure
- site
- object

Ownership

- public
- private
- both

Public Acquisition

- in process
- being considered

Status

- occupied
- unoccupied
- work in progress

Accessible

- yes: restricted
- yes: unrestricted
- no

Present Use

- agriculture
- commercial
- educational
- entertainment
- government
- industrial
- military
- museum
- park
- private residence
- religious
- scientific
- transportation
- other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple

street & number

city, town

vicinity of

state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Berks County Courthouse

street & number

6th Street

city, town

Reading

state Pennsylvania

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Berks County Historic
title Sites Survey

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1979

federal state county local

depository for survey records PHMC/Berks County Conservancy

city, town Harrisburg/Wyomissing

state Pennsylvania

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 type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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 proposed Womelsdorf historic district includes 36 structures which represent outstanding architectural and/or historical contributions to the district, colored red; 120 structures strongly contributing to the district, colored green; 81 structures with some alterations which contribute to the district, colored yellow; and 9 modern buildings unsympathetic to their streetscape, colored blue.

Womelsdorf exhibits a distinct architectural character and small town charm, reflecting its historical development during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. In its quiet valley setting, the community retains a remarkable sense of the past, as seen in the many well-maintained Victorian-era homes and commercial structures in town. Buildings are concentrated around the original area of settlement on High and Franklin Streets, as well as several secondary roads perpendicular to them, from Water Street west to Fourth Street. Toward the center of Womelsdorf, High Street widens to form an open "Market Square", creating a visual axis leading in four directions along High Street and Front Street toward the borough boundaries.

In the main commercial district, extending roughly from Front Street to Second Street along High, the concentration of buildings is most pronounced. Here, the common 2-1/2 story, 3 bay sidehall plan is repeated on both sides of the street for several blocks, forming an almost continuous line of attached nineteenth century buildings and row houses. This tightly massed settlement pattern is repeated on portions of Front, Second and 3rd Streets, particularly those blocks bordering on the commercial center (Exhibit 10). Linear continuity is again emphasized by even rooflines and by the uniform setback of structures from the street. Tall shade trees line both sides of the street creating an attractive and orderly street environment.

Property becomes more spacious, and building density decreases, as one moves west through town. Several large mansions grace both sides of this section of West High Street. Along the western end of Franklin Street, several fine Victorian homes are set off by small neat lawns, shrubs and gardens.

Both commercial and residential buildings are characterized by brick or stone facades with simple Georgian or Victorian ornamentation (Exhibit 11). Segmented arches with keystones, Italianate brackets, Eastlake-style pressed wood cornices and linetls are recurring decorative features. A number of Queen Anne-style structures outside the main commercial district display stained-glass fanlights, fish-scale shingles or corbelled brick (Exhibit 12). Larger mansions on West High Street feature more elaborate ornamentation, expressing the imagination, exuberance and prosperity of the industrial period, c. 1880-1910. Architectural details here include the use of wrought iron railings, copper crestings and pipes, and heavy window mouldings.

Modern improvements, additions and facade renovations aside, the small community of Womelsdorf exhibits a considerable resistance to change and "suburbanization". Its architectural heritage remains remarkably intact, and the town now retains an excellent outline of its various stages of growth and development.

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Among the earliest commercial structures on High Street were the taverns and inns. The oldest existing inn is Stouch's Tavern, built by Conrad Stouch around 1785. Located at 132 W. High Street, (Exhibit 13) the tavern served as a stop for the stage coaches traveling the Sunbury Road to Reading or Lebanon. Also an important structure on High Street is the former Seltzer House (Exhibit 14). Built in 1800 by Jacob Seltzer, the tavern was originally a two-story, stone Georgian structure. A third story was added in 1856 and the Seltzer House continued as a tavern/hotel until 1937. At present the structure is the Walborn Apartments.

Another prominent hotel was the William Penn Hotel located at 216 West High Street (Exhibit 15). Constructed in 1866 by John H. Spatz, the William Penn Hotel was the site of many social functions and provided practice rooms for the local band. This three story brick structure was done in the Italianate style, with flat roof and overhanging eaves, dominated by an ornate cornice trim of brackets, dentils and scalloped woodwork joining to form lintels above the arched third story windows.

The present Conrad Weiser Inn was the Saint Elmo Hotel, constructed in 1897 by Harry D. Mathew. This vernacular Romanesque-style structure features rusticated masonry between the windows, brick lintels, and two small parapet projections at the corners of the front facade (Exhibit 16). Still operating as a restaurant, the original carved wooden bar is preserved and still in use today. A smaller establishment, the Brooklyn Hotel, c. 1877 was located at 204 E. High Street - presumably named in honour of the Brooklyn Bridge in New York, according to local historian Earl Ibach. The structure still exists today as a private residence (Exhibit 17).

Several of the buildings on High Street once operated as industries. One of the earliest buildings is still present at 108 West High Street (Exhibit 18). Known to have been the residence and pottery shop of Peter Newman in 1792, this structure is partially log and still in use as a private residence. Another important industry present on High Street was that of cigar making. Several of the cigar "magnates" began production in their residences and later moved their businesses into separate factory buildings. Henry F. Fidler constructed his three story brick cigar factory in 1903. Done in a vernacular Victorian Gothic style, the building still remains at 24 East High Street (Exhibit 19).

High Street also served as the site of the homes of many of Womelsdorf's prominent physicians. 122 West High Street (Exhibit 20), the second oldest house in Womelsdorf was constructed c. 1790 by Casper Brownell. This 2-1/2 story brick house with side hall entrance now features a porch and pedimented dormers. The house was later occupied by Dr. John B. Livingood who continued his practice there from 1830 until his death. Dr. Louis A. Livingood, son of John B., occupied the 2-1/2 story stone house at 126-128 West High Street (Exhibit 21). An entrance between the two buildings located under the second story level has long since been blocked up with stone; only the brick arch remains today. Erected in 1790, by Peter Eckhert, this structure was one of Womelsdorf's principle general stores until the mid-1840's. The front facade is dominated by a smooth, semi-circular

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bay window decorated with intricate leaded glass along the top (Exhibit 22). Another prominent doctor occupied the 2-1/2 story brick house at 201 West Franklin Street (Exhibit 23). This structure reflects the following Italianate features found throughout Womelsdorf: carved lintels and sills as well as heavy arched door-surround. The house, owned by Dr. F. Reed Sallade, is currently occupied as a private residence.

Among the more spacious properties located further west along W. High Street is the Adam S. Valentine home, c. 1870, no. 314 (Exhibit 24). This two and a half story brick structure features Italianate details such as bracketed cornice mouldings and carved wooden door and window surrounds. The George H. Valentine mansion, c. 1890, is on a much larger scale than the earlier home. Located at 232 West High Street, this structure stands 2-1/2 stories high with a mansard roof and bracketed cornice (Exhibit 25). A copper bay ornaments the second story and the first story is accented by a wrap-around porch on two sides and a beveled glass door (Exhibit 26). The large house standing at 320 West High Street was constructed in 1866 by Louis A. Wollenweber and later became the H. D. Hackman home (Exhibit 27). This five bay, 2-1/2 story structure features a hipped roof, bracketed cornices and wrought iron "Widow's Walk".

Education was an early concern of Womelsdorf citizens and several schoolhouses still remain on the side streets in town. The oldest known existing schoolhouse is located at 125 South Second Street (Exhibit 28). Others include the building at 222 W. Franklin Street which was founded between 1825 and 1834 and operated by public education advocate, Walker Stephan. These schoolhouses, still intact and in use today as private residences, serve as visible reminders of the early history of education in Pennsylvania.

A number of other important buildings are located on Womelsdorf's side streets. At 102 North Third Street is located an 1855 brick house once the site of a dairy farm. Presently utilized as a restaurant, the R. John Haus, this structure remains as evidence of the town's rural beginnings (Exhibit 30). Workers housing on N. Third Street was constructed c. 1890 by William Shaffer, cigar manufacturer. The two duplexes at 27-29 and 31-33 were originally frame with German siding and wooden shingles covering the gable-ends (Exhibit 31). The long, narrow one-story brick building at 32 South Second Street was once the Womelsdorf jail, or "lockup", authorized by the borough, and constructed in 1855 (Exhibit 32). 203 W. Franklin Street (Exhibit 33) is considered by some to be the oldest house in Womelsdorf today. This two and one-half story brick structure features a side-hall plan and a brick stringcourse and water table. This structure was constructed on one of the early town lots.

As many as 30 log or partial log structures still stand in Womelsdorf today. All are now covered with a variety of external materials ranging from asphalt shingles to aluminum siding. The majority of log homes are 1-1/2 story, with most located on S. 2nd Street (Exhibit 34). These structures represent one of the oldest methods of construction found in Berks County. Together with the small stone buildings located throughout Womelsdorf, they illustrate the earliest settlement patterns of the first German residents. Interspersed among later vernacular Georgian, Italianate, and Queen Anne-style structures (Exhibit 35), these modest homes remain today, contributing to the architectural variety which comprises the streetscapes of Womelsdorf.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Womelsdorf played a significant role in the early settlement of the Tulpehocken area of Berks County, Pennsylvania. First settled by Germans who came to the area via New York, the present day Borough of Womelsdorf lay along the Tulpehocken Path, a major westward route of business and settlement in the eighteenth century. The town was founded, and grew, because it offered travelers a place to stop during their journeys and area merchants and farmers a marketplace for their products.

Local industry has been a key factor in Womelsdorf's development. In the nineteenth century, Womelsdorf was one of the largest cigar manufacturing areas in the state. It was the largest single industry in the Borough's history, substantially contributing to the Borough's economy during its peak years, 1875-1930.

The wide variety of buildings representing each phase of its history is one of the Borough's most notable features. Log houses from the earliest settlement of Womelsdorf coexist beside high style Victorian-era mansions. Three bay sidehall plan houses, a distinctive eighteenth century southeastern Pennsylvania style, are very prominent on the streets of Womelsdorf. This architectural diversity reflects the growth of the community and is one of Womelsdorf's most outstanding assets today.

The borough of Womelsdorf lies in Heidelberg Township in western Berks County. Situated on a rich limestone belt, the town is located in a valley between two mountain ranges, the Blue Mountains on the north and the South Mountains on the south. The land was included in the vast proprietary colony chartered by William Penn in 1681. The first recorded inhabitants of the area were the Shawnee tribe of the Lenni Lenape Indians who settled there in 1705 by permission of the provincial governor. Finding an abundance of turtles in the area, they named the land and the creek running through it "Tulpehocken", meaning "Land of the Turtle". The Tulpehocken Creek is located approximately a mile northwest of Womelsdorf.

German settlers came next to this area. Like the Germans who settled other areas of Berks County, they were Palatine Germans, driven from their homeland by religious persecution. Unlike the other Germans in the county, however, the first Tulpehocken settlers migrated first to New York, settling on the Hudson River at Livingston Manor and then in the Schoharie Valley to the south. In 1723, a small group of families followed the Susquehanna and its tributaries down to Pennsylvania and the Tulpehocken area, becoming the first European settlers there. They were joined by a great influx of Germans from New York in 1727-1729. This latter group included Conrad Weiser, later to become a noted statesman and Indian agent.

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The Womelsdorff family first arrived in the area in 1750, when Daniel Womelsdorff, a successful miller in what is now Amity Township, purchased 250 acres of land in the Tulpehocken Valley, over which his son John became overseer. By 1760, when Daniel died and John inherited the land, the Tulpehocken Valley had become a vital link in the expansion of Pennsylvania settlement. The Tulpehocken Path, a major artery of westward travel from Philadelphia, carried settlers and traders through the Valley. The Path bisected present day Womelsdorf along Franklin Street, and by 1768 was known as the Sunbury Road. Conrad Weiser helped attract many people to the area also. He established a trading post along the Tulpehocken c. 1730. Due to his negotiations with the Indians living in the area, the Tulpehocken became one of the safer areas to settle in the Pennsylvania wilderness.

Seeing a great potential for profit in his land, John Womelsdorff laid out a town in 1762. Known as "Middle Town" for its location halfway between Reading and Lebanon, it was the second planned community in Berks County. Womelsdorff hoped to take advantage of the westward movement, as well as attract the business of the earlier settlers, who conducted most of their trading in Reading. He plotted four streets, two running north and south, and two running east and west; with 75 numbered lots, and Market Square at the center of the town. Each lot carried a yearly ground rent, and within three years, the lot owner was required to construct "one good substantial dwelling House", measuring 24 feet by 20 feet, with a brick or stone chimney laid with lime and sand. Many of these homes can still be seen in Womelsdorf today. Although some have been enlarged or otherwise altered, many or still identifiable by their size and shape.

"Middle Town" was a moderate success. All but three of the lots were purchased, but the town grew slowly, perhaps due to its owner's financial difficulties. In 1776, the ground rent and accompanying privileges were sold to satisfy Womelsdorff's creditors. Jacob Seltzer, a local innkeeper, became the new owner of the town. The orders of sale indicate that by this time the town was known as "Womelsdorff" after its founder. The last "f" was then dropped from the name before incorporation as a borough in 1833.

All lot owners evidently did not construct the required houses. Theophile Casenove, an agent for Dutch investors, passed through Womelsdorf in 1794 and described it as "a town where there are ... about 50 houses, among which some of stone and three or four new ones of brick, the rest are of logs and mortar". Casenove's observations indicate that logs and stone were the most common building materials at first, with brick coming into use at the turn of the eighteenth century. At the time Casenove traveled through the town, there were also several taverns, including Stouch's Tavern and the original Seltzer House, no longer standing. In the courtyards of Stouch's Tavern and the second Seltzer House can be seen the last remnants of the original cobblestones which lined the streets in the nineteenth century.

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Due to its location on the Tulpehocken Path/Sunbury Road, Womelsdorf received many distinguished visitors. In 1777, some members of the Continental Congress passed through the town as they fled Philadelphia. George Washington paid visits to Womelsdorf in 1793 and 1794; and the townspeople entertained newly elected President James Buchanan in 1856.

The earliest settlers in and around Womelsdorf relied on farming for their livelihood. As the town grew it offered a wide range of the trades and industries common to south central Pennsylvania's German settlements, including gunsmithing, dyeing and weaving, pottery making, and clockmaking. The town was also noted for less practiced occupations such as the manufacturing of woolen hats. Daniel Graeff became the first Womelsdorf hatmaker in 1784, and the long tradition ended nearly a century later when the Ermentrout family ceased making hats.

Cigar manufacturing was by far the largest and most successful Womelsdorf industry, reaching its peak between 1875 and 1930. Nearly forty cigar manufacturers operated in Womelsdorf during the 19th century until about 1930, ranging from one or two man businesses called "buckeyes" to large factories employing several hundred men to hand roll cigars. Outstanding among these was the A. S. Valentine & Son firm, operated from 1848 to 1930 by three generations of the Valentine Family. Two factories and a large High Street mansion pointed out their success and standing in the community. The H. D. Hackman cigar company produced "Dutch Masters", still a leading brand today. Around 1930, the introduction of mechanization in the cigar manufacturing process drove most Womelsdorf cigar makers out of business. A related industry, cigar box manufacturing, also flourished in Womelsdorf.

Education has been an important aspect of community life from the earliest days of Womelsdorf. Baron Henry William Stiegel, the Lancaster County ironmaster, taught a pay school in a now demolished building on Franklin Street, from 1775 to 1785, after the collapse of his fortunes. He was a highly respected teacher and his students were considered to have received the finest education available. Another popular schoolmaster was Walker Stephen, who ran a school at what is now 222 West Franklin Street from 1825 until 1868. Due to his efforts, Womelsdorf became one of the first communities to adopt the Pennsylvania School Law of 1834, the first step in making public education available to all children.

Today, Womelsdorf retains a leisurely, small town atmosphere. Due to the highway a mile to the north, the borough's streets are not heavily travelled. Although primarily a residential town, several new, light industries provide the base of the town's economy. The industries have been accommodated easily in older buildings; the Valley Forge Flag Company, for example; occupies the M. H. Smaltz Cigar factory. Well maintained buildings and yards along Womelsdorf's streets indicate their owner's pride in their homes and businesses, and a sense of community is very evident in the borough. People know their neighbors well and porches and streets are popular places to socialize. Womelsdorf, today, provides an excellent example of the evolution of a small, south central Pennsylvania German community.

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Verbal Boundary Description For The Proposed Womelsdorf Historic District

The proposed Womelsdorf Historic District was prepared using the zone/village survey summary format, together with a color-coded significance key to identify and differentiate properties under consideration. In order to evaluate and delineate edges of the historic district, this information was transferred to a borough map. However, due to the lack of appropriate materials, additional information has been added by our staff.

The only available map is the one used throughout this survey of Womelsdorf. A larger scale map, such as those used by engineers for infra-structure planning, was available but proved to be too large to be useful for architectural survey work and this nomination. All property lines, lot sizes and compass directions on the district maps have been added and are approximate, made on the basis of our field survey work. District boundary outlines, and color-coded squares were determined from these approximations. Borough officials have not expressed an interest in having zoning maps with property lines prepared at this time.

The proposed district boundary proceeds as follows: Beginning at the point of intersection of Water Street and Mulberry Alley, it continues approximately 600 feet south along the western curb of Water Street, then west approximately 420 feet on Cherry Alley, following the southern property lines of High Street lots, which extend to this alley. At Linden Avenue, it proceeds south about 600 feet on Linden along the eastern (rear) property lines of lots on the east side of S. Front Street, then west along the southern property line of 109 S. Front Street, excluding 115, 117 and 125 S. Front Street, as well as 11 and 9 Jefferson Street. The boundary continues west, crossing Front Street, and follows the southern property line of 114 S. Front Street, excluding 120, 122 and 124 S. Front Street. Still continuing west, it crosses Elm Street, excluding 101, 119, 121 and 125 Jefferson Street, and follows the edge of a paved parking lot at the southern property line of 127 S. Second Street, a line approximately 825 feet long. (This line excludes Voguewear, Inc. factory and Outlet Store at 131 S. Second Street.) Next, the boundary crosses S. Second, then turns south following the western curb of S. Second 200 feet to the point of intersection with Jefferson Street. It then proceeds approximately 200 feet along the northern curb of Jefferson Street to the point of intersection with Oak Alley, then north approximately 800 feet along Oak Alley following the western property lines of lots on the west side of S. Second Street. At the point of intersection with Cherry Alley, it turns west and continues along that alley, approximately 1000 feet following the southern property lines of lots on W. High Street, crossing Third Street, to the Fourth Street intersection. Here it proceeds north roughly 600 feet along the eastern curb of Fourth Street, across High Street, to Mulberry Alley then east along the southern curb of Mulberry Alley, for a distance of about 625 feet. At N. Third Street, the boundary proceeds northward approximately 400 feet along the eastern curb of N. Third, crosses Franklin Street, then turns

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west approximately 175 feet again crossing Third Street, and following the northern curb of Franklin to a point marking the southwest corner of the R. John Olde Haus property (102 N. Third Street). The boundary then moves north about 100 feet, then east again approximately 100 feet, following west and north property lines to include this property in the proposed district. Continuing east approximately 1000 feet along the northern property line of 102 N. Third Street, it crosses Third street, following the northern property lines for lots in the 200 block of the northern side of Franklin Street. At the point of intersection with Second Street, the boundary continues north approximately 100 feet along the eastern curb of the street to Pear Alley, then east 600 feet along Pear Alley, which marks the northern property lines of lots in the 100 block of Franklin Street. Continuing east, it crosses Front Street, then turns south along the eastern curb of N. Front, then west about 75 feet to a point marking the northeast corner of the 111 N. Front Street property; then south approximately 200 feet along the eastern property lines for 111 and 101 N. Front Street (Trinity Evangelical Church of Christ). It continues south 400 feet across Franklin Street, and along the rear (eastern) property lines of lots on the eastern side of N. Front Street to the point of intersection with Mulberry Alley. The boundary continues east approximately 175 feet along Mulberry Alley, the northern property line of lots on the north side of East High Street, back to the district's point of origin.

District Boundary Justification

The proposed Womelsdorf Historic District boundary edges have been drawn to include structures of architectural or historical significance, as well as the lots upon which these structures stand. Lawns, gardens, old stables, sheds and garages are included with these properties. These edges also exclude most modern intrusions such as 20th century industrial buildings, or structures built since 1930. Color-coded designations have been added to further illustrate the significance of the included and excluded structures.

The east edge of the district was determined by both changes in land use and integrity of structures. Water Street, the eastern boundary of the district, differentiates between blocks of modern commercial structures, "suburban rancher"-style homes or severely altered older residences to the east, and blocks of well-maintained vernacular and decorative Victorian-age buildings to the west. It also acts as a dividing line between the open space of a recreational park and the beginning of a more concentrated residential streetscape - the area of original settlement.

The line was drawn along the western curb of Water Street as a line of convenience including both a building of outstanding architectural importance (colored red) and a modern building unsympathetic to the streetscape character (66 E. High, colored blue). The district boundary line turns west along Cherry Alley at the rear of 66 E. High Street. The turn of the line delineates the original planned settlement area, thereby excluding the more modern garden apartments along Water Street south of the High Street properties. The district edges, in effect, follow the property edges, without the alley. For this reason, the next boundary line was drawn along Linden Alley in order to include the back lots of those structures of historical and architectural significance along the east side of Front Street.

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The next turn of the boundary line, moving west along the 109 S. Front Street southern property line, was drawn to exclude the last properties along S. Front, as well as those on Jefferson Street which back up to these. The excluded properties on this block - 115, 117 and 125 S. Front Street and 11 and 9 Jefferson Street, were given a blue color designation during our street survey work -- indicating that they were later, modern intrusions of different building scale and materials from those along S. Front Street and are incompatible with the overall character of the proposed district. This same justification applies to the continuing of the district edge west across S. Front between the properties of 114 S. Front and 120 S. Front, across Elm Street and between the properties of 127 S. Second and 131 S. Second Street. This fairly straight line west, which marks the southern edge of the district, excludes several modern, intruding structures and accompanying backyard lots and garages on the west side of S. Front Street, on Jefferson Street and on S. Second Street. The individual addresses of these excluded buildings are given in the verbal boundary description, and color indications are shown on the district map.

At the southwest corner of the property at 127 S. Second Street, the district boundary crosses S. Second to the opposite curb (the western curb of S. 2nd) and again changes direction, this time moving south to the northern curb of Jefferson Street before turning west and continuing along this curb edge of its intersection with Oak Alley. Drawn in this way, the district includes important structures and their back lots at the corner of S. Second and Jefferson Streets. The district edges drawn along the northern curb of Jefferson and then north along the east edge of Oak Alley delineate a major change in land use. Land excluded from the district, lying to the west and the south represents a visual change in the character of the area; it opens into sloping fields and a long contemporary one-story school building and athletic fields. The district edge turns at the top of Oak Alley, continuing west along the northern edge of Cherry Drive - again to include the rear lots, sheds, garages of High Street but not to violate any rights of way on the alley itself.

At the corner of Cherry Drive and Fourth Street, the boundary line turns and continues north along the eastern curb of Fourth Street - marking the western edge of the historic district. This edge was drawn to delineate a change in land use; across Fourth Street and to the southwest is a large corn field. The landscape here opens into a full view of sloping farmland - a significant change from the compact residential streetscapes of the historic district. This western edge also excludes modern structures on W. High Street west of Fourth Street. It does, however, include a modern structure on the northeast corner of W. High and Fourth Street, simply as a line of convenience. The boundary line again excludes modern structures by continuing east along the southern curb of Mulberry Alley (the northern property line for High Street lots in the 300 block), across Third Street and north along the eastern curb of N. Third Street.

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The next changes in boundary line directions were drawn in order to include one structure on the northwest corner of Franklin and N. Third Streets -- 102 N. Third St. The edges around this structure are drawn at the proper curb edges; after continuing north along the eastern curb of N. Third Street, the boundary line crosses Franklin Street to the point where the northern curb of Franklin Street and the eastern curb of N. Third Street meet. From here the line moves west, crossing N. Third Street and along the northern curb of Franklin Street in front of 102 N. Third Street -- R. John's Olde Haus. The boundary then follows the property lines for that address and turns eastward, again across N. Third Street, and continues east. The boundary line running along the rear property lines of Franklin Street lots in the 200 block then turns north along Second Street and again east along the length of Pear Alley. This northern edge of the district delineates change in land use, excluding the open farmland, which slopes away from the Franklin Street properties and excluding the grassy knoll above Pear Alley to the north, while still including the backyards of the residential Franklin Street properties.

After crossing N. Front Street, the northern edge of the district extends along the eastern curb of that street and along property lines to include 111 N. Front Street and the Trinity Evangelical Church, but excluding the rather large and expansive cemetery behind the church. The boundary line moves south across Franklin and runs behind 47 N. Front - a property of outstanding architectural importance to the district - and continues south along all rear property lines of lots in this block until Mulberry Alley. Here the boundary turns east and continues along this alley in order to include all properties -- structures and lots -- facing on E. High Street, representing the concentration of early buildings which characterize the district. The Mulberry Alley edge distinguishes between cemetery and fields to the north and these properties, and leads back to the point of origin of the boundary lines.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
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TOPOGRAPHIC AND GEOLOGIC SURVEY

