

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic IRVING FEMALE COLLEGE

and/or common IRVING MANOR APARTMENTS AND SEIDLE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

2. Location

street & number Filbert and Main Streets, Simpson Street N/A not for publication

city, town Mechanicsburg N/A vicinity of

state Pennsylvania code 42 county Cumberland code 041

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 type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<u>N/A</u> 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Hospital

4. Owner of Property

name CONSOLIDATED PROPERTIES SEIDLE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

street & number 4409 Carlisle Pike Filbert and Simpson Streets

city, town Camp Hill N/A vicinity of Mechanicsburg state Pennsylvania

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Cumberland County Courthouse

street & number 3 South Hanover Street

city, town Carlisle state Pennsylvania

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date N/A N/A federal N/A state N/A county N/A local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

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 <u> N/A </u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Irving Female College Complex is located on the outskirts of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, just west of Filbert Street between Main and Simpson Streets. The landscape and buildings are a prominent landmark along the major routes in and out of Mechanicsburg. The buildings which comprised the college included Irving Hall, Columbian Hall and the President's Mansion. All of these buildings have undergone interior renovation for adaptive reuse. Irving Hall and Columbian Hall are now apartment buildings. The President's Mansion is now part of Seidle Memorial Hospital. However, the exterior of Irving Hall and Columbian Hall, as well as the surrounding landscape appear much as they did when they were built. The major change has been the third story and roof of Columbian Hall, which was damaged in a fire about 1940, and replaced. Both of these buildings were designed in the Italianate style. The former President's Mansion has also remained unchanged on the exterior. However, an addition was put on the west side of the building in 1959, when it became part of the hospital. As well as the addition to the President's Mansion, there are townhouses on the east side of the property, which are also intrusions on the original college grounds. However, the impact of these buildings is lessened by the landscaping, which obscures the buildings from vistas of the property along Simpson and Main Streets. These two vistas are the main historic views.

Irving Hall was the first building constructed for Irving College. The facade is ornamented in the Italianate Style. The building is three stories high and is constructed of brick with wood trim. The brick is painted and probably always has been, as old postcards show the building painted white. The plan of the building is a truncated U shape, with the areas between the arms of the U filled in with a porch and balcony. The gable of the main part of the building is parallel with Main Street, while the wings extend south and these gables intersect the main roof. An extension of the east wing of the building was built around 1900, extending south of the original building and making the final plan of the building an L shape.

The front facade of Irving Hall is regularly fenestrated with paired double-hung windows and french doors. There are four bays across the main block and one bay of windows on the wings. All windows and doors feature a projecting wooden transom, supported on two wooden brackets. There are also wooden brackets under the eaves. The major feature of the front facade is the porch and the balcony. The porch detailing consists of carved wooden posts and finely carved brackets, supporting a balcony level railing of plain balusters. The porches on the side facade have the same brackets, but the posts are widened and have delicate fretwork on the central parts of the columns. On all the porches the balcony is accessible from the second floor. Because of the balcony, French doors are located in the two central bays of the main block and these are flanked by a single multi-paned door on the two outside bays. The configuration of the doors is the same on the first floor. Additionally, the wings have a French Door on the first floor, but these do not open onto the porch.

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The west and east sides of Irving Hall are identical. The porch is slightly shorter than the length of the facades. The fenestration consists of three bays of paired double-hung windows on the third floor and french doors on the first and second floor for access onto the porch and balcony. There is an additional bay of small windows between the second and third bay. The original wing on the east side of the building is differentiated from the new wing by both the facade treatment and the fenestration. The addition is unpainted beige brick, with flat arches constructed of brick over the windows. There are brackets under the eaves, as in the original building. The fenestration consists of paired double hung windows (four bays) and the second floor windows are taller than the rest with a glass transom above the window.

The rear of Irving Hall forms a courtyard with the additional wing and the side of Columbian Hall. The rear of Irving Hall is fenestrated with six-over-one double hung windows. Even on the original section of the building there are no decorative lintels over the windows and on the addition the flat arched bricks are absent.

The second building on the campus, Columbian Hall, was built in 1893 when the college was enjoying prosperity. Although Italianate, the exterior shows some Spanish influence in the decoration around the main entrance, as well as in the low pitched roof (now removed). The roof originally had dormers which added greatly to the architectural character of the building. The building is rectangular in plan, with the exception of the projecting stair-tower on the front (north) facade. The building is three stories high. A wing was added later off the rear portion of the building, making it an L shape. The original part of Columbian Hall is constructed of brick, while the addition is constructed of wood.

The front part of the building is irregular and very picturesque. The projecting round stair tower occupies the central part of the building and two round arched windows are located diagonally to correspond to the rise of the stair case. Additionally, there is a row of three round-arched windows equally spaced under the eaves, to light the staircase from above. There are also windows on the sides of the tower, to light the landings. The stair tower ends at the top of the second floor and has a semi-conical roof.

The main entrance to Columbian Hall is located to the west of the stair tower and occupies the entire part of the facade. The original doors have been removed. The bricks around the arch are voussoir shaped. Above the brick arch there is an elaborate molding in the shape of an ogee arch, with an arabesque at the head of the arch. The fenestration above this consists of double-hung one-over-one windows regularly spaced. At one time they were round-headed, but this has been filled in with a wood panel. To the east of the stair tower the facade features three double-hung windows at each floor level. The windows on the first floor have transoms above the

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windows that are now painted over. On the second floor the central window was once arched, but it is now filled in. A string course on the front facade of two courses of corbelled brick ties the spring line of the round-headed windows on the stair tower and the top of the windows on the second floor together. There is also a raised pattern of headers under the eaves of the stair tower, which is picked up again on the corners of the building.

The side facades of Columbian Hall are fenestrated in three bays, the first and second floor bays consist of three closely spaced one-over-one double-hung windows (the first floor windows have transoms as they do on the front facade). The third floor windows are spaced with the south windows close together and the north window of each bay toward the edge of the bay. The corbeled brick work continues around the corners of the building from both the front and the rear facade until it reaches the first window of the corner bay.

The rear of Columbian Hall is symmetric with respect to the fire exit doors (which were probably added when the building was converted to apartments). There is a bay of paired double-hung windows on the corners and a pair of small segmental-arched double-hung windows flanking the doors. The corbeled brick string course continues around the corner of the building until it reaches the first window.

The addition connects to Columbian Hall on the east side of the building. The addition is plainly detailed with straight lintels and wide siding. There are doors located on the east and north side of the addition. The south elevation of the addition to Columbian Hall is regularly fenestrated with four double-hung one-over-one windows. The two central first floor windows are slightly shorter than the other windows. The north facade, which helps to form the interior of the courtyard between Columbian Hall and Irving Hall has six windows on the second floor and four windows on the first floor.

Irving Hall and Columbian Hall and the respective additions were converted to apartments in the late 1930's. Therefore, few of the noteworthy interior spaces of the school remain. The apartment interiors are quite nicely finished, however, featuring plaster walls, arched doorway openings from the dining room to the living room, hardwood floors and large wooden baseboards.

Several townhouses have been erected along the western edge of the original college grounds facing onto Filbert Street. These townhouses are modern two-story brick structures with wood details. They are intrusions on the original site, however, their impact is minimal as they are hidden by the original landscaping.

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Between the two former college halls and the former President's Mansion there are two parking lots. However, the rest of the grounds are intact and landscaped as they were when the college was in operation. Also extant are the remains of fireplaces used in the annual May Day celebration, located on the west side of the yard. A hedge grows along Main Street and extends up Locust Street and Filbert Street. Large trees are scattered in the wide lawn in front of the college buildings. Ornamental trees and shrubs surround the President's Mansion.

The President's Mansion is a Spanish Renaissance house. It is rectangular with a projecting central block on the east side. The roof is a low hipped style. The main feature of the building is the veranda, which extends around three sides of the building (north, south and east). The veranda has a low sloping roof with dentils under the eaves and an entablature that widens where the column support it. The porch is supported by paired square columns, subtly carved. The columns rest on square piers of stone, between which are wooden balusters and the lattice-work under the porch floor.

The north and south facades of the President's Mansion are irregularly fenestrated with double-hung one-over-one windows with stone lintels. The east facade is symmetrical around the entrance. The projecting area of the wall on this side contains the door, flanked by double-hung windows. Above this is a large casement window, with a transom light above flanked by two narrow casement windows, also with a transom light above. On each corner of the east facade there is a pair of double-hung windows, both on the first and second floor. The west facade has an addition, the hospital complex, abutting it. The addition is of modern curtain wall construction. It is three stories high. The addition is L-shaped and was sensitively designed to be flush with the front facade of the President's Mansion, and then projected to the south to form a court for which the President's Mansion is the focal point.

The three original buildings and the surrounding grounds are the last resources left in Mechanicsburg to be associated with Irving College. They are still extant because they were able to be adapted to new uses. Although the interiors have been altered, the exteriors still present an accurate picture of what Irving College was like.

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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		

Specific dates 1856-1930 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Irving Female College, located near the central business district of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania made an important contribution to the social and cultural lifestyle of the area in which it was located. The college campus provided an accessible location for social and cultural events, while providing advanced education for upper-class women. The school was started in 1856, making it the second oldest female college in Pennsylvania.¹ Irving was the first female college to grant degrees in arts and sciences. The college campus, landscaping and buildings appear today much as they did when the college was in operation. Only the President's Mansion has been altered on the exterior, as it is now linked to a modern hospital complex.

In 1856 Mechanicsburg was a small town which evolved from rural commerce. By this time, many individuals had become aware of the advantages of locating a college in a rural area. Solomon Perry Gorgas was a wealthy landowner and businessman who wanted a college in Mechanicsburg. Using his land, he financed the construction of a building, Irving Hall, and appointed a board of directors to administer the college. Washington Irving, whom the college is named for, served on the board from 1857 until his death. The board elected Reverend A. G. Marlatt, a graduate of Dickinson College, as the first president of Irving Female College.

During President Marlatt's term the enrollment of the college averaged 91. Irving Hall sufficed to house forty students, as well as supply the classroom, the parlor, the library and the college offices. The building is designed in the Italianate style and is reminiscent of an Italian Villa in the massing of the wings and the placement of the porches and balconies. Even today the integrity of the original design is still intact. The students that could not be housed at Irving Hall were day students and lived in Mechanicsburg or nearby. "The Mechanicsburg Journal reported that President Marlatt became a vital part of the town and made the college also part of it."²

After the death of President Marlatt in 1865, a new president purchased the college from the heirs of Solomon Perry Gorgas. Reverend T. P. Ege served as president until 1883. During this time the enrollment declined, until there were only two girls in the graduating class of 1882. The decline in enrollment may have been due to two factors, the fear of diseases and the hard economic conditions of the 1870's. The decline of the student enrollment probably had a great deal to do with Reverend Ege's decision to close the school in 1883.

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The college remained closed until 1886, when Mrs. Christian Kessler reopened it, acting as both principal and teacher. She introduced a varied course of study. The college began to improve in both enrollment and statute, due to Mrs. Kessler's devotion.

In 1890 Edmond Campbell arrived at the campus to teach. He was immediately popular and was soon elected by the Board of Trustees as president. He assumed the duties previously held by Mrs. Kessler. By 1893 the college was doing so well that it was decided to erect an additional building called Columbian Hall. Columbian Hall was erected in the Italianate style, but it also showed some Spanish Renaissance characteristics. The building contained 40 additional dormitory rooms on the upper floors and a large auditorium on the first floor.

Shortly after Columbian Hall was erected the nation suffered from a depression from which the Mechanicsburg area did not recover until after 1898. Due to the situation, the owners of the college, heirs to Reverend T. P. Ege, approached President Campbell about purchasing the college. He agreed and in 1898 became the sole owner.

When the economy recovered, enrollment increased. By 1901 it was necessary to enlarge the college again. A large addition was erected on the south side of the east wing of Irving Hall, expanding the building by 62 feet. The wing included music practice rooms, a cafeteria, a kitchen and a gymnasium.³

At this time the college was enjoying the largest enrollment that had yet been attained, 132 students. Now the Board of Trustees rued the decision to sell the college to President Campbell. The president offered to sell the college back to the Board of Trustees, but they would not meet his asking price, so the college remained in President Campbell's possession. The private ownership of the college eventually caused the demise of the college.

From 1901 to 1926 Irving College continued to maintain high enrollment and high academic standards. Appearing in the yearbook of 1907 was the following statement:

There is no institution for the education of young women in Pennsylvania that surpasses Irving in convenience, comfort and capacity of its buildings, or its beautiful and accessible location.⁴

In 1911 President Campbell decided to build himself a home on Irving Campus. Previous to this the President's Mansion had been located at Sunnyside, now demolished. This decision was widely approved of as the following statement from the 1911 yearbook illustrates:

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Dr. Campbell has now nearly completed a very handsome residence on the South-eastern part of the college grounds, where he will be able to entertain the faculty and students and his friends. It's style of architecture is the Spanish Renaissance. Four acres of land have been added to the campus and already more than 150 ornamental trees are growing upon it. Greater things are yet in store for Irving.⁵

The demise of Irving College began with the death of President Campbell under whom the school had enjoyed so much prosperity. President Campbell died in 1929, only a year after he had vainly attempted to sell the college to the Lutheran Church. The Trustees struggled to keep the college open three more years, but the Great Depression was the final blow to the struggling institution.

Irving College was doomed to close in an era of the growth of state supported schools and private institutions with large endowments. However, high academic standards were maintained while the college was in operation. The alumni of the college include: Jane Deeter Ripon, President of the Girl Scouts of America; Ida Kast, Cumberland County's first female lawyer; Elizabeth Zug, a concert pianist; and Annie Campbell Reinhart, supervising principal of one of Pittsburgh's largest schools. The success of these women illustrates the calibre of women attending the college.

The original buildings and campus grounds still exist, looking much as they did when the college was in operation. The interior of the buildings have experienced some alteration, to adapt them to their new uses. Irving Hall and Columbian Hall were sold in 1937, and renovated to apartments shortly after that. The apartment conversion is an excellent example of adaptive reuse as all the original windows were used and many interesting spaces created within the original floor plan. Shortly after the conversion, a fire destroyed the hipped roof of Columbian Hall and it was replaced with a flat roof. The President's Mansion was sold to Seidle Hospital and is now joined on the west side to a modern hospital complex.

Additionally, Irving provided Mechanicsburg with a source of culture, music, great literature and drama that the rural town would not have experienced otherwise. A former Irving graduate still in the area said "The college meant a great deal to the community. It was a social center."

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FOOTNOTES:

1. The first Female College in Pennsylvania was Pittsburgh Female College chartered in 1854. The buildings still exist as Chatham College. This information from History of Higher Education in Pennsylvania by Saul Sack.

2. Keefer, Norman D., History of Mechanicsburg and the Surrounding Area, (Mechanicsburg Area Historical Society, 1976), p. 84

3. Ibid. p. 83

4. Irving Female College, The Sketch Book, (Mechanicsburg, PA., 1907), p. 44

5. Irving Female College, Irvington, (Mechanicsburg, PA., 1911), p. 23.

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Continuation sheet IRVING FEMALE COLLEGE Item number 9. Bibliographic Page 1.
Sources

Major Bibliographic Sources:

Flower, Lenore Embeck, The History of Irving College. Paper read for Cumberland County Historic Society, 22 April 1965.

Hawkins, Ronald. "Irving College" Scope, the magazine of the Evening Sentinel. Carlisle, Pennsylvania. July 12 1980.

Keefer, Norman D. A History of Mechanicsburg and the Surrounding Area. Mechanicsburg Area Historic Commission, Mechanicsburg, PA 1976.

Irving College. Irvington: the Annual Yearbook of Irving College. 1890 to 1920. Available at the Mechanicsburg Public Library.

O'Keefe, Margaret. Irving Apartments, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. Interview 23 April 1982.

Irving College. The Sketch Book. Mechanicsburg, PA November 1911.

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE ATTACHED Continuation Sheets

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 4.6

Quadrangle name Mechanicsburg, Lemoyne

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A			B			
<u>18</u>	<u>3298010</u>	<u>445331610</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>3299100</u>	<u>445311810</u>	
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
C			Mechanicsburg			
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B X E			C	<u>18</u>	<u>3297150</u>	<u>445321810</u>
<u>18</u>	<u>3298010</u>	<u>445311410</u>	X	<u>18</u>	<u>3297150</u>	<u>445321810</u>
G			H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

SEE ATTACHED Continuation Sheets

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries:

state	NOT APPLICABLE	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sarah Rose, consultant for

organization Consolidated Properties date May 12, 1982

street & number 525 Morris Lane telephone 215-296-7146

city or town Berwyn 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 or 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 Larry E. Tise, State Historic Preservation Officer

date 3/16/83

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

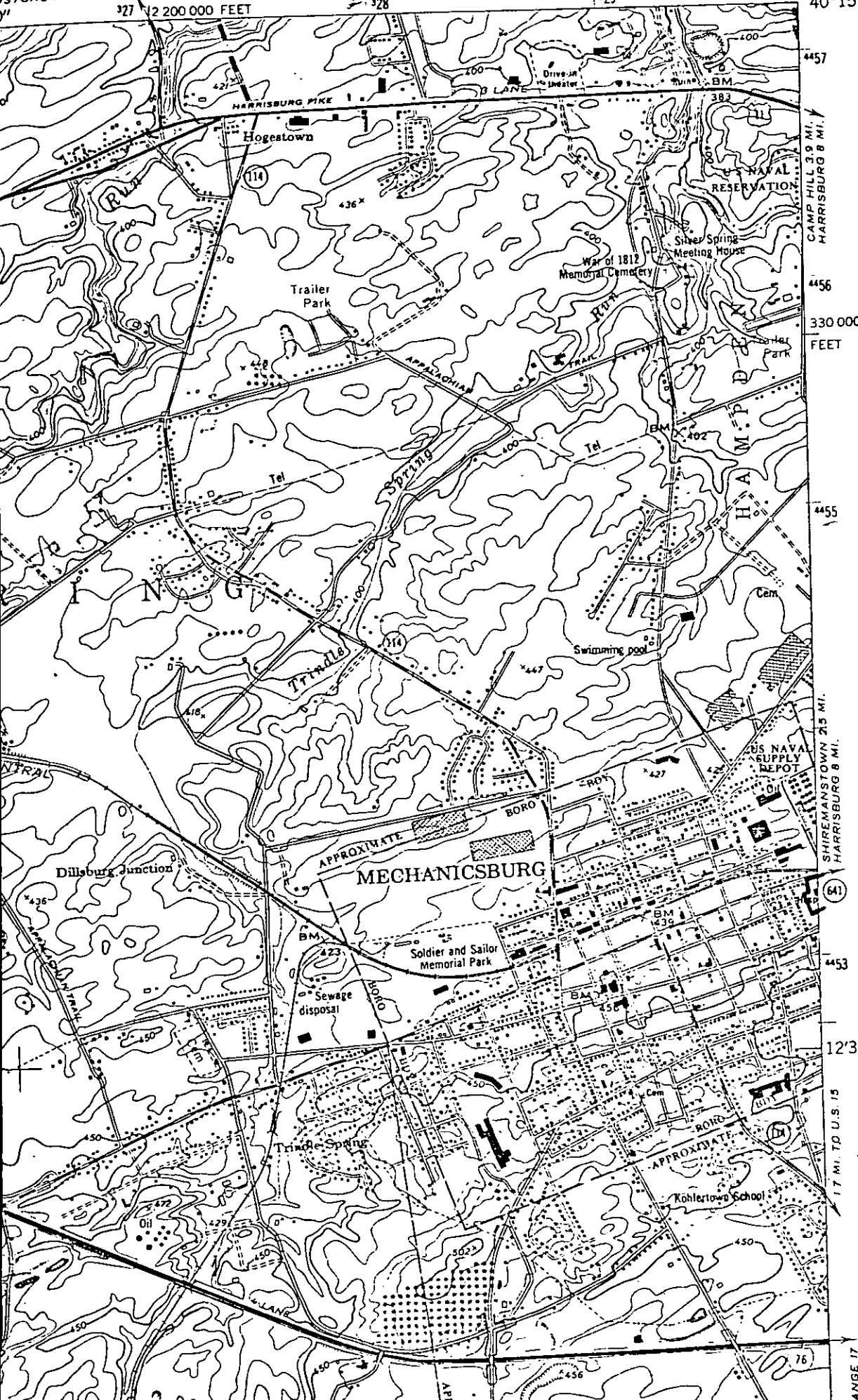
Chief of Registration.

7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
NE/4 CARLISLE 15' QUADRANGLE

77°00'
40°15'

STONS MILL 0.4 MI.

327 1/2 200 000 FEET



CAMP HILL 3.9 MI.
HARRISBURG 8 MI.

4456
330 000
FEET

4455

SHIREMANSTOWN 2.5 MI.
HARRISBURG 8 MI.

(641)

4453

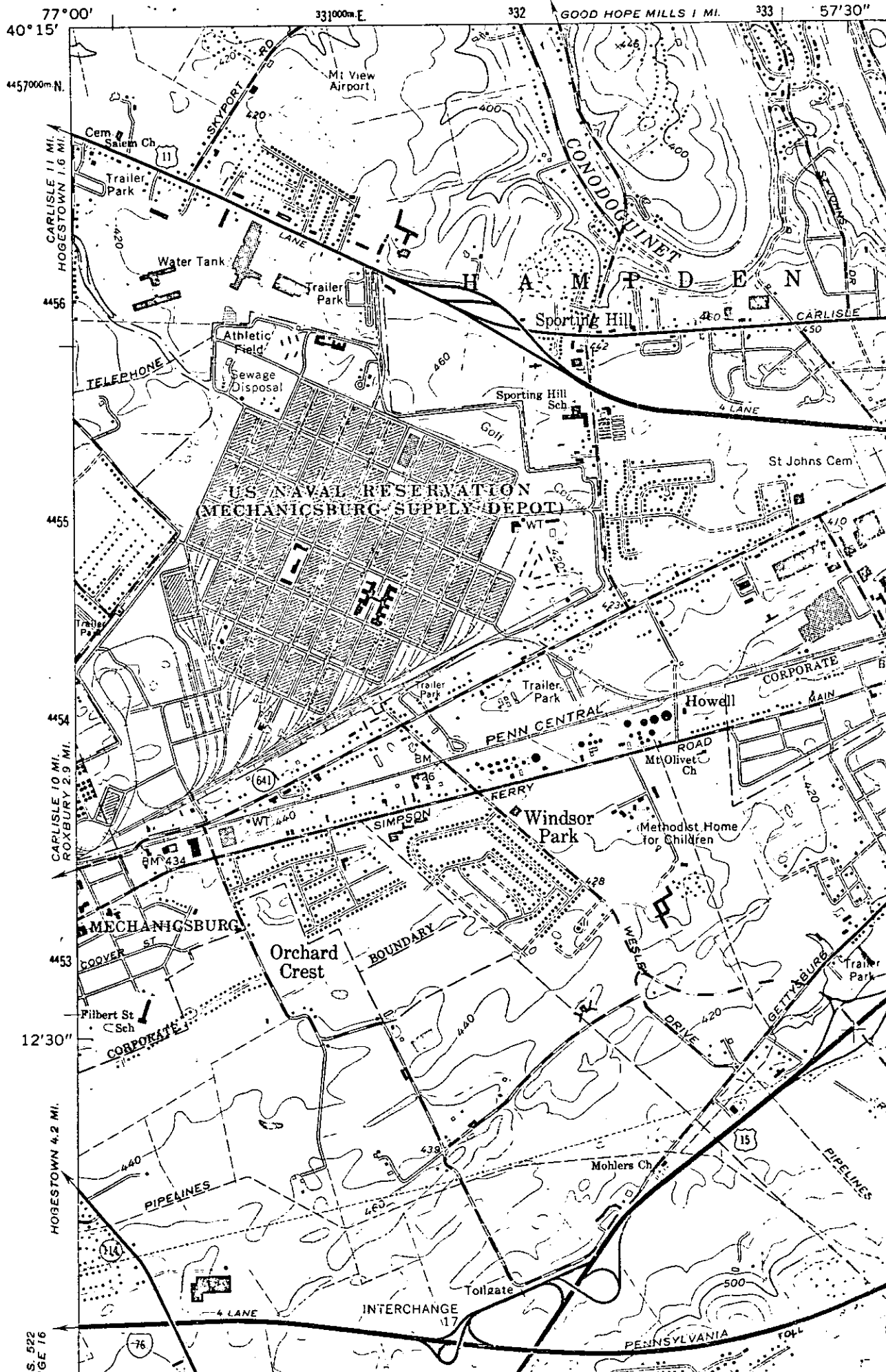
12'30"

1.7 MI. TO U.S. 15

CHANGE 17
BURG 7 MI.

SE
RTZVILLE

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



U.S. 522
RANGE 16