

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

36

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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 Dunbar-Creigh House

and/or common Lawrence Inn

USE THIS COPY  
FOR DUPLICATING

**2. Location**

street & number Water Street

not for publication

city, town Landisburg

vicinity of

congressional district 9

state Pennsylvania

code 42

county Perry

code 099

**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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input 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 Hursh

street & number 11 W. Maplewood Avenue

city, town Mechanicsburg

vicinity of

state Pennsylvania 17055

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Perry County Courthouse

street & number Center Square

city, town New Bloomfield

state Pennsylvania

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 12/79

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 Dunbar-Creigh house faces Water Street, south, in the town of Landisburg, Perry County and was built between 1794 and 1809. This two and one-half story stone structure set into the bank of the hillside has a gable roof and a stone foundation. The structure measures 28 feet by 30 feet and has a small frame summer kitchen attached to rear or north wall. This one and one-half story summer does not date from the 1794-1809 period but was added at a later time.

Wall construction is of native Perry county stone. Two types of painting is evident on the structure. The original is flush with the stone and the pie-crust type on the east and west walls was added c. 1900. The interior framing system is wood much with the original wooden pegs.

The gable roof is covered with raised seem tin and asbestos, these are not original to the structure. A gable roof dormer is located in the north (rear). An interior brick chimney is located in the west gable end and a free-standing brick chimney to the rear of the summer kitchen.

Windows in the three bay by two bay structure are nine over nine with pegged frames. Originally the windows had exterior shutters. During its period as an inn, this structure had two story porches on the front facade and center doorways on both levels. The center doorway on the second floor has been replaced by a nine over nine window. The first floor doorway is sheltered by a wooden hood decorated with small dentils. The door itself is topped by a rectangular transom.

Details of the interior are as follows:

#### 1. Floor plans:

- a. Basement - First floor: A cellar room built into bank north wall. This room holds furnace and utility appliances and well pump and powder room. The front room on South holds kitchen and dining area or Common room. Partitions have been removed wood floors are paid on hugh original logs. Enclose stairwell to second floor has paneling on West side.
- b. 2nd Floor - Main level rear. Rear door opens to main stair hall which is used as livingroom. To the right of stairs are two rooms. The front probably the original living room retains most of the original finish, however, chair rail and mantel had been removed. The rear room is original and a partition has been added for a bath room. A fireplace and original hearth with original brick is located in this room.
- c. 3rd Floor: A hall well with batten door leads to two bedrooms under a relatively low ceiling.

2. Stairways: The first to second level stairs are blocked with door at bottom and top. This has original paneling toward west and a window towards east. The main stairs is an open well with slender tapered balusters all original but one. A simple handrail and the steps are all original.

continued...

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

Dunbar-Creigh House, Perry County

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

3. Flooring: The first floor has 6 original wide pine boards with beading remain the rest have replaced with 3 and 4" boards mid 1900. The second floor has 6" heart pine mostly original. The third floor has random width original pine flooring.
4. Walls and Ceilings finish. The first floor has been insulated and covered with dry wall. There is one exposed stone wall at fireplace. The rear or celler room has poured concret. Also exposed beams some pegged also in both rooms an exposed wood frame of the hearth that is wooden pegged. Second floor: All walls are horse hair plaster exterior walls over stone, inside walls with lathe. This floor has high ceilings almost 10feet. Third floor outside walls horsehair plaster over stone inside lathe.
5. Doorways and doors: Five, six paneled wooden doors are original. The two leading from the main stair hall have fine early wood trim and the doors and doorway are oversized. There are four original batten doors one with dovetailing of a wood strip of diminishing width. Two door ways are pegged on first floor. Doorways and doors are painted on the first and second floor. The third floor doors are original finish of pine.

Outbuildings: Also located on the property are:

- a. Summer Kitchen: The attached summer kitchen is to the north wall. Made of frame with wains coating inside. There had been a walk-in fireplace. This has been removed and boarded shut. Has 6" wide floors. Two original windows.
- b. There is a shed or garage of later period about 1925.
- c. Privy or necessary house - Aprox 1940.

Walks and enclosures

A terrace to the back north made of brick constructed 1977.  
A porch to the North and East of Summer Kitchen has been rebuilt 1978.

## 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 1794-1809

Builder/Architect John Dunbar

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Dunbar-Creigh House is a fine example of an early stone residence. This early structure has also served as a inn/state coach stop and the home of an important early Perry County lawyer.

The house was built on land acquired by Abraham Landis. Landis first purchased 97 acres on May 26, 1787 later returning in October 29, 1795 to purchase 116 additional acres. This patented land way laid out as a community in 1793 into 72 original lots measuring 150 feet by 60 feet. The Dunbar-Creigh House is located on lot #22.

John Dunbar began construction of his stone residence in 1794. He already had a log structure on the site. On the 1798 Direct Tax, John Dunbar was recorded as owning a 2 story frame structure, 37'x33' and an unfinished 30'x28' stone structure. This stone structure, the existing house, was completed circa 1809. The original log structure was used by Joseph H. Kennedy, a later owner, as a mail factory. This log structure was removed at a later time.

In 1820 the first floor was used as the "Recorder of Deeds office by Benjamin Leas and his successor Jacob Fritz and remained as such during the time Landisburg was the County Seat until moving the records to Bloomfield was completed in 1827. Joseph H. Kennedy lived in the house and made nails by hand in the rear log building. This being of great value to the new County Seat. Michael Ege - probably an investor - purchased the house at Sheriff Sale and at that time it became the home of "The Lawrence Inn" and Coach Stop--The coaches coming down a road on the west side of the Inn. Being two doors east of the court house, much political matter must have transpired in the Inn. Thomas Craighhead as host greeted many guests local, political and travelers on their way west. Then in 1834 the well known lawyer of the time John Dunbar Creigh purchased the house from his mother Eleanor Dunbar, daughter of John Dunbar the original owner. J.D. Creigh was the first lawyer admitted to the bar in Perry County in Dec. 1820. His grandfather, Judge John Creigh was a delegate from Cumberland County to the historical meeting in Carpenters Hall in Philadelphia from June 18, 1776 to June 25, 1776 unaniously declaired that the Provence of Pa. was thereforth a free and independent colony. His father Dr. John Creigh seems to have been the first regular physician that located within the limits of Perry County. Born in 1773 and graduating with honors from Dickinson College in 1792 completing medical courses at the University of Pennsylvania in 1795. He moved to Landisburg to practice in 1799. He continued his practice there until 1819 when he removed to Carlisle to educate his children. There were 6 sons and 4 daughters of which owner 1834-John Dunbar Creigh-was one. Active in law a trustee at Center Church and later at the Academy in Bloomfield.

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Dunbar-Creigh House, Perry County

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

List of Owners:

Landis, Abraham	3-1-1782	Land only
Dunbar, John	1794	House owner
Kennedy, Joseph H.		
Ege, Michael	2-3-1823	
Creigh, John Dunbar	1834	
Hipple, Jesse	10-25-1871	
Rice, Wm. H. Jr.		
Jones, Robt. J. Jr. & Victoria	1886	
Wertz (Werts) Henry	3-13-1889	
Shuman, Anni	3-13-1905	
Egolf, C. Raymond-Mary	4-17-1940	
Bell, Gale & Geraldine	9-12-1953	
Hursh, Joseph & Ruth	11-25-1975	

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

1798 Federal Direct Tax. 540A, Pa. Archives, Hbg., PA.; Juniata Susquehanna Valley (History of) Vol 2., pg. 982-983; Perry County History by H. Hain; Perry C. Historical Society-Old "Forresters" Newspapers; Cumb. Co. Historical Society Tavern Licenses; Perry C. Recorder of Deeds; Cumb. Co. Recorder of Deeds; Perry Co. Prothonotary - Sheriff Sale

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2

Quadrangle name Landisburg, Pa.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UMT References

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Zone Easting Northing

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

### 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 Ruth Hursh

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

street & number 11 W. Maplewood Avenue telephone 717 - 766-1351

city or town Mechanicsburg 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 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 \_\_\_\_\_

title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

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

date \_\_\_\_\_

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

C. J. ...