

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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

1. Name

historic Johann Agust Sutter House
and/or common (General) John Augustus Sutter House

2. Location

street & number 17-19 East Main Street not for publication
city, town Lititz vicinity of congressional district 16
state Pennsylvania code 42 county Lancaster code 071

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Bank Offices

4. Owner of Property

name Farmers First Bank
street & number 9 East Main Street
city, town Lititz vicinity of state Pennsylvania

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Lancaster County Courthouse
street & number North Duke Street
city, town Lancaster state Pennsylvania

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date 1-17-80 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 General Sutter House is a 2½ story gable roof brick house executed in the common bond style. It measures 30 feet wide (three bays) by 42 feet deep (2 bays) and has brick chimneys at each gable end.

As built, all windows were 2 over 2 double hung sash painted white and two panel green shutters. All of the windows and the main entrance (front right bay) had ornamental hood-type heads supported by brackets. An applied foilage design appeared below the arch of all heads. The entrance was comprised of double doors each having a large round headed glass and small raised panel below. Both the window heads and a block-type sill extended beyond the vertical plane of the window frame.

The cornice which is evident only on the front is large, has a return and has applied moulding. The same molding appears on the barge boards on the gable ends. A large fascia board with 8 pairs of brackets is located beneath the cornice.

Modifications to the structure date from the 1930's. At that time the interior was gutted with only the stair left in place. The entire first floor front was replaced by a store front and a smaller door to the second floor.

A two story brick addition was added to the rear of the Sutter House and a concrete block addition to the rear of that.

A new drive in bank is attached to the later brick and block additions. The Sutter House is currently undergoing exterior restoration and interior rehabilitation.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input 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 1871 Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Sutter House at 17-19 East Main Street, Lititz is one of the few remaining sites associated with this early explorer and settler.

Johan Augustus Sutter was born in Switzerland in 1803. He studied at a military academy and entered the Swiss Army attaining a rank of captain. In 1826 he was married, the result of which was four children. In 1834 he sailed to New York and proceeded to St. Louis. where he settled briefly, 1836 found him in Sante Fe and 1838 in Oregon with his quest for California yet unrealized. He finally reached San Francisco in 1839 via Honolulu and Sitka.

In the year of his arrival petitioned the Mexican Governor for a permit to establish a colony. Forty-nine thousand acres were provided to him on the provision that he construct a fortified post and settle the land. The land which he settled and called Nueva Helvetia was located on the south bank of the American River near its junction with the Sacramento River. With the assistance of Indians associated with the missions and some Hawaiians he began to clear the land and build his colonial estate. Irrigation ditches were dug to sustain his orchards, vineyards and grainfields. He built a mill, distillery, tannery, blanket factory and blacksmith shop. He traded furs and established a route to Sacramento using his schooner and other boats.

In 1841 he was made a Mexican citizen. He provided military help to Govenor Micheltorena for which he was amply repaid with an additional 98,000 acres. About this time the title 'General' was ascribed to him although no basis was provided for it. After the Bear Flag Revolt of 1846, Sutter's land was confiscated by the United States Government, and its interest. It was later restored to him.

Sutter was delagated to the convention which drafted the constition for California and later he ran, without success, for Governor of the State.

In 1848 while excavating the mill race for a new mill which he built, Sutter tried to conceal the discovery of gold on January 24, but was unable. Soon after the news spread, his land was inundated with prospectors, many of whom were the workmen he hired. With his workmens' attention and labor turned to gold he found it difficult to maintain the baronical estate which he had amassed. In 1852 he went bankrupt. To make matters worse, the 98,000 acres of land granted to him by Governor Micheltorena wer declared invalid.

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Johan Augustus Sutter House, Lancaster County
Continuation sheet

Item number

8

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Although his earlier land grant from the Mexicans wer declared valid, he did not have sufficient funds to recover the property through litigation. Most of the financial resources which were left, were ordered by the court to be paid to those with subtitles to his land. In 1864 he was provided a pension of \$250 a month by the California legislature. His house on the Feather River burned in the following year. In 1871 he came to build a house in Lititz. He died in June of 1880, and is burried in Lititz.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Dictionary of American Biography. New York Chas Scribners Sons, 1961 ed. Vol. IX, pp 224-5.

Encyclopedia Britannica: Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc. 1965 Vol. 21 p 623.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .1

Quadrangle name Lititz

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	8	3	8	8	7	2	0	4	4	4	5	8	2	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H

Zone				Easting				Northing						

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 Charles Dunlevey

organization PHMC

date February 1980

street & number Box 1026

telephone 717-783-8946

city or town Harrisburg

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

Larry E. Tise, Executive Director

title Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

date

2/24/82

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

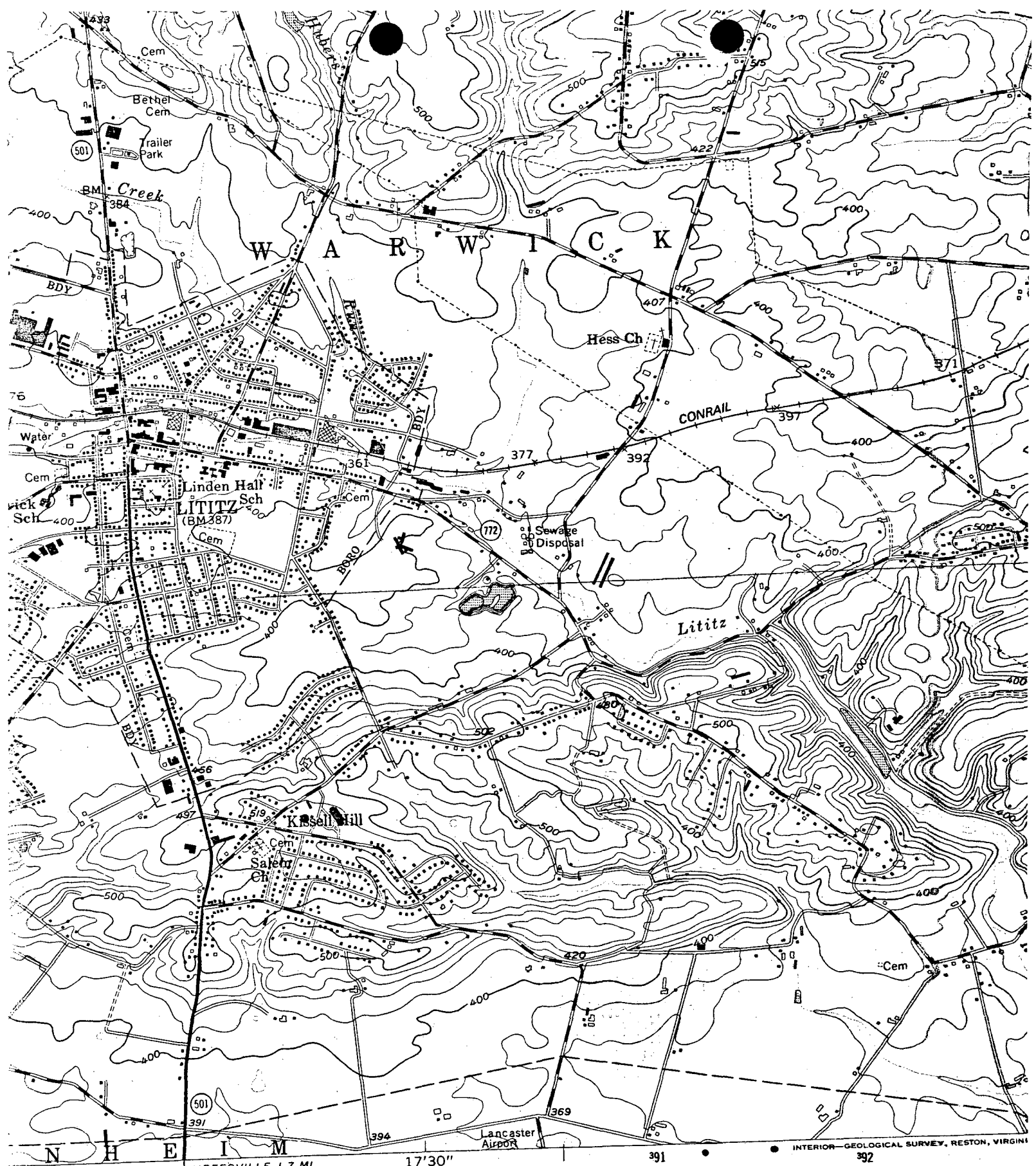
date

Keeper of the National Register

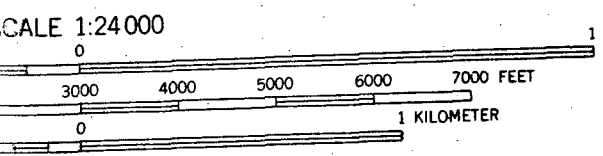
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



LANCASTER) 5764 III SE
 NEFFSVILLE 1.7 MI.
 LANCASTER (P.O.) 6.1 MI.



INTERIOR - GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA

