

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE Pennsylvania	
COUNTY: Lancaster	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Conestoga Town (36 Ia 52)

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
none

CITY OR TOWN:
Letort (nearest town)

STATE Pennsylvania	CODE 42	COUNTY: Lancaster	CODE 071
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
		Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mrs. Lester Witmer

STREET AND NUMBER:
R.D.

CITY OR TOWN:
Millersville

STATE: Pennsylvania	CODE 42
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Lancaster County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Lancaster

STATE Pennsylvania	CODE 42
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Site Survey and Recording Program

DATE OF SURVEY:
continuous

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
William Penn Memorial Museum

STREET AND NUMBER:
Box 1026

CITY OR TOWN:
Harrisburg

STATE: Pennsylvania	CODE 42
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Pennsylvania	COUNTY: Lancaster	FOR NPS USE ONLY
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7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	
	(Check One)		(Check One)			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The site, which can be examined only at the level of subsurface excavation, is presently in pasture although it has been cultivated extensively in the past. Historical records indicate that this is the site of Conestoga Town, the last of the Susquehannock sites in Pennsylvania and the one from which the Indians were secured for the Paxtang Boys massacre.

Surface discoveries and historical records indicate that at this period of time the Indians were living in log-cabin like structures designed after those of the Europeans. Indiscriminate digging has revealed the location of one of the cemeteries attending this town; numerous graves have been looted and all contained fine artifacts of the period.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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) ca. A.D. 1690-1763

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <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

In 1675, according to most traditional accounts, the Susquehannock Indians were moved from their homelands on the Lower Susquehanna Valley. Some of these people were taken as captives by the Iroquois, who may have been responsible for a defeat of the Susquehannocks. A small band of Susquehannocks also moved, in that year, to an abandoned Piscataway Indian fort on the Potomac River.

Some time during the 1690's a group of Seneca Indians, who claimed the Susquehannock land by virtue of these conquests, established a small town in Nanor Township, Lancaster County. Among these Seneca were also a few remnant Susquehannocks. By 1700 the occupants of this place became known to history as the Conestogas.

Conestoga Town soon attained importance as a meeting place for the Pennsylvania government in their various dealings with the Iroquois and other Indians in the Commonwealth.

William Penn, himself, and a number of the early governors of the Commonwealth traveled to Conestoga to meet with the Indians and to negotiate treaties and land purchases.

The importance of Conestoga Town, both as a trading center and as a place of negotiations dwindled by the time of the great Lancaster treaty of 1744. The Conestogas continued to live a quiet and peaceful existence there until 1763. In that year the infamous Paxton Boys massacred the last of the Susquehannocks or Conestogas.

In 1717, Jacob Taylor, pursuant to orders by the proprietors, surveyed the Indian town, which at that time included approximately 414 acres.

This specific location proposed for inclusion in the National Register, has been shown by recent archaeological investigations to be the site of the earliest village of Conestoga. It may have been occupied until about 1725. After this date the village was moved to various other locations within the tract. It would appear, however, that most of the interments were made at the site of the oldest town. This does not appear to be the spot at which the first massacre took place in 1763.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Eshelman, Frank H. Lancaster County Indians. 1908 Lancaster, Pa.
 Hanna, Charles A. The Wilderness Trail. Vol. 1, G.P. Putnam's Sons
 New York
 Anon. "Report of the Committee to Place a marker commemorating
 Conestoga." Lancaster County Historical Society
 Vol. XXVII, No. 9
 Wallace, Paul A.W. Indians in Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania Historical
 and Museum Commission, Harrisburg 1964.

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	0 . "	0 . "		██████████	██████████	
NE	0 . "	0 . "				
SE	0 . "	0 . "				
SW	0 . "	0 . "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 5

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Ira F. Smith III and Dr. Barry Kent

ORGANIZATION: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission DATE: 10/31/72

STREET AND NUMBER:
 Box 1026

CITY OR TOWN: Harrisburg STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

Owner of property notified 11/21/72

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: William J. Wewer, State Liaison Officer
 Title: Deputy Executive Director
 Date: 11/27/72

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: _____

ATTEST: _____
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____

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