

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**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 ABBEVILLE

AND/OR COMMON  
Mt. Pleasant

USE THIS COPY  
FOR DUPLICATING

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
1140 Columbia Avenue

CITY, TOWN  
Lancaster

STATE  
Pennsylvania

VICINITY OF

CODE  
42

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
16th

COUNTY  
Lancaster

CODE  
071

**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"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES, RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES, UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<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  
Dr. & Mrs. John L. Farmer

STREET & NUMBER  
1140 Columbia Avenue

CITY, TOWN  
Lancaster

VICINITY OF

STATE  
Pennsylvania

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Lancaster County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER  
50 North Duke Street

CITY, TOWN  
Lancaster

STATE  
Pennsylvania

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places

DATE  
2/17/78

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

CITY, TOWN  
Harrisburg

STATE  
Pennsylvania

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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

Abbeville began in 1755-6 as a small two story stone-stuccoed, gable roof structure measuring twenty feet by seventeen feet. Windows in the original section are twelve over twelve. A one story shed is attached to the rear of this section as well as a pent roof porch. An unusual walk-in fireplace with a window is located in the breakfast area of this section.

In 1790 a large two and one half story house was built directly to the north of the 1755-6 structure. Georgian in style this section has a gable roof with interior gable end chimneys. Windows in this 5 bay by 3 bay section are twelve over twelve with louvered or panelled shutters. A gable roof dormer is located on the front facade. The dormer windows are 17 over 6. Originally there were three identical dormers on the rear facade. These dormers have been altered, the windows are now 6 over 6 and the center dormer has been enlarged.

A full length pent-roof porch lines the first story of the front facade. The main door is panelled with patterned glass transom.

The 1790 structure has a center hall terminating in a doorway at the rear. In 1926 this area with its 16 light door, an interesting glass fanlight, was extended approximately five feet.

In 1826 two side wings were added to the east and west sides of the 1790 section. These one story additions are level with the front porch line and have hipped roofs. Windows in the wings are 6 over 6 with paneled shutters. An L shaped porch has been added to the east wing and facade of the 1790 section. Today the east wing is used as a music room while the west wing serves as a guest room.

The interior of Abbeville is in excellent condition. Original marble fireplaces as well as original woodwork and hardware remain. The present owners furnish and maintain Abbeville in its eighteenth and nineteenth century style.

Also located on the property are a smokehouse, stable and carriage shed. The tenant house was built circa 1825. The smokehouse is a rectangular brick structure with a hipped roof. The structure was built circa 1825. The two story, frame gable roof stable/garage was built circa 1875. It has three garage doors and four dormers. This structure was rebuilt in 1929. The carriage shed was built circa 1875 and is a gable roof board and batten structure.

The five acres have been beautifully landscaped. A large lane leads to an oval in front of the house.

# 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 checked="" 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 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 1755-6, 1790, 1826, 1929 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1717 William Penn granted Hans Brubaker and Christian Hershey 1000 acres by the Little Conestoga Creek in Lancaster County, Pa. On the southern portion Christian Stoneman in 1755 or John Stoner in 1756, built a small home. It measured twenty by seventeen feet. The low ceilings and fireplace of this original part of the house are visible today. The central portion of the house was built around 1790 in stone. It measures forty-five by forty-five feet. The exterior and interior are carried out in the Georgian style. The central part of the house was inhabited by a prosperous miller named John Stoner. The Stoner's mill supplied much of the flour for the nearby city of Lancaster. This stone mill, originally called Abbeville or Stoner's Mill, still stands  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile to the west of Abbeville.

On November 2, 1825 a notice was placed in the Lancaster Journal, announcing the "beautiful country seat and farm called 'Mount Pleasant', (the former name of "Abbeville") was for sale. It was described as "an elegant, two-story, STONE HOUSE, 45 feet square, built in modern style, 4 fooms to a floor, and a one story kitchen, 20 feet by 17."

In 1826 Langdon Cheves bought "Mount Pleasant" and named it "Abbeville" after his place of birth, Abbeville, South Carolina. Langdon Cheves represented South Carolina from 1805-1813 in the United States House of Representatives. He was the youngest speaker of the House ever, succeeding Henry Clay in this position. Cheves was also Chairman of the Naval Committee during the War of 1812 and he was the second president of the Second Bank of the United States.

While Cheves owned "Abbeville", a 4th of July celebration was held on the property in 1828. Two hundred soldiers and civilians banqueted there after a parade in the streets of Lancaster. Large banquet tables were set up under the trees on the front lawn. Some of the people of importance at the head table was Generals Sample and Mosher, Colonel Haines, John Reynoldes, John Yeates, and the Mayor of Lancaster, Nathaniel Lightner. The future President James Buchanan began the ceremony by reading the Declaration of Independence.

While Cheves owned Abbeville, he had the east and west wings as well as the front portico added. After leaving Abbeville, Cheves had six houses built in South Carolina.

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ABBEVILLE, Lancaster County

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

William Coleman owned the house from 1825-1826 and then again from 1830-1835. Coleman was one of the most wealthy and prominent iron masters of the period. He was also, the father of Anne Coleman, who was the fiancée of James Buchanan at the time of her early death.

In 1835 the "Abbeville Institute", a school for boys, was started at "Abbeville". Under Dr. Muhlenberg, "Abbeville Institute" was ranked among the best schools in the state.

In 1851 Christopher Hager, founder of "Hager's Store" of Lancaster (in existence until 1976) bought the five and one half acres of property called Abbeville, adjoining his other property. He bought and developed much land in the west end of Lancaster.

The house itself has many fine architectural features. A fan window is featured above the door in the central hallway. A fine, wooden staircase has hand-carved spindles and trim. The floors are beautiful hardwood or parquet. Many of the brass doorknobs, locks and hardware are original, probably dating back to 1826 or earlier. The windows still display the old, bubbled, hand-blown glass of the last century. In the oldest part of the house low doorways and two foot thick walls are to be found. Original chair rails and moldings are extant. Five of the original eleven fireplaces retain their original mantels and woodwork.

The beautiful landscaping around the house deserves some note. Abbeville sits above a sloping lawn. Large, ancient trees that were saplings when Daniel Webster and James Buchanan visited, are now beautiful shade trees. The variety of trees include: one American beech, two copperbeeches, two red oaks, one sweet gum, one buttonwood, one tulip poplar, two lindens, two sycamores, several ashes, plus spruces and hemlocks. The present, formal gardens in the back of the house were laid out in 1929 by Mr. C. Dudley Armstrong (the owner of Abbeville at the time). The gardens do resemble the general outline of 1889, however.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See Continuation Sheet)

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5

QUADRANGLE NAME Lancaster

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	8	3	8	6	1	6	0	4	4	3	2	6	7	0
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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(See Continuation Sheet)

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mrs. Elizabeth Jane Farmer

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

1140 Columbia Avenue

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Lancaster

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE ED WEINTRAUB, Director  
Office of Historic Preservation

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION