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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

*PLUMER HOUSE*

AND/OR COMMON

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

*Vine and South Water Streets*

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

*West Newton*

VICINITY OF

*21*

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

*Pennsylvania*

*42*

*Westmoreland County*

*129*

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

### CATEGORY

DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

### OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

### PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

### STATUS

OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

### ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

### PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER: *None*

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

*Historical Society of West Newton*

STREET & NUMBER

*309 First Street*

CITY, TOWN

*West Newton*

VICINITY OF

STATE

*Pennsylvania*

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

*Westmoreland County Courthouse*

STREET & NUMBER

*North Main Street*

CITY, TOWN

*Greensburg*

STATE

*Pennsylvania*

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

*Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places*

DATE

*May 1, 1979*

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 Plumer House is an older home situated on the bank of the Youghiogheny River. It was built in two sections. The original structure, finished in 1814, is a 2½ story wooden frame dwelling. The gable roof is covered with tin; the molded cornice is in need of repair. A brick chimney is located in the northern gable. Three bays wide by one bay, windows are 2 over 2 save for a 4 over 4 window on the southern side. The original front entrance in this section has been bounded up, as evidenced by the patched siding. The house is covered by clapboard.*

*The brick addition of 1846 is also 2½ stories with a tin-covered gable roof and two chimneys. These are located in the center and in the northern gable. The projecting brick cornice has brick dentils. This section is four bays wide; all windows are 9 over 6. The porch, located in the first bay is recessed and paneled and topped by a three light rectangular transom. Evidence remains on both houses of the original shutters.*

*The rear porch, facing the river, is very handsom<sup>e</sup>, although primitive in detail and badly in need of repairs and restoration.*

*The interior of the original structure has two rooms on the first floor and two on the second. The three fireplaces, in good condition, are primitive in detail. All rooms have chair rails, doors, and trim of typical colonial design.*

*The addition has two rooms plus a hall on the first floor, and three rooms plus a hall on the second. Originally, there were fireplaces in all the rooms, but now only one remains.*

# 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/HUMANITARIAN	
<input 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 checked="" 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 **1814: 1846**

BUILDER/ARCHITECT **John C. Plumer**

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

*The Plumer House was built by John Campbell Plumer, an important pioneer inhabitant of the area. This structure is of important local historical significance. Born in 1788, the early part of Plumer's life was spent trading in commodities necessary to frontier life.*

*Following his return from a tour of active duty as a Sergeant in a Troop of Right Dragons in the Federal Service during the War of 1812, he was elected captain of a troop of Pennsylvania militia cavalry raised in Fayette and Westmoreland counties and served a term or seven years. In April, 1814 he married Elizabeth Peaire and began construction of the house on Water Street.*

*Plumer became active in many phases of community life. He bought a grist mill and saw mill from his brother, Alexander and William Clark and enlarged this business into one of the largest and best in the area. He also purchased a mill on Sewickley Creek from Abraham Funk and built a dam across the Youghiogheny river to furnish the power. Navigation was kept open by means of a lock. When a toll bridge was built to replace the ferry at nearby West Newton, Plumer supervised its construction and was a principal stock holder.*

*A follower of Andrew Jackson, Plumer took an active part in politics. In 1830 he was elected to the state legislature, in 1839 he was elected for a term in the Pennsylvania Senate, President Martin Van Bureu appointed him as an inspector of West Point Military Academy in 1838, but he did not accept the post. Locally, Plumer served as a burgess and as a Justice of the Peace, and was known as "Squire" Plumer. He was always active in affairs of the Presbyterian church and pioneered the movement for a free school system. Retiring from business in 1866, he died : July 18, 1873.*

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Dallas, Albert C. *Historical Atlas of Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania*. L.H. Svertz, 1882.

Harpster, John W., ed. *Pen Pictures of Early Western Pennsylvania*. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1938.

MulKearn, Lois and Edwin Pugh. *A Traveller's Guide to Historical Western Pennsylvania*. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1954.

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .35 acre 1:24,000  
UTM REFERENCES Donora, PA

A	<u>17</u>	<u>604720</u>	<u>4451480</u>	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

*Beginning at the corner of Vine and South Water Streets, thence northwest 125 feet, thence northeast 125 feet, thence southeast 125 feet, thence south west 125 feet to point of beginning.*

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Harry A. Overholtzer, Jr. / Brenda J. Riegle

ORGANIZATION

PHMC / PHMC

STREET & NUMBER

Box 1026 / Box 1026

CITY OR TOWN

Harrisburg / Harrisburg

Pennsylvania

DATE

August 14, 1979

TELEPHONE

STATE

**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  
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

9/25/79

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

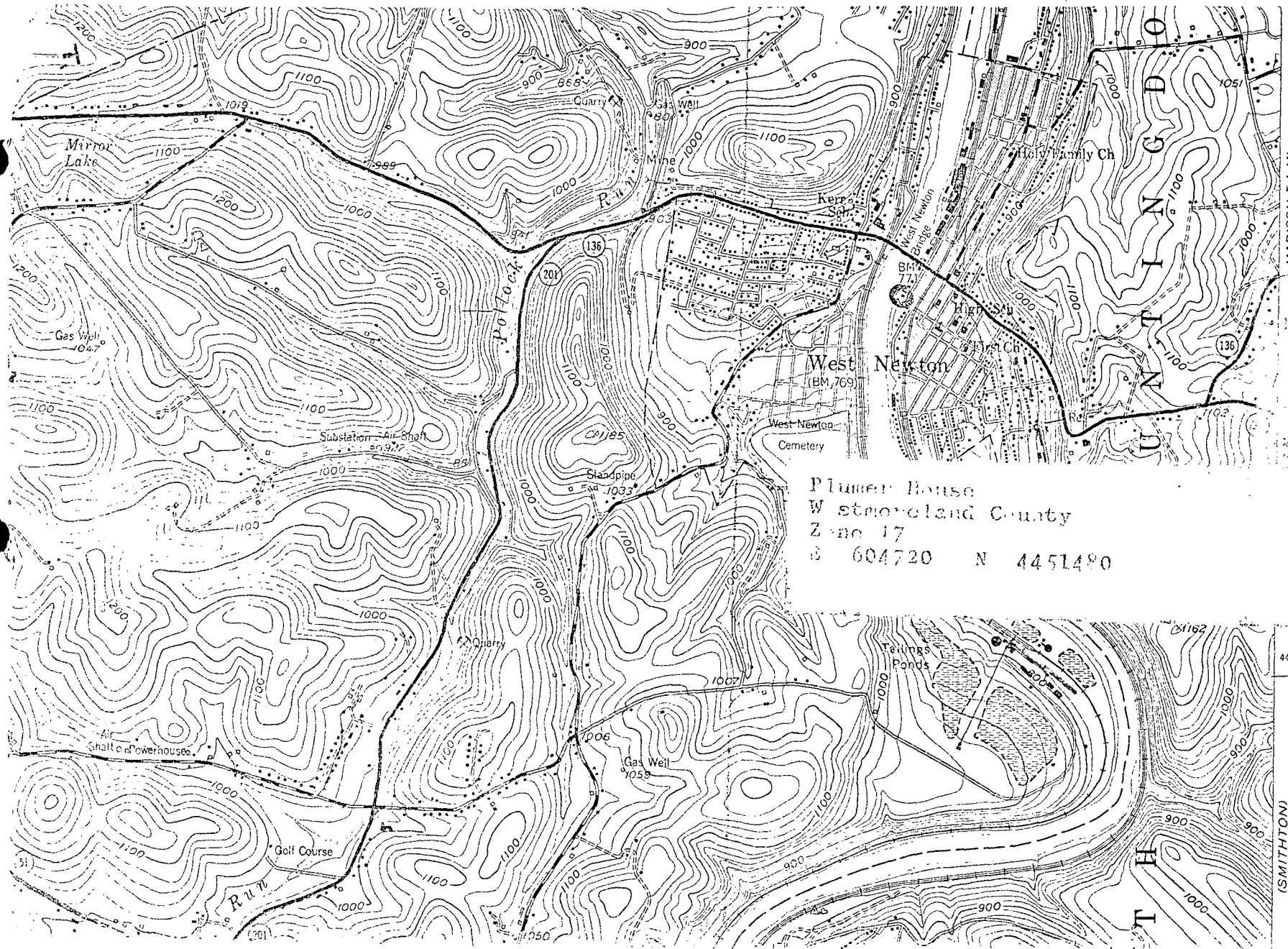
DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Plumer House  
 Westmoreland County  
 Zone 17  
 S 604720 N 4451480

MADISON 5.4 MI  
 GREENSBURG 14 MI

1230'

5 MI

4450

(SMITHTON)  
 5064 11 NW