

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

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 WILLIAM BLACK HOMESTEAD

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
Drexel Hill Park Road

\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN  
New Cumberland

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
19th

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE  
Pennsylvania

CODE  
42

COUNTY  
Cumberland

CODE  
041

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Mr. and Mrs. Anthony P. Jannetta

STREET & NUMBER  
Drexel Hill Park Road

CITY, TOWN  
New Cumberland

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE  
Pennsylvania

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Cumberland County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER  
South Hanover Street

CITY, TOWN  
Carlisle

STATE  
Pennsylvania

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places

DATE  
August, 1976

\_\_FEDERAL  STATE \_\_COUNTY \_\_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission  
William Penn Memorial Museum, P.O. Box 1026

CITY, TOWN  
Harrisburg

STATE  
Pennsylvania

# 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		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The exact date of construction of the William Black House cannot be ascertained. Black acquired the property in 1774 and county records indicate a house on the property in 1776. The Black House is situated on a small hill overlooking a narrow stream valley. The south side of the house faces the valley while the outbuildings and barn (no longer extant) were located to the north of the house.

The Black House consists of a 2½ story, 3 bay, field-stone main section with a one-story kitchen wing added to the east gable end. Both sections have uncoursed field-stone walls 18 inches thick and slate roofs. The main section is 36 feet square with an interior gable chimney on the west end. The north facade has an entranceway in the eastern portion opening onto a hallway which runs the full width of the building. A small 2 over 4 light stair landing window is located above the doorway. The other windows are 6 over 9 light sash. Windows on the north and west sides have red sandstone lintels.

The south facade is 3 bays with the doorway in the eastern bay. Windows are 6 over 9 light sash on the first floor and 6 over 6 light on the second. All windows on this side of the building have wooden sills and lintels. A simple shed roof porch runs the full length of this section. The basement level is exposed. The one story kitchen wing has an overhanging roof with a simple box cornice. The south facade has a simple doorway and one 6 over 6 light window. A raised paved courtyard is located in front of the kitchen wing. A well, now filled in is located in the center of the courtyard.

The Black House was restored in 1960 by Leon Neefe who also worked on the Blair House in Washington, D. C. Mr. Neefe's exterior work consisted largely of refurbishing, the only major items of work being the reconstruction of the porch and chimneys. The restoration work on the interior was more major since some of the original interiors had been lost. The kitchen wing with its large fireplace, exposed beams, narrow staircase and sleeping loft is largely original. All of the hemlock floors in the main section are original as are the second floor staircase and fireplace mantels. Enough of the original chairrail, wainscoting and other paneling survived to enable an accurate restoration of the woodwork in the living room and two upstairs bedrooms. In 1975, a large one story, frame wing was added to the west gable wall. This addition houses a modern kitchen, dining room, etc.

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 checked="" 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 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      c. 1776      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      William Black

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

William Black, a Scottish immigrant, acquired a 267 tract of Lowther Manor in 1774. County records indicate a stone house on the property in 1776 thus making the Black House one of the oldest in Cumberland County. The house is an excellent example of Vernacular architecture. The house also displays sophistication in exterior detail and interior woodwork unusual for the frontier atmosphere of mid-18th century Cumberland County. The house reflects a rugged and durable character with affinities and charm bespeaking of modest comfort.

Little is known of William Black or the four generations of his descendants who lived on the property. Black constructed a schoolhouse near the house which was in use until 1850.

In 1863, the Black Farm, now owned by E. Zimmerman, was the northern most point reached by any major Confederate force during the Civil War. Confederate cavalry under Lt. General R.S. Ewell captured a Union courier on the property while reconnoitering the defenses of Harrisburg. The courier posed as a "local yokel" and was released the following day.

# 10 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Wing, Conway. History of Cumberland County. Carlisle, Pa., 1879.

Nye, Wilbur S. Here Come the Rebels. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University, 1965.

Beckley, Gilbert W. New Cumberland Frontier. Edwards Brothers, 1973.

## 11 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 339670 4453720  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B                    
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C                    
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D                    
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Anthony P. Jannetta/William K. Watson, Office of Historic Preservation

ORGANIZATION

None/Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

DATE

1-27-77

STREET & NUMBER

Drexel Hill Park Road/P. O. Box 1026

TELEPHONE

717-787-4363

CITY OR TOWN

New Cumberland/Harrisburg

STATE

Pennsylvania

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

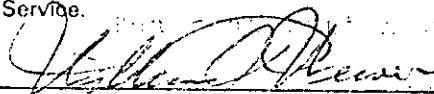
NATIONAL   

STATE   

LOCAL X

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

WILLIAM J. WEWER, Executive Director

DATE

2-24-77

Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

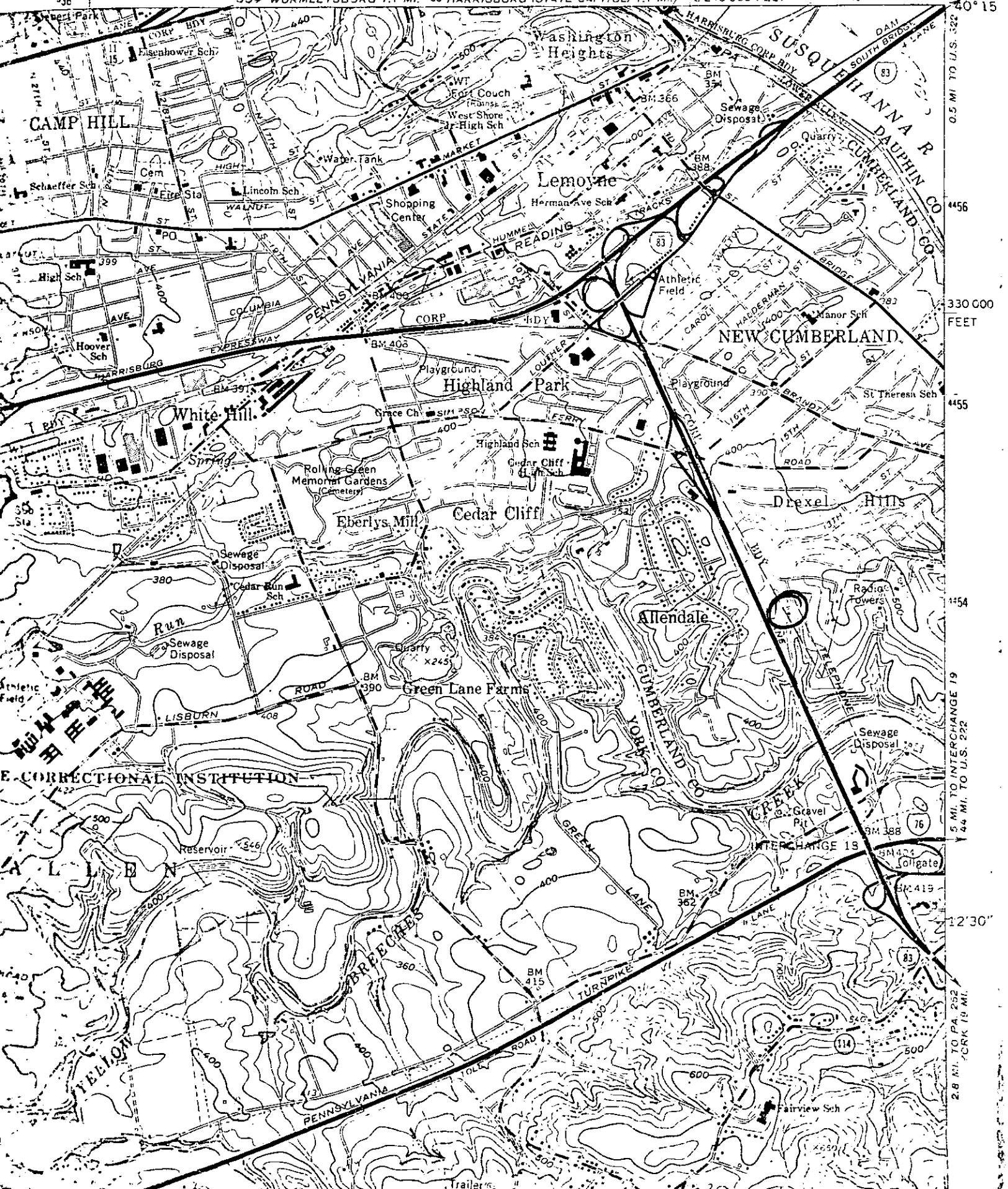
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

336

555 MARYSVILLE 8 MI.  
WORMLEYSBURG 1.1 MI. 338 HARRISBURG (STATE CAPITOL) 1.1 MI. 12 240 000 FEET

340

76° 52' 30"



4456

330 000  
FEET

4455

1454

5 MI. TO INTERCHANGE 19  
4.4 MI. TO U.S. 222

12' 30"

2.8 MI. TO PA. 252  
7 CRK 79 MI.