

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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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 BENJAMIN BLYTHE HOMESTEAD

AND/OR COMMON

Hazel Glen or Blythstead

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

217 Means Hollow Road, Mounted Route

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Shippensburg

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

9th

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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	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"/> OTHER
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Fred and Rose Dillner

STREET & NUMBER

217 Means Hollow Road, Mounted Route

CITY, TOWN

Shippensburg

VICINITY OF

STATE

Pennsylvania

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Carlisle Courthouse & Land Office & Community Affairs

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Carlisle

STATE
Pennsylvania**6** REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Dillner Property Southampton Township

DATE

1975

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

William A. Brindle Association

CITY, TOWN

Chambersburg

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		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located at the foot of Reservoir Hill near Gum Run this homestead is one of the earliest homesites in the Shippensburg area. The construction date of this homestead is not clear but Benjamin Blythe was one of the first 15 settlers in the Shippensburg area. The Blythe Homestead consisting of a limestone house, limestone barn (80' x 37') and a limestone kitchen (16' x 13') was taxed on the October 5, 1798 Direct Tax for 16 windows of 360 panes.

The two story Georgian style house is rectangular in shape with the kitchen ell extending from the left back. There is no clear evidence to support that the main house and kitchen were separate or joined, but the connecting brick wall shows no outside weathering. There are five windows across the front, each having straight frames and curved stoned arches. Large chimneys are located at both ends of the house supported by two large stone arches in the basement. There are seven fireplaces in the house and kitchen. The interior is divided into a large center hall (8' by 30') with two rooms to the right and two to the left. The same layout exists upstairs.

Many original features remain some of which are original window glass, door latches and locks and a large bake oven with double arched door in rear and crane. Wooden pegs are used in the interior construction and the walls are of yellow pine.

The kitchen room has a small slanted roof loft approached with a small curved staircase. It is possible this loft room may have been used as slave quarters as Benjamin Blythe was reported to have kept slaves.

A laundry and bathroom addition were added next to the inner kitchen wall at the back of the house. The center wall between the two left downstairs rooms has been removed to make one large room. Clothing closets have been added to three of the bedrooms. In order to make the dining room fireplace usable an indoor flue was installed necessitating the covering of one wall. This and all other alterations have been made using original designs in wood work and mouldings.

The local limestone barn listed on the Direct Tax of 1798 as 37' by 80' is still standing and retains the same dimensions. It is a double floor barn, pegged together with wooden pegs and huge beams. Downstairs are stalls for livestock. Old strap hinges still remain on many of the doors.

The house-kitchen and barn are in excellent condition.

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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Settlement
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The man Benjamin Blythe was an interesting and colorful figure who played an important part in the early history of the Shippensburg area. The land now known as Blythstead was awarded to William Blythe, Benjamin's father, who was a prominent Indian trader and served as lieutenant in the Provincial Army. Benjamin saw service in the French and Indian War and was wounded at the Battle of Sidling Hill. A prominent man, he served as tax collector by profession and was a man of some wealth as noted by his tax bill for 16 windows of 360 panes and his keeping of slaves. He served as colonel in the Cumberland County Battalion during the Revolution. A colorful man in his life and death, many legends have been told of his homestead and its hidden cache of gold and his murder by one of his slaves.

The Benjamin Blythe Homestead is an excellent and well-preserved example of an early Central Pennsylvania homestead. As a unit, all the original buildings that have been recorded are still present on the site.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Burkhart, William, ed. The Shippensburg Story. Shippensburg Historical Society, The News Chronicle Company, Shippensburg, Pa. 1970.
 Beers and Company, F. W. Atlas of Cumberland County. 1872.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>18</u>	<u>218,568,0</u>	<u>4434340</u>	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

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

Rose Dillner/Susan M. Zacher

ORGANIZATION

Hazel Glen/Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Comm. DATE January 24, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

217 Means Hollow Road/P.O. Box 1026

TELEPHONE

717-787-4363

CITY OR TOWN

Shippensburg/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

William J. Wewer

TITLE

WILLIAM J. WEWER, Executive Director
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

DATE 2-15-77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

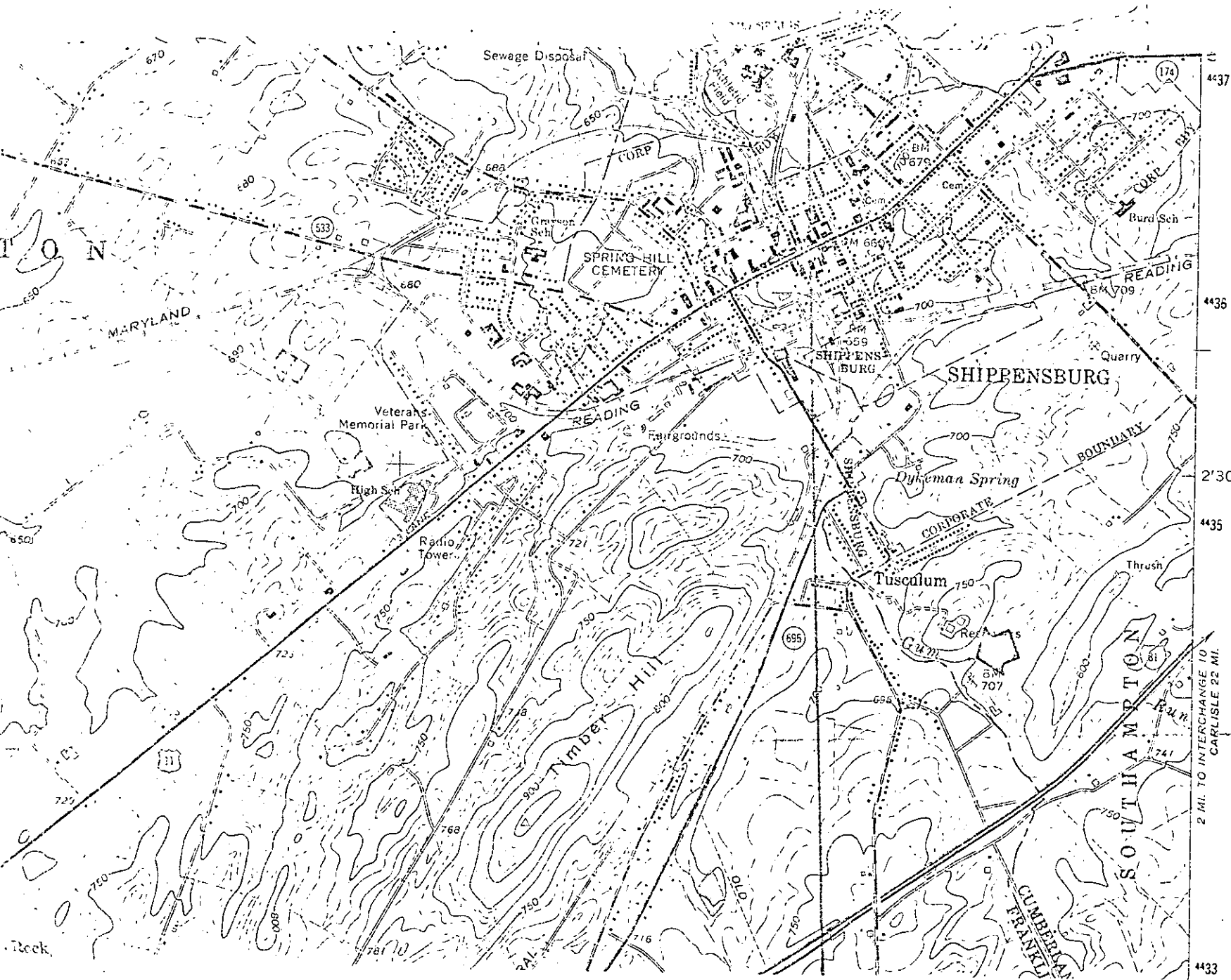
DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



WILLIAM BLYTHE HOMESBARD
 Cumberland County

ZONE 1, 285 680 4434 310

4437
 4436
 2'30"
 4435
 2 MI. TO INTERCHANGE 10
 CARLISLE 22 MI.
 4433