

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

John Williams House

AND/OR COMMON

Williams Mansion House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

L.R. 21027, 1/2 mile S. of William Grove

CITY, TOWN

Williams Grove, Monroe Township

--- NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

19th

STATE

Pennsylvania

CODE

42

COUNTY

Cumberland

CODE

041

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:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Roy E. Richwine, Jr.

STREET & NUMBER

Williams Grove, R. D. #2

CITY, TOWN

Mechanicsburg

STATE

Pennsylvania

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Cumberland County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Carlisle

STATE

Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

1976

--- FEDERAL STATE --- COUNTY --- LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Pennsylvania Historical and 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

The John Williams house is a large (46' x 33') 2½ story (no dormers) stone structure, 5 bays wide and 2 bays deep. A new frame addition replaces a 1½ story kitchen at the rear (north), with the base of the original bake oven still remaining. The exterior of the house is of randomly laid locally quarried limestone. A darker limestone is used for the flat arch lintels on the first story (the other windows are framed in wood). All the windows are 6-over-6 with larger proportions to the lower story windows. In a 1970 restoration, the outside walls were furred out for insulation. There are interior brick chimneys at each end of the house with three fireplaces in each stack (two on the first story and 1 on the second). The front doorway has a transom of 4 lights and classical pilasters on each side. The pediment is concealed by a mid 19th century porch addition (and altered in 1970).

The floorplan is Georgian with a central hall with a stairway on the east wall and two rooms on each side of the hall. The east section with front room and kitchen has simple moldings and mantel pieces. The wall between the rooms has been removed and the door from the kitchen to the hall has been closed and covered (the moldings and door have been retained in the hallway). The western section has more elaborate molding of a classical flute and bullseye motif around the doors and windows, and richly sculpted floor boards and chair rails. In both sections and also on the second story, the moldings had been removed during the 1970 renovation, dry wall put up over the new insulation and the molding details put back. The center stairway has a turned maple bannister, supported on a turned newel and square ballusters. At the end of the first landing on ascent to the third floor, there is a transition to square chamfered newel stand and a molded hand rail.

The John Williams house is dated circumstantially by John Williams' will previous to 1802. A datestone on the western corner of the house carries the date 1799. It appears reasonable that John Williams built the house in 1799-1802 as the eastern section molding suggests that earlier period. At his death, his youngest son James, inherited the house. The more elaborate detailing and classical motifs point to an extensive remodeling by James ca. 1825. Later alterations can be seen on the second and attic stories.

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 checked="" 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 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 checked="" 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 1799-1802
remodeled 1825

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The John Williams House is situated on the south bank of the Yellow Breeches Creek at the confluence of Dogwood Run. The tract was settled shortly after 1750 by David Wilson and sold a portion of 148 acres to his son-in-law, John Williams, in 1779.

The present stone house was built by John Williams ca. 1799-1802. At the time of John William's death in 1802, the house was the hub of a substantial family enterprise containing over a thousand acres of farmland, two mills, a quarry and a lime kiln. James Williams succeeded his father as head of the household. James married in 1808 and it is most probable that in his mature years, he renovated the house to the more elaborate classical detailing visible in the western section. The greatest part of the interior (recently renovated) dates from ca. 1825.

In 1875, the community of Williams Mill had become a Railroad center, the intersection of the Cumberland Valley (now Penn Central) and Harrisburg and Potomac Railroads. The Williams' leased and/or sold land to the railroads and three stations were built.

Easy access and the potential recreational value of the island led to its being chosen as a convention site in 1874 by the National Grange. Successful from the beginning, this evolved into an annual two week summer event, the largest farm machinery exposition in the nation. By the 1890's hundreds of thousands visited the exposition, with passenger trains arriving on a ten-minute schedule over double track lines, and \$500,000.00 worth of farm equipment was sold or ordered on the grounds (5). With the relative eclipse of farming in the East, the exposition foundered but there is still an annual Grangers' Picnic, steam engine exposition and a small full gauge recreational railroad on the site. The island of Williams Grove is now a summer community and recreational-amusement park.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

History of Cumberland and Adams Counties, Warner-Beers Co., Chicago 1886.

Pamphlet "Thirty second Annual Grangers' Interstate Picnic Exhibition" Williams Grove, Cumberland County; 8/28-9/2, 1905

Keefe, Norman D. A History of Mechanicsburg and the Surrounding Area. Mechanicsburg Area Historical Committee, 1976.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .5 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A

1,8	32,710,5,0	4,44,519,3,0
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

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Richwine/ Madeline Cohen, Curator

ORGANIZATION

/ Pa. Historical & Museum Commission

DATE

1/20/73

STREET & NUMBER

Williams Grove, R. D. #2/ Box 1026

TELEPHONE

(717) 787-4363

CITY OR TOWN

Williams Grove/Harrisburg

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

William J. Hewes

Executive Director, Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

DATE

12/21/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

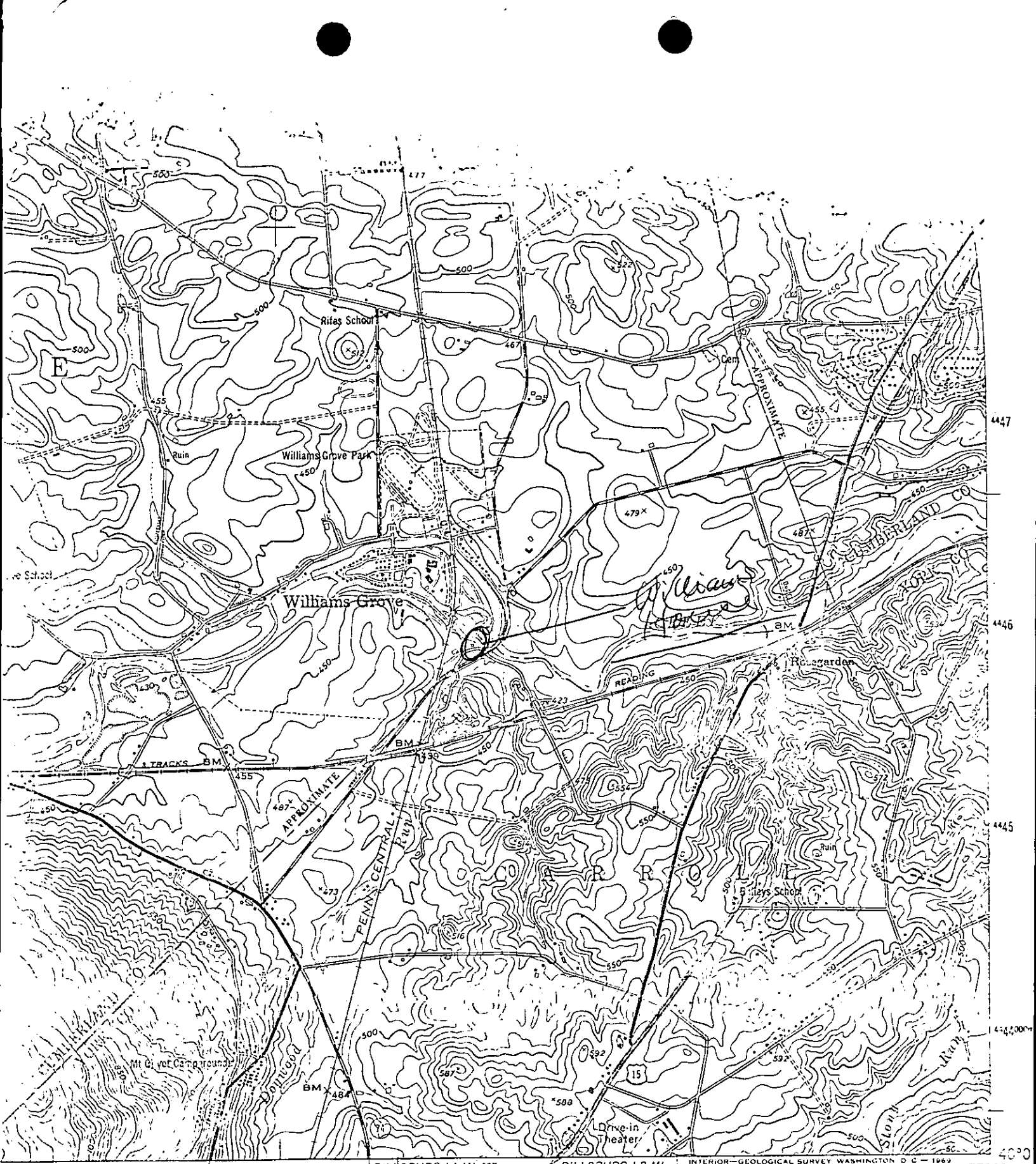
DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

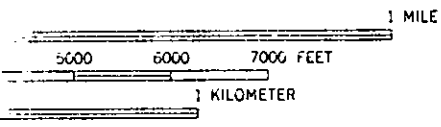
DATE

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



325 BEAVERTOWN 1.2 MI. 2'30" DILLSBURG 1.1 MI. 327 DILLSBURG 1.2 MI. GETTYSBURG 22 MI. INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY WASHINGTON D C — 1962 329000m E 77°00' 40°0'



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy-duty —————
- Medium-duty - - - - -
- Light-duty - - - - -
- Unimproved dirt - - - - -
- U. S. Route (Shield symbol)
- State Route (Circle symbol)