

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Pennsylvania
COUNTY: Adams
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Adams County Courthouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Baltimore and West Middle Streets

CITY OR TOWN:
Gettysburg

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
19th

STATE:
Pennsylvania

CODE:
42

COUNTY:
Adams

CODE:
001

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Adams County

STREET AND NUMBER:
Baltimore and West Middle Streets

CITY OR TOWN:
Gettysburg

STATE:
Pennsylvania

CODE:
42

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Adams County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Baltimore and West Middle Streets

CITY OR TOWN:
Gettysburg

STATE:
Pennsylvania

CODE:
42

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE

COUNTY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Adams County Courthouse was contracted for in 1858 and completed and ready for occupancy in 1859. The structure was designed by S.D. Button, a Philadelphia architect, and the builder was John R. Turner of Carlisle.

The Courthouse is a red brick structure, two stories high, three bays wide, and six bays deep. The rear wings, which protrude one bay on either side of the main axis, were added in 1895. The structure is basically Italianate in style with the addition of Classical elements.

The front facade is dominated by a Classical center entrance. The main door architrave features a flush fan transom while the head surround features an entablature with dentils and brackets on either end. On either side of the main doorway are two-story, coupled brick pilasters which support a plain wide entablature. A series of brackets support a triangular pediment above. Brackets extend under the eaves of the flat roof and are emphasized by the broad projection of the roof.

A large clock tower extends approximately twenty-seven feet above the roof and approximately seventy feet above ground level. The tower is topped by a hooded roof with decorative trim above. Brackets and projecting eaves characterized the roof trim of the clock tower.

Flat-arched windows characterize the first floor except for the main facade which features recessed brick. Semi-circular arches with radiating voussoirs characterize the second-story windows except for the rear wings which feature segmental arches.

The courthouse was originally painted gray; the paint has since been removed. The brickwork and the stonework at ground level have recently been repointed.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1858-1859

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

As the Adams County Courthouse for one hundred fifteen years (1859-1974), the structure has served as a focal point in the life of the citizen of Adams County.

Shortly after its construction, the building served as both a command post and a hospital during the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863, for both Union and Confederate troops. Casualties continued to occupy the building for a short period immediately following the battle. The clock tower atop the building is visible in many contemporary panorama photographs of the town.

Architecturally, the structure is a fine example of Victorian architecture. The Italianate style blended with Classical elements provides the building with a stately appearance, appropriate to its role in the political life of the county.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

History of Cumberland and Adams Counties, Pennsylvania (Chicago: Warner, Beers, & Co., 1886).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		39° 49' 46"	77° 13' 57"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **1**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY:

NAME AND TITLE: **Eugene S. Sickles, Battlefield Guide & Historian/David M. Berman, Curator**

ORGANIZATION: **(self-employed)/Pa Historical & Museum** DATE: _____

STREET AND NUMBER: **424 West High St (P.O. Box 94)/Wm Penn Memorial Museum**

CITY OR TOWN: **Gettysburg/Harrisburg** STATE: **Pennsylvania** CODE: **42**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: William J. Wewer

Title: Executive Director
Pa. Historical & Museum Commission

Date: 6/20/74

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS