

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Pennsylvania</b>
COUNTY: <b>Adams</b>
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Conewago Chapel**

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus**

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**R.D. #4**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Hanover**

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 type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress 	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No 
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment 	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum 	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific 	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) 

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**The Most Reverend Joseph T. Daley, Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg, in trust for the Roman Catholic Congregation of Sacred Heart Church, Conewago Twp.**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**111 State Street, P.O. Box 2153**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Harrisburg**

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

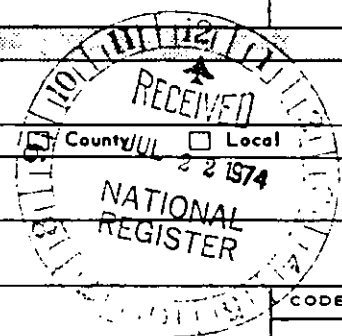
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Pennsylvania  
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ENTRY NUMBER:  
DATE:  
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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 Conewago Chapel was constructed during the years 1785-1787, upon the site of an earlier chapel, to accomodate the needs of a growing congregation. At approximately the same time, around 1787, a rectory was built adjoining the chapel.

The chapel is constructed of brownstone with walls approximately three feet thick. The structure is three bays in width, five bays deep and two and one-half stories in height. The entrance is ~~Classical~~ <sup>Greek Revival</sup> in style with semi-circular arched doorway and gabled roof with boxed return. Windows on both first and second floors are semi-circular arched with radiating voussoirs and keystone. Windows flank either side of the main entrance, while on the second story, a window appears directly above the main entrance and is flanked by two, smaller, flat-arched windows. Located in the gable end are three circular windows with radiating voussoirs and keystones surrounding each window.

The chapel originally featured a timber roof. Presently, the chapel has a gabled roof with boxed cornice and return. A cupola was later built above the roof between the years 1822 and 1843. It was replaced in 1873 by a church spire, approximately eighty feet in height, which contains a 3000 pound ball placed there in 1891.

In 1787, the rectory was built to house the priests serving in a missionary capacity to surrounding areas. The rectory is connected to the church through a smaller chapel and has been markedly altered since its original construction. The building is five bays wide, three stories high, and originally two bays deep. A three-bay addition has been added to the rear of one side of the house, probably at the same time as the addition of the mansard roof. The rectory also features a full front verandah, a side porch and oriel window, coupled brackets on the frieze below the boxed cornice, and bellcast-type dormers.

In 1850, a transept and semi-circular apse were added to the chapel. The addition was two and one-half stories in height and eighty feet in width.

The interior of the chapel was decorated in 1844 when Father Nicholas Steinbacher, S.J., hired a Mr. Gebhart of Philadelphia. The church was redecorated by Lorenzo C. Scattaglia of Philadelphia in 1887 and again in 1937 for the Sedquicentennial celebration. In the late 1950's, a complete restoration was undertaken.

The most impressive facet of the interior is the series of paintings by Franz Stecher on the transept and apse of the church which were done during 1851. During the facelifting of the 1950's, Walter Boettcher repainted the ceiling decorations as well as Stecher's paintings.

Other buildings in the complex include a stone schoolhouse erected in 1902, a convent built in 1902 and moved to the chapel grounds in 1959, and a parish hall built in 1954. A cemetery, first opened in 1752, is located at the rear of the church.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" 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) **c. 1787, c. 1850**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Conewago Chapel was the original log structure built in 1741 which became the headquarters of the Jesuit missionaries of the St. Francis mission circuit. The present complex of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus was built upon the site of the original log chapel.

The present chapel is the oldest Catholic church building constructed of stone in the United States. The rectory became the center for missionary activities in western Maryland, the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, and most of Pennsylvania west of the Susquehanna River. Prince Gallitzin, the Apostle of the Alleghenies, spent the first years of his priesthood here, from 1795 to 1799.

Nineteenth century alterations and additions to the site were the result of a growing congregation. The surrounding areas had no houses of worship and Catholics of the settlements were members of the Conewago congregation.

The chapel is also notable for the paintings of Franz Stecher on the apse and transept ceilings, done during 1851. These include frescoes depicting various religious scenes.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

"Conewago Chapel Sesqui-Centennial, 1787-1937," (pamphlet)  
Diocese of Harrisburg, 1868-1968 (n.p., n.d.) pp. 36  
 Rose, Harold Wickliffe Rose, The Colonial Houses of Worship in America (New York, 1963).

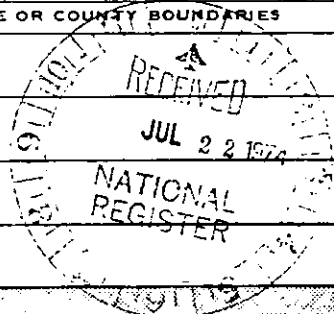
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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' 04"	77° 02' 16"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 ACRES.

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: David C. Stacks  
Harvey Freedenburg, Student Aide; David Berman, Curator

ORGANIZATION: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission DATE: 1973, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: William Penn Memorial Museum, Box 1026

CITY OR TOWN: 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 of Pennsylvania Hist. & Museum Commission  
 Date: 7/16/74

**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

Conewago Chapel  
 Latitude 39° 49' 04.5" Longitude 77° 02' 15"

MC SHERRYSTOWN QUADRANGLE  
 PENNSYLVANIA—ADAMS CO.  
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
 SE/4 GETTYSBURG 15' QUADRANGLE

5683 IV NW  
 (ABBOTTSTOWN)

