

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Great Conewago Presbyterian Church**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Straban Twp., 1/4 mi. north of center of Hunterstown, on Church Road**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Hunterstown**

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"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" 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"/> 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Great Conewago Presbyterian Church**

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

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Hunterstown**

STATE:  
**Pennsylvania**

CODE:  
**42**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

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

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Baltimore Street**

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: Penna.  
COUNTY: ~~Carbon~~  
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This random fieldstone church, six bays wide and three deep, was built in 1787. The date and the name of the minister at that time, Joseph Henderson, appear in the circular stone in the east gable end. The church is fifty-one feet wide and sixty-five feet long. It has a gable roof with returns. Its moulded cornice is decorated with small dentils. The present church has rounded, arched doors and windows, and also an arched ceiling. All windows have panelled, arched shutters. Exterior arches are delineated with stone voussoirs and occasionally with keystones. Large corner quoins anchor the structure. Much of the sash work (fifteen over fifteen double hung, with fanlights above) and imported English glass is original. Door hinges and locks were also imported from England.

Inside, some of the original chandeliers remain; the others are exact reproductions. The original "Walls of Troy" moulding is still intact. The arrangement of pews, pulpit, and windows has changed. Originally, two windows now on the north elevation were doors. (The opposite side of the church has only four windows.) When this conversion was made (mid-nineteenth century), the entranceway was moved to the west end. A vestibule was installed and a choir gallery erected above. The elevated, goblet-shaped pulpit at the midpoint of the southern side gave way to a more modern one. The original pulpit was destroyed during the Civil War. Later (1874), new pews and a new pulpit were installed and their arrangement changed. The pulpit was placed at the west end of the building. Also at that time general renovations were made, including a switch to coal oil lighting. The interior and exterior are currently in excellent condition. The stonework was recently pointed and exterior woodwork painted.

SEMI INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1787

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/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 Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian            | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |   |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Great Conewago Presbyterian Church (named for the nearby Conewago Creek) was one of the first churches organized by the Scotch-Irish settlers who arrived in south-central Adams County in the late 1730's and early 1740's. The congregation was organized in some fashion as early as 1738 and is mentioned as an established congregation by the Donegal Presbytery in 1740. The present church, built in 1787, is a tangible expression of the Scotch-Irish culture and religious convictions. Its simple form and trim reflect the severity of the Scotch-Irish fundamentalist religion. The original high pulpit was also illustrative of the authoritarian aspects of that religion.

The church is a fine example of early church architecture in the United States. Although it is simple in design, it has great dignity. Its arched windows and shutters and long, low, solid appearance are very effective. Nice details, such as the dentilled cornice, relieve the bare simplicity of the structure. The original interior and exterior of the church are still mostly intact, and so the integrity of the church has been retained.

This church also had a role in the Civil War, during the Gettysburg campaign. It was used as a Confederate hospital during that battle. The church sustained some damage from the Confederate occupation, most notably the burning of the original pulpit, which the congregation had saved when the pulpit was replaced around 1850.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Glatfelter, Charles H. The Churches of Adams Co. PA. (Biglerville, 1841).  
 Braderick, Robert C. Historic Churches of the U.S. (New York, 1949).

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

"Two Hundredth Anniversary (1740-1940) of The Great Conewago Presbyterian Church, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania". pamphlet.  
The Centennial Memorial of the Presbytery of Carlisle...  
 Harrisburg, 1889, I, 213-215.  
 Rose, Harold Wickliffe. The Colonial Houses of Worship in America (New York, 1963), p. 393.  
 The Gettysburg Times, August 2, 1956.

**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
NW	° ' "	° ' "		39	53	16
NE	° ' "	° ' "		77	09	47
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **one**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Charles H. Gladfelter, Curator/ Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Comm.**  
 ORGANIZATION: **Adams County Historical Society/Historic Sites Survey** DATE: **12/30/72 8/27/74**  
 STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Drawer A/ Wm. Penn Memorial Museum**  
 CITY OR TOWN: **Gettysburg/ Harrisburg** STATE: **Pennsylvania** CODE: **42**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**      **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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  
 Executive Director, Pa. Hist. & Museum Commission  
 Title \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date William J. Wewer - 10/2/74

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

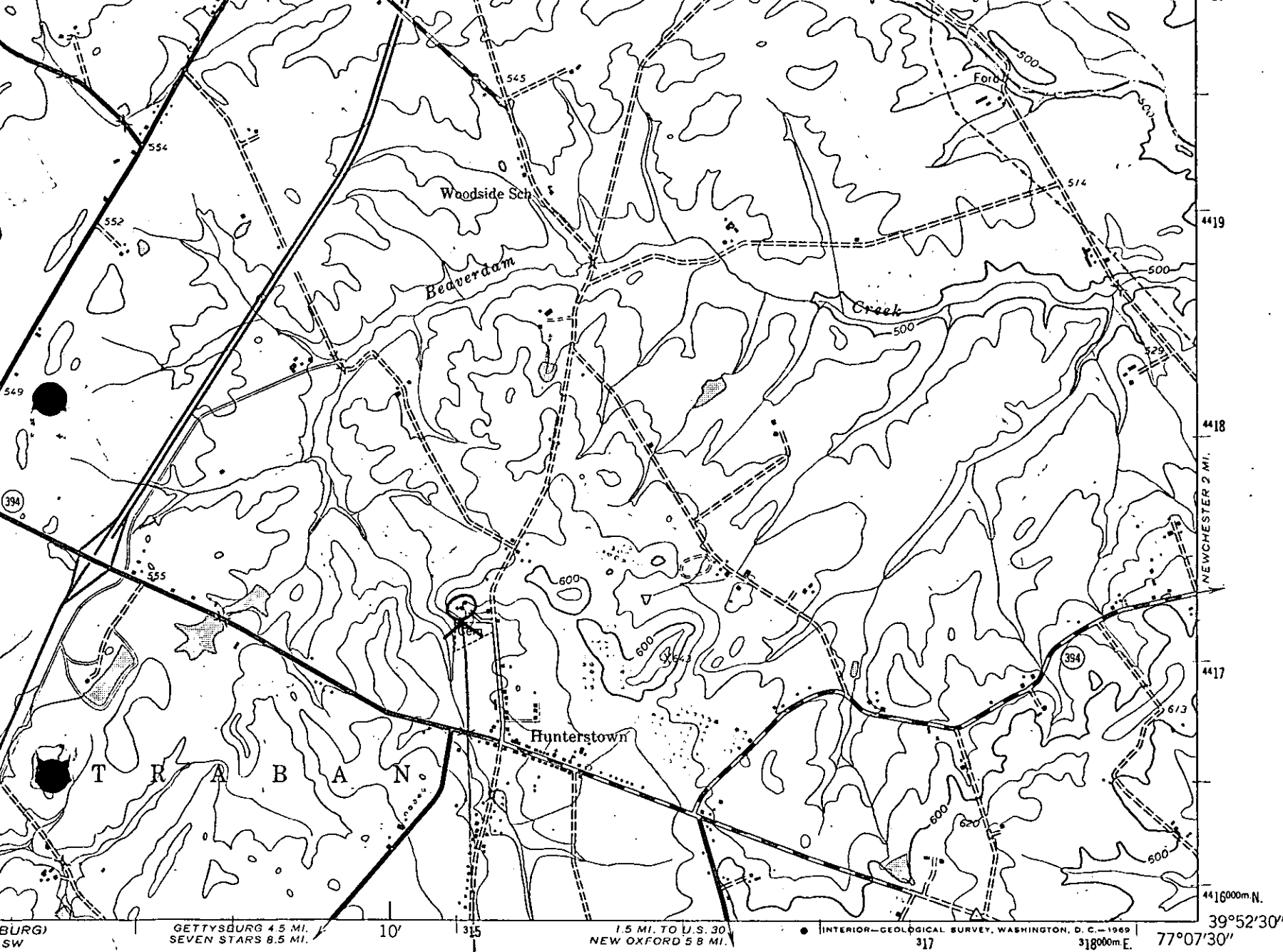
Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

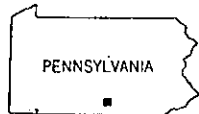
\_\_\_\_\_  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



*THE GREAT CONEVAGO PRESBY.  
CHURCH*  
**BIGLERVILLE  
QUAD.**



**ROAD CLASSIFICATION**

Heavy-duty	—————	Light-duty	—————
Medium-duty	—————	Unimproved dirt	-----
	⬡ U. S. Route		○ State Route

**BIGLERVILLE, PA.**  
NW 1/4 GETTYSBURG 15' QUADRANGLE

*(MC SHERRYSTOWN)  
5563 1 SE*