

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

43

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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 Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church

and/or common

2. Location

street & number L.R. 01002 North of Intersection with Rt 116 not for publication

city, town Highland Township vicinity of congressional district 19

state Pennsylvania code 42 county Adams code 001

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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church

street & number RD# 3

city, town Gettysburg vicinity of state Pennsylvania

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Adams County Courthouse

street & number Baltimore Street

city, town Gettysburg state Pennsylvania

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 5/28/75 federal state county local

depository for survey records Pennsylvania Historical Museum Commission

city, town Harrisburg state Pennsylvania

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The first house of worship for the Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterion congregation was a log church located at the graveyard on the west bank of Marsh Creek.

In 1790 a new site was chosen in Carrolls Tract several miles farther west along the "Great Road" and the present substantial stone edifice was erected in a grove of Great Oaks, near a spring.

The Church today is a one story rubble fieldstone building, 3 bays by 6 bays with a semicircular opening set in the gable over the front door, and with a datestone bearing the date 1790 above this opening.

The recessed paneled door in the central front bay is crowned with a semi circular trifoil fan light as are the windows throughout the church. All windows and doors are capped with radiating stone arches. The windows are covered with plain shutters made to complement the shape of the windows.

Vertiges of former renovations are seen in the filled in stone bays on either side of the front door.

Originally there were four doors the seats were straight and high backed and the pulpit was narrow and deep and elevated on the north side of the building. Like the log church it had no facilities for fire in the winter for many years after the erection.

About 1850 it was thoroughly remodeled the improvement being a new roof, floor and pulpit, seats were lowered and sloped in the back, venetion blinds, carpeting, vestibule with two doors into the vestibule and the original doors closed.

In 1861 it was again remodeled; the two doors closed and one opened in the center, east windows closed and stained glass put in the rest, present pews and pulpit furniture.

In 1945 excavation was completed and on all purpose room was constructed under the present structure, with complete kitchen facilities church school classes are con ucted in this room each Sunday morning.

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/		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		

Specific dates 1790

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church is a well preserved example of typical early religious architecture in Adams County. To date inventories have identified four architecturally similar structures, two of stone and two of brick. One, the Great Conewago Presbyterian Church, is individual listed on the National Register. The Lower Marsh Church, like Great Conewago, is stone and has similar window and door openings. Not as elaborate in its detail, the Lower Marsh Creek church is none the less eligible for National Register listing for architectural significance as a fine, well preserved example of a regional type of ecclesiastical architecture.

In the summer of 1740 Donegal Presbytery began to provide preaching for Presbyterians who had settled along Marsh Creek, and took steps to organize a Church. From 1741 to 1758 the Presbyterian Church in the Colonies were divided into Old Side and New Side. Just when the rift reached Marsh Creek is not known, but in a group who took the name, Presbyterian Church of Lower Marsh Creek.

The first house of worship was a log church located at the graveyard on the west bank of Marsh Creek. A gravestone bears the date of 1749.

In 1750 a new site was chosen in "Carroll's Tract" several miles farther west along "The Great Road", and the present substantial stone edifice was erected in a grove of Great Oaks, near a spring.

Originally there were four doors, the seats were straight and high-backed and the pulpit was narrow and deep and elevated on the north side of the building. Like the log church it had no facilities for fire in the winter for many years after the erection.

9. Major Bibliographical References

History of Cumberland and Adams Counties, Warmer, Beers & Co. Chicago 1886
 Backgrounds of Adams County, BF Mac Pherson, The Gettysburg Times Nov 6, 1937 (NO 15)
 Historic Adams County Pennsylvania booklet publishedly. Times News Publishers 1950 p 17

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2 acres

Quadrangle name Fairfield, PA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	8	3	0	0	2	8	0	4	4	0	9	2	4	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing							

C

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D

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Zone		Easting				Northing							

G

Zone		Easting				Northing							

H

Zone		Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

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 Arthur M Gordon, Clerk of the Session

organization Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian

date 5/15/75

street & number RD #2

telephone

city or town Biglerville

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Ed Weintraub
~~State Historic Preservation Officer~~



title Office of Historic Preservation

date 6/24/81

For HCRS use only

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

date

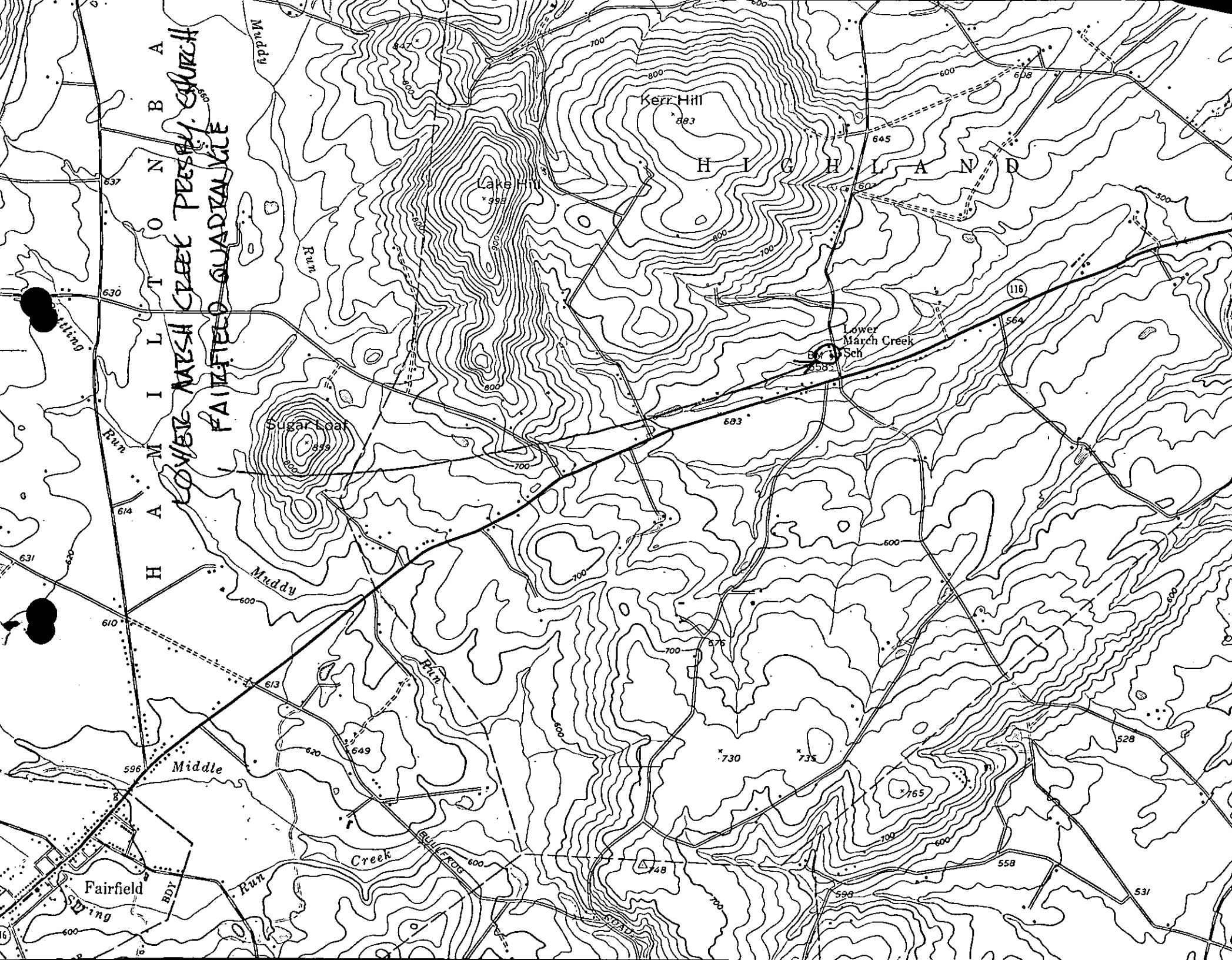
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration





H A M I L T O N B A
LOWELL MASH CREEK PRESBY. CHURCH
FAIRFIELD QUADRANGLE

Kerr Hill
883

H I G H L A N D

Lower
March Creek
Sch

Sugar Loaf
839

Fairfield

Middle

Creek

116

Spring

RDY

Run

Run

596

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