

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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 BLAIR COUNTY COURTHOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
423 Allegheny Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Hollidaysburg

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
9th

STATE
Pennsylvania

VICINITY OF
CODE
42

COUNTY
Blair

CODE
013

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" 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
County of Blair

STREET & NUMBER
423 Allegheny Street

CITY, TOWN
Hollidaysburg

VICINITY OF

STATE
Pennsylvania

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTER OF DEEDS, ETC.
Register and Records Office

STREET & NUMBER
423 Allegheny Street

CITY, TOWN
Hollidaysburg

STATE
Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Pennsylvania Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks

DATE
1975
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

CITY, TOWN
Box 1026, Harrisburg
STATE
Pennsylvania

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 present Blair County Courthouse (1875) is the second courthouse to be built on the site. The first courthouse, a two story brick building built in 1847, in the Greek Revival style, was demolished in 1874. A Philadelphia architect, David S. Gendell was awarded the design contract for the new courthouse. In Gendell's description: "The building is in the modern Gothic style of architecture, with the Italian treatment. This style while it is directly founded upon medi-val Gothic omits many of the details of the latter..."

Construction on the courthouse was begun in 1875 and completed in 1876. The building is T-shaped in plan. All exterior walls are of stone with cut stone facing. The original color of the stone was a "warm, rich, sunny buff" with "deep peach bloom" stones used as accents in the hood mouldings, string courses and cornices. Weathering and pollution has rendered the stonework a uniform gray. The front portion of the building is 2 stories in height with a steep pitched slate roof. The rear section is also 2 stories with a mansard roof. The main entrance is located in the gable end of the front section. Three sets of double doors are recessed behind 3 pointed arches. The doors are topped by pointed cusped arches with trefoil panels of stained glass. The entranceway is flanked by two square 3 story towers with truncated pyramidal roofs. Windows on the main facade are of pointed arch design, sometimes paired but always recessed and flanked by columns with elaborate water-leaf capitals. The string courses are also highly decorative. The string course above the main entrance features acanthus while those on the towers feature geometric patterns. Set into the apex of the gable is a statue of blind Justice. Wrought iron balustrades originally ran the length of the roof ridge line. (The balustrades on the roofs ^{for the towers} have been removed). Fenestration on the sides of the main section consists of tall pointed arch windows surmounted by cut stone molding. Two small triangular dormers are located in each slope of the roof.

The rear mansard roof section continues the elaborate stonework in window arches, cornices and string courses. The most notable feature of this section is the 5 story clock tower which rises above the intersection point of the T-plan. The tower is topped by a tall stone spire. The 4 faced clock is set in a triangular spaced, topped by a finial and flanked by small ornamental pinnacles. The dormers on the rear section featured pointed arch windows set within stone mouldings supported by small attached columns.

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BLAIR COUNTY COURTHOUSE - Blair County

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 1

A 3 story addition was added to the rear section in 1906. However, the architect, William Plack, faithfully copied the original material and style making this addition seem an integral part of the original construction.

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/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" 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 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 1876-1906

BUILDER/ARCHITECT David S. Gendell

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Blair County Courthouse is an excellent example of Gothic architecture. Designed by David S. Gendell of Philadelphia, the building illustrates the influence of Frank Furness on his contemporaries.

The general design of the structure as well as the treatment of capitals and columns and use of colored stonework are highly reflective of Furness' style of architecture. The decorative treatment of the building is particularly noteworthy. The building is in fair condition and has not been seriously altered since 1906. Blair County is currently planning a refurbishing and restoration program for the courthouse.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Africa J. Simpson. The History of Huntingdon and Blair County, Pennsylvania. Philadelphia; J. B. Lippincott and Co. 1883.

Blair County Historical Society. Blair County's First Hundred Years 1846-1946. Altoona, Pennsylvania; Mirror Press, 1945.

Blair County Historical Society. Past and Present. Fall, 1961, Vol. #4.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .5 acre

UTM REFERENCES

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 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

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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

William K. Watson/Historic Sites Survey

ORGANIZATION

Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

DATE

January 9, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

William Penn Memorial Museum, Box #1026

TELEPHONE

717-787-4363

CITY OR TOWN

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

TITLE Executive Director

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

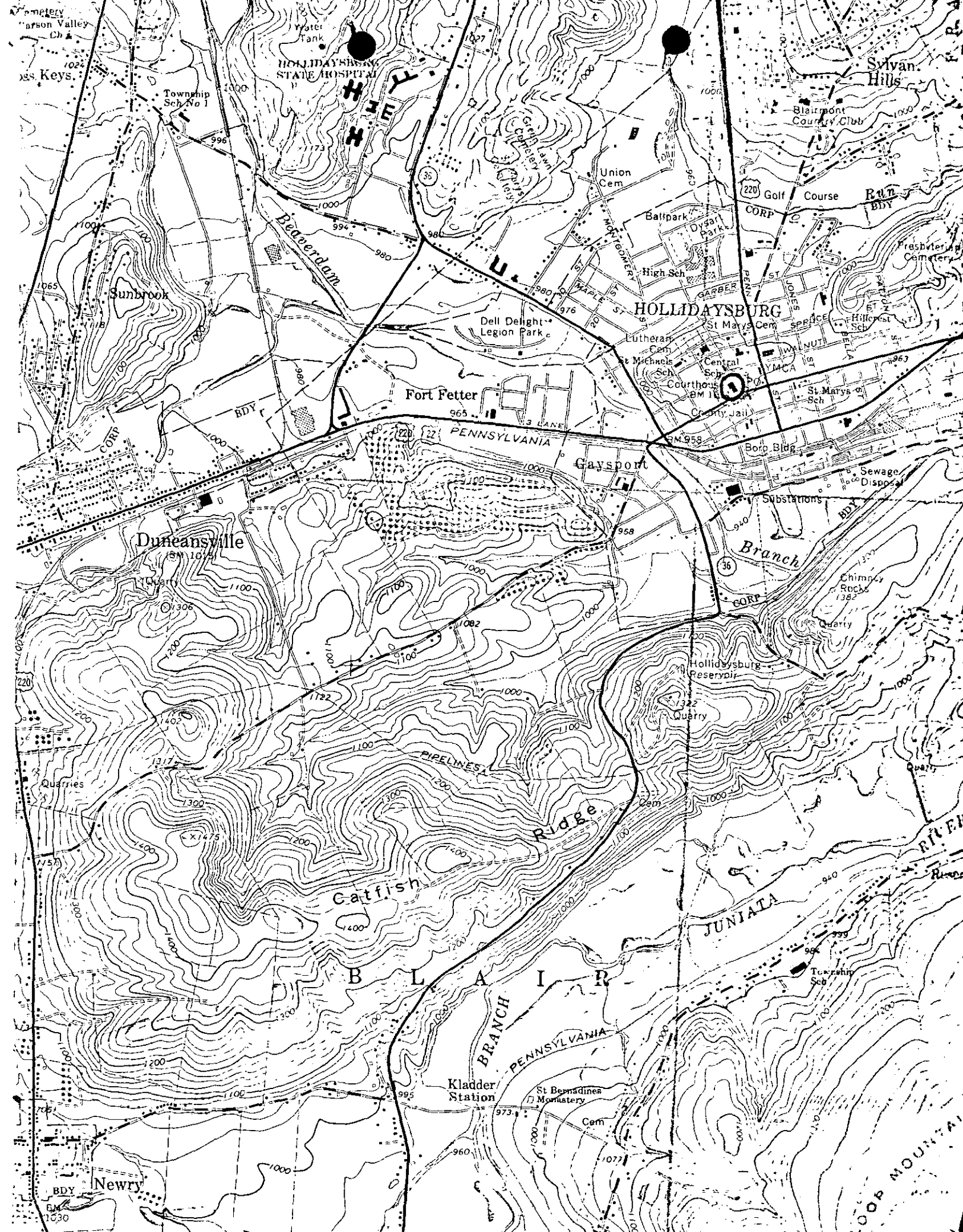
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST: DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Memorial
Arson Valley
Ch.
Keys.

Water
Tank
HOLLIDAYSBURG
STATE HOSPITAL

Sylvan
Hills

Township
Sch. No 1

Sunbrook

Beaverdam

Fort Fetter

HOLLIDAYSBURG

Dunreansville

Gaysport

Branch

Catfish

Ridge

JUNIATA

Kladder
Station

St. Bernadines
Monastery

Newry

COOP MOUNTAIN