

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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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 HIGHLAND HALL

AND/OR COMMON  
Courthouse Annex

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
517 Walnut Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN  
Hollidaysburg

VICINITY OF 9th

STATE  
Pennsylvania

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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input checked="" 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  
Pennsylvania

STATE

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Blair County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER  
423 Allegheny Street

CITY, TOWN  
Hollidaysburg

STATE  
Pennsylvania

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places

DATE  
8/26/77

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission  
William Penn Museum Commission, Box 1026

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

Built on a small hill, Highland Hall is surrounded by four acres of beautifully landscaped gardens. This four-story structure is T-shaped, being 150 feet across and extending 160 feet back. Built of squared coursed stone it has large stone quoins. The roof in the center section is gable with heavy pediments decorated with brackets. An octagonal cupola tops the center of this roof. Four interior brick chimneys are located at the four corners of this section. The two wing sections have low mansard roofs with small six over one dormer windows topped with heavy round arch wooden hoods. Located at the outside ends of the wings are two interior brick chimneys. The wing sections are each 5 bays by one bay. The windows on the second-third story are 6 over 6 with segmental stone arches.

The central section is five bays wide with a center doorway. Second story windows in this section have round stone arches and are 6 over 6. The main door has a flat roofed stone porch approached by side stairways. Originally this doorway had a large, heavy rounded hood and was approached by a straight stairway. First story windows were 6 over 6 with segmental stone arches. Most of these windows have been filled in with glass block windows.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" 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      ca. 1865      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      Samuel Sloan, Architect

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1865, Reverend David H. Barron, the pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Hollidaysburg, realized a need for a good school in the community. As a result, the Hollidaysburg Male and Female Seminary Association was formed in 1865 and was chartered the following year. The Association decided to build a school on a five acre site containing a small stone quarry from which the stone needed for the building could be taken. Mr. Samuel Sloan of Philadelphia was chosen as the architect. Samuel Sloan was one of the most distinguished of the early American architects, some of his works include St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia, the Pennsylvania State Building at the 1876 Exposition in Philadelphia and the Fulton Opera House in Lancaster.

The seminary was originally intended for both sexes but was soon changed to a female school. Although the name was changed to Highland Hall in 1911, the building continued to house a girls' school until 1940.

The outbreak of World War II found the country very deficient in the number of skilled radio operators and in order to meet the demands of the Army, Navy, Keystone Radio Schools, Inc., leased Highland Hall for the training of military personnel. Classes were held 24 hours a day, thus training several thousand soldiers, sailors, and women of the Women's Army Corp as expert radio operators.

On November 3, 1945, at a public sale, the Third Order Regular of St. Francis, Immaculate Conception Province, Hollidaysburg, purchased the school for \$60,000 to use as a preparatory school for priests of St. Francis. In 1956, to relieve the crowded conditions at local catholic schools, Highland Hall became a boy's high school. However, by the early 1960's the school returned to its prime function as a preparatory seminary for students of the Franciscan priesthood.

In 1968 Blair County Commissioners offered to purchase the building and a portion of the surrounding land for \$200,000. The sale was agreed to in 1969 and the 80 room Highland Hall was converted into a county office building. Such is the present use of the building.

Bounded by Walnut Street to the south and Penn Street to the north, Highland Hall sits atop a small knoll. The grounds are beautifully landscaped in a classical format with mature plant materials. The front approaches to the building, which are laid out in a revival foot patterns, are lined with low lying shrubs. The result is one of the finest sites in the County.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4.26 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,7	72,12,0,0	4,47,817,6,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Patrick M. Miller/Susan M. Zacher

ORGANIZATION

Blair County Planning Comm./Pa. Hist. & Mus. Comm. October, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

Highland Hall Annex/P. O. Box 1026

CITY OR TOWN

Hollidaysburg/Harrisburg

DATE

TELEPHONE

717-787-4363

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

WILLIAM J. WEWER, Executive Director  
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

HIGHLAND HALL - Blair County

CONTINUATION SHEET

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

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

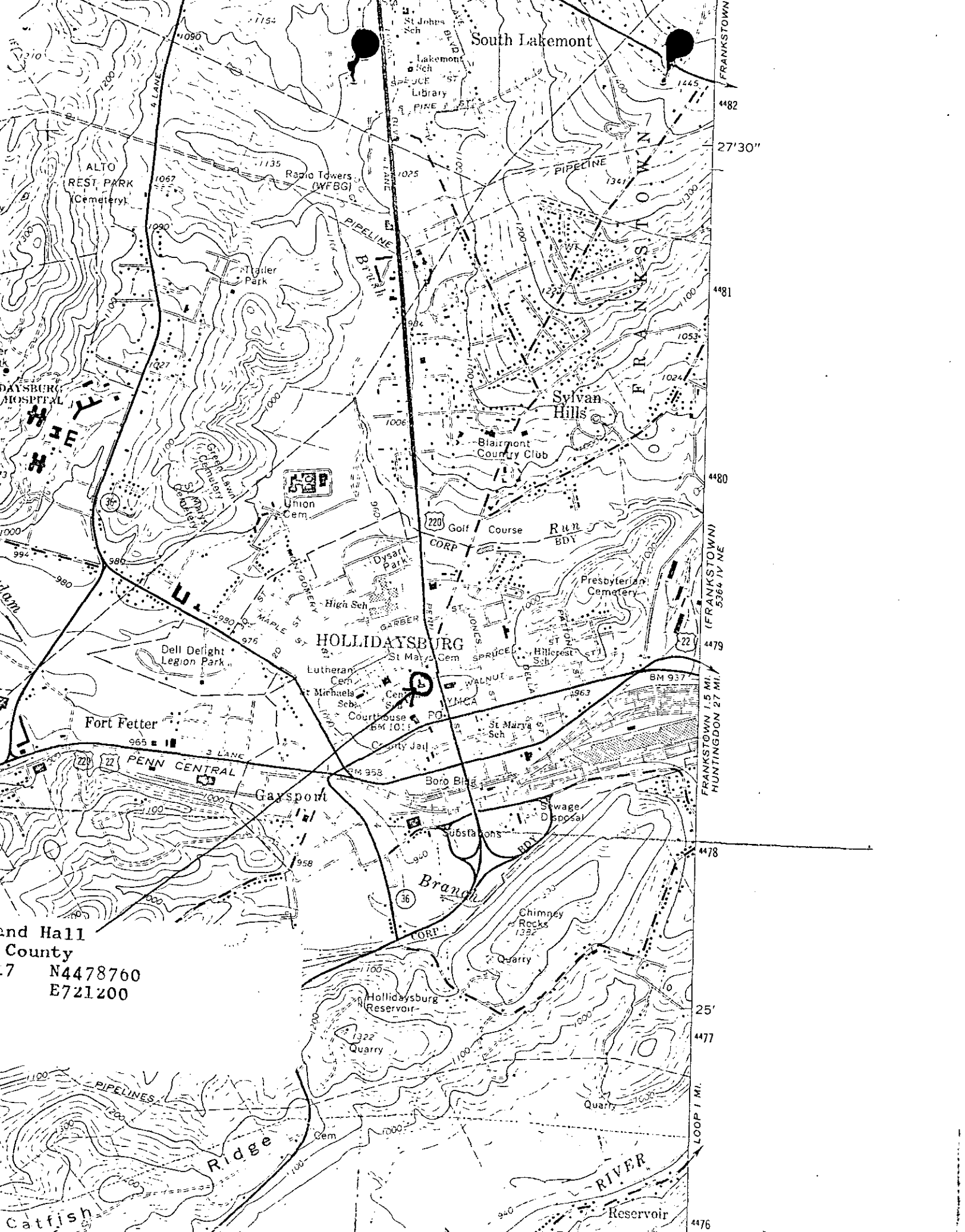
Blair County Historical Society, Blair County's First Hundred Years 1846-1946. Altoona, Pennsylvania; Mirror Press, 1945.

Clark, Charles B., Esq., Semi-Centennial History of Blair County, PA 1896. Altoona, Pennsylvania 1896.

Pennsylvania Historical Survey Work Project Administration, Inventory of County Archives of Pennsylvania, Vol. No. 7, Blair County 1941.

Sell, Jesse C., 20th Century History of Altoona and Blair County. Richmond-Arnold Publishing Co., Chicago, 1911.

Sixteenth Anniversary Highland Hall, June 4-7, 1927, Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania 1927.



South Lakemont

FRANKSTOWN  
FRANKSTOWN 1.5 MI.  
FRANKSTOWN 27 MI.  
HUNTINGDON 27 MI.

5364 1/4 NE

LOOP 1 MI.

ALTO REST PARK (Cemetery)

DAYSBURG HOSPITAL

and Hall  
County  
7 N4478760  
E721200

HOLLIDAYSBURG

Sylvan Hills

Gaysport

Branch

Hollidaysburg Reservoir

RIVER

Reservoir

Catfish

Ridge

27°30"

4481

4480

4479

4478

25'

4477

4476

1090

1154

1445

4482

1067

1135

1341

1090

1027

1025

1230

1000

1027

1000

984

1200

1000

1027

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1006

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