

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Pennsylvania
COUNTY: Chester
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Charlestown Village Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Intersections of Charlestown Road with Church Rd & Pickering Dam Rd

CITY OR TOWN:
Charlestown Township

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Fifth

STATE:
Pennsylvania

CODE:
42

COUNTY:
Chester

CODE:
029

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Multiple Ownership

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Charlestown Township

STATE:
Pennsylvania

CODE:
42

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Chester County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
High and Market Streets

CITY OR TOWN:
West Chester

STATE:
Pennsylvania

CODE:
42

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:
 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
STATE:
CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Pennsylvania

COUNTY: Chester

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins
	(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

There are seven properties within the Charlestown Historic District. The earliest of these is the Job Harvey House. Built about 1740, Harvey attached this two and a half story fieldstone house to an earlier log house (since demolished). In 1862 a two and a half story addition was placed on the west gable end replacing the log structure. Originally, the house was three bays across by two bays deep; it was enlarged two bays across retaining the same depth. The house has a medium pitched gable roof with returns, boxed cornice, center hall and large chimneys at each gable end. The exterior has been stuccoed and whitewashed. All of the main windows are six over nine double hung sash. Porches are on the north, south and west elevations, with the west porch housing a small frame room. The house is built on a slight bank with an exposed basement showing in the rear, and two stone walls which support the elevated porch. A stone springhouse (c. 1740) is the only remaining outbuilding on the property.

On the west bank of Pickering Creek, the Charlestown Woolen Mill is located. Several mills have occupied this site, the earliest being pre-1740 and belonging to Job Harvey. The present mill was erected between 1862 and 1865 by Thomas Senior and has been enlarged several times since. It stands three stories by two bays deep by nine bays across and is constructed of fieldstone in random courses. It was covered with stucco some of which has fallen off. The building has undergone numerous alterations as is evidenced in roof style (almost flat) and window styles (of various periods). The building was built in different stages as is evident in demarcation lines on the facade.

The William Nixon House was built and enlarged before 1817. It is built of fieldstone covered with stucco, two and a half stories high, four bays wide and two rooms deep with a gable roof. Chimneys are found at each gable end and the roof is set off by a boxed cornice. The front has doors in the second and fourth bays; the ground floor shows panel shutters while louvered shutters are featured on the top. A two and a half story frame addition has been placed on the left of the older section. This section is two bays across with gable roof and six over six double hung sash similar to that in the main section.

In 1840 the Charlestown Methodist Episcopal Church measuring thirty feet by thirty feet was built. The Church was enlarged in 1881. It is a two level, gable

SEE 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) **1740 and following**

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input checked="" 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

Charlestown Village is significant in the fields of architecture, commerce and religion.

Architecturally, the district represents the development and growth of a town from the mid-eighteenth century to the late nineteenth century. Charlestown was originally known as "Hard Scrabble", indicating a style of life emanating from making a living from the stone filled and hilly land. The name was changed to Charlestown, in honor of Charles Pickering, an English explorer, who founded gold in the Pickering Creek area. He was later deported to England after being found guilty of counterfeiting gold coin.

Structures in this district are exemplary of stone, frame and masonry buildings in Chester County for the period extending from 1740 to 1870. The architecture represents most facets of nineteenth century town life, as found in the Town-Hall-General Store, Church, mill building and private residences with outbuildings. Although none of the structures are premier examples of their style, they are nonetheless a fine accounting of middle class rural life and in a good state of preservation.

Commercially, the constant rebuilding of mill ruins speaks for the tenacity that the mill industry had on the town. Mills have occupied Charlestown since the time of Job Harvey in the late 1720's. They have produced flax, wool, grain and blankets. Houses were built to accomodate families of mill workers around 1834,

Charlestown was also significant in the local development of Presbyterianism and Methodism. With the influx of religion came the building of schools and other cultural establishments as a 'Lyceum and local musical bands'.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Anderson, Isaac. "Historical Sketch of Charlestown Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania" Potter's American Monthly, v.Iv, pp. 26-31, January, 1875

American Republican. West Chester, Pa. February 8, 1814; May 17, 1814; May 23, 1820; September 16, 1845.

Daily Local News. West Chester, Pa. April 28, 1873; November 20, 1877; November 15, 1884; July 28, 1902 September 23, 1902

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	40° 05' 59"	75° 33' 27"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	40° 05' 59"	75° 33' 10"				
SE	40° 05' 49"	75° 33' 10"				
SW	40° 05' 49"	75° 33' 27"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 12

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Charles Dunlevey, Student Aide

ORGANIZATION: **Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission** DATE: **August, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER:
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, Penna. Historical and Museum Commission

Date _____

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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

5 Pennsylvania	
COUNTY	
Chester	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7. description cont. page one

roof with returns, stucco structure. The front entrance in the north gable end of the 1881 section consists of a door flanked by stained glass side lights and topped by half panels set within a Gothic arch. At the second level of the gable end, there are two narrow vertical Gothic stained glass windows. Centered above and between the vertical windows is the datestone with a modified rose window above. The west side of the enlarged 1881 Church has four vertical stained glass windows identical to those in the north gable end. A heavy box cornice is on the east and west sides of the Church. A stucco addition was built to the rear in 1961.

The Moses King House was built sometime in the early nineteenth century. Three bays of the left frontal portion indicate the early house. The two bays to the right as well as the two room rear flat roofed section represent later construction. The house is a two and a half story random course fieldstone, gable roof structure. It contains chimneys at each gable end, steep pitched roof, stucco covered sides and rear, a boxed cornice and returns. The first floor features paneled shutters while the second floor has louvered ones; an arched hood hangs over the front doorway. A low stone wall as well as two sets of steps offset the front and left side of the structure. A nineteenth century two and a half story stone barn is also on the property. It has been greatly altered and is used as a residence.

In 1866 William Howard's house and wheelwright shop was destroyed by fire. A datestone on the new house reads "W. and P. Howard 1867". The house, two and a half stories high by two rooms deep and four bays wide is constructed of masonry covered with stucco. Chimneys are found on each gable end, the roof is medium pitched and the roof is set off by a moulded box cornice. The doorway is the second bay from the left. Ground floor windows are six over six double hung sash and set off by paneled shutters; the top floor contains three over three sash without shutters and the second floor windows are six over six with louvered shutters. A one story shed is built onto the rear of the house. The structure features a basement, stone steps leading to the porch and a short stone wall in the front yard.

A structure identified as the "Town Hall" was built near the center of the village. It was built in as

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

ST Pennsylvania	
COUNTY Chester	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7. description page two cont.

many as five sections and also served as a general store. It is eleven bays across and two and a half and three stories high by two rooms deep. It may be divided into a gable roof section six bays across and a mansard roof section five bays across. The gable roof portion has three chimneys (one shared with the mansard section) and a porch its entire length and three bays of the mansard part. The gable section has paneled shutters on the ground floor and louvered ones on top with three bays of the mansard part done the same. The mansard part has two round head dormers at the third level. The entirety of this structure is comprised of cut stone with the exception of the mansard roof which is frame.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

CHARLESTOWN VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT (PA)

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

Beginning at a point in the intersection of Charlestown Road and Pickering Creek Road; thence Southwest 46 degrees 800 feet more or less along lands now or late of Elwood Fisher; thence southwest 50 degrees 1500 feet more or less along lands now or late of Elizabeth Stonorov and Elaine Federschmidt; thence southeast 75 degrees 200 feet more or less to a corner in lands of Fletcher Millmore; thence southwest 66 degrees 700 feet more or less by said lands of Millmore to a point in Church Road; thence Southeast 76 degrees 400 feet more or less along Church Road to a point being the corner of land now or late of Tracy Purse, Jr. and Lucius Crowell; thence southwest 65 degrees 900 feet more or less along land of said Purse; thence Southeast 59 degrees 750 feet more or less through lands of Lucius Crowell; thence northeast 18 degrees 900 feet more or less through lands of said Crowell; thence northeast 52 degrees 1400 feet more or less along lands now or late of Gerson Epstein; thence northeast 38 degrees 400 feet more or less to a point in the center of Charlestown Road; thence crossing said road northeast 20 degrees 1700 feet more or less through lands of J. Edwards & Co.; thence Northwest 45 degrees 1200 feet more or less, crossing Pickering Dam Road through other lands of J. Edwards and Co.; thence northwest 68 degrees 1800 feet more or less through other lands of J. Edwards & Co.; thence northwest 74 degrees 300 feet more or less to the place of beginning.

This description is prepared for The French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust, Incorporated use, and is not intended for publication or verification of boundary lines.