



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
WAGONTOWN QUADRANGLE
DOWNINGTOWN QUADRANGLE

Polyconic projection, 1927 North American datum.
Aerial photographs 1951, field check 1956.

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation 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 WILLIAM FERGUSON FARM

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Marshall Road _____ not for publication

city, town Glen Moore _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 16

state Pennsylvania code 42 county Chester code 029

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Albert M., Jr. and Barbara L. Greenfield

street & number Marshall Road

city, town Glen Moore _____ vicinity of _____ state Pennsylvania

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Chester County Courthouse

street & number Market and High Streets

city, town West Chester _____ state Pennsylvania

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date June 18, 1979 _____ federal state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records Pennsylvania Historical and 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 William Ferguson Farm contains a variety of interesting structures. There is a main house, a residence made from the former carriage house and granery, and a tenant house. A massive barnyard wall still remains, as do the ruins of an early house.

The main house was built in two sections, the first around 1741, the second around 1830. There is also a small extension to the rear. The earlier section, measuring 46 feet by 35 feet and facing southwest, is a 2½ story structure, 6 bays wide by 2 bays, in the Georgian style of architecture. Constructed of rubble coursed fieldstone with quoins, it has been stuccoed in some areas. The gable roof, covered by asphalt shingles, has a boxed cornice. An interior double-wide brick chimney with a corbeled cap is found in the eastern gable; an interior plain brick chimney is found in the roof's southern slope near the western edge. Almost all the windows on the first and second floors are double hung sash and are 6 over 6 lights. The smaller attic windows in the gables are 3 over 6. The main entrance currently has a recessed panelled door; very simple trim surrounds the sidelights and multi-paned transom. A bulky transom bar extends over the sidelights. The bottom 2/5 of the sidelights have recessed panelling to match the main door instead of glass. A one-story porch in front of the house was probably added in the late 1800's. It covers the center four bays and measures 8 feet by 27 feet. The supports for the shed roof are squared wooden pillars with recessed panels.

The rear extension measures 23 feet by 21 feet. The same architectural style of the main section is used with the exception of a shed roof. The western elevation is 2½ stories high, and the eastern elevation is 2 stories high. The interior brick chimney has brick corbeling. The basic purpose of the extension was to house servants and fieldhands.

The only other addition is a small one-story frame extension with a shed roof. Measuring 7 feet by 17 feet, the narrow side is attached to the northern elevation of the main house, while the longer side is attached to the eastern elevation of the extension.

The current residence was converted in 1957 from a carriage house and granery. The eastern half was the carriage house. Constructed of heavily mortared rubble coursed fieldstone, it is one story high. The medium-pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles and has a plain cornice. A central interior square chimney has an extended covered flue. Windows are six light casement and are flanked by panelled shutters.

The western half of the structure was the granery. It is two stories high; the first story is stuccoed while the second story has horizontal siding. The windows, doors, roof and cornice are the same as the other half of the structure.

The stuccoed stone tenant house has characteristics of both the Georgian and Federal periods of architecture. The details of the windows are features of the Georgian period, while the smooth facade and placement of windows are reminiscent of the Federal period.

The main house is 2½ stories high and is 2 bays long and 2 bays wide. The medium pitched, tin-covered gable roof has an interior plain chimney. Windows are double hung sash, 6 over 6 lights, and have panelled shutters on both floors of the front facade. Trim is plain, the final touch of this section is the picket fence in front of the building.

A two story extension to the rear is also stone and has features similar to the main house. The stone is exposed rather than entirely stuccoed.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates c. 1741; 1830/ruins c. 1730 Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The William Ferguson Farm has seen a great variety of events and housed various owners of national religious and local political historical significance. A later owner, Edward Hunter, was one of the founders of the Church of the Latter Day Saints. Another owner, John Cornog, was quite influential in local affairs. The architecturally significant ruins date from an even earlier period than that of William Derguson. The structures now on the Farm are also good examples of an early agricultural settlement.

The earliest settlers of the area were probably European squatters living on land owned by the descendents of William Penn. These descendents wanted to maintain the land as Springton Manor until 1750. The ruins are probably the remains of one of these early settlers who was removed by the Penn proprietors.

The farmhouse and tenant house are good examples of early architectural styles. William Ferguson, the first owner, had a prosperous farm. In the Chester County tax lists he is reported to have 50 acres in 1769; this increased dramatically to 210 acres in 1771.

People from throughout the country make pilgrimages to this farm because it was the home of Edward Hunter, one of the founders of the Church of the Latter Day Saints. Mr. Hunter purchased the farm in 1827. He built a school house called West Nantmeal Saminary, on his property, which was open to all sects for worship on Sunday.

Later Mr. Hunter heard about a new sect, the Mormons, who were worshipping in the southern part of the county, and he got in contact with them. Joseph Smith, the leader of the Mormons, held services at the Seminary after 1839, and Mr. Hunter opened his home to all Mormons. Financial contributions were made by Hunter to the development of the Mormon church.

Edward Hunter was a great influence in the community and had many followers. To this day, the area surrounding the farm is called Mormon Hollow. After Hunter permantly left the area, he became a High Priest in the church, and then a Presiding Bishop on April 7, 1851. Today, the "William Ferguson Farm" is considered worthy of a shrine by the Church of the Latter Day Saints.

A later owner of the farmstead was John Cornog, a local political leader. West Nantmeal Township was a large township which needed to be divided for more efficient administration. Cornog led the protest not to separate the area into two different political subdivisions, a feud that eventually involved the state legislature.

Cornog was also involved in the construction of the East Brandywine and Waynesburg Railroad. The company was incorporated by an act of the Pennsylvania legislature on April 29, 1854. Farmers along the proposed route objected to the creation of the railroad, feeling that it would spoil their land. Gradually, subscription of \$97,000.00 were received, and Cornog was elected president of the company on May 9, 1860. The railroad was completed August 28, 1861. The track went through Cornog's land. One of the ten stations between Downingtown and Honey Brook was known as Cornog, and still is known that today.

The farm has been host to a number of early settlers and prominent personage. It has significance in the areas of architecture, exploration & settlement, politics & government and particularly religion.

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 22.3

Quadrangle name SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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G

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H

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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 Jane L.S. Davidson / Brenda J. Reigle

organization PHMC date August 16, 1979

street & number Box 96, RD #2 / Box 1026 telephone (215) 942-3616

city or town Glen Moore / 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title ED WEINTRAUB date

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