



S O U T H C O V E N T R Y

Coventryville

Township Sch

Bucktown

Pughtown

PUGH TOWN

Camp Innabah

Camp Sanka

Kimbertone Fish & Game Association

Nantmeal Village

ZONE 18
442 520
4447 050

W E S T V T

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	
DATE ENTERED	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC NATHAN MICHENER HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Ridge Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

South Coventry Twp. VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5th

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME William H. and Elizabeth C. Miller

STREET & NUMBER

Daisy Point, R. D. #2

CITY, TOWN

Pottstown

VICINITY OF

STATE

Pennsylvania

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Chester County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

High and Market Streets

CITY, TOWN

West Chester

STATE

Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Natural and Historic Resource Association for the French and Pickering Creeks

DATE

June, 1972

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

CITY, TOWN

Box 1026

STATE

Harrisburg

Pennsylvania

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Nathan Michener house was built in the early 19th century of random fieldstone with massive corner quoins. It was a 2½ story structure with gabled roof, end chimneys and heavy boxed cornices. It had a four bay front and rear elevation with two bay gable ends. First floor windows were six over six sash with panelled shutters, and second floor windows were six over six sash with louvered shutters. The front entrance was originally on the east elevation (the second bay from the south gable end) but has been obscured by a single story fieldstone sunporch with pyramidal roof. The main entrance has been moved to the west facade and is located directly across from the original doorway. The door is topped by a three light rectangular transom, and both door and transom are set within deep, panelled reveals. A semicircular cornice, supported by scroll brackets shelters the doorway. Late in the 19th century a one story porch with clapboard sheathing was added to the south elevation and was enclosed in the early 1900's.

The house had nine rooms (with an attic and cellar); there were four rooms and an off-center hallway (corresponding to the placement of the front entrance) on the first floor and five rooms on the second floor. Much of the interior woodwork remains and displays a sophistication in design and workmanship rarely found among farm houses in this area. The open stairway is of particular interest with its curving wall lined with carved reed wood.

The house has undergone little alteration except for the moving of the front entrance, the addition of the sunporch and side porch, and repointing of the stonework. A string course across the west facade indicates that there was a porch extending along the building at one time. Window frames, mouldings, and the decorated cornice are original.

6 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		(X) Medicine & medical publication

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1813

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Historically, the Michener house is significant as the home of Dr. Nathan Michener, a prominent Chester County physician, who purchased the property in 1813. It is unclear whether the house was built by Ann Meredith just prior to its occupation by Dr. Michener or immediately after he purchased the property. Dr. Michener graduated from the Philadelphia Medical College after studying with Dr. Benjamin Rush, and practiced medicine research; published many articles in national medical journals; became a noted astronomer; and compiled an almanac. Also politically active, he was involved with both the Whig and Republican Parties and served as Justice of the Peace for Chester County for 28 years.

The house is architecturally significant because it represents local tradition in design with its use of fieldstone; its height of 2½ stories and depth of two bays; and its gabled roof with end chimneys. At the same time, the house depicts the beginning of the transition to the Greek Revival style of architecture. These characteristics include its length of four bays rather than the more common three or five, and the location of the house perpendicularly to the nearby road. But, unlike the authentic Greek Revival house, the gable facing the road has not been developed as a classical pediment or by the placement of the main entrance at that end.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Futhey, J. Smith and Gilbert Cope. History of Chester County, Pennsylvania. Philadelphia: L. H. Everts, 1881.
- Heathcote, Charles W. (ed.) History of Chester County, Pennsylvania. Harrisburg: National Historical Association, 1932.
- Thomson, W. W. Chester County and its People. Chicago: Union History Company, 1948.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .75 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	44,215,20	44,70,5,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

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

Eleanor Winsor/ Natural & Historic Resource Associates

ORGANIZATION Gary Wilbert/Pa. Historical & Museum Comm. DATE August, 1972

STREET & NUMBER 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 & Museum Commission

DATE January 9, 1976

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