

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

Bellefonte Academy

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

225 East Bishop Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Bellefonte

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Pennsylvania

VICINITY OF

CODE
42

COUNTY

Centre

CODE

027

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 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	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Apartments

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Harry Tanney heirs

STREET & NUMBER

Academy Apartments

CITY, TOWN

Bellefonte

STATE

Pennsylvania

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Courthouse, Deed Book 188, page 266

STREET & NUMBER

High Street

CITY, TOWN

Bellefonte

STATE

Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historical Reflections of Centre County

DATE

1970, 1972

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Centre County Planning Commission

CITY, TOWN

Bellefonte

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 Bellefonte Academy is a three-story building of brick and masonry construction with white stucco facing. The building is 210 feet in length and has an inset central section fronted by a six-column portico with Roman Tuscan columns and a triangular pediment.

The present construction seems to have taken place in four separate periods and was determined by exigencies of fire and increased need for space.

The first construction, 1805, was a two-story rectangular limestone structure which today comprises part of the central section of the building (identical with the first two stories of the southern-most four bays).

Between 1839-45, the original structure was expanded by two bays to the north and added northern and southern wings. Records show that this expansion took place between 1839 and 1845, possibly in two stages. In the 1870 print, a neo-classical entablature and pediment end distinguish the wings. It was altered ca. 1895 when the wings were further enlarged.

In 1904, a fire swept through the second floor of the building. It was decided after the fire, to rebuild the structure and to increase its capacity by adding a third story so that boarding students could be accommodated. The suggestion of neo-classical style present in the previous stage of construction was now expanded and a portico with six colossal Tuscan columns and a triangular pediment was added to the central section. Robert Cole of Bellefonte created the design for the expansion.

The final stage of construction occurred in 1913 when the wings were lengthened beyond the original two bays, five bays to the south and six bays to the north. Basements were provided under each of the new additions with the structure above being supported by steel I-beams.

Today the interior is basically of wood frame construction and has been divided into apartments, through the use of partitions or non-supporting walls. Extensive wainscoting, probably added in our century, remains in hallways, reminding us of the building's use as a school.

The structure today has a shed roof supported by an extensive network of steel angle iron and steel plated bolted together. This supports the original roof which probably had sagged.

The headmaster's house stands near the end of the south wing and was probably built near the turn of the century.

Measured drawings of the Academy prepared by Penn State graduate students, Rong Tsuen Chen and Andreas Papanicolao in 1975, are kept at the Centre County Library.

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"/> 10-1499	<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 checked="" 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Bellefonte Academy is a fine example of the academy school which once flourished and dotted Pennsylvania in the late eighteenth and nineteenth century. It was one of six in Centre County, the others located in Pine Grove Mills, Jacksonville, Aaronsburg, Penn Hall, and Boalsburg. Only the Bellefonte Academy was founded before the passage of the Common School Act, and it alone survived the Civil War. The Bellefonte Academy preformed almost continuously as an educational institution from 1805 to 1934, some 125 years.

The history of the Bellefonte Academy begins in 1795 when the original town of Bellefonte was layed out by its founders, James Dunlop and James Harris. Conscious of the importance of education, they designed a specified area for the Academy. In 1800, Centre County was erected, it was agreed with state officials and the town founders that a certain portion of all money received from the sale of lots of the town would be used to construct public buildings, courthouse and jail, and another portion would be earmarked for "an academy or public school." Further action in support of education, in 1805 by Act of Assembly established and incorporated the "Bellefonte Academy" transferring to its board of trustees the land set aside for educational purposes.

The first board of trustees contained such notable people as Col. James Dunlop, co-founder of Bellefonte, Thomas Burnside, afterwards Supreme Court Justice, Roland Curtin, great charcoal iron master, Judge James Potter, Andrew Gregg, afterwards Senator of the United States, Richard and Joseph Miles, founders of Milesburg and sons of one-time Mayor of Philadelphia. Other later board of trustees members contained at least two govonors, Supreme Court Justices, members of Congress and many notable state and local personalities.

In 1806, the State Treasury appropriated \$2,000 for the construction of the Academy's first building--a two-story rectangular limestone building which occupied part of the space between the present north and south wings.

Through the early 19th cnetury, public education beyond elementary school was rare. Secondary education was the responsiblity of the academy. Most towns of some size had its academy. Bellefonte Academy was such an institution and as such, was integrally involved with the development and education of Bellefonte and its citizens.

Architecturally, the academy points to the adaptive resiliency of the building that maintains its neo-classical character to this day. Particularly the force of the colossal portico and large symmetrical block dominate the hill and landscape of the entire city of Bellefonte.

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Bellefonte Academy
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Bibliographical References:

Mitchell, J. Thomas. Historical Sketch for 100th Anniversary Program. Bellefonte, Bellefonte Academy, 1905.

Montgomery, Dorothy. "The Bellefonte Academy: Fame and Misfortune," Pennsylvania Mirror, January 26, 1974, pages B3-B5.

Stevens, Sylvester. Pennsylvania, Birthplace of a nation. New York, Random House, 1964.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Lee, Marvin. Centre County and Round About. Manuscript.

Linn, John Blair. History of Centre And Clinton Counties. Philadelphia, Louis H. Everts, 1883.

Maynard, D.S. Industries and Institutions of Centre County, Pennsylvania. Bellefonte 1887.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 | 265790 | 4532250
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B | |
 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

Michael Helm / Madeline L. Cohen

ORGANIZATION

Centre Co. Library Historic Site Registration / OHP/PHMC

DATE

July 13, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

North Allegheny Street / Box #1026

TELEPHONE

717-787-4363

CITY OR TOWN

Bellefonte

Harrisburg

STATE

Pennsylvania

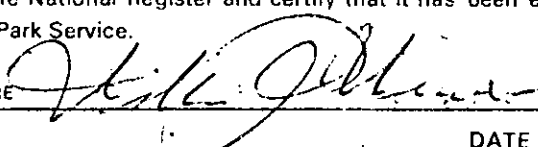
12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL X

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
Pa. Historical & Museum Commission

DATE

7/20/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

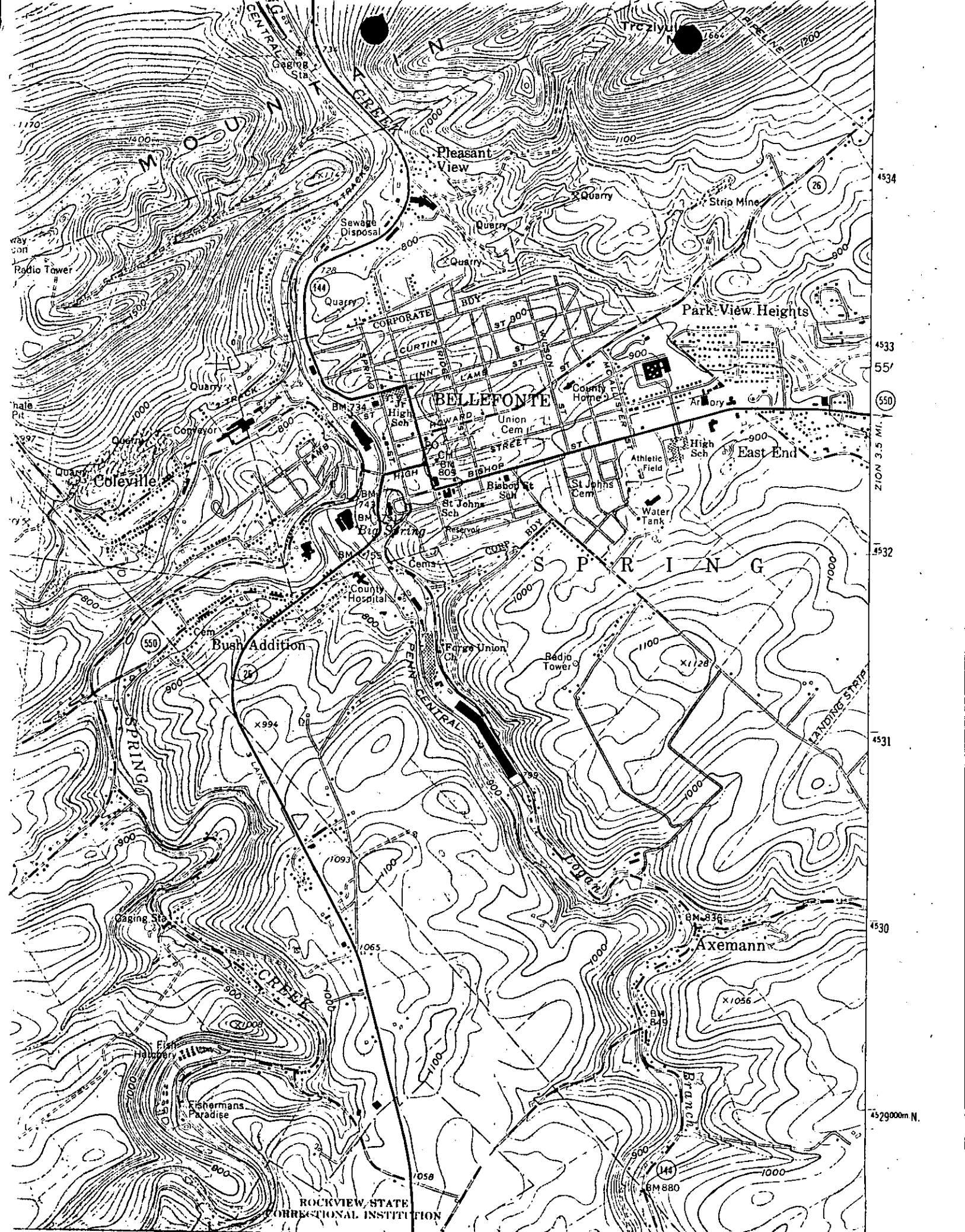
DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Pleasant View

BELLEFONTE

S P R I N G

Axemann

ROCKVIEW STATE
CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION

4534
4533
55'
550
4532
4531
4530
4529000m N.