

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

THE BOAL MANSION

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Rt. 322 and Shingletown Road - Harris Township

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Boalsburg

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Pennsylvania

VICINITY OF

CODE
*42*COUNTY
*Centre**23rd*CODE
*027***3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

 DISTRICT
 BUILDING(S)
 STRUCTURE
 SITE
 OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

 PUBLIC
 PRIVATE
 BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
 IN PROCESS
 BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

 OCCUPIED
 UNOCCUPIED
 WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
 YES: RESTRICTED
 YES: UNRESTRICTED
 NO

PRESENT USE

 AGRICULTURE
 COMMERCIAL
 EDUCATIONAL
 ENTERTAINMENT
 GOVERNMENT
 INDUSTRIAL
 MILITARY
 MUSEUM
 PARK
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE
 RELIGIOUS
 SCIENTIFIC
 TRANSPORTATION
 OTHER:
4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mathilde Boal Lee

STREET & NUMBER

Box 116

CITY, TOWN

Boalsburg

STATE

*Pennsylvania***5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.*Centre County Courthouse*

STREET & NUMBER

Allegheny Street

CITY, TOWN

Bellefonte

STATE

*Pennsylvania***6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

3/27/78
 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS*Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission*

CITY, TOWN

Harrisburg

STATE

Pennsylvania

7 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 Boal Mansion owes its appearance and character to three separate stages of building activity that took place in the years 1789, 1798, and 1898-1905.

The first building on the site was a simple 1½ story stone house with a one story shed roof on its western face. This structure is now the kitchen and kitchen hall of the Mansion. A large cooking type fireplace is located on the southern wall of the kitchen. It has a hearth lined with cut stone blocks and lacks a mantle or mantle shelf. Instead, a board with a molded edge lies flat against the wall above the hearth. All carpentry and hardware in this early section is simple and rustic, reflecting its original character as a frontier dwelling. It has been painted the same blue-gray color as the later parts of the Mansion.

In 1798, the second David Boal made a great enlargement to the homestead. A two story stone house was built abutting the north facade of the original house. The new house was a 30 by 55 feet Georgian dwelling with side-hall plan. The facade of this three bay house faced in a northerly direction with its ridgepole parallel to the road as was the English custom.

In 1898-1905 the house received major additions and re-styling by Theodore Davis Boal. The additions, characterized by Beaux Arts tendencies in terms of Classicism and grand scale, included extending the 1798 three-bay facade to the west by two full bays; this exterior east wall of the dining room. At a later point in time this portico was enclosed, increasing the size of the room, with the piers then being expressed as pilasters on the exterior. This treatment was repeated in the east facade of a new servants' wing constructed at this time against the south way of the 1789 cabin.

Along with this definite stylistic transformation on the east front, the north facade was also altered. Boal chose not to detract from the integrity of the original three bay facade in adding the two new bays. His solution was to create an in antis portico with three matching two story columns that supported an entablature.

After these additions and alterations were carried out, the house took on a rambling villa appearance and could be truly classified as a mansion in the continental sense of the term. The building was effectively reorientated toward the east where it was complimented by a formal garden that featured dual pathways to the two new pedimented and columned rear additions, interspersed of course with the humble kitchen house. Thus the eastern facing elevation was an attempt to create symmetry and picturesque balance in an essentially a symmetrical building situation. This treatment can be described as beaux arts classicism, and is no doubt a reflection of the author's training at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris during the 1890's.

At some later date in the 20th century, Col. Boal further enlarged the mansion by the addition of a farmers quarters attached to the south wall of the 1898 extension mentioned above. This building was designed to match the end wall of the 1798 portion of the house so as to retain the symmetrical format of the east elevation.

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Boal Mansion

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Other additions include the solarium at the southeast corner of the present structure and the open porch at the northeast corner. From an east view of the mansion these two additions match each other.

The interior of the house, like the exterior, is for the greater part, clearly the result of Col. Boal's classical perception of the house. However, much has been retained of the former stages of the mansion's architectural history. The kitchen wing still retains the large cooking fireplace, old window sills, glazing, molding and hardware.

The 1798 portion of the house by the second David Boal overshadows the older kitchen house in both size and formality. The interior of this section on the ground floor was divided into five parts — a front hall with a stairway toward its back and a back hall (both along the western side of the house) and a drawing room, library and dining room to the east. This plan is typical of Georgian three bay houses.

The front hall with its splendid staircase is the principal feature of the 1798 house. The stairs are of the "dog leg'd" variety even though a strong curvilinear momentum is suggested by the balusters winding out of a volute on the first step and by the graceful turning back of the handrail and the stair end at the first landing. The stair balusters are turned and are of graceful proportions. The chair-rails of the hall continue up the stairs along the stair wall.

The drawing room has a fireplace with a stone-lined hearth. The crown of the hearth is made up of stone arranged in a flat arch with keystone. The mantle consists of engaged Doric columns supporting the entablature, and the frieze is paneled.

The fireplace in the library is quite similar to the one just described although the articulation is slightly varied.

The dining room fireplace is noticeably larger. It possesses no columnar articulation beneath the ends of the mantle entablature, merely a simple frame. The entablature itself is ornamented with triglyphs and guttae.

All rooms in this 1798 section possess chair-rails and door frames while the window frames are molded with wooden bullseye adorning the top corners.

There are three fireplaces on the second floor of this part of the house. These are smaller than, but stylistically related to, those on the first floor.

The interior of the 1898 additions amply reflect Col. Boal's classical themes that were carried out on the exterior.

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The ~~Christopher~~ ^{family} Columbus Memorial Chapel was built in 1916. It is a one story, gable roofed stone structure with a gable roof entrance way.

Also located on the property are a hipped roof carriage house built in 1898. Today this building is used as apartments. The carriage house has double square columns, gable dormers and a centre cupola with bell.

The Boal barn is currently used to house a summer theatre group. This cross-gable frame barn has rectangular louvered windows, two ventilator cupolas and a round stone silo.

Also located on the property are a stone smokehouse and two outdoor fireplaces.

8 SIGNIFICANCE**PERIOD**

PREHISTORIC
 1400-1499
 1500-1599
 1600-1699
 1700-1799
 1800-1899
 1900-

ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
 ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
 AGRICULTURE
 ARCHITECTURE
 ART
 COMMERCE
 COMMUNICATIONS

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

COMMUNITY PLANNING
 CONSERVATION
 ECONOMICS
 EDUCATION
 ENGINEERING
 EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
 INDUSTRY
 INVENTION

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
 LAW
 LITERATURE
 MILITARY
 MUSIC
 PHILOSOPHY
 POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

RELIGION
 SCIENCE
 SCULPTURE
 SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
 THEATER
 TRANSPORTATION
 OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES 1789, 1798, 1898-1905

BUILDER/ARCHITECT D. Boal, D. Boal, Jr. T.D. Boal, P. Boal

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Abstract: *The Boal Mansion and Museum is a complex of buildings and objects that are significant for their architecture, their two-century association with Pennsylvania Military History, and their connection to the historical development of Boalsburg Village and vicinity. In addition, the property includes the family chapel that belonged to Christopher Columbus and his descendants, which came into the possession of the Boal family in the nineteenth century. This family still controls the property and operates it as an historic house museum, easily the most important and well known facility of its kind in the entire region.*

The architectural significance of the Boal Mansion lies in the interesting and pleasing series of period additions that add to the building's sense of historic continuity by retaining the quality and character of each previous portion.

For example, the oldest portion of the house, a small 1½ story stone house c. 1789, still serves as the kitchen and connects the 1798 addition with the 1898 servants' quarters. Respect for this little monument to the original Pennsylvania Boal (David the elder) has made successive generations retain its essential integrity and preserve its woodwork, detailing, and hardware.

In the same spirit, extensive additions placed on the house by Theodore Davis Boal in 1898 does not obliterate the character of the three-bay Georgian farmhouse that David Boal, Jr., built in 1798. By extending the house to the west via an in-antis portico rather than a flush facade, Theodore Davis Boal protected the integrity of the original portion of the face. Such a sensitive treatment is a tribute to both the author's respect for the original house and his own skill as an architect, trained — like Richard Morris Hunt and H. H. Richardson at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris.

This training is also reflected in other 1898 additions carried out to enlarge the mansion and accommodate servants in the same building.

The architectural treatment of additions is significant for its use of classical elements that unify a house that has had portions built on three separate centuries by members of the same family.

The military history and tradition of the Boal family goes back to Europe. However, associations with United States military history began with David Boal the elder who came to the colonies and, like so many of his Scotch-Irish brethren, enlisted in the Continental Army. David Boal is recorded as a Captain in the Cumberland County Militia, Second Company, Seventh Battalion of 1780. He was reportedly wounded in battle and received depreciation pay. It is believed that he received land for his service and traded the same

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Boalsburg, Boal Mansion

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for the present property with Rubin Haines, an early landowner in what is now Centre County.

David had a son of the same name who, though too young to participate in the revolution, returned to County Antrim to fight the British in Ireland. David, the younger (1764-1837) was also captain of a local military organization known as the Spring Creek Phalanx of the National Guard.

In the late 1890's the Boal property was turned over to the brother of the direct Boal line, Theodore Davis Boal. Theodore's father was George J. Boal (brother of Elizabeth) who went west to become a prominent lawyer in Iowa City representing big eastern companies. He was quite wealthy and able to send his son to France to study architecture. Theodore, like his famous contemporary, Theodore Roosevelt, was quite an adventurer and was known to have spent a year as a cowboy in the West before leaving for Paris. After returning from the Continent he took possession of the Boal Mansion and proceeded to enlarge and remodel it. His distinguished military career began while the mansion was his home.

In June, 1916, Col. Boal organized, equipped and trained a privately financed company that was shortly thereafter mustered into service as the Machine Gun Troop of the 1st Pa. Calvary, later to become part of the 107th Machine Gun Battalion of the 28th Division. They first served under General Pershing at the Mexican Border and took part in actions against the forces of Pancho Villa.

By the time the United States entered World War I, the Boalsburg Machine Gun Troop had obtained some fame among military circles. The Troop went to Europe with the 28th Division and the 107th saw distinguished service in battle, a credit to its founder and early patron. Col. Boal did not, however, remain with Company A, but was called to serve on General Charles H. Muir's Staff. For his service, Col. Boal received the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism

(See Continuation Sheet)

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 38

QUADRANGLE NAME State College, Pennsylvania

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES			UTM REFERENCES		
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A 18	2639160	45117840	B 18	2640000	4517690
C 18	2640000	4517600	D 18	2632500	4517680
E 18	2636200	4517980	F		
G			H		

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Continuation Sheet

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Greg Ramsey & Bill McLaughlin

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Historic Registration Project

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Centre County Library

814-355-3249

CITY OR TOWN

Bellefonte

STATE

Pennsylvania

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

Ed Weintraub 6-21-78

TITLE

ED WEINTRAUB

DATE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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CDT (Centre Daily Times). State College, Pa.

Holden, Harold, The Chapel of Christopher Columbus and the Boal Mansion: The Story of an American Heritage. Columbus Chapel and Boalsburg Estate Society, 1956.

Linn, John Blair. History of Centre and Clinton Counties, Pa.. Philadelphia, Pa: Louis H. Everts, 1883.

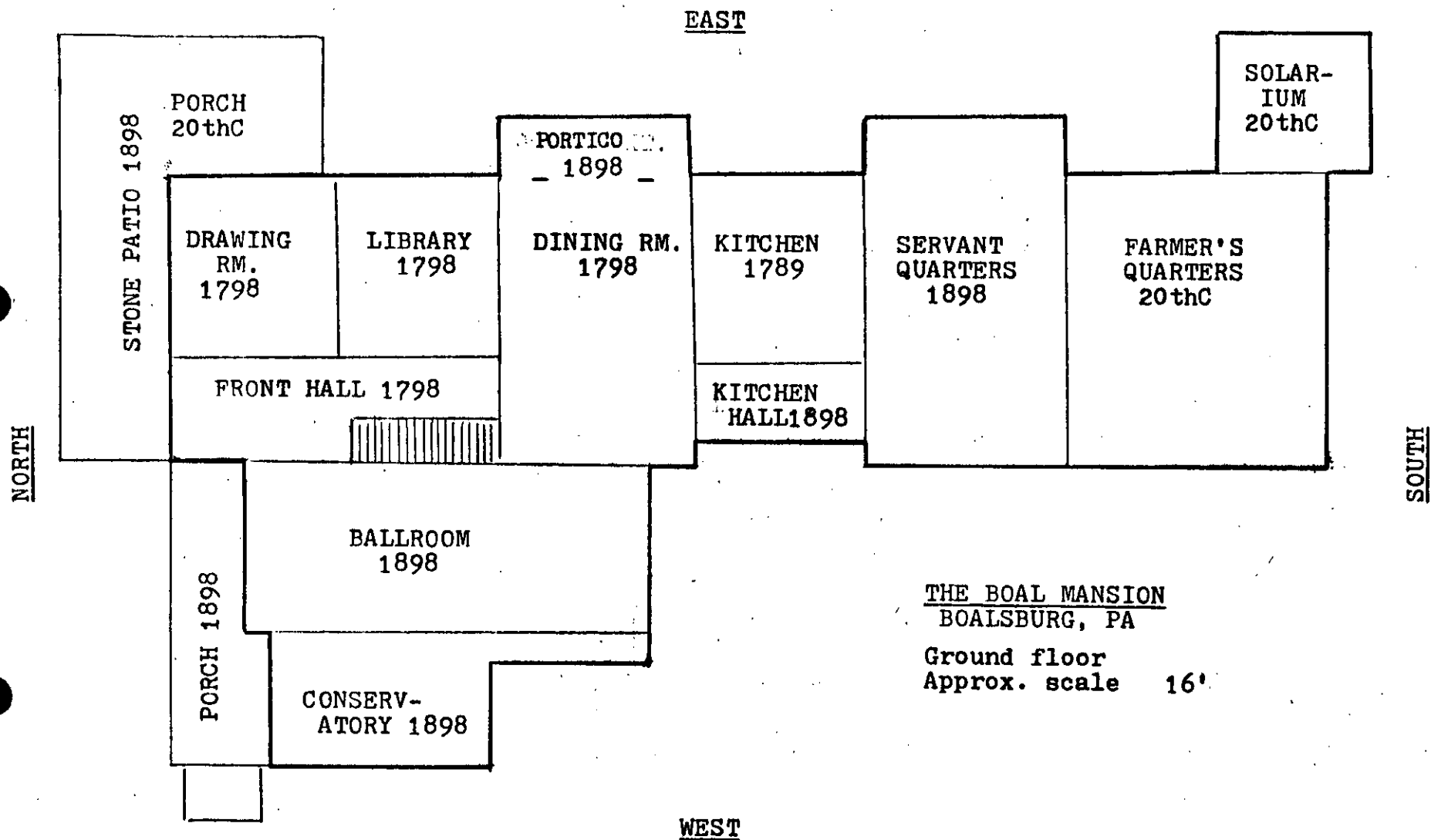
Pennsylvania Archives

Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission. Brochure, The 28th Division Shrine.

Scott, Hugh. Old World Heritage: Columbus Relics at Boalsburg, Pa., Were brought Chapel in Spain. The Philadelphia Inquirer Magazine, Feb. 7, 1954.

States Publication Society. Pennsylvania in the World War: An Illustrated History of the Twenty-Eighth Division. Vol. I, 1921. Pittsburgh-Chicago.

Stevens, S.K. Pennsylvania: Birthplace of a Nation. New York: Random House, 1964.



THE BOAL MANSION
BOALSBURG, PA

Ground floor
Approx. scale 16'

The Boal Mansion Centre County

HISTORIC REGISTRATION PROJECT

June 6, 1978

Ms. Susan M. Zacher
Office of Historic Preservation
PA Historical and Museum Commission
Harrisburg, PA

RE: Boal Mansion, Centre County

Dear Susan:

Your letter of April 20 explaining the new boundary requirements led me to carefully review the situation at Boal Mansion. I visited the property several times and discussed the situation with Mr. Chris Lee, Curator of the Mansion and Museum. From this I have formed a strong opinion that the current remainder of the Mansion tract, or "Boal Estate," a total of 38 acres, should be listed on the Register.

Before explaining historical and environmental factors influencing this opinion, I would like to outline other possible alternatives and explain my reasoning in discarding them:

1. Listing of the Mansion alone as less than 1 acre

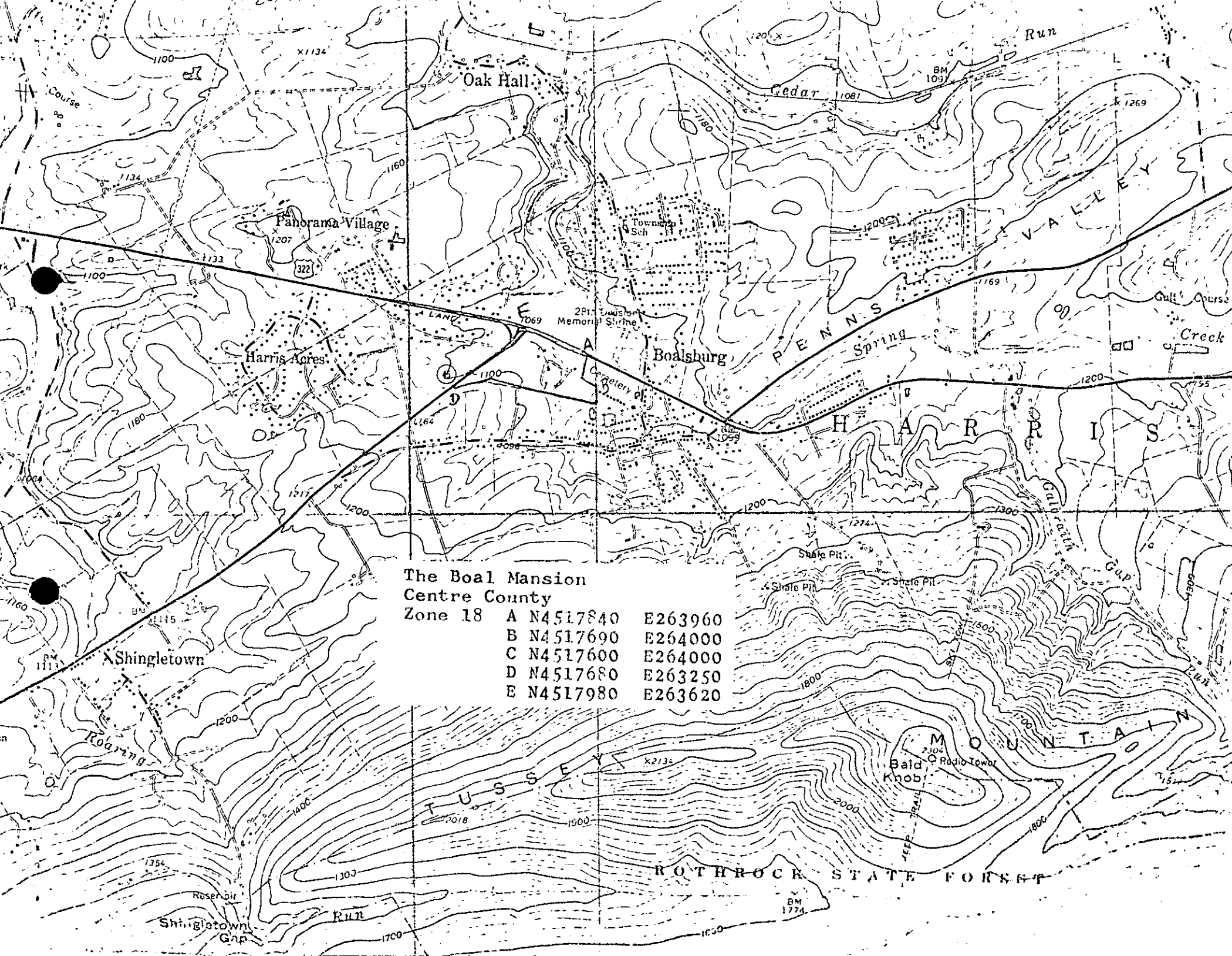
This option fails to take into account other buildings of historic connection - principally, the Boal Barn, a carriage house, and gatehouse (all 1898 to 1905 - the Barn and carriage house, I believe, were pictured in photos previously submitted; the gatehouse can be seen, along with associated minor out-buildings in photos submitted herewith - the gatehouse lies within the Boalsburg National Register District along with about 2 acres of the Estate tract), and the Columbus Chapel building of 1919. This approach also disregards the historic environment.

2. Listing each building's UTM and considering only the land beneath them -

This approach also disregards the existence of a palpable historic environment.

3. Carving out a core area of buildings and human activity -

We considered this, coming up with a area in excess of 7½ acres. For boundaries we tried tree lines, an old road, a stream, etc. As we walked these boundaries we realized that their choice was



The Boal Mansion
Centre County
Zone 18

A	N4517840	E263960
B	N4517690	E264000
C	N4517600	E264000
D	N4517680	E263250
E	N4517980	E263620