

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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 THE HILL HOUSE (COL. JAMES JOHNSTON HOUSE)

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Tennis Street (formerly West Alley)

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Boalsburg

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

23rd

STATE
Pennsylvania

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 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	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input checked="" 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
Hays B. and June I. Gamble

STREET & NUMBER
Box #79

CITY, TOWN
Boalsburg

VICINITY OF

STATE
Pennsylvania

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Centre County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
High Street

CITY, TOWN
Bellefonte

STATE
Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places

DATE
1976

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission
William Penn Memorial Museum, Box #1026

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 Hill House is a 2½ story (no dormers), 5 bay (46' by 24'), stone residence with gable roof, attic and basement. It has a 2½ story stone and frame, gabled kitchen ell (20' x 18') at the rear.

The house stands today in an excellent state of preservation. The replacement of the original shed roof of the kitchen ell with a gable roof (probably toward the end of the 19th century) with modern window in recent years represents an alteration from the original appearance. The front porch also is to be a replacement. All interior finish and nearly all of the original hardware and window glass remains.

The walls of the house and of the original kitchen ell are of stone, laid on a 28" foundation and covered with a parging of horse-hair and sand, which has been painted a brilliant white. Windows are 6 over 9 on the first story and 6 over 6 above.

The principal exterior feature is the wide doorway of the main facade, featuring an unusual fanlight of interposed rectilinear and elliptical forms. Also to be noted are the slightly irregular alignment of windows along the facade; molded window frames consistent with the doorway and with interior finish; original shutters with hand-wrought hardware; and two fanshaped windows lighting the attic from the northern end of the house.

The kitchen ell has only a crawl-space. The basement under the main house is divided into two rooms by a 20" thick stone wall running from the front of the house to the back, just to the north of the stairs. It is lit by two small windows on the front and one window each on the north and south, and is entered through a door near the southeastern corner. Floor joists rest upon a huge, hand-hewn beam, 9" by 15" in section. This beam runs the complete length of the basement and is anchored into the chimney bases at either end. The construction is such that had the floor joists been damaged near either of the outer walls, the floor would have been upheld inward from the point of damage. All floors are yellow pine.

The interior of the Hill House is virtually undisturbed from its original detailing. The parlor (to the right) was clearly the finest room in the house. Its paneled and ornamented window jambs are not repeated in the dining room or the opposite side of the house. There is a circular, wooden molding in the center of the ceiling, a handsome fireplace of classical inspiration, banded chair-rail and baseboard and a double molded cornice.

The parlor is related to the interior of the main entrance portal through the general emphasis on molded wood and the particular detail of bullseye blocks which appear on window frames in the parlor and at several corners in the door enframingent.

The staircase continues the classical mode. The balusters appear as attenuated, highly-refined colonnettes and the newel, merely a heftier version of the same. The cherry handrail is mortised into an L-shaped block above the post. The staircase is of the "dog-leg'd" variety and steps are white pine.

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THE HILL HOUSE (COL. JAMES HOUSE) - Centre County

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

Description: (continued)

The dining room is slightly smaller than the parlor. While the detailing here is consistent stylistically with the parlor, it is simpler.

The kitchen features the massive fireplace seen in homes of this period. An enclosed stairway to the right of the fireplace was added when the area above was placed under a gable roof.

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"/> 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1830

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Hill House represents the principal farm and residence of Colonel James Johnston, Jr., (1771 or 72-1864), local merchant and landowner. Johnston was one of the principal figures in the growth of the town of Boalsburg, Pennsylvania and was responsible in 1819 for the building of the Boalsburg Tavern. The house is traditionally dated to 1830; and, although the source of this dating is uncertain it may be assumed to be generally correct.

The house owes its significance to its association with Johnston and to its architectural excellence. Even today, set apart from the town and beautifully landscaped, the Hill House presents itself as a manor home of great dignity. It is clear that Johnston required his house to be outfitted in such a way that it would not suffer in comparison with the best homes of the region. It is equally evident that whatever stylistic models Johnston or his carpenter aspired to, these were seen from some distance. We are particularly thankful for the innovative solutions reflected in the fanlight and in the newel treatment; for these admirably represent the best of local carpentry in the early days of our county.

REPORT OF SUBJECT
 NUMBER OF PAGES 1

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Harris Township Parent-Teachers Association. "Old Boalsburg Days, May 17, 1952; A Tour of Historic Sites in the Boalsburg Area." Boalsburg, Pennsylvania, 1952.

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

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	26,41,0,0	4,511,709,0	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	Gregory Ramsey, Historic Registration Project Madeline L. Cohen, Architectural Historian	
ORGANIZATION	Centre County Library Office of Historic Preservation	DATE October 14, 1976
STREET & NUMBER	203 North Allegheny Street Penna. Historical & Museum Comm.	TELEPHONE 717-787-4363
CITY OR TOWN	Bellefonte Harrisburg	STATE Pennsylvania

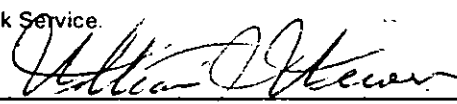
12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

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 Nov. 1, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

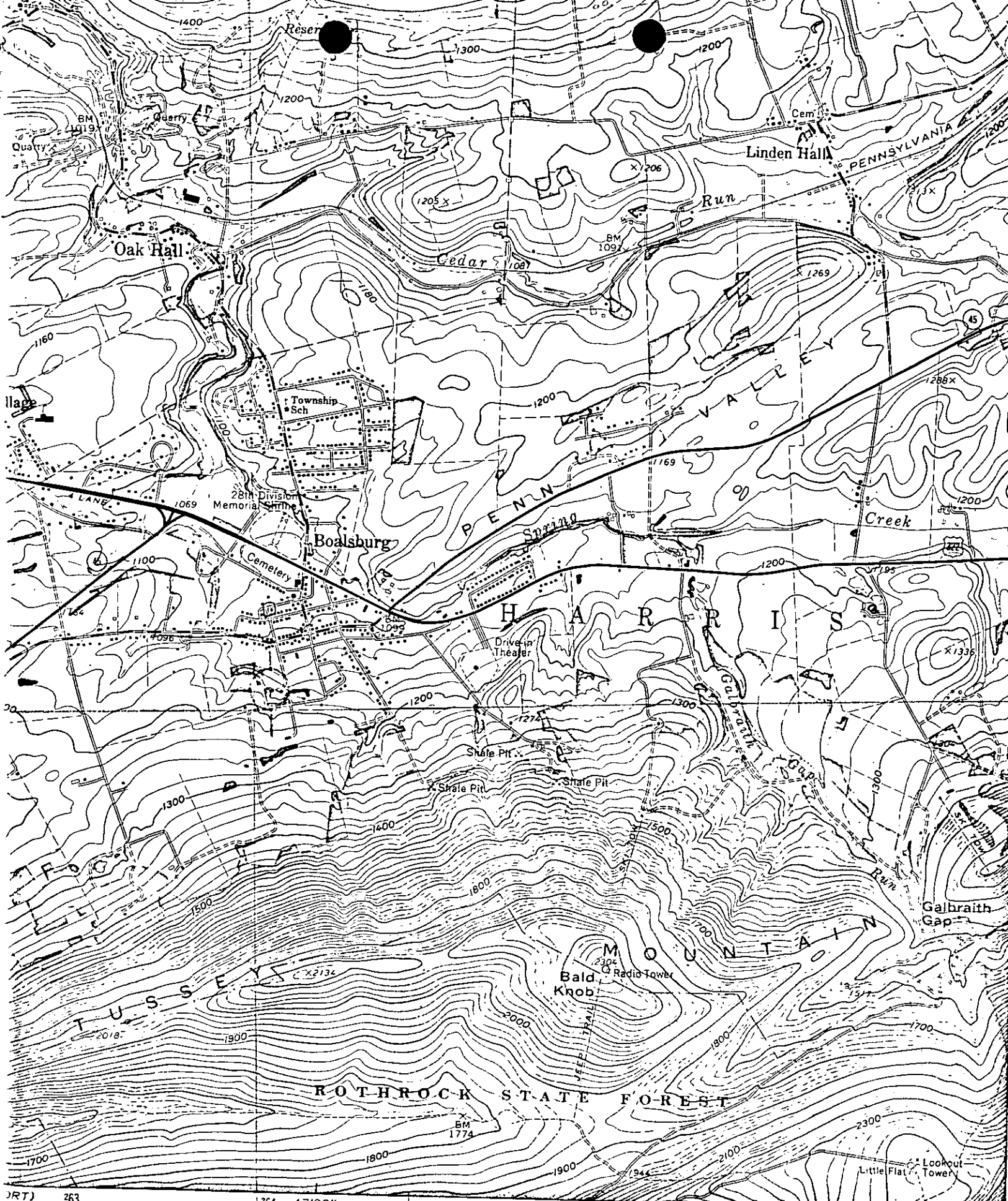
DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

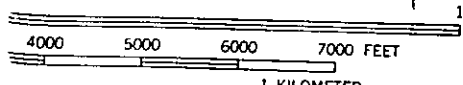
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



JRT) 263 264 47'30" 265 266 ● INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY WASHINGTON D C —1984 267000m.E. 77°



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty - - - - -