

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

1. Name

historic McAllister-Beaver House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 817 East Bishop Street _____ not for publication

city, town Bellefonte _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. & Mrs. James A. Beaver

street & number 718 E. Bishop Street

city, town Bellefonte _____ vicinity of _____ state Pennsylvania 16823

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 Historical Reflections of Centre County has this property been determined eligible? _____ yes _____ no

date 1970, 1972 _____ federal _____ state _____ county local

depository for survey records Centre County Courthouse

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 McAllister-Beaver House is a massive, two-story, five-bay limestone structure located at 817 East Bishop Street (Pa. Route 550), Bellefonte. The house stands in a recently developed residential and commercial area and remains as one of the last of the rural farm dwellings which surrounded the borough. The residence features many traditional Georgian building characteristics, including a balanced facade, low gable roof, and the center hall plan. The original structure, a two-story, four-over-four Pennsylvania stone farmhouse, suggests the early Pennsylvania builders' affinity for construction of Georgian buildings. It featured ten fireplaces, an exposed basement in the rear, and a rectangular plan of 42'4" by 34'2". Aside from its traditional Georgian design, the handling of the fine exterior details gives the structure a cosmopolitan air. This "city" presence is quickly recognized in such details as the cast-iron lintels and the imposing entranceway. The lintels were possibly cast at the Bellefonte Forge, suggesting the relationship of this house to the early iron industry of Centre County.

The facade of the building is of evenly-coursed, rectangular limestone blocks with flush, squared quoining. The windows are all six-over-six and in their original state, topped by cast-iron lintels featuring a flower motif. One of the house's most outstanding features is its main entranceway. A large oval panel makes up most of the door, which is a later Victorian type, with carved floral patterns located inside the resulting spandrels. Flanking the door are two pairs of plain-shafted Ionic columns, each pair centered by a recessed, five-pane sidelight. The columns support an entablature with dentils, above which is located a recessed, horizontal band of ten glass panes set in two courses of five. A wooden lintel, recessed below a larger iron one, makes up the crown of the door section.

In 1913, several repairs and additions were made: A 20'1" x 23' kitchen ell of sandstone and unevenly-coursed rubble limestone was added to the rear of the house. On the west face, a two-story limestone window bay with hipped roof was built eliminating two fireplaces; extending the depth of the original structure is a two-bay, one-story porch having piers with Doric profiles. Evidence of further repair to the west face is found in the doorway leading from the house to the porch, built to the immediate right of the window bay. Another porch, with simple piers and hipped roof, was added to the east side of the north face to accommodate a new door off the kitchen ell, as well as the original door. Inside, the northeast corner of the house and its stairway from the basement kitchen to a second-story bedroom were blocked off for use as servants' quarters. Privacy then necessitated closing off portions of the main staircase, causing interruptions in its three-story spiral motion. Two fireplaces in the basement, and two more at the east end of the second story were sealed, leaving four still in use. Recent repair to the upper story of the kitchen ell added a new roof, casement windows, and siding, this repair being the only major alteration out of character with the rest of the house.

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McAllister-Beaver House, Centre County

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of unevenly-coursed rubble limestone. The stonework at each of the gable ends gives way to paired chimney tops of rye-straw brick. A low-gabled dormer is located at the center of the northern roof section, admitting light to the staircase from attic level. The stairs of the main staircase are of shallow stride; the cylindrical staircase rail rests on a simple newel post.

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/		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The McAllister-Beaver House, located in Bellefonte at 817 East Bishop Street, represents one of the most refined and interestingly detailed stone farmhouses in Centre County. Greek Revival decorative features are combined with a basic Georgian plan in a house which represents one phase of local vernacular house types. It is associated with two prominent county residents of the mid-1800's: Hugh N. McAllister, one of the founders of the Farmer's High School (now the Pennsylvania State University), and James A. Beaver, former Governor of Pennsylvania.

Built around 1850, the house exemplifies the ordered simplicity of early Georgian architecture in its symmetry and plan. Greek Revival exterior detailing is found in the delicately patterned cast-iron lintels and in the handsome recessed entranceway flanked by sidelights and pairs of free-standing Ionic columns. The regularity of the high quality stonework provides the sort of smooth facade favored in the Greek style. Centre County domestic architecture was not highly influenced by the Greek Revival, but many vernacular buildings did exhibit elements of the style. The McAllister-Beaver House is representative of the Pennsylvania farmhouse with this Greek Revival inflection, built before the local currency of more academic styles such as the Gothic Revival and the Italianate. Its builder incorporated decorative elements in a very careful manner, maintaining the farmhouse character while adding enough rich detail to please an influential owner.

The McAllister-Beaver property is part of a 229 acre tract of land bought by ironmaster Philip Benner in 1808. After his death in 1832, the land was divided among heirs who later sold their portions to various individuals. In 1850, Hugh McAllister bought several adjoining tracts of this land and set up a 100 acre farm.

McAllister was born on his father's farm in Juniata County in 1809. He graduated from Jefferson College in Canonsburg in 1833, studied law in Carlisle, and in 1835 entered into law practice with the Hon. W. W. Potter in Bellefonte. Though he was involved in this highly successful law practice, he maintained a strong interest in the science of agriculture. His studies led him to discover that the farmers of the area were not using their land to its best advantage, and he visited counties where more advanced methods were practiced, hoping to gain knowledge that would benefit the farmers of Centre County. In Lancaster he met Frederick Watts, a member of the General Assembly, and together they made plans for the establishment of a school of agriculture. They drew a charter, procured contributions of land and money from several Centre County citizens, and had a \$50,000 appropriations bill passed by the Legislature in May of 1857. The school was constructed on land donated by General James Irvin, and the Farmer's High School began its first term on February 16, 1859.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

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Montgomery, Dorothy J. "A Lawyer, Farmer, and Leader" Newspaper
article - Pennsylvania Mirror, State College, Pa., September 12, 1975.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

McAllister-Beaver House

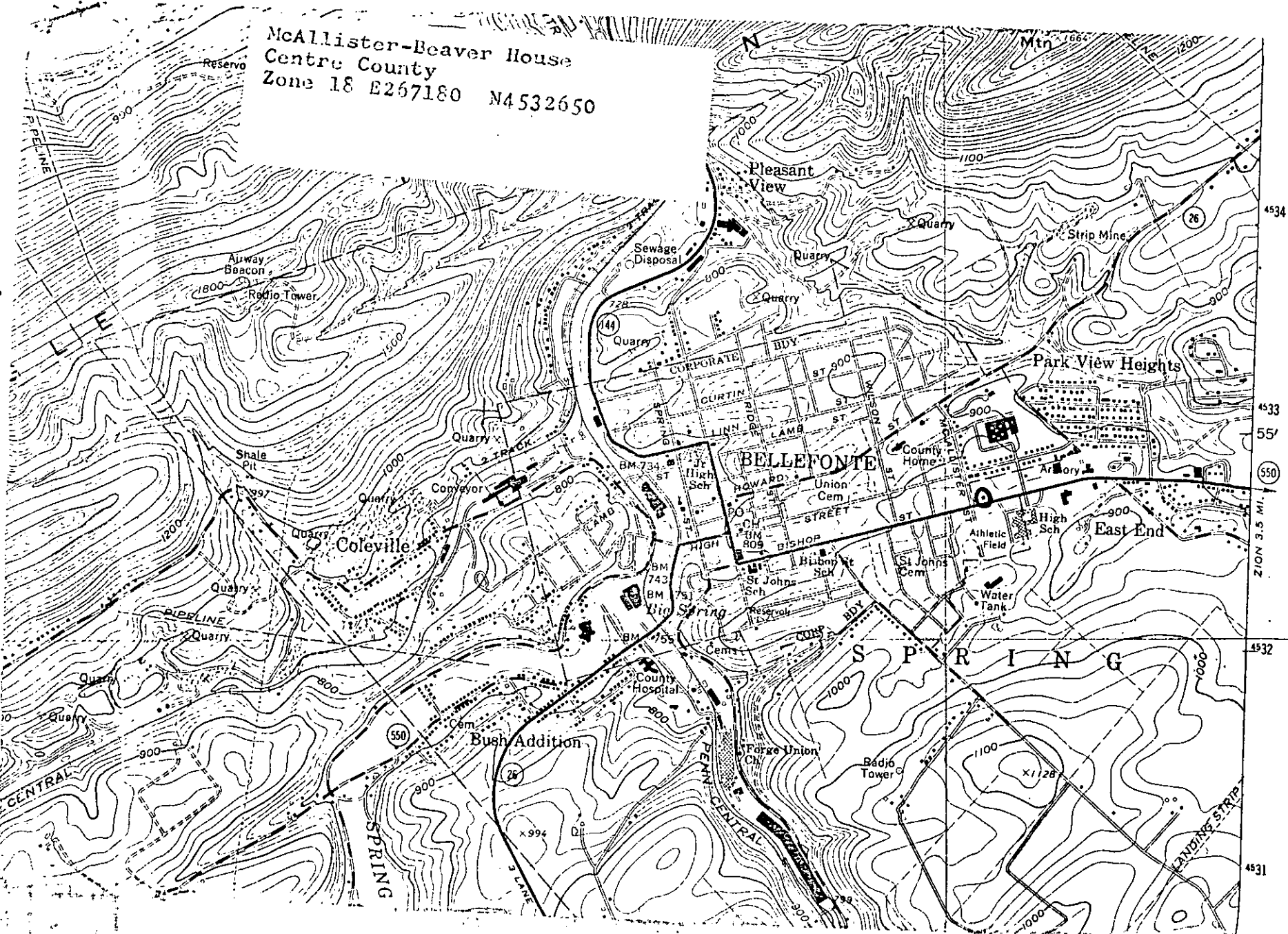
CONTINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER	PAGE
Verbal Boundry description	10	2

From Centre County Deed Book No. 281, pg. 378:

Beginning at a point in the centerline of the 50 ft. right of way of East Bishop Street, being the Southeasterly corner of the property herein described, thence south 77 degrees, 42 minutes and 50 seconds west 634.46 feet along said center line to a point at the intersection of the center line of the 50 ft. right of way of McAllister Street; thence North 13 degrees 20 minutes west 305.57 ft. along said center line to a point; thence north 76 degrees 39 minutes 50 seconds east 155 ft. to a point; thence north 13 degrees 20 minutes west 27.38 ft. to a point; thence north 77 degrees 30 minutes east 484.32 ft. to a point; thence south 12 degrees 30 minutes east 337.35 ft. to the place of beginning.

Being 2.15 acres.

McAllister-Beaver House
Centre County
Zone 18 E267180 N4532650



4534
4533
55'
550
4532
4531