

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 Major John Neff Homestead

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

R. D. #1 (Brush Valley Road)

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Centre Hall

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

23rd

STATE

Pennsylvania

CODE

42

COUNTY

Centre

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

George and Ann Moellenbrock

STREET & NUMBER

R. D. #1

CITY, TOWN

Centre Hall

STATE

Pennsylvania

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

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 LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Pennsylvania Historical and 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
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Major John Neff Homestead includes a log house and barn. The log house is a two and one-half story gable roof structure. It is four bays wide by two bays deep; the two center bays on the front are doorways with multiple light transomes. Fenestration on the first and second floors is six-over-six double hung sash. These windows have slight flat projections above and below the frames, these act as heads and sills. The side pieces of the frames are flat and unadorned. The attic windows are six light (3/3) casement windows.

Horizontal cedar siding has replaced the original beaded siding. Plain vertical planks act as a moulding on the corners of the house. The house measures thirty feet by twenty feet. A tin seamed roof of medium pitch covers the house. The roof overhangs all elevations of the house and has small bargeboards on the side. The right front side of the house has an interior chimney system while the left side has a smaller exterior chimney probably not original. The room on the right side of the house functioned as a parlor and the one on the left, a main room. The stairway is centrally located and enclosed.

Hand-split oak lathe forms the base for the horse hair plaster on the inside walls. The floors are one inch rough cut plank with tongue and groove and finished on one side. These rest on a hewn joist system which uses a summer beam. Partitioning walls are vertical board, hand-planed and with a bead. While the interior is simple, a large chair rail with cap is found in the downstairs rooms a wood mantle sets off the fireplace in the parlor.

A two and one-half story ell appears to the rear of the house. The first story of this section is of log construction while the second story is frame. The log portion has a chimney-breast of almost eight feet with a fourteen inch plank serving as a lintel. This section features chair rail and old iron pintels and straps. The single story log section with the fireplace is thought to predate the house. A modern (1969) frame single story section is also on the rear of the house.

Also included in the nomination is a large stone barn (84 feet by 50 feet.) The barn is constructed of rubble stone and is eight bays across by three bays deep and has a low pitched gable roof. The side of the barn show its five levels of louvered ventilator openings, including a diamond shaped crossed opening just below the gable peak. The roof is tin.

Extensions of the stone barn accomodate overhangs (frame) on both the front and rear. Large quoins appear in the buttress-like extensions. The interior has two threshing floors and features large pinned framing beams. Six of the beams are fifty feet long each.

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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Major John Neff Homestead dates in the second half of the 19th century, based on the architectural evidence. No documentation exists to date the buildings precisely. It represents one of the earliest large farm complex in the Penns Valley Region. The stone barn is one of very few in Centre County; only one other is comparable in size, style and condition. The large log house still exhibits the quality of craftsmanship both in exterior and interior details that distinguish this kind of building. Although the original beaded siding has been replaced, the cedar siding maintains the quiet dignity of the 19th century log farm house.

John Neff, native of Lebanon County and born in 1791, settled in Centre County as a young man and engaged in blacksmithing. In 1832 he purchased a large tract of land from Robert Vaux and Caspar Wistar, on which the farm is situated. From 1832 on he was largely preoccupied with farming.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Commemorative Biographical Record of Central Pennsylvania.
 Chicago, J. H. Beers & Co. 1898.
 Linn, John Blair. The History of Centre & Clinton Counties. Phila-
 delphia, Louis H. Everts, 1883.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

UTM REFERENCES

A | 18 | 269990 | 4522310 |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 C | | | | |

B | | | | | | | | | |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 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, Coordinator; Michael Halm, Assistant/

Madeline L. Cohen
 Charles Dunlevey

ORGANIZATION

Historic Registration Project, Centre Co. Library/

DATE Pa. Hist. & Mus. Commission

STREET & NUMBER

203 N. Allegheny / P. O. Box 1026

TELEPHONE

(717) 787-4393

CITY OR TOWN

Bellefonte, Pa. / Harrisburg, Pa.

STATE

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 and 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

THE MAJOR JOHN NEFF HOMESTEAD
Centre County

ZONE 18 269 990 4522 310

John Neff
Homestead
ne 18
45 22 310
2 69 990

