

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Pennsylvania	
COUNTY: Bucks	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Fountain House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Girard Trust Company

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
State and Main Streets

CITY OR TOWN:
Doylestown

STATE Pennsylvania	CODE 42	COUNTY: Bucks	CODE 017
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Girard Trust Company

STREET AND NUMBER:
Broad and Chestnut Streets

CITY OR TOWN:
Philadelphia

STATE: Pennsylvania	CODE 42
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Bucks County Court House, Registry Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:
Court Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Doylestown

STATE: Pennsylvania	CODE 42
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Inventory of Historic Sites, Del. Valley Reg. Planning Comm.

DATE OF SURVEY: 1970 Federal State Regional County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Bucks County Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
Pine and Ashland Streets

CITY OR TOWN:
Doylestown

STATE: Pennsylvania	CODE 42
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Fountain House, in Doylestown, is an enormous 3½ story structure that was constructed in several sections. The first stone section was built around 1758, the third story added in 1830, and by 1849, two other sections had been added giving the building its present eight-bay front. An 1849 engraving depicts the house with a gabled roof, five dormers, half moon end windows, and three double chimneys. A two-story porch, with a second floor railed balcony, ran across the front and one side of the house. By 1876, a mansard roof replaced the gabled one. Photograph #2 shows that two dormers were added to each end of the roof, and five more added to the rear of the structure's roof.

Photograph #2 also displays the Victorian influence. There are peaked roofs above the dormers, with lacy wood trim; the simple balcony railing was replaced with "Chinese Chippendale" railing; and the wooden porch posts replaced by ornate Victorian ones. The porch was also extended along a third side of the house.

By 1930 more changes had occurred to the exterior. The Victorian features, the intricate iron work, railing, and the other wood work were removed and replaced by simpler railing and porch posts. The second floor balcony was screened in (Photograph #3).

The appearance of Fountain House has changed very little in the past 100 years since the addition of the mansard roof. The house has always been stuccoed and whitewashed, and the 6 over 6 sash windows remain. The building has been recently purchased and restored by Girard Trust Company for its Doylestown Branch office. The interior woodwork and mantels were preserved whenever possible. Photograph #4 shows Fountain House in 1971 after restoration, and reveals that the later section of the porch built during the Victorian era has been removed, and shutters have been added to the third floor windows.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1758

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Fountain House has been the center of Doylestown life for over 200 years. Of the early taverns (seven in number) it is the oldest and the only one now standing. William Doyle built the first section of the tavern in 1758 and successive owners and taverns occupied the House for 175 years until the 1960s.

It was owned by a Tory sympathizer during the Revolutionary War and seized by the state and sold at public auction. In 1802 the town's first post office was located here, and it served as one of the early way stations for the first stagecoach line between Philadelphia and Easton.

Besides being an inn, there was a large second floor ballroom with musician's gallery that was used for dances and concerts. In the early years of this century, the old inn had a fine reputation for its food and antique furnishings, which Henry Ford attempted to purchase for his collection several times during the 1920s.

Fountain House has recently been purchased and restored by the Girard Trust Company of Philadelphia. The building now serves as the Doylestown branch of Girard Bank. The restoration and continued maintenance of this historic landmark by such a large, influential bank as Girard Trust signifies a growing interest in historic preservation by big business. Entry on the National Register should encourage such operations in the future.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Early Taverns of Bucks County," Willis M. Rivinus, New Hope, Pa., 1965.
 "The Fountain House," Terry A. McNealy, Bucks County Panorama, October and November, 1969.
 "Doylestown Old and New," W.W.H. Davis, Doylestown, Pa., 1904. Pennsylvania Historical Society, receipted bill of "Doylestown Hotel, kept by Enoch Harvey."
 Bucks County Historical Society: early etchings, early photographs, invitation to "dancing Cotillion," 1836
 (continued)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		40° 18' 36"	75° 07' 52"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Pennsylvania Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks
 ORGANIZATION: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission DATE: July, 1971
 STREET AND NUMBER:
Box 1026
 CITY OR TOWN: Harrisburg STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name J. K. S. [Signature]
 State Liaison Officer

Title Executive Director, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

Date 1/14/72

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST: _____

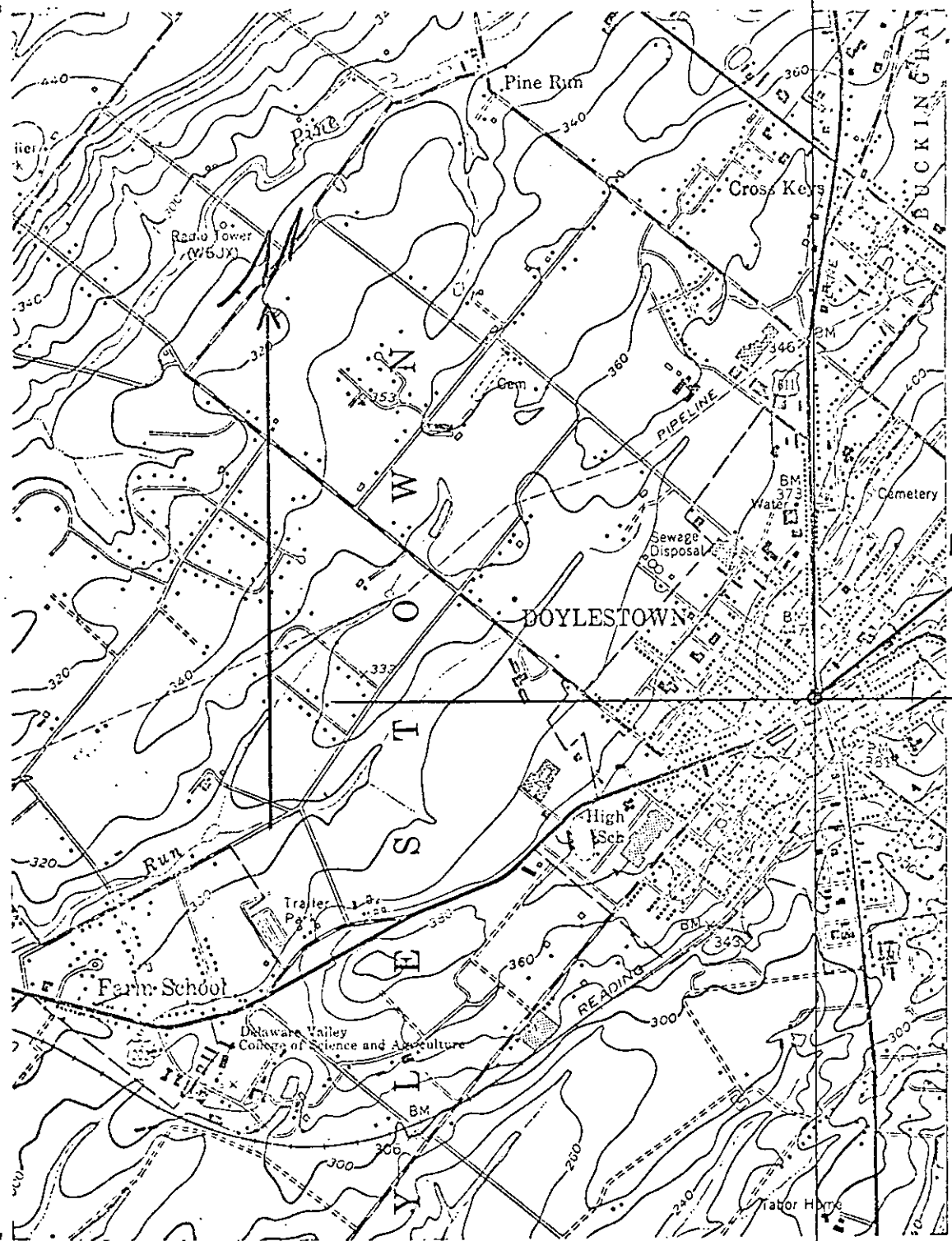
[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

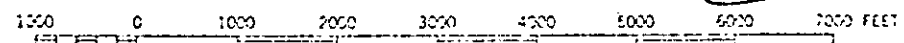
75°-10'-00"
40°-20'-00"

75°-07'-30"
40°-20'-00"

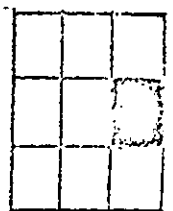


40°-17'-30"
75°-10'-00"

75°-07'-52"
40°-17'-30"
75°-07'-30"



SCALE 1:24 000



FOUNTAIN HOUSE
GIRARD TRUST COMPANY

DOYLESTOWN, PA.

N4015-W7507.5/7.5

1953

PHOTO REPROD 1969

AMS 5964 I SW-SERIES V831