

700358649

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED SEP 4 1975  
DATE ENTERED JAN 1 1976

**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 *\* \* \** David Leedom Farm

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER *5 W of Newtown off*  
Richboro Road, Rt. #232

CITY, TOWN *Newtown vic.* VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_ CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 8  
STATE *Pa.* CODE 42 COUNTY *Bucks* CODE 017

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<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"/> 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 Hoffman Rosner Corporation of Pa.

STREET & NUMBER 1070 Roselle Rd. - Hoffman Estates

CITY, TOWN Chicago VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_ STATE Illinois

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Recorder of Deeds Office

STREET & NUMBER County Administration Building

CITY, TOWN Doylestown STATE Pa.

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE None that is known.

DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

**7 DESCRIPTION**

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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 Leedom Farm stone mansion has gone through four stages of development. Built around the late 18th century, at the east end is a one room, one-story stone structure to which a second story-and-a-half was later added. Also in the late 18th century, a large two-and-a-half story stone addition was added to the west. The year 1802 appears in the third stage's datestone; this stage is a three story stone section. This is the part of the house which has the large entrance hall with the beautiful three story staircase. To this section, on the west end of the structure a two-story frame addition was built. Early 1800's construction is indicated by the fireplace and the detailed, paneled corner cupboards.

At each end of the front facade there is a covered piazza. At the west end there is a large cistern and at the east end there is a water well by the door and an adjacent milk vault. A roof line can still be seen in the stonework at the west end of the mansion. The roof of the piazza, which runs along the length of these first two sections, is approximately in the same proportion as it was originally. The piazza is screened and has a roof that slopes outward from the bottom of the second story windows. The end has one window on the first floor and two on the second story. There is a white, boxed return cornice at this end. The roof of those two sections has two single straddle brick chimneys, with the one near the roof edge being newer and smaller because of the roof's having been raised. The rear facade of these two sections has four windows on each floor.

The third stage, the mansion section, has identical front and back facades. The doorways are to the east and each has a portico with a hipped roof. Over each portico is a 12-pane window with voussoirs and a keystone. To the west there are two identical windows on each floor. There are also a few other windows on the sides of this section because it is larger than the rest of the house. The cornice on this section is plain and the roof has one large single straddle chimney to the west.

The west end two-story frame addition has a piazza with a roof similar to the roof of the other piazza. Over this roof are two windows on the second floor. The roof has a small brick single straddle chimney at the west end.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" 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 painting, 1849

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the Leedom farm from the artistic standpoint is that it is one of the four Newtown farmscapes painted by Edward Hicks, America's foremost primitive painter. One of the three remaining farmhouses is the Leedom house. Hicks painted the farmhouse in 1849 and it is now owned by the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Collection. Hicks lived at the Leedom farmhouse for 10 years as the foster son of Elizabeth and David Twining. Hicks is most famous for his painting of the "Peaceable Kingdom"; he is also renowned as a Quaker preacher.

The David Leedom Farm was called "Pleasant Retreat" and in its heyday was one of the showplaces of the Newtown area. The Twinings and the Leedom's were energetic, prosperous, farmers and leaders of the community. David Leedom was the grandson of Hick's foster parents, David and Elizabeth Twining. Even if Edward Hicks had never painted the Leedom Farm and perpetuated it forever as a part of America's historic heritage, the Leedom house would still be of historic significance. It is an excellent example of a Bucks County stone farmhouse; typical in material and architecture. As the property passed down through generations, usually another, more elaborate section was added. The structure still stands relatively unchanged from its original appearance.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Rockefeller, Abby Aldrich Folk Art Collection, Williamsburg, Va.  
 "Edward Hicks: 1780-1849," book on a special exhibition devoted to his life and work with an introduction and chronology by Alice Ford.  
 Davis, William. "History of Bucks County" (Twinning Family), published 1905 by Lewis Publishing Co., New York

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 ~~acre~~ acre#

UTM REFERENCES

A	118	510316.60	4415.2117.0	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 Elizabeth N. Gish  
 Leilani Stewart, Student Aide

ORGANIZATION Newtown Historical Association, Inc.  
 Pa. Historical Museum Commission DATE 1974

STREET & NUMBER Centre Avenue and Court Street  
 Box 1026, Wm. Penn Museum TELEPHONE (717)787-4363

CITY OR TOWN Newtown  
 Harrisburg STATE Pa.

**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

*William J. Weaver*

TITLE

Executive Director  
 Pa. Historical Museum Commission

DATE

8/25/75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Active*

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

*Ronald M. Greenberg*

DATE

11/1/76

DATE

12/30/75

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*actg*

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	DEC 16 1975
DATE ENTERED	JAN 1 1976

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
 INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

David Leedom Farm  
 Bucks County  
 Pennsylvania

CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

Description (cont'd)

The mansion lies to the west end of the Leedom property. To the east is a complex of large and small, early nineteenth century buildings.

A group of connected buildings is centered around a one and one-half story saltbox shaped structure. This structure is built of random course fieldstone with a vertical board upper section. The lower section of this structure has a large opening for an entryway and two casement windows separated by a plank strap hinged door. The eastern section of this structure is a one story non-descript frame garage with a multi-paneled sliding garage door. To the east of this structure and connected to it are two single story frame buildings. These buildings share a random course fieldstone wall and are constructed in the vertical board style. One has a small brick chimney and hinged plank doors. The other has sliding doors. All of the buildings in this grouping have wood shingle roofs.

Located to the west of the former grouping is a modest single story frame chicken house. The chicken house has several casement windows, a plain but distinctive overhanging cornice and wood shingle roof. Directly in front of the chicken house is a single story spring house. The spring house is done in random course fieldstone some of which is partially underground. The spring house has vertical board over frame for the upper portion and features a slightly overhanging cornice, wood shingle roof and distinctive bargeboard treatment.

A large one and one-half story vertical board frame structure of undetermined usage is to the west of the chicken house. This building has a double hung sash window and a stone foundation. It too, has the common wood shingle roof. The largest structure on the farm is the barn. The barn is a large vertical board frame barn with a slightly bellcast dip to the roof. It has a modest cornice and a smaller addition to its western side. The addition sports the same treatment as the original barn with the exception of the bellcast dip and does not reach as high a roof peak. The original section of the barn has a small overhang to the rear, adjacent to the area where the animals are quartered. In the rear section of the overhang are two joined vertical board frame structures. A rustic frame and rail fence encloses the area in the vicinity of the barn.

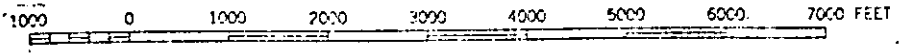
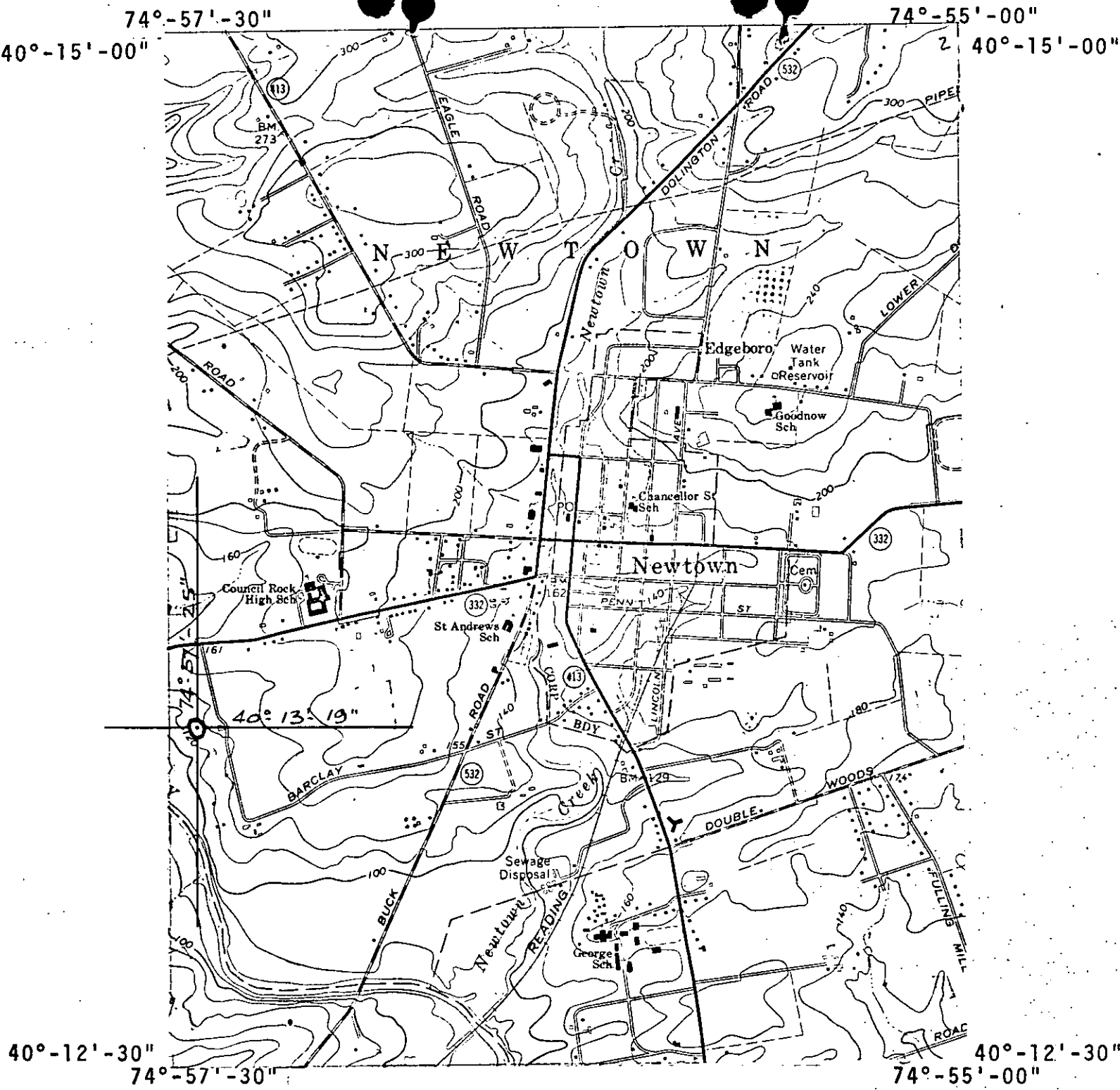
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

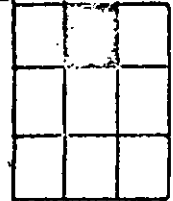
Bibliographical References:

- Battle, "History of Bucks County" (Leedom Family and Twinning Family), published 1887 by A. Warner & Co., Philadelphia, Pa.
- Plan or survey in Deed Book 738, page 44, Bucks County Recorder of Deeds Office, Doylestown, Pa.
- Correspondence from Abby Aldrick Folk Art Collection, Williamsburg, Va.
- M. Dripps Map of 1849, published in Philadelphia, Pa., showing David Leedom Farm, "Pleasant Retreat," Bucks County Historical Society Library, Mercer Museum, Doylestown, Pa.
- Barnesly, Edward R., local historian, "Leedom Farms" - articles published in 1952, reprinted in Delaware Valley Advance, December, 1973.
- Twining, David - will dated October 25, 1791, Codicil Nov. 12, 1791, proved Dec. 6, 1791, Will Book 5, page 280, Bucks County Register of Wills Office, Doylestown, Pa.
- Hicks, Edward - "Memoirs of the Life and Religious Labors of Edward Hicks, Late of Newtown, Bucks County, Pa. printed by Merrihew and Thompson, Philadelphia, Pa., 1851. Copy in Newtown Library, Newtown, Pa.
- Mather, Eleanor Price - "Edward Hicks Primitive Quaker, His Religion in Relation to His Art," printed by Sowers Printing Co., Lebanon, Pa. for Pendle Hill, 1970.
- Pullinger, Edna S. - "A Dream of Peace, Edward Hicks of Newtown," printed by Dorrance and Co., Philadelphia, Pa, 1973.



SCALE 1:24000

DAVID LEEDOM FARM  
 Newtown Township  
 Richboro Road, Rt. #232  
 Newtown, Pa. 18940



LANGHORNE, PA.  
 NW/4 BURLINGTON 15' QUADRANGLE  
 N4007.5—W7452.5/7.5

1955

AMS 6064 III, NW--SERIES V831