

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**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 MORGAN JAMES HOMESTEAD
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: Ferry Road
CITY, TOWN: New Britain VICINITY OF: 8th
STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42 COUNTY: Bucks CODE: 017
NOT FOR PUBLICATION CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: Benjamin F. and Elizabeth M. Gerding
STREET & NUMBER: 345 Park Avenue
CITY, TOWN: Chalfont VICINITY OF: STATE: Pennsylvania 18914

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Bucks County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER:
CITY, TOWN: Doylestown STATE: Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE: 1 Pennsylvania Inventory
DATE: 3/2/77
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
CITY, TOWN: Harrisburg STATE: Pennsylvania

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

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 Morgan James Homestead, as originally built circa 1783 consisted of a two story fieldstone house, an attached outside kitchen and smokehouse, and a bank barn.

The original farmhouse is a two story stone structure which measures 20' by 25'. Attached to the rear (north) is a one story kitchen and smokehouse. Both of these structures were once stuccoed. The original doorway in the house was located in the eastern facade, this door has been replaced with a window in recent years. A 6 over 6 pane window with pannelled shutters is located to the north of the new window. The two second story windows on the east side are also 6 over 6 with plain frames and louvered shutters. The east side has a 6 pane window, a door and a large 18 pane window on the first story which replaced the former 6 over 6 window. The second story has two 6 over 6 pane windows with louvered shutters. The gable roof has an interior brick chimney in the north end connected to a 5' wide, 4' high and 3' deep fireplace on the first story. Stairs at the North end next to the fireplace lead to the second story which is divided into two rooms. Above the bedrooms is a loft entered through a trap door and ladder. There is also a cellar under this section. Recent changes in the original section include an enlarged first story window on the east, the stairwell has been replaced with a powder room and a full bath added in the upstairs.

The outside kitchen and smokehouse is attached to the north wall of the farmhouse. There was no internal door connecting the two structures until recent times probably for fire safety. This one story structure has a gable roof and a large interior brick chimney. Doors enter the kitchen on the east, north and west sides. A large 18 pane window has been added in the east side next to the door. Inside a large 8' by 5' x 4' fireplace is located in the center of the room. Behind the fireplace on the east is a large 8' in diameter brick bake oven. To the west of the oven is the smoke house area. Underneath this building is a cellar and a cistern.

Around 1840 a major addition was added to the farmhouse on the south side. This three story addition is also stucco covered stone with a gable roof and gable end brick chimneys. The addition is five bays wide by two bays. The main door is

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MORGAN JAMES HOMESTEAD

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located in the third bay of the south facade. The single door has a gloss transom and side lights and a gable hood. Windows on the first floor are 6 over 6 and have panelled shutters. Between the first story and second story on the south side is a full length pent-eave. Originally a full length porch was in this position. Second story windows are 6 over 6 with louvered shutters except for the center window over the door which is 6 over 3. The third story windows are eyebrow windows with louvered shutters.

The addition has a full cellar which was connected to the cellar of the farmhouse. Doorways also connect the first and second storys.

The large Pennsylvania land bank barn measures 30' by 60' and was built parallel to the ground slope with a full southern exposure. It is also stucco covered stone.

The upper level is entered from the hillside at the rear (north) directly to the threshing floor. Wide doors opening north and a pair of doors in the south wall provided the ventilation required for threshing.

Hand hewn beams and built-in ladders to the hay mows characterize the framework. All joints are mortised and pinned.

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 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 Circa 1783, 1843

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Morgan James Homestead has significance in two respects. First, it has had an intimate association with the pioneer James family who exerted an important influence on the early history and development of New Britain Township.

Second, it has architectural importance as a well preserved example of a Federal Period fieldstone farmhouse and Pennsylvania barn. Both date from the earliest days of the Commonwealth, and both were built by a Revolutionary War veteran. The fieldstone addition to the original Homestead (c 1840) bridges the gap between handcrafted construction and factory fabrication of components such as latches and doorknobs, which were just beginning to become widely available at the end of the Federal Period.

John and Elizabeth James arrived in America from Wales in 1711, accompanied by their three sons, Thomas, Josiah and William, all born in Wales. In 1720, some 37 years after Penn founded Philadelphia Thomas and John purchased a 1000 acre plantation in central Bucks County¹, an area then solely inhabited by Indians and wild life.

John and William James signed the petition which in 1723 established New Britain Township, the limits of which followed the James land lines in the southwest region.

Morgan James, a grandchild of William James, first served in the Revolution as a substitute. He later enlisted in the New Britain Militia along with his future father-in-law. His term served, he reenlisted in the Washington Life Guards. Morgan was active in the battles of Trenton and Germantown. Mustered out, he returned to New Britain in 1783, married his cousin Margaret, and, several years before the Commonwealth approved the Constitution, built his Homestead.

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Southeastern Pennsylvania is known for its stone bank barns. The Morgan James Homestead has a fine example of a basic barn of this type. Built with hand-hewn timbers, joints are all mortised and pinned, and built-in ladders lead to the hay mows. A stone barnyard enclosure is on the south side. The original fieldstone farmhouse and the outside kitchen are described in detail elsewhere. All are fine examples of the sturdy structures of the time that were built from materials near at hand.

The three buildings constituted the original Homestead. Although modified over the years, they have not lost their basic integrity; the original materials and workmanship are everywhere in evidence. The architecture is significant as typical of the construction in Eastern Pennsylvania that prevailed just after the Revolution and the start of the Federal Period.

The Morgan James Homestead derives its historical, political and architectural significance from that it is, a continuously used group of hand built structures dating from the earliest days of the Commonwealth, and what it represents, a tangible link with a pioneer family who cleared the land, fought the battles.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Davis. History of Bucks County. Vol. 3, p. 61
- Mathews, Edward. The James Family of New Britain.
- Mathews Township History, Bucks County, Vol. 1

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 | 41821920 | 446.1440
 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

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Benjamin F. Gerding / Susan M. Zacher

ORGANIZATION

/ Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

DATE

December 1976

STREET & NUMBER

345 Park Avenue / Box 1026

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Chalfont / Harrisburg

STATE

Pennsylvania

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

WILLIAM J. WEWER, Executive Director
 Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

DATE

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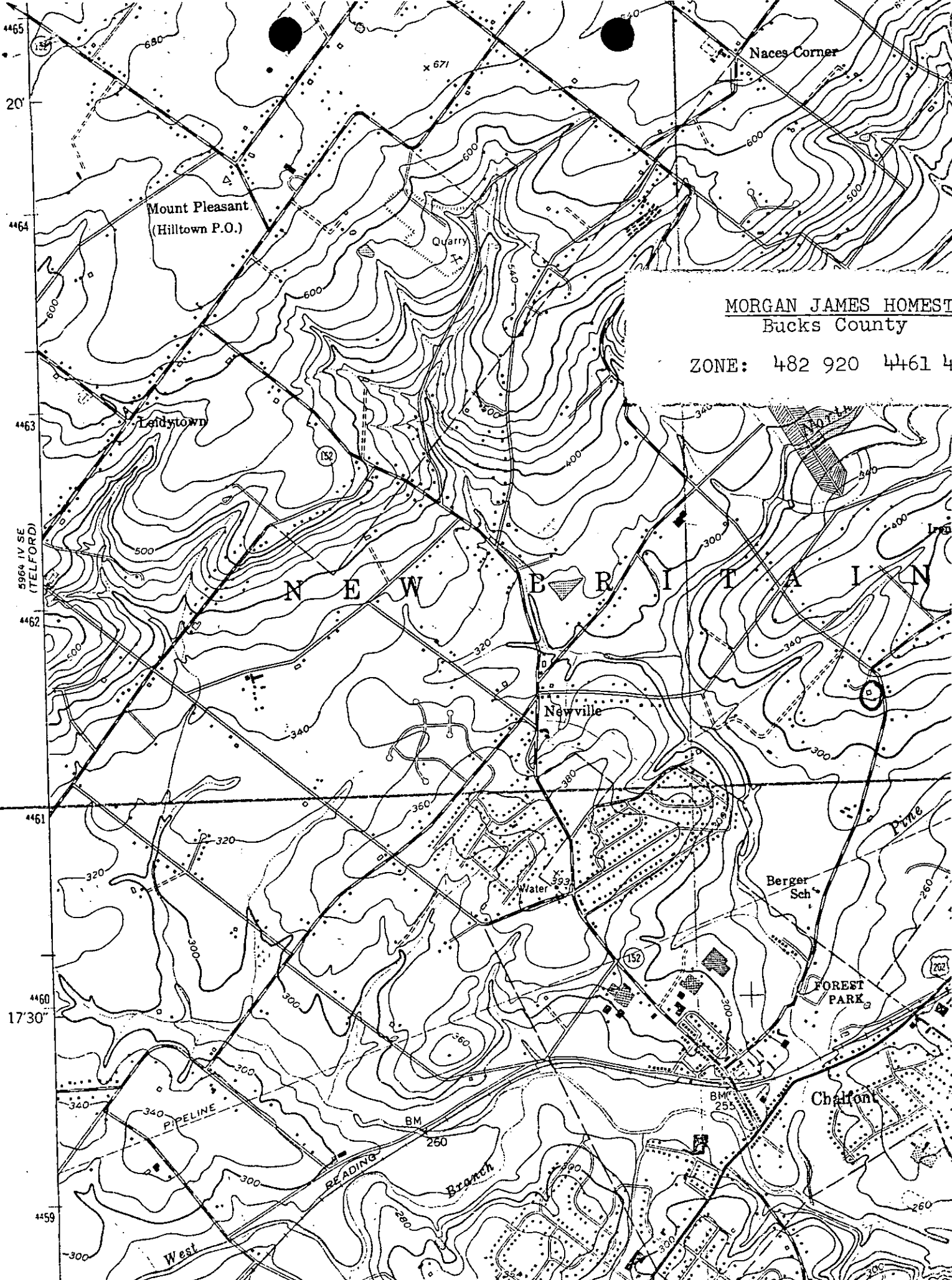
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST: DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



MORGAN JAMES HOMEST
Bucks County

ZONE: 482 920 4461 4

5964 IV SE
(TELFORD)

17'30"