

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

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

Smith family farmstead

AND/OR COMMON

Riverside

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

River Road (NE of Brownsburg)

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Upper Makefield

VICINITY OF

8th

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Pennsylvania

42

Bucks

017

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

___DISTRICT

___PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

___AGRICULTURE

___MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

___UNOCCUPIED

___COMMERCIAL

___PARK

___STRUCTURE

___BOTH

___WORK IN PROGRESS

___EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

___ENTERTAINMENT

___RELIGIOUS

___OBJECT

___IN PROCESS

___YES: RESTRICTED

___GOVERNMENT

___SCIENTIFIC

___BEING CONSIDERED

___YES: UNRESTRICTED

___INDUSTRIAL

___TRANSPORTATION

NO

___MILITARY

___OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Virgil I. Kauffman

STREET & NUMBER

2001 Makefield Road

CITY, TOWN

STATE

ysidley

VICINITY OF

Pennsylvania 19067

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Bucks County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Court Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Boylestown

Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

12/16/76

___FEDERAL STATE ___COUNTY ___LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Harrisburg

Pennsylvania

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

This 2½ story gable roof stone house was built in the mid 1700's as recorded in a datestone located in the gable end dated 1767. Deeds show a house on the property as early as 1761. The original section of the house was 3 bays by 2. An addition of 1 bay by 2 was added in 1945. This addition has a stone front and clapboard rear. The gable roof has a stone chimney in the west gable end and plain boxed cornices with returns.

Doors are located in the 3rd bay on the north (front) and south (rear) sides, before the addition these both were central doors. Both doors have radiating stone arches and plain 4 pane transoms. The front (north) door has a gable roof porch supported by double square columns. The rear or south doorway which enters the livingroom may have been originally the main entrance.

First story windows are 6 over 6 double sash with pegged wooden frames and radiating stone arches except for the window in the addition which is 8 over 8. All first story windows have panelled shutters. Second story windows are also 6 over 6 with pegged wooden frames and stone arches but have no shutters. Two small 4 pane windows are located in the gable ends.

Also located on the grounds is a two story stone structure with a gable roof and stone chimney which has been altered for use as a garage. It has a huge handhewn center beam and small interior wall openings which are now filled in with stone and may have been windows.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
___PREHISTORIC	___ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	___COMMUNITY PLANNING	___LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	___RELIGION
___1400-1499	___ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	___CONSERVATION	___LAW	___SCIENCE
___1500-1599	___AGRICULTURE	___ECONOMICS	___LITERATURE	___SCULPTURE
___1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	___EDUCATION	___MILITARY	___SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	___ART	___ENGINEERING	___MUSIC	___THEATER
___1800-1899	___COMMERCE	___EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	___PHILOSOPHY	___TRANSPORTATION
___1900-	___COMMUNICATIONS	___INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	___OTHER (SPECIFY)
		___INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1767

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This well-preserved farm house dates back to 1767 and was the birthplace of an early U.S. Senator and Congressman. Located a short distance from Bowman's Hill tower near the Delaware river, the area remains much the same as when George Washington marshalled his forces for the battle of Trenton. There is no modern development in site of the farmstead.

This farmhouse is the birthplace of Oliver Hampton Smith (October 23, 1794 - March 19, 1859) who became a U.S. Senator from Indiana and a colorful, respected figure of the western frontier. He was the son of Thomas and Letitia Smith and descendant of William Smith who settled in nearby Wrightstown in 1684 and who first purchased the property in 1761. His father Thomas, died when he was 19 and according to the terms of the will, the property was sold and the proceeds divided among the nine children in the family. Oliver soon set out for the west, studied law and was admitted to the bar in August 1820. Two years later he was elected to the Indiana House of Representatives. He became chairman of the judiciary committee and served until 1824, when the governor appointed him prosecuting attorney for the third judicial district. During two years of service in this capacity he successfully prosecuted four notorious frontiersmen charged with murder of nine Indians including four children and three women. It was a landmark case and is the subject of the novel by Jessamyn West, The Massacre at Fall Creek. He was elected to the U. S. Congress in 1826. He rode to Washington on horseback to take his seat at the opening of the twentieth Congress.

He was a member of the committee on Indian affairs and vigorously pleaded for an Indian policy "marked with justice, humanity and a magnanimity of purpose, that will atone, as far as possible, for the great injustice which we have done them". He was defeated for reelection and returned to the practice of law and farming. In December 1836 the general Assembly elected him to a seat in the senate. He rose to leadership and his speeches in the senate were on measures relative to public lands, banking, bankruptcy, the Cumberland road and the abolition of slavery in the territories. He was not reelected and returned to private life in Indianapolis becoming the first president of the Indianapolis and Bellefontaine railroad. In July 1857 he began writing for the Indianapolis Daily Journal a series of sketches and reminiscences of frontier life in Indiana. The articles were published in a book under the title of Early Indiana Trials and Sketches (1858).

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SMITH FAMILY FARMSTEAD

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 1

Davis, William W. H. History of Bucks County, Pa. New York: Lewis Publishing Company 1895

Smith, Josiah B. Genealogy of William Smith of Wrightstown, Bucks County, Pa. 1684. Newtown, Pa. 1883.

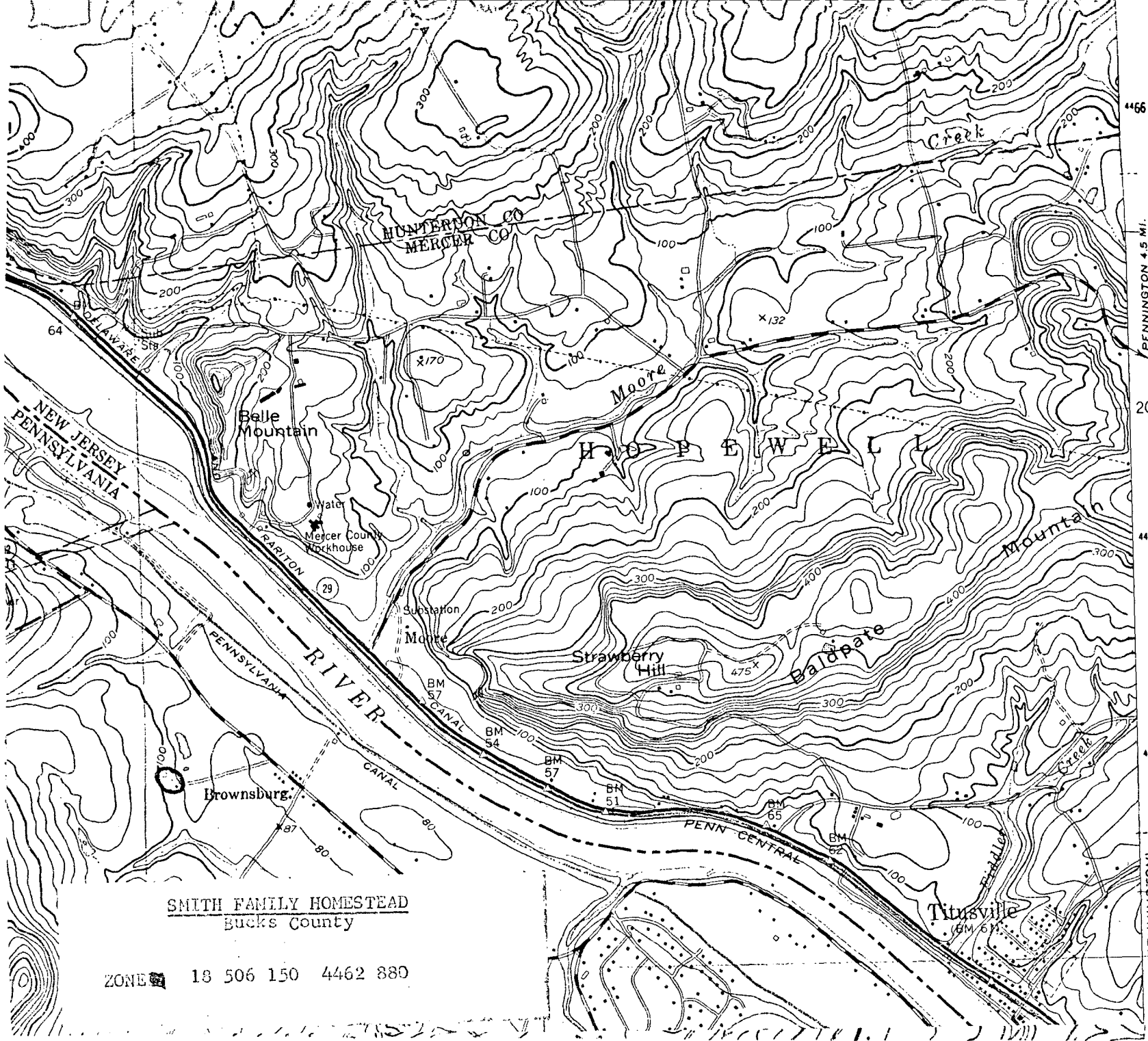
Wollen, William Wesley. Biographical and Historical Sketches of Early Indiana. Indianapolis: Hammond & Company, 1883. pp. 196-203.

Dictionary of American Biography. Vol. 17. pp. 330-331.

Biographical Directory of the American Congress 1774-1971. pp. 1719.

Who Was Who in America, Historical volume 1607-1896. pp. 492.

A Biographical History of Eminent and Self-Made Men of the State of Indiana. Cincinnati: Western Biographical Publishing Company. 1880. pp. 199-204.



HUNTERDON CO
MERCER CO

Belle Mountain

H O S P E W E L L

Strawberry Hill

Baldpate

Mounta

Brownsburg

Titusville

SMITH FAMILY HOMESTEAD
Bucks County

ZONE 18 506 150 4462 880

4465
PENNINGTON 4.5 MI.
20'
4464
4463
(PENNINGTON)
6064 IV SE
2.6 MI.
3.1 MI.