

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 William Smith House (Brooks)

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Corner of Mud Rd. and Penns Park Rd.

CITY, TOWN

Wrightstown

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE

Pa.

VICINITY OF
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 type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input checked="" 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	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> 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

Mr. and Mrs. Richard E. Brooks

STREET & NUMBER

Corner of Mud Rd. and Penns Park Rd.

CITY, TOWN

Wrightstown

STATE

Pa.

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

Recorder of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

County Administration Building

CITY, TOWN

Doylestown

STATE

Pa.

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None known

DATE

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

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

The walnut log cabin was built in 1686 with an addition constructed in 1690.

The original cabin was a two-story log building (now covered with clapboard on the exterior). Smith, who built the cabin was not concerned with detailed craftsmanship, which is apparent in the different sizes and uneven shapes of the logs used in construction of the house.

The original section has four 6-over-6 sash windows -- one on either side of the front door, one on the side wall, and one on the rear facade. The front wooden door measures 35" by 65½". The chimney is in the center of the roof on the rear slope.

In 1690, when Smith married, he added a fieldstone structure to the cabin -- the fieldstone of this addition is also unrefined. At each joining of wood (doorways and beams) pegs were used to hold the wood together.

This addition is simply a very small room with a door leading from the original cabin to the room. A 6-over-6 sash window is located on the front facade.

In 1965 and again in 1968, two more additions were erected. These additions have been made in a style compatible with the original sections, the same style windows and even the hardware and decor of the house.

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 **1686**

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The historic significance concerns William Smith, a quaker from Yorkshire, England. He came here as a servant to the governor in 1682. In four years his service term was over and he went to the present Wrightstown where he became the second white inhabitant of the area. Some of Smith's direct descendents were wealthy landowners and prominent state political figures. Among them were Colonel Isaac Smith, a state senator; Dr. William Smith, a physician, state senator and member of the House of Representatives; and Major Elihu and Dr. Eber Smith who served in the state legislature.

The importance of this house stems from its history, but its major significance is that the walnut log cabin is so well preserved. Being built in 1686, this is the oldest structure in Wrightstown and one of the oldest in the nation. Even though additions and slight modifications (heat and electricity) have been made to the 1686 and 1690 structures, no basic changes have been made to them.

date

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Atkinson, D. Watson. "The Friendly Invaders," page 2.
 Atkinson, D. Watson. "The Notes of D. Watson Atkinson"
 Book 1, pages 80 and 81 (Atkinson papers, Mercer Museum Library)
 Book 3, page 8 - quote "Getting settled by fall of 1686"
 Davis, W. W. H., "History of Bucks County," pages 28, 47, and 232.
 Deed Book #2 page 267 - John Chapman to William Smith

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.717 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	50,12,2,0	44,5,7,0,3,0	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 Nancy Krewson, Foxcroft School/ Irene Schiavoni

ORGANIZATION Wrightstown Historical Society DATE April 9, 1973
Pa. Historical Museum Commission

STREET & NUMBER Box 1026 William Penn Museum TELEPHONE (717)787-4363

CITY OR TOWN Wycombe/ 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

TITLE Executive Director
Pa. Historical Museum Commission

DATE 2-18-76

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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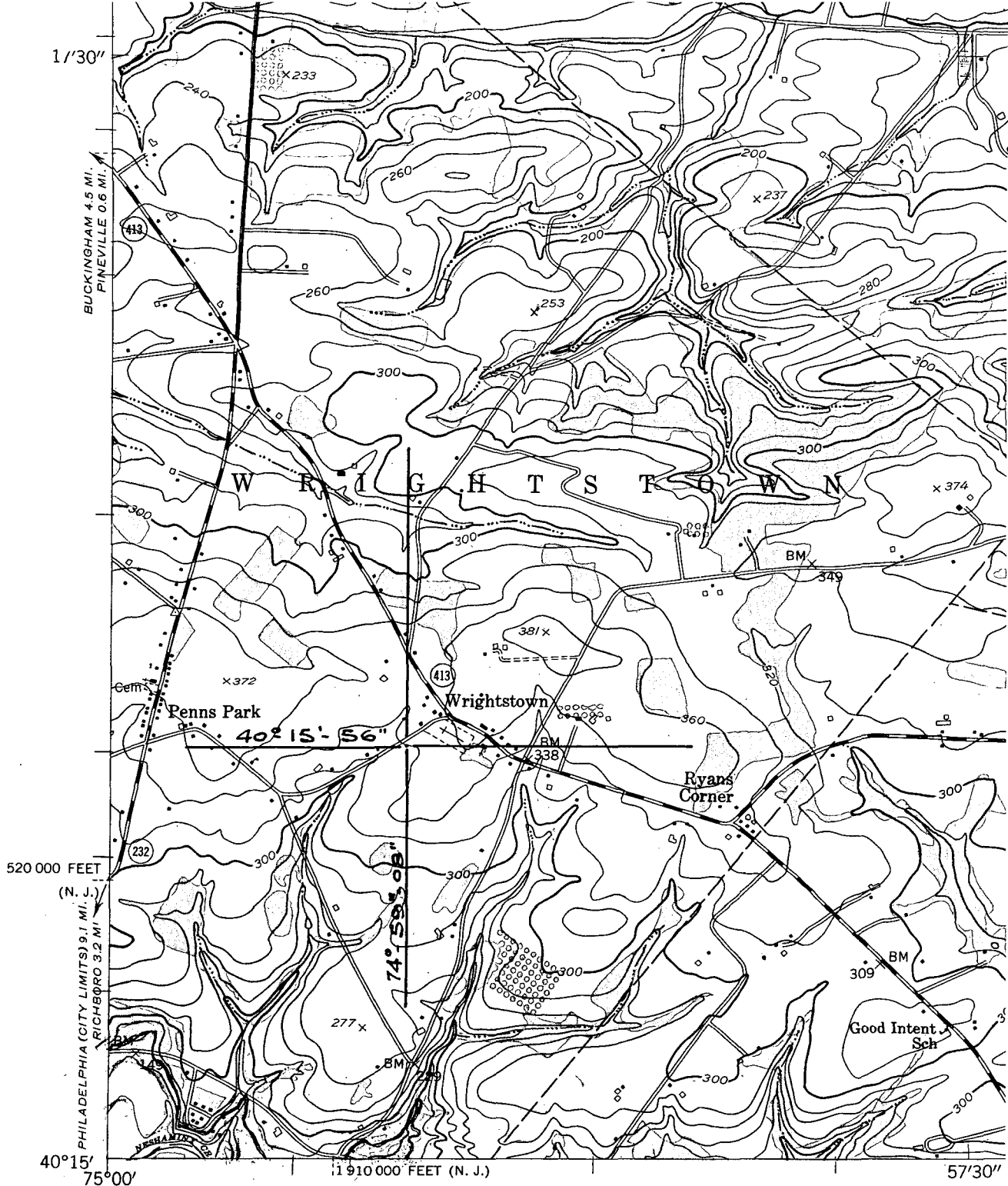
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Bibliographical References:

- Pemberton, Phineas, "Book of Arrivals; A registry of all the
People in the County of Bucks," page 270-273.
Smith, Josiah B., "Geneology of William Smith of Wrightstown,
Bucks County, Pennsylvania."
Smith, Smith's Records, Book 2, page 163-164.



(HATBORO)

Mapped by Army Map Service
 Edited and published by the Geological Survey
 Control by USGS, USC&GS, and New Jersey Geodetic Survey
 Topography from aerial photographs by stereophotogrammetric methods. Aerial photographs taken 1942
 Culture revised by the Geological Survey 1953
 Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
 10,000-foot grids based on Pennsylvania coordinate system, south zone, and New Jersey coordinate system
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 18, shown in blue

10°
 TRUE NORTH
 MAGNETIC NORTH
Conbert
 N 4015-W
 APPROXIMATE MEAN DECLINATION, 1953