

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 The Sotcher Farmhouse

AND/OR COMMON Three Arches

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 335 Trenton Road

CITY, TOWN Fairless Hills VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 8th

STATE pennsylvania CODE 42 COUNTY Bucks CODE 017

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" 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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: unoccupied

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Falls Township Board of Supervisors

STREET & NUMBER 285 Yardley Avenue

CITY, TOWN Fallsington VICINITY OF STATE Pennsylvania

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Bucks County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER Court Street

CITY, TOWN Doylestown STATE Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE N/A
DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" 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

"Three Arches", the John Sotcher Homestead is an early documented stone house of Bucks County. The first owner of record is Thomas Atkinson who received the patent in the early 1680's. In 1712, John Sotcher, the chief steward to William Penn's manor, Pennsbury, from 1687 till 1709, bought the property. If a stone house wasn't built before that time, it is certain the Sotcher built a one story stone structure. The original section of the house would be evident from an archeological investigation and may form a portion of the wall behind the arches. Certainly the foundations to this first section date from Ca. 1712. Robert Sotcher, the son of John, added the first stone addition in Ca. 1760. This section is the first section that is entirely extant. It is a 3 bay, 2 story stone house with enclosed brick chimneys at either end. It has large regularly cut stone quions at the four corners of the house while the walls are of randomly laid field stone. The windows are simple wood frame with no formal articulation of the frame in stone. The rear of the 1760 structure has been badly altered with two doors cut from window openings and thickly laid plaster placed over part of the stone surface. The roof is wood shingle with a simple cornice molding. Two windows on the gable end lit the attic story while a third window stood adjacent to the rear entrance. In the 19th century an inappropriate Greek Rival entranceway porch was added to the center bay.

The distinguishing architectural feature of the house, the three arches, was probably built by John Brown, subsequent owner of the property, before 1806. This section of the house, from architectural evidence, appears to have enveloped the 1712 stone section in a larger (2½ story) stone shell that included the side wall, the second story and the framing arched entranceway. In its general size and details the Ca. 1806 addition is somewhat higher and "fuller" than the 1760 house. It carries the same sized door and window openings and maintains a fairly simple detailing the cornice. The arched section has a large chimney on its outer wall; suggesting the continuance of the brick cooking fireplace from the earlier structure. The whole Ca. 1806 structure is four bays wide and 2½ stories high (no dormers) of fieldstone with impressive stone work describing the arches and its posts. Again the rear of this section is heavily plastered and in a deteriorated condition.

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 type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1712, Ca. 1760, Ca. 1806 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Sotcher Farmhouse is a fine example of a rural Bucks County farmhouse, with its several stages of growth through the 18th century still in evidence. In its present state, the farmhouse by and large maintains a late 18th century character without any exterior intrusions post-dating 1806. An interesting architectural detail is the three large arches that porch the original 1712 structure. Particularly noteworthy to the early 19th century date is the incorporation of the arched porchway within the body of the newer section. The Sotcher farmhouse, although in a deteriorated condition, maintains most of its original fabric and character. In its overall proportions; the solidity of the stone walls; the slight protrusion of the arched section with its dark; cavernous openings in those subtleties that point to an understanding of architecture, the Sotcher farmhouse maintained throughout its periods of building a continued high level of quality craftsmanship.

John Sotcher, the probable builder of the 1712 section, was the chief steward for William Penn at Pennsbury from 1687 to 1709. It appears that John Sotcher came to America with Penn as his friend as well as his servant. Penn speaks of Sotcher in his correspondence with James Logan. (Genealogical Society, 1910). Sotcher was married to Mary Lofty at Pennsbury Manor in 1701. This wedding is probably the only one Penn and his family attended while in residence at Pennsbury. When Penn was making arrangements to return to England in 1701, he proposed learning Pennsbury in Sotcher's charge. Sotcher stayed on as chief steward till 1708. After Sotcher gave up his stewardship, he established a ferry across the Delaware to Burlington, New Jersey. By 1712 Sotcher was chosen a Bucks County representative in the Provincial Assembly; again in 1715 and continued thereafter till 1722. The house represents the period in Sotcher's life and subsequently in the life of his son, Robert, when the family found its own roots in Bucks County.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 5112130 4447310
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

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

Mrs. Christine M. Buzzatto / Madeline L. Cohen

ORGANIZATION

Three Arches, Falls Township Bicentennial Corp/ PHMC

STREET & NUMBER

79 Martha Drive / Box 1026

CITY OR TOWN

Fallsington / Harrisburg 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 DATE
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

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

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BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

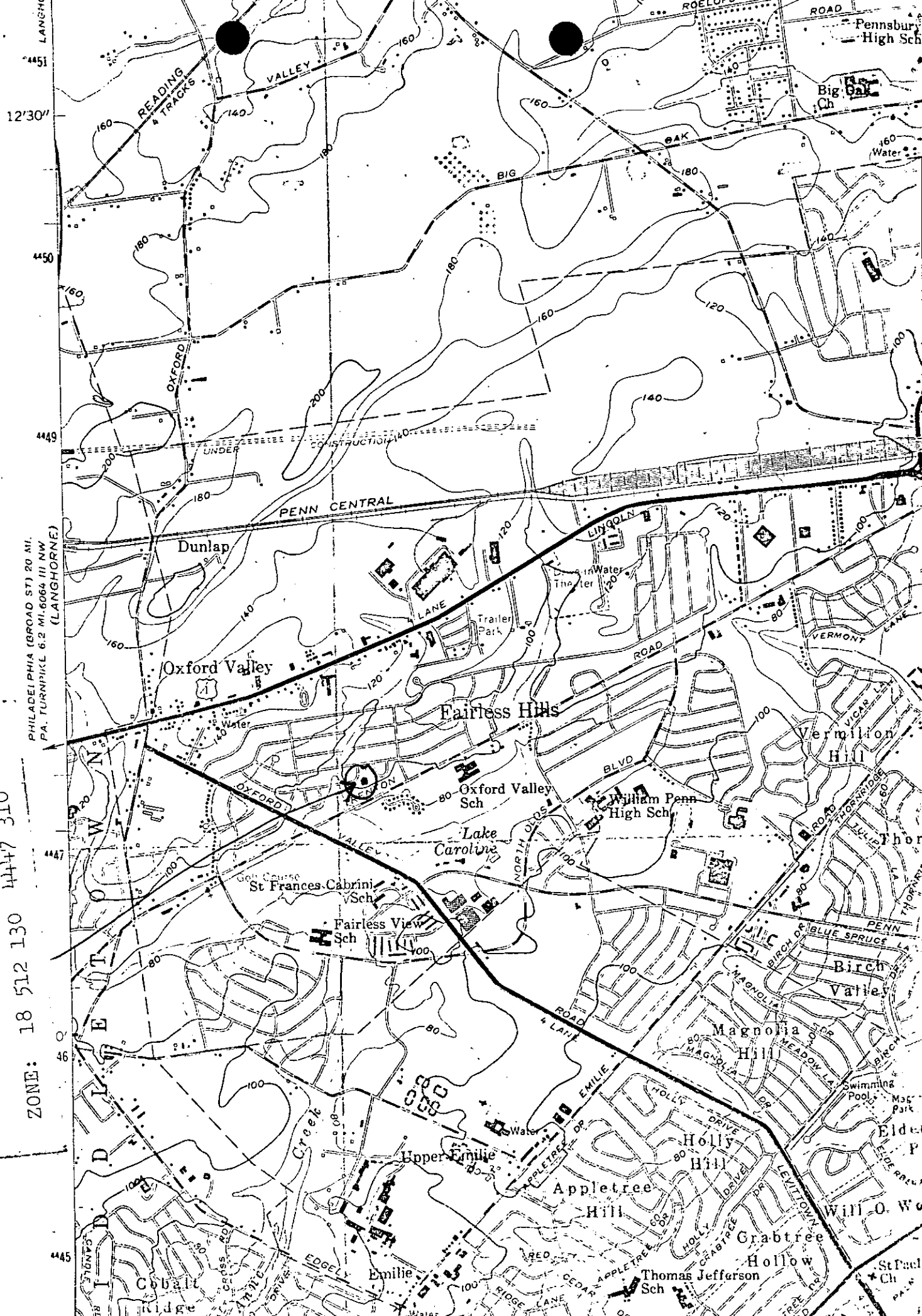
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4. Hinshaw, William Wade, Encyclopedia of America Quaker Genealogy
(II) 1938
5. Mac Reynolds, George, Place Names in Bucks County 1955
6. Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania Philadelphia: Wickersham,
March 1910

THE SOTCHER FARMHOUSE

Bucks County

ZONE: 18 512 130 4447 310



PHILADELPHIA (BROAD ST) 20 MI.
PA. TURNPIKE 6.2 MI. 6064 III NW
(LANGHORNE)

12'30"

4450

4449

4447

4446

4445