

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property
=====
historic name Douglass, George, House

other names/site number N/A

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2. Location
=====
street & number 19 Old Philadelphia Pike not for publication N/A
city or town Amity Township vicinity N/A
state Pennsylvania code PA county Berks
code 011 zip code 19518

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification
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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ___ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide ___ locally. (___See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official Date

State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. (_____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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4. National Park Service Certification
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I, hereby certify that this property is:

- _____ entered in the National Register _____
_____ See continuation sheet.
- _____ determined eligible for the _____
National Register _____
_____ See continuation sheet.
- _____ determined not eligible for the _____
National Register _____
- _____ removed from the National Register _____
- _____ other (explain): _____

Date of Action

Signature of Keeper

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5. Classification
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Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u> 1 </u>	_____ buildings
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u> 1 </u>	_____ Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

 N/A

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6. Function or Use
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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: _____	Sub: _____
<u> DOMESTIC </u>	<u> Single dwelling </u>
<u> COMMERCE </u>	<u> Department Store </u>
_____	_____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: _____	Sub: _____
<u> Work in Progress </u>	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

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7. Description
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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

 Georgian

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	<u> Sandstone </u>
roof	<u> Wood shingle </u>
walls	<u> Sandstone </u>
other	_____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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8. Statement of Significance
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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance 1763 - ca. 1833

Significant Dates 1763

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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9. Major Bibliographical References
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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

- Previous documentation on file (NPS)
 preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

- Primary Location of Additional Data
 State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other

Name of repository: Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County
P.O. Box 245, Douglassville, PA 19518

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10. Geographical Data
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Acreage of Property 1.1

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>18</u>	<u>438250</u>	<u>4456250</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

 See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Philip E. Pendleton, Sr. Associate

organization Noble Preservation Services, Inc. date December 2008

street & number 10 Log House Road

telephone 215-679-5110

city or town Zionsville state PA zip code 18092

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Additional Documentation
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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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Property Owner
=====

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County

street & number P.O. Box 245

telephone 610-385-4762

city or town Douglassville state PA zip
code 19518

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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to range from approximately 18 hours to 36 hours depending on several factors including, but not limited to, how much documentation may already exist on the type of property being nominated and whether the property is being nominated as part of a Multiple Property Documentation Form. In most cases, it is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form to meet minimum National Register documentation requirements. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Douglass, George, House
Berks County, Pennsylvania

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The George Douglass House, built for a successful rural merchant in 1763, is located on the northeast side of Old Philadelphia Pike on the southern fringe of the village of Douglassville in Amity Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania (Photo 1). The house is situated on a parcel of 1 acre, 13.4 perches, that consists of lawn partially shaded by mature hardwood trees. The immediate surrounding area contains a mixture of other eighteenth-century buildings, twentieth-century dwellings, rail line, sewage treatment plant, and woods. This dwelling and store building stands two stories in height, is constructed of stone masonry, and is sheltered by a gable roof covered with wood shingles. The roof structures for all sections of the house are of common rafter form. The original section consists of a rectangular block built on a center-passage double-pile "Georgian" plan, facing south toward the road and presenting a symmetrical façade design of five bays with center entry (Photos 2-5). Two dependent sections are located to the east, with the larger one consisting of a two story store wing probably built ca. 1800, somewhat lower than the original section, of single-pile depth and with a façade of three bays, that extends directly from the main block, its front wall flush with that of the parent structure (Photo 6). An original front loft door on the second story denotes the commercial function for which this section was evidently built. A one story section with a three bay façade extends eastward from the store wing, its front wall set back approximately ten feet from that of the two story portion of the building (Photo 7). This section, which houses a smokehouse chamber, a barrel-vaulted root cellar, and a room probably originally employed as an outkitchen or wash house, was evidently built after the store wing and by ca. 1833. The kitchen at the east end was enlarged ca. 1900 by extending it toward the rear, which addition conferred an L shape to the one story wing (Photos 8 and 9). A broad rear porch built of stone masonry, evidently constructed ca. 1833, extends completely across the rear façade of the store wing and the smokehouse-root cellar space to fill the recessed rear space adjoining them, its outer or north edge also aligned with the rear wall of the original section. The stone rear porch is now capped with poured concrete and enclosed within a light frame wall that is clad in plasterboard panels and punctuated by an aluminum storm door and three aluminum storm windows.

Setting

The Douglass House is situated in a vicinity where exurban development of residential and commercial nature is ongoing. Near the Douglass House such development is concentrated along US Route 422 and thus across the two rail line beds that are adjacent to the mansion property to the north. The farther and still active one is the CSX rail line, which passes the mansion at a distance of about 100 yards. The nearer rail line bed, about 60 yards from the house, now accommodates the Thun Trail, a regional walking path. The house stands about 250 yards from the bank of the Schuylkill River. Two other Historic

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2

Douglass, George, House
Berks County, Pennsylvania

=====

Preservation Trust properties, including the White Horse Inn (historically associated with the Douglass House in Douglass family ownership and built at or around the same date of similar stone in the same coursed ashlar masonry) and the Mouns Jones House (built in 1716) stand nearby, the White Horse about 80 yards to the southeast and the Jones House about 200 yards to the west. A township sewage treatment plant is located across Old Philadelphia Pike approximately 110 yards to the south on the riverbank. Beyond the White Horse to the east is a neighborhood of eight to ten early twentieth century dwellings on small lots that were sold out of the Douglass family holdings. Another cluster of twentieth century houses, four in number, stand just to the west of the mansion, grouped around the cul de sac that was created when Old Philadelphia Pike, the area's primary highway two centuries ago, was closed where it meets the berm for the CSX rail line. Much of the nearby area on the Douglass House's side of the CSX line is wooded.

The Douglass House lot consists of lawn studded by trees and shrubs of varying size and age. The house is set back about 20 feet from roadside. A line of mature trees along the rear boundary of the lot screens the property from the Thun Trail and the CSX line. The only other structure of historic date on the property, the ruin of a stone privy probably built with the house, stands about 50 feet to the north. This ruin is considered an uncounted landscape feature, with reference to its contributing status.

Exterior

The principal or south façades of both the original section of the mansion house and the two story store wing are constructed of large cut stone blocks, of a dark reddish brown hue, laid up as coursed ashlar masonry (Photo 10). The other three façades of the original section and the front wall of the one story section are built of coursed rubble, while the side and rear walls of the dependent sections are random rubble. Evidence consisting of a belt course of rubble, topped by a drip course and punctuated by the sawn-off ends of outlooker beams, indicates that a pent originally extended across the front façade of the original section. This feature does not extend to the store wing; it is not known when the pent was removed from the original section.

The window openings on both two story sections are surmounted by stone jack arches with a keystone at the center, although the shape of the keystones varies between the two sections (see Photo 10). Window openings on the other elevations and on the one story section are not so embellished. Disturbance in the masonry indicates that the windows on both first and second stories on the east end of the store wing represent later alterations, although the attic windows on that wall are probably original. The window sash, all wooden and mostly of double-hung form, is presently of a variety of configurations. Six-over-

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 3

Douglass, George, House
Berks County, Pennsylvania

=====

six composes all of the sash on the front of the building for all sections, but nine-over-nine, possibly original, composes eight of the ten pieces of full-size sash in place on the rear and west elevations of the original section. The much larger dimensions of the front windows on the two story sections, as compared to the window openings on the other elevations, indicates that twelve-over-twelve sash was originally used for the front. The date that the six-over-six was installed is not known. A historic photograph probably taken in the early twentieth century shows the six-over-six already in place on the front of the original section, but twelve-over-twelve in fact occupying the windows on the front of the store wing.

The front façade of the original section displays the nine windows typical of the full-scale Georgian house type, all six-over-six. The west end façade of the original section has two windows on each story, consisting of nine-over-nine sash except for the south first-story window, which is empty of sash and boarded over. The west gable has a single piece of wooden four-over-four sash positioned toward the north. The east end façade of the original section is largely covered by the store wing and has its remaining wall area blank of openings except for an entry on the first story and a four-over-four attic window sited toward the north. The rear façade of the original section presents an arrangement of just four opening bays, with one bay for the wall to the east of the center entry bay, the east being the kitchen end of the mansion. The opening over the rear entry is an apparently original, diminutive stairway window, about one quarter the size of the other rear windows and fitted with a fixed six-light sash. The six window openings on this wall include a one-over-one window on the first story in the second bay from the west; the other windows on this elevation of the original section are of nine-over-nine form.

The two story store wing has five six-over-six windows on the front. On its east end façade, the store wing presents a one-over-one window on the first story positioned toward the south, a six-over-six window on the second story sited toward the north, and two four-over-two attic windows in the gable. There are no window openings on the rear of the store wing. Window sash on the one story east end wing is limited to two pieces of six-over-six flanking the central front entry, a basement window currently open and without sash situated toward the west end of the front wall, a four-light attic casement in the east end gable positioned toward the south, and a one-over-one window on the rear façade located toward the west.

The mansion has a total of eleven exterior entries, including eight on the first story, one on the second story, and two for the basement. The original section or main block has four entries, including three for the first story located on the front, rear, and east walls and a basement bulkhead on the front. The front and east exterior doors on the original section, based on their heavy rail and stile construction and intact lower panels, are apparently original eighteenth-century doors that had window lights inserted, probably

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 4

Douglass, George, House
Berks County, Pennsylvania

=====

as part of the house's evident ca. 1900 renovation (Photo 11). The rear exterior door is a wooden one of apparent twentieth-century fabrication holding a six-light sash in its upper portion.

The store wing has three doors including central entries for both stories on the front and one on the first story on the rear. The front first story entry on the store wing holds a glazed door that has a pair of carved panels below a single large window light. This door was evidently originally fabricated as a glazed door; the present door frame is the only door or window frame in the house, apart from that for the outkitchen's west entry, that is not of mortise and tenon construction (Photo 12). The frame and door are also evidently elements in the ca. 1900 renovation, although the size of the opening in the masonry wall does not appear to be altered. The store wing's second story front door, of board and batten form, is evidently the original ca. 1800 loft door for the store. The first story rear door, representative of Craftsman-style design with three horizontal lights in the upper portion, appears to have been installed around the 1920s.

The one story wing has four entries, including a front entry opening into the former outkitchen, discrete entries for the first story smokehouse and basement root cellar on the rear of the structure, and an entry located in the framed exterior wall that composes the west or inner side of the outkitchen's rear addition built ca. 1900. The front door is a twentieth-century wooden board and batten door with a Z-form batten. The door in the rear segment of the outkitchen's west wall is one of a number of evidently reused wooden elements employed in the ca. 1900 expansion of that structure, as it is a board and batten door composed of beaded, hand-planed boards. The door to the root cellar, evidently a replacement of the original, is a board and batten door comprising six boards of uniform width. The door for the smokehouse room, on the other hand, is an evidently original ca. 1833 board and batten door with tapered battens and beaded, hand-planed boards.

A broad plaster cove cornice under a heavily molded wooden box cornice extends completely around the eaves of the original section, except for the location of the store wing (Photo 13). The raked cornice on the gable end also bears strong moldings. Evidence of disruption of the cove cornice on the east end of the original section shows that that segment of the cornice was taken down and thus offers further evidence that the store wing was an addition. Massive interior end chimneys rise from either end of the original section. That to the east is of stone. The west chimney is currently brick. A relatively elaborate 1763 datestone of somewhat unusual design—"63" at the top, "17" at the bottom—is located in the west gable of the house (Photo 14).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 5

Douglass, George, House
Berks County, Pennsylvania

=====

Interior: Original Section

The structural system for the overall building is that of stone masonry with wooden timbers providing the framing for the floors, partitions, and roof. The roof structure is of common rafter form throughout. In the double-pile original section, each floor is supported by a massive summer beam extending from east to west and positioned centrally between the front and rear walls. The partitions within the original section are built of rough-cut slab boards standing vertically and overlapping one another, with hand-split lath and plaster over the boards. Recent restoration work has included the insertion of steel posts in the partitions on the first and second floors to help support the summer beams, and the installation of numerous wooden posts in the basement of the original section to reinforce the flooring of the first floor. These reinforcement elements are currently visible due to the ongoing status of the restoration campaign.

In plan, the original section was built as a representative of the classic fully developed Georgian center-passage double-pile type, with a central hallway holding an impressive open staircase and a large squarish room in each corner (Photo 15). On the first floor, the west chimney as well as the partition dividing the west end of the house into two rooms were taken down ca. 1900, although the chimney and its corner fireplaces were rebuilt in the 1990s and reconstruction of the partition is planned for the near future. The kitchen, denoted by a full-scale walk-in cooking hearth against the east wall, is located in the northeast room, a departure from the more common pattern among eighteenth- and early-nineteenth-century Georgian mansion houses of placing the kitchen in an ell, wing, or adjacent freestanding building. The long kitchen fireplace boasts a molded mantelshelf, a paneled jamb at the north end, and two pairs of folding fireplace doors, of which the north pair is composed of beaded, hand-planed boards and appears to date to the original construction or early years of the house (Photo 16). The other first floor rooms were probably a dining room to the front of the kitchen, an office-parlor in the southwest front room, and a parlor in the northwest room, each originally with a corner fireplace, although that in the southeast room has been plastered over. This plan was repeated on the second floor with four evident bedrooms.

A cellar space occupies the full basement of the original section. It is noteworthy for the large dimensions and heavy construction of the stone relieving arches in each corner for the fireplaces above. In the northeast corner of the basement, there is a pair of these heavily built arches aligned along the east wall, the longer one extending beneath the kitchen hearth above, and the shorter one adjoining to the north and built for purposes unknown, as there is no heavy structure for it to support. The vaulted root cellar under the smokehouse is the only other basement space.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 6

Douglass, George, House
Berks County, Pennsylvania

=====

In general, the rooms throughout the first and second floors of the original section were evidently built with random-width hardwood floors, plaster walls fitted with chair rail and baseboard, and plaster ceilings (Photo 17). The wall and ceiling plaster was hung on hand-split lath, which is currently visible in many locations due to the ongoing restoration activity. Exceptions to the general pattern are found in some of the rooms. In the two west rooms on the first floor, the partition separating these two rooms was taken down to create a single space, evidently ca. 1900, and narrow tongue and groove floor boards were laid over the original flooring. In both the first floor northeast room and the second floor passage, linoleum has been laid over the random-width floorboards. Although the doors throughout the original section are evidently the original six-panel rail-and-stile doors, hung on iron L hinges, their lock and latch hardware was evidently replaced in the late nineteenth century with cast iron box locks fitted with a variety of porcelain and wooden doorknobs (Photo 18).

The center stair passage features impressive original woodwork including a large and heavily molded cornice, paneled wainscot, molded stairway newel post, railing and balusters with three balusters per tread, and painted wainscot on the staircase (Photos 19-22). This paint appears either to be original to the construction or to have been applied early in the house's history. The southwest first floor room also had paneled wainscot, some of which survives, and a heavily molded cornice similar to that in the passage, known in this room only from the ghost marks on the wall. This room's paneled window cases with window seats survive, although some have been temporarily moved for restoration purposes. The northwest first floor room has simpler window cases incorporating seats (Photo 23).

In the southeast first floor room, the original floorboards have been replaced with regular-width boards, the chair rail has been removed, and the partition with the northeast room has been rebuilt. In its later form, this partition is plastered on circular-sawn lath and holds an open entry. In addition, the southeast room's corner fireplace and the entry that led into the store wing have both been blocked up. These renovations most likely date to ca. 1865. Although the dining room fireplace has been removed, a corner cupboard in the northwest corner of the room is present (Photo 24). This cupboard with its lighter Federal-style moldings was evidently an earlier addition, probably ca. 1800.

The second floor has evidently seen relatively few alterations (Photo 25). Fireplaces and floor-to-ceiling mantelpieces are present in the two west rooms; it appears there may never have been fireplaces in the east rooms. Both west rooms also hold evidently original corner cabinets (Photo 26). The southwest room, evidently the master bedroom, is provided with intact relatively elaborate woodwork of crown-molded cornice, paneled wainscot, and paneled window cases (Photos 27-29). The northeast bedroom contains an evidently original closet with four rows of wooden clothes pegs within the main closet and a

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 7

Douglass, George, House
Berks County, Pennsylvania

=====

pair of cupboards, one over the other, composing the south portion of the closet arrangement (Photos 30 and 31). The respective doorways linking the west and east pairs of rooms are evidently alterations. That between the east rooms is smaller than the passage entries and its six-panel door has quirked moldings on its panels (diverging from the plain panels of the original section's other doors), suggesting it dates to the ca. 1800 renovation of the house (Photo 32). The doorway between the west rooms holds a board and batten door composed of narrow tongue and groove boards, indicating its construction was a part of the ca. 1900 renovation.

The attic of the original section is laid out on the same plan of passage and four rooms, with partitions consisting of beaded vertical boards, and plaster walls and ceilings. The date that the attic was finished is not known, but this work may represent a renovation carried out with the construction of the store wing ca. 1800. Handwrought nails were used in partition construction, while blunt-ended wood screws were used to fasten the butt hinges of the doors. Two of the doors within the attic are fitted with wooden stock locks. The door at the head of the stairway is fitted with a thumbblatch of distinctive blacksmith-made Pennsylvania German design. The locations of three regularly spaced dormers on the front roof slope, probably built ca. 1800 and removed in the course of the ongoing restoration activity, are evident. The attic incorporates a second loft level providing additional storage space.

Interior: Store Wing

The two story store wing is organized as one room on the first floor (Photo 33). This space has evidently been altered considerably. A doorway that once led into the southeast room of the original section, located at the south end of the store wing's west wall, has been converted to a closet. The bottom of the store wing stairway was rebuilt ca. 1900, although the ca. 1800 frame box enclosing the upper portion of the winder stairs is intact (Photo 34). The one-over-one window on the east wall probably also dates to ca. 1900. An awkward element within this space is the framed open wooden archway that has been inserted in a position toward the rear of the room, rising to the ceiling and extending from the east wall to butt against the casing of the box winder stairs (Photo 35). This archway probably also dates to ca. 1900 and likely sheltered a counter that demarcated the front customer area from the rear service area during the period in the early twentieth century that this room housed the retail area for a butcher shop. Scars in the west and east walls suggest that there may have been an earlier partition in approximately the same location. The flooring in this room has been removed, leaving a dirt surface, except for a few narrow uniform-width boards by the bottom of the staircase. The walls are plaster lined with baseboard while the ceiling consists of plaster hung on circular-sawn lath.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 8

Douglass, George, House
Berks County, Pennsylvania

=====

A partition divides the second floor of the store wing into north and south rooms. This partition appears to represent an alteration to what had originally been a single open room, probably inserted at some date in the mid-nineteenth century to facilitate the use of the second floor as additional domestic space. The six-over-six window for the second floor rear room, also evidently an alteration, was probably built in association with the second floor partition (Photo 36). In the second floor front room, on the interior face of the front wall, the exterior loft doorway has been completely plastered over and closed up (Photo 37). The floorboards on the second floor are relatively broad random-width hardwood boards, evidently original to the wing's construction. The plastered walls have baseboard on all but the west wall of the front room and east wall of the rear room. The west wall of the rear room is built of broad boards that bear the marks of either a vertical sash sawmill or a mechanical planer. The ceiling has plaster hung on circular-sawn lath. The doors in the room entries are of board and batten form fabricated of beaded, regular-width boards, while the door leading from the rear room to the attic is a six-panel door similar to those in the original section. The attic of the store wing consists of a single unfinished space.

Interior: East End Wing

The one story, single pile wing composing the east end of the house consists of a raised smokehouse chamber positioned over a vaulted cellar space, this stack of rooms situated against the store wing, and a former outkitchen or wash house room occupying the east end. The smokehouse and cellar are both entered via rear doorways (Photo 38). Within the smokehouse on its west wall, the ribbon pointing for the store wing's original east wall exterior masonry is visible in places, as well as a seam indicating the location of a former east wall side entry for the store wing (Photo 39). This evidence shows that the one story east wing was built as an addition later than the two story store wing. The present floor of the smokehouse is poured concrete while the stone masonry walls are plastered and the ceiling consists of the wooden shingle of the roof (Photo 40). The root cellar has its barrel-arched roof and stone masonry walls covered with plaster; the cellar floor is brick. A small, lower, arched alcove is located at the west end of the front wall of the cellar.

The outkitchen has its surviving original entry on the front of the building. The outkitchen was altered, probably ca. 1900, by raising the roof line and extending the room approximately 12 feet toward the rear with stone masonry walling for the east and north walls and a frame wall composed of reused vertical partition boards for the west wall (Photo 41). This extended west wall is positioned about 3 feet to the west of the room's original masonry west wall so that the room became an L-shaped space wrapping around the northeast corner of the smokehouse-cellar cell. At a point on the east end wall, directly opposite the northeast corner of the smokehouse-cellar masonry structure, the east wall abruptly narrows

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 9

Douglass, George, House
Berks County, Pennsylvania

=====

to the northward, and there is a disturbed quality to the interior wall masonry, further evidence of the alteration (Photo 42). A storage loft, accessible by an open hatchway in the ceiling, extends over the room. The former east end hearth and its chimney were demolished, probably as an element in the ca. 1900 renovation. The shattered stubs of the walls of the demolished chimney are visible against the southerly portion of the east end wall. A broad doorway at the north end of the east wall, situated within the ca. 1900 construction, has been filled in. On the ca. 1900 rear wall, a window toward the east has been filled in with stonework and a doorway to the east has been converted to a window. The floor of the former outkitchen is now poured concrete. The stone masonry walls are covered with plaster, apart from the board wall composing the north segment of the west wall. The ceiling consists of the floorboards of the loft above.

Restoration Activity to Date

During the period 1995-2002, the Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County carried out considerable restoration work on the mansion house. This activity included

- raising and reinforcing the severely strained front façade masonry of the original section;
- rebuilding the west end chimney of the original section (correcting the brick above-roof portion of the west chimney by replacing it with stone construction, the brick version built due to a misinterpretation of evidence, is planned);
- repairing the plaster cove cornice on the original section;
- replacing the overall wooden shingle roof covering;
- repairing several of the window frames;
- repairing the front cellar bulkhead of the original section;
- restoring the front façade of the original section by filling in the west end added entry, returning this first story bay to a window;
- and installing steel and wooden structural supports as necessary.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 10

Douglass, George, House
Berks County, Pennsylvania

=====

Integrity

The Douglass House demonstrates the integrity necessary to represent its historic significance in the area of architecture. This statement discusses the seven aspects of integrity defined by the National Register as they pertain to the Douglass House. For this property, the crucial aspects relating to its significance are those of design, materials, and workmanship. It is these aspects by which the resource is found either to embody or fail to embody the qualities and characteristics for which it is significant: those of a Georgian vernacular mansion house first built and then adapted for continued use as an elite residence during the late eighteenth to early nineteenth centuries.

Design

Design is the “combination of natural and cultural elements that create the form, plan, style, and spatial organization of a property” (as stated in National Register Bulletin 15, *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*). Design is present in the plan, form, and decorative elements of the two story original section of 1763, the two story store wing of ca. 1800, and the one story wing of ca. 1833. The original plan and form of each section is readily observable. Each section presents somewhat divergent techniques of construction clearly evident on the exterior—e.g., the presence of pent roof evidence and cover cornice on the 1763 section and their absence on the ca. 1800 section, or the plain coursed rubble front façade of the one story wing as opposed to the coursed ashlar of the two earlier sections. The demolition ca. 1900 of the partition separating the two west end first floor rooms in the original section removed an element of the original plan, but this loss is to be rectified via restoration of the partition. The 1763 section contains intact most of the impressive architectural elements that distinguished this house as an elite dwelling of its period, including the coursed ashlar façade stonework and the cove cornice on the exterior; the molded, paneled, carved and painted woodwork of the central Georgian staircase; the paneled wainscot, paneled window surrounds and heavily molded cornice in the center passage and the southwest rooms on both floors; the great kitchen fireplace in the first floor northeast room with its paneled jamb and molded mantelshelf; the floor-to-ceiling mantelpieces and corner cabinets in the two west rooms of the second floor; and the elaborate and somewhat unusual, and evidently original, arrangement of closet and cupboards in the second floor northeast room with its paneled and molded woodwork. The coursed ashlar façade and second story loft entry of the ca. 1800 store wing, and the smokehouse chamber and barrel-vaulted root cellar in the ca. 1833 one story wing are important intact design elements that express the original functions—as a commercial structure and as a auxiliary farmstead domestic structure, respectively—of these discrete sections of the mansion house.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 11

Douglass, George, House
Berks County, Pennsylvania

=====

Materials

The aspect of Materials is closely associated and generally interrelated with that of Design. Integrity of Materials refers to the fabric of the resource or the key materials that were used in the construction and decoration of the resource. In the Douglass House, a substantial majority of the constructional and decorative materials are intact, including the masonry, the framing for the floors, partitions, and the roofs, the floorboards, the lath and plaster, and the various decorative elements referred to above under Design as well as the chair rail and baseboard, although some of these materials are temporarily catalogued and stored for restoration. purposes.

Workmanship

Workmanship is another aspect of integrity associated and interrelated with those of Design and Materials. Integrity of Workmanship refers to the retention of the quality of craftsmanship that was embodied in the original construction, or historically significant modification, of the resource. The various architectural elements referred to above, under the headings of Design and Materials, also demonstrate integrity of Workmanship for the Douglass House.

Location

Integrity of Location refers to the requirement that historic resources remain in their original location. The Douglass House possesses integrity of Location.

Setting

Integrity of Setting refers to the physical environment, that is, the character of the place where the property is located. The Douglass House property is much smaller than it was during its period of significance (1763 to ca. 1833), being 1 acre-plus in extent as of 2008, as opposed to 135 acres in 1833. The surroundings have changed considerably since the period of significance, as the immediate vicinity has been subject to railroad development in the mid- to late nineteenth century and village-scale residential development in the early twentieth century, and a sewage treatment plant has been constructed within view of the mansion in recent decades. Furthermore, neither a separate store building nor any domestic or agricultural outbuildings historically and immediately associated with the mansion house have survived intact, although there are contemporary buildings nearby such as the White Horse Inn, the Mouns Jones House, and the Bridgekeeper's House, all under Historic Preservation Trust ownership, that were associated in ownership with the Douglass House during the period of significance.

At present, relatively little is known of the auxiliary buildings that must at one time or another have accompanied the mansion house. That the property underwent considerable reduction in extent over the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 12

Douglass, George, House
Berks County, Pennsylvania

=====

years suggests that the sites of some of these associated buildings may not be located on the mansion's present parcel of 1 acre, 13 perches. The ruin of a stone privy, probably built in the early years and representing one more statement of elegance by the standards of place and time, exists to the rear of the house. The early twentieth century photograph showed a relatively small barn or stable-carriage house of apparent frame construction standing somewhat farther to the rear of the property. It is thought that a separate store building must have existed during the period between ca. 1760 and ca. 1800, but nothing is known regarding its location. The same is true for other agricultural outbuildings associated with the homestead.

The essential consideration, however, regarding the integrity of the Douglass House is that Setting does not represent a salient aspect of integrity in the case of this historic resource. The crucial aspects governing the mansion's eligibility under Criterion C significance are those bearing on its ability to demonstrate its importance as an intact specimen of the elite domestic vernacular architecture of its region and period. Those aspects are Design, Materials, and Workmanship, discussed above. Very few comparable examples of rural eighteenth-century mansion houses, in southeastern Pennsylvania or in other areas of the northeastern United States that were well settled within the 1700s, possess fully intact historic settings showing little change since their periods of significance.

Feeling

Integrity of Feeling refers to the "ability to evoke the aesthetic sense of a particular time and place," also referred to as an intangible quality depending to some extent on integrity of Design, Setting, Materials, and Workmanship. Due to the intact quality of its plan and form, the survival of its many architectural elements from the period of significance, and the presence of important setting elements from the period of significance such as the old public roadway (the Philadelphia Pike) in front of the mansion and the three other Trust-owned eighteenth-century buildings, the Douglass House demonstrates integrity of Feeling.

Association

Integrity of Association refers to the "direct link between the property and the events and persons that shaped it." This aspect of integrity requires that the property retain the physical features that are necessary to convey its appearance in the period of significance and to embody its relationship to the historical factors, trends, or patterns that confer its historic significance. The Douglass House demonstrates integrity of Association.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 1

Douglass, George, House
Berks County, Pennsylvania

=====

The George Douglass House is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C, significant in the area of architecture. The Douglass House was built in 1763 and enlarged around 1800 and again by ca. 1833. George Douglass I (1726-1799) came to the hamlet in Amity Township then known as Molatton (now Douglassville) ca. 1760, establishing a thriving country store business. Douglass's business concern purchased and shipped wheat and flour, other agricultural produce, and a variety of iron products, and brought in and sold food and retail goods, dealing with a local clientele settled within a broad surrounding vicinity. His son George Douglass II (ca. 1766-1833), continued the store business, sustaining the family's local prominence and his father's success in business. The mansion house is a full-scale example of Georgian domestic vernacular architecture with much of its original detail intact. Circa 1800, George Douglass II added a two story wing that was evidently devoted exclusively to the store concern, so that the property also includes a surviving example of a store building that is comparatively early when considered in relation to other specimens in the countryside of southeastern Pennsylvania. By ca. 1833, either George Douglass II or his son William B. Douglass (1812-1853) added a one story wing housing support functions necessary to a substantial farmstead mansion house of the region, including a smokehouse, a vaulted root cellar and an outkitchen. The period of significance for the George Douglass House is that of 1763 to ca. 1833, running from its first construction to the addition of the one story east end wing.

Context of Local Settlement

The place known in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries as Molatton was situated along the northeast bank of the Schuylkill River in Amity Township and represented a small portion of the Oley Valley settlement area of Berks County. Molatton had been the scene for the first European-American settlement within the Berks area, beginning around 1704, hence the community was well developed when George Douglass arrived ca. 1760. The early settlers were a diverse lot, including Swedes from the oldest settlements along the Delaware River, Anglo-Pennsylvanians of English, Welsh, and Scots background, people from German-speaking Europe, and Holland Dutch people from New Jersey. Amity Township was established ca. 1714. A ford through the Schuylkill was located in front of the Douglass House site, which is positioned approximately 250 yards from the riverbank on the northeast side of the King's Manatawny Road (now Old Philadelphia Pike), the first road built into the greater Oley Valley settlement area in 1708. This road ran roughly parallel to the course of the river along its northeast bank. In 1719, an important local road junction was created at a point about 200 yards north of the Douglass House, when the Philadelphia County justices authorized the building of two new high or great roads extending into the further reaches of the Oley Valley from the head of the King's Road, viz., the Oley-to-Philadelphia Road heading north and Robeson's Road leading northwest along the river. (Berks County

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 2

Douglass, George, House
Berks County, Pennsylvania

=====

was erected in 1752.) The earliest Berks religious congregation, Molatton Church (now St. Gabriel's Protestant Episcopal Church), was also established in 1719 on land donated by Swedish pioneer Mouns Jones and located about 400 yards to the northwest of the Douglass House. The Mouns Jones House, built 1716 and thus the earliest surviving building in the county, listed on the National Register and also a property of the Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County, stands about 200 yards to the west of the Douglass House.

The early tract on which the Douglass House stands was first settled ca. 1716 by Jones's son-in-law Marcus Huling (1687-1757). At some date between ca. 1716 and 1740, probably relatively early within that interval, Huling opened the first tavern in the area, which became known as the White Horse Inn. The White Horse operated as the most prominent public house in the lower Oley Valley vicinity until closing ca. 1820. The present White Horse building stands about 80 yards to the southeast of the Douglass House and also on the northeast side of the road. It was apparently built around the same time as the Douglass House and thus also erected for George Douglass I, who evidently rented the property beginning ca. 1760 and acquired it outright in 1762. The Douglasses, however, father and son, evidently never conducted the inn business themselves but instead rented the White Horse to an innkeeper. The White Horse Inn is also a National Register-listed resource owned by the Historic Preservation Trust. Taken in all, the former Huling property offered Douglass an excellent potential location for his country store business, with positive prospects based on a number of factors:

- the established importance of the Schuylkill waterway as a major artery for the boat-borne transport of goods, including locally produced flour and pig iron;
- the presence of a major road hub on Douglass's bank of the river, and also the ford leading to other roads and hence to adjacent settlement communities;
- and the presence of the church and of the inn, established community institutions that were conducive to patronage of his store by local residents from an extensive neighborhood.

In addition to his local prominence as a businessman, George Douglass I emerged as a leader in other facets of community life almost as soon as he arrived in the area. He served during 1764-1776 and again after the American Revolution as justice of the peace, the key office in the administration of local and county government and one generally important in the apparatus of local and provincial politics during the eighteenth century. He was also a vestryman at St. Gabriel's Church at least during 1763-1778 and was captain of the local company in the militia battalion that Berks County sent to participate in the 1776 New York-New Jersey campaign of the Revolutionary War. His son George also served as justice of the peace and took part in the promotion of transportation improvements such as local turnpikes and the toll

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 3

Douglass, George, House
Berks County, Pennsylvania

=====

bridge spanning the Schuylkill at Molatton, erected in 1832. In 1800, another local entrepreneur named Jacob Warren acquired the property located directly around the adjacent road junction to the north. Within a few years Warren established another combination of country store and inn situated immediately next to the crossroads and thus in a position to compete with the Douglass enterprise. This development led gradually over the next few decades to the closing of the Douglass-owned businesses (ca. 1820 for the inn, 1833 for the store) and to a shift in the center of gravity for the hamlet or nascent village from the Douglass homestead northward to the crossroads and thus to the opposite side of the Philadelphia & Reading Railroad line when it was built in the late 1830s. The more densely settled village that emerged during the mid-nineteenth century was known at first as Warrensburg, later as Douglassville.

History of Ownership, 1762 to Present

Storekeeper George Douglass I bought the White Horse property in 1762 from saddler and innholder Samuel Cookson, who had owned it for several years. Douglass died intestate in 1799, and the property was inherited by his son George Douglass II after the eldest son Andrew Douglass, who was proprietor of a nail-making ironworks in Philadelphia, refused acceptance before the Berks County Orphans Court. George Douglass II owned the mansion-store property until his own demise in 1833. His son William B. Douglass (1812-1853), who took up farming but would turn out a failure in business, inherited the larger parcel of 135 acres containing the mansion house. However, within a few months William conveyed legal ownership of the mansion on a lot of 1 acre, 13 perches, to his mother the widow Mary Tea Douglass, who retained it until her death in 1848. William, always a bachelor, then resumed ownership of the house, thus returning it to the larger farm tract. Census records from 1840 and 1850 indicate that the household consisted of the widow Mary (while she lived), William, his older but mentally incompetent brother George, and, after George Leaf's death in 1838, their widowed sister Amelia Douglass Leaf and her children. William Douglass died in 1853; his little documented brother had evidently died before 1850. From 1853 until 1944, the mansion was the property of a family trust shared by William's sisters Amelia Leaf (1804-1888) and Elizabeth Buckley (1808-1875) and their descendants.

Following the death of William, it appears that the Douglass heirs generally let the mansion to tenants, except that Federal Census returns indicate that Amelia Leaf and three of her grown children had returned and were residing in the house in 1870 and perhaps for a longer period around that date. (Amelia and family had been recorded as residing in Reading in 1860.) The circumstances suggest that the Leafs resumed living in the mansion ca. 1864, as sister Elizabeth and her husband George W. Buckley sold the Buckley ironworks in Salisbury Township in eastern Lancaster County in that year and moved to Elizabeth's farm property near the Douglass House. (G.W. Buckley died in 1867.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 4

Douglass, George, House
Berks County, Pennsylvania

=====

Among the various tenants of the Douglass House, the one resident for the longest duration was Wilmer B. Miller (born ca. 1870), who evidently took up residence at the house by 1900 and lived there until about 1940. Miller operated a multifaceted local retail business at the mansion as a butcher, corner grocer, and barber. Miller's daughter Marie Miller Cunningham stated in the 1970s that her father had occupied the property for about 40 years. Census returns record that Miller rented and occupied the property for at least the period 1900-1930.

During the interval between 1833 and 1944, as the village of Douglassville expanded in its extent and two railroads built lines through the village, the larger mansion property gradually decreased in size from 135 acres to 7 ³/₄ acres due to sales by the heirs of town lots and other parcels. These conveyances included the transfer of right-of-way segments to the Philadelphia & Reading Railroad in 1835 and to the Pennsylvania Schuylkill Valley Railroad in 1884. Sales of village house lots from the property were numerous during the years 1904-1921.

Owners of the Douglass House property from 1944 onward included Earl H. Schurr, 1944-1948 and Charles E. Jackson, 1948-1966. The property continued to be a rental during the period 1944-1966. By 1966, further sales of portions of the property had reduced it in extent to 1 acre, 13 perches, the same size in which the mansion lot had been conveyed to the widow Mary Tea Douglass in 1834. It was sold in 1966 to the Edgar Webster family, who owned and resided in the Douglass House from 1966 until 1988. Edgar's daughter Betty Webster continued to occupy the mansion as a tenant until 2008.

Since 1988, the house has been owned by the Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County, which maintains three other neighboring eighteenth-century buildings also once owned by the Douglass family (the White Horse, the Mouns Jones House, and the Bridgekeeper's House). During the years 1995-2002, the Historic Preservation Trust stabilized the building and completed several initial elements in the restoration process. The Trust is planning a thorough restoration to return the mansion to its appearance during the period of significance (1763 to ca. 1833) for the purpose of opening the house as a historic house museum and visitor center.

Physical History of the House

The physical and documentary evidence suggests, as a preliminary interpretation awaiting in-depth investigation, that the Douglass House was the subject of several episodes of construction commencing with the erection of the original section for George Douglass I in 1763 and continuing through renovations that took place ca. 1800 for George Douglass II, at a later date by ca. 1833 either for

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 5

Douglass, George, House
Berks County, Pennsylvania

=====

George Douglass II or his son William B. Douglass (who evidently resided there although his mother Mary held legal ownership during 1834-1848), ca. 1865 for Amelia Douglass Leaf, and ca. 1900 for the long-term tenant, butcher, grocer and barber Wilmer B. Miller. These dates, clearly approximate, are based on the character of the changes made in terms of the material treatments and the design of the new elements, and on the evident relationship of the alterations to the evolving use of the property as known from the historical record. For example, it appears that George Douglass II probably took over active management of the store business around 1790, and the business was thriving during the 1780s and 1790s, hence the construction of the store wing could have taken place earlier than ca. 1800.

In plan, the store wing apparently originally consisted of a single space on each floor, and there was communication between the wing and the main block of the house via a doorway leading from the first floor southeast room in the original section. Based on the relatively light character of the decorative moldings on the pertinent elements, associated with the Federal style, modifications probably made to the original section at or around the same time as construction of the store wing included the finishing of the attic with the building of partitions, an upper loft level, and dormers, the installation of a corner cupboard in the first floor southeast room, and the construction of a doorway connecting the two second floor east rooms. The dormers were removed by the Historic Preservation Trust in the course of initial restoration work in the 1990s; they are visible in the early twentieth century photograph of the mansion (Photo 43).

The one story support wing at the east end of the house, was evidently built by ca. 1833 when farmer William B. Douglass inherited the property. This last section could date as early as ca. 1810, however; a professional historic structures analysis would be necessary to posit approximate construction dates for the two additions with a greater degree of certainty. The one story wing, which contains a smokehouse chamber with its floor at a raised level, a semi-subterranean, barrel-vaulted root cellar, and an outkitchen or wash house room, is clearly later than the store wing, however. The later construction of the one story wing is known from the presence of exterior pointing and a blocked up entry (seams indicating its upper half of this doorway are visible) on the store wing east wall within the smokehouse chamber. The somewhat rustic appearance of the one story wing, relative to the formal façade of the store section, which is much more harmonious in character with the original Georgian block, suggests a shift in the family's attitude regarding their architectural statement and indicates that the one story wing was probably built well after the store section.

The appurtenances provided in the one story wing—smokehouse, root cellar, and outkitchen for rough food preparation, butchering, and laundry work—are typical of farmstead domestic spaces of the region that might be housed in service wings or outbuildings. The 1799 inventory of George Douglass I had

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 6

Douglass, George, House
Berks County, Pennsylvania

=====

omitted any reference to agricultural produce among his assets, and a detailed tax assessment list from 1767 (listing livestock and grain under cultivation) also indicates that the Douglass homestead was not employed as a farm property, at least during the early years of Douglass ownership. The establishment of a farming operation directly associated with the house appears to be most closely associated with the life of William B. Douglass (born 1812). However, William's father George Douglass II acquired a number of neighboring farm properties during the early nineteenth century, in addition to the ownership of the original 120-acre Huling tract on which the mansion stands, so that he amassed an agricultural estate of about 300 acres. Although some of the farming on this estate was apparently conducted via tenancy, George Douglass II was listed as a "farmer" on a tax list of 1805. His own estate inventory from 1833 included sizable amounts of wheat, rye, oats, and corn, both "in the ground" and harvested and stored. George Douglass II probably centered his own farming operation on one of his adjacent homestead properties. However, George Douglass II could have undertaken farm-associated architectural improvements at the mansion before ca. 1833 to assist William's agricultural enterprise, or these modifications could be associated with a move toward winding down the store operation and investing in agriculture made by George Douglass II himself during the early nineteenth century.

Alterations appear to have been made to the Douglass House in about the third quarter of the nineteenth century, probably ca. 1865 after Amelia Douglass Leaf and some of her grown children had resumed residence for a period. Changes made in this renovation probably included replacement of the door locks and latches on the original section's interior doors, construction of a second story window on the east end of the store wing, and a set of modifications for the first floor southeast room of the original section including blocking up of the corner fireplace, reconstruction of the partition with the northeast room to include an open entry, removal of the chair rail, blocking up of the doorway leading to the store wing, and replacement of the floor boards with ones of uniform width. The six-over-six window sash on the front of the original section, shown as already present in the early-twentieth-century photograph while twelve-over-twelve remained in place on the front of the store wing, may have been installed at this time.

Long-term tenant Wilmer B. Miller evidently made a number of modifications to the mansion for his family's combined residential and commercial use of the building. The design character of Miller's installed elements indicate that his alterations were made early in his tenure, around 1900 or perhaps in the 1890s. The retention of the twelve-over-twelve windows on the front of the store wing in the historic photograph, however, when six-over-six were already in place on the original section, indicates that Miller may have carried out renovations on more than one occasion. It is also not known when the store's front window sash were replaced, or when the building's shutters, in place in the photo, were removed. Changes made for Miller include installation of glazed doors for the front and rear of the store wing and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 7

Douglass, George, House
Berks County, Pennsylvania

=====

alteration of original exterior doors on the main block to become glazed doors; demolition of the fireplaces, chimney structure, and the partition between rooms in the first floor west end rooms, to provide space for his barber shop; installation of narrow tongue and groove flooring over the original floor in these rooms; construction of a new exterior entry for the barbershop in the westernmost bay of the front façade (subsequently blocked up by the Historic Preservation Trust); construction of a doorway between the two second floor west end rooms of the original section; refinishing of the first floor room of the store wing for the butcher shop and grocery retail area, including construction of a window in the east wall, conversion of the doorway in the west wall to a cabinet, rebuilding of the lower portion of the stairway, replacement of the flooring with narrow tongue and groove board, and construction of the archway structure, probably to help demarcate the service area from the front area; construction of the room partitions in the second floor of the store wing and blocking up of the front loft doorway; and the alterations to the outkitchen room of the one story wing for use as service area for the butcher shop, including expansion of this room to the rear and raising of the roof for this area, and demolition of the hearth and chimney.

Significance in Architecture

The George Douglass House, built in 1763, is an important early example of a full-scale Georgian house in rural southeastern Pennsylvania. The Douglass House embodies additional architectural significance due to the Douglass family's adaptation of the mansion to expanded functions during the period ca. 1800 to ca. 1833 via the addition of the two story store wing and the one story east end service wing. The date of original construction is known from the datestone and is corroborated by the surge in the property's tax assessment during the interval between 1760 and 1767, increasing from a rating of £19 in 1760, ranked twenty-first among the township's 100 households and somewhat above the mean of £10.5, to the highest assessment in the township in 1767, at £30. The original section of the house presents the two story center-passage double-pile plan that became emblematic of the fully developed Georgian style in the rural Mid-Atlantic region, as well as considerable surviving Georgian decorative detail typical of an elite dwelling in the late colonial period. On the exterior of the 1763 section, this detail includes the coursed ashlar façade, the stone jack arches over the windows, and the rare-to-survive plaster cove cornice. On the interior of the original section, there are the balustered staircase with surviving evidently early paint on its paneled wainscot; the heavily molded cornice and the paneled wainscot in the first floor passage and the second floor southwest room; the window cases incorporating window seats in the two first floor west rooms; the paneled floor-to-ceiling mantelpieces and corner cupboards in the two second floor west rooms; the elaborate closet and cupboard arrangement with its molding and paneling in the second floor northeast room; and the great kitchen fireplace with its paneled jamb and molded mantelshelf in the first

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 8

Douglass, George, House
Berks County, Pennsylvania

=====

floor northeast room. The interior of the mansion's original section is visually striking for the degree to which survivals from the period of significance (1763 to ca. 1833) dominate the character of the house, despite the presence of modifications from ca. 1865 and ca. 1900.

The Georgian or Palladian house appeared on the landscape of this area of rural southeastern Pennsylvania (southeastern Berks County and adjacent portions of Montgomery and Chester counties) when Anglo-American settlement had been a presence for a half-century, well over a generation. During the mid-eighteenth century (1730-1770), leading local Anglo-American settlers built substantial dwellings on a number of patterns derived from English vernacular architecture, including double-cell, hall-parlor, three-cell, and double-parlor plans. These local elites tended to take up commercial or industrial enterprises that went beyond farming, and they tended to be involved in governmental and political affairs. The house types they chose for their dwellings varied according to how their essentially linear form was configured, and as to whether they were of single-pile or double-pile massing. They shared some basic characteristics, however, in that they lacked interior stairway passages—one simply went from one room into the next without an intervening space—they held a limited number of rooms, and use of these rooms saw little specialization of function apart from hall kitchen and bedroom. By the period from which numbers of examples survive, starting ca. 1730, the more substantial settlers were building two story dwellings of stone masonry. The influence of Georgian architecture was evidently already expressed to some degree in the exterior appearance of the region's domestic vernacular architecture, in that although front facades were not precisely of symmetrical design, they tended to be arranged in a balanced manner with second story windows aligned over first story openings.

The double-cell plan was a vernacular house type suitable to row housing and commonly built in urban settings, but also employed in the countryside; it consisted of one room behind another, and often featured a basement kitchen. A local one story example with basement kitchen, built for justice of the peace Mordecai Lincoln in 1733, is located in Exeter Township. The hall-parlor type of single-pile configuration is exemplified in the area by the James Boone House in Exeter, constructed in 1733 for a tannery proprietor who would later become a justice of the peace and delegate to the provincial assembly; the original section of the William Bird House in Birdsboro, ca. 1750, built for a leading ironmaster and future justice of the peace; and the William Maugridge House (Daniel Boone Homestead), Exeter, ca. 1755, also built for a justice of the peace. The three-cell plan, which essentially expanded the hall-parlor by adding a second parlor to the line of rooms, is represented locally by the Joseph Rutter House or Pine Forge Mansion, built in Douglass Township in 1731 for a prominent early ironmaster. The double-parlor type called for a double-pile structure with a broad hall kitchen occupying half of the first floor and two corner parlors taking the up the other half. The double-pile massing, relatively expansive size, and just

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 9

Douglass, George, House
Berks County, Pennsylvania

=====

slightly off-center front entry made this type in effect a vernacular approach toward the grand dwelling represented by the Georgian house, but without the great stair passage. In fact, the several known examples of double-parlor houses in the lower Oley Valley area did not begin to be built until after ca. 1760, making the type contemporaneous to the local appearance of the Georgian house. A particularly elegant double-parlor house is the Joseph Boone House in Amity Township with its cut stone coursed ashlar front facade, built in 1765 for a sawmill proprietor and member of the locally extensive and influential Boone family. A more restrained representative is the Abraham Lincoln House, constructed in Exeter ca. 1770 for a well-off farmer who served as county commissioner. All of these examples are stone masonry structures.

The earliest example of a house built on a Georgian or Palladian-derived plan in the vicinity of the Douglass House (i.e., southeastern Berks and the adjacent area of Montgomery County) is Pottsgrove Mansion in Pottstown, Montgomery County, completed in 1754, situated approximately 3 miles east of the Douglass House on the same colonial-period high road running along the northeast bank of the Schuylkill River. Pottsgrove is a full-scale Georgian house, two stories in height and of double-pile massing, with the typical center-passage plan and five-bay design for the principal façade. The mansion, which was built for wealthy ironmaster and justice of the peace John Potts, was enlarged with a lower two story rear service ell at some date during 1790-1805. It features a coursed ashlar principal façade of dressed brown sandstone, a plaster cove cornice, tall twelve-over-twelve windows, and a pent roof extending across the front of the house, all features that the Douglass House had when it was first built. Like John Potts, George Douglass I was a justice of the peace and thus a prominent local governmental and political figure. Douglass evidently had fairly extensive business dealings with local ironmasters including the Potts family, and probably sought to emulate their architectural as well as economic, political, and social leadership. Built in 1763, the Douglass House represented a yet relatively early example of the full-scale Georgian house that manifested an innovative architectural presence on the local landscape. Such early specimens of the full-blown Georgian house are scarce—the only additional full-scale example known to have been built in the Oley Valley settlement area during the remaining years of the colonial period is the Johannes Jäger (John Hunter) Inn in Oley Township, from 1768.

The Georgian house type, with its symmetrical five-bay façade, its stair passage containing an open flight of stairs, often richly detailed to provide a visual focus to the house, and its numerous and functionally specific rooms with the best rooms also characterized by elaborate woodwork, at first represented an investment in domestic architecture that only very well-off people could afford. Not until the 1790s did it begin to become the more numerous dwelling of prosperous farmers, millers, and other more substantial rural inhabitants, a role it continued to serve as late as the 1850s, a full century after its introduction. In

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 10

Douglass, George, House
Berks County, Pennsylvania

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this role the Georgian house, dressed in vernacular, Federal, Greek Revival, Italianate or Gothic Revival decorative detail as suited the period and the owner's preference, and typically extended with a kitchen wing or ell to house service spaces, appears to have held equal appeal for southeastern Pennsylvanians of both British and German cultural background. An outstanding local example of a two story, full-scale Georgian plan with Federal stylistic detail is the Fisher House, built in Oley Township for well-off Pennsylvania German farmer Henry Fisher in 1801. Built of limestone, the house presents a coursed ashlar principal façade.

Georgian-derived variant plans for the main block, frequently seen, included the side-passage double-pile (called "two-thirds Georgian" by noted folklife scholar Henry Glassie). The two story, side-passage double-pile type, consisting of a stair passage with its grand open flight of stairs located to the side of the house and two corner parlors occupying the other side of the house, conferred the elegance of the Georgian house on a somewhat more modest scale. Examples of this type also began to be built locally around 1760, so that, like the more strictly vernacular double-parlor house, the introduction in the area of the side-passage double-pile type was also contemporaneous to the appearance of the full-scale Georgian type. The kitchen was generally located in a freestanding structure or in a rear ell or side wing. The John Bishop House, built in Exeter ca. 1770 for a wealthy miller, is a particularly elegant example with coursed ashlar façade and outstanding interior decorative woodwork. A common phenomenon during the early to mid-nineteenth century was the expansion of an existing side-passage double-pile house with a two-bay addition to become a full-scale Georgian house, as seen in the Peter Yoder House, Oley, where a 1782 original section was enlarged ca. 1795. This common additive process showed the importance of the full Georgian house as the regional architectural template expressing a family's attainment of economic competence and social prominence in its community. The few surviving fully intact rural colonial-period examples of the full-blown Georgian plan, such as the Douglass House, retain a heightened significance due to the profound impact of this house type on the architectural and cultural landscape of the Mid-Atlantic region.

The Douglass House's two story store wing is presently thought to have been added ca. 1800 for George Douglass II, with the one story smokehouse-vaulted cellar-outkitchen section evidently added by a later date up to ca. 1833 when either George Douglass II or his son farmer William B. Douglass remade the

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 11

Douglass, George, House
Berks County, Pennsylvania

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building as a farmstead mansion house requiring the domestic support areas typical of the more substantial homesteads of rural southeastern Pennsylvania. The estimated date for the store wing is based on a combination of the building's Federal vernacular stylistic character, the change of ownership in 1799, and the apparent profitable viability of the store business at this time. The two story single-pile store wing continued the impressive cut stone ashlar façade of the main block but otherwise was evidently designed entirely for commercial use, incorporating a room for the store's retail business on the first floor and a storage loft that could be accessed from the exterior via a second story front door on the upper story. Rural buildings designed explicitly for store use, as opposed to dwellings that housed stores without specific plan designs for that purpose, have few known surviving examples from this relatively early period in America. The store wing of the Douglass House appears to represent an important early example of its type. The one story service wing constructed ca. 1833 represents an interesting instance in which the owning family adapted their elite dwelling from its partly commercial function into continued service as the mansion house for a substantial farmstead, which required incorporation of support spaces—outkitchen or wash house, smokehouse, and root cellar—that were fairly standard for such properties in the region during that period. After its erection, the one story service wing made the mansion house—at its construction in 1763 an unusually large, stylish and elegant dwelling that dominated the surrounding settlement landscape—a representative example of the center-passage double-pile houses found on the area's more substantial farmsteads.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 1

Douglass, George, House
Berks County, Pennsylvania

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page 1

Douglass, George, House
Berks County, Pennsylvania

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Vertical Boundary Description

The National Register Boundary for the Douglass House property is that of the parcel of 1 acre, 13.4 perches on which the Douglass House stands, as defined in Berks County Deed Book 2012, page 1719 (1988). The deed book and associated tax parcel map are accessible at the Berks County Courthouse in Reading.

Boundary Justification

This boundary contains the lawn that frames the house and provides a visually appropriate immediate setting. The boundary encloses land that has been historically associated with the house since it was first constructed. Other surrounding land that formed part of the property during the period of significance, 1763 to ca. 1833, has been excluded from the National Register boundary. This exclusion is because changes in ownership of this additional acreage since the period of significance have resulted in changes in land use, including additional building construction, so that the excluded acreage is now of an architectural and land use character that is not associated with or representative of its use and appearance during the period of significance of the National Register-eligible resource. This changed character includes use as railroad line corridor, use as sewage treatment plant, and, most commonly, use as small house lots for dwellings built in the twentieth century.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Photo List Page 1

Douglass, George, House
Berks County, Pennsylvania

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Photographer: Philip E. Pendleton Date: August 2008
Location of Digital Files: Noble Preservation, Zionsville, PA
Digital images printed on Epson Premium Luster paper with Epson UltraChrome ink.

<u>No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Direction</u>
1	Douglass House in context	NW
2	Douglass House, south and east facades	North
3	Original section, west and south facades (store wing to right)	East
4	Original section and store wing, south façade	North
5	Rear view of overall house, north and west facades	South
6	Store wing, south façade	NE
7	One story wing, south and east facades	North
8	One story wing, east façade	NW
9	One story wing, north façade	South
10	Detail of front façade masonry at joint between sections	NE
11	Detail of original section, front door	East
12	Detail of store wing, front door	NE
13	Detail of cornice, SW corner of original section	East
14	Detail of datestone, west end of original section	SE
15	Original section, 1 st floor, stairway	NE

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Photo List Page 2

Douglass, George, House
Berks County, Pennsylvania

=====

<u>No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Direction</u>
16	Original section, 1 st floor, NE room, kitchen fireplace	South
17	Original section, 1 st floor, NE room, detail of N wall	East
18	Original section, 1 st floor, SE room, detail of door	West
19	Original section, 1 st floor, center passage, detail of cornice	East
20	Original section, 1 st floor, center passage, detail of west wall	North
21	Original section, 1 st floor, stairway, detail of lower staircase	East
22	Original section, 1 st floor, stairway, detail of wainscot	East
23	Original section, 1 st floor, NW room, window cases (1 from SW room)	North
24	Original section, 1 st floor, SE room, corner cupboard and walls	East
25	Original section, 2 nd floor, center passage	SW
26	Original section, 2 nd floor, NW room, corner cupboard	North
27	Original section, 2 nd floor, SW room, west wall, fireplace & mantel	North
28	Original section, 2 nd floor, SW room, corner cupboard & west wall	West
29	Original section, 2 nd floor, SW room, detail of cornice	West
30	Original section, 2 nd floor, NE room, closet and cupboard	East

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Photo List Page 3

Douglass, George, House
Berks County, Pennsylvania

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<u>No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Direction</u>
31	Original section, 2 nd floor, NE room, detail of closet interior	East
32	Original section, 2 nd floor, SE room, north doorway & NE corner	East
33	Store wing, 1 st floor, general view of former retail shop room	West
34	Store wing, 1 st floor, stairway	North
35	Store wing, 1 st floor, archway and stairway	North
36	Store wing, 2 nd floor, north room, east wall	SE
37	Store wing, 2 nd floor, south room, south wall with blocked loft entry	South
38	One story wing, exterior north wall of smokehouse chamber	South
39	1 story wing, smokehouse, store wing exterior pointing on west wall	West
40	One story wing, smokehouse interior, SE corner of room	South
41	One story wing, former outkitchen, area of ca. 1900 added walls	North
42	One story wing, outkitchen, detail of change in width of east wall	SE
43	Historic view of overall house from early 20 th century	East