

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuations sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Davis, David, Farm  
other name/site number Summers, Christian, Farm; Martin, John, Farm; 071-14-0021 & 071-14-0044

### 2. Location

street & number 737 Spruce Road  na not for publication  
city, town New Holland (Earl Township)  na vicinity  
state Pennsylvania code PA county Lancaster code 071 zip code 17557

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building (s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>7</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>8</u>	_____ objects
			<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing  
Historic Farming Resources of Lancaster County

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.

Donna Williams *Donna Williams* 7/11/94  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
Assistant Executive Director  
State or Federal agency or bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency or bureau

### 5. National Park Service Certification

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: \_\_\_\_\_)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: FarmDOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: FarmDOMESTIC: Single Dwelling**7. Description**Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)OTHER: Pennsylvania German vernacularOTHER: Pennsylvania barn

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONEwalls STONEroof SYNTHETICother WOOD

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The David Davis Farm is an irregularly shaped parcel of land located within the rich limestone plain that forms the central core of Lancaster County's most productive farmland. The farm is surrounded by farms with the exception of limited development that has occurred along U. S. Route 322 (Twenty-eighth Division Highway) located immediately north of the site. Spruce Road forms the eastern boundary of the farm and it is bounded on all remaining sides by adjacent farms.

**Site**

A narrow unpaved farm lane bisects the property, providing access from Spruce Road to the farmstead, and continuing to an adjacent farm along Huyard Road. The farmstead is located to the center-east on the site along both sides of the farm lane. The farmhouse and a springhouse are sited at the eastern end of the farmstead; the barn and barnyard are set to the north and northeast of the farmhouse; and two tobacco barns are located on a rise to the southwest of the house and barn across the lane. Cropland and pastures surround the farmstead to the north, west, and south. A family burial ground is located along the farm lane within cropland to the west of the farmstead. The farmstead is separated from a low pasture to the east, between it and Spruce Road, by a small stream that originates at the springhouse and flows to the northeast.

**Farmhouse**

The David Davis House is an evolutionary dwelling that consists of an original two story rectangular four by two bay stone section, constructed circa 1750 and extensively remodeled in 1787, that faces south and has additions to its north and east. Additions to the original block include a two bay wide stone addition (circa 1815) and a subsequent two bay frame addition (circa 1890), to the east, and a three by two bay frame addition (circa 1870) to the north. A small frame summer kitchen, with an enclosed beehive oven, is located to the north of the house and is now attached to it by the northern addition.

The stuccoed original block has a lateral gable corrugated metal roof with a small brick interior end chimney to the east and an interior stove flue to the west. The facade is capped by a molded wooden cornice and has a full-width one-story shed porch with replacement metal supports. The principal entrance is located in the center-east bay of the facade. Historic molded window surrounds, with replacement wooden two-over-two light double hung sash windows and historic panelled shutters are located in the three remaining bays of the first floor level. Three windows in the second level are similar, without shutters, and correspond to the two western windows and entrance. A shaped recess in the stucco between the two eastern windows on the second level former-

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David Davis Farm

ly contained a dateboard. The west elevation of the original block is stuccoed and has two windows per level, similar to those on the facade. The north and west elevations of the original block are obscured by later additions.

The two bay wide circa 1815 addition is stuccoed to match the original section. The original section and both eastern additions are now under a common roof and a brick interior chimney delineates the separation between the two additions. The cornice on the circa 1815 addition is simpler than that of the original section. Windows on the upper level are shorter and have wooden three over six sash. The deck of the full-width shed porch is raised three steps above that of the original section, indicating a higher interior finished floor level. The porch retains a simple post and railing to the west and has been infilled with a wood and glass enclosure to the east. Two similar three over six windows are located at each level of the stuccoed north elevation. The east elevation is concealed by the circa 1890 addition.

The frame circa 1890 addition extends the circa 1815 addition two bays to the east and also projects one bay south from its facade. The addition is clad with asbestos shingle siding and has two wooden two over two windows set within rectangular openings with simple shaped hoods at each level of its facade. Similar windows are located at the upper level of the rear (north) elevation above a full-width one-story shed porch, with simple posts and railing.

The two bay deep by three bay wide frame circa 1870 addition to the north of the original stone section has a low-pitched gable roof oriented perpendicular to that of the older portion. Asbestos shingle siding covers original wood German siding. A full-width two-tier porch extends across its west elevation, a one story shed porch is located at the eastern bay of its north elevation, and there is a recent brick chimney at the north elevation between the two western bays. Also attached to the addition, at its northeast corner, is a small frame summer kitchen with an enclosed beehive oven.

The interior plan of the farmhouse is irregular. The original portion consists of four rooms grouped around a small staircase that is centered at the north wall. Historic trim and detailing remain throughout the house and include simple Georgian style molded chair rails and baseboards, panelled doors, a Bible shelf, and built in cupboards. Walls and ceilings are typically finished with smooth plaster and floors are wood.

The farmhouse is in generally good condition. The original portion is undergoing a sensitive rehabilitation in accordance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards*. Alterations, other than the additions described above, have typically been limited to the concealment of historic interior finishes with modern panelling and trim within secondary rooms.

**Barn**

The barn, constructed circa 1780, is a stone bank barn of the Classic Sweitzer type. As originally constructed, the barn was rectangular with a steeply pitched roof continuing unbroken over the projecting forebay. Simple rectangular ventilators are spaced along the side and end walls and

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small four-light wooden windows are located along the lower level of the sidewalls. The plain forebay is clad with vertical boards and is broken only by simple board and batten cargo doors. Windows and doors alternate at the lower level below the forebay. The forebay of the barn faces east-northeast to a small barnyard. A frame tobacco shed has been added to the northwest and additional extensions have been made off the north and south ends of the forebay side of the barn to house a milkhouse and cattle pens. The barn is in good condition.

***Springhouse***

A small stone springhouse (circa 1800) is set within a bank in front of the farmhouse. It has a lateral gable metal roof with a simple boxed cornice with gable returns. An entrance on the west wall provides access to the upper level and a similar rectangular window opening is set within the upper level of the south elevations. The lower level is exposed to the south and east and includes a small window to the south and a rectangular entrance opening to the east. The springhouse is in good condition.

***Outbuildings***

Other outbuildings include two late nineteenth-century frame tobacco barns, located to the southwest of the barn, and a small frame shed (circa 1940), located within the barnyard. The outbuildings are all in generally good condition.

***Family Burial Ground***

A small family burial ground is located within cropland along a small farm lane leading west from the farmstead. Approximately fifty gravestones are surrounded by an iron fence. Markers are simple in style and are typical of late-eighteenth through the early twentieth century Lancaster County family burial grounds. The burial ground is in generally good condition.

***Integrity***

The David Davis Farm is intact as a working farm complex. Although individual buildings have been altered over time, these alterations are consistent with the evolutionary nature of Lancaster County farms as documented by the "Historic Farming Resources of Lancaster County" multiple property National Register nomination. The David Davis Farm has been fortunate in that recent generations have appreciated its historic value and have therefore not made alterations common to many present day farms, such as the installation of synthetic siding, replacement windows, etc. For that reason, its intact farmstead is a particularly fine example of a Lancaster County farm that illustrates not only its Welsh origins but also the influences of subsequent generations of Amish and Mennonite farmers.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture  
 Architecture  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance  
 ca. 1750 - 1945 \_\_\_\_\_ 1787 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation  
 N/A  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person  
 N/A  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder  
 Unknown  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The David Davis Farm is significant under National Register Criteria A and C. It is an example of the property type "the farm" under the "Historic Farming Resources of Lancaster County" multiple property National Register nomination. The farm, which was originated by Welsh settler David Davis circa 1730, is an excellent example of the evolutionary nature of many Lancaster County farms through several generations of ownership by differing cultural groups. While it continues to reflect some of its early Welsh characteristics, and therefore evidences the eighteenth-century Welsh settlement in this portion of the county, it also exhibits the influences of subsequent generations of Amish and Mennonite farmers. The largely intact farmstead, consisting of a farmhouse, bank barn, springhouse, tobacco barns, sheds, and a family burial ground, includes resources dating from circa 1750 through the early twentieth century.

**History**

The subject farm was patented by Thomas, John, and Richard Penn to David Davis, a Baptist from Cardiganshire, Wales, in 1744. Davis obtained a warrant and had surveyed the 297 acre property by 1730.<sup>1</sup> A shopkeeper who operated a store in Blue Ball, Davis lived on the farm until his death in 1773 at age 91. He is buried in the family burial ground on the farm. The property passed by David Davis' will, dated 1768, to his son John who took full possession by a deed dated 19 October 1784.<sup>2</sup>

The farm was purchased by Christian Summers for £2,500 on 11 April 1785. He sold one half of the farm, 148.5 acres, to Jacob Sensenig shortly afterward, on 21 May 1785.<sup>3</sup> A wooden dateboard survives (but has now been removed) from the farmhouse which reads: "1787 Christian Summers and Froneys his wife. Renewed by John Martin." Stylistic and physical evidence suggests that Summers extensively remodeled an earlier house built by Davis. The dateboard appears to have been

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installed by Martin, who may have assumed that Summers built the house. Summers was the first of three Amish owners between 1785 and 1796. After his death in 1790, his estate sold the then 170 acre farm at auction. Jacob Hertzler purchased it on 3 September 1790 for £1,450 and transferred it to Jost Yoder for £1,500 on 23 September.<sup>4</sup>

In 1796, the 170 acre farm was acquired by Martin Martin for £1,750. Martin, son of David Martin, a Swiss Mennonite pioneer who settled in Lancaster County, lived on an adjoining farm and purchased this property for his son Christian Martin. Christian purchased 104.5 acres from his father in 1799.<sup>5</sup> Just prior to Christian's death, he sold the property to his son John Martin in 1849. Subsequent owners have included Isaac Martin, Sadoc Martin, Isaac N. Martin, and Paul Martin, its present owner.

### Architecture

Architectural evidence remains from all periods of the more than two hundred year existence of the farm. The farmhouse is a rare surviving vestige of the early Welsh settlement of this section of Lancaster County and, as altered by Amishman Christian Summers in 1787, retains elements from its transformation by Pennsylvania Germans. Subsequent expansions of the house throughout the nineteenth century evidence the changing needs of its occupants, a prominent Mennonite family in the area.

The farmhouse illustrates several generations of changing occupants and their lifestyles. Structural evidence suggests that at least a portion of the western stone section of the building was constructed circa 1750 for David Davis. The asymmetrical facade, evidence of a former staircase at the southeast corner of this block of the house, and evidence of a cooking fireplace along its east wall are consistent with this early period and would appear inconsistent with a 1787 remodeling by Christian Summers. Rather than the typical rye straw and mud insulation typically found between floor joists at the basement levels of Lancaster County's Pennsylvania German farmhouses, the first floor joists in the oldest section of the Davis House are tapered and infilled with rocks.

The extent of changes made by Sommers is difficult to determine. Although much of the interior woodwork is typical of the late eighteenth century, its high level of ornamental detail is inconsistent with the traditional conservatism of the present day Amish and Mennonite communities. Whether or not this was the case at that time, or whether Summers excepted himself from this tradition, has not been determined. Sometime after 1815, the two bay stone addition was constructed to the east of the original section by the Martin family, Swiss-German Mennonites. The stylistic detail in this section of the house illustrates a restrained vernacular interpretation of the Federal style with some vestiges of Pennsylvania German decorative painting remaining on the upper floor. The larger frame additions to the east and north date from the late nineteenth century and

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illustrate the expansion of the Martin family and the need to house multiple generations within the farmhouse.

The barn is typical of the Classic Sweitzer type, as defined in Robert Ensminger's *The Pennsylvania Barn*, and family tradition holds that it was constructed circa 1780. While this would have occurred during the farm's ownership by the Welsh Davis family, the steeply pitched roof would indicate a date earlier than 1787, when it was acquired by Summers, and possibly earlier than 1780. Even with its additions to the north and east, it remains a particularly fine example of a stone Classic Sweitzer.

Notes:

<sup>1</sup>Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, Ada Siebel, original patent.

<sup>2</sup>Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Lancaster County Recorder of Deeds, Deed Book BB, p. 169.

<sup>3</sup>Deed Book CC, p. 567; Deed Book CC, p. 570.

<sup>4</sup>Deed Book LL, p. 576; Deed Book LL, p. 582.

<sup>5</sup>Interview with Paul Martin, Lancaster, PA, 24 March 1993; Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County, Historic Sites Survey Files, including research manuscript by Marta L. Weinholt; research manuscript by Amos Hoover, Paul Martin, and Robert Bucher.

**9. Major Bibliographic References**

- Atlas of Surveys of the County of Lancaster.* Philadelphia: Graves and Steinbarger, 1899.
- Bridgens, H.F. *Atlas of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania Lancaster, Pennsylvania,* 1864.
- Ellis, Franklin, and Samuel Evans. *History of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.* 2 vols. Philadelphia, 1883; reprint ed., Apollo, PA: Closson Press, n.d.
- Everts & Stuart, *Atlas of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, 1875;* reprint ed., Knightstown, IN: Bookmark, 1976.
- Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County. "Historic Farming Resources of Lancaster County," multiple property nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, n.p., 1994.
- Interview with Paul Martin, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, 6 March 1992, 24 March 1993.

See continuation sheet

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 the Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by the Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographic Data**

Acreage of property 78.8 acres

UTM References

A 18 408100 4442340  
 Zone Easting Northing

B 18 407700 4442070  
 Zone Easting Northing

C 18 407980 4441225  
 Zone Easting Northing

D 18 408300 4441330  
 Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property includes the entire parcel numbered 9P-16-7 in the office of the Tax Assessment Office, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire current tax parcel only, which represents the remaining acreage of the farm complex, 78.8 acres. The current acreage is sufficient to reflect the historic character of the site and continues to represent a working farm complex.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title David B. Schneider, Heidi M. Pawlowski

organization Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County date 02/25/93; revised 05/25/94

street & number 123 North Prince Street telephone (717) 291-5861

city or town Lancaster state Pennsylvania zip code 17603



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David Davls Farm

Klein, H. M. G. Lancaster County, Pennsylvania: A History, 4 vols. New York: Lewis Historical Publ., 1924.

Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Lancaster County Recorder of Deeds, Deed Books.

Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County, Historic Sites Survey Files, including research manuscript by Marta L. Weinhold; research manuscript by Amos Hoover, Paul Martin, and Robert Bucher.

Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Lancaster County Historical Society, Martin Family Genealogical Files.

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David Davis, UTM References:

E	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>8</u> <u>2</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>5</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>
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F	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>8</u> <u>3</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>6</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
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	Zone	Easting	Northing
H	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>8</u> <u>1</u> <u>9</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

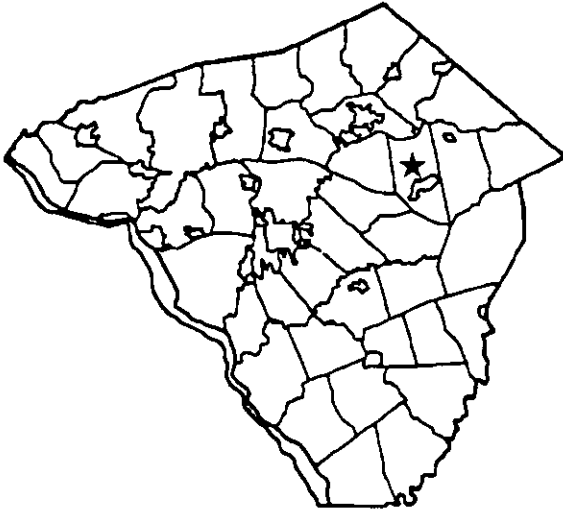
Accompanying Documentation, Continuation Sheet #2

Section number \_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_

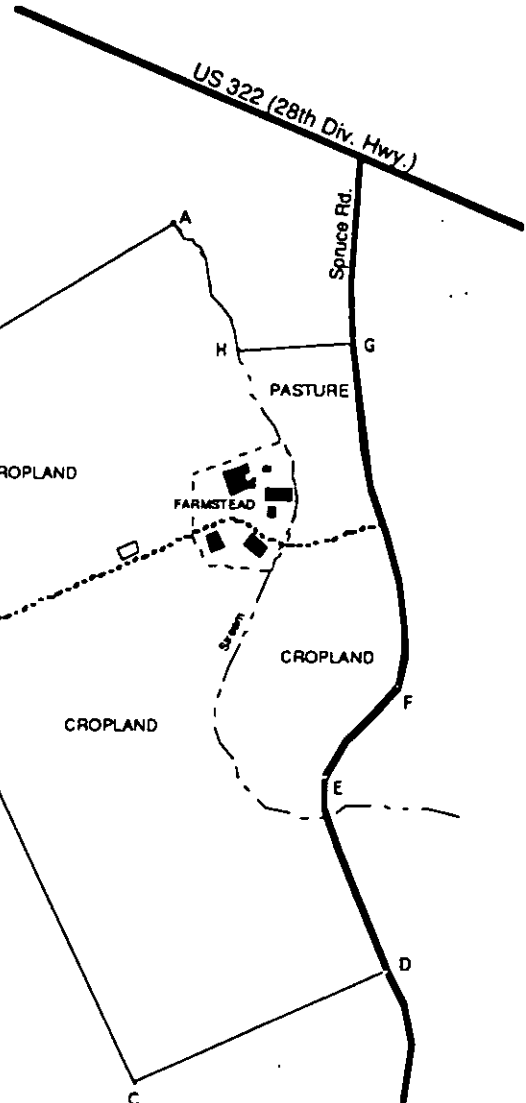
David Davis Farm

## David Davis Farm

Spruce Rd., Earl Twp., Lancaster County, PA  
071-14-0020 & 071-14-0044

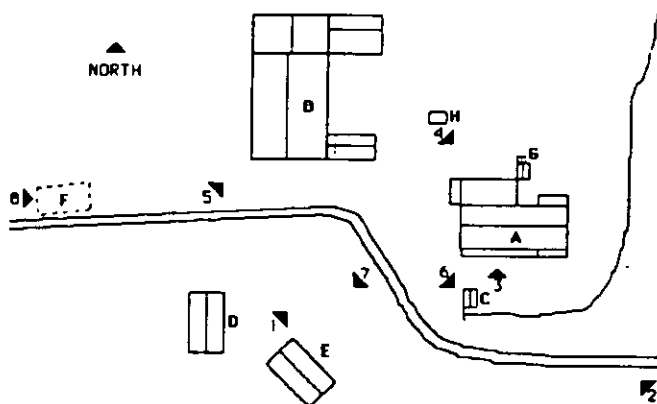


### Location & Site Plans Sketch Plan (Not to Scale)



**Key:**

- A Farmhouse
- B Barn
- C Springhouse
- D Tobacco Barn
- E Tobacco Barn
- F Family Cemetery
- G Summer Kitchen
- H Shed



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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Accompanying Documentation, Continuation Sheet #3

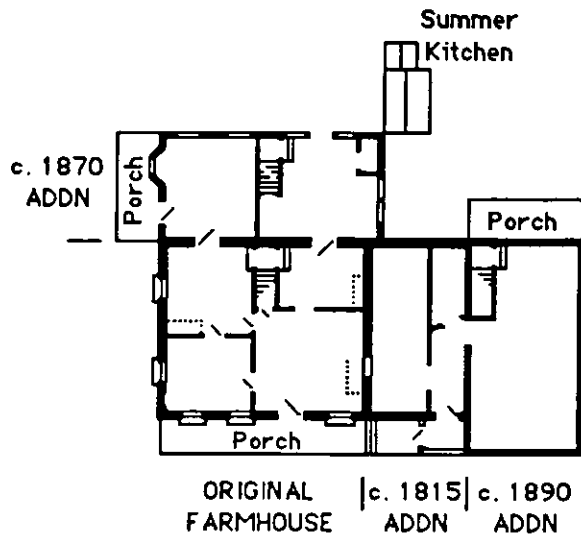
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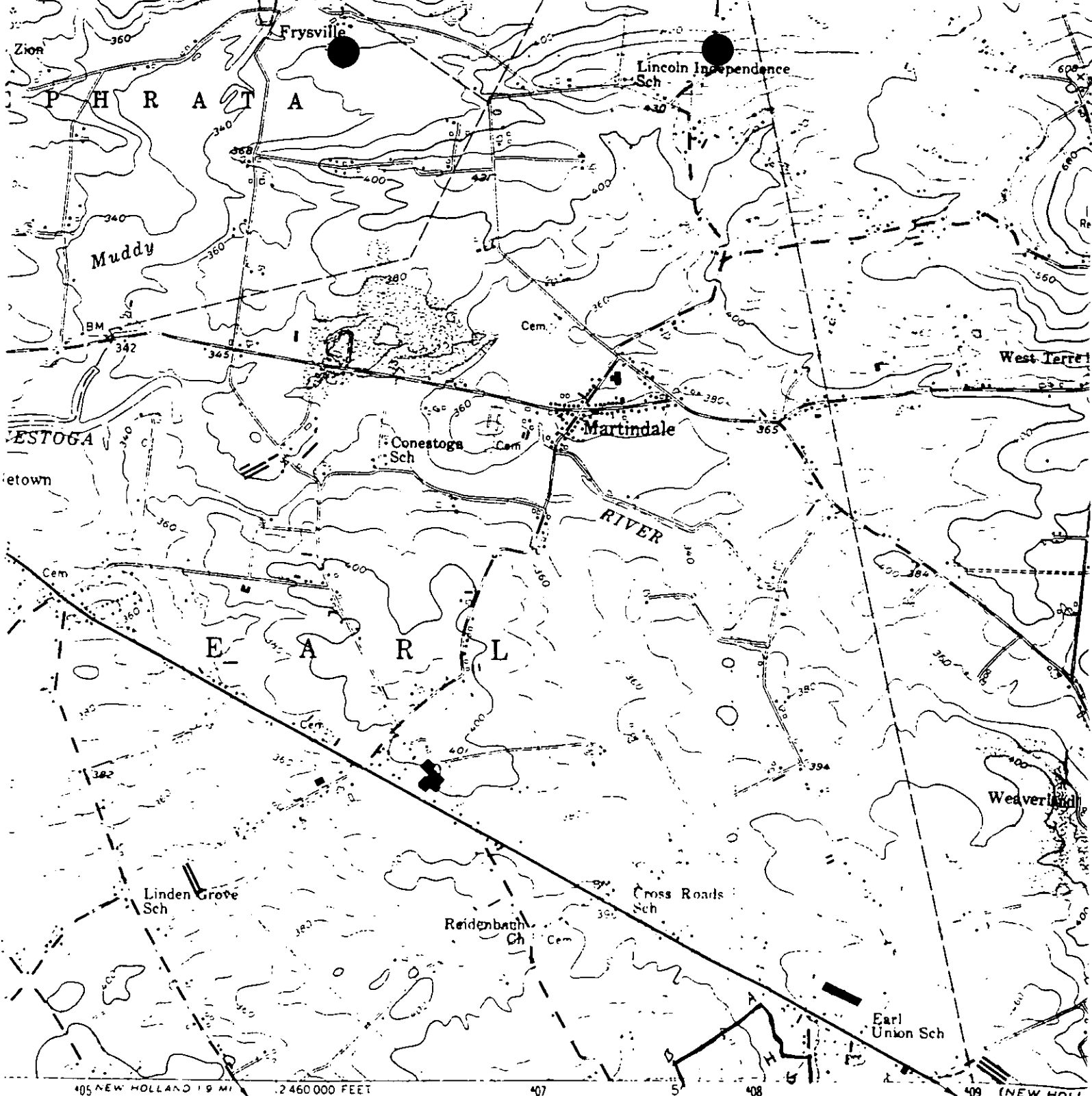
David Davis Farm

## David Davis Farm

Spruce Rd., Earl Twp., Lancaster County, PA  
071-14-0020 & 071-14-0044

**Davis Farmhouse**  
First Floor Sketch Plan (Not to Scale)



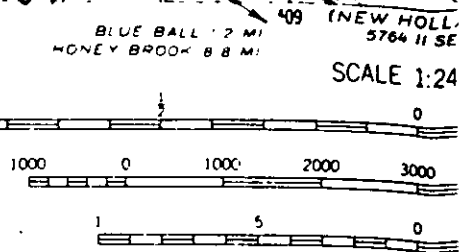


compiled, and published by the Geological Survey  
 U.S. G.S. and U.S.S.C. and U.S.S.C.S.  
 from aerial photographs by photogrammetric  
 methods and ground photographs taken 1951. Field check 1956  
 datum: 1927 North American datum  
 based on Pennsylvania coordinate system,

elevations are shown in brown  
 Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
 shown in blue  
 are predicted North American Datum 1983.  
 section lines 6 meters south and  
 east as shown by dashed corner ticks

UTM GRID AND 1987 MAGNETIC NORTH  
 DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET  
 11 196 MILS  
 0 41 12 MILS  
 MN 1GN

DAVIS Farm →



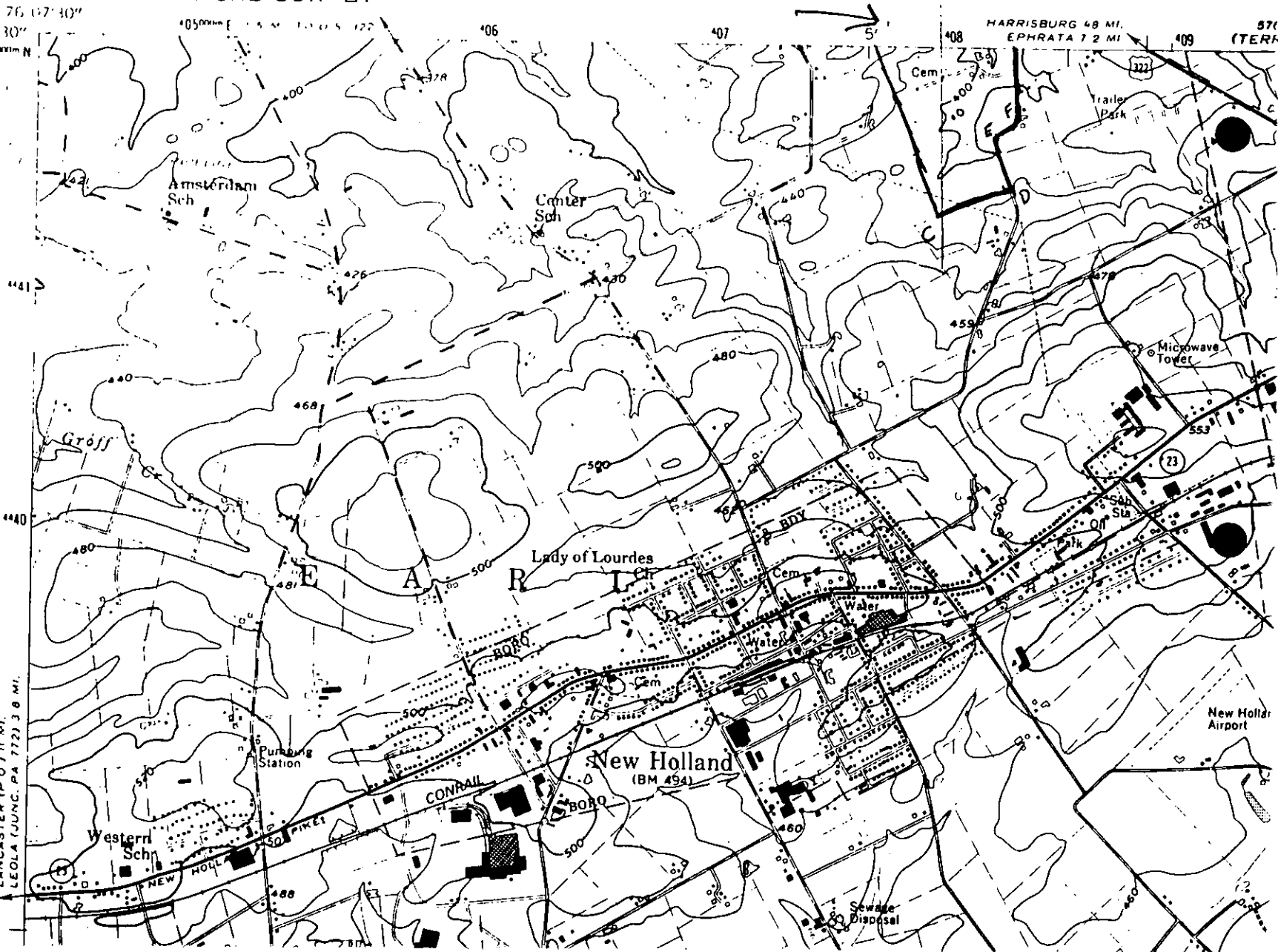
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL  
 FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, CO  
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND

536 11 NW  
(EPHRATA)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Doris Farm

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18 384 130  
4437465  
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4437283



LANCASTER (PO) 11 MI.  
LEOLA (JUNC. PA 712) 3 MI.

HARRISBURG 48 MI.  
EPHRATA 7.2 MI.

570  
(TERK)

(21)

New Holland  
Airport

Sewage  
Disposal