

MIL 25 '83

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

PHHC
HISTORIC PRESERVATION For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received 9/29/83
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Tomlinson-Huddleston House

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 109 West Maple Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Langhorne N/A vicinity of

state Pennsylvania code 42 county Bucks code 017

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Margaret Ehrlen Dittmar, Ruth Ehrlen Irwin

street & number 109 West Maple Avenue

city, town Langhorne N/A vicinity of state Pennsylvania

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Bucks County Courthouse

street & number Main & Court Streets

city, town Doylestown state Pennsylvania

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 5-8-78 federal state county local

depository for survey records Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

city, town Harrisburg state Pennsylvania

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u> N/A </u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The TOMLINSON-HUDDLESTON HOUSE was originally constructed in 1783. The first section of the house consists of a 2-½ story, three bay, double pile structure constructed of local stone. It has a gable roof with a large interior end chimney on the east gable end and two arched dormers on the southern slope. Its style is most often described as "2/3 Georgian" with the main entrance at the west end of the south face. This doorway consists of a recessed panelled door surmounted by a rectangular transom and surrounded by corresponding panelled reveals. The doorway threshold is raised approximately three feet from the street level and corresponds with a slightly pronounced water table.

The most distinctive feature of the physical appearance of the TOMLINSON-HUDDLESTON HOUSE are the numerous carved initial, name and date stones on the south, east and north facades of the first section. Three prominent stones are on the south or front facade including the owners' and builder's names. The stonework on the east and north facades has been covered with plaster with the exception of the namestones, which have been left exposed. There are a total of six stones, including two on the east and one on the north facades.

To the rear of the main stone block is a two story, approximately two bay, single pile, brick filled frame "L" addition with a gable roof and a two story projecting bay on its east facade. To the rear of this nineteenth century section is a circa 1965 narrow two story, two bay, gable roof frame addition.

Today the TOMLINSON-HUDDLESTON HOUSE is located in the heart of Langhorne village. It is separated from a circa 1769 structure on its west side by a narrow alley. The rear additions of these two structures share a party wall and thereby close off the alley. To the east of the house, separated by a driveway, is an addition to the Langhorne Hotel which has been a continuous place of public entertainment since the early eighteenth century.

EXTERIOR ALTERATIONS:

The major alterations to the exterior of the TOMLINSON-HUDDLESTON HOUSE since its construction in 1783 are the addition of the two rear frame sections. The first addition dates from circa 1820 and the second from circa 1965. Neither of the two additions are readily visible from the street and post-date the structure's main period of significance.

In the early 1940's several alterations were made to the original section of the house under the direction of the present owners. These changes included the removal of later exterior plaster, the removal of a later small entrance porch, and the replacement of later 2/2 Victorian windows with more appropriate 9/9 sash. The two arched dormers, Greek Revival door trim and several Greek Revival window sashes from the nineteenth century were retained.

The changes to the facades visible from the street are fundamentally changes of minor architectural elements and do not alter the general configuration or mass of the original structure. Therefore they do not diminish the architectural value of the building's overall design.

The restoration completed in the 1940's actually brings the front facade's appearance back more closely to its original 1783 appearance. According to the findings of restoration architect G. Edwin Brumbaugh, who inspected the house in 1972,

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EXTERIOR ALTERATIONS: (cont.)

the west gable end of the house has original exterior pointing and was undoubtedly always exposed. This fact coupled with the incised stones bearing initials and names of several individuals throughout the south face strongly suggests that the exterior plaster was not original. The plastering probably occurred in the nineteenth century when the other Greek Revival elements were added to the house. When restoration took place in the 1940's the small Victorian entrance porch was in very poor condition and was replaced by the current gabled hood.

INTERIOR ALTERATIONS:

As to be expected with a two hundred year old house in the interior of the TOMLINSON-HUDDLESTON HOUSE has undergone several periods of changes. The major interior alterations to the original section of the house were the removal of a stairway from the first floor hallway and changes to the first floor fireplaces and partition walls. While these changes are important they do not appear to be irreversible. Evidence of the original stairway can still be seen on the plastered wall of the hallway. The stairway on the second floor remains in its original location. Both of the first floor fireplaces (the large kitchen walk-in and the front parlor corner fireplace) have been altered. The parlor fireplace has been completely removed. However the presence of the second floor fireplace and the corbelling in the basement give excellent evidence as to its size and configuration. The kitchen fireplace has been down scaled but the original large fireplace, complete with crane, is still preserved behind the newer, smaller fireplace. As in the case of the stairway of the location of original partition walls can be ascertained from evidence found on the plastered walls.

As the main architectural significance of the TOMLINSON-HUDDLESTON HOUSE lies in its exterior form and particularly in its masonry walls with numerous names and initials thereon, these interior changes do not adversely affect that significance. Application of a modern composition siding has visually unified the two additions.

Interior (A)

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Index of Photographs:

1. Southeast corner of the TOMLINSON-HUDDLESTON HOUSE and westerly street perspective of West Maple Avenue. Note one carved namestone near gable of plastered east facade.
2. Southwest corner of the TOMLINSON-HUDDLESTON HOUSE taken from the south. "I. Watson" carved namestone is legible above the door to the left near the second story window.
3. The south or street facade of the TOMLINSON-HUDDLESTON HOUSE. "R·H T 1783" initial and date stone is slightly legible between the right and center second story windows.
4. Southeast corner of the TOMLINSON-HUDDLESTON HOUSE. Slightly legible is the carved namestone "W. Paxson" on the southeast corner to the right and above the first floor window.
5. Northeast corner of the TOMLINSON-HUDDLESTON HOUSE showing the two rear additions, Sections 2 and 3.
6. Rear parlor fireplace with Federal mantle and adjacent cupboards. This fireplace sits within a much larger cooking fireplace which has been plastered over, although the sidewalls and crane remain evident behind the plaster.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1783 **Builder/Architect** Isaac Watson

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The basic area of significance for the TOMLINSON-HUDDLESTON HOUSE is architecture. Although a fairly typical example of an eighteenth century townhouse in form, the structure is unique in that there are six names or sets of initials and four datestones carved into the exterior walls of the house. The property is also significant, to a lesser degree, in the area of industry, as the site of early wheelwright's and coachmaker's shops. As a part of this latter fact the property also has some significance in the life of Edward Hicks. In addition, the house provides insight into a significant phase of the development of the village of Langhorne.

Of the many eighteenth century stone houses in Bucks County this one is unusual in while there exists other houses with several datestones throughout the county, none exhibit so many different names, particularly so many non-owners' names carved at the same time. This structure is virtually a signature house of Langhorne's founders. The names and initials on the house not only represent the owners of the house, Richard and Hannah Tomlinson and the builder of the house, Isaac Watson; but include four neighbors, Joshua Richardson, William Paxson, Isaac Thackery, and Isaac Hicks, prominent men in the community.

Deed references and tax records indicate that Richard Tomlinson erected a wheelwright shop on the property which later became a coachmaking establishment operated by his son William Tomlinson. It was in this coachmaking shop that Edward Hicks, often described as America's foremost primitive painter, began his apprenticeship as a coach maker and painter. Hicks noted in his memoirs that upon his arrival in Langhorne, then called Attleborough, he went to live in the subject structure then occupied by William Tomlinson and his wife.

Thirdly the house is important within the framework of the development of Langhorne. Hannah Tomlinson was the daughter of William Huddleston. Huddleston's property included a large tract of land on the north side of the road to Philadelphia and on the west side of the original road between Bristol and Newtown; Bucks County's two largest villages. In 1779, following the death of Huddleston, his ten children divided the property. Despite the fact that Huddleston had previously sold small building lots years earlier it was the break up of the William Huddleston estate into numerous building lots by his many heirs which sparked much of the village's development. It was soon after this development began that Richard and Hannah Tomlinson erected the subject structure on a portion of the land Hannah inherited. The house is located in the core of, and is an integral part of, the historic section of Langhorne. Although the Borough of Langhorne maintains a municipal historic district (Act 167 Pennsylvania State Law) there is currently no plan or project to prepare a National Register nomination for the district.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheets

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .2064

Quadrangle name Langhorne, Pa.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	8	5	0	6	7	0	0	4	4	4	7	1	0	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jeffrey L. Marshall & Kathryn Auerbach, Historical Programs Staff

organization Bucks County Conservancy, Inc. date Summer 1983

street & number 11 North Main Street telephone (215) 345-8966

city or town Doylestown state Pennsylvania 18901

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

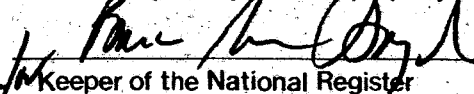
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Larry E. Tise, State Historic Preservation Officer date 9/8/83

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

 date 11/16/83
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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1. Brey, Jane. A Quaker Saga. Dorrance and Company, Philadelphia, Pa., 1967.
2. Davis, William W. H. History of Bucks County, Pennsylvania.
Second Edition, Revised and Enlarged with a Genealogical and Personal History of
Bucks County. Prepared under the Editorial Supervision of Warren S. Ely and John
W. Jordan. Vols. II & III. A.E. Lear, Inc., Publishers, Pipersville, Penna., 1975.
3. Deed books 22, pp. 573,575; 28, p.192; 30, p.170; 31, p.454; 37, p.432; 72, p.192;
75, p.757. And numerous other deeds detailing land purchases and sales by William
Tomlinson.
4. Eastburn, Samuel C. "The Village of Attleborough and of its houses and people as I
first remember them c.1854," c.1920. Fol. 22 of the Samuel C. Eastburn Collection.
5. Genealogy of Descendants of Thomas and Rebecca (Marke) Watson. Typed and Indexed
from Original Hand-Written Notes Collected and compiled by Amos Satterthwaite of
Bucks County, Penna., and Sarah M. Fell of Wilmington, Delaware, Between the Years
1877-1895. (These original notes were presented by their cousin, Anna S. Palmer,
of Newtown, Penna., on Nov. 10, 1963, for use as a supplement to a Quaker Saga by
Jane T. Brey.)
6. Genealogy of the Palmer Family in America. Compiled by Sarah M. Fell, Wilmington,
Delaware.
7. Hicks, Edward. Memoirs of the Life and Religious Labors of Edward Hicks, late of
Newtown, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, written by himself. Philadelphia, Merrihew &
Thompson, Printers, 1851.
8. _____ Shop account fragments.
9. Middletown Monthly Meeting Minutes for 1770-1793.
10. Middletown Township Tax records for 1783-1793.
11. Minutes of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania, Vol. XII.
Printed by Thos. Fenn & Co., Harrisburg, 1853.
12. Pennsylvania Archives, Second Series, Vol. XIV, p. 225; Third Series, Vol. VI,
pp. 118,121.
13. Smith, Josiah B. Historical Collection of Persons, Land, Business and Events in
Newtown and Other Places in the Middle and Lower Parts of Bucks County, Vol.I.
Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, Pa.

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14. Tax Records for Northampton Township, Bucks County, Penna., 1782-1810

Additional sources used in July 1983 revision

15. Pullinger, Edna "The Tomlinson-Huddleston House: Where Edward Hicks Once Lived"
The Bucks County Historical Society Journal, Vol. 11, No. 1, Spring 1977, pp.5-15
16. Wingert, Bridget ed. Langhorne Centennial 1876-1976 (Langhorne: The Advance of Bucks County), 1975, pp. 40-41

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Verbal Boundary Description

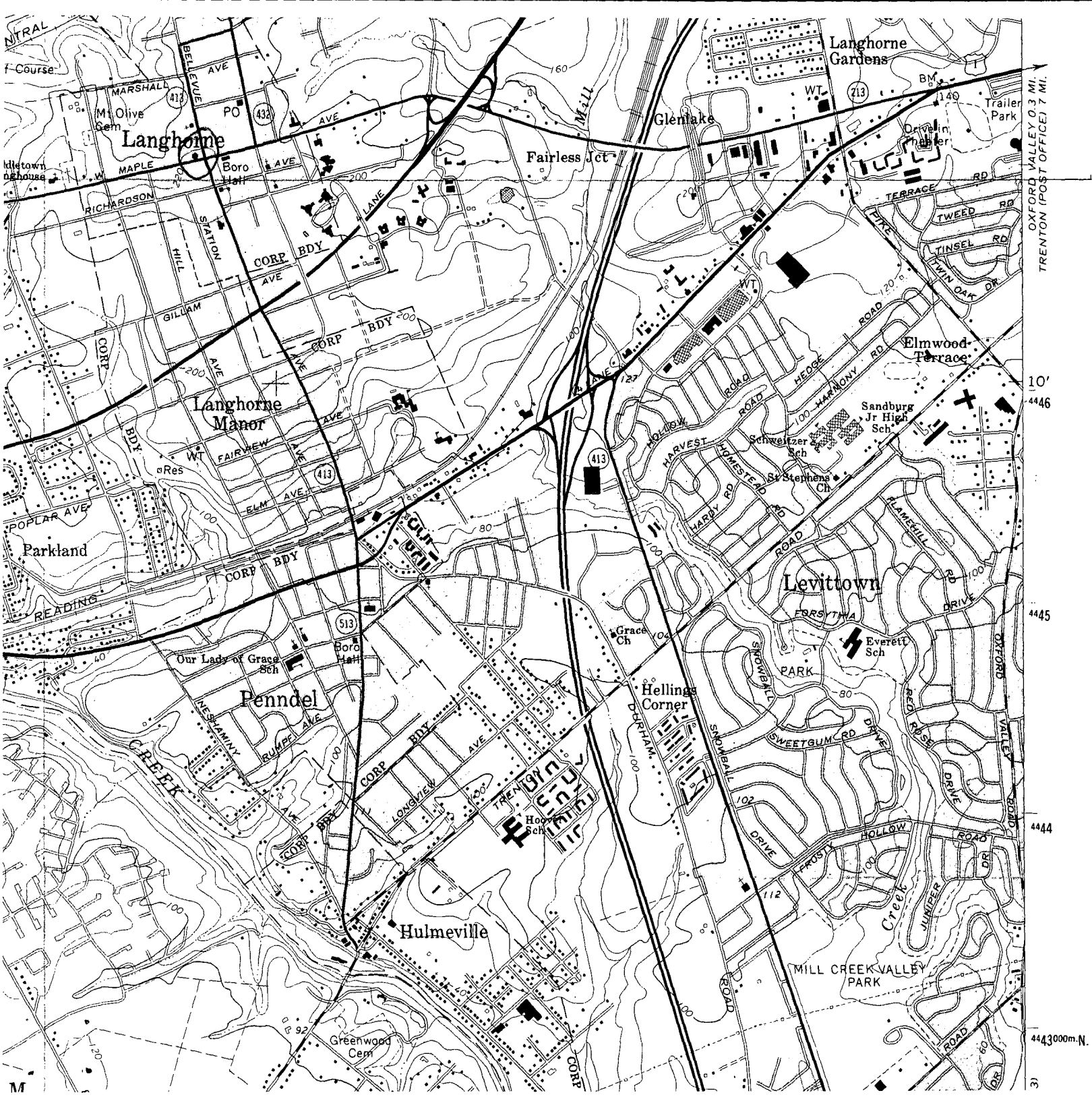
Beginning at a corner of the George Ehrlen Estate on the Northerly side of Maple Avenue, said point being eighty-two feet Westerly from the Westerly curb line of Bellevue Avenue; thence along said side of Maple Avenue, South seventy-seven degrees thirty minutes West forty-seven and fifteen hundredths feet to a corner of land of Minna Haimbach; thence by said land and passing through the dividing wall of a double house, North twelve degrees, thirty-six minutes West ninety-six and fifty-seven hundredths feet to a corner and South seventy-seven degrees fifty-six minutes West twenty-four feet to a corner and North fourteen degrees nine minutes West fifty-eight and eight tenths to a corner in line with land of the I.O.O.F.; thence by the same, North seventy-six degrees thirteen minutes East seventy-four and five tenths feet to a corner of the Ehrlen Estate aforesaid; thence by the same, South eleven degrees fifty-eight minutes East one hundred fifty-seven and two tenths feet to the place of beginning.

Acreage

.2064 Acres or 8989 sq. ft.

Justification

The present boundaries of the nominated property has been used in the determination of the boundary description. They represent a small lot in the village of Langhorne flanked by two historic structures.



OXFORD VALLEY 0.3 MI.
TRENTON (POST OFFICE) 7 MI.

10'
4446

4445

4444

4443000m.N.

