

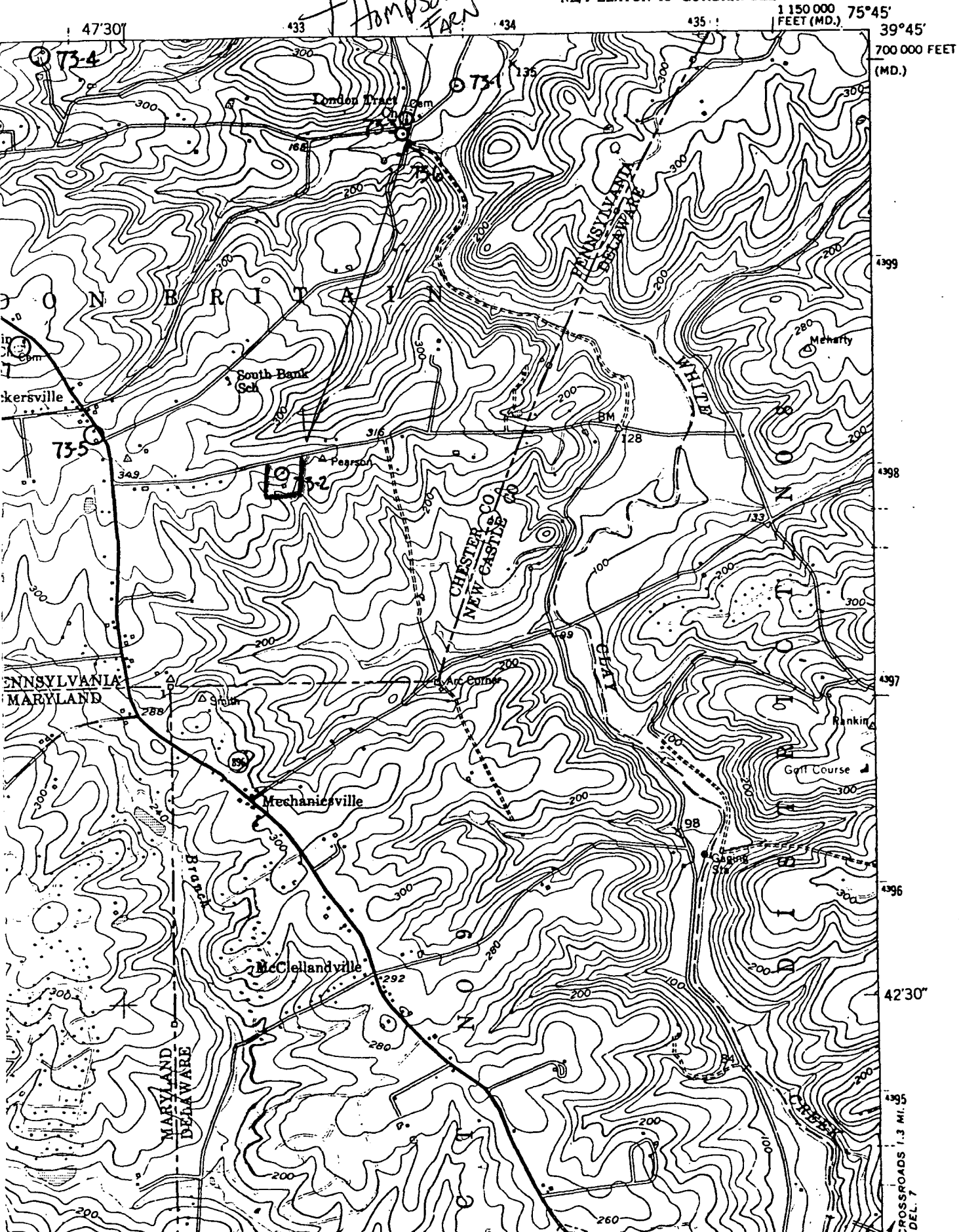
Robert E. & Gloria L. Young  
633 Chambers Rock Road  
Landenberg, Pa. 19950

Survey Code - 029-05-73-009

NEWARK WEST QUADRANGLE  
MARYLAND—DELAWARE—PENNSYLVANIA  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

NE/4 ELKTON 15' QUADRANGLE

58631 8W  
(KENNETT SQUARE)



Thompson Farm (Robert [redacted] Property)  
Landenberg, Pa. 19350

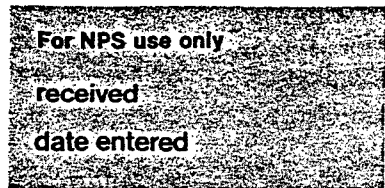
USGS Survey - Newark West Quadrangle  
7.5 Minute Series

UTM References

18 432940 4398050

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



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

## 1. Name

historic Thompson Farm

and/or common Pierson Farm

## 2. Location

street & number 632 Chambers Rock Road

N/A not for publication

city, town London Britain Township N/A vicinity of

state Pennsylvania code 42 county Chester code 29

## 3. Classification

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

## 4. Owner of Property

name Robert E. & Gloria L. Young

street & number 633 Chambers Rock Road

city, town Landenberg N/A vicinity of state Pennsylvania 19350

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Chester County Courthouse

street & number High & Market Streets

city, town West Chester state Pennsylvania 19380

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Chester County Historic Sites

Survey (029-05-73-009) has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1980  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

city, town Harrisburg state Pennsylvania

## 7. Description

### Condition

\_\_\_ excellent  
 good  
\_\_\_ fair

\_\_\_ deteriorated  
\_\_\_ ruins  
\_\_\_ unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
\_\_\_ altered

### Check one

original site  
\_\_\_ moved

date N/A

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Standing in the southern most reaches of Chester County, Pennsylvania, near the boundaries of Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware, in a rural area where farms abound, the Thompson Farm exists today as it did virtually 100 years ago. Without any modern additions, the farmstead consists of five buildings: a brick farmhouse, a stone barn, and a frame outhouse, chicken house, and a corncrib. (Illus.1) The entire complex is built on a north-south axis with the house and barn as the outer limits. (Illus.2) The facade of the house faces directly south toward the barn rather than facing Chambers Rock Road, or Public Road L.R. 15158. The outhouse, the chicken house, and the corncrib, all painted red with wood shingled roofs, are between the house and the barn. (Illus.3).

The stone portion of the barn is approximately 80' x 80', huge even for an area where large barns are typical. The double pedimented doors are striking and unusual for this area. (Illus.4). Without its frame additions the barn is similar to an 1806 barn from Charlestown Township pictured on page 186 of Margaret Schiffer's Survey of Chester County, Pennsylvania, Architecture. (1976. Exton, Pa.: Schiffer Publishing Limited.) Typical of Chester County bank barns which take advantage of the natural slope of the land, the south side faces the pastures and fields and has a forebay with the traditional southern Chester County stone conical supports. (Illus.5). A round datestone, now illegible, is in the eastern gable of the barn. Inside the barn the roof and frame supports are pegged. Some of the interior stone walls have passages with brick arches. An advertisement for the house from the Oxford Press of January 13, 1875 mentions a hydraulic ram which forced water from a spring to the barn and to the house. (Illus.5a.)

North of the barn and outbuildings is the brick farmhouse, measuring 26' x 53'. The rectangular house is composed of two interlocking "L" plans: the core built in 1833, the addition dated 1857. No modern additions have been made and the house stands as it did over 100 years ago. No exterior doors or windows have been altered. No plumbing exists other than a hand pump with wood trough using the original, stone-lined, hand-dug well. No modern central heating has been added: the core was heated by fireplaces; the addition, by stoves. (Illus.6 & 7.)

The core facade is Flemish bond-brick on a fieldstone foundation. The remainder of the core exterior is common bond with only the east exterior elevation stuccoed. (Illus.8). The core is a symmetrical two-bay plan. The six panel front door is topped by a four light transom and protected by a hipped roof porch with wood shingles. A 45° angled double string brick cornice surrounds the core. Inside is a side hall, double pile plan with oppositely opposing doors and corner fireplaces on both upper and lower stories. There is evidence of a brick hearth in the parlor and a good mantel exists upstairs. (Illus.9). A large room to the left rear of the first floor hallway was the original kitchen. Access to the dirt floor cellar under the parlors and the double-deep root cellar can be obtained from both the hall and the original kitchen. Throughout the core, the original six-panel doors with Dutch elbow locks remain. An open-string, two flight stairway with curved handrail and straight balusters gives a Federal feeling to the hall. (Illus.9a). The ceiling above the stairway is so simply, yet elegantly curved to mirror the upstairs handrail. A window at the top of the stairs lights each step. (Illus.10)

The 1857 "L" addition complements the 1833 plan. This portion is common bond brick on a fieldstone foundation, topped by the same double string brick cornice. The exterior of the 1857 addition features unique brick constructions not found in another house in this area. On the south exterior elevation

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a 16 foot wood lintel painted with the initials "EMT" (for Ezra and Mary Thompson) and the date "1857" supports an overhanging bedroom. (Illus.11). For additional support, the upper exterior brick wall of this bedroom contains a huge brick arch, similar in size to a barn opening. The area below the lintel was open and housed the pump and beehive oven (Illus.12). but was roughly framed in during the 1940's.

The north exterior elevation is common bond brick, five bay with three doors and two windows on the first floor. (Illus.13.) A large porch, 8' x 53', runs the entire length of this elevation. It is supported by wooden posts with triangular trim, jigsaw cut, and has a hipped roof. The kitchen of the 1857 addition has two large built-in cupboards, chairrail, and a bake oven with a metal door. An enclosed, winding stairway leads upstairs. (Illus.14, 15, and 16). The entire roof structure is pegged and adjoining members marked with Roman numerals; the entire roof is covered with wood shingles. (Illus.17) The original shutters remain on all the windows; the first story windows have paneled shutters; the second story windows have louvered shutters. (Illus.18).

## 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"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
			<input type="checkbox"/> science
			<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
			<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
			<input type="checkbox"/> theater
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1800; 1833; 1857 **Builder/Architect** 1833 - Ezra Thompson - unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The house and barn of the Thompson Farm are important examples of rural building types which have survived with a high degree of integrity. In addition to illustrating general characteristics of local rural building, both house and barn have distinctive features. In the local context, the house is unusual for its period because of its brick construction and its floor plan. The barn is unusually large even by Chester County standards. Standing much as it did 125 years ago, the farmstead offers a glimpse into Chester County's architectural past.

On April 23, 1789, Daniel Thompson, a cartwright from Mill Creek Hundred, New Castle, Delaware purchased from John and Elizabeth Chambers two adjoining tracts of land: one in White Clay Creek Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware consisting of 130 acres and the other, in London Britain Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania consisting of 135 acres. Daniel Thompson appears in the London Britain tax records for the first time in 1800 when he was assessed \$400.00 for 100 acres of land and \$35.00 for buildings. Since the assessment for buildings seems low, perhaps only the barn existed on the London Britain portion of his property at that time.

The property descended in the Thompson family to Ezra Thompson, who appears in the London Britain tax records for the first time in 1834. (The tax record for 1833 for London Britain is missing.) The assessment for buildings jumps in 1834 to \$600.00 which seems to verify the probability of new construction at that time.

Brick was an unusual building material in London Britain before 1830. Local tradition maintains, however, that a brick yard existed near Strickersville in the 1830's using red clay from the extreme southern part of the township. The 1832 London Britain tax records list a "Benjamin McDonald, brickmaker" among the list of "Inmates." In the village of Strickersville there are still standing four brick structures from this period: the Wilkins' Property or Lunn's Tavern, already included on the National Register of Historic Places; the Wilson-Whann house, built in 1832; the London Britain Friends' Meeting, built 1834; and what was the Strickersville General Store and Post Office, now an apartment building, built in the 1830's. The Thompson farmhouse bears resemblance to them in that all five structures have high fieldstone foundations, all are Flemish bond on the facade, common bond on the remainder of the building, and all have similar or identical double-string brick cornices. The Wilkins' property and the Wilson-Whann house have two rectangular spaces on the upper story of the facade for date and initials, as does the Thompson house. However, the Thompson house is the only one of the five structures not on Route #896. While it shares the distinctive brick cornice, Flemish bond on the facade, and rectangular date and initial stones, it has in addition flat brick arches over all the windows of the 1833 portion. It is the only one to utilize a two-bay design and the only one with a transom over the door. The side hall, double pile plan is unusual for London Britain Township, even for 1833.

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From United States' Census records we know that Ezra Thompson was about thirty years of age in 1833. The building of a brand new brick such a young man indicates that he was a man of some wealth. The deliberate choice of a side hall, double pile plan shows an awareness of city styles uncommon in this part of the country. The federal stairway, albeit simple, is also uncommon in this rural area.

Ezra Thompson was a man of some prominence in this rural community. He was called upon to witness a public house petition in 1845 and also served as a local election officer in 1845 and 1851. While the deeds refer to him as "yeoman" he probably would have been considered a "gentleman" farmer." In Ezra Thompson's inventory accounts carpentry equipment abounds. The listing of ladders, beams, wood planks, shingles and other construction materials leads us to consider if Ezra Thompson was architect and contractor for his unique country home.

Members of the Thompson family were part of a conservative Quaker group instrumental in establishing the London Britain Friends Meeting in 1834. Ezra and Mary Thompson and several of their children are buried in this meeting's graveyard. After Ezra Thompson's death, the farm property was sold to the Ross D. Pierson family in 1877 (Illus. 19) and it remained in the Pierson family until 1982. However, the continuation of the name, Thompson's Station, as a modern road name attests to the importance of the family in local history. The name, Thompson's Station was given to the nearest stop by the Pennsylvania and Delaware Railroad when the railroad initiated service about 1870.

This farmstead, dating from 1800, is on its original site and exists today without modern additions or alterations: no modern doors, windows, plumbing or central heating have been added. This house reflects a simplicity characteristic of its Quaker builders, yet its Federal stairway and double-pile plan reflect an awareness of style unusual in brick farmhouses in the area. All of the brick work - the double string brick cornice, the flat brick arches, the barn-sized brick supporting arch, and the Flemish bond of the facade - demonstrate a technical ability not often seen in rural farmsteads. The size of the barn is huge, even in an area where large barns are typical. Its size, its Federal flavor, and its unique construction features make this farmstead worthy of registration. It merits preservation because it reminds us that life on the farm was not without style even in this very rural part of southern Chester County. This property is part of the historic and environmentally rich White Clay Creek Valley. Sitated at the boundaries of Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland, this farm exists today much as it did over 100 years ago.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Chester County Deed Books  
Chester County Will and Orphans' Court Dockets  
Chester County Tax Records, 1800-1835  
U.S. Census Records, 1840-1900

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 10 acres

Quadrangle name Newark West

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 

1	8	4	3	2	9	4	0	4	3	9	8	0	5	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

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D 

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E 

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G 

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H 

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**Verbal boundary description and justification** Beginning at a point in Chambers Rock Road (L.R.15158) & proceeding south 27° east, 1240 feet, then south 68° west, 22 feet to a stone, then south 67° west 303 feet to a stone, then north 29° west 1304 feet, then along Chambers Rock Rd. north 77° east 375 feet to beginning.

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 Susan F. Herr

organization N/A

date March 3, 1983

street & number 126 London Tract Rd.

telephone 215 255 4264

city or town Landenberg

state Pennsylvania 19350

## 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

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



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Quadrangle name Newark West

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 18 432940 4398050  
• Zone Easting Northing

B                    
Zone Easting Northing

C                  

D                  

E                  

F                  

G                  

H                  

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State Historic Preservation Officer signature



title Larry E. Tise, State Historic Preservation Officer date 5/12/83

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date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration