

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic LEONARD RHONE HOUSE

and/or common RHONEYMEADE

2. Location

street & number Rimmey Road -- 0.4 mile north of PA Route 45, N/A not for publication  
3 miles west of Old Fort.

city, town Potter Township X vicinity of Centre Hall (23rd Congressional Dist.)

state Pennsylvania code 042 county Centre code 027

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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	N/A being considered	<input 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 Morgan, Richard S.

street & number R. D. #1, Box 258

city, town Centre Hall 16828 N/A vicinity of state Pennsylvania

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Centre County Courthouse, Office of Register & Recorder

street & number Allegheny Street

city, town Bellefonte state Pennsylvania

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date N/A N/A federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

## 7. Description

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

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

The Leonard Rhone house is a good example of the brick Georgian style dwellings constructed in Penns Valley, Centre County during the early to mid-nineteenth century. This dwelling was constructed as an L-shaped, five bay structure with a central entranceway. The exterior brick walls were all laid as common bond and are set on a foundation of random-coursed rough-cut limestone. The gable roof is now covered with asphalt shingles. Original architectural features are evident in the 6-over-6 windows, functional paneled and louvred shutters, paired gable-end chimneys, 4-over-2 gable-end attic windows, dentiled frieze, and the rectangular door transom composed of six small glass panes.

The L-shaped interior plan has the characteristic central hall with a large room on either side and a kitchen to the rear in the ell. Of particular interest to this home are the five interior fireplaces which are the focal point of their respective rooms. The largest of these fireplaces is located in the kitchen (Photo #7). It has a very simple pine mantel mounted on the exposed brick. The owner has the three paneled wood doors which were (hinged two as a pair and one individually) used to seal the fireplace when not in use. Flanking this fireplace on the left are a closet and stairs which wind to the room over the kitchen (Photo #8). These stairs continue to the attic. Kitchen cupboards concealed behind paneled doors are located to the right.

The most elaborate woodwork is located in the formal parlor to the right or east of the central hall. The fireplace in this room is plastered and has a deep paneled mantel. Although somewhat more simplified, the mantel in the room on the opposite side of the central hall is very similar in dimension (Photo #6). This room, like the kitchen, has a chair rail which extends as a continuation of the window sill and trim. The remaining two fireplaces are located in upstairs bedrooms and are similar but not as elaborate.

Original craftsmanship and materials are also visible in the central hall (Photo #5). The newel post and railing, although unpretentious in design and detail, are beautifully executed. Much of the interior hardware is original. Of particular interest is the cellar door latch (Photo #9). All interior doors are solid with two long narrow panels.

Estate papers dating back to 1852-54 indicate that the brick for this home were made by Daniel Ebright. This gentleman was also responsible for digging the basement. Records indicate that Leonard Rhone provided some help to Ebright.

(Continued)

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For NPS use only

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

LEONARD RHONE HOUSE, CENTRE COUNTY

Continuation sheet

Item number

7

Page

2

Within the last several years, this dwelling has undergone a schedule of continual and cautious improvement. As a result, the interior and exterior features just described have been carefully restored. Partitions once added in the bedrooms flanking the central hall have been removed and the fireplaces uncovered. Other alterations have included: (1) the removal of a rambling two-story incompatible frame wing from the west wall, (2) the removal of a large veranda which extended along the east and north sides of the formal parlor, (3) the replacement of the rear central hall door with a window, and (4) the construction of a brick garden wall which extends from the rear wall of the kitchen ell.

Evidence exists to substantiate that this dwelling when originally constructed had a pilastered overdoor above the central entranceway and a porch along the kitchen ell and across the north wall of the main house. At present the owner has no plans to reconstruct these porches without further documentation of their architectural features.

Associated with this dwelling are a barn (circa 1937), a 1980 reconstructed well building, a spring house, hog pen, corn crib, garage, and one outbuilding. The outbuilding is located to the west of the dwelling. It is a one-story gable roofed building sided with vertical boards. A portion of it may originally have been a smokehouse. It is currently used for utility/garden storage. This outbuilding is the only accessory structure to retain its earlier appearance. It is also the only outbuilding to be included within the proposed National Register boundaries. The other farm buildings located elsewhere on the Rhone farm date from 1937. Although none appear to be original farm buildings, several are known to be reconstructions of earlier structures.

The Leonard Rhone house, so beautifully placed on the ridge between Pennsylvania Route 45 and the Brush Valley Road in Penns. Valley, Centre County, has many architecturally important features. The craftsmanship and treatment of this home's interior spaces and exterior facades give it a prominence which is well worthy of the family for whom it was constructed.

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input checked="" 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** 1853 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Leonard Rhone House, located in Potter Township, Centre County, was the home of a prominent Centre County farmer throughout the second half of the 19th century. This farmer's efforts resulted in many improvements for the betterment of farmers in Pennsylvania, rural residents across the United States, and Central Pennsylvania fairgoers.

Leonard Rhone, "the man traditionally regarded as the father of (Centre County's) Grange Fair" (Romanow:12), was born July 21, 1838 on the Rhone homestead, Potter Township, near Centre Hall, Centre County. This homestead was purchased by Michael Rhone, Leonard Rhone's grandfather, in 1794 and remained as the family farm for four generations. The present dwelling was constructed in 1853, the same year in which Leonard Rhone's father died. In 1853, Leonard Rhone was only 15 years of age; however, records exist to substantiate that he was involved in his home's construction -- either with the basement excavation and/or the brick making. The architecture of this home is similar to other Georgian-style buildings constructed in Penns Valley, Centre County. The exterior is relatively plain, has no unusual features, and retains its original configuration. The uniqueness of this dwelling is its intact interior features which are so beautifully crafted. The simplicity of line and balance of composition are visible in all of the fireplace treatments and also in the window woodwork.

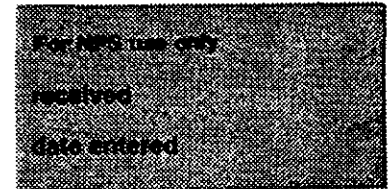
In 1859, after an apprenticeship, a year of schooling, and a year of teaching, Leonard Rhone became dedicated to farming and it became his vocation. From this time forward he worked for the advancement of agriculture on the local, state and national level. His home became known as "Rhoneymeade", the German adaptation for Rhone's meadow.

In 1867, the National Grange formed for the purpose of improving the economic and educational conditions of the farmer. Its development was prompted by the devastation being experienced by the farmers of the war-torn southern states. Within the framework of the National Grange are three organizational levels, each presided over by a master -- the equivalent of president. The most fundamental level is the subordinate grange having jurisdiction over a township or farm community. The next level is the Pomona Grange which is a county-wide organization. The third level is the State Grange.

(Continued)

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



LEONARD RHONE HOUSE, CENTRE COUNTY

Continuation sheet

Item number

8

Page 2

Granges at all levels of this network were important to the success of the organizational goals. The first grange organized in Centre County was Progress Grange No. 96. The 29 farmers chartering this grange on February 3, 1874 were geographically located near Centre Hall. Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Rhone were charter members.

From this beginning, Leonard Rhone faithfully and continuously promoted the Grange. He served several terms as Master of Progress Grange, was elected Master of Centre County's Pomona Grange for five terms from its beginning in 1875 until approximately 1885. He ultimately became the third Master of the State Grange and held that position for 18 years from 1880-1898. During his tenure, Leonard Rhone became a member of the executive and legislative committees of the National Grange. His administration of the State Grange saw many improvements for the betterment of the farmer. Among these were his efforts to equalize taxation, increase appropriations to common schools, control the use of oleomargarine, support the inclusion of the U.S. Department of Agriculture as a cabinet post, establish a State Department of Agriculture, and establish a program of rural mail delivery. This last proposal was presented to the United States Congress by Mortimer Whitehead, Lecturer of the National Grange, and Leonard Rhone. Congress subsequently granted an initial appropriation of \$10,000 for a trial attempt at rural mail delivery. This attempt was successful and the present rural mail delivery system is credited to these efforts.

Leonard Rhone also served as a trustee of the Pennsylvania State College and in 1885 and 1887 he won consecutive terms as a Pennsylvania State Legislator.

Although Leonard Rhone contributed greatly to the State and National Grange, his most notable endeavor to Centre County came in 1874 when he became the chief promoter of the Grange Picnic and Encampment. The Grange Picnic began as a one-day event and by 1880 had grown to three days with participating families responsible for their own tents and supplies. In 1887, the first exhibits were accepted at the encampment. By this time families were supplied with National Guard tents, a floor, a table, a bunk, and a bench. In 1915, this endeavor became incorporated as the Grange Encampment and Centre County Fair. This encampment, "the only one east of the Mississippi run in conjunction with an agricultural fair . . . consists of approximately 500 tents, still furnished as were those of early picnics . . ." (Brenckman:1949:226).

(Continued)

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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LEONARD RHONE HOUSE, CENTRE COUNTY  
Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 3

Having had no designated location for this annual event for the first 16 years, Leonard Rhone proposed an idea to purchase land. This proposal gained support -- undoubtedly a result of over-crowding caused by the 10,000 people who reportedly attended the 1888 picnic and encampment. In 1890, a committee of the Pomona Grange purchased 26 acres of land in Centre Hall and called it Grange Park. This land is the nucleus of the present day Grange Park Fairgrounds.

"Up to the time of his death in 1917, Leonard Rhone served as the chairman and prime promoter of the (Granger's) picnic. . . . It was largely through Mr. Rhone's efforts that the large number of trees adorning Grange Park were planted, that buildings were erected for exhibits of farms products, and that programs of interest to farm and Grange people were arranged" (Brenckman:1949:226).

This year, 1985, the Grange Encampment and Centre County Fair will hold its 111th annual event.

The Leonard Rhone House served as the primary residence of a worthy individual who gave all of his adult life to the advancement of agriculture at local, state and national levels. To Centre County, his efforts were most significant. The tradition which he promoted has continued for 111 years and is now part of Centre County's important heritage. To those residents of the United States who receive rural mail delivery, Leonard Rhone can be recognized for his support and initiative. To Pennsylvania farmers, Leonard Rhone gave years of leadership and to those who have the opportunity to visit Penns Valley, Centre County, Leonard Rhone maintained a beautiful farm home which still stands today.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approximately 2.28 acres

Quadrangle name Centre Hall

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

A 

11	8	270	480	452	090	0
Zone	Easting	Northing				

B 

Zone	Easting	Northing				

C 


D 


E 


F 


G 


H 


### 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 Susan B. Hannegan and G. Jean May, Partners

organization Historic Directions

date July 5, 1985

street & number P.O. Box 222

telephone 717-726-6653 or 748-8424

city or town Lock Haven 17745

state Pennsylvania

# 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 Dr. Larry E. Tise, State Historic Preservation Officer

date

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

LEONARD RHONE HOUSE, CENTRE COUNTY

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 1

PUBLISHED SOURCES:

Brenckman, Fred, History of the Pennsylvania State Grange (Harrisburg, PA: Pennsylvania State Grange, 1949), 67-90, 224-227, 298-299.

\_\_\_\_\_, Commemorative Biographical Record of Central Pennsylvania (Chicago: J. H. Beers and Co., 1898), 113-114.

Hill, William F., A Brief History of the Grange Movement in Pennsylvania (Chambersburg, PA: Pennsylvania Grange News, 1923), 26-27.

Linn, John Blair, History of Centre and Clinton Counties, PA (Philadelphia: Lippincott and Co., 1883), 414-415.

Romanow, Sandy, "The Centre County Grange Fair" Pennsylvania Heritage, (Summer, 1979), 12-13.

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS:

Centre County (PA) Office of Register and Recorder, Deed Book 392/659, 156/32, 147/492, 156/30, 120/289, 118/578, L/252-254, D/241-242.

Centre County (PA) Register of Wills, Estate and Settlement Papers of Jacob Rhone listing building materials with their appraised values and record of payment.

NEWSPAPER REFERENCES:

Centre Daily Times (State College, PA) January 19, 1985, 1, 3, "Even in Earlier Days, It Wasn't Much of a Town".

Centre Daily Times (State College, PA) January-March, 1943, "History of Centre Hall by Margaret Myrtle".

Democratic Watchman (Bellefonte, PA) September 28, 1917, Leonard Rhone Obituary.

Pennsylvania Mirror (Altoona, PA) August 21, 1974, 2, "Leonard Rhone -- He Had a Picnic for Farmers to Talk About the Grange . . . That's How It Started".

The Centre Democrat (Bellefonte, PA) August 24, 1961, 3, "Honorable Leonard Rhone, Founder of Grange Fair".

PHOTOGRAPHS:

Smith, Charles W., "Former Homes of Famous Men" Beautiful Centre County Homes (Centre County Pomona Grange, 1928 -- Located at the Centre County Library).

R. and R. Construction, "Photos of Exterior and Interior Details -- Rhone Homestead" (Held by Richard S. Morgan, current property owner), circa 1981.



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**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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LEONARD RHONE HOUSE, CENTRE COUNTY

Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 1

Beginning at a point on the west side of Rimmey Road three-tenths (0.3) of a mile northwest of Pennsylvania Route 45, then extending at a right angle southwest three hundred and seventy-four (374) feet to a point, then at a right angle northwest two hundred and sixty-five (265) feet to a point, then at a right angle northeast three hundred and seventy-six (376) feet to a point along Rimmey Road, then southeast along Rimmey Road, its courses and distances to the place of beginning. Containing approximately 2.28 acres. Located within this area are the Leonard Rhone House and an outbuilding/smokehouse.

B E N N E R

ROCKVIEW

STATE CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION

ROAD

1664

Black Hawk Gap

4524

50'

NITTANY

MTN

BLACK HAWK

ROAD

BN 1434

1317

TOWNSHIP

1711

Trailer Park

4523

OLD

BM

4522

Landing Strip

Barn

5465 IV SE (STATE COLLEGE)

PENN-CENTRAL

P

4521

027-20-2

S

4520

270490  
4520900

1254

1254

1233

1233

1233

1233

1233

1233

1233

1233

1233

LEONARD RHONE HOUSE  
CENTRE COUNTY  
Zone 18 E270480 N4520900

47'30"

'Springs

1155

1198

1227