

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 Spring Grove Forge Mansion

and/or common

2. Location

street & number West Side Spring Grove Road at Conestoga Creek; L.R. 36055, North of Conestoga Creek not for publication

city, town East Earl vicinity of

state PA code county Lancaster code

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

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. & Mrs. James R. Smith

street & number Box 108, R.D. 2

city, town East Earl vicinity of state Pennsylvania 17519

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Lancaster County Courthouse - Office of the Recorder of Deeds

street & number North Duke at East King Streets

city, town Lancaster state Pennsylvania

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Lancaster's Heritage
Lancaster Co. Planning Commission has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date c. 1970-1972 1972 federal state county local

depository for survey records Lancaster County Planning Commission, Courthouse

city, town Lancaster 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

Overlooking the Conestoga River in Lancaster County's East Earl Township, Spring Grove Forge Mansion is a large, L-shaped structure, oriented with its facade to the south. The house is built of local stone; the walls of the facade are rough cast (stuccoed) and white-washed, while other walls are natural stone. Both the main and the subordinate parts of the house are two full stories in height, with an attic located within the gable roof. The larger or main block of the house has a six bay facade, with slightly irregular spacing of the fenestration. The wider spacing between the third and fourth bays of this section indicates a structural division. Here there are six over six window sash, with panelled shutters on the first floor, and louvered (slatted) shutters on the second floor. On the front of the gable roof of this section are three dormer windows. To the west of this section is the kitchen wing, believed to predate the death of Thomas Edwards in 1764. This wing has a four bay facade, with two front doorways on the first floor, and six over six window sash.

The most important and unusual single architectural feature of the exterior is the elegant gouge carved piazza which extends across the six bay facade of the main part of the mansion. The gouge carving on this piazza, which is believed to date c. 1805-1815, features carved mouldings and fretwork friezes, all executed with unusual precision and delicacy. The front doorway, with fanlight transom and twelve panel door, complements the sophistication of this piazza.

The interior floor plan of Spring Grove Forge Mansion features an entry (hall) extending through the house from the front door, with paired parlors to the east. Each of these parlors also have central ceiling medallions of plasterwork. Paired hardwood doors, also of the c. 1820-1830 period, enable these two parlors to be united into one large space. The front room of the west of the entry has another marble mantel of the c. 1820-1830 period. The room to the rear of this room has an interesting Federal period mantel, dating c. 1810, with bamboo turned engaged columns and a frieze with hollow-cornered panels. To the west of these rooms is the secondary entry. West of the main block of the house is the kitchen wings, with two rooms on the ground floor. The floor plan of the second floor is very similar to that of the first floor. On this level, the most important room is the chamber in the northeast corner of the large section of the building. This is the only room in the dwelling which retains all the original Georgian style woodwork from the c. 1790 stage of construction. It features a panelled room end with central fireplace and over-mantel, flanking cupboards with panelled doors, and rare built-in drawers beneath the cupboards.

The rear or north elevation of Spring Grove Forge Mansion has an eight bay elevation, with some irregularities in the fenestration. Here is clear visual evidence, seen in the seams of the stone masonry, of the stages of construction. The sun porch is an addition dating c. 1930; it is subordinate to the overall character and design of the house.

For both its interior and exterior, this house is remarkably intact to its state at the time of Cyrus Jacobs' death in 1830. All important aspects of the form, character, and ornament are intact.

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/ humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates Pre 1789 - c. 1830 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Spring Grove Forge Mansion is significant in the history of both Lancaster County and Pennsylvania for its architecture and as a monument to a once-important industry. The west wing of the house is believed to have been the residence of an early settler of Welsh background, Thomas Edwards (1673-1764). The main block of the mansion was built in three stages of construction between c. 1789 and 1830 for the wealthy ironmaster Cyrus Jacobs (1760-1830). Cyrus Jacobs was probably the greatest patron of architecture in Lancaster County in the four decades following 1790; of at least six houses built for him in these years, Spring Grove Forge Mansion is the most intact.¹ In an overview of all ironmasters' mansions in Lancaster County, only Spring Grove Forge Mansion shows three architectural styles in one building: The Georgian style as seen in the woodwork of the northeast chamber; the Federal style as seen in the gouge carved piazza and the dining room mantel; and the Classical Revival style, evident in the woodwork of the entry (hall) and three marble mantels.² In particular, the elegant gouge carved piazza is a unique survival in Lancaster County architecture; no larger or finer example is known. Spring Grove Forge Mansion, in being the literal product of wealth from iron manufacture, is also a monument to an important part of the Commonwealth's industrial history. Nothing now survives of Cyrus Jacobs' forges or related buildings, but the quality of Spring Grove Forge Mansion testifies to his role as one of the three leading ironmasters in Lancaster County in the half-century after the Revolution.³ At that time, Lancaster County was one of the Commonwealth's major centers of iron production.

-
1. There were other great patrons of architecture in Lancaster County at this time, such as Jasper Yeates, Charles Smith, Henry Bates Grubb, and Henry Cassel. However, the role of these men as patrons of architecture was limited to the commission of one great building, like Yeates' countryseat, Belmont, or Henry Cassel's Linden House. Other persons of wealth, like Robert Coleman, exerted but limited roles as patrons of the arts. At least six houses were built or remodelled for Cyrus Jacobs: Spring Grove, Ashland, Hampden, Pool Forge, Federal Hall, and White Hall.
 2. The only other ironmaster's mansion with a comparable assemblage of architectural styles in Lancaster County is Mount Hope, north of Manheim. However, there the chief styles are the Federal style of the original 1800-1805 house, and the Chateausque/Beaux Arts aspects of the additions of the 1890's.
 3. The two other leasing ironmasters in Lancaster County at this time were Henry Bates Grubb of Mount Hope and Cyrus Jacobs's brother-in-law, Robert Coleman. Today, it may be impossible to determine which of the three was the richest and most influential.

For additional documentation, see the appended pages.

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The land on which the Spring Grove Forge Mansion stands was first settled by Thomas Edwards about 1719. Edwards, a figure of regional influence in the first half of the eighteenth century, lived on or near this site; he died in 1764, aged ninety-one. From him the property passed to John Kinsey, and thence to James Kiemer, who died in 1784. In the next five years, the land was owned by David Morgan and John Paulding. On November 5, 1789, Paulding sold the tract, then containing 284-1/2 acres, to Cyrus and Margaret Jacobs for 2000-0-0 pounds.

Cyrus Jacobs was born in Chester County in 1760, the son of Richard Jacobs and Hannah Samils. He first worked for James Old, a noted ironmaster. Prospering in the 1780's, he married Old's daughter, Margaret. Through this marriage, Cyrus Jacobs became the brother-in-law of another wealthy ironmaster, Robert Coleman. Jacobs' career as an independent ironmaster commenced in 1789 with the acquisition of the Spring Grove Forge site: Most improvements here took place in the 1790's, although additions took place through the first third of the nineteenth century. Jacobs rapidly rose to become one of the richest and most influential ironmasters in Pennsylvania in the early 1800's. It was said that "everything turned to gold in his hands..." In the first decade of the 1800's, he acquired Pool Forge near Churchtown following the death of his brother-in-law, Davies Old. By the 1820's, Jacobs' holdings included Spring Grove Forge, Pool Forge, Ashland, Hampden, Federal Hall and White Hall. All these properties were situated in Caernarvon and East Earl Townships, near Churchtown and Goodville in northeastern Lancaster County.

Not only a great ironmaster and landowner, Jacobs was a generous patron of educational institutions and the leading member of Bangor Episcopal Church in Churchtown. No other ironmaster in Pennsylvania in the years between 1790 and 1830 financed the construction of more mansions than did Jacobs. The wealth and elegance of his lifestyle soon became legendary in the area.

Cyrus Jacobs died suddenly while reaching for an egg at his breakfast table at White Hall on May 6, 1830. He was buried with other members of his family at Bangor Episcopal Church in Churchtown. In his will, he devised Spring Grove Forge, plus 3400 acres of land and \$15,000 in cash, to his son, Samuel O. Jacobs. Samuel O. Jacobs died at Spring Grove in 1836, aged twenty-nine. His widow, Clara Sidney Boyd Jacobs, reared their three children in the ancestral home. Probably the last great Jacobs family social event at Spring Grove was the marriage of Samuel and Clara Jacobs' daughter, Elizabeth Robert Jacobs, to Rev. Henry Codman Potter of New York in 1857. (This Rev. Potter became the famed Bishop Potter of New York.) The Forge at Spring Grove ceased operations in 1867. Finally, in 1867-1868, William Boyd Jacobs, the brother of Elizabeth Rogers Jacobs Potter, sold the Spring Grove Forge estate to Joseph Oberholtzer and Peter Zimmerman.

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Combined historical, genealogical, and stylistic evidence tends to indicate that Spring Grove Forge Mansion was produced by a complex architectural evolution between 1789 and 1830. Many secondary sources have alleged that the house was created in the decade between 1790 and 1800, but this notion merits a broader re-definition. Certainly the lower, two story kitchen wing is the oldest part of the house. It seems plausible that elements of this section could predate the purchase of the property by Cyrus and Margaret Jacobs in 1789; if so, parts of the walls of this "first section" could date from the time of Thomas Edward's ownership. The first section of any size built by Cyrus Jacobs was the eastern three bays of the main block of the mansion, probably about 1790. There are no primary documents known to survive for this stage of work. However, it is possible that a Mennonite joiner of Earl Township, John Bear, did some of the carpentry; this chance is suggested by the signature of John Bear on the Chippendale chest of drawers that originally belonged to Cyrus Jacobs. (This chest of drawers, now privately owned, descended in the Jacobs family until the early years of this century.) When this first stage of construction was completed, the mansion at Spring Grove Forge consisted of a three bay facade, two story house to the east with a separate kitchen structure to the west. The original interior woodwork manifested a late, rather attenuated local interpretation of the Georgian style. The sole room from this stage of the house which survived two subsequent remodellings is the northeast chamber with its panelled chimneybreast, paired cupboards, and built-in drawers. Some moldings, double faced architraves, and six panel doors from this Georgian interior were reused in later work.

The next stage of the expansion and augmentation of the Mansion at Spring Grove Forge probably took place about the time of the marriage of Cyrus Jacobs' son, Richard S. Jacobs (1784-1818) to Mary Belinda Bently. This work probably commenced about 1805-1810; it certainly was completed by 1815. The Direct Tax of 1815 describes the house as being "60 feet in length, by 38 feet in depth, one room and kitchen of stone adjoining, 34 x 20..." Most plausibly, this expansion was completed before 1811-1812, when Richard S. Jacobs was listed as the occupant of Spring Grove Forge. It was probably about this time that Cyrus Jacobs moved to White Hall. This second major phase of Jacobs construction united the Georgian part of the house to the smaller kitchen wing; on the first or ground floor, it includes the library, dining room, and secondary entry. The magnificent gouge carved piazza dates from this period. One piece of fine interior woodwork also dating from this stage, is the dining room mantel with bamboo turned columnettes, hollow cornered panels, and Delft tiles.

The gouge carved piazza of this c. 1805-1815 stage of construction and remodelling of Spring Grove Forge Mansion may be regarded as a masterpiece of regional woodwork of the Federal period. Its carved mouldings and friezes of fretwork are interesting examples of adaptations by rural joiners from pattern-book designs. It is likely that this piazza was built and carved by artisans from East Earl Township or the Caernarvon Township area; a smaller, but somewhat similar piazza remains on the c. 1825 Frederick Styer House in the western part of Caernarvon Township.

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Two years after the untimely death of Richard S. Jacobs at Spring Grove in 1818, his widow also died there at the age of thirty-one. Although it may have been Cyrus Jacobs' original intention to devise Spring Grove to his son Richard, these two unexpected deaths caused him to change his plans by designating Spring Grove as the future home of his son, Samuel Old Jacobs (1807-1836). In the second half of the 1820's, most likely about 1828-1830, many interiors of Spring Grove Forge Mansion were remodelled in the new Classical Revival style for the marriage of Samuel Old Jacobs to Clara Sydney Boyd. Many interior elements from this elegant remodelling, such as marble mantels and the elliptical staircase, match corresponding parts at Wheatland, the 1828 mansion in Lancaster township, built for William Jenkins; it later was the home of President James Buchanan. It seems likely that some of the same craftsman may have worked at Wheatland in 1828 and at the nearly contemporary revamping of Spring Grove Forge Mansion. At Spring Grove, noteworthy parts of this Classical Revival remodelling include three marble mantels, the elliptical staircase, most exterior doors and shutters, the woodwork of the paired eastern parlors, and the southeast bedroom mantel with engaged Doric Order columns.

Since about 1830, all modifications and additions to the Spring Grove Forge Mansion have been minor and low-keyed. In the early years of this century, with some later up-datings, plumbing and more modern kitchen fixtures were introduced. The only change to the exterior was the addition of a sun porch on the rear elevation about 1930.

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4

Comparison of Spring Grove Forge Mansion with other houses once owned by the ironmaster Cyrus Jacobs.

Of all the houses in eastern Lancaster County either built for or owned by the ironmaster Cyrus Jacobs, Spring Grove Forge Mansion in East Earl Township is unquestionably the most elaborate and the most intact. Ashland and Hampden, located north of Churchtown in Caernarvon Township, have been adversely altered, with a loss of architectural integrity. Federal Hall, also north of Churchtown, has been defaced by formstone and a large enclosed porch. Wheatland, immediately west of Churchtown, built about the end of Cyrus Jacobs' lifetime, has a Classical Revival architectural character, quite different from the internal and external architectural identity of Spring Grove Forge Mansion, with its evolution of Georgian, Federal and Classical Revival elements. Pool Forge Mansion, west of Churchtown, retains a very pleasing ambiance, but its interiors always were far simpler than those at Spring Grove Forge Mansion. Of all the Jacobs' houses, White Hall (north of Churchtown) probably was most similar to Spring Grove in general form and woodwork. However, White Hall was stripped of its original woodwork (interior and exterior) many years ago.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Attached Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property One and Seven-eighths Acres

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References

A

1	8	4	1	3	0	0	0	4	4	4	4	1	2	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

The Spring Grove Forge Mansion is located on a large lot of roughly rectangular shape, bounded on the east for about 200 feet by Spring Grove Road, westward by the former tail race for about 240 feet, then northward and thence westward by land of John O. Huber to point of beginning.

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

state --- code --- county --- code ---

state --- code --- county --- code ---

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John J. Snyder, Jr., Consulting Architectural-Historical Researcher

Historic Preservation Trust

organization of Lancaster County

date November, 1983

street & number 123 North Prince Street

telephone 717-291-5861

city or town Lancaster

state PA

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 _____ 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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Published Sources:

Rebecca J. Beal, Jacob Eichholtz 1776-1842, Portrait Painter of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, 1969.

Franklin Ellis and Samuel Evans, History of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, 1883.

Journal of the Lancaster County Historical Society, Miscellaneous references in vol. 64 (1960) and vol. 69, 1965.

C. Z. Mast and R. E. Simpson, Annals of the Conestoga Valley in Lancaster, Berks, and Chester Counties, Pennsylvania, Scottsdale, Pa., 1942.

M. G. Weaver, "Spring Grove, Weaverland, and Blue Ball, Settlement and Development," Journal of the Lancaster County Historical Society, vol. 35, 1931, pp. 149-167.

Gerald A. Zimmerman, History of the Spring Grove Mansion, Elizabethtown, Lancaster County, Elizabethtown College, 1971.

Unpublished Sources:

At the Lancaster County Courthouse, Lancaster, Pennsylvania: Deeds, Office of the Recorder of Deeds, particularly HH-320-1, 1789 Cyrus Jacobs Will, 1830.

At the Lancaster County Historical Society, Lancaster, Pennsylvania: 1815 Direct Tax, Earl Township.

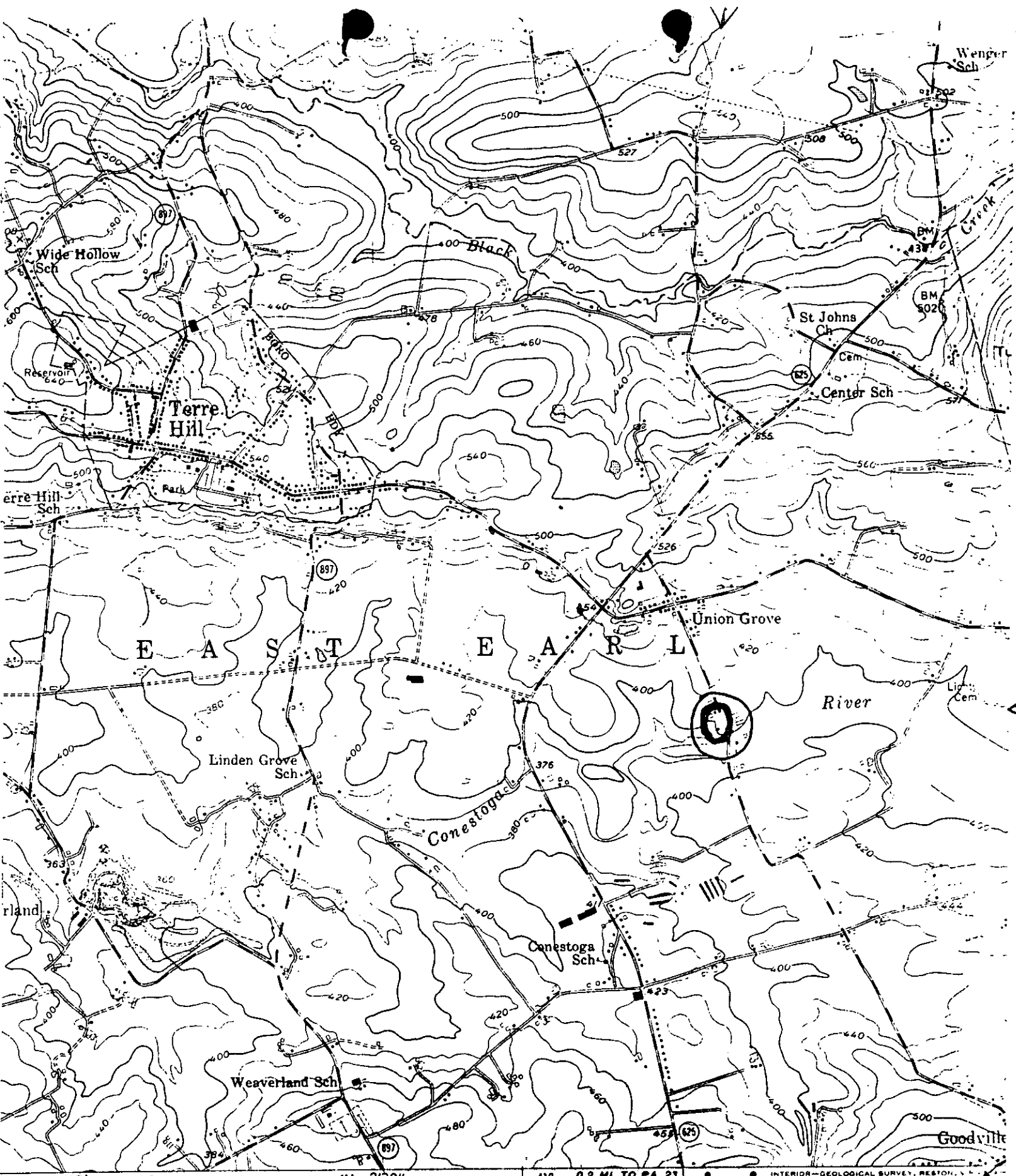
Jacobs Genealogical File; also Old and Coleman.

Cyrus Jacobs Estate Inventory, 1830 (Vault 2).

Baptismal, Marriage, and Burial Records, St. James Episcopal Church, Lancaster.

Haldeman Papers, Library of the Eleutherian Mills-Hagley Foundation, Eleutherian Mills, Delaware. This large collection contains a few Cyrus Jacobs letters; Mrs. Jacob M. Haldeman of Harrisburg was the niece of Cyrus Jacobs.

Jacobs - Jenkins Family Papers, private collection of the daughter of the late Mrs. C. T. Hunt of Lancaster.



(N HOLLAND)
 1764 11 SE
 SCALE 1:24000
 0 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
 1 MILE

410 411 2'30" 412 0.2 MI. TO PA. 23

E-419006
 N-4444120

Map for Spring Grove Forge
 Mansion

INTERIOR-GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VA
 413000M.E.
 BLUE BALL 2.4 MI
 ROAD CLASSIFICATION
 Heavy-duty
 Medium-duty
 Light-duty
 Unimproved or