

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 continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Hamot, Pierre S.V. House
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 302 French Street N/A not for publication
city, town Erie N/A vicinity
state Pennsylvania code PA county Erie code 049 zip code 16550

3. Classification

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

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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.

Signature of certifying official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and 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 and 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)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

WORK IN PROGRESS

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

EARLY-REPUBLIC

other: vernacular Federal Style

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Brick

roof Asphalt

other

Rx

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Hamot House is located in downtown Erie, Pennsylvania at the southeast corner of French and East Third Streets. It is the earliest surviving brick residence in the City of Erie and is representative of a vernacular residential architecture typical of early 19th century brick houses in the city. Its low-pitched roof, symmetrical proportions and plan, and simple detailing are representative of the period's popular Federal style. The original two story house with its single story rear room was constructed in c. 1830. Two additions were constructed during the 1870's to complete the plan of the rear ell. The Hamot House is being rehabilitated for use as offices by the Second Century Foundation.

The original two story residence has three bays along its French Street facade and two bays along its East Third Street elevation. The masonry walls are 12 inches thick and are laid in a common bond on a foundation of exposed Pennsylvania blue stone, a common material used in the construction of early 19th century buildings in this region. The structural system consists of 2-3/4" X 9" sawn lumber floor joists supported on masonry bearing walls with solid exterior masonry walls. The foundation walls and original brick floor remain exposed in the basement.

The French Street facade features a central entrance with a wood threshold and a six panel wood door that does not appear to be original. The window openings have wood sills with brick stringer course lintels and they have double-hung aluminum sash. The gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The box gutter has simple wood molding and the gable roof ends are handsomely adorned with chimneys that accent the building's symmetrical design. The simple rear porch recently collapsed.

The plan of the original house remains largely intact. The first floor has two rooms with an enclosed central stair servicing the rooms on the second floor. In the 1870s the single story rear room was enlarged with the construction of a second story and a two story addition to the south. In plan, the additions incorporate the original rear room, but the

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Continuation Sheet

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Hamot, Pierre S.V. House

main house is clearly distinguishable from the additions. The rear ell has two rooms on the first floor with a small winder stair servicing four rooms on the second floor.

Prior to the recent rehabilitation of the Hamot House, the interior fabric of the original house remained in a state of disrepair and neglect. The wide plank wood floors, plaster ceilings, and plaster walls suffered from extensive water damage. The rooms had molded wood baseboards, door and window trim. The simple mantel that remained in the first floor dining room appeared to be original. The four panel wood doors had an array of hardware including one door which retained what appeared to be the original handmade iron latches. The fabric of the c. 1870 additions was in fair condition. This trim was unadorned 1 X 4 wood trim. Wainscoting survived in the first floor kitchen.

The rehabilitation of the Hamot House is in compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. Although the building is being converted to a commercial use, its residential character is being retained. Generally, the work includes repairing and cleaning the exterior masonry, replacement of non-original windows, rebuilding of the rear porch, securing and repairing roof structure and materials, and installing new mechanicals. The interior plan will not be changed, except for the addition of a partition in the second floor, north room of the front section. All salvageable historic fabric is being retained.

The simplistic design, subtle detailing, and solid construction of the Hamot House are the qualities which make it an architecturally significant building. Its integrity has not been impaired by the c. 1870 additions, but it was threatened by lack of maintenance and years of vacancy and neglect. The Second Century Foundation has surely saved the building from complete deterioration.

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)
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance
1827-1831

Significant Dates
1827-1831

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
Growotz, Peter, mason

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

The Hamot House is architecturally significant as the earliest surviving brick residence in the City of Erie. It is representative of a vernacular residential architecture typical of the early 19th century brick houses in the city. Constructed between 1827 and 1831, the low-pitched roof, symmetrical proportions, and simple detailing are typical of the period's popular Federal Style.

In 1827, Pierre S.V. Hamot, a successful merchant and prominent business leader in Erie, purchased the lot at 302 French Street at a sheriff's sale. Hamot hired Peter Growotz to construct a two story residence on this lot. Growotz was a German immigrant trained in the European tradition of construction and was the first brick mason registered in the City of Erie. It is assumed that the house was completed by 1831, because that was the year in which Growotz died. Hamot himself died in 1846, leaving the house and property at 302 French Street to his daughter Mary Hamot. In 1851, Mary Hamot married George W. Starr, a founder of the Hamot Hospital. It is thought that the Starrs maintained the French Street residence as a rental property until 1903. The property has had several owners since 1903 and has been vacant for approximately 20 years. The Hamot House is presently owned by the Second Century Foundation.

The Hamot House is the oldest surviving brick residence in the City of Erie though three other buildings of the same vintage do survive. These early buildings are rare due to the recent development of the "Bayfront", the name given to that area along Lake Erie and centered around the northern end of State Street. The three other buildings are either individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places or contributed to a

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proposed Lower State Street Historic District Nomination (1989). These residence are the Joseph Sterrett House at 414-416 State Street, 1838; the Cashiers House at 417 State Street, 1839; and the Frederick Schneider House at 3 East Fourth Street, 1846. They differ from the Hamot House as they are of the Greek Revival Style.

The influences of Federal Period architecture at the Hamot House are evidenced by its low-pitched roof, symmetrical proportions, and simple detailing. Its "workmanlike" quality distinguishes it from other brick Federal Period buildings in Erie County, such as the David Wallace House in Glenwood Hills constructed in the 1830's. The Wallace House has more refined details such as its tall window openings, sidelights and transom at the central entrance, and stepped gable ends. Other Federal Period residences survive in Erie County are of frame construction such as the Amos Judson House in Waterford Borough.

The architectural significance of the Hamot House is inherent in the building's simplistic representation of the period's popular Federal Style. It is the only surviving example of the vernacular residential architecture typical of early 19th century brick houses in Erie. The survival of the Hamot House is a salute to its contemporaries which have been lost to recent development.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Biographical Dictionary and Historical Reference Book of Erie County, Pennsylvania, (Erie, S.B. Nelson, 1896, rpt 1987), V. I, 478, 173, V. II 569.

Tom Weber, Erie Style, (Erie, The Old Erie Press, 1982), V. I, 5, 20 - 23.

Erie County (PA) Recorder of Deeds Office, Deed Books Nos.: 144/499, 184/23, 1033/400; Will Books Nos.: B/167.

"The Hamot - Louch House". File. (held by the Erie County Historical Society).

Atlas of Erie County, Pennsylvania, (New York: Beers, Ellis & Soule, 1865).

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 Historic American Buildings Survey #
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository:

Bureau for Historic Preservation
Box 1026, Harrisburg, PA. 17108

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property less than one acre

UTM References

A 17 575520 4664650
Zone Easting Northing
C

B
Zone Easting Northing
D

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property occupies parcel number 1003-103 and is 45' X 57' in size.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of this resource follow the legally recorded property lines constituting the property outlined above.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Patricia A. Sands
organization
street & number 4490 Birchwood Lane
city or town Allison Park
date May 1991
telephone (412) 487-6154
state PA zip code 15101

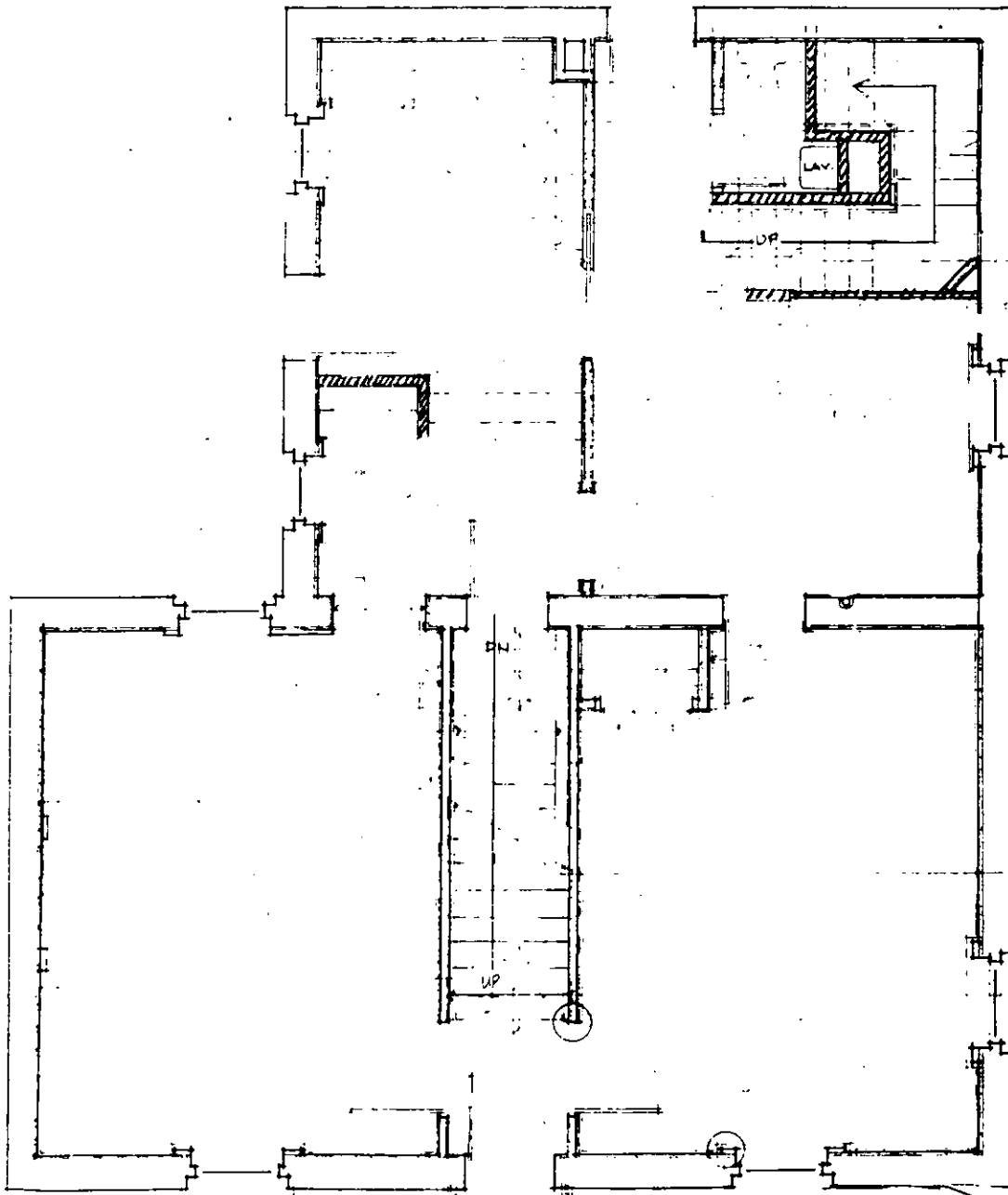
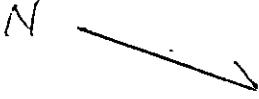
HAMOT HOUSE

ERIE, PA.

FIRST FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'0"

 NEW PARTITION



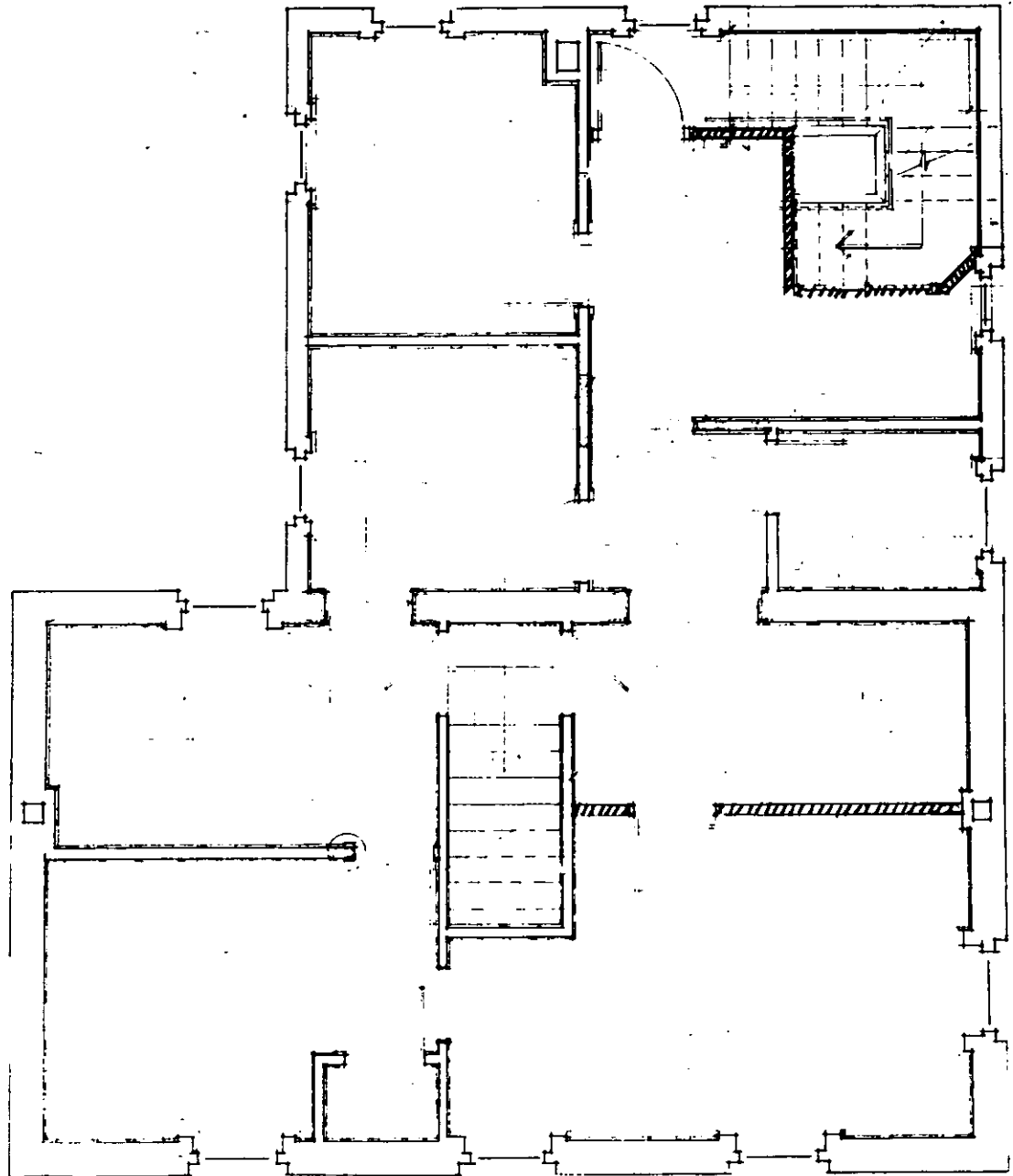
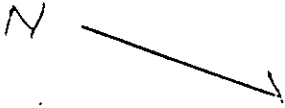
HAMOT HOUSE

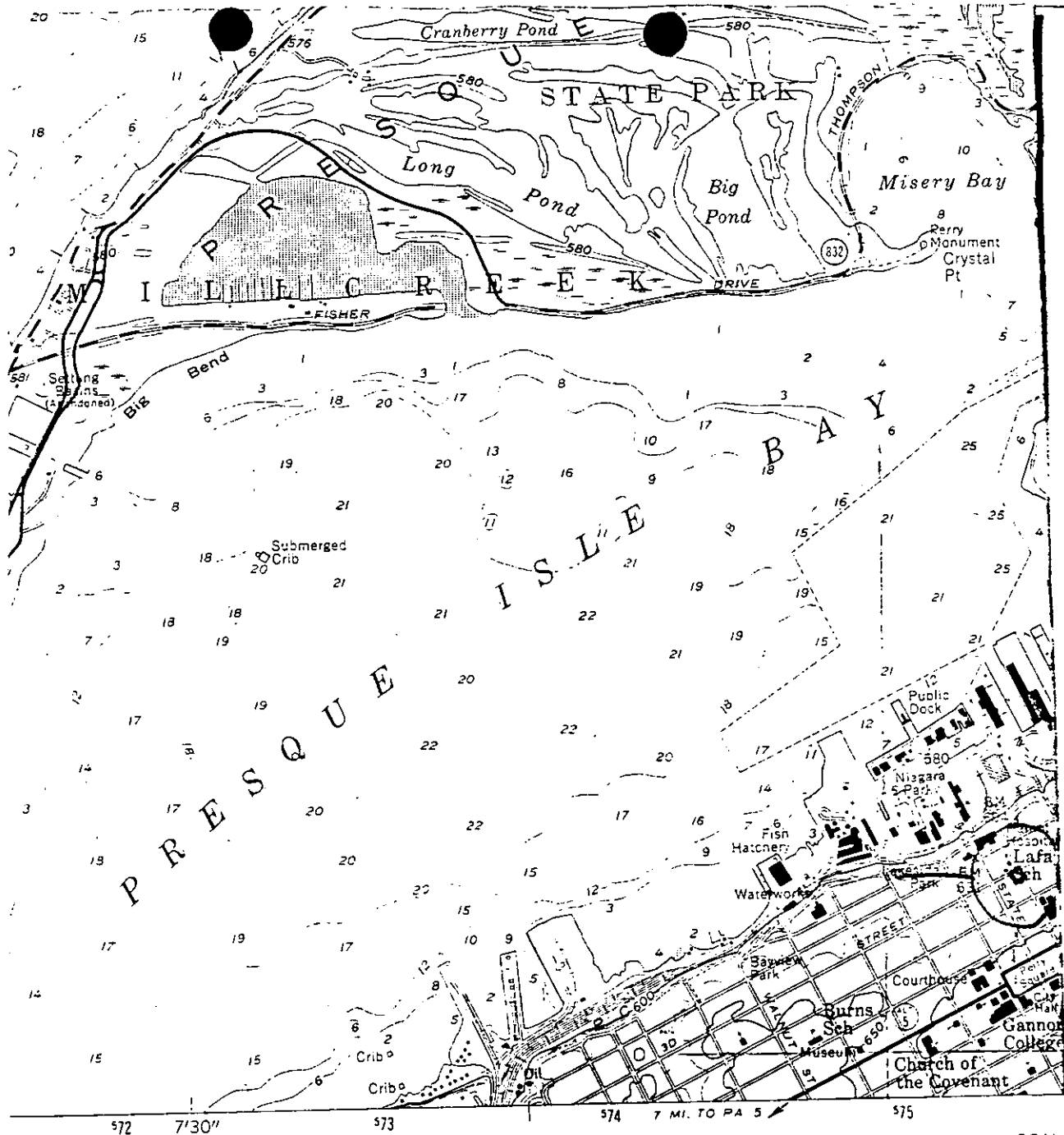
ERIE, PA.

SECOND FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'0"

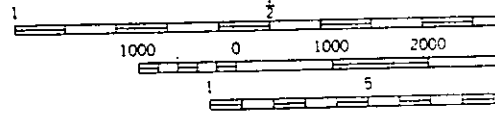
////// NEW PARTITION



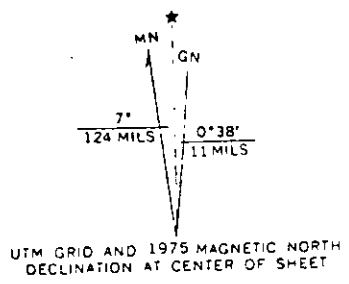


572 7'30" 573 574 7 MI. TO PA 5 575

SCALE



CONTOUR NATIONAL GEODETIC DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN



UTM GRID AND 1975 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

Boundaries shown in purple compiled in cooperation with State of Pennsylvania agencies from aerial photographs taken in 1969 and 1975. This information not field checked. Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas.

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACT FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY. A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS IS AVAILABLE.

*Pierre Hermon House
Erie County - Zone 17
Erie Mon. Blvd
E 575 520 N 11-1307*