

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

USE THIS COPY
FOR DUPLICATING

historic Jefferson, John P., House;

and or common Jefferson Tea House, YWCA Residence

2. Location

street & number 119 Market Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Warren

N/A vicinity of

state Pennsylvania

code 42

county Warren

code 123

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> N/A process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
	<input 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 F. Walter Ahlquist

street & number 11 Pine Boulevard

city, town Warren

N/A vicinity of

state Pennsylvania 16365

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Warren County Court House

street & number 204 Fourth Avenue

city, town Warren

state Pennsylvania 16365

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date N/A

federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A

state

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

The Jefferson house is eclectic and picturesque in style. In 1890 it represented a noticeable break with earlier architectural traditions and owed at least a little to the domestic work of H. H. Richardson. It is a three-story building of rough-cut masonry, all the rest of the house being the street corner--is of dark stained shingles. The roof is steeply hipped, irregular in outline and is punctuated by four tall chimney stacks. Each side of the house presents a totally different elevation to the observer. The front of the house is largely taken up with a semi-circular turret and a porch supported by massive stone columns while the long north side is notable for the great variety of its fenestration, the central feature being a large window of art glass.

The west side contains, on the southwest corner, a large ell with attached shed, the latter giving way to passages up to the kitchen wing and down to the full basement. Also on the west wall, towards the north corner, is a large chimney for a fireplace in what was probably the original library. It has only recently been discovered that this chimney and fireplace (the bricks and stone of which match perfectly the original materials) appear to have been added sometime between 1900 and 1910. At the same time the roof line was raised and extended west from immediately behind the large gable on the north side of the house, thereby enlarging the rear rooms on the third floor. Two dormer windows were added for illumination.

It is possible that the bathroom built into the gable over the front porch was also created at this point; this necessitated adding a wide dormer window in the west slope of the porch roof. A circa-1900 photograph shows no evidence of this dormer, and it is also quite evident that the rear chimney and altered roof line were not present at that time. In any case, these revisions did not seriously affect the appearance of the house; in the latter case they seem to have improved it.

Notable features on the south side of the house include a porch (now enclosed) on the southwest corner, a second-story bay window with diamond-pane glass (in the hallway), and a large two-story bay near the southeast corner. Exterior wall treatment on this side and on the southwest ell is exclusively shingle down to foundation stone.

Upon entering the house from the front porch doorway one passes through a small vestibule giving way into the spacious hall, the chief features of which are floor and paneled woodwork of oak; a broad stairway leading to the second floor which contains two landings (the lower highlighted by a small bay with leaded-glass windows projecting into the vestibule and the larger illuminated by a three-section art glass window); and a massive fireplace with oaken hood reaching to the ceiling, hand-carved mantle, and pilasters (also carved) which support the hood.

see Continuation Sheet

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A large opening with sliding doors enters into the room in the turret section of the east wall, joined to the room in the southeast corner by an open archway. The latter is lighted by three double-hung windows in a large bay. On opposite walls (east and west) in this room are a brick fireplace with mantle and mirror frame of maple and bookcases framing the doorway into the dining room. Floors and all woodwork in these two rooms are of maple.

The dining room features oak floors and a beamed ceiling and woodwork of cherry. A single-story bay window illuminates this room.

To the rear of the hall, on the west, is a large room (probably the original library) in which oak flooring is continued from the hall and in which a fireplace of brick dominates the west wall. Brick work extends from floor to ceiling, punctuated by a softwood mantle with brackets, and several feet above, a shelf moulding on all three sides of the fireplace. A small restroom enclosure has been built into the northeast corner of this room without harming its appearance in any way.

All floors, walls and woodwork have been restored in the hall and the four main first-floor rooms now in public use.

Other rooms on the first floor include an original pantry and the kitchen. In the latter, the original wall between rear pantry and utility room has been removed in order to more efficiently accomodate the present restaurant operation. There is an enclosed back stairway leading from the kitchen wing to the second-floor hall.

The second-floor hallway runs from north to south and includes a small room-sized area at the top of the stairs which leads, through double sliding doors, into a narrower hall lighted by a diamond-paned bay window. To east and west off this hallway are several large rooms corresponding roughly in size to those directly below. These rooms now serve for two separate apartments. Although softwoods predominate on this floor in both floors and woodwork (the exception being a maple fireplace in the front turret room) all rooms are graciously appointed, bright and airy, and thoroughly in keeping with the impression of restrained elegance expressed throughout the house.

The third floor (also an apartment) is finished in painted softwoods and affords complete living accomodations for the owners of the restaurant. A large storage area occupies the space under the hipped roof in front, and the former storage area to the rear has been incorporated into the bedroom by removal of a non-supporting wall.

The commodious basement extends under the entire house; it is now used exclusively for storage. An unusual feature of the room directly below the first-floor hall is a massive brick fireplace.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sculpture
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/ original owner
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1919	<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 1890/1890-1919 Builder/Architect Builder: Christian Uhdey

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The J. P. Jefferson house represents a unique contribution to the architecture of Warren County, for although it does not adhere to one strict design it is a pleasing blend of several important traditions which create perfectly the feeling of an English country manor. Its still-strong associations with the original owner have kept it prominently in the public eye for nearly 100 years, in part because of Jefferson's many other well-remembered contributions to the architectural heritage of the community. Jefferson lived in the house during the most productive years of his career as a public-spirited local industrialist; and with his first wife he contributed both socially and financially to a better way of life for all residents of the community. His philanthropic interests were many and varied: he was a humanitarian in the very best sense of the word.

Jefferson, born in 1852 and reared in Delaware, graduated from West Point. He first visited relatives in Warren in 1875; during that visit he met Alice M. Wetmore, who became his wife in 1877. He also became acquainted with Thomas Struthers, a local industrialist who had pioneered in the development of railroads in the northeast and who (in addition to being a practicing attorney) had been a state legislator, an active participant in the oil and lumber trades, and a founding partner of Struthers-Wells and Company, an iron foundry. Jefferson was hired as Struthers's personal secretary and the manager of his business affairs, and one of his first responsibilities was to help his employer manage the construction of the Struthers Library Building, completed in 1884.

Jefferson soon became a principal benefactor of the First Presbyterian Church, his uncle having been the minister when he made his early visits to Warren. In 1892, upon the death of Thomas Struthers, he became the managing partner of Struthers-Wells; from 1902 until 1920 he was the president of the company, and he supplemented his management activities with involvement in western lumber and oil interests. In the meantime, in 1890, he had built his home, in which he and his first wife, Alice Wetmore, lived until her death in 1914. Jefferson remarried the following year and occupied the house until 1919, when he gave it to the YWCA in memory of his first wife. The local YW had been founded in 1913, and Jefferson was one of its early proponents in Warren.

During these early years Jefferson was also instrumental in the financing and construction of a new Presbyterian church (1895) and of a maternity wing at Warren General Hospital (also named for Alice Wetmore Jefferson); in the founding of the Conewango (men's) Club and construction of its new building in 1906; and in the construction of a new library in 1916. He and his brother-in-law, Edward Wetmore, gave land and a camp

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building to the local Boy Scouts of America chapter in 1924; and in 1927, a new YWCA activities building was constructed next to Jefferson's former home, which still housed offices of the YW and living quarters for young women. Jefferson had offered funds for this separate building when he donated his house to the YW.

In 1919, after more than 40 eventful and productive years in Warren, J. P. Jefferson retired to Santa Barbara, California, where he died in 1934. But his interest in Warren and its welfare continued unabated during his lifetime, marked by generous contributions to those organizations he had supported while there.

The Jefferson house is one of two homes remaining in Warren Borough which combine stone and shingle-style construction; but it is the only one of the two which displays a strong English flavor, in combination with some of the best features of the Richardsonian Romanesque tradition in late 19th-century architecture. In a town where the Italianate mansion predominated until about 1880, and where a variety of styles surfaced in the construction of larger houses after about 1895, this building occupies a prominent corner on one of our main residential thoroughfares where it is preserved in nearly-original condition in a virtually unchanged setting.

Although the original architect is unknown, it has been established that the house was constructed by Christian Uhdey, a prominent builder active in Warren for several decades before and after the turn of the century. Alterations made sometime after 1900 appear to have been designed by the noted local architect E. A. Phillips, whose work is represented by many extant homes and buildings in Warren; these include the A. J. Hazeltine house (now the Honorable Charles Warren Stone Museum), which is listed on the National Register, and the YWCA activities building completed in 1927 next to the Jefferson house.

Now a unique restaurant and a private residence, the Jefferson house was owned by the YWCA for 63 years. For several years preceding its sale to the present owners it was occupied by physicians' offices, the presence of which did nothing to seriously alter its appearance. Consequently, recent careful restoration work (with only minor changes made to the interior) has given the house a new lease on life. Every reasonable attempt has been made to preserve the architectural integrity of the building inside and out, and current work is aimed toward appropriate landscaping and repair and maintenance of the exterior.

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From Warren County, Pa. Deed Book Number 435, Page 528

Beginning at the Southwest corner of Market Street and Second Avenue, thence South 78 degrees 51' West along the southerly line of Second Avenue 106.2 feet to a point; thence South 11 degrees 18' East for a distance of 86 feet to a point; thence North 78 degrees 51' East for a distance of 26.8 feet to a point; thence South 11 degrees 18' East for a distance of 21.1 feet to a point; thence North 78 degrees 43' East for a distance of 79.4 feet to a point; thence along the Westerly line of Market Street North 11 degrees 18' West for a distance of 107 feet to the place of beginning.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Helen Morrow, "The Jefferson House," HISTORIC BUILDINGS IN WARREN COUNTY, Volume 3, January 1974, Warren, Pa., Warren County Historical Society.
Derek McKown, "One of Our Many Friends," STEPPING STONES, Volume 26, Number 2, May 1982, Warren, Pa., Warren County Historical Society.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property $\frac{1}{4}$
Quadrangle name Warren Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A	<u>17</u>	<u>653940</u>	<u>46340000</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		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	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>	county	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>
state	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>	county	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Chase Putnam, Executive Director, and Quinn Smith
organization Warren County Historical Society date 12/18/84
street & number 210 Fourth Avenue (Box 427) telephone 814-723-1795
city or town Warren state Pennsylvania 16365

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

3/19/85

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

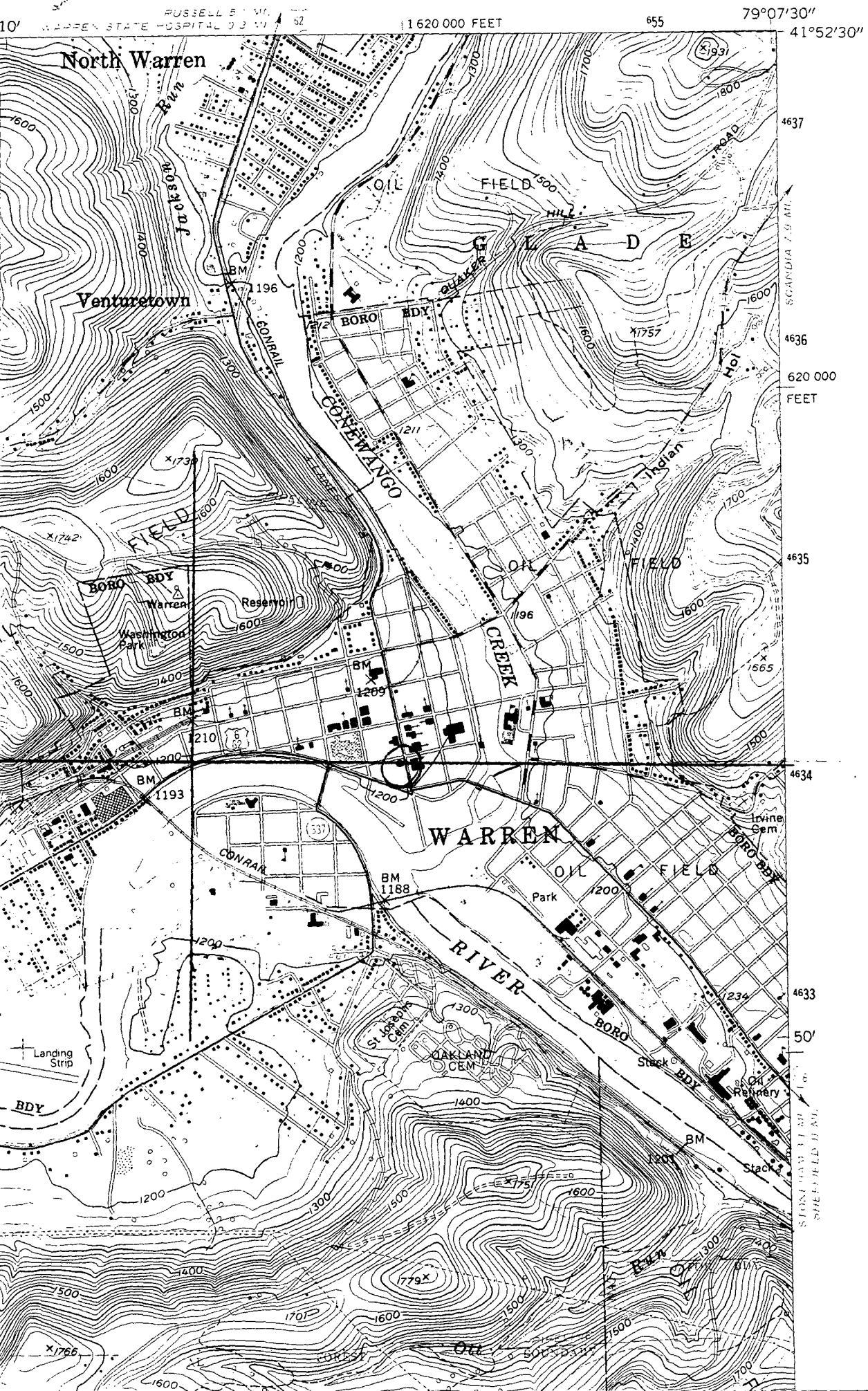
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

516
(SCAN)



Jefferson
Tea House

653-440
4634-000