

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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 Pooler Forge  
other names/site number "N/A"

2. Location

street & number 1936, 1938, 1940 and 1942 Main Street N/A not for publication  
city, town Narvon (Caernarvon Twp.) N/A vicinity  
state PA. code PA county Lancaster code 071 zip code 17555

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
5	2	buildings
2	1	structures
7	3	objects
	3	Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Iron and Steel Resources of Pennsylvania  
1716 - 1945

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

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 dwellings/  
secondary structures

Industry/manufacturing facility

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwellings

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Early Republican - Federal  
Colonial - Georgian

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Sandstone

walls Sandstone, Aluminum

roof Shake

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Poole Forge Complex is situated South of Rte. 23 in a bend of the Conestoga Creek. The complex includes seven contributing resources from the period of significance, c. 1779-1859. The majority of the contributing resources form a cohesive grouping that is visible from the main road. The Springhouse is located on Rte. 23 as you enter the drive on the North side of the property. Between the Springhouse and the Ironmaster's House is a non-contributing Greenhouse. The former Wash house is on Rte. 23 to the North of the "Mansion". (The Ironmaster's House is described as a Mansion in all twentieth century documentation contained at both the Lancaster County Historical Society and the Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County.) The Wash house is now a non-contributing garage. The Paymaster's Building lies South across the drive with one of the two remaining Tenant Buildings to the Southwest of that. The second Tenant House is East of the main grouping of buildings, down another drive which runs along the South side of a woods that separates the complex from Rte. 23. The land slopes from the North border to the lower lands directly adjacent to the creek on either side. A farm is visible across the creek to the South. Woodlands are on the East and West sides. Ruins of a lime kiln are West across the Creek from the large concentration of buildings. The complex is fortunately focused away from a very small commercial strip which is North across Rte. 23. All of the buildings are built of brownstones and ironstones giving very substantial appearances to the buildings. They are simple, rectangular massing except for the Ironmaster's house which is "L"- shaped and the Eastern tenant house, which has had some 20th century frame additions to the original rectangular shape. The window and door frames and cornice moldings of the complex are plain except for the Mansion which possesses a high degree of Federal Style detailing. The large number of the remaining buildings and the proximity of them to each other, combined with the relatively unchanged appearance of the buildings and the surrounding landscape give an intact view of the hub of a late 18th, early 19th century Forge complex in Pennsylvania.

The Ironmaster's Mansion stands alone on the North hillside of the property's current boundaries. The " L " shape plan results from construction in two distinct rectangular sections. Secondary sources

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state that the Northern section is the earliest and dates pre-1779, which corresponds with the time period when the property had a grist mill. This section is one room deep with a stairway at the Northeast corner. The section built to the South has a stair hall on the East side with one large room off the hall. Both sections are two and one half stories in height with intersecting gable roofs. The newer section has a higher roofline providing higher ceilings inside.

The South section is now the front. It is a symmetrical three bays wide and two bays deep. The older section is perpendicular to the front with the East Elevation being all one plane. The " L " is on the West Elevation. This section is five bays wide and two bays deep.

Both sections are constructed of brownstone and ironstone. The brownstone is native to the Northeast section of Lancaster County while the ironstone is local. It is laid in a random coursing with dark brownstone quoining. The exterior stone walls are used for bearing the wood frame floor and roof structure. Cedar shakes are on the roof.

A twentieth century wooden porch stretches across the South facade and extends beyond the house to the West. It covers a portion of a flagstone terrace that extends further South than the porch and all along the West facade. There is no projecting stone drip cap for this porch as there is for a porch or pent that is clearly missing from the West facade of the later section. Historical photography shows a porch in place on the West Elevation. A one bay wide, wooden porch of twentieth century construction is in place over the North door in the earlier section. Support at the wall is provided by iron brackets driven into the doorframe and stone. A four foot wide flagstone walkway extends all along the Eastern facade. The banked hillside rises sharply from a two foot high retaining wall alongside the walkway. The walkway connects to a concrete topped cistern and down a three foot wide set of concrete steps along the North facade to the flagstone terracing on the West side.

All of the windows original to both sections retain their wide wooden window frames that are pegged together and have an applied molding. The wood frames and the heavy wood sills are set flush with the stone walls. In the Southern section, East Elevation, stoned-in window openings are clearly visible. There is one added window on the East Elevation, second floor at what is a bathroom. The entire window is twentieth century

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construction. The first and second story windows are wood, six over six double hung windows except for a six over nine double hung wooden window on the East Elevation, first floor. There are aluminum triple track storm windows on all of the first and second floor windows. Both gable ends of the attic of the South section have two, three over six wood, double hung windows. The gable end of the North section has one, two over two double hung wood sash with a top hinged wood storm panel.

The South Elevation has two over-scaled, gable roofed dormers sided with clapboards. They are spaced evenly in from the gable ends of the roof with a larger space between them. The semi-circular headed double hung wood windows are nine over six. The top lights of the top sashes, arch and cross at the center. The dormers' cornices and windows are heavily molded with Federal style embellishments. There is a small keystone at the center above the window with moldings forming a broken pediment above the arched window. There are corner blocks at the bottom of the jamb casings. The West Elevation has three gable roofed dormers sided with clapboards. These dormers align with the end and center bays on the West Elevation. They are smaller than the dormers on the South Elevation, but have even more elaborate Federal style moldings. The windows themselves are a nine light, wood casement with a semi-circular fanlight above. A high relief applied molding frames the arched fanlight. To either side, fluted moldings topped with a Greek key molding sit on a small molded cornice. Below the cornice, moldings were applied to form panels. The broken pediment is repeated above the window with another high relief applied molding under the rake boards of the dormer's roof. There are two gable roofed dormers with clapboard sides on the East Elevation. These do not oppose the dormers on the West Elevation. They are equidistant from either end of this section of the building. These dormers possess none of the molding embellishment of the other dormers. There is a small molded drip cap above the flat, wooden frames that surround the six over six, wooden, double hung windows.

The entrance on the South side is in the East bay. The door is a twentieth century, dutch type door with a nine light top panel and a cross buck lower panel. The paneled door surround and four light transom remain from a late eighteenth or early nineteenth century door. The trim surrounding the frame projects four inches from the face of the stone. It dates from the mid-nineteenth century, later than other changes to the exterior of the building. Earlier trim may remain under

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the later, explaining the projection. Also on this elevation, in the center bay, is evidence of a doorway filled in and made into a window. On the West Elevation of this section, again in the center bay, is evidence of another doorway that was filled in with stone. There is a fireplace inside in this location now.

There are two entrances in the Northern section of the building. They are in the two end bays of the West Elevation. The center bay has a stoned in doorway that was made into a window. The remaining doors are the original doors from this section. The northern door retains its six, heavy raised panels and strap hinges. There is a four light transom above. The Southern door has had four glass lights installed in the top of the door. A different plank molding applied around the outside of the original door frame, suggests that this door and frame were originally in the center bay and led into the kitchen. The applied molding on the exterior of the frame indicates this was a twentieth century move. The doors in this section and the one door in the South section all have aluminum storm doors and transoms.

There are two brick chimneys on the house. One on the gable end facing West. The other has been rebuilt in this century. It is on the East Elevation and serves the corner fireplace that backed up to the cooking fireplace that remains.

There is a basement entrance to the South section of the building under the West terrace. This is the only basement. There is no basement under the North portion. Where the basement entrance occurs, there is a flat stone lintel. Adjacent to that, are two arched stone lintels. A four light casement remains in a pegged wood frame that is visible in the basement in the bay to the South.

The first floor windows have wooden paneled shutters, three panels in each. The second floor shutters are all louvered. The shutters are of the same construction in both building sections. For the most part they retain their drive-in pintels. The hold backs and rings differ from one section to the other but are all driven into the sills. The slide bolts differ from the North to the South sections. They are all relaced with bolts that are screwed to the shutters. Two of the paneled shutters are replaced. One on the East Elevation and one on the North. The panel design and molding is the same but the shutters are three eighths inch thinner than the original. Two of the louvered shutters

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are replaced. Again the design is the same except for the shutter thickness and also the louvers of the replaced shutters are much thinner. Both of the replaced louvered shutters are on the East Elevation. There is also one pair of first floor shutters on the East Elevation that is made up of a single board at each shutter. This pair is hung with cast hinges.

The cornices of both sections are molded box cornices of similar but not matching design. The moldings on the South section are of deeper profiles. A gouge carved frieze board was added under the West cornice of the North section. It wraps around to the North cornice of the South section. It is an open pattern of dots of definite Federal character.

Entering from the South Elevation, you are in the main stair hall with the Living Room to the West. As is evidenced by the stoned in windows on the East Elevation, this stairway was not always located here. The door frames that lead North to the Dining Room and to the basement are of the exact size and molding profile as the window that remains in the stair hall. They are probably the window frames removed when the stair was installed along the East wall. The chair rail that runs up the East wall at the stair, behind a closet added East of the door as you enter from the outside, and then to the door is clearly of an earlier date. Projecting three inches from the wall and having a combination of bold half-rounds, beads and coves, it appears to stylistically date from the mid-eighteenth century. This chair rail is also used in the Dining Room directly North of the stair hall. The casing around the entrance door, the door to the Living Room and the added closet is all Federal period. The casing consists of two stepped flats on either side with a triangular bead in the center, terminated with corner blocks and plinths.

The stair itself is Federal in character but rather plain. The railing, stair treads and risers date from 1954. The skirt board is molded with fifteen inch wide boards forming the enclosure under the stair. The treads as well as the hallway floor are replaced with pegged oak flooring. In the basement, on what would be the North wall of the South section is the remains of a fireplace foundation. It has been cut away in the center to accommodate heating equipment. What remains is two stone piers. One under the present hallway wall and the other located in line with the West wall of the North section of the building. Summer

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beams bearing saw mill marks rest on the fireplace foundations. The majority of the floor framing also bears the same saw mill marks dating the framing in the first quarter of the nineteenth century. There are a few hand hewn floor joists and some from the twentieth century. The distance between the outside edges of the stone piers that remain from the fireplace foundation is eleven feet, indicating the fireplace had been for cooking.

The Living Room now has a boxed beam running North and South that is above one of the Summer beams in the basement. A Federal style mantel of Valley Forge marble dominates the West end of the room. A wood stove sits on the hearth of the same marble. There are cupboards built into either side behind the fireplace. The casing of these cupboards is contemporary with the mantel. The window casing matches the Federal style, symmetrical trim that surrounds the door into the Living Room. The chair rail being part of the window sills however, was cut on either side of every window and a chair-rail contemporary with the mantel was installed. Under the windows is a flat, quarter round and another flat step with about a four inch flat terminating with a small bead, cove and a stepped flat. The added chair rail, has a flat with a small bead under it, then a four inch flat terminating with a large bead and then a stepped flat. The floors are the same replaced, pegged oak boards as in the hall.

Returning to the stair hall, the North section of the house is down three risers. This section of the house is one room deep. The rooms are arranged one next to the other with no hallways. This room is used now as a Dining Room. The corner fireplace has a stepped mantel that is detailed with multiple small beading that would date it with the Living Room mantel. The chair rail as mentioned before appears to be mid-eighteenth century. The door and window surrounds at the exterior walls are used as grounds for the plaster jambs. The floor in this room is the same replaced, pegged, oak flooring that is in the South section of the house. The hearth is twentieth century flagstone with a wood burning fireplace insert on it.

The next room North is the cooking kitchen which retains the stone cooking fireplace with crane, and arched iron door to former bake oven. The oven is no longer on the building. The hearth is twentieth century flagstone. As you face the fireplace, there is an angled stone wall added to conceal plumbing from an added bathroom above. The wall on the North

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side of this room was added in 1954 to provide space for a galley type kitchen. The finishes in the old and new kitchen are the same. Pine panelling, sheet vinyl flooring and added decorative beams.

North of the new kitchen, is a room that contains the North entrance and an additional stairway to the upper floors. It has been used as a mud room most recently with twentieth century storage cabinets, powder room and an area for a washer and dryer. This room retains a late eighteenth century chair rail and baseboard behind added cabinetry. It appears to have been removed where the powder room was added.

From the front stair hall going up to the second floor, you can go into the earlier section of the house off the landing and continue up the stairs to the level of the two bedrooms and bath in the more recent section of the house. The painted balusters and railing changes as the stairs continue to the third floor. The square beaded balusters are turned on a diagonal to the stringer. The top rail and newel posts are molded. This appears to be an early-nineteenth railing. The treads and risers are from the early-nineteenth century also. A bath and closet have been added at the South end of the second floor hall. All the casing in this part of the stair is the same as the Federal style casing in the corresponding stair below.

The southernmost bedroom has a Federal style mantel that is in the Northwest corner of the room. The surround is brick with traces of its original plaster. Three raised fluted sections step out from the backboard of the mantel and support the top. There are corner blocks under the end two sections. The same Federal style casing as is in the Living Room connects the corner blocks and rests on plinths on the floor. The molding on the right hand side of the fireplace is partially covered with the partition to the North. The same Federal style casing with corner blocks is around all the windows, the door, and the added closet in the Southeast corner of this room. The chair rail has a flat at the top with a cove underneath. There is a four inch flat with a bead on the bottom. The walls and ceiling are plaster. The hardwood floors are replaced, narrow, oak, tongue and groove.

The bedroom adjacent to the South bedroom, has a closet added in the Northeast corner. The same Federal style trim as is in the Living Room is used on the windows, doors and closet in this room. The chair rail is the same as in the adjacent bedroom. The walls and ceiling are



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plaster. The floor has been replaced with narrow, oak, tongue and groove flooring.

From the stair hall you go into the earlier section of the house. This floor has a walk through arrangement of rooms corresponding with the room arrangement on the first floor. There are two bedrooms side by side heading North. A bathroom was added in the Northeast corner of the first bedroom that you enter taking some space from the adjacent bedroom and also occupying the space where the flue from the walk-in fireplace below had been. The trim at the door to this bathroom is from the 1954 renovation. There is a closet added in the Southeast corner as you enter which is trimmed with the same Federal style casing as is used in the later section of the house. The casing at the doors and windows in this bedroom is the same as in the Dining Room below. Set in casing beads at the wall side and at the jamb are used as grounds for the plaster. The windows in the bedroom to the North have no casing at the wall. The chair rail in both of these rooms has a half round top with a flat below, a four inch flat to a half round bead at the bottom.

The bedroom to the North has had two closets added. One cut into the room to its Northwest and one added on the Northeast. Both of these closets have the 1954 molding surrounds. The floors in both these bedrooms and the stairway to the North have the narrow, oak, tongue and groove replaced floors.

There is a bath added at the West end of the stair hall on the North side of this section. A closet is opposite the bath on the East side of the hall. The alterations have 1954 detailing while the North window retains trim from the late-eighteenth, early-nineteenth century.

The attic story has all plastered walls and ceilings with a number of storage shelves and closets added throughout. There are two baths. One located at the top of the South stair, the other at the top of the North stair. The stair hall retains wide flooring at the landing. The balance of the floors are three to four inch yellow pine. The railing from the landing of the third floor to the top retains a molded cap. A single horizontal member is below the rail. Various casing styles from both the nineteenth and twentieth century remain.

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Throughout the house is a two pipe radiator system. On the first floor the radiators are in metal cabinets with grillwork. On the second and third floors the radiators are exposed.

The construction dates for the outbuildings are unknown. The Paymaster's Building is constructed of brownstone while the other buildings have a mixture of brownstone and ironstone like the mansion. The walls are bearing with wood framing for floors and the roof. The roofing material is cedar shakes except for the additions to Tenant House #6 which have asphalt shingles.

The one and one half story, " L " shaped Springhouse is at the entrance drive off Rte. 23. The one and one half story Garage is further East on Rte. 23 than the entrance. Turning South into the driveway, the two and one half story Paymaster's Building is two hundred feet off Rte. 23. The drive continues South to a Tenant House. The one and one half story building lies West of the drive between the drive and the Conestoga Creek which floods this building on occasion. Further South on the drive is a contributing Covered Bridge dated 1859. The bridge is listed separately on the National Register as the Poole Forge Covered Bridge.

Going back to the Paymaster's Building, the drive also heads East here in front of the Paymaster's Building. A pond added in 1954 is visible South of the drive behind and to the East of the Paymaster's Building. A two and one half story Tenant House lies North of the drive about four hundred feet East of the Ironmaster's House. The drive ends here.

The Springhouse is a stone, one and one half story, " L " shaped building constructed in two rectangular sections with intersecting gable roofs. The stone is a mixture of brownstone and ironstone using large brownstones for quoins. Both sections are late-eighteenth century construction. The section perpendicular to Route 23 was built first as evidenced by the quoining on the North Elevation. This section has one six over three double hung window on the South Elevation, and a four lite casement window and board door with four lites on the East Elevation. A large stone chimney from a rendering stove projects through the West side of the gable roof. The section parallel to the road is ivy covered on the North Elevation. There is one four lite casement on each of the North, South and East Elevations. A board door goes into this section on the South Elevation.

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The Paymaster's Building is a two and one half story, brownstone building rectangular in floor plan. The symmetrical placement of the windows and doors, heavy quoining and the flat stone lintels with rustic keystones mark this building rural Georgian in character with construction in the last quarter of the eighteenth century. The only embellishments are a molded box cornice and plank molding around the original pegged window frames. The gable roof is cedar shingles having a brick chimney set in from the East gable end. It was remodeled in the 1930's for use as a recreation room and again in 1954 to be used in conjunction with a dog kennel. In 1990 it was rehabbed in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. The six over six double hung windows, the beaded board doors on the North Elevation and the entrance porch and panelled door on the East Elevation are all from 1990. All four facades had originally been two bay. On the East Elevation is evidence of two stoned-in windows. On the South Elevation, lower story, one of the windows is much wider than others on this facade. From interior evidence it looks as though this opening may originally have been a door. At some point the grade was changed and the doorway converted to a window. The building is on a flood plane. To divert water away from the lower level doors, a low brownstone wall was constructed on the North Elevation. The interior originally had no connection between the lower story and the first floor. The attic was accessed by a hatch. As part of the 1990 rehabilitation, a stairway was installed in the northwest corner from the lower story to the attic. A large walk-in fireplace remains on the east wall of the lower story. There is evidence in the floor of a board wall on the first floor that would have divided the room in half. Presently the first floor is a 1990, open plan, Kitchen, Living and Dining area. The attic is a 1990 bedroom, bath and closets.

The original three bay, rectangular, two and one half story, stone section of Tenant House #6 is clearly visible even though frame additions were constructed to the East and South in 1936. The eastern addition is a frame, two and one half story, two bay covering half of the original East Elevation and extending beyond the original South facade. An open porch runs from the Eastern addition along the original South facade to an enclosed section of the porch at the Western end of the South facade. The same brownstone quoining as seen on all other remaining buildings is used on the original section of the house. There are two concrete block chimneys and a non-original

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dormer on the North Elevation. Casement windows and a board door from the 1930's are in the stone section. The additions have six over six double hung windows. The interior retains very little that is original to the late-eighteenth century or early-nineteenth century. The remodelings from the 1930's and 1950's have covered or replaced almost all surfaces.

Tenant House #7 is a rectangular, one and one half story stone building with a gable roof built in three sections. The joints in the stonework are visible beneath the ivy. All sections are built in a late-eighteenth century building style. Brownstone quoining is visible even though this building retains the remains of stucco. A massive chimney from a walk-in fireplace is centered on the ridge. A concrete block chimney is on the west side of the gable roof. The building retains its original stone massing and roofline, keeping its eighteenth century character despite changes made in 1936 and 1954. Casement sash from the 1930's are in some of the window openings. Garage doors were added to the Northern end of the East Elevation in the 1930's. In 1954, dormers were added to both the East and West Elevations of the center section, the window opening North of the remaining door on the East Elevation was made into a double window with six over six double hung sash, a projecting window hood was added over the doorway on the East Elevation and a porch was added to the South end of the building. The walk-in fireplace remains in the center section. A vestibule has been built into this room. The kitchen is in the south section and a garage in the north. The second floor has one large room in the center section, with bedrooms on either end. The interior has been re-done or covered and retains no eighteenth century character.

There are no foundation walls or even stone piles that can be identified as actual remains of the Forge building itself. The general area where it was located can be identified from Lancaster County Atlases. The 1864 and 1875 Atlases (copies of pages submitted with this form) show different configurations for the millrace and buildings but in approximately the same location. The Conestoga Creek bends noticeably to the North on the property and then continues East. The millrace is shown as connecting the northern reach of the bend with a point to the west where the Creek divides and a smaller stream turns South. In looking at the present day site plan, this would be in the area of the pond. There is an embankment east of the pond that some local residents say was a part of the dam for the Forge. Other residents have said that the grade was

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altered greatly when the pond was put in and that the embankment was a result of that earthmoving.

The remains of two stone lime kilns are built against an embankment that faces East across the Conestoga Creek from the rest of the complex. Various types of stones were laid in a rubble coursing including brownstone, ironstone and limestone. The remains are flat topped, about ten feet high and twenty four feet wide. Flat stone lintels span the trapezoidal openings that begin halfway down the remaining wall and go to the ground. The kilns are contemporary with the Forge as lime was used in the ore smelting process.

The Poole Forge covered bridge is wholly on the property and not open to public traffic. Work at the Forge continued into the 1850's. The bridge was constructed across the Conestoga Creek in 1859. In 1954, Pool Forge road was re-routed and another concrete bridge built over the Conestoga. The gable roofed, Burr arch truss bridge is covered with board and barren siding that is painted red. There are rectangular openings under the eaves. Ironstone abutments are on both sides of the bridge.

The Greenhouse is a non-contributing building as it was built after the time period of significance. The Garage, according to secondary sources, was originally used as a wash house for the late eighteenth century complex. Other than being constructed of the same stone as the other contributing buildings, the 1936 and 1954 remodelings to the building have left it without a strong visual association with the period of significance and therefore a non-contributing building. The pond is a non-contributing structure as it was built after the time period of significance.

The buildings are all well maintained. The Mansion, the Paymaster's Building and both of the Tenant Houses are rental residential properties.

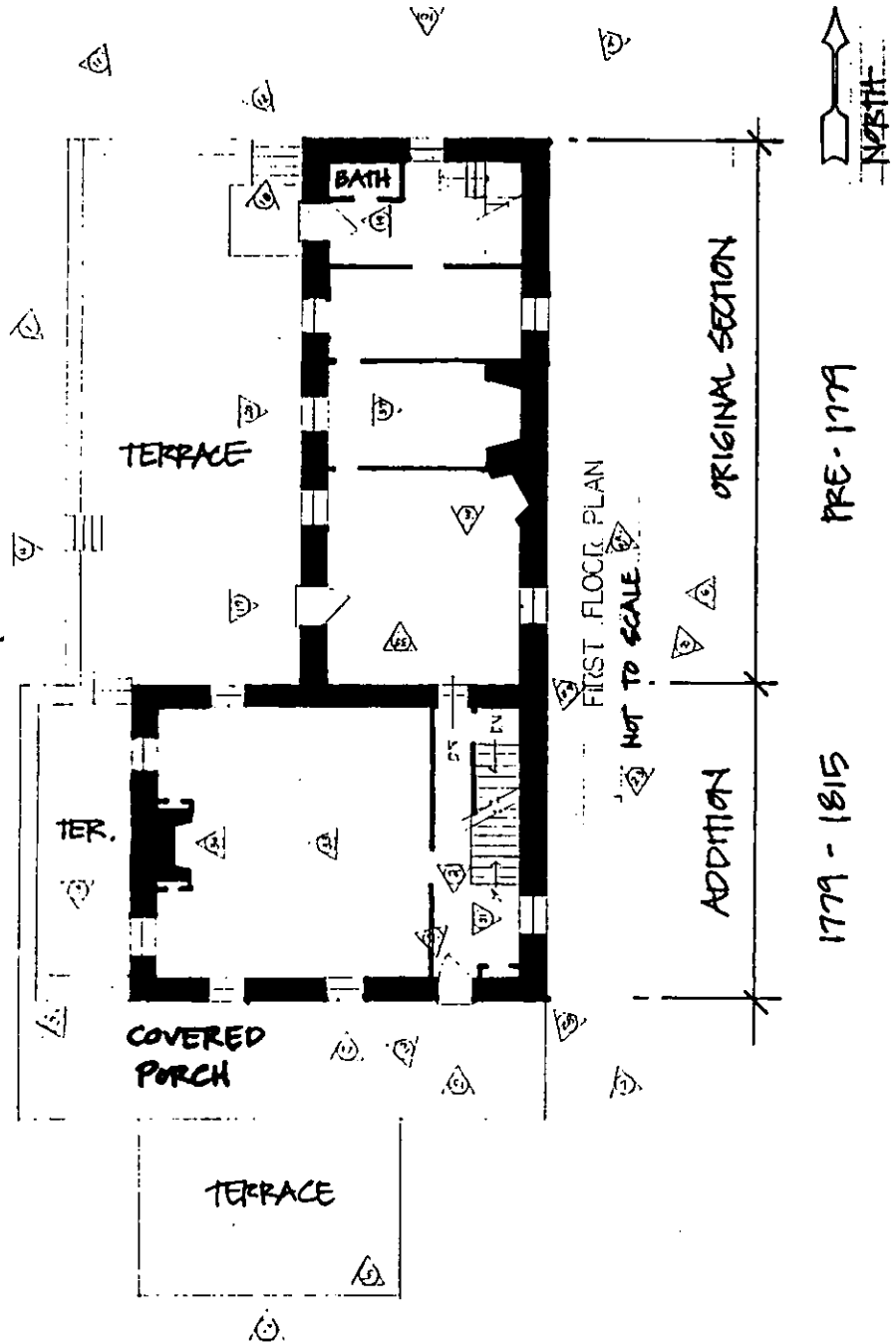
There is no known documentation of garden spaces that existed during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century or known written descriptions of the amount of open land versus woods that was on the property. The setting that exists now is open fields adjoining the Conestoga Creek, ringed with woods on the North, East and West boundaries.

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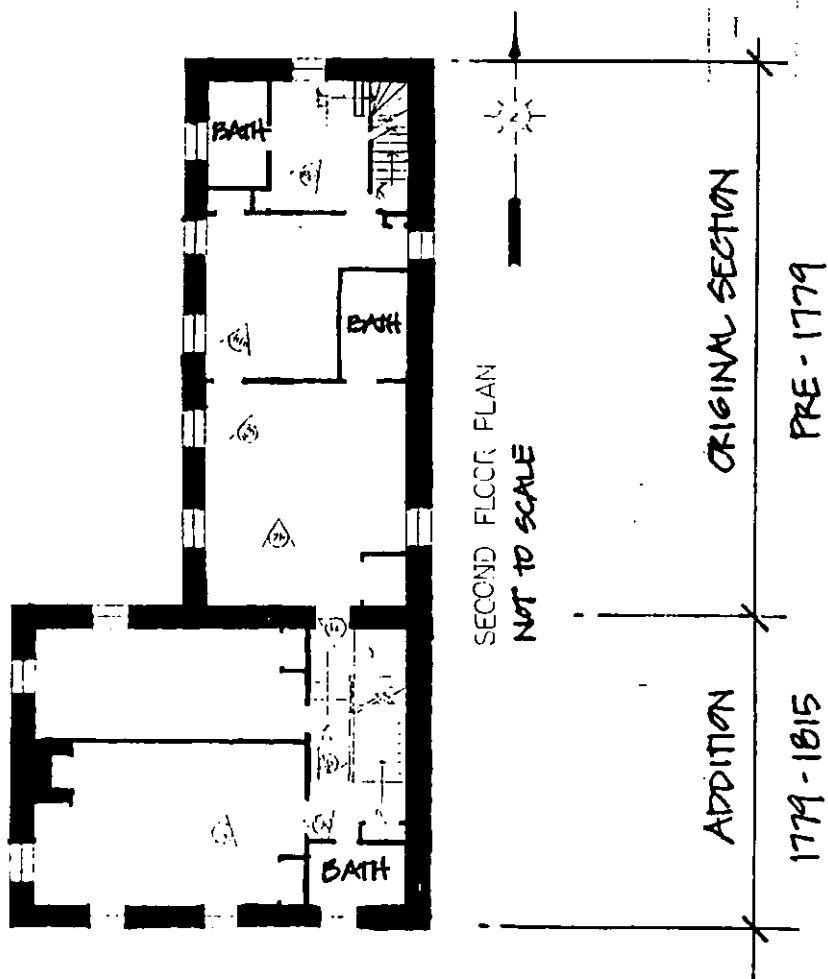
1. IRON MASTER'S HOUSE  
 ▲ DENOTES NATIONAL REGISTER PHOTO

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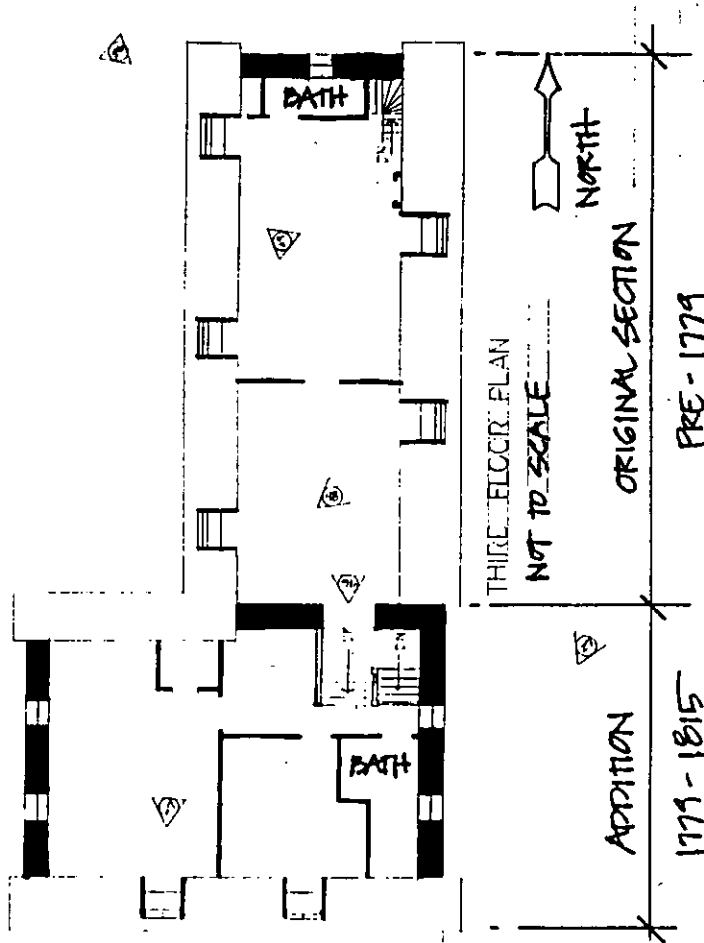
1. IRON MASTER'S HOUSE  
 - Δ DENOTES NATIONAL REGISTER PHOTO

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10.

1. IRON MASTER'S HOUSE  
 △ DENOTES NATIONAL REGISTER PHOTO

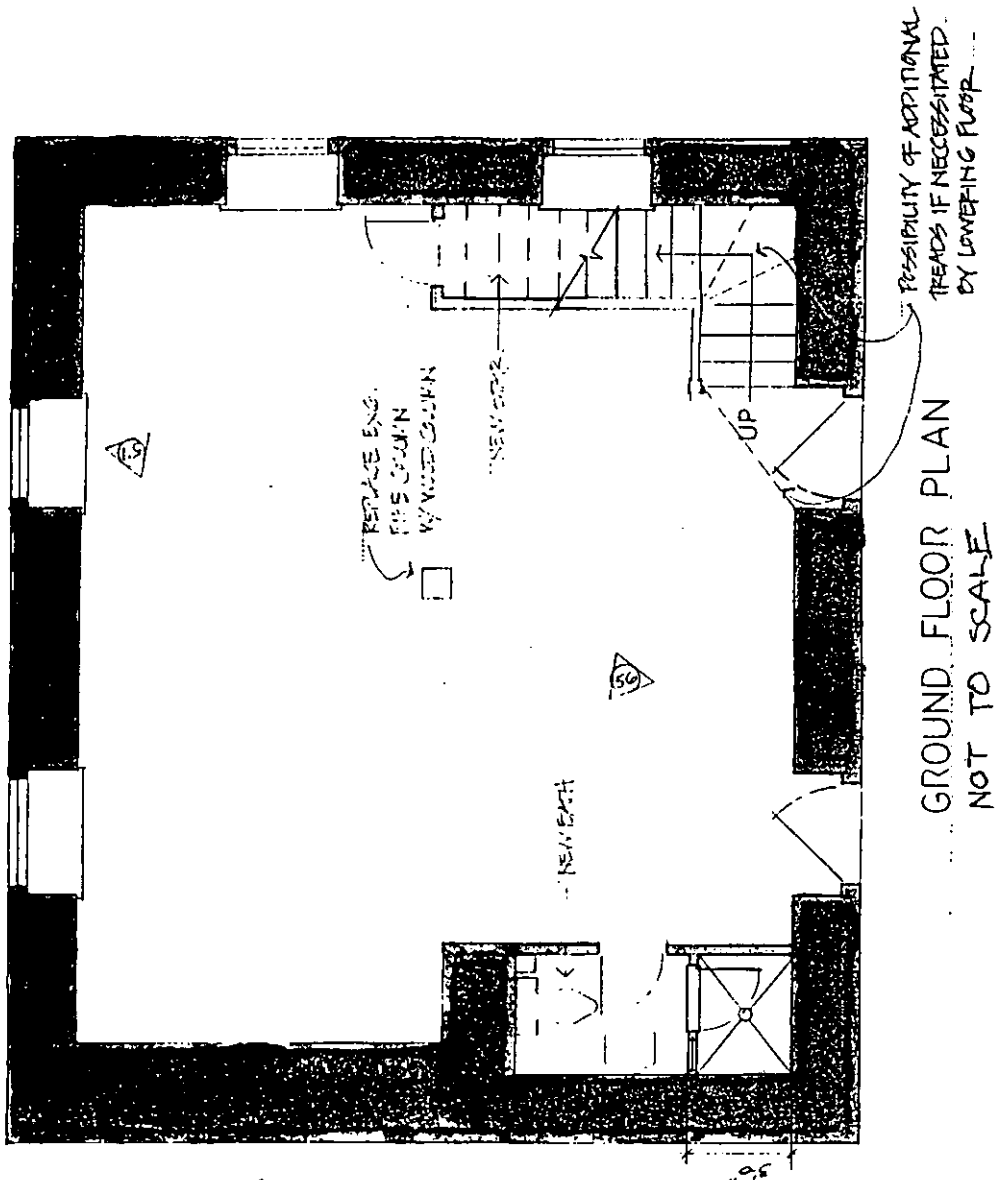


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Poole Forge, Caernarvon Township

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5. PAYMASTER'S BUILDING  
△ DENOTES NATIONAL REGISTER PHOTO

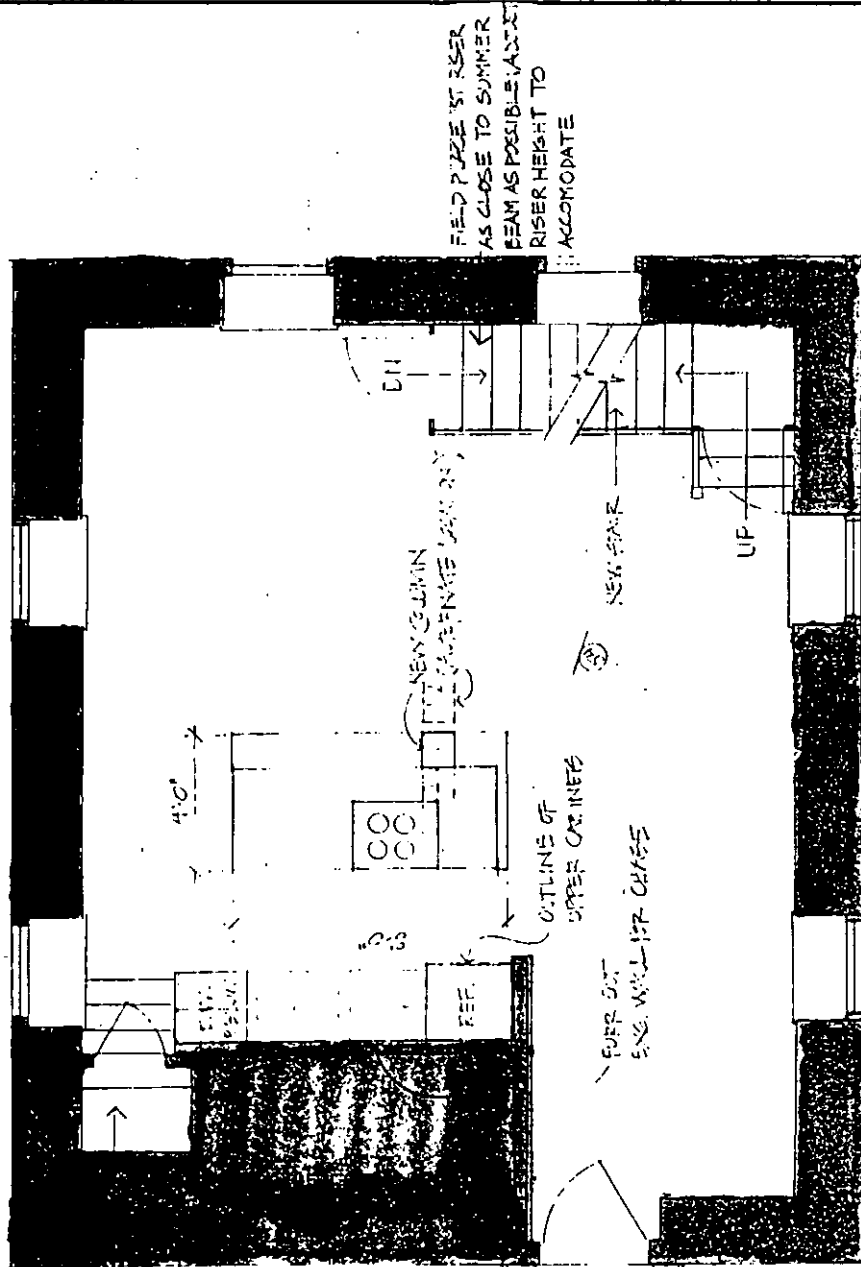


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National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Poole Forge, Caernarvon Township

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1 ST FLOOR FLAN  
NOT TO SCALE



5. PAYMASTER'S BUILDING  
△ DENOTES NATIONAL REGISTER PHOTO

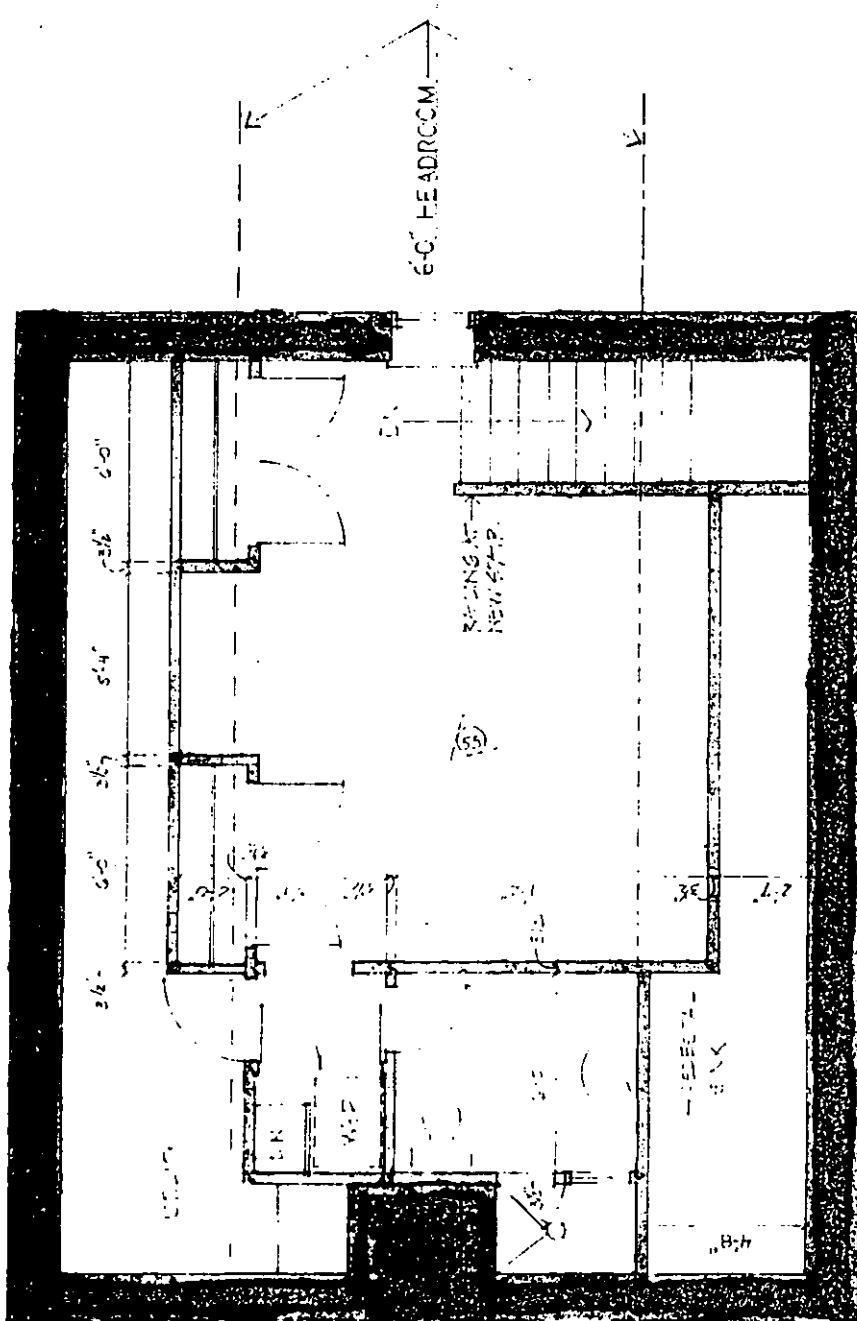


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National Park Service

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Poole Forge, Caernarvon Township

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2ND FLOOR PLAN  
NOT TO SCALE



5. PAYMASTER'S BUILDING  
△ DENOTES NATIONAL REGISTER PHOTO

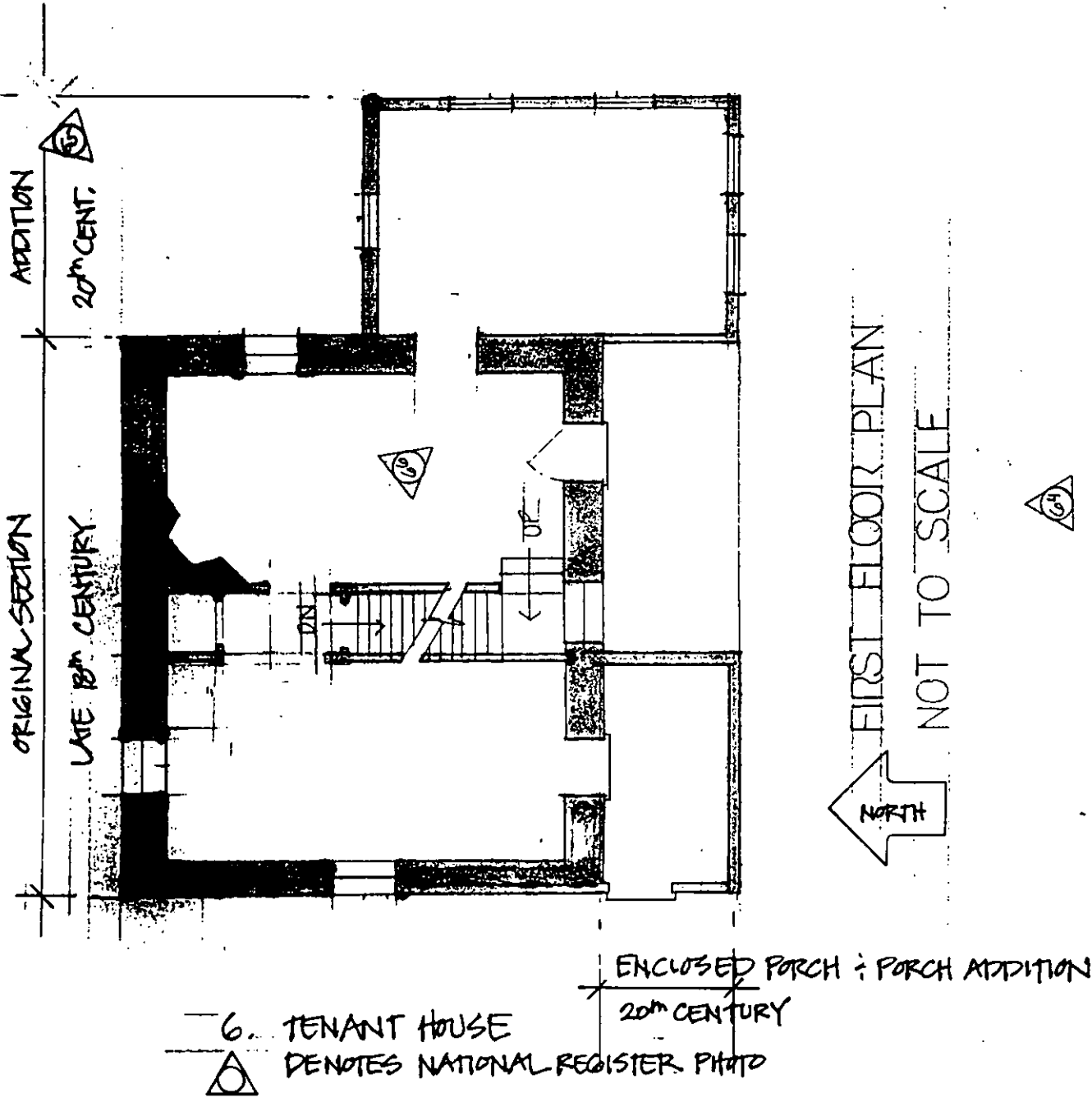
BUILD OUT WALL FOR  
PUMPING STAGE

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Continuation Sheet

Poole Forge, Caernarvon Township

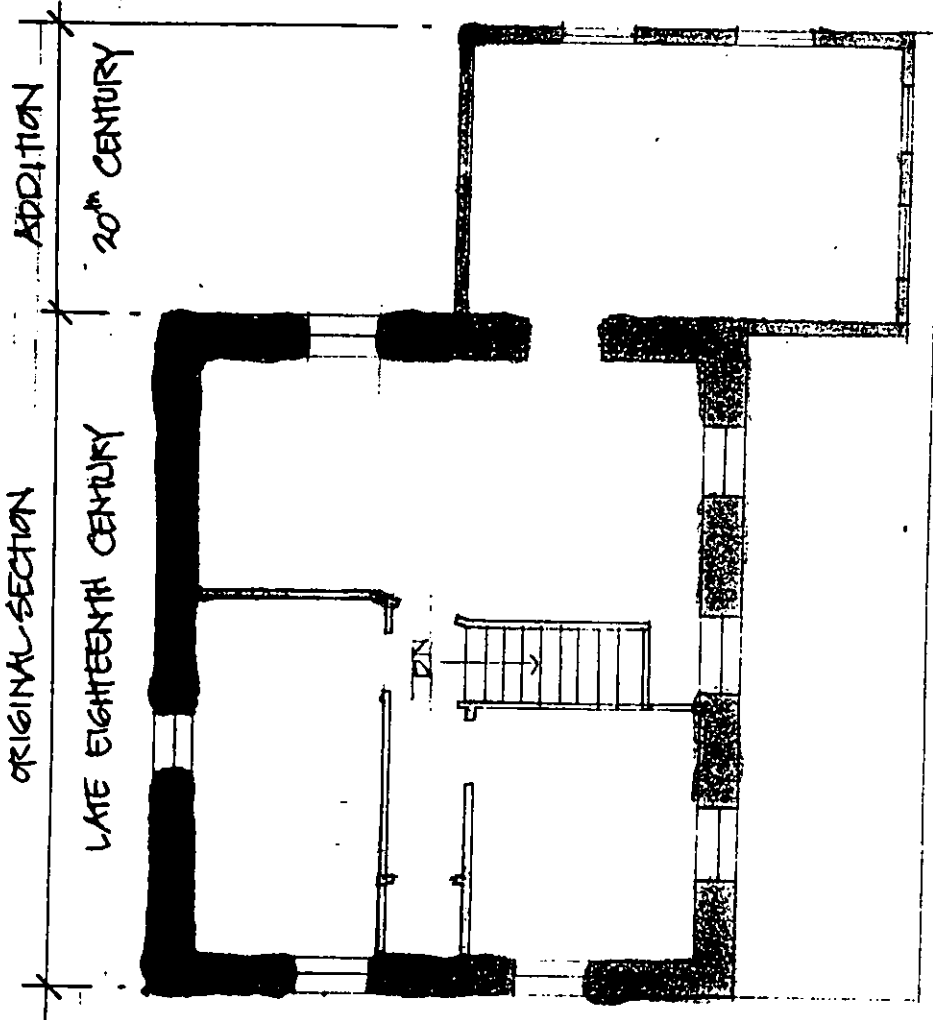
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Poole Forge, Caernarvon Township  
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SECOND FLOOR PLAN  
NOT TO SCALE

NORTH

6. TENANT HOUSE

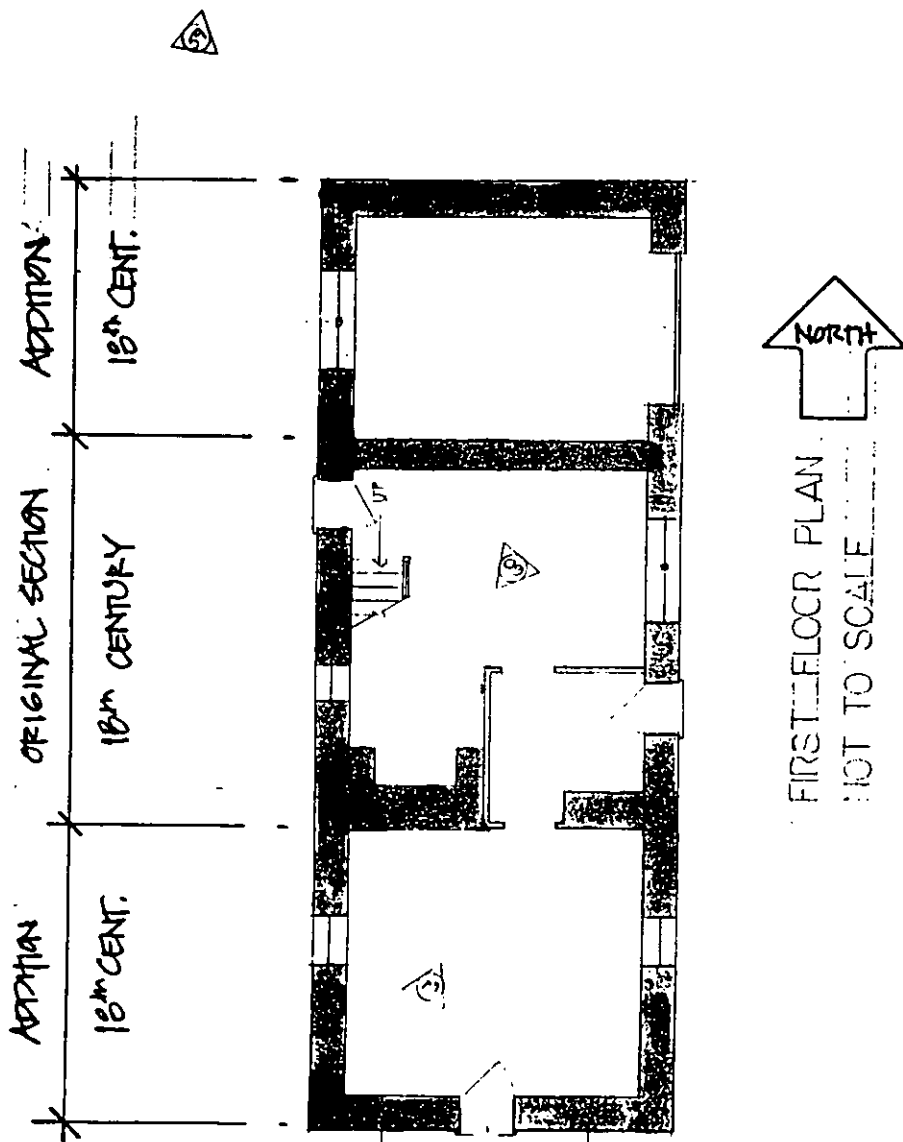
△ DENOTES NATIONAL REGISTER PHOTO

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Poole Forge, Caernarvon Township

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- 7. TENANT HOUSE
- △ DENOTES NATIONAL REGISTER PHOTO
- △ DENOTES TAX CERTIFICATION AP. PHOTO

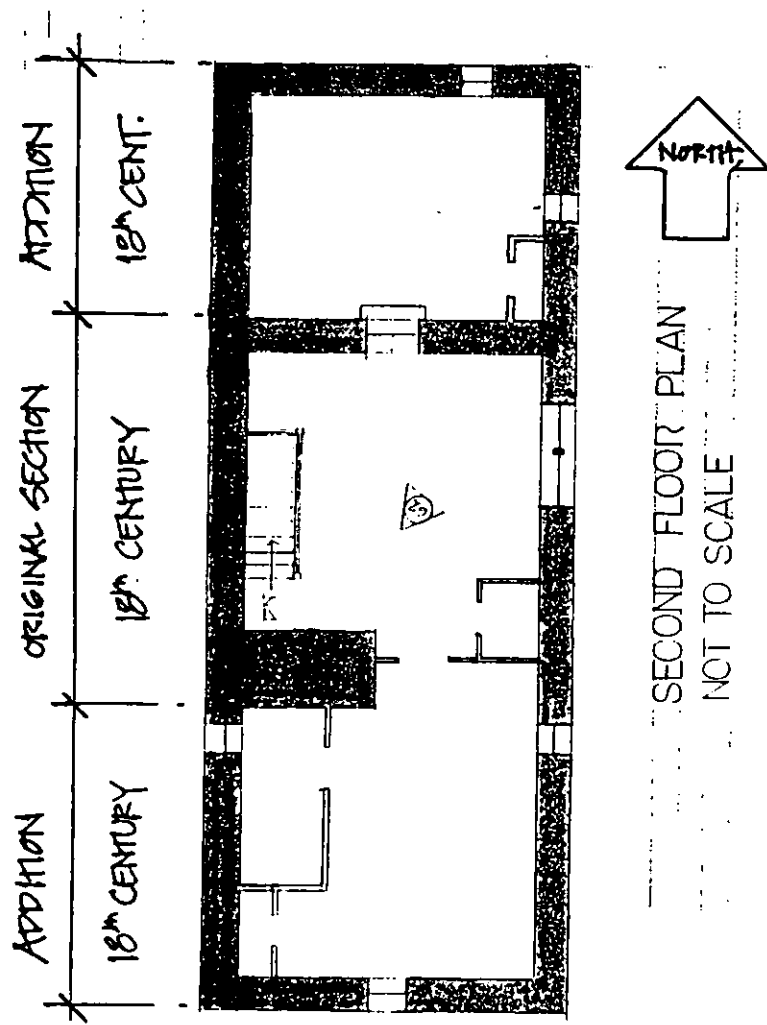


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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Poole Forge, Caernarvon Township

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7. TENANT HOUSE

△ DENOTES NATIONAL REGISTER PHOTO

**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)

Period of Significance  
circa 1779-1859

Significant Dates  
1779

Industry

Architecture

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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

The Poole Forge complex is significant for its role in the early ironmaking industry of eastern Pennsylvania. These ironmakers laid the foundation for Pennsylvania's later great iron and steel industry. As a complex, the remaining buildings give us tangible evidence of the community that an eighteenth century iron plantation was in Pennsylvania. The buildings on the site retain a high degree of integrity as examples of late eighteenth and early nineteenth century architecture in rural Southeastern Pennsylvania. The forge was erected on the property by James Old. The date recorded in a number of secondary sources for this is 1779 making this the second of the three forges to be built on the Conestoga Creek. Nearby Windsor Forge was the first in 1743 and Spring Grove Forge the last in 1793.

Nine Forges and three furnaces were erected in Lancaster County before 1800. Poole Forge was the fourth forge erected in Lancaster County. Ironmaking came to Northeastern Lancaster County from Chester County. A Welshman, William Branson, was a partner in the Coventry Iron Works. Branson, came to Lancaster County and built the first Windsor Forge in 1743.

James Old was born in Wales in 1730. He was employed at Windsor Forge as a puddler during the 1750's. Old married Margaretta Davies during this decade. Margaretta was the daughter of Gabriel Davies, the original owner of the land of both the Windsor and Poole Forge tracts. Old erected Speedwell Forge on Hammer Creek in Lebanon County and returned to Lancaster County to build Poole Forge.

In consulting the tax records for Caernarvon Township, a grist mill is listed in 1769 for Edward Hughes who owned the tract where Poole Forge is located. Hughes sold the property to James Old in 1775. Tax records continue to list only a grist mill until 1786 when a forge is also listed.

See continuation sheet



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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Poole Forge, Caernarvon Township

Section number 8 Page 1

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James Old began using the name Poole Forge. (1) In 1795, James sold the forge and its 783 acre farm to his son Davis Old. Davis Old sold the forge and farm to his brother-in-law, Cyrus Jacobs in 1799. Cyrus Jacobs was born in Pennsylvania of Welsh parents. He married Margaretta, the daughter of James Old. Jacobs also owned nearby Spring Grove Forge which he built in 1793. He became one of the best known and wealthiest ironmakers in Lancaster County. After his death in 1830, Poole Forge passed on to one of his grandsons, Hanson Bentley Jacobs who was eighteen at the time. Hanson took an active role in the iron-making business, beginning about the time of his marriage to Catherine Jenkins, of the Windsor Forge family, in 1836. They lived at Poole Forge until "the business of iron manufacture in those parts ceased to be profitable." (2) The forge operated into the 1850's.

The Elizabeth Furnace was the source of most of the pig iron for Poole Forge. At Poole Forge it was made into charcoal blooms and bar iron. From here it was distributed to Philadelphia and Reading. The cleared forest land was then farmed, making Poole Forge a two industry complex.

The three forges on the Conestoga Creek all retain their mansions. Windsor Forge retains more of the outbuildings associated directly with the domestic life of the mansion, namely a detached Summer Kitchen, a Springhouse in ruins, a Smokehouse, and a Tenant House on a neighboring property. Spring Grove Forge retains a Springhouse and a detached Summer Kitchen. Poole Forge, retaining lime kilns, a Springhouse, Paymaster's Building, and two Tenant Houses embodies the community of an eighteenth century iron complex more so than either of the other two remaining forge complexes.

That the Mansions of all three forges were evolutionary structures, is a testimony to the monetary success that the iron industry was for the iron-makers who lived in them and were able to update them with the changing architectural styles. The Poole Forge mansion was not substantively re-modeled since the cessation of iron production in the 1850's. The Mansion's staircase and main entry, although of definite Federal character, are rather plain in comparison to the main entrance doors and stairway of Windsor Forge with the very graceful applied cutouts on the stair stringer and the elaborately pedimented, semi-circular transom at the North entrance.

(1) Annals of Conestoga Valley, 1942, 514.

(2) History of Lancaster County, 1883, 697.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Poole Forge, Caernarvon Township

Section number 8 Page 2

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Any of the mansions that Cyrus Jacobs built in Caernarvon Township, White Hall, Federal Hall, Ashland, Wheatland or Spring Grove Forge in East Earl Township originally were more lavish in terms of architectural embellishments than Poole Forge ever was. The architectural significance of the Mansion and it's outbuildings is the integrity of the buildings to the appearance that they had in the late eighteenth century and the first quarter of the nineteenth century. The Mansion retains its windows, window and door placements, and shutters from the period of significance. Windsor Forge Mansion continued to have some alterations to the window sash into the late 1800's. Spring Grove was remodeled in the Classical Revival Style in part in 1828. Poole Forge and it's outbuildings exhibit a more intact representation of an earlier complex than either Windsor or Spring Grove Forge do with their renovations continuing beyond the first quarter of the nineteenth century.

Poole Forge and it's outbuildings retain their original building materials. Two of Cyrus Jacob's Mansions have had their original building materials obliterated with applied materials. Federal Hall is now covered with formstone and Ashland with vinyl siding.

The period of significance for the complex was established based on the time period from the beginning of ironmaking at this location through it's most active period of ironmaking, c. 1779.- 1859, Poole Forge is unequalled by either Windsor Forge, or Spring Grove Forge in representing the complex that an ironmaking community was in the late eighteenth century and early nineteenth century in Southeastern Pennsylvania. The high degree of integrity of exterior architectural features that the Mansion retains from the late eighteenth century is not matched by either Windsor Forge or Spring Grove Mansion. The high degree of intact interior architectural features that the Mansion retains from the late eighteenth century and early nineteenth century gives a more complete representation of an Ironmaster's Mansion in Southeastern Pennsylvania than either of the two other remaining Ironmaster's Mansions on the Conestoga Creek.

Note: This nomination was prepared independently of the "Iron and Steel Resources of Pennsylvania, 1716-1945" multiple property listing. Readers can find more information about the Pennsylvania iron industry in the multiple property documentation form for the multiple property listing.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Franklin Ellis and Samuel Evans, History of Lancaster County, Philadelphia, Eberts and Peck, 1883. pp. 21,27,28,98,218,280,308,313,351,688,689,693,694,695,696,697,870,1048.

"Report of the Annual Outing of the Society", Papers read before the Lancaster County Historical Society, Vol. XIX, No. 7, 1915. pp. 200-207

Arthur Cecil Bining, Pennsylvania Iron Manufacture in the Eighteenth Century, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 1987. (2nd edition)

C.Z. Mast and Robert Simpson, Annals of Conestoga Valley, Scottsdale, Mennonite Publishing House, 1942. pp. 514-519.

Bridgens' Atlas of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, 1864.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (38 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:  
Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property 23

UTM References

A 18 416150 4442600  
 Zone Easting Northing

C 18 4161800 4442200

B 18 4170100 44442600  
 Zone Easting Northing

D \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property corresponds to the deed recorded in Lancaster County Deed Book U, Volume #83, Page #494 on December 30, 1981.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The entire site consisting of 23 acres is included within the boundary. Historically, the Poole Forge site included this 23 acres and considerably more of the surrounding acreage. All the buildings and structures that remain from the time period of significance are included within the 23 acres.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Joan Fleckenstein Architect

organization Joan Fleckenstein Architect date November 19, 1992

street & number 330 North Arch Street telephone (717) 299-6783

city or town Lancaster state Pa. zip code 17603

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Poole Forge, Caernarvon Township

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Committee on Historical Research, Forges and Furnaces in the Province of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Society of the Colonial Dames of America, pp. 507, 512-514.

Robert E. Simpson, Caernarvon Rambler, New Holland, New Holland Rambler, pp. 1-7.

The Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County, Our Present Past, Lancaster, 1985. pp. 45-53 and p. 133.

Everts & Stewart, Combination Atlas Map of Lancaster County, Pa. 1875  
The following are unpublished sources:

Tax records, Caernarvon Township, Lancaster County Historical Society, Lancaster.

1815 Direct Tax, Caernarvon Township, Lancaster County Historical Society, Lancaster.

Iron Masters of Caernarvon, Appel T.R. XXIX, 1925. p. 69, Lancaster County Historical Society, Lancaster.

Cyrus Jacobs, V93, (1932) index to personal names, Lancaster County Historical Society, Lancaster.

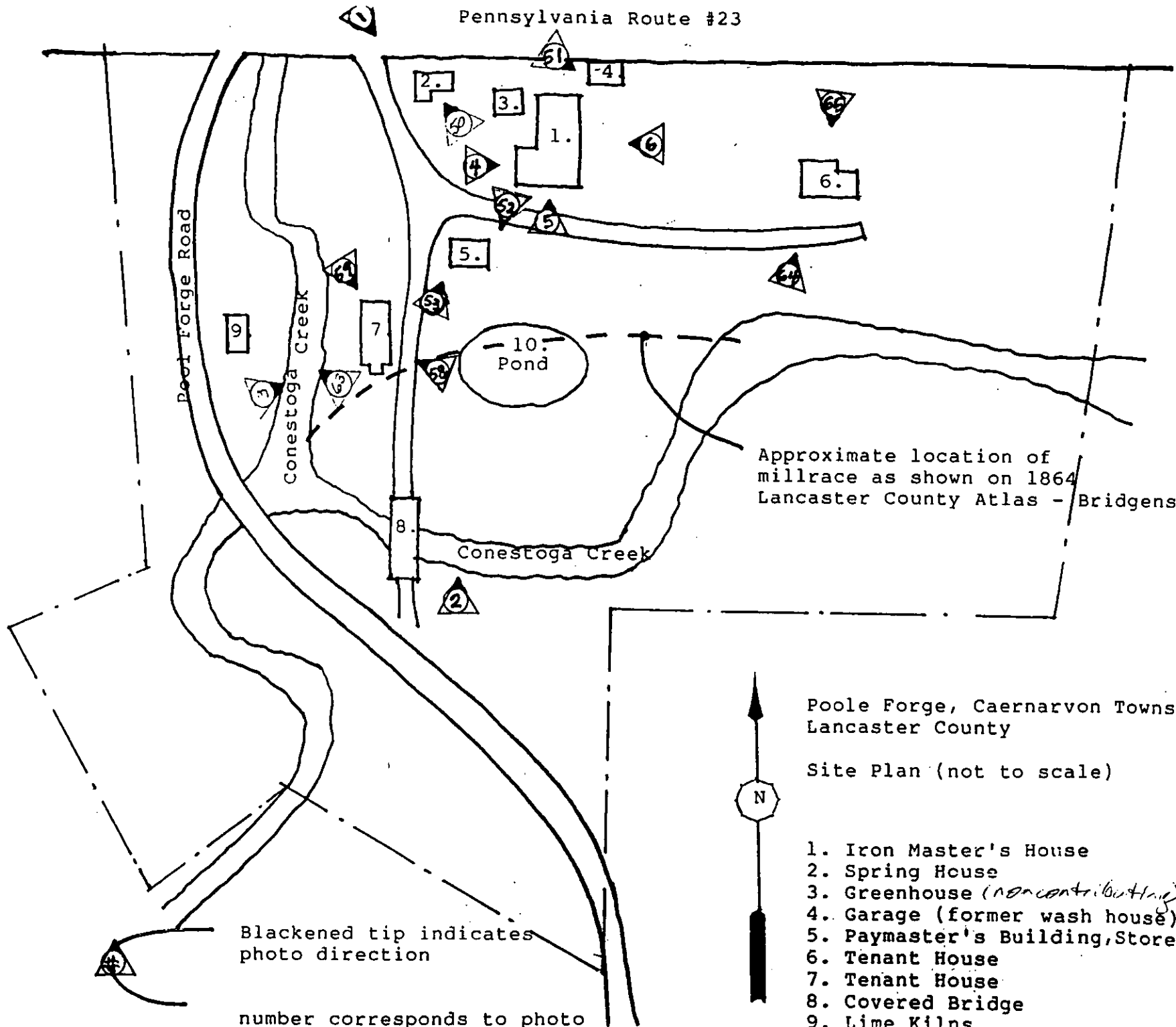
Comprehensive Historic Sites Survey of Lancaster County, Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County:

- Poole Forge Mansion, Caernarvon Township.
- Jacob Cyrus House/Spring Grove Mansion, East Earl Township.
- Windsor Forge Mansion, Caernarvon Township.
- Jacob Cyrus House/White Hall, Caernarvon Township.
- Jacob Cyrus House/Federal Hall, Caernarvon Township.
- Jacob Cyrus House/Ashland, Caernarvon Township.
- Jacob Cyrus House/Wheatland Mansion, Caernarvon Township.

Previews Incorporated, Poole Forge, Previews Listing No. 60285, (real estate brochure), Philadelphia, The National Real Estate Clearing House, CIRCA 1948.

Deeds to James Old, possession of the owner of Poole Forge.

Pennsylvania Route #23



Approximate location of millrace as shown on 1864 Lancaster County Atlas - Bridgens

Poole Forge, Caernarvon Township  
Lancaster County

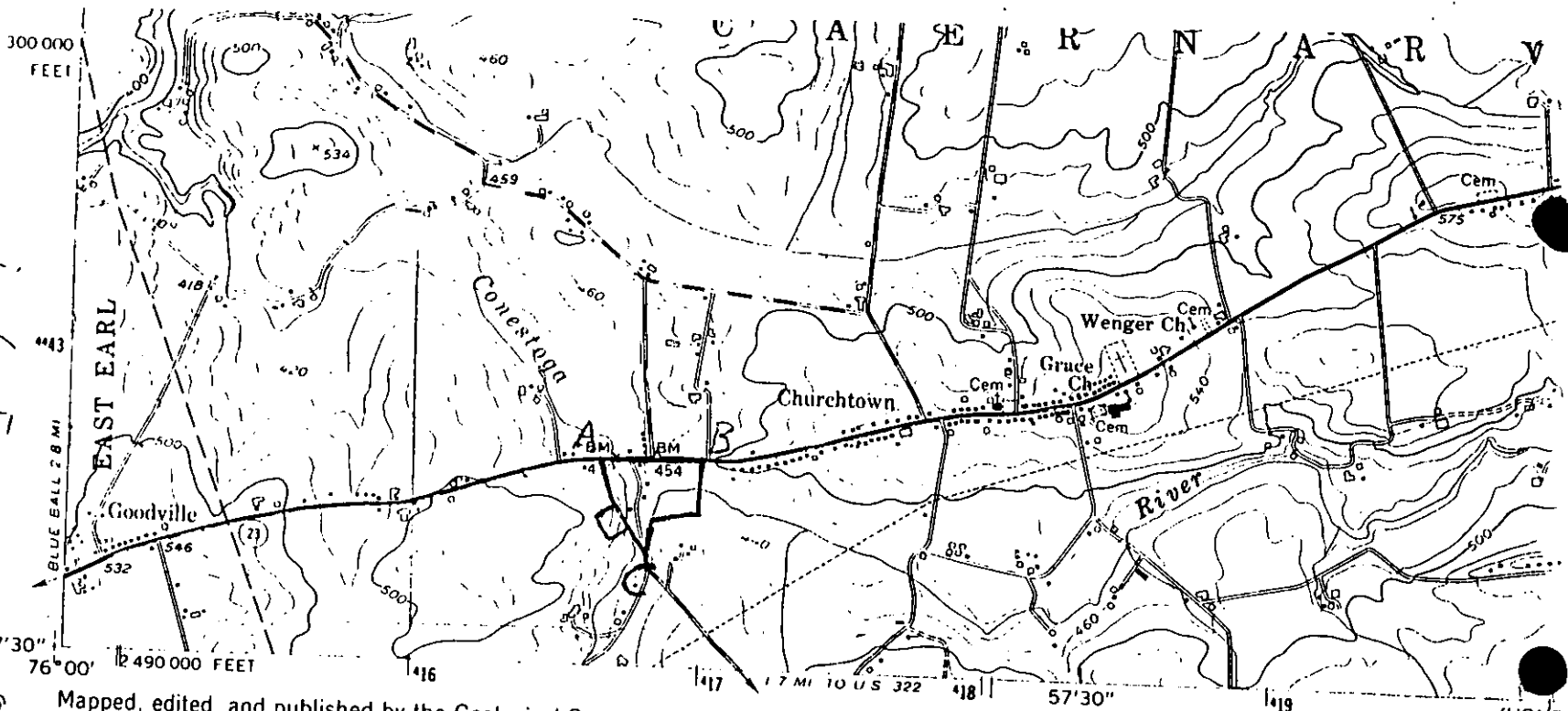
Site Plan (not to scale)



- 1. Iron Master's House
- 2. Spring House
- 3. Greenhouse (non-contributing)
- 4. Garage (former wash house)
- 5. Paymaster's Building, Store
- 6. Tenant House
- 7. Tenant House
- 8. Covered Bridge
- 9. Lime Kiln

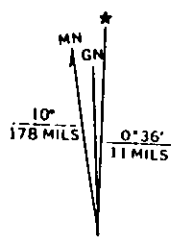
Blackened tip indicates photo direction

number corresponds to photo



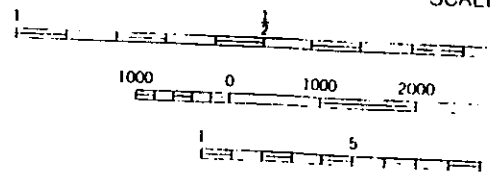
*Handwritten notes:*  
 300' 000 FEET  
 EAST EARL  
 BLUE BALL 2.8 MI  
 (NEW HOLLAND)  
 576 & 11 SE  
 417

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
 Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USSCS  
 Topography from aerial photographs by Wild A-6  
 Aerial photographs taken 1951. Field check 1956  
 Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
 10,000-foot grid based on Pennsylvania coordinate system,  
 south zone  
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
 zone 18, shown in blue  
 Unchecked elevations are shown in brown  
 Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with State of  
 Pennsylvania agencies from aerial photographs taken 1969 and 1975.  
 This information not field checked  
 Map photinspected 1980  
 No major culture or drainage changes observed



UTM GRID AND 1975 MAGNETIC NORTH  
 DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983,  
 move the projection lines 6 meters south and  
 29 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks



CONTOUR IN  
 NATIONAL GEODETIC V

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATI  
 FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL  
 OR RESTON,  
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAP