

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 Trimble, George House

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 50 Pleasant Grove Road

N/A not for publication

city, town Mechanicsburg (Silver Spring Township)

N/A vicinity

state Pennsylvania

code PA

county Cumberland

code 041

zip code 17055

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
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<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.

Dr. Brent D. Glass

Signature of certifying official

PA Historical & Museum Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

6/11/92

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)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLICAN/Federal

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE/Limestone

walls BRICK

roof ASPHALT

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The George Trimble House is located on the north side of Pleasant Grove Road in Silver Spring Township, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. The George Trimble House is slightly banked and faces south, overlooking (across Pleasant Grove Road) agricultural fields. Sitting alone on a 6.06 acre lot (1.43 acres are included in this nomination), no other buildings are within view of the house. Built in 1812, the George Trimble House is a five-bay, double-pile, center-passage brick house (51' by 42') with a stone foundation, a rear brick kitchen ell (17' by 18'), a 1960 brick sunporch on the west gable end, and a circa 1940 frame garage attached to the east wall. Although the house underwent some remodeling during the 1940s and early 1960s, the federal-era interior of the main block remains remarkably intact.

The house, which is common brick bonding with a flemish-bond facade, features a brick belt course on the facade and a brick saw-tooth cornice. Historic photos show that the house was unpainted in the early twentieth century; most likely, the exterior was first painted white circa 1940 and it remains white today. The windows feature six-over-six light sash (also restored in the 1940s) and are topped by extended reeded wood lintels terminating in rosettes. The first-floor panelled shutters were custom-made for the house in 1981; the second-floor louvred shutters appear to date to circa 1940.

The primary entrance features a fanlight set in a panelled surround. The ten-panel front door is original and features a date of "1812"; the date was originally in relief but was incised into the panel in 1960. Also in 1960, a semi-elliptical porch with four simple columns was built across the three central bays. This porch replaced a circa 1880 flat-roof portico which featured Doric-style pillars and Eastlake-style trim.

The gable ends of the house featured two windows on each story, a lunette at the attic story, and two chimneys. In 1940, a one-story, gable-roof frame garage was built onto the east gable wall, centered between the windows. A one-story, shed-roof brick sunporch was added to the west gable-end in 1960.

The brick kitchen ell is contemporary to the main block of the George Trimble House. Originally the ell featured a shed roof and was two stories on the west elevation. The shed roof was raised to a gable-roof in circa 1940. A door on the west wall provided an exterior entrance into

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the kitchen ell. A scar in the brickwork indicates that an arched bake-oven was once attached to the rear gable wall. A small (7' by 5') one-story frame addition with a balcony was built on the east wall of the kitchen ell in the 1940s.

The house exhibits a true Georgian plan, with a central passage running the full depth of the house flanked by four equal-sized rooms, each with a fireplace. All of the rooms in the house retain plaster walls and ceilings, pine wood floors (ranging from 4" to 6½"), chairrails, baseboards, and chimney cupboards.

A cellar is located only under the main block of the house. The cellar plan consists of a central passage, one room on the east side of the passage and two rooms on the west side of the passage. Two brick walls (flanking the passage), each with large relieving arches, run the depth of the house and support the brick walls above on the first and second floors. The room on the east side of the passage contains a large cooking fireplace on the east wall and appears to have functioned as an additional food preparation area; the fireplace was rebuilt in the 1960s. A door to the exterior is located south of the fireplace and two small windows exist on the south wall. The two rooms on the west side of the passage appear to have been used primarily for storage.

The first-floor central passage (7'6" by 29'6") of the house has a staircase rising in the northeast corner which climbs to a landing lit by a six-over-six light sash window before turning 180 degrees to the second floor. The stair balustrade has straight spindles and simple newels. Applied trim decorates the ends of the risers; the trim becomes less ornate at the second floor. A six-panel door leading to the basement is found under the stairs. Six-panel doors with surrounds featuring a single reed, rosette corner blocks and panelled reveals lead from the central passage into the four first-floor parlors.

The most ornate room in the house is the southeast parlor which features an elaborate corner cupboard and an equally ornate fireplace mantel with identical (except for size) architectural detailing. The corner cupboard stands the height of the room (11'6") and has two panelled doors below the chairrail level and above, an upper cabinet with four undulating shelves. A lunette with gothic-arched lights tops the glass doors. The cupboard is crowned with a heavy entablature with ellipse-shaped motifs in relief and a massive projecting cornice; the entablature and cornice details are repeated as the fireplace mantel and shelf.

(see continuation sheet, 7-2)

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The northeast parlor is less elaborate, not having a corner cupboard and featuring a mantel with less robust architectural detailing. The mantel exhibits carved rosettes and a projecting mantel shelf. During the 1940s, a room (to serve as a bathroom) was created in the northwest corner of the parlor.

The two parlors on the west side of the central passage are separated by four eight-panel doors which were originally hinged but are now hung on a track. The fireplace mantels are identical in both rooms and are simpler than those in the eastern parlors. The western rear parlor features a floor-to-ceiling cupboard in the northwest corner. The cupboard's doors match the doors dividing the two parlors.

Upstairs, the main block has four chambers and a room at the south end of the passage. The four chambers each feature a fireplace; each with mantels simpler than in the first-floor parlors. The doors leading into the chambers are six-panel; the surrounds feature rosette corner blocks but are not panelled. The room at the south end of the hall was converted into a bath and the six-over-six sash window replaced with a stained-glass window in 1976.

The kitchen ell contains one room on the first floor. The cooking fireplace on the north wall was enclosed during the 1940s. The original enclosed stair to the second floor remains intact in the northwest corner. The second-floor of the ell (made into a full story in the 1940s) is divided into a room and a bath.

Despite the additions built onto the house during the 1940s and 1960s, the George Trimble House retains all of its interior finishes and architectural detailing. The doors, chairrails, and especially the fireplace mantels and corner cupboards, were among the finest examples of federal-era woodwork in Cumberland County. Especially notable are the massive and ornate corner cupboard and fireplace mantel in the southeast parlor; equally significant, however, is the presence of all of the interior woodwork, revealing the hierarchy of finishes within the house and the craftsmanship available during the federal era within Cumberland County.

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

1812

Significant Dates

1812

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.

Built in 1812, the George Trimble House is a significant example of the full-Georgian-plan masonry houses favored by Cumberland County's wealthy agriculturalists during the nineteenth century. The George Trimble House is also significant for its interior woodwork which is remarkably intact throughout the main block of the house (revealing the hierarchy of finishes within the dwelling) and is among the finest federal-era woodwork in Cumberland County.

From 1800 through 1875 Cumberland County's farmers and merchants built and rebuilt their houses, barns and outbuildings. The houses constructed during this period--especially between 1815 and 1870--were primarily variations and modifications of the Georgian plan. Similar examples exist throughout the county, including the George Duffield Craighead House (circa 1865) in South Middleton Township, the Musselman-Urich House (circa 1820) in Upper Allen Township [with kitchen wing instead of an ell] and the John C. Sample House (circa 1850) in Silver Spring Township. (1) Among this elite group of farm houses, the George Trimble House is exceptional in the extraordinary, elaborate corner cupboards and fireplace mantels found in its parlors and chambers. The Trimble House is also noteworthy for its retention of all of its interior woodwork (all mantels, doors, window and door surrounds, chairrails, chimney cupboards and corner cupboards); the house is also unusual in that it contains not just one, but two corner cupboards. No other documented Cumberland County farm house of the period is known to contain (and retain) woodwork of comparable craftsmanship and elaboration.

At the death of his father (John Trimble) in December 1805, George Trimble received one-half of a farm in Silver Spring Township; the other half of the estate was bequeathed to his brother, John Jr. (2) George and John Trimble, Jr. in return had to provide their mother "sufficient maintenance...and bed and bed cloths." (3) It is not known whether the one-story log house (measuring 30' by 20') which John Trimble, Sr.

See continuation sheet

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occupied in 1798 stood on George or John's portion of the property. (4) Regardless, by 1812 George Trimble had built the large brick mansion house now known as the George Trimble House. (5)

On April 24, 1824 George Trimble died at the age of sixty and the house and land passed to his heirs. (6) Trimble's estate inventory (even after his widow had taken \$197.37 worth of goods) reveals that his greatest material assets (not including the house) were in livestock (41 sheep, 55 hogs, 27 geese, 6 cows, 2 calves, 4 heifers, 3 steer, 1 bull and 11 horses) and whiskey (over 1153 gallons) and not in household goods. Confirming the presence of the two corner cupboards in the downstairs' parlors were the two listings of "cupboard furniture" and no mention of cupboards. (7)

"George Trimble heirs" were listed as the owners of the house until 1859 when the property passed into the hands of John Armstrong and his wife, Martha Trimble. (8)

During the ownership of J. Grant Schwartz (from 1938 to 1954) the George Trimble House was remodelled on the exterior [see section 7] but the most significant aspect of the house--the interior woodwork--was preserved. The present owners of the house, Helen and E. Briner Ashway, purchased the property in 1957. (9)

ENDNOTES

(1) For a brief history of the reworking of Cumberland County's landscape during the nineteenth century, see Nancy Van Dolsen, Cumberland County: An Architectural Survey (Carlisle, PA: Cumberland County Historical Society, 1990) 29-51, 204-211, 267-283, 292-302.

(2) Will of John Trimble, Will Book G, December 31, 1805.

(3) Will of John Trimble, 133.

(4) Federal Direct Tax of 1798, List A, East Pennsboro Township, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania.

(5) The date of "1812" is suggested by the carving of the date on the front door of the house; the date seems likely when compared with houses which can firmly be dated to the first quarter of the nineteenth century. Unfortunately, tax assessment records for Silver Spring Township do not mention building materials until the 1830s when the house is described as a "large brick house."

(see continuation sheet, 8-2)

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(6) George Trimble's date of death (and his age at his death) are found on his tombstone inscription in the Silver Spring Presbyterian Cemetery. [See Jeremiah Zeamer, "Cumberland County Cemetery Inscriptions," 1955.] Cumberland County Historical Society. George Trimble did not leave a will and the only mention of the settlement of his estate in the records of the Orphan's Court concerns the appointing of a guardian for his minor children and the final accounting of the value of his estate.

(7) Inventory of the Estate of George Trimble, Inventory #65, Cumberland County Courthouse, Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

(8) See Cumberland County Tax Assessment Records, 1826 to 1858 and Deed Book 2M, 301. Cumberland County Historical Society.

(9) Schwartz purchased the property in March 1938 [see Deed Book, 11U, 590. Cumberland County Courthouse]. Helen and D.S. Poorman owned the house from 1954 to 1957 [see Deed Books, 15U, 161 and 17W, 89. Cumberland County Courthouse].

9. Major Bibliographical References

(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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acres of property 1.43

UTM References Wertzville, PA USGS Quadrangle

A

1	8
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3	2	5	8	2	0
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4	4	5	9	5	0	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at a point on Pleasant Grove Road 1650 feet southwest of the intersection of Pleasant Grove Road and SR114; thence 250 feet north to a corner; thence 250 feet east to a corner; thence 250 feet south to a point on Pleasant Grove Road; thence 250 west along Pleasant Grove Road to place of beginning.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Boundary includes the nominated resource and its immediate setting.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nancy Van Dolsen

organization _____ date March 1992

street & number R.D. 1, Stone House Road telephone (717) 789-4735

city or town Green Park state Pennsylvania zip code 17037

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SELECTED SOURCES

- Beers, F.W. Atlas of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. Carlisle, PA:
Cumberland County Historical Society (hereafter CCHS), 1976 [1872].
- Bridgens, H.F. Map of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. Carlisle, PA:
CCHS, 1987 [1858].
- Cumberland County Historic Resource Survey files, CCHS, Carlisle,
Pennsylvania.
- Cumberland County Triennial Tax Assessment Records, 1790-1876. CCHS.
- Cumberland County Deeds, CCHS and County of Cumberland, Courthouse, North Hanover
and East High sts, Carlisle, Pennsylvania.
- Federal Direct Tax of 1798, Lists A & B, East Pennsborough Township,
Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. CCHS (Microfilm).
- Trimble, George. Inventory #65. County of Cumberland, Courthouse, Carlisle, PA.
- Trimble, John, Inventory #41. County of Cumberland, Courthouse, Carlisle, PA.
- Will (December 31, 1805), Will Book G, 132-133. CCHS (Microfilm).
- Van Dolsen, Nancy. Cumberland County: An Architectural Survey. Carlisle, PA:
CCHS, 1990.

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Section number _____ Page _____ PHOTOGRAPHS:
George Trimble House, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania

- I. 1. George Trimble House
2. Silver Spring Township, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania
3. Nancy Van Dolsen
4. Cumberland County Historical Society, 21 N. Pitt Street, Carlisle
Pennsylvania 17013
5. May 1990
6. View of the fireplace mantel in first-floor southeast parlor, looking
east. Note massive mantel shelf.

(The first five items are the same for photographs II-VII; for photo-
graphs VIII-XII no. 5 is January 1992.)

- II. 6. Detail of fireplace mantel in first-floor southeast parlor, looking northeast.
III. 6. Detail of corner cupboard in first-floor southeast parlor, looking northwest.
IV. 6. Detail of fireplace mantel in first-floor northeast parlor, looking east.
V. 6. View of fireplace mantel in first-floor northwest parlor, looking west.
VI. 6. View of chimney cupboard in first-floor northwest parlor and of the
eight-panel doors separating the southwest and northwest parlors, looking
west.
VII. 6. View of fireplace mantel in second-floor southwest chamber, looking
northwest.
VIII. 6. View of facade (south elevation), looking north.
IX 6. View of facade, looking north. Note the stringcourse and saw-tooth brick
cornice.
X. 6. View of west and north elevations, looking southeast.
XI. 6. View of the north and east elevations, looking southwest.
XII. 6. Detail of the north elevations, looking south. Note rosette
cornerblocks and reeded lintel.

