

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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Dykeman's Spring

other names/site number Ainsworth Fish Farm, Asper Tract

2. Location

street & number North & south side of Dykeman Rd., 1/4 mile East of PA Rt696 N/A not for publication

city or town Shippensburg N/A vicinity

state Pennsylvania code PA county Cumberland code 041 zip code 17257

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Brent D. Glass

4/19/1999

Signature of certifying official Date  
Brent D. Glass, Executive Director  
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register (See continuation sheet).	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register (See continuation sheet).	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other (explain): _____	_____	_____

**5. Classification**

<b>Ownership of Property</b> (Check as many boxes as apply)	<b>Category of Property</b> (Check only one box)	<b>Number of Resources within Property</b> (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	2	2
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	3	0
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	1	1
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	0	0
		6	3
			buildings sites structures objects Total

<b>Name of related multiple property listing</b> (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)	<b>Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register</b>
N/A	0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Domestic</u>	Sub: <u>Single dwelling</u>
<u>Agriculture</u>	<u>Fishing facility (hatch house)</u>
<u>Agriculture</u>	<u>Processing (creamery)</u>
<u>Agriculture</u>	<u>Agricultural field</u>
<u>Domestic</u>	<u>Village site (Indians)</u>
<u>Landscape</u>	<u>Natural feature (springs)</u>

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Domestic</u>	Sub: <u>Single dwelling</u>
<u>Agriculture</u>	<u>Fishing facility (trout hatchery)</u>
<u>Recreation &amp; Culture</u>	<u>Outdoor recreation</u>
<u>Landscape</u>	<u>Conservation area</u>
<u>Agriculture</u>	<u>Agricultural field</u>
<u>Landscape</u>	<u>Natural feature (springs)</u>

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Mid – 19<sup>th</sup> Century – Italian villa

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Limestone

roof Asphalt shingle

walls Brick

other wood, cast iron

**Narrative Description** (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture

Architecture

Engineering

Archeology

**Period of Significance**

c. 1855 – 1948

**Significant Dates**

1870

1881

**Criteria Considerations** (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Significant Person** (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Dykeman, George R.

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Dykeman, George R.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

---

---

### 9. Major Bibliographical References

---

---

#### Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

#### 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

Name of repository: Shippensburg Public Library

---

---

### 10. Geographical Data

---

---

Acreage of Property 21.2

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1 18	285340	4435000	3 18	285280	4435540
2 18	285100	4435340	4 18	285700	4435320

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

---

---

### 11. Form Prepared By

---

---

name/title Earl Parshall

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date November 28, 1998

street & number 6 W. Dykeman Road telephone (717) 532-5634

city or town Shippensburg state PA zip code 17257

---

---

**Additional Documentation**

---

---

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

---

---

**Property Owner**

---

---

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

Manor House and 3 acre lot:

name Earl and Edwardine Parshall

street & number 6 W. Dykeman Road telephone 717-532-5634

city or town Shippensburg state PA zip code 17257

Hatch House, Wetlands Park, and remainder of acreage:

name Borough of Shippensburg

street & number 60 W. Burd Street telephone 717-532-2147

city or town Shippensburg state PA zip code 17257

---

---

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 1 Name of property: Dykeman's Spring  
County and State: Cumberland County, Pennsylvania

=====

**DYKEMAN'S SPRING SITE DESCRIPTION**

**Summary**

The setting of Dykeman's Spring property is essentially rural, rolling countryside although within sight of suburban neighbors. The property consists of: two contributing buildings, the Dykeman manor house (1871) and a hatch house (1871); the engineered feature of two large ponds (1871), connected by a culvert beneath Dykeman Road and counted as one contributing structure; and three contributing sites, consisting of Dykeman's Spring and the property's two recorded archaeological sites. Contributing resources are in good condition and maintain their historical integrity. Noncontributing resources include two buildings, a garage (1997) and chlorinator building (1970's), and one noncontributing structure, a fish nursery (1968). The property also contains a small milk house, pump house, and fishery storage shed which are small scale resources and not included in the resource count. The Dykeman manor house is a two and one-half story brick building on a limestone foundation. It was first constructed in c.1855, drastically remodeled in Italianate Style in 1871, and retains that style today. A two story, three car, barn style garage (24'X36') was completed in March 1997. Large, stately trees including maple, oak, birch, cherry, and black walnut surround the house. It sits on a hill overlooking a large front lawn and three spring-fed ponds. Behind the house is approximately 100 acres of farmland (used to raise corn and soybeans) and modern housing. The hatch house is a two story stone building surrounded by water on three sides. It was built in 1871. Behind the hatch house is Dykeman's Spring, which is used as a water supply for the local community. Dykeman's Spring, actually a group of springs, produces three to five million gallons of water per day. These springs provide water to the three ponds on the north and south sides of Dykeman Road. In front of the hatch house are two large ponds that make up part of a community park called Dykeman Spring Wetlands Park. The park also includes a nature trail and picnic ground. Water from the spring flows through a three foot diameter culvert under Dykeman Road to supply water to the pond on the north side of the road and the Branch Stream. The Branch Stream flows on through the Borough of Shippensburg and becomes Middle Spring Creek. The southeastern corner of the south pond has been established as a cooperative trout nursery supported by the Shippensburg Fly Fishing Club and the Pennsylvania Fish Commission.

**The Dykeman Manor House**

The original brick farmhouse (five bays wide, two bays deep) built in 1855 by Edward Scull (Deed 2-F-460; Assessment of 1856) constitutes the front half of the Dykeman manor house. This was a two-story Federal style house, approximately 40'X20', with a central front door. Sidelights flanked the front entrance, "bull's eye" blocks decorated the heavy wooden lintels over the windows, and single interior chimneys pierced either end of the moderately sloped gable roof.

The farmhouse was remodeled and doubled in size in 1871 (News, July 16, 1871) by George R. Dykeman. It is now a white, two and one-half story brick house, five bays wide and four bays deep, on a limestone foundation. The approximate dimensions are 40'X40'. Dykeman replaced the gable roof with a hip roof topped by a six-foot square cupola with finial. The red, central front door, still flanked by sidelights, opens off a 22'X12' covered porch, which has heavy "Carpenter Gothic" arches between the porch posts (porch and arches added by Dykeman). There are two windows, 84" high X 25" wide, four pane over four pane on each side of the front (north side) door on the first floor and five windows (same size and style) across the front (north side) of the second floor. Full length, black shutters adorn each window. Dykeman removed the bull's eye from the lintels and the lintels are now painted white to match the brickwork. Black cast iron scrollwork is over each window creating the same effect as the Italianate hood mold. Circular and oval bolection molding is attached to the simple four-panel front door to add a Victorian flavor and twelve ornate paired brackets (Italianate style) are attached to the cornices.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 2 Name of property: Dykeman's Spring  
County and State: Cumberland County, Pennsylvania

---

On the west side of the house, half of the limestone foundation is exposed due to the slope of the hill the house sits on. There are four windows each on the first and second floors. These windows are identical to those on the north side including shutters and iron scrollwork.

The eaves have the same ornate paired brackets that are found on the north side. Attached to the east wall at the rear is a one-story brick wing. The front half of the east wall is void of windows and doors. The rear of the manor house, or south side has a central door on both the first and second floor with two windows on each side of these doors. The second floor door opens onto a veranda balcony covered with a porch roof. The balcony and roof of the porch are supported by four posts ten inches square and fifteen feet high. These posts rest on brick pedestals that are four feet high.

The interior consists of eleven rooms, a three-quarter basement and a half attic. There are five rooms and a half bath on the first floor. Four of these rooms are on either side of an eight-foot wide central hallway in the front and rear of the house. The two rooms in the front (north side) of the house comprised the original 1855 farmhouse and are now a formal living room or parlor (west side) and a family room (east side). Both have a fire place and are connected by a hallway in the center of the house running in an east-west direction. There are stairs on the left side of the front central hallway to reach the second floor.

The two rooms in the rear (south side) of the house were added by Dykeman in 1871 and are now a dining room (west side) and kitchen (east side). In the central hallway between these rooms is a half bath (added in 1970's) and stairs to the second floor. The dining room has a fire place. All four of these rooms are approximately 14'X19' and have original pine floors. The sash windows in the family, living and dining (west side) rooms have angular wood molding while the windows in the dining (south side) and kitchen have half round plaster from the window frame to the interior walls. The fifth room on the first floor was also added by Dykeman in 1871 and is a small (10'X12') study in the east side wing. There are four bedrooms and a full bath on the second floor. These rooms are identical to the first floor with the exception of the rear (south side) bedroom on the west side. This room is L-shaped to account for the full bath (7'X8'). There is a connecting hallway between the two bedrooms on the east side of the second floor. Stairs come up from the first floor in the front and rear of the house to a landing in the center of the second floor. From the landing four steps go up to the front and three steps to the rear of the second floor. The interior walls and ceilings are lath and plaster throughout the house. Stairs from the second floor central hallway in the rear go up to the third floor where there are two small (9'X10' and 9'X12') rooms and the attic. These rooms were originally servant quarters and will be restored in the near future. The first two floors have been restored and the rooms returned to their original intended use.

A summary of exterior changes that Dykeman made in 1871 to the original 1855 farmhouse include: doubling the house by adding a two-by-five bay addition; adding a front porch with arches; adding black cast iron scroll work over the windows; adding ornate paired brackets under the eaves; replacing the gable roof with a slate hip roof topped by a cupola with finial, and three dormers on south side (back); adding a two story wing to southeast corner; and adding a second level veranda across back of house and wing.

Exterior alterations of Dykeman's 1871 manor house made by subsequent owners include: replacement of the slate roof with asphalt shingles (circa 1981); removal of three dormers (circa 1959) on the south roof (to be restored); reduction of a two-story brick wing on the east side to the existing one-story wing (circa 1959); conversion (circa 1959) of part of east side wing to an attached garage (to be restored in the near future); removal of a veranda balcony (circa 1959) on the manor's back (south) side (restored in March 1995); removal of smokehouse on east-side (1981); removal of corncrib and barn south of manor (1981); and the addition of a two-story, three car garage on the manor's southeast side (1997).

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 3 Name of property: Dykeman's Spring  
County and State: Cumberland County, Pennsylvania

=====  
**The Hatch House**

The original two-story limestone hatch house was built by George R. Dykeman in 1871 for the propagation of trout. It is 31 feet wide by 36 feet long. It is surrounded by water on the north, west and south sides. The front (north) side has three windows evenly spaced on the first and second stories. The west side has a large double door and a narrow single door on the first floor and two windows evenly spaced on the second floor. The east side second floor has a large door in the center flanked by a window evenly spaced on each side. The east side first floor is partially below ground level and only has a small door in the north corner. The south side has the same three windows evenly spaced identical to the front of the building. In addition, the south side has three arched openings evenly spaced at water level. These allowed water to flow through the building to the north ponds. Originally, a filtered intake channeled the 50-degree water into a distributing trough, then to screened hatching troughs. The hatch house and water behind it are enclosed by a seven-foot high chain link fence to protect the springhead which is part of the community water supply.

The interior of the hatch house has a concrete floor and exposed limestone walls. Stairs leading up are all that remain of the second floor. The tin roof is a hip roof. The building is structurally sound although the roof needs to be replaced and the walls re-pointed. The windows casings, frames and glass need to be replaced along with the doors. Previous alterations to the original hatch house include: replacement of slate roof with tin; replacement of two windows with doors; removal of cupola on the roof; and replacement of the interior hatching troughs with a concrete floor to facilitate the use of the building as a creamery.

**Springs**

A contributing site, the spring, or actually a group of springs, is located throughout the property. The main springhead is located approximately 150 feet behind (south of) the hatch house. The head of the spring is covered by a small six by six foot block pump house (built in the early 1970's), which pumps water to the chlorinator building (noncontributing resource) as part of the community water supply. The pump house is a small scale resource not included in the resource count.

**Archaeological Resources**

There are two archaeology sites surrounding Dykeman's Spring recorded in the Pennsylvania Archaeological Sites Survey. These surveys indicate that projectile points of the Archaic and Late Woodland periods were found. In addition, numerous Civil War artifacts have been found by the current owners while landscaping and gardening around the manor house. These sites are counted as two contributing sites. Other potential locations of archeological resources on the property are not included in the resource count.

**Ponds**

Two ponds, counted as a contributing structure are located on the north and south side of Dykeman Road in front of the hatch house. The south pond is an irregular rectangle shape, approximately 220 X 120 feet. The southwestern end of this pond surrounds the hatch house on three sides. Behind the hatch house, the pond still contains the foundations of Dykeman's trout raising ponds visible beneath the surface. Also visible beneath the surface are two large pipes that carry water from the pump house to the chlorinator building.

The north pond is rectangular in shape, approximately 200 X 50 feet, and is surrounded by a nature trail which is part of the local community wetlands park. It was formally used by Dykeman and others to raise watercress.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 4 Name of property: Dykeman's Spring  
County and State: Cumberland County, Pennsylvania

---

Noncontributing resources include the following:

**Chlorinator Building** – Located on the west side of the hatch house and counted as a noncontributing building is a 15 X 25 foot, brick building constructed in the early 1970's. This building is used to treat the spring water that is used as part of the community water supply.

**Fish Nursery** – Located on the east side of the south pond between the hatch house and manor house, the fish nursery is counted as a noncontributing structure. It consists of a trapezoid shaped, spring fed pond, approximately 30 X 50 feet with a protective mesh screen cover. The sides of the pond are made of concrete pieces of bridge abutment. A cover sluiceway allows water to flow out of the nursery into the south pond. The fish nursery, in operation since 1968, is a cooperative venture between the Shippensburg Fly Fishing Club and the Pennsylvania Fish Commission. Next to the fish nursery is a 8 X 10 foot storage shed which is a small scale resource not included in the resource count. This shed is used to hold feed and supplies for the fish nursery.

**Garage** – Located behind the manor house (south side), the garage is counted as a noncontributing building. It is a 24 X 36 foot, two story, three car garage built in March 1997. It is a barn style shape with pine lap siding to reflect the materials and style of the late 1800's. Thirty feet south of the garage is a six by six-foot milk house. The milk house is a small scale resource not included in the resource count.

#### Other Landscape Features

Dykeman road divides the north and south ponds. The road runs in an east-west direction, approximately 400 feet in front of the manor house.

Water from the spring flows through a three-foot diameter, corrugated metal culvert under Dykeman Road to supply water to the pond on the north side of the road. An older, three-foot diameter concrete culvert next to the metal one has been blocked off on the north end and is no longer used.

Located approximately 125 feet behind (south of) the manor house is a four by six-foot concrete slab from a former barn. There is a low mound of dirt behind the slab where parts of the barn foundation and garage remain under approximately six to eight inches of dirt. The barn was deteriorated beyond repair and was taken down by the Borough of Shippensburg in 1968. West of the south pond, parts of the former tenant house foundation also remain just below the soil.

#### Integrity of Property

Even though noncontributing resources have been added to the property and exterior changes have been made to the manor house, the property still maintains its integrity. The location and setting of the property remain basically the same as in 1871. The hatch house design and materials are also the same as when constructed in 1871. Despite some minor exterior changes, the manor house retains all of the essential physical features incorporated by Dykeman. The original materials and design of the window and door pattern and the ornamentation still remain the same. Although a noncontributing building, the garage incorporates the design and materials of the late 1800's to minimize its effect on the integrity of the property. The fish nursery, a noncontributing structure, maintains an association with the original intent of the hatch house since trout are still raised there.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 1

Name of property: Dykeman's Spring  
County and State: Cumberland County, Pennsylvania

---

---

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Dykeman's Spring is significant under Criterion A in the area of Agriculture for its prominence in local agricultural history as a fish hatchery and later as a creamery. The property is significant under Criterion B for its association with George R. Dykeman, who acquired the property in 1870 and who was locally significant both for his agricultural ventures and for his support to the community, notably in establishing the Cumberland Valley State Normal School (now Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania) in 1870. The property is significant under Criterion C for the architecture of its c1855 manor house, which Dykeman remodeled in the Italian Villa style, and for the architecture and engineering of the fish hatchery. Finally the property is significant under Criterion D for information potential based on the presence of two recorded prehistoric sites on the property as well as potential for historic archeology.

The period of significance is c. 1855 to 1948. The period begins with the c. 1855 construction of the front half of the present house and continues through the period of the creamery operation, up to the present 50-year guideline for National Register eligibility. The dates of 1870 and 1881 are significant as the years in which Dykeman bought the property and started creamery operations, respectively.

The Dykeman's Spring property is historically significant for it reflects broad trends of local agricultural history including George Dykeman's various agricultural pursuits and the long-term use of the former fish hatchery as a commercial creamery. Once occupied by Delaware Indians and used as an encampment location for General Ewell's troops in 1863, Dykeman's Spring was purchased and developed by George R. Dykeman between 1870 and 1895. This development included trout raising, fruit orchards, dairy farming, stone quarry, and creamery operations. He maintained a herd of registered dairy cattle; raised trout; planted orchards; and on adjoining property, established lime kilns and stone quarry operations southeast of the spring, and operated "Cobweb Mills", which produced a fine quality flour and animal feed. Dykeman's use of the spring brought about a number of important changes in the Cumberland Valley. Most important was Dykeman's influence in changing the economic focus of the valley from grain production to dairy farming. The success of the Shippensburg Creamery, documented in the local newspapers of the time, encouraged local farmers to take up dairy farming and spurred the construction of several other creameries in the Cumberland Valley. The property reflected local agricultural themes through 1948 by continuous creamery operations in the hatch house. This influence remains, as area agriculture today is concentrated on dairy farming, fruit orchards and the raising of dairy and beef cattle. The dairy industry that developed is now a multi-million dollar business in Cumberland and Franklin counties. In addition, trout are still raised at the spring by the Shippensburg Fly Fishing Club in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Fish Commission. These trout are for use in stocking area streams for recreational and sports fishing.

The Dykeman's Spring property is significant for its association with George R. Dykeman. Mr. Dykeman was a locally significant individual, most notably for his contributions to the local community and to local agriculture as discussed above. George Dykeman gave generous financial and technical assistance in establishing the Cumberland Valley State Normal School (now Shippensburg University) and the town of Shippensburg. He served as a benefactor to the Cumberland Valley State Normal School and was a member of the first board of Trustees and building committee of that academic institution. It was Dykeman's generous financial support, along with several other trustees, which kept the school from bankruptcy and dissolution in its early years. He also engineered the water system for the school and assisted in the construction of the first public water system in the town of Shippensburg. This association is still evident today as the property is referred to as Dykeman's Spring, the road through it is named Dykeman Road, and the manor house is known locally as the Dykeman house.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 2 Name of property: Dykeman's Spring  
County and State: Cumberland County, Pennsylvania

The property has local architectural significance for its outstanding Italian Villa style manor house and for the architecture and engineering of the fish hatchery. George Dykeman's manor house was designed around a smaller, brick farmhouse typical of many late Federal houses of the area and period. By adding rooms and details, and changing some aspects of the design, George Dykeman transformed a typical farmhouse into a stylish Italianate manor. He engineered the town's first in-house hot and cold running water system by pumping water from the springs to his manor house. Whereas others were content to add stylish details or another room to their homes in an effort at restyling them, Dykeman's resources and ingenuity enabled him to more completely transform the home to rival the better homes of the Victorian period. While there are other five by four bay Federal houses in the area, most notably the Shippensburg Library, they are simple Colonial style and lack the stylish Italianate appearance of Dykeman's manor house.

**Historical Background**

The Dykeman Spring area has played a part in local history since the arrival of the first settlers in July of 1730. The constant water of the "Half-way Spring" (so called because it was half-way between the Susquehanna and Potomac Rivers) would have made an ideal center for the planned settlement, but the presence of an Indian village at the site and the problem of swampy ground to the north of the spring turned the settler's attention elsewhere.<sup>1</sup>

The first known owner of the spring area obtained the property on June 3, 1735. On that date John Reynolds (a resident of the area since 1730<sup>2</sup>) took control of 200 acres at the "Half-way Spring" by having Thomas Willson secure a license for the settlement from Samuel Blunston, agent for William Penn; the record in the license book stipulates that the land is assigned to Reynolds.<sup>3</sup> Reynolds made his ownership more permanent in 1740, when the tract was officially deeded to him in a grant of 433 acres.<sup>4</sup> When Reynolds died in 1745, his son John inherited the land.<sup>5</sup>

Apparently the elder John Reynolds did not displace the Indians at the spring area. Local merchant Francis Campble related an incident at the Indian village at the spring; on March 9, 1742, several Indians of the village got drunk, became involved in a quarrel, and set one of the Indian huts afire. The resident of the hut died of his burns.<sup>6</sup>

Town proprietor Edward Shippen made plans in 1749 to include the spring in his town by having streets laid out in the direction of the spring. When Shippen's son-in-law, James Burd, surveyed the area to clearly define the streets and lots, he was to lay out the main street from the present intersection of King and Queen streets to the spring, which was still referred to as the site of several Indian huts. Shippen abandoned the idea because it would have necessitated an entirely new road to the southwest.<sup>7</sup>

The lack of easy accessibility to the spring was a major factor in the decision not to place the Cumberland County seat in Shippensburg, even though it was centrally located. Thomas Cookson, the deputy surveyor of Lancaster County, recommended to Governor Hamilton that the county seat not be placed in Shippensburg, because the town lacked a water supply.<sup>8</sup> Obviously the distance of the spring from the town and the presence of Indians made the spring an unreliable water source.

The "Spring Farm" seemed to change hands at frequent intervals. The younger John Reynolds was killed in an Indian skirmish at Sideling Hill in 1756, and his son William inherited the farm.<sup>9</sup> Either William Reynolds or his heirs sold the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 3 Name of property: Dykeman's Spring  
County and State: Cumberland County, Pennsylvania

farm to Samuel Culbertson in 1772,<sup>10</sup> and he passed it down to his son Joseph in 1785.<sup>11</sup> By 1802 Joseph's son, Dr. Samuel Culbertson, obtained the property. In 1798 the farm was described in the property assessment as follows: "199 acres, 40 by 20 log barn, 18 by 18 log house."<sup>12</sup> The Spring Farm was sold to Barnet Aughinbaugh in 1814. At that time the property was assessed for 170 acres and one distillery.<sup>13</sup> Aughinbaugh sold the farm to his son-in-law, Adam Snoddy in 1817;<sup>14</sup> Snoddy borrowed money from Aughinbaugh,<sup>15</sup> causing Snoddy to forfeit the farm for unpaid debts. It was sold to Dr. John Simpson at Sheriff's Sale in 1824.<sup>16</sup> Dr. Simpson died on February 17, 1826, and passed the property to his son, Dr. William Simpson.<sup>17</sup> When Dr. Simpson's property was assessed for taxes in 1843, the farm was described as consisting of 218 acres, a brick barn, and a one-and-a-half story log house, tenanted by Leonard West.<sup>18</sup>

The buildings mentioned in 1843 were still in existence in 1855 when Edward Scull, a local merchant, purchased the farm.<sup>19</sup> Between 1855 and the assessment of 1859 Scull erected a brick farmhouse,<sup>20</sup> the front half of the present house. This house was typical of the better houses of the area, a five-by-two bay structure, two stories tall, notable for the heavy wooden lintels over the windows. There was probably also a detached outkitchen beside and to the rear of the house.

History passed by the spring area again during the summer of 1863. On June 26 of that year, approximately 20,000 Confederate troops under General R. S. Ewell arrived from Chambersburg, headed toward Harrisburg but destined for Gettysburg. After "politely" raiding the town for livestock, food, and drugs, the troops spent the night south of town, General Rodes' Division camping at the spring, and General Johnson's Division one-half mile to the west on the lower reaches of Timber Hill. The troops headed east again on the morning of June 27<sup>th</sup>, 1863.<sup>21</sup>

John Watson Craig purchased the Spring Farm from Scull in 1864,<sup>22</sup> and six years later sold it to two enterprising Philadelphia businessmen, a Mr. Stephenson and George R. Dykeman. Stephenson and Dykeman paid \$28,000 for the 180 acre farm and \$11,500 for the adjoining Benjamin Reynolds mill property (originally a part of John Reynolds' Spring Farm). Their plan was to convert the property, with its ponds and a system of sluiceways and floodgates, to the raising of trout.<sup>23</sup> Stephenson dropped out of the picture in August 1871, with Dykeman having done most of the work.

George Randolph Dykeman was born in Saratoga County, New York in 1835,<sup>24</sup> and first became acquainted with springs in his hometown, noted for its bottled spring water. He was something of an inventor and entrepreneur, and together with one of his brothers owned the patent on the Westinghouse air brake. Dykeman put his talents to work on the complete transformation of the two properties. Reynolds' Mill had fallen into disrepair, and Dykeman renovated it, renaming the building "Cobweb Mill." His crew demolished the small stone spring house, and erected in its place the hatch house, the center of hatching operations, a large, two-story stone building topped by a hip roof and an elaborate cupola. Dykeman had the workmen excavate the hill behind the the spring to enlarge the pond, and also had the pond deepened.<sup>25</sup>

This enlargement of the pond provided space for the fish hatchery itself. The spring now flowed from the hillside instead of up through the bottom of the pond, and fed a supply pond for the hatchery operation. First the water flowed through a screened enclosure known as the spawning bed, where the process began. Then the water passed through three raising ponds, and from there part of the water left through the overflow, and part through two arched openings into the hatch house. This made fresh water available inside the building for other hatchery operations. The water left the building through four arched openings in the front, which are now hidden by the higher pond bottom. Dykeman designed the pond and the hatch house to be cleaned easily; by closing the overflow and the two arched openings in the rear, the water level rose in the spring pond, and eventually flowed through a third, larger arched opening, across the floor of the hatch house, completely washing the floor with fresh water.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 4 Name of property: Dykeman's Spring  
County and State: Cumberland County, Pennsylvania

=====  
Dykeman's ingenuity was also shown in his remodeling of the farmhouse. His workers erected a two-by-five bay addition on the rear of the house, making it roughly square, and replaced the simple gable roof of the old house with a new roof covering the entire structure. This new roof is a hip roof, surmounted by a cupola with a finial. By building onto the rear, the outkitchen was connected to the house, and Dykeman tied these structures together by constructing a simple two-level veranda across the entire rear wall of the house. He disguised the heavy lintels of the farmhouse with paint and decorative ironwork, and added a front porch with large but graceful arches between the pillars. The cornices of the roof and of the porch were decorated with the stylish Italianate "gingerbread" of the period. By adding rooms and details and by changing some aspects of the design, he transformed a typical farmhouse into a stylish Italianate manor. Whereas others were content to add stylish details or another room to their homes in an effort at restyling them, Dykeman's resources and ingenuity enabled him to transform an older home into a unique building typical of the better homes of the Victorian period. According to a local newspaper reporter,

"one would hardly recognize the old farm house, in the beautiful and commodious mansion situated on the hill, a stone's cast from the fish house.... This hospitable gentleman (George Dykeman) is the architect and master mechanic of all the improvements which we see around us. Welcoming us into his house, we found it to compare with the finest city mansions, no comfort or modern improvements to save labor was forgotten. Here, in the country, we found this elegantly furnished house, with bath-room supplied with hot and cold water. We went up-stairs and saw a mammoth tank holding 800 gallons of water; or, rather two tanks, one inside the other, the inner one containing spring water, forced up from the spring by a very large pump in the fish house, which supplied the house with drinking water, and also the cattle in the barn; the outer tank containing rainwater for washing purposes. Throughout the house we saw that in all details there had been a mastermind supervising."<sup>26</sup>

Unfortunately for Dykeman, competition in trout raising was stiff; in 1876 he began supplementing his income by shipping watercress to the New York markets,<sup>27</sup> by selling the products of his extensive orchard, and he even considered raising silkworms. By 1877 he retired from fish culture.<sup>28</sup>

Dykeman embarked on many endeavors and he gave generous financial and technical assistance in establishing the Cumberland Valley State Normal School (now Shippensburg University) and the town of Shippensburg. Most importantly, he served as a benefactor to the school and was member of the first board of trustees and building committee of that academic institution. It was Dykeman's generous financial support, along with several other trustees, which kept the Normal School from bankruptcy and dissolution in its early years. He also engineered the water system for the school and assisted in the construction of the first public water system in the town of Shippensburg. But these interests and costs of alterations to the Spring Farm pushed him deep into debt, and he was soon pressed to put his investments back to work. Dykeman maintained a large herd of registered dairy cattle and in 1880 he took out an advertisement in a Philadelphia newspaper<sup>29</sup> inquiring about the possibility of converting the spring area to a creamery, and received an encouraging reply.<sup>30</sup> An article in the Shippensburg Chronicle tells the story, in a report from the American Dairyman:

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 5 Name of property: Dykeman's Spring  
County and State: Cumberland County, Pennsylvania

"Shippensburg, April 10, 1882.

"Editor, American Dairyman;

"Dear Sir: The Cumberland Valley seems to have been laid out and watered with special reference to the dairy interest, though people have, up to this time, made it the wheat garden of the southern section of Pennsylvania.... (The building of new railroads) has caused the people to think more than usual. One turn of thought has been toward the dairy, resulting in the establishment of a creamery last year, the first in this section of the state, on the farm of G. R. Dykman, adjoining the village, here called the borough of Shippensburg, Mr. D. here having a spring of 2,500 gallons of water per minute, and a building originally intended for hatching trout and workshop, that at a very little expense was fitted up as a creamery, with an abundant flow of pure, cool water through it. For this with sufficient land he gave a long lease at a low rent, and entirely free the first year, to get the ball moving. Suffice it to say it moved, and now there are three others in the valley, about 11 miles apart, all either started or nearly ready."<sup>31</sup>

According to another article, the creamery opened may 15, 1881, and by March 1882 was taking in 5,000 pounds of milk per day.<sup>32</sup>

The Philadelphia company that rented the hatch house apparently found the operation unprofitable, and closed the creamery late in 1881 or early in 1882. On May 6, 1882, the creamery reopened under the ownership of Dr. Robert C. Stewart and Mr. William Brandt.<sup>33</sup> This time the business caught on, and in its issues of April 21, 1882 and March 2, 1883, the Shippensburg Chronicle credited Dykeman with beginning the conversion of the Cumberland Valley wheat belt to dairy country.<sup>34</sup> Stewart and Brandt were forced to close the creamery from March to July of 1883 to overhaul the machinery and expand the plant; the milk supplied and the orders received had exceeded the capacity of the creamery.<sup>35</sup>

Despite the success of the creamery, Dykeman's financial position deteriorated. On January 4, 1889, Cobweb Mill was destroyed by fire (it was not insured), and Dykeman sold the land.<sup>36</sup> Then, in 1895, the Spring Farm was sold to Mr. Frank Dennis at Sheriff's sale to pay Dykeman's debts of \$13,000.<sup>37</sup> George Dykeman retired to a small house in Shippensburg, where he died on December 21, 1912.<sup>38</sup>

Frank Dennis sold the farm to Samuel Angle in 1902.<sup>39</sup> During these years Stewart and Brandt, and later Brandt alone, continued to operate the creamery. Brandt sold the operation in 1908 to David I. Reeder, who was later joined by his brother Eber E. Reeder to form Reeder Brothers Dairy.<sup>40</sup> In January 1910 the log tenant house just west of the creamery was destroyed by fire.<sup>41</sup>

The borough of Shippensburg began another use of the spring about this time. In September 1914<sup>42</sup> and again in 1923<sup>43</sup> the borough drew water from the spring to alleviate water shortages, and at various times water was drawn to fight fires.

On June 22, 1918, the hatch house, which housed Reeder Brothers Dairy, was destroyed by fire.<sup>44</sup> The Reeder's immediately rebuilt the dairy in the stone shell of the building, reconstructing the hip roof, but not the cupola. In 1951 the dairy was sold to Miller-Reed Dairy, which allowed the lease on the hatch house to expire, closing the 70-year-old dairy.<sup>45</sup>

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 6 Name of property: Dykeman's Spring  
County and State: Cumberland County, Pennsylvania

---

The hatch house was put to a new use almost immediately by Mr. Charles Nunemaker. Mr. Nunemaker picked up where Dykeman left off, raising watercress on the spring pond. He harvested two or three crops per year from the pond, and together with two other, smaller, cress beds in the area, he build up one of the largest watercress businesses in the country, earning thousands of dollars.<sup>46</sup>

The end of this profitable business came about as a result of the changing uses of the spring. When Samuel Angle had died in 1927, he left sole ownership of the farm to his partner, Mr. Hiram W. Geesaman,<sup>47</sup> who sold the farm to Hiram W. Gill in 1956.<sup>48</sup> Mr. Gill then sold the farm to Mr. Hugh Asper in 1959.<sup>49</sup> Mr. Asper leased the right to pump water from the spring to the Borough of Shippensburg. The borough's sporadic use of the spring and Mr. Nunemaker's watercress operation coexisted well until the summer of 1966, when an extended drought reached its extreme. The borough was forced to draw heavily on the spring, which began to decline in volume because of the falling water table. Though some water still flowed into the pond, it was not sufficient to support the watercress crop, and the crop was ruined. Mr. Asper then gave the borough a choice: the town could either give up the spring or buy the farm. Faced with the potential loss of its only unfailing water source, the water authority purchased the farm (excluding the manor house and three acres surrounding it), and it was annexed to the borough on April 5, 1968.<sup>50</sup>

Not wanting the house to fall into disrepair, Mr. Asper kept it (and three acres surrounding it) and deeded it to his son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Asper, in 1969.<sup>51</sup> Mr. and Mrs. Asper sold the house to Dr. and Mrs. Larry Little in 1975.<sup>52</sup> The Littles sold the house to Mr. and Mrs. Steven Klein in 1989.<sup>53</sup> The Klein's did not live in the house, and it fell into disrepair. The Klein's sold the house to the current owners, Earl and Eddy Parshall in May 1994.<sup>54</sup> The Parshalls immediately began repairing and restoring the house. Much of the restoration has been completed with future plans including converting the attached garage back to living space and adding the three dormers back onto the south roof.

<sup>1</sup> William H. Burkhart, Cumberland valley Chronicles, p. 3.

<sup>2</sup> William Henry Egle, ed., Notes and Inquiries Historical and Geneological Chiefly Relating to Interior Pennsylvania, v. 3, p.223.

<sup>3</sup> George P. Donehoo, A History of the Cumberland Valley in Pennsylvania, v. 1, p. 56.

<sup>4</sup> Philadelphia County Deeds, v.10, book A, p. 293.

<sup>5</sup> Lancaster County Wills, 1-A-103, filed 1745, examined 1753.

<sup>6</sup> Francis Camble's Diary, quoted in the Shippensburg News, 26 Feb. 1876.

<sup>7</sup> News-Chronicle, 14 Dec. 1937.

<sup>8</sup> Archives of Pennsylvania.

<sup>9</sup> Warner, Beers, and Co., History of Cumberland and Adams Counties, Pennsylvania, p. 57.

<sup>10</sup> Cumberland County Deeds, v. 1, Book I, p. 112.

<sup>11</sup> Cumberland County Deeds, 1-CC-249.

<sup>12</sup> Direct Tax of 1798, Sixth Division, Third Assessment District.

<sup>13</sup> Cumberland County Deeds, 1-CC-252; Cumberland County Property Assessment of 1814.

<sup>14</sup> Cumberland County Deeds, 1-CC-254.

<sup>15</sup> Cumberland County Mortgage Book, D-41 (1817).

<sup>16</sup> Cumberland County Sheriff's Deeds, B-94-1493 (1824).

<sup>17</sup> Cumberland County Deeds, 2-F-460.

<sup>18</sup> Assessment of 1843.

<sup>19</sup> Deed 2-F-460, assessment of 1856.

<sup>20</sup> Assessment of 1859.

<sup>21</sup> Wilbur Sturtevant Nye, Here Come the Rebels, pp. 301-303. Nye found much of his information in the diary of Shippensburg druggist John Altick.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 7 Name of property: Dykeman's Spring  
County and State: Cumberland County, Pennsylvania

---

- <sup>22</sup> Deed 2-Q-15, tract 1.  
<sup>23</sup> News, 6 Aug. 1870; 10 Sept. 1870; assessment of 1871; deed 3-C-568.  
<sup>24</sup> News, 27 Dec. 1912.  
<sup>25</sup> News, 1871: 15 July, 16 Sept., 21 Oct.  
<sup>26</sup> News, 16 July, 1871.  
<sup>27</sup> News-Chronicle, 16 Apr. 1976.  
<sup>28</sup> Wing, p. 259.  
<sup>29</sup> News, 10 Mar. 1883.  
<sup>30</sup> News, 3 Apr. 1880.  
<sup>31</sup> Chronicle, 21 Apr. 1882.  
<sup>32</sup> Chronicle, 2 Mar. 1883.  
<sup>33</sup> News, 25 Mar. 1882, 6 May, 1882.  
<sup>34</sup> Chronicle, 21 April, 1882, 2 Mar., 1883.  
<sup>35</sup> News, 10 Mar. 1883, 7 Jul. 1883.  
<sup>36</sup> News, 11 Jan. 1889.  
<sup>37</sup> Deed 5-L-138.  
<sup>38</sup> News, 27 Dec. 1912.  
<sup>39</sup> Deed 6-H-199.  
<sup>40</sup> News-Chronicle, 4 Sept. 1951.  
<sup>41</sup> News, 7 Jan. 1910.  
<sup>42</sup> News, 20 Sept. 1914.  
<sup>43</sup> News, 20 Oct. 1923.  
<sup>44</sup> News, 26 Jun. 1918.  
<sup>45</sup> News-Chronicle, 4 Sept. 1951.  
<sup>46</sup> Interview with Mr. Kenneth Asper. Interviewed by Paul H. Barner, Shippensburg, PA, 3 Feb. 1981.  
<sup>47</sup> Deed 10-J-395, tract 3.  
<sup>48</sup> Deed 17-F-130.  
<sup>49</sup> Deed 19-A-42.  
<sup>50</sup> Interview with Mr. Kenneth Asper, 3 Feb. 1981.  
<sup>51</sup> Deed 23-E-854.  
<sup>52</sup> Deed 26-G-307.  
<sup>53</sup> Deed Book Z, Volume 33, p. 113.  
<sup>54</sup> Deed Book 106, p. 245.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 1 Name of property: Dykeman's Spring  
County and State: Cumberland County, Pennsylvania

---

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Books

Beers, F. W. Atlas of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, 1872. Reprint project of the Cumberland County Historical Society (Carlisle, PA: Cumberland County Historical Society, 1976), pp. 26 – 27, 49.

Burkhart, William H. (ed.). The Shippensburg Story. (Shippensburg, PA: Shippensburg Historical Society, 1970), pp. ii, iv, 1 – 2, 93, 151.

Burkhart, William H. Cumberland Valley Chronicles. (Shippensburg, PA: Shippensburg Historical Society, 1976), pp. 131, 163, 207 – 208.

Hubley, John E. Hilltop Heritage: Shippensburg State's First Hundred Years. (Shippensburg, PA: Shippensburg State College, 1971), pp. 8, 14, 16.

Wing, Conway P. History of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, 1731 – 1879. (Carlisle, PA: Herald Printing Company, 1879), pp. 105 – 105, 224 – 225, 259.

Papers

Burkhart, William H. Happenings Along Branch Creek. (Shippensburg, PA: Shippensburg Historical Society, 1983).

Newspapers

Shippensburg News, 1870 – 1927.

Shippensburg Chronicle, 1870 – 1927.

Shippensburg News – Chronicle, 1927 – 1983.

Proposals

Barner, Paul H. Dykeman's Spring Application for Pennsylvania Inventory of Historical Places. (Harrisburg, PA: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 1981).

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 10 Page 1 Name of property: Dykeman's Spring  
County and State: Cumberland County, Pennsylvania

---

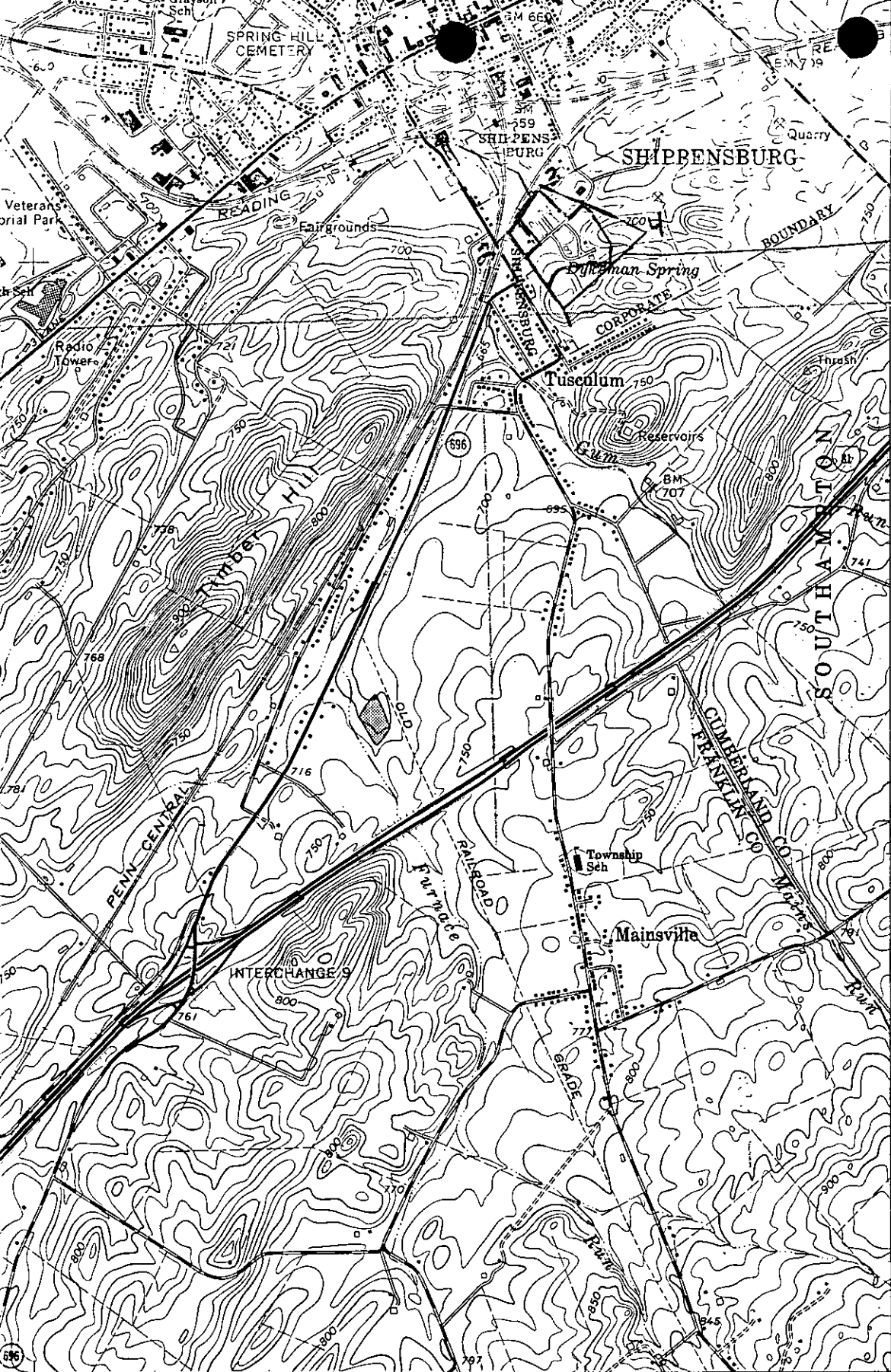
---

**Verbal Boundary Description**

Beginning at the south, inside edge of Dykeman Road, at the junction of the properties of Earl and Edwardine Parshall and the Borough of Shippensburg, moving southwest along the edge of Dykeman Road to the Branch Stream, thence northwest along the Branch Stream to the property line of the Borough of Shippensburg, thence following that property line southwest and southeast to the south, inside edge of Dykeman Road, thence southwest along the edge of Dykeman Road to the property line of the Shippensburg Medical Clinic, thence southeast along that line and continuing to the 710-foot elevation, thence northeast to the northern extreme of that line, thence due east to the 710-foot elevation line, thence due north to the second intersection with the 690-foot elevation line, thence northwest to the place of beginning. Containing approximately 21.2 acres.

**Boundary Justification**

The nominated property includes the resources historically associated with the hatchery and creamery operations at Dykeman's Spring. Acreage historically associated with the Dykeman farm has been excluded owing to development.



DYKERMAN'S SPRING  
CUMBERLAND COUNTY  
SHIPPENSBURG QUAD  
 ① 18 285340 443500  
 ② 18 285100 4435240  
 ③ 18 285080 4435540  
 ④ 18 285700 4435300

32'30" 284000m.E 77°30" 4431000m.N 40°00'

INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C.—1973

MILE

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy-duty ————— Light-duty —————
- Medium-duty ————— Unimproved dirt - - - - -
- Interstate Route    □ U. S. Route    ○ State Route

(CALEDONIA PARK 5583 JV NW)

