

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic

and/or common Byrd Leibhart Site (36Yo170)

2. Location

street & number near Long Level

not for publication

city, town Long Level

vicinity of

state Pennsylvania

code

42

county York

code 133

3. Classification

Category

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

Ownership

- public
- private
- both

Public Acquisition

- in process
- being considered

Status

- occupied
- unoccupied
- work in progress

Accessible

- yes: restricted
- yes: unrestricted
- no

Present Use

- agriculture
- commercial
- educational
- entertainment
- government
- industrial
- military
- museum
- park
- private residence
- religious
- scientific
- transportation
- other:

4. Owner of Property

name Ronald C. Kohr, Lauxmont Farms

street & number R. D. #1

city, town Wrightsville

vicinity of

state Pennsylvania

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. York County Courthouse

street & number 28 East Market

city, town York

state Pennsylvania

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Pennsylvania State Museum Archaeological
Site Survey & Recording Program

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date December 15, 1969

federal state county local

depository for survey records William Penn Memorial Museum

city, town Harrisburg

state Pennsylvania

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u> N/A </u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Byrd Leibhart Site (36Yo170) was a late 17th century fortified Susquehannock village, [REDACTED]. The site is situated on the top of a knoll at 360 feet elevation (above sea level), north of Canadochly Creek. Under cultivation for many years, the site is currently in grass fallow.

The site has been known for over 50 years by local archaeologists and collectors. In 1929, Albert Cook Myers purchased trade items that Byrd Leibhart's son had dug from the site (Landis n.d.). In the fall of 1932, Charles Leibhart, Byrd's father, and David Graham together dug two graves on the flat top of the hill, 200-300 yards south of the Dritt family cemetery (see map). The next year, Byrd Leibhart plowed out Indian remains within 10 yards of the Southwest corner of the cemetery, and together with Graham, dug out 90 graves there. Regrettably, the artifacts from this episode of digging were divided between Leibhart and Graham. Graham's share eventually ended up at the York County Historical Society, via the Loucks Farm Museum, but were permanently mixed with another collection from the Oscar Leibhart Site (Yo9) (Kent n.d.). Part of Leibhart's share was later sold at auction to a Lancaster collector, while the gun parts were sold to another collector.

Prior to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission excavation in 1970, George Keller had dug a large number of graves on the site, as well as pits associated with the village component. The excavations undertaken by the PHMC, in July-August, 1970, under the direction of Barry Kent, tested three distinct cemeteries and the village area associated with the site. The plow disturbed zone was first stripped in large areal units by bulldozer. These areas were then flat shoveled, and features were mapped and excavated by trowel. In all, over 2500 square feet make up the site. Stockade lines were located in the North, South, and East sides of the site, but not in the West, where extreme sheet erosion may have obscured the archaeological record. Although the shape of the stockade is presumed to be egg shaped, the possibility of corner bastions has not yet been disproven, archaeologically. The stockade was estimated to have enclosed 22,300 square meters of village area (Kent n.d.). Few undisturbed features were located within the village area, and only one longhouse was noted from the excavation.

(The spelling of the name of the site has not been consistent in the archaeological literature, or even among the family that the site was named after. The spelling of Leibhart is chosen, among several alternatives, because it is how the family currently spells its name.)

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The artifacts from the site reflected the range of native and European trade goods that might be expected from a late 17th century site. Aboriginal pottery from the site was predominantly Strickler cord-marked, with some Washington Boro Incised. Gunparts, including frizzens, hammers, springs and gunflints were common in burials. Material from the burials, listed by Landis (n.d.) included iron tools, copper kettles, knives, wooden spoons, pipes, beads, European and Indian ceramics, glass, and gun parts, indicating an extensive trade network with the Europeans.

[REDACTED SECTION]

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Byrd Leibhart Site attains both prehistoric and historical significance. Through the archeological record, the site provides a view of a culture rapidly undergoing acculturation effects, through increased contact with European traders and trade goods. In addition, this time period is marked by intensive warfare with Iroquoian groups, and as far as this is evidenced in the site record, may shed light on the nature of intertribal warfare. As this is the site of the last, or second to last pure Susquehannock village, the site may also hold information as to the demise of the Susquehannocks as a tribal entity, especially with regards to the stressors of war and disease, and/or changing trade relationships. The burial population, estimated at 150, may provide, through paleodemographic methods, answers to the above questions of war and disease. Finally, if the Byrd Leibhart Site is earlier than the Oscar Leibhart Site, then it may be the location of the successful Iroquoian war against the Susquehannocks in 1673 that resulted in their subjugation by the Iroquois Confederacy.

The pottery and trade items from the site generally date between 1650 and 1675 (Kinsey 1969). The abundance of Strickler cord-marked, in relation to Washington Boro Incised, and the type and quantity of trade goods, places the Byrd Leighart Site late in this span. The similarities of the Strickler (La3) and Oscar Leibhart (Yo9) sites to the Byrd Leibhart Site, in terms of artifact inventory and settlement pattern imply the contemporaneity of the three sites within this time frame. Still, the typical Susquehannock settlement pattern of only one site being occupied at any one time, and historical documentation both support an occupation sequence for the three sites (Kent n.d.). This assumption, along with selected historical documentation, places the Byrd Leibhart site late in the sequence, no earlier than 1670 and no later than 1683 (Kent n.d.; Hanna 1911; Jennings 1968:47). Whether the site is earlier or later than the Oscar Leibhart Site is a topic for future research. A five year occupation within the bracketed span of 1670-1683 would account for the estimated 150 burials at the site, given a village size of 600 individuals (Kent n.d.).

The Susquehannock tribe in the first half of the 17th century was a powerful political influence in Southeastern Pennsylvania, controlling the major trade route from the Delaware bay to the five nations to the north, and the lucrative fur trade. Their position, in relation to Dutch interests in New York, Sweden's in Delaware, and the English in Maryland resulted in their acquiring both economic and military strength, to the point where they were able to dominate the Seneca from the early part of the century until the early 1660's.

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Hostilities between the five nations and the Susquehannocks were escalated with the coming of the fur trade, and intensified as more of the European powers attempted to exploit trade and territorial interest through one or the other of the warring tribes. The zenith in Susquehannock power was probably signalled by the successful repulsion of a Seneca attack at the Strickler Site in 1663. After that, war and disease reduced the population to a point where the war in the Summer of 1673, with the Iroquois, resulted in the hegemony of the Iroquois in the Lower Susquehanna Valley (in Jusuit Relations for 1673, cited in Kent n.d.). Adding to this, was the reversal of the formerly allied Maryland government, which in 1674, voted to make peace with the Seneca and instead, wage war on the Susquehannock power and in the decline in importance of trade in the overall economy of Maryland (ibid.).

Following a brief removal of the Susquehannocks to the abandoned Piscataway Indian Fort in Maryland, they returned to the Lower Susquehanna Valley in 1676, but by that time, many were scattered among the Leni Lenape on the Delaware, and as captives among the Iroquois. It is at this time that the remnants of the Susquehannock tribe is presumed to have occupied the Byrd Leibhart Site. During their stay there, the lack of mention in historical accounts has been interpreted as meaning a diminished political standing (Kent n.d.). That the records failed to mention either the village at Yol70, or at any other place, as recorded by Penn's emissaries buying land in the 1680's, has been interpreted as meaning that there were no Susquehannock communities in the lower Susquehanna Valley by 1683. No further mention of a Susquehannock community is reported until the 1690's at the location of Conestoga Town, and then only as a minority population in a village composed mainly of Seneca.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 11 acres

Quadrangle name Safe Harbor

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References Red Lion

A

Zone	Easting	Northing

B

Zone	Easting	Northing

C

--	--	--

D

--	--	--

E

--	--	--

F

--	--	--

G

--	--	--

H

--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ira Beckerman

organization

date

street & number 630 Humphrey Court #202

telephone (717) 545-5698

city or town Harrisburg

state Pennsylvania 17109

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Larry E. Tise, State Historic Preservation Officer date 4/13/84

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Item 9.

Major Bibliographic References

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Jennings, Francis

1968 Glory, death, and transfiguration: The Susquehannock Indians in the Seventeenth Century. Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society 112(1):15-53. Philadelphia.

1978 Susquehannock. In Handbook of North American Indians. Volume 15. Northeast. Bruce Trigger (ed.) Smithsonian: Washington. pp. 362-267.

Kent, Barry C.

n.d. Historical Research on the Susquehannocks. Manuscript on file at William Penn Memorial Museum. Harrisburg.

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Kinsey, W. Fred III

1969 Historic Susquehannock pottery. In Susquehannock Miscellany, John Witthoft and W. Fred Kinsey, III (eds.). Harrisburg. pp. 61-98. (2nd edition)

Landis, D. H.

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Hunter, William A.

1969 The historic role of the Susquehannocks. In Susquehannock Miscellany. John Witthoft and W. Fred Kinsey, III (eds.). Harrisburg. pp. 8-18. (2nd edition)

Item 10.

Verbal boundary description and justification

[REDACTED]