

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

ok
27
27

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

1. Name

historic

and/or common Fisher Farm Site, 36Ce35

2. Location

street & number Route 220

not for publication

city, town Unionville

— vicinity of

congressional district 23

state Pennsylvania

code 42

county

Centre

code 027

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Ivan Fisher

street & number R.D.

city, town Julian

— vicinity of

state Pennsylvania 16844

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Centre County Courthouse

street & number High Street

city, town Bellefonte

state Pennsylvania

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Pennsylvania Archaeological Site Survey

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1979

federal state county local

depository for survey records Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

I. General Description

The Fisher Farm Site (36Ce35) is a prehistoric open air site of approximately 3.5 acres in extent. [REDACTED] Pennsylvania, and is [REDACTED] 100 meters north of [REDACTED] (Map 2).

The site area is presently subject to agricultural tilling and has been so for over 100 years. Agricultural disturbance has penetrated to a depth of 20 cm-25 cm. Below 25 cm a dense yellow clay subsoil is present. Intact archaeological features, including burials, hearths, pits, and postmolds, are present within this clay subsoil.

Archaeological investigations at the Fisher Farm Site between 1976 and 1978 have indicated that the site dates to the Late Woodland (1000 A.D. to 1600 A.D.) phase and represents a farming hamlet community.

II. Archaeological Investigations at The Fisher Farm Site

The Fisher Farm Site has seen three seasons of archaeological investigation from 1976 to 1978. In 1976, under the direction of Dr. Mark Aldenderfer, small test excavations were placed within the boundaries of the site. In addition, a larger excavation unit revealed a postmold alignment forming the outline of a prehistoric structure.

In 1977, under the direction of Dr. James W. Hatch, a more intensive investigation of the site was initiated. This research employed surface survey and collection, excavation by hand, and mechanically aided plow zone stripping to reveal the subsurface features which penetrate the yellow clay subsoil. Approximately 500 m² of surface area was excavated (Map 3). Seventy-two features, including 9 burials and an area of postmold alignments were discovered. C-14 and botanical samples were retrieved.

In 1978 excavations focused on a silted-up, stratified stream bed which is situated just off the eastern edge of the terrace upon which the site is located. This stream bed was excavated in natural levels to evaluate possible changes in ceramic motifs and in projectile point styles through time. In addition, the stratified deposit provided numerous C-14 samples for dating and pollen samples for reconstructing past environments.

From 1978 to 1980, artifactual materials from the Fisher Farm Site were analyzed by students and staff at The Pennsylvania State University. This research has resulted in the reconstruction of the activities which occurred at the Fisher Farm Site between 1200 A.D. and 1600 A.D. (Hatch 1980).

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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Fisher Farm Site (36Ce35) has contributed and can be expected to contribute significant information concerning prehistoric lifeways at the local and site specific levels of investigation.

In 1978 a regional program of site survey and excavation was initiated for the Bald Eagle Valley and Nittany Valley watersheds (Hatch 1980). An objective of this research was to investigate how sites from each archaeological phase were behaviorally interrelated in terms of subsistence strategies, settlement systems, and social organization. The work completed to date at Fisher Farm has contributed significantly to this goal, and future work at the site can be expected to contribute further.

Prior to the investigation of the Fisher Farm Site, Late Woodland research in Central Pennsylvania had focused on large stockaded village sites located along primary river drainages. Whether the Late Woodland settlement system included other site types, and in what ways these other types might have been related to the stockaded villages, remained unclear. The excavations at the Fisher Farm site suggested that in addition to large villages, small farming hamlets were located within secondary and tertiary drainages, and were contemporaneous with the large villages. These small hamlets may have been occupied by population segments that were residentially distinct but politically affiliated with those at the large villages; alternatively, they may have been occupied by small groups that moved from the larger villages on a seasonal basis. Further research at the Fisher Farm Site and at other Late Woodland sites in Central Pennsylvania should clarify these issues. The results should provide significant new insights into Late Woodland and subsistence systems and social organization.

The ceramic sequence obtained from the stratified stream bed at the Fisher Farm Site also has important implications concerning Late Woodland population movements in Central Pennsylvania. This sequence shows a gradual overlapping change in ceramic decorative motifs. Such a pattern is at variance with current models of Late Woodland ceramic change in Pennsylvania. These models postulate several sudden and total replacements of one ceramic style by another. To explain these ceramic style changes, several rapid and complete replacements of one prehistoric population group by another have also been postulated. The ceramic sequence from Fisher Farm suggests that such a process was not characteristic of the Late Woodland phase in Central Pennsylvania. Instead, Late Woodland culture change seems to reflect gradual evolutionary trends rather than sudden population replacements.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Statement of Significance (continued)

These results have important implications for the interpretation of the late phases of Central Pennsylvania prehistory. A new Late Woodland settlement type has been identified, and this discovery should contribute to a fuller understanding of Late Woodland settlement patterns in Central Pennsylvania. In addition, the ceramic sequence of the Late Woodland phase probably does not represent several occupations of the area by different population groups. Instead, more stable population dynamics probably characterized the Late Woodland phase. These findings represent the primary contributions of research at the Fisher Farm Site to date. Future research can be expected to provide important insights into seasonality of use, numbers of people in residence, and the activities they engaged in. A fuller understanding of Late Woodland lifeways should result.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Hatch, James W. (ed.). The Fisher Farm Site: A Late Woodland Hamlet in Context. The Pennsylvania State University, Department of Anthropology, Occasional Papers, No. 12, 1980.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 3.5

Quadrangle name Bellefonte

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A 18 12 42 00
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Fisher Farm Site was defined as coextensive with a surface scatter of ceramic and lithic artifacts. Survey set stakes were placed at the eastern and western extremes of this scatter, and were located 3 meters north of the railroad line which bisects (see List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries cont. sheet)

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Christopher M. Stevenson & Conran Hay

organization Pennsylvania State University date June 5, 1980

street & number 105 Carpenter Building telephone 814-863-2301

city or town University Park state Pennsylvania 16802

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Larry E. Tise, State Historic
title Preservation Officer date

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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