

**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 Judge Henry Slippen House

and/or common Red Cross Building

2. Location

street & number 403 Chestnut St/915 Liberty Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Meadville

— vicinity of

state Pennsylvania

code 042

county Crawford

code 039

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name American Red Cross

street & number 403 Chestnut Street

city, town Meadville

— vicinity of

state PA

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register and Recorder's Office

street & number Crawford County Courthouse

city, town Meadville,

state Pennsylvania 16335

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Crawford C. Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1975 federal state county local

depository for survey records Crawford County Courthouse

city, town Meadville

state PA

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 <u>n/a</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Judge Henry Shippen House is a two and a half story three bay by 6 bay brick residence with mansard roof. It is located on the northeast corner of Chestnut and Liberty streets in Meadville, Pennsylvania. The house is one of a number of elaborate residences in the area which dates from the Federal to the Second Empire period. Built in 1838, it was originally a single, detached dwelling. The rear three bay section on the north side was converted in to a separate unit around 1875 by Evan Shippen, son of the builder.

The facade of the building, formerly red brick, is now painted grey. The mansard roof is asphalt-shingled. The dormers repeat vertical bays except above two street entries. Descriptive scroll shaped brackets with pendants support the cornice and are alternated with modillion blocks. The frieze has bed molding. The north, east and west walls each contain two chimneys. All windows are double sashed, and are either six over six, two over two, or one over one lights. They have lintel-type window leads, except for the west front of the rear section, which has decorated pedimented and segmented window heads. The west wall has a centered bay on the south section and a porch, at the Liberty St. entrance, surrounded by bays on the north section. The entrance door has a pane of glass at the top and a panel below topped with a transom, now covered over. The enclosed porch on the south wall has handsome iron lace detail. The interior door has a pair of vertical glass panes, a panel below, and a four pane transom also covered over. There are decorated pilasters on either side of the door and these are surrounded by three pane sidelights. The east wall on the north section, has lintel-type second story window heads and a 8' by 30' foyer, believed to have served as a carriage entrance.

In 1965, the north section, at 915 Liberty St, was purchased by its present owner. It now accomodates the Crawford County Office for the Aging, and has an apartment on the second floor. All first floor rooms have been paneled; the ceilings have been lowered, and the fireplaces closed. The 403 Chestnut Street address, on the south side, contains the Meadville Chapter of the Red Cross. This interior has kept much of its integrity. All windows and doors on the first and second floors have bulls eye corner block design. Chair railing is evident through-out both levels. All ceilings are about 10'7" high. The fireplaces have been closed but retain their original mantels. The kitchen in the north-east corner has been remodeled and has a connecting door on the east wall which leads to the foyer. A curved banister with plain spindles leads from the first floor to the third which has skylights situated above the stairwell. The second floor contains a bath and storage area in the northeast segment. A double door with paneled over transom leads to the center east wall room. The southeast corner room has a two over two light window on the south wall with four pane sidelights. The southwest corner room has a closed fireplace with Ionic columns on either side of the opening. The small northeast corner room on the third floor also has a closed fireplace. The northwest corner room was never completed and is covered with 12" plank flooring.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	Historical Relevance, state & comm	

Specific dates 1838 & Later **Builder/Architect** Judge Henry Shippen

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Associated with one of Meadville's more prominent families, the Judge Henry Shippen House is one of Meadville's best examples of a fashionable in-town residence. Notable for its fine proportions and excellent workmanship, the house was adapted to the latest architectural styles during the late nineteenth century and today reflects the taste and sophistication of Meadville during that time.

Henry Shippen came to the village of Meadville in 1825 after being appointed Judge of the Sixth Judicial District. The grandson of Philadelphia's first mayor, Shippen built this sophisticated house in 1838 to accommodate his growing family. Unfortunately the Judge died a year later leaving his widow, Margaret Shippen, to rear their ten children. After the Judge's death Mrs Shippen became increasingly active in the Unitarian Church. Between 1840 and 1860 Mrs. Shippen opened her home to numerous Unitarian functions and the house became a Unitarian headquarters of sorts. After Mrs Shippen's death in the late 1860's her son Evan obtained the house, converted it from its original Federal style to the Second Empire style and had the interior space converted into two apartments. Occupied by an exclusive clientele through the early 20th century, the house remained an anchor within Meadville's most fashionable neighborhood.

Evan Shippen is responsible for the present appearance of the Shippen House. The oldest son of Judge Henry Shippen and an iron furnace manager in Lancaster, York and Philadelphia during the 1850's and 60's, Evan Shippen, in the 1870's, sought to enhance the house's appearance as well as make the house profitable. Originally Federal in style, Evan converted the house to the Second Empire style decorative scroll-shaped brackets with pendants and alternating with modillion blocks were built to support a new cornice. A frieze with bed molding, iron lace detailing on the south porch, and a mansard roof which was built to replace the original hipped roof were also added. On the interior the house was partitioned into two apartments, but all the original woodwork was retained. The result of these changes permits an insight into the evolution of domestic architectural design in Meadville.

The Henry Shippen House is today considered by the people of Meadville as one of the town's earliest and more important dwellings.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bates, Samuel P., Brown R.C., Mansfield, J.B. et al. History of Crawford County, PA
Chicago: Warner, Beers and Company, 1885

Bibliographic files--by street address--created for the Crawford County Historical Society by Virginia LeSueur, in conjunction with a 1975 unpublished research work titled "Placing Bits & Pieces of Meadville's First Hundred Years & with such Plaquing as in Appendix H.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .5

Quadrangle name Meadville

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	7	5	7	0	9	7	0	4	6	0	9	6	3	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification The property nominated rests on a lot 83.75'x131.35' bounded on the south by Chestnut St., on the west by Liberty St, on the north by Geroge Zeitler, and on the east by Yolanda Barco.

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan Hartman/ Bureau for Historic Preservation

organization Bureau for Historic Preservation

date February 1984

street & number P.O. Box 1026

telephone (717) 783-8946

city or town Harrisburg

state Pennsylvania 17120

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

For NPS use only

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

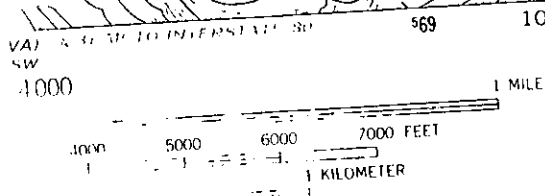
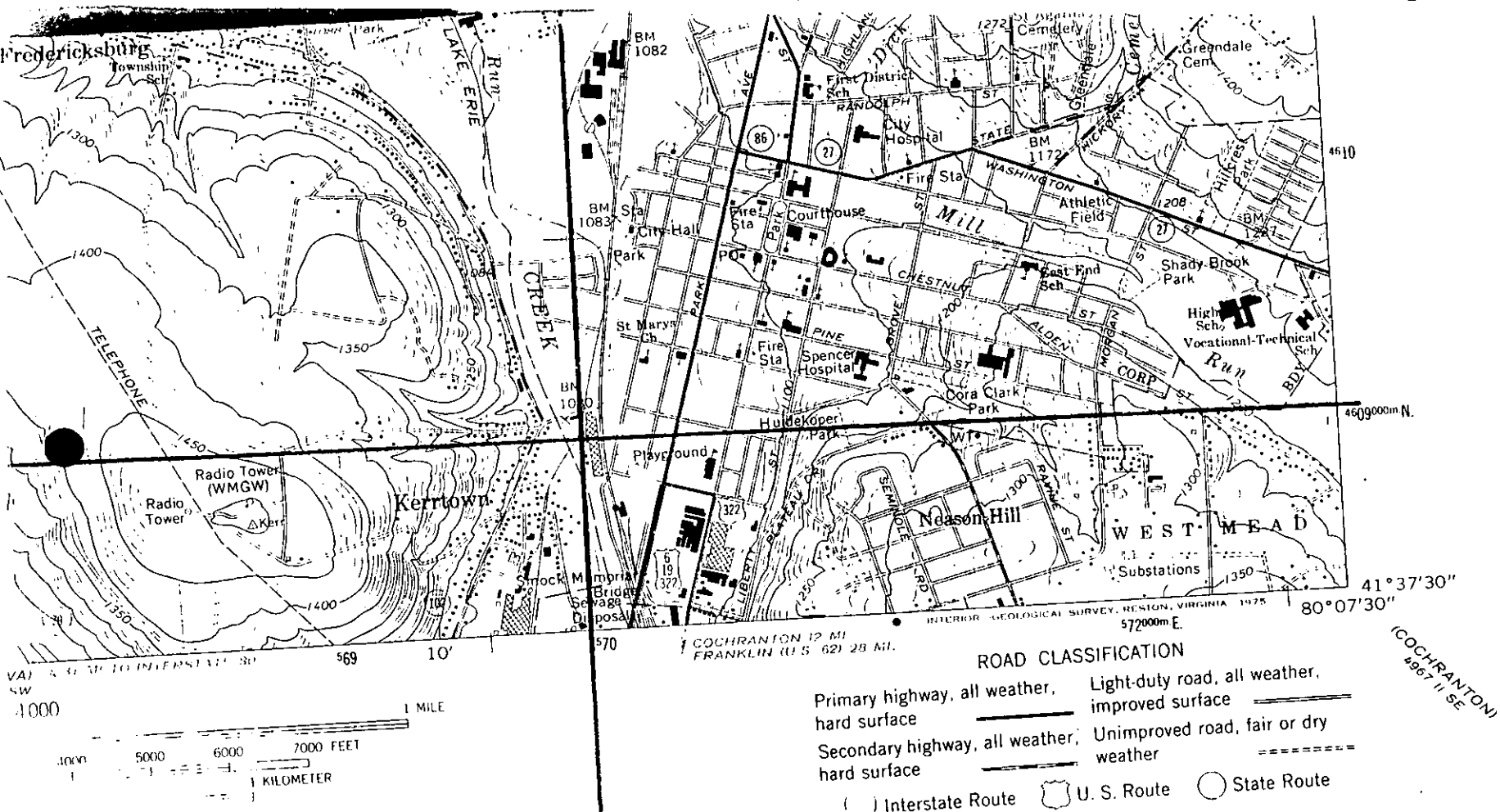
date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, all weather, hard surface	Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface	Unimproved road, fair or dry weather

() Interstate Route U.S. Route ○ State Route

MEADVILLE, PA.
 N4137.5—W8007.5/7.5
 1968
 AMS 4967 II NW—SERIES V831

VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
 MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
 SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
 AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

PENNSYLVANIA

COCHRANTON 12 MI
 FRANKLIN (U.S. 62) 28 MI.

INTERIOR GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 1975

41° 37' 30"

80° 07' 30"

COCHRANTON
 4967 II SE