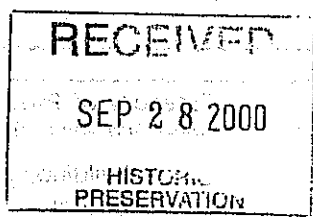


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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 an 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 Cree, William, House

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number west side of SR 1011, 1/10 mile north of SR 21 Not for publication

city or town Jefferson Township Vicinity

state Pennsylvania code PA county Greene code 059 zip code 15344

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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.)

Burt Jones Exec. Dir. March 26, 2001
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

PA Historical and Museum Commission
State of 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 official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): _____

Cree, William, House
Name of Property

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: secondary structure

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: federal era stone cabin

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Sandstone

walls Sandstone

Log

roof Asphalt

other

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.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

ca. 1790 - ca. 1794

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

UTM grid for Zone 18, Easting 581560, Northing 4415930

UTM grid for Zone 18, Easting 581560, Northing 4415930

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 Terry A. Necciai, R.A.

organization TAN/RA/Historic Preservation Consulting date 25 May 2000

street & number 2334 Murry Ave telephone (412)521-4084

city or town Pittsburgh state PA zip code 15217

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name Richard and Barbara Yeager

street & number RD 1 Box 36 telephone (724) 966-9341

city or town Jefferson state PA zip code 15344

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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

*Cree House
Greene County, Pennsylvania*

Section Number 7 Page 1

The Cree House is a very simple three-bay stone house on a hillside overlooking Muddy Creek in Jefferson Township a half mile northwest of the village of Khedive, and three miles south of Jefferson Borough, Greene County. Its immediate surroundings consist of about an acre of sloped land outlined by mature trees and fence rows. The house overlooks the intersection of Jefferson Road (SR 1011) and State Route 21, though it is separated from Rt. 21 by several newer residences. Although the one acre area now defined by trees once contained other outbuildings, only the house (built 1792) and a springhouse (built in 1782), seventy-five feet east of the house, remain. Both the house and springhouse are banked into sloped sites so that the basement is fully exposed from the front and the main floor can be entered from the rear. The house has two full stories above a full basement. One of the oldest buildings in Greene County, its distinguishing features are its small, rectangular floor plan, consisting of one room, approximately twenty-feet by twenty-feet per floor, and segmentally-arched window and door openings with centered entrances at the front and rear of the first story. It also has fine examples of several common features of eighteenth century houses in the region, such as a large cooking fireplace, a bedroom chimney cupboard with large, paneled doors, and a winding corner stair with a very early painted grain finish. There is no evidence of the house being divided into rooms (except to enclose a small bathroom) though the design includes two fireplaces per floor. To make this simple building more habitable, modern features have been added, such as a kitchen sink and stove in the northwest corner of the main floor and a bathroom in the same corner, above. New wood flooring has been installed over the original flooring, and new divided light sash windows have been installed without removing the original pegged window jambs. About 1974, a two story log house was attached to the east where there had once been a small, one story addition. The log house was originally built on an unrelated site about 1847, and is about twenty feet by thirty feet. The springhouse, which family sources say was built in 1782, retains its original design, including the fireplace opening on the upper floor and a stone trough in the lower floor. Though there have been a number of changes to the Cree House, the building was always small and simple, and its key architectural features have been restored or updated in ways that are in keeping with the historic design rather than compromised over the last two centuries. The house and springhouse are the contributing resources included in this nomination, which includes no non-contributing resources.

The Cree House faces and is oriented with respect to the Valley of Muddy Creek, which flows west to east about a thousand feet in front of the house. The farm formerly included most of the land behind the house to the north on the knoll between two minor branches of Muddy Creek, though the present owners only own about nine acres. The house is located five miles east of Waynesburg, the county seat, on State Rt. 21, the main east-west artery across the county, which follows the alluvial plain of Muddy Creek. The driveway is accessed from Jefferson Road, which the property abuts.

The shell of the house is built of ashlar blocks of seamed sandstone on the facade and rear elevation, and seamed sandstone rubble on the side elevations. At the corners are large, roughly cut quoins of unseamed sandstone. The top quoins at each gable end are much longer than the others, reminiscent of returned eaves. The window openings of the facade have nine small stone voussoirs composing each segmental arch, and the doorway has an arch of fourteen voussoirs. Around the doorway is a light ghost of an architrave or portico which was here before a sunporch was added about 1920 (only portions of the concrete block basement walls of the sunporch remain, and the

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*Cree House
Greene County, Pennsylvania*

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owner is in the process of removing them). The openings of the rear elevation are treated identically, except that a simple shed-roofed porch runs across the rear and there is concrete around the first floor window jambs, apparently added when slightly smaller sashes were first installed in the windows in the mid twentieth century. The exposed basement portion of the facade is partially obscured by the cinder block base which remains from the sunporch. The gable end elevations have two small, nearly square attic windows with tiny four-over-four wood sashes to each side of a rubble chimney, at each end of the house. The only other openings in the stone shell are a six-pane, single sash window in the northwest corner of the west side of the house providing light to the kitchen, and the interior openings to the addition. The interior openings on each floor at the northeast corner, accessing the log addition, were most likely cut in the early nineteenth century when a one story addition had been built here. The only documentation of this earlier wing are a few small, faded photographs given to the current owners by former owners. From them, one can see the form and shape of the addition (it had a gable roof centered at about the point where the first and second story masonry openings to the current log addition are located), but the photographs are not clear enough to indicate the building materials of the wing. In the photographs, it appears to be dark in color, either stone or weathered wood. Mid twentieth century photographs taken after the wing was removed show only a large white scar on the masonry, ghosting from plaster, paint, or whitewash.

The one large room that makes up the first story of the stone part of the house serves as a combined living room, dining room, and kitchen, as it apparently did in 1792. The second story of the stone part of the house contains one large bedroom, as it did in 1792, and a small bathroom. At the east end of the first floor is a forty-seven inch high cooking fireplace with an elegant Adam style walnut mantelpiece. The sides of the fireplace opening have large, carefully-cut ashlar blocks, with a tooled surface. A new raised flagstone hearth has been installed in this fireplace, two inches above the floor level. The face of the chimney breast above and to the sides of the mantelpiece is finished with painted, beaded boards. The fireplace on the opposite wall has been closed in to provide a flue for a cast-iron, wood-burning, kitchen stove situated in front of the former opening.

To the left of the stove, an enclosed winding stair occupies the southwest corner in the space next to the chimney breast. The section of this stair which rises from the first to the second story has no doors, and is thus not enclosed, but the sections leading to the basement and attic are enclosed with doors. The winding stair has very narrow triangular treads, and rises from floor to floor in twelve risers, forming radii of a half circle. It is stacked so that there are roughly identical flights from the first floor to the second, and from the second floor to the attic. The stairs to the basement are very steep and straight, almost ladder-like, enclosed by a door at the first story. There is a similar door at the second floor enclosing the flight to the attic, though the flight from the first to second floor remains open. The stairs between the first and second floor are finished with painted wood grain, incorporating a wavy pattern resembling burl or birdseye maple. The door to the basement stairs has broader, pine-pattern painted grain. The door to the attic stairs has a stained finish. The risers and treads of the attic and basement stairs remain unpainted.

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*Cree House
Greene County, Pennsylvania*

Section Number 7 Page 3

The second floor contains one large bedroom with a small bathroom enclosed by drywall partitions, in the corner. At each end of this bedroom is a small fireplace with an arched opening, similar in size and design to the window openings. Like the windows, the two second story fireplaces have segmental arches of nine small voussoirs each. The walls surrounding the fireplace at each end of the room are exposed masonry, though they appear to have been formerly plastered. A course of wood blocking for a mantel shelf runs across each wall, embedded in the masonry. To the right of the chimney breast, at the eastern end of the bedroom, is a large chimney cupboard enclosed by two tall doors with two vertical panels each, above which are two smaller doors to an upper cupboard area.

Both the present owners and the owners they purchased the property from (Dennis and Justine Yajko) have maintained the house with minimal changes to its primitive appearance. Electricity and plumbing were added in the early twentieth century, as was the case at farm houses across much of Greene County. At the time it was electrified, the house had other rooms, such as the sun porch and the previous addition to the side which is believed to have served as a kitchen. The installation of plumbing and wiring had minimal impact on the one large room of the first story and of the second story of the stone portion of the house. However, when the Yajko family purchased the house, the side wing and sunporch had been removed and the original house had layers of remodeling materials which they then removed in a careful restoration.

The framing of each story is visible in its ceiling. The ceilings of both the first and second floor consist of unplastered joists and exposed flooring. The rafters having ghosting showing that the ceilings were once plastered; now the bottom surface of the flooring is painted. The roof framing is visible from the attic. It consists of five inch by five inch rough hewn rafters joined by similar vertical members to form trusses. There is no ridge beam. The rafters are at about a two foot interval. The sheathing is rough and appears to be from a very early date. The pegs where the members are joined are exposed. In the basement the joists supporting the first floor are visible: closely-spaced round logs hewn only on the top.

The springhouse, like the house, is a stone building incorporating both rubble and rough-cut ashlar. It is located in a swale so that the lower level walls are exposed only under the southern gable end. The walls are mainly rubble with rough-cut quoins at all corners. The building is in precarious condition due to shifting soils: the west wall has had to be relaid, and the exposed gable end wall is out of plumb and is pulling away at the roof. The exposed gable end has a door off-center at the lower level and a window opening centered in the upper level. The lower level has a very old plank door into which a single light opening has been cut at some point in the twentieth century. The window opening has a three-light upper sash which may be original, and a mismatched six light sash nailed in sideways to close the lower two-thirds of the opening. The sides of the springhouse have a wood fascia at the base of the roof which is badly weathered. At the east side elevation is the door to the upper level, a weathered plank door in a solid wood jamb, which may be original to the construction of the building. Inside, the springhouse has a rubble trough in the lower level, a rare survivor in this region where most troughs are now concrete, and it has a fireplace in the upper level. The fireplace has a large, cut stone lintel over the opening, almost as large as the opening itself. It is cracked vertically at the center. Above the fireplace, a portion of the wall surface is plastered, though most of the interior of the springhouse has unplastered masonry walls.

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*Cree House
Greene County, Pennsylvania*

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Though the house has evolved over two centuries, most of the essential features of the 1792 design remain in place. The masonry shell and framing members are all original and in good condition with good integrity. The cooking fireplace and winding staircase are also in good condition and unchanged. The window sashes have been changed several times. The present sashes represent a recent restoration, placing new six-over-six windows in the existing openings without removing the original pegged jambs. They replaced vinyl windows. A sunporch added to the facade in 1920 has been removed, except for its foundation which will be removed soon. Minor changes have been made to the rear first story details, particularly in converting one window to a door about 1900 and adding concrete around the jamb of another window. The doorway was converted back to a window and now matches the original design perfectly. Notable recent changes include installation of a kitchen and bathroom and the addition of the log portion around 1974. The log addition, though not historically related to this site, was a reasonably unobtrusive way to add needed rooms to this tiny building. The farm outbuildings have fared less well. The barn and all other outbuildings except the springhouse have been missing for decades. The springhouse retains integrity but is in poor condition. Among the various outbuildings formerly found here, the springhouse appears to have been the only other stone building and is thus related to the property's architectural significance, although it was constructed prior to the period of significance. Stone spring houses were often built earlier on western Pennsylvania farms than any other masonry buildings, and thus they often predate the main house. Stone springhouses are also much more common than stone farm houses in the region. This springhouse, a relatively common architectural form, is not, by itself, of significance in the same sense as the Cree House itself.

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*Cree House
Greene County, Pennsylvania*

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The Cree House, built between 1790 and 1794,¹ is significant under Criterion "C" for architecture as an early house with a distinguished, imposing exterior appearance and a remarkably simple interior of one room per floor. One of the first stone houses built in Greene County, it is also one of the few eighteenth century masonry buildings surviving in the county today. In a county where the vast majority of frontier-era houses were log, this house shows the transition from the lifestyle of the log house to the more permanent stone house in its very simple floor plan. Though otherwise simple in construction, the house differs from almost all the other eighteenth century stone buildings in western Pennsylvania in the use of segmentally arched openings over nearly all the house's windows and doors. This and other masonry details, such as the quoins, suggest that it was the work of a skilled mason who may have worked on the one or two other buildings of similar design in the area. It also has several early architectural features commonly found in contemporary houses throughout the region. In spite of great changes to the areas beyond the immediate surroundings of the house, and in spite of some changes to the house itself, it clearly presents itself as a locally prominent and important example of stone farmhouses of this era, retaining the essential features described in the 1798 United States Direct Tax. The house is a locally-important representative of the brief period, 1782-1794, from the construction of the spring house to the completion of the house, a leader in the trend from log construction to stone construction, as reflected in the 1798 tax.

The Cree House was built by William Cree, a Revolutionary War veteran from Cumberland County. Cree patented the original farm of two hundred eighty acres surrounding the house in 1789.² The family's first home on this farm, a log house about seventy-five feet uphill from the present house, is no longer standing.³ At the brow of the hill, about 200 feet beyond the nominated area, is the Cree cemetery, where family members were buried over several generations. Several hundred feet southwest of the house (beyond the nominated area), a barn was constructed of walnut logs, apparently in the eighteenth century. It was torn down after the property ceased to be a working farm, at some point between about 1940 and 1960. The farm remained in the Cree family until the early twentieth century. Around 1900, Charles H. Cree began selling and leasing various portions of the property, including mineral rights, apparently for income.⁴ He sold (or gave) 83 acres to Samuel Cree in 1912.⁵ In the 1920s, Charles H. Cree and Samuel Cree were actively farming 120 acres and 47 acres respectively.⁶ Both farms abutted this house, which had apparently been sold by the 1920s. The Cree House passed through a long sequence of owners as part of a nine acre parcel before Richard and Barbara Yeager, the present owners, purchased it in 1990.⁷ (Since none of the agricultural outbuildings are still standing and since it has not been a farm of any importance for about 100 years, this property's significance is not being argued for agriculture.)

At the time when it was built, the Cree House represented substantial construction in one of the more rural parts of the western Pennsylvania frontier. The United States Direct Tax of 1798 indicates that the vast majority of the 926 dwellings then found in Greene County were log.⁸ Though most of the homes in the county at that time were in the eastern townships (western Greene County consisted of large, undeveloped tracts, including one 40,000 acre tract owned by one person in 1798),⁹ Cumberland Township in which the Cree House was then located was by far the most developed part of the county. Seven of the township's most valuable houses were built either entirely or partially of stone, the largest number of masonry houses in any township in the county (also the largest concentration in the entire Washington-Greene County area).¹⁰ Several of the other townships had no

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*Cree House
Greene County, Pennsylvania*

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masonry buildings valued at over \$100.00, and those which did had only two or three. Most of the stills in the county were located in Cumberland Township, and it had more grist mills, saw mills, and smoke houses than any other township.¹¹ It also had the second highest land value per acre in the county.¹² Not only was the choice to build in stone a major step toward permanence for the Cree family,¹³ but the Cree House apparently was the most permanent masonry building in the township, possibly the only eighteenth century masonry residence remaining in the county in 2001. None of the other eight stone residences mentioned in the 1798 tax are known to be extant at this time.

The 1798 description suggests that the original portion of the house has not changed greatly since then. It is described as a 20 foot by 24 foot house, the interior dimensions of the house as it stands today. The tax description says that it has ten window openings with a total of 48 panes of glass. This matches the current pattern: currently, above the first floor line, the house has identical front and back elevations with centered first story doors flanked by a window to each side, above which are three corresponding window bays. These ten openings are the window openings which presently have the segmental arches (the basement and attic window openings are much smaller and do not have the arches). Apparently, the 48 panes indicates that only about half of the window openings were glazed in 1798, the others perhaps being only shuttered. Presently, the banked siting and gabled stone massing of the house with symmetrically-placed, arched openings make up the essential features of a striking architectural composition. It is these very features which are documented in the 1798 description. Although there is a log addition, (a 20 foot by 30 foot log house, built in 1847, moved here from an unrelated site about 1974), and although there are newer window openings in the attic, basement, and one gable-end wall, the changes do not seriously compromise the integrity of the design as described in 1798. Even the six-over-six wood sashes (recently installed in place of inappropriate single-light vinyl windows) appear to match the 1798 description, at which time the house, though only partially glazed, apparently had 12 lights per opening.

The interior of the house also generally continues to represent the appearance and lifestyle of the 1790s, though no records describe it in any detail. The first story room is dominated by two large chimney breasts, one of which contains a large, cooking fireplace. With both chimney breasts protruding into the single room from the sides, and with front and back doors providing a cross axis in the other direction, the floor plan is too small to have ever been divided into rooms, but clearly retains a hierarchy between the cooking end and the "living room" end of the room, and between the front and back doors. Similarly, the second story, accessed by a winding stair tucked into the space beside one of the chimney breasts, as was the practice in this era, remains undivided except for a minimum-sized bathroom enclosure. Yet it is defined by two small fireplaces and three windows on each side, architecturally dramatic but typical of dormitory-style sleeping quarters of the period. The stair is constructed in the same manner as most early winding corner stairs in the region. These stairs are usually enclosed with doors, although this particular stair has an open flight from the first to the second stories, and has doors enclosing only the flights to the attic and basement. It is not known if it ever had doors at the open flight, but if it did, the first floor door would have blocked the light of an important south-facing window.

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Continuation Sheet**

*Cree House
Greene County, Pennsylvania*

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Only one other surviving Greene County stone building from the same decade bears a striking resemblance to the Cree House. The Greene Academy Building (NR 1979) in Carmichaels, named for a school located there in the nineteenth century, was built in 1791 or 1792 as an Episcopal church in stone in a very similar style.¹⁴ Like the Cree House, it is a three-bay ashlar and rubble building with rough-cut quoins and a center entrance set in a segmental arch. It has two square attic windows in the gable end, has six-over-six sash in the first and second story windows, and is roughly the same size in all three dimensions. The most obvious differences are the windows in the end wall below the exposed gable end (the opposite gable end is covered by a later brick addition) and the level, in-town site, which contrasts with the banked farmstead site at the Cree House. Another difference is that the front entrance of the Carmichaels building is about twice as wide, and only the entrance has the segmental arch. The surrounding window openings have flat arches of about nine voussoirs each. The stone part of Greene Academy also has a brick chimney at the center, apparently added when the church was converted to a school. Thus there are no gable end chimneys.

Some of the other stone residences in Greene County provide for a rougher comparison. Nearly all were built after 1800, and incorporate the symmetrical five-bay facade which became very common in the region in the early nineteenth century. Generally, Greene County's very hilly terrain favored unusually small farms, and thus produced fewer large masonry farm houses than are found in the adjoining counties. From 1781 to 1797, Greene County was part of Washington County. Most of the farming areas in the two counties remain historically interwoven, though Greene County's farms, farmhouses, and villages, on average, are smaller. Some less-refined early farm houses of Greene County are more comparable to the Cree House than the later symmetrical Greek Revival forms. The McNulty House, for instance, is an asymmetrical two-bay stone house built about two miles north of Waynesburg in 1827,¹⁵ on what is now Old Route 19. It has several narrow rooms with corner fireplaces. Though much less formal in its facade design, its size and character are comparable to the Cree House. The Thomas Hughes House (NR 1972), built in 1814 at the edge of nearby Jefferson Borough, makes for an important parallel. Hughes, the founder of part of the town of Jefferson, was the county's first Roman Catholic. He was also a slaveholder, and according to legend,¹⁶ used slave labor to build the house. The house is a low-proportioned, two story, three-bay building of ashlar and rubble, like the Cree House. However, it has rough-cut stone lintels defining the tops of rectangular masonry openings. Its entrance is in one of the outside bays rather than at the center. The site of the house is relatively level, as is most of the land in the tiny borough of Jefferson. The differences may indicate more than changing styles and changing times. Hughes was one of the county's first wealthy citizens, though unusual in his religious affiliation and in holding slaves in a time when slavery was gradually being abolished. Yet the Hughes family had a less prominent house than one might expect. By contrast the Cree family appears to have succeeded in building a house, which though small, is much more architecturally imposing than the Hughes House and much more architecturally refined than either the Hughes House or the McNulty House.

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Continuation Sheet**

*Cree House
Greene County, Pennsylvania*

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The unusual detailing of the segmental arches at the Cree House, and the other architectural features of this modest-sized residence, may indicate special masonry or architectural skills. Although the name of the mason is not known, it is known that there were only a few masons working on stone houses in a few limited sections of southwestern Pennsylvania in this era.¹⁷ The only masons named in a datestone on any stone house in the area are William Donahoo and Perry A. Bayard, partners, who built the Sayer House in nearby Franklin Township, Greene County in 1822.¹⁸ Though the Sayer House is similar in size and design to the Cree House, its senior mason was born in 1788, and thus was not old enough to have worked on this house. However none of the stone buildings built before 1850 by known masons in Greene County or adjoining counties incorporates segmental arches. Perhaps the Greene Academy Building and the Cree house were the work of one mason with special mastery in constructing segmental arches.

The floor plan of the Cree House also sets it apart from many other houses of the era. Although the center passage plan and the side passage plan grew in popularity until by 1850 they were ubiquitous in the region, several of the region's earliest stone houses have unusual plans that contrast with the popular center passage and side passage designs. An example is the Col. Edward Cook House, in Rostraver Township, Westmoreland County. Built in 1772, it may be the oldest two story stone house in the region.¹⁹ It has an asymmetrical facade and a floor plan which consists of three main rooms per floor. The rooms are separated by bead board partitions, several of which are at odd angles to accommodate the stairs, and some rooms have corner fireplaces. A similar house is the John and James White House in Unity Township, Westmoreland County, built in 1776.²⁰ It also has corner fireplaces and an asymmetrical floor plan, though most of its interior features have been removed (it is now a furniture shop). Closer to Greene County, the Valentine Kinder House was built in the late eighteenth century with an asymmetrical floor plan and bead board partitions, just north of the Greene County line in Deemston Borough, Washington County.²¹ However, the Cree House is smaller than all of these, too small in fact to be comfortably divided into rooms.

It is significant that the Cree House was built in a county that had literally hundreds of log houses in the late eighteenth century, approximately 150 of which remain.²² The log houses of southwestern Pennsylvania are rarely large enough to be divided into more than two rooms per floor. They almost always have end chimneys rather than center chimneys, possibly as a result of their size. They only occasionally have symmetrical exterior features. They represent an extensive cultural trend of large frontier families living in houses of one to four rooms. It appears that the Cree family had in mind building a more permanent home in stone, to exhibit their wealth and the positive expectations they had for their farm, knowing at the same time that they were unable to build anything larger.

The Cree House can be characterized as a stone equivalent of a log cabin. There are a few other surviving stone houses of this size in the area south of Pittsburgh, which may be characterized as a "stone cabin" folk type. The older part of the Frew House in Allegheny County is an example.²³ The Hastings House and Moore House in East Bethlehem Township, Washington County are two other examples.²⁴ The Hastings House is a tiny, two-bay banked house, with one room per floor. The Moore House is a one story, two-room house on a gently sloped site. Another example is the tiny one-room Decker Cabin, now the rear wing of the MacFarland House in Carroll Township, Washington County, reputed to date from 1769.²⁵

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Geographically, the closest approximation to the Cree House may be the Jemimah Jackman House in California Borough, Washington County.²⁶ Like the Cree House, it has a center entrance, chimneys at both gable ends, and floor plate so small that it can not have been comfortably or symmetrically divided. Unlike the Cree House, the Jackman House has a one story kitchen wing centered on the rear elevation which appears to be contemporary with the remainder of the building. The Jackman House is almost entirely built of cut ashlar, laid in a Flemish bond pattern. Unfortunately, considerable remodeling in the twentieth century has destroyed many of the original interior details.

A more intact example is the Frew House in Allegheny County.²⁷ A three-bay, three-story design on a banked site, it has a central front entrance and only one room per floor, like the Cree House. However its chimney is centered on the rear elevation. Though the Frew House is smaller than the Cree House, the plan of its earliest section has remained unchanged, at least in part, because of a five-room addition added about 1840, which provided most of the space needed for modern living areas.

Though a rare folk type, the stone cabin appears to have been a transitional element in the architecture of early western Pennsylvania. The type includes both crude, asymmetrical examples like the Decker Cabin and the Hastings House, and more architecturally sophisticated examples such as the Frew House and the Jemimah Jackman House. Among these, the Cree House is set apart from all the others by its carefully-spaced, segmentally-arched openings. The symmetrical facade and distinctive siting may embody a desire to display wealth and accomplishment without requiring sophisticated interior architecture. The house, therefore, may be a conscious transitional form in the evolution from log houses to larger, more permanent, and more sophisticated masonry houses.

The Cree House is as an important landmark, the only surviving eighteenth century stone house in northeastern Greene County. From surviving evidence, it appears to be one of the most sophisticated buildings built in Greene County in the first seventy five years after the area was initially settled (1769). Although the example it set was not followed by any imitators other than perhaps the Greene Academy Building, its architectural significance is enduring; it compares favorably to most houses built in the county over the course the last 140 years. In a county which can boast of many intact nineteenth century farmhouses and villages, few buildings achieve such grand architectural effect with such modest materials. One of seven stone houses in Cumberland Township valued over \$100 in the United States Direct Tax of 1798, it is the lone survivor in a community that produced the third or fourth highest concentration of stone houses of any township in a two-county region. As the townships with more than three or four stone houses at this time were clustered in adjoining Fayette, Washington, and Westmoreland Counties, it was part of a larger pattern of regional importance. It is also similar in size, scale, and formality to a few three-bay stone cabins scattered across the region between Pittsburgh and the Mason Dixon Line.

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ENDNOTES

1. Cree Family Papers, various unpublished genealogical papers and photographs in possession of Richard and Barbara Yeager, at the Cree House..
2. A copy of the 1789 land patent, as recorded in 1867, is in possession of the present owners, among the family papers.
3. Information on the original log house comes from the present owners and the Cree family papers.
4. In 1897, Charles H. Cree leased 121 acres to an S.F. McCawley, possibly a tenant farmer (Greene County Deed Book Vol. 63 Pg. 53). In 1918, he sold coal rights to coal baron J.V. Thompson of Uniontown (Deed Book Vol. 262 Pg. 46). In 1920, he began signing periodic leases on the natural gas rights to a tract of 121 to 122 acres (Deed Book Vol. 251 Pg. 166; Vol. 274 Pg. 584; Vol. 279 Pg. 368; Vol. 320 Pg. 331; Vol. 327 Pg. 227). He sold or gave 83 acres to Samuel Cree in 1912 (Deed Book Vol. 223 Pg. 174), and several smaller parcels for others to build residences at edges of the farm beginning in 1912 (Deed Book Vol. 226 Pg. 322). After J.V. Thompson's famous bankruptcy, the coal rights passed to Cumberland Coal Company on 28 June 1918 (Deed Book Vol. 264 Pg. 126). The house itself came to be in the possession of Piedmont Coal by 1921 (Deed Book Vol. 298 Pg. 22). Piedmont Coal sold the house and a tract of more than 34 acres (without mineral rights) to Jacob S. Patterson and Elva D. Patterson his wife of Waynesburg on 22 August 1921 (Deed Book Vol. 298 Pg. 22); Elva Patterson, then single, sold the house with 34 acres to Margaret J. Black on 15 December 1922 (Deed Book Vol. 303 Pg. 395). Greene County Deed Book Vol. 223 Pg. 174. Also, see Endnote #7, below, for 1922-90.
5. The deed record at this point is complicated, but this understanding is reinforced in the census schedules (see #6, below).
6. *United States Department of Agriculture Farm Census, Division of Crop Reporting: Jefferson Township, Greene County.* 1924 and 1927. Pennsylvania State Archives.
7. From 1922 to 1990, the house passed through the hands of at least ten different owners (see Deed Book Vol. 354 Pg. 346; Vol. 382 Pg. 188; Vol. 456 Pg. 420; Vol. 510 Pg. 141; Vol. 525 Pg. 521; Vol. 546 Pg. 141; Vol. 576 Pg. 903; Vol. 593 Pg. 35; and Book 0079 Pg. 1115—the present deed). Between 1931 and 1967, parcels were carved out of the 34 acre tract until it was reduced to 9.1568 acres (see Deed Book Vol. 354 Pg. 346; Vol. 382 Pg. 188; Vol. 480 Pg. 325; and Vol. 487 Pg. 483).
8. *United States Direct Tax of 1798: Tax Lists for the State of Pennsylvania.* 1982. Microcopy 372. Washington, D.C.: The National Archives. Rolls 22, 23, 24. Volumes 690-717.
9. Harper, R. Eugene, *The Transformation of Western Pennsylvania, 1770-1800.* Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1991. pg. 45.
10. Although there were only three all-stone houses valued over \$100 in Cumberland Township in 1798, there were four others that were half stone and either half log or half brick. The 1798 tax appears to show only one stone house valued over \$100 in the remainder of the county. It was located in Morgan Township, which adjoined Cumberland Township at the town of Jefferson. Among the seven other townships, nearly all the houses were log, the exceptions being mainly three or four frame houses built by wealthy families. At the time, Greene County was a new entity, separated from its parent, Washington County, only two years earlier. Though Washington County was much more developed by 1798, and had 22 stone houses, the largest number of stone houses in any one township was only six, in East Bethlehem Township, just north of the county line from Cumberland Township. The pattern of distribution of stone houses was actually focused on Brownsville, in Fayette County's Redstone Township, just across the river to the east of East Bethlehem Township. Redstone Township had 13 stone house, while Luzerne (directly east of Cumberland Township) had seven. Similar numbers were found in townships adjoining Redstone Township to the north and northeast. In general, the number of stone houses decreases as one moves away from Brownsville in any direction in the counties south of Pittsburgh.
11. Much of the analysis of the United States Direct Tax data used here is from Hennen, Dorothy T. "Even then, there was the tax man." *The Democrat-Messenger.* Waynesburg, Pennsylvania, 4 July 1976.

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12. Hennen, "Even then, there was the tax man."
13. Koegler, Karen. *Building in Stone in Southwestern Pennsylvania* (Doctoral Dissertation). Lexington, Kentucky: Graduate School of the University of Kentucky, 1992, and Koegler, Karen. "Building in Stone in Southwestern Pennsylvania: Pattern and Process," *Gender, Class, and Shelter, Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture, V*. (Volume Five) Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1995. The concept that building in stone was a choice reflecting wealth comes directly from the conclusion of Karen Koegler in her paper "Building in Stone: Pattern and Process": "The choice of masonry represents neither the progression of material culture in southwestern Pennsylvania--transitional between log and brick technologies--nor the affinity of an ethnic group for a particular construction material. Instead, the individual settler was making a statement about his elevated place in the settlement hierarchy. Building something beyond what was necessary and building something that reinvented the traditions of southeastern Pennsylvania could only enhance the display...The beauty of the stone house was that it enabled the occupant to live in harmony with the basic form of his neighbors' homes, while differentiating himself through the choice of stone construction." While the present author disagrees with the complete dismissal of the idea that stone houses are transitional forms and the dismissal of a link with ethnicity (about half of the region's stone houses are linked to Quaker communities), Koegler's conclusion relates directly to the quality that distinguishes the Cree House from houses of similar size in the region, its striking architectural appearance, articulated to achieve prominence beyond the norm for a house of such modest proportions.
14. Smith, Helene and George Swetnam. *A Guidebook to Historic Western Pennsylvania*. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1991, pp. 214-215; Weston, Bruce. *Southwestern Pennsylvania*. California, Pennsylvania: Museum of Southwestern Pennsylvania, 1984. No. 4, pg. 34.
15. Lowry, "New Twist on Old Charm..."
16. Waychoff, Andrew J. *Local History of Greene County and Southwestern Pennsylvania*. Cornerstone Genealogical Society, 1994; Smith and Swetnam, *Guidebook*, pg. 213.
17. Several buildings in the Ginger Hill area of Washington County were built by a family of accomplished Pennsylvania German masons named Stecher around 1800. A mason named Randolph Dearth was active in the Brownsville area in the early nineteenth century. The cluster of stone houses still standing in northwestern Washington County near the stone 1824 Tucker Methodist Church appears to have been built by two masons named Minesinger from Ohio. Karen Koegler's dissertation contains additional information on masons, and has analysis of the masons listed in the 1850 census.
18. Koegler, "Building in Stone in Southwestern Pennsylvania" (dissertation), pg. 253.
19. Smith and Swetnam, *Guidebook*, pg. 201.
20. Springhill Country Store brochure, acquired at the premises, Unity Township, Westmoreland County.
21. Smith and Swetnam, *Guidebook*, pg. 201;
22. The estimation that there are still 150 extant log houses in Greene County comes from Rev. Roland Cadle, of Somerset Co., Pa., a log house restorer, who owns a construction company known as "Fitly Joined."
23. Stotz, Charles Morse, *The Early Architecture of Western Pennsylvania*. Pittsburgh, University of Pittsburgh Press, 1936, and 1995 (reprint), pp. 50-51.
24. Caldwell, J.A. *Atlas of Washington County*. Condit, Ohio: J.A. Caldwell, 1876; and Rimersburg, Pa.: Pennsylvania Record Press, 1976 (reprint). pg. 157.
25. France, Floyd M. *Monongahela Area 200th Anniversary Souvenir Book*, Monongahela: Monongahela Publishing Company, 1969. pp. 10-11, 29.
26. Washington County History and Landmarks Foundation. *Preserving Our Past, Landmark Architecture of Washington County, Pennsylvania*. Marceline, Missouri: Walsworth Publishing Co., 1975. pg. 74.
27. Stotz, *The Early Architecture of Western Pennsylvania*. pp. 50-51.

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Photographs

Information for numbers 1-5 is the same for all photographs:

1. Cree House
2. Jefferson Township, Greene County, Pennsylvania
3. Terry A. Necciai, RA
4. February 1999
5. Negative Location: Offices of
Terry A. Necciai, RA, Historic Preservation Consulting
2334 Murray Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15217

NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	DIRECTION
No. 1	Facade	N
No. 2	Facade and East Elevation	NW
No. 3	Property from S.R. 1011	NW
No. 4	North and West Elevations	SE
No. 5	Detail of Rear Elevation Window	SW
No. 6	Interior Cooking Fireplace	E
No. 7	Detail of Enclosed Stair rising from First Story	SW
No. 8	East Fireplace at Bedroom and adjoining Chimney Cupboard	SE
No. 9	Detail of East Fireplace at Bedroom	E
No. 10	West Fireplace at Bedroom	W
No. 11	Detail of Enclosed Staircase rising from Attic to Bedroom	SW
No. 12	Detail of Stairs looking down from Attic	Down
No. 13	Detail of Roof Rafters at Attic	E
No. 14	South and West Elevations of Springhouse	NE
No. 15	South and East Elevations of Springhouse	NW
No. 16	North and West Elevations of Springhouse	SE
No. 17	East Elevation of Springhouse	W
No. 18	Detail of Springhouse Door	W
No. 19	Stone Trough in Lower Level of Springhouse	N
No. 20	Fireplace in Upper Level of Springhouse	N

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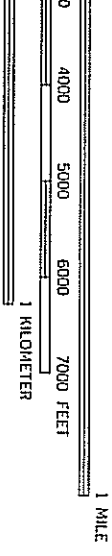
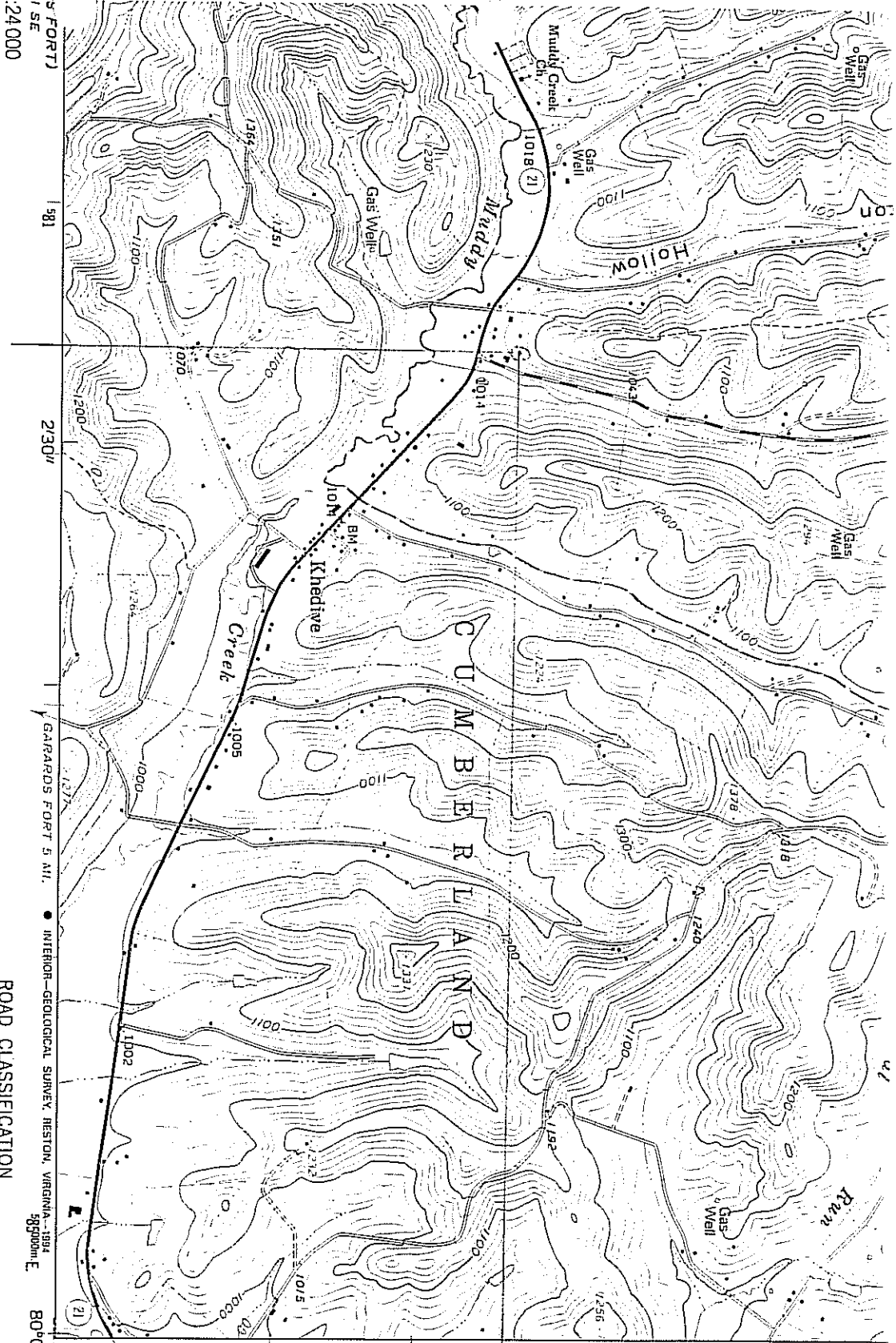
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Boundary Description

The Boundaries of the nominated property are provided on the enclosed site plan drafted at 1"=25'.

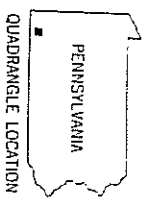
Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the house and spring house and their immediate domestic setting. Fields beyond the boundary have not been included because the property no longer retains integrity with regard to historic agricultural activities in any areas within view of the house, partly because the real estate tract was greatly reduced in size in the early twentieth century, at which time members of the Cree family set up separate farms on acreage they retained after selling the house.



VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

AL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
 OLOGICAL SURVEY
 R RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
 AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



- ROAD CLASSIFICATION**
- Primary highway, hard surface
 - Secondary highway, hard surface
 - Unimproved road
 - Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
 - U. S. Route
 - State Route

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

(MASON TOWN)
 5063 IV SW

Cree, William, How
 521560 E
 4415930 N

PAISLEY 3.2 MI.
 UNIONTOWN 17 MI.

39°52'30"
 80°00'

MATHER, PA.
 39080-H1-TF-024

1961
 REVISED 1994
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