

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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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 Enoch Roberts House

and or common Trainer Mansion

2. Location

street & number 1226 West Broad Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Quakertown

N/A vicinity of

state PA

code 042

county Bucks

code 017

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	N/A 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 Daniel L. Soliday & Cheryl L. h/w and Peter L. Riley & Sharon L. Marshall h/w

street & number Box 859

city, town Quakertown

N/A vicinity of

state PA 18951

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Bucks County Courthouse, Recorder of Deeds

street & number East Court Street

city, town Doylestown

state PA

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Bucks County Register of Historic Pl. has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date October 16, 1985

federal state county local

depository for survey records Bucks County Conservancy, Inc. 11 North Main Street

city, town Doylestown

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 Enoch Roberts House is a substantial, plastered stone, Georgian house oriented to the north facing West Broad Street in Quakertown Borough. Land purchase, tax and tavern license records strongly suggest that this house was built by Enoch Roberts c. 1814 for his residence while he owned the Red Lion Inn at Main and Broad Streets. It is a formal house with an original attached stone kitchen "L" and basically conservative vernacular Georgian detailing. Despite early twentieth-century porches and modest adaptations the house maintains a high degree of integrity from the Roberts' ownership.

The entire original portion of the house is constructed of local fieldstone and appears to have been originally covered with smooth plaster (as on the east gable wall), although now the stucco is more of a pebbly nature. The main, formal core of the house is two and one-half stories high with an asphalt shingle, gable roof, five bays wide and two piles deep. The general presentation of the exterior is that of vernacular Georgian with 9/6 and 6/6 windows for the first and second floors respectively, paneled and louvered shutters, boxed cornice with simple soffit moldings, and flush beaded bargeboards ending in the end gable chimneys. Exterior detailing on the front facade shows, perhaps, two minor stylistic updatings, one c.1830-1840 in the entrance door and dormers, and one c.1940 with the curved, classically detailed portico. These alterations of the c.1830's and 1940's may coincide with changes in occupancy to Joel Roberts before Enoch's death and to the Trainer family respectively.

The Robert's change of the 1830's shows Georgian detailing of a later period, transitional into the Greek Revival in the main entrance doorway and the dormers. Characteristic of this period are the corner blocks dressed with lozenges, symmetrical molded architrave, eight-paneled door with matching jambs, and the semi-circular fan transom with scalloped muntins and keystone block in the surround. This semi-circular motif is echoed in the configuration of the dormer windows, complete with the corner blocks and the keystone in the wood. The dormers themselves are gabled with suggested pediment and column trim.

The twentieth-century portico with its semi-circular plan reflects earlier treatments and compliments the overall scale and fenestration of the front facade. It has a flat roof with an iron railing and is supported by smooth, round Doric influenced columns. It is of a style popular from the early twentieth century through the 1940's and is credited to the Trainer family. The portico enhances the gracious and formal presentation of the front facade, but does not overwhelm its historic appearance.

The original rear kitchen "L" extends back flush with the west gable wall and was first built as one and one-half stories high with a shed roof. In about 1910 this roof was raised to a two story height to accommodate usable second floor space. As viewed from the western side, this section is two bays wide and one pile deep. The exterior entrance on this side is a transomed six-panel door with matching jambs and flanking "ear" molded architrave.

An early-twentieth century frame extension was made to the rear "L" in the form of a two story porch with part of the second story enclosed for a bathroom. This porch ties in with the rear one story shed porch (c.1860) on the south facade of the formal section. These porches, while traditional adaptations, were undistinctive and badly deteriorated and are being rebuilt to accommodate a rear staircase and modern plumbing facilities. A tiny one story shed of unknown construction date was attached to the south wall of the kitchen "L" and has recently been removed under the current historic rehabilitation.

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The main, formal core of the Enoch Roberts House exhibits a modified Georgian floor plan with a broad central hall accommodating a decorative staircase and back-to-back parlors on the western flank of the hall. To the east is a single, large formal parlor, not the traditional double parlor plan. This large parlor is original, as verified by the location of the fireplace in the center of the east wall and the arrangement of its flanking closets. The interior detailing of the main section is extraordinarily well-preserved. Included in this detailing is the original molded window trim and chairrail, raised paneled doors and cabinets with quirks in the panels, tri-partite mantelpieces with suggested columns, and the broad entrance hall with open string staircase and slender turned balusters. The random width pine flooring on both floors is being restored. In both the large east parlor on the first floor and in the south-east corner of the second floor are original built-in closets separate from those in the fireplace wall. Also, there is an original china cabinet in the southwest parlor with a "pass-through" feature to the kitchen. The northwest parlor has knotty pine paneling from the 1940's on the walls, although the woodwork is undisturbed. Several rooms also have closets from this Trainer period which are removable and do not impinge upon the original detailing.

The rear kitchen fireplace in the "L" was altered during the Trainer, c.1940, period by the removal of the bresummer and the creation of a stone arch out of the stone breastwork. Despite the exposed stone and installed arch, the fireplace is recognizable in its original form. The second floor detailing and doors in the "L" reflect the early twentieth century period, c.1910, when the shed roof was raised to accommodate a full-sized second floor.

The Enoch Roberts House, while bearing marks of successive owners, retains over ninety percent of its original interior woodwork and exterior presentation and maintains a high degree of integrity which is being enhanced by the current restoration and renovation under the Certified Historic Structure Tax Credits. In summary, the positive changes to the exterior include the c.1830's dormers and doorway and the c.1940's portico. The rear porches, c.1860 and 1910, are not visible from a public way and are being rebuilt from their deteriorated condition. The c.1910 raising of the kitchen shed roof to two stories was a practical change to a secondary portion of the house and is integrated with the attached two story porch. The c.1940 closets and pine paneling are removable and do not impact on the original detailing. Along West Broad Street in this early section of Quakertown Borough, the Enoch Roberts House is a gracious and well-proportioned contribution to the streetscape and a reminder of the town's early history.

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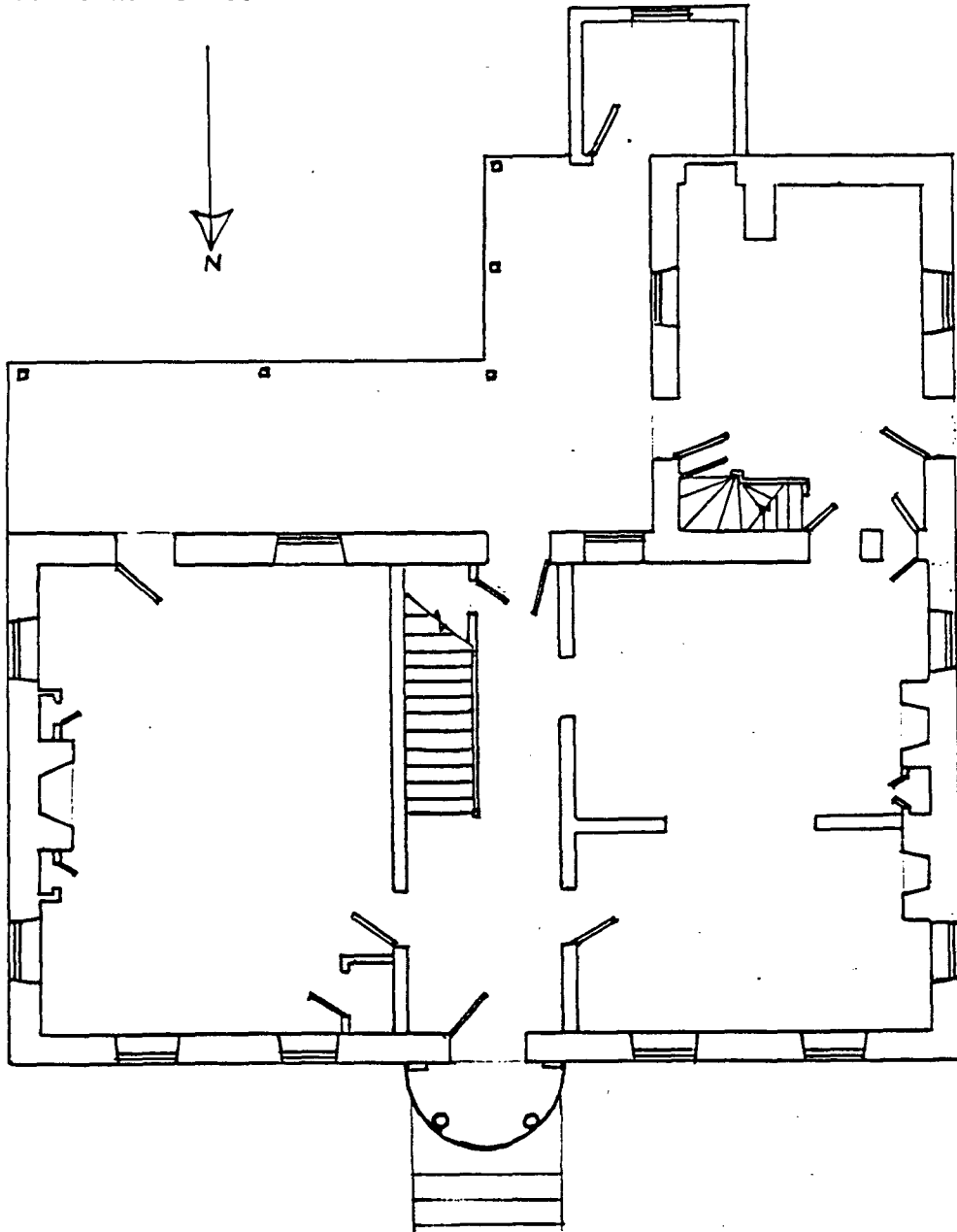
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ENOCH ROBERTS HOUSE, Quakertown Borough, Bucks County, PA
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First Floor Plan

Scale not exact



West Broad Street

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" 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 c.1814

Builder/Architect commissioned by Enoch Roberts

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Enoch Roberts House is significant as a well-preserved vernacular Georgian "mansion house" of the early nineteenth century and for its association with a prominent citizen of Quakertown, then Richland Township, Enoch Roberts. Within the last fifty years it has been the home of the Trainer Family, owners of the well-known restaurant by that name. Despite its location on the major Bucks County thoroughfare, Route 313, also known as West Broad Street, near a commercial intersection, the house has served as a residence and retains over ninety percent of its original woodwork and floorplan.

At the time this house was built Quakertown was a small crossroads village in Richland Township with a handful of scattered homes and farms, a meetinghouse, a store and post office, library and the Red Lion Hotel. Many of these structures were frame and log "first generation" buildings and by the turn of the nineteenth century the "second generation" of substantial stone structures began to appear. Included in this development phase are several key Quakertown buildings: the Red Lion Hotel, the Burgess Foulke House, the William Green Store and the nominated property, the Enoch Roberts House.

Enoch Roberts was a Quaker who was in 1781 read out of meeting in Richland along with nine others for taking the oath of allegiance to the United States. This apparently did not hamper his continued activity in the community as on March 23, 1793 he purchased the Red Lion Hotel, located on the southwest corner of the present Main and Broad Streets. This was an active intersection, being the main road to Allentown and Bethlehem from Philadelphia and the primary road from western upper Bucks County to the successive county seats of Newtown and then Doylestown and the market town of Bristol to the southeast.

According to the 1798 tax list and property records, the only buildings described as owned by Roberts were the complex associated with the Red Lion Hotel, including the hotel itself--a 50 foot by 18 foot frame and log, two story building with a ten foot by fourteen foot stone kitchen. Roberts is credited with rebuilding the inn into a stone structure where he and his family lived until 1814-1815. During the first two decades of the nineteenth century Roberts purchased a number of tracts of land, including several small pieces and two tracts of 46 and 58 acres each. Directly across the Main Street on the southeast corner was located the 46 acre parcel which in combination with two smaller parcels of 3/4 and 3 1/4 acres totalled fifty acres. It was upon this parcel and specifically upon the four acres that the Enoch Roberts House was built. Despite the continued growth of the village, Roberts held these key tracts of land in the center of town until his death in 1853. In 1854 much of the land was incorporated into Quakertown Borough and through 1860 Roberts' executors divided the land into lots for sale.

Tax and tavern license records suggest that Roberts built the nominated house c.1814 possibly over a period of several years. The taxes show a marked increase from 1810 to 1811 when he enlarged the lot from 3/4 acres to four acres. In 1814 there was a slight increase of \$300 in the assessment from \$1500 to \$1800. A petition for a tavern license by Abram Shiffer in February 1814 states that the Red Lion Hotel "is now in the possession of Enoch Roberts and the said Roberts and his family is to leave the said tavern stand on the 11th day of April next year." In 1814 Enoch Roberts was 57 years

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old and possibly had achieved enough wealth and stature to build a fine residence comparable to, if not a "cut above" that of his peers. Enoch Roberts and his family lived there for the next four decades during which time his son Joel came of age and who, it is suspected with his father made the stylistic alterations of the 1830's.

The Enoch Roberts House stands out architecturally from nearby early nineteenth century houses due to its fine exterior detailing and integrity, and its interior ornamentation of rooms. Two contemporary homes, the Burgess Foulke House built in 1812 and the William Green House and Store constructed in 1805, are located within several blocks of the Enoch Roberts House. The Burgess Foulke House has exterior features that are quite similar to the Enoch Roberts House. However, the Burgess Foulke House was moved to its present location from another site in Quakertown to make way for a new shopping center. Thus the integrity of the house's location has been destroyed. Unlike the Enoch Roberts House the Foulke House has no rear kitchen "L". Instead one half of the first floor of the Foulke House contained a kitchen rather than a large, formal parlor as in the Enoch Roberts House. Therefore the Burgess Foulke House lacks the sophisticated detailing of the large east parlor that the Enoch Roberts House possesses.

The William Green House and Store is located diagonally across Broad Street from the Enoch Roberts House. The William Green House and Store does not have much of the exterior detailing and ornamentation found on the Enoch Roberts House. For example, the William Green House and Store lacks the corner blocks, keystones and symmetrically molded architrave that appear on the dormers and front entrance of the Enoch Roberts House. In addition, because part of the first floor has had various uses over the years, including stores, a post office and a library, the William Green House and Store has experienced major alterations. Half of the front, first-floor facade now has a twentieth-century storefront, complete with plate-glass window.

The Enoch Roberts House also stands out architecturally from contemporary homes in Quakertown because of two distinctive interior features. The built-in closets in the large east parlor and the smaller southwest parlor are unusual in homes of this period and suggest that the Roberts family may have had items of value, such as books, which required special storage. The pass-through china cupboard in the rear wall of the southwest parlor is also unusual for early nineteenth-century homes.

In the context of earlier and later homes in Quakertown, the Enoch Roberts House is a very well preserved Georgian house. Although Quakertown includes a number of later nineteenth-century, architecturally important buildings it also includes many buildings which are not of historic character; Quakertown's eligibility for a historic district status has not been assessed.

An evaluation of this house architecturally in the context of the upper Bucks County region is difficult at this time since a comprehensive historical survey has not been conducted in Quakertown Borough or its surrounding municipalities. Generally, however, the Enoch Roberts House seems to predate the more common type of formal Georgian house type in upper Bucks by about twenty-years, particularly those in the countryside. In proportion, overall size and detailing, the Enoch Roberts House excels and appears to be an exceptional house for the area.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 0.387 (approximate)

Quadrangle name Quakertown, PA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A	1 8	4 7 0 1 5 0	4 4 7 6 6 9 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C			
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D			
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E			
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F			
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G			
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H			
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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
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state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kathryn Ann Auerbach & Daniel Soliday for Riley, Soliday & Co.

organization N/A date January 18, 1986

street & number Box 859 telephone 215 536-8000

city or town Quakertown state PA 18951

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 Dr. Larry E. Tise, State Historic 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

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Primary Sources:

County of Bucks, Pennsylvania. Property Tax Lists- Richland Township. Bucks County Historical Society Spruance Library.

County of Bucks, Pennsylvania. Quartersessions Court Minutes- February 1814, Tavern Petition for License. Bucks County Historical Society Spruance Library.

County of Bucks, Pennsylvania. Recorder of Deeds, Books #89 to Present. Bucks County Courthouse Administration Building.

Federal Direct Tax of 1798. Lists for Richland Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Bucks County Historical Society Spruance Library.

Secondary Sources:

Bucks County Conservancy: Registers of Historic Places Files. "Burgess Foulke House", "Evan Penrose House", and "William Green Store". (pages not numbered).

Thomas, Dr. Joseph, "Reminiscences of Quakertown and Its People", delivered May 28, 1901. Bucks County Historical Society Journal, Volume III. B. F. Fackenthal. Doylestown, PA: Bucks County Historical Society. (no page numbers available).

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Geographical Data

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Boundary Description:

The following verbal boundary description is taken from the most recently recorded deed of August 16, 1985 from Marcia A. Shaffer to Daniel L. and Cheryl L. Soliday and Peter L. Riley and Sharon L. Marshall and recorded in Deed Book 2629, Page 922:

ALL THAT CERTAIN messuage, tenement and lot of land situate in the First Ward of the Borough of Quakertown, County of Bucks, and State of Pennsylvania, and known as No. 1226 West Broad Street, bounded and described as follows, to wit:

BEGINNING at an iron pin in Broad Street in the line of now or late of Richard R. Green's land a corner of now or late Samuel G. Bradshaw's land; thence extending by the same and land late of David Spinner and Andrew Snyder, South one and one-half degrees West one hundred seventy-eight feet to a corner in the line of late Henry Kemrer's land and by the same South eighty-seven and one-half degrees East ninety feet eleven inches to a stake; thence extending by now or late William H. Sassaman's land, North three and one-fourth degrees East one hundred eighty feet to said line of Richard R. Green's land in Broad Street aforesaid and along the said Street and line, North eighty-eight and three fourths degrees West ninety-six feet and eleven inches to the place of beginning. COUNTY TAX PARCEL NO. 35-4-130.

(Containing approximately 0.387 acres more or less)

Boundary Justification:

The property included with this nomination has been the same lot of land in size since a title transfer of 1868. In the 1850's and 1860's land surrounding the ENOCH ROBERTS HOUSE was subdivided and sold for building lots. Buildings are presently located on all of the surrounding parcels making this parcel the only lot of land visually and legally associated with the ENOCH ROBERTS HOUSE.

...

ENOCH ROBERTS HOUSE
Bucks County
Quakertown Quadrangle
Zone 18
E470150 N4476690

