

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 N/A

and/or common Oscar Leibhart Site (36Yo9)

2. Location

street & number near Long Level

not for publication

city, town Long Level

vicinity of

state Pennsylvania

code 042

county York

code 133

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input checked="" 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: Idle, woode

4. Owner of Property

name Ernest A. and Rhoderick O. Leiphart

street & number R.D. 12

city, town Hellam Branch

N/A vicinity of

state Pennsylvania 17368

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. York County Courthouse

street & number 28 East Market

city, town York

state Pennsylvania

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Pennsylvania State Museum Archeological Site

title Survey & Recording Program

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date December 12, 1969

federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records William Penn Memorial Museum

city, town Harrisburg

state Pennsylvania

## 7. Description

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

174

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Oscar Leibhart Site (36Yo9) is a multicomponent prehistoric and protohistoric village, located on a flat, high terrace above the steep slope at Long Level, and overlooking the Susquehanna River. ~~It is located on the south side of the site, north of the site.~~ Although the site is currently in secondary forest growth, with thick underbrush and small trees, it was in cultivation as late as the 1950's, and in low grass in 1956.

The site has been known for at least 70 years, and probably longer. In the early part of the century, John Haines, a former owner, had dug into the site. By 1910, Oscar Leibhart had also done considerable digging. Most of the non-professional digging at this site had occurred between 1925 and 1938 (Witthoft n.d.). Charles Leibhart had dug 26 graves on the south side of the fence line, but his collection may have been mixed with another from the Byrd Leibhart Site (36Yo170) (Landis n.d.). Also, Oscar and Horace Leibhart had excavated between 30 and 100 graves from the site.

In 1956, W. Fred Kinsey, III, in cooperation with the Pennsylvania State Museum and with the help of the Lower Susquehanna Chapter of the Society for Pennsylvania Archeology, excavated at the site, with the intention of locating the palisade to the village. Trenching uncovered a longhouse, which measured 24'x92', but no palisade was located. In all 3825 square feet was excavated by hand, with a Susquehannock component; and an earlier Clemson Island component identified (Kinsey 1957). Kinsey was limited in being granted permission to excavate only the longhouse. During Kinsey's excavation, and afterwards, Donald Leibhart, son of the owner (Oscar Leibhart) dug at the site, removing 100 graves. With the exception of a few notes made by Kinsey, the material from Leibhart's digging remains generally unexamined and unrecorded.

In August, 1975, Barry Kent, of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, cleared over 4000 square feet with a bull-dozer in an attempt to relocate some of the burials originally dug by the Leibharts and others (see map). None of the original burials were located at this time.

Artifacts from the Susquehannock component (1640-1675) include wooden ladels, brass kettles, kaolin pipes (Omwake 1969), nails, Jew's harps, bullet molds, various gun parts, a pick, tongs, scissors, strike-a-lights, and an assortment of trade beads. All of this material is currently in the possession of the Leibhart family. In addition to the trade items, native pottery was found, being mostly Strickler cord-marked, with a smaller percentage of Washington Boro Incised. In addition to this late protohistoric material, an Early Woodland (1000 B.C.-200 B.C.) Point Peninsula burial cache and a Point Peninsula pot from another pit were noted in the Leibhart collection (Kent n.d.)

Following a brief removal of the Susquehannocks to the abandoned Piscataway Indian Fort in Maryland, they returned to the Lower Susquehanna Valley in 1676, but by that time, many were scattered among the Leni Lenape on the Delaware, and as captives among the Iroquois.

During their stay there, the lack of mention in historical accounts had been interpreted as meaning a diminished political standing (Kent n.d.). That the records failed to mention either the village at Yo9, or at any other place, as recorded by Penn's emissaries buying land in the 1680's, has been interpreted as meaning that there were no Susquehannock communities in the lower Susquehanna Valley by 1683. No further mention of a Susquehannock community is reported until the 1690's at the location of Conestoga Town, and then only as a minority population in a village composed mainly of Seneca.

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The similarities of the Strickler (La3) and Byrd Leibhart (Yo170) sites to the Oscar Leibhart Site, in terms of artifact inventory and settlement pattern imply the contemporaneity of the three sites between 1650 & 1675. Still, the typical Susquehannock settlement pattern of only one site being occupied at any one time, and historical documentation both support an occupation sequence for the three sites (Kent n.d.). This assumption, along with selected historical documentation, places the Oscar Leibhart site earlier in the sequence, no earlier than 1663 and no later than 1683 (Kent n.d.; Hanna 191 Jennings 1968:47).

The site is marked by a number of Susquehannock cemeteries (see map), possibly as many as four. In addition, isolated Susquehannock graves have been noted by previous collectors. The presence of a Susquehannock longhouse most certainly implies the location of the village portion of the site at or near the top of the knoll. Still, until the stockade line is located, the precise placement of the village must remain open. If it is assumed that Susquehannock cemeteries are located outside the village, then the placement of a stockade line of sufficient size on the top of the knoll seems impossible. If the cemetery closest to the longhouse is placed inside the village, then a circle with an area of 196,000 square feet can be drawn which excludes the remaining three cemeteries (Kent n.d.).

## 8. Significanc

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

Specific dates

N/A

Builder/Architect

N/A

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Oscar Leibhart Site attains both prehistoric and historical significance. Through the archeological record, the site provides a view of a culture rapidly undergoing acculturation effects, through increased contact with European traders and trade goods. In addition, this time period is marked by intensive warfare with Iroquoian groups, and as far as this is evidenced in the site record, may shed light on the nature of intertribal warfare. As this is the site of the second to last, or last pure Susquehannock village, the site may also hold information as to the demise of the Susquehannocks as a tribal entity, especially with regards to the stressors of war and disease, and/or changing trade relationships. The burial population may provide, through paleodemographic methods, answers to the above questions of war and disease. If the Oscar Leibhart Site is earlier than the Byrd Leibhart Site, then the Oscar Leibhart Site may be the Susquehannock village listed on Herrman's map of 1670. Finally, the presence of an Early Woodland Point Peninsula component at the site may provide a high research potential for studies of changes from Late Archaic to early Woodland, especially with regard to settlement pattern.

The Susquehannock tribe in the first half of the 17th century was a powerful political influence in Southeastern Pennsylvania, controlling the major trade route from the Delaware Bay to the five nations to the north, and the lucrative fur trade. Their position, in relation to Dutch interests in New York, Sweden's in Delaware and the English in Maryland resulted in their acquiring both economic and military strength, to the point where they were able to dominate the Seneca from the early part of the century until the early 1660's. Hostilities between the five nations and the Susquehannocks were escalated with the coming of the fur trade, and intensified as more of the European powers attempted to exploit trade and territorial interest through one or the other of the warring tribes. The zenith in Susquehannock power was probably signalled by the successful repulsion of a Seneca attack at the Strickler Site in 1663. After that, war and disease reduced the population to a point where the war in the Summer of 1673, with the Iroquois, resulted in the hegemony of the Iroquois in the Lower Susquehanna Valley (in Jusuist Relations for 1673, cited in Kent n.d.). Adding to this, was the reversal of the formerly allied Maryland government, which in 1674, voted to make peace with the Seneca and instead, wage war on the Susquehannocks (Hunter 1969:14). This reversal was due largely to the decline in Susquehannock power and in the decline in importance of trade in the overall economy of Maryland (ibid.).

Mention of "the present Sasquahana Indian Fort" on the Herrman map of the area, dating 1670 (Hanna 1911: facing p.54), may be the one at the Oscar Leibhart Site (Kent n.d.) Data gathered for the map would have been prior to 1670, and it was the Strickler Site, on the east shore that was attacked by the Seneca in 1663. Thus the fort on the west shore would have been constructed between 1663 and 1670. Both the Oscar Leibhart Site and the Byrd Leibhart Site generally date from this period, and until more research is done, it is impossible to firmly determine priority of one or the other. Qualitative impressions on the distribution of Strickler Cord-marked versus Washington Boro Incised pottery slightly favor the Oscar Leibhart Site as being earlier (Kent n.d.).

## 9. Major Bibliographical Reference

See continuation sheet

## 10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property 18 acres

Quadrangle name Safe Harbor 7½

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References Red Lion 7½

A [REDACTED]  
Zone Easting Northing

B [REDACTED]  
Zone Easting Northing

C [REDACTED]

D 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

### Verbal boundary description and justification

see continuation sheet

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

state N/A code NA county NA code NA

state N/A code NA county NA code NA

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ira Beckerman

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

street & number 630 Humphrey Court #202 telephone (717) 545-5698

city or town Harrisburg state Pennsylvania

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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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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Major Bibliographic References

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Jennings, Francis

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

1978 Susquehannock. In Handbook of North American Indians. Volume 15. Northeast. Bruce Trigger(ed)., Smithsonian: Wahington, pp.362-367.

Kent, Barry C.

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Kinsey, W. Fred, III

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Omwake, H. Gieger

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Witthoft, John

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Hunter, William A.

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

Verbal Boundary Description & Justification:

