

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

3 1989

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Mercersburg Historic District Boundary Increase  
other names/site number N/A

### 2. Location

street & number S. Main St. between Linden Ave. and PA Route 75 N/A not for publication  
city, town Mercersburg N/A vicinity  
state Pennsylvania code PA county Franklin code 055 zip code 17236

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>24</u>	<u>2</u> buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>      </u> sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>25</u>	<u>2</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official Dr. Brent Glass Date 3/16/89  
 Dr. Brent Glass, Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission  
 State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

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:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>25</u>	<u>2</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
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 See continuation sheet.

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removed from the National Register.

other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling  
Transportation/road-related

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling, hotel  
Transportation/road-related**7. Description**Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)Late 19th and 20th century  
Revivals/Colonial Revival  
Other: Cumberland Valley Vernacular

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation limestone  
walls brick  
roof slate  
other wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Mercersburg Historic District consists of the central area of the town, extending in each direction from the center square. Located near the western edge of the great Cumberland Valley, in southwestern Franklin County, Mercersburg was settled during the mid and late eighteenth century. The district is characterized by mixed commercial and residential buildings of brick, stone or sided log construction. Construction dates for buildings range from the last quarter of the 18th century through the first half of the 19th century. There is also a second period during which a group of buildings were constructed, the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Of two to three stories in height, buildings are set close to the street along brick paved sidewalks with limestone curbs, except for early 20th century buildings which are set back from the street. In general the district retains a high degree of historic integrity with most buildings retaining original features, patinas or character defining alterations from the periods of significance. These alterations include such features as turn-of-the century porches and occasional store fronts. The current historic district contains about 100 properties and covers approximately 30 acres. The boundary increase extends the Mercersburg Historic District by a length of approximately two blocks along South Main Street between Linden Avenue and Constitution Street. The area being added contains 12 properties facing onto South Main Street as it turns eastward at its intersection with Linden Avenue. On the southwest side of the street are two Colonial Revival Mansions, Rosemont and Prospect dating from 1910. The northeast side of the street is occupied by a row of more modest log, brick and frame houses, set close to the street and dating from the late 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries.

The area to be added is primarily residential. The properties are well maintained with few recent exterior alterations, allowing them to convey the character of small town prosperity expressed over a two-century period, qualities also projected by the existing historic district. In addition to the buildings, other significant elements of the area include original brick-paved sidewalks with limestone curbs

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and vestiges of the formal gardens once associated with "Prospect."

Following is a brief description of the properties in the proposed boundary extension:

1. Prospect. This building is a two-and-one-half-story, five bay brick mansion with a slate sheathed gambrel roof. Built in the Colonial Revival style in 1910, it is one of the most lavish examples of its type in the area. Other exterior features include a pedimented portico with two story doric columns, double inside end chimneys, cut stone jack arches with projecting key stones and pedimented dormers. Significant interior elements include marble columns, mahogany paneling and concrete and steel construction. In the basement was a regulation-sized bowling lane. Remaining on the property with it is a four bay brick garage carriage house, and a brick walled garden on a 5.3 acre landscaped lot. 2 contributing buildings, 1 contributing site.
2. Caretaker's cottage for Prospect. This house, once the gate house for the Prospect mansion is a wood-shingled, four-square frame building with a slate covered hipped roof. Typical of the four-square type, the house has gable dormers. It is a three bay structure with a central entrance and two over two windows. Behind the house is a frame shed and to its south a brick one story gabled play-house for the Prospect mansion. 3 contributing buildings
3. Rosemont. 11 Linden Avenue Located in the triangle formed by Linden Avenue, South Main Street and an alley, this house is a two story, three bay structure, built in the Colonial Revival style, about 1910. It has a slate covered hipped roof and a wraparound porch supported by round doric columns. The entrance is accented by a two story pedimented portico with paired doric columns. Also on the property is a two story frame stable/carriage house. 2 contributing buildings
4. 201-203 S. Main Street. This building is a two story multipart brick and frame building dating from shortly after 1900. The main part of the structure is L-shaped with five bays and a central entrance protected by a small porch with posts decorated with jig-sawn brackets. Attached to the south end of

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the main structure is a two story gable-front, aluminum sided addition dating from the early 20th century. Behind the house is a small frame out kitchen, a frame stable, and a recently built two car garage. 3 contributing buildings, 1 non-contributing building.

5. 211 S. Main Street. This building is a two story, three bay brick house with a frame shed-roofed addition attached to the rear elevation. A shed roofed porch, supported by bracketed posts, extends along the front elevation. The house dates from the early 19th century and may be of log construction with brick sheathing. Also on the property is a one-story frame stable and shed. 2 contributing buildings.
6. 213 S. Main Street. This building is a two story, two bay frame commercial structure dating from ca. 1920. It is sheathed with asbestos shingle siding and has a slate roof. The first story retains its original store front. All two over two light windows and their architraves are also original. It was formerly a store selling dry goods, groceries and sundries, and operated until the mid-1950s. In recent years it has been an antique shop. 1 contributing building.
7. 217 S. Main Street. A small, two part, one-and-a-half-story log and brick cased house, possibly dating from the late 18th century. The brick portion has three bays with a central entrance. The south wing which may be the older portion of the house, is sheathed with composition siding. The two over two windows and peaked architraves date from the late nineteenth century. The house has single flues inside each gable end and a centrally located large chimney where the two sections of the house join. The roof is of tar and chip shingles. 1 contributing building.
8. 223 S. Main Street. This house is a two story, four bay stuccoed structure, probably of brick construction, dating from the second quarter of the 19th century. It has inside gable end chimneys and a slate covered roof. The two bay front porch dates from the early 20th century (with recent renovations) as do the two over two light windows. Behind the house is a one-story frame wash house. 2 contributing buildings.

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9. 229 S. Main Street. This house is a two story, three bay brick house with Flemish bond at the front elevation. Windows have two over two pane sash with arched upper lights. First story windows have paneled shutters, and those at the second story have louvered shutters. The windows and shutters date from the late 19th century. The central front door has a 20th century colonial revival pedimented surround. An early 20th century porch has been added to the northwest gable end. The house dates from the late 18th or early 19th century and may be of log construction, cased, or of solid brick construction. 1 contributing building.
10. 245 S. Main Street. Located in a triangle formed by South Main and Fayette Streets, and an alley, this house which appears to date from the last quarter of the 18th century is a two story, four bay log structure with large inside end chimneys. Most windows retain original or early sash, nine over six at the first story and six over six at the second story. One first story window in the southeast end wall has been enlarged, probably in the mid-19th century, and has six over six light sash. A modern shed roofed extension has been added to the rear elevation. The house has been sheathed with aluminum siding. Immediately behind the house is a gable-roofed stuccoed smokehouse. At the far corner of the lot is a concrete block garage. 2 contributing buildings, 1 non-contributing building.
11. 309 S. Main Street. This building is a two-part brick house consisting of a three bay, side-front entrance block with a two story, two bay addition attached to the southeast gable end. Windows in the front and side elevations have single pane sashes dating from the early 20th century. In the rear elevation two over two pane sashes from the late 19th century remain and two nine light, fixed sash windows in the basement of the older section. A wraparound side and rear porch and a front entrance porch date from the early 20th century. The older section, which dates from the early nineteenth century, has a large brick inside-end chimney located to the front of the peak of the gable. The brick addition appears to date from the third quarter of the 19th century. Behind the house is a frame German-sided wash house with a hipped roof. 2 contributing buildings.

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12. 317 S. Main Street. This house is a two story L-shaped frame building dating from about 1900. It retains most of its original exterior features, including a wraparound porch, molded window heads and louvered shutters. A brick flue with a corbeled top extends from the center of the building. Behind the house is a frame shed and a frame garage. The garage appears to post date the house by approximately two decades. 3 contributing buildings.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
Social history

Period of Significance

1780-1920

Significant Dates

1910

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Byron, Harry W. ("Prospect")

Architect/Builder

N/A

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Mercersburg Historic District is significant for its architecture, reflecting a range of vernacular representations to more stylistically sophisticated building from the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries. As a collection of regional architectural examples Mercersburg is distinctive for its cohesive and intact character and the comprehensive representation of its 18th, 19th and early 20th century historical process. Mercersburg has contributed to local, state and national history through outstanding people who have lived in the town, among them 15th President, James Buchanan. The town is also significant to the history of transportation and commerce as an 18th and 19th century settlement serving as a trading center for wagoners carrying goods west. In the 19th century with the establishment of a seminary, college and later the Mercersburg Academy, the town contributed to the development of education in America. The Mercersburg Historic District Boundary Increase is consistent with the existing district's significance, particularly in the area of architecture and association with prominent citizens of the town. The buildings represent all three periods of Mercersburg's architectural history, the late 18th century, the 19th century and early 20th century, and extend the existing district along its north-south axis to the limits of its original 18th century boundaries.

The most prominent house in the area forming the boundary increase is "Prospect," a large Colonial Revival mansion, built in 1910 by Harry W. Byron. The Byrons established and operated a tannery in Mercersburg from 1892. During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the tannery was Mercersburg's principal industry. The Byron Tannery had a reputation as a top producer of "Fancy Leather," used principally for bags and cases. Harry W. Byron, son of the tannery's founder assumed leadership of the business in 1901. The house that he built is the largest and most prominent in the town, and one of the first encountered as the town is entered from the southeast. It is distinctive in an area where elaborate large scale

See continuation sheet



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of a large Colonial Revival mansion, Prospect, on the site of the old brick yard. With Prospect and Rosemont along the south side of the street, the entrance to the town in the early 20th century was marked by two large houses representing the very latest style.

The earlier houses on the north side of the street are consistent in age, materials, construction and integrity with the main portion of the district. The Colonial Revival houses on the south side also connect with the original district, representing the era that produced most of the porches and commercial construction, as well as a few residential buildings.

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A house of similar character, but less pretentious is "Rosemont," also a Colonial Revival brick structure on the triangle created by South Main Street, Linden Avenue and a connecting alley. Together Rosemont and Prospect represent the most prosperous of the town's citizens in an era when great wealth could be accumulated quickly through industrial enterprise. Across the street stands the row of older and more modest houses which represent the late 18th and early 19th century aspects of Mercersburg's character. When these houses were built, they stood opposite a brick yard and near a foundry at the very edge of town. Some of these residences were originally

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associated with these industries. It is significant that the character of this portion of town changed dramatically from an industrial to a residential section with the conversion of the brick yard to the landscaped mansion of a wealthy industrialist.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Mercersburg Historic District National Register Nomination, 1978

Woman's Club of Mercersburg, Old Mercersburg Revised 1865- 1976  
Mercersburg: Mercersburg Printing, 1987.

See continuation sheet

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

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property approximately 10 acres

UTM References

A 18 251500 441220  
 Zone Easting Northing

C 18 251680 4411840  
 E 18 251560 4412100

B 18 251680 4412040  
 Zone Easting Northing

D 18 251560 4411840  
 F 18 251480 4412100

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the northwest corner of 201 S. Main Street identified on Mercersburg's Tax maps and on the Mercersburg Historic District Boundary Increase map at the edge of an alley, and extending eastward approximately 200 feet to the rear property line of 201 S.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

This boundary increase extends Mercersburg's historic district to the southeast to include a group of residential buildings consistent with the original nomination. Concentrations of newer buildings, a cemetery and property not historically associated with the town border the boundaries to the south, southwest and southeast.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Fred Bean, Borough Manager

organization Mercersburg Hist. Architectural Review Board date September, 1988

street & number 113 S. Main Street telephone 717-328-3116

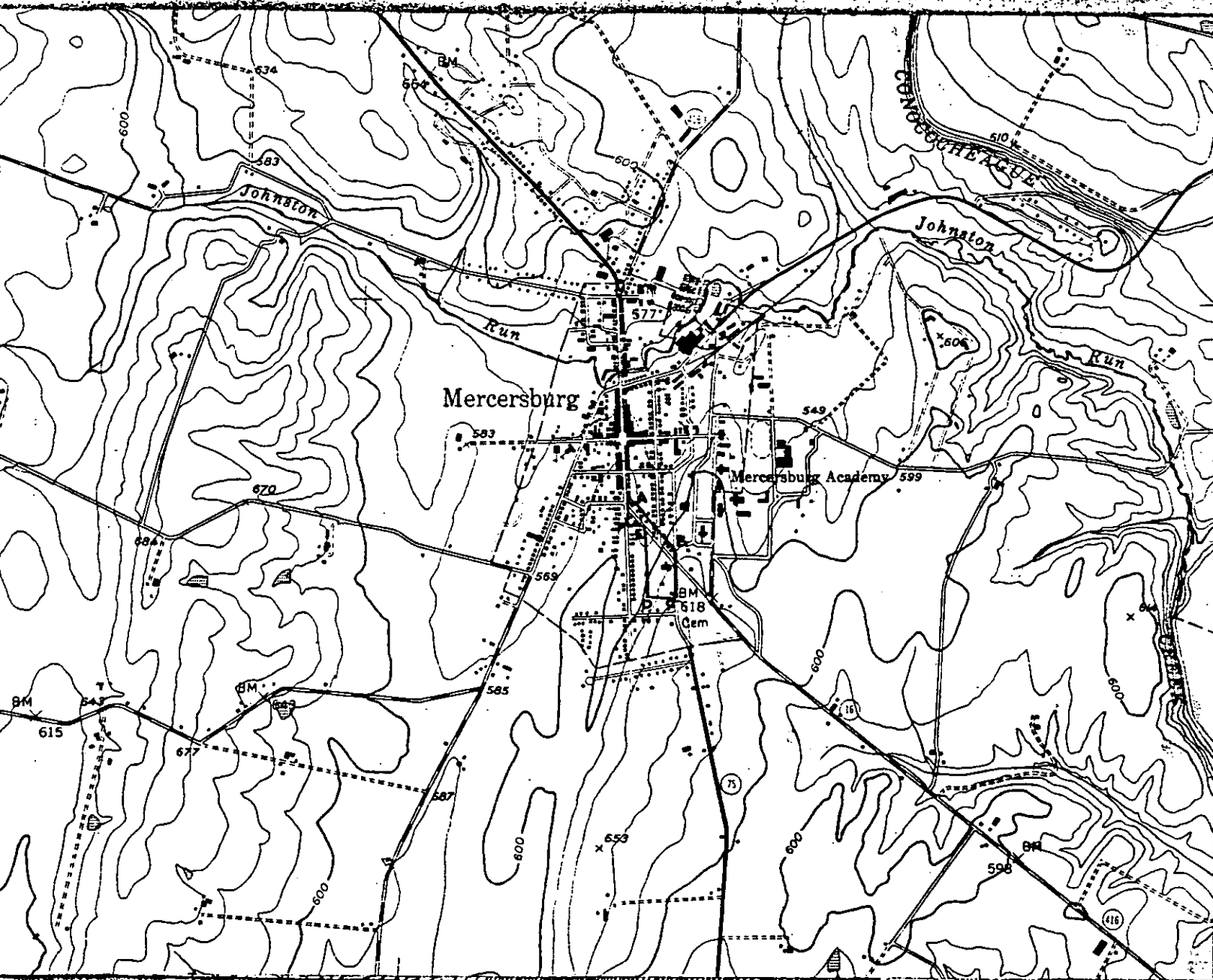
city or town Mercersburg state Pennsylvania zip code 17236

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MERCERSBURG HISTORIC DISTRICT BOUNDARY INCREASE

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Main Street then turning south and following the rear property lines of 203, 211, and 213 S. Main Street to an alley; then diagonally across the alley to meet the rear property line of 217 S. Main Street then bisecting the property of 223 S. Main Street by continuing the rear property line of 217 S. Main Street in a straight line to meet the north property line of 229 S. Main Street; then eastward along the north line of 229 S. Main Street to its rear line; then turning south and following said rear property line 50' to an alley; then following the north edge of said alley to the west edge of Fayette Street; then turning south along the west edge of Fayette Street to a point opposite the north property line of 309 S. Main Street; then following said north property line eastward approximately 200' to the west edge of Constitution Avenue; then turning southward and following the west edge of Constitution Avenue to South Main Street; then crossing South Main Street diagonally to meet the west edge of Pennsylvania State route 75; then following state route 75 in a southerly direction to include the property of "Prospect" and the property of the caretaker's cottage; then turning westward and following the south property line of the caretaker's cottage property, parcel #38, to its rear property line; then turning northward and following variously the east right-of-way lines for the alley and property lines to South Main Street; then following the southwest edge of South Main Street in a northwesterly direction to an alley; then turning west and following the north edge of the alley approximately 190' to Linden Avenue; then turning north along the east edge of Linden Avenue to its junction with South Main Street; then diagonally across South Main Street to the place of beginning.



CHURCH HILL 1 MI.  
WILLIAMSON 4.5 MI.  
WILLIAMSON  
(WILLIAMSON)  
N 3.5 MI.  
NCASTLE 8 MI. 5463 IV SE

FRANKLIN COUNTY, PA

MERCERSBURG HISTORIC  
DISTRICT BOUNDARY  
INCREASE

UTM REFERENCES

- A-18 251 500  
4412 220
- B-18 251 680  
4412 040
- C-18 251 680  
4411 840
- D-18 251 560  
4411 840
- E-18 251 560  
4412 100
- F- 251 480  
4412 100