

**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 Payne's Folly

and/or common Payne's Folly

2. Location

street & number Watters Road

N/A not for publication

city, town New Park

N/A vicinity of

state PA

code 42

county York

code 133

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Herbert C. and Mary Louise Cupit

street & number Watters Road

city, town New Park

N/A vicinity of

state PA

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. York County Courthouse

street & number 28 East Market Street

city, town York

state PA

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title York County Sites Survey

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 11-26-85

federal state county local

depository for survey records Historic York, Inc. File #133-15-52

city, town York

state PA

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved

date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Payne's Folly is a 2 1/2 story with full basement, 4 x 2 bay stone house. It measures 36' x 24', and is built into a bank on its western side, with its facade oriented toward the south. Two interior end chimneys of stone project above the steep gable roof. This roof's existing cedar shingles were badly deteriorated, and were replaced by the present owners, re-using the original hand-cut nails and chestnut hand-split lath.

The original pent roof on the facade was removed by previous owners, but a scar remained on the face of the building which showed its dimensions. The roof has been re-constructed, and is also clad in cedar shingles.

The somewhat irregular arrangement of bay openings, with three windows above the pent roof on the second story, and a door and three windows on the first story, indicate that the typical characteristics of the Georgian house plan were tempered by strong Germanic cultural and architectural influences.

The building's original window sash, severely deteriorated through lack of maintenance, was replaced with wood sash of an identical fenestration pattern. On the first story, windows are 9/6, on the second, 6/6, on the attic story, 4 pane casements. At the basement level the front sash is 6/6, at the rear, one is 6/6, the other a 6 pane casement.

The present flight of stone steps leading to the front door was rebuilt using the ruins of the original as a guide. The six panel front door and its hardware are original; its blue paint matches traces found upon investigation of original paint colors. The back door and its three light transom are identical to the front.

At the east gable end, an enormous single stone forms the lintel over a large 46" x 70" door at the basement level. Large staggered quoins embellish all four corners of the house. At the NE corner on the second story an unusually large quoin supports the hearth stone of a small fireplace in a secondary bedroom.

The building's interior retains an astonishing amount of original fabric, including decorative molding, built-in cabinetry, hardware, and paint. Very little has ever been altered or removed in the more than 200 years since the building's construction.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Payne's Folly, York Co. Item number 7

Page 2

At the attic story, the hand hewn chestnut roof beams retain the Roman numerals used by the builders who cut, matched, and pegged them. At either end of the attic are the chimneys, covered with their original parging, with two small handprints still preserved therein. Random-width tongue and groove pine floor boards form both the attic floor and the 2nd story ceiling.

On the 2nd story are three bedrooms and a hallway, all with exposed hand hewn beaded edge chestnut beams. Unlike many houses of this era, these beams were not later lathed and plastered. They appear today exactly the way they were designed, attractive and decoratively finished.

All of the perimeter walls of both this level and the 1st story retain their original plaster, which was carefully patched as needed, and their 5" baseboard and 6" chair rail. Interior walls are paneled pine boards of a single thickness, finished off with moldings at the ceiling. Markings from the hand planes used to finish them are still plainly visible, and original yellow paint remains unaltered on these walls. There are 5 original paneled doors, each secured with 2 battens, and 3" iron hinges. Three of the doors retain their original hand wrought thumb latches.

Deep window reveals of 17" are faced with single boards in all of the rooms. All of the three bedrooms retain their original appearance; no closets have been added nor have features been removed, and all have well preserved random width tongue and groove pine floors. The largest bedroom, on the west side is 13 1/2' x 20', the front bedroom on the east side is 13 1/2' x 10', and the bedroom behind it is 11 1/2' x 10'. This bedroom has a small fireplace with a 27 1/4" wide opening, with a 5'5" high mantle, whose distinctive curvilinear design replicates that of a larger mantle in the parlor.

The one concession to modern living on the 2nd story is the conversion of the south end of the central hallway to a small bathroom, 7 1/2' x 5', with the addition of stud walls finished to match original.

The stairway leading down to the 1st story is 3' wide and well finished inside, with a platform, or shelf set beneath the risers leading to the attic.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet Payne's Folly, York Co.

Item number 7

Page 3

The 1st story is the most elaborately finished in the entire house. It survives in almost completely original condition, and boasts two particularly fine built-in cupboards. All of the plaster walls were retained, patched, and painted. The ceiling plaster was too badly deteriorated to salvage, but the existing lath was retained in place and a new plaster ceiling installed. A 6" chair rail, which is differentiated from the chair rail at the second story by the addition of one extra piece of cove molding, was retained, as was the 5" baseboard, and the picture frame molding on the door and window frames. All of the wooden trim is painted dark gray. Windows have a 19" reveal faced with single boards. The random-width, tongue and groove oak floorboards are all original.

An interesting feature in the parlor is the survival of several slots cut into the flooring between the east and west walls. Additional evidence, including a mark on the wall and chair rail, and the unfinished edge of the built in cupboard to the north of the parlor fireplace suggests that the room was partitioned by a board wall installed sometime after the house's original construction. This new partition wall would have been fitted into the slots, and would have been run along the north side of the fireplace cupboard, which made it impractical to finish that side. At some later date the board wall was removed, and the fireplace cupboard was moved about two feet to the north, and the space between the two plastered.

In the SW corner of the room is a cupboard built on the west wall 5' wide and 8 1/2' high. It is built of pine, with dovetailing and mortice and tenon construction. Its base has 2 overlap drawers and 2 hip panel doors, with a fluted pilaster framing both sides and marking the central division between the doors. The top of the cupboard has an arched central opening, with shelves installed within. Scars on the sides of the doors indicate where the hinges once were for a pair of doors which have since been lost.

Just to the north of the cupboard is a 6' wide, 5'7" high fireplace, with a 33" opening, and hearth of hand-made brick. The wooden mantle has an unusual curvilinear repetitive pattern carved in it, topped by a frieze carved in a Greek Fret pattern. Traces of blue paint remained on the mantle, and this color was matched and reproduced. The fireplace cupboard is also of pine, 18" wide and 8 1/2' high, with two hip panel doors.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet Payne's Folly, York Co. Item number 7 Page 4

The other room on the 1st story is the Great Hall. The impressive front (south) and back (north) doors have openings 3'5", 7'8 1/2" high. On the interior, the doors are board and batten, with beaded boards, and 3 foot original iron strap hinges hung on pintels. The antique Queen Anne box locks are not original.

The other detail of note in this room is the pine chimney cupboard, set into the east chimney wall above the chair rail. Its door with 2 raised panels is hung on 2" butt hinges, and its opening is framed by elaborately molded trim.

The stairway leading to the basement story has a carved newel post with chamfered edges, and lambs tongue, a half-round molding applied to the ends of the risers, and a pair of turned balusters on each tread. Like the upper stairways it is straight for most of its flight, with four winders at the bottom.

Like the 1st story, the basement is divided into two rooms. The smaller of these is the back kitchen or "cooling room." This is 12' wide, and runs the entire depth of the house. Its stone walls were never plastered, but simply whitewashed, and its cross beams retain their bark. The summer beam retains several wrought iron hooks of assorted sizes, which were originally used for hanging utensils and food. This is the least finished room in the entire house, as it was not expected that the public would ever visit it.

The rest of the basement story is taken up by the front kitchen or "keeping room". This is 18' wide, with a large door on the east side whose solid stone sill measures 1 1/2' x 4 1/2'. This is a replacement door, as the original was severely deteriorated.

The door between the front and back rooms is board and batten with large original strap hinges measuring 46", which turn on pintels. The cross beams here are dressed of their bark and measure 20'. The exterior walls are plastered and white washed, but no attempt was made to finish them as neatly as the rooms on the 1st and 2nd stories.

A 10' wide fireplace dominates the east wall, and retains its two original slate hearth stones, which combine to measure 4' x 10'. This enormous fireplace has a 48" high iron crane secured between set-in iron and stone pintels. Its chestnut lintel measures 14" wide, 12" deep, 10" long, and 54" high. On the south side, its stone support pillar has an opening for utensils.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Payne's Folly, York Co. Item number 7

Page 5

The original flooring in this room was badly deteriorated, and was replaced with brick laid in a herring bone pattern. However, a very small segment of the original remains in the storage cupboard beneath the stairs. The wide pine boards facing the wide reveals in the windows are original, although they have warped and bent as the house has settled through the years.

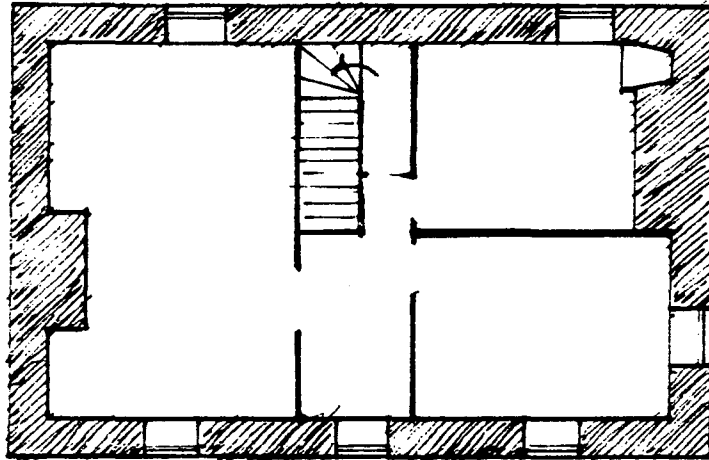
The remains of a stone spring house lie 175' to the east of the house. The remaining 20" thick walls stand 5' high on the west side and 6' high on the east side and the entire building measures 9' x 12'6". A 30" trough runs along the west wall and a "dripping well" is located in front of the south entrance wall.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

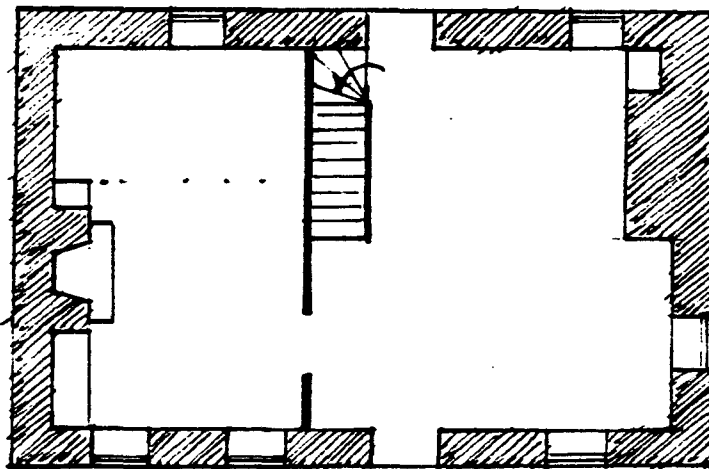
National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received _____
date entered _____

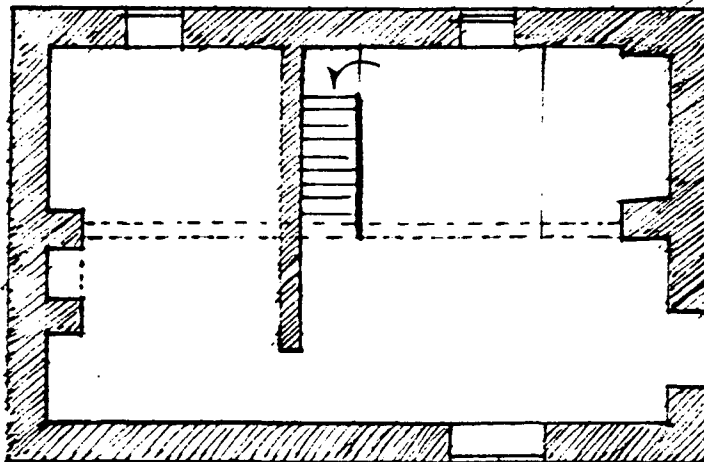
Continuation sheet Payne's Folly, York Co. Item number 7 Page 6



SECOND STORY



FIRST STORY



BASEMENT STORY



SCALE
1" = 2 FEET

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 checked="" 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 c. 1750 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Payne's Folly is a remarkably intact, well preserved early Germanic residence. Its circa date of 1750 is quite early for a house of its type in Southern York County, and clearly shows the influence of the area's two dominant cultures in its orientation and design. The name Payne's Folly was first recorded in a 1772 land draft. According to this document, the lands were surveyed March 10, 1772 for John Payne "in pursuance of his application #787 for 200 acres." The map notes that the entire area was called "Payne's Folly." This name has remained associated with the house and grounds to the present date.

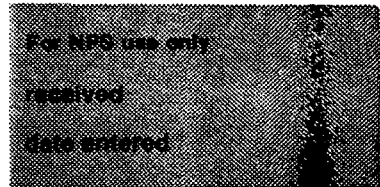
The strong influence of the Germanic building tradition is revealed by the placement of the house at the bottom of a hollow, within easy access to a spring. In addition, its construction with the western half of the building built into the hillside, is also characteristically German. This was born of practicality; it provided shelter from the winds, and additional insulation for the food stored in the room at the basement level, usually referred to as the back kitchen, or "cooling room."

The evidence of Georgian stylistic influence is visible in several distinct elements, including the flanking interior end chimneys, hipped panel doors, relatively steep pitch of the gable roof, and the pent roof which stretches across the front facade of the building.

The house was constructed in a frontier area at a very early date, with some resulting stylistic awkwardness. Although many details which typify the Georgian style were faithfully reproduced, Payne's builder evidently had some difficulty reproducing all of the Georgian characteristics. The second story has a distinct central hall, but on the first story, although the front and rear doors are aligned, the division of space is into two main rooms, with no wall dividing them. Another problem is the fenestration, which is slightly assymetrical on both the front and rear facades.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Payne's Folly, York Co.

Item number 8

Page 2

John Payne would have been familiar with the Germanic building tradition, from his acquaintance with domestic architecture in the area. In addition, as the son of English Quakers who followed George Fox to this country, he would also have had an understanding and appreciation of the Georgian style. These two cultural and stylistic traditions were mingled in the architectural style of Payne's Folly.

An extensive survey of more than one hundred historic buildings in Fawn Township, conducted by Historic York Inc. in 1980 lists only five stone houses in the entire township. Most of the mid eighteenth century structures remaining at the time of the survey were log structures. These buildings were generally small and simple, with little or no stylistic pretension.

The four other stone buildings were, with one exception, built at least fifty years after Payne's Folly. The exception is a small story-and-a-half stone building, located less than a mile away. It is a very rudimentary cottage, with a steeply sloped gable roof, and a deep front porch which shades the two windows and door of the building's facade. In comparison with the Payne House, it seems almost primitive, and further underscores how unusual it was for such a comparatively high style building to be constructed in Fawn Township at this early date.

Aside from the significance of the building's early date and comparatively high style, the survival of the building in virtually original condition should be of great interest to students of eighteenth century architecture. The floor plan, finish work, hardware, and in many cases, even the original coat of paint have all survived intact.

Even the most subtle aspects of the house's design remain; including the gradation of finish work which differentiates the building's public rooms from its private, utilitarian ones. As is typical in architecture of this period, the rooms on the first and second floors are the most elaborate. These rooms have well finished plaster walls, ornamented with molded wooden trim, and built-in wooden cabinetry. By contrast, the rooms on the basement level, which were used only by members of the family, are far simpler. In the back kitchen, the stone walls are not even plastered, but simply whitewashed directly over the stone, and the ceiling beams were installed with their bark still in

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet Payne's Folly, York Co. Item number 8 Page 3

place. The front kitchen's walls were plastered, but not with as much care as that given to the upstairs walls, and its beams, although dressed, were not given the additional finish of a beaded edge, like those on the first and second stories.

Payne's Folly is an excellent example of an early, rural Germanic house whose value is increased by its rarity in the area, and its survival in nearly intact condition.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Beer, John, History of York County, York, Vol. II, P.711

Land Drafts, Collections of Historical Society of York Co. 5727

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 2.2

Quadrangle name Norrisville, MD - PA

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	8	3	7	1	2	9	0	4	3	9	8	1	6	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

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

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 N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lynn Rozental, Executive Director

organization Historic York, Inc.

date December 1, 1985

street & number P. O. Box 2312

telephone 717-843-0320

city or town York

state PA

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

Dr. Larry E. Tise

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

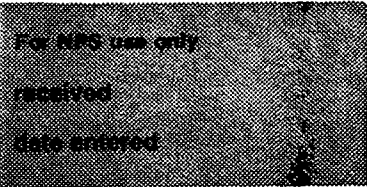
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Payne's Folly, York Co. Item number 10 Page 2

Verbal Boundary Description

From York County Deed Book No. 63-F, page 958

BEGINNING at a pipe on the northern line of Township Road #564; thence continuing along lands now or formerly of Everett H. Thompson and wife, North 13 degrees 55 minutes East, 302.5 feet to a point; thence continuing along land of same, North 77 degrees 55 minutes East, 329.2 feet to a pipe; thence continuing along land of the same, South 48 degrees 49 minutes East, 65.1 feet to a pipe; thence continuing along land of the same, South 18 degrees 24 minutes West, 205 feet to a pipe on the northern line of the aforementioned Township Road #564; thence continuing in and along the same, South 71 degrees 45 minutes West, 399 feet to a point, the place of BEGINNING.

Being 2.2 acres

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

According to a 1772 land grant, John Payne originally had 200 acres of land in Fawn Township called Payne's Folly. The present extent of the property is 2.2 acres surrounding John Payne's house, located at the northern edge of the original plot. The integrity of the house is excellent. The spring house is in ruins, although much evidence remains of its original appearance.

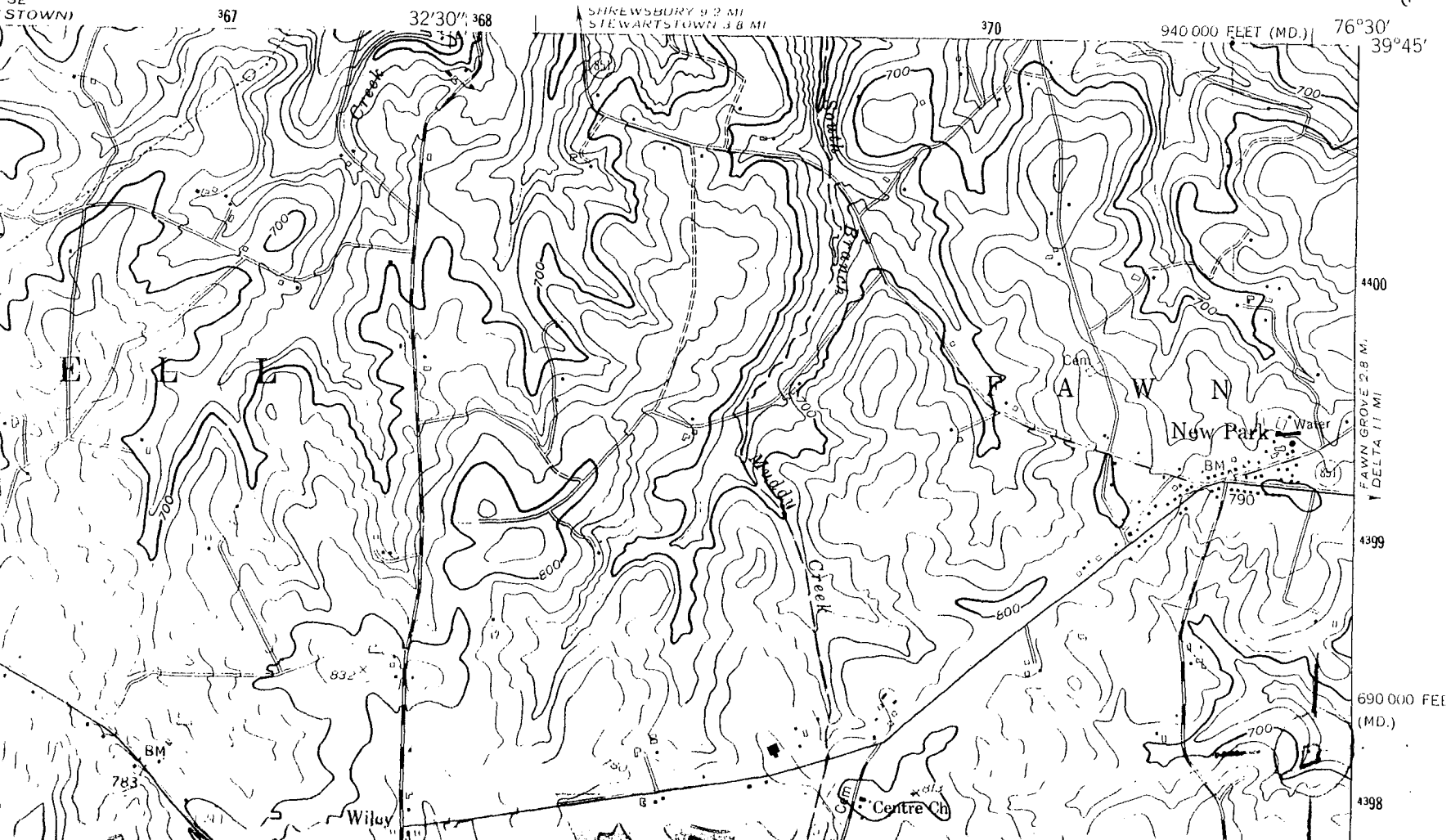
Leaving Carea Road and traveling easterly downhill on Watters Road for four-tenths of a mile, Payne's Folly appears on the left 125' north of the roadway. From the 399' of road frontage the stone house is centrally situated on 2.2 sloping acres with a 25' x 30' work shop (built 1973) located 70' to the left (west). Towards the right (east) and beyond the driveway is the spring house 175' downhill. The entire acreage is surrounded by cornfields.

UNITED STATES
OF THE ARMY
ENGINEERS

SE
STOWN

NORRISVILLE QUADRANGLE
MARYLAND—PENNSYLVANIA
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5763 IV SW
(AIRVILLE)



PAYNE'S FLY
York County
Zone 18
Norrisville Quadrangle
E371290 N4398160