

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Nyce Farm/Van Gordon House (Preferred)

AND/OR COMMON

Eshback Farm

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

U.S. 209

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Lehman Township

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Tenth, Pennsylvania

STATE

Pennsylvania

CODE

42

COUNTY

Pike

CODE

103

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

United States Army Corps of Engineers

STREET & NUMBER

United States Custom House, 2nd & Chestnut Streets

CITY, TOWN

Philadelphia

VICINITY OF

STATE
Pennsylvania

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Pike County Courthouse

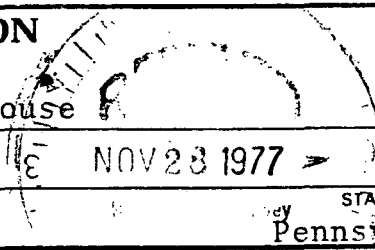
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Milford

STATE

Pennsylvania



6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historical Architectural Survey of Delaware Water Gap NRA

DATE

1975

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Headquarters

CITY, TOWN

Bushkill

STATE
Pennsylvania

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Historic American Buildings Survey, 1970. Federal, Library of Congress, Washington D. C.

Historic Structures Report, Part 1: Architectural Data Section on Historic Buildings in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, 1967. Federal, Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Headquarters, Bushkill, Pennsylvania.

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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Eshback Farm complex is a cluster of seven buildings, situated at the base of a steep wooded ridge, about a quarter of a mile back from the bank of the Delaware River. The complex is located in Pike County, Pennsylvania, 7 miles north of Bushkill. U.S. 209 runs between the group of farm buildings and the broad fields which stretch to the river.

The Main House is a large, 2½ story frame structure which dates from the early 19th century. In its general design, the house resembles 18th century houses usually associated with New England. The house is the conventional center hall type, five bays wide, covered with white clapboard siding. The windows are 12/12 light sash on the first floor, and 12/8 light on the second. The central entrance doorway has six panel sidelights, a fanlight, and elaborately molded trim. There is a more recent frame addition to the rear, and modern flat roofed 1-story porch wings on either end. The roof is covered with asphalt shingle. There are two brick chimneys, slightly indented from either gable end. The interior has woodwork dating to the 1830's. Chair rails remain on both floors. There are two elaborate mantels, and the flooring on the second floor is original as is the hardware throughout the house.

The Eshback Tenant House (Jacobus Van Gordon House), which is the original building on the property, is a 2½ story structure built of rubble sandstone set in clay mortar, later re-pointed with lime mortar. It is three bays wide, and the exterior is now partially covered with crumbling plaster. The house dates from the late 18th century. Its shape is rectangular, measuring approximately 28' by 30'. There is an uncovered concrete terrace at the 1st floor level on the southeast side of the house.

There are two brick chimneys, one probably original, the second, an addition for an attic stove. There is a main entrance door on the southeast side. On the second floor level to the rear is a plain panelled door. The house is in generally poor condition.

There are five barn, garage, and storage structures on the property, ranging from the mid 19th to the early 20th centuries. All are in generally good condition, and contribute both to the functional operation of this working farm, and to its historic setting.

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 checked="" 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/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Eshback Farm Complex is significant as a link in the historical development of the prosperous agricultural society in the Pennsylvania riverbottom area of the Upper Delaware Valley. Along with the neighboring "Wheat Plains" Farm, with which it has been connected by ties of family as well as proximity, it has been one of the most continuously prosperous tracts of land in the vicinity and is one of the best preserved in terms of historic and architectural integrity.

The land on which this complex lies was first settled by Jacobus Van Gordon, a soldier in the American Revolution, who acquired part of the tract during the 1770's. Van Gordon built the small stone cabin at the very base of the ridge, and farmed a section of the river flat in front of it. The tract was still in the hands of the Van Gordon family as late as 1796, when Jacobus' will gave his son Moses "53 acres of low land besides the house and house lot adjoining where he now lives," reserving to his wife her choice of rooms in the house probably for the duration of her life.

Much of the rich farmland to the south of the Van Gordon farm, meanwhile had come into the hands of William Nyce and his three sons, John, George W. and William, who farmed and operated a variety of mills and small businesses at Egypt Mills, approximately half way between Van Gordon's and Bushkill. At some point in the early 19th century, George Nyce, son of John, acquired the Van Gordon property and began building the large, Federal Period farmhouse which is the centerpiece of the complex today. Nyce was noted in the area as a progressive farmer, and introduced a variety of advanced technology, including a threshing machine. He built a much noted slate roofed barn during the early 1860's, a period when many of the farms in the area were stagnating due to manpower drains which resulted from military conscription.

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The farm was a regular stage stop on the River Road stage route between Stroudsburg and Milford, and catered to travellers, although it was not an inn in the regular commercial sense. George L. Nyce, George's son, cut trees on the property and marketed them down river through his prosperous store in Bushkill. The farm remained in the hands of the Nyce family until 1948.

The Eshback Farm, with the neighboring Brodhead Farm, stand as monuments to the prosperity conferred on a small percentage of the agricultural population of the Upper Delaware Valley, by virtue of their fortunate location on the best lands available in the area, along the broad, fertile river bottom of the Pennsylvania side of the Delaware. These advantages accrued primarily as a result of early occupancy, although land on the Pennsylvania side was not completely taken up until the end of the American Revolution, which resulted in the more or less complete removal of hostile Indian activity from the area.

These lands held a double advantage: They were more fertile than any others in the area due to regular flooding by the river, and they were larger, and more adaptable to the new mechanized farming processes which began to be introduced after the Civil War. This latter factor allowed their occupants to escape the general decline into which most of the area's agriculture entered in terms of competition with the more open Middle West. The fashionable styling of the buildings on these elite farms, together with their careful maintenance, and evident continuing agricultural well-being today, testify to the lasting consequences of these initial advantages.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dodd, John B. "Historical Architectural Survey of Delaware Water Gap National Recreational Area," Vol. 1, 1974.

Souder, Norman M. Historic Structures Report, Part 1: Architectural Data Section on Historic Buildings in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. 1967, pp. 32-33.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 7

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	5,05	2,0	4,5	5,4	0,8,0	B					
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING						
C							D					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(See continuation sheet)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Wayne K. Bodle

Park Technician

ORGANIZATION

National Park Service

DATE

04/22/77

STREET & NUMBER

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Bushkill

STATE

Pennsylvania

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

William P. Deaver 3/15/78

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National State Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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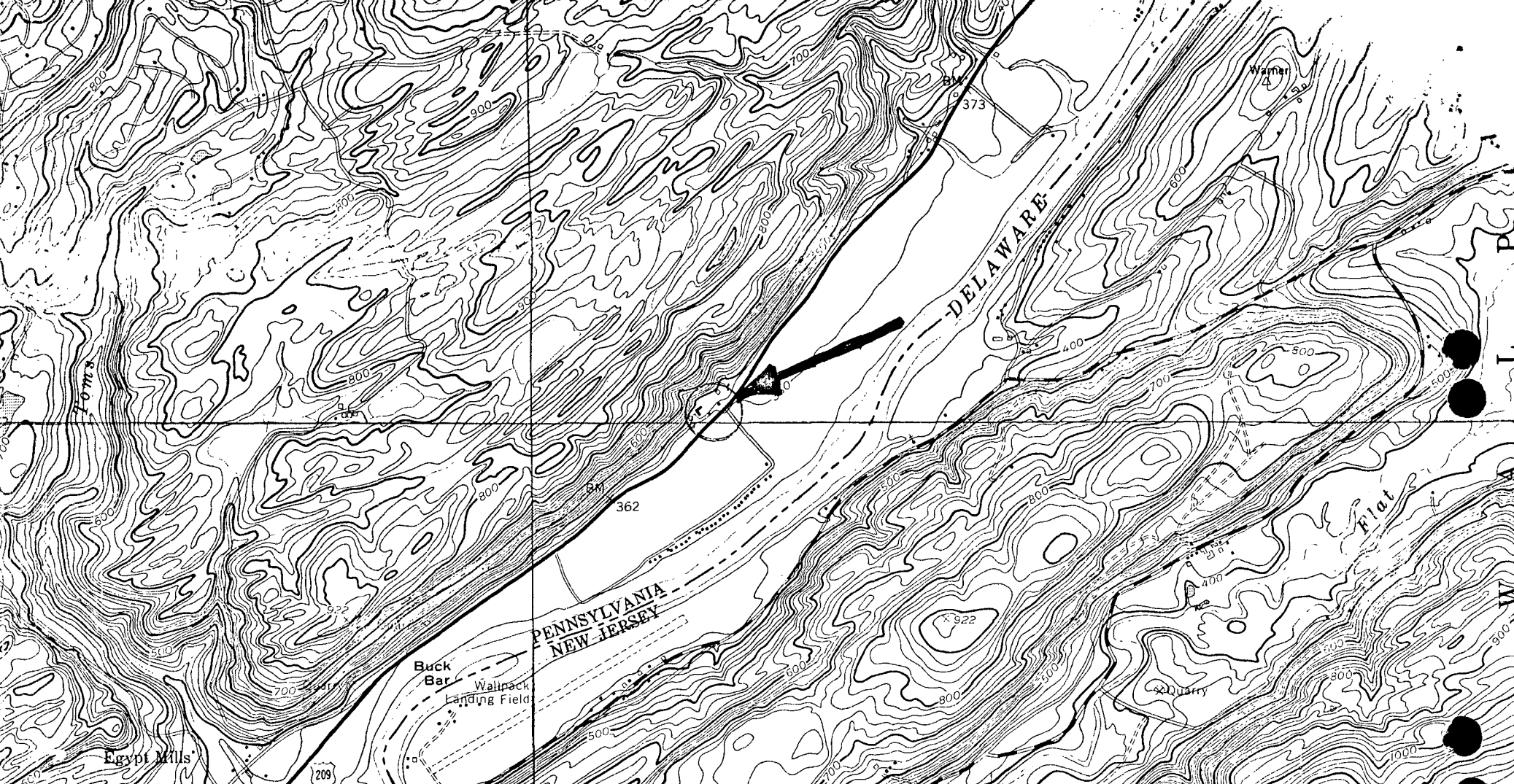
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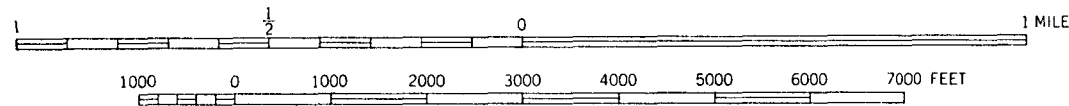
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The Eshback Farm Complex is located on United States Army Corps of Engineers TIL Tract #8300. The boundary of the nominated portion of this property begins on the western edge of the right of way of U.S. 209, approximately 2100' south of the northern tract line of tract #8300 with that right of way (Point A). From this point, the boundary extends southward along the right of way for 750' to Point B. From this point, the boundary turns to the northwest and extends perpendicularly to the right of way for 400' to Point C. From this point, the boundary turns to the northeast and extends for 750' to point C. From this point, the boundary turns to the southeast and extends for 400' back to the right of way at Point A.

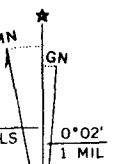


903 57'30" HUSHKILL 3 MI. EAST STROUDSBURG 16 MI. (FLATBROOKVILLE) 6066 III SW FLATBROOKVILLE 2.8 MI. 55' 508

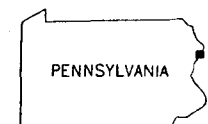
SCALE 1:24000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929



1973 MAGNETIC NORTH
AT CENTER OF SHEET



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

LAKE MA
NW/4 DING
N-4

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST