

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 Hugh Laughlin House

and or common N/A

2. Location

street & number Township Route 422 N/A not for publication

city, town Redstone Township N/A vicinity of

state Pennsylvania code 042 county Fayette code 051

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	N/A being considered	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 Jean Keaton

street & number 13022 Dean Street

city, town Tustin N/A vicinity of state Pennsylvania

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Fayette County Courthouse

street & number East Main Street

city, town Uniontown state Pennsylvania

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Fayette County Historic Resource Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1982 federal state county local

depository for survey records Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

city, town Harrisburg state Pennsylvania

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Item number 4

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Mary Jean Kenton Rosenberg and James Rosenberg
R.D.#1, Box 236
Grindstone, Pennsylvania 15442

Frank J. Kenton III
4911 Leeds Street
Simi Valley, California 93063

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 Hugh Laughlin House is a free standing, coursed rubble sandstone building made up of two sections. The earlier portion of the house is a two story, three bay Georgian stone house, c. 1785-1795, measuring 26 feet by 30 feet deep with a double pile, side hall plan. A c. 1800-1810 one and one half story coursed rubble sandstone section measuring 22 feet by 20 feet in plan adjoins the earlier section and is continuous with the building's main (southeast) elevation. The Hugh Laughlin House possesses good integrity, including exceptional preservation of interior features in the older section of the house. The house is located on a gentle slope surrounded by vast stretches of meadow, orchard remnants and woodland terrain. The ruins of a springhouse are located just north of the house. The nominated property contains one contributing building and one contributing site.

The c. 1785-1795 section of the dwelling is a gabled two story building which displays a three bay facade on both front and rear elevations. A blind gable end wall opened only by a cellar entrance makes up the southwestern elevation while the opposite gable end connects with the one and one half story section and is opened by a rectangular attic window, three over three lights.

The front elevation of the older section of the house consists of a coursed rubble masonry wall, with larger blocks set at corners and also some large squared, coursed blocks flanking second story windows. This facade is opened by three evenly spaced windows on the second story, two windows and a door on the first story, and one cellar window. Windows are six over six lights, double hung sash with plain dressed stone slip sills. First story windows are crowned by uneven stone arches.

It is evident that the central first story opening on the main elevation was once intended to be more prominent, apparently an entrance, in that the arch is broader and that the opening beneath the arch was narrowed with infill masonry. In contrast to the arched treatment of first story windows, the entrance to the house is plain, lacking even a stone lintel. If the entrance was once arched it is possible that the arch failed and its space was crudely filled in. Similar anomalies in the masonry of the rear elevation, including unmatched lintels on first story windows, appear to be original to the house. These features therefore may reflect an eccentric approach of the original builder or other particular circumstances dictating changes in the course of construction.

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The older section of the house has a medium-pitch gable roof, boxed cornice, and wooden gable returns built into end walls. A wide stone chimney penetrates the roof near the southwest gable end. Roof covering for both sections of the house is presently asbestos shingle.

The c. 1800-1810 addition to the house is one and one half story rubble stone masonry with quoining at its gable end. This section possesses a stone gable end chimney on the northeast end of the house. The front elevation features a single six over six lights double hung sash window while the rear elevation displays one six over six lights window and an entrance door. Two six over six lights attic windows appear in this section of the house on the exposed gable end. Windows in this section of the house have hewed wooden lintels and cut stone lugsills.

The c. 1800-1810 addition was altered during renovation of the Hugh Laughlin House in the 1950s. Deteriorated late nineteenth century additions to this section, including a brick second story and wooden shed additions to the rear, were removed and the roof was lowered to its original one and one half story height. The front and rear slopes of the roof each received a dormer and the rear roof slope was continued as a porch roof, supported on ornamental metal posts, covering a new stone patio. The front entrance to the c. 1800-1810 section was also blocked in at this time.

Alterations to the c. 1785-1795 section of the house were also made in the 1950s. A new sandstone stoop was constructed at the front entrance decorated with antique iron fencing and topped with a gabled hood. The rear elevation of the older section of the house also received a stone patio, and a porch roof, supported on ornamental iron posts, was constructed across this elevation.

The interior of the Hugh Laughlin House retains its Georgian side hall plan in the older section of the house and many intact features throughout the building. The majority of doors in the house are of the six-panel cross pattern common among eighteenth century buildings; others, particularly the stairway, attic and cellar doors are composed of beaded (or plain) boards and beveled battens. The main entry is an eight-panel door with a four light segmented transom and a panelled reveal. Each of the panel doors on the first floor of the older section is framed by molded surround trim with block and circle corners. A variety of late eighteenth/early nineteenth century door hardware is still employed including 19" beveled wrought iron strap hinges, wrought

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iron lift and thumb latches, spring latches with knobs, and 9" x 6" metal rim locks. Interior window trim consists of plain curved molding and windows in the older section of the house have paneled reveals.

All of the fireplaces in the house still function, though only one is used with any regularity. Several contain possibly original andirons. A large walk-in fireplace in Room 4, constructed of massive sandstone blocks, was apparently used for cooking as evidenced by the intact iron swivel crane and two small square depressions cut into the firebox wall for warming or baking purposes. The hearth of this fireplace was raised above floor level in the 1950s. Wooden mantelpieces with graceful Georgian-like panel designs frame the fireplaces in the older section. Adjacent to or flanking most of the fireplaces are single or paired closets with panelled doors and decorative metal pull knobs.

The original plaster walls and ceilings still exist throughout the house. Only in Rooms 4 and 9 are walls concealed by vertical knotty pine hoards installed in the 1950s. Flooring consists of exposed random width oak boards; the exposed joists which are visible in Room 4 as ceiling beams still show the axe cuts. Similar joists plus crude, unbarked tree trunk joists can be seen on the basement ceilings.

Two winding staircases provide second story access. The open stairway in the main hall (Room 3) possesses a rather plain balustrade and scroll patterns on the stringers. The corner stairway in Room 4 is enclosed and situated over a similar stairway leading to the basement. The only other access to the cellar area is via an exterior entry in the gable end of the older section of the house which still bears its pegged wooden frame and crude board and batten door with plain wrought iron strap hinges and security bar. The cellar walls remain unfinished and the fireplace supports are exposed.

The Hugh Laughlin House possesses good integrity. Although the exterior of the house exhibits alterations, some of these, notably the narrowing of the central first story bay of the facade of the older section, were apparently integral to the construction of the house or at least occurred early in its history. Exterior alterations to the house dating to the 1950s, including removal of late nineteenth century additions and blocking in of the front entrance of the c. 1800-1810 section and the addition of porches to both sections of the house, did not greatly affect the building's c. 1785-1810 form and construction. Interior changes affecting the building's integrity also date to the 1950s renovations but are relatively minor in scope. The only

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substantial changes were the addition of a second floor bathroom in the older section of the house and pine board overlay on walls in the c. 1800-1810 section. The Georgian side hall plan and the majority of historic architectural woodwork and hardware remain intact.

The ruins of a spring house are also located sixty feet north of the house. The ruins consist of substantial stone foundation walls upon which a brick spring house had once stood.

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 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 1785-1810 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Hugh Laughlin House is significant among c. 1800 residences in Fayette County as a distinctive blend of regional and idiosyncratic architectural elements. The Georgian double pile, side hall plan of the older section of the house is typical of many c. 1800 stone houses in the county. Yet the Laughlin House's architectural ornamentation, such as the keyed arched lintels on the first floor front facade, are unique in the local area. Thus the nominated building joins regional stylistic influences with idiosyncratic details to form an unusual, well preserved example of late eighteenth and early nineteenth century domestic architecture in Fayette County.

The plan and fenestration of the Laughlin House is typical of many c. 1800 stone houses in Fayette County. Most contemporary stone houses utilized Georgian-influenced plans and fenestration. Of approximately 100 c. 1800 stone houses inventoried in the 1982 Fayette County Historic Resource Survey, most residences featured Georgian center hall or side hall plans. Most of the earlier of these houses, such as the original section of the Laughlin House, are three bays wide, while later examples of these residences are five-bay designs. These c. 1800 homes commonly have second story windows placed close beneath the eaves, as is the case with the Laughlin House. These homes also frequently have later, one- to two-story additions, as does the Laughlin House.

Although local builders often adopted Georgian plans for their homes, they rarely used high-style Georgian ornamentation. Only one c. 1800 stone house in the county, the two-story Meason House located in Dunbar Township, features a pedimented central bay, modillioned cornice, flat window arches with pronounced keystones, and symmetrical one-story side wings, all typical of high-style Georgian homes. Other c. 1800 homes in Fayette County are much more plain in appearance. The William Colvin Homestead, which is located near the Laughlin House on TR 442 in Redstone Township, has flat stone lintels and boxed cornices with short returns for ornamentation. Early nineteenth century houses on LR 26020 and LR 26036 in Redstone Township show very similar, plain ornamentation.

Although the Laughlin House is far from elaborately ornamented, it does contain architectural elements that are distinctive among area contemporary residences. The keyed, arched window openings on the first floor of the front facade are an unusual departure from the usual flat stone lintels in the county. The built-in eave returns in the gable walls of the older section are a singular feature of this building. In

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In addition, changes in the exterior masonry of the older section of the house, notably the decision to de-emphasize the central bay on the first story of the main elevation (presumably to accommodate a side hall, rather than central plan) are evocative records of the process of vernacular construction, suggesting the builder was not bound by his first conception or by uncompromising requirements of style.

The Laughlin House is also distinctive for its well preserved interior. The interior retains the great majority of the original flooring, ceilings, walls, molding, fireplaces, doors, and hardware. Very few c. 1800 homes in the local area have kept so much of their original interior fabric.

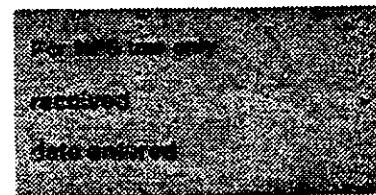
The Laughlin House was established by Hugh Laughlin in the late eighteenth century. Hugh Laughlin was born in North Carolina c. 1750 and moved with his family to Cumberland County, Pennsylvania in the 1760s. By 1768 he had apparently made his way to present Fayette (then Bedford) County, as his name appeared in the account book of another, earlier inhabitant. In 1772 his name was listed as one of the 452 settlers in the Springhill District which comprised most of present Fayette County. The location of his residence at that time remains uncertain. At the onset of the Revolution, he returned to Cumberland County and enlisted as a private for militia service c. 1779-1783.

At the close of the war, Laughlin, his wife Mary, and their nine children returned to Fayette County. In 1785 Laughlin obtained warrants to a 294 acre tract in Menallen (present Redstone) Township and a 203 acre parcel in neighboring Luzerne Township. The former property became his permanent home. Construction of the stone house may have been completed as early as 1785 since the surveyors' notes of that year reported the existence of a dwelling house with a family in residence. The stone dwelling was definitely built by 1798. The U.S. Direct Tax of 1798 shows a 30' x 26' stone, two-story house identical in size to the older section of the nominated building. According to the Direct Tax, the house was assessed at \$250. From the county assessment records it is postulated that the addition was built between 1804 and 1807.

Hugh Laughlin aspired to at least a moderate level of local prominence shortly after his post-war return to Fayette County. In February 1785 he was appointed District Justice of Menallen Township and a year later became Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in the county, a position that he held for at least twelve years. Aside from his official pursuits, he also owned a gristmill and two saw mills, two "cabins," and a distillery. He also purchased several town lots in nearby Brownsville and continued farming operations at his homestead. Another measure of his prosperity was his slaves. In Fayette County, slave labor was

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adopted by a relative few; only 354 slaves were registered in the county between 1789 and 1839. Of the slaveholders in the county, most owned only one slave. Laughlin, however, owned four slaves in 1790 and in the ensuing years retained no fewer than two or three slaves.

Thus the Laughlin House stands out as the architecturally distinctive home of a late eighteenth/early nineteenth century gentleman farmer. The residence combines distinctive ornamentation with a plan that is typical of c. 1800 homes in the county.

9. Major Bibliographical References

see attached

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property 0.72 acres

Quadrangle name New Salem

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	7	5	9	8	9	2	0	1	4	4	2	7	9	7	0
Zone	Easting				Northing										

B

Zone	Easting				Northing										

C

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D

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

see attached

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 Denise Grantz and Mary Jean K. Rosenberg/William Sisson and Greg Ramsey

organization N/A/PHMC

date 1986

street & number R.D. 1, Box 236/William Penn Museum

telephone (412) 785-9398/(717) 783-8946

city or town Grindstone/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



Dr. Larry E. Tise, State Historic Preservation Officer

date 3/26/87

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

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received

date entered

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Grantz, Denise L. Final Report, Fayette County Historic Resource Survey. Prepared under the supervision of Dr. Ronald L. Michael and Dr. John F. Bauman. California University of Pennsylvania. Submitted to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 1982, p. 17.

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Land Records, Fayette County, Patent Book H, Vol. 21, Folio 237.

Laughlin, Elizabeth and Richard R. Wolfe. "The Presbyterians." private edition, 1953, p. 87.

Pennsylvania Archives. Series 5, Vol. 6, pp. 63-64, 145, 147, 402, 419, 437.

Stotz, Charles Morse. The Architectural Heritage of Early Western Pennsylvania. (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press), 1966.

U.S. Direct Tax of 1798, Tax Lists for the State of Pennsylvania, Ninth Tax Division, Second Assessment District (Fayette County), Redstone and Luzerne Townships.

U.S. Decennial Census, Pennsylvania, Fayette County. Menallen Township, 1790. Redstone Township 1800, 1810.

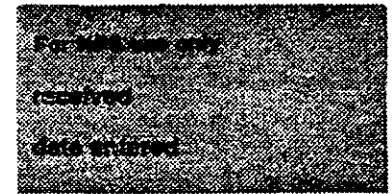
Veech, James. The Monongahela of Old. reprint edition. (Waynesburg, Pennsylvania: Greene County Historical Society), 1858-1892, p. 99.

Informants:

Judith Laughlin Wylie, Cleveland, Ohio. 1985-86.

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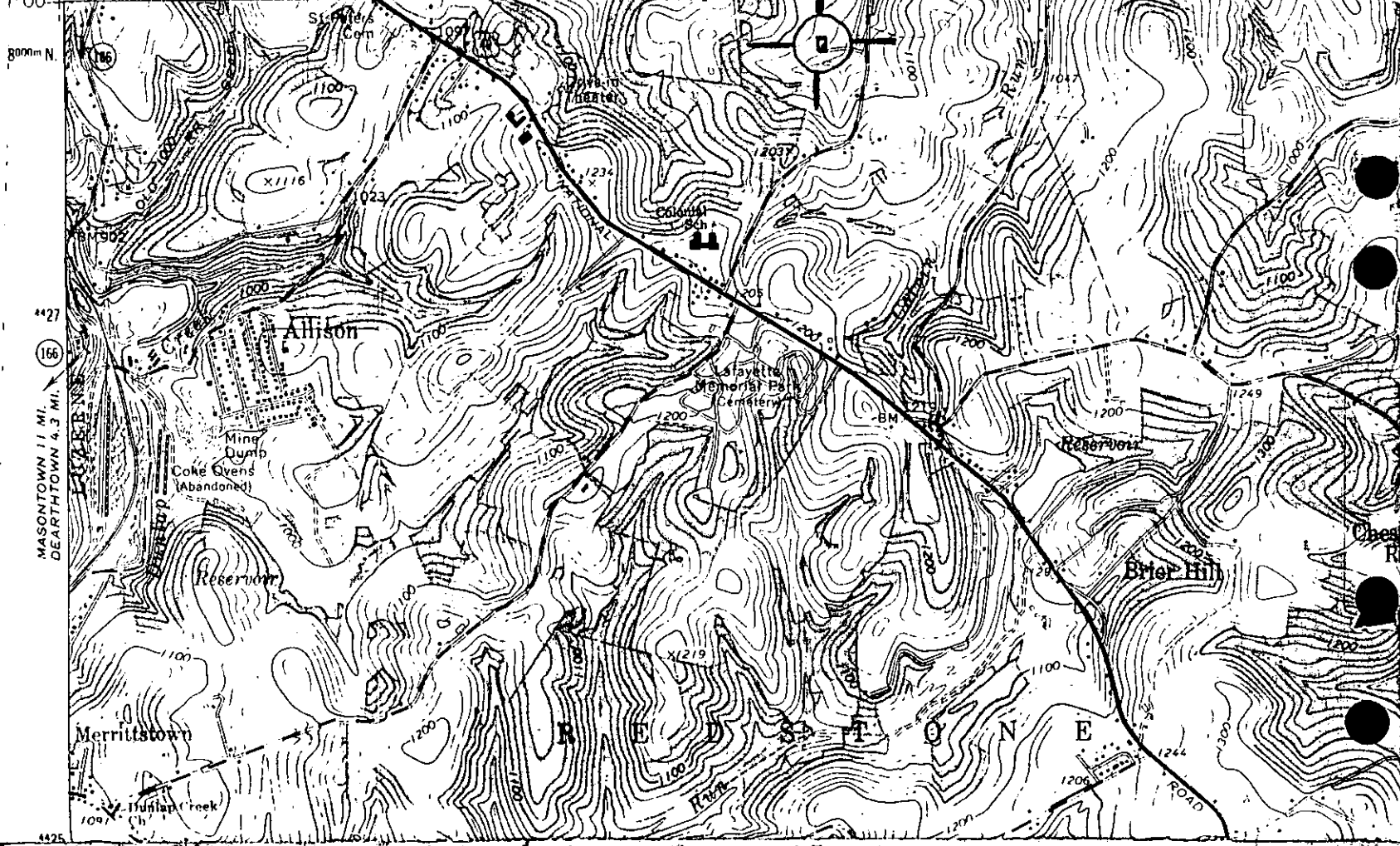
Beginning at a point sixty feet east of the southeast corner of the nominated house, then proceeding sixty feet south; then proceeding 160 feet west; then proceeding 200 feet north, then proceeding 160 feet east; then proceeding 140 feet south to the point of beginning.

The boundary contains the nominated house and ruins of a nineteenth century springhouse. The boundary on the north falls just north of the springhouse and just south of a non-contributing structure (a modern grape arbor). The boundary on the east, south and west follows lines of trees that visually separate the house from its immediate surroundings.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

308 11 SW
(CALIFORNIA)

79° 52' 30" 0.6 MI. TO U.S. 40 597 WASHINGTON 24 MI. BROWNSVILLE 2.3 MI. 598 000m E. 599 50' 600 601



Hugh Laughlin House
Fayette County
Zone 17
New Salem Quadrangle
E598920 N4427970

MASONTOWN 11 MI.
DEARTH TOWN 4.3 MI.
166

4425

8