

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.

1. Name of Property

historic name Packer, Isaac A., Farm

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Farrandsville Road (LR 18011) N/A not for publication

city, town Woodward Township N/A vicinity

state Pennsylvania code PA county Clinton code 035 zip code 17745

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<u>2</u>	<u> </u> sites
<u>4</u>	<u> </u> structures
	<u> </u> objects
	<u>1</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.

Brent D. Glass

Brent D. Glass

1/9/91

Signature of certifying official
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

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

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwellingAgriculture/agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian Gothic Vernacular

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stonewalls stoneroof asphaltother brick gables and lintels

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Packer Farm Complex is located along Farrandville Road facing the West Branch of the Susquehanna River in rural Woodward Township, Clinton County. During various periods of the property's history, the agricultural complex was comprised of numerous buildings including two generations of farmhouses, a summer kitchen, a barn, tobacco barn, tenant house, carriage house, brooder house, chicken house, hog house, butcher house, outhouse, and lime kiln (photos 3 and 4). Currently, the property contains the 1885 Victorian Gothic stone farmhouse built for Isaac A. Packer (photos 5-15), the 1905 barn erected by his son, Kinley D. Packer (photos 16-17), a lime kiln (photo 18), a well, a modern shed, and a modern house located outside the proposed National Register boundaries. The complex therefore includes two contributing buildings, two contributing structures, and one non-contributing building.

The farmhouse, erected in 1885 by builder Alan Lawrence, is a 2-1/2-story, 3-bay, L-shaped stone structure designed in the Victorian Gothic style. The coursed ashlar masonry, quoined at the corners, is sandstone with hues of grey and purple. The L-shape is formed by a single pile of house with a rear kitchen extension. The Packer House displays the Victorian Gothic influence in its central cross gable at the cornice line, the use of contrasting brick in the arched window crowns and gables, the pointed windows in the gables, and the ornate bargeboard. The asphalt-covered gabled roof is of moderate pitch and is enlivened by incised brackets.

The main elevation, oriented west towards the West Branch of the Susquehanna River, is fronted by a one-story room added in 1976 and a wooden deck (photo 6). This room is located where an original Victorian eclectic porch with Japanesque-style details used to be prior to its destruction in the 1936 flood (photo 2). The original double doors that open to the central hall are intact behind the front addition. The six-paneled double doors of the main entrance are embellished with chamfered and grooved millwork and rosettes; the upper lights are of ruby-tinted sandwich plate glass, etched with the initials "IAP" (photo 10). Original hardware survives as well. The decorative millwork of the doors is continued in the deep paneled reveal (photo 11). A brick arched crown tops the entrance. On either side of the entrance (or addition) is a single 1/1 double hung window with brick arched crown -- seen on fenestration throughout the house -- and stone sills. These single windows appear at the second floor where they flank a central double window with 1/1 double hung sash. The main elevation rises to the decorative gable composition featuring scalloped edging and engaged turned balusters, imbricated shingles, and rosettes in the gable.

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The north and south elevations are regularly fenestrated with two, 1/1 double hung windows at the first and second floors and two pointed 1/1 double hung windows in the brick gables. On the north elevation, a date plaque reading "Erected by Isaac A. Packer, 1885. A. Lawrence, Builder", is situated below the gable line (photo 8). The south elevation is interrupted by a brick chimney that was added in 1932 (photo 9). Both of these facades have decorative bargeboards similar to the main elevation, although less complex in design.

According to Packer family financial papers, the rear kitchen extension was built as a separate increment, but at roughly the same time as the main house (photo 9). This two-story wing, topped by a flat, bracketed roof, displays the same fenestration detail as the other elevations. In the ell, a side porch with chamfered posts and knee braced brackets shields the side kitchen entrance and the rear entrance to the central hall. On the south elevation of the kitchen wing, a two-story wooden porch was added in the 1940s to provide access to a second floor apartment unit.

The interior of the Packer House is organized around a central hall plan. At the first floor, grooved door and window surrounds and molded baseboards are present. The stair in the hall features a turned balustrade, molded stringer, and a square newel with rounded cap and applied miniature balusters and jigsaw detail (photo 12). The living room (south parlor) displays unusual woodwork in the beaded herringbone pattern of the baseboards which have "X" details at the corner blocks. Windows in this room are surrounded by grooved woodwork with bosses and covered by paneled and louvered shutters with Victorian hardware. Window aprons have beaded herringbone boards and rosettes. A focal point of the living room is the 1830s grey-veined, King of Prussia marble mantel with pilastered surround, brought to the Packer House from another property (photo 13). The north parlor, altered with the installation of a bathroom along the east wall, has a simpler version of the woodwork present in the living room. The kitchen has been renovated extensively, including the removal of a secondary stair.

The second floor is organized around the central stairhall (photo 14), with two small bedrooms to the north and one large bedroom to the south (photo 15). The doors and window surrounds of the hall have grooved surrounds like the downstairs parlors. At the front end of the hall, a modern closet masks the double windows. Except for grooved window surrounds in the master bedroom, the woodwork of the second floor is much simpler than the first floor. The area of the second floor located in the rear extension was altered for apartment use in the 1940s. In the north front bedroom, the arch of a coal burning firebox remains although the mantel has been removed. The attic is divided into living quarters and storage space, devoid of architectural detail.

The overall architectural integrity of the Packer House is high, the most significant alterations being the one-room front addition and deck, the 1940s side porch, replacement of the slate roof with asphalt, and removal of a kitchen winder stair.

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The barn on the property was built in 1905, replacing an earlier barn on the site that was destroyed by fire. The structure is a 3-story bank barn, constructed on a randomly laid stone foundation (photos 16 and 17). It has German wood siding at the ground floor and board and batten siding above. Casement windows and 9-light sash fenestrate the barn at the ground floor while pointed arched ventilators in trefoil design under the gables allow for the circulation of air in the hay storage areas. Dutch doors with strap hinges and sliding doors provide ground floor access; an overhead garage door opens to the banked entrance. Painted on the westerly gabled end is ~~the date~~ "K.D. Packer, 1905".

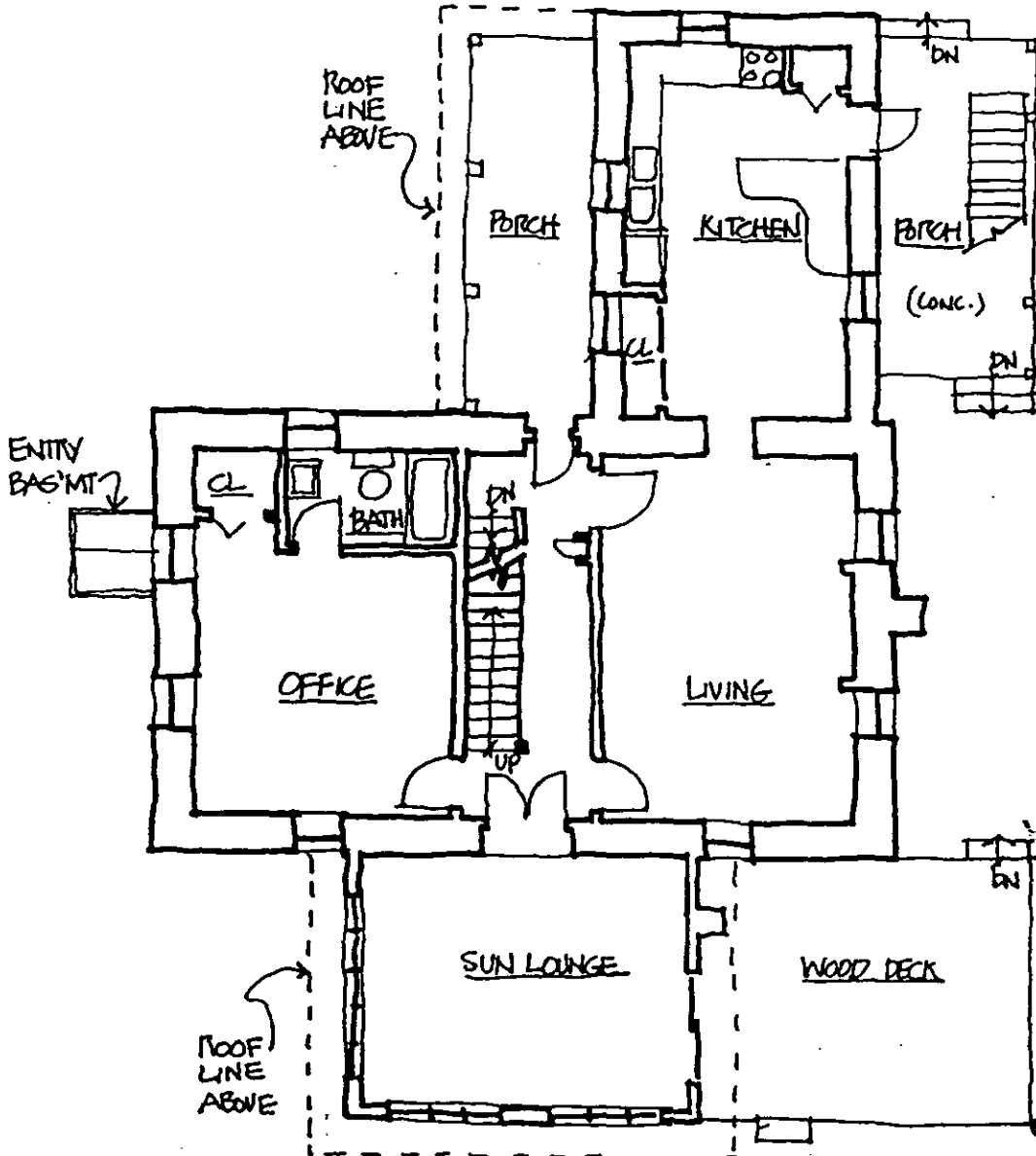
A lime kiln, constructed of stone, is built into the embankment across the road from the barn (photo 18). The kiln was presumably built in the early twentieth century by Kinley D. Packer who was responsible for expanding the family's farm operations. The well, built in 1886, is located near the northwesterly corner of the house.

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⊕ FIRST FLOOR PLAN
NTS

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance
1885-1905

Significant Dates
1885

1905

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Lawrence, Alan

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

The Isaac A. Packer House, erected in 1885, represents a rare vernacular interpretation of the Victorian Gothic style within the local architectural context. Built of stone, the Packer House is unique in Clinton County, where frame and brick construction are the norm for residential architecture. The house was erected as part of a farm complex for Isaac A. Packer (1818-1899), a prominent local businessman involved in various ventures throughout his life. The house is located some two miles up-river along the West Branch of the Susquehanna River from Lock Haven, in rural Woodward Township. Specifically, Packer established his house and farm in an area of Woodward known as Monseytown. Following Isaac's death in 1899, the Packer farmstead was passed on to his son, Kinley D. Packer, who expanded the farm's operation. While many of the outbuildings have since been demolished, the farm has been kept in the family to the present day. As a unique architectural sub-type, unparalleled in Clinton County, this property is significant under Criterion C of the National Register.

Isaac A. Packer was born in 1818 in Beech Creek, Centre County, approximately 10 miles southwest of Lock Haven. At that time, this section of the state was composed mainly of small settler outposts. The main transportation route was the West Branch of the Susquehanna River and much of the land in this area was heavily forested. Isaac's father established a saw mill on Big Run, a tributary of the West Branch, and Isaac spent his younger years involved in the business -- burning tar, milling wood, etc. An important step in the saw mill operation was transporting the wood along the river. It is not surprising, then, that Isaac's earliest career endeavor was working on the river as a boatman, which he did up until 1864.

A key factor in Isaac Packer's life was the growth of the Clinton County lumber industry (1830s-1880s). Isaac was very much a witness to this developing industry -- from his time spent milling for his father to his later years as a boatman. Lumber was the catalyst of development in Lock Haven. Packer personally recollected when there were "only two houses in Lock Haven"¹ and in 1860 there was a population of more than 3,000. The lumber was taken from northwestern Clinton County, an area situated in the Allegheny Forest Plateau. The first market down-river from the forests was Lock Haven, where the Bald Eagle Cross-Cut Canal, the West Branch Division of the Pennsylvania Canal, and the Dunnstown Dam were located. The canals and dam, established in the 1830s and 1840s,

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greatly abetted the flow of the lumber. In 1849, the West Branch Boom was built, extending three miles up midstream from Lock Haven. With this improvement, logs did not have to be fastened together, but could float freely downstream and be harbored in by the boom, allowing for faster production.

Packer capitalized upon the growth of Lock Haven by establishing the first warehouse and coal yard enterprises along the canals. Married in 1843 to Mary Elizabeth Smith, in 1850 the couple moved to the farm in Monseytown where the existing house stands, then owned by Adam Smith, Packer's father-in-law. In 1852, John Smith, Packer's brother-in-law, established his own business as proprietor of the "White House", an inn located at the upper end of the Smith farm, apparently not far from the present Packer house. Smith operated the inn for four years and Packer may have worked there, and possibly been proprietor, for a short period.² Packer also served as Lock Haven's assessor and tax collector in the late 1850s and 1860s.

In the late 1850s, while serving as assessor, Packer built a three-story brick residence at 317 E. Main Street (035-LH-123). This structure was only the second of its kind in Lock Haven³, indicating Packer's appreciation for innovative and unique architecture. In 1863, John Smith bought his father's homestead in Monseytown and in 1865, Packer traded his brick house in town to Smith for a portion of the rural homestead. This was the start of Packer's ownership of the land. Over a period of eleven years, Packer assembled approximately 212 acres from the Smith, Welsh, and Martin families. He eventually sold a 30-acre parcel in 1896, reducing the farm to its current 180-plus acres.

In 1876, Isaac Packer owned 212 acres, comprised of river flat land and part of Bear Mountain. This included the structures illustrated on the 1875 engraving of the "Residence of Isaac A. Packer"⁴ (photo 1). Packer farmed the land, growing wheat, oats, buckwheat, and potatoes, among other crops. In addition to his agricultural duties, Packer owned a flagstone quarry in Castanea, a neighboring township. His will also reveals he owned 150 acres of farmland in Marsh Creek, probably inherited. Thus, the riverman became a landholder and a farmer, while keeping a meticulous eye on his business interests.

While residing at the farm in Monseytown, Packer remained very active in the civic affairs of Lock Haven. He was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Masonic Lodge and a founding member of the Church of Christ (Disciples). He was also a stockholder in the corporation that built the first bridge between Lockport and Lock Haven and an executive member of the Clinton County Agricultural Society in 1881.

In 1885, Isaac Packer erected the present stone residence. This was the fourth dwelling constructed by Packer in his lifetime, but apparently the first erected by him on this property. To all appearances, of the homes Packer is known to have built, he emulated the current architectural fashion -- Greek Revival with the brick dwelling in Lock Haven and Victorian Gothic with the stone dwelling. Stone was a rarely used building material in

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lumber-rich Clinton County. The Packer house defies contextual comparison because, according to the Clinton County Historic Sites Survey, the preparer had "To date ... not documented a stone dwelling of such architectural merit".⁵ The stone construction combined with Victorian Gothic design details makes the Packer house peerless within its local context. Details include bracketed eaves, decorative bargeboards, pointed-arch windows, and contrasting brick lintels and gables. Prior to the 1936 flood that ravaged the valley, a Victorian eclectic porch with Japanesque-style details and fanlight brackets fronted the main entrance. Packer's penchant for a stylish house is also evidenced on the interior, where an 1830s King of Prussia marble mantel -- removed from a local house prior to its demolition -- was installed. The woodwork is also noteworthy for its rich embellishment with herringbone patterns, rosettes, and carved detail.

A datestone located in the north gable of the Packer house reads as follows, "Erected by Isaac A. Packer, 1885, A. Lawrence, Builder". No information is available concerning Alan Lawrence. The absence of his name in obituaries and existing city directories of the period suggests that he was not a local builder, as does the atypical use of stone in the area. The carpenter on the project, B. F. Tidlow, most likely was related to W. D. Tidlow and his sons, George and Clifford, who were prominent contractors in Lock Haven for many years. Some of the local suppliers Packer patronized included the Gossler Company (window frames), Brawn, Ely & Co. (lumber and shingles), J. S. Smith (roofs), Sterns (plaster), and Fred Cramer (flooring).

The resulting structure, sited towards the West Branch of the Susquehanna, enabled Packer to view the river traffic from his front porch. Also, the road that now runs behind the house used to run by the front porch of the Packer house, but floods caused it to be moved further away from the river. His principal activity in these later years was managing the farm which was worked by tenants as evidenced by an 1895 contract Packer made with John Paul, his tenant farmer. The agreement held that Paul was to get one-third of the produce in return for tending the stock, doing all the extra hauling, and keeping up the repairs on the farm. Packer was to supply the feed and pay all the taxes except the road tax, which Paul was to pay. Packer varied his crops year to year and grew wheat, oats, corn, potatoes, and buckwheat.

At this time, the farmstead consisted of the new house and various outbuildings. Most notable among the outbuildings was the large bank barn built by Packer in 1870, and evident on the 1875 engraving (photo 1). This structure burned down in 1905. The identity of the other outbuildings remains unclear, but one source identified them as a smokehouse and tobacco shed.⁶

Upon Isaac's death in 1899, the property was passed on to his son, Kinley D. Packer, who was a subsistence farmer and an avid hunter and "always lived within sight of the house where he was born"⁷. Accordingly, he left an indelible stamp on the farmstead that is evident to this day. The existing lime kiln, used to make fertilizer from limestone, was

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built by Kinley as was the present bank barn in 1905. The barn has pointed-arch windows and an inscription on its south facade: "K.D. Packer, 1905". A circa 1905 photo helps to record the state of the complex six years into Kinley's ownership (photo 3). Besides the stone house, barn, and lime kiln, other buildings included a butcher house, carriage house, outhouse, a summer kitchen addition at the rear of the house, and a garden. Apparently, the tobacco shed was extant, though it is obscured on the photograph by other buildings. Kinley grew corn, wheat, oats, and potatoes on about the same 30 acres that Isaac farmed, relying upon tenants to help run the farm.

Upon Kinley's death in 1935, the farm passed to his son, Horace I. Packer, who was not a farmer but a railroad worker. A circa 1937 photograph records the state of the farm just after Kinley's death and the 1936 flood (photo 4). During the three decades of Kinley's tenure, a hog pen, a chicken coop, a brooder house, and a tenant house were constructed in addition to the new barn and lime kiln. With Horace I. Packer's ownership, the property ceased as an active farm, and remains to this day a residence. Though the brooder house was temporarily used later as a children's playhouse, the farm outbuildings eventually were dismantled. The summer kitchen was removed after World War II, leaving the stone house, barn, and lime kiln, which fell into disrepair because of non-use. Since Richard D. Packer inherited the house and lands in 1969, a modern utility shed has been placed on the property, and after the 1972 flood a one-story den was added on the house's south facade, where the original porch existed prior to the 1936 flood. Though the addition is intrusive, enough original elements of the Victorian Gothic design and materials remain to keep the structure's integrity intact.

For over a century, the Packer house has served as the centerpiece of the Packer property, with a few significant remains of its agricultural heyday intact. As an architectural landmark within the surrounding valley, the house stands out for its unprecedented design, which utilized stone construction in a fashionable adaption of the period's Victorian Gothic taste. Having survived generations of Packers, floods and additions, the structure remains remarkably close to the homestead envisioned by Isaac Packer and built by Alan Lawrence. Therefore, the Packer farm complex appears eligible for the National Register under Criterion C.

Footnotes

1. The Express, Lock Haven, "An Aged Gentleman Relates Interesting Events During His Life", 1897.
2. Susan B. Hannegan, "Isaac A. Packer Farm Complex", PA Historic Resource Survey Form 035-WW-116. (Harrisburg, PA: Bureau of Historic Preservation, April 2, 1986).
3. The Express.

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4. D.G. Maynard, Historical View of Clinton County (Lock Haven, PA: The Enterprising Printing House, 1875).

5. Susan B. Hannegan, "General History and Description of Clinton County, Preliminary Research Report, Clinton County Historic Sites Survey, 1985-86" (Harrisburg, PA: Bureau of Historic Preservation).

6. R. Christopher Goodwin and Associates, Inc., "Phase II Intensive Survey of Historic and Prehistoric Archaeological Components at the Packer Site (36CN79), Clinton County, PA" (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, January 1989), 19.

7. Ibid., 29.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Clinton Republican. November 8, 1899. Obituary of Isaac A. Packer.

Daily Democrat, Lock Haven. November 1, 1889. Obituary of Isaac A. Packer.

The Express, Lock Haven. "An Aged Gentleman Relates Interesting Events During His Life" 1897.

Goodwin, R. Christopher, and Associates, Inc. "Phase II Intensive Survey of Historic and Prehistoric Archaeological Components at the Packer Site (36CN79), Clinton County, PA." Draft Report prepared for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, January 1989.

Hannegan, Susan B. "General History and Description of Clinton County, Preliminary Research Report, Clinton County Historic Sites Survey, 1985-86." Harrisburg, PA: Bureau of Historic Preservation.

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 1.88 acres

UTM References

A

1	8
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2	9	2	7	7	0
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4	5	5	9	9	3	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See attached 1"=50' site plan

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary was drawn to incorporate the surviving structures of the nominated property, the primary element of which is the Packer House, eligible for its architecture. Areas disturbed by modern construction are omitted from the district.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carol A. Benenson and Martin B. Abbot

organization Kise Franks & Straw date 3/31/90, Revised 7/30/90

street & number 219 N. Broad Street, 9th Floor telephone (215) 561-1050

city or town Philadelphia state PA zip code 19107

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_____. "Isaac A. Packer Farm Complex." PA Historic Resource Survey
Form 035-WW-116. Harrisburg, PA: Bureau of Historic Preservation, April 12, 1986.

Linn, John Blair. History of Centre and Clinton Counties, Pennsylvania. Philadelphia:
J.B. Lippincott & Co., 1883.

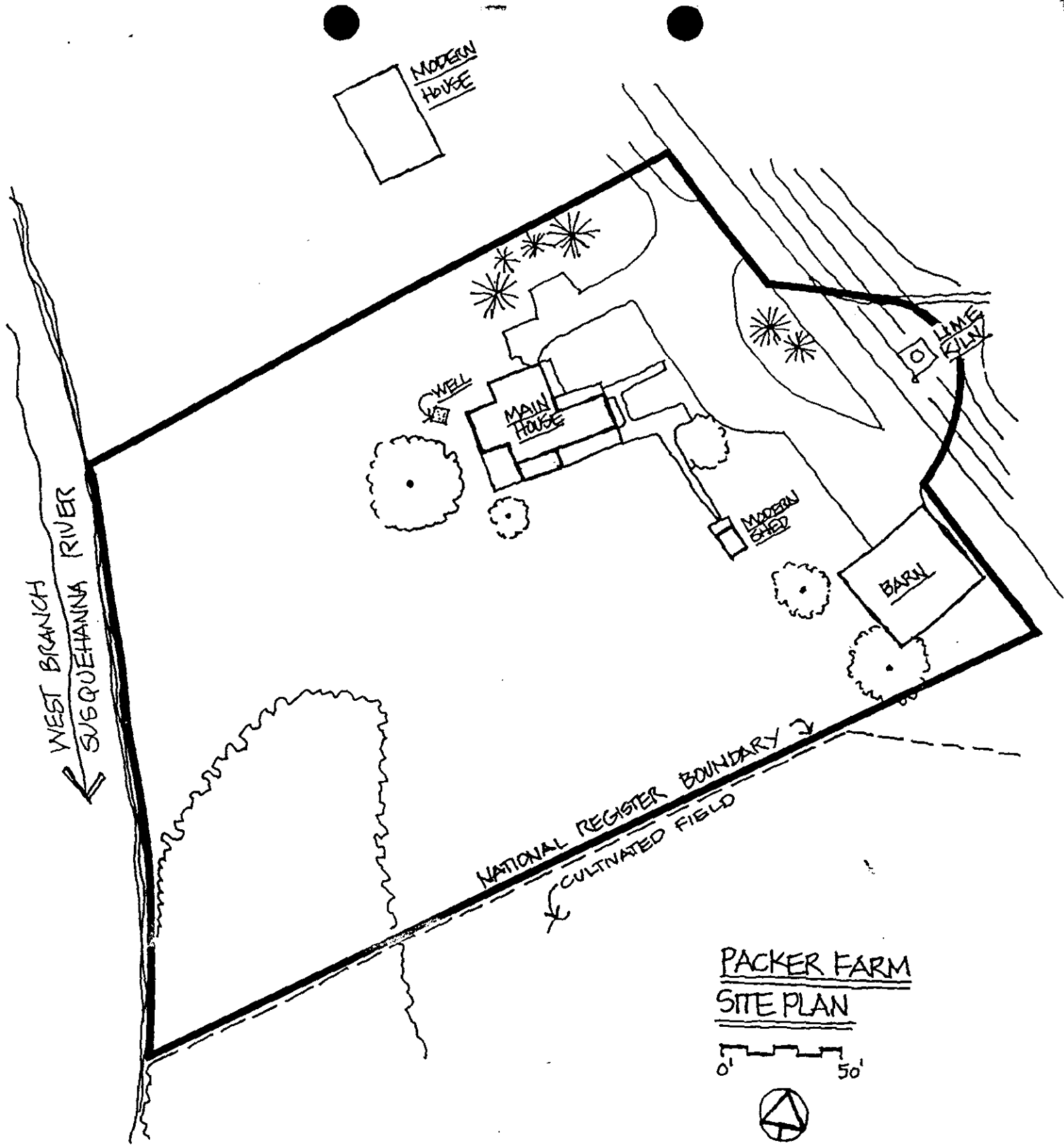
Maynard, D.G. Historical View of Clinton County. Lock Haven, PA: The Enterprising
Printing House, 1875.

Recorder of Deeds, Clinton County Courthouse. Lock Haven, PA.

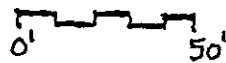
Packer, Isaac A. Personal Ledger.

The Renovo Record. November 3, 1899. Obituary of Isaac A. Packer.

Wagner, Dean R. Ed. Historic Lock Haven: An Architectural Survey. Lock Haven, PA:
Clinton County Historical Society, 1979.



PACKER FARM
SITE PLAN



————— NATIONAL REGISTER
BOUNDARY

Packer, Isaac A., Farm
Clinton County
Lock Haven Quad
Zone 18
E292770
N4559930

