

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 Smith, Henry Farm
other names/site number Hidden Spring Farm

2. Location

street & number 950 Swatara Creek Road N/A not for publication
city, town Middletown (Londonderry Twp.) N/A vicinity
state Pennsylvania code PA county Dauphin code 043 zip code 17057

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u> Total
			<u> </u> objects

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 Glass
Signature of certifying official Date
Dr. Brent Glass, Pennsylvania Historical and 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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/ Single Dwelling
Agriculture/ agricultural out-
building

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/ Single Dwelling
Commerce/ Business**7. Description**Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)Federal

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stonewalls Sandstoneroof Shingle

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Henry Smith farm includes three contributing nineteenth century resources: the house, barn, and vaulted cellar. Sitting on a small knoll above the flood plain of the Swatara Creek, this complex is surrounded by open fields on the north, west, and east. A clump of trees runs along the southern boundary of the property. The Smith house is a five bay, double pile, two story, brownstone house built in 1806. Patterned in the Georgian plan with two rooms on either side of a central hall, this house has an open stairway rising in the rear. Overall the house displays regional vernacular influences with Federal style architectural elements. The facade of the house was lengthened before 1840 with a two bay kitchen addition on the east gable end of the house. This addition is two stories in the front, but only one in the rear, exemplifying a form sometimes known as the flounder house.¹ A reconstructed bake oven extends from the east gable of the kitchen. The barn, also built of brownstone in 1845-47, displays the typical form of a bank barn built in south central Pennsylvania at that time it has a classic cantilevered front and extended granaries in the rear. A small vaulted cellar built of rubblestone is situated southeast of the house. A large frame wagonshed was built south of the barn some time in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century. It is not considered contributing to the farm complex because its construction techniques and materials are not in keeping with the nominated buildings.

While the front facade of the main block of the house displays five bays, the rear elevation is only three bays, and each gable end contains two bays. Typical of Georgian symmetry, brick chimney stacks rise from each gable end of the house. The house has a shallow-molded, unadorned cornice on both the front and rear elevations. As is typical of many Germanic homesteads in the locality, the house has a datestone. This one is located between the easternmost second floor windows. Evidently written by an untutored hand, it reads, "Bilt by Henrey and Catharine Smith, 1806." The "S" in Smith is backwards as well.

The house's molded door and window frames are mortised, tenoned, and pegged. The original double hung sash of 9/6 configuration are being restored over the entire house. Evidence of the 9/6 configuration was found in the stops on the inside of the window frames. Typical of full Federal plan houses, there is a central front door with a corresponding back door. There was also an opposing door system in the kitchen addition as well. However, the back kitchen door has been infilled with brownstone because it did not match the other doors in panel configuration or framing and therefore appeared to have been added later. Both front doors have a brownstone sill.

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Both the front and back doors of the house are rather restrained in ornament in that instead of having raised panels, they have beaded edge recessed panels on their exterior side and are clinch-nailed to vertical beaded boards on the inside. A reeded transom bar separates the door and transom. The rectangular front transom with an oval and modified diamond design is illustrative of the Adamesque influence of the Federal period.

A Germanic feature of this house is the outside entrance to the cellar provided on the front of the house. Located at the western end of the facade, between the first and second bays, the entrance features an arched bulkhead. Scholars have identified provision of cellar entrances in addition to main entrances to living quarters on the facades of houses as a Germanic trait.³

The house was entirely stuccoed some time in the nineteenth century. Previous owners began removing the stucco, and the current owners plan on completing this process. Apparently, the hoods over the front doors were added some time in the twentieth century. They are scheduled to be removed as part of the restoration. When the present owners purchased the house, the roofing material on the northern side was slate, put on during the Second Empire period, while standing seam covered the southern side. The owners have replaced the entire roof with cedar shingles.

Similar to other full Federal plan houses, this house retains the four over four room plan. The first floor front parlors on either side of the hallway are somewhat larger than the rooms to the rear. The east parlor has fine quarter round window molding and recessed panel reveals, but the west parlor windows are more elaborately crafted with dog-eared framing which has a rope design on the inside edge. The window surrounds in the rear rooms are reduced in size and detail. Similarly, the baseboard of the front parlors is not only larger but has a molded top, while the baseboard in the rear is smaller with just a single beaded edge.

Befitting the finest room in the house, the fireplace surround and mantel in the west parlor is highlighted with fluted columns, a molded and reeded frieze, and a central elliptical, incised medallion which has radiating scallops. The fireplace is flanked by a two-door closet framed with fluted Doric columns. The arched closet framing is accentuated with a molded keystone.

The small walk-in fireplace of the east parlor has plastered jambs with a single beaded surround and a shallow molded mantel. The original fireplace at this position had been removed by previous owners. Both parlor fireplaces rest on massive stone corner arched supports which extend from the walls in the cellar below. Each of these supports face in a different direction. The west gable end support faces southeast while the eastern one faces northwest. The ends of these masonry supports hold the summerbeam running east and west beneath the floor joists. The fact that the joists rest on top of the central summerbeam instead of being mortised and tenoned into it indicates the Germanic influence of the builder.

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All of the first floor rooms retain their original chair rail. The missing chair rail on the second floor has been restored to its original location. All of the interior walls and ceilings are plastered as they were originally except the eastern two rooms of the first floor which have had their joists and summerbeam exposed. Six raised panel doors are found throughout the house. All are of the same dimensions except the hall door into the northeast room which is narrower.

All of the door surrounds in the hallway are wide molded and dog-eared except the back door and the door into the northeast room. A stairway displaying fine craftsmanship goes up in the northeast corner of the hall. Instead of the usual turned balusters, these balusters are fluted on all four sides and have beaded edges. A modestly turned newel post and standards guide the open stairway to the attic. The curtain wall beneath the first floor stair has finely executed rectangular and triangular recessed panels.

The second floor windows have narrow molded surrounds and solid board reveals. Only the second floor windows of the kitchen addition have plastered reveals with solid board sills. A small shallow fireplace has been restored to the northeast corner bedroom. Two narrow columns at each side highlight the fireplace surround with two corbelled brackets supporting a shallow molded mantel.

The first floor of the kitchen addition features a walk-in fireplace which is covered with vertical battened doors. To the rear of this fireplace is the cast iron door opening into the bake oven which has been restored on its original location. During restoration the original door sill and flue were uncovered. The rebuilding of the bee hive oven incorporated these remnants. Brownstone found in excavation were used for the base of the oven and a gable roof gives protection for the plastered dome. At the south side of the walk-in fireplace are two small closets with simple vertical battened board doors. These occupy the space beneath the narrow dogleg stairs rising to the low room above the kitchen.

Built at a right angle to the house, the barn faces onto a limestone walled barnyard. Almost twice as long as deep, the barn has granaries which extend about eight feet from the main block of the barn on both sides of the barn wall. There is exceptionally fine masonry work on this brownstone barn with smooth dressed quoins. The southern wall is masonry constructed all the way to the apex of this gable, but the northern end has masonry which is topped by framing ca. 12 feet from the apex. Standing seam sheaths the gable roof.

This barn represents the last stage in the evolution of stone barn construction in south central Pennsylvania. The earliest stone barns had telescoped slits for ventilators, and later ones had small rectangular openings filled with wooden bars serving as ventilators. This barn has large framed rectangular openings filled with strips of wood placed at an angle in a slot on the framing. There are three large ventilators in the

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southern gable end with two above the stable section and one in the apex. Five ventilators were built into the northern end with three in the stone section and two above in the framed section.

The stables at each gable end are lighted with three sets of louvred windows of four-paned sash. (The louvres consist of diamond shaped rails pegged horizontally into the frames.) There are windows of similar configuration between the doors underneath the cantilever. The barn retains most of its double "Dutch" doors with strap hinges on the front elevation except the central and southwest corner doors which have modern steel doors which were installed by a previous owner. At each rear gable end a vertical board and batten door opens out at second floor height. This was convenient for loading and unloading grain from the granaries.

The barn displays standard construction form in its hewn framing elements. However, the timbers on the threshing floor level are marked with peck marks. This was a Germanic form of labeling the timbers in order that they be reassembled in the correct bent.⁴ The barn's roof truss system consists of principal rafters connected with collars to hold the purlins upon which the common rafters rest. This medieval type of roofing structure was completely unnecessary to carry a load of wooden shingles. It would have been appropriate to carry the weight of a water soaked thatch roof.

The vaulted cellar, situated southeast of the house, is nearly square in shape inside. Only the western rubblestone wall is exposed. An earthen mound covers the remainder of the structure. The interior was plastered and whitewashed. The entrance is through a low door on the west end of the building, and there is one niche on the opposite wall which possibly served to hold storage containers. Evidently a spring flows beneath this structure which supplemented the cooling and storage facilities of the cellar in the house.

The frame wagon shed, with its gable ends at right angles to the barn, stands just south of the barn and is exactly the same length of the gable ends of the barn. Unlike the hewn timbers of the barn, the framing members of the wagon shed are sawn and are nailed together instead of pegged. Corn on the cob could be stored in the cribs on either side of the central wagon and equipment storage area. Large sliding doors open into the main storage area. It was considered noncontributing to this complex because of its comparatively late building techniques.

The present owners in their restoration efforts have been careful to retain the house's fine vernacular Federal details throughout the house. They have also replaced elements such as the second floor chair rail and bake oven in the exact location of their original placement. The Smith house has been skillfully rehabilitated so that both the Germanic vernacular and Federal style elements of the original builder can be still found throughout the building.

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Endnotes

- 1 Christopher Martin, "Hope Deferred": The Origin and Development of Alexandria's Flounder House, Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture, II (Columbia, Missouri: Univ. of Missouri Press, 1986) p. III.
- 2 Joseph W. Glass, The Pennsylvania Culture Region: A View from the Barn (Ann Arbor, Mich.: UMI Research Press, 1986) pp. 62-66.
- 3 Robert C. Bucher, "The Swiss Bank House in Pennsylvania," Pennsylvania Folklife, Winter 1968-69, Vol. 18, No. 2. Joe Getty, Carroll's Heritage, (Westminster Md.: Johnson Graphics, 1987) pp. 62-65
- 4 Chris S. Witmer, "The Development and Use of Germanic Half-Timbered Threshing Barns of Lebanon Township, Dodge County, Wisconsin," unpublished Master's Thesis, University of Wisconsin, 1983.

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

Period of Significance

1806-1847

Significant Dates

1806, 1847

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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

The Henry Smith house is one of the best preserved examples of early nineteenth century architecture, particularly early brownstone houses and vernacular houses influenced by the Federal style, in the local area. The barn is also a well preserved, representative example of local, mid-nineteenth century bank barns. Both buildings are the tangible evidence of the south central Pennsylvania farmer who built larger and more substantial buildings as he reaped more bounty from the soil. Both buildings also retain features of an earlier period as well.

The Smith farm was part of 221 acres patented to John Laird in 1765. Laird willed the tract to his son, James, in 1777, and James sold part of it to Jacob Smith (I) in 1799. (Laird was assessed in 1798 with a one story, part stone house measuring 26 X 26 feet.) The present house and barn were built on a tract of 81 acres, part of what Henry Smith willed to his son, Jacob (II), in 1840. This tract remained virtually intact until it was subdivided in the 1970's. The buildings presently sit on 10 acres.

Henry Smith was the eldest son of Jacob Smith who died before 1805. At the time of his death, Jacob owned almost 800 acres of land. According to Orphans Court records, Henry elected to take 376 acres of his father's land at the valuation set by the Court. At that time, his land adjoined the Swatara Creek, William Laird, Nicholas Sheffer, Jacob Roop, Jacob Hershey, and Iron Mine Run.

The Smith family were evidently of German extraction as evidenced in vernacular features of the contributing buildings on this farm. Like his neighbors, the Shoops and Hersheys, Henry Smith placed a datestone on a building he erected, and each chose the inscription to be done in English. This documents their decision to be acculturated into the dominant society of the area. Although the general outward appearance of their buildings conform to contemporary styles, some elements, mostly internal, reflect their cultural heritage. The Scotch-Irish had settled in Derry Township before 1730 and continued to be the dominant ethnic group until the time of the Revolution when German settlers became numerous. (Londonderry Township was formed from the southern portion of Derry Township in 1826.²)

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The Smith farm lies in the fertile limestone land along the Swatara Creek and just southwest of the rolling ridges known as the Sand Hills. Soon after Smith purchased the land in 1805, he erected a new house. It was used continuously as a farmhouse until the mid-twentieth century. Although the house may appear plain by today's standards, the hauling of brownstone several miles down out of the hills over rough roads indicates money was expended to create a monument in the local community. The inscription of a datestone gives further proof of Smith's pride in his dominion over the landscape. The house was built not just for Smith, but for future generations of Smiths as well. Another indication of the family attachment to this farm is the fact there was a family burial ground on it. Henry directed through his Will that he be interred on his farm, and when Jacob Smith sold the farm to Jacob Hess in 1857, he reserved the graveyard for the use of "Jacob Smith and his heirs forever." Evidently since this time the graveyard has been moved or destroyed.

The Smith house is one of the earliest extant brownstone houses in the area. Peter Berst, a local stone mason, erected the first brownstone house in the area near Waltonville in 1800. He was the first to develop the brownstone quarries on his land. Both his house and barn were demolished ca. 1945. The location is marked today with a small graveyard walled with brownstone.

Not only is the Smith house noteworthy as an early, large brownstone house, it is outstanding in the comparison of its interior integrity with other local farm houses built in the Federal style of the area. The Jacob Nissley house, located just over the Londonderry Township line in Derry Township, is an example of a five-bay, stone farm house having had several renovations. Built of limestone, but with brownstone quoins, this ca. 1800 house has had interior walls removed, a Victorian staircase installed, and fireplaces rebuilt.

Another house along the Hummelstown-Middletown Road is the Frederick Hummel house. Located just south of Stoverdale, it too is five-bay and built of limestone with brownstone quoins. The integrity of this house has been compromised by an unsympathetic addition on its southern gable and the colonialization of its doorway.

Neither the Nissley nor the Hummel farm retain their barns. The Hummel barn, an outstanding bank barn with limestone gable ends outlined with brownstone quoins, was demolished this spring. The Stover barn at Stoverdale, built of uncoursed brownstone similar to the Smith barn, was demolished in 1987.

The Jacob Hershey house located in Londonderry Township at the mouth of Iron Mine Run is a four-bay brownstone house built in 1820. It appears to have been built in the transitional Germanic-Georgian style, but the floor plan was obliterated in a 1940's period renovation. Another four-bay brownstone house is located on the north side of Wood Road between Stoverdale and Bullfrog Valley Road in Derry Township. It has an

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asymmetrical facade with window placement reminiscent of a continental style house. Although it was built in 1806 like the Smith house, its exterior features lack the Federal influence of the Smith house.

The Jacob Hershey barn is a small brownstone bank barn built in 1816. It has telescoped slits for ventilators. The integrity of this barn was compromised with a large T-shaped addition built to the west side in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century.

Another brownstone barn, the Daniel Shoop barn located north of the Smith farm, was built in 1827. Not as large as the Smith barn, it does not have the large ventilators found in the Smith barn nor the Germanic peck marks.

The Smith farm remains the best overall representative of vernacular brownstone architecture in the Londonderry Township area.

Endnotes

11. Daniel Rupp, History of Dauphin, Cumberland, Perry, Bedford, Adams & Franklin Counties, Pa. (Lancaster, PA.: Gilbert Hills, Prop. & Pub., 1846), p. 340.

2 Dauphin County Historical Atlas of 1875 (Harrisburg, Pa.: Dauphin Co. Historical Society, 1985), p. 32.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Egle, William H., History of Dauphin and Lebanon Counties, Pa. (Philadelphia: Everts & Peck, 1883), p. 419.

Stump, Betty J., edit., A History of Derry Township 1729-1976, pp. 19-54.

Dauphin County Historical Atlas of 1875 (Harrisburg, Pa.: Dauphin Co. Historical Society, 1985), pp. 31-33, 66.

The Ingomar Papers: Reminiscences of the Early Nineteenth Century in a Pennsylvania Village (Hummelstown Area Historical Society, 1976).

Hartwell, Richard, Interview, July, 1988.

Rainey, Philip, Conversations, June, July, 1988.

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

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 acre

UTM References

A 18 354000 4452565
 Zone Easting Northing

C _____

B _____
 Zone Easting Northing

D _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at a point just north of a stone bridge 931 feet east from the Swatara Creek Road; thence south 353 feet to a point; thence east 385 feet to a point; thence north 353 feet to a point; thence west 440 feet to the point of beginning.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes all the historically associated buildings of the Henry Smith Farm

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jerry A. Clouse

organization N/A

street & number 118-A South Railroad Street

city or town Hummelstown

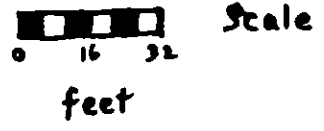
date October, 1988

telephone 566-0990

state PA zip code 17036

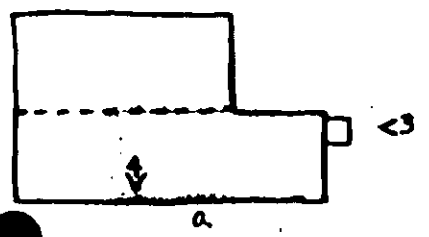
Henry Smith Farm
 Londonderry Twp., Dauphin Co.
 July, 1988 J. Clouse

10 >

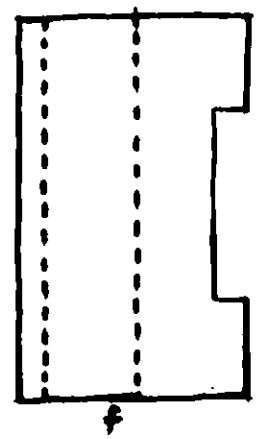


- a. House
- d. Vaulted cellar
- e. Wagon Shed
- f. Barn

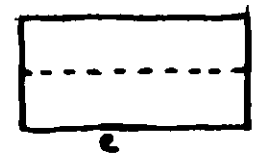
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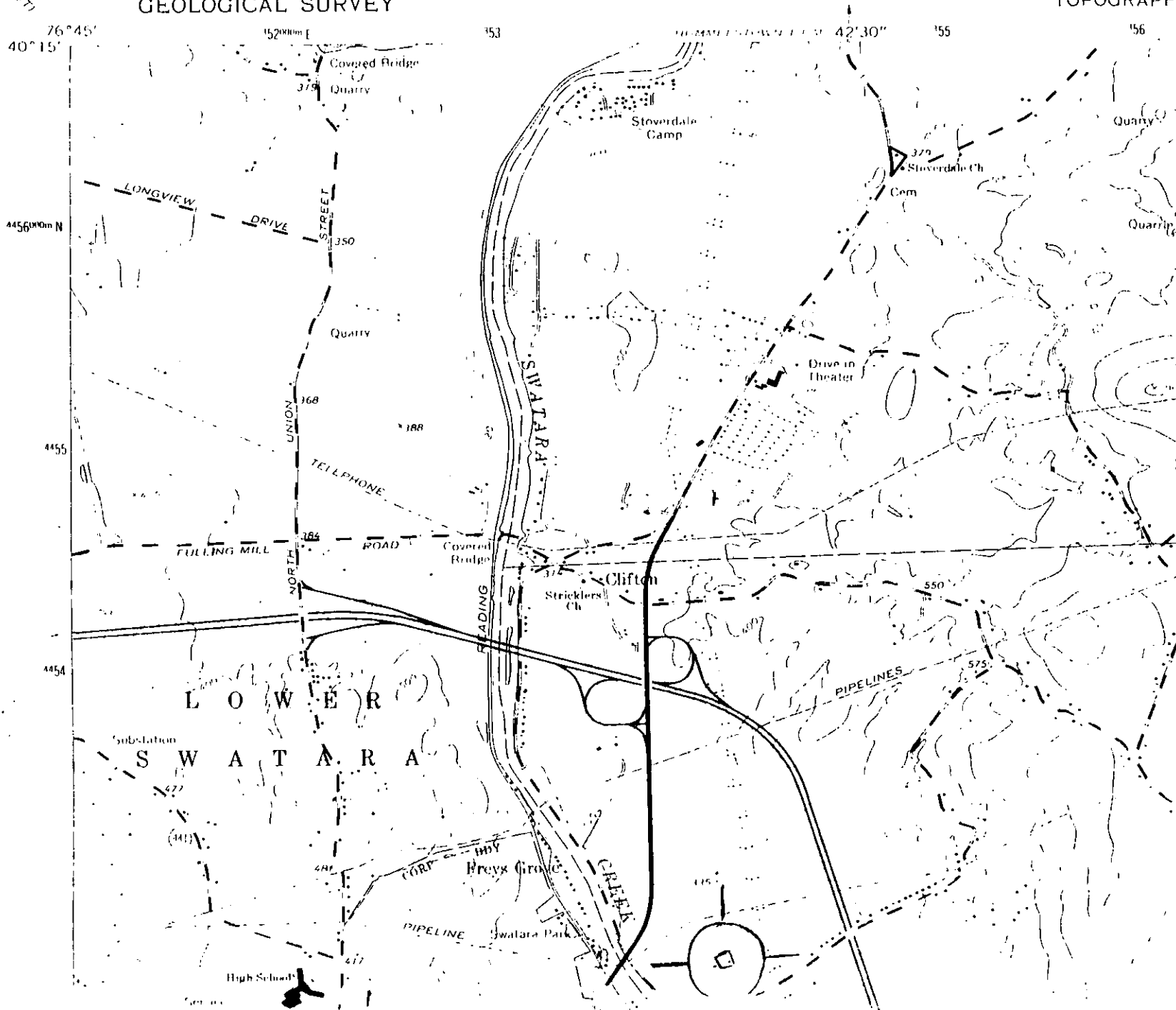
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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

STATE
DEPARTMENT
TOPOGRAPHY



Middletown Quad
Zone 18
E - 354000
N - 4452565

Henry Smith Farm
Dauphin Co