

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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Frost, Josiah, House

other names/site number N/A

### 2. Location

street & number south side of U. S. Route 40, west of LR 26154 N/A [ ] not for publication

city or town Menallen Township N/A [ ] vicinity

state Pennsylvania code PA county Fayette code 051 zip code 15480

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( [ ] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Brent Glass Dr. B. Glass, Exec. Dir. 9/12/96  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

PA Historical and Museum Commission

Signature of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( [ ] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Signature of Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Josiah Frost House  
Name of Property

Fayette, PA  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		<b>Total</b>

Name of related multiple property listing  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously  
in the National Register  
  
0

Historic Resources of the National Road in Pennsylvania

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/ Single Dwelling

Domestic/ Secondary Structure

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/ Single Dwelling

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Federal

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Material**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone: sandstone

walls Stone: sandstone

\_\_\_\_\_

roof Asphalt Shingle

other Wood, Aluminum

\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheets

Josiah Frost House  
Name of Property

Fayette, PA  
County and State

### 8. Statement of Significance

**Applicable National Register Criteria**  
(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**  
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**  
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

### 9. Major Bibliographic References

**Bibliography** See Continuation Sheet  
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one of more continuation sheets.)

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

ca. 1816-53

**Significant Dates**

N/A

**Significant Person**  
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

unknown

See Continuation Sheets

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

California University of Pennsylvania

Josiah Frost House  
Name of Property

Fayette, PA  
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1, 7	6, 0, 2, 0, 0, 0	4, 4, 2, 3, 2, 4, 0
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2			

3			
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4			

[ ] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

See Continuation Sheet

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

See Continuation Sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Adam Baacke

organization SPHPC/Nat'l Road Heritage Park date May 23, 1996

street & number R.D.#2 Box 528 telephone (412)-329-1560

city or town Farmington state PA zip code 15437

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Alvin R. & Gloria R. Stewart

street & number R.D. #1 Box 52 telephone

city or town Smock state PA zip code 15480

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing this form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

The Josiah Frost House, Menallen Township, Fayette County, PA

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### Description

Located approximately 250 feet west of the intersection of the National Road (U. S. Route 40) and LR 26154 (Searight's Corners) on the south side of the National Road, the ca. 1816-19 Josiah Frost House sits approximately twenty feet from the south side of the road. This siting and proximity to the road are typical of National Road-era buildings. This two-story sandstone building is characterized by a rectangular plan (approximately 24'-0" x 48'-0"), with massing and fenestration patterns typical of the Federal style of architecture. The limited ornament indicates vernacular simplification. The house sits on the eastern end of a rectangular lot (approximately 300'-0" wide x 100'-0" deep). This lot also contains a mobile home to the west and two small ca. 1930 storage sheds in the rear which are not included in the nominated property. The small collection of residential and commercial buildings at Searight's Corners is surrounded by open and wooded land, typical of Menallen Township in Fayette County. Despite some alterations to the rear and southeast end of the building, primarily in the ca. 1930 building campaign addressed below, the Josiah Frost House retains sufficient integrity to clearly associate it with the golden era of the National Road (1818-1853).

The entire building is built from coursed, hammer-dressed sandstone. The front (primary) facade presents a symmetrical four-bay fenestration pattern, with entrance doors occupying the two center bays on the first story. Each door contains a six-pane light in its upper section with a pair of vertical panels below. The doors are surrounded by a quarter-round casing, paneled reveals, and segmented transoms. All of the windows on this facade are one-over-one double-hung sashes which were installed in the 1970s by the current owners in place of six-over-six double-hung wood sashes. Aluminum storm doors were also added at this time. The front and rear facades have a simple box cornice.

A massive sandstone wall chimney is located at each end of the building. The southeast and northwest facades contain no openings with the exception of a single four-pane light in the southeast gable end which provides ventilation for the attic. The roof is clad with asphalt shingles. The initials "JHF," which probably refer to Josiah Frost, the original owner of this house, are carved in a stone approximately four feet off the ground on the exterior wall in the east corner of the building.

A two-story concrete-block addition was built at the rear of the building in the 1930s. The remaining exposed surfaces of the rear facade were parged with a Portland cement-based stucco which has been tooled to resemble concrete block. A single-

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The Josiah Frost House, Menallen Township, Fayette County, PA

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story concrete-block storage shed was constructed on the southeast end of the building ca. 1960. Other modern additions include the aluminum gutters, downspouts, and awnings over the entrances and a low-pitched roof extending from the northwest facade between the first and second stories. The area below this roof has not been enclosed.

An entrance at the rear of the building provides access to the cellar (which can also be entered via a stair from the first floor). The walls of the cellar retain a whitewash coating applied directly to the stone foundation walls. The exposed log beams which support the first floor are hand hewn only on their tops. Some of these have been replaced with true 2" x 10" joists.

Although the other interior surfaces have been concealed behind late-twentieth-century paneling and ceiling tiles, the basic floor plan has not been significantly altered. The first story contains two large rooms which are symmetrical with the exception of an enclosed dogleg staircase in the west corner of the house. The stone fireplace in the southeast room remains exposed but has been adorned with a 1930s mantle and step cornice and covered in some areas with later wood paneling. According to the current owners, the fireplace in the northwest room, as well as the two second-story fireplaces have been concealed behind plaster and paneling. A large (approximately 7'-0" high x 6'-0" wide) opening separates the two first-story rooms. The first story of the rear addition houses the kitchen.

The second story is divided into two bedrooms with a hallway at the rear and a bathroom in the southernmost corner. The partitions in this area may date to the 1930s as well. The rear addition contains a third bedroom. The attic can be accessed from a ceiling panel in the northwest bedroom.

Despite some alterations, the basic floor plan and exterior appearance retain good integrity. The Josiah Frost House clearly illustrates the materials, design, workmanship, location, and feeling which effectively convey its early-nineteenth-century significance and association with the National Road. Similarly, the building survives as a good example of vernacular interpretation of the Federal Style of architecture.

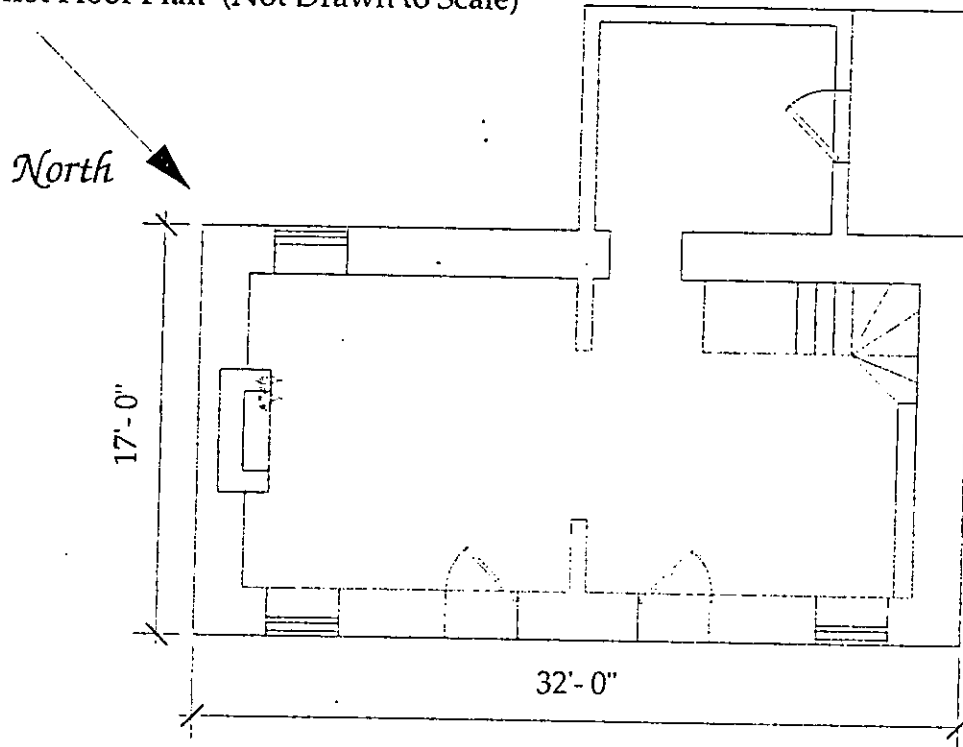
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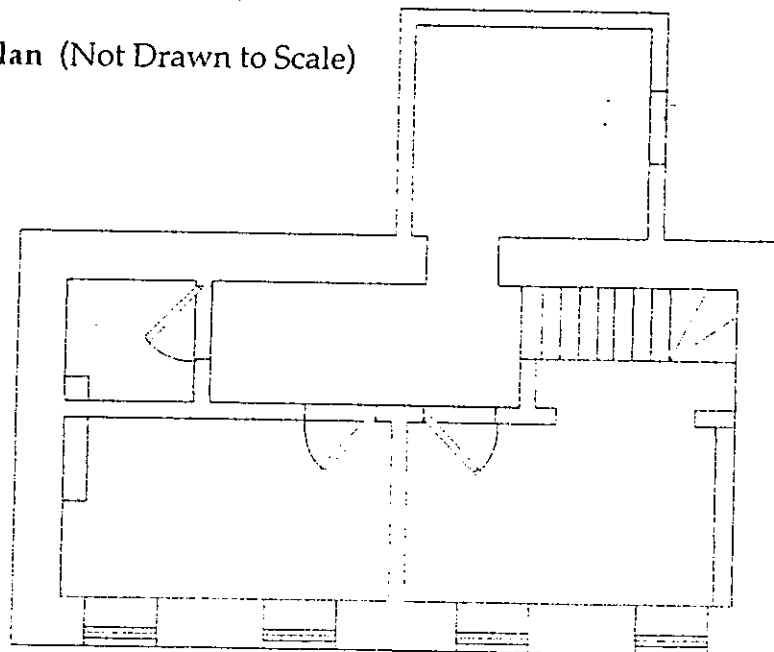
The Josiah Frost House, Menallen Township, Fayette County, PA

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First Floor Plan (Not Drawn to Scale)



Second Floor Plan (Not Drawn to Scale)



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The Josiah Frost House, Menallen Township, Fayette County, PA

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### Significance

The Josiah Frost House is significant under National Register Criteria A and C in the areas of commerce and architecture. It is an example of an Associated Dwelling property type as described in the multiple property documentation form entitled "Historic Resources of the National Road in Pennsylvania." This house is one of a small number of resources identified as eligible for National Register listing under this property type. This building was part of the Searight Tavern complex at Searight's Corners, an important stop for travelers on the National Road during its golden years of the early nineteenth century. The Josiah Frost House is the only building remaining from this complex. It reflects the distinctive characteristics of the vernacular Federal-style architecture typical of the early National Road era in Southwestern Pennsylvania. Its period of significance begins with the construction of the house ca. 1816-19 and continues through 1853 when the opening of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad precipitated a decline in usage of this portion of the National Road.

This building was erected ca. 1816-19 by Josiah Frost, whose initials "JHF" are inscribed on a stone placed in the east corner of the southeast wall. Frost used this building either as his residence or as a supporting structure for the Searight Tavern. This tavern, which he is also credited with constructing and operating, was located opposite the Josiah Frost House on the National Road (Thom. Searight, 1894, p.247). From 1816 through 1819, Frost accumulated several tracts of land around the Searight Tavern, possibly attesting to his financial success as a tavern keeper. In 1821, he sold the tavern, its associated buildings, and 113 acres to William Searight; this sale included the nominated property.

Under Searight's ownership, this tavern developed into one of the largest and most prominent along the National Road in Pennsylvania. Unlike most taverns, Searight's apparently catered to a wide variety of travelers, from wagoners and drovers to stagecoaches. In order to serve the needs of all comers, the tavern complex, known in its heyday as "Searight's Corners," included a blacksmith shop, a wagon maker, a saddle maker, a post office, a general store and a large watering trough, in addition to the tavern proper (none of these buildings remain standing). The services provided by these businesses were essential to maintain and repair wagons and other materials damaged during travel along the road. All of this property was owned by William Searight, and later, his son Ewing. In addition to their service as tavernowners, both William and Ewing Searight served as superintendents of the National Road during its heyday. The tavern and shops



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The Josiah Frost House, Menallen Township, Fayette County, PA

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were leased to a series of individual proprietors who were responsible for their day-to-day operation. (Thom. Searight, 1894, p.247-8; Ellis, 1882, p.656)

The **Josiah Frost House** was a part of the **Searight Tavern** complex and was used as a domestic structure during this era, probably serving as the residence for the blacksmith and/or saddle maker. The blacksmith shop was located immediately to the west of the house and the saddleshop was the neighboring structure to the east (*Atlas*, 1872). The 1902 will of Ewing Searight identifies this structure as "the old stone house and lot with stable and Black Smith shop." Tenants included Thomas Greer, blacksmith and postmaster at Searight's Corners during the 1830s, and Joseph Wagoner, blacksmith in the 1850s (Ellis, p.656; 1859 *Directory*, p.68).

The National Road served as a transportation conduit for the predominantly agricultural Menallen Township. Searight's and as many as six other taverns which opened along the road provided a commercial base for the township during the Road Era (1818-1853). Only the Searight Tavern continued to operate in Menallen Township beyond that time and Searight's Corners continued to serve as an important commercial center for the township into the late nineteenth century. Blacksmiths continued to support travellers along the road from this site into the 1870s (*Atlas*, 1872). This business probably ceased to operate ca. 1900.

The **Searight Tavern** was a two-story stone tavern characterized by L-shaped massing and a five-bay facade with a full-width front porch. This building burned in 1940, possibly as a result of a faulty furnace.

As the only remaining Road-Era resource from the **Searight Tavern** and Searight's Corners, the **Josiah Frost House** is locally significant for its association with the National Road. Its siting, materials, workmanship, and massing recall an earlier era when this crossroads was an important stopping point for drovers, wagoners and stagecoach travelers alike. One of about thirty taverns and related structures which were determined eligible for the National Register as part of the Multiple Property Resources of the National Road, the **Josiah Frost House** is one of only two surviving resources in the Menallen Township (along with the **Abel Colley Tavern**, National Register 1995), which were identified in Denise L. Grantz's 1987 survey.

In addition to its significance derived from its association with the early nineteenth-century development of the National Road, the **Josiah Frost House** is an important example of early nineteenth-century vernacular Federal-style architecture. The rectangular massing, ashlar-faced sandstone masonry, massive end chimneys, boxed

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The Josiah Frost House, Menallen Township, Fayette County, PA

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cornice, 8-panel wood doors with segmented transoms and paneled reveals are among the retained features which clearly place this building within the Associated Dwelling property type outlined in the Multiple Property Listing, Historic Resources of the National Road in Pennsylvania.

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The Josiah Frost House, Menallen Township, Fayette County, PA

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**Sources:**

*Atlas of the County of Fayette and the State of Pennsylvania.* Philadelphia: G. M. Hopkins & Co. 1872.

Ellis, Franklin, ed. *History of Fayette County, Pennsylvania.* Philadelphia: L. H. Everts & Co. 1882.

*1859 Directory of the Monongahela And Youghiogheny Valleys.* Monongahela River Buffs Association. 1978.

Fayette County Deed Books

Fayette County Tax Assessment Rolls

Fayette County Will Books

Grantz, Denise L. *Pennsylvania Historic Resources Survey Form.* Survey Code 051MN-6. unpublished. Feb. 19, 1987.

Michael, Ronald L. "The Searight Tavern on the National Road: An Archaeological Study." *Pennsylvania Folklife.* Vol. XXI, No. 1. Autumn 1971.

Searight, Thomas. *The Old Pike: A History of the National Road, with Incidents, Accidents, and Anecdotes Thereon.* Berryville, VA: The Prince Maccus Publishers. reprinted 1983.

Stewart, Alvin R. and Gloria R, current owners. interviews conducted by Adam Baacke. Nov. 9, 1995.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

The Josiah Frost House, Menallen Township, Fayette County, PA

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### Boundary Description

Beginning at a point on the southern edge of U. S. Route 40 (as of November 1995) approximately fifteen feet east of the southeastern wall of the Josiah Frost House and proceeding in a southwesterly direction to a point approximately ten feet behind the house, then proceeding in a northwesterly direction to a point approximately twenty-five feet west of the northwestern wall of the house, then proceeding in a northeasterly direction to the southern edge of U. S. Route 40 (as of November 1995), then proceeding in a southeasterly direction along the road to the point of beginning.

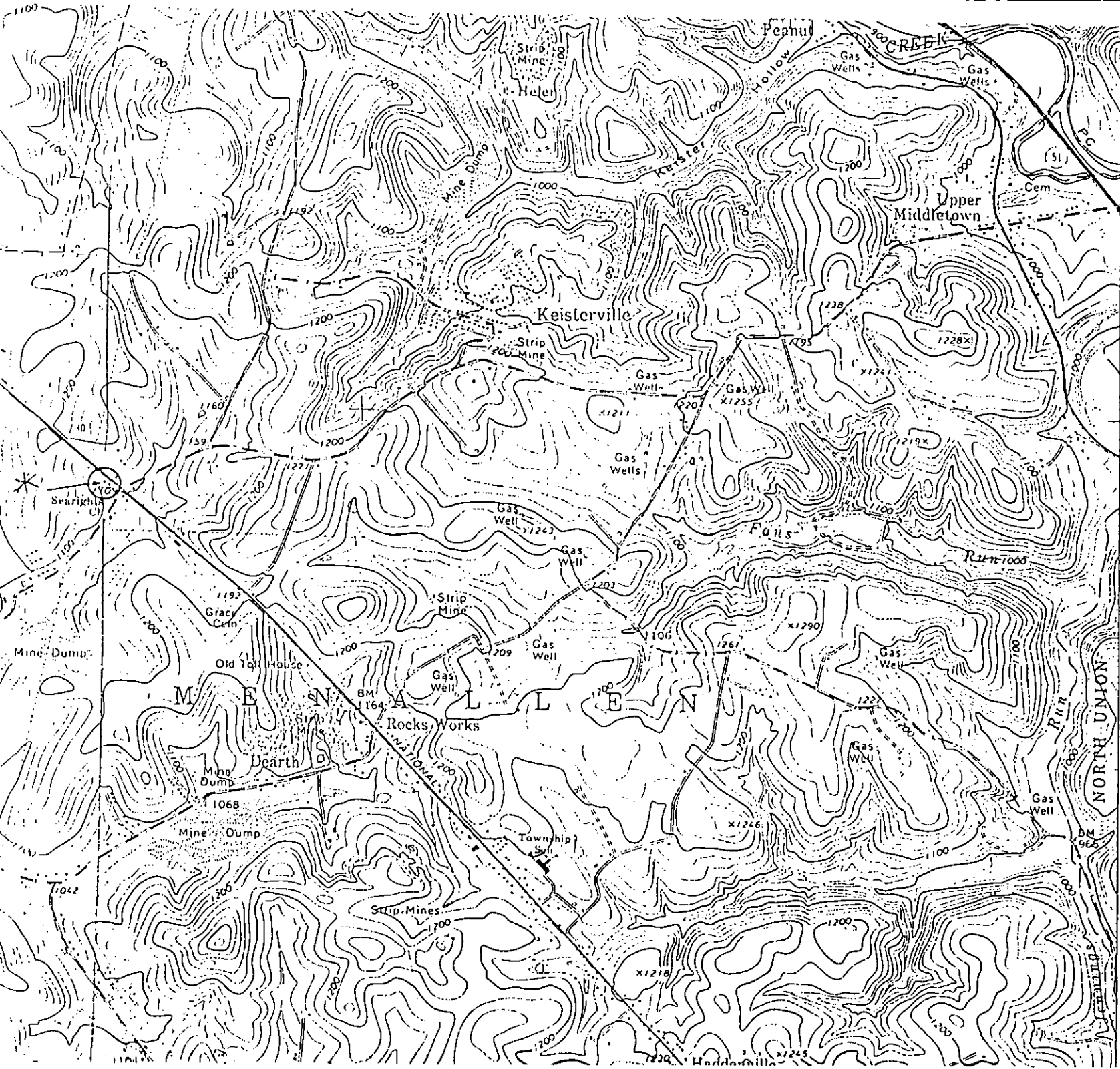
### Boundary Justification

The boundary includes only the land immediately surrounding the Josiah Frost House in order to exclude adjacent property, open land, and non-contributing outbuildings surrounding the property.

### List of Photographs

All photographs were taken by Adam Baacke in November 1995.  
All negatives are on file at the National Road Heritage Park offices  
R.D. #2, Box 528, Farmington, PA 15437

1. Looking west at the front and southeast facades of the Josiah Frost House.
2. Looking south at the front and northwest facades of the Josiah Frost House.
3. Looking west at the cornerstone in the east corner of the Josiah Frost House.



240 000  
FEET

UNION TOWNSHIP 5 N

4424 Frost, Joshua  
HOUSE  
57°30" FAYETTE COUNT  
PA  
NEW SALEM OWN  
ZONE 17

UTM 60 20'00  
44 23 2401

4423

NORTH UNION

4422

UNION TOWNSHIP 1  
NORTH UNION

4421