

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 Mingo Creek Presbyterian Church and Churchyard  
other names/site number N/A

### 2. Location

street & number Rt. 88 & Mingo Church Rd.  not for publication N/A  
city, town Union Twp.  vicinity N/A  
state PA code PA county Washington code 125 zip code 15332

### 3. Classification

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

Name of related multiple property listing: Whiskey Rebellion Resources in Southwestern Pa 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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official 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)

~~Funerary/cemetery~~  
~~Religion/religious structure~~

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

~~Funerary/cemetery~~  
~~Religion/religious structure~~

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Other: vernacular

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone  
walls Brick  
roof \_\_\_\_\_  
other Stone

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The present Mingo Creek Presbyterian Church property consists of the 1½ story brick church built in 1831 with a two story brick education building built to the rear in 1958, a 2½ story brick manse built west of the church in 1924, and the churchyard or cemetery located southwest of the church. The church buildings sit north of Mingo Church Road and west of Route 88. Mingo Creek Church's six bay gable front faces south onto Mingo Creek Road. Froman's Run flows along the eastern boundary of the property. The manse was built on the site of the original late 18th century church. The manse and education building are considered noncontributing buildings because they were constructed after the period of significance. The cemetery is located on a high hill just southwest of the church buildings. The two oldest sections of the cemetery, which are numbered one and three on the site plan, are included in the nominated boundary while newer sections (late 19th-late 20th century) located to the southwest are excluded. A steep bank separates the cemetery from the parking lot. This lot was possibly the location of the parade and meeting ground for local militias and meetings during the late 18th/early 19th century.

The church building has little architectural detailing. The building rests on a low stone foundation which extends about an inch beyond the face of the brick wall to create a slanted water table. On the front elevation, there are two double doors with recessed panels. The doors are topped with rectangular two-paned transoms. There are similar double doors on the east and west elevations of the church. These side doors have sandstone sills. The front doors are separated by two windows and are flanked by a window on their eaves end as well. All of the first floor windows are basically two/two pane configuration, but these were infilled with multi-paned stained glass in 1936. All of the first floor windows have recessed paneled shutters. According to church historian, Gib Balliard, these shutters are original to the church. Each of the first floor windows has a carved sandstone sill but no separately detailed lintel. A central six paned window lights the attic on the south elevation. There is an arch above this window filled with a recessed panel. The central arched window on the north gable end has been covered with wood sheathing. The rear or north gable end also has two arched windows on the first floor. The space between these two windows was the original location of the pulpit.

The plan of the original church revolved around the aisles created by the two front entrances and the cross aisle created by the opposing side doors near the north end of the church. There were pews not only between these two side aisles but along the sides of the church as well. Balliard stated that the side aisles were angled toward the central pulpit along the rear wall. The choir pews on both sides of the pulpit

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Alice Balliard, chairman of history committee, Mingo Presbyterian Church: Bi-Centennial Celebration, 1982.

Daniel Marder, edit., Incidents of the Insurrection by Hugh H. Brackenridge (New Haven, CN: College & University Press, 1972)

William Findley, History of the Insurrection in the Four Western Counties of Pennsylvania (Spartanburg, SC: Reprint Co., 1984)

Leland D. Baldwin, Whiskey Rebels: The Story of a Frontier Uprising (Pittsburgh: Univ. of Pittsburgh Press, 1967)

James P. McClure, "The Ends of the American Earth: Pittsburgh and the Upper Ohio Valley to 1795," Ph. D. Dissertation for the University of Michigan, 1983.

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 3 acres

UTM References

A 17 5 85 3 20 44 53 4 4 0  
 Zone Easting Northing

C \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zone Easting Northing

D \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at a point just northwest of the manse; thence going 580 feet southwest to a point; thence going 350 feet east to the west side of Froman Run; thence going 580 feet northwest along Froman Run to a point; thence going 250 feet west to the place of beginning.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes all of the land associated with the early burying ground and meeting grounds associated with Mingo Presbyterian Church.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Jerry A. Clouse, Preservation Specialist

organization Penna. Hist. & Museum Commission date July 21, 1992

street & number P.O. Box 1026 telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Harrisburg state Pa. zip code 17108

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Whiskey Rebellion Resources in Southwestern Pennsylvania

Section number 7 Page 2

---

faced each other. Pot belly stoves stood at the intersection of the side aisles and the cross aisle.

In 1904 the church was renovated, and the pulpit and altar rail was moved forward toward the south end of the church. A curved wall of vertical beaded boards was built behind the altar, and the space between the wall and north gable end became Sunday School rooms.

The oldest portion of the graveyard is on the steeply rising hill south of Mingo Creek Road. It is bounded on the north by the aforementioned road, on the east by a bank and parking lot, and on the south and west by a grassy road. The cemetery contains the graves of six men who were documented to have roles in the Whiskey Rebellion: James McFarlane, John Hamilton, David Hamilton, Benjamin Parkinson, John Hollcroft, and John Gaston. The oldest section or section one contains approximately 200 tombstones. The approximately 25 rows of stones vary in number of stones per row and vary in amount of space between each stone. In addition, some of the rows diverge at various angles. A photo of the cemetery in 1936 shows there were a few trees and plantings within this section at that time. Since that time all of these have been removed. The area between the stones is currently a well manicured lawn.

The earliest tombstones in the churchyard are of infants and range in date from 1790 to 1792. The first dated stone of an adult is that of James McFarlane, the Whiskey Rebellion martyr. It is this portion of the cemetery that contains the majority of Revolutionary War veterans and participants in the Whiskey Rebellion. The five rebels buried here include: James McFarlane who was killed in 1794 at age 43; John Hamilton who died in 1837 in the 83rd year of his age; David Hamilton who died in 1839 aged 80 years; Benjamin Parkinson who died in 1851 aged 88 years, and John Gaston who died in 1823 aged 83 years. Many of the early stones of the late 18th and early 19th centuries were carved from a local brownstone. Most of these are crescent shaped and otherwise have little embellishment. At least two of the early stones are flat tablets, one of which is raised by six carved balusters. The remainder of the stones are of white marble, generally erected in the mid to late 19th century. There are just two marble obelisks in this section, one erected to the memory of the first pastor of the church, Rev. Ralston.

Section three, located just south of Section one, is slightly larger than Section one but has a great many more stones. These stones are more orderly placed. These stones are larger examples of marble and granite stones typical of mid 19th century to early 20th century. There are thirteen obelisks, a few of which are topped with urns. In addition to the increase in the number of obelisks, these stones exhibit a greater range of designs and shapes, including a cross and shafts or columns. Among the designs and motifs are: a rose, clasped hands, draped urn, shield and flag, hand with lilly, and sheaf of wheat. This section also has various plantings typical of late 19th century/early 20th century funerary traditions. Among the

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Whiskey Rebellion Resources in Southwestern Pennsylvania

Section number   7   Page   3  

---

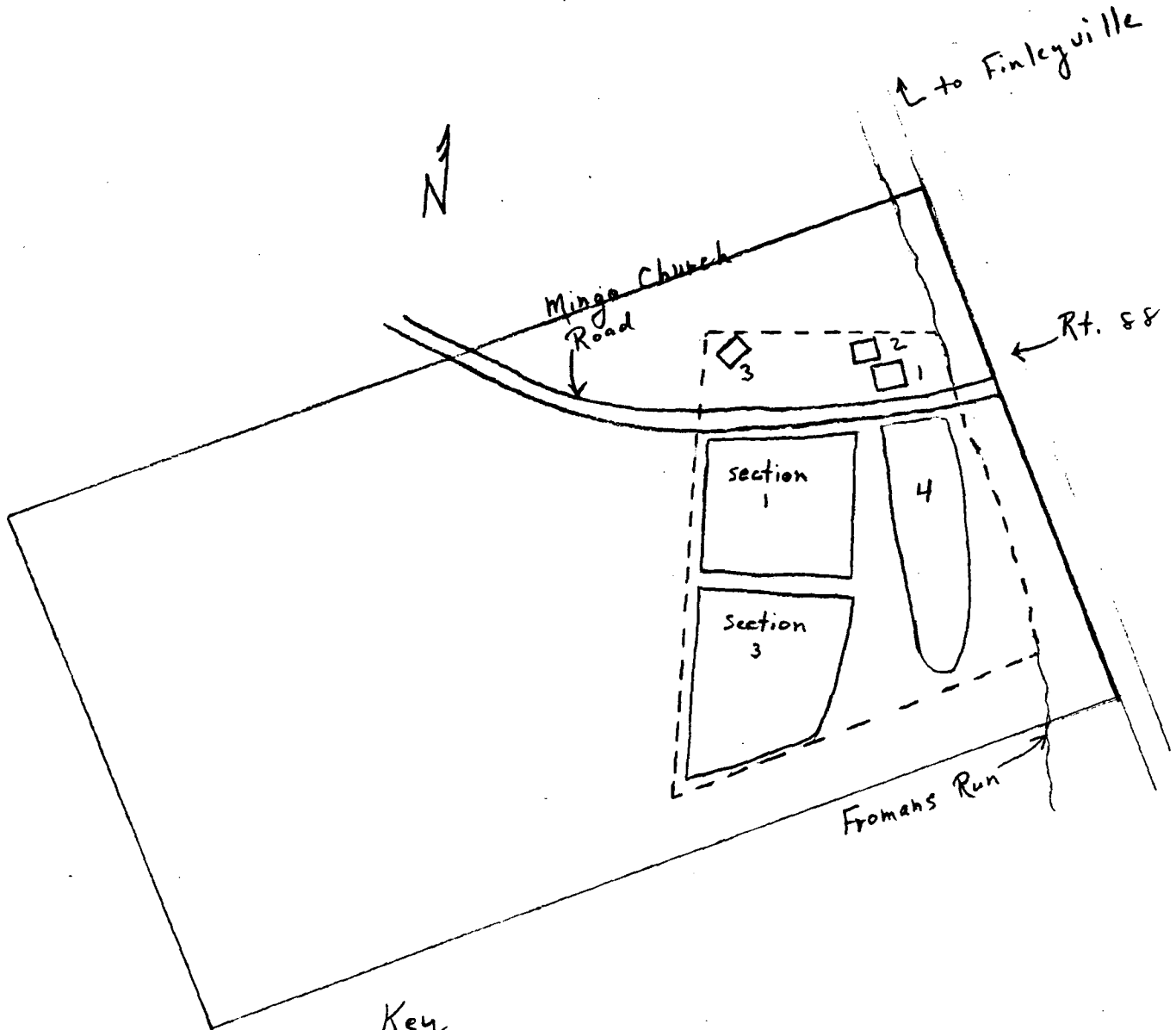
perennial plants are: century plants, peones, and orange lillies. The bushes and shrubs include: roses, fire bush, mock orange, hydrangea, barberry, and rhododendron. Ornamental trees include cedar and yew. This section naturally takes more work to clean and maintain, and generally is lacking in this respect. Section three includes the grave of one whiskey rebel, John Hollcroft who died in 1816, aged 75 years. According to family genealogist, Donald Hollcroft, John was first buried on his farm, east of Gastonville, but was later moved to Mingo Creek by his grandson, John Hollcroft Huston.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Mingo Creek Presbyterian Church and Churchyard

Section number 7 Page 4



### Key

- 1. Mingo Creek Presbyterian Church
  - 2. Education Building
  - 3. Manse
  - 4. Parking Area
- property boundary  
----- National Register boundary

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Whiskey Rebellion Resources in Southwestern Pennsylvania

Section number 8 Page 2

---

the log church was built of logs fifty feet square in 1786, an advertisement in the Pittsburgh Gazette of December 15, 1787 requested bids for a building 46 X 30 feet. Thus we know that no building was constructed there before 1788. According to Crumrine's History of Washington County, preaching was first held in barns and groves and under a tent near the spot where the sheds of the present church occupy. The history further states that a lady then living (1882) remembered Rev. Ralston preaching from low ground between two trees and the congregation on higher ground around him. This information indicates that no building had been constructed before Ralston's coming to the congregation in 1796. On the other hand, a notice was published in the Pittsburgh Gazette concerning the July 23, 1794 excise protest gathering "at the meeting house on Mingo Creek." It is certain that the meeting house was present when the property was deeded from James and Nancy Gibson to the trustees of the church in 1807. At that time what was termed the "Mingo Creek Meeting House" contained about two acres and included the meeting house, tent, spring and graveyard.

Dorothy Fennell in her study of the Whiskey Rebellion found that most of the participants in the Rebellion were militiamen, and they were the principal actors in that drama. Musters were important occasions for organizing opposition to the excise tax. The fact that ordinary men were armed and organized militarily contributed

greatly to the ease with which opposition moved to rebellion. Hamilton's battalion was at a militia hearing when news arrived that the U.S. Marshal was "carrying people off to Philadelphia." Thus began the chain of events that led to the death of McFarlane and the burning of Bower Hill.

Mingo Creek also had the distinction of being the location of a Democratic Society. Established on February 28, 1794, it was one of only two within the county and probably the strongest one of its kind in western Pennsylvania. These extra-legal organizations functioned to oversee, chastise the normal functions of lawful authority, and propose a slate of candidates for local offices. In this instance, it was reportedly founded by militiamen, and many of John Hamilton's Mingo Creek battalion allegedly belonged to this secret society. Congressman Findley reported that it was frequently attended by 300 persons. Lawyer/politician Brackenridge called it the "cradle of the insurrection." Washington in his address to Congress November 20, 1794 placed the guilt of the insurrection upon "certain self-created societies."

At the July 17, 1794 funeral of James McFarlane, it was decided to have a committee meeting at Mingo Creek to decide what to do next about the excise protest. As it turned out there was a large assemblage there. Brackenridge reported that there were some from a distance, but the majority were those who had participated in the riot at Neville's house. McFarlane had become a martyr, a symbol of the linkage between the Revolutionary and anti-excise struggles. Although his tombstone wasn't erected until 1798, it reaffirms his canonization. It is inscribed

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Whiskey Rebellion Resources in Southwestern Pennsylvania

Section number 8 Page 3

---

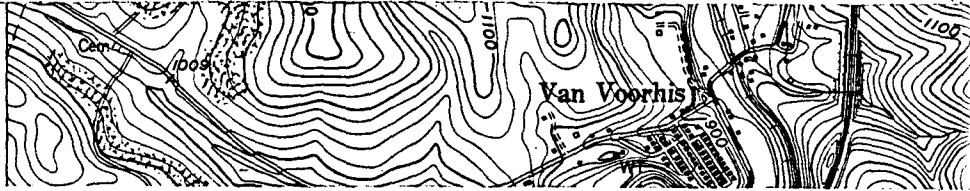
with these words: "Here lies the body of Capt. James McFarlane of Washington County, Pa. who departed this life the 17th of July 1794 aged 43. He served throughout the war with undaunted courage in defense of American Independence against the lawless and despotic encroachments of Great Britain. He fell at last by the hands of an unprincipled villain in support of what he supposed to be the rights of his country much lamented by a numerous and respective circle of acquaintances." He had attained the rank of major during the Revolution, but the rank of captain was given during his brief service in the Rebellion, and it was this moment in history which was memorialized.

One of the outcomes of the Mingo Creek meeting was to call another meeting at Parkinson's Ferry for August 14th at which time representatives from each township of the four western counties and neighboring counties of Virginia were to meet. The Mingo Creek meeting was a turning point in the Rebellion in that respectable, regional political and civic leaders such as David Bradford, James Marshel, Edward Cook, and Brackenridge publicly appeared with the masses involved in the recent riots. Friends of the Federalist government could now conclude that elites led the riots. It was no accident that Washington directed General Lee to march the army with Parkinson's Ferry in view as a destination point.

It is not known exactly where all the militia and Democratic Society meetings took place at Mingo Creek. Certainly some were so large that they were held outside on the grounds or under the "tent." It would appear that the July, 1794 "committee meeting" was of a size to have been held outdoors. Possibly the location of the current parking lot was a parade ground for the militia.

The Mingo Creek Church and Churchyard is significant as a regional center of Whiskey Rebellion activities. Not only did key figures in the protest reside nearby, but the area served as a focal point from which organized protest emanated and for which Washington and Hamilton and the federal army reciprocated with its wrath.





UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

44541 SE  
(BRIDGEVILLE)

80°00'

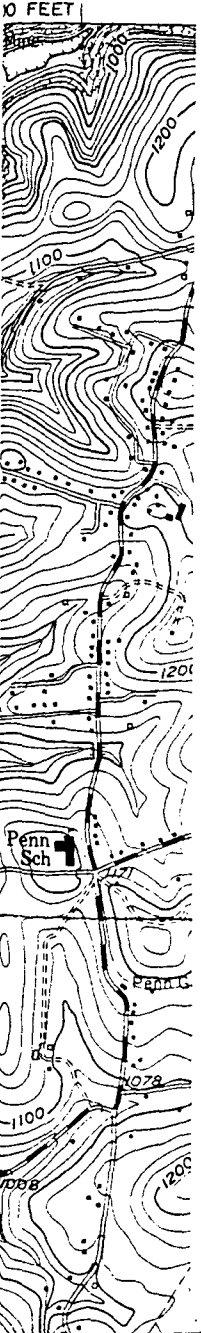
586000m E

587

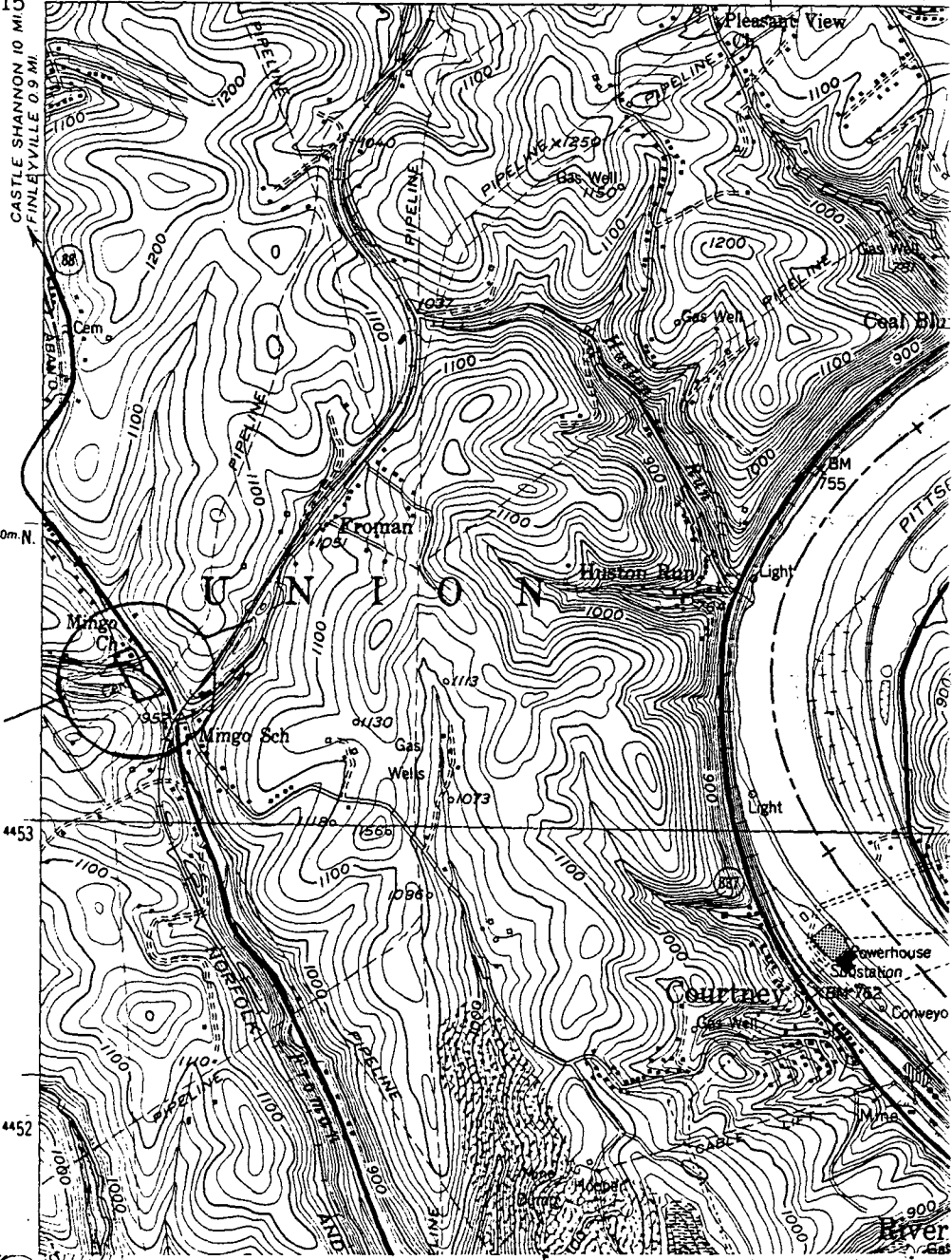
588

40°15'

CASTLE SHANNON 10 MI  
FINLEYVILLE 0.9 MI



Mingo Presbyterian  
Churchyard  
Washington Co.  
Monongahela Quad  
Zone 17  
E 585320  
N 4453440



900  
River