

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 Peters/Graham House

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Corner of Walnut & Second Streets not for publication

city or town Greensboro vicinity

state PA code PA county Greene code 059 zip code 15338

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.)

DR. BRENT D. GLASS Brent D. Glass 11/18/94
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

PA HISTORICAL & MUSEUM COMMISSION
State 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

State or 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): _____

Peters/Graham H.
Name of Property

Greene Co., Pa.
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

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

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

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register**

Greensboro/New Geneva Multiple Property Submission 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single Dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Vernacular

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone
walls Asphalt

roof Asphalt
other Wood

Narrative Description

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

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.

Area of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Industry _____

Ethnic Heritage-Black _____

Architecture _____

Period of Significance

c. 1859-c. 1900 _____

Significant Dates

N/A _____

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A _____

Cultural Affiliation

N/A _____

Architect/Builder

Unknown _____

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or 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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Peters/Graham House
Name of Property

Greene Co., Pa.
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acres of Property 1/2 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 17 593060 4405100
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.)

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jerry A. Clouse/Bureau for Historic Preservation Staff

organization Penna. Hist. & Museum Commission date September 26, 1994

street & number P. O. Box 1026 telephone 717-703-9910

city or town Harrisburg state PA zip code 17108-1026

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the 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 Georgia Graham

street & number P. O. Box 183 telephone

city or town Greensboro state PA zip code 15338

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 time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the 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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Continuation Sheet**

Peters/Graham House, Greene Co., Pa.

Section number 7 Page 1

Description

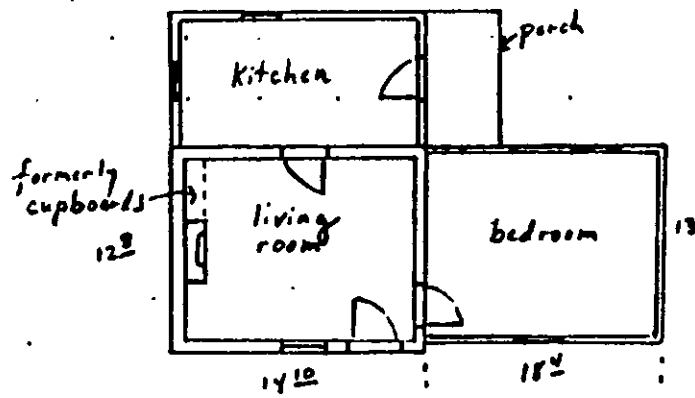
The Peters/Graham House consists of a c. 1859, single pen log house with a mid to late 19th century, single pen timber frame addition built onto the south gable end. The first section measures 15 X 13 feet and the addition, 18 X 13 feet. Both are one story with a shallow pitched roof. The roof line shows a clear break between the two sections. A frame, shed-roof kitchen was built to the east side of the original room in the mid-twentieth century to replace the log kitchen which had been removed. There is a small porch built onto the south side of the kitchen next to the nineteenth century addition. The entire house was covered over with geometric patterned asphalt shingles in the mid-twentieth century. Built on the corner of Walnut and Second streets in Greensboro, the house faces west onto Second Street. The land slopes away from the house to the east. There are no other surviving historic buildings associated with this property. Although changes have been made to the house over the years, it retains sufficient integrity to represent its historic period of significance.

The house rests on a rubblestone foundation which has been painted. There is only a crawl space beneath the main block. Here the rough hewn floor joists can be seen. The kitchen addition has a cement block foundation, and there is a full basement beneath it. The front door faces west onto Second Street. It is constructed of vertical, beaded boards which are battened on the back. In addition, the door has a small four-paned window near its top. There is a single window in the original block and two in the timber frame addition. There are no windows in the gable ends. The windows throughout the house were converted to one-over-one configuration.

As might be expected, the interior of the house is quite simple as a laborer's house. There is a fireplace centered along the north wall of the main block. It has a simple surround with molding which shows late nineteenth-century Victorian influence. The firebox has an arched metal insert with a grate to burn coal. All of the window and door surrounds are without ornamentation such as beads or molds. There were formerly cupboards located between the fireplace and the east wall. These were removed by the present owners.

Although alterations, such as modern exterior sheathing, modern windows, and a twentieth-century kitchen addition, have been made to the Peters/Graham House, it still retains its dominant architectural features and physical setting and is able to convey its nineteenth century significance. It still holds the feeling, character, and form of a small nineteenth century vernacular style house.

Peters/Graham House
Greensboro, Greene Co.
First Floor Plan
(Not Drawn to Scale)



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Statement of Significance

The Peters/Graham House is significant in the area of industry. This house is part of the property type "Residences of the Greensboro/New Geneva Area" as discussed in the Greensboro/New Geneva Multiple Property Documentation Form. To meet Criterion A, a residence must be directly associated with a pottery manufacturer or a pottery worker. Residences significant for their association with the pottery industry must have been built prior to 1880. Among the requirements to meet Criterion C, a residence must be representative of nineteenth century vernacular architecture or representative of a popular national style. It must retain sufficient integrity of materials and stylistic details to be representative of that style. Fenestration patterns and door openings should not be greatly altered or blocked in. The interior of the building should retain most of their original floor plan. This house was built by Robert Peters, an African-American, who according to oral tradition was associated with the Greensboro potteries. This was substantiated by the 1870 and 1880 censuses. This house is also significant as an African-American residence from the Civil War period to 1900. In addition, the house retains sufficient integrity to represent its vernacular style.

The austere vernacular style architecture of the Peters/Graham House is representative of its significance not only in association with the African-American community of Greensboro but also the pottery industry there. The property has been documented to have been almost continuously owned by one African-American family from the late 1850s to the present. Its simplicity is a monument to the social history of African-Americans moving to the North to escape slavery in the South during the period just before the Civil War. The Compromise of 1850 and the Fugitive Slave Law made the 1850s a critical period for free blacks and slaves alike as it allowed slave owners to come north in search of their property. Most African-Americans who did come north of the Mason-Dixon Line in this period were males between the ages of 16 and 35. It was also during this time that the potteries of the area began to dramatically increase their production.(1)

Tax records indicate that African-Americans were involved in the industrial trades of the New Geneva/Greensboro area, such as ironmaking, by the early 19th century. The records are ambiguous, but many of these appear to be free blacks. The Monongahela River was a major transportation route from western Virginia, but it was closely watched for fugitives. African-American historian Charles Blockson states, "Many blacks came to Uniontown from western Virginia during the last years of slavery, as the courthouse records fully attest." There is little doubt many stopped in the New Geneva/Greensboro area before going further north. Blockson further notes that many of the blacks in the hills of southwestern Pennsylvania are descended from fugitive slaves who decided to stop there in the security of wild terrain rather than go on to Canada and risk being caught. By 1789 men of southwestern Pennsylvania had founded the "Washington Society for the Relief of

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Peters/Graham House, Greene Co., Pa.

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Free Negroes and others unlawfully held in Bondage." Among those involved in this effort was Albert Gallatin, who was also influential in promoting various industries in the region. A member of the Pennsylvania Assembly, Gallatin, was part of a committee that in 1793 recommended the abolition of slavery in the Commonwealth. He was also a member of the Pennsylvania Society for promoting the abolition of slavery.(2)

Although the 1876 Business Directory for Greensboro shows that Virginia native Robert Peters settled there in 1853, he does not show up on the tax lists until 1858 when he is listed as the owner of a house and lot that had been assessed to Hamilton and Jones, a pottery company in Greensboro. The 1859 tax notes him as a "colored man" with a house and lot. In 1863 James Black and his wife Sarah of Greensboro released and quit claimed their right in the south half of Lot 36 in Greensboro "now in the possession of Robert and Susan Peters." In 1879 Robert purchased the north half of Lot 36 from Nathan Peters of Allegheny City.(3)

Pottery historian Phil Schaltenbrand reported the legend that two freed slaves worked as wood choppers in the early Greensboro potteries. According to tradition, Robert Peters was owned by a doctor in the south. He was freed and wandered down the river to Greensboro. Mr. Hamilton told him that he could sleep in the pottery if he worked for him. Although the 1860 census lists Robert Peters as a farmer, the 1870 census record notes that he "labors at pottery." The 1880 census states that he "works at stoneware shop." In the 1860 and 1870 records, he and his wife Susan have four children, but by 1880 he and wife Ann are by themselves. The 1890 census was destroyed by fire. However, the 1900 census notes that Robert Peters was born in 1815 in Virginia. His daughter Eliza Graham, born in 1860, was living in the same household with her two children and four grandchildren. Among these was Samuel Graham born in 1894.(4)

Robert Peters died December 26, 1900 aged 86 years. He was buried in the potters' field section of the Monongahela Cemetery. The property continued as part of the Robert Peters estate until 1939 when it was sold by the Treasurer of Greene County to William Cannon. Cannon had told Graham not to pay the taxes on it because another family member was trying to get it. Cannon owned it until 1941 when he sold it to Samuel Graham. It is now in the possession of Graham's widow, Georgia Graham.(5)

Although the size of the Peters/Graham House is fairly typical of nineteenth-century worker's housing in the New Geneva/Greensboro area, small houses of that era have rarely survived to the present. Despite the fact that there were three other African-American families living in Greensboro in 1870 and 1900, they subsequently removed from the town. Documentation of the Peters family connection to the Greensboro pottery industry is substantiated by the fact that Robert possibly bought his lot from a pottery and was listed as a laborer in a pottery. While

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more may be known about pottery owners, such as the Hamiltons and Jones families, little is known of individual potters or their assistants. No known ledgers from the actual potteries have survived. Mrs. Graham retains a few pieces of the Greensboro pottery in her home.

The earthenware pottery industry began in Greensboro in the early nineteenth century. It grew slowly until the 1850s when the area's pottery producing establishments began making stoneware. Stoneware was a sturdier ware, enabling larger, more durable pottery forms. Greensboro enjoyed early success in this industry because it was close to fine clay beds, had skilled craftsmen, and had easy access to Pittsburgh and Ohio River markets through the Monongahela River slackwater system. Production peaked in the Greensboro/New Geneva area during the 1870s and 1880s. By 1890 Trenton, New Jersey, and East Liverpool, Ohio had become the principal centers of the clay and pottery industries in the United States. At these industrial and transportation centers pottery was mass produced. Relatively small pottery operations such as those at Greensboro were wiped out by innovation and technology. (6)

The Peters/Graham House is significant as a rare survivor in association with southwestern Pennsylvania's pottery industry and as a good example of a small vernacular style house associated with an African-American family from the Civil War period to 1900. The Greensboro potteries are significant in the development of the nineteenth century pottery industry in southwestern Pennsylvania. Although once typical of working class housing in southwestern Pennsylvania, single pen additive housing was increasingly lost to demolition and neglect in the twentieth century.

Notes

(1) Phil Schaltenbrand, Old Pots: Salt-Glazed Stoneware of the Greensboro-New Geneva Region (Hanover: Everybodys Press, 1977), pp. 9-17; Thomas P. Slaughter, Bloody Dawn: The Christiana Riot and Racial Violence in the Antebellum North (New York: Oxford University Press, 1991), p. 17.

(2) Charles L. Blockson, Pennsylvania's Black History (Philadelphia: Portfolio Associates, Inc., 1975), p. 78; Henry Adams, The Life of Albert Gallatin (New York: Peter Smith, 1943), p. 86; James P. McClure, "'Le Us Be Independent': David Bradford and the Whiskey Rebellion" Pittsburgh History Summer, 1991, p. 74; Greene Township tax records; Boyd Crumrine, ed., History of Washington County, Pennsylvania with Biographical Sketches (Philadelphia: L.H. Everts & Co., 1882), p. 261.

(3) Caldwell's Illustrated Historical Centennial Atlas of Greene County (Condit, Ohio: J.A. Caldwell, 1876), p. 151; Monongahela Township tax records; Greene

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County Deed Book 18, p. 101 and Deed Book 31, p. 420.

(4) Schaltenbrand, p. 83; Doris Hawk, interview, 13 January 1994, the story of Robert Peters coming to the Hamilton pottery in Greensboro was told by William Cannon, grandfather of Doris Hawk and friend of Samuel Graham; 1860, 1870, 1880, and 1900 United States Census records for Monongahela Township and Greensboro Borough.

(5) Greene County Deed Book 528, p. 497.

(6) Jerry A. Clouse, "Greensboro/New Geneva Multiple Property Submission," pp. 44-56.

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Bibliography

Evelyn Abraham, "The Pottery of Greensboro and New Geneva," The Antiquarian September 1931

Samuel P. Bates, History of Greene County, Pennsylvania (Chicago: Nelson, Rishforth & Co., 1888).

Charles L. Blockson, Pennsylvania's Black History (Philadelphia: Portfolio Associates, Inc., 1975).

Caldwell's Illustrated Historical Atlas of Greene County (Condit, Ohio: J.A. Caldwell, 1876).

L.K. Evans, Pioneer History of Greene County (Waynesburg, Pa.: Waynesburg Republican, 1941).

Greene Township, Monongahela Township, Greensboro Borough, Greene County Tax Records, Greene County Courthouse Annex, 1797-1910..

Dr. Carmen A. Guappone, New Geneva and Greensboro Pottery (McClellandtown, Pa.: Guappone's Publishers, 1975).

Rev. William Hanna, History of Greene County (Greensboro, Pa.: 1882).

J.L. McConnell, McConnell's Map of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia: Tuttle & Co., 1865)

Richard Meyer, John F. Bauman, and Alfonso Narvaez, "Historic buildings Survey: Grays Landing Lock and Dam, Monongahela River, Pa." (West Chester, Pa.: John Milner Assoc., Inc., February 1991).

The Papers of Albert Gallatin, microfilm (Philadelphia: Rhistoric Publications, 1969) Sponsored by New York University and the National Historical Publications Commission.

Phil Schaltenbrand, Old Pots: Salt-Glazed Stoneware of the Greensboro-New Geneva Region (Hanover: Everybodys Press, 1977).

Paul Rich Stewart, "Greensboro-New Geneva Pottery" Trans-Appalachian Room, Waynesburg College

Andrew J. Waychoff, Local History of Greene County and Southwestern Pennsylvania (Parsons, W.Va.: McClain Printing Co., 1975).

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Boundary Description

Beginning at a point on the eastern edge of Second Street and the northern edge of this property which is twenty feet from the northern side of the Peters/Graham House, then proceeding from this point in a southeast direction parallel with the house to a point twenty feet beyond the eastern wall of the house, then proceeding from this point sixty feet in a southwest direction to a point on the northern edge of Walnut Street, then proceeding from this point in a northwest direction parallel with the eastern edge of Walnut Street to a point on the eastern edge of Second Street, then proceeding from this point sixty feet in a northeast direction along the eastern edge of Second Street to the point of beginning.

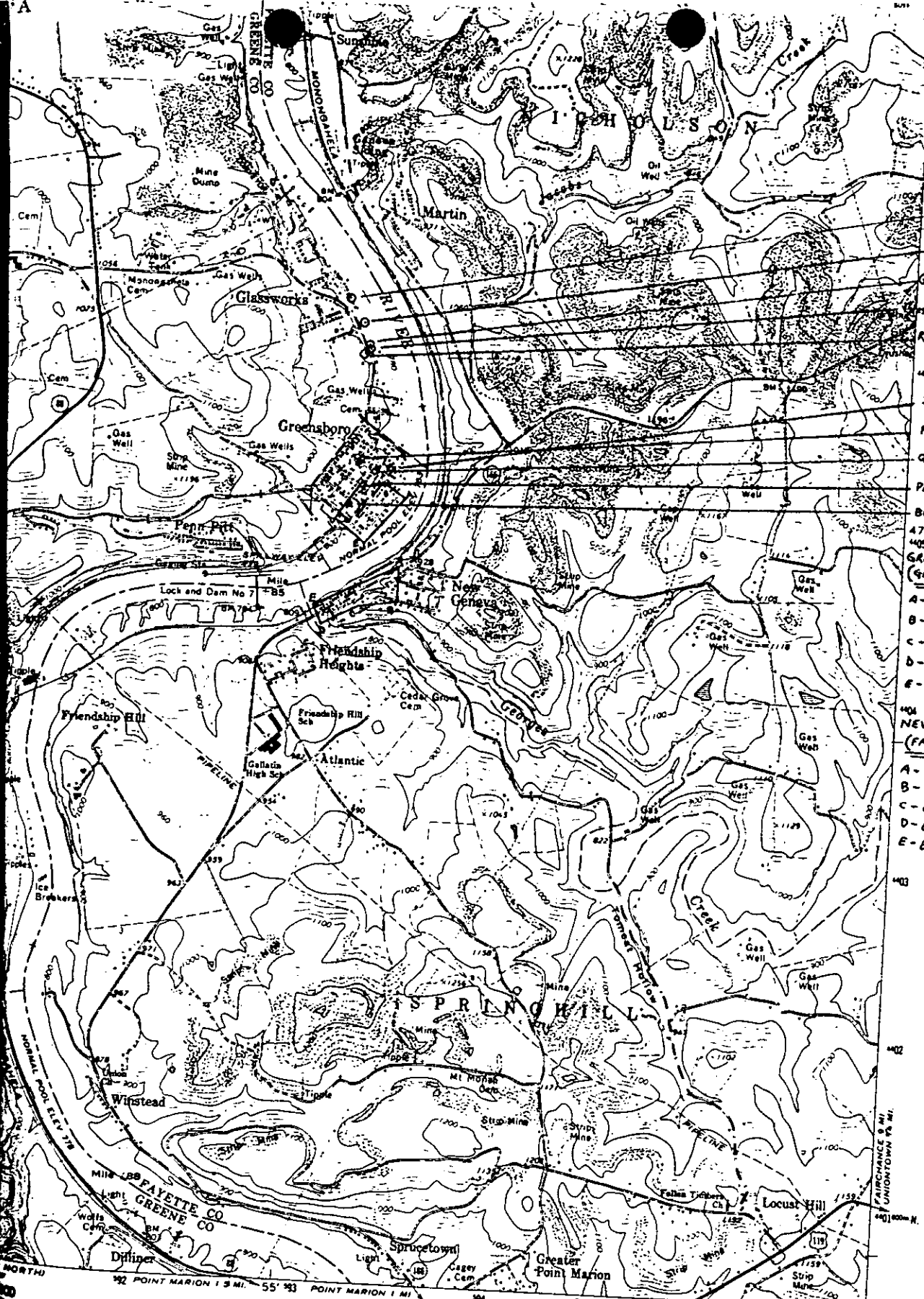
Boundary Justification

The boundary only includes the land immediately surrounding the Peters/Graham House and was drawn to exclude open ground and a modern dwelling east of this house.

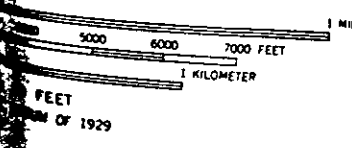
Graham/Peters House Photo List

All of the following photographs of the Peters/Graham House, located in the borough of Greensboro, Greene County, Pennsylvania, were taken by Jerry Clouse, November 1993. All of the negatives are located in the offices of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

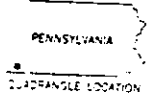
1. Standing on Second Street looking southeast at the facade of the Peters/Graham House.
2. Looking south at the north elevation of the Peters/Graham House showing the kitchen addition to the rear.
3. Standing at the intersection of Second and Walnut streets looking northeast at the facade and south elevation of the Peters/Graham House.
4. Standing in the eastern room of the Peters/Graham House looking northwest at the fireplace surround.



- GLASSWORKS (GREENE COUNTY)
- 4401 EBERHART/GABLER HOUSE (BLDG. 311-A) ZONE 17, E 593890/N 4406190
 - J M CRAWFORD HOUSE ZONE 17, E 592790/N 4406040
 - GLASSWORKS HOUSE (BLDG. 302-B) ZONE 17, E 593830/N 4405910
 - GLASSWORKS/GABLER HOUSE (BLDG. 302-A) ZONE 17, E 593090/N 4405900
 - REPPERT/GABLER HOUSE (BLDG. 314-A) ZONE 17, E 593800/N 4405860
- 4406 GREENSBORO (GREENE COUNTY)
- JAMES JONES HOUSE ZONE 17, E 593260/N 4405210
 - PARRICO HOUSE ZONE 17, E 593040/N 4405240
 - GREENSBORO SCHOOL ZONE 17, E 593150/N 4405190
 - PETERS/GRAHAM HOUSE ZONE 17, E 593060/N 4405100
 - BOUGHNER HOUSE ZONE 17, E 592980/N 4404980
- 47-30
- 4405 GREENSBORO HISTORIC DISTRICT (GREENE COUNTY) ZONE 17
- A - E 593310/N 4405020
 - B - E 593210/N 4405100
 - C - E 593040/N 4405090
 - D - E 592710/N 4404890
 - E - E 593090/N 4404740
- 4404 NEW GENEVA HISTORIC DISTRICT (FAYETTE COUNTY) ECNE 17
- A - E 593300/N 4404610
 - B - E 593300/N 4404420
 - C - E 593100/N 4404380
 - D - E 592860/N 4404260
 - E - E 592820/N 4404370



ACCURACY STANDARDS
NATIONAL MAPS



- ROAD CLASSIFICATION**
- Heavy-duty —————
 - Medium-duty - - - - -
 - Light-duty _____
 - Unimproved dirt
 - U S Route (square symbol)
 - State Route (circle symbol)

MASONTOWN, PA.

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