

40° 07' 49"
latitude

300 000
FEET

40° 07' 30"

75° 37' 30"

447 448 2 600 000 FEET

449

CHESTER SPRINGS 2.6 MI
DOWNTOWN 12 MI

450 35'

451

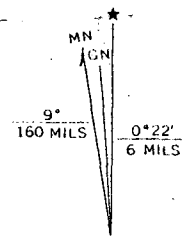
DOWNINGTOWN
58-24 11 SW

KIMBERTON
VILLAGE
HISTORIC
DISTRICT

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE
Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric
methods. Aerial photographs taken 1951. Field check 1955

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Pennsylvania coordinate system,
south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue

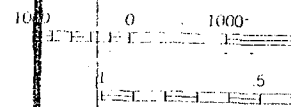
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



UTM GRID AND 1968 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

1974
MAY 22 1974
NATIONAL
MAPS

75° 34' 34"
longit



THIS MAP COMPLETES
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEO
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRA

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries complete applicable sections)

STATE: Pennsylvania
COUNTY: Chester
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Kimberton Village Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Intersection of Kimberton Road and Hares Hill Road

CITY OR TOWN:
East Pikeland Township

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Fifth Congressional District

STATE:
Pennsylvania

CODE:
42

COUNTY:
Chester

CODE:
029

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____
		<input type="checkbox"/> Comments	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Multiple ownership

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Pennsylvania

STATE:
Pennsylvania

CODE:
42

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Chester County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
High and Market Streets

CITY OR TOWN:
West Chester

STATE:
Pennsylvania

CODE:
42

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:
 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
STATE:
CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Pennsylvania
COUNTY: Chester
ENTRY NUMBER:
DATE:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Kimberton Village is a crossroads settlement in Pikeland Township; Chester County. The nominated property includes three structures: a tavern, a grist mill, and a boarding school.

Tavern: The original structure (in the northwest corner of the crossroads) was built by George Chrisman, probably after 1750. The white, stucco over stone tavern is two stories high, three bays across, two bays deep, with six-over-six lights. The gable roof has a chimney at the east and west gable ends. There is a pent roof across the south elevation, between the first and second stories. The north wing was added about 1775 as living quarters. It is three and one half stories, 2 bays across, 2 bays wide, with a double chimney at the gable end (one a recent addition). All original chimneys have been replaced. The roof is presently tin, but the original roll gutters were retained. The molded cornice is typical of this period on better buildings. The original tavern front, to the east, had a central door with deep panelled reveals, flanked by a six-over-nine window on each side. All other windows are six-over-six and have original or restored plank molding. Shutters on the first floor have solid panels and those above are louvered as was the custom. The side door to the south is likewise framed with deep panelled reveals. The porch to the east is probably original or an early addition with later modifications involving the railings and the location of steps. The pent eave and hipped ends appear to be later additions.

This building was a tavern, known as "Sign of the Bear", until 1820. Later, under Emmor Kimber's ownership, it was a general store and post office. It now houses a pharmacy.

Grist and Merchant Mill: This structure located on the southeast corner of the square. It is three stories high, of random fieldstone, with large corner quoins. The stonework is typical of the period and area. The north elevation has a center door for each floor, flanked on either side by one bay, and four bays deep. The structure has a full attic and basement. The datestone reads 1796; the house was built by George Crisman. The original roof has been replaced with red terra cotta tile. Windows are six-over-six and still have the deep stone and plaster reveals of the original construction. The interior has been completely remodeled to accommodate the Kimberton Post Office and other commercial and residential use. Even though put to new uses, the structure of the old mill is still visible, and the interior is being accented and not hidden. The basement has been paved and is currently used for storage.

Boarding School: This large structure was built in three stages. It was originally random fieldstone, but at one point was gray stucco. All doors are set in deep panelled reveals, and all windows have six-over-six lights with deep plastered reveals, partially or completely panelled. The first phase, possibly built in 1787, is now the central section of the building. It is two stories high, three bays wide. The second part of the structure was added to the south gable end before 1815. It is two bays wide and has a center chimney. In 1813, a three and one half story addition, built into a bank, was added

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Pennsylvania	
COUNTY Chester	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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Description (con't)
to the north gable end. It has two separate brick chimneys at the north gable end and also a center brick chimney.

In 1837, a three story classroom and dormitory building was attached to the west elevation. A Greek portico was added to the front elevation at this time. Both the portico and the west wing were demolished by 1937.

In 1863, the building became a "modern style mansion", presumably trimmed in contemporary Victorian fashion. A 20th-century, one-story, flat-roofed wing has been added and is used for commercial purposes.

Considerable renovation has been carried out and not with an eye to historical accuracy. Chimney tops have been replaced in brick and are of approximately the proper dimensions, but most fireplaces have been cut down in size and altered to conform to more modern concepts.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Kimberton Village was first settled in the eighteenth century: in 1771 George Chrisman, yeoman, obtained a license to operate a tavern in his home. During the Revolution, Chrisman's tavern was a resting place for Revolutionary armies traveling between Valley Forge Encampment and Dr. Samuel Kennedy's army hospital. The tavern was also on the road to the Coventry and Warwick iron works.

Chrisman also operated a large farm, sawmill, and grist mill, the latter built in 1796. Chrisman died in 1812.

In 1817, the Kimber family arrived at the crossroads. Emmor Kimber, Quaker schoolmaster, purchased and enlarged the Chrisman plantation, and proceeded with the help of his daughter, to establish a girls' boarding school. The curriculum featured all the usual academic subjects of the day, in addition to such socially necessary and practical subjects such as sewing. Later, instructions in gardening and husbandry were added, and the school was opened to boys. The Kimberton school was unusual because of its liberal atmosphere. There were no petty rules or dress restrictions and the school was open to students of all religious denominations. Within the limits of regular hours and systematic methods, a great deal of freedom and informality were encouraged. Students came to Kimber's school from points as far away as the West Indies.

Kimber was a versatile and vigorous man. He wrote several books, mainly religious tracts, and also owned a Philadelphia bookstore. He obtained a patent for his improvements of locomotive engines. He also managed a farm, a limestone quarry and a kiln. As early as 1796 he was a member of "The Pennsylvania Society for Promoting the Abolition of Slavery", and he was chief agent for Kimberton's underground railroad stop. His daughter, Abigail, traveled to London in 1840 as a delegate to the world anti-slavery convention. Later, she was a member of the Executive Committee of the Pennsylvania Anti-Slavery Society.

Kimber and his wife also deeded land (in 1818) as a site for the Pikeland Quaker meeting, of which he was minister. The building was sold to Lutheran congregation in 1876.

The Kimber estate was sold in 1821 and passed into multiple ownership. Under Kimber's leadership, the village had flourished commercially. After its sale, the school became a focal point for community activity.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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STATE Pennsylvania	
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(Number all entries)

Significance (con't)

With the arrival of the railroad in Kimberton in 1871, the village expanded further as a commercial center. Kimberton's historic district is illustrative of the life and growth of a rural crossroads village of the 18th and 19th centuries. The village also was fortunate in having the leadership of George Chrisman and his successor Emmor Kimber in helping to make the village attractive to students, travellers, and settlers, and thereby promoting its growth. The mill, tavern, and school preserve some of the work of these two men and reflect the life of the community. The present uses of the buildings reflect the changes in the village to accomodate changing community needs.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Chester County Courthouse, Safe Harbor, Pennsylvania: R. L. Barnes, 1856.
 Chester County Historical Society. Newspaper clippings, Miscellaneous papers, East Pikeland Township, Chester County.
 Futhey, J. Smith and Gilbert Cope. History of Chester County, Pennsylvania. Philadelphia: L. H. Everts, 1881.
 Wiley, Samuel T. Biographical and Portrait Cyclopedia of Chester County, Pennsylvania. Philadelphia: Gresham, 1893.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees. Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds
NW	0 . .	0 . .	40 °	07 ' 49 "	75 ° 34 ' 34 "
NE	0 . .	0 . .			
SE	0 . .	0 . .			
SW	0 . .	0 . .			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 4 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust, Inc. / Mary Lloyd
 ORGANIZATION: French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust, Inc. Buserkell 5/14/74
 STREET AND NUMBER: Box 360 R. D. #2
 CITY OR TOWN: Pottstown STATE: Pennsylvania 19464 CODE: 1.2

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: William J. Wewer
 Title: PA, Hist. & Museum Commission

Date: 10/17/74

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: _____

ATTEST: _____
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS