

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 any 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 Rock Hill Farm

other names Davis-Stauffer Farm Complex (36 FR 358)

2. Location

street & number 12995 & 12755 Bain Road n/a not for publication

city or town Mercersburg (Montgomery Twp.) n/a vicinity

state Pennsylvania code PA county Franklin code 055 zip code 17236

3. 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Brent D. [Signature] 8/11/99
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or 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. State/Federal Agency 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 _____

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	
12	2	buildings
2	0	sites
3	0	structures
0	0	objects
17	2	Total

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

n/a

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

- Agriculture/processing
- Agriculture/storage
- Agriculture/fields
- Agriculture/outbuildings
- Domestic/single dwellings
- Industry/manufacturing process

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

- Agriculture/processing
- Agriculture/storage
- Agriculture/fields
- Agriculture/outbuildings
- Domestic/single dwellings
- Cultural/museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

- Other: Vernacular, German & Greek
- Revival Influence

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation limestone
- walls log, stucco, brick & weatherboard
- roof tin & steel
- other concrete

Narrative Description

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

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Rock Hill Farm

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NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION:

Rock Hill Farm is a historic agricultural and cultural landscape located one mile southwest of the cross roads village of Welsh Run in Montgomery Township, Franklin County, Pennsylvania. The nominated area includes, in addition to farmland, three dwellings, ten support buildings and three structures (a concrete silo, stone barnyard wall, and an old limekiln) on approximately 105 acres lying on both the east and west sides of Bain Road (T.R. 368). The buildings are clustered at the west end of the farm, along Welsh Run and the west side of Bain Road. The farmland extends to the east from Bain Road, being bordered by Hege Road on the north. The property includes approximately 120 acres of agricultural fields and meadows. Also the nominated area includes an archaeological site near the Davis-Chambers House, and the site of a mill which was located on the east side of Bain Road, in what is now a pasture. The farm was a single agricultural unit from 1740 to 1880 and exhibits a Pennsylvania German pattern with closely grouped domestic areas (dwellings & yards) surrounded by fields. The domestic and agricultural processing areas of the farm are concentrated along the Welsh Run stream and confined to a natural depression between a series of small limestone ridges. Three distinct domestic areas include the Davis-Chamber farmstead (settlement period, 1793 & 1875) and the Eliab Negley House (ca. 1810) east of the stream and the Joseph Negley farmstead (ca. 1840) to the west. The topography of the land is rolling with limestone studded fields and pastures separated by tree-lined fence rows and punctuated by woodlots. The Cove Mountain rises some three or four miles to the west. The historic landscape retains the physical character and the aesthetic feeling of a mid-19th century Cumberland Valley farm. This character is defined by the three building complexes which form the core of the district and the surrounding rural scene, consisting of limestone farmland, pastures, woodlots and fence rows, including boundary demarcations which extend back into the 18th century.

The Cultural Landscape

The Rock Hill Farm is located in Montgomery Township in southwestern Franklin County. Part of the fertile Cumberland Valley, the landscape was developed as an agricultural area early in the 18th century with initial settlement. The terrain is undulating with rolling hills and is characterized by limestone outcrops, often running in parallel lines as they break through the ground. Cove Mountain, part of the Tuscaroras looms to the west and south, forming the western rim of the valley. The land use is visually evident, consisting of farms, usually of 100-200 acres with rectangular fields separated by fence rows with mature trees. Woodlots, a significant part of the landscape are interspersed among the cultivated fields. The fields are generally devoted to cultivation of corn, wheat, soybeans, oats and alfalfa. Land that is particularly rocky or marshy is set aside as pasture.

Other manmade features of the landscape include farm lanes to provide access to the fields. These roads further define the pattern of the farm layout characteristic of the Cumberland Valley. Public township roads border or bisect farms and the farmsteads are oriented to these byways. The farmstead clusters typically include a farmhouse, forebay bank barn, domestic and agricultural

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outbuildings. In general the cultural landscape of the lower Cumberland Valley and southwestern Franklin County in particular took on its present appearance in the first half of the 19th century, when the settlement population, a blend of English, Scots-Irish and Welsh pioneers was replaced by a majority of German farmers whose houses and barns characterize the landscape today. The process of agriculture has evolved over time in the Cumberland Valley from an emphasis on the production and processing of small grains to dairy farming. This transition occurred in the late 19th century when large Midwestern grain farms and the roller milling process, made the Cumberland Valley's (and other eastern grain production centers) smaller scale grain farming and stone grinding process obsolete. Dairy remains the main focus of farming today.

The Rock Hill agricultural landscape includes three building clusters concentrated at the west edge of the nominated area along Welsh Run and west of Bain Road. East of the road is the farmland with its fields neatly laid out in separate rectangles, accessed by dirt lanes. Also east of Bain Road is the mill site, probably that of a grist mill with was removed early in the 20th century, and a lime kiln, located in a copse of trees along the dirt lane which provides access to the fields.

Davis Chambers Farmstead

Situated in a sheltered depression between the Welsh Run and Bain Road is the Davis-Chambers farm complex. The grouping consists of a stuccoed log and frame house, a frame forebay bank barn, a stuccoed log smoke house, a stone spring house, a frame wagon shed, privy, a concrete block garage and foundations for another outbuilding. The dwelling has architectural elements from at least three time periods. An unusual feature of the house is that it is oriented to face north while most 18th and 19th century rural dwellings face south or southeast. This northern orientation appears to be an early modification dating from the late 18th century. Built in sections, the oldest portion of the house is a two story, three bay, stucco covered log structure which measures 26 by 26 feet. A two story, two bay frame addition and a one story, two bay and frame kitchen wing with an exterior stone chimney are additions attached to the west side. All three sections were erected on limestone foundations and the north facade incorporates a double tier porch under the main roof span. This configuration reflects a circa 1875 enlargement of the house by Joseph S. Negley. The 21 by 31 foot west addition retains double hung six over six sash windows, four panel doors, hardware and interior trim from this period and is a fine example of local late 19th century construction. This section of the house was updated in 1994 and serves as a rental unit.

At least part of the log section is believed to have been built by the John David (Davis) family prior to 1793, and is constructed of v-notched logs. The log portion of the house, which faces north, has a two story, three bay facade with two windows and a door, sheltered by a two story porch. The second floor, north elevation has the same configuration. Windows have six over six pane sash within moderately wide frames. The doors in the third bay from the east wall of the house, have six raised panels on the exterior surface and tongue and grooved boards on the interior surface. These doors are suspended on long cast iron strap hinges. They open into a passageway, with rooms to the east. The

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rooms at the southwest corner of the house, at the first and second stories have been modified into a kitchen and bathroom respectively. Interior woodwork appears to date from the late 18th century and includes chairrail with bolection molding, architraves with ovalo molding, and ceilings and partitions of hand planed beaded boards. The northeast room at the first story is a parlor and has a fireplace in its east wall. The fireplace is large, but not large enough to be a kitchen fireplace, with a surround consisting of an architrave with ovalo molding, topped with a narrow molded cornice. The mantelpiece is of a type usually associated with the late 18th or early 19th century. The staircase leading to the second floor is located along the west wall of the passageway. The attic of the log section reveals that the height of the building was raised to accommodate the construction of the double porches along the north wall which involved raising the roof and broadening its span.

This log section has undergone two or three periods of renovation which appear to have occurred in the 18th century. Several features are clearly identified with pre-1780s construction, while other elements are associated with construction preferences in the 1790s and later. Elements of the flooring system in the house are consistent with eighteenth century construction in the Cumberland Valley. Particularly significant is the use of a puncheon flooring/insulation system at the first floor. This puncheon system consists of small chestnut slabs resting on seats cut into the floor joists. The upper surface of the slabs was smoothed while the lower surface was left roughly hewn. A layer of plaster was placed between the slabs and the main floor which was of oak. At the second floor level yellow pine flooring was used and it exhibits the marks of hand or pit sawing, retaining saw marks which vary in both direction and width from 2 to 4 millimeters. Pit sawn boards in the Cumberland Valley are rare because of the early use of saw mills along the fast-flowing streams, and, like the puncheon flooring system are associated with 18th (and often settlement period) construction. The parlor fireplace contains an iron stove plate with the date 1752 and a German inscription cast on its surface. The origin of this piece has not yet been determined, but it was found on the property.

The log portion of the house was extensively modified by Robert Chambers who improved the value of the property by £128 between 1791 and 1794 (Franklin Co. Tax Returns). These improvements are still evident today in the full 2 story house, the six over six double sash windows, the double molded raised six panel doors, molded trim, and the beaded boards used for walls and to cover the ceiling of the first level. Chambers also encased the exterior of the house in rough cast stucco which covered hand split, vertically hung oak lath, and re-oriented the house to face north. The Davis-Chambers house retains a high level of integrity from the 1790s period including a finely detailed fireplace mantel. In 1958, a single piece kitchen unit and a second level bath room were added in the southwest corner of the first and second stories. The log section of the house now serves as the home of the Conococheague Institute for the Study of Cultural Heritage.

Archaeological testing was conducted at Rock Hill in 1994. Investigations were conducted on the grounds around the house and outbuildings. Along the east elevation of the house archaeologists uncovered the remains of a 10 by 26 feet, two room structure. The evidence for this structure consisted of a series of nine post holes and molds exhibiting a type of earth fast construction. The

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structure rested on blocks or piers rather than on a foundation. Several post molds contained plaster, hand wrought nails and window glass, suggesting that this structure was razed during circa 1791 to 1794 renovations. This long, narrow building may have served as an earth fast, timber frame dwelling for the Davis family circa 1735 or at the least as a kitchen, auxiliary addition to the Davis-Chambers house ca. 1760 to 1790. This archaeological site has been identified by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission as PASS 36 FR 358.

Davis-Chambers house is flanked by several outbuildings including an 18th century log smokehouse, a ca. 1810 limestone milk house, a ca. 1880 frame wash house, a ca. 1900 frame out house, a ca. 1900 frame wagon shed, a ca. 1930 frame barn, with a concrete silo and a ca. 1950 concrete block garage. There is also a 12 x 13 stone foundation and chimney base, remains of a kitchen. The smoke house measures 12 by 12 feet and is covered with the same rough cast stucco as the Davis-Chambers house. Additionally, a foundation for some earlier building remains in the cellar of the 1875 addition to the log house. The landscape around the house also includes limestone paths and a 101 feet long limestone barn-yard wall added between 1790 and 1820. A mid-19th century lime kiln and mill race are located east of Bain Road while a small limestone mill was dismantled ca. 1930 and a limestone cattle tunnel which passed under Bain Road was removed in 1990. The grouping also includes a concrete block garage which is a non-contributing element in the district. All of the other components are considered to be contributing.

According to the U.S. Direct Tax of 1798 for this property, Robert Chambers was assessed for a log house 20 x 17, two stories high, with eight windows and ninety-six lights; an "additional" dwelling 22 x 20 of log, one story high with four windows and sixteen lights; one log kitchen, 13x13, a log smoke house, 12x12, and a stone barn 58x29. Only the smoke house matches dimensions of the 1798 tax, and the 12 x 13 kitchen foundation may be that of the 13 x 13 log kitchen mentioned in the tax. Since present-day buildings from the 18th century often do not match dimensions given in this tax list, the discrepancies may be the result of inaccuracies of the tax assessment, or some of the alterations to enlarge the house may have occurred after 1798.

Eliab Negley House

Situated 400-500 feet to the southwest of the Davis-Chambers house is the Eliab Negley log house. It is located along the southern boundary of the property, in a wooded area, and faces east. The house measures 26 by 20 feet, has one and one half stories with four bays and a double entry. It follows a traditional Germanic three room, flurkuchenhaus or hall-kitchen floor plan. Based on the style of construction and materials, the house was probably erected by Eliab Negley between 1810 and 1823. The east elevation has one entrance which leads into the long narrow kitchen (kuche), while a second entrance leads into the main living area (stube). Evidence for an inside gable end chimney on the north elevation is still visible in the kitchen. The house also has a third room (kammer) on the first floor behind the stube. The second level loft is accessed from the kitchen by an enclosed L-shaped staircase. The loft was divided into two rooms and used as the sleeping quarters. The interior

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of the house retains molded door and window treatments, wainscoting, chairrail, base boards and beaded wall boards, along with a single six panel door. No original windows or sashes remain. A cellar is located under the southern half of the house and a long, lean-to kitchen of log construction was added to the west elevation circa 1860. The Negley house has not been occupied since 1950 and is currently being stabilized by a group of local volunteers for the Conococheague Institute. The lean-to kitchen was removed in April 1996 for structural reasons.

Joseph Negley Farmstead

The Joseph Negley farmstead is located in a separate complex about 600 feet northwest of the Davis Chambers House. It is on the opposite side of Welsh Run and the buildings face east. The house is a two and one half story, four bay, double pile building with a two story, two bay and single pile kitchen ell. Both the house and the ell are constructed of brick on limestone foundations. The roofing material is steel, painted green. The front elevation exhibits a Flemish-bond brick pattern, and a Greek Revival style eight panel door. Windows have six over six double hung sash, and chimneys are located inside the gable ends. The house is built into a slope, creating an exposed cellar wall at the front (east) elevation. A Colonial Revival style across-the-front porch, dating from ca. 1900 has replaced the original porch configuration. It has brick pilasters on the ground level and square columns on the main level, and appears to follow the general form and size of the original porch. Along the south elevation of the rear extension is an inset double porch supported by turned posts with a decorative balustrade. The first story level has been infilled with brick veneer. The interior of the front part of the house contains four rooms at the first story level. The house appears to have been built by Eliab Negley's son Joseph between 1836 and 1850, and received some modifications in the 1900-1910 period.

The house is landscaped with a large lawn bordered with a post and rail fence. North of the house are four frame outbuildings, sheathed with horizontal wooden siding. These include a 12 by 15 feet, mid-19th century smokehouse, ca. 1900 frame wagon shed, a second large shed, all of which are contribute to the character of the district. A garage with concrete block walls, heavy frame construction and a gambrel roof does not contribute.

Farm Landscape

The farmed acreage east of Bain Road, consists of the remaining parcel of farmland historically attached to the property. It is essentially a rectangular piece running east to west with Hege Road as its north boundary. This has been the historic northern boundary of the property since the mid 18th century. Likewise, the southern boundary, which is marked by an old fencerow, has been consistent since the mid 18th century. Within this rectangular piece, are neatly defined rectangular fields demarcated with old fencerows, many marked by mature tree growth. Another feature of the landscape are limestone rockbreaks which interrupt the pattern of cultivation in the fields. These rockbreaks are accompanied by growth of brush and trees where farming does not take

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place. The rectangular expanse of farmland is bisected by a dirt road which extends eastwardly from Bain Road to the eastern edge of the property, providing access to each of the fields. The field patterns and demarcations are clearly evident in an aerial photograph. The field closest to the barn and to Bain Road is used for pasture while the others are cultivated. Except for normal crop rotation, the land use remains unchanged since the 19th century. The eastern boundary has been consistent at least since 1879. The historic western boundary for the Rock Hill parcel was the Welsh Run. This enclosed 146 acres sold by Joseph S. Negley to Elizabeth Brewer in 1879, less a few acres sold of along Bain Road. The nominated area also includes the Joseph Negley complex on their current parcel of 7.024 acres, so that all buildings associated with the 19th century development of the property are included. The total nominated acreage is 149.84 acres. An additional 99 acres was historically associated with the Joseph Negley farmstead, but this parcel is now part of a large corporate farm and is cultivated as one large field. Thus it has lost integrity because it does not retain its historic pattern of 20-30 acre fields and field demarcations.

Conclusion

Overall, the historic district retains historic and architectural integrity. The three sets of buildings include only two garages which do not contribute to the historic character of the property. In addition to the buildings which are concentrated at the western side of the district, is the landscape which displays its traditional agricultural function developed to its present form in the 19th century, including fencerows, field patterns, road networks, woodlots and natural features such as undulations, rockbreaks and streams. The buildings and grounds are in excellent condition.

Resource Count

Davis-Chambers Complex:

- 7 contributing buildings (house, smokehouse, milkhouse, wash house, privy, wagon shed, barn).
- 3 contributing structures (silo, stone wall, limekiln).
- 2 sites (archeological site of building east of existing house, and mill site)
- 1 non-contributing building (garage)

Eliab Negley House:

- 1 contributing building

Joseph Negley Farmstead:

- 4 contributing buildings (house, smokehouse, wagon shed, frame shed)
- 1 non-contributing building (garage)

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 pattern of our history.
- B** Property 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 as 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Agriculture
- Architecture
- Archaeology/historic-nonaboriginal
- _____
- _____
- _____

Period of Significance

ca. 1735 to 1948

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:

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NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Summary

Rock Hill Farm is an excellent example of a Cumberland Valley farm complex which has evolved from initial settlement in the mid 18th century through the mid 20th century. This two century span is the property's period of significance. The farm had taken on most of its character defining features by the third quarter of the 19th century and most of those survive today, along with remnants of earlier occupation and later 19th century and early 20th century modernizations which kept the farm a viable operation. The property therefore meets National Register Criterion A for its contribution to an understanding of agricultural history of the lower Cumberland Valley, and Criterion C for the group of buildings reflecting regional architectural expression from the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries. The farm also meets Criterion D because of the presence of archeological features that document 18th century patterns of habitation on the property during the initial settlement period in the early to mid 18th century. The landscape and buildings reflect the evolutionary changes in regional agriculture from the 18th century through the mid 20th century. The district also reflects usages by the three cultural groups which have occupied the property. The farm district as a unit retains a high level of visual integrity, with rare surviving architectural and archaeological material from the 18th century.

Historical Background

The district is part of the southern section of an 889 acre tract was settled by John David and surveyed in 1736 (PA Survey Bk. 11: 213). John David, or Davis, was part of a Welsh community in the area from 1733 through 1740, as a dozen families settled near springs among limestone ridges in an area termed by 18th century settlers as the "barrens." Early maps of the region from the 18th century refer to the Cumberland Valley as "wasteland" or "barrens." Presumably this was because the valley had expanses of open grassland and rock outcrops and was considered by early settlers to be infertile.

John David subdivided the original property by 1744 among his four sons including a 178 acre and 111 perches tract to Daniel Davis (PA Survey Bk. 11: 215). During Daniel's and his brother Samuel Davis's tenure a portion of the main block of the Davis-Chambers house and possibly the log smokehouse were erected. Samuel Davis sold this tract to Robert Chambers in 1793, who apparently had occupied the property since 1791 (Franklin Co. Deed Bk. 3: 72) with an additional 46 acres to the east. Chambers was part of a larger English/Scots-Irish Presbyterian settlement which moved into the Welsh Run area between 1770 to 1800. Chambers apparently enlarged and improved the main house during his occupation of the property. Robert Chambers then sold the property to David Martin in 1802, who conveyed it to Eliab Negley in 1806 (Franklin Co. Deed Bk. 9: 89). The farm remained in the Negley family until 1879, passing from Eliab to Joseph Negley in 1834 and to Joseph S. Negley in 1858. Both the Martin and the Negley families were part of the German Baptist Brethren movement

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into the Welsh Run area from 1770 to 1820. Eventually the Negleys purchased and developed several of the neighboring farms. They owned lands extending three miles westward to the village of Claylick which Eliab's son Jacob Negley established in 1831 (McCauley 1878).

In April of 1879, Joseph S. Negley sold Rock Hill farm containing 146 acres to Elizabeth Brewer (Deed Book 67, Page 156). The property descended through the Brewer/Craig/Stauffer families to the present. Elizabeth Brewer was the great grandmother of the present owner. The acreage currently nominated includes the 146 acres acquired by Elizabeth Brewer, less several small out conveyances along Bain Road, and the Joseph Negley complex of buildings, acquired by the Brewers in a separate transaction.

Resource Justification**Criterion A**

The buildings, structures and landscape of Rock Hill Farm meet National Register Criterion A as an excellent example of the development and adaptation of farming in the lower Cumberland Valley. The Davis, Chambers and Negley families used and modified the landscape at Rock Hill to meet the changes and challenges of local agriculture. The selection of limestone land along the stream provided a water source, good crop land and ample wood and stone for building material, as well as clay for brick making. The Davis family who owned this property from initial settlement in the frontier period to 1793, took part in the first European habitation of the land and eventually in production of wheat and rye which was processed into flour and meal, or distilled into liquor all of which were major exports from the Cumberland Valley in the 18th century. A small grain mill was located on the property on the east side of Bain Road, opposite the Davis-Chambers House. Unfortunately, little is known about the mill, except that it was dismantled in the early 20th century, during the time that many grain mills in the Cumberland valley ceased operation, due to strong mid-western competition. The mill was one of many such processing facilities in the lower Cumberland Valley. The Davis family eventually moved west, like many of the early settlers, investing in larger tracts of land beyond the Appalachian Mountains. The time of their departure in the 1790s coincides with the opening of the old northwest in Ohio territory for settlement.

Historically the economy of the Cumberland Valley and Franklin County depended upon agriculture. Agricultural production in Franklin County supported local crafts, industries, transportation and at least 90 grist and flour mills by 1850. The lower section of the Cumberland Valley also prospered through its proximity to important transportation routes to Philadelphia and Baltimore. By the 1830s, railroads were hauling flour and grain to these commercial centers. During the period of economic and agricultural growth and stabilization from the end of the French and Indian War through the end of the 18th century, Robert Chambers acquired and was able to enlarge and substantially rebuild the Davis-Chambers house.

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While agriculture remained the major industry in the Cumberland Valley during the 19th century, the nature of farming experienced several changes. Pennsylvania Germans became the majority of farmers and farm labor as the successful Anglo-American farmers moved into towns or westward. The Negleys, a German family, also modified Rock Hill but exemplified a different model of agricultural success. These Pennsylvania German sectarians developed cooperative farmsteads in which extended families provided the labor for contiguous farms. At Rock Hill, this meant building housing so several generations could cohabit the farm, following a traditional pattern among German Brethren and Mennonites where the eldest son is given the home farm, and the parents retired to a smaller house on the farm for their elder years. Improvements in farm equipment, development of grain farming in the West and national transportation eventually lead to a change in local agriculture, with a gradual shift to orchards and dairy farming. In 1879, Joseph S. Negley moved his family to Iowa to continue grain farming, selling the farm to Elizabeth Brewer. It was under Brewer ownership that the farm was converted to dairy. The Brewers owned several adjoining properties, and for a time, Rock Hill was leased out.

Later generations have made few changes to the property which still is used for dairy farming. The post-1880 barn, wagon sheds and secondary buildings also contribute to the agricultural heritage of the property, illustrating the evolution of farming in Franklin County. Rock Hill conveys both the importance of agriculture to the growth and development of the Cumberland Valley and the varied traditions and social values employed by the families who occupied the property. The farm illustrates the evolutionary nature of the agricultural and architectural history of the Cumberland Valley and the process by which cultural resources were integrated into the landscape.

Criterion C

The Rock Hill Farm meets the National Register Criterion C for its array of architectural components representing cultural traditions in three centuries. Rock Hill includes buildings from three successive generations of the Negley family from 1810 to 1880, and prior to that from the occupation of the Chambers family preceded by the Davis ownership. The Davis-Chambers house meets National Register Criterion C because it possesses rare elements of 18th century construction. The puncheon flooring is an 18th century insulation system which was used in the lower Cumberland Valley, although few examples survive. Those that do remain date from the 1780s or earlier. Thus the rare remaining puncheon insulation system in the Rock Hill farmhouse provides information about colonial period or early regional housing characteristics. Few pre-French and Indian War buildings survive in the lower Cumberland Valley and those that do have either had most of their original elements altered or replaced. During the French and Indian War, many settlers on the frontier fled to the east and their habitations were destroyed. The early housing dating from prior to the French and Indian War was for the most part initial and temporary in nature and was replaced by more formidable buildings and settlement progressed and prosperity increased. The substantial modifications made to the Davis house by Robert Chambers reflect broader changes from the frontier settlement period to the Georgian-influenced period of 1780 to 1800. These changes included general shifts from organic, natural needs

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to more social and economic concerns in construction. This social, economic shift is apparent in the changes Robert Chambers enacted at Rock Hill. Chambers modified the earlier house to create a side passage and double parlor following a formal Georgian-influenced plan. This prosperous English/Scots-Irish farmer refined the exterior of the log construction through the use of stucco and an interior beaded board ceiling on the main level. Particularly noteworthy are the raised panel doors with double molded panels, long interior strap hinges and the beaded board interior partitions. The main block of the Davis-Chambers house, through these 1790s refinements also illustrates the stability and prosperity that came to many farmers in the Cumberland Valley during the late 18th century.

The Eliab Negley house is an excellent example of the modified flurkuchenhaus dwellings erected in the Cumberland Valley from ca. 1770 through the 1860s. The house represents the changing population of Welsh Run and the surrounding area after 1800 with an increase of Pennsylvania Germans from southeastern Pennsylvania. The brick house that Joseph Negley built reflects hybrid elements incorporated into regional vernacular houses from 1830 to 1860. These Germanic elements include a four bay facade, a four room interior plan and a banked cellar. The German influence in Franklin County has produced many houses from the 19th century with four bay facades, with either an off center front door or two side by side front doors in the two central bays. These houses are often built into slopes with a raised basement wall at the front. Thus, the Joseph Negley brick house reflects the prevailing pattern of vernacular domestic architecture in the mid 19th century in Franklin County.

Joseph S. Negley (Joseph Negley's son) represented the third generation of occupation by his family and again modified the Davis-Chambers house. To the north facade, he added the double tier entry porch, replaced the rough cast stucco with a smooth coat of plaster and incorporated the main block, the addition and the porches under a single roof line, to unify the appearance of the facade. In Franklin County, Pennsylvania and adjoining Washington County, Maryland many 19th century Brethren and Mennonite congregations can be identified by farms with a similar pattern of traditional, hybrid and conservative house forms.

Criterion D

The farm includes archaeological deposits which also support its inclusion on the National Register. An archeological investigation was conducted on the property in 1994. The discovery of post hole outlines for an earth fast building as part of that investigation has provided new insight into the construction techniques utilized during the initial settlement of the Valley. The first comprehensive research on this type of construction was Cary Carson's "Impermanent Architecture in the Southern American Colonies" (et. al. 1981). At that time over 150 such structures had been unearthed in the Tidewater region of the Chesapeake Bay and were common in the 17th century. Carson theorized that this type of construction was utilized in tobacco growing areas due to labor constraints and declined in the early 18th century as grain agriculture became more prevalent. This type of construction was also prevalent among immigrants from western England. Although earth fast

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construction is exceedingly rare outside of the Tidewater region, historical records suggest that a few were erected during the frontier period in the Cumberland Valley. Temporary or 'Sorry' houses were listed on Jonathan Hager's 1728 deed and seven (10%) of the 68 tenement dwellings recorded on the Conococheague Manor (in Washington County, Maryland) in 1768 were listed as frame. Tentative genealogical research indicated that the Davis family emigrated from the border region between Wales and England. The find at Rock Hill contributes to the body of knowledge about the time period and locations where this type of construction was used. It has been identified as PASS 36 FR 358.

The archeological remains contain intact artifact concentrations reflecting a unique structure and artifact patterning that may furnish significant information regarding early Euro-American settlement in the Cumberland Valley by a cultural group not frequently seen in this region of Pennsylvania. Furthermore, the unique topographic setting (the barrens) provides an excellent opportunity for comparative study of similar adaptations to this environment by other cultural groups.

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Chappell, Edward. "Acculturation in the Shenandoah Valley: Rhenish Houses of the Massanutten Settlement." Common Places University of Georgia Press, 1986.

Carson, Cary, Norm F. Barka, William M. Kelso, Gary Wheeler Stone & Dell Upton. "Impermanent Architecture in the Southern American Colonies." Winterthur Portfolio Vol. 16 no. 2/3: 135-196, 1981.

Fletcher, Stevenson. Pennsylvania Agriculture and Country Life. Vol. 1. Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, Harrisburg, 1955.

Franklin County Deed Book 3: 72	grantee Robert Chambers
Franklin County Deed Book 9: 89	grantee Eliab Negley
Franklin County Deed Book 1096: 331	grantees Charles and Patricia Swisher
Franklin County Deed Book 1133: 580	grantee John Craig Stauffer

Glassie, Henry. "Eighteenth-Century Cultural Process in Delaware Valley Folk Building." Winterthur Portfolio Vol 7: 29-57. 1972.

M'Cauley, I. M. Historical Sketches of Franklin County, Pennsylvania. John M. Pomeroy, Chambersburg, PA, 1878.

Nevin, Alfred. Churches of the Valley: An Historical Sketch of the Old Presbyterian Congregations of Cumberland and Franklin Counties, PA. Joseph M. Wilson, Philadelphia, 1852.

Pennsylvania Survey Book B11: 213 survey John Davy Richards (John David)
Pennsylvania Survey Book B11: 215 survey Heirs & Brothers of David Davis

Rupp, I. Daniel. The History and Topography of Dauphin, Cumberland, Franklin, Bedford, Adams and Perry Counties. Gilbert Hills Proprietor & Publisher, Lancaster City, PA, 1846.

Sheppard, William J., Historical Archaeologist, Historical Research and Archaeological Investigation, Rock Hill Farm, 1994-1996.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 149.84 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	1 8	2 5 4 1 2 0	4 4 0 4 1 4 0	3	1 8	2 5 4 7 4 0	4 4 0 2 8 6 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	1 8	2 5 4 8 2 0	4 4 0 3 4 4 0	4	1 8	2 5 3 6 0 0	4 4 0 3 6 2 0

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 Paula S. Reed, PhD
 organization Paula S. Reed and Associates, Inc. date Revised 3/98
 street & number 105 N. Potomac Street telephone 301-739-2070
 city or town Hagerstown state MD zip code 21740

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 Dr. John Stauffer / Kenneth & Patricia Swisher (see continuation sheet)
 street & number 213 Barnard Way / 12744 Bain Road telephone 805-643-2940
 city or town Ventura / Mercersburg state CA / PA zip code 93001\17236

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 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Park Service

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The Rock Hill Farm District consists of two contiguous tracts of land; the Stauffer Tract No. 1 recorded on December 3, 1991 in Franklin County Deed Book 1133 on pages 580 and 581, and the Swisher Tract No. 1 recorded on October 5, 1990 in Franklin County Deed Book 1096 on pages 331 and 332. The properties are depicted on Franklin County Tax Map 17-0J23, parcels 5, 7, 68, 70 and 2A.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The boundary encompasses all of the buildings and structural elements from the Negley family occupation of the Rock Hill Farm. Stauffer Tract No. 1 represents nearly 143 acres of the 146 which comprised Rock Hill Farm as purchased from the Negleys by Elizabeth Brewer in 1879. Acreage not included consists of three privately owned lots extending north of Rock Hill along Bain Road (T.R 368). These lots include the ca. 1890 limestone Rock Hill school which has been modified into a single dwelling, a limestone ranch style house and an early 20th century farmhouse. With the inclusion of the Swisher Tract No. 1, containing about seven acres, the District contains the building complexes owned successively by Robert Chambers, David Martin, Eliab Negley and Joseph Negley. The remainder of the Joseph Negley farm land has not been included because it has lost integrity. Although it is still farmed, this land has lost its historic field patterns and demarcations.

PROPERTY OWNERS: (CONTINUED)

Arlin Eby
8005 Hege Road
Greencastle, PA 17225

Conococheague Institute for the Study of Cultural Heritage
C/o Debra Daugherty
10352 Welsh Run Road
Greencastle, PA 17225

