

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 process, or computer, to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Fairfield Historic District  
other names N/A

### 2. Location

street & number Roughly bounded by Landis Drive, Steelman St. Wortz Dr. & NW border of Fairfield Borough N/A  not for publication  
city or town Fairfield Borough N/A  vicinity  
state Pennsylvania Code PA county Adams code 001 zip code 17320

### 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. Glass 4/11/2000  
Signature of certifying office/Title Date

Brent D. Glass, Exec. Director, PA Historical & Museum Commission  
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 office/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

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Fairfield Historic District  
Name of Property

Adams County, Pennsylvania  
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	
117	46	buildings
1		sites
2		structures
		objects
120	46	Total

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

Adams County, PA Properties Associated with the Battle  
of Gettysburg, July 1-3, 1863

**number of contributing resource previously  
listed in the National Register**

0

### 6. Function of Use

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/village site  
Domestic/single dwelling  
Commerce/restaurant  
Agriculture/animal facility  
Religion/church  
Education/school house  
Defense/military facility

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling  
Commerce/restaurant  
Agriculture/animal facility

### 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Mid-19<sup>th</sup> century/ Greek Revival  
Late Victorian/Italianate  
Late Victorian/Gothic

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone  
walls Brick, stone, weatherboard, aluminum  
Synthetics.  
roof Metal, asphalt, slate.  
other

### 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 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.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

**Area of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
Military

**Period of Significance**

1797-1950

**Significant Dates**

1863

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

Fairfield Historic District  
Name of Property

Adams County, PA  
County and State

## 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 files (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: \_\_\_\_\_

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 169.5 acres

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	1 7 8 Zone	2 9 6 7 0 1 0 Easting	4 4 0 8 0 1 2 0 Northing	3	1 1 8 Zone	2 9 1 7 5 6 1 0 Easting	4 4 0 8 0 1 8 0 Northing
2	1 8 Zone	2 9 7 6 8 0 Easting	4 4 0 6 9 8 1 0 Northing	4	1 1 8 Zone	2 9 6 7 0 1 0 Easting	4 4 0 6 2 1 8 1 0 Northing

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, Architectural Historian and Edith Wallace

organization Paula S. Reed and Associates, Inc.

Date 9/98, Rev. 6/99; 12/99

street & number 105 N. Potomac Street

telephone 301-739-2070

city or town Hagerstown

state Maryland

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

Fairfield Historic District

Name of Property

Adams County, Pennsylvania

County and State

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 \_\_\_\_\_

street & number \_\_\_\_\_

telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_

state \_\_\_\_\_

zip code \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Paperwork Reduction 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.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Fairfield Historic District  
Adams County, PA

Section 7 Page 1

---

### Physical Description:

The Fairfield Historic District is located on State Route 116 in southeastern Adams County. Nestled at the base of Jacks Mountain, part of the Blue Ridge, South Mountain range, Fairfield sits on the edge of a fertile limestone valley where apple orchards and fields of wheat and corn continue to dominate the landscape. The Daniel Musselman Farm, comprising the northeast corner of the proposed historic district, maintains this agricultural context as an operating farm. Middle Creek runs through the pasture fields of the Musselman farm, where a Confederate hospital was located in 1863, and is crossed by State Route 116 approaching Fairfield from the east. The Landis Farm forming part of the northern boundary of the Fairfield Historic District, further emphasizes the rural character of the district. Both farms are included within the current boundaries of the Fairfield Borough. The town of Fairfield is laid out in a main street/cross street pattern, each block being one lot deep, terminating along the back alleys. The historic boundaries of Fairfield as defined by the 1872 Atlas of Adams County, constitutes much of the proposed historic district. Additional development along York St. (now Main St.) in the last quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century extends northeast to the nearby Musselman Farm, all of which is also included within the Fairfield Historic District. The district includes 117 contributing buildings, 1 contributing site (Confederate hospital) and 2 contributing structures (silos). Of the 166 buildings, site and structures counted within the proposed Fairfield Historic District, less than one third, 46 buildings, are listed as non-contributing to the historic landscape. Out of the 46 non-contributing buildings, only 12 are dwellings or commercial structures, and only 9 of these modern intrusions front onto Main Street. The remaining 32 non-contributing buildings are listed as sheds or garages which are primarily located to the rear of the historic buildings and lots.

As Fairfield grew to the east along York St., throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century, gable-front and asymmetrical late Victorian styles become more numerous. On the northeast end of town, outside of historic town boundaries but within the proposed historic district, is the Daniel Musselman Farm (1858 and 1872 maps), the large Greek Revival house and stone/frame barn complex continues as an operating farm today. As Fairfield moved into the 20<sup>th</sup> century, new construction occurred on original town lots, either as infill or following demolition of older buildings. These buildings are located in somewhat isolated pockets throughout the town. Concentrations of later 20<sup>th</sup> century

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Fairfield Historic District  
Adams County, PA

Section 7 Page 2

---

construction are located behind the original back alleys, and therefore do not intrude on the historic district boundaries.

This documentation of the Fairfield Historic District covers the buildings within the historic boundaries of the town of Fairfield, found on the 1872 Atlas Map. Fairfield is centered historically on the 1797 stone manor house and farm of John Miller, and the nearby buildings, mostly log or brick, with some stone construction. They date from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century to the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, in the Greek Revival style, many with later Italianate and Gothic decorative elements added. Many of the brick buildings retain their original brick exterior enhancing the historic appearance of the streetscape. While much of the original weatherboard has been replaced with aluminum or vinyl siding, the decorative elements remain, again retaining much of the historic character. The district is expanded east and west by several lots beyond the 1872 boundary to include the late 19<sup>th</sup> century Victorian period brick and frame buildings which contribute to the overall character of the district. The few buildings which have been added within the historic town boundaries since the 1872 map was recorded include: a 1920s frame garage with pressed metal siding, which is relatively unaltered and currently used as an antique shop; a brick foursquare house at the center of town; a 1970s facade bank building; a new brick post office; a 1960s one story supermarket building and companion launderette. Each of the more modern intrusions is isolated from the others, making their impact on the historic landscape of Fairfield much less intrusive. Other potentially intrusive modern additions, garages, and sheds are generally relegated to the rear of the historic properties, so that the historic streetscape remains relatively intact.

The 1830s brick farmhouse located just north of Fairfield on Miller Rd., shown on the 1872 Map as that of H.M. Landis, which remains in the Landis family and includes the 1797 William Miller barn, is also included within the district boundaries. The farm adjoining the town of Fairfield on the northeast corner forms the northwest boundary of the Fairfield Historic District. This 1830s Greek Revival house, stone barn, and outbuildings, now known as the Village Farm, was listed as the Daniel Musselman farm on the 1858 Map of Adams County. The 1863 Sanitary Commission indicated the northeast field of the Musselman farm to have been used as a hospital site by Confederate troops under the name of "Johnson's Division." The modern field, used as pasture land, is crossed by Middle Creek, roughly north-south, and is bordered on the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Fairfield Historic District  
Adams County, PA

Section 7 Page 3

---

south by State Route 116, and on the east by properties facing onto Carroll Tract Road.

In addressing the issue of the integrity of the historic landscape of Fairfield within the context of the 1863 Civil War battle of Gettysburg, the question must be asked, would a Civil War soldier recognize the town if he walked through today? The approach to Fairfield, on Route 116 from the east, beginning at the boundary line of the proposed Fairfield Historic District, presents a landscape very similar to that viewed by the Confederate Army as they made their retreat along this route in 1863. The open field of the historic Musselman farm, where the Confederate hospital was located remains free of modern intrusions. The character of the town of Fairfield continues to be that of a thriving rural village, primarily residential, with commercial establishments spread independently along the length of the main street. Despite the later 19<sup>th</sup> century and 20<sup>th</sup> century development within the town, many of the key buildings remain from the 1863 Confederate occupation of Fairfield. These key buildings tend to be in the center of the town. Specific buildings include, the Fairfield Inn which operated as an inn in 1863, the neighboring stone store building, now a realtor's office but relatively unchanged in appearance, and the Lutheran and Roman Catholic churches, physically changed but in their historic locations. These resources maintain the continuity of the historic streetscape. The dwellings of Mrs. Blythe (18 E. Main St.) and R.C. Swope (10 W. Main St.), where wounded Union officers were cared for, would present a familiar landscape to a returning soldier, as would the numerous Greek Revival and early Italianate style dwellings located along the length of Main St.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Fairfield Historic District  
Adams County, PA

Section 8 Page 1

---

### Statement of Significance:

The Fairfield Historic District is part of the multiple property document entitled "Adams County Properties Associated with the Battle of Gettysburg, July 1-3, 1863." The proposed district meets the registration requirements for Routes of March, Hospital Sites and Logistical Support and Staging Areas property types as described in the MPDF. The District is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A for Military History and Criterion C for Architecture. It is significant under Criterion A as the property type Routes of March, as one of the main Confederate routes of retreat following the Battle of Gettysburg, July 1863. The District is also significant under Criterion A as the property type Hospital Sites. Several homes in the proposed district were used as hospitals following the July 3<sup>rd</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> U. S. Cavalry skirmish, and the fields of the Daniel Musselman Farm (1858 Map) within the district served as the field hospital for Johnson's Division of the Confederate Army throughout the three-day Battle of Gettysburg. The Fairfield Historic District is significant under Criterion C for Architecture, as a significant concentration of residential, social, and commercial buildings associated with the local and rural population of the Borough of Fairfield and surrounding Hamiltonban Township through the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, 19<sup>th</sup> century, and the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The collection of buildings in Fairfield retains integrity of design, location, setting, workmanship, feeling and association, and reflects the appearance of the place in the early summer of 1863. The buildings are part of a cohesive whole that has association with the Battle of Gettysburg. The period of significance begins with the 1797 date of the district's earliest building, the John Miller house. Although the district contains buildings dating from after 1863, they are important to the development of Fairfield and are considered to be contributing to the architectural significance of the district although they were not present at the time of the battle. While some loss of integrity is inevitable and has occurred, the setting, natural and man-made features retain recognizable 1863 configurations. Portions of Fairfield have been recorded previously in the Adams County Historic Sites Survey.

### Historical Context:

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Fairfield Historic District  
Adams County, PA

Section   8   Page   2  

---

In 1755, John Miller, an Irish settler from Delaware, purchased a 247-acre tract of land from Charles Carroll of Maryland. Miller's land was within a larger tract called "Carroll's Delight", part of the disputed territory between Pennsylvania and Maryland. The disputed tract eventually fell within Pennsylvania following the 1767 Mason-Dixon survey.<sup>1</sup>

John Miller built his stone manor house fronting directly on what was then known as the 'Hagerstown Road,' now known as State Route 116. The rich limestone farm land and streams made this area of the county attractive to early settlers, many of whom established a variety of mills, however the major markets were across the nearby South Mountain range. The well-traveled 'Hagerstown Road' was established in 1748 as a route to the markets of Baltimore and Hagerstown through Nicholson's Gap. By 1784, Miller had laid out lots along this road, with his own manor house at the center, and began selling town lots in "Fairfield", as many as 16 having been sold by the time of his death in 1794. His son, William Miller, also known as Squire Miller, continued selling town lots in what was then being called Millerstown. The post office was established in 1798, however the name was changed back to Fairfield due to the prior existence of another Millerstown in Pennsylvania.<sup>2</sup>

Squire Miller must have been faced with property disputes in his little village. In 1801 he had the town officially surveyed "to correct inaccuracies and to secure the privileges of waters, streets, and alleys for the benefit of the inhabitants."<sup>3</sup> This agreement established lots 60 ft. wide and 200 ft. in length, with Miller's manor house listed as #1 at the center of town. The town up to this point was settled almost exclusively by Irish and Scottish immigrants, as shown in a transcribed 1801 map of

---

<sup>1</sup>Robert L. Bloom, A History of Adams County, Pennsylvania 1700-1990, Gettysburg, PA: Adams Co. Historical Society, 1992, pp.10, 48.

<sup>2</sup>Bloom, pp.32, 48.

<sup>3</sup>Adams Co. Historical Society News Letter, article "Pennsylvania 300: Fairfield", Feb. 1982, Vol. 9, Number 2, Gettysburg, PA: Adams Co. Historical Society, p. 3.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Fairfield Historic District  
Adams County, PA

Section   8   Page   3  

---

Fairfield establishing the streets and alleys, and the current lot ownerships.<sup>4</sup>

The town of Fairfield's economy, through the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, was dependent on farms and mills. The next surge of growth came with the establishment of the Maria Iron Furnace in 1822, a short distance north-west of Fairfield, along the base of South Mountain, by Thaddeus Stevens and James D. Paxton.<sup>5</sup> The following year, in 1823, the Miller manor house was converted to a tavern and inn by Squire Miller's niece, Mary Wilson. The Maria Furnace was short-lived, closing in 1836, but it had provided the small town with enough growth to establish two churches, the Methodist and the Reformed, which had been built by 1827. In Daniel Rupp's 1846 history of Adams Co., Fairfield is described as having "50 dwellings, several stores and taverns, 2 churches, a school house, and a number of mechanics' shops."<sup>6</sup> Clearly, Fairfield had by this time established itself as the center for social and commercial activity for the surrounding agricultural district.

In the decade preceding the outbreak of the Civil War, Fairfield, located on one of the main routes west across the mountains, continued to thrive as a small town, providing the necessary goods and services required to support the rural population around it. The 1858 Map of Adams Co. indicates there were 4 churches, a school house, a shoe store, a confectionery, 2 general stores, a tailor shop, 2 tanneries, 3 blacksmiths, and the Mansion House Tavern. Fairfield's bountiful stores, workshops and surrounding farms, and more importantly, its location on the Hagerstown Road, would determine the small town's role in the Civil War.

Immediately following the failed Maryland Campaign of 1862, General J.E.B. Stuart's cavalry raided the town of Fairfield, and the nearby farms, collecting horses, provisions, and even a few prisoners, before they quickly returned to Virginia.<sup>7</sup> One story recounted in local

---

<sup>4</sup>From Fairfield hanging file, Adams Co. Historical Society, Gettysburg, PA.

<sup>5</sup>Bloom, p. 104.

<sup>6</sup>A.C.H.S. News Letter, p. 3.

<sup>7</sup>Bloom, p.193.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Fairfield Historic District  
Adams County, PA

Section 8 Page 4

---

newspapers, tells of Stuart's October, 1862 raid: Stuart's cavalymen appropriated the horses of Fairfield churchgoers as they attended services. When they came out of church they found to their surprise that their horses were gone and that all that was left at the hitching rails and posts were empty buggies.<sup>8</sup> This run-in with Stuart's cavalry would not be the last the people of Fairfield would see of Lee's Confederate Army.

Less than a year later, in the summer of 1863, the Confederate Army approached Gettysburg from the southwest and west, along the routes which passed through Fairfield and Cashtown. The town of Fairfield, with a population of only 218, was occupied by Confederate forces; again the rich farms around Fairfield became a source of resupply for the Confederates. The cavalry brigades of Gen. Jones and Gen. Robertson were at Cashtown, about four miles to the north, protecting the rear of Lee's army at Gettysburg. On July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1863, the 6<sup>th</sup> U.S. Cavalry was sent to Fairfield on the Hagerstown Road to intercept a Confederate supply train reported to be in the area, on the Cashtown road near Orrtanna just north of Fairfield. The Union cavalry, already 10 miles behind enemy lines and without reinforcements, were soundly defeated by the Virginia Cavalry sent from Cashtown to protect the supply train.<sup>9</sup> The Union defeat left this all important route, which led directly from the Gettysburg battlefield, through Fairfield and Nicholson's Gap, to Maryland, in the hands of the Confederate army. Numerous wounded Union officers and men from the 6<sup>th</sup> U.S. Cavalry were brought to homes and churches for the people of Fairfield to care for. Wounded Confederate soldiers were brought out to Fairfield throughout the three-day Gettysburg battle. The 1863 Sanitary Commission Map of the Gettysburg area shows a Confederate field hospital, marked "Johnson's Division," located on the northeast edge of town on the Daniel Musselman farm. On July 6<sup>th</sup>, when the pursuing Union army passed

---

<sup>8</sup>This incident was related in comments from Kathy G. Harrison, Historian, Gettysburg National Military Park, August, 1998.

<sup>9</sup>Report of Brig. Gen. W.E. Jones C.S.A., War of the Rebellion Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. Series I, Vol. 27, part II, (Washington D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1889), p. 752.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Fairfield Historic District  
Adams County, PA

Section 8 Page 5

---

through town on the Hagerstown Road, they found 871 Confederate wounded left in the buildings and fields of Fairfield.<sup>10</sup>

Two historic markers in Fairfield today indicate buildings used for the care of wounded soldiers. The first at the "McKesson House" (Mrs. Bly on the 1872 Map), the second on the R.C. Swope House (1872 Map), across the street from the Fairfield Inn (the Mansion House). Both describe the care of wounded Union officers following the Cavalry skirmish of July 3, 1863.

Following the battle at Gettysburg, on the evening of July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1863, Fairfield, because of its location on the Hagerstown Road, became the collection point for the retreat of the Confederate army. Maj. Gen. Jubal Early's cavalry division served as the rear guard, charged with protecting the army's slow retreat heavily laden with wagons full of pilfered provisions.

The report of Maj. Gen. Jubal Early says, "...The whole force having gotten on the road [to Fairfield] in front of me, I moved on slowly in the rear, Gordon's brigade bringing up my rear, followed by White's cavalry battalion, and on arriving in view of Fairfield...I found the wagon trains in front blocked up...I was preparing to fire a blank cartridge or two for the purpose of quickening their pace, when the advance of the enemy appeared on a hill in my rear, and it became necessary to open on him with shell; and a battery having been brought up by the enemy, and replying to my fire, the trains soon cleared the road. One of Gordon's regiments was deployed as skirmishers to hold the enemy in check, which it did effectually, driving back his advance, and my division was gradually moved forward beyond Fairfield..."<sup>11</sup>

---

<sup>10</sup>Gregory A. Coco, A Vast Sea of Misery, Gettysburg, PA: Thomas Publications, 1988, p.156-158.

<sup>11</sup>O.R., Vol. 27, part II, p. 471.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Fairfield Historic District  
Adams County, PA

Section 8 Page 6

---

They were closely followed by the U.S. Sixth Army Corps under the command of Maj. Gen. John Sedgwick, and supported by several batteries.

According to the report of Brig. Gen. Alfred T.A. Torbert, First Brigade, Sixth U.S. Army Corps, "July 5.- ...started about 11 a.m. to follow the rear of the rebel army; marching in line of battle about 6 miles, covered by a heavy line of skirmishers, came up with their rear guard about 2 miles from Fairfield, and had a sharp skirmish. About 5 p.m. drove the enemy to Fairfield, and at night fell back about 1 1/2 miles."<sup>12</sup>

Capt. William A. Harn, Third N.Y. Battery reported, "July 5.- ...our advance was checked by the rear guard of the enemy, which was supported by artillery. The battery moved quickly to the front, and took up position of the heights overlooking the town of Fairfield, and opened fire on the enemy, driving him from his position...."<sup>13</sup>

The Confederate wagon trains and rear guard spent the night of July 5<sup>th</sup> on the west side of Fairfield, at the base of Jack's Mountain; the Union troops encamped on the east side of the town. July 6<sup>th</sup>, the armies moved toward Hagerstown and Emmitsburg, respectively. Gen. Meade, fearing the superior Confederate position on the mountain, chose not to mount an attack against the retreating army at Fairfield.

Clearly the 1863 Battle of Gettysburg had impacted the lives of the people of Fairfield. For four days they were occupied by 'foreign' troops. Forced to provide food and horses, and to care for the wounded, their daily routines were interrupted by the horrifying face of war. After the armies had left, not only were they left with hundreds of injured and dying men to care for, but they were also faced with ruined crops, stolen animal stocks, and property damage. Like their neighbors in Gettysburg, Cashtown, and numerous other small towns in Adams County, the

---

<sup>12</sup>O.R., Vol. 27, Part I, p. 669-70.

<sup>13</sup>O.R., Vol. 27, Part I, p. 692.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Fairfield Historic District  
Adams County, PA

Section 8 Page 7

---

people of Fairfield would have to clean up the armies' mess, and wait until next season to plant new crops.

In the years following the war, Fairfield appears to have prospered as the center of social and commercial activity for the agrarian community around it. Agriculture was still based largely on grain production, with fruit production quickly growing in importance. The construction of the railroad west from Gettysburg in 1885 insured the continued survival of the town. Orr Station, now the town of Orrtanna, was established as a depot, just four miles to the north of Fairfield, by Fairfield merchant G.W. Wortz. Wortz' fruit warehouse at Orr Station became an important transportation point for the steadily increasing orchard production of the area.<sup>14</sup> Train service allowed much faster access to the important city markets for the local farm produce. As the social and commercial center for the surrounding farm community, Fairfield would thrive as long as the farms thrived. By 1896 the town was incorporated as a borough, independent of Hamiltonban Township. Fruit production would dominate as the primary agriculture in the Fairfield area throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century one of the Musselman canning plants was located at Orrtanna. The Knouse fruit processing plant, also located near Orrtanna, began operation by 1952 and continues today.<sup>15</sup>

In addition to the agricultural economy of the area around Fairfield, several modern manufacturing industries have helped support the town's economy in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Early in the century, shoe manufacturing provided jobs for local people. As the shoe business waned, a new industry developed, in 1975 Arcata Graphics came to Fairfield; a graphics plant just north of town boundaries continues to employ people from the area.<sup>16</sup> The nearby mountains also provide employment; the Ski Liberty resort area with skiing and golf has operated just west of Fairfield for more than twenty years.

---

<sup>14</sup>Bloom p.271.

<sup>15</sup>Ibid., p. 250, and p.384.

<sup>16</sup>Bloom, p. 390.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Fairfield Historic District  
Adams County, PA

Section 8 Page 8

---

Despite some changes over the years, Fairfield has retained its rural, market-town character which defined the town throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Buildings erected since the 1863 Battle of Gettysburg, while exhibiting later stylistic elements, represent similar residential, social, and commercial functions. This functional continuity distinguishes the town of Fairfield's character, as a provider of essential goods and services to the surrounding rural community.

### **Military Significance:**

The Fairfield Historic District is significant as part of the MPDF "Adams County, PA Properties Associated with the Battle of Gettysburg, July 1-3, 1863," as a Route of March, Hospital Site and Logistical Support and Staging Area property type. Fairfield, the Hagerstown Road which served as its main street, and the surrounding farms, were considered vital to the Confederate Army as a line of supply and, more importantly, their retreat. Wagon trains, combing the ripening fields for food and forage were pursued by the Union 6<sup>th</sup> U. S. Cavalry, resulting in the bloody July 3<sup>rd</sup> Cavalry action just two miles north of Fairfield. The Confederates occupied the town of Fairfield throughout the three-day Battle of Gettysburg to maintain their line of retreat along the Hagerstown Road. The rear guard of the Confederate column engaged in skirmishing with the vanguard of the pursuing Union Sixth Corps, including the exchange of artillery fire over the terrified town of Fairfield. The passage of the U.S. Sixth Corps through Fairfield in pursuit of the retreating Confederate Army on the morning of July 6, 1863, is commemorated on a U.S. Government plaque, placed in front of the St. John's Church by the Gettysburg National Military Park early in the 1900s.

The site type, Hospital Sites, can also be applied to the Fairfield Historic District. Hospital sites may be dwellings, barns, churches, schools, mills and other shelters large enough to house the wounded. There were also field hospitals in open areas with shelter being provided by military tents. These open air hospitals tended to belong to the various army corps and were larger, official stations. Good access to water was important for hospital locations, especially for the larger facilities. The open field of Daniel Musselman, conveniently watered by



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Fairfield Historic District  
Adams County, PA

Section 8 Page 9

---

Middle Creek, was documented by the 1863 Sanitary Commission as used by "Johnson's Division," sited by Gregory Coco in A Vast Sea of Misery. Several existing homes in Fairfield were also used as hospital sites. The homes of Mrs. Blythe (18 E. Main St.) and R.C. Swope (10 W. Main St.) reportedly housed wounded Union officers following the July 3<sup>rd</sup> skirmish just north of Fairfield.

### **Architectural Significance:**

The Fairfield Historic District meets National Register Criterion C as a significant concentration of buildings which reflect the development of a rural village, based on an agricultural economy and the resulting commerce, through the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The general context for architecture in Adams County is discussed in the MPDF. The architectural stylistic changes associated with different periods of the town's development are well represented along the main street of Fairfield, including the early Greek Revival and Italianate influenced buildings which would have been present during the 1863 Battle of Gettysburg. Thirty-six of the 117 contributing buildings and outbuildings are present from this period. The 1858 Map of Fairfield shows that there were a total of 48 buildings located within the boundaries of the town around the period immediately preceding the Battle of Gettysburg. The high percentage of these buildings still standing indicates a good retention of mid 19<sup>th</sup> century integrity in the Fairfield Historic District. The later Victorian Gothic influenced dwellings and shops associated with the railroad boom of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century are also well represented; early to mid 20<sup>th</sup> century buildings are also represented, but to a lesser degree. Most importantly, the buildings within the Fairfield Historic District, including the late 20<sup>th</sup> century buildings described as non-contributing, retain the rural, market-town character which Fairfield has maintained throughout its history.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Fairfield Historic District  
Adams County, PA

Section   9   Page   1  

---

### Major Bibliographical References:

- Adams County Historical Society News Letter, article "Pennsylvania 300: Fairfield", February 1982, Vol. 9, Number 2, Fairfield Hanging File, Adams Co. Historical Society, Gettysburg, PA.
- Bloom, Robert L., A History of Adams County, Pennsylvania 1700-1990, Adams County Historical Society, Gettysburg, PA, 1992.
- Coco, Gregory A., A Vast Sea of Misery, Thomas Publications, Gettysburg, PA, 1988.
- "Historic Reflections-1776/ Glimpses of Fairfield Area's Past", Fairfield Area Bicentennial Committee, Fairfield Hanging File, Adams Co. Historical Society, Gettysburg, PA.
- War of the Rebellion Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. Series I, Vol. 27, part II, Government Printing Office, Washington D.C., 1889.
- Sanitary Commission Map, found in Gregory A. Coco, A Vast Sea of Misery, Thomas Publications, Gettysburg, PA, 1988.
- 1858 Map of Adams County, G.M. Hopkins C.E.
- 1872 Atlas of Adams County

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Fairfield Historic District  
Adams County, PA

Section 10 Page 1

---

### Verbal Boundary Description:

The Fairfield Historic District boundary is found on attached combined Adams Co. tax maps 5 and 6. The northeast boundary encompassing the Musselman Farm is found on attached Adams Co. tax map 4 (this is described by the county as the Hamiltonban Township map, however Parcel #5 does fall within the current boundaries of the Fairfield Borough).

The boundary begins at a point on the south side of State Route 116 (Main St.) on the east side of the bridge over Middle Creek. From there the boundary runs along the south side of Rt. 116 moving west to the northeast corner of parcel #10, tax map #4.

Following the outline of that lot south; then west to the southeast corner of parcel #57A, tax map #6; then running north excluding said parcel #57A to the southeast corner of parcel #9, tax map #4; then along the southern boundary of said parcel to Centennial St.; then across said street and along the southern boundary of parcel #56, tax map #6 to the east boundary of parcel #55, tax map #6; then along said boundary south to the southeast corner of said parcel #55 to the north side of Wortz Drive. Then along the north side of Wortz Drive to the west side of Water St.; then along said street to the southeast corner of parcel #46, tax map #6; then along the southern boundary of said parcel and neighboring parcel #45, tax map #6 to a point on the eastern boundary of parcel #44, tax map #6; then following said parcel south to the north side of Wortz Drive; then following said Wortz Drive to the west side of South Miller Street; then turning south to follow the boundary of parcel #87, tax map #6 to the north side of Steelman Street; then along said street to the northeast corner of parcel #91, tax map #6; then turning south to follow the boundary of said parcel #91 to the north side of Steelman Street at the southeast corner of parcel #28, tax map #6; then along the north side of said street, excluding three back lots, parcel #95, tax map #6, and parcels #58 and #49, tax map #5, to the east side of McGinley Drive. Then along said McGinley Drive north to the north side of Main Street at the southeast corner of parcel #31, tax map #5; then along said Main Street west to the southwest corner of parcel #30, tax map #5; then along the west boundary of said parcel #5 running north to the south

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Fairfield Historic District  
Adams County, PA

Section 10 Page 2

---

side of Landis Drive. Then following Landis Drive east to the southwest corner of parcel #107, tax map #5; then following the west, north, and east boundaries of said parcel #107 to the south side of Landis Drive; then following Landis Drive east to the southwest corner of parcel #5, tax map #4; then following the west, north, and east boundaries of said parcel to the place of beginning.

### **Boundary Justification:**

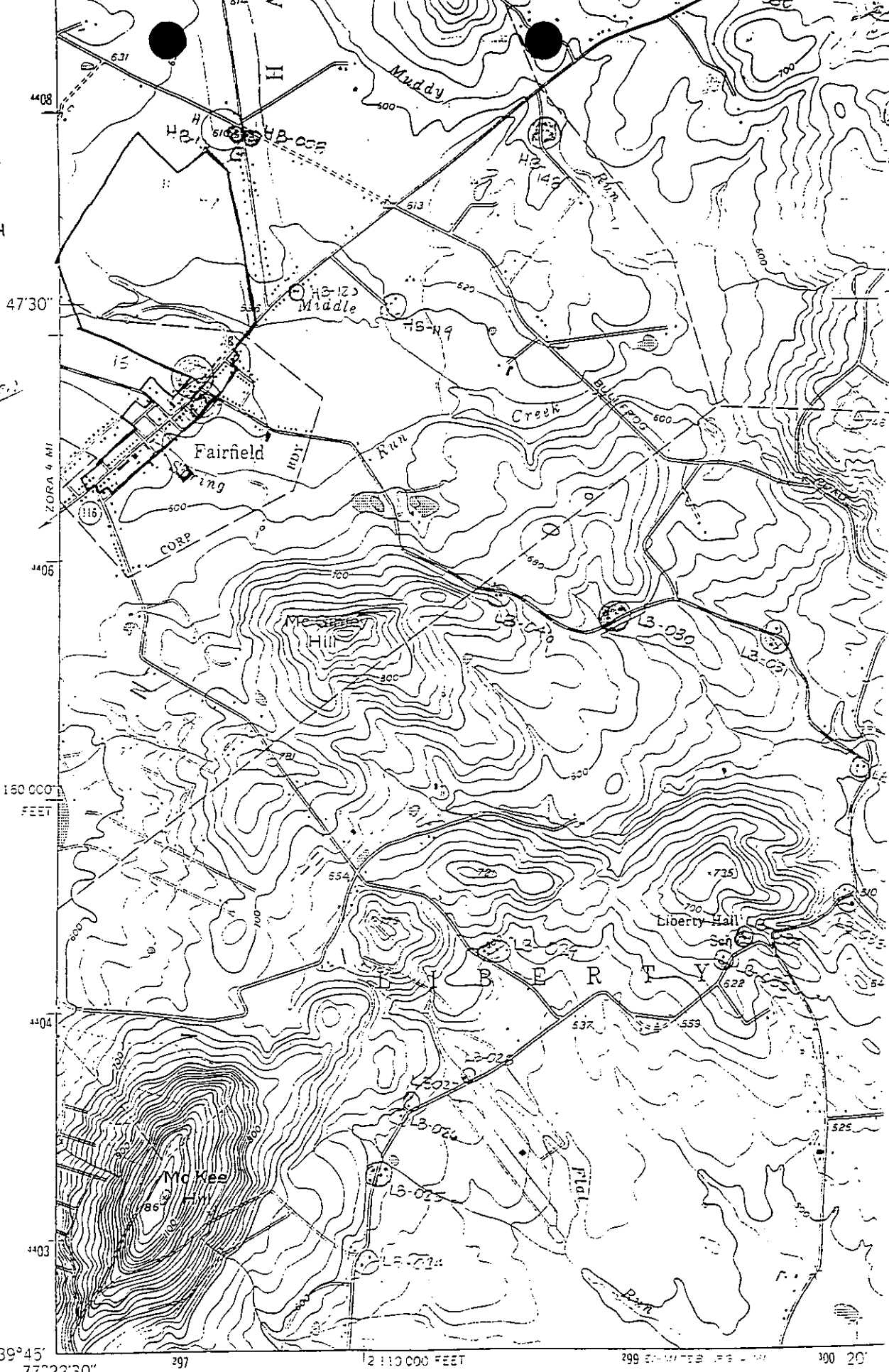
The Fairfield Historic District boundary was determined by the lots included on the 1872 Adams Co. Atlas Map of Fairfield, including the H. M. Landis residence and Danl. Musselman residence, and the outlots of W. Low and J. Arzberger. The 1872 town boundary includes all the significant buildings which would have been present during the 1863 Battle of Gettysburg, as well as later construction which contributes to the architectural significance of the district. The 1872 J. Hemmons lot is excluded because of modern construction on the lot. Lots on the west end to McGinley Dr. and on the east end to the Polley Farm (Musselman Farm), not shown on the 1872 Map, have been included to cover construction during the late 19th century and to create a contiguous district to the Polley Farm property. The barn and field east of, and contiguous with, the Polley (Musselman) Farm residence, not shown within the boundaries of the 1872 Map is also included in the district boundary, as part of the historic Musselman farm, used as a Confederate field hospital in July 1863.

FAIRFIELD HISTORIC  
 DISTRICT  
 FAIRFIELD BOROUGH  
 ADAMS COUNTY  
 FAIRFIELD QUAD

1901 OVERLY SURVEYED  
 1902

1900  
 1902

1900  
 1902



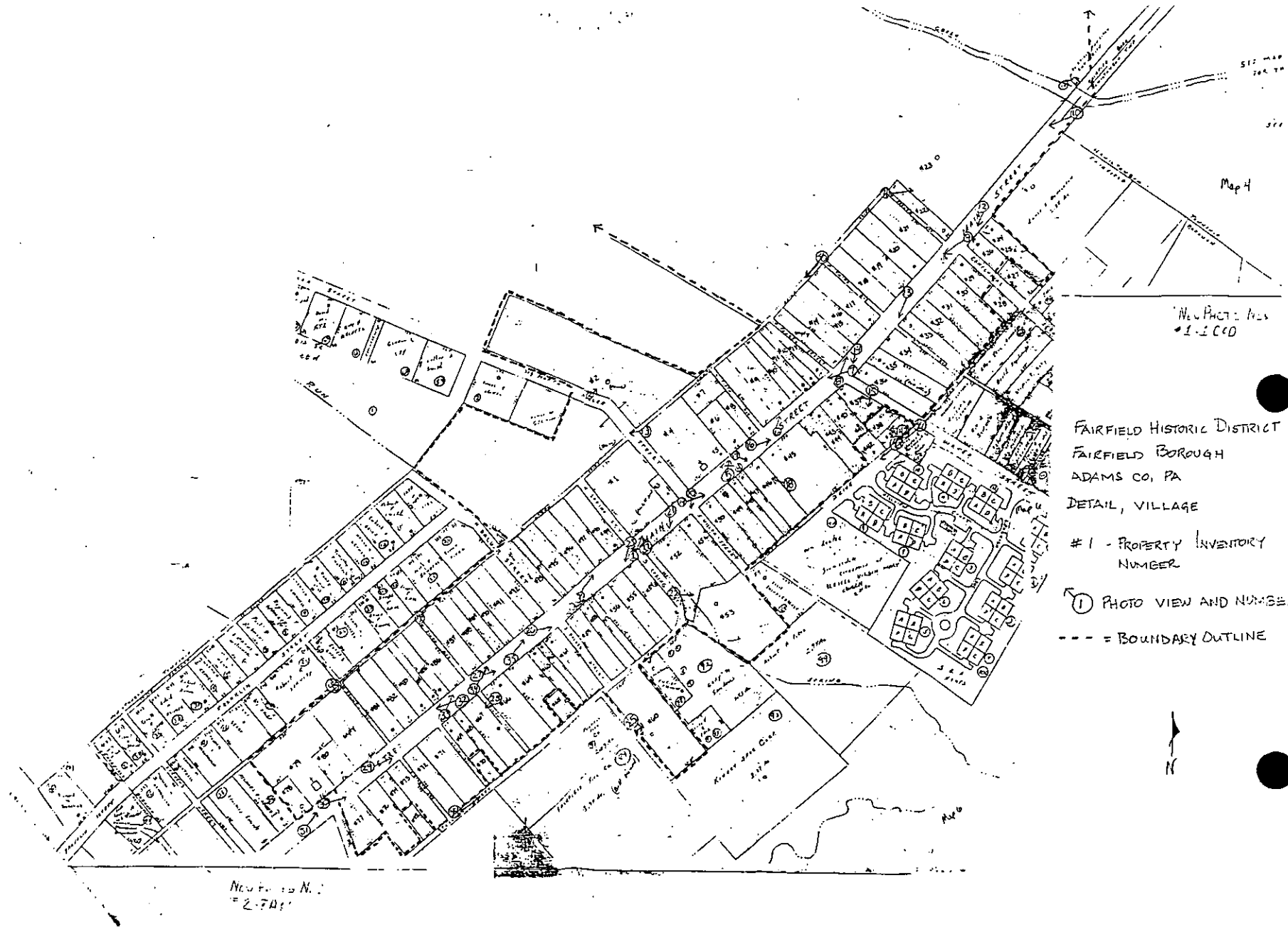
39°45' 77°22'30" 297 1:2110,000 FEET 299 300 20'

Mapped by the Army Map Service  
 Published by the Geological Survey  
 Control by USCS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs

RIDGE SUMMIT  
 65 III NW

GN



512 MAP  
264.70  
511

Map 4

New Photo Nos.  
#1-100

FAIRFIELD HISTORIC DISTRICT  
FAIRFIELD BOROUGH  
ADAMS CO., PA  
DETAIL, VILLAGE

#1 - PROPERTY INVENTORY  
NUMBER

① PHOTO VIEW AND NUMBER

--- = BOUNDARY OUTLINE



New Photo Nos.  
#2-74