

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 by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For function, 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 Colver-Rogers Farmstead

other names/site number Rogers, Norval P., House

2. Location

street & number East of L.R. 30055 at T-159

N/A not for publication

city or town Morgan Township

N/A vicinity

state Pennsylvania

code PA

county Greene

code 059 zip code 15334

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Bruce D. Davis 9/14/02

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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

Colver-Rogers Farmstead
Name of Property

Greene 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	
3	3	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
3	3	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)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: animal facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: animal facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone
walls Stone
Wood: shingle
roof Metal
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 patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1830-ca. 1930

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: _____

Colver-Rogers Farmstead
Name of Property

Greene County, Pennsylvania
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 11

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	17	580180	4421615
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2	17	58103610	44214510

3	17	580300	4421380
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4	17	58100215	44214115

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 Terry A. Necciai, RA (principal)
Terry A. Necciai, RA, Historic
organization Preservation Consulting date 21 April 2002
street & number 2334 Murray Avenue telephone (412) 521-4084
city or town Pittsburgh state Pennsylvania zip code 15217

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 Carol Christen
street & number 184 Chartiers Road telephone (724) 883-3743
city or town Jefferson state Pennsylvania zip code 15344

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

*Colver-Rogers Farmstead
Greene County, Pennsylvania*

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The Colver-Rogers Farmstead is cluster of buildings and their immediate setting, comprising 11.02 acres of a historic farm in Morgan Township, in northeastern Greene County. The farmstead, which is a half mile east of the village of Mather and the adjoining Borough of Jefferson, includes three contributing and three noncontributing buildings: a contributing 1830 stone house with a number of eclectic appendages from around 1906, a contributing ca.1880 barn, a large contributing ca.1906 wash house, a small, non-contributing, frame rental house, and two non-contributing sheds. Surrounding the house, uncounted landscape features include a large vegetable garden, a small domestic vineyard, and a small orchard. Portions of some fields historically used for sheep raising are included in the nomination, but most of the farm's fields are fallow and heavily overgrown, and are not included in the nominated area. The two-story stone house has a modified hall-parlor floor plan, with an original two-story, two rooms per floor stone kitchen wing attached to the gable end. The orientation of the kitchen wing results in the house having a seven-bay long southern facade, although the main entrance used today is on the opposite (north) side of the house. An imposing ca.1906 gambrel roof with standing seam metal roofing crowns the house, and the house's main entrance is sheltered by a rambling frame porch, extending from the center of the north elevation around to the eastern gable end. Portions of this porch are enclosed as rooms, including a large one story section at the eastern end of the house and a second story section of the porch at the main entrance. The barn is a gable-entrance bank barn with pegged framing. It abuts the road on the opposite side from the house. A variation on the standard Pennsylvania barn, it retains integrity of its original late nineteenth century design. Next to (south of) the barn is the noncontributing frame rental house, a small, gabled building with aluminum siding and vinyl windows. It was originally built in the nineteenth century as a stable, but no stable-related features, or any other significant pre-1950 features are still apparent. The contributing wash house is an ell-plan, one-story, gabled building with some original wood siding. The house and wash house occupy part of a nearly-level plateau overlooking the South Ten Mile Creek Valley. The farmstead is bisected by state route 30055 which is joined by township road 159 at a "T" intersection just south of the house. The land begins to drop off on the west side of S.R. 30055 at the barn and rental house, and on the south side of T159. Most of the farm's present acreage occupies a hollow west of S.R.30055, behind and beyond the barn from the farm house. The acreage is overgrown with brush and trees and is thus not included in the nominated area. Hundreds of acres of additional land north and east of the farm, associated with the farmstead in the early nineteenth century, were sold long ago and now contain unrelated developments. Along S.R.30055, north of the house, is a string of bungalows on lots sold by the owner of the farmstead about 1920-1930. The property immediately surrounding the farm house is enhanced by several large deciduous trees, which give the home a peaceful and elegant appearance.

The nominated area includes ornamental trees, fruit trees, and domestic gardens which make up much of the immediate setting of the farm house. The level area next to the house contains a vestige of a once substantial orchard. The orchard is still in use, though the trees are now much further apart than they were when fruit was a major crop here and when this was the largest orchard in the township. Adjoining the orchard is a small, domestic vineyard consisting of two

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rows of grape vines on trellises parallel to and about the same length as the house. The orchard is similarly linear and parallel to the house. Near the end of the porch closest to the wash house is a small flower garden planted recently with annuals. North of the orchard is the large vegetable garden, about a quarter acre in size, and near it is another quarter acre area planted in Indian corn.

The Colver-Rogers House is a two-story stone building to which several porch additions have been built. The original floor plan consisted of a three-bay, hall-and-parlor design, extended on the side furthest from the stair hall by an original two story, four bay, side-wing kitchen. The house is situated so that only a blank end with no first or second story windows faces the road. Thus the north and south elevations both read as if they were intended to be the facade, one seen by travelers passing the house while going north (or east-west on the township road near the house), and the other by those going south, especially since the road curves gently around the house. The kitchen wing is narrower in plan than the three bay section, but the two sections form one continuous, seven-bay, two-story wall on the south side of the house. Though the two parts of the building (the three bay section and the kitchen wing) may once have looked very different from one another when the original gable roofs were in place, the entire house is now capped with an imposing ca.1906 gambrel roof with a standing seam metal surface and three evenly-spaced dormers on each side, reinforcing the seven-bay-long effect. The roof is also punctured by three evenly-spaced brick chimneys: two small, rectangular chimneys at the gambrel ends, and a large corbeled chimney at the center. Lines in the masonry indicate that the original gable roof stepped back on the north elevation at the porch, however the present gambrel roof shelters the porch and provides a unifying form to the house as a whole. Most of the present design of the house dates to the ownership of Winston D. Rogers and his son Norval P. Rogers, whose family members have occupied the house since 1862. About 1906, when N.P. Rogers owned the house, the architectural layout of the 1830 stone shell was completely re-oriented, converting what had been a three-bay hall-and-parlor house--with an entrance facade to the south entered near the southwest corner and a kitchen wing to the east--into a unified seven bay plan entered from the center of the north elevation. This was accomplished by adding the porch, moving the stair to the center, and changing the design of the roof. Nearly all the details of the house now remain as they were shortly after these changes, during the ownership of N.P. Rogers and his wife.

The sandstone masonry of the Colver-Rogers is a combination of roughly-cut ashlar blocks and smaller fieldstones. Larger ashlar blocks at the corners serve as quoins. There is a consistent mixture of large and small units on all four elevations. The window and door openings of the first story have large lintels with a striking, unusually tall appearance. The lintels are about fourteen inches tall, and extend beyond the openings only about three or four inches on each side. They are laid with vertical bedding planes, providing a subtle contrast in texture to the surrounding masonry. At the top of the wall at both the north and south elevations is a four-course red brick cornice which steps out, but is now obscured by the steep eaves of the gambrel roof. In both the east and west gambrel ends, there is a line in the masonry where one can see that the stonework was extended upward to meet the new form of the gambrel roof when it was added about 1906. The masonry in the extended area is remarkably consistent with the remainder of the stone shell,

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but it is slightly lighter in color and has mortar that does not match. In the west gable end are two six-pane, single-sash attic windows flanking the area containing the chimney. In the face of the wall at the chimney, between the attic windows, is a datestone which reads "S. Colver/1830." The datestone is ringed by a radial pattern of sailor-course, red bricks. In the east gable end, there is only one attic window, to the south of the chimney. The house has double hung (1/1) wood sash windows in the first and second stories, apparently replacements installed in the ca.1906 project. However, the attic dormer windows are double hung (2/2) wood sash windows.

One of the most striking and unusual details of the house is its rambling porch. The porch, built in 1906, is supported by round iron columns with crude capitals and bases, on both the first and second stories. The section over the entrance is two stories, with the upper story enclosed as a bedroom. The part of the porch that wraps around the gable end elevation is roughly semi-hexagonal, one story, and has been enclosed as a large room historically used for farm-related functions. Most of this section of the porch is enclosed with weather-boarded wood walls, though a small rectangular area remains open, overlooking the southeast corner of the farm. The first story columns are raised on trapezoidal, rock-faced stone piers that are about thirty inches tall. The piers rest on a porch floor made of poured concrete with stone edging. The second story is enclosed with wood walls clad in painted wood shingles, with all five round columns remaining partially exposed. The porch has an odd, asymmetrical shed roof, cut to follow the stepped, ell-shaped plan. The one story area of the porch, roughly semi-circular in plan, was probably added after the porch section at the entrance. It has a standing seam metal roof made by placing the seams radially. A small gable-roofed and weather-boarded monitor extends up at the center of the radial seams of the porch roof to provide head room and light to a back stair accessing the second story part of the porch.

The 1906 porch apparently replaced a less deep two-story porch, tucked into the recess where the kitchen wing is set back from the rest of the house on the north elevation. This recess was at the end of the house furthest from the road, making the kitchen wing visually subordinate to the main three-bay section, and perhaps also hiding some kitchen-related activities. However, placing an unusual two-story porch here with a plan that steps out toward the road provided a means of drawing attention to this part of the house and marking the main entrance when the first room of the kitchen was converted to an entrance hall/stair hall.

The interior of the house consists of four first story rooms connected linearly, and five second story bedrooms. The main entrance, from the porch, leads into a small dining room with a dog-legged staircase in the corner. East of the dining room is the kitchen, with a door leading further east into the enclosed first story part of the porch. West of the dining room is a living room, and further west is the office which is still partially furnished with items dating to before 1930 when N.P. Rogers, the owner at the time, was Justice of the Peace and used this room as his office.

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The dining room has a variety of ornamental wood details in at least four different species of wood, and as many different woodworking styles. In the southwest corner of the room is an original 1830, natural finished cross-and-bible door (doors with six panels, the smallest being at the top, so that the center stile and the rail at the bottom of the top panels are proportioned to resemble a Latin cross). In the southeast corner is the staircase, which is dog-legged in shape, and fills about a fourth of the room. The space below the stair stringer is enclosed with elongated, horizontal wood panels arranged to resemble the pattern of running bond brick. The banister is a post-to-post rail design with lathe-turned newel posts, each topped with a nearly-spherical finial. The balusters are ornately turned in about seven stages. The center section flares upward, while the corresponding section of the newel posts flares downward. At the northwest corner of the north wall of the dining room is the main entrance door, which has a large, beveled, oval light surrounded by ornate leaf-like patterns at the four corners and a highly detailed swag in the small horizontal panel below the light. To the side of the door, a former window has been converted to a built-in Mission style china cupboard with two glazed doors. Most of the door and window casings in this room are open-grained oak or chestnut, while the main door is a closed grain wood, perhaps cherry, and the older door appears to be pine. The stair case is built of a closed-grain wood with a cherry finish.

The kitchen is entered from a doorway at the northeast corner of the dining room between the built-in china cupboard and the back of the staircase. Opposite this doorway is a large cooking fireplace which dominates the kitchen. It is faced with about a dozen large cut stones and a cut stone lintel. The lintel is broken in a vertical line a little right of center. The back wall of the fireplace is composed of blackened fieldstone laid in a very irregular pattern which provides a sharp contrast to the larger face stones at the opening. The crane is still in place. There is no mantelpiece, but a simple oak shelf has been placed over the opening. The remainder of the kitchen consists of modern cabinets and appliances. To the side of the fireplace, in the southeast corner, is a chimney cupboard with modern, paneled doors painted white. It occupies the space where there was once a small servants' stair to the bedroom above. A small door at the northeast corner of the kitchen leads out to the enclosed first story section of the porch, which apparently always served as a storage pantry and work area for cleaning farm produce.

The living room has a delicately detailed fireplace with a small opening. The top of the fireplace opening is defined by a single lintel the bottom of which is cut in a segmental curve (making the fireplace opening thus shaped like a segmental arch). Surrounding it is a fine, Adams style mantelpiece composed of hand-planed, fluted trim with corner rosettes, a frieze with delicately incised surface ornamentation, and a very shallow mantel shelf. The living room has original narrow plank floors, as also found in the dining room and office, but otherwise modern finishes.

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The office has an original cross-and-bible door on the south side, with a glazed transom. This doorway has fluted casing with corner rosettes. The north door into the office is similar but has been reworked to include a light in its upper half, providing the only natural light into this room beyond that of the two transoms. The office, apparently originally a stair hall, has a small and very simple brick fireplace added at the west wall at some point in the twentieth century. There is twentieth century wood wainscoting around the room to a chair rail about forty inches from the floor. The ceiling has been reinforced with wood lattice strips in a grid of two foot square panels. This room contains several large wooden cabinets designed and built by Norval Rogers as furnishings for his office. They are tall and unusual in design, one containing dozens of small drawers for storing documents alphabetically.

The second story contains five bedrooms. Four of these are arranged linearly within the stone shell, and the fifth is the enclosed upper level of the porch. The main stair ascends into an ell-shaped room which was originally a bedroom, but has been appropriated as space for a stair hall and bathroom, apparently in an effort to create a centralized circulation pattern. The original design of the second story appears to have consisted of about four bedrooms connected by doors, with a staircase at each end, making it necessary to pass through one bedroom to reach another. The room at the top of the stair, originally square, has been reduced in the creation of a bathroom at its southwest corner and by the installation of the stair along its eastern side. Above the main flight of stairs is an enclosed flight to the attic. At the northwest corner of this room is an ornate wood panel, about five feet by five feet square, attached to the wall. It is decorated with leaf-like carvings resembling those on the main entrance door in the dining room below. This panel may be the remnant of a built-in bench or small built-in bed, perhaps a Murphy bed.

The bedroom over the kitchen, east of the stairs, now serves as the master bedroom. It has a fireplace on the east wall. The fireplace has a simple wood mantelpiece with a frieze board cut in decorative "S" curves, a common design for bedroom mantelpieces in the region in the 1850s. The fireplace opening has been reduced for conversion to a coal grate, and contains an iron arch. At the south side of the fireplace, the offset at the chimney breast has been filled with an unusual bookcase unit designed by Norval Rogers. The bottom half of it is the full depth of the chimney, and has four drawers flanked by two doors. The drawers and doors have an unusual design: the face of each is trimmed at the edges with mitered picture moulding, and the drawers have hand-carved wood pulls. This unit fills the space where the servants' stair originally pierced the floor. On the opposite side of the chimney breast is a chimney cupboard with a crude door painted white and made of three vertical planks running from floor to ceiling.

The bedrooms west of the stair are accessed by a long hallway along the northern wall of the house, installed to improve the circulation pattern, about 1930 (probably when Mrs. Rogers began taking in boarders after N.P. Rogers died). The bedroom doors dating from ca. 1930 have five horizontal panels each, while a few of the older cross-and-bible doors survive.

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The first bedroom west of the stair has an exceptional early nineteenth century mantelpiece. It has fluted trim mitered around the fireplace opening and three oval carvings with radial fluting resembling seashells in the frieze. The mitered trim has a curved surface scored with six strands of fluting. The one-piece stone hearth is still in place in front of this fireplace, but the fireplace opening has been closed-in and wallpapered. To the north side of the fireplace is a chimney cupboard with a ca.1930 five-panel door.

The space over the office contains two very small rooms with 1830 cross-and-bible doors. The smaller of the two rooms may have originally contained the staircase. The room in the enclosed upper level of the porch was finished a little more crudely than the other bedrooms, intended to be used only seasonally. It has gently sloped porch flooring, indicating that it was once an open "sleeping" porch. It was enclosed by the installation of window sashes, perhaps around 1930. The interior wall finishes in this room (now largely drywall) have been updated from time to time. The present owner had a section of new drywall installed several years ago and in the process, found a note tucked into an older section of wall, documenting the 1906 date of the porch and the names of the contractors.

The attic is a large, unfinished, open space, interrupted only by the center chimney. The flooring (unfinished scraps of floor boards and pieces of roof sheathing) is confined to the half of the attic closest to the stairs. The basement is unexcavated under the living room and the office. The section under the dining room and kitchen has a concrete floor and is used for storage.

Behind the house is a smaller, frame building built as a wash house. It is one story, with a gable roof and a small, center chimney, and a variety of sash windows, mainly 6-pane sashes. It appears to have been expanded at least once. It has double covelap siding, covered in most areas by Insulstone (insulation board with its surface stamped in a pattern to look like stone). A shed-roofed storage area has been added at the northeast corner to provide shelter for farm machinery.

The barn, being much younger than the house, is undoubtedly at least the second barn on the property. However, no evidence has been documented of the location of any earlier barns on the property. The barn is a typical late-nineteenth century variation on a Pennsylvania bank barn, except that it is turned so that the vehicular entrance from the road to the upper story is in the gable end which abuts the road. By turning it in this orientation, neither of the two doors to the threshing floor from the long sides of the barn is accessible from grade. However, this orientation was good for catching winds coming up the hollow and across the threshing floor in threshing season. The barn is a pegged, heavy timber structure with a cross gable roof clad in standing seam metal. The vertical wood barn siding is painted beige, and is interrupted by at least thirty-five louvered ventilators which are painted red. The barn has a posted forebay on the south side. The orientation of the barn constricts the forebay, in as much as part of it is banked into the hillside. However, in this case, the forebay was designed as a low-ceilinged area to shelter sheep. The masonry of the lower level is a combination of fieldstone, creekbed stone, and ashlar, with large ashlar quoins. The interior of the lower level of the barn also has a low ceiling. It was also used

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mainly for sheep until the 1930s. The upper level of the barn has granaries in the northeast corner and stables and/or sheep stalls in the southeast and northwest corners. The remainder of the floor appears to have been used for equipment storage. The framing has begun to fail, and it is difficult to tell exactly where the hay lofts were. Although the barn is suffering from deterioration and disuse, it is an elegant example of an innovative nineteenth century modification to the standard Pennsylvania barn, without diverging very far from the rudiments of the barn architecture traditions of this state and region.

The property also contains three non-contributing buildings: a rental house and two sheds. The rental house is about seventy-five feet south of the barn on the west side of the road. It is a frame building with a gable roof and vinyl siding. A house of about four rooms and an attic room, it has no surviving exterior features more than twenty years old or of any architectural distinction. The two sheds are located near the wash house. One is an older, enclosed building with a shed roof and bituminous siding, but no distinguishing historic features. The other shed is across a fenceline from the wash house. A small, open-sided, shed-roofed building, it was placed there about 1980 as a shelter for sheep. Just beyond the boundary to the north is a ca.1960 gable-roofed frame garage with recent exterior finishes and no features of architectural or historic importance.

The Colver-Rogers Farmstead is an interesting blend of architectural elements from many different construction and remodeling projects between 1830 and 1930. In many ways, it is an architectural representation of agricultural activities that evolved here from the region's early farming period to the time when the property served more or less as a gentleman farm and office for the Justice of the Peace of an adjoining mining village, to ca.1930 when it became a boarding house for miners. The unusual architecture of the house, the result of these forces, retains integrity, there having been almost no substantial changes since about 1930. Farm activity, which continued in alternating periods of serious agriculture, gardening, and rental of some pastures and hayfields to other family members, across several recent generations of owners, has maintained the immediate setting of the house in a way that typifies those farms in the area that have evolved down to the present. Thus the landscape itself is an evolved, eclectic mixture of patterns and styles, much as the house is. However, both the house, barn, wash house, and the surrounding landscape features comprise an important and well-preserved example of one kind of evolved farmstead in southwestern Pennsylvania.

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The Colver-Rogers Farmstead is significant under Criterion C for Architecture as a farmhouse that reflects of wealth and permanence in the early nineteenth century and evolution of farm-related architecture in the last century and a half. The farm is owned by the great-granddaughter of the second owner, having stayed in the same family since about 1860. A portion of the property containing the farmstead has been in the family almost continuously since it was first settled about 1787. The stone parts of the house, now partly obscured by early twentieth century changes, are substantial remnants of a typical of stone house as built in the region in the early nineteenth century. Nearly all stone houses remaining in the region from this period are simple vernacular buildings with some minor elements of Federal era styles. Apparently not completed by the first owner after his marriage plans soured, the house is more representative of the long tenure of the Rogers family who purchased it in 1860-61. Many of the presently-dominant details were added by Norval P. Rogers, the third owner, around 1900. They include a center staircase added to realign the floor plan in keeping with more typical local farmhouse models, a rambling porch marking the entrance, and a unifying gambrel roof. The house evolved to accommodate family activities as the Rogers family became community leaders. After Norval P. Rogers, local Justice of the Peace, died in 1930, the house evolved again to provide income for his wife, twenty years his junior, who converted part of it to a boarding house for coal miners working at the mining village of Mather, a half mile to the west. Although the ca. 1906 changes are an eclectic mix of both high-style flourishes and some unusual details developed by N.P. Rogers, by and large they are part of the conversion of an average-sized old stone house to the larger, center hall farmhouse design as found more commonly in brick and frame throughout the region. The house retains integrity as both a Federal-era vernacular stone house and as an eclectic 1906 design. The barn appears to be almost completely unchanged since it was built ca. 1880. The ca. 1900 contributing wash house retains integrity in spite of its very plain design and minor changes which include appendages added in the late twentieth century. The frame rental house on the property was built from the structural framework of a nineteenth century stable, but does not retain integrity of any of the visible features it had when it was a stable. Most of the farm's 124 acres of farmland is not counted as contributing because it has recently become overgrown with trees and shrubs and thus is no longer representative of its former use. The area immediately surrounding the house, wash house, and barn is still used largely as it was historically, as garden, vineyard, and orchard space, and retains integrity as the evolved dooryard garden area of a gentleman farmer's main house. However, the property's significance is reflected primarily in its architecture, and agricultural significance is not being claimed in this nomination because the property does not appear to be an important example of a farm as a whole or of farming trends of importance to the area.

CONTINUOUS CONNECTION WITH HEATON FAMILY AND DESCENDANTS

The portion of the farm that contains the farmhouse has been in the same family almost continuously since the eighteenth century. Isaac Heaton, an important industrial pioneer, first settled in this vicinity in 1785. He came that year from Mill Creek, Virginia with his wife, Hannah Bowen Heaton, and several of their children.¹ They acquired hundreds of acres of land between Jefferson and Clarksville in a very short period of time.² The small section of the Colver-Rogers Farm, east of State Route 30055, which contains the house, was part of a land grant acquired by Isaac Heaton as early as 1788.³ The remaining acreage was purchased from other families as the farm grew. Isaac

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Heaton was an ancestor of both the Colver family and the Rogers family. The builder of the stone portion of the house, Samuel Colver, was Isaac Heaton's grandson. Heaton apparently gave the small parcel containing the house to his daughter Hannah and her husband, Attorney Thomas Colver (Samuel Colver's mother and father) before the house was built. The year before the house was built, Thomas Colver purchased approximately 45 acres of additional land now comprising the southern third of the 124 acre farm.⁴ The house was built in 1830 by Samuel Colver, the only son of Thomas and Hannah Heaton Colver. In 1861, the farm was purchased by Winston Dallam Rogers, whose wife was a granddaughter of Col. John Heaton, Isaac Heaton's son.⁵

HOUSE BUILT IN 1830 BY SAMUEL COLVER

According to family information, Samuel Colver, who was later a prominent Greene County doctor, built the house for his fiancée shortly before she broke off their engagement. Colver's name and the date "1830" are found in a datestone in the western gable end. He apparently lived here for some time, possibly with his parents, and died a bachelor without ever having completely finished the house. Samuel Colver's father, Thomas Colver, was one of Greene County's most important early attorneys. The 1850 census shows Thomas and Rachel, both in their 70s, living in Morgan Township with Samuel, who was then 49, and a 16-year old girl named Rachel (perhaps a servant). The men are listed as farmers. In 1848, Thomas Colver sold a portion of his farm to Levi Bell. During his ownership, Bell purchased additional acreage from John Hughes, and the farm grew to 158 acres. In 1860, Bell sold the farm to Stephen Mapel. Bell and Mapel were the only owners of the parcel containing the house who are not known to have been descendants of the Heaton's. Bell may have been a relative of Winston Dallam Rogers who purchased the stone house and the acreage in 1861.⁶

PURCHASED IN 1861-62 BY ROGERS FAMILY, COUSINS OF COLVERS

The farm was acquired in 1861-62 by Winston Dallam Rogers, whose wife Charlotte Heaton Black was a granddaughter of Col. John Heaton and a daughter of prominent early Greene County judge, Samuel Black. W.D. Rogers was a Quaker and a relative of Zephaniah Beall, founder of Beallsville on the National Road in Washington County. Rogers lived at Beallsville with the Beall family prior to marrying Charlotte Heaton Black in 1847, at her father's residence in Jefferson Borough. W.D. and Charlotte Rogers apparently resided in the Beallsville area until about 1850, and then moved to Jefferson. Raised a Quaker, W.D. Rogers was officially disowned for marrying Charlotte Black, because, although descended of Quakers, she was a practicing Presbyterian. Rogers continued to attend Quaker services periodically, but never took the steps to have his membership formally reinstated, as many Quakers of the time did after marrying outside the faith.⁷

OWNERSHIP BY N.P. ROGERS WHO SUBSTANTIALLY REMODELLED THE HOUSE

The house has remained in the family of Winston Dallam Rogers since he purchased it in 1861. By about 1900, it was the home of Winston's son, Norval P. Rogers. N.P. Rogers was a farmer who gradually rose in both wealth and community status as the area was transformed into a center of coal mining. About 1900, the mining village of Mather was established between Jefferson and the Colver-Rogers House. Built by an Ohio company, Mather was a larger village than those built by most Pennsylvania companies.⁸ N.P. Rogers became Justice of the Peace in the township, including in Mather, and he remodelled the house at about the same time. N.P. Rogers kept the farm going as an active agricultural complex, but added certain kinds of farming that appear to reflect wealth and status. For instance, he had one tenth of an acre of tobacco in the 1920s, one of only two farms in the county raising tobacco at that time, the other one having a much larger crop.⁹

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OWNERSHIP AND CHANGES BY MRS. N.P. ROGERS AND DESCENDANTS

When N.P. Rogers died in 1930, the farm became the property and sole source of income of his wife, who was twenty years his junior. She converted the farmhouse to a boarding house for local miners. Prior to this conversion, several of the second story bedrooms were accessed by passing from one to another with no hallway, an unresolved result of moving the staircase in the redesign of the house to a center passage plan in ca.1906. Mrs. Rogers added a corridor, giving each bedroom its own private door. The property eventually passed to a daughter of Mrs. N.P. Rogers, who bequeathed it to her daughter, Dr. Carol Christen, the present owner.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Colver-Rogers Farmstead is significant as an example of vernacular Federal era construction, and as an eclectic farmhouse design undertaken by the farm's owner about 1906, as well as for the architecture of its fine ca.1880 barn. The wash house next to the house is also a contributing building, part of the new design and expansion of the domestic quarters in the ca.1906 project.

ARCHITECTURE OF THE STONE PORTION OF THE HOUSE

The stone portion of the Colver-Rogers House is a typical sandstone building as commonly built in this region up to about 1840. It is distinguished from other nearby examples by its seven bay long, two story, south elevation, by its tall lintels in the first story, and by its "side-wing-kitchen" floor plan. Most of the three hundred or so stone houses in western Pennsylvania are found within a fifteen mile radius Brownsville¹⁰; interspersed among them are many stone springhouses, three or four stone churches, a few stone mill buildings, and two or three stone barns.¹¹ Like many other stone houses in the area, the Colver-Rogers House began as a simple vernacular building with simplified details of the Federal era, though this one was built at the end of that period. Often three-bay structures, sometimes the local stone houses of this period are arranged in a hall-and-parlor plan, and sometimes with an enclosed staircase at the corner of a room. There is frequently a kitchen wing to the rear or side, which is contemporary or roughly contemporary with the rest of the house.

The Colver-Rogers House is one of several residential examples with side-wing kitchens in the region. This feature is most common in northwestern Fayette County in an area that extends into Rostraver Township, Westmoreland County. Almost all of the early houses of this design are found in areas where there were substantial early Quaker settlements, though not all were built by religious adherents to the Quaker faith. The only significant Greene County house with a side-wing kitchen in close proximity to the Colver-Rogers House is the Thomas Hughes House, discussed below.

Perhaps the best example of a side-wing kitchen on an early western Pennsylvania residence is at the Col. Edward Cook House,¹² in Washington Township, Fayette County (on the county and township boundary line with Rostraver Township, Westmoreland County). The Edward Cook House [NR 1978], built 1774-76, is one of the oldest two story stone houses in western Pennsylvania. The kitchen wing at the Cook House reputedly also served as slave quarters. Similar side-wing kitchens were found at the Jacob Bowman House (rebuilt c1855, as Nemaocolin Castle [NR 1975] with the stone structure and stone kitchen wing now submerged in a much larger design)¹³ and at the brick residence of Henry Beeson¹⁴ (demolished c1910), the founder of Uniontown who is also believed to have been the region's first Quaker settler. The two Wolf Houses at Wolfdale, near Washington, Pennsylvania, have side-wing kitchens.¹⁵ Several other houses in the region had side-wing kitchens

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appended to a main house of a different material. Two examples (both destroyed c1990) were the Dorsey House and the Wise House in Washington County.¹⁶ Adam Wise, a Pennsylvania German, was the brother of Frederick Wise, the founder of Fredericktown, a tiny riverport near the Wise House. Fredericktown was near the region's first Quaker meeting house and an important center of early Quaker activities. It was a brick house with a stone kitchen. The Dorsey House, a stone house with a brick kitchen between Brownsville and Fredericktown, was considered one of the finest early houses in Washington County because of its refined interior and exterior detailing. All of the above examples, however, have (or had) one story kitchen wings. The two story kitchen wing to the side is much rarer. A noted example is the Louis Cope House, in Washington Township, Fayette County.¹⁷ Cope was one of the founders of the Quaker settlement near Perryopolis. The Cope House has a two story porch filling in the area where the kitchen wing is recessed from the three-bay portion of the facade. It is not known if the Colver-Rogers house had such a porch, but the two houses were probably nearly identical about the time when they were built. The Colver-Rogers House is a more modest house than most of these, and it does not retain any original distinguishing exterior details from its 1830 construction apart from the stone shell, the lintels, the datestone, and a few doors.

The masonry of the stone shell of the Colver-Rogers House is typical of stone construction in the region prior to about 1840. Although some local stone houses were built of roughly-cut or sawn ashlar, and some were built of thin layers of creekbed stone, the most common pattern of early masonry in the region is fieldstone intermixed with some roughly-cut ashlar. These partially fieldstone houses usually have larger ashlar blocks at the corners serving as quoins. They also usually have large stone lintels at the windows and doors. Both are features of the Colver-Rogers House. Most of the region's stone houses, including the Colver-Rogers House, are sandstone, though a few are limestone, notably the Col. Edward Cook House.¹⁸ One unusual feature in the Colver-Rogers House is the use of tall, one-piece lintels at all the first floor openings. The lintels are about fourteen inches in height and have only two or three inches of bearing at each end, which makes them seem disproportionately tall by comparison to other examples in the region. Some of the larger, early local examples of stone construction, such as the David Bradford House [NHL 1983] in Washington or the Alexander McConnell House in Cecil Township, Washington County,¹⁹ have flat arches with cut stone voussoirs. Many other examples have three-part flat arches, usually a rectangular lintel of roughly-cut stone interrupted by a crude keystone. Two Washington County examples with large rectangular lintels are the Holcroft House in Union Township and the Hegarty House in Houston.²⁰ Those at the Hegarty House are unusually long, with about eighteen inches of bearing at each end. At the same time, they are disproportionately short in the vertical dimension.

In Greene County, where stone construction is much rarer, some stone houses have large, single lintels and others do not. Segmental arches constructed of stone voussoirs are the distinguishing elements of both the Cree House [NR 2002], five miles south of Jefferson at Khedive, and the Greene Academy Building [NR 1978] (originally an Episcopal Church) eight miles east of Jefferson, at Carmichaels.²¹ The Greene Academy Building has the segmental arch only at the center entrance, while the flanking windows have flat arches of stone voussoirs. Flat arches with stone voussoirs are also found at the Yablonsky House at Clarksville, believed to be an early iron master's residence, perhaps Isaac Heaton's successor.²² The Yablonsky House is across Ten Mile Creek to the northeast of Clarksville in Washington County, abutting the Greene County line. The Harry House, eight miles west of Jefferson, near Waynesburg, is a four bay stone house with tall lintels in its facade similar to those at the Colver-Rogers house.²³

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About half of the pre-Civil War stone houses in Greene County are within close proximity to the Colver-Rogers House and almost all are in the northeastern quarter of the county, an area which is roughly centered on Jefferson Borough. Two or three of the houses located closest to the Colver-Rogers House are the most similar to it in both floor plan and masonry. At 303 Market Street, in the Old Town section of Carmichaels, is a three-bay stone house with a rough-cut ashlar facade. It has lintels in the first story which are very similar to those at the Colver Rogers House. It also has gable-shaped ghosting from a story-and-a-half side-wing kitchen which has been demolished. The Thomas Hughes House [NR 1972], built in 1814 at Jefferson, home of the arch-rival of Samuel Colver's grandfather Col. John Heaton, is a three bay house of similar size, style, and masonry to the Colver-Rogers House, with a one-and-a-half-story side-wing kitchen.²⁴ Among all the extant examples of three-bay houses with side-wing kitchens in Greene and Washington Counties, there are no others with a two story elevation of seven consistent bays of doors and windows.

THE PRESENT CHARACTER OF THE FARMSTEAD WAS SET BY W.D. ROGERS

Although the unfinished house that Samuel Colver built in 1830 has apparently been occupied ever since, the design of the house and farmstead were completely changed during the tenure of W.D. and N.P. Rogers, farmers who gradually became well-heeled, established leaders in the local area. Like most other farmers in Greene County in the late nineteenth century, W.D. Rogers raised sheep. Sheep farming was the most important farming specialty in Washington and Greene Counties from about 1836 to about 1890.²⁵ The barn design reflects this. Early-on, sheep were added to farms to complement grain production and to provide wool for local woolen mills; the mill at nearby Clarksville was one of the most successful of the region's many small woolen mills.²⁶ The farm was set up for general farming, as was the pattern in most farms across the region, but the sheep farming specialty was gradually blended into the workings of the farm. About 1880, W.D. Rogers built the present barn with a special space for sheep, as well as cattle stalls, horse stables, and other common barn features of this region. While the house was on a nearly level parcel of land derived from a portion of the Isaac Heaton land patent, the barn was built across the road, overlooking the large tract of valley land which contained most of the farm's pasturage. Part of the valley land, comprising a large, relatively level, middle section of the watershed of a minor tributary of the South Fork of Ten Mile Creek, was originally part of a 1785 land grant to a George Myers, later patented to Jacob Nead, though almost completely surrounded by lands patented to Isaac Heaton and Col. John Heaton in the 1700s.²⁷ The lower section of the valley land is a narrow hollow which was part of a land patent granted to Thomas Hughes. Hughes's land patent extended across the South Fork of Ten Mile Creek, including most of the land now within the Borough of Jefferson. Perhaps because of its hillside location, the barn was oriented in a way that is unusual among western Pennsylvania bank barns: the gable end faces the road, with a centered, road level entrance leading to the upper level, while the two main doors of the threshing floor are on the sides, where neither is accessible from the steep grade. Below the south threshing floor door is the low-ceilinged sheep fold, in a deep, posted forebay, enclosed today only by modern wire fencing. Within the stone stable wall, most of the lower level is now set up for dairy cattle, though at one time sheep were kept in this area as well. Norval Rogers also raised sheep after he took the farm over, but when he died in 1930,²⁸ his widow made the transition to dairying, as was common on farms across Washington and Greene Counties in the early to mid twentieth century. The metal milking stalls currently in place in the lower level of the barn apparently date from this time period. Another Rogers descendant briefly introduced sheep again in the mid-twentieth century, though the sheep fields presently are no longer in use.

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ARCHITECTURAL CHANGES MADE TO THE HOUSE BY N.P. ROGERS, Ca.1906

In step with the changes occurring in farming in the region, and with the rising station of the established Rogers family with respect to the the newly-developed mining towns nearby, the Colver-Rogers House was transformed about 1906. First it was rebuilt as a much grander house with a special office for N.P. Rogers, who had risen to the local office of Justice of the Peace for the Morgan Township/Mather area, and then it was converted to a boarding house to provide an income for Mrs. Rogers after N.P. Rogers died. The changes that N.P. Rogers made to the exterior of the house, though confined to a new roof shape and a rambling porch, make it seem much larger than it did previously. The materials and detailing are all inspired by high-style examples, though they were used here in a number of novel ways. The gambrel roof, an unusual feature on residences in the Greater Pittsburgh region until about 1890, provides not only an allusion to the Dutch Colonial models from New Jersey and Upstate New York, but it also serves here to disguise the difference in depth between the three-bay part of the house and the kitchen addition. The roof not only hides the offset in the north elevation of the house, but it reinforces the reading that the south elevation is seven bays long. The attic dormers, three on each side of the roof, punctuate the form in a particularly dramatic way. They are otherwise of no significant function, as the attic remains unfinished and only about half of it has flooring. The porch incorporates columns which look "classical" from the road, but on closer inspection, are more like iron pipes with crude, cast iron capitals and bases.

The stepped shape of the porch provides a way to draw attention to a section of the building which was originally an offset kitchen entrance. However, it is a very unusual porch design, especially with the second story enclosed. According to information that Dr. Carol Christen, the current owner of the farm and a granddaughter of Norval Rogers, gathered from her mother before she died, the porch was built in phases, and the enclosure of the second story was the last phase.²⁹ When the enclosed part of the porch was renovated in 1981, a note about the original porch project was found inside the wall cavity. The note is on stationary from the Office of N.P. Rogers, Justice of the Peace.³⁰ The remainder of the note reads: "This porch was built in 1906 by John and Charles Jordan, as carpenters, Solomon and A.J. Crawford, as stone masons, N.P. Rogers directing the work as owner of the property." According to Dr. Christen's mother, the stone for the base of the porch was quarried on the farm. Dr. Christen's mother remembered the time when the staircase was moved when she was a child. She recalled climbing a ladder to the bedrooms at night during the period when all the staircases were missing. There had previously been a kitchen stair at the southeast corner of the kitchen. It was removed during the ca.1906 remodeling and replaced with a chimney cupboard. Dr. Christen's mother noted in the interview that prior to 1906, the kitchen was a three-room suite.

N. P. Rogers made several novel changes to the house as part of the ca.1906 project. A window from the porch to what is now the stair hall/dining room was closed up on the outside, and the interior niche became a built-in china cupboard. A panel of lavishly-carved wood was installed in the second floor room that the staircase passes through. A heavily-carved door with a large oval light of beveled glass was installed next to the built-in china cupboard as the main entrance from the porch. An unusual book case and drawer unit was designed for the corner of the master bedroom where the floor had formerly been pierced by the kitchen stair. Some of the wood work in the master bedroom was painted with faux wood grain, while other elements were stained, and still others were painted solid. Rock-faced stone piers were built flanking the sidewalk entrance from the road where they may have once supported a fence.

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During N.P. Rogers's time here, the farm appears to have functioned more like a gentleman farm than the other farms in the township. Stock farming in the era was often an investment activity of wealthy land owners who had other sources of income. Rogers was among a class of well-rooted local land owners whose handed-down family farms were strategically situated with respect to industrial developments and growing towns, and who stood to profit from the industrial expansion of the era, or who practiced specialty farming for other reasons. The LeMoyné family, industrial and civic leaders in Washington had an experimental stock farm on the outskirts of the town, though they lived in their large family home near the center of Washington.³¹ Gibson Binns, a banker in the Brownsville area, raised stock on his farm near Perryopolis.³² The stock raising fields at the Binns farm were along a railroad spur he had invested in to encourage coal mining and other industrial developments in the Red Lion Valley, a cluster of prosperous farms and once the center of the Perryopolis area Quaker community. George W. Gordon, who was president of the Farmers and Drivers Bank of Waynesburg, raised sheep on a farm he set up specifically for sheep raising, 5 miles south of Waynesburg [George W. Gordon Farm, NR 2000]. In 1924, N.P. Rogers had a general farm, with strong specialties in sheep and fruit. He also raised tobacco, a crop found on only one other farm in the county.³³

Though Rogers's blend of specialties may reflect wealth, the farm had a wide range of crops and livestock and was in many ways a typical Greene County farm. In 1924, Rogers had 150 acres in operation, with 17 cultivated acres divided among corn, wheat, and oats, and 33 acres of hay, 19 acres of alfalfa, 3 horses, 2 milk cows, 9 swine, and 75 hens and pullets. These were representative of a healthy, mixed farm of the area.³⁴

What set the farm apart was its orchard of 190 bearing-age apple trees and 16 peach trees, unusually large for Greene County at the time, and its 1/10 of an acre of tobacco; the only other farm in the county raising tobacco at the time was at the opposite side of the county and was much more heavily involved in raising it as a crop, with 25 acres of it. Rogers also had a beehive and an automobile, two other unusual items on a Greene County farm at the time. Within three years,³⁵ his poultry had grown to 100 hens and pullets, his swine to 25 (including two bearing-age sows), he had installed a furnace, and he had acquired a gas engine, a radio, and a telephone. In his orchard, which was the second largest in the township, he increased his number of peach trees to 140, and had lost only 14 apple trees since 1924. Although these statistics are indicative of a typical mixed farm of this time period, he appears to have had the means to specialize in fruit trees and to add some luxuries to the farm.

The indications that this farm was a settled, "gentleman" farm by the 1920s only finish out the story of a century and a half of evolution through its ownership by several branches of the same family. Upon W.D. Rogers's death, when his widow began operating a boarding house out of the farm house, the process of evolution was completing itself. The mature farm had reached its peak, and the farm house found new uses, but its architecture was not substantially changed. The property has remained almost perfectly intact since that time, except for minor changes to some surface details on the buildings and overgrowth in the fields.