

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Clemuel Ricketts Mansion

and/or common N/A

USE THIS COPY
FOR DUPLICATING

2. Location

street & number Rt. 210, Ganoga Lake

N/A not for publication

city, town Colley Township

N/A vicinity of

state Pennsylvania

code 42

county Sullivan

code 113

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Ganoga Lake Association, c/o Freda Shipley, President

street & number Rickett's Drive, R.D. #2

city, town Benton

N/A vicinity of

state Pennsylvania 18714

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Sullivan County Courthouse

street & number Main Street

city, town Laporte

state Pennsylvania

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic American Bldg. Survey

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1/21/35 PA.-210

federal state county local

depository for survey records Library of Congress

city, town Washington

state D.C.

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located in the wilderness, far removed from other facilities of comparable value and use, Rickett's Mansion was dubbed "Rickett's Folly" at the time of its construction. Nevertheless, the house is a stunning example of Georgian vernacular architecture.

This L-shaped structure is built of field sandstone and measures 60' x 38'. The Rickett's Residence is two and one-half stories high with a gable roof and boxed cornices with returns. Three hooded dormers are located on the front facade roof. The main section is five bays by two bays with six over six, double hung sash windows. The first story windows have panelled shutters, and the second story has louvered shutters. A one-story full-length porch supported by paired square pillars lines the front facade. The elaborate Federal main entranceway has a spider-web like fanlight and sidelights.

To the rear of the main section is a two story, gable-roofed ell. Two story porches are located on the inner angle of the ell.

In 1913, a 40' by 26' addition was added to the right side of the main section. This addition is also two and one-half stories with a gable roof and pedimented dormers. Windows in this section are twelve over eight on the second floor and six over six on the first floor.

The interior of the residence retains its original woodwork and hardware. Total rooms are twenty-eight. The only alterations to the structure since 1913 have been to update its plumbing and to add electricity.

Also located on the property are a large frame barn and a one and one-half story stuccoed brick utility building.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1852

Builder/Architect

Clemuel Ricketts

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Built in a very remote section of Pennsylvania, the Clemuel Ricketts Mansion is an outstanding example of late Georgian vernacular architecture. A monument to the tenacity and vision of its builder, Clemuel Ricketts, the mansion was one of the first resorts in a region of the state that is now known for such establishments.

An avid sportsman, Clemuel Ricketts in 1850 purchased 5000 acres of land surrounding Long Pond (now Ganoga Lake) with hopes of building his own hunting and fishing lodge. Well traveled and very knowledgeable of architectural style, Ricketts designed his mansion and began construction in 1851. Throughout its construction, the mansion was ridiculed as "Ricketts' Folly" because of the apparent difficulties of building in such an untamed area. However, when completed in 1852, the mansion was admired as a remarkable achievement.

When finished, Ricketts Mansion looked much as it does today. Built of field sandstone, the residence was two and one-half stories high, had a low pitched gable roof and was five bays by two bays. Rather than a folly, the mansion stood as a fine example of civilization amidst the wilds of rural Pennsylvania.

Following its completion in 1852, the mansion was operated as a tavern and residence. After the Civil War, Colonel Robert Bruce Ricketts, son of Clemuel, purchased the residence and accompanying 5000 acres. By 1872 the Colonel had gained control of almost 60,000 additional acres (the acreage is now part of Ricketts Glen State Park) and established a lumber business on the property near the house. A year later, using lumber cut in his mill, Ricketts erected a three story hotel adjacent to the mansion. For thirty years the hotel, called the North Mountain House, attracted a steady flow of seasonal guests, many of whom were friends and relatives of the Colonel. Some of the regular visitors came from as far away as New York and Philadelphia. Despite profits, Ricketts became disenchanted with the hotel business and closed his hotel in 1903. A short time later the building was razed and replaced by an expansive garden.

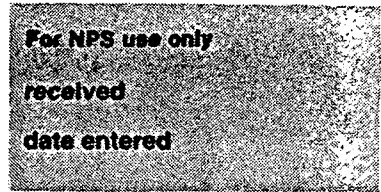
In 1876, three years after the North Mountain House opened, a summer camp for boys, one of the first of its kind, was established on Rickett's property. The camp offered summer instruction in aquatic sports, fishing, rowing, hiking, drawing and painting. Though the camp existed for only two years it was among the earliest summer camps ever established.

In 1913 the mansion underwent a number of alterations. Dormers were added to the original roof, a chimney was replaced and a second story porch was restored. A new 40' x 26' wing was also added to the northeast side of the main building. The only other changes to the structure since 1913 have been modern plumbing and electrical facilities.

The 1935 Historical American Buildings Survey selected Rickett's Mansion as an outstanding architectural structure and included it in that year's survey. Detailed architectural plans delineate elevations, floor plans, and architectural details and materials. The plans reveal the fine qualities that have been preserved since the erection of the mansion in the 1850's.

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Sullivan County

Continuation sheet Clemuel Ricketts Residence Item number 8

Page 2

Overlooking Ganago Lake in Sullivan County, Rickett's Mansion is a fine example of late Georgian vernacular architecture. One of the first mountain resorts in north central Pennsylvania, the mansion ultimately represents the manifestations of one man's architectural dream preserved within the wilderness for over a century.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Ricketts, Clemuel. Notes of Travel in Eurpoe, Egypt and the Holy Land including a visit to the city of Constantinople in 1841 and 1842, (Philadelphia: C. Sherman, Printer, 1844.)
Ricketts, William R. Text from HABS Study, 1935

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2.15

Quadrangle name Red Rock, PA

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

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

B

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

C

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

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

The area within the surrounding Drives: starting at a point on the eastside of Drive moving NE 500', then SW along Drive 500' then NW along Drive 375'.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Teresa B. McDonald

organization Ganoga Lake Association

date 1980

street & number 216 Church St.

telephone N/A

city or town Kingston

state Pa. 18704

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Larry E. Tise, State Historic
title Preservation Officer


date 4/14/83

For NPS use only

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

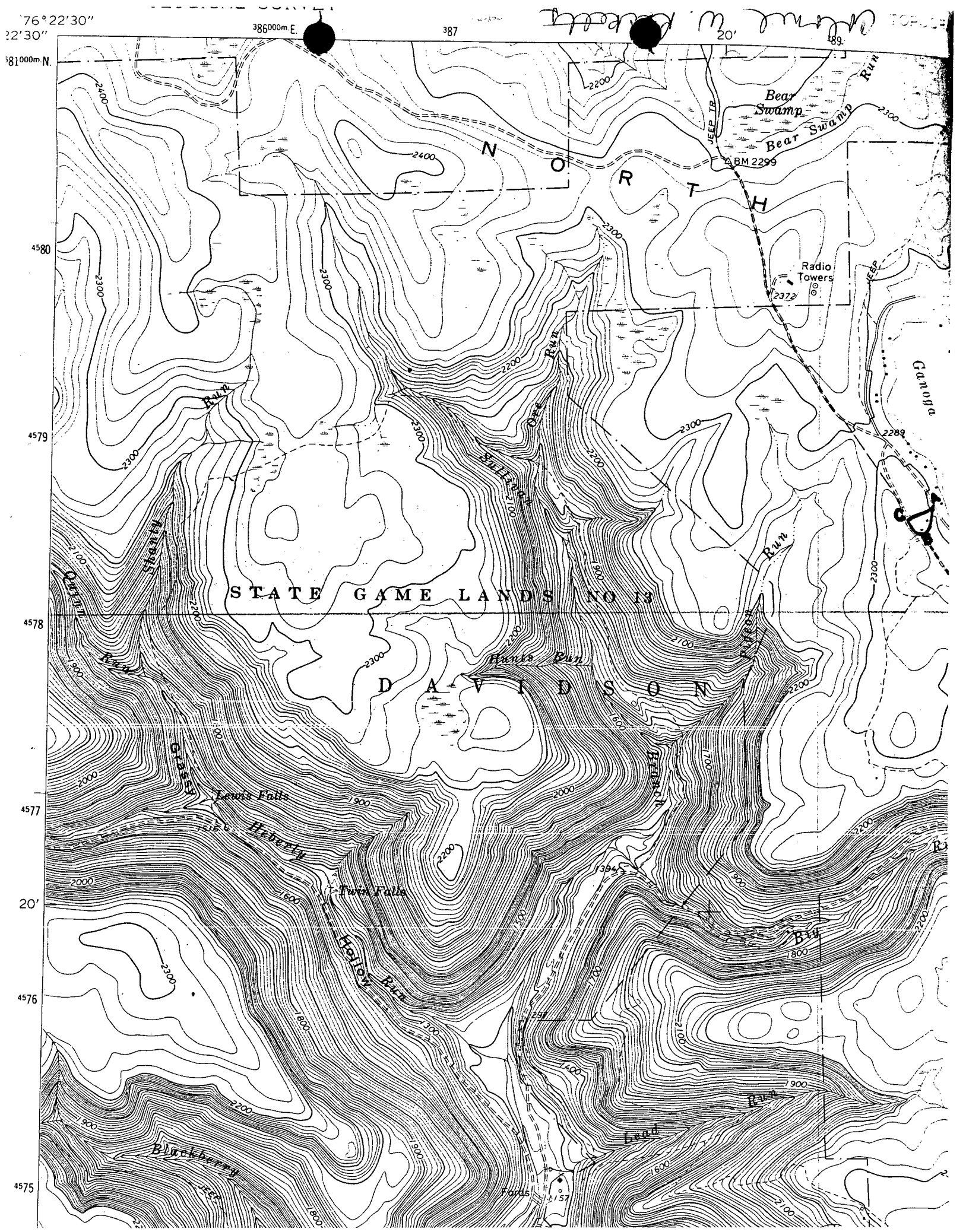
date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



76° 22' 30"

386000m.E.

387

20'

89.

22' 30"

381000m.N.

4580

4579

4578

4577

4576

4575

STATE GAME LANDS NO 13

DAVIDSON

Bear Swamp

Radio Towers
2372

BM 2299

Ganoga Run

Stearns Run

Miller Run

Harris Run

Lewis Falls

Heberly

Twin Falls

Hollow Run

Blackberry

Lead

Falls

BM 1800

2157

