

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Pennsylvania	
COUNTY: Lancaster	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Old City Hall

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
County Court House, State House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Penn Square

CITY OR TOWN:  
Lancaster

STATE Pennsylvania	CODE 42	COUNTY: Lancaster	CODE 071
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More, as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Presently not in use.

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
City of Lancaster

STREET AND NUMBER:  
120 North Duke Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Lancaster

STATE: Pennsylvania	CODE 42
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Lancaster County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:  
King & Duke Streets

CITY OR TOWN:  
Lancaster

STATE: Pennsylvania	CODE 42
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Inventory of County Archives of Pa. No. 36, Lancaster

DATE OF SURVEY:  
 Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Lancaster

STATE: Pennsylvania	CODE
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Pennsylvania  
COUNTY: Lancaster  
ENTRY NUMBER  
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7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

ORIGINAL

The old City Hall was commissioned as a "public office house" in 1795, and completed two years later on the grounds that had originally been deeded to the city by Andrew Hamilton for keeping and erecting a market. Built of brick in Flemish bond, the three and a half story structure has accents in cut stone. Flat stone arches with large keystones are found above the windows and a stone beltcourse divides the first and second stories. The building is five bays across and three deep. The main entrance was in the middle of the south side and was flanked by engaged columns and surmounted by a classical pediment. Two entrances were located in the east gable, but they were relatively unadorned with flat arches similar to those of the windows. All the windows on the first floor were flanked by paneled shutters.

The moderate pitch of the roof line is broken by the vertical extension of the gable to simulate massive joined chimneys. The actual flues were hidden behind this masonry construction. A wooden balustrade connected the two simulated chimneys. Two small gabled dormers with half round windows are found on the front and back slopes of the roof. A large circular window set in circular moulding with four keystones is also found in the east gable at the attic level.

PRESENT

The building has undergone major alterations in door and window placement. The main door on the south facade was made into a window as were the two east entrances. The center window on the east gable end has now become the main entrance. It is decorated with pilasters, pediment, and fan window. The building was restored in 1924 but the general appearance with regard to window and door placement is that of the 1890 structure. The interior has suffered from continuous and varied use. Little of the interior woodwork remains in the present office configuration.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century            |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1797

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Old City Hall has both architectural and historical significance. Architecturally, the building, though restored in 1924, still has many fine Federal features in its dignified exterior. It is now the oldest (1797) building on Penn Square, the scene of many of Lancaster's historic moments. The building itself housed the Commonwealth offices from 1799-1812 when Lancaster was the capital of the state. In later years it served as both a city and county building, a meeting hall for the Masonic lodge, as a post office, and as a library. As the oldest building on the square, it remains a thread to Lancaster's historic past.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Heiges, George L., "When Lancaster Was Pennsylvania's Capital", Lancaster County Historical Society, 1951, Vol. LV No.1.

Landis, Charles I., " City Hall and Its History", Lancaster County Historical Society, 1918, Vol. XXLL No.7.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	40°	02'	16"
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"	76°	18'	23"
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"			
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Pennsylvania Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks

ORGANIZATION: Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission DATE: April, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Box 1026

CITY OR TOWN: Harrisburg STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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

National  State  Local

Name *Matthew J. Shew*  
State Liaison Officer

Title Deputy Executive Director  
Pa. Historical & Museum Comm.

Date 1/7/72

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

