

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only
received
date entered

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

1. Name

historic

and/or common *Murry Site (36La183)*

2. Location

street & number *South of Washington*

not for publication

city, town *Manor Twp.*

vicinity of

congressional district *16*

state *Pennsylvania*

code *42*

county *Lancaster*

code *071*

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name *Pennsylvania Power and Light Company*

street & number *c/o George R. Aukamp*

city, town *Holtwood*

vicinity of

state *Pennsylvania*

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. *Recorder of Deeds, Lancaster County Courthouse*

street & number *50 North Duke*

city, town *Lancaster*

state *Pennsylvania*

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Pennsylvania State Museum Archaeological
title *Site Survey Recording Program*

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date *June 4, 1968*

federal state county local

depository for survey records *William Penn Memorial Museum*

city, town *Harrisburg*

state *Pennsylvania*

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Murry Site (36La183) is a large, stockaded Shenks Ferry village, located approximately two miles south of Washington Boro, on a low rise of a broad Pleistocene terrace, 70 feet above the Susquehanna River.

_____. Located on the Wheeling silt loam soil type, the site is currently under cultivation, as it has been in the past.

Originally reported by Henry Heisey, an amateur archaeologist living nearby, the site had attracted little notice prior to 1967. It had been regularly surface collected by local collectors, and a few test pits had been dug into the site by persons unknown, but because the lithic material was composed of mainly Late Woodland points and debris, and the pottery fragments were small, disturbance of the site had been minimal.

In 1967, Heisey and W. Fred Kinsey III, of the North Museum of Franklin and Marshall College, learned that the land the Murry Site was on had been purchased by an unidentified commercial interest (later identified as P.P.&L.) Understanding that two years would be available to salvage information from the site, they undertook a two year program from 1968 to 1969, utilizing support from P.P.&L. (1968), NSF (1968), and the National Endowment for the Humanities (1969) (Kinsey and Graybill 1971). The 1968 field season consisted of six weeks of surface survey of the entire field, combined with 12,000 square feet of excavation. In 1969, work was expanded to seven weeks of excavation, with a much larger crew. A bulldozer stripped away the plow zone of 106,000 square feet, which was then flat shovelled and mapped for features, then excavated. The site was also deep-trenched for possible buried stratigraphy, although none was found.

What emerged from the large scale spatial clearing was a unobscured settlement platter revealing four structural features: 1) a circular double-walled stockade, the outer wall enclosing 3.91 acres of land; 2) a large concentric circle of dwelling units; 3) a smaller concentric circle of dwelling units; and 4) a circular lodge, possible a men's house, in the center of the village. In all, 28 houses were mapped and excavated, with an estimated 24 remaining (1971:25). Associated with the site were 84 features, and 24 separate burials, containing 46 individuals. One burial contained 16-17 adults, the only known mass burial for the Shenks Ferry Culture. The size of the interment and the presence of a possible Susquehannock projectile point in the jaw of one individual, suggested warfare (p13). No cemeteries were located. No trash middens were found within the stockaded area, although they may have been located outside. Bone preservation was good, but in spite of this, little faunal material was found.

The clarity of the settlement pattern, lacking superposition of succeeding phases of construction, coupled with the presence of one primary pottery type, Funk Incised, and the absence of European trade goods, all suggested a single component, Late Shenks Ferry, Funk Phase occupation. This short occupation, possibly no more than 10 years duration, is bracketed between A.D. 1450 and 1550, probably toward the end of that period (Barry Kent, personal communication). The single Radiocarbon date (Y-2480) was A.D. 1410+ 100. Under this interpretation, the Murry Site is the latest known Shenks Ferry occupation in Southeastern Pennsylvania, prior to the Shultz Phase, Susquehannock period sites, beginning circa 1575.

The Murry Site is defined as the entire area within the outer stockade wall, plus the area immediately outside. The boundary is described by a quadrilateral, having the southeastern corner 430 feet at a bearing of North 70 degrees East from the northeast corner of the Murry farmhouse. From the southeaster corner, the boundary line runs 600 feet at a bearing of North 15 degrees West, then 640 feet at a bearing of South 70 degrees West, then 590 feet at a bearing of South 20 degrees East. The boundary then returns

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date entered

Murry Site
Continuation sheet

Item number

7

Page

2

to the farmhouse corner, 160 feet away at a bearing of North 70 degrees East. The perimeter incorporates the village proper, plus likely midden deposits outside the wall. The area enclosed by the boundary is 8.3 acres

An estimated 64,000 square feet of site within the stockade wall remains intact, plus an undetermined amount outside. No other impact on the site, other than the 1968-1969 excavations, and the continual agricultural plowing has occurred. None, other than plowing, is anticipated.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below					
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input 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

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Although extensively excavated in the late 1960's, the Murry Site retains in situ integrity for approximately one-third of the area within the outer stockade wall, and all of the area outside it. As revealed by Kinsey and Heisey's work, the site represents one of the few unobstructed intra-site settlement patterns in Pennsylvania. In addition, the sub-rectangular house type, unusual by comparison to earlier Blue Rock Phase house forms, was first documented at the Murry Site. The short occupation, probably less than a generation, provides the research potential for associating features and structures with surficial material, as well as with each other (Binford 1972)

The 46 individuals buried at the site, not only provide a sample of human mortuary practice distinct from successive Susquehannock occupations in the region, but is a sample sufficient for limited paleodemographic and paleopathological analyses. The faunal and floral remains at the site, as well as fish remains, yield valuable information on diet for a currently poorly known cultural adaptation.

Perhaps the greatest research importance of the Murry Site has been its role in the explanation of late 16th century cultural change in Southeastern Pennsylvania. The Shenks Ferry archaeological phenomenon, culminating in the Funk Phase, was replaced, no later than 1575, by Susquehannock. This change is reflected in pottery styles and settlement pattern, and is thought to be a result of conquest and acculturation (Kent, personal communication). The mechanisms for this may have included replacement of populations and adoption of Shenks Ferry peoples into the Susquehannock population.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Kinsey, W. Fred, III and Jeffrey R. Graybill
 1971 Murry Site and its role in Lancaster and Funk Phases of Shenks Ferry
 Culture. Pennsylvania Archaeologist 41(4):7-44

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 4.5

Quadrangle name Safe Harbor 7 1/2'

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A 
 Zone Easting Northing

B

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 Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The Murry Site is defined as the entire area within the outer stockade wall, plus the area immediately outside. The boundary is described by a _____

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

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ira Beckerman
 organization _____ date _____
 street & number 630 Humphrey Court #202 telephone (717) 545-5698
 city or town Harrisburg state Pennsylvania

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature
Ed Weintraub
 title State Historic Preservation Officer date _____

For HCRS 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

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**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

Murry Site

9

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 2

Major Bibliographic References (continued)

Heisey Henry

1971 *An interpretation of Shenks Ferry Ceramics.* Pennsylvania Archaeologist 41(4):44-68

Witthoft, John

1969 *Ancestry of the Susquehannocks.* In Susquehannock Miscellany, John Witthoft and W. Fred Kinsey, III (eds.). Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Harrisburg (2nd Printing). pp. 19-60

Kinsey, W. Fred and Henry Heisey

1970 *The Murry Site and its role in Shenks Ferry Culture.* (abstr.) Eastern States Archeological Federation Bulletin no. 29, p. 8

Binford, Lewis R.

1972 *Hatchery West: Site definition-Surface distribution of sultural items.* In An Archaeological Perspective.. Lewis Binford (ed.) Seminar: New York. pp. 164-181.