**1. NAME**

COMMON:

Conewago Chapel

AND/OR HISTORIC:

Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:

R.D. #4

CITY OR TOWN:

Hanover

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

19th

STATE:

Pennsylvania

CODE:

42

COUNTY:

Adams

CODE:

001

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY (Check One)</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District</td>
<td>Building</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Public Acquisition:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site</td>
<td>Structure</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>In Process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Object</td>
<td></td>
<td>Both</td>
<td>Being Considered</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate):

- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Educational
- Entertainment
- Religious
- Scientific

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:

The Most Reverend Joseph T. Daley, Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg, in trust for the Roman Catholic Congregation of Sacred Heart Church, Conewago Twp.

STREET AND NUMBER:

111 State Street, P.O. Box 2153

CITY OR TOWN:

Harrisburg

STATE:

Pennsylvania

CODE:

42

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Adams County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

Baltimore and West Middle Streets

CITY OR TOWN:

Gettysburg

STATE:

Pennsylvania

CODE:

42

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:

None

DATE OF SURVEY:

- Federal
- State
- County
- Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:
The Conewago Chapel was constructed during the years 1785-1787, upon the site of an earlier chapel, to accommodate the needs of a growing congregation. At approximately the same time, around 1787, a rectory was built adjoining the chapel.

The chapel is constructed of brownstone with walls approximately three feet thick. The structure is three bays in width, five bays deep, and two and one-half stories in height. The entrance is Greek Revival in style with semi-circular arched doorway and gabled roof with boxed return. Windows on both first and second floors are semi-circular arched with radiating voussoirs and keystone. Windows flank either side of the main entrance, while on the second story, a window appears directly above the main entrance and is flanked by two, smaller, flat-arched windows. Located in the gable end are three circular windows with radiating voussoirs and keystones surrounding each window.

The chapel originally featured a timber roof. Presently, the chapel has a gabled roof with boxed cornice and return. A cupola was later built above the roof between the years 1822 and 1843. It was replaced in 1873 by a church spire, approximately eighty feet in height, which contains a 3000 pound bell placed there in 1891.

In 1787, the rectory was built to house the priests serving in a missionary capacity to surrounding areas. The rectory is connected to the church through a smaller chapel and has been markedly altered since its original construction. The building is five bays wide, three stories high, and originally two bays deep. A three-bay addition has been added to the rear of one side of the house, probably at the same time as the addition of the mansard roof. The rectory also features a full front verandah, a side porch and oriel window, coupled brackets on the frieze below the boxed cornice, and bellcast-type dormers.

In 1850, a transept and semi-circular apse were added to the chapel. The addition was two and one-half stories in height and eighty feet in width.

The interior of the chapel was decorated in 1844 when Father Nicholas Steinbacher, S.J., hired a Mr. Gebhart of Philadelphia. The church was redecorated by Lorenzo C. Scattaglia of Philadelphia in 1887 and again in 1937 for the Sediquicentennial celebration. In the late 1950's, a complete restoration was undertaken.

The most impressive facet of the interior is the series of paintings by Franz Stecher on the transept and apse of the church which were done during 1851. During the facelift of the 1950's, Walter Boettcher repainted the ceiling decorations as well as Stecher's paintings.

Other buildings in the complex include a stone schoolhouse erected in 1902, a convent built in 1902 and moved to the chapel grounds in 1959, and a parish hall built in 1954. A cemetery, first opened in 1752, is located at the rear of the church.
The Conewago Chapel was the original log structure built in 1741 which became the headquarters of the Jesuit missionaries of the St. Francis mission circuit. The present complex of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus was built upon the site of the original log chapel.

The present chapel is the oldest Catholic church building constructed of stone in the United States. The rectory became the center for missionary activities in western Maryland, the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, and most of Pennsylvania west of the Susquehanna River. Prince Gallitzin, the Apostle of the Alleghenies, spent the first years of his priesthood here, from 1795 to 1799.

Nineteenth century alterations and additions to the site were the result of a growing congregation. The surrounding areas had no houses of worship and Catholics of the settlements were members of the Conewago congregation.

The chapel is also notable for the paintings of Franz Stecher on the apse and transept ceilings, done during 1851. These include frescoes depicting various religious scenes.
"Conewago Chapel Sesqui-Centennial, 1787-1937," (pamphlet)


10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 acre.

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

STATE: [Code] COUNTY: [Code]

STATE: [Code] COUNTY: [Code]

STATE: [Code] COUNTY: [Code]

STATE: [Code] COUNTY: [Code]

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: [Signature]

David C. Stiles

Harvey Freedenburg, Student Aide; David Berman, Curator

ORGANIZATION

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

DATE: 1973, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:

William Penn Memorial Museum, 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: [Signature] William J. Wewer

Title: Executive Director of Pennsylvania Hist. & Museum Commission

Date: 7/16/74

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date