

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 N/A

and or common Roberts Farm Site (36La1)

2. Location

street & number [redacted] not for publication

city, town Manor N/A vicinity of

state Pennsylvania code 042 county Lancaster code 071

3. Classification

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|--|
| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| <input type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> n/a in process | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> n/a being considered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property

name Lee C. & Ray L. Ressler

street & number T/A Ressler Bros., R.D. #2

city, town Conestoga N/A vicinity of state Pennsylvania

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Lancaster County Courthouse

street & number 50 North Duke Street

city, town Lancaster state PA

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Pennsylvania State Museum Archaeological Site Survey & Recording Program has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date May 31, 1967 federal state county local

depository for survey records Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

city, town Harrisburg state Pennsylvania

7. Description

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|-----------------|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved | date <u>N/A</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | | |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Roberts Farm Site (36La1) is a multi-component prehistoric and historic period aboriginal site located on a knoll overlooking Conestoga Creek, just above the confluence of the creek with the Susquehanna River at Safe Harbor. The knoll is bordered on the east and west by two gullies and on the south by a terrace adjacent to the Conestoga Creek. Topography thus sharply delimits the habitable level area of the knoll top. The entire level portion of the knoll, consisting of fertile Pequa silt loam soil, is currently farmed and the terrace below the site provides an area of approximately 5 acres of prime agriculture land (Huntingdon silt loam) which is currently tilled and which would have been suitable for prehistoric agriculture. The areas bordering the knoll top and terrace are currently covered by a mixed deciduous forest but the entire area was probably originally forested with oak, hickory, and yellow poplar and a good source of nuts.

The site had been visited by local collectors for many years but was first reported in the literature by Donald Cadzow (1936). D.H. Landis (n.d.) had collected from the area and documented the presence of Susquehannock material across the top of the knoll. In 1931-1932 Cadzow, representing the Pennsylvania Historical Commission, excavated a trash midden and storage pit in the southern portion of the knoll, documenting the presence of a village there. The excavation of these features produced pottery, lithic tools and debitage, animal bone, charcoal, and charred corn, beans, and nuts. An iron hoe and shell-tempered pottery were found in one pit, suggesting a proto-historic occupation. Cadzow's and Landis's work demonstrated the presence of a substantial village settlement on the top of the knoll.

A small area (approximately 30'x40') of a Susquehannock cemetery associated with the settlement was excavated by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission in 1971 under the direction of Barry Kent (1984). Eight burials were exposed, the remains all showing poor to fair preservation despite their early 17th century (1625-1645) date. The grave goods included both aboriginal (Washington Boro and Strickler Cordmarked) pottery types and trade goods. The consistent location of Susquehannock Cemeteries outside village stockades suggests that the village portion of the site is limited to the knoll to the south of the 1971 excavation (see map) (Kent 1984: 341-342).

Also discovered during the 1971 excavations was a large, undisturbed Early Woodland pit. This feature was located 20 inches below the surface and contained quantities of Early Woodland period pottery.

The combined evidence suggests occupation of the site from the Late Archaic period through historic contact. In addition to the excavated material representing Protohistoric, Late Woodland, and Early Woodland settlement which has been referred to above, surface collections at the site included artifacts from the Late Archaic and all later periods.

A possible historical reference to the Susquehannock village documented by the excavations of Cadzow and Kent may be found in John Campanius Holm's description, in the 1640's, of a "Minques Fort" at the location of the Roberts Farm Site (Holm 1834). Holm's description of the location and topography of the Minques (Susquehannock) Fort conforms to that of the Roberts Farm Site but to no other known local sites. Other contemporary local sites can be eliminated from consideration for various reasons: The Washington Boro Site is at a much lower elevation and lacks guns; the Strickler Site was founded after 1648 (Kent 1984) and is not in the appropriate topography setting.

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Kent (1985) estimates, on the basis of comparative data from the nearby Schultz and Strickler sites, that the population of the village at the Roberts Farm Site would have been about 800, 50% of that estimated at the Washington Boro Site. One possible explanation for this small population is that there was a contemporaneous Susquehannock town at La10, the Billmeyer Site, near Bainbridge. If so, this represents an exception to the usual Susquehannock settlement pattern of a single town in a local area. Only one other instance of this dual settlement pattern, the two Liebhart Sites, is known.

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Cadzow, Donald A. "Notes of Lancaster County Archaeology." In Archaeological Studies of the Susquehannock Indians of Pennsylvania. Safe Harbor Report No. 2 Publications of PA Historical and Museum Commission, Vol. 3, 1936, pp. 39-43.

Holm, Thomas Campanius
1834 Description of the Province of New Sweden...Peter S. DuPonceau (Transl.)
Memoirs of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania Vol. 3, Part 1.

Kent, Barry
1984 Susquehanna's Indians Anthropological Series, #6, Harrisburg:
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

Kinsey, W. Fred, III with Herbert C. Kraft, Patricia Marchiando and David J. Werner
1971 Archaeology in the Upper Delaware Valley, Harrisburg, PHMC.

Landis, David H.
n.d. Catalogue of my collection of Indian curios. MS#1, on file with the
Archaeology Section, The State Museum, Harrisburg.

USDA
1959 Soil Survey of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. U.S. Soil Conservation Service, Soil Survey, ser. 1956, no. 4.

Witthoft, John and W. Fred Kinsey, III
1958 Susquehanna Miscellany, Harrisburg, PHMC

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The area nominated includes the village area on the southern end of the knoll and the cemetery north of the village area. The village is limited to the area south of the cemetery because Susquehannock cemeteries have never been found within a village palisade. The village should, therefore, be limited to the level ground on the top of the knoll to the south of the cemetery (see map). Topographic factors (the sharp drop on three sides of the knoll top) suggest obvious boundaries to the settlement on the west, east, and south.

Beginning at the southwest corner of the present agricultural field, the boundary follows the 220' contour to the east and north, running approximately 150 yards to the east, then 150 yards to the north (see map). From there the boundary follows the steepest gradient of the slope to the west, running approximately 125 yards to the crest of the knoll, then 75 yards to the southwest, down the other side. The boundary then follows the 220' contour to the southwest corner of the field. The area enclosed is approximately 7.5 acres.

A detailed boundary discussion may be found in Kent 1984: 341-342. Kent derives the same boundaries on the basis of previous excavation and reasonable inference.

8. Significance

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture |
| <input checked="" 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 | 1000-300 BC 1500-1650 AD | Builder/Architect | N/A |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-----|

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Roberts Farm Site is a multi-component (Late Archaic through historic) habitation and cemetery site, which has produced evidence for a substantial fortified Late Woodland/Protohistoric period (Susquehannock) village and cemetery as well as an Early Woodland settlement. The Early Woodland site is important in that few sites of this period have been recorded along the major rivers of the southeastern portion of the state (Kinsey 1971). The evident preservation of floral and faunal remains in storage and trash pits could provide data on Early Woodland subsistence, information on which is scanty at present.

The Susquehannock village may represent either an unusual settlement pattern of dual contemporaneous villages or a drastic demographic shift. The site contained the earliest known presence of guns (ca. 1630-1640) at an Indian site in southeastern Pennsylvania. The early presence of guns and trade goods suggests that research on the nature of cultural change following European contact could be conducted at the site. The archaeological evidence could complement the historical information on the rapid acculturation which occurred during the early 17th century. Demographic and paleopathological data from the cemetery could be important in demonstrating changes in nutrition, fertility, and mortality during this period of acculturation and stress (Witthoft and Kinsey 1958).

The Roberts Farm Site may also be historically significant as the location of the "Minques Fort" described by Thomas Campanius Holm.

9. Major Bibliographical References

(See attached sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 7.5

Quadrangle name Safe Harbor, PA

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A [REDACTED]

B

| | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---------|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|
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| Zone | Easting | | | Northing | | | | | |

C

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|------|---------|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | Easting | | | Northing | | | | | |

D

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|------|---------|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|
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| | | | | | | | | | |
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F

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|------|---------|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | Easting | | | Northing | | | | | |

G

| | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---------|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | Easting | | | Northing | | | | | |

H

| | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---------|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | Easting | | | Northing | | | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification

(See attached sheet)

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 Ira Beckerman

organization N/A

date 1980, revised 1986

street & number 630 Humphrey Court #202

telephone

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Larry E. Tise, State Historic Preservation Officer

date

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