



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Pennsylvania	
COUNTY: Lebanon	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	OCT 1 1974

**1. NAME**

COMMON: ~~Old Tunnel~~  
 AND/OR HISTORIC: Old Canal Tunnel, Union Canal Tunnel

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: Tunnel Hill Road, ca. two miles northwest of Lebanon, Legislative Route 38025 W of Lebanon off PA 72  
 CITY OR TOWN: North Lebanon Township, vicinity  
 STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42 COUNTY: Lebanon CODE: 075

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	

Owned privately by Lebanon Co. Hist. Soc. and accessible to public

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: Lebanon County Historical Society  
 STREET AND NUMBER: Houck Memorial Building, Sixth and Walnut Streets  
 CITY OR TOWN: Lebanon STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Lebanon County Municipal Building  
 STREET AND NUMBER: South Eighth Street  
 CITY OR TOWN: Lebanon STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: Pennsylvania Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks  
 DATE OF SURVEY: 1970  Federal  State  County  Local  
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: William Penn Memorial Museum  
 STREET AND NUMBER: Box 1026  
 CITY OR TOWN: Harrisburg STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Pennsylvania  
 COUNTY: Lebanon  
 ENTRY NUMBER: OCT 1 1974  
 DATE: OCT 1 1974  
 FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent  Good  Fair  Deteriorated  Ruins  Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered  Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved  Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The following is an edited description excerpted from the unpublished manuscript history of the Union Canal by Benjamin Bringhurst Lehman, son of William Lehman and Second Resident Engineer of the Union Canal:

Present length (of the tunnel is) 600 feet, (as opposed to the original) 729 feet length, it having been shortened 129 feet at the time of its (canals) enlargement circa 1853. The time of the original construction (was) from the fall of 1825 to the spring of 1827. The Chief Engineer was Canvass White; Assistant Engineer in Charge, Simeon Guilford; Contractor John B. Ives. Through Argillaceous slate rock, with veins of hard flinty limestone, (the tunnel was dug) 80 feet below the summit of the ridge. Rectangular at the base and semi-elliptical at the top, that shape corresponding with the arched and walled portions of the aggregate extent of about 150 feet at both ends; remainder entirely through rock, and self supporting. End arching and walling of limestone laid in cement, with cut sandstone faces. Estimated cost for arching 100 feet in length--\$2212.00. No timbering (was used) except for working scaffolds. The dimensions of the original cross-section (were) 18 feet wide and 15 feet high. The height (was) increased ca. 1853 by removing the crown and sides of the archway and rock to the extent of three feet, making the height 18 feet, for the better passage of boats. The drilling (was) done by hand as in the first instance, and the blasting (was done) by gunpowder.. The original cost (was) \$30,464.00, including the deep cuts at the ends. The cost of the enlargement circa 1853 (was) \$8,280.00.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1826-1827

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The oldest existing tunnel in the United States is a local tourist attraction of national significance. It was tunneled out of solid rock under Pansy Hill on the north-west fringe of the City of Lebanon for the Union Canal which connected the Susquehanna River at Middletown with the Schuylkill River at Reading. The tunnel on the summit of the canal was originally 729 feet long when it was first completed in 1827. It was shortened to 600 feet when the tunnel was adapted to accomodate barges of 50 ton ca. 1853. The canal and the tunnel served as a vital transportation link to bring industry to Central Pennsylvania. The canal and tunnel remained a thoroughfare for freight and passengers from Philadelphia and Middletown for 52 years until it was sold at a sheriff's sale in Philadelphia in 1884.

Benjamin Bringhurst Lehman, son of William Lehman, second Resident Engineer of the Union Canal, stated:

The Tunnel is on the Summit Level, on the first (projected) canal in Pennsylvania, and one of the first in the country. At the time of the construction of this tunnel, it was considered a work almost unknown in our country, and its extent entirely so.

In spring, 1970, the Union Canal Tunnel was designated a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark by the American Society of Civil Engineers. The Central Pennsylvania Section of the 63,000 member society has recommended the tunnel as a significant contribution to American engineering.

The tunnel is also significant because of its association with the Lehmans and Simeon Guilford, all of whom became prominent members of the local community. The tunnel is also indirectly associated with Governor John Andrew Shulze, the only governor elected from Lebanon County, and under whose administration the tunnel and canal was completed.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Aungst, Dean M. "The Two Canals of Lebanon County," Papers of the Lebanon County Historical Society, Vol. XIV, No. 1, pp. 37-38, Lebanon, By the Society, 1968.  
 Egle, William. History of the Counties of Dauphin and Lebanon... Philadelphia, Everts and Peck, 1883, p. 62.  
 Frantz, Frederick S. The Heritage of Lebanon County, Pennsylvania, Lebanon, Lebanon News Publishing Co., 1960, p. 50.  
 Heilman, U. Henry. "Descriptive and Historical Memorials of Heilman Dale," Papers of the Lebanon County Historical Society, Vol. IV, No. 13, pp. 419-20, Lebanon, By the Society, 1909.

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA (continued)**

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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		40° 21' 01"	76° 27' 41"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		40° 20' 58"	76° 27' 42"	
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

NO  
LTM  
CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **8.7 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Pennsylvania Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks

ORGANIZATION: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission DATE: August, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Box 1026

CITY OR TOWN: Harrisburg STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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]  
**State Liaison Officer**

Title: Executive Director, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

Date: 5/10/74

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

[Signature]  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 10/1/74

ATTEST: [Signature]  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 9-27-74

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Pennsylvania	
COUNTY Lebanon	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	OCT 1 1974

(Number all entries)

9. Major bibliographical references (continued)

Lehman, Benjamin Bringhurst. (Unpublished manuscript history of the Union Canal).

Redsecker, J.H. "Simeon Guilford, Civil Engineer and Iron Master," Papers of the Lebanon County Historical Society, Vol. 3, No. 3, p. 94. Lebanon, By the Society, 1904.

Shenk, Hiram H. A History of the Lebanon Valley in Pennsylvania. Harrisburg, The National Historical Association, Inc., 1930, Vol. 1, p. 62.



PROPERTY Union Canal Old Tunnel STATE Pa.

Lebanon

WORKING NUMBER 5.20.74.817

74001792

TECH REVIEW  
PHOTOS 1  
MAPS 1

CONTROL REVIEW Not a long incorrect on form and correction map  
OK

cm  
5.28.  
74

HISTORIAN

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Accept  
J. Sherman  
7/21/74

ARCHEOLOGIST to HAER

Accept  
M. BARNES  
9 Jul 74

80A

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept  
Dud  
8/7/74  
ACCEPT  
Coke  
9/12/74

BRANCH CHIEF

accept  
Kemp  
7/27/74

KEEPER

W  
9/27

National Register Write-up 11/12/74

Send-back \_\_\_\_\_

Federal Register entry 12/3/74

Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_

Entered OCT 1 1974



FORM 10-301 A  
(6/72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

*(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)*

1. NAME		
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE <i>(Assigned by NPS)</i>
Old Tunnel		OCT 9 1974
2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Pennsylvania	Lebanon	North Lebanon Township
STREET AND NUMBER		
Tunnel Hill Road, ca. two miles northwest of Lebanon, Legislative Route 38025		
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission	August, 1971	William Penn Museum Box 1026, Harrisburg, PA
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		

South entrance of tunnel.

#1081



GPO 932-009

**PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER**

#1081



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

*(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)*

**1. NAME**

COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
Old Tunnel		OCT 1 1974

**2. LOCATION**

STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Pennsylvania	Lebanon	North Lebanon Township

STREET AND NUMBER

Tunnel Hill Road, ca. two miles northwest of Lebanon, Legislative Route 38025

**3. MAP REFERENCE**

SOURCE	DATE	SCALE
Lebanon Quadrangle	1955	1:24000

REQUIREMENTS: PROPERTY BOUNDARIES, WHERE REQUIRED, AND NORTH ARROW:

40° 20' 58"  
76° 27' 42"



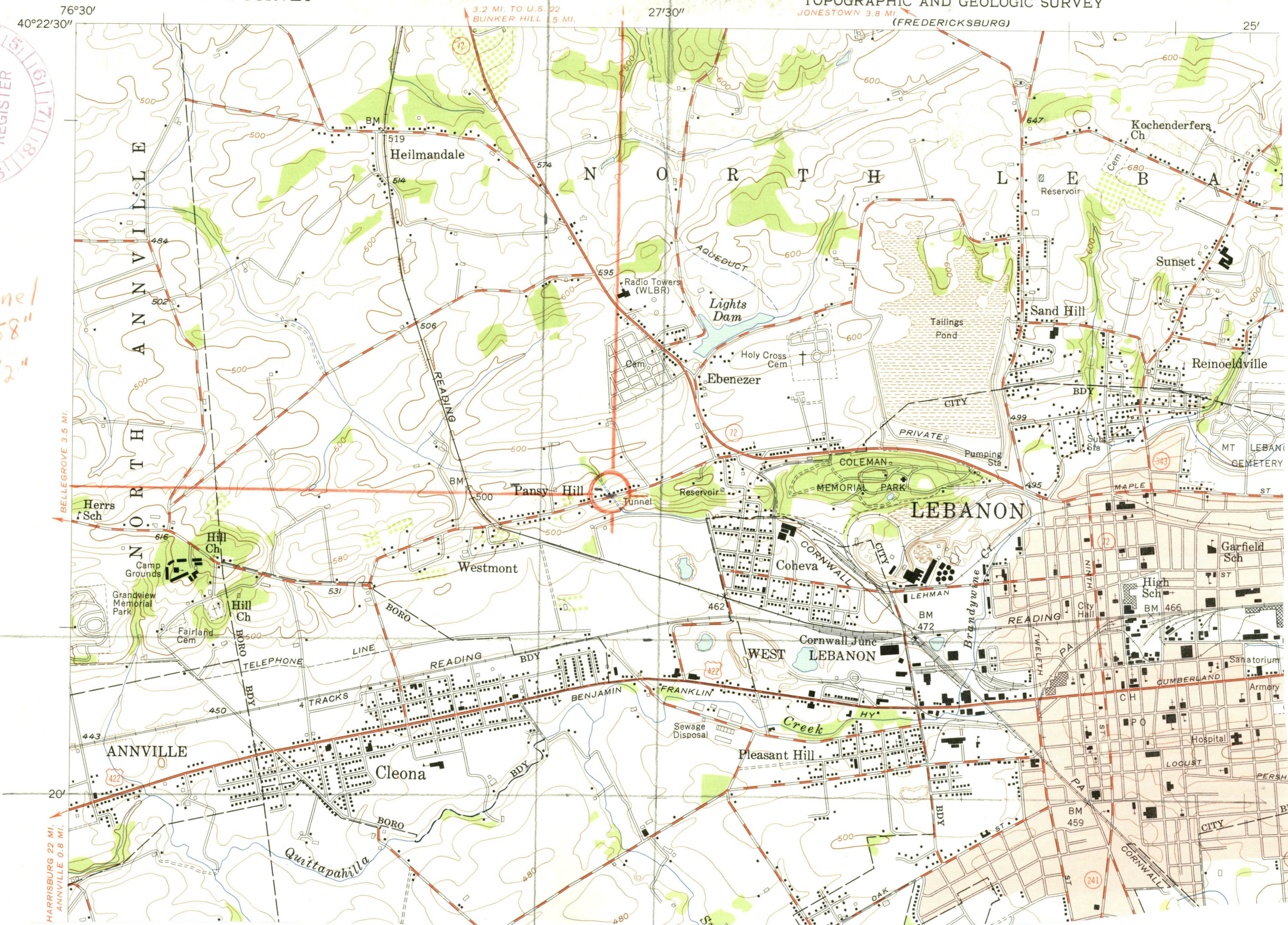
Lebanon Quadrangle

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS  
TOPOGRAPHIC AND GEOLOGIC SURVEY



Old Tunnel  
40° 20' 58"  
76° 27' 42"



(INDIANTOWN GAP)

76°30'  
40°22'30"

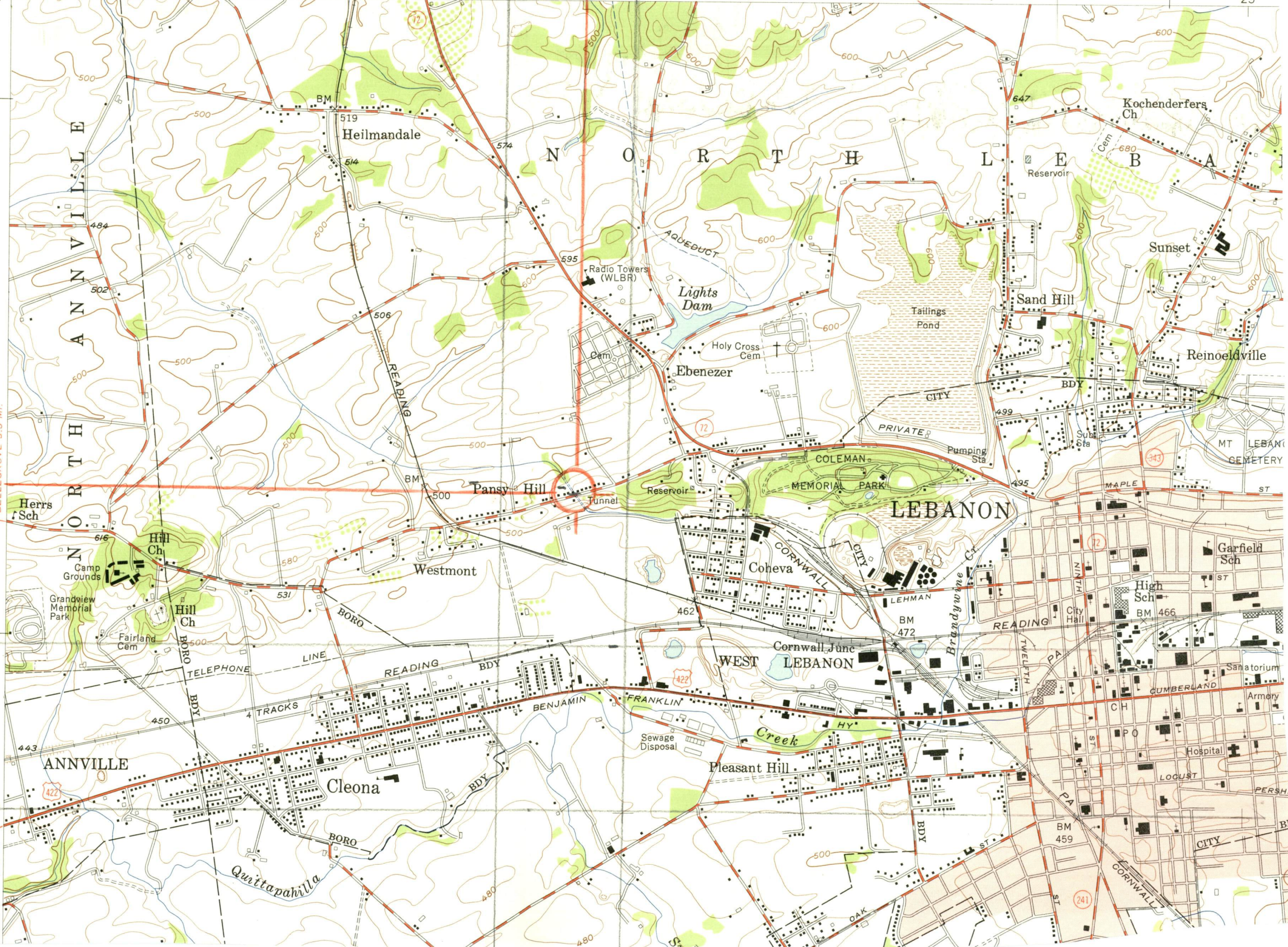
27'30"

25'

3.2 MI. TO U.S. 22  
BUNKER HILL 1.5 MI.

JONESTOWN 3.8 MI.  
(FREDERICKSBURG)

BELLE GROVE 3.5 MI.  
HARRISBURG 22 MI.  
ANNVILLE 0.8 MI.



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE      PENNSYLVANIA

Date Entered      OCT 1 1974

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Knowlton	Fox Chase, Philadelphia Philadelphia County
Adams County Courthouse	Gettysburg Adams County
Gardner-Bailey House	Pittsburgh, Edgewood Borough Allegheny County
Union Canal Tunnel	North Lebanon Township vicinity Lebanon County

Also Notified

Hon. Hugh Scott  
Hon. Richard S. Schweiker  
Hon. Joshua Eilberg  
Hon. George A. Goodling  
Hon. William S. Moorhead  
Hon. Edwin D. Eshleman

State Historic Preservation Officer  
Mr. William J. Wewer  
Executive Director  
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum  
Commission  
Box 1026  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Regional Director, Mid-Atlantic Region

10/9/74

MMott

PR

Union Canal Tunnel

(Resource Name)

74001792

(Reference Number[s])

10 / 30 / 2015

(Date form completed)

Lebanon County

(County)

Pennsylvania

(State)

WACC

(Completed by)

STATUS:

1. MISSING \_\_\_ 2. REMOVED/ DEMOLISHED \_\_\_ 3. NHL  4. TR \_\_\_ 5. MRA \_\_\_ 6. OVER-SIZED \_\_\_ 7. NPS - UNDOCUMENTED \_\_\_ 8. DOE - OWNER OBJECTION \_\_\_ 9. RESTRICTED \_\_\_

EXPLANATION:

1. Missing Status: Entire Folder ( ); Nomination ( ); Map(s) ( ); Photos ( )  
Available on: Microfiche ( ); Optical Disk ( )

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Cause for removal)

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date Removed)

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
(NHL Name, if different than NRHP Name)

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date Designated)

4. \_\_\_\_\_  
(If multi-state/county TR, state/county where filed and location)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(TR or MRA Name)

5. \_\_\_\_\_  
(If multi-state/county MRA, state/county where filed and location)

6. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Location of oversize file)

7. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Current source of partial documentation)

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
(Target Date)

COMMENTS:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Where found, or source of replacement)

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date Found/Replaced)