

PH 0665096

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAR 22 1978
DATE ENTERED	SEP 13 1978

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

BENJAMIN GRIFFEY HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

*w of allenwood on PA 44*

R.D. #1 (N. side Rt. 44, 1/4 m. east of Lycoming County)

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Allenwood *vic.*

— VICINITY OF

17

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Pennsylvania

42

Union

119 ✓

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

**OWNERSHIP**

**STATUS**

**PRESENT USE**

— DISTRICT

— PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

— AGRICULTURE

— MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

— UNOCCUPIED

— COMMERCIAL

— PARK

— STRUCTURE

— BOTH

— WORK IN PROGRESS

— EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

— SITE

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

**ACCESSIBLE**

— ENTERTAINMENT

— RELIGIOUS

— OBJECT

— IN PROCESS

— YES: RESTRICTED

— GOVERNMENT

— SCIENTIFIC

— BEING CONSIDERED

— YES: UNRESTRICTED

— INDUSTRIAL

— TRANSPORTATION

NO

— MILITARY

— OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Frank and Donald Reaser

STREET & NUMBER

R. D. #1

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Allenwood

— VICINITY OF

Pennsylvania

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Union County Courthouse, Register and Recorder

STREET & NUMBER

South Second & St. Louis Streets

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Lewisburg

Pennsylvania

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Union County Planning Commission Survey, 1976

DATE

1976

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Union County Planning Commission Office, Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Lewisburg

Pennsylvania

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This is a high, 2½ story, rectangular five-bay, brick (covered with a layer of smooth stucco) house with an L extension on the left (east) side. It was set behind a formal square garden (now neglected). It measures 54 feet across the front, and 30 feet from front to back plus the L which extends another 27 feet. A two story bay window with three facings just left of center dominates the front. A steep pitched gable rises behind it. The bay window is flanked by two decorative porches. The windows, some single, others double, have rounded arches. A line of cut stone runs along the foundation, and brick quoins add emphasis at the corners.

The main entrance is at the right of the bay window, and includes a double Victorian door with a red glass (rectangular) transom. The hallway contains a magnificent staircase which extends to the attic. The living room to the left of the hall has 15 foot ceilings and a molded design at the center. There is also a brown marble fireplace. Doors and woodwork are of walnut.

A fireplace of late design (that is 19th century) in the kitchen is fitted with iron doors.

The house is now in fair condition. Porches have rotted, spoutings have fallen and the foundation needs attention.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES      **circa 1886**                                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      **Benjamin Griffey**

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This unusually fine Victorian house was erected circa 1886 by Benjamin Griffey a local builder for his own residence. Benjamin Griffey built many of the industrial structures throughout the county during the mid-1800's. Following a disastous fire in 1850 he rebuilt the White Deer grist mill. He also built the White Deer Woolen Mills in 1848-50. This 6 story wooden structure powered by an 85 horsepower overshot waterwheel housed a woolen cloth and felt hat operation which supplied blankets to the Union soldiers during the Civil War.

Griffey's skill as a builder can be seen in the fine construction of his own home. Unfortunately the house has been neglected in recent years and now needs urgent attention. In the first part of the 20th century the house descended through a daughter to the Fairchild Family. Helen Fairchild, who grew up in the Griffey House, became a local hero during the World War I. Trained at the Philadelphia General Hospital she was one of the few nurses to serve and die at the Front in France. An American Legion Post, #412, in Philadelphia was named in her honor.

The Griffey House is one of the finest rural Victorian houses in Union County.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Records of Post 412 American Legion, Philadelphia; also file of Helen Fairchild, Veterans' Affairs Office, Union County Courthouse, Lewisburg, Pa. 17837

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .2

QUADRANGLE NAME \_\_\_\_\_ QUADRANGLE SCALE \_\_\_\_\_

UTM REFERENCES			QUADRANGLE SCALE		
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	1,8	3,3,5,0,0,0	4,5	5,3	9,2,0
B					
C					
D					
E					
F					
G					
H					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE  
**Charles M. Snyder, Union County Planning Commission**

ORGANIZATION  
**Union County Bicentennial Committee**

STREET & NUMBER  
**South Second & St. Louis Streets**

CITY OR TOWN  
**Lewisburg**

DATE

TELEPHONE  
**524-4461**

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 *William J. Wewer*

TITLE **WILLIAM J. WEWER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
**Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission**

DATE **3/17/78**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*R. B. Rettig*  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE **9/13/78**

ATTEST: *William Leborich*  
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE **Sept 11, 1978**

Property Griffey, Benjamin, House  
State Pa. Working Number 3.22.78.2739

78002474  
Union Co.

**TECHNICAL**

Photos 1  
Maps 1

**CONTROL**

*pl*  
OK 3.22.78

**HISTORIAN**

*accept*  
*Franklin*  
5.15.78

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE COULD HAVE BEEN STRONGER — BUT FROM THE PHOTOGRAPHS THE ARCHITECTURAL MERIT IS PERCEIVED.  
A RURAL VICTORIAN HOUSE W/ ELABORATE TRIM SURROUNDING THE WINDOWS AND CORNICE. (STUCCO OVER BRICK)  
NO V.B.D.

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

*ACCEPT*  
*H. Zitt*  
5/5/78

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

**OTHER**

**HAER**

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_  
Review \_\_\_\_\_

*significance as late Shinnate house.*

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

*Accept*  
*Lelovich*  
9/11/78

**BRANCH CHIEF**

*Lelovich for*  
*Henington*  
9/14/78

**KEEPER**

*Rettig* 9/13/78

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_  
Federal Register Entry 11.7.78

Send-back \_\_\_\_\_  
Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_

Entered **SEP 13 1978**

INT:2106-74



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Griffey-Fairchild House  
Union County, PA SEP 13 1978  
PD: 1977  
PC: Charles M. Snyder  
PV: front facade MAR 22 1978

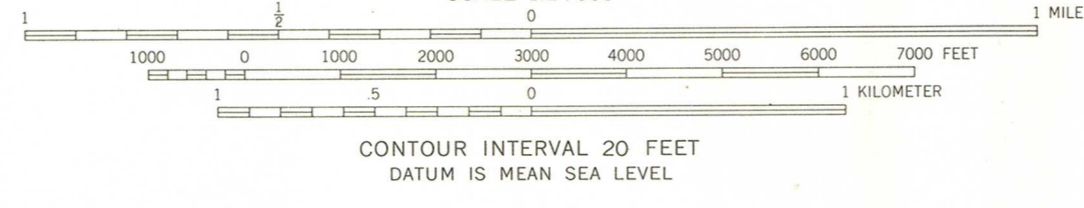
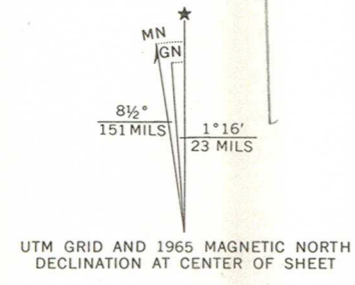
101

Griffey - Fairchild - Reaser house, Allenwood, R.D. 1, Gregg Twp, Union Co., Pa.



Benjamin Griffey House  
Union County  
Zone 18 E335000 N4553920

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial  
photographs taken 1963. Field checked 1965  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Pennsylvania coordinate system, north zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 18, shown in blue  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where  
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
Interstate Route	U.S. Route
	Slate Route



ALLENWOOD, PA.  
SW/4 MILTON 15' QUADRANGLE  
N4100-W7652.5/7.5  
1965  
AMS 5666 III SW-SERIES V831

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE PENNSYLVANIA

Date Entered SEP 13 1978

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Irvine, Guy C., House	Russell vicinity Warren County
Way, Nicholas, House	Pittsburgh Allegheny County
Darby Meeting	Darby Delaware County
Griffey, Benjamin, House	Allenwood vicinity Union County
National Transit Building	Oil City Venango County
Stover-Myers Mill	Pipersville vicinity Bucks County
Highland Hall	Hollidaysburg Blair County
Delaware & Hudson Canal Company Gravity Railroad Depot	Waymart Wayne County
Anthracite Bank Building	Tamaqua Schuylkill County

Also Notified

Honorable H. John Heinz, III  
Honorable Richard S. Schweiker  
Honorable Joseph S. Ammerman  
Honorable Doug Walgren  
Honorable Robert W. Edgar  
Honorable Allen E. Ertel  
Honorable Peter H. Kostmayer  
Honorable E. G. (Bud) Shuster  
Honorable Joseph M. McDade  
Honorable Gus Yatron

State Historic Preservation Officer  
Mr. Ed Weintraub  
Executive Director, Pennsylvania  
Historical and Museum Commission  
P.O. Box 1026  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

# NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

<b>1</b> NAME as it appears on federal register: Griffey, Benjamin, House		<b>2</b> OTHER NAMES:		<b>3</b> date of entry: SEP 13 1978		<b>4</b> county code: 119	
<b>5</b> LOCATION street & number W of Allenwood on PA 44		city / town Allenwood		vicinity of Allenwood		state PA	
				county Union		<b>6</b> NPS REGION: MA	
<b>7</b> OWNER <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE <input type="checkbox"/> STATE <input type="checkbox"/> MUNICIPAL <input type="checkbox"/> COUNTY <input type="checkbox"/> MULTIPLE <input type="checkbox"/> FEDERAL (agency name)						<b>8</b> ADMINISTRATOR:	
<b>9</b> EXISTING SURVEYS <input type="checkbox"/> HABS <input type="checkbox"/> HAER <input type="checkbox"/> NHL		<b>10</b> FUNDED? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		<b>11</b> CONGRESS. DISTRICT 17th		<b>12</b> SOURCE of NOMINATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STATE <input type="checkbox"/> FEDERAL	
<b>13</b> WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? <input type="checkbox"/> YES, NAME <input type="checkbox"/> NO		<b>14</b> WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? <input type="checkbox"/> YES, NAME <input type="checkbox"/> NO		<b>15</b> ACREAGE		if state, who prepared form? Charles M. Snyder <input type="checkbox"/> LOCAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE ORGANIZATION	
<b>16</b> CONDITION <input type="checkbox"/> excellent <input type="checkbox"/> good <input type="checkbox"/> fair <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> ruins <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed <input type="checkbox"/> unexcavated <input type="checkbox"/> altered <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered <input type="checkbox"/> reconstructed <input type="checkbox"/> excavated <input type="checkbox"/> original site <input type="checkbox"/> moved <input type="checkbox"/> unknown		<b>17</b> features: INTERIOR <input type="checkbox"/> SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 <input type="checkbox"/> NOT INTACT-0 <input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN-4 <input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPLICABLE-7 EXTERIOR <input type="checkbox"/> SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 <input type="checkbox"/> NOT INTACT-0 <input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN-5 <input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPLICABLE-8 ENVIRONS <input type="checkbox"/> SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3 <input type="checkbox"/> NOT INTACT-0 <input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN-6 <input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPLICABLE-9					
<b>18</b> ACCESS <input type="checkbox"/> YES-Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> YES-Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No Access <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown		<b>19</b> ADAPTIVE USE <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		<b>20</b> SAVED? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	
<b>21</b> AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE : <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2 <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1 <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE-3 <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE-4 <input type="checkbox"/> ART-5 <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE-6 <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS-7 <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION-8 <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS-9 <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION-10 <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING-11 <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT-26 <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION-12 <input type="checkbox"/> HEALTH-27 <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY-13 <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION-14 <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15 <input type="checkbox"/> LAW-16 <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE-17 <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY-18 <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC-19 <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY-20 <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS / GOVT.-21 <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION-22 <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE-23 <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL / HUMANITARIAN-24 <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL / CULTURAL-30 <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION-25 <input type="checkbox"/> RECREATION-28 <input type="checkbox"/> SETTLEMENT-29 <input type="checkbox"/> URBAN PLANNING-31 <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) _____						<b>22</b> CLAIMS: explain 'first' <input type="checkbox"/> 'oldest' <input type="checkbox"/> 'only' <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>23</b> functions WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: CURRENTLY:		<b>24</b> dates of initial construction: major alterations: historic events:				<b>25</b> ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION	
<b>26</b> architectural style(s):		<b>27</b> architect:		<b>28</b> master builder:		<b>29</b> engineer:	
<b>30</b> landscape architect / garden designer:		<b>31</b> interior decorator:		<b>32</b> artist:		<b>33</b> artisan:	
						<b>34</b> builder/contractor:	
<b>35</b> NAMES give role & date PERSONAL:  EVENTS:  INSTITUTIONAL:							
<b>36</b> NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP							