FHR-8-300 (11-78)

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only
received MAR 24 1980
date entered JUN 30 1980

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

1. Name

historic CAMBRIA COUNTY JAIL

and/or common

2. Location

street & number North Center and Sample Streets ___ not for publication

city, town Ebensburg ___ vicinity of congressional district 12

state Pennsylvania code 42 county Cambria code ; 021

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	X public	X occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	___ private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	X yes: restricted	X government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
		___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Cambria County c/o County Commissioners

street & number South Center Street

city, town Ebensburg ___ vicinity of state Pennsylvania

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Cambria County Courthouse

street & number South Center Street

city, town Ebensburg state Pennsylvania

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined elegible? ___ yes ___ no

date 11/28/79 ___ federal X state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

city, town Harrisburg state Pennsylvania

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
X good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Cambria County Jail, completed in 1872, is significant for its historic and governmental association with the growth and development of Ebensburg and Cambria County, Pennsylvania.

Architect Edward Haviland designed the jail in Gothic Revival style. The contractor was William Callan from Ebensburg who was also known for building private residences in the Johnstown area and the County Home, or County Poor House, as it was called in the late 19th century.

The romantic Gothic Revival is a popular style for public buildings since it presents a sense of solidity of character. The Cambria County Jail is made of cut sandstone and the width of the original structure is 56' by 100' in length and it has a height of 60'. The jail is surrounded by a 20' wall, also made of cut stone, which connects with the structure at the front.

The verticality of the jail and rough-faced masonry relates a sense of mass and gives an imposing appearance. This was the obvious feeling the architect wished to translate; the jail as an inescapable and impenetrable fortress.

The most obvious distinction of the facade is the pointed drop arch windows and pointed arched portal. The windows are grated with steel bars on the outside and adorned with a simple pattern of tracery formed by twin wooden arches within the main arch of the window. Battlements and buttresses are located on the corners of the stone walls.

A tower surmounts the central pavilion of the original building. It was constructed for use as a reservoir to supply the jail with water.

The structure built in 1872 contains around 34 cells, a kitchen and dining room, parlor, baths and sleeping rooms for prisoners and the residence of the sheriff. Floors are wooden and underlined with steel plates. Partitions built between the cells are of heavy stone masonry and there are four skylights on each side of the building.

In 1910 an addition was built to the rear of the 1872 sturcture in the jailyard. The addition housed 206 more jail cells along with a bakery and barber shop in the basement. In keeping with the motif of the original jail, the annex, built of fired brick, displays heavily grated arched windows and a skylight pierces the apex of the plate roof.

The new jail's cellblock, put in by Van Dorn Iron Works of Cleveland, Ohio, was regarded as the most modern use in tiers of cells in the center of a large room. The advantage was that a guard could see into each cell as he walked around the perimeter of the block. The cellblock is a common feature in state and federal institutions but rarely is found on a county level. Along with the above mentioned improvements to the Cambria County Jail an electric elevator was installed which ran between the basement and the top tier of cells.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
X 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	X politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates 1872 **Builder/Architect** William Callan/Edward Haviland

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Controversy surrounded the construction of the Cambria County Jail. Many Johnstown residents felt that if the jail was built in the city, the county seat would then be moved to Johnstown. Bitter accusations and rebuttals were printed weekly between Johnstown and Ebensburg newspapers until the issue was settled and the jail was erected in Ebensburg where the county seat remained.

A gallows was constructed at the jail and hangings were considered a source of entertainment for county residents until 1909. Before this date hangings were public; the sheriff determined how many tickets were issued. Only those holding an admission ticket were admitted to the jail yard and those not receiving passes often sat on nearby roof tops or on the wall surrounding the jail. One of the most spectacular hangings in Cambria County was the double hanging of Jacob Hauser and Stephen Fellows in February of 1906. Both were convicted of murders and over 1,000 people came by rig and rail to see the executions.

The last hanging took place in 1909. Hangings had ceased to be the spectator sport they once were with only 20 people attending the last. The method of execution was changed to electrocution at that time and moved to Rockview Penitentiary in Bellefonte.

The Cambria County Jail has been the scene of a wide spectrum of activities ranging from the execution of criminal offenders to the implementation of criminal reform and education programs. These programs are very must a part of the contemporary philosophy of the jail's administration and of the county commissioners.

The county jail has served the needs of the county and the city of Johnstown by serving, for more than 100 years, as a holding and/or incarceration facility for county criminal offenders.

Architecturally, the Cambria County Jail displays a style typical of the philosphical mood in the U.S. during the later part of the 19th century. The use of Gothic architecture in the construction of jail applies a very stern psychological implication; that of strength, fortitude and mystery. These attitudes although very much part of the architecture of the Rival period was also reflectant within the society of the late 19th century.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property 1.59

Quadrangle name Ebensburg, Pa. Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A	17	692720	4484020	B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary Ann O'Donnell Parfitt

organization Cambria Co. Redevelopment Authority date

street & number 101 North Center Street telephone 814-472-6711

city or town Pennsylvania state Pennsylvania 15931

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ___ state X 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 ED WEINTRAUB, Director Office of Historic Preservation date 3/10/80

For HCRS use only

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

for Carl Lynn D. Beeke date June 30, 1980

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Kristin J. O'Connell date 6/25/80

Chief of Registration

GPO 938 835

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAR 24 1980
DATE ENTERED JUN 30 1980

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Caldwell, J. A., Atlas of Cambria County, Pa., Philadelphia: Atlas Publishing Company, 1890.

Swetham, George and Smith, Helene. A Guidebook to Historic Western Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1977.

Cambria Freemen, November 28, 1869 and March 20, 1874.

Nanty Glo Journal, "Cambria Prison Has Long, Colorful History", September 17, 1953.

Tribune Democrat, Wednesday, March 14, 1973 and February 14, 1908, p. 3.

Cambria County Assessment Office, Assessment Number 04-04-108 Ebensburg, Pa.

Description found in Volume 30, page 764 in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds in the Cambria County Court House, South Center Street, Ebensburg, Pennsylvania.

The Description reads as follows:

"Certain square of ground situated in the West Ward of Ebensburg Borough, bounded and described as follows, to Wit; Bounded in the East by Center Street, on the West by an Alley, and on the South by Sample Street. Said Square of ground being known on the Original plan of said Borough as it appeared in the Record in Record Book Volume One page four hundred and nine as Square 17."

Property Cambria County Jail

State Pa - Cambria Working Number 3-24-80 938

80003450

TECHNICAL

Photos 4

Maps 1

CONTROL

HISTORIAN

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Ineptly written nomination, but resource is clearly eligible on architectural grounds + probably for local gov't association as well, though latter is more difficult to extract from incoherent statement. Designed by Edward Haviland + built in 1872 (with an addition in 1910), the jail is a striking example of Gothic Revival executed in roughcut stone with painted stripes, ~~and~~ corner tourelles (not buttresses), and battlemented turrets at corners of surrounding wall.

Accept O'Connell 6/25/80

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

Accept ___ **KEEPER**

L. Beeke for S. Adkins 6/30/80

National Register Write-up _____ Send-back _____ Entered JUN 30 1980

Federal Register Entry 2.3.81 Re-submit _____

United States Department of the Interior - Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

CAMBRIA COUNTY
PRISON
RD 1, EBENSBURG

CAMBRIA COUNTY JAIL
Ebensburg, Pennsylvania
Date: November, 1979
Photographer: Richard Michael
View: View of the main entrance and central pavilion view of the eastern facade
Photograph No.: 1/4

JUN 30 1980
MAR 24 1980

CAMBRIA COUNTY JAIL
Ebensburg, Pennsylvania
Date: November, 1979
Photographer: Richard Michael
View: View of the southeastern facade of the jail. View of the water tower, cell blocks (1910) and stone wall
Photograph No.: 2/4

JUN 30 1980
MAR 24 1980

CAMBRIA COUNTY JAIL
Ebensburg, Pennsylvania
Date: November, 1979
Photographer: Richard Michael
View: View of the northeastern facade. View of the main office and sheriff's quarters.
Photograph No.: 3/4

JUN 30 1980

MAR 24 1980

CAMBRIA COUNTY JAIL
Ebensburg, Pennsylvania
Date: November, 1979
Photographer: Richard Michael
View: View of the eastern facade showing the window details characteristic of the Early Gothic Revival. Notice within the picture other details including the belt course and the bases of two of several pinnacles.
Photograph No.: 4/4

MAR 24 1980
JUN 30 1980

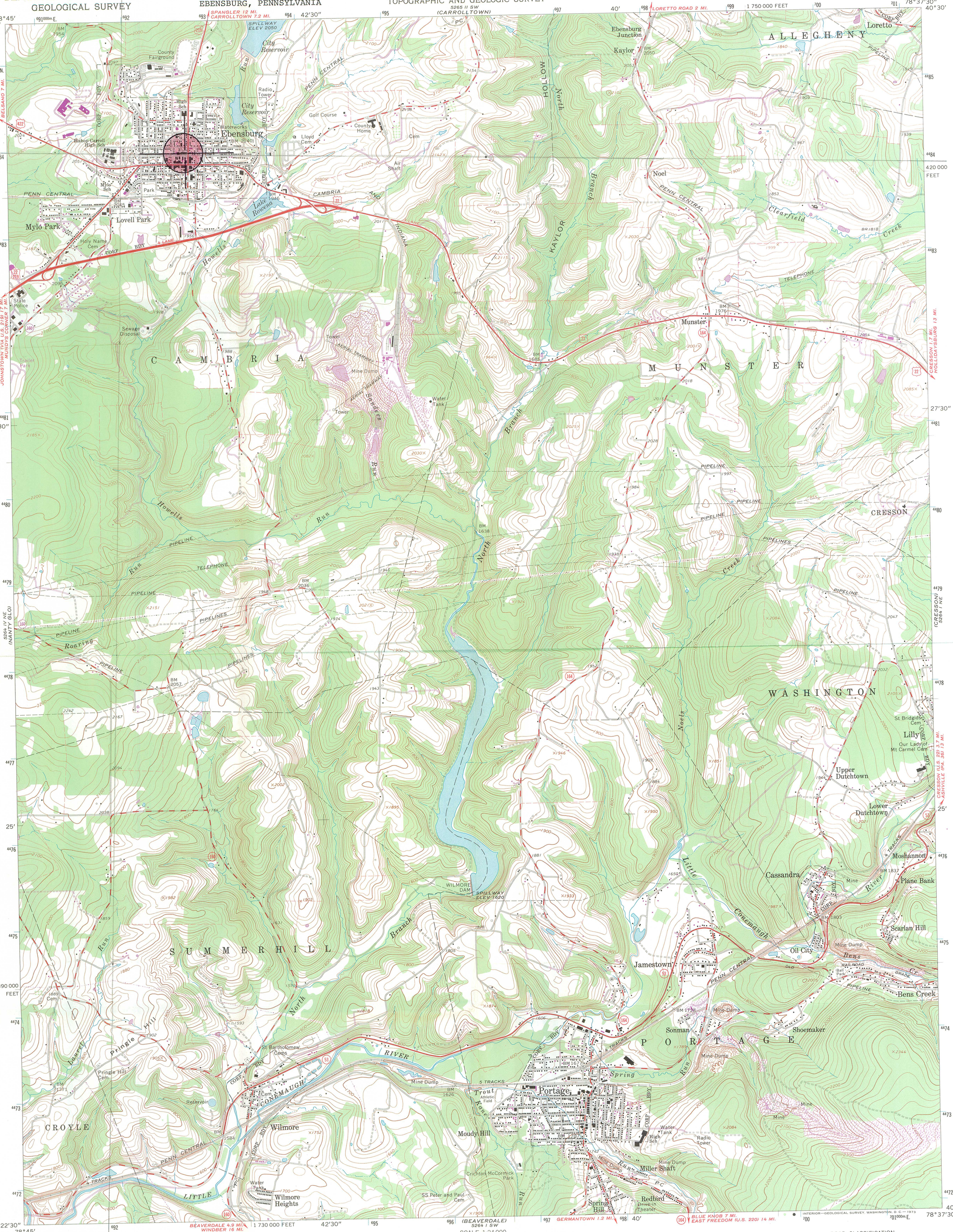
EBENSBURG QUADRANGLE 7.5 MINUTE SERIES
CAMBRIA COUNTY JAIL
EBENSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

EBENSBURG QUADRANGLE 7.5 MINUTE SERIES
CAMBRIA COUNTY JAIL
EBENSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES
TOPOGRAPHIC AND GEOLOGIC SURVEY

EBENSBURG QUADRANGLE
PENNSYLVANIA—CAMBRIA CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Cambria County Jail
Cambria County
Zone 17 E692720 N4484020

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1962. Field checked 1963

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Pennsylvania coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 17, shown in blue

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

MN GN
7° 124 MILS
1°30′ 27 MILS
UTM GRID AND 1972 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

SCALE 1:24 000
1 MILE
7000 FEET
1 KILOMETER

CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

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

PENNSYLVANIA
QUADRANGLE LOCATION

Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with State of Pennsylvania agencies from aerial photographs taken 1972. This information not field checked

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty — Light-duty
Medium-duty — Unimproved dirt
U. S. Route — State Route

EBENSBURG, PA.
N4022.5—W7837.5/7.5
1963
PHOTOREVISED 1972
AMS 5264 I NW—SERIES V831

JUN 30 1980
RECEIVED
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NATIONAL REGISTER

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE PENNSYLVANIA

Date Entered JUN 30 1980

Name	Location
Cambria County Courthouse	Ebensburg Cambria County
Cambria County Jail	Ebensburg Cambria County
St. Stephen's Church	Bradys Bend Armstrong County
Lord House	Lords Valley Pike County
Neill-Mauran House	Philadelphia Philadelphia County

Also Notified

Honorable Richard S. Schweiker
Honorable H. John Heinz, III
Honorable John P. Murtha
Honorable Joseph M. McDade
Honorable William H. Gray, III

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

NR Byers/mjd 7/11/80

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.