

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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

For HCRS use only

received DEC 18 1979

date entered AUG 11 1980

## 1. Name

historic Rex House

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number North Market Street \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Schaefferstown \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district 16

state Pennsylvania \_\_\_\_\_ code 42 \_\_\_\_\_ county Lebanon \_\_\_\_\_ code 075

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. Frank Maldonado

street & number P.O. Box 495

city, town Schaefferstown \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state Pennsylvania

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Lebanon County Courthouse

street & number South Eighth Street

city, town Lebanon \_\_\_\_\_ state Pennsylvania

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places \_\_\_\_\_ has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no

date August 21, 1979 \_\_\_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

city, town Harrisburg \_\_\_\_\_ state Pennsylvania

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Rex House is a two and one-half story half-timbered house measuring 32 ft. X 27 ft. with a gable roof and interior gable end chimneys. The half-timbering is covered with random width, horizontal wooden siding. To the rear of the house is a stone lean-to addition measuring 32 feet by 12 feet.

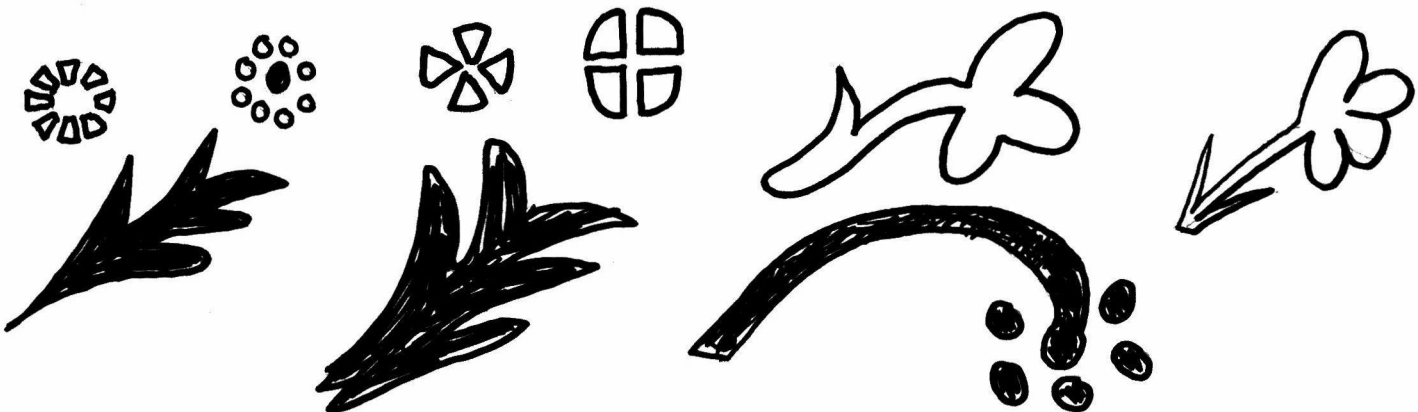
In a small attic of this lean-to addition can be seen the original half-timber construction of the main house that was not covered over with wooden siding. Over the half-timbering there is a layer of plaster that was then lined to simulate bricks. These simulated bricks measure about 4 1/2 inches wide and from 5 to 13 inches long. The simulated bricks were painted red and black in an apparent random fashion that gives it a sort of checkerboard effort. (Photo #6)

The gable roof has wooden shingles which have been covered with a raised-seem tin roof.

The north and south ends of the house have brick chimneys. The north chimney goes to the kitchen, to an arched walk-in fireplace that had a bake oven. The fireplace has been restored to its original condition. (Photo #12) The south chimney sits between the living and dining rooms. In the living room the chimney opens to a fireplace with paneled wooden doors. (Photo #10) In the dining room the chimney opens to a Franklin stove which is designed and has the motto "Be Liberty Thine" across the front. (Photo #11) Both the dining and living room fireplaces are about 5 inches off the floor. Over the Franklin stove is some raised paneling. To the left of the paneling is a built-in cupboard with arched glass doors on top and paneled doors on the bottom and much elaborate dentil work. (Photo #11) The dining room also contains a door and barred window which appears to have led to a bar keep. The north wall of the dining room is paneled with random double beaded boards. The southeast corner of the dining room has a 6 inch deep recession in the ceiling measuring 16 X 18 inches. It is believed it was made to accommodate a tall clock. The dining room ceiling is 99 inches high.

The living room has built-in storage cupboards with paneled doors over the fireplace. The fireplace has doors which are also paneled. The fireplace is completely bordered by elaborate paneling and dentil work. (Photo #10) One of the doors leading from the living room to the front hallway is only 69 inches high. (Photo #9) The living room, kitchen and all three bedrooms have random board, beaded ceilings. The entire house sags to the middle considerably, indicating a weakness, perhaps caused by the removal of a central fireplace.

Under the paneling in the kitchen walls, were found at least four layers of red paint with hand painted designs and stencils. Most of the designs and stencils appear to have been white but some seem to be yellow and others black. Each layer of red had different designs from the other layers. The old paint and stencil designs were covered with a preservative and new paint and stencils to duplicate the originals were applied. One section of the original stenciling was left exposed. Some examples of the many designs found are as follows:



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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY RECEIVED JUN 11 1980 DATE ENTERED.
---

Rex House  
Lebanon County  
**CONTINUATION SHEET**

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

As far as anyone can determine by records and examination of the building the alterations to the house took place during the 18th century. The only evident alterations since that time have been for the "modern conveniences": light and water. Fortunately these were carried out with little apparent change to the basic structure.

See enclosed letter from owners for a more detailed explanation.

FOR HCRS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	DEC 18 1979
DATE ENTERED	AUG 11 1980

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

**CONTINUATION SHEET** Rex House      ITEM NUMBER 7      PAGE 2

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The stairway leading to the second floor has no support railings and has elaborate carvings and dentil work on the side of each step and unusual carvings on the bannister.

Historians who have seen the hardware state that the amount and variety is very unusual and valuable. The front door key escutcheon is a Hessian soldier to one in the William Penn Museum in Harrisburg. The locks are Moravian and Dutch-elbow locks, many with varied designs. The hinges are rat-tailed, ram's horns, tulips and various designs of strap hinges.

The out buildings consist of a smoke house and bake oven. The smoke house is limestone with shingle roof. The bake oven is constructed of brick with a brick chimney and shingle roof. The roof over the bake oven extends out to provide a protecting overhang. To the rear of the house there is the stone foundation of a barn and attached outhouse. Also immediately behind the house there is a cistern approximately 8 feet deep, 4 feet wide and eight feet long.

# 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 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

Builder/Architect

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Rex House is a unique survival of a half-timbered structure which was once common in Lebanon County and usually associated with the Pennsylvanian German settlers. The unusual and fine hardware, stencilling and cabinet work made this structure interesting as well as a valuable reference for other early Lebanon County Pennsylvania German structures.

This house is half timbered construction with plastered simulated bricks of red and black which renders it quite unusual. Alexander Schaeffer, the founder of Schaefferstown, owned this house and sold it in 1758 to Paul Gemberling. The house apparently was built before Alexander Schaeffer's time and local legend has it that it may have been built by Jewish fur-traders who settled in this area. While doing some foundation work in the cellar in December 1978, the following inscription was found on the stone foundation - "Repaired in 1929 by Ph. Weidman & Son. Built in 1729". The house changed hands at least 6 times between 1758 and 1799, when Samuel Rex bought it for 555 pounds. From that time until 1974 the house was in the possession of the Rex family all lineal descendants of Alexander Schaeffer. The Rex family were very prominent, prosperous merchants for many generations and accumulated valuable 18th century and 19th century this spring. ?

The free-hand painted designs and stencils found in the kitchen walls appear very primitive and research up to the present time has failed to uncover anything similar anywhere else.

This Rex House remains almost totally intact as a unique surviving example of early and late 18th century architecture. The present owners are in the process of complete restoration and are returning the house to its 18th century appearance. ?

#### Archaeology-History

There are terrances, undelations, and stone retaining walls throughout the grounds which suggest previous usage and would probably merit some archaeological investigation.

While digging for garden many fragments of early pottery have been uncovered. The house has been continuously inhabited to present time.

#### Landscape-Architecture

The grounds have been called "among the best preserved 18th century urban garden landscaping in Pennsylvania", by historians and preservationists. The English boxwood, 15 ft. high by 15 ft. wide, has been estimated to be over 200 yrs. old.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

# 10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property .49

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle name Richland, Pa.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UMT References

A 

1	8	3	9	0	0	8	0	4	4	6	1	4	3	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The Rex House occupies the lot located at the NE corner of the Schaefferstown town square. The lot measures 238.13 feet by 86.6 feet by 237.33 feet by 90.0 feet.

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

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title H. Frank Maldonado

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

street & number Box 495 telephone 717-949-2233

city or town Schaefferstown state Pennsylvania

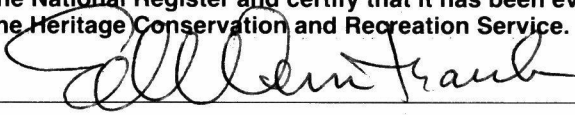
# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature  
ED WEINTRAUB, Director  
title Office of Historic Preservation



date 12-10-79

For HCRS use only  
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

*Sally K. Olden*  
Keeper of the National Register  
date 8/11/80

Attest: *Nynn A. Beebe*  
Chief of Registration  
date August 4, 1980

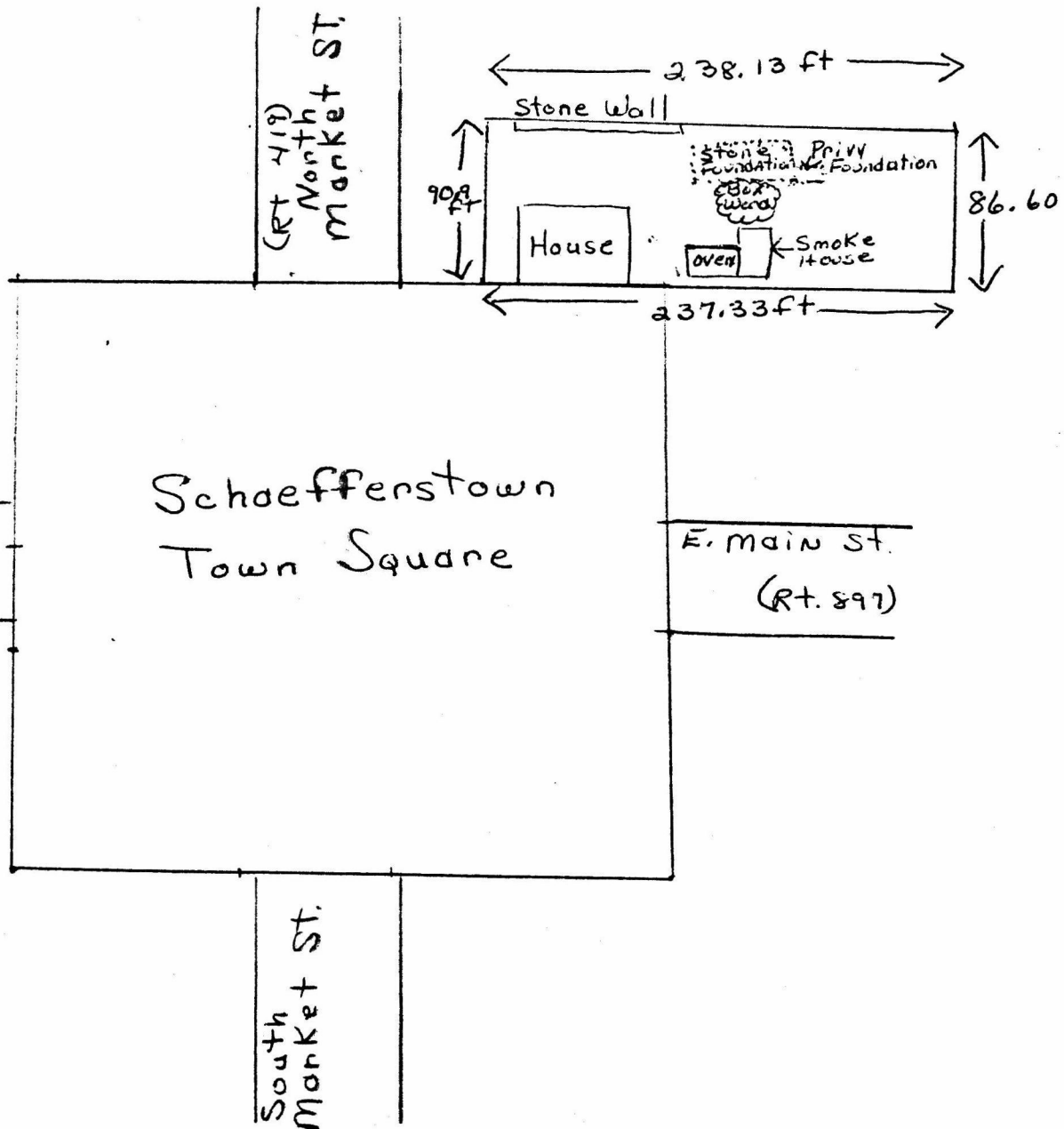
Rex House  
N. Market St. Schaefferstown, Pa.  
Heidelberg Twp. Lebanon Cty.

Rex House  
Lebanon County  
Site Map

AUG 11 1980

DEC 18 1979

The lot is shown in relation to the Schaefferstown town square. The lot occupies the northeastern corner of the square.



(NOT Scaled)

Rex House  
Market St. Schaefferstown, Pa.  
Heidelberg Twp. Lebanon Cty,

Rex House  
Lebanon County  
Floor Plans

AUG 11 1980  
DEC 18 1979

North ↑

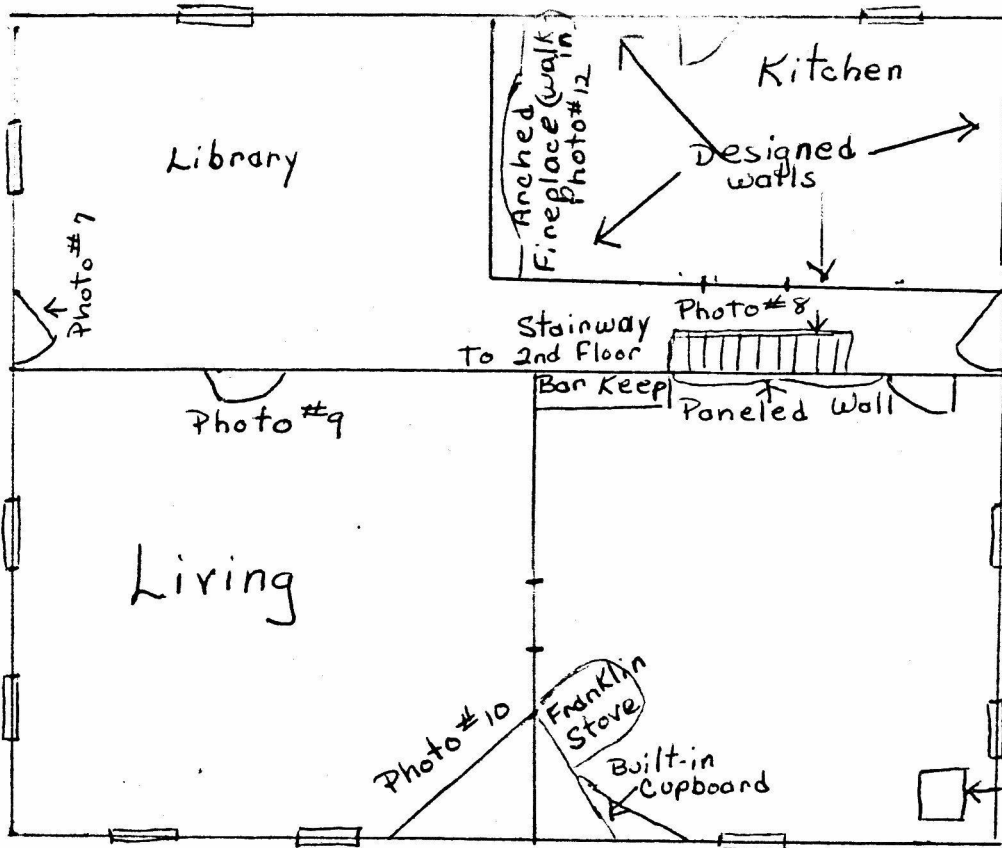
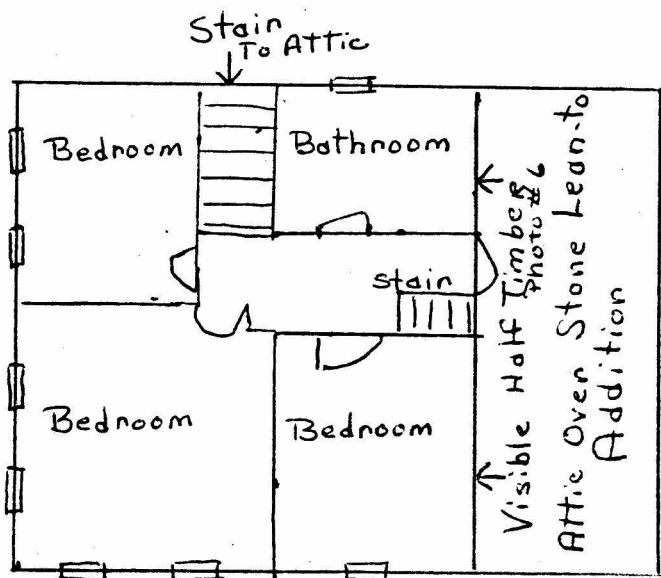


Photo # 2  
First Floor (Not Scaled)



Second Floor (Not Scaled)

Property Ref House

State Pa-Lebanon

Working Number 12-18-79 2964

80003551

**TECHNICAL**

**CONTROL**

Photos 12

Maps 1

**HISTORIAN**

See attached notes

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

L. Beebe  
3/30/80

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

Additional photos + explanation of restoration received. Photos are ~~not~~ not good quality but do all have informational value. Nomination establishes arch'l significance on basis of half timbered construction (w/plaster scored to resemble brick) - evaluated by SHPO as a once common but now rare method of construction associated w/the Pa. Germans. Structure retains high degree of integrity of exterior detailing. Although front porch is ~~unfortunate~~ unfortunate addition, overall the resource ~~is~~ is intact.

**OTHER**

Accept  
L. Beebe  
8/4/80

**HAER**

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

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

Accept  
L. Beebe  
8/4/80

**BRANCH CHIEF**

**KEEPER**

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_

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

Entered AUG 11 1980

Federal Register Entry 2, 3, 81

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

Denavit notes: L Beebe 3/3/80

Photos — since photographs were taken when trees were in full leaf, there is no clear view of the main, front portion of the house

Significance —

Architectural significance stems from method of construction & detailing (including stenciling). Construction technique (half timbering, w/plaster scored & painted to resemble bricks) is cited as once common, now rare, & associated w/Pa. German settlers (18<sup>th</sup> c.)

landscape arch. signif. is not substantiated in form

Archaeological value consists of potential — no sampling etc done

Restoration is underway — no schedule or description provided. Scope is potentially extensive ("complete restoration", returning to 18<sup>th</sup> c. appearance)

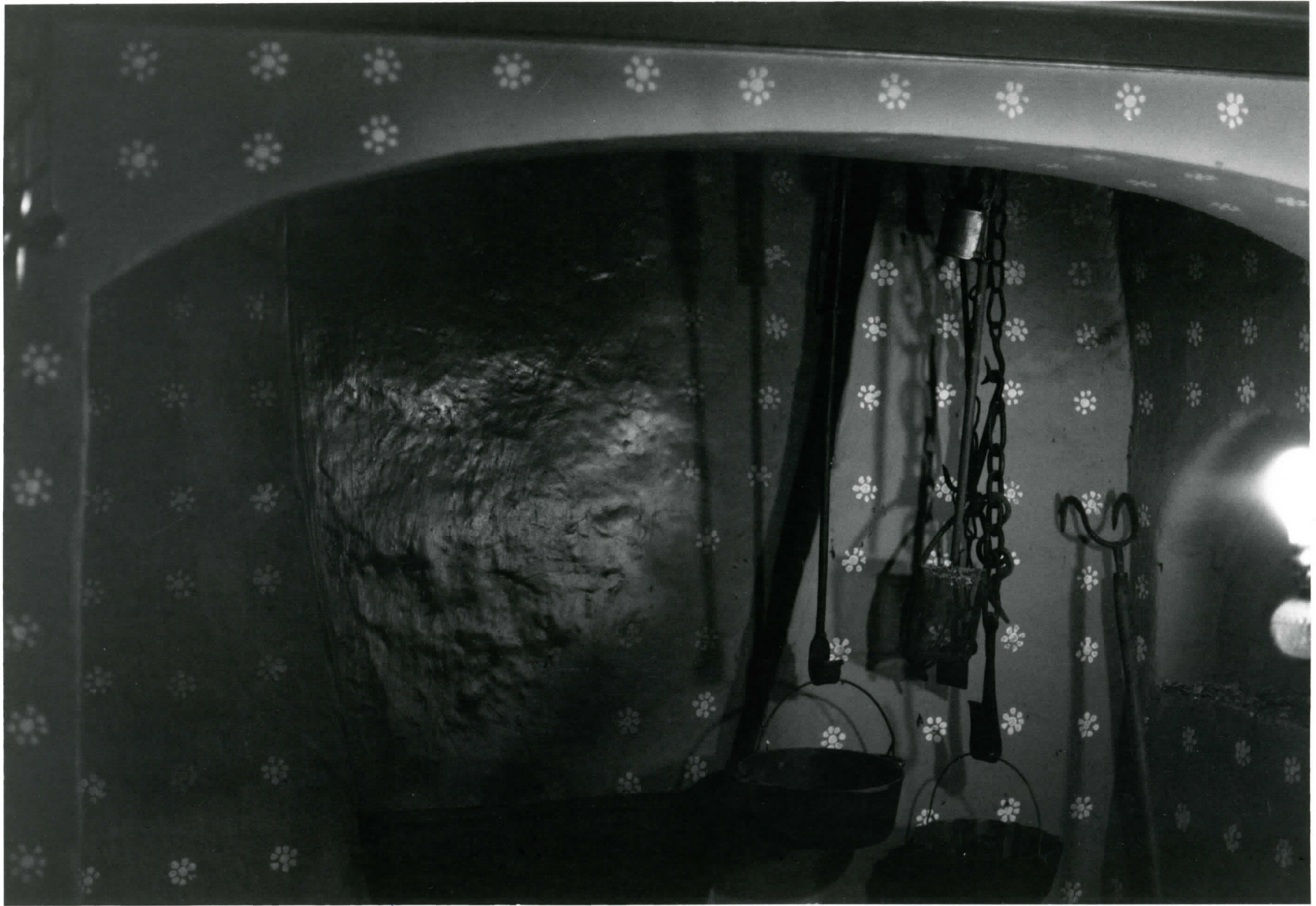
## Description —

No information provided about post 18<sup>th</sup> c. alterations at all.

One reference to stone lean-to addition —  
no date

No information about the "complete restoration" which is underway —  
author's scope is to return to 18<sup>th</sup> c. appearance

#12



Rex House  
Lebanon County

DEC 18 1979

PD: 1979

PC: F.Maldonado

PV: kitchen fireplace

AUG 11 1980

1/17

FIREPLACE - KITCHEN

REX HOUSE SCHAEFFERTOWN PA 17088



Rex House  
Lebanon County      DEC 18 1979  
PD: 1979              AUG 11 1980  
PC: F. Maldonado  
PV: Built-in china closet and  
fireplace in dining room      2/17

Built-in China Closet + fireplace ("Franklin") - Dining Room  
Rex House      Schaefferstown PA 17088



Rex House  
Lebanon County

PD: 1979

PC: F. Maldonado

PV: fireplace in living room

DEC 18 1979

AUG 11 1980

3/17

FIREPLACE (Living Room)

REX HOUSE SCHAEFFERTOWN PA 17088

#9



AUG 11 1980

Rex House  
Lebanon County      **DEC 18 1979**  
PD: 1979  
PC: F. Maldonado  
PV: interior livingroom door  
showing elaborate hardware

4/17

Interior Door (Living Room)  
Rex House Schaffersstown PA 17088

#8



AUG 11 1980

Rex House  
Lebanon County  
PD: 1979  
PC: F. Maldonado  
PV: stairway with unattached rail

DEC 18 1979

5/7

Stairway

Rex House

Schaefferstown PA 17088

#7



AUG 11 1980

Rex House  
Lebanon County  
PD: 1979  
PC: F. Maldonado  
PV: interior of front door

DEC 18 1979

6/17

Front door (interior)

REX House SCHAEFFERSTOWN PA 17082

#5



AUG 11 1980

Rex House  
Lebanon County  
PD: 1979  
PC: F. Maldonado  
PV: view of gardens and boxwood

DEC 18 1979

7/19

GARDENS + Box Wood

REX HOUSE      SCHAEFFERTOWN PA.  
17088

#4



AUG 11 1980

Rex House  
Lebanon County  
PD: 1979  
PC: F. Maldonado  
PV: smoke house and bake oven

DEC 18 1979

8/19

SMOKE HOUSE + BAKE OVEN  
REX HOUSE SCHAEFFERTOWN PA 17088

#2



AUG 11 1980

Rex House  
Lebanon County  
PD: 1979  
PC: F. Maldonado  
PV: side elevation, south

DEC 18 1979

9/17

South Side  
REX HOUSE SCHAEFFERSTOWN PA 17088

#6



AUG 11 1980

Rex House  
Lebanon County  
PD: 1979  
PC: F. Maldonado  
PV: interior shot of half-  
timbering

DEC 18 1979

10/12

Half timbering

REX HOUSE SCHAEFFERSTOWN PA 17088

#3



AUG 11 1980

Rex House  
Lebanon County  
PD: 1979  
PC: F.Maldonado  
PV: rear elevation and gardens

DEC 18 1979

11/19

REAR VIEW

REX HOUSE SCHAEFFERTOWN PA 17088

#1



AUG 11 1980

Rex House  
Lebanon County  
PD: 1979  
PC: F.Maldonado  
PV: front facade from town square

DEC 18 1979

12/19

FRONT View  
REX HOUSE Schaefferstown PA 17088



AUG 11 1980

Rex House

Lebanon County

PD: 1980 PC: F.Maldonado

NL: with owners

PV: front and side elevations

JUN 11 1980

13/19



AUG 11 1980

Rex House

Lebanon County

PD: 1980 PC: F.Maldonado

NL: with owners

PV: side elevation

JUN 11 1980

14/16



AUG 11 1980

Rex House  
Lebanon County JUN 11 1980  
PD: 1980 PC: F.Maldonado  
NL: with owners  
PV: rear and side elevations

15/14



AUG 11 1980

Rex House  
Lebanon County JUN 11 1980  
PD: 1980 PC: F.Maldonado  
NL: with owners  
PV: rear and side elevations

16/17



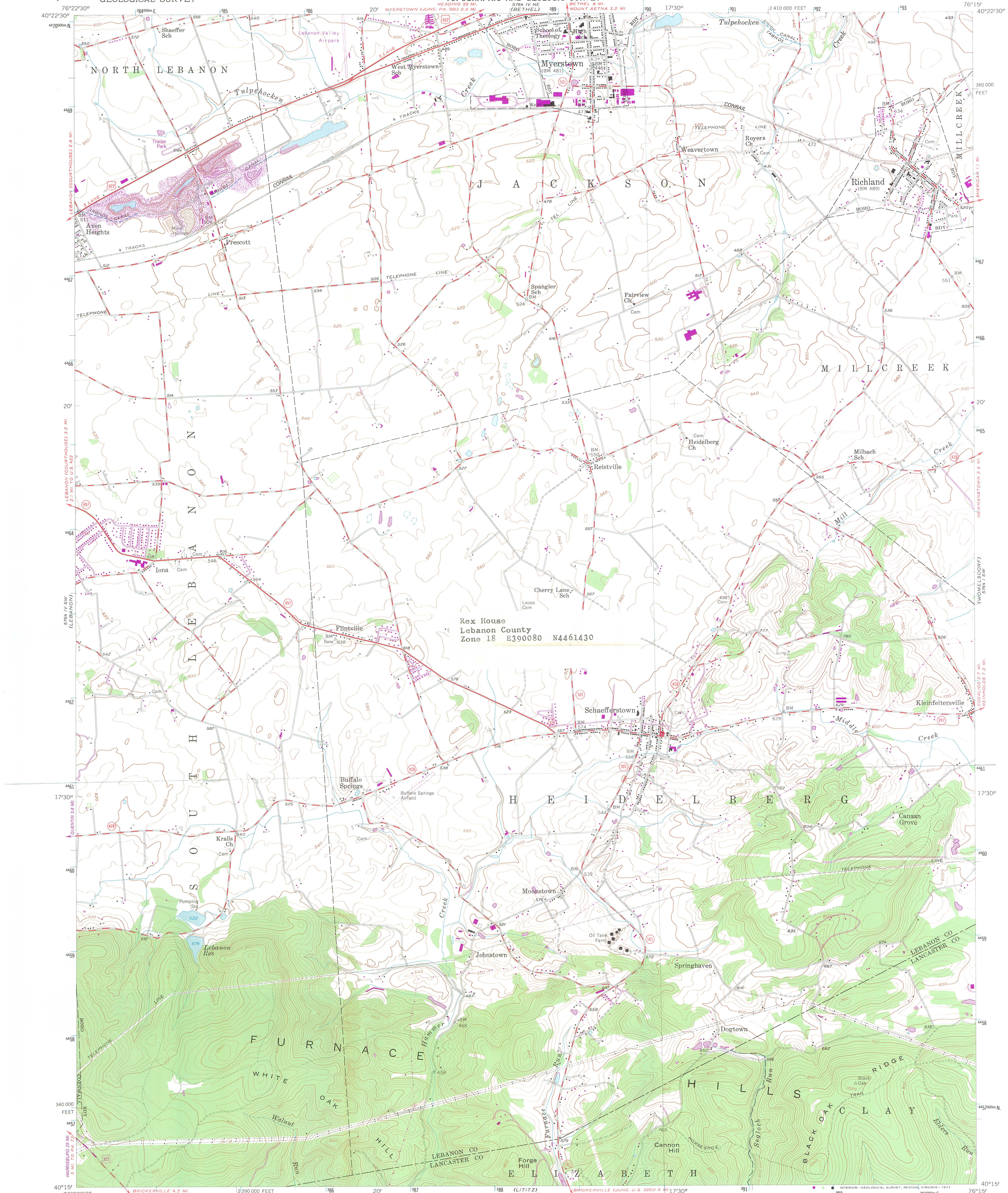
AUG 11 1980

Rex House  
Lebanon County  
PD: 1980 PC: F.Maldonado  
NL: with owners  
PV: front facade

JUN 11 1980

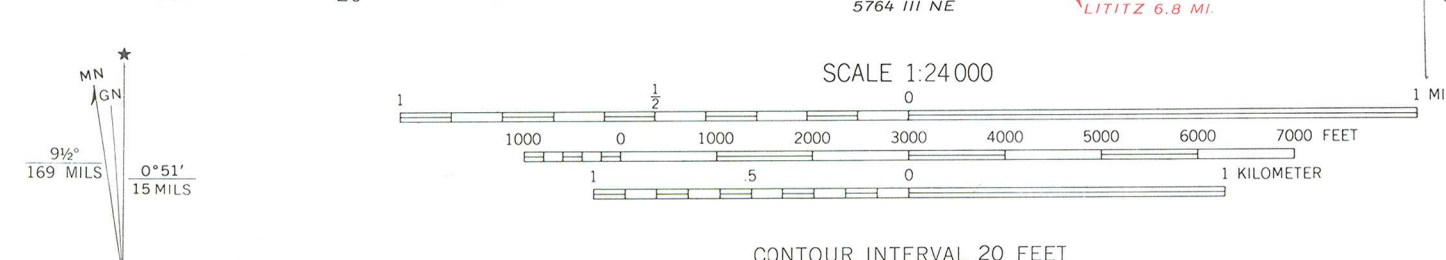
12/3

H



Rex House  
Lebanon County  
Zone 18 E390080 N4461430

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex methods  
Aerial photographs taken 1951. Field check 1952  
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 18, shown in blue  
Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with State of  
Pennsylvania agencies from aerial photographs taken 1969 and 1974.  
This information not field checked



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Improved dirt

U. S. Route

RECEIVED  
DEC 18 1979  
RICHLAND, PA.  
N 4015 - NATIONAL REGISTER  
1955  
PHOTOREVISED 1969 AND 1974  
AMS 5764 IV SE - SERIES V831

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

REX HOUSE  
LEBANON COUNTY

AUG 11 1980

FR 1.2.80  
FR 12.12.79

House  
1/2180  
LEBANON  
CO

Jan. 15, 1980  
Re: Ref House  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Maldonado  
Box 495,  
Schaefferstown, Pa., 17888

(PR)

### National Register

stown, a village seven miles  
of Lebanon, Lebanon County, Pa.  
preserved 18<sup>th</sup> Century town.

iginal 18<sup>th</sup> Century buildings, the  
one of them, still line the para  
relative study of town squares in  
villages with squares in German

villages indicate that the square in  
Schaefferstown was patterned after the square  
in the village of Schriesheim near Heidelberg,  
Germany.

Schaefferstown, originally a half timbered  
town, still contains 5 or six examples of this  
construction along with 59 log houses. The Ref  
House is <sup>one</sup> of the remaining half timber structures

The commerce of Schaefferstown with the  
city of Philadelphia in the 1760's is the subject  
of much interesting documentation. The village  
is believed to have been founded as a  
fur trading post long before that by  
Portuguese Jews. The Jewish tradition is very  
strong in the village with considerable documentation  
supporting that tradition.

YP Rex House  
1/21/80  
LEBANON  
CO

Jan. 15, 1980  
Re: Rex House  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Maldonado  
Box 495,  
Schaefferstown, Pa. 17088

Carol D. Skull

(PR)

Acting Keeper of the National Register

Dear Mrs. Skull,

Schaefferstown, a village seven miles east of the city of Lebanon, Lebanon County, Pa. is a uniquely preserved 18<sup>th</sup> Century town.

Three of the original 18<sup>th</sup> Century buildings, the Rex House being one of them, still line the square.

Recent comparative study of town squares in Pennsylvania villages with squares in German villages indicate that the square in Schaefferstown was patterned after the square in the village of Schriesheim near Heidelberg, Germany.

Schaefferstown, originally a half timbered town, still contains 5 or six examples of this construction along with 59 log houses. The Rex House is <sup>one</sup> of the remaining half timber structures.

The commerce of Schaefferstown with the city of Philadelphia in the 1760's is the subject of much interesting documentation. The village is believed to have been founded as a fur trading post long before that by Portuguese Jews. The Jewish tradition is very strong in the village with considerable documentation supporting that tradition.

The Ref House appears to have its origins with the Jewish fur traders. It is still referred to as the "Jew House" by some of Schaefferstown's oldest citizens. There is some evidence that it may have been for a time the residence of Bernard Jacob, the early circumciser for the Lancaster, Reading area. The records of Mr. Jacob's activities are currently in the archives of the American Jewish Historical Society in Philadelphia, Pa.

The Ref House, considered by Pennsylvania historical architects is an outstanding example of Germanic architecture in America, exhibiting many unique and untouched features that may prove to be linked to medieval European architecture. Its half timber construction, appearance, and location on the north eastern corner of the town square parallel those of a 16<sup>th</sup> Century house in the town square of Schriesheim, Germany.

The bricks used to fill between the timbers in the original construction are painted red and black in an alternating manner that suggests a checkerboard and in part a medieval floor. In some areas a plaster was applied, lined to simulate bricks, and

then painted in red and black patterns. Smithsonian Institute information is that there was another example of this in early America but as of this date the Ref House is the only known to remain.

The outstanding 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century hardware, carpentry, and Decoration in the Ref House along with the well preserved outbuildings and grounds have been described in the application to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and need no repetition here.

We have tried to point out in this letter some of the known sources of documentation and information that when culled and collated will show Schafferstown and the Ref House belong in the inventory of places that tangibly exhibit the European origins of our nation's culture.

Sincerely,

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Maldonado  
Schafferstown, Pa.

Re. Ref House

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
DATE REC'D JAN 21 1980  
\_\_\_\_\_  
INDIVIDUAL REFERENCE (ATTACHED)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
INFORMATIVE MATERIAL SENT  
\_\_\_\_\_  
TELEPHONE CALL (ATTACHED)  
DATE ACTION TAKEN \_\_\_\_\_  
INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_

*6/28/80*

DATE 4/4/80

TELEPHONE REPORT

TIME OF CALL AM PM

1. CALL  TO;  FROM (Name)

Susan Zacher

2. ADDRESS (Tel. No. if needed)

Pa. State staff

3. SUBJECT, PROJECT NO., ETC.

Rex House, Lebanon, Pa.

4. DETAILS OF DISCUSSION

Requested new photos — showing bldg. more clearly

Also — description of nature & extent of restoration, & basis/documentation for restoration work

Also — information about post 18<sup>th</sup> c. alterations

NAME OF PERSON PLACING/RECEIVING CALL

Beebe

TITLE

OFFICE

HOLD

4/4/80

L. Beebe

See telephone report

May, 1980

Rep House

JUN 11 1980

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1980

PH & MC  
Historic Preservation

Susan M. Zacher  
National Register Coordinator

Dear Ms. Zacher,

As far as anyone has been able to determine, all major alterations to the basic structure of the Rep House took place during the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. The only evident alterations since that time have been for the "modern conveniences"; heat, light and water. Luckily, these were carried out with little apparent change to the basic structure.

It was also good fortune that the generations of Rep family descendants who lived in the house were satisfied with it as it was for, other than paint, the "existing fabric" of the house seems to date back to the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. It is, more than anything else, this uniquely preserved condition

of the inside of the house that makes it  
such a treasure.

"Reston", then, with all of its ominous  
implications should not have been used  
by us to describe our investigation. What  
we have done is to strip a small area in  
every room of its many layers of paint in  
order to explore and expose the original  
paints. It has been these small "windows"  
that have given us a glimpse of the  
beautiful hues of blue, green, grey, vermilion  
and yellow ochre and other reds throughout  
the house.

We might add that this careful investigation  
has been carried out with the consultation and  
participation of the most recognized  
authorities of Germanic architecture in the  
area.

Ref Haus

Sincerely,  
N. Frank and Catherine B.  
Malsonado  
Box 495  
Schaefferstown, Pa. 17088



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION

WILLIAM PENN MEMORIAL MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES BUILDING

BOX 1026

HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120

May 29, 1980



Lynn Beebe  
National Register of Historic Places  
440 G Street NW  
Washington, DC 20243

Dear Lynn:

Sorry that I have taken so long to sent the additional information on the three enclosed nominations. May has been a rather rough month for me. Hope that you are catching up with Pennsylvania's backlog of nominations. We are beginning to get concerned about several of the ones pending. I'll be calling you next week to check on several of them.

Sincerely,

Susan M. Zacher  
National Register Coordinator  
Pennsylvania

Enclosed: Addiitional Information for:

City Park Brewery; Louis Bergdoll Brewing Company  
Philadelphia County

Rex House, Lebanon County

Resubmission:

Nutting Hall, Schuylkill County

May 29, 1980

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**SUBJECT:** Rex House  
Lebanon County

**TO:** Lynn Beebe  
National Register of Historic Places

**FROM:** Susan M. Zacher *Smz*  
Office of Historic Preservation  
Pennsylvania

Enclosed is the additional information you requested, by phone, concerning any alterations made to the Rex House and the proposed "restoration". Also enclosed are new photographs with the leaves off the trees. I hope this completes the requirements and that this property will soon be listed on the National Register.



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ~~PENNSYLVANIA~~

Date Entered AUG 11 1980

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Logan Mills Grist Mills	Logan Mills Clinton County
Rex House	Schaefferstown Lebanon County
Union School	Fort Washington Montgomery County
Bradys Bend Iron Company Furnaces	Bradys Bend Armstrong County

Also Notified

Honorable Richard S. Schweiker  
Honorable Henry J. Hains, III  
Honorable William F. Clinger, Jr.  
Honorable Robert S. Walker  
Honorable Lawrence Coughlin  
Honorable John P. Murtha

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

NR

Byers/arb

8/25/80

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