

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

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

received **AUG 7 1985**  
date entered **SEP 5 1985**

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

**1. Name**

historic Old Pottstown Historic District

and/or common N/A

**2. Location**

street & number See attached boundary description

N/A not for publication

city, town Pottstown N/A vicinity of

state Pennsylvania code \_\_\_\_\_ county Montgomery code \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<u>N/A</u> 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Multiple ownership (see attached ownership list)

street & number N/A

city, town N/A vicinity of N/A state N/A

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse

street & number Airy and Swede streets

city, town Norristown state PA 19404

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Pottstown Historical Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date May 31, 1984  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Bureau for Historic Preservation

city, town Harrisburg state PA

## 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 <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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

The Old Pottstown Historic District is an example of a small, late 19th century industrial community. Although the town was created in the mid 1700s, the great industrial boom of the late 1800s left a strong Victorian imprint which still predominates.

The Old Pottstown Historic District's boundaries are roughly coterminous with the town laid out by John Potts in 1761 and incorporated as a borough in 1815. Potts, an iron master, built an elegant Georgian home for himself in 1752 on a hill immediately northwest of the confluence of the Schuylkill River and the Manatawny Creek. The Potts mansion, called Pottsgrove Manor, was listed on the National Register in 1974. Potts located a forge, and later his town, on the flatlands just east of the creek. Potts' town, originally called Pottsgrove, was thus bounded on the west by the Manatawny Creek and on the south by the Schuylkill River. A small hill two miles east of the Manatawny Creek, together with a surveyor's line going south from the hill to the Schuylkill River, the present day Adams Street, formed the eastern boundary of the town. The northern boundary was arbitrarily formed by Beech Street, which ran in a straight line from the Manatawny Creek to the hill. Beech Street, a mile north of the Schuylkill River and roughly parallel to it, remained the de facto northern edge of town until the late 1800s.

Potts laid out his town based on the Philadelphia grid pattern of right angled streets. Potts' town's industrial, commercial, and residential areas form three distinct east-west horizontal bands. High Street, the main thoroughfare, and King Street, one block north of High Street and parallel to it, form the middle band and have traditionally been the focus of the town's commercial life. The bottom band, the area south of High Street to the Schuylkill River, has traditionally been used for industrial development and has changed beyond recognition since 1900. The Old Pottstown Historic District boundary, therefore, projects south of High Street in just two small areas. At the far western end of the district, the boundary dips south to the Schuylkill River to include the 1725 Roller Mills, a stone grist mill which continuously operated until 1972 and has since been restored as luxury apartments. Also included in this area is the 1928 neo-classical Reading Railroad station, faced in granite and topped with a green tile roof. At the far eastern end of the historic district, the boundary dips south of High Street again, this time to include the now vacant Doehler-Jarvis castings plant, a fine example of turn-of-the-century brick industrial architecture. Immediately north of King Street, three parallel streets, Chestnut, Walnut, and Beech, form the third band of development. This area is predominately residential and is largely intact from the late 19th century.

A few Victorian industrial structures remain scattered throughout the Old Pottstown Historic District. The most notable is the Light Foundry building at York and Walnut streets, an 1880 two and a half story brick mill/warehouse style building which was used continuously to manufacture small metal parts until the early 1970s. The building, which happily stands in its original state right down to the fixtures, will be restored as apartments in July 1985. The Ecker building, 124 King St., is currently the gutted brick shell of a circa 1910 livery, scheduled for restoration as luxury apartments in July 1985. The former Leibowitz shirt factory, a 1903 five story brick factory, has 12/12 wooden sash windows with rounded brick lintels and a corbeled brick cornice. It is located at Beech and Evans streets.

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Much of High Street reflects the commercial development of Pottstown during its boom years from 1800 to 1900. The only exception is the first block of High Street, which contains some of the earliest surviving examples of Federal dwellings, constructed from 1830 to 1850, traditionally used as residences or professional offices. The 100-400 blocks of High Street are primarily commercial and decidedly late Victorian. The most notable structure is the Romanesque Security Trust Building, an 1888 five-story monolith of repressed brick and brownstone, with arched windows and elaborately corbeled brick cornice. The 200 and 300 blocks of High Street present a unified two-to-four story streetscape of late Victorian facades, usually of repressed brick with Italianate windows and heavy wood cornices. Typical of these storefronts are the Weitzenkorn building, 145 High St., a three-story Queen Anne facade with corbeled brick columns, cornice, and finials, and the Mosheim building, 207 High St., a four-story Second Empire repressed brick facade with fanciful arched lintels and heavily bracketed wood cornice.

Aside from churches, some small office and business use on the 500 block of High Street and the length of King Street, the rest of the district is residential.

The most common architectural style of the Old Pottstown Historic District is the traditional Federal style, updated by decorative motifs of the post Civil War era. Of the 1,180 buildings in the Old Pottstown Historic District, 448 are of the late Federal style, either built or modified between 1860 and 1890. Another 70 buildings are antebellum Federal style, but none probably predates the 1830s.

The antebellum Federal style in Pottstown is typically a two and a half story, two bay detached or semi-detached building of brick or clapboard, with flat window and door trim, and rectangular transom windows. The window sash has generally been modernized but the original 6/6 sash can sometimes be found on the side under the gables or in dormer windows. The most notable example is 426 High St., c. 1830, with Flemish bond brick masonry and 6/9 sash windows. Another fine example is 36 King St., a semi-detached three story, two bay row house built in 1850. The gabled roof, decreasing window size on each floor elevation, and brick construction was typical of architecture in southeastern Pennsylvania at this time.

The late Federal style is also typically two and a half stories, with gabled slate roof (a slate quarry nearby Pottstown made this a popular roofing material), but its windows have been updated, often with an Italianate influence. Many late Federal style homes in Old Pottstown have new repressed brick facades, bay window additions, and altered or removed dormer windows. Typical of this style in Pottstown is 222 Chestnut Street, c. 1860, and later altered. Repressed brick has replaced the original brick facade, and a two-story bay window has been added to the side. The front window sash has been altered to 1/1.

Interspersed through the district are a panoply of Victorian styles which reflect the 1880s real estate boom and the growing prosperity of the townspeople. The most elaborate of these homes are on King Street, Hanover Street, and the 200 and 300 blocks of Chestnut Street.

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The most common style, numbering 107, is Gothic Revival, often the alteration of a Federal building with the addition of a third gable in the front of the building.

The district boasts 92 Second Empire structures. Finest of these is the 1890 Jacob Sotter home, 178 N. Hanover St., a three-story home with repressed brick on two sides, serpentine stone lintels and quoins, a two story bay window, oriel window, and glass turret jutting out from the mansard roof. Another fine example is the recently restored Weitzenkorn home, 53 King St., with a convex mansard roof, second floor oriel window, and serpentine stone quoins and lintels contrasting with the repressed brick facade.

There are 90 Italianate structures in the historic district, of which the finest example is the Philadelphia Steam Fire Engine Company firehouse, Penn and Chestnut streets. The two and a half story multi-bay brick and masonry building was constructed in 1880. Even though there have been some changes over time, it still retains most of the elements that helped define its style: the low hipped roof, bracketed cornice along the entire perimeter, and stone arched hoodmolds are all intact. Even the hose drying tower, though reduced from its original height, is still imposing, and reminiscent of cupolas on Italianate residential buildings. A fine Italianate home at 132 King St. has a repressed brick facade with a sandstone veneer water table and iron grates. The high, narrow windows are capped with massive wooden hoodmolds, and the low-pitched hipped roof ends in a massive overhanging bracketed cornice.

The 85 Queen Anne structure in the district include the very finest craftsmanship in Pottstown. In 1888, Joseph Healy, a wealthy Pottstown lumber merchant and founder of the borough's first electric company, built an imposing Queen Anne brownstone home at 61 N. Franklin St. with a tudor flavor. The three story home, which is largely intact, boasts a massive turret, ornate stained glass windows, numerous chimneys, and a matching carriage house which later had a turntable in the floor, the better to accommodate early cars which came without reverse gear. Each room of the home, the first to be electrified in Pottstown, is paneled in a different hardwood.

The Elks Home, 61 High St., with its massive corbeled chimneys, conical tower, and multiple gabled dormers, is another fine example of the Queen Anne style. Originally constructed in 1896 for a wealthy businessman and civic leader, Jacob Fegely, the building was sold to the Elks in 1900. The three and one half story, multi-bayed and irregularly massed building is predominately brick in construction. But as typified by this style, a liberal use of other materials can be found on the building: wooden shingles on the tower, wooden framing on the gables, and a completely slate roof.

The district also includes small numbers of other styles, including Art Deco, Georgian Revival, Dutch Colonial, Bungalow, and Tudor Revival. Several public buildings are constructed in the Neo-classical style which became popular in the 1920s. Among them are the Pottstown Library, formerly the post office, High and Washington streets, 1920; Pottstown Borough Hall, King and Penn streets, 1924; the Pottstown Mercury building, Hanover and King streets, 1926; and the Masonic Temple, King and Franklin streets, 1926. These buildings share several elements: beige brick construction with cast concrete pilasters and friese, and multi-paned wooden sash.

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Pottstown residents saved their greatest building efforts, however, for the many churches located within the Old Pottstown Historic District. They reflect the growth of the town and its prosperity. The district's only Georgian building, the Old Brick Church, was built in 1796 by two congregations, the Lutherans and the Reformed. Zion's Reformed Church, as it is now known, located at 100 N. Hanover St., has all the elements of the classical Georgian church: Flemish bond construction, pedimented doorway, palladian window, and cupola. Eleven protestant churches can trace their origins to this church; each made its appearance concomitant to industrial and population growth and was designed in the architectural style most favored for that period. The English Evangelical Church of the Transfiguration was built catercorner from Zion's in 1861 in the Romanesque Revival style. Windstorms destroyed its original steeples in 1878 and 1934, and the latter was replaced with a shorter clock tower. Another fine example of Romanesque Revival in the 1868 Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 150 N. Hanover St. Its spire was also toppled in the 1878 windstorm and was not replaced. Trinity Reformed Church, 58 N. Hanover St., was built in the Gothic Revival style in 1865 of red sandstone. In 1926, lightning struck Trinity's spire, causing a fire which gutted the structure. It was altered during reconstruction the following year and the steeple was not replaced. Christ Episcopal Church, 316 High St., was constructed in Gothic Revival style of red sandstone in 1872. Its five-story multi-colored slate steeple is scheduled to be restored next year. First Methodist Church, 414 High St., was constructed in Gothic Revival style in 1869 of red sandstone. St. Aloysius Roman Catholic Church, 200 N. Hanover St., was built of gray stone in 1891 in the Gothic Revival style. The church is a powerful presence, its two stone towers thrusting authoritatively over the surrounding rooftops, and its massive gabled slate roof a superb example of slate craftsmanship. The gray stone Searles Memorial Methodist Church, 201 N. Hanover St., was built in 1911, designed in the Gothic Revival style by Joseph M. Huston, architect of the Pennsylvania State Capitol.

Although the Old Pottstown Historic District contains 43 intrusions, including several parking lots and some of the ugliest modernizations man has devised, the district as a whole powerfully evokes the flavor and ambience of a late Victorian industrial town.

## 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	Builder/Architect	Multiple
N/A		

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The post Civil War era marked in America an explosion of economic and industrial development unrivaled in history. The exploitation of the West, the great masses of immigrant labor, and the torrent of mechanical inventions raised the production of wealth to breathtaking heights. As a 19th century producer of iron and steel, Pottstown played a significant role of the creation of this new America. The industrial buildings which fostered Pottstown's slice of prosperity have vanished, but the solid Victorian homes, storefronts and churches which industry made possible in Pottstown have survived. The Old Pottstown Historic District captures this rich architectural legacy, reflecting the achievements of our predecessors in the age of steam and steel.

The history of Pottstown is intertwined with the history of iron and steel production. Iron was a necessity for the early colonists, and William Penn encouraged its production. Iron ore, water and charcoal, three resources found in abundance in the Pottstown area, were required to make iron. In 1717, Thomas Rutter built Pennsylvania's first iron forge at Colebrookdale along the Manatawny Creek, three miles upstream from present day Pottstown. In 1726, Thomas Potts moved from Germantown to join Rutter's business, and through good business practices and astute matchmaking for his children, ended up in control of the forge. By 1742, Thomas' son John Potts had taken over and expanded the industry, building two new forges along the Manatawny Creek. In 1752, Potts purchased 995 acres from a Philadelphia merchant at the confluence of the Manatawny Creek and the Schuylkill River for a new iron plantation. To the west of the creek he built his home, Pottsgrove Manor, and to the east of the creek he built a new forge adjacent to the 1725 grist mill known as the Roller Mills. In 1761, Potts laid out a town around the forge, bounded at the west by the Manatawny Creek and the south by the Schuylkill River. The town's main thoroughfare, High Street, was part of the great road between Reading and Philadelphia. Many of the lots were immediately leased to relatives and plantation workers, and by 1764 there were already 19 houses in the town, a tavern, brewery, mills, and soon a school. But despite a steady demand for iron through the rest of the 18th century, the town was still no more than a village in 1800.

New methods of producing iron with coal had made charcoal blast furnaces less competitive, and Pottstown's iron industry atrophied during the early decades of the 1800s. The town, which had only grown to 721 people by 1840, reflected the reduced industrial activity. However, the lull was only temporary.

Pottstown's industrial potential and growth during the last half of the 19th century was significantly enhanced by the railroad industry. The first steam locomotive linked Pottstown to Reading and Philadelphia in 1839, and to Pottsville's rich coal mines by 1842. Now it was possible to import coal economically and to ship out finished iron products to vast new markets. The railroads also meant increased business for bridges to carry the tracks across streams and roads. In the early 1840s the Philadelphia

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 171

Quadrangle name Pottstown

Quadrangle scale 1=24,000

### UTM References

A	1 8	4 4 4 2 7 0	4 4 5 5 5 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	1 8	4 4 4 1 4 0	4 4 5 4 7 1 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	1 8	4 4 5 7 0 0	4 4 5 4 4 3 0
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D	1 8	4 4 5 8 5 0	4 4 5 5 2 8 0
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E			
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F			
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G			
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H			
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### Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached sheet

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

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code	N/A
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state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code	N/A
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# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Tom Hylton

organization Old Pottstown Preservation Society date June, 1985

street & number c/o George Wausnock  
875 N. Charlotte St. telephone (215) 323-8500

city or town Pottstown state Pennsylvania

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

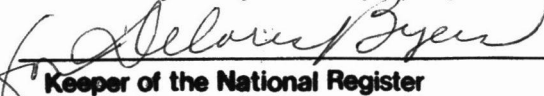
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Larry e. Tise, State Historic Preservation Officer date 7/16/85

### For NPS use only

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

  
Keoper of the National Register Entered in the National Register date 9/5/85

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

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and Reading Railroad constructed extensive machine shops for the repair of locomotives, cars, and bridges in Pottstown. A P&R blacksmith shop on Beech Street fabricated the country's first iron truss bridge in 1844 for use in Philadelphia. One of those trusses is now at the Smithsonian Institution. Together with railroad offices, the yards employed more than 400 people by 1880.

In 1846, two sixth generation Potts brothers created the Pottsgrove Iron Works, which consisted of a blast furnace and later a rolling mill along the Schuylkill River. Pottstown's population more than doubled from 721 in 1840 to 1,664 in 1850. Only a few homes survive from that period, mostly located on the first block of High Street. The small, simple two and a half story rowhouses with little ornamentation indicate the modest means of Pottstown residents at that time.

A major leap in town growth took place in the 1860s. In 1862 a railroad car manufacturing company was organized in Pottstown and the next year, a plate mill was erected which eventually became the Pottstown Iron Co. The latter grew to employ 670 people by 1880. A nail factory was built in 1866, and in the mid 1870s two more iron companies, the Warwick and Glasgow companies, were founded. In the 30 years from 1850 to 1880, the population had again more than doubled from 1,664 to 5,305. Two elaborate Romanesque churches, three Gothic Revival Churches, and a half-dozen humbler ones had been constructed, along with two train stations, an opera house, and at least six hotels. Of these 1860s-1880s buildings, only the Romanesque churches, Emmanuel and Transfiguration, and the Gothic Revival churches, Trinity, First Methodist, and Christ churches, still stand. The late Federal style homes were larger, usually detached, and dressed up with decorative Italianate touches such as projecting cornices, brackets, window hoods and floral cast iron basement grills.

By 1880, Pottstown had become Boom Town, U.S.A. The iron factories were attracting hundreds of workers from Philadelphia and beyond. John Ellis had built a factory to produce his Ellis Champion Grain Thresher, which was being shipped to practically every grain growing country in the world.

The Montgomery Ledger, Pottstown's home newspaper, reported that housing was in great demand. A real estate salesman reported that he could "sell 25 houses in 24 hours if I had them to sell." A builder who had just completed eight homes on North Hanover Street said he had 40 applications for them. The Ledger reported that on Saturdays, payday at the mills, crowds of men and boys gathered on the street corners and made it difficult for shoppers to pass. The paper editorialized that a police force was needed to deal with the problems of growth.

"With a rapidly growing population, persons coming here from all parts of the country to seek employment in our industrial establishments, and laying as we do on a great highway between Reading and Philadelphia...it can hardly be possible that Pottstown will be free of the disorder, tumults, and attempts at depredations that follows the lot of other towns our size."

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From a population of 5,305 in 1880, the town more than doubled in 10 years to 13,285 in 1890. The borough had also gained a gas company, a water company, a nascent electric company, a five-man police department, and three fire companies.

The 1880s and 1890s were the two great decades of residential, commercial and institutional building in the Old Pottstown Historic District. The 100-500 blocks of High Street were almost completely rebuilt, with Italianate, Second Empire, and Queen Anne styles predominating. Affluent merchants and industrialists built elegant homes on High Street, King Street, and Hanover Street.

Jacob Sotter built a handsome Second Empire home at Hanover and Beech streets overlooking his boiler works farther west on Beech Street. Abraham Weitzenkorn, a Russian Jewish immigrant who had prospered after 30 years in the clothing business, built a Second Empire home at 53 King St. Solomon Stout, P&R Railroad official, constructed a handsome Gothic Revival home at 71 High St. M.S. Longaker, wine merchant and town burgess, constructed a Second Empire home at 220 Chestnut Street. Hanover Street, which had been an open field from King Street to Beech Street in 1876 except for the churches, was developed into Pottstown's prestige address. Some 30 Italianate, Queen Anne, and Second Empire homes were constructed for Pottstown's most affluent citizens. Transfiguration Lutheran Church constructed a four-story Queen Anne home with repressed brick on two sides, with wooden shingled gables, dormers and turret for its parsonage in 1894 across Hanover Street from the church. Emmanuel Lutheran Church built a spacious Queen Anne Georgian Revival home for its pastor at Penn and Chestnut streets in the same decade. The Gudebrod Brothers, who moved their silk mill to Pottstown in 1892, built a twin home in Queen Anne style in 1896. Delapidated today but completely intact, it is High Street's most fanciful home, a pastiche of corbeled brick chimneys, wooden shingled conical towers, elaborate window sash, and gingerbread porches.

Three fire companies were organized, each constructing Italianate fire houses. The Phillies, at Penn and Chestnut streets, had a six-story hose tower; Goodwill's, on South Hanover Street, boasted serpentine stone quoins and hoodmolds. The Empire's, which is the best preserved firehouse, was similar to the Phillies but lacked the hose tower. The 500 block of High Street was also developed intensively, with Queen Anne and Second Empire homes predominating. Pottstown's industrial and commercial growth continued into the 20th century.

As the town grew, its industrial base diversified a bit. Among other entrepreneurs the Gudebrod brothers established a silk mill in town and became the nation's first manufacturer of dental floss. Other silk mills followed. By World War I a dozen textile mills making underwear and shirts operated in the town. The Light Cycle Co., a manufacturer of bicycles in the 1890s, was bought out by Doehler-Jarvis in 1905, which manufactured die castings and auto parts from the old Cycle company plant on South Washington Street. Several of Pottstown's iron fabricating businesses evolved into a part of the McClintic--Marshall Steel Co., which in turn was purchased by Bethlehem Steel Co. in the 1930s. The George Washington and Golden Gate bridges were fabricated here, along with many early 20th century skyscrapers and landmarks such as the second Madison Square Garden. The Chadwick Car Co., a maker of

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Luxury cars from 1905 to 1916, has become part of the present day Dana Corp., a manufacturer of car and truck parts.

One notable flurry of building within the Old Pottstown Historic District in the early 20th century was the construction of several Neo-classical buildings, including The Mercury office at Hanover and King streets in 1924; the Pottstown Library, High and Washington streets, 1920; the Masonic Temple, King and Franklin streets, 1926; and the Reading Railroad station, High Street concourse, 1928. In the 1930s, a few Art Deco storefronts were constructed on High Street, notably the Rose Shop at 209 High St. and the J.J. Newberry building at 243 High St.

An important iron town for over a century, Pottstown was an industrial giant in Pennsylvania during the second industrial revolution of the late 19th century. Pottstown produced cannon for Washington and Grant, bridges from coast to coast, railroad tracks and cars that helped to industrialize America, and some of the country's first skyscrapers. Today, the Old Pottstown Historic District is a constant reminder of that epoch.

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- #1. The Manatawby Creek. View looking northeast. Western boundary or edge of Old Pottstown Historic District, Montgomery County.
- #2. 43-55 High St., Pottstown, Montgomery County. Federal Style Dwellings; view looking north.
- #3. 55 High St., Pottstown, Montgomery County. Federal Style Dwelling with Late Victorian additions; note mansard roof and turret. View looking north.
- #4. 61 High St., Pottstown, Montgomery County. The Elks Building. Queen Anne Style. View looking north.
- #5. 71 High St., Pottstown, Montgomery County. Italianate Style. View looking north.
- #6. 101-111 High St., Pottstown, Montgomery County. Streetscape. View north side looking east.
- #7. Security Trust Company Building, 160 High St., Pottstown, Montgomery County. Second Renaissance Style. View looking south.
- #8. Intrusions. Sample view of included buildings from Old Pottstown Historic District; 200 Blk. High St., Pottstown, Montgomery County. North side looking east.
- #9. 432-434 and 438-440 High St., Pottstown, Montgomery County. Federal and Queen Anne style dwellings. View looking southeast.
- #10. 455 High St., Pottstown, Montgomery County. Second Empire style. View looking northwest.
- #11. 56-58 and 62-64 King St., Pottstown, Montgomery County. View looking southwest.
- #12. 70-80 Hanover St., Pottstown, Montgomery County. Streetscape; view east side looking north.
- #13. 173-175 Hanover St., Pottstown, Montgomery County. Second Empire Style.
- #14. 100 Blk. Hanover St., Pottstown, Montgomery County. Streetscape; view east side looking north. Emmanuel Lutheran Church in foreground.
- #15. 200 Blk. Beech St., Pottstown, Montgomery County. Streetscape; view north side looking east.
- #16. 400 Blk. Beech St., Pottstown, Montgomery County. Streetscape; view south side looking east.

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The Old Pottstown Historic District is bounded by a line that begins at the southwest corner of the intersection of Spruce and Hale streets and proceeds south along the west side of Hale to Beech Street; then along the south side of Beech to the eastern property line of the sixth Walnut Street lot south of Washington; then along Walnut to the eastern property line of 562 Walnut and along that property line to Rowan Alley; then, along Rowan to the eastern property line of 547 Chestnut Street and along that property line to Chestnut; then, along Chestnut to the eastern property line of 641 King Street and along that property line to King; then, along the north side of King to Adams Street; then, along the west side of Adams to Buttonwood Alley; then, along along the north side of Buttonwood the eastern property line of 541 High Street and along that property line to the south side of High and to the east property line of the fourth lot on High west of Adams; then, along that property line to Apple Alley; then, along the north side of Apple to Washington Street; then, along the west side of Washington to the railroad right-of-way; then, along the north side of the tracks to Franklin Street; then, along the east side of Franklin to the rear property lines of those structures fronting the north side of High Street; then, along those property lines to Evans Street; then, along the west side of Evans to High; then, along the north side of High to Hanover; then, along the west side of Hanover to the first property south of South Street; then, along the south and west property lines of the property at the southwest corner of South and High Streets to Race Street; then, along Race to Manatawny Street; then, along the east side of High to the property line between the first and second lots east of Manatawny; then, along that property line and across King to the sixth property line east of Manatawny and along that property line across Leshar Alley and across Chestnut to Rowan Alley; then, along the north side of Rowan to Manatawny; then, along the east side of Manatawny to Beech; then, along the rear property lines of those structures fronting Beech to the starting point.

**Boundary Justification:**

The boundaries of the Old Pottstown Historic District were selected in an attempt to capture as much of the nineteenth and early twentieth century character of the town as possible. The western boundary excludes a number of buildings that have been extensively altered. West of the district is the Manatawny Creek. The Creek and the district are separated by a block of altered buildings and open land. North of the district buildings are of an later period. The eastern boundary is irregular because of demolition, modern useage and, primarily, unsympathetic alteration. The southern boundary excludes vacant areas, once used for industrial purposes, and numerous altered buildings.

REF#  
85001955

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Old Pottstown Historic District  
Montgomery County  
PENNSYLVANIA

AUG 7 1985

Working No. \_\_\_\_\_

Fed. Reg. Date: 2-4-86

Date Due: 9/5/85 9/21/85

Action:  ACCEPT 9-5-85

RETURN \_\_\_\_\_

REJECT \_\_\_\_\_

Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Entered in the  
National Register

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_

Discipline \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: \_\_\_\_\_ technical corrections cited below  
\_\_\_\_\_ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

7. Description

Condition

- excellent
- good
- fair
- deteriorated
- ruins
- unexposed

Check one

- unaltered
- altered

Check one

- original site
- moved date \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection





The Manatawny Creek -  
Western boundary or edge of Old Pottstown  
Historic District, Montgomery Co.

PD: 10/84

PC: Michel R. Lefevre

NL: 140 Windsor St., Reading, PA.

PV: View looking northeast.

#: 1



Federal Style Dwellings -  
43-55 High Street, Pottstown, Montgomery  
PD: 10/84 Co.  
PC: Michel R. Lefevre  
NL: 140 Windsor St., Reading, PA.  
PV: View looking north.  
#: 2



COMPUTER  
Programming & Service  
328-7476

Federal Style Dwelling with Late Victorian additions; note mansard roof and turret. Pottstown, Montgomery Co.

PD: 10/84

PC: Michel R. Lefevre

NL: 140 Windsor St., Reading, PA.

PV: View looking north.

#: 3



The Elks Building - Queen Anne Style  
61 High Street, Pottstown, Montgomery Co  
PD: 10/84  
PC: Michel R. Lefevre  
NL: 140 Windsor St., Reading, PA.  
PV: View looking north.  
#: 4



Italianate Style Dwelling -

71 High Street, Pottstown, Montgomery Co.

PD: 10/84

PC: Michel R. Lefevre

NL: 140 Windsor St., Reading, PA.

PV: View looking north.

#: 5



PHILADELPHIA BALL AND ROLLER BEARING CO.  
PH 323-0400  
100 HIGH ST.

DO NOT ENTER

SMITH'S

ROGERS

Streetscape -  
101-111 High St., Pottstown, Montgomery  
PD: 10/84 Co.  
PC: Michel R. Lefevre  
NL: 140 Windsor St., Reading, PA.  
PV: View north side looking east.  
#: 6



Security Trust Company Building -  
160 High Street, Pottstown, Montgomery Co  
Second Renaissance Style

PD: 10/84

PC: Michel R. Lefevre

NL: 140 Windsor St., Reading, PA.

PV: View looking south.

#: 7



Old Pottstown Historic District,  
Montgomery County, PA.

PD: October 1984

PC: Michel R. Lefevre

NL: 140 Windsor St., Reading, PA.

PV: 200 Blk. High St.; north side,

PV: looking east. INTRUSIONS

#: 8



Federal & Queen Anne Style Dwellings  
432-434, 438-440 High St., Pottstown  
Montgomery County

PD: 10/84

PC: Michel R. Lefevre

NL: 140 Windsor St., Reading, PA.

PV: View looking southeast.

#: 9



Second Empire Style Dwelling  
455 High St., Pottstown, Montgomery Co.  
PD: 10/84  
PC: Michel R. Lefevre  
NL: 140 Windsor St., Reading, PA.  
PV: View looking northwest.  
#: 10



56-58 & 62-64 King St., Pottstown  
Montgomery County

PD: 10/84

PC: Michel R. Lefevre

NL: 140 Windsor St., Reading, PA.

PV: View looking southwest.

#: 11



Streetscape

70-80 Hanover St., Pottstown, Montgomery

PD: 10/84

Co.

PC: Michel R. Lefevre

NL: 140 Windsor St., Reading, PA.

PV: View east side looking north.

#: 12



Second Empire Style Dwelling  
173-175 Hanover St., Pottstown,  
Montgomery County

PD: 10/84

PC: Michel R. Lefevre

NL: 140 Windsor St., Reading, PA.

PV: View west side looking south.

#: 13



Streetscape

100 Blk. Hanover St., Pottstown  
Montgomery Co., Emmanuel Lutheran Church

in PD: 10/84 in foreground.

PC: Michel R. Lefevre

NL: 140 Windsor St., Reading, PA.

PV: View east side looking north.

#: 14







SPEED  
LIMIT  
25

FIRE

Streetscape

400 Blk. Beech St., Pottstown, Montgomery

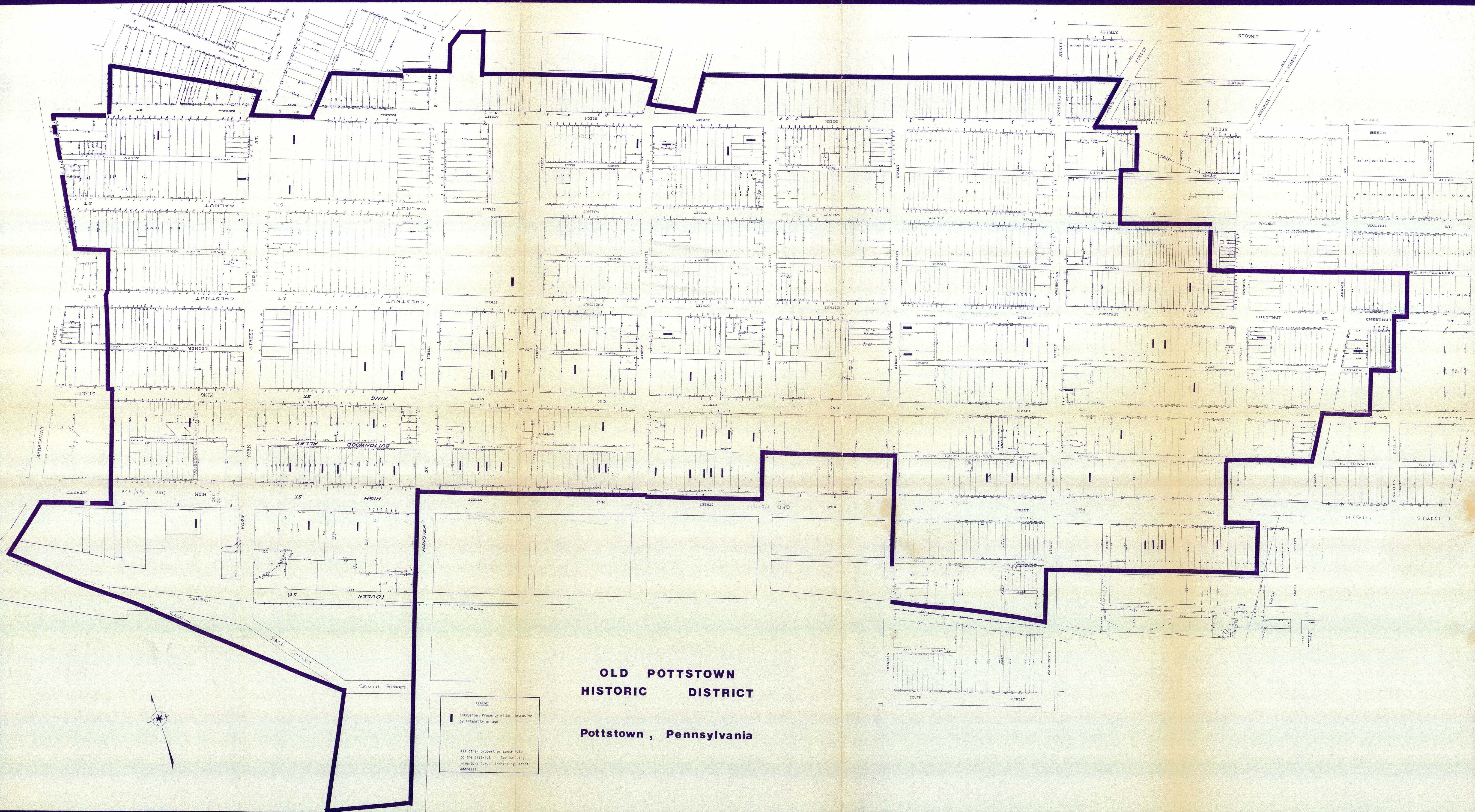
PD: 10/84 Co.

PC: Michel R. Lefevre

NL: 140 Windsor St., Reading, PA.

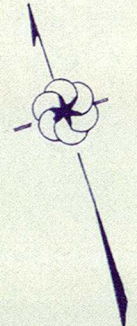
PV: View south side looking east.

#: 16



**OLD POTTSTOWN  
HISTORIC DISTRICT**  
**Pottstown , Pennsylvania**

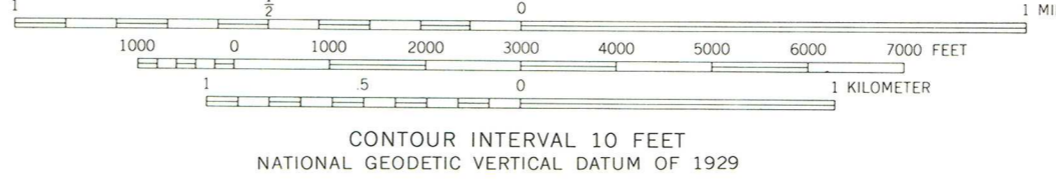
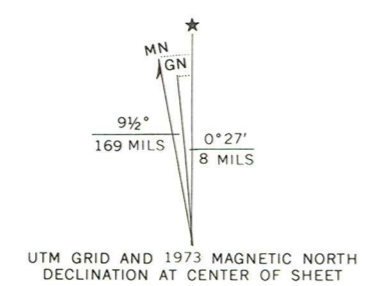
**LEGEND**  
 | Intrusion: Property either intrusive by integrity or age  
 All other properties contribute to the district - See building inventory (cross indexed by street address)





Old Pottstown H.D.  
Pottstown, Montgomery Co.  
Zone 18; Zone 18  
A. 444 270 N. 4455 550  
B. 444140 N. 4454 710  
C. 445700 N. 4454 430  
D. 445 850 N. 4455280

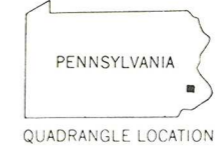
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, US&GS, and USCE  
Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods  
Aerial photographs taken 1951. Field check 1956  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Pennsylvania coordinate system,  
south zone.  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 18, shown in blue  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where  
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown  
Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with  
State of Pennsylvania agencies from aerial photographs  
taken 1968 and 1973. This information not field checked



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

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



POTTSTOWN, PA.  
N4007.5—W7537.5/7.5  
1956  
PHOTOREVISED 1968 AND 1973  
AMS 5864 II NW—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