

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received MAR 27 1986
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Phillip Paul Bliss House

and or common N/A

2. Location

street & number Main Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Rome N/A vicinity of

state Pennsylvania code 042 county Bradford code 015

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name P.P. Bliss Gospel Songwriters Museum, Inc.

street & number Main Street

city, town Rome N/A vicinity of state Pennsylvania

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Bradford County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town Towanda state Pennsylvania 18848

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date N/A federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Phillip Paul Bliss House is a clapboard wood-frame building with a front two-story rectangular section and a one-story rear ell. The building's gable end orientation with eave returns betray influence of the Greek Revival style of architecture. However the building is essentially a vernacular house type with very simple ornamentation. The Bliss House possesses most of its original interior and exterior features from its date of construction 1863-1864.

The front section has an asphalt shingled, gable roof and a central chimney. The front (east) facade of this section is three bays wide under the gable and four bays wide on the first floor. The second story of the facade is symmetrically organized with two six-over-one windows flanking a centrally located door (inoperable). The first story consists of a centrally located entrance door with two six-over-one windows unequally spaced to the right and to the left and with a second door (also inoperable) located at the extreme left. A porch with shed roof supported by four turned posts spans the front facade between the first and second floors.

The sides of the front section are three bays wide and feature a plain entablature with wide frieze. The north elevation has two six-over-one wood framed windows and one six-over-six window. The south elevation is spanned by the porch which continues from the main facade. On this elevation the porch is partially enclosed and the enclosed area is opened by a single window and by a door leading onto the open porch. Beneath the porch roof paired six-over-one windows and a single paneled door penetrate the wall of the main section of the house.

The rear elevation (west facade) of the main body of the house has a nine over six window on the first floor, and a six-over-six window and a small two pane window on the second floor. A simple projecting cornice crowns this facade.

Attached to the rear elevation is a one story ell. This ell has a central chimney, and a gable roof covered by asphalt shingles and corrugated metal. The north facade of this ell has two six-over-six wood-framed windows flanked by a boarded-up window and a small single pane window. The west facade has a solid wood door at one edge. One half of the south facade of the ell has a small porch with a wood-framed door and one six-over-six window. The other half of the south facade may represent an extension or porch enclosure and has one six-over-six window.

The interior of the front section is divided into four main rooms. The front entrance on the first floor opens into a living room. To the left of this room is a parlor. Behind these two rooms is a dining room. A stairway situated behind the living room leads to a second floor bedroom with sloping ceilings.

Each of these rooms has original, eight inch wide pine floor boards. Windows and doors in these rooms are framed by simple wooden molding. The doors have their original hinges and latches. The living room and parlor retain their original plastered walls and ceiling. Due to water damage, the plaster ceilings and walls in the dining room and bedroom have been replaced by masonite.

The interior of the ell section consists of a kitchen, wood house, and bathroom. These rooms also retain their wide floor boards, simple moldings, and original door hinges and latches. Like the dining room, the walls and ceiling in the kitchen have been replaced with masonite. The woodhouse has its original hand cut wooden walls.

The house has good integrity. Alterations to the building's original appearance include replacement of water damaged walls and ceilings in three rooms, and installation of new asphalt shingles or corrugated metal or roofs.

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 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 checked="" 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 1863-1864

Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

This house is significant for its association with Phillip Paul Bliss, a 19th century composer of gospel songs which have had considerable popularity and influence. Bliss wrote songs that contributed much to the success of leading nineteenth-century evangelists such as Dwight L. Moody. With their direct emotional appeal and simple imagery, his songs were very popular among the thousands of Protestants who flocked to revival meetings. Bliss used this house as his home in Pennsylvania during much of his musical career. He also wrote some of his popular hymns in this house.

Bliss was born to poor parents in Clearfield County, Pennsylvania in 1838. He spent his first fourteen years on his parent's farm, and then worked for five years on farms and lumber camps. At age nineteen he moved to Rome, Bradford County, where he began his professional music career by giving music lessons to area residents. He also became a member of a Rome family of singers when he married Lucy J. Young in 1859. And in 1863-1864 he bought a plot of land in Rome and had a local carpenter build the house eventually known as the Bliss House. As soon as the house was completed, he moved his elderly parents from Clearfield County to the home. Thus by 1864 Bliss had begun his musical career and firmly established his ties to Rome and the Bliss House.

Bliss abruptly changed the course of his career in 1865 when he moved to Chicago to work for a firm named Root and Cady. This firm offered music lessons and organized music conventions in the Chicago area. He also began to write gospel hymns while employed by this company.

In 1869 Bliss chanced to meet Dwight L. Moody at an open-air revival meeting in Chicago. Impressed with Bliss's fine voice, Moody encouraged him to sing the gospel. Within several years Bliss devoted his life to singing on Moody's evangelistic tours of the east, midwest, and south. He also composed gospel songs that were sung on Moody's tours. While travelling to Chicago in 1876 to sing in Moody's church, Bliss and his wife were killed in a train wreck in Ashtabula, Ohio.

During his brief life Bliss gained fame as a gospel song writer. He composed over 300 hymns, many of which were published in five song books between 1871 and 1874. His first song book, "The Charm," became popular for Sunday-school music. His later songs and books were used widely in revival meetings throughout the United States. Bliss's songs continued to have widespread use and influence in Protestant churches after his death. Songs such as "Hold the Fort" and "Pull for the Shore" have been reprinted in Protestant hymnals ever since his death. His songs remain among the popular and often sung hymns in churches, especially in Baptist and Methodist churches.

The Bliss House in Rome retains the closest and longest association with Bliss's life and career. Bliss lived in several homes and travelled extensively while giving lessons and touring with Moody, yet Bliss returned often to see his parents, in-laws and his children who were raised by his in-laws. In fact, he and his wife were travelling back to Chicago from seeing their family in Rome when they were killed. The Bliss House became his home whenever he was in Rome. According to his diary, he also wrote some of his hymns in this house during his visits to Rome.

9. Major Bibliographical References

(See Attached)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 0.4

Quadrangle name Rome

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	8	3	8	8	5	8	0	4	6	3	4	6	7	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

(See Attached)

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

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title George L. Abell

organization Bliss Gospel Songwriters Museum date 1986

street & number Main Street telephone (717) 247-7430


city or town Rome 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.

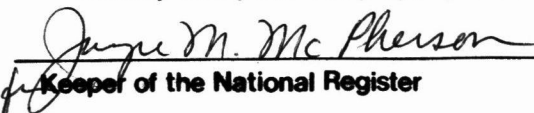
State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Dr. Larry E. Tise, State Historic Preservation Officer date 3/14/86

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register

 date 7/24/86
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet P.P. Bliss House, Bradford C~~o~~tem number 8

Page 2

Other homes and monuments once connected with Bliss have a weaker association with him or no longer exist. On his frequent journeys to Rome he visited his in-laws' house which still stands in Rome. However, there is no record that he stayed frequently at his in-laws' house or considered it his home as he did the Bliss House. A cenotaph was also erected in Rome to commemorate Bliss. His first home in Chicago burned down in the great Chicago fire of 1871. After the conflagration he bought a second home in Chicago. However, it is not known if this home still exists. Even if this home was still standing, Bliss owned the house for only five years during a period when he was often traveling.

Thus the Bliss House was most closely associated with the career of the prominent gospel song writer. It continues that connection today. Although the home was sold from the Bliss family in 1877, it became the P.P. Bliss Gospel Songwriters Museum in 1965 and now houses many of Bliss's personal effects and manuscripts.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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date entered

Continuation sheet P.P. Bliss House

Item number 9, 10

Page 2

Bibliographic References

Diaries of Phillip Paul Bliss,

P.P. Bliss Gospel Songwriters Museum, Rome, Pennsylvania.

Untitled pamphlet published by the P.P. Bliss Gospel Songwriters
Museum, Rome, Pennsylvania.

Dictionary of American Biography (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons,
1957) I, p. 376.

D.W. Whittle, ed. Memoirs of Phillip P. Bliss (1877), passim.

Victor Charles Detty, P.P. Bliss, July 9, 1838-December 29, 1876
(1938), passim.

Richard E. Day, Bush Aglow: The Life Story of Dwight Lyman Moody,
Commoner of Northfield (1936), pp. 133-134.

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

Beginning at a point on the northwest side of Main Street,
then proceeding northeast 108 feet along Main Street; then proceeding
northwest 99 feet; then proceeding west 102 feet 8 inches; then
proceeding southwest 39 feet; then proceeding southeast 167 feet
3 inches back to the point of beginning.

This boundary includes the house and all land historically
associated with the house.

46 1/2° E.
39'



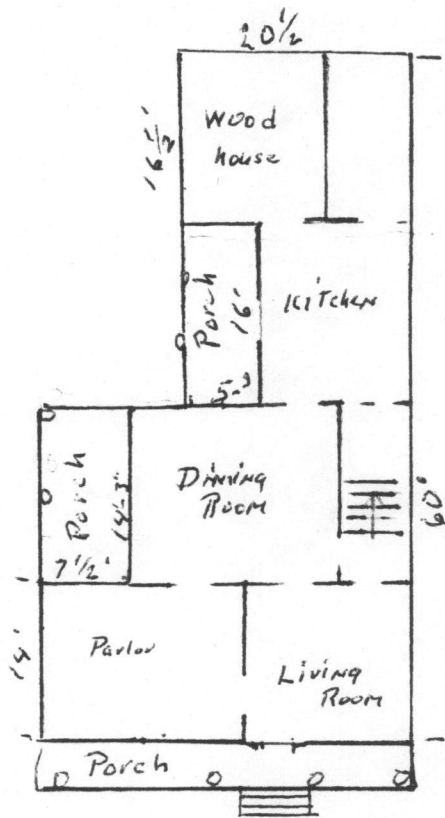
LOT
CONTAINS
19030 sq. ft.

89'-10" S 83° E.

112'-10"

Marriotts Property

167'-3"



Home of
Dr. Rice
who was chief
Surgeon with
Sherman on his
March to Atlanta

97' 46 1/2° E

11'

Not To Scale.

Main St.

Phillip Paul Bliss Homestead:
Lot purchased May 1863 cost 1000.⁰⁰
1/2 story house built 1864 " 300.⁰⁰
Rome Boro, Pa. Bradford, Co.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Bliss, Phillip Paul, House
Bradford County
PENNSYLVANIA

Working No. MAR 27 1986
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87
Date Due: 4/24/86 - 5/11/86
Action: ACCEPT 4/24/86
 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	Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	
	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	
	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____
Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other


Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



BLISS MUSEUM

Phillip Paul Bliss House
Bradford County
PC: George Abell PD: 1985
PV: front (east) facade
NL: PHMC, Harrisburg, PA

A black and white photograph of a two-story building with horizontal siding. The ground floor features a central door with a six-pane window and a small porch with a white railing and two steps. Two windows with white columns are on either side of the door. The second floor has two windows and a central door. The text "BLISS MUSEUM" is printed above the ground floor door.

BLISS MUSEUM

Phillip Paul Bliss House
Bradford County
PC: George Abell PD: 1985
PV: front entrance
NL: PHMC, Harrisburg, PA



Phillip Paul Bliss House
Bradford County
PC: George Abell PD: 1985
PV: house from southwest corner
NL: PHMC, Harrisburg, PA



Phillip Paul Bliss House
Bradford County
PC: George Abell PD: 1985
PV: home from southwest corner
NL: PHMC, Harrisburg, PA



Phillip Paul Bliss House
Bradford County
PC: George Abell PD: 1985
PV: house from northwest corner
NL: PHMC, Harrisburg, PA



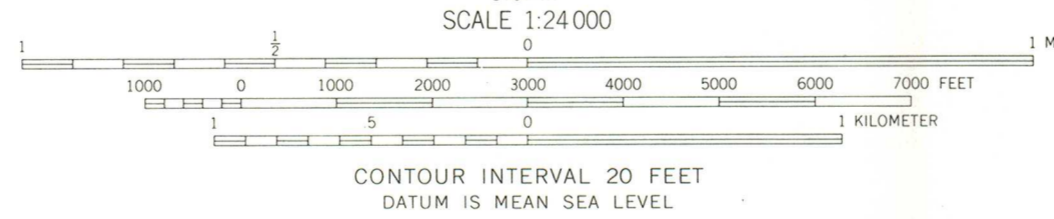
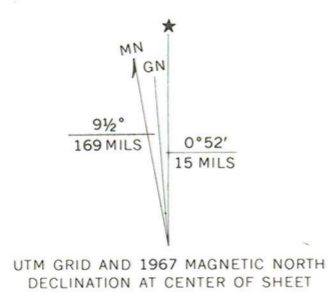
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1966 and 1967. Field checked 1967

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	
Primary highway, all weather, hard surface	Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface	Unimproved road, fair or dry weather

U. S. Route State Route

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

ROME, PA.
SE/4 TOWANDA 15' QUADRANGLE
N4145—W7615/7.5

1967
AMS 5767 IV SE—SERIES V831



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION
BUREAU FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
BOX 1026
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17108-1026

March 14, 1986

National Register of Historic Places
US Dept. of Interior
Carol Shull, Chief of Registration
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

Re: NR Nomination Forms

Dear Ms. Shull:

The following National Register nomination forms are being
submitted/resubmitted for your review and response:

see attached

The proposed action is:

XX listing in the National Register

_____ determination of eligibility (owner objection)

If you have any questions regarding the nominations please
call us at (717) 783-8947.

Sincerely,

Greg Ramsey, Chief
Division of Preservation Services

GR:sk

MAR 27 1986

*Simon Cameron School
Dauphin County*

*Hawthorne School
Washington County*

*Enoch Roberts House
Bucks County*

*Lititz Moravian Historic District
Lancaster County*

*Huntingdon Borough Historic District
Huntingdon County*

*Phillip Paul Bliss House
Bradford County*