

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries complete applicable sections)

STATE: Pennsylvania
 COUNTY: Berks
 FOR NPS USE ONLY
 ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: Conrad Weiser Park
 AND/OR HISTORIC: Conrad Weiser Home

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: RD #1
 CITY OR TOWN: Womelsdorf CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: #6
 STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42 COUNTY: Berks CODE: 11

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
 STREET AND NUMBER: Box 1026
 CITY OR TOWN: Harrisburg STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Recorder of Deeds, Berks County Courthouse
 STREET AND NUMBER: Court Street
 CITY OR TOWN: Reading STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Plan of Conrad Weiser Memorial Park by Frank M. Frankhouser, Reading
 DATE OF SURVEY: July 1929 Federal State County Local
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
 STREET AND NUMBER: Box 1026
 CITY OR TOWN: Harrisburg STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Pennsylvania
 COUNTY: Dauphin
 ENTRY NUMBER
 DATE
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Conrad Weiser House is rectangular stone farmhouse, one-and-a half stories high, with a shingled gable roof and an interior gable-end chimney at the north and south ends. The house was built by Weiser in 1729 on his farm which eventually totaled 1000 acres. There is one room on the first floor which served as the kitchen, dining room, and parlor. The attic served as the sleeping quarters and there is a basement with an outside entrance. The fireplace on the south end of the house occupied the greater part of the wall and is equipped with a bakeoven as well. In 1751 the north end of the house was added to accomodate the growing family. The addition is little more than an extension of the original structure, with a fireplace and a separate basement. The house burned and has been completely restored c. 1926 with period pieces including two chairs and a table owned by Weiser.

Northeast of the house is a small combination springhouse-smokehouse which was also built by Weiser. The two story structure is stone with a non-historic tile roof. The smokehouse and fireplace are located on the second level, and the springhouse on the ground level.

Aside from the two historic structures within the 26 acres of the park are the two story stone house, circa 1834, just to the north of the Weiser House, which is inhabited by the caretaker, as well as a restroom and two service facilities to the west, and a log cabin which was moved there from the Juniata Valley. North of these structures, and west of the Weiser House are the graves of Weiser, his wife, and several of their children, as well as a statue of Shikellamy. With the exception of the aforementioned five non-historic structures, the remainder of the 26 acres is landscaped with local shrubs and trees. **These five buildings do not contribute to the national significance of the landmark.**

Boundaries:

The landmark consists of the 26 acre memorial park, the only portion of the Weiser farm which is still open and relatively un-intruded-upon.

Beginning at the iron pipe set at the intersection of U.S. 422 and the western boundary of the Conrad Weiser Memorial Park, proceed east along the south curb of Route 422 1319.5' to its intersection with the private lane forming the eastern boundary of said park, thence south along said lane 770', thence west along the private lane forming the south boundary of said park 1204.7', thence north along the western boundary of said park 1146.6' to the point of origin.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE As the principal colonial agent in the arbitration and implementation of Indian policy in Pennsylvania, Johann Conrad Weiser was largely instrumental in maintaining the peace along the western border of that State in the two decades preceding the French and Indian War. Born in Germany in 1696, Weiser emigrated with his family to New York in 1710, and in the winter of 1713-14 he lived in the Mowhawk Valley as the adopted son of Chief Quagnant of the Iroquois Confederacy. In 1729, Weiser moved to the Tulpehocken Valley of Pennsylvania, and in 1737, as one of the foremost experts in Indian affairs, he was delegated by James Logan as the colonial ambassador to the powerful Iroquois Onondaga Council. Weiser's mission was successful, and as a result, the powerful Six Nations of the Iroquois maintained peaceful relations with the colonists in Pennsylvania and elsewhere through the French and Indian War.

The Conrad Weiser home on U.S. 422 in present day Womelsdorf, Pennsylvania is currently maintained as a commemorative museum by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. The one-and-a half story stone farmhouse, built by Weiser in 1729, is located in a 26 acre park.

Biography:

Johann Conrad Weiser was born on November 2, 1696, to well-to-do parents in Wurttemberg, Germany. Following the death of his wife, the elder Weiser and his eight children emigrated to New York in 1710. In 1714, the family settled in Schoharie. In the winter of 1713-14 Conrad lived with the Iroquois Chief Quagnant in the Mowhawk Valley, as his adopted son, learning much of the Mowhawk tongue and Indian customs. Weiser returned to his family for only a short while, before he left after a family dispute and established his own farm near an Indian village near Schoharie. From 1719 to 1729 he served the whites as an Indian interpreter, until in 1729 he removed his wife and family to the Tulpehocken Valley at present day Womelsdorf, Pennsylvania, where he started another farm which eventually ran to a thousand acres.

At this time Weiser renewed his friendship with Shikellamy, the agent of the Iroquois in Pennsylvania, who was highly respected by Indians and whites alike. As one of the most able interpreters and one of the most learned colonists in Indian affairs, Weiser early saw the significance of the support of the Iroquois Six Nations in checking French expansion in the West, and he

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Morton L. Montgomery, History of Berks County in Pennsylvania (Phila., 1886)
 Paul A.W. Wallace, Conrad Weiser, 1696-1760, Friend of Colonist and Mohawk (Phila., 1945).
 J.S. Walton, Conrad Weiser and the Indian Policy of Colonial Pennsylvania (Phila., 1900).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		0 ' "	0 ' "	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "		0 ' "	0 ' "	
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "		0 ' "	0 ' "	
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "		0 ' "	0 ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 26 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Richard Greenwood, Survey Historian, Landmark Review Task Force

ORGANIZATION: Historic Sites Survey DATE: 2/10/75

STREET AND NUMBER:
1100 L Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D.C. CODE:

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name (NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

Title _____

Date _____

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

W. H. H. H.
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 8/31/78 (NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

ATTEST:

William Lebovich
 Keeper of The National Register

Date June 15, 1978

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

Conrad Weiser Home
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

convinced James Logan of this by 1730. In 1731 and 1736 Weiser and Shikellamy arranged for conferences in Philadelphia with Logan, the Penn^ls representative which resulted in the Penn^ls recognition of the Iroquois authority over the Indians within Pennsylvania borders. Although this new policy alienated the colonists' old allies, the Delaware and the Shawnee, Weiser foresaw that it would benefit the colonies as a whole. This was amply demonstrated in 1737, when Weiser was enjoined to make haste to the Ondondaga Council in New York, to invite Iroquois representatives to a peace conference in Williamsburg, Virginia, in order to avert a war between the Virginians and the Iroquois. Traveling in the dead of winter, Weiser arrived at the Council, exhausted to the point of collapse after six weeks of travel, and succeeded in having the Council dispatch its runners to call off the preparations for war. *but*

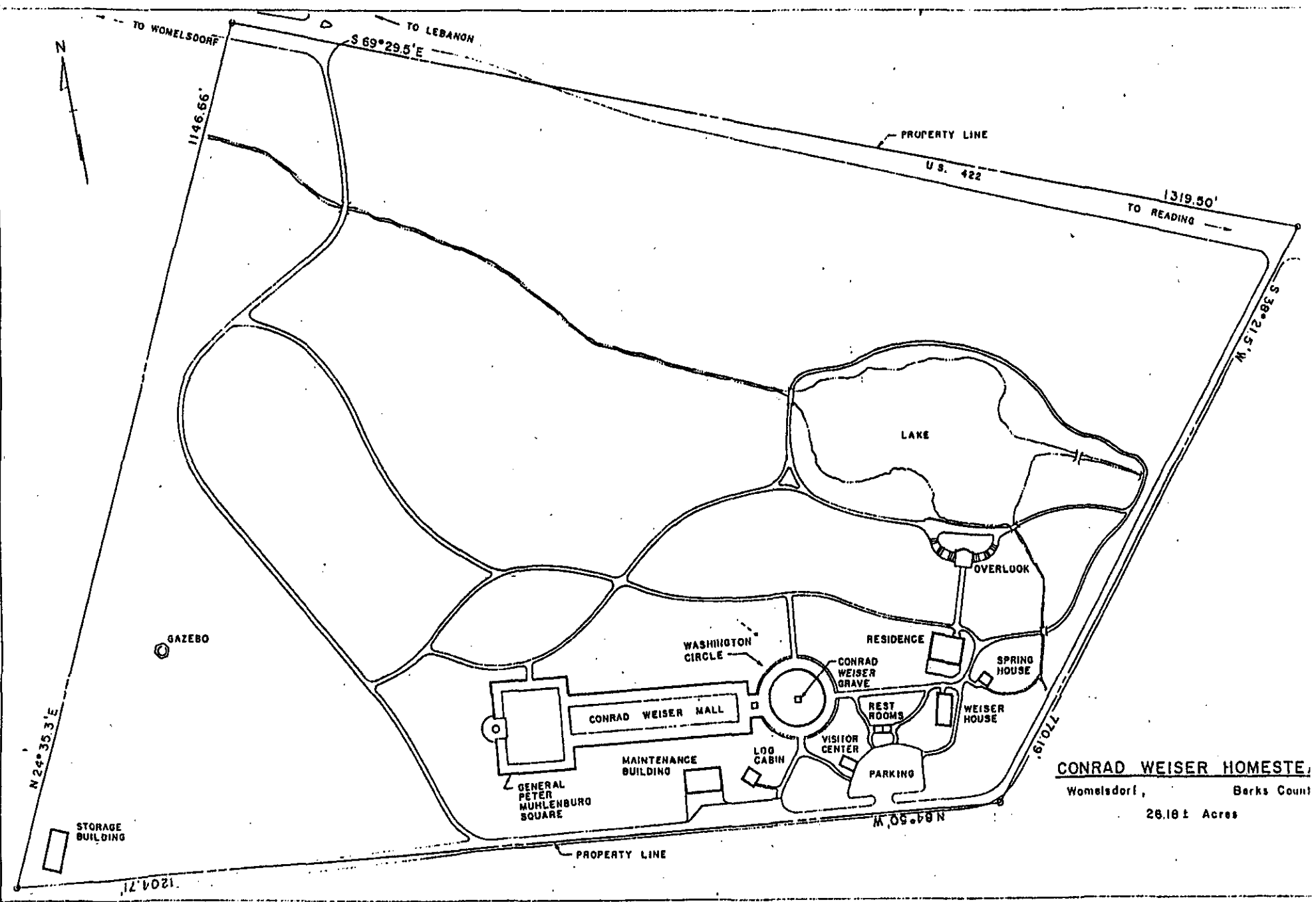
At the treaty of Logstown (Ambridge) in 1748 Weiser won over the western tribes, thereby extending Pennsylvania Indian trade to the Mississippi and claiming the Ohio-Allegheny country for the English colonies.

In the same year Shikellamy died and with him went Weiser's commanding position as a backwoods diplomat. He remained one of the best of the interpreters until his death, but Sir William Johnson and George Croghan superseded him in the formulation of policy. Nonetheless, most of the Iroquois remained allies of the English colonists through the French and Indian War.

Weiser's further activities included service as Lieutenant-Colonel in the First Battalion of the Pennsylvania Regiment during the French and Indian War in 1756. For nearly two years that battalion under his command held a line of forts from the Susquehanna to the Delaware River. In 1758 he was an interpreter at the Easton peace conference, where the Iroquois forced the Delaware~~s~~ to cease hostilities.

Weiser also served as the first president judge of Berks County from 1752-60, and ~~also~~ helped to lay out the town of Reading in 1755. In addition he was an active member of the German Reformed Church and was for a time a member of the Ephrata Cloister.

He died at his farm in Womelsdorf on July 13, 1760, following a gradual loss of health.



CONRAD WEISER HOMESTEAD
 Womelsdorf, Berks County
 26.18 ± Acres

STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS
TOPOGRAPHIC AND GEOLOGIC SURVEY

LEBANON 13 MI.
STOUCHSBURG 1.6 MI.
397 12/30

5764 1 NW
(STRAUSSTOWN)

400

10'

TULPEHOCKEN

Cem

MARION

Conrad Weiser Home

U.S.G.S. 7.5', Womelsdorf Quad. Pa.

NW: 18.400240.4468250

NE: 18.400570.4468120

SE: 18.400470.4467060

SW: 18.400700.4467090

N

