

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(NATIONAL HISTORIC

LANDMARKS) (Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Graeme Park

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Graeme Park

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
southwest of junction of County Line Road and Keith Valley Road

CITY OR TOWN:  
vicinity of Horsham

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
8th

STATE: Pennsylvania      CODE: 42      COUNTY: Montgomery      CODE: 091

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input 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: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, administered by the 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, Montgomery County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Airy and Swedes Streets

CITY OR TOWN: Norristown      STATE: Pennsylvania      CODE: 42

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey (7 photos, 1958)

DATE OF SURVEY: 1958       Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress/Annex

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Division of Prints and Photographs

CITY OR TOWN: Washington      STATE: D.C.      CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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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

Graeme Park, plain in design, contains two-and-a-half stories, with a high gambrel roof. The structure is approximately 60 by 25 feet in size with walls two feet thick, of brown fieldstone carefully laid and fitted. Windows and doors are tall and narrow, in plain frames which accentuate the austerity of the exterior design. The building was used as a malt house and this accounts for the fact that its exterior is utterly devoid of ornament. The plain flat-transomed entrance portal is also placed off center in the north facade. The first floor doors and windows are topped by stone flattened arches. The high gambrel roof betrays the long persistent influence of the Swedish colonial tradition in Pennsylvania.

In contrast to the austere exterior, the rich paneling, installed in 1739, is of a high degree of Georgian sophistication. One enters the front (south) facade to a large square central hall with a fireplace, lighted by the one window to the left of the door. Back of this a small stairhall contains a deep staircase of almost 17th century aspect, with square solid newel posts, simply turned balusters, and a closed string. To the east is a large drawing room, over 20 feet square. The chimney and opposite wall are fully paneled from floor to ceiling with a simple sheathed dado and molded chair rail. A full cornice with a Greek fret band surrounds the entire room. The white plastered ceiling is 14 feet high and the deep window embrasures have interior paneled shutters. The fireplace on the west wall is the focal point of the room with the single-panel overmantel surmounted by an eared architrave topped by a dentiled, broken pediment. Two flanking doors, one false, are surmounted by pediments over eared door frames. Similar framing is used at the windows.

The fireplace wall of the second floor parlor has a similar composition, but with no mantel shelf. Flanking cupboards are topped by semicircular arched lunettes rather than pediments, and delft tiles, rather than local marble surround the fireplace. Several of the upstairs fireplaces are faced with reproductions of delft tile, copied from three original tiles found in the house.

The second floor consists of three rooms, similar to the first floor in plan, although with lower ceilings. The half-story third floor contains one large finished room and three smaller unfinished ones. The kitchen and service quarters at Graeme Park were in detached buildings, now disappeared. The state has begun restoration of the outbuildings and keeps a scale model on display which is reproduced in a photograph. The pond (1), barnyard (2), barn (3), old kitchen (4), privy (5), main house (6), and park creek (9), are existing. The kitchen and privy are reconstructions. The carriage road (7), cow shed (8), smoke house (10), Long or slaves house (11), poultry house (12), and carriage turnaround (14), are under excavation.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

(continued)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Pennsylvania	
COUNTY	
Montgomery	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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(Number all entries)

7. Description: (1)

Graeme Park

The boundary of Graeme Park includes all the land currently owned by the state and a large open tract to the west, both of which are part of the original land associated with the estate, beginning at the point of intersection of County Line and Keith Valley Road at the northwest corner of the property, then continuing in a southwesterly direction along the east edge of Keith Valley Road until it intersects with Governor Road, then southeast along the north edge of Governor Road until it ends at an unnamed road just to the south of the pipeline marked on the U.S.G.S. map, then northeast along the west edge of this road, continuing in a straight line to County Line Road, then west along the south edge of County Line Road to the point of beginning. All archeology work and findings are part of the designated landmark. The later farm buildings to the southwest do not contribute to the significance of the property.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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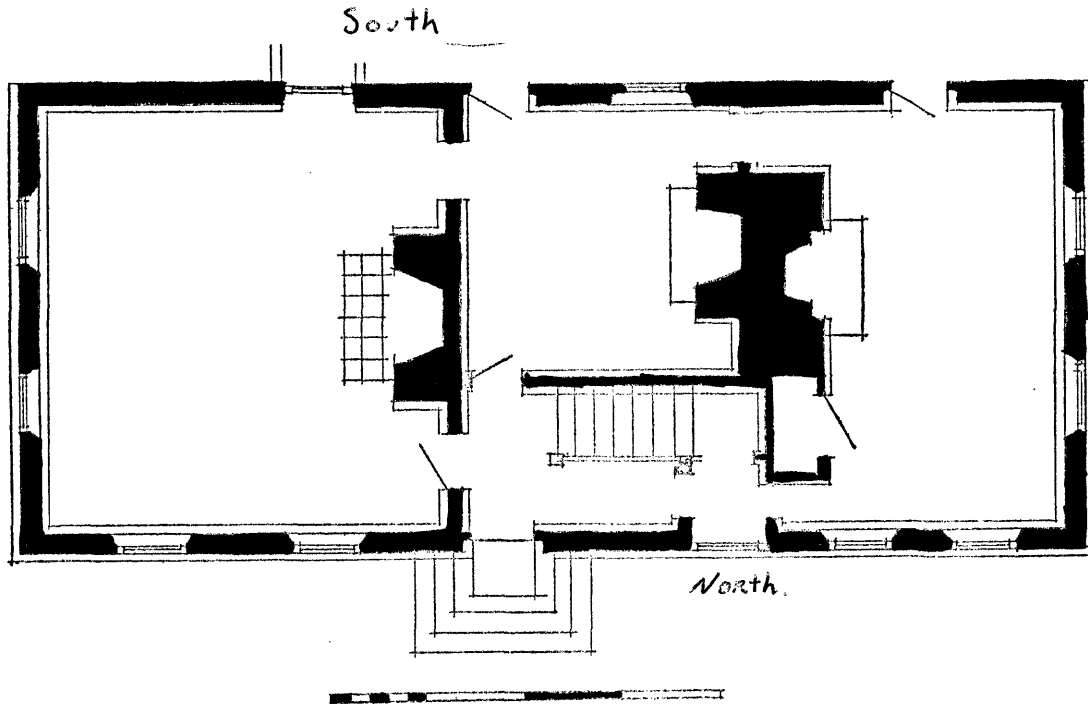
(NATIONAL HISTORIC  
LANDMARKS)

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Pennsylvania	
COUNTY Montgomery	
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(Number all entries)

7. Description



Plan of Graeme Park, from Fiske Kimball, Domestic Architecture of the American Colonies and of the Early Republic, p.70.

**6. 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) 1721-22, 1739-40

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Graeme Park, built in 1721-22 as a malt house and remodeled into a dwelling in 1739-40, is a distinguished example of an early colonial mansion with high Georgian interiors. The elegance of the woodwork is emphasized by the contrast with the exterior of random fieldstone and gambrel roof. Unoccupied since sometime in the mid-nineteenth century, the entire house remains virtually unchanged, with no modern alterations. Although the original acreage has been reduced and none of the original outbuildings remain, with the exception of the barn, the area surrounding the house, with the stream and barn maintain the integrity of the environment. Both the house and land completely preserve the experience of an early country estate. Rural and rustic when compared to the Georgian mansions and cultivated gardens of town houses and those in the closer outlying areas, yet Graeme Park was designed and outfitted to provide all comforts of the sophisticated life of the American country aristocracy.

HISTORY

The buildings at Graeme Park were erected by Provincial Governor, William Keith in 1721-22. Called originally "Fountain Low", the estate was established for the production of alcoholic beverages. Three major buildings were erected between 1721-1726, a malt house, a "long house" or slave's quarters, and a barn. After Keith left office he went to "Fountain Low" to live, probably in the "long house." In 1728 he returned to England, leaving his wife behind along with his daughter and son-in-law, Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Graeme. Dr. Graeme purchased the property in 1739, renaming it Graeme Park. He then began to convert the estate into a residence for summer entertainment, which would compliment his social position as a respected Philadelphia physician, surgeon at the Pennsylvania Hospital, and judge of the Supreme Court. Graeme died in 1772 and the property fell to his daughter, Elizabeth and to her husband. When it was discovered that no money remained, the house was offered for sale in 1773, but no buyer could be found, probably because of its great distance from the city. In 1778, Graeme Park was seized by the colonial government because of the loyalist activities of Elizabeth's husband. After the war the house was returned to Elizabeth, now deserted by her husband. In 1791, she finally sold the property to Dr. William Smith, her nephew. He divided the estate into lots and sold them separately. In 1801, Samuel Penrose purchased the tract with the house. It is not known how long anyone lived in the house. Around 1810, Penrose built a new

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Cousins, Frank, and Riley, Philip M., The Colonial Architecture of Pennsylvania, Boston, 1920, pp. 69.  
 Dickson, Harold E., A Hundred Pennsylvania Buildings, State College, Pa., 1954.  
 Morrison, Hugh, Early American Architecture, New York, 1952, pp. 522.  
 Wallace, Philip B., and Miller, M. Luther, Colonial Houses, Philadelphia--Pre-Revolutionary Period, New York, 1931, pp. 1-19.  
 Kimball, Fiske, Domestic Architecture of the American Colonies and of the Early Republic, New York 1922.

**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	UTM 18.486560, 4451640	, , "		0 , "	0 , "	
NE	18.486950, 4451960	, , "				
SE	18.487750, 4451320	, , "				
SW	18.487010, 4451000	, , "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **140 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: **Patricia Heintzelman, architectural historian, Landmarks Review Project; original form prepared by Charles Snell, 1967.**

ORGANIZATION: **Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service**      DATE: **8/30/74**

STREET AND NUMBER: **1100 I Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington**      STATE: **D.C.**      CODE: **11**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

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

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)  
 Landmark Designated: **Oct. 9, 1960**  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)  
 Boundary Certified: **Cornelius Heine 7-16-75**  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_ Chief, Hist. & Arch. Surveys

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Boundary Affirmed: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Keeper of The National Register: **7/15/75**  
 Director, O.S.P.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Pennsylvania	
COUNTY Montgomery	
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(Number all entries)

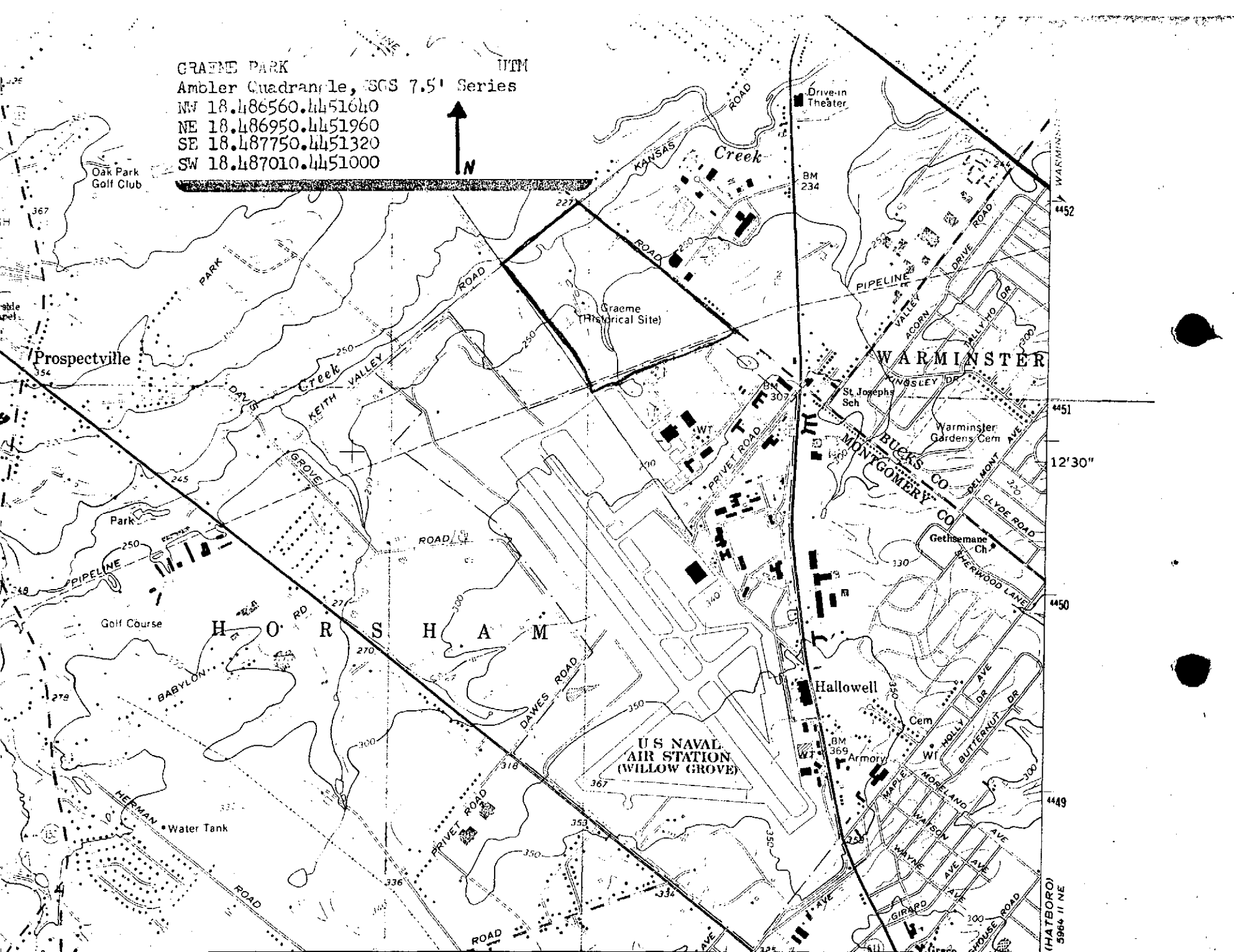
8. Statement of Significance: (1)

Graeme Park

dwelling and from that time there is no recorded evidence of occupation although archeological investigation indicates that the house was occupied sometime during the mid-nineteenth century.

In 1920, this land was acquired from Penrose's descendants by Mr. and Mrs. Welsh Strawbridge, who gave it to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in 1958. Currently undergoing archeological investigation and restoration, Graeme Park is operated as a state park.

GRAEME PARK  
Ambler Quadrangle, UTM  
SGS 7.5' Series  
NW 18.486560.4451640  
NE 18.486950.4451960  
SE 18.487750.4451320  
SW 18.487010.4451000



(HATBORO)  
5964 11 NE