

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

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Bower, Solomon and Magdalena, Farm  
 Other names/site number: Bower Homestead Farm (preferred name)  
 Name of related multiple property listing:  
Agricultural Resources of Pennsylvania, c1700-1960  
 (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

### 2. Location

Street & number: 1790 Conococheague Road  
 City or town: Blain State: PA County: Perry  
 Not For Publication:  N/A Vicinity:  N/A

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,


I hereby certify that this X nomination     request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets     does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

    national     statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A     B     C     D

	3/17/2021
<hr/> <p><b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Date</b></span></p> <p><u>Pennsylvania Historical &amp; Museum Commission – State Historic Preservation Office</u></p> <p><b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b></p>	
<p>In my opinion, the property <u>   </u> meets <u>   </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<hr/> <p><b>Signature of commenting official:</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Date</b></span></p>	
<hr/> <p><b>Title :</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b></span></p>	

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**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Lisa Deline  
Signature of the Keeper

8/6/2021  
Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>7</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	structures
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	objects
<u>8</u>	<u>5</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register           

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic/ multiple dwelling  
Agriculture subsistence / agricultural fields  
Agriculture subsistence / agricultural outbuildings  
Agriculture subsistence / animal facilities  
Agriculture subsistence / Processing  
          

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic / Dwelling  
Agriculture subsistence / Animal Facility  
Agriculture subsistence / Storage  
Agriculture subsistence / Agriculture Fields  
Agriculture subsistence / Outbuildings  
Agriculture subsistence / Processing

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: Vernacular  
Barn/Pennsylvania Bank  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Stone / Sandstone  
Wood / Weatherboard

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

### Summary Paragraph

The Solomon and Magdalena Bower Farm is located in Jackson Township, Perry County, Pennsylvania, and has been continuously owned and operated by seven generations of the Bower Family. Of the 226 acres, 130 acres are in cropland and 96 acres are in timber on the slopes of Conococheague Mountain. The farm contains thirteen resources, of which seven are contributing buildings (1794/1831/1870 farmhouse, 1834 butcher/springhouse, 1838 barn, c. 1860 wagon shed, c.1860 springhouse, c.1930 milking shed, and a c. 1936 walled spring house), and one is a contributing structure (c. 1935 silo). The remaining non-contributing building and structures include a recently altered c. 1940 chicken coop, a 1993 pavilion, and three grain dryer/storage bins (2012, 2014). All resources are included within the property boundaries of the farm. The function of the property is engaged in agriculture and the farm buildings and structures remain largely unaltered since their construction. Minor exceptions reflect historic regional agriculture trends through the Farm's period of significance (c.1800-1940). Overall, the farm is in very good to excellent condition, and retains all seven aspects of integrity.

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## **Narrative Description**

The Bower Homestead Farm property is located in rural Jackson Township, Perry County, PA at 1790 Conococheague Road, Blain, PA, nestled in the Sherman's Valley against the Conococheague Mountain to the north and a good neighbor to three (3) adjacent farms to the south, east and west of the property. The 130 agricultural production acres consist of a soil profile with 82.6% of the acres characterized as 0% - 15% gentle slopes containing high-prime Pennsylvania agricultural soils. The 96 timber acres profile possesses a predominant mix of prime Pennsylvania hardwoods. Conococheague Road, a Jackson Township maintained public road bisects the property east and west for approximate 1,530 linear feet. A .75 acre farm pond, located east of the farmstead, was added in 1943 to provide a fire suppression function in addition to a recreational fishing resource for the property.

The 226 acres, encompassing all of the original 221 acres purchased by Solomon Bower, are composed of approximately 130 acres of cleared land for quality agricultural production and 96 acres of prime timber production on the Conococheague Mountain. The function of the property is engaged in agriculture and all resources are in very good – excellent condition.

The contributing buildings on the farm possess two types of exteriors, 1) sandstone and 2) lumber. All facilities have matching metal roofing which replaced slate and cedar shake roofing. The residence, two springhouses, pavilion have standing seam metal roofs. The stonemasons exhibited an artisan's pride of workmanship in that each of the laid stones have been masoned in one form or another. Uncut sandstone rocks exhibit 360 degree chipping around the exposed faces; cut (masoned) sandstones were laid to expose the beautiful interior of the sandstone to allow the elements to establish a patina from any iron content in the stone to contrast with the white, red, orange and brown swirls of sandstone. These stones were placed in a mosaic pattern in between the quoins (corners); the mortar joints exhibit an artisan's finishing touch. While most of the original walls have been repointed, recreating the original mortar joint was a historical requirement of the masons.

### **House (1794 – Contributing)**

Photos # 21 - 27

The house, displaying vernacular Georgian-influenced design, is a sandstone two and one-half story building with a side-gabled roof and a symmetrical arrangement of windows applied on each addition to the original dwelling. As it stands today, is approximately 5,000 square feet of space and is a two-family residence.

The original owner of the property, James Blaine, sold the tract to James Adams, who deeded to sons John and Thomas Adams on May 12, 1790. As the second owners who settled the property, in 1794 the Adams's constructed a single story stone homestead with a basement, a first floor, and loft above. The main living area was in the basement as it contained a large walk-in fireplace, offered protection, warmth in the winter and coolness in the summer. The first floor had an open space arrangement with a single access exterior door on the south (front) side of the house and symmetrical 6/6 pane windows on the east; the north and south walls windows were

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9/6 pane construction. It is suspected the west wall also exhibited the same window placement as the east wall however, in 1831, when a two-story addition was erected and adjoined, the original house and west wall windows were removed and the openings stoned in. Several windows contain original windowpanes of 1794 vintage.

Purchasing the farm from the Adam's family on June 1, 1816 and raising eleven children, Solomon Bower, erected a two and one-half story addition in 1831 which adjoined the original homestead. This construction continued to use sandstone, masoned to match the 1794 artisanship. Building the addition, the house became a two-family home; the elder parents lived in the 1794 original part of the house while the next generation raised a family in the larger 1831 constructed part of the house. At the time, the south side of the house was considered the front of the structure; thereby, a front door and window placements also matched the 1794 house. It is believed, the front of the house transitioned to the north side as additional exterior doors were created and installed on the north side of the house for two reasons. The first reason being the most active cropping farmland was to the north and the men, going to and from the fields, wanted a north side access to enter the kitchen for dinner (lunch) and be able to control dirt and such coming into the house through a back entrance versus the front entrance where guests and visitors would enter; a 'mud room' of sorts. The second reason for reversing or flipping the front entrance transition is the public path/road was on the north side of the house; the south side of the house contained a stream and the spring as the home's water source. Hence, traffic and guests parked on the north side of the house and so the new entrances proved to be a logical rationale for guests to visit and enter the house. The large, walk-in fireplace in the basement of the original 1794 house was stoned in. Then this original chimney was accessed from the first floor by removing stone to create a large fireplace and transition the room into a larger kitchen space.

In 1870, as farm succession planning continued to evolve, a second expansion was added to allow the older generation of owners to transition into their senior years as a new generation began their lives. To accommodate the elder generation, a second floor with two bedrooms and an attic was built over the first floor of the original 1794 house. At this time of 1870 construction, a two-story open porch was added to the north side of the house. Construction of this addition remained in concert with the stone exterior. The wall between the 1831 addition and this new 1870 addition was a double-wall and a chimney was built. The chimney was not for a fireplace but instead, provided a flu from the original 1794 first floor room and extended through the second floor and the attic space. A wood stove was set in the 1794 living room and heat was provided for the upstairs addition via floor grates and stove pipe routed through the upstairs. Alan M. Bower can remember through the 1940s of the wood stove in the living room. The evidence of this set up and chimney can be found by examining the wall of the Master Bedroom; the heating flu has been removed and replaced with a plastered wall although the round piping can still be determined. There is an 1887 picture of the house with this center chimney showing. The attic also has remains of the chimney.

A second entrance door was added to the north side first floor although the reasons are unknown. The second entry door is suspected to be the "formal" entrance into the living room vice guests entering through the kitchen door. A slate roof was added over the whole house along with spouting and downspouts which emptied into two new large, in-ground, hand-dug, stone-walled

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cisterns and graded approximately ten feet south of the 1794 basement foundation wall. Underground piping was introduced to port the captured rain water by gravity from the cisterns to the butcher/spring house. With this new wash house function, the building served triple duty as a butcher house, spring house and wash house.

Although uncertain as to the exact construction year, an extension/porch was built onto the south side of the 1794 house. Enclosing the former 'front' door, the extension served as a wood room and kitchen pantry/storage. The extension was built upon stone support pillars; the exterior was cedar clapboard and a standing seam roof.

As a result of FDR's Rural Electrification Act of 1936, the Farm received electricity in 1938. That year also saw installation and implementation of indoor plumbing as the underground pipe for the spring-fed, gravity flow system from the mountain was completed. Aerial photography of 1938 show the path of the water pipe from the mountain spring to the farm buildings. The house water system was gravity system with enough pressure to drive water into the second floor and on both sides of the house. In the mid-1950s, a water pump, reservoir tank, water heater and water softener tank were added to increase water pressure and heated water for the house usage. A fourth expansion occurred in 1960 as again, the next (5<sup>th</sup>) generation required additional living space. The addition was a kitchen to the south side adjoining the 1831 expansion. A basement was added to install electric panels, plumbing and an oil hot water heater for the radiator heaters. The foundation was cement block; the exterior was cedar clapboard and a standing seam roof. A cement patio connected this addition to the porch/wood box/pantry. The plank covered cisterns were replaced with concrete covers. The south wall of the 1960 addition contained a length of casement windows. In 1971, upon completion of the 1970 house addition, the casement windows were removed and replaced with a single 8/8 window because the function of the addition changed from the family kitchen into a utility room for laundry, sewing, storage and a shower.

The fifth expansion occurred in 1970 as a single story addition was constructed onto the west end of the 1831 expansion. The foundation is cement block. The exterior is masoned sandstone on the north side matching the older sections of the house. The west side gable has cedar panels; the southern wall has a masoned sandstone wall as a second wall to the cement block interior foundation wall. The roof was tar shingles from 1970 until October 2017 when the tar shingled roof was removed and replaced with a metal standing seam roof to provide a 100% match for the balance of the house roofing. Additionally in 1970, a wooden deck was added to the west gable side along with a corresponding concrete patio along the south flank. A concrete front porch was built on the north/northeast corner of the addition to provide a covered entrance for both the 1831 and new 1970 entrances.

The wooden deck received an upgrade with new decking, new steps and a canopy in 1987. In 1998, the deck was renovated again; this time, fully enclosed and repurposed into a Florida Room. The foundation is sandstone to match the house; the exterior is aluminum siding with 9/9 windows installed on all three sides to allow maximum light. Two French doors allow entry on both the north and south sides to sandstone patios.

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The seventh and most recent addition occurred in 2005. The construction consisted of building a first floor bedroom, bath with a laundry unit, and a powder room adjoining the 1960 addition on the west and the 1794 house on the north. The old porch/wood box/pantry was removed, the concrete patio jackhammered out and the new construction went in over the top of this. The foundation is cement block with a sandstone exterior above ground to match the house with and stone staircase leading from patio doors into the backyard. The exterior is aluminum siding with 9/9 windows and a metal standing seam roof.

A complete repointing of the 1794, 1831 and 1870 house additions occurred over a three year period, from 1986-1988.

The interior of the farm house is complex as the many expansions by each successive generation of the Bower Family lend to the complexity, growing from a single family into a two-family dwelling. There are two kitchens, dining rooms, basements, three living rooms, three full baths, five bedrooms, a Great Room, a den, a utility room. Two stairways lead to the upstairs in separate parts of the house. Another stairway leads to the attic.

**Barn (1838 – Contributing)**

Photos # 1 - 12

The barn, built in 1838 as evidenced by a date stone, is a 60' x 100', two-level, standard Pennsylvania Bank Barn, including an open fore bay over the south foundation wall, outshed granaries and a fenced enclosed, open sided, roofed barnyard. The lower barn level is of masoned sandstone construction with the upper level uses timber frame construction. The north barn wall is supportive of the upper level chestnut beam floor joists and the barn bridge ramp leading into three (3) threshing bays/wagon floors and two hay/straw mows. The roof was cedar shakes until 1991 when a steel, exposed fastener, Perma-Clad roof was installed. Cedar shakes are still in place on the north side roof; the metal roof goes over the top of the shakes. The gable ends of the barn are positioned west/east to lessen the wind effects. There are six (6) Dutch doors along the lower level south wall under the fore bay and one large, wide entrance to the stable area. The east wall has one (1) Dutch door and a human sized entry door. Four (4) human sized entry doors (two on each level) exist. The upper level has three pair or six (6) large, wood constructed, swinging doors to create access to the bays. Each gable end contains five (5) louvers. The south wall has two (2) louvers and three (3) wide doors allowing men to fork hay/straw into the barnyard below. Original, 1838 installed boards, are evident on exterior portions which speak to the Owner's maintenance and pride of ownership since the 1838 construction. The upper barn floor contains all original floor boards with the exception of two small areas which needed repairs as the boards received the highest traffic usage through the years. The replacement lumber is locust and walnut from the timber acres.

The lower floor has always been home to livestock raised on the farm; the upper floor consists of five (5) bays and two (2) outshed granaries, one on the northwest corner with three (3) storage bins and one on the northeast corner containing four (4) storage bins for the grains produced. The west granary has wooden steps leading to the lower level. Two of the east side granary bins have been remodeled with sloped metal sides to accommodate ground feed rations sliding into the feed chutes to the first floor.



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The west, south and east sandstone walls of the lower levels also have ventilation openings built into the original 1838 construction. The openings on the west wall still have the original doors on them to close out the elements. Three (3) openings on the south wall contain the original bars while the remainder openings were replaced with windows in the 1930s when a small dairy operated in the eastern half of the lower level.

All exterior hardware are the original pieces installed during the 1838 construction. The hardware was hand-forged in the blacksmith shop on the farm. Many hand-cut nails from the same forge are still evident in the construction of the exterior siding and the upper bay floors.

In 1938, as part of the FDR's Rural Electrification Act of 1936, electricity arrived to the farm. The house and barn were wired for electricity at this time.

In 1986, the east and west gable ends were renovated; the original 1838 boards removed and replaced with native Hemlock, ship lapped boards.

In November 1993, the barnyard was renovated. All the old concrete surface was removed, exposing the sandstone rock original barnyard surface, and new concrete, water lines, cattle drinkers, fencing and gates were constructed. Additionally, because of the growing concerns regarding agricultural runoff into the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, the barnyard's new concrete floor was curbed to prevent manure runoff and also was roofed over with a 30' x 100' open three sides pole and truss construction with clear plexiglass panels (skylights) in the roof to allow ambient lighting. All spouting and downspouts from the south side of the barn and barnyard roofs were tied to buried 4" PVC piping and routed directly to 15" culvert pipes carrying all rain runoff away from the structure, under the township road and into the pasture south of the barn.

The interior lower level of the barn consists of livestock stables and is dominated by the masoned, stone foundation walls. Of note is the north interior wall which serves a dual function of supporting the floor beam joists of the upper level and serves as the wall upon which the barn bridge is backfilled against. Additionally, the exposed, hand-hewn Chestnut and White Oak beams supporting the timber frame construction of the upper level are impressive to say the least. The remnants of years of interior white-washing are evident from when a small dairy existed in the 1920s-late 1930s.

The upper level of the barn is a study of timber framing construction prevalent of the period. No nails, no AutoCad engineered drawings, no blueprints with specs. All mortised and tenon construction, hand-hewn beams, hand-cut pegs were used. Ladder rungs were carved with a draw knife and show an added value artisanship by adding a flat edge on the top of the rung. Typical ladder rungs are observed to be round; the carpenters used the draw knife to flatten the top of the round rung; the intent to minimize boot slippage off a round surface. The flooring is original 1838 chestnut lumber. A block and tackle remains from the days when hay wagons were unloaded with grapple hooks, horsed pulled a long rope through the block and tackle to lift the hay into the mow. Alan M. Bower remembers as a boy, his job was to move the horses forward

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to lift the hooks, then back the horses to reload the grapple. The barn floors served as grain storage and the partition boards are still attached to the support beams.

**Butcher/Spring/Wash House (1834 – Contributing)**

Photos # 13 - 19

This facility, erected in 1834 as evidenced by a date stone, is a 22' x 26', timber framed building to serve as a butcher facility, a spring house and in 1870, a wash house function was added. The butchering area also has a storage loft, two windows and two entrance doors. The spring house shows two windows, one entrance door and adjoins the butcher house. At some point, the interior of the spring house was concreted; it is suspected underneath the concrete is the original stone floor. Large, flat stones line the base of the spring allowing 4"-5" of cool spring water to flow over. Crocks of vegetables were stored on these stones. At the end of the stones, a deeper water depth was created to allow the taller milk cans to be placed for cooling. During hog butchering, the hot buckets of liquid lard, tubs of ground sausage and cuts of pork were carried from the butcher house and placed onto the stones to cool. There were also shelves and hooks for the salt-curing of hams, pans of Pan Haus and other cuts of pork, fresh from the butcher table, to cool before being wrapped and frozen.

The large, walled spring adjoins the facility on the west side and served as a water supply for the farmstead and as the refrigeration function as the cool waters (a steady 56 degrees) flow into the spring house and underneath the butcher house. The spring served this as the primary water resource function until the water line and electricity arrived in 1938. The spring waters continue through the current backyard via a masoned, sandstone wall constructed over several phases, into the pastures, exiting the southeast corner of the property. The wash house function was performed inside the butchering area. In 1870, during the house expansion, two large cisterns were hand dug, stone lined to the south of the house, uphill from the butcher house. A cast iron pipe was installed underground to transport the collected rain water downhill to the butcher house. A cast iron spigot was installed and the laundry was washed inside the butcher house. Alan M. Bower can remember, as a child, his Mother's hired lady, washing clothes weekly using this method.

The east gable end of the structure of the building exposes the large, stone chimney exterior dominating the exterior sightline. The exterior sides originally were constructed of raw lumber clapboard of varying widths and at some point covered in a tar shingle siding.

In June 1986, all siding was removed and replaced with native Hemlock, lap siding. The Butcher house area had the concrete floor removed and new concrete poured. Overhead, electric supply wires were buried in conduit underground, new electric, panel boxes, conduit, wiring, and outlets were installed. The roof is metal.

The interior of the Butcher house is dominated by a one-kettle firebox, a wide chimney, a long white-pine planked processing table and a log beamed ceiling blackened by smoke and steam from butchering days.

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The Spring house has a cement floor leading to the cool spring waters flowing over large, flat stones which served to store crocks of garden grown produce and milk cans to cool. The ham curing shelves have been dismantled although the curing planks and hanging rods are still in the room.

**Wagon Shed (circa 1860 – Contributing)**

Photos # 34 - 37

In conversations with Benjamin Brodbeck Bower, the fourth generation owner, stated the Wagon Shed was erected circa 1860 although the exact construction date is unknown. Born on January 2, 1900, he told of memories growing up, the shed served to garage the farm wagons and served as a repair shop to equipment. The Wagon Shed stood adjacent to the blacksmith shop where the men would forge needed repair parts like hitches, springs, running gear, wheels, seats and such for wagons. Plow shares, points and moldboards were repaired and replaced.

The Wagon Shed is of timber framed construction with a masoned stone foundation, wooden exterior, a cedar shake roof, two corn cribs and a storage loft. The original shed was open-sided on the north and south sides so as horses could have through-put for ingress and egress of wagons and equipment. The gables were wood sided to protect the storage loft area from the elements. Each gable end had a large wooden door to move storage materials in and out of the loft storage area.

As farm mechanization evolved, so did the Wagon Shed. The blacksmith shop was repurposed to a general farm shop; then removed in 1988. Additional machinery storage facilities constructed and while the building continued to house equipment, it no longer served as a primary repair shop. At some point as Benjamin recalled, a large, wooden, rolling door was installed on the north side of the shed and an over-shot annex was constructed circa World War I on the west side of the Wagon Shed. This annex housed miscellaneous materials such as horse harnesses, saddles, hames, firewood, lawn mowers, wheelbarrows, etc.

At some unknown point, the cedar shake roof was replaced with tin metal.

In the 1960s, the Wagon Shed was converted into feed grinding function because of the close proximity to the barn and the ear corn crib storage already existing in the building. Wagon bins full of grain would back in beside the hammermill, dumping grain for grinding which would process the grain and transfer into another waiting wagon bin underneath the discharge spout, then transport the ground material to the granaries in the barn. In 1969, the interior of the corn cribs had plywood sheets attached as dried shelled corn replaced ears of corn. The hammermill system was used heavily and then removed in 1986.

In November 1995, the Wagon Shed underwent a restoration. New, native Hemlock, lap siding was added as exterior siding; the large, wooden, rolling door on the north side was replaced with large, wooden, swinging barn doors. The big doors are supported with pins and hinges, made by a blacksmith as exact replicas to the original 1838 hand-forged hardware evident on the barn. The south entrance received an electric, double-wide metal garage door. A new cement floor was poured. The over-shot annex was gutted and expanded to become a farm office. New electric

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conduit, wiring, outlets and lights were installed. The tin roof was replaced with steel, exposed fastener, Perma-Clad roofing.

This renovation/restorative effort was to return the Wagon Shed to its original function...only now, it garages today's vehicles vice horse-drawn wagons of yesteryear.

**Spring House (circa 1860 – Contributing)**

Photos # 40, 41

As told by Benjamin Brodbeck Bower, a c.1860 springhouse was erected approximately 1,900 feet directly due north of the farmstead buildings. This springhouse served for tenant family functions as a small house and barn once stood near the strong flowing spring. The date of the house and barn construction is unknown and the facilities no longer exist. However, some stones and foundation remnants can still be seen. The springhouse remains, is in good shape, having been repointed in the late 1980s, is structurally sound and has the 1936 installed standing seam, metal roof covering the structure.

**Spring House (circa 1936 – Contributing)**

Photos # 40, 41

This structure is located adjacent to the Spring House and is a small 6' x 6' mason stoned, walled spring house to collect spring water for the property's water supply and usage. It has a standing seam, metal roof covering the spring waters. This structure was built in 1936, as told by Benjamin Brodbeck Bower, in anticipation of pipelining this mountain spring water in 1938 to the farm buildings for providing running water for the farm and indoor plumbing for the house. Additionally, electricity lines were coming into the valley in 1938 and the water system was to be in place in advance of electric water pumps installation.

There are two thirty foot (30') hand-dug wings, piked with sandstone, to capture and transport water from secondary springs into this structure. The northeast and northwest corners of the building's foundation were purposely built to tie into the wings. When the water is drained inside the spring, water gushes through the corners of the walls. In addition to the bubbling spring water from the floor, when the drain plug is back in place, the spring fills very quickly. It certainly is a credit to the builder's insights and construction how this is engineered.

**Milk Shed (circa 1930 –Contributing)**

Photos # 31, 32

The 22' x 26' structure was erected c. 1930 fifty feet east of the residence. Originally sized 22' x 16' and three sided with a southern exposure open, this shed served to house livestock. It was home to beef cattle, hogs, horses, a milk cow, a big doghouse. Stephens C. Bower, current owner, remembers as a young child, learning to milk a Guernsey cow, by hand, into the milk pail and then placing the pail in the spring drain to cool. Grandmother Bower would fetch the cooled milk pail in the afternoon, taking into her kitchen for homogenizing. A water line, spigots and electricity was added in 1938 to supply running water along with being wired for the new electricity coming to the farm. In 1972, the shed became home to an English Sheep dog and later, a favorite beagle's house. In 1993, the shed underwent a restoration project to parge the cement floor, add aluminum siding, new steel, exposed fastener, Perma-Clad roofing, new

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interior electric wiring, panel boxes, bury overhead electric supply lines and a 10' x 22' addition to enclose the southern side. Additionally, masoned stone walls, matching the other buildings, were built to contain elevated flower beds and a small garden of sorts, herbs and tomatoes mainly. The building function changed to serve two purposes...a furniture refinishing shop for Barbara A. Bower, wife of Alan M. Bower, and a lively game/puzzle solving/reading/afternoon nap room for the grandchildren.

**Silo (circa 1935 – Contributing)**

Photos # 1, 3, 20

Though silos were “relatively uncommon” to the region, according to the MPDF, the Bower Homestead Farm shows evidence of an early wooden stave silo to store forage for livestock. The date of construction of the wooden silo is unknown however, a portion of the cement footer and foundation still exists adjacent to the northeast corner of the barn. In the late 1930s, the wooden silo was demolished and removed as a new 10'x45' concrete stave silo was erected approximately 16' northwest of the wooden stave but still adjacent to the northeast corner of the barn. A concrete block, roofed silage room was built which necessitated removing a portion of the northside, masoned stone barnwall to allow ingress/egress to the silage room. Current owner, Stephens Bower, had tasks to keep the silage room full by climbing the inside silo chute to fork material down the chute and piled in the silage room. In 1981, the silo was retrofitted with an electric-powered silage unloader. As the beef operation evolved and increased in size, the silo was decommissioned in the mid-1990s because the operation adapted to bunk-style silage storage and innovative “ag-bag” plastic tube style feedstuff storage methods came on-line.

**Chicken Coop/Machine Shed (circa 1940, 1956, 1975, 1982, 1989, 2016– Non-Contributing)**

Photos # 28 - 30

As America braced for World War II, Benjamin Brodbeck Bower, the 4<sup>th</sup> generation owner, erected a 26' x 26' shed with a primary purpose to house layer hens. Located seventy (70) feet due north of the Wagon Shed, the facility possessed a concrete foundation and floor, tin metal roof, board and batten exterior and seven (7) 6/6 windows...three (3) on the west side, four (4) on the south wall. The interior originally housed around 200 layer hens. The shed tapped into the water line dug in 1938 to supply water for the birds. Electricity was routed with overhead wires from the Wagon Shed. Many expansions, alterations and function changes have occurred throughout the building's existence. Today, the chicken coop contains a modern workshop. A post-1970 grain dryer shed, located to the east of the machine shed, was demolished in 2016, and a larger 60' x 56' shed was built over the former grain dryer footprint. The entire clustered building has grown to become a 56' x 156' with steel, exposed fastener, Perma-Clad roofing. Each renovation and addition required maintaining and matching the wooden exteriors found throughout the property. The enduring function is to house the farm's shop, primary hay storage and equipment storage functions.

**Pavilion (1993 – Non-Contributing)**

Photo # 33

A 20' x 28' picnic pavilion was constructed in 1993 approximately 18' feet from the southeast corner of the butcher house. It is of pole construction with a steel, exposed fastener, Perma-Clad roofing. Because the Pavilion rests upon an elevated knoll of the backyard, a masoned, dry-

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walled, sandstone constructed wall was built as a transition to the lower yard level. The pavilion's function is for family and friends picnics and parties.

**Three (3) grain dryer/storage bins (2012, 2014 – Non-Contributing)**

Photo # 20

As the farm production evolved into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, so has the grain storage activities. In 2012, a 24' x 26' grain dryer/storage bin was erected. In 2014, two (2) more grain storage bins were constructed for the farm's increasing corn and soybean grain production. The grain storage bins are located 115' northeast of the barn. Ingress and egress of today's large semi-trailer grain trucks were a consideration by allowing easy access from the township road and allowing ample turning and backing areas for this larger equipment. An older, much smaller grain drier was used from 1976-2011 and was located adjacent to the Hay/Equipment shed and was removed in 2014 upon the newer, larger bulk sized grain dryer coming on-line. The grain storage bins location to the east of the central farmstead buildings was dictated to ensure the relationship with the historic farmstead and sightlines were unaltered and retains the farm's historic integrity.

Integrity

The Bower Homestead Farm is reflective of the agricultural eras described within the MPDF's *Agriculture in the Settlement Period* and the *North and West Branch Susquehanna Diversified Agriculture* contexts, where agricultural diversity has significant importance within the region, and meets registration requirements for eras spanning c.1800 - 1940. The property reflects the architectural era in which it has evolved with a Georgian-influenced Pennsylvania vernacular farmhouse, masoned, stone foundations, walls and exteriors, native Hemlock, ship lapped lumber, slate and cedar shake roofs replaced with standing seam roofs. The large, Pennsylvania bank barn, with the masoned walls, still as plumb today as the day it was built, the timber frame, post-and-beam construction with Chestnut and White Oak virgin logs are additional testimony to the construction methods of the earliest periods.

Age and elements have taken a toll throughout the history; however, the Bower Family has required the highest level of integrity and maintenance to the best of their financial abilities. To have original exterior boards, hand-forged hardware, flooring, windows and such still existing is the testament to these efforts. Upgrading interiors with new electric, plumbing and function have always offered consideration how best to dovetail with the original intent of the property. New construction and renovations have always considered, and required, maintaining the beautiful sightlines of the property's setting in Perry County's Sherman's Valley. For these reasons it is accurate to state that the Bower Homestead Farm retains all seven aspect of integrity. Several of the farms surrounding the Bower Homestead Farm also *appear* to retain historic integrity, making it possible, given further survey and research, for the potential of an agricultural historic district as defined by the MPDF.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Agriculture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

c. 1800 - 1940  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Solomon and Magdalena Bower Farm in Jackson Township, Perry County, Pennsylvania is significant under Criteria A, in the area of Agriculture. The farm reflects the history and trends discussed in the *Agricultural Resources of Pennsylvania, c 1700-1960* Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF). Located in the *North and West Branch Susquehanna Diversified Agriculture* region, the Bower Farm reflects trends in agriculture popular during the eras of *Historic Farming Systems Diversified Production on Highly Mechanized Farms, c. 1840-1860* and *Diversified Production for Local Markets, 1860-1940*. The Bower farm also meets the registration requirements for a farm in the earlier *Agriculture in the Settlement Period, c.1800 - c.1840*, under the MPDF. The farm represents important transitions from one period to the next as evidenced by integrating diversification with other income producing endeavors and mechanization as evidenced in 1850, 1880 and 1927 census reports. The farm's production output reflected a higher than average productions compared to local and regional census numbers, and the farm's built environment also reflect regional trends and styles. Continuously owned and farmed by the Bower family for over 200 years, the farm has been recognized as a "Bicentennial Farm" by the PA Dept. of Agriculture's "Century Farm" program. The overall period of significance of c.1800-1940 reflects the range of eras discussed in the MPDF for which the Bower Farm reflects significance in the area of Agriculture.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

### Early Farm History

The Blaine Family; James and Isabella Blaine had three sons of note serving as Officers in the Continental Army of the Revolutionary War; Colonel Ephraim Blaine, Captain William Blaine and Alexander Blaine, Assistant Commissary of Issues. All sons lived early in their lives in Toboyne Township, Cumberland County on this property. (Perry County was established in 1820; Jackson Township established 1844) James Blaine, on March 24, 1777 deeded to son, William Blaine, 400 acres in Toboyne Township, Cumberland County, PA. These 400 acres are upon which the 226 acre Bower Homestead Farm was carved from. The remaining 174 acres are intact today and owned by Logan M. Bower.

Colonel Ephraim Blaine served as the Deputy Commissary General of Purchases during the "dark winter" of 1776 in which his efforts staved off starvation of the Continental Army under General George Washington at Valley Forge. Subsequently, Ephraim rose to the duties of Commissary General of Purchases, duly elected by the Continental Congress December 2, 1779. Ephraim was a man of worthy status as a property owner across Cumberland County. He purchased land and built a flour mill in Middlesex Township, Cumberland County, (The Carlisle Waterworks property currently) which worked night and day to supply feeds and provisions for

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the Continental Army under the command of General George Washington. The Bower Homestead Farm, in the time period of the Blaine Family ownership, supplied grains to the mill. Ephraim contracted with Teamsters to drive the products and provisions to the Continental Army.

Evidence of Colonel Blaine's relationship with the upper echelons of the Founding Fathers is evidenced by his friendships with George Washington, Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, General Nathaniel Greene, among others. In October 1794, General Washington visited Carlisle, PA to review troops and strategize the way forward regarding the Whiskey Rebellion. During the visit, he lodged for a week in Ephraim's house, on the southeast corner of the Carlisle Square, across from the Presbyterian Church. Ephraim was also the great-grandfather of James G. Blaine, who is of national renown and was considered one of the finest American statesman of the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

In 1755, James Blaine took up this land. The Blaine Family had constructed a 45 x 55 foot, two-story log residence on the property several feet to the north and adjacent to the current 1794 stone house. This log house served as home to sons Ephraim, William and Alexander in their early childhood and evidence of this building's foundation are still located underneath the current grassed front yard. There is a cornerstone of the log structure foundation, set vertically, which rises above the grass approximately fifteen inches. As told by Benjamin Brodbeck Bower, his father, Clark Milton Bower, had positioned this stone vertically, from the Blaine's log structure foundation, to allow his small children, nieces and nephews to use as a step-up into stirrups to mount horses.

The farm was eventually bought from James Blaine by James Adams on May 12, 1790. It was Adams who constructed the earliest portion of the stone mansion house in 1794.

c.1800 – c.1840 - Agriculture in the Settlement Period

Solomon and Magdalena Bower purchased the 221 acre farm from John and Isabella Adams on June 1, 1816 for \$9,982.80, or \$45.17 per acre. At that moment, according to Bower family history, passed down through the generations, Solomon stated that, "this is our homestead, the Bower Homestead Farm," which it has been known as ever since. The year 1816 is significant as it is referred to as the "Year Without a Summer" because the global weather disruptions subsequent to the Mt. Tambora eruption in Indonesia, April 1815 which caused worldwide crop failures, epidemic disease, and large-scale civil unrest across the globe. There are reports of the mid-Atlantic region of the United States receiving snow with ice on rivers and lakes in Pennsylvania in June. Philadelphia, on June 7-8, 1816, the ice killed every garden herb and vegetables of all descriptions. New England endured frost every day in May, June blizzard conditions with 20" snowdrifts, and a return of severe frosts in August.

Solomon forged ahead with creating a magnificent farm for the area. Land was cleared; new buildings erected and commerce markets linked to in the distant city of Baltimore, Maryland. To house his eleven children, Solomon built a two-story, stone addition to the original 1794 stone house, a butcher/springhouse in 1834, and a 60' x 100' barn in 1838. Substantial stone houses and

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barns like those built and adapted by Bower during this period were beyond what was typical for farms in the *Settlement Period*. Also during the period, Solomon built a stillhouse, which is no longer standing.

In the Bower Family's possessions are Bill of Ladens dated 1820-1827 detailing the inventory of whiskey and brandy casks traveling to Baltimore, MD on sturdy Conestoga wagons. As the MPDF context for *Agriculture in the Settlement Period* points out, "...a considerable proportion of the corn and rye produced in Pennsylvania was marketed as whiskey.' In the interior, whiskey functioned as currency, and there were small-scale distilleries everywhere." High-value, relatively compact and less perishable items like whiskey were popular, as distilling created a more valuable and more easily moved grain product. The liquor was traded for staples of salt, sugar, bolts of cloth, kegs of nails. The Bower Family also still possesses their historic wagon jack, dated 1811. Improved roads were sparse, mainly east-west turnpike Philadelphia to Lancaster, Reading, York and Harrisburg. North-south land transportation networks were at best, very rough, while the Susquehanna River was a conduit for barges and rafts to bring agricultural production to the transportation hubs. Solomon's travels to Baltimore were rigorous; from Jackson Township, Perry County, PA, due southeast to Carlisle, PA, south to Gettysburg where roads began to improve into the large Baltimore commerce center. The round-trip was 17-21 days in duration.

While many farms were still in a subsistence period, Solomon was establishing the foundational elements to carry the farm forward for many succeeding generations. The large, two-story house, the large barn, butcher/springhouse were of larger scale atypical to most built during the early *Settlement Period* and considered worthy of wealthy or well-established families. The farm acres were cleared; markets he endeavored to scale into were well beyond the local area as evidenced by the travels to Baltimore, MD. Even for today's urban/rural planning studies, Jackson Township, Perry County is beyond any hinterland concentric zone modeling for goods and services supply to a Central Business District such as Baltimore, MD.

1840-1860 – Diversified Production on Highly Mechanized Farm

The Bower Homestead Farm was ahead of the curve with distant market development. The *North & West Branch Susquehanna Diversified Agriculture* region notes that during the 1840-1860 agricultural era; transport development evolved and matured the infrastructure network conveying goods to market. Canals and railroads reached well into Central Pennsylvania to transport agricultural bulk goods and the exploding lumber and coal industries.

The study evidences social trends, such as temperance, steered agriculture away from growing grains for whiskey production and more towards corn, wheat, pork and butter for local consumptions.

The 1850 Agricultural Census for Jackson Township, Perry County reflects the Bower Homestead Farm, owned by Solomon Bower's son, Solomon, continued to enhance his Father's endeavors to have a significant farm. As evidenced by the 1850 Census, Solomon II, as we call him, possessed very much higher than average numbers across many categories. When viewing

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the 1850 Agricultural Census for Jackson Township, Perry County, Pennsylvania, Solomon II's entry may be found as line #9 of the second page.

Noteworthy of mention are Average Improved acres of 170 acres against the Jackson Township 100 acres average and the Perry County 77 acres average. Average Farm Value generates a significantly higher value for the Bower Homestead Farm. Average Implement Value informs us Solomon II was an earnest adaptor of farm mechanization.

Municipality	Number of farms	Average Improved acres per farm	Average acres per farm	Percent of farm acres Improved	Average farm Value	Average Implement Value	Horses per farm	Milk cows per farm	Oxen	Other Cattle per farm	Sheep per farm	Swine per farm
Jackson	66	100	179	56	2411	115	4	4	6	8	9	11
Madison	100	101	203	50	3148	135	4	5	2	6	8	11
Toboyne	62	87	238	37	1642	83	3	4	0	6	6	7
Perry County Averages	87	77	152	51	2287	89	3	3	5	4	7	9
Solomon Bower	1	170	181	94	3500	250	6	7	0	16	5	12

Municipality	Bushels Wheat per farm	Bushels Rye per farm	Bushels Corn per farm	Bushels Oats per farm	Bushels Potatoes per farm	Bushels Buckwheat per farm	Orchard Value	Butter per farm (lbs.)	Hay Average (tons per farm)	Clover Seed (bushels)	Flax (lbs.)	Flax Seed (bushels)
Jackson	142	45	66	138	19	5	7	237	17	2	5	1
Madison	199	47	78	147	18	7	4	256	19	3	2	0
Toboyne	90	60	43	70	17	11	2	213	13	1	4	1
Perry County Averages	130	66	116	102	36	12	8	216	12	1	2	0
Solomon Bower	590	100	125	300	13	4	15	150	3	1.5	20	2

Municipality	Wool	Maple Sugar per farm	Value of Animals Slaughtered
Jackson	28	6	55
Madison	26	2	59
Toboyne	21	11	44
Perry County Averages	17	1	50
Solomon Bower	13	15	70

It appears Solomon II harnessed the Bower Homestead Farm into the envy of grain growers as evidenced by the recorded yield numbers. The Bower Homestead Farm produced higher than average amounts of wheat, rye, corn, oats, and flax, with higher numbers of horses, milk cows, other cattle, and swine.

1860-1940 – Diversified Production for Local Markets

Solomon II continued to evolve and grow the Bower Homestead Farm production. As evidenced by the data, Solomon II appears to be driven to be the best farmer he is able to be. As the 1850 Census showcased, he was a top performer across many Census categories. The thirty year gap, from 1850 – 1880 declares Solomon maintained the drive to increase production, farm value and the technology of the day.

Noteworthy of mention include: Value of farm including land, buildings at \$9,000 dollars against Jackson Township average of \$3,152 and a Perry County average of \$3,799. As in the 1850 Census, Solomon II acceptance of machinery shows a penchant for the technology of the day. He recognized, based on his Hay production against the number of milk and other cattle, cows

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need feed to eat; so Solomon spent effort to grow an enormous amount of hay over the averages. His four milk cows appear to produce more milk for butter production. As with the hay tonnage, the corn bushel production far outpaces the average. Perhaps the hay and corn production combined provided the necessary dairy ration to produce the gallons of milk required for the outstanding butter production.

Municipality	Number of farms	Total Acres per farm	Tilled acres	Percent Tilled per farm	Pasture Acres	Woodland acres	Value of farm including land, buildings	Value of Machinery per farm
Jackson	18	137	52	38%	4	81	3152	81
Madison	26	156	58	37%	1	97	2606	135
Toboyne	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Perry County Averages	266	97	56	58%	3	38	3799	147
Solomon Bower		268	185	69%	7	75	9000	337

Municipality	Tons of Hay per farm	Horses per farm	Milk cows per farm	Other Cattle per farm	Butter per farm (lbs.)	Corn Bushels per farm	Oat bushels per farm	Wheat bushels per farm
Jackson	8	3	3	4	169	159	103	57
Madison	13	3	2	4	303	230	117	61
Toboyne	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Perry County Averages	10	3	3	3	295	283	153	97
Solomon Bower	60	7	4	21	455	850	300	500

When viewing the 1880 Agricultural Census for Jackson Township, Perry County, Pennsylvania, Solomon II has two entries, Farm No.1 and Farm No.2. For the purpose of this narrative, the Farm No.1 will be the data used. Farm No.2 is an adjacent farm, contiguous to Farm No.1.

Benjamin B. Bower, grandson of Solomon II, was born on January 2, 1900...a New Year's baby. On November 11, 1918, he was standing on the Blain Depot platform of the Newport and Sherman's Valley Railroad awaiting the morning train on the return trip from New Germanton, the westernmost stop on the line. Benjamin had received his World War I Draft Notice as enacted by the Selected Service Act of 1917 granting United States Federal Government to raise a national army for World War I service through conscription. As told by Benjamin to grandson, Stephens Bower, the time was on or around 11:15 AM as the train approached, stopped to load goods and passengers for the trip east, back down the valley. At which point, the Blain Station Master stepped from the telegraph office to announce the Armistice had been signed, the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month, abruptly ending a most horrific war. Upon hearing the news, he ran the approximate 1 ¾ miles west to the farm so he could make his seat at the dinner table and not be late. For Benjamin, the saying, "don't be late for dinner." carried a significance with him all his life.

Upon the Armistice signing, Benjamin immediately applied to and was accepted for enrollment to the Pennsylvania State University two-year agricultural school. He earned his Associate Degree and returned to manage for his father, C.M Bower, then owner, the Bower Homestead Farm.

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In comparing the 1927 Census data, Ben B. Bower learned well from his grandfather, Solomon II, and his father, C.M. Bower. Ben applied his learnings from Penn State into the Bower Homestead Farm production.

Noteworthy of mention: The Crop Acres per farm continue to surpass Jackson Township and Perry County averages. The Corn Acres per farm (silage) and Alfalfa acres exhibit the continuing Bower Family tendency to be early adopters of new farming methods. Ben appears to be diversifying the operation with the addition of Chickens. These were laying hens which he sold to Keller Bros of Sunbury. The Milk cow production sold to Keller Bros. as well, for their butter production capacities.

Municipality	Number of farms	Total Acres per farm	Crop Acres per farm	Percent Farmland in Crops	Corn Acres per farm (Grain)	Corn Acres per farm (Silage)	Wheat Acres per farm	Oats Acres per farm
Jackson	80	70	50	71%	9	3	11	10
Madison	69	130	67	52%	14	2	15	12
Toboyne	53	139	56	40%	10	0	10	9
Perry County Averages	1951	101	47	47%	10	0	11	9
Ben B. Bower	1	190	140	74%	10	16	28	25

Municipality	Rye Acres per farm	Alfalfa Acres per farm	Hay Acres per farm	Horses per farm	Milk cows per farm	Other Cattle per farm	Swine per farm	Chickens per farm
Jackson	1	0.7	15	2	6	1	9	9
Madison	1	1.6	20	2	6	3	12	59
Toboyne	2	0.5	22	2	5	3	9	6
Perry County Averages	1	0.4	14	2	4	2	8	25
Ben B. Bower	7	9.0	35	5	7	0	23	145

When viewing the 1927 Agricultural Census for Jackson Township, Perry County, Pennsylvania, Ben B. Bower is listed on line #6 on the fourth page, dated Nov. 15-25, 1927 of the document. His father, C.M. Bower is also listed on the same page, line #22. The two entries correspond to the 1880 Census with Solomon Bower Farm No.1 and Farm No.2. Ben has the home farm; C.M. was farming the adjacent and contiguous Farm #2. For the purpose of this narrative, the data is from Ben B. Bower listing.

Bower Homestead Farm since 1940

Throughout the 1930s, Benjamin Bower continued to increase poultry numbers (layer hens) and circa 1940 erected a 24' x 30' chicken house for approximately 400 layer hens. Approximately 40' north of the chicken house, a small portable shed was placed and this was the incubator building for peeps. Initially heated by stove, the incubator building was later converted to electric heat. In 1951, Alan Bower, converted a portion of the barn's upper floor into a second layer house for 500 birds. Eggs were gathered daily from 850-950 layer hens, washed, sized, and cartoned for shipment to Keller Bros. in Sunbury, PA.

In the late 1950s, the Farm, now owned by Alan Bower, began a farrow-to-finish hog operation, which encompasses the breeding of sows, birthing (farrowing), and the raising of piglets to a

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weight suitable for selling at market. Alan, along with his older brother Claude (Bud) incorporated into Bower Bros., Inc. and combined Bud's adjacent farm acres for the endeavor. With a combined approximately 325 acres, Bower Bros. Inc. designed the acreage for "open-range" pork production and placed 250-300 sows into paddocks complete with water lines and portable shelters on logs. Barns and buildings were converted into farrowing pens, nursery pens and finishing pens to support the operation. Alan and Bud were very early adapters in the early 1960s of Biosecurity measures to mitigate opportunities for pseudo-rabies and hog cholera infections. Current owner, Stephens Bower, remembers donning sterilized overalls, rubber boots, sanitizing foot-baths, along with visitor protocols being implemented. Additional hog segregation measures were initiated both on the open-air paddocks and building interiors. The agricultural publication, Farm Journal, composed an article on Bower Bros, Inc. comprising how the open-range, open-air pork production model worked and how biosecurity measures were executed.

Though the Bower Homestead Farm follows regional trends of related to the expansion of poultry and pork production as described in the MPDF for the era of 1940-1960, in later years the most significant physical evidence of this era, the large poultry house, was heavily altered inside and out and adapted as a workshop space. It was also added onto several times with later machine shed additions.

In the 1970s, the hog operation and corporation dissolved and Angus beef became the livestock production of choice. And still is currently moving into 2021. Conservation practices included fencing off streams and allowing only a limited access areas for the cattle. These access areas were graded and the stream beds piked with rock to prevent cattle from lounging in the streams, wallowing and creating mud, swampy areas. Barbed wire fencing was replaced with new fencing technology, high-tensile fencing, in the early 1980s.

Farm equipment continued to evolve as tractors increased in size; harvesting evolved from a threshing machine into a pull-behind combine, to a self-propelled combine. Ear corn bins were converted to dried shelled corn as a batch grain dryer was used. Grain dryers evolved from small 80 bushel capacity to a 300 bushel capacity to today's 6,000 bushel dryer/storage bins.

Land conservation methods also improved with the increase in contour farming, sodway creations, strip farming and a very early adapter of no-till cropping. By 1978, Bower Homestead Farm was fully applying no-till practices across 100% of the acres and has remained steadfastly no-till moving into 2021. Cover cropping concepts were implemented in the early 1980s and continue to evolve presently by implementing best management practices as more and more data becomes available.

In 2018, the Pennsylvania Dept. of Agriculture recognized the Bower Homestead Farm as a "Bicentennial Farm," a designation that celebrates farms owned and operated by one family for 200+ years, and links the legacy of the farm to the history of agriculture in Perry County, Pennsylvania and beyond.

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Though there are no archaeological sites currently recorded on the property, future investigations, particularly near 18<sup>th</sup> century log house foundation, and the c. 1860 springhouse and former tenant house site, may yield additional potential research.



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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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Bower, Barbara A., wife to Alan M. Bower. b. July 01, 1934. d. July 24, 2010

Bower Family history passed along to Son Stephens and Grandsons Blaine and Quinn.

Bower, Benjamin Brodbeck, 4<sup>th</sup> generation owner, b. January 02, 1900. d. July 10, 1998.

Bower Family history passed along to Son Stephens and Grandsons Blaine and Quinn.

Bower, Caroline A., wife to Benjamin B. Bower. b. February 08, 1903. d. January 10, 1996

Bower, Stephens Clark, 6<sup>th</sup> generation owner. B. September 15, 1962. As told to by Benjamin Brodbeck Bower (G-father), Alan Maxwell Bower (Father), Barbara A. Bower (Mother)

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Perry County, PA  
County and State

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

Solomon and Magdalena Bower Farm  
Name of Property

Perry County, PA  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** 226 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 40.339279 | Longitude: -77.553798 |
| 2. Latitude: 40.341961 | Longitude: -77.532469 |
| 3. Latitude: 40.323870 | Longitude: -77.532297 |
| 4. Latitude: 40.323870 | Longitude: -77.554570 |

**Or**

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927    or     NAD 1983

- |          |           |           |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

This property boundary reflects Perry County, Pennsylvania tax parcel 090,138.00-0002.000

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This nominated property consists entirely of the Perry County, Pennsylvania Parcel ID: 090,138.00-002.000, which reflects the longstanding, historic boundaries of the Bower Homestead Farm since June 01, 1816.

Solomon and Magdalena Bower Farm  
Name of Property

Perry County, PA  
County and State

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### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Steven Bower  
organization: property owner  
street & number: \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town: \_\_\_\_\_ state: \_\_\_\_\_ zip code: \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
date: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Solomon and Magdalena Bower Farm  
 Name of Property

Perry County, PA  
 County and State

**Photographs**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

**Photo Log**

Name of Property: Solomon & Magdalena Bower Farm (Bower Homestead Farm)

City or Vicinity: Blain

County: Perry

State: PA

Photographer: Steven Bower

Date Photographed: 8/13/2020

Photo #	Description of View	Direction of Camera
1	Barn	West
2	Barn	North
3	Barn with outshed granaries and original hardware	South
4	Barn - masoned stone wall	East
5	Barn date stone	North
6	Barn interior lower level	East
7	Barn interior west granary	West
8	Barn interior east granary	East
9	Barn interior upper floor	East
10	Barn interior upper floor bay	South
11	Barn interior lower level back wall	East
12	Barn interior barnyard	East
13	Butcher/Springhouse	West
14	Butcher/Springhouse	South
15	Butcher/Springhouse date stone	West
16	Butcher/Springhouse date stone	West
17	Butcher/Springhouse spring	South
18	Butcher/Springhouse interior	South
19	Butcher/Springhouse interior	South
20	Grain bins	West

Solomon and Magdalena Bower Farm  
Name of Property

Perry County, PA  
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21	House viewing south	South
22	House viewing northwest	West
23	House viewing south	North
24	Northeast corner of house with 1794 date stone.	South
25	Northeast corner of house with 1794 date stone	South
26	House east side with 1794 date stone lower left (dark colored stone above basement access). 1870 date stone second floor between windows.	West
27	1870 date stone (marble)	West
28	Chicken Coop/Machine Shed viewing north	North
29	Chicken Coop/Machine Shed viewing west	West
30	Chicken Coop/Machine Shed Shop viewing west	West
31	Milk Shed viewing west	West
32	Milk Shed interior	South
33	Pavilion viewing west	West
34	Wagon Shed viewing north; camera facing north	North
35	Wagon Shed viewing south; camera viewing south	South
36	Wagon Shed interior Farm Office	North
37	Wagon shed interior; corn crib and ladder to loft	East
38	Whole farm viewing north	North
39	Whole farm viewing east	East
40	Mountain Springhouse viewing north	North
41	Spring for the farm viewing north	North

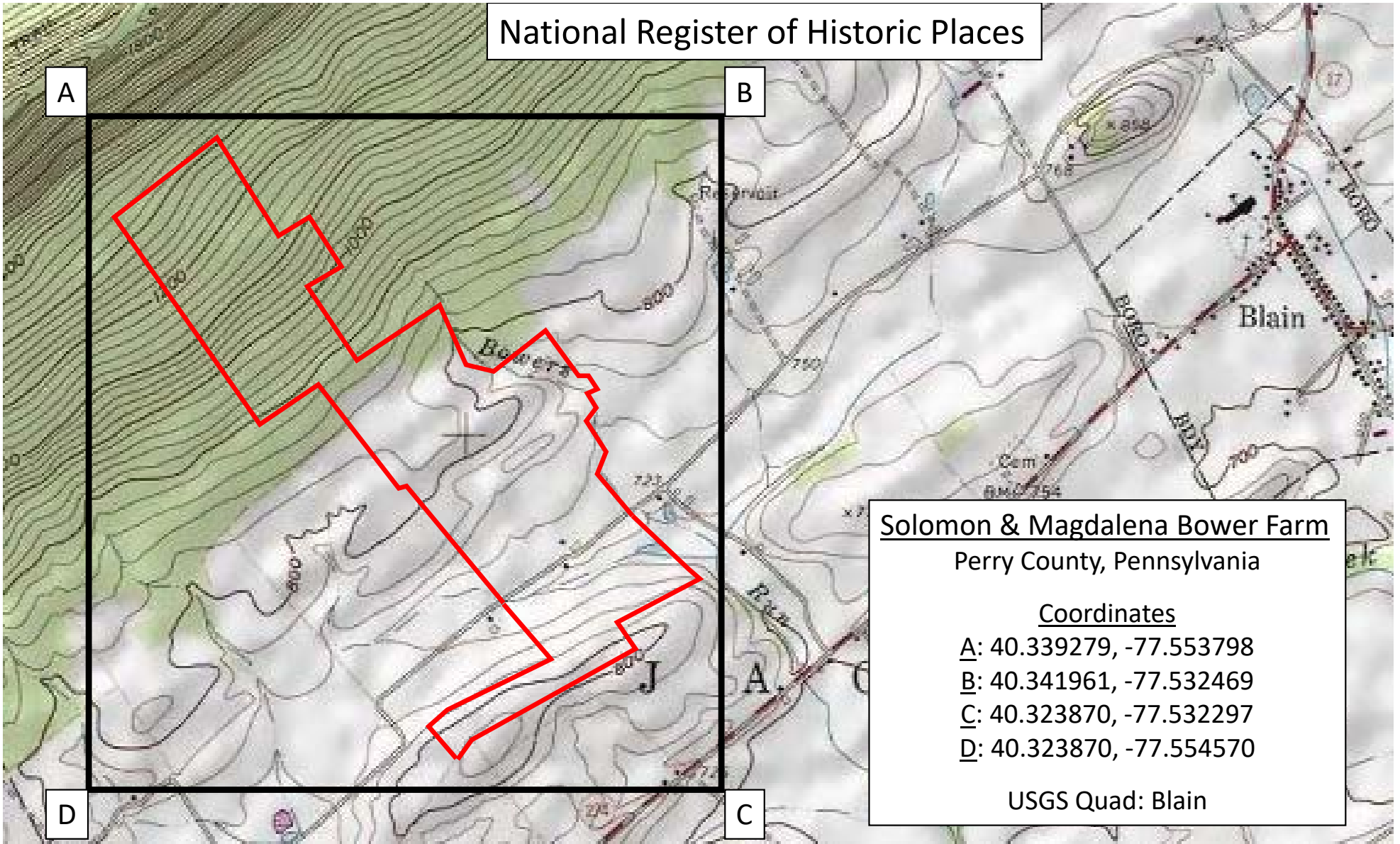
**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

National Register of Historic Places



# National Register of Historic Places



Solomon & Magdalena Bower Farm  
Perry County, PA

*Farmstead Site Plan*



# Bower Homestead Farm – photo key map



41

40

21

39

1

20

22

38

2

Google



Google Bower Homestead Farm – photo key map

# Bower Homestead Farm – photo key map



28

29

30

3

35

4&5

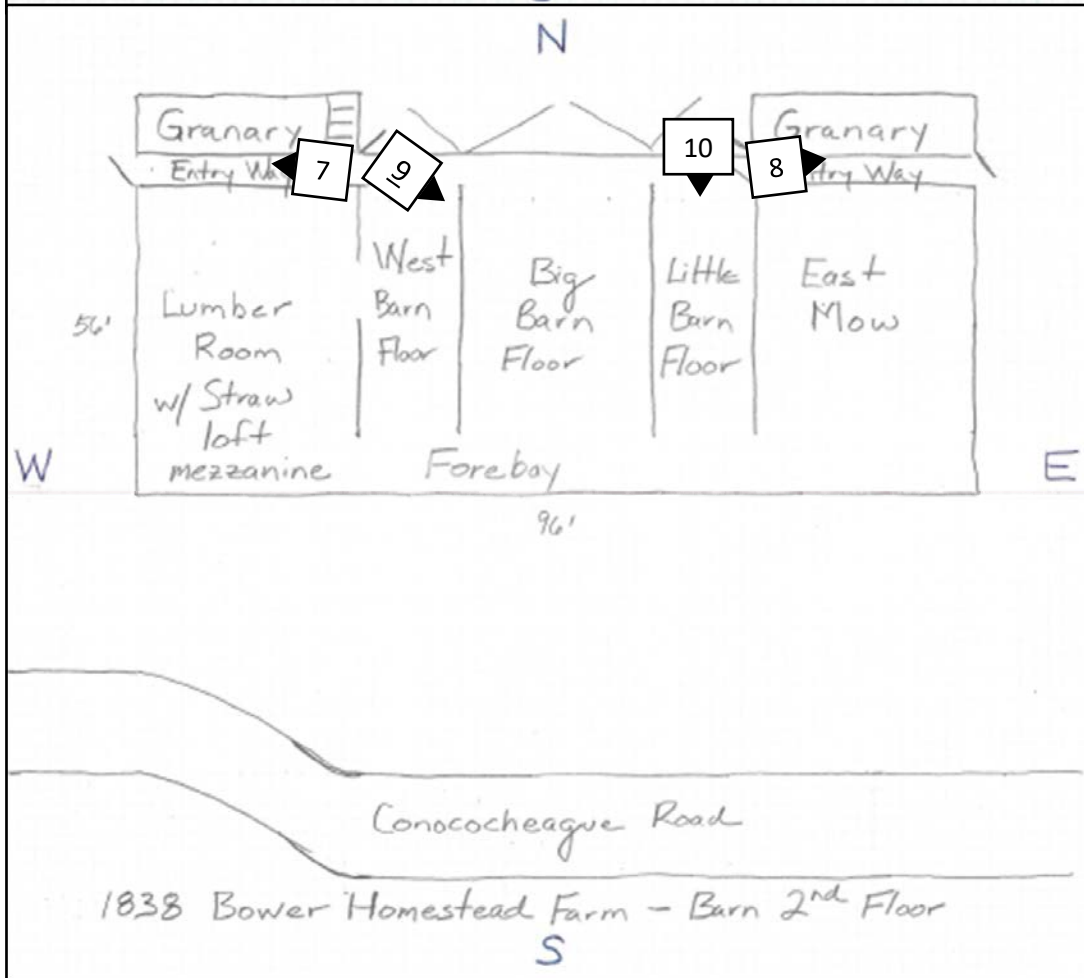
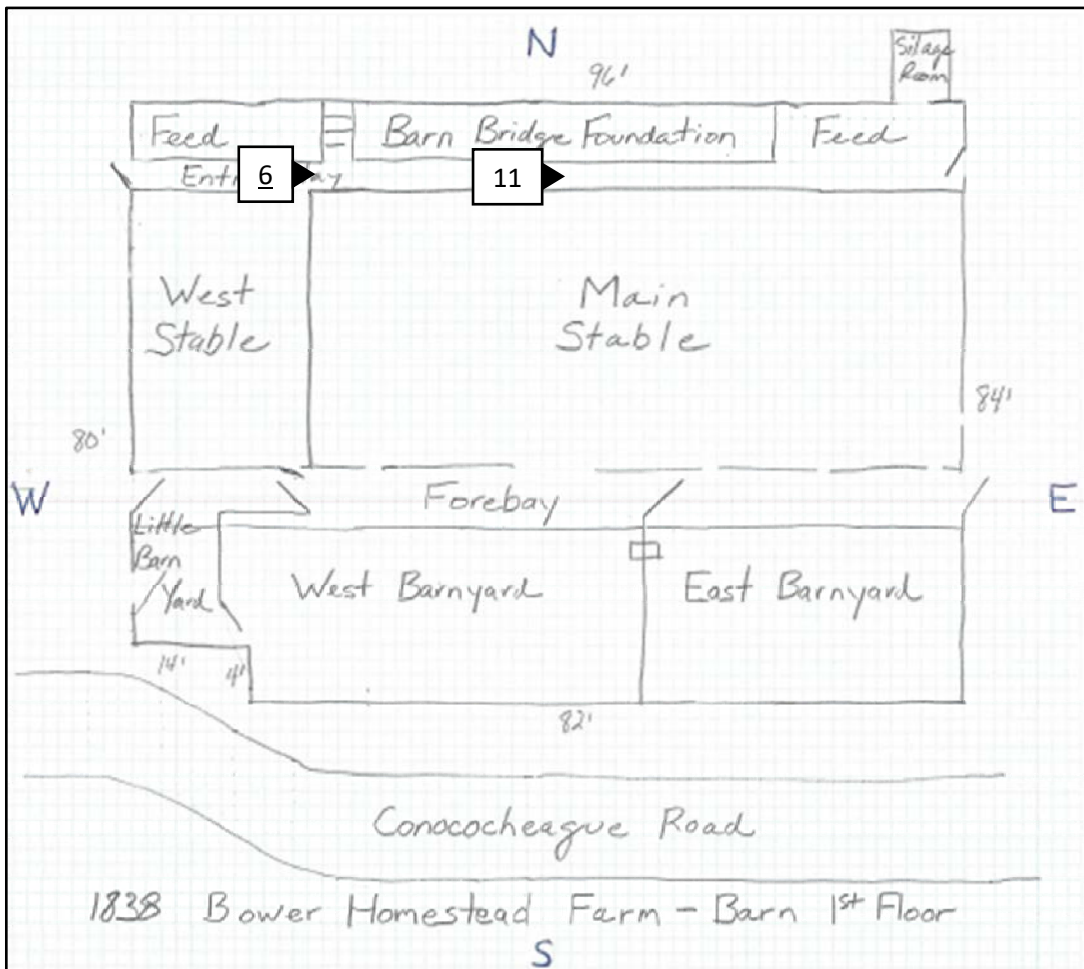
37

36

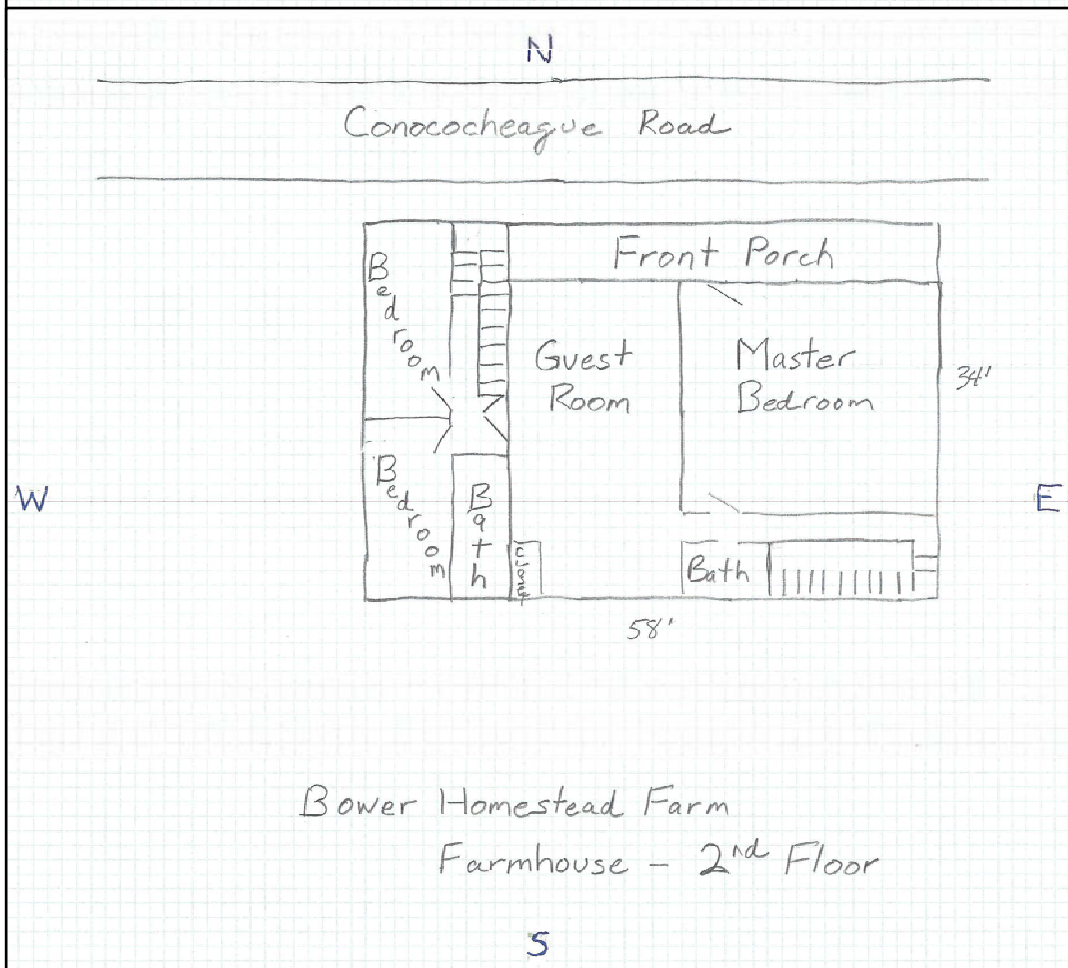
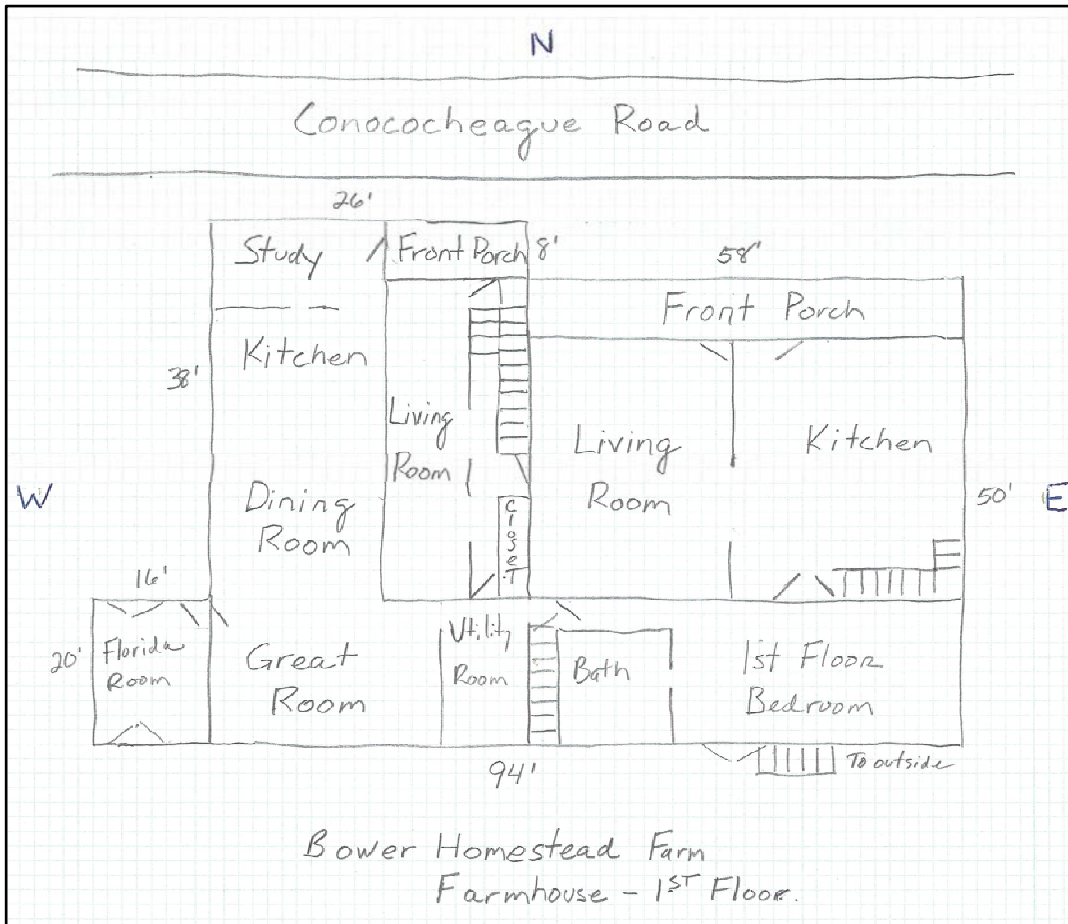
12

34

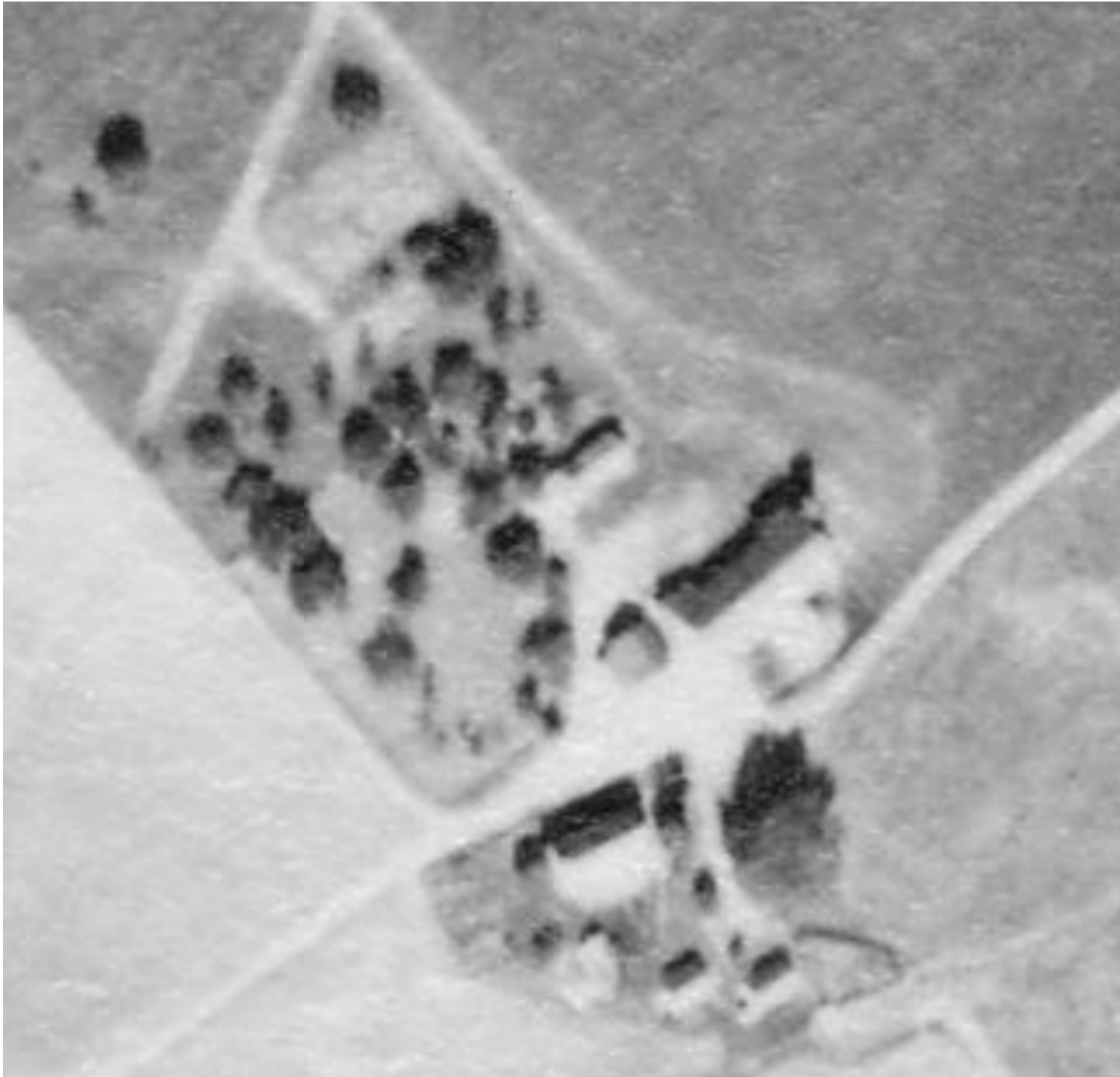
Google



Bower Homestead Farm – photo key & barn floor plans



Bower Homestead Farm – farmhouse floor plans



Bower  
Homestead  
Farm

Jackson Twp.  
Perry County

Year: 1938



Bower  
Homestead  
Farm

Jackson Twp.  
Perry County

Year: 1957



Bower  
Homestead  
Farm

Jackson Twp.  
Perry County

Year: 1970





Bower  
Homestead  
Farm

Jackson Twp.  
Perry County

Year: c.2015









1838

















































BUILT BY  
SOLOMON BOWER,  
MAY 23 1870.

































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 6/22/2021      Date of Pending List: 7/8/2021      Date of 16th Day: 7/23/2021      Date of 45th Day: 8/6/2021      Date of Weekly List: 8/6/2021

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

- |                                       |  |   |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal       | <input type="checkbox"/> PDIL            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape       | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver       | <input type="checkbox"/> National        | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input type="checkbox"/> Period                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other        | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP             | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years         |
|                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> CLG             |   |

Accept       Return       Reject      8/6/2021 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria:

Reviewer Lisa Deline      Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2239      Date \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION:    see attached comments : No    see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION

June 22, 2021

Joy Beasley, Keeper  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service, US Department of Interior  
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7228  
Washington DC 20240

Re: Solomon and Magdalena Bower Farm, Blain, Perry County, Pennsylvania

Dear Ms. Beasley:

Enclosed please find a pdf version of the true and correct National Register of Historic Places nomination for the above property, including signed first page. Letters of support and tif images will follow in the future. There were no objections received for this property.

The proposed action for this property is listing in the National Register. Our Historic Preservation Board supports the nomination.

If you have any questions regarding the nominations or our request for action, please contact Elizabeth Rairigh via [erairigh@pa.gov](mailto:erairigh@pa.gov) . Thank you for your consideration of these submissions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Andrea L. MacDonald'.

Andrea L. MacDonald  
Director, PA SHPO

enc.

ALM/ebr