

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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:
Old West

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Old West

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Dickinson College Campus

CITY OR TOWN:
Carlisle

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
19th

STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42 COUNTY: Cumberland CODE: 041

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 type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input 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) _____ _____ _____
Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Dickinson College, President Howard Rubendall

STREET AND NUMBER:
Dickinson College

CITY OR TOWN:
Carlisle

STATE:
Pennsylvania

CODE:
42

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Recorder of Deeds, Cumberland County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
South Hanover and High Streets

CITY OR TOWN:
Carlisle

STATE:
Pennsylvania

CODE:
42

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
STATE:
CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" 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

Old West is a three story limestone building U-shaped in plan with short wings extending from the north side to shelter what was originally the main entrance. Although this former entrance has been walled in, the original arch may still be seen.

The south side has a central pedimented projection with an imposing shallow two story arched opening which surrounds the door, the flanking sidelights and the immense fanlight which extends above the entire entrance portal. Over high basement windows, similar arches, smaller in scale, surround the 6 over 6 light first story windows, rectangular in shape, set within a white plastered wall which continues under the arches. The second story windows have only keystone architraves as do the smaller third story windows. Similar fenestration is carried around the entire building, with the large two story arch repeated as the center feature of the north facade. Above this is a pediment over the center 3 bays which corresponds to the pedimented projection of the south side. Red sandstone is used for the window architraves and arches, providing the only external ornament. A cupola sits in the center between the two side gables.

The present covering of the cupola is not original as is shown from a photograph of 1870 Latrobe's design has stepped backed rings recalling the Roman dome of the Pantheon, a favorite design of Latrobe. The mermaid weathervane, now the symbol of the college, was most likely a local craftsman's interpretation of a Triton, as depicted atop the Tower of the Winds in Stuart and Revett's Antiquities of Athens. This and the Choragic Monument of Lysicrates were the most used sources for cupolas and church spires when classical forms were desired.

The interior plan of "Old West" is a demonstration of the skill and learning Latrobe could bring to a project as a trained architect and engineer. From a letter to Brackenridge he explains that he placed the halls on the north side to protect the southern rooms from the north winds. In the original plan, the dining rooms and classrooms were also placed on the north for they were only occasionally occupied for a short time. He continues:

There are indeed two Chambers in the Northeast wing on each story. If these Chambers be inhabited by Preceptors, the one as a study, the other as a Bedchamber, the disadvantages of the Aspect must be overcome by such means, of Curtains and Carpets, as a Student does not so easily acquire. The South Front affords on each story six rooms for Students. The angle rooms will accommodate three, and each of the other, two Students; in all fourteen on each floor.¹

¹ Letter from Benjamin Henry Latrobe to Hugh Brackenridge as quoted in Talbot Hamlin, Benjamin Henry Latrobe, New York, 1955, p. 193. (continued)

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1804-22

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aborigin | <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

Old West, the original building of Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania, was designed by one of America's first professional architects, Benjamin Henry Latrobe, trained in London under the developing influence of the Neoclassicism of Sir John Soane. Designed in 1803 and built between 1804-22, this structure still serves the college, providing both a distinguished and functional setting. The building is three stories high, built of limestone quarried near Carlisle, with local red sandstone used for the trim. It is through Latrobe's deft handling of scale and proportion that the design achieves its importance. Departing from the standard brick colonial forms of previous college buildings, Latrobe introduces the grace of Federal Style with its Adamesque overtones in his use of arched surrounds for the lower windows and the imposing two story fanlighted entrance. Although much of the interior has been altered to serve modern needs, the old chapel, now Memorial Hall, remains one of the most delicately elaborate and beautiful rooms of the Federal period. The building as a whole is one of the most notable of all American college structures.

HISTORY

Latrobe began work on plans for Old West in 1803, at the request of Hugh Brackenridge, Justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, who was assigned to the project by the trustees. The origin of Dickinson College goes back to 1783, when it was incorporated by the state of Pennsylvania. The college took its name from one of the original trustees, John Dickinson, signer of the Declaration of Independence and President of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania, but the motivating person behind its founding was Benjamin Rush, noted Philadelphia physician and signer of the Declaration of Independence.

The old Carlisle Grammar School became the first college building but soon proved inadequate. Construction was begun on a new building in 1799, but was destroyed by fire in 1803, after only a few weeks of occupation. After funds were raised for a new building, Brackenridge went to Latrobe seeking his assistance. Latrobe accepted without a fee in mid May 1803 and preliminary drawings were submitted. Two of these original drawings - the basement plan and the north elevation - exist today. Early in 1804 work was well underway but although some of the rooms were opened in 1805,

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hamlin, Talbot, Benjamin Henry Latrobe, New York, 1955, pp. 192-94.
 Norton, Paul F., "Latrobe and Old West at Dickinson College," Art Bulletin,
 Vol. 33, No. 2, pp. 125-130.
 Sellers, Charles Coleman, Old West, A Brief Study, Dickinson College,
 Carlisle, Pa., undated.

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 18.313010;4452440	' "		' "	' "	
NE	°18.313230;4452410	' "		' "	' "	
SE	°18.313220;4452230	' "		' "	' "	
SW	°18.313000;4452270	' "		' "	' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **8 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Patricia Heintzelman, architectural historian, Landmarks Review Project; original form prepared by Charles E. Shedd, Jr., 1962**

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

STREET AND NUMBER: **1100 L Street**

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

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

National State Local

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

Name _____

Title _____

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

Date _____

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

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS) **Landmark Designated: June 13, 1962** date

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS) **Boundary Certified: Cornelius Heine 6-20-75** date

Date _____ Chief Hist. & Arch. Surveys

ATTEST: _____

Boundary Affirmed: **12/2/75** date

Keeper of The National Register
Director, OAHPS

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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7. Description: (1)

Old West

These rooms have been much altered today but most of the original doors remain on the third floor as does the woodwork surrounding the openings. Memorial Hall, established in 1890 when the balconies and pulpit were removed from the chapel, remains a beautiful expression of the graceful delicacy of American Federal Adamesque design. Attenuated fluted pilasters with Ionic capitals rise from a paneled dado to support an elaborately fluted frieze and cornice of mutule blocks, dentils and Greek fret banding, freely composed to form a fine cornice molding. A delicately molded plaster ceiling, with a large oval outlined within the rectangular frame, completes the subdued elegance of the room.

Boundaries

Old West sits on the John Dickinson Campus, the original land area of the College, which is enclosed by a limestone wall. The boundary has been drawn to include all of the original land. The other buildings do not contribute to the significance of the landmark, but neither do they intrude greatly upon the original setting of the building. These buildings are constructed of similar stone and are disposed so as not to disturb the vista across the college green to Old West. It is therefore preferable to retain the historic boundaries of the building which maintains an accurate perception of the building in its original environment than to select out an isolated section. The boundary has been drawn to include all of the original square, beginning at the northwest corner of the landmark at the intersection of Louthier and College Street, continuing east along the south curb of Louthier until it intersects with West Street at the northeast corner, then south along the west curb of West Street to West High Street at the southeast corner, then west along the north curb of West High Street to College Street at the southwest corner, then north along the east side of College to the point of beginning, an area of approximately 8 acres.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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LANDMARKS)

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

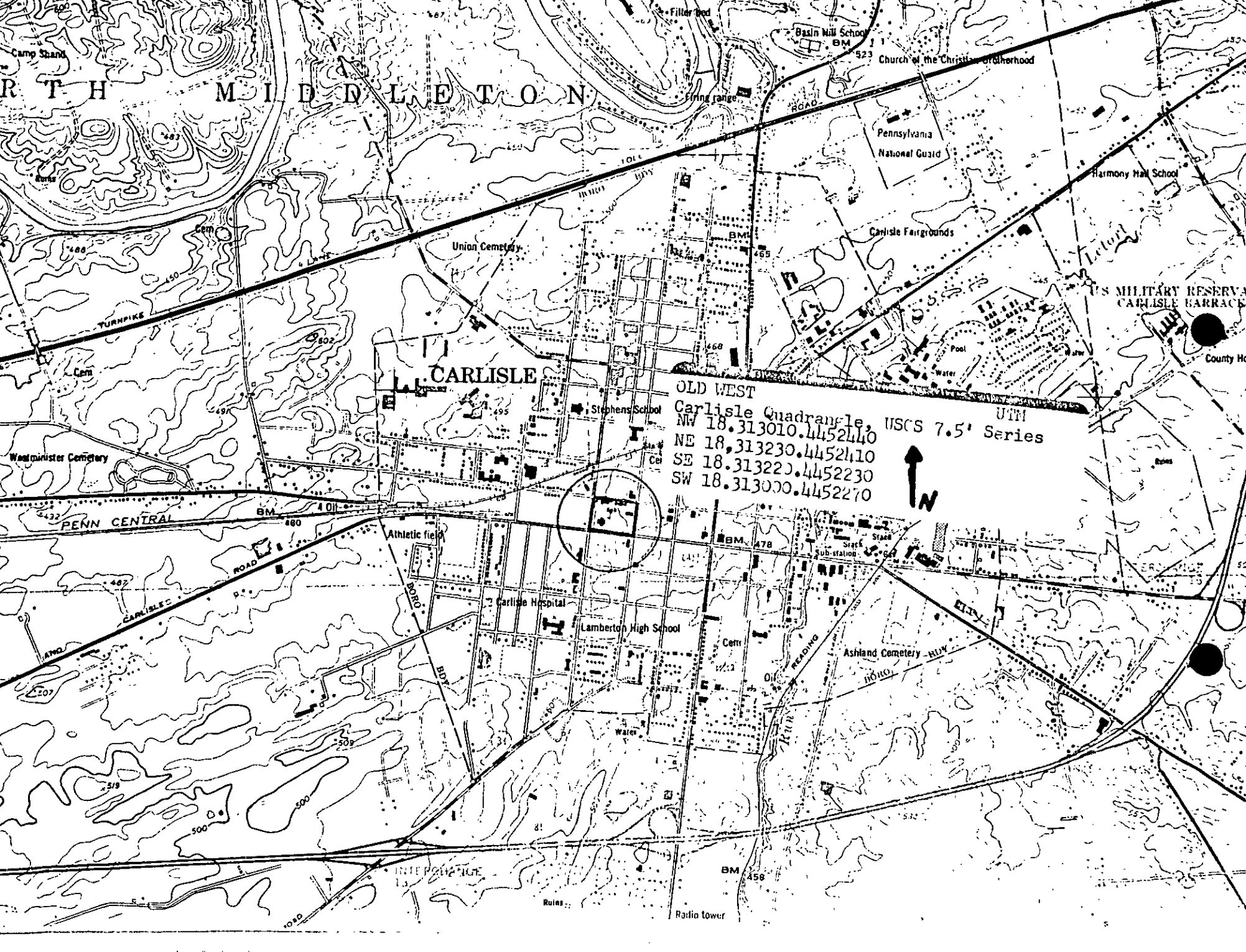
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8. State of Significance: (1)

Old West

insufficient funds caused construction to continue until 1822 when the building was ready for full occupancy. The building originally housed all the functions of the college, chapel, classrooms, and dormitory space. As the institution grew, other buildings were added, also of limestone construction which gives continuity to today's campus. "Old West" now houses the administrative offices of the college, continuing as a center for the activity of Dickinson College.



TR TH MIDDLETON

CARLISLE

OLD WEST
Carlisle Quadrangle, UTM
NW 18.313010.4452440
NE 18.313230.4452410
SE 18.313220.4452230
SW 18.313000.4452270
USCS 7.5' Series

