

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

LEMOYNE, F. JULIUS, HOUSE

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United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: LEMOYNE, F. JULIUS, HOUSE

Other Name/Site Number: N/A

2. LOCATION

Street & Number: 49 East Maiden Street

Not for publication: N/A

City/Town: Washington

Vicinity: N/A

State: PA

County: Washington

Code: 125

Zip Code: 15301

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property

Private: x
Public-Local:
Public-State:
Public-Federal:

Category of Property

Building(s): x
District:
Site:
Structure:
Object:

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

1
-
-
-
1

Noncontributing

- buildings
- sites
- structures
- objects
- Total

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register: 1

Name of Related Multiple Property Listing: N/A

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4. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ___ 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 ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria.

Signature of Certifying Official

Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of Commenting or Other Official

Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

5. 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): _____

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

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6. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic: domestic
 health care
 Sub: single dwelling
 medical business/office

Current: recreation & culture
 Sub: museum

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: Georgian
 Greek Revival

MATERIALS:

Foundation: stone
Walls: sandstone
Roof: metal
Other: wood

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Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.

Built in 1812, the F. Julius LeMoyne House is a 7-bay, 2 ½ story, Georgian style double-pile center hall plan house with detailing reflective of the emerging Greek Revival style. Constructed of sandstone, the street (south) facade is coursed ashlar and the other facades are uncoursed masonry. A ca. 1894/1905 frame 2-story service wing at the rear has narrow weatherboard siding. The house has a standing seam metal roof with a rear dormer sheathed in the same siding as the addition. The roof also has a differential pitch, with a longer slope on the rear than on the front. All but two openings (windows and doors) have stone lintels and projecting stone sills. The windows are double-hung 6/6 light sash. The gable end walls have interior chimneys and attic fan lights. The house has a side yard with modern landscaping and is situated at the southwest corner of its lot in a mixed-use neighborhood dominated by commercial and institutional buildings. The streetscape features consistent setbacks with all buildings abutting the sidewalk. The house is a well-maintained property with some alterations and restorations; it retains its overall character, scale, materials, massing, and style.

The south or Maiden Street elevation is a 7-bay design with frieze windows in the attic and two recessed entrances. The principal entrance, in the center bay, has a one story Ionic portico and a secondary entrance without a portico is centered in the three west bays. The primary entrance accesses the center hall and residential part of the house; the secondary entrance accesses the doctor's office/apothecary. Both street entrances are recessed and raised 5 steps above street level; the primary entrance is deeply recessed and has sidelights, a transom sash, and a late-19th century mosaic tile floor. The portico has Ionic Order columns, and the portico and the frontispieces of each entrance carry full entablatures. The office entrance door has a nine-light panel in the top half. Both entrances have deep reveals with flush paneling and reeded molding defining the top panels. Both frontispieces and the portico are wood. "LeMoyne" is inscribed on the 4th step to each entrance. The front basement windows on the street elevation have cast iron grills.

The east wall has a gable-end fan light and a window on the first and second stories at the southeast corner. A side porch and door access the first floor northeast room from the sideyard. A basement door directly below the porch accessed the original kitchen.

The west elevation has one gable-end fan light and a non-original window in the first floor northeast room.

The north elevation was designed with five bays and no roof dormer. A basement window larger than the other basement windows opens into the original basement kitchen. The north facade has a 2-story frame service wing with a rear porch and door in its gable end and a door on the west side. The service wing covers the center and center-west bays of the rear elevation, leaving two windows on the house east of the wing and one on the west. The wing has horizontal wood siding, irregular fenestration with three windows on each story of the west elevation, variously placed small windows on the north elevation, and on the east elevation a bank of windows on the first story. The rear slope of the main roof has a center dormer which appears to have been added when the service wing was added; it has the same siding as the addition. A new (1996) flagstone terrace fills the area between the north elevation of the house and the service wing.

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The interior of the house conforms to a center hall plan with the staircase at the rear of the hall, and the two front rooms are larger than the companion rear rooms. The turn-of-the-century stair is open to the third floor; it has straight runs with intermediate leadings, square newel posts, turned balusters, and applied scroll brackets. The basement stair is under the main staircase. On the first and second floors, doors at the rear of the hall connect to the service wing. The wing also connects to the house through a door converted from a window in the northwest room on the first floor. All rooms have fireplaces. On the first floor, each pair of rooms also have connecting doors, but only the door between the two west rooms is original.

The interior architectural detailing is classically based and generally of sophisticated design, using reeded architraves, corner blocks with rondels, paneled reveals and doors, paneled pilasters, and fireplace mantels with bas-relief scenes from classical mythology. All interior walls are plain plaster.

Historically, the first floor rooms on the west side of the hall were the Doctor's suite and the rooms on the east were residential. On the first floor, the hall doors and the doors in the southeast room (drawing room) have deeply molded reeding and corner blocks with rondels and a center bead. The drawing room has a molded cornice; the hall and drawing room have chair rails. The paneled windows reveals have applied molding. The fireplace in the drawing room is the most ornately treated in the house, having reeded pilasters, a marble facing and a mantel with center-panel bas-relief featuring a scene from classical mythology as well as swags and floral motifs composition ornament. The architrave for the door connecting to the northeast room is simpler than the other door and window surrounds. A non-original opening with a door, added by Julius LeMoyne, connects the drawing room to the northeast room behind it.

The northeast room on the first floor, identified by the historical society (current owners) as the original dining room and now used as the society library, has the least architectural detailing. The fireplace has no pilasters, only an architrave with a blank frieze. Care was taken to match the surrounds for the added door connecting to the parlor with those of the windows, cupboard, and fireplace. The firebox has a cast iron inset. A cupboard is located to the left of the fireplace. A door to the right of the fireplace leads to sideporch and yard. The north wall of this room has two windows. The west window had been converted to a door connecting to a modern bathroom. In 1996, the historical society removed the bathroom and restored the window.

The rooms on the west side of the hall are treated similarly with respect to each other. Originally these rooms were the doctor's office (northwest) and waiting room/pharmacy (southwest, overlooking the street). The office was converted into a dining room (date unknown), a window converted to a door connecting with the service wing, and a window added on the west wall. Except for the molding and surround of the west window, the door and window surrounds in both rooms have two-face architraves with backbands. The doors have recessed panels. The fireplaces in both the office and waiting room have full entablature carried on paneled or reeded pilasters. The fireboxes have tile insets.

On the second floor a small space at the front of the hall is set off by flanking cupboards and beaded screen panel. A door on the stair landing connects to the service wing; a beaded fan

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screen is over this door also. The southeast room (the main bedroom) has the most ornate detailing on the second floor. The door and window surrounds are reeded with corner blocks. There is a picture molding. Closets with painted panels are built in to the left of the fireplace. The cupboards are an undated later addition although the reeded architrave matches that in the rest of the room.

The northeast room has a closet to the left of the fireplace corresponding to the one in the room below. The northwest room, now used as a gift shop, also has a closet to the left of the fireplace. One of the windows in this room was closed off when the service wing was added. The southwest room has a molded cornice and the 2-face architrave with a backband molding imitates the rooms below it. All the fireboxes on the second floor have cast-iron insets.

The third floor consists of a center hall, three finished rooms, and the enclosed deck, which runs the length of the house across the front (south) of the house. Of the three rooms, two small rooms are on the east side of the center hall and one large room is on the west side. The east rooms are placed so that one longer room extends the depth of the house along the east end and a small interior room is located between it and the center hall. A short passage along the north side gives access to the outer room. The door to the inner room opens directly onto the center hall. The outer room has a fan light on the east wall and a 6/6 light sash window opening onto the enclosed deck. The inner room has a 6/6 light sash window opening onto the deck also. The west room has two south windows to the deck, a fan light on the west wall, and an open-tread stair located near the west wall chimney giving access to the attic area under the roof. The ceilings in the hall and east room are plaster; the ceiling of the west room is beaded wood.

Originally the house had a roof deck on the third floor street facade set behind a parapet with a wooden balustrade between stone piers. Roughly 6 feet deep, the deck featured wood channeled floor boards, five bays, 6/6 double hung sash windows, wood lintels and sills. The treatment of openings included beaded architraves and cornices. The roof deck was still open in the 1840s and featured in an anti-slavery rally. The deck was altered at some later time, perhaps when other alterations were made to the house after 1878. The roof was extended to cover the deck and frieze windows installed. The original features remain under the extended roof.

The service-wing has a secondary staircase. Each floor is divided into one large room and two very small rooms now used as offices and storage space. On the first floor one of the small rooms is a half-bath. Both large rooms have fireplaces with plain mantels and cast iron insets in the fireboxes.

The basement consists of four rooms under the original house and one under the rear wing. The rooms under the original house correspond generally in plan to the rooms above but without the center hall. Access to the basement from the first floor is under the principal staircase in the original house and under the back staircase along the east wall in the wing. In the original basement, three of the four rooms are unfinished and have concrete floors. The street level windows in the two south rooms have been closed while the northwest room has no window. The northeast room, which was the original kitchen, has a plaster ceiling, painted walls (stone), a window on the north wall, and a fireplace and plank door to the outside on the

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east wall. The fireplace has a large wooden lintel but no mantle shelf. The basement under the rear wing is also unfinished and the east wall of this section incorporates the curved brick wall of the adjacent cistern.

The house has undergone various alterations and restorations of uncertain date. In 1944 Charles Stotz, a prominent historical architect of the 1930s, and Edward Stotz, Jr. prepared a condition report and restoration plan for the Historical Society. These documents included suggestions about prior alterations, based on interviews with Julius' youngest daughter, Madeleine LeMoyne Reed.¹ Stotz attributes most of the alterations to Madeleine and dates them between 1894 and 1904. Some changes also reflect Stotz's 1944 recommendations to the Historical Society.

The service wing began as a one-story brick addition with side porch. The date of construction is uncertain, but it appears on Doran's 1855 city map.² The brick one-story wing was either demolished or expanded in 1894 by Madeleine. It appears as a 2-story wing on the 1896 Sanborn map.³ When the 2-story addition was built, the original main staircase was replaced. The window over the stair was converted to a door connecting the house to the addition on the landing. A rear dormer was also added to provide light and headroom for the main staircase. At some point a window was added in the west wall and a window on the north wall was converted to a door connecting to the service wing in the northwest room (first floor). The changes are reflected in different detailing in the window reveals and architraves of both openings. The west window also lacks the stone lintel and sill of the original openings in the house.

Stylistic elements of the front entrances suggest early alterations. The Greek Revival-style portico may have been added or altered in the 1840s. Stylistically the sidelights suggest a later date than 1812. Stotz notes that the doorway shows signs of modern (by which he meant 19th century or early 20th) work. The mosaic floor is late 19th century. Stotz also notes that a front basement window between the apothecary entrance and the portico was formerly a basement entrance.

The date when the roof deck was covered is equally unknown. Stotz's plans also indicate that either or both the stairs in the third floor to the attic and/or the stairs to the third floor were moved and the opening covered. His plan has separate discussions for restoring each in their original wells.

¹Charles M. and Edward Stotz, Jr., "A Preliminary Survey of the Restoration of the LeMoyne House and the Establishment of Headquarters for the Washington County Historical Society and Its Historical Collections," February 12, 1944, typescript, Washington County Historical Society, n.p. Stotz recommended two phases of restoration: Program A, refinishing four principal first floor rooms and stairhalls; and Program B, complete restoration and overhaul to include the construction of museum and library facilities.

²*Washington, Washington County, Pennsylvania*. T. Doran, 1855. Washington County Historical Society.

³*Insurance Maps of Washington, Washington County, Pennsylvania*. Sanborn-Perris Map Company, 1880, 1891, 1896, 1900. *Map of Washington, Washington County, Pennsylvania*. J.A. Caldwell, 1876. Washington County Historical Society.

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At some point in the early 20th century an elevator was added in the hall between the first and second floors. It appears on Stotz's 1944 plan; it was removed by the Historical Society and the ceiling and floors patched.

It appears that floors have been repaired, replaced and refinished throughout the house. Modern utilities such as electricity, gas, plumbing were added to the house over the years but were not intrusive alterations. Except for the hallway bathroom, which is now gone, the plumbing was limited to the service wing or shed addition. By 1886 gas light fixtures were installed and the fireplaces had gas inserts. At some unknown date the house was wired for electricity. Bathrooms were added to the house and then removed. Four bathrooms appear on Stotz's 1944 architectural plans: one at the front of the second floor hall; one on the second floor of the addition; a half-bath (toilet & sink) on the first floor of the addition; and a bathroom in its own shed addition off the former dining room/current library with a connecting door made from a window. All the bathrooms except the half-bath have been removed. The stone terrace was added between the service wing and the northeast corner of the house as part of the 1996 restoration work. The side door and porch and the door between the drawing room and former dining room (current library) may have been added when the shed bathroom was built.

The setting and the lot have been altered since the period of significance. Originally, the lot consisted of approximately 3/5 of the city block, from the house on the western boundary to a small property bounded by Second Street on the east, and all the way back to Strawberry Alley on the north. The landscaping included gardens and a small orchard. It now consists of a roughly 120' x 120' parcel. Julius's will divided the property into thirds, leaving lots to his daughter Ann and son Frank, and the house and its lot to his daughters Jane and Madeleine. Madeleine willed the house and the front half of the lot to the Washington County Historical Society and the back half of the lot to the city of Washington for a playground. The playground is now a parking lot. Two outbuildings appear on the 1886, 1891, 1896, and 1900 Sanborn maps, and one appears on Stotz's 1944 study. The Historical Society demolished the remaining outbuilding after it acquired the property. The house is now surrounded by mixed commercial and office properties.

The house has been well-maintained by the Historical Society, which has restored some of the early features of the house by removing bathroom additions inside and outside the building and the 20th century elevator. Although covered, the roof deck, both a unique design feature and an element in Julius's anti-slavery activities, is still intact and in good condition. Overall, the house with its surrounding gardens retains its overall character, scale, materials, massing, and style to reflect the period of significance.

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:
Nationally: X Statewide: Locally:

Applicable National
Register Criteria:

A X B X C D

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Criteria Considerations**(Exceptions):** A_ B_ C_ D_ E_ F_ G_**NHL Criteria:** 1**NHL Theme(s):** II. Creating Social Movements & Institutions
2. Reform Movements**Areas of Significance:** Social History**Period(s) of Significance:** 1834 - 1865**Significant Dates:** N/A**Significant Person(s):** N/A**Cultural Affiliation:** N/A**Architect/Builder:** Unknown**Comparative Categories:** XXXI. Social & Humanitarian Movements
D. Abolitionism

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State Significance of Property, and Justify Criteria, Criteria Considerations, and Areas and Periods of Significance Noted Above.

The F. Julius LeMoyne House is significant under NHL Criterion 1 for its association with the antebellum anti-slavery reform movement as a center of anti-slavery activity and a safe station on the Underground Railroad. The period of significance begins with Julius LeMoyne's entry into the Washington Anti-Slavery Society in 1834 and ends with the ratification of the 13th Amendment in 1865.

Julius LeMoyne was not the first nor the most radical abolitionist in Washington County. He joined the anti-slavery movement at the point when it was becoming popularized and politicized among the white middle class across the country. In his activism and philosophy Julius LeMoyne represents the conventional mainstream of anti-slavery activity in the United States before 1850. In his personal circumstances (middle-class respectability, local social standing, interest in other local and national humanitarian reforms) and in his moderate public posture on anti-slavery he is typical of the middle-class Americans of the antebellum period who became caught up in the anti-slavery debate. His activities on a local, regional and national level illustrate the processes by which an anti-slavery network dominated by white middle-class Americans took root. His philosophy of legitimate activism contradistinct from his willingness to abet fugitive slaves illuminates the variation of personal conscience at work on all Americans as they struggled with the issues of political authority, human rights, and personal property in the debate over slavery.

Francis Julius LeMoyne (1798-1879) was the son and grandson of Parisian physicians. His father came to America with French refugees who settled at Gallipolis, Ohio. His mother was a Scots-Irish immigrant. After their marriage in 1797 they moved to Washington, Pennsylvania, where LeMoyne senior practiced medicine, maintained connections with the Gallipolis settlement, and built the Maiden Street house in 1812.

After graduating from Washington College, Julius worked on his father's farm and apprenticed in the medical practice, then studied medicine at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia. In 1823 he married Madelaine Romaine Bureau, the daughter of a French emigre settled at Gallipolis. They had three sons and five daughters. About the time of his marriage Julius's father suffered bankruptcy. Julius prevented the forfeiture of his father's property by borrowing money and buying the family home and farms, then over the next several years he worked assiduously to clear his father's debts. His father moved out of the family house in 1827 and Julius lived there until his death.

In the late 1820s Julius became caught up in the various reform movements beginning to sweep the country and began a personal program of social responsibility by working for the community for constructive social good. From the 1830s through 1850s he took an active role in local public affairs. He was a founding member of the first borough fire company, helped organize a Lyceum, and served on various committees to promote local industry and agriculture. While he supported many popular causes, including temperance and prison reform, he particularly involved himself in four areas of activity: serving on the Washington College Board of Trustees and helping the College through a severe fiscal and administrative crisis; sponsoring the founding the Washington Female Seminary, which his

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daughters later attended; joining a group of investors to charter a local bank; and taking up the cause of anti-slavery.

In the mid-1850s, when he was about 55, Julius's deteriorating health made the active practice of medicine difficult. Although he continued to treat patients, he devoted most of his time to scientific farming, introducing improved strains of cattle, sheep, and horses to the county. He also began various small real estate ventures, buying and selling properties at moderate profits and carefully building his financial resources. Until his death he used his wealth and talent to support worthy causes. He donated \$10,000 toward founding of the town library and for many years catalogued the books. After the Civil War he gave the American Missionary Society \$20,000 toward the endowment of a school for Freedmen in Memphis, Tennessee. In the 1870s he endowed professorships at Washington and Jefferson College for agriculture and applied mathematics. He also turned his attention to the study of cremation, being concerned about groundwater pollution from cemetery runoff, and in 1876 built the country's first crematory.¹

The Washington County population on the whole was not supportive of the anti-slavery cause. Before independence the county was contested territory between Virginia and Pennsylvania. The county had slaveholders, often settlers who had moved from Virginia lands. When the Pennsylvania Gradual Emancipation Act was passed in 1780, Washington County was still not a part of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. When the Pennsylvania/Virginia border was finally certified two years later, the Assembly passed special legislation extending the emancipation provisions to the county. Slaveholders complied with the letter but not always the spirit of the law, and in 1826 a Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruling was required to deal with county slaveholders who were violating the 1780 law by holding the grandchildren of slaves in bondage.² The emergence of a local anti-slavery movement seriously divided local opinion and often sparked violence.³ Before 1834 formal anti-slavery activity in the county was limited. In 1789 a local branch of the Pennsylvania Anti-Slavery Society had formed and managed a brief life before fading. In the 1820s efforts began to found a new local group, but they too lapsed after a few years.⁴

Julius LeMoyne joined the anti-slavery crusade as it was just becoming a national movement. In 1834, a local group seeking to organize a new anti-slavery society in the county gave him some of their materials to read. Persuaded by the literature, Julius joined

¹Margaret C. McCulloch, *Fearless Advocate of the Right: the Life of Francis Julius LeMoyne, M.D., 1798-1879*. (Boston: The Christopher Publishing House, 1941).

²*Miller v Dwilling*, September 26, 1826, in Thomas Sergeant & William Rawle, Jr., *Reports of Cases Adjudged in the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania*. Vol. XIV, 3rd ed. (Philadelphia: Kay & Brother, 1874): 441-446.

³Papers of F. J. LeMoyne, Box A 24, Folder 3; McFarland, p 131; Forrest, pp. 419-22.

⁴Notices announcing meetings appeared in the *Washington Reporter* on July 3, 1820, August 7, 1820, October 9, 1820, and December 29, 1823. Earle R. Forrest, *History of Washington County*. (Chicago: The S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1926): 415-416. Joseph McFarland, *20th Century History of the City of Washington and Washington County, Pennsylvania*. (Chicago: Richmond-Arnold Publishing Co., 1910): 130; Raymond M. Bell, "Washington County, Pennsylvania, the Eighteenth Century Anti-slavery Movement," *Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine*, 25 (September 1942): 125-142.

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the new Washington County Anti-Slavery Society and served as its president from 1835 until 1837 when he was commissioned by the American Anti-Slavery Society to be its regional agent.⁵

Through the 1830s and 1840s Julius threw himself into the anti-slavery cause. His wife, Madelaine Bureau LeMoyne, and his older daughters, especially his daughter Jane, joined as well. Using his position as a prominent community figure, he and his wife made their house a center of anti-slavery activity in southwestern Pennsylvania.

Locally, he worked closely with other abolitionists to sponsor rallies and to bring visiting black and white speakers to the county. He and his wife opened their home to visiting speakers, allowed public and private meetings to be held there, and faced mob hostility on several occasions.⁶ When he was recruited by the American Anti-Slavery Society in 1837 to be their agent, he expanded his activities beyond the county. The Maiden Street house became a depot for anti-slavery literature, which was distributed throughout the Ohio Valley. He communicated with anti-slavery groups across the country and included among his correspondents the leading figures of American anti-slavery activism, especially Gerrit Smith and Lewis Tappan.⁷ He received frequent speaking invitations from groups in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Illinois.⁸ He co-founded a local abolitionist paper that survived a few years in the mid-1840s.⁹ He was a Pennsylvania delegate at national and international anti-slavery conventions.¹⁰ He was nominated by the Liberty Party as its first candidate for Vice-President in 1840, and although he declined the nomination, he actively campaigned for the party in 1840 and ran as its candidate for Governor in 1841, 1844, and 1847, and as candidate for Congress in 1843.¹¹ Julius continued to support the anti-slavery cause, but was disaffected by the merger of the Liberty Party with the Free Soil Party in 1848 and withdrew from political activity. In the 1850s he limited his extra-local activities largely to correspondence.¹²

In his abolitionist philosophy, Julius belonged to the more-or-less conservative group led by Gerrit Smith, James Birney, and Lewis Tappan. He corresponded with them and shared their opinions that abolition should be pursued by peaceful legitimate means and an appeal to reason but with no clear mechanism to achieve it. He rejected the Colonizationist

⁵See McCulloch, pp. 112-115, 122; Papers of F. J. LeMoyne, Box A24, Folder 3.

⁶McCulloch, pp. 116-119. On one occasion, Julius outfaced and dispersed a hostile crowd by stationing his son on the roof deck of the house with instructions to push one of the beehives onto the hecklers if they became too threatening.

⁷Papers of F. J. LeMoyne, (1830-1850), Box A24, Folders 1, 3, 4, 6. Washington County Historical Society.

⁸Papers of F. J. LeMoyne, Box A23, Folders 3, 5, 7.

⁹McCulloch, p. 145.

¹⁰Papers of F. J. LeMoyne, Box A24, Folders 1-6.

¹¹Papers of F. J. LeMoyne, Box A24, Folders 4, 5, 8, 11.

¹²McCulloch, p. 163.

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program of repatriation and fervently debated with local and national Colonizationists. He equally disfavored the violent methods of John Brown for abolition by the sword (although his West Middletown associates, the McKeevers, were friends of John Brown and brought him to visit the county in the 1850s) and the emotive revivalism of William Lloyd Garrison for immediate and unrecompensed emancipation.¹³ When, in 1840, the debate over what constituted peaceful legitimate means split the American Anti-Slavery Society into religious and political wings and focused public debate on the Constitutional authority of Congress to legislate in the matter of slavery, Julius followed the political faction into the new American and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society.¹⁴

When Julius joined the anti-slavery cause he did not limit his commitment to politics, organizing rallies, and debating the constitutional abstractions of states rights, property rights, and human rights. While he held to a public position of using legitimate peaceful means to end slavery, like many Americans and some of his neighbors, his conscience prompted him to bend the law by aiding the escape of fugitive slaves. He put himself at risk with the same vigor that he pursued his politics and he offered his house as a safe station on the fugitive slave escape network.

The Underground Railroad was active in Washington County by the time Julius LeMoyne joined the anti-slavery cause. By about 1815 a system of trails for runaway slaves was emerging in southwestern Pennsylvania. By the 1830s it was an operational network that stayed active through the Civil War representing a substantial arena of Underground activity between the better studied areas of eastern Pennsylvania and Ohio. The strongest centers of Underground activity were in West Middletown, in the city of Washington, and along the county's east border, the Monongahela River, where substantial tightly-knit free black communities had evolved during nearly half a century of gradual abolition. These free black communities supported escaping slaves and developed an operational network that white anti-slavery activists later joined.¹⁵ The African American core of the Underground included Hugh (or Samuel) Dorsey (Washington), Tar Adams (Washington), "Old Naylor" (Wheeling and Washington), Ermine Cain (Waynesburg/Washington), Lloyd Demas (Uniontown/Brownsville), Simeon Artis (Brownsville), Thomas Cain (Brownsville), William Wallace (Centreville). Ermine Cain, who operated a barber shop in Washington,

¹³Papers of F. J. LeMoyne, Anti-slavery Papers, Box A23, Folder 7, Box A24, Folder 4.

¹⁴McCulloch, p. 137.

¹⁵No analysis exists of the possible configurations the Underground network might have taken in Washington County, or their connecting links outside the county. The most comprehensive recollection of the Underground Railroad in Washington County is by Howard Wallace, an African American man born in West Pike Run Twp in 1831 (died 1926). Wallace recounts some general routes of the Underground through the county and the people publicly associated with it. Major escape routes entered Pennsylvania through Fayette and Greene Counties from Morgantown, Virginia; through Fayette County from Cumberland, Maryland over the National Road; and through Washington County from Wheeling, Uniontown, or Waynesburg. Three main routes ran through Washington County via West Middletown, Washington, and Brownsville to points north and west. Howard Wallace, "Historical Sketch of the Underground railroad from Uniontown to Pittsburgh," n.d., photocopy, Washington County Historical Society. Also see: Osborne Mitchell, "About the Stormy Days Before the War," *Washington Reporter*, August 8, 1908; McFarland, p. 129; Forrest, pp. 424-7; *Washington Tribune-Review*, February 25, 1990; "Freedom Seekers: Underground Railroad Travelled through Valley," *Monongahela Valley Review*, (February 1993): 8-9; John T. Asbury, "The Asbury Legend," typescript, n.d., Washington County Historical Society.

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and "Old Naylor," who based his operations in Wheeling, were particularly central and long-time figures in the local Underground. Their white associates across the county included Kenneth McCoy and John Bell (West Alexander), Judge McFarland (Washington), Andrew Hopkins and James Moffett (Brownsville), William, Thomas and Matthew McKeever (West Middletown), Joseph Armstrong (Monongahela), and Milton Maxwell (Ginger Hill).¹⁶

Clearly Julius sympathized with fugitive slaves. He joined the fluid shifting network of assistance and made his home a safe station for fugitives. His correspondence for the 1840s includes several letters from individuals who asked for aid or thanked him for his assistance in getting out of the South or in getting their friends or relatives out of the South.

Sometimes the assistance was simply humanitarian. For instance, an 1847 letter to "Doctors LeMoyne and Templeton" from Thomas Lee in Cadiz, Ohio, revealed the story of a Virginia fugitive who wanted to bring his wife out of slavery. The correspondent had written to the woman's owner, a widow, and persuaded her to free the man's wife. However, the owner feared local public opinion and asked that the woman be removed clandestinely. Thomas Lee asked for the doctors' assistance in getting the woman to Cadiz.¹⁷

In another case, Julius received a thank you letter from a Nelson Talbourt Gant, referring to the "promise I made your wife while staying in your house last fall," to tell her of his success. Gant was either a free black or a fugitive who returned through the Underground to Washington, D.C., where he tried to get his wife away as well. But they were betrayed and jailed; his wife was threatened with being sold South if she didn't testify against him. After a harrowing trial and acquittal he eventually was able to buy his wife. His letter finishes with an expression of hope that they will "reach a secure place of freedom" in Canada.¹⁸

There was a rather significant openness to the fugitive slave network that Julius was involved in during the 1840s. After the passage of the Fugitive Slave Act in 1850, Underground activities became far riskier, and the evidence more oblique. However, two undated stories seem to refer to episodes after 1850.

An undated letter from the editor of a Wheeling newspaper warns Julius of slave catchers on the way to Washington and indicates that contemporaries believed him to be an active figure in the Underground: "Although unacquainted with your personally, I feel it my duty to acquaint you (confidentially) of a circumstance which transpired here this morning, trusting my information may save a brother man from slavery. Mr McClean, former editor of the Argus, of Wheeling, Va., was in my office this morning, & in conversation enquired who

¹⁶Forrest, 426; McFarland, p. 129; Crumrine, p. 261; Mitchell, n.p.; "Freedom Seekers," pp. 8-9. The established free black communities in Washington County warrant further investigation for identifying possible Underground operations. The Washington County Historical Society collected photographs of four possible extant Underground sites owned by whites in Washington County: the Beels Farm, across from the railroad depot in West Alexander, the McKeever House in West Middletown, at 56 East Main Street; the McKeever House outside West Middletown at 1824 Seminary Road; and the McKehan House in West Alexander.

¹⁷Thomas Lee to LeMoyne & Templeton, May 8, 1847. Papers of F. J. LeMoyne, Box A24, Folder 1.

¹⁸Nelson Talbourt Gant to F. Julius LeMoyne, June 6, 1847. Papers of F. J. LeMoyne, Box A24, Folder 1, Washington County Historical Society.

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was U.S. Commissioner in Washington, Pa. I did not know-- He said, 'I suppose if you did know you wouldn't tell me, as one of our citizens wants to seize a slave of his there?' He wouldn't tell me who the master was, but I feel it my duty to warn you that, if there is no U.S. Com. there the "master" will soon be there himself, in search-- Please put your colored folks on their guard, especially fugitives from the neighborhood of Wheeling, Va. The bloodhounds are on the scent."¹⁹ This letter is strong evidence that LeMoyne was considered by his contemporaries to be assisting runaways and would know who they were in Washington County.

Another undated story places Julius with a group of fugitives in a neighbor's barn keeping watch for slave catchers. In the unpublished research notes of Boyd Crumrine, author of an 1886 county history, Crumrine records that the fugitives arrived at a Mrs Houston's in Washington, Mrs. Houston being the mother of Crumrine's informant. The fugitives remained in the barn there for two days while Julius LeMoyne made arrangements for them to continue. Out of concern for the safety of the women harboring the fugitives, LeMoyne slept in the barn until they could move on to their next stop.²⁰

In addition to the record of Julius's personal involvement, three postwar stories connect the Maiden Street house to the Underground Railroad. Second- and third-hand oral accounts about tunnels and hidden rooms are the local mythology that has grown up around houses where known antislavery families lived and the LeMoyne House is no different. Although this evidence is heresay, it contributes to the tradition that some type of assistance to fugitive slaves was taking place in the house. In 1941 Julius's youngest daughter Madeleine recounted an undated story of how 25 fugitives were concealed in her mother's room while she feigned illness to prevent slave catchers from searching the room.²¹ The reminiscences of an 81-year old Washington Countian include a story passed down from his grandmother, a tale of how her mother had hidden at the LeMoyne house before being taken to a farm in Nottingham Township.²² Finally, the Director of the Washington County Historical Society has a story from a visitor to the LeMoyne House. This visitor related a family tradition that an escaping ancestor hid in a small moving room in the LeMoyne house. The staff at the

¹⁹Unattributed manuscript, miscellaneous file, Washington County Historical Society.

²⁰Joan Ruzika, Undated notes on Boyd Crumrine papers, manuscript, Washington County Historical Society. In his published history, Crumrine explained that "It is still too soon to make known the names of [white] persons who assumed the responsibility of caring for and aiding these fugitives on their way. ... [but] no one would impute much wrong to the colored man who became the conductor of his brethren from slavery to freedom." Boyd A. Crumrine, *History of Washington County, Pennsylvania*. (Philadelphia: L. H. Everts & Co., 1882): 261.

²¹McCulloch, p. 159; McCulloch prefaces this story with the unsupported statement that "for years his house had served as a station on the Underground Railroad." This story has been transformed in retelling into two different stories. One version has six fugitives hiding under the bed while Madelaine Bureau LeMoyne forbade entry to the slave catchers; the other puts 25 or 26 fugitives in a secret attic room. See the Washington County Historical Society Docent Guide, typescript, n.d.

²²Dave Molter, "Area Man Recalls Woman Who Taught Him About Life," *Washington Observer-Reporter*, July 29, 1990, pg B3. (memoir of Curtis Henderson)

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Historical Society connects this moving room with an alleged previous dumbwaiter in the dining room.²³

Julius LeMoyne involved himself with abolitionism and the Underground Railroad as an expression of personal conscience and social responsibility, but his story is one of more than personal significance. The nature of the stories and the quality of the evidence associating him with the Underground illuminate the complexities of anti-slavery activity as a nexus for local social, racial, and gender politics in any community. The Underground required the interdependent cooperation of supporters whose ordinary interaction would be quite different. Most obviously it united white and black supporters in ways that subtly altered the usual relations of authority, although black/white relations in the local organization of the Underground have not been documented or studied adequately and Julius's relations with black operators have not been documented at all. It also furnished a common ground among abolitionists who otherwise contended about the proper mechanism of abolition-- in Julius's case, the Underground united him with his political opponents the radical Scots-Irish McKeevers of West Middletown. Finally, while Julius took personal risks in his actions, he depended upon the willing collaboration of his family to succeed. Indeed, the only story from a member of the family associating the house with the Underground concerns Madelaine Bureau LeMoyne, not Julius.

Julius LeMoyne was clearly a social reformer, caught up in the reforms, faith in education and science, and utopian ventures being tested in France, England, and the United States. His broad enthusiasms show him to be a product of Enlightenment philosophies, a reasonable assumption given his background. It is certain that he was active in antislavery causes. Many of his generation evolved over time, beginning as gradualists and moving toward a more immediate stance. This account places LeMoyne with the conservative abolitionists, not the Garrisonians. His position as president of the Washington County Antislavery Society and then its regional agent means that he would have been drawn into the national issues and he would have been the person contacted whenever that part of western Pennsylvania had a slavery-related issue. Surely there were many discussions held and actions planned in his home.

It is reasonable to assume that Julius LeMoyne was occasionally called upon to aid fugitive slaves, among his many other antislavery activities and his other social concerns. His home

²³Recollection of Roy Sarver, Washington County Historical Society, July 3, 1996. The usual body of Underground Railroad legend involving secret rooms and tunnels has grown up around the LeMoyne house, in this case specifically focusing on an undocumented dumbwaiter. The Historical Society staff consider that a closet near the fireplace in the former dining room/current library is the location of the dumbwaiter, which would have connected the original basement kitchen with the dining room above it. However, in his survey and report on the condition of the LeMoyne House prepared for the Historical Society in 1944, Charles Stotz made no reference to the existence of either a closet or a dumbwaiter. Judy Black, the daughter of the woman who cared for Madeleine LeMoyne Reed before her death, confirms a dumbwaiter from the basement kitchen did exist. But she also claims the existence of a dumbwaiter in the basement door area under the existing stairs. According to Judy Black's narrative the escaping slaves entered the house via the well, through a tunnel to the basement, and up the dumbwaiter to the third floor. Recollection of Judy Black, recorded by Blanch Slaters, Washington County Historical Society, July 26, 1996, typescript.

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at 49 East Maiden Street was clearly a center of antislavery activity in many forms and it is quite likely that he and his family gave aid to fugitives in one form or another.

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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: #

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State Agency
 Federal Agency
 Local Government
 University
 Other (Specify Repository):

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreeage of Property: less than one acre

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing
	18	564340	4446460

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary conforms to the current city lot parcel # 740-006-00-01-0010-0-0.

Boundary Justification:

The nominated property consists of the lot now owned by the Washington County Historical Society and historically associated with the property owned by Dr. F. Julius LeMoyne.

11. FORM PREPARED BY

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Date: August 13, 1996

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NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS SURVEY
December 8, 1997

List of Photographs

The following information is the same for all photographs:

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2. Washington County, PA
3. Dan G. Deibler
5. PA SHPO office

4. June 26, 1996
6. Main facade exterior, facing north
7. #1

4. August 1, 1996
6. Main facade exterior, facing northeast
7. #2

4. August 1, 1996
6. Covered roof deck interior, facing west
7. #3

4. June 26, 1996
6. Front entrance interior, facing south
7. #4

4. June 26, 1996
6. Main bedroom (southeast room, 2d floor) facing northeast
7. #5

4. June 26, 1996
6. Drawing room (southeast room 1st floor) facing northeast
7. #6

4. June 26, 1996
6. Current library (northeast room 1st floor) facing east
7. #7

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List of Slides

The following information is the same for all slides:

1. F. Julius LeMoyne House
2. Washington County, PA
3. Dan G. Deibler
4. June 26, 1996
5. PA SHPO office

6. Facade and streetscape, facing northwest
7. #1

6. Main facade, facing north
7. #2

6. Principal entrance, facing north
7. #3

6. Rear elevation with service wing, facing southwest
7. #4

6. Rear elevation with service wing, facing southeast
7. #5

6. Drawing room (southeast room, 1st floor) facing northeast
7. #6

6. Current library (northeast room, 1st floor) facing northeast
7. #7

6. Pharmacy/apothecary shop (southwest room, 1st floor)
7. #8

6. Current dining room (northwest room, 1st floor)
7. #9

6. Hall door to pharmacy, 1st floor, facing west
7. #10

6. 1st & 2d floor halls from stair landing, facing south
7. #11

6. Main bedroom (southeast room, 2d floor) facing southeast
7. #12