

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only
received
date entered

**1. Name**

historic Bauern Freund Print Shop

and/or common N/A

**2. Location**

street & number Sunneytown Pike (Route 63) N/A not for publication

city, town Marlborough Township N/A vicinity of congressional district 5

state Pennsylvania code 42 county Montgomery code 091

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Randy W. Granger and Sarah Anne McNear

street & number P.O. Box 89, Sunneytown Pike

city, town Sunneytown N/A vicinity of state Pennsylvania 18084

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse

street & number Airy and Swede Streets

city, town Norristown state Pennsylvania

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date April 27, 1981  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records PHMC

city, town Harrisburg state Pennsylvania

## 7. Description

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 moved date N/A

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Bauern Freund Print Shop is a 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  story, three bay, two pile structure with gable roof. The first floor has large twelve-over-twelve windows, double shop doors and a separate side stair entrance. The second floor windows are six-over-six, as are the side third story windows. Two arched dormers in front are nine-over-six, with ship-lapped siding, applied moldings, fluted pilasters, and segmental pediments. There are two internal end chimneys; the northern chimney serves two second floor fireplaces, while the southern chimney is false. The main roof has cedar shingles and a box cornice. The brick work is common bond.

A front porch runs the length of the shop face and extends out 5'9". The porch's hipped roof is supported by two front corner posts. These are connected visually by round arches and, in the front, by a short scalloped curtain. Corner voids are filled with turned spindles radiating out from quarter-circle wedges, suggesting a sunburst or a spider web. The porch floor is tongue-and-grooved yellow pine with a large bulkhead below the shop window.

Other exterior details include raised panel doors and shutters, fluted door trim with corner blocks, and a cast iron gutter box, dated "1838".

The internal floor plan has partitioned straight stairs between the basement, first, second, and third floors. The original shop area on the first floor is a single, open room with one central support column. The second floor has two original rooms, each with fireplace. The third floor remains open and unpartitioned. Details of note include beaded board partitions, raised panel doors, board-and-batten doors, simple mantles with half-round, turned pilasters and applied moldings, recessed cupboards with raised panel doors, and random width common pine floor boards.

There have been no major additions or alterations to the building.

There is a small single story frame garage, unattached, on the south east side of the Print Shop.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1838 Builder/Architect Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Bauern Freund Print Shop, unaltered and on its original site, is significant for its association with the career of Enos Benner, German-American educator and printer. Between 1828 and 1858, Benner published Der Bauern Freund (The Farmer's Friend), a weekly Democratic organ that played an important role in the political, economic and social life of the German-speaking community in northern Montgomery County. Benner's shop also produced a variety of patriotic and religious tracts as well as a number of educational texts including two editions of a mathematics primer written by Benner for use in German language elementary schools. Architecturally, the Bauern Freund Print Shop is a distinctive example of an urban, commercial design successfully transplanted to a rural setting. The unknown builder adapted the earlier style of a Philadelphia mercantile row-house to suit a free-standing structure with a front porch, anticipating a typical mid to late 19th century design. The shop, combining elements of Georgian, Federal and Victorian architecture, presents a transitional appearance. The color and texture of local brick suggest an 18th century structure; its use in a building of this size and type, however, points to the latter 19th century and the extensive use of mass produced brick in Pennsylvania's growing towns. Federal detailing on the dormers and the turned, rather than jig-sawn, porch decorations contribute to the shop's transitional appearance.

List of significant publications issued from the Bauern Freund Print Shop by Enos Benner and Edwin Benner.

- 1826 German Arithmetic; two later editions issued in 1833 and 1848.
- 1830 Erlaeterung fur Herrn Caspar Schwenckfeld, etc. A vindication of the Schwenckfelders
- 1838 German Hymn Book for the Synod of the Reformed Church. Seven editions issued.
- 1839 Published the Augsburg Confession.
- 1842 The Lives of the Signers of the Declaration of the Independence, German text; copy-righted by Enos Benner.
- 1844 Prayer Book.
- 1845 The 98th Meeting of the German Ev. Lutheran Ministerium of Pa.
- 1846 Non-denominational catechism for German children.
- 1848 Das Neue Buchstabilir und Lesebuch.
- 1850 Appendix for 1838 Hymnal.
- 1852 Das Neue ABC und Buchstabilirbuch. A German elementary primer for the German public schools.
- 1859 Kleine Katechismus Dr. Martin Luther.
- 1876 Das Neue Buchstabilir und Lesebuch, zum Gebrauch Deutscher Volksschulen in Pa. und ardern Staaten. Improved Edition.

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National Park Service

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BAUERN FREUND PRINT SHOP, Montgomery Co.

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Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

The Bauern Freund newspaper was published in Sumneytown from 1828 to 1858. The Bauren Freund was the second German weekly to be published in Montgomery County, preceded by "Der Advocate," also a Sumneytown paper which ceased publication after only six months due to its unpopular political commentaries. The principal editor of the Bauern Freund was Enos Benner, a printer and teacher from Charlestown (Trumbauersville), Bucks County, who relocated to Sumney town in 1827. Originally Benner operated his presses in his house, but by 1845 he had moved next door to the Print Shop where he issued routing printing requests, the Bauern Freund, and several special publications. The newspaper contributed to and encouraged commercial activities in and between the German communities of northern Montgomery County. Prior to publication of the Bauren Freund, local residents relied on the Reading Adler for their news. Although a German paper, the Adler failed to express the needs and concerns of the local communities. Benner's sensitivity to those needs is evident throughout his career as printer and publisher in Sumneytown.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Benner, Enos. German Arithmetic, Second Edition; Published by the editor, Sumneytown, Pennsylvania, 1833.  
Scott, J.D. New Historical Atlas of Montgomery County, Pa.; Norristown: 1877.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .25

Quadrangle name Perkiomenville, PA

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A 

1	9	4	6	1	5	5	0	4	4	6	4	1	4	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

See enclosed continuation sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state NA code NA county NA code NA

state NA code NA county NA code NA

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sarah Anne McNear

organization N/A

date 1/7/82

street & number Box 89, Sumneytown Pike

telephone 215-234-8986

city or town Sumneytown

state PA 18084

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Larry E. Tise, Executive Director  
Pa. Historical & Museum Commission

date

For HCRS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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UMT References

A 

19	461550	4464140
Zone	Easting	Northing

B 

Zone	Easting	Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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date 6/7/82

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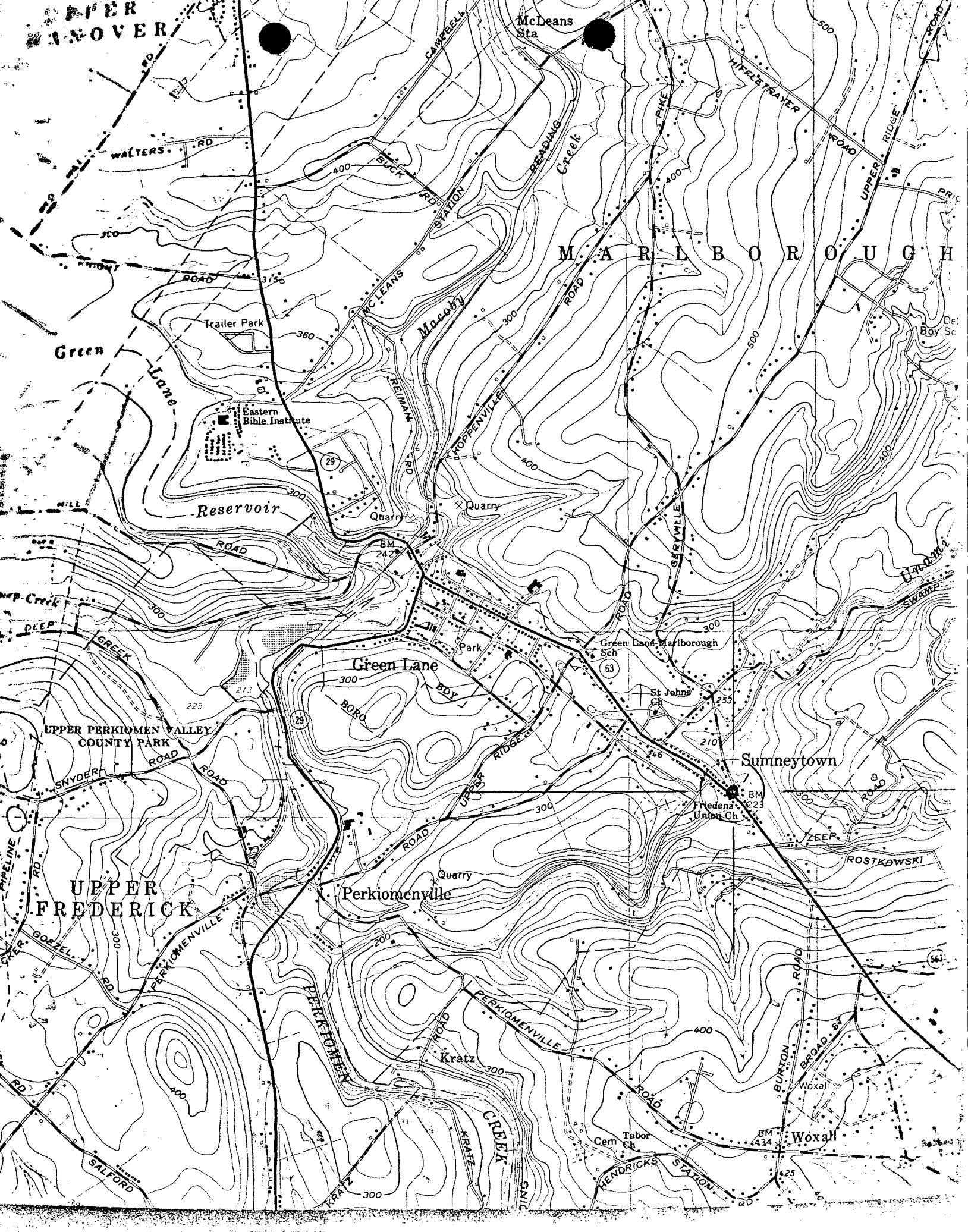
date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



UPPER FREDERICK

McDeans Sta

WALTERS RD

BUCK RD

CAMPBELL

REDDING Creek

PIKE

WITTETRAYER ROAD

500

400

500

400

300

200

300

400

300

400

Green Lane

Trailer Park

Eastern Bible Institute

Reservoir

Quarry

Quarry

BM 242

Green Lane Park

Green Lane Marlborough Sch

St John's Ch

Sunnyside

Fredens Union Ch

BM 223

UPPER PERKIOMEN VALLEY COUNTY PARK

UPPER FREDERICK

Perkiomenville

Quarry

Kratz

KRATZ CREEK

Tabor Cem

HENDRICKS STATION

Woxah

BM 434

BUNTON ROAD

BROAD ST

ROSTKOWSKI

ZEEP

U-4

SWAMP

U-4

SWAMP

U-4

SWAMP

U-4

SWAMP

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SWAMP

U-4