

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

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

## 1. Name

historic Coulsontown Cottages Historic District

and or common N/A

## 2. Location

street & number Ridge Road N/A not for publication

city, town Delta N/A vicinity of

state Pennsylvania code 42 county York code 133

## 3. Classification

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

## 4. Owner of Property

name Multiple (see accompanying list)

street & number

city, town N/A vicinity of state

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. York County Courthouse

street & number 28 East Market Street

city, town York state Pennsylvania

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1981 federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records 1) PA Hist. & Mus. Comm. 2) Historic York, Inc. 3) York Co. Planning Comm.

city, town 1) Harrisburg 2) York state Pennsylvania

Determination was requested by HRD/CD/Thomas Johnston 1/27/82 for the

# 7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>    N/A    </u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

Coulsontown lies on the southern slope of a low ridge of slate about three quarters of a mile east of Delta, Pennsylvania, and 1500 feet north of the Mason-Dixon line. The village consists of four historic stone cottages, two frame houses, two modern modular homes, and a one story concrete block structure. Only the four stone dwellings and the concrete block structure are included within the district. The stone cottages date from the 1845 to 1865 period, and nearly duplicate slate quarrymen's cottages to be found in the Snowdonia region of northwest Wales. The buildings are stone, two stories in height, 2/3 by 1 bays, rectangular, with gable roofs and end chimneys. The masonry consists of large unfinished blocks laid in random coursing with the resulting interstices filled with rubble. Inside, there are two rooms downstairs and two upstairs. The Coulsontown Cottages Historic District contains 2.11 acres and five major buildings. Of these, four are significant and one is an intrusion.

Coulsontown is situated about three quarters of a mile due east of Delta at an elevation of about 480 feet above sea level. The village is situated on the southern slope of Slate Ridge, which crests at above 620 feet and trends northeast to southwest. The village is situated at the intersection of Ridge Road, which parallels Slate Ridge, and "Main Street," which meets Ridge Road at a point about 1500 feet north of the Mason-Dixon line. The area northwest of Ridge Road is covered by fairly dense wood and brush, but the Coulsontown side has been cleared. Main Street, which is about 600 feet long and paved with gravel, doglegs at its southern end and becomes a farm lane. There are five lots along Main Street besides those included in the district. Two of these are vacant, one is the site of a historic frame house, and two are occupied by one story double-wide modular houses. The district itself contains one lot with an intrusive concrete block structure, and four freestanding historic stone cottages.

The cottage on parcel number six is the prototype of the Coulsontown form and holds the closest relationship with the cottages of the Welsh slate areas. This cottage practically duplicates slate quarrymen's cottages found in the Snowdonia region of northwest Wales. The form is that of a simple, fairly squat two story rectangle of moderate depth. The bay arrangement on both the front and the rear is two over three with a central doorway. The walls are constructed of massive, roughly shaped blocks of mottled red Cardiff Conglomerate laid in random coursing. The interstices between these larger blocks are filled with much smaller pieces. The corners of the structure are marked by large quoins, which project beyond the side elevation wall line on the facade and rear elevation, possibly in anticipation of an adjoining structure which never materialized.

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The gable roof of the structure is covered with local slate, and there is a single interior stone end chimney which has a corbelled stone course near the top. The eaves project very slightly, and there are plain rakeboards on the gables. The wall plate appears at the gable-ends as a pronounced shelf, on which the bevelled rafters directly rest. The tops of the upper story windows align with the top of the wall plate, and the lintels on the first floor are formed by single blocks of conglomerate, while the sills are formed of slate. The windows are six over six double-hung sashes, with the wooden casings joined by the pegged mortise and tenon method. The doorway has no transom, and the door reveals are not paneled. The cellar is entered through a steeply sloping exterior bulkhead.

Inside the dwelling are four rooms, two downstairs and two upstairs. The partitions which divide these rooms are simple wide-board partitions, and decorative interior woodwork is sparse, and, where present, is plain. The winding stairs are located in the left rear corner of the structure, beneath which is a small, enclosed cupboard. Adjacent to this is the fireplace, which has a simple board mantel. There is a one story frame kitchen addition in the rear of the structure, and a two story frame extension on the south elevation.

The other three cottages differ in minor ways from the first. The chimneys are brick instead of stone, and there is one on each end of the structures. The later cottages have modest corbelled brick cornices of four courses, and the slope of the roofs is more shallow than on the first cottage. The quoins do not extend beyond the wall lines, and some of the exterior and interior woodwork is a bit more elaborate. However, overall, i.e. in size, layout, proportions, and masonry work, the later cottages are very similar to the first.

The Coulsontown Cottages Historic District contains 2.11 acres and five major buildings. Of these four are significant and one is an intrusion. The single intrusion is a fairly recent one story concrete block structure with a gable roof which matches the roof slope of the adjoining cottage. This, in addition to the structure's small scale and six over six windows, make the intrusion appear almost as an outbuilding. It does not detract substantially from the character of the district.

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The integrity of the four significant structures in the district is generally good. All of the structures, due to their extremely small scale, have received some sort of frame rear or side extension. As is often the case, the best maintained structure has the poorest integrity, and the poorest maintained has the best. However, none of the structures can be said to have lost its identity as a Welsh slater's cottage. Together, these structures make up more than the sum of the individual components, and provide a glimpse into an obscure and long-forgotten pocket culture.

# 8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1845-1865 Builder/Architect N/A

## Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Coulsontown Cottages Historic District shows local significance in the areas of architecture and industry during the 1845 to 1865 period. The slate industry in the Peach Bottom region began on a large commercial scale in the 1840's when Welsh slaters began to move into the area, and continued into the 1910's and 1920's. According to one source, Peach Bottom slate was "unquestionably one of the best roofing slates in the world." The Welsh were directly responsible for the development of the Peach Bottom slate industry, and the Coulsontown Cottages stand as York County's only architectural evidence of the once substantial ethnically Welsh community. The cottages themselves are examples of an extremely rare form. They appear in size, proportions, fenestration patterns, and method of construction, as a remarkably pure transferral of an obscure cottage form from the old world to the new, and are important resource for cultural and architectural study.

During the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the predominant slate producing areas of Pennsylvania lay in the northwestern part of the Great Valley in Legh and Northampton counties. There was, however, a secondary slate-producing region in Pennsylvania. This was the Peach Bottom district, a shallow ridge which begins in southern Lancaster County, crosses the Susquehanna River at Peach Bottom Ferry, extends across the southeastern tip of York County, and ends in northern Maryland. The total length of this slate ridge is about thirteen miles, and it does not exceed one-half mile in width. Although only about six miles of the ridge are in York County, that county saw the bulk of quarrying activity in the Pennsylvania portion of the district.

The first quarries to be operated on a commercial basis in the Peach Bottom district opened as early as 1785, but quarrying on a large scale did not begin until the 1840's, when Welsh immigrants, among whom were experienced slaters, settled in the area. By 1850, when samples of Peach Bottom slate were awarded a prize at London's Crystal Palace Exposition, quarries were in operation in both the York and Lancaster areas of the district, as well as in Maryland. By 1858, there were at least eighteen quarries west of and eleven east of the Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania, producing what was "unquestionably one of the best roofing slates in the world." (Behre, page 378)



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## Maps

Nichols, Beach. Atlas of York County, Pennsylvania.  
Pomeroy, Whitman, and Company. Philadelphia,  
1876. Page 58.

Shearer, W. O. and Lake, D. J. Map of York County,  
Pennsylvania. Philadelphia, 1860.



# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 2.11

Quadrangle name Delta PA-MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Zone	Easting	Northing	

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Zone	Easting	Northing	

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

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

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>	county	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>
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state	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>	county	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>
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# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Thomas L Schaefer - revised by Jay R. Barshinger

organization Historic York, Inc. date July 1981, revised June 1984

street & number P.O. Box 2312 telephone (717) 843-0320

city or town York state Pennsylvania

# 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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

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

date \_\_\_\_\_

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

Coulsontown Cottages Historic District  
York County

Delta Quadrangle

