

Dr. Richman helps register historic Swatara Ferry House

The Swatara Ferry House, more popularly known as the "Old Fort", was recently approved for inclusion in the National Registry of Historic Places. Dr. Irwin Richman, of Bainbridge, professor at Penn State-Capitol Campus, fulfilled an important role in the structure's inclusion while serving as Architectural Historian and adviser to the Middletown Historic Commission.

It was Dr. Richman, coordinator of the graduate program in American studies at Capitol Campus, who

examined the site for authenticity, structural style and period.

Dr. Richman is a member of the Society of Architectural Historians and is a well known authority on the early history and culture of the area. He states that the structure "was not a fort, but a ferry keeper's house. The part closest to the river dates from the late 18th century, while the second addition dates from the early 19th century." He continued, "They are both traditional three-room Penn-

sylvania German floor plans" and that the addition was "probably built as a tenant house."

The decision to include the site, ultimately reached by the U.S. Department of the Interior, culminates nearly two years of surveying, research and communication between Middletown Borough, the Historic Commission, the Pennsylvania Redevelopment Authority, the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission, and HUD.



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