

F-7-50

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maryland.  
COUNTY: Frederick  
FOR NPS USE ONLY  
ENTRY DATE:

1. NAME  
COMMON: Amelung House and Glassworks  
AND/OR HISTORIC: American Glass Manufacturing at New Bremen

2. LOCATION  
STREET AND NUMBER: 9 miles south of Frederick and 4 miles southwest of Urbana  
CITY OR TOWN: Park Mills  
STATE: Maryland CODE: 24 COUNTY: Frederick CODE: 021

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site Glassworks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure House	<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	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY  
OWNER'S NAME: Glassworks House  
Mr. & Mrs. Exel Yingling; Mr. and Mrs. Henry W. Becraft  
STREET AND NUMBER: Route 1, Adamstown, Maryland Amelung House Park Mills  
CITY OR TOWN: Maryland STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION  
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Hall of Records  
STREET AND NUMBER: St. John's College Campus, College Avenue  
CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS  
TITLE OF SURVEY: Maryland Register of Historic sites and landmarks  
DATE OF SURVEY: 1970  Federal  State  County  Local  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust  
STREET AND NUMBER: 2525 Riva Road  
CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis, STATE: Maryland CODE: 21401 24

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maryland  
COUNTY: Frederick  
ENTRY NUMBER:  
FOR NPS USE ONLY  
DATE:

UNIT STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

F-7-50

STATE	
M aryland	
COUNTY	
Frederick	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Continuation Sheet) #1

(Number all entries)

Amelung House and Glassworks

#6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Amelung House only  
Historic American Buildings Survey

1969 federal x

Library of Congress  
Washington, D.C. code 11

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				Glassworks	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Amelung House and Glassworks are located nine miles south of Frederick and four miles southwest of Urbana in Frederick County, Maryland.

When Johann Friedrich Amelung came to Maryland in 1784 he bought about 2100 acres of heavily-forested land in Frederick County. Here he built the Glassworks which he hoped would prove a profitable business in the newly-formed United States. Today there are no longer any above-ground remains of the factory, but Amelung's late-Georgian, brick home still stands on its stone foundation.

The house is situated on the south slope of a hill overlooking Bennett's Creek. It is a two-story building with both an attic and a basement. It has a water table just above the stone foundation and a belt course between the first and second floors. The front and west end of the house are constructed in Flemish bond brick, while the rear and east end are of English bond. Each end is two bays wide. The front is six bays across the second story, and two bays to the left of the door and three bays to the right on the first story. This front entrance has a wide door frame and a transom above its paneled door. Nine steps lead up to the large landing at this entrance.

The windows on the first and second floors are double-hung, with twelve-over-twelve lights. One tall, narrow chimney rises from each end of the "A" roof. There is a wooden cornice with modillions under the eaves.

The interior paneling of Amelung House is original to the house (18th century), except for the ballroom and card room which were dismantled and sold in the 20th. century. They are presently (1972) stored at the Maryland Historical Society in Baltimore. There are four corner fireplaces in the house. The large, deep windows are framed with paneling.

The Amelung House was restored by Mr. and Mrs. Alder Fisher between 1940 and 1947. The present (1972) owners, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Decraft, have also done restorative work on the mansion.

Over the years since the Glassworks were sold in 1804, most of its buildings were allowed to deteriorate. The Corning Glass Company of Corning, New York, felt that the site of this late 18th. century glassworks was worth an archaeological investigation. In 1962-1963, the Corning Museum, the Smithsonian Institution, and Colonial Williamsburg, collaborated to perform the "dig."

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) House C. 1785 Glassworks C. 1785-1795

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal             | <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/Phi-  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy                                 | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention           | <input type="checkbox"/> Science        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture           | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape           | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                    | Architecture                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce               | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature          | itarian                                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications         | <input type="checkbox"/> Military            | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation           | <input type="checkbox"/> Music               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

F-7-50

~~F-54 and F-371~~

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

In August 1784, Johann Friedrich Amelung of Bremen, Germany, arrived in Baltimore after a three month voyage from Europe. Accompanying him were 68 workers and enough glassmaking equipment to establish a good-sized factory. His agent and fourteen other workers arrived in November of the same year. Twenty-one-hundred acres of wooded land were purchased in Frederick County for the construction of the glassworks and a village which was named New Bremen. On February 11, 1785, Amelung announced in the Maryland Journal and Baltimore Advertiser that "a company of German manufacturers have arrived and will establish a factory."<sup>1</sup>

The 1780's was an auspicious time in which to attempt the establishment of a glass manufactory in the ~~United States~~. The young country still had very few factories of any kind, a state of affairs many Europeans wanted to perpetuate. The English and the Germans, in particular, tried to keep their knowledge of glassmaking processes from crossing the ocean, and it is possible that Amelung experienced some difficulty in recruiting German workers for his Maryland venture.<sup>2</sup> Later, after his manufactory was operating at New Bremen, Amelung was a strong supporter of home industry and one of the first Americans to express the need for a protective tariff to keep these industries from failing because of the competition from lower-priced imported products.<sup>3</sup>

The New Bremen Glass Manufactory opened in 1785 and began to produce glass which was at one time valued at \$10,000 per year.<sup>4</sup> The Maryland Journal published the following advertisement of its wares on May 22, 1789:

'The American Glass Manufactory at New Bremen.--  
The subscriber having completed his glass manufactory near Frederick Town, State of Maryland, on an extensive plan is now able to furnish glass, not only sufficient for the consumption

(cont.'a)

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(Number all entries)

Amelung House and Glassworks

Sites of two glass houses, or glazieries, were found on the north side of Bennett's Creek, about 200 yards down the hill from Amelung House. A third glaziery was found on the southern creek bank.

The archaeologists excavated the foundations of one of the main factory buildings which Paul Perrot, administrative officer of the "dig", called "quite an imposing industrial complex for its age." The building measured 112' 9" by 65'. According to I. Noel Hume, archaeological director, "within (the foundations) were two furnaces for melting glass (one believed to have been for bottles and the other for table glass), nine other ovens, storerooms, a wood drying room, and potting rooms."<sup>1</sup> He also said that "the digging has revealed much about the appearance and operation of the one factory building, but nothing is yet known about the workers' houses, the warehouses, schools, stables, mill and other structures which made up the New Bremen community; though all of them are mentioned in the surviving records."<sup>2</sup>

When the excavation work was halted in 1963, three eighteen inch tin-roofed wooden sheds were built over the exposed furnaces ovens, and rock floors to protect them from the weather.

Pamela James  
July 21, 1972  
from notes and other material  
in the MHT files.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #3

STATE	
Maryland	
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(Number all entries)

#8

Amelung House and Glassworks

of this State, but also in great part for the neighboring States. He makes window glass transparent and substantial equal to the London crown; an inferior quality equal to the Bristol crown; all kinds of flint glass, such as decanters and wine glasses; tumblers of all sizes and any other sort of table glass. He also cuts devices, cyphers, coats of arms and any other fancy figures on glass, and in a short time hopes to be able to furnish looking glasses of all sizes. He takes this opportunity of returning his hearty and sincere thanks to a patriotic public for the encouragement he has received in giving a preference to the American manufactured glass and hopes by due attention to merit a continuance of their favor.'

This advertisement continued to tell of a warehouse in Frederick where New Bremen glass is sold and mentions that it can also be bought from "Messrs." Thomas and Samuel Hollingsworth, Merchants, Baltimore."<sup>5</sup> At one time, Amelung also had agents in New York and two different agents in Baltimore, but New Bremen's prosperity was short-lived and in 1788, Amelung applied to the State of Maryland for a loan, saying that "he had brought glass manufacturing to perfection, but had spent \$20,000 in the process."<sup>6</sup> The State granted him a loan of \$1,000 and tax exemption for a five-year period. In May of 1790, he went to New York to petition the U.S. Congress for a loan to help stave off bankruptcy. Although his neighbor, Charles Carroll of Carrollton, supported his request, and another man stated that "the New Bremen product was the best ever produced in America," Amelung's request was denied.<sup>7</sup>

Amelung mortgaged part of his property in 1793 and part in 1794. In spite of these attempts at saving the industry, the bankruptcy of the owners placed New Bremen on the market in 1795. The Glassworks were not sold in spite of a notice beginning "A bargain! A bargain!" which was printed a dozen times in the March issues of the Federal Intelligencer and Baltimore Daily Gazette.<sup>8</sup> The property was finally sold in 1804 at a bankrupt sale.

In spite of its end, the New Bremen Glass Manufactory has an excellent twentieth-century reputation, clearly illustrated by the following excerpts from Press Releases issued by the Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, New York, during their archaeological explorations of the factory site:

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(Continuation Sheet) #4 page 2

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(Number all entries)

## Amelung House and Glassworks

#8

Though active for only 10 years (the New Bremen Glass Manufactory) produced the most refined and distinguished glass made in America until the 19th century .....  
..... 1(10/18/63)<sup>9</sup>

Paul N. Perrot, Director of the Corning Museum of Glass, called the New Bremen Glassworks "one of America's most distinguished 18th century manufactories," saying that it was "significant not only for the high quality of its output but for the impact it had on other areas of glassmaking which were developed by glass workers who had worked in New Bremen and later moved west." 1(10/24/62)<sup>10</sup>

Fine examples of New Bremen glass work may be seen at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City: the Corning Museum of Glass in Corning, New York; and Winterthur Museum in Winterthur, Delaware. Today the only above ground portion of the Glassworks that remains standing is John Frederick Amelung's mansion house. A fine example of the late Georgian, early-Federal period of American architecture, it is situated on a hill above the partially unearthed foundations of the factory that once produced "some of the most beautiful glass ever made in America."

Pamela Janes  
August 1972

#8

Significance  
Footnotes

<sup>1</sup>Dorothy Mackay Quynn, "Johann Friedrich Amelung at New Bremen," Maryland Historical Magazine, (September 1948), Reprint in the files of the Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Maryland, p. 5.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., p. 3.

<sup>3</sup>Dorothy Daniel, Cut and Engraved Glass (New York: M. Barrows & Co., Inc., 1950), p. 116.

<sup>4</sup>Frederick Gutheim, The Potomac, Rivers of America Series (New York: Rinehart, 1949), p. 207. Notes in the files of Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Maryland.

(See Continuation Sheet #6)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Frederick	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Continuation Sheet) #6

(Number all entries)

Amelung House and Glassworks

#8  
Significance  
Footnotes

<sup>5</sup>T.J.C. Williams and Folger McKinsey, A History of Frederick County, Vol. I (Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1967), p. 268.

<sup>6</sup>Quynn, p. 13.

<sup>7</sup>Ibid., p. 16.

<sup>8</sup>Ibid., p. 20.

<sup>9</sup>Corning Museum of Glass Press Release (Corning, New York, October 18, 1963).

<sup>10</sup>Corning Press Release, October 24, 1962.

<sup>11</sup>Morris L. Radoff, ed., The Old Line State A History of Maryland (Annapolis: Hall of Record, State of Maryland, 1970), p. 170.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(Empty space for major bibliographical references)

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	39 ° 18 ' 12"	77 ° 24 ' 24"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	39 ° 18 ' 02"	77 ° 23 ' 59"				
SE	39 ° 17 ' 51"	77 ° 24 ' 03"				
SW	39 ° 18 ' 05"	77 ° 24 ' 25"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 40 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Pamela James

ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historical Trust      DATE: August 1972

STREET AND NUMBER: 2525 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis      STATE: Maryland 21401      CODE: 24

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

Name: Orlando Ridout IV

Title: State Preservation Officer for Maryland

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

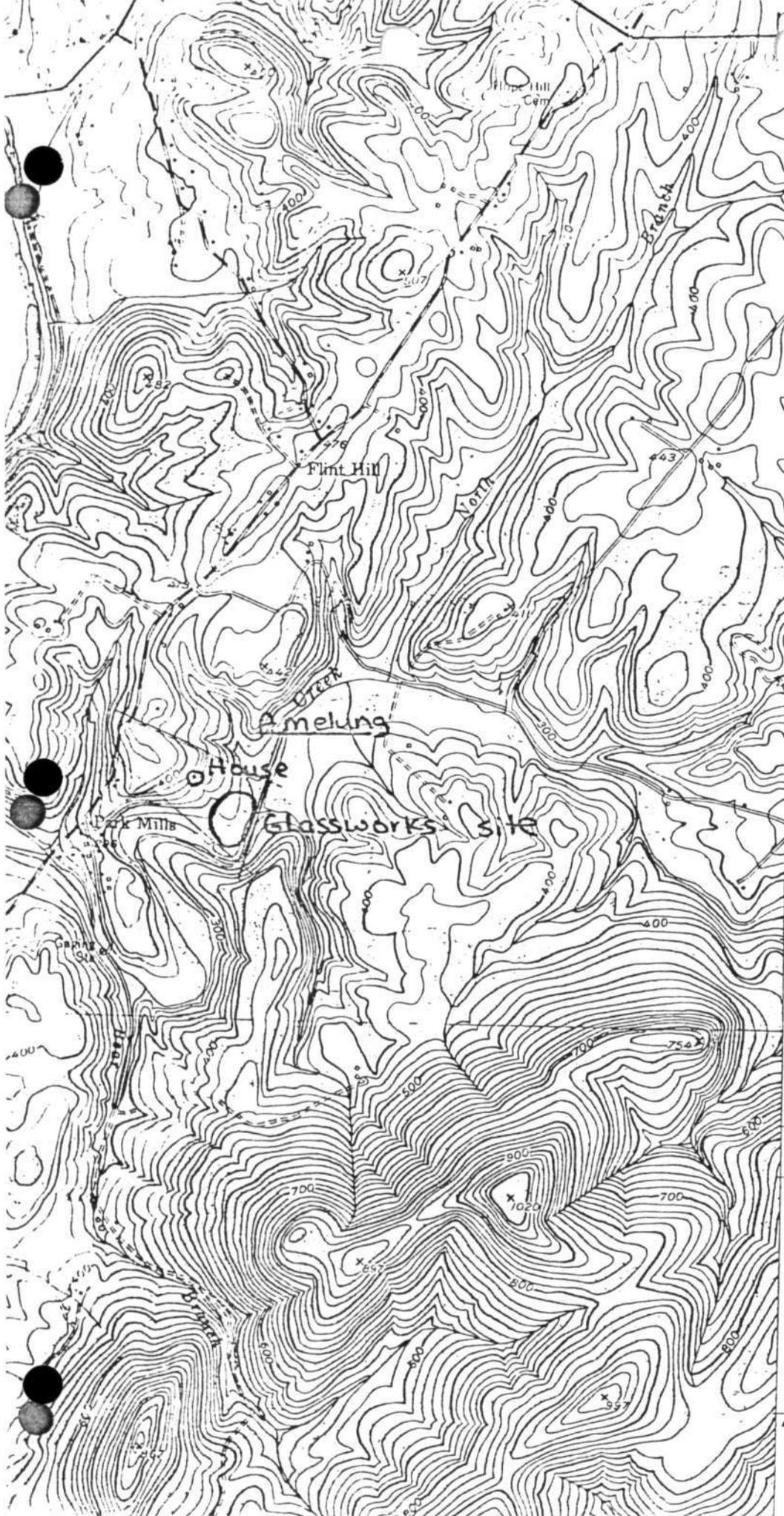
\_\_\_\_\_  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



lat.

- NW 39° 18' 12"
- NE 39° 18' 02"
- SE 39° 17' 51"
- SW 39° 18' 05"

long.

- NW 77° 24' 24"
- NE 77° 23' 59"
- SE 77° 24' 03"
- SW 77° 24' 25"

17'30"