the period covered. These site descriptions contain information on location, highway routing and other directions, brief historical description, and present appearance, ownership, and status. Included in what must be an almost exhaustive listing are 15 sites in the National Park System (includes the Fort Necessity National Battlefield near Uniontown, Pennsylvania), 4 National Historic Sites (includes the Gloria Dei Church in Philadelphia), 62 historic sites (includes a colorful description of Point State Park in Pittsburgh) and 5 historic districts eligible for the Registry of National Historic Landmarks, and 96 sites which are considered historically important, but for some reason do not meet the criteria for Landmark status. Although it is impossible to evaluate all of the site descriptions in a short review, it is possible to state that they are, as far as one individual can determine, both accurate and informative.

Viewed as a guidebook for those who wish to become acquainted with early American history in its "third dimension" (the dimension of place), this volume has great merit. Although the book will probably be of more interest to the general reader than to the historian, the skillfully selected and masterfully written descriptions of the many historic sites open to the American public ensure that scholar and layman alike may read it with confidence and pleasure. For the benefit of all, the editors have included photographs of many of the sites, and for the student and researcher an adequate index and four-page annotated bibliography.

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The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission is to be commended, and the compiler is to be congratulated on his painstaking work, in issuing a most useful bibliographical tool for research in Pennsylvania and American History. It provides brief descriptive listings of relative manuscripts kept in public and private depositories throughout the Commonwealth. Mr. Richman, recently appointed Curator of Science, Industry, and Technology of the William Penn Memorial
Museum at Harrisburg, was not content to rely solely on questionnaires returned by historical societies, libraries and museums, archives, churches, and colleges, universities, and seminaries, but was able to visit most of these institutions to verify their listed holdings and determine their volume. With few exceptions this measure is expressed in cubic feet which is useful to indicate size but not necessarily importance of such holdings.

More than a hundred depositories are arranged alphabetically in sixty-five localities, from Allentown (Lehigh County Historical Society) and Altoona (Blair County Historical Society) to Wilkes-Barre (Wyoming Historical and Geological Society) and York (Historical Society of York County). As might be expected, county and local historical societies constitute the largest group of depositories, but it is surprising that so few public libraries and museums possess manuscript materials; college and university libraries, however, form a considerable group.

Eastern Pennsylvania, particularly the Philadelphia area, is especially rich in manuscript holdings; in addition to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, "the largest manuscript depository in Pennsylvania and one of the most important in the United States," the 18,000 cubic feet of manuscript and typescript materials at the Patterson Van Pelt Library of the University of Pennsylvania constitute the next largest collection, with the possible exception of public records and manuscript materials at the William Penn Memorial Museum and Archives Building in Harrisburg. The American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia has 1,264 cubic feet of manuscripts; Girard College and the Presbyterian Historical Society each has more than 800 cubic feet of specialized materials and the Department of Records of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends has almost as much; the College of Physicians and Surgeons has more than 400 cubic feet; and the Academy of Natural Science, Library Company of Philadelphia, and Lutheran Theological Seminary each has in excess of 300 cubic feet of manuscripts and typescripts.

Western Pennsylvania is represented by about two dozen depositories. It has not been generally known that the largest manuscript collection (363 cubic feet) is to be found at Old Economy Village at Ambridge, or that the largest depository outside of the Pittsburgh area is the Warren County Historical Society (125 cubic feet). Nor has it been generally recognized that, as listed in this guide, the largest depository in the city is Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (184 cubic feet of church and seminary records). Less specialized are the holdings
of Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh (21.6 cubic feet), Darlington Memorial Library of the University of Pittsburgh (58 cubic feet), and the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania. The latter's manuscript collections are listed at 126 cubic feet, but at the time Mr. Richman visited this Society its holdings were being rearranged and its catalog expanded; although the major items listed are generally correct, a detailed guide to the enlarged collection is scheduled for publication in The Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine in early 1966.

The chief importance of this volume depends on listing major manuscript holdings in the many depositories for which no detailed guides have been published separately — as for the Pennsylvania Historical Society — or serially — as in Bibliotheca Bucknellensis for the Ellen Clarke Bertrand Library of Bucknell University. The descriptive listing for that depository (88 cubic feet) is one of the most extended in this guide, being exceeded only by listings for the Bucks County Historical Society (225 cubic feet) and the Library Company of Philadelphia (342 cubic feet). However, three or four lines are deemed adequate to describe the collections of a few depositories, though such small holdings as .3 cubic feet of manuscript in the McKean County Historical Society at Smethport and .27 cubic feet of materials in the New Castle Free Public Library are listed.

Since the holdings are arranged by geographical location an extended index of 13 pages is essential to the 58 pages of descriptive listing. Indication of the copy service available at each depository is helpful, as is information about the time at which listed materials may be examined. And if death has removed the names of officials listed in charge of a few depositories, such errors are but indications of the length of time required to compile, verify, edit, and publish this useful guide. Its attractive format conforms to recent publications of the Historical and Museum Commission, and its modest price is scarcely believable.

The Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania

John W. Harpster