

FOR N.P.S. USE ONLY
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
ROSS COMMON MANOR
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Pa. Rt. 115, approx. 1.5 miles northwest of Wind Gap NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Saylorsburg 10th

STATE VICINITY OF CODE COUNTY CODE
Pennsylvania **42** **Monroe** **089**

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Amelio Scott

STREET & NUMBER
205 Davey Avenue

CITY, TOWN STATE
Pen Argyl **Pennsylvania 18072**

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Monroe County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
Public Square

CITY, TOWN STATE
Stroudsburg **Pennsylvania**

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places

DATE
11/2/77 —FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

CITY, TOWN STATE
Harrisburg **Pennsylvania**

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input 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 _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Ross Common Manor is located on the north side of Wind Gap pass in what is now Monroe County. The Manor house property includes the manor house with attached kitchen, an ice house, a grist mill, a barn (summer theatre) and a cemetery. The buildings on this property are currently under restoration.

The Manor House (circa 1810) is a two and one half story stone structure with a gable roof. To the left rear of the house is two story stone kitchen building. Records indicate that this kitchen section with its loft is the original structure on the site, circa 1809. This kitchen section was connected to the Manor circa 1890. The Manor House is constructed of native Blue Mountain Stone and has two interior brick chimneys flashed with copper in the gable ends. As part of the restoration work a new wooden shake shingles have been placed on the roof and the stone walls have been repointed. The house is five bays by two bays with the main entrance in the center of the north west elevation. This deep set doorway has panelled jambs and wooden hood decorated with dentils. The door itself is panelled with a one light transom. The original windows are 12 over 12 and the second story 2 over 2 light windows will be replaced during restoration. Located on both pitches of the gable roof are two gable roof dormers each of which has a 12 over 12 light window.

The interior of the Manor House has Central halls on all storys. Each of the 7 rooms on the first and second story has a fireplace with the large common room on the first story having two, a total of 8 fireplaces. The kitchen section has a large walkin fireplace.

Alterations to the Manor House took the form of a late nineteenth centruy full porch (now removed), cellar wells and a brick carriage way.

In the early twentieth century a dining room wing and cellar bar were added in the court area formed by the connection of the house and kitchen. This wing is constructed of stone with a pent roof.

In 1810 an ice house was also constructed to the rear of the native Blue Mountain stone. This ice house measures 20 feet by 26 feet with a gable roof. It has pegged sashes and solid plank wooden shutters with eighteenth century wrought iron hardware. The ice hole is lined with native stone with a series of stone ledges and a wooden ladder placed against the ice pit floor.

Approximately 300 feet southeast of the Manor is the Ross Common Mill. The mill is a 3½ story frame structure with a stone foundation first story. Three bays by three bays, the mill has a gable roof with returns with an extended roof peak over the four loading doors (one on each floor). A large exterior stone chimney is located on one of the side facades. Windows in the mill are 6 over 6. The mill wheels, slucies and ponds are no longer present.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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The Ross Manor barn located across the road was built in 1880. This barn was converted into a theatre for summer stock in the 1930's. This frame barn has a gable roof and a stone foundation. Small 2 over 2 windows have been added making the barn 9 bays by 3 bays. A gable roof porch has been added over the main entrance in the gable end. A frame louvered cupola is located in the center of the barn roof.

The Ross family burial grounds was used from 1814 until approximately 1850. Surrounded by a low stone wall the cenetery contains the graves of the Honorable John Ross and his wife, Mary Jenkins, as well as other members of the Ross family.

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/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT **John Ross**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

John Ross was born in Solebury township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, February 24th, 1770. He was a son of Thomas Ross, a well-known and influential preacher of the Society of Friends. After receiving such education as the schools of his day afforded, he was hired as a school teacher at Durham. Here his talents of mind and character attracted the patronage of Richard Backhouse, then the great man of affairs of that section. Backhouse advised Ross to locate in Easton and to take up the study of law. Backhouse further offered to maintain him at his own expense until he should become admitted to the bar. He studied law under the care of his cousin, Thomas Ross, of West Chester. He settled at Easton, Pennsylvania, in the practice of law, in 1792. On November 19th, 1795, he married Mary Jenkins of Jenkinstown, in the Presbyterian Church at Abington, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, and on this account was disowned by the Society of Friends. They had twelve children.

He was elected Prothonotary of Northampton County, and served for several years. He also was a member of the State Legislature from 1812 to 1816, and represented his district in Congress from 1816 to 1818. In the latter year he received an appointment as judge of the Common Pleas until April 11, 1830 the same bench later occupied by his grandson, Hon. Henry P. Ross. He was appointed Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, and filled the position with honor until his death, on January 31st, 1834.

As early as 1788, at the age of 18, records show he paid a Federal tax of 4.6 on 75 acres of land in Northampton County. By 1808, according to tax records of the time, he already owned 450 acres of wild land amidst the foothills of the Blue Mountains, near Wind Gap. He called the locality Ross Common.

The locality, now in Monroe County, is today known as Ross township. Monroe county was erected out of Northampton and Pike Counties by an act of the Legislature passed April 1, 1836.

The Aquachicola Creek, which rises about four miles east of Ross Common, nearly on the summit of the Blue Mountain, runs close by the manor and is a fine spring run, with very cold water and abounding with trout. This stream for miles traverses only forests, and running along the north base of the mountain for a distance of eighteen miles, empties into the Lehigh River at the Lehigh Water Gap.

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The mansion house was a remarkable one in its day and generation, considering its remoteness from the large settlements. The ceilings are high and the rooms spacious, and every room has a large hearth or fire-place.

When Judge Ross ceased to use Ross Common for himself and family, it was utilized as a wayside inn, and during the old staging days had almost a national reputation for its hospitality and good cheer.

Between 1789 and 1835 the frontier region of Northampton County underwent a steady penetration by prospective settlers from New York and New Jersey as well as from southeastern Pennsylvania, and within the Poconos there was migration from the southern edge farther into the mountains. Such population movements called for roads and taverns, and these in turn promoted further expansion of settlement. In fact, James Eley who was a partner in the two primary stage coach routes was the owner of the Ross Common Inn from 1852 until 1860.

Stagecoach lines encouraged the opening of taverns at convenient sites. There the teams could rest and be fed while passengers could dine or find over night lodging. Ross Common became a key stopping place on the Wilkes Barre-Easton Turnpike.

Following this active use as a tavern for approximately 25 years the stage route was discontinued and the Ross Common Manor was vacant until the late 1880's.

The very same causes (railroads) which ruined the Ross Common of old made a new Ross Common livelier, lovelier and more desirable than that of old. Charles Brodhead, an enterprising citizen of Bethlehem, who often passed Ross Common in his journeys to and from Pike County, was pleased with the capabilities of the place. As he was then (1881) engaged in constructing a railroad from Bethlehem to the slate quarries about the Wind Gap, Pen Argyl and Bangor; he purchased the "Old Stone Heap," and it became again one of the most popular properties in the county. Painters, carpenters, masons and paperhangers remodeled the old place and it became a favorite stopping place for the citizens of Monroe who found their nearest railroad depot just beyond Ross Common and their best market at the towns which Mr. Brodhead's railroad from Bethlehem to the Wind Gap was the means of bringing into existence.

In the 1880's the Ross Common Water Company was founded. The springs on the property were considered to have curative properties and was being bottled for sale by 1888.

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Charles Brodhead died January 1900, and once again the manor went into decline although the family kept title to the property even after the death of his wife—Camilla. Then, when the son—Albert—died on May 19, 1938, the Ross Common property was willed to Lehigh University of Bethlehem, Pa.

On December 8, 1961, Lehigh University was given Court permission to sell the property which it did — to the Ross Common Water Company.

The water rights to the property are still held by the Ross Common Water Company as is a large part of the acreage that Albert Brodhead included when he willed the property to Lehigh University.

On October 11, 1962, the present owner, Amelio Scott, took title to about 156 acres of land and the buildings described here in greater detail.

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Architecture

The Ross Common Manor is an unusual structure for the remote area in which it is located and is a fine example of a large Pennsylvania vernacular, Georgian style house. The fine preserved mill and play-house add to the significance of this property.

Commerce

The Ross Common Manor served as a tavern for 25 years during the era of stagecoach travel.

Politics/Government

Ross Common Manor was the home of John Ross, who served not only as prothonatary of Northampton County but as a member of the State Legislature and a Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

(See Continuation Sheet)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3

QUADRANGLE NAME Wind Gap, PA

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A	18	474	170	45236000	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	
C					D			
E					F			
G					H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Starting at a point on NE side of Rt. 115 then NW for 125 ft. then SE for 150 ft. then SE crossing RT. 115 for 375 ft. then NW for 750 ft. then NE crossing Rt. 115 for 250 ft. to starting point.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE John Gunsser, Curator / Susan M. Zacher

ORGANIZATION Asa Packer Mansion / PHMC DATE _____

STREET & NUMBER 306 Center Street TELEPHONE _____

CITY OR TOWN Jim Thorpe STATE Pennsylvania 18229

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___ STATE ___ LOCAL X

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 William J. Wewer

TITLE WILLIAM J. WEWER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DATE 3/17/78

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL & MUSEUM COMMISSION

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 10-16-78

Ed Weintraub - SHP

DATE _____

ATTEST: _____

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE _____

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS
TOPOGRAPHIC AND GEOLOGIC SURVEY

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Mathews, Alfred; Hist. of Wayne, Pike and Monroe Counties, Pa. R. T. Peck Co.;
1886; pps 1227 - 1229

Koehler, LeRoy J; Hist. of Monroe Cty, Pa. before the Civil War; — pg 9. ____ , ____ ;
History of Monroe Cty, Pa. 1725 - 1976; - - -; pages 30, 85, 98.

— ____ , ____ ; History of Northampton County; American Historical Society; 1920;
Vol. I; page 250.

Davis, W. H.; History of Bucks Cty, Pa; P. E. Lear Co.; 1899; Vol III; page 80-83.

Ross Common Water Company Brochure; Marx Room, Easton Public Library, Easton, Pa.
Bucks Cty Historical Society, Doylestown, Pa.

Warrant: Bureau of Land Records, Dept. of Community Affairs, No. 426 (R.)
Northampton County

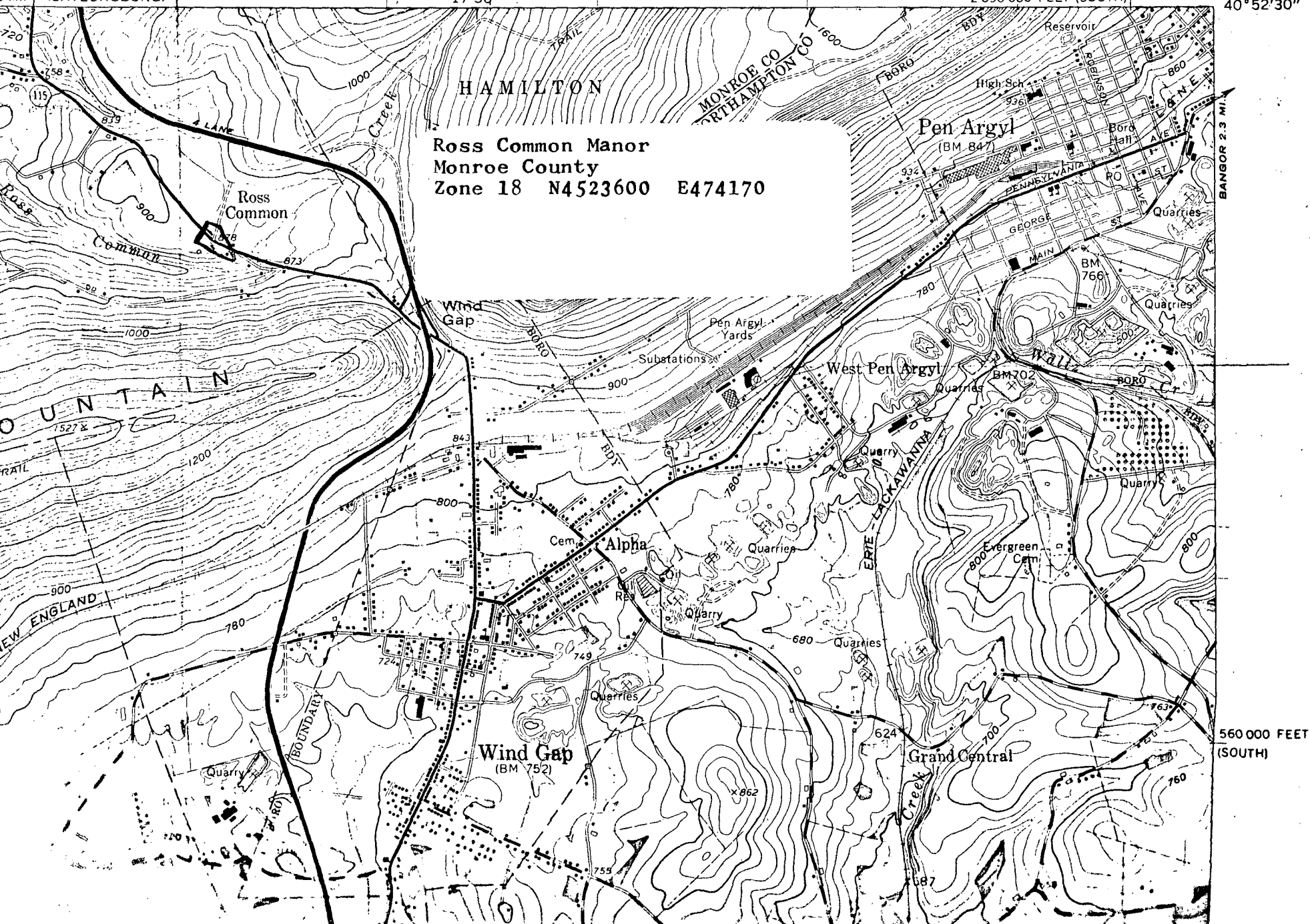
STROUDSBURG

2 MI. (SAYLORSBURG)

17'30"

2 690 000 FEET (SOUTH)

75° 15'
40° 52'30"



Ross Common Manor
Monroe County
Zone 18 N4523600 E474170

BANGOR 2.3 MI.

560 000 FEET
(SOUTH)