

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	
DATE ENTERED	

**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 The Crook Farm

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER Seaward Avenue Extension

CITY, TOWN in Foster Twp, near  
Bradford

NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Pa. VICINITY OF CODE 42

COUNTY McKean CODE 23  
083

**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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Bradford Landmark Society

(until recently, occupied as private residence and oil lease; presently being restored)

STREET & NUMBER 45 E. Corydon St.

CITY, TOWN Bradford

VICINITY OF STATE Pa.

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURT HOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Recorder's Office (McKean County)

STREET & NUMBER Main Street

CITY, TOWN Smethport

STATE Pa.

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE None known

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Crook Farm, built in 1856, originally consisted of two rooms separated by central fireplaces. The house's original dimensions were probably 32' by 16'. Shortly after being built, the house was enlarged to its present dimensions of about 43' by 30½', with a 10' by 20' shed roof addition at one end. The fireplaces were replaced with a stairway to the attic which contained a bedroom at each end of the house. The house combined horizontal leveled clapboard siding with vertical board and batten siding. The main entrance still exists; however, the porch's steep roof has been replaced. The original wood shingles have been covered by sheet metal roofing with raised beams.

Today, a porch extends across the entire front and the wood siding is covered by asbestos shingles. The roof has rusted extensively and is in an advanced state of deterioration. The window sashes, which were probably 6-over-6 originally, have been replaced by single light sashes. The original window frames remain in place as does the wood trim around the roof edges and doors. The fieldstone foundations are in need of repair. A lack of proper bracing of structural members in the attic has resulted in a movement of roof members as well as walls below. The interior walls were originally one or two layers of one inch boards and have since been covered with wall board. The original unfinished wood board floors are revealed since the floor coverings have been removed. The locations of the water well, barn foundation and other landmarks are evident.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1856

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Crook Farmhouse is believed to be the oldest existing structure in the area, having antedated the discovery of oil in the Bradford field by fifteen years. On this site the first large producing well, the Olmstead Well, was drilled in the historic Bradford Oil Field. Petroleum was discovered in 1876 in Bradford and the field produced an extraordinary quantity of oil reaching its maximum yield in 1881. The well is still on the Crook property; it was noted for being one of the heaviest producers of the early wells. Future plans involve the reconstruction of an early drilling rig and pumping equipment at the Olmstead Well Site.

The Crook Farm restoration is conceived primarily as an educational tool to demonstrate pioneer housekeeping and family life of this unique geographical area, together with the demonstration of various occupational pursuits performed there - timbering, maple sugar making, cobbling, and carpentering. The Farm also has conservation and architectural significance -- the house's structure is based on an unusual post and beam skeleton with thin board curtain walls.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Daybooks, journals, and diaries of original owners and occupants from 1845-1868.  
 Family Bible now owned by a descendant, Mrs. Stanley Zimmerman, Olean, N. Y.  
 Collection of old photographs of buildings c. 1880, in custody of Bradford Landmark Society

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 21 + or -

UTM REFERENCES

A 

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING									

B 

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING									

C 

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING									

D 

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING									

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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 Marian G. Bromeley, Vice President  
Leilani Stewart, Student Aide

ORGANIZATION Bradford Landmark Society DATE May 1, 1975  
Pa. Historical Museum Commission

STREET & NUMBER 45 E. Corydon St. TELEPHONE (717)787-4363

CITY OR TOWN Box 1026, Wm Penn Museum STATE Pa.  
Bradford  
Harrisburg

# 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

*William J. Staver*

TITLE Executive Director  
Pa. Historical Museum Commission

DATE 5/25/75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

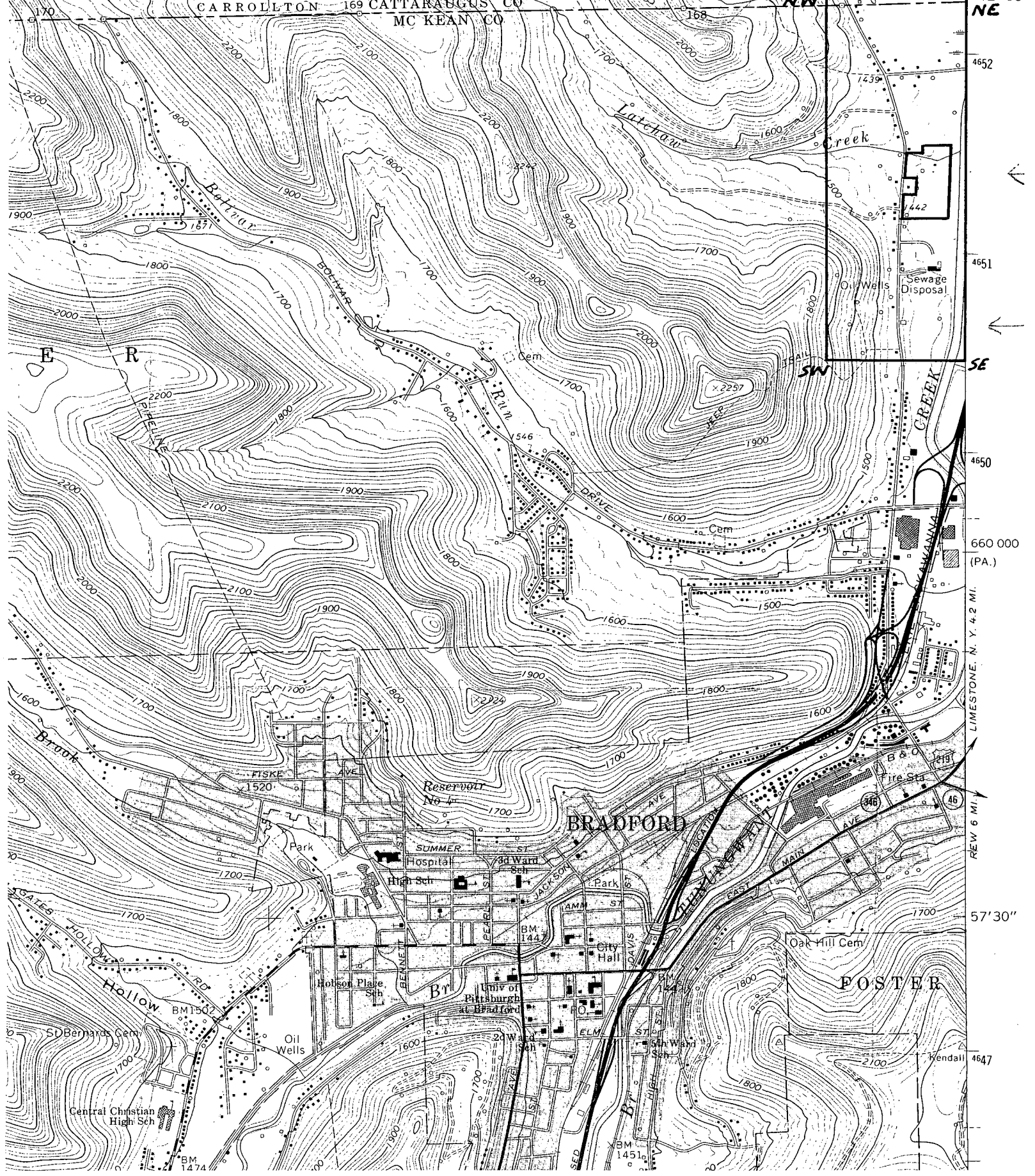
PAGE 1

Bibliographical References:

Oral reminiscences on tape by Mrs. Edna King, an aged descendant, in custody of Bradford Landmark Society.  
Miscellaneous wills, deeds, and other legal papers, originals and/or photocopies in custody of Bradford Landmark Society.

(KNA) 526

692 693 40' 694 695 1 760 000 FEET (PAI) 78° 37' 30" 42° 00"



LIMESTONE, N. Y. 4.2 MI.  
REV 6 MI.

57' 30"

4647