

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1** NAME

HISTORIC

The Rush House

AND/OR COMMON

Sebastian Rush Hotel and Tavern

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

RFD #1, Box #1 (Corner of Rt. 40 & Rt. 381)

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Farmington

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

22nd

VICINITY OF

STATE

Pennsylvania

CODE

42

COUNTY

Fayette

CODE

051

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

 DISTRICT
 BUILDING(S)
 STRUCTURE
 SITE
 OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

 PUBLIC
 PRIVATE BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

 IN PROCESS
 BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

 OCCUPIED
 UNOCCUPIED
 WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

 YES: RESTRICTED
 YES: UNRESTRICTED
 NO

PRESENT USE

 AGRICULTURE
 COMMERCIAL
 EDUCATIONAL
 ENTERTAINMENT
 GOVERNMENT
 INDUSTRIAL
 MILITARY
 MUSEUM
 PARK
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE
 RELIGIOUS
 SCIENTIFIC
 TRANSPORTATION
 OTHER:**4** OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Thomas M. & Ruth G. Shanaberger

STREET & NUMBER

RFD #1, Box #1

CITY, TOWN

Farmington

VICINITY OF

STATE

Pennsylvania 15437

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Fayette County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

East Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Uniontown

STATE

Pennsylvania 15401

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

7/5/77

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Pennsylvania Historical and Musuem Commission

CITY, TOWN

Harrisburg

STATE

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 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 Rush House is located on the North side of Rt. 40. The front of the building faces South and is located 25 feet from the highway. The main body of the house runs East to West with an "L" extending to the North on the West side. A unique feature of the structure is the fact that the South and East sides of the house are brick while the West and North walls and foundation are of field stone. The two types of construction are joined at the corners in a dove-tail effect. The brick used in construction of the house was fired on the site. The roofs of the two sections are gables and form a hipped roof at their intersection in the west end. There are chimneys in all three roof ends; an interior stone chimney in the north gable end of the wing, a interior brick chimney in the west end, and a double brick chimney in the east gable end.

The front facade is five bays wide with doorways in the second and third bay in the first story. These doorways are deep-set in plain jams and approached by a large stone stoop. The doors themselves are plain panel with large one light transoms. The door in the second bay has two one pane windows. The first story windows are 6-over-6 and set in plain frames with plain lug sills. A wrought iron store sign hangs over the sidewalk from between the doorways. The second story windows are one-over-one double hung sash windows also set in plain frames with plain lug sills. Three rows of extended brickwork supports the eaves on the front facade.

The east gable end is plain with only one, one-over-one double hung sash window in the gable end between the double chimney. A two story wooden porch is located east side of the wing. This porch is in poor condition.

The first story center hall leads to a double parlor, barroom, dining room and kitchen. Stairs from the center hall lead to a second story center hall and six bedrooms. There are fireplaces located in every room.

*Comments
brick + stone
no photo of*

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 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 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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1837

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Nathaniel Ewing

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Rush House was built in 1837 by Nathaniel Ewing. It was sold, soon after, to Sebastian (Boss) Rush who operated it as a stage-coach stop during the days of the greatest activity on the National Road. The house served as an agency of the National Road Stage Co. and as such enjoyed great patronage. The great and near-great of the day were entertained in the style for which Boss Rush was famous.

Ellis writes in the History of Fayette County, "Mr. Rush once pointed out to the writer, when stopping with him, a room in which Gens. Jackson, Harrison, Taylor and Scott had slept and told him that Sam Houston, Henry Clay, Tom Corwin and Jenny Lind had lodged under his roof." There is also evidence that President Polk and P.T. Barnum were among the many illustrious guests. There is a ledger which Mr. Rush kept his accounts with the National Road Stage Co. and an entry for the date May 24, 1841 reads as follows: "To bill for extra team laid over with H. Caly ..75¢."

Jenny Lind and her manager, P.T. Barnum stopped overnight at the Rush House while returning from her western tour. Legend has it that she greeted local residents from the front steps of the house. In keeping with his reputation as a celebrated host, Mr. Rush served freshly caught trout for the parties' breakfast.

A large stable was maintained on the premises for housing extra teams and coaches. A large watering trough is still serving as a planter outside the kitchen door.

Commerce diminished on the Road with the coming of the railroad from Baltimore to Pittsburgh. The coaches were taken off the Road in 1852. One of the last entries in Mr. Rush's ledger is dated Dec. 15, 1852 and states rather sadly, "The teams all left." Operation as a hotel continued until the death, in 1962, of Sallie D. Rush, aged 94. Thomas Shanaberger purchased the property shortly thereafter.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ellis, Franklin. History of Fayette County, Pennsylvania. Philadelphia: L. H. Evers & Co., 1882, p. 840.
 Searight, Thomas B. The Old Pike, History of the National Pike. Orange, Virginia: Green Tree Press, 1971, p. 42-44.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .5

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,7	622740	44107130	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

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

Thomas M. Shmoberger/Susan M. Zacher

ORGANIZATION

/ Pa. Historical & Museum Commission 7/77

STREET & NUMBER

RFD#1, Box 1 / P. O. Box 1026

CITY OR TOWN

Farmington, Pa. / Harrisburg, Pa.

DATE

TELEPHONE

(717) 787-4363

STATE

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

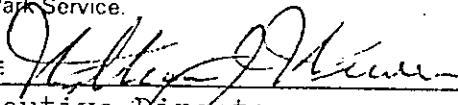
NATIONAL

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



TITLE

WILLIAM J. WEWER, Executive Director
 Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

DATE

9/13/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

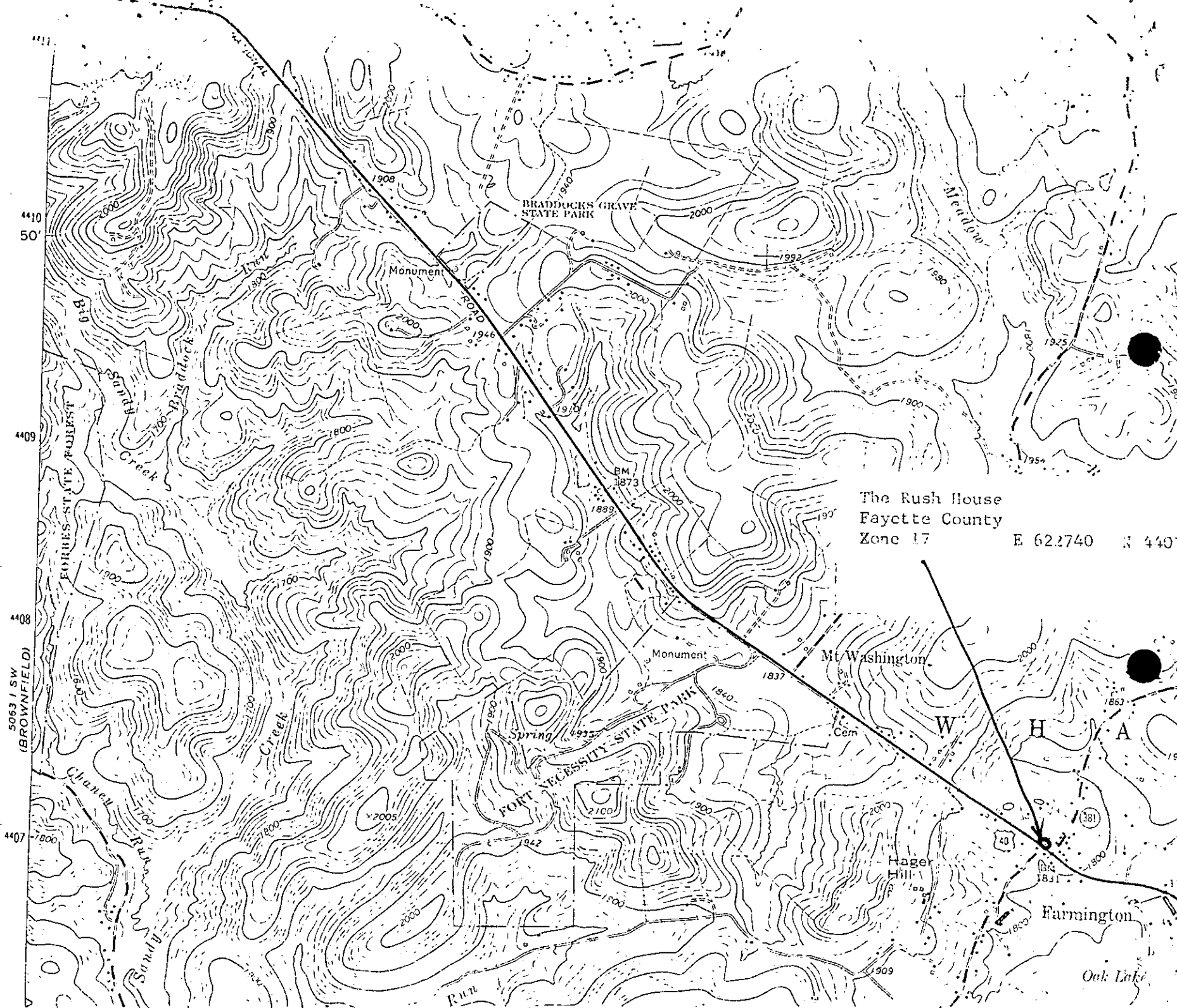
DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



The Rush House
Fayette County
Zone 17
E 622740 N 4407

50631 SW
(BROWNFIELD)

4410
50'

4409

4408

4407

FORBES STATE FOREST
Sandy Creek
Big Sandy Creek

BRADDOCK'S GRAVE
STATE PARK

MONUMENT
Spring
FORT NECESSITY STATE PARK

Mt Washington

Hager Hill

Farmington

Oak Lake

W H A