

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

14

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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DATE ENTERED

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

*Kemp's Hotel*

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

*East of Kutztown on Rt. 222*

CITY, TOWN

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

*Kutztown*

STATE

VICINITY OF

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

*Pennsylvania*

*42*

*Berks*

*011*

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

*Luther M. Kemp*

STREET & NUMBER

*RD #1*

CITY, TOWN

*Kutztown*

VICINITY OF

STATE

*Pennsylvania 19530*

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

*Berks County Courthouse*

STREET & NUMBER

*33 North Sixth St.*

CITY, TOWN

*Reading*

STATE

*Pennsylvania*

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

*Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places*

DATE

*March 24, 1978*

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

*Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission*

CITY, TOWN

*Harrisburg*

STATE

*Pennsylvania*

# 7 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

*Kemp's Hotel is a two and one-half story limestone structure with a slate covered gable roof. The stone on the front facade is laid in a Flemish bond pattern. The original structure (east end) was built circa 1795 and measures 33 feet by 35 feet. This eastern section is three bays by two bays. Windows on the second story are eight over twelve. Windows on the first story are two over two. A date stone reading, George Kemp, 17 & 93, is located between the first and second window on the second story. The front facade faces south and deeply-set doors are located in bay one and two.*

*Circa 1852, a two story gable roof stone addition was added to the west of the c. 1795 structure. This section has a seamed tin roof and two interior brick chimneys in the gable ends. Four bays by two bays the windows in this section are six over six. A panelled doorway is located in the fourth bay of the front (south) facade. This doorway as well as the doorways in bay one and two of the older section are shaded by a hipped roof porch. The roof is supported by bracketed pillars on a cement block base.*

*To the rear of the hotel is a one story stone wing with a gable roof. This 23½ ft. by 19½ ft section dates from circa 1852. A more modern cement block addition of 12 ft. by 23½ ft. is connected to the east end of this wing.*

# 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"/> 0-1499	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

*Kemps Hotel is one of the oldest hotels in Berks County and has long been recognized as a local landmark. Located 1/4 mile northeast of Kutztown, this public house has offered accomodations to travelers on the Old Easton Road (Rt. 222) for nearly two centuries. Some of the hotel's more famous lodgers have included John Adams, Judge Francis Dana and signer of the Declaration of Independence William Ellery.*

*The present building has a date stone whose figures resemble 1795, however, some sources maintain that the structure is older. An old sign over the entrance at one time claimed the hotel to have been founded in 1765.*

*An earlier structure must have preceded the present one. Dan Levan operated a hotel on this site perhaps as early as 1740. A 1789 calendar lists this hotel as one of the seven traveler stops on the road between Easton and Reading. It also appears on one of the earlies maps (1755) of Berks County.*

*Daniel Levan was probably the first innkeeper at this place. He is listed as one of Maxatawny's most properous taxable inhabitants on the 1754 tax records. The 18 penny tax list of 1767 describes Levan as a "Taverner" who was owner of 300 acres and a small amount of livestock.*

*George Kemp, whose name appears of the hotel's 1795 datestone, purchased the hotel from his father-in-law Daniel Levan in 1785. He operated the business for 53 years. Tax records for 1785 refer to Kemp as an innkeeper who also possessed a still, for which his customers were no doubt grateful. Kemp was a justice of the peace for 34 years and a county commissioner from 1821-1824. He is also remembered as one of the original Reformed elders at St. John's Union Church (1788).*

*John Kemp, son of George, became the next proprietor of the hotel, operation it until he was 89 years old. Business prospered during those years so that an addition was erected in 1852. Old Squire John found time to be a farmer, tax collector, and justice of the peace as well as a hotel manager. John bequeathed the hotel to his son John junior, who gave it to his son John I. and in turn he bestowed the property onto Luther, his son and present owner.*



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KEMP'S HOTEL, Berks County

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a stake in line of other lands of Luther M. Kemp and Verna B. Kemp thence by the same north 23 degrees west 180 feet to a stake in line of other lands of John I. Kemp, thence by the same North 67 degrees East 395 feet to a stake in the middle of a public road, thence in and by said road south 11 degrees east 205 feet to a stake in the right of way line of U.S. Route 222, thence by the same south 70 degrees west 351 feet to the place of beginning, containing 120 perches.

