

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

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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 WITMER'S TAVERN

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

2014 Old Philadelphia Pike

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

East Lampeter Township

VICINITY OF

16th

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Pennsylvania

CODE

42

COUNTY

Lancaster

CODE

071

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Marlowe & Jeanne H. Hartung

STREET & NUMBER

2005 Northbrook Drive

CITY, TOWN

Lancaster

VICINITY OF

STATE

Pennsylvania 17601

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Lancaster County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

42 Duke Street

CITY, TOWN

Lancaster

STATE

Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

8/1/77

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

CITY, TOWN

Harrisburg

STATE

Pennsylvania

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 Witmer Tavern is a large two and one-half story, rectangular blue limestone structure. Built in two sections, the east end dates from circa 1725. In 1773 the larger west end was added. Today the Witmer Tavern is six bays by two bays with a gable roof and three interior brick chimneys. The center chimney marks the extent of the circa 1725 section. Four, gable-roofed dormers are located on the north and south sides. Windows in these dormers are six over six. The entire structure was once stuccoed but this has been removed by the present owner.

The front facade of the tavern faces north along the Old Philadelphia Pike. Windows throughout the tavern are nine over six. Doorways with glass transoms are located in the first and fifth bays. A full length pent roof porch shades the first story of this front facade. A datestone inscribed HW & MW 1773 is located between the third and fourth bays on the second story.

The east gable end has six windows of nine of six with radiating stone arches. The west gable end has five identical windows.

The rear (south) elevation is five bays wide. The circa 1725 section is sheathed in vertical clapboard and a set of three windows is located on the first story. Doorways are located in the second and fourth bays.

The two section, Witmer Tavern contains sixteen rooms on two full floors and an attic.

Entrance to the tavern section is by a plain door leading into a central hall which runs the depth of the house and terminates in boxed in stairs to the 2nd and 3rd floors and also in a rear door to the outside. The room to the immediate left of the front door has a built in corner cupboard and swinging doors, not original, entering into the hallway. The molding around the doors appears original but not the inner surface. The two small rooms to the right of the hall had contained corner fireplaces which have been torn out. The original door frame between the rooms still stands as do the walls. The kitchen with original brick floor is located at the east end of the bar room. Access from the kitchen is obtained through a front door and two doors at the opposite end give access to another room at the rear. This room was probably at one time an open porch. Part of this room has been partitioned to be used as a bathroom.

The second floor consists of eight rooms including two modern bath rooms. Two rooms have back to back corner fireplaces and the third a conventional fireplace. A fourth fireplace has been converted to a closet. A second flight of stairs at the southeast corner of the second floor gives access to the attic.

The attic is refinished for offices and to accomodate the air conditioning unit. A hallway runs the full length of the 1773 structure.

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WITMER'S TAVERN - Lancaster County

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

7

PAGE

1

Description: (continued)

There are three chimneys, two of which are three flue and the third at the west end of the houses is a five flue chimney. It was at this end that the 1725 building is attached.

The cellar under the 1773 section has a bricked floor. It contained a spring which is now walled up into a well, barred cellar windows and possibly a cellar wall in fireplace.

The tavern is currently being restored.

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

- PREHISTORIC
- 1400-1499
- 1500-1599
- 1600-1699
- 1700-1799
- 1800-1899
- 1900-

- ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
- ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
- AGRICULTURE
- ARCHITECTURE
- ART
- COMMERCE
- COMMUNICATIONS

- COMMUNITY PLANNING
- CONSERVATION
- ECONOMICS
- EDUCATION
- ENGINEERING
- EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
- INDUSTRY
- INVENTION

- LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
- LAW
- LITERATURE
- MILITARY
- MUSIC
- PHILOSOPHY
- POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

- RELIGION
- SCIENCE
- SCULPTURE
- SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
- THEATER
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

ABSTRACT: Witmer Tavern is one of the best examples of a 18th century tavern in Lancaster County.

The Philadelphia to Lancaster Turnpike was one of the first stone turnpikes in the United States. Construction began on this 66 mile road in 1792 and was completed by 1794 at the cost of \$465,000. Originally, nine toll bars were erected between Philadelphia and Lancaster at the following distances, beginning two miles west of the Schuylkill at 2, 5, 10, 20, 29½, 40, 49½, 58½, and 64 (Witmer's Bridge). As the road grew, taverns and inns were constructed along the turnpike for the comfort and refreshment of the travelers. At the height of travel on the Old Philadelphia Turnpike there were over 62 taverns located along the road.

The Conestoga Inn Tavern or Witmer's Tavern was located at the 64th mile where the turnpike crossed the Conestoga River near the entrance to Lancaster.

The Witmer family first appears in Lancaster County when Benjamin Weitmer is listed as an agent for the London Land Company and received a patent for 265 acres in what was to become Lampeter Township, Lancaster County. John received the land from Benjamin and subsequently passed it on to son Henry, who built the main part of the house in 1773. (HW & MW in jahr 1773 in inscription) Henry sold the house and property to Abraham in April 15, 1806.

Abraham Witmer was well known for his business ventures. He was one of the tax assessors for Lampeter Township according to the Direct Tax 1798. Also he was authorized to build a bridge across the Conestoga Creek and charge a toll for its usage according to the Act of September 2, 1787.

According to the HISTORY OF Lancaster County (Ellis) Abraham Witmer's tavern was one of the most prominent hostelries along the road (Old Philadelphia Turnpike).

Taverns during the early times of the country and county served not only as places for the traveler to obtain food and lodging but also as a source of the dispensing of community information. Witmer's Tavern was important also because of its proximity to the toll bridge and the turnpike where Witmer was authorized to collect the tolls.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Sachse, Julius Friedrich. The Wayside Inns on the Lancaster Roadside between Philadelphia and Lancaster. Pennsylvania-German Society, Lancaster, New Era Printing Co., 1912.
 Ellis, Franklin and Samuel Evans. History of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Philadelphia; Everts and Peck, 1883, p. 892, 902.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME _____ QUADRANGLE SCALE _____

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	3,9,4,0,2,0	4,4,3,2,7,4,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE _____
 ORGANIZATION Marlowe and Jeanne Hartung DATE _____
 STREET & NUMBER _____ TELEPHONE _____
 CITY OR TOWN 2005 Northbrook Drive STATE _____
Lancaster Pennsylvania 17601

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 Ed Weintraub DATE 6-21-78
 TITLE ED WEINTRAUB
State Historic Preservation Officer

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE _____

ATTEST: _____ DATE _____
 (KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER)
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

3.4 MI. TO US 222
LANCASTER IP 0111 MT

