

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Defibaugh Tavern other names/site number Willow Grove Tavern

2. Location

street & number N. side of Rt. 30 city, town Snake Spring Valley Twp. state PA code PA county Bedford code 009 zip code 15537

3. Classification

Table with 3 columns: Ownership of Property, Category of Property, and Number of Resources within Property. Includes checkboxes for private/public ownership and building/site/structure/object categories.

Name of related multiple property listing: Whiskey Rebellion Resources in Southwestern Pa. listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Signature of certifying official Date State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Signature of commenting or other official Date State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is: entered in the National Register. determined eligible for the National Register. determined not eligible for the National Register. removed from the National Register. other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/restaurant
Domestic/single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Other: vernacular tavern house

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls wood

stone

roof Asphalt

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Located on a bend in the Juniata river near the village of Hartley, the Defibaugh Tavern overlooks present-day Route 30, known as the Pennsylvania Road during the heyday of the tavern's operation. Originally the tavern property extended south across the road to the Juniata River, but now comprises only twelve acres. (This nomination only includes 1 1/2 acres encompassing the historic resources and their immediate setting.) The land rises sharply behind the house as part of Evitts Mountain. Built c. 1785 in what was then Providence Township, the building is a good example of a vernacular style, log tavern/house. The current property also includes a late 18th century log bank barn and a late 19th/early 20th century frame hog pen as well. There are also several ruins on the nominated property including that of a spring house and bake oven. Further investigation would be needed to determine their significance, and they have not been included in the resource count. Tall hemlocks shade the front of the house.

This 2 1/2 story, five bay, log and frame building has a double stacked porch on its front (south) elevation. The building rests on a high rubblestone foundation. The original log section is the eastern two bays of the building which had an entrance on the eastern gable end at the south corner. The western three bays were added in the early 19th century. The exterior of the windows of both these sections have simple quarter round surrounds and are currently of 2/2 pane configuration. There is a cellar entrance beneath the front porch which enters under the frame addition in the west corner of the front elevation. Interior brick chimnies rise on each gable end of the house.

A 2 1/2 story frame kitchen ell extends along the northwest side of the house. According to the present owner, it was rebuilt and clad with modern stone facing in the late twentieth century. Two interior, brick chimnies pierce the roof crest of this section; one midway between the main block and the gable end, and the other at the gable end.

Most of the architectural detailing is located on the front elevation of the building. Here the balustrades of the double stacked porch have molded handrails, square spindles, and chamfered posts with curved jigsaw brackets. The area beneath the porch and front steps has been covered with latticework. Modern louvered shutters were added to the front and east elevations.

There is also a double stacked porch located along the rear elevation of the house. The change in roof pitch over this porch makes it appear it was not part of the original design of the building. This roof extends lower than the front porch roof

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Defibaugh Tavern

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to the one along the eastern side of the kitchen ell. Evidently these porches were added after the kitchen ell was originally constructed about the middle of the nineteenth century. The first floor of this rear porch has no balustrade, nor is there brackets on the square posts. The second floor has a balustrade and posts similar in design to those on the front of the house.

Although the side door into the original section has been covered over with modern siding, the door is still in place and could be reopened. There is a rear door opening beside the bar. This door features six raised panels. This section of the house appears to have been just one open room on the first floor. The bar remains in the northwest corner and a fireplace with a simple, unadorned mantle and surround is centrally located on the east gable end of the room. According to Bill Defibaugh, the original bar was in this location. Defibaugh also said that there is the signature of "Johannes Tiefenbach" on the lintel behind the fireplace mantle in this room.

The three bay frame section or the western two thirds of the front elevation appears to have been built in the early 19th century. It was built in the two-thirds Georgian style with a hall along the eastern side and two parlors on the west end. The open string stairs rise at the rear of the hall. The balustrade has a molded handrail with rectangular spindles, and a square newel post. A nearly central summerbeam can be seen running from the log section through the hall and serves as a support for the wall dividing the front and rear parlors. It is covered with beaded board. Opening into the hall, the front door has six raised panels similar to the one at the rear of the log section. The inside of the front door is constructed with beaded vertical boards and is hung on strap hinges. This door is headed with a rectangular multi-paned transom.

The front parlor in this section of the house is the largest of the two there. Originally there were folding doors between this one and the back parlor. These doors were removed at some point but remain intact in the attic. A simple, squarish mantle and fireplace surround adorns the fireplace along the western wall of the front parlor.

On the second floor, there are two bedrooms above the barroom. The door opening into the front room has two raised panels. The front room, the larger of the two, has a small fireplace along the eastern gable wall. It has a simple surround and no mantle. The rear room has a vertical beaded door which opens onto the rear veranda or porch. On the west side of the hall, there are two bedrooms as well. Likewise, the front room is the largest and has a small fireplace. However, the fireplace is somewhat larger than the one in the eastern section.

An 1890's historic photo indicates that the frame kitchen ell had been originally stuccoed. The historic photo also shows that the ell had been extended about twice as far as it's current length. The current owner stated that the ell was rebuilt by

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the previous owner (Willard Defibaugh) because of structural damage to the stone work. The stones were taken down and a frame building was erected in its place, using as much of the original structure as possible. The window frames are from the original building, and they are in their original location as well. The reconstructed building was covered with a stone veneer. The 1890's photo of the tavern shows the building much the same as today except the removal of the extension of the ell. A late 20th century datestone in the west gable cellar wall states that the house was built in 1785. It also states that it was restored in 1978.

The 1798 federal tax for Providence Township lists two Defibaughs with buildings in the township. John "Davebaugh" is noted with an old cabin measuring 20 X 18 feet, and Jacob "Davebaugh" has an old log house measuring 26 X 20 feet. The present log section measures 25 feet by approximately 20 feet which nearly matches Jacob's house.

To the rear of the house stands a small log barn with an extra large frame forebay addition. This double pen barn is constructed of v-notched logs. There is a central threshing floor. The 1798 federal tax lists Jacob Davebaugh with a log barn measuring 68 X 30 feet. In recent years the barn served as a chicken house but now is only used for storage. Just southwest of the barn stands a 1 1/2 story, rectangular, frame hog pen.

Typical of late 18th/early 19th century vernacular style taverns, the Defibaugh Tavern was built near a major highway. Also typically, many taverns were built with multi-tiered porches and were extended over the years with additions of various sizes. Many of the changes made to the Defibaugh Tavern such as the exterior cladding are reversible. Despite the changes, alterations, and additions over the years, the Defibaugh Tavern still retains the overall architectural appearance of a tavern.

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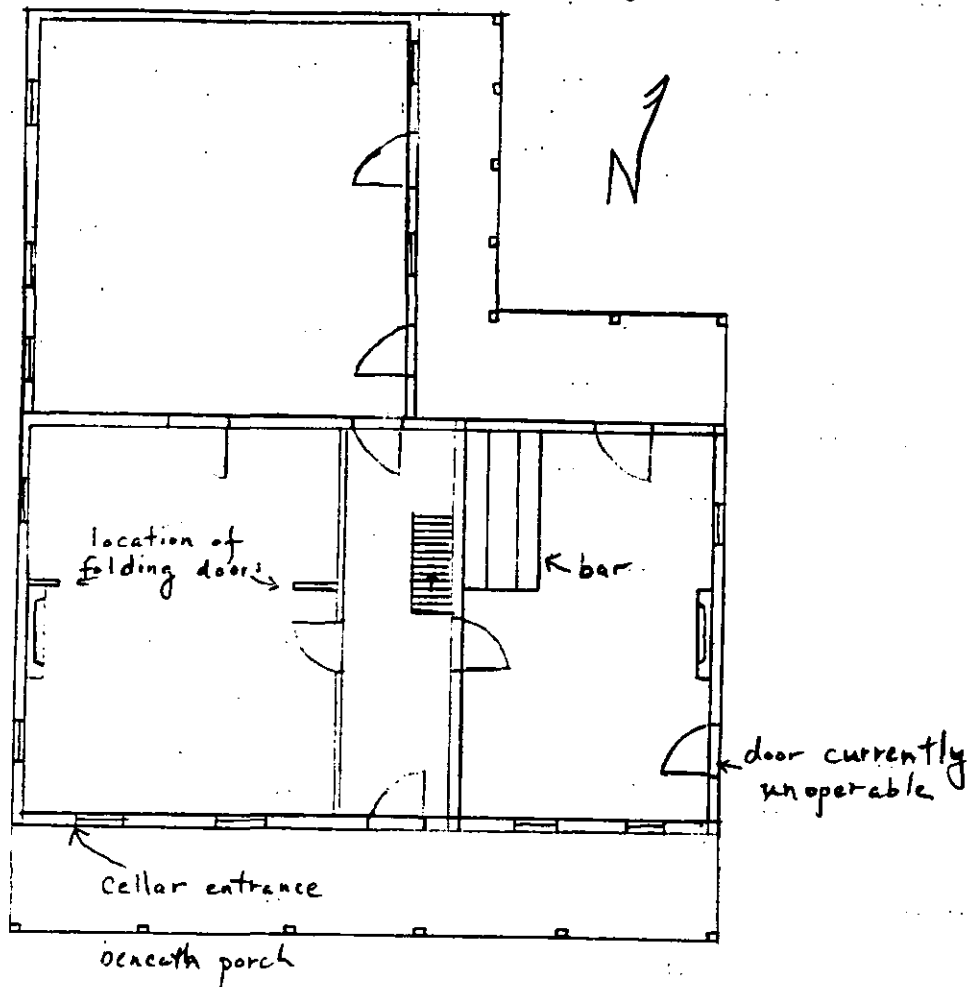
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Defibaugh Tavern Snake Spring Valley Twp, Bedford Co.

1st Floor
Plan
Sketch
6/30/92
not drawn
to scale



8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Politics/Government

Architecture

Period of Significance

1785-1815

Significant Dates

1794

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Defibaugh Tavern is significant as a rare surviving and representative example of a late 18th through 19th century additive tavern property associated with a family who played a locally significant role in whiskey distilling and whiskey retailing during the Whiskey Rebellion. In addition, they were participants in the whiskey excise protest. Just as taverns served as centers for patriots during the American Revolution, they played essential roles during the Whiskey Rebellion as well. It was here that local farmers and artisans could not only discuss events within their communities but also learn from travelers of events outside of their communities. Taverns also served as rendezvous points for excise protest groups. (The Bonnet tavern, four miles west of Bedford, was the site of a liberty pole raising in the fall of 1794.) Although there is currently no historical information to indicate the Defibaugh Tavern's role in the Whiskey Rebellion, it is highly likely that with the family's anti-excise feelings, it was a center of anti-excise information and planning. The Defibaugh Tavern is also a rare surviving example of a late 18th/early 19th century vernacular style tavern in Bedford County.

The only other known extant taverns that may date to that period are the Bonnet Tavern, four miles west of Bedford, and the Hartley Tavern/House, about three miles east of the Defibaugh Tavern. However, neither was listed on the 1798 federal tax as being constructed of stone, the present building material. The Defibaugh Tavern is associated with distiller, Jacob Defibaugh who was active in the excise protest during the Whiskey Rebellion.

In the period 1791-93 there were approximately 38 taverns in Bedford County which at that time included Fulton and Somerset Counties. Of this number, 17 were located along the Great Road from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh, five were located in Bedford town, five in Bedford Township and three in Providence Township. Seven Bedford County tavern owners were charged in 1794 with criminal behavior in association with the Whiskey Rebellion.

Other taverns associated with the Whiskey Rebellion in the southwestern Pennsylvania region include: The Black Horse Tavern, Brownsville; The Black

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Horse Tavern, Canonsburg; The Black Horse Tavern, Rostraver Township, Westmoreland County; and the Tannehill Tavern in Pittsburgh. The Black Horse Tavern on Front Street in Brownsville was the site of the first excise protest meeting in July, 1791. However, this stone house was completely rebuilt in the early 20th century so that it no longer represents the Whiskey Rebellion period. The intercepted mail was opened at Henry Westbay's Black Horse Tavern in Canonsburg in July, 1794. That 2 1/2 story frame building on Central Avenue was demolished in 1903. Capt. Gabriel Peterson's Black Horse Tavern in Rostraver Township was the alleged rendezvous of whiskey rebels. The original log structure there was replaced by tavernkeeper William Sampson with a brick structure before 1808. Excise protest representatives from southwestern Pennsylvania met at Tannehill's Tavern in August, 1792. This building is not among the three surviving 18th century buildings in Pittsburgh.

The context for this multiple property nomination showed that the overwhelming majority of buildings of the period and in the southwestern Pennsylvania region were constructed of log. This fact is confirmed by a letter dated October 19, 1794 from a soldier in the federal army, "Last evening we came to this place, Bedford, a little town situated in the forks of the Juniata---the town is but small & consists chiefly of log houses--indeed almost all the houses from Carlisle to this place about 70 miles, are log covered with puncheons, ---"

According to an article in the local historical publication, The Pioneer, the Defibaugh Tavern was started as a family project. Casper Defibaugh had immigrated to America in the 1750's and had patented a tract of 215 acres on the Raystown branch of the Juniata River by 1774. This record also indicates that Casper was married three times and had at least ten children. The 1784 tax lists Casper with 125 acres, two dwellings, and having a family of nine persons. About 1785 the Defibaugh Tavern was built on part of this land by Casper and his son Gottlieb. However, no Gottlieb shows up on the tax records.

John "Devebaugh" was taxed as an innkeeper or liquor retailer in Providence Township by 1785. He continues as such at least until 1811. According to family records, he was born as Johann Gottlieb Defibaugh in 1755. He moved to Somerset where he opened another tavern. According to records at the Somerset Historical Center, "Johannes Difenbacher died December 25, 1816." The court and tax records are confusing because they list him only as John. (This probably resulted from the fact that English recording officials didn't recognize the difference between Johann and Johannes.) Gottlieb had a brother who was Johannes or John. This John (1772-1814) lived in Cumberland Valley Township located southwest of Bedford Borough.

Other brothers of John or Gottlieb included Adam and Jacob Defibaugh. Adam Defibaugh was indicted for riot, assault and battery in the August, 1794 term of the

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Bedford County Court of Quarter Sessions. The November, 1794 records for the same court shows that Jacob and Adam Defibaugh were among those charged for treasonous activities during the whiskey excise protest movement. All of the defendants named were "recognized to the January, 1795 term." However, according to the January records, neither had to pay a fine. Adam and Jacob were among the 125 men indicted for "a riot and other treasonable proceedings in assisting and abetting the setting up a seditious pole in opposition to the laws of the United States." Bill Defibaugh of Bedford stated that his great-grandfather, Benjamin F. Defibaugh, said that federal troops burned the Defibaugh distillery. In addition, the same source said that both Defibaughs served jail terms, albeit short ones.

Both Jacob and Adam were members of Capt. Patrick Heany's Militia Company during the Revolutionary War. Adam cannot be found on the tax rolls for the period of this study (late 18th/early 19th centuries). He is listed as a single freeman in the 1784 census tax for Colerain Township. According to family records Adam was never married, but Jacob, born c. 1756, was married to Barbara Dibert. Both are reportedly buried in unmarked graves in the Defibaugh graveyard located southwest across the Juniata River from this house.

This building can actually be traced to Jacob Defibaugh. Jacob "Davebaugh" was taxed with two stills by 1789. The 1795 tax shows him with 123 patented acres, 80 acres by improvement, one dwelling, and one barn and stable. By 1801, he is only listed with one still. In 1807, he is taxed as a farmer with one distillery. The distiller was a key element in the whiskey excise protest movement. The excise tax profoundly affected them, and likewise how the distiller responded to the tax influenced the community's response. At least five of the men charged for treasonous activities in Bedford County were distillers.

A Bedford County deed dated 1800 shows John Devibaugh selling horses, wagons, cows, and wheat and rye to Jacob Devibaugh. This indicates that some kind of business arrangement was occurring between the two. Possibly these goods were payment for whiskey made by Jacob. The tavern and hotel continued to be operated by various members of the Defibaugh family until the 1860's. (Bill Defibaugh has copies of tavern licenses for John, John, Jr., Jacob, Mary, and William Defibaugh.)

It was a drovers tavern in the early 19th century. The drovers stock was corralled for the night while the drover slept at the tavern. By the middle of the 19th century it was known as Willow Grove Tavern. In the late 19th and early 20th century the tavern became known for its chicken dinners and wagon loads of people came over from Bedford Springs Hotel to enjoy these.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Helen Hill Greenburg, "The Story of the Willow Grove Tavern," The Pioneer (Bedford, PA., October, 1975)

Bedford County Quarter Session records

Bedford County Deed, Estate, Orphans Court and Tax records

History of Bedford, Somerset and Fulton Counties, Pennsylvania with Illustrations and Biographical Sketches (Chicago: Waterman, Watkins & Co., 1884)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- Preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property 1 1/2 acres

UTM References

A

1	7
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7	1	7	3	7	0
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4	4	3	3	5	6	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at a point on the north side of Rt. 30 in line with the east gable end of the Defibaugh Tavern; then going 50 feet west along Rt. 30 to a point; then going north 375 feet to a point just northwest of the barn; then going 125 feet east to a point just northeast of the barn; then going south 375 feet to a point on the north side of Rt. 30; then going west 75 feet to the place of beginning.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

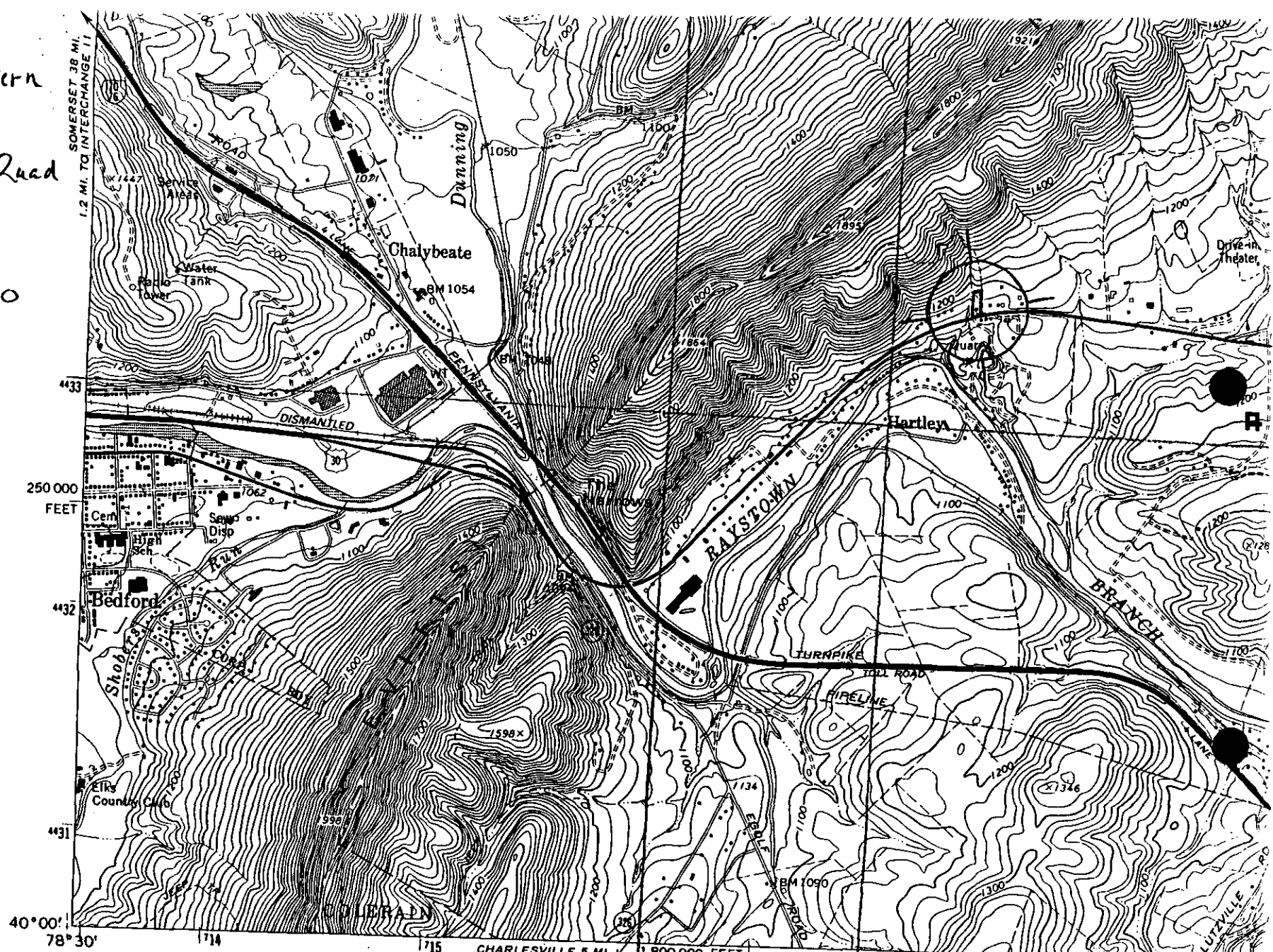
The boundary includes the Defibaugh Tavern, contributing log barn, and immediate setting.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jerry A. Clouse date July 21, 1992
 organization Penna. Hist. & Museum Commission telephone _____
 street & number P. O. Box 1026 city or town Harrisburg state Pa. zip code 17108

Defibaugh Tavern
 Bedford Co.
 Everett West Quad
 Zone 17
 E 717370
 N 4433560



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
 Control by USGS and USC&GS
 Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
 taken 1967. Field checked 1968
 Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
 10,000-foot grid based on Pennsylvania coordinate system, south zone
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
 zone 17, shown in blue

(RAINSBURG)
 5263 1 NE

(CLEARVILLE)
 5363 IV N
 SCALE 1:24

CONTOUR INTERVAL
 NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL