

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Pennsylvania
COUNTY: Washington
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Century Inn

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Hill's Tavern

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Route 40, National Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Scenery Hill

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
26th

STATE:
Pennsylvania

CODE:
42

COUNTY:
Washington

CODE:
125

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	Inn	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mrs. G. F. Harrington

STREET AND NUMBER:
Route 40

CITY OR TOWN:
Scenery Hill

STATE:
Pennsylvania

CODE:
42

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Office of Recorder of Deeds, Washington Co. Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
South Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
Pennsylvania

CODE:
42

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Pa.

COUNTY: Washington

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

1. NAME		
COMMON Century Inn	AND/OR HISTORIC Hill's Tavern	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
2. LOCATION		
STATE Pennsylvania	COUNTY Washington	TOWN Scenery Hill
STREET AND NUMBER Route 40, National Road		
3. MAP REFERENCE		
SOURCE USGS, 7.5' Series Ellsworth quad.	DATE 1960	SCALE 1:24000

REQUIREMENTS: PROPERTY BOUNDARIES, WHERE REQUIRED, AND NORTH ARROW:

GPO 932-010

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

1. NAME		
COMMON Century Inn	AND/OR HISTORIC Hill's Tavern	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
2. LOCATION		
STATE Pennsylvania	COUNTY Washington	TOWN Scenery Hill
STREET AND NUMBER Route 40, National Road		
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT Washington Co. History & Landmarks Foundation	DATE Summer 1973	NEGATIVE FILED AT Washington Co. History & Landmarks Foundation
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		

View of southwest facade

GPO 932-009

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The inn is a five-bay, 2½ story stone building with two gable stone chimneys. Taverns and inns in Western Pennsylvania were built in a domestic form. This is one of the finest eastern Pennsylvania vernacular Post Colonial buildings in Washington County, both in form and details.

The inn has an L-shaped plan. Originally the rear wing was a one-story stone structure. Around the turn of the 20th Century, a frame second story was added to this wing. On the front facade, the masonry is squared in a most precise manner and regularly courses. Smaller blocks about the window frames on every other course and lintels are formed by splayed voussoirs. Above the door is an oblong transom. The ground story windows are double sash form, original in appearance, with 12-over-12 lights. The second story and dormer windows have been replaced with more modern sashes.

The beauty of these vernacular Georgian features is not diminished by the later 19th Century additions. The Greek Revival verandah stretches across the entire front facade: the roof was well placed above the ground story lintels and below the second story sills. The columns, abacus and entablature are the most simple Greek Doric form. The brackets below the cornice are an Italianate addition. They too have been carefully placed so as not to interfere with the Georgian lintels.

The importance of this building, historically and aesthetically, cannot be overestimated. It is truly the pride of Washington County and one of the most important buildings in Western Pennsylvania. The interior furnishings include many Western Pennsylvania pieces of the 18th and early 19th Centuries; it is hoped that this fine collection of antique furnishings and accessories will soon be catalogued. The original tavern kitchen still exists and has an exceptionally large cooking fireplace which was uncovered during restoration work in the 1940's.

The Century Inn is extremely sturdy and in excellent condition. There is a modern restaurant kitchen addition beside the original ell. The first floor is now operated as a restaurant, the second floor has bedrooms for overnight guests and the attic floor provides living quarters for the owner.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian; 16th Century 18th Century; 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1794

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | osophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Originally called Hill's Tavern, the Century Inn was built in 1794 by Stephen and Thomas, founders of the village of Scenery Hill -- originally known as Hillsborough when it was laid out in lots in 1819. It is the oldest extant tavern on the National Pike.

The National Road, which began in Cumberland, Maryland, was extended through Washington County in 1818. The Pike was the greatest American road project of the 19th Century. It had been conceived years earlier by George Washington, who personally examined the area proposed for the road. Albert Gallatin, who lived on the east bank of the Monongahela River in Fayette County encouraged Washington as to the feasibility of the road. Gallatin, later secretary of the treasury under Jefferson, exerted the political pressure on Jefferson to run the proposed extension of the Cumberland Road (National Pike) through Washington County. The road was basically finished in 1818, but the State of Pennsylvania did not officially open it until 1835.

There has never been a more important period in Washington County's history than the days of the National Pike. The road's most important function was to provide a relatively fast and easy means of delivering the mail.

Because of Washington County's principal position on the highway, it was the center of commerce and communication between East and West. Taverns and inns naturally sprang up to accommodate the numerous stages, Conestoga wagons and drovers.

Taverns in Western Pennsylvania are essentially domestic both in form and scale. Century Inn is not only the best vernacular stone building along the National Pike, but one of the finest Western Pennsylvania Post Colonial vernacular stone buildings. The basic Georgian form and details of the building equal the sophistication of those on the Eastern seaboard, despite the 19th Century additions. The inn is furnished with period antiques, many of them by Western Pennsylvania cabinet makers of the late 18th and early 19th Centuries. The original kitchen has an exceptionally large cooking fireplace.

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Pennsylvania	
COUNTY Washington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

Century Inn, significance:

The importance of the Century Inn, architecturally and historically, is undeniable. It is of great regional importance stylistically, as it is built in the Post Colonial Western Pennsylvania vernacular style which in itself is a unique development in American architectural history. The 19th Century additions are equally refined and tasteful representations of their respective Greek Revival and Italianate periods, sensitively incorporated in the original design.

It must be counted as one of the most important architectural remains in the county. Historically, it reflects the one-time prosperity that the National Pike brought to Washington County. The National Pike and the Malden Inn are inseparable entities closely connected with the westward expansion of our country.

Century Inn has been in continuous use as a tavern since it was built, which accounts for its excellent state of preservation. In the early 1900's, it was called the Central Hotel. The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission has placed a commemorative marker on U.S. Route 40 (National Pike) at the inn.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Mulkearn, Lois & Edwin V. Pugh. A Traveler's Guide to Historic Western Pennsylvania. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1954.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		40 ° 05 ' 09 "	80 ° 04 ' 18 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
James D. Van Trump, Landmarks Planning, Inc.

ORGANIZATION: Washington Co. Overall Economic Development Program
DATE: Summer 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
1 South College Street

CITY OR TOWN: Washington
STATE: Pennsylvania
CODE: 42

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

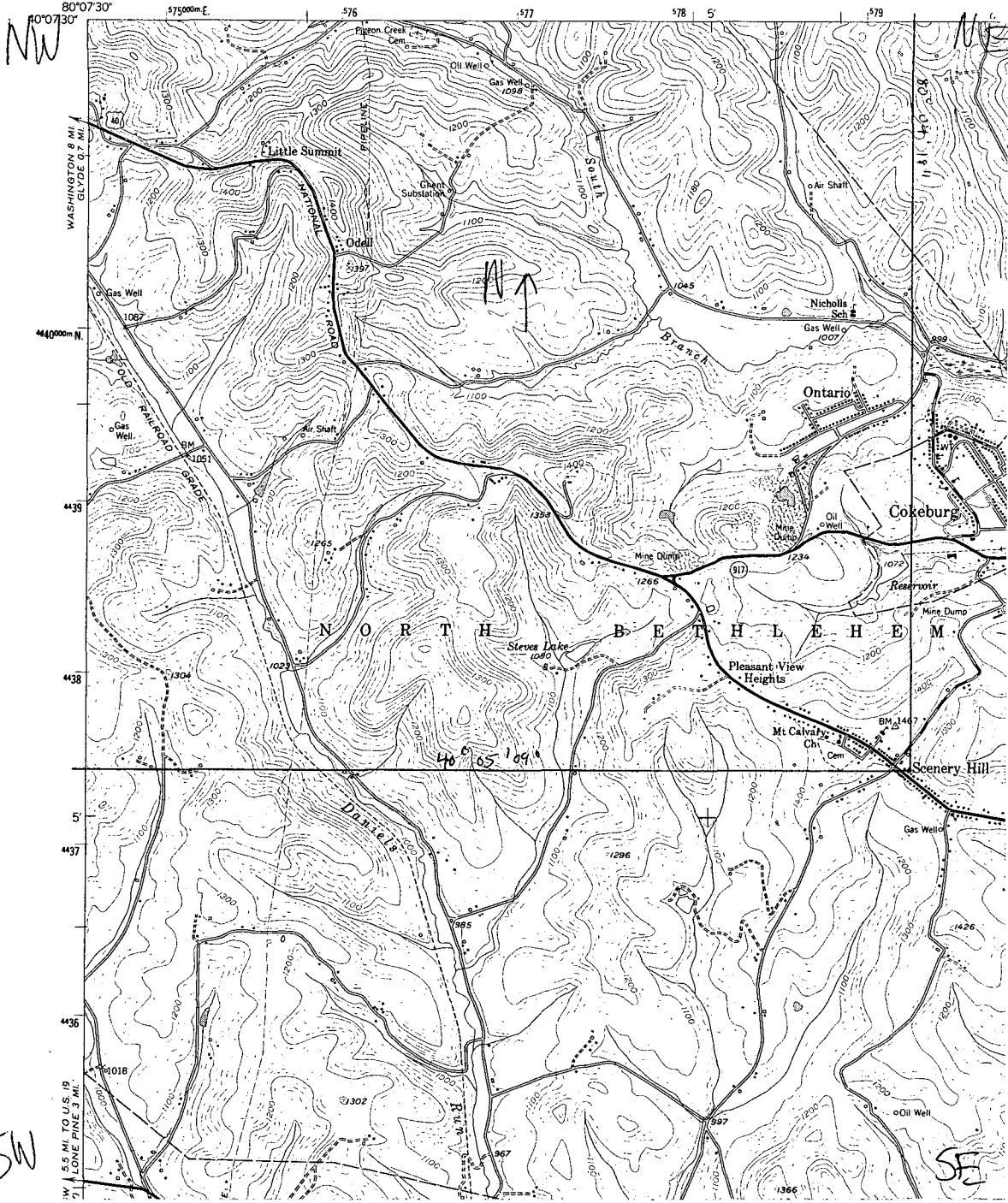
Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Sheet 12, NW
WASHINGTON EAST

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



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