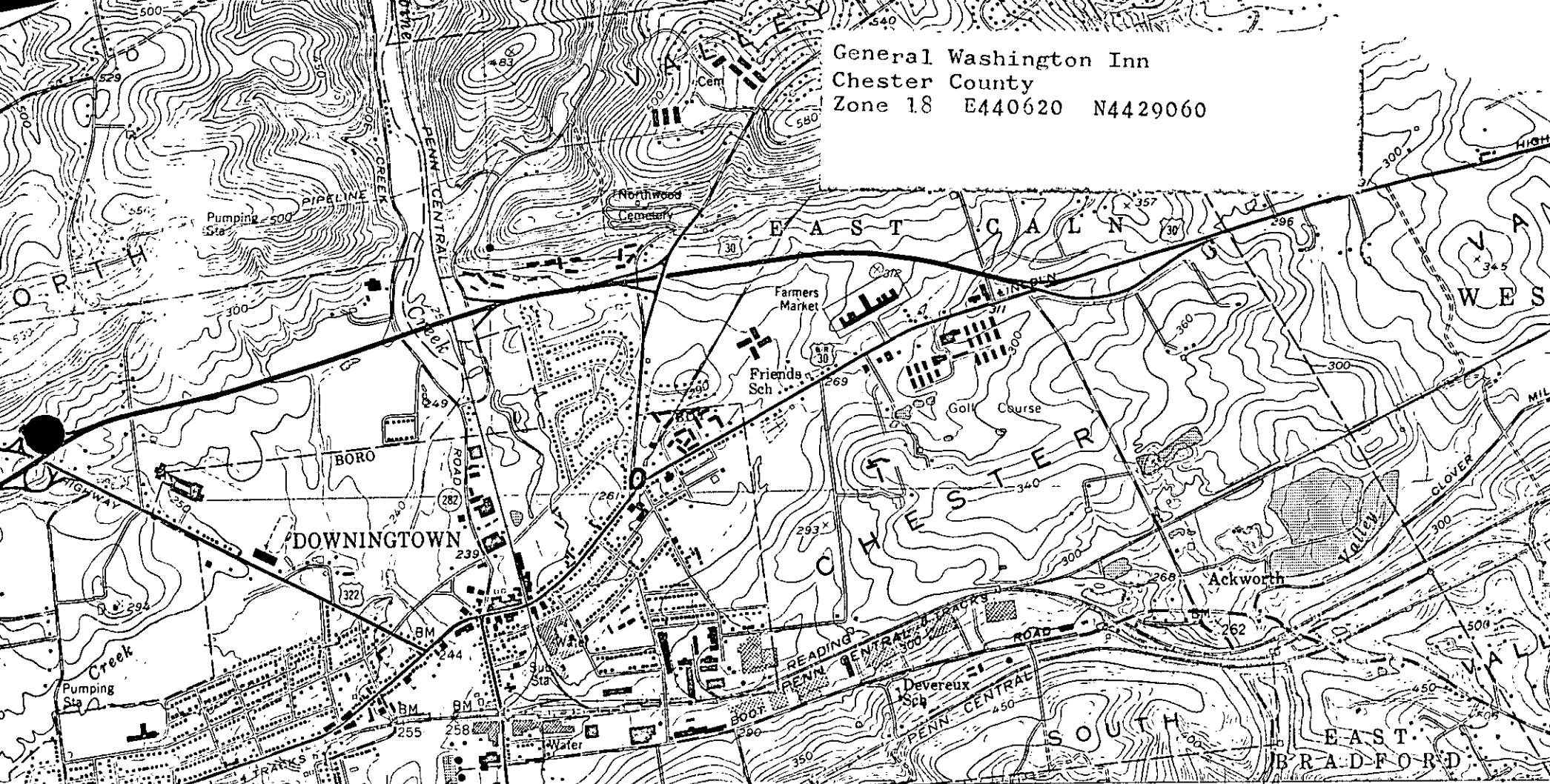
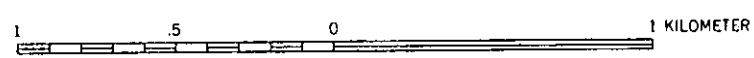
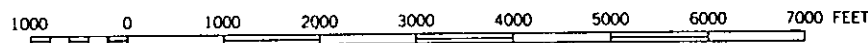
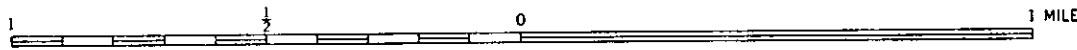


General Washington Inn  
 Chester County  
 Zone 18 E440620 N4429060

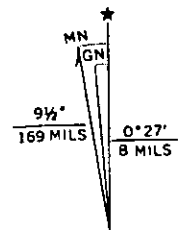


THORNTON 15 MI. WESTER 32 MI. 12 570 000 FEET 42'30" ALTOR 3 MI. WEST CHESTER 6.5 MI. 41 (UNIONVILLE) 5863 1 NW 42 43 40' 723 MI. TO U.S. 322 44

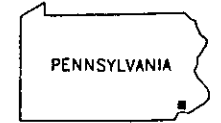
SCALE 1:24000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
 NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929



UTM GRID AND 1973 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

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

GENERAL WASHINGTON INN

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Uwchlan and East Lancaster Avenues

-- NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Downingtown

-- VICINITY OF

5

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Pennsylvania

42

Chester

029

**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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Charles L. and Daniel M. Tabas

STREET &amp; NUMBER

915 North Delaware Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Philadelphia

-- VICINITY OF

STATE

Pennsylvania

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Chester County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

High and Market Streets

CITY, TOWN

West Chester

STATE

Pennsylvania

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

10/19/78

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

---

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Constructed in 1761 as an inn, the two story fieldstone and limestone structure measures  $62\frac{1}{2}$  x 35 feet. The primary construction material is cut and dressed rectangular shaped quarried limestone. The ashlar masonry of strict horizontal courses has joints laid up in mortar.

The front facade faces south-west with a veranda,  $62\frac{1}{2}$  x  $10\frac{1}{2}$  feet, covering the width of the building, of which the roof separates the first and second stories. The support posts are made of decorative wrought iron.

The first floor front has 5 bays, 18 lights, each with a meeting rail dividing the lights evenly, panelled shutters and narrow headers and sills. The door on the west front entrance to the kitchen and living quarters has eight molded panels while the lintel and jambs of the doorway possess simple, heavy lines. Although the original structure followed conservative Georgian features, the right front entrance to the public rooms of the inn, is indicative of Federal architecture changes made in the mid-19th century. The 8 panel door is topped with an elliptical fan light and a stone arch. The sidelights have 4 panes each with panelling towards the bottom.

The seven bays on the second floor are the same as the first floor with the exception of the following two items: louvered shutters are used and each bay has 15 lights.

The four front dormers have twelve lights with middle pitched overhanging roofs. The medium pitched roof has overhangs on the gable ends and a projecting cornice. The rafters are fastened with wooden pegs and no ridge pole was utilized. The interior chimneys on the east and west ends have been reconstructed.

The back porch is of circa 1870-1880's also extending the width of the structure, about 9 x  $62\frac{1}{2}$  feet. A stone wall separates the public inn rooms from the private or kitchen quarters. There is possible evidence of one walk-in fireplace, and 3 or 4 smaller fireplaces on this same wall. The east end has four fireplaces, two each on the first two floors.

The majority of hardware and molding on the first floor is mid-19th with the possibility of a wooden spiral staircase installed at the same time. The staircase winds up the height of the whole building.

Molding, hardware and flooring in the attic and second floor are 18th Century.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

100-100-100-100

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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

The original owner, John Downing, was a Quaker, whose conservative beliefs are evidenced in the construction of the building by eliminating more decorative features of the Georgian architectural period.

Mr. Downing applied for a tavern license in 1761 at the Court of Quarter Sessions in Chester County. It was variously called "King in Arms" or "King George" until after the Revolutionary War when the name was changed to "The General Washington Inn." According to the 1798 direct tax list, the house was 50 x 35, 2 stories high with 35 x 12 one story high stone kitchen. The combined lengths is its present size. The foundation for the 11 x 11 ice house is still prevalent. The tavern license was renewed every year.

According to records at the National Archives and the State Library the inn served as a food commissary during the revolution for the troops. But one of its most famous facts is that the first post office in Chester County was housed in the inn. Although the property was owned by John Downing, Mr. Hunt Downing was appointed as postmaster on September 10, 1796. A continuous official list of postmasters is in existence from that date.

Downingtown was the half-way point between Philadelphia and colonial Pennsylvania's inland town of Lancaster. Therefore, many drivers and horses were exchanged at this stage coach stop. The buildings needed for this major endeavor are listed on the 1798 direct tax list. They are: 1 one-story stone barn, 40 x 30 that needs repairs; one 18 x 18 old log stable that has been repaired; one stone, 34 x 26 livery stable in good repair; one stone 40 x 18 stage stable; one stone, 80 x 10 shed; one stone wagon shed; two outhouses.

Only the inn remains of this original complex of buildings.

