

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 ABRAHAM ELDER STONE HOUSE/TAVERN

AND/OR COMMON

Elder's

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Pennsylvania Route 550

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Stormstown

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

23rd

STATE

Pennsylvania

VICINITY OF

CODE
42

COUNTY

Centre

CODE

027

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT
 BUILDING(S)
 STRUCTURE
 SITE
 OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC
 PRIVATE
 BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
 IN PROCESS
 BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED
 UNOCCUPIED
 WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
 YES: RESTRICTED
 YES: UNRESTRICTED
 NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE
 COMMERCIAL
 EDUCATIONAL
 ENTERTAINMENT
 GOVERNMENT
 INDUSTRIAL
 MILITARY
 MUSEUM
 PARK
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE
 RELIGIOUS
 SCIENTIFIC
 TRANSPORTATION
 OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Albert and Betty Peters Graham

STREET & NUMBER

R. D.

CITY, TOWN

Port Matilda

STATE

Pennsylvania 16870

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Centre County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

High Street

CITY, TOWN

Bellefonte

STATE

Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

1976

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDSPennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission
William Penn Memorial Museum, Box 1026

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

The Abraham Elder House/Tavern is a 2½ story (no dormers), five bay limestone building. The building was built in several phases, the two major periods being 1808 and 1832. The 1808 section corresponds to the two bays on the left side of the facade (23' x 25') and is divided into two rooms with an enclosed stairwell at the rear. A large chimney on the western wall contains two corner chimneys, one opening to each room. The exterior of this section is roughly laid up with small stones.

The 1832 section corresponds to the three bays on the right side of the facade and the stone kitchen ell at the rear (approximately 29' x 43'). The exterior of the 1832 section has roughly squared stones of larger dimensions than 1808 section and is more carefully coursed.

The exterior entrance to this section is one of the most outstanding features and appears in the center of the facade, with the 1808 entrance just to the left. The doorway features an elliptical stone arch embracing a fanlight and door with sidelights. Entering this door one faces the stairway located on the western wall. The stairway is open string with simple square newel post and balusters.

This large front room has an exposed summer beam running west and east and a parlor fireplace in the eastern wall. An exterior doorway to the right of this fireplace has been obscured with a built-in bookcase in modern time.

All detailing in both sections exemplifies rural craftsmanship.

The room behind this front room was a kitchen with a large cooking fireplace on the northern, or rear, wall. The fireplace was removed circa 1920, but the base of the fireplace remains in the cellar.

The kitchen wing originally had a loft with shed roof, but this was expanded much later in the 19th century into a full, 2nd story under a gable. This ran continuously over a new room on the first floor, today serving as a kitchen. The attic reveals planed rafters which are abutted at the center.

Later in the 19th century, a frame section was added to the stone kitchen ell. It is banked, allowing a full basement story (stone). There is a basement under the stone and frame kitchen ell, but only a crawl space under the front sections of the house.

The eastern elevation has three entrances; one in the main 1832 section, a door into the stone kitchen ell with a gable frame porch and steps, and a third into the basement of the frame portion of the ell.

The integrity of the house has not been greatly altered. The removal of the original kitchen fireplace is the greatest loss. A stone spring house sits to the rear of the house. One wall section has been repaired with under-block and a modern tin roof was added.

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"/> 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" 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 1808, 1832 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Abraham Elder

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Abraham Elder Stone House/Tavern is a key site in the settlement of the Centre County region and figures in the early history of local commerce. Elder was the first settler of Halfmoon Valley (building a log house in 1784). His stone house (1808) was located directly on the Bellefonte-Pittsburgh Turnpike (1804) and served as a tavern stand for many years. Elder died in 1827, and five years later his son enlarged the house to the east. The house stands today well-preserved, even though its historical significance has been largely forgotten.

Linn's History...is our major source of information on Abraham Elder and this tavern. Elder built his house upon the site of his log house. It was at this earlier house that the first public meetings in Halfmoon Valley were held, and the Presbyterians gathered there for worship. According to Linn, "Elder's" was the first halting place after leaving Bellefonte and was "a place much patronized by freighters, haulers of iron, and other wayfarers."¹

Because of the large quantities of Centre County iron going westward to Pittsburgh, the road in front of Elder's house bore heavy traffic. Elder also operated a small store from his house and continued to welcome public meetings and other gatherings. Elder's enterprise extended to the operation of a saw mill and a grist mill. His son, Robert (died 1871), was eulogized as "one of the best known and most popular citizens of Centre County"² and owned 800 acres of land at the time of his death.

Architecturally the house stands apart from other contemporaneous buildings known to us. The double-fireplace in the older section is a rare feature and the floor plan is not characteristic. The arched and lighted entrance to the 1832 wing and the mantelpieces inside are the only elements where a consciousness of style is expressed. This is a fine example of functional rural architecture.

¹ Linn, page 309
² Ibid.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Linn, John Blair. History of Centre and Clinton Counties. Philadelphia, Pa., L. H. Everts, 1883.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 752020 4520120
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

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 Gregory Ramsey, Historic Registration Project
 Madeline Cohen, Office of Historic Preservation

ORGANIZATION Centre County Courthouse DATE October 14, 1976
 Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Comm.

STREET & NUMBER 423 Allegheny Street TELEPHONE 717-787-4363
 P. O. Box #1206

CITY OR TOWN Bellefonte STATE Pennsylvania
 Harrisburg

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL X

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 *William J. Weaver*

TITLE Executive Director DATE Nov 1, 1976
 Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

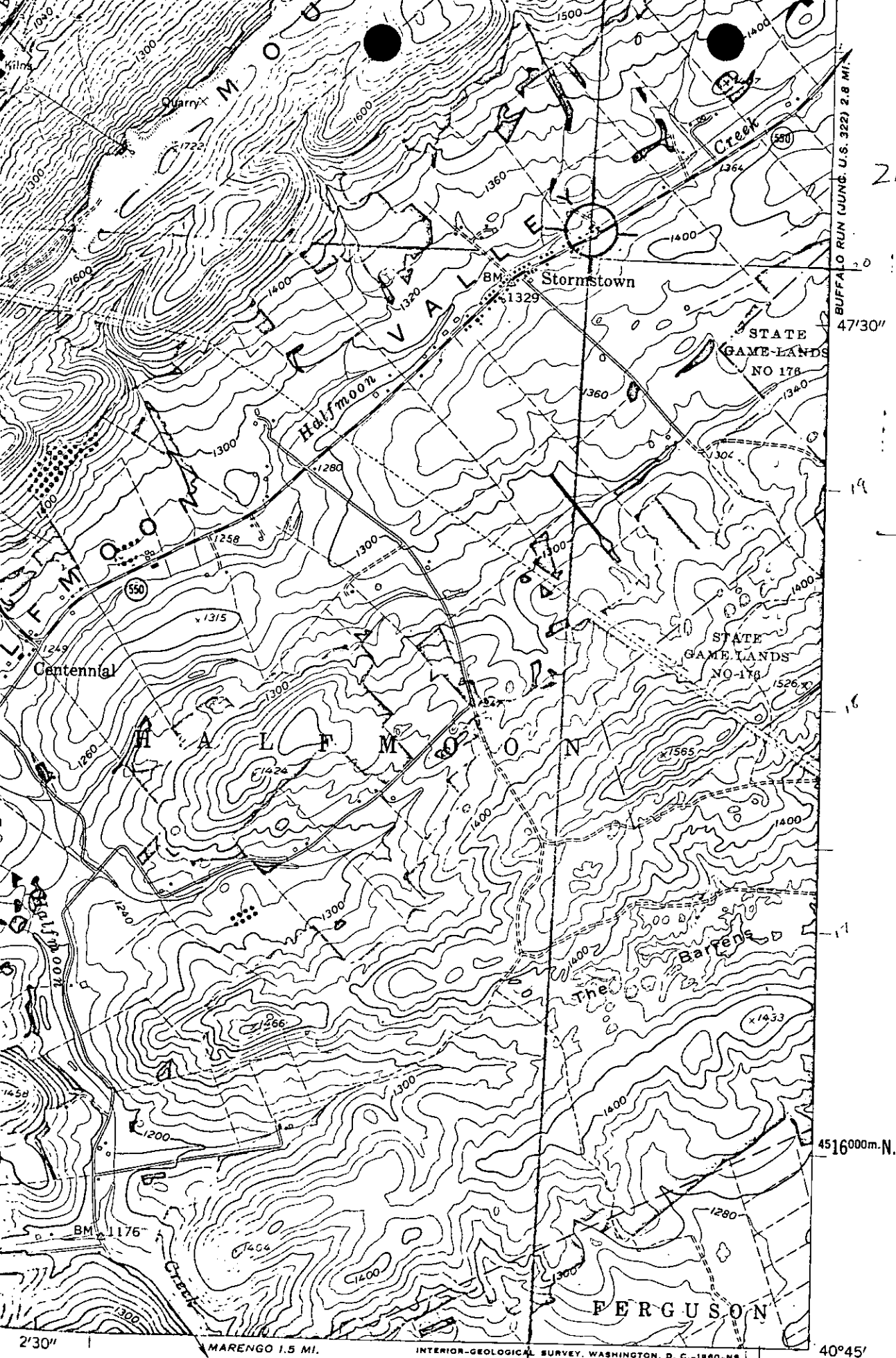
DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ABRAHAM EIDER STONE HOUSE/TAVERN
 Centre County
 ZONE 18 752 020 4520 120



1 MILE

MARENGO 1.5 MI.

INTERIOR-GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C., 1960-NB
 M R-4051

753000m.E.

40°45'
 78°00'

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———

ALLENSVILLE
 1:62,500