

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**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 PENN'S CAVE and HOTEL

AND/OR COMMON
Long's Cave

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 5 miles east of Centre Hall off PA Rte. 192 and
1 mile South of Penn's Cave Road

CITY, TOWN Centre Hall vicinity VICINITY OF 23rd

STATE Pennsylvania CODE 42 COUNTY Centre CODE 027

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"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME William P. Campbell

STREET & NUMBER R. D., Box 337

CITY, TOWN Centre Hall VICINITY OF STATE Pennsylvania 16828

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Centre County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER High Street

CITY, TOWN Bellefonte STATE Pennsylvania 16823

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places

DATE July, 1977 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

CITY, TOWN Harrisburg STATE Pennsylvania

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Penn's Cave House is a 3 story, 7 bay, frame structure with high mansard roof. To the northwest (rear) of the structure, there has been added a 1 story flat-roofed rear wing (c. 1962) presently used as a coffee shop for the convenience of cave visitors.

Upon initial sight of the Penn's Cave House, one is immediately impressed with the massive, imposing character that the structure lends. This character receives credibility in a combination of three separate factors. First, there is the impressive location, which tucked down in a low area (once an orchard) next to the cave site gives strength to a large, massive building of this type rising from its environment. Second, there is the beautiful proportion which the structure possesses, although simple in design, the proportion, like a monument, pushes upward adding solidity and strength to the edifice. Finally, the character is further enhanced by the type and style of construction itself. The mansard roof truncates the structure compressing it, and refuses to let it rise heavenward. The emphasis on the solidity of the structure is recognized in the large, rising pilasters on each corner; the heaviness created by the large overlapping eaves, crowned with the weighty mansard roof; and the emphasis on the skeletal structure exhibited by the large horizontal member dividing the second and third floor and repeated in the horizontal movement of the porch roof between the first and second floor and again at the sill around the bottom of the house.

The symmetrical facade of the structure is highlighted with two large doorways on the first floor, the door to the left opening to a public visitors area, the door to the right opening to the private residence of the W. P. Campbell family. Each door is flanked by two large pilasters and has a simple nine-light transom. The windows have a round-headed frame in which the upper portion is shaped in the form of a pediment with horizontal extensions.

The frame structure rests on a 22 inch limestone foundation and has a poured concrete floor. The floor joists are 3" x 5" rough-cut wood beams, and there is a long (50 feet) summer beam centrally located supporting the structure (8" x 8"). The total size of the main structure is approximately 50' x 28'. On the third floor (which we chose to examine) the construction seems to be unaltered. It must be emphasized that simplicity is the overall theme of the construction. The walls are frame and split-lath and plaster. Simple moldings and frames adorn the windows and doors. Original hardware (porcelain knobs and Victorian hinges) prevail throughout. (For details see photos.) In the attic the construction of the framework is as follows:

The upper most portion of the mansard roof has a hip frame construction on either end of the structure. This portion is supported by four center beams (2½" x 5½"). It has joists (2½" x 5½") that are 6½' on center that rest on four purlins corresponding with each end of the house. Additional support is added to the structure with a tie member which spans the distance between the joists and the rafters. The rafters are 40" on center.

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PENN'S CAVE AND HOTEL - Centre County

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Description: continued

The lower portion of the roof (steeper part of mansard) has 2½" x 5½" rafters that correspond with rafter and joist construction of upper portion. They are supported with 4 tie members on each long end of the structure and 2 tie members on each short end. The tie member spans from floor of the attic and are 2½" x 5½" in size. Finally the exterior of this framework is covered with 1" x 3" pine lath (8" o.c.) and covered with a tin roof.

The Penn's Cave House has gone through two phases of change since its original construction in 1885. The first and most major of these changes coming in 1938 under the direction of W. P. Campbell, the present proprietor of the Penn's Cave property. The changes consisted of the removal of a 3 story rear wing of approximately the same style and construction of the present structure. The wing contained a summer kitchen on the first floor, two bedrooms and a small room used as a lavatory on the 2nd floor, and boarding rooms similar to the ones that exist presently on the 3rd floor. (Also a rear stairway) The reason for the removal was two-fold. First, the rear section had extreme roof damage caused by weather and age; and, second, the space was not needed for the present operation of the cave since Mr. Campbell put greater emphasis on the operation of the farm. At this time it also appears that certain details were altered on the interior of the 1st and 2nd floors. Here one might make a note that the original structure had the simplest details throughout the building during its first construction. This is quite evident from 3rd floor examination which seems almost totally unchanged structurally. The interior changes consisted of removal of existing walls and the remodeling of interior space for the comfortable accommodation of the growing Campbell family.

The second phase of alteration came in 1960, again due to continued roof damage and continual dormer maintenance. The dormers were removed and a similar roof added without dormers using the existing super-structure. It would seem from all existing early photographic evidence and through structural examination that these are the only changes that were made to the structure. The builder of the Penn's Cave House was D. F. Luge who owned a planning mill in Centre Hall.

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 type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Recreation
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1885

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

D. F. Luge

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The site of Penn's Cave and Penn's Cave House, located near Centre Hall, is a pleasing example of two separate but related types of historic classifications. On one hand, there is the cave itself, which has, since its first discovery, been a natural curiosity with its beautiful Trenton (or Beekmantown) limestone formations. Then on the other hand there is Penn's Cave House which is a fine example of late 19th century rural Pennsylvania architecture and can be classified as such. Together the two, cave and cave house, combine to give a pleasing mix of the natural and man-made which has long attracted tourists and site-seekers to its location.

The cave itself is described in early Centre County history, 1883, as follows:

The cave in question is located upon the farm of John Long, about five miles eastward from Centre Hall. The entrance thereto is gained by a steep descent, which when made discloses a limestone cavern, roofed to the thickness of about twenty feet. A stretch of water covers the cavern's bottom and extends a distance of perhaps a quarter of a mile through the cavity, varying in width from sixty to less than ten feet. This miniature lake is the source of Penn's Creek, and reaches in its deepest part to a depth of seventeen feet. The temperature of the cave is about twenty degrees above the freezing point, and maintains it uniformly the year through. Access to the interior is obtained by means of a boat, kept at the command of visitors. The limestone formations in the cavern are exceedingly plentiful. In design they are varied and fantastic to an extraordinary degree and under strong light present a picturesque beautiful spectacle. The roof of the cave is studded in every part with a succession of seeming devices in frostwork while here and there delicate tracings mark the work as if the hand of cunning man had lavished upon the picture of the touch of consummate skill. Long's Cave is a curiosity well worth the attention of the student of nature or the scientific explorer after geological curiosities.

Although somewhat lengthy, the description of the cave establishes the site as a spot both frequently explored and filled with geological curiosities. A somewhat earlier account contained in Maynard, 1877, offers a further verification of the cave's use as both a recreational and geological hunting ground.

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Significance: continued

Three separate categories can be explored in a thorough investigation of Penn's Cave. First, there are many legends associated with the cave that have been passed down through generations. Second, there is the historical documentation dealing with the ownership of the property; and finally, there is the geological data concerning the formation and existence of the cave itself.

The first record of ownership was in association with warrants for survey dated January 5 and November 3, 1773, and issued in the name of James Poe. The patent for the land was granted April 9, 1789. James Poe left the land to his daughter, Susanna M. Poe, who married Samuel Vantries and the name of the location was known as Vantries Place. In 1868, the property was sold by Samuel Vantries to George Long who lived on the property until his death in 1884. Then in 1885, his sons, Jesse and Samuel, built the present Penn's Cave House and promoted the property as a tourist attraction until 1895 when the business failed. The property sat vacant until John A. Herman bought the farm some two years later. In 1908, the farm and cave was again sold to Dr. H. C. and R. P. Campbell, and has remained in the Campbell family until the present day.

Finally and perhaps most interesting, there is the geological data about the formation of Penn's Cave. Penn's Cave is in the physiographic division of the state known as the Ridge and Valley section. Stated briefly this means that the rock formations make ridges, and the more easily eroded rocks consisted mostly of sandstone, limestone, and shale have been worn down to valleys. Penn's Cave is in one of the limestone valleys.

Penn's Cave is situated in what is known as Trenton (Beekmantown) Limestone. This rock has been formed by limy mud laying on the ocean floor for hundred millions of years. Layer upon layer of these muds were compacted and hardened into rock by the movements of the earth's crust were squeezed into folds. Rock beds that have been folded may stand at any angle or even be overturned. In Penn's Cave the rock dips south at angles ranging from 20 to 30 degrees.

The geological history of Penn's Cave is represented by two cycles -- the slow dissolving of rock by ground water deep below the surface, and the lowering of the water table, draining of the cavities and the process of refilling with dripstone. This history is recorded very explicitly upon investigation of the interior labyrinth of the cave itself.

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PAGE

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Significance: continued

The Penn's Cave House exhibits the late 19th century rural Pennsylvania craftsmanship and design of its builder. The exterior has had alteration; and the interior, although altered on first and second stories, has the distinction of having the entire third floor unaltered perhaps since the original construction.

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Boundary Description:

The Penn's Cave and Hotel property consists of 57 acres of land (defined by the R. W. Stone map of April 1, 1930) and includes the following features:

Main entrance to cave (water entrance with boat landing)

Dry entrance to cave (historically, the first entrance)

The cave

Artificial tunnel at western end of cave, leading to pond

Pond, pond dam, and pump house (c. 1930 - The pump house is a minor structure which was built to house generating equipment for lighting the cave)

The Hotel (1885- name was changed to "the Cave House" in 1919 as building no longer had hotel function)

A barn and a 2 story frame farm house of common design (located right of center on 1930 map. Although no documentation exists this could indeed be the George Long homestead. Both prior to 1900)

A barn identified on the western portion of the map and a small concession stand (unidentified but depicted on the map as being west of the vent for the dry cave) are no longer standing. A four-car garage stands on the site of the barn. Three covered shelters, a covered fireplace, and a covered barbeque pit complete the inventory of structures. These are, of course, non-historic but are compatible with the environment.

Penn's Cave is a natural limestone cave, approximately 1300 feet in length, running in a general E-W direction. The bottom of the cave is covered with a stream of ground-water whose depth ranges up to 35 feet (at the cave's main entrance - the height of the cave's roof, incidentally, ranges up to 55 feet above the water surface).

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dubbs, Paul. Where to Go and Place-Names of Centre County. A collection of newspaper articles published in the Centre Daily Times, State College, Pa. 1959-60.
 Maynard, D. S. Industries and Institutions of Centre County. Bellefonte, Pa., Richie and Maynard, 1877.
 Linn, John Blair. History of Centre and Clinton Counties. Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1883.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 57 acres
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	28,04,5,0	4,52,819,4,0	B	1,8	28,03,8,0	4,52,856,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,8	27,976,0	4,52,86,5,0	D	1,8	27,982,0	4,52,904,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

one lot of the life estate to base and to the other side of the road to the north side of the road
 one lot of the life estate to base and to the other side of the road to the north side of the road
 one lot of the life estate to base and to the other side of the road to the north side of the road

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
 Michael Halm, Assistant/Gregory Ramsey, Coordinator
 ORGANIZATION
 Centre County Historic Site Registration Project
 DATE
 1977
 STREET & NUMBER
 High Street
 TELEPHONE
 814-355-3249
 CITY OR TOWN
 Bellefonte
 STATE
 Pennsylvania

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 *William J. Wewer*
 TITLE WILLIAM J. WEWER, Executive Director
 Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission
 DATE 3/16/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

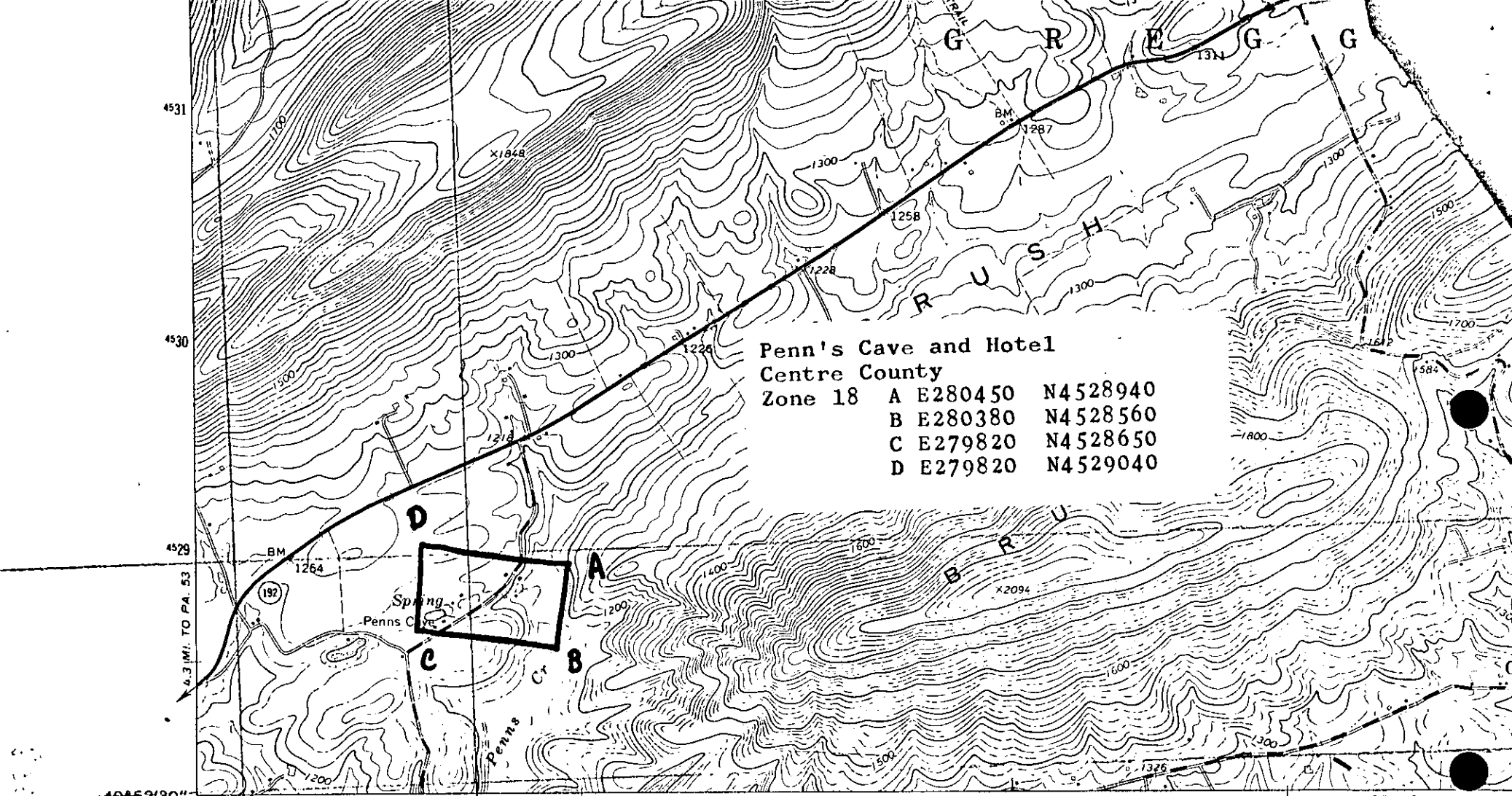
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



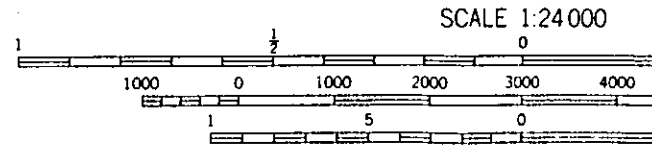
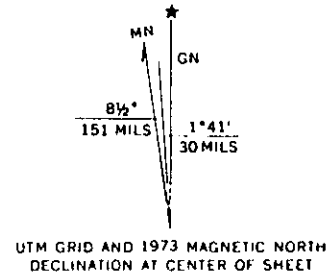
Penn's Cave and Hotel
 Centre County
 Zone 18

A	E280450	N4528940
B	E280380	N4528560
C	E279820	N4528650
D	E279820	N4529040

40°52'30" 77°37'30" 279 280 2040 000 FEET 281 282 35' 283 (SPRING MILLS) 5465 1 SE

CENTRE HALL
 5465 1 SW

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
 Control by USGS and USC&GS
 Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1964. Field checked 1966
 Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
 10,000-foot grid based on Pennsylvania coordinate system, north zone
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 18, shown in blue
 Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
 DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAPS ACT
 FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS