

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

EAGLE TAVERN

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Woodhill and Eagle Roads

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Upper Makefield Township

VICINITY OF

8

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Pennsylvania

42

Bucks

017

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

__DISTRICT

__PUBLIC

*__OCCUPIED

__AGRICULTURE

__MUSEUM

*__BUILDING(S)

*__PRIVATE

__UNOCCUPIED

__COMMERCIAL

__PARK

__STRUCTURE

__BOTH

__WORK IN PROGRESS

__EDUCATIONAL

*__PRIVATE RESIDENCE

__SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

__ENTERTAINMENT

__RELIGIOUS

__OBJECT

__IN PROCESS

__YES: RESTRICTED

__GOVERNMENT

__SCIENTIFIC

__BEING CONSIDERED

__YES: UNRESTRICTED

__INDUSTRIAL

__TRANSPORTATION

*__NO

__MILITARY

__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Barash

STREET & NUMBER

Eagle Road R.D. #2

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Newtown

VICINITY OF

Pennsylvania 18040

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder of Deeds Office

STREET & NUMBER

Bucks County Administration Building

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Dovlestown

Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

"Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places"

DATE

July 21, 1976

__FEDERAL *__STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

CITY, TOWN

Harrisburg

STATE

Pennsylvania 17120

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 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 present Eagle Tavern building is constructed of randomly laid field stone over which has been placed a thin application of coarse stucco. The original portion of this building dates to the late eighteenth century, while the larger (Eastern) section was erected in 1854. On the West end stands an attached one-story car garage, a recent addition.

The earliest section of the building is 2½ stories high, two bays wide, and capped with a steep pitched roof. The door of the building faces South, a common characteristic of many of these very old structures. The quoins (of a deeper color) give the house a sense of durability and recognizable structural support in both sections of the building. The northern wall of this section has two windows (two sash, six over six) on each story surrounded by a very plain wooden trim. Two very small windows on the top floor overlook the garage which thematically carries out the original design with its treatment of gable roof and windows (again, two sash, six over six). The flooring and woodwork-- including the impressive beamed wooden ceilings-- are original as is the huge walk-in fireplace of randomly laid field-stone which covers the entire western wall of the first floor. Originally, this large room was partitioned into two smaller rooms and the curving corner of the great fireplace once served as a hearth for the the northern room. This hearth, however, was eliminated with the opening of the two rooms into one large portion and was filled with matching stonework (although the thick lintel is still visible). The center beam, supporting the heavy wooden ceilings is pegged with a series of smaller beams spanning the ceiling, and once divided the area into what were the two small chambers. An enclosed winding stairway to the second floor was constructed in the often-employed box form and is complemented by a similar fabrication which leads to the cellar.

The second floor of the 18th century section, also once divided into two small rooms, has been converted into one large room, but it too retains the original flooring, beams, wooden ceiling and corner stone fireplace (over which an unobtrusive 20th century mantle has been added). The southeastern wall of the second floor bedroom has a door

check dating - 18th C?

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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whose three ascending steps lead to the later portion of this building. Deep interior door and window reveals are outstanding features in the earliest of the edifice.

The 1854 section of the Eagle Tavern building is three bays wide and three bays deep. It is $2\frac{1}{2}$ stories high and the top floor--once the hotel's great ballroom--has three eyebrow windows in both the northern and southern walls. A dual chimney stack unit, linked at its base, is inset with a carved datestone inscribed with the initials of the builder and his wife (Moses and Rachel Van Horn) and the year of its construction: "M. H. & R. V. H. 1854." The chimney (or Eastern) end of the building was once covered by wooden siding but this frame construction has been removed to expose a stucco covered stone facade. Also, a small first story removed. The gable roof is not as steeply pitched as the roof of the earliest section of the building. A wide doorway--once an entranceway for the commercial establishment--still remains. The windows of the first floor are two sash, six over six and each window of this later addition are flanked by shutters. The center window of the second floor, as well as the one directly above it, is fashioned with thin sidelights.

The first floor of this mid-19th century addition has two rooms whose windows are underscored by thick wooden sills. The window wells are exceptionally deep and gently curved. The second floor has three bedrooms, one of which (30' by 26') was converted by removing the wall between two smaller quarters. The deep reveals on the second floor are accentuated by massive wooden sills similar to those employed in the window construction of the building's first floor. Four bedrooms have been carved out of the large open space on the top floor which once served as the ballroom for the hotel.

The alteration executed on the Eagle Tavern building have been done with care and consideration for the structure's original appearance. Even though the dimension of the rooms have been changed, enough of the characteristic period features still convey its charm.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1800 & 1854

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Builder: Moses Van Horn 1854

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Eagle Tavern, long a landmark of Upper Makefield Township, served the early settlers of Bucks County as hostelry, post office, polling place, and general store. In 1813 James Vance, owner of the property, was granted a license to conduct a tavern in his house which stood on the main road, mid-way between Newtown and New Hope. In the same year, Vance was also accorded the privilege of having his tavern serve as voting place for the Upper Makefield election district. Vance, however, kept his tavern license for only one year but rented the establishment to several tenants who carried on the successful venture. It was in 1820 that a petition filed by Joel Doan, one of Vance's successors, first listed the tavern as the " Spread Eagle."

The building, presently a private residence, still retains many of the original features which impart a charming late-18th century character. The oldest portion of the building--typical of the late 18th century construction--retains much of the original woodwork and wide plank flooring. Massive hand-hewn beams span the wooden ceiling and a large walk-in stone fireplace dominates an entire wall on the first floor. A winding stairway to the second floor is constructed in the often-used box form. Deep interior door and window reveals and also convey this overall pre-1800s felling.

The mid-19th century addition is much larger than its earlier counterpart and was erected for commercial purposes. From its construction in 1854 by Moses Van Horn, a local businessman and promoter, until the end of the 19th century, this section of the building served as hotel, store post office, and voting headquarters for Upper Makefield Township. Its entire third floor once accommodated a spacious ballroom, but this has been partitioned into four bedrooms.

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Both sections of the Eagle Tavern building served the community in a myriad of ways during the 18th and 19th centuries. A common meeting place and center of varied activities for not only residents of Upper Makefiled Township but Bucks County as well, the Eagle Tavern hosted pioneers and travellers on the old rural highway systems. It stands today, with its cautious alterations and conscientious restoration, as a tribute to those casual community centers which have been rendered obsolete by a highly mobile and fragment-industrial society.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Yerkes, Harman, Chairman. Historical Phamplet. Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania.: Washington Crossing Park Commission of Pennsylvania, 1920.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .5 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A | 18 | 505 | 100 | 44 | 15,900,000 |
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C | | | | | | | | | | | | |

B | | | | | | | | | | | | |
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D | | | | | | | | | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Michael J. O'Malley

ORGANIZATION

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

Box 1026

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Harrisburg

STATE

Pennsylvania 17120

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

TITLE

WILLIAM J. WEWER, Executive Director
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

DATE

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

