

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 HALF-MOON INN

AND/OR COMMON

Court Inn, Thornton's Tavern

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 101 Court Street - North Portion
105 Court Street - South Portion

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN

Newtown

VICINITY OF

8th

STATE

Pennsylvania

CODE
42

COUNTY
Bucks

CODE
017

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"/> MUSEUM #101
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS #105	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL #101
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED #101	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO #105	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE #105
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Newtown Historical Association, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER

Box #303

CITY, TOWN

Newtown

VICINITY OF

STATE

Pennsylvania

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Administration Building

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Doylestown

STATE

Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

The Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

1/17/77

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

CITY, TOWN

Harrisburg

STATE

Pennsylvania

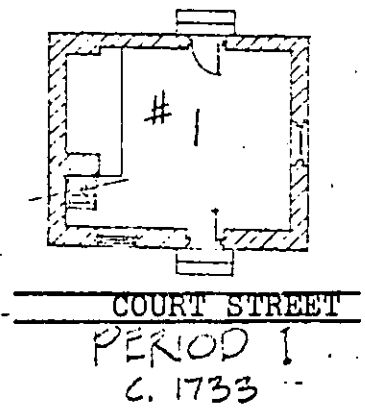
7 DESCRIPTION

	CONDITION	CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
:	X EXCELLENT	__ DETERIORATED	__ UNALTERED
	__ GOOD	__ RUINS	X ORIGINAL SITE
	__ FAIR	__ UNEXPOSED	__ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

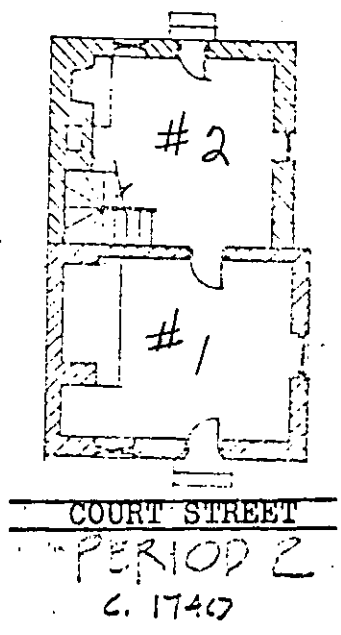
The Half-moon Inn is located on Court Street, Newtown diagonally across the street from the Bucks County Courthouse of 1725-1813. One of the five original lots laid out for public buildings in 1725 the lot was purchased by Joseph Thornton. The first building on the site was a one and one-half story, stone and frame house with a cooking fireplace and a cellar. Today this section is the front of the #105 unrestored wing.

#1. 1733



By 1740 a one room stone addition was added to the rear of the first section. This addition has a full cellar with cooking fireplace and oven, and a small wall fireplace on the first floor.

#2. 1740



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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

7

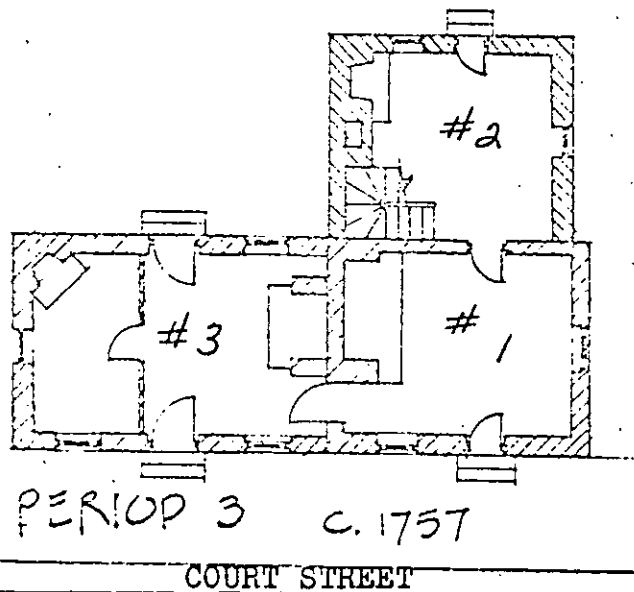
PAGE

1

Description: (continued)

In 1757 a large two story brick fronted addition was added to the left of the original (#1) section. This is the front of the #101 section today.

#3. 1757.



In 1792 the rear wall of the 1757 addition (#3) was removed and a large two story stone wing was added necessitating the construction of a new roof over the whole section.

#4. 1792.

(See Page 2)

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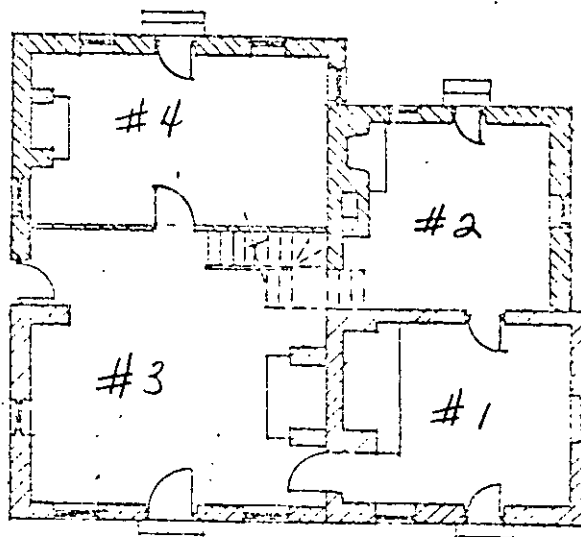
HALF-MOON INN - Bucks County

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Description: (continued)

#4. 1792



PERIOD 4 C. 1792

COURT STREET

Sometime between 1825-40 a full second floor was added over sections #1 (1733) and #2 (1740).

The #101 Court Street section (sections #3 & #4 with common roof), is 2 and $\frac{1}{2}$ story structure with a gable roof and plain boxed cornices. The foundation and rear & side walls are stone and the front wall is brick laid in Flemish bond style. The front is 3 bays wide with 8 over 8, three panel shuttered windows. The doorway is segmental in shape with a radiating brick arch. A full front wooden overhang shadows the door and lower windows. This section was restored in 1965 and is used as the headquarters of the Newtown Historical Association, Inc.

The #105 section is at this time unrestored, it is stucco with a clapboard and shingle second floor. Sometime between 1825-40 the roof of the section was removed and a timber-frame full second floor was added. This portion of the building has been Victorianized and a one-story porch added to the front and side.

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 checked="" 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 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 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

In 1725 when the Bucks County Courthouse was to be moved from Bristol to Newtown, five acres of land was purchased from John Walley to be used for the public buildings. These five acres were divided into six lots, the first of which was reserved for the courthouse and jail. The rest were laid out in lots and streets and put up for sale. The first recorded parcel was sold to Joseph Thornton on March 16, 1733. At the time of the purchase Joseph Thornton was reputed to have lived on the site for 8 years prior to his purchase and was listed as an Innkeeper on the deed of 1733. He also paid rent to John Walley for the Red Lyon Inn during 1733 and part of 1734. It therefore appears likely that Joseph Thornton had a small residence on his lot while operating the Red Lyon down the street, and opened an inn of his own shortly thereafter. Joseph Thornton and his family continued operation of their Half-Moon Inn until 1795. The buildings were then sold to various owners and operated as a tavern until 1818.

The Half-Moon Inn building is interesting in its gradual growth from 1733 until 1792. Operating as an inn for approximately 85 years it was an important social center for the community particularly during the years Newtown was the county seat. Several alterations have been made to the structure but all prior to 1800. The larger section of the inn was restored in 1965 to its 1700's appearance and plans are being made to restore the remaining section.

The Half-Moon Inn is an excellent example of a composite structure of the 1700's. Operating as an Inn for 85 years it was an important part of the social and commercial community particularly during the years Newtown served as the county seat. Architecturally the building is a fine example of a functional colonial style. And the use of stone and Flemish bond brickwork make the building attractive in appearance, and identify its importance in the public center of 18th century Newtown.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Barnsley, E. n. "Historic Newtown". Published at Newtown, Pa., June, 1934.
Davis, W. H. "The History of Bucks County". Published by Lewis Publishing Co., New York, N.Y., 1905.
Hutchinson, J. Pemberton. "Newtown Prior to 1800", Papers read before the Bucks County Historical Society, Vol. II.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .5

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	5105142,0	44	5218,2,0	B				
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING
C					D				

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

/Susan M. Zacher

ORGANIZATION

Newtown Historical Association, Inc./P.H.M.C.

DATE

February 25, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

Box #303/P.O. Box 1026

TELEPHONE

717-787-4363

CITY OR TOWN

Newtown/Harrisburg

STATE

Pennsylvania

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

TITLE

WILLIAM J. WEWER, Executive Director
Pennsylvania Historical & 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

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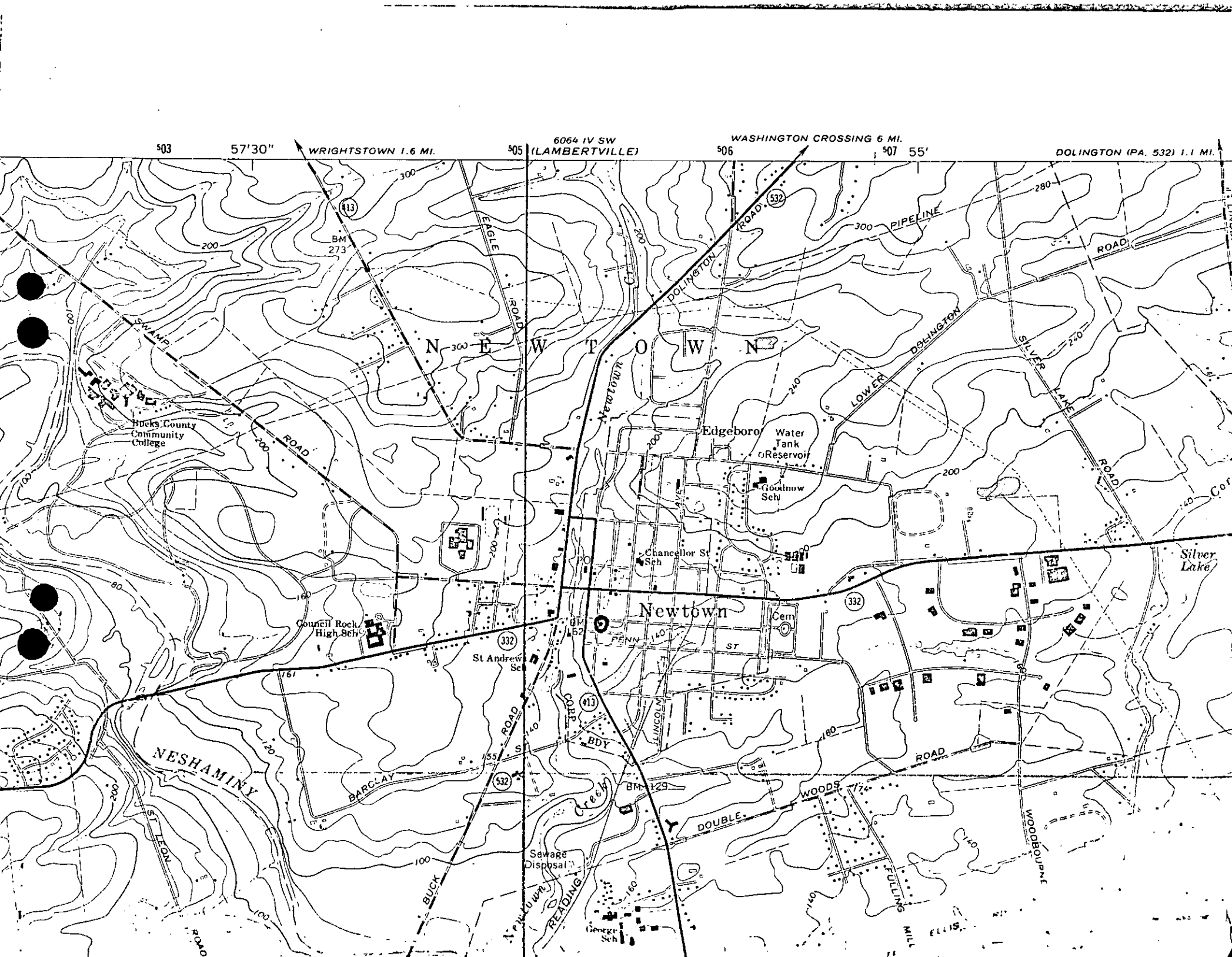
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New Hope, Pa., 1965.

McNealy, T. A. "A History of Bucks County". Published by Bucks
County Historical-Tourist Commission, Fallsington, Pa., 1970.

Lebegern, G. G., Jr. "Episodes in Bucks County History". Pub-
lished by Bucks County Historical-Tourist Commission, Falls-
ington, Pa., 1975.



503

57'30"

WRIGHTSTOWN 1.6 MI.

505

6064 IV SW (LAMBERTVILLE)

506

WASHINGTON CROSSING 6 MI.

507 55'

DOLINGTON (PA. 532) 1.1 MI.

N E W T O W N

Newtown

NESHAMINY

Silver Lake

