

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yes 17

FOR NPS USE ONLY
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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
HOLICONG VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER **Located at intersection of Old York Road and
Holicong Road** -- NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CITY, TOWN **Buckingham Township** VICINITY OF **8** CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
STATE **Pennsylvania** COUNTY **Bucks** CODE **017**

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input 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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<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 **Multiple**

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. **Bucks County Courthouse**

STREET & NUMBER
Main and Court Streets

CITY, TOWN STATE
Doylestown Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places

DATE **1/22/79** -- FEDERAL STATE -- COUNTY -- LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS **Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission**

CITY, TOWN STATE
Harrisburg Pennsylvania

74 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 Holicong Village was once the location of a historic period campsite of the Lenni-Lenape. It was an ideal place for settlement with its stream and abundant game. Legend has it that the spring and underground river was an important local landmark.

The natural spring which is connected to this river is known today as the Konkey Hole (parcel no. 6-14-85) and the Indian campsite was near this venerated spot.

The Old York Road runs through the village and is one of the oldest roads in Bucks County. This section was built c.1720 and was largely responsible for Holicong's early growth.

Intersecting Old York Road at the village is Holicong Road, a fairly narrow secondary road, dotted with farm complexes and open fields. This was the first, and is the only road built over Buckingham Mountain. The part which goes over the mountain was built literally in steps so the carriages and wagons could go up a level, then let the horses rest before proceeding further.

The Holicong Village Historic District is made up of 18 historic structures (including a well preserved limekiln) on 9 properties. There are only two intrusions, a home and garage on parcel no. 6-14-87, built c. 1965. The breakdown of ages of the main sections of these 18 historic structures is as follows: seven were built in the 18th century, ten in the 19th century, and one in the 20th century. They are mostly 2½ story, fieldstone, partially or completely stuccoed, with slate roofs. Several structures have additions; some are 18th and 19th century additions, most are early 20th century additions.

One unique feature of the village is the fact that almost every one of the 9 historic properties was originally used for some type of service. As the area grew, more services were needed, so more structures were built.

The limekiln, erected c.1732, and the Quarryman's House, pre-1750 (both on parcel 6-14-42) were associated with the earliest industry in the area, quarrying and burning lime. The stone home on parcel 6-14-78 was the Buckingham Post Office from c.1806-c.1843, and served both Solebury and Buckingham Township residents. The Holicong Store, parcel no. 6-14-42-3, was the village's general store from the early 1800's, possibly earlier, and houses the Holicong Post Office established in 1881. The long white plastered building, 6-14-42-2, at the intersection was Martha Hampton's School for Girls, an institution for well-to-do young women, established c.1824. Diagonally across Old York Road is the former one room school house, Greenville Public School no. 4, 6-14-79, built 1863. Across Holicong Road is the property where Gilbert's Tannery, 6-14-86, operated in the mid 19th century. The village's wheelwright shop was also located on this property at that time. The only frame house, The Anvil House, 6-14-42-1, which is also the only historic structure built in the 20th century, was built on the site of the village's blacksmith shop. The remaining historic properties in the district are two farms with barns and outbuildings; Holicroft House, 6-14-43 and Barley Sheaf Farm, 6-1485.

Said to be the second building built in Holicong, the Quarryman's Home 6-14-42 A exemplifies the crude construction of a settler's cabin, many of which dotted Bucks County's early landscape. Similar to another home in Buckingham Township is the north gable wall built into a bank and exposing only 1½ stories with a door to the second story. The home is of low, small proportions with a massive chimney rising from the southwest corner.

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The next stage in the typical Bucks County Quaker residence is seen in the western half of Holicroft House 6-14-43 A. 2½ story stone home with a gable roof is 3 bays wide and one pyle deep or approximately 20 feet by 30 feet, the dimensions suggested by William Penn and followed by many Pennsylvania settlers. The fenestration is that common in homes of the mid 18th century. The centre door is flanked by two windows on the 1st floor. Two windows are above those on the second floor, the center bay is left empty.

This style became more sophisticated as a version of the Georgian in the mid to late 18th century by the simple addition of a window above the door. The west end of Martha Hampton's School for Girls 6-14-42-2A and the Old Buckingham Post Office 6-14-78A illustrate this style plus three other common features: blank gable walls (save the small attic windows) interior end chimneys and triangular pediment and transom over the front door.

"Martha Hampton's" and "Holicroft House" are today fine examples of a well known southeastern Pennsylvania characteristic - the "I" house. Subsequent additions have produced in both cases narrow structures with a very long front and rear facade. These additions if taken alone are examples of Federal homes in Central Bucks County. The "Holicroft House" addition is a "2/3 Georgian": 2½ stories, single pyle and three bays, but with the front door in a side bay. The east end of "Martha Hampton's" was also a common Federal house form: two bays, double pyle and 2½ stories.

Although the fenestration of 6-14-86 A is rather haphazard the proportions and eyebrow windows were a common feature of late Federal and Greek Revival homes of this area. The heavy overhang of the cornice and widely spaced brackets were traits of the Italianate copied in Bucks County in the 1850's.

The Mansard roof transformed many hotels and private homes in the 1870's. What was probably a typical 18th century three bay, single pyle, 2½ story gable roofed home at Barley Sheaf Farm (614-86A) was enlarged to the east and given a Mansard roof in the late 19th century. 20th century additions typify the major alterations given homes of Bucks County's theatre, business and literary elite in the 1920's through 1940's.

The "Anvil House" (6-14-42-1) is a common frame house form found in many of Bucks County's villages and towns throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. 2½ stories, 3 bays, single pyle with a gable roof and 2½ story, single bay, single foundations and often filled with stones between the studs.

The barn to the "Holicroft House" (6-24-43 B) is of proportions characteristic more of English than German traditions. It is stone 2½ stories, 3 bays, with a gable roof in "saltbox" design extending to the 1st floor on the southeast side. Although the "saltbox" overhang appears to be a later addition, the tapered wooden column used for support appears with a number of barns in the area. A trait more often attributed to the Germans, the banked barnhill to the threshing floor on the north side was once against the northwest facade of the "Holicroft" barn, but removed and the threshing doors filled with stone.

The barn at Barley Sheaf Farm (6-14-85C) exhibits German traditions adopted by the English.

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Three and $\frac{1}{2}$ stories and much larger than Holicroft barn, this barn has a fieldstone ground floor and frame second and third stories. Again there appears the bank on the northwest side, but the southeast side still displays the "vorschuss" with several ground floor doors for the animals.

The shed on the Post Office property (6-14-78 B) is a fine example of a 19th century small frame barn accompanying many village properties. Of note is the pulley and small doors serving the second floor. The core section of 6-14-42-3B is of the same dimensions as 6-14-78 B but received extensive additions as needs increased.

A carriage house form more common to farm complexes in this area is the present residence behind Martha Hampton's 6-14-42-2 B. Although given a new use in the 20th century this stone $2\frac{1}{2}$ story outbuilding still retains its original dimensions and the gable-ended front orientation.

The stone sections 1 and 2 of Holicong Store 6-14-42-3A were built in the same manner as a residence, $2\frac{1}{2}$ story, stone with gable roof. Perhaps only one room on the first floor was originally used for commercial purposes. Section 3 of the store is a typical 19th century commercial frame addition.

Rather unusual is Section 2 of the Old Buckingham Post Office 6-14-78A. Although appearing to be built the same time as Section 1, the projection closer to Old York Road and lower levels suggest a design for a specific purpose. As this could have been the post office section, it was probably situated closer to the road to receive bags of mail tossed by passing postmen. The door in the gable end also seems characteristic of service buildings.

Perhaps stirring the most interest and relating much about the importance of this little town is the remains of the limekiln. In the center of the northeast corner cluster of buildings it was for more than a century focal point of the community. Although the top has been altered to serve as an ice house, the stone arch and construction into a hill are characteristic of Bucks County limekilns. This kiln is the only one remaining in the Buckingham Township section of the rich limestone belt.

Unique to Holicong is the presence of both private and public school buildings. Martha Hampton's School for Girls is an imposing site as one travels through Holicong. Beginning perhaps as a residence it was added to and adapted to meet the need of educating many of the area's young. As a boarding school, every space was utilized hence the somewhat uncommon dormers for attic chambers.

The Greenville Public School #4 6-14-79 is far less distinctive than Martha Hampton's being the standard one room schoolhouse design of the mid-19th century. $1\frac{1}{2}$ stories, 3 bays, single pyle this building is typically oriented with the gable end and front door towards the major road. The romanseque attic windows and transom and sidelights around the door give the only flourish to this plain building.

Holicong, while not a large village, serves as a time capsule of English Quaker building traditions in the Central Bucks area of the 18th, 19th, and early 20th centuries.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

PREHISTORIC
 1400-1499
 1500-1599
 1600-1699
 1700-1799
 1800-1899
 1900-

ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
 ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
 AGRICULTURE
 ARCHITECTURE
 ART
 COMMERCE
 COMMUNICATIONS

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

COMMUNITY PLANNING
 CONSERVATION
 ECONOMICS
 EDUCATION
 ENGINEERING
 EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
 INDUSTRY
 INVENTION

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
 LAW
 LITERATURE
 MILITARY
 MUSIC
 PHILOSOPHY
 POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

RELIGION
 SCIENCE
 SCULPTURE
 SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
 THEATER
 TRANSPORTATION
 OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The village of Holicong or "Hollekonk" as it was called in Indian times takes its name from the natural spring around which the Leni-Lenape camped.

In the midst of a limestone belt, which later played an important role in the area's development, the Konkey Hole has amazed generations since Indian times. This curiosity, on Holicong Road between Valley Farm and Barley Sheaf Farm, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile east of Old York Road, is a funnel-shaped depression, which is about 120' across at the top, and from 30' - - 50' down to the water. The spring rises and falls within the funnel. At times it has been 20' across at the water level, but it will fall in time of drought until it appears to be no more than 6. In Indian times, there were many fantastic legends relating to the Konkey Hole.

Old York Road is one of the oldest in the county, its original section was built in 1693.

Because Old York Road allowed many travelers to pass through Holicong, many people became aware of the opportunities the village held. Possibly the largest drawing card was the lime-burning industry, which was responsible for employing many of the area's men. Limestone was quarried and burnt in this rural service center as early as 1703, the lime being used principally as a fertilizer until commercial manures came onto the market. It then became too expensive to produce the lime for this purpose. The lime was also used for mortar.

Holicong Village forms a unique potpourri of typical examples of 18th, 19th, and 20th century residences, barns and outbuildings, private and public schools, frame and stone construction, village and farm architecture, and industrial and commercial buildings. Strong English Quaker influence is seen in the majority of Holicong's buildings. Lacking obvious embellishments, the sturdy, conservative structures exhibit many of the Quaker building traits including the rectangular floor plan, $2\frac{1}{2}$ story proportions, symmetrical fenestration and use of local materials, especially the limestone.

The number of 18th century buildings is perhaps Holicong's strongest feature. A high percentage of Bucks County's crossroad rural villages were built in the early to mid- 19th century. Only a handful of villages and towns existed in the 18th century to meet the need of settlers and travelers. Holicong appears to be one of the earliest in Buckingham Township if not the Central Bucks area. Holicong is therefore important today as an example of a rural village established in the 18th century. The somewhat random placement of the structures within the general village boundaries tells today's viewer that the buildings were constructed as needed, not meant to conform to an overall plan. The result is an integration of residential, agricultural, industrial, commercial, and educational structures and activities.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bye, Arthur Edwin. Bucks County Tales 1685-1931. Correll Press, 1970.

Davis, William W.H. History of Bucks County. Pipersville, PA, 1975, Second edition, v.1 & v.2.

MacReynolds, George. Place Names in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Doylestown, PA, 1955, Second edition.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 45.9

QUADRANGLE NAME Buckingham, Pennsylvania

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1, 8 | 4, 9, 6 | 2, 0, 0 | 4, 4 | 6, 5 | 0, 4, 0

B 1, 8 | 4, 9, 6 | 4, 2, 0 | 4, 4 | 6, 4 | 8, 6, 0

C 1, 8 | 4, 9, 6 | 1, 9, 0 | 4, 4 | 6, 4 | 5, 6, 0

D 1, 8 | 4, 9, 5 | 6, 9, 0 | 4, 4 | 6, 4 | 9, 6, 0

E 1, 8 | 4, 9, 5 | 7, 8, 0 | 4, 4 | 6, 5 | 0, 7, 0

F 1, 8 | 4, 9, 5 | 9, 8, 0 | 4, 4 | 6, 5 | 0, 3, 0

G | | | | |

H | | | | |

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

Linda Loughran

ORGANIZATION

Buckingham Township Historical Commission

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

Box 413

TELEPHONE

215-794-8837

CITY OR TOWN

Buckingham

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 Ed Weintraub
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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HOLICONG VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT
Bucks County

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE










The boundaries of this rural district were drawn to include all relevant structures and features (i.e. spring, limekiln). The drawn district boundaries on district map and USGS map match to the best of the ability of the preparer of the nomination. Below is an altered verbal boundary description.

Beginning at a point at the NE corner of the intersection of Old York Road and Holicong Road, thence northwest 651.7 ft. along the eastside of Holicong Rd. to the W corner of the property on parcel 6-14-43, thence N48°15'E 579.4 ft. to the N corner of the property on parcel 6-14-43, thence S31°15'E 324.2 ft. to the E corner of the property on parcel 6-14-43, thence S82°18'E 330.5 ft. along the property line of parcel 6-14-42-1 crossing Old York Road, thence S46°45'E 351 ft. along the property line on parcel 6-14-85; thence N43°15'E 450 ft. along the property line on parcel 6-14-85; thence S46°18'E 1104.91 ft. along the property line on parcel 6-14-85; thence S44°30'W 1155.48 ft. along the property line on parcel 6-14-85 crossing Holicong Road; thence N49°06'W 1114.15 ft. along the eastside of Holicong Road, thence southwest 827.48 ft. along the southwest lines of the properties on parcels 6-14-79 and 6-14-78; thence N23°30'E 859.16 ft. along the southside of Old York Road crossing at intersection to the beginning point.

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
Holicong Village Historic District

Section 4-Continuation Sheet no.1

Index of Historic Structures

6-14-42		A:Residence B:Limekiln
6-14-42-1		Residence
6-14-42-2		A:Residence B:Residence
6-14-42-3		A:Holicong Store/ U.S. Post Office; also a residence B:Garage/shed
6-14-43		A:Residence B:Barn C:Outbuilding
6-14-78		A:Residence B:Garage/shed
6-14-79		Residence
6-14-85		A:Residence B:Small guest house/shed C:Barn D:"Konkey Hole"
6-14-86		A:Residence B:Garage

Section 4-Continuation Sheet no.2

Intrusions-Holicong Village

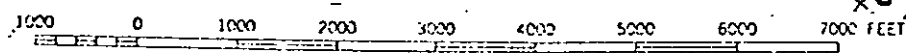
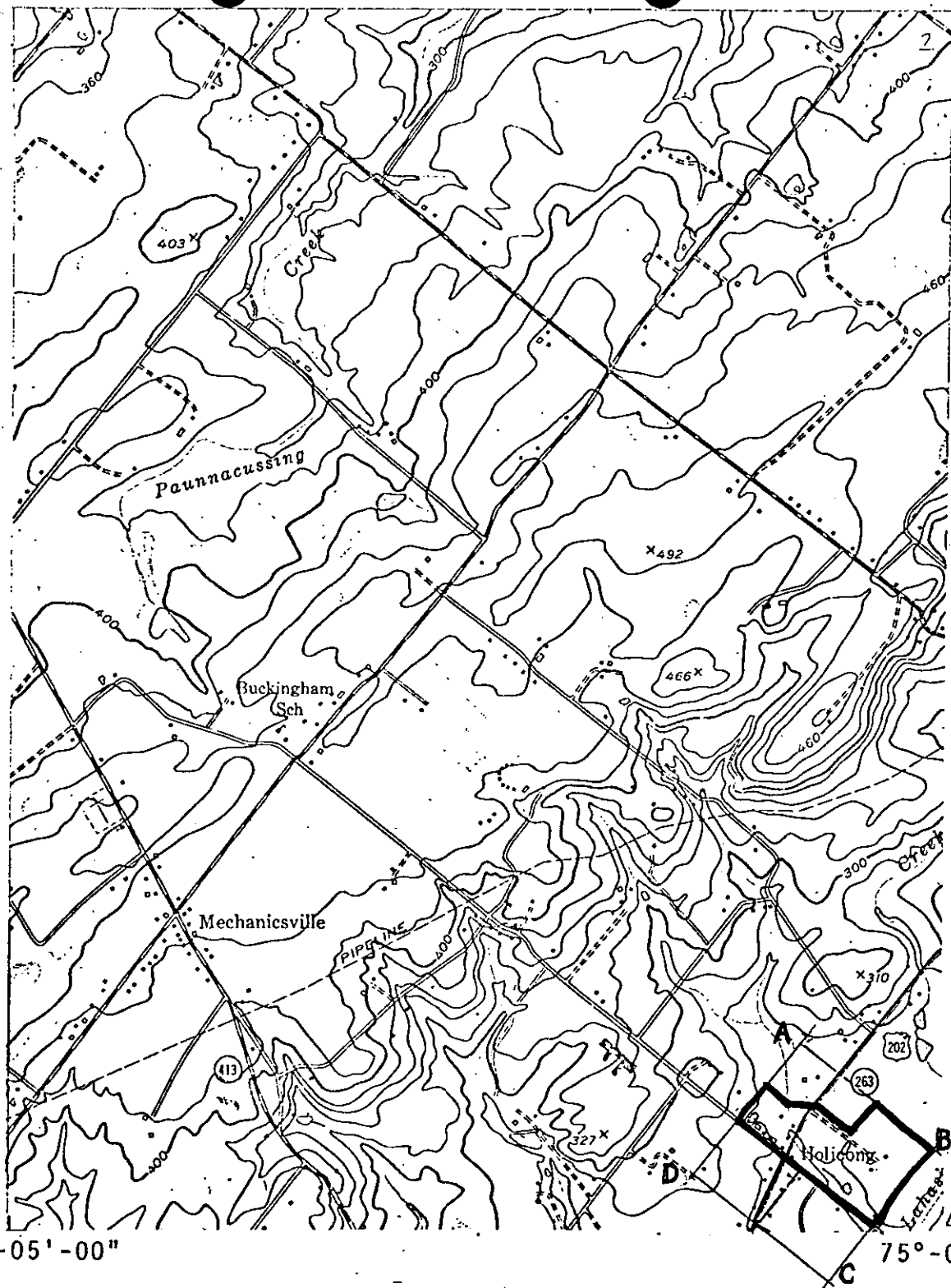
1. 6-14-87 (A) Residence (possibly vacant ?), c. 1965
Lot 3.67A S S US202 2570 ft W of T396
Holicong, Bucks County



Description: Split level-Frame construction, aluminum siding with partial brick facade, gable roof with asphalt shingles.

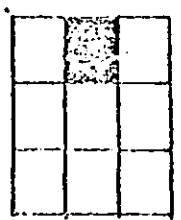
2. 6-14-87 (B) Garage, c. 1965
Same location and owner

Description: Frame construction, aluminum siding, gable roof with asphalt shingles.



SCALE 1:24000

HOLICONG VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT



UTM References:

A	18	495920	4465290
B	18	496430	4464900
C	18	496040	4464365
D	18	495510	4464750

BUCKINGHAM, PA.

N4015-W7500/7.5

1953

PHOTOREVISED 1968

AMS 5964 1 SE--SERIES V831