

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Brown-Moore Blacksmith Shop
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 0.1 miles west of SR 4020 N/A not for publication
city, town Merrittstown (Luzerne Township) N/A vicinity
state Pennsylvania code PA county Fayette code 05 zip code 15463

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Commerce - TradeVacant - not in useSpecialty store**7. Description**Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

No stylefoundation stonewalls brick - woodroof metal - rolled asphalt

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Brown-Moore Blacksmith Shop is located in a valley near Dunlaps Creek in the village of Merrittstown, Fayette County. The building faces west on the east side of Township Road 326 one hundred yards north of the Merrittstown cross roads. Township Road 326 is the old drovers road, the main link to the west during the early nineteenth century. The shop began operation in 1822 and continued until 1939 when it ceased operation due to the declining health of Earl Moore, the last proprietor of the business. The original, rectangular brick building were the two hand-operated forges are located faces Township Road 326. It is in sound condition and the blacksmith tools and facilities are safely secured. The wood, rectangular wagon shop addition on the south end of the brick building was damaged by a fire in 1918 and rebuilt in 1919 on the original foundation.

The brick building is supported by a stone foundation twenty-six feet long and twenty feet wide. The walls are red brick and laid in common bond with two windows in the front (west) wall and two in the rear. The windows are simple, double hung, six over six sash with 8" x 10" glass lights. There are two doors, one in front between the two windows and one located on the south end of the building opening into the wagon shop. A 12' x 14' shed roof supported by two large hitching posts has been reconstructed over the front door. Horses were tethered in this area while waiting for shoes to be replaced by the blacksmith. Two brick chimneys, which funnel smoke from the forges, extend through the rear (east) slope of the gable roof. The roof is corrugated metal which replaced the wood shingle roof destroyed by fire in 1918.

The wagon shop has a double 8' x 8' access door and two double hung six over six windows in the front (west) wall. Four windows and an access door pierce the south side, and three windows open the east end of the shop. The walls are 1" x 5" pine siding. A brick chimney extends through the roof on the east end of the shop. The roof is hipped on its west end, supported by 2" x 6" rafters, and consists of 1' x 10' wood sheeting covered with rolled asphalt roofing material.

The brick building and wood addition are in good repair since periodic maintenance and security is provided to ensure their integrity.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Brown-Moore Blacksmith Shop

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The two large stone forges span the full length of the interior, east wall of the brick building. A fire pot is located on the left end of each forge directly under the open chimney canape. A tuyere is located under the fire pot to control the air blast from the hand-operated bellows. The air from the bellows controls the temperature of the coal fire required for hot forging, welding, and tempering the hot iron or steel. Immediately to the left of each forge the bellows are in place supported by angle timbers and properly connected to the tuyere on each forge. The dual valve bellows provide a continuous blast of air to the coal fire when the fulcrum handle is raised and lowered. Both forges are kept in excellent operating condition. The original hand forge iron tongs, used for handling hot iron, are in place beside the fire pots. The steel anvils are anchored to large wood blocks immediately in front of the forges. The original iron forging tools are kept on a shelf between the two forges and the slack tub, holding water for cooling the hot iron, is in a handy location. Many of the tools are from the nineteenth century, and some replacement tools were made or acquired in the twentieth century before the shop closed.

A large work bench with a heavy blacksmith vise stands directly beneath the right front window of the brick building. The soldering irons, hand threading dies, and other miscellaneous tools and supplies are stored on shelves for handy access while working at the bench. A supply shelf covers the center of the north wall, holding storage boxes for a variety of nuts, bolts, washers, and small parts used for general repairs. Immediately in front of the supply storage, the wagon tire shrinker is anchored to a wood post set securely in the earthen floor. The coal supply is kept in the front corner of the north wall and a rack containing raw horse shoes is fastened to the front wall beside the front door.

The wagon shop has a 20' x 30' interior. A large work bench is attached to the south wall of the interior. Most of the wheelwright and general wood working tools are stored in drawers under the work bench. A hand operated drill press is attached to the east wall beside a tool cabinet. The iron heating stove using either wood or coal is located beside the drill press. A tool cabinet and tire bender are located near the north wall. The tire bender is used for building and repairing all sizes of wagon and buggy wheels. The 2" x 8" pine flooring on the interior is in sound condition.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Industry

1822 - 1939

1822 - 1867
1919

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Brown-Moore Blacksmith Shop is significant under Criterion A because it met the needs of villagers and farmers in the Merrittstown area as well as travellers on the drover's road which passed through the village. It is important under Criterion D for the information it can provide on how blacksmiths and wheelwrights plied their crafts during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The nominated building and its facilities are the best preserved of only three blacksmith shops identified in the Historic American Engineering Record's 1989-1990 inventory of historic engineering and industrial sites in Fayette County.

The Brown-Moore Blacksmith Shop opened in 1822. After the demise of George Brown, the shop was sold in 1867 to John C. Moore, an accomplished blacksmith, wheelwright, and wagon maker from Millsboro, Washington County, Pennsylvania. He had five sons, all of whom served as apprentices under their father in the Brown-Moore Blacksmith Shop. After their father died in 1895, the younger sons kept the shop in operation. It was finally closed in 1939 because of the failing health of Earl Moore, the youngest son and last proprietor.

The Brown-Moore Blacksmith Shop served Merrittstown and other local communities, farms, and travellers passing along the drover's road. Founded in the late eighteenth century, Merrittstown was a stop on one of the locally important east-west transportation routes, with stock drivers, freighters and others stopping there. During the early nineteenth century Merrittstown also supported a grist mill, post office, several taverns, a tannery, shoemaker, and cabinetmaker. Travel on the road decreased with the coming of the railroad through the area in the 1850s. Yet the blacksmith shop continued to serve travellers, local townspeople and farmers, prospering through the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The farmers and villagers depended primarily on the blacksmith for their hand tools, harness repairs and

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miscellaneous utensils. Also, various types of horse drawn vehicles were constructed and repaired in the shop. It was locally contended that, "If Jackie Moore and his boys can't fix it, they will make you a new one." The blacksmith and apprentices kept busy caring for horses' hooves and fitting them with iron shoes needed to protect their feet for rigorous travel on unpaved country roads. The Brown-Moore Blacksmith shop was the only one in the area which provided the varied facilities and skilled workmen in great demand during the nineteenth and early twentieth century.

The Brown-Moore Blacksmith Shop can provide important information about what blacksmiths and wheelwrights did and how they made various repairs or products. The number of men employed at this shop varied from three to six. The variety of skills available kept the shop in operation through all seasons of the year. The well preserved machinery and tools tell much about what work was done in the shop, with particular machinery and tools, such as the tire bender and tire shrinker, dedicated to specific tasks. The facilities and tools also shed light on the variety of skills needed in blacksmithing and wheelwrighting. For example, the bellows and slack tub indicate the critical role that the blacksmith's skill in controlling temperature played in forging, welding and tempering iron.

The Brown-Moore Blacksmith Shop is the best preserved of only three blacksmith shops surveyed in 1989-1990 in Fayette County by the Historic American Engineering Record. One of the other two shops, the Vanderbilt Blacksmith Shop in Vanderbilt, is a c. 1890 frame building later used as a residence. It has been extensively remodelled and is now used for storage. The Brown-Moore Blacksmith shop, with its very good integrity, is best able to provide information about the work done by blacksmiths and wheelwrights in Fayette County.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Ellis, Franklin. History of Fayette County, Pennsylvania. 2 vols. Philadelphia: L.H. Everts Company, 1882.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property 0.14

UTM References

A 17 594050 4425130
Zone Easting Northing

B _____
Zone Easting Northing

C _____
D _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Parcel D of Property Plan Survey for Glenn A., Robert L. and John C. Moore. Defino and Sons Land Surveyors, Grindstone, PA., 1980. See enclosed map.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes all the land historically associated with the significance of the Brown-Moore Blacksmith Shop. The stone house of John C. Moore, which he purchased in 1867, is located about 250' north of the shop along Township Road 326. It was excluded from the nominated property because its residential function is not directly related to the industrial function and significance of the blacksmith shop.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John C. Moore date February, 1992
organization _____ telephone (412) 246-8957
street & number Box 141 state PA zip code 15463
city or town Merrittstown



