

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

APR 04 1989

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

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 Taylor, Peter Farmstead  
other names/site number Shull Farm

2. Location

street & number 229 Wrights Road  not for publication N/A  
city, town Newtown  vicinity N/A  
state PA code PA county Bucks code 017 zip code 18940

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	<u>2</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>2</u>	<u>4</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 Dr. Brent Glass Date 3/29/89  
State or Federal agency and bureau Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

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. Entered in the National Register  
 See continuation sheet. 5/2/89  
 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)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
 AGRICULTURE/ animal facility  
 AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/ single dwelling  
 AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuilding

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

other: Colonial English Farm-  
 house

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation sandstone

walls sandstone

weatherboard

roof shingle

other N/A

**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

PETER TAYLOR FARMSTEAD, Newtown Township, Bucks County

The Peter Taylor Farmstead, in Newtown Township, Bucks County, contains a farmhouse and barn dating to the 18th century and a complex of recent outbuildings and structures which create a district of contributing and non-contributing resources. Contributing to the nominated property's period of significance, 1750-1860, are the 2 story fieldstone farmhouse (c1750, c1800, 1842, c1860, c1940) and the 2 and 3 story frame-over-stone bank barn with adjacent wagonhouse ruins (c1750, c1860). These buildings are distinguished in the complex through their age and architecture. The balance of resources on the farmstead date from the early to mid-20th century and include two buildings, a machine shed/shop c1940 and a calf barn c1960 and two structures, a silo c1950 and a corncrib c1900. The condition of the house is good and its integrity is very good. The barn's integrity and condition vary throughout its sections from fair to good. The outbuildings are basically of good condition and integrity. The area of the nominated property is 3.85 acres and includes all of the associated yard area around the house and barn, a meadow to the south of the house and the farm lane to the north. All of the buildings are of vernacular design from their respective period of construction and have always been associated with domestic and agricultural use.

The total present farm acreage is 113, primarily level, Class 1 soils in broad, cleared fields. The barn, outbuildings and fields are leased by a farmer for agricultural use thereby maintaining the farm setting and utilization. All of the buildings in the farm complex are clustered in the vicinity of one-another and are set back, but partially visible, from Wrights Road. They are set on the edge of the fields and a large meadow which slopes down to a small stream feeding the Newtown Creek. The primary building orientation is to the south, although not all of the buildings are aligned on the same axis. The farmhouse is slightly separate and to the west of the remaining complex. It is partially surrounded by a fenced yard with large trees, while the front yard to the south is part of the grassy meadow.

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PETER TAYLOR FARMSTEAD, Newtown Township, Bucks County

The farmhouse is comprised of five sections, legible in their construction chronology through the high quality exposed fieldstone demonstrating a variety of Bucks County masonry traditions. The most predominate section was built by Peter Taylor c1750 in a popular local form of 2 stories high, four bays wide and narrow two piles deep. This was added to a small one story, 2 bay, 1 pile wooden cabin built c1715 by Robert Hillborn. This cabin, lying to the west of the main section, was rebuilt in stone c1800 by William Taylor. In 1842 Lambert Hibbs constructed a vertical expansion of the cabin by adding a second story and attic in stone to match the height of the c1750 section. By 1860 a one story, rubble stone kitchen shed was added to the western fireplace wall of the cabin section. The house remained in this form for nearly ninety years until William Shull added c1940 a 1 story, stone-faced cement block, "L" wing to the south of the kitchen and cabin sections with a minor frame connecting hyphen. This wing was built partially over a 19th century root cellar and measures 27 feet wide by 22 feet deep with a gable roof. The sections, despite their individual distinction, are visually compatible with each other and thereby present an attractive house compiled by the period stonework techniques of Bucks County. The c1940 wing, while of recent construction, continues the building traditions of exterior stonework and gable roof design and thereby does not detract from the historic period sections of the house.

Remains of the cabin built c1715 are only evident in the basement of the middle section (see Plan, Continuation Sheet Section 7, Page 9). The stone foundation walls are set in from the present exterior stone walls indicating the upper walls, possibly log or frame, they supported were dismantled after the c1800 stone was built up on the outside. The fireplace supports against the western gable end indicate a large cooking fireplace, possibly combined with a bakeoven. The supports are a combination of a solid stone mass and an open area spanned by logs under the hearth area. The present location of the winding stairs from the first floor appears to be original to the first cabin and are the only interior access to the basement under this and the c1750 section. Portions of the stone fireplace wall are very likely the only remains of the cabin on the first level due to the numerous rebuildings and alterations over the centuries.

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PETER TAYLOR FARMSTEAD, Newtown Township, Berks County

Section 1 is the full-sized farmhouse built c1750 onto the east gable end of the original cabin. The sandy color fieldstone is laid in an ashlar pattern on the south front facade with segmental relieving arches over the basement and first floor windows. Above the east window is engraved "PT" for the owner Peter Taylor. The side and rear, north, walls also show a rough ashlar pattern. There is a water table at the first floor level and a drip ledge, possibly for a pent eave, on the east gable end. The gable roof is wood shingle with a standard boxed cornice with returns and brick interior chimneys on the east and west gable ends. The sash windows are 6/6 and the attic windows are 4/2. The first floor windows have paneled shutters dating c1800. Likewise, the front door has c1800 woodwork and was narrowed slightly from its original width. The south, four bay facade is regular, although not exactly even, in its spacing. It is asymmetrical with only one entrance door in the bay west of center. Across three bays of this section and one bay of Section 2 is a one story hipped roof porch with wood shingle roof, square posts, and a partial screen enclosure. The basement bulkhead entrance is on the east end of the house. Another set of initials "IK" possibly for the stone mason, are carved above this bulkhead. To the right of these initials towards the north corner are the initials "ABH" and a fourth set of initials "TC" is located near the attic window above the drip course. The north, rear, facade is fenestrated in a wide three bays with a center door, formerly protected by a hood. The first floor window to the east of this door was moved in the 1840's when the interior parlors were remodeled and another window installed to provide a pair of windows similar to the front facade. The window in the western bay has the original segmental stone arch.

The stone walls added to the original cabin in Section 2 are of a dark brown sandstone popular in Newtown c1800. The south facade is a regular coursed ashlar with a flat arch of stone voissours over the front door. The remaining visible stonework on the north facade is rubble fieldstone. The front and rear doors of this two bay section were made more narrow at a later date and have four-pane transoms above newer wooden doors. They are not located directly opposite each other due to the location of the winding staircase in the northeast corner. The two windows adjacent these doors are 9/6 sash.

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PETER TAYLOR FARMSTEAD, Newtown Township, Bucks County

The upper stories of Section 2 have a datestone in the upper left corner of the south facade with "1842" inscribed. This section is a vertical addition to the 1715/1800 cabin of a full second story and an attic with the wood shingle roof matching in height and ridge line that of the c1750 gable. The north slope, however, is shorter due to the lesser width of this section and allows for larger "lie-on-your-stomach" attic windows. The fenestration is two bays, set above the original window and door (although not in an exact line), with 6/6 sash windows on the second floor and 3-pane on the south and 6/3 sash on the north at the attic level. The stonework is distinct from the first floor and is a redder, more shaley stone and set in an almost repeating block pattern popular with later "brownstone" houses. There is a brick interior end chimney in the west gable.

The one story shed addition, Section 3, to the west end of Section 2 appears to date from c1850-1860. The stone walls are very random fieldstone with early 20th century repairs near the roof line. The addition is roughly one bay wide and one pile deep with 6/6 sash windows on the north and west sides and a door in the south wall. A door formerly on the north facade was filled in. The frame connecting hyphen leading to Section 4 is attached to the south front wall of Section 3. This shed was utilitarian in design and currently houses the modern kitchen.

Section 4, built c1940 by William Shull, lies at right angles, like an "L", to Sections 2 and 3 and is in the front, south yard. A 19th century root cellar and a stone lined, hand-dug well are located under approximately one-half of this section and are accessed by a separate, exterior entrance. The "L" extension is one story high with an asphalt shingle gable roof. It is fenestrated as a wide two bays and is deeper than the standard one pile. There is a large bow "picture" window in the south gable wall facing out to the meadow, the remaining windows are mostly 6/6 sash. The walls appear to be concrete block and are faced with a random fieldstone excepting in the gables, which are frame.

The significant features of the interior of the farmhouse lie primarily in the c1750 section constructed by Peter Taylor. Along the west wall of the first floor and throughout the entire second floor is original woodwork and paneling of standard, but

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PETER TAYLOR FARMSTEAD, Newtown Township, Bucks County

good quality for the period. The west fireplace wall of the first floor, in particular, maintains its original composition, fully paneled around utilitarian features such as a large fireplace, winding stairs to the second floor and a doorway leading to Section 2. The crown molding, bolection molding and paneling appear intact from c1750, save only the removal of two panels in a cupboard door. The second floor maintains the original floor plan, doors, chairrail, architraves and paneled fireplace wall. The wall with the winding staircase in the upstairs entry was altered slightly in the 20th century with an open railing replacing the paneled door. This modification does not hamper the general historic presentation or ability to convey the original treatment. In the 1840's, concurrent with the construction of the upper stories of Section 2, the two small first floor parlors in Section 1 were made into one large parlor and the corner fireplaces rebuilt into one parlor fireplace. Likewise, the cooking fireplace in Section 2 was remodeled for more formal, heating purpose. The mantles on these two fireplaces reflect the prevailing Greek Revival influence. The remainder of the farmhouse contains everyday window trim and closets of mid-19th century vernacular detailing.

The frame-over-stone barn is a composite of two main sections, the west half built c1750 by Peter Taylor and the east half built by 1860. In addition and built into the stone foundation walls of the 1750 section are the stone wall ruins of a wagonhouse. This section predates the 1750 main section of the barn, although its construction date is unknown. Robert Hillborn's inventory of 1720 gives mention of a barn with no further description as to material or appearance. In 1798 the Federal Direct Tax Lists for Newtown Township identify a frame barn for this property.

The c1750 section of the barn has original adzed framing and pinned rafters over fieldstone ground-level stabling and is serviced by a bank on its northerly facade. The barn is framed in four bays and measures roughly 28 feet deep and 46 feet long and stands approximately 2 1/2 stories high. A full-length continuous shed from the gable roof extends another ten feet into the barnyard and creates an over-hang which is now enclosed. Flanking the barnhill are two sheds with roofs continuing down from the main roof. The easternmost shed measures approximately

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PETER TAYLOR FARMSTEAD, Newtown Township, Bucks County

23 feet wide by 11 deep and its roof continues over the barnhill ramp and open threshing bay. The western shed has dimensions of roughly 10 feet wide and 12 deep. The barn siding is now horizontal clapboards. The random windows are open, as is the threshing door in the south facade. The roof is of seamed metal.

The remaining walls of the wagonhouse are a part of the west stabling wall of this 1750 section of the barn and extend to the west of the barn. They measure 28 feet by 24 feet and demonstrate 18th century random fieldstone masonry with larger corner quoins. In the west wall is an opening which held a wooden doweled window frame, now lying nearby.

The three story, frame-over-stone addition to the east of the 1750 section replicates the roof pitch of the original section, although it is higher and continues on the south slope into its shed without a break. The reddish stone first floor was a dairy barn, the frame upper levels for hay storage. It is covered with vertical barn board siding with numerous hinged doors at all levels and on all sides. The hardware is mid-to-late 19th century straight hinges. The roof is seamed metal. When this section was added to the original main barn, the eastern foundation wall of the first barn was broken through and some of the floor and beams replaced with circular sawn ones. While in need of repair and general maintenance, this section is of very good integrity. The 1750 section is also of good integrity on its interior, although newer siding and altered windows have compromised its exterior somewhat.

The outbuildings are all of the 20th century and classified as non-contributing to the period of significance of the farmstead. They are, however, an integral component of the present-day working farm. Of particular architectural interest is the granary and corncrib, an early 20th century frame structure set on cement piers. It is of very good condition and integrity. It is large for its type, 2 stories high with a double drive-through corncrib on the first floor. A large room for a storage area is on the second floor, accessed by a straight run staircase in the west corncrib. It has horizontal slats for the corncribs and horizontal wood clapboards above and an open pole shed to protect farm equipment along the east side. The machine shed and shop is a cement block, one story, long low

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building built c1940 and is of fair integrity and condition. It has a gable roof with wood clapboard gables and appears to be built in four sections, including a recent, full length one story shed which extends 20 feet out along the north wall. A bank of windows in the west gable wall gives light to the machine shop. Also of cement block, one story high with a metal gable roof is the c1950-1960 calf barn with fair to good condition and integrity. The silo is of a popular mid-20th century style composed of concrete staves and stands 50 feet high with a domed roof. These outbuildings distinguish themselves from the historic resources of the farm through design, materials and craftsmanship yet do not detract entirely as they contribute to the current agricultural activity.

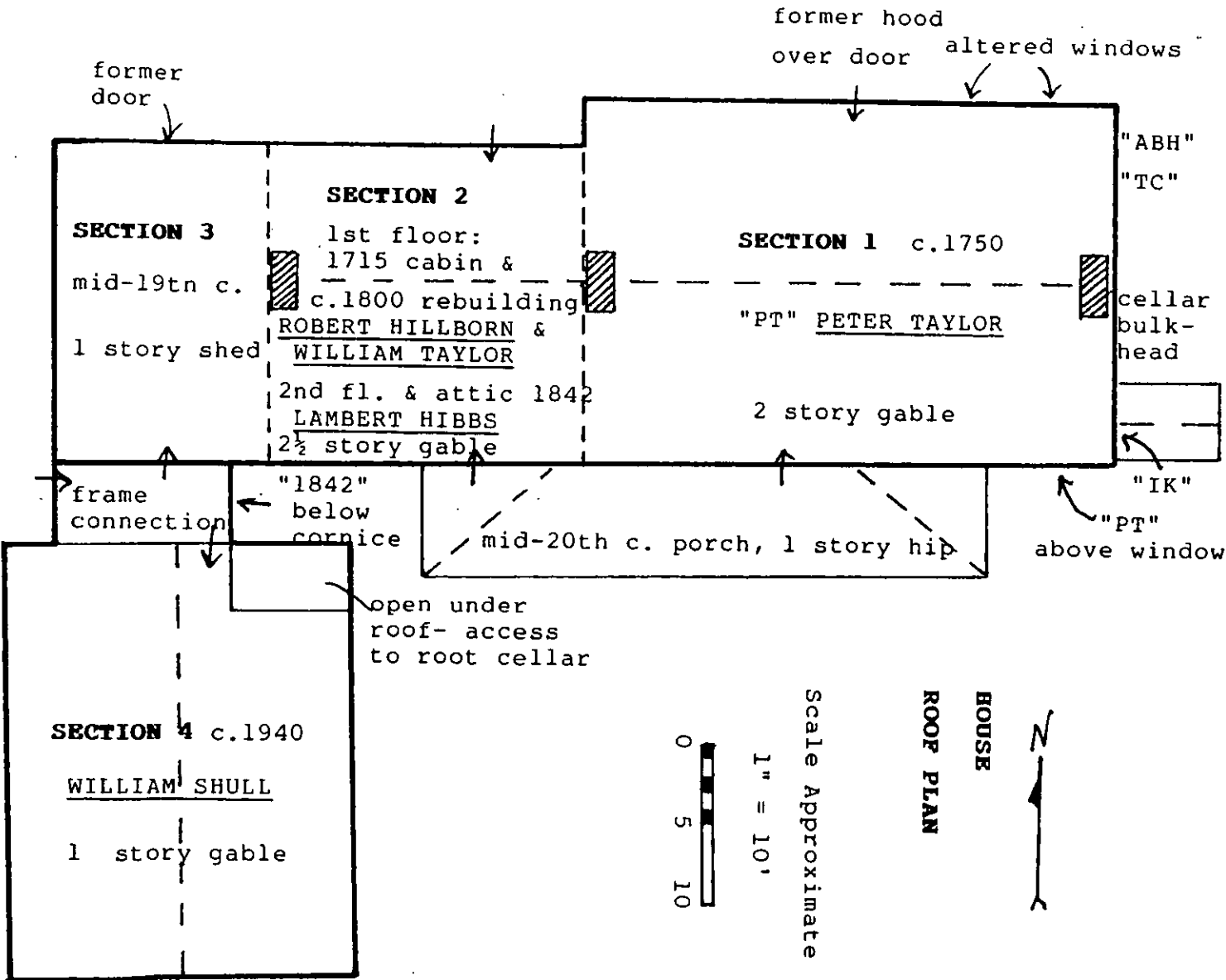


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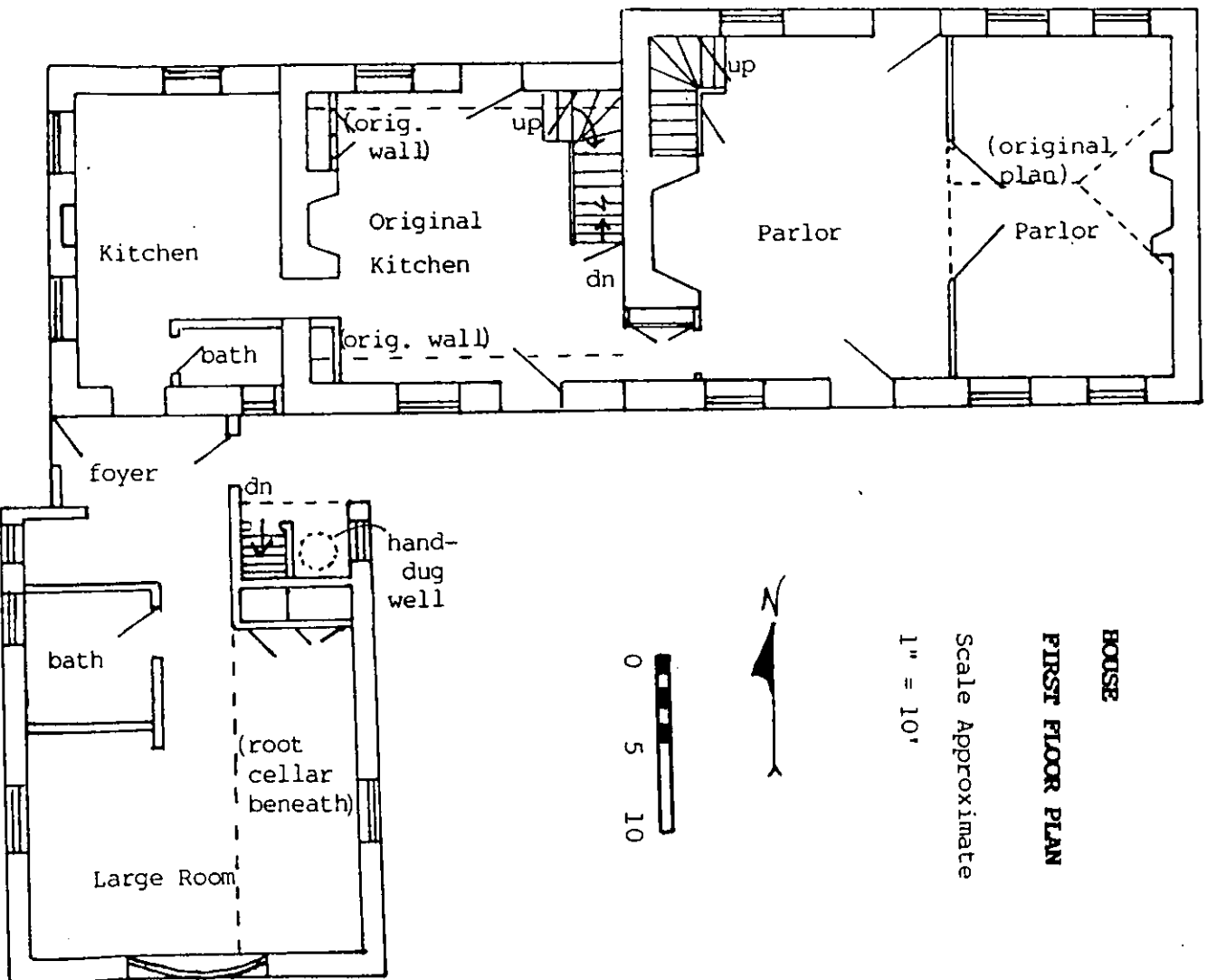


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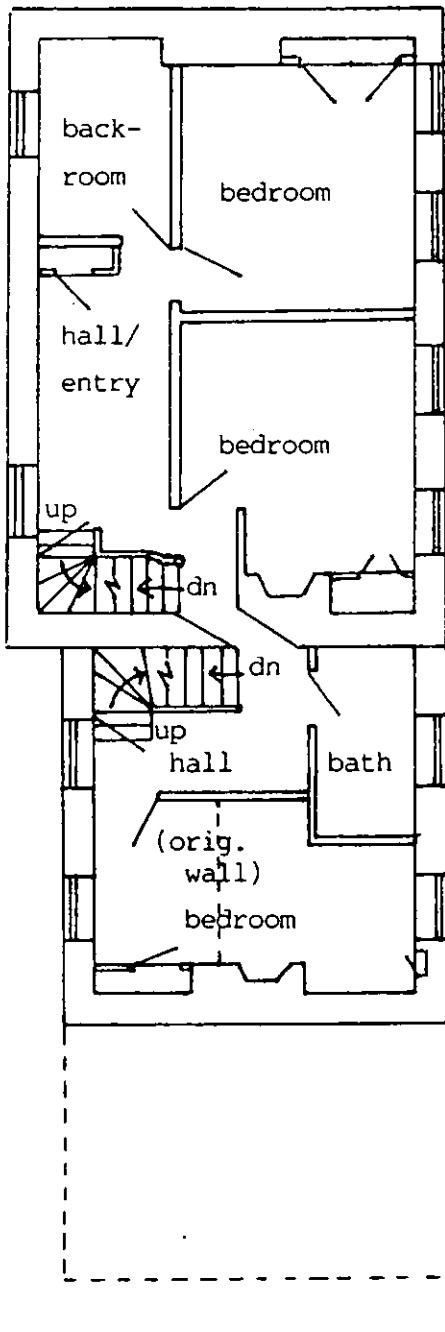


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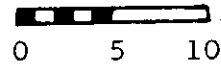


HOUSE

SECOND FLOOR PLAN

Scale Approximate

1" = 10'



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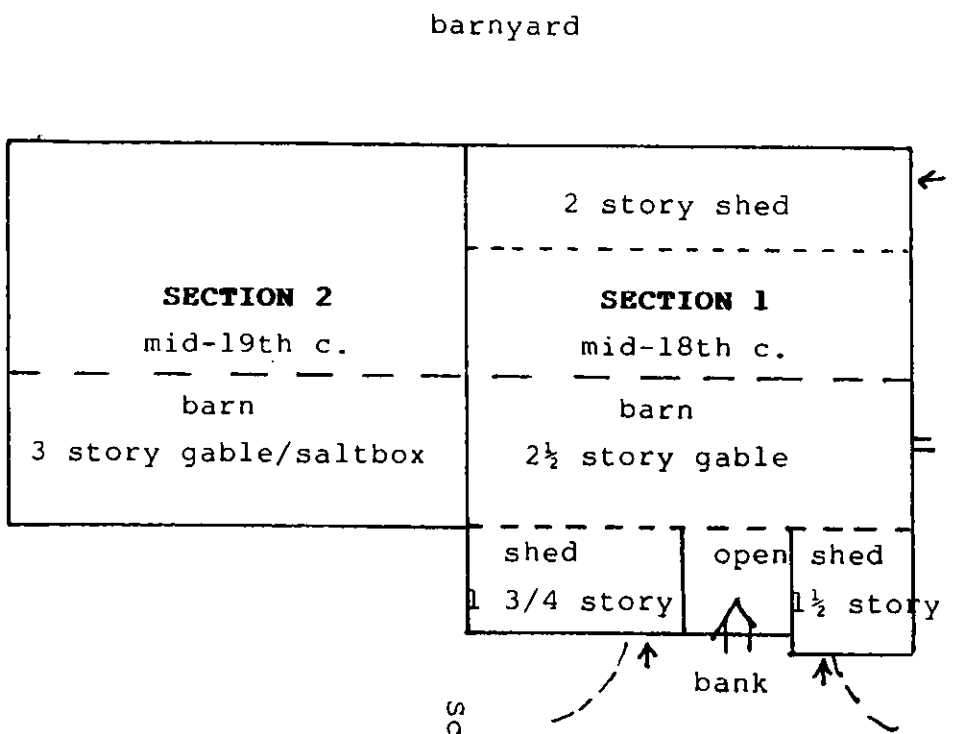
PETER TAYLOR FARMSTEAD, Newtown Township, Bucks County



wagonhouse  
ruins

BARN ROOF PLAN

18th c.



Scale Approximate  
1" = 20'



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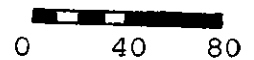
Wrights Road

SITE PLAN



Building Locations  
Approximate

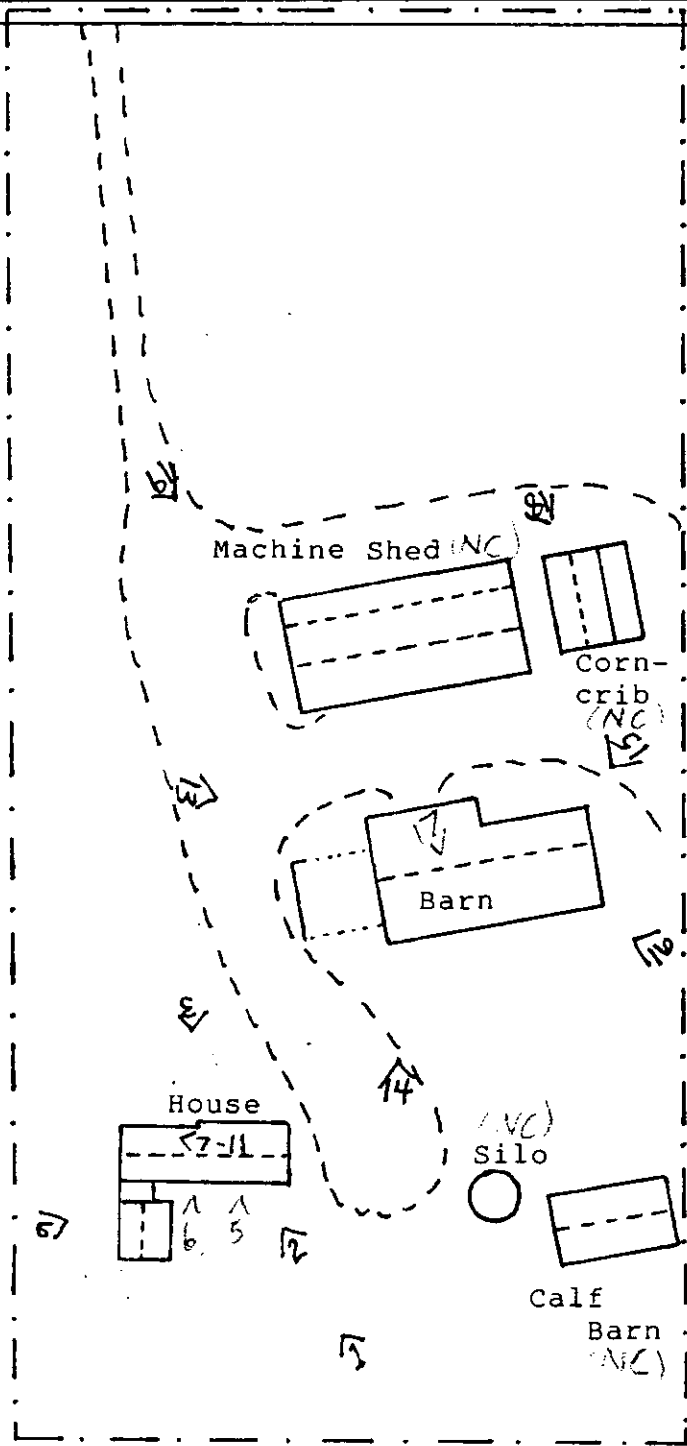
Scale Approximate:  
1" = 80'



Location & Direction of Photograph

Boundary of Nominated Area

NC Noncontributing Buildings or Structures



**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the 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)  
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance  
1750-1860

Significant Dates  
c1750  
1842

Cultural Affiliation  
N/A

Significant Person  
N/A

Architect/Builder  
N/A

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

PETER TAYLOR FARMSTEAD, Newtown Township, Bucks County

The Peter Taylor Farmstead is a mid-18th century farm complex in Newtown Township, Bucks County containing important examples of a vernacular stone house and frame bank barn dating to 1750. As a district of resources, the farmstead has a period of significance spanning from 1750 to 1860, and includes the contributing house and barn as well as a corner crib, silo, calf barn and machine shed and shop as intrusions. The farmstead is significant in the area of architecture, under the National Register Criterion C. Specifically, the house illustrates quality vernacular farmhouse architecture for the lower central Bucks County region, particularly found in areas of mixed Scotch-Irish and Quaker settlement. The main, mid-18th century section built by Peter Taylor well exhibits the prevailing craftsmanship and style of stonework and woodwork, as well as the locally popular house form of that time. Additionally, the house, which ranges in construction from c1750 to 1860 demonstrates the additive farmhouse pattern common throughout Bucks County with alterations and extensions distinctive to their period of construction. The frame barn, likewise, is a composite of 18th and 19th century sections and is important both as a complimentary component of the farmstead and in illustrating barn architecture in this region of Bucks County, in particular of the mid-18th century.

Architecturally, the Peter Taylor Farmstead conveys its strongest significance from the c1750 period. The main, Section 1 of the house and Section 1 of the barn demonstrate the size, form and detailing of primary agrarian architecture of the mid-18th century, some elements of which continued as building traditions into the mid-19th century. These sections of the house and barn,

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PETER TAYLOR FARMSTEAD, Newtown Township, Bucks County

in fact, are among the earliest documented and surviving buildings exhibiting the fully developed regional-cultural vernacular forms in lower-central Bucks County. In 1741 Peter Taylor purchased a subsistence farmstead established by Robert Hillborn c1715 who, by his death in 1720 had cleared fields and built a small house and barn for his family. Taylor, as a "second generation" owner created a mature farm with a permanent stone house and frame barn reflecting current vernacular architectural trends and combining formal and everyday living spaces.

The form of the Peter Taylor House, two stories, four bays wide and narrow two piles deep, appears frequently in areas of Bucks County settled by primarily Scotch-Irish and English Quaker peoples, namely the Newtown vicinity including Newtown, Upper and Lower Makefield Townships; the Warwick vicinity and to a lesser degree, portions of Tinticum Township in upper Bucks County. The house form begins to appear in the mid-18th century, following the subsistence homes of the first pioneers, namely 1 story cabins or small 2 story, 2 or 3 bay houses. While not perfectly symmetrical, the four bay front facade and three bay rear face of the Peter Taylor farmhouse are a successful attempt at regular, balanced fenestration. The expansion of early settlers houses into the four bay, narrow two pile house was at the time luxurious, providing clearly defined formal and everyday living spaces. The interior of this house form had a three room, hall and double parlor plan, but fell short of being a truly formal house by lacking a separate entry and stair hall and by having the common and special areas immediately abutting and not individually accessible. The plan was a movement towards Georgian Palladianism and out of late Medieval- William and Mary and Queen Ann forms of the early century. Compared to this plan, earlier plans, as represented by the Joseph Richardson House, c1738 (NR, Langhorne) were crowded and boxey and lacked a through corridor. The Peter Taylor House had the hall, or common room, extending front-to-back with opposite doors and the doors to the parlors leading off from the through traffic area.

Two contemporary homes of the area help to illustrate the evolution of the plan and fenestration of the comfortable country house. The Merrick House c1774 (NR, Eagle Road, Upper Makefield Township) has a similar first floor plan as the Peter

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PETER TAYLOR FARMSTEAD, Newtown Township, Bucks County

Taylor House, but the exterior primary facade is still a wide, asymmetrical three bays and not the balanced four bay arrangement. The David Buckman Farmhouse c1750 (Temora Farm, Swamp Road, Newtown Township) was slightly more formal than the Taylor House by having in its original first floor plan a narrow, separate, center entrance hall leading to an enclosed winding stairs in the back of the hall. This center hall was placed in the middle of the three room plan quite similar to the Taylor House. The exterior reflects this additional formality by being a very narrow five bay facade. Both the Taylor and Buckman Houses have very similar exterior perimeter sizes with sufficient depth for small parlors with corner fireplaces.

Of the three, four, and five bay house forms of the Colonial period, the four bay form seemed to gain particular popularity in the Newtown region. The Peter Taylor House is among the earliest documented examples of this form. While, especially in the upper county areas with German influence the four bay house developed by the end of the century into a full two piles deep while retaining the three room plan (Worman House, 1813, Cafferty Road, Tinicum Township), in the Newtown region this house form diminished in depth to just one pile while retaining similar proportions to the Taylor House. A very similar example of this trend is the John Burrows House (NR, Wrightstown Road, Upper Makefield Township) built before the Revolution. The exterior appearance echoes the Taylor House with segmental arches over the windows and one, off-center entrance door, but the interior is just two large parlors, one with a larger utilitarian fireplace, the other with one just for heating. In both parlors and the main upstairs bedroom the paneling and closets around the fireplaces extend full length across the end walls and the west end wall having the built-in winding staircase. The four bay form maintained its vernacular popularity well into the 19th century as seen in a number of the principal houses of the Dolington Historic District (Route 532, Upper Makefield Township).

Craftsmanship in the Peter Taylor House is of very good quality and well-preserved to illustrate the popular trends of the mid-18th century. The stonework is laid in a well defined ashlar with voisseured segmental arches over the basement and first floor windows. The segmental arches are found on Bucks County

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homes throughout the 18th century until the Revolution, although most popular from 1730-1760. Ashlar stonework generally begins to appear by mid-century, as on the Isaac Pickering House, 1747 (NHL, Honey Hollow Watershed, Solebury Township), a two bay, one pile house. The stonework of the Peter Taylor House, a light brown sandstone, is of particular quality in that the ashlar is carried in rough courses even to the rear wall of the house. Additionally illustrative of mid-18th century construction is the defined water table and the drip course evident in the east gable, possibly supporting originally a pent eave. Several sets of initials carved on the east gable wall, "IK", "TC" and "ABH" may give a clue to the talented stone mason(s) and the initials "PT" carved above the east window on the south face represent the proud owner Peter Taylor.

The later stonework on the Peter Taylor House is equally representative of its particular time period. The c1800 stone walls added to the Hillborn cabin, Section 2, demonstrate masonry traditions of post-Revolutionary Newtown area. Specifically, a dark brown stone is used, available by that time from quarries along the Neshaminy Creek. The flat jack arch with stone voisoirs over the door to this section was also common after 1780, replacing the segmental arches. The upper stories of this section, added by Lambert Hibbs, stonemason in 1842 illustrate early "brownstone" patterning with a mixture of squared large and small stones laid in repeated patterns over the entire front facade. The shed addition, Section 3, is rubble fieldstone typical for secondary buildings and non-formal extensions and Section 4, c1940, shows veneer stone in a random pattern especially well executed for the mid-20th century.

The interior woodwork in the 1750 section contains fine examples of vernacular Georgian paneled wall treatments and is essentially intact along the west wall of the first floor and throughout the entire second floor of this section. While not elaborate in mouldings and classical details, the fireplace end walls on the west end of both first and second floors are well arranged with fixed panels and paneled closet doors, fireplace architraves and a complex molded cornice. The panels are constructed of typical mid-18th century half-round beads without quirks. The cornice, with its depth and bulbous molding, is particularly interesting and appears to draw from an earlier, William and Mary tradition of molding profile.

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PETER TAYLOR FARMSTEAD, Newtown Township, Bucks County

This paneling and woodwork is important in illustrating the house detailing of the comfortable middle class of the Newtown area. In the midst of rich productive soils and serving as the county seat since the 1720's pre-Revolutionary Newtown witnessed strong growth and prosperity. Several homes in the area have well-preserved woodwork which serves to indicate a sophisticated upper middle class could be found around Newtown. These houses include Jenks Hall c1764 (Woodbourne Road, Middletown Township), the Brick Hotel, home of Amos Strickland c1760 (Newtown Borough), and the Heston Farm, owned by Thomas Yardley in 1776 (Upper Silver Lake Road, Newtown Township). All of these houses are full two pile deep buildings with high interior ceilings. The period woodwork of the mid-18th century is found in each case nearly intact on the second floor, featuring full paneled walls with panels and closets arranged around parlor fireplaces. The high degree of sophistication is evident in the double crown moldings, central paneled sections broken out of the wall plane and arched cupboard doors. The Peter Taylor House, in contrast with these homes of the upper middle class, is important in documenting the next level lower on the social and architectural scale of sophistication, the home of a yeoman and landholder of comfortable means. The paneling, while not as elaborate as in the above mentioned houses, still exhibits a sense of balance and proportion on the part of the carpenter in constructing a pleasing and artful interior finish. Again, it is most comparable with the contemporary interior of the Nathaniel Burrows House in its intermediate level of formality.

Enhancing the Peter Taylor House's ability to convey the arrangement and detailing of the interior living space of the comfortable middle class are additional well preserved features. These include original hardware on the doors and original wooden pegs built into wooden battens in the plaster walls. The attic in this section provides further architectural interest. The entire attic is divided into two rooms and finished on ceiling and walls with hand-planed pine boards. The door dividing the attic rooms is built of two panels without any beading. This finished treatment appears to be of the 18th century and is highly uncommon in farmhouse architecture of Bucks County. Furthermore, the floorplan on the second floor is helpful in understanding the use of space in a mid-18th century house with the principal bedrooms facing south and smaller rooms including the entry and a tiny chamber along the north wall.

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PETER TAYLOR FARMSTEAD, Newtown Township, Bucks County

The stylistic updating of two rooms on the first floor including Greek Revival mantles installed on several altered fireplaces was a common practice in 19th century Bucks County. The new interior design concepts of the 1830's and 1840's were easily embraced by the country yeoman in this area where stylistic ideas were travelling from New York, Trenton and Philadelphia. In addition to the Peter Taylor House, two of the above mentioned houses, Jenks Hall and the Heston Farm show changes to the appearance of the first floor parlors, specifically with mantles, in consonance with the times. The exterior of farmhouses likewise expanded in response to greater prosperity, new architectural styles and innovative heating and cooking facilities. The side shed kitchen addition is perhaps the most common expansion of the farmhouse, in particular to accommodate wood or coal stoves which replaced the impractical large cooking fireplaces. The pattern of rebuilding an earlier settlers' cabin in a more substantial form out of stone has been identified in the construction chronology of the John Burrows House and a similarly dated and designed house, New Egypt Farm (Pineville Road, Upper Makefield Township). The subsequent building of a two story addition above and around an early cabin, as the Lambert Hibbs addition above the Hillborn/Taylor cabin can be found at Jenks Hall and the Twining Farmhouse (Swamp Road, Wrightstown Township near Newtown Township). The Peter Taylor Farmhouse, therefore, demonstrates a number of the additive building patterns common in Bucks County throughout the 18th and 19th centuries.

The barn of the Peter Taylor Farmstead is significant primarily as a mid-18th century frame barn built with the barn bank and stone stabling concept and for its unique four bay format. Additionally, it is one of the few surviving frame mid-18th century barns in Bucks County. Section 1, located roughly in the middle of the present structure illustrates the early use of the earthen bank leading to the second level and the frame construction over the stone stabling. Early 18th century barns appear, from the rare examples found today, to be designed with drive-in entrances off of the ground level, for the open threshing bay, stables and hay storage. One of the barns on the Grey Nuns property is a fine example of this barn type in stone (Quarry Road, Lower Makefield Township). The Peter Taylor Barn, however, helps to document the mid-18th century emergence of the use of the earthen bank in the two level design of barns in Bucks

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PETER TAYLOR FARMSTEAD, Newtown Township, Bucks County

County. Such a design was used almost exclusively from this point through the early-20th century. The use of frame construction over a stone first floor level was quite popular throughout this area of Lower Bucks County, namely Newtown, Upper and Lower Makefield Townships. Specific examples of frame-over-stone barns are on the Balderston Farm, house c1730, (Dolington vicinity, Lindenhurst Road, Lower Makefield Township), Heston Farm, house c1760, (Upper Silver Lake Road, Newtown Township), Smith-Magill Farm, house c1770, (Lurgan Road, Upper Makefield Township), McNabb Farm, house c1790 (Old Dolington Road, Upper Makefield Township).

Particularly unique and seemingly influenced by the locally favored house form is the four bay construction of the frame upper levels of this section. The open threshing bay is to the west of center, with one grain/hay storage bay to the west and two to the east. This arrangement, perhaps found to be cumbersome, was essentially abandoned by the 19th century for the more practical three bay plan. Of the four above mentioned barns, three are constructed with the standard three bay plan and only one is framed in four bays. This latter barn on the Smith-Magill Farm is presumed to be built around the same date as the house, c1770. It stands roughly 2 1/2 stories high and has no overhang or shed on the south barnyard side, only a full length, pent roof to shelter the doorways to the stables. The interior framing is assymetrical, one average size bay to the east, one wide threshing bay entered by the barnhill, and two narrow bays to the west. All framing is heavy timber pinned construction and is replicated in the frame-over-stone addition to the east of the original barn. The house is similar to the Peter Taylor House in that it has a four bay front facade and three bay rear facade, although it is a full two piles deep and has two original front doors. The construction of barns in the four bay concept was not a prevalent trend and hence presently existing examples are valuable in demonstrating the occasional occurrence of this design. Additionally, the main section of the Peter Taylor Barn, despite aesthetic alterations, is important in that its form and height were not changed from its original 18th century construction. Additions to the barn, as with the house followed current trends and reflected expanded agrarian activities. Both the house and the barn on the Peter Taylor Farmstead provide illustrations as to the development of the agricultural economy and local stylistic trends of the Newtown and Makefield area.

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Peter Taylor Farmstead

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It was the feeling of the Preservation Board and the staff of the Bureau for Historic Preservation that the frame barn was not constructed c. 1750 but more likely dates to c. 1850 or slightly later. It was generally felt however that the barn falls within the period of significance and should be counted as a contributing resource.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A  
 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:

KA Auerbach, 4 Old Mill La., New Hope PA

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property 3.9

UTM References

A 18 505500 4455780  
 Zone Easting Northing  
 C         

B           
 Zone Easting Northing  
 D         

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Kathryn Ann Auerbach, Historical, Architectural & Preservation Consult  
 organization Ind. Homeowners Assn. of Newtown Twp. date January 26, 1989  
 street & number 4 Old Mill Lane telephone (215) 862-2879  
 city or town New Hope state PA zip code 18938

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- County of Bucks Records, Administration Building, Doylestown, PA:  
Deed Books: 1681-Present; Recorder of Deeds  
Road Returns: #232 (1769), #591 (Aug. 1807), #968 (Dec. 1825); Court of Common Pleas  
Wills: #210 (Thomas Hillborn, 1723), #183 (Robert Hillborn, 1720), #2218 (Peter Taylor, 1789), #3525 (William Taylor, 1807), #8402 (Lambert Hibbs, 1847); Register of Wills
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**PETER TAYLOR FARMSTEAD**, Newtown Township, Bucks County

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:**

The following verbal boundary description is developed from a site plan prepared by William G. Major Associates titled "Subdivision Study of lands owned by Neshaminy Water Resources Authority Tax Parcel #29-3-43". All distances and courses are approximate. The purpose of this verbal boundary description is to define the area of the subject parcel #29-3-43 upon which the nominated buildings, i.e. the house and barn, stand.

**Beginning** at a point in the southerly side line (16.5 foot from centerline) of Wrights Road (T 363) approximately 1820 feet west of the centerline intersection with Prospect Hill Road (T 376), thence following a line roughly perpendicular to the said Wrights Road approximately South 2° West 600 feet to a corner, thence on a line parallel to Wrights Road approximately South 87° West 280 feet to a corner, thence approximately North 2° East 600 feet to a corner, a point in the southerly side line of the said Wrights Road, thence following along said road approximately North 87° East 280 feet to the **Place of Beginning**.

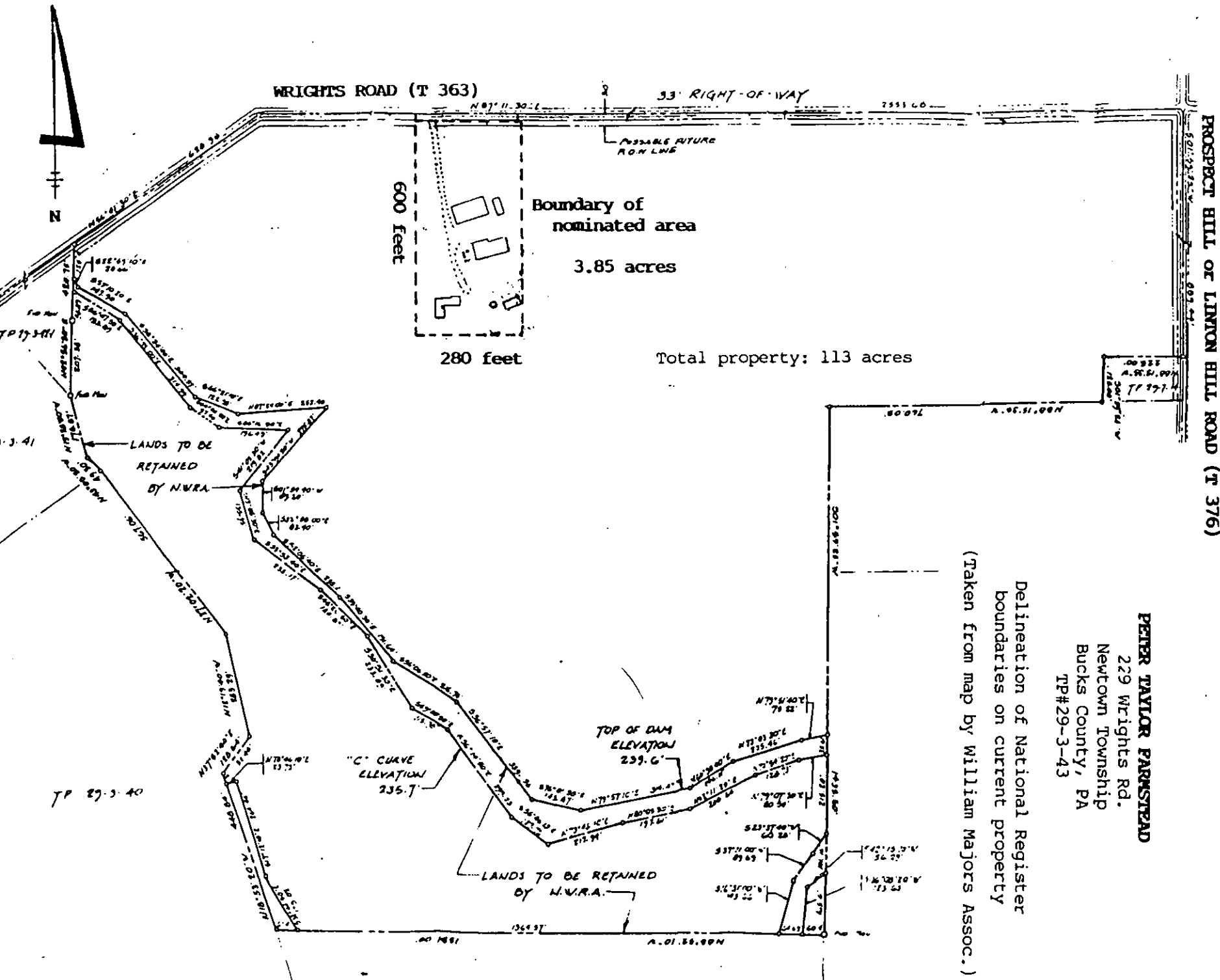
**Containing** approximately **3.85 acres** more or less.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:**

The 3.85 acres of land defined with this nomination include the two buildings of the present farm complex which are being nominated to the National Register, specifically the house and the barn. These two buildings are the only ones of the complex which date to and are contributing to the period of significance, 1715-1860. The farm complex does include other outbuildings which fall within the proposed boundaries. These, as well as those excluded from the nominated area, are primarily of the early to mid-20th century and are in very deteriorated condition. Only two buildings appear to date possibly as early as the very late 19th century, the granary and double-corncrib and the garage. They are included within the boundaries although they are not contributing to the nomination.

As the property, known as county tax parcel #29-3-43, still contains the 113 acres associated with it since the mid-19th century, the proposed boundaries are for the purpose of nomination only. The attempt in delineating the boundaries was to include the significant buildings and their immediate, historically associated, settings. To the south of the house is included part of the grassy meadow, which may have been the location of the spring house mentioned in an 1811 advertisement. To the north of the house and barn is the current farm driveway which appears to be in its historical location at least since the dedication of Wrights Road in 1825. With the exception of the path of the said road, the nominated boundaries do not follow historical land divisions.

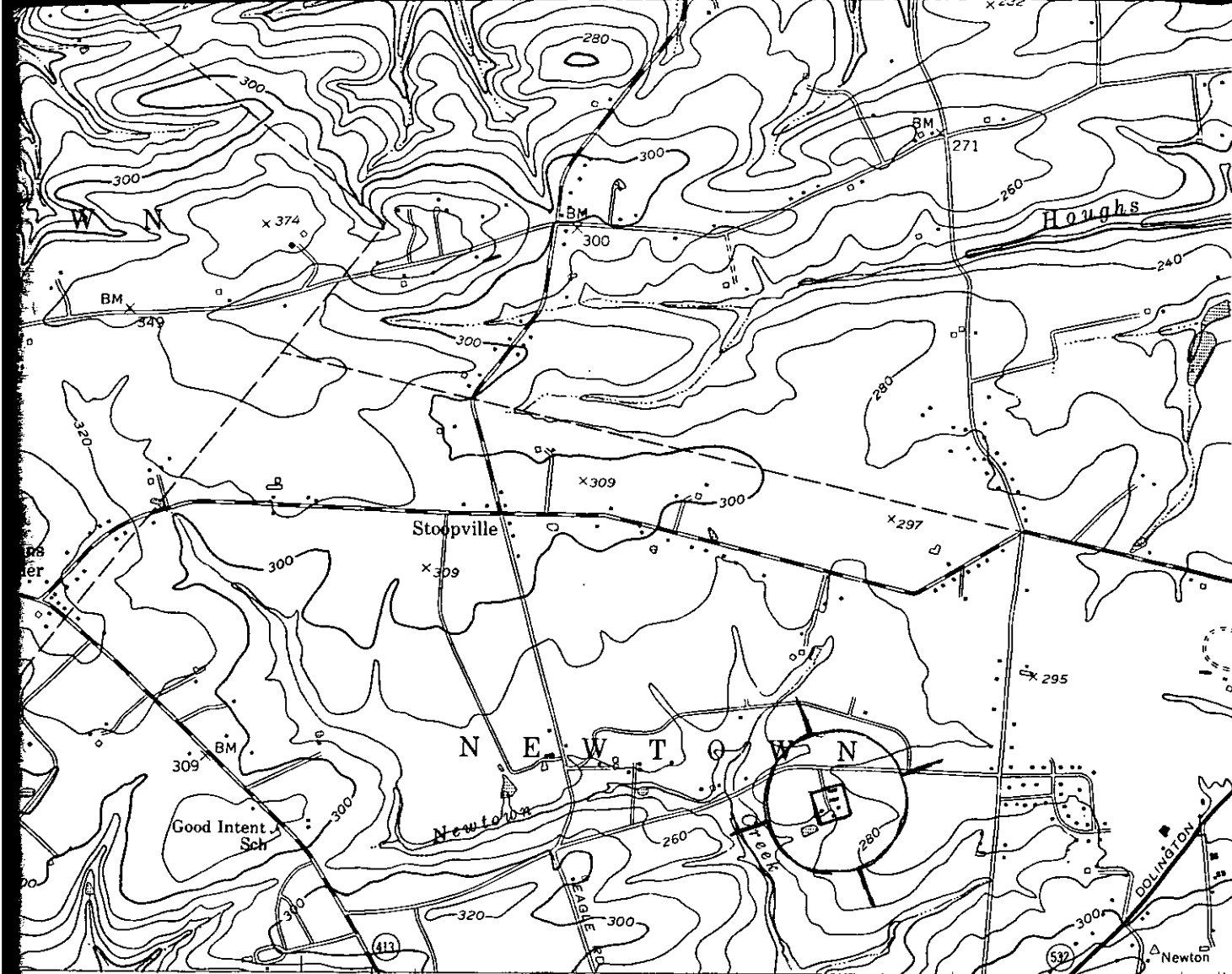




PROSPECT HILL OF LINTON HILL ROAD (T 376)

(Taken from map by William Majors Assoc.)  
 Delineation of National Register  
 boundaries on current property

**PETER TAYLOR FARMSTEAD**  
 229 Wrights Rd.  
 Newtown Township  
 Bucks County, PA  
 TP#29-3-43

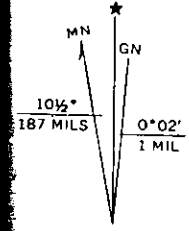
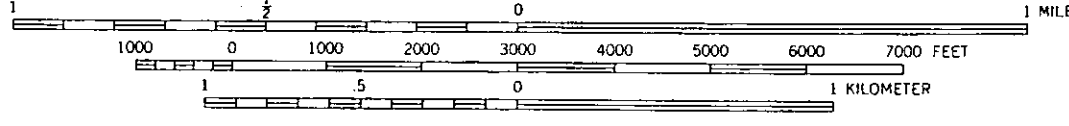


NEW TOWN 1.9 MI.  
PENNDL (JUNC. U.S. 117.1 MI)

(LANGHORNE)  
6064 III NW

NEW TOWN 1.6 MI.  
PHILADELPHIA (CITY)

SCALE 1:24 000



MAGNETIC AND 1973 MAGNETIC NORTH  
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST