

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic KEYSTONE HOTEL

and or common KEYSTONE HOTEL

2. Location

street & number 40 EAST MAIN STREET not for publication

city, town HUMMELSTOWN vicinity of

state PENNSYLVANIA code 42 county DAUPHIN code 043

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"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Terry L. Koons and Errol K. Wagner

street & number 48 Grandview Road

city, town Hummelstown vicinity of state Pennsylvania 17036

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dauphin County Courthouse

street & number Front and Market Streets

city, town Harrisburg, PA state Pennsylvania 17101

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None known has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Keystone Hotel is located on the corner of Main and Water Streets, one block east of the square in 220 year-old Hummelstown. The structure occupies one quarter of the block, fronts on Main Street, and faces south. It is set back 15 feet from the curb on Main Street and 45 feet from the curb on Water Street. The structure is interwoven among residential dwellings, a church, bank, stores, and the old Chemical Fire Company building, now being used to house the Borough's ambulances.

Built in the vernacular Federal style, the Keystone Hotel was originally a three bay, 2½ story building. Rectangular in plan, and resting on a foundation of locally quarried limestone, the structure was built of brick in Flemish bond. Carrying a gable roof, with twin chimneys on both the east and west ends, the building had in its eastern most bay the front entrance, consisting of two sets of double doors with stationary, arched fan lights above each. The brownstone door sill is engraved "Built by G. & E. Fox, 1839", and evident in the basement is the wooden peg/beam construction of this original structure.

An 1850 expansion more than doubled the size of the building. The roof-line was raised on the front half of the original building, forming a flat roof with dentilated cornice. A three bay, three story addition, utilizing common bond brick, was added to the east face, extending north beyond the rear wall, thus connecting with an old brownstone out building. The foundation of this addition was constructed around a very old spring house which continues to exist in the basement. To create a uniform front facade, the original 9 over 6 windows were removed, replaced with two over two windows to match those of the front wall of the expansion, and the old windows were re-cycled in the east face of the addition. All windows are original.

The old brownstone extension to the North is believed to be an out building to the original 2½ story frame hotel which existed on this lot and burned in 1839. It is made of brownstone, locally quarried, with walls of twelve inches in thickness, windows which reflect its mid-18th century character, and it houses a fireplace and eight-foot diameter bee-hive oven in the north wall. The existing out building, located just to the west of this oldest brownstone extension, is a small square one story ice house with double brick wall construction, and hip roof. An excerpt from the January 30, 1903 edition of the Hummelstown Sun, the local weekly newspaper, states; "Jacob Page, proprietor of the Keystone Hotel, has housed over one hundred tons of ice, measuring from 9 to 10 inches in thickness. This is sufficient to last him during the better part of the summer."

The main central stairway is original from the 1839 period. Some interior doors are originals with original hardware. Two fireplaces remain on the first floor and one exists on the second floor. The first floor, west wall fireplace has its original mantel. The only 20th century addition is a dining room, tucked away in a back corner of the resulting L-shaped building. Very few alterations have taken place to the main staircase since the middle victorian period and much of the original fabric remains.

# 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 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1839/1850 Builder Architect G. Fox

## Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Located along a major transportation artery, the Keystone Hotel has served Hummelstown as one of the town's primary hostelries for over a century and a half. One of only two remaining hotels from the early 19th century, the structure remains a local landmark.

An immigrant from England, John Fox came to Hummelstown in 1786 and soon after established inn on his land. Operating the inn until his death in the early nineteenth century Fox willed his business to his son George. Despite a disasterous fire in 1839 which razed the original inn, the younger Fox, who also served the town as postmaster for thirty-five years, continued the tradition his father initiated. Within two months of the 1839 fire, Fox built a new and larger hotel building. Called the Keystone Hotel, the new 2½ story, 3 bay Federal style building proved a worthy replacement. As Hummelstown grew throughout the rest of the century, so too did the business at the Keystone.

By the 1830's Hummelstown had become an important part of the central Pennsylvania transportation system. Located along the Reading to Harrisburg Turnpike and at the junction of the Horse Shoe Pike from Dowingtown, Hummelstown made a convenient stop for travelers. The Union Canal which ran through Hummelstown added to the number of travelers who stopped in the town. To serve the visitors more than half a dozen hotels were operated in Hummelstown during the Ante Bellum period. Of these the Keystone was perhaps the premier inn. Local tabloids contain numerous references to the comforts and services provided at the Keystone. Among Harrisburgers a popular wintertime event was a sleigh ride to Hummelstown followed by an overnight stay at the Keystone. Sleigh rides and other seasonal celebrations helped to establish the hotel's reputation throughout the area.

Along with travelers, the Keystone served the nearby brownstone quarry operations as a temporary residence for quarry workers. An important part of Hummelstown's early development, the quarries did not provide workers housing. Instead, many workers roomed at the Keystone until they were able to purchase a permanent home. The hotel's livery facilities, which by the mid-1800's were second to none in the town, further enhanced the Keystone's reputation among both travelers and new town residents. As the hotel's business grew, the building was enlarged and by the time of the Civil War was almost twice the size it had been when erected in 1839.

Throughout the rest of the nineteenth century and into the twentieth century the Keystone remained Hummelstown's foremost hotel as well as the center of much local activity. The hotel became the town pollinplance in the late nineteenth century. Regular livestock sales held at the Keystone proved festive times for the entire town. The local newspaper in 1899 reported that the Keystone's livestock sales were comparable to town fair days. One of the town's first telephones was placed in the hotel in 1901. Three months after the installation the town listened to hourly reports on the dying President McKinley. The town's first radio was also located in the hotel.

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Since the early 1900's the Keystone has experienced quite a turn over of owners and proprietors who have been either unsympathetic or unable to maintain the building. Further, modern innovations in transportation and industry have significantly reduced the town's commerce as well as the hotel's viability. Nevertheless, the Keystone remains as one of Hummelstown's important links to the town past.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1

Quadrangle name Hershey

Quadrangle scale 1=24,000

### UTM References

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

see continuation sheet

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Donna W. Koons

organization

date October 20, 1984

street & number 48 Grandview Road

telephone (717) 566-2480

city or town Hummelstown

state PA.

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Larry E. Tise, State Historic Preservation Officer

date 3/19/85

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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1. Luther Reily Kelker, History of Dauphin County, New York, Lewis Publishing Co., 1907.
2. Biographical Encyclopedia of Dauphin County, Chambersburg, J.M. Runk Co., 1896.
3. The Ingomar Papers, Hummelstown Area Historical Society, 1976.
4. The Hummelstown Sun, Files of local weekly newspaper.
5. Series of interviews with Richard Hartwell, local historian, over one and a half year period (April 1983 - October 1984)
6. Two interviews with Robert T. Fox, Jr, descendant of original owner, (September, 1983; April 1984).
7. Telephone interview with Richard Fox, descendant of original owner, (October 1983).
8. Recorder of Deeds, Dauphin County Courthouse.
9. Tax Assessment Records, Dauphin County Courthouse.
10. County Officer's Accounts, State Archives.

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Beginning at a point on the northwest corner of East Main and Water Streets, thence running on East Main Street in a westerly direction 100 feet; thence in a northerly direction 62 feet; thence in a westerly direction 30 feet to a point on the eastern boundary of the property now of Spire; thence in a northerly direction 136 feet to a point on the southerly side of North Alley; thence in an easterly direction along the southern line of North Alley 130 feet to the westerly line of Water Street; thence along the westerly line of Water Street in a southerly direction 198 feet to the point of beginning.

