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HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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 LINCOLN, MORDECAI HOUSE  
other names/site number N/A

### 2. Location

street & number Lincoln Road N/A not for publication  
city, town Lorane (Exeter Township) N/A vicinity  
state PA code PA county Berks code 011 zip code 19606

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>2</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>2</u>	_____ objects
			<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



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October, 1988. All aspects of the building are being studied and evaluated as the work proceeds. Where possible, original materials are used or replicated using eighteenth century finishing methods.

The Lincoln House has stone walls eighteen inches thick, re-pointed on the exterior and plastered inside. Despite severe deterioration of many wood members of the house, these walls are essentially intact and show some original mortar joints. The moderately pitched gable roof had undergone considerable deterioration. In the front west quadrant all rafters had to be replaced. Other rafters could be left intact while new hand-split cedar shakes were used to re-roof the entire building. Although modern flashing was used at the dormer and chimney joints, this was concealed by overlaying wood shingles that were shimmed up to channel the water away from these areas as had been done in eighteenth century construction. Both chimneys have been rebuilt above the roofline.

The front of the house now is its south elevation. There are two distinct two-bay sections, the west portion being stepped up from the original house by about eleven inches. The earlier east section is built on steeply sloping ground with the door on the western up-hill end, and one six-over-six paned window to its right. The upper frames of both door and window are aligned, and in fact are spanned by a common wooden lintel on the interior wall. This window is original with pegged oak framing and original unlined paneled shutters on L-pintels. The door frame, of similar simple pegged design was hand carved from oak beams found in the barn to match the unsound original frame. A six paneled door matching a surviving sample of interior paneling has been built to fit the opening. A gable-roofed dormer window is located above the doorway, dating from 1820-40. This dormer and others, front and rear, were reconstructed, using the original as a model. A large stone chimney emerges from the roof at the west end of this section, now the center of the house.

A one and one-half story, two-bay addition was attached to the west end of the original house c.1757-1760. The south elevation features a window and a doorway on the first floor, a dormer window above, and a brick chimney at the peak of the roof on the west gable end. Differences between the two sections include the width (the addition is 3.5 inches narrower); the doorway (the addition has a four-light transom); the chimney (the addition is brick, the earlier, stone); and roof pitch (the addition is slightly steeper).

The east elevation faces the road and in a practical sense might be considered the main facade, as it is the most visible to passers-by with the broadest expanse of wall area and the most commonly used entrance. This gable end measures thirty feet three inches wide and extends two and one-half stories above ground level.

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Slightly to the left of center is a hooded doorway with a paneled door. To the left of this entrance is a six-over-six paned window with original frame. This door and window are the only exterior openings into the original kitchen. The lone second-level window is located directly above the kitchen window and is of similar size and design. The attic level features two small symmetrically placed windows with two-over-four sash. Reconstructed elements of this facade include window and door frames (except original kitchen window); window sash; barge board (copied from remnant from original west gable end); cornice reveal (beaded box cornice with an ogee molding copied from remnant); and the hood over the doorway (dimensions and location established by existing outriders and impressions in masonry; molding copied from cornice). This facade, more than any other, conveys an impression of 18th century antiquity. The massive wall and roughly coursed stonework provide an excellent example of settlement period masonry.

The north elevation, or back of the house, shows again the two clearly defined two-bay sections, with two windows in each and no doors. A small basement opening with an iron grill is located in the earlier section, providing ventilation for the basement store-room, while a cellarway with steep stone steps extends to the cellar of the addition. The two attic dormers have been rebuilt to match the front dormers. One pair of original paneled shutters was found on the early parlor window, serving as a restoration model.

The west elevation, the gable end of the addition, is the least detailed facade. Only one attic window toward the back of the house breaks the wall surface. Much of the interior of this wall is below grade, occupied by fireplace and chimney.

The Mordecai Lincoln House in 1988 has been restored to its basic 1760's exterior with the exception of the retention of the 1820-40 period dormers. Various types of front porches had once graced the house including a Victorian wooden porch pictured in a 1910 photo and a massive cement deck of 1928. Now the upper door can be reached directly from the front yard and wooden steps will be constructed to reach the 1733 doorway. Other features which have been restored are the cellarway and window on the north facade and the hood over the doorway on the east. All reconstruction and replacement was based upon existing features or evidence. For instance, a section of original bargeboard and crown molding was uncovered at the peak of the 1733 house, obscured by the 1760 addition. Original roof lath showed that the wood shingles had a 10" exposure. Four outriders indicated the location and size of the hood. Pintel holes marked the location of the paneled shutters. The new pointing has carefully followed the existing examples of original style and width, and was laboratory analyzed to match original color and consistency.

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The floor plan of the 1733 house was one room wide and two rooms deep at the basement and main levels, with one large attic room above partially covered by a small storage loft at the peak. The basement consists of a kitchen and storage-larder separated by a vertical board partition. The kitchen is nearly twice the size of the larder. The main feature of the kitchen is a large walk-in fireplace, approximately seven feet wide and three feet deep, along the west gable end. This fireplace features a beaded chimney tree, and an early trammel and crane for hanging pots. Next to the fireplace, at the southwest corner, is a box-winder stairway leading upstairs. The enclosure measures about 6'6" x 38". The walls are plastered. The adjacent larder has plastered and whitewashed walls, and a small ventilation opening with an iron grate on the north side. In the interior west corner of the room is a corbelled stone support shelf for the fireplace above. The exposed ceiling joists extend east and west, across the narrow dimension of the house. The clay floor is underlain by shale and shows no evidence of other original flooring. It has been excavated in preparation for future construction of a stone floor on a concrete foundation.

The stairway in the southwest corner of the building extends two flights, connecting all levels. Housed in paneled construction, it provides a sample of original panel design and workmanship. Both flights of this enclosed stairway received light from small windows set into the original west gable end, now the wall dividing the two sections of the house. To preserve this feature, each window will be restored with glass panes and board shutters, providing a lantern or candle niche.

The first floor contains two rooms of nearly equal size. The front parlor has an exterior door and window on the south wall, a window on the east wall, the stairway and chimney on the west wall, and a board partition attached to the summer beam running east and west. The rear chamber has a corner fireplace spanning the interior southwest corner built of stone with an arched opening. There are two windows on the north wall. Two doors were broken through the west wall to connect these rooms with the addition, resulting in some changes to the chimney jamb in the parlor. The beaded board partition, attached to the summer beam with handmade rosehead nails, is of 18th century origin, but may or may not be of 1733 vintage. It was removed at some point, its boards numbered, and then replaced, with one of

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the boards upside down. Traces of yellow paint on one side show the outline of a built-in bench or chest, and the pattern of red paint on the other side, in the chamber, reveals that a massive piece of furniture such as a kas or wardrobe was not moved when the wall space around it was painted. The original oak flooring in the back room is intact.

The c.1760 addition consists of a kitchen and parlor on the first floor and a large sleeping loft above. A stair passage led from the kitchen to the rear cellar, and upward to the loft. Later this was moved, and a doorway opened through the wall to the original parlor. More decorative detail has survived here than in the original house, notably three-member chairrails, window moldings, and beaded, exposed summer beam and ceiling joists. The cooking fireplace has a beaded chimney tree and a brick hearth. The walls were plastered with the exception of the stairwell and attic end walls which were whitewashed. During restoration the stairway has been removed entirely. A re-constructed hand-planed vertical board partition again divides the rooms on the first floor. Above, the attic space over both sections is being divided into a hall, a bathroom and two bedrooms.

The interior of the Lincoln House was prepared for historical rehabilitation by identifying original elements and alterations. Using the surviving 1760 features and evidence of missing details of the 1733 period, both sections of the house are being made to reflect their original architectural qualities. A major alteration of the 1733 wing occurred in the 1880's, when woodwork was removed and replaced with Victorian moldings and walls and ceilings were replastered, including the board partition. Removal of these replacement materials and reopening of the fireplace revealed evidence of original details such as nailers for chairrail, window jambs and mantle, as well as outlines or impressions of chairrail and built-in corner cupboard and baseboard. It was found that the ceiling had always been plastered, because of the presence of nail holes for old and new lath, the light color and rough-sawn finish that would indicate unexposed joists, and the lack of plastering in the space between the ceiling and upper floor. It was also discovered that some of the materials removed during this Victorian modernization were actually used in less extensive changes elsewhere in the house. Thus a stairway addition was found to have pieces of the early black-painted baseboard and boards from side of the corner cupboard.

In the early 1900's the kitchen in the 1760 wing was remodeled with a narrow board ceiling and wainscoting added and the fireplace nailed shut. In the 1920's the board partition between the rooms was replaced with an open archway. Despite these changes the back room retained original chairrail and original clay, lime and

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straw plaster on two walls. Because part of the roof was open for many years, actually allowing trees to grow through the opening, extensive replacements were needed. Front window and door frames, sash, transom, joists, floors, hardware, stone fireplace hearth and iron crane were reconstructed or reproduced.

The summer kitchen is conveniently located about 20 feet from the house with its doorway opening toward the house. It is built of red sandstone with a wood shingle roof and brick chimney at the south gable end. It has one room on each level--basement, main floor, and loft. The first floor kitchen has windows on the north, east and west sides. A walk-in fireplace is located along the south wall with a winder stairway occupying the space between the fireplace jamb and the east wall. The loft has a small window at each gable end, and a knee wall at the sides. The basement is below grade and is reached by stone steps at the east side of the building. Its major feature is a large stone arch in the southeast corner supporting the fireplace above. A doorway in the wall on the north side opens into the hand-dug well, 45 feet deep, with impressive dry wall construction. Details of the fireplace mantle and the type of nails used in construction are typical of the 1820's period. At one time a bake-oven was attached at the rear of the fireplace, and a grape arbor formed a canopy along the east side. The condition of this building in the fall of 1987 was badly deteriorated, with nearly all wooden elements in need of replacements or repair. New joists, floor boards, stairs, and roof had to be built. After rehabilitation, this building will be used as a rental unit or small guest house.

As the restoration nears completion in August, 1988 both the Lincoln House and summer kitchen once again display the integrity required for National Register nomination. The buildings complement one another and form a unit with architectural and historic significance in Exeter Township and Berks County.

**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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
Exploration/Settlement  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

c. 1733-1760, c. 1824  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

c.1733  
c.1760  
c.1824

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 Mordecai Lincoln House is a rare example of a stone settler's cabin, unique in its architectural design and significant as a distinguished member of the earliest surviving class of buildings in Berks County, the primitive stone dwellings of the settlement period. These early houses, built 1716 to 1736 are the most substantial physical remnants of this era. Deeds, wills, inventories, diaries and other writings provide a record of transactions and activities, but few, if any, describe actual buildings. Builders' plans cannot be found, for none of these humble homes was designed by architects. It is the houses themselves that remain to represent their history, depicting variations in form and design which reflect the diverse ethnic and cultural origins of their builders. As a group they represent this early period and shape our perceptions of it. The Mordecai Lincoln House is locally important as an example of early to mid-eighteenth century English architecture and as a representative of the group of buildings that illustrate the settlement of the Oley Valley by different ethnic groups.

The county of Berks was founded in 1752, when it was formed from parts of Philadelphia, Chester, and Lancaster Counties. Settlement of the region occurred during the early 1700's, however, and by the year 1740 agricultural communities had been established through much of the territory. A colony of Swedes erected the first permanent settlement in Amity Township in 1701. About ten years later families of German, Swiss and French Huguenot origins acquired tracts in the Oley Valley. Before 1720 English and Scotch families bought land in southern Oley, now Exeter Township. During the 1720's and 1730's a large colony of Germans established the Tulpehocken Settlement in western Berks and a group of Welsh settlers occupied the Caernarvon area. Therefore, the earliest settlements in Berks County were of diverse national origin. This fact has been somewhat obscured by the advent of the great influx of German immigrants that subsequently found their way into the region so that when the county was chartered in 1752, well over half the population was German.

See continuation sheet



**9. Major Bibliographical Reference**

Frank M. Brown, Editor, Amity, First in Berks: 250th Anniversary 1719-1969  
(Amity Township, 1969).

Robert C. Bucher, "The Swiss Bank House in Pennsylvania," Pennsylvania Folklife, V. 18 (1969), 3-11.

Edward A. Chappell, "Acculturation in the Shenandoah Valley: Rhenish Houses of the Massanutten Settlement," in Common Places: Readings in American Vernacular Architecture, ed. Dell Upton and John Michael Vlach (University of Georgia Press, 1986), 27-57.

P. C. Croll, Annals of the Oley Valley (Reading: Reading Eagle Press, 1926) 47-51.

See continuation sheet

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository:

Berks County Conservancy

**10. Geographical Data**

Acres of property 1.4 acres

UTM References

A 18 429110 4459120  
 Zone Easting Northing

C \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zone Easting Northing

D \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description Beginning at a steel pin south west of the Mordecai Lincoln House at a corner in Lot 1 in the Subdivision Plan of Robert D. Hershey, Jr. adopted by Exeter Township January 12, 1987: proceed N 10° 17'18" W 83.80 feet to a steel pin; thence N 25° 30'13" E 374 feet to Lincoln Rd.; thence southeast along the western edge of the macadam road bed approximately 485' to a point 25' beyond the bridge over Hiester's Creek; thence NW 50' to manhole #116 and continuing along the same line approximately 197' to place of beginning.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification This boundary is marked by surveyors' pins and manmade features that can be readily defined. It comprises the area designated in the Exeter Township Zoning Ordinance as a Historic Landmark District. The boundary of the nominated property follows Lincoln Rd. on the east and northeast (excluding the bridge over Hiester's Creek), and excludes vacant land immediately to the south and west, and noncontributing buildings immediately to the northwest.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Phoebe L. Hopkins, Historic Preservation Director  
 organization Berks County Conservancy date \_\_\_\_\_  
 street & number 960 Old Mill Road telephone 215/372-4992  
 city or town Wyomissing state PA zip code 19610

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According to recent surveys, only about twenty pre-1740 stone dwellings remain in Berks County. The relatively low survival rate supports the theory that the original homes were temporary structures, built for shelter and expedience. Tradition holds that these buildings--houses, barns and outbuildings--were constructed of logs, immediately available from the clearing of the forests for agriculture. Some may have been built upon posts set into the ground, an early type of construction found in some sections of the Mid-Atlantic region. Some may have used half-timber framing. Undoubtedly many of these structures had stone foundations as can be seen in the examples cited. It is generally accepted that the first generation of settlers were more concerned with establishing a means of subsistence, a farm or a trade, than with erecting a "permanent" house. This task usually fell to later generations.

The surviving buildings that have lasted over 250 years have much in common. These were dwellings that had been built for permanence by skilled craftsmen. All have substantial stone foundations, well set into the ground, with massive stone arches or piers to support the fireplaces and chimney stack. All have expertly fitted wood members using the native species best suited to the task, oak and chestnut, hewn or planed and securely joined in a way that minimized the use of nails. Wall surfaces are large, and openings small. Wood shakes or clay tiles were used for the roof. All were occupied by succeeding generations of property owners either as the main residence, with additions to keep pace with lifestyle changes, or as outbuildings such as butcher houses or spring houses. During the past several decades many of these buildings faced adversity. Only those that have been cared for or "rescued" at strategic times have met the test of periodic neglect and remain to add their testimony to the story of Berks County. This is presently the case with the Lincoln House in Exeter Township.

The Oley Valley Heritage Association has identified eight small stone houses as the best examples of the pre-1740 settlement period in the greater Oley Valley. These were the dwellings of Mouns Jones, Jacob Stauber, Thomas Ellis, Jacob Keim, George Boone, Mordecai Lincoln, David Kaufman and Abraham Bertolet. In the following charts they will be compared briefly as to date, ethnic origin, building type, floor plan, materials and features.

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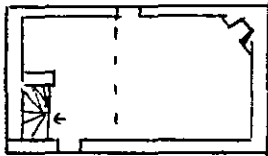
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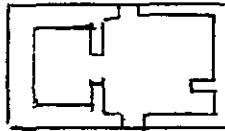
FIGURE 1.

<u>NAME/DATE</u>	<u>TYPE/ORIGIN</u>	<u>FLOOR PLAN</u>	<u>MATERIAL/SIZE</u>	<u>FEATURES</u>
Mouns Jones/1716	Hall & Parlor/Swedish	2 Room Gr/2 Room Up/Loft	Stone 20'x35'	Corner & End Chim
J. Stauber/1720	Bank House/Swiss	2 Room BG/2 Room Up/Loft	Stone 16'x30'	Bas Spring & Kitchen
Ellis/1730	Spring Ho/Welsh	2 Room Gr/2 Room Up/Loft	Stone 16'x26'	Bas Spring & Kitchen
J. Keim/1732	Continental/German	2 Room BG/2 Room Up/Loft	Stone 25'x35'	Center Chim/Bas Spr
George Boone/1733	Hall & Parlor/English	2 Room Gr/2 Room Up/Loft	Stone 16'x30'	2 End Chim
M. Lincoln/1733	Penn Plan/English	2 Room BG/2 Room Up/Loft	Stone 20'x30'	Bas Kitchen/Penn Plan
D. Kaufman/1733	Continental/German	2 Room Gr/3 Room Up/Loft	Stone 25'x35'	Cnt Chim/Bas Kit
A. Bertolet/1735	One Room Plan/French	1 Room Gr/1 Room Up/Loft	Stone 20'x24'	End Chim/Tile Roof

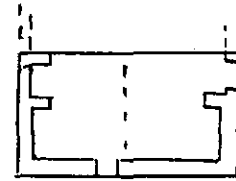
FIGURE 2. FLOOR PLAN SKETCHES



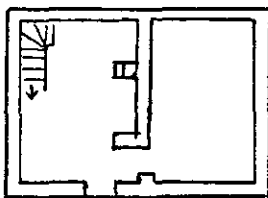
M. Jones 1716  
Swedish  
Hall & Parlor



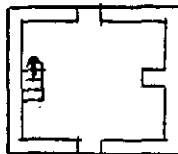
J. Stauber 1720  
Swiss  
Bank House



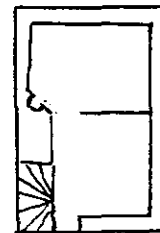
G. Boone 1733  
English  
Hall & Parlor



D. Kaufman 1733  
German  
Continental



A. Bertolet 1735  
French  
One Over One



M. Lincoln 1733  
English  
Penn Plan

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Of the five house types identified in Figure 2, the Penn Plan is the least common in Berks County. Similar houses one room wide and two rooms deep have been called "double-cell" houses on the Delmarva Peninsula and "Quaker Plan" houses in the rural area west of Philadelphia. The origins of this form have been ascribed to the architectural environment of early 18th century Philadelphia, where row houses with one-room-wide facades crowded the city's streetscapes. The European origin is thought to be the row houses of London, rebuilt after the great fire of 1666, a distinctly urban form translated into a rural setting. It is possible that Mordecai Lincoln brought the ideas for his house in Berks County from similar buildings he had known in neighboring Chester County, where this type of house was fairly common.

Lincoln was born near Scituate, Massachusetts, the third generation descendent of Samuel Lincoln who emigrated from Norwich, England in 1637. Mordecai and a brother moved with other New England families to Monmouth County, N.J. in 1710, at age 23, and Mordecai married Hannah Saltar there in 1714. In 1720 he moved to Chester County, Pennsylvania, along the French Creek where he was employed as an "ironmonger" or forge-man. In 1724 he built the Coventry Iron Forge in partnership with Samuel Nutt and William Branson, selling his one-third interest to Branson the following year. His wife Hannah and his father both died in 1727. Later that year Mordecai moved to Berks County where he was appointed a viewer for the construction of the Tulpehocken Road from Oley to the ford at Reading. In 1727 or 1728 he purchased 1,000 acres from Jonathan Robeson, son of Andrew Robeson who had been a prominent settler of Scotch ancestry. About 1728 Lincoln apparently married Andrew Robeson's daughter, Mary. During this time Lincoln served Pennsylvania as a special commissioner to organize defense against hostile Indians and Philadelphia County as the second Justice of the Peace of the Amity-Oley region.

In 1732 Mordecai inherited 110 pounds from his father's estate. This money may have been used to make final payment on his land title and begin construction of his stone house. The date 1733 was said to be inscribed on a beam or stone, and was mentioned in a 1920 newspaper account of renovations. This date is not "confirmed", but it fits historical and architectural evidence. During the present restoration, a George I farthing was found under the door sill. The date is not fully legible but catalogs show the coin was only minted between 1717 and 1724. Architectural consultant Barry Stover, who has measured and compared numerous early eighteenth century Pennsylvania dwellings, found no evidence that refutes the assumed original date of 1733.

Although small by today's standards, the 20' by 30' house was a typical sort of house to be built by a rural man of prominence during the first third of the century. The substantial masonry walls and chimney, the interior stairway housed in

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Its original paneled construction, the presence of beaded chimney trees and summer beams and the interior evidence of chair-rails, built-in corner cupboard, fireplace overmantel and plastered walls and ceilings suggest a builder of above average means. Mordecai lived in the house only three years, 1733 to 1736, until he died at age 50. His inventory, appraised June 5, 1736, lists furnishings that match the size of this house as well as one or more outbuildings for livestock and tools. In the inventory, Mordecai is titled "Gentleman".

The best evidence that confirms the location of the Lincoln house is found in the road surveys. "Andrew Robeson's Road" in 1718 terminated at this very site, and its extension, in 1737, began at "Widow Lincoln's House".

Mordecai had six children by his first wife (son John being the grandfather of the President) and three by his second wife, the last, Abraham, born after his father's death in 1736. To the children of his first wife, he bequeathed his land in New Jersey. To his three youngest boys, he bequeathed his Exeter property (listed as "Amity" in tax records). The eldest of the Pennsylvania heirs, Mordecai II, born 1730, was left the "lower third" of the property, which included the homestead site. Upon his 21st birthday in 1751, he began paying taxes on the farm. In 1755 he married Mary Webb or Ward. In 1757 his taxes increased from 9 shillings to 20 pounds and were listed for "half a tenement". This marked the time the estate was settled when the youngest son, Abraham, came of age, and it may have been the time the house was enlarged.

The addition to the original house was built c.1757-1760 by Mordecai II. Except for a single doorway connecting the attic rooms, this addition was a separate unit. The first floor has a kitchen and parlor, divided by a vertical board partition. The sleeping loft had only one window, at the west gable end. The window moldings, chairrails and baseboards differed from those of the original house, depicting a later style. Ceiling joists were exposed and beaded. Downstairs walls were plastered, while stairwell and attic walls were whitewashed stone. The front door had a four light transom. The major effect was the provision of more space and a measure of privacy for Mordecai II and his family. In its plan this house resembled an "18th century duplex". It is believed that Mordecai continued to share the dwelling with his mother's family, although it has also been speculated that he may have operated a store here during the 1760's.

In 1784 Mordecai II sold the farm, eventually becoming an innkeeper in Dauphin and Fayette Counties. From 1784 to 1866 the Huyett family farmed the 150 acre tract. It was the Huyetts who built the stone summer kitchen-bake oven, c.1824. Clues to its age are the early 19th century moldings and nails. The presence of a

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number of stone foundations adjacent to this building indicates former and possibly earlier construction at this site. A significant feature of the summer kitchen is its basement access to a hand dug well which extends nearly forty feet below basement level. This is the only one of its kind that has been identified locally.

Although the well beneath the summer kitchen is unique, the overall appearance and functions of the nominated summer kitchen are representative of eighteenth and early nineteenth century summer kitchens in Berks County. The form and functions of summer kitchens in the county changed little from the eighteenth to early nineteenth centuries. Like the nominated summer kitchen, most summer kitchens in the county before the 1830's were one room, stone buildings with a gable roof and gable end chimney. Other surviving Berks County summer kitchens that predate the 1830's often combine the function of a kitchen on the first floor with a spring house in the basement. The first floor fireplaces in these other summer kitchens are supported by a stone arch in the basement, as is found in the nominated summer kitchen.

In 1866 the farm was bequeathed by Sarah Huyett to Amos Faber. The property then included 60 acres. In 1896 the farm again returned to Lincoln ownership. Its new owner, Richard Lincoln, launched into extensive renovations in order to modernize the interior of his house in the current Victorian style. Walls were replastered, including the board partitions. Additional doorways were broken through the walls between the two sections. A wooden porch graced the house and a grape arbor was attached to the summer kitchen. The sloping site featured walled terraces and picket fences enclosing yard and garden areas. Frame barns and sheds and the wooden milkhouse were located north of the house. A postcard view of the homestead, c.1910, documents the appearance of the property at this time.

Between 1911 and 1921 the homestead had many short-term owners and was involved in litigation and sheriff's sales. In 1921 it was purchased by John and Emma Hoffman, the last full-time residents. The Hoffmans operated a dairy farm. The Hoffmans added a cement porch, now removed, to the front of the house.

In 1968 the executors of Emma Hoffman's estate sold the farm at auction. The buyer was Sidney Harwitz, an investor who pursued the possibility of selling the homestead to the township or state for restoration as a historic site. When this plan did not succeed, he allowed the site to deteriorate. After his death in late 1984 the 32 acre property was sold to the present owners, Robert and Joyce Hershey. Part of the tract was sold by the Hersheys to help finance the restoration of the house and summer kitchen in a nine-acre valley setting. Both buildings are being restored as faithfully as possible to their period of construction, while accommodating the necessary amenities of modern living.

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In 1986 the Township of Exeter designated the Mordecai Lincoln House and its surrounding one and one-half acre tract as a "Historic Preservation District". The boundaries include the road frontage and the western triangle of the Hershey land that includes the historic buildings. This designation is recorded with the deed and is the equivalent of a facade easement that will protect the exterior appearance of the buildings. The township has taken this action in recognition of the private restoration of one of its landmarks and as a link to one of its most important settlers, Mordecai Lincoln, great-great grandfather of Abraham Lincoln, the sixteenth president of the United States.

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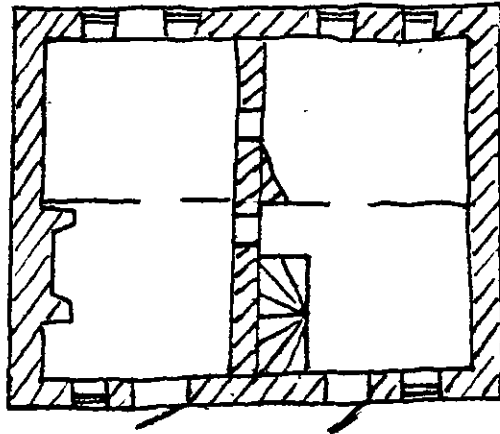
Phila. County Court of Quarter Sessions, Road Docket.

Lincoln, Mordecai House

Berks County

First Floor Plan

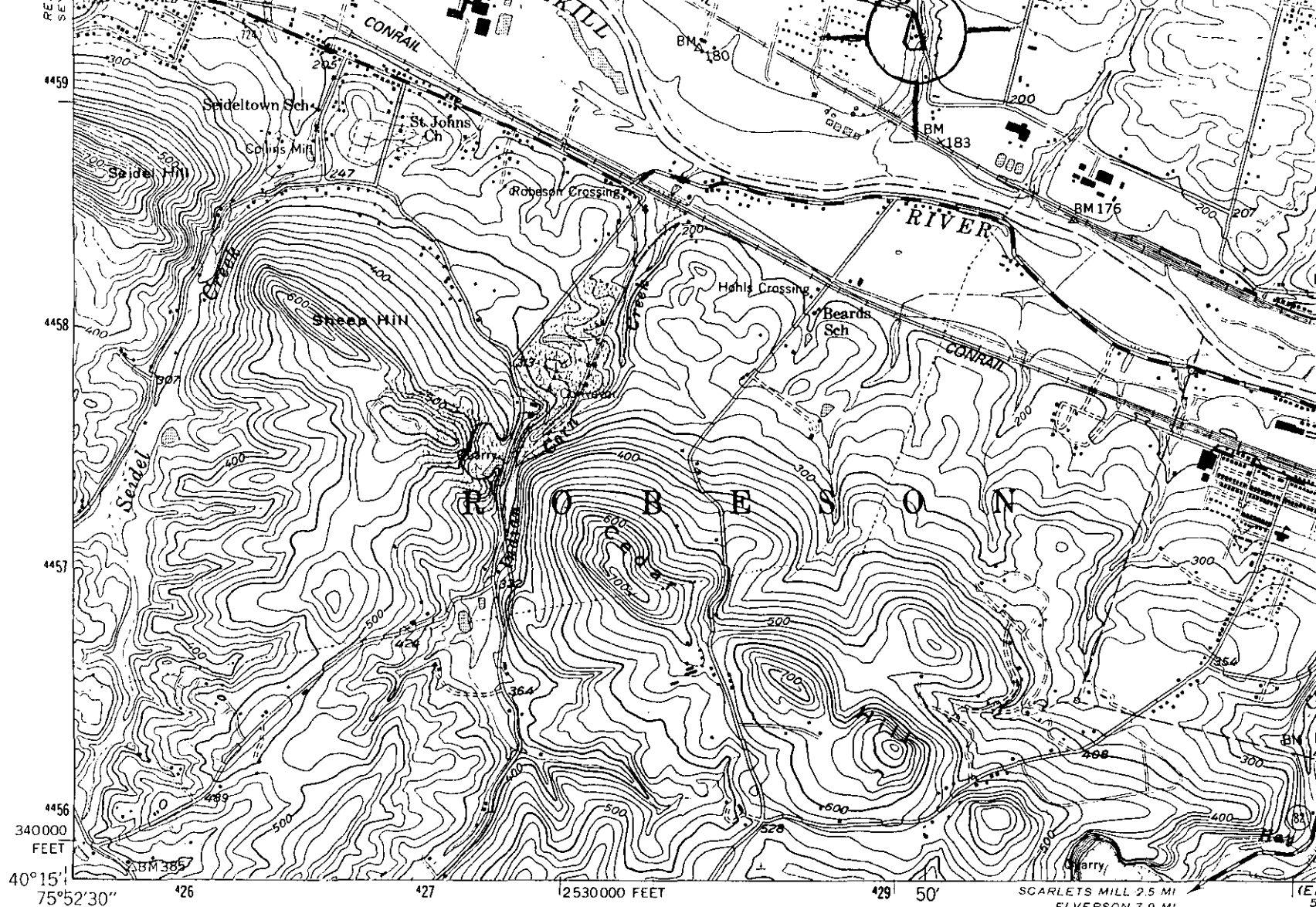
Not Drawn to Scale



Birdsboro Quad  
 Zone 18  
 E-429 110  
 N-4459120

Mordecai Lincoln Hoop  
 Berks Co.

(MORGANTOWN)  
 5364 III NW



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

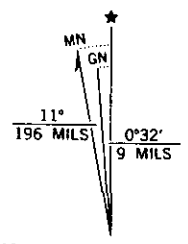
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and USCE

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1942. Field checked 1947

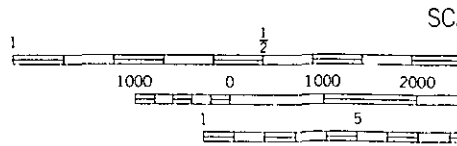
Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Pennsylvania coordinate system, south zone. 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 18, shown in blue  
 1927 North American Datum

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983  
 move the projection lines 6 meters south and  
 30 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled in cooperation with Commonwealth of Pennsylvania agencies from aerial photographs taken 1942 and other sources. This information not field



UTM GRID AND 1983 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



CONTOUR NATIONAL GEODETIC

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH N  
 FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGIC