

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 Moland House
other names/site number Washington's Headquarters

2. Location

street & number 1641 Old York Road n/a not for publication
city, town Hartsville n/a vicinity
state Pennsylvania code PA county Bucks code 017 zip code 18974

3. Classification

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

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Signature of certifying official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Vacant

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Georgian

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Stone

roof Wood Shingle

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Moland House in Warwick Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania is located along the Old York Road (SR 263) and sits amid a wooded setting on a 12.1 acre tract. To the west of the house is the Old York Road, to the east lies the York Road bypass (LR 155, ca. 1970), to the north is a wooded lot, and to the south is the Little Neshaminy Creek. The Moland House sits empty, and has been condemned for human habitation by local code enforcement officials. It is often broken into and is under constant threat of destruction by vandalism. The earliest extant sections of the house consist of a two bay, two-and-a-half story, double pile, stone main block with a contemporary three bay, two-and-a-half story, single pile, stone kitchen wing. On the east gable end of the kitchen wing is a reworked summer kitchen, raised to two stories between 1939 and 1941. A one-and-a-half story "L" shaped addition was built between 1939 and 1941. A one story breezeway (enclosed after 1950) connects the eil to a one story, masonry, wash house (ca. 1850). On the 12 acre tract are two non-contributing outbuildings--a steel drive-in corn crib and a combination garage/guest house--and one non-contributing structure, a round, steel chicken house with conical roof. Because of these outbuildings, the boundaries of the nominated resource were pared down to include only the house and approximately one acre of land.

The earliest extant sections of the house are the two-and-a-half story, two bay, double pile, stone "main block" and a contemporary two-and-a-half story, three bay, single pile kitchen wing. This section of the house appears to date to the mid-eighteenth century, and stood during the building's period of significance. Mid-eighteenth century houses with a similar form can be found throughout central Bucks County. The Snodgrass Farmhouse in Doylestown Township features an identical plan, and is traditionally dated to the second quarter of the eighteenth century. Two houses in Buckingham Township are also similar to the Moland House; these two houses (tax parcel 6-14-61 and tax parcel 6-21-65) feature identical main blocks with two bay kitchen wings. A house in Solebury Township, illustrated in Henry Glassie's article, "Eighteenth Century Cultural Process in Delaware Valley Folk Building". exhibits an identical form. Glassie states that:

In southeastern Pennsylvania, nearby Delaware, and particularly in the area of New Jersey just east of Philadelphia, it [houses two bays wide, two rooms deep] can be found, built of frame or log, brick or stone, as a farm house, generally with a wing off the non-chimney gable. The gable of this house, one third

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of the Georgian type, is the same as that of houses that are two thirds of the fundamental [Georgian] form, but the openings per floor are reduced from five to three to two.

The interior of the earliest sections of the house were substantially altered during renovations done between 1939 and December 1941² under the direction of architect, Clyde Shuler. Evidence in the basement of the double-pile block indicates that the floors and floor joists were replaced and that the plan was originally side-passage with double parlors and back-to-back corner fireplaces on the west gable wall. The northern parlor was smaller than the southern one. The physical evidence is supported by a description of the house which was included in W.W.H. Davis' 1905 edition of History of Bucks County. Davis stated:

As when Washington occupied it [the Moland House], the first floor of the main building is divided into two rooms with the entry near the kitchen; the larger room being on the south [west] side and entered from the porch, the smaller, back.... In each there was an open fireplace and then as now a door opened into the kitchen.

Unfortunately, the main block of the house no longer exhibits this plan. The first floor is now all one room with one fireplace on the west gable wall. All of the walls on both the first and second floors of the main block are covered with vertical, beaded boards. The west gable wall on the first floor features two cupboards adjacent to the fireplace and bookcases flanking the southerly gable window. The staircase rises from the northeast corner of the room and has an enclosed stringer and very stocky balusters. A tripartite, one story, bay window was built onto the southern elevation. The entire interior appears to date from the 1939-1941 remodelling.

The interior of the second floor of the main block is also all one room except for a bath which was added in ca. 1940. A fireplace with a simple surround is located on the west gable wall; a bookcase with an arched top is also on this wall. All interior details appear to date to the ca. 1940 remodelling.

The third floor of the main block has also been redone in ca. 1940. The dormer on the south slope of the roof was added during the restoration. The third floor has built-in bookcases, closets, built-in drawer and cabinet, and a bath.

The first floor plan of the kitchen wing is all one room. The ceiling is open beams with an exposed, reworked cooking fireplace on the east gable wall. The fireplace features a bakeoven opening and shelf in its northeast corner.

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The second floor of the kitchen wing also has an open beam ceiling and a fireplace on the west gable wall with Delft-like tiles adorning the surround. A simple mantel surrounds the fireplace.

Early twentieth century photographs show a one story kitchen attached to the east gable of the kitchen wing. This section of the house appears to have been raised to two stories; it is clapboarded on the second story on the north elevation and clapboarded on the entire south elevation. This section presently houses a staircase which seems to date to ca. 1940.

Appended to the raised kitchen is a one-and-a-half story frame "L" shaped addition which is faced in stone on the north elevation and east gable wall and clapboarded on the rear (south) elevation. According to a 1950 sales brochure for the property, the first floor of this section includes a "completely modern kitchen....[with] custom-made stained fine panelled walls and cupboards, artistic Colonial crystal cabinets" and a "cosy television room with knotty pine walls and open beam ceiling".⁴ The second floor features two bedrooms with built-in closets and cabinets.

A partially enclosed "breezeway" links the rear of the ca. 1940 addition to a mid-nineteenth century, stuccoed, wash house. The wash house has a small, one story, shed roof entrance porch which links the west gable wall of the wash house to the breezeway. Inside the wash house is a fireplace on the west gable wall. Underneath the building is a vaulted root cellar with a well located in the northeast corner.

ENDNOTES

(1) Henry Glassie, "Eighteenth Century Cultural Process in Delaware Valley Folk Building" in Dell Upton and John Michael Vlach, ed. in Common Places: Readings in American Vernacular Architecture (Athens, GA: The University of Georgia Press, 1986), 403.

(2) Russell B. Graves, Letter to Robert to Robert W. Pierson, 4 August 1976.

(3) W.W.H. Davis, History of Bucks County, 2nd ed., (New York and Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1905) V. I, 408.

(4) Lewis Trainman Auction Company, Sales Brochure for "Headquarters Farm", 1950, np.

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)

Military

Period of Significance

1777

Significant Dates

1777

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 Moland House is locally significant under criterion A for its association with the Revolutionary War. This dwelling was employed by General George Washington as his headquarters from August 10th to August 23rd, 1777 during the encampment at Neshaminy, Warwick Township in Bucks County. The Neshaminy encampment (also known as Cross Roads for the contemporary name of Hartsville) was the third longest in Pennsylvania after the Valley Forge and White Marsh encampments. The Neshaminy encampment, while not of direct military significance, was important as the site of major events in the careers of three major Revolutionary figures; Marquis de Lafayette, Count Pulaski, and Light Horse Harry Lee. It is the place where Lafayette officially assumed his command, where Count Pulaski was introduced to Washington, and where Light Horse Harry Lee faced a court martial. It is also where Betsy Ross' flag is said to have been flown for the first time. The subsequent course of the Revolutionary War was influenced by the three former events. The influence of the new flag is difficult to assess. While its association with these events appear minor on a national scope, the Neshaminy encampment was significant in the local history of the Revolutionary War. The Moland House remains as the sole documented building used during the Neshaminy encampment.

Since Bucks County is located between Philadelphia and Trenton, New Jersey, it was the scene of several encampments during the Revolutionary War, the most important of which occurred in December 1776, in conjunction with Washington's crossing of the Delaware for his important victory at Trenton. Washington had three separate headquarters during that period: Washington's Crossing vicinity, Newtown, and Morrisville. The headquarters in Washington's Crossing burned; the headquarters in Newtown was razed for a gas station; and the primary area of significance for his headquarters in Morrisville, known as Summerseat, was as the residence of signers of both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

The Moland House is located along the easterly side of the York Road, several hundred feet north of the Neshaminy Creek. Slightly south of the creek the Bristol and York Roads intersect, giving rise to a village known as "The Cross Roads" (now Hartsville). The purpose of the Neshaminy encampment was to place the American army in a position to counter General Howe's anticipated attack on Philadelphia while still being in a position to move to the northern theatre if a greater threat was to be directed there.

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The Neshaminy encampment was part of the Campaign of 1777 in the middle colonies. This campaign, following the American victories at Trenton and Princeton in the winter of 1776-1777, resulted in the loss of Philadelphia, but did little to affect the outcome of the revolution. With the American victory at Saratoga in New York, came French support, transforming the war into an international conflict. The spring of 1777 saw the main British forces concentrated in New York City. The British strategy for the Campaign of 1777 was to divide their forces: One force was sent up the Hudson River to rendezvous with forces under the command of General Burgoyne near Albany. This army was designed to cut New England from the remainder of the colonies. [It was this force that was defeated by the Americans at Saratoga.] A larger force was to be sent to Philadelphia in order to capture the American capital. Due to the overwhelming advantage of British sea power, General Howe chose an ocean route rather than a more direct inland route where he could be constantly attacked by the American forces. Howe wasted much of May and June, 1777 attempting to draw Washington into a pitched battle and did not begin the Philadelphia campaign until July. Then a July calm held the fleet in port until the last week of the month.

The American forces had wintered at Morristown, New Jersey. The early part of the campaign season had been spent engaging in a series of small skirmishes in the northern part of New Jersey. Washington ordered the troops to move towards Philadelphia after word arrived indicating that the British fleet had left New York in late July. The diary of Lt. James McMichael indicates that while most troops marched straight through the county at least one regiment camped at the Cross Roads for the night before moving on to Germantown. After camping on the Schuylkill River near Germantown for several days, Washington ordered the army to undertake a slow march via Whitemarsh along the York Road to Coryell's Ferry (the present New Hope) on the Delaware River. The lack of any sighting of the British fleet since it left New York on July 25th made Washington doubt that Philadelphia was the enemy's objective, and began moving his troops northward. [He could not know of all of the problems that delayed the British.]

On August 7, 1777 information that the British fleet had finally been sighted off the Maryland coast, at Sinepuxent, halted the march. Washington acknowledged the sighting and wrote to Congress "I was about three miles eastward of the Billet tavern (now Hatboro) on the road leading to Coryell's Ferry, when the express arrived. The troops are encamped near the road, where they will remain till I have further accounts respecting the fleet, which you will be pleased to forward to me by the earliest conveyance." The troops remained in camp for two weeks, frozen by the lack of information on enemy movements.

While the army was in camp at Neshaminy it probably numbered between ten and eleven thousand men. It was composed of four divisions commanded by Major Generals Greene, Sterling, Stephens and Lincoln. The latter officer was not there, though the division continued to bear his name. The divisions were divided into eight brigades commanded by Brigadier Generals Maxwell, Knox, Wayne, Muhlenberg, Weedon, Woodford, Scott, and Conway. Regiments included at least twelve from Virginia, seven from Pennsylvania, and several from New Jersey and Maryland.

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The Neshaminy Creek/Cross Roads site was admirably calculated for the encampment. It was on one of the main roads from Philadelphia to New York. It abounded with shade, water, and pasturage, and was located amidst what Washington's aide-de-camp Colonel John Laurens called "a plentiful country". It was in the midst of a settlement of Scotch-Irish who were generally among the most ardent supporters of the American cause.

Upon finally receiving intelligence confirming British movements against Philadelphia the army proceeded to Delaware and then into defensive positions to meet the enemy along the Brandywine River. The Americans were defeated in the Battle of Brandywine on September 11, 1777. Washington attempted to meet a portion of the British army headquartered in Germantown on October 4, 1779. Again, Washington lost the battle. The loss of Philadelphia resulted in the American troops losing not only their capital city, but their largest supply center, and prospective winter quarters which led them to their Valley Forge encampment.

Amongst the many issues General Washington had to deal with during the thirteen day encampment was the appointment of foreign officers to the army. Twelve years of peace in Europe resulted in many unemployed professional soldiers eager to serve in the Continental Army. Benjamin Franklin and Silas Deane, American agents in Paris, wrote letters of introduction to the Congress, whose president complained that French officers beset his door like bailiffs stalking a debtor. Foreigners were given commissions in the Continental Army, with rank and pay, but without being assigned to a particular Corps, and thus without any real command. American troops disliked serving under foreigners and there was nothing for most of them to do except to serve on Washington's staff, and complain at the way he was running the war.

The Writings of Washington includes a letter dated August 13, 1777 from the Neshaminy encampment as Washington wrote to Silas Deane regarding foreign volunteers: "Sir: I have had the pleasure of receiving several of your favors by the hands of Gentlemen coming to America, with a desire to enter into our service....The difficulty of providing for those Gentlemen, in a Manner suitable to the former ranks of some, and the expectations of many, has not a little embarrassed Congress and myself. The extravagant Rank given to the Officers who first came over from France, most of whom have turned out but little better than adventurers, made those of real Merit and long Service, who came over with proper credentials, naturally conclude that they should enjoy the highest posts in our Army". The letter outlined the difficulty in finding commands for the volunteers. Washington explained that when Congress determined to create a permanent army, officers were chosen from those who had served in their state armies. The most significant of these foreign officers were those who joined the American cause, and through their own abilities were able to gain the respect of Washington and the troops.

Two of the most important of these foreign officers joined the American army during its Neshaminy encampment. The Marquis de Lafayette had been made a major general by Congress on July 31, 1777. On August 2, 1777 he met General Washington for the first time. He got his first real view of American troops at a review of troops at their

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encampment on the Schuylkill on August 8. There are different assumptions as to the exact date of Lafayette's joining the American army; however all agree it was sometime during the Neshaminy encampment. Correspondence from Washington's staff noted his arrival by August 19th. Although Lafayette had joined the encampment, and was quartered with Washington, he apparently was perplexed by his status. He had expected immediate employment, but was not given a command. Congress had given Lafayette his rank mainly as an act of diplomacy with the hope that it would help cement a French alliance.

Lafayette's first appearance at a council of war was on August 21, 1777. The council was held at the Moland House and included, in addition to Washington and Lafayette, Major Generals Greene, Stirling, Stephen; and the eight Brigadiers. Lafayette was injured the following month at the Battle of Brandywine and recuperated in Bethlehem until October, 1777. After rejoining the army he proved his abilities, and through his own personality, was able to win the confidence of the Americans. Washington gave him a small independent command. He saw service through the close of the war, being present at the surrender of Yorktown. On August 21, 1777 Count Pulaski was received at the Moland House. He joined the army as a private; however his heroic actions at the Battle of Brandywine resulted in his being promoted to Commander of Cavalry with the rank of Brigadier General. He was mortally wounded at the siege of Savannah, October 9, 1779.

The problems with these foreign officers came to a head in the months following the Neshaminy encampment. After Gate's victory in Saratoga and Washington's defeats around Philadelphia, General Thomas Conway, who was the most infamous of this group, plotted to replace Washington with General Gates. The Conway Cabal was discovered, and most of the plotters, excepting Gates, were exposed and dismissed from the American service.

The encampment was the scene of a major event in the career of another important figure in the Revolution. Captain Henry Lee, of Colonel Bland's regiment of light horse was charged with disobedience of orders. The charges were found to be groundless and that Lee acted for the good of his troops. He was acquitted with honor. Promoted to major in 1778, Lee went on to an almost legendary career earning the name "Light Horse Harry". He would eventually become the Governor of Virginia and a member of Congress. As a friend of Washington he would deliver the famous address that contained the words; "First in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen." If he had been found guilty of the charges he faced at Neshaminy, his military career and subsequent political career and social standing would have suffered perhaps irreparable damage.

On August 22, 1777 word had been received that Howe's fleet had been seen well up the Chesapeake Bay, indicating an attack on Philadelphia. Preparations were made to break camp the following morning, march toward Philadelphia, then continue south, where the army would be joined by other units. According to an article by B. F. Fackenthal in the Bucks County Historical Society Journal the troops carried the "Stars and Stripes" which Congress had officially adopted two months before, and which, it is said, was unfurled here for the first time.

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With the possible exception of a part of the skirmishing at the Battle of Crooked Billet, no Revolutionary War battle was fought within Bucks County. There are a number of buildings where Washington and his generals were headquartered or were entertained for a short period of time. However, the nature of the American army's strategy of constant movement, coupled by the negative effects on supporters of the Revolution by having large numbers of troops living off the countryside due to a lack of provisions, made long encampments unusual. A month before the Neshaminy encampment Washington commented in his general orders about the problems caused by the army. "That fences are ever burnt must be imputed to inattention and want of care in the officers, but at this time will be deemed to arise from the most inexcusable negligence. How disagreeable to the army is it that the peaceable inhabitants, our countrymen and fellow citizens, dread our halting among them even for a night, and are happy when they get rid of us. This can only proceed from the distress, plundering and wanton destruction of their property".

The only other encampment site in Bucks County that retains any rural character, and thus can adequately represent its period of significance (Washington's Crossing) has been made into a National Landmark. The Moland House and its surrounding area is an important representation of the Revolutionary War in general, and for its local association with some of the period's most influential figures.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository:

Bucks County Conservancy
85 Old Dublin Pike, Doylestown, PA

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 1.0

UTM References

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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the nominated property were set to include the main house and its curtilage only. The remaining 11.49 acres are primarily vacant with the exception of one non-contributing outbuilding and two non-contributing structures. The non-contributing structures date from the twentieth century and the non-contributing outbuilding which appears to date from the nineteenth century retains little architectural integrity.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jeffrey L. Marshall, Dir. of Historic Preservation; Nancy VanDolsen Arch. Historian
organization Bucks County Conservancy date January, 1989
street & number 85 Old Dublin Pike telephone (215) 345-8966
city or town Doylestown state PA zip code 18901

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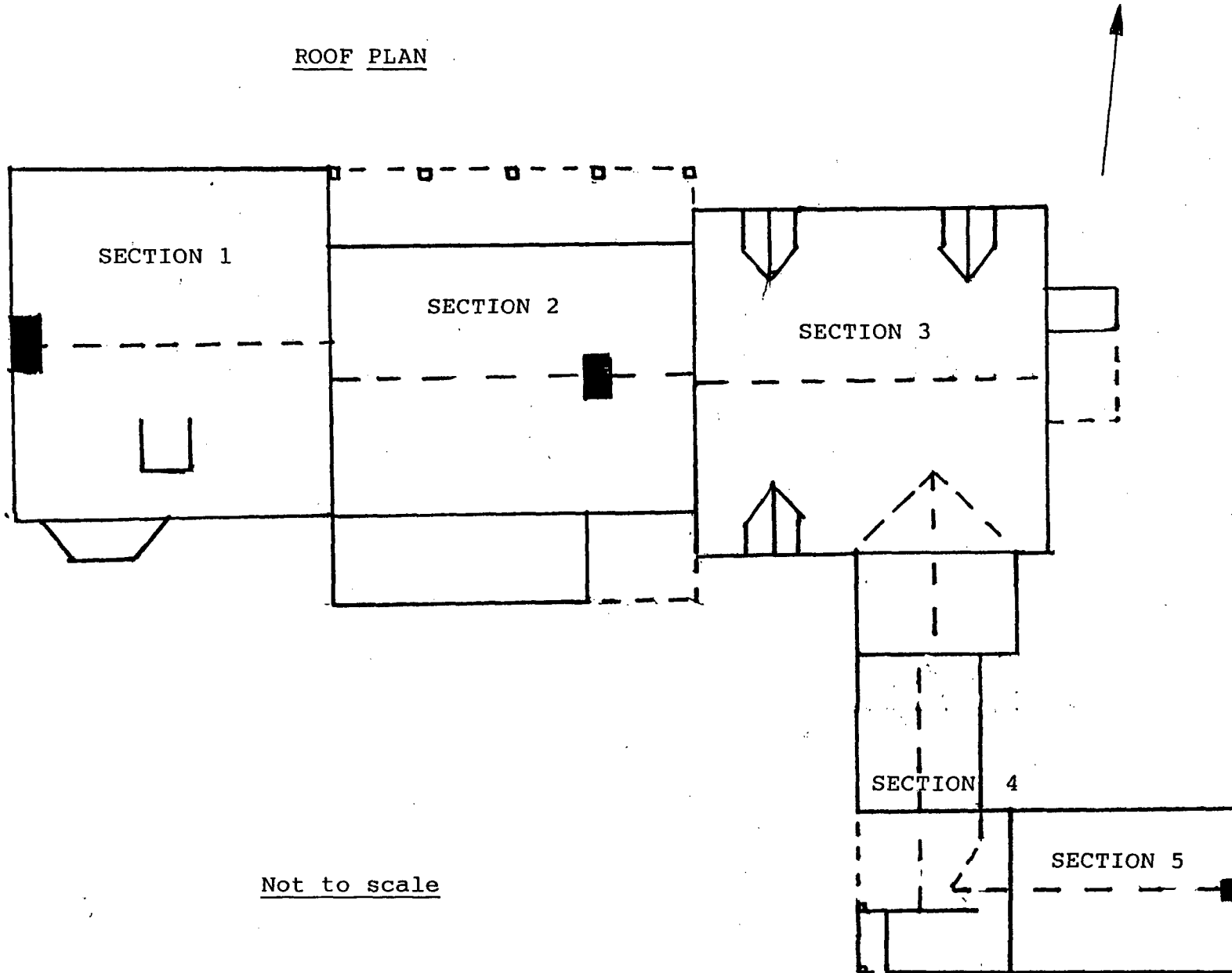
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Beginning at a point along the easterly edge of Old York Road (Route 263) approximately 670 feet North of the center point of the concrete and steel bridge carrying the said road over the Little Neshaminy Creek; thence East in a right angle from the Old York Road approximately 220 feet to a corner. Thence North in a line between the house and the barn foundation, parallel to the Old York Road, approximately 200 feet to a corner. Thence West in a right angle to the easterly edge of the Old York Road between the house and the guest house approximately 220 feet to a corner. Thence South along the easterly edge of the Old York Road approximately 200 feet to the place of beginning. Containing 1.0 acres.

Moland House
Warwick Township
Bucks County

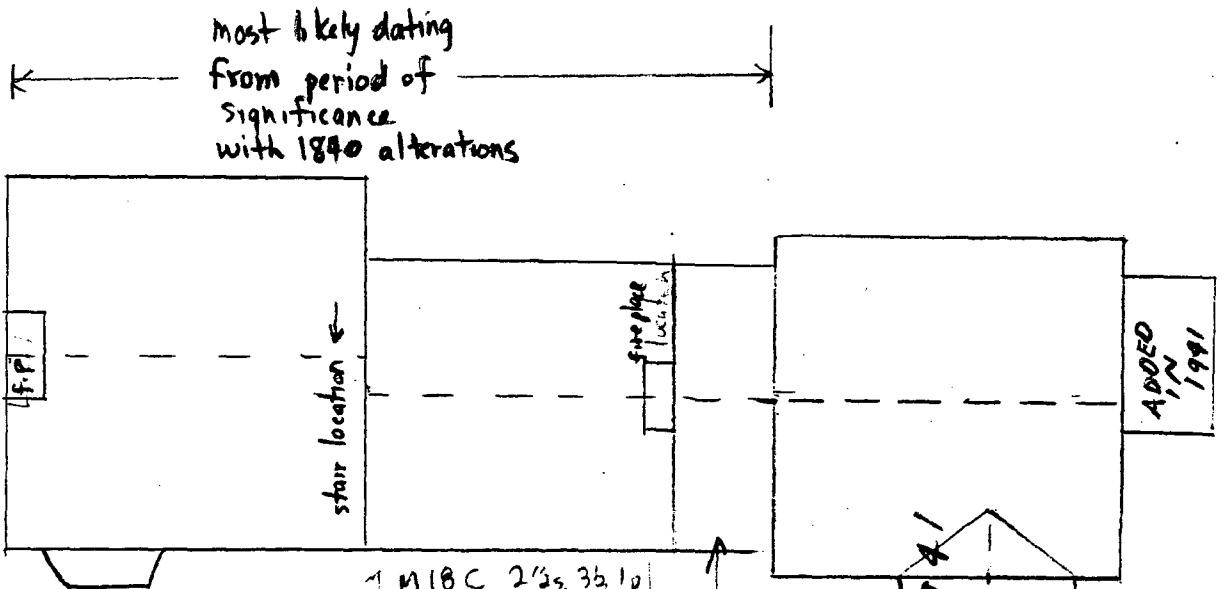
ROOF PLAN



Not to scale

Moland House
 Warwick Twp., Bucks Co.

NOT DRAWN TO
 EXACT SCALE



MIBC 2 1/2's, 2b, 2p

Former side passage
 front+back parlor

Fireplace opened +
 re-worked
 1941

porch framed in
 on south facade
 post 1972

1 story
 gable?
 Kitchen
 wing
 raised 1941.

Frame south
 facade;
 Frame over
 stone
 north facade

Changes:

- bay window added 1941
- front+back parlor opened
 corner fireplaces removed
 poss. c. 1840
- new fireplace + panelling
 1941
- stair direction changed
 poss. c. 1840
 balustrade 1941
- floor joist 2nd + 3rd floor
 re-oriented to east-west
 direction. Unknown
 date (Circular saw marks)
- dormer added post 1907

Mid 19th Century
 Wash house
 with vaulted
 arch cellar

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

