

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 continuations sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Bird-in-Hand Hotel  
other name/site number Village Inn of Bird-in-Hand, Rhoad's Hotel

### 2. Location

street & number 2695 Old Philadelphia Pike (Pa. Route 340)  N/A not for publication  
city, town Bird-in-Hand (East Lampeter Township)  N/A vicinity  
state Pennsylvania code PA county Lancaster code 071 zip code 17505

### 3. Classification

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

Name of related multiple property listing

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency or 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 or 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: Hotel

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Hotel

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

MID 19TH CENTURY: Greek Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Brick

roof Synthetic: fiber glass

other \_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Bird-in-Hand Hotel is a detached rectangular three-story brick hotel building located immediately adjacent to Old Philadelphia Pike in the Village of Bird-in-Hand. The building occupies the southwestern corner of its lot, with a paved parking lot to the east and a grass lawn to the rear. Immediately surrounding the site are a mix of predominantly nineteenth century residential and commercial buildings.

A two-and-one-half story T wing, with a two-story extension, is attached off-center to the rear of the principal block of the building. A one-story frame addition adjoins the eastern elevation of the extension of the rear wing. A shed porch extends full-width across the facade of the principal block of the building. Second-level cantilevered shed porches are located at the eastern and western elevations of the rear two-and-one-half story wing.

**Exterior**

The principal block of the building has a lateral gable composition shingle roof with interior end chimneys at each gable. The rear wing and its extension have slate gable roofs with a single interior end chimney at the extension. The porches and the rear frame addition have standing seam metal roofs. Brickwork on the front portion of the building is set in running bond at the facade and common bond on the side and rear elevations. All elevations of the rear wing and its extension are set in common bond.

The principal south facade of the building is five bays wide with a simple corbelled brick cornice. Entrances, set within rectangular openings with single-light transoms, are located in the first, third, and fifth bays of the first level and the center bay of the second level. Central doors at the first and second level are wooden with a single large light over two molded panels. Doors in the outer bays of the first level have two full-height molded vertical panels. Wooden six-over-six light double hung sash windows with simple flat lintels and sills are located in all remaining bays of the first, second, and third levels. First floor windows retain panelled wooden shutters and those above retain louvered wooden shutters. The full-facade porch on the second story is supported by two-tiers of wooden Roman Tuscan order columns, unfluted, with bases on sandstone piers, and has a simple square picket handrail. The area beneath the porch is paved with brick set in a herringbone pattern.

The east and west elevations of the principal block are two bays wide with two six-over-six sash windows, similar to those of the facade, at each level. First floor windows retain panelled wooden shutters and those above retain louvered wooden shutters. The center bays of the rear (north) elevation are obscured by the rear wing. Six-over-six sash windows, similar to those of the facade, are located at each level of the outer bays. The first floor window to the west has been enclosed behind later porch infill. A new entrance door has been added immediately east of the third floor west window at the western end of the elevation and is accessed by an exterior stair that rises through the porch along the western elevation of the rear wing.

The two-and-one-half story rear wing is three bays deep. Its east elevation is three bays wide with rectangu-

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lar entrances at the southern bay of the first level and center bay of the second level. Six-over-six windows, similar to those of the principal block, are located in all remaining bays. Both doors are similar to the central doors of the facade. The cantilevered porch at the second level has wooden posts on pedestals and a simple picket-type railing. The first floor level of a similar porch at the west elevation of the rear wing was infilled in the mid-twentieth century. The upper level has a rectangular entrance at its southern bay and a six-over-six window to the north. A simple wooden exterior staircase rises to the porch along the west elevation of the extension of the wing and then continues along the wing to a small landing atop the porch roof.

The north elevation of the rear wing is obscured by its two-story extension. The first floor level of the east elevation of the two bay deep extension is obscured by a frame addition. The addition is clad with synthetic siding and has no openings. Both bays of the upper level and all bays of the west elevation contain six-over-six windows, similar to those of the principal block of the building. The first floor level of the rear (north) elevation of the extension is partially obscured by a small frame addition.

Exterior alterations occurring prior to a 1989 rehabilitation were minimal. An engraving in the 1875 Atlas of Lancaster County shows the gable ends rising to form low parapets with integral chimneys. It is uncertain whether or not this drawing accurately depicted the original gable design; both existing chimneys are later replacements and the parapets no longer remain.

As originally constructed, the porch railing at the upper level of the front porch was of a "Chinese" design favored by Thomas Jefferson and used extensively at Monticello. The railing was replaced with a simpler design, with thin square pickets, in 1984. Also in that year, a light abrasive cleaning of the exterior brickwork was undertaken but did not significantly alter the overall character of brick surfaces.

The 1989 rehabilitation retained and enhanced significant historic features and fabric in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. Building code requirements made a second egress from the third level necessary. A simple doorway was created at the third level and a small stairwell opened in the porch roof to provide for the installation of a simple wooden staircase. A previously existing first level enclosure was infilled with glazing. The overall impact of these alterations has been minimal due to their secondary location and minimal visibility from principal street vantages. Installation of the stair required the loss of only a small amount of historic brickwork and roofing at a secondary elevation. These aspects of the project are readily reversible in accordance with Standard #10. Although the design of the new stair railing is similar to the existing porch railing, the placement and general composition of the stair is clearly contemporary in accordance with Standard #9. The infilling of the first floor level resulted in the replacement of non-historic materials on a non-historic addition. The new infill is reversible in accordance with Standard #10 and its design is compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features of the structure while still being readily discernible as a new design element. The rear frame addition was also extended slightly to the rear.

**INTERIOR**

The plan of the front portion of the first floor consists of a central hall, with an open stair rising along its west wall, flanked by large single rooms: a former lounge to the west and a former barroom to the east. A small lounge is located in the two-and-one-half story section of the rear wing and a kitchen within the two story section. The small frame addition contains an owners' or staff living room. The second floor of the front section of the building has a central stairhall with two bedrooms on either side. Two additional guest bedrooms are located in the rear wing. The third floor has five guest bedrooms.

The principal staircase retains its original turned newel posts and tapered balusters. Doors are typically wood and of a simple two or four panel design. Exterior doors retain single light transoms with ruby glass.

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Historic trim remains throughout the structure and includes molded window and door surrounds and baseboards. Most principal interior doors have four-light transoms. Doors and windows on the first floor level retain molded Greek Revival style shouldered surrounds and several original wooden fireplace mantelpieces remain. Walls and ceilings are typically finished with smooth plaster. Original hardwood floors were typically covered with composition tile or carpeting prior to a 1989 rehabilitation when they were re-exposed and refinished in most principal spaces.

A massive Eastlake-inspired wooden bar with brass trim and a beveled glass mirror was located in the former barroom in the east room of the first floor. The bar was not original to this room as evidenced by a door to the hall which was partially blocked by the bar. It has been moved to the former first floor lounge in the rear wing.

Interior alterations over time have been minimal and generally reflect minor changes in use. Changes occurring prior to the 1989 rehabilitation included the installation of the bar, the addition of a small bathroom at the rear of the barroom, the closure of the third floor stair with frame infill, and minor renovations to several secondary spaces. The 1989 rehabilitation retained the overall integrity of the historic spatial arrangement. The third floor stair was re-opened. Alterations included the creation of a bathroom enclosure similar to the one located in the former barroom within the former lounge. Two doorways were infilled at the northwest end of the barroom. A small bathroom was added to the southeast room on the second floor and the secondary northwest room was divided for use as an exist hall, linen storage, and a bathroom. The Historic Preservation Certification Application, Part Two, for the project provides additional information about the 1989 rehabilitation project.

**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)

Commerce \_\_\_\_\_  
 Architecture \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance  
 1852-1939 \_\_\_\_\_    1852 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

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 Bird-in-Hand Hotel, built in 1852, is historically important in the area of commerce for its association with the local hotels which serviced the Old Philadelphia Pike ( Pa .Route 340) and the Pennsylvania Railroad in the vicinity of Bird-in-Hand. Built on the site of several earlier wayside taverns, the Bird-in-Hand Hotel was the locus of area development in the mid-nineteenth century, reflecting a time when these village hotels, convenient to key local roads and railroad stations, served as gathering places for business, news and pleasure. They also provided lodging and refreshment for commercial travelers and summer vacationers. In the 1930's, with the popularity of the automobile and the decline of railroad passenger stops in the village, the building continued in use as a local pub and, occasionally, as a hotel. It is the sole remaining mid-nineteenth-century hotel associated with the railroad in East Lampeter Township. The building is also significant as an excellent example of local vernacular architecture of the Greek Revival era, constructed with enhancements to meet the needs of a hotel. With its symmetrical facade, brick construction, main facade porch and cornice details, Tuscan columns, stone lintels, transom lights and excellent interior trim and hardware, it is representative of local Greek Revival vernacular architecture. Further, with its three stories in height, front facade second-story porch, (originally) Chinese railing and sheltered street-level entrances, it is also a rare survivor of village hotel architecture in and around East Lampeter Township associated with development along Old Philadelphia Pike and with stops on the railroad. The building has very good integrity.

The Bird-in-Hand Hotel is located in the village of Bird-in-Hand, East Lampeter Township. The area was formerly in Lampeter, one of Lancaster County's original townships. In 1841, Lampeter was divided into East and West Lampeter Townships by a line running almost from southeast to northwest. Surrounding East Lampeter are the townships of Manheim and Upper Leacock to the northwest, Leacock to the east, Paradise, Strasburg and West Lampeter to the south. Part of Lancaster Township and the City of Lancaster lie to the west.

East Lampeter Township has long been known for its excellent farms. Its fertile limestone soil, well-watered by local creeks, early attracted settlers who were English, Welsh, German-speaking and Huguenots. The soil was of particular interest to the Amish farmers; their many descendants still carry on farming to this day. Crops by the late nineteenth century included wheat, corn, potatoes and, to a large extent, tobacco. Dairying was also important. There were early mills and craftsmen in the area, later some small businesses

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and light industry. The township was described in 1883: "East Lampeter is one of the most populous and wealthy townships in the County. It has not great beauty of landscape, ...but for richness of soil and general good character of its people, it is unsurpassed by any other township in the County."<sup>1</sup>

Bird-in-Hand, a linear village at the west end of the township, is seven miles east of Lancaster City and thirty miles west of the Chester County line. The Bird-in-Hand Hotel and the village owe their existence to their location on an ancient road, earlier an Indian path. Following the organization of Lancaster County in 1729, it became necessary for the Governor and Council to order the laying out of a road from Philadelphia to Lancaster, the growing town on the edge of the frontier. Accordingly, a "King's Highway" was laid out in 1730 and opened in 1733, the earliest direct route from the town of Lancaster to the "High Road" in Chester County and, thence, to Philadelphia. It has been known as the Provincial Highway, the Continental Road, Old Philadelphia and Lancaster Road, and Bird-in-Hand Turnpike (in the nineteenth century). It is now called the Old Philadelphia Pike (Pa. 340), although it was never a turnpike.

Massive Conestoga wagons, pulled by four to six horses, hauled freight over this earthen road between Lancaster and Philadelphia, the trip taking about five days. Although this was the main east-west road between these two major cities for much of the eighteenth century, it soon became inadequate for the number of wagons and coaches. It was often in poor repair, extremely dusty in dry weather, and muddy and sometimes impassable in wet periods. An alternative was sought. Finally, the Lancaster Turnpike, a crushed gravel stone road, was built from 1792-1794 by the incorporated Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike Road Company. It was the first turnpike in North America (Lincoln Highway, U.S. 30).<sup>2</sup>

Taverns and inns (interchangeable terms) along the late-eighteenth- and early-nineteenth-century roads were great improvements over pioneer cabins used by early travelers into remote areas. Taverns were regulated as to rates and offered some expectations of comfort, but their cleanliness and quality of food varied widely.<sup>3</sup> A driver might not have a choice, however, because it was necessary to rest the horses every 10-13 miles. Around 1800, during the heyday of travel by coach or wagon, matters were somewhat improved. For example, in the sixty-two miles from Philadelphia to Lancaster on the Lancaster Turnpike, there was a tavern about every mile. Numerous taverns in the Georgian and Federal styles, built of stone or brick, are extant in Lancaster County from the period 1790-1830, particularly on or near the Lancaster Turnpike.<sup>4</sup>

Early taverns, or "tavern stands" as they were referred to in deeds and advertisements, were easily identified because each had an ornate signboard, often with a pictorial device, illustrating the building's name. Some examples of signs along the Old Philadelphia Pike were The Ship, The Wagon, The Plough, The Buck, White Horse and The Hat. The sign of the Bird-in-Hand Hotel originally depicted a man holding a bird with two birds on a nearby bush; in recent years, it was changed to a hand holding a bird.<sup>5</sup>

Taverns functioned as centers in communities for well into the nineteenth century; they were often settings for political, commercial and judicial meetings. Pennsylvania taverns catered to a variety of clientele: "stage stands" served predominantly stage coach travelers; "wagon stands" were stopping places for wagoners, who often slept on grain bags on the tap room floor; "drover stands" accommodated drovers whose livestock must be fed; and "tap houses" were mainly for the sale of liquor. Whatever the type of tavern stand, by the early nineteenth century, innkeeping was considered a good, and sometimes lucrative, occupation. From deeds and advertisements, it is clear that name recognition, longevity of the business and the good will associated with a tavern stand added significantly to its intrinsic value.<sup>6</sup>

The location of the tavern stand was of primary importance. Also, a large tract was preferable in order to reduce the prospect of competition nearby, and to provide space for auxiliary buildings and a yard for

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animals. The lands that became the Bird-in-Hand Hotel and, indeed, most of the village, were part of a 200-acre tract patented to Quaker William McNabb in 1735. Chester County Quakers had come into the vicinity in the 1720's visiting "those few Friends that are removed to Conestoga." In 1749, a log meetinghouse, earlier built in Leacock Township, was moved and reconstructed at Bird-in-Hand on two acres. The land came from Quaker innholders John McNabb, son of William, and Joseph Steer. Each had received five shillings for an acre. This building was replaced by one of bricks in 1790.<sup>7</sup>

The exact date the name Bird-in-Hand came into use is unknown. According to oral tradition, the name goes back to c. 1734 and the laying out of the Old Philadelphia Pike or a connecting road. It is said that two road surveyors discussed whether to stop for the night where they were or to continue to Lancaster. One said "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush," so they decided to stay--hence, the name. Bird-in-Hand is shown on Joshua Scott's 1824 map of Lancaster County. In the mid-nineteenth century, the village was called Enterprise. According to the Bridgens 1864 Atlas, the village name was again Bird-in-Hand, but the post office name continued to be Enterprise.

Deeds give information about the subject's lot size and the early owners. The lot varied over time: in 1768 it was 46 acres; in 1784 it was 123 acres. The early owners were innkeepers, e.g., Joseph Steer purchased it in 1748 from John McNabb; Steer was the owner of the Red Lion Inn in nearby Smoketown. Several owners later, it was sold in 1775 to George Bressler, innkeeper and land agent from Strasburg. Bressler's son-in-law, Jacob Hartman, received a license to keep a tavern in Bird-in-Hand in 1798. In 1827, lumber merchant Samuel Rinzer bought the property; in 1844 it passed from his estate to Benjamin Groff.<sup>8</sup>

Following the opening of the Lancaster Turnpike in 1795, traffic and business was probably diverted somewhat from the Old Philadelphia Pike. This may have been partially offset by the growing population and increased numbers of connecting secondary roads. By 1834, however, the situation changed dramatically with the introduction of the railroad. In that year the state authorized building of a single track line from Columbia to Philadelphia. The eighty-six-mile line was built in two-mile increments by various contractors. A section of this line passed from east of Ronks, through Bird-in-Hand to Mill Creek. Railroad workers are said to have lived in barns and at Railroad House, a hotel built at Bird-in-Hand for workers, many of whom were immigrants. In 1836 a second track was built.

In 1857 the state-owned railroad was purchased by the Pennsylvania Railroad Co. and much improved. Bird-in-Hand became the most important freight and passenger stop between Lancaster and Coatesville. A small station probably existed by 1859. In 1871 the large brick railroad station was built; it was used until 1930 when passenger service ended.<sup>9</sup>

The railroad expansion was only one aspect of developments in Lancaster County which impacted on Bird-in-Hand. In the decade 1841-1851 the county had the largest population growth since it was founded. Agricultural growth also increased rapidly, particularly tobacco. In 1859 62.9% of all tobacco grown in the Commonwealth came from the county, and the figure would rise. By 1900 the county would become the national leader in the value of its agricultural products and livestock; Lancaster County would become known as the "Garden Spot" of the nation.<sup>10</sup>

With the coming of the railroad many old inns on the early roads declined. The better ones, those near villages or towns, such as the Bird-in-Hand Tavern, eventually became hotels. The transition from tavern to hotel as a place of lodging came about gradually beginning in the second half of the eighteenth century with the advent of boarding houses. Taverns were often thought to be too noisy and expensive for lodging, given the social activities associated with them. In cities such as Philadelphia it became common practice to eat at a tavern but lodge at a boarding house; the latter frequently kept by older women. The nineteenth-century

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hotel combined the best of both: dining facilities, privacy, spacious accommodations, and separation from noisy public areas.<sup>11</sup>

Three taverns by the name Bird-in-Hand are believed to have been on the site prior to the present building. According to Ellis and Evans, History of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, 1883: "Four buildings have been erected successively upon the same site and the same cellar walls." The building that Benjamin Groff purchased in 1844 was the third of these, said to have been a long one-and-one-half-story building which in 1851 was destroyed by fire. In 1852, a year before his death, Groff built the present three-story hotel, all or in part on the original foundation. Following Groff's death a public sale was held. The property was described in an advertisement of 27 November 1853:

Valuable Tavern Stand at Public Sale...on the old Philadelphia and Lancaster road, about 7 miles east of the city of Lancaster--being (part of) the real estate of Benjamin Groff, deceased: That well know Bird-in-Hand TAVERN STAND, with 43 acres and 104 perches....The improvements area large and commodious three-story BRICK TAVERN HOUSE, with a two-story brick wing attached, a swisser barn, stone shedding, milk and smoke houses...and other buildings. A young bearing Orchard of choice fruit; and a number of locust trees along the fence....This is an excellent Tavern stand, and is well worth the attention of persons wishing to enter into business of Tavern or Store keeping as the property is at the east end of the village of Enterprise, and about 35 perches from the Railroad.<sup>12</sup>

The property was purchased in 1854 for \$8,757 by John Gyger, a banker from Lancaster City. In 1865 Levi R. Rhoads bought the property and owned it until 1885. An engraving of the subject, then known as Rhoad's Hotel, in the 1875 Atlas depicts it in the same configuration as at present, except for changes to the porch and upper gable-end. Three women are on the second-story porch, chatting or enjoying the view. At the street level two men greet each other; a third has alighted from a buggy. The fashionable dressed clientele, well-constructed building, prominent sign, and numerous shade trees give the impression of a comfortable well-appointed establishment.<sup>13</sup>

The 1875 Atlas gives a good description of the village at that time:

The Pennsylvania Railroad runs through this township (East Lampeter), which affords business facilities not enjoyed by the western part. Enterprise, or Bird in Hand, is the most important town, and is situated on the Pennsylvania Railroad. It has a fine depot, and an extensive trade in flour, grain, cattle, lumber, coal, etc.<sup>14</sup>

According to an 1880 county directory, the village of Bird-in-Hand, in addition to the two hotels (the subject and the Railroad House), consisted of the following: railroad station, post office, express office, several stores, cigar factory, lumber and coal yard, wheelwright's shop, hardware store, paint shop, nurseries, garage, plus coal, grain, and feed businesses. There was also a good schoolhouse. The population was 400, but this figure may have included those living in the vicinity of the village, or those serviced by the post office.<sup>15</sup>

In the late nineteenth century, after passing to two other owners, the subject, still known as Rhoad's Hotel, was sold to Joseph Haefner, the owner of Lancaster's Empire Brewery. The hotel's proprietor in 1899 was George Worst. The hotel and his management were described in that year:

Rhoads Hotel at Bird in Hand...(is) one of the most popular hotels in this section. It is beautifully situated, on the line of the Pennsylvania Railroad, convenient both to



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Philadelphia and Lancaster. Parties looking for a delightful place to spend the summer will find here all that can be desired. The house is well kept, and the cuisine first class. Mr. Worst is a native of this county....From 1885 to 1893 he was superintendent of the county almshouse and hospital.<sup>16</sup>

Clearly, the impression given was of a summer resort. The appeal now was less to the commercial traveler than to the vacationer. This fits in well with the turn-of-the-century need of many to seek relief from dirty industrial cities by a return to pastoral settings, if only for a little while. Around this time it became fashionable to visit large mineral water resorts. Those who could not afford these stayed at smaller hotels and guest houses.<sup>17</sup>

The idea of summer resorts in Lancaster County was not new by 1899. The county directory of 1859-1860 shows an advertisement for the Mansion House, Safe Harbor, Susquehanna Township, Lancaster County. Beneath the illustration of a large raised two-and-one-half story building with two-tiered front facade porches are the words "Summer Resort" (location unknown). Another summer resort, advertised in 1899, was the Ephrata Mountain Springs, said to be at the highest altitude in the county, with pure spring water, shade, and accommodations for 250 persons (see National Register nomination, Mountain Springs Hotel, Ephrata Borough, Lancaster County, entered 1982). Although the Bird-in-Hand Hotel, where rates were \$1.50 per day, had neither the Mansion House's proximity to water, nor the Mountain Springs Resort's views, it did have a village setting and surroundings of beautiful old farms.<sup>18</sup>

In 1921, almost six years after the death of Joseph Haefner, the property was put up for public sale. The executors advertised the sale on the premises on 3 December 1921: "A VALUABLE HOTEL PROPERTY," consisting of "All that certain 2 1/2-story stone (sic) hotel building, frame shedding, etc. with tract of land, containing 2 acres and 47 perches...."<sup>19</sup> William Bousman purchased the property for \$4,650. He ran the business and maintained the hotel until his death in 1930. During Prohibition the bar was kept going by the serving of hard cider. Horse and cow sales were held at the hotel, by this time known as the Bird-in-Hand Hotel. The cattle scales were kept in the forebay of the barn, but this building was destroyed by fire in 1950.<sup>20</sup>

Clarence and Margaret (Peg) Bitzer moved to Bird-in-Hand in order to rent the hotel in 1938 after Clarence was laid off from work at Lukens Steel in Downingtown. They purchased the property in 1942 and it was kept in the family until 1989. Margaret ran the business until her death in 1988. During the Bitzers' ownership the family lived in part of the building; infrequently they rented rooms. The closing of local passenger service at many railroad stations beginning in the 1930s due to the growing use of automobiles changed many small hotels function to that of primarily servicing area customers.

In the 1950s two events occurred which would eventually have far-reaching effects on the future of Bird-in-Hand and the hotel: the opening on Broadway of Plain and Fancy, a play about the Amish with scenes set in the hardware store in Bird-in-Hand; and the completion of the Pennsylvania Turnpike (U.S. Route 76). The era of tourism had begun.<sup>21</sup>

Margaret Bitzer had made an effort to preserve the building and its history, but as time went by and the hotel business was faded out, the building became known locally as "Bitzer's Bar." There were some splendid moments, however: during the Bicentennial Year of 1976 when the Bitzers hosted numerous foreign visitors and celebrities; and from 28 June to 1 July 1984 when the community celebrated its 250th anniversary. Seven thousand people came for the three-day celebration. As the parade of sixty bands and organizations marched along the Old Philadelphia Pike, passing Bitzer's Hotel, the townspeople and visitors cheered.<sup>22</sup>

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In 1988 the hotel was purchased from the Bitzer family by the present owners with the intention of refurbishing it for use as a Bed-and-Breakfast. A certified renovation, approved by the Pennsylvania Bureau for Historic Preservation, was completed on 1 June 1989.<sup>23</sup>

The Bird-in-Hand Hotel is architecturally significant as an excellent example of local architecture in the Greek Revival era. Greek Revival, nationally prevalent from 1825-1860, arrived late in Lancaster County, c. 1835. Further, according to architectural historian John J. Snyder, Jr., "only a handful of Greek Revival houses in Lancaster County (utilized) the temple-like form."<sup>24</sup>

Vernacular residential buildings in Lancaster City for the Greek Revival period, c. 1835-1865, have the following exterior features in common: generally constructed of brick; symmetrical facade, four to five bays, often with two front doors; six over six window sash; broad lintels; heavy moldings; front facade porches, first floor only; gable-end chimneys, occasionally parapeted, sometimes with a lunette window in the gable end. Doorways, both exterior and often interior, invariably have transom lights.

A search of the Historic Sites Survey conducted by the Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County from 1978-1985 located six residential buildings with datestones ranging from 1848 to 1861 in East Lampeter Township: Rohrer House, 1861 (Survey No. 971-20-3A); Groff Benjamin House, 1860 (Survey No. 071-20-4); Landis John & Eve House, 1848 (Survey No. 971-20-6A); Long Valentine & Lydia House, 1859 (Survey No. 971-20-28A); Rohrer John & Susanna, 1858 (Survey No. 071-20-39A); and Landis Christian House, 1855 (Survey No. 971-20-45A). Four of these have full-facade porches, although the 1861 Rohrer House has been replaced incorrectly by a pent. The Groff House has a piazza which wraps around at least two sides. The porch of the Long House only extends over the central door and flanking windows. Only two of the houses have lunette windows in the gable end: the Rohrer 1861 House and the Groff House. Four of the buildings have two centered front doors: the Rohrer 1861 House; the Landis Christian House; the Rohrer John & Susanna House; and the Landis John and Eve House. Six over six sash are found on almost all of the windows in the group; broad flat window lintels appear almost throughout; and simple brick dentil cornice details on the facades are found on most of these houses.

As an example of local Greek Revival vernacular architecture in East Lampeter, the Bird-in-Hand Hotel is excellent. Notable among its exterior features in common with those discussed above are the following: symmetrical facade, full facade porch, six over six window sash, broad lintels, end chimneys, and brick dentil cornices. Except for two changes, the porch railing and the upper gable ends, the building is as constructed. The second story porch railing (replaced by the former owner c. 1984) was originally so-called Chinese railing, unique to Lancaster County architecture of the period. This railing was used extensively by Thomas Jefferson at Monticello along with classical motifs; it is believed to have derived from Designs of Chinese Buildings by Sir William Chambers.<sup>25</sup> As to upper gable ends, judging from the rendering of the building in the 1875 Atlas, the building originally had a stepped parapeted chimney, more typical of hotels in the area. See for example, the Railroad House, Marietta Borough, (Survey No. 071-36-39A; below) and the rendering of the Gillespie Hotel, also in the 1875 Atlas. The date of this alteration is unknown.

The Historic Survey files for Lancaster County and other sources were also extensively searched for comparisons with other known Greek Revival hotels, c. 1835-1865, for the following: (1) in the village of Bird-in-Hand; (2) in the townships which encompass the entire route of the Old Philadelphia Pike; (3) in villages in East Lampeter and surrounding townships for hotels known to have been associated with railroad stops. The findings are as follows.

(1) Of the nineteenth-century village hotels for the period in Bird-in-Hand only the subject is extant. According to Bird-in-Hand 1734-1984: A History of Bird-in-Hand, Pennsylvania, 1984, three hotels are

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Bird in Hand Hotel

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known to have been in the village: the subject, the aforementioned Railroad House, and Gillespie Hotel. The Railroad House, close to the railroad tracks, was built in 1834 for lumber merchant Abraham Bruner of Columbia; it housed railroad construction gangs. Peter Boffenmyer, who in 1864 owned a hotel in nearby Soudersburg, acquired it in 1866 and ran it for many years. It was later owned by Pennsylvania Railroad and was demolished in 1934. Gillespie Hotel, c. 1850, was a commodious building with first-story Tuscan columns supporting a wrap-around pent roof. It was demolished in 1928 when, following more than ten deaths on the tracks, the railroad underpass was built. Bridgen's 1864 *Atlas* lists the owners of these three hotels: Abraham Bruner, Stephen and Israel Gillespie, and John Gyger, then owner of the Bird-in-Hand.<sup>28</sup>

(2) Route 340 traverses the following townships: Salisbury, Leacock, East Lampeter, and a small portion of Lancaster. The search of the survey files for these townships was complicated by the possibilities that sections of the roadbed may have been changed over time, and that inn/hotels may have been on secondary roads adjacent to the Pike. Although numerous pre-1830 inn/hotels are extant in these townships, particularly on the Lancaster Turnpike, none were found to date to 1835-1865.

(3) As to village hotels in association with railroad stops for the period, the survey files turned up four examples, although the date of one was later: aforementioned Railroad House, c. 1840, Marietta Borough (Survey No. 071-36-39A); Dickinson Hotel, 1854, Christiana Borough (Survey No. 071-6-21A); Parkview Hotel, c. 1870-1900, Lititz Borough (Survey No. 071-31-16A); and Reinhold's Hotel, c. 1864, West Cocalico Township (Survey No. 071-57-55A). The latter building is unusual in that it was built as a combination hotel/railroad station. The Parkview Hotel is frame; all others are brick. The heights vary from two-and-one-half to three-and-one-half stories. The Dickinson Hotel has an Italianate roof; the Parkview and Reinholds Hotels have Mansardic roofs. The Railroad House has a moderately pitched roof with raised parapeted chimneys and lunette windows in the gable ends. The feature that all four have in common is the second-story porch or gallery on the main facade which projects over the first-floor entrance. Dickinson Hotel has an iron porch railing, but as the building has been covered with formstone and suffered other adverse alterations, the railing may be a replacement. The Reinholds Hotel has a wrap-around porch with bracketed posts. The Parkview Hotel has similar posts on the second story, but replacement posts on the first floor. Both the Reinholds and Parkview Hotels are six-to-seven bays wide, larger than the others and the Bird-in-Hand Hotel. Only the late-Federal style Railroad House somewhat resembles the Bird-in-Hand Hotel because of its moderately pitched roof, six over six sash, wide lintels, and columns (Ionic) on the second-story porch. The first-story posts, however, have been inappropriately replaced with bracketed posts. These hotels and others studied indicate that the Bird-in-Hand Hotel, built in the Greek Revival style, is a rare survival of this period.

The Bird-in-Hand Hotel was the subject of a rehabilitation project in 1989 that converted it into a bed and breakfast inn. The project received certification of compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation from the National Park Service. Exterior work typically included general repairs, cleaning, and painting with limited alterations occurring rear portions of secondary elevations. Interior rehabilitation retained principal character-defining spaces and features with minimal alteration. Historic trim, hardware, doors, and other features were generally retained and repaired as needed. The Bird-in-Hand Hotel has very good integrity and continues to function commercially and architecturally as when it was built in 1852.

## Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Franklin Ellis and Samuel Evans, History of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. (Everts & Peck, 1883. Reprint ed., Apollo, PA: Closson, n.d.) 901. For early township history see Graves & Steinberger, Atlas of Surveys of the County of Lancaster, State of Pennsylvania, 1899; Ellis and Evans, II: 890-901; H.M.J. Klein, ed.-in-chief. Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Vol. 1. New York: Lewis Publishing, 1924. 150-160.

<sup>2</sup> Early transportation and the opening of roads are in Robert L. Reeser and Henry G. Benner, "Transportation," in Bird-in-Hand.

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1734-1983: A History of Bird-in-Hand, Pennsylvania. (Bird-in-Hand, PA, 1984) 17-23; Ellis and Evans, I: 303-313, 312; Stevenson Whitcomb Fletcher, Pennsylvania Agriculture and Country Life 1640-1840. (1950; Harrisburg, PA: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 1971) 246-251.

<sup>3</sup>Kym S. Rice, Early American Taverns: For the Entertainment of Friends and Strangers (Chicago: Regnery Gateway/Fraunces Tavern Museum, NY, 1983) 20-21.

<sup>4</sup>Colonial inns and taverns in PA are discussed in Fletcher, 471-475; 473. In 1809 Joshua Gilpin stopped his carriage along the PA turnpike three times in 35 miles; see Joseph E. Walker, ed., Pleasure and Business in Western Pennsylvania: The Journal of Joshua Gilpin 1809. Harrisburg, PA (PA Historical and Museum Commission, 1975) 6.

<sup>5</sup>Fletcher, 472; names of signs are in Robert L. Reeser, "Hotels," in Bird-in-Hand, 1734-1984, 17-23, 17.

<sup>6</sup>Reeser, "Hotels," 16; Fletcher, 473-4.

<sup>7</sup>Bird-in-Hand 1734-1984, 14.

<sup>8</sup>Bird-in-Hand 1734-1984, 18; and telephone conversation, 4 Feb. 1991, with Robert L. Reeser, author of this article.

<sup>9</sup>Reeser, 19; the coming of the railroads to Bird-in-Hand and later related developments is in Reeser & Benner, "Transportation," in Bird-in-Hand 1734-1984, 25-40; 32-35. The railroad station house is extant; see Pennsylvania Historic Resource Survey Form 071-20-18A.

<sup>10</sup>Frederick Shriver Klein, Lancaster County Since 1841, Revised ed. (Lancaster, PA: privately printed, 1955: 20,127.

<sup>11</sup>Early American Taverns, 42.

<sup>12</sup>Lancaster Intelligencer (PA), 27 Nov. 1853., p. 3, col. 1.

<sup>13</sup>Everts & Stewart, 1875 Atlas, 14.

<sup>14</sup>Administrators of the estate of Benjamin Groff to Joseph Gyger, 1 March 1854; Lancaster County Deed Book F: Vol. 8: 387. The quotation is in the introduction to Everts & Stewart, Atlas of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, 1875, "The Lampeter Townships."

<sup>15</sup>H.M.J. Klein, 159.

<sup>16</sup>Graves & Steinbarger, Atlas of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, 1899, end section, "Representative Business and Professional Men of Lancaster County," E. Lampeter Township.

<sup>17</sup>George Miller, A Pennsylvania Album - Picture Postcards, 1900-1930 (University Park, PA: Keystone Books/PA State U P, 1979) 21.

<sup>18</sup>Ephrata Mountain Springs Resort is described in Graves & Steinbarger; see Note 16, above.

<sup>19</sup>Lancaster Examiner-New Era, 12 Nov. 1921.

<sup>20</sup>Information about the barn, the succession of owners, and the Bitzers, is in Reeser, "Hotels," 20-21.

<sup>21</sup>Bird-in-Hand 1734-1984, 172.

<sup>22</sup>Lancaster New Era, 29 June 1984, Metropolitan Edition, p. 1; see also Lancaster New Era, 29 April 1984, back page; "Bird-in-Hand Celebrates Its 250 Anniversary," Penn Dutch Traveler, 29 June-13 July, 1984; all in the vertical file under East Lampeter, at the Lancaster County Historical Society, Lancaster, PA.

<sup>23</sup>See Historic Preservation Certification Application, Village Inn of Bird-in-Hand, on file at the Bureau for Historic Preservation, Harrisburg, PA, and at the Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County, Lancaster, PA. The opening of the Bed-and-Breakfast and a summary of the refurbishing are in Lancaster Intelligencer Journal, 21 June, 1989, B 4-B.

<sup>24</sup>Lancaster County Styles and Terms, 1979, 6.

<sup>25</sup>The Chinese railing is in William Howard Adams, Jefferson's Monticello (New York: Abbeville Press, 1983) 185 and passim.

<sup>26</sup>Railroad House is in Benner and Reeser, "Transportation," 22. Three 18th-century inns are also known to have been in the area: Gibbons Inn, c. 1767, probably the Gibbons homestead in Smoketown used as an inn in Revolutionary times and believed destroyed by fire 1837; Red Lion Inn, c. 1736, later a residence, location not verifiable; and Vernor's Inn, c. 1735, two-and-one-half miles east of the village on U.S. 340, Leacock Township; identification uncertain; see Reeser, "Hotels," 21-23; additional material on Gibbon's Inn is in H.M.J. Klein, 160.

**9. Major Bibliographic References**

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Denlinger, Robert, ed. 250 Years in Paradise: Paradise. Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. n.p.: n.p., 1962.

Ellis, Franklin, and Samuel Evans. History of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Everts & Peck, 1883.  
Reprint ed., Apollo, PA: Closson, n.d.

Fletcher, Stevenson Whitcomb. Pennsylvania Agriculture and Country Life 1640-1840. 1950. Harrisburg, PA: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 1971.

Historic Sites Survey, Lancaster County, conducted by the Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County, 1978-85.

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository \_\_\_\_\_

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 the Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by the Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographic Data**

Acreage of property 2.4

UTM References

A 18 | 418170 | 4442830  
 Zone Easting Northing

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

A \_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zone Easting Northing

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

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property includes the entire parcel numbered 13-M3-2-4 by the Lancaster County Tax Assessment Office, Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire current tax parcel only, which represents the size of the site throughout much of the twentieth century.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title David B. Schneider; Gloria O. Becker, Ph.D (consultant)

organization Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County date 02/15/92

street & number 123 North Prince Street telephone (717) 291-5861

city or town Lancaster state Pennsylvania zip code 17603

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Continuation Sheet**  
Bird-in-Hand Hotel

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**9. Major Bibliographic References, Continued:**

- Klein, Frederic Shriver. Lancaster County Since 1841. Revised ed. Lancaster, PA: Privately printed, 1955.
- Klein, H.M.J., ed.-in-chief. Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Vol. 1. New York: Lewis Publishing Co., 1924.
- Our Present Past: An Update of Lancaster's Heritage. Lancaster, PA: Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County, 1985.
- Rice, Kym S. Early American Taverns: For the Entertainment of Friends and Strangers. Chicago: Regnery Gateway/Fraunces Tavern Museum, NY, 1983.
- Walker, Joseph E., ed. Pleasure and Business in Western Pennsylvania: The Journal of Josphua Gilpin 1809. Harrisburg, PA: PA Historical and Museum Commission, 1975.
- Wood, Jerome, H., Jr. Conestoga Crossroads: Lancaster, Pennsylvania, 1730-1930. Harrisburg, PA: PA Historical and Museum Commission, 1979.

**Atlases and Maps**

- 1924 Joshhua Scott's Map of East Lampeter Township.
- 1864 Bridgen's Atlas of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.
- 1875 Everts & Stewart. Historical Atlas of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. reprint, 1976.
- 1899 Graves & Steinbarger. Atlas of Surveys of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

**Directories**

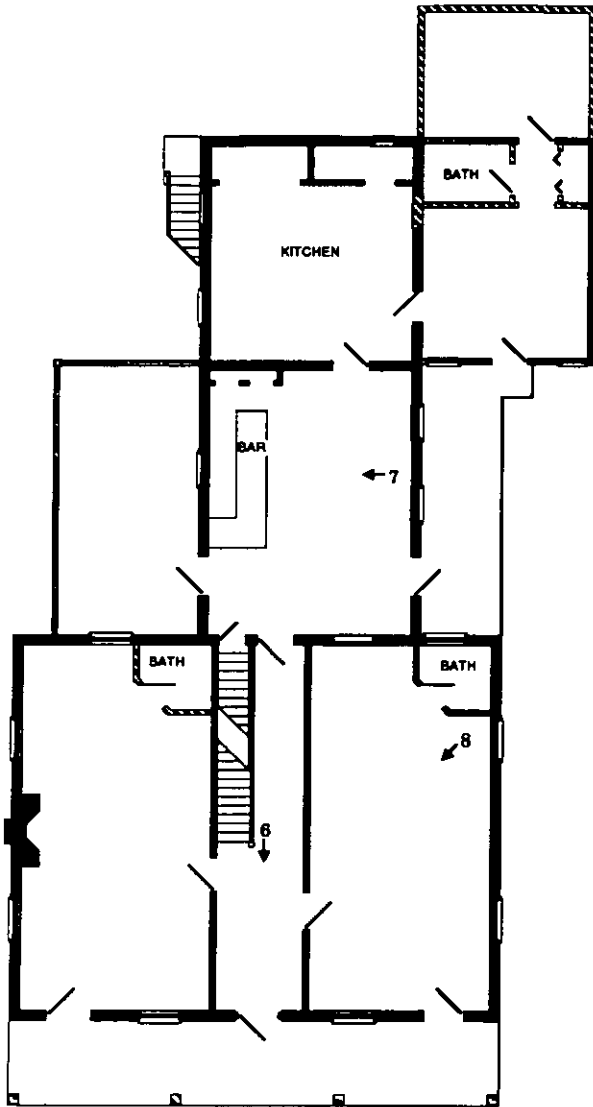
Lancaster City and County Directories for the following years:  
1859-60, 1869-70, 1882-3, 1890, 1896, c. 1939.

# BIRD-IN-HAND HOTEL

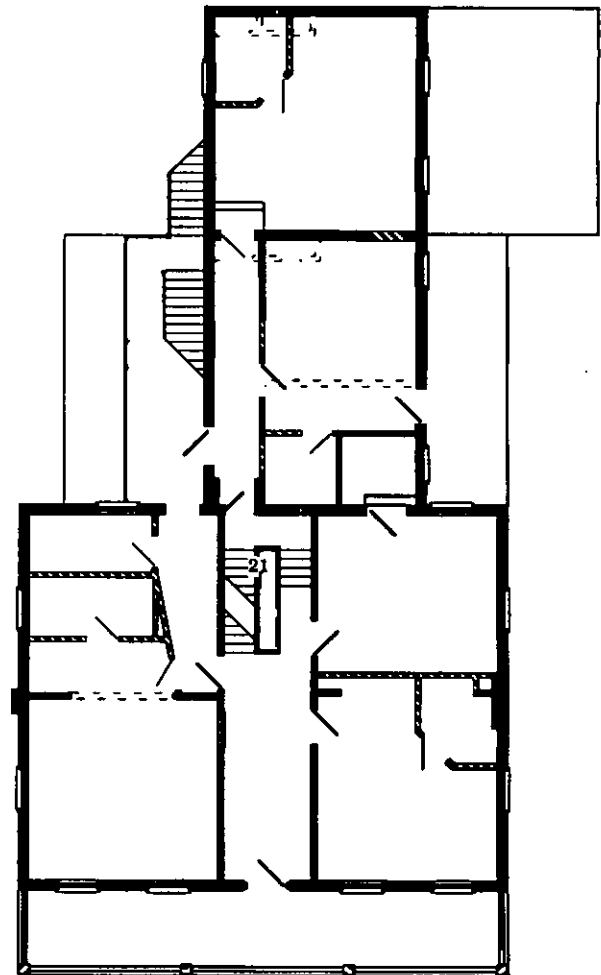
2695 Old Philadelphia Pike  
 Bird-In-Hand, East Lampeter Township, Pennsylvania

A-1, As Rehabilitated in 1989

Scale: 1/16" = 1'0"



First Floor Plan



Second Floor Plan

**KEY**

- Historic walls & partitions
- - - Later additions
- ||||| New Construction (this project)
- = = = Removed

**Historic Preservation Trust  
 of Lancaster County**

David B. Schneider  
 March 1992

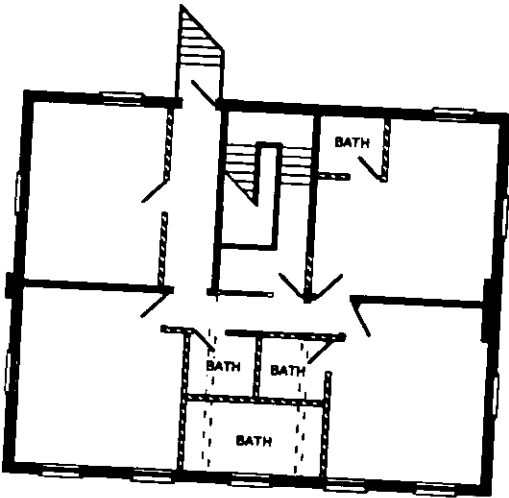
# BIRD-IN-HAND HOTEL

2695 Old Philadelphia Pike  
 Bird-In-Hand, East Lampeter Township, Pennsylvania

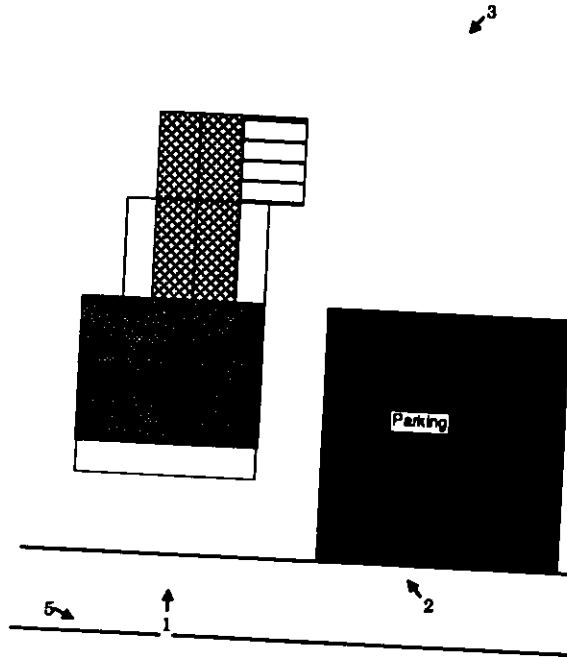
A-2, As Rehabilitated in 1989

Scale: 1/16" = 1'0"

↑ NORTH (APPROX.)



Third Floor Plan



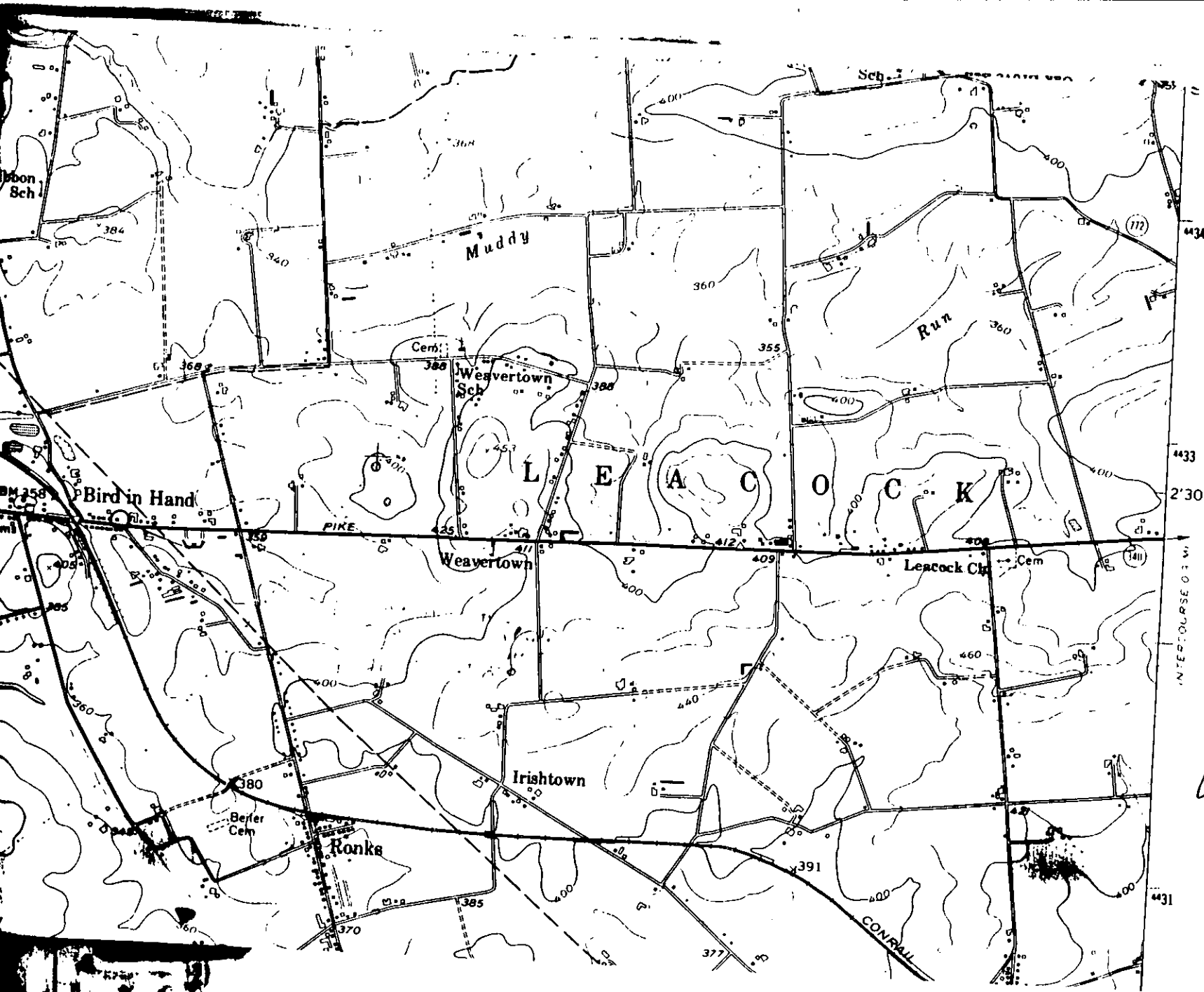
Sketch Site Plan

- KEY**
- Historic walls & partitions
  - ▨ Later additions
  - ▧ New Construction (this project)
  - - - Removed

**Historic Preservation Trust  
 of Lancaster County**

David B. Schneider  
 March 1992





Bird in Hand  
 Hotel  
 Lancaster  
 County  
 Zone 18  
 E418170  
 N14412830  
 Leola Swad