

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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Fayette Springs Hotel  
other names/site number N/A

## 2. Location

street & number U.S. Rt. 40, Approx. 1/2 mile east of Chalk Hill  not for publication  
city or town Wharton Twp.  vicinity  
state Pennsylvania code PA county Fayette code 051 zip code 15437

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

DR. BRENT D. GLASS Brent D. Glass 9/29/95  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
PA HISTORICAL & MUSEUM COMMISSION  
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other. (explain: _____)	_____	_____

Fayette Springs Hotel  
Name of Property

Fayette Co., PA  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>		Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Hist. Resources of the National Raod in PA

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic : Hotel  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic : Hotel  
Commerce : Restaurant  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Federal  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone  
walls Stone  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof Asphalt  
other Concrete  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Fayette Springs Hotel  
Name of Property

Fayette Co. , PA  
County and State

**8. Statement of Significance .**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**  
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**  
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce  
Architecture

**Period of Significance**

C. 1822 -C. 1909

**Significant Dates**

N/A

**Significant Person**  
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance**  
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**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

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

**Name of repository:**

\_\_\_\_\_



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## Description

The Fayette Springs Hotel is situated about fourteen feet off the north side of U.S. Route 40, at the foot of Chalk Hill and a half mile east of the village of Chalk Hill. Like all the National Road taverns, not only is it situated near the road, but faces the road as well. The narrow area fronting the porch has been paved with asphalt. The area to the east of the building is a gravel parking lot while the area west of the house is a pine shaded lawn. The coursed ashlar walls of this five-bay, double pile, two-and-a-half story, stone building were laid up c. 1822. It was built in the Georgian plan with a central hall. A contemporary, two-and-a-half story kitchen ell of the same material extends back from the west side of the building. An early twentieth century porch extends along the front and the west gable end of the house. There is also a twentieth-century shed roof addition on the east gable end which is enclosed with glass. The building is distinguished as a tavern by its relatively large size and its large, interior, double gable end chimneys. About 1976 an addition was made to the east side of the kitchen ell. Although changes have been made to this property since its construction, it retains sufficient integrity to represent two historic periods in association with the National Road.

The four-bay depth of this hotel makes it larger than most taverns in this early nineteenth century period of the National Road. Typically, the taverns of the period had kitchen ells. However, the kitchen ell of the Fayette Springs Hotel sits lower than the main block of the house. The windows in the main block have cut stone sills. Most have single cut stone lintels as well. By the mid-twentieth century the west porch had been enclosed and converted into a barroom.

The entire building appears to have been remodeled in the early 20th century. The multi-paned windows in the main block were converted to one-over-one configuration. During these renovations, three Colonial Revival style dormers were built to pierce the front of the gable roof. These dormers are highlighted with pediments supported with fluted columns. The tracery in the upper sash of the arched windows is reminiscent of the Federal period.

The raised porch along the front and west side of the building consists of a balustrade of faced concrete block supporting fluted Doric columns and a shallow hipped roof. The porch may be entered by centrally located steps as well as by steps at either end. Most of the west porch has been framed in, but the exterior lines of the columns remain visible. Two multi-paned, bowed windows fill the central section of the west porch area.

The one-story, shed roof addition to the east side of the house is framed with

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narrow horizontal boards and rests on a faced concrete block foundation. The spaces between the columns on the east side of this addition are filled with multi-paned windows.

At the time of the renovations, a vestibule was added to the central front entrance. The inner door, transom, and sidelights have been overlaid with a patterned grillwork. The wide hall opens into what is now a single room on the east and a single room on the west side of the original structure. The combining of the first floor rooms was also apparently part of the early twentieth-century renovations. The hall features a pressed leather dado which extends up the stairwell.

The wide, open staircase extends all the way to the third floor. At the first landing an eight-panelled door opens into the second floor of the double stacked porches of the kitchen ell. (This feature is similar to two other Fayette County National Road taverns, the c.1837 Rush House, listed on the National Register in 1978, and the c. 1840 Abel Colley Tavern.) This door is highlighted with a multi-paned fanlight and sidelights. This doorway appears to date from the Federal period. The balustrade consists of a large turned newel post, rectangular spindles, and molded hand rail which extends around the wellhole. The step brackets along the stringers have a curvilinear design reminiscent of the Federal style. The newel posts at each landing have turned finials. The spandrel beneath the stairs is sheathed with square recessed panels.

The room on the east side of the first floor has a single, shallow arched entrance. This arch is framed with fluted columns supporting Corinthian capitals. Identical fireplaces are centered between the four windows along the east gable wall. Like most of the woodwork on the first floor, the fireplace surrounds are Colonial Revival in design. The firebox surround is dog-eared quarter round. The mantel is supported with molded brackets. There is a single recessed panel above the mantel, and the entire overmantel is framed by full fluted Corinthian columns. All of the woodwork of the fireplaces has a natural finish. The windows in this room have recessed reveals. In addition, there is a single, rectangular panel beneath each window. Both the chair rail and the cornice of this room are of composite forms. The cornice is rather high, eight to ten inches, and has a natural finish.

An eight-panelled door opens into the west first floor room. All of the woodwork in this room has a natural finish. Like the east room, identical fireplaces are spaced evenly along the gable wall. However, in this room the fireboxes have been sheathed over, and all the window spaces have been infilled except the front ones. The oak fireplace surrounds have an angular appearance highlighted with a rope motif. A narrow, oak shelf, with molding

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beneath, extends around the room just above the height of the door openings. Vertical panels extend from the baseboard to this shelf to form a dado. The recesses of these panels have been papered in recent years. Doorways open into the barroom on the west from the north and south corners of the room. These were former window locations.

The kitchen ell can be entered from the west room through a central doorway in the north wall. The large cooking fireplace was along the west wall, but it has been covered over. This room is now part of the dining room, but the rear section of the kitchen ell serves as a pantry for the new kitchen built to the east of the original.

Although alterations, such as replacement of multi-paned sash with one-over-one sash in the main block of the building, as well as additions have been made to the Fayette Springs Hotel over the years, they are consistent with and representative of the two boom periods on the National Road, the early nineteenth century and the early twentieth century. The building retains good integrity overall, and the character and feeling of the property remains intact.

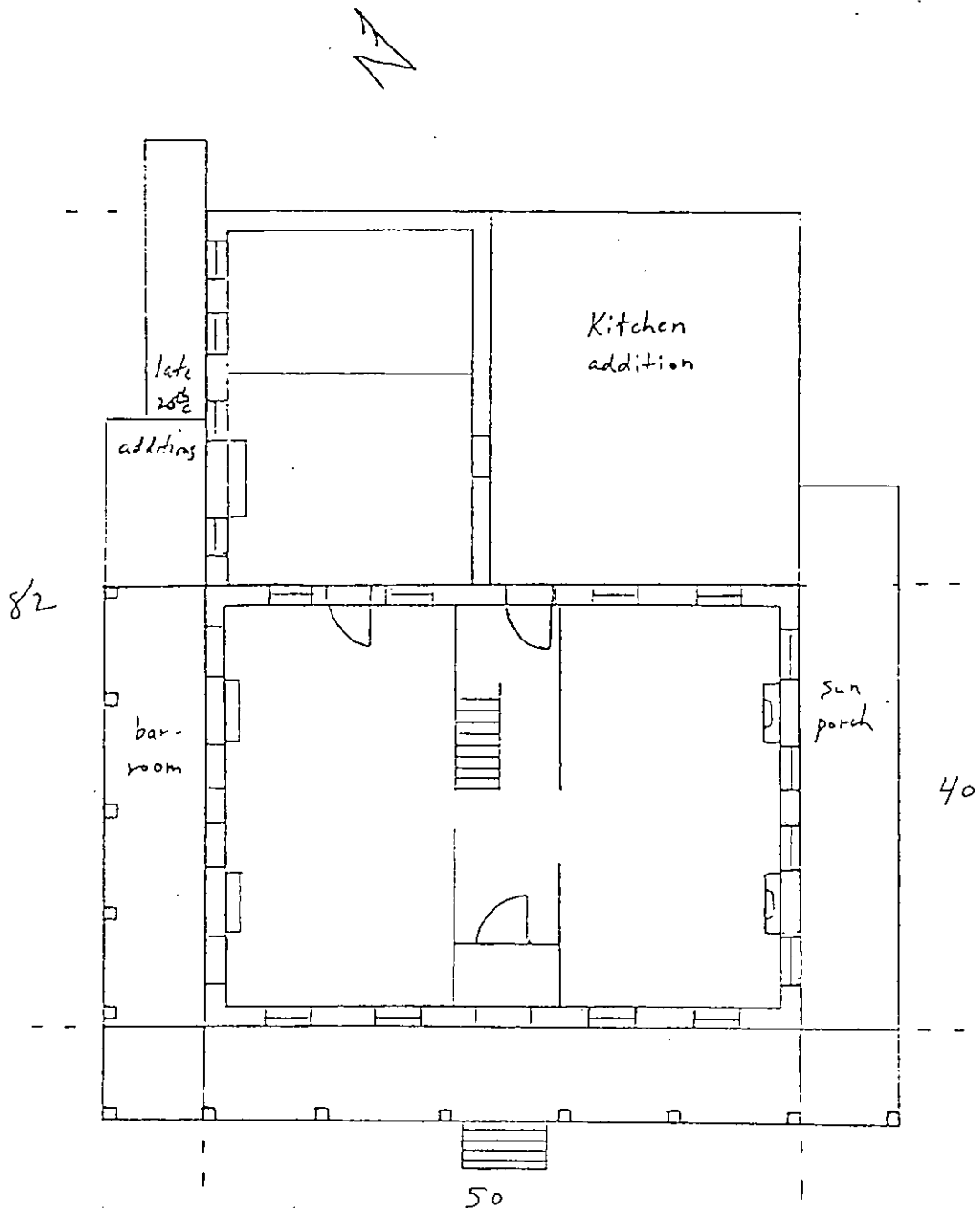
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First Floor Plan  
(Not Drawn to Scale)





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**Significance**

The c.1822 Fayette Springs Hotel is significant in the areas of commerce and architecture. This building is part of the property type "Tavern Buildings" as discussed in Historic Resources of the National Road in Pennsylvania Multiple Property Documentation Form. Among the requirements to meet Criterion A the tavern must be documented to be associated with the National Road. To meet Criterion C a tavern must possess architectural integrity which means it should still be identifiable as a tavern through its form and basic floor plan.

Local history sources are not in agreement as to who built the hotel. Most sources indicate that it was built under the direction of the Honorable Andrew Stewart, but the first tavern keeper there appears to have been Cuthbert Wiggins, formerly of Uniontown. Searight credits Stewart with its erection. The 1822 tax records for Wharton Township show Andrew Stewart, esquire, with a 440 acre tract, and in 1823 Cuthbert Wiggins is assessed as an innkeeper in that township. The hotel takes its name from the celebrated Fayette Springs, about three quarters of a mile west of the hotel, and Stewart reputedly built it for a fashionable summer resort. According to Ellis's history, during some summer seasons from two hundred to three hundred persons boarded here to try the mineral springs' virtues.(1)

The hotel was built during a period of rapid development in Wharton Township largely associated with the National Road. In 1818 there were five innkeepers in the township, but by 1820 there were twelve. In 1818 eight turnpike contractors were living in the township as well as turnpike bridge builder James Kincaid. Cuthbert Wiggins continued as an innkeeper in the township through 1834. There was a lucrative trade along the pike during this time. Wiggins was assessed the highest valuation of an innkeeper in the township from 1826 through 1831. In fact, his valuation was second only to Dempsey & Salter, ironmasters.(2)

Ellis noted that William McMillen kept the hotel after Wiggins. McMillen was taxed as an innkeeper from 1835 through 1837. John McMullin was taxed as an innkeeper in 1838, and John Risler was assessed as an innkeeper 1839 through 1840. (The Wharton Township tax assessments are missing from 1841 through 1855.) None of these innkeepers had as high a valuation as Wiggins. According to Ellis, other innkeepers there included: John Rush, Earl Johnson, Brown Snyder, Samuel Lewis, Darlington Shaw, J.H. Wiggins (son of Cuthbert Wiggins), Redding Bunting, and C.W. Downard.(3)

Andrew Stewart (1791-1872), a locally important politician, was elected to

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Congress in 1820 and served nine terms there. He was also a locally prominent advocate of the National Road. Stewart willed all his real and personal property, including this hotel property, to his wife Elizabeth who conveyed the property to George R. and Albert G. Messmore, executors of John Messmore, in 1884. She had previously signed articles of agreement with John Messmore in 1877 to purchase the property, but he died in 1879. During its heyday the hotel grounds boasted a ten-pin alley, billiard tables, and swings. In 1882 the hotel was being run by A.G. Messmore. By 1909, Uniontown hotel owner George F. Titlow was using the property as a private residence. (4)

The Fayette Springs Hotel is one of about thirty taverns/hotels which were determined eligible as part of the Multiple Property Resources of the National Road. Most are of masonry construction, but few, if any, have the high style architectural details that can be seen in this hostelry. This hotel was obviously built for upper class travelers, particularly those interested in Fayette Springs as a resort. There are three other taverns associated with the National Road in Wharton Township, but again none were as large or as architecturally appointed as the Fayette Springs Hotel.

The Fayette Springs Hotel is significant not only for its association with the early nineteenth century commercial development of the National Road but also for its continued use as a commercial property into the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It is also significant for its tavern architectural features as well as elements from the Federal and Colonial Revival periods.

(1) Franklin Ellis, ed., History of Fayette County, Pennsylvania (Philadelphia: L.H. Everts & Co., 1882), pp. 829, 836; Thomas B. Searight, The Old Pike: A History of the National Road, with Incidents, Accidents, and Anecdotes Thereon (Berryville, Va: The Prince Maccus Publishers, 1983), p. 229.

(2) Wharton Township, Fayette County, Assessment records, 1818-1834

(3) Ellis, p. 836

(4) Ellis, pp. 363-364, 1836; Robert Bruce, The National Road (Berryville, Va: The Prince Maccus Publishers, 1983), p. 62; Searight, p. 229; Fayette County Will Book 4, p. 416; Fayette County Deed Book 59, p. 45.

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## Bibliography

Robert Bruce, The National Road (Berryville, Va: The Prince Maccus Publishers, 1983).

Franklin Ellis, ed., History of Fayette County, Pennsylvania (Philadelphia: L.H. Everts & Co., 1882).

Denise L. Grantz. "National Road: Historic Resource Survey, Final Report and Analysis Submitted to the Bureau for Historic Preservation (unpublished report dated June 30, 1987).

Thomas B. Searight, The Old Pike: A History of the National Road, with Incidents, Accidents, and Anecdotes Thereon (Berryville, VA: The Prince Maccus Publishers, 1983).

Wharton Township, Fayette County, Assessment Records, 1818-1834.

Fayette County Deed Books.

Fayette County Will Books.

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### Boundary Description

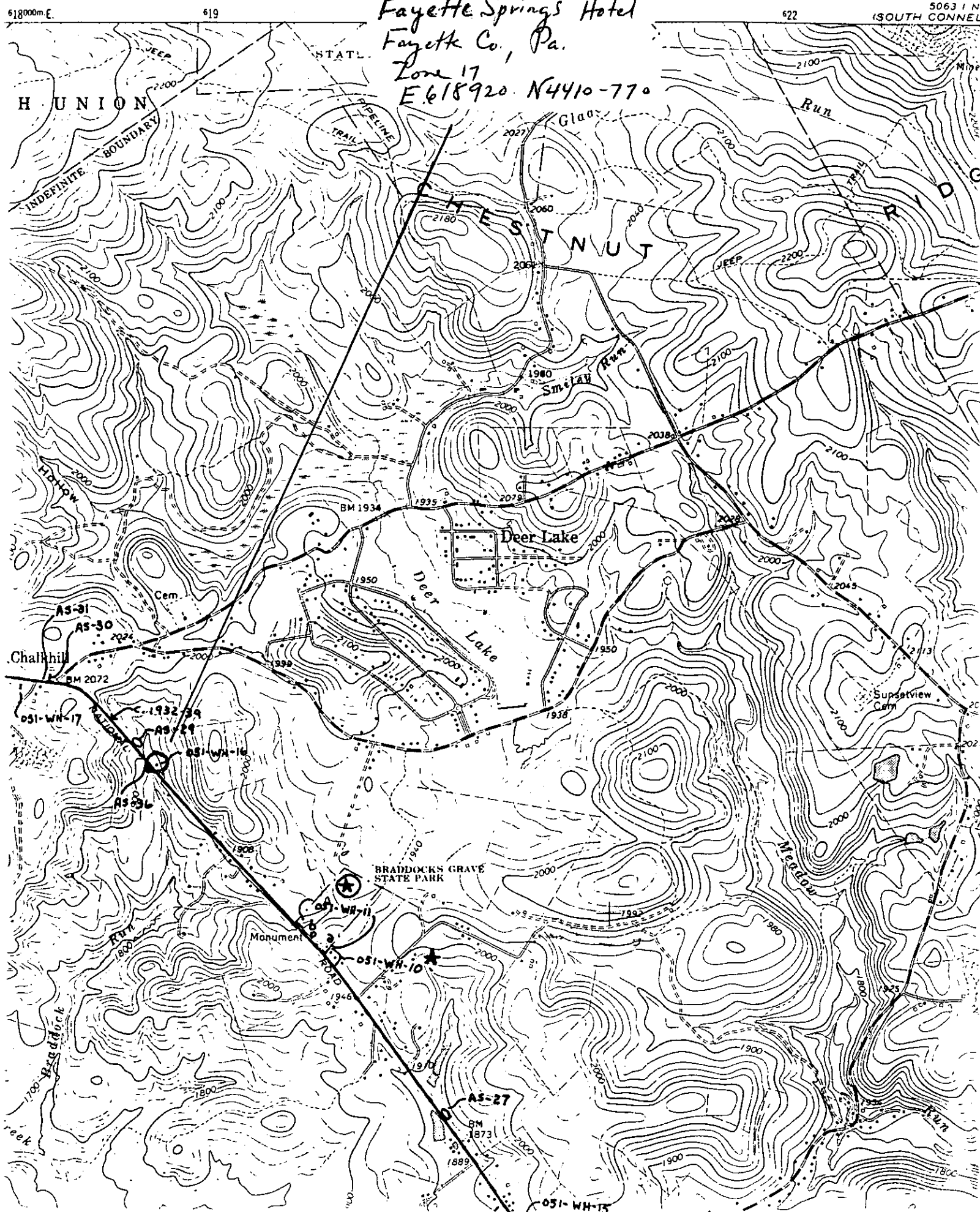
Beginning at a point on the northern edge of U.S. Route 40 twenty feet beyond the western wall of the porch of the Fayette Springs Hotel and proceeding northeast from this point along this line to a point twenty feet behind the Tavern, then proceeding from this point in southeasterly direction to a point twenty feet beyond the eastern edge of the hotel, then proceeding in a southwesterly direction 126 feet to a point on the northern edge of U.S. Route 40, then proceeding in a northwesterly direction 110 feet to the point of beginning.

### Boundary Justification

The boundary only includes the land immediately surrounding the Fayette Springs Hotel in order to exclude noncontributing structures and open land surrounding the property.

Ft. Necessity Quad

Fayette Springs Hotel  
Fayette Co., Pa.  
Zone 17  
E 618920 N 4410-770



618000m E. 619

622 50631 NE (SOUTH CONNEL)

H UNION

STATL

INDEFINITE BOUNDARY

WEST NUT

Run RIDG

Deer Lake

BRADDOCK'S GRAVE STATE PARK

Chalkhill

Supersview Cem

AS-31 AS-30

AS-29

AS-36

AS-27

AS-15

Braddock Creek

Malden Run

Run