

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 Wable/ Augustine Tavern

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number U.S. Rt. 40, approx. 1 mile east of Addison not for publication

city or town Addison Twp. vicinity

state Pennsylvania code PA county Somerset code 111 zip code 15411

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

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

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:)

Wable/ Augustine Tavern
Name of Property

Somerset, 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	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Hist Resources of the National Road in PA 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Hotel
Domestic: Single Dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic : Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Federal

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone
walls Wood
roof Asphalt
other Wood
Brick

Narrative Description

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

Wable/ Augustine Taveren
Name of Property

Somerset 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. 1820 - C. 1855

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 Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Wable/ Augustine Tavern
Name of Property

Somerset Co., PA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

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Zone Easting Northing

3

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Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jerry A. Clouse, Preservation Specialist

organization Penna. Hist. + Museum Commission date June 22, 1995

street & number P.O. Box 1026 telephone 717-703-9918

city or town Harrisburg state PA zip code 17108-1026

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Maxine Blubaugh

street & number RD 1, Box 79 a telephone _____

city or town Adison state PA zip code 15411

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Wable/Augustine Tavern, Somerset Co., Pa.

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Description

The **Wable/Augustine Tavern** is situated on the north side of U.S. Route 40, approximately one mile east of Addison, at the foot of Winding Ridge. Like all the National Road taverns, not only is it situated near the road, but faces the road as well. It is surrounded by a tree shaded lawn. The grade of Route 40 was raised in the twentieth century so that it is much higher than the tavern's entrance level. This c. 1820, five-bay, double pile, two-and-a-half story frame house was built in the Georgian plan with a central hall. The house is distinguished as a tavern by its relatively large size and interior stone gable end chimneys. Although changes have been made to this property over the years since its construction, it retains sufficient integrity to represent the earliest period in the development of the National Road.

The building rests on a low rubblestone foundation. The front door and its surround are indicative of its Federal period construction date. There is an arched transom above the door. The pilasters on either side have an oval corner block. The first floor front windows have similar corner blocks and quarter round molding. An early twentieth century porch replaced an earlier porch along the entire front of the house. The new porch features tapered square columns, typical of the Craftsman style, resting on brick bases which support the hipped porch roof. Another porch was added to the rear of the house in the mid to late twentieth century. Wood shingles were added to the exterior walls in the late twentieth century.

Most of the windows of the **Wable/Augustine Tavern** retain their late nineteenth/early twentieth century two-over-two configuration. The central front door opens into the stair hall which provides access to three of the four first floor rooms as well as to the opposing rear door and the stairs. There are six raised panels on the interior of the front door. The original molded door surrounds with corner blocks survive in the hall. The hall also retains its baseboard with a molded top and a low chair rail with a molded bottom. These continue along the wall up the open staircase. The balustrade features a turned newel post, rectangular spindles, and a carved handrail. Curvilinear molding is applied to the stringer beneath each tread characteristic of the Federal period. (In other words, the stringer is bracketed.) Instead of the more common recessed panels beneath the staircase, the plastered wall is embellished with a chair rail and baseboard.

The doorways from the hall into the two western parlors have a reeded reveal, another feature of the Federal period. The walls of the back-to-back corner fireplaces dominate the space of these two parlors. The fireplaces have been blocked in. The rear parlor has been converted into a modern kitchen. The

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west window in the kitchen was enlarged in the early to mid twentieth century. There is an exterior rear door into the kitchen as well. The east front parlor is the largest room on the first floor. It contains a fireplace along the east wall. Formerly, a door entered from this room into the small room behind it. While this entrance has been closed off, another entrance was created by going through underneath the rear of the staircase. There is an exterior rear door into this small room as well.

The four rooms and hall on the second floor are largely intact including the chair rail and window and door surrounds for these rooms. However, the moldings are not wide or detailed here. The staircase was originally open to the attic. Sometime in the late nineteenth/early twentieth century it was enclosed. The original plastered side wall into the attic was stenciled. Although faded, it is intact. The attic is high, about ten feet at the apex. (The roominess of the attic would certainly have allowed for overnight guests there as well.) The rafters are only hewn on their top side and are mortised and tenoned at their apex. Two small windows light each gable end of the attic.

On the rear porch is a wooden painted sign inscribed "Pleasant Vale Hotel." Evidently, this is the sign from this building's last use as a public house. Sometime in the twentieth century, the one story, frame kitchen ell was removed.

Although alterations, such as replacement exterior siding, twentieth-century porches, and sheathing of fireplaces have been made to the **Wable/Augustine Tavern**, it is still able to convey its early nineteenth century significance in association with the National Road. The building retains good integrity overall, and the character and feeling of the property remains intact.

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Wable/Augustine Tavern

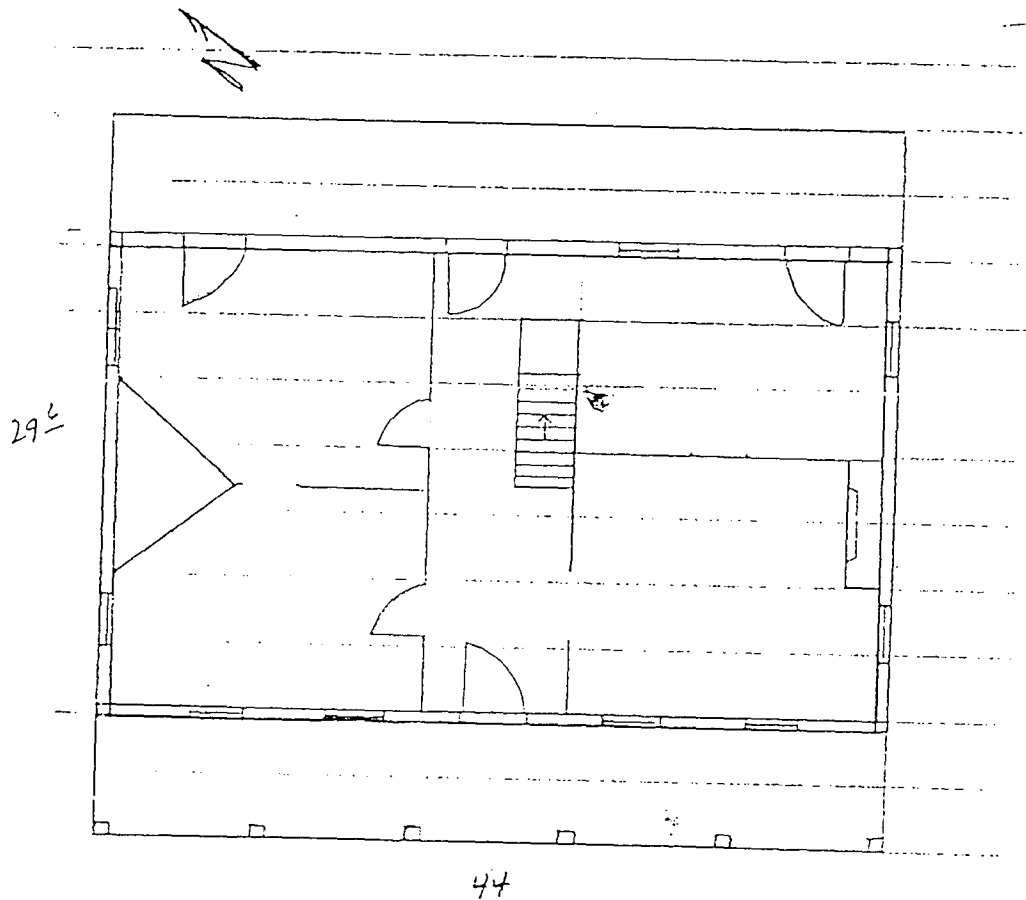
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Wable/Augustine Tavern

Addison Twp., Somerset Co.

First Floor Plan
(Not Drawn to Scale)



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Significance

The **Wable/Augustine Tavern** 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. This building has been documented as a tavern from the 1820s, and it retains its form and floor plan from that period. The **Wable/Augustine Tavern** is one of just a few wood/frame tavern buildings surviving along the National Road. The vast majority are of masonry construction. It is also the best example of a surviving tavern associated with the National Road in Somerset County.

This building was built by John Wable during the earliest period in the development of the National Road. The house's construction date is based on its Federal style details and its back-to-back fireplaces. (Georgian plan houses with back-to-back corner fireplaces were generally built in Pennsylvania from the mid-eighteenth century to the early nineteenth century.) This was a period of rapid development along the National Road. There were four taverns listed in Addison Township in 1818, but by 1820 there were seven. The 1846 assessment for the township showed four taverns and seven innkeepers. But by 1855 the number of innkeepers had dropped to three. This National Road boom period of the 1820s to the early 1850s roughly fits the use of the Wable/Augustine property as a tavern. (1)

Wable family members were early residents of Addison Township. The earliest records of John Wable purchasing land in Addison Township could not be found. By 1818 he owned 223 acres in the township with 40 of these acres cleared. In 1823 he was assessed with three tracts totaling 457 acres. He added to his holdings in 1825 with a purchase from William McLean. Although Searight states that John Wable kept a "wagon and drove stand" as early as 1820, Wable was first taxed as an innkeeper in 1826. By 1828 John had died, leaving a widow and nine children. An 1829 Orphans Court record noted among his property a 245 acre tract "on both sides of the National Pike with a tavern house and a stable." An inquisition upon the estate found that the estate could not be divided among all the heirs without spoilage to the whole. Therefore, Jacob, the eldest son, was allowed to take the property at the value set by the group of inquisitors. Jacob was taxed as an innkeeper in 1829. (2)

Jacob continued to be assessed with a tavern or as a tavern keeper until 1835

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when his brother John was taxed as such. In 1836 Jacob Wable deeded to his brother John one half interest in four tracts "on or near the U.S. turnpike road in Addison Township." Jacob had just received a patent on three of those tracts that same year. The four tracts were to be "held between them as equal partners." John continued to be assessed with a tavern until 1839 when Jonas Wable was taxed with the property. Jonas continued to own land in Addison Township, but Michael Cresap was taxed as an innkeeper in 1843 and 1845. In 1843 Jonas deeded his one half share in the tavern property to Peter Augustine. This is confirmed by Thomas Searight's account, which states that by the 1840s the Wables had left the property, and it was kept for brief periods between 1840 and 1845 by Michael Cresap and Joseph Whetstone.(3)

Searight lists the tavern's next proprietor as Edward C. Jones, who then moved on to Searight's stand. Jonas Augustine followed Jones. Evidently, Jonas was in partnership with Peter Augustine, and they did not get a clear title to the property until 1859 when the widow of David Wable quit claimed her right in the property. During Jonas's ownership he served as a state representative in 1855 and 1856. Searight noted that Augustine conducted a good business there. Augustine died soon after 1856, and the tavern was purchased by his brother Daniel. In 1894 Jonas's widow was using the tavern house as a residence, and Daniel Augustine was living in nearby Petersburg (present-day Addison).(4)

The tax assessments present a little different chain of events in the life of the **Wable/Augustine Tavern**. The 1846 tax showed Peter Augustine with the 210 acre tavern property, and in 1848 Daniel Augustine had the same property. None of the Augustines were listed as innkeepers during this time. In 1850 Jonas Augustine had the 210 acre property, but he was listed as a merchant. In 1851 Jonas continued as a merchant, and Daniel was listed as an innkeeper. The 1852 and 1853 records showed both Jonas and Daniel as innkeepers. Daniel continued as an innkeeper through 1855 but Jonas was shown as a farmer. Apparently, this property no longer was operated as a tavern after this time.

The 1987 survey of the National Road identified other taverns in Addison Township. These included the frame **Gabriel Abrams Tavern** which was determined not eligible due to loss of integrity. The brick **Mitchell Tavern**, also known as the **Augustine House**, was determined eligible on its architectural significance, but could not be positively documented as an actual tavern location. The log **Augustine Tavern**, also in Addison Township, was demolished in 1985. Therefore, the **Wable/Augustine Tavern** is the best example of a tavern associated with the National Road in Somerset County.

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The **Wable/Augustine Tavern** is significant not only for its association with the early commercial development of the National Road but as a good example of vernacular tavern house architecture with Federal style details as well.

End Notes

(1) Addison Township, Somerset County, Assessment Records, 1818-1855

(2) History of Bedford, Somerset and Fulton Counties, Pennsylvania (Chicago: Waterman, Watkins & Co., 1884), p. 571; Somerset County Deed Book 11, p. 267; Somerset County Orphans Court Record, Vol. III, pp. 44, 61; 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. 215.

(3) Somerset County Deed Book 19, p. 253

(4) Somerset County Deed Book 14, p. 320 and Deed Book 30, p. 313; History of Bedford, Somerset and Fulton Counties, Pennsylvania (Chicago: Waterman, Watkins & Co., 1884), p.404; 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. 215.

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Bibliography

Addison Township, Somerset County, Assessment Records, 1818-1855

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).

History of Bedford, Somerset and Fulton Counties, Pennsylvania (Chicago: Waterman, Watkins & Co., 1884).

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).

Somerset County Deed Books.

Somerset County Orphans Court Record.

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Boundary Description

Beginning at a point on the northern edge of U.S. Route 40 at the western line of the yard, ninety feet from the western edge of the **Wable/Augustine Tavern**, and continuing northeast 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 house, then proceeding in a southwesterly direction 86 feet to a point on the northern edge of U.S. Route 40, then proceeding in a northwesterly direction 154 feet to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

The boundary only includes the land immediately surrounding the **Wable/Augustine Tavern** in order to exclude the early twentieth-century, frame barn and the open land surrounding the property.

Wable/Augustine Tavern Photo List

All of the following photographs of the **Wable/Augustine Tavern**, located in Addison Township, Somerset County, Pennsylvania, were taken by Jerry Clouse, May 1995. All of the negatives are located in the offices of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

1. Looking north at the front elevation of the house.
2. Looking north at the front door surround.
3. Looking northwest at the front and east elevations of the house.
4. Looking southwest at the east and rear elevations of the house.
5. Looking southeast at the rear and west elevations of the house.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

STATE OF MARYLAND
MARYLAND GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

'30' 640000m.E 1 550 000 FEET (PA) UNIONTOWN 23 MI. SOMERFIELD 2.7 MI. 20' 643 LISTONBURG 644

