

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 Lifflē, Moses, Tavern

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 438 E. National Pike

n/a not for publication

city or town Amwell Twp.

n/a vicinity

state Pennsylvania code PA county Washington code 125 zip code 15301

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.)

Mr. Brent Glass 12/6/95
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Exec. Dir., PA Historical and 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) _____

Moses Little Tavern
Name of Property

Washington 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 | |
| 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 Nat. Rd. in PA

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Hotel

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce: Business

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Brick

roof Asphalt

other Wood

Narrative Description

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

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. 1840-c. 1853

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:

Moses Little Tavern
Name of Property

Washington 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.)

1

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---|---------|----|----|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 7 | 5 | 69 | 12 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 0 |
| Zone | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | |

2

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | |

3

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | |

4

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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 October 2, 1995

street & number P.O. Box 1026 telephone 717-783-9918

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 Donna Bailey & Bill Harps

street & number 438 E. National Pike telephone _____

city or town Washington state PA zip code 15301

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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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Moses Little Tavern, Amwell Twp., Washington Co.

Section number 7 Page 1

Description

The c. 1840 **Moses Little Tavern** is situated sixty feet off the south side of U.S. Route 40, one-and-a-half miles west of South Strabane. Like all the National Road taverns, not only is it situated near the road, but faces the road as well. (Originally, the building was about thirty feet from the road, but a twentieth-century realignment of the road further distanced the tavern.) This two-and-a-half story brick house was built in two stages. The original three-bay section has a two-and-a-half story kitchen ell to the rear. A c. 1845 four-bay section was added to the east gable end of the original block. The house is sited on a rise which slopes away from the rear of the house and rests on a sandstone foundation of coursed rubble. A modern trailer is located on the east side of the house, and a late twentieth-century frame shed sits to the west side of the house. Otherwise, the house is surrounded by a grassy lawn. Although changes have been made to this property over the years since its construction, it retains sufficient integrity to represent its historic association with the National Road.

The exterior features that indicate that the **Moses Little Tavern** was influenced by the Greek Revival style are the pedimented gable, plain frieze board beneath the cornice, and the front door flanked by side lights and a multi-paned transom window above. A tripartite window is directly above the door. The door and the window above are framed on either side with brick pilasters from the cornice to the ground. A small portico with plastic fluted columns has been added to the front of the doorway to the main block. The windows of the original section have projecting stone sills. It is quite noticeable that the tavern was built in two sections. The addition lacks the architectural detailing prominent in the original block and sits about a foot lower than the original. It appears that the first section was built c. 1840 and the second section a few years later, c. 1845.

The building's low rubblestone foundation can be more readily seen to the rear of the building as the hill slopes away. There is an entrance into the cellar to the rear of the kitchen ell. A single attic window to the rear of the kitchen ell has been infilled with brick. Asphalt shingles cover the gable roofs.

The front elevation of the addition has a plain frieze board similar to the original section. A line of mortise holes above the first floor windows in this section indicate the location of a former porch along this section. The windows of this section are also one-over-one configuration, like those in the original block, but they have wooden sills. The east gable wall is blank, typical of many I houses in southwestern Pennsylvania.

In the late twentieth century the end wall of the building's west gable end

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Moses Little Tavern, Amwell Twp., Washington Co.

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was rebuilt due to structural problems. When the wall was put back up, none of the windows on this end were replaced. In addition, the stone foundation wall was buttressed on this side. The brick chimney stacks located at each gable end and between the two sections were removed at this time as well. The original six-over-six double hung windows were replaced with one-over-one windows with plastic muntins.

The original block contains a hall and parlor on the first floor with a kitchen to the rear in the ell. The open staircase features a turned newel post, small turned spindles, and a carved handrail. The spandrel's plastered interior section is framed with molded boards. A two-panelled door opens into the closet beneath the stair. A small landing three quarters of the way up the steps provides short stair flights to the rear ell, the east addition, and to the main block. The upper landing is surrounded by a balustrade. The window and door surrounds in the hall and parlor of the main block are wide (five inches) typical of the Greek Revival period. These are repeated on the second floor.

Just beyond the door from the main block into the kitchen ell is the enclosed winder stairs to the room above the kitchen. The open fireplace in the kitchen has an exposed brick surround. Apparently, the double stacked porch along the east wall of the ell was enclosed in the late twentieth century. This area has been made into two rooms, one of which is a bathroom.

The east block contains two rooms of about equal size. These are divided by a brick wall, the plaster having been removed from these rooms in the late twentieth century. The sawn floor joists in these rooms have been exposed. The easternmost room has front and rear entrances which indicates that it served as the barroom. Each of these rooms has a brick fireplace.

Despite alterations, such as replacement of the west gable wall, removal of the front porch on the addition, removal of original finishes in the interior of the addition, and enclosure of the kitchen ell porch and balcony, the building is still able to convey its early nineteenth century significance in association with the National Road. The **Moses Little Tavern** retains good integrity overall, and the character and feeling of the property remains intact. Likewise, the building remains a good example of the vernacular Greek Revival style.

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Moses Little Tavern, Amwell Twp., Washington Co.

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Significance

The **Moses Little Tavern** is significant in the areas of commerce and architecture for the period of its construction in 1840 to c. 1853. 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.

By 1837 Moses Little was assessed with 123 acres in Amwell Township. This building was not addressed in Searight's history, but according to Earle Forrest, Washington County historian, Moses Little kept a wagon stand here. Washington County deeds show that Little purchased his land in stages from the Wilson family. According to Forrest's information Little was a wagoner and then retired to his farm "where he kept a wagon stand until the Pike Boys and their Conestogas disappeared." The tax records throughout the 1840s and 1850s never show Little as a tavernkeeper. According to the 1876 atlas, the property is listed as the heirs of M. Little. (1)

The **Moses Little Tavern** is one of about thirty taverns/hotels which were determined eligible as part of the Multiple Property Resources of the National Road. It is the only one documented to survive in Amwell Township. The **Leslie Carrons Tavern** stood just west of this building until the late twentieth century when it burned. The stable associated with the **Carrons Tavern** was surveyed in Grantz's 1987 study, but has since been demolished. (Grantz concluded that less than a third of the taverns of the early National Road era have survived.) Like most of the surviving National Road taverns, this one is of masonry construction. In addition to its large size, the **Moses Little Tavern** retains many other features that make it identifiable as a tavern including the kitchen ell and the two front doors. In addition, the building's floor plan remains intact. (2)

The **Moses Little Tavern** is significant not only for its association with the early nineteenth century commercial development of the National Road but its early nineteenth century vernacular Greek Revival style architecture as well.

End Notes

(1) Washington County Deed Book 3 O, pp. 568, 570; Earle R. Forrest, History of the National Pike in Washington County, Pennsylvania: Road of Romance and History (unpublished mss., 1955), p. 127; Thomas B. Searight, The Old Pike: A History of the National Road, with Incidents, Accidents, and

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Moses Little Tavern, Amwell Twp., Washington Co.

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Anecdotes Thereon (Berryville, VA: The Prince Maccus Publishers, 1983), pp. 139-140; Amwell Township, Washington County, assessment lists; Caldwell's Illustrated Historical Centennial Atlas of Washington County, Pennsylvania (Condit, Ohio: J.A. Caldwell, 1876), p. 164.

(2) 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), pp. 25, 27.

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Moses Little Tavern, Amwell Twp., Washington Co.

Section number 9 Page 6

Bibliography

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

Caldwell's Illustrated Historical Centennial Atlas of Washington County, Pennsylvania (Condit, Ohio: J.A. Caldwell, 1876)

Boyd Crumrine, ed., History of Washington County, Pennsylvania (Philadelphia: L.H. Everts & Co., 1882).

Earle R. Forrest, History of the National Pike in Washington County, Pennsylvania: Road of Romance and History (unpublished mss., 1955)

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).

Amwell Township, Washington County, Assessment Records, 1836-1854.

Washington County Deed Books.

Washington County Will Books.

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Moses Little Tavern, Amwell Twp., Washington Co.
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Boundary Description

Beginning at a point on the southern edge of U.S. Route 40 approximately twenty feet beyond the western wall of the **Moses Little Tavern** and proceeding south from this point along this line to a point twenty feet behind the tavern, then proceeding from this point in an easterly direction to a point twenty feet beyond the eastern edge of the tavern, then proceeding in a westerly direction approximately 116 feet to a point on the southern edge of U.S. Route 40, then proceeding in a westerly direction approximately 94 feet to the point of beginning.

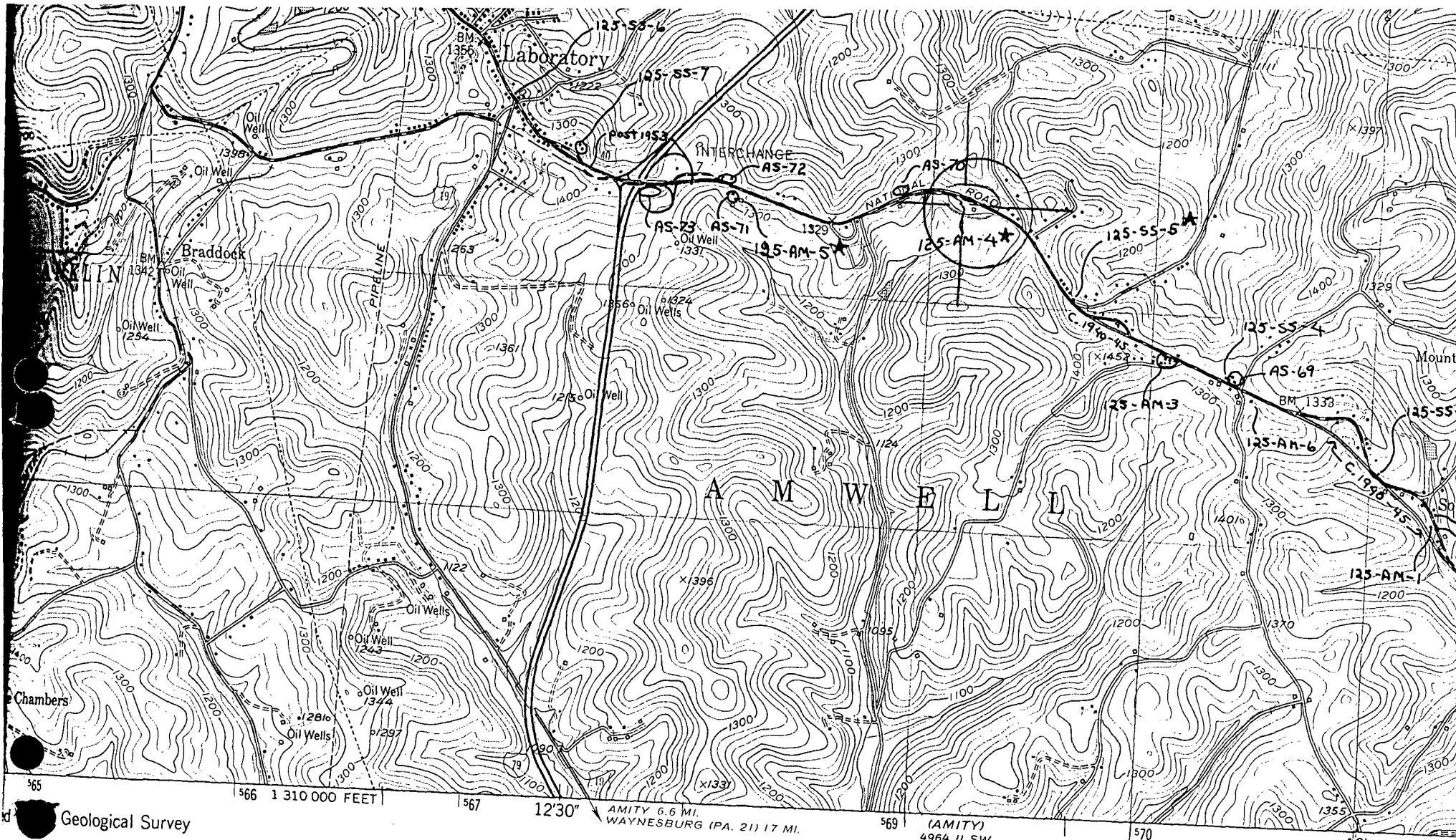
Boundary Justification

The boundary only includes the land immediately surrounding the **Moses Little Tavern** order to exclude open land surrounding the property and other buildings or structures, none of which relate to the historic context of this nomination. (A late twentieth-century trailer sits to the east of the tavern, and a late twentieth-century shed sits to the west side of the tavern.)

Moses Little Tavern Photo List

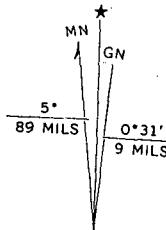
All of the following photographs of the **Moses Little Tavern**, located in Amwell Township, Washington County, Pennsylvania, were taken by Jerry Clouse, May 1995. All of the negatives are located in the offices of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

1. Looking southeast at front elevation of the Moses Little Tavern.
2. Looking southeast at the front and west elevations.
3. Looking north at the rear elevation of the kitchen ell.
4. Looking north at the rear elevation of the kitchen ell and addition.



Geological Survey

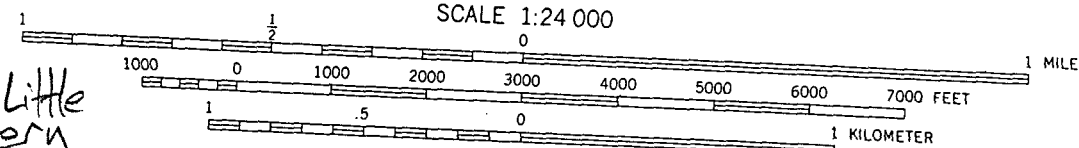
methods from aerial photographs
 53
 not grid ticks based on Pennsylvania
 1000-meter Universal Transverse
 meridian in blue. 1927 North
 American predicted North American
 meridian lines 4 meters south and
 red corner ticks
 only landmark buildings are shown
 cooperation with
 from aerial photographs
 if field checked



UTM GRID AND 1969 MAGNETIC NORTH
 DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

Map photoinspected 1977. No major
 culture or drainage changes observed

Moses Little
 Tavern
 (125-AM-4)



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
 NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

Washington East Quad

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
 FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST