

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 Caldwell Tavern

other names/site number N/A

#### 2. Location

street & number U.S. Rt. 40 & TR474 n/a  not for publication

city or town Claysville (Buffalo Twp.) n/a  vicinity

state Pennsylvania code PA county Washington code 125 zip code 15323

#### 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.)

*Brent Glass*

Dr. 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) \_\_\_\_\_

Caldwell 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)

Domestic: Single Dwelling

**7. Description**

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

Greek Revival

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone  
walls Brick  
roof Shingle  
other

**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:

\_\_\_\_\_

Caldwell 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 

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3 

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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 Mr. & Mrs. Richard D. Crossland

street & number RR1, Box 222 telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Claysville state PA zip code 15323

**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

Caldwell Tavern, Buffalo Twp., Washington Co.

Section number 7 Page 1

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### Description

The **Caldwell Tavern** is situated fifty-five feet off the south side of U.S. Route 40, about a half mile west of the S Bridge (National Register 1975) in Buffalo Township. Like all the National Road taverns, not only was it situated near the road, but it originally faced the road as well. During an early twentieth century improvement of Route 40, the road was realigned to go behind the house. A local road, TR474, runs near the west side of the house. A driveway to the neighbor's garage runs near the east side of the house. Otherwise the house is surrounded by a tree shaded lawn. This two-and-a-half story, five bay, brick house was built c. 1840 with a kitchen ell to the rear. The house rests on a low foundation of cut ashlar sandstone. Although changes have been made to this property since its construction, it retains sufficient integrity to represent its historic association with the National Road.

The exterior features that indicate that the **Caldwell Tavern** was influenced by the Greek Revival style include the narrow sidelights and rectangular line of transom lights that surround the front door and the low pitch of the roof. The transom is composed of small rectangular panes of various dimensions. Otherwise, the exterior of the **Caldwell Tavern** lacks characteristics of any national architectural style. The blank gable end walls are a characteristic fairly common in vernacular architecture of southwestern Pennsylvania. Typically, the facade is laid in Flemish bond, and the end and rear walls are laid in common bond. In typical tavern fashion, there were two front doors. One opened into the barroom and the other into the tavern's hall and led to the stairs. The barroom door, just west of the central door, was replaced with a window in the late twentieth century. The remaining door has eight raised panels which is more typical of the Federal period. (Possibly this door was a survivor of the 1840 fire which destroyed the original Caldwell tavern.) The fenestration throughout the house has extended cut stone lintels giving the feeling of the plain frieze board typical of the Greek Revival period. Both the projecting stone sills and the lintels have a patent-hammered finish. The windows throughout the house are six-over-six configuration.

Another typical feature of taverns along the National Road was the kitchen ell with its attending double stacked porch along the rear east side. It appears that the porches on the east side of the **Caldwell Tavern** were enclosed in the early twentieth century.

Only a low foundation is revealed at the front of the house. The front foundation stones are distinctively finished with rough and fine pointed work. To the rear of the house more of the rubblestone foundation is exposed as the hill slopes away from the front.

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Caldwell Tavern, Buffalo Twp., Washington Co.

Section number 7 Page 2

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The gable ends of the house are pierced with interior brick chimneys. While the roof is presently covered with wooden shingles, it previously was sheathed with standing seam metal. A porch formerly shaded the three central openings of the house's facade. Its shallow hipped roof was supported by Doric columns. This porch was removed in the late twentieth century.

The front door opens into the hall, providing access to the stairs, the parlors, and the rear door. The balustrade of the open stair features a turned newel post, rectangular spindles, and a carved handrail. The step bracket at the end of the stringers has a curvilinear design. The spandrel is composed of triangular and rectangular recessed panels. The doorways into the parlors have single panelled reveals. The doors into the parlors have four panels, but the rear door has six panels.

The parlors on either side of the hall are very similar. Each has a fireplace centered along the gable walls. However, the fireplace surround in the west room has fluted Ionic columns whereas the one in the east room has a surround with a plain frieze board typical of the Greek Revival period. In addition, the surround of the west parlor has panels beneath the mantle. The plaster has been removed from the brick walls surrounding the fire boxes. There are small, narrow closets on both sides of the eastern fireplace but only on one side of the western fireplace.

The woodwork in the parlors is typical of the transition between the Federal and Greek Revival periods. The window and door surrounds have bullseye corner blocks. The dado in the east room has two sunken panels per block. The chair rail in the east parlor was replaced. A molded cornice has been added to the hall and west parlor. The molded baseboard in the east parlor matches that in the hall.

The kitchen ell can be entered from the west parlor. There is a large walk-in fireplace along the north wall. It is divided so that one portion could be used for a bake oven. A simple quarter round surround encloses the fire boxes. The single beaded mantle board has a long, molded, sunken panel beneath. There are cupboards on either side of the fireplace. In the southwest corner of the kitchen two steps lead up to the rear staircase, enclosed with vertical, hand-planed boards. A door beneath the stair leads to the cellar. A door in the northeast corner (formerly a window) goes to the enclosed porch area. The window above the sink in the south east corner was the former door to the porch.

Despite alterations, such as removal of the original front porch, enclosure of the kitchen ell porches, removal of the front door to the barroom, and the addition of molded cornices to the interior, the building is still able to convey

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Caldwell Tavern, Buffalo Twp., Washington Co.

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its early nineteenth century significance in association with the National Road. The **Caldwell 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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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Caldwell Tavern, Buffalo Twp., Washington Co.

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### Significance

The c. 1840 **Caldwell 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.

According to Searight's history, James Caldwell started a tavern at this location soon after the National Road opened. The 1819 tax list for Buffalo Township showed Caldwell with a brick house in "Buffalotown." Although there is little historical information on this village, it was apparently seven miles southwest of Washington and therefore matches the location of the **Caldwell Tavern**. Historian Alfred Creigh notes the place as Buffalo Village on a fork of Buffalo Creek. By the 1820s many of the taxables of Buffalo Township owned lots in the village which was evidently laid out in anticipation of National Road growth. James purchased additional land in Buffalo Township in the 1820s from Samuel Caldwell. (Samuel, whose relationship to James is unknown, was listed as an innkeeper in the township as early as 1816.)(1)

The 1821 tax assessment was the first to show Caldwell with a tavern. In that year there were four other tavern keepers within the township. Aaron Scudder doubled as an innkeeper and brick maker. There were also two masons and a stone mason in the township that year. Also indicative of the economic development of the township are the nine distillers operating there as well. In 1825 Caldwell was numbered among six having taverns or tavern keepers within the township. One of the other tavern keepers at that time was Levi Wilson. In 1834 Caldwell was among four innkeepers assessed in Buffalo Township. Abraham Bedillion was operating a tavern by this time. Caldwell operated it until his death in 1837 when his wife Hester took over. The tavern house evidently burned in 1840 for the tax record notes, "loss by fire \$700." Evidently, Hester rebuilt it for she is listed among the innkeepers of 1841. She kept it as a tavern until 1873. (The tax assessments indicate a diminished tavern operation as the years advanced. Therefore, the period of significance remains at 1853.) The 1876 atlas shows it as the property of A. B. Caldwell. (2)

The **Caldwell Tavern** is one of about thirty taverns/hotels and associated dwellings which were determined eligible as part of the Multiple Property Resources of the National Road. It is one of four documented to survive in Buffalo Township. The **Abraham Bedillion Tavern**, the **John Coulson Tavern**,



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Caldwell Tavern, Buffalo Twp., Washington Co.

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and the **Levi Wilson House** were the others named in Grantz's 1987 study. Since that time the **Coulson Tavern** has been completely rebuilt. The Italianate **Bedillion Tavern** appears to post date the golden era (1818-1853) of the National Road, and the **Wilson House** is being nominated as an associated dwelling. (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 **Caldwell Tavern** retains many other features that make it identifiable as a tavern including the kitchen ell with a double stacked porch. The building's floor plan remains largely intact, and it retains more of its interior woodwork than most. (3)

The **Caldwell 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) 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. 285; Alfred Creigh, History of Washington County (Washington, Pa.: 1870), p. 239; Washington County Deed Books, 2 F, p. 472 and 2 L, p. 237.

(2) Searight, p. 286; Caldwell's Illustrated Historical Centennial Atlas of Washington County, Pennsylvania (Condit, Ohio: J.A. Caldwell, 1876), p. 84.

(3) 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, 41.

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Caldwell Tavern, Buffalo Twp., Washington Co.

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**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)

Alfred Creigh, History of Washington County (Washington, Pa.: 1870)

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

Earl 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).

Buffalo Township, Washington County, Assessment Records, 1815-1842.

Washington County Deed Books.

Washington County Will Books.

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Caldwell Tavern, Buffalo Twp., Washington Co.

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**Boundary Description**

Beginning at a point on the southern edge of U.S. Route 40 approximately thirty feet beyond the western wall of the **Caldwell Tavern** and proceeding southeast from this point to a point thirty feet in front of the tavern, then proceeding from this point in a northeasterly direction to a point ten feet beyond the eastern edge of the tavern, then proceeding in a northwesterly direction approximately 126 feet to a point on the southern edge of U.S. Route 40, then proceeding in a southwesterly direction approximately 86 feet to the point of beginning.

**Boundary Justification**

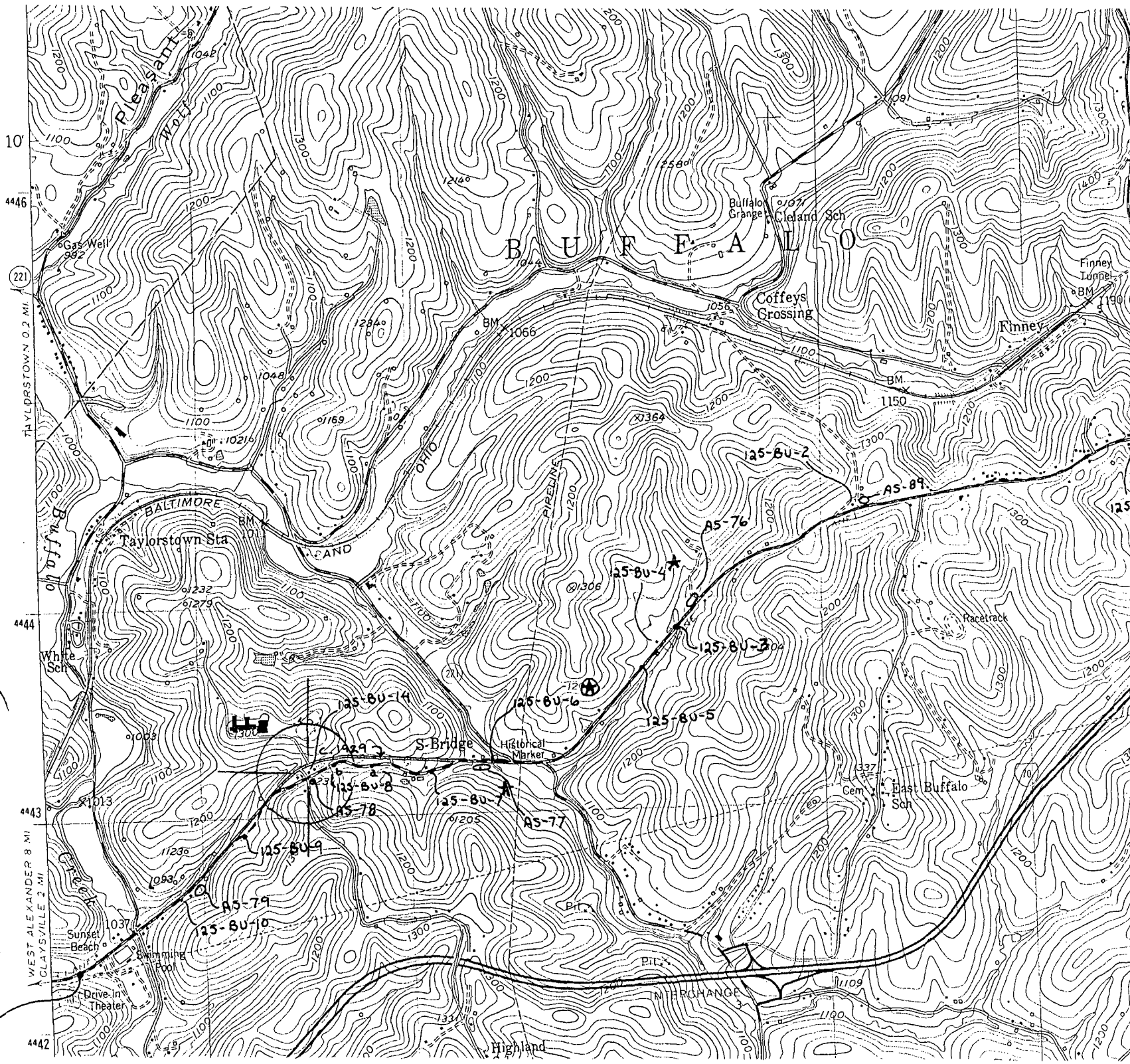
The boundary only includes the land immediately surrounding the **Caldwell Tavern** in order to exclude land and buildings not historically associated with this property.

**Caldwell Tavern Photo List**

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

1. Looking northwest at the front elevation of the **Caldwell Tavern**.
2. Looking northeast at the west and front elevations.
3. Looking southeast at the rear and west elevations.
4. Looking west in central hall at open stair.
5. Looking east in east parlor.
6. Looking north at kitchen fireplaces.

Washingtonbest  
Quad



Caldwell Tavern  
125-BU-8

125-BU-17