

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 Ringland Tavern

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number U.S. Route 40 n/a not for publication

city or town Scenery Hill (W. Bethlehem Twp.) n/a vicinity

state Pennsylvania code PA county Washington code 125 zip code 15360

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 or 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) _____

Ringland 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	
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	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
~~Domestic: Single Dwelling~~

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single Dwelling
~~Commerce: Business~~

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Federal

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone
walls Brick
roof Metal
other Wood

Narrative Description

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

Ringland Tavern
Name of Property

Washington 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. 1827-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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Ringland 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	17	579430	4437320
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

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 Penns. 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 Larry Crawford

street & number Rt. 40, Box 25 telephone _____

city or town Scenery Hill state PA zip code 15360

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 Information Systems, Paperwork Reduction Project (3024-0001).

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Ringland Tavern, W. Bethlehem Twp., Washington Co.

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Description

The c. 1827 Ringland Tavern is situated ten feet off the south side of U.S. Route 40, in the village of Scenery Hill. Like all the National Road taverns, not only is it situated near the road, but faces the road as well. An alley runs along the west side of the building and a noncontributing, twentieth-century frame garage is built to the west side of the house. This two-and-a-half story brick house was apparently built in three stages. The original four-bay section has a c. 1830 two-bay addition to the east gable end. Sometime not long afterward a shed roof addition was made to the rear of the entire building to create its saltbox appearance. A shed-roof porch extends along the entire front of the building. The house rests on a low sandstone foundation of coursed rubble. 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 of the Ringland Tavern lacks few characteristics of any national architectural style. Only its corbeled brick cornice and transomed doors speak to its Federal style influence. The facade is laid in Flemish bond and the end and rear walls are laid in common bond. In typical tavern fashion, there are two front doors. One opened into the barroom and the other into the tavern's hall and led to the stairs. Both doors have multi-paned transoms above. The windows of the main block have splayed single stone lintels while those of the east addition are of squared stone. Most of the windows throughout the house are two-over-two configuration. The small windows of the gable ends have six-over-six sash.

Other exterior features include the three corbeled brick chimneys which pierce the ridge of the roof marking the gable ends as well as the line of the original block of the house. (The two western chimney tops were restored in the late twentieth century.) The roof is sheathed with standing seam metal. The building rests on a low rubblestone foundation which is more visible at the southeast corner where the ground slopes away from the house. The front porch with its posts and rails appears to date to the late nineteenth century, but it was modified in the late twentieth century to allow access only at the west end. There is a modern porch at the rear west corner of the house, and there appears to have been a small addition at the rear east corner which was removed sometime in the late twentieth century.

The interior features provide clear evidence that the building was constructed during the Federal period. Among these features are the six-panelled doors, reeded door surrounds, and fireplace surrounds with panelled pilasters. The four rooms of the original block are mirror images, up and down. However, the fireplace surrounds on the first floor are larger and more elaborate than

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those on the second floor. There is a cupboard with blind doors between the fireplace and the north wall in the eastern room of this section. An enclosed stair of vertical beaded boards, behind the rear wall of the west room, leads to the second floor. The square newel post and rectangular spindles indicate that it was once open. The stair and hall is lighted by a small six-over-six sash window on the west gable end. There is also a small enclosed stairwell in the west room between the fireplace and the previously mentioned stair which leads to the cellar.

The c. 1830 east addition contains a single room on the first and second floors. There is only a fireplace centered along the gable wall of the first floor room. The reeded door surrounds have distinctive corner blocks with small squares instead of the more typical circular paterae.

The first floor of the c. 1835 shed-roof addition is divided into three rooms. The southwest room is the kitchen. There is a large walk-in fireplace along the south wall. This room is only lighted by a small window on the west side. It can be entered from the rear as well. The small central room is lighted by a small two-over-two sash window. The southeast room has a fireplace along the east gable wall and is flanked by cupboards on either side. There is a rear entrance into this room also.

On the second floor the shed roof addition provides space for a hall along the back of the main block and its eastern addition. From this hall there are entrances into three bedrooms in the shed-roof section. There is a step down into these from the hall. All of the doors on the second floor are single bead board and batten. The noticeably worn floor boards here are wider than those on the first floor.

A c. 1940, single bay, frame garage, sheathed in novelty siding, stands east of the house and is noncontributing to this nomination due to its age.

Despite minor alterations, such as replacement of original window sash with two-over-two sash and front porch modifications, the building is still able to convey its early nineteenth century significance in association with the National Road. The Ringland Tavern retains more of its original interior finishes than most of the National Road taverns. Along with this good integrity, the character and feeling of this tavern property remains intact as well. Likewise, the building endures as a good representative example of the southwestern Pennsylvania's vernacular Federal style.

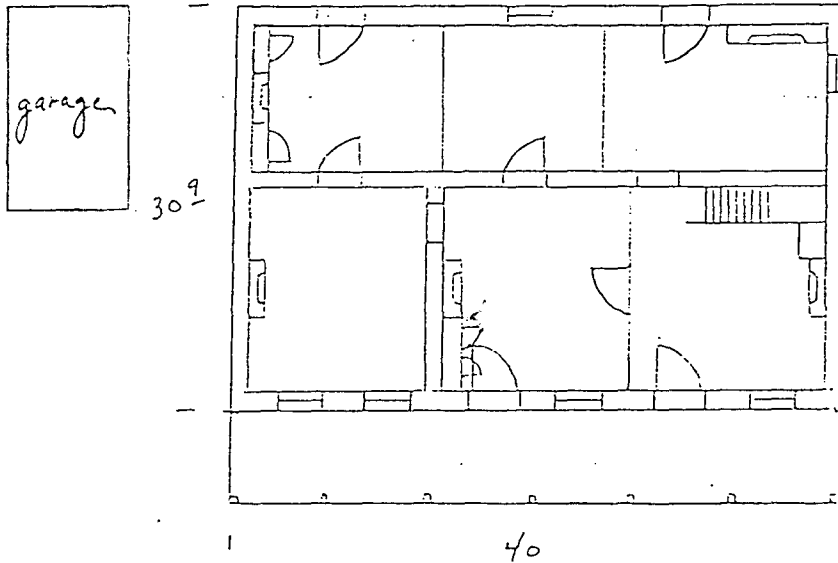
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First Floor Plan
(Not Drawn to Scale)



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Significance

The Ringland Tavern is significant in the areas of commerce and architecture. This building is part of the property type "Tavern Buildings" as discussed in the 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, this tavern was first kept in 1827 by James Beck, a member of the road and bridge building firm known as Kinkead, Beck & Evans. The tax records for West Bethlehem Township for the mid-1820s do not show his name. (Beck died in Wheeling, West Virginia, in 1829 while keeping a tavern there.) George Ringland first appears as a tavernkeeper in that township in 1825. Ringland had previously kept a tavern near the borough limits of Washington. In addition to Ringland, four others appear as innkeepers in West Bethlehem that year. Two other men are taxed with taverns. Fifteen distilleries were assessed in the township that year. (1)

Although Ringland, was a tavernkeeper by 1825, he didn't purchase property in Hillsboro until 1828. At that time he purchased two adjoining lots, lot #57 and #58. It would appear that lot #58 is the one on which the tavern is situated since it states that it is bound on the west by an alley. However, the price of lot #57 was about five times the value of lot #58 which should indicate that a building was also on the lot. (2)

The Ringland Tavern was evidently the second tavern to operate in Hillsboro, present-day Scenery Hill. Hillsboro was laid out in 1819 to adjoin Hill's Tavern (listed in the National Register 1974) by Stephen Hill. According to tradition, the five-bay, stone Hill's Tavern was built in 1794.

Searight stated that David Raily succeeded Ringland at this location in about 1840. However, the tax records do not show Ringland there in 1838. The 1839 tax assessments for West Bethlehem Township shows W. D. Raily there as an innkeeper. Searight noted that at this time it was a stage house but did a general business. By 1841 Raily was no longer taxed in the township. Other tavern keepers at this location include John Noble, who married Raily's widow. Noble was taxed as an innkeeper from 1843 to 1844. John Taylor, Henry Taylor, Jesse Core, and William Robinson were additional innkeepers at this location. John Taylor had also kept tavern for a while in West Brownsville. Noble and Robinson were both stage drivers. Robinson was a

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stage driver by the early 1830s. He died a tavern keeper at this location. In the period 1841 through 1854 Robinson was taxed with a house and lot in Hillsboro but is never taxed as an innkeeper. The 1876 atlas shows Robinson as owner of lots #57 and #58. A hotel was situated on lot #57 at that time. (3)

The Ringland Tavern is one of about thirty taverns/hotels which were determined eligible as part of the Multiple Property Resources of the National Road. In addition to the Ringland Tavern and Hill's Tavern, Grantz's 1987 survey documented two surviving taverns in N. Bethlehem Township, the Zephania Riggle Tavern and the John Wilson Tavern, both in Scenery Hill. (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 Ringland Tavern retains other features that make it identifiable as a tavern including the two front doors, one of which opens into the barroom area. The building's floor plan remains intact, and it retains more of its interior woodwork than most. (4)

The Ringland 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 Federal style architecture as well.

End Notes

(1) Searight, pp. 267, 272, 291; West Bethlehem Twp., Washington County, Assessment records; Although the tax assessor for West Bethlehem Township does not define the difference between an innkeeper and a tavern keeper, the assessor for the 1831-32 tax of South Strabane Township noted that innkeepers are those who keep accommodations for travelers but "do not vend spirituous liquors by the small."

(2) Washington County Deed Book 2 M, pp. 34, 151.

(3) Searight, p. 176, 261, 267; Caldwell's Illustrated Historical Centennial Atlas of Washington County, Pennsylvania (Condit, Ohio: J.A. Caldwell, 1876), p. 173; West Bethlehem Twp., Washington County, Assessment Records, 1841-1854.

(4) 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, 40.

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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)

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).

W. Bethlehem Township, Washington County, Assessment Records, 1825-1854.

Washington County Deed Books.

Washington County Will Books.

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Boundary Description

Beginning at a point on the southern edge of U.S. Route 40 approximately ten feet beyond the western wall of the Ringland 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-five feet beyond the eastern edge of the tavern, then proceeding in a northerly direction approximately 61 feet to a point on the southern edge of U.S. Route 40, then proceeding in a westerly direction approximately 70 feet to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

The boundary only includes the land immediately surrounding the Ringland Tavern in order to exclude open land surrounding the property and buildings which do not relate to the significance of this resource.

Ringland Tavern Photo List

All of the following photographs of the Ringland 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 east at the east and front elevations of the tavern.
2. Looking southwest at the west elevation of the tavern.
3. Looking northwest at the rear elevation of the tavern.

