

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received NOV 6 1980

date entered DEC 3 1980

## 1. Name

historic EASTON HOUSE

and/or common George Taylor's Easton Property

## 2. Location

street & number 167-169 Northampton Street \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Easton \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district 15

state Pennsylvania code 42 county Northampton code 095

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name James J. Chesterton, Marianiana Savoia / Robert H. & Nancy Butow

street & number Musconetcong River Road / 1701 Chain Dam Road

city, town Hampton/Easton \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state NJ/PA 08827/18042

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Northampton County Courthouse

street & number 7th and Walnut Streets

city, town Easton \_\_\_\_\_ state Pennsylvania

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no

date 4-15-80 \_\_\_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

city, town Harrisburg \_\_\_\_\_ state Pennsylvania

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

George Taylor's Easton property is a two and three quarters story rubble stone structure with squared corners. The primary construction material is native limestone and chestnut timber with an 1828 red clay addition laid in American bond. The building consists of a basement, first floor, second floor with an attic and garret above. Ther basement also contains a root cellar.

The Northampton Street Elevation contains 5 windows with lower panes in contemporary frames replacing the original 8"xl0" 12 over 12 lights. All that remains of the first floor pent roof are mortice and tendon short joists sawed off flush with the exterior wall. The second floor contains five symmetrically placed 9' over 6' sashes with 8"xl0" 19th century replacement lights. The crown molding and eaves are both original fabric. Shutters are shown in a late 19th century photograph on file with the owners. The roof's lines, pitch and height are all original as is the fire stairway-access hatch. The chimneys and parapets are brick replacements of the originals. The first roofing material was wooden shingles. The remains of some of these shingles still exist under the present slate over wooden lath covering.

The following paragraph describes the North Second Street Elevation. The first floor door placement is nonsymmetrical due to its corner location and the building's original function as an inn. The door is not original, but the frame and transom divider are of colonial vintage. The window to the right of the door was altered to its present appearance during the late 19th century. The window to the left of the door was altered to form a large showroom late in the mid-20th century. The pent roof above the first floor is documented by visible cantilevered sawn off floor joists. The second floor contains four windows symmetrically placed over the first floor openings. These windows are of the same type and condition as those at the Northampton Street Elevation.

The pent eave above the second floor is documented by the splicing in of barge board and a bulge in stucco along the entire length of the building.

The attic contains two symmetrically placed windows which have 8"xl0" lights set in the original 18th century sashes. Some original crown glass remains in these windows.

The North Elevation is partially obscured by a psuedo yellow brick Art-Deco facade. However from certain angles a large portion of this elevation can be viewed. Visible is the brick ell which is 2½ stories with a half gambrel roof. This ell contains a basement, first floor, second floor, attic and garret.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1754, 1765, c. 1828 **Builder/Architect** Builder: Jacob Bachmann

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

George Taylor's Easton property is among the most important of Pennsylvania's remaining colonial taverns. It is important not only for its association with George Taylor, a pioneer industrialist, Lehigh Valley patriot and Signer of the Declaration of Independence, but also for its fine architecture and the important judicial proceedings that occurred in it.

The main portion of the structure was built by Jacob Bachmann on Town Lot No. 24 in 1754. Bachmann had secured title to this property on November 17th of that year and he attempted to operate the building as a tavern. According to a well researched restoration plan, George Taylor's Easton property bears a close resemblance to the nearby Parsons-Taylor House and several other now demolished Easton homes. It is strongly believed that all of these structures were designed by Easton's founder, Provincial Surveyor, William Parsons. The building shows a fine detailing and interior features that mark it as an important example of the Delaware Valley variant of the Georgian Architectural Style. Almost all of the original structural features are still intact, although somewhat hidden by a coating of stucco.

Under Bachmann's ownership this tavern served as an important public meeting place. It was among the earliest sites of the Northampton County Court and continued to serve in this capacity until 1764 when a permanent Court House was finished. During the French and Indian War many important figures associated with the Easton Indian Councils of 1756-1758, such as George Croghan, Deputy Superintendent of Indian Affairs for the Northern Colonies, lodged at Bachmann's establishment.

Bachmann's Tavern did not remain long under its original owner's operation. Jacob Bachmann had mortgaged his property for £17, 3s 15p to the noted ironmaster John Potts. Potts was related by marriage to George Taylor and it is speculated that Potts foreclosed on Bachmann's mortgage as part of a personal obligation to Taylor. On December 23, 1761, Sheriff John Jennings transferred Bachmann's property to George Taylor.

George Taylor was among the most distinguished of the Lehigh Valley's early residents. Pioneer ironmaster, Provincial Assemblyman and a founder of the Northampton County Committees of Correspondence and Safety, George Taylor is not remembered only as a Signer of the Declaration of Independence and a member of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania. George Taylor utilized his new acquisition as a combined tavern and personal living quarters. In 1765 he expanded the building southward along the present Northampton Street. Although he did not utilize it as his primary residence, Taylor did spend considerable time there during his frequent visits to Easton from his business at Durham Furnace.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

## 10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property .09

Quadrangle name Easton, Pa.

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A 18 482420 4504320  
Zone Easting Northing

B                    
Zone Easting Northing

C                  

D                  

E                  

F                  

G                  

H                  

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lance E. Metz

organization Hugh Moore Park date

street & number 200 S. Delaware Dr. Box 877 telephone 215-258-7155

city or town Easton state Pennsylvania 18042

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Ed Weintraub, Director

title Office of Historic Preservation

date 10/21/80

For HCERS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Forrest W. Ray  
Keeper of the National Register

date 12/3/80

Attest:

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**  
**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Inventory—Nomination Form**

EASTON HOUSE, Northampton County

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

For HCRS use only  
 received NOV 6 1980  
 date entered DEC 3 1980

During the tumultuous years of the Revolutionary War, George Taylor engaged Theopolis Shannon to serve as his resident innkeeper. During the early years of Shannon's tenure, Taylor's property served as a meeting place for local patriots such as Jacob Abol and Robert Levers. It also served as a rest stop for several prominent members of the Second Continental Congress. In 1778, William Whipple and William Ellery stayed for several days at George Taylor's Easton property. Ellery was a prominent Rhode Island patriot who would later serve as his state's Chief Justice. Whipple was a wealthy New Hampshire merchant who had extensive trading contacts with the West Indies. Whipple had also once been heavily involved in the slave trade. After the Revolutionary War, Whipple would help to arbitrate the disputed ownership of the Wyoming Valley between Connecticut and Pennsylvania. Both Ellery and Whipple were Signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Due to the increasing strains that the Revolutionary War imposed on George Taylor's finances, he sold his Easton property to Theopolis Shannon on August 24, 1779 for L1,300. Taylor was then living in nearby New Jersey where he was operating the Greenwich Forge. Taylor returned soon afterward to Easton, where he died in 1781 at the small stone dwelling now called the Parsons-Taylor House.

Shannon continued to operate the structure as an inn until the early 19th century. The building also housed a Magistrates Court during the same period. Around 1800, the level of Northampton Street was lowered by about 12 feet. This allowed new rental rooms to be inserted in the structure's former basement. This circumstance also resulted in the preservation of the Georgian character of the upper levels.

Around 1828 a brick addition was attached to the rear of the structure and a coat of stucco applied. The pent roofs and eaves were also removed. Except for a few minor alterations the structure has remained largely intact since that time and it remains in good condition awaiting a projected restoration that is pictured in the accompanying plans.

Jacob Bachman's Easton House (George Taylor's Easton Residence) was among the earliest taverns to be built at the "Forks of the Delaware". The only inn with a longer history was the Ferry House. The Ferry House formerly stood somewhere within the boundaries of the present Scott Park. It was a squared timber structure which may have been erected as early as 1738. It was never a large or pretentious structure and it was demolished Circa 1926.

The next tavern to be built was the Easton House. This structure was probably the first stone building to be erected at Easton and it is definitely the oldest surviving structure in the City. The 1754 date is confirmed by its role as a courthouse in that year. This fact is documented by Floyd Bixler's Manuscript of The History with Reminiscences of the Early Taverns of Easton. The following quotation is taken from page 10 of this 1930 document:

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Inventory—Nomination Form**

Easton House, Northampton County  
 Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 3

For HCERS use only

received NOV 6 1980

date entered DEC 3 1980

Courts were frequently held at the public house of Jacob Bachman. On February 9, 1754 an order was drawn for L6 in his favor for one year's use for court and election purposes.

The early date of Jacob Bachman's Easton House is further confirmed by Bachman's 1758 petition for the renewal of his liquor license. This is the earliest document of this type on file at the Northampton County Archives. Another indication of the buildings great age is the fact that when the Parsons Taylor House was restored by the D.A.R. during the 1960's, the Ralph Estate, which then owned the tavern, donated a small portion of the existing hardware to the D.A.R. for use in their building.

The 1761 addition to the building, which was constructed by George Taylor, can be documented by the following quotation from Floyd Bixler found pages 10-11:

The Northampton County Historical Society has in its collection of relics an old iron hearth dated 1761 cast by the Durham Iron Works. The placing of this fire back in the front room of this tavern indicates that there was a need for improved facilities to keep pace with increasing business. These records go to support the records of 1754 in reckoning the great age of this building. The writer assisted in removing this hearth from the room in the Tavern about ten years ago. The fact of its having been used in this tavern enhances the historical value of this relic and goes toward fixing the great age of this Inn.

This fire back appears to be authentic. It is also interesting to note that several of the other fireplaces in the building have been closed in and it is possible that when the building is restored several other intact fire backs could be discovered.

The continued use of this building as a tavern is further documented by the appearance of Theophilis Shannon on a 1780 list of liquor license holders in Northampton County. Shannon had long served as George Taylor's building manager and he had acquired the property on August 21, 1779. He continued to own and manage the tavern until he sold it to John Taylor (no relation to George Taylor) on January 11, 1798. Taylor owned and ran the building until 1812. It was during Taylor's ownership that the level of Northampton Street was lowered, a fact which permitted him to begin the commercial development of what had formerly been the cellar of the building.

John Taylor sold his tavern to Edward Mott on June 1, 1812. He retained ownership of the building until June 9, 1827. During his ownership the building served as a magistrates court, portions of the records of which were recently found in the building. Mott constructed the fine brick ell which is attached to the rear of the colonial stone structure in 1826, he called his enlarged establishment "Mott's Tavern". Mott also had the earlier portions of the building coated with stucco at the same time.

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Easton House, Northampton County

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 4

For HCERS use only

received NOV 6 1980

date entered DEC 3 1980

The building has continued to serve as a tavern since its construction. After Mott sold the building it declined in popularity. During the 1920's to the 1960's it was known as the Blue Moon Cafe. This establishment was widely known as a "Speakeasy" and it had the dubious distinction of amassing the greatest number of liquor law violations of any drinking establishment in Easton according to the research files of the Easton Express. The current bar in the building is known as the "Fifty Yard Line". The building also currently houses a small tailor shop.

There are no other buildings remaining in Easton that were used as taverns during the colonial period. The local tax assessments for 1776 in his book A Frontier Village: Pre-Revolutionary Easton listed 9 taverners. However, there are two drastically altered early 19th century tavern buildings remaining in Easton.

According to contemporary accounts only two other taverns rivalled the Easton House in colonial Easton. One was Adam Yohe's establishment which was formerly located at the present Fourth and Northampton Streets, site of the First National Bank. The other establishment was the Red Lion Tavern whose site is presently occupied by the Hotel Lafayette. Like the Easton House the Red Lion housed dignitaries during the Easton Indian Councils. It along with the Easton House also entertained George Washington when he visited Easton in 1780 and 1782.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**  
**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Inventory—Nomination Form**

Easton House, Northampton County

Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 1

For HCRS use only

received NOV 6 1980

date entered

DEC 3 1980

- Alderfer, E. Gordon, Northampton Heritage. Easton: Northampton County, 1952.
- Bixler, Floyd S., The History with Reminiscences of the Early Taverns of Easton. Easton: Northampton County Historical and Genealogical Society, 1931.
- Chidsey, Andrew, A Frontier Village: Easton. Northampton County Historical and Genealogical Society, 1940.
- Ely, Warren S., "George Taylor, Signer of the Declaration of Independence", Collections of Bucks County Historical Society, V 1926.
- Fackenthal, B. F., The Durham Iron Works. Holicong: Buckingham Friends Meeting House, 1932.
- Fackenthal, B. F., "The Homes of George Taylor", Collections of Bucks County Historical Society, V 1926. pp113-133.
- Fackenthal, B. F., Notes on George Taylor, 1 bound Vol., Northampton County Historical Society Easton, Pa. 1932, collection of facsimile letters, deeds, articles and scientific reports and photographs relating to George Taylor's career and properties.
- Ferris, Robert G. ed., Signers of the Declaration of Independence. Washington: National Park Service, 1975.
- Trexler, Mildred R., George Taylor Esquire. Allentown: Lehigh County Historical Society.

for and in consideration of

the sum of THIRTY SIX THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$36,000.00)

lawful money of the United States, to them well and truly paid by the said parties of the second part

at and before the sealing and delivery hereof, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have granted, bargained, sold, aliened, released, and confirmed and by these presents, do

grant, bargain, sell, alien, release and confirm unto the said parties of the second part

ALL THOSE CERTAIN two contiguous lots of ground with the buildings thereon, known as Number One Hundred Sixty Seven (167) and Number One Hundred Sixty-nine (169) Northampton Street, situate at the Northeast corner of Second Street and Northampton Street, in the City of Easton, Northampton County, and State of Pennsylvania, respectively bounded and described as follows:

CONTAINING together in front on Northampton Street Forty-six feet three inches, more or less, and extending of that width in length or depth Northwardly a distance of ~~Ninety-two~~ feet to an eight feet wide private alley leading into Second Street, heretofore laid out for the use and accommodation of these lots and the other lots abutting thereon;

BOUNDED on the North by said private alley; on the East by property formerly of Peter Tellier, now Israel Cohen; South by Northampton Street and West by Second Street.

IT BEING THE SAME PREMISES which The Easton National Bank, Substituted Trustee of the Estate of Chester B. Fulmer, Deceased, by its Deed dated May 22, 1950 and recorded in the Office for the Recording of Deeds in and for Northampton County, at Easton, Pa. in Deed Book D, Vol. 84, Page 424, etc. granted and conveyed unto Harry Ralph, his heirs and assigns.

Premises are known as 167-169 Northampton Street and 1-11 North Second Street, Easton, Northampton County, Pennsylvania.

Easton House  
Northampton County  
Verbal Boundary Description

DEC 3 1980

NOV 6 1980

Property

*Easton House*

80003583

*DUE  
1/6/81*

State

*Pa. Northampton*

Working Number

*11, 6.80, 2766*

**TECHNICAL**

**CONTROL**

Photos

2

Maps

1

*Colonial tavern which has been the site of important events since its construction in 1754. The building has been changed several times during its existence, but the result is showing the development of a business overtime.*

**HISTORIAN**

*Accept  
W.R. Price  
12/3/80*

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

**OTHER**

**HAER**

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_

Review \_\_\_\_\_

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

**BRANCH CHIEF**

**KEEPER**

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_

Send-back \_\_\_\_\_

Entered DEC 3 1980

Federal Register Entry \_\_\_\_\_

2.282

Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_



Front View of George Taylors  
Easton Property

DEC 3 1980

Easton House  
Northampton County  
PD: 1980 PC: L. Metz NOV 6 1980  
NL: with photographer  
PV: front and side elevations

1/2



Nick's  
TAILOR SHOP

Side View of George Taylors  
Easton Property

Easton House  
Northampton County  
PD: 1980 PC: L. Metz  
NL: with photographer  
PV: side elevation

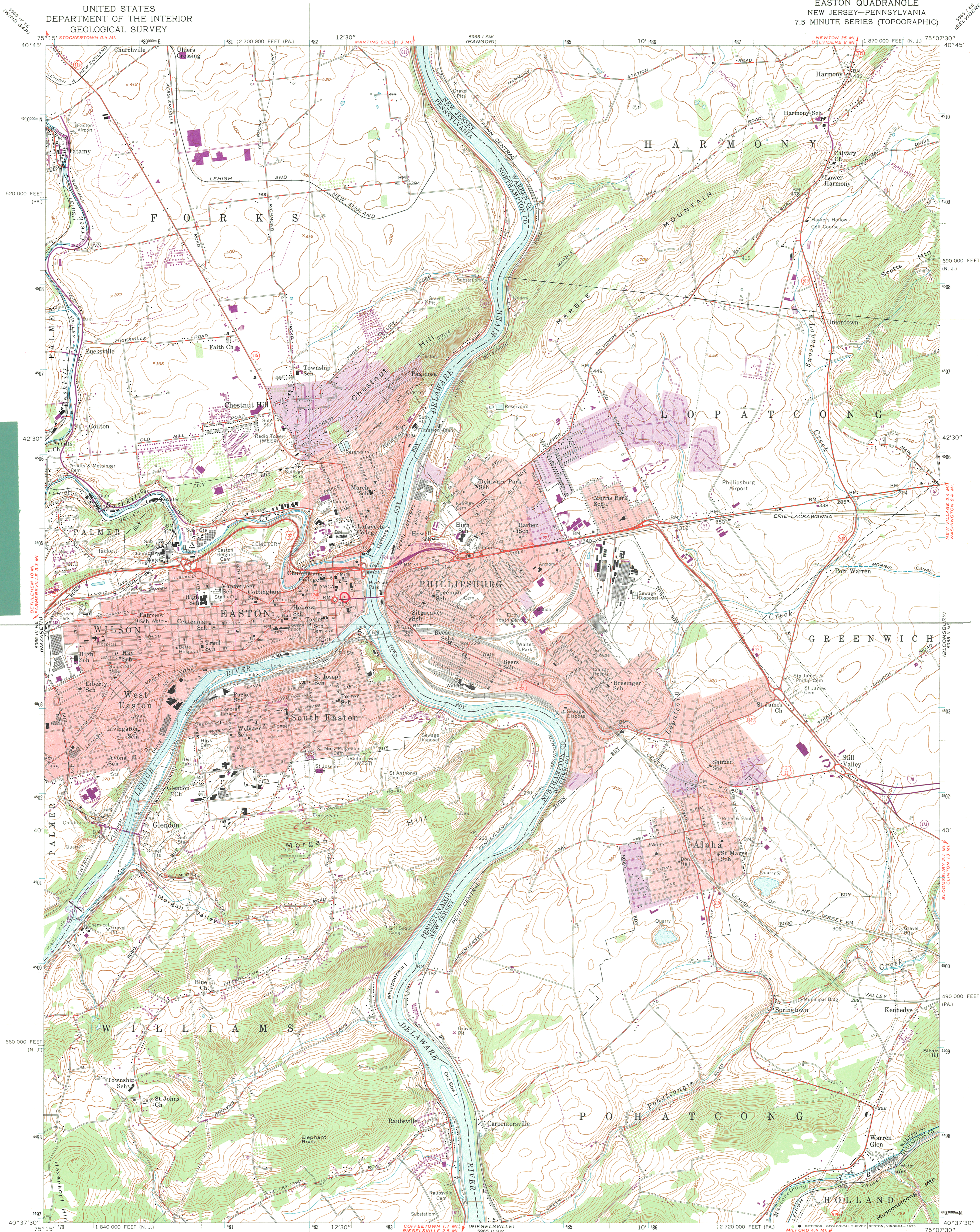
NOV 6 1980

2/2

DEC 3 1980

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

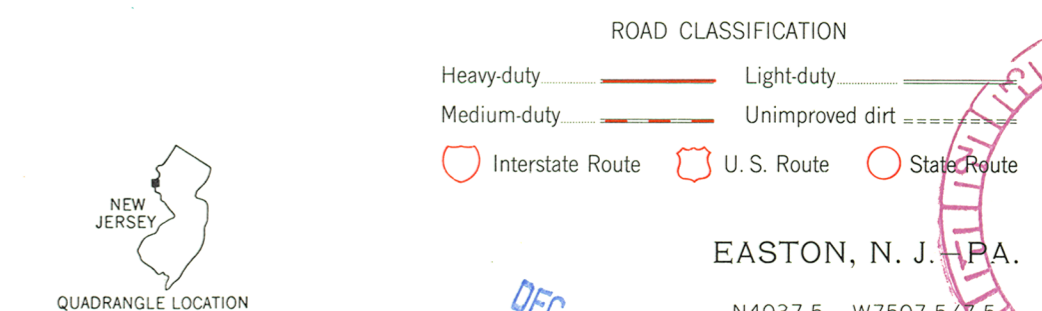
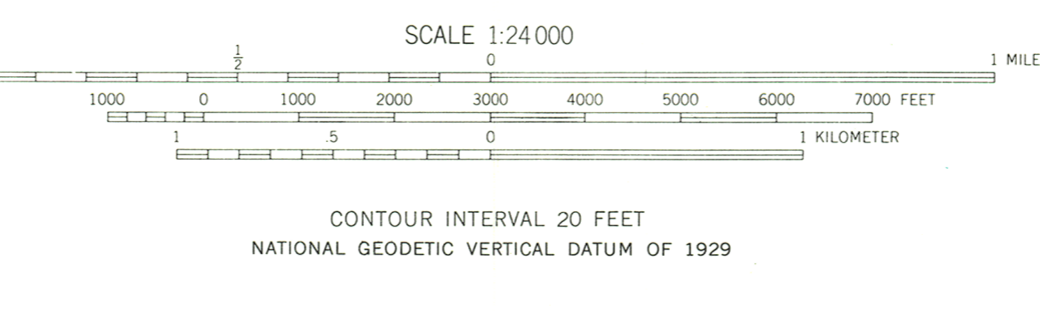
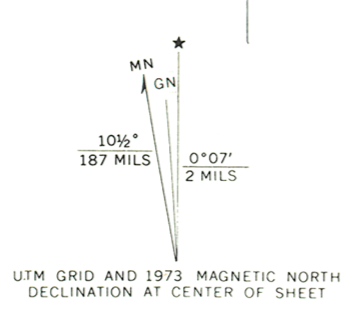
EASTON QUADRANGLE  
NEW JERSEY-PENNSYLVANIA  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Easton House  
Northampton County  
Zone 18 E48 24 20 N4 50 43 20

Mapped by the Army Map Service  
Edited and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, and New Jersey Geodetic Survey  
Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods  
Field check 1943. Culture revised by the Geological Survey 1956  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grids based on New Jersey coordinate system  
and Pennsylvania coordinate system, south zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 18, shown in blue

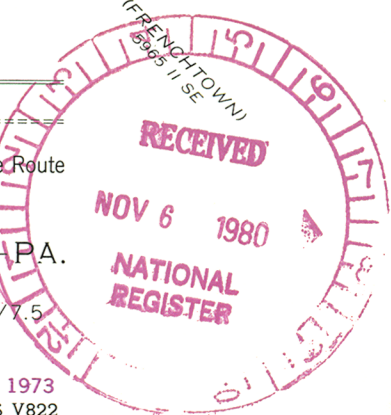
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown  
Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey  
in cooperation with State of Pennsylvania agencies from aerial  
photographs taken 1968 and taken 1973. This information not  
field checked  
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



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

EASTON, N. J. PA.  
N4037.5—W7507.5

1956  
PHOTOREVISED 1968 AND 1973  
AMS 5965 II NW—SERIES B822



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE PENNSYLVANIA

Date Entered DEC 3 1980

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Little Jerusalem (BenSalem) A.M.E. Church	Cornwells Heights Bucks County
Franklin Hose Company No. 28	Philadelphia Philadelphia County
Seal, William, Building	Harrisburg Dauphin County
Morris, Anthony, House	Norristown vicinity Montgomery County
Comerford Theater	Wilkes-Barre Luzerne County
Easton House	Easton Northampton County

Also Notified

Honorable H. John Heinz, III

Honorable Richard P. Schweiker  
Honorable Peter H. Kostmayer  
Honorable Michael "Ozzie" Myers  
Honorable Allen E. Ertel  
Honorable Lawrence Coughlin  
Honorable Raphael Musto  
Honorable Donald L. Ritter

State Historic Preservation Officer  
Mr. Ed Weintraub  
Historical and Museum Commission  
P.O. Box 1026  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

NR

Byers/bjr/1/5/81

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.