

John Krepps Tavern (Malden Inn)
Alternate U. S. Route #40 (Old National Trail),
approximately 2.5 miles west of Brownsville
Brownsville Vicinity
Washington County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-417

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An Addendum to
House now Malden Inn
Old National Trail
West Brownsville Vicinity, Pennsylvania
in HABS Catalog Supplement (1959)

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

JOHN KREPPS TAVERN (MALDEN INN)

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Address: Alternate U. S. Route #40 (Old National Trail),
approximately 2.5 miles west of Brownsville,
Brownsville Vicinity, Washington County, Pennsylvania

Present Owner: J. K. Kaupp

Present Occupant: Vacant

Present Use: Storage

Brief Statement
of Significance: One of a series of inns built in the early nine-
teenth century on the Old National or Cumberland
Road. The original plan of the building remains
unchanged.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

- A. Original and subsequent owners: John Krepps, original owner.
1936 to present, J. K. Kaupp.
Complete chain of title not determined.
- B. Date of Erection: Western part, 1822
Eastern part, 1830
- C. Notes on known alterations and additions: An early photograph
(1901) shows the Malden Inn, then used as a residence, with
a one-story rear wing with gable roof. There appears to
be a front porch which is almost completely obscured from
view by heavy foliage. The sash is six-over-six lights.
The interior of the building was extensively altered shortly
thereafter to accommodate a cabaret. A later photograph
(1916) shows a rear wing with a second-story frame addition
(clapboard siding). The photograph also clearly shows the
wide front porch (four bays across, one bay deep) with modi-
fied Doric columns and simple projecting cornice. The
original sash had been replaced. The interior was further
altered in 1938 for use as a residence. The porch was prob-
ably removed at that time and the frame upper stories of the
rear wings were converted to stone.

D. Sources of Information: Secondary and published sources -

Van Trump, James D., "National Stone; The Cumberland Road and Early American Architecture," Antiques, August 1962.

Searight, Thomas Brownfield, Old Pike; A History of the National or Cumberland Road. 1894.

Epicure, January 1950, p. 25.

Bruce, Robert, The National Road. 1916. Published in co-operation with the National Highways Association.

Hulbert, Archer Butler, The Old National Road; A Chapter of American Expansion. 1901. Published by F. J. Heer, Columbus, Ohio.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural interest and merit: A fine example of one of the early 19th-century stone inns or taverns, built as a stopping place for travelers on the Old National Road. Of particular interest are the massive twin chimneys on the gable ends.

2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Over-all dimensions: 56'-2" x 51'-3", two stories, rectangular block with two projecting rear wings.

2. Foundations: Rubble masonry.

3. Wall construction, finish, and color: Cut stone exterior walls, grey-brown color. Carved stone plaque under cornice on south side of later (1830) section reads: "Liberty Krepps Ville 1830" - apparently in anticipation of a town known as Kreppsville which failed to materialize. Cut stone plaque between the chimneys on the west gable ends bears the Krepps family coat of arms.

4. Structural system, framing: Stone bearing wall construction. 12" x 12" summer beams span east and west; 6" x 12" joists span north and south.

5. Porches, stoops: Porch missing; raised stone stoop (five steps).

6. Chimneys: Massive stone twin chimneys on the east and west gable ends, with connecting roof curtains. Smaller single chimneys on the north gable end of each projecting rear wing.

7. Openings:

a. Doors and doorways: One doorway in the south (front) elevation and two doorways in the north (rear) elevation of the main block. One doorway in the east wall of the western rear wing and one doorway in the west wall of the eastern wing. All have simple molded architraves with modern doors.

b. Windows and shutters: First and second floors: Six-over-six light double-hung wood sash. Simple architraves (slightly recessed) with stone lintels. Two small basement windows on south (front) elevation--sash missing. Six-light semicircular fan attic windows--one in each gable end.

8. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: Slate-covered gable roof over main block with ridge running east and west. Slate-covered gable roofs over each of the rear wings with ridges running north and south.

b. Cornice, eaves: Large stone cyma recta molding at the eave on the south (front) elevation.

C. Technical Description of Interior

1. Floor plans: First floor, main block divided in half by wall running north and south. Hallway extends from front to back along west side of wall with two rooms on each side. Rear wings each contain one room. Second floor, one room at each corner of the main block with stairways and two small rooms at the center. Rear wings each contain one room. Basement and attic of main block are unfinished.

2. Stairways: Straight run stair to second floor located at the rear of the main hall on the central wall; trim is not original. Utility stair to basement located under main stair. Winder stair from second floor to attic located to the east of the central wall, at the rear of the main block. Small winder stair in each rear wing leads from first to second floor.

3. Flooring: First floor - modern hardwood; second floor - random-width pine flooring (3"-8"); attic - wide, rough-finish plank flooring.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster, painted various colors.
5. Doorways and doors: The interior doorways have been altered during the various ownerships. No original trim remains and all doors are modern.
6. Decorative trim: All trim replaced during the various ownerships.
7. Lighting: Modern, surface mounted.
8. Heating: Modern, central.

D. Site

1. Orientation and general setting: Situated on the north side of Alternate U. S. Route #40 in a generally rural setting. Flat site with building located close to the road.
2. Outbuildings: Heavily altered, large stone stable to the west.

Prepared by John D. Milner, Architect
National Park Service
April 1963