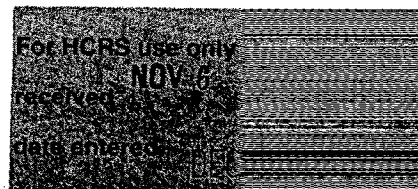


United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

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



## 1. Name

historic EASTON HOUSE

and/or common George Taylor's Easton Property

## 2. Location

street & number 167-169 Northampton Street

not for publ

city, town Easton

vicinity of

congressional district

15

state Pennsylvania

code

42

county

Northampton

code

## 3. Classification

### Category

district  
 building(s)  
 structure  
 site  
 object

### Ownership

public  
 private  
 both

### Public Acquisition

in process  
 being considered

### Status

occupied  
 unoccupied  
 work in progress

### Accessible

yes: restricted  
 yes: unrestricted  
 no

### Present Use

agriculture  
 commercial  
 educational  
 entertainment  
 government  
 industrial  
 military

museum  
 park  
 private r  
 religious  
 scientific  
 transpor  
 other:

## 4. Owner of Property

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

street & number Musconetcong River Road / 1701 Chain Dam Road

city, town Hampton/Easton

vicinity of

state NJ/PA 08827

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Northampton County Courthouse

street & number 7th and Walnut Streets

city, town Easton

state Pennsylvan

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Pennsylvania Inventory  
of Historic Places

has this property been determined eligible?  yes

date 4-15-80

federal  state  county

depository for survey records Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

city, town Harrisburg

state Pennsylvan

## 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"x10" 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"x10" 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"x10" 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 £117, 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

Acreeage of nominated property .09

Quadrangle name Easton, Pa.

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A 

1	8	4	8	2	4	2	0	4	5	0	4	3	2	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

  
E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

  
G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

  
F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

  
H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

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

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

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

date 12/3/80

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

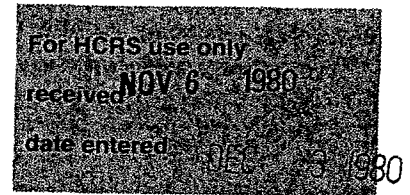
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During the tumultuous years of the Revolutionary War, George Taylor engaged Theopolis Shannon to serve as his resident innkeeper. During the early years of Shannon's tenure, Taylor's property served as a meeting place for local patriots such as Jacob 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:

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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.

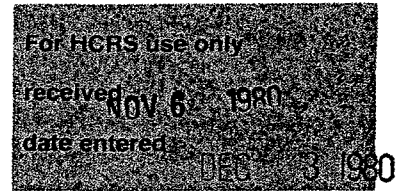
The continued use of this building as a tavern is further documented by the appearance of Theophilis Shannon on a 1780 list of liquor license holders in Northampton County. Shannon had long served as George Taylor's building manager and he had acquired the property on August 21, 1779. He continued to 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.

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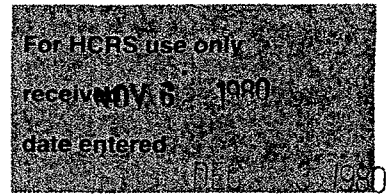
The building has continued to serve as a tavern since its construction. After Mott sold the building it declined in popularity. During the 1920's to the 1960's it was known as the Blue Moon Cafe. This establishment was widely known as a "Speakeasy" and it had the dubious distinction of amassing the greatest 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.

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