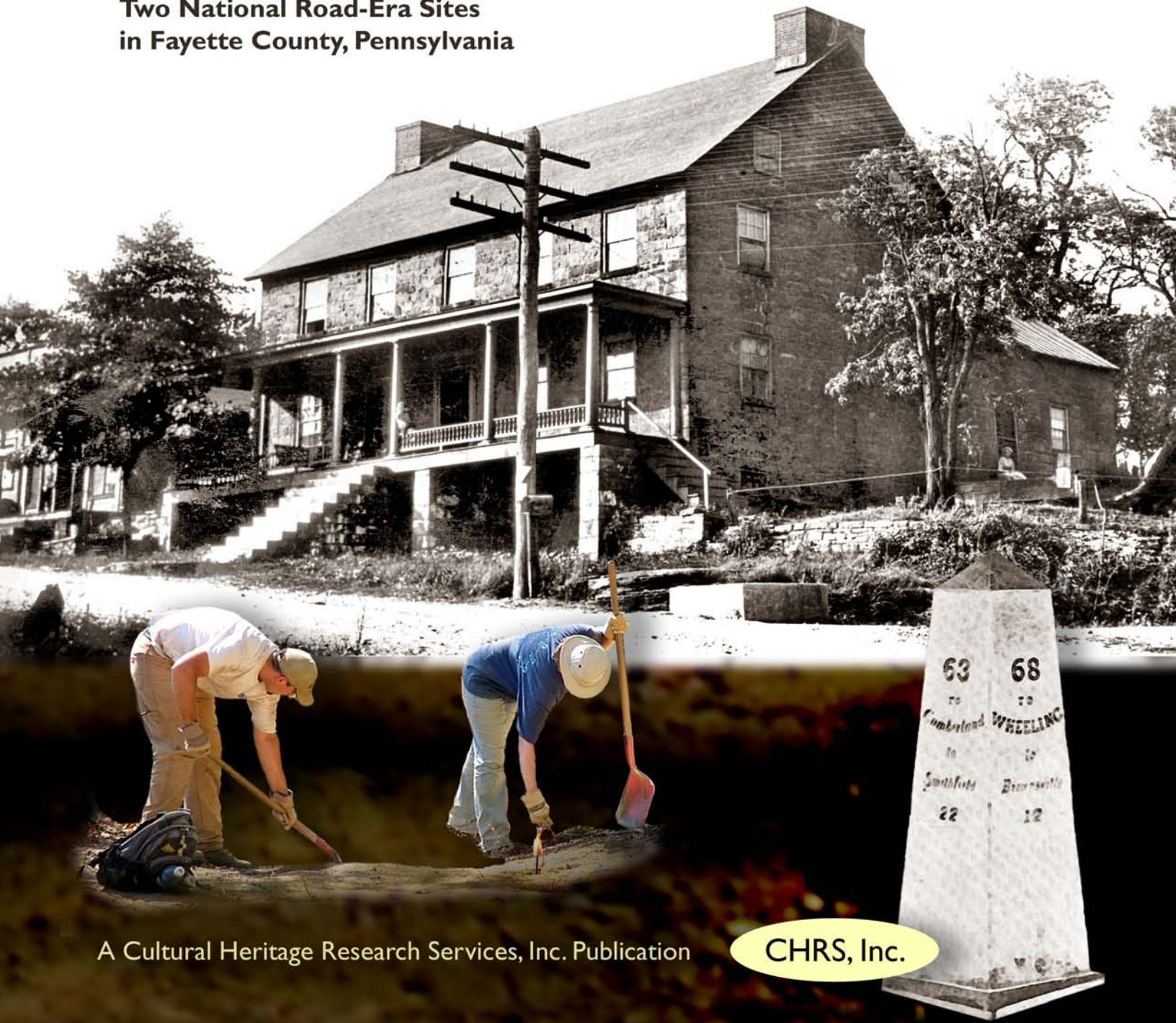


# Seeking Searights and Shaws



Archaeological Investigations of  
Two National Road-Era Sites  
in Fayette County, Pennsylvania



A Cultural Heritage Research Services, Inc. Publication

CHRS, Inc.




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2008

• *Funded by the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission* •



*CHRS, Inc. archaeologists conduct Phase III fieldwork on the Shaw Site in August 2004.*

*Seeking Searights and Shaws  
Archaeological Investigations of Two National Road-Era Sites in Fayette County, Pennsylvania*

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*CHRS, Inc. archaeologists excavate test units at the Shaw Site in May 2004.*



# Why Archaeology, and Why *Here*?

If you're like most Americans, you have a good sense of what archaeologists do, and why they do it. Poll results published in 2000 revealed that "Americans correctly view archaeologists' work as digging, excavating, finding, analyzing, researching, studying, documenting, and, more specifically, analyzing and researching the past to discover and learn what life and past civilizations were like."\* Not that there aren't a few misconceptions floating around. You might be surprised to learn, for instance, that archaeologists do not study rocks and stones (that's the domain of geologists), nor are they experts on fossils and dinosaurs (that's paleontology's province). And any archaeologist will tell you that the glamorous picture of archaeological adventure and romance painted by Hollywood bears little resemblance to the painstaking and quiet endeavors that fill their days—meticulously moving dirt, cleaning and labeling artifacts, entering data in computers, poring through tables of data.

Poll results also indicate that most Americans believe archaeology is worth the effort. There is a general perception that archaeology can help us improve the future by increasing our understanding of both the past and the present. People recognize that archaeological artifacts and sites can have aesthetic value, spiritual worth, and historical significance for populations and individuals. For these reasons, the majority of Americans support legislation designed to protect and preserve archaeological resources.

Even with this awareness and appreciation, people can be startled to find an archaeological investigation underway in their own "backyard." Americans tend to regard archaeology as activity performed in exotic locales. In reality, hundreds of archaeological investigations are conducted across the United States every year. A few are high-profile operations overseen by historical organizations and duly covered by the media. The vast majority, however, are relatively brief investigations necessitated by federal, state, and/or local laws designed to preserve the nation's archaeological heritage. "Digs" of the latter variety are part of a protocol of environmental clearance sometimes referred to as "the Section 106 process."

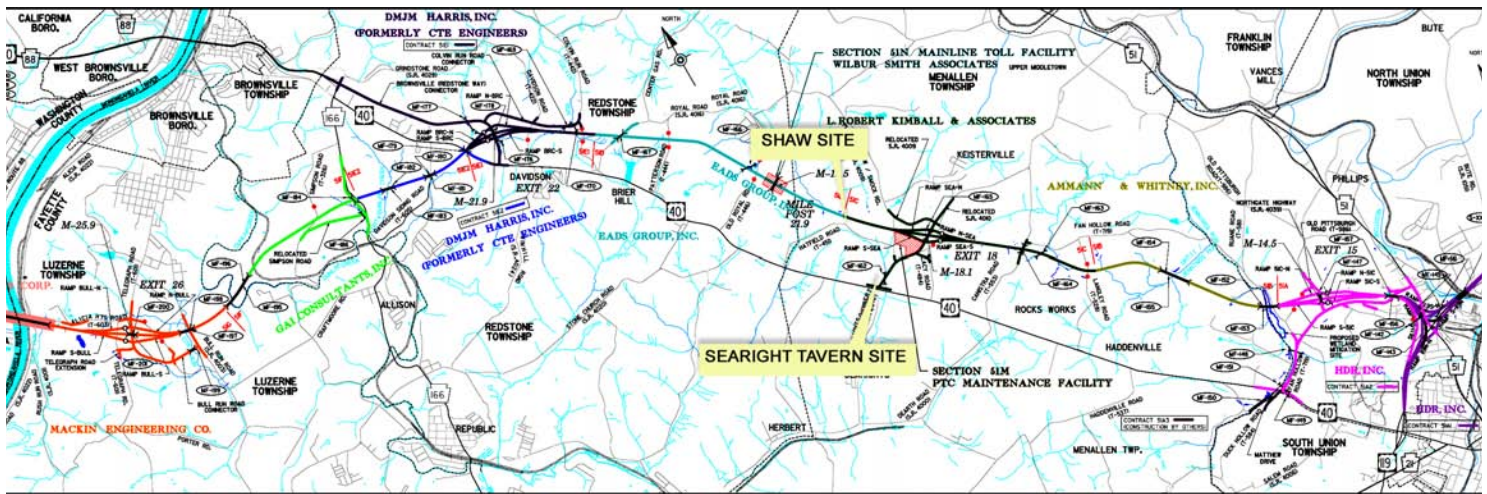
### The Section 106 process

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 is the cornerstone of American cultural resource preservation policy. Amended and strengthened several times since 1966, this law established the National Register of Historic Places, the office and duties of state historic preservation officers (SHPOs), a program of grants-in-aid to enable SHPOs to conduct their work, the Certified Local Government program to identify communities that meet certain preservation standards, federal agency responsibilities concerning historic preservation activities, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. This legislation was followed in 1969 by passage of the National Environmental Policy Act, requiring federal agencies to prepare impact statements for undertakings that might have an effect on environmental quality (cultural resources being contributing elements

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\**Exploring Public Perceptions and Attitudes about Archaeology*, Harris Interactive Poll, February 2000.

A map drafted in October 2006 depicts the central section of the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission's Mon/Fayette Expressway, Uniontown-to-Brownsville Project. Location markers for the Searight Tavern Site and the Shaw Site in western Menallen Township have been added.



to environmental quality). Yet another law with far-reaching implications—the Archaeological and Historical Preservation Act—was passed in 1974. This legislation extended the protections established by the Reservoir Salvage Act of 1960 to all federally funded, licensed, or aided undertakings where scientific, historical, or archaeological data might be impacted.

The unofficial but commonly employed term “Section 106 process” derives from the section of the National Historic Preservation Act requiring federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings or licensing activities on historic properties, while giving the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation an opportunity to review and comment on the potential effects of these activities. The Advisory Council has defined the procedure for satisfying Section 106 requirements in a set of regulations titled “Protection of Historic Properties.”

Given Pennsylvania’s rich heritage, it should come as no surprise that the State Legislature has enacted laws aimed at further protecting the Commonwealth’s archaeological resources, whether or not they are imperiled by federally funded, licensed, or aided undertakings. The lynchpin of this regulatory effort is Act No. 1978-273, amended as Act No. 1988-72, which requires that State-funded undertakings be subjected to the same Section 106 process as federal-funded projects. The State’s historic preserva-

tion officer—the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC), Bureau of Historic Preservation—has also published guidelines designed to promote consistency and efficiency in the treatment of cultural resources across the Commonwealth. These directives include 1991’s “Cultural Resource Management in Pennsylvania: Guidelines for Archaeological Survey and Mitigation.”

### A “Mon/Fayette Expressway”

The Section 106 process was among the many considerations of the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (PTC) when it launched a series of transportation projects in southwestern Pennsylvania’s Mon-Fayette region in the early 1990s. The PTC was responding to the Pennsylvania General Assembly’s recent passage of two pieces of legislation: Act 61 of 1985, which directed the PTC to design, construct, and operate several new toll roads in the Commonwealth; and Act 26 of 1991, which added to the list of proposed toll roads, and established a continuous source of state funding to help the PTC advance its expansion projects. Among the highways conceived at this time was a “Mon/Fayette system [that] will extend approximately 70 miles south from Pittsburgh through the Monongahela River Valley and western Fayette County to Interstate 68 near Morgantown, W.V.,” according to a PTC press

release. The toll road was expected to “improve access to redevelopment sites in the economically depressed Mon River towns where the steel and coal industries once flourished, [and] provide faster and safer travel options for through traffic, particularly commercial vehicles that now use existing north-south arteries, such as PA Route 51, PA Route 88, PA Route 837, and PA Route 857, as well as U.S. Route 40 (the National Road).”

The new “Mon/Fayette Expressway” system would be constructed in four independent projects, one of which would result in a 17-mile stretch of toll road connecting Uniontown with Brownsville. That particular section was intended “to provide for safer and more efficient vehicular travel by improving access, addressing future capacity requirements and drawing traffic (especially trucks) off U.S. Route 40 and onto a more modern facility,” another PTC press release explained. “The project also is designed to support the efforts of the National Road Heritage Park, to make Route 40 less of a major transportation artery and more of a local traffic corridor and tourist destination.”

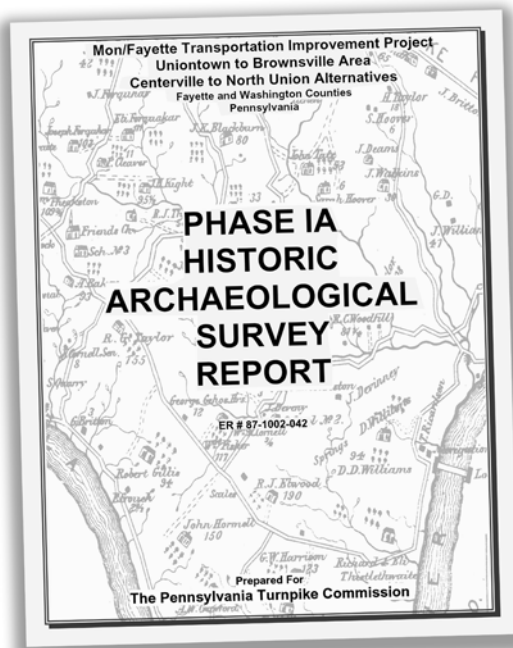
At the start-up of the Uniontown to Brownsville Project, the project’s prime contractor—Benatec Associates, Inc.—retained two cultural resource management (CRM) firms to identify and address issues relating to potential impacts of the project on cultural resources. Cultural Heri-

tage Research Services, Inc. (CHRS) of North Wales, Pennsylvania, was charged with investigating and evaluating historic structures and historic archaeological resources within the project area (for Section 106 purposes, all above-ground structures and archaeological resources at least 50 years of age are considered “historic”; archaeological resources predating the arrival of Europeans in America are classified as “prehistoric” or “precontact”).

CHRS’s initial task was to prepare a Historical Context laying out a methodology and historical framework for identifying and assessing historic cultural resources within the project area. The resulting report—titled *Mon/Fayette Transportation Project Allegheny, Fayette, and Washington Counties, Pennsylvania, and Monongalia County, West Virginia, Cultural Resources Survey, Volume I, Historical Context*—was submitted to the PHMC in 1993. As the project advanced and the PTC narrowed its focus onto two alternative alignments for the new highway (one primarily north of Route 40 and one south of that roadway), CHRS conducted a Phase IA historic archaeological survey of the reduced project area. This investigative step—taken in the spring and summer of 1998—involved examining warrant maps, tax records, road surveys, published and unpublished regional histories, newspaper archives, deed records, genealogical files, ground-level and aerial photographs, and other historic records, then conducting field reconnaissance of selected sites in order “to identify the potential nature, number, integrity, research potential, and National Register significance of historic archaeological resources which may lie within the project’s Area of Potential Effect” (according to the Phase IA report (left), submitted in early 1999). This investigation led CHRS researchers to flag nearly 100 loci as having historic archaeological potential warranting further investigation and evaluation.

### A “Mrs. Shaw” residence

Among the historic archaeological loci identified by CHRS researchers near the midpoint of the Project’s Northern Alternative was a locus on the north side of Hatfield Road in Menal-





len Township, several hundred yards east of the Redstone Township line. A residence attributed to “Mrs. Shaw” was denoted in this location on a Menallen Township map published in 1872 (**facing page**). There was a house-sized structure here in 1901 (according to a map of Fayette County published in that year; **page 8**), and at least one structure was still discernible amid a stand of trees and bushes in this vicinity on an aerial photograph taken in September 1938 (**page 6**). Modern aerial photographs revealed that all above-ground structures within this locus had been razed or relocated, leaving an expanse of grass with a rectangular cavity—presumably a cellar hole—in its center. CHRS archaeologists thus concluded that the “Shaw Site” (as they had designated the residential locus) held high potential for containing late nineteenth-century and early twentieth-century artifacts and features. If the Site had remained relatively undisturbed since its abandonment, archaeological testing might yield a wealth of data. The Shaw Site was duly added to the list of archaeological loci that CHRS considered worthy of additional exploration if the Northern Alternative was ultimately selected for the Uniontown to Brownsville Project.

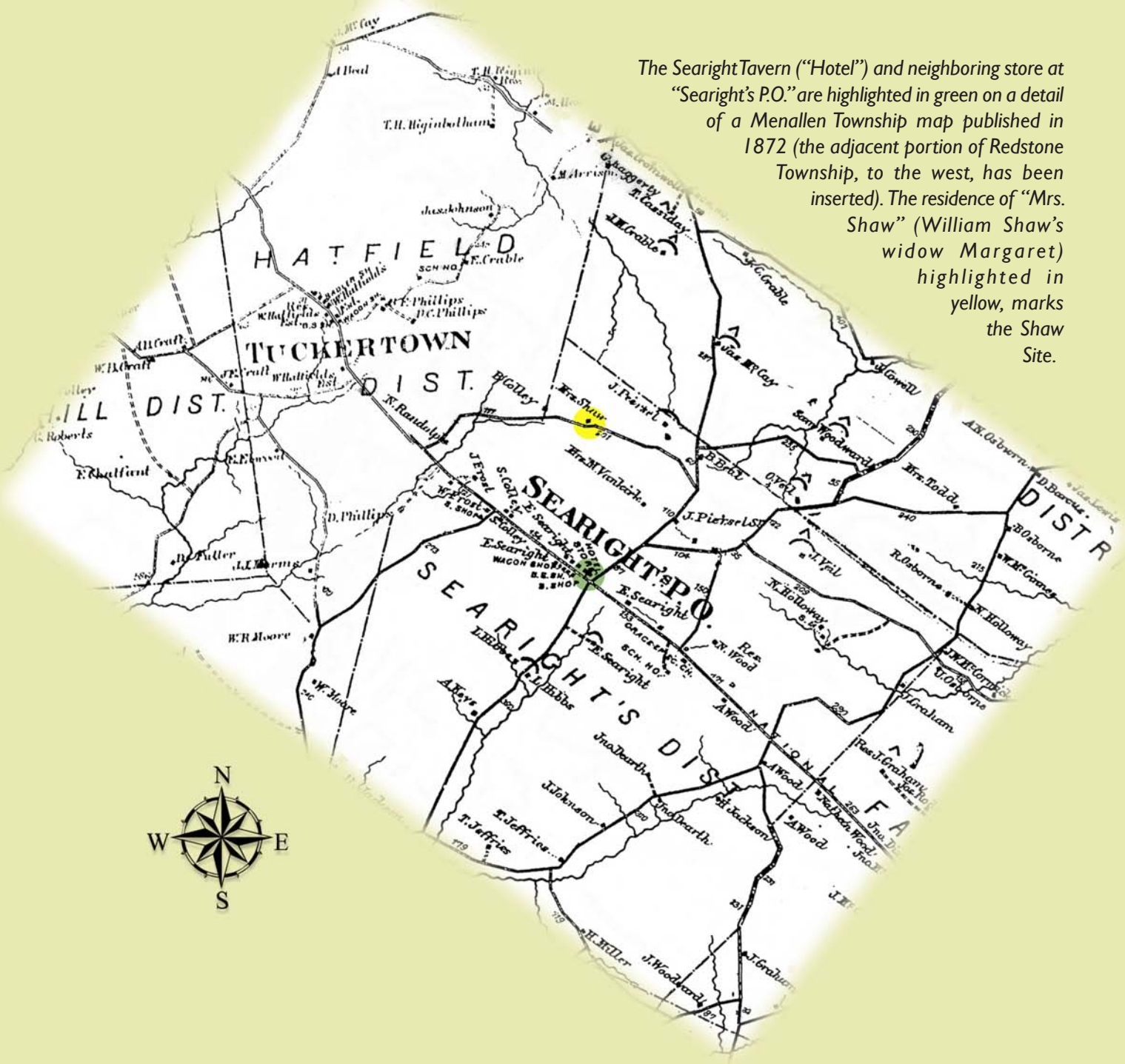
And that is indeed what happened. The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission authorized CHRS to proceed with a combined Phase IB/II archaeological survey of 99 archaeological loci identified as lying within or immediately adjacent to the recently refined Area of Potential Effect (APE) for the Northern Alternative. In the course of this survey, CHRS would determine which, if any, of the loci were capable of contributing significantly to an understanding of the area’s history, and might therefore be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The survey commenced in the summer of 2001 with CHRS personnel visiting each locus to see if activities of the past 50 years had disturbed them to the point where useful information was no longer retrievable (only when historic artifacts are uncovered in intact stratigraphic settings can they contribute valuable data to the historic record). Along the way, some loci were dismissed when reconnaissance revealed them to be located more than 100 feet beyond the limits of the APE. Each

locus that appeared to be intact, testable, and still within the APE was subjected to an excavation strategy designed to identify its age, composition, and scope. Simultaneously, CHRS researchers dug deeper into archives in an attempt to shed additional light on historic activities within the tested loci.

### **The Shaw Site considered for Phase III survey**

When the nine-month process of data collection concluded early in 2002, CHRS personnel analyzed the data and generated a two-volume report titled *Mon/Fayette Transportation Project, Uniontown to Brownsville Area, Fayette and Washington Counties, Pennsylvania, Phase IB/II, Historical Archaeological Survey*. The bottom line of the survey was this: out of nearly 100 archaeological loci investigated, only five satisfied National Register standards, and of those five, only three had National Register-eligible portions lying within the APE. One of the three “finalists” was the Shaw Site, where Phase IB/II excavations of 66 shovel test pits (STPs) and six test units (TUs) had yielded more than 2,200 artifacts dating from the mid-nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth century. These data, along with information gathered in another round of documentary research, suggested that the Shaw Site had been occupied by several generations of a Shaw family from the mid-1850s through the second decade of the twentieth century. The authors of the Phase IB/II report presented the recently accumulated field data and historical information concerning the Shaw Site in a section of the report addressing the Site’s eligibility for the National Register. After asserting the Site’s apparent eligibility, the authors submitted a “Work Plan” for a final phase of investigation—“Phase III Survey,” sometimes referred to as “Data Recovery”—which was deemed necessary in light of the National Register-eligible Site’s anticipated destruction by builders of the Mon/Fayette Expressway. The proposed work included additional field excavation, laboratory analysis, historical research, and the “Preparation of a Public Education Component” in the form of “an illustrated book summarizing

The Searight Tavern (“Hotel”) and neighboring store at “Searight’s P.O.” are highlighted in green on a detail of a Menallen Township map published in 1872 (the adjacent portion of Redstone Township, to the west, has been inserted). The residence of “Mrs. Shaw” (William Shaw’s widow Margaret) highlighted in yellow, marks the Shaw Site.



for a general audience the history of the Shaw Site, the results of the archaeological investigation, and the significance of the Shaw Site.”

**Late entry of the Searight Tavern Site**

As PTC and PHMC reviewers digested the contents of CHRS’s Phase IB/II report, construction plans for the Mon/Fayette Expressway’s Uniontown to Brownsville Project were finalized. An eleventh-hour revision to the

design of the Expressway’s interchange at Upper Middletown Road—half-a-mile southeast of the Shaw Site—considerably expanded the APE in that vicinity. CHRS researchers took note on the revised engineering plan that the APE now embraced structural stone remnants on the northern corner of the Upper Middletown Road and National Road intersection. On a visit to the site, the investigators found crumbling walls and foundations barely discernible beneath shrouds of vegetation. They soon learned that these



**The SEARIGHT TAVERN  
On the National Road:  
An Archaeological Study**

By RONALD E. WHEELER

Nearly three years have passed since the first excavations were made at the site of the Searight Tavern, which is located on the National Road in the town of Searight, Maryland. The site is one of the best preserved in the State, and it is hoped that the study will be of value to the general public.

The Searight Tavern was built in 1785 by James Searight, a prominent citizen of the town. It was one of the best preserved in the State, and it is hoped that the study will be of value to the general public.

The site is one of the best preserved in the State, and it is hoped that the study will be of value to the general public.



FIG. 1. View of the Searight Tavern, c. 1910.



The Searight Tavern Site (on the south) and the Shaw Site (on the north) are separated by a few farm fields and woodlots in this aerial photograph taken on September 25, 1938. The photograph's relatively high resolution enabled CHRS researchers to distinguish rooftops, fencerows, floral features, and yard patterns at both Sites (see inset details). The irregular polkadot pattern in the field adjoining the Shaw Site was created by uneven rows of corn shocks.

**Left:** The results of an investigation of the Searight Tavern Site conducted in the summer of 1970 by Dr. Ronald L. Michael and his students at the California State College Archaeological Field School were described in Dr. Michael's article "The Searight Tavern on the National Road: An Archaeological View," published in *Pennsylvania Folklife* in 1971. CHRS archaeologists and researchers frequently referred to this article as they mounted a more intensive investigation of the Site in the summer of 2004.

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languishing relics were actually rather famous—at least within certain archaeological circles.

Consulting the same 1872 Menallen Township map on which the residence of "Mrs. Shaw" had been denoted (page 5), CHRS researchers noted the presence on the northern corner of the Upper Middletown Road and National Road crossing of a "Hotel" and adjoining "Store," within a hamlet served by "Searight's P[ost] O[ffice]." Turning to a map of Menallen published in 1858, the researchers found a structure in this vicinity labeled "Searights Hotel" (page 15). Surely, an establishment of such import and longevity—an apparent fixture along the National Road—had figured prominently in regional affairs. It would not be surprising if a history of the hotel had already been written.

With just a little digging, CHRS researchers turned up *several* historical accounts of the Searight Tavern, including one compiled in association with an archaeological investigation, no less. A check of Pennsylvania's archaeological site files revealed that "the Searight Tavern Site" had been investigated three decades earlier by Dr. Ronald L. Michael and his students at the California State College Archaeological Field School. The group had mapped the Site in 1970 and conducted some testing in order to salvage data ahead of anticipated grading and landscaping on the corner lot. Dr. Michael had reported on this investigation in a magazine article titled "The Searight Tavern on the National Road: An Archaeological View,"\* which included a histori-

cal sketch of the Tavern—ready-made for CHRS personnel mounting a more intensive investigation of the Site in 2004.

To the details recorded by Dr. Michael's team in 1970, CHRS archaeologists added field data gleaned from 112 STPs and 11 TUs excavated in the summer of 2004. The accumulated data—derived from more than 7,500 artifacts and 16 features—were presented and evaluated in a supplementary Phase I/II report submitted by CHRS for review by the PTC and the PHMC in April 2005. As they had in discussing the Shaw Site in the earlier report, the authors argued that the Searight Tavern Site was eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D (for its "ability to contribute to our understanding of turn-of-the-twentieth-century tavern life"). In their follow-up "Phase III Work Plan," the authors recommended that, in addition to the outlined field work, analysis, and research, an illustrated book be produced "summarizing the history of the Searight Tavern Site, the results of the archaeological investigation, and the Site's significance."

As readers of this publication might have already guessed, the PTC and PHMC concurred with CHRS's determinations of eligibility for both the Searight Tavern Site and the Shaw Site. The agencies also accepted the recommendations set forth in the Phase III Work Plans, which accounts for our preparation of *Seeking Searights and Shaws* as the culminating component of the Phase III investigations. While the original notion was to produce a general-audience publication for each Site, our discovery of multiple geographic, temporal, and social links between the Searight Tavern Site and the Shaw Site inspired us to place the archaeological accounts under a single cover. We hope our readers are thus enabled to make some "bigger picture" connections as they walk with us on our journey of discovery.

— Philip Ruth  
Director of Research  
CHRS, Inc.  
February 2008

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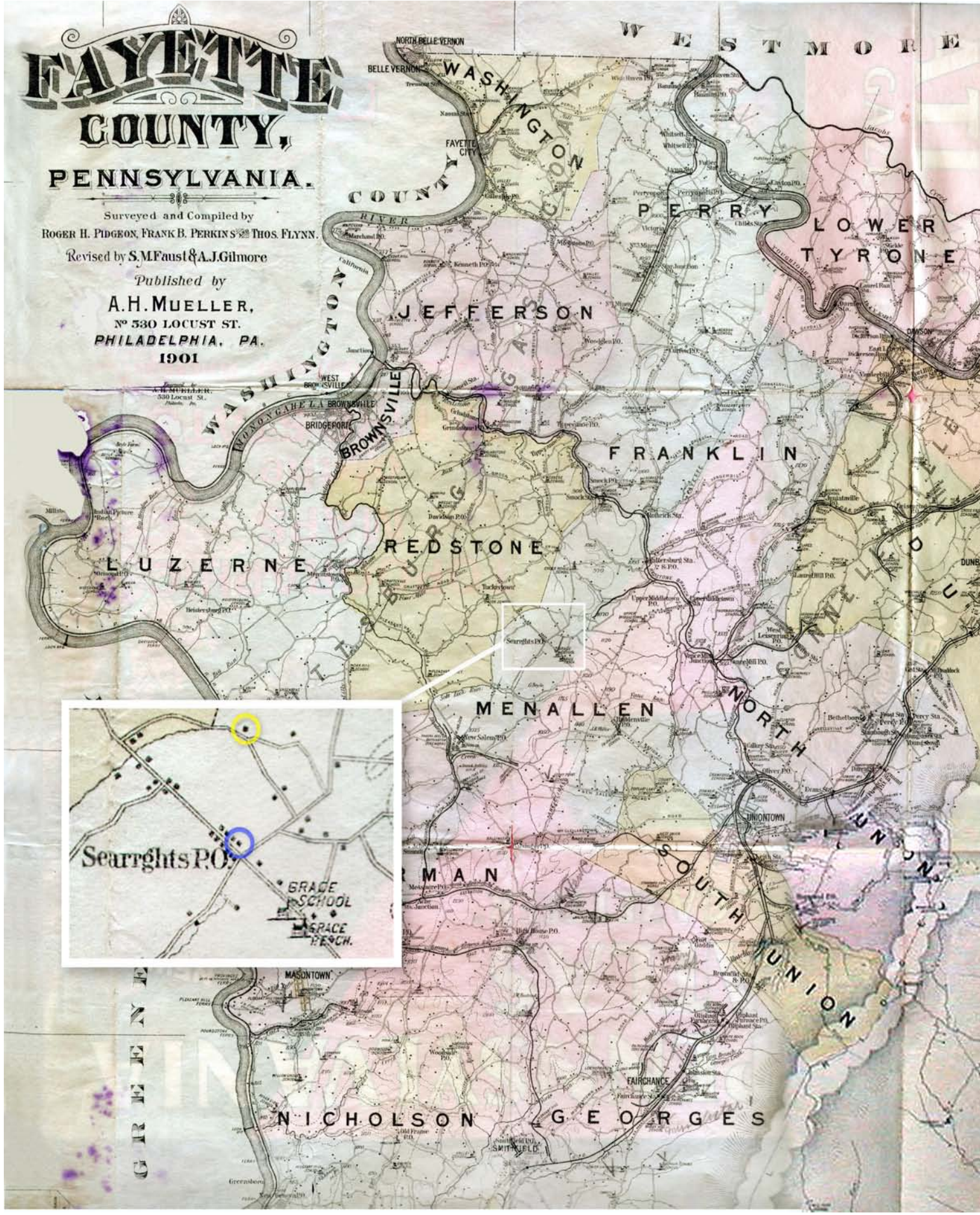
\**Pennsylvania Folklife*, Vol. 21(1), 1971.

# FAYETTE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA.

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## What Documents Disclosed

In the course of the Phase IA Historic Archaeological Survey conducted for the Mon/Fayette Expressway Project during the spring and summer of 1998, CHRS researchers consulted scores of sources and repositories in compiling data related to historic structures and activities within the Uniontown-to-Brownsville corridor. Culled from warrant maps, tax records, road docket and surveys, published and unpublished regional histories, newspaper archives, deed records, genealogical files, ground-level and aerial photographs, nineteenth- and twentieth-century maps, and other historic records, the data contributed to the investigation in two principal ways. Data associated with particular archaeological loci helped investigators make preliminary assessments of the loci's integrity and significance, and these assessments were eventually included in the Phase IA Historic Archaeological Survey report. Beyond this use, the data served as the basis for a "Study Area History" presented in the opening pages of the report. This historical overview

provided a context for understanding and appreciating the discussions of fieldwork, artifact and feature analysis, and conclusions that filled subsequent sections of the report.

With this initial round of research under their belts, CHRS historians hit the ground running a few years later when Phase III investigations of the Searight Tavern Site and the Shaw Site were launched. They returned to some of the archives and libraries they had visited earlier, now with eyes peeled for information relating specifically to the two Menallen Township loci. They scoured some new repositories in the region, and worked their way through a network of current and former residents who added anecdotal material to the growing mounds of data for both Sites. The researchers kept tabs on the types of artifacts and features their colleagues were unearthing at the Sites, and allowed those discoveries to steer them down new avenues of inquiry. Ultimately, CHRS Director of Research Philip Ruth wove the accumulated data into narrative histories of the Searight Tavern and the Shaw family for incorporation into a pair of project-capping reports: a two-volume, 370-page set titled *Phase III Archaeological Data Recovery, Shaw Site (36Fa476)*, submitted to the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission in February 2007; and a 246-page *Phase I/II/III Archaeological Survey, Searight Tavern Site (36Fa88)* report, submitted in June 2007. The historical sections of those documents are reproduced on the following pages with minimal editing and the addition of captioned illustrations (bibliographic citations and English-metric conversions included in the original have been removed to increase readability).

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**Left:** Dots representing the Searight Tavern and the Shaw residence are circled by blue and yellow circles, respectively, on the western portion of a Fayette County map published in 1901. The Grace Episcopal Church, founded in part and attended by Menallen Township's Searight and Shaw families, is denoted a quarter-mile southeast of Searights, along the southwest side of the National Road (see inset).

## The Searight Tavern: Fixture Along the National Road

The original portion of the Searight Tavern structure was constructed by Josiah Frost in 1819, approximately one year after the opening of the National Road through Menallen Township. Frost had acquired the building site of at least 113 acres from brothers and half-interest holders William and Joseph Roberts through a pair of deeds drawn up on October 17, 1816 and October 19, 1819, respectively. The latter conveyance cleared the way for Frost to erect his structure, in which he intended to operate a tavern. In this entrepreneurial venture, Frost had plenty of company along the route of the recently opened National Road, as related in the following excerpt from James Hadden's 1913 History of Uniontown:

Upon the advent of the National Road, Uniontown, as well as all other towns along the route, took on new life. All kinds of business was revived; shops were built for the manufacture of stagecoaches, wagons and other vehicles; dwellings were erected, and houses of entertainment were opened for the comfort and accommodation of those who thronged this great thoroughfare. All kinds of farm produce found a ready market at remunerative prices, and the people became prosperous. Towns sprang into existence along its route, taverns were established at convenient distances, at which the weary traveler could procure refreshment and lodging, and the whole length of the road soon became thronged with home-seekers desiring to cast their lots and make their homes in the fertile valleys of the West. At the same time a counter tide was flowing eastward, consisting principally of immense and continuous droves of horses, cattle and hogs and other products of the farm to supply the markets of the East. Four-horse stage coaches were put on the road for the conveyance of passengers and the United States mails; and wagons of every capacity, from the ponderous Conestoga,

with its burden of ten tons, drawn by six powerful bell-bedecked horses, to the smallest, thronged the way, conveying freight and families with their household goods.

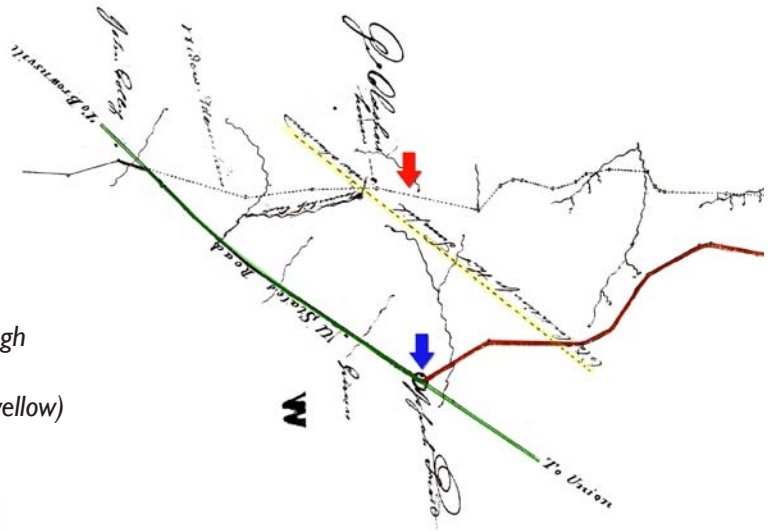
On a survey map of several Menallen Township roads registered by the Secretary of the Commonwealth on June 13, 1821, Josiah Frost's new building was denoted along the north side of the National Road, immediately west of its intersection with a new road snaking southward from the vicinity of Middletown. Known today as "Upper Middletown Road," this 1821-vintage "State Road" would quickly become part of an important "drovers' road" extending westward from central Pennsylvania to what is now northern West Virginia. Frost had thus chosen to locate his tavern beside what promised to be a very busy crossroads, but for some reason he did not follow through with his tavern plan. In July 1821, with the finishing touches still not applied to his tavern building, he and at least one business partner conveyed the structure on a tract of 113 acres to 30-year-old fulling mill merchant William Searight.

### **"Prominent and zealous" William Searight**

Born near Carlisle, Cumberland County on December 5, 1791, William Searight descended from Scots-Irish ancestors on both sides of his family. His early years, and his path to Fayette County's Menallen Township, were summarized as follows in a biographical sketch published in 1889:

William Searight received only a plain English education, but he was endowed with the precepts of stern integrity, industry and honor, the elements of his future success in business, and of his elevated character. In the neighborhood in which he was reared, he had learned the business of fuller and dyer of cloth, a knowledge of which

**Right:** On a survey map of several Menallen Township roads registered on June 13, 1821, Josiah Frost's new building is denoted (blue arrow) along the northeast side of the National Road ("U.S. States Road," highlighted in green), beside its intersection with a new road snaking southwestward from the vicinity of Middletown (highlighted in red; known today as "Upper Middletown Road"). The new road replaced an older section of "State road" (in blue) angling westward through Menallen Township and crossing—in the vicinity of the future Shaw Site (red arrow)—a former "turnpike" (in yellow) abandoned following the opening of the National Road.



**Left:** A circa-1840 engraving of William Searight depicts the former fulling merchant at the height of his career as farmer, real estate developer, tavern owner, and National Road Commissioner.

with his energy and honor was his entire stock in hand. He arrived in Fayette county about the age of twenty-one [circa 1812], and commenced business at an old fulling mill on Dunlap's creek known as Hammond's mill. He afterwards prosecuted his vocation at Cook's mill on Redstone creek, and also on the old George Washington farm near Perryopolis. He next purchased a farm and hotel at Searights, the property and village deriving its name from him, and there made his permanent settlement. On March 26, 1826, he married [Virginia native] Rachel Brownfield, a daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Brownfield of Uniontown, Penna. . . .

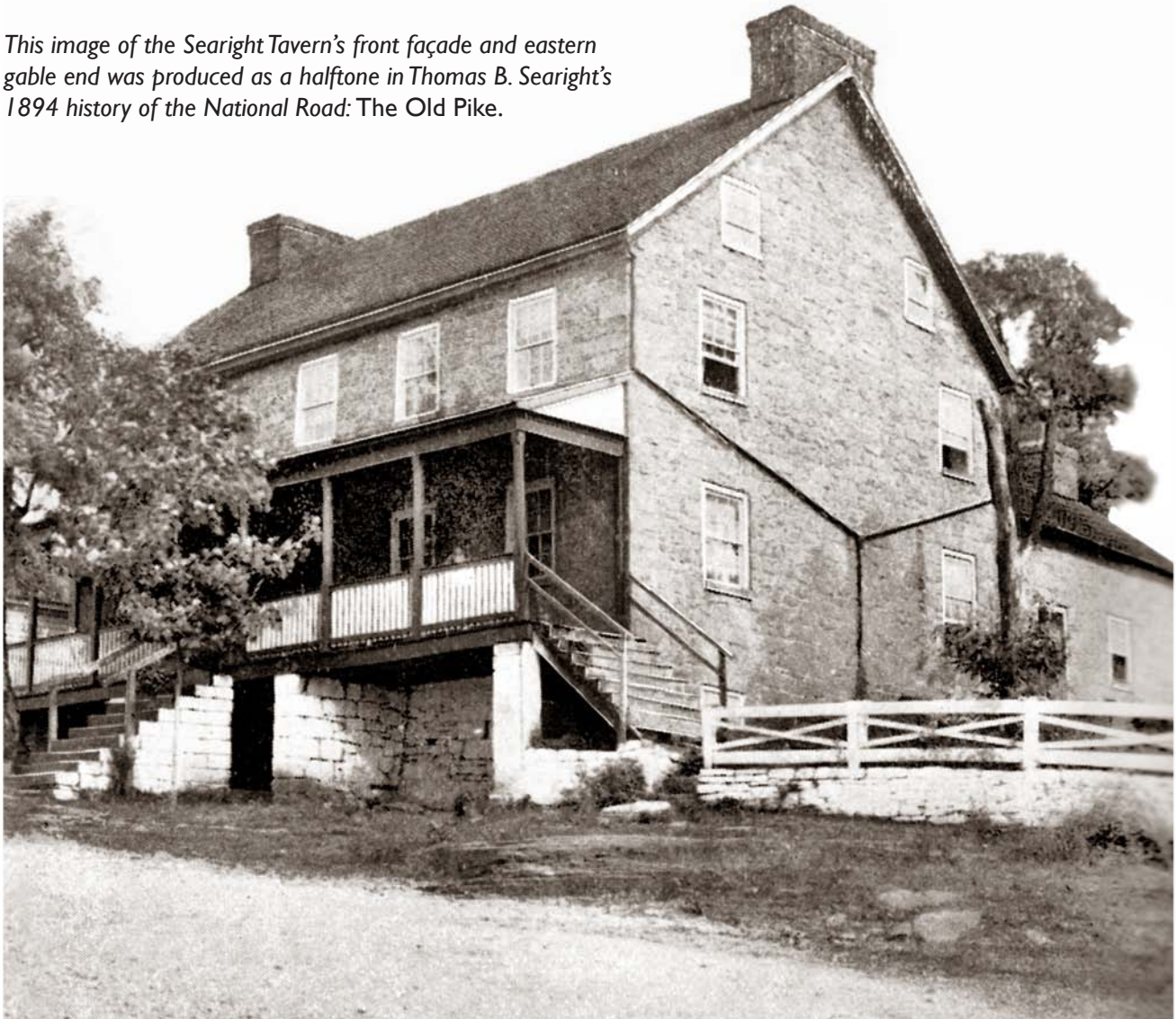
At the village of Searights, William Searight laid the foundation of a large for-

tune. His integrity, united to a generous and benevolent heart, gave him a high place in esteem and affections of the community in which he lived. His sound judgment soon impressed itself on his own county and he became one of her most influential and useful citizens. He was a prominent and zealous, old-time democratic politician and wielded a large influence. On one occasion he rode on horseback from Searights to Harrisburg, a distance of over 200 miles, to assist in the preparation to nominate General Jackson for the presidency. He was an intimate friend of the late Simon Cameron, ex-United States Senator from Pennsylvania, and had close personal relations with the leading politicians of his day.

Under William Searight's oversight, a tavern was finally opened in 1822 in the building erected several years earlier by Josiah Frost. Five other taverns were already operating or were opened around this time along a 12-mile section of the National Road connecting Uniontown with Brownsville. Within a few years, four more taverns would be opened along this stretch,



*This image of the Searight Tavern's front façade and eastern gable end was produced as a halftone in Thomas B. Searight's 1894 history of the National Road: The Old Pike.*



making “the Searight Tavern” one of nine taverns available to travelers every couple of miles between Uniontown and Brownsville. William Searight did not occupy or serve as proprietor of his establishment initially, choosing instead to lease the Searight Tavern to professional innkeepers so he was free to pursue other business interests—including serving as a Commissioner of the National Road “for many years” through an appointment made by Pennsylvania Governor David Porter in or shortly after 1839. In 1822 and 1823, the Searight Tavern was kept by Joseph T. Noble, a Fayette County native in his early forties. Following Noble’s migration westward to Guernsey County, Ohio in 1824, William Searight had difficulty securing a proprietor and/or a license (awarded annually) to operate a tavern. No proprietors of the Searight Tavern were recorded

in the Fayette County Commissioners’ list of licensed tavern operators during the years 1824 and 1825.

### **The Gray years**

In 1826, John Gray vacated his proprietorship of “the Moxley House” three miles west of Uniontown and took over management of the Searight Tavern. Gray would serve in this venue for three years, and his name would be forever linked with an event that transpired in the final year of his tenure, during the lead-up to the Presidential election of October 1828. “Political conventions of both parties were accustomed to meet at Searights and plan campaigns,” a Fayette County historian would explain in 1889. “A memorable meeting, of which [William] Searight

was the chief instigator, was held there in 1828 known as the 'Gray Meeting' from the name of the keeper at that time of the local hotel, John Gray. At this meeting the [Andrew] Jackson and [incumbent President John Quincy] Adams men met to test their strength. They turned out in the meadow below the hotel, formed in rank and counted off; the Jackson men outnumbered their opponents decisively, and it was regarded as a great Jackson victory."

Another account of this event, published in 1894, included additional details:

[The Searight Tavern was] also the battleground of the memorable "Gray Meeting" in 1828, where the opposing hosts between Jackson and Adams went into an open field and measured strength by "counting off," the Jacksonians outnumbering their adversaries by a decided preponderance, greatly to the mortification of the weaker column. This meeting was called the "Gray Meeting," because the tavern there was then kept by John Gray, formerly of the Moxley House. . . . The leaders on the occasion of this trial of strength were as follows: On the Jackson side, Gen. Henry W. Beeson, Col. Ben Brownfield, John Fuller, David Gilmore, Larkin S. Dearth, Alexander Johnson, Provance McCormick, William F. Coplan, Henry J. Rigdon, William Hatfield and William Searight. On the Adams side: Andrew Stewart, John Dawson, John M. Austin, Israel Miller, E.P. Oliphant, Chads Chalfant, Stokely Conwell, Levi Springer, Dennis Springer, and William Colvin. Prior to 1840 many of the Democratic county meetings and conventions were held at Searights.

#### **"Highly esteemed" James Allison**

When John Gray moved on to another venue in 1829, William Searight took a turn as proprietor of the Searight Tavern. Annual tavern licenses were issued in his name from 1829 through 1833, "but owing to his absence from home, being a contractor on public works, he did not give the management his personal atten-

tion, but placed it in the hands of James Allison, a well remembered and highly esteemed citizen, subsequently and for many years postmaster at Searights." Allison figured long and prominently in the history of the Searight Tavern and its enveloping village. The following biographical details were provided in a sketch published in 1889:

James Allison, without whose biography the history of Menallen township, and particularly of the village of Searight's, would be incomplete, was born near Laurel Hill, Fayette county, Penna, December 22, 1801. His parents lived and died in that neighborhood, and their remains were buried in the Laurel Hill graveyard. In early life James Allison moved from the locality of Laurel Hill and settled on Redstone Creek, Fayette county, Penna, and learned to be a fuller of cloth under William Searight, in whose family he ever afterwards made his home. When William Searight bought the homestead on which is the village of Searight's [in 1821], James Allison moved with him to it, where he lived and died. He was born to no other inheritance than that of a noble character and a good name, and was in early life thrown upon these his only resources. He held the responsible office of commissioner of the county from 1837 to 1840, and as was the case in all his business transactions, acquitted himself creditably and honorably. He also held the office of justice of the peace for many years, and was postmaster at the village of Searight's from the time of the establishment of the office in 1845 until within a very short time of his death, having filled the longest continuous term of office of any postmaster in the State, and perhaps in the United States. So long and so very attentively did he occupy this position that he became a part of the town thought to be entirely indispensable.

He was a conscientious and consistent member of the Episcopal church, and was for many years senior warden of Grace church, Menallen. He was married early in life, and his wife died shortly after their

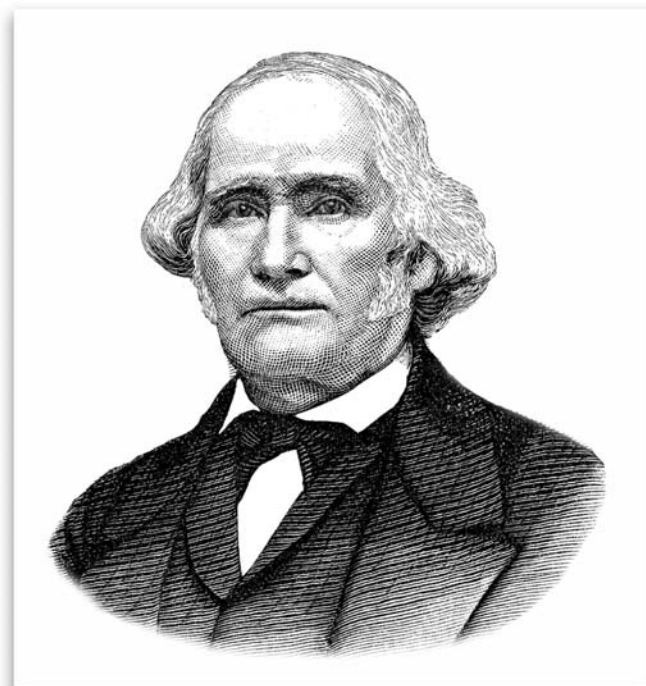
marriage. He had no family. The life of James Allison is well worthy of imitation. It was straightforward, unflinching, unchequered, and uneventful. His habits were extremely plain, simple, sensible, sober, temperate, and industrious. His manner was free, open, friendly, frank, and courteous. His character was a perfect lighthouse of honesty, truthfulness, and uprightness. So highly was he esteemed for these qualities, it became a common saying in the surrounding community of which he was a part that “If Jimmy Allison says it is so, it must be so”; or “If Jimmy Allison did so, it must be right.” These sayings still reverently linger in the memories of his old neighbors.

He died suddenly on July 4, 1881, of a conjestive [sic] spasm to which he was subject. His remains were interred in Grace church burial ground on July 5, 1881.

It is written elsewhere that when Allison “came to Searight’s [around 1821] . . . he found Hugh Keys keeping a store there.” As depicted on maps of Menallen Township published in 1858 (**page 15**) and 1872 (**page 5**), this store was housed in a building several yards northwest of the Searight Tavern, fronting like its neighbor on the National Road. The front porch and display windows of the structure peek out from behind a tree beside the Tavern in a photographic view recorded in August 1914 (**page 19**). As reported in a Menallen Township history published in 1882, “a post-office was established at Searight’s in 1833, [and] Thomas Greer, the blacksmith, [was] appointed postmaster. He served until 1834, when the office was discontinued. In 1849 it was revived and James Allison appointed postmaster. He was the incumbent until 1880.” On the 1858 Menallen Township map, the post office was shown as being located in the store building.

As noted above, James Allison kept the Searight Tavern for a number of years in the 1830s under licenses granted to William Searight. In 1836, Allison petitioned for and was granted a license in his own name. The following year, as Allison embarked on a four-year term as Commission of Fayette County, John Risler took over

*Engraving of James Allison, published in Franklin Ellis’ 1882 History of Fayette County, Pennsylvania. Allison’s exemplary life had ended the previous year.*

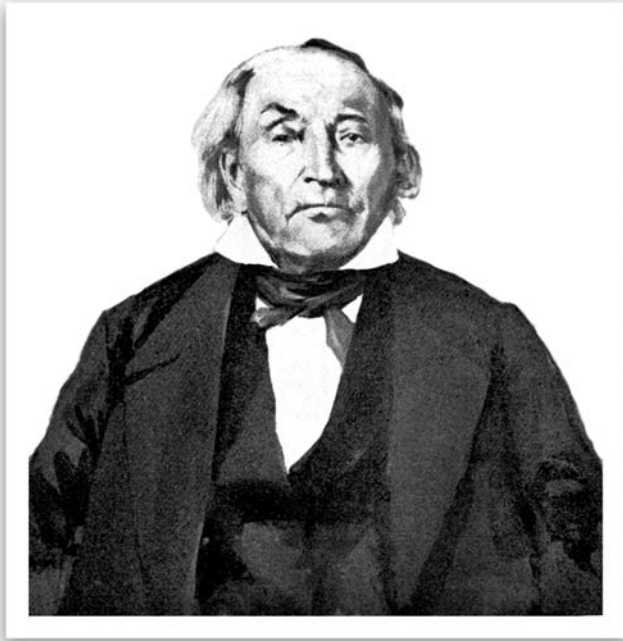


the Searight Tavern. Risler was a “celebrated old tavern keeper” according to William Searight’s son Thomas B. Searight, who wrote a history of the National Road—*The Old Pike*—published in 1894. Risler had operated inns along the National Road in several locations across Fayette and Somerset Counties, and it was said that “wherever a kitchen and a dining room were controlled by a female member of the Risler family, there a well cooked and relishable meal was sure to be obtained.” Risler and his wife Harriet (née Madden) had at least three daughters, all of whom married drovers. John brought his mother to live with the Risler family in the Searight Tavern, and she died there during what turned out to be the family’s one-year occupancy.

### **“Great favorite” Matthias Fry**

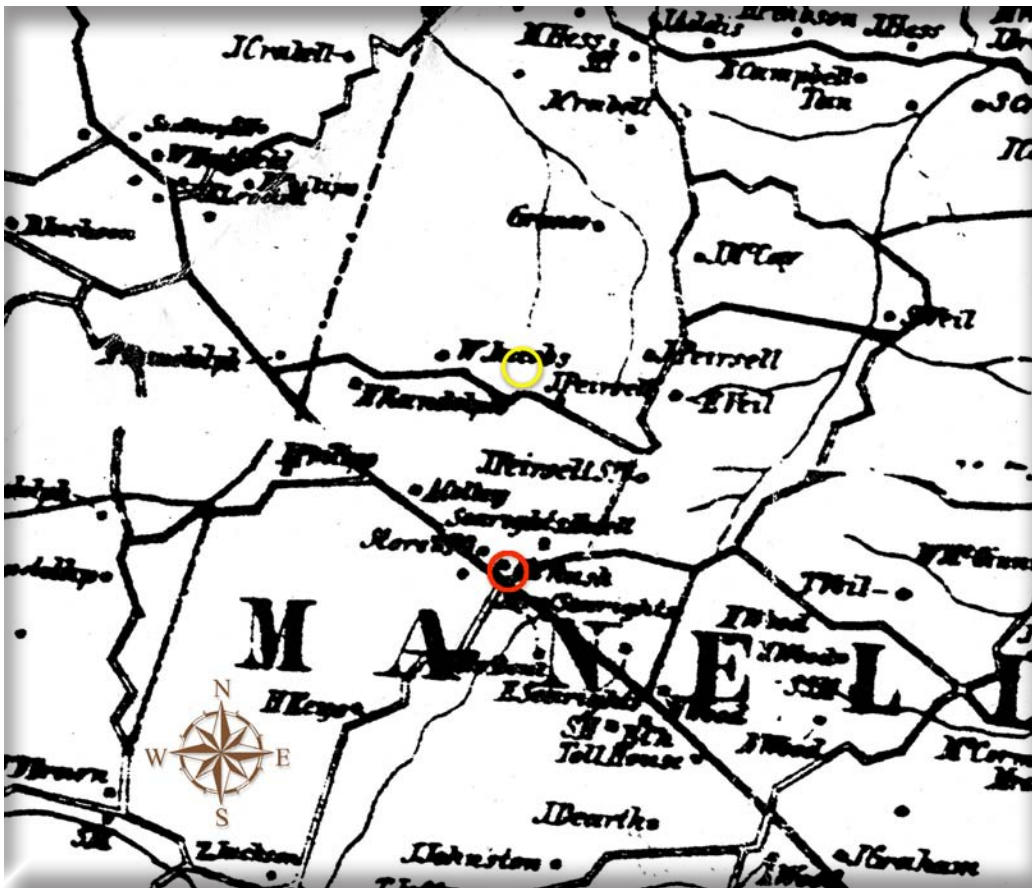
Matthias Fry took over as proprietor of the Searight Tavern in 1838. A “native of Old Virginia,” Fry was, “in his prime, one of the best men on the road, and a great favorite among the wagoners,” according to T.B. Searight. “He had

“Celebrated old tavern keeper” John Risler, seen here as he was depicted in *The Old Pike* (1894), succeeded James Allison as proprietor of the Searight Tavern. After a single year at Searight’s (1837), Risler moved on to his next venue.



been a wagoner himself for many years, and was at one time general agent for a transportation line from Baltimore to Wheeling, which made him the disbursing officer of large sums of money, and he discharged his office with scrupulous fidelity. He was a large, fine looking man, stoutly built, and possessing great physical power. Although amiable and good natured, he was occasionally drawn into a fight, and on one occasion, at Petersburg, in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, whipped three reputed bullies, one after another, who entered his house when he lived there, and proposed to ‘clean him out,’ as evidence of their prowess.”

On the basis of his popularity and connections as a former drover, Matthias Fry “drew a large wagon trade” to the Searight Tavern during his sojourn in Menallen Township (T.B. Searight would write). He was awarded licenses to operate the Tavern from 1838 through 1843, excluding the years 1839 and 1840, when licenses were granted in the name of William Searight. Searight may not have served as the tavern-keeper in 1839 and 1840, and he would have had a hard time



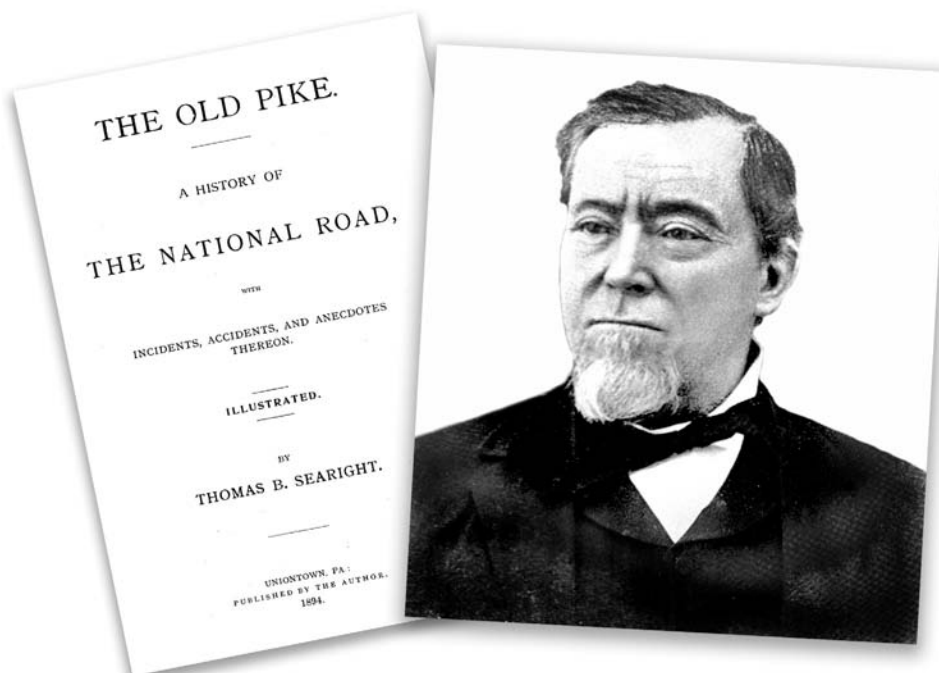
On this detail of an 1858 Fayette County map, the dot representing “Searights Hotel” is circled in red. No structure is denoted on or near the Shaw Site (circled in yellow). Deed, tax, and census records indicate that the Shaws occupied a house on the Shaw Site by the latter 1850s. The cartographer may have surveyed this section of Fayette County several years prior to publishing his map.

filling the proprietor role after 1841, when he embarked on his first term as Commissioner of the Pennsylvania portion of the National Road. Dr. Ronald Michael summarized this phase of Searight's career as follows:

It was through his political associations that he was appointed Commissioner of the Cumberland Road [a.k.a. the National Road] in Pennsylvania. After appointment by David Porter, a Democratic governor of Pennsylvania, Searight controlled and supervised the operations of the portion of the road in Pennsylvania from May 3, 1842, until April 19, 1845. After a national reorganization of the supervisory structure of the road, he again served as road commissioner; his second term extended from April 8, 1848, until early in 1852, but his jurisdiction was limited to Fayette County. These were important political appointments. During a time when the average man was earning little over \$100 per year, the job of supervising operations of the road in Pennsylvania paid about \$730 annually. Even when the area of jurisdiction was limited to Fayette County, it had an annual evaluation of \$200.

## October 1850 census

When Matthias Fry vacated the Searight Tavern in the winter of 1843-44, his place was taken by Joseph Gray. Identified by one historian as a son of former proprietor John Gray, the Pennsylvania-born Joseph Gray would spend the last six years of his short life operating the Searight Tavern. He was about 36 years of age when he moved into the Tavern building with his 30-year-old wife Jane and four children in 1844. Four more children would join the Gray family over the course of the next six years. When a census enumerator visited the Searight "Hotel" on October 28, 1850, he found 42-year-old "innkeeper" Joseph Gray living there with his wife and eight children, the youngest of whom had been born six months earlier. The "Hotel" was also home to four boarders: 25-year-old Catherine M. Key (no occupation); 16-year-old teamster William H. Yardly; 24-year-old blacksmith William Piersol; and 49-year-old "turnpiker" William M. Cowen. Neighboring houses were occupied by 47-year-old laborer "Reazin" Frost (elsewhere spelled "Reason"), and 35-year-old teamster John Yardly (elsewhere spelled "Yardley"). T.B. Searight would report that Yardley was "a natural born wagoner.



Author and publisher Thomas B. Searight (son of Searight founder William Searight) included this engraving of himself as the frontispiece in his 1894 homage to the National Road: *The Old Pike*. As the book's title page promised, Searight recounted for readers hundreds of "Incidents, Accidents, and Anecdotes" relating to America's first federally funded interstate highway.

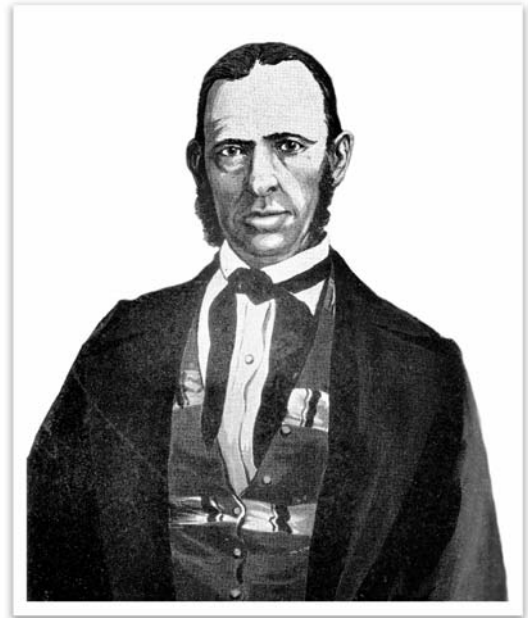
He loved the occupation, and was faithful in it, for many years. He was born in Maryland, but lived a long time at Searights, where he died. He was the father of William and Gus Yardley, of Uniontown.”

The Searight Tavern lost one of its longer-term proprietors in January 1851 when Joseph Gray met an untimely death (the particulars of which have not been discovered). Gray’s passing ushered in a period of instability and additional tragedy at the Tavern. Veteran Fayette County innkeeper William Shaw arrived to take Gray’s place in the spring of 1851. Nicknamed “Tavern Keeper Billy” apparently to distinguish him from other William Shaws in the region, Searight’s latest proprietor chose an inauspicious moment to take over the reins. His relatively brief stay in Menallen Township overlapped “the close of active business on the [National] road,” according to Uniontown historian James Hadden. The dramatic downturn in National Road activity during the mid-1850s was precipitated by the opening on January 13, 1853 of the Baltimore and Ohio (B&O) Railroad between Cumberland, Maryland and Wheeling, West Virginia. Wrote Hadden:

The death knell of that part of the National road between Cumberland and Wheeling was heard in the scream of the steam whistle of the locomotive, and “We hear no more of the clanging hoof, and the stage coach rattling by, for the steam king rules the traveled world, and the old pike’s left to die.” Proud towns which once enjoyed the prosperity of the road have dwindled to comparative insignificance. The stage lines were removed to other roads, the tavern keepers sought other avocations, and travel no longer thronged the old highway.

Perhaps anticipating the opening of the B&O Railroad, “Tavern Keeper Billy” Shaw notified Searight Tavern owner William Searight at the close of 1851 that he planned to vacate the premises in the spring of 1852. Searight began placing “For Rent” advertisements in Uniontown’s *Genius of Liberty* newspaper in the first weeks of 1852, announcing the availability of “The

*Joseph Gray ran the Searight Tavern from 1844 through 1850—seven of the Tavern’s most prosperous years. His untimely death in January 1851 ushered in an era of institutional instability.*

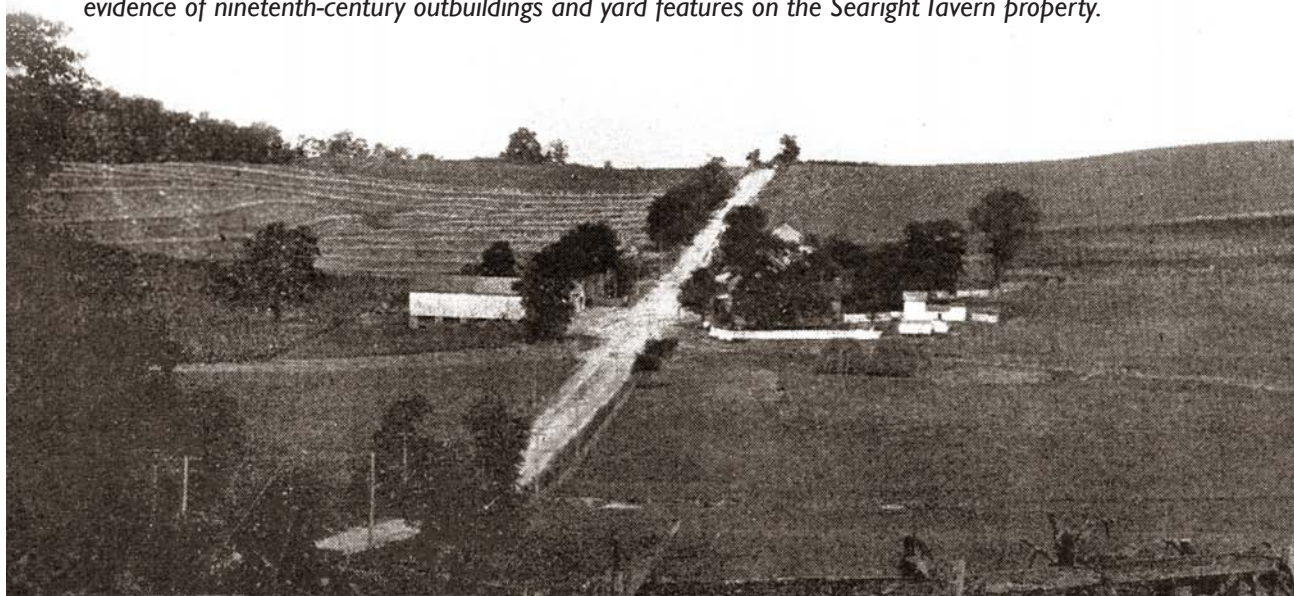


Tavern Stand now occupied by William Shaw, on the National Road, half-way between Brownsville and Uniontown. . . . Possession [to be] given the first of April.” Searight was eager to find a replacement proprietor quickly, while the window for applying for tavern licenses for the upcoming year was still open (each year’s applications to the Fayette County Court of Quarter Sessions were expected to be submitted for consideration in either the first term [held in January] or the second term [held in March]). For some reason, “Tavern Keeper Billy” Shaw decided to linger at the Searight Tavern another year. His belated applications for a tavern license for the upcoming year were published in May 1852 issues of the *Genius of Liberty*. Among the “citizens of Menallen township [certifying in the published petition] that William Shaw is of good repute for honesty and temperance” were James Allison, William Searight, William’s son Ewing Searight, and Tavern neighbors Reason Frost and John Yardley.

### **Death of William Searight**

Then, just a few months before the B&O Railroad was to be inaugurated, William Searight died of “chronic diarrhea.” In the weeks leading

*This eastward view of Searights was among The Old Pike's many illustrations. Though foreshortened by a telescopic lens and rendered in a coarse halftone, the pre-1895 image nonetheless offered researchers important evidence of nineteenth-century outbuildings and yard features on the Searight Tavern property.*



up to his death, he had been “a candidate for the Democratic party for one of the most important offices in the State, that of canal commissioner,” a Fayette County historian would write in 1889. “To this office he would have undoubtedly been elected, had not death interposed and called him from the active duties of this life to the realities of another world, as after his death, Colonel William Hopkins of Washington county, was nominated to the democratic party for the same office and was elected by a large majority. [Searight] died at his residence in Menallen township, on the 12th day of August, 1852. He left a widow [Rachel] and six children: Thomas Searight, Ewing Searight, Jane Searight, William Searight, James Searight, Elizabeth Searight.”

Twenty-five-year-old *Genius of Liberty* publisher T.B. Searight and his 23-year-old farming brother Ewing—bachelors and eldest sons of William and Rachel Searight—took over management of the Searight Tavern following their father’s death (while the widowed Rachel remained its nominal owner). T.B. had just acquired from C.B. Snyder the general store on the northwest side of the Tavern. “Tavern Keeper Billy” Shaw worked under the Searight brothers through the spring of 1853, then followed through on his plan to find a new and more profitable business location. In anticipation of his departure, T.B.

and Ewing Searight began posting notices in a Uniontown newspaper early in 1853, advertising the availability of “a Tavern Stand, situated on the National Road, half-way between Brownsville and Uniontown, known as ‘Searight’s Stand.’ There will also be leased with the tavern stand from 30 to 50 acres of the best quality land. The State and National Roads both passing through this property, render it desirable for keeping droves. Possession will be given on the first of April next. Any person wishing to rent will apply to T.B. Searight at Uniontown, or Ewing Searight on the premises.”

### Enter “Wagoner Billy” Shaw

This opportunity was eventually seized—either late in 1853 or early in 1854—by veteran Menallen Township drover and farmer William Shaw, who, according to T.B. Searight, was not related to previous proprietor William Shaw, and carried the distinguishing nickname “Wagoner Billy.” About 53 years of age in 1853, “Wagoner Billy” Shaw was the husband of Margaret Fitzgerald and the father of at least five children, one of whom had died in infancy (as recorded on gravestones in the Grace Episcopal Cemetery, on the south side of the National Road, several hundred yards southeast of the Searight Tavern).

The Shaws had occupied a small farm in the Tavern's vicinity since moving to Menallen Township around 1831. While William Shaw was identified in 1850 population and agricultural census enumerations as a farmer owning and occupying a small farm in Menallen Township, T.B. Searight would report that Shaw made his living during the second quarter of the nineteenth century principally as a "wagoner" (a.k.a. drover or teamster) transporting goods along the National Road.

The earliest evidence that Shaw swapped tavern patronage for tavern proprietorship in the mid-1850s was a tavern license petition published under his name in the February 2, 1854 edition of the *Genius of Liberty*. "To the Honorable the Judges of the Court of Quarter Sessions of Fayette county to March term 1854," Wagoner Billy's appeal began, "the petition of the undersigned respectfully sheweth, that he is desirous of keeping an Inn or tavern at 'Searight's old stand,' in Menallen township." The petition was signed by William Shaw, and among the men who testified to the worthiness of the proprietor's character were his neighbors James Allison, Ewing Searight, Reason Frost, John Ferren, and John Yardley. Ferren had driven "a six-horse team on the road many years for William Searight, and is remembered as a careful and discreet driver and an honest and industrious man," T.B. Searight would report. "At the close of active business on the road [circa 1854], and while yet under the influence of its ancient grandeur, he married [Mary Anne Shaw] a daughter of 'Wagoner Billy Shaw.'"

"Wagoner Billy" would serve a dwindling stream of National Road travelers at the Searight Tavern for at least two years—1854 and 1855—during which time his newlywed daughter and son-in-law moved from Fayette County to a new home in Iowa. The Ferrons' departure left 55-year-old "Wagoner Billy" head of a household comprising himself, his 53-year-old wife Margaret, 23-year-old Rebecca, 18-year-old John, and 13-year-old Rachel. The latter, it turned, did not have long to live. Rachel would die on September 16, 1855 from an unrecorded cause (as noted on her gravestone in the Grace Episcopal Cemetery). Shortly after his daughter's death, "Wagoner Billy" retired from tavern-keeping and took up

residence on a two-acre rural lot two-thirds of a mile north of the Tavern.

### **"Proud driver" Henry Clay Rush**

Shaw's departure opened the door for another former National Road drover—28-year-old Henry Clay Rush—to try his hand at innkeeping. Rush's route to the Searight Tavern was described as follows in a *Daily News Standard* obituary:

Henry Clay Rush was born in Henry Clay township, Fayette county, Pennsylvania, Jan. 27, 1828. He attended school in his native township until he was sixteen years of age, when he became a driver of his father's [Charles Rush, married to Sarah Marker] six-horse team on the National road. This occupation at times was perilous on the mountain side when the road was coated with ice. This was a school in which Henry Clay Rush received a practical education and which doubtless laid the foundation for his remarkable physical constitution as manifested in the tenacity of life at its closing hours; and also for his universally admitted good common sense and his tried and true friendship. His father built and occupied the hotel known as the Squire Smith house, a short distance east of Farmington, and after the death of his father, Henry Clay took charge of the hotel and conducted it until his mother's second marriage and then returned to the "old pike" as a driver of one of the six-horse teams on the "Merchant's line." For several years he drove for this line between Braddock's run and Searight's. Following this until 1850 he drove a team for his uncle, Sebastian Rush, who was well known as the "King of the Mountains" because of his widespread business and political influence in that section of the county. He afterwards leased the tavern of his uncle, John Rush, just this side of Farmington, which he kept for two years. He then became proprietor of the "Summit House" on the top of Laurel Hill, and in 1856 removed to Searights, where he kept hotel until 1863.





*Henry Clay Rush assumed proprietorship of the Searight Tavern in 1856, “fitting up and repairing the old and well-known” establishment. His tenure would be one of the longest at the Tavern: approximately seven years.*

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T.B Searight would write of Rush that the former “proud driver of a big six-horse team . . . drove through from Baltimore to Wheeling, and can recount incidents of every mile of the road to this day. None of the old pike boys enjoys with keener relish a recital of the stories of the old pike than Rush.” The first petition submitted by Rush for a license to operate the Searight Tavern was received by a Fayette County Court of Quarter Sessions in the spring of 1856. Later that year, Rush “fitted up and repaired Searight’s Hotel, . . . [the] old and well-known tavern, halfway between Brownsville and Uniontown,” according to an advertisement published in the *Genius of Liberty*.

The refurbished facility would serve Rush and the traveling public for another six years. He and his much-younger wife Eliza occupied the Tavern building along with half-a-dozen boarders and staff persons. When a census enumerator stopped by the Tavern on June 11, 1860, he found the following persons at home there:

Henry C. Rush, 33, innkeeper  
Eliza Rush, 26, wife  
Mary Hart, 19, domestic  
Mary Cropp, 19, domestic  
Francis M. Smith, 37, day laborer  
William McKinnly, 35, carpenter  
James Allison, 58, clerk  
Hamilton Wilson, 21, day laborer

In 1863, Henry Clay Rush purchased “the Moxley House”—the venerable tavern a few miles west of Uniontown—and conveyed his business to that location. He left just in time for farmer Ewing Searight, his wife Elizabeth (née Jackson), and the couple’s children Rachel and William to occupy the Searight Tavern in the aftermath of a fire that destroyed the family’s “mansion house” just down the National Road. The Searights lived in the Tavern building for at least a few months—and perhaps a couple of years—while a new home was being readied. The Tavern’s next recorded proprietor, Thomas F. Allen, opened up shop in 1865 and stayed for two years. Allen was followed, in 1867, by Robert Moxley, whose proprietorship spanned three years (1867-69). Few biographical details pertaining to these men have been uncovered. More is known of the subsequent proprietor, James Frost, who operated the Tavern from 1870 through 1872. He had kept at least one other tavern—in Fayette County’s Wharton Township—earlier in the nineteenth century. He was about 42 years of age when he took over the Searight Tavern. Unlike his predecessor Henry Clay Rush, James Frost moved into the Tavern building with a large family. A census enumerator identified the Tavern’s occupants on July 26, 1870 as follows:

James Frost, 42, innkeeper  
Caroline Frost, 35, keeping house  
Alfred Frost, 20, barkeeper  
Andrew Frost, 18, works on farm  
Mary Frost, 16, at home  
John Frost, 10  
Benton Frost, 3  
Harriet [illegible], 36, waiter  
James [illegible], 44, hack driver  
John [illegible], 22, works on farm

### An uncertain future

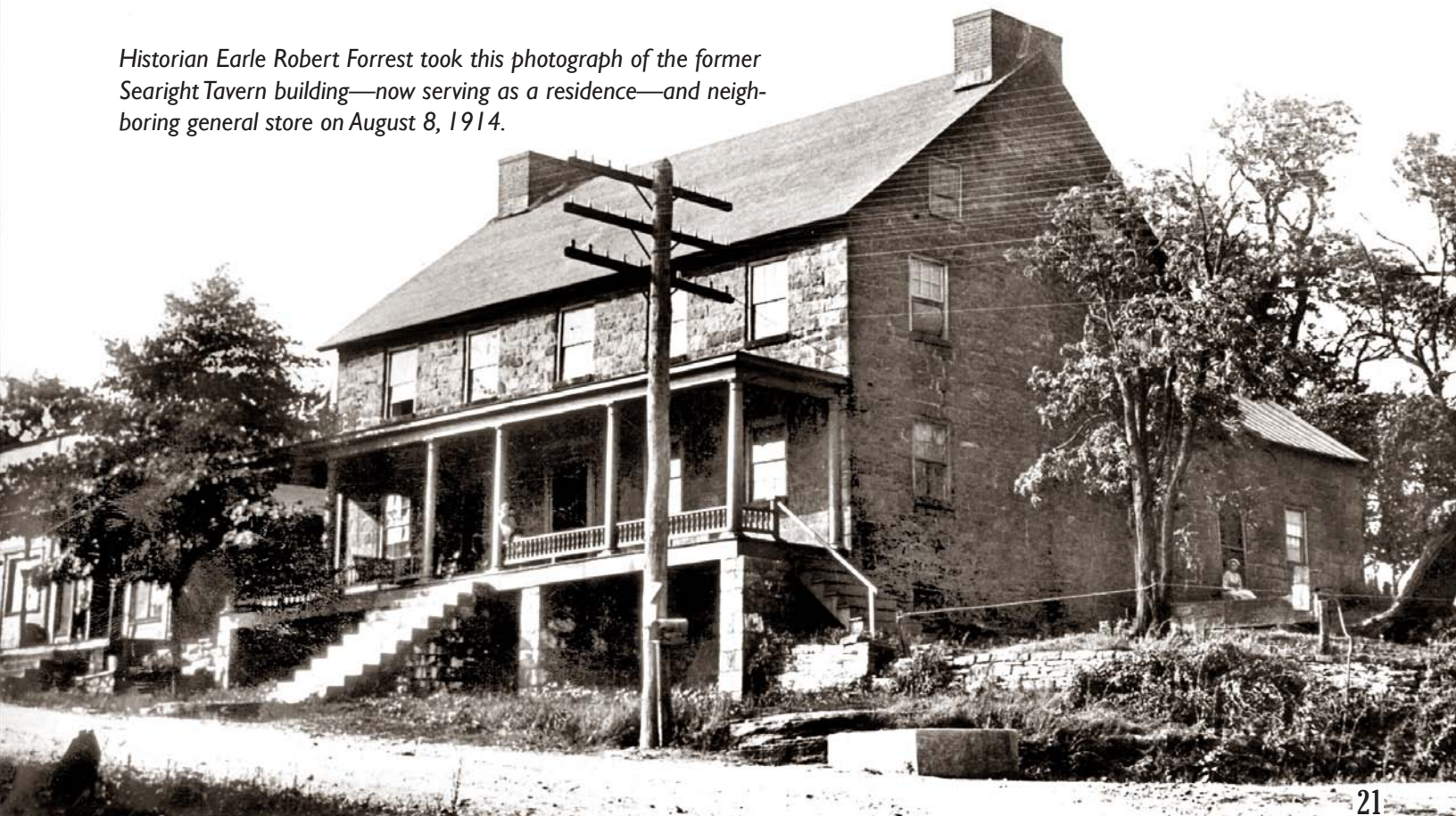
The steady decline of long-haul traffic on the National Road may have contributed to James Frost's decision in 1872 to trade innkeeping for farming. When he and his family moved to a farm on the northwestern outskirts of Searights in 1873, the Searight Tavern—still owned by William Searight's widow Rachel, now remarried to Dr. Harmon Stidger—faced an uncertain future. Indeed, from 1873 through 1879, no licensed proprietors were recorded for the Tavern. On May 17, 1880, Ewing Searight purchased from his mother the Tavern on “about two hundred acres” in Menallen Township. Though Ewing had been managing his mother's “estate and businesses” for a number of years, his acquisition of the Tavern property apparently engendered hope that a tavern could again be successful in this location. He arranged to have 40-year-old Cuthbert W. Downer serve as proprietor in 1880. Downer moved into the Tavern with his wife Mary and daughter Ruth (they were the building's only occupants when a Menallen Township census enumeration was conducted on June 18, 1880),

but their residency lasted no more than a year. In 1881, Ewing Searight secured his own license to operate the Tavern, but this effort was equally short-lived. Several other proprietors may have taken a turn at the Searight Tavern between 1882 and 1893—T.B. Searight identified Alfred McCormick, Lewis Fry, and James W. Claybaugh as possibilities—but the Tavern proved unprofitable for all, as “the patronage of the house was mostly local.” Sometime in the late 1880s or early 1890s, Ewing Searight stopped trying to find proprietors, and the Searight Tavern's commercial career was effectively concluded.

### From tavern to residence

Now out of the innkeeping business, Ewing Searight allowed his son William J. Searight to use the Tavern building as a private residence. William was living there in 1893 with his wife Jennie Louise Patterson—“a beautiful and accomplished daughter of Sidney Patterson, ex-president of a Dunbar bank”—when his uncle T.B. Searight published *A Record of the Searight Family*, followed a year later by *The Old Pike: A History of the Na-*

Historian Earle Robert Forrest took this photograph of the former Searight Tavern building—now serving as a residence—and neighboring general store on August 8, 1914.



*tional Road, With Incidents, Accidents, and Anecdotes Thereon.* William and Jennie Searight rented and occupied the former Tavern building for a decade or longer. Their residency there on June 11, 1900 was recorded by a visiting census enumerator, who also noted that the Searights had taken in a couple of William's cousins: 16-year-old Lyman Jackson and his 15-year-old brother Zedock.

Though Ewing Searight and his wife Elizabeth remained ensconced on their "home farm," they were unaccountably omitted from the 1900 Menallen Township census enumeration, as was their grandson Searight Ray McCormick—son of Rachel Searight and Charles J. McCormick—whom they had taken in as a newborn following his mother's death in 1882. Seventy-four-year-old Ewing Searight was still regarded as among Menallen Township's most prominent residents on February 26, 1902 when he and his 19-year-old grandson Searight traveled into Uniontown to transact some banking business. There Ewing suffered "the effects of a paralytic stroke," and died a few hours later at the home of his son-in-law Charles McCormick. Exercising astonishing foresight, Ewing had composed his last will and testament only a day earlier. In that document, he had directed that the Tavern property and adjoining buildings—nearly one-dozen structures in and around the village of Searights—be disposed of after his death as follows:

The Old Stone tavern House at Searights and the lot below the big stable and the large stable and the shed back to the partition and the two fields back of the said stone tavern house and two other houses on the same side of the national road and the meadow field below the farm house that has always bin used with the tavern house and also the field called the spring field and the little frame house on it and also the field called the stone quarry field on the road leading to the Upper Middletown I give to my son William J. Searight during his natural life. That is if he should die without having any lawful children but if he should have any lawful children I desire this property be divided equally between them or if he should have but one child it goes to it. . . .

. . . In case that my son William J. Searight should die without having any children I desire that this property all goes to my grandson Searight McCormick. . . . [I also] give to my grandson Searight Ray McCormick the following described property to wit: The store room and ware house with six feet of all round said building and ware house also I give him the white frame house across the pike the house I now live in and the corn crib and granary and scales with scales lot also give him the back part of the stable and



*The backside of a federal highway shield (lower lefthand corner) signals that this eastward view of the former Searight Tavern building was recorded after the National Road was incorporated into the new nation-spanning "U.S. Route 40" in 1925.*



*This photograph of the former Searight Tavern and neighboring general store must have been taken after 1914 (the date of the obviously earlier Earle Robert Forrest photograph on **page 21**) and before the incorporation of the National Road into U.S. Route 40 in 1925.*

shed from the partition back. Also all the lot back of the stable adjoining the scales lot. I make it as plane as I can so that there will be no trouble about it he will have the front gate to go in to his shed and stable. Also give him the stone house and the lot with stable and blacksmith shop and the big wagon maker shop an old abandoned house and lot with the apple trees on it also the brick shoemaker shop adjoining the white frame house also give him the big stone house up by the church called the Murphy house and the field along the pike adjoining the stone house also the field back of that called the locus grove field and also the two fields back of the stone house and one other small field adjoining said house this property.

In commentary offered to Dr. Michael nearly seven decades later, Searight McCormick would maintain that at the time of his grandfather Ewing's death, "several buildings [near the Tavern], including the blacksmith's shop, shoemaker's

shop, and the wagonmaker's shop, were deteriorating. They continued to decay while Ewing's wife Elizabeth lived, and by the time of her death [in January 1915] . . . the buildings were collapsing wrecks."

### **The McCormick-Rogers era**

Having conditionally inherited the Tavern property upon his father's death, William J. Searight appears to have moved with his wife Jennie to the family's nearby "home farm." This would be their address on April 21, 1910, according to a census enumeration conducted on that day. It is unclear who, if anyone, occupied the Tavern building following William and Jennie Searight's departure. Searight McCormick would report that by 1915 "the tavern building was being used as a residence by [my] brother and his wife, Ruth L. and George E. McCormick." No persons by those names were identified in Menallen Township census enumerations conducted in 1910 and 1920, however. Nor was anyone with

the McCormick surname identified in the dozen "Searights Cross Roads" households enumerated in the latter census.

Elizabeth Searight died on January 9, 1915, and her son William passed away—apparently leaving no biological heirs—within the next decade. Under the conditions of Ewing Searight's will, Searight McCormick thus inherited the Tavern property and most, if not all, of the remaining village of Searights. By a deed dated May 7, 1924, he and his wife Carrie—having moved to Uniontown—conveyed the Tavern building on a 56.38-acre tract to Searight's brother and sister-in-law, George and Ruth McCormick. The new owners would occupy the Tavern building for a while before the onset of America's Great Depression. They were living in Menallen Township in May 1924 when they acquired the Tavern property, but they moved to Shenandoah County, Virginia, within the next three years. On May 3, 1927, after their relocation to Virginia, the McCormicks conveyed the Tavern building on a reduced parcel of only 23.85 acres to 39-year-old Uniontown grocer Earl Rogers and his wife Gertrude. The Rogerses remained in Uniontown for at least three years following this acquisition (they were still living in the Fayette County Seat when a census enumeration was conducted on April 4, 1930), but sometime during the 1930s they moved to Menallen Township and "used the tavern building as a residence," according to Searight McCormick. In "Searights Village" their neighbors might have included members of the the Shumer, Dora, Jerns,

and McKay households, as recorded in an April 11, 1930 census enumeration (**below**).

On April 21, 1939, Earl and Gertrude Rogers purchased back from Cardale resident Frank Mandinec a 12.65-acre piece of the Tavern parcel north of the former Tavern building that they had conveyed to him a decade earlier. This acquisition restored the Tavern parcel to 23.85 acres. Around this time, according to Searight McCormick, the Rogerses "installed a furnace" in the former Tavern building. Sometime the following winter—1939-40—the furnace "overheated, setting the building ablaze. After the ensuing fire only a partial stone shell remained. The Rogerses retained ownership of the property, though" for almost two more decades.

Upon his death on April 4, 1958, 70-year-old Earl Rogers was identified in a Connellsville newspaper as a resident "of Searights, [and a] former Uniontown grocer and proprietor of Rogers Kennels for many years." A year-and-a-half after his passing, Earl's widow Gertrude conveyed the Searight Tavern property to Pittsburgh residents Theodore A. Wallace and his wife Emma. The Wallaces appear to have done little or nothing to maintain or improve the site of the Tavern ruins. When Dr. Ron Michael and his California State College Archaeological Field School students arrived in the spring of 1970 to investigate the site, they found the Tavern's stone ruins swaddled in "30 years of honeysuckle, poison ivy, and locust growth."

"Searights Village" Residents in April 1930 (Menallen Township Census)

No.	Household No.	Name	Relation	Sex	Age	Mar.	W.	H.	C.	I.	P.	Place of Birth			Occupation	Home	Notes			
												Pa.	Ill.	Other						
30	261 263	Shumer Charles	Head	R	12							Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania	67		yes	Laborer	Coal Mine	
31		Margaret	Wife - H									Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania	55		yes	none		
32		Roy George	Step Son									Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania	28		yes	Laborer	Public Road	
33		Shaw Gladys	Sister									Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania	52		yes	none		
34		Edgar	Niece									Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania	27		yes	none		
35	262 266	Dora Elizabeth	Head	O	6000	R						Italy	Italy	Italy	29 29	1905	no	yes	none	
36		William	Son									Pennsylvania	Italy	Italy	21 21		yes	Barber	Barber Shop	
37		Eugene	Son									Pennsylvania	Italy	Italy	22 22		yes	Barber	Barber Shop	
38		Catherine	Sister									Pennsylvania	Italy	Italy	23 23		yes	none		
39		Anthony	Brother in law									Italy	Italy	Italy	24 24	1913	no	yes	Blacksmith	Coal Plant
40	263 267	Jenna George	Head	O	2000	R						Pennsylvania	Austria	Austria	57 16		yes	Caretaker	Public Service	
41		August	Brother									Pennsylvania	Austria	Austria	36 14		yes	Mechanic	Garage	
42		Oliver	Brother									Pennsylvania	Austria	Austria	57 14		yes	none		
43		Nicholas	Brother									Pennsylvania	Austria	Austria	58 16		yes	none		
44		Anna	Sister									Pennsylvania	Austria	Austria	59 16		yes	none		
45		Mary	Sister									Pennsylvania	Austria	Austria	57 16		yes	House		
46	264 268	McCoy Joseph	Head	O	3000	R						Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania	57		yes	Laborer	House Foundation	
47		Rella	Wife - H									Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania	37		yes	none		
48		Katherine	Sister									Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania	38		yes	none		
49		Margaret	Sister									Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania	57		yes	none		
50		Willie	Son									Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania	57		yes	none		

## The Shaw Family: From Searights to Obscurity

The Shaw Site was identified by CHRS archaeologists as a former residential locus within a two-acre tax parcel on the northeast side of Hatfield Road, two-thirds of a mile north of the Searight Tavern Site. Vacant and visited only by grazing cattle for half-a-century before construction of the Mon/Fayette Expressway commenced in 2006, the diamond-shaped parcel had been set off from the surrounding farmland in 1855 by Menallen Township resident William Shaw, according to deed records. Looking deeper into the historic record, CHRS researchers soon recognized this pioneer as none other than “Wagoner Billy” Shaw, one-time proprietor of the Searight Tavern.

Before Shaw arrived on the scene with several other members of his family, these two acres constituted the southern tip of a 46-acre tract owned from 1799 to 1827 by David and Rebecca Stephens, from 1827 to 1833 by Samuel Veil (sometimes spelled “Vael”), from 1833 to 1848 by Job Wheatly, and from 1848 to 1855 by James and Margaret McKay. The tract was situated on the north side of a late-eighteenth-century highway extending from Uniontown to Brownsville. The opening of the National Road through a corridor one-half mile to the southwest in 1818-19 rendered this road obsolete. On a survey map of several Menallen Township roads prepared in June 1821 (**page 11**), the former highway was denoted by a dashed line labeled “Turnpike, now abandoned.” A comparison of this survey map with modern maps reveals that a 1,600-foot section of the abandoned road was later incorporated into Hatfield Road. The vacated portion of the old turnpike north and west of the Shaw Site (principally in eastern Redstone Township) was eventually reclaimed for agricultural use.

The 1821 survey map also showed a road crossing the abandoned turnpike near the southern tip of the 46-acre tract owned during the first quarter of the nineteenth century by David and

Rebecca Stephens. Extending from the northern Menallen Township settlement of Middletown southwestward to eastern Redstone Township, this connector was described on the 1821 map as formerly “part of a State road.” In western Menallen Township, the former roadway passed through the southern tip of the Stephens tract, near a dwelling apparently attributed by the 1821 surveyor to “G. Clashore” (CHRS researchers were unable to locate any evidence of a “Clashore” or similarly-named person in this vicinity). The purpose of the 1821 survey was to document both the alignment and the abandonment of the former “State road” in favor of a road recently laid out farther to the southeast. The new “State road” would be known to later generations as “Upper Middletown Road.” The 1821 map thus reveals that the two roads intersecting near the southern tip of the Stephens tract—the “old Turnpike” and the old “State road”—were largely, if not entirely, abandoned as public roads by June 1821. They may have continued to function as private roads as long as they remained passable.

As noted above, the Stephens tract was subsequently owned by Samuel Veil, then by Job Wheatly, and from 1848 to 1855 by James and Margaret McKay. This tract may have been part of a farm, but it is not known (and it may no longer be possible to determine) if any buildings were ever located in the portion of the tract later included in the Shaw Site. While data provided on mid-nineteenth-century maps must be regarded as suggestive rather than indisputably accurate, it is worth noting that the preparer of an 1858 Menallen Township map did not denote any structures on or immediately adjacent to the Shaw Site (**page 15**). The residence of farmer James McKay—who had owned the tract embracing the Shaw Site for seven of the previous ten years—was denoted on this map approximately 3,500 feet northeast of the future Shaw Site, along the

east side of the new “State road” (i.e., present-day Upper Middletown Road).

### William Shaw’s 1855 acquisitions

On March 26, 1855, James and Margaret McKay sold a one-acre piece of their 46-acre tract to Menallen Township resident William Shaw for \$150. While no landmarks or other cultural features were mentioned in the accompanying deed, the metes and bounds description delineated a diamond-shaped parcel whose southern tip can be located with certainty on the north side of present-day Hatfield Road (only a portion of which had been laid out as of 1855; Shaw’s acquisition is denoted with a red dotted line superimposed on a 1938 aerial photograph **opposite**). The abandoned “State road” extending southwestward from Upper Middletown ran along the southeast side of Shaw’s one-acre parcel, and may have even passed through its southern tip.

On the same day that Shaw acquired this parcel, the McKays conveyed the remainder of their 46-acre tract to Menallen Township residents Alexander and Sarah Cannon. This conveyance is noteworthy in that William Shaw was moved nine months later (on December 20, 1855) to acquire from the Cannons a one-acre, V-shaped piece of this tract abutting the northeast and northwest sides of his diamond-shaped parcel. Shaw paid the Cannons only \$33 for this land, suggesting it was much less valuable than the parcel acquired from the McKays. The deed data suggest that Shaw was not entirely satisfied with the one-acre parcel he acquired in March 1855, so he doubled the size of his property by acquiring an adjoining piece of ground nine months later (the second parcel is denoted with a yellow dotted line on the 1938 aerial photograph **opposite**). Shaw may have wanted this additional land because it included a water source, such as a spring. It would have been difficult to sustain a residential property without a dependable source of potable water nearby. The additional land also gave Shaw more room for raising produce and pasturing livestock.

Menallen Township census enumerations conducted in 1850 and 1860 indicate that William Shaw had been born in Pennsylvania around

the turn of the nineteenth century, that he had married a woman named Margaret around 1830, and that he had raised with her at least five children: Sarah Jane (born around 1832); Rebecca (around 1833); Mary Anne (around 1834); John W. (around 1836); and Rachael (around 1841; her name was sometimes spelled “Rachel”). More exact birthdates for some of the Shaws—as well as data pertaining to a sixth Shaw child who died in infancy—were recorded on gravestones located in the Grace Episcopal Church cemetery, on the south side of the National Road, one-half mile southeast of the Searight Tavern. Calculating from the reported age of William Shaw at the time of his death, he must have been born around November 30, 1799. His wife Margaret had been born in 1801. The Shaws’ eldest daughter Rebecca had been born on August 6, 1831. Daughter Rachel had been born in August 1841, and was thus only “14 years, 1 month, and 20 days” old when she died on September 16, 1855. This was at least the second Shaw child to die prematurely. William and Margaret’s son Ishacar was only 2½ years old when he died on October 15, 1841. It would be reported elsewhere that Rebecca Shaw (born in August 1831) “lived her entire life in and near Searights,” and that her sister Mary Anne (who lived most of her adult life in Iowa) was born “in Searight” on August 10, 1837. These data strongly suggest that William and Margaret Shaw were residents of Fayette County’s Menallen Township at least as early as August 1831. Moreover, while the Shaw household was duly recorded in a Menallen Township census enumeration conducted in 1840, no Shaws were among the Township residents enumerated in 1820 and 1830. It thus appears that the Shaw family moved to Menallen Township in late 1830 or early 1831.

On agricultural schedules compiled in the summer of 1850, William Shaw was identified as the owner of a 60-acre farm in Menallen Township. The farm’s population of livestock—4 horses, 2 dairy cows, 2 other cattle, 8 sheep, and 7 swine—was typical for a mid-sized Fayette County farm of the mid-nineteenth century. Land records on file at the Fayette County Recorder of Deeds Office provide no evidence pertaining to

The boundaries of William Shaw's two land acquisitions in 1855 are superimposed on an aerial photograph of the Shaw Site vicinity taken in 1938. The red dotted line delineates the one-acre parcel acquired by Shaw on March 26, 1855. The Shaw residence was located in the southern tip of this parcel. The yellow dotted line delineates the second one-acre parcel, acquired on December 20, 1855. The Shaw property would embrace these two acres for more than a century.



the location of the Shaw farm in 1850. According to the County's Grantor-Grantee Index, the earliest conveyance of Menallen Township real estate to William Shaw did not take place until March 1855. Moreover, no residences or tracts of land denoted on the 1858 Menallen Township map were attributed to William Shaw or anyone else with his surname. Nevertheless, data recorded on 1850 census schedules suggest that the Shaws were then living somewhere in the vicinity of Searights. The family's immediate neighbors in 1850 were identified as the families of Jeremiah Piersell, Samuel McCollister, James McKay, John Grabel, James Grabel, and Mathias Hess. As reflected on the 1858 Menallen Township map (page 15), as well as a Township map published seven years later, all of these families lived within a half-mile of the future Shaw Site.

### "Wagoner Billy" Shaw

While William Shaw was identified on 1850 Menallen Township population and agricultural schedules as a farmer owning and occupying a 60-acre farm, his historian neighbor T.B. Searight would report in *The Old Pike* that Shaw made his living during the second quarter of the nineteenth century principally as a "wagoner" (a.k.a. drover or teamster), transporting goods along the Na-

tional Road. Searight referred to "Wagoner Billy Shaw" three times in his history of the National Road. Concerning drover John Ferren, Searight noted that "at the close of active business on the [National] road, and while yet under the influence of its ancient grandeur, [Ferren] married a daughter of 'Wagoner Billy Shaw' and with his newly-wedded wife went to Iowa." In a passage pertaining to proprietors of the Searight Tavern, Searight reported that "after the death of Joseph Gray [in January 1851] the house was kept first by William Shaw, known as 'Tavern Keeper Billy,' and after him by William Shaw, known as 'Wagoner Billy.' These two Shaws were not of kin." Searight also published in *The Old Pike* a likeness of the latter William Shaw (page 28), noting that the subject's nickname was "Wagoner Billy."

Wagoner Billy's brief and apparently unfulfilling term as Searight Tavern proprietor in the mid-1850s was summarized in the preceding Tavern history (pages 18-19). To review, the 53- or 54-year-old Shaw laid down his drover's reins and donned an innkeeper's apron either late in 1853 or early in 1854, for reasons that have not been discovered. He may have done so simply as a favor to brothers T.B. and Ewing Searight, who were anxious to find a replacement for departing lessee "Tavern Keeper Billy" Shaw. The earliest evidence of Wagoner Billy's assumption of duties





This portrait of “Wagoner Billy” Shaw was published in *The Old Pike* in 1894, 34 years after the former Searight Tavern proprietor’s death.

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at “Searight’s Stand” was a tavern license petition published under his name in the February 2, 1854 edition of Uniontown’s *Genius of Liberty*:

To the Honorable the Judges of the Court of Quarter Sessions of Fayette county to March term 1854:

The petition of the undersigned respectfully sheweth, that he is desirous of keeping an Inn or Tavern at “Searight’s old stand,” in Menallen township; and that he is well provided with everything necessary to accommodate the public and entertain strangers and travelers. He therefore prays your Honors to grant him a license, and he will ever pray, &c. WM. SHAW.

The undersigned, citizens of Menallen township, do certify that William Shaw, the above petitioner, is of good repute for honesty and temperance; is well provided with house, room, and stabling; and that the house for which he prays a license

is necessary to accommodate the public and entertain strangers and travelers.

Taylor Jeffries, Jas. Allison, John Ferren, Hugh Keys, Joseph Johnson, William Crabb, Ewing Searight, Joseph Wagoner, George Harlord, Peter Frasher, Reason Frost, John Yardley, Perry Gaddis.

Most, if not all, of the men who testified on this occasion to Wagoner Billy’s good reputation lived in and around the village of Searights. John Ferren (**facing page**), who had driven “a six-horse team on the road many years for William Searight, and [would be] remembered as a careful and discreet driver and an honest and industrious man” (according to T.B. Searight), may even have been engaged to Shaw’s daughter Mary Ann as of February 1854. By the close of the following year, John Ferren and Mary Ann Shaw would have married and moved to a new home in Iowa. Their departure left Wagoner Billy head of a household comprising himself, his 53-year-old wife Margaret, and three children: 23-year-old Rebecca, 18-year-old John, and 13-year-old Rachel. Around the time her sister Mary Ann moved to the Midwest, Rachel died from an unrecorded cause. Her death occurred on September 16, 1855, according to her gravestone in the Grace Episcopal Cemetery. One wonders if this untimely passing and the departure of newlywed Mary Ann contributed to Wagoner Billy’s decision to retire from tavern-keeping after only two or three years on the job, and how or if these developments related to his purchase in March and December 1855 of adjoining one-acre parcels north of Searights. It is also possible that declining business on the National Road—fallout from the opening of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad between Cumberland, Maryland and Wheeling, West Virginia in January 1853—factored into Wagoner Billy’s retirement.

## Genesis of the Shaw Site

As 1856 dawned, William Shaw turned his attention from the Searight Tavern—where Henry Clay Rush had just assumed proprietorship—to his newly-acquired two-acre parcel along Hatfield Road, and the cultivation of what twenty-first-century archaeologists would designate “the Shaw Site.” Menallen Township tax records reveal that Shaw began paying tax in 1856 on a house and lot (“H&L”) valued at \$75. This payment was added to payments he had been making for at least six years on a 58-acre farm, of which he was now described as the “landlord.” For the few remaining years of his life, Shaw would pay taxes on his Hatfield Road “house and lot” as well as the farm he apparently leased (perhaps to a family member). Census data compiled on June 8, 1860 indicate that at least by that date 60-year-old Shaw was living on his Hatfield Road property (i.e., on the Shaw Site) with his 55-year-old wife Margaret and unmarried adult children Rebecca (27) and John (23) (an image of the pertinent census schedule page is reproduced on **page 30**). Twenty-eight-year-old Sarah Jane Shaw had married Menallen Township farm laborer Benjamin Osborne the previous year, and had moved with him to a home closer to Upper Middletown (after the birth of several children, the Osbornes would pack up and move westward to a farming community near Mound City, Kansas).

William Shaw reported to the census enumerator in June 1860 that he was making his living as a farmer, and his son John was employed as a “farm laborer.” At least some of this farming must have occurred off-site, as the two-acre Shaw lot along Hatfield Road provided limited agricultural opportunities. Indeed, tax records reveal that William Shaw’s livestock amounted in 1860 to no more than two horses and three cows.

## Widow Shaw

Seven weeks after the census enumerator’s visit to the Shaw home along Hatfield Road—with Wagoner Billy just a few months shy of what would have been his 61st birthday—the longtime drover and short-term innkeeper died. The date

of Shaw’s death—July 29, 1860—was recorded on his gravestone in the Grace Episcopal Cemetery (**page 31**), but the circumstances of his relatively early demise have not been discovered (the passing of a well-known Menallen Township personality may well have been reported in Uniontown’s *Genius of Liberty*, but microfilmed collections of mid-nineteenth-century issues of this newspaper do not include editions published in 1860). Wagoner Billy appears to have died intestate, as on September 23, 1860 an Orphans’ Court took up the business of settling his estate. This work was not concluded until two years later, during the September 16, 1862 Orphans’ Court term. Entered into the record on that occasion was a “Wm. Shaw Acct. Book,” which indicated that Shaw’s personal estate amounted to \$632.98. After various amounts owed to 22 creditors were subtracted from this amount, along with several amounts associated with the advertised sale of some of Shaw’s personal goods, his estate was left with \$359.78.



*National Road drover John Ferren married William and Margaret Shaw’s daughter Mary Anne around 1854. Shortly after their marriage, the Ferrens moved to Iowa, and lived the remainder of their lives there. This portrait of John Ferren was published in The Old Pike.*

A Menallen Township tax assessor noted in 1861 that William Shaw was now “deceased,” and that the taxes on his Hatfield Road property and 58-acre farm had been paid by an unidentified member of the family. Throughout the remainder of the 1860s, William’s widow Margaret was assessed for her ownership of the Hatfield Road house and lot (along with a horse and a cow), while son John paid the “landlord’s part” of the farm’s taxes. John married a woman named Elizabeth during the 1860s, and began raising a family with her in March 1864, when son William was born. A second son, Jasper P., joined the family in December 1866. When Menallen Township’s next decennial census was conducted—in July 1870—the enumerator noted that John Shaw, his wife Elizabeth, and their two sons were living in a house near the dwelling occupied by widow Margaret Shaw and her unmarried “seamstress” daughter Rebecca (as recorded on a gravestone in the Grace Episcopal Cemetery, a third child born to John and Elizabeth—a girl named Violet—had died eight months earlier, midway between her first and second birthdays). The location of John and Elizabeth Shaw’s home in 1870 has not been definitively determined. On a map of Menallen Township published in 1872, a single dwelling—attributed to “Mrs. Shaw”—was denoted on the Shaw Site (page 5). Only two other dwellings were denoted on this map within a half-mile of the Shaw residence in Menallen Township, and they were attributed to Jeremiah Piersel and Mrs. M. VanKirk. John Shaw was not

identified as the owner of any Menallen Township dwelling. A house along the north side of Hatfield Road approximately 1,600 feet west of the “Mrs. Shaw” residence—across the Township line in Redstone Township—was attributed to “B. Colley” on a map of Redstone Township also published in 1872 (page 5). Deed records indicate that, following the Civil War, Brownfield Colley owned a 108.5-acre farm immediately west of the Shaw Site, and that in 1872 he conveyed a triangle-shaped, one-acre piece of this farm abutting the Shaw property to Phoebe Jane Haney, wife of Menallen Township farmer William Haney. The small size of this parcel, and its loca-

Members of the William Shaw household (highlighted in yellow) are enumerated on a Menallen Township census schedule compiled on June 8, 1860.

Page No. 10

SCHEDULE 1—Free Inhabitants in Menallen Township in the County of Wayne State of Pa enumerated by me, on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of June 1860. Asst. Marshal

Post Office Upper Meriden

1	2	3	4			7	8		10	11	12	13	14
			4	5	6		8	9					
Age	Sex	Name	Color	Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each person, male and female, over 15 years of age.	Value of Real Estate.	Value of Personal Estate.	Place of Birth, Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, lame, idiotic, pauper, or convict.					
1	a	John Shaw	M										
2	a	Elizabeth Shaw	F										
3	a	William Shaw	M										
4	a	John Shaw	M										
5	a	Elizabeth Shaw	F										
6	a	Margaret Shaw	F										
7	a	Rebecca Shaw	F										
8	a	John Shaw	M										
9	a	Elizabeth Shaw	F										
10	a	William Shaw	M										
11	a	John Shaw	M										
12	a	Elizabeth Shaw	F										
13	a	William Shaw	M										
14	a	John Shaw	M										
15	a	Elizabeth Shaw	F										
16	a	Margaret Shaw	F										
17	a	Rebecca Shaw	F										
18	a	John Shaw	M										
19	a	Elizabeth Shaw	F										
20	a	William Shaw	M										
21	a	John Shaw	M										
22	a	Elizabeth Shaw	F										
23	a	William Shaw	M										
24	a	John Shaw	M										
25	a	Elizabeth Shaw	F										
26	a	Margaret Shaw	F										
27	a	Rebecca Shaw	F										
28	a	John Shaw	M										
29	a	Elizabeth Shaw	F										
30	a	William Shaw	M										
31	a	John Shaw	M										
32	a	Elizabeth Shaw	F										
33	a	William Shaw	M										
34	a	John Shaw	M										
35	a	Elizabeth Shaw	F										
36	a	Margaret Shaw	F										
37	a	Rebecca Shaw	F										
38	a	John Shaw	M										
39	a	Elizabeth Shaw	F										
40	a	William Shaw	M										

40



**Left:** William Shaw’s gravestone in the Grace Episcopal cemetery asserts that Shaw died on July 29, 1860, at the age of 60 years, 7 months, and 29 days. Based on these data, Shaw must have been born a month before calendars flipped from 1799 to 1800. Shaw’s body was laid to rest on a hilltop overlooking the church he had attended most of his adult life (**below**, now housing an antiques shop), along the south side of the National Road. Visible from the church was the wooded knoll (indicated by arrow) roughly a mile to the north that overlooked the Shaw residence along Hatfield Road.



tion on the north side of Hatfield Road adjoining Margaret Shaw’s property, suggests its intended use as a residential lot similar to the Shaws’. Perhaps John Shaw and his family already occupied a house there through an agreement with Brownfield Colley and/or the Haneys. This likelihood is strengthened by 1870 census data identifying John and Elizabeth Shaw’s family as house-renters living next-door to Margaret and Rebecca Shaw. Additional evidence of John Shaw’s connection to the Haney parcel was entered into the record in 1880 and 1884. On the earlier occasion, John Shaw and his family were identified on census schedules as neighbors of Margaret and Rebecca Shaw (John and Elizabeth’s brood of children had increased by one with the birth of a daughter, Grace, in July 1872). Then, in 1884, a deed was drawn up documenting John Shaw’s acquisition of the Haney parcel.

Eighty-year-old “Widow Shaw” was still occupying a house on the Shaw Site in June 1880 when a Menallen Township census enumerator paid her a visit. Margaret’s only housemate at this time was her 39-year-old, unmarried daughter Rebecca, mistakenly identified by the enumerator as

Margaret’s “sister.” Both women were said to be engaged in “keeping house.” Margaret reported on this occasion that both of her parents had been born in New Jersey (an obituary for Rebecca would later assert that Margaret’s maiden name had been “FitzGerald”). Margaret also acknowledged to the enumerator her inability to read and write.

### **Third generation on the Shaw Site**

As recorded on her gravestone in the Grace Episcopal Cemetery, Margaret Shaw died on January 24, 1885, “in the 84th year of her age.” Her 53-year-old daughter Rebecca was left as the sole resident of the Shaw Site. Sometime during the next 15 years, Rebecca’s nephew William Allison Shaw (son of John and Elizabeth) moved in with her, perhaps after his marriage to a 16-year-old girl named Ida around 1895. As of June 1900, the Shaw Site was home to 36-year-old carpenter William A. Shaw, his 20-year-old wife Ida, the couple’s two children—3-year-old Emmitt (sometimes spelled “Emmett”) and 1-year-old Edith—as well as 67-year-old Rebecca. Ida Shaw must have been

well into her third pregnancy when the enumerator visited the Shaw residence, as she gave birth to a third child just a few weeks afterward. Tragically, as recorded on yet another gravestone in the Grace Episcopal Cemetery, this “infant son of Wm. & Ida Shaw” died on September 2, 1900.

Living next-door to William A. Shaw’s household in June 1900 were William’s father John and the remaining members of the immediate Shaw family. Time had wrought dramatic changes in this household. John’s first wife, Elizabeth (the mother of William and Jasper), appears to have died shortly after giving birth to twin sons on September 30, 1871. The infant boys themselves lived only three days (as recorded on their gravestones in the Grace Episcopal Cemetery). Around 1878, John Shaw remarried, taking Emma C. Brock of nearby Smock as his new bride. Emma bore to John four additional children—Clayton (on January 28, 1879); Ira (February 24, 1881); Mary (May 19, 1886); and Katherine (“Katie”; August 13, 1888). By June 1900, the blended Shaw household comprised—in addition to parents John and Emma—33-year-old bachelor and day laborer Jasper; 19-year-old Ira (an engineer in a sawmill), 14-year-old Mary; and 11-year-old Katie. Grace Shaw (Jasper’s biological sister) had married farm laborer Ewing Lape in 1893, and was living with him and the couple’s two children in neighboring Franklin Township. Clayton Shaw (the eldest of Emma’s biological children) had recently come of age and moved to Charleroi, Washington County, where he was employed as a clerk in a grocery store.

Rebecca Shaw had been suffering from tuberculosis for 2½ years when the census enumerator visited the Shaw households along Hatfield Road on June 11, 1900. Her health continued to decline in the following months, and she passed away in the final hour of 1901. An obituary published on the front page of Uniontown’s *Daily News Standard* several weeks later read as follows:

Miss Rebecca Shaw died Tuesday, December 31, 1901 at 11 p.m. at her home near Searights of consumption. Miss Shaw was a daughter of the late William and Margaret (FitzGerald) Shaw and lived her

entire life in and near Searights. She had been a weary but patient sufferer for four years. Her death has ended a very beautiful and useful life; a life of good deeds, of patient self-sacrifice and loving care of others. Two sisters, Mrs. Mary A. Ferren of Iowa and Mrs. Sarah J. Osborne of Kansas, survive her, also other relatives. On Thursday, January 2, 1902, her remains were laid to rest in Grace church cemetery.

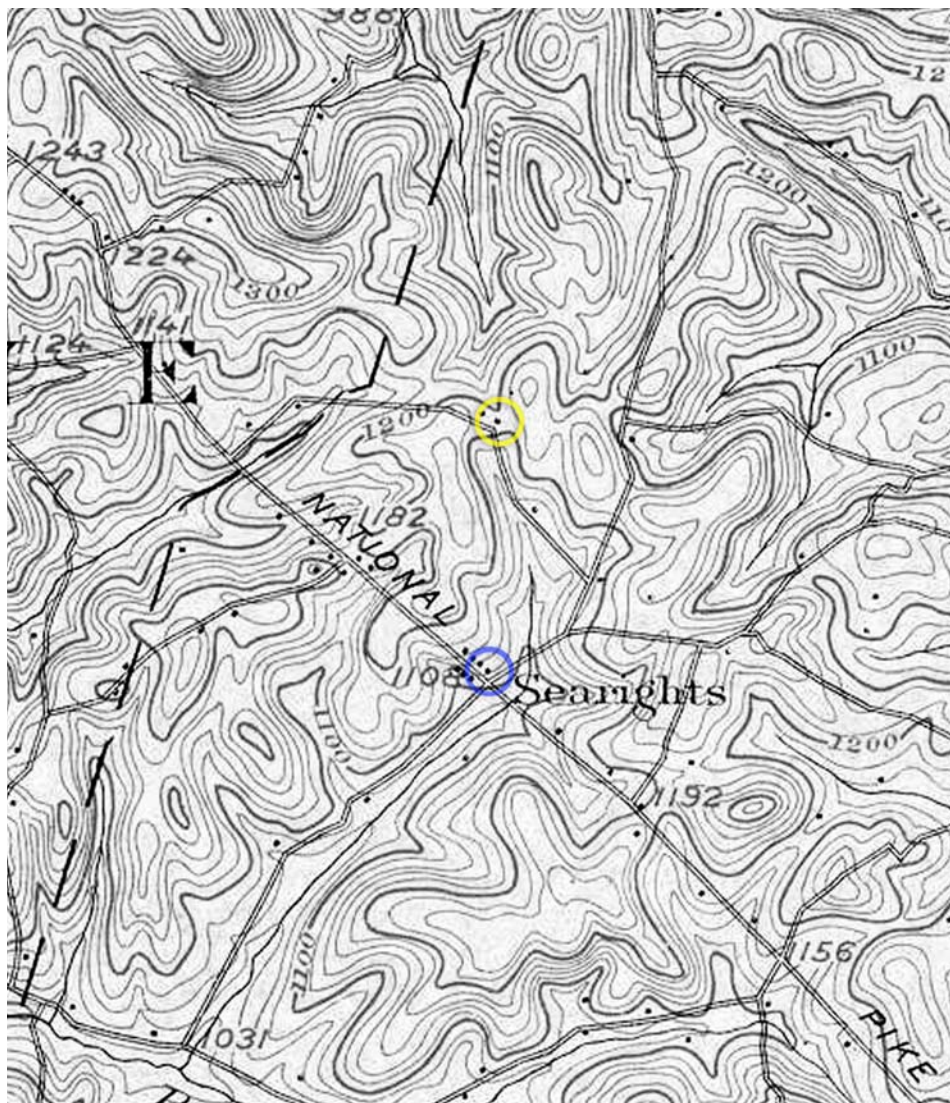
On a map of Fayette County published in 1901, a single unattributed dwelling was denoted on the Shaw Site (**page 8**). No structures were depicted on the smaller lot to the west, owned by bachelor Jasper Shaw since 1895, and soon to be conveyed to his brother William and sister-in-law Ida. By a deed dated December 9, 1908, three “heirs at law” of “Wagoner Billy” and Margaret Shaw—76-year-old Sarah Jane Osborne of Mound City, Kansas, along with William and George Ferren of Plano, Iowa (children of now-deceased Mary Anne Shaw and John Ferren)—conveyed their interests in the two-acre Shaw Site lot to the fourth surviving heir: 71-year-old John W. Shaw. The latter compensated his fellow heirs \$450 each for their interests. Four months later, on March 31, 1909, John W. Shaw’s son William and his wife Ida conveyed the adjoining parcel to the west to Albert Nevin Truxal, their 24-year-old son-in-law. A native of Greensburg, Pennsylvania, Truxal had married Katie Shaw on October 19, 1906. Albert and Katie’s first child—a boy named Glenn, born on March 2, 1908—had died after only two weeks of life. Katie was five months pregnant with her second child when Albert acquired the parcel adjoining the Shaw Site. This pregnancy resulted in the birth of little Randall Shaw in the summer of 1909.

On census schedules compiled in April 1910, no fewer than four Shaw households were enumerated along Hatfield Road. One household comprised the family of 46-year-old general farmer William A. Shaw, his wife Ida, and their children Emmit, Edith, Jasper, and William. The next enumerated household and dwelling was that of 26-year-old Nevin Truxal, his 21-year-old wife Katherine, and the couple’s infant son

Randall. Nevin was employed as a bookkeeper at the “Keister Works,” a plant operated by the A.L. Keister Coal and Coke Company less than a mile east of the Shaw Site. Living alone in a nearby dwelling was 73-year-old widower John Shaw (engaged in “odd jobs”), and beside him lived his 42-year-old bachelor son Jasper, a “laborer on the National Pike.” Where these four households were accommodated in relation to the Shaw Site has not been determined.

Over the course of the next few years, William and Ida Shaw divorced, Nevin and Katherine Truxal moved to Greensburg, and Edith Shaw married coal miner Walter J. Schimansky, the Connellsville-born son of German immigrants Karl and Wilhelmina Schimansky. All of these events may have occurred after John Shaw’s death on March 15, 1914, and the subsequent compli-

cated settling of his estate. John did not leave a valid will, so it was up to an Orphans’ Court to sort out his assets and debts. The Court appointed Nevin Truxal to administer his father-in-law’s final estate, and with the help of several former neighbors around Searights, the Greensburg resident determined that John Shaw died with \$214.56 in assets. In the course of presenting his findings to an Orphans’ Court in the summer of 1916, Truxal testified that Shaw was in possession at the time of his death of “an acre or two” (“I do not remember exactly”) in Menallen Township, and this lot was equipped with “an old log house” (“it isn’t fit to be occupied”) and “a small stable too, not in very good condition.” From its purported age and composition, the “old log house” had probably accommodated the earliest occupants of the Shaw Site.



*On a detail of a USGS topographic quadrangle published in 1900, dots representing the Shaw residence and the former Searight Tavern are circled in yellow and blue, respectively.*



### **“A one story shanty and one old log house”**

The disposition of the Shaw Site in the years immediately following John Shaw’s death is unclear. The settlement of Shaw’s estate was apparently delayed when George W. Morris filed suit against it. On the basis of this suit, the two-acre Shaw parcel was seized by Fayette County Sheriff J.Q. Adams on March 30, 1926. The parcel had been vacated by that time, with recently-divorced William Shaw moving first with his son Jasper into the home of Walter Schimansky’s parents along Upper Middletown Road (they were there

during the January 1920 census enumeration), and around 1925 with sons Jasper and Emmit into Edith and Walter Schimansky’s home in the Homewood Terrace section of North Union Township, at the eastern end of Uniontown. The Menallen Township parcel remained in the Shaw family, however, as the Sheriff ended up selling it in March 1926 to Edith and Walter Schimansky for \$146.74. In the accompanying deed, the two-acre property was described as containing “a one story shanty and one old log house.” Aerial photographs of the Shaw Site taken in 1938, 1951, and 1959 would record the presence of a low,

rectangular structure surrounded by trees and bushes a few steps east of the “old log house’s” cellar hole. Roy H. Schimonsky, a grandson of Edith and Walter Schimansky, would confirm for CHRS researchers in 2005 the location of this residential, single-story structure, which he referred to as a “bungalow.”

Edith and Walter Schimansky owned the Shaw Site parcel with its “one story shanty” and “old log house” for a few years before selling it to Edith’s father William on November 4, 1929. By that time, William had been living with his daughter’s family for about four years, and was on his way to establishing himself as a “widely known resident of Homewood Terrace” (according to an article in Uniontown’s *Morning Herald*). His neighbors came to know him as “an ardent advocate of prohibition, and strong in his denunciation of the liquor traffic and other present day evils. Having taken a pledge of total abstinence [around 1905], he devoted much of his time and energy in behalf of prohibition.” Shaw made his living

as a house-building carpenter through his mid-60s, then settled into “a more or less retired life” at the onset of America’s Great Depression. As a retiree, he “utilized much of his time to make mushball and baseball bats for the boys of the neighborhood.” In this way and others he “endeared himself in the hearts of the children and younger people of the community,” and “would usually be found where the younger people were playing ball or other games.”

In his early 70s, William Shaw began “suffering from senile arterio-sclerosis, a condition in which there is a hardening of the brain,” according to a newspaper account. His ownership of the Shaw Site parcel came to an unhappy end on Thanksgiving Day 1935, as he took his own life in an upstairs bedroom of his daughter’s Uniontown house. He was buried several days later in the Grace Episcopal Cemetery, alongside numerous members of his family. Through his will, William Shaw devised \$1 each to his sons Emmit, Jasper, and William. To granddaughter Constance

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**Facing page:** *On an aerial photograph taken on May 14, 1951, the cellar hole of the “old log house” and the roof of the neighboring shanty are visible on the Shaw Site (inset detail).*

**Below:** *A row of stones in the Grace Episcopal Church cemetery mark the graves of William Shaw (right), his wife Margaret (second from left), and three of their children: Rachel (left; died in September 1855, at age 14); Isachar (center, died in October 1841, at age 2½); and Rebecca (second from right; died in December 1901, at age 68).*





(“Connie”) Jean Schimonsky he left a “sack of coins.” “All the rest and residue of [his] estate, real, personal and mixed”—including his property along Hatfield Road in Menallen Township—he devised to his daughter Edith, whom he also named as the executrix of his will.

### The Shaw Site in latter years

Edith and Walter Schimansky owned the Shaw Site parcel for a dozen years after William Shaw’s death. As noted earlier, by the time an aerial photograph of western Menallen Township was taken on September 25, 1938, the “old log house” location was marked only by a cellar hole, while the “shanty” to the east was discernible as a rectangular roof fringed with foliage (page 27). The cellar hole and shanty roof remained visible on aerial photographs taken in 1951 (page 34) and 1959, but only the filled-in cellar hole was apparent on aerial photographs taken in 1967 and 1975. Roy Schimonsky has reported that the “bungalow” was occupied for a number of years in the mid-twentieth century by his parents, William F. and Mary Schimansky. Indeed, county records reflect the conveyance by Edith and Walter Schimansky of the two-acre Shaw Site parcel to their son William and his wife Mary on September 9, 1947. The new owners held the property for the next four decades, during which period the bungalow was either moved or razed, leaving no above-ground structures on the Shaw Site. Following William Schimansky’s death in September 1970, and his widow’s passing in September 1986, the Shaw Site parcel was inherited by their sole heir, son Roy Schimonsky, living in Brownsville with his wife Rose. On July 13, 1995, Roy and Rose Schimonsky conveyed the Shaw Site parcel to adjoining-farm-owner Victoria L. Yoder. Under Mrs. Yoder’s ownership, the parcel continued its latter-day service as pastureland—until CHRS archaeologists came calling in the summer of 2001.



*Photographs of the Shaw Site taken on August 4, 2004 record an early stage of Phase III fieldwork.*

**Above:** Orange fencing surrounds the cellar hole of the “old log house” in a panoramic view of the Shaw Site as seen from the western tip of the diamond-shaped Shaw parcel. Yellow caution tape encircles shovel test pits (STPs).

**Right:** A southwestward view of the Shaw Site reveals that the “old log house”—presumably the Site’s original dwelling—was located atop a knoll.







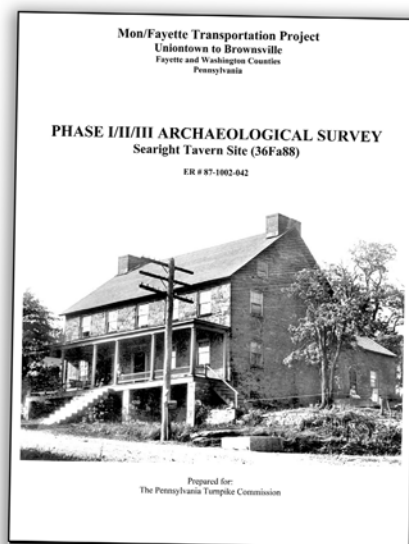
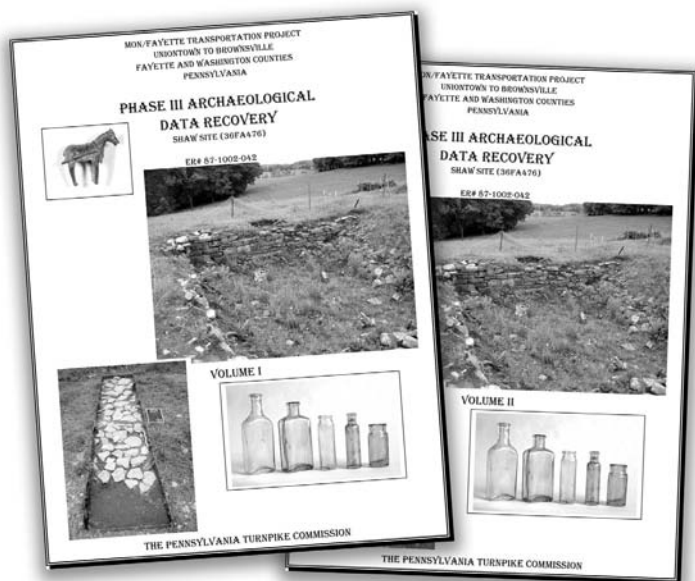
CHRS, Inc. field technicians at work on the Shaw Site in the summer of 2004 (top left; top right; bottom left), and on the Searight Tavern Site in the fall of 2005 (left; below).



## What the Ground Divulged

While CHRS historians collected data relating to the Searight Tavern and the Shaw family, the firm’s archaeologists proceeded with investigative fieldwork at the two sites. This work was conducted in phases over the course of several seasons, beginning in the summer of 2001 and concluding in the fall of 2005. The field technicians utilized similar excavation techniques on both sites, but they tailored their testing strategies to accommodate each Site’s peculiarities. The different testing strategies, and the field data resulting from them, were spelled out in separate reports: a two-volume, 370-page *Phase III Archaeological Data Recovery, Shaw Site (36Fa476)* report, submitted to the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (PTC) in February 2007 (**below**);

and a 246-page *Phase I/II/III Archaeological Survey, Searight Tavern Site (36Fa88)* report, submitted in June 2007 (**below right**). Beyond the Site histories prepared by CHRS’s Director of Research (reproduced in Chapter One of this publication), these expansive reports were filled with methodology descriptions, data tables, photographs of test units and features, test location maps, and long sections of analysis and discussion leaning heavily on technical terminology. For readers unfamiliar with archaeological jargon and disinclined to wade through pools of data, the highlights of “What the Ground Divulged” at the Searight Tavern Site and the Shaw Site are presented in the following pages in something closer to laymen’s language.



## Testing the Searight Tavern Site

In orienting themselves at the Searight Tavern Site in the summer of 2004, CHRS archaeologists were in the unusual position of picking up where an earlier archaeological team had left off. This state of affairs would be summarized in the *Phase I/II/III Archaeological Survey, Searight Tavern Site* report as follows:

The site was originally mapped, archaeologically tested, and recorded as “The Searight Tavern Site (36Fa88)” by the California State College Archaeological Field School (headed by Dr. Ronald L. Michael) in 1970. The site was slated to be graded by the property owner. The field school sought to collect as much information from the site as possible before it was disturbed by landscaping. . . . In the course of excavation, the tavern foundation was mapped and sketched. Porch supports, the front porch steps, and three fireplaces were still discernible, as were the margins of windows and rooms. A coat of plaster was found on the interior walls, directly over the mortared stones. Excavation efforts at the time focused on the search for outbuildings around the tavern. North of the tavern foundation were three adjoining outbuilding foundations associated with a large number of artifacts. One was a coal storage bunker and another may have been a smokehouse or a kitchen area. The third outbuilding was possibly an outdoor fireplace, or a baking oven.

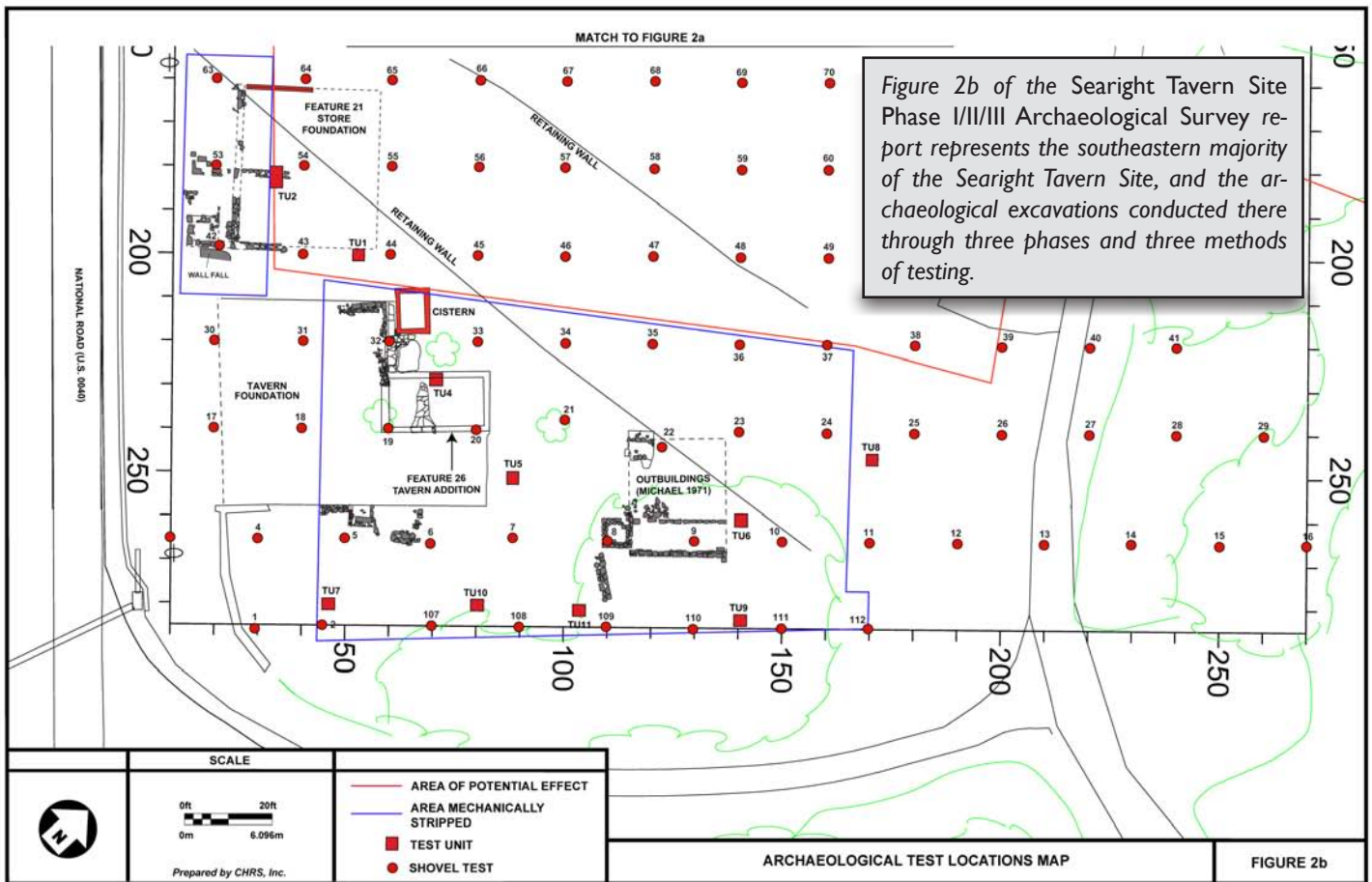
A large number of artifacts were recovered through the California State College excavations, including window glass, bottle glass, kaolin pipe fragments, buttons, coins, animal bones, and ceramic fragments. A study of the recovered ceramic wares authored by Dr. Michael was published in a 1973 edition of *Pennsylvania Archaeologist* (Vol. 43, No. 1, pp. 1-13). Many of the sherds

[fragments] were from a ceramic industry (nineteenth-century European ceramics) that had, at the time, been subjected only to limited study. A number of vessels were reconstructed as to size and shape, including four saucers, nine plates and two bowls. The ceramic sample collection was judged to be similar to that of a typical contemporary farmstead, with little to distinguish it as a specialized tavern deposit.

### **Fieldwork resumes at the Searight Tavern Site**

In the quarter-century following the initial investigation of the Searight Tavern Site by Dr. Michael and his students, the Site’s structural remains continued to deteriorate beneath a thickening mantle of vegetation. By the time CHRS field technicians arrived in the summer of 2004, “the site was overgrown with heavy brush,” according to the authors of the *Phase I/II Archaeological Survey, Searight Tavern Site, Management Summary Report* prepared the following year. “This brush was removed mechanically, leaving behind a virtually bare surface, [and more fully revealing] remnants of the tavern foundation (much of which has disappeared since Dr. Michael’s investigation), a relict cistern, a water pump, a well, a buried metal tank, a depression of unknown origin, and two retaining walls.”

To further prepare the Site for testing and recordation, CHRS’s field technicians marked off a grid of 20-foot squares across a triangular area just shy of an acre, within the bounds of the proposed construction project (in other words, within the project’s Area of Potential Effect [APE]). This grid established an initial testing pattern, while also providing the basis for mapping the locations of artifacts and features discovered through subsequent excavation (a map of the southeastern portion of the Searight



Tavern Site and associated testing locations, created for publication in the Phase I/II/III report, is reproduced **above**.\* At each point where the lines of this grid crossed (forming a “transect”), field technicians used hand tools to delicately dig a circular hole approximately two feet wide, extending downward until culturally sterile subsoil was encountered. Material excavated from these “shovel test pits” (STPs) was sifted through quarter-inch steel mesh in order to separate man-made artifacts from naturally occurring materials. Features discovered within STPs were drawn, photographed, and mapped. By the time all of the transects within the APE had been tested, the Searight Tavern Site was pocked with 112 STPs.

\***Artifacts** are portable objects made, modified, and/or used by people; artifacts measuring at least a quarter-inch in any dimension are separated from excavated soils through the sifting of the soils through metal mesh screens. **Features** are non-portable elements of an archaeological site, such as privy shafts, walls, posts, and stone hearths; because they cannot be removed intact, features are drawn, photographed, and mapped.

The archaeologists then turned to the hand-excavation of 11 “test units” (TUs) at strategic locations across the Site. These one-meter-square holes “were placed systematically, near soil anomalies, artifact concentrations, and features, as well as adjacent to the tavern foundation,” according to the authors of the Phase I/II management summary report. Following guidelines for archaeological investigations established by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC), “all tests were excavated by natural stratum. The stratigraphy was recorded, and the locations of all tests were mapped. All recovered artifacts were bagged by provenience. Information regarding soil color, texture, depth, and artifacts recovered was recorded on excavation record forms. Soil profiles were mapped and photographs were taken using color slide and black-and-white print film. All recovered artifacts were processed, inventoried, and catalogued.” The inventory revealed that more than 7,500 artifacts had been recovered, and 16 features had been identified, the latter comprising several founda-

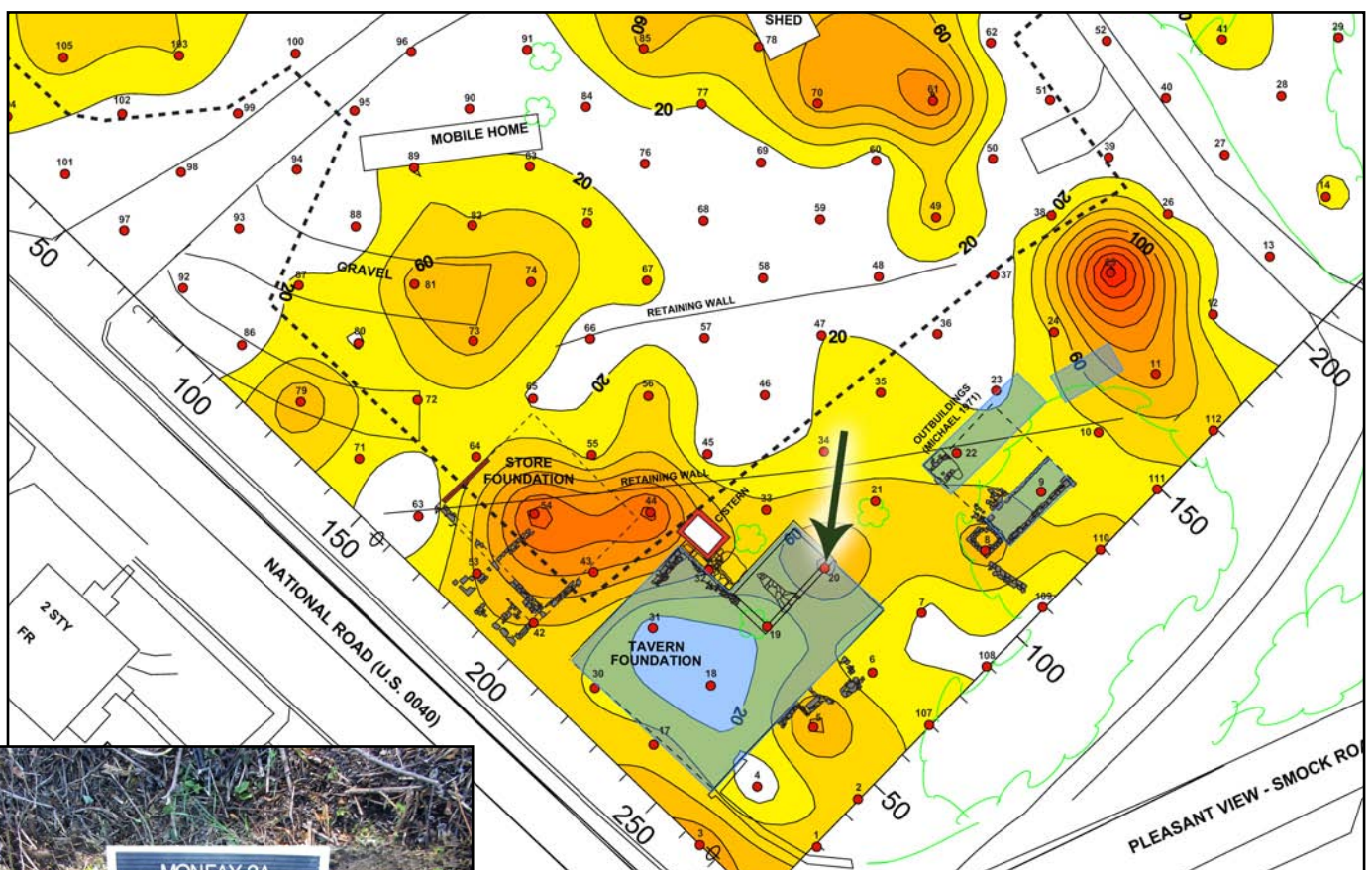
tion remnants, a couple of pipe trenches, an assortment of trash dumps, and a stone drain.

### Shift to Phase III

Some months after the Phase I/II fieldwork had concluded, Mon/Fayette Expressway engineers modified the design of the new National Road-Upper Middletown Road intersection one last time, pulling the limits of the APE tighter to the existing road shoulders. This constriction of the project area left about half of the

Searight Tavern Site—the northwestern portion, constituting the rear yard of the Searight general store and post office building—outside the APE. No more testing was warranted in that unthreatened area.

This development was noted in the Phase I/II management summary report prepared by CHRS and submitted to the PTC and the PHMC in April 2005. Implications and conclusions drawn from analyses of artifacts and features were presented as follows in a section of the report titled “Summary and Recommendations”:



**Left:** Shovel Test Pit 20, placed approximately 20 feet northeast of the apparent tavern foundation, encountered a stone foundation buried beneath a foot of topsoil. Designated “Feature 12,” the foundation was discovered to be four courses (roughly two feet) high and a foot wide. Further testing revealed this foundation to be part of the Tavern’s kitchen addition. The location of STP 20 within the Searight Tavern Site is indicated by an arrow **above** on a detail of an artifact density map published in the Phase I/II/III report. The green rectangles represent footprints of buildings distinguishable on the pre-1895 Searights village photograph reproduced on **page 18**.



*Three phases of testing yielded more than 6,600 artifacts at the Searight Tavern Site. A representative sampling of larger and/or largely intact artifacts recovered during the stripping phase includes (clockwise from top left) a whiteware chamber pot, a colorless syrup jug, a “Dr. J Hostetter’s Stomach Bitters” case bottle, an American blue and gray stoneware storage crock, a semi-porcelain basin/serving dish, a white metal band, an aqua ink bottle, a colorless perfume bottle, a colorless hair tonic bottle, an iridescent glass piggy bank, and a whiteware creamer base.*

The assemblage [of more than 6,600 artifacts] was diverse, and reflective of early nineteenth- through early twentieth-century occupation. Preliminary evidence suggests that the deposits are largely intact. The artifact assemblage is large and suitable for statistical analysis. The artifacts embody many aspects of local material culture. Some of the glass and ceramic items contain makers’ marks. Some of the ceramic fragments are large enough to permit the discernment of vessel shape and size. Sixteen features were recorded during the course of excavation. . . . The site has the ability to contribute to our understanding of turn-of-the-twentieth-century tavern life. Site 36Fa88 is judged eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. . . . The site is recommended as eligible only for the information that it contains and does not warrant preservation in place. It is likely that the portion of the site within the APE still contains buried cultural features with informational value. If additional work is deemed necessary, a Phase III workplan is included in this document.

The principal form of testing proposed in the Phase III workplan was “a system of mechanical stripping [by which] approximately 25% of the portion of the site within the APE would be stripped to the depth of the subsoil in order to more fully expose features.”\* The archaeologists anticipated that stripping topsoil off the Searight Tavern Site would: “1) enable reconstruction of fence lines and yard/activity areas; 2) encounter privies or other shaft features which would contain artifacts from specific temporal periods; and 3) encounter additional architectural features.”

The Phase III workplan also recommended that additional historical research be conducted in order to “more fully explore . . . details of the site inhabitants and site use (for both the Searight Tavern and the [store] structure immediately to the northwest). This information will bear directly on the interpretation of the archaeological remains at the site. The research should seek to identify the span of site occupation, the social standing of the residents within the community, their economic situation, the number, nature, and locations of the structures on the property, and any other permanent life history data.”

The Phase I/II management summary report was reviewed by the PTC and the PHMC in the summer of 2005. The agencies concurred with CHR’s finding that the Searight Tavern Site was eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (the official date of eligibility determination was August 11, 2005). The review-

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\*Stripping is by nature a final investigative technique, as peeling back the upper soil layers over a wide area—typically with a blade-equipped backhoe or similar piece of equipment—effectively destroys that portion of an archaeological site. Stripping is only conducted if a site is slated to be destroyed anyway.





ers also accepted CHRS's recommendations for a final phase of fieldwork. CHRS was authorized to begin that work immediately.

### Stripping proceeds

Over the course of several weeks in the late summer and early fall of 2005, CHRS field technicians worked with a backhoe-loader operator to peel back the one- to two-foot layer of topsoil across a quarter of the Searight Tavern Site surrounding the Tavern foundation, as well as the northern wing of the foundation itself. Because of the Site's stratigraphic complexity, some of the areas had to be stripped in two phases. The stripping brought to light an additional 113 features, along with approximately 1,000 artifacts. About half of the newly exposed features were post holes, the authors of the Phase I/II/III report would explain. "The second most common features were wall related (including foundation walls, wall debris, and outbuilding vestiges). There were 20 wall related features, representing portions of four or five separate structures. One midden [area of repeated trash dumping] was recorded, plus four dumping events or refuse deposits. Three privy shafts were exposed by the stripping. Three stone drains, three pipe trenches,

and one metal pipe were also unearthed. The function of a number of features could not be identified. Other features include a patio, a concrete floor, an upright metal rod with thin wires (presumably part of a wire fence), and a cistern."

Their fieldwork complete, CHRS's archaeologists packed up their equipment, field notes, and thousands of bagged artifacts and returned to the lab.

### Processing artifacts

Removing coal, slag, cinders, modern aluminum and plastic, unidentifiable faunal remains, and other debris with limited informational value from the artifact assemblage left lab technicians with 6,664 Searight Tavern Site artifacts to wash, sort, and catalog by function and/or type. Through this painstaking process, the artifacts were divided into eight standard "functional" groups: kitchen-related objects; architectural objects; furniture-related objects; personal items; clothing; arms-related objects, tobacco-related objects; and activity-related objects. The technicians created a digital catalogue of the artifacts and entered this information and the feature-related data into a digital database. The aggregated field data was now ready for comprehensive analysis.

## Field data and analysis

In the “Field Data” section of the Phase I/II/III report, the authors described in meticulous detail the location, composition, and artifactual contents of 129 features uncovered successively through shovel tests, test units, and mechanical stripping. Replete with “profile and planview” illustrations, maps, and data tables, the “Field Data” section stretched to 42 pages.

Then the authors turned to the identification and analysis of 6,664 artifacts unearthed at the Searight Tavern Site. Their introduction to this section included the following summary:

Artifact diversity was high. A breakdown of the artifacts from the Searight Tavern Site shows that the assemblage is dominated by kitchen-related items (55.7%) and architectural items (36.1%). Bottle glass was the most common item in the kitchen group (51.3%), followed by ceramics (45.4%) and vessel glass (3.1%). Nails were the most numerous item in the architectural group, making up 55.5% of the architectural items. Window glass (40.4%) comprised most of the remainder. Some of the other recovered items include clothing (shoe leather, cloth, buttons and a porcelain shirt stud), pipe stems (plastic, ceramic and kaolin), toys (porcelain hands and a porcelain doll head), furniture (lamp chimney glass), arms-related items (including a shotgun shell and two bullets), activities-related items (metal tools, copper sheet metal, and a terracotta flowerpot), and personal items (coinage, an ID band, and an eyeglass lens). Artifacts were recovered from every stratum above the subsoil.

This paragraph introduced a 50-page analysis of the artifact assemblage, supported by dozens of tables and maps. In this section, the authors discussed the significance of the functional groups, how the groups were represented, and how certain types or subsets of artifacts were distributed across the Site. Artifacts were appraised in terms of what they were made of, how and when they were made, who made them

(in instances where manufacturers’ marks were discernible), how they were used, where they were unearthed, and what assortments of artifacts they were buried among. Each functional group was assessed in turn, and then artifacts standing out as unusual, representative, or particularly significant in some other way were treated individually. The artifact data were presented in tabular format, so they would be accessible and useful for comparative purposes to archaeologists engaged in subsequent investigations. The tables bore such “only-an-archaeologist-would-love” titles as “Glass Bottle Finishes by Provenience” and “Period of Popularity for Ceramic Decorations.”

## Discussing a diverse collection

Having presented an enumeration and statistical analysis of features and artifacts unearthed at the Searight Tavern Site, the authors of the Phase I/II/III report stepped back for a broader view in a section they called “Discussion.” They first addressed the “California State College Archaeological Field School Assemblage,” noting at the outset that “a review of the artifactual material recovered by the Field School [CSCAFS] excavation [in 1970] indicated that the material was similar to that encountered during the recent investigation. Analysis of the CSCAFS assemblage was limited. Some ceramic analysis was performed by Dr. Michael, but little additional work has been undertaken. A comparison was made between the ceramic artifacts recovered by the CSCAFS and [CHRS’s] shovel test pit assemblage. Changes in ceramic terminology over the last 35 years make comparisons inexact. However, the two assemblages are very similar in the material encountered. Surprisingly, given the limited surface area examined by Dr. Michael, the percentage of different decorative types is often very similar to that from the site as a whole (as represented by the shovel test assemblage).”

There followed a series of lengthy observations stemming from a statistical comparison of ceramic fragments in the CSCAFS and CHRS assemblages. The authors compared not only the principal forms of ceramics present—redware, stoneware, pearlware, whiteware, and porcelain—

but the 50 different methods of decoration represented in the collection (with such designations as “salt glaze albany slip,” “white glazed buff,” “british brown,” “blue glazed,” and “buff salt glazed”). The “Discussion” section continued with a comparison of Searight Tavern Site data with data collected recently by CHRS archaeologists at two nearby and roughly contemporaneous archaeological sites: the Clement Site (an abandoned farmstead in neighboring North Union Township), and the Shaw Site. In this statistically dense “Intersite Comparison,” and in the equally esoteric treatment of the “California State Col-

lege Archaeological Field School Assemblage,” the Phase I/II/III report authors addressed questions only historical archaeology experts might ask. Potentially much more interesting to the general reader was the third part of the “Discussion,” an informational synthesis titled “The Searight Tavern Through Time.” The highlights of that essay will be presented in the final chapter of this publication: “Making Connections.”

Before jumping to that conclusion, however, we will look in on the fieldwork and analysis conducted on the Shaw Site.



*Phase III fieldwork on the Searight Tavern Site concluded in the first week of November 2005. Among the 113 features brought to light through the mechanical stripping process were a small, nineteenth-century box privy (denoted with a green star), a pair of outbuilding wall foundations (on either side of the yellow star), the foundation of the Tavern’s kitchen wing (pink star), and the foundation of a rectangular frame kitchen addition (orange star). In this southwestward view of the eastern portion of the Site, Searights Herbert Road approaches Route 40 in the upper lefthand corner.*

## Testing the Shaw Site

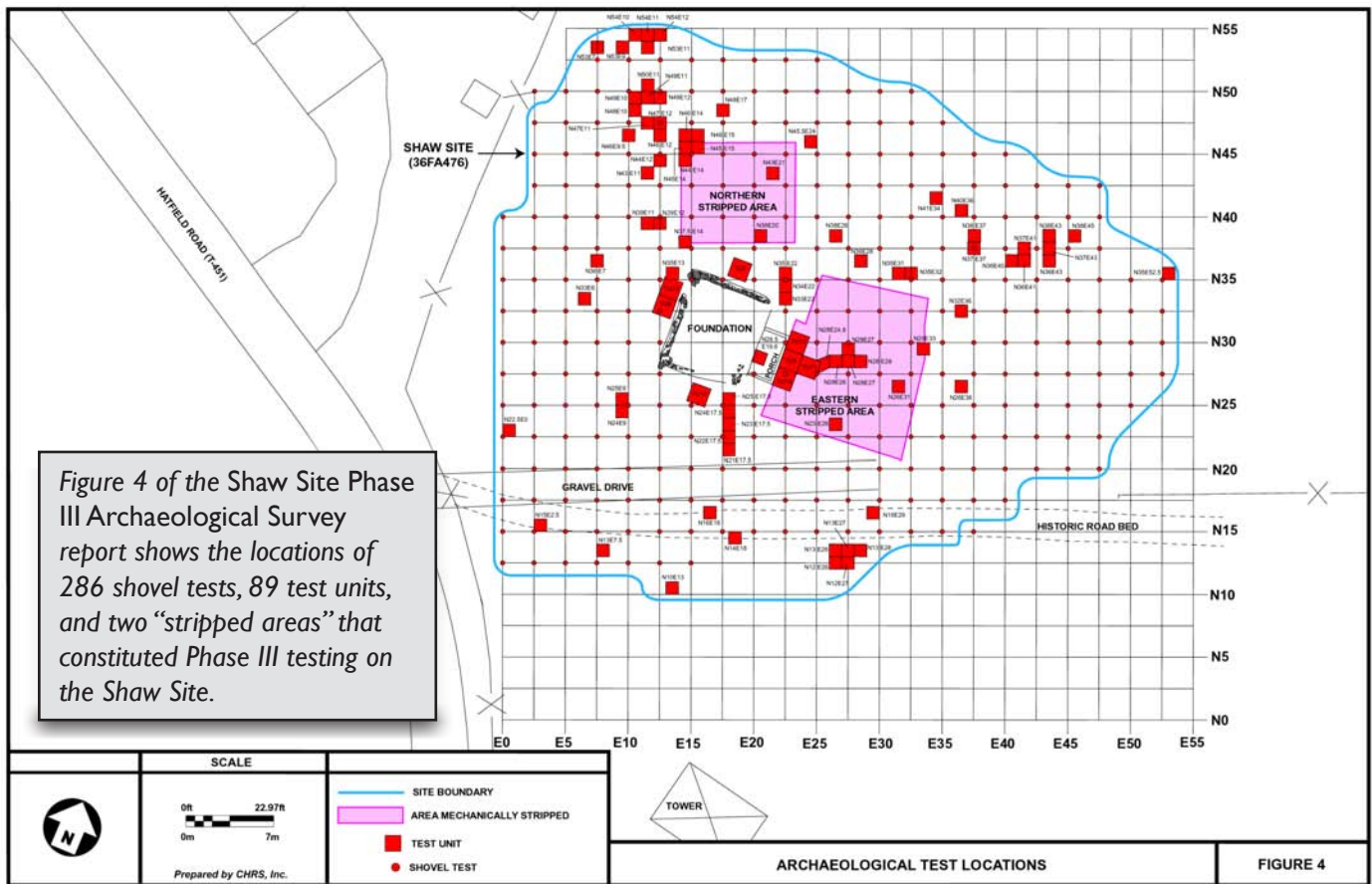
As noted in the Introduction, Phase IB/II testing of a portion of the Shaw Site in the summer of 2001 had produced remarkable results. Sixty-six STPs and six TUs had yielded “a large and diverse assemblage” of more than 2,200 artifacts dating from the mid-nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth century, according to the Phase IB/II Historic Archaeological Survey report submitted by CHRS the following year. Placing the STPs on transects spaced 16.4 feet apart across a 1-acre portion of the Area of Potential Effect (APE) had also revealed the scope of the Site within the APE: about one-quarter acre. This area featured an uncovered, four-by-four-foot square, mortared stone well shaft, a sliver of relict dirt roadway (the late-eighteenth-century predecessor of Upper Middletown Road), and vestiges of a fence row lining the abandoned roadway. Lying outside the APE, but apparently associated with the well, was the crumbling and overgrown stone foundation and cellar hole of a house that records indicated had been occupied by members of a Shaw family from at least the mid-1850s through World War I. No doubt many more artifacts and features would have been discovered around this foundation had it been included in the APE.

In concluding their lengthy discussion of the Shaw Site in the Phase IB/II report, the authors asserted that additional testing of the portion of the Site within the APE was warranted. “The presence of discrete temporal [chronological] deposits at the Shaw Site, in addition to its large artifact numbers and diversity, suggests it is capable of addressing research questions concerning rural life in southwestern Pennsylvania during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries,” they noted. “The portion of the Shaw Site within the project’s APE is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D: it possesses the potential to add

to our understanding of local history. The Site is eligible only for the information that it contains, and does not warrant preservation in place. Further work is recommended. A Phase III work plan is included in this document.”

Like the Searight Tavern Site’s Phase III workplan, the proposal for “data recovery” at the Shaw Site outlined extensive additional historical research. “Details of the site inhabitants and site use need to be more fully explored,” the authors maintained. “This data will bear directly on the interpretation of the archaeological remains at the site. The research should seek to identify the span of site occupation, the social standing of the residents within the community, their economic situation, the number, nature, and locations of the structures on the property, and any other permanent life history data.”

In proposing a Phase III excavation methodology, the authors pointed out that “previous testing included excavation of shovel test pits within a five-meter-interval grid, and the excavation of six one-meter-square test units. The original five-meter grid should be reestablished and filled in at two-and-one-half-meter intervals. This closer interval testing will permit the limits of each of the identified midden areas to be more clearly defined spatially and in terms of the artifacts present within each area. In addition, it will clarify the differences in distribution between bottle glass and ceramics, as well as between refined and utilitarian ceramics. Additional three-by-three-foot test units should be excavated at points predicated in part on STP data and documentary research. Tests are recommended at all three midden deposits, as well as near the well and along the side of the relict roadway. Approximately 10 percent of the portion of the site within the APE should be tested using hand tools. Following hand excavation, 25 percent of the portion of the site within the APE should be mechanically stripped of topsoil to more fully expose features.”



Presented with these assertions in the October 2002 Phase IB/II report, the PTC and the PHMC concurred with CHRS’s finding that the Shaw Site was eligible for listing in the National Register (the official date of eligibility determination was June 9, 2003). The agencies also accepted CHRS’s recommendations for a Phase III survey, and authorized the archaeological effort to proceed. Before CHRS personnel could get out into the field, a final modification of the Mon-Fayette Expressway’s design in the vicinity of the Shaw Site expanded the APE to the point where it embraced the entire Site—an area of 0.45 acres centered on the crumbling cellar hole. Having gained full access to the Site, the archaeologists arrived in the spring of 2004 with an expanded agenda and expectations of recovering a fully rounded set of data.

### Phase III testing at the Shaw Site

Over the course of the next few months, the archaeologists excavated an additional 286 STPs across the Site. They followed this up by placing

89 TUs “near soil anomalies, artifact concentrations, and features, as well as adjacent to the house foundation” (as recounted in the Phase III report). Eight TUs placed around the house foundation were enlarged to five-foot-square in hopes of encountering more features within that important perimeter. Once their hand excavations were complete, the archaeologists monitored the progress of a backhoe-loader operator as he stripped the topsoil off two critical yard areas: a 26.2-by-34.5-foot expanse on the north side of the house foundation, and a 14.4-by-22-foot swathe east of the foundation (the locations of the stripped areas, the TUs, and the STPs were plotted on an “Archaeological Test Locations” map included in the Phase III report; that map is reproduced **above**). Due to its complex stratigraphy, the eastern area had to be stripped in two phases. The archaeologists identified nine features during the first pass, and 52 features the second time through. In the northern yard area, 35 features were exposed through the stripping process. All told, Phase III testing enabled the archaeologists to uncover, draw, photograph, and map 182 features, includ-

ing scores of posts and post holes, several privy shafts, sections of stone walkways and French drains, a handful of ash pits, and a pipe trench. Their excavations also yielded a whopping 37,000 artifacts. These they slipped into labeled bags, packed into labeled boxes, and loaded into vans for shipment to the laboratory.

When the artifacts had been washed, sorted, and cataloged according to the eight standard “functional” groups, their identification data was entered into a database along with feature-related information. The artifact assemblage was summarized as follows in a paragraph introducing a section of the Phase III report titled “Artifact Analysis: Quantitative/Qualitative Assessment”:

Kitchen-related items were the most common at the Site, making up 62.3% of the artifact inventory. Most of the remainder were architectural items, which accounted for 30.5% of the inventory. Some of the other recovered items include clothing (such as shoe eyelets, buttons, and a belt buckle), wood and kaolin pipe fragments, toys (including marbles, doll parts, and toy animals), furniture (including lamps, lamp chimney glass, glass handle knobs, and upholstery tacks), arms-related objects (including gun casings and shotgun shells), and personal items (such as beads, a thimble, a pocket knife, and an eyeglass lens).

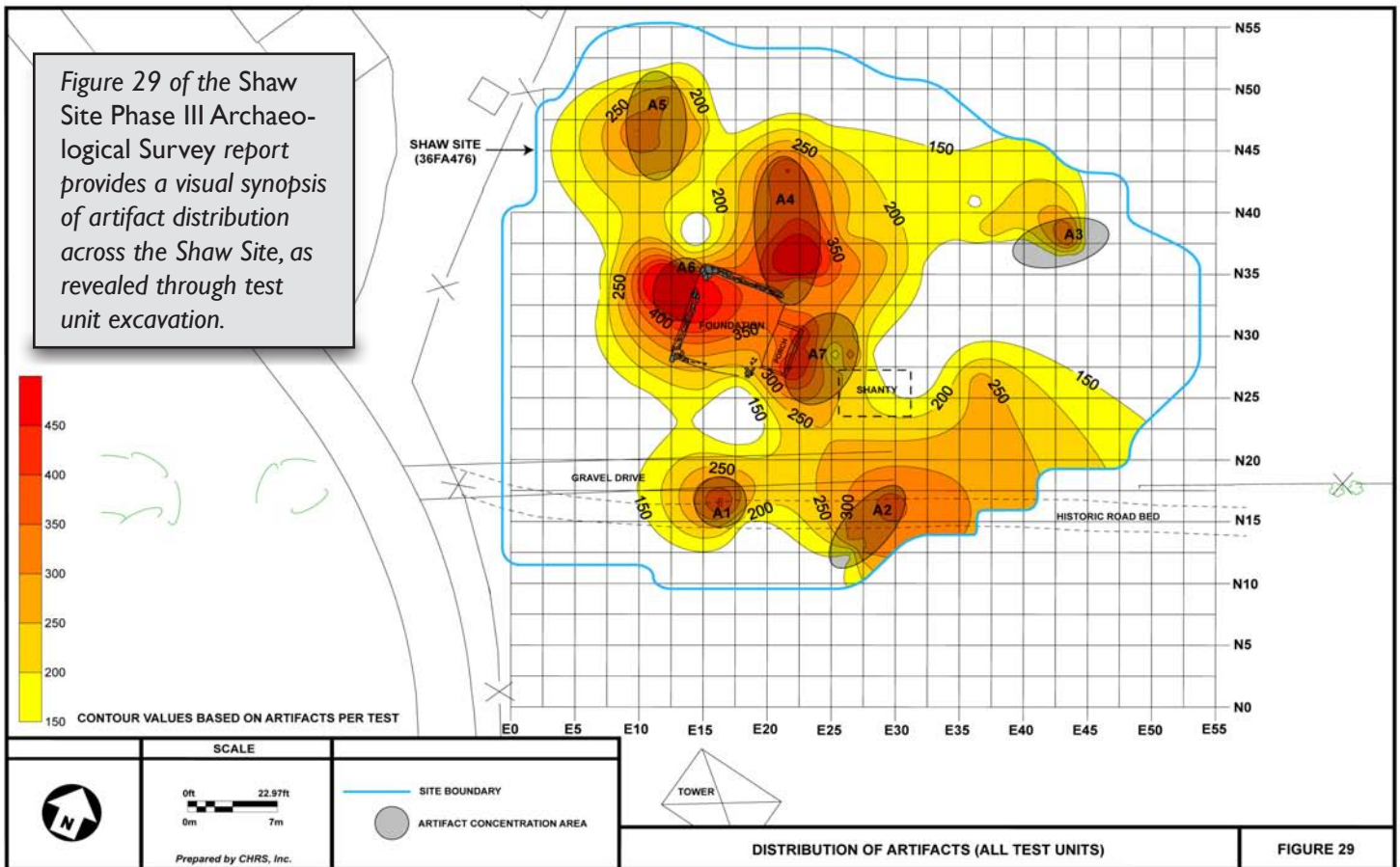


*Phase III fieldwork on the Shaw Site commenced in the spring of 2004. Normally accessible to grazing cattle, the Site had been fenced off by the landowner. Archaeologists thus worked in an island of thickening vegetation along the north side of Hatfield Road (above, in a telescopic southwestward view). The work included screening soil through quarter-inch steel mesh in order to isolate artifacts (left).*



In the 63-page “Analysis” section that followed, the authors discussed the many aspects of the Shaw Site’s extensive artifact assemblage, with frequent allusions to data tables, photographs, and cartographic figures (a representative figure, labeled “Distribution of Artifacts (All Test Units),” is reproduced **below**). Nearly a third of the “Analysis” section was devoted to an explication of faunal and floral remains recovered on the Site. The authors then turned to a similarly comprehensive treatment of the 182 features discovered across the half-acre Site. Liberally illustrated with “profile and planview” graphics, this discussion stretched to 26 pages.

**Left:** In August 2004, a CHRS archaeologist records field data beside a test unit opened in order to explore Feature 83, described as “a coarse ceramic rock and brick lying end-to-end on a northwest-southeast axis.” The feature would later be identified as comprising remnants of a wall near the southeastern corner of the shanty.



In an effort to consider the Shaw Site field data in a broader perspective, the Phase III report authors then offered an “Intersite Comparison,” utilizing field data recently gleaned and analyzed by CHRS archaeologists at the nearby and roughly contemporaneous Searight Tavern and Clement Farm Sites. This exposition was no less statistically dense than the earlier sections of analysis, so we will step over it here in order to reach the authors’ more accessible (to the general readership), wide-ranging, and integrative “Discussion.” Highlights of that concluding section are presented with counterparts from the Searight Tavern Site Phase I/II/III report in our final chapter: “Making Connections.”



**Right:** Extending southeastward from the southeast corner of the house foundation is Feature 44: a stone walkway 14 feet long, just over three feet wide, and seven inches thick.

Scores of intact bottles were recovered from the Shaw Site, in a wide variety of shapes and colors, some machine-made and others hand-tooled. Some containers were adorned with maker’s marks, allowing them to be more confidently identified and dated. While the oldest mark pointed to a manufacturing date in the second quarter of the nineteenth century, all but a few of the bottles had been produced after 1880, with the great majority dating to the early twentieth century.





Artifacts recovered from the Shaw Site include (clockwise from top right, upper half of page): buff bodied stoneware crock fragment; metal button; white metal hairclip fragment, with rhinestone; metal thimble; whiteware pitcher base labeled "Ironstone, C & WK Harvey."



More Shaw Site artifacts (clockwise from top right, lower half of page): tortoise shell hairclip fragment, engraved with floral design; miners' checks; toy horse fragment; shell button; decorated metal clip or clasp fragment. Artifacts not to scale.



## Making Connections

While Phase III archaeological surveys are sometimes referred to as “data recoveries,” they are expected to push beyond the collection, processing, analysis, and presentation of site-specific data to considerations of what the accumulated information might mean in a broader cultural context. We have seen, in the preceding chapter, how archaeologists acquired and analyzed field data from the Searight Tavern Site and the Shaw Site. In the course of their analyses, the archaeologists regularly referred to information derived from historical records, informants, and pertinent archaeological studies. Synthesizing data in this way led them to draw occasional inferences, but the scope of those inferences was necessarily limited to the subject sites. The question of where the Searight Tavern Site and the Shaw Site stood within a larger cultural milieu—mid-nineteenth-century Fayette County, for instance—remained largely unaddressed.

In concluding sections of the respective Phase III reports, the authors drew a wide range of inferences and set them into larger conceptual frameworks. They made connections on a variety of levels: between successive eras at both the Searight Tavern Site and the Shaw Site; between the Sites themselves; and between the Sites and other nineteenth-century/early twentieth-century sites investigated in southwestern Pennsylvania. Their connection-making attempts are highlighted below in articles titled “The Searight Tavern Through Time” and “Eras in the Shaw Site’s Evolution”:<sup>\*</sup>

*An archaeologist displays one of the many intact medicine bottles recovered from Shaw Site test units.*



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<sup>\*</sup>Bibliographic citations and English-metric conversions included in the original have been removed to improve readability.

# The Searight Tavern Through Time

In a sketch of Searights illustrating his article “The Searight Tavern on the National Road: An Archaeological View,”\* Dr. Ronald Michael identified eight primary structural components of the village: the Tavern, a general store, a livery stable, William Searight’s residence, a shoemaker shop, a blacksmith’s residence, a blacksmith shop, and a wagon maker’s shop (CHRS used this sketch to create the “Village of Searights” diagram reproduced on the **facing page**). While all of these buildings were owned by members of the Searight family, other people lived and worked in them at different times. The village formed a functional unit, providing the necessary hard goods and services for the Tavern’s clientele. In addition to buildings in the village, the Searight family owned a number of outlying farms. No doubt some of the agricultural products consumed at the Tavern were raised on these adjoining properties. The scope of the Searight family’s operations are important, as many services and activities associated with the Tavern were not conducted within the limited area subjected to archaeological testing. The locations and probable uses of Tavern-associated buildings both within and just outside the tested area are discussed below, with reference to historical data as well as uncovered artifacts and features.

## The Searight Tavern: 1819-1852

The first period at the Tavern ranged from the construction of the initial Tavern building in 1819 to William Searight’s death in 1852. Searights’ founder owned the Tavern and other structures in the village during much of this era. The buildings were occupied by members of the Searight family and others. Dr. Michael’s team mapped surviving portions of the Tavern’s L-shaped foundation in 1970 (**facing page**), and speculated on possible uses of the former rooms. The foundation’s orientation revealed that

the Tavern had fronted on the National Road. The original central hall building, constructed of stone, was 2½ stories high, 5 bays wide, 2 bays deep, and gable roofed. An elevated wooden porch graced the building’s front façade, at least during the late nineteenth century (as revealed in photographs). Pairs of brick chimneys were fitted into each of the building’s gable ends. Dr. Michael’s research indicated that the hearths ventilated by these chimneys were composed of stone. Two of the hearths were discovered by Dr. Michael’s team along the eastern wall of the original Tavern structure, suggesting that this portion of the building had been divided into two rooms. Only one hearth was present in the western end of the tavern, suggesting that, on the first floor at least, the entire depth of the building served as a large common room. The second story of the building and the attic were probably divided into rooms for guests and residents. The window configurations apparent in historic photographs suggest that the second floor was divided into four rooms, and the attic was divided into either two, three, or four rooms.

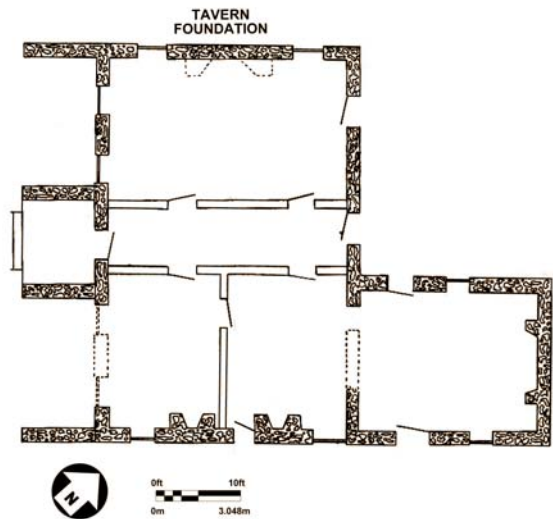
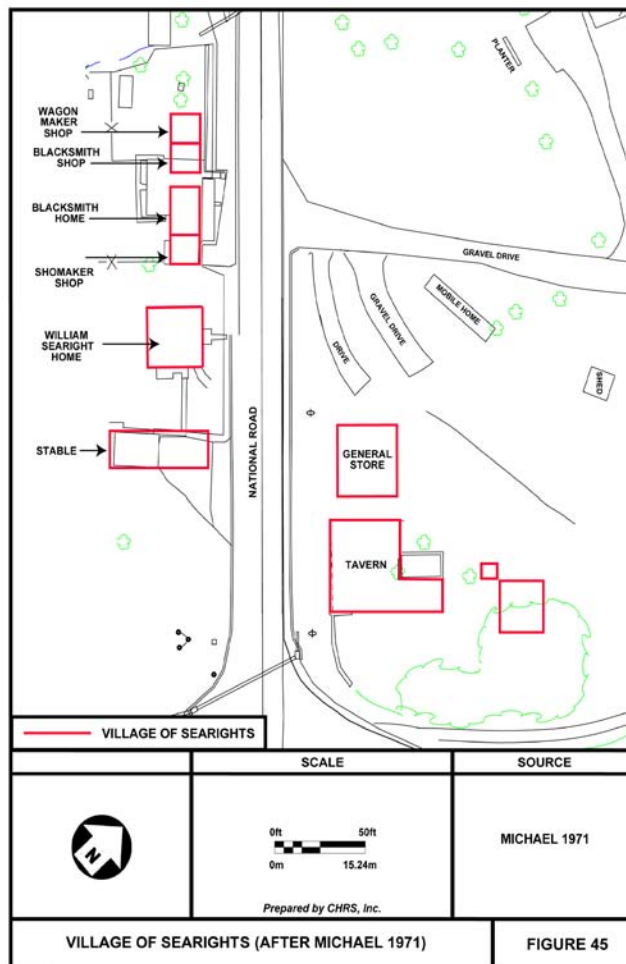
A one-story wing was attached to the northeast corner of the original Tavern building at an unknown date, creating an L-shaped foundation with its foot fronting on Upper Middletown Road. The addition had a gable roof and an interior chimney in its northern gable end. In an early twentieth-century photograph, the chimney appeared to be stone rather than brick where it pierced the roof. The addition apparently served as a kitchen, judging from its location, its size, the configuration of its window and door openings, and the rusting stove furniture that Dr. Michael’s team discovered in the structure’s sealed-up hearth (the hearth had been sealed sometime before the building burned, Dr. Michael reported).

During the period between 1819 and the mid-nineteenth century, there appears to have been at least one large outbuilding in the north yard. The function of this building has not been ascertained. Dr. Michael conjectured that it might have

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\**Pennsylvania Folklife*, Vol. 21 (1), 1971, pp. 25-35.

**Below left:** In his sketch of mid-nineteenth-century Searights, Dr. Ronald Michael identified eight primary structural components of the village. CHRS superimposed Dr. Michael's data on a contemporary sketch of the village to create this context-providing figure for the Phase I/II/III report. CHRS also reproduced in its report a diagram of the foundation footprint draughted by Dr. Michael's team in 1970, when the foundation was still largely intact (**below, right**). Room divisions were posited on the basis of window and door openings.

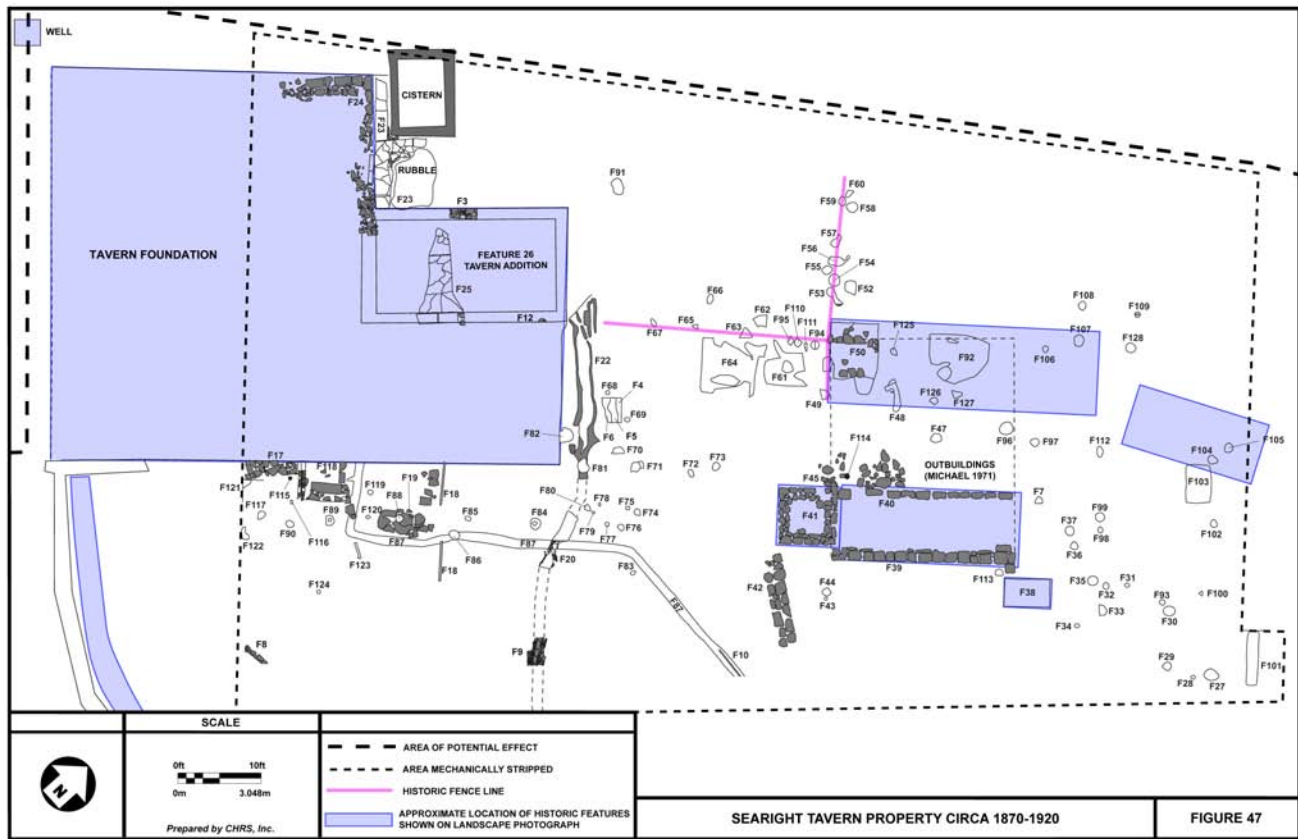


served as a summer kitchen, a smoke house, or a storage facility. A small foundation was found off the southwestern corner of the 15-by-20-foot outbuilding. This feature may have functioned as a bake oven, but its placement vis-à-vis the larger outbuilding is unusual. Also present adjacent to the western wall of the 15-by-20-foot outbuilding was a privy. The 15-by-20-foot outbuilding was located at the northern edge of the yard area surrounding the back of the Tavern. A fence is likely to have bordered a curving road leading from Upper Middletown Road into the rear of the property.

The yard activities during this period may well have been limited, as most of the Tavern's non-

domestic functions were performed elsewhere. The small northern yard area was likely used for domestic activities such as raising chickens and laundering. The fence-lined driveway allowed delivery of foodstuffs and other items to either the 15-by-20-foot outbuilding or the kitchen door, which opened onto the east yard. The Tavern's primary water source during this period has not been positively identified. A well evident in a 1914 photograph of the Tavern ([page 21](#)) was located adjacent to the National Road in a strip of land between the Tavern's front porch and the front porch of the store building to the west. A late nineteenth- or early twentieth-century cistern was located near the northeast corner of the tavern. These features may have originated in the early nineteenth century and survived into the twentieth century. The presence of a well at the front of the property was convenient for travelers along the National Road and customers of the general store, the livery stable, and the blacksmith shop, but would have been less so for women working in the kitchen and washing clothes in the rear yard. Other activities during this period can only be surmised. There is no evidence of animals other than chickens being raised at the Tavern. Meats consumed at the Tavern were butchered elsewhere. It is possible that even the

For Figure 47 of its Searight Tavern Site Phase I/II/III report, CHRIS superimposed the footprints of structures discernible on a pre-1895 photographic image of Searights (page 18) onto a map of the Site created after Phase III testing.



chickens were brought to the site periodically and killed as needed, rather than raised on the grounds. Animals consumed were primarily cattle and swine, although chicken, fish, and oysters were also eaten. It is probable that dairy products were consumed at the site. However, the absence of milk pans, separators, churns, or other redware vessels used in processing milk suggests that this material was brought to the Tavern, possibly from one of the nearby Searight farms. This possibility is reinforced by the absence of any cold storage facility (i.e., springhouse or ice house) on the property.

The majority of recovered ceramics dating to this early period are highly decorated pearlwares and whitewares. Some of the decorated pieces were obviously bought in sets, suggesting a level of affluence. While William Searight was a wealthy man, he did not live on the property, and for most of the period did not run the Tavern. It is not clear what the higher status ceramics

represent. The historical documents examined do not record the business agreements and transactions between William Searight and the various innkeepers. It is known that William Searight was politically active and that the Tavern was known as a locale for political meetings and other gatherings. Did William Searight provide the equipment necessary to run the Tavern and turn the day-to-day management over to an innkeeper? Or was the innkeeper responsible for all aspects of Tavern life, including purchasing dishes and utensils? In either case, the serving dishes from this period suggest that an effort was being made to present a “refined” appearance to travelers, guests, and perhaps even laborers.

### The Searight Tavern: 1852-1893

Following William Searight’s death in 1852, his sons “T.B.” and Ewing took over management of the Searight Tavern. The opening of

the B&O Railroad that same year portended a reduction of traffic on the National Road. Over the next thirty years, there were periods when no licensed innkeeper was in charge of the Searight Tavern. By the close of the nineteenth century, the Tavern building was being used as a private residence, and several physical changes had taken place on the property. A small frame addition had been attached to the west side of the Tavern's kitchen wing. Judging from its proximity to a cistern and a large drain, this addition was probably used as a laundry and utility room. The configuration of outbuildings on the property was somewhat different during this period than it had been during the earlier era (the new configuration was depicted on Figure 47 of the Phase I/II/III report, reproduced on **facing page**). Where there had earlier been a 15-by-20-foot outbuilding, there were now three newer outbuildings. The easternmost building measured approximately 10-by-20 feet. One of its walls may have served as the eastern wall of the earlier outbuilding. A privy stood near the northeast corner of the 10-by-20-foot structure. In a 1970 interview, Searight McCormick reported to Dr. Michael that a smokehouse had stood in the rear yard when he was a boy in the early years of the twentieth century. Feature 41, located along the south wall of the easternmost outbuilding, may be a vestige of that smokehouse.

The second of three outbuildings present in the late nineteenth century was located to the west of the first outbuilding. This structure appears to have overlain portions of earlier outbuildings. With a 10-by-30-foot footprint, the building's size and shape suggests its use as a chicken coop. The third outbuilding measured 8 feet by 15 feet and was located north and east of the second outbuilding.

A crossbuck fence ran along the southwestern and southeastern edges of the property where it abutted the intersection of the National Road and Upper Middletown Road. A second fence extended from the northwest corner of the Tavern's one-story addition to the second outbuilding. Egress to the rear of the property may have been similar to that of the earlier period, although the curving fence was gone by the 1890s. The two

fence lines defined the yard areas during this period. The roadside fence delineated the east yard for use by the Tavern's owner, family, and guests. Deliveries were still relegated to the north yard. Some of the domestic tasks on the property appear to have also been segregated. The fence between the one-story addition and the largest outbuilding separated activities such as laundering conducted around the kitchen doorway from the rest of the yard area. This segregation suggests the increased use of the yard for recreational purposes.

### **The Victorian-era "Cult of Domesticity"**

Searight Tavern Site artifacts dating to the final decade of the nineteenth century are reminiscent of those from the previous period. Stoneware and glass vessels supplanted earlier redware vessels, but the vessels were still utilized primarily for storing foodstuffs rather than processing animals and animal products. While the character of the Site appears to have remained largely unchanged during the 1890s, a shift in the whiteware assemblage hints at a social evolution. The percentage of undecorated (i.e., entirely white) whitewares increased to the point where undecorated whitewares outnumbered whitewares adorned with prints and decals. This shift was particularly apparent in the collection of teawares recovered at the Site, which were part of a formal dining ritual characteristic of what has been called "the Cult of Domesticity." In this Victorian-era perspective, the home was viewed as an oasis of virtue, comfort, and perfection in an otherwise rough world. As keepers of the home, housewives were supposed to strive for this perfection. The view was embraced in early nineteenth-century urban centers such as New York City, and expanded into rural areas as the nineteenth century progressed. It is interesting that many of the late-nineteenth-century tea sets in the Searight Tavern Site artifact assemblage were plain white. This style of teaware was similar to the type popular with residents of middle-class neighborhoods in Brooklyn who were striving for gentility. The color white may have been associated with ideas such as purity and virtue.

Separation of public and private space was another concern of the Cult of Domesticity. A rural tavern such as Searight's served as an arena of both private and public activities. Ideally, a tavern offered the comforts and refinements of a home, while still being suitable as a meeting place for guests. Boundaries at the Searight Tavern between public and private spaces took the physical form of trees, fences, walls, outbuildings, and drains. The front porch served as part of the public space, as did much of the building's interior first story, particularly the common room. Private space was defined outside by fences, stone drains, and several trees separating the ornamental garden from the work-related portion of the property. A single-room addition was probably used for the private activities of washing and cooking. Positioned near the cistern, the addition was outfitted with a stone drain. Members of the public only ventured into the rear yard in order to visit the privy.

### **The Searight Tavern Site during the twentieth century**

In the late 1880s or early 1890s, Ewing Searight stopped trying to find proprietors for the Tavern, and allowed his son, William J. Searight, to use the Tavern building as a private residence. Ewing Searight died in 1902, leaving nearly one-dozen structures in and around the village of Searights to William on the condition that William eventually bequeathed the property to one or more of *his* children. If William had no heir, the property was to be inherited by Ewing's grandson Searight McCormick (son of Rachel Searight and Charles J. McCormick). William Searight moved to one of the family's farms shortly after his father's death, and on this farm he died nearly a decade later, childless. His nephew Searight McCormick thus inherited the Tavern property. In 1924, having moved to Uniontown, Searight McCormick conveyed the Tavern building to George and Ruth McCormick. The new owners moved to Shenandoah County, Virginia, within the next three years. In 1927 they conveyed the property to Earl Rogers and his wife. The Rogerses lived in Uniontown until the 1930s when they moved into

the Tavern, which they occupied until it burned in the winter of 1939-40.

Searight McCormick reported to Dr. Michael that by the time his grandfather Ewing Searight died, "several buildings [near the Tavern], including the blacksmith's shop, shoemaker's shop, and the wagon maker's shop, were deteriorating. They continued to decay while Ewing's wife Elizabeth lived, and by the time of her death [in January 1915] . . . the buildings were collapsing wrecks." Some of the decay in the Tavern vicinity can be discerned through a comparison of a photograph taken before 1895 (**page 12**) and photographs taken in the second decade of the twentieth century. By 1914 the Tavern's front porch had been altered (see photo on **page 21**). The tall balustrade had been replaced by a shorter balustrade. The side steps, formerly the same width as the porch, had been replaced by steps only half as wide as the porch. The downspouts evident in the gable end of the Tavern on the late nineteenth-century photographs were missing, as were the gutters. The pointing in the building's stonework had deteriorated, and where a crossbuck fence had extended along the top of a retaining wall beside the intersecting roadways there was now only a draped length of rope.

Within a few years, even that rope was gone, and the retaining wall had decayed further, as revealed in a photograph taken between 1914 and 1925 (**page 23**). None of the outbuildings present in the late nineteenth century were visible on this photograph. The frame addition attached to the kitchen wing was no longer in use, although a portion of the associated drain was still evident. A fence had been erected around the back of the kitchen wing, along the edge of the drain. This fence may have separated the house-yard from the outbuildings and work-yard farther to the north. A wooden trough was visible in the east yard, equipped with a hose drain running down into the roadway. The wooden trough would be replaced by a concrete trough within a few years. The fence and trough suggest that domestic activities had been relegated to the east yard. During this period the outbuildings had been moved farther north, and the north yard appears to have been delineated by fences near the kitchen wing and a second

fence 75 feet north of the wing. A privy was located at the far end of the north yard. Artifacts recovered from this period include a wide range of beverage and food bottles. Faunal remains suggest a diet of less expensive meat cuts than had been enjoyed by the Site's nineteenth-century inhabitants. The majority of this material was deposited in the foundations of collapsed buildings and beyond the northern edge of the north yard.

The disposition of the former Tavern property in its final years of occupation is recorded in a pair of photographs taken between the World Wars. In a post-1925 image of the former Tavern building (providing a rare eastward view of the early nineteenth-century structure), repointed stonework and neat plantings reflect a renewed interest in "keeping up appearances" (page 22). An aerial photograph taken in September 1938 shows the rear yard of the former Tavern structure still equipped with outbuildings, still divided into private and public areas, and still laced with footpaths and driveways (page 6). A matter of months after this picture was taken, flames reduced the former Tavern building to a scorched stone shell. By the midpoint of the twentieth century, all above-ground components of the neighboring outbuildings were gone.

### **Taverns in a broader archaeological view**

The place of the Searight Tavern in the ranks of taverns along the National Road in Fayette County was considered by Dr. Michael in his article "Wagon Taverns As Seen Through Local Source Material."\* The author noted that "nine wagon taverns [operated] along a twelve-mile stretch of the original National Road . . . between the outskirts of Uniontown and Brownsville, Fayette County during the period of heaviest traffic along the National Road—the period from its opening until the Baltimore and Ohio and Pennsylvania railroads reached Wheeling, West Virginia and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, respectively, the period from 1818-1854." Michael's analysis of "local source material" (sets of annual occu-

pational tax assessment data and tavern rental/license data) revealed that "no more than seven of [the nine taverns] were licensed during any of the thirty-seven years from 1818-1854," and "in fact, during 70% of the time there were less than seven taverns operating, and during 43% of the time, five or fewer taverns were doing business in any given year. As might be expected, as the years passed and freight volume increased on the National Road, the number of taverns increased. During the early years, only three or four inns were licensed annually, but by the mid-1830s, that number had increased to six or seven." Licenses were granted for the Searight Tavern in all but two or three years from 1822 through 1854. Only one other National Road tavern between Uniontown and Brownsville operated more consistently (i.e., Robert Johnston's establishment, 1½ miles northwest of Searights).

According to Dr. Michael's analysis, the local source material also indicated that "the tavern with the greatest business [during the period 1818-1854] was Searight's." This begged the question: "Why was the Searight Tavern the most popular tavern along the National Road between Uniontown and Brownsville?" Dr. Michael offered two "obvious explanations":

The Searight Tavern consisted of more than an inn. At least by the mid-nineteenth century, William Searight had constructed a wagon shop, a blacksmith shop, a large livery stable, and a general store in the vicinity of his tavern. As nearly as can be determined, no other tavern stand offered the variety of services that Searight's did. . . . An examination of William Searight's political activities may help supply [another part of] the answer. The fact that Searight was commissioner of the National Road in Pennsylvania and later commissioner of the Road in Fayette County, plus being a high ranking Democrat in the state of Pennsylvania, probably did not discourage freighters from visiting his tavern. . . . One item that might be suggested as an interpretation was the size of the various inns. However, since wagoners generally slept

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\* *Pennsylvania Folklife*, Vol. 23, No. 2, Winter 1973-74.



around the barroom or kitchen fireplaces, if not under their wagons, tavern size should not have been an important factor in a freighter's selection of a tavern, although it may have influenced private travelers. Furthermore, there is really nothing distinctive architecturally about any of the inns. At least this is true for the [four] taverns for which detailed data have been collected.

A factor not alluded to by Dr. Michael, but almost certainly contributing to the Searight Tavern's early success, was its location beside one of the busiest intersections of "drovers' roads" in southwestern Fayette County (the National Road and the "State road," now known as Upper Middletown Road). This intersection occurred, moreover, at the approximate midpoint of travel between Uniontown and Brownsville, on the one hand, and Upper Middletown and New Salem, on the other. Wayfarers in every direction were thus presented at the Searight Tavern with an inviting opportunity to rest and refuel before tackling the next challenging stretch of highway.

While many Colonial Era taverns have been studied, few nineteenth-century taverns have been examined archaeologically in any detail. The Peter Colley Tavern, located several miles northeast of the Searight Tavern Site, is the most similar locus subjected to scrutiny, the biggest difference being that drovers usually slept in their wagons at Colley's, while their colleagues at the larger Searight Tavern had the option of interior accommodations. The Peter Colley Tavern was also opened a couple of decades earlier than the Searight Tavern (circa 1801), and it ceased functioning sooner, around 1854. The Peter Colley Tavern building continued to function as a farmhouse from the mid-nineteenth century into the twentieth century. Archaeological remains recovered from the Peter Colley Tavern vicinity provided no evidence of its use as a tavern, according to Dr. Michael and his associate Ronald C. Carlisle in their article "Peter Colley Tavern: Nineteenth-Century Wagon Tavern."<sup>\*</sup> The domestic artifacts recovered by Dr.

Michael and his California State College Archaeological Field School students at the Peter Colley Tavern in 1972 and 1973 were relatively few, and often from mixed temporal periods. A wide assortment of early nineteenth-century wares and vessel types were present, as well as white paste ceramics (pearlware, whiteware, ironstone). Dr. Michael reported that the majority of the early-to-mid-nineteenth-century white paste ceramics had transferprinted decoration and were manufactured in England. Late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century whiteware were from potteries in Ohio. This is consonant with the assemblage from Searight Tavern.

Some interesting observations have been made concerning eighteenth- and early-nineteenth-century taverns, particularly as they compared to domestic sites. In an article titled "Occupational Differences Reflected in Material Culture,"<sup>\*</sup> Kathleen J. Bragdon compared colonial tavern and domestic sites in New England, and found that the tavern site assemblages contained larger proportions of ceramic fragments. She also noted that higher numbers of these ceramics derived from drinking vessel forms. Tavern site artifact collections also contained larger percentages of wine glasses and pipe stem fragments than contemporary domestic sites. Ms. Bragdon recognized a similar pattern continuing into the nineteenth century at sites in other areas along the East Coast, including the Searight Tavern Site.

Diana D. Rockman and Nan A. Rothschild compared colonial tavern sites in urban and rural contexts in an article titled "City Tavern, Country Tavern: An Analysis of Four Colonial Sites."<sup>\*\*</sup> They found that the artifact assemblages of urban taverns were more specialized than those in rural areas. Urban taverns were locales for drinking and other "socializing" activities, while rural tavern assemblages suggested extensive food preparation and consumption in addition to drinking. They attributed this to the accommodation functions provided by rural taverns.

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<sup>\*</sup> *Pennsylvania Archaeologist* Vol. 46, 1976.

<sup>\*</sup> *Northeast Historical Archaeology*, Vol. 10, 1981.

<sup>\*\*</sup> *Historical Archaeology*, Vol. 18, No. 2, 1984.

Dr. Kenneth Basalik reported similar findings concerning butchering at a nineteenth-century tavern site in eastern Pennsylvania.\* He noted modifications similar to those observed by Rockman and Rothschild as the tavern's setting changed from rural to urban, but he attributed the changes to an increasingly elitist mindset (associated with fox hunting) rather than an evolution of the tavern's surroundings.

At a nineteenth-century canal town tavern site, archaeologists noted a slightly different pattern.\*\* Meats were limited to small steak and stew cuts, and serving vessels to lower status ceramics. A large number of proprietary and medicinal bottles were present. The nature of the assemblage bespoke a need for quick meal preparation—an understanding requirement at an establishment catering to canalers.

In "Problems and Promise in Urban Historical Archaeology," Roy S. Dickens and William R. Bowen noted differential patterns in bottle preservation between saloons and domestic middens in the late nineteenth century.\*\*\* Only fragments of beer bottles were found at a tavern dump, while whole bottles were frequently recovered from domestic dumps. The authors' interpretation was that the tavern keepers returned or used bottles for refilling, while domestic consumers were more inclined to discard them.

### **An intersite comparison**

The Searight Tavern Site shares similarities with many of the archaeologically-examined tavern sites noted above, but there is not a one-to-one correspondence. The prevalence of drinking vessel forms is not sufficiently evident at the Searight Tavern Site to draw a conclusion that this was one of the primary activities at the Site. No wine glass or pipe stem fragments were recovered from the yard areas surrounding the

tavern building. The Searight Tavern Site certainly reflects the rural tavern pattern observed by Rockman and Rothschild. Food preparation and consumption appear to have been the primary activities undertaken at the Site. Indeed, none of the artifacts recovered from the Site suggest that a tavern once operated there. Drawing on his work at the Peter Colley and Searight Tavern Sites, Dr. Michael argued that nineteenth-century tavern sites in the region are archaeologically indistinguishable from regular homesteads. This may be attributable to the following historical and archaeological factors.

Many of the nineteenth-century tavern sites examined archaeologically had continued to be occupied into the twentieth century as domiciles. Length of occupation had an impact on archaeological deposition. One can postulate a higher intensity of human activity on a property with a functioning tavern as opposed to a purely residential site. If nothing else, a larger number of individuals would be engaged in a wider variety of activities, or they would conduct certain activities more frequently. The wear on the grounds and outbuildings would be increased. The maintenance of the land and outbuildings associated with the tavern, and changes to the tavern building relating to the expansion or contraction of business, would result in a considerable mixing of archaeological deposits. This appears to have been the case both at the Searight Tavern Site and several other tavern sites along the National Road.

The mixing of deposits could make it difficult to discern nineteenth-century tavern assemblages in the region. Tavern assemblages might also be indistinguishable from homestead assemblages where the tavern building served simultaneously as a family domicile, as was the case with the Searight Tavern. Historical data indicate that the Searight Tavern was occupied at any one time by a wide variety of individuals, including the innkeeper, members of his family, boarders, and overnight or day guests. A large number of individuals actually lived at the tavern. The domestic nature of the Searight Tavern Site assemblage dovetails with Rockman's and Rothschild's observation concerning the accommodation services

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\* *Phase III Archaeological Survey, Rose Tree Tavern Relocation Project*, 2006.

\*\* *Gayman Tavern: A Study of a Canal-Era Tavern in Dauphin Borough*, Jerry Clouse, 2003.

\*\*\* *Historical Archaeology*, Vol. 14, 1980.

provided by rural taverns. Although the artifact assemblage at Searights contained the same types of materials as homestead sites, comparisons with the Shaw Site and the Clement Site—two nineteenth-century rural residences within two miles of the Tavern—revealed some differences in the percentages of specific artifact types present. The Tavern was a public gathering place, as well as a home to a variety of individuals who worked in other Searights village enterprises. Differences between the rural residential site assemblages and the Searight Tavern Site assemblage may relate to the Tavern’s more “urbanized” location. They might also be attributed to the fact that deposits at the Tavern Site represented refuse from a large and varied assortment of individuals, in contrast to the handful of family members on the rural residential sites.

The paucity of tavern-specific archaeological evidence at the Searight Tavern Site may say something about the people who occupied the Tavern, or it may reflect a facet of the Tavern’s nature. Dr. Michael’s informant suggested that the lack of liquor-related artifacts from the nineteenth century might be attributable to religious convictions held by members of the Searight family. Given the Tavern’s functioning as

an investment property for the Searights, and its long line of innkeepers, this seems unlikely. The observation by Dickens and Bowen that tavern keepers tended to return or re-use bottles rather than discard them offers a more likely explanation. Religious conviction would also not account for the absence of artifacts associated with social interaction, such as tobacco pipes. Most activities engaged in by the Tavern’s residents and guests—beyond eating and sleeping—took place somewhere other than on the Tavern grounds (i.e., in the livery stable, the blacksmith shop, or the general store). It seems likely that the Tavern’s public space was confined to the large common room and the front porch.

Rural taverns were refuges for weary travelers, offering meals, overnight accommodation, animal stabling, and other domestic services. Many country taverns also served as “watering holes” where area residents could meet for social and political interaction. The Searight Tavern continued in this tradition through the latter years of the nineteenth century, enjoying its reputation as an upscale establishment as it served the Searight family as both a both a revenue generator and a seat of local political power.



*Drover with Conestoga wagon and six-horse team. Reproduced from illustration in The Old Pike.*

## Eras in the Shaw Site's Evolution

Archaeological field data and historic records provide glimpses into the evolution of the Shaw Site from its genesis in the mid-1850s through the mid-twentieth century. The assembled data do not constitute a neat page on which the history of the Site is writ large. Rather, they present themselves in the form of a wrinkled palimpsest—an antique manuscript on which more than one text has been written, with the earlier script incompletely erased and still partly visible beneath later writing. Through examining the Shaw Site's overlapping “texts,” and “reading between the lines,” we discern the outline of the Site's evolution as a series of starts and breaks marking the end of one era and the beginning of another. The temporal divisions are largely based on what the authors perceived to be watershed events in the history of the Shaw family.

### **The Shaw Site: 1855-1860**

The first era at the Shaw Site—1855 to 1860—was the shortest. This period began with William Shaw's acquisition of the property in the spring of 1855 and ended with his death five years later. Known as “Wagoner Billy” for his work as a drover on the National Road, Shaw went on to serve in 1854 and 1855 (at least) as innkeeper at the Searight Tavern. In population census schedules compiled in 1840, 1850, and 1860, he was identified as a farmer. There is no archaeological or documentary evidence of extensive farming activity on the Shaw Site property. William Shaw did most of his farming on a property elsewhere in Menallen Township. That modestly-sized farm was characterized on agricultural schedules compiled in 1850 and 1860 as moderately productive, so Shaw must have devoted considerable time to it. How he balanced his labors as a farmer, drover and innkeeper is unknown. In a population census enumeration conducted in June 1860, Shaw was recorded as owning only \$200 worth of real estate, and \$700 in personal property—assets quite low in com-

parison to those reported by neighboring heads-of-households.

The types of artifacts unearthed at the Shaw Site are suggestive of the Shaw family's humble economic status. The ceramic assemblage comprises a wide range of types primarily manufactured during the second and third decades of the nineteenth century, and a few ceramics from an even earlier period. Polychrome, blue transferprinted, painted, banded, shell edged, sponge decorated and other pearlwares were present, as were creamwares. William and Margaret Shaw had been married for over a quarter-century by the mid-1850s. Either they brought to their new home ceramic tableware they had purchased and used earlier in their married life, or they acquired pre-owned tableware (perhaps once utilized at the Searight Tavern) to furnish their new accommodations along Hatfield Road (presumably the dwelling referred to in the twentieth century as an “old log house”). Whatever the case, the high percentage of pre-1850 tablewares recovered from the Shaw Site suggests that the Shaws did not have the means and/or desire to replace their older ceramics with newer, more fashionable goods.

The five years between William Shaw's acquisition of the Hatfield Road property and his death was a period of stress and change for the Shaw family. One daughter and her new husband moved to Iowa, and a second daughter died while still in her teens. At 55 years of age, William Shaw had retired from droving, and after a brief stint as innkeeper, retired from that occupation as well. He was apparently not wealthy enough to acquire the farm on which he worked, but he had the wherewithal to purchase the pair of one-acre lots that would accommodate the Shaw Site. He moved to this property with the remaining members of his family, bringing goods they had acquired either decades earlier (when they were in fashion) or more recently, in less-expensive, “used” condition. While William Shaw presumably worked with a large population of animals

Page No. 16 } air-lexicons numbered 7, 16, and 17 are not to be added to support to exhibit. Lexicons numbered 11, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 20 are to be numbered (if at all) merely by an alternative mark, as /.

SCHEDULE 1—Inhabitants in Menallen Township, in the County of Lehigh, State of Pennsylvania, enumerated by me on the 20th day of July, 1870. MyFamily.com

Post Office: Menallen Asst. Marshal

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
							Value of Real Estate	Value of Personal Estate												
69	47	Shaw Margaret	67	3/4	W	Keeping House	\$200	\$100	Pennsylvania											
		Rebecca	50	3/4	W	Seamstress			Pennsylvania											
71	48	Shaw John	30	11	W	Farmer		\$1,200	Pennsylvania											
		Elizabeth	39	7	W	Keeping House			Pennsylvania											
		William	6	11	W				Pennsylvania											
		Joseph	4	11	W				Pennsylvania											
73	47	Reed Jeremiah	53	11	W	Farmer	\$1,000	\$2,100	Pennsylvania											
		Annul	56	11	W	Farmer			Pennsylvania											
		Maria	39	3	W	Keeping House		\$570	Pennsylvania											
		John	13	11	W				Pennsylvania											

Data presented on a census schedule completed on July 20, 1870 appear to indicate that three dwellings were located on or near the Shaw Site: Dwelling 69, occupied by Margaret Shaw and her daughter Rebecca; Dwelling 70, apparently vacant; and Dwelling 71, occupied by Margaret's son John and his family (Shaw households highlighted in yellow).

on a farm elsewhere in Menallen Township, his livestock on the Shaw Site property was limited to two horses (providing transportation), a cow (providing milk and milk-based products for home consumption), and three pigs (either for selling or butchering off-site).

### The Shaw Site: 1860-1885

The second era of occupation at the Shaw Site began in July 1860 with the death of William Shaw, and concluded in January 1885 with the passing of his widow, Margaret. Life for the Shaw family changed some, but not a lot, during this period. Margaret Shaw and her spinster daughter Rebecca continued to live on the property. The number of animals for which they paid taxes decreased to one horse and one cow. Margaret was identified throughout this period as a widow, and Rebecca was occasionally characterized as a seamstress. Margaret's son, John, took over farming the land that his father had tilled.

According to data recorded on agricultural schedules in 1860 and 1880, John Shaw's farm in 1880 was quite similar to William Shaw's farm in 1860. John Shaw married during the 1860s. Records do not indicate where he and his wife lived before 1870, when a census enumerator found

them at home near (or possibly on) the Shaw Site. Archaeological evidence and records compiled later in the nineteenth century suggest that John Shaw and his wife lived on the same parcel as John's mother and sister for a brief period. Archaeological testing revealed that a building of some sort once stood northwest of the main (log) house. No foundations were discovered in this location, but nails exhumed here suggest that the structure was frame. Artifact patterns in this area were very similar to the residence-related objects near the main house foundation. The ages of the artifacts in this area suggest that the frame structure was no longer extant or occupied as of approximately 1875. Census data compiled in 1870 (**above**) indicate that three dwellings were then located on or near the Shaw Site. Dwelling 69 was probably the log house which Margaret and Rebecca Shaw continued to occupy after William Shaw's death. Dwelling 70 was characterized as vacant. Based upon the archaeological data, this building likely stood in the northwest corner of the Shaw property, and may have been constructed by or for John Shaw and his wife. The third dwelling cited in the 1870 census enumeration was home to John Shaw's household, which included two sons. Deed data from a latter period suggest that this household may have lived on an

adjacent lot, which John Shaw eventually acquired in 1884.

The layout of the Shaw property during the 1860-1885 period can be interpolated from the archaeological evidence. The main house appears to have maintained its southern exposure, as did the newer house to the northwest (which was occupied for less than a decade). The northern or rear yard contained two small privies located approximately 20 feet from the back door of the main house. The privy shafts were not deep, and would have taken little effort to dig. It is likely that new shafts or pits were dug periodically. The presence of the privies might suggest that the northern yard was used as a work area. It appears, however, that it served more often as public space, as it included paths between the two houses during the 1860s, and between the main house and the John Shaw dwelling on the adjoining parcel to the west during the 1870s and 80s. The northern yard area was kept relatively free of debris, particularly when compared to the eastern yard area. The pattern of ceramic and glass vessel types present in the northern yard area was similar to patterns in public spaces at the nearby Searight Tavern Site. A high percentage of redware in the vicinity of the building in the northwest corner of the Shaw Site, as well as in the northern yard of the main house, suggests that both households were involved in processing milk provided by the Shaws' cow. The large number of glass storage vessels in the northern yard of the main house also suggests that the two households canned foods together.

The artifact assemblage in the northern yard area includes a significant portion of refined paste ceramics, suggesting the area was used during the 1860-1885 period for non-work-related activities such as eating meals and drinking tea. Teawares and serving wares were particularly numerous in Area 4 (north of the main house foundation) and Area 5 (about 42 feet northwest of the foundation), as delineated on Figures 28 and 29 (**page 50**). Though illiterate and of modest means, Margaret Shaw appears to have sought a level of respectability and participation in the Victorian-era "Cult of Domesticity" on par with her more well-to-do neighbors.

The area around the structure located northwest of the main residence (Area 5) contained an artifact assemblage similar to those uncovered in Areas 4 and 7 (the latter a midden deposit in the eastern yard). The one conspicuous point of divergence between these assemblages was in their percentages of medicinal containers. Relatively few glass artifacts were recovered from the area around the northwestern building (occupied for less than a decade by John Shaw and his family), but nearly half of those artifacts identifiable by bottle type were pieces of medicine bottles. With John Shaw's 1½-year-old daughter dying in 1869, and his twin sons and wife passing away two years later, one wonders if these items might have been associated with attempts to ward off one or more fatal illnesses.

The Shaw family consumed a variety of foods during the 1860-1885 period. Agricultural data indicate that wheat and oats were staples, presumably utilized in the making of bread, porridges, and other grain foods. Pollen and macrofloral data indicate that the family also ate apples, peaches, and elderberries. Faunal evidence reveals that chicken, swine, and a variety of wild animals were included in the family's diet. The paucity of beef-related artifacts at the Shaw Site contrasts with assemblages at both the Searight Tavern Site (which served as a residential property beginning in the 1880s or 90s) and the Shaeffer Farm Site, a working-class farmstead in Armstrong County with an occupational history similar to the Shaw Site's. Pork was the most frequently represented meat in the Shaw Site's faunal assemblage. Hog meat was the principal form of animal protein for subsistence farmers in this region during the post-Revolutionary period. Faunal evidence from the Shaw Site suggests that this pattern persisted through the late 1800s, at least for people of limited means like the Shaws. The meat cuts in evidence further suggest that the Shaws tended to consume less-expensive pork products, and these were incorporated into stews and casseroles rather than eaten as discrete meal components.

Archaeobotanical analysis of samples collected at the Shaw Site suggests that the areas east, southeast, and northwest of the main house were grassed. The presence of microscopic Aster-

aceae tissue fragments implies that the landscape had been periodically burned to control weeds. Grape vines may have been cultivated at the Site, as judged from grape pollen recovered in the area northwest of the main house. Berries were relatively abundant, and were likely consumed as foods. It is possible that mustard was also grown in the vicinity. Pollen from an ornamental flower species was recovered from the northwestern corner of the Site, suggesting that someone cultivated a flower garden in that area.

The yard areas were fenced during the 1860-1885 period. A fence line located approximately 30-35 feet from the eastern and northern walls of the main house appears to have enclosed the eastern and northern yard areas. A break in the fence line opposite the eastern wall of the main house probably marked an opening (possibly gated) along the pathway leading to a work area where the Shaws parked their horse-drawn vehicles. Other yard features suggest an evolving pattern of trash disposal possibly reflecting a change in the concept of "yard." A small privy stood just inside an angle in the fence line north of the gate. The placement of a privy in this location suggests a shift in the perceived "work area," from the rear yard to the side yard. This shift would have preserved the area between the dwellings as public space. This scenario is supported by the artifact assemblage unearthed from the eastern yard, which reflected repeated depositions of trash between the house and a chicken coop located approximately 15 feet east of the southeastern corner of the house. When the initial fence no longer suited the occupants' needs, they replaced it with a fence enclosing a slightly smaller area around the house. The new fence preserved the configuration of the eastern yard, including the privy standing in the northeastern corner of the yard. No evidence of an opening—gated or otherwise—was discovered in the latter fence line. Margaret Shaw was taxed for her ownership of a milk cow from 1861 through 1868, but never again thereafter. This development, along with the construction of a gateless replacement fence, may signal the shift of animal care responsibilities on the property to her son John, who lived in or just beyond the western portion

of the property. This hypothesis is supported by the construction later in this period of a gated wire fence in the northern yard, running roughly parallel to the western wall of the main house.

John Shaw appears to have moved his family into a dwelling on an adjacent parcel around 1869, leaving the structure in the northwest corner of the Shaw Site unoccupied and subject to further deterioration. John's new home was not far removed from the log house on the Shaw Site, so he could have kept close watch on his aging mother and sister. John's children may have continued to frequent the northern yard area and the area around the abandoned house. Marbles and doll parts were plentiful in this area. Marbles were discovered primarily in high artifact density areas, while doll parts tended to be clustered in areas of relatively low artifact density. This could mean that John's sons spent more time in areas of concentrated activity (including trash piles and around the abandoned dwelling) than did their sister, at least when she was playing with her dolls.

The 1860-1885 period brought additional stress and change to the Shaw family. Margaret Shaw and her spinster daughter Rebecca continued to occupy the main house. Margaret's son John married and moved into a small house northwest of his mother. As his family grew, John moved into a bigger house on an adjacent lot. He and his wife lost three children in a short period of time, and then his wife either died or moved away. There was little change in the farm which John rented or leased from the 1860s through the 1880s. There was little or no improvement in the productivity or value of the farm, according to agricultural schedules, nor were there significant changes in the number of animals at the farm. Livestock on the Shaw Site property also remained consistent, with two horses and two milk cows being regularly recorded by the Menallen Township tax assessor. Nationally, the years from 1873 through 1879 were marked by a protracted economic depression characterized by low prices and tight credit. Large, overexpanded farms were the principal victims of the hard times occasioned by the Panic of 1873. There is no indication that the economic downturn affected the Shaws or the farm on which John Shaw worked.

Neither property increased in value or productivity during this period, but that had been the case for years prior to the Panic.

### **The Shaw Site: 1885-1914**

The third period of Shaw Site occupation was bookended by the death of Margaret Shaw in January 1885 and the death of her son John in March 1914. Historical data concerning the Shaw family during this period is limited. Activities on the Shaw Site do not appear to have changed significantly, as the artifact assemblage dating to this period is similar to that of the previous period. Between 1885 and 1900, the Shaw family's fortunes continued to decline. While John Shaw had been able to maintain his standing as a farmer through the financial storm triggered by the Panic of 1873, he came out of the economic downturn precipitated by the Panic of 1893 as a mere "farm laborer." His son William, identified as a farm laborer in an 1880 census enumeration, was working as a carpenter by 1900, according to an enumeration conducted in that year. Rebecca Shaw continued to occupy the Shaw parcel, but by 1900 she was part of her nephew William Shaw's household. William had married around 1895 and moved (or so it appears) into the log house, where he and his wife Ida raised two children. Rebecca's brother John, who had been living on the adjacent lot to the west, purchased that lot in 1884. He conveyed the property to his bachelor son Jasper in 1895, but continued to live there with his second wife (Emma) and three children.

Rebecca Shaw died from tuberculosis at the end of 1901. In the decade that followed, the Shaw property and the adjoining property to the west changed hands several times. Bachelor Jasper Shaw conveyed the adjoining property to his brother William in 1903. William might have used the occasion to move his wife and children into the larger house, as Jasper and his father John moved out, perhaps into the smaller and older log house on the Shaw Site. John bought out his two surviving sisters' interests in the Shaw Site property in 1908. The following year, William and Ida Shaw conveyed the adjoining property to

the west to their daughter Katie and her bookkeeper husband, Nevin Truxal. Katie had lost her first baby a year before and was expecting another that summer. By April 1910, there were four households along Hatfield Road occupied by 11 members of the extended Shaw family. It is not clear who lived in which dwelling, or for how long. This confusing period of occupancy came to an end on March 15, 1914 with the death of widower John Shaw.

A high level of oak pollen near the northwest corner of the main Shaw Site house suggests the presence of an oak tree at or near that location during the 1885-1914 period. Charcoal in archaeobotanical samples suggests that oak was also used as fuel. Recovered apple pollen suggest an apple tree was present in the vicinity. Pokeweed seed fragments recovered near the northeast corner of the house suggest pokeweed was utilized by the Site's inhabitants. Pokeweed can be used as a pot herb, and also for pies and jellies. Seeds from a mint plant were found in Feature 18, suggesting another herb was in use by the historic inhabitants. Pork continued to figure prominently in the Shaw family's diet.

Historical and archaeological data from this period indicate extensive changes in the Shaw Site's configuration. The orientation of the main building on the property—referred to in 1926 as an "old log house"—was altered during this period. The main entryway was moved from the southern exposure to the eastern façade, and a porch was built around the new front entrance. The adjacent eastern yard area, used for trash disposal throughout much of the nineteenth-century occupation, was converted into a more public space. The trash deposits there were hidden beneath a layer of soil, as they were too close to the new front entrance to the house. The western yard became the new backyard, utilized as a work area. A drain was installed to channel wastewater away from the rear of the house downhill in a northwestward direction. A wire fence attached to the northwest corner of the house divided the western yard from the northern yard.

This reconfiguration might have taken place around the time a "one story shanty" was constructed eastward of the aging log house (the



precise date of the shanty's construction has not been ascertained). Set on cement block piers, the new building appears to have been equipped with a brick chimney and fireplace, unlike the log house, whose combination heating-cooking stove must have been ventilated via a stovepipe. Use of the southern yard—an area lying between the neighboring houses and the southeastern limit of the Shaw Site property—increased during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, as revealed by the artifacts recovered from this area, as well as the small privy pits excavated along the yard's outer limits.

While artifacts dating to the 1885-1914 period were present throughout the Site, concentrations were discovered in three loci: the western yard of the log house (Area 6), its southern yard (Area 1), and the shanty's southern yard (Area 2). The nature of the overall artifact assemblage was similar to that of the previous period (1860-1885). There was an increased use of whiteware vessels and stoneware crocks and jugs, but the generic types of vessels in Area 2—with its strong late nineteenth- to early twentieth-century component—were nearly identical with those in Area 5, which date to the 1860s. There were fewer redware/stoneware artifacts deposited in the rear of the house during this period, but more mason jar fragments. Canning thus appears to have remained a regular activity around the log house. By contrast, there was virtually no evidence of canning around the shanty (Area 2), where storage vessels such as crocks, jugs, and bottles reflected food and beverage consumption rather than processing. Teawares and food-serving vessels predominated in the assemblages around both dwellings, with serving wares most plentiful near the log house. The percentage of porcelain and whiteware was higher in this vicinity, as well. Areas abutting the shanty contained a higher percentage of liquor bottles and fragments. Jasper Shaw and/or his father John are more likely to have been the sources of these artifacts than William Shaw, who reportedly swore off alcohol around 1900. As noted above, it is possible that John Shaw moved into the log house after his children married and left home. That move may have coincided with the relocation of William's family to the larger dwelling on the

neighboring lot to the west. Might the shanty have been constructed around this time for William's bachelor brother Jasper?

The cultural landscape organizes the social space in which individuals interact. The organization of social space is a means by which social distinctions are sustained and modified. Following Margaret Shaw's death, the extended Shaw family appears to have experienced a period of change and realignment. The evidence indicates that two dwellings were again occupied on the Shaw Site (the third residence, in the western portion of the Site, having been abandoned). The new building was constructed not near the abandoned dwelling, but to the east of the log house, which was reoriented around this time to face its new neighbor. In the early years of the unsettled period, John Shaw appears to have lived with his family in the house on the adjoining lot to the west, while Rebecca occupied the log house. This arrangement changed around 1895 when Rebecca's nephew William married Ida, and the newlyweds (apparently) moved in with William's aunt. This development may not have triggered major changes in the landscape or the configuration of structures on the Shaw Site. By contrast, the death of Rebecca in 1901 and the growth of William's family appears to have led to a shuffle in living arrangements that left John and Jasper both living alone by 1910. Jasper's conveyance of the western lot to William in 1903 may have simply formalized what had already become an established fact in the use of the living spaces. By the time John Shaw finally acquired full ownership of the Shaw Site parcel in 1908, the new configuration of dwellings on the property had been effected. Interaction between the occupants of the log house and the shanty eclipsed interaction between residents of the Shaw Site parcel and the parcel to the west.

### **The Shaw Site: 1914-1967**

The final period of activity on the Shaw Site dates from John Shaw's death in March 1914 to 1967, when an aerial photograph revealed that all of the buildings on the Site had been removed or razed. Historical and archaeological data for this period is limited. Greensburg resident Nevin

Truxal—the husband of John’s granddaughter—served as executor of John’s estate, which County appraisers valued in 1915 at a modest \$214.56. Around that time, William Shaw’s daughter Edith married coal miner Walter J. Schimansky and moved away, first to live with Walter’s parents in Upper Middletown Township, and then to Uniontown. Between 1910 and 1918, William and Ida Shaw divorced. Ida left the area, and William moved with his three sons to the home of his daughter Edith. William was characterized as a carpenter in 1918 and 1919 tax assessments, then as a general laborer the following year. No Shaws were included in the 1920 Menallen Township census enumeration, and there is no evidence that the Shaw Site was occupied as of that year.

A suit filed against John Shaw’s estate by George W. Morris resulted in the seizure of the Shaw property by the Fayette County Sheriff in March 1926, and the Sheriff’s sale of the property a couple of months later to Edith Schimansky for \$146.74. William Shaw continued to pay taxes on the property until 1928. The property was valued at \$300 for tax purposes until 1927, when the valuation was reduced to \$100. Edith paid the taxes on the property in 1929 and 1930. She conveyed the property back to her father in 1929, but William and his sons continued to live with the Schimanskys in Uniontown.

On November 12, 1935, President Roosevelt declared November 28 a day of national thanksgiving, noting that in “a period of national stress our country has been knit together in a closer fellowship of mutual interest and common purpose. We can well be grateful that more and more of our people understand and seek the greater good of the greater number. We can be grateful that selfish purpose of personal gain, at our neighbor’s loss, less strongly asserts itself.” The Great Depression was in its sixth year, so times were tough for most Americans. For William Shaw and other former Shaw Site residents, the hard times stretched back at least several years before the Great Depression. William marked the nation’s first official Thanksgiving Day—November 28, 1935—by taking his own life in a bedroom on the second floor of his daughter’s house in Uniontown.

## The long view

The Shaw Site offers evidence of one Fayette County family’s adaptation to the Industrial Age. “Wagoner Billy” Shaw earned his living in the mid-nineteenth century through a variety of occupations, including droving, farming, and innkeeping. After his death, his family supported itself primarily through tenant farming, and thus avoided employment options offered in the growing coal-and-coke industry and more distant, urban settings. By truck farming, keeping a few animals, collecting wood, and hunting on and around their small plot of land, the Shaws remained self-sufficient through the hard times of the 1870s and 1890s. They were able to afford a few luxuries and retain their relative autonomy. While neither wealthy nor highly educated, the Shaws were swept up in the spreading Cult of Domesticity, adopting the view of the home as a refuge from the outside world. A close extended family provided a network of support in both good times and bad.

The Shaw Site is exceptional in some respects. It is a compact rural residential site that may have been occupied initially for retirement purposes. Though most of the adult male Shaws farmed during the nineteenth century, they neither owned nor lived on the farm(s) they worked. The Shaw Site nonetheless fits neatly into the continuum of archaeologically tested late nineteenth-/early twentieth-century farm sites in southwestern Pennsylvania. The Site’s artifact assemblage was similar to those recovered at the nearby Clement (Farm) Site and the more distant Shaeffer Farm Site (in Armstrong County). The similarities in these assemblages are striking in view of the divergent economic standings of the properties’ inhabitants. The Clements owned and operated the farm on which they resided, expanding it in size and productivity far beyond the Shaw and Shaeffer properties. Despite this disparity, the Clement Site artifactual data had much in common with the data from the other sites, suggesting that while the inhabitants of the respective sites stood on different rungs of the socio-economic ladder, they all strove for “middle class respectability.” While subtle differences in the social status of

the sites' respective residents may be discerned through intersite comparisons, the greatest differences between the site assemblages relate to intra-site activities, site function, and temporal periods.

Data from the Searight Tavern Site stands in marked contrast to data collected from the rural residential Shaw, Clement, and Shaeffer Farm Sites. Although some similarities can be perceived between the hypothesized public space at the Shaw Site and the mid-nineteenth-century deposits at the Searight Tavern, few other intersite similarities are recognizable. While the Tavern property functioned as the seat of a family farm during the late nineteenth century, it served as a public gathering place for half-a-century prior to that, as well as a home for a variety of individuals who worked in the Tavern and other village enterprises. Differences between the Searight

Tavern Site artifact assemblage and the Shaw, Clement, and Shaeffer Farm assemblages may be rooted in the Tavern's more "urban" location (i.e., in a village along the National Road).

It is not clear what factors contributed to the preponderance of locally-manufactured products in and around the Searight Tavern (a well-connected waystation on the National Road), particularly in light of the relatively high percentage of non-local goods at the more remote (but only by half-a-mile) Shaw Site. The disparity suggests that rural residents were guided in their household acquisitions less by their proximity to markets and the availability of goods than by consumer preference, social mores, privacy issues, prices, and a desire to at least maintain, if not improve, their social standing.



# Strands in a Chronological Chord

A Select List of Redletter Dates in the Intertwined Histories of  
the National Road, the Searight Tavern, and the Shaw Property

*Compiled by Norene Halvonik, Benatec Associates  
in consultation with Donna Holdorf, Executive Director, National Road Heritage Park*

## Early Trails and Military Roads Era Pre-1811

**1747** Delaware Indian Chief Nemacolin begins laying out a westward path across the Allegheny Mountains.

**1752** Christopher Gist leads a party of 11 families to an area north of present-day Uniontown, where they establish the region's first Colonial settlement.

**1754** French defeat British/Colonial forces at Fort Necessity, as prelude to the French and Indian War; Colonel George Washington retreats.

**1760** Colonel James Burd extends "Braddock's Road" to the Monongahela River at Brownsville, Pennsylvania.

**1763** French and Indian War ends with the French driven out of western Pennsylvania and Ohio territories.

**1775** Revolutionary War begins.

**1776** Declaration of Independence signed.

**1781** Revolutionary War ends.

**1783** The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania creates Fayette County, with the County Seat at Uniontown.

**1789** U.S. Constitution is enacted; George Washington is elected President.

**1791** The Whiskey Rebellion begins.

**1794** General Anthony Wayne defeats Indians at Fallen Timber, eliminating the threat of attack on settlers; the Whiskey Rebellion ends.

**1803** Thomas Jefferson is elected President and appoints Pennsylvanian Albert Gallatin as Treasury Secretary; Ohio becomes a state; U.S. Congress earmarks 5% of public land sales for road construction.

**1806** Congress appropriates construction funds for the Cumberland (National) Road between the Potomac and Ohio Rivers via a Pennsylvania route.

## The National Road Era 1811-1835

**1811** Construction of the National Road begins at Cumberland, Maryland; the steamboat Enterprise, built by Daniel French in Brownsville, makes the first round trip between Pittsburgh and New Orleans.

**1812** War between the United States and England begins.

- 1814** The War of 1812 ends.
- 1817** The National Road is opened as far west as the Monongahela River at Brownsville.
- 1820** The National Road reaches the Ohio River at Wheeling, [West] Virginia.
- 1821** William Searight acquires from Josiah Frost an uncompleted tavern building along the National Road in Menallen Township, Fayette County.
- 1822** William Searight begins operating a tavern beside the intersection of the National Road and Upper Middletown Road, midway between Uniontown and Brownsville.
- 1832** The federal government restores the deteriorated National Road prior to turning it over to the States.
- 1833** Private investors build a covered toll bridge across the Monongahela River at Brownsville.

### **The Toll Road Era 1835-1905**

- 1835** Pennsylvania takes ownership the National Road within the boundaries of the Commonwealth and erects six tollhouses along the Pennsylvania segment of the highway.
- 1838** Congress makes the last regular federal appropriation for the National Road.
- 1839** Using Captain Richard Delafield's design, John Snowden constructs Dunlap's Creek Bridge in Brownsville, the first cast iron bridge west of the Allegheny Ridge; William Searight provides the bridge's masonry.
- 1844** National Road traffic peaks with extension of the B&O Railroad to Cumberland.

- 1851** The untimely death of proprietor Joseph Gray ushers in an era of institutional instability for the Searight Tavern.
- 1852** National Road westward construction stops at Vandalia, Illinois, short of reaching the Mississippi River; the Pennsylvania Railroad opens to Pittsburgh; Searight Tavern owner William Searight dies; his sons T.B. and Ewing Searight assume management of the Tavern property.
- 1853** The B&O Railroad opens to Wheeling via Fairmont, bypassing the National Road.
- 1855** Searight Tavern proprietor William ("Wagoner Billy") Shaw acquires two parcels on the north side of Hatfield Road, approximately two-thirds of a mile north of the Tavern; earliest recorded occupation of the Shaw Site.
- 1860** "Wagoner Billy" Shaw dies; widow Margaret and one or more of the Shaw children continue to occupy the Shaw Site.
- 1883** Railroad branches are extended along the Monongahela River banks into Fayette and Washington Counties to transport coal.
- 1885** Margaret Shaw dies, leaving the Shaw property to her heirs, including unmarried daughter Rebecca.
- 1894** The Searight Tavern building is described as "the private residence of William Searight, a son of Ewing Searight, owner of the property, and late superintendent of the [National] road."
- 1901** Rebecca Shaw dies; possibly the last resident of "the old log house" on the Shaw Site
- 1905** Pennsylvania eliminates National Road tolls.

## **The Automobile Era 1905-Present**

**1910** Forty-two-year-old bachelor Jasper Shaw, living on or near the Shaw Site, is identified in a census enumeration as a “laborer on the National Pike.”

**1913** The West Penn Railways System provides transit service to Fayette County population centers.

**1921** With growth in automobile traffic, the first Federal Highway Act encourages States to build a system of highways that are “interstate in character.”

**1924** Max Noble constructs Searight’s Service Station across Upper Middletown Road from the former Searight Tavern, to serve National Road motorists.

**1925** The federal Bureau of Public Roads completes the designation of U.S. Route 40 between Baltimore and San Francisco, incorporating long segments of the National Road.

**1926** The Shaw property is described in a deed of conveyance as being equipped with “a one story shanty and one old log house.”

**1929** The stock market crashes in October, heralding the onset of the Great Depression.

**1940** The Searight Tavern building is destroyed by fire.

**1941** Japanese attack Pearl Harbor on December 7; the U.S. enters World War II.

**1956** President Eisenhower signs a law creating the Interstate Highway System, commenting that it is the most important highway law enacted since the opening of the National Road.

**1960** I-70 is completed across the Monongahela Valley, bypassing U.S. Route 40.

**1970** California State College Archaeological Field School identifies and tests the Searight Tavern Site.

**1994** The National Road Heritage Park is formed in Pennsylvania; it issues a “Management Action Plan” for preservation of the National Road resource.

**2000** The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission obtains environmental clearance for the Mon/Fayette Expressway project between Uniontown and Brownsville; the Expressway is subsequently designed to avoid or minimize National Road impacts.

**2001** CHRS, Inc. archaeologists identify the Shaw Site and conduct Phase I/II testing thereon.

**2004** CHRS, Inc. archaeologists begin Phase III testing of the Shaw Site.

**2005** CHRS, Inc. archaeologists begin Phase III testing of the Searight Tavern Site.

**2008** Scheduled opening of Phase 1, Uniontown to Brownsville section of Mon/Fayette Expressway.

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