

Maryland Historical Trust HISTORIC PROPERTIES
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

BA 86
Magi No. 0300865326
DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Lamb's School/ Milton Academy

and/or common Milton Inn

2. Location

street & number 14833 York Road not for publication

city, town Sparks vicinity of Councilmanic District 3
congressional district 2nd

state MD county Baltimore County

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Milton Inn Investors Limited Partnership

street & number 2328 West Joppa Road, Suite 700 telephone no.:

city, town Lutherville state and zip code MD 21093

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Courts Building liber SM 7610

street & number 401 Bosley Avenue folio 228

city, town Towson state MD 21204

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title MHT Inventory

date July 29 1965 federal state county local

depository for survey records 100 Community Place

city, town Crownsville state MD 21032

7. Description

Survey No. BA 86

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Milton Inn is a multi-part stone house in vernacular style, with off-center main entrance, 2-1/2 stories, gable roofing, and massive inside end-chimneys. The main block is five bays, the north wing is three bays and 1-1/2 stories high, the upper level of both segments lighted by gable-roofed dormers.

First-story windows in both wings and main block are 9-over-6 panes in layout. The second-story windows in the main block are 6-over-6 double-hung sash types. With sheds and wings, the building footprint is somewhat irregular as shown on the property plat.



8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
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<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1818-1823 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or
Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G

Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Menus and tour books once dated the Milton Inn at 1740, but no such structure can be found in the 1798 tax list of Middle River Upper Hundred. The upgrading of the old Middle Road to York into a turnpike made the present Route 45 an attractive place for inns and taverns after 1810. The first book to challenge the 1740 date was probably *From Marble Hill to Maryland Line*, the American Bicentennial entry of C. E. and S. B. Clemens who were pioneers in the documentary proof of north county history. (1)

Sometime before 1818, Dr. Thomas Love of nearby Loveton mansion agreed to sell three acres to Sebastian Finck. The 1818 Assessor's Field Book compiled by Edward Orrick showed:

Sebastian Finck	Name not known	3 acres at \$10 per acre
	Improvements	\$150
	Household fixtures	25
	4 oz plate	4
	2 head black cattle \$4 each	
	1 hog 50 cents (2)	

The improvements on the parcel, a mere \$150, could hardly reflect a spacious house, even with the immensely greater buying power of the dollar of that period. However, the 1823 tax ledger showed Finck with \$350 worth of improvements on the same property, possibly indicating the existence of the inn building. (3)

The 1820 census listed Sebastian Finck as a family of one, enumerated between Thomas Grey and Joseph Underwood, but there was no data on his nativity. (4)

By 1828, Finck was in financial difficulties, and the Sheriff advertised an auction of his assets in the Baltimore papers:

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name of property: Milton Inn

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By virtue of two writs of fieri facias, issued out of Baltimore County court At the suit of Henry Grove against the goods and chattels, lands, tenements, of Sebastian Finck, to me directed, I have seized and taken in execution. . . Part of a tract of land called Search Amended, it being understood to be A part of a resurvey called Alfred . . . two acres and twenty-four square perches of land, situate on the York Road about seventeen miles from Baltimore. The improvements consist of a large stone tavern, stables, and Blacksmith Shop; also a quantity of household and kitchen furniture. . . .

WM. BALL
Sh'ff B.C.

March 5, 1828 (5)

Andrew Hacks purchased the place in 1829, paying \$1,450. Caleb Hunt became owner in 1848, then sold to Joel, Mordecai, and Elias Matthews the same year. (6)

The Matthews brothers agreed to sell to John Emerson Lamb, but Joel Matthews died before a deed could be executed. Lamb came into control of the property anyway, and J. C. Sidney and P. J. Browne's 1850 map of the county showed "J. E. Lamb, Boarding School" just north of the Philopolis Post Office.

On July 24, 1850, the census taker stopped at the school and listed as resident No. 39 in Lamb's household the 12-year-old J. M. Booth, actually the future Shakespearean actor John Wilkes Booth (1838-1865). (7) Although local sources have credited Edwin Booth with also attending the school, he was at this time touring California with his father, having received a limited education in the Baltimore City schools. In 1998, Kenneth Bosley, Sr., recalled that his great-grandfather had attended Milton Academy with John Wilkes Booth. (8) One of Lamb's frequent advertisements called the institution "Milton Boarding School for Males" in 1852. (9) In spite of proof from the census records, an article in *Baltimore Magazine* in 1969 by a Civil War expert claimed to be a "refutation" of the Booth connection. (10)

An article in the *Jeffersonian* published in Lincoln's birthday in 1932 showed a photo of the Milton Academy with a white arrow pointing to a backporch step where John Wilkes Booth had supposedly carved his name. The same name also appeared "on a large stone, which stood just north of the main entrance." (11)

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In late 1856, the Towsontown paper reported, "Mr. John E. Lamb has been appointed Postmaster at Philopolis, in this county vice Shadrach Sparks, resigned." The name Philopolis is a rendering of "Love-town" into classic Greek, no doubt the idea of some Milton schoolmaster. (12)

Eli M. Lamb acquired proper title from John E. Lamb and the surviving members of the Matthews family in 1863. (13) That same year, with a civil war in progress, Lamb advertised the school as Milton Female Academy. (14)

Successive owners were Ralph L. Duer (1866), Robert Chalfant (1868), and W. Eliphalet Parsons (1871). (15) There were frequent mentions of the school in the Towsontown papers. In 1873, there was a long report of songs, theatricals, and recitations. At that point the school seemed to be co-ed. The report concluded:

The Milton Academy, though but one year under its present management, is a flourishing, growing, and live establishment, destined to become a power in the land for disseminating knowledge. The school is pleasantly located on the York Turnpike, about seventeen miles from Baltimore and near the Northern Central Railway. The number of students Last year was about forty, the most of them coming from the Monumental City. The Board of Instructors are E. Parsons, proprietor and professor of mathematics; And the natural Sciences; S. M. Griffith, A.B., Ancient Languages; Orlando Lang; Vocal and Instrumental Music; John W. Waugh, M.D., Anatomy, Physiology, and Hygiene. (16)

The following year, the *Maryland Journal* gave a full report of the closing exercises at Milton Academy. (17)

In 1885, the academy moved to the city and became Parsons' School. (18)

In 1951 after the school had become a restaurant, a noted Baltimore food critic found a former Milton Academy student to interview. Frederick Philips Stieff in *Gardens, Houses and People* recorded the memories of Charles W. Slagle. Mr. Slagle noted that Professor Parsons owned a large farm and operated a tomato cannery; the school boys were paid 10 cents per bushel to pick the tomatoes in season. Washing facilities at the school consisted of an outside pump and a trough, the only place for "ablutions." Slagle's fellow students came from the early settler families of the north and central county: members of the Price, Sparks, Gorsuch and Pearce families, and one alumnus,, William Pierce, became a "copper tycoon." Food was recalled as "substantial and healthy" but "not so hot" in comparison to the gourmet meals served after the old school became a fashionable restaurant. (19)

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Slagle did not mention that Professor Parsons, also a minister, was the owner of a large gristmill, the one on the Great Gunpowder Falls west of Monkton village. This mill was near the large stone dwelling called "the Bridge House," the present Durkee family place. And was originally one of the Bull family mills. The millrace can be discerned in the grass but the mill foundations are completely gone; there is no doubt about the mill location because it was on a small parcel by itself that can still be found on present day tax maps.

Caleb Hunt became owner again in 1885, and eventually he was in financial straits, unable to repay his mortgage. (20) In 1895, Hunt lost the property at a public sale when the court-appointed trustee sold —some five years after filing the suit—to Harriet M. and Rachel Price. (21)

This property was no longer marked as a school on the 1898 and 1915 issues of the Bromley county atlases. William D. and Elizabeth G. Hurst bought the property in 1910, holding it until 1940. (22) Years after the school closed, the *Sun* in 1913 published a story that Mr. Parsons had been paid on a tuition account 34 years after the services were rendered. (23) An article about the Milton Inn in 1974 confused the local Hearst family with William Randolph Hearst the New York and California newspaper publisher. (24)

In 1940, Mrs. Pauline Epply Leiter bought the school and carried on an antique shop called Milton Hall. Mrs. Leiter was both a dealer and a collector of antiques and taught a course on the subject. (25) She installed a number of brass lamps that were a feature of the décor during the first generation of restaurateurs. The *Sun* reported that Mrs. Leiter's contractor for restoration work was F. W. Boone, Jr. (26) Long after selling the Milton Hall, Mrs. Leiter was written up in the papers under the headline, "Bundle of Energy, She Restored 17 Houses." This feature story reveals that some of the antique fittings were imported to this inn from sources unknown:

"When I first moved in all by myself," she says, "I brought in antique door and window jams [*sic*], flooring, paneling, and mantles. A good friend heard another woman discussing the work being done on Milton Hall and the other woman commented, 'I think she must be crazy: she even brought in her own staircase.'"

During the process of making Milton Hall re-live, she uncovered Behind a plastered wall, a 6-foot fireplace completely sealed up With its original iron and brass cookware intact.

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name of property: Milton Inn

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“Another really exciting find,” she said, “was a stone in one wall which was carved with the name of John Wilkes Booth. His brother attended the academy at one time.” (27)

The question arises as to where the doors and jambs came from and was the account of a new staircase a fact or a typical Baltimore County rural tall tale.

In 1946, Mrs. Leiter sold to Ivan R. Dreschler, who started a restaurant under the name Milton Inn, conducting it until 1958. (28) The operation was incorporated in 1949. (29)

Early in its life as a suburban inn, Frederick Phillips Stieff, author of the cookbook *Eat Drink and Be Merry in Maryland* reviewed the inn for the magazine *Gardens, Houses and People*. Stieff's column was called “The Damask Cloth, Dining in Baltimore Today.” He noted that the most popular items were steak and seafood but the management would prepare anything for a client, given advance notice. He noted that Mrs. Dreschler had been a WAVE during the Second World War; he also reported that the Standard Oil Company had produced a travel film at the inn in 1948 and noted that “the heat of klieg lights had no effect on our appetites.” Stieff had the story that fire had destroyed the top of the north wing of the inn and it had been rebuilt at two stories; a further extension of the north wing had burned in that conflagration and never been rebuilt. But parts of the old north wing fireplace were still visible (1951) “in the kitchen courtyard.” (30)

The corporation sold in 1962 to Antillio B. Allori and Eleanor E. Allori, who continued the grand tradition of rural atmosphere and European cuisine. (31)

Mike Reid's 1974 food review noted the profusion of fox hunting prints hanging on the walls. (32)

The anonymous food critic of Baltimore Magazine in late 1969 gave instructions for finding “the old building which Pickwick would have loved.” The critic got it from Ken the bartender that the “room with the fireplace” was the original kitchen of 1740. He also reported that the chef, Bernard, the developer of “Les huitres farcies Bernard,” had gained his experience at the French Embassy. The unknown critic heaped praise on the place and ended:

I had not been to the Milton Inn for many years, and I recall being treated contemptuously. Not this time. This is an elegant operation, and it has to be in the Area's top four or five.” (33)

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name of property: Milton Inn

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Mr. Allori died in 1979 but the inn carried on. In 1987, Mrs. Allori sold to a new corporation, the president of which was Clark F. MacKenzie; recorded price was \$600,000. (34) The excellence of the cuisine would probably have startled the turnpike travelers of 1823; the old roadside inns were a shelter from the storms, but the food was rough and ready; and even if the law required a minimum number of feather beds, the drivers of Conestoga wagons never got a whole bed to themselves.

The customers and owners of the 20th century hostelry have always believed they were in a pre-Revolutionary building, and even food critic and architectural writer John Dorsey was fooled; in one review, Dorsey stated, "You enter the same Eighteenth Century stone house through the same quaint bar . . . (35)

Louise Bland Goodwin's notes state that the inn was a stage coach stop and that the Lambs and many other post-Parsons owners were of local Quaker families, but even Mrs. Goodwin believed in the 1740 origin. (36)

A Towson paper reported the 1987 transfer:

Before [Clark F.] MacKenzie reopens the doors to the historic Structure in September, he said he will spend about \$100,000 Getting the exterior and the parking lot back into shape.

[William] Shriver's group will add a new kitchen and renovate the bar area at a cost of about \$250,000. But the original wood floors, the huge fireplaces and the intimate dining rooms will be largely untouched." We will continue to live with the charm that is the Milton Inn," MacKenzie said. (37)

The food conscious public was horrified in 1997 to find the Milton Inn suddenly closed as a result of a dispute about its lease. (38) Not many months later, a consortium of choice city restaurants formed Milton Fare, Inc., and the tradition continued under Richard Pirone, who had conducted such venues as the Country Fare Inn and the Brass Elephant. (39) The advertisements for "Northern Baltimore County's Landmark Restaurant" began to appear in the suburban papers in early 1998. (40) The inn is literally a landmark, having been added to the Baltimore County Final Landmarks List by action of the County Council on August 5, 1991.

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Continuation Sheet**

MHT Inventory No.

name of property: *B7-8c*
Milton Inn

Section number 8 Page 7

NOTES:

1. C. E. and S. E. Clemens, *From Marble Hill to Maryland Line* (Monkton, 1976), pages 25-26.
2. Assessor's Field Book, District 5, 1818, Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, Md. HR. No. 8327.
3. Baltimore County Tax Ledger, District 5, 1823, Maryland State Archives, Md. HR No. 8241.
4. U.S. Census, Maryland, Baltimore County, 1820, Old District 5, folio 93.
5. *Baltimore Gazette and Daily Advertiser*, March 10, 1828, p. 4.
6. Baltimore City Deeds, AWB 402:515.
7. U.S. Census, Maryland, Baltimore County, 1850, District 2, p. 20, line 39.
8. Kenneth Bosley to John McGrain, 1998.
9. Baltimore County Advocate, June 5, 1852.
10. L. H. Denton, "Letters," *Baltimore Magazine*, , 62 (December 1969):4.
11. [William Williams], "Lincoln's Birthday Recalls His Great Friendship for Baltimore Countian," *Jeffersonian*, February 13, 1932
12. *Baltimore County Advocate*, Towsontown, December 27, 1856.
13. Baltimore County Deeds, GHL 37:113.
14. Baltimore County Advocate, April 11, 1863.
15. Baltimore County Deeds, EHA 48:39, EHA 60:145; EHA 75:512.
16. "Milton Academy—Closing Exercises," *Maryland Journal*, June 5, 1873.
17. *Maryland Journal*, Towsontown, July 15, 1874.
18. Baltimore County deeds, JWS 156:270.
19. Frederick Philips Stieff, "The Damask Cloth, Dining In Baltimore," *Gardens, Houses and People*, October 1951.

Maryland Historical Trust/
National Register of Historic Places
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BA 86
MHT Inventory No.

name of property: Milton Inn

Section number 8 Page 8

20. S. B. and C. E. Clemens, *From Marble Hill to Maryland Line* (Monkton, 1976), pp.25-26.
21. Baltimore County deeds, NBM 243:592.
22. B. C. deeds, WPC 504:192.
23. Baltimore *Sun*, January 5, 1913.
23. Mike Reid, "Historic Milton Inn: a Visit into Nostalgia," *News American*, April 21, 1974.
24. B. C. deeds, CWB 1092:200.
- 26 *Sun*, January 16, 1940.
- 27 Anonymous, "Bundle of Energy, She Restored 17 Houses," *Evening Sun*, November 6, 1962, p. B-1. Mrs. Leiter was of course in error about Edwin Booth attending Milton Academy.
28. B.C. deeds, JWB 1526;89. also, *Evening Sun*, February 20, 1975, obit. of Ivan Dreschler.
29. B. C. deeds, TBS 1792:144
30. Stieff, "The Damask Cloth," 1951.
31. B.C.deeds, WJR4056:10.
32. Reid, "Historic Milton, Inn," 1974.
33. Anonymous, "Restaurants," *Baltimore Magazine*, 62 (November 1969):71-72.
34. B.C. deeds, SM 7610:228.
35. John Dorsey, "Pleasing Mix Unchanged at the Milton Inn," *Sun Magazine*, June 22, 1980..

**Maryland Historical Trust/
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

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MHT Inventory No.

name of property: Milton Inn

Section number 8 Page 9

36. Louise Bland Goodwin notebooks, Reisterstown Public Library, courtesy of Carol Pollack.
37. Michael Ruby, "I Love Old Buildings, Developer to Reopen Historic Milton Inn," *Towson Flier*, April 2, 1987.
38. Jay Apperson, "Hamilton's To Honor Unused Milton Inn Gift Certificates," *Sun*, November 12, 1997.
39. Jay Apperson, "Milton Inn Might Reopen Next Month," *Sun*, October 24, 1997.
40. "The Milton Inn," *Valley Voice*, March 1998, adv.

"Milton Academy," Federation PTA News, March-April 1935, p. 7.

Jeffersonian, February 18, 1932.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 3.284

Quadrangle name Hereford, Md.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See Tax Map 34, Parcel 27, Grid 10 (Plat attached).

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

state	code	county	code
None			
None			

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John McGrain, County Historian

organization Office of Planning

date June 2, 2000

street & number 401 Bosley Avenue

telephone 410-887-3495

city or town Towson

state MD 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. BA 86

Magi No. 0300865326

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Lamb's School/ Milton Academy

and/or common Milton Inn

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street & number 14833 York Road not for publication

city, town Sparks vicinity of Councilmanic District 3
congressional district 2nd

state Md. county Baltimore County

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<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
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4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Milton Inn Investors Limited Partnership

street & number 2328 W. Joppa Road, Suite 700 telephone no.:

city, town Lutherville state and zip code MD 21093

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courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Courts Building liber SM 7610

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city, town Towson state MD 21204

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title MHT Inventory

date July 29, 1965 federal state county local

depository for survey records Office of Planning

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7. Description

Survey No. BA 86

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

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Milton Inn is a multi-part stone house in vernacular style, with off-center main entrance, 2- $\frac{1}{2}$ storeys, gable roofing, and massive inside end-chimneys. The main block is five bays, the north wing is three bays and 1- $\frac{1}{2}$ storeys high, the upper level of both segments lighted by gable-roofed dormers.

First-story windows in both wings and main block are 9-over-6 panes in layout. The second-story windows in the main block are 6-over-6 double-hung sash types. With sheds and wings, the building footprint is somewhat irregular, as shown on the property plat.



The 30-year-old Milton Inn in Sparks is set for a grand reopening in September.

Lutherville Developer Buys, Rents Out The Milton Inn

8. Significance

Survey No. BA 86

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
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Specific dates 1818-1823 Builder/Architect Unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or

Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G

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	1 hog 50 cents.	1

The improvements on the parcel, a mere \$150, could hardly reflect a spacious house, even with immensely more buying power per dollar. However, the 1823 tax ledger showed \$350 worth of improvements on the same property, possibly including the present structure. 2

By 1828, Finck was in financial difficulties, and the Sheriff advertised his assets in the city papers:

By virtue of two writs of fieri facias, issued out of Baltimore County court at the suit of Henry Grove against the goods and chattels, lands, tenements, of Sebastian Binck, to me directed, I have seized and taken in execution . . . part of a tract of land called Search Amended, it being understood to be a part of a resurvey called Alfred . . . two acres and twenty-four square perches of land, situate on the York Road about seventeen miles from Baltimore.

The improvements consist of a large stone tavern, stables, and blacksmith shop; also a quantity of household and kitchen furniture. . . .

WM. BALL
Sh'ff B.C.

March 5, 1828. 3

Andrew Hacks purchased the place in 1829, paying \$1,450. Caleb Hunt became owner in 1848, then sold to Joel, Mordecai, and Elias Matthews,, the same year. 4

The Matthews brothers agreed to sell to John Emerson Lamb, but Joel Matthews died before a deed could be executed. Lamb came into control of the property anyway and J.C. Sidney's 1850 county map showed "J. E. Lamb, Boarding School," just north of the Philopolis Post Office.

On July 24, 1850, the census taker stopped at the school and listed as resident No. 39 in Lamb's household the 12-year-old J. M. Booth, actually the future actor John Wilkes Booth (1838-1865). 5 Although local sources have credited Edwin Booth with also attending the school, he was at this time touring California with his father, having received a limited education in city schools. One of Lamb's frequent advertisements called the institution "Milton Boarding School for Males" in 1852. 6

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The Milton Academy, though but one year under its present management, is a flourishing, growing, and live establishment, destined to become a power in the land for disseminating knowledge.

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The Board of Instructors are E. Parsons, proprietor and professor of Mathematics and the Natural

Sciences; S. M. Griffith, A.B., Ancient Languages; Orlando Lang, Vocal and Instrumental Music; John W. Waugh, M.D., Anatomy, Physiology, and Hygiene. 10

In 1885, the academy moved to the city and became Parsons' School. 11

Caleb Hunt became owner again in 1886, and eventually was unable to repay his mortgage. 12 In 1895, Hunt lost the property at a public sale when the trustee conveyed --five years later--to Harriet M. and Rachel Price. 13

The property was no longer marked as a school o in the 1898 and 1915 issues of Bromley's county atlases. William D. and Elizabeth G. Hurst bought the property in 1910, holding it until 1940. 14

In 1940, Mrs. Pauline Epply Leiter bought the school and g carried on an antique shop called Milton Hall. Mrs. Leiter was both a dealer and collector of antiques and taught courses in the subject. 15

In 1946, Mrs. Leiter sold to Ivan R. Dreschler, who started a restaurant under the name Milton Inn, conducting it until 1958. 16 The operation was incorporated in 1949. 17 The corporation sold in 1962 to Antillio B. Allori and Eleanor E. Allori, who continued the grand tradition of rural atmosphere and European cuisine, Mr. Allori died in 1979 but the inn carried on. 18 In 1987, Mrs. Allori sold to a new corporation, the president of which was Clark F. MacKenzie. 19

The customers and owners have always believed they were in a pre-Revolutionary building, and even food critic and architectural writer John Dorsey was fooled; in one review, Dorsey stated, "You enter the same Eighteenth Century stone house through the same quaint bar" 20

Louise Bland Goodwin's notes state that the inn was a stage coach stop and that the Lambs and many other post-Parsons owners were of local Quaker families, but even Mrs. Goodwin believed in the 1740 origin. 21

A tTowson paper reported the 1987 transfer:

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[William] Shriver's group will add a new kitchen and renovate the bar area at a cost of about \$250,000. But the original wood floors, the huge fireplaces and the intimate dining rooms will be largely untouched.

"We will continue to live with the charm that is the Milton Inn," MacKenzie said.

Shriver will draw upon his direct experience when making renovations to the Milton Inn. In 1986 he converted the Harryman House—a former log cabin, dating back to the late 1700s—into a restaurant. "We plan to continue the elegant traditions for which the Milton Inn is famous," he said. "We will not change the fine decor or the sophistication of the inn at all."

22

NOTES:

1. Assessor's Field Book, District 5, 1818, Hall of Records, Annapolis, No. 8237.
2. Tax Ledger, District 5, 1823, Hall of Records, No. 8241.
3. Baltimore Gazette and Daily Advertiser, March 10, 1828, p. 4.
4. Baltimore City Deeds, AWB 402:515.
5. U.S. Census, 1850, Census District 2, p. 20, line 39.
6. Baltimore County Advocate, June 5, 1852.
7. Baltimore County Deeds, GHL 37:113.
8. Baltimore County Advocate, April 11, 1863.
9. Baltimore County Deeds, EHA 48:39, EHA 60:145, EHA 75:512.
10. "Milton Academy—Closing Exercises," Maryland Journal, June 5, 1873.
11. Baltimore County Deeds, JWS 156:270.
12. S.B. and C.E. Clemens, From Marble Hill to Maryland Line (Monkton, 1976), pp. 25-26.
13. Baltimore County Deeds, NBM 243:592.
14. B.C. Deeds, WPC 504:192.
15. B.C. Deeds, CWB 1092:200.
16. B.C. Deeds, JWB 1526:89. Also, Evening Sun, February 20, 1975, obit. of Ivan Dreschler.

17. B.C. Deeds, TBS 1792:144.
18. B.C. Deeds, WJR 4056:10.
19. B.C. Deeds, SM 7610:228.
20. John Dorsey, "Pleasing Mix Unchanged at the Milton Inn," Sun Magazine, June 22, 1980.
21. Louise Bland Goodwin note books, Reisterstown Public Library, courtesy of Carol Pollack.
22. Michael Ruby, "I love Old Buildings, Developer to Reopen Historic Milton Inn," Towson Flier, April 2, 1987.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. BA 86

"Milton Academy," Federation PTA News, March-April 1935, p. 7
Jeffersonian, February 18, 1932.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 3.284Quadrangle name HerefordQuadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

<input type="checkbox"/>									
Zone	Easting			Northing					

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Tax Map 34, Parcel 27, Grid 10

(See plat attached).

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

state N/A code county codestate N/A code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John McGrainorganization Office of Planningdate December 30 1988street & number 401 Bosley Avenuetelephone December 30, 1988city or town Towsonstate MD 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MILTON INN—1999 REVISION & EXPANSION
ITEM 8

Menus and tour books once dated the Milton Inn at 1740, but no such structure can be found in the 1798 tax list of Middle River Upper Hundred. The upgrading of the old Middle Road to York into a turnpike made the present Route 45 an attractive place for inns and taverns after 1810. The first book to challenge the 1740 date was probably *From Marble Hill to Maryland Line*, the American Bicentennial entry of C. E. and S. B. Clemens who were pioneers in the documentary proof of north county history.

Sometime before 1818, Dr. Thomas Love of nearby Loveton mansion agreed to sell three acres to Sebastian Finck. The 1818 Assessor's Field Book compiled by Edward Orrick showed:

Sebastian Finck	Name not known	3 acres at \$10 per acre
	Improvements	\$150
	Household fixtures	25
	4 oz plate	4
	2 head black cattle \$4 each	
	1 hog 50 cents (1)	

The improvements on the parcel, a mere \$150, could hardly reflect a spacious house, even with the immensely greater buying power of the dollar of that period. However, the 1823 tax ledger showed Finck with \$350 worth of improvements on the same property, possibly indicating the existence of the inn building. (2)

The 1820 census listed Sebastian Finck as a family of one, enumerated between Thomas Grey and Joseph Underwood, but there was no data on his nativity. (3)

By 1828, Finck was in financial difficulties, and the Sheriff advertised an auction of his assets in the Baltimore papers:

By virtue of two writs of fieri facias, issued out of Baltimore County court At the suit of Henry Grove against the goods and chattels, lands, tenements, of Sebastian Finck, to me directed, I have seized and taken in execution. . . Part of a tract of land called Search Amended, it being understood to be A part of a resurvey called Alfred two acres and twenty-four square perches of land, situate on the York Road about seventeen miles from Baltimore. The improvements consist of a large stone tavern, stables, and Blacksmith Shop; also a quantity of household and kitchen furniture. . . .

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The Matthews brothers agreed to sell to John Emerson Lamb, but Joel Matthews died before a deed could be executed. Lamb came into control of the property anyway, and J. C. Sidney and P. J. Browne's 1850 map of the county showed "J. E. Lamb, Boarding School" just north of the Philopolis Post Office.

On July 24, 1850, the census taker stopped at the school and listed as resident No. 39 in Lamb's household the 12-year-old J. M. Booth, actually the future Shakespearean actor John Wilkes Booth (1838-1865). (6) Although local sources have credited Edwin Booth with also attending the school, he was at this time touring California with his father, having received a limited education in the Baltimore City schools. In 1998, Kenneth Bosley, Sr., recalled that his great-grandfather had attended Milton Academy with John Wilkes Booth. (7) One of Lamb's frequent advertisements called the institution "Milton Boarding School for Males" in 1852. (8) In spite of proof from the census records, an article in *Baltimore Magazine* in 1969 by a Civil War expert claimed to be a "refutation" of the Booth connection. (9)

An article in the *Jeffersonian* published in Lincoln's birthday in 1932 showed a photo of the Milton Academy with a white arrow pointing to a backporch step where John Wilkes Booth had supposedly carved his name. The same name also appeared "on a large stone, which stood just north of the main entrance." (10)

In late 1856, the Towsontown paper reported: "Mr. John E. Lamb has been appointed Postmaster at Philopolis, in this county vice Shadrach Sparks, resigned." The name Philopolis is a rendering of "Love-town" into classic Greek, no doubt the idea of some Milton schoolmaster. (11)

Eli M. Lamb acquired proper title from John E. Lamb and the surviving members of the Matthews family in 1863. (12) That same year, with a civil war in progress, Lamb advertised the school as Milton Female Academy. (13)

Successive owners were Ralph L. Duer (1866), Robert Chalfant (1868), and W. Eliphalet Parsons (1871). (14) There were frequent mentions of the school in the Towsontown papers. In 1873, there was a long report of songs, theatricals, and recitations. At that point the school seemed to be co-ed. The report concluded:

The Milton Academy, though but one year under its present management, is a flourishing, growing, and live establishment, destined to become a power in the land for disseminating knowledge.

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The following year, the *Maryland Journal* gave a full report of the closing exercises at Milton Academy. (16)

In 1885, the academy moved to the city and became Parsons' School. (17)

In 1951 after the school had become a restaurant, a noted Baltimore food critic found a former Milton Academy student to interview. Frederick Philips Stieff in *Gardens, Houses and People* recorded the memories of Charles W. Slagle. Mr. Slagle noted that Professor Parsons owned a large farm and operated a tomato cannery; the school boys were paid 10 cents per bushel to pick the tomatoes in season. Washing facilities at the school consisted of an outside pump and a trough, the only place for "ablutions." Slagle's fellow students came from the early settler families of the north and central county: members of the Price, Sparks, Gorsuch and Pearce families, and one alumnus,, William Pierce, became a "copper tycoon." Food was recalled as "substantial and healthy" but "not so hot" in comparison to the gourmet meals served after the old school became a fashionable restaurant. (18)

Slagle did not mention that Professor Parsons, also a minister, was the owner of a large gristmill, the one on the Great Gunpowder Falls west of Monkton village. This mill was near the large stone dwelling called "the Bridge House," the present Durkee family place. And was originally one of the Bull family mills. The millrace can be discerned in the grass but the mill foundations are completely gone; there is no doubt about the mill location because it was on a small parcel by itself that can still be found on present day tax maps.

Caleb Hunt became owner again in 1885, and eventually he was in financial straits, unable to repay his mortgage. (19) In 1895, Hunt lost the property at a public sale when the court-appointed trustee sold —some five years after filing the suit—to Harriet M. and Rachel Price. (20)

This property was no longer marked as a school on the 1898 and 1915 issues of the Bromley county atlases. William D. and Elizabeth G. Hurst bought. the property in 1910, holding it until 1940. (21) Years after the school closed, the *Sun* in 1913 published a story that Mr. Parsons had been paid on a tuition account 34 years after the services were rendered. (22) An article about the Milton Inn in 1974 confused the local Hearst family with William Randolph Hearst the New York and California newspaper publisher. (23)

In 1940, Mrs. Pauline Epply Leiter bought the school and carried on an antique shop called Milton Hall. Mrs. Leiter was both a dealer and a collector of antiques and taught a course on the subject. (24) She installed a number of brass lamps that were a feature of the décor during the first generation of restaurateurs. The Sun reported that Mrs. Leiter's contractor for restoration work was F. W. Boone, Jr. (25) Long after selling the Milton Hall, Mrs. Leiter was written up in the papers under the headline, "Bundle of Energy, She Restored 17 Houses." This feature story reveals that some of the antique fittings were imported to this inn from sources unknown:

"When I first moved in all by myself," she says, "I brought in antique door and window jams [*sic*], flooring, paneling, and mantles. A good friend heard another woman discussing the work being done on Milton Hall and the other woman commented, 'I think she must be crazy: she even brought in her own staircase.'" (25)

During the process of making Milton Hall re-live, she uncovered Behind a plastered wall, a 6-foot fireplace completely sealed up With its original iron and brass cookware intact.

"Another really exciting find," she said, "was a stone in one wall which was carved with the name of John Wilkes Booth. His brother attended the academy at one time." (26)

The question arises as to where the doors and jambs came from and was the new staircase a fact or a typical Baltimore County rural tall tale.

In 1946, Mrs. Leiter sold to Ivan R. Dreschler, who started a restaurant under the name Milton Inn, conducting it until 1958. (27) The operation was incorporated in 1949. (28)

Early in its life as a suburban inn, Frederick Phillips Stieff, author of the cookbook *Eat Drink and Be Merry in Maryland* reviewed the inn for the magazine *Gardens, Houses and People*. Stieff's column was called "The Damask Cloth, Dining in Baltimore Today." He noted that the most popular items were steak and seafood but the management would prepare anything for a client, given advance notice. He noted that Mrs. Dreschler had been a WAVE during the Second World War; he also reported that the Standard Oil Company had produced a travel film at the inn in 1948 and noted that "the heat of klieg lights had no effect on our appetites." Stieff had the story that fire had destroyed the top of the north wing of the inn and it had been rebuilt at two stories; a further extension of the north wing had burned in that conflagration and never been rebuilt. But parts of the old north wing fireplace were still visible (1951) "in the kitchen courtyard." (29)

The corporation sold in 1962 to Antillio B. Allori and Eleanor E. Allori, who continued the grand tradition of rural atmosphere and European cuisine. (30) Mike Reid's 1974 food review noted the profusion of fox hunting prints hanging on the walls. (31) Mr. Allori died in 1979 but the inn carried on. In 1987, Mrs. Allori sold to a new corporation, the president of which was Clark F. MacKenzie. (32) The excellence of the cuisine would probably have startled the turnpike travelers of 1823; the old roadside inns were a shelter from the storms, but the food was rough and ready; and even if the law required a minimum number of feather beds, the drivers of Conestoga wagons never got a whole bed to themselves.

The customers and owners have always believed they were in a pre-Revolutionary building, and even food critic and architectural writer John Dorsey was fooled; in one review, Dorsey stated, "You enter the same Eighteenth Century stone house through the same quaint bar (33)

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The food conscious public was horrified in 1997 to find the Milton Inn suddenly closed as a result of a dispute about its lease. (36) Not many months later, a consortium of choice city restaurants formed Milton Fare, Inc., and the tradition continued under Richard Pirone, who had conducted such venues as the Country Fare Inn and the Brass Elephant. (37) The advertisements for "Northern Baltimore County's Landmark Restaurant" began to appear in the suburban papers in early 1998. (38) The inn is literally a landmark, having been added to the Baltimore County Final Landmarks List by action of the County Council on August 5, 1991.

NOTES:

1. Assessor's Field Book, District 5, 1818, Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, Md. HR. No. 8327.

2. Baltimore County Tax Ledger, District 5, 1823, Maryland State Archives, Md. HR No. 8241.
3. U.S. Census, Maryland, Baltimore County, 1820, Old District 5, folio 93.
4. Baltimore Gazette and Daily Advertiser, March 10, 1828, p. 4.
5. Baltimore City Deeds, AWB 402:515.
6. U.S. Census, Maryland, Baltimore County, 1850, District 2, p. 20, line 39.
7. Kenneth Bosley to John McGrain, 1998.
8. Baltimore County Advocate, June 5, 1852.
9. L. H. Denton, *Baltimore*, 62 (December 1969):4.
10. [William Williams], "Lincoln's Birthday Recalls His Great Friendship for Baltimore Countian," *Jeffersonian*, February 13, 1932
11. *Baltimore County Advocate*, Towsontown, December 27, 1856.
12. Baltimore County Deeds, GHL 37:113.
13. Baltimore County Advocate, April 11, 1863.
14. Baltimore County Deeds, EHA 48:39, EHA 60:145; EHA 75:512.
15. "Milton Academy—Closing Exercises," *Maryland Journal*, June 5, 1873.
16. *Maryland Journal*, Towsontown, July 15, 1874.
17. Baltimore County deeds, JWS 156:270.
18. Frederick Philips Stieff, "The Damask Cloth, Dining In Baltimore," *Gardens, Houses and People*, October 1951.
19. S. B. and C. E. Clemens, *From Marble Hill to Mayland Line* (Monkton, 1976), pp.25-26.
20. Baltimore County deeds, NBM 243:592.
21. B. C. deeds, WPC 504:192.

22. Baltimore *Sun*, January 5, 1913.
23. Mike Reid, "Historic Milton Inn: a Visit into Nostalgia," *News American*, April 21, 1974.
24. B. C. deeds, CWB 1092:200.
25. *Sun*, January 16, 1940.
26. Anonymous, "Bundle of Energy, She Restored 17 Houses," *Evening Sun*, November 6, 1962, p. B-1. Mrs/. Leiter was of course in error about Edwin Booth attending Milton Academy.
27. B.C. deeds, JWB 1526;89. also, *Evening Sun*, February 20, 1975, obit. of Ivan Dreschler.
28. B. C. deeds, TBS 1792:144
29. Stieff, "The Damask Cloth," 1951.
30. B.C.deeds, WJR4056:10.
31. Reid, Historic Milton, Inn," 1974.
32. B.C. deeds, SM 7610:228.
33. John Dorsey, "Pleasing Mix Unchanged at the Milton Inn," *Sun Magazine*, June 22, 1980..
34. Louise Bland Goodwin notebooks, Reisterstown Public Library, courtesy of Carol Pollack.
35. Michael Ruby, "I Love Old Buildings, Developer to Reopen Historic Milton Inn,:" *Towson Flier*, April 2, 1987.
36. Jay Apperson, "Hamilton's To Honor Unused Milton Inn Gift Certificates," *Sun*, November 12, 1997.
37. Jay Apperson, "Milton Inn Might Reopen Next Month," *Sun*, October 24, 1997.
38. "The Milton Inn," *Valley Voice*, March 1998, adv.

Maryland
Baltimore County
District VIII
York Road, Sparks

BA-86
Milton Inn

0300864131

1740¹⁸¹⁸⁻¹⁸²⁸

Built of fieldstone on land owned by the Mathews and
Price families.

Once a school for boys - Milton Academy. John Wilkes Booth
attended.

Known as Milton Hall 1934-1947, residence of Mrs. Frederick
Leiter.

Now a restaurant.

color slide

(First HABS Report)
E. Frances Offutt
HABS COMMITTEE OF BALTIMORE
COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

July 29, 1965

The Milton Inn, located on the York Road in the village of Sparks and one of the landmarks of Northern Baltimore County, has been tagged with a 1740 construction date in almost every reference to it or article about it. This 1740 date, which cannot be proved and which is totally incorrect, recently appeared in a book and a magazine story, both current in the winter of 1985.

The structure has not been placed on the National Register nor the Baltimore County Landmarks list, if the owners were to consent to an application for either list, the resultant research would prove the date to be 1818-1828. Using title search information provided by John McGrain (of the Landmarks Commission) and research sources available to local historians, I have arrived at the following conclusions:

1. The Milton Inn does not appear on the 1798 Federal Tax Assessment List for Middle River Upper Hundred; that particular list of stone houses valued at over \$100 which is in the front of the listings. Several of the houses are standing in 1985 (William Gwynn's Monkton Mill, Abraham Scott's tanyard complex) or were destroyed recently (John Merryman's "Hereford Farmhouse") and one is even located on landgrants titled "Cromwell's Addition, and Cromwell's Chance" but this is undoubtedly the old stone home further south on the York Road now owned by Kenneth Bosley. It then belonged to Elisha Merryman.
2. The land is listed on Edward Orrick's Assessors Field Book, 1818, (old) Fith District. The tracts are laid out alphabetically and the listings for "Cromwell's Chance and Cromwell's Addition" include first the tract mentioned above, ^{at this point} ~~now~~ owned by Nicholas Merryman of Elisha, and a 3 acre tract belonging to a Sebastian Fink (Finck) with improvements of \$150. On March 10th, 1828 there appeared in The Baltimore Gazette and Daily Advertiser a Sheriff's Sale of a tract of land "part of Cromwell's Addition" and improvements

consisting of a large stone tavern, stables and blacksmith shop, etc.

The description of the metes and bounds of the two tracts of land is exactly the same in the 1818 assessor's field book, the 1828 sheriff's sale and a 1981 deed for The Milton Inn.

3. The persistent legend in the near-by Quaker Community is that the Milton Inn was originally built as a stopping place for the coachmen of the Quakers who assembled for Quarterly Meeting from places as far away as The Eastern Shore and Philadelphia. Now the organization date of the Quaker Meeting House a few miles west of the village is 1824. They would hardly have built the shelter for the coachmen 80 years previous to that date.'

4. Until the York Turnpike was opened in 1810 the village of Sparks was not on the main road to York. In 1740 the main road to York came from the Port of Joppa (Baltimore was just getting started, so to speak) and went northwest to the area of St. James Episcopal Church, My Lady's Manor. There a portion branched north to York, another road ran west to the village of Charlottetown (now Monkton), continued west (along what is now Piney Hill Road), then dividing, with a road going north to Hereford (now called Hereford Road), and another bending past Hereford Farms and connecting with Mordecai Price's settlement in Gunpowder Forrest.

By the late 1700's a road probably did come from Baltimore and when the turnpike was opened there were inns built in Cockeysville and in Wiseburg (where the Half-Way House still stands.) Sebastian Finck might possibly have thought to catch some of the trade up and down the new road.

5. Since the first homes of the settlers in the Quaker Valley were log and since Mordecai Price had only taken up residence in about 1726, it does not seem plausible that such an imposing stone building would have been erected in the wilderness in 1740.

The Milton Inn is a handsome historic building, tastefully restored by experts in the 1935-1940 era. Its fascinating history as the site of Eli Lamb's "Milton Academy", the attendance of several famous people such as governors, politicians, prominent businessmen and the part it played in the community are all accurately re-told from available records. Even the attendance of John Wilkes Booth who ranges rather toward the infamous... is recorded and is correct. Why ruin the history of a landmark by consistently repeating and perpetuating an incorrect date?

Shirley B. Clendenen
 Mar 28)