

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service



## National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

### 1. Name

historic Yelverton Inn and Store

and/or common

### 2. Location

street & number 112-116 Main Street (corner of Academy Avenue)  not for publication

city, town Chester  vicinity of  congressional district 26

state New York code 36 county Orange code 71

### 3. Classification

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

### 4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Marion H. Durland

street & number 112 Main Street

city, town Chester  vicinity of  state New York 10918

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Orange County Government Center

street & number 255-275 Main Street

city, town Goshen  state New York 10924

### 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N.Y.S. Historic Trust Survey  has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1967-8  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Division for Historic Preservation

city, town Albany  state New York

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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Yelverton Inn & Store  
Route 94 (Main Street and Academy Avenue)  
Chester, Orange County, New York

**CONTINUATION SHEET**

ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE 1

Historic Sites Survey  
1975 county  
Orange County Historian's Office  
Goshen, New York

W.P.A. Survey  
1937 federal  
Library of Congress  
Washington, D. C.

## 7. Description

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

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

The Yelverton Inn, a two-story, L-shaped frame residence, faces on Main Street in the village of Chester. The northern, rear wing which parallels Main Street, was probably the first to be built, followed not long afterwards by a slightly higher, five-bay gabled section which enveloped the southern end of the original building to form the 'L' shape. An enclosed porch with a shed roof along the west side of the earlier building was added later.

The original building is 63 feet wide and 33 feet deep (including the enclosed porch), while the ell, 33 feet wide, projects 12 feet back of the enclosed porch.

The building was shingled in 1947; however, the original clapboards remain underneath.

There is an open porch (date unknown) along the entire southern end of the structure, and a platform-stoop on the east side (facing Main Street).

Double-hung sash windows are 6/4, 6/6, and 9/6. Also, a small Palladian window is set in the east gable end. There are two Federal-style doorways, both with neoclassically inspired carved and molded enframements, on the south and east facades. There are four chimneys, one on the north gable end, one on the east gable end, and two on the west gable end (of the ell).

The interior possesses the original floors, most doors and hardware, and the original cornice trim throughout. The typical interior door in the Yelverton Inn has an unusual "tau-cross" frame with applied molding around flat inset panels. The kitchen has been modernized. In the upstairs rooms and hallway, as well as in the dining room, are the original chair rails and baseboards. The original master bedroom has had one other bedroom and a bath partitioned off. The master bedroom fireplace is said to have been added about 1795; all other mantels and fireplaces appear to be contemporaneous with the part of the structure in which they are located. On the east end fireplace wall (exterior) is a bronze historical plaque affixed by Minisink Chapter, DAR, on June 13, 1927.

Behind the Yelverton Inn are a frame shed 85' x 20' and a barn 42' x 36'. The one-story vertical-sided shed has an unusual decorative treatment of 17 round holes just under the cornice on the gable end. There are also two small windows, three panes wide by one deep. The three-story barn is built of brick and stone for the first floor, and shingled above that. There is a gambrel roof with a half-round window in the gable end, just below the peak. Two pair of modern garage doors break the end facade on the ground level, while the side walls are interrupted by 6/6 windows.

The next lot immediately to the south (same ownership) is vacant, while the following lot (also same ownership) is occupied by Durland's Store (other names: Yelverton & Thompson; Hulse & Moore Cash Store; Board, Thompson & Pierson; Board Pierson & Company; Pierson Bell & Durland; Durland & Son; and Durland's Department Store).

This Greek Revival frame and clapboard building, 65' x 40', was raised on Christmas Day, 1841, and finished the following spring. The overhang was added in 1842, and the four large pillars and stoop in 1843. Originally the west end of the building, opening south onto Academy Avenue, was a separate store, and was operated as such from 1843 until 1849. After that it was used as a storeroom for the other store.

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This two-story building is three bays wide. The portico has been enclosed; the second story with clapboards broken by five 1/1 windows (the center three grouped in one frame), and the first story originally with display windows which in turn have been replaced by plywood panels. Two square pilasters topped with simplified Tuscan capitals mark the corners of the building as it faces east (Main Street). Above the second story is a fully articulated pediment.

The storeroom portion has a two-bay cantilevered and gabled second-story overhang, also with a fully defined pediment. Second-story windows are 6/6; those on the first floor, now boarded up, appear to have been 9/6. The sole chimney, straddling the ridge, appears to be in the center of the building. Interior features such as shelving and counters appear to date from the time of construction.

## 8. Significance

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

**Specific dates** c. 1765 - Yelverton Inn  
1841 - Durland's Store **Builder/Architect** James Yelverton - Durland's Store

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Yelverton Inn is architecturally significant because it is an example of a substantially intact 18th and 19th century vernacular dwelling. It is also significant for its local historical associations. It was the site of the election of Henry Wisner as a delegate to the First Continental Congress, and was also associated with the trial over the boundary between the Wawayanda and Cheesecocks Patents (held in the Yelverton Barn, no longer standing).

The date of 1765, usually ascribed for the construction of the Yelverton Inn, appears reasonable, as John Yelverton's will, probated in 1767, describes his grandson and heir, Abijah, as the "innkeeper."

Although the Yelverton Inn was built in two stages, the treatment of each is similar enough to be convincing that the dates of the two stages are not far apart. It is possible that the ell wing was added previous to one or both of the two historic events occurring here. The two Federal-period doorways add decorative interest to the older plain style structure and represent the work of a local craftsman.

On Sept. 3, 1774, at the Yelverton Inn, Henry Wisner was chosen as the delegate to represent the towns of Goshen and Cornwall at the First Continental Congress, "by a majority of votes."<sup>1</sup>

Throughout much of 1785 (May to October), testimony was taken in the Yelverton Barn concerning the boundary between the Wawayanda and Cheesecocks Patents, both granted in the first decade of the 18th century. About 52,000 acres of land was at stake, and both groups of patentees had sold off small farms throughout this territory. Thus, the homes and farms of a considerable number of New Yorkers were at stake. Among the prominent attorneys involved in this trial were Aaron Burr, Alexander Hamilton, Elias Boudinot, and Ezra L'Hommedieu. It is assumed that they were entertained at the inn between the court sessions, which took place in the barn (no longer standing).

Durland's Store, only briefly owned by the Yelverton family, is nominated for its architecture as a rare surviving example of a Greek Revival commercial building. It retains many of its original internal features, including the shelving. It is also historically associated with the Yelverton Inn through many years of Durland ownership. While the portico has been enclosed, its original appearance is known and it appears to be restorable.

The Yelverton Inn and Durland's Store, long recognized as local landmarks, represent the history of more than 150 years of commercial activity (and the close association between commerce and politics) in this small crossroads community. Although some details of both buildings have been altered, their original form, materials, and decoration are still early evident.

<sup>1</sup> Certificate of appointment, Goshen Library & Historical Society, quoted in Durland, Yelverton Inn (Warwick: 1926).



(11/78)

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Route 94 (Main Street and Academy Avenue)  
Chester, Orange County, New York

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Proceedings to determine boundaries of the Wawayanda and Cheesecock's Patents.  
Goshen: Independent Republican Printing Co., 1915.

Writers' Program, Works Progress Administration. New York, A Guide to the Empire State (American Guide Series). New York: Oxford University Press, 1940.

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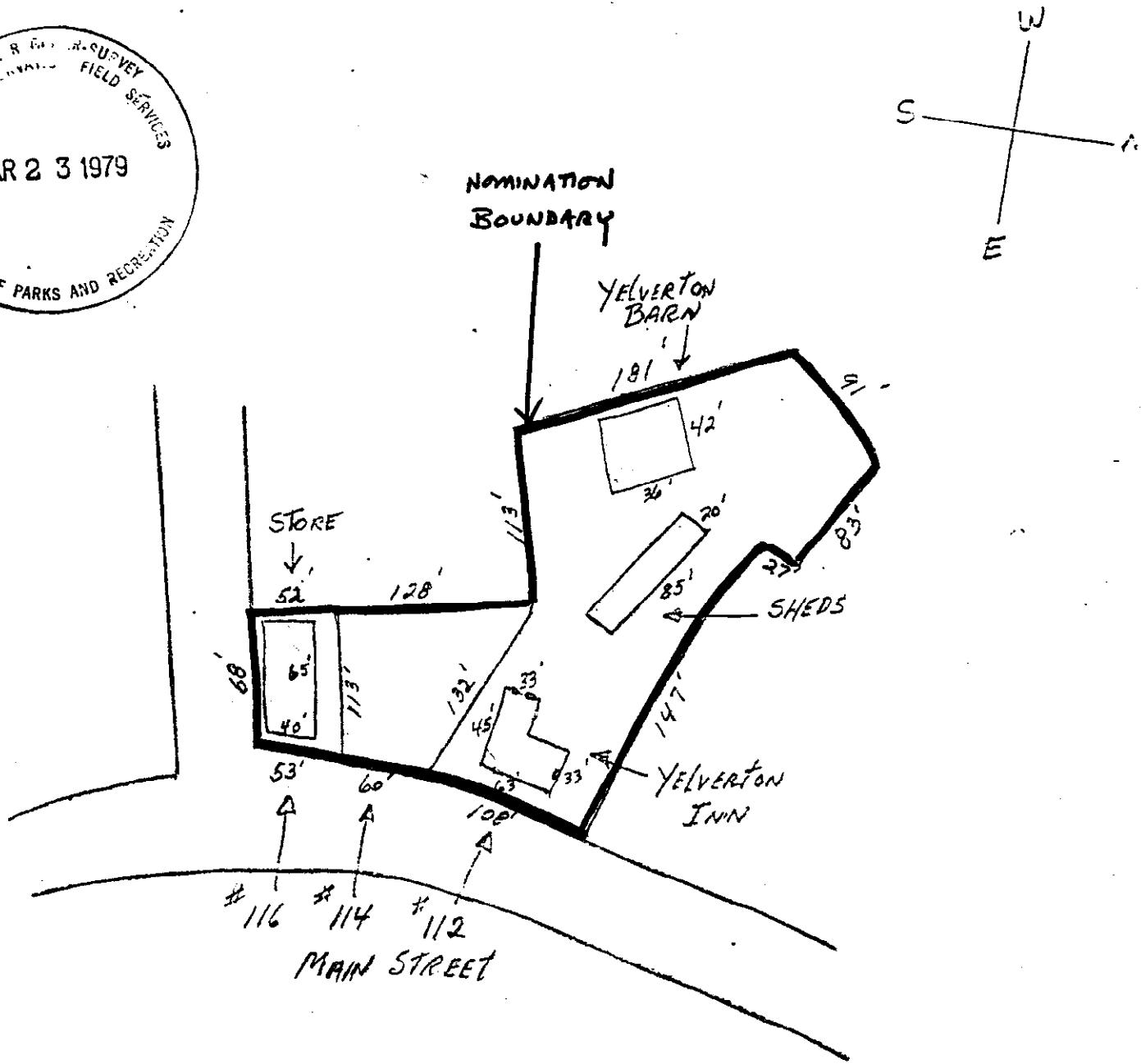
**CONTINUATION SHEET****ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1**

two southern lots and about 303 feet for the most northerly lot (see attached site map).



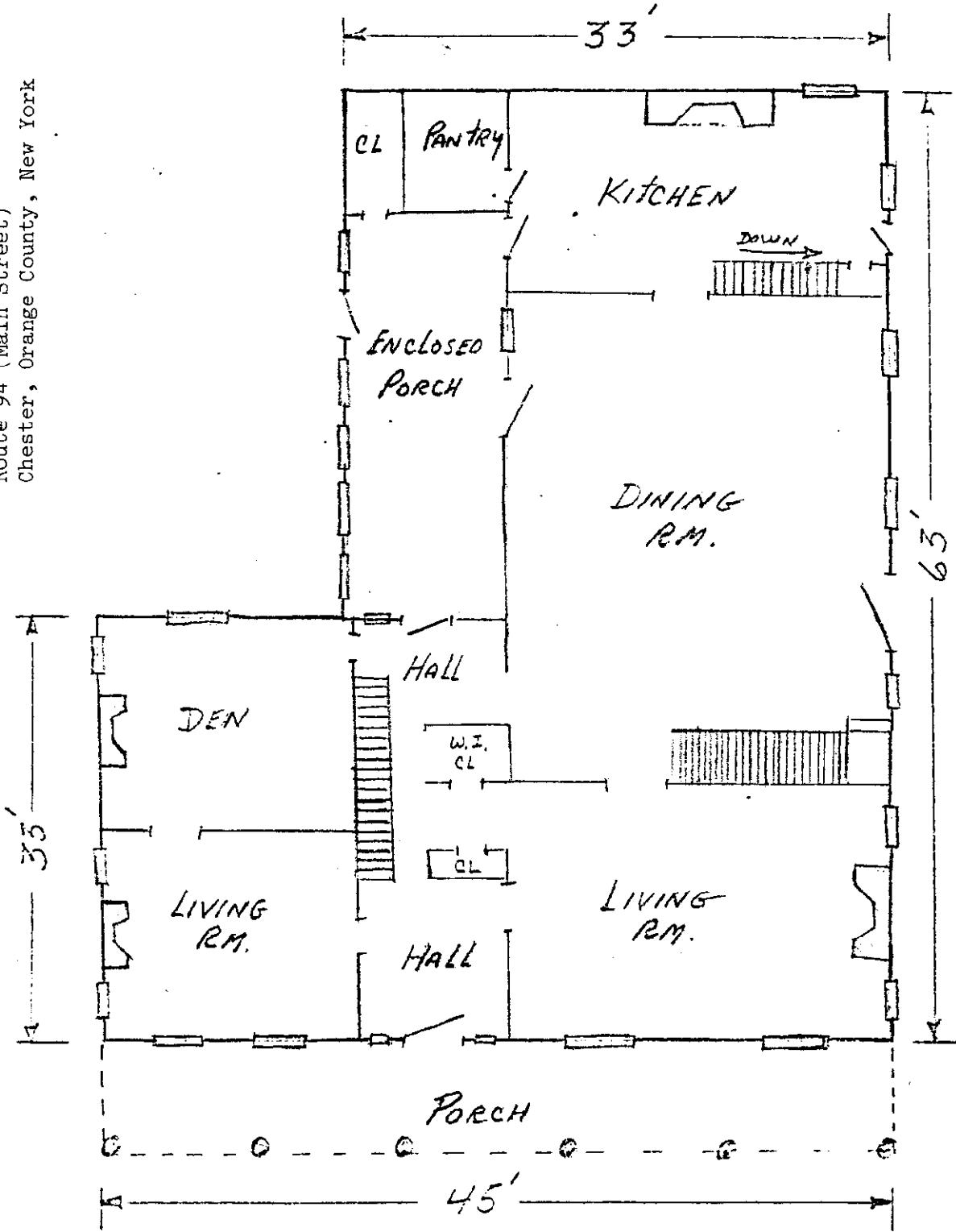


Yelverton Inn & Store  
Route 94 (Main Street and Academy Avenue)  
Chester, Orange County, New York



Property Owned By:  
Mrs. Marion H. Burlano  
112 Main Street  
Chester, New York 10918

Yelverton Inn & Store  
Route 94 (Main Street)  
Chester, Orange County, New York

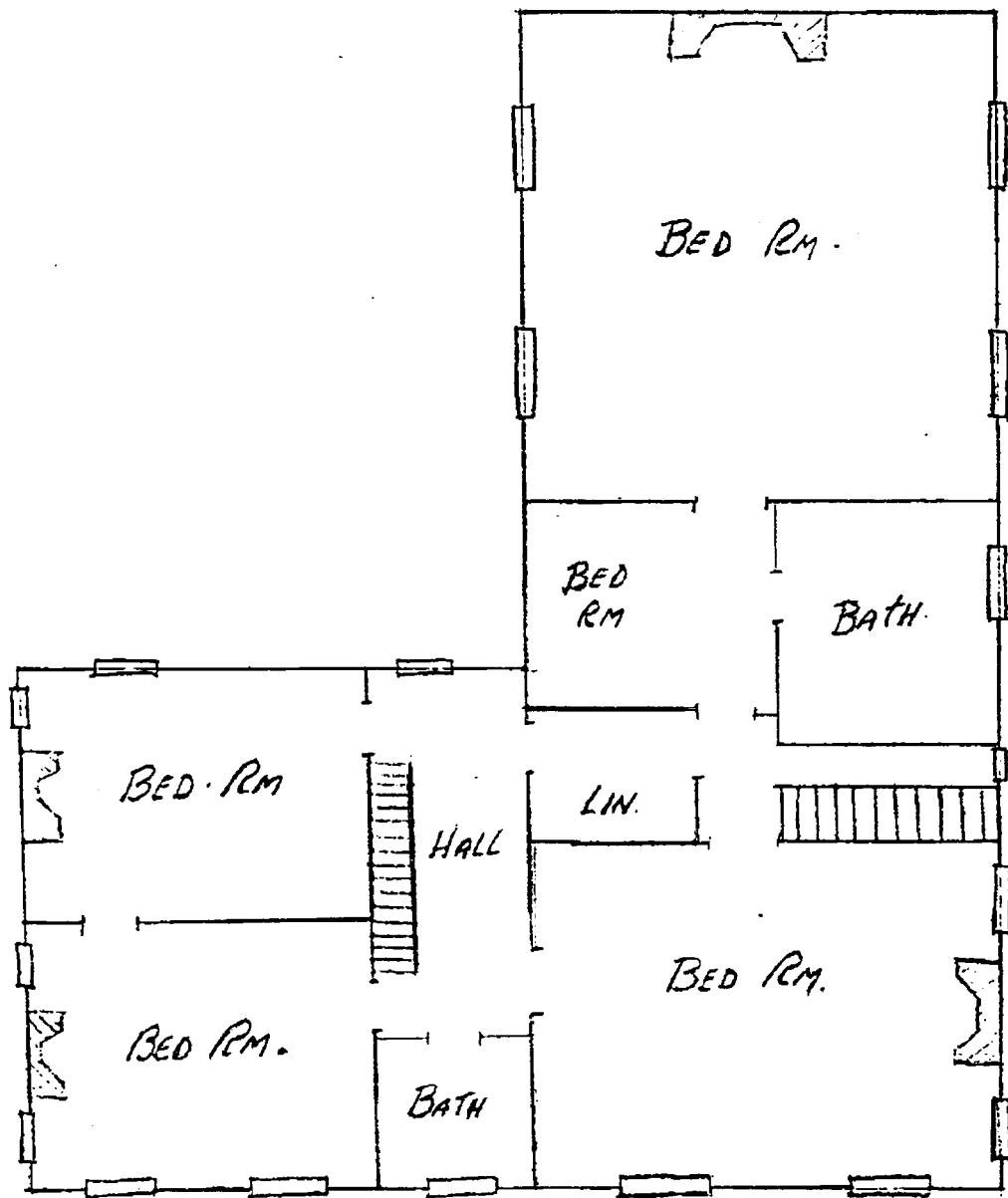


YELVERTON INN  
112 MAIN STREET  
CHESTER, NEW YORK

FLOOR PLAN  
1ST FLOOR

10-2

Yelverton Inn & Store  
Route 94 (Main Street)  
Chester, Orange County, New York



YELVERTON INN  
112 MAIN STREET  
CHESTER, New York

FLOOR PLAN  
2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR

2052