

RAY'S HILL TOLLHOUSE
Chambersburg & Bedford Turnpike Company
E side of U.S. 30 at Rays Hill
Breezewood vicinity
Bedford County
Pennsylvania

HAER No. PA-348

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

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HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

RAY'S HILL TOLLHOUSE
Chambersburg and Bedford Turnpike Company

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Location: 1/2 mile E of Breezewood on E side of
U.S. 30, at Ray's Hill
Breezewood (vic.)
Bedford County
Pennsylvania

Date of Construction: ca. 1880

Present Owner: Unknown

Present Use: Private residence

Significance: This tollhouse was probably constructed
in the early 1880s as part of the long-
lived Chambersburg-Bedford Turnpike
Company. Chartered in 1814, the
turnpike operated through much of the
nineteenth century through 1913 when the
state of Pennsylvania took over and made
it toll-free. At this time the Ray's
Hill Tollhouse became a private
residence.

Historian: Kim E. Wallace, 1994

Project Information: The results of the study of Bedford
County were published in 1994: Kim E.
Wallace (ed), Bedford County and Fulton
County, Pennsylvania: An Inventory of
Historic Engineering and Industrial
Sites (Washington, D.C.: National Park
Service). The contents of the
publication were transmitted to the
Library of Congress as individual
reports. Research notes, field photos
and copies of historic photos collected
during the project were transmitted to
the AIHP Collection, Special
Collections, Stapleton Library, Indiana
University of Pennsylvania, Indiana, PA
15705.

History

Except for the removal of the tollgate canopy across the roadway, this building is relatively unaltered since it served as a turnpike tollhouse. It is a two-story wood-frame building situated at the edge of the roadway. Its gable roofline parallels the road. There is a one-story, gable-roof addition on the north gable end. The main block of the building is four-by-one bay. It has two symmetrical front doors on the west elevation. The doors give direct access to the two first-floor rooms and characterize a distinct mid-Atlantic vernacular house form.

The Chambersburg-Bedford Turnpike was chartered in 1814 and was funded by subscriptions to stock and by tolls collected at tollgates along the road. Historic views of the Ray's Hill tollhouse show the building sited at the edge of the road with a gable roof projecting across the road perpendicular to the house's roof line. A clapboard wall with an enclosed lean-to supported the tollgate roof on the opposite side of the road. This "gateway" structure was very similar to the one at the Peach Orchard Road Tollhouse in Fulton County. Locations of the tollhouses were changed over the years. No source pinpoints when a tollgate was established here. The building does not appear on the 1877 county atlas. The state of Pennsylvania took over the Chambersburg-Bedford Turnpike in 1913 and made it toll-free. The Ray's Hill Tollhouse became a private residence.

Sources:

Nelson, John H. Down the Pike: A History of the Chambersburg-Bedford Turnpike Company. McConnellsburg, Pa.: Fulton County Historical Society, 1989.