



## Tavern On The Move

In August of 2004, Rose Tree Tavern was moved - very carefully and very slowly - approximately 200 feet further back on the property where it had sat for nearly 200 years. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, Rose Tree Tavern is a landmark at the Upper Providence intersection of Rose Tree Road and Route 252 (Providence Road). It currently sits over an excavated area, and the foundation walls have been built. Restoration of the historic structure, which retains its site orientation, is expected to begin shortly.



*This is a January 1986 photo of Rose Tree Tavern, a view all too familiar to those waiting in traffic at the intersection of Rose Tree Road and Route 252.*

The first structure on the site of the present Rose Tree Tavern was built in 1739 as a residence and possibly a tavern. The foundation of this original frame building was evident in the basement. The 1791 datestone on the western gable end of the present-day tavern may be from this earlier building or another structure. By 1809, after several different names and many different tavern keepers, the frame building had become dilapidated and was replaced by a structure of local fieldstone. The 1836 stone addition to the eastern end of the 1809 structure made it a 2 1/2-story, 6-bay, 2-pile building.

Both DCPD's Preservation and Transportation Planning sections have been actively involved in this project since Rose Tree Tavern is a County-owned building. The property has been owned by Delaware County since 1967.

Much of the interior (the millwork, floors, and fireplaces) is original. A frame addition to the east, constructed in the 1930s, was recently removed as part of the relocation project.



*During the move, Rose Tree Tavern sat on 20 sets of dollies, each with 8 wheels. The air in all 160 super-size tires had to be checked before the Tavern could be broken free from its foundation.*

Rose Tree Tavern is not only architecturally significant. It also expresses an early 19<sup>th</sup> century development pattern and way of life - when travel involved horses, not cars, and taverns for overnight stays were spaced within a day's journey of each other. Over the years, Rose Tree Tavern has functioned as a tavern and in such other capacities as a temperance hotel, post office, the first meeting place of the Rose Tree Hunt Club, and, until a few years ago, a two-family residence.

PennDOT is also a primary player in this project and paid for the relocation of the tavern as the first step in its plans for the widening and redesign of the crossroads. The move was first proposed over twenty years ago. PennDOT will be proceeding with the much needed intersection improvements that are in the preliminary engineering phase.



*Inching its way to its new home, the 670-ton Tavern gained almost 230 tons during the move, making its total cargo weight just under 900 tons.*