

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: North Carolina	
COUNTY: Warren	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Person's Ordinary

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
South side of S.R. 1001, just east of S.R. 1301

CITY OR TOWN:
Littleton (Second Congressional District, The Hon. L. H. Fountain)

STATE North Carolina	CODE 37	COUNTY: Warren	CODE 185
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Woman's Club of Littleton
375 Mrs. Horace P. Robinson
309 Mosby Avenue

Warren County Commissioners
c/o General Claude Bowers, Chairman
Warrenton

CITY OR TOWN: Littleton	STATE: North Carolina	CODE 37
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Warren County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Warrenton	STATE: North Carolina	CODE 37
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: North Carolina

COUNTY: Warren

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Person's Ordinary is a one-and-one-half-story frame dwelling three bays wide and two deep, with a massive exterior stone chimney at each end. During restoration in the 1950s, discoveries were made that suggested that the eastern part of the house, which has a huge stone chimney serving corner fireplaces in the two first-floor rooms, was built first, probably before the American Revolution. About 1800, according to these findings, the western end of the house, heated by a stone chimney with a brick stack, was added and extensive alterations made to the earlier portion, employing basically Federal interior elements. Today, with the restoration complete, since the fabric that revealed the evolution of the structure is not visible and there are no record photographs of the restoration process, only the present appearance of the building can be described.

The house, which rests on a stone cellar lit by vents with diagonally placed vertical members, is covered with beaded weatherboards, some of them replaced. The narrow front and side windows have simple frames and contain small nine-over-nine sash at the first level and four-over-four in the gable windows that flank each chimney. On the west side the chimney is flanked by windows at the first level; on the east side, one occurs to the front of the chimney and none to the rear. The central front door is sheltered by an entrance porch with a shed roof, which replaced a full-width shed porch with chamfered posts that survived until at least the 1940s. Two gable dormers appear on the front and rear slopes of the roof; their sides are diagonally sheathed and they contain windows with six-over-six sash. The stone chimney on the east is wide, with double shoulders. The west chimney is narrower, also of stone with single shoulders and a brick stack. The rear facade of the dwelling has an entrance off-center to the east, and the east window near it is smaller (with six-over-nine sash) than the west window, which has nine-over-nine.

The interior has three rooms in a modified Quaker plan: two on the east, one behind the other, with the enclosed stair rising along the west wall of the rear room; and a large west room that extends the depth of the house and is entered through the front east room. Throughout the first floor runs a wainscot with a narrow molded chair rail and baseboard defining a dado of two flush horizontal boards. The doors have six panels, some with flat panels, some with raised, and different kinds of molding. HL hinges occur on all doors, but most are attached with screws and may be replacements. The architraves are all rather simple two-part molded ones.

The mantels throughout are of transitional Georgian-Federal design. The corner fireplace in the east front room has a mantel with a beaded architrave, wide pilaster strips, and a single flat panel across the frieze. A heavy molded cornice breaks at the ends beneath a plain shelf. In the rear room the rough stone of the chimney breast is left bare above a mantel of similar design. In the large west room, the opening of the fireplace is flanked by wide pilaster strips that support small pilasters flanking a frieze with a single horizontal panel. The caps of these upper pilasters break out from a heavy molded cornice similar to that in the east rooms.

The two second-floor rooms have beaded chair rails and baseboards and plastered dados. The simple mantels repeat the horizontal flat panel of those below.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | osophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Person's Ordinary is a simple, unpretentious structure probably typical of the inns that dotted sparsely settled eighteenth century North Carolina to relieve the rigors of stagecoach travelers on roads that were, even for that time, notoriously miserable. The building is of particular significance because of its connection with Thomas Person, one of the state's most important political leaders from 1760 to 1790. Person was an aristocratic landowner, but his country seat, Goshen, is gone. His outstanding contribution to North Carolina history was as one of the few of his class who consistently and vigorously led the state's "Radical" element--a populist group consisting primarily of small landowners and merchants of the Piedmont, Anti-Federalists who opposed strong centralized government and the dominance of an aristocratic oligarchy. It is especially fitting, then, that the surviving structure that bears his name is not a great mansion but a small, vernacular building that provided for the needs of travelers of all classes.

Thomas Person was born in 1733 in Virginia and grew up in the present Warren-Granville county area. Person began as a surveyor for Lord Granville, and early purchased tracts of rich land. He entered political life in his twenties and became one of the most influential men of the state in the eighteenth century. Although he was a wealthy Eastern landowner, he played an active role in the Regulator movement, one of the few of his class in a group assembled of small farmers and merchants of the back-country Piedmont. Later he was a "foremost advocate of separation" from England and a member of "all the provincial conventions and congresses which took the place of the Assembly and of the governor from 1774 to 1776," serving on committees to draft the state's constitution and bill of rights. In September, 1775, Person was chosen a member of the Provincial Council, where he and Willie Jones (also an Eastern planter) represented the minority Radical philosophy. Person continued as a member of the Council of Safety when that body replaced the Provincial Council. Throughout Person's lifetime and long after, Radicals and Conservatives vied for state political power. For the most part, the East with its wealthy planter aristocracy was the stronghold of the Conservatives; the West with its small farmers and merchants the source of Radical strength. Thomas Person and his cohort Willie Jones of Halifax County, the Radicals' outstanding leaders and spokesmen, were the perennial aristocratic exceptions. One of Person's important contributions was the leading role he took in assisting to obtain the charter for the University of North Carolina in 1791 and in giving money to the infant institution; Person Hall, one of the university's oldest buildings, bears his name.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
North Carolina	
COUNTY	
Warren	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8.

Person's holdings were wide (reportedly 82,358 acres in twelve counties in 1788) so that the inn on his Warren County property was probably not one of his chief investments, but it was a local landmark, appearing as early as 1770 on Collet's map as "Parsons Ord." The ordinary served as the last coach stop on the eastbound trip from Hillsborough to Halifax, offering hospitality, food, drink, and a change of horses. The next notice found of Thomas Person's owning a tavern in Warren County appears in the Virginia Gazette (Williamsburg), of June 9, 1779: "Stolen from the subscriber in Warren County, near Thomas Pearson's Ordinary, a sorrel horse. . . ."

Person's sister, Mary Ann Little, inherited the tavern following his death in 1800. Person had no children and adopted his sister's son, William Person Little. Little purchased the property on October 29, 1804. The tavern was called Peterson Inn on the Price map, 1808. A tavern bond for the standard sum of three hundred pounds, given in 1823 by William P. Little "to keep a tavern at the place called Person's Ordinary in Warren County," and other similar bonds in 1826 and 1828, indicate that Little continued to own and operate the ordinary well after he purchased the property from his mother; it is thought that he continued running it until his death in 1832.

During the eighteenth century a settlement known as Personton had grown up around the crossroads where the ordinary stood; as the Little family supplanted Person as the chief landowner, the village came to be known as Littleton. The MacRae map of 1833 shows Littleton as an established community. The tavern tract was inherited by Little's oldest daughter, Mary Ann, who was the wife of Colonel Richard H. Mosby. (It should be noted that during Person, Little, and Mosby ownership the land where the tavern stood was part of a large tract that also, at least during Little and Mosby's tenure, perhaps during Person's as well, included a dwelling: the small rear structure and great front house now called Little Manor or Mosby Hall.) The Mosby family owned the property until after the Civil War, when the place was sold because of financial reverses, to Ellen D. Leach. Mrs. Leach and her husband sold the portion containing the ordinary to the trustees of the Littleton Supplementary Public Schools in 1889 and the property was subsequently acquired by the Warren County Board of Education. Person's Ordinary has recently been restored by the Littleton Woman's Club.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Research by Charles Greer Suttlemyre, Jr., survey specialist; architectural description by Catherine Cockshutt, survey supervisor.
 Ashe, Samuel A., ed. Biographical History of North Carolina from Colonial Times to the Present. Greensboro, North Carolina: Charles L. Van Noppen, 1907.
 Warren County Records, Warren County Courthouse, Warrenton, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).
 Warren County Records, Office of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills and Tavern Bonds).
 Powell, William S. The North Carolina Gazetteer. Chapel Hill, North Carolina: University of North Carolina Press, 1968.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "	36°	25'	52"
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "	77°	54'	54"
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "			
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than 1 acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES.

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Survey and Planning Unit
 ORGANIZATION: Office of Archives and History DATE: 11 January 1973
 STREET AND NUMBER:
109 East Jones Street
 CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:
 National State Local
 Name H. G. Jones
 Title State Historian/Administrator
 Date 11 January 1973

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
 Date _____
 ATTEST:
Keeper of The National Register
 Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 2, 3, 4 Page 1

Person's Ordinary, Additional Documentation
name of property
Halifax County, North Carolina
county and state

Person's Ordinary – Additional Documentation

Section 2

Location

County Halifax County code 083

When Person's Ordinary was listed in the National Register in 1973, Littleton, North Carolina was bisected by the Warren-Halifax county line, and Person's Ordinary was located in Warren County. In the late 1970s the county line was moved to the west so that the entire incorporated town limits of Littleton were located within Halifax County. The Ordinary is now located in Halifax County.

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jeffrey Crow SHPD 9/5/07
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 - See continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register.
 - See continuation sheet
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.

other,
(explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

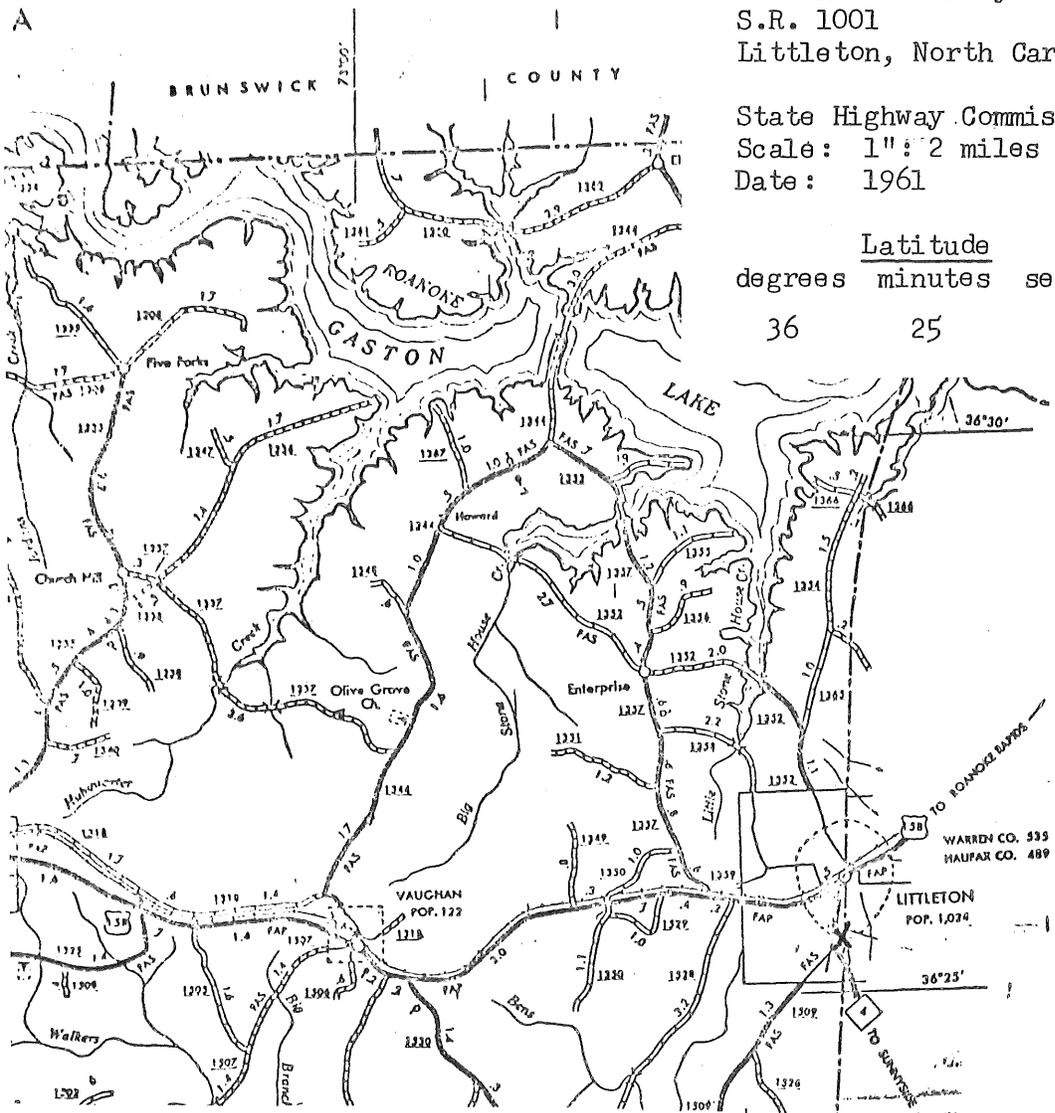
Date of Action

Person's Ordinary
 S.R. 1001
 Littleton, North Carolina

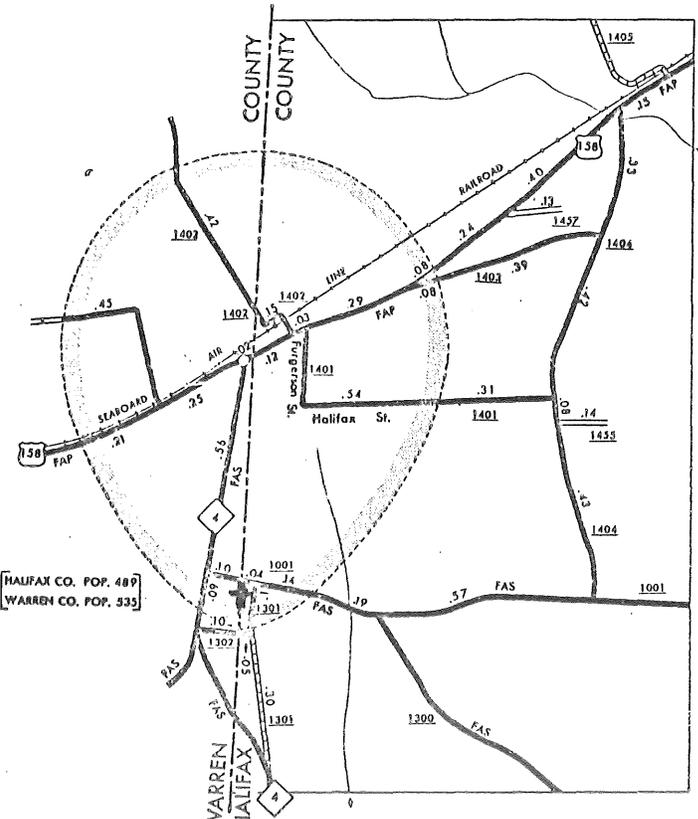
WR10 ✓

State Highway Commission Map of Warren County
 Scale: 1" = 2 miles
 Date: 1961

Latitude Longitude
 degrees minutes seconds degrees minutes seconds
 36 25 52 77 54 54



- + COAST GUARD STATION
- CANAL
- FORD
- DAM WITH LOCK
- DAM
- ARMY, NAVY OR MARINE CAMP
- COMM. OR MUNICIPAL AIRFIELD
- HARBOR AUXILIARY FIELD
- HANGAR ON FIELD
- AIRWAY BEACON
- STATE LINE
- COUNTY LINE
- CITY LIMITS
- RESERVATION OR PART BOUNDARY
- INSET AREA
- DELIMITED AREA, POPULATION
- PROMINENT PEAK, NUMERAL INDICATE ELEVATION
- ROAD THROUGH MOUNTAINS
- COUNTY SEAL
- OTHER TOWNS AND VILLAGES
- TRIANGULATION STATION
- SCENIC SITE
- LODGE
- CAMP GROUND
- BATHING BEACH
- ATHLETIC FIELD
- MUNICIPAL PARK—PICNIC
- FAIR GROUNDS OR RACE COURSE
- GOLF COURSE
- GROUP OF DWELLINGS
- FOREST RANGER STATION
- FOREST LOOKOUT STATION
- GAME FARM
- RESERVOIR, POND OR LAKE
- FISH HATCHERY
- GAS, OR OR TANKS
- POWER PLANT
- POWER SUBSTATION
- RADIO STATION WITH CALL LETTERS
- PUMPING OR GAUGING STATION
- SEWAGE DISPOSAL PLANT
- WATER SUPPLY, ELEVATED
- MANUFACTURING PLANT
- SEASONAL INDUSTRY
- BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENT
- SAW MILL
- MINE
- GRAVEL PIT OR QUARRY
- CHURCH
- CHURCH WITH CEMETERY
- CEMETERY
- POST OFFICE
- TOWN OR COMMUNITY HALL
- HOTEL OR MOTEL
- HOSPITAL OR COUNTY HOME
- OPEN AIR THEATER
- GOVERNMENTAL RESEARCH
- MONUMENT—SMALL HISTORICAL
- RURAL FIRE STATION
- SEASONAL DWELLING
- SCHOOL
- RURAL DWELLING, FARM
- GROUP OF MIXED BUILDINGS
- CULTURAL SYMBOLS IN CIRCLES
- DENOTE VACANT
- CORRECTIONAL OR PENITENTIARY
- STATE HIGHWAY GARAGE
- WEIGHT STATION
- PATROL STATION
- DOT TO INDICATE LOCAL CULTURAL FEATURE OUT
- INTERSECTION DISTANCE
- SECONDARY ROAD NUMBER
- STATE HIGHWAY
- U.S. NUMBERED HIGHWAY
- INTERSTATE HIGHWAY
- IMPASSABLE ROAD OR TRAIL
- PRIMITIVE OR UNIMPROVED
- GRADED AND DRAINED
- SOIL, GRAVEL OR STONE
- PAVED SURFACED ROAD



LITTLETON
 POP. 1,024



