

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

The Silkman House

AND/OR COMMON

Providence Branch of the Scranton Public Library

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

2006 North Main Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Scranton

VICINITY OF

10

STATE

Pennsylvania

CODE

42

COUNTY

Lackawanna

CODE

059

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City of Scranton

STREET & NUMBER

North Washington Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Scranton

VICINITY OF

STATE

Pennsylvania

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Lackawanna County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

200 North Washington Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Scranton

STATE

Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

1973

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

CITY, TOWN

Harrisburg

STATE

Pennsylvania

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 Silkman house is one of the finest Greek Revival style structures in Lackawanna County. This frame structure is basically rectangular in shape measuring 36.5' by 44.5' and is two and one half stories with a full basement. Its gable roof has a large central brick chimney and ends in two pediments in the gable ends. The foundation is of hand-made brick.

Windows in this three bay by four bay house are twelve over twelve on the main facade and six over six on the side elevation. The front facade is dominated by a four-column portico. The columns are unusual in that they are square rather than round. Windows on the first story are full length with covered shutters. The windows in the second story are six over twelve with panelled shutters. A triangular ten light window is located in the center of the pediment. The main doorway is located in the first bay (left) of the front facade. The panelled door and jamb are simple in design.

The left elevation has a one story wing which sits parallel to the main structure. This section starts at the second bay and extends even to the rear of the house. It has a flat roof and wide frieze decorated with small dentils. Windows in this section are six over six. A doorway faces the front facade and is approached by portico supported by two square columns.

The right elevation has an identical wing but without the entranceway and portico. A two story bay window is also located on the first bay of this elevation.

The rear elevation originally had a two story porch supported by four columns. This porch was removed and replaced with a smaller porch in the 1960's. The original interior arrangements are as follows. The basement contains three principal rooms, a kitchen, dining-room and a vegetable storage area. The first floor has a side stair hall which leads to dining room. To the right of the dining-room is a living-room. A parlor is located off the stairhall to the right. A bedroom, pantry and storage room are located at the rear of the living room and dining room. There are three bedrooms, and two storage areas on the second floor. Today the Silkman House is used as a public library.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

- PREHISTORIC
- 1400-1499
- 1500-1599
- 1600-1699
- 1700-1799
- 1800-1899
- 1900-

- ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
- ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
- AGRICULTURE
- ARCHITECTURE
- ART
- COMMERCE
- COMMUNICATIONS

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

- COMMUNITY PLANNING
- CONSERVATION
- ECONOMICS
- EDUCATION
- ENGINEERING
- EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
- INDUSTRY
- INVENTION

- LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
- LAW
- LITERATURE
- MILITARY
- MUSIC
- PHILOSOPHY
- POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

- RELIGION
- SCIENCE
- SCULPTURE
- SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
- THEATER
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES

1840

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Abstract: The Silkman House is one of the finest examples of a Greek Revival residence in Lackawanna County.

Providence, named for Providence, Rhode Island, was formed in 1770, a sixth of the township allotted by the Susquehanna Company, to the Connecticut settlers. As a township, Providence has lost its identity. It is now two miles from Scranton, although incorporated into the first and second wards of the city, preserves its name, through its postoffice and other independent features. As a village, its growth was tardy until 1826, when it consisted of only two dwellings.

Several generations of Silkman have lived in this old home, which was built in 1840 on 2066 North Main Avenue, Providence, by Aron Silkman. John Silkman belongs to the family which was founded in this country by John Silkman, Sr., a native of Germany, who emigrated to the United States in 1776, and took an active part on the side of the colonists in the Revolutionary War. Jacob Silkman, son of John Silkman was born in New York, and in 1849, moved to Providence on Main Avenue. There were then only four houses in Providence.

William Silkman, also a son of John Silkman, bought this home from his cousin, Aron Silkman, a few years after it was built. There, he resided until his death in 1874. During his life he did an important business in the buying and selling of coal lands and real estate. One of his chief ambitions was to secure the separation of Luzerne from Lackawanna County, and to this end, he spared neither time nor money, for years, spending his winters in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, working in the interests of the new county and fighting the Luzerne forces. He died a few years before his ambition was realized.

This property has been in the Silkman family from its construction in 1840 until 1936 when the last member of the family died. It was then purchased by the city for use as the Providence Branch of the Scranton Public Library.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

HABS Study 1936. Washington, D.C. Pa. #217
 Document 19, Lackawanna Historical Society
 Troop, Benjamin H. A Half Century in Scranton.
 Ruddy, J.F. "Silkman House on American Ideal." Lackawanna Motorist, Feb. 28, 1958.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 24

QUADRANGLE NAME _____

QUADRANGLE SCALE _____

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 44521210 4518713710
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B _____
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C _____

D _____

E _____

F _____

G _____

H _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Silkman property is located in Ward I, Lats 13, 14, 14½, 14½, on 1973
 Property map, Section 135-9, map no. 13509-01-041 (newsystem). Starting at point
 on Plank Road then NE 50 feet, then SE 217 ft. to point near Lackawanna River, t
 then SW 50 ft. then 217 ft. to starting point.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Elizabeth Short, Librarian / Susan M. Zacher

ORGANIZATION

DATE
 Pennsylvania Historical and Museum

Providence Branch Library, Scranton Public Library/ Commission

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

2006 North Main Ave.

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Scranton

Pennsylvania

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL _____ STATE _____ LOCAL _____

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE _____

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

HABS St. 1936. Washington, D.C. Pa. #
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10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 24

QUADRANGLE NAME Scranton, PA QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	4,4,5,2,2,0	4,5,8,7,3,7,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Elizabeth Short, Librarian / Susan M. Zacher

ORGANIZATION
Providence Branch Library, Scranton Public Library/ Commission

STREET & NUMBER
2006 North Main Ave.

CITY OR TOWN
Scranton

DATE
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum

TELEPHONE
Commission

STATE
Pennsylvania

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STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Ed Weintraub

TITLE ED WEINTRAUB, Director
Office of Historic Preservation

DATE 10-16-78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

The Silkman House
Lackawanna County
Zone 18 E445220 N4587370

