

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
RECEIVED *OK*
DATE ENTERED

**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 SWETLAND HOMESTEAD

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
855 Wyoming Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN
Wyoming

VICINITY OF

11

STATE
Pennsylvania

CODE
42

COUNTY
Luzerne

CODE
079

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	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
Wyoming Historical and Geological Society

STREET & NUMBER
49 South Franklin Street

CITY, TOWN
Wilkes-Barre

VICINITY OF

STATE
Pennsylvania 18701

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Luzerne County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
North River Street

CITY, TOWN
Wilkes-Barre

STATE
Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places

DATE
1973

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

CITY, TOWN
Harrisburg

STATE
Pennsylvania

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Swetland Homestead is a two and one half story frame structure whose overall dimensions are 54'3" by 88'4". This L-shaped structure was constructed in four stages.

The original two room house with a central chimney was built in 1797 and is now the rear kitchen wing. Windows in the original section are four over four.

In 1803 a separate two story, gable roof house was built to the front of the 1797 section. Windows in this three bay by two bay house were twelve over twelve which can still be seen in the rear (west) elevation.

In 1809 a two story, three bay section was added to the north of the 1803 house making it six bays by two bays. In 1850 the front facade windows of this six bay structure were altered to two over four. All windows in the house have louvered shutters. Doorways with fanlights are located in the second and fourth bays. In 1850 a four column portico was added to cover these doorways. Also at this time paired brackets and dentils were added to the cornices.

In 1813 a two story connecting section was added between the 1803 and 1797 houses.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1797, 1803, 1809, 1813 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Abstract: *The Swetland Homestead is a fine example of an early New England type homestead which has been adapted and enlarged over succeeding generations reflecting the growth of the family and area from first settlement to mid 1800's.*

The earliest part of the Swetland Homestead is one of the oldest surviving examples of Connecticut architecture in Wyoming Valley. The only other residential structure dating to the same period is the Nathan Denison house in Forty Fort. The two rooms built around a central fireplace, and the few, narrow 4 over 4 windows show the building style settlers first brought from New England.

The house is also a classic example of the way a family adapted and updated an existing structure to keep pace with changing styles and needs for additional space. The second and third additions to the house included Doric pilasters, fanlight windows and Georgian dentals. The columned porch, Italianate brackets on porch and roof line and modified front windows added ca. 1850, and the alteration of the original section to include a carriage house reflect growing family prosperity and, again, changing style. That the modifications were made some years after style changed in larger cities shows how new tastes took some time to spread to outlying areas from metropolitan districts.

The house is clearly associated with exploration and settlement of Wyoming Valley. Luke Swetland was one of the first settlers arriving here from Connecticut under the auspices of the Susquehanna Company. He was a participant in the Battle of Wyoming in 1778. He later joined Sullivan's Expedition against the Indians after having himself been an Indian captive. Although he built his home in the same style as Nathan Denison, it was a much smaller, more modest structure, probably more typical of ordinary farmers in the Valley. Luke Swetland helped build Forty Fort Meeting House, and is said to have introduced apple tree culture to the region.

Swetland Homestead belonged to the same family from 1797-1958. The histories of the house, the family, Wyoming Valley, its institutions and its economy are intermingled. Luke Swetland's son Belding was a blacksmith who expanded the house to accommodate a family of 12 children. His son William was a merchant who took advantage of a growing population and expanding economy to enhance the family fortune. He operated a store across the road from the house starting in 1815. He was a local entrepreneur, becoming a partner in a carding and fulling mill in West Wyoming in 1813. He was later associated with a 2nd fulling mill (1823), a grist mill and distillery (1835), a foundery and plaste mill (1839) and a tannery (1840). He was a director of the Lackawanna & Bloomsburg Railroad (1852) and a trustee of Wyoming Seminary, where he built Swetland Hall. The embellishment he made in the homestead in mid-century reflect the prosperity the third generation of the family achieved.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See Continuation Sheet)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.45

QUADRANGLE NAME _____

QUADRANGLE SCALE _____

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 +28 6,00 4,517,213,7,0
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B _____
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C _____

D _____

E _____

F _____

G _____

H _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

William H. Siener

ORGANIZATION

Wyoming Historical & Geological Society

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

49 South Franklin Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Wilkes-Barre

STATE

Pennsylvania

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL _____ STATE _____ LOCAL X

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 ED WEINTRAUB
 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE

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

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See Continuation Sheet)

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.45

QUADRANGLE NAME _____

QUADRANGLE SCALE _____

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 +28 6,00 4,517,213,70

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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

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STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Ed Weintraub

TITLE ED WEINTRAUB
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE 6-21-78

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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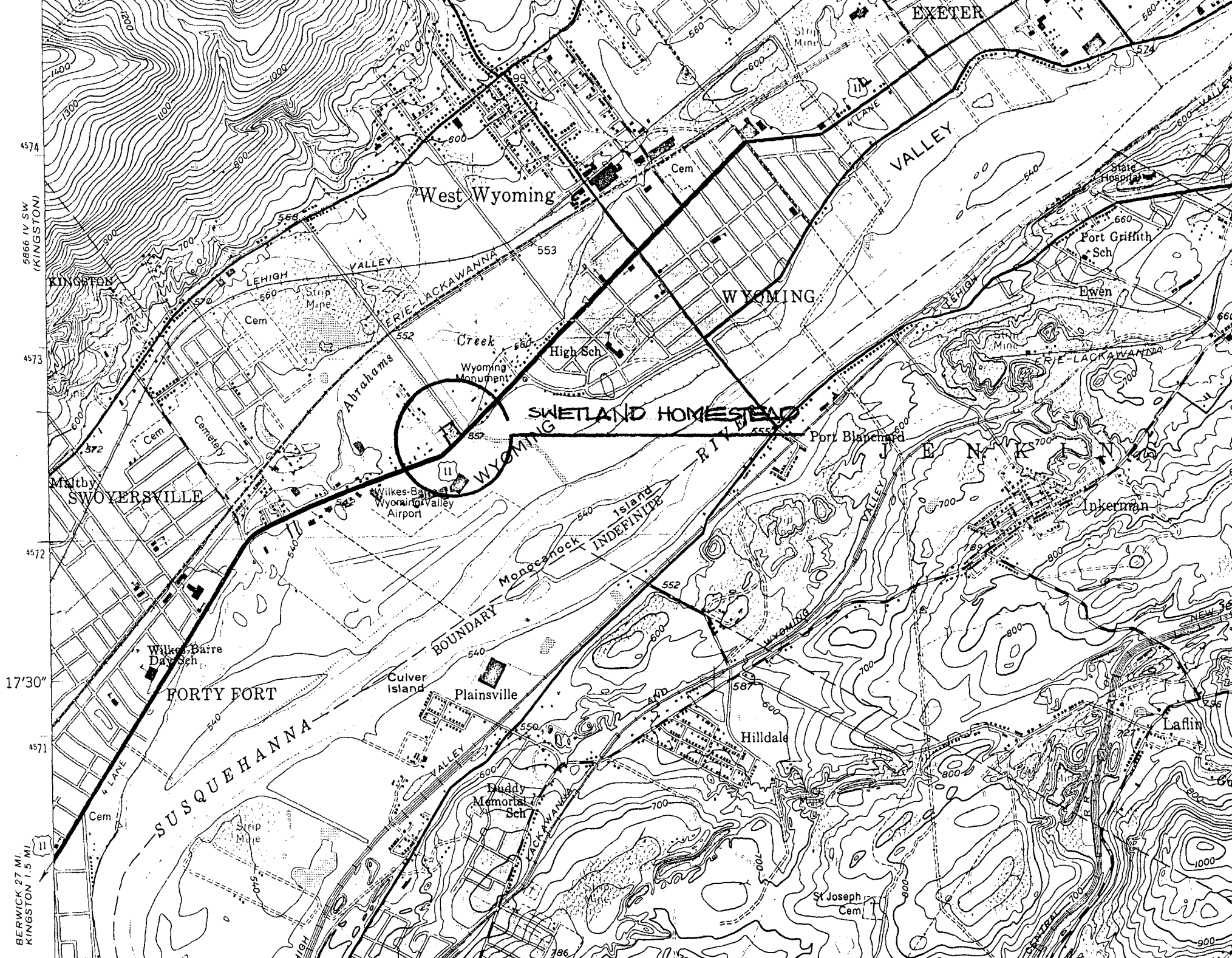
DATE ENTERED

SWETLAND HOMESTEAD

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

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5866 IV SW
(KINGSTON)

17°30'

BERWICK 27 MI
KINGSTON 1.5 MI

EXETER

West Wyoming

WYOMING

SWEETLAND HOMESTEAD

SWOYERSVILLE

FORTY FORT

INKERMAN

SUSQUEHANNA

BOUNDARY

Muddy Memorial Sch

Hilldale

St Joseph Cem

Lafin

Port Griffith Sch

Ewen

Port Blanchard

Wilkes-Barre Wyoming Valley Airport

Wilkes-Barre Day Sch

Plainsville

Culver Island

Wyoming Monument

High Sch

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