

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

1. Name

historic Peter Spicker House

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 150 Main Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Stouchsburg

N/A vicinity of

congressional district

state Pennsylvania

code 42

county Berks

code 011

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"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. & Mrs. E. E. Beamesderfer

street & number 150 Main Street

city, town Stouchsburg

N/A vicinity of

state Pennsylvania

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Berks County Courthouse

street & number Sixth & Court Streets

city, town Reading,

state Pennsylvania

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date N/A

federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A

state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input 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			N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Peter Spicker House is a native limestone building constructed in three sections. Its development reflects the transition from the Germanic style to the Georgian style of architecture.

The western and oldest section, c. 1740, is 1½ stories with a full basement. It has three bays, 9/6 windows on the first floor, 6/6 windows with 3 panel shutters, an end chimney and a shed roof. The asymmetrical arrangement of the door and windows reflects Pa. German design. A porch extension to the rear creates a bell cast roof line with the kicked eaves of Pa. German architecture. The interior has a complete basement kitchen. This section is unusual because the functions normally housed in separate buildings on Pa. German farms are in one interior environment - bake oven, summer kitchen, root cellar, possible spring source.

The central portion, c. 1750, is 3 bay, 2½ stories, with a gabled roof and a pent roof to the south. The first story 9/6 windows have brick segmented arch lintels, while second story 6/6 windows have flat jack arched lintels. There are three panel shutters. This combination of window treatments is rarely found in Pa. German buildings. The Pa. German segmented arch lintels are characteristic of Berks County architecture, especially in the Oley Valley (Kauffman Farm). The jack arched lintels, however, point to a more English influence and the developing use of Georgian features. Other Pa. German features on this section are the belt courses and exposed joist edges. The door has a single light transom with recently added porch. The interior basement has a dank, windowless "dungeon room", reputedly used for holding prisoners during the French and Indian Wars and for hiding travelers on the Underground Railroad. Barred windows in the adjoining room may have been used in defense of the residence during the French and Indian Wars.

The eastern section, c. 1800, gives full expression to the English, Georgian style with defined keystones, 12/8 windows, symmetrical design and a decorative door. It is 2½ stories, 6 bays, with a gabled shingle roof, flat arch lintels with keystones over windows, contrasting red sandstone quoins, a multi-light transom with highly decorative "dog's ear" molding over the door (similar to that of the Fisher House, Oley Valley - N.R.) The living room fireplace has an unusual arched nook, and the entry way floor is of polished stone with embedded coins and an 1800 \$10 gold piece.

The arches and stone work on the exterior as well as interior of the Spicker House attest to the Pa. Germans' mastery of stone. The exterior especially reveals refinements in the treatment of stone - from coarse in section 1 to cut in section 3.

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Continuation sheet Spicker House, Berks Coltem number 7-Description Page 2

Interior spaces were somewhat altered during the 1930's, but bulls eye and grooved moldings still remain throughout, as do 4 original stone fireplaces.

The late 18th century barn is a Pa. German banked barn of stone construction. It has a recessed forebay on the western facade and vertical slotted ventilators on both north and south facades.

8. Significance

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 type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		

Specific dates 1740-1800

Builder/Architect C. Wistar

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Peter Spicker House is significant as the home of the Spicker family before and during the Revolutionary War and as an unusual example of the transition of architectural styles.

The Spicker family came to western Berks County from Germany in 1737. Peter Spicker (1711-1789) resided in the house from 1755 to 1789. He was the first Justice of the Peace and later the first President Judge of Berks County. In these capacities, he enforced the law and certified marriages, indentures and mortgages, keeping records in both English and German. Peter Spicker was closely associated with Conrad Weiser in defense of the Tulpehocken region during the French and Indian Wars, and the house was used as an assembly point for the local militia.

Peter's son, Henry, served as a colonel in the Third Company, Second Battalion of the Berks County militia during the Revolutionary War. He kept militia records and served as a paymaster, a job often made difficult by lack of payroll funds.

During Prohibition, the Spicker House was owned by a major bootlegger. Potatoes were grown on the associated land and then processed into a potent brew in the barn.

Architecturally, the Spicker House demonstrates the growing dominance of English culture in this predominantly German-settled area. The earliest section of the house strongly shows German style and workmanship, the center portion has some English design details, while the later portion is very English in style. This suggests that although the Pa. Germans remained in the majority in western Berks County, they were strongly influenced by the politically powerful English, and began to adapt and assimilate English cultural trappings.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Ibach, Earl, The Hub of the Tulpehocken, 1976, p. 24.
Historic Review of Berks County, Winter, 1965-66, pp. 19-22.
Montgomery, History of Berks County, 1886, p. 1032.
_____, Berks County, 1909, p. 32. (see additional sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 2.93

Quadrangle name Strausstown

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

18	3950510	44705180
Zone	Easting	Northing

B

18	3950510	44705310
Zone	Easting	Northing

C

18	39149210	44705160
Zone	Easting	Northing

D

18	3919140	44706110
Zone	Easting	Northing

E

Zone	Easting	Northing

F

Zone	Easting	Northing

G

Zone	Easting	Northing

H

Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ricki Hurwitz

organization N/A

date November 1, 1982

street & number 607 N. Duke Street

telephone 717-397-0735

city or town Lancaster

state 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Larry E. Tise, State Historic Preservation Officer date _____

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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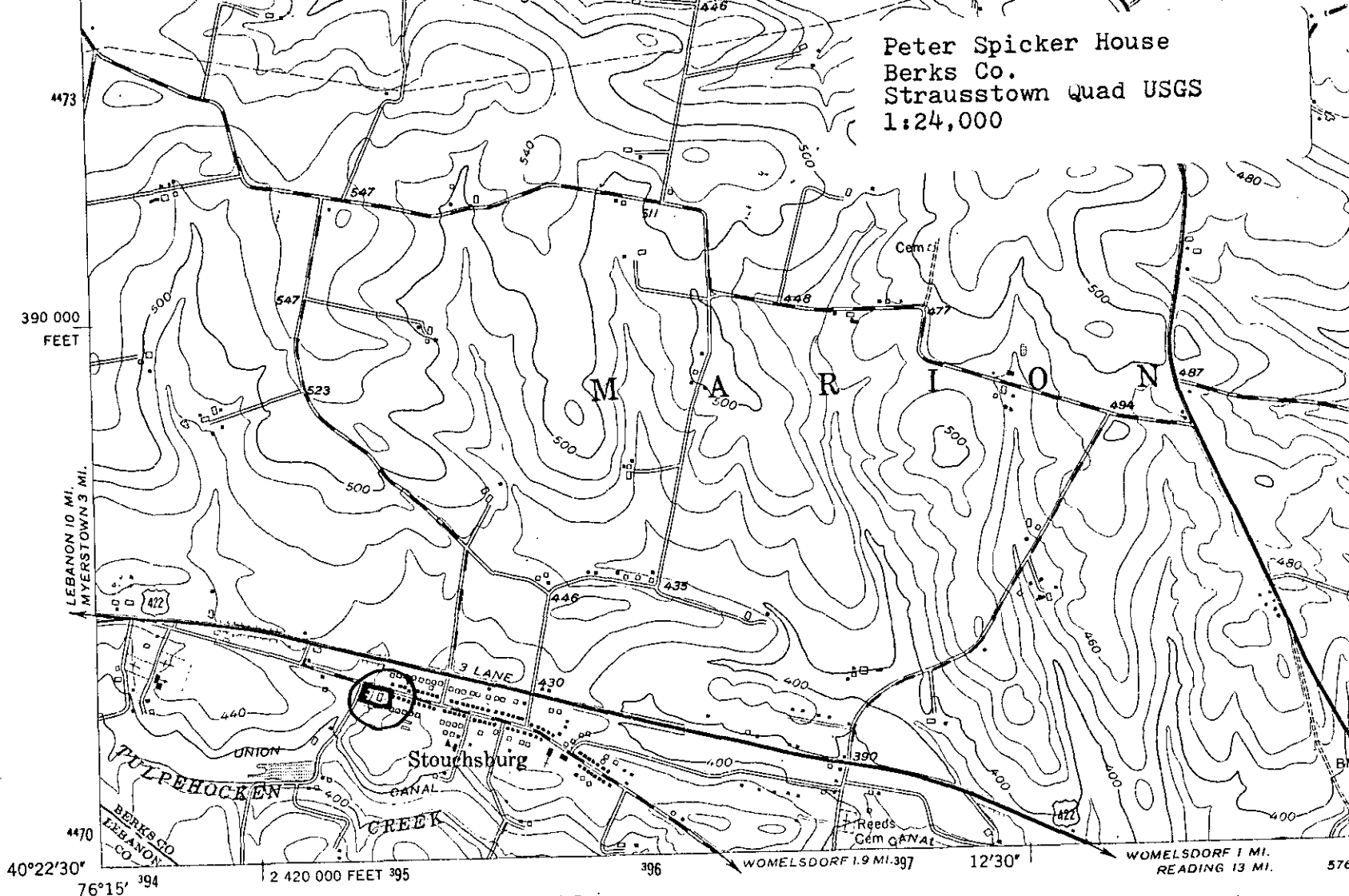
date entered

Continuation sheet Spicker House, Berks Co. Item number 9-Bibliography Page 2

Speicher, Paul, A History of the Speicher (Spicher, Spycher) Family,
1961.

Berks County Historical Society, Spicker Family File (original papers).

Peter Spicker House
Berks Co.
Strausstown Quad USGS
1:24,000



(RICHLAND)
576# IV SE

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

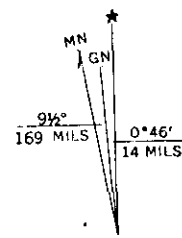
Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex methods
Aerial photographs taken 1951. Field check 1955

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Pennsylvania coordinate system,
south zone

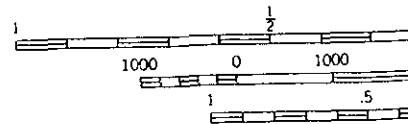
Unchecked elevations are shown in brown

1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue

Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with State of
Pennsylvania agencies from aerial photographs taken 1969 and 1974.
This information not field checked



UTM GRID AND 1974 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



CONT
NATIONAL G

THIS MAP COMPLIES
FOR SALE BY U. S. G
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOG