

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

27

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RECEIVED
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

DANIEL BERK LOG HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

on the eastern bank of Maiden (Ontelaunee) Creek R.R. 840

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Albany Station

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6th

STATE

Pennsylvania

CODE

42

COUNTY

Berks

CODE

011

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Richard Kunkle

STREET & NUMBER

96 Penn Street, Old Route 22

CITY, TOWN

Lenhartsville

VICINITY OF

STATE

Pennsylvania

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Berks County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Reading

STATE

Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Pennsylvania Inventory

DATE

11/5/76

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Pennsylvania Historical and 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 Daniel Berk House was built in two sections. The first section was built circa 1760 and is a one and one-half story log structure with a gable roof and measures 20' by 22'. The foundations are stone and mortar. The main door is approached by a stone and wooden porch which lies across both the log and stone sections. One, two over two window is also located on this west side. The rear of the log structure has been covered with wide clapboard to protect against moisture. One, two over two window is located in this wall at the main story level. The (east) third side of this structure has a single door covered with a gable hood and one two over two window on the main level.

The second section was built in the late 1700's and is connected to the log structure on its (south) fourth side. This stone structure is one and one-half stories and measures 20' by 22'. Next to the main door approached by the stone and wood porch is a small 2 over 2 window. The wall area under this porch area has been covered with clapboard. The south end wall of the stone section has two, 6 over 6 windows in the first story and two small 2 over 2 windows in the gable end. An interior chimney also is located in the rear (east) wall of the stone section.

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/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input 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

1760

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Henry Berk

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In the year 1747 the Berk (Berck) brothers, Henry and Ludwig and families arrived in the part of Philadelphia aboard the ship, Sir Christian. The ship had left Rotterdam in the spring of 1747 through Cowes on the English Channel. Of the 111 families that left the Palatinate area of Germany for religious reasons, these Huguenot pioneers, the Berk's, moved westward through the Oley Valley and north along Maiden or Ontelaunee Creek. Settling first in Greenwich township the Berks were listed on the 1759 tax list but by the 1774 tax list they had moved on to Albany Township. Settling along the banks of Maiden Creek, the Berk family built their log home and began to farm the area. Even a poor farming area today, the Berk's had the additional hardships of frontier life. The surrounding western mountains formed the line of safe settlement at this time so that Berks County was a buffer zone between the Indian who were forced to move into the mountains and the towns and farmlands to the east. Indian raids and incidents were frequent in the area into the late 1760's. Daniel Berk, son of Ludwig, was born in 1768 and continued farming the family lands after his parents death. The Berk family lands once included the area now known as the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, also the Pinnacle and the surrounding State Game Lands.

The second section of the house was built in late 1700's during the lifetime of Daniel.

From this early start the Berk family grew, many of the sons becoming farmers, some horse and cattle traders and saw mill operators. The original home was passed on from the first Daniel to his son Daniel (1796-1871) through five generations to the present. Now only a small section of the original farmlands of the Daniel Berk Log House remains as one of the oldest structures in Albany Township and a fine example of a frontier house and its adaptation through the following generations. The house is still being used as a home today.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Reading and Berks County, Pennsylvania: A History. ed. Cyrus T. Fox New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, Inc., 1925.

Berks County Historical and Biographical Annuals and Tax Books, Berks County Historical Society, Reading.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .2

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	42,712,0	449,49,8,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Nathan L. Berk / Susan M. Zacher

ORGANIZATION

Pennsylvania German Society / Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

STREET & NUMBER

2126 South First Avenue (215-264-1384) / Box 1026

CITY OR TOWN

Whitehall 18052 / Harrisburg 17120

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 WILLIAM J. WEWER, Executive Director
 Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

DANIEL BERK LOG HOUSE
Berks County

ZONE: 18 427 120 4494 980

**BERK
LOG HOUSE**

